

# CompCertX:

Verified Separate Compilation for  
Compositional Verification of Layered Systems



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# Motivation

*How to build reliable & secure **system software stacks**?*

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## How to build reliable & secure **system software stacks**?



The collage contains several diagrams and tables:

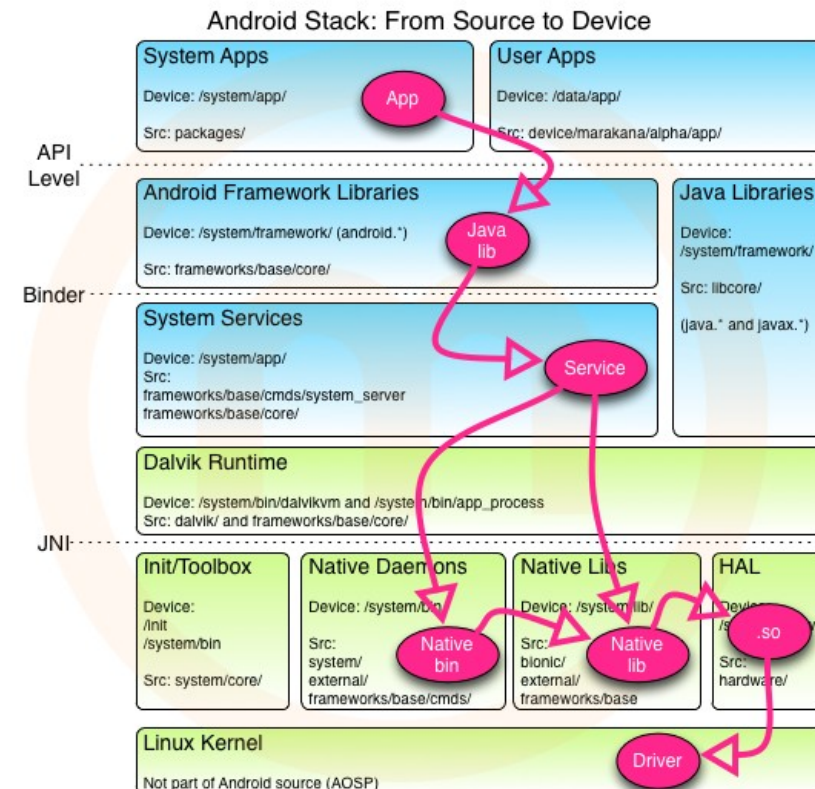
- Android Architecture:** A diagram showing the layers of the Android system: Applications, Application Framework, Libraries, Android Runtime, Linux Kernel, and Hardware. It includes sub-diagrams for the Application Framework, Libraries, and Linux Kernel.
- Table 1. Software Stack Readiness:**

	Development tool	Meaning of "Multicore-Ready"	LabVIEW Support
<b>Programming Model</b>	Anonymous publish-subscribe	Support provided on the operating system of choice; tool facilitates correct threading and optimization	✓ Example: Multithreaded nature of LabVIEW and structures that provide optimization
<b>Message Architecture</b>	Data-centric middleware (data = messages, known schema)	Message-centric (just byte streams or scalars, data = messages)	✓ Example: NI-DAQmx driver software
<b>Coupling</b>	Loosely coupled	Tightly coupled	✓ Example: Support for Windows, Mac OS, Linux* OS, and real-time operating systems
<b>Optimized for</b>	Widely distributed	Cloudy distributed (i.e. case of ILB, BCCE, and MC-API) (In general, MPI is suitable for HPC clusters)	
<b>Topology</b>	Hides physical topology	Uses physical topology	
<b>System Calls</b>	Uses different system calls depending upon transport	Avoids system calls when special instructions for using high-speed interconnect are available	
- USB Device Diagram:** A diagram showing the USB device stack: Embedded Firmware Application, Embedded USB Device Stack with device classes provided by the Firmware, USB Device Controller (hardware), and USB Host Driver Stack and USB Host Controller (operating system).
- Enterprise / ISV applications:** A diagram showing the layers of an enterprise application stack: Application Software, Driver Software, Computing and hardware abstraction Platform, and Instrumentation.
- System Software Stack:** A diagram showing the layers of a system software stack: Application Layer, Protocol Layer, NOIS Adapter Layer, and Device Layer.
- Application Diagram:** A diagram showing the layers of an application: Application, Control (Best Master Clock Algorithm), Mngmt, OC, BC, TC, Dispatcher, Network Interface, Time Stamp Unit (TSU), UDP/IP, Clock Interface (CI), Ethernet Controller, and Clock.
- User applications:** A diagram showing the layers of user applications: Stand, cross-platform APIs (TCP/IP, USB Host, Device MSC, HID, CDC, FAT File System, IPC Multicore communication), Real-time Kernel (SYS/BIOS), Debug and instrumentation, and TI Device (EMAC, USB, SD/MMC, UART, IIC, SPI Drivers).

# Motivation

## Android architecture & system stack

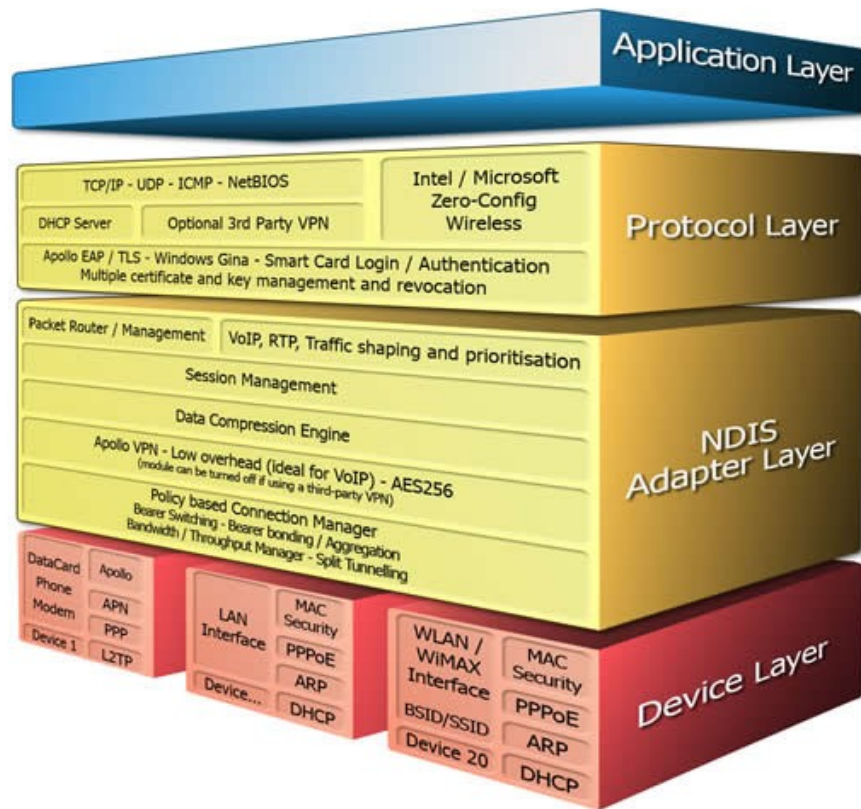
From [https://thenewcircle.com/s/post/1031/android\\_stack\\_source\\_to\\_device](https://thenewcircle.com/s/post/1031/android_stack_source_to_device) & [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Android\\_\(operating\\_system\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Android_(operating_system))





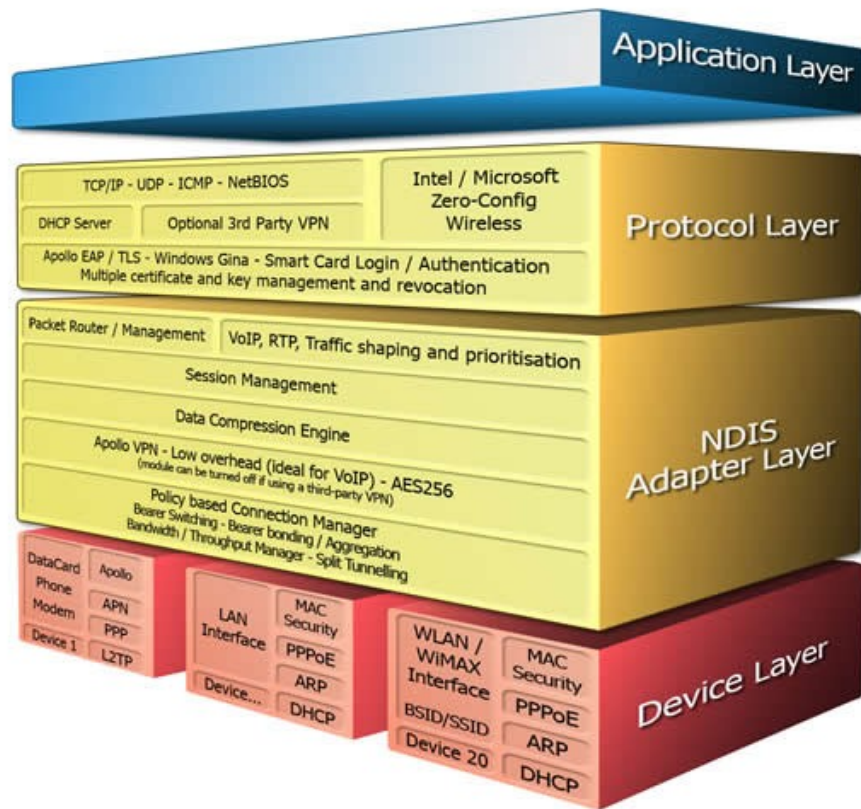
# Motivation

Apollo **Mobile Communication Stack**  
[http://www.layer2connections.com/apollo\\_clients.html](http://www.layer2connections.com/apollo_clients.html)

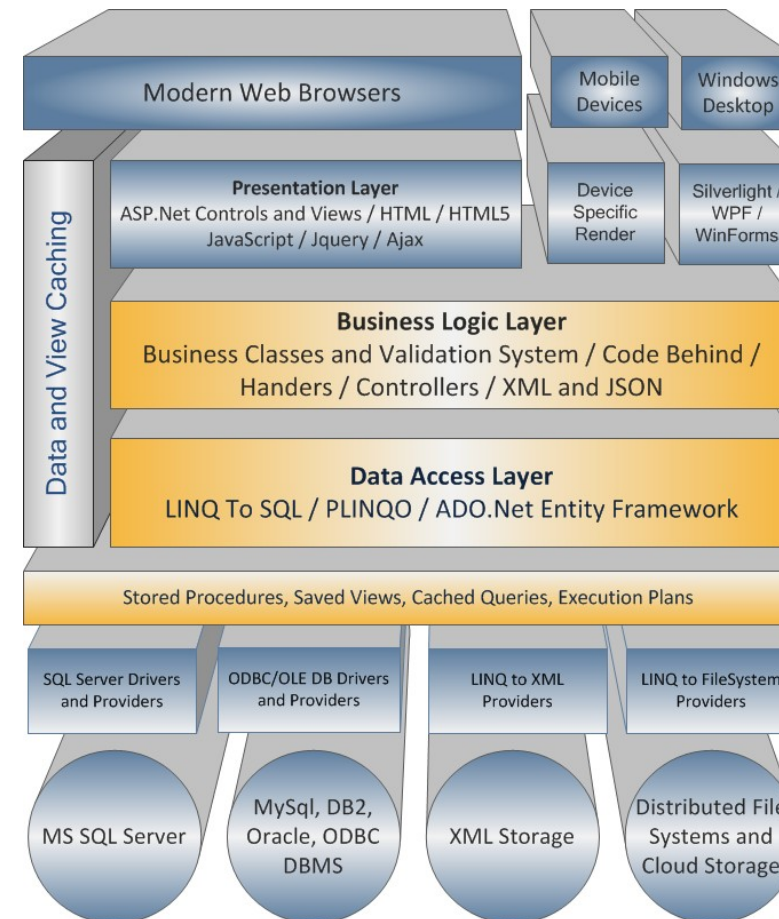


# Motivation

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**Web Application Development Stack**  
<http://www.brightware.co.uk/Technology.aspx>



# Motivation (cont'd)

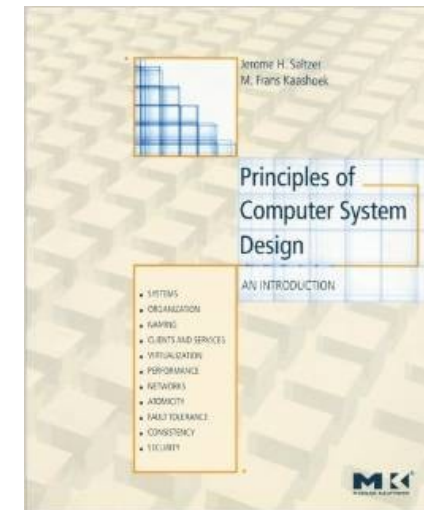
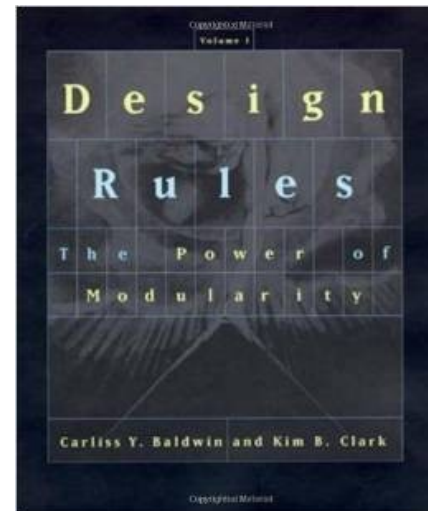
- Common themes: all system stacks are built based on **abstraction**, **modularity**, and **layering**
- **Abstraction layers** are ubiquitous!

# Motivation (cont'd)

- Common themes: all system stacks are built based on **abstraction, modularity, and layering**
- **Abstraction layers** are ubiquitous!

Such use of abstraction, modularity, and layering is “**the key factor that drove the computer industry toward today’s explosive levels of innovation and growth** because *complex products can be built from smaller subsystems that can be designed independently yet function together as a whole.*”

*Baldwin & Clark “Design Rules: Volume 1, The Power of Modularity”, MIT Press, 2000*





# Problems

- What is an ***abstraction layer***?
- How to formally ***specify*** an abstraction layer?
- How to ***program, verify, and compile*** each layer?
- How to ***compose*** abstraction layers?
- How to apply ***certified abstraction layers*** to build ***reliable*** and ***secure*** system software?

# Our Contributions



- We introduce [deep specification](#) and present a language-based formalization of [certified abstraction layer](#)
- We developed new languages & tools in Coq
  - [A formal layer calculus](#) for composing certified layers
  - [ClightX](#) for writing certified layers in a C-like language
  - [AsmX](#) for writing certified layers in assembly
  - [CompCertX](#) that compiles [ClightX](#) layers into [AsmX](#) layers
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# Example: Thread Queues

```
extern unsigned int dequeue(unsigned int);
extern void set_state(unsigned int, unsigned int);
extern void enqueue(unsigned int, unsigned int);

void thread_enqueue(unsigned int proc_index)
{
    set_state(proc_index, TSTATE_READY);
    enqueue(NUM_CHAN, proc_index);
}

void thread_wakeup(unsigned int chan_index)
{
    unsigned int proc_index;
    proc_index = dequeue(chan_index);
    if(proc_index != NUM_PROC)
        thread_enqueue(proc_index);
}
```



# Example: Thread Queues

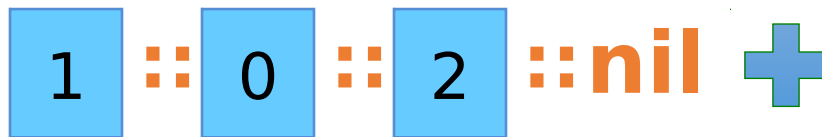
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} Layer primitives

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**Abs-  
State**



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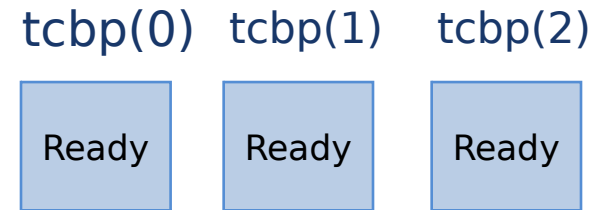
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Client code

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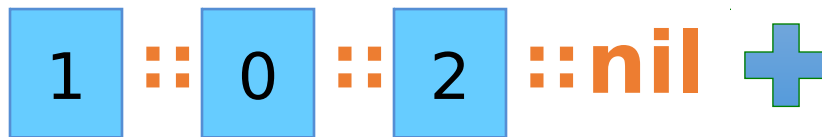
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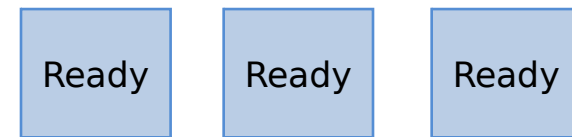
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tcbp(0) tcbp(1) tcbp(2)



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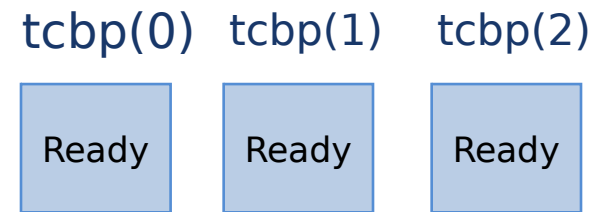
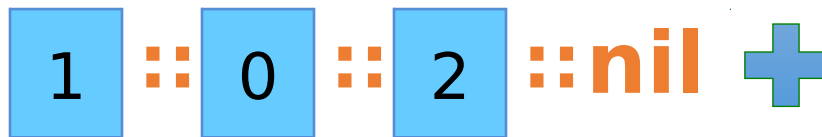
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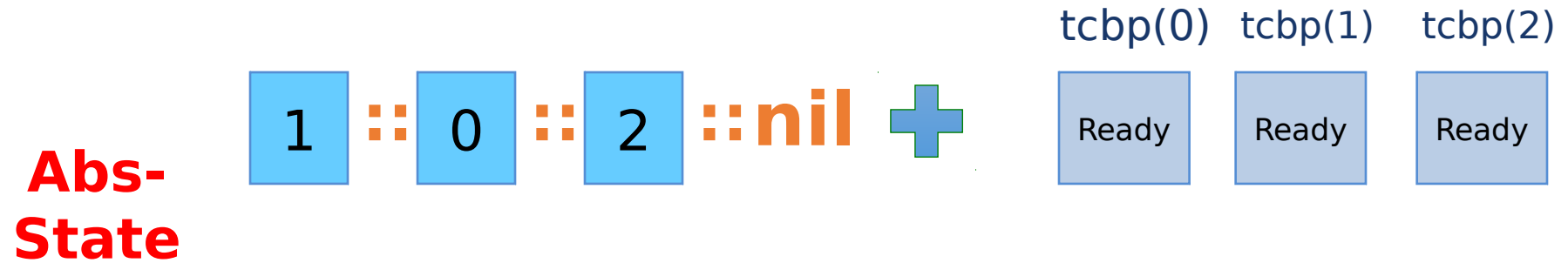
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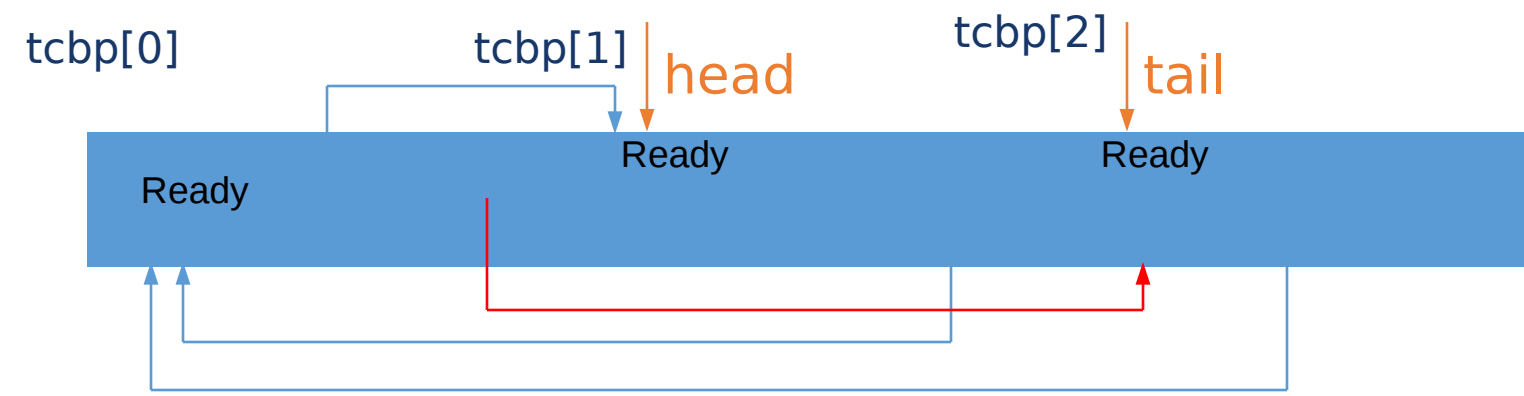


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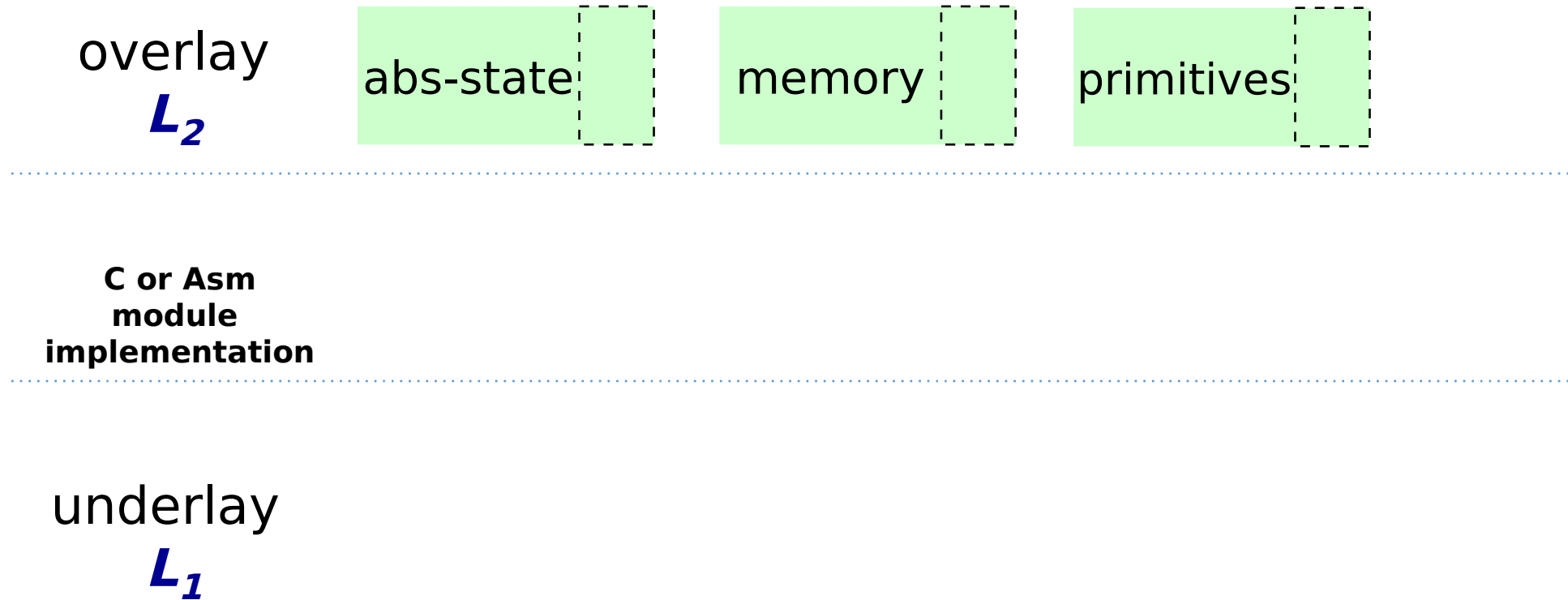
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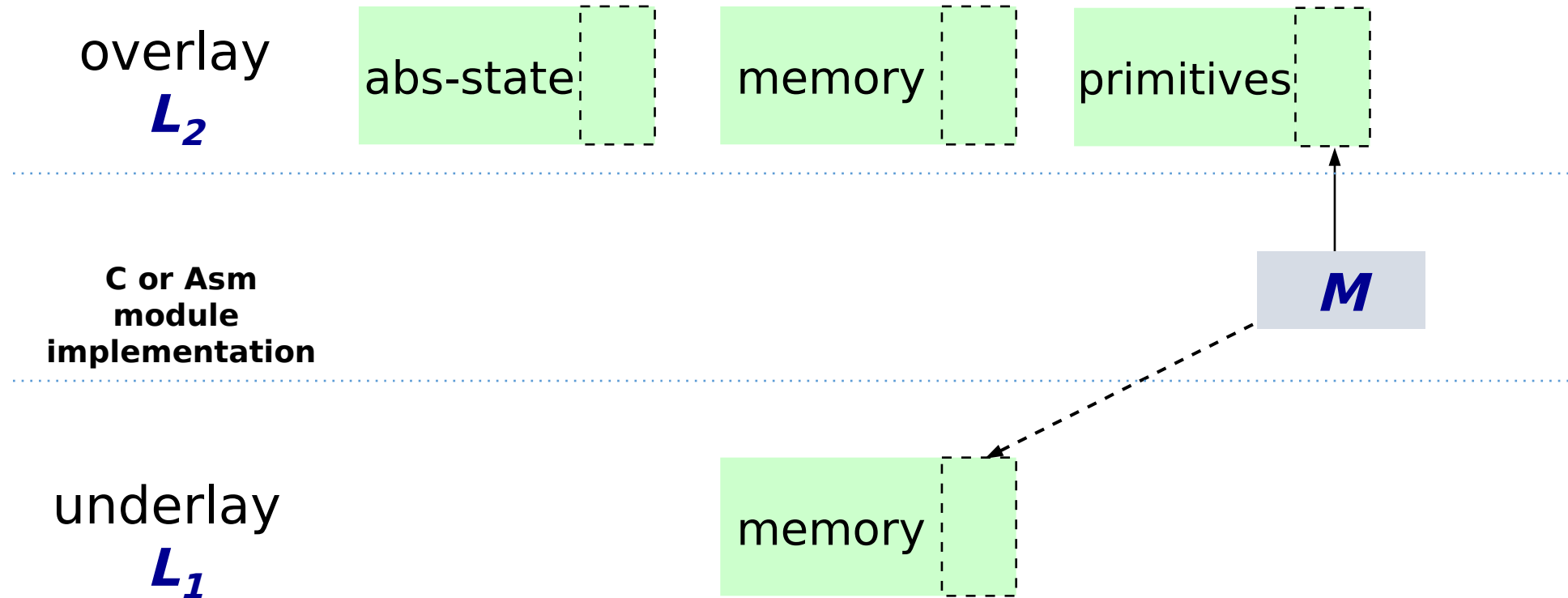
**Concrete  
Memory**



# What is an Abstraction Layer?

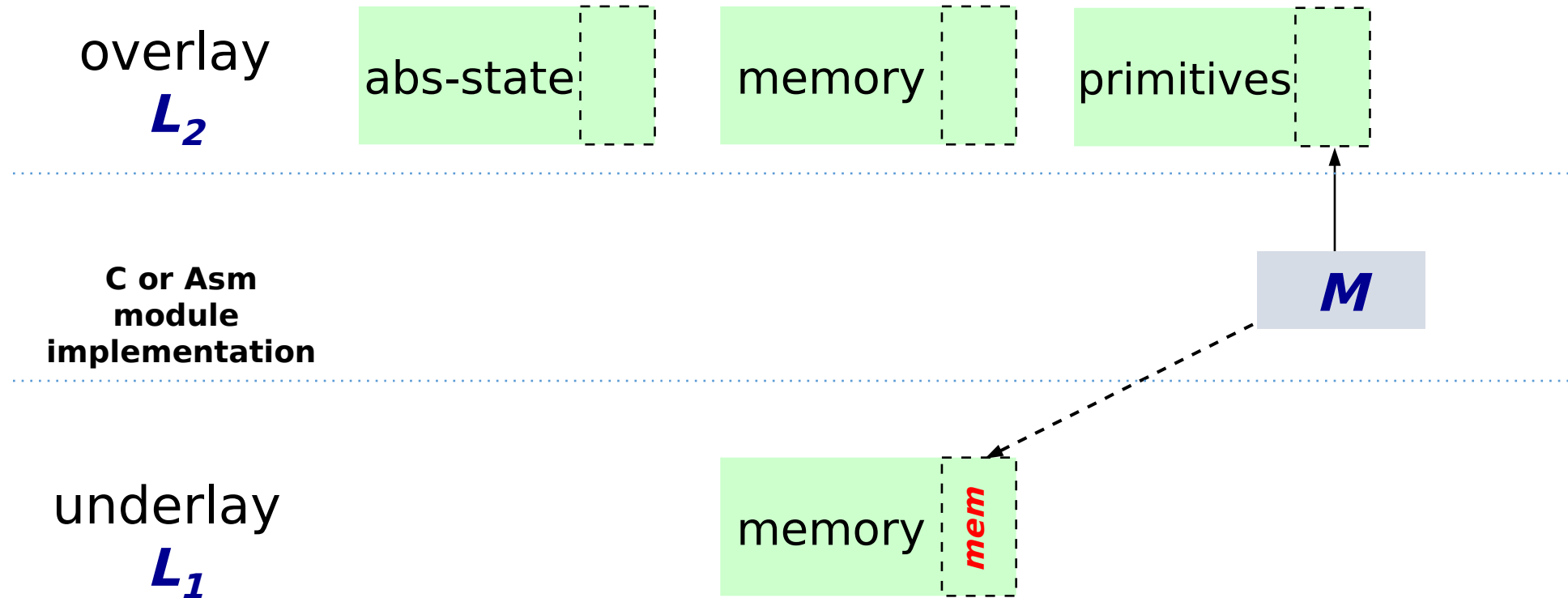


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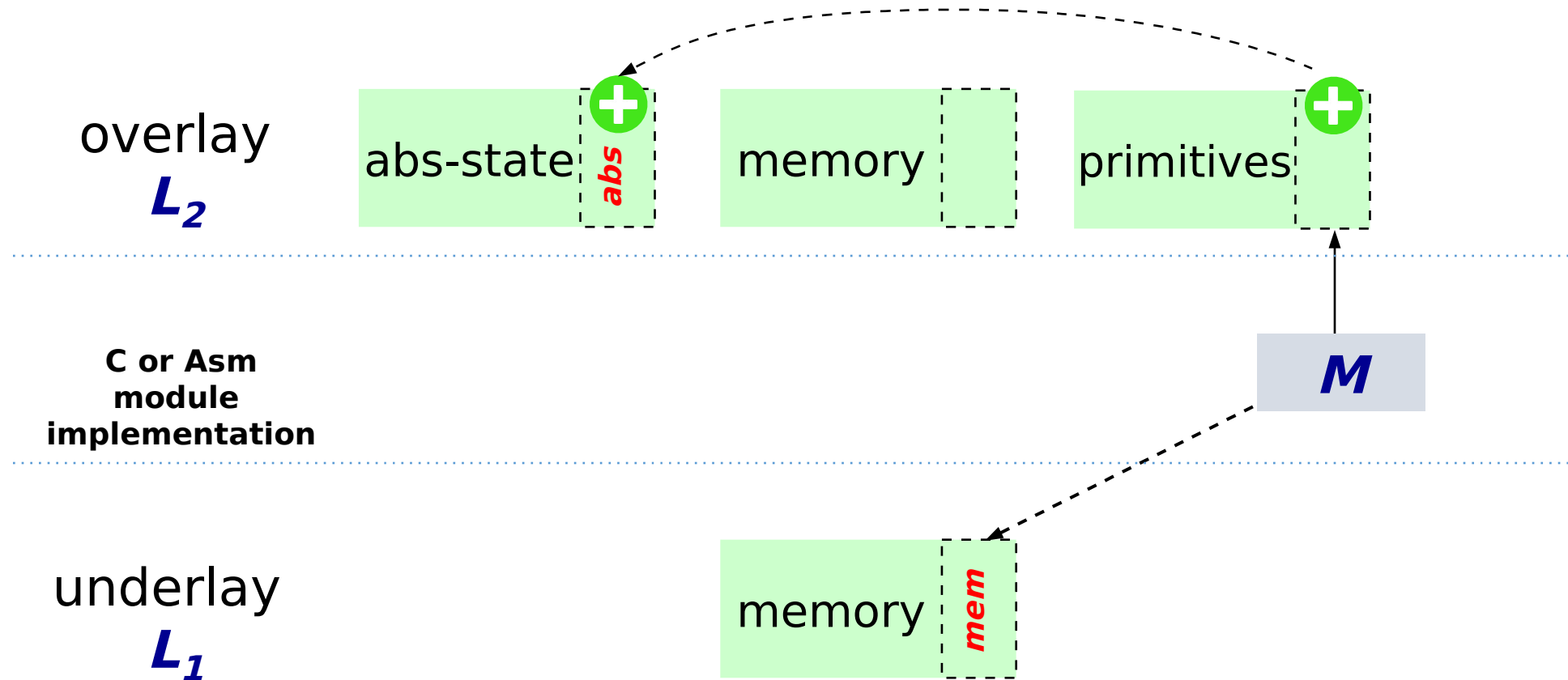




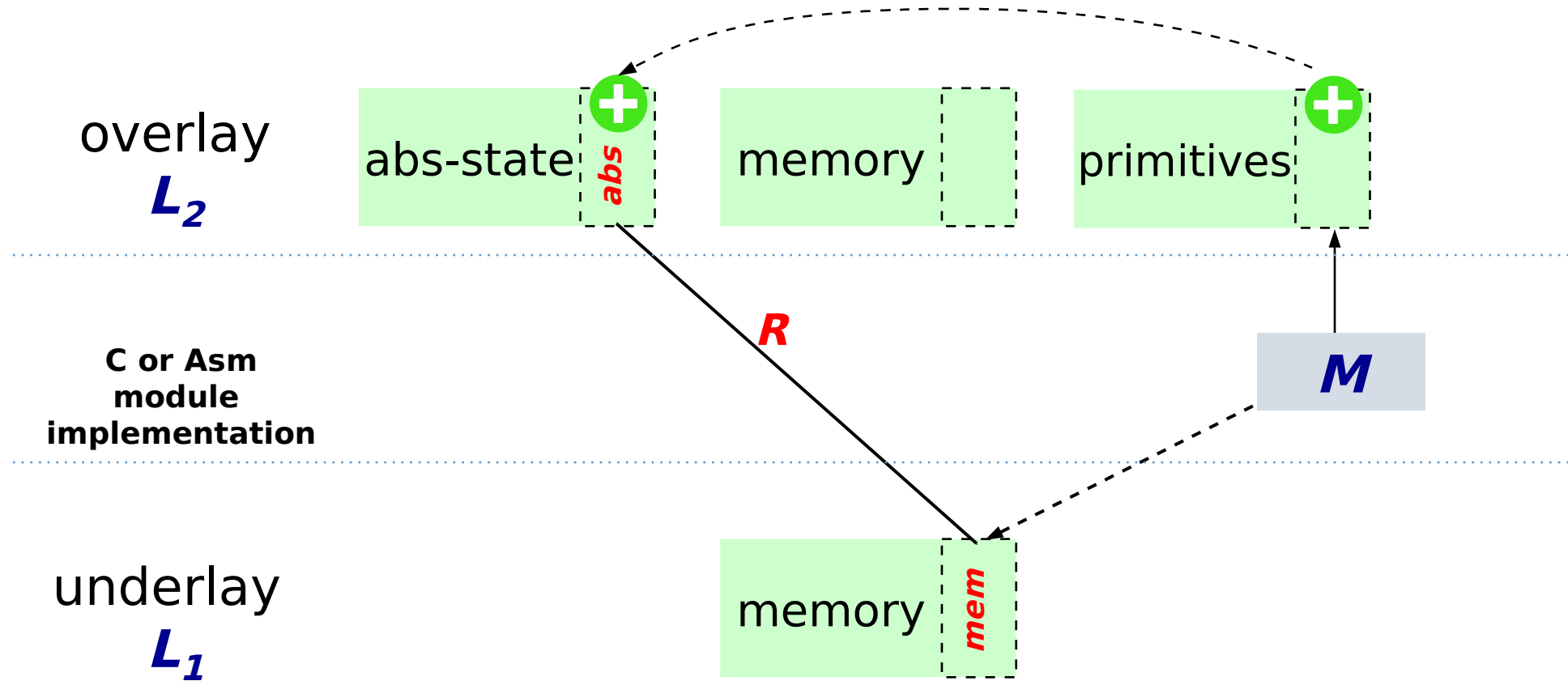
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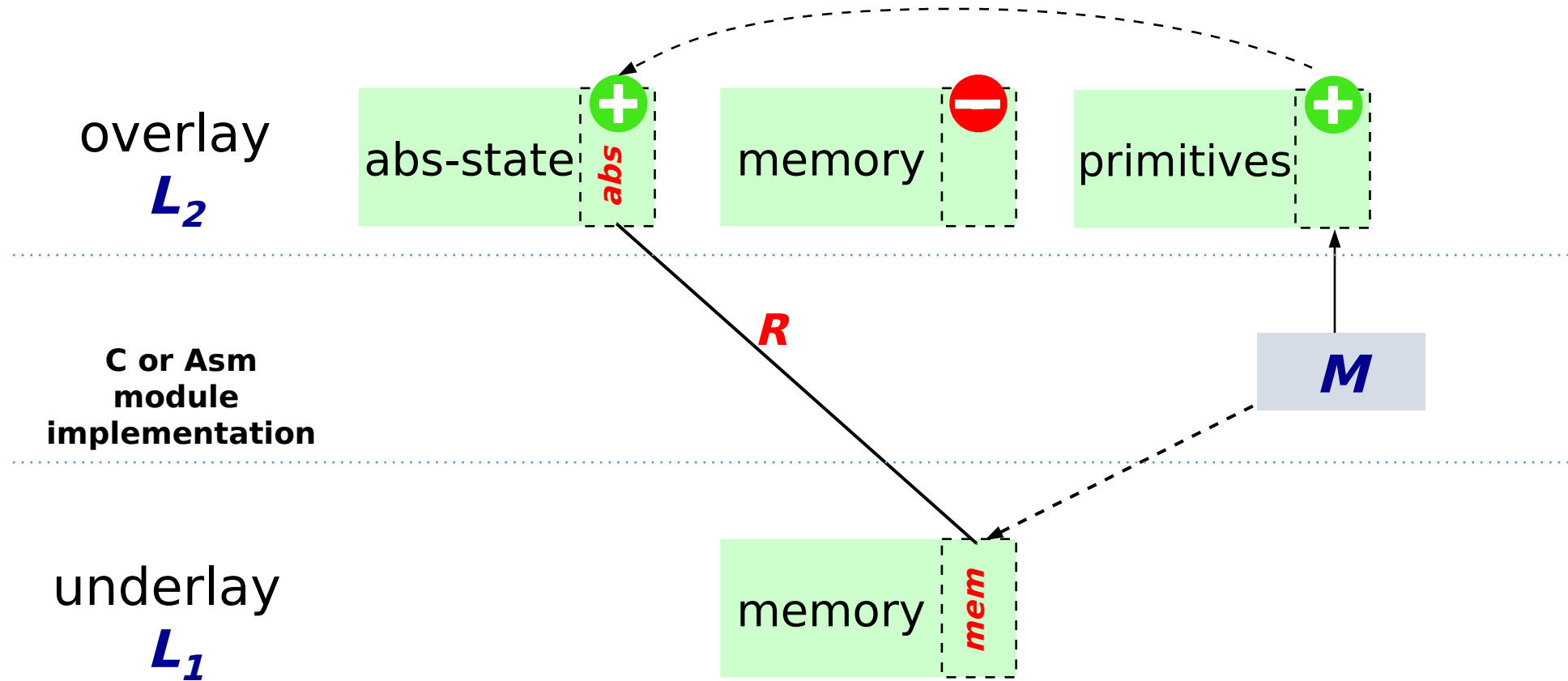
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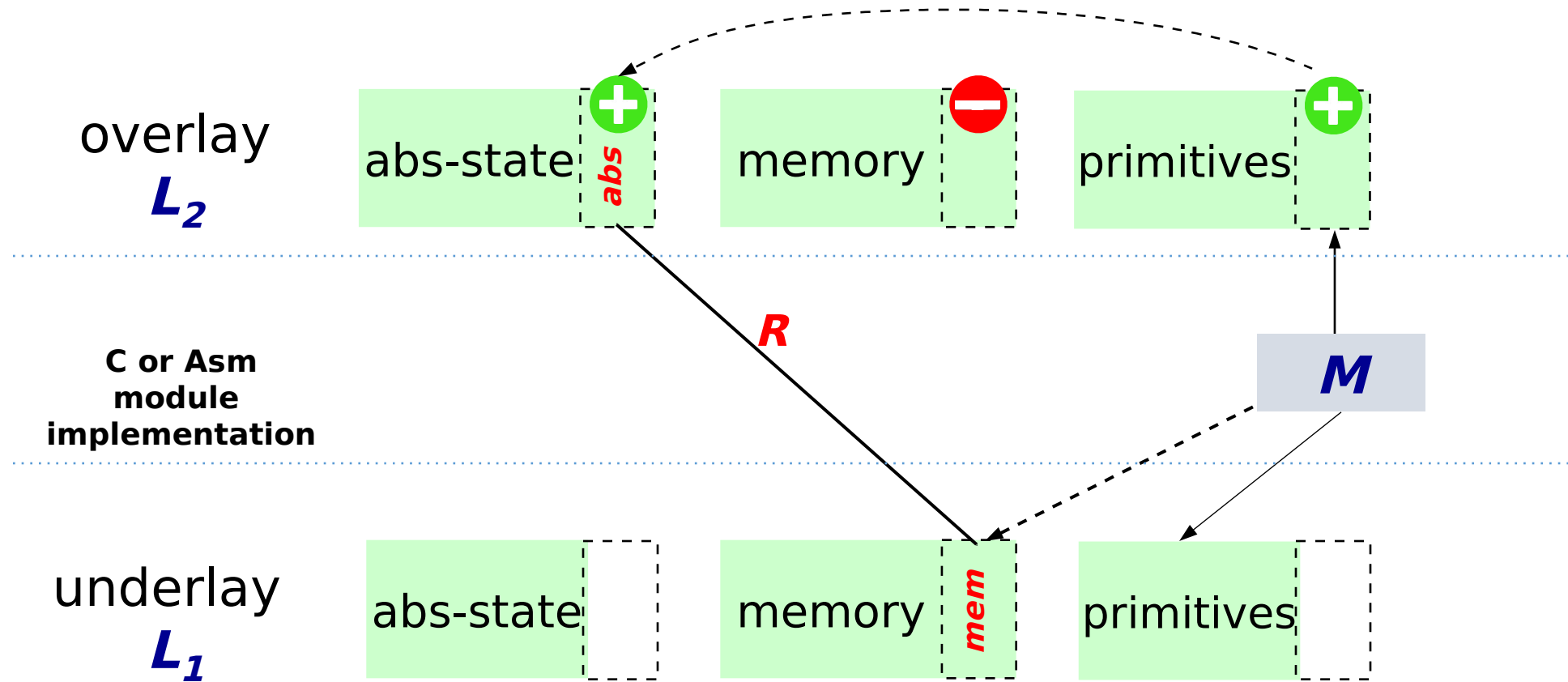
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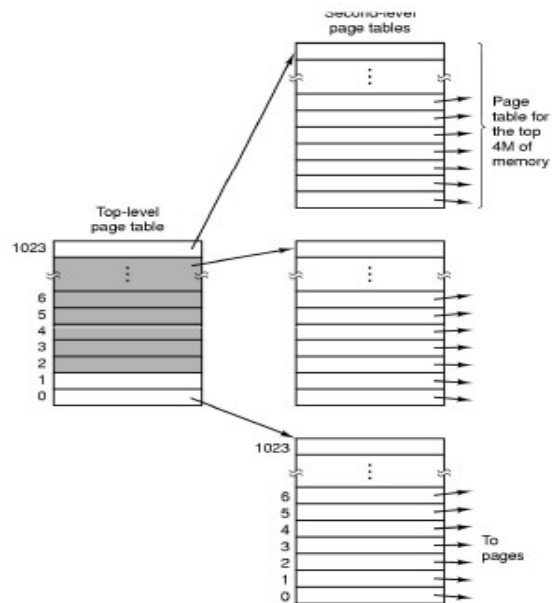
# What is an Abstraction Layer?



