

# Towards Reasoning in the presence of code of unknown provenance

- or, trust and risk in an open world -

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# Reasoning with Code of Unknown Provenance

## Hoare Rules - Method Call

When receiver belongs to class  $C$

$$\frac{\text{PRE}(m,C)=P \quad \text{POST}(m,C)=Q}{x : C \wedge P[x/\text{this},y/\text{par}] \quad \{ z = x.m(y) \} \quad Q[x/\text{this},y/\text{par},z/\text{res}]}$$

What if I know nothing about receiver?

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$$\text{true} \quad \{ z = x.m(y) \} \quad \text{true}$$

# Trust and Risk in Open Systems

## - research questions -

- Objects collaborate with other objects of unknown provenance.
- Objects may unknowingly be dealing with malicious objects; they are therefore exposed to risks. Nevertheless, they proceed with the business.
- **No central trusted authority.**
- Therefore,
  - “our” code must be very “robust”,
  - we need means to specify trust and risk.
  - we need means to reason about adherence to such specifications.

# Trust and Risk in Open Systems

## - our contributions -

- To specify trust and risk, we propose
  - **obeys** predicate: an object adheres to a specification,
  - **MayAccess** predicate: an object may read some property
  - **MayAffect** predicate: an object may affect some property
  - specifications talk of necessary conditions
- Predicates **obeys**, **MayAccess** and **MayAffect** are hypothetical and often conditional.
- Hoare logic rules to reason about trust and risk.
- Apply our ideas on the Escrow Exchange (Miller et.al., ESOP'13).
- **Simplifying Assumptions:**
  - We do not consider concurrency and distribution (code in ESOP'13 does).
  - We assume that different arguments to our methods are not aliases (but easy to expand).
  - We do not consider whether two Accounts can trade (but CanTrade in the PLAS paper).

# Our findings for the Escrow

- We could write the specification.
- We could prove adherence to specification (by hand).
- The specification is weaker than we, and the Escrow authors, had expected. And no code can satisfy the stronger specification (we think)

# Remaining Talk

Terminology: open world, trust and risk

Escrow Agent - Our running example

Hoare Logic

Terminology: open, trust and risk

# What do we mean by open system?

We model open systems through dynamic linking of any, unknown, potentially malicious module  $M'$ .

## Definition

$M \models \text{Policy}$  iff

$\forall M'$ .

$\forall \kappa \in \text{Arising}(M'^*M): M'^*M, \kappa \models \text{Policy}$

$M'$  represents the “adversary”.

$\text{Arising}(M'^*M)$  restricts configurations to those reachable through execution of code from  $M'^*M$ .



# What do we mean by trust?

Trust is relative to a configuration ( $\kappa$ ), an object reference ( $o$ ) and a policy-specification (**Policy**).

trust is hypothetical; no “trust” bit.

## Definition

$M, \kappa \models o \text{ obeys Spec}$  iff

$\forall \text{Policy} \in \text{Spec}.$

$\forall \kappa' \in \text{Reach}(M, \kappa): M, \kappa' \models \text{Policy}[o/\text{this}]$

$\text{Reach}(M, \kappa)$ : intermediate configurations reachable from  $\kappa$ .

# What do we mean by risk?

Risks are effects against which we want to guard our objects.

**policy** Pol\_deal\_1:

**pre:** ....

{ res = this.deal(m,g) ; }

**post:** ....

$\forall p. p$  **obeys** ValidPurse ....

[  $p.\text{balance} = p.\text{balance}_{PRE} \vee$

$\exists bp. bp = \dots \neg (bp \text{ obeys ValidPurse}) \wedge \text{MayAccess}_{PRE}(bp, p)$  ]

