



AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY

# Spirea

**A Concurrent Separation Logic For  
Weak Persistent Memory**

**Simon Friis Vindum**

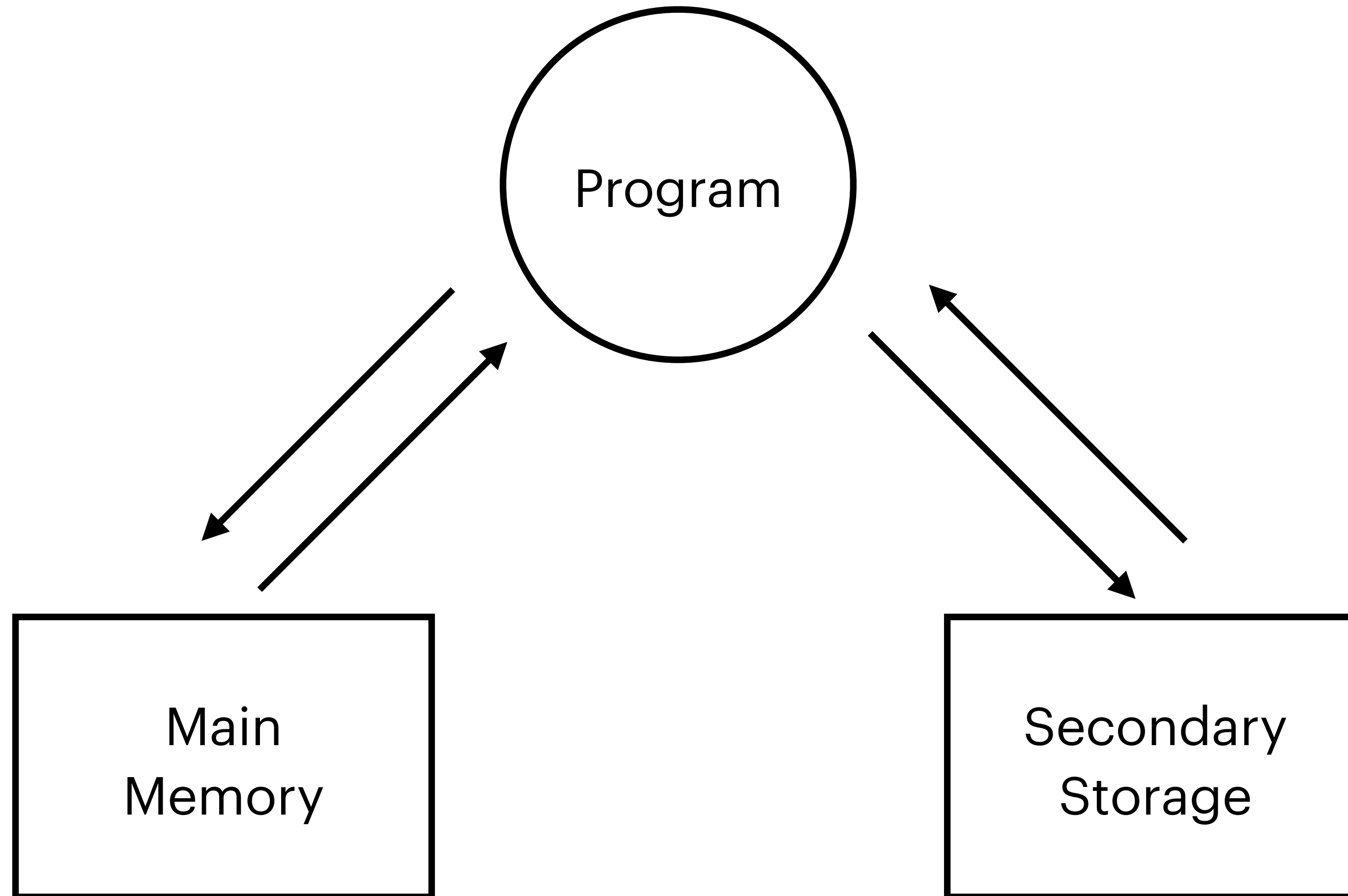
Lars Birkedal

# DRAM

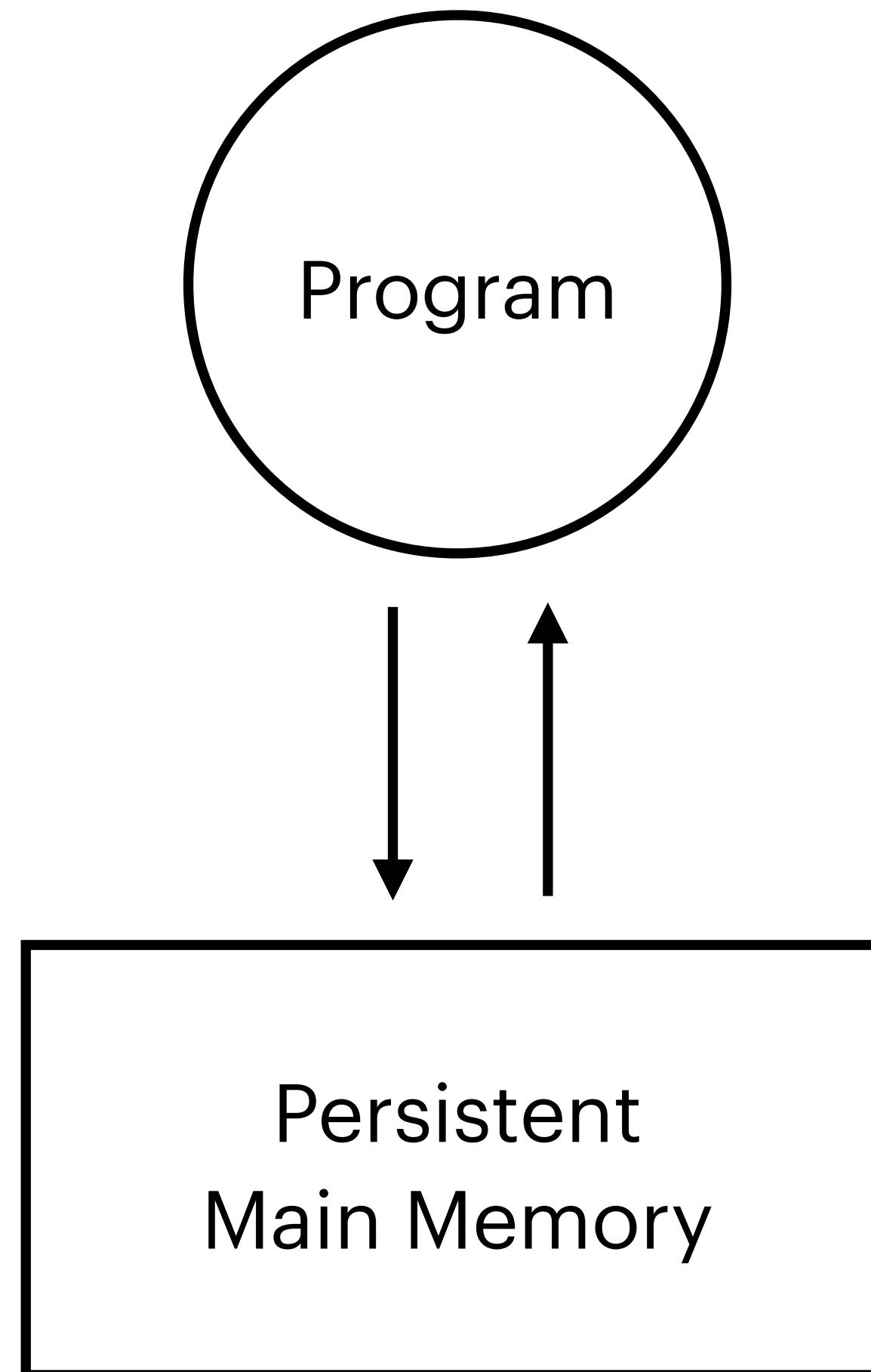
- Has been used to implement main memory since the 1970s
- Two big problems:
  - DRAM density is not expected to increase going forward
  - DRAM is power hungry – accounts for 25% of the power usage in data centers

**New memory technologies are**  
*non-volatile/persistent*

# Programming for *volatile* memory



# Programming for *persistent* memory



# Stuff build for persistent memory

- Researches and companies have been prolific building things for NVM.
  - Durable data-structures
    - Trees, hash-tables, queues, etc.
  - Key-value stores
  - Memory allocators
  - Garbage collectors
  - Transactions
  - And more ...

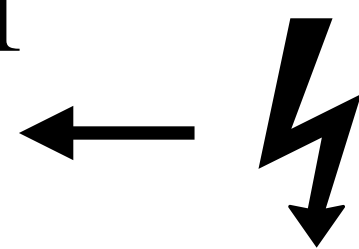
# Challenges

- Since persistent memory is durable storage programs have to worry about crashes. I.e. be crash-safe.
- Writes to persistent memory are *asynchronous* and *weakly ordered*.