# Example: Page Tables

## *concrete C types*

```
struct PMap {  
    char * page_dir[1024];  
    uint page_table[1024][1024];  
};
```



## *abstract Coq spec*

Inductive **PTPerm**: Type :=

| PTP

| PTU

| PTK.

Inductive **PTEInfo** :=

| PTEValid (v : Z) (p : **PTPerm**)

| PTEUnPresent.

Definition **PMap** := ZMap.t **PTEInfo**.

# Example: Page Tables

abstract  
layer  
spec

## abstract state

```
PMap := ZMap.t PTEInfo  
(* vaddr → (paddr, perm) *)
```

Invariants: kernel page table is  
a direct map; user parts are  
isolated

## abstract primitives (Coq functions)

```
Definition page_table_init := ...  
Definition page_table_insert := ...  
Definition page_table_rmv := ...  
Definition page_table_read := ...
```

concrete C  
implementation

## memory

```
char * page_dir[1024];  
uint page_table[1024][1024];
```

## C functions

```
int page_table_init() { ... }  
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# Formalizing Abstraction Layers

What is a *certified* abstraction layer  
 $(L_1, M, L_2)$  ?

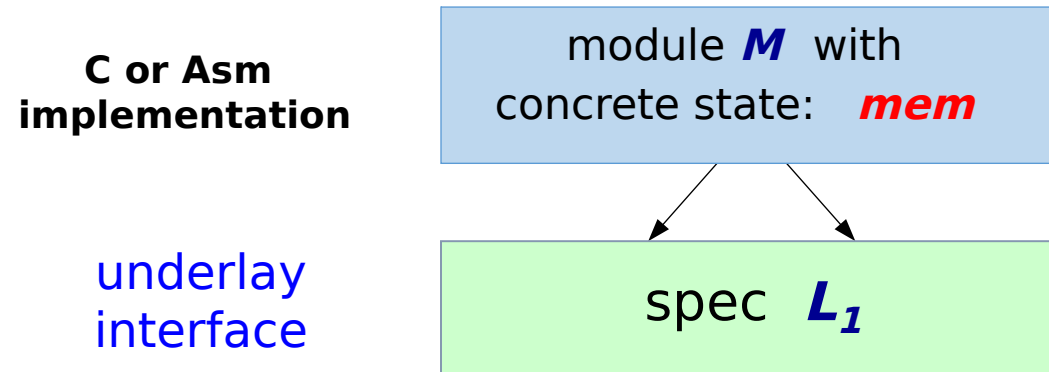
**C or Asm  
implementation**

module  $M$  with  
concrete state: *mem*



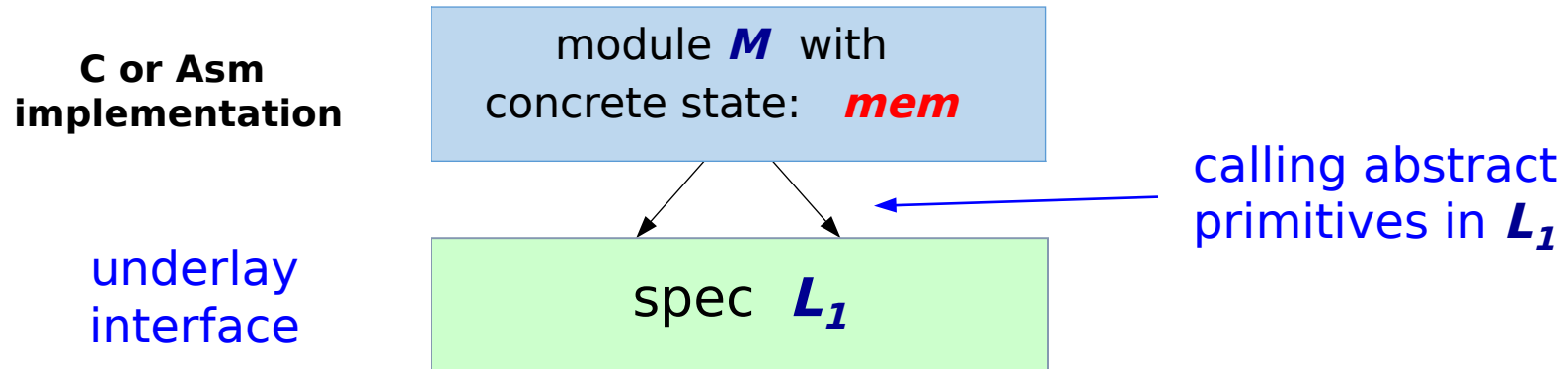
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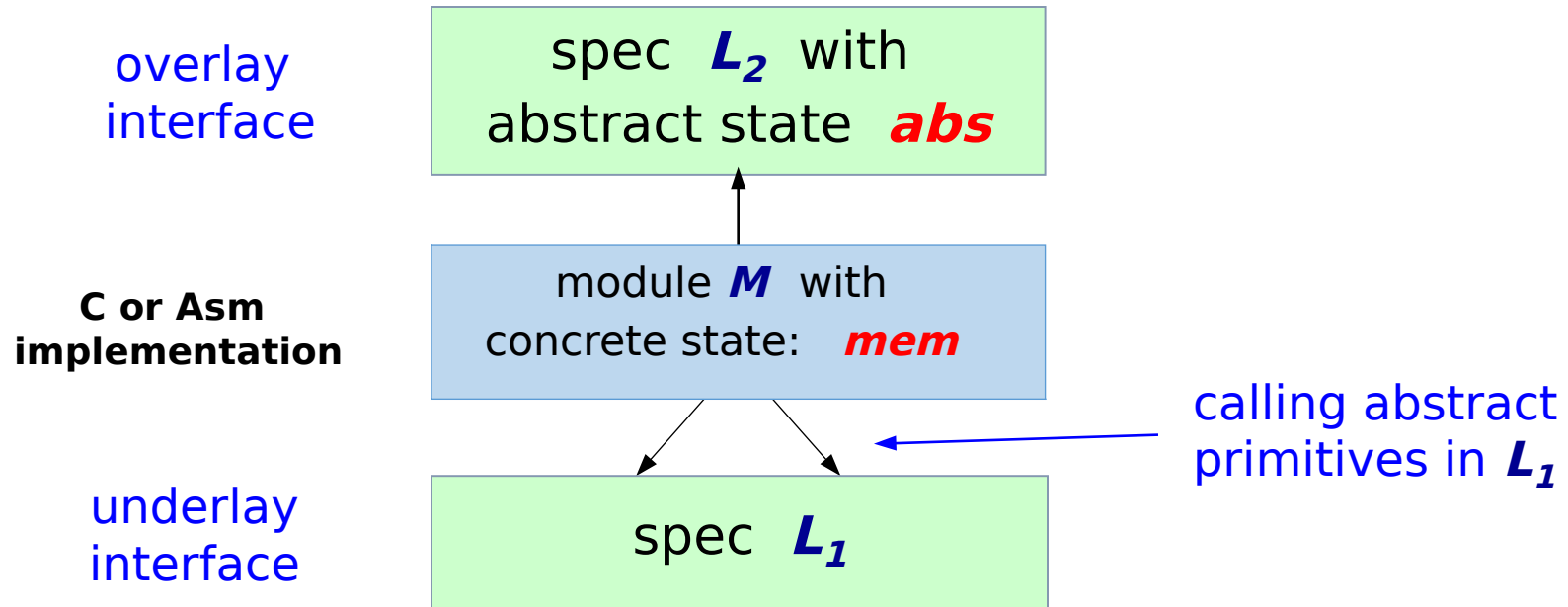
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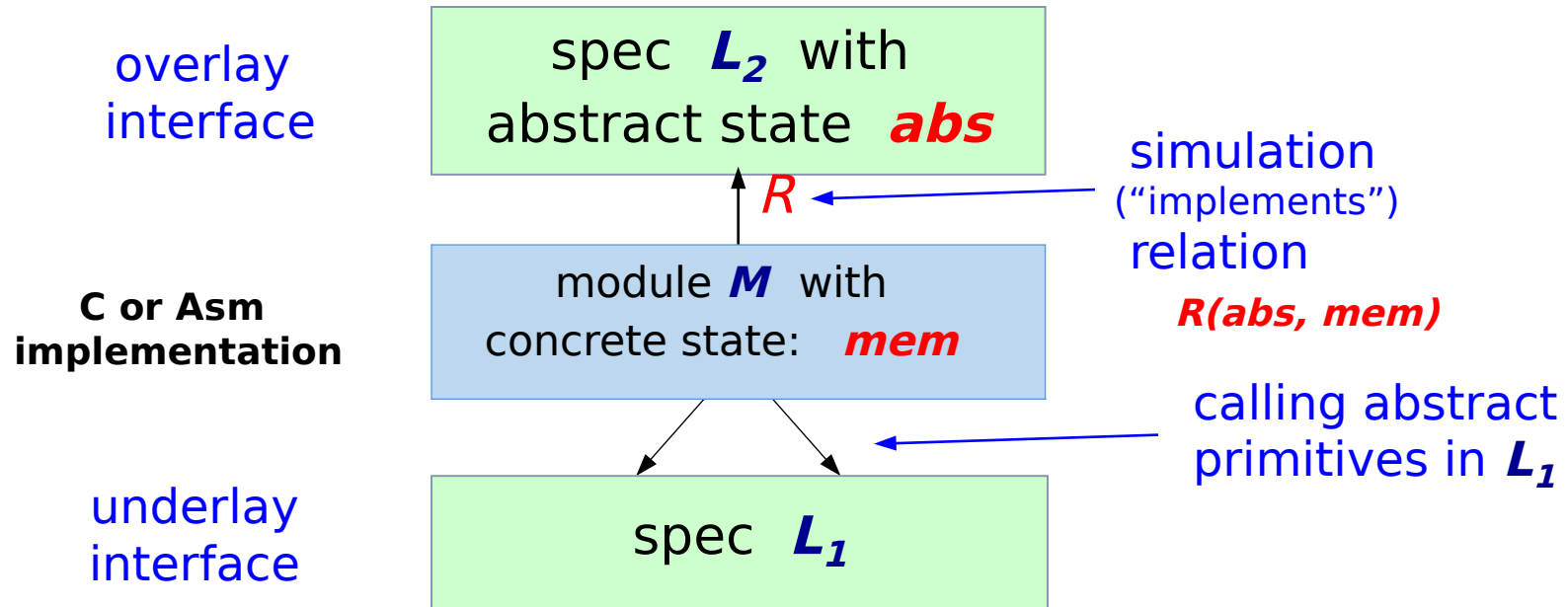
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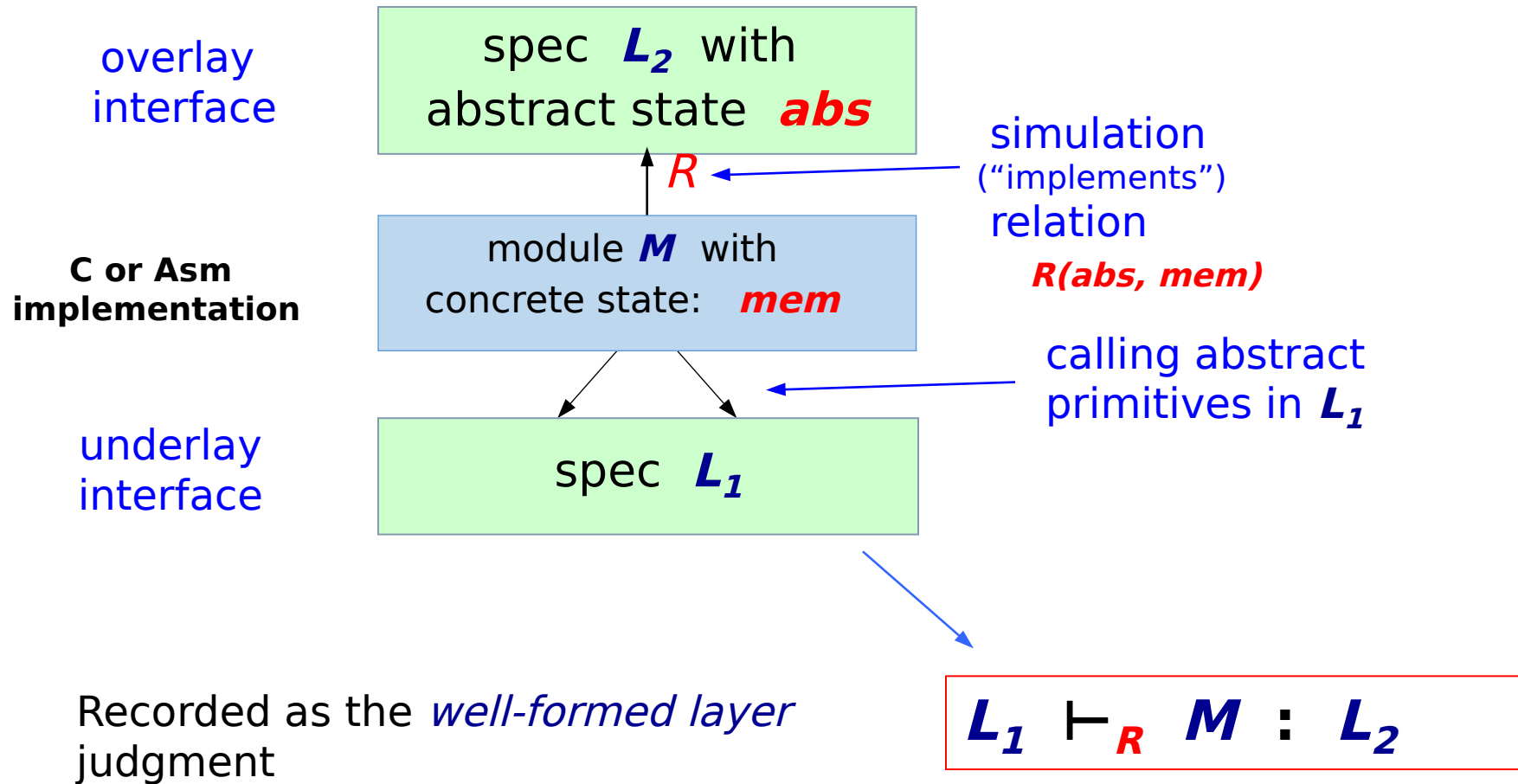
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# Compositional Verification: The “Implements” Simulation Relation

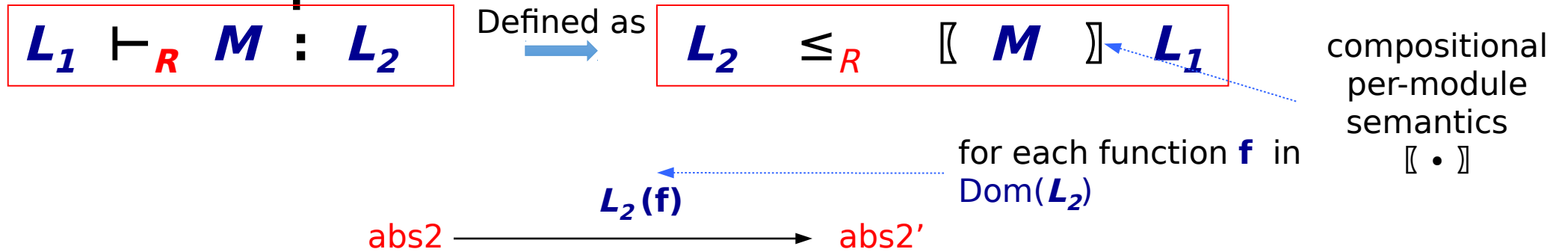
$$L_1 \vdash_R M : L_2$$

Defined as

$$L_2 \leq_R \llbracket M \rrbracket \leftarrow L_1$$

compositional  
per-module  
semantics  
 $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$

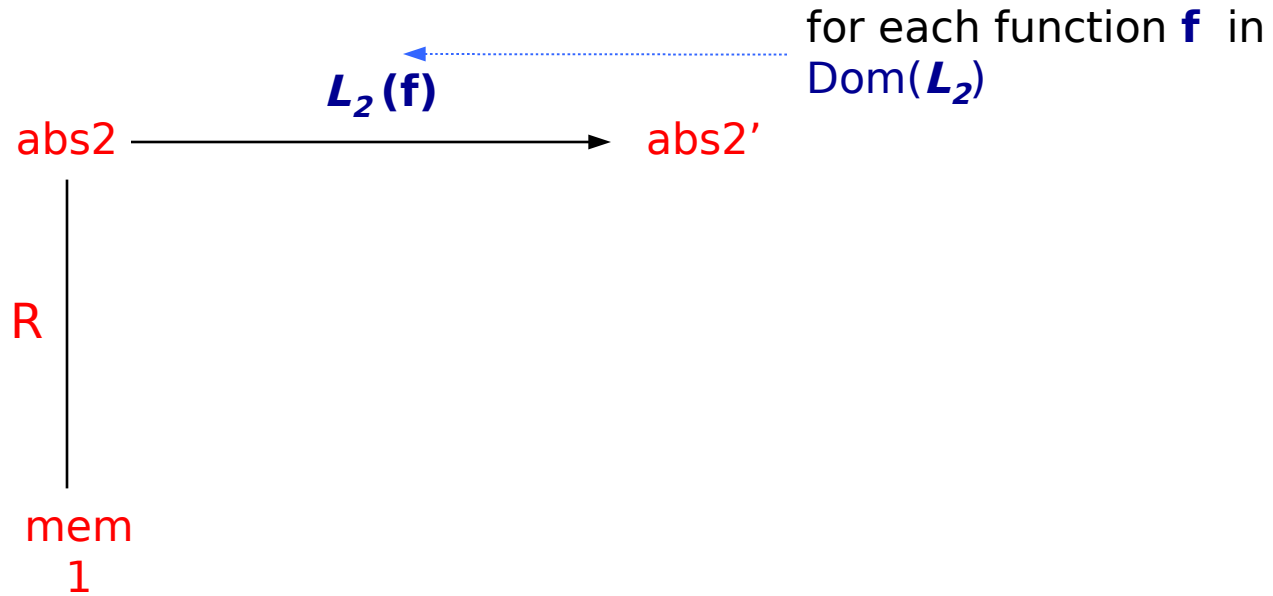
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$L_1 \vdash_R M : L_2$  Defined as  $L_2 \leq_R \llbracket M \rrbracket_{L_1}$

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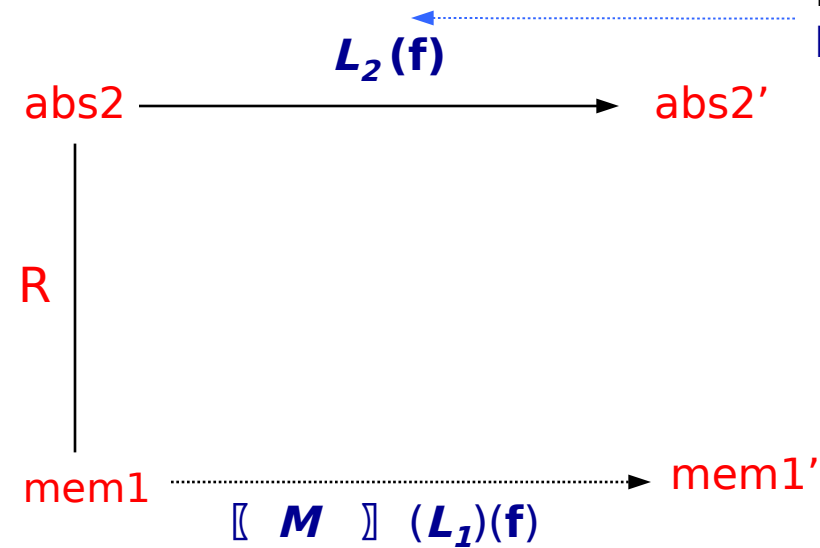


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compositional  
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for each function  $f$  in  
 $\text{Dom}(L_2)$

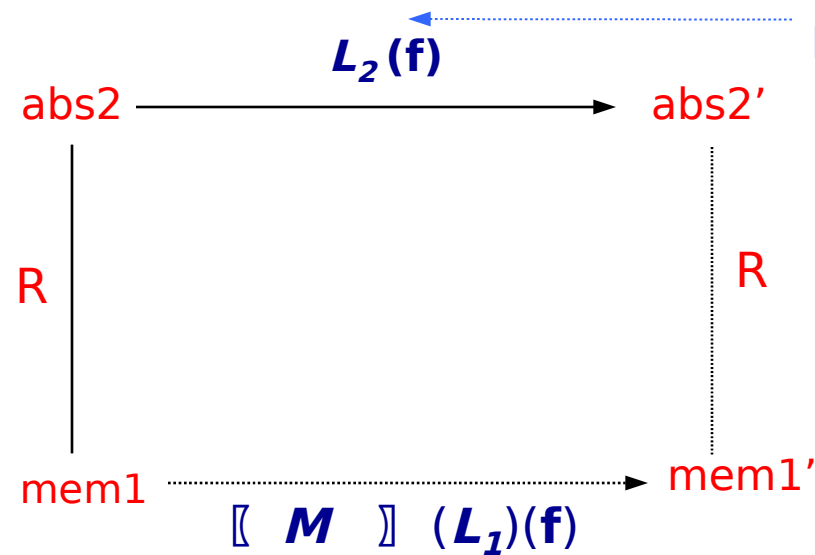


# Compositional Verification: The “Implements” Simulation Relation

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## Forward Downward Simulation:

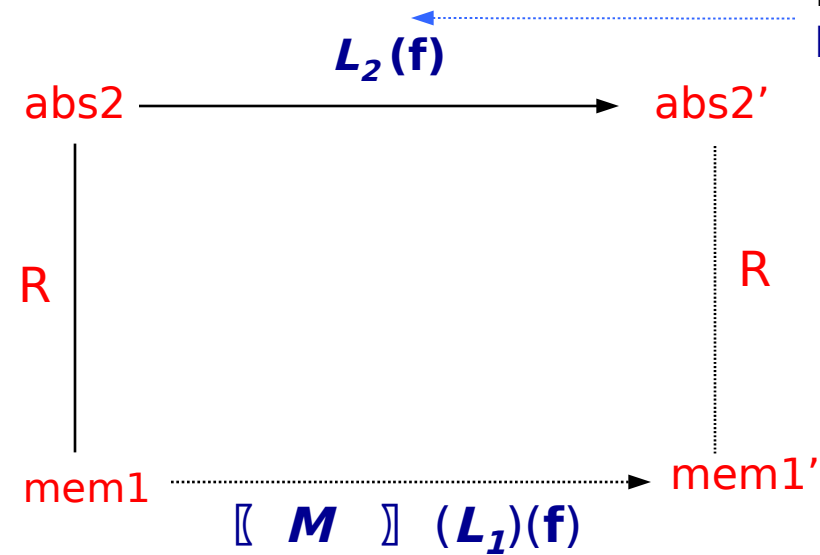
- Whenever  $L_2(f)$  takes  $abs2$  to  $abs2'$  in one step, and  $R(abs2, mem1)$  holds,
- then there exists  $mem1'$  such that  $\llbracket M \rrbracket (L_1)(f)$  takes  $mem1$  to  $mem1'$  in zero or more steps, and  $R(abs2', mem1')$  also holds.

# Compositional Verification: The “Implements” Simulation Relation

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Forward Downward  
Simulation  
Why is it enough?

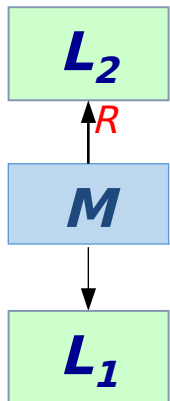
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# Deep Specification and Contextual Refinement

Our ultimate goal:

Making refinement “contextual” using the whole-program semantics **【•】**

$$L_1 \models_R M : L_2$$



$L_2$  is a **deep specification** of  $M$  over  $L_1$  if under any **valid** program context  $P$  of  $L_2$ , **【  $P \oplus M$  】** ( $L_1$ ) and **【  $P$  】** ( $L_2$ ) are **observationally equivalent**

$L_2$  captures everything about running  $M$  over  $L_1$

# Soundness

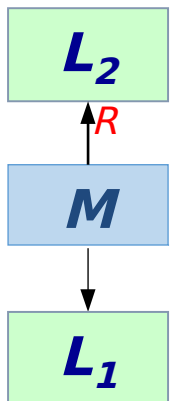
Compositional Verification

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Making refinement “contextual” using the whole-program semantics  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$



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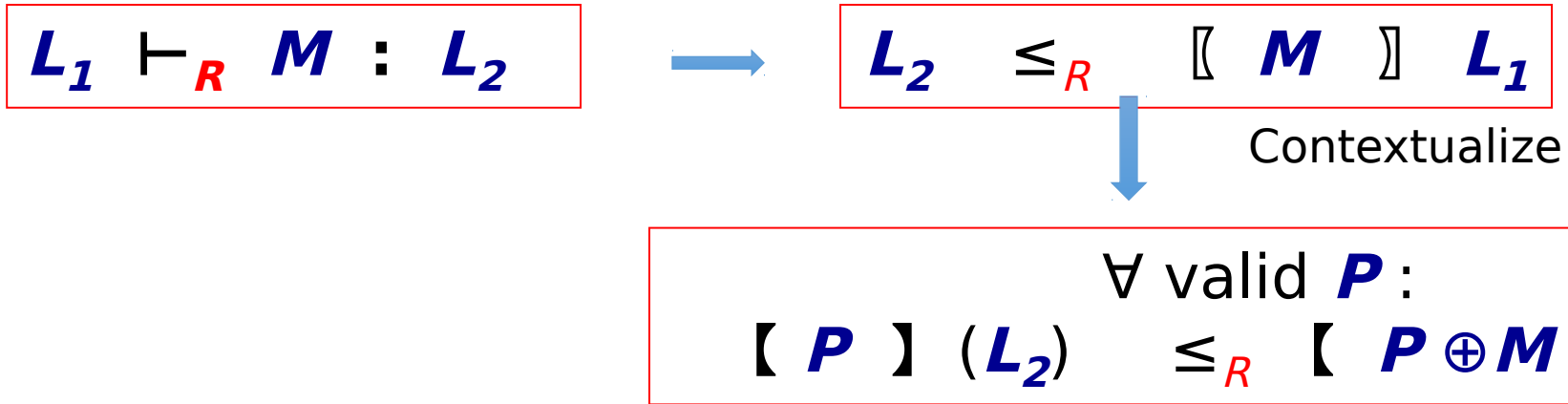
