

Separating the Wheat from the Chaff:

Understanding (In-)Completeness of Proof Mechanisms for Separation Logic with Inductive Definitions

Neta Elad¹, Adithya Murali², Sharon Shoham¹



Separation Logic

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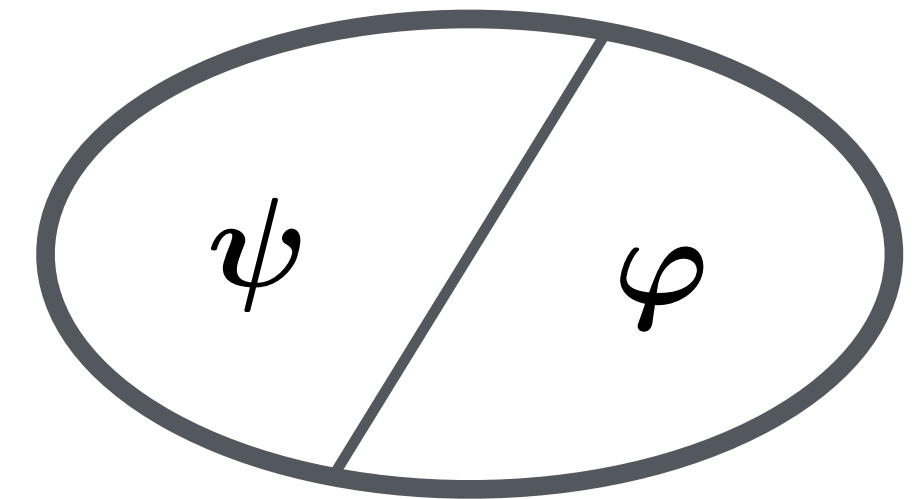
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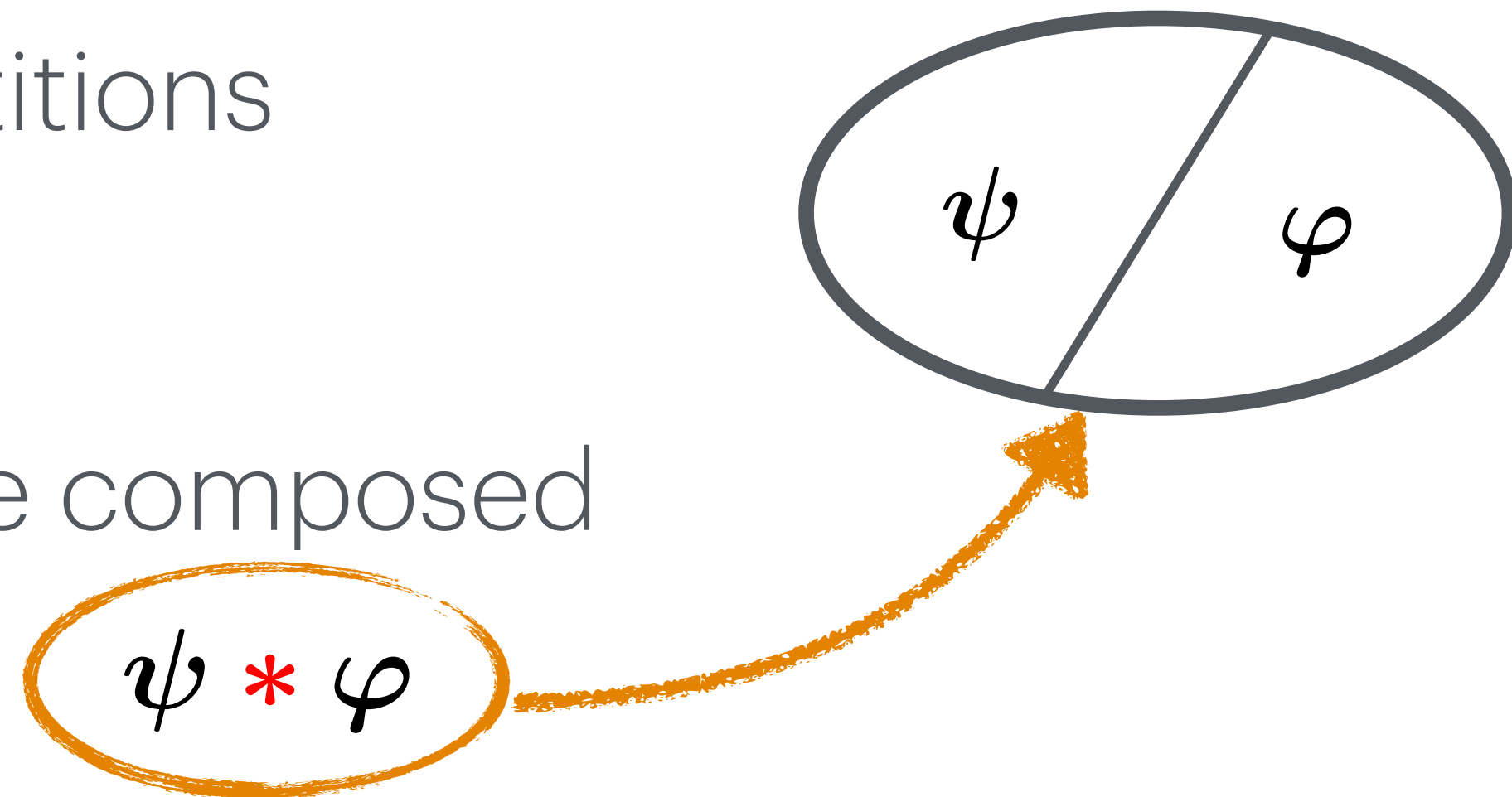
Separation Logic