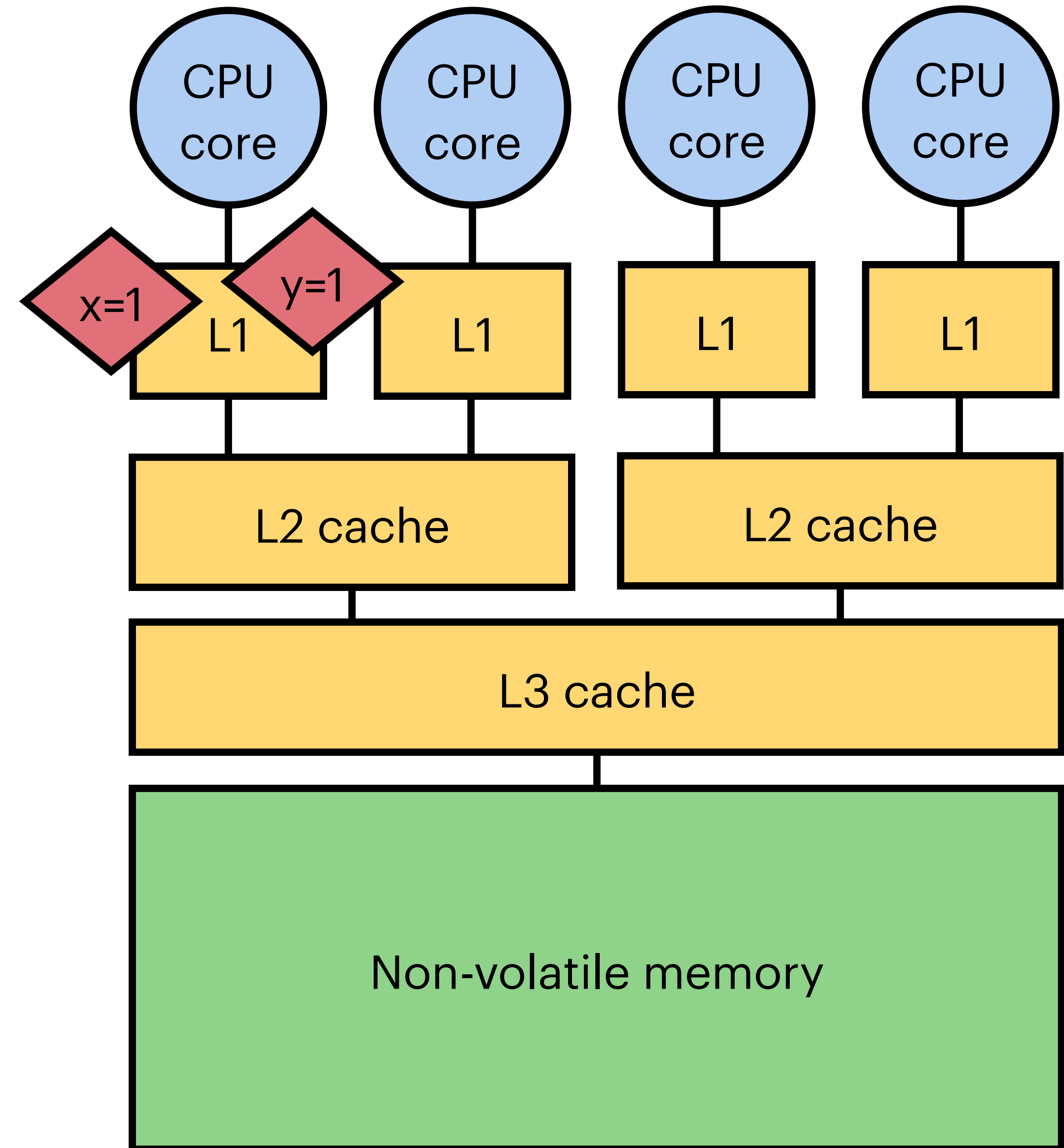
Initial Memory:  $x = 0 \wedge y = 0$

$x \leftarrow 1$

$y \leftarrow 1$



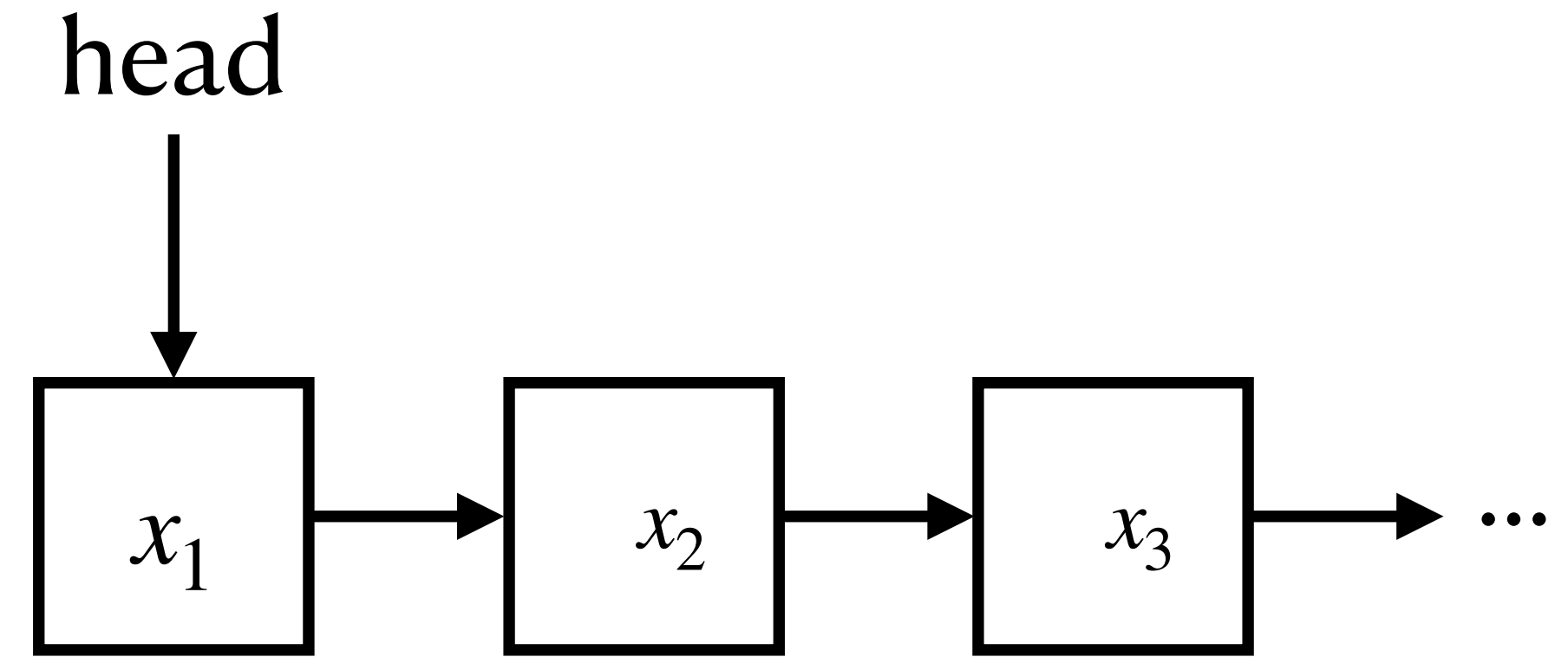