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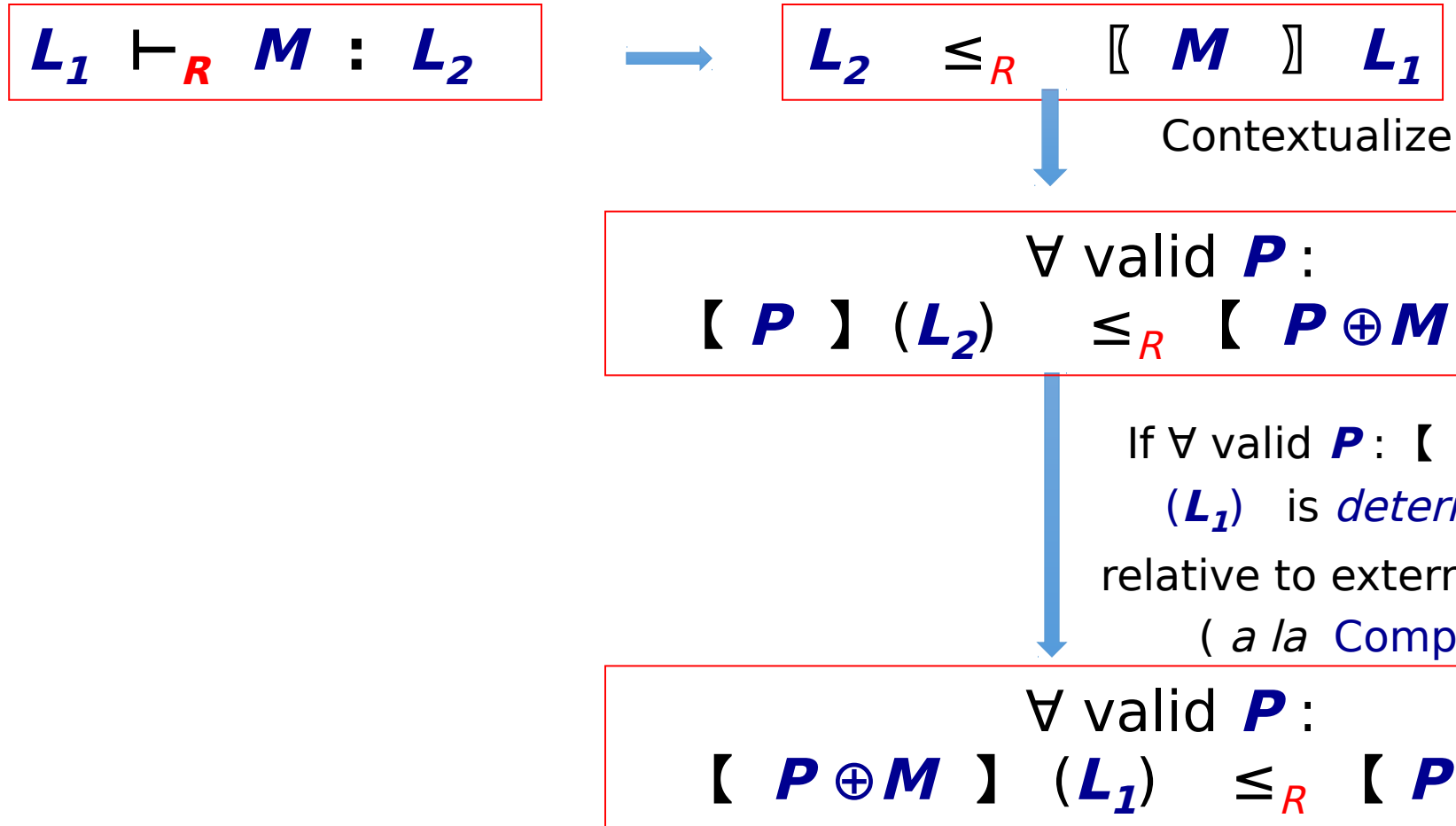
# Reversing the Simulation Relation

$$L_1 \vdash_R M : L_2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad L_2 \leq_R [M] L_1$$

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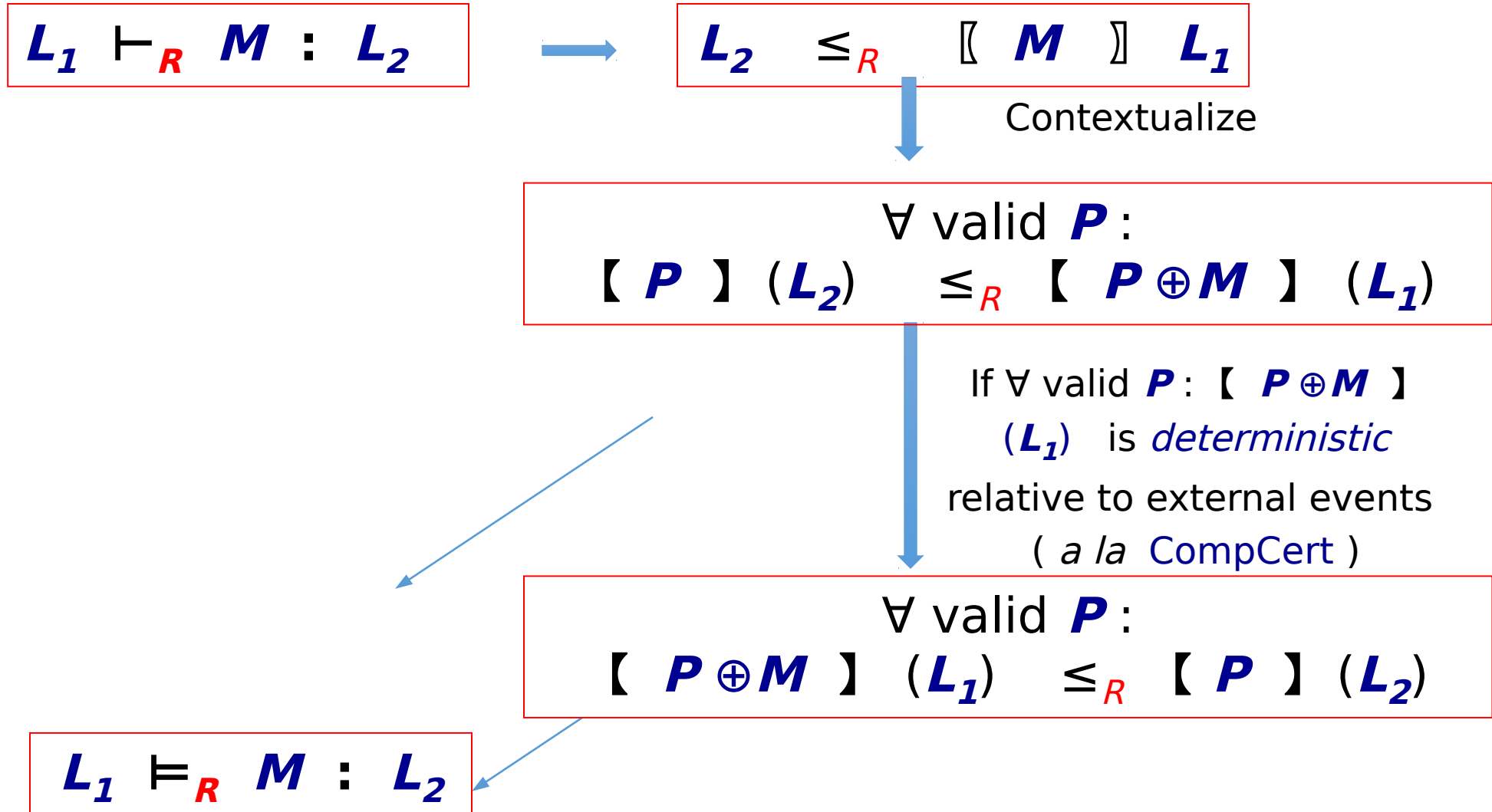


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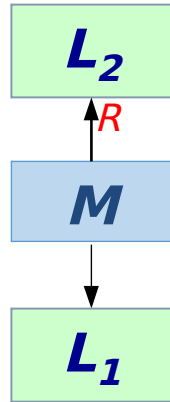




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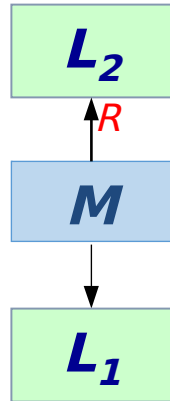


# Why Deep Spec is Really Cool?



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# Why Deep Spec is Really Cool?



$L_2$  is a **deep specification** of  $M$  over  $L_1$  if under any valid program context  $P$  of  $L_2$ ,  
    【  $P \oplus M$  】 ( $L_1$ ) and 【  $P$  】 ( $L_2$ ) are  
    observationally equivalent

Deep spec  $L_2$  captures all we need to know about a layer  $M$

- No need to ever look at  $M$  again!
- Any property about  $M$  can be proved using  $L_2$  alone.

***Implementation Independence*** : any two implementations of the same deep spec are *contextually equivalent*

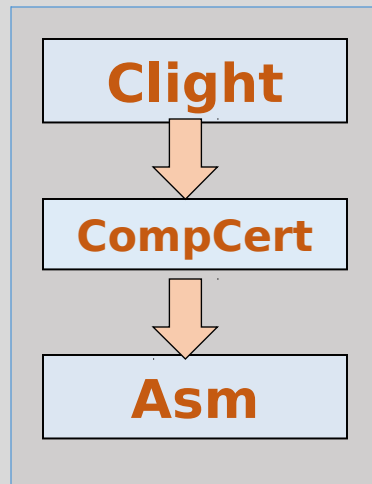
# Our Contributions



- We introduce [deep specification](#) and present a language-based formalization of [certified abstraction layer](#)
- We developed new languages & tools in Coq
  - [A formal layer calculus](#) for composing certified layers
  - [ClightX](#) for writing certified layers in a C-like language
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  - [mCertiKOS-hyper](#) consists of [37 layers](#), took less than [one-person-year](#) to develop, and can boot [Linux](#) as a guest

**Coq**

# Coq



# What We Have Done

Coq

Layer  
Spec  
*L*

Clight

CompCert

Asm

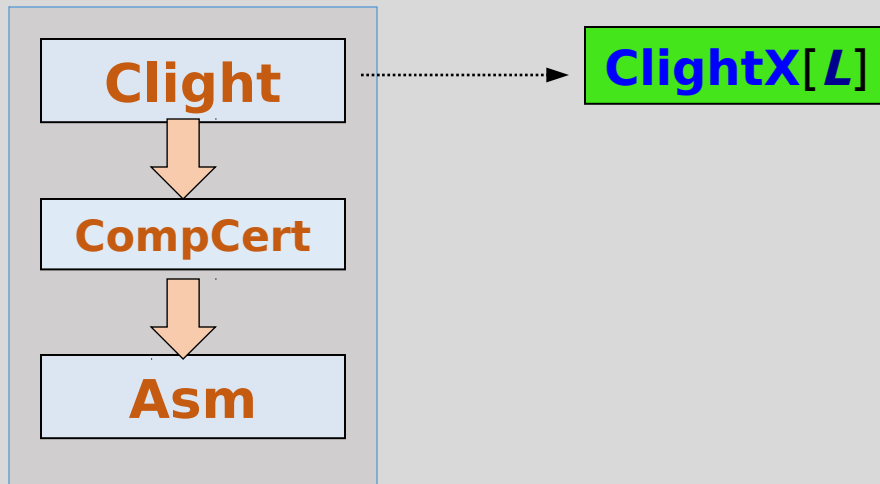


# What We Have Done

Coq

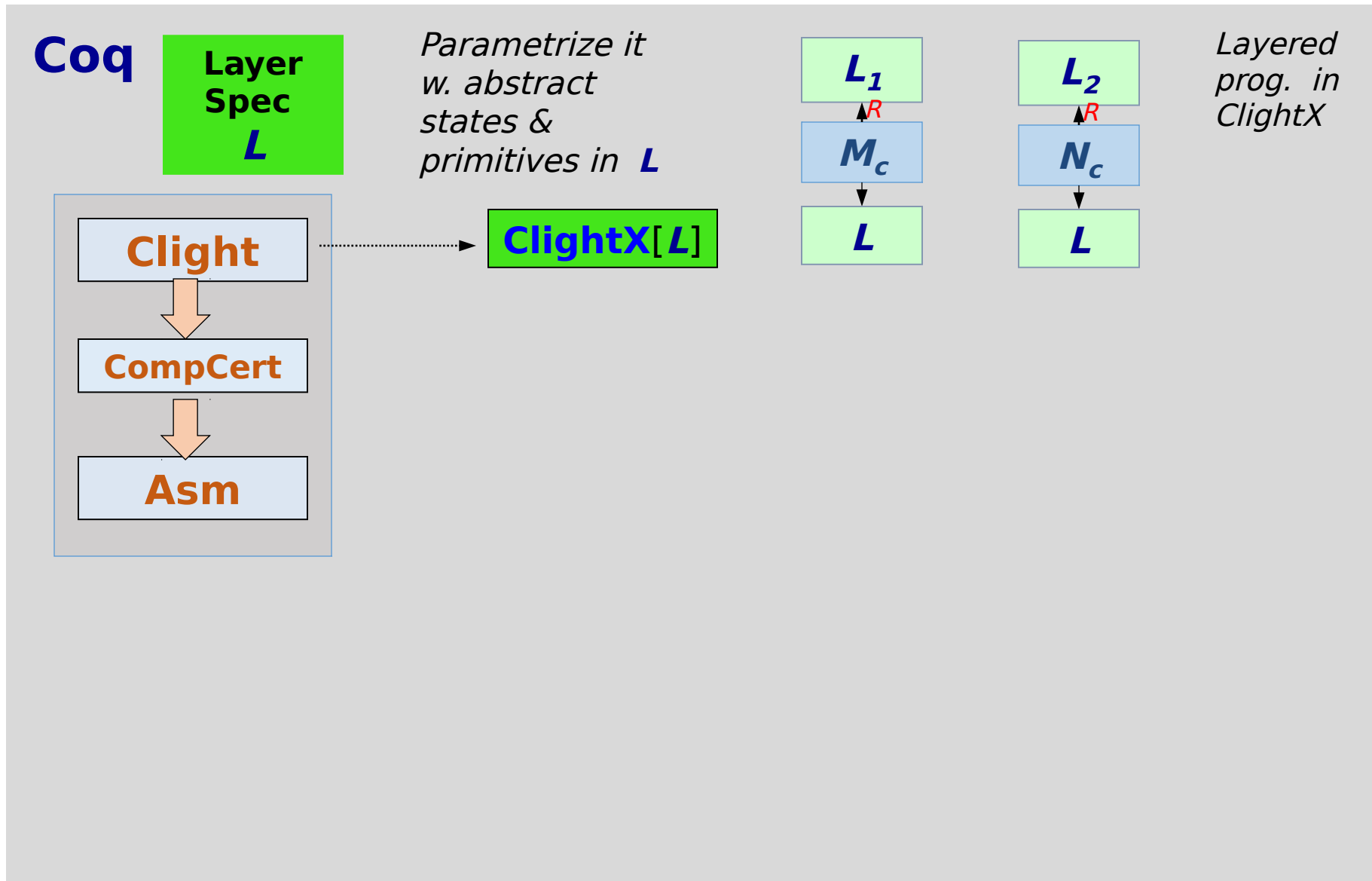
Layer  
Spec  
 $L$

*Parametrize it  
w. abstract  
states &  
primitives in  $L$*

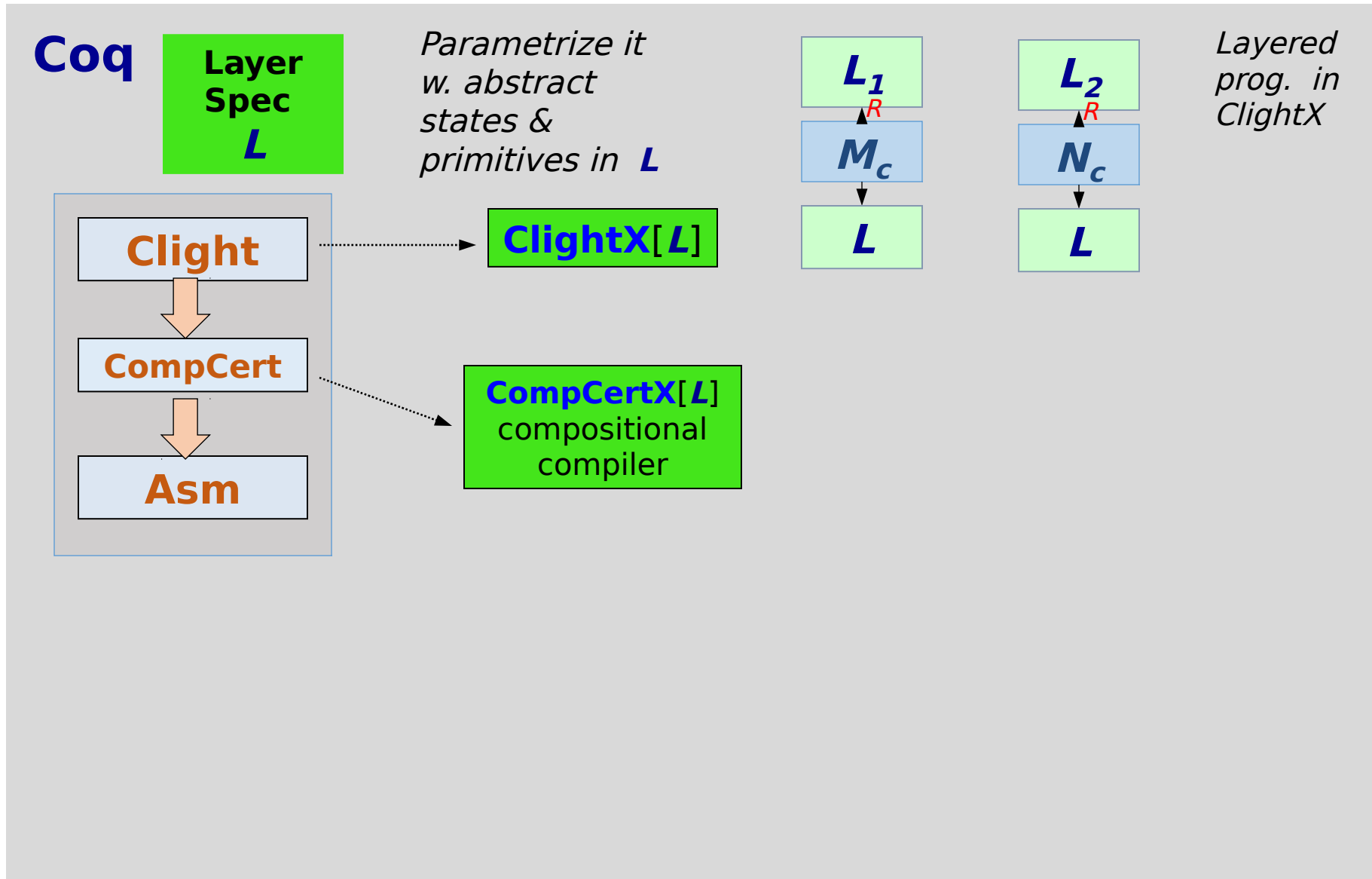




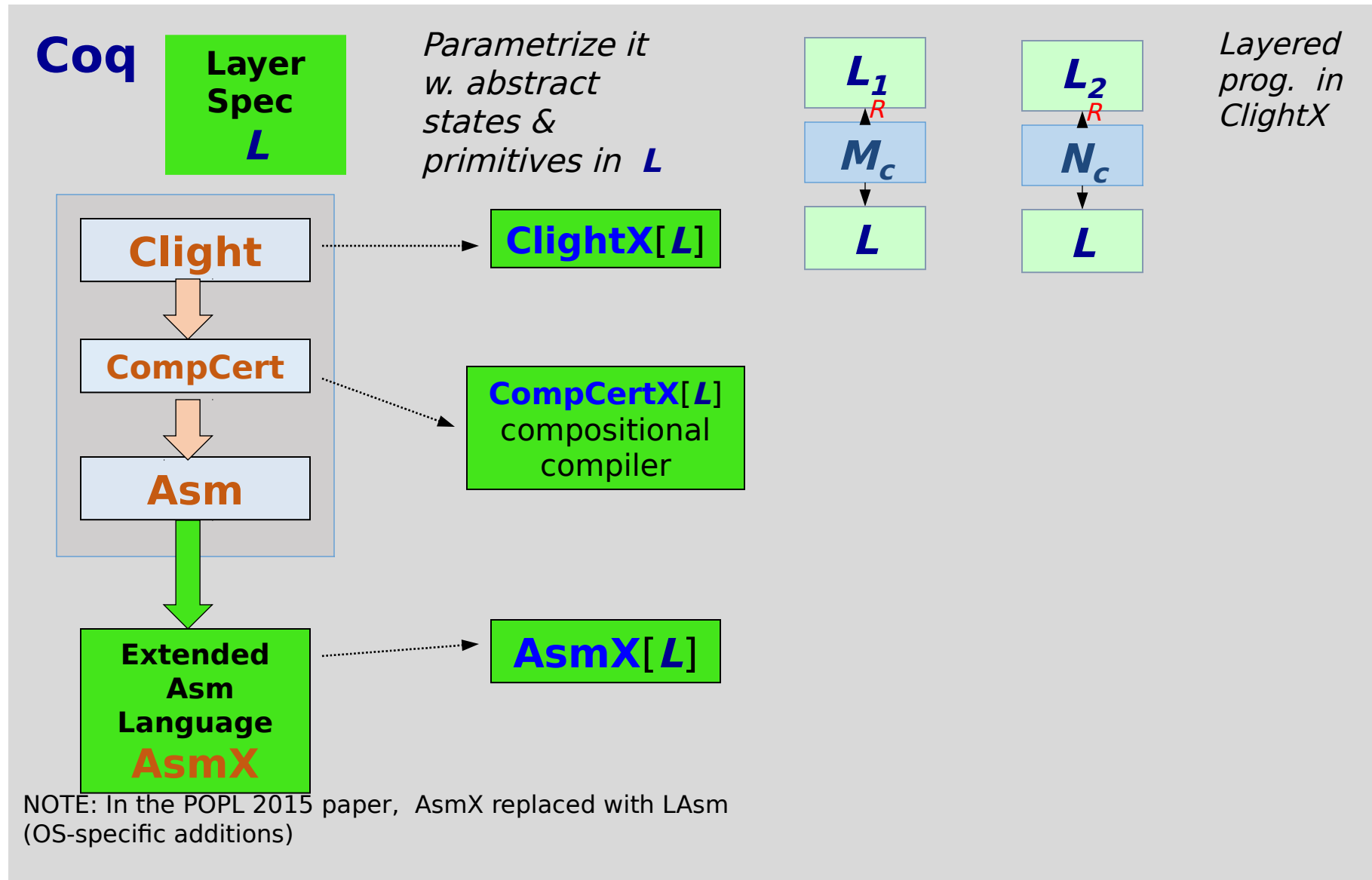
# What We Have Done



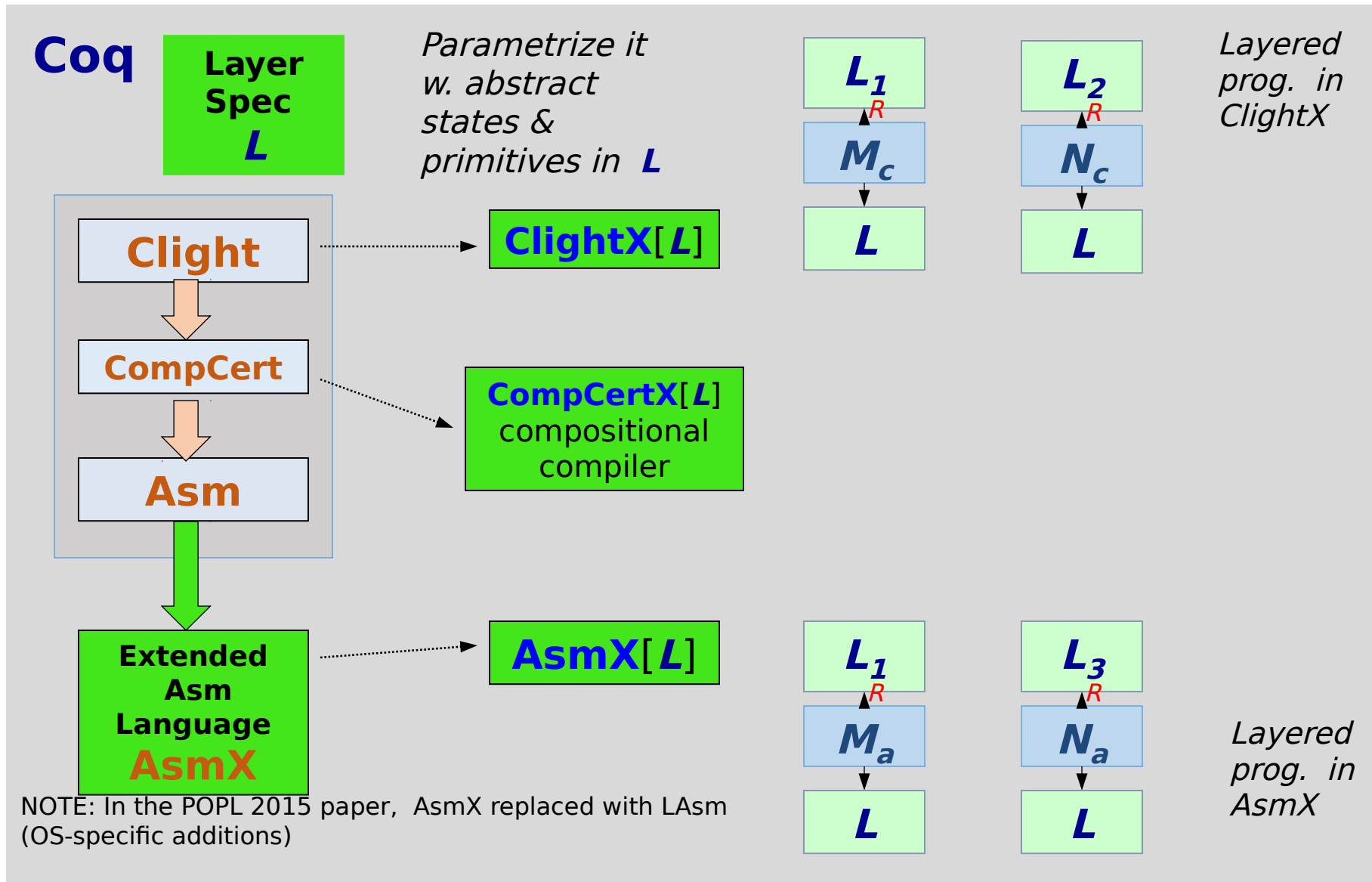
# What We Have Done



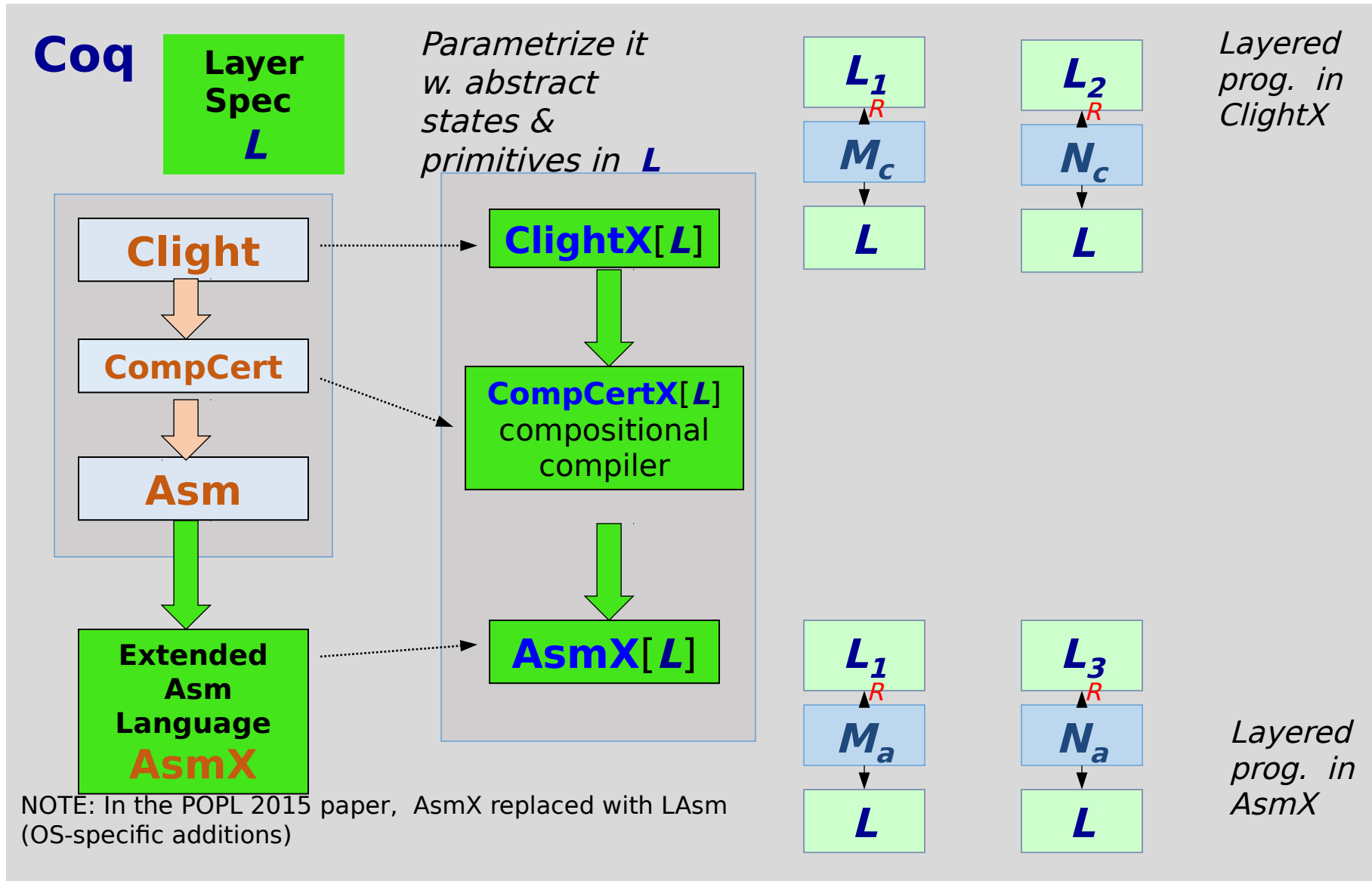
# What We Have Done



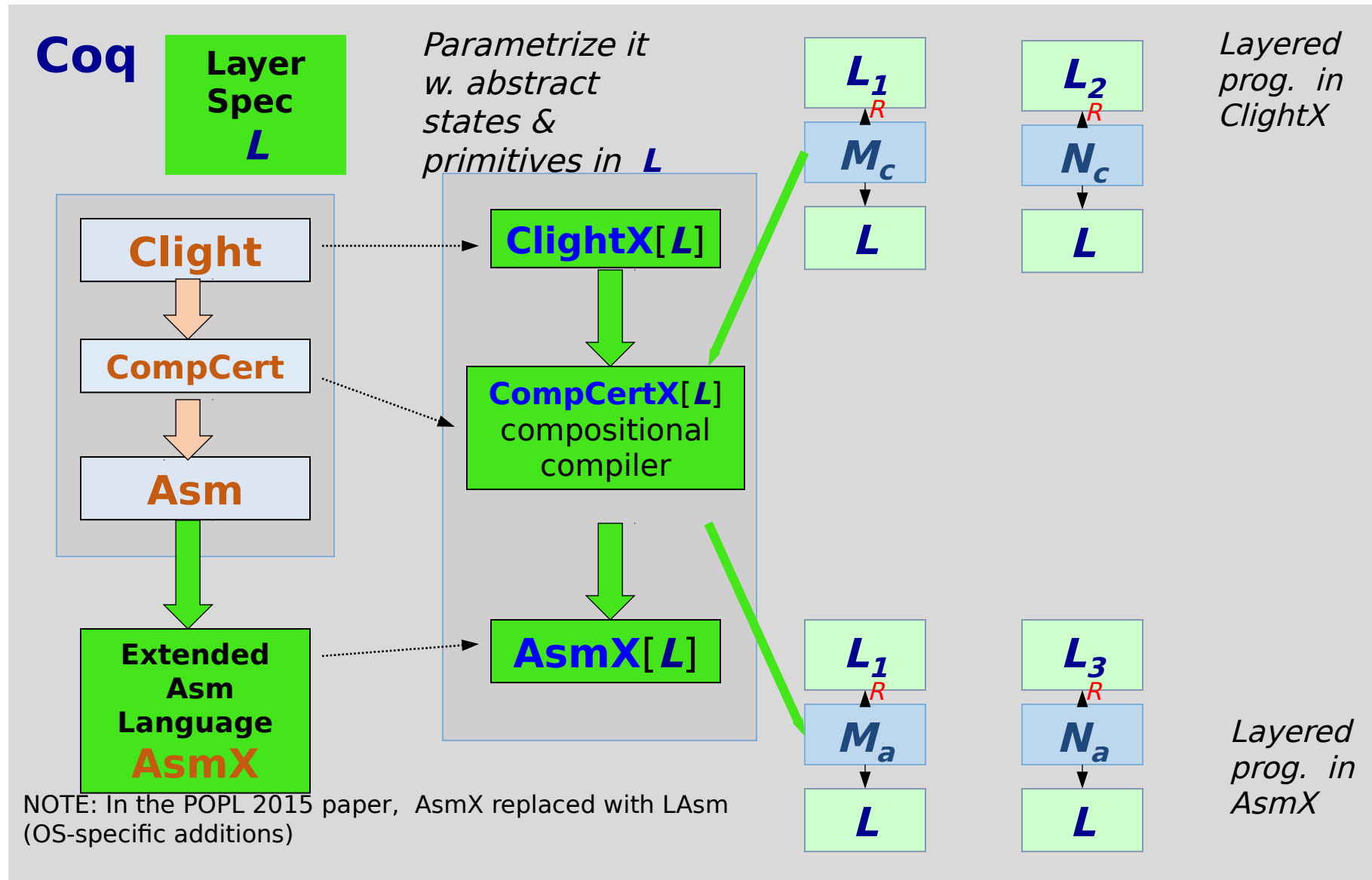
# What We Have Done



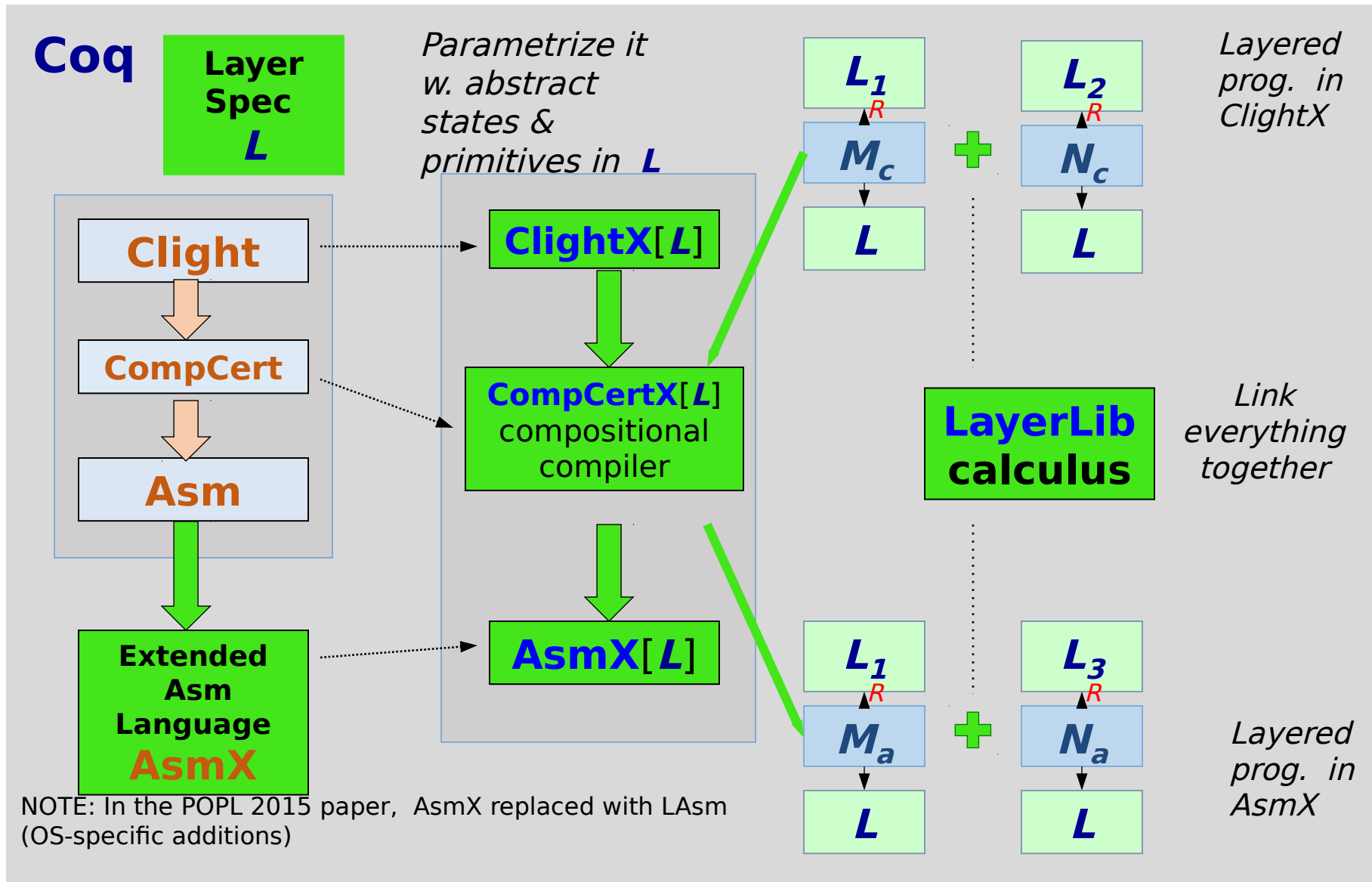
# What We Have Done



# What We Have Done

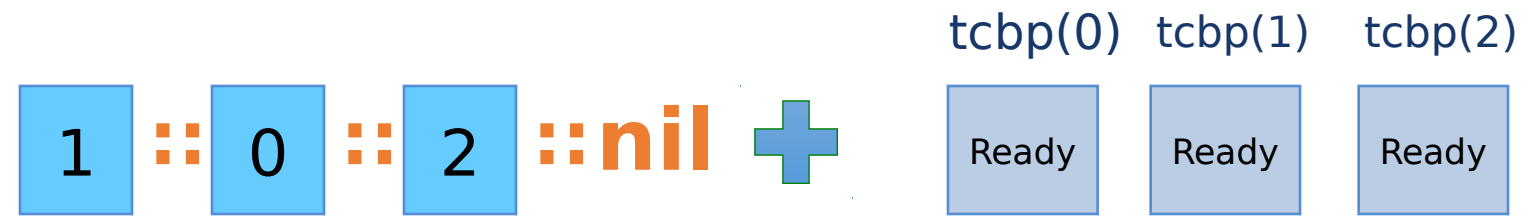


# What We Have Done

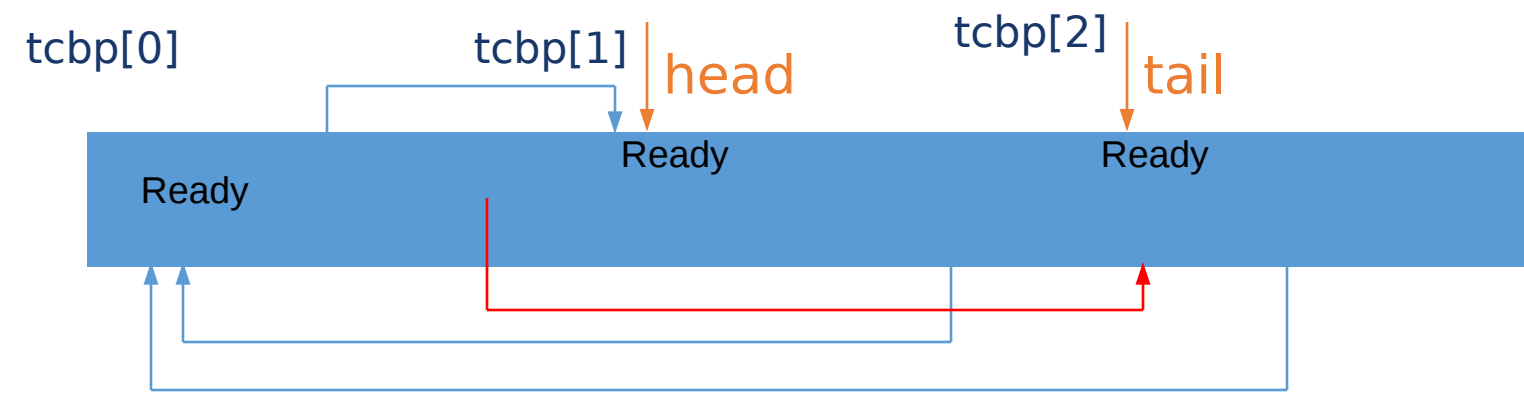


# Example: Thread Queues

**Abs-  
State**

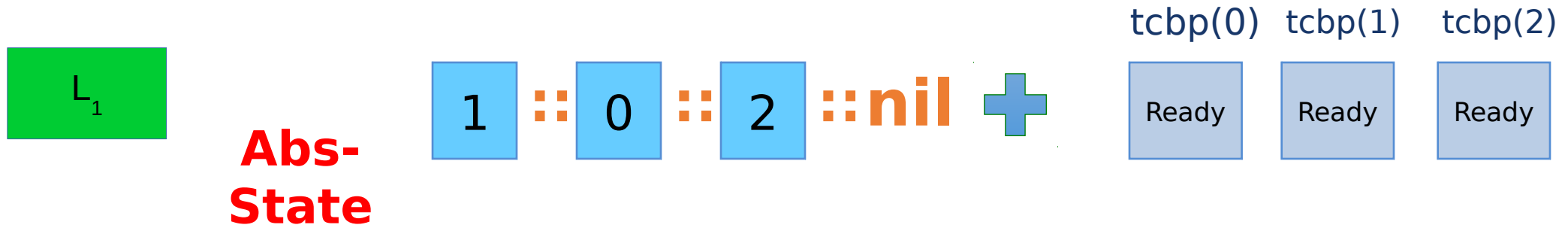


**Concrete  
Memory**

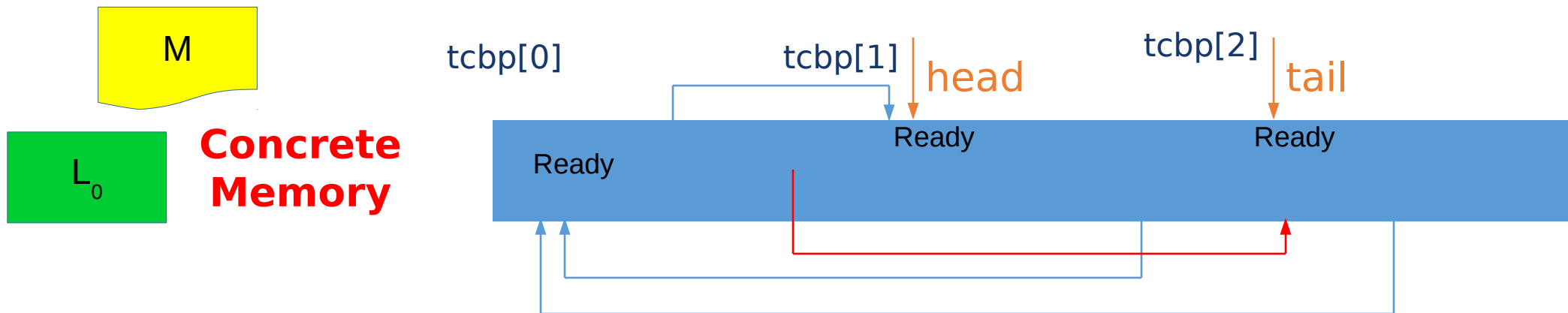




# Example: Thread Queues



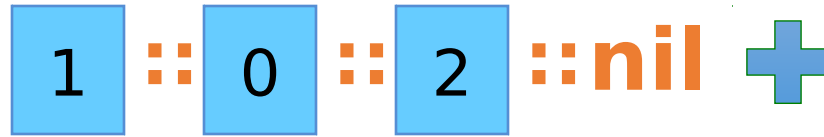
$$L_0 \vdash_R M : L_1$$



# Example: Thread Queues

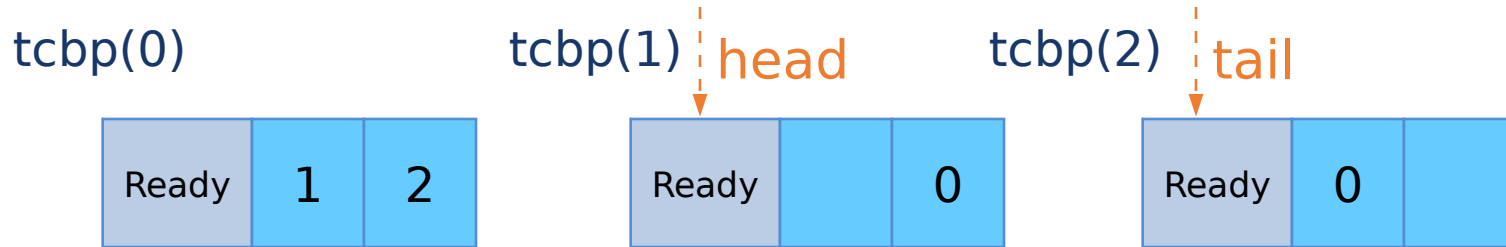
$L_1$

**High  
Abs-  
State**



$L_{0.5}$

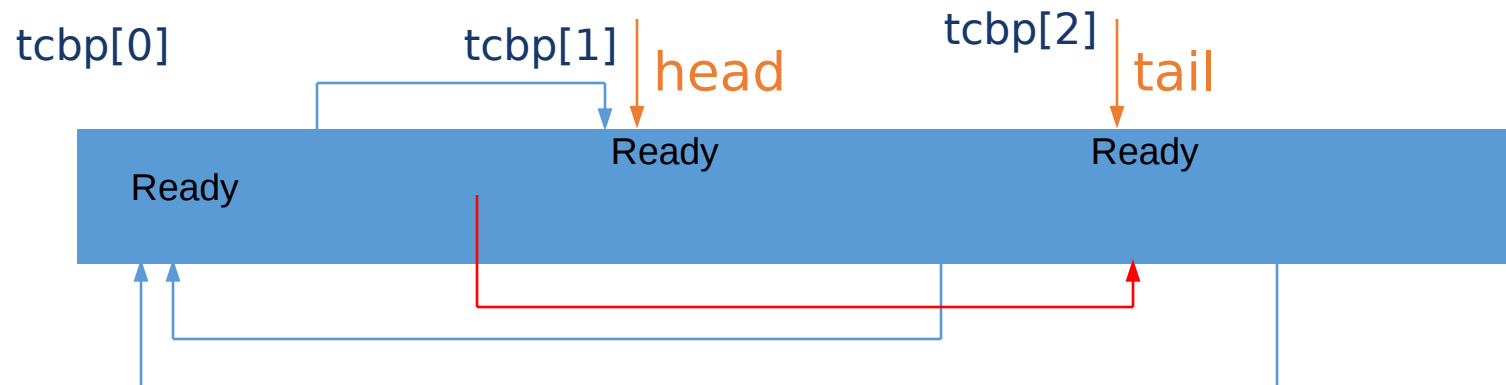
**Low  
Abs-  
State**



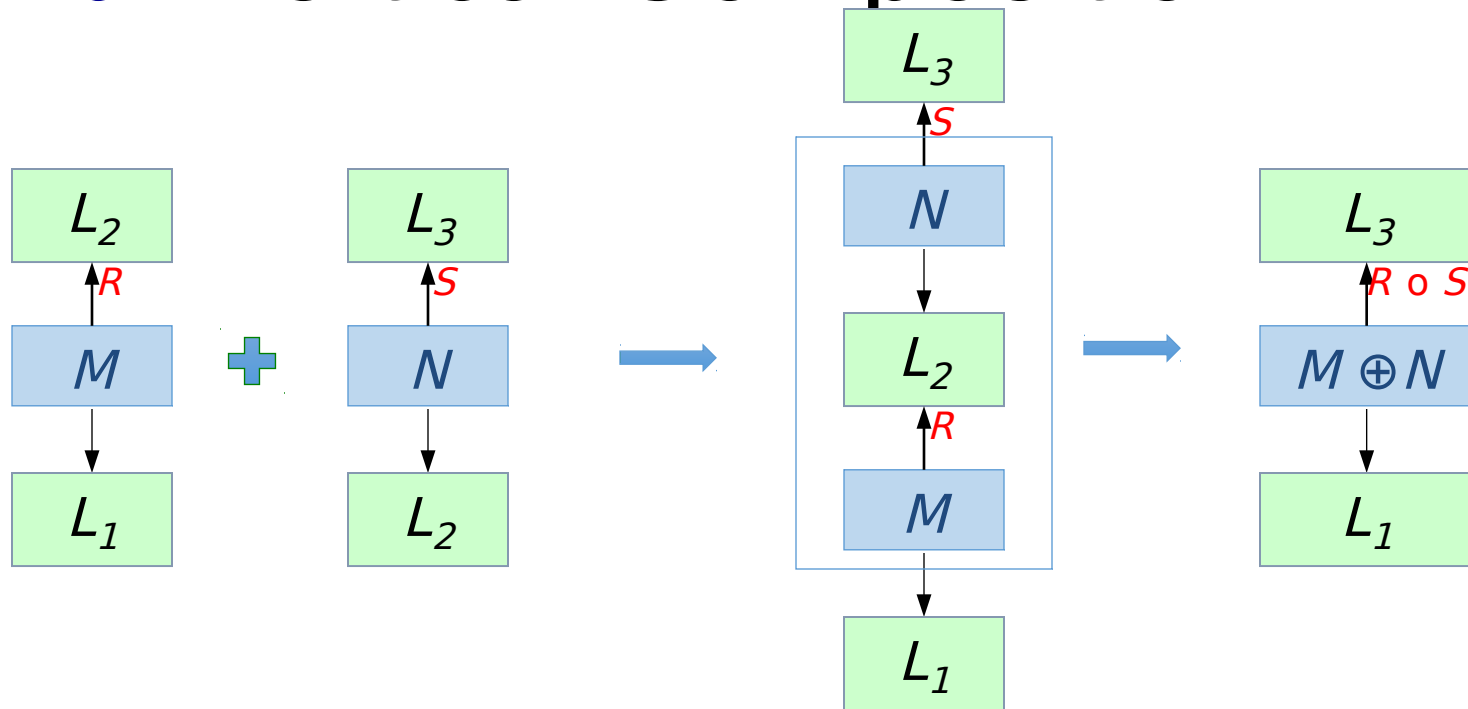
M

$L_0$

**Concrete  
Memory**

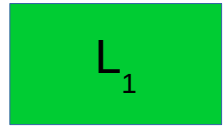


# LayerLib: Vertical Composition



$$\frac{L_1 \vdash_R M : L_2 \quad L_2 \vdash_S N : L_3}{L_1 \vdash_{R \circ S} M \oplus N : L_3} \text{VCOMP}$$

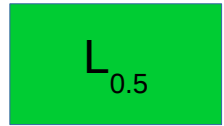
# Example: Thread Queues



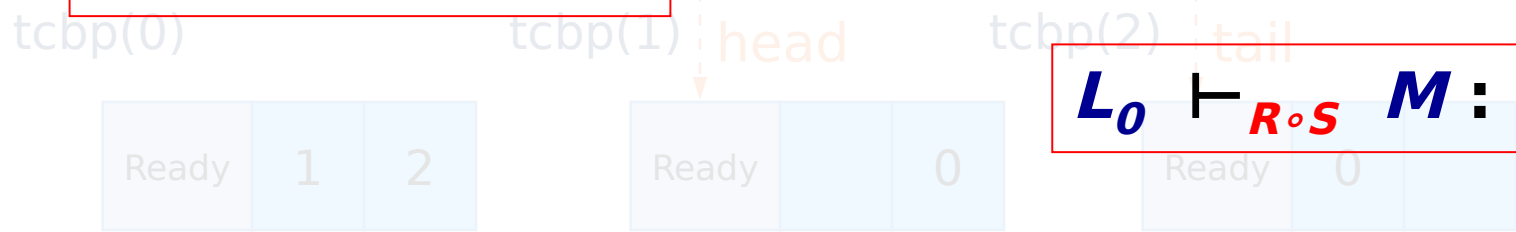
**High  
Abs-  
State**



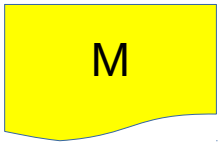
$$L_{0.5} \vdash_S \emptyset : L_1$$



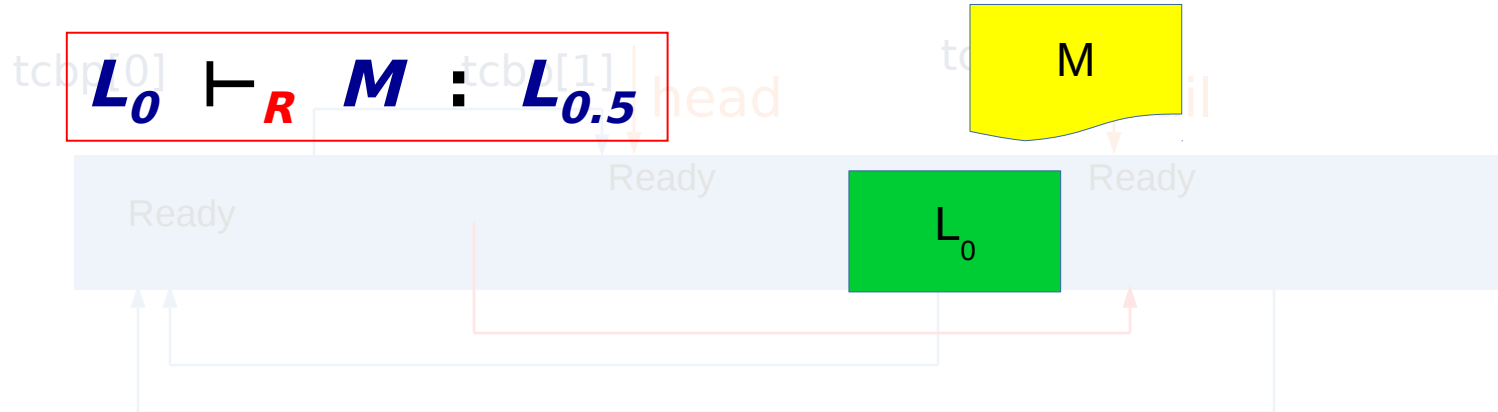
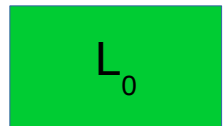
**Low  
Abs-  
State**



$$L_0 \vdash_{R \circ S} M : L_1$$

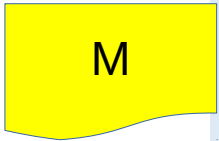
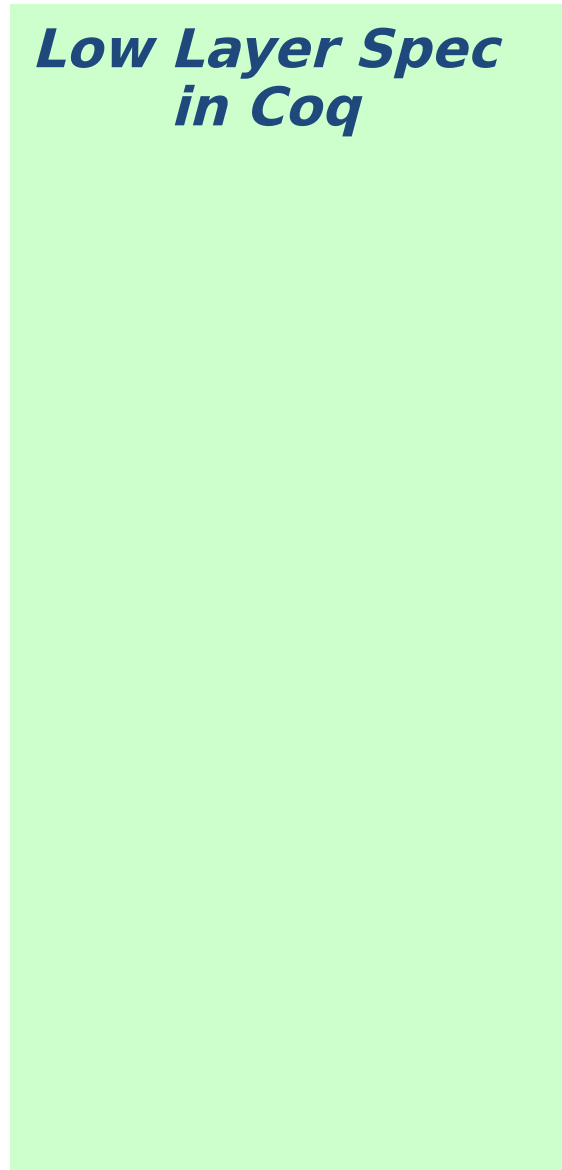
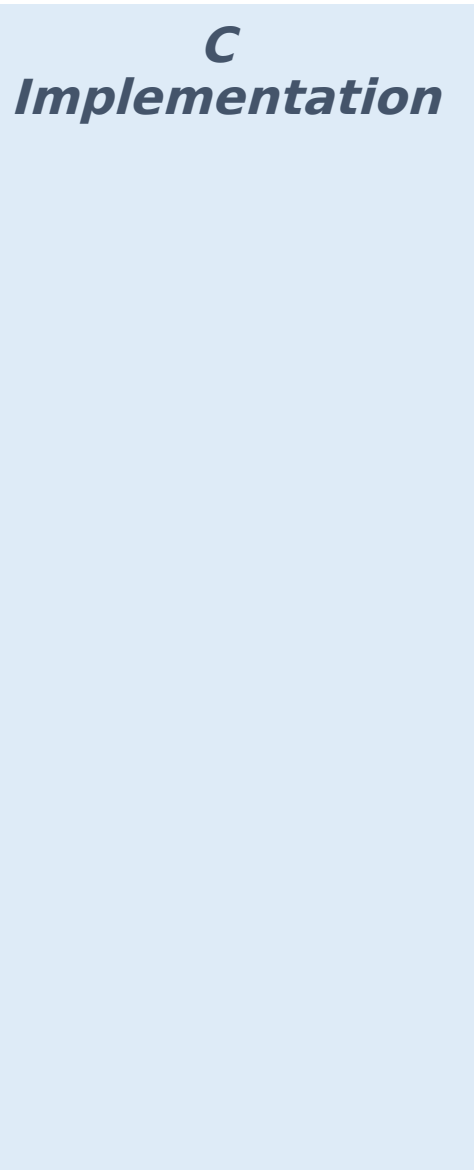


**Concrete  
Memory**



$$L_0 \vdash_R M : L_{0.5}$$

# Example: Thread Queues



# Example: Thread Queues

## *C Implementation*