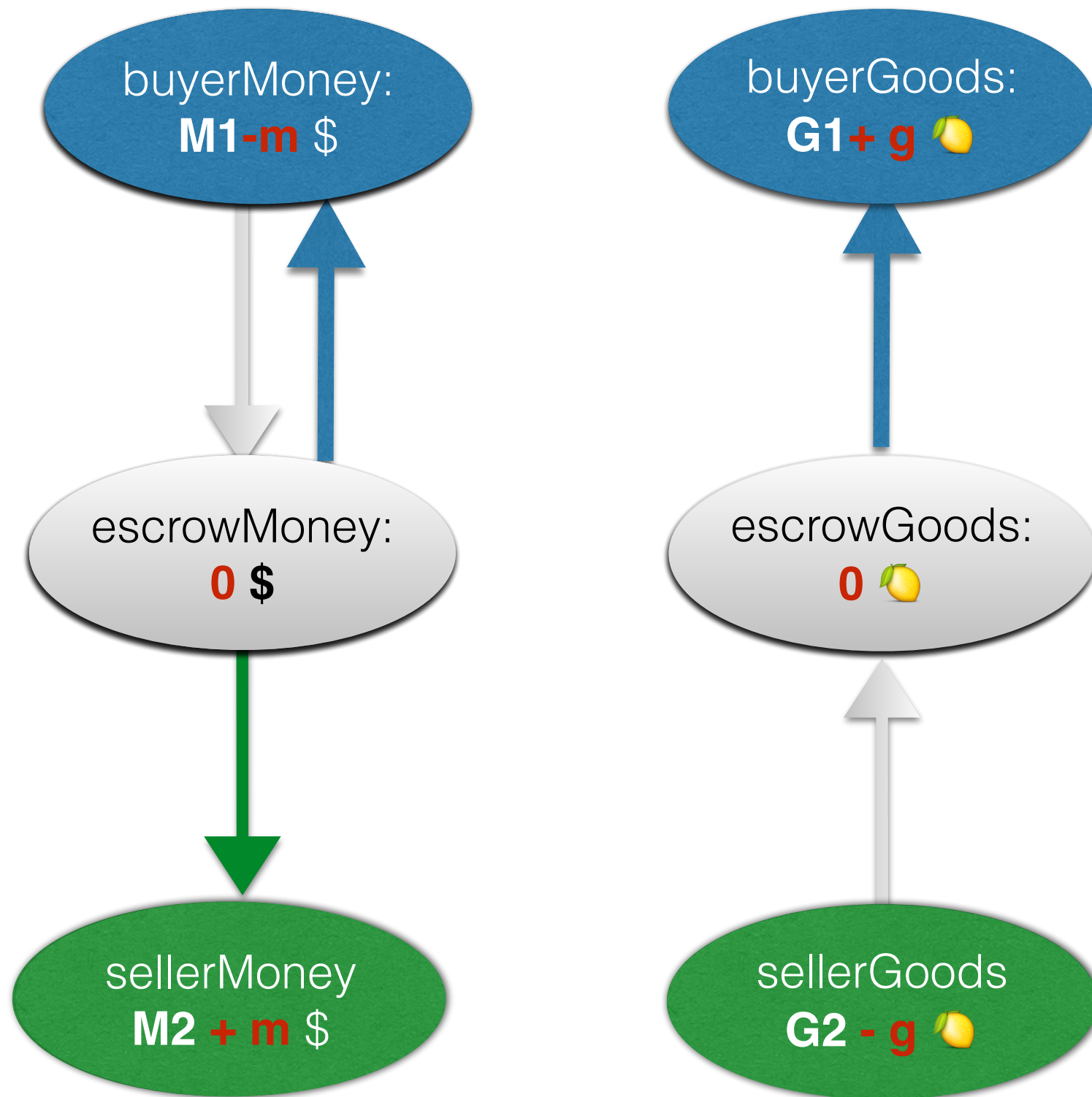
Escrow Agent - Our running example

# Escrow Agent - Remit

(proposed by Miller, van Cutsem, Tulloh, ESOP 2013)

- Buyer and Seller want to exchange  $g$  goods for  $m$  money.
- Buyer does not trust Seller; Seller does not trust Buyer.
- Escrow Agent to make the exchange.
- If insufficient money or goods, then no exchange.
- Escrow Agent does not trust Buyer nor Seller, nor any Banks.
- Escrow Agent to mitigate risk to Buyer and Seller.

Escrow Agent - First Attempt



1. pay **m** to escrowMoney  
from buyerMoney

2. if no success then exit

// sufficient money

3. pay **g** to escrowGoods  
from sellerGoods

4. if no success then  
pay **m** to buyerMoney  
from escrowMoney  
exit

// sufficient money and goods

5. pay **g** to buyerGoods  
from escrowGoods

6. pay **m** to sellerMoney  
from escrowMoney

Exchange of **g** goods for **m** money

# The Escrow purses

- intermediate store of  $m$  money, and  $g$  goods
- allow exchange to be undone, if insufficient goods or money
- Agent interrogates the escrow purses, to determine whether deposits were successful.
- Therefore, the correctness of process depends on the integrity of the escrow purses.
- But ... where do escrow purses come from?

# Where do Escrow Purses come from?

- The Agent has them before the transaction.

**No!** This would require the Agent to know about all possible purses. Remember, no central authority.

- Seller and Buyer supply the escrows purses.

**No!** It would require Seller and Buyer to have agreed before the transaction. Remember: Seller and Buyer do not trust each other.

- The Agent asks the associated Banks to supply the escrows purses.

