

A Gittins Policy for Optimizing Tail Latency

Amit Harlev

Joint work with

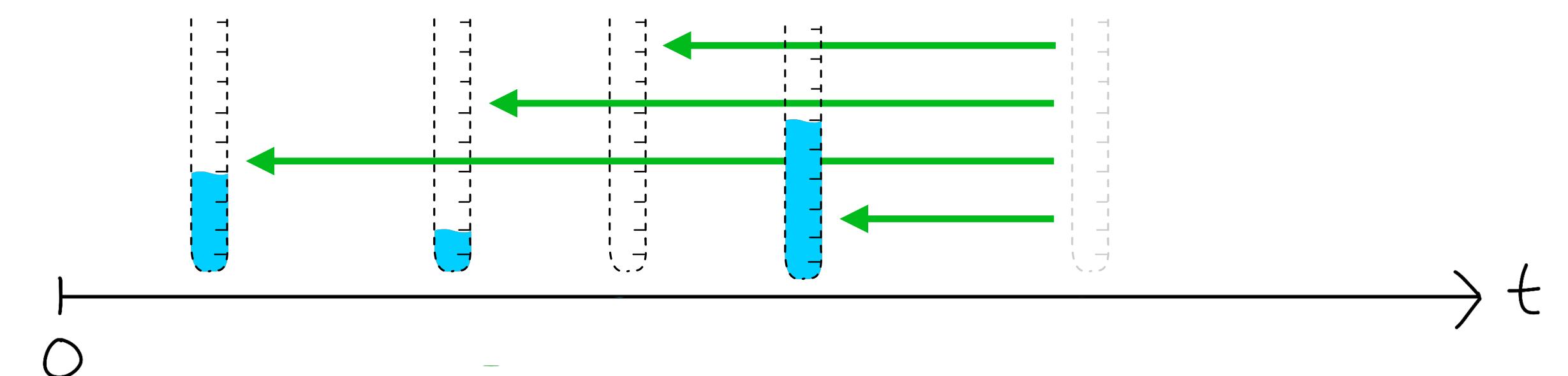
George Yu

Ziv Scully

Cornell CAM

Cornell ORIE

Cornell ORIE

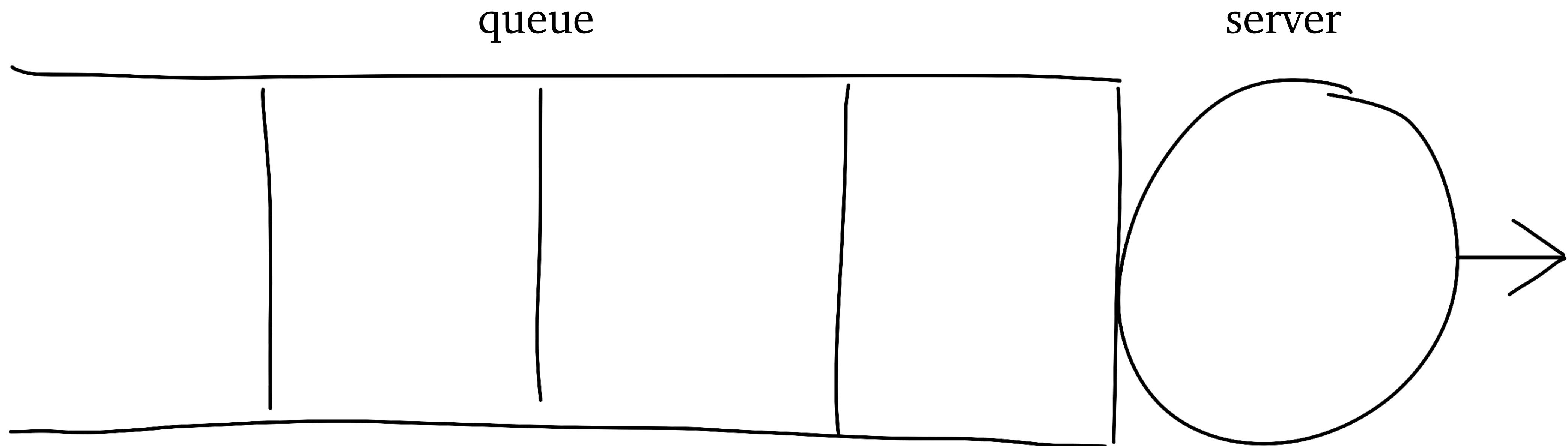


How do we minimize delays
when job sizes are unknown?

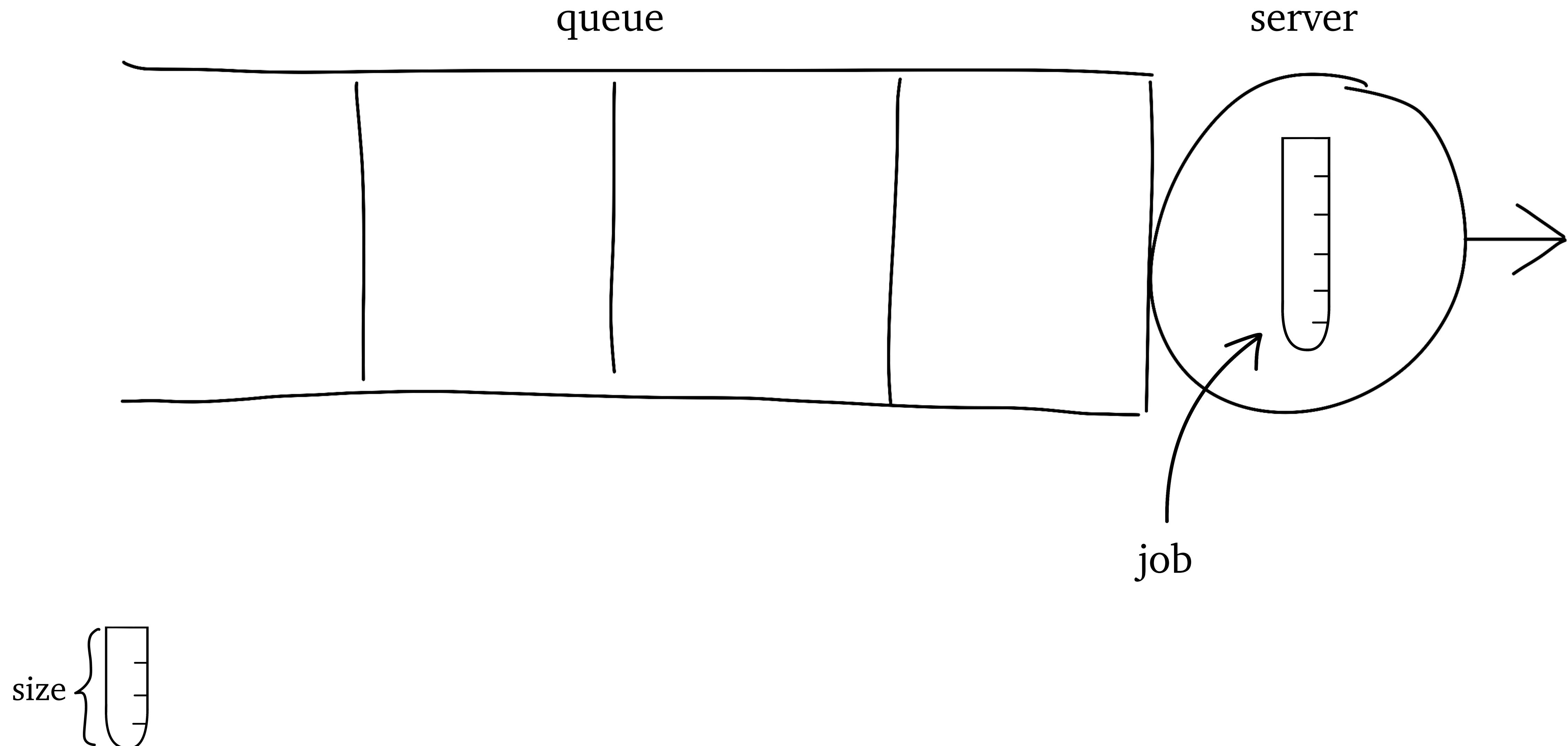
(asymptotic) tail latency
in single server queue

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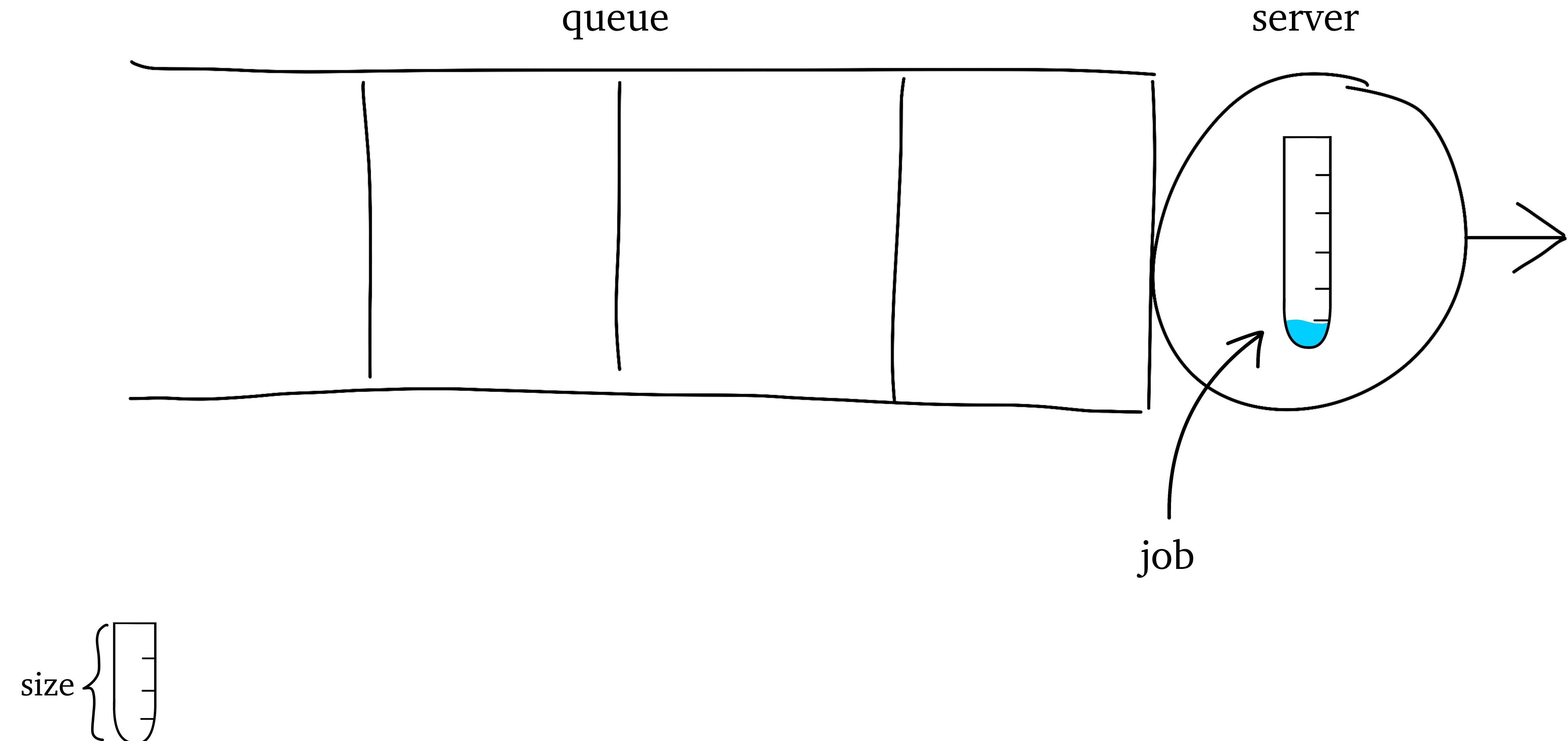
Scheduling in the M/G/1



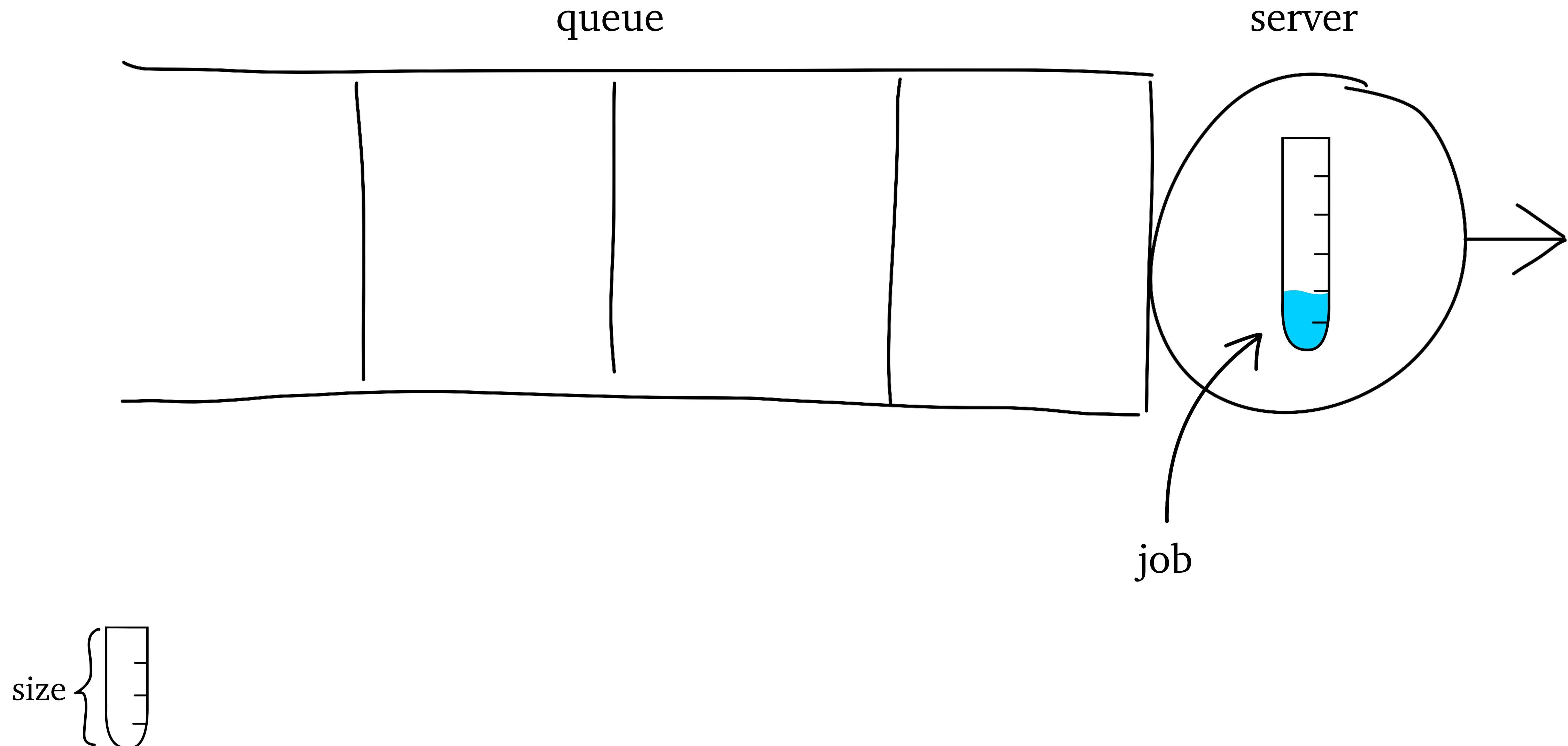
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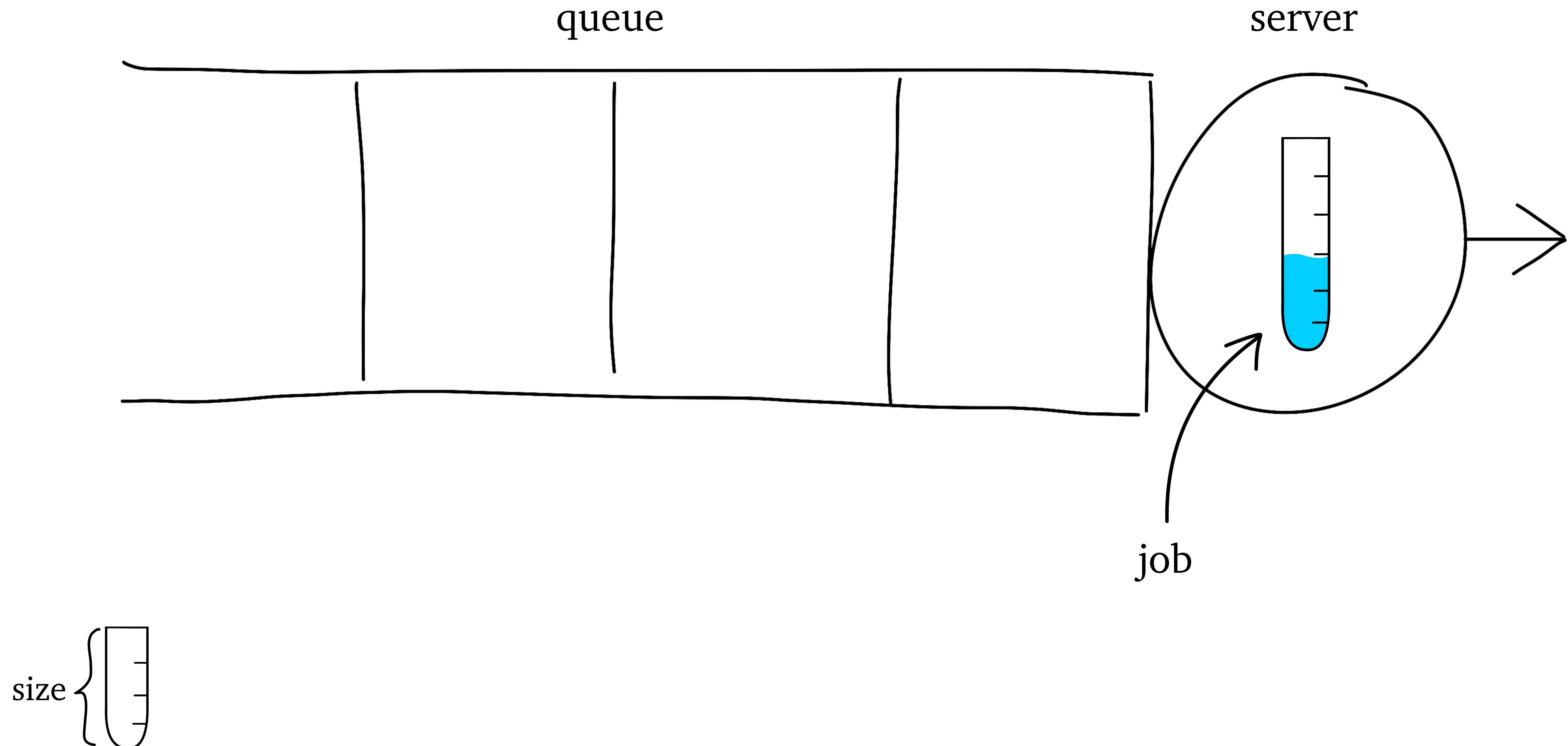
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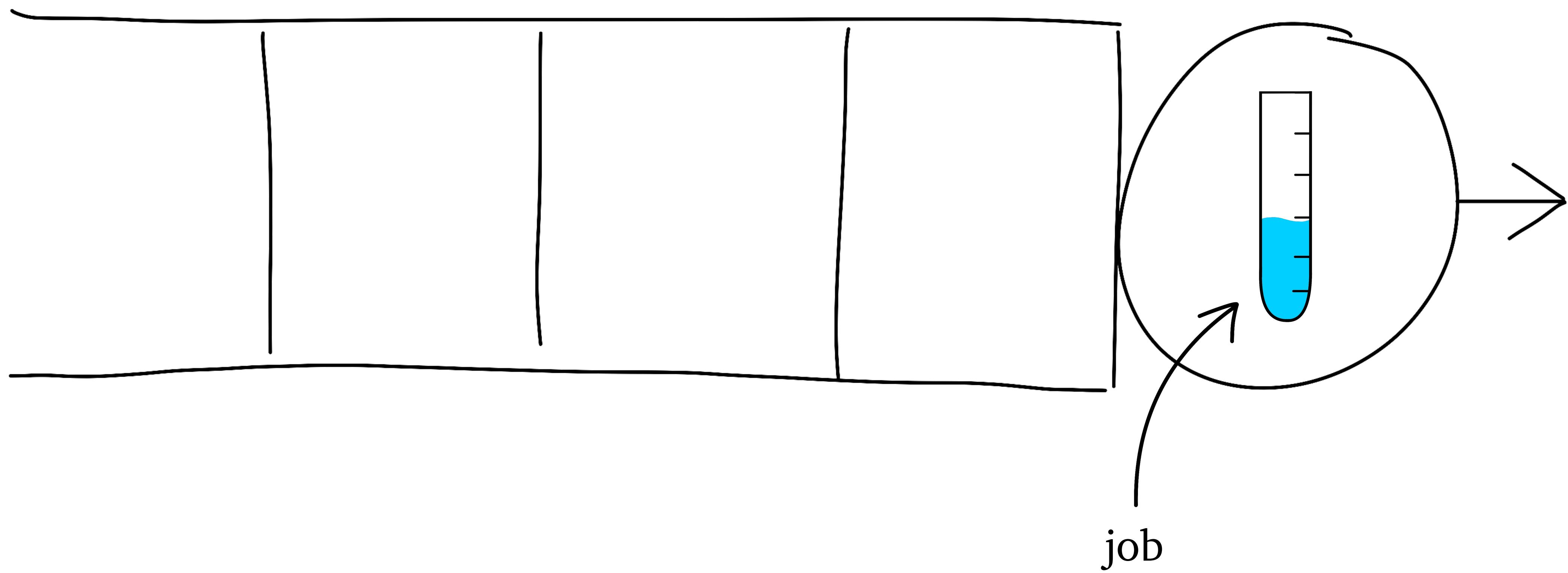
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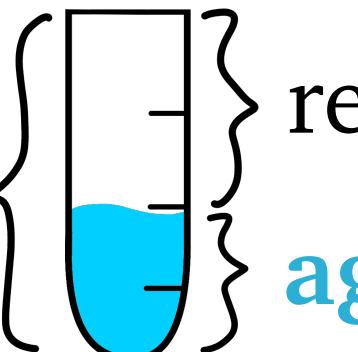
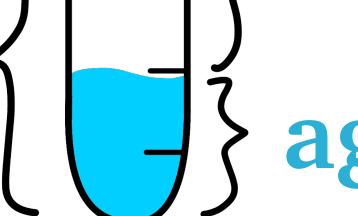


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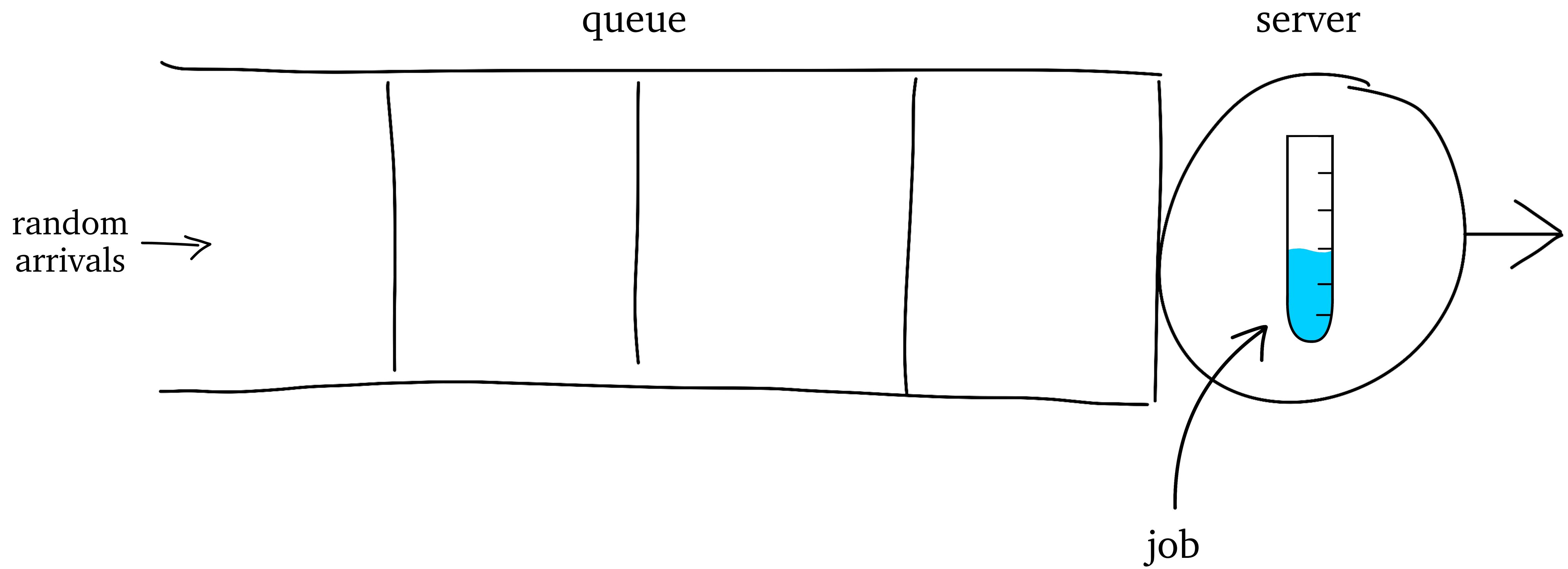
queue

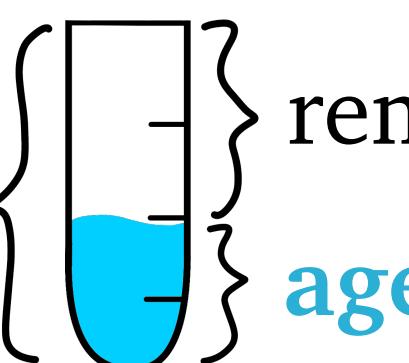
server



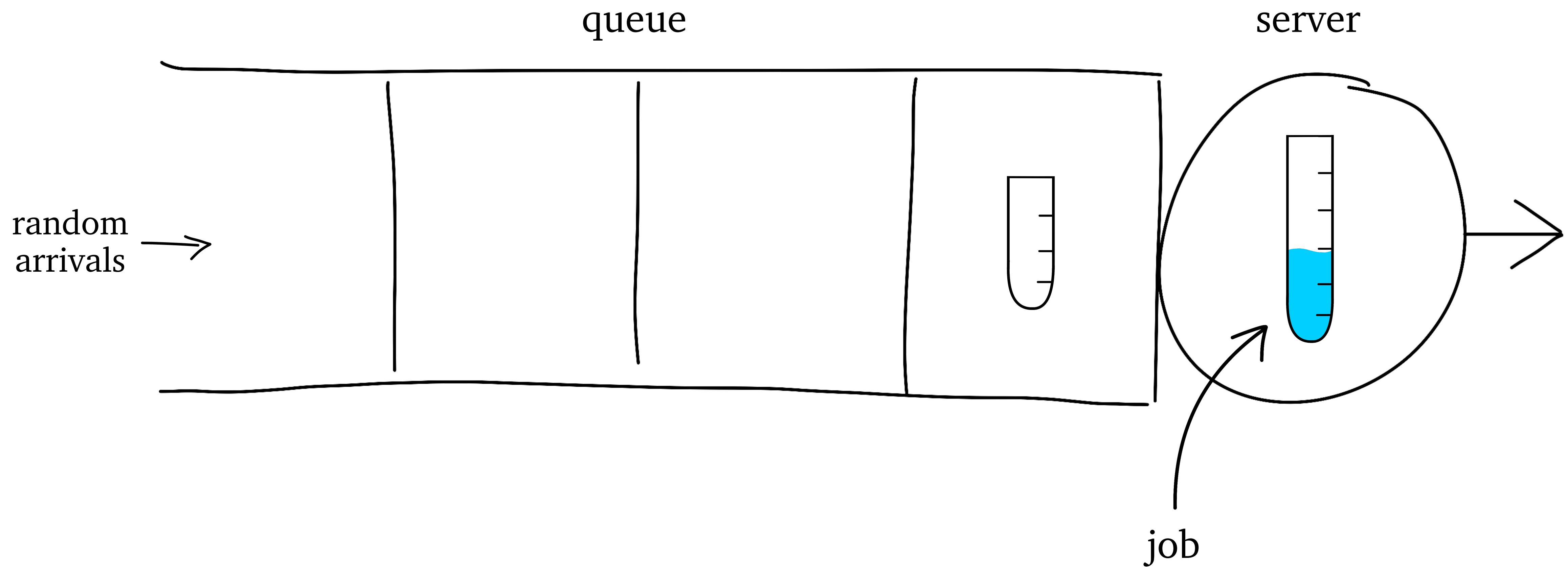
size { } remaining size
age { }

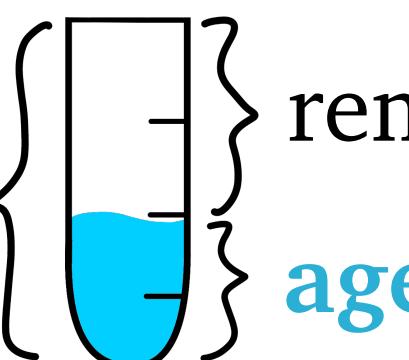
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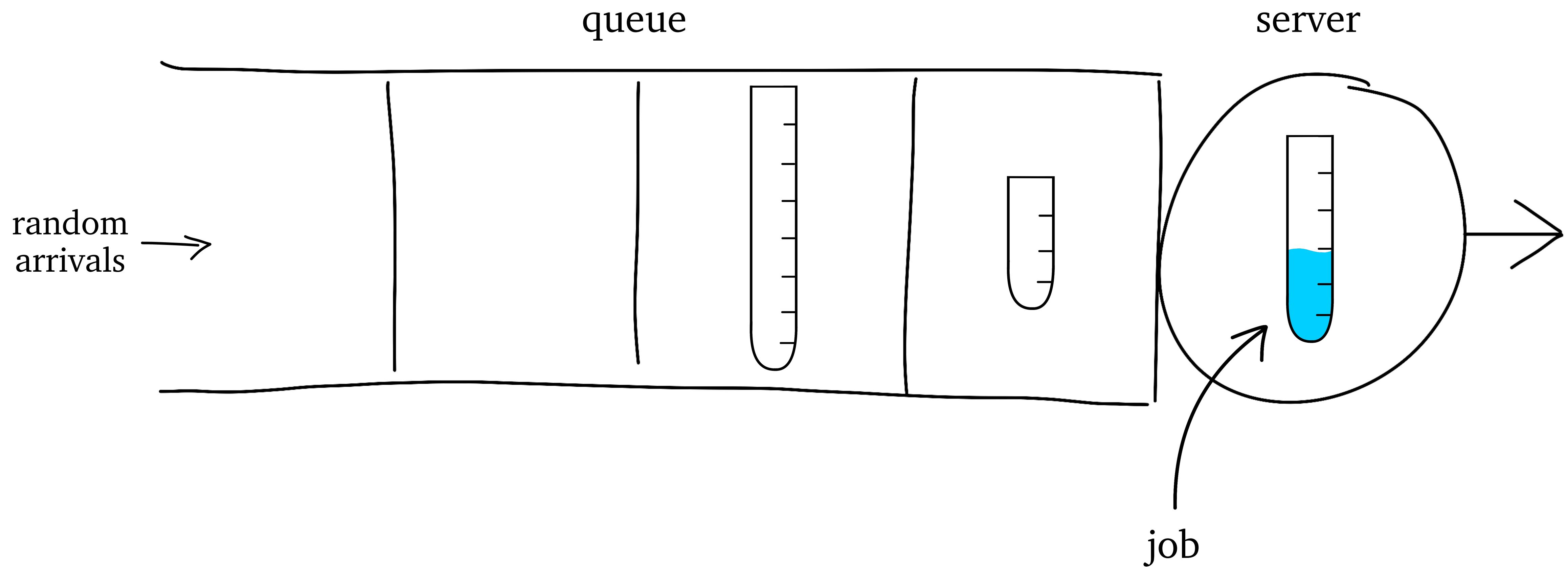
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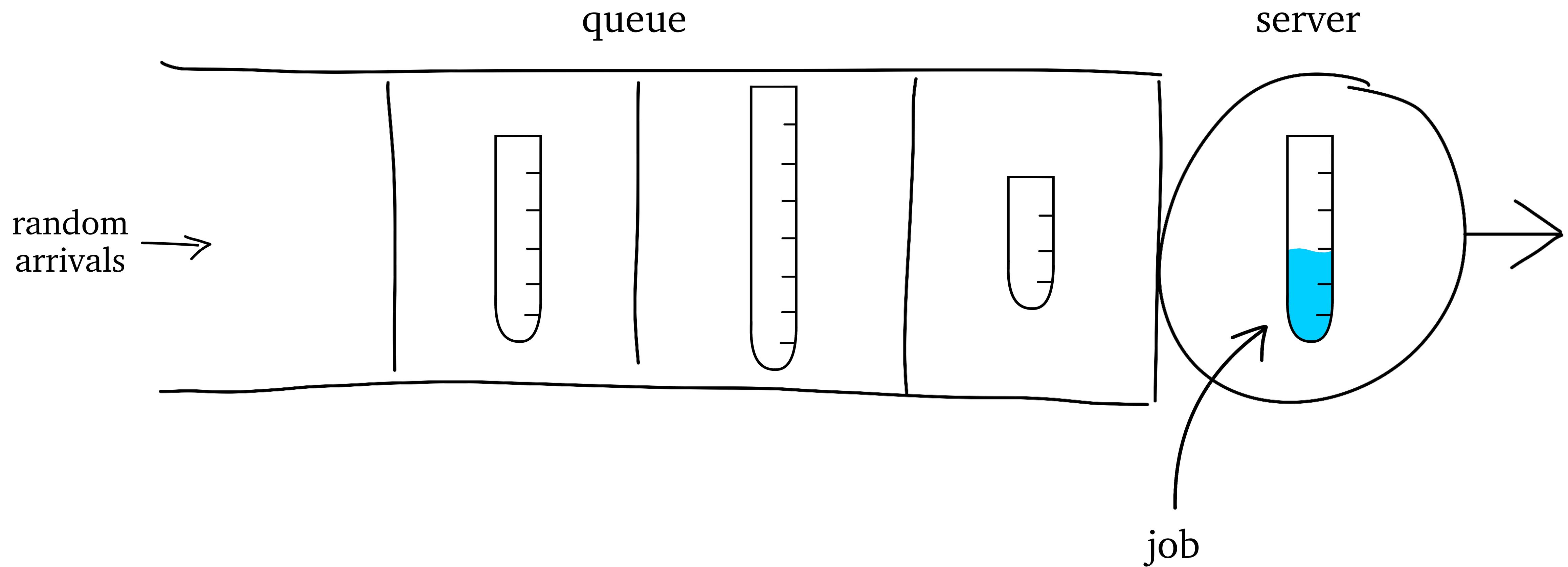
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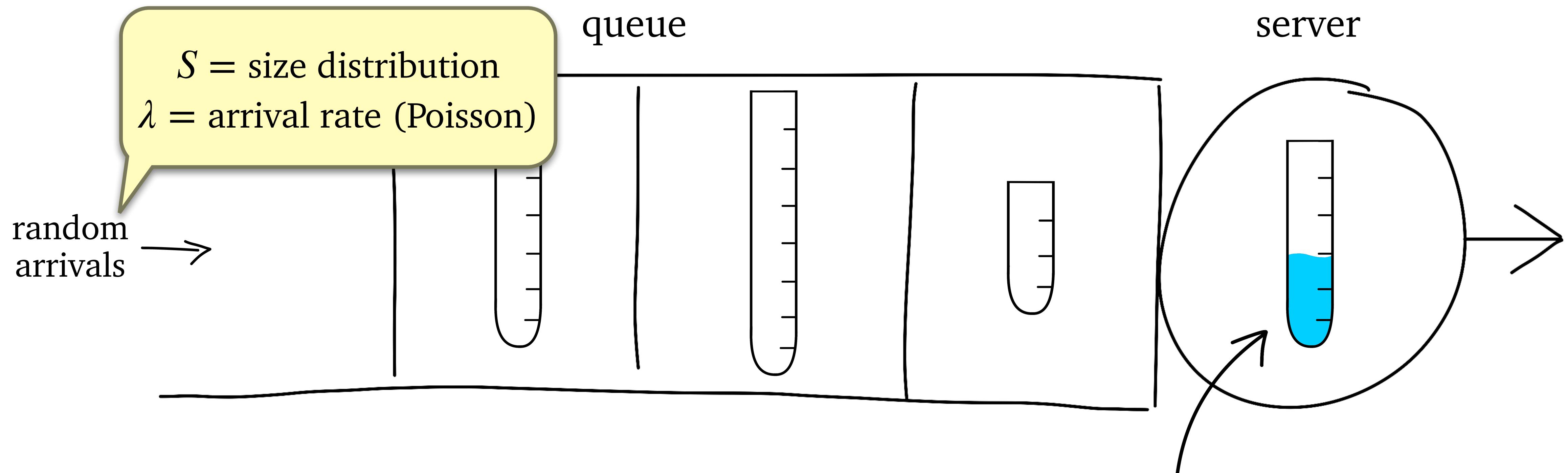
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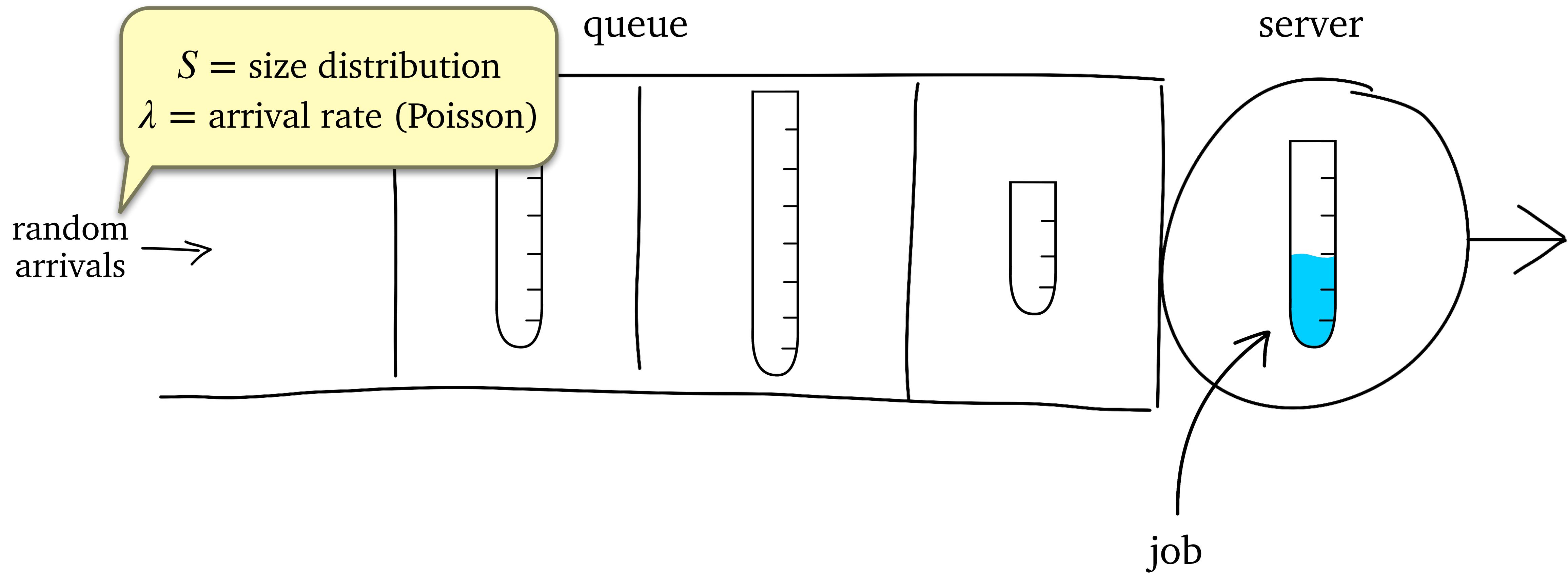
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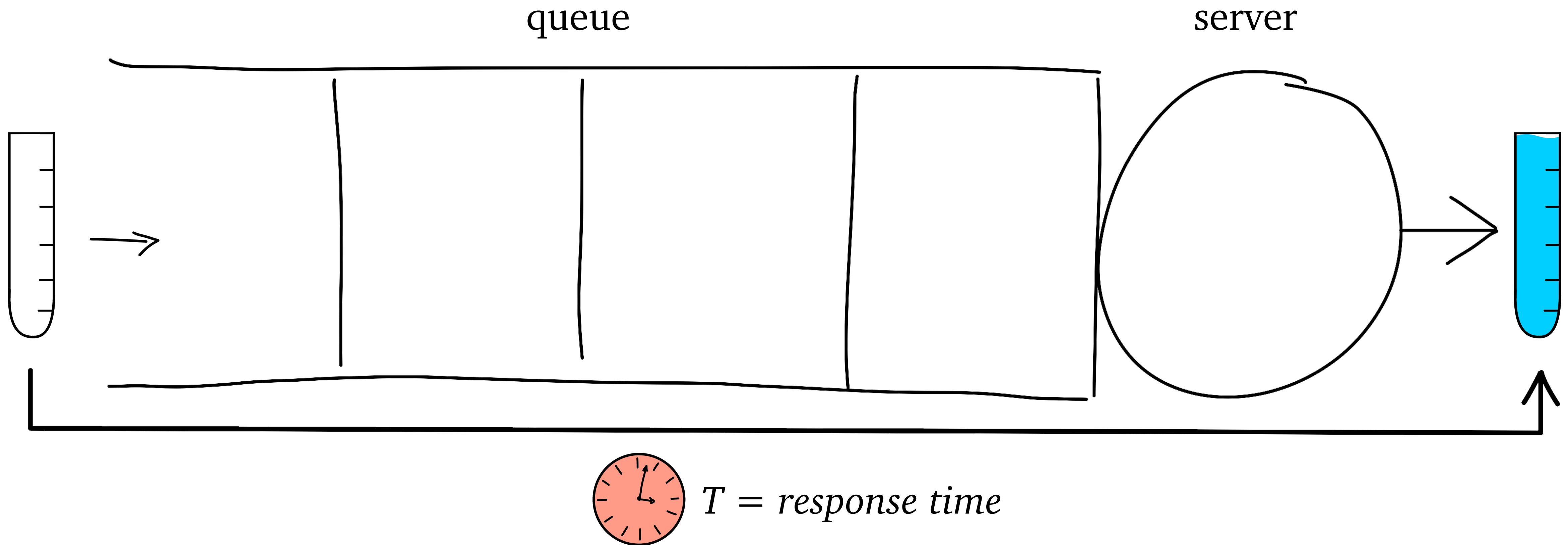


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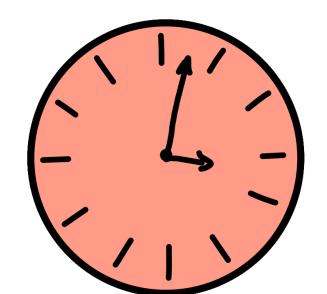
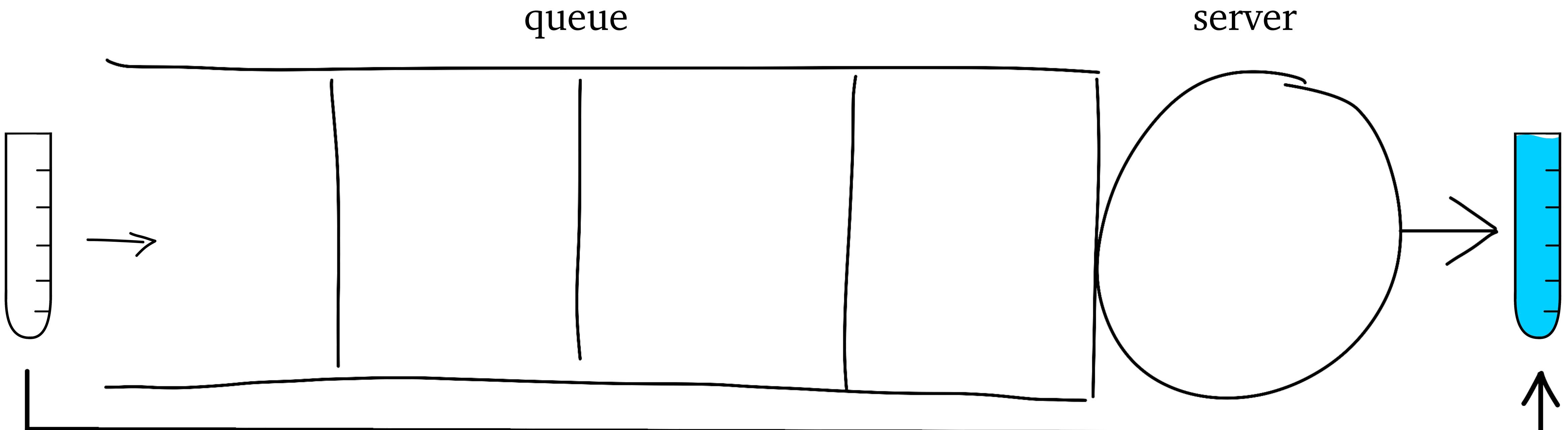
Scheduling in the M/G/1



Scheduling: In which order should we serve jobs to minimize a desired metric?