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- Formulas capture properties over partitions of the heap



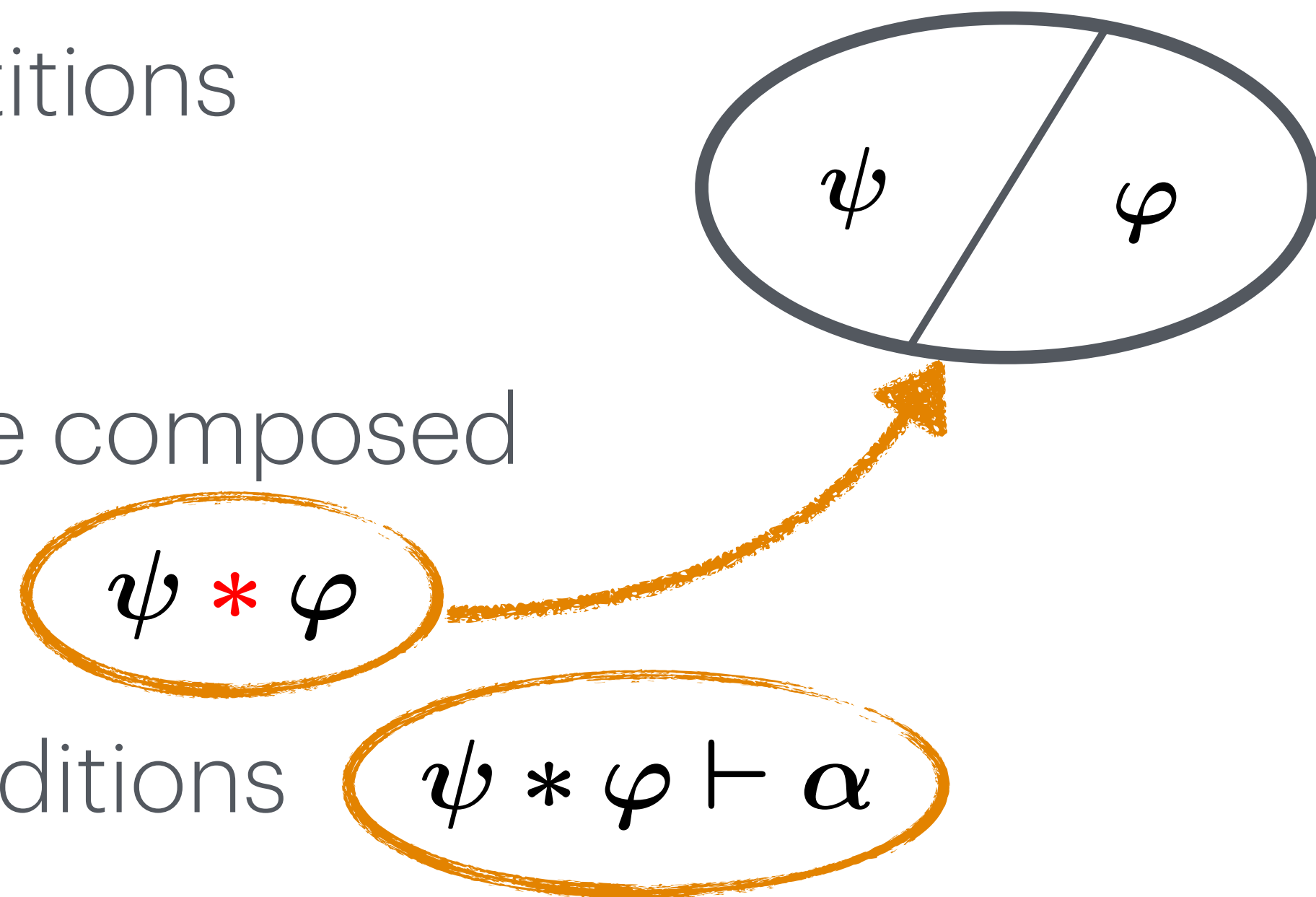
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 - We focus on memory in heap-manipulating programs
- Formulas capture properties over partitions of the heap
- Disjoint partitions of the heap can be composed through the separating conjunction
- Entailments capture verification conditions



Separation Logic with Inductive Definitions

(SLID)