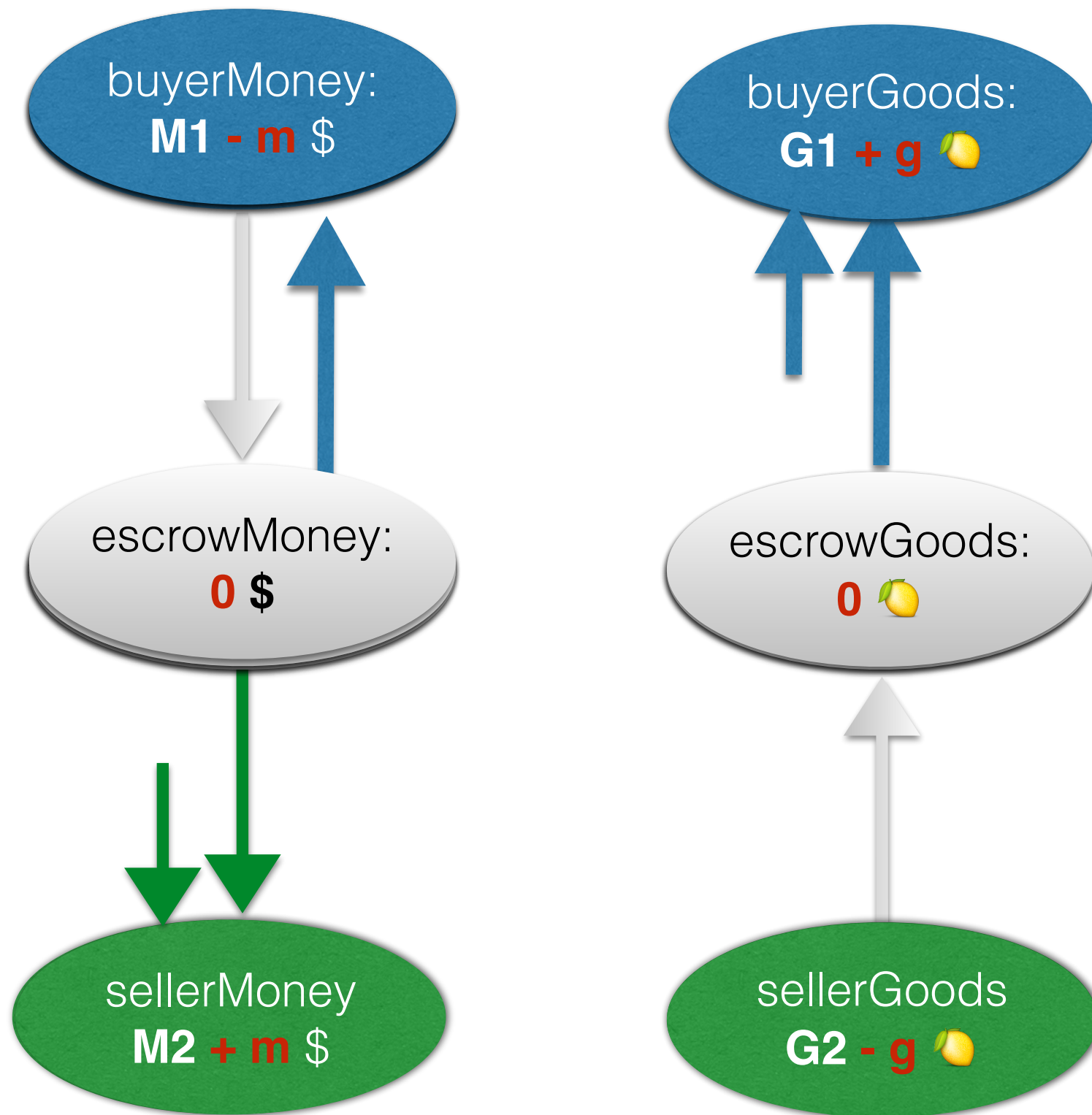
**No!** It would require the Agent to know about all possible banks. Remember, no central authority.

- The Agent asks sellerMoney to make one, and buyerGoods to make another one.

**Yes!**



## Escrow Agent code - v1



Exchange of  $g$  goods for  $m$  money

### 1a. escrowMoney

= sellerMoney.sprout()

1b.res= escrowMoney.  
deposit (buyerMoney,m)

2. if !res then exit

// sufficient money

### 3a. escrowGoods =

buyerGoods.sprout()

3b. res = escrowGoods.  
deposit (buyerGoods,g)

4. if !res then

buyerMoney.deposit  
exit (escrowMoney,m)