After Crash:  $x = 0 \wedge y = 1$  is possible.





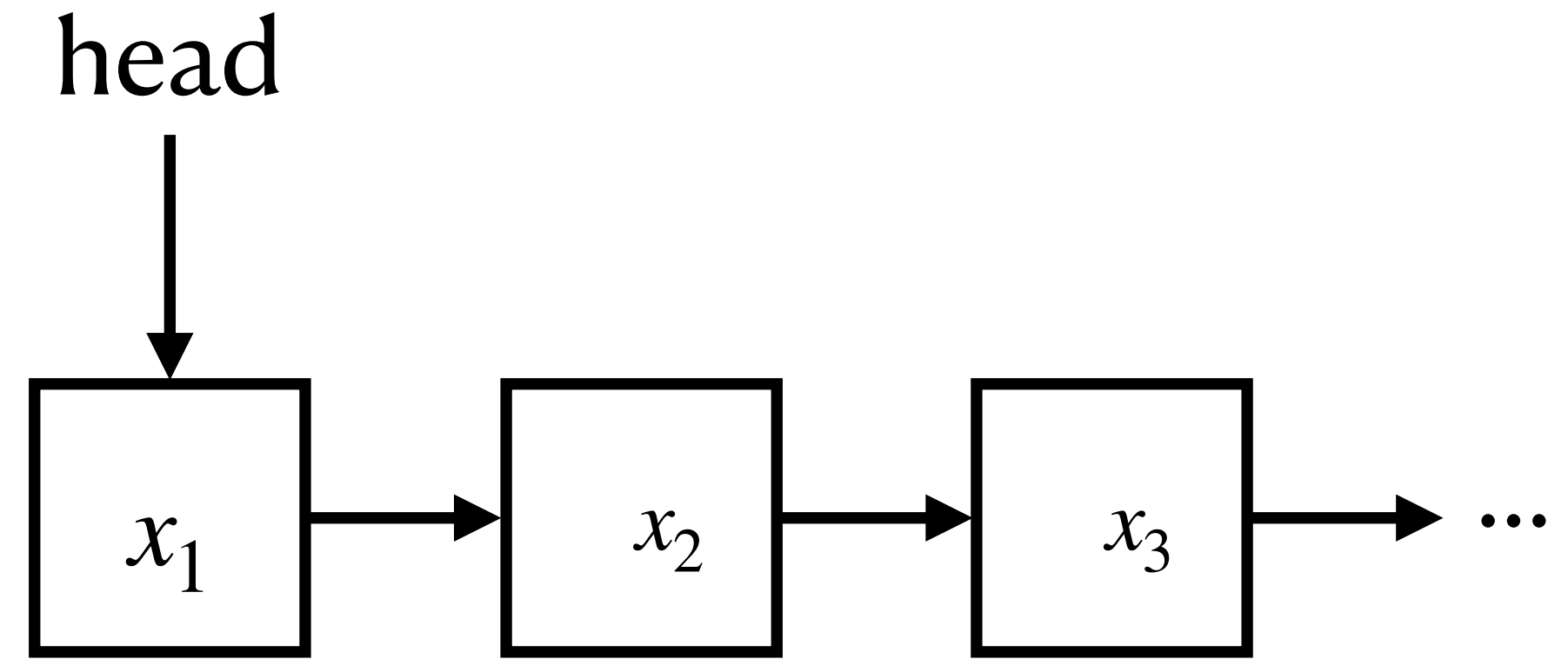
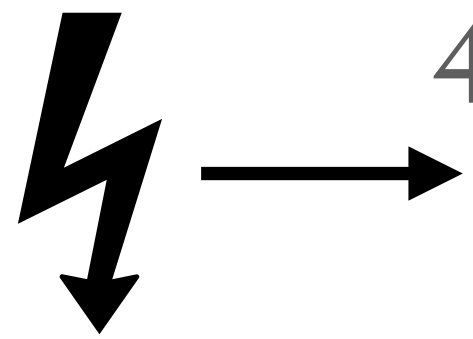
`push(val, head)`