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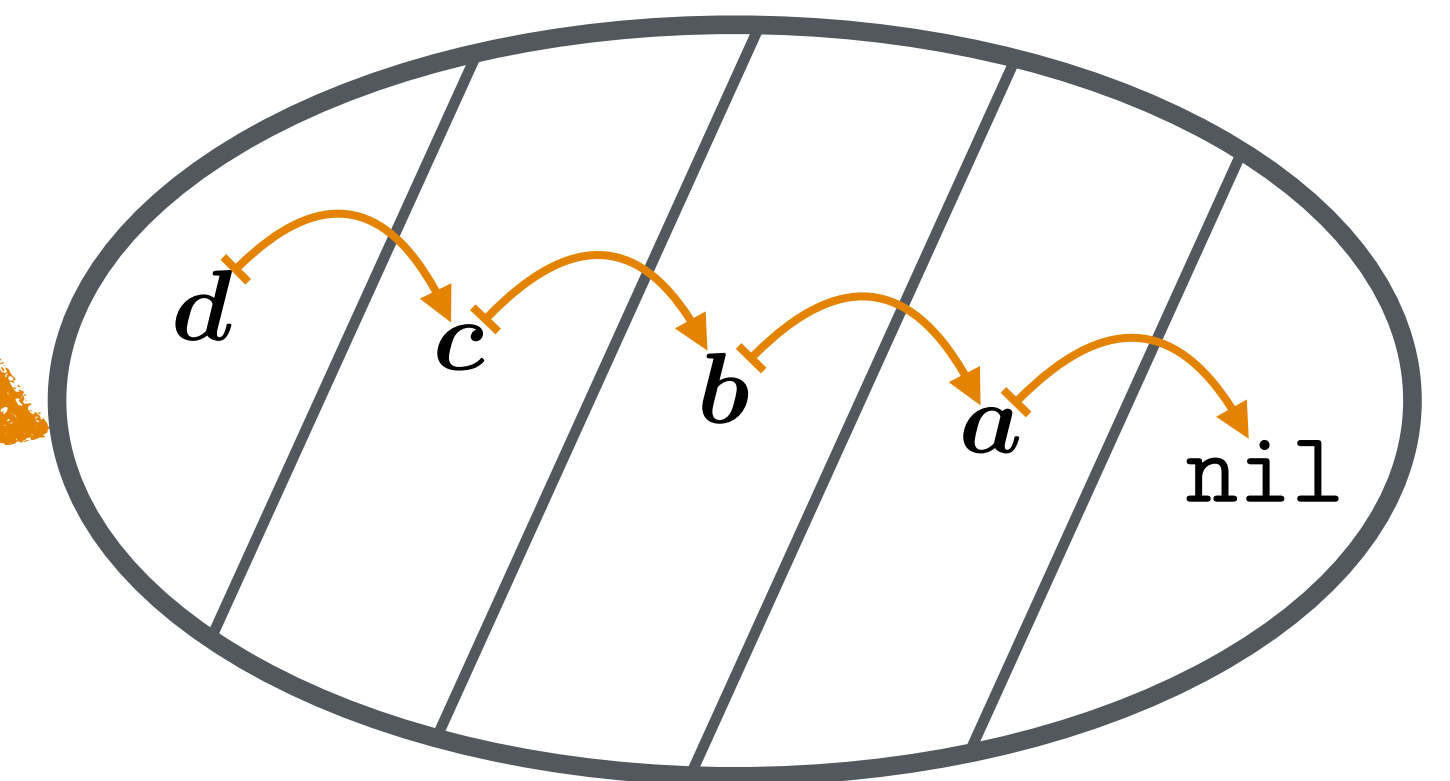
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Separation Logic with Inductive Definitions

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$\text{list}(x) := x = \text{nil} \vee (\exists u. x \mapsto u * \text{list}(u))$