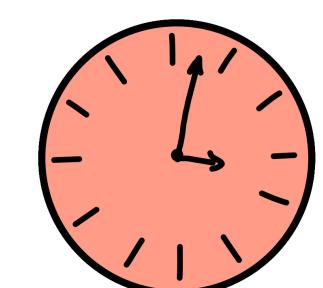
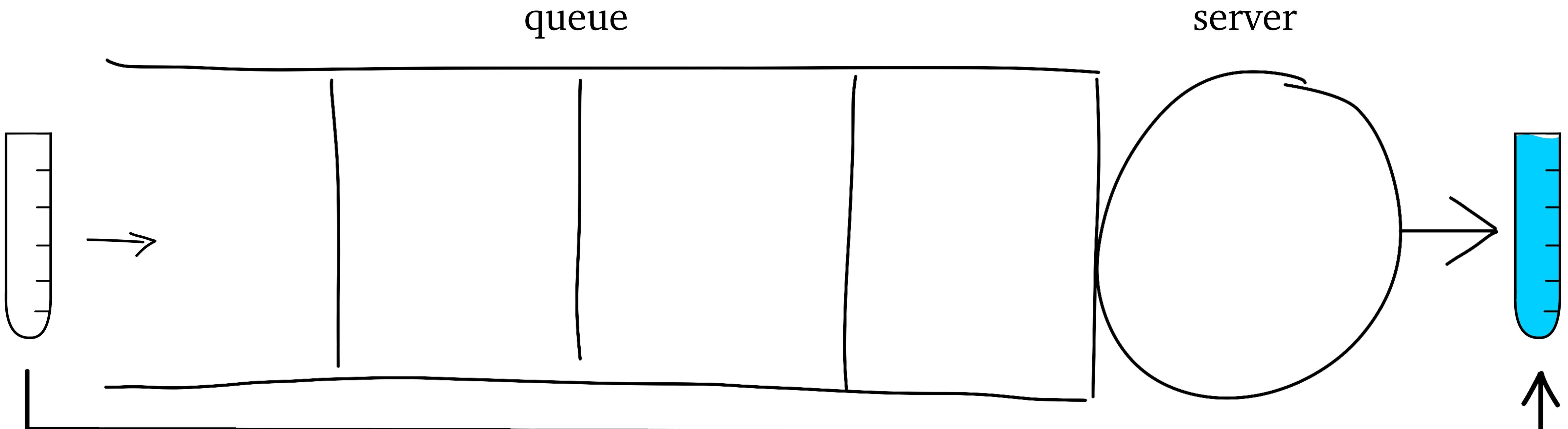


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T = response time

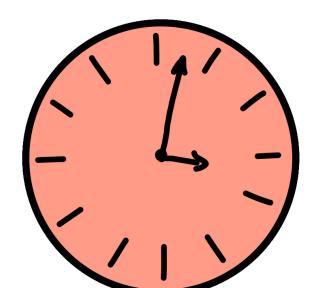
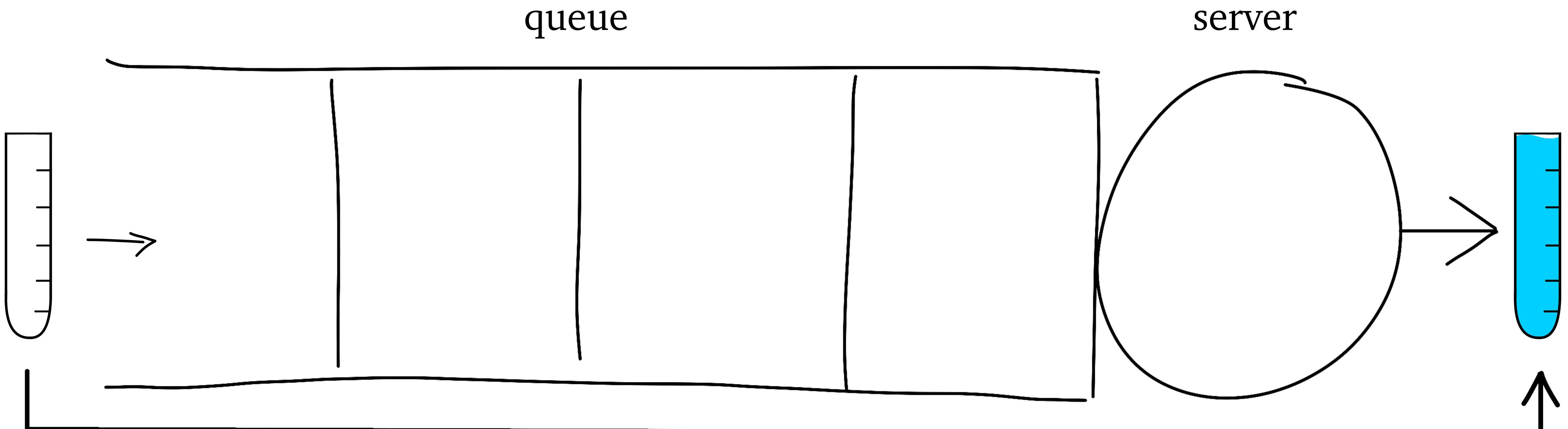
 **Theory**



T = response time

Theory

- mean response time, $E[T]$

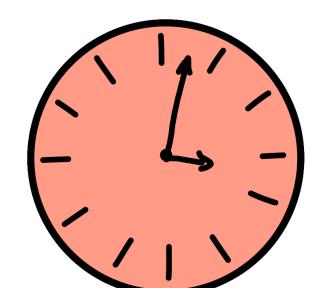
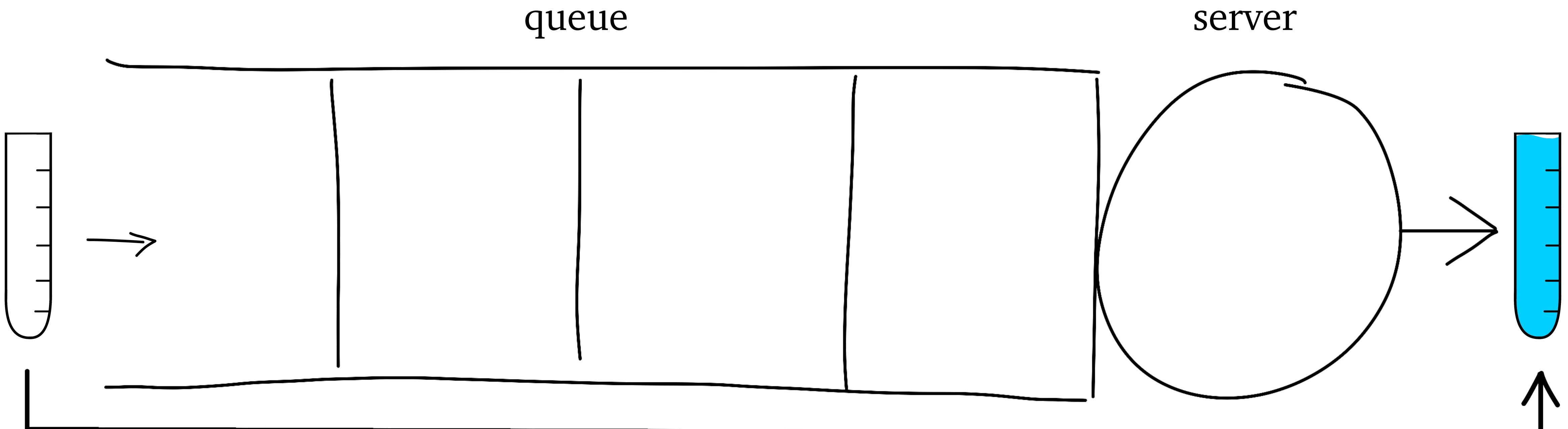


T = response time

SRPT

 Theory

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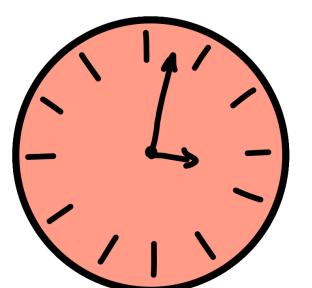
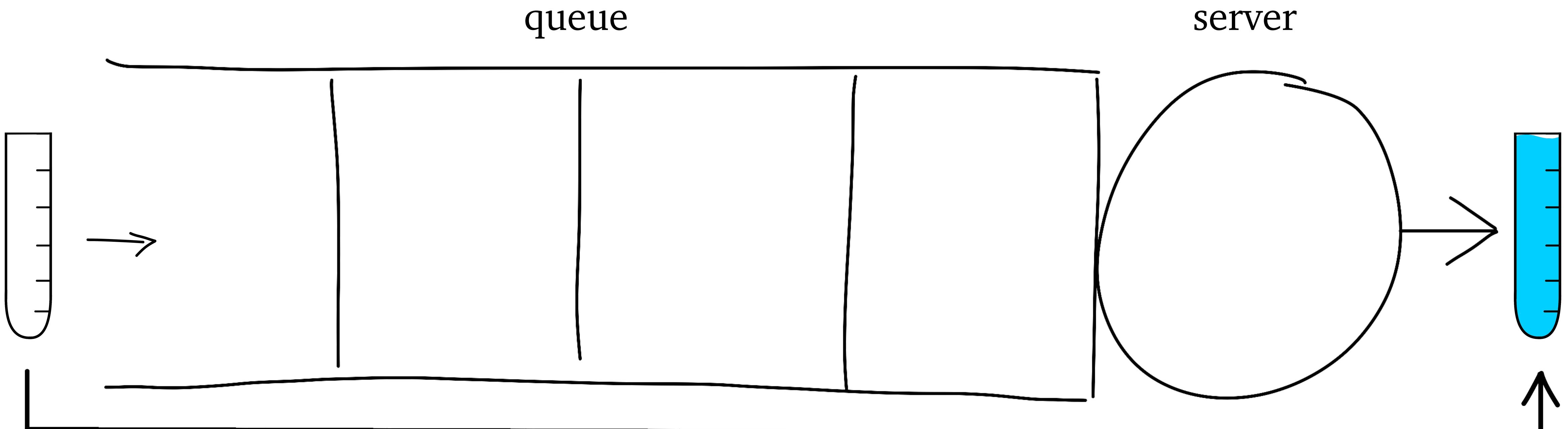


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SRPT

 Theory

- mean response time, $E[T]$
- $E[T]$ with unknown job sizes



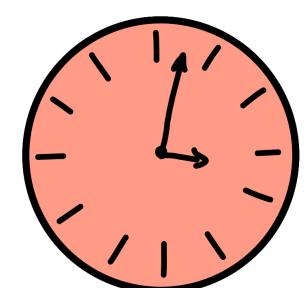
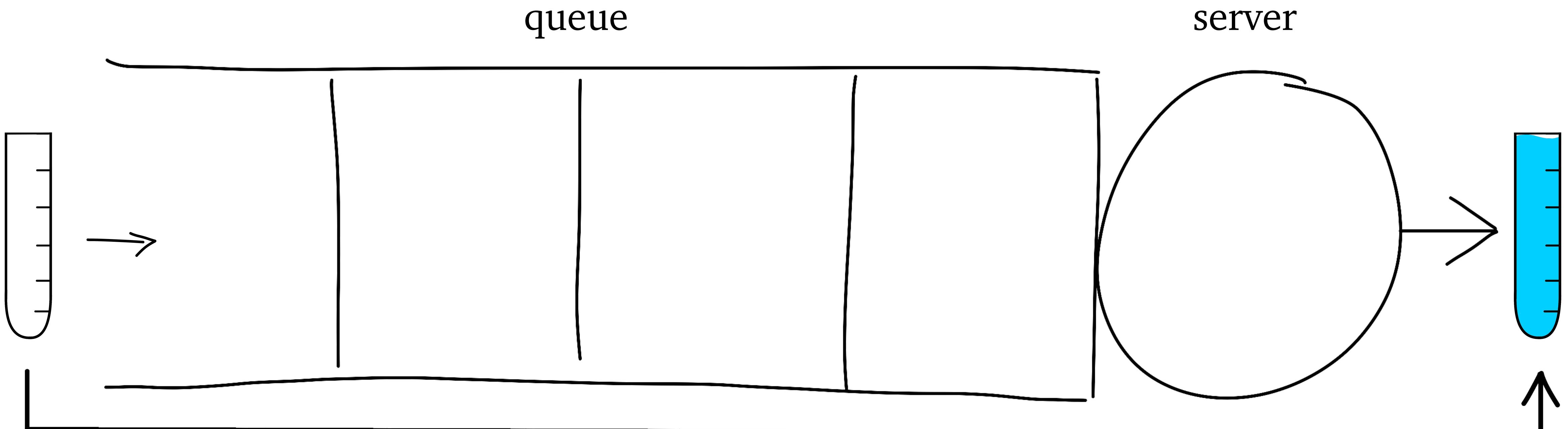
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Gittins



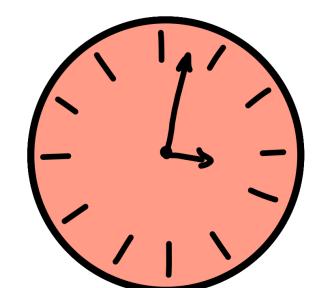
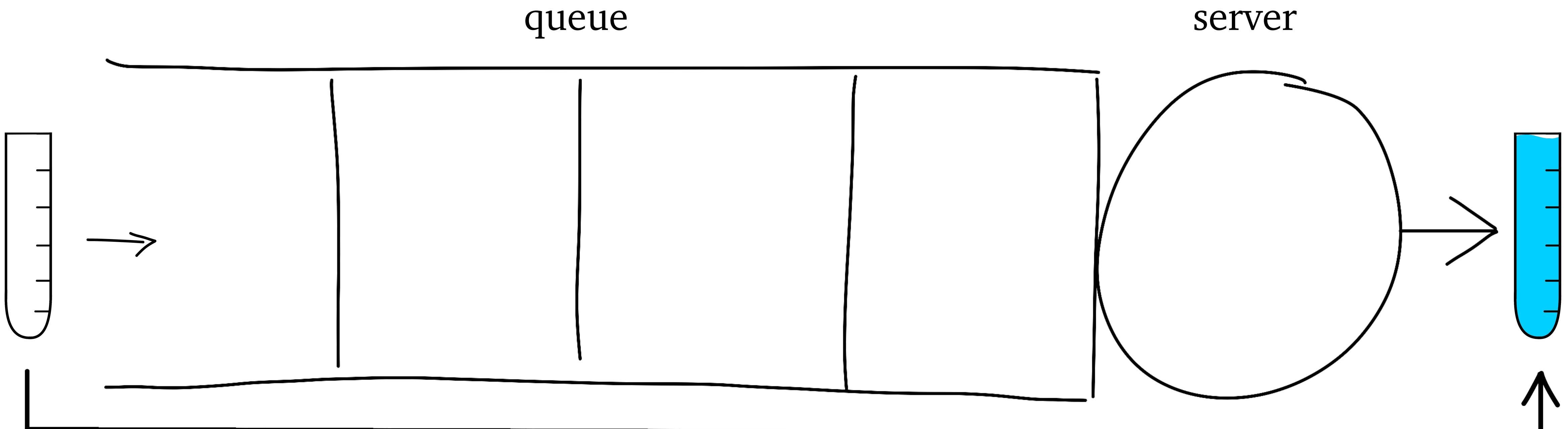
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- mean response time, $E[T]$
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- weighted $E[T]$

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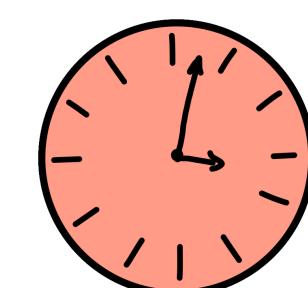
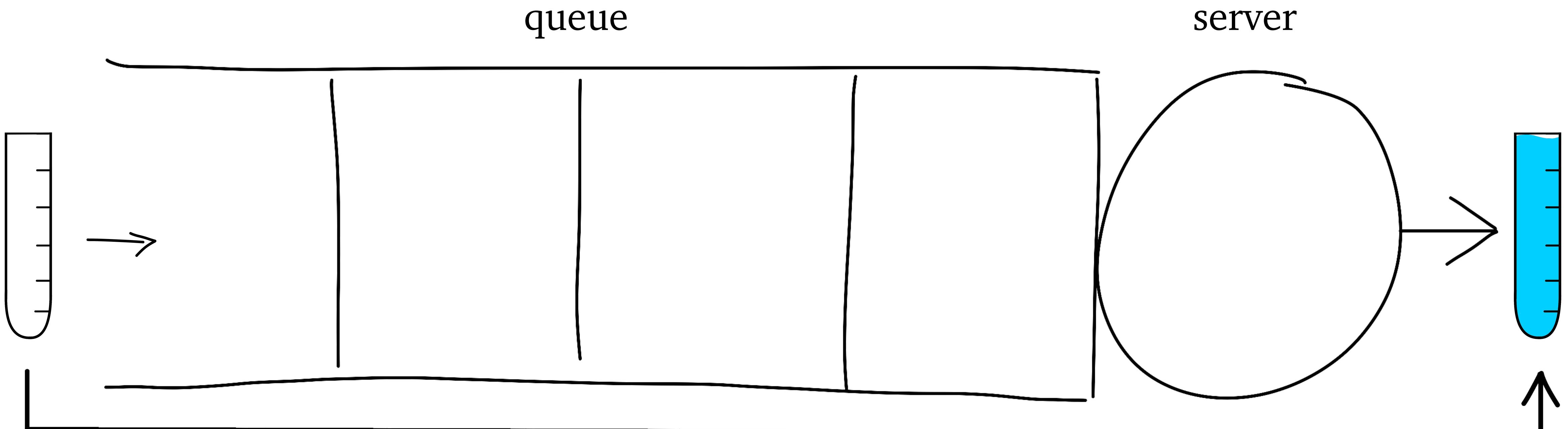
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 **Practice**

Gittins



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SRPT

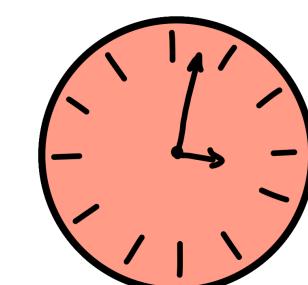
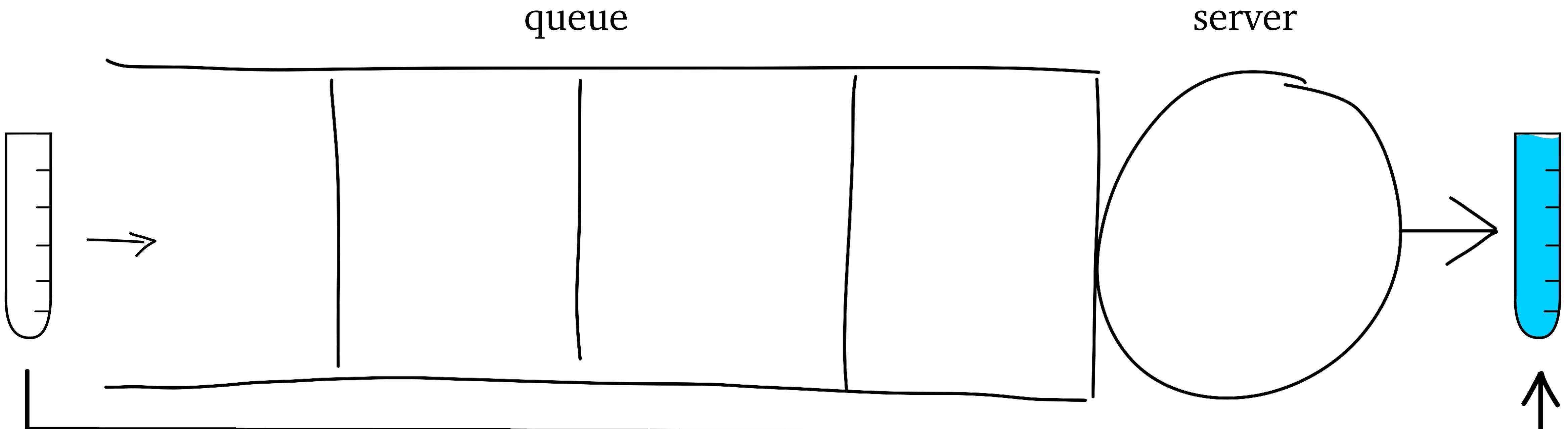
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- mean response time, $E[T]$
- $E[T]$ with unknown job sizes
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 **Practice**

- tail latency, $P[T > t]$ for large t

Gittins



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SRPT

 **Theory**

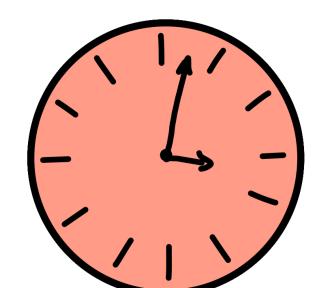
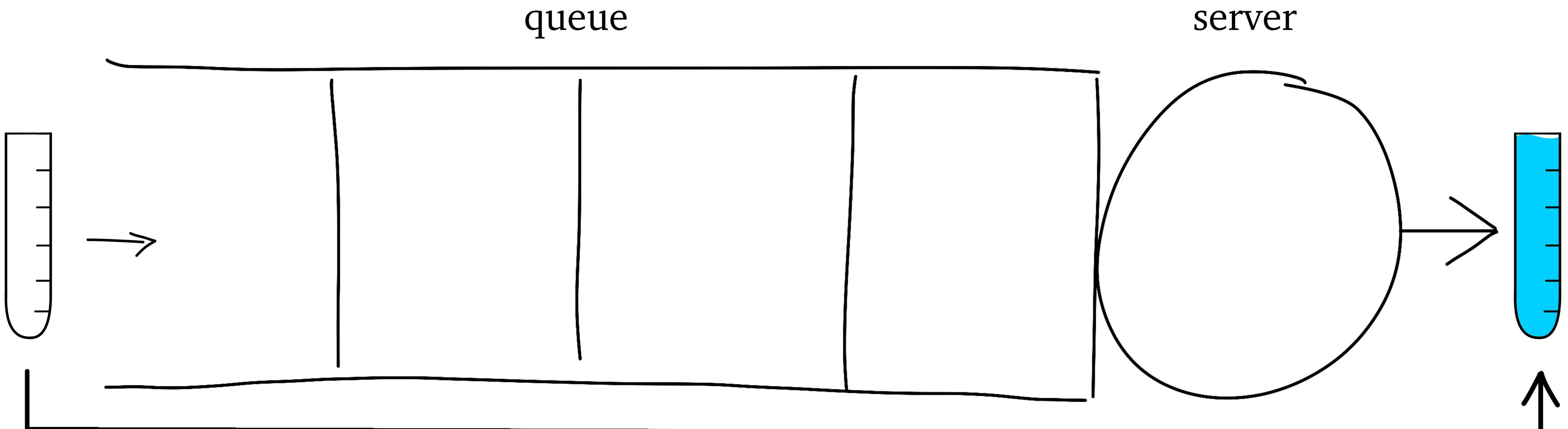
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Gittins



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SRPT

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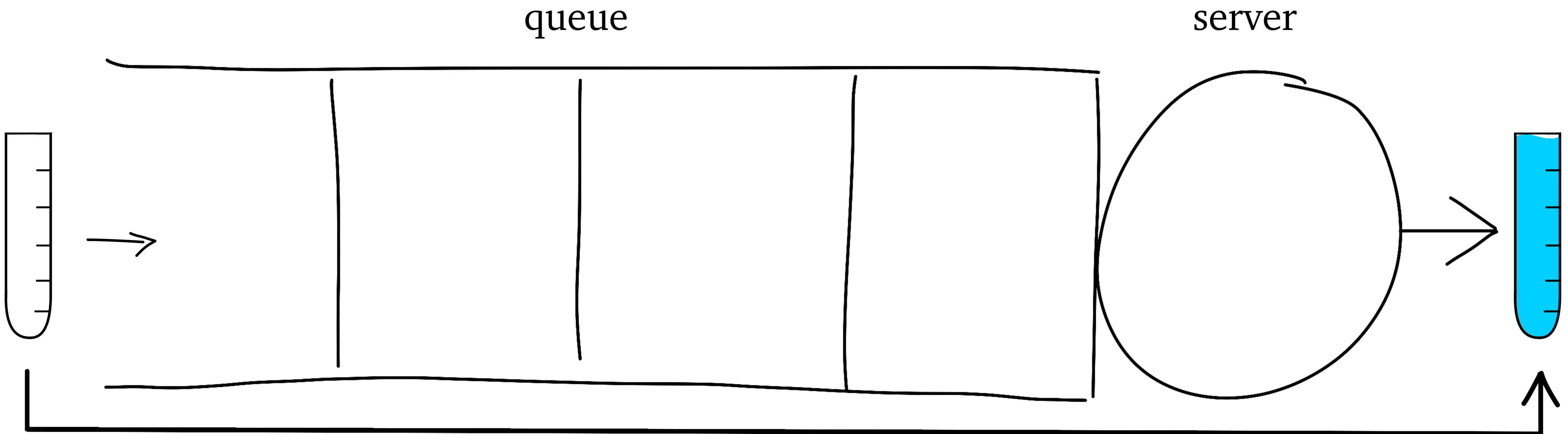
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Gittins

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- tail latency, $P[T > t]$ for large t
- tail latency with unknown job sizes

hard to analyze



SRPT



The

- mean response time
- $E[T]$ with unknown job sizes
- weighted $E[T]$

This talk: *asymptotic tail latency*

$$P[T > t] \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

with unknown job sizes!

Gittins

response time



Practice

- tail latency, $P[T > t]$ for large t
- tail latency with unknown job sizes

hard to analyze

What does it mean to minimize asymptotic tail latency?

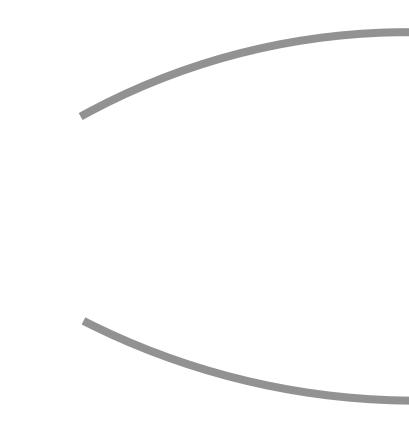
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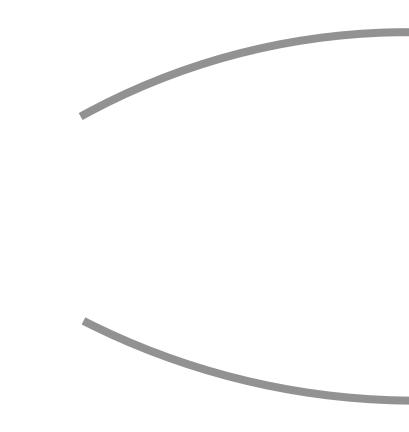
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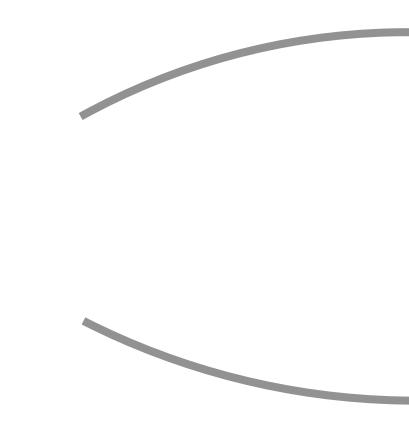
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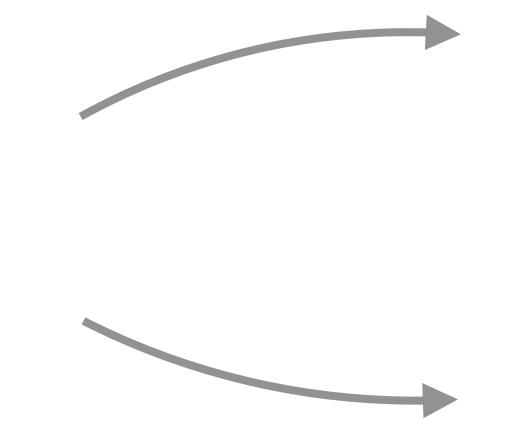
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Which policies are weakly optimal?

Heavy-Tailed Size Distribution

- PS (Processor Sharing)
- LAS (Least Attained Service)
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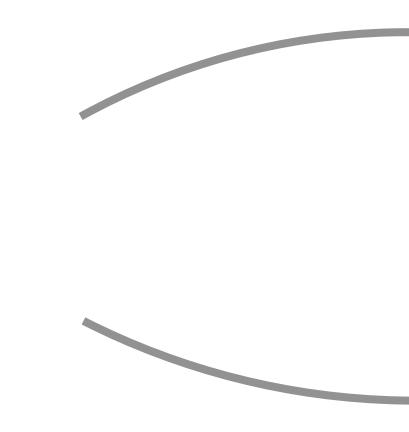
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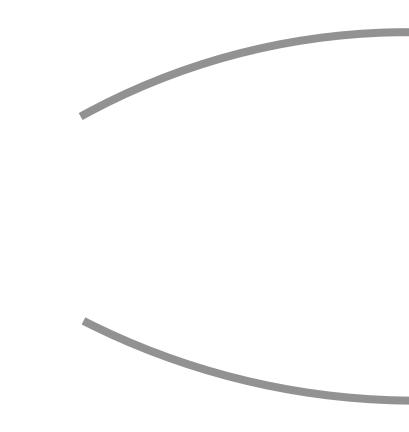
“ $P[S > x] \sim O(e^{-\beta x})$ ”

Heavy-Tailed Size Distribution

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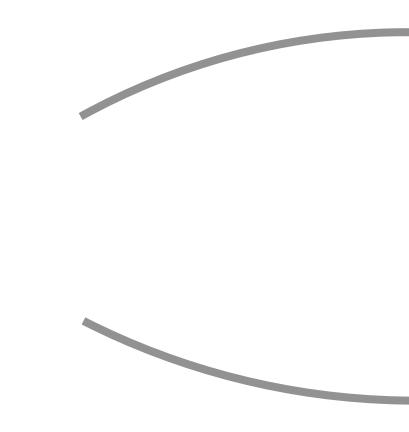
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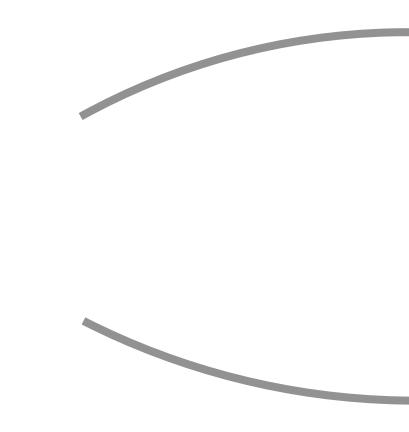
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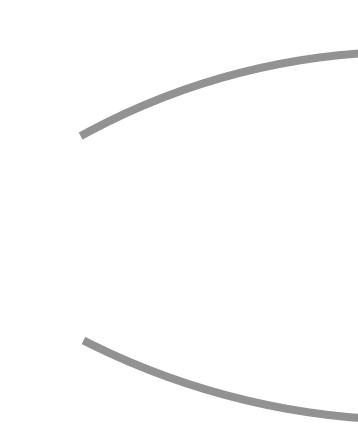
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Our contribution: new policy + proof of strong optimality