```
typedef enum {  
    TD_READY, TD_RUN,  
    TD_SLEEP, TD_DEAD  
} td_state;
```

## *Low Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=  
| TD_READY | TD_RUN  
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.
```

## *High Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=  
| TD_READY | TD_RUN  
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.
```

# Example: Thread Queues

## *C Implementation*

```
typedef enum {  
    TD_READY, TD_RUN,  
    TD_SLEEP, TD_DEAD  
} td_state;  
  
struct tcb {  
    td_state tds;  
    struct tcb *prev, *next;  
};
```

## *Low Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=  
| TD_READY | TD_RUN  
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.
```

```
Record tcb := TCBV {  
    tds : td_state;  
    prev : Z; next : Z  
}
```

## *High Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=  
| TD_READY | TD_RUN  
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.
```

```
Definition tcb := td_state.
```

# Example: Thread Queues

## *C Implementation*

```
typedef enum {
  TD_READY, TD_RUN,
  TD_SLEEP, TD_DEAD
} td_state;

struct tcb {
  td_state tds;
  struct tcb *prev, *next;
};

struct tdq {
  struct tcb *head, *tail;
};
```

## *Low Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=
| TD_READY | TD_RUN
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.
```

```
Record tcb := TCBV {
  tds : td_state;
  prev : Z; next : Z
}
```

```
Record tdq := TDQV {
  head: Z; tail: Z
}
```

## *High Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=
| TD_READY | TD_RUN
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.
```

```
Definition tcb := td_state.
```

```
Definition tdq := List Z.
```



# Example: Thread Queues

## *C Implementation*

```
typedef enum {
    TD_READY, TD_RUN,
    TD_SLEEP, TD_DEAD
} td_state;

struct tcb {
    td_state tds;
    struct tcb *prev, *next;
};

struct tdq {
    struct tcb *head, *tail;
};

struct tcb tcbp[64];
struct tdq tdqp[64];
```

## *Low Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=
| TD_READY | TD_RUN
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.

Record tcb := TCBV {
  tds : td_state;
  prev : Z; next : Z
}

Record tdq := TDQV {
  head: Z; tail: Z
}

Record abs := ABS {
  tcbp : ZMap.t tcb;
  tdqp : ZMap.t tdq
}
```

## *High Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=
| TD_READY | TD_RUN
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.

Definition tcb := td_state.

Definition tdq := list Z.

Record abs := ABS {
  tcbp : ZMap.t tcb;
  tdqp : ZMap.t tdq
}
```

# Example: Thread Queues

## *C Implementation*

```
typedef enum {
  TD_READY, TD_RUN,
  TD_SLEEP, TD_DEAD
} td_state;

struct tcb {
  td_state tds;
  struct tcb *prev, *next;
};

struct tdq {
  struct tcb *head, *tail;
};

struct tcb tcbp[64];
struct tdq tdqp[64];

struct tcb * dequeue
  (struct tdq *q) {
  .....
}
```

## *Low Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=
| TD_READY | TD_RUN
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.

Record tcb := TCBV {
  tds : td_state;
  prev : Z; next : Z
}

Record tdq := TDQV {
  head: Z; tail: Z
}

Record abs:=ABS {
  tcbp : ZMap.t tcb;
  tdqp : ZMap.t tdq
}

Definition dequeue
  (d : abs) (i : Z) :=
.....
```

## *High Layer Spec in Coq*

```
Inductive td_state :=
| TD_READY | TD_RUN
| TD_SLEEP | TD_DEAD.

Definition tcb := td_state.

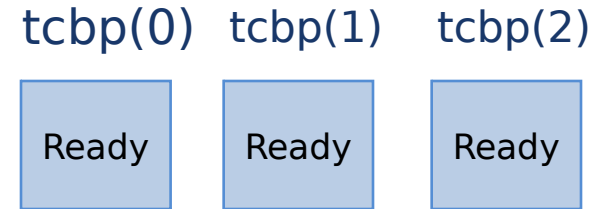
Definition tdq := list Z.

Record abs := ABS {
  tcbp : ZMap.t tcb;
  tdqp : ZMap.t tdq
}

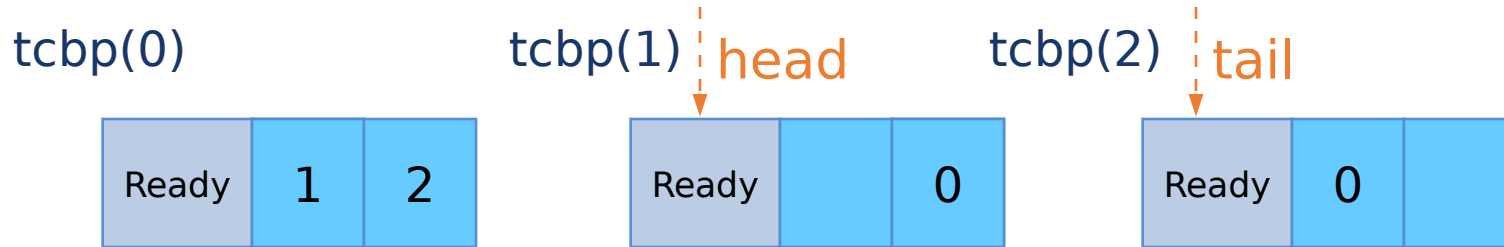
Definition dequeue
  (d : abs) (i : Z) :=
match (d.tdqp i) with
| h :: q' =>
  Some(set_tdq d i q', h)
| nil => None
end
```

# Example: Dequeue

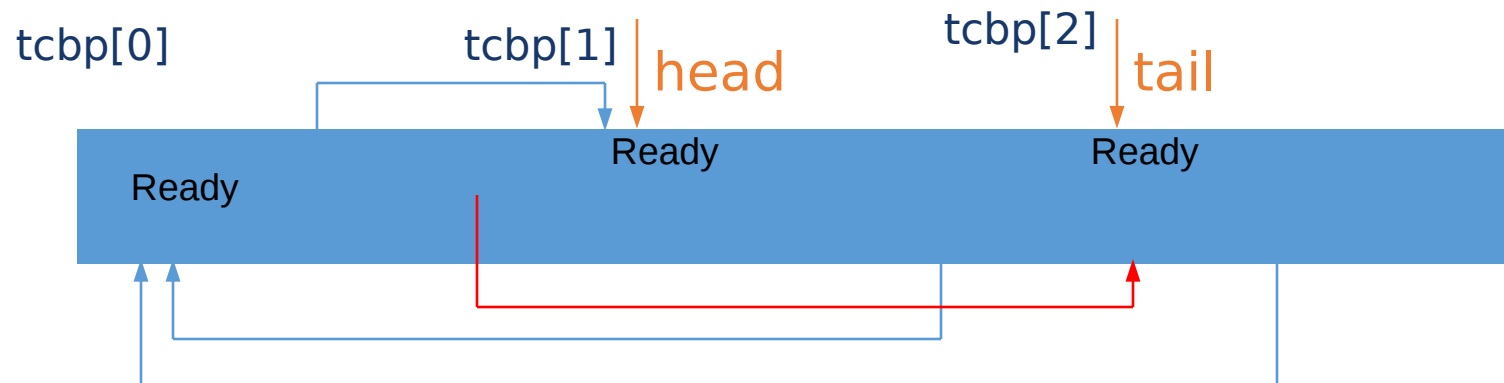
**High  
Abs-  
State**



**Low  
Abs-  
State**

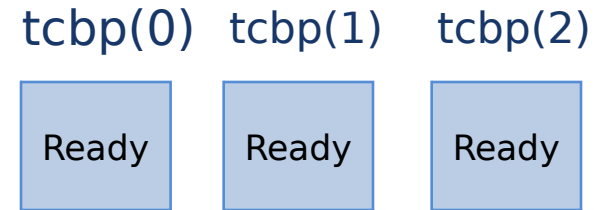


**Concrete  
Memory**

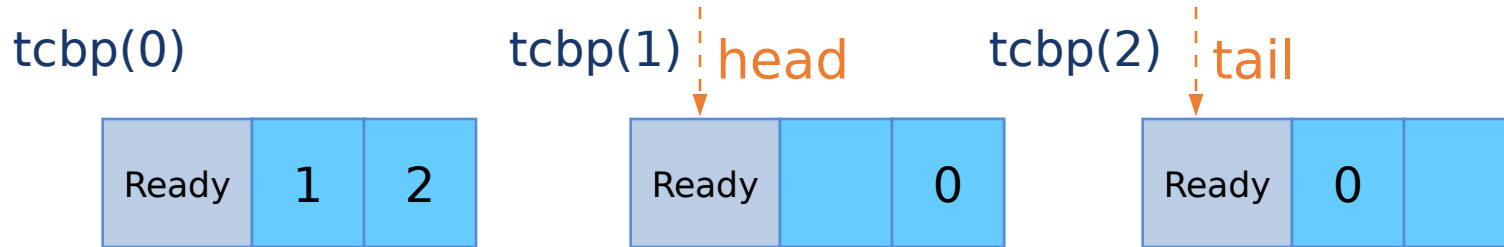


# Example: Dequeue

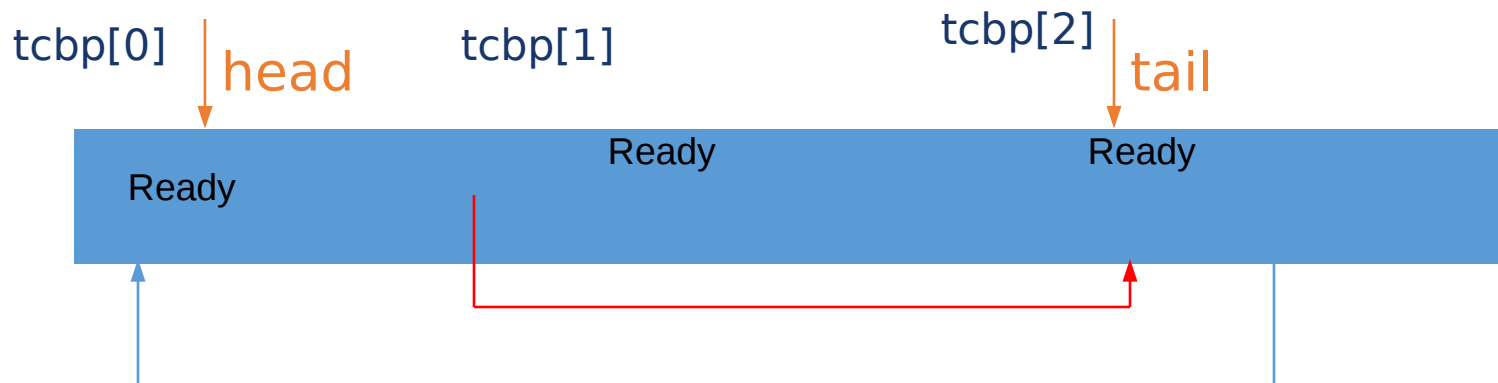
**High  
Abs-  
State**



**Low  
Abs-  
State**

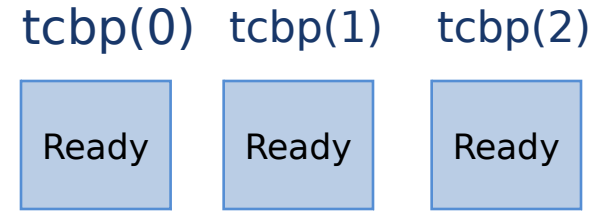
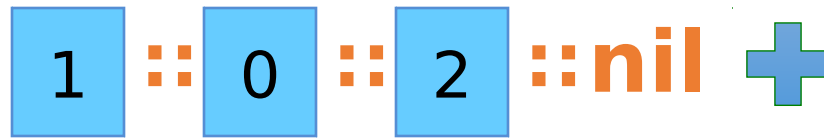


**Concrete  
Memory**

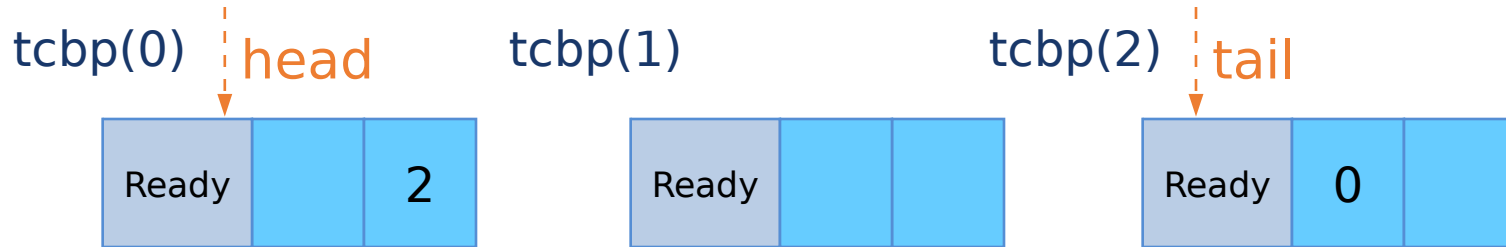


# Example: Dequeue

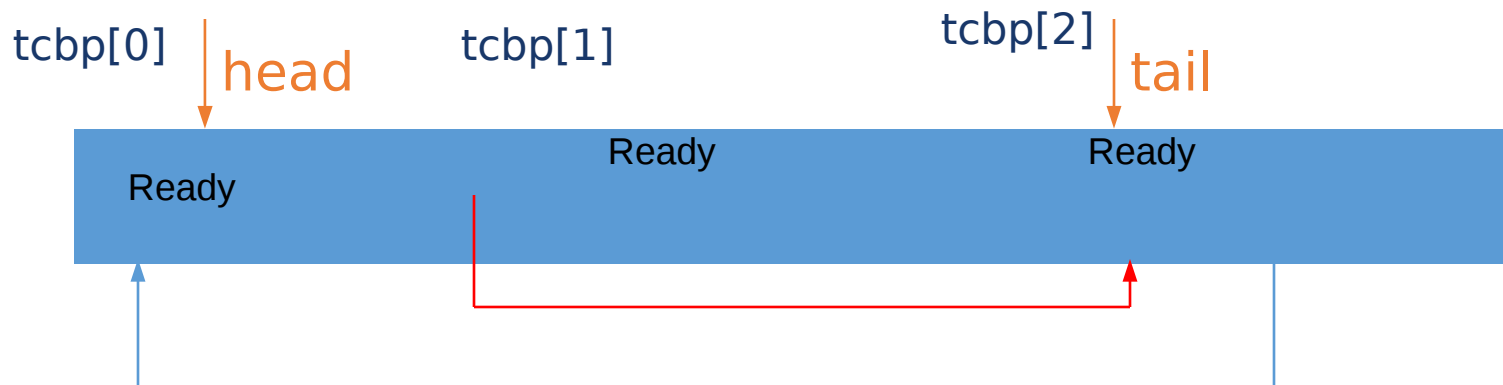
**High  
Abs-  
State**



**Low  
Abs-  
State**

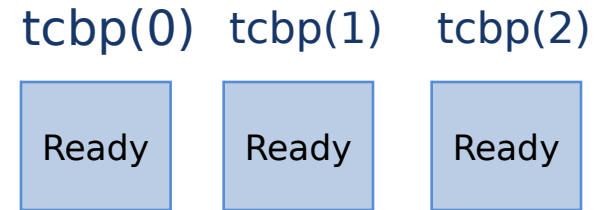


**Concrete  
Memory**

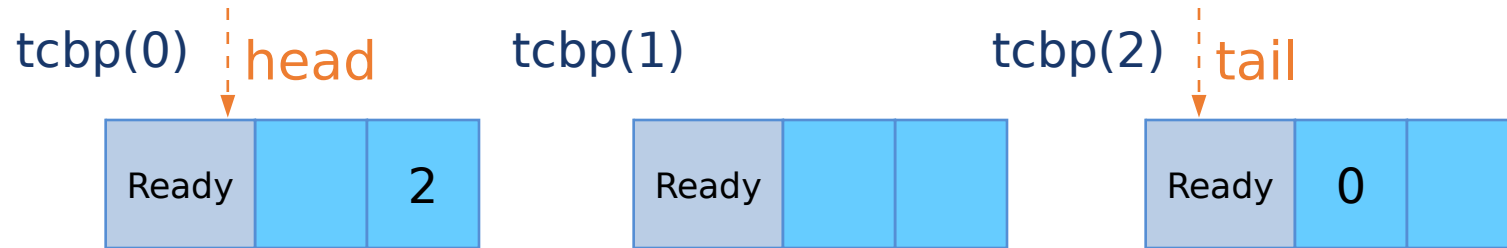


# Example: Dequeue

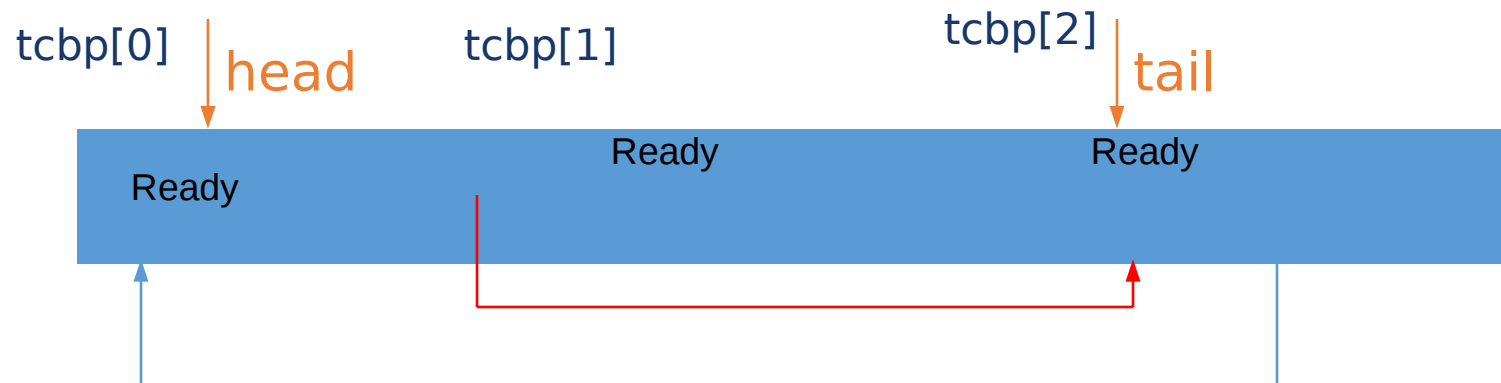
**High  
Abs-  
State**



**Low  
Abs-  
State**



**Concrete  
Memory**



# Our Contributions



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# From CompCert 2.3 to CompCertX

- Clight to ClightX, Asm to AsmX
  - Parameterize over layer specifications
  - Per-module semantics
- Compilation passes
  - Allow function arguments, etc.
- Summary of changes :
  - 420 lines changed (out of ~120k) due to parameterization
  - 7k new lines due to per-module semantics



# Our Contributions



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# ClightX

- Same syntax as CompCert 2.3 Clight
- Semantics :
  - Parameterized over external function calls
  - Made per-function instead of whole-machine

# CompCert Clight: external function calls

Inductive step: state → trace → state → Prop :=

```
| ...  
| step_external_function: forall ef targ3 tres vargs k m vres t m',  
  external_call ef ge vargs m t vres m' →  
    step (Callstate (External ef targ3 tres) vargs k m)  
      t (Returnstate vres k m')  
| ...
```

# CompCert Clight: external function calls

```
Definition extcall_sem: Type :=  
  forall (F V: Type), Genv.t F V → list val → mem → trace → val → mem → Prop.
```

```
Definition external_call (ef: external_function): extcall_sem :=  
  match ef with  
  | EF_external name sg ⇒ external_functions_sem name sg  
  | ...  
  end
```

```
Inductive step: state → trace → state → Prop :=  
  | ...  
  | step_external_function: forall ef targ_s tres vargs k m vres t m',  
    external_call ef ge vargs m t vres m' →  
    step (Callstate (External ef targ_s tres) vargs k m)  
      t (Returnstate vres k m')  
  | ...
```

# CompCert Clight: external function calls

```
Definition extcall_sem: Type :=  
  forall (F V: Type), Genv.t F V → list val → mem → trace → val → mem → Prop.
```

```
Axiom external_functions_sem: ident → signature → extcall_sem.
```

```
Definition external_call (ef: external_function): extcall_sem :=  
  match ef with  
  | EF_external name sg ⇒ external_functions_sem name sg  
  | ...  
  end
```

```
Inductive step: state → trace → state → Prop :=  
  | ...  
  | step_external_function: forall ef targs tres vargs k m vres t m',  
    external_call ef ge vargs m t vres m' →  
    step (Callstate (External ef targs tres) vargs k m)  
      t (Returnstate vres k m')  
  | ...
```

# ClightX: parameterization over primitives

```
Definition extcall_sem: Type :=  
  forall (F V: Type), Genv.t F V → list val → mem → trace → val → mem → Prop.
```

```
Class ExtCallOps := {  
  external_call (ef: external_function): extcall_sem  
}.
```

```
Inductive step {ec_ops: ExtCallOps}: state → trace → state → Prop :=  
| ...  
| step_external_function: forall ef targ3 tres vargs k m vres t m',  
  external_call ef ge vargs m t vres m' →  
  step (Callstate (External ef targ3 tres) vargs k m)  
    t (Returnstate vres k m')  
| ...
```

# ClightX: parameterization

```
Definition extcall_sem: Type :=  
  forall (F V: Type), Genv.t F V → list val → mem → trace → val → mem → Prop.
```

```
Class ExtCallOps := {  
  external_call (ef: external_function): extcall_sem  
}.
```

Where is the  
abstract state ?

```
Inductive step {ec_ops: ExtCallOps}: state → trace → state → Prop :=  
| ...  
| step_external_function: forall ef targ3 tres vargs k m vres t m',  
  external_call ef ge vargs m t vres m' →  
  step (Callstate (External ef targ3 tres) vargs k m)  
    t (Returnstate vres k m')  
| ...
```

# ClightX: parameterization

```
Definition extcall_sem: Type :=  
  forall (F V: Type), Genv.t F V → list val → mem → trace → val → mem → Prop.
```

```
Class ExtCallOps := {  
  external_call (ef: external_function): extcall_sem  
}.
```

Here *fits* the  
abstract state !

```
Inductive step {ec_ops: ExtCallOps}: state → trace → state → Prop :=  
| ...  
| step_external_function: forall ef targs tres vargs k m vres t m',  
  external_call ef ge vargs m t vres m' →  
  step (Callstate (External ef targs tres) vargs k m)  
    t (Returnstate vres k m')  
| ...
```



# CompCertX: memory model

```
Class MemoryOps (mem: Type) := {  
  load:   memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → option val;  
  store:  memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → val → option mem;  
  ...  
}
```

# CompCertX: memory model

```
Class MemoryOps (mem: Type) := {  
  load:   memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → option val;  
  store:  memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → val → option mem;  
  ...  
}
```

```
Instance compcert_mem: MemoryOps compcert.common.Memory.mem := ...
```

# CompCertX: memory model

```
Class MemoryOps (mem: Type) := {  
  load:   memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → option val;  
  store:  memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → val → option mem;  
  ...  
}
```

```
Definition extcall_sem {mem: Type} {mem_ops: MemoryOps mem}: Type :=  
  forall (F V: Type), Genv.t F V → list val → mem → trace → val → mem → Prop.
```

# CompCertX: memory model

```
Class MemoryOps (mem: Type) := {  
  load:   memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → option val;  
  store:  memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → val → option mem;  
  ...  
}
```

```
Definition extcall_sem {mem: Type} {mem_ops: MemoryOps mem}: Type :=  
  forall (F V: Type), Genv.t F V → list val → mem → trace → val → mem → Prop.
```

**And that's all !**

CompCertX itself knows nothing  
about the abstract state...

# Memory model and abstract state

```
Class MemoryOps (mem: Type) := {  
  load:    memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → option val;  
  store:   memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → val → option mem;  
  ...  
}
```

```
Class AbstractStateOps (data mwd: Type) := {  
  get_abstract_data: mwd → data;  
  put_abstract_data: data → mwd → data;  
  ...  
}
```

# Memory model and abstract state

```
Class MemoryOps (mem: Type) := {  
  load:    memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → option val;  
  store:   memory_chunk → mem → block → Z → val → option mem;  
  ...  
}
```

```
Class AbstractStateOps (data mwd: Type) := {  
  get_abstract_data: mwd → data;  
  put_abstract_data: data → mwd → data;  
  ...  
}
```

```
Global Instance mem_with_data_mem:  
  forall (mem data: Type),  
    MemoryOps mem → MemoryOps (mem * data)  
:= ...
```

```
Global Instance mem_with_data_abstract_state:  
  forall (mem data: Type),  
    AbstractStateOps data (mem * data)  
:= ...
```

Lenses

# CompCert Clight initial and final states

- Whole-machine semantics
- Initial state:
  - Call "main"
  - No arguments
  - Empty memory (except initialized globals)
- Final state:
  - Return an integer
  - Memory is not relevant

```
Inductive initial_state (p: program):  
state → Prop := initial_state_intro:  
  forall b f m0,  
  let ge := Genv.globalenv p in  
  Genv.init_mem p = Some m0 →  
  Genv.find_symbol ge p.(prog_main) = Some b →  
  Genv.find_funct_ptr ge b = Some f →  
  type_of_fundef f =  
  Tfunction Tnil type_int32s cc_default →  
  initial_state p (Callstate f nil Kstop m0).
```

```
Inductive final_state:  
state → int → Prop := final_state_intro:  
  forall r m,  
  final_state (Returnstate (Vint r) Kstop m) r.
```

# Clight vs. ClightX initial and final states

- Whole-machine semantics
- Initial state:
  - Call "main"
  - No arguments
  - Empty memory (except initialized globals)
- Final state:
  - Return an integer
  - Memory is not relevant
- Per-module semantics for a function  $i$  with arguments  $args$  and memory  $m$
- Initial state :
  - Call the function  $i$
  - With arguments  $args$
  - And the memory  $m$
- Final state
  - Return a value
  - Memory is relevant



# ClightX initial and final states

- Per-function semantics for a function  $i$  with arguments  $args$  and memory  $m$
- Initial state :
  - Call the function  $i$
  - With arguments  $args$
  - And the memory  $m$
- Final state
  - Return a value
  - Memory is relevant

```
Inductive initial_state `{MemoryOps} (p: program)
(i: ident) (m: mem) (sg: signature) (args: list val):
```

```
state → Prop := initial_state_intro:
  forall b f targs tres tcc,
  Genv.find_symbol ge i = Some b →
  Genv.find_func_ptr ge b = Some f →
  type_of_fundef f =
    Tfunction targs tres tcc →
  sg = signature_of_type targs tres tcc →
  initial_state p i m sg args
  (Callstate f args Kstop m).
```

```
Inductive final_state (sg: signature):
state → val * mem → Prop := final_state_intro:
  forall v m,
  final_state (Returnstate v Kstop m) (v, m).
```

# Our Contributions



- We introduce [deep specification](#) and present a language-based formalization of [certified abstraction layer](#).
- We developed new languages & tools in Coq
  - [A formal layer calculus](#) for composing certified layers
  - [ClightX](#) for writing certified layers in a C-like language
  - [AsmX](#) for writing certified layers in assembly
  - [CompCertX](#) that compiles [ClightX](#) layers into [AsmX](#) layers
- We built multiple [certified OS kernels](#) in Coq
  - [mCertiKOS-hyper](#) consists of [37 layers](#), took less than [one-person-year](#) to develop, and can boot [Linux](#) as a guest

# Assembly code

- Low-level stack management
  - Context switching
  - Process creation
- ~200 lines of CertiKOS (out of >5k)

```
kctxt_switch:
    leal 0(%eax,%eax,2), %eax
    leal KCtxtPool_LOC(,%eax,8), %eax
    movl %esp, 0(%eax)
    movl %edi, 4(%eax)
    movl %esi, 8(%eax)
    movl %ebx, 12(%eax)
    movl %ebp, 16(%eax)
    popl %ecx
    movl %ecx, 20(%eax)
    leal 0(%edx,%edx,2), %edx
    leal KCtxtPool_LOC(,%edx,8), %edx
    movl 0(%edx), %esp
    movl 4(%edx), %edi
    movl 8(%edx), %esi
    movl 12(%edx), %ebx
    movl 16(%edx), %ebp
    movl 20(%edx), %ecx
    pushl %ecx
    xorl %eax, %eax
    ret
```

# AsmX: Layer primitives

- Support for two kinds of primitives:
  - C-style primitives with arguments and calling convention
  - assembly primitives with full register set (a la CompCert built-ins)

# CompCert x86 Asm external function calls

- External functions + calling convention

```
Inductive external_call'
  (ef: external_function) (ge: Genv.t)
  (vargs: list val) (m1: mem) (t: trace) (vres: list val) (m2: mem) : Prop :=
external_call'_intro: forall v,
  external_call ef ge (decode_longs (sig_args (ef_sig ef)) vargs) m1 t v m2 →
  vres = encode_long (sig_res (ef_sig ef)) v →
  external_call' ef ge vargs m1 t vres m2.
```

```
Inductive step (ge: genv): state -> trace -> state -> Prop :=
| ...
| exec_step_external:
  forall b ef args res rs m t rs' m',
  rs PC = Vptr b Int.zero →
  Genv.find_funct_ptr ge b = Some (External ef) →
  extcall_arguments rs m (ef_sig ef) args →
  external_call' ef ge args m t res m' →
  rs' = (set_regs (loc_external_result (ef_sig ef)) res (rs #PC ← (rs RA) #RA ← Vundef)) →
  step ge (State rs m) t (State rs' m')
| ...
```

# AsmX external function calls

- C-style externals

```
Inductive step {eco: ExtCallOps} (ge: genv):  
  state -> trace -> state -> Prop :=  
  | ...  
  | exec_step_external:  
    forall b ef args res rs m t rs' m',  
      rs PC = Vptr b Int.zero ->  
      Genv.find_funct_ptr ge b = Some (External ef) ->  
      extcall_arguments rs m (ef_sig ef) args ->  
      external_call' ef ge args m t res m' ->  
      rs' = (set_regs (loc_external_result (ef_sig ef)) res (rs #PC ← (rs RA) #RA ← Vundef) ->  
      step ge (State rs m) t (State rs' m'))
```

| ...

