

Hands-on Machine Learning with Kafka-based Streaming Pipelines

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**If you have not done so already,
download the tutorial from GitHub**

<https://github.com/lightbend/model-serving-tutorial>

See the README for setup instructions.

These slides are in the presentation folder.

Outline

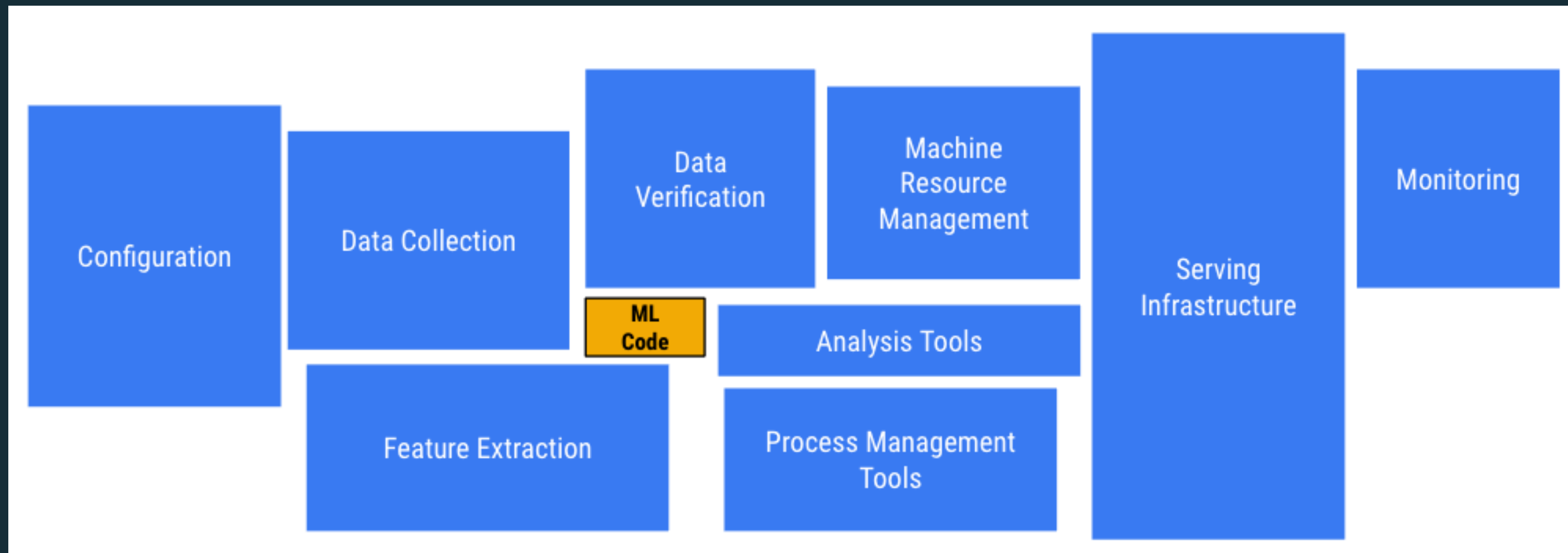
- Hidden technical debt in machine learning systems
- Model serving patterns
 - Embedding - models as code
 - Models as data
 - External services
 - Dynamically controlled streams
- Additional production concerns for model serving
- Wrap up

But first, introductions...