1. `oldHead = ! head`
2. `node = allocateNode(val)`
3. `node.next ← oldHead`
4. `head ← node`



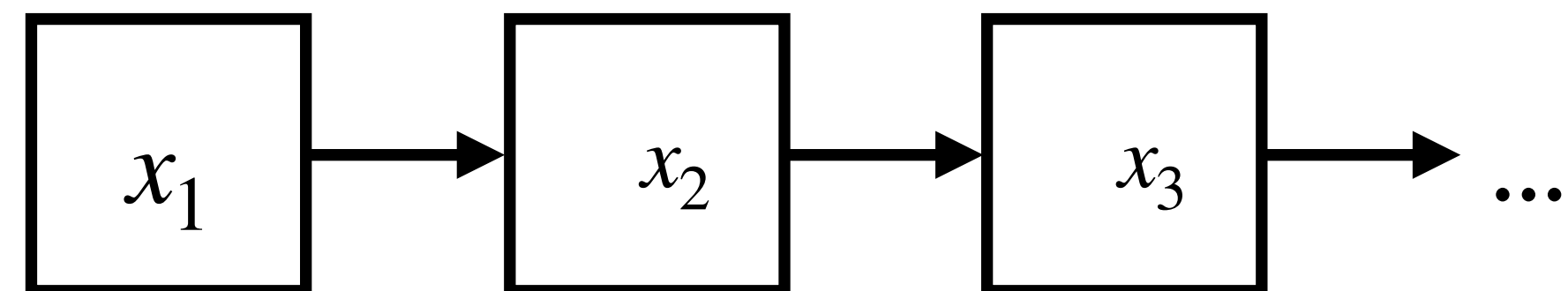
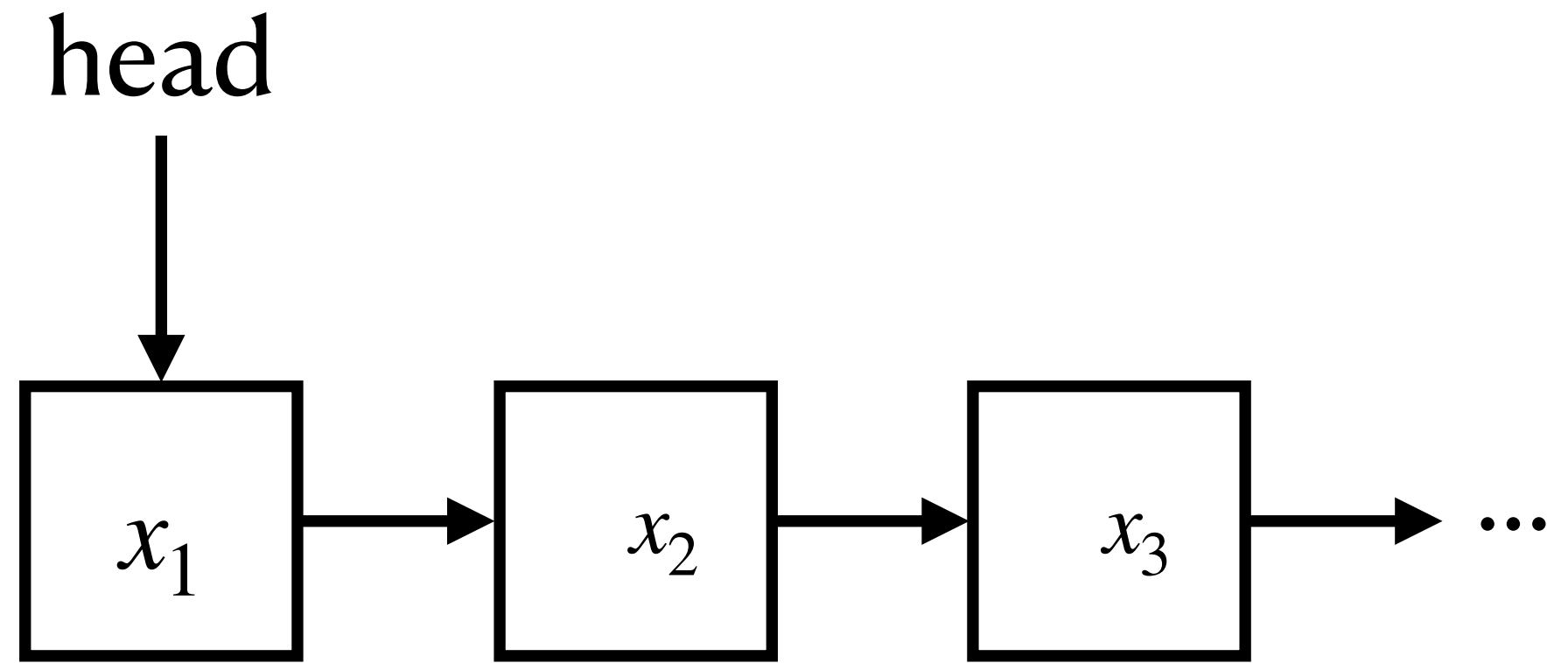
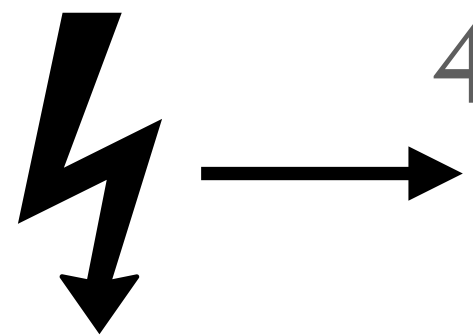
push(val, head)