// sufficient money and goods

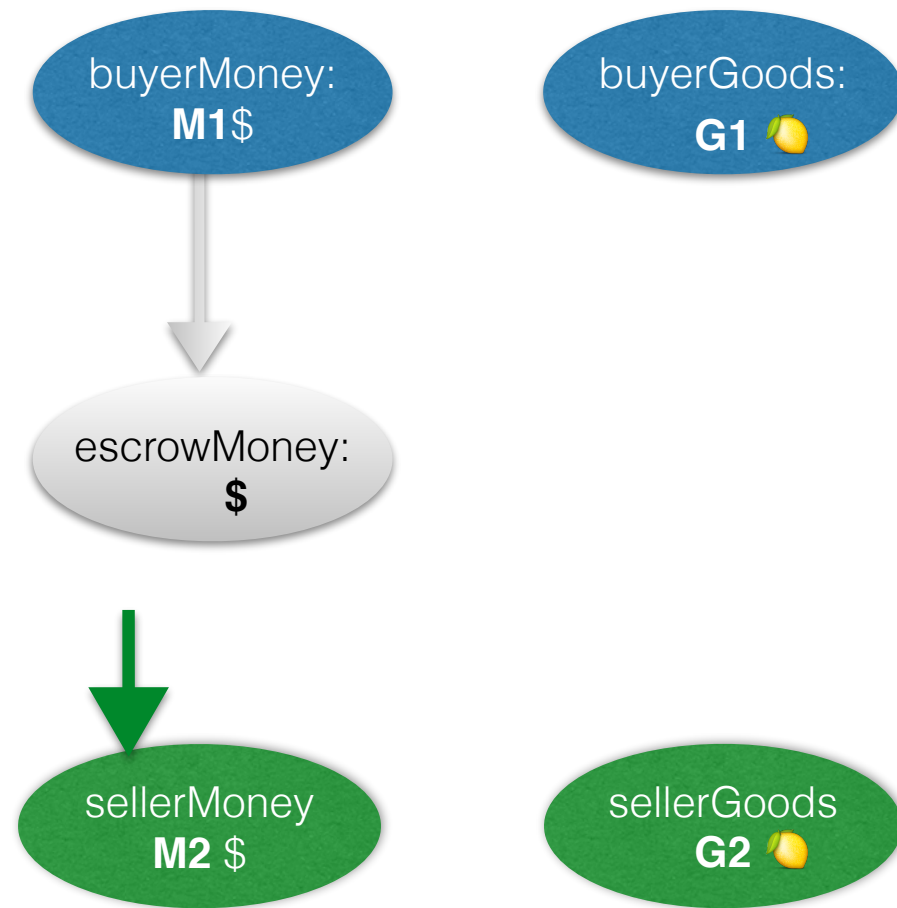
5. buyerGoods.  
deposit(escrowGoods,g)

6. sellerMoney.  
deposit (escrowMoney,m)

# Risk and Trust

Has Escrow Agent version1 fulfilled its remit?

- Buyer and Seller want to exchange  $g$  goods for  $m$  money.
- Buyer does not trust Seller; Seller does not trust Buyer.
- Escrow Agent to make the exchange.
- If insufficient money or goods, then no exchange.
- Escrow Agent does not trust Buyer nor Seller, nor any Banks.
- Escrow Agent to mitigate risk to Buyer and Seller.



```
1a. escrowMoney =  
    sellerMoney.sprout()  
1b.res= escrowMoney.  
    deposit (buyerMoney,m)  
  
2. if !res then exit
```

## More Risks

- Similar risk scenarios exist for malicious escrowGoods.
- Similar risk scenarios exist for when escrowMoney is sprouted from buyerMoney, or when escrowGoods is sprouted from sellerMoney.

Escrow Agent - Second Attempt

# Escrow Agent - v2 - summary

- Extend Purse's remit to ascertain trust and limit risk.
- Add introductory phase to Escrow Agent code, which assesses trustworthiness of Purses.

Escrow Agent - Second Attempt

ValidPurse specification

# ValidPurse specification v2- overview

**specification** ValidPurse{

**policy** Pol\_deposit\_1:

successful report, implies trust and enough funds, and transfer

**policy** Pol\_deposit\_2:

unsuccessful report, implies no trust or not enough funds, and no transfer

**policy** Pol\_sprout:

sprout() creates a Purse of same trustworthiness

**policy** Pol\_protect\_balance:

balance cannot be affected, unless you hold the purse itself

# ValidPurse - deposit\_1

successful report, implies trust and enough funds; transfer

**policy** Pol\_deposit\_1:

**pre:**  $\text{amt} : \text{Number} \wedge \text{amt} \geq 0$

$\{ \text{res} = \text{this.deposit}(\text{prs}, \text{amt}) \}$

**post:**

$\text{res} = \text{true} \rightarrow$

// FUNCTIONAL

$\text{prs.balance}_{\text{pre}} - \text{amt} \geq 0 \wedge$

$\text{prs.balance} = \text{prs.balance}_{\text{pre}} - \text{amt} \wedge$

$\text{this.balance} = \text{this.balance}_{\text{pre}} + \text{amt} \wedge$

// TRUST

$\text{prs} \text{ obeys } \text{ValidPurse} \wedge$

// ...