# AsmX external function calls

- C-style externals + assembly-style primitives

```
Definition primcall_sem {mem: Type} {mem_ops: MemoryOps mem}: Type :=  
  Asm.genv → regset → mem → trace → regset → mem → Prop.
```

```
Class PrimCallOps := {  
  primitive_call (ef: external_function): primcall_sem  
}.
```

```
Inductive step {eco: ExtCallOps} {pco: PrimCallOps} (ge: genv):  
  state -> trace -> state -> Prop :=  
  | ...  
  | exec_step_external:  
    forall b ef args res rs m t rs' m',  
    rs PC = Vptr b Int.zero →  
    Genv.find_funct_ptr ge b = Some (External ef) →  
    extcall_arguments rs m (ef_sig ef) args →  
    external_call' ef ge args m t res m' →  
    rs' = (set_regs (loc_external_result (ef_sig ef)) res (rs #PC ← (rs RA) #RA ← Vundef) →  
    step ge (State rs m) t (State rs' m'))  
  | exec_step_primitive:  
    forall b ef rs m t rs' m',  
    rs PC = Vptr b Int.zero →  
    Genv.find_funct_ptr ge b = Some (External ef) →  
    primitive_call ef ge rs m t rs' m' →  
    step ge (State rs m) t (State rs' m'))  
  | ...
```

# AsmX external function calls

- C-style externals + assembly-style primitives

```
Definition primcall_sem {mem: Type} {mem_ops: MemoryOps mem}: Type :=  
  Asm.genv → regset → mem → trace → regset → mem → Prop.
```

```
Class PrimCallOps := {  
  primitive_call (ef: external_function): primcall_sem  
}.
```

```
Inductive step {eco: ExtCallOps} {pco: PrimCallOps} (ge: genv):  
  state -> trace -> state -> Prop :=
```

```
| ...  
| exec_step_external:  
  forall b ef args res rs m t rs' m',  
  rs PC = Vptr b Int.zero →  
  Genv.find_funct_ptr ge b = Some (External ef) →  
  extcall_arguments rs m (ef_sig ef) args →  
  external_call' ef ge args m t res m' →  
  rs' = (set_regs (loc_external_result (ef_sig ef)) res (rs #PC ← (rs RA) #RA ← Vundef) →  
  step ge (State rs m) t (State rs' m'))  
| exec_step_primitive:  
  forall b ef rs m t rs' m',  
  rs PC = Vptr b Int.zero →  
  Genv.find_funct_ptr ge b = Some (External ef) →  
  primitive_call ef ge rs m t rs' m' →  
  step ge (State rs m) t (State rs' m'))  
| ...
```

Keep both rules  
to avoid distinguishing between  
C layers and assembly layers



# CompCert Asm initial and final states

- CompCert x86 Asm Whole-Program Semantics
- Initial state :
  - Call main
  - Empty memory (except initialized globals)
  - Empty register set
- Final state :
  - Return an integer
  - Memory and register sets are not relevant

```
Inductive initial_state (p: program): state -> Prop :=
| initial_state_intro: forall m0,
  Genv.init_mem p = Some m0 ->
  let ge := Genv.globalenv p in
  let rs0 :=
    (Pregmap.init Vundef)
    # PC <- (symbol_offset ge p.(prog_main) Int.zero)
    # RA <- Vzero
    # ESP <- Vzero in
  initial_state p (State rs0 m0).
```

```
Inductive final_state: state -> int -> Prop :=
| final_state_intro: forall rs m r,
  rs#PC = Vzero ->
  rs#EAX = Vint r ->
  final_state (State rs m) r.
```

# Asm vs. AsmX initial and final states

- CompCert x86 Asm Whole-Program Semantics
- Initial state :
  - Call main
  - Empty memory (except initialized globals)
  - Empty register set
- Final state :
  - Return an integer
  - Memory and register sets are not relevant
- AsmX per-module semantics for function  $i$  with register set  $rs$  and memory  $m$ 
  - Initial state
    - Call function  $i$
    - With memory  $m$
    - And register set  $rs$
  - Final state
    - Return a list of 32-bit values
    - Memory and register sets are relevant
- Function semantics can use :
  - C-style pattern with arguments and calling convention for CompCertX
  - Assembly-style pattern with no return values for the layer language
  - Whole memory and register set are relevant in both cases

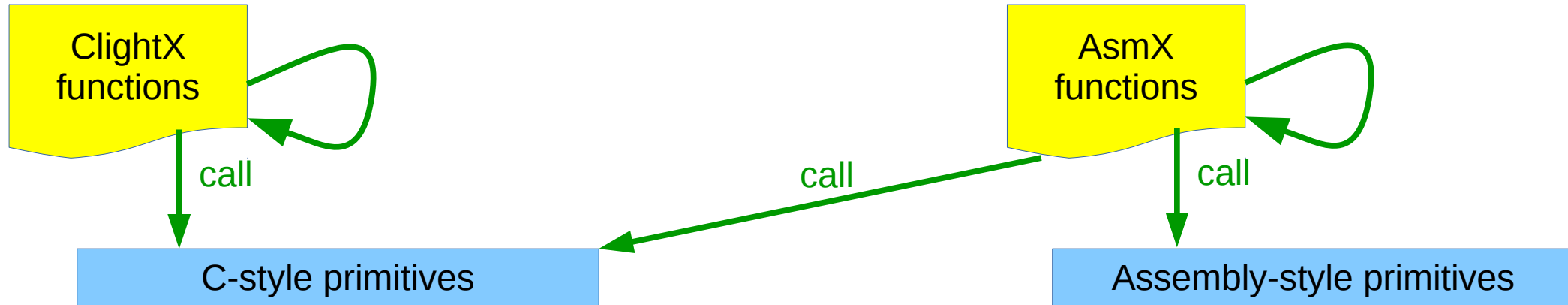
# AsmX initial and final states (C-style pattern)

- AsmX per-module semantics for function  $i$  with arguments  $args$ , register set  $rs$  and memory  $m$ 
  - Initial state
    - Call function  $i$
    - With arguments  $args$
    - With memory  $m$
    - And register set  $rs$
  - Final state
    - Return a list of 32-bit values
    - Memory and register sets are relevant
  - Embed the C calling convention

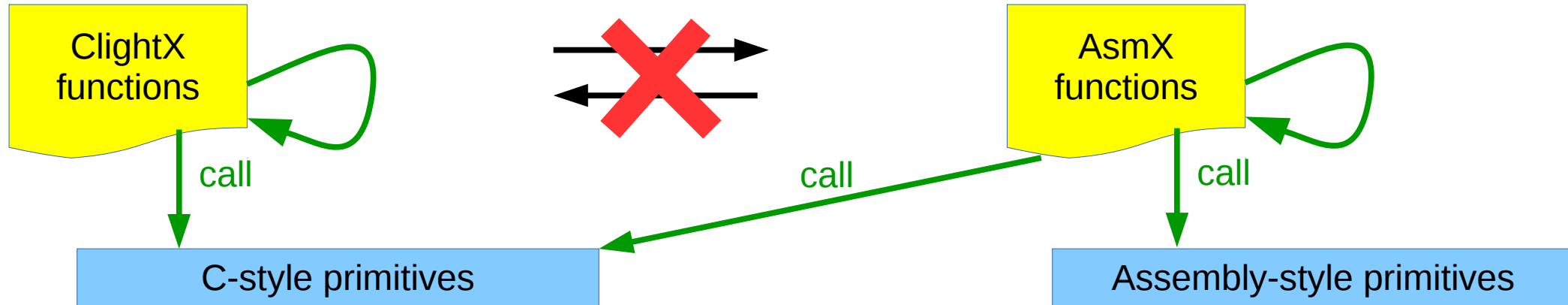
```
Inductive initial_state (rs: regset) (p: Asm.program)
  (i: ident) (sg: signature) (args: list val) (m: mem):
  state -> Prop :=
| initial_state'_intro: forall
  b
  (Hb: Genv.find_symbol (Genv.globalenv p) i = Some b)
  (Hpc: rs PC = Vptr b Int.zero)
  (Hargs: extcall_arguments rs m sg args),
  initial_state rs p i sg args m (State lm m).
```

```
Inductive final_state (rs0: regset) (sg: signature) : state ->
  (list val * mem) -> Prop :=
| final_state_intro:
  forall rs,
  (rs0 # RA) = (rs # PC) ->
  (rs0 # ESP) = (rs # ESP) ->
  forall v,
  v = List.map rs (loc_external_result sg) ->
  forall
  (CALLEE_SAVE:
    forall r,
    ~ In r destroyed_at_call ->
    Val.lessdef (rs0 (preg_of r)) (rs (preg_of r))),
  forall m_,
  final_state rs0 sg (State rs m_) (v, m_).
```

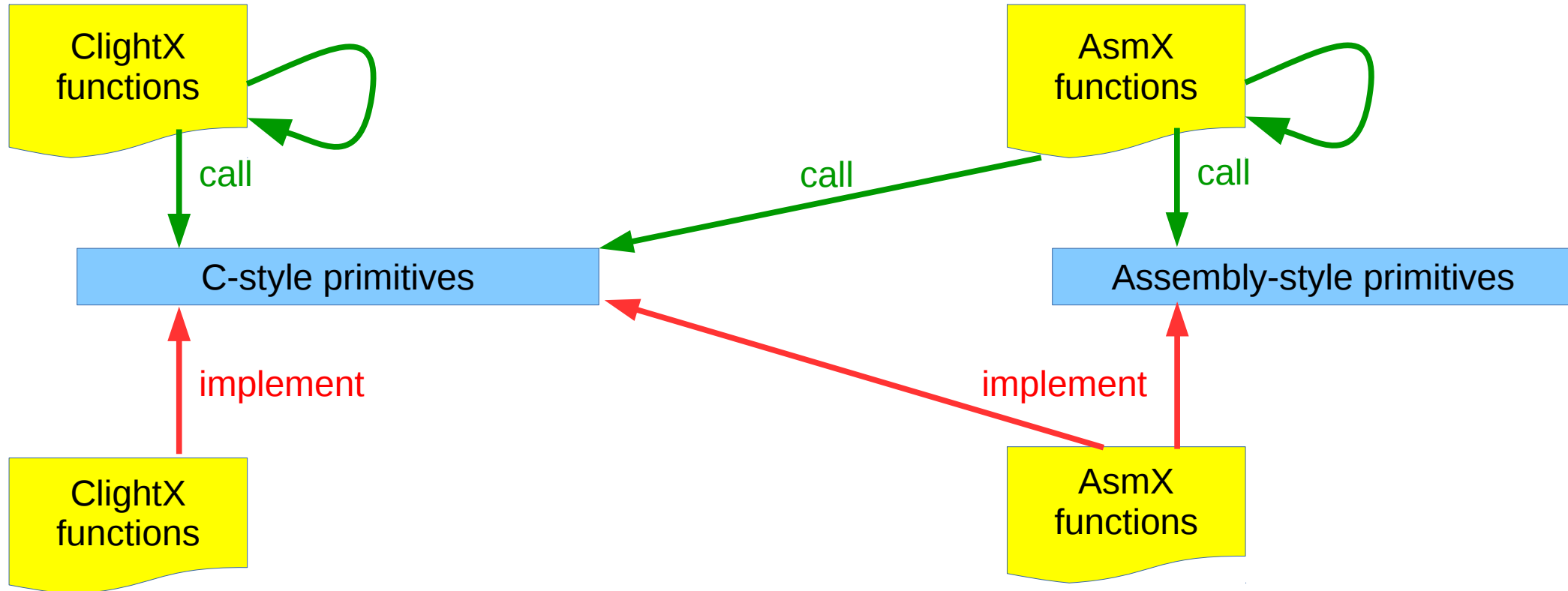
# Functions and primitives



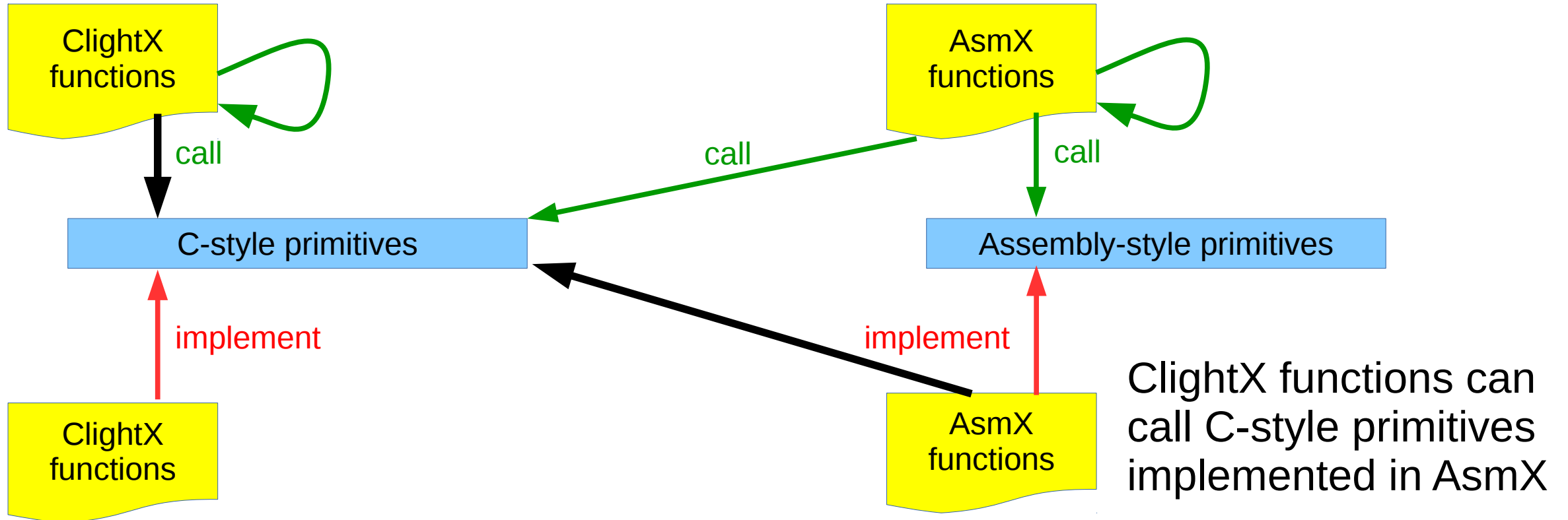
# Functions and primitives



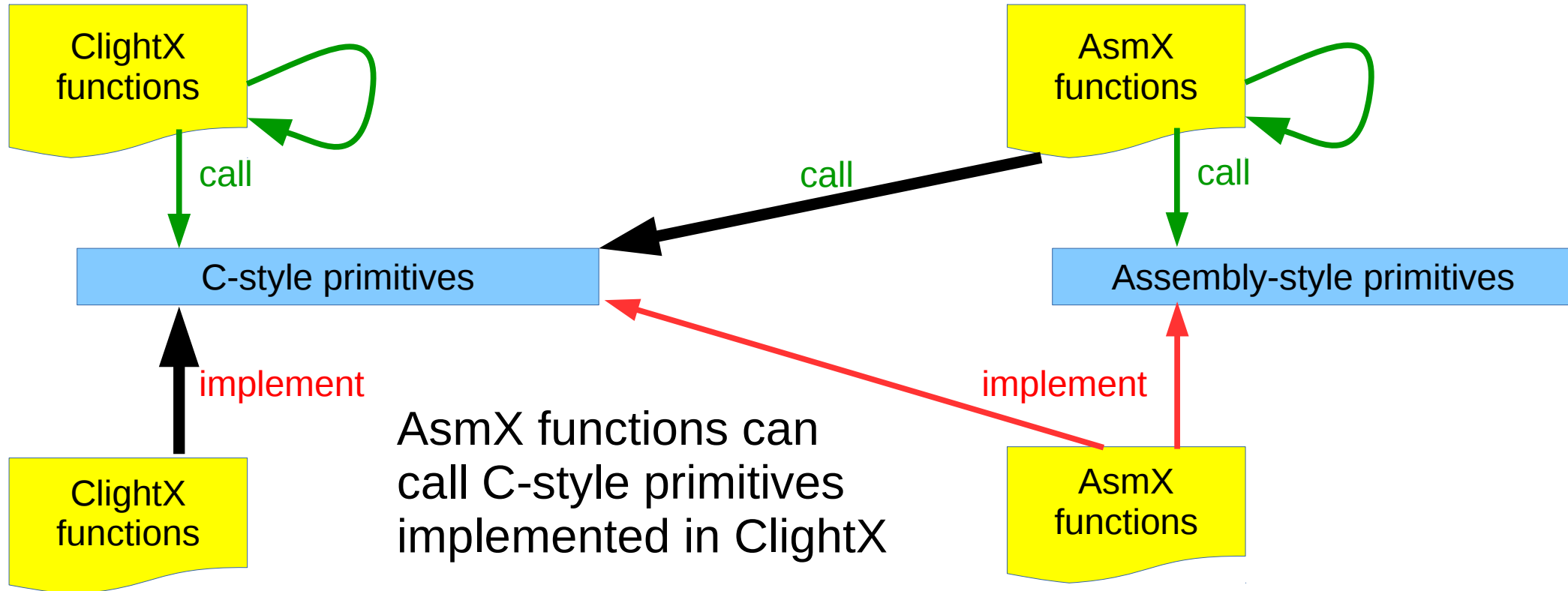
# Functions and primitives



# Functions and primitives



# Functions and primitives





# Our Contributions



- We introduce [deep specification](#) and present a language-based formalization of [certified abstraction layer](#)
- We developed new languages & tools in Coq
  - [A formal layer calculus](#) for composing/linking certified layers
  - [ClightX](#) for writing certified layers in a C-like language
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  - [mCertikOS-hyper](#) consists of [37 layers](#), took less than [one-person-year](#) to develop, and can boot [Linux](#) as a guest

# Programming & Compiling Layers

ClightX

$L \vdash_R M_c : L_1$  →

$L_1 \leq_R [ M_c ]_{\text{ClightX}} (L)$

# Programming & Compiling Layers

ClightX

$L \vdash_R M_c : L_1$

$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L)$



**CompCertX correctness theorem** (where *minj* is a **memory injection**)

$\llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L) \leq_{\text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$

# Programming & Compiling Layers

ClightX

$$L \vdash_R M_c : L_1 \rightarrow$$

$$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L)$$



CompCertX correctness theorem (where *minj* is a memory injection)

$$\llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L) \leq_{\text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$



$$L_1 \leq_{R \circ \text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$

# Programming & Compiling Layers

ClightX

$$L \vdash_R M_c : L_1 \rightarrow$$

$$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L)$$

CompCertX correctness theorem (where *minj* is a memory injection)

$$\llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L) \leq_{\text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$

$$L_1 \leq_{R \circ \text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$

*R* must absorb such memory injection:  $R \circ \text{minj} = R$  then we have:

$$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$

# Programming & Compiling Layers

ClightX

$$L \vdash_R M_c : L_1$$

$$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L)$$

CompCertX correctness theorem (where *minj* is a memory injection)

$$\llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L) \leq_{\text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$

$$L_1 \leq_{R \circ \text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$

$R$  must absorb such memory injection:  $R \circ \text{minj} = R$  then we have:

$$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$

Let  $M_a = \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c)$  then  $L \vdash_R M_a : L_1$  AsmX

# Programming & Compiling Layers

ClightX

$$L \vdash_R M_c : L_1$$



$$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L)$$



**CompCertX correctness theorem** (where *minj* is a memory injection)

$$\llbracket M_c \rrbracket_{\text{ClightX}}(L) \leq_{\text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$



$$L_1 \leq_{R \circ \text{minj}} \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$



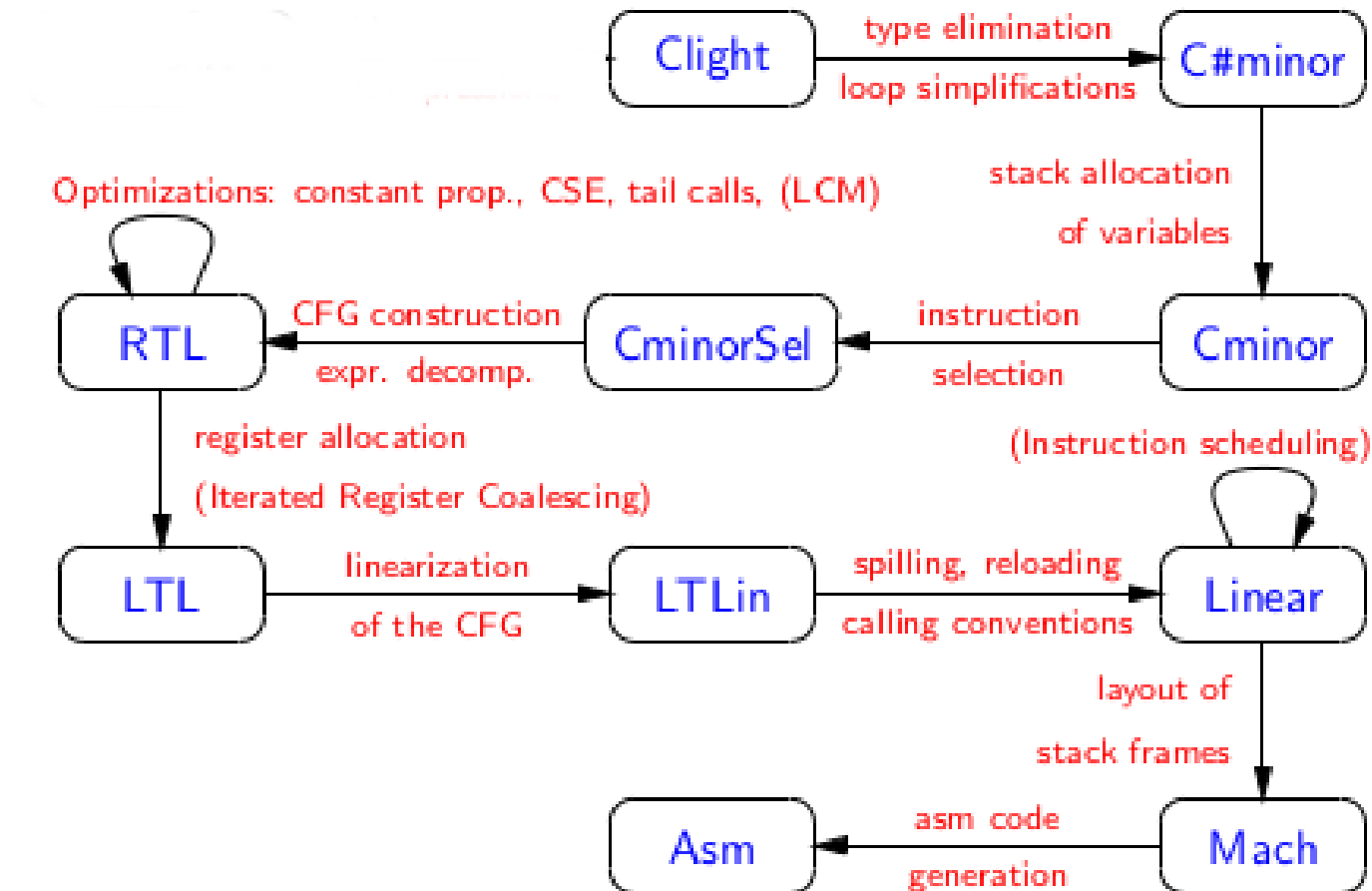
*R* must absorb such memory injection:  $R \circ \text{minj} = R$  then we have:

$$L_1 \leq_R \llbracket \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c) \rrbracket_{\text{AsmX}}(L)$$



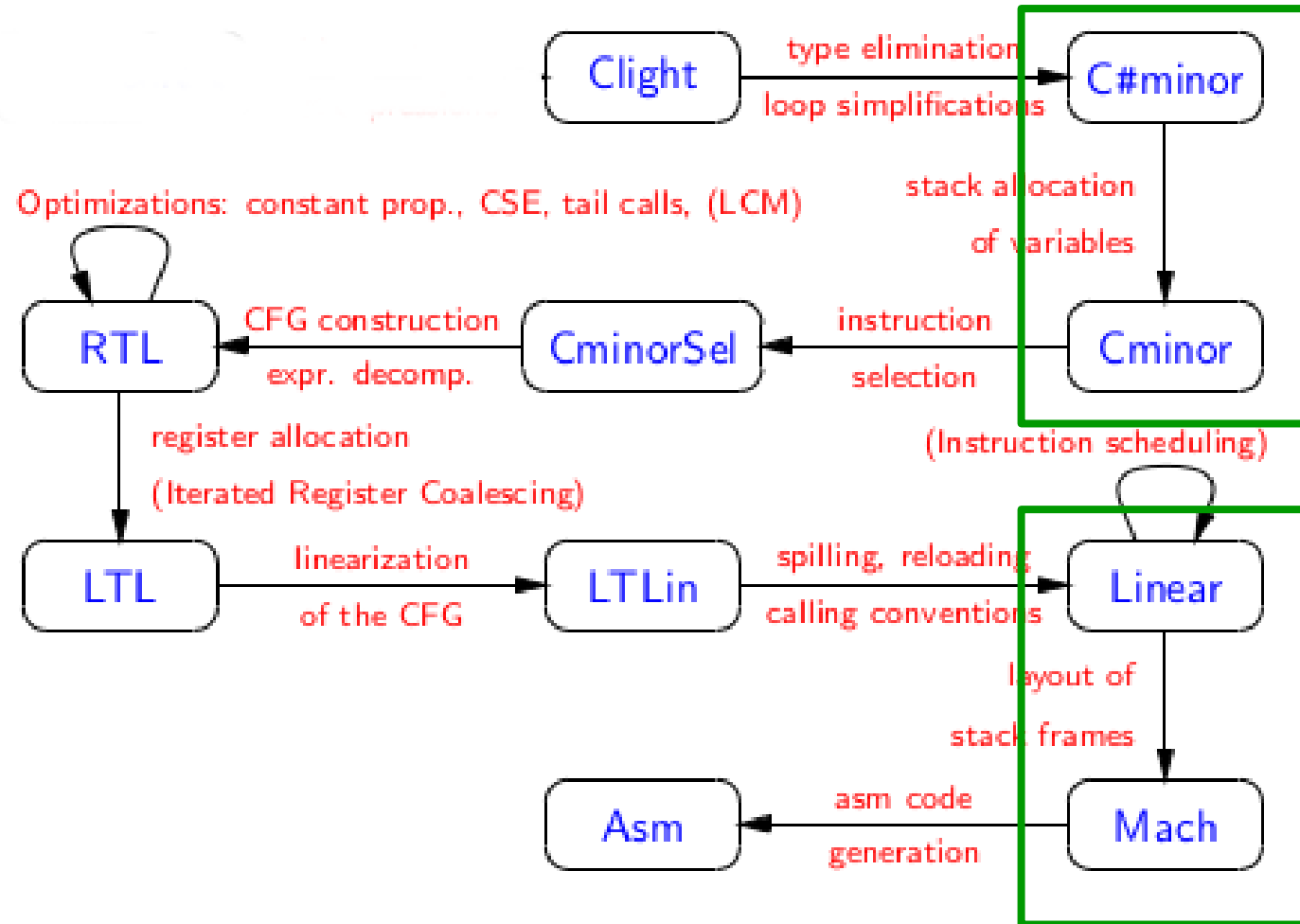
Let  $M_a = \text{CompCertX}[L](M_c)$  then  $L \vdash_R M_a : L_1$  **AsmX**