GittinsBoost

Our contribution: GittinsBoost + proof of strong optimality

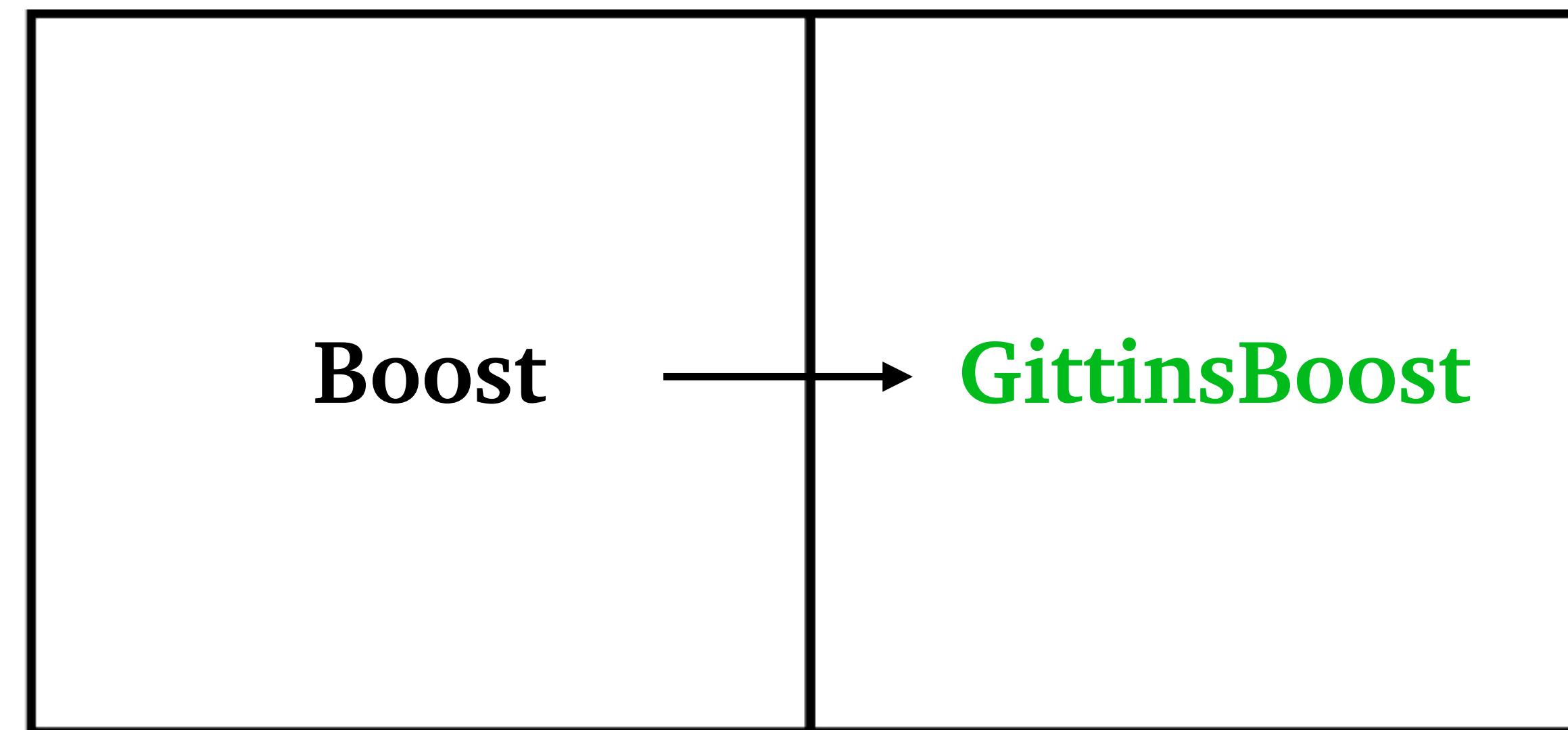


How do we generalize Boost to
the unknown size setting

$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P}[T > t]$
(light-tailed)

known sizes

unknown sizes

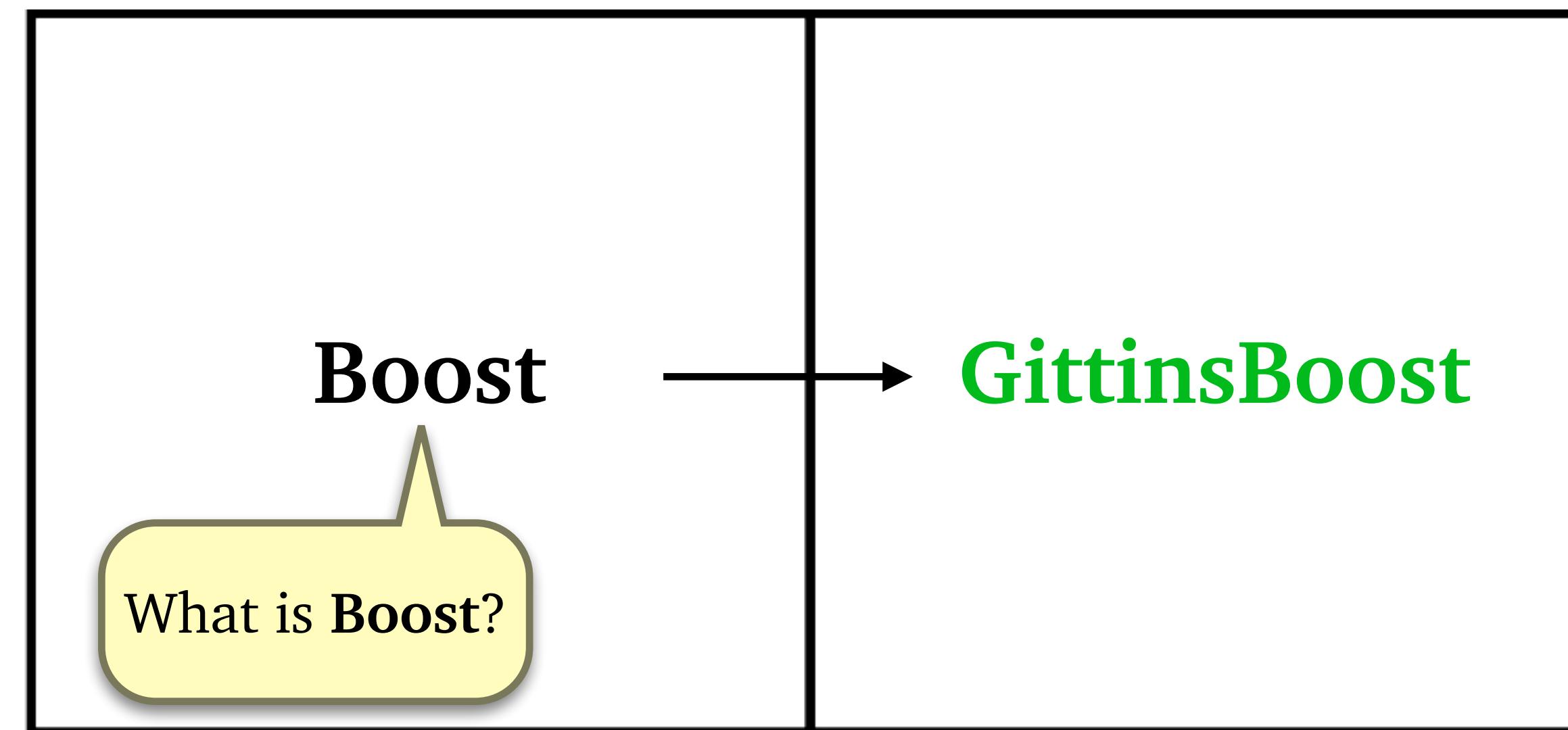


Our contribution: GittinsBoost + proof of strong optimality

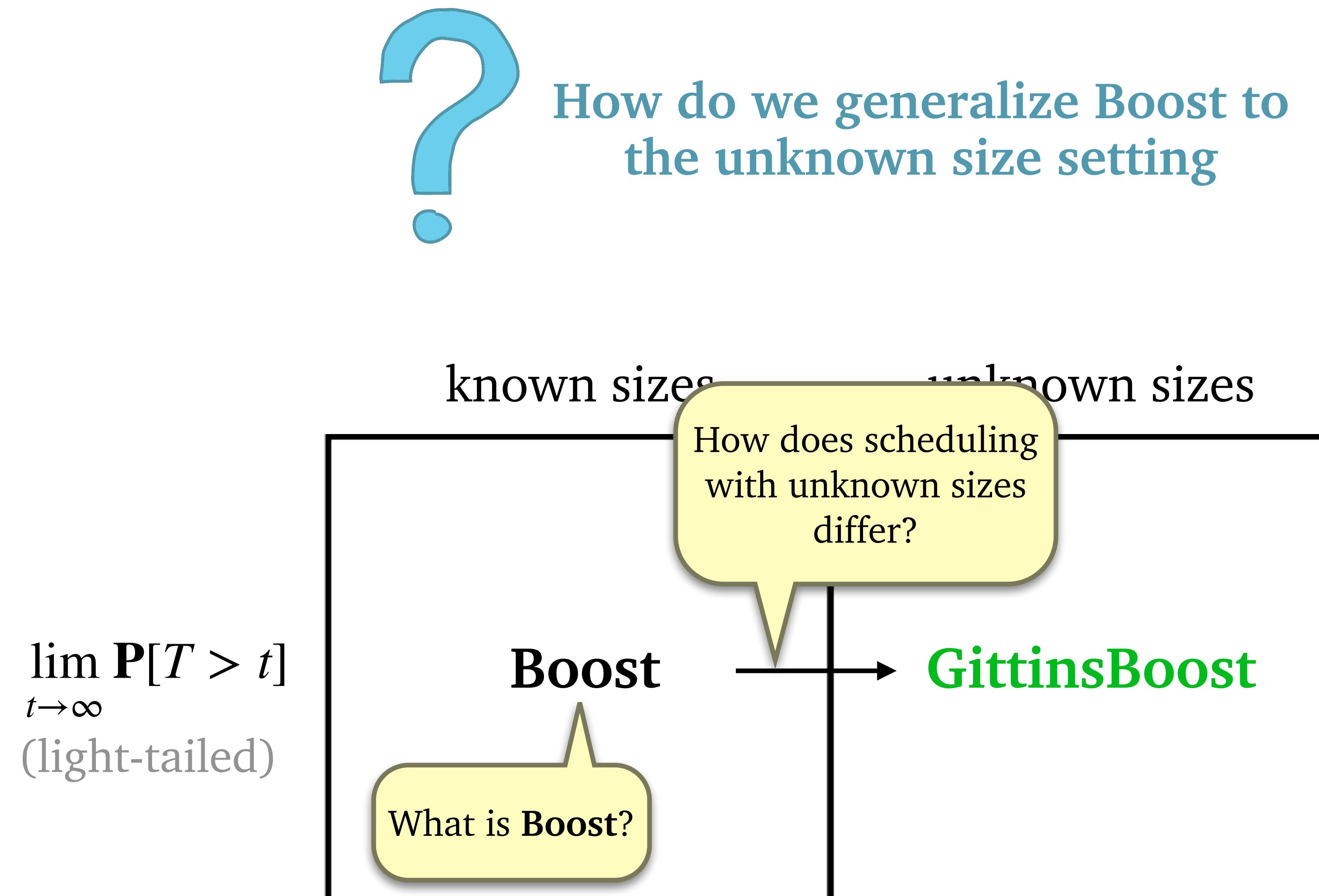


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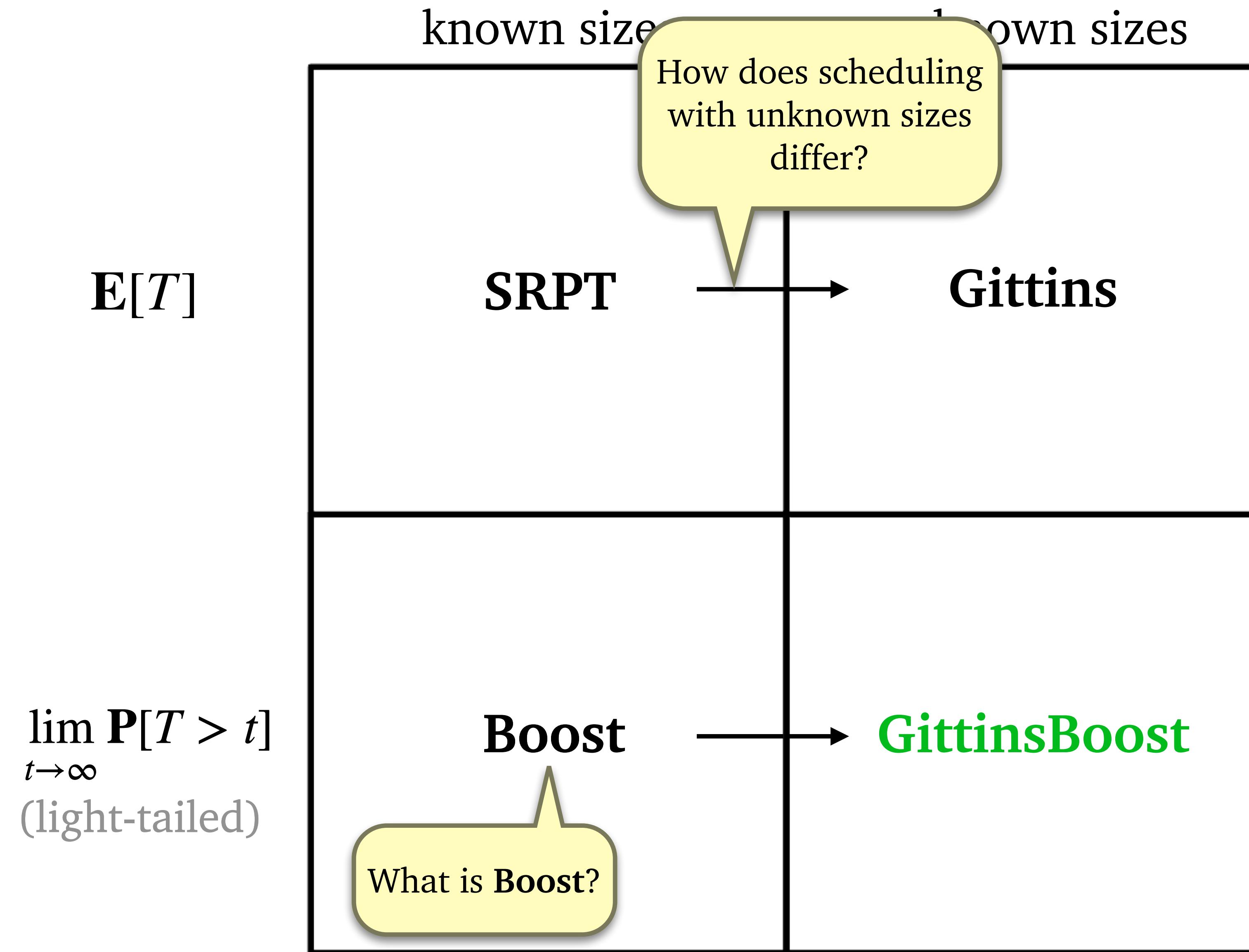
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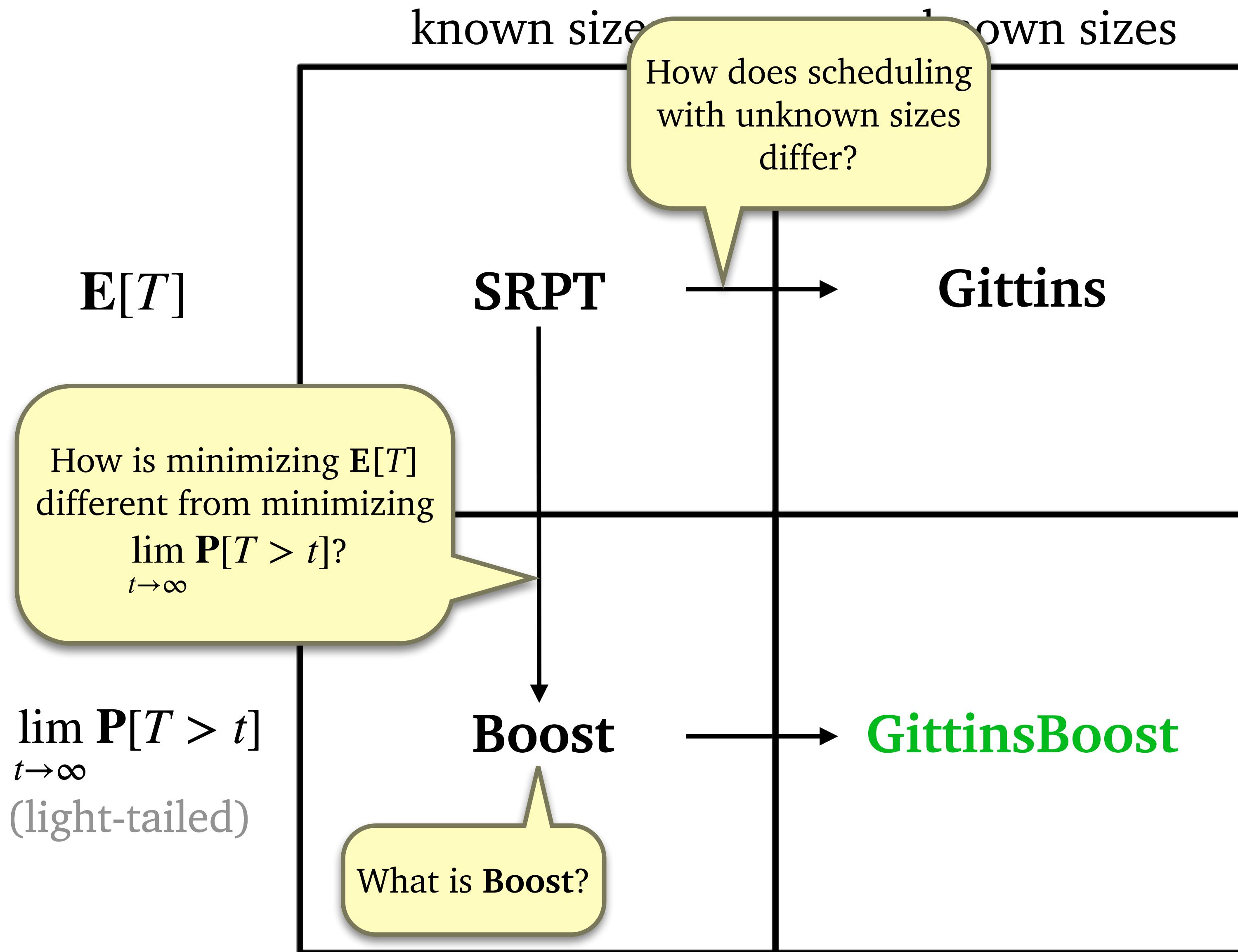
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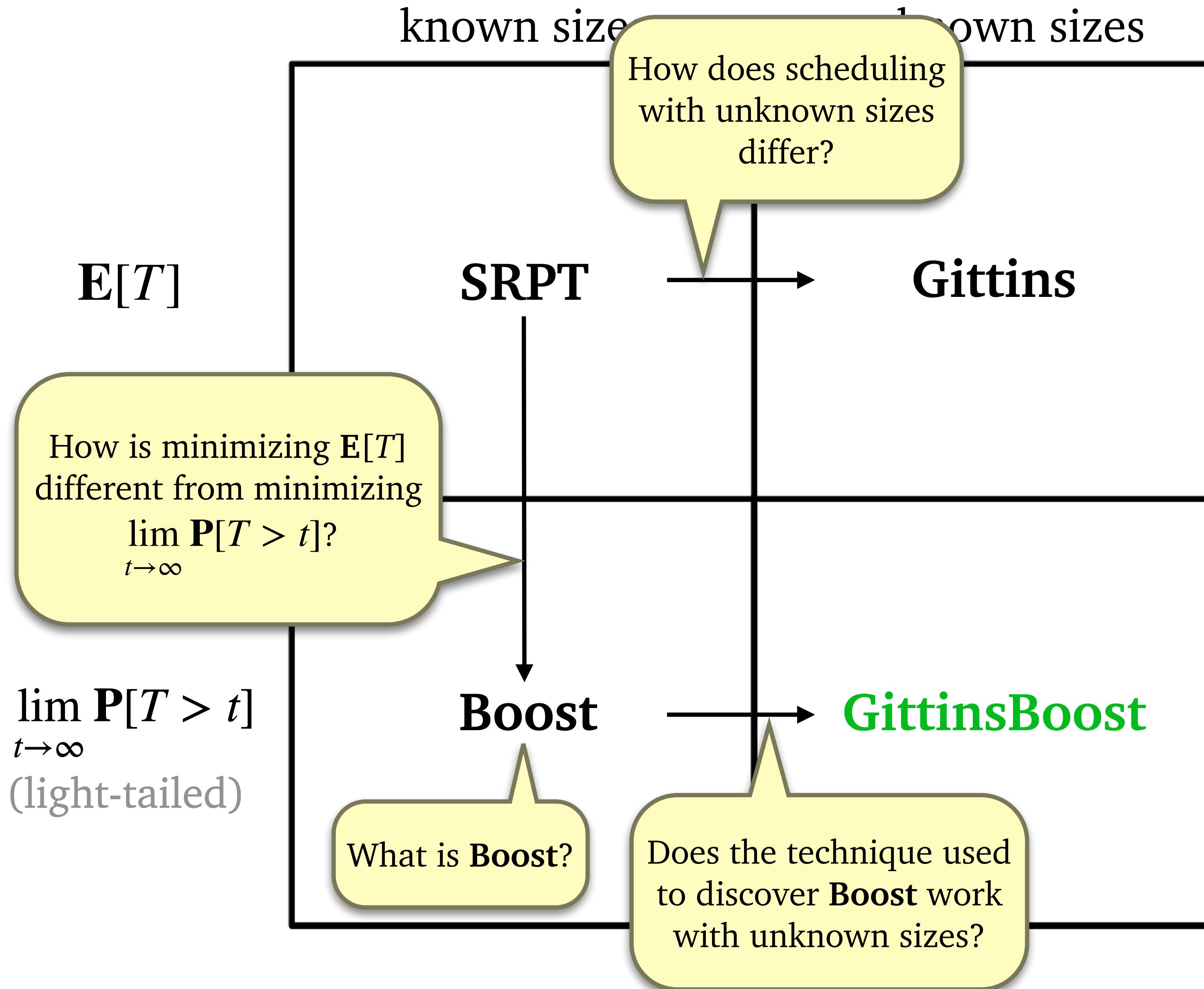
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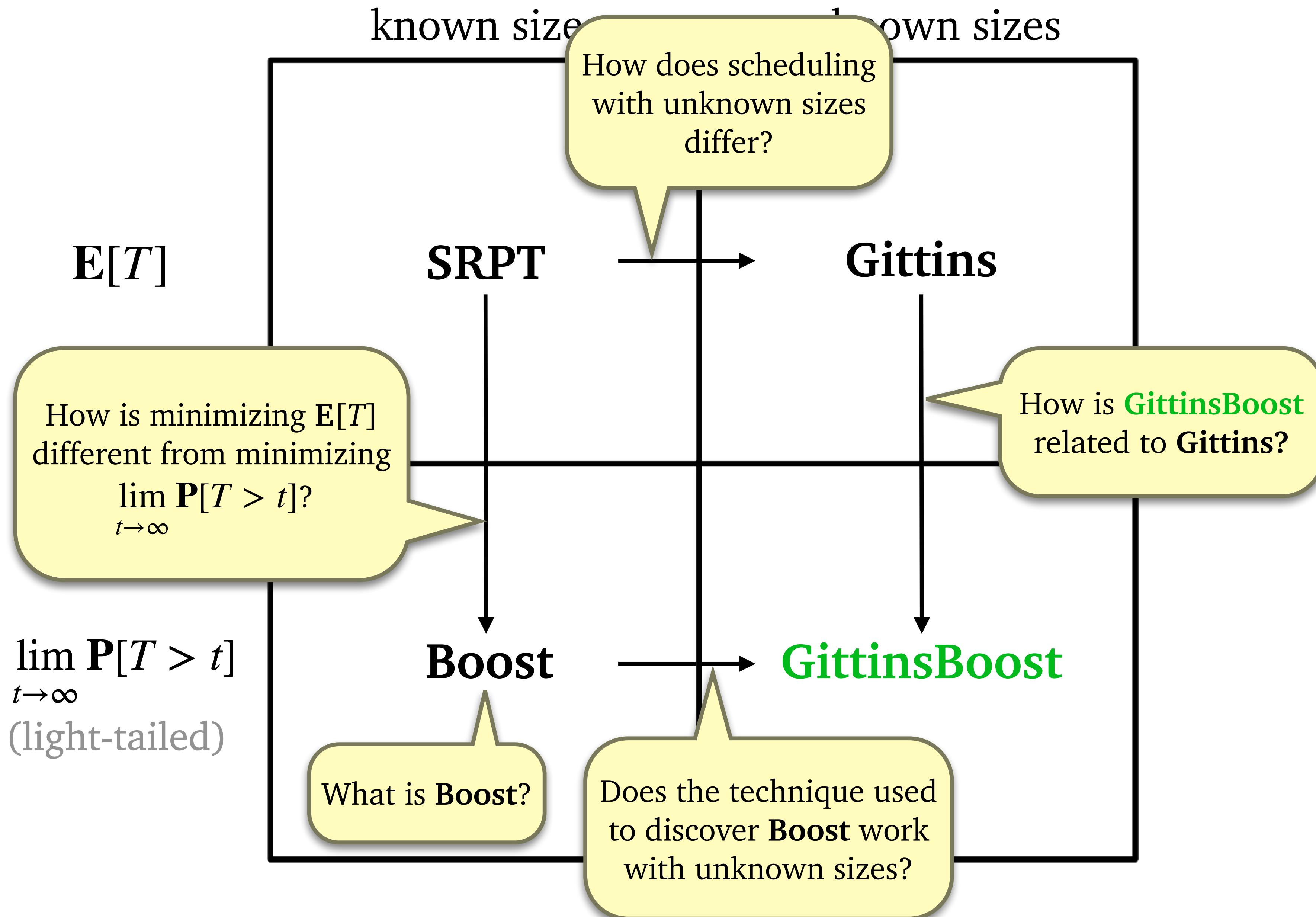
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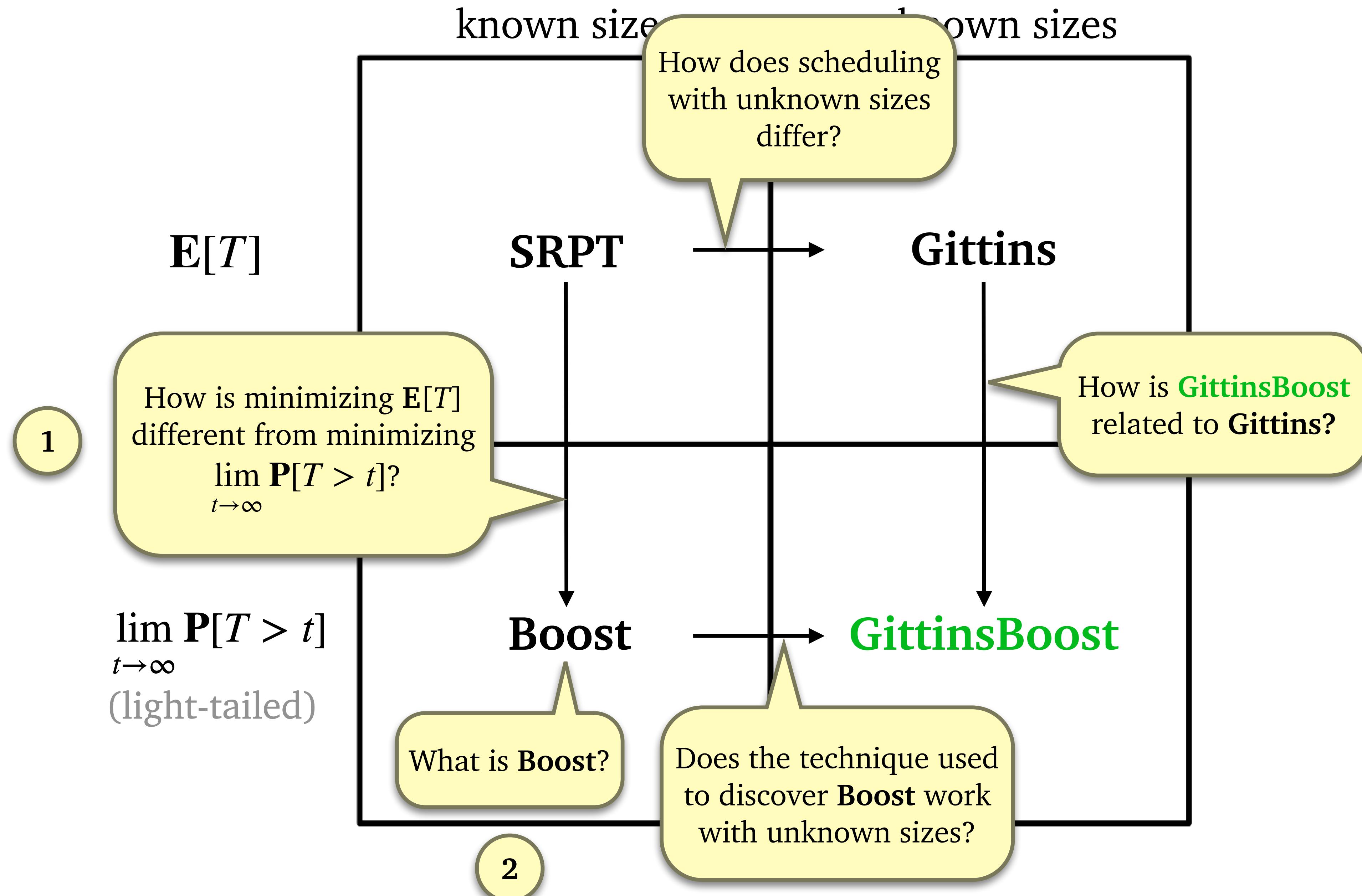
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Optimizing Means vs Optimizing Tails

Minimize $E[T]$

Minimize $P[T > t]$

Optimizing Means vs Optimizing Tails

Minimize $E[T]$

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Boost: a way to balance this tradeoff!

What is Boost?

Boost serves jobs in order of ascending *boosted arrival time*:

$$\text{boosted arrival time} = \text{arrival time} - \text{boost}$$

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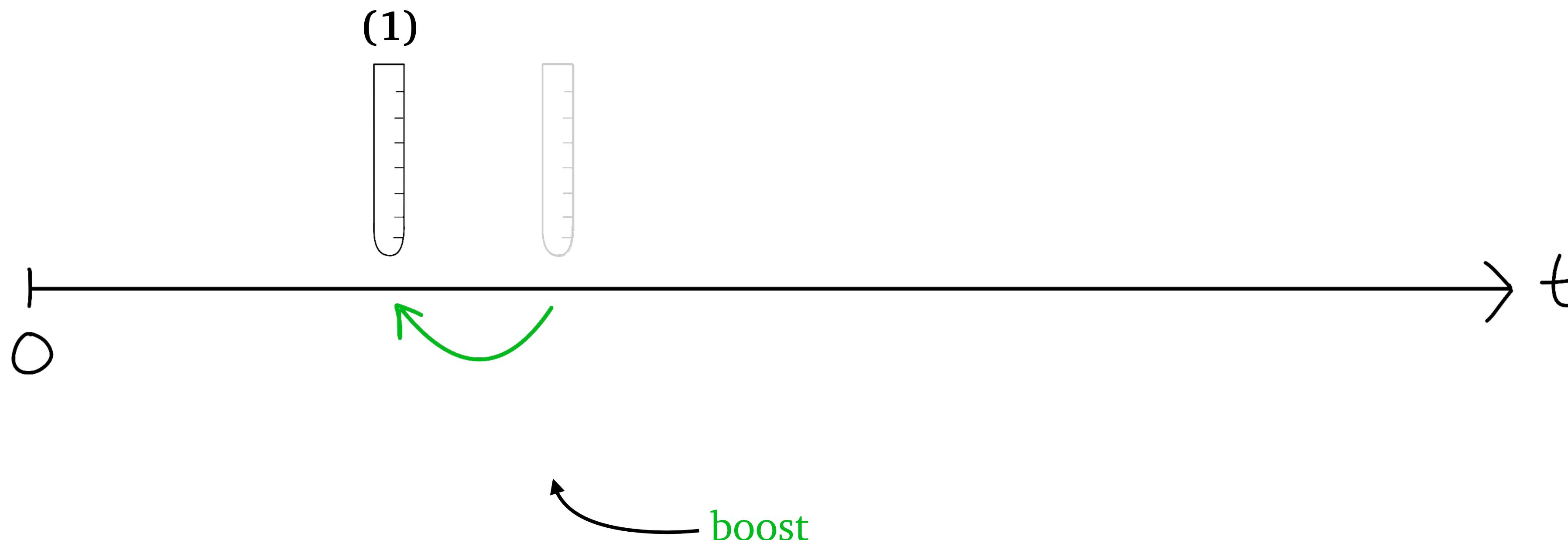


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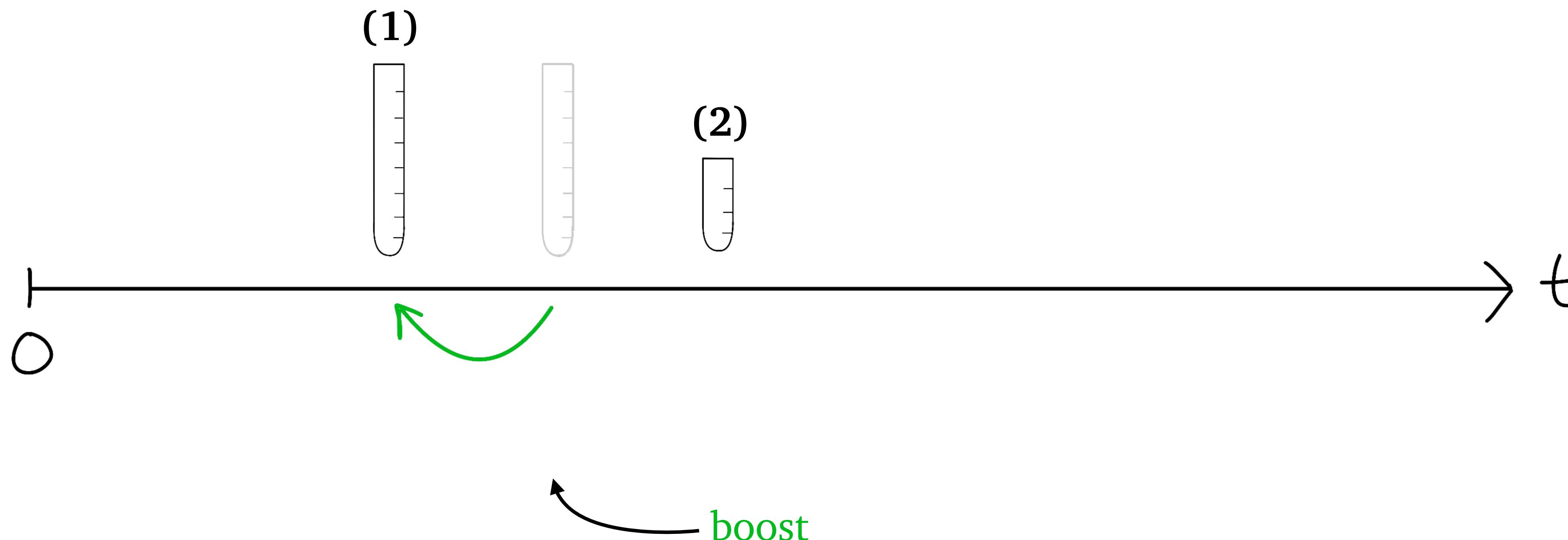


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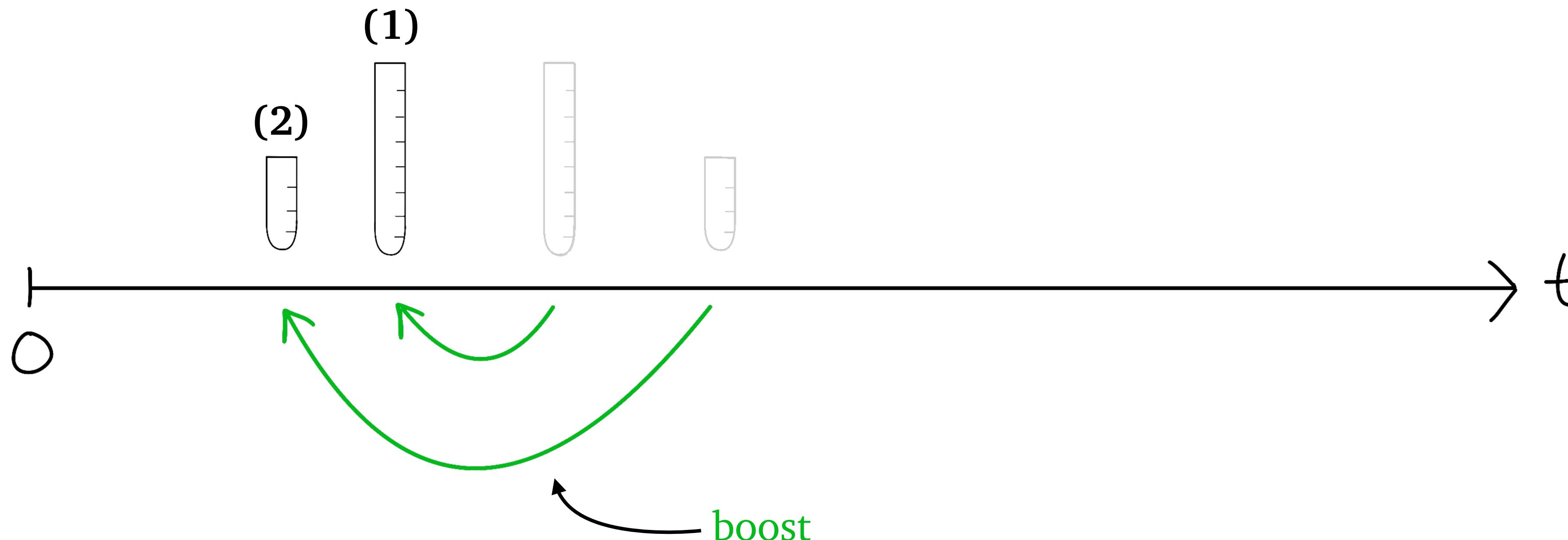


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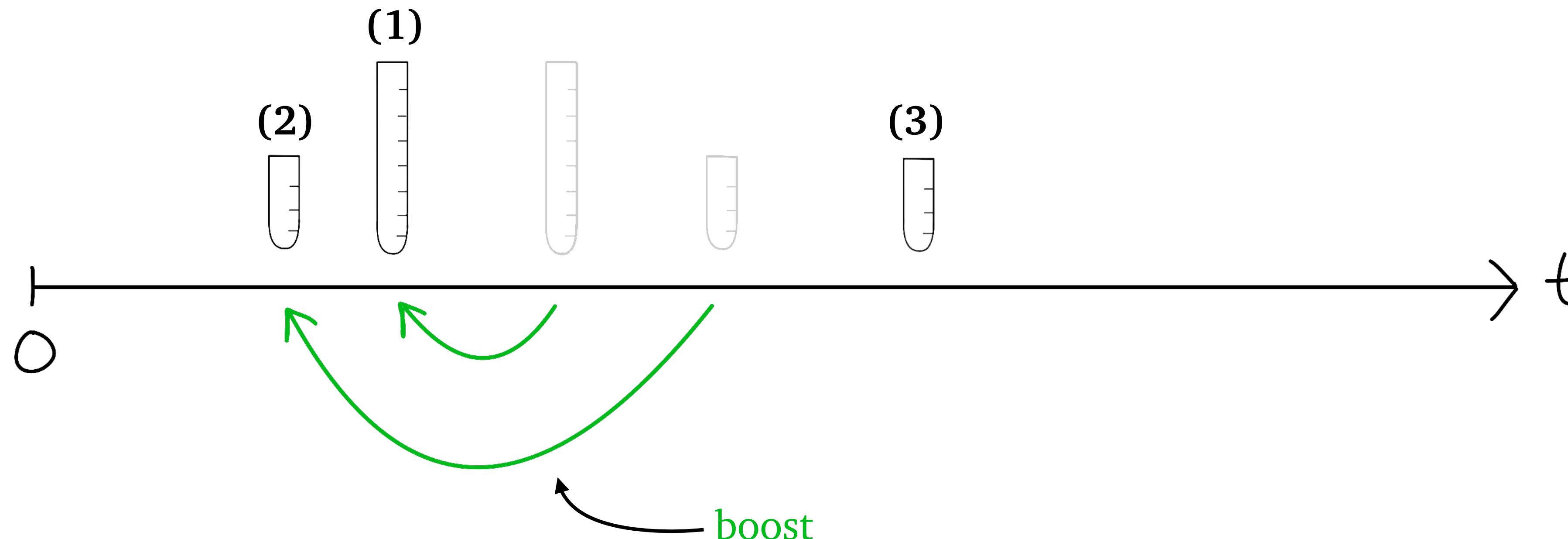


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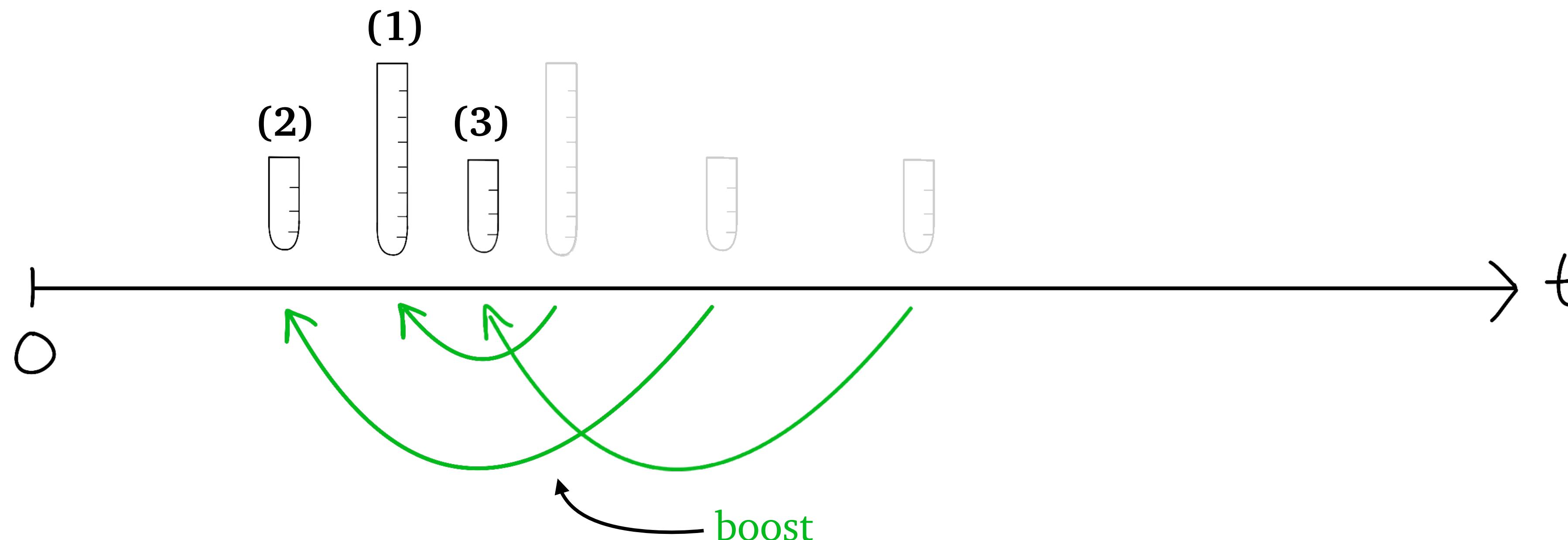