Outline

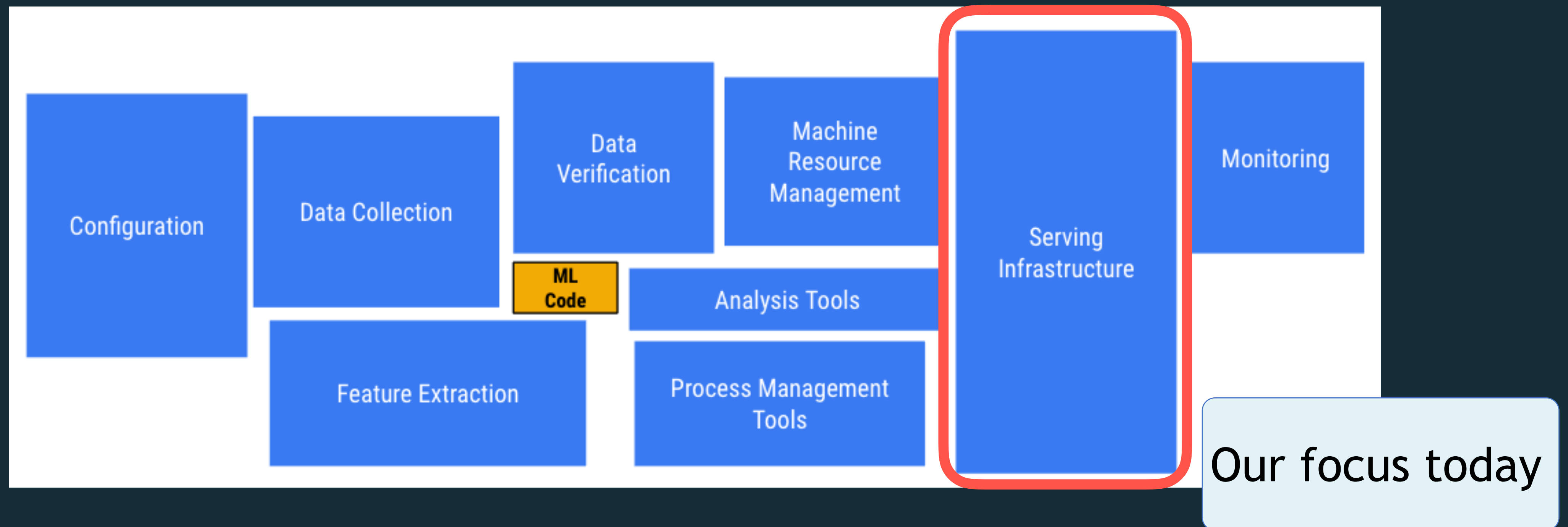
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ML vs. Infrastructure Code