# Reminder: CompCert compilation passes



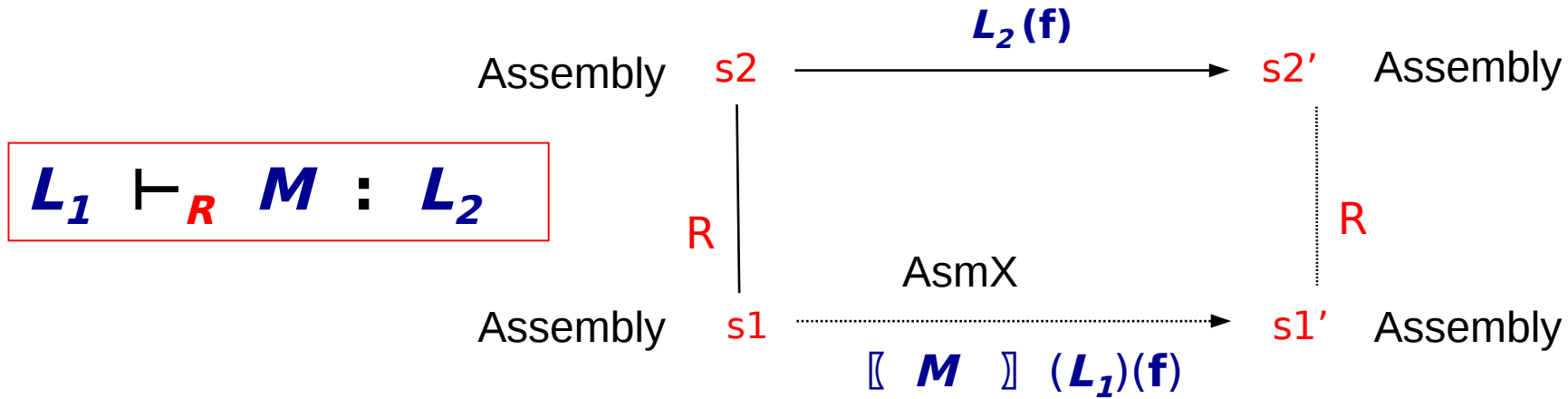


# Reminder: CompCert compilation passes



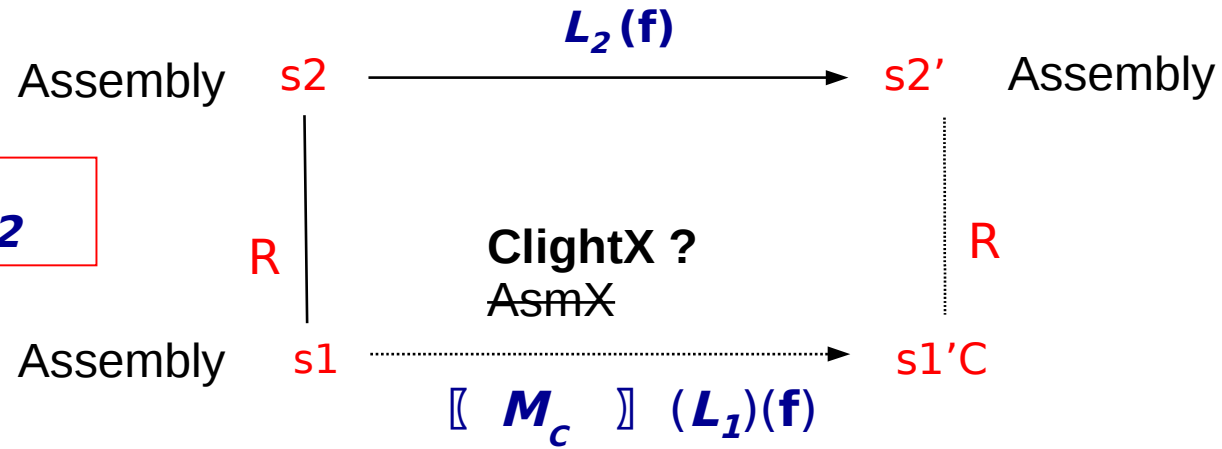
**Memory injections**

# Assembly layer refinement proof



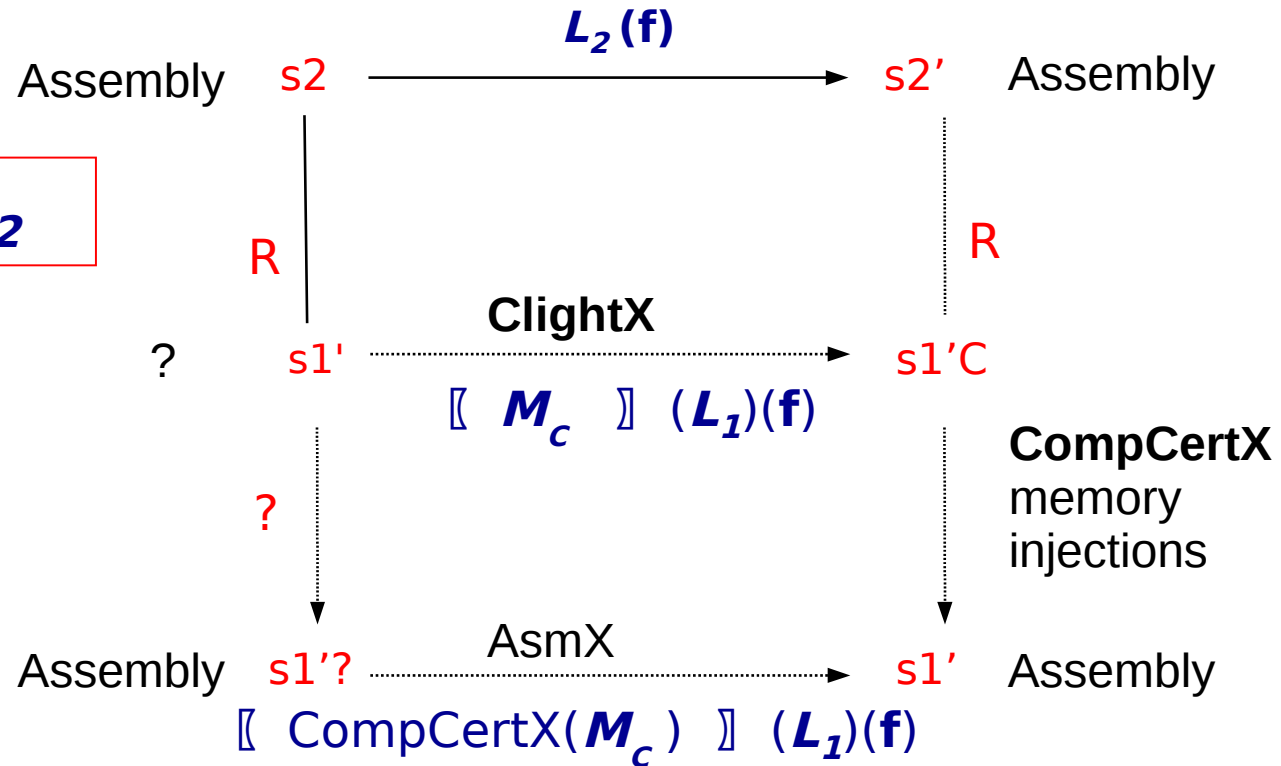
# Layer refinement proof

$$L_1 \vdash_R M : L_2$$

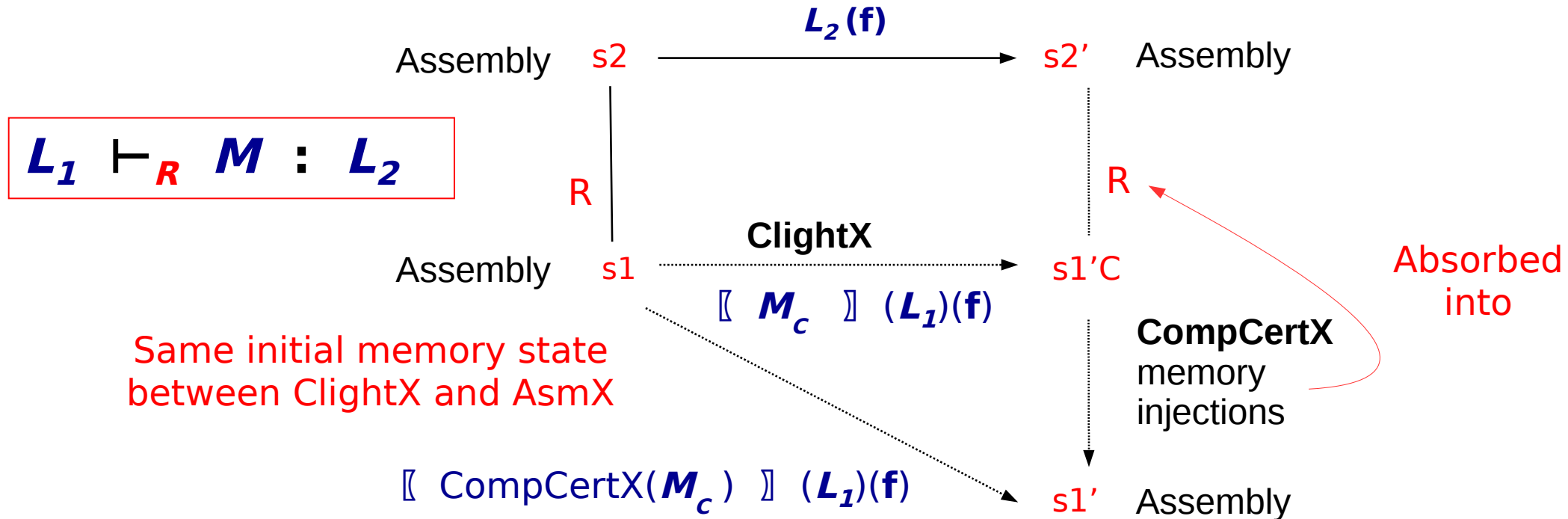


# Layer refinement proof with CompCertX

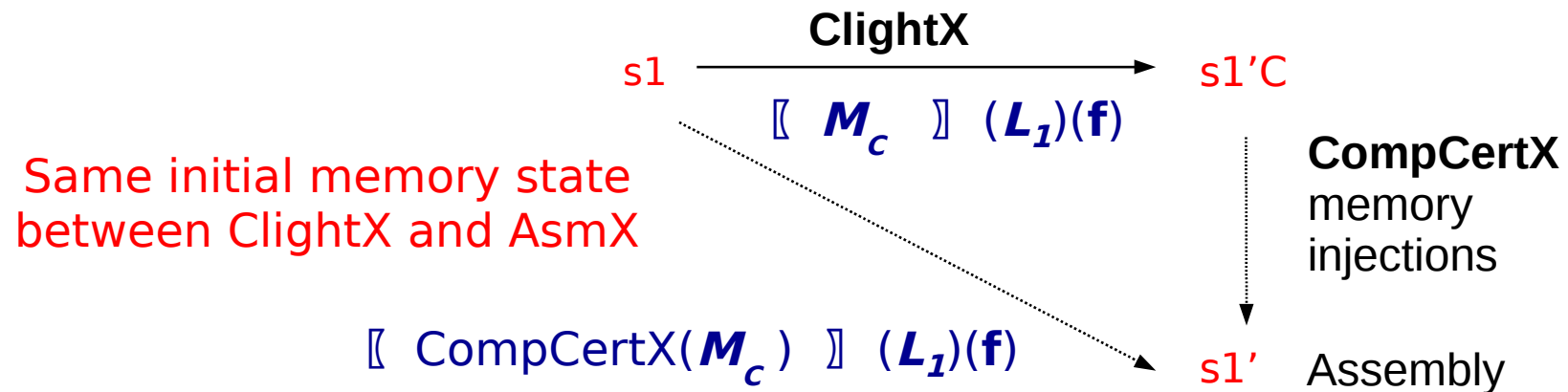
$$L_1 \vdash_R M : L_2$$



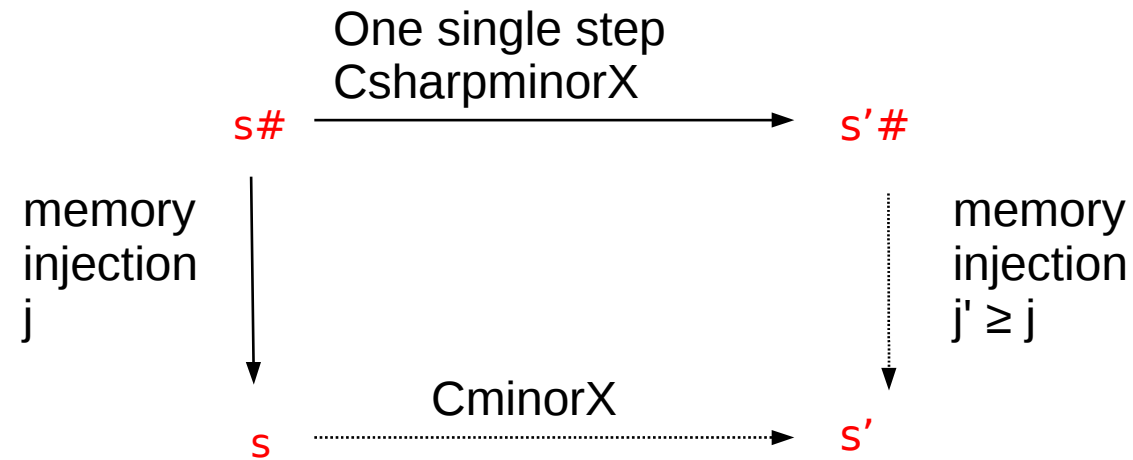
# Layer refinement proof with CompCertX



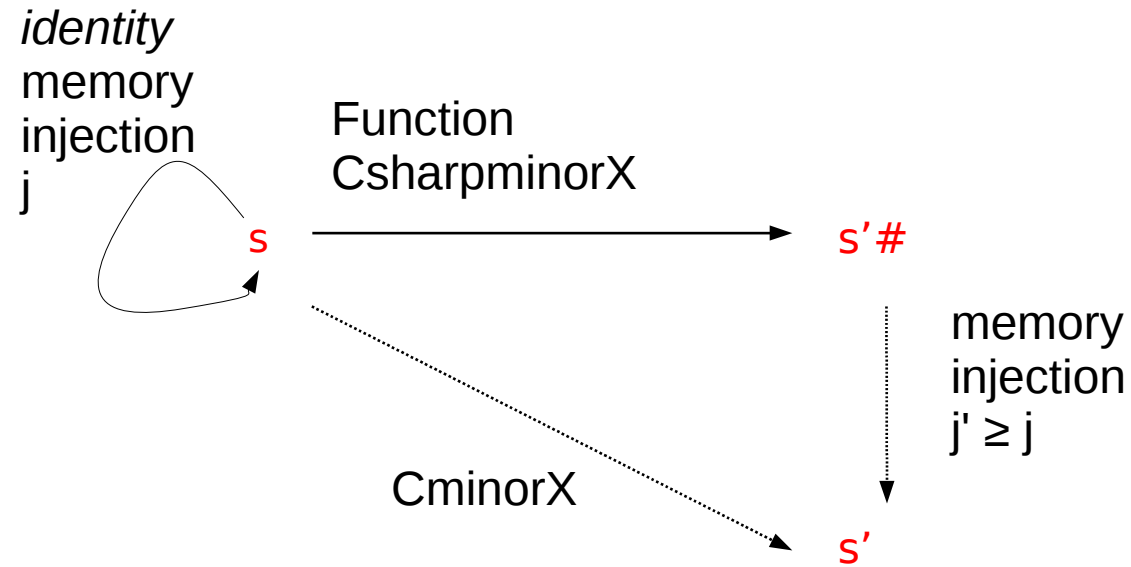
# CompCertX correctness statement



# Example: CsharpminorX to CminorX correctness proof

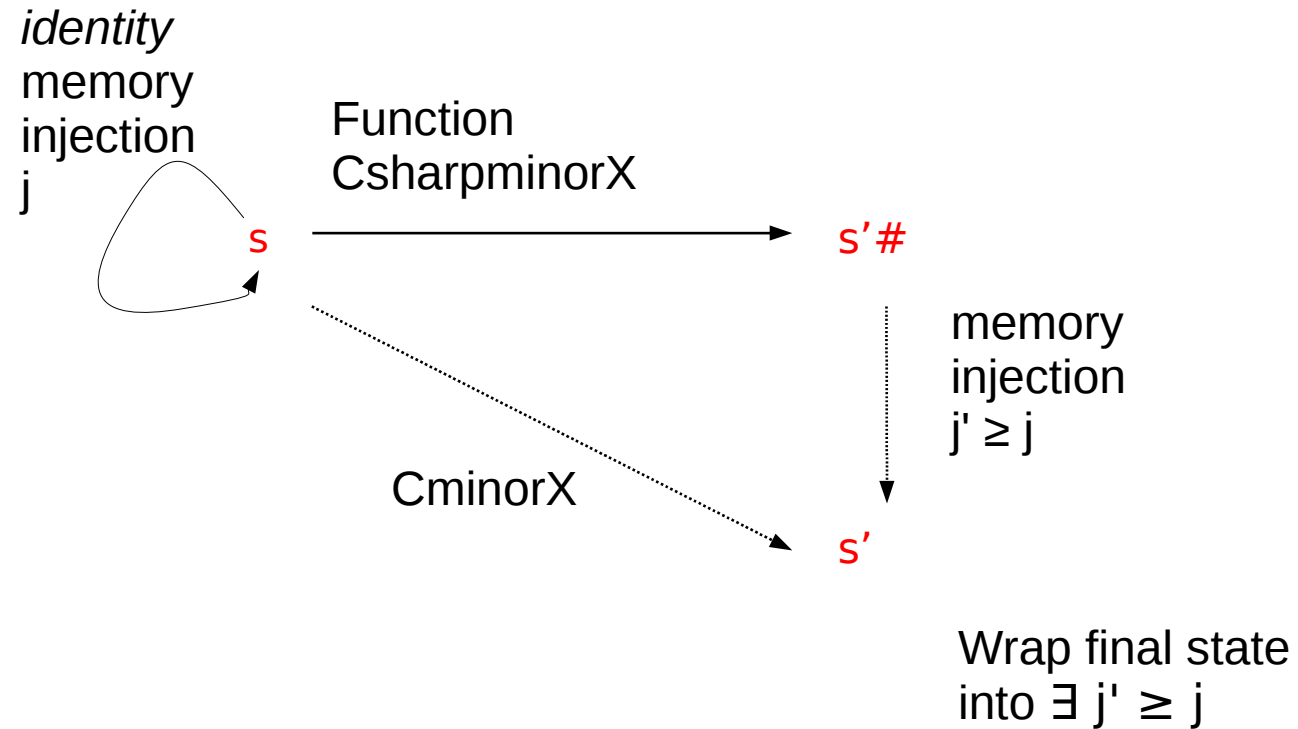


# Example: CsharpminorX to CminorX correctness proof

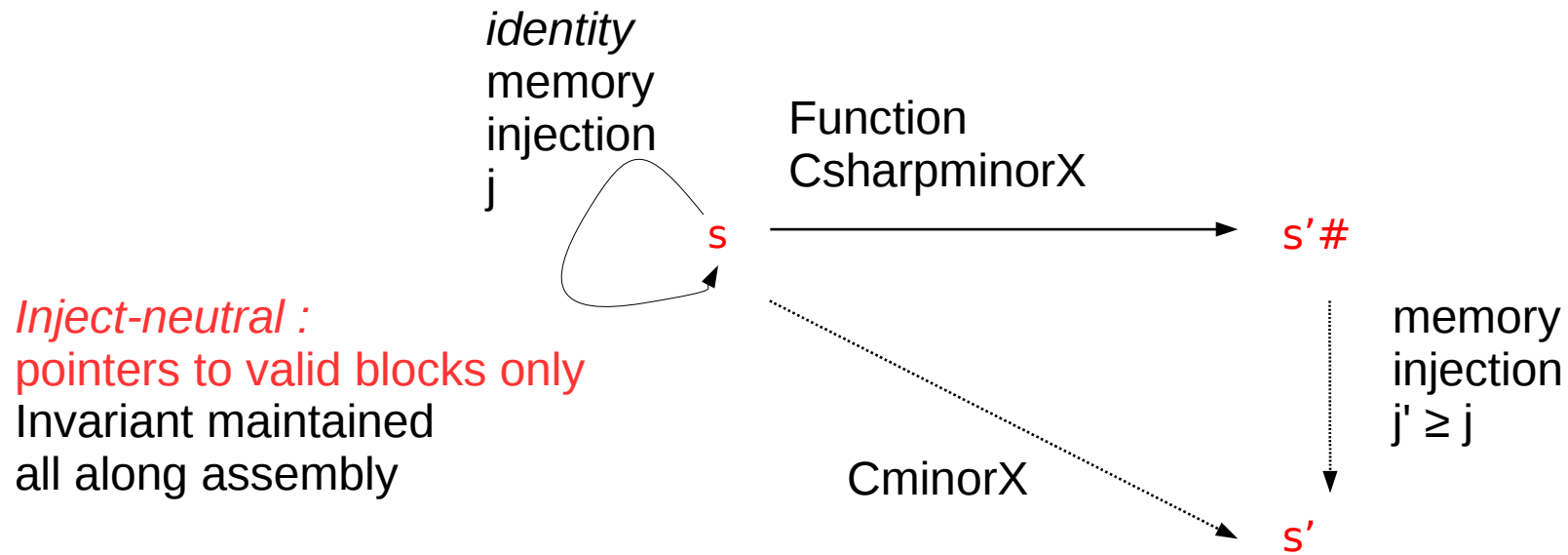




# Example: CsharpminorX to CminorX correctness proof



# Example: CsharpminorX to CminorX correctness proof

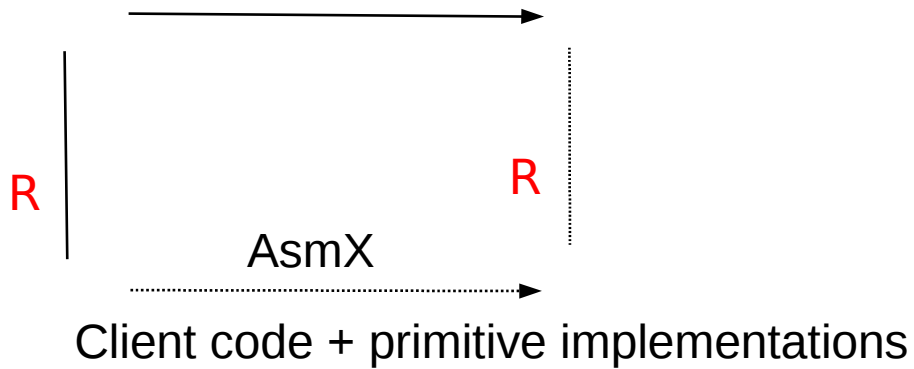


# Requirements

- C-style layer primitives must abide by CompCert external function requirements :
  - Stability by memory injection, extension, etc.
  - Must preserve *inject-neutral* (no pointers to invalid blocks created)
- Also needed for assembly-style primitives
  - Layer refinement relation also includes a memory injection
  - Accumulates all memory injections due to calls to code compiled by CompCertX

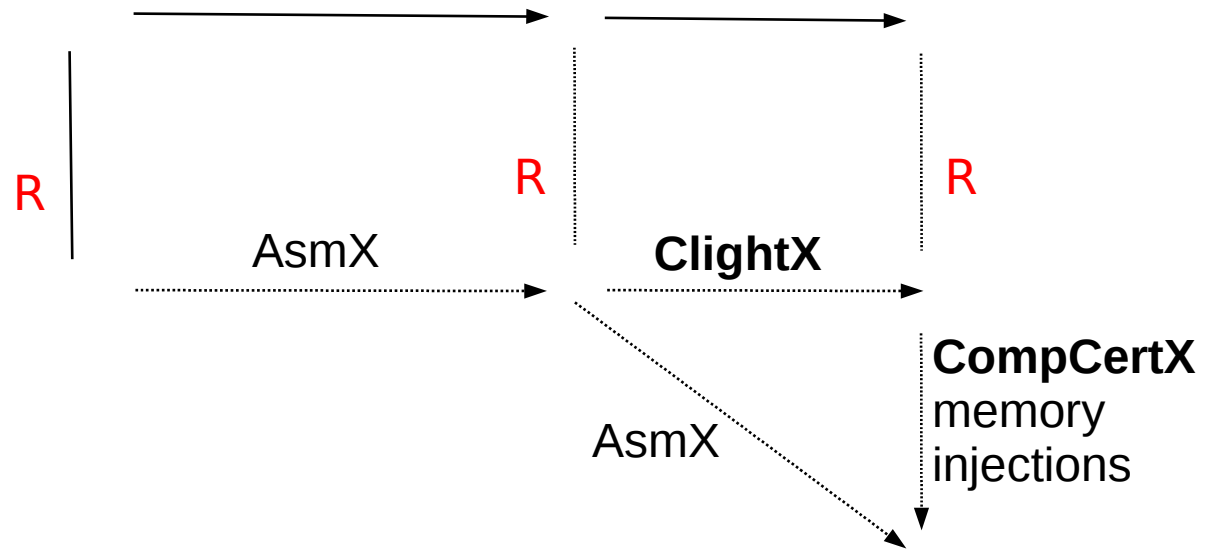
# Layer refinement and memory injections

Client AsmX code (program context) calling overlay primitives



# Layer refinement and memory injections

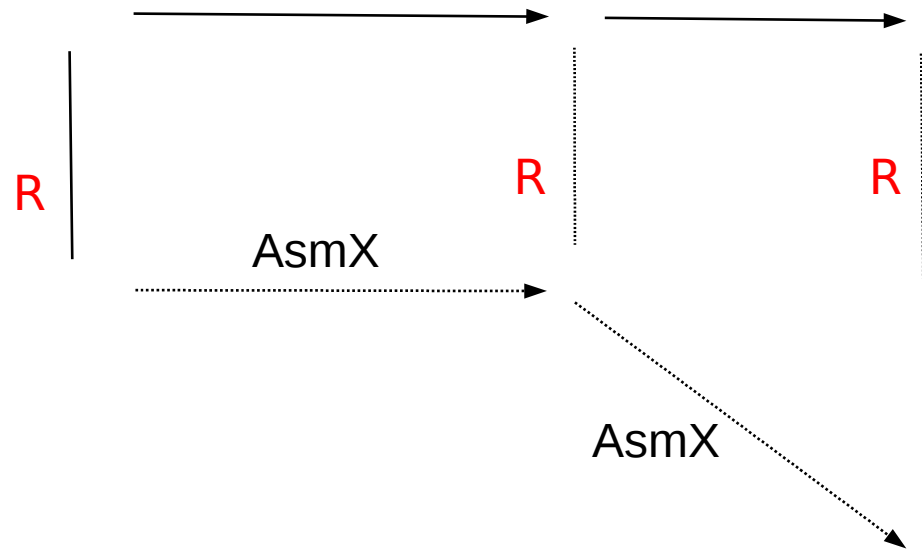
Client AsmX code (program context) calling overlay primitives



Client code + primitive implementations

# Layer refinement and memory injections

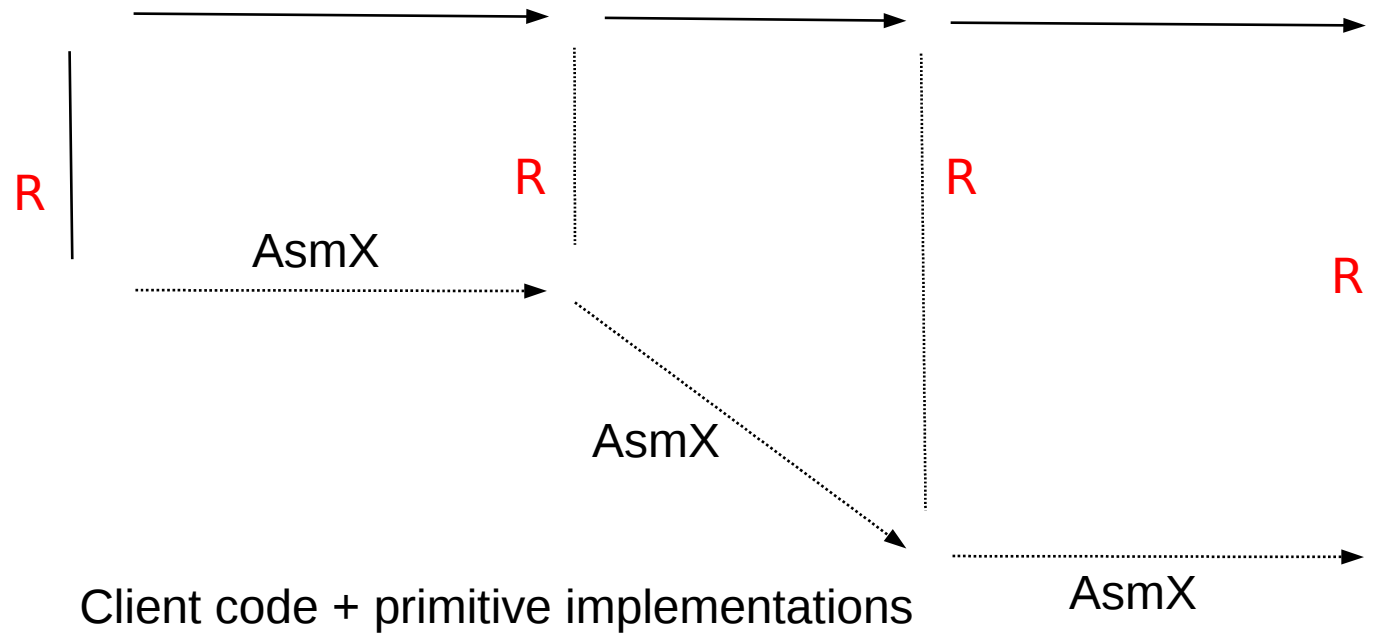
Client AsmX code (program context) calling overlay primitives



Client code + primitive implementations

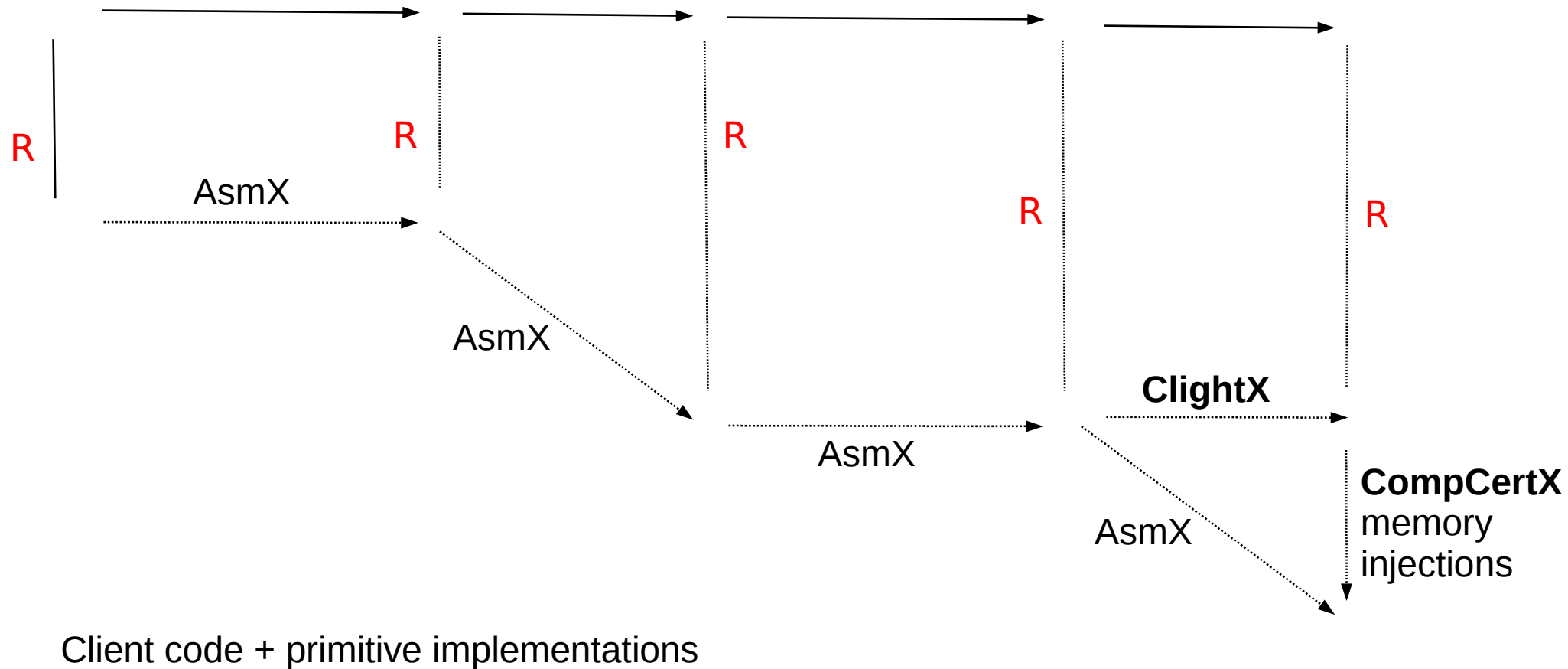
# Layer refinement and memory injections

Client AsmX code (program context) calling overlay primitives



# Layer refinement and memory injections

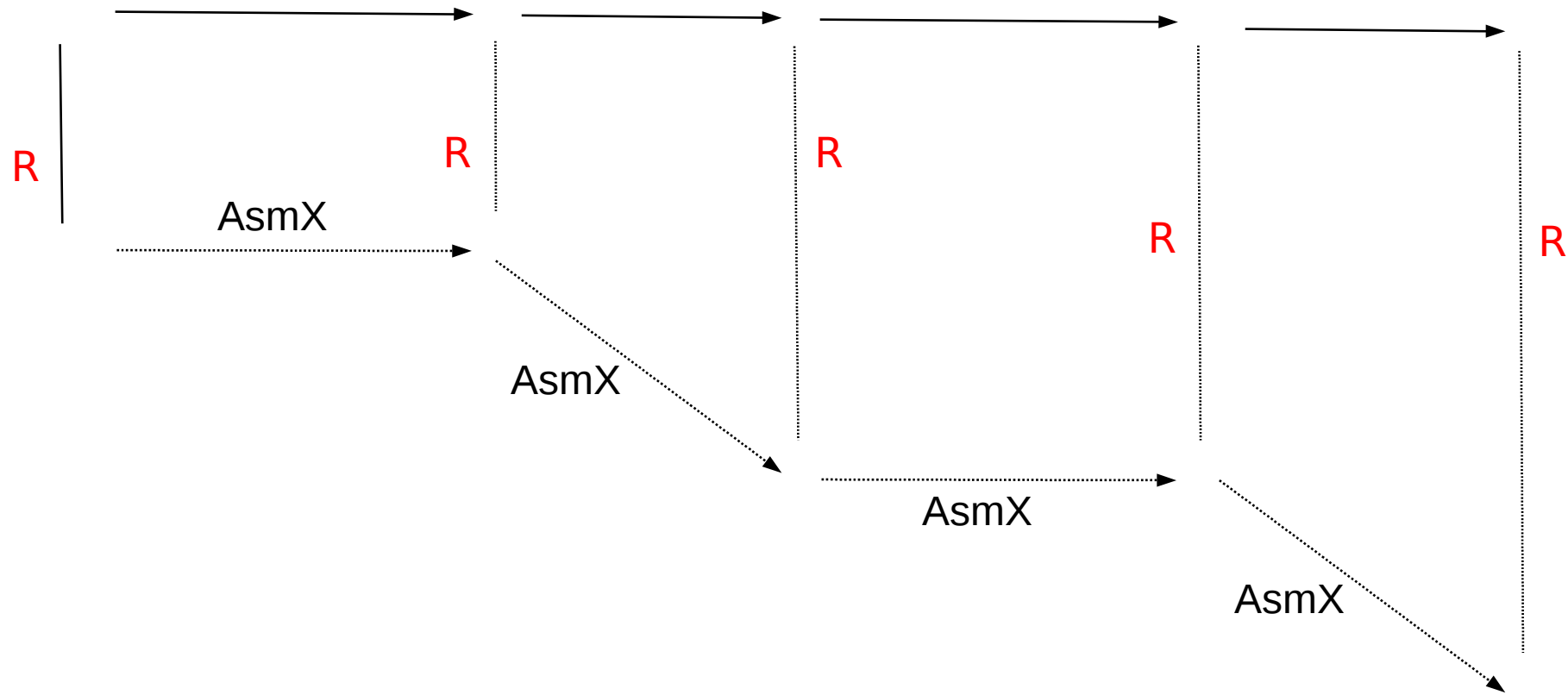
Client AsmX code (program context) calling overlay primitives





# Layer refinement and memory injections

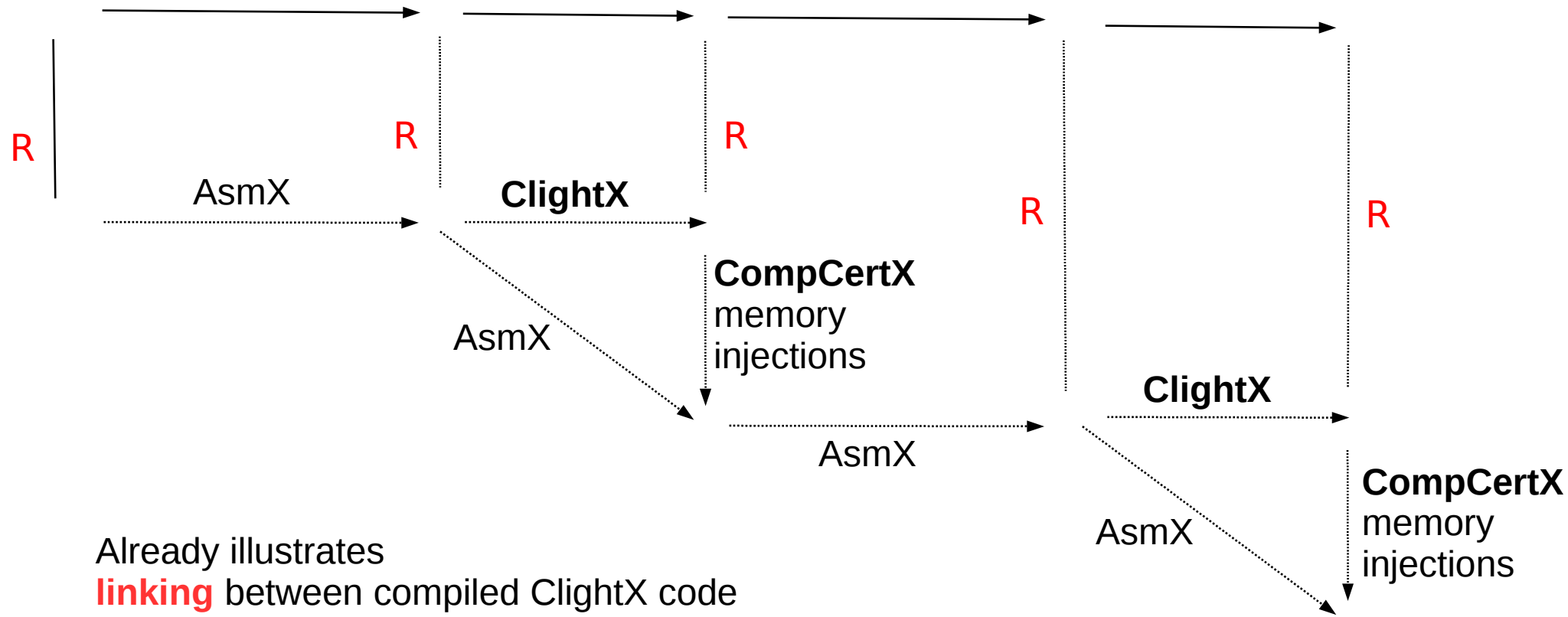
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Client code + primitive implementations

# Layer refinement and memory injections

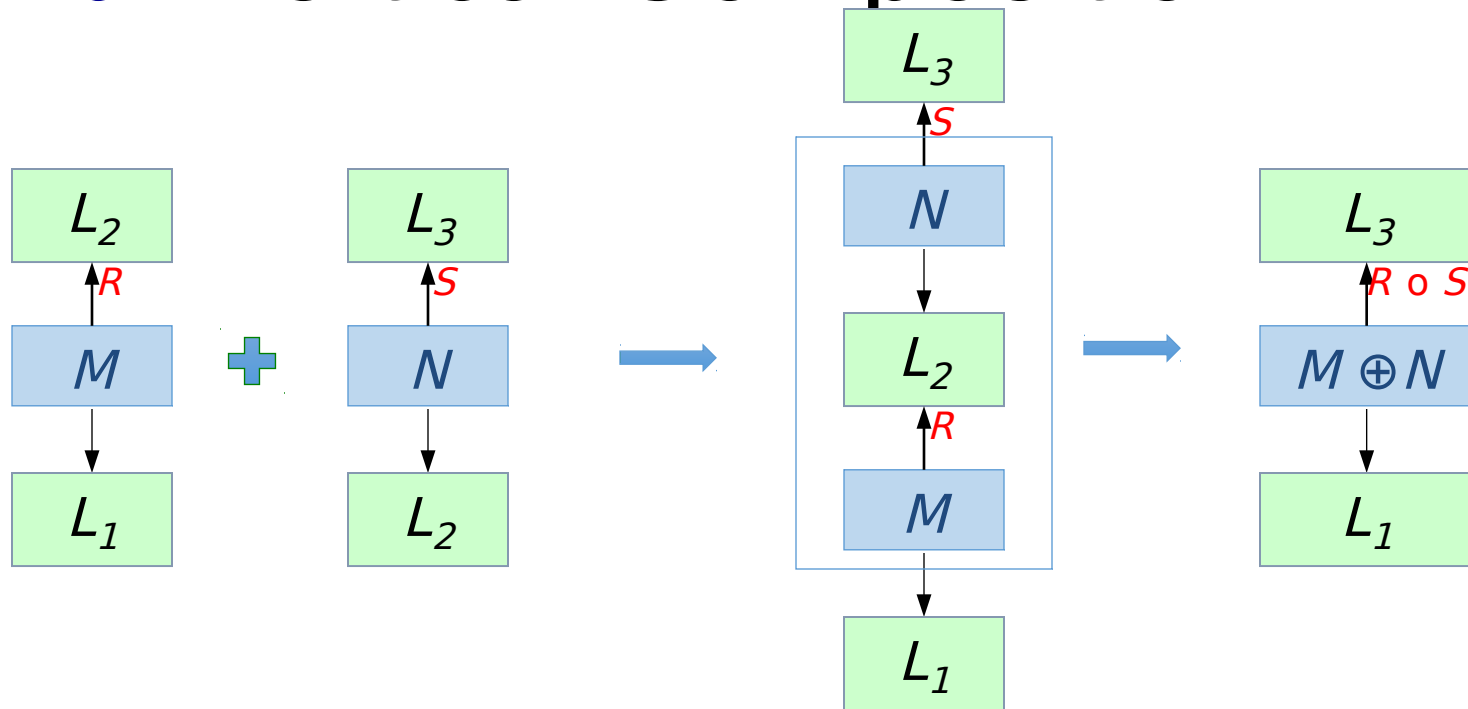
Client AsmX code (program context) calling overlay primitives



Already illustrates **linking** between compiled ClightX code and AsmX program context

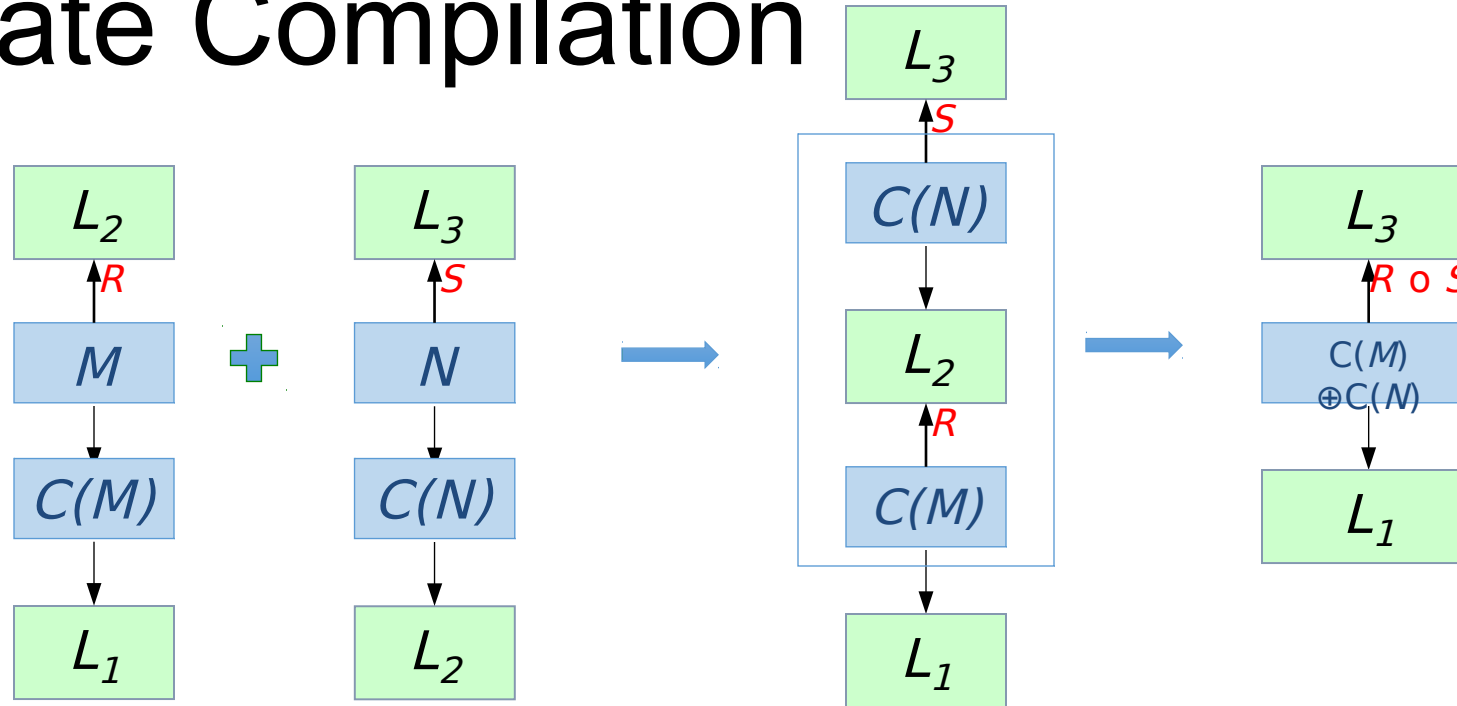
Client code + primitive implementations

# LayerLib: Vertical Composition



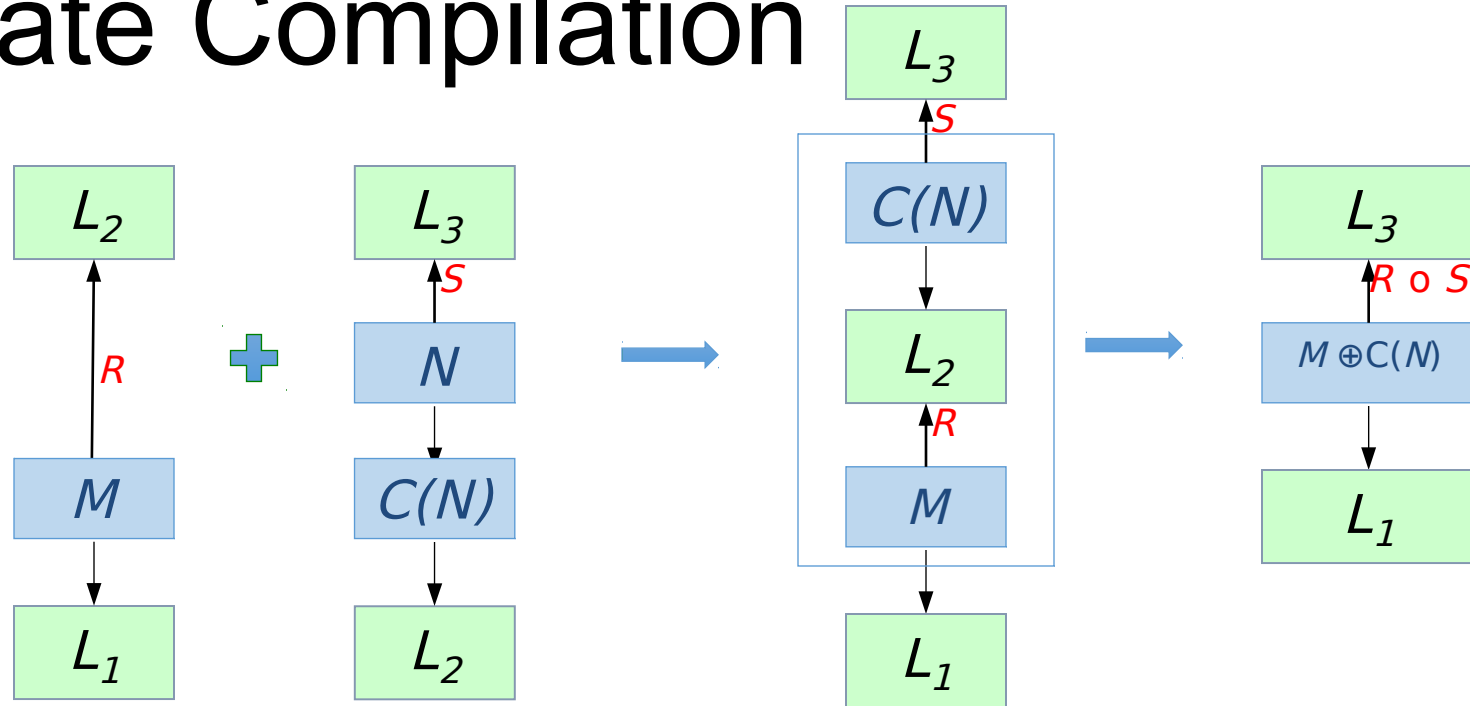
$$\frac{L_1 \vdash_R M : L_2 \quad L_2 \vdash_S N : L_3}{L_1 \vdash_{R \circ S} M \oplus N : L_3} \text{VCOMP}$$