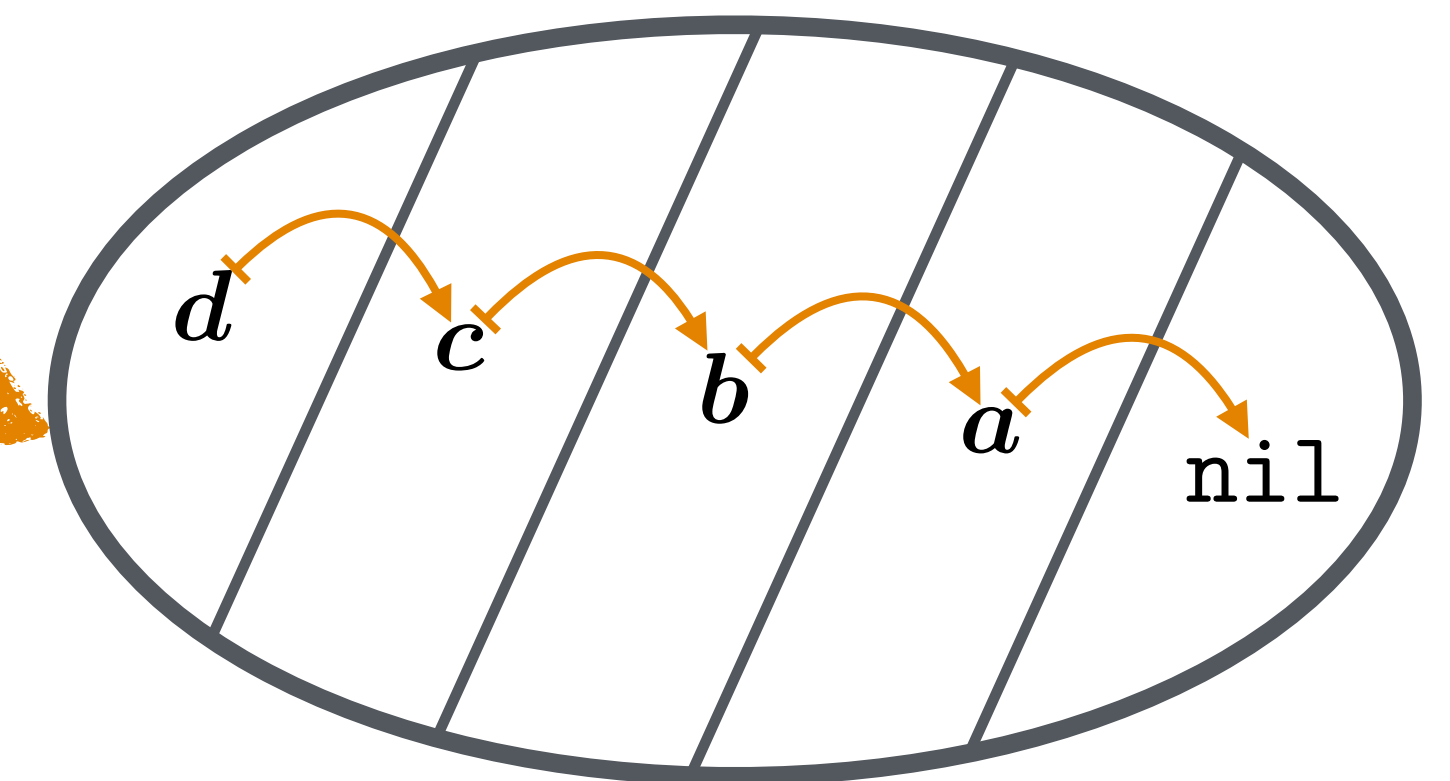
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