papers.nips.cc/paper/5656-hidden-technical-debt-in-machine-learning-systems.pdf

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Model Serving Architectures

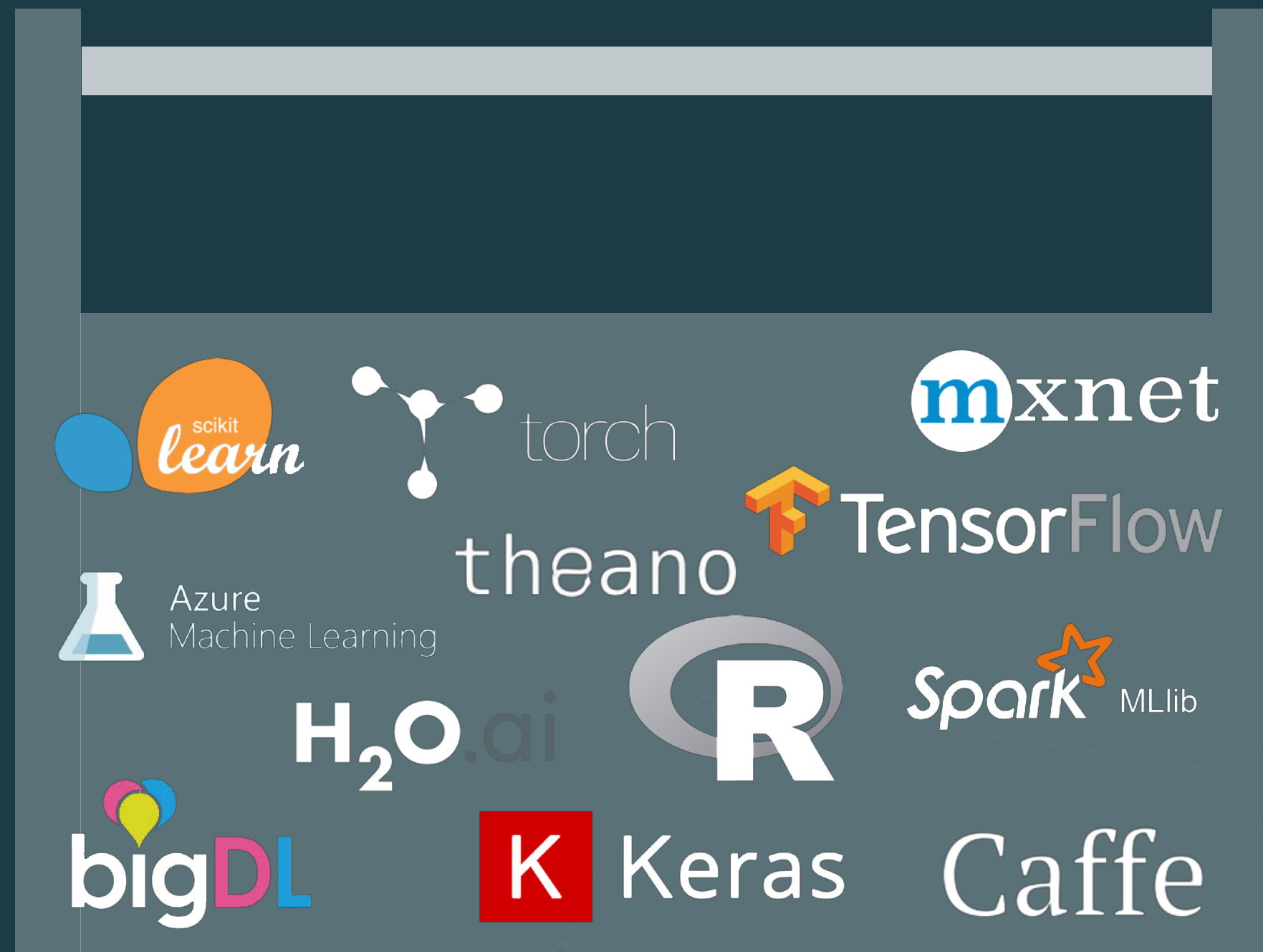
- Embedding - model as *code*, deployed into a stream engine
- Model as *data* - easier dynamic updates
- *Model Serving as a service* - use a separate service, access from the streaming engine
- *Dynamically controlled streams* - one way to implement model as data in a streaming engine

Embedding: Model as Code

- Implement the model as source code
- The model code is linked into the streaming application at build time

Why is this problematic?