**Note:** conditional trust

$[ \text{MayAccess}(\text{o}, \text{p}) \rightarrow \text{MayAccess}_{\text{pre}}(\text{o}, \text{p}) ] \quad )$



# ValidPurse - deposit\_2

**unsuccessful** report, implies **no** trust or **insufficient** trust , and no transfer

**policy** Pol\_deposit\_2:

**pre:**  $\text{amt} : \text{Number} \wedge \text{amt} \geq 0$

$\{ \text{res} = \text{this.deposit}(\text{prs}, \text{amt}) \}$

**post:**

$\text{res} = \text{false} \rightarrow$

// FUNCTIONAL & TRUST

$\text{prs.balance}_{\text{pre}} - \text{amt} < 0 \quad \vee \quad \text{NOT}(\text{prs obeys ValidPurse})$

// RISK

$\forall p, o.$

$(p \text{ obeys}_{\text{pre}} \text{ValidPurse} \wedge o :_{\text{pre}} \text{Object.} \rightarrow$

$p.\text{balance}_{\text{pre}} = p.\text{balance} \quad \wedge$

$[ \text{MayAccess}(o, p) \rightarrow \text{MayAccess}_{\text{pre}}(o, p) ]$

# ValidPurse - sprout

sprout creates a Purse of same trustworthiness

**policy** Pol\_sprout:

**pre:** true

{ res=this.spout() }

**post**

// FUNCTIONAL & TRUST

res **obeys** ValidPurse      $\wedge$      res.balance=0

// RISK

$\forall p, o.$

( p **obeys**<sub>pre</sub> ValidPurse  $\wedge$  o :<sub>pre</sub> Object.  $\rightarrow$

( p $\neq$ pr<sub>s</sub>,this  $\rightarrow$  p.balance<sub>pre</sub> = p.balance )  $\wedge$

[ MayAccess(o,p.balance)  $\rightarrow$  MayAccess<sub>pre</sub>(o,p.balance) ]

# ValidPurse - protect\_balance

balance cannot be affected, unless you hold the purse itself

**policy** Pol\_protect\_balance:

$\forall p, o.$

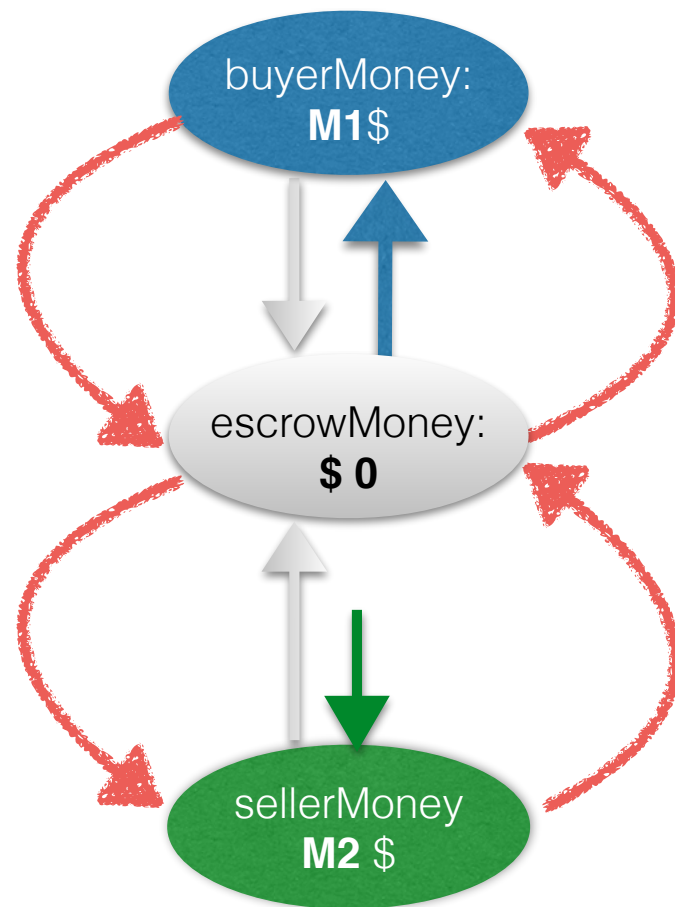
$( p \text{ obeys ValidPurse} \wedge o : \text{Object}. \rightarrow$   
 $[ \text{MayAffect}(o, p.\text{balance}) \rightarrow \text{MayAccess}(o, p) ] )$