1. oldHead = ! head
2. node = allocateNode(val)
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1. `oldHead = ! head`
2. `node = allocateNode(val)`
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4. `head ← node`



push(val, head)

1. oldHead = ! head
  2. node = makeNode(val)
  3. node.next ← oldHead
  4. flush node
  5. flush node.next
  6. fence
- 
7. head ← node

# Our Goal

- To create a program logic that can verify programs that use weak persistent memory.

# Our Work

- A **small-step operational semantics** for the *explicit-epoch persistency model*
- Instantiated Iris/Perennial to arrive at a low-level logic
- Built the higher level **Spirea** logic on top of the low-level logic
- Verified examples
  - Tricky synthetic examples
  - Durable data structures
- Mechanized in Coq

# At A Glance

## Locations

$$\boxed{\ell \mid \pi}$$

$$\ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} \vec{\sigma}$$

$$\ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{AT}} \vec{\sigma}$$

## Lower Bounds

$$\ell \succeq_p \sigma$$

$$\ell \succeq_f \sigma$$

$$\ell \succeq_s \sigma$$

## Crash Modalities

$$\langle \text{PC} \rangle P$$

$$\langle \text{PCF} \rangle P$$

$$\langle \text{ifRec} \rangle_{\ell} P$$

## View Modalities

$$\langle \text{obj} \rangle P$$

$$\langle \text{NF} \rangle P$$

$$\langle \text{NB} \rangle P$$

## Post Fence Modalities

$$\langle \text{PF} \rangle P$$

$$\langle \text{PF}_F \rangle P$$

## Weakest Precondition

$$\text{wpc } e \{Q\} \{Q_c\}$$

$$\text{wpr } e \circ e_r \{Q\} \{Q_c\}$$

# Modalities For Crashes

$\langle PC \rangle P$

$\langle PCF \rangle P$

$\langle \text{ifRec} \rangle_{\ell} P$



$\text{isStack}(\ell, \phi) \rightarrow \star \langle \text{PC} \rangle \text{isStack}(\ell, \phi)$

$\text{isStack}(\ell, \phi) \rightarrow \star \langle \text{PC} \rangle \langle \text{ifRec} \rangle_{\ell} \text{isStack}(\ell, \phi)$

# Normal Safety

$$\langle e, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \langle v, \sigma_n \rangle$$

# Crash-safety

$$\begin{array}{c} \langle e, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \langle e_i, \sigma_i \rangle \xrightarrow{\not\rightarrow} \langle e_r, \sigma_{i+1} \rangle \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \\ \vdots \\ \dots \rightarrow \langle e_j, \sigma_j \rangle \xrightarrow{\not\rightarrow} \langle e_r, \sigma_{j+1} \rangle \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \langle v, \sigma_n \rangle \end{array}$$