# LayerLib: Vertical Composition and Separate Compilation



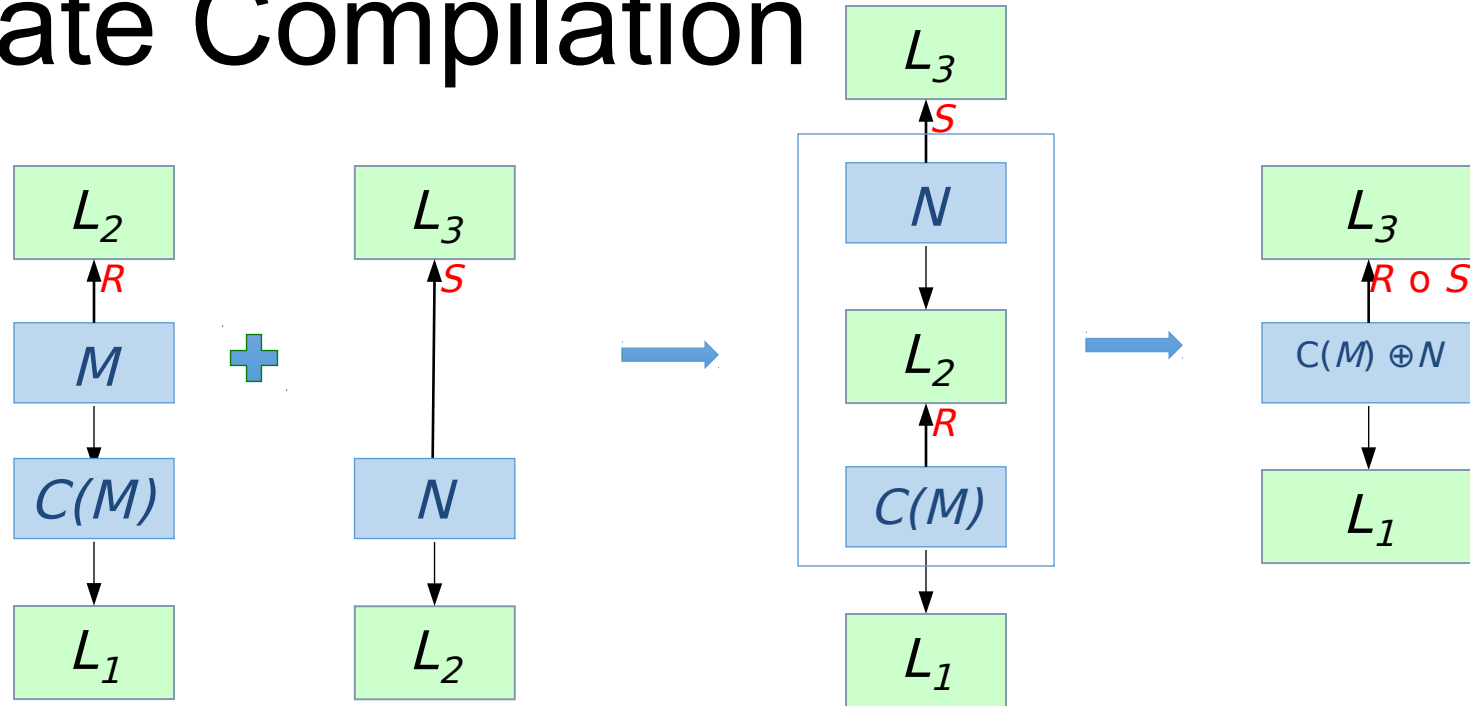
# LayerLib: Vertical Composition and Separate Compilation

ClightX code N  
« calls »  
AsmX code M  
through L2  
primitives

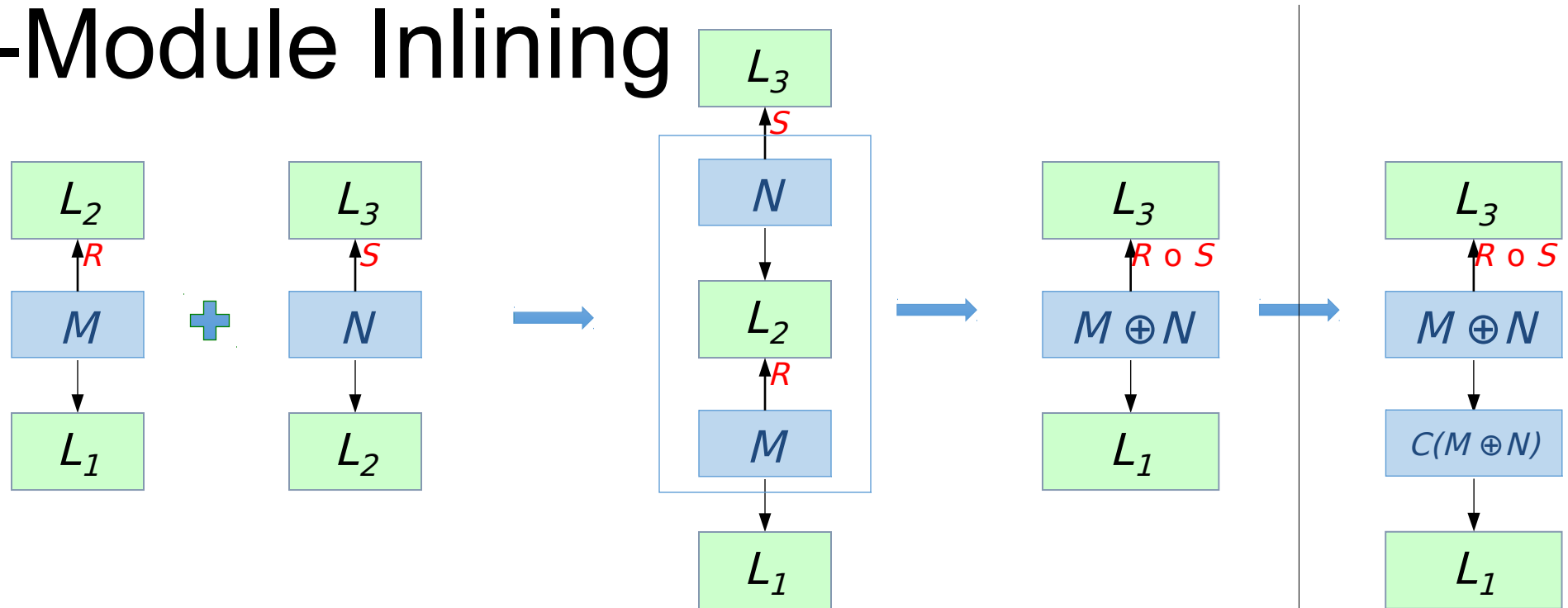


# LayerLib: Vertical Composition and Separate Compilation

AsmX code N  
« calls »  
ClightX code M  
through L2  
primitives



# LayerLib: Vertical Composition and Cross-Module Inlining

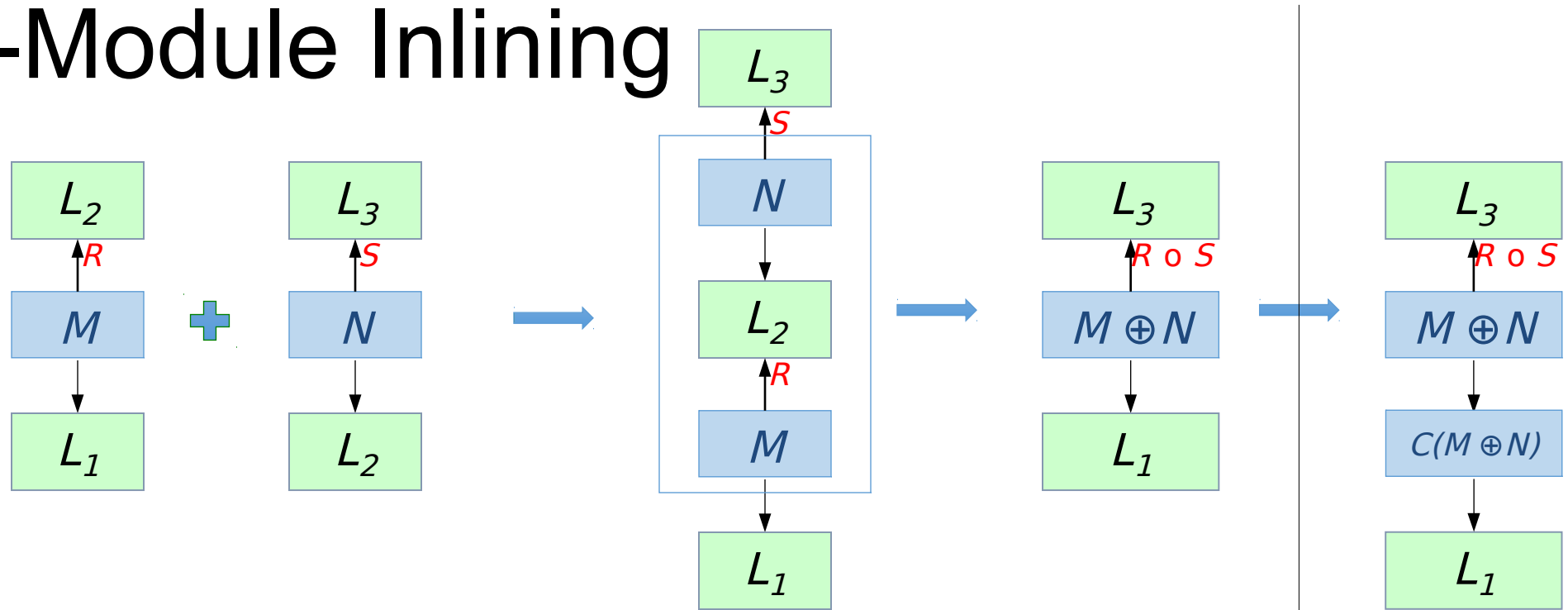


This is work in progress.

C layer refinement

Assembly layer refinement

# LayerLib: Vertical Composition and Cross-Module Inlining



Useful if :

- $N$  concretizes high-level data into **low-level data**
- $M$  concretizes low-level data into memory

C layer refinement

Assembly layer refinement



# Example : Page maps

MPTOP

idpde\_init : Initialize the kernel page map to identity page map

idpde\_init.c

Abstract state

MPTIntro

set\_IDPTE : Access (get/set) the page map

set\_IDPTE.c

MALT

Concrete in-memory  
representation

# Example: Page Tables

MPTOP

idpde\_init.c

MPTIntro

set\_IDPTE

MALT

```
#define PT_PERM_PTKF 3
#define PT_PERM_PTKT 259

extern void mem_init(unsigned int);
extern void set_IDPTE(unsigned int, unsigned int, unsigned int);

void idpde_init(unsigned int mbi_adr)
{
    unsigned int i, j;
    unsigned int perm;
    mem_init(mbi_adr);
    for(i = 0; i < 1024; i ++)
    {
        if (i < 256)
            perm = PT_PERM_PTKT;
        else if (i >= 960)
            perm = PT_PERM_PTKT;
        else
            perm = PT_PERM_PTKF;
        for(j = 0; j < 1024; j ++)
        {
            set_IDPTE(i, j, perm);
        }
    }
}
```

# Example: Page Tables

MPTOP

idpde\_init.c

MPTIntro

set\_IDPTE

Called  
1024x1024  
times

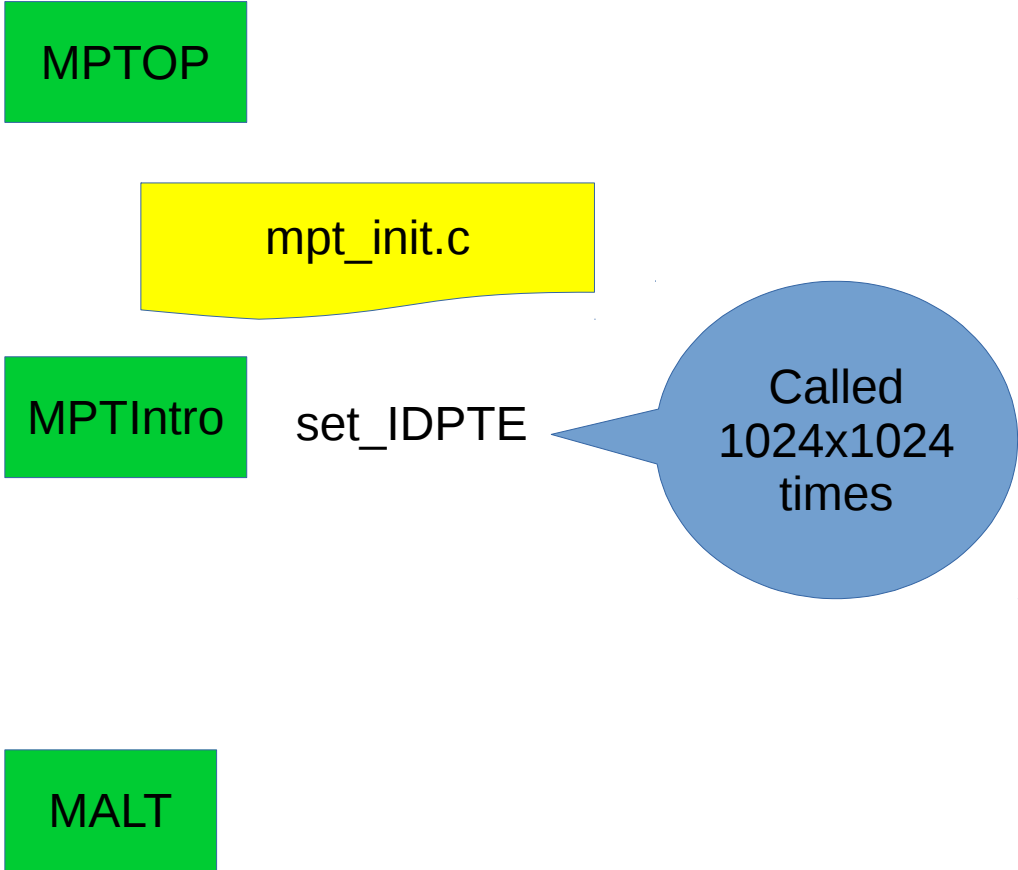
MALT

```
#define PT_PERM_PTKF 3
#define PT_PERM_PTKT 259

extern void mem_init(unsigned int);
extern void set_IDPTE(unsigned int, unsigned int, unsigned int);

void idpde_init(unsigned int mbi_adr)
{
    unsigned int i, j;
    unsigned int perm;
    mem_init(mbi_adr);
    for(i = 0; i < 1024; i ++)
    {
        if (i < 256)
            perm = PT_PERM_PTKT;
        else if (i >= 960)
            perm = PT_PERM_PTKT;
        else
            perm = PT_PERM_PTKF;
        for(j = 0; j < 1024; j ++)
        {
            set_IDPTE(i, j, perm);
        }
    }
}
```

# Example: Page Tables



# Example: Page Tables

MPTOP

MPTIntro

set\_IDPTE

Called  
1024x1024  
times

set\_IDPTE.c

MALT

```
extern unsigned int IDPMap_LOC[1024][1024];

void set_IDPTE
(unsigned int pde_index,
 unsigned int vadr, unsigned int perm)
{
    IDPMap_LOC[pde_index][vadr] =
        (pde_index * 1024 + vadr) * 4096 + perm;
}
```

# Example: Page Tables

MPTOP

idpde\_init.c

MPTIntro

set\_IDPTE

Called  
1024x1024  
times

set\_IDPTE.c

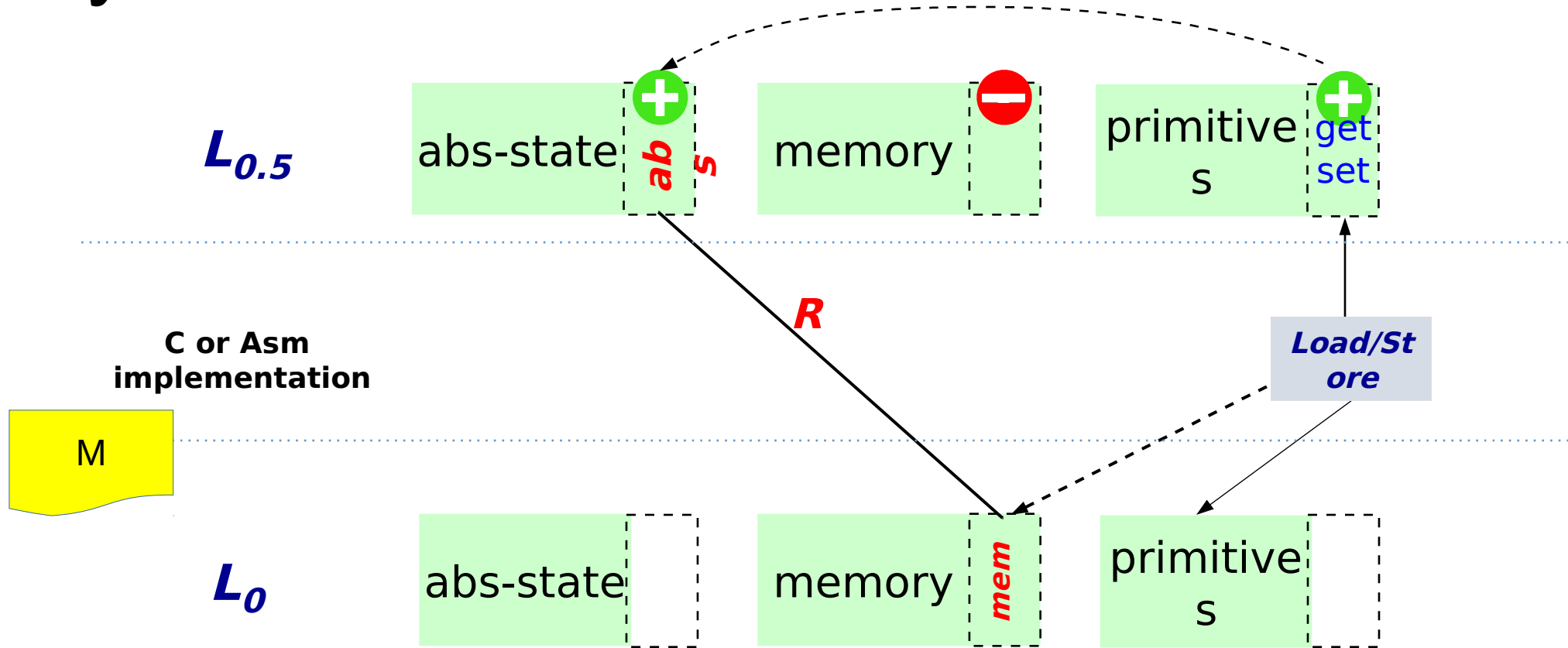
MALT

```
extern unsigned int IDPMap_LOC[1024][1024];
```

```
void set_IDPTE  
(unsigned int pde_index,  
 unsigned int vadr, unsigned int perm)  
{  
    IDPMap_LOC[pde_index][vadr] =  
    (pde_index * 1024 + vadr) * 4096 + perm;  
}
```

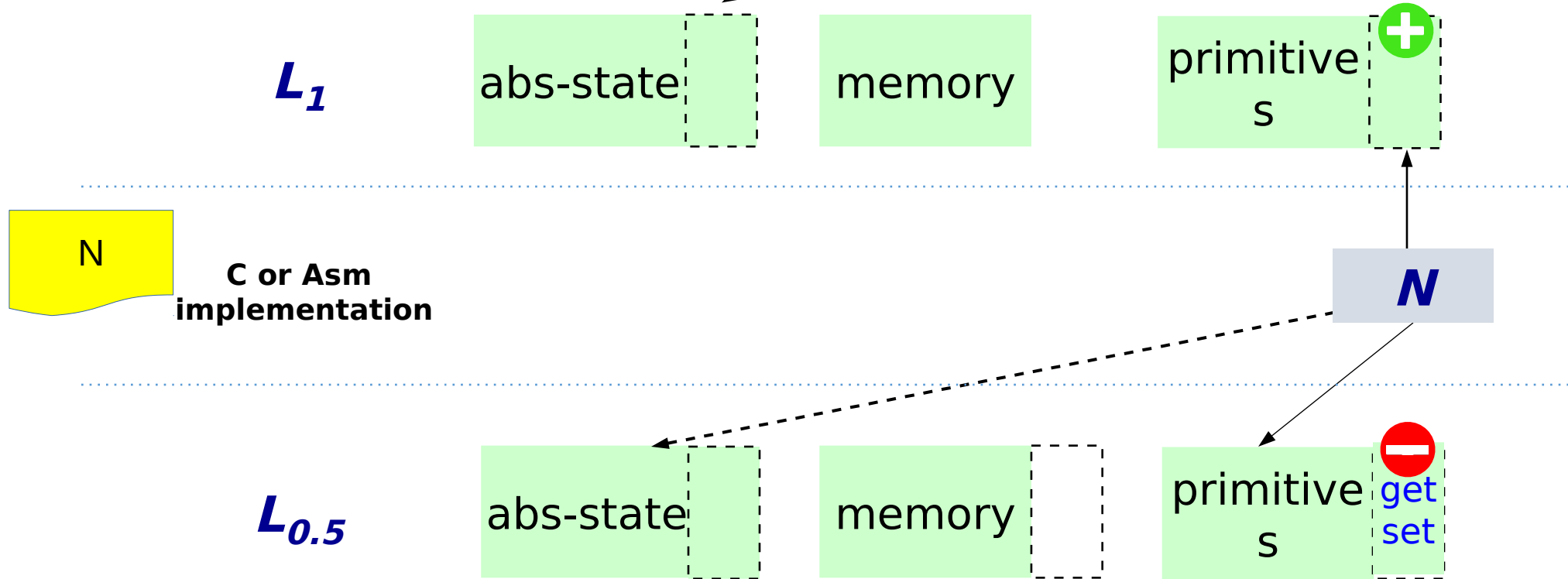
This function should be inlined  
in `idpde_init.s` !

# Layer Pattern 1: Getter/Setter



Hide concrete memory; replace it with Abstract State  
Only the **getter** and **setter** primitives can access memory

# Layer Pattern 2: AbsFun



Memory does not change

New implementation code does not access memory directly!



# Refinement proof : general pattern

$L_2$

$L_1$

# Refinement proof : general pattern

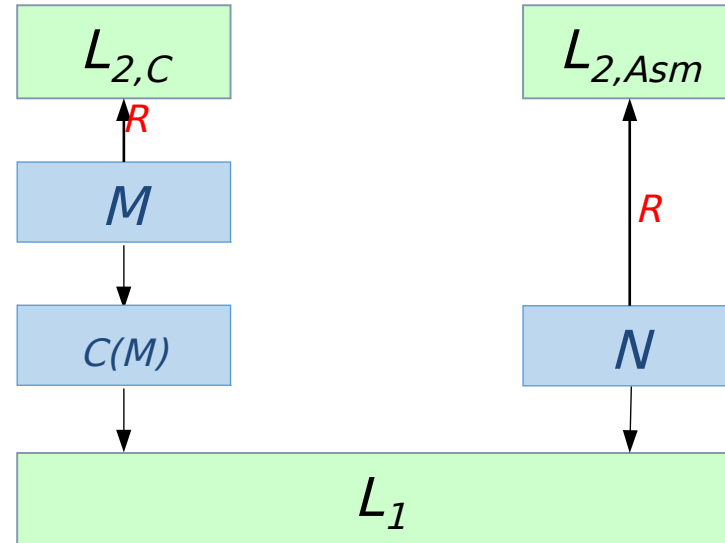
$L_{2,C}$

$L_{2,Asm}$

Same abstract state

$L_1$

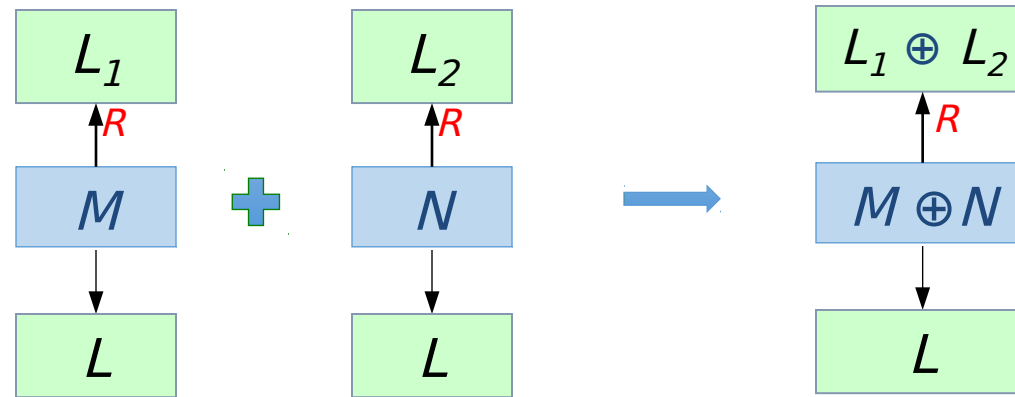
# Refinement proof : general pattern



Same abstract state

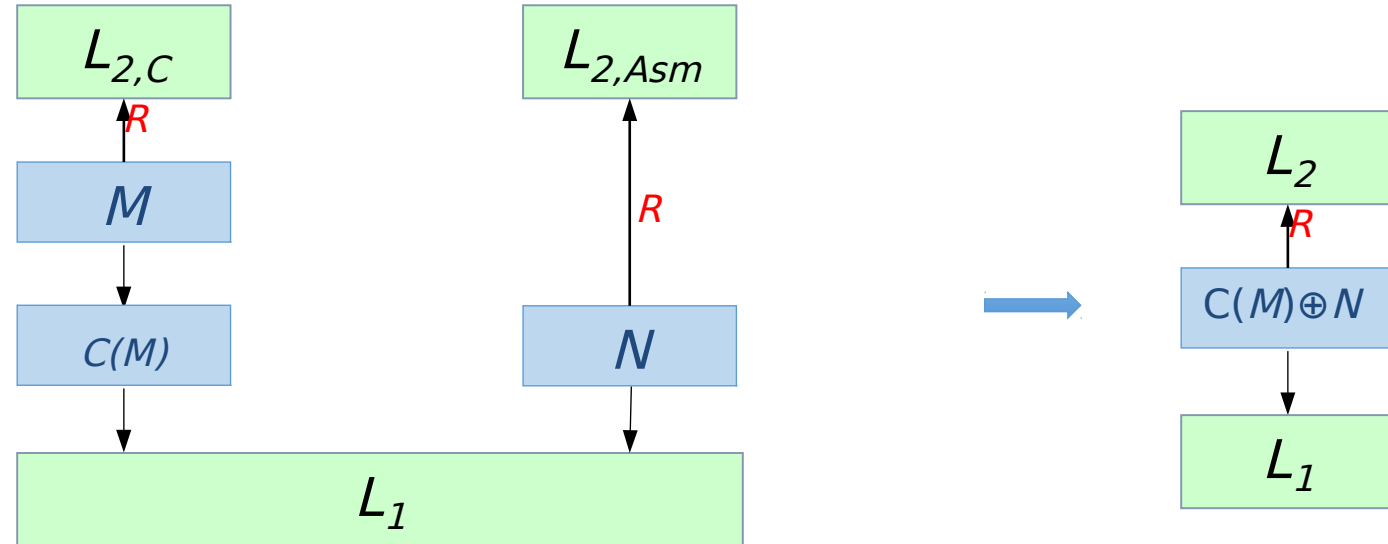
Same refinement  
relation

# LayerLib: Horizontal Composition



- $L_1$  and  $L_2$  must have the same abstract state

# Refinement proof : general pattern



# Current limitations

- Non-global caller memory blocks are read-only
  - Due to CompCert assumption in Linear-to-Mach
  - Function call arguments must be protected
  - No arguments to top-most callee
  - 2 solutions (in progress) : copy arguments ? Use permissions ?

# Limitations

- CompCertX supports no callbacks
  - Functions can only call :
    - Functions of the same module
    - Primitives of the immediate layer below
    - Lower-layer primitives must be explicitly exposed in the immediate layer
      - passed through explicitly in refinement proofs
  - Enough for CertiKOS
    - Proof by example : callbacks are not needed
    - Avoid breaches of abstraction

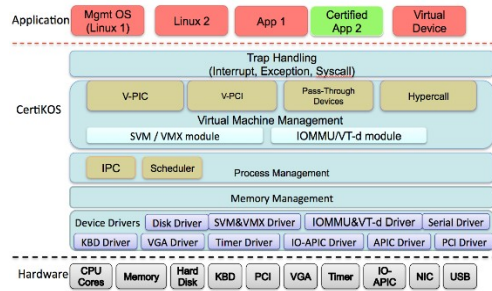
# Our Contributions



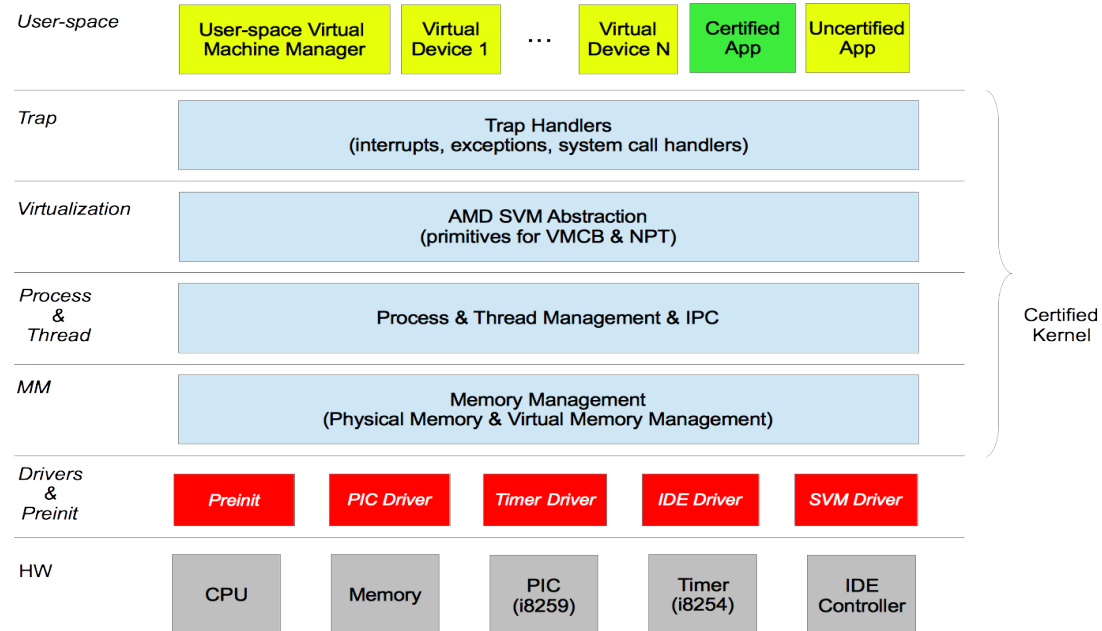
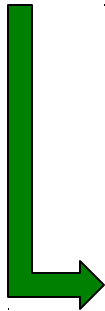
- We introduce **deep specification** and present a language-based formalization of **certified abstraction layer**
- We developed new languages & tools in Coq
  - **A formal layer calculus** for composing certified layers
  - **ClightX** for writing certified layers in a C-like language
  - **AsmX** for writing certified layers in assembly
  - **CompCertX** that compiles **ClightX** layers into **AsmX** layers
- We built multiple **certified OS kernels** in Coq
  - **mCertiKOS-hyper** consists of **37 layers**, took less than **one-person-year** to develop, and can boot **Linux** as a guest



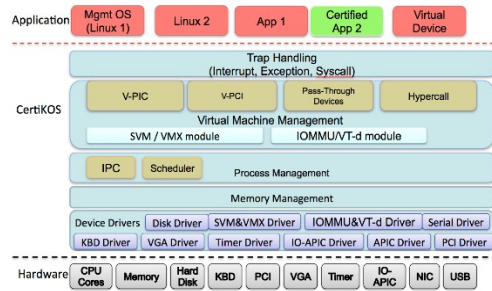
# Case Study: mCertiKOS



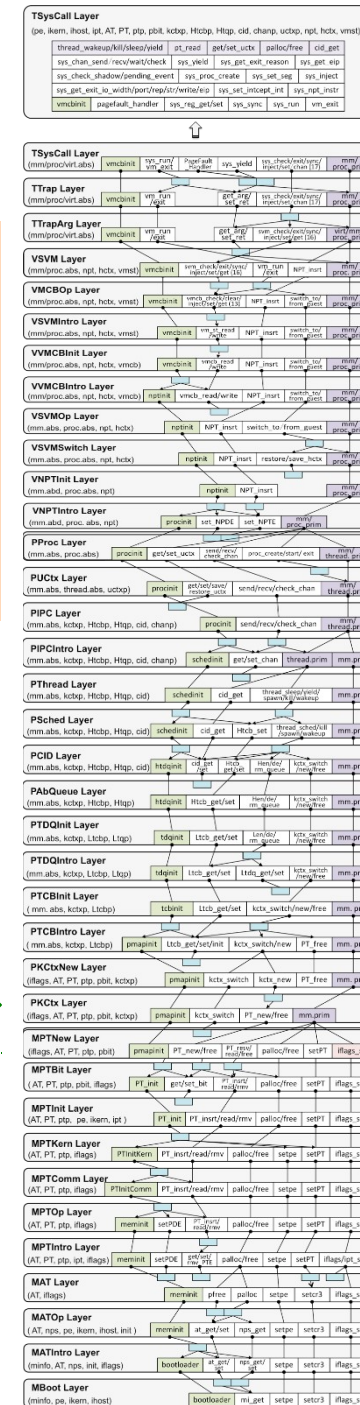
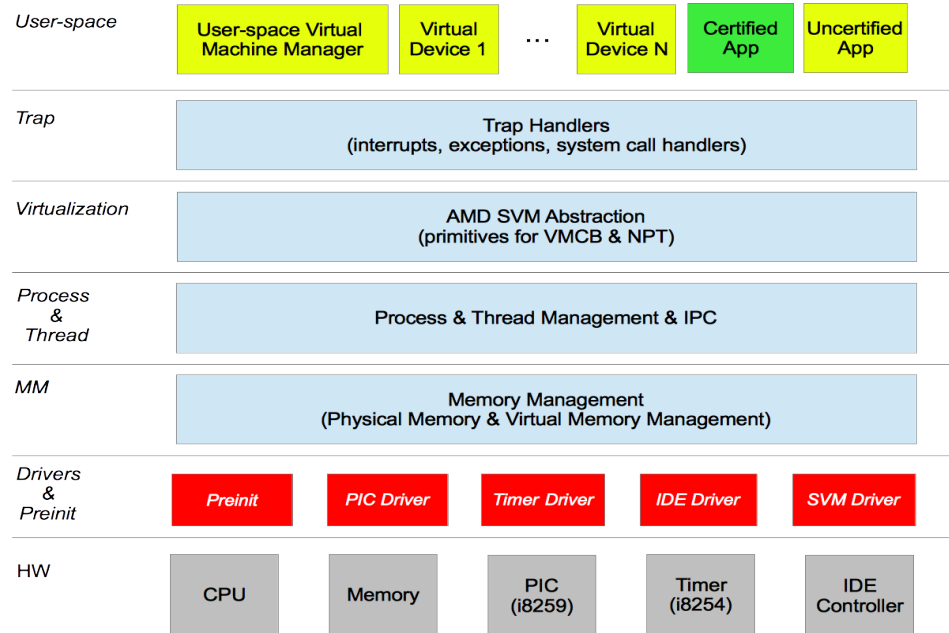
*Single-core version of **CertiKOS** (developed under DARPA CRASH & HACMS programs), 3 kloc, can boot Linux*



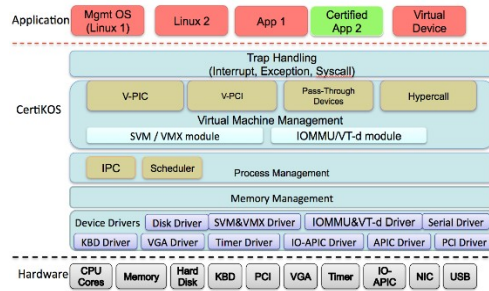
# Case Study: mCertikOS



Single-core version of *CertiKOS* (developed under DARPA CRASH & HACMS programs), 3 kloc, can boot Linux