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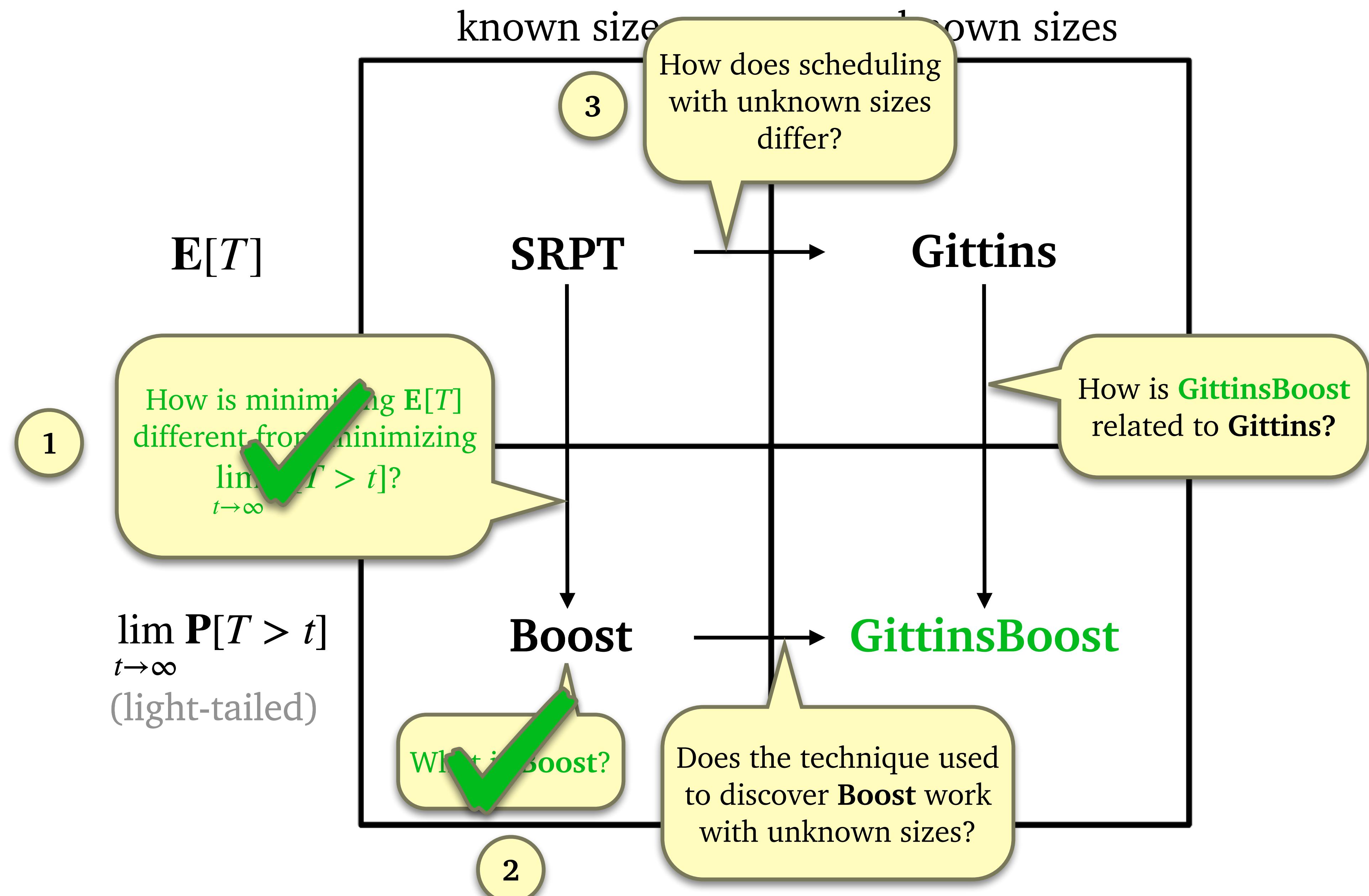
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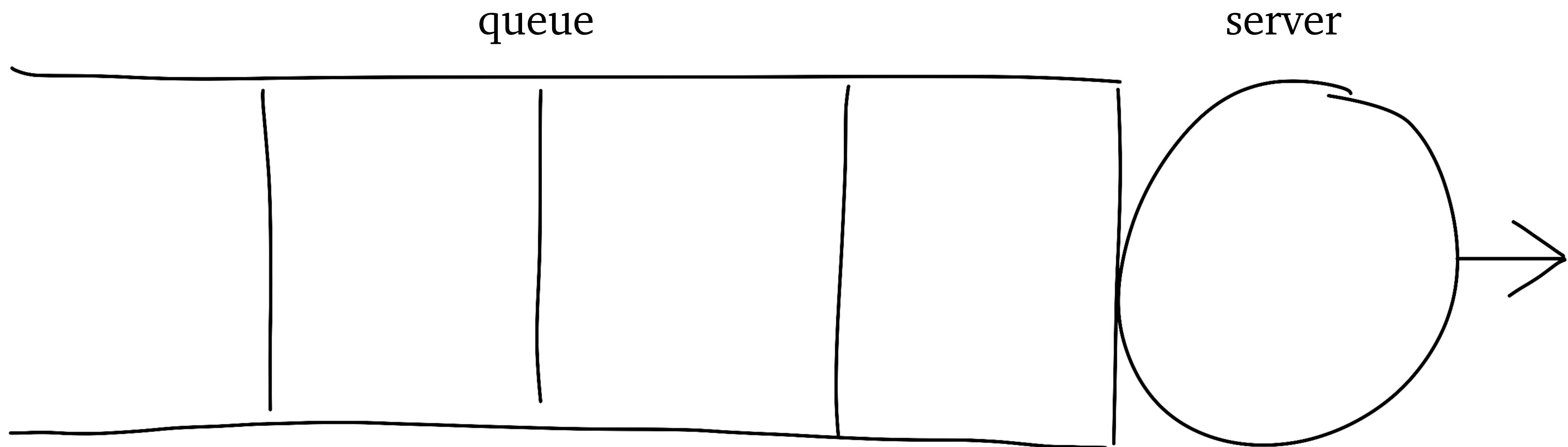
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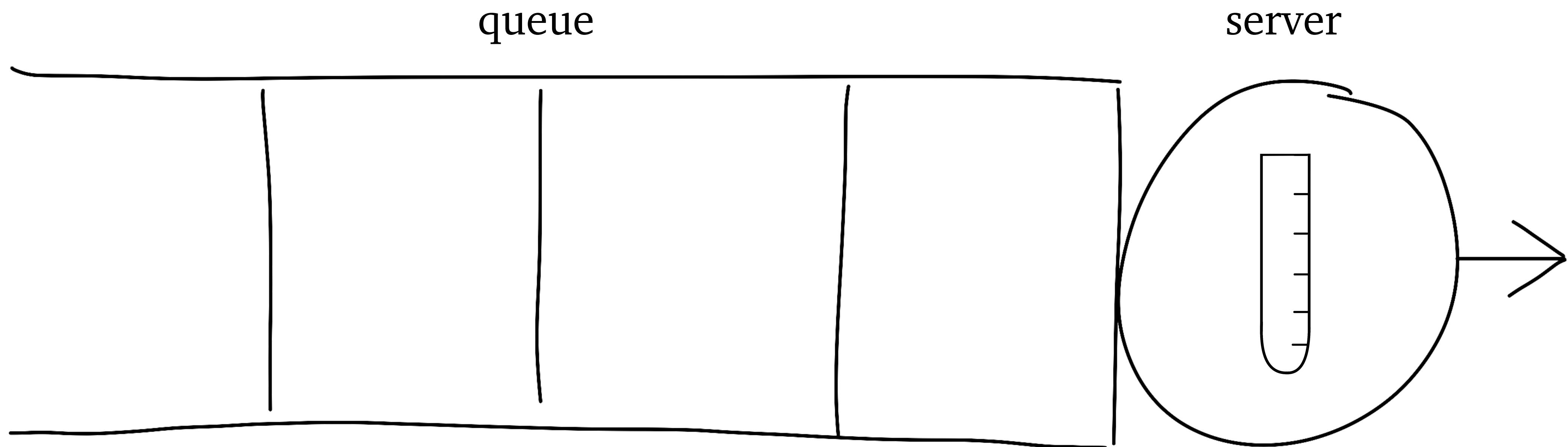
results in strongly optimal policy (Yu & Scully, 2024)



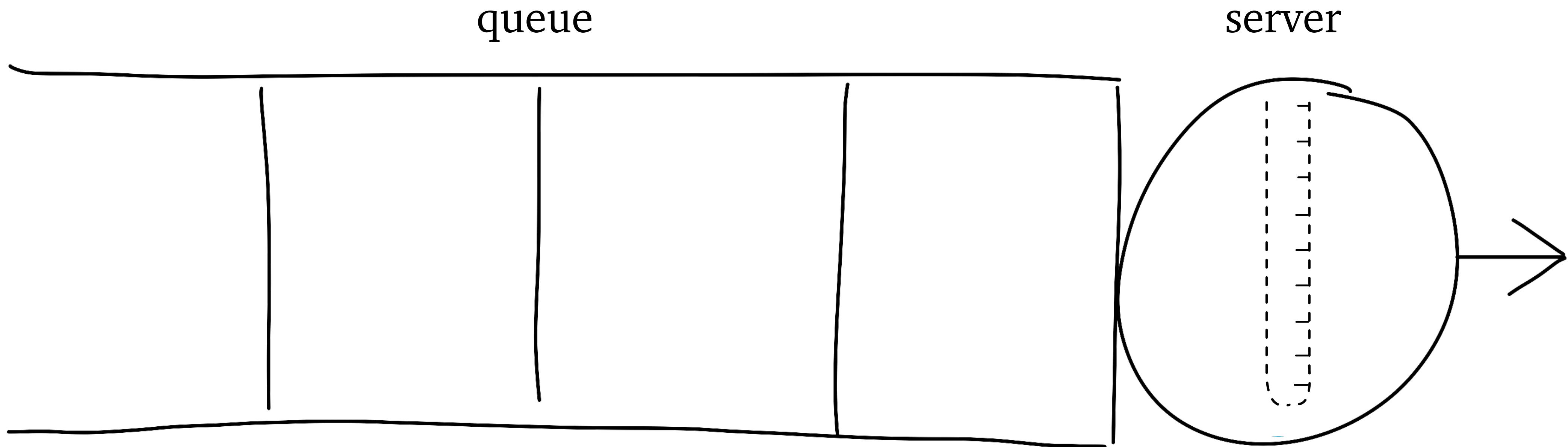
Scheduling with unknown job sizes



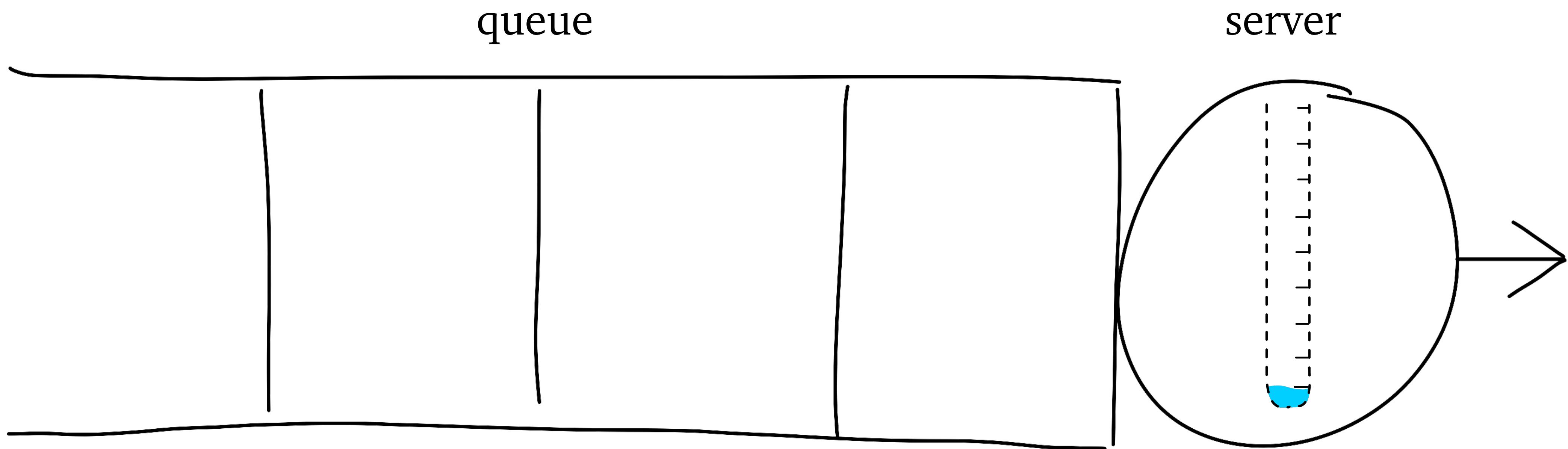
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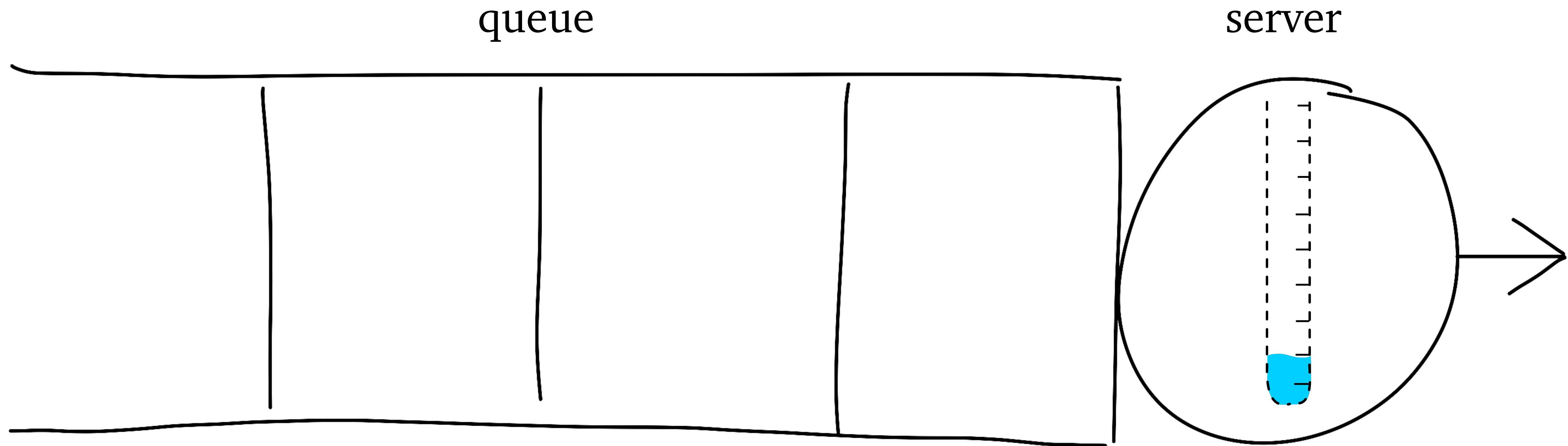
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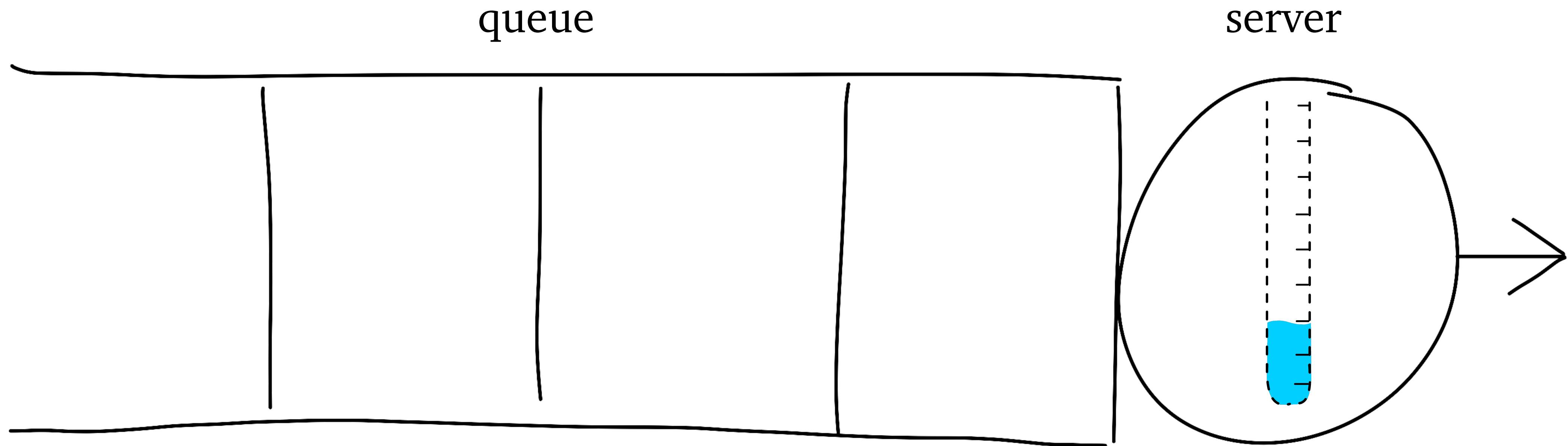
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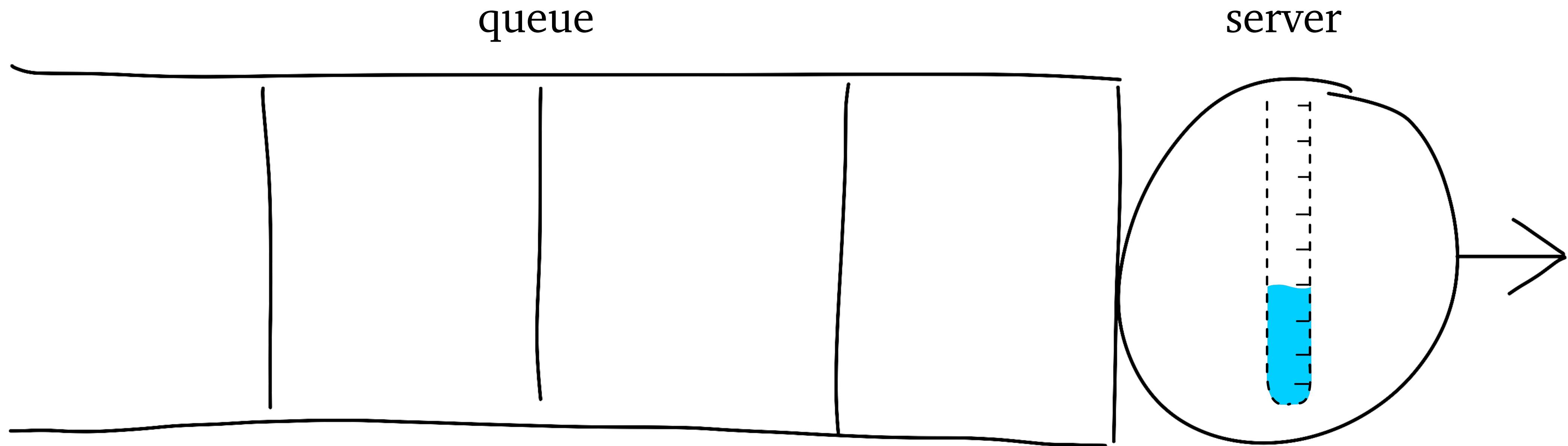
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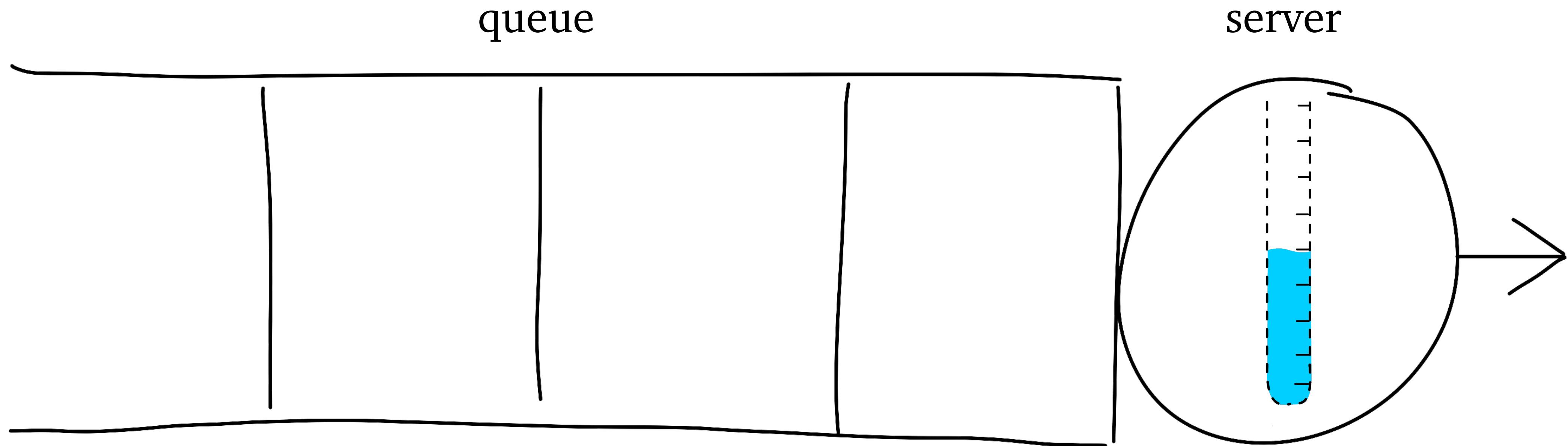
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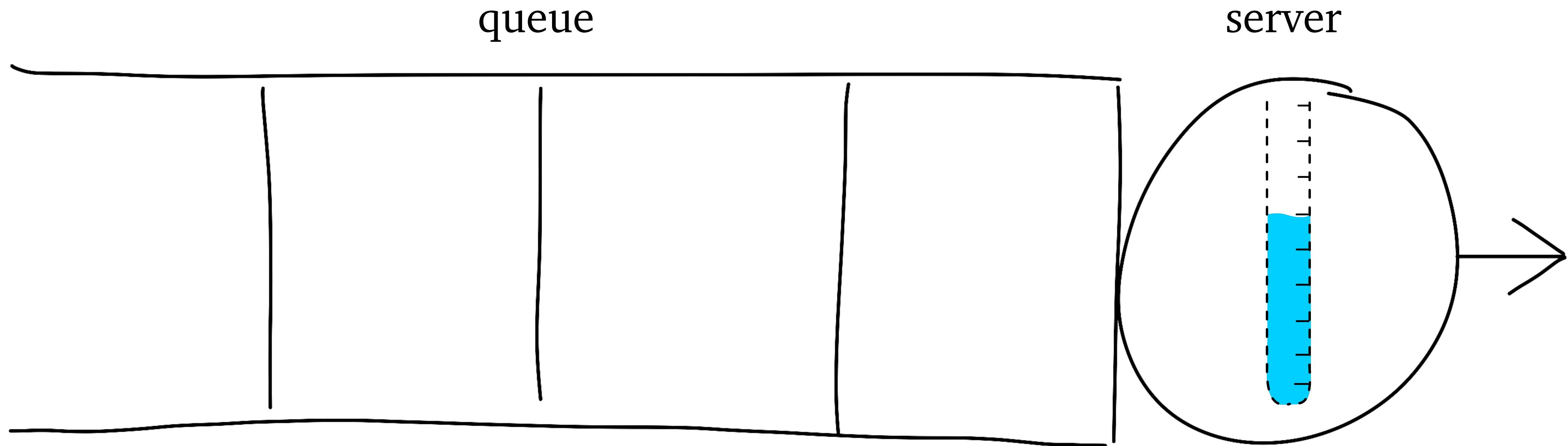
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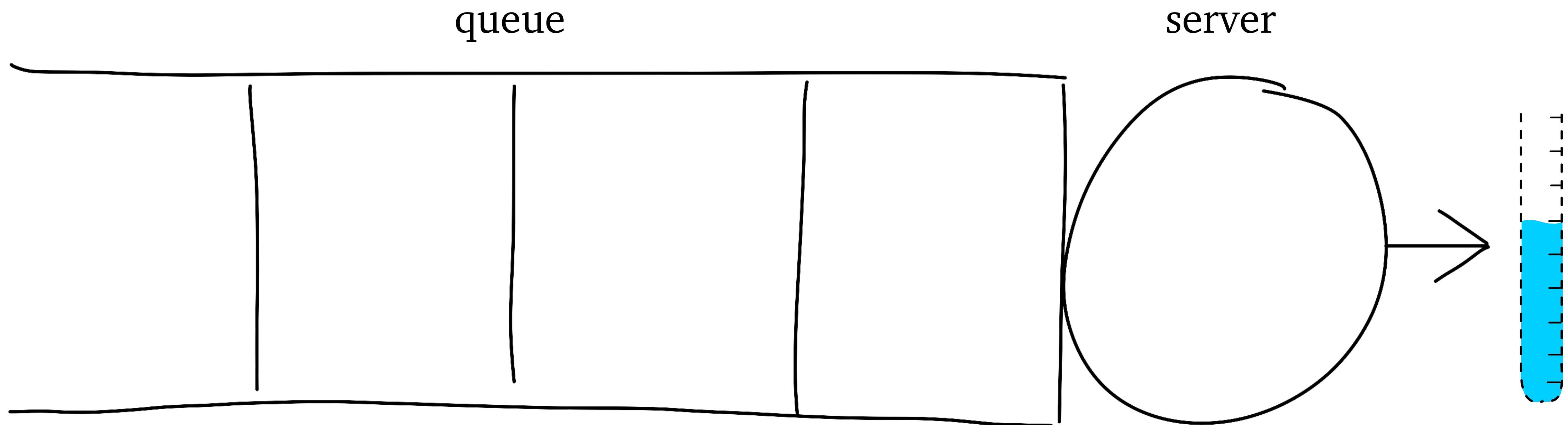
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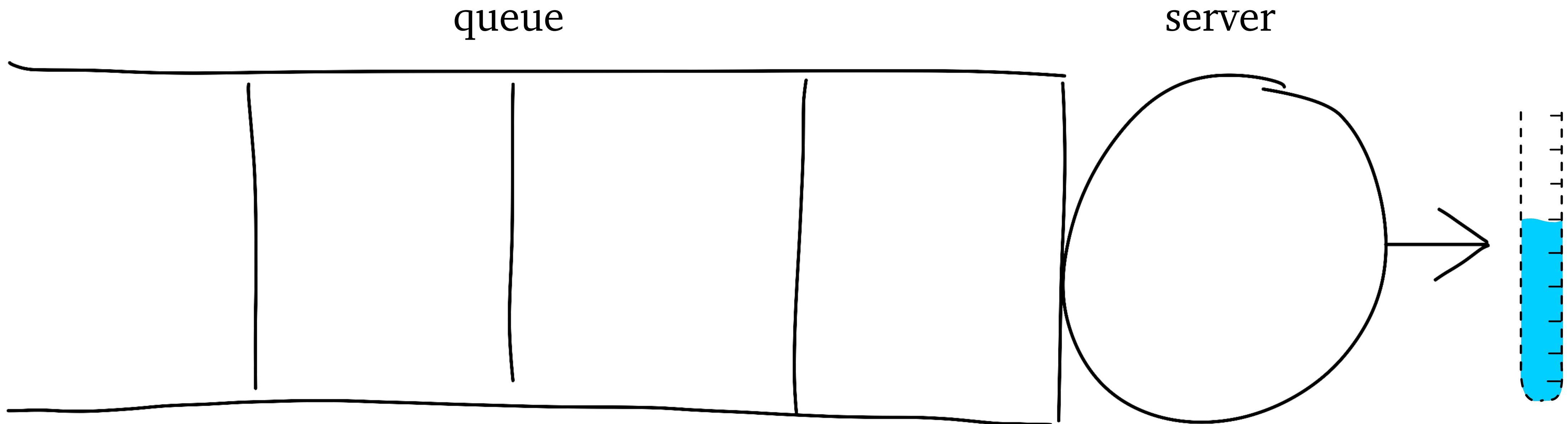
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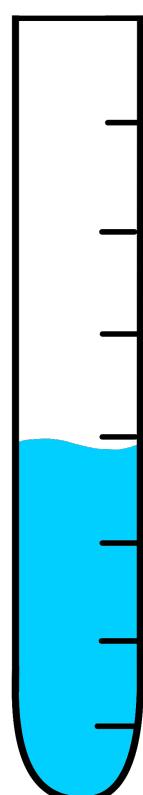
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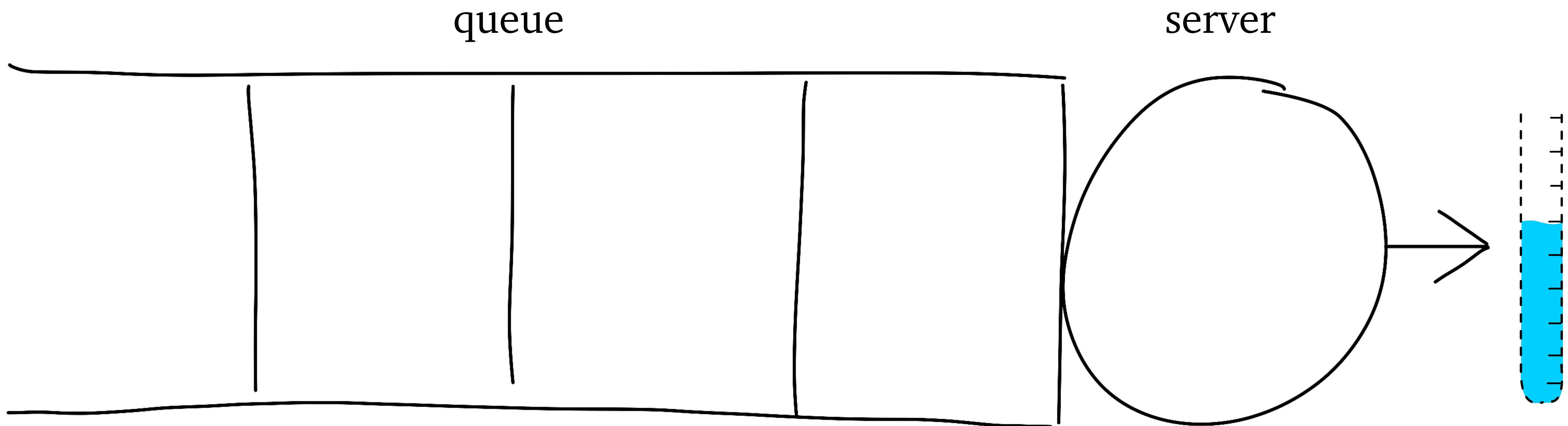
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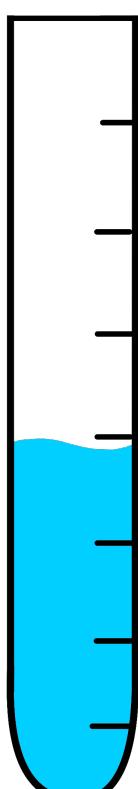


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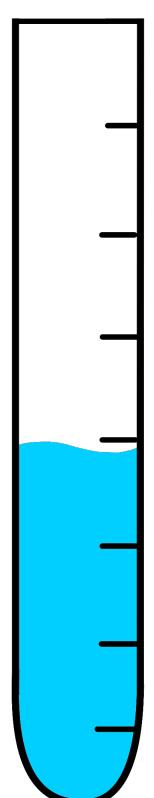
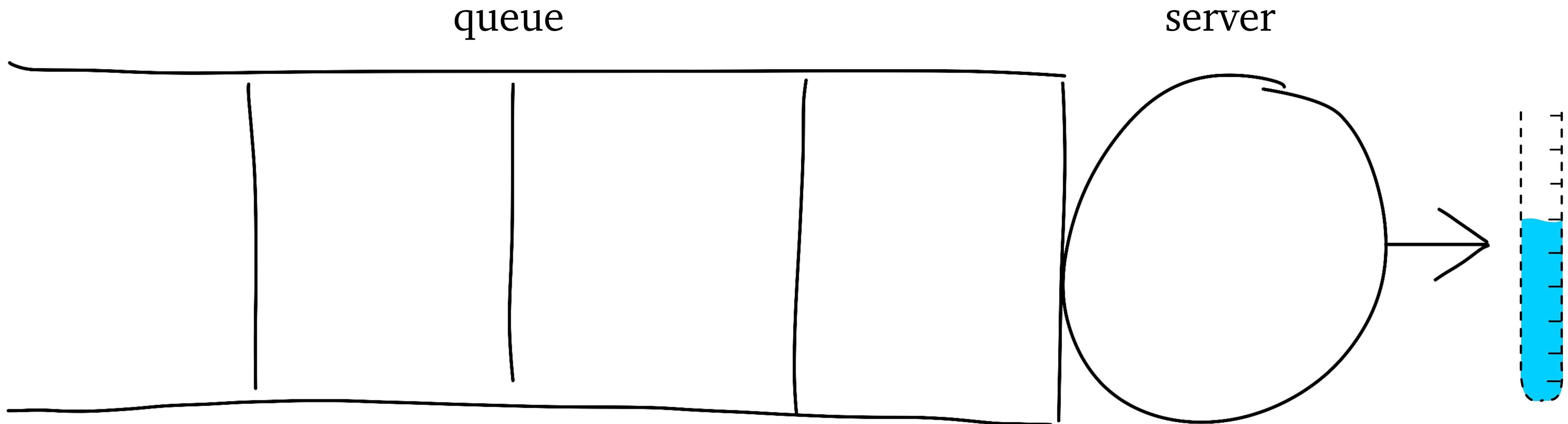


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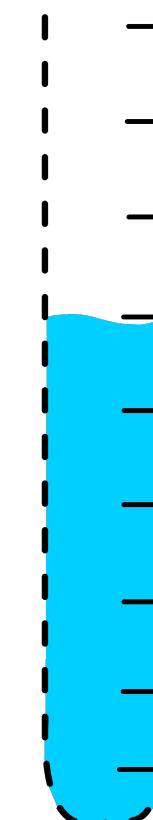


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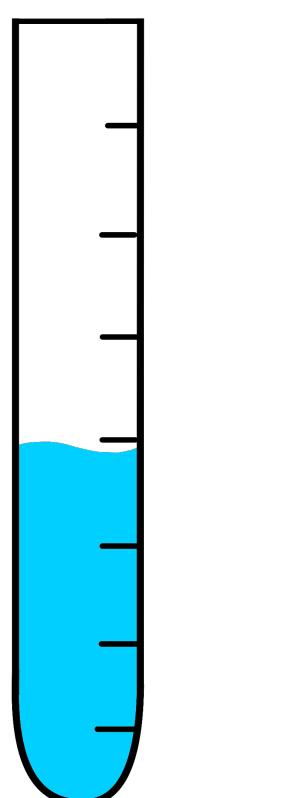
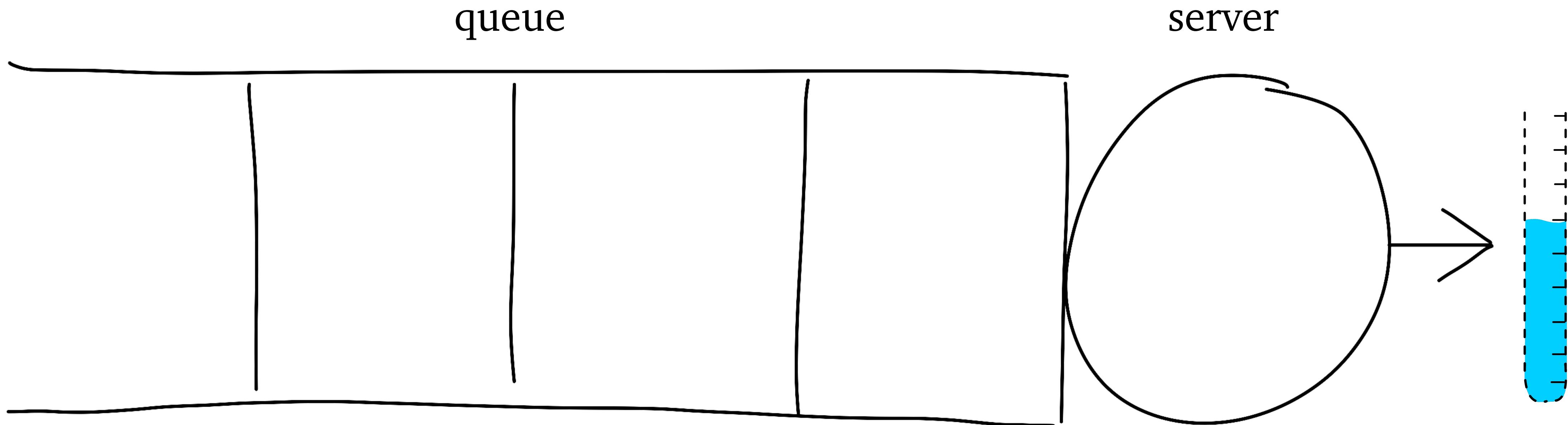
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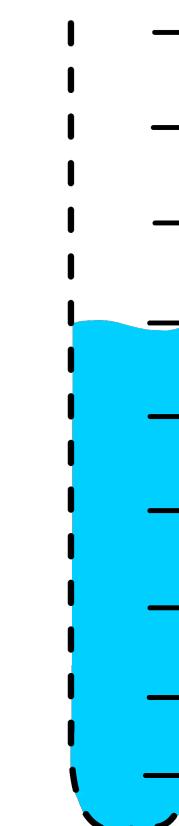
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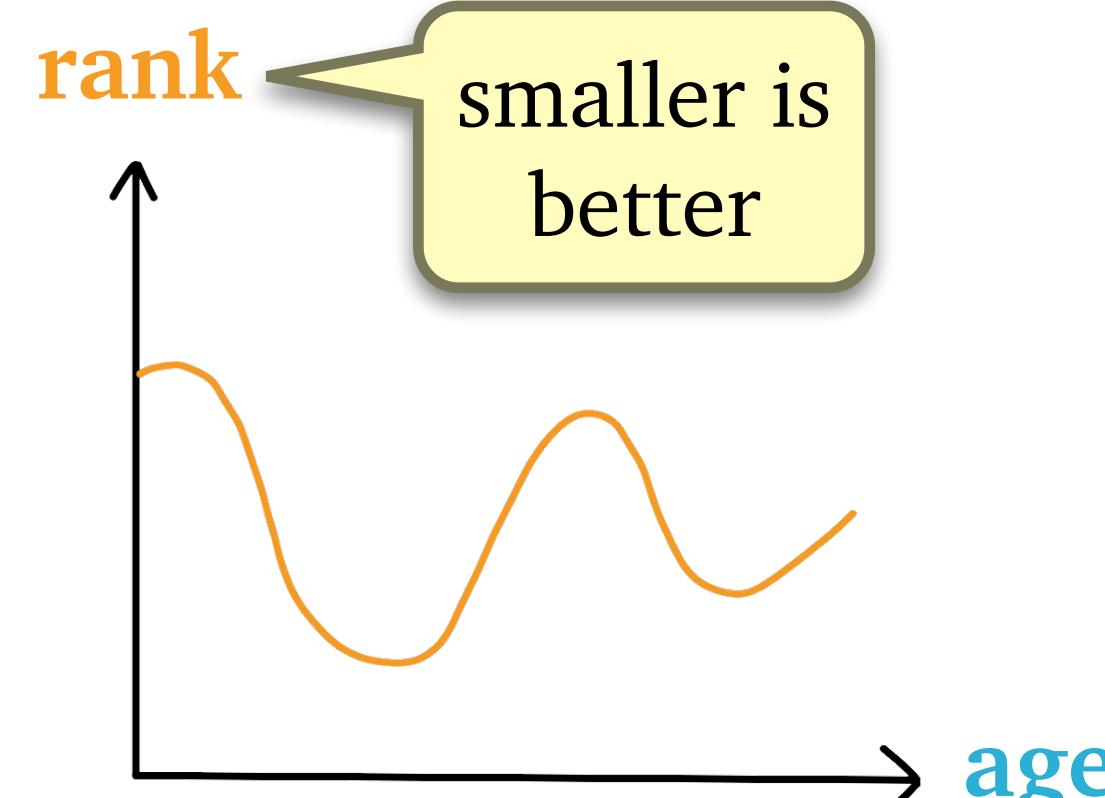
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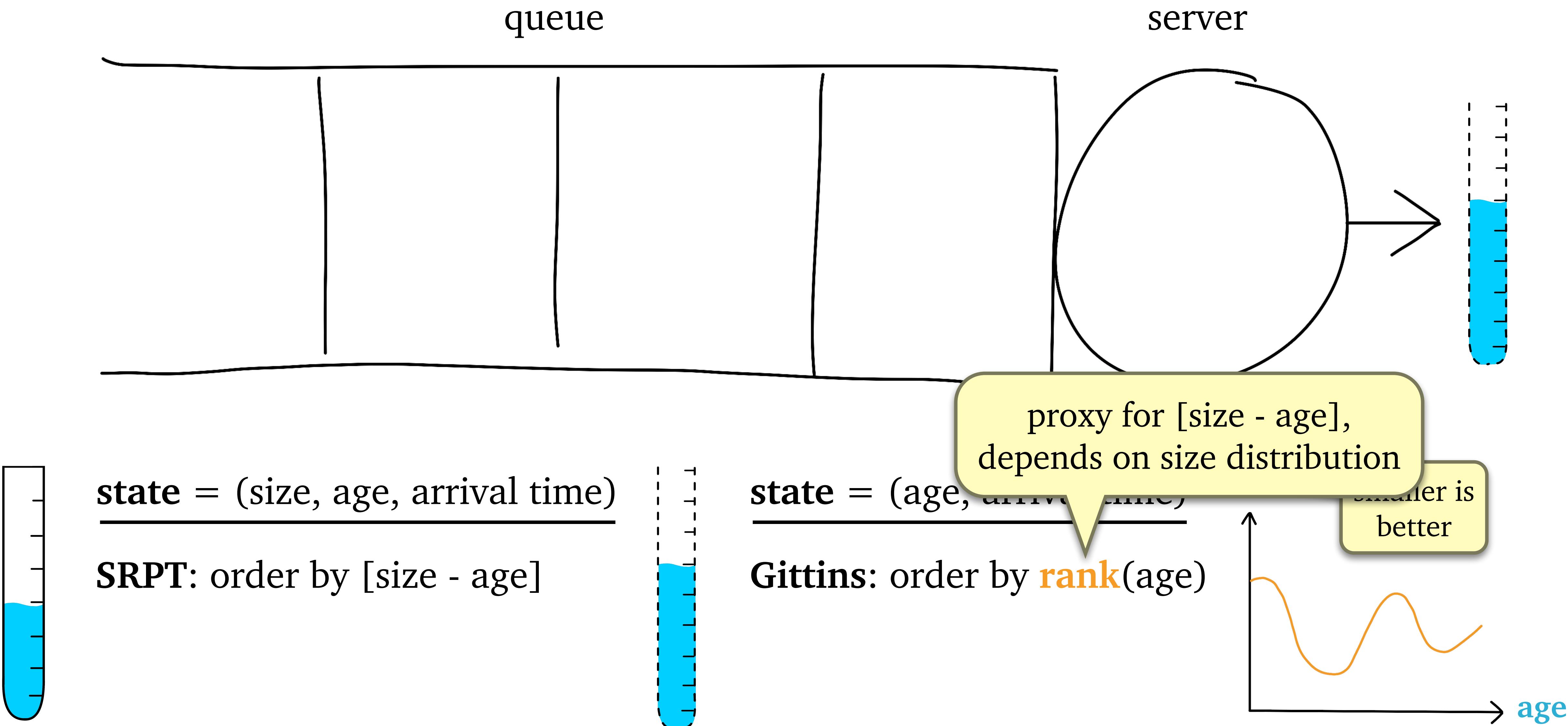