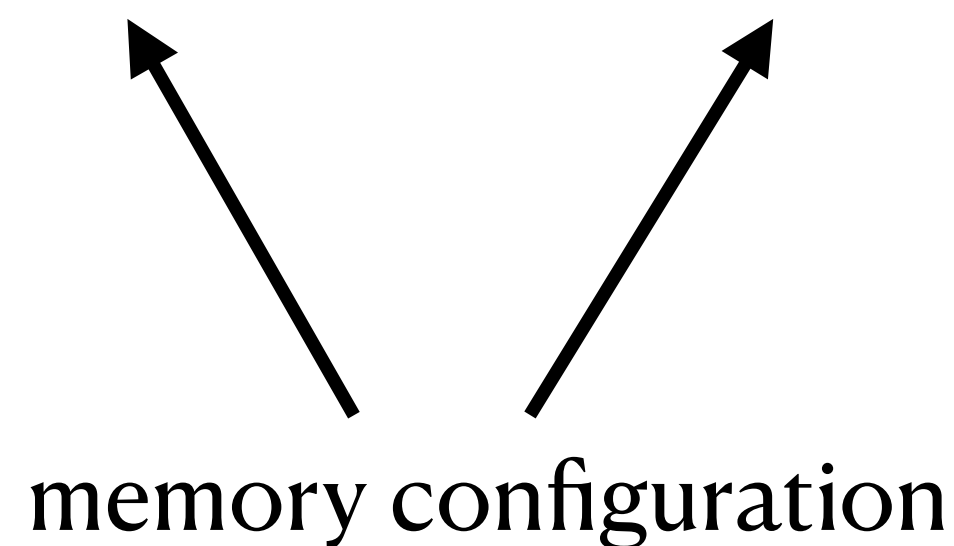
# Crash Step

M-CRASH

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{consistent}(\sigma, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{C}) \\ \text{dom}(\sigma') = \text{dom}(\mathcal{C}) \quad \forall \ell \in \text{dom}(\mathcal{C}). \sigma'(\ell) = \{0 \mapsto \langle \sigma(\ell)(\mathcal{C}(\ell)).v, \perp, \perp, \perp \rangle\} \\ \text{dom}(\mathcal{P}') = \text{dom}(\mathcal{C}) \quad \forall \ell \in \text{dom}(\mathcal{C}). \mathcal{P}'(\ell) = 0 \end{array}$$

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$$\langle \sigma, \mathcal{P} \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{crash}} \langle \sigma', \mathcal{P}' \rangle$$



# Recovery Weakest Precondition (from Perennial)

$wpr\ e\ \circlearrowleft\ e_r\ \{Q\}\{Q_c\}$

post condition

if no crashes

post condition

if  $\geq 1$  crashes

# Recovery Weakest Precondition

$$\frac{\text{wpc } e \{Q\}\{Q_r\} \quad Q_r \dashv^* \langle \text{PC} \rangle \text{wpc } e_r \{Q_c\}\{Q_r\}}{\text{wpr } e \cup e_r \{Q\}\{Q_c\}}$$

# **Crash-Aware Protocols**

# Crash-Aware Protocols

A *crash-aware protocol*  $(\Sigma, \sqsubseteq, \phi, \psi)$  consists of a countable set of states  $\Sigma$ , a preorder  $\sqsubseteq \in \sigma \times \sigma$  on the states, an invariant  $\phi : \Sigma \times \text{Val} \rightarrow \text{dProp}$ , and a function  $\psi : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$  that is monotone with respect to  $\sqsubseteq$ .

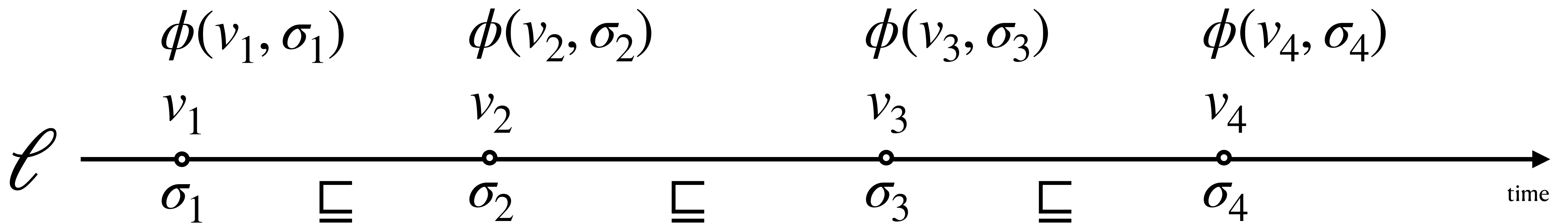
Additionally, the following two conditions must be satisfied:

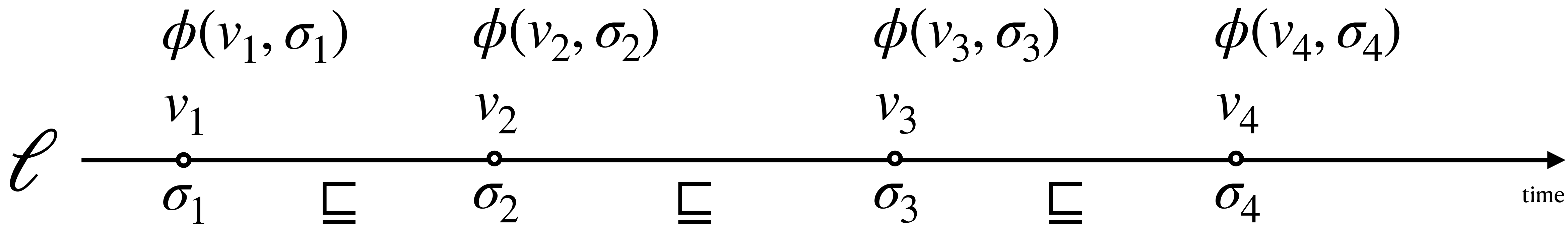
1/  $\forall \sigma, v. \phi(\sigma, v) \vdash \langle \text{NB} \rangle \phi(\sigma, v)$

2/ For all  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $v \in \text{Val}$  it is the case that  $\phi(\sigma, v) \vdash \langle \text{PCF} \rangle \phi(\psi(\sigma), v)$

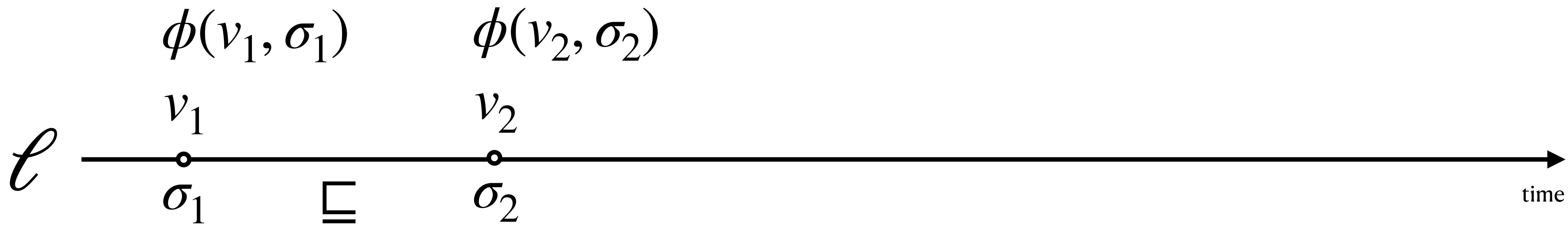


- A protocol associates every location with
  - a set of states  $\Sigma$  and a preorder  $\sqsubseteq$
  - a predicate  $\phi : \Sigma \times \text{Val} \rightarrow \text{dProp}$





after crash



# Points-to for non-atomics

$$\ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} [\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n]$$

# A post-crash modality rule

$$\ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} [\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n] \vdash \langle \text{PC} \rangle \langle \text{ifRec} \rangle_\ell \exists i \leq n. \ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} [\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_i]$$

# Location Lower Bounds

$$\ell \gtrsim_p \sigma$$

$$\ell \gtrsim_f \sigma$$

$$\ell \gtrsim_s \sigma$$

# Flush and fence

Initial Memory:  $x = 0 \wedge y = 0$

$x \leftarrow 1$

flush  $x$

fence

$y \leftarrow 1$

After Crash: If  $y = 1$  then  $x = 1$ .

# Post Fence Modalities

$\langle PF \rangle P$

$\langle PF_S \rangle P$

# Rules for fence and flush

FLUSH

$\{\ell \succeq_s \sigma\} \text{ flush } \ell \{(). \langle \text{PF} \rangle (\ell \succeq_f \sigma) * \langle \text{PF}_S \rangle (\ell \succeq_p \sigma)\}$

FENCE

$\{\langle \text{PF} \rangle P\} \text{ fence } \{P\}$



# Non-Atomic Locations

NA-ALLOC

$$\{\phi(\sigma, v)\} \mathbf{ref}_{\text{NA}} v \{ \ell. \boxed{\ell \mid \pi} * \ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} \sigma \}$$

NA-LOAD

$$\frac{\langle \text{obj} \rangle \forall v. P * \phi(\vec{\sigma}_n, v) \multimap Q(v) * \phi(\vec{\sigma}_n, v)}{\{ \boxed{\ell \mid \pi} * \ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} \vec{\sigma} * P \} !_{\text{NA}} \ell \{ w. \ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} \vec{\sigma} * Q(v) \}}$$

NA-STORE

$$\{ \phi(\sigma, v) * \boxed{\ell \mid \pi} * \ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} \vec{\sigma} * (\vec{\sigma})_n \sqsubseteq \sigma \} \ell \leftarrow_{\text{NA}} v \{ (). \ell \hookrightarrow_{\text{NA}} \vec{\sigma} \sigma \}$$