**Note -** necessary, rather than  
sufficient condition

Escrow Agent - Second Attempt

code

# EscrowAgent - establishing trust



```
escrowMoney = sellerMoney.sprout()
```

```
// sellerMoney obeys ValidPurse → escrowMoney obeys ValidPurse
```

```
res= escrowMoney. deposit (buyerMoney,0)
```

```
// res=true ∧ escrowMoney obeys ValidPurse
```

```
// → buyerMoney obeys ValidPurse
```

```
if !res then exit // sellerMoney obeys ValidPurse →
```

```
// ¬(buyerMoney obeys ValidPurse)
```

```
// sellerMoney obeys ValidPurse → buyerMoney obeys ValidPurse
```

```
res= buyerMoney. deposit (escrowMoney,0)
```

```
// res=true ∧ buyerMoney obeys ValidPurse
```

```
// → escrowMoney obeys ValidPurse
```

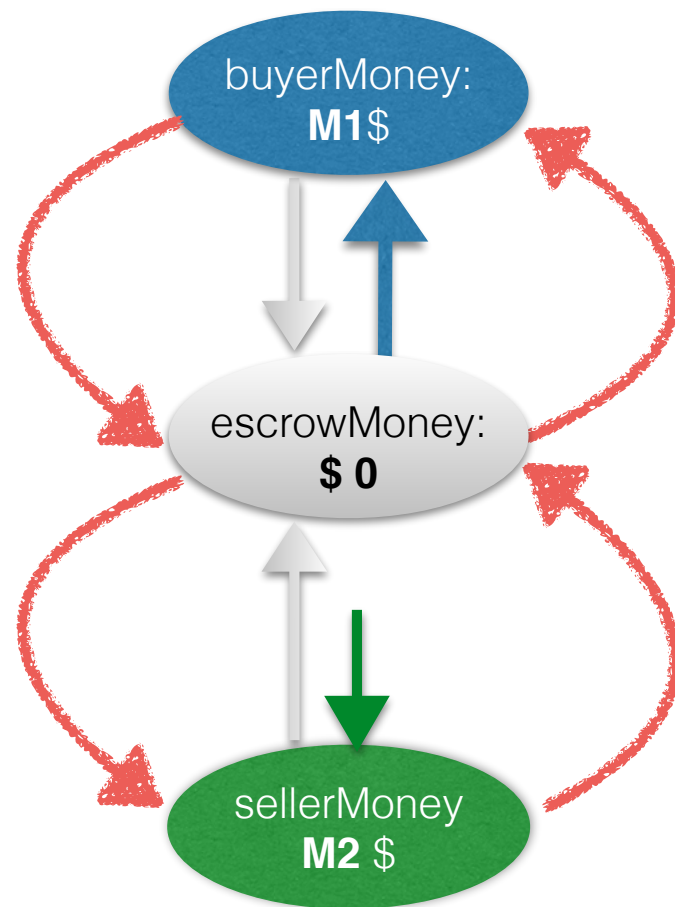
```
if !res then exit
```

```
res= escrowMoney. deposit (buyerMoney,0)
```

```
if !res then exit
```

```
// buyerMoney obeys ValidPurse ↔ seller obeys ValidPurse
```

# EscrowAgent - the risk while establishing trust



```
escrowMoney = sellerMoney.sprout()
```

```
//  $\forall p. p \text{ obeys}_{\text{PRE}} \text{ValidPurse} \rightarrow$ 
```

```
// [ p.balancePRE=p.balance  $\vee$ 
```

```
// MayAccessPRE(sellerMoney,p)  $\wedge \neg(\text{sellerMoney obeys ValidPurse})$ 
```

```
res= escrowMoney. deposit (buyerMoney,0)
```

```
// ....
```

```
if !res then exit // ....
```

```
res= buyerMoney. deposit (escrowMoney,0)
```

```
// $\forall p. p \text{ obeys}_{\text{PRE}} \text{ValidPurse} \rightarrow$ 
```

```
// [ p.balancePRE=p.balance  $\vee$ 
```

```
// MayAccessPRE(sellerMoney,p)  $\wedge \neg(\text{sellerMoney obeys ValidPurse}) \vee$ 
```

```
// MayAccessPRE(buyerMoney,p)  $\wedge \neg(\text{buyerMoney obeys ValidPurse}) ]$ 
```

```
if !res then exit // ....
```

```
res= escrowMoney. deposit (buyerMoney,0)
```

```
// ....
```

```
if !res then exit
```

```
// $\forall p. p \text{ obeys}_{\text{PRE}} \text{ValidPurse} \rightarrow$ 
```

```
// [ p.balancePRE=p.balance  $\vee$ 
```