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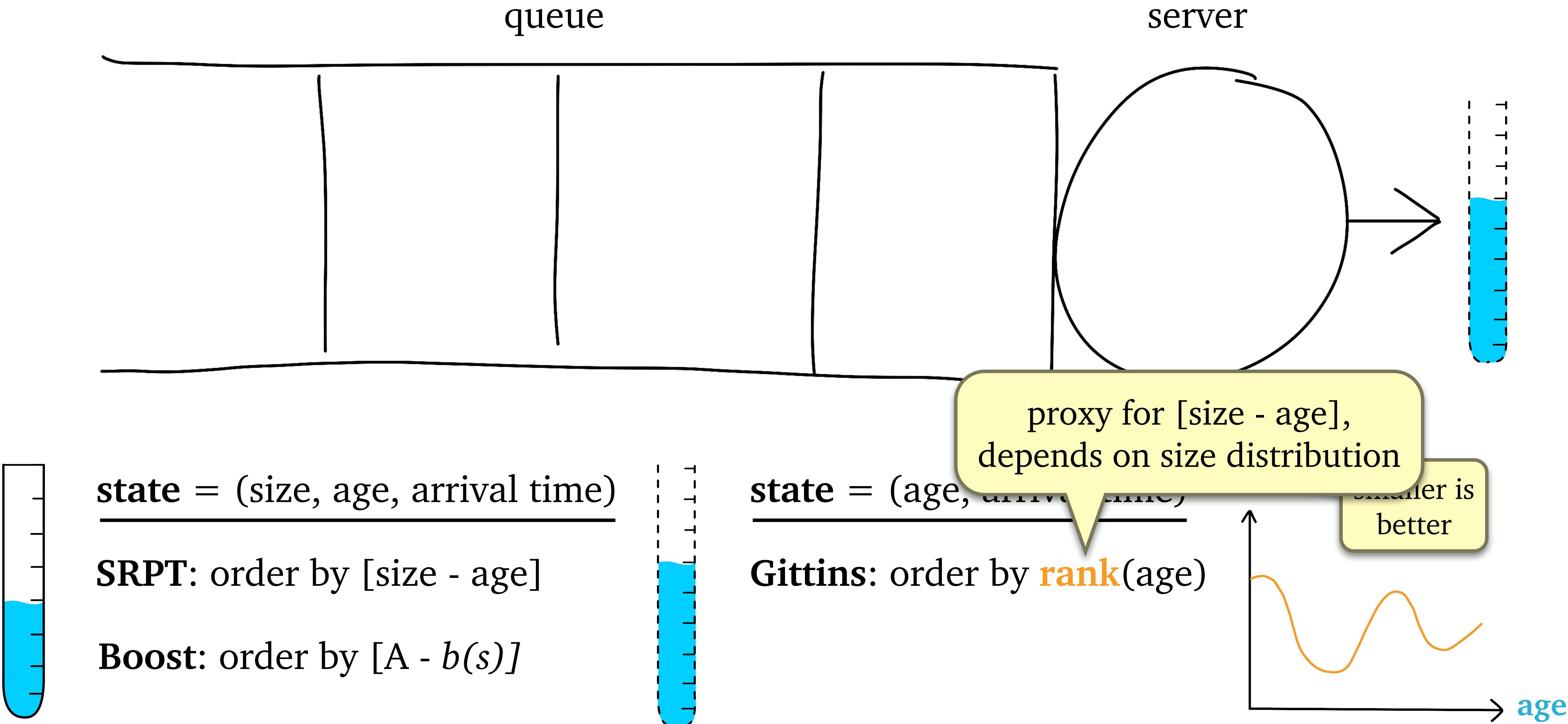
Gittins: order by **rank**(age)



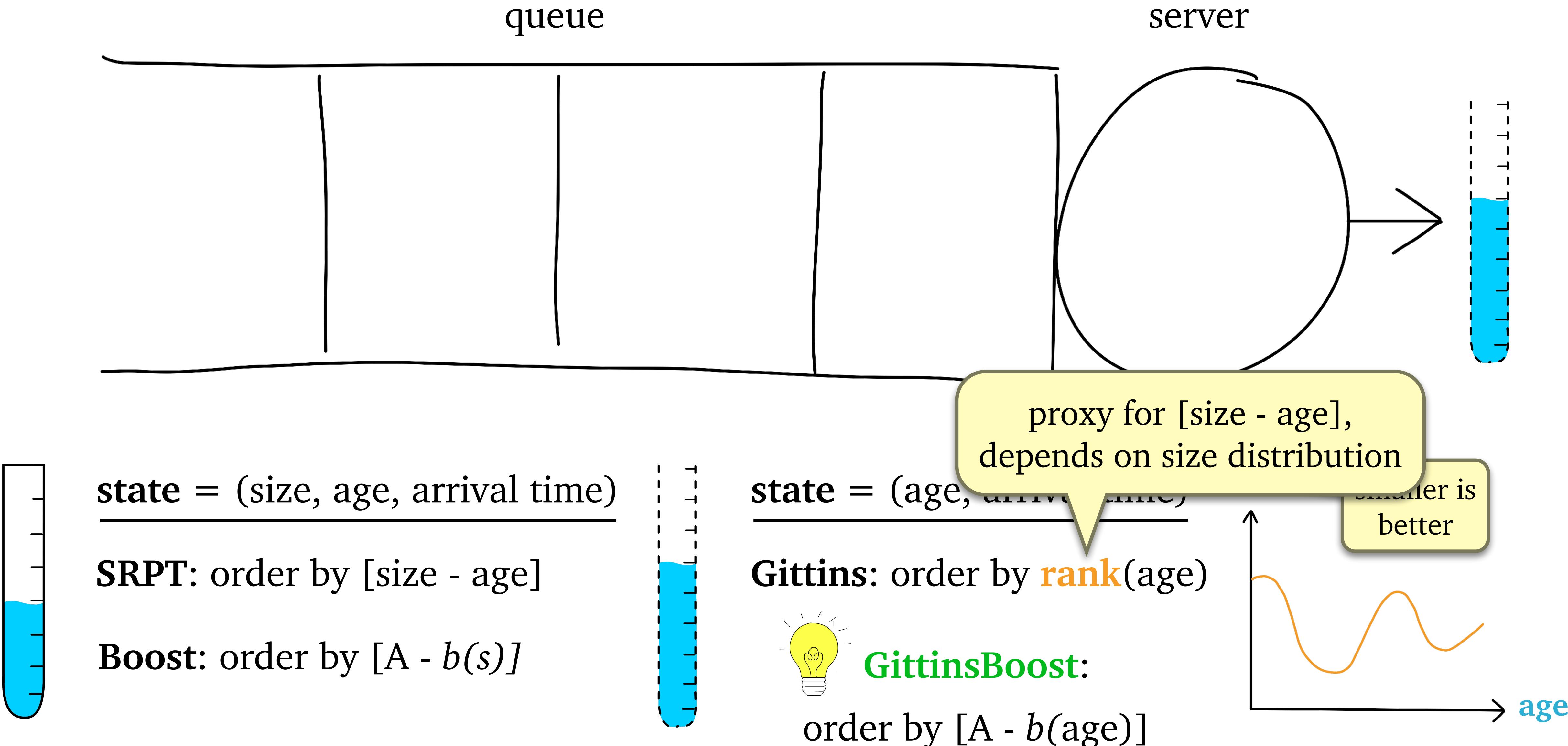
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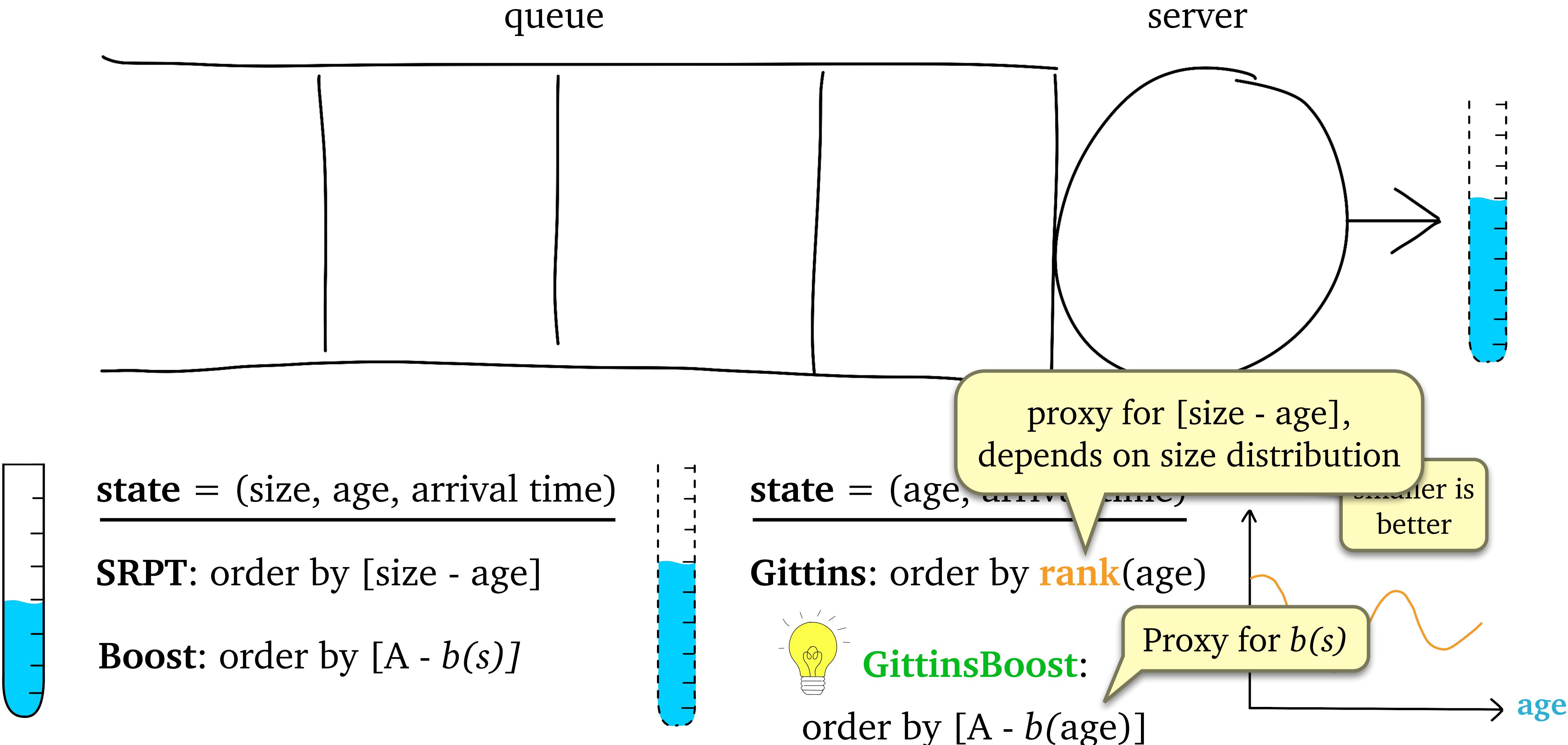
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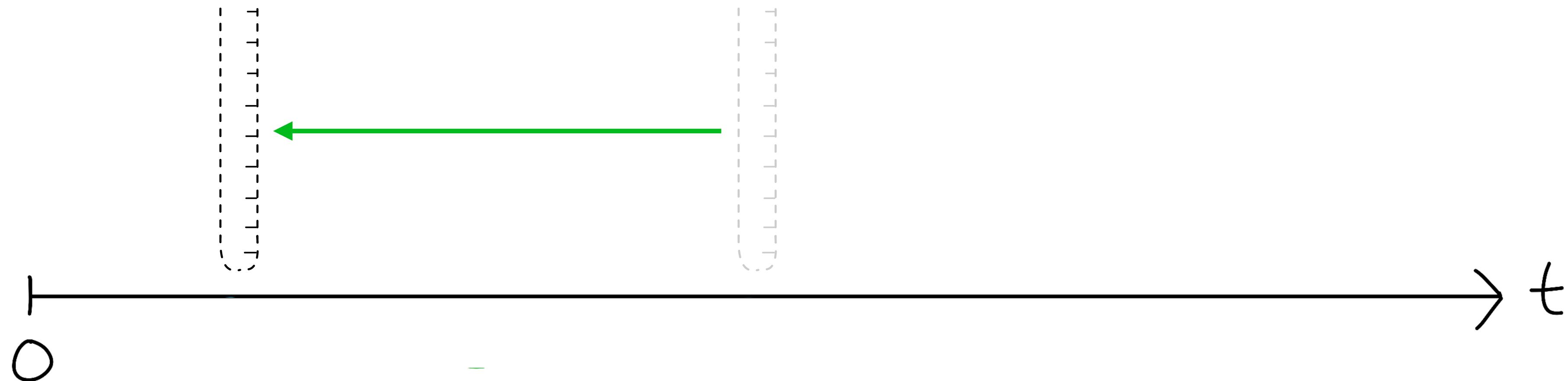


The GittinsBoost policy

defined by a *boost function* $b(x) \geq 0$ that maps **age** to boost

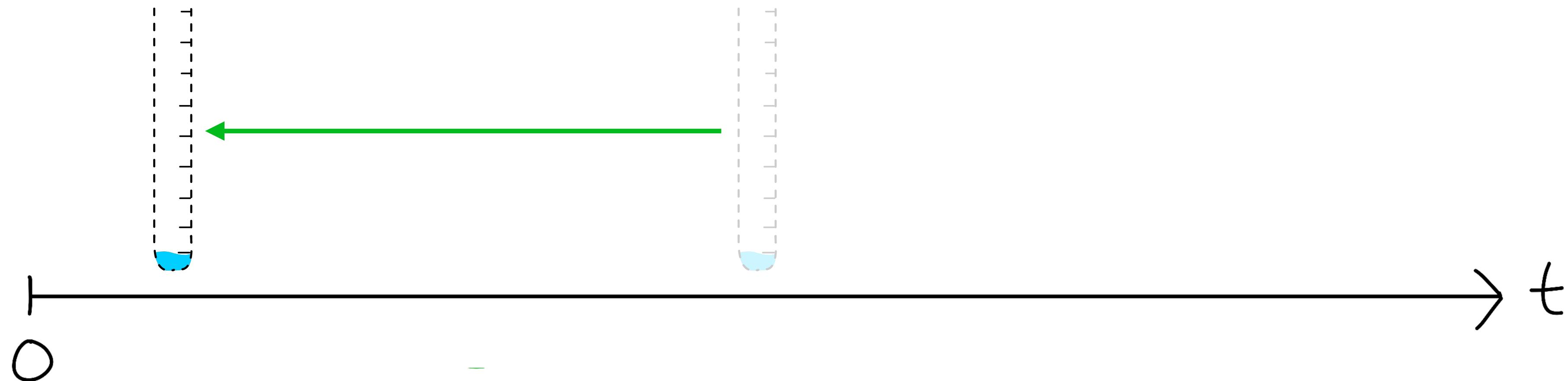
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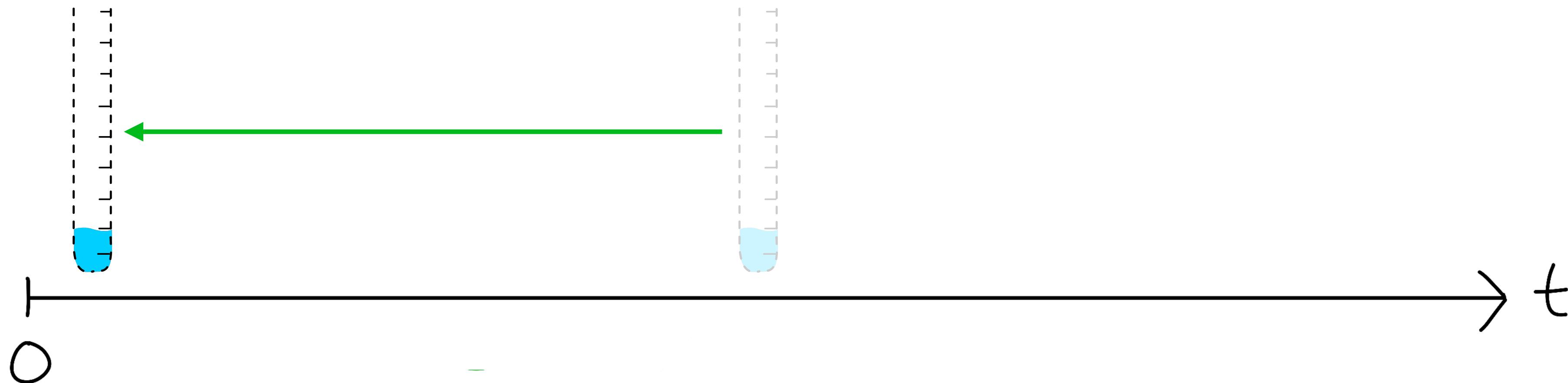
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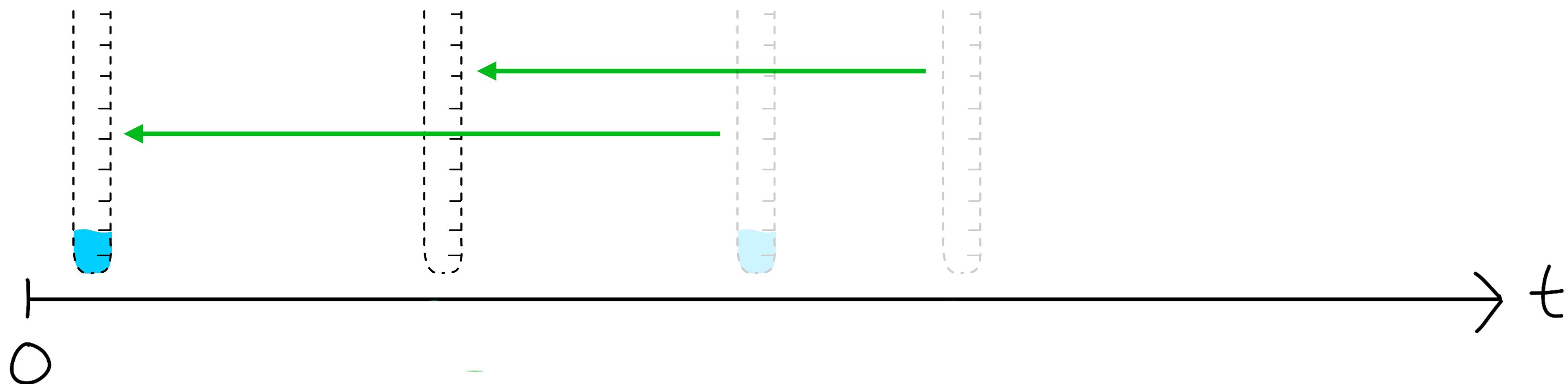
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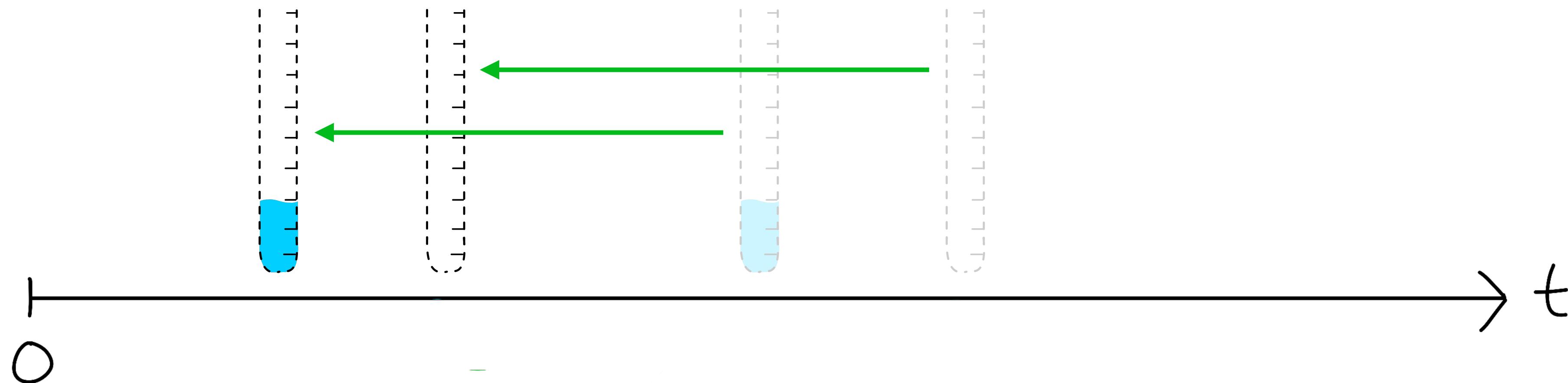
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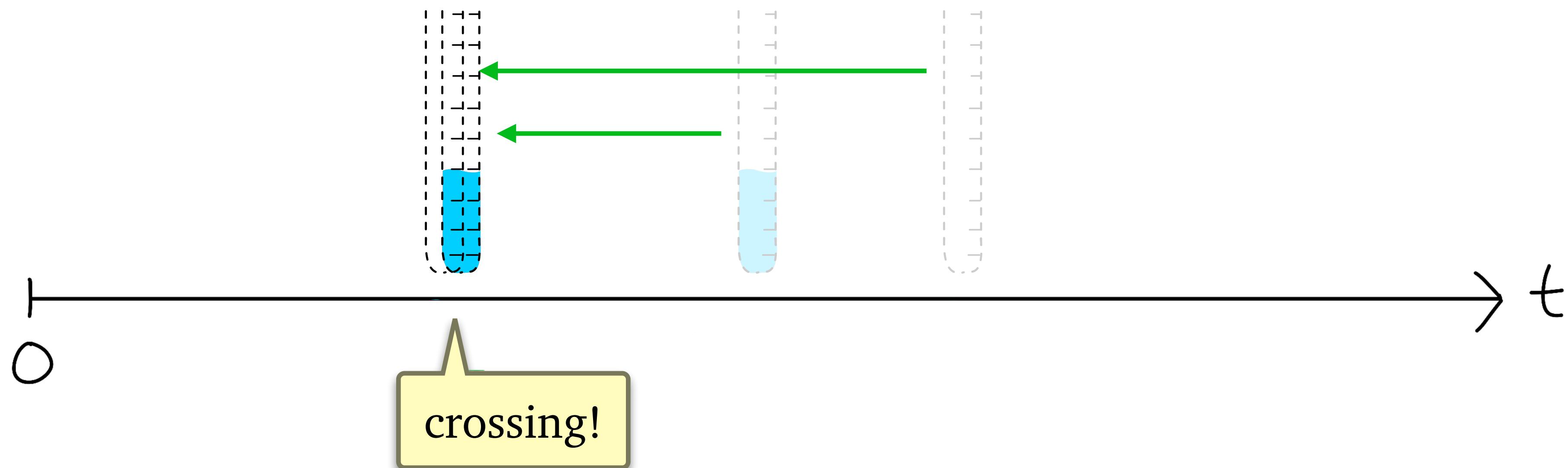
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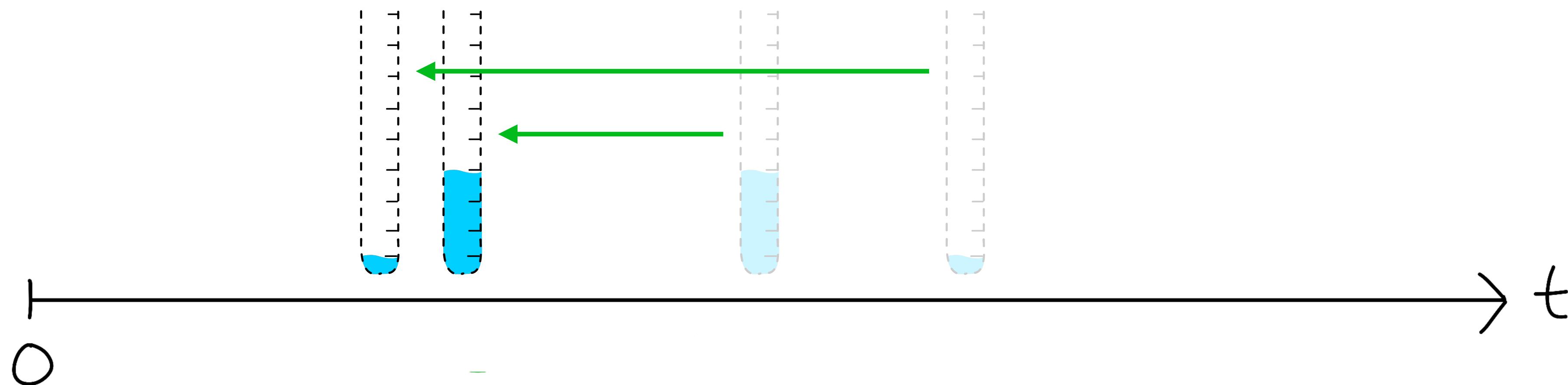
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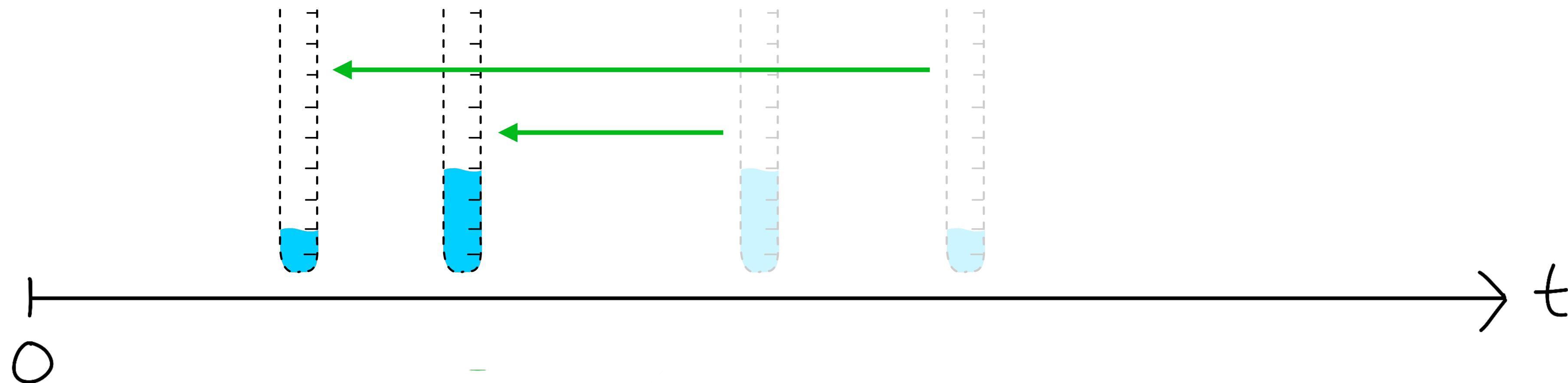
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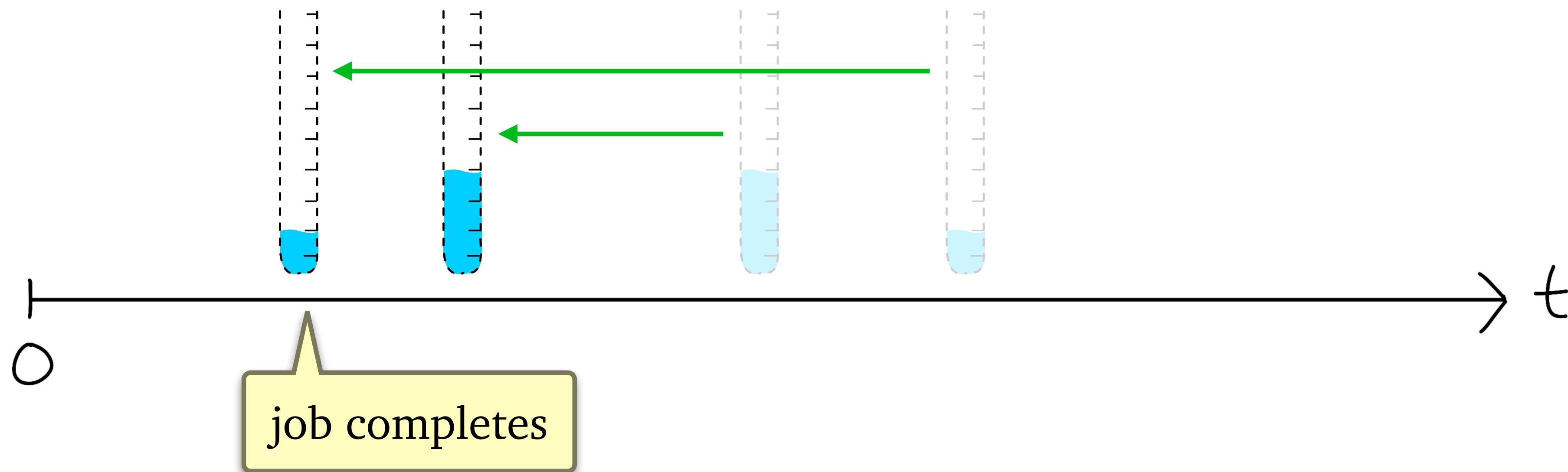
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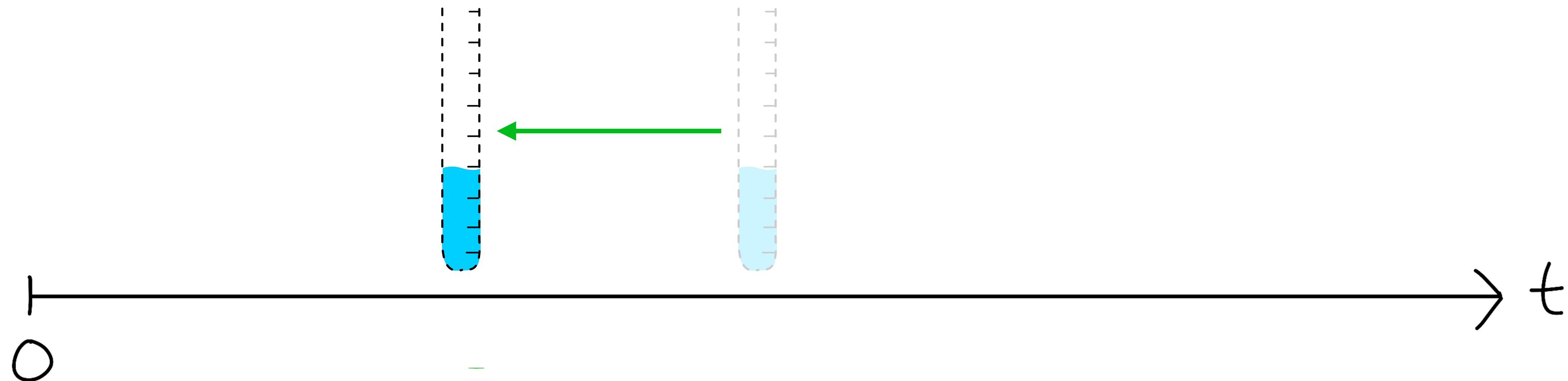
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gets us a strongly optimal policy in the class of policies that don't use job size information.

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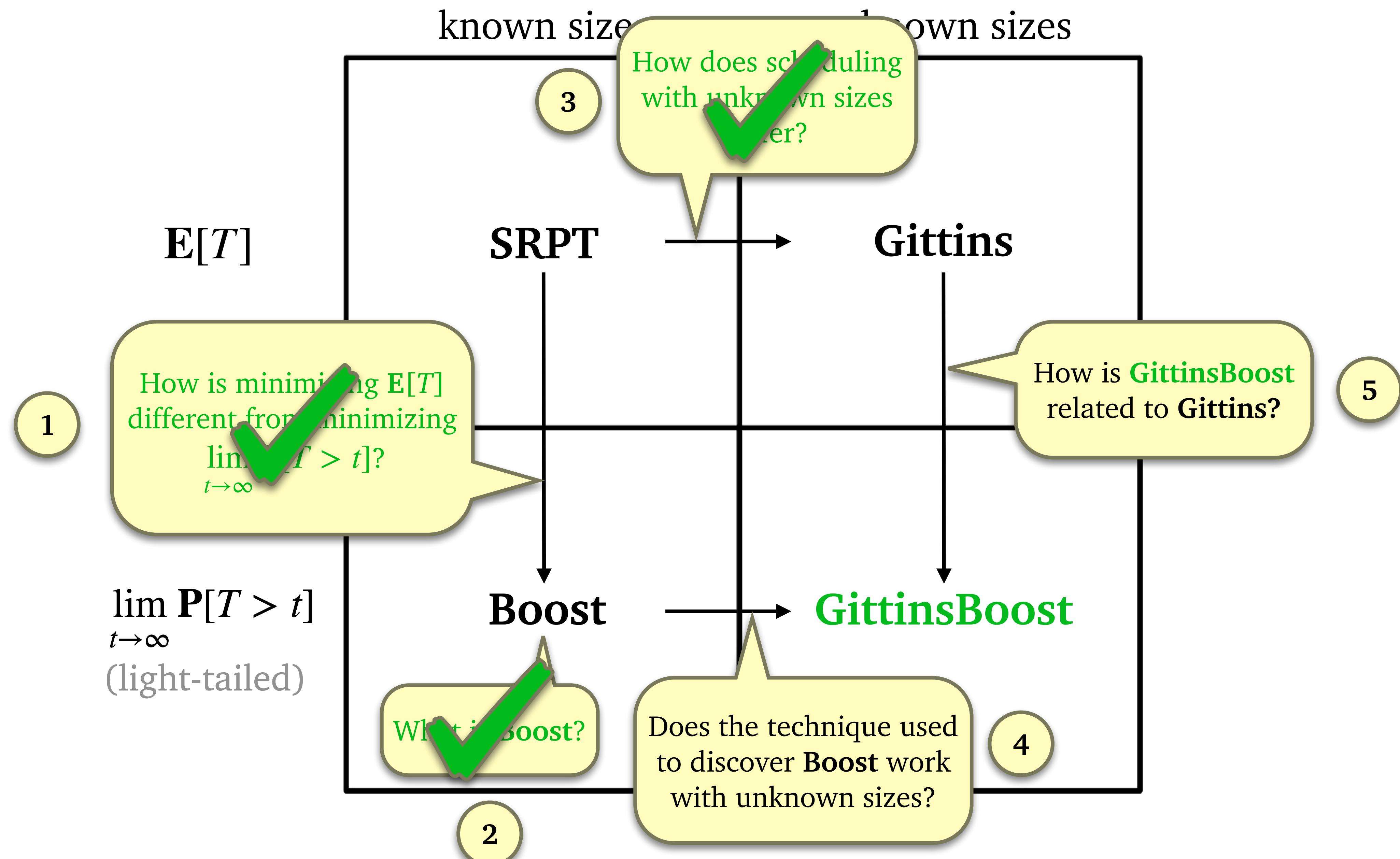
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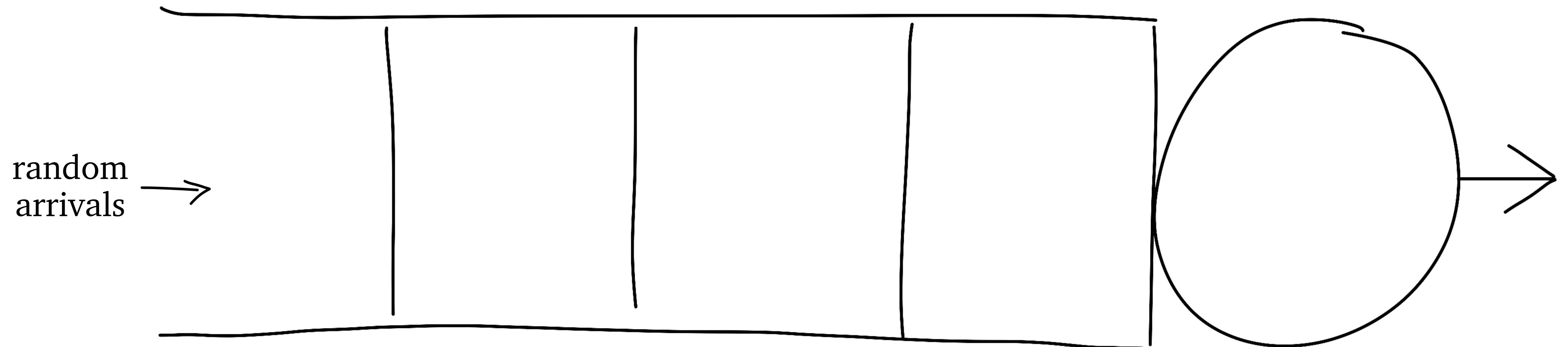
looks similar to the
Gittins rank function...