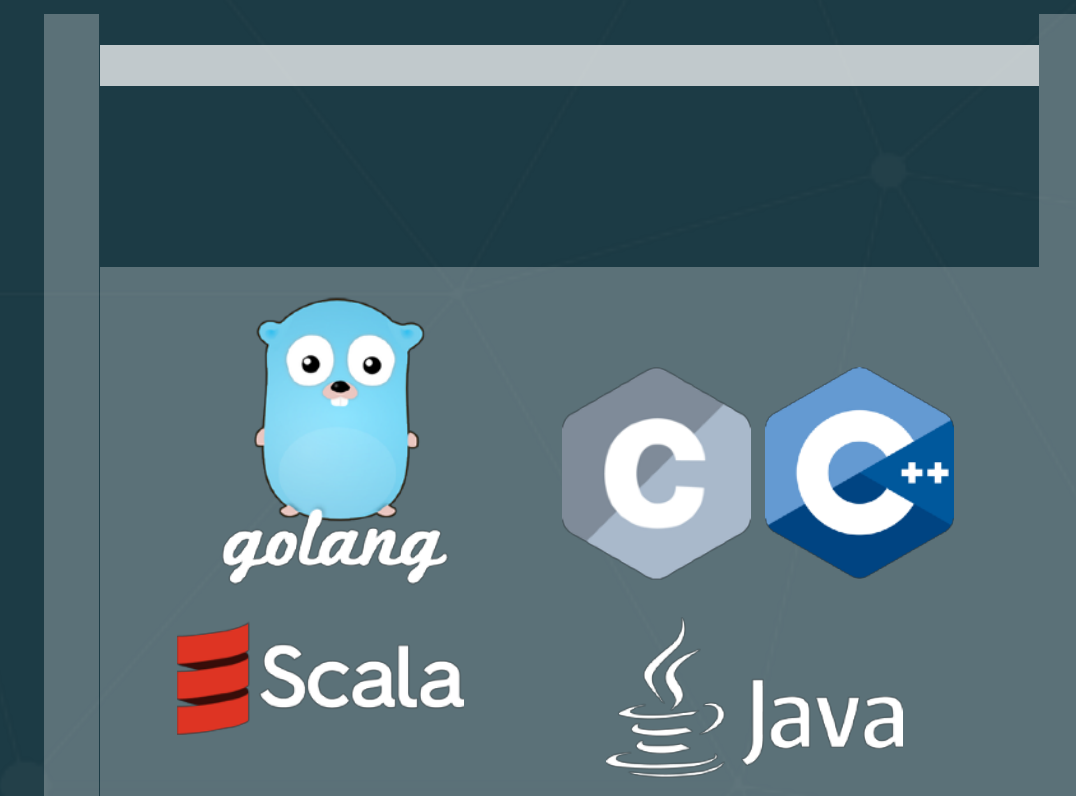
Impedance Mismatch



**Continually expanding
Data Scientist toolbox**

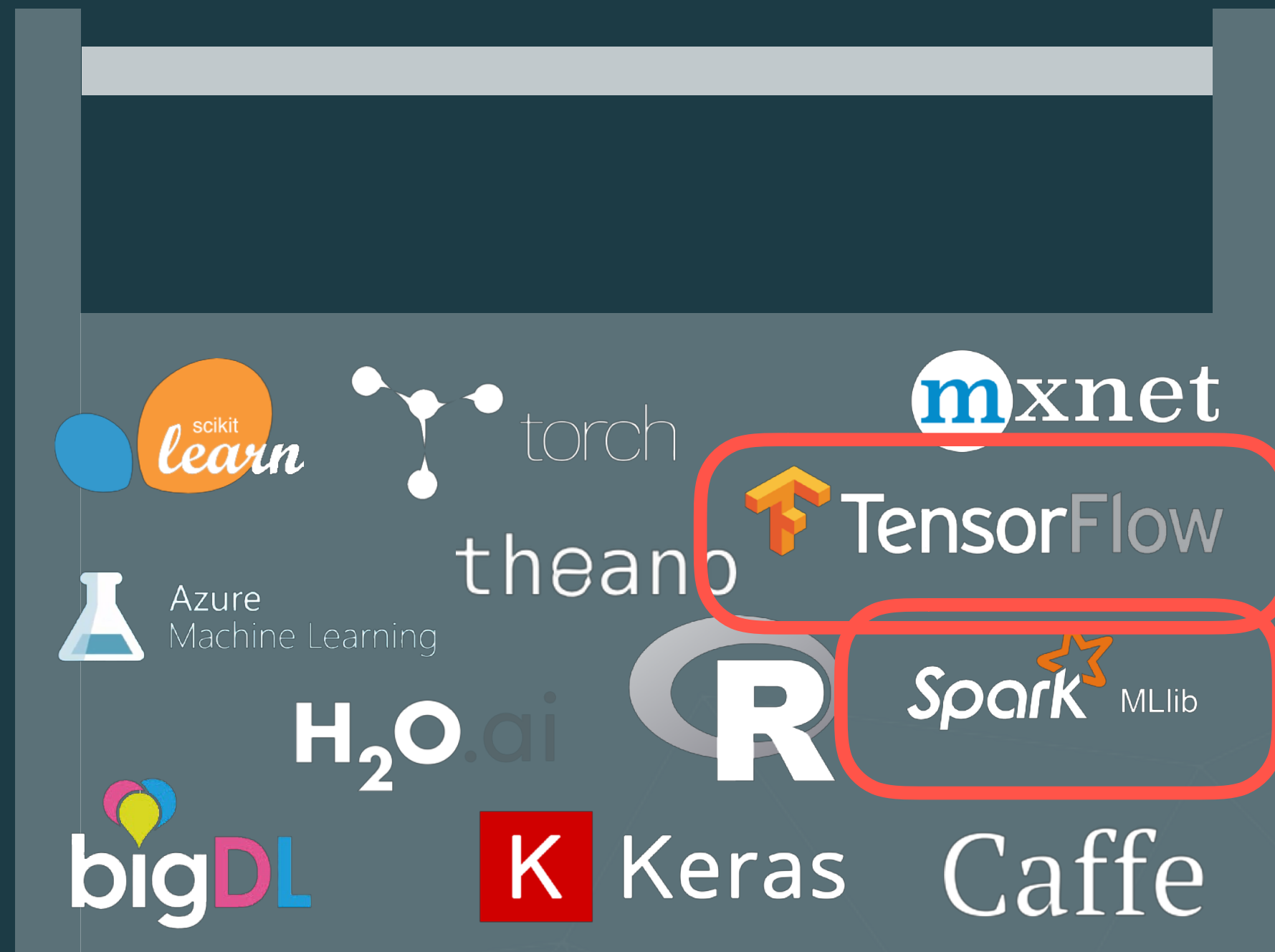


So, “models as
code” is
problematic



**Defined Software
Engineer toolbox**