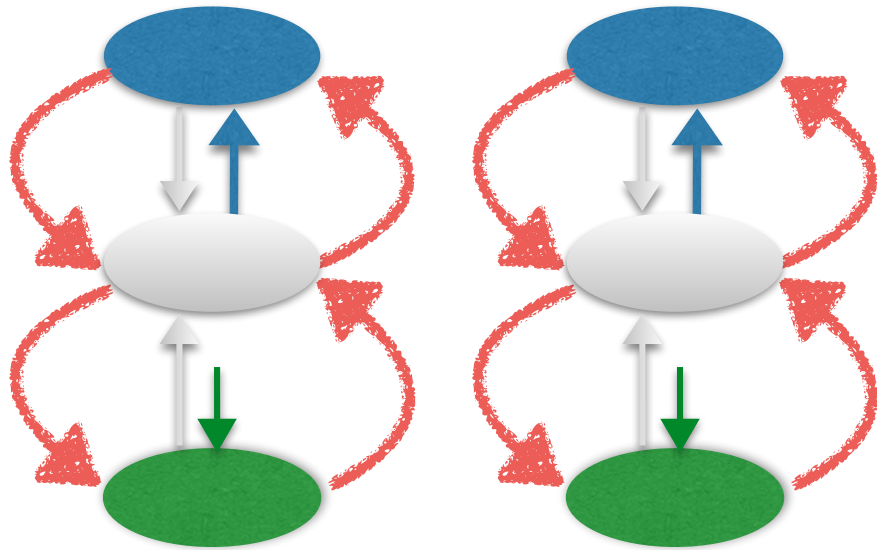
```
// MayAccessPRE(sellerMoney,p)  $\wedge \neg(\text{sellerMoney obeys ValidPurse}) \vee$ 
```

```
// MayAccessPRE(buyerMoney,p)  $\wedge \neg(\text{buyerMoney obeys ValidPurse}) ]$ 
```

# EscrowAgent the full code

1st phase:

trustworthiness buyerMoney and sellerMoney  
— as in previous slide



2nd phase:

trustworthiness buyerGood and sellerGood  
— similar to previous slide

3rd phase:

Do the transaction

— as a couple of slides ago

# Escrow Agent - Second Attempt

The specification



# EscrowAgent specification - overview

Escrow Agent has fields buyerMoney, sellerMoney, buyerGoods, sellerGoods.

For the method call

`this.deal(m,g)`

we have four cases:

## policy Pol\_deal\_1:

no malicious participants, sufficient money/goods, deal proceeds

res==true

## policy Pol\_deal\_2:

no malicious participants, **insufficient** money/goods, deal does **not** proceed

res==false

## policy Pol\_deal\_3:

buyer or seller malicious, deal does **not** proceed

res==false

## policy Pol\_deal\_4:

buyer *and* seller malicious, deal **does** proceed

res==true

**Pol\_deal\_1** no malicious participants, sufficient money/goods,  
deal proceeds  
res==true

**policy** Pol\_deal\_1:

**pre:** m,g: Number

{ res = this.deal(m,g) ; }

**post:** res  $\wedge$  MalPartPurses =  $\emptyset$

$\Rightarrow$

buyerMoney.balance<sub>PRE</sub>  $\geq$  **m**  $\wedge$  sellerMoney.balance<sub>PRE</sub>  $\geq$  **g**  $\wedge$

buyerMoney=buyerMoney<sub>PRE</sub> - **m**  $\wedge$  sellerMoney=sellerMoney<sub>PRE</sub> + **m**  $\wedge$

buyerGoods=buyerGoods<sub>PRE</sub> + **g**  $\wedge$  sellerGoods=sellerGoods<sub>PRE</sub> - **g**

$\forall p. p \in_{PRE}$  OtherPurses. p.balance = p.balance<sub>PRE</sub>  $\wedge$

$\forall o,p. o :_{PRE}$  Object. p **obeys**<sub>PRE</sub> ValidPurse .

MayAccess(o,p.balance)  $\Rightarrow$  MayAccess(o,p.balance)<sub>PRE</sub>

MalPartPurses = { sellerPurse, buyerPurse, sellerGoods, buyerGoods }  $\cap$  { p |  $\neg$  p **obeys** ValidPurse }

OtherPurses = { p | p **obeys** ValidPurse }  $\setminus$  { sellerPurse, buyerPurse, sellerGoods, buyerGoods }

# Pol\_deal\_4

seller AND buyer malicious  
deal proceeds  
res==true

**policy** Pol\_deal\_4:

**pre:** m,g: Number

{ res = this.deal(m,g) ; }

**post:** res  $\wedge$  MalPartPurses  $\neq \emptyset$

$\Rightarrow$

sellerMoney **obeys**<sub>PRE</sub> ValidPurse  $\Leftrightarrow$  buyerMoney **obeys**<sub>PRE</sub> ValidPurse  $\wedge$

$\wedge$

sellerGoods **obeys**<sub>PRE</sub> ValidPurse  $\Leftrightarrow$  buyerGoods **obeys**<sub>PRE</sub> ValidPurse