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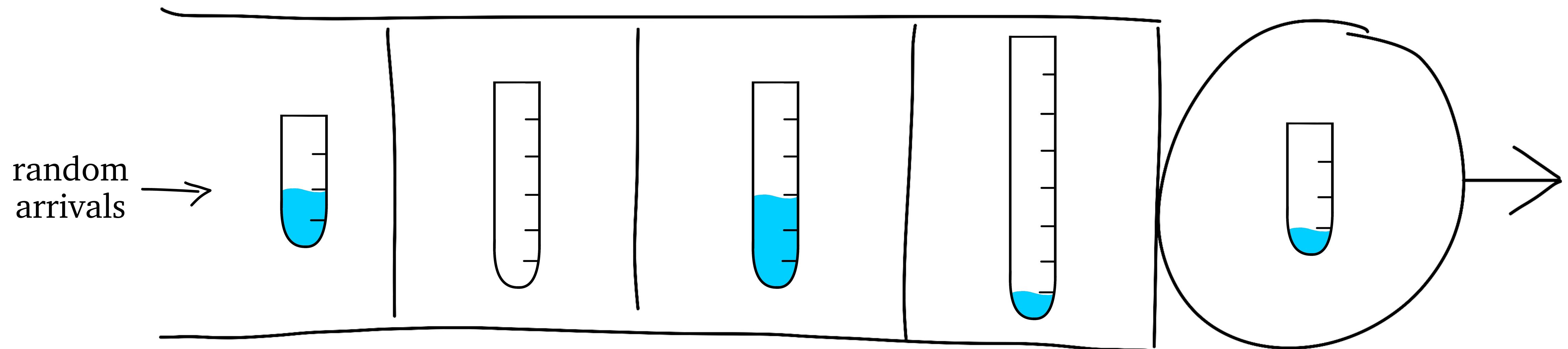
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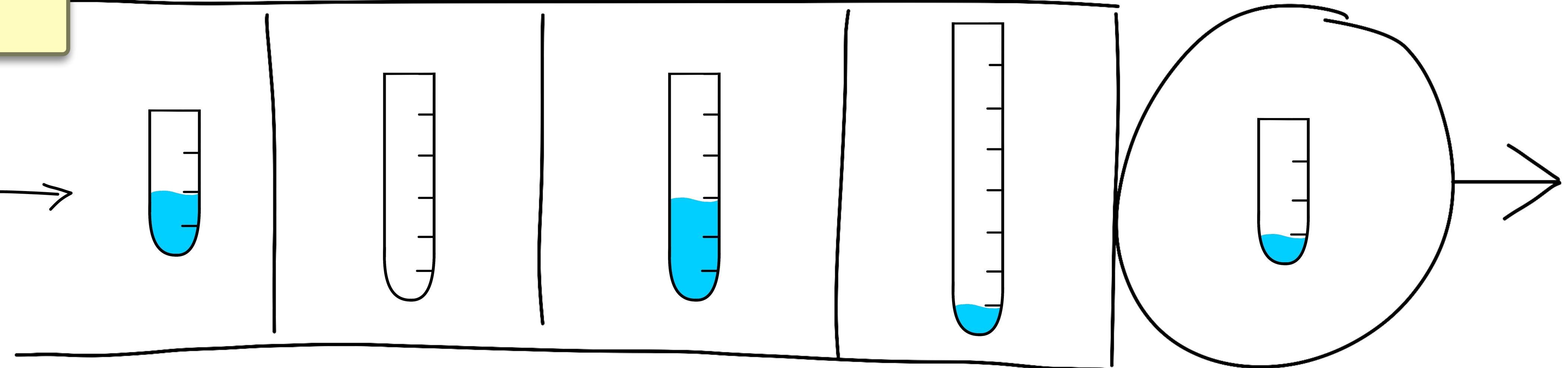
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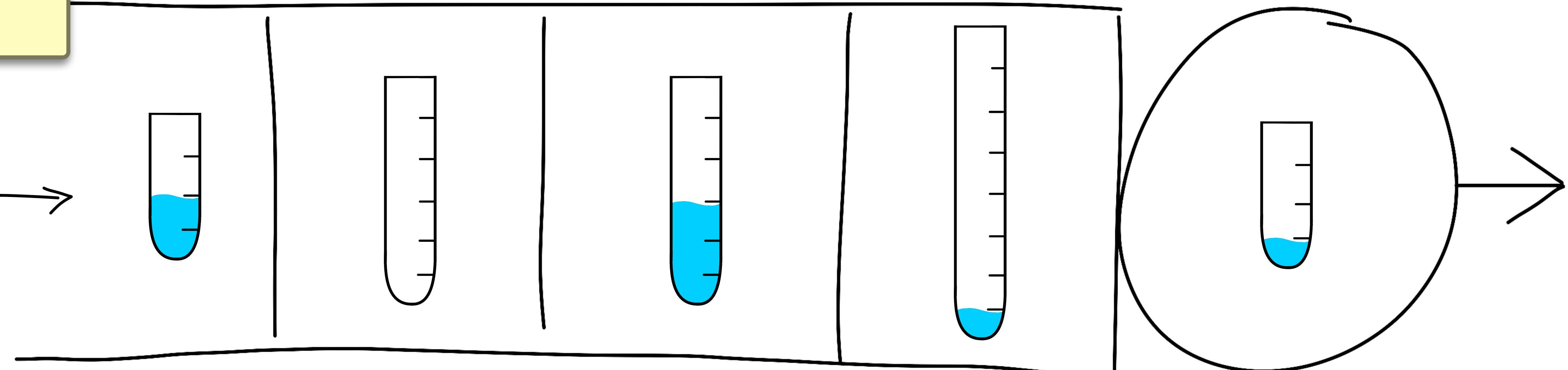
~~random arrivals~~ →



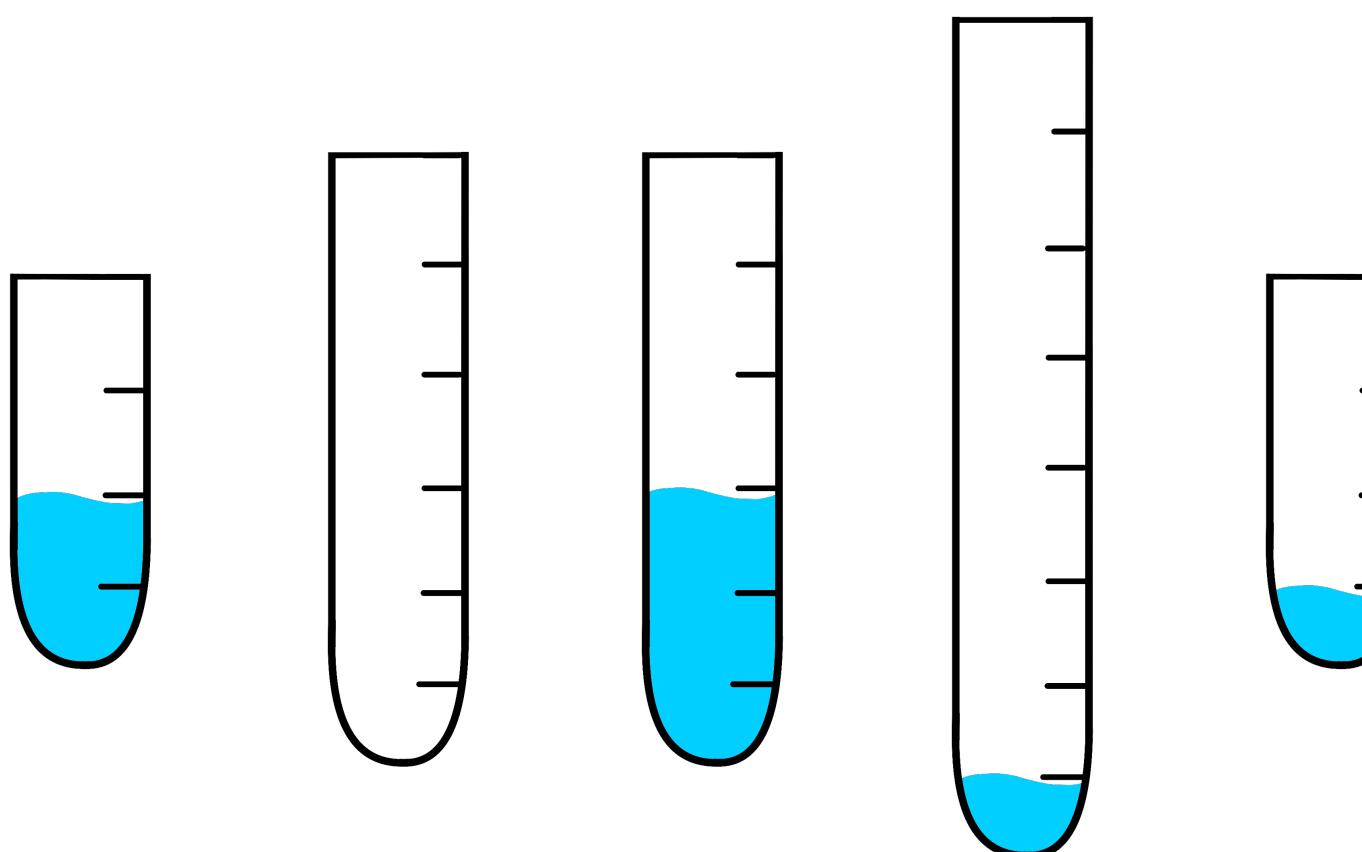
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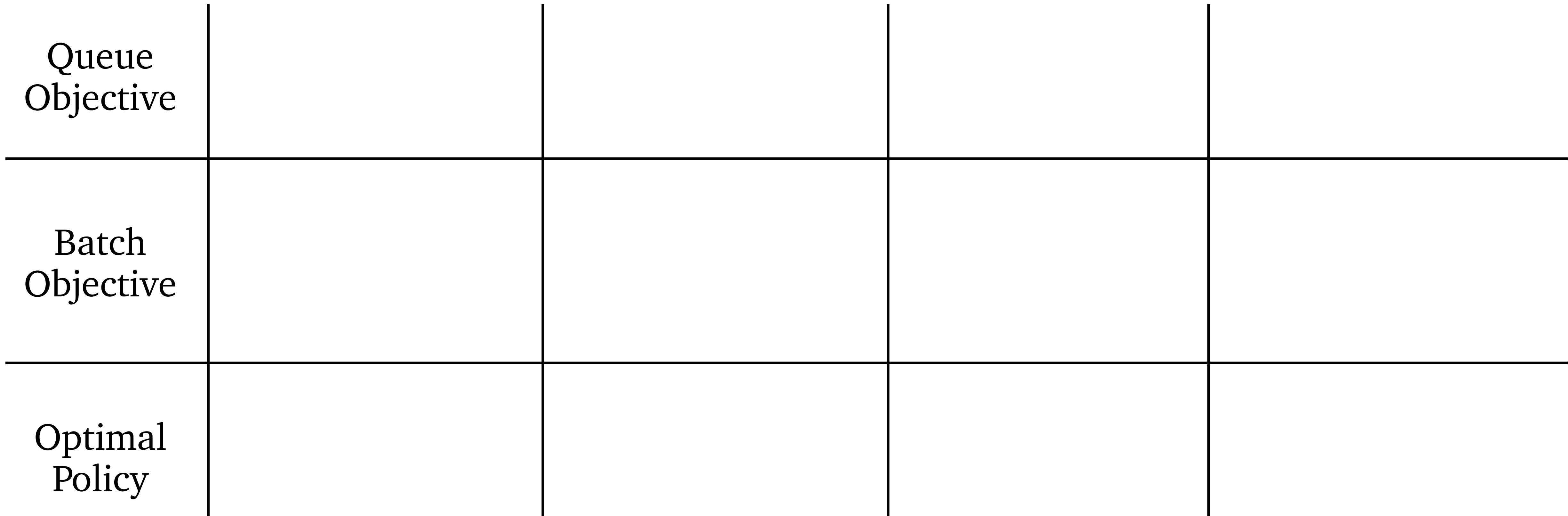
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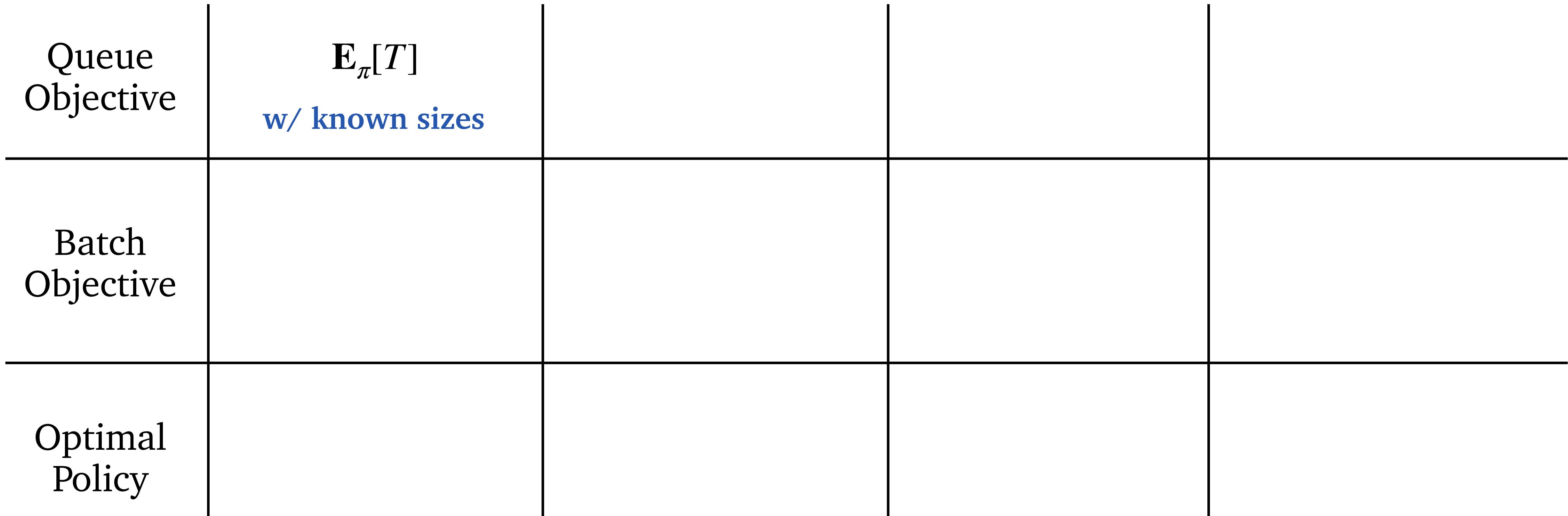
Batch Problem:



What is the optimal policy for the batch problem?



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Batch Objective	$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N T_i$ w/ known sizes			
Optimal Policy				

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Optimal Policy				

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Optimal Policy	SRPT	Gittins	Boost	GittinsBoost

What is the optimal policy for the batch problem?

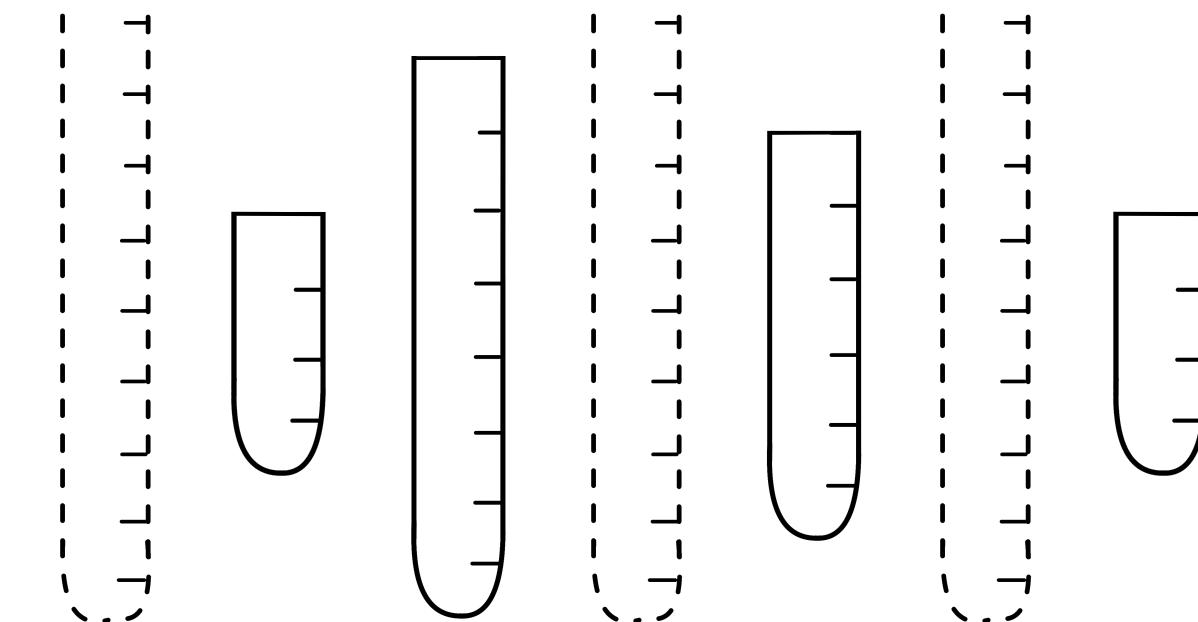
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All of these are in the Gittins family of policies!

What is the Gittins family of policies?

Gittins policies solve the family of batch problems:

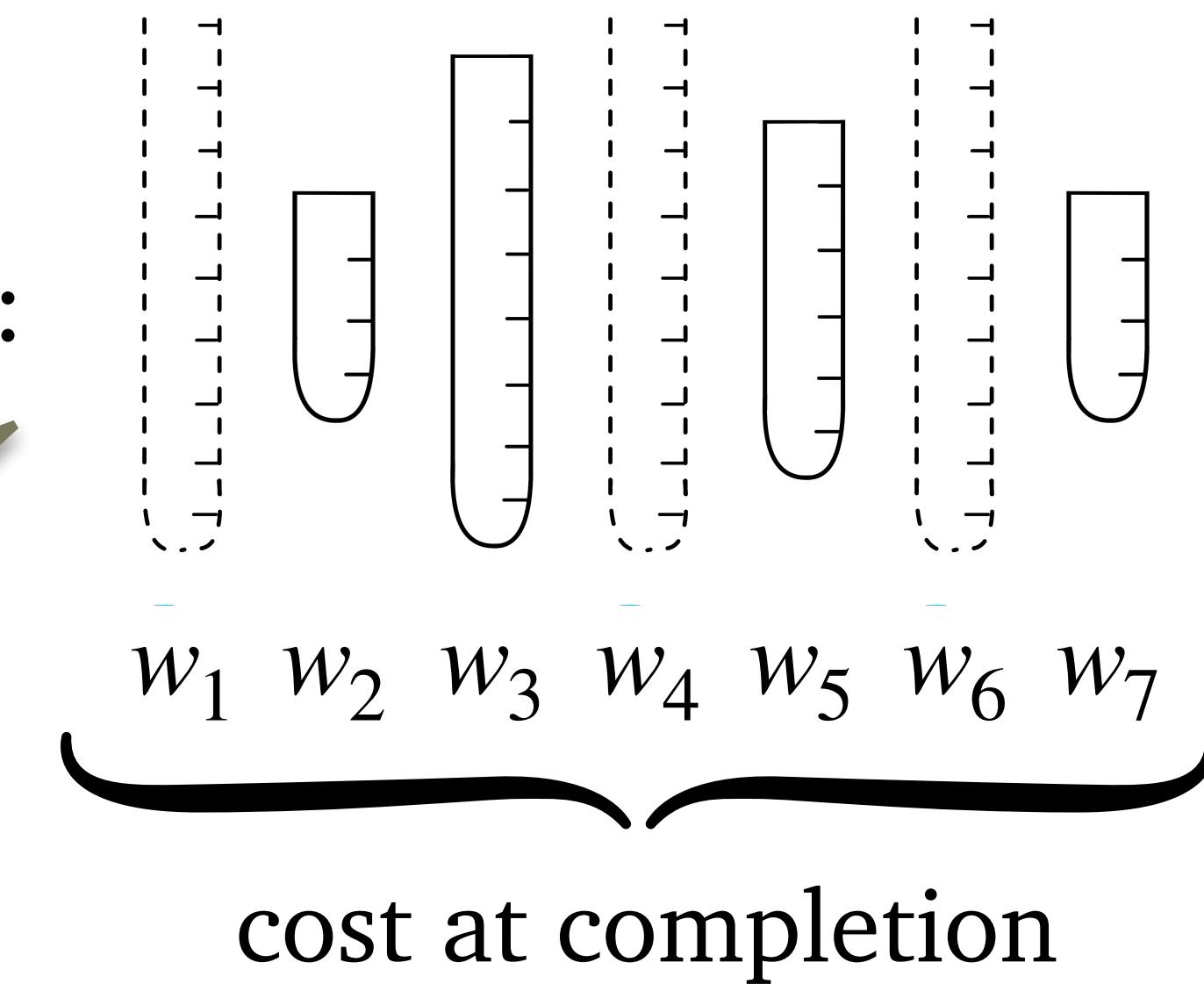
job sizes independent



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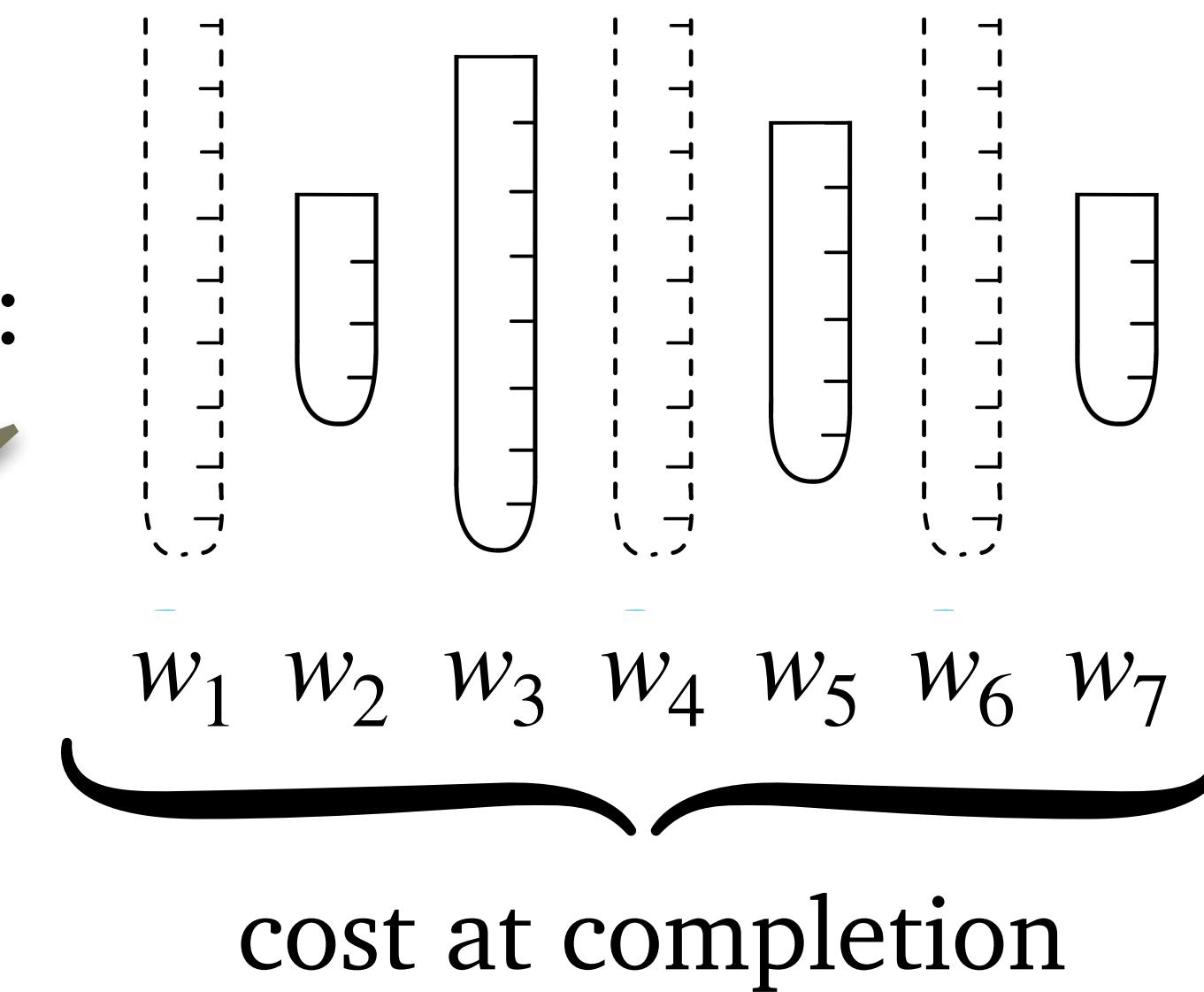
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What is the Gittins family of policies?

Gittins policies solve the family of batch problems:

job sizes independent



with objective:

discounting

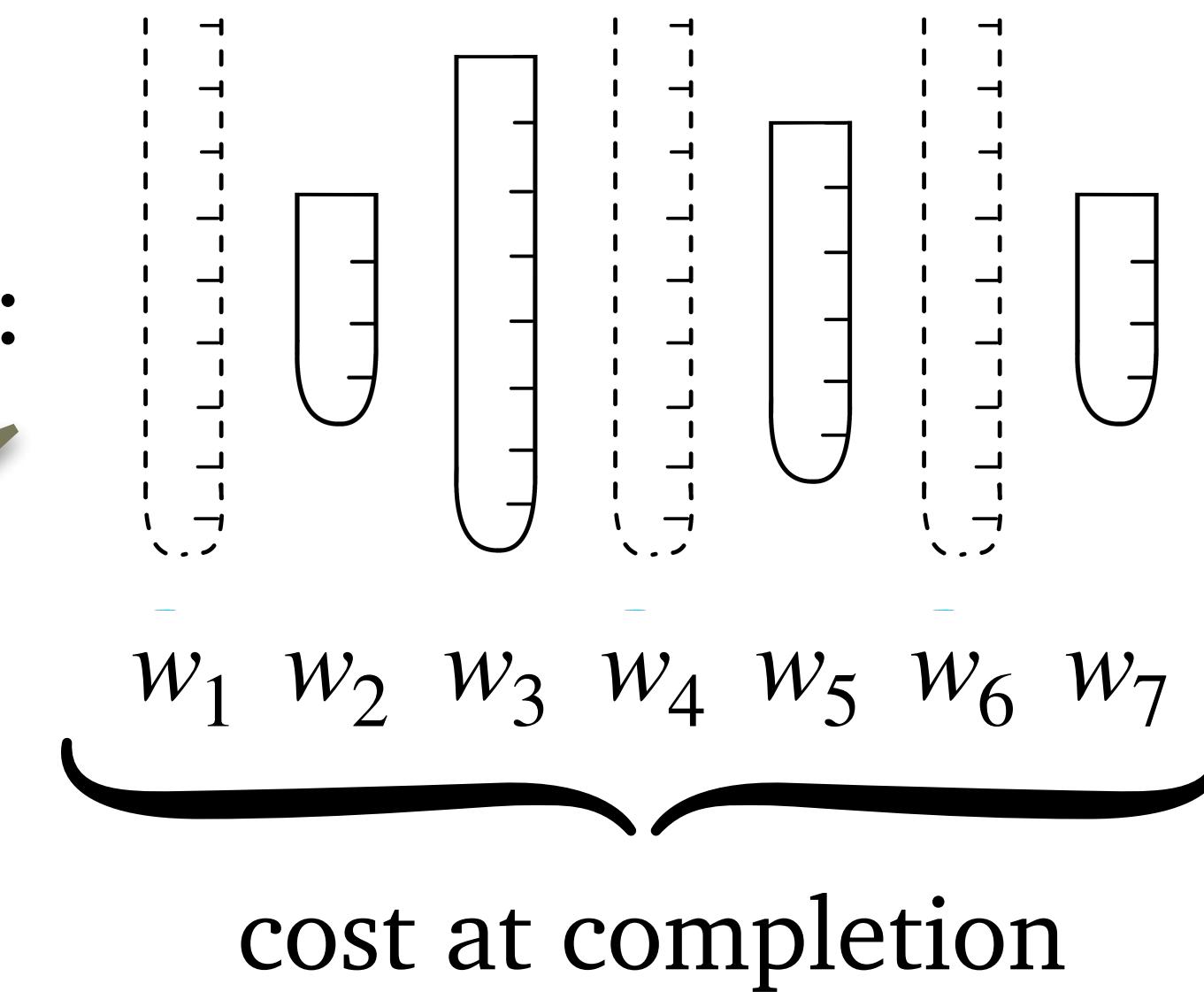
$$\text{minimize } E_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right]$$

$$(\beta > 0)$$

What is the Gittins family of policies?

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job sizes independent



with objective:

discounting

$$\text{minimize } E_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right] \quad \text{or} \quad \text{minimize } E_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N D_i w_i \right]$$

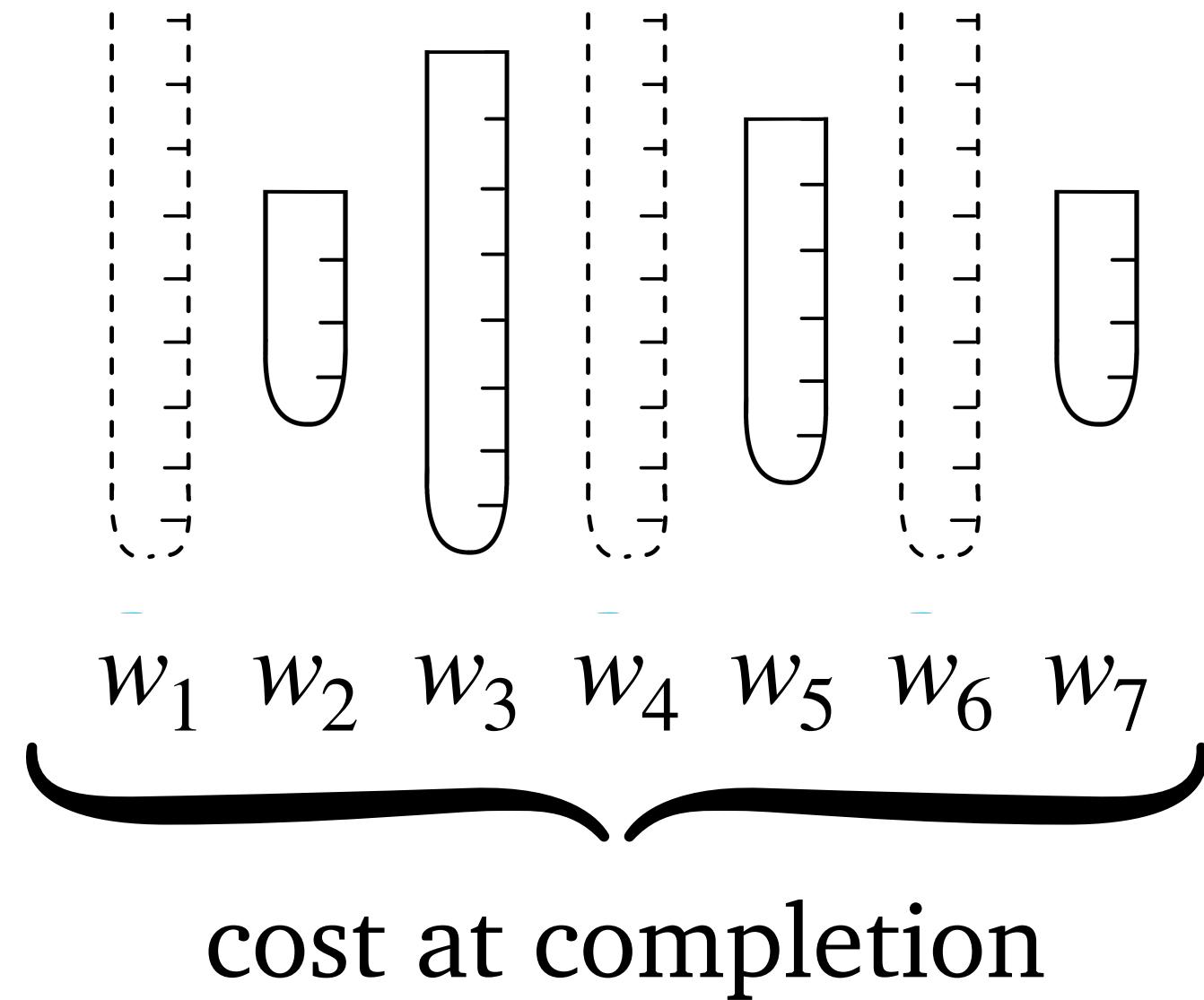
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$$“(\beta = 0)”$$

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or minimize $\mathbf{E}_\pi \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right]$

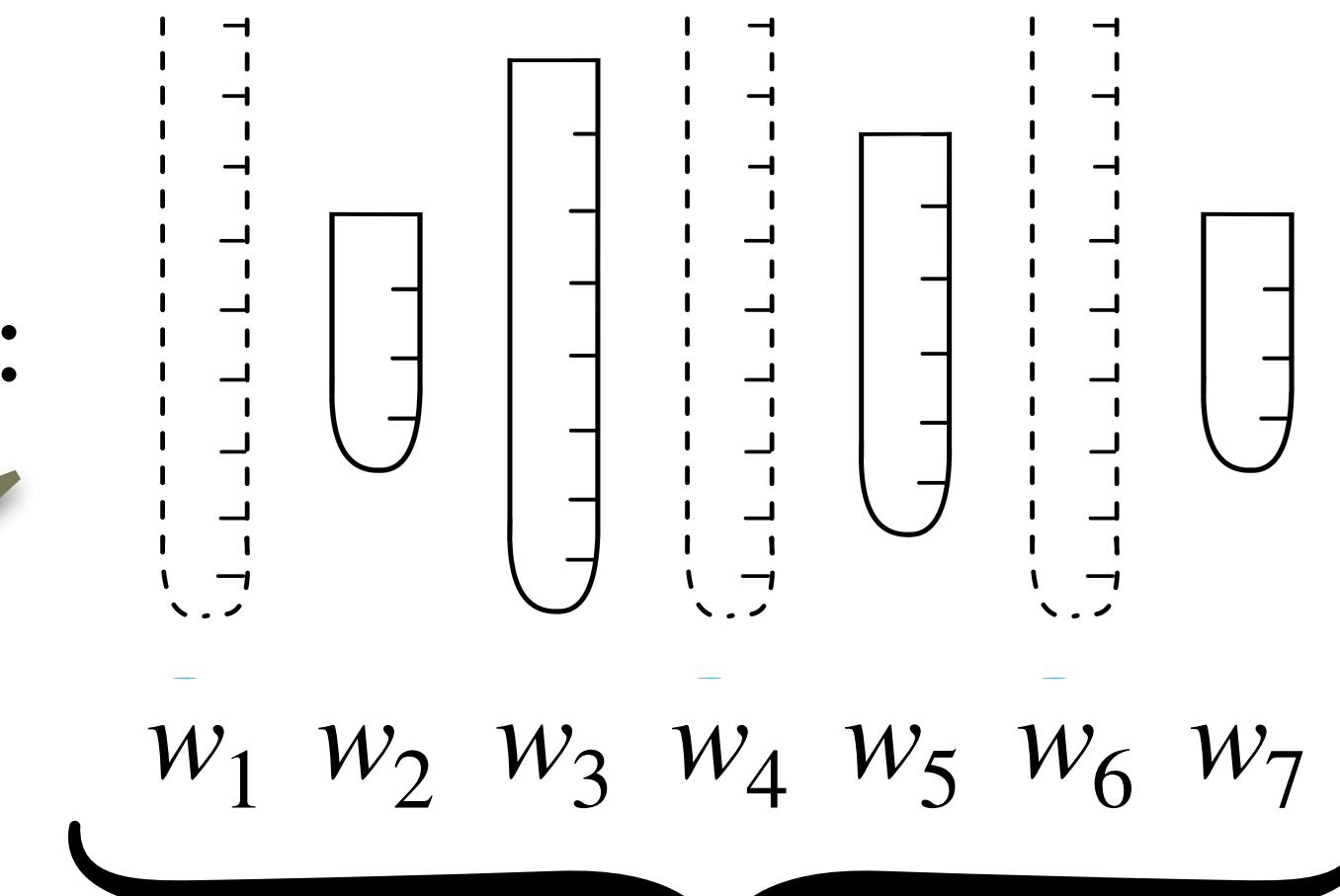
new-ish!

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" $(\beta = 0)$ "

negative discounting = inflation

$$\text{minimize } E_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right]$$

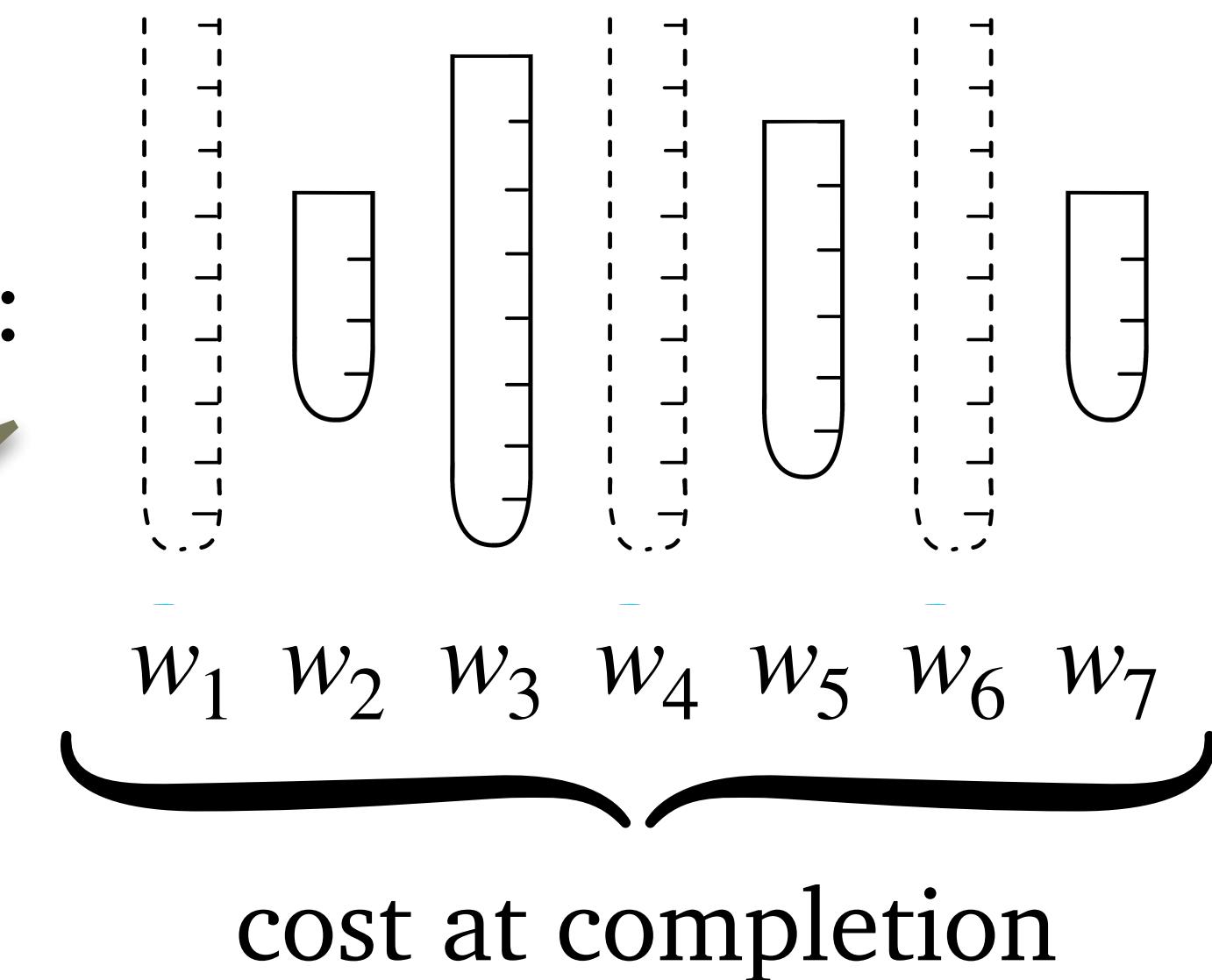
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$\text{"}(\beta = 0)\text{"}$

$e^{\gamma D_i} e^{-\gamma A_i}$

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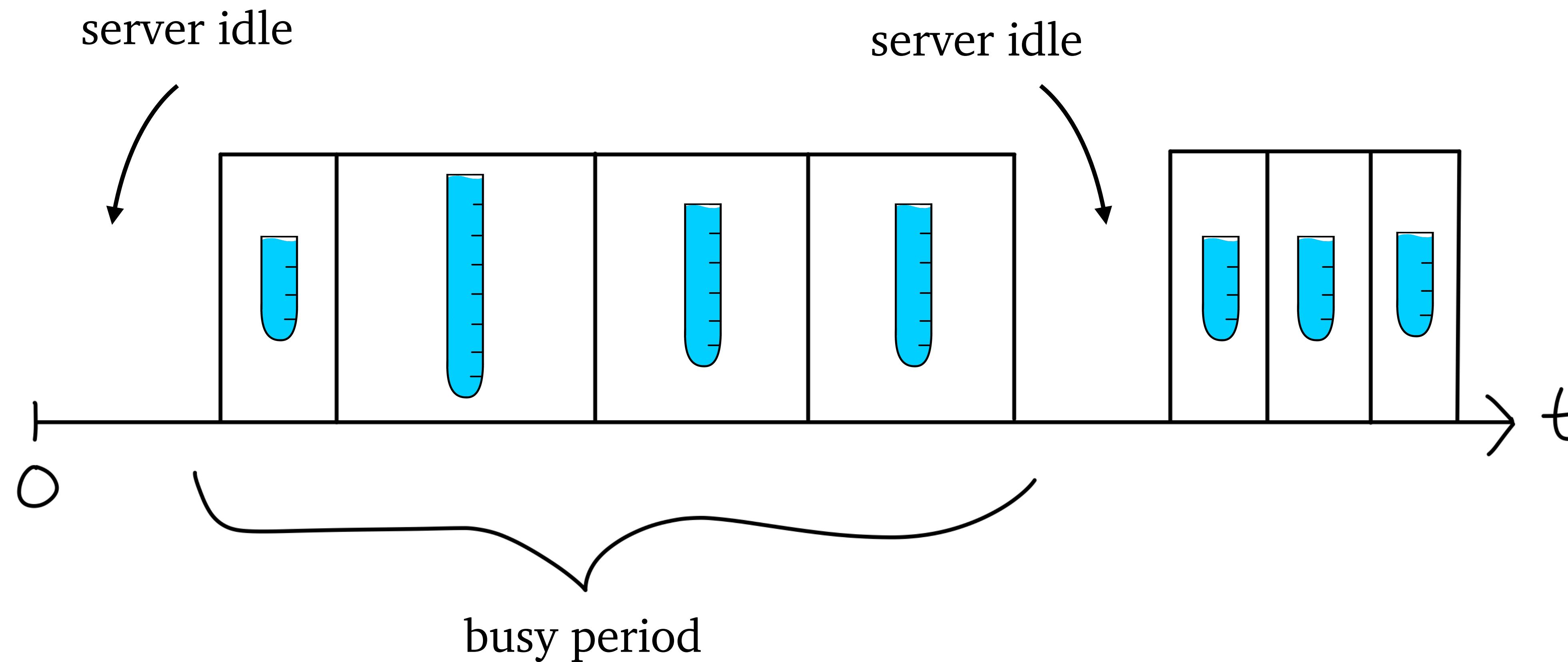
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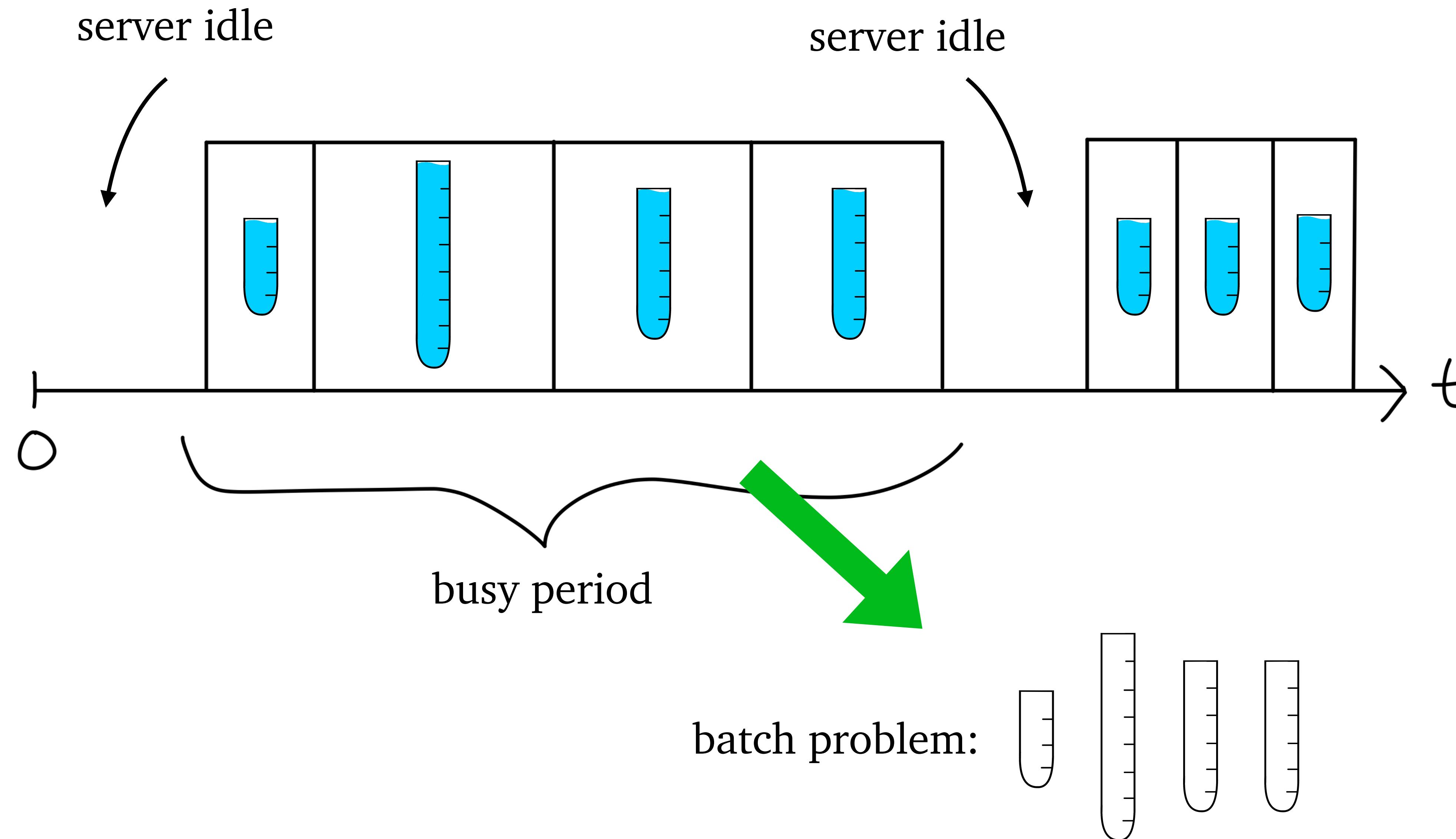
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How do we show optimality in the queue setting?