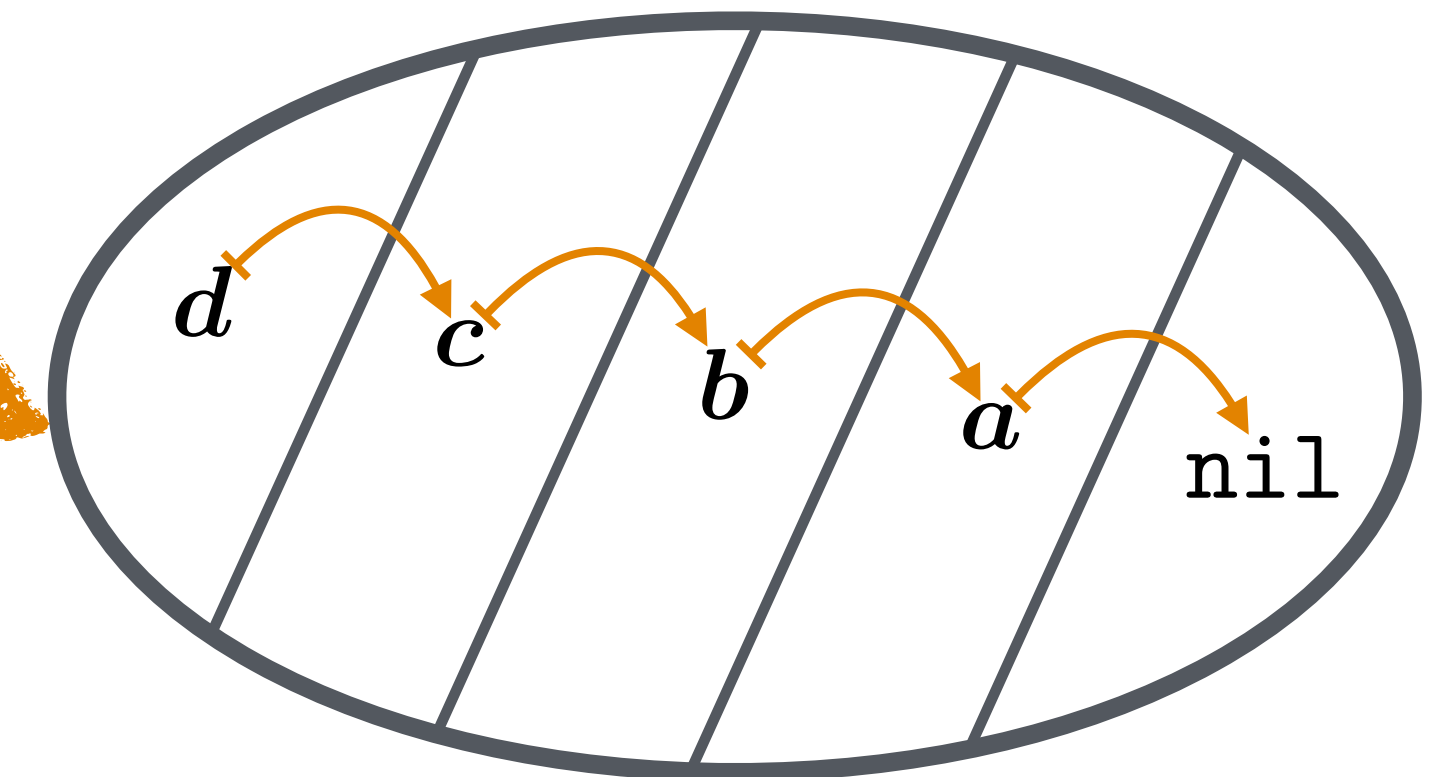
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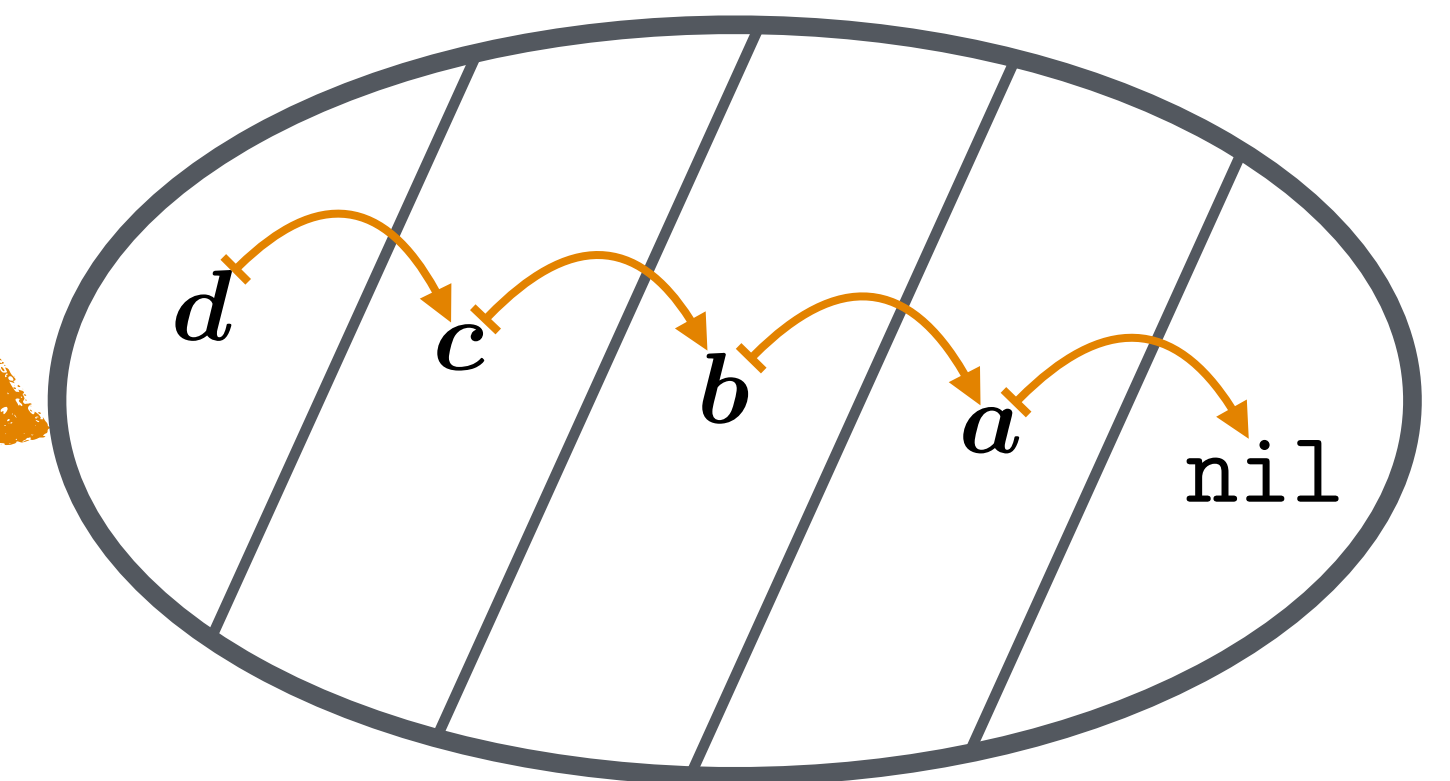
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- Prominent proof mechanism: fold/unfold