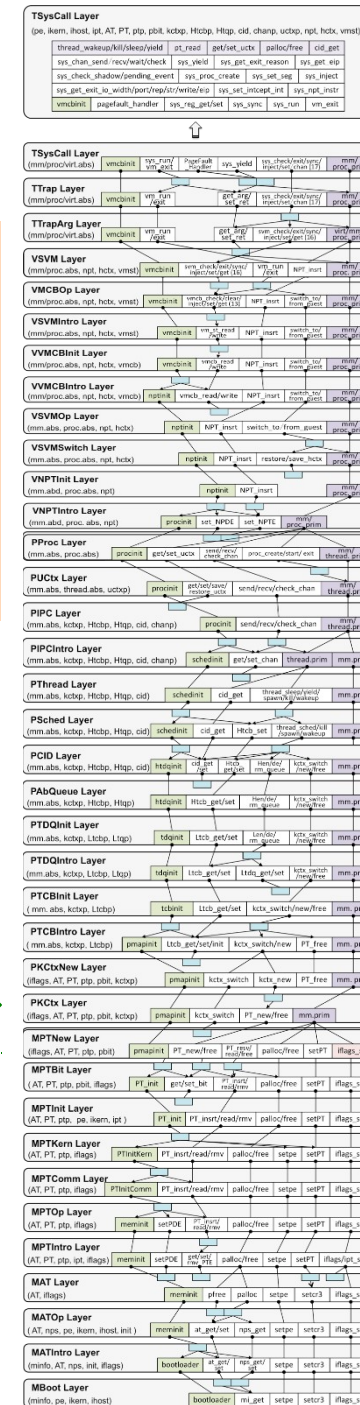
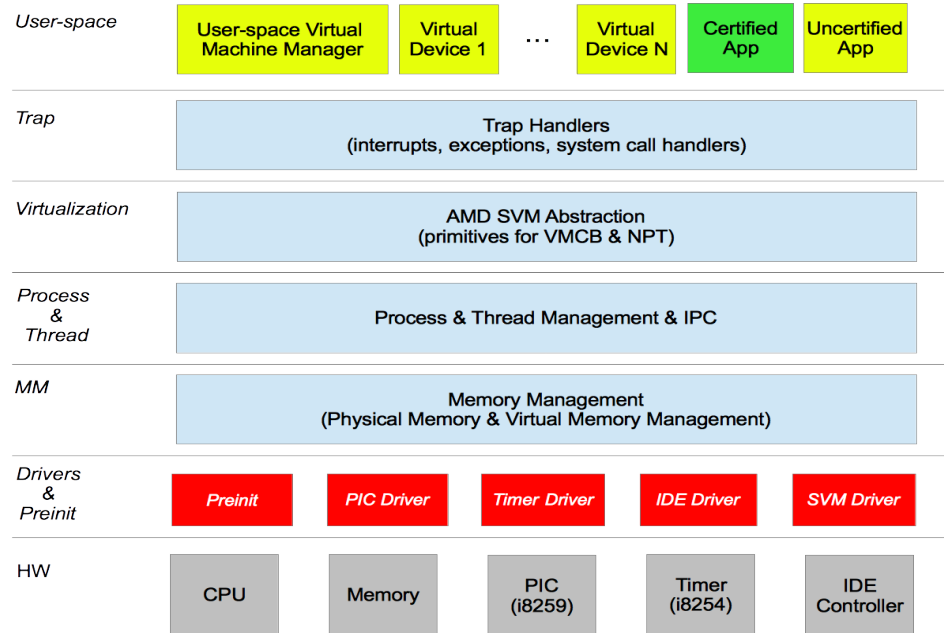
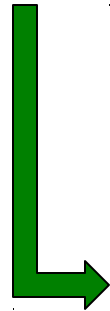


# Case Study: mCertikOS

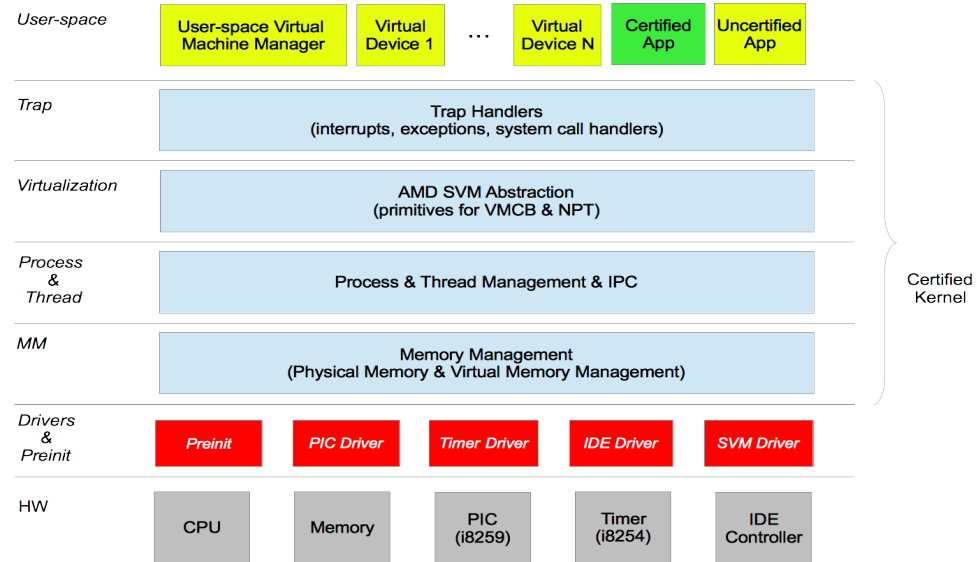


Single-core version of *CertiKOS* (developed under DARPA CRASH & HACMS programs), 3 kloc, can boot Linux

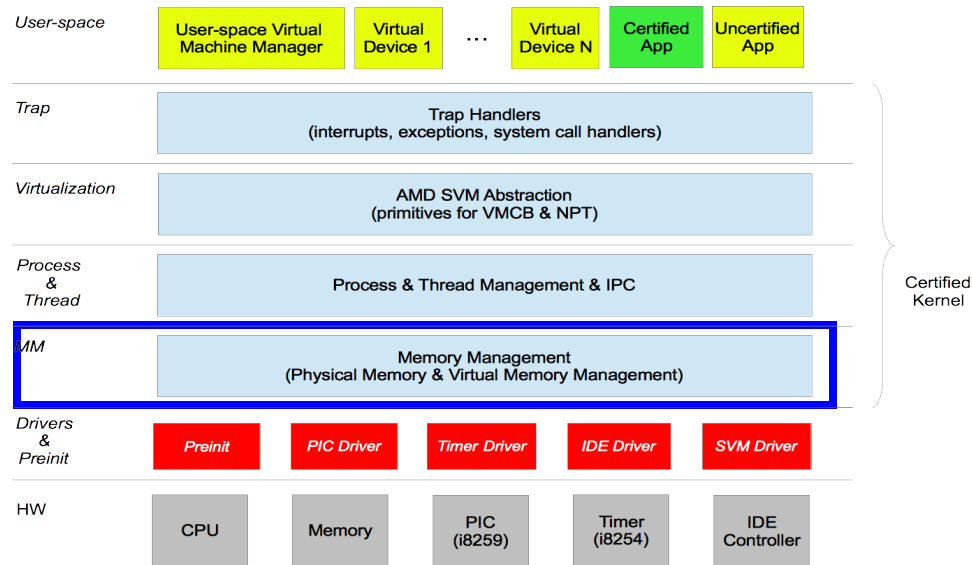
Aggressive use of abstraction over deep specs (37 layers in *ClightX* & *AsmX*)



# Decomposing mCertikOS



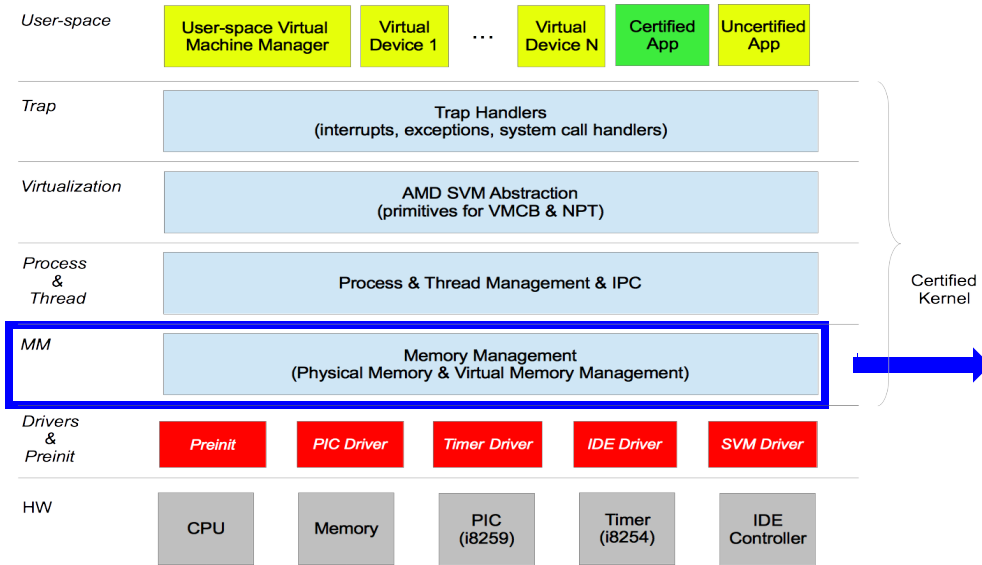
# Decomposing mCertikOS



## Physical Memory and Virtual Memory Management (11 Layers)

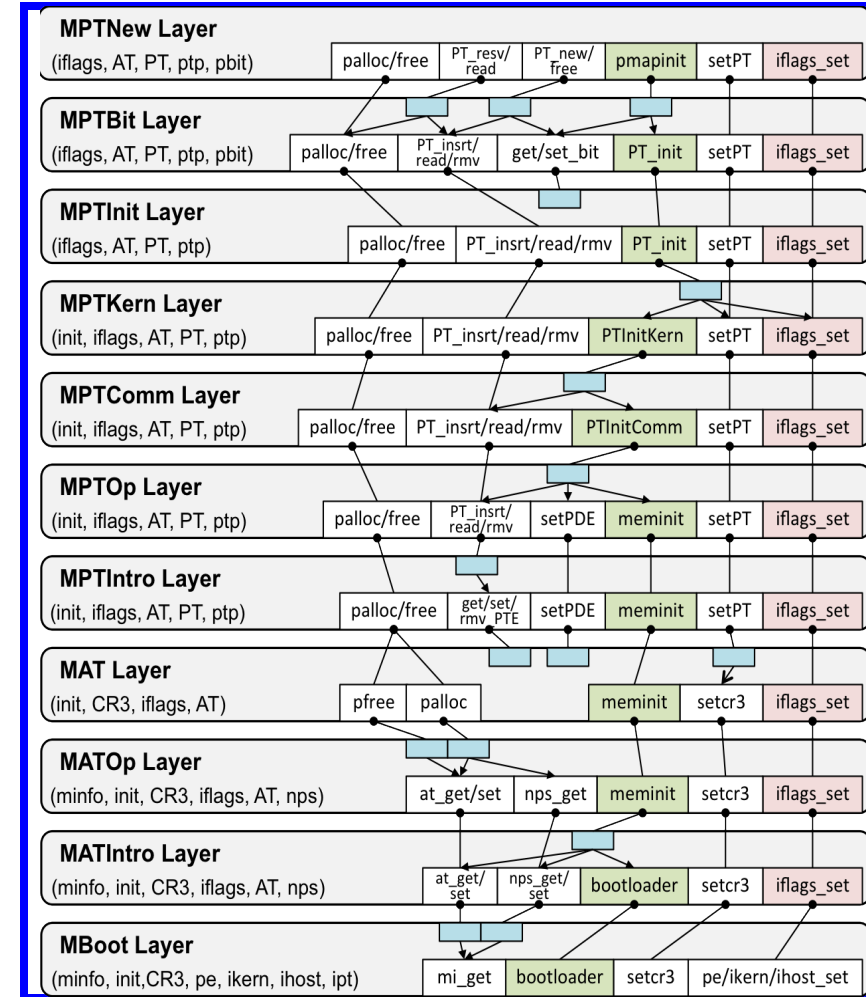
Based on the abstract machine provided by boot loader

# Decomposing mCertikOS

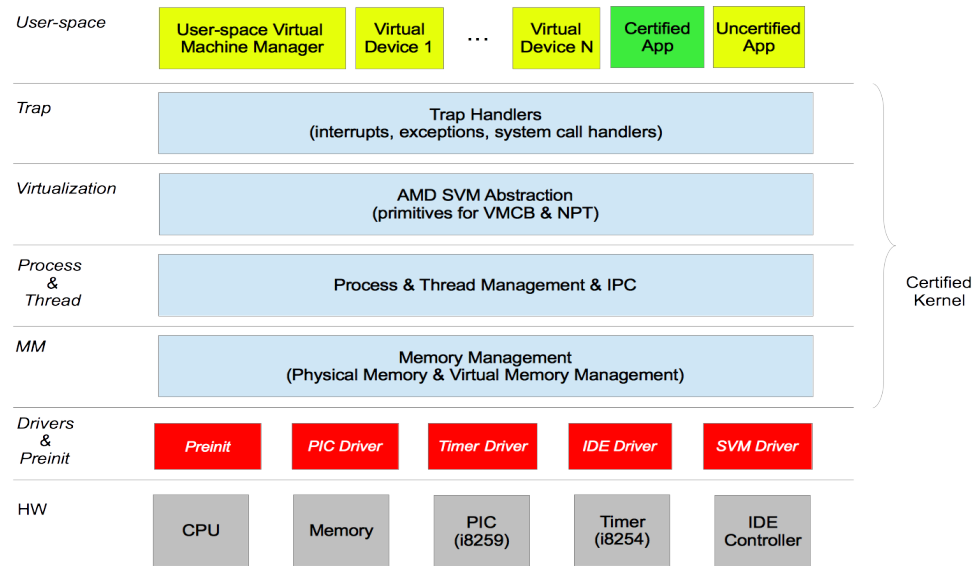


## Physical Memory and Virtual Memory Management (11 Layers)

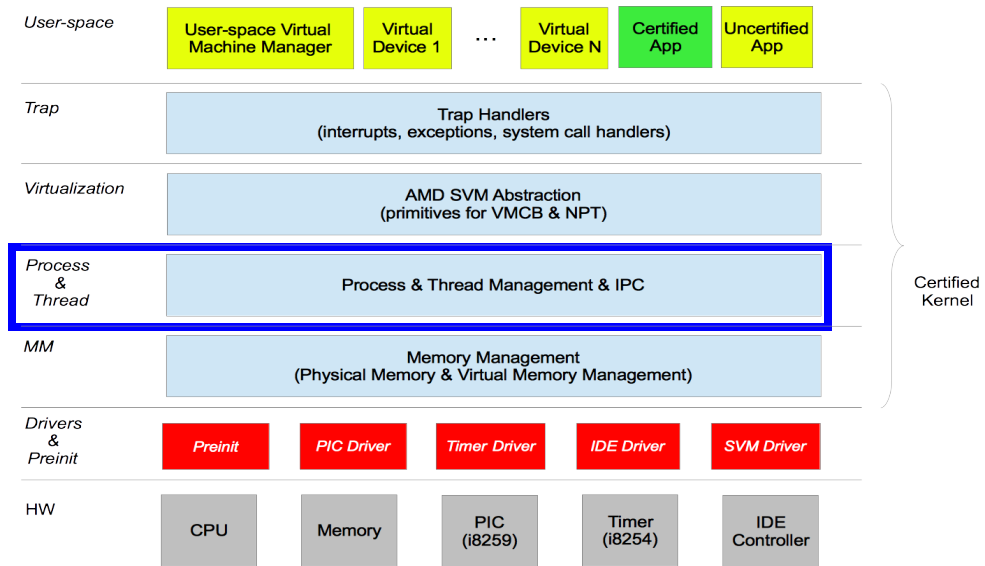
Based on the abstract machine provided by boot loader



# Decomposing mCertikOS (cont'd)



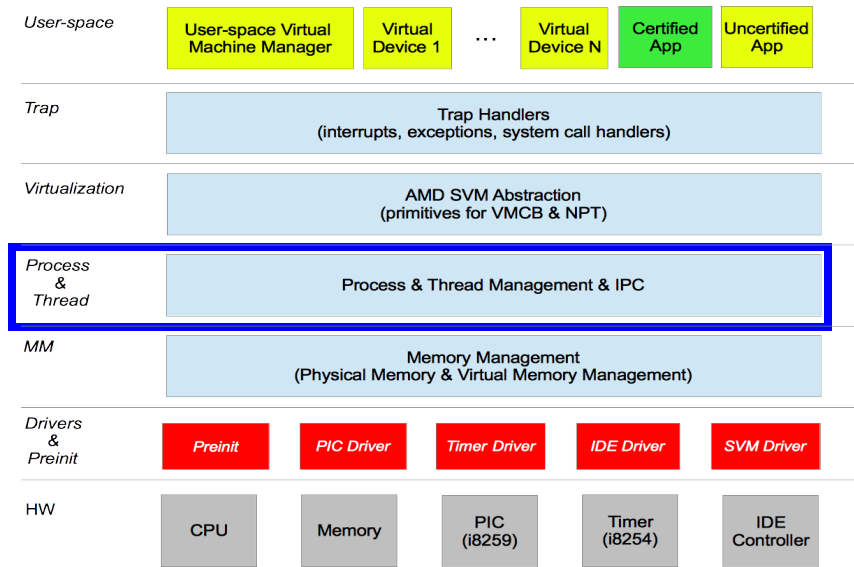
# Decomposing mCertikOS (cont'd)



## Thread and Process Management (14 Layers)

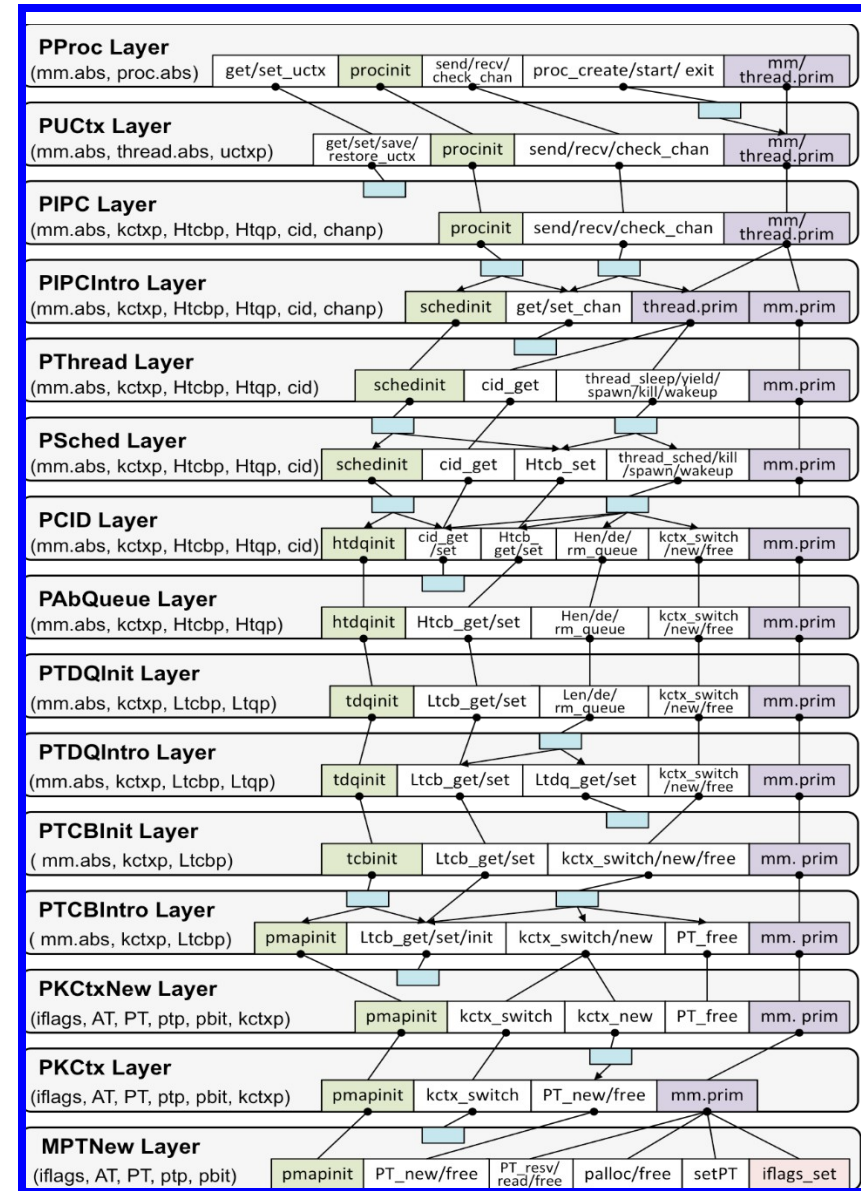


# Decomposing mCertiKOS (cont'd)

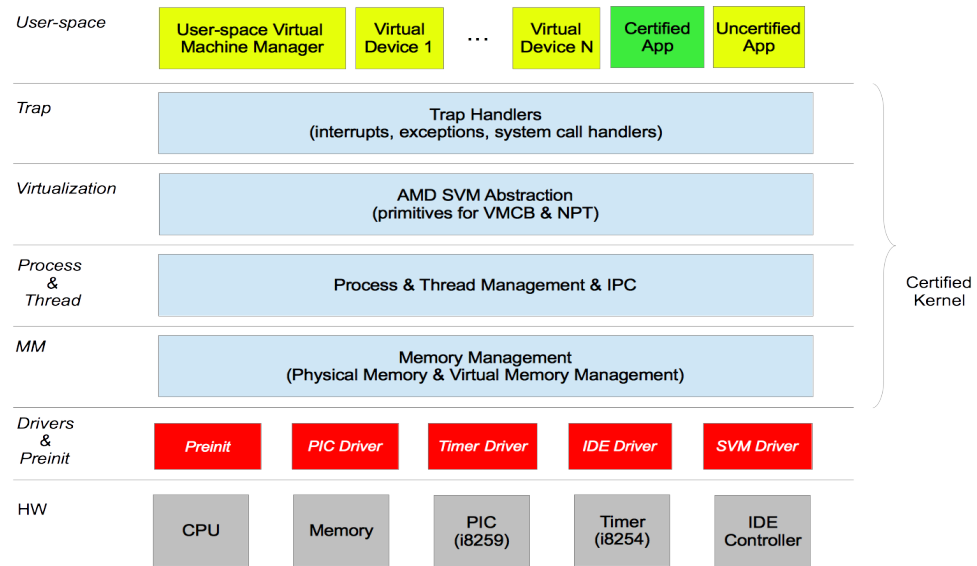


Certified Kernel

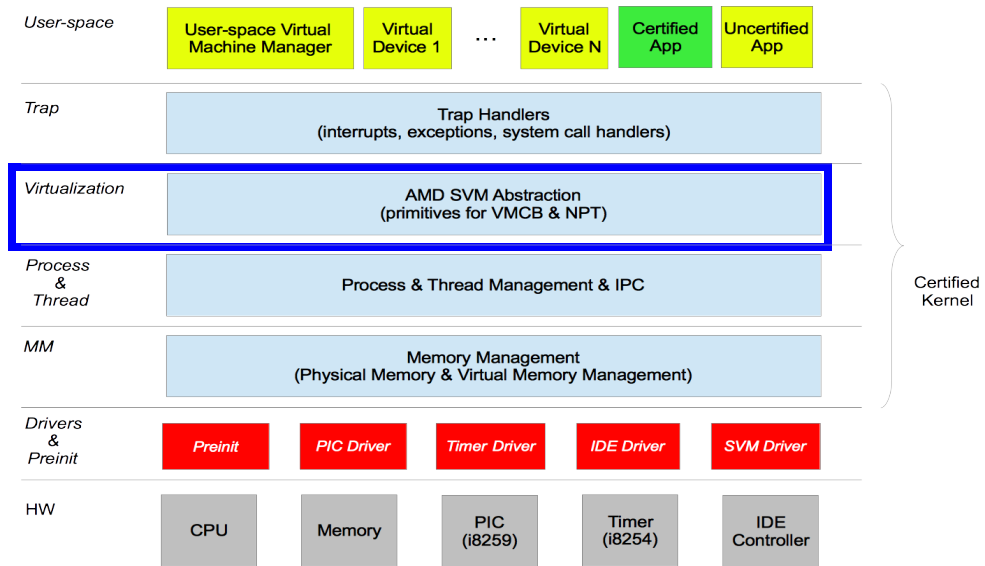
## Thread and Process Management (14 Layers)



# Decomposing mCertikOS (cont'd)

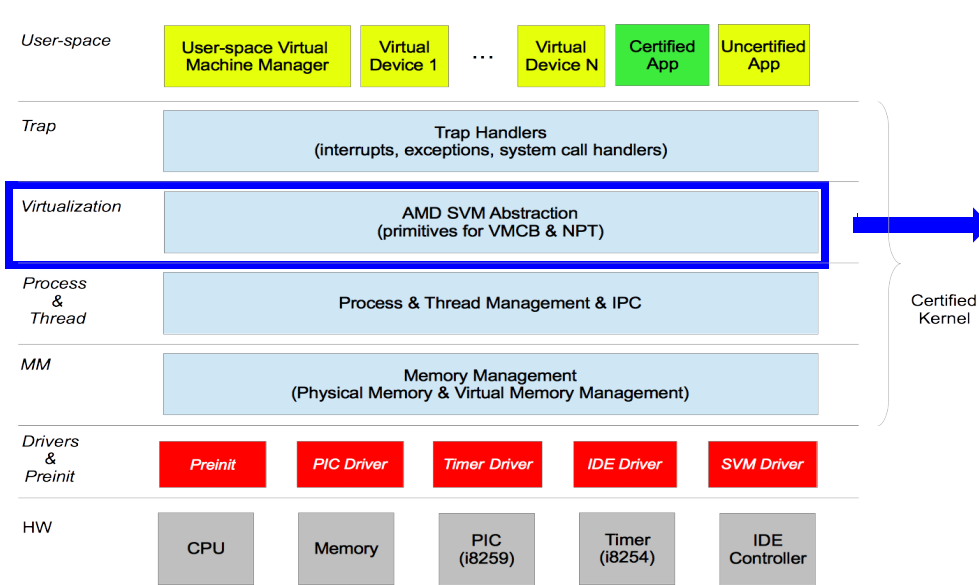


# Decomposing mCertikOS (cont'd)

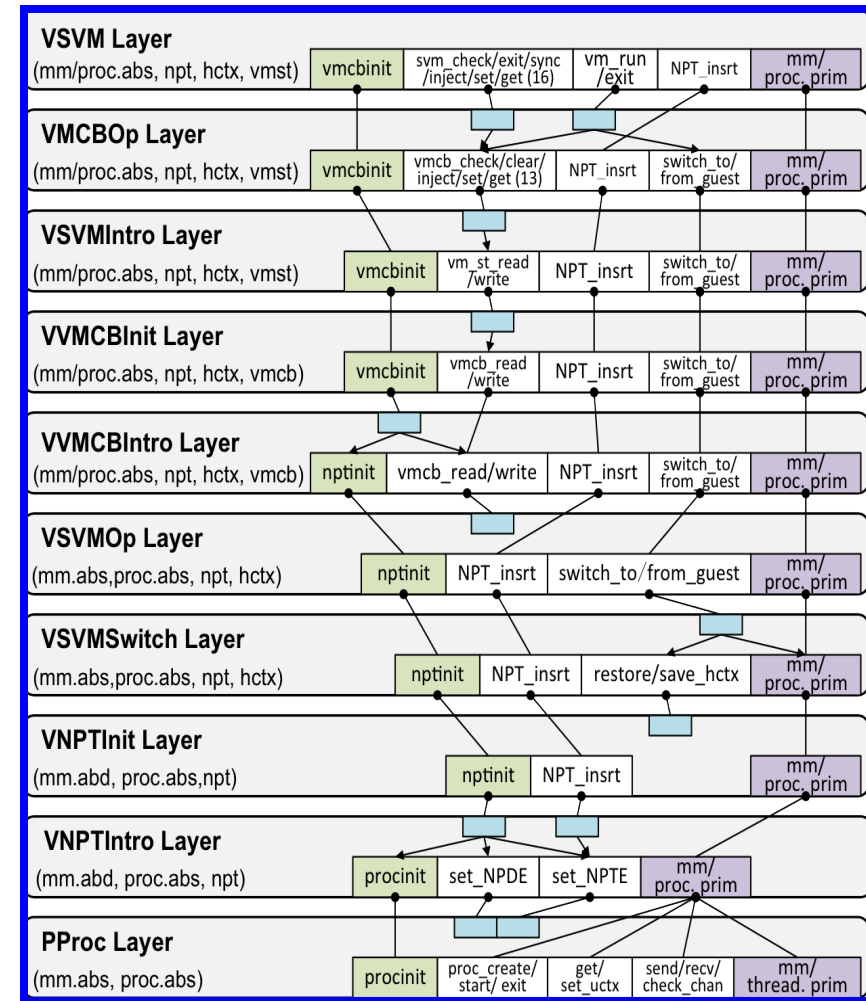


**Virtualization  
Support  
(9 Layers)**

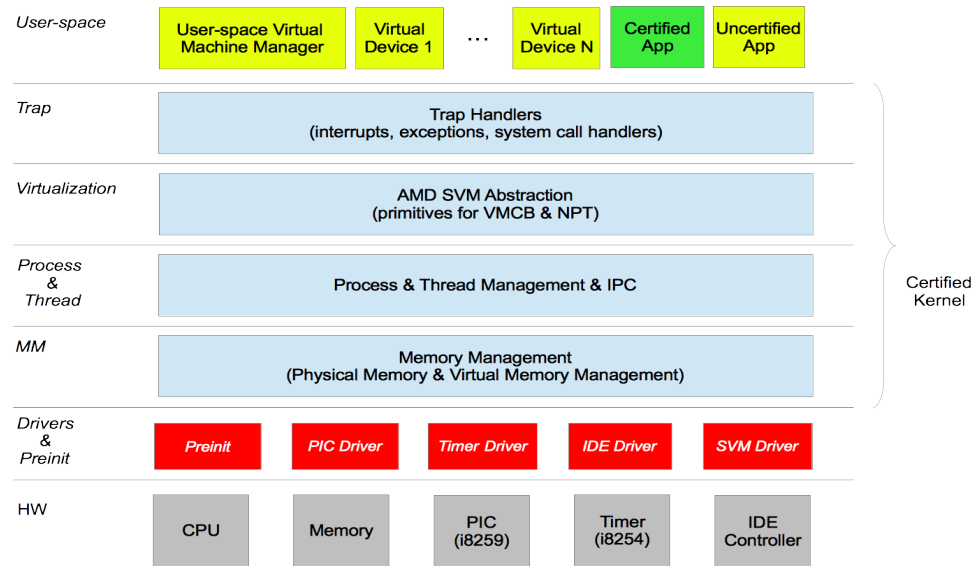
# Decomposing mCertiKOS (cont'd)



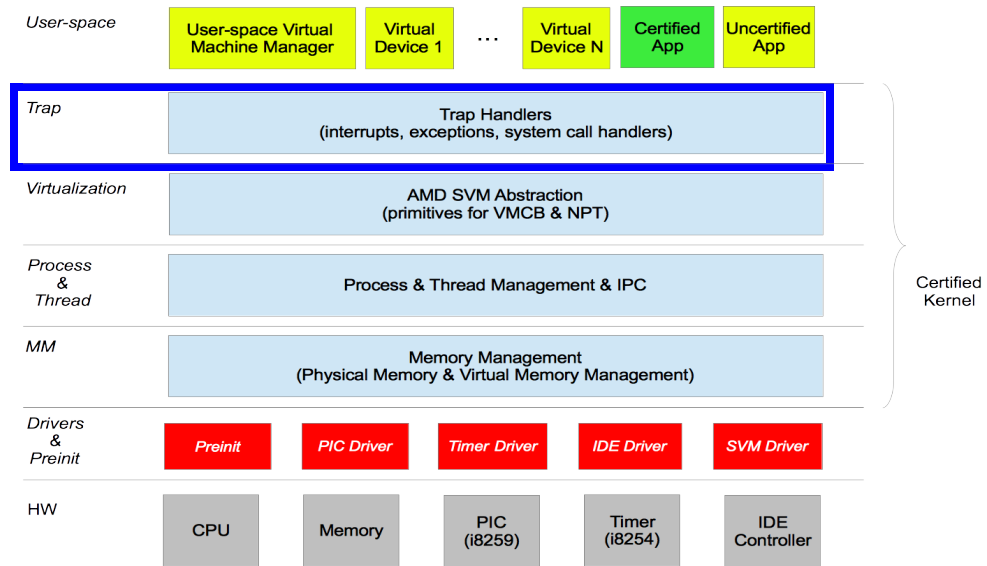
**Virtualization  
Support  
(9 Layers)**



# Decomposing mCertikOS (cont'd)

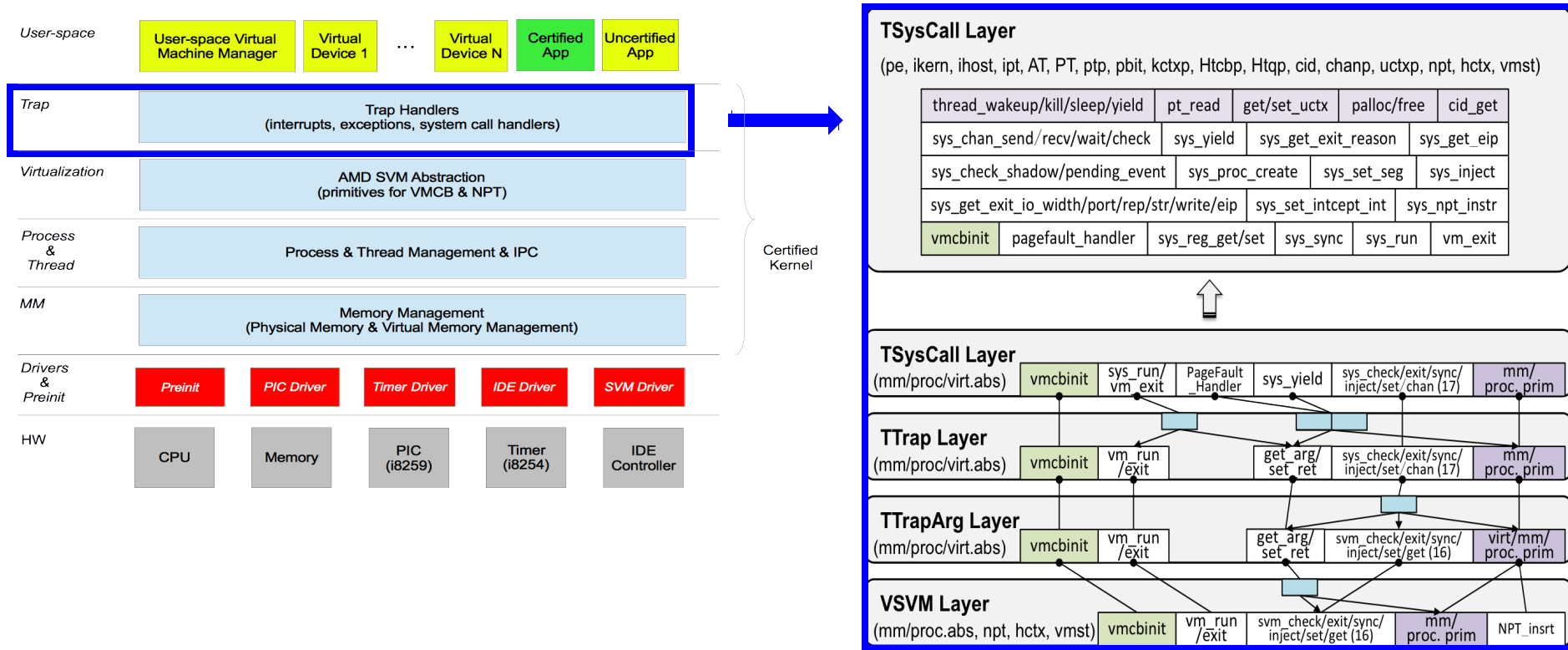


# Decomposing mCertikOS (cont'd)



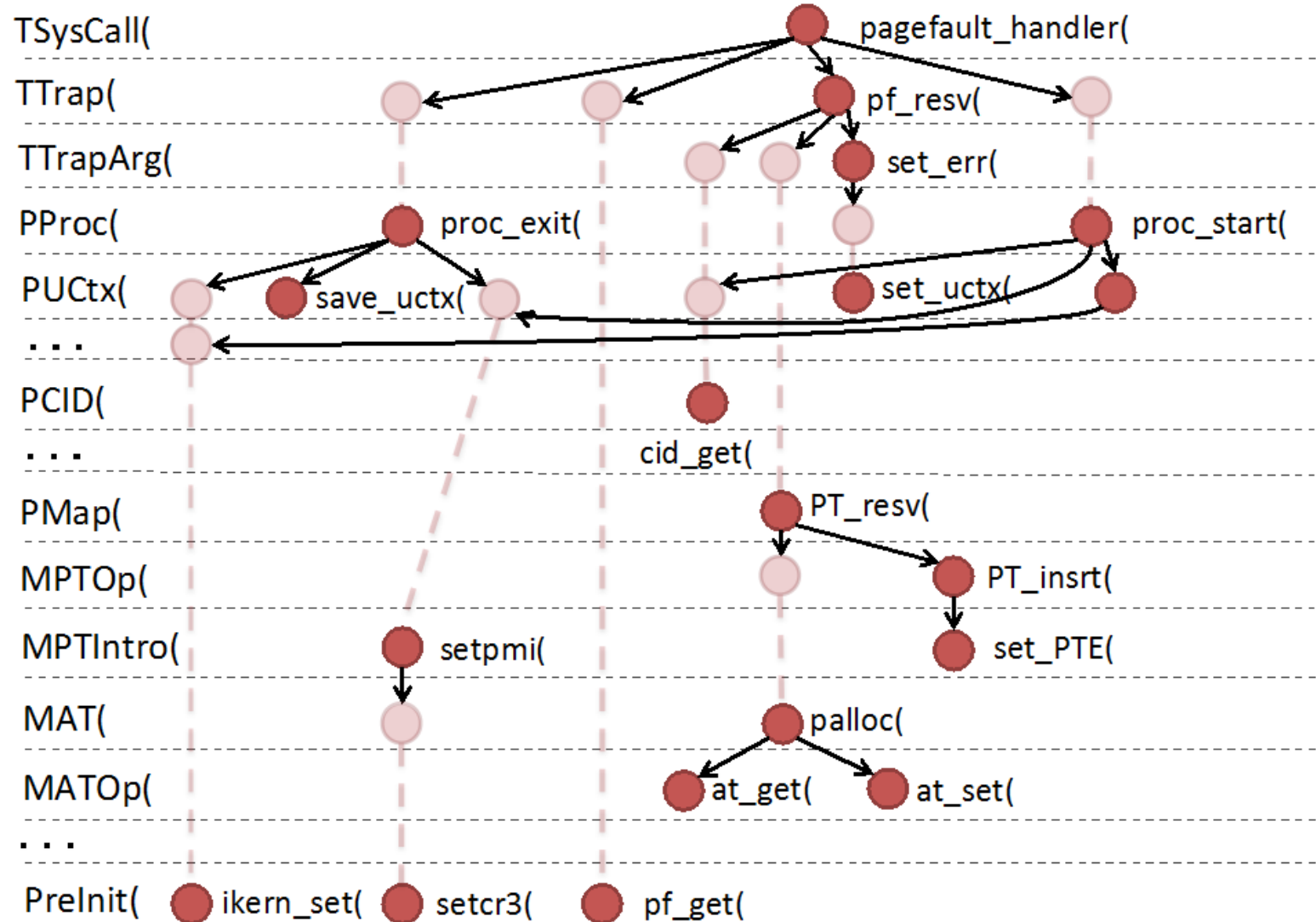
**Syscall and Trap  
Handlers  
(3 Layers)**

# Decomposing mCertiKOS (cont'd)



## Syscall and Trap Handlers (3 Layers)

# Example: Page Fault Handler





# Conclusions

- Great success w. today's **system software** ... but why?
- We identify, sharpen, & **formalize** two possible ingredients
  - abstraction over **deep specs**
  - a **compositional layered** methodology
- We build new lang. & tools to make **layered programming** *rigorous & certified* --- this leads to **huge benefits**:
  - simplified design & spec; reduced proof effort; better extensibility
- They also help *verification in the small*
  - hiding implementation details as soon as possible

# Ongoing & Future Work

- CompCertX
  - Support for stack consumption (merge with QompCert, PLDI 2014)
  - Concurrency?
- Layer calculus
  - Make horizontal composition more powerful (disjoint abstract states...)
- Compositional verification of layered systems in practice
  - Automatic generation of ClightX code, layer spec and refinement proof
- CertiKOS
  - Device drivers, concurrency (multicore?), etc.
  - Publish the code!
  - Papers available at <http://flint.cs.yale.edu>