Boost optimality in the queue setting



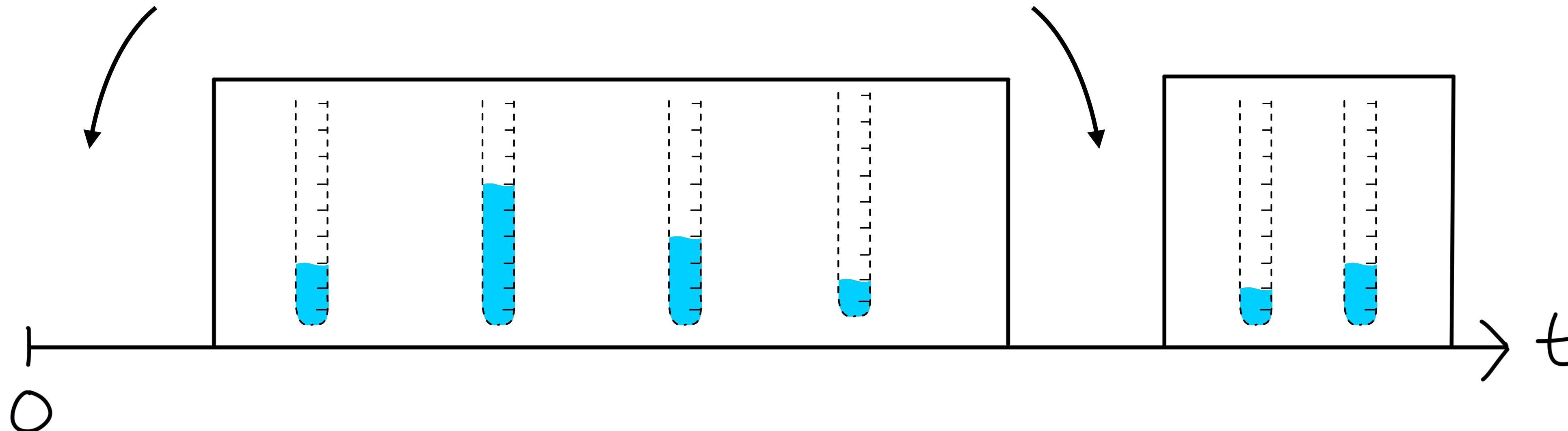
Boost optimality in the queue setting



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

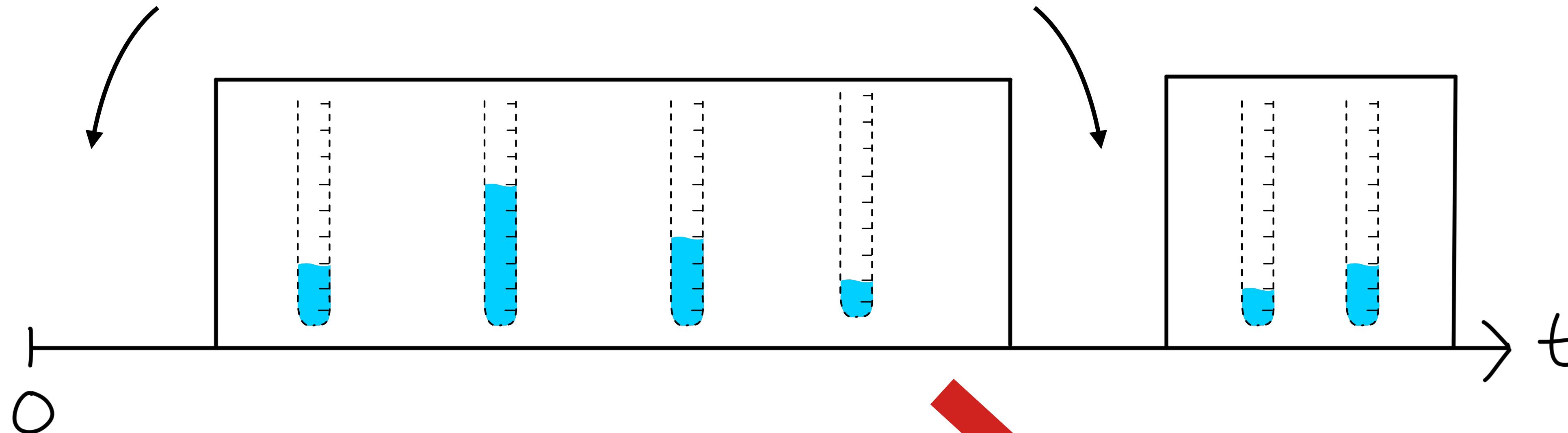
GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

server idle

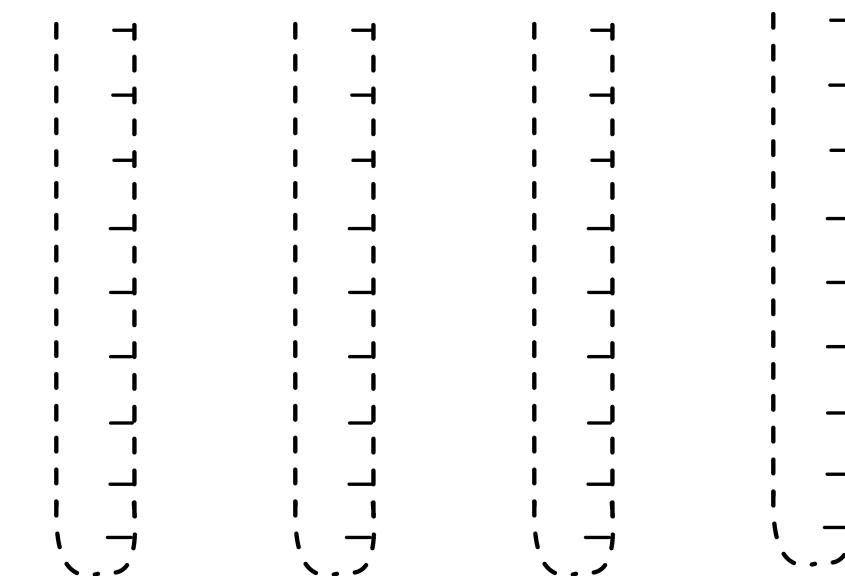


GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

server idle

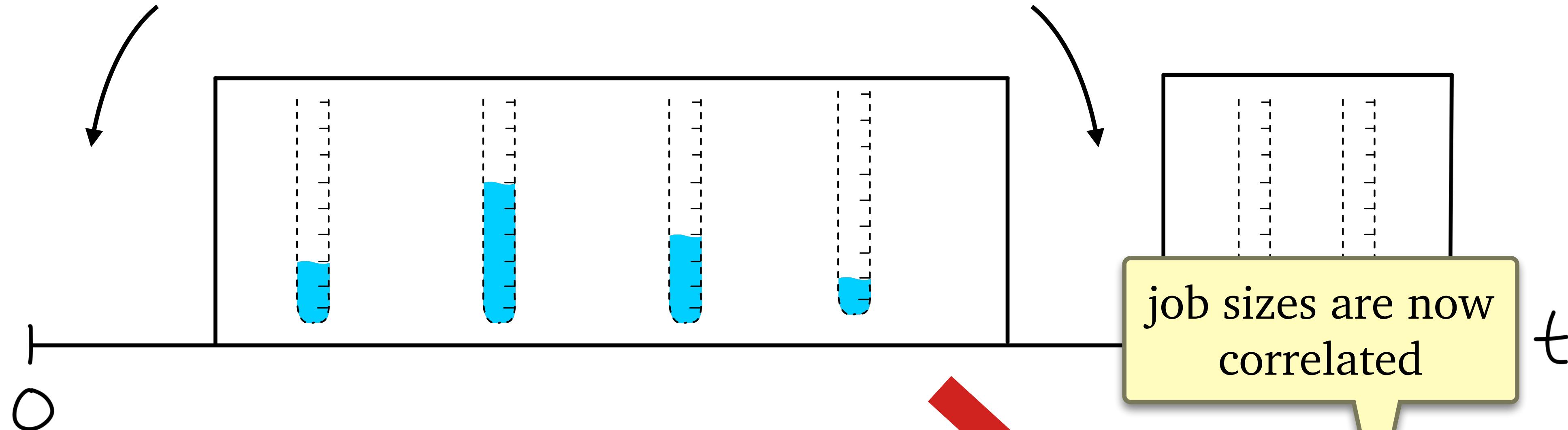


batch problem:

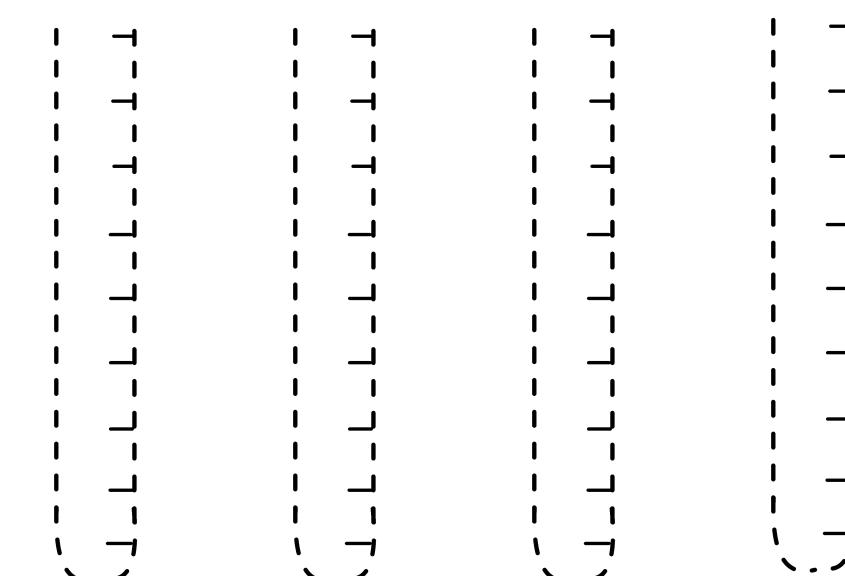


GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

server idle

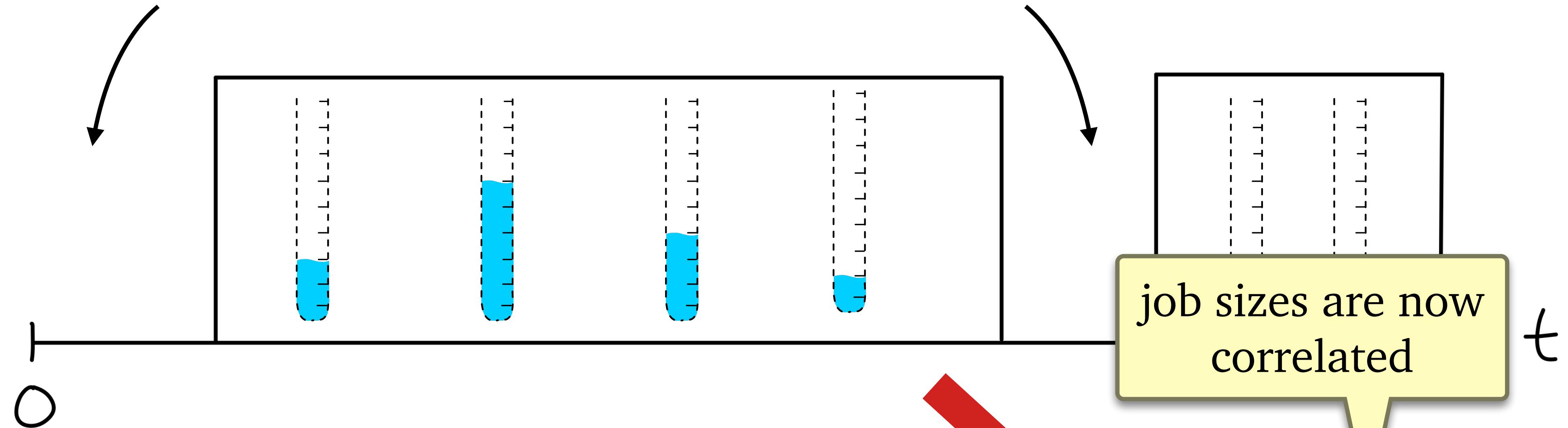


batch problem:



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

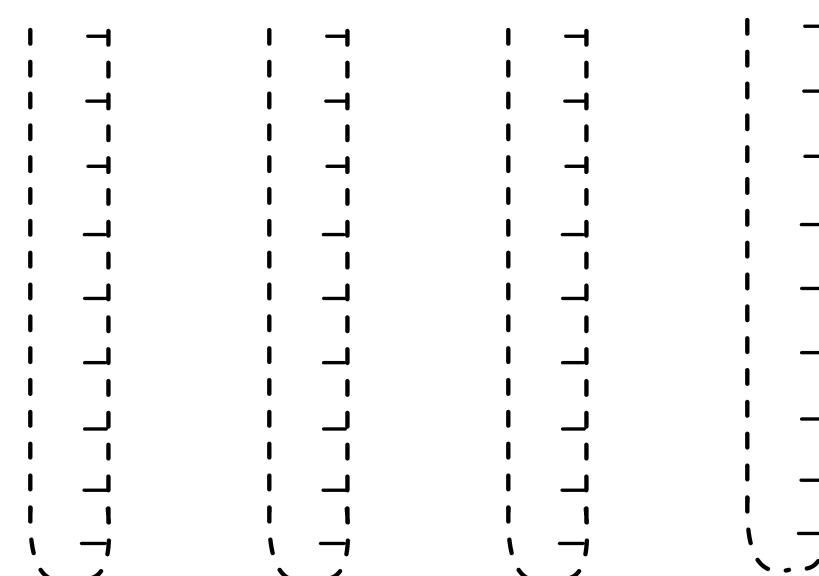
server idle



Example

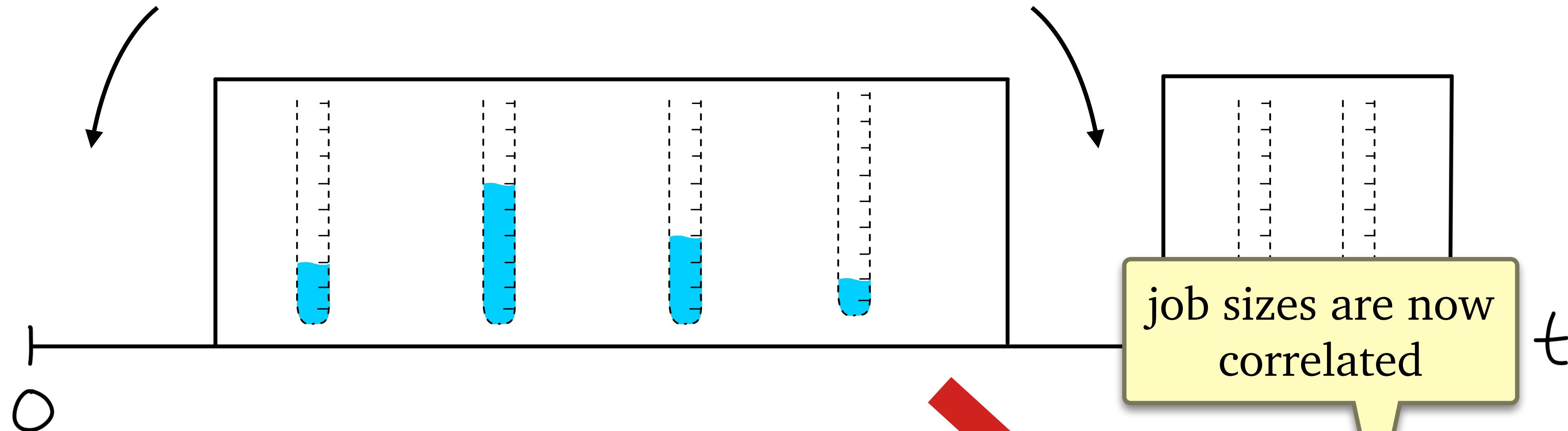
$$\lambda = \varepsilon \ll 1 \text{ and } S = \text{Unif}\{1, \varepsilon\}$$

batch problem:



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

server idle

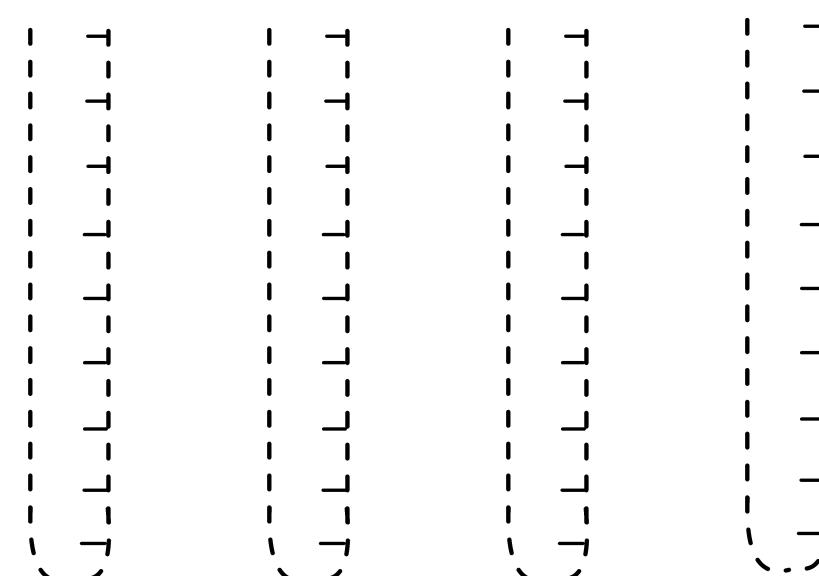


Example

$$\lambda = \varepsilon \ll 1 \text{ and } S = \text{Unif}\{1, \varepsilon\}$$

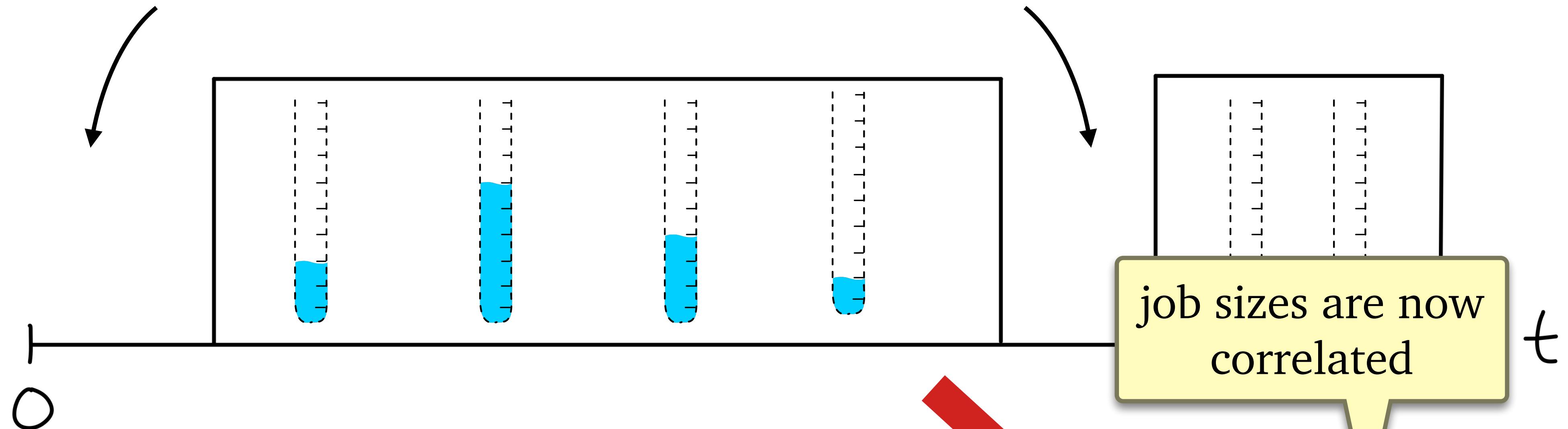
$$3 \text{ jobs: } A_1 = 0, A_2 = \varepsilon^2, A_3 = 1$$

batch problem:



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

server idle



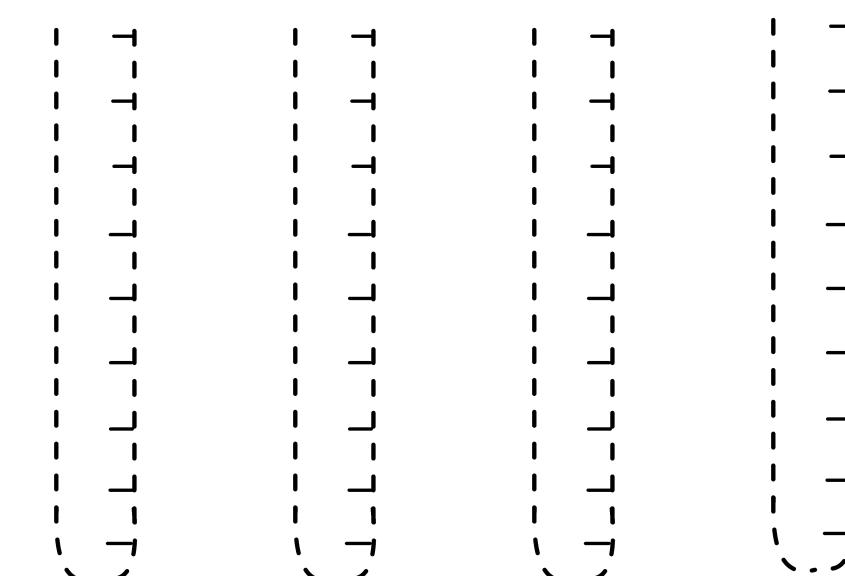
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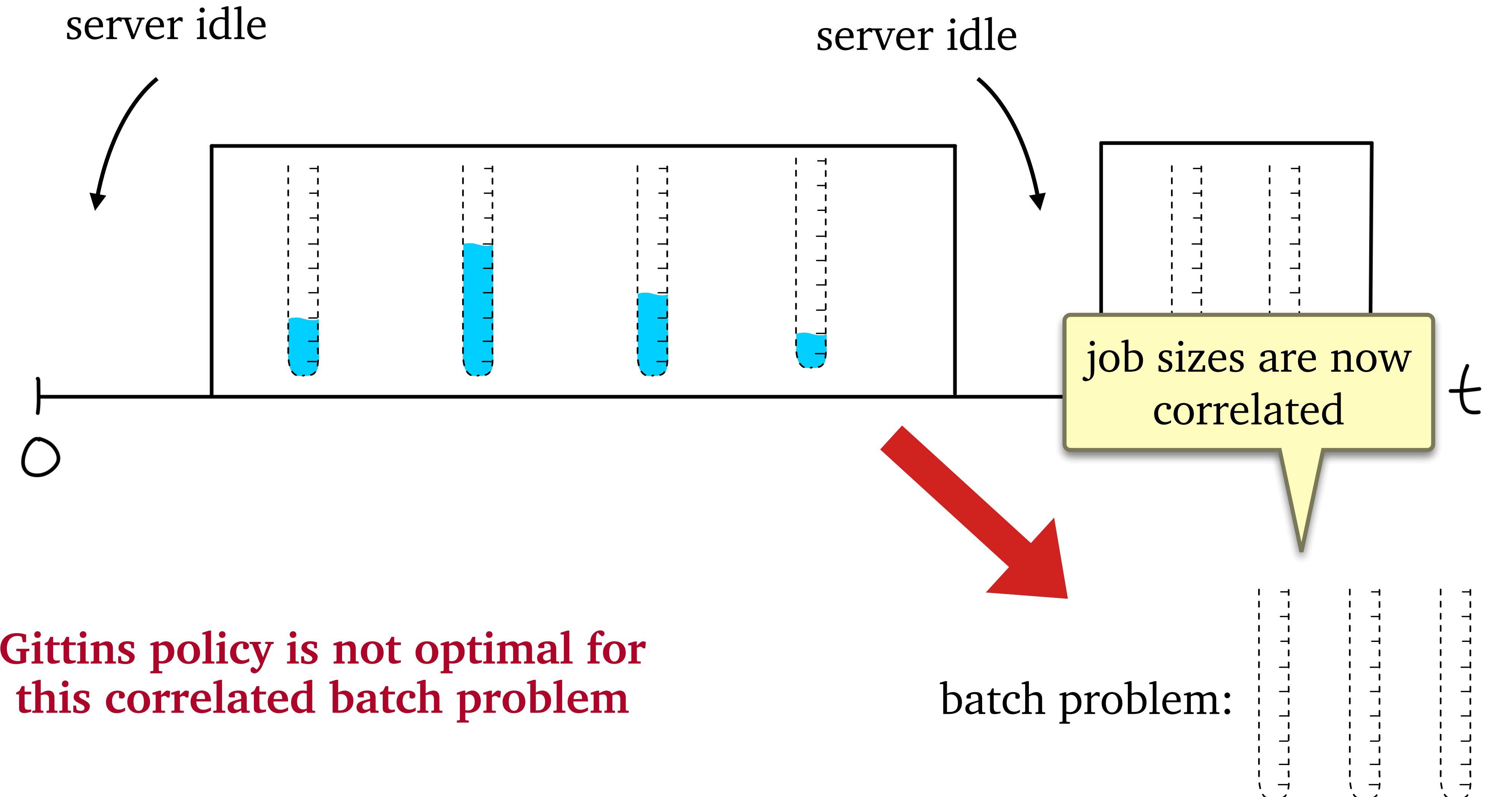
$$3 \text{ jobs: } A_1 = 0, A_2 = \varepsilon^2, A_3 = 1$$

$$\text{If } S_1 = \varepsilon \text{ then } S_2 = 1$$

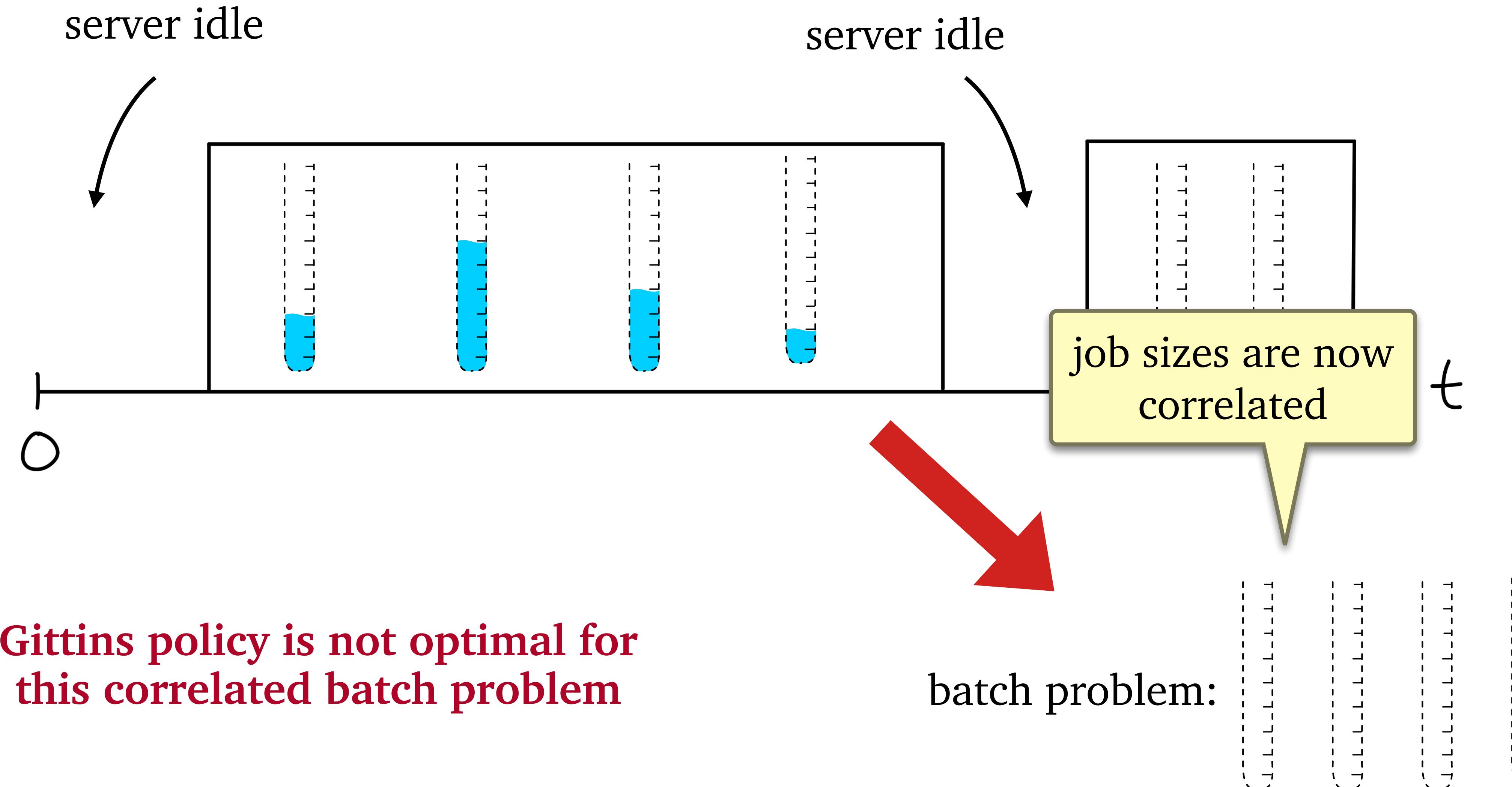
batch problem:



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

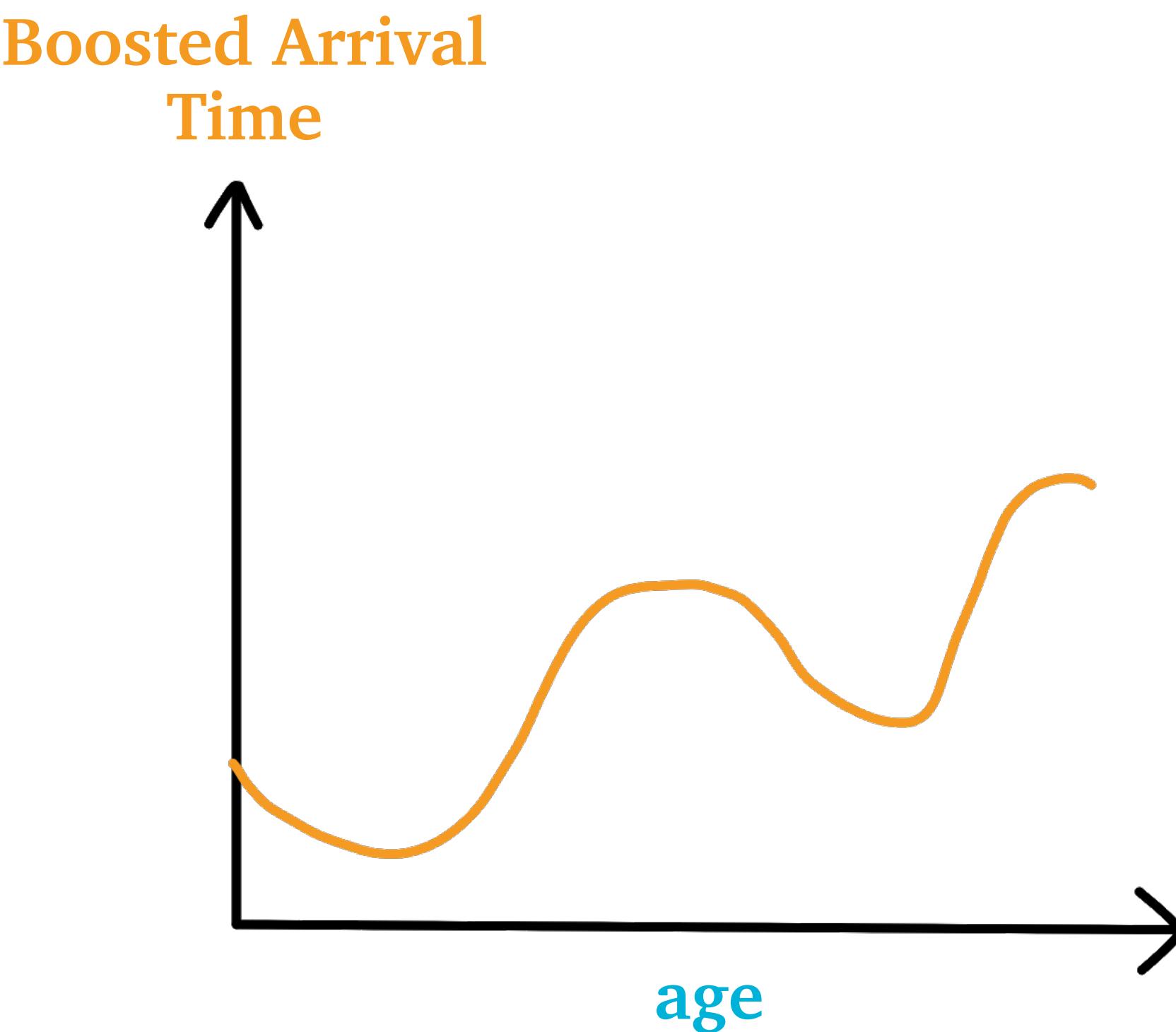


GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



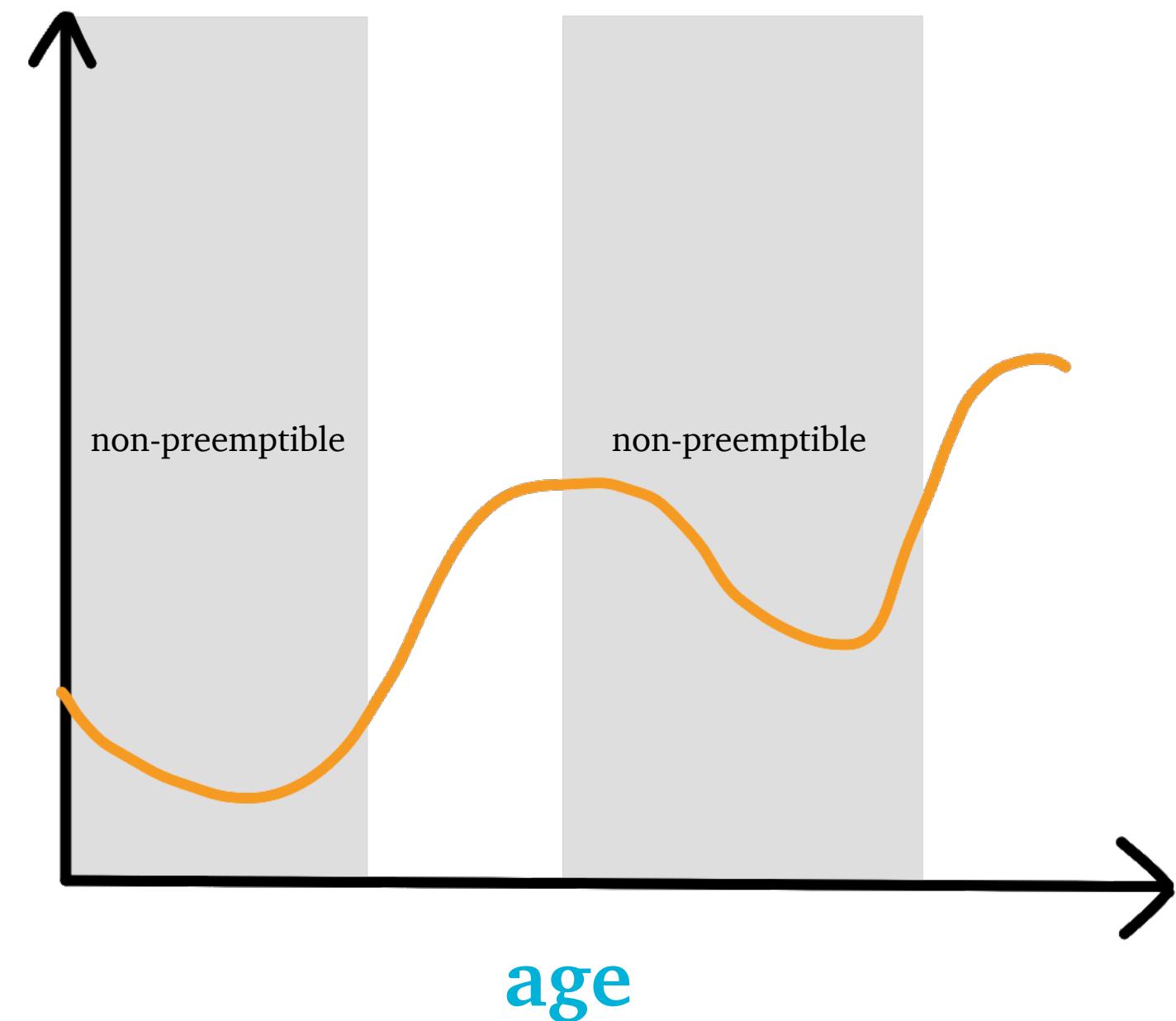
main technical challenge: showing optimality in queue setting

What was our approach?