$\wedge$

$\forall p. p \in_{PRE} \text{GoodPurses}. [ p.\text{balance} = p.\text{balance}_{PRE}$   
 $\vee \exists bp \in_{PRE} \text{MalPartPurses}. \text{MayAccess}_{PRE}(bp,p) ]$

$\wedge$

$\forall o,p. o :_{PRE} \text{Object}. p \in_{PRE} \text{GoodPurses}.$

$[ \text{MayAccess}(o,p) \Rightarrow \text{MayAccess}(o,p)_{PRE}$

$\vee \exists bp \in_{PRE} \text{MalPartPurses}. \text{MayAccess}_{PRE}(bp,p) ]$

# Pol\_deal\_1 - 4 discussion

- not as strong as originally expected,
- deal code can never know whether in case 1 or case 4,
- but strong enough for “good participant”
- We want to make specification stronger. Rather than currently

$\forall p. p \text{ obeys}_{PRE} \text{ValidPurse}. [ p.\text{balance} = p.\text{balance}_{PRE} \vee \exists bp \in_{PRE} \text{MalPartPurses}. \text{MayAccess}_{PRE}(bp, p) ]$

- we would like

$\forall p. p \text{ obeys}_{PRE} \text{ValidPurse}. [ p.\text{balance} = p.\text{balance}_{PRE} \vee \exists bp \in_{PRE} \text{MalPartPurses}. \text{MayAffect}_{PRE}(bp, p.\text{balance}) ]$

# Hoare Logic

# Hoare Triples

- Hoare triples of form  $P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q'$
- $P$  a one-state assertion,  $Q, Q'$  two-state assertions.
- $P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q'$  promises that if the initial configuration satisfies  $P$ , then the final configuration will satisfy  $Q$ ,  
and all intermediate configurations will satisfy  $Q'$ .
- $M \models P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q'$  iff
$$\forall M'. \forall \kappa \in \text{Arising}(M' * M):$$
$$( M' * M, \kappa \models P \quad \wedge \quad M' * M, \kappa \leadsto \kappa' \rightarrow M' * M, \kappa, \kappa' \models Q )$$
and
$$( \forall \kappa'' \in \text{Reach}(M' * M, \text{code}, \kappa): M' * M, \kappa, \kappa'' \models Q' )$$

# Hoare Rules - Structural (some)

$$\begin{array}{l} P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q' \\ P' \rightarrow P \quad Q \rightarrow Q'' \quad Q' \rightarrow Q''' \end{array}$$

---

$$P' \{ \text{code} \} Q'' \bowtie Q'''$$

$$P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q'$$

---

$$P \wedge P' \{ \text{code} \} Q \wedge Q' \bowtie Q'$$

$$P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q'$$

$$\text{Spec} = \forall x. P(x) \wedge \dots$$

---

$$P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q' \wedge \forall x. x \text{ obeys Spec} \rightarrow P(x)$$

# Hoare Rules - Method Call

when receiver is trusted to obey *Spec*

$\text{PRE}(m, \text{Spec}) = P \quad \text{POST}(m, \text{Spec}) = Q$

---

$x \text{ obeys } \text{Spec} \wedge P[x/\text{this}, y/\text{par}] \quad \{ z = x.m(y) \} \quad Q[x/\text{this}, y/\text{par}, z/\text{res}] \bowtie \text{true}$

even if receiver not trusted

---

$\text{true} \quad \{ z = x.m(y) \} \quad \text{true} \bowtie \forall u, v. \text{MayAccess}(u, v) \rightarrow$   
     $( \text{MayAccess}(u, v)_{\text{pre}} \vee$   
         $( \text{MayAccess}(x, u)_{\text{pre}} \vee \text{MayAccess}(y, u)_{\text{pre}} ) \wedge$   
         $( \text{MayAccess}(x, v)_{\text{pre}} \vee \text{MayAccess}(y, v)_{\text{pre}} ) )$



# Hoare Rules - Framing

$$P \{ \text{code} \} Q \bowtie Q'$$
$$P \wedge Q' \rightarrow \text{Footprint}(\text{code}) \text{ disjoint } \text{Footprint}(P')$$

---

$$P \wedge P' \{ \text{code} \} Q \wedge P' \bowtie Q' \wedge P'$$
$$P \{ \text{code} \} \text{true} \bowtie \forall u. \text{MayAffect}(u, P') \rightarrow Q'(u)$$
$$P \{ \text{code} \} \text{true} \bowtie \forall u. \neg Q'(u)$$

---

$$P \wedge P' \{ \text{code} \} \text{true} \bowtie P'$$

# Conclusions

- We introduced **MayAccess**, **MayAffect**, and **obeys**.
- These are hypothetical and conditional predicates.
- Hoare tuples extended by properties preserved. New Hoare rules.
- The concept of encapsulation needs to percolate to specification level.
- More work for concurrency, distribution, expressivity, framing, examples, encapsulation.