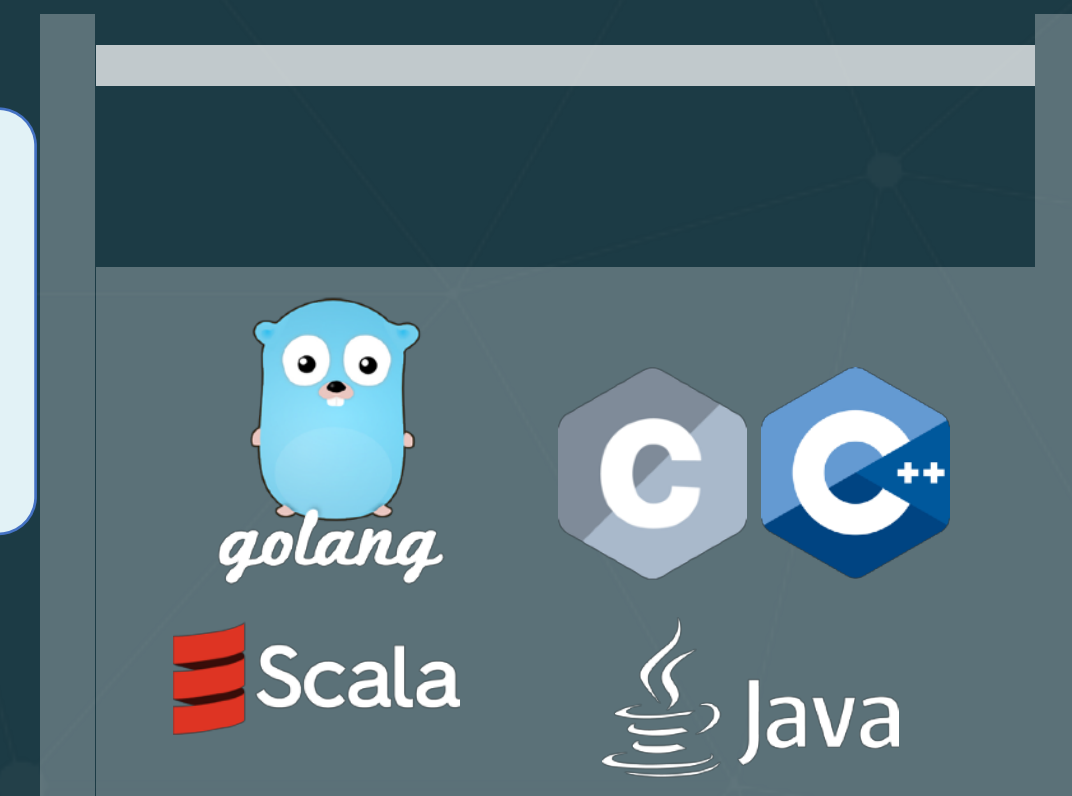
Impedance Mismatch



**Continually expanding
Data Scientist toolbox**

But some tools
cross the divide...

So, “models as
code” is
problematic



**Defined Software
Engineer toolbox**

Embedding: Model as Code