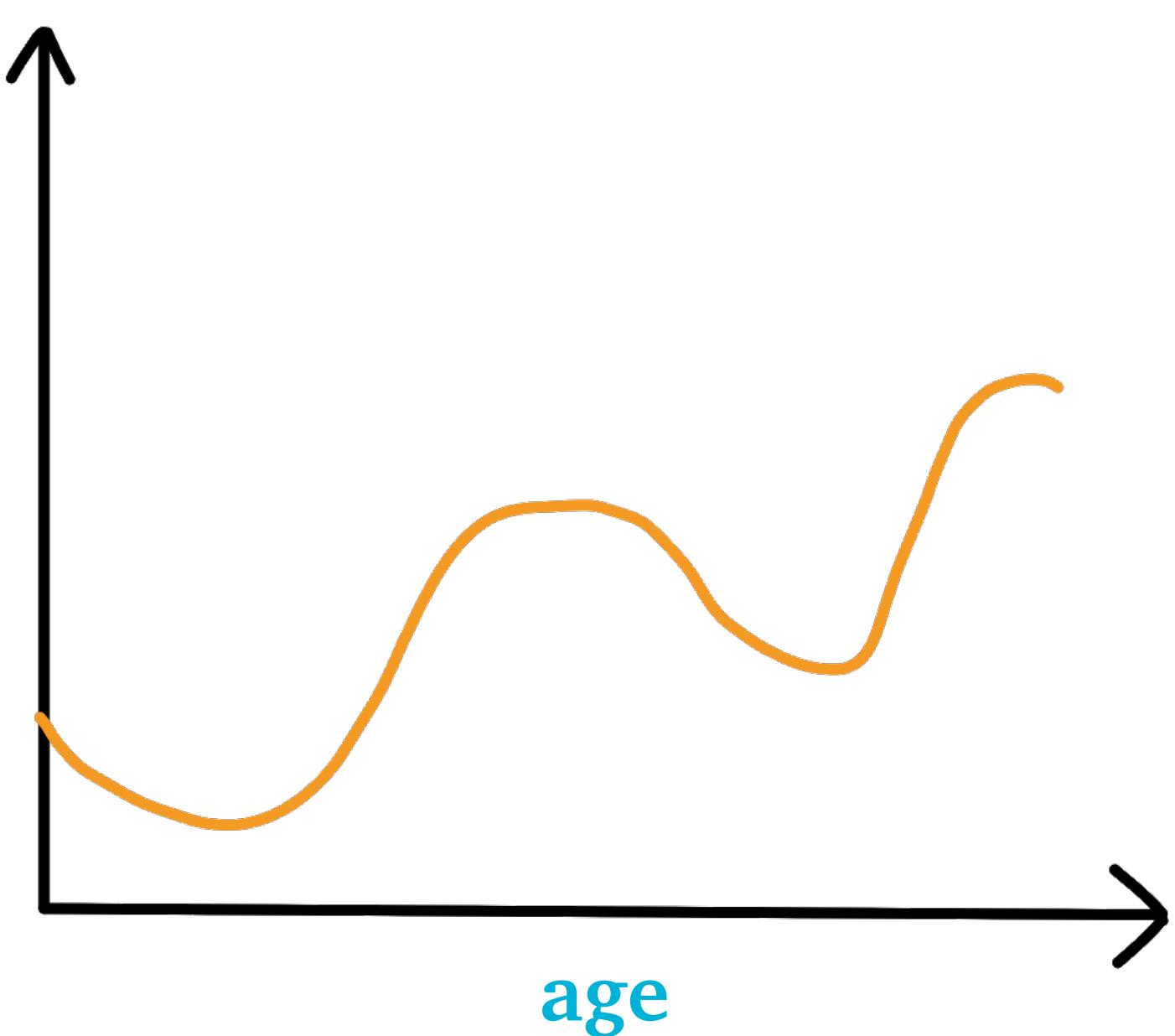


What was our approach?

Boosted Arrival
Time

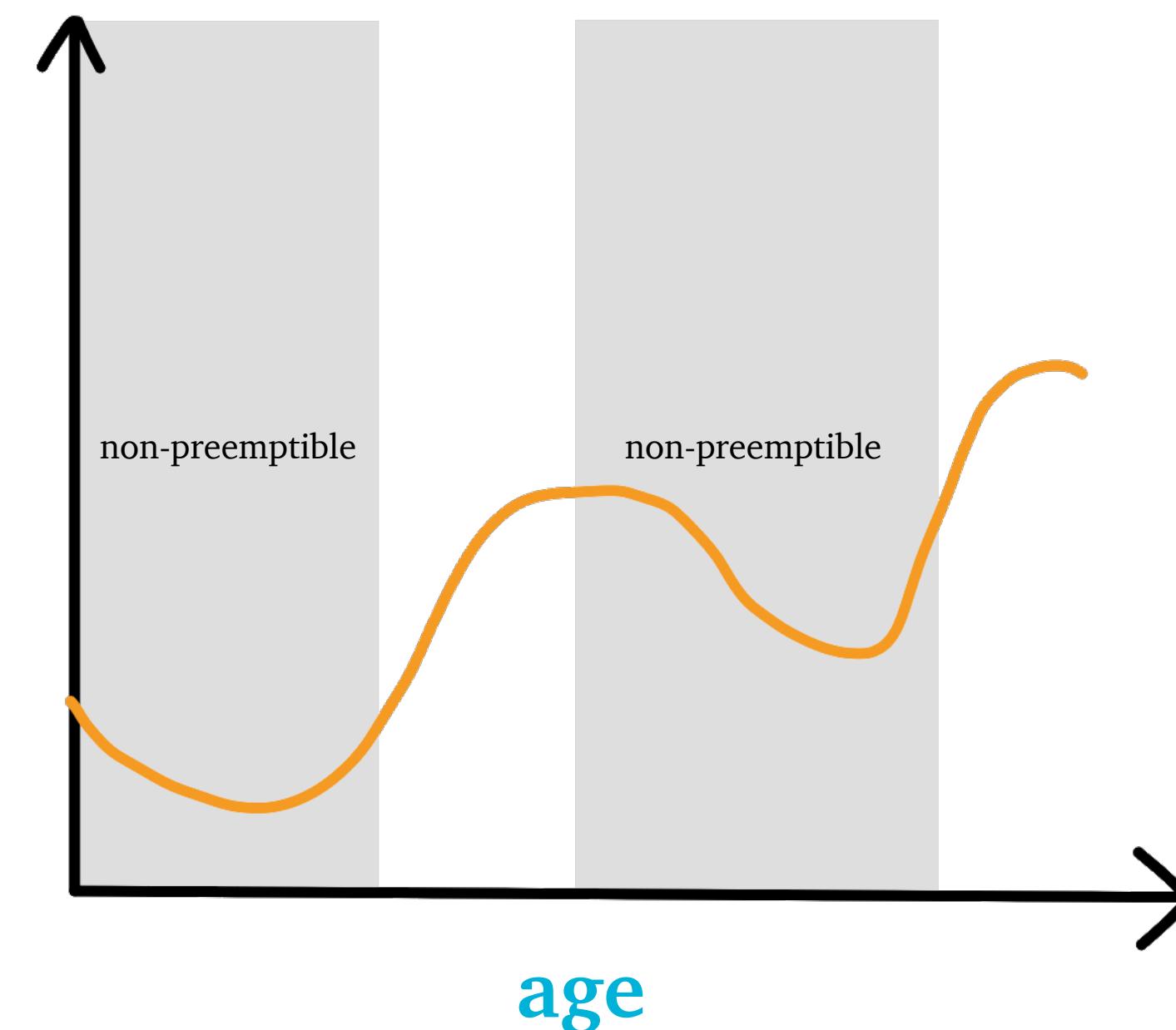


Boosted Arrival
Time

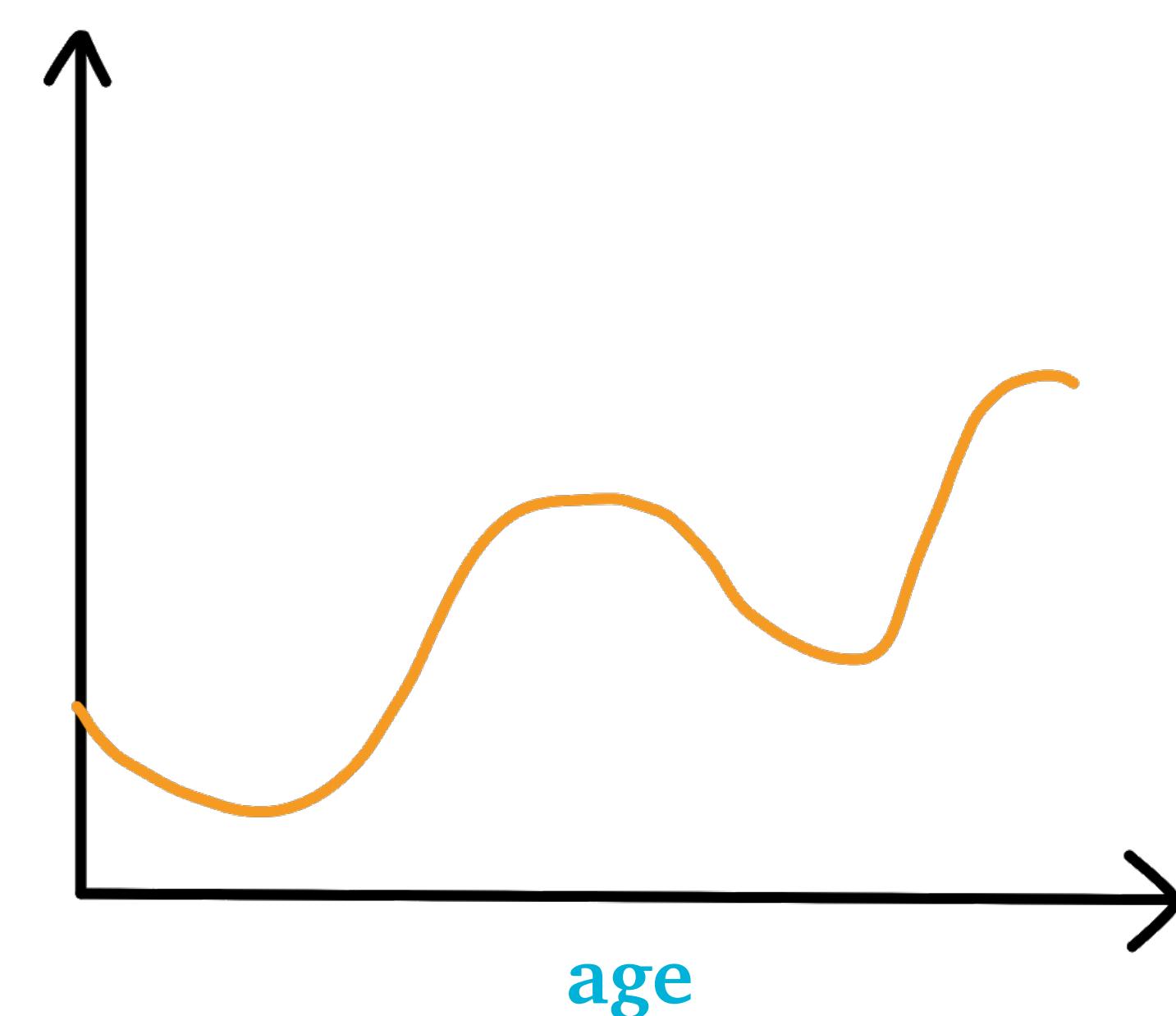


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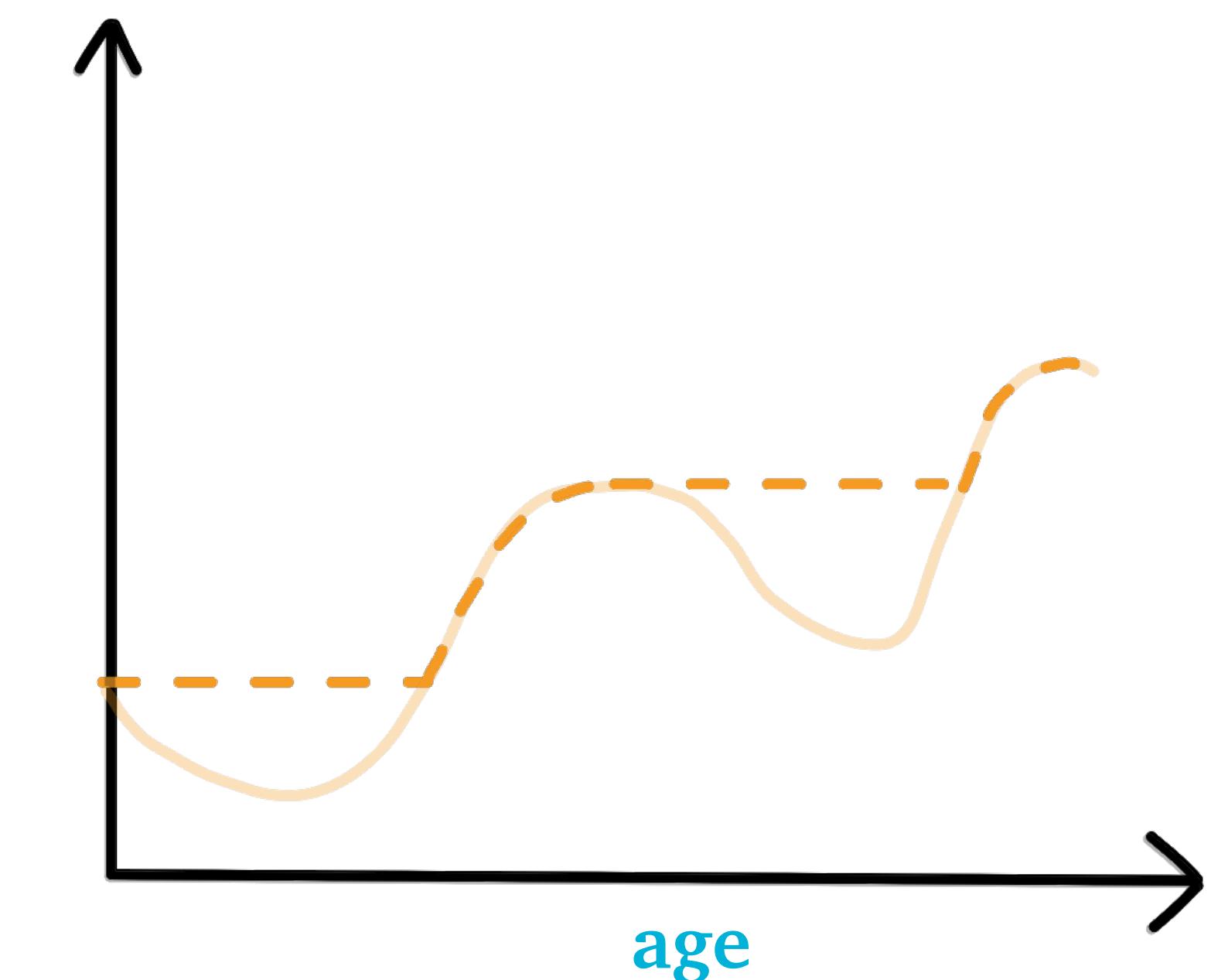
Boosted Arrival
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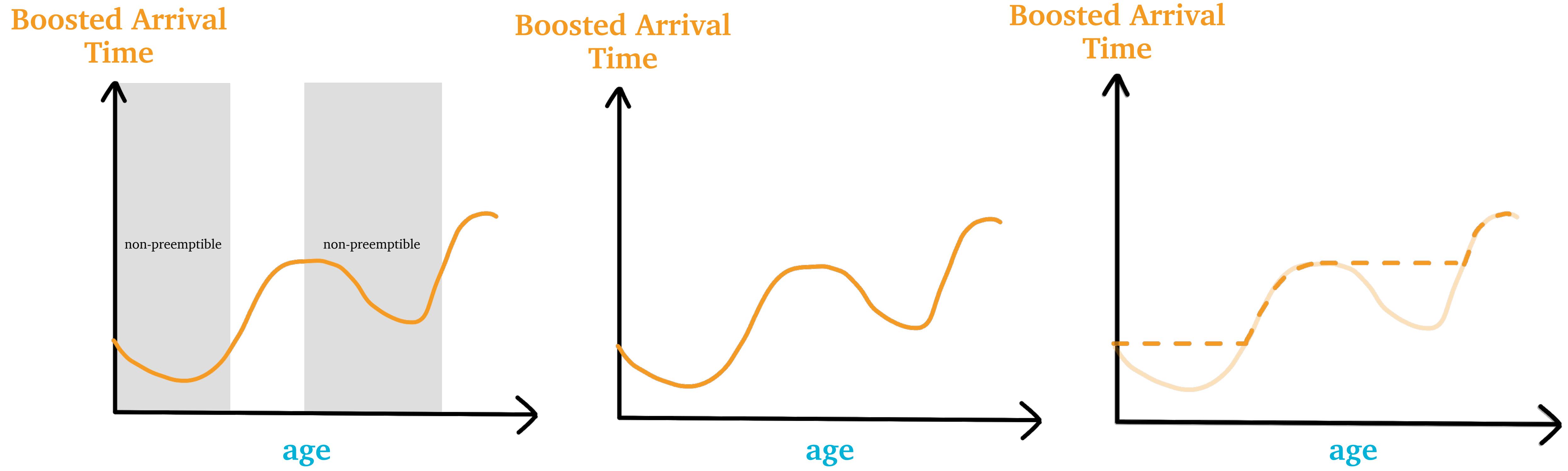
Boosted Arrival
Time



Boosted Arrival
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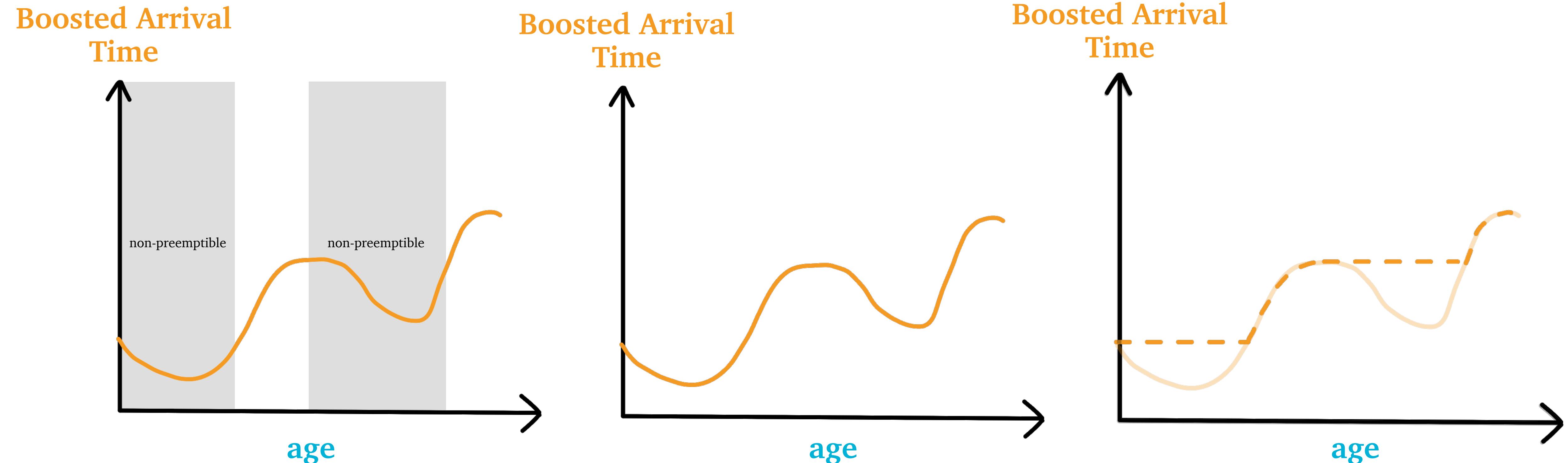


What was our approach?



Batch Setting Optimality: all three policies are the same

What was our approach?



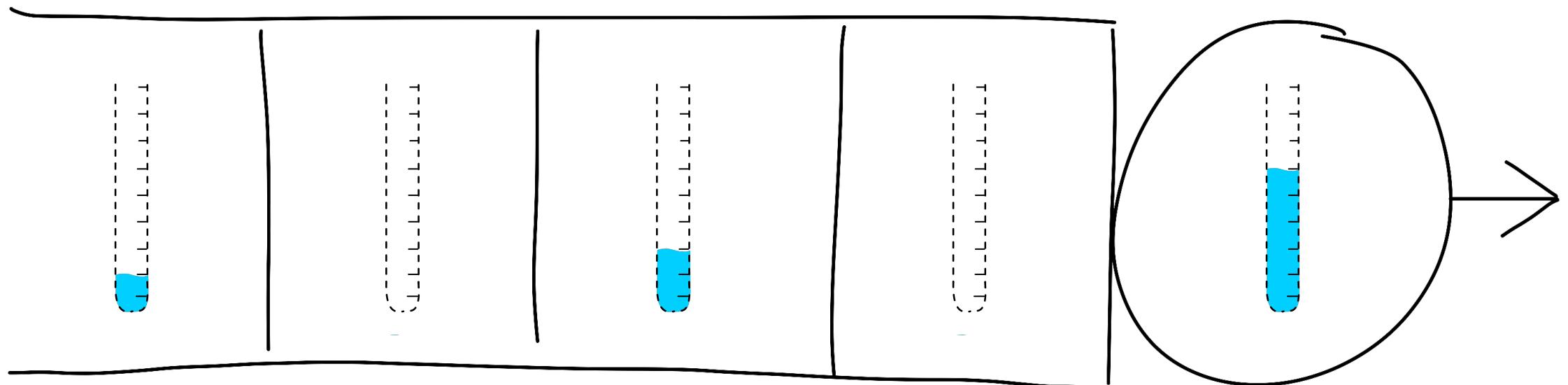
Batch Setting Optimality: all three policies are the same

Queue Setting Optimality: all three policies have the same asymptotic tail behavior

Summary

Summary

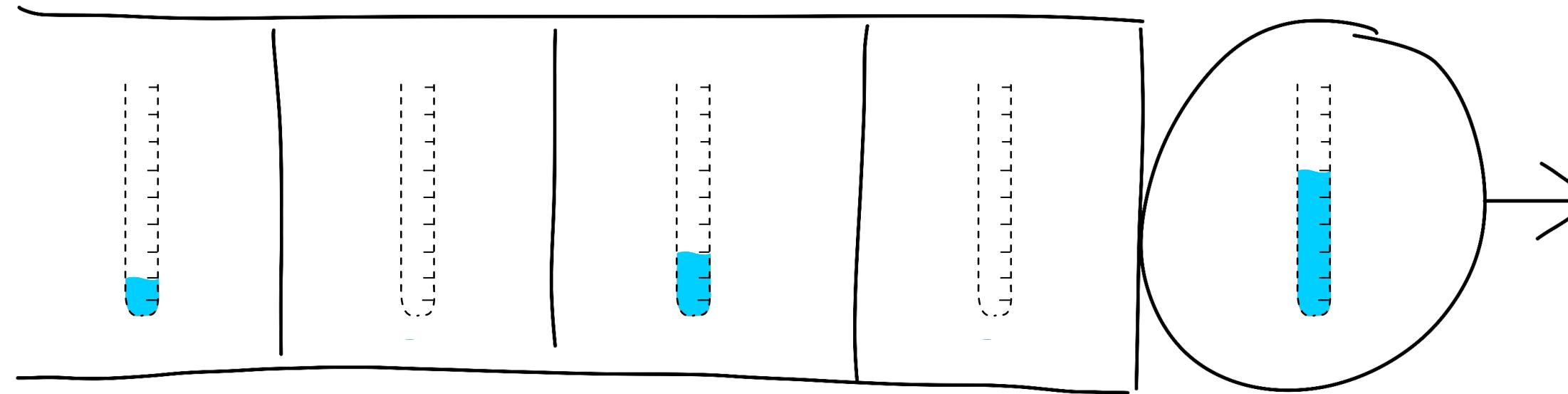
Problem



Schedule for $\mathbf{P}[T > t]$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

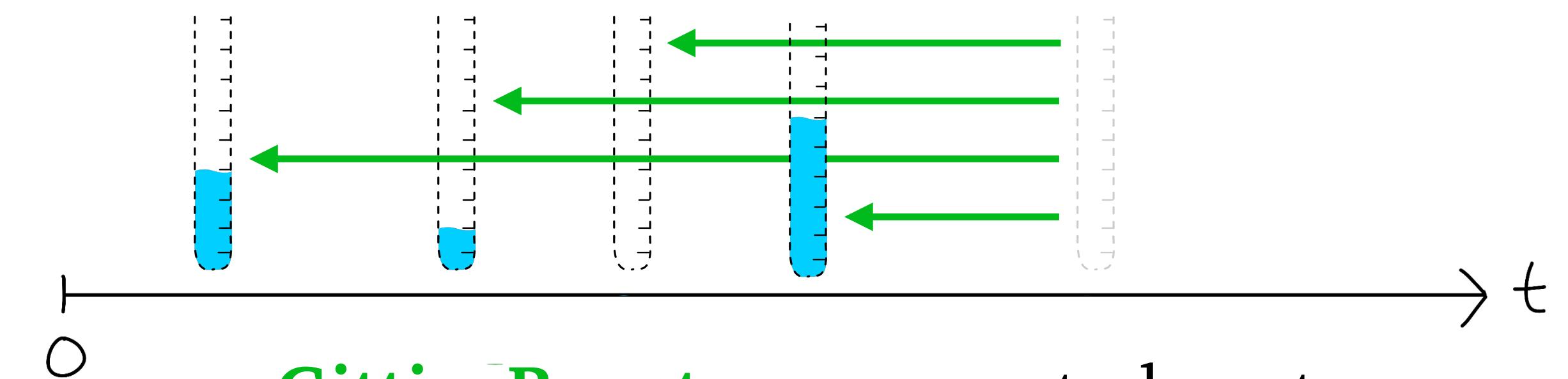
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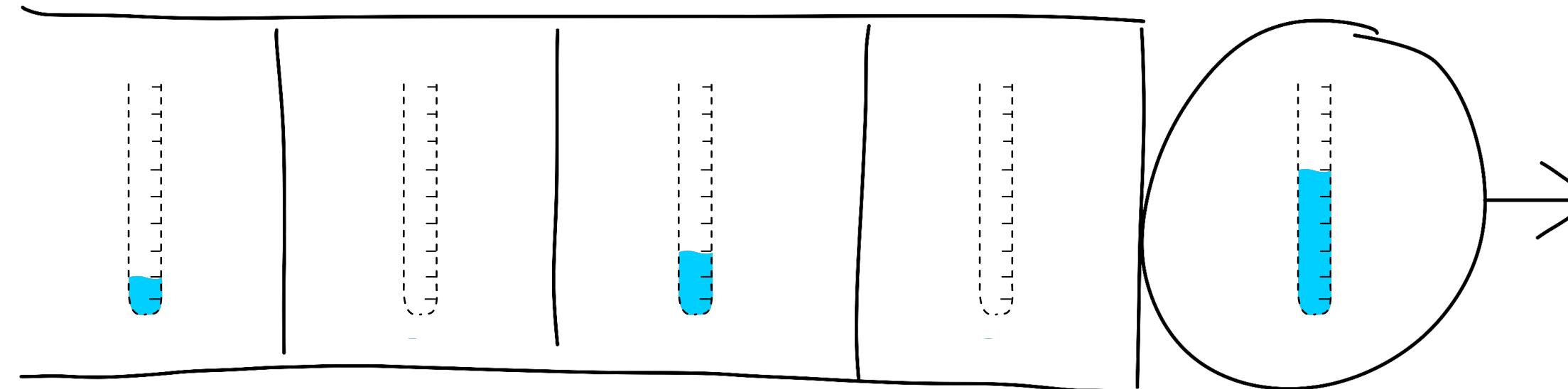
Contribution



GittinsBoost: map **age** to boost

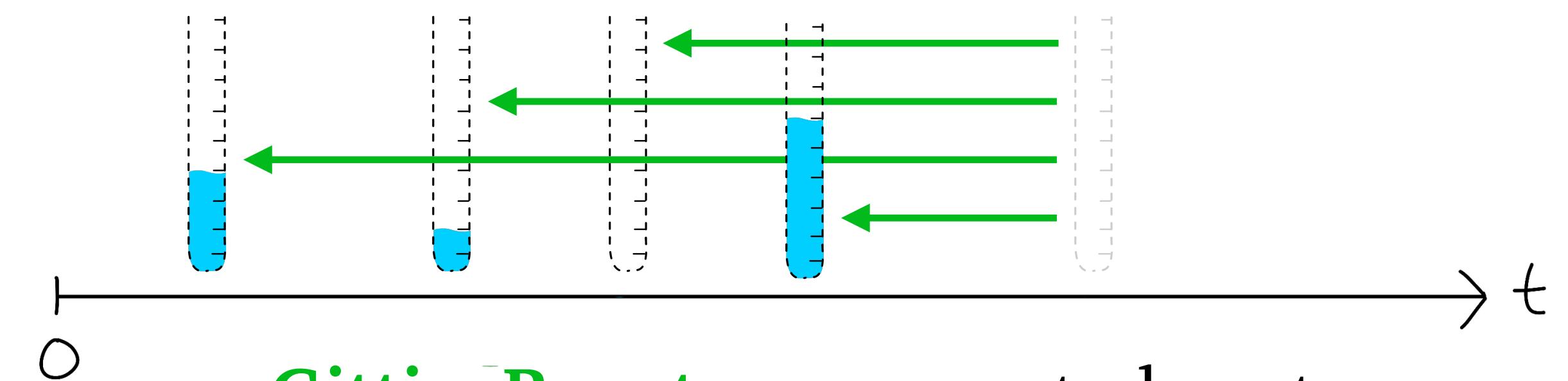
Summary

Problem



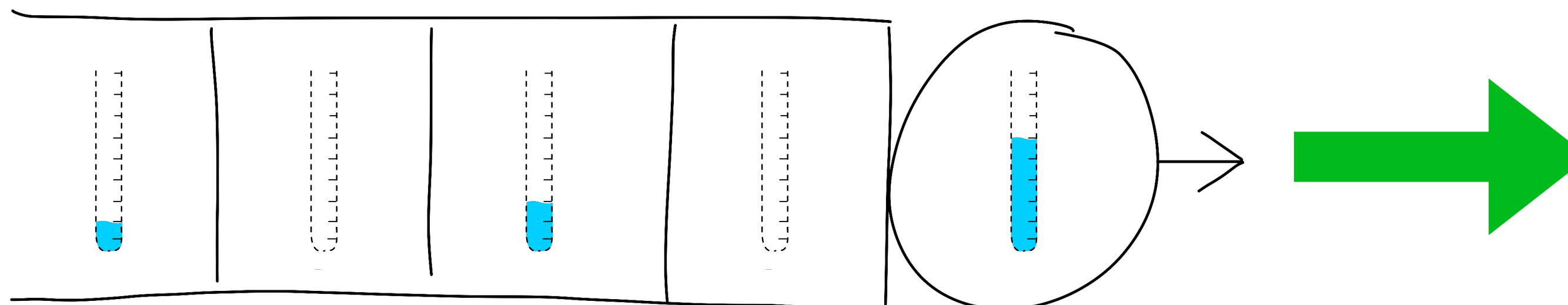
Schedule for $\mathbf{P}[T > t]$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

Contribution

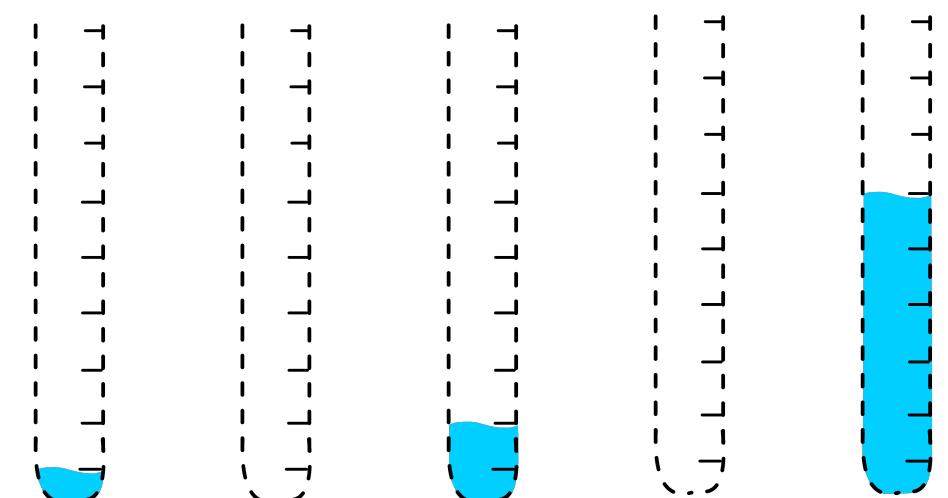


GittinsBoost: map **age** to boost

Main Ideas

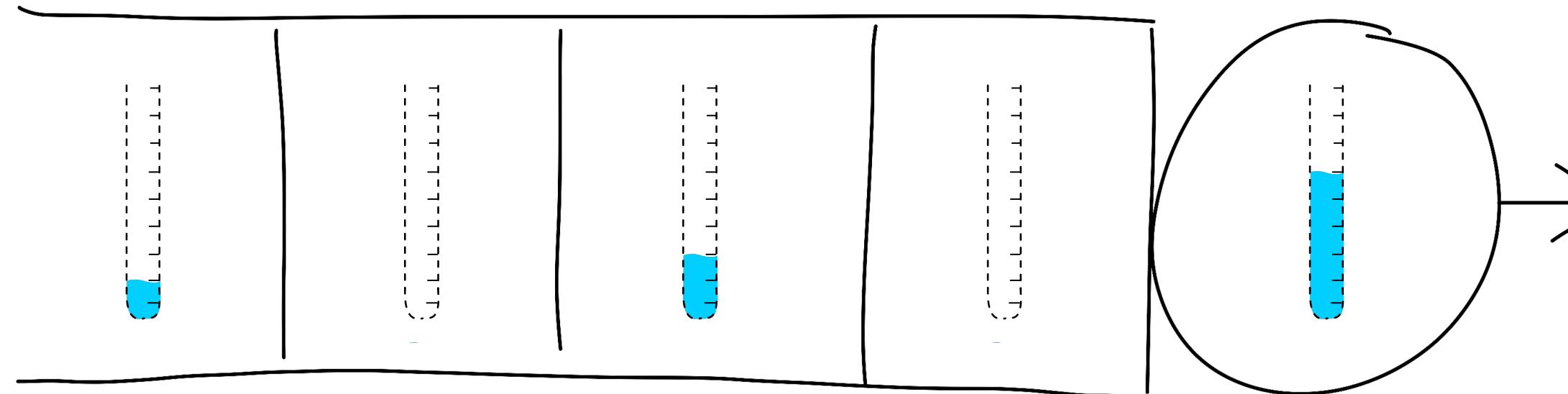


batch problem:



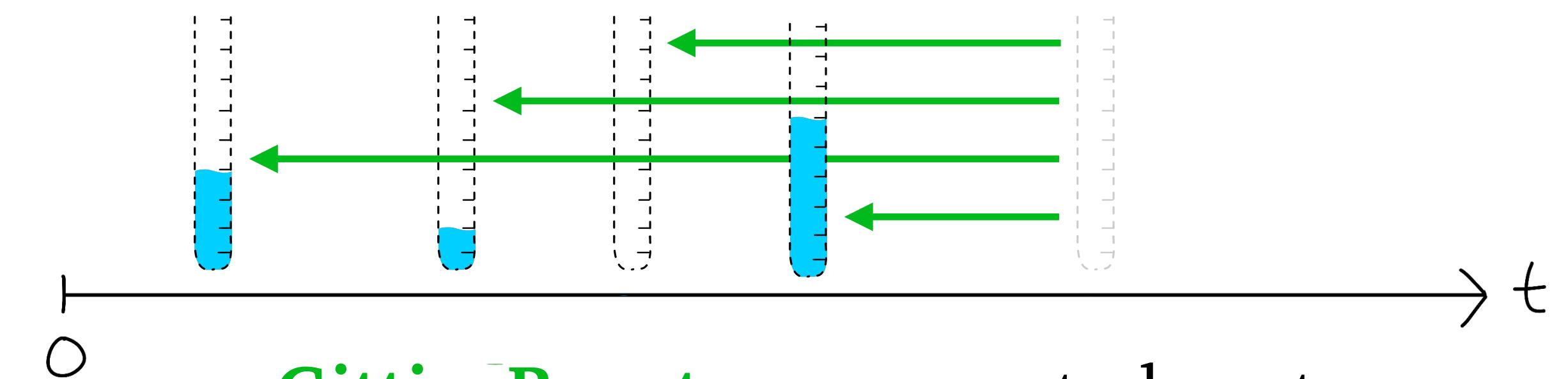
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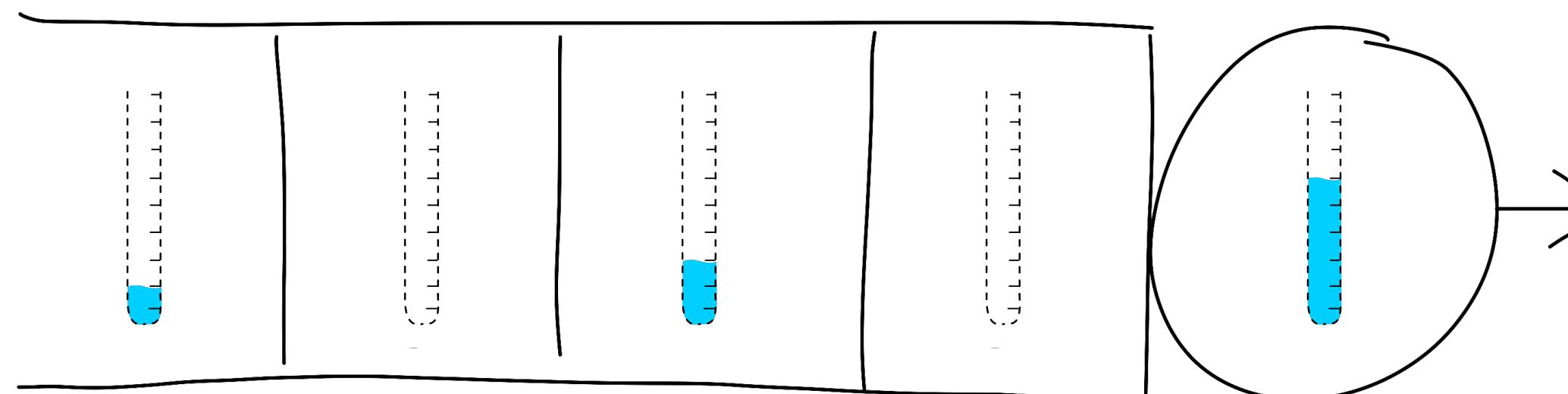
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Contribution



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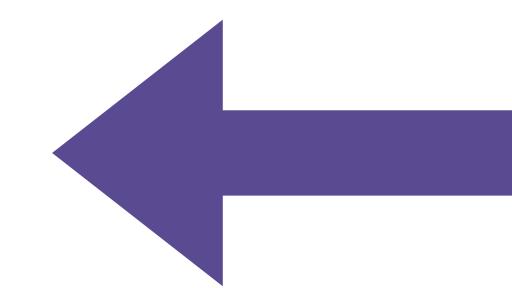
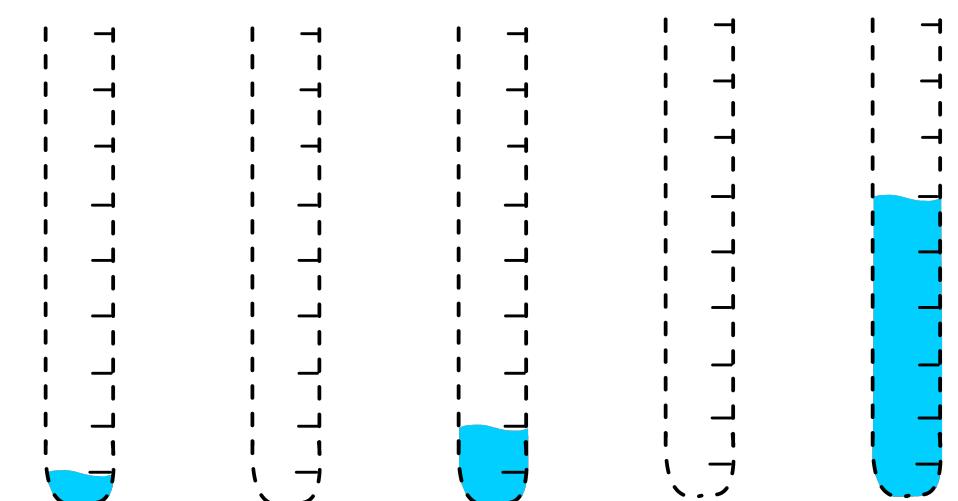
Main Ideas



queue optimality



batch problem:



batch optimality

main technical challenge