- Successful in some cases but fails in others



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- Fold:

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- Unfold:

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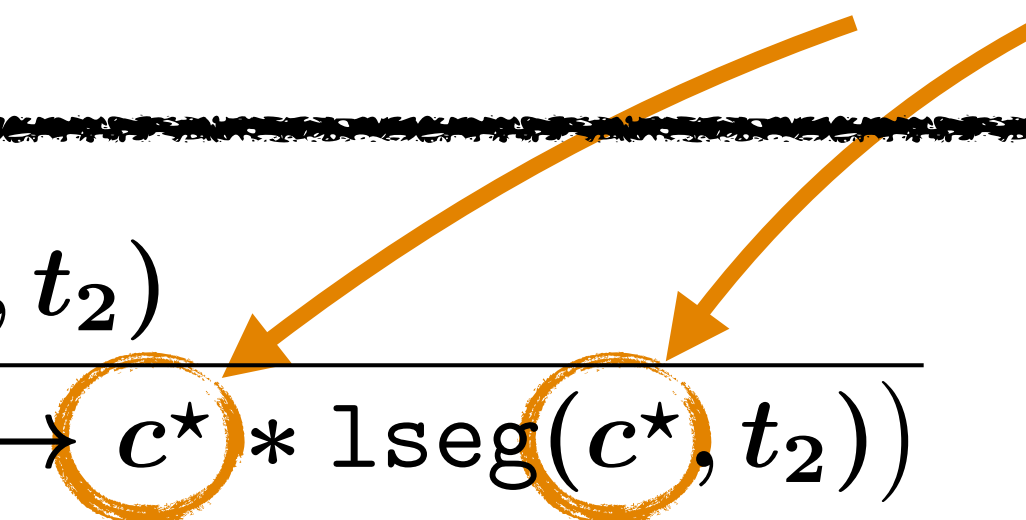
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$$a \neq c * a \mapsto b * \text{lseg}(b, c) \vdash \text{lseg}(a, c)$$

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- Why fails? Because fold/unfold captures weaker semantics than SLID
- When fails? When *rogue* counter-models exist

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 - Fold/unfold is *sound* for WSL
- Rogue models of WSL
 - How to find them

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- WSL relaxes key requirements of SLID that are sources of incompleteness:
 - Heaps in WSL are allowed to be **infinite**

Rogue Models of WSL

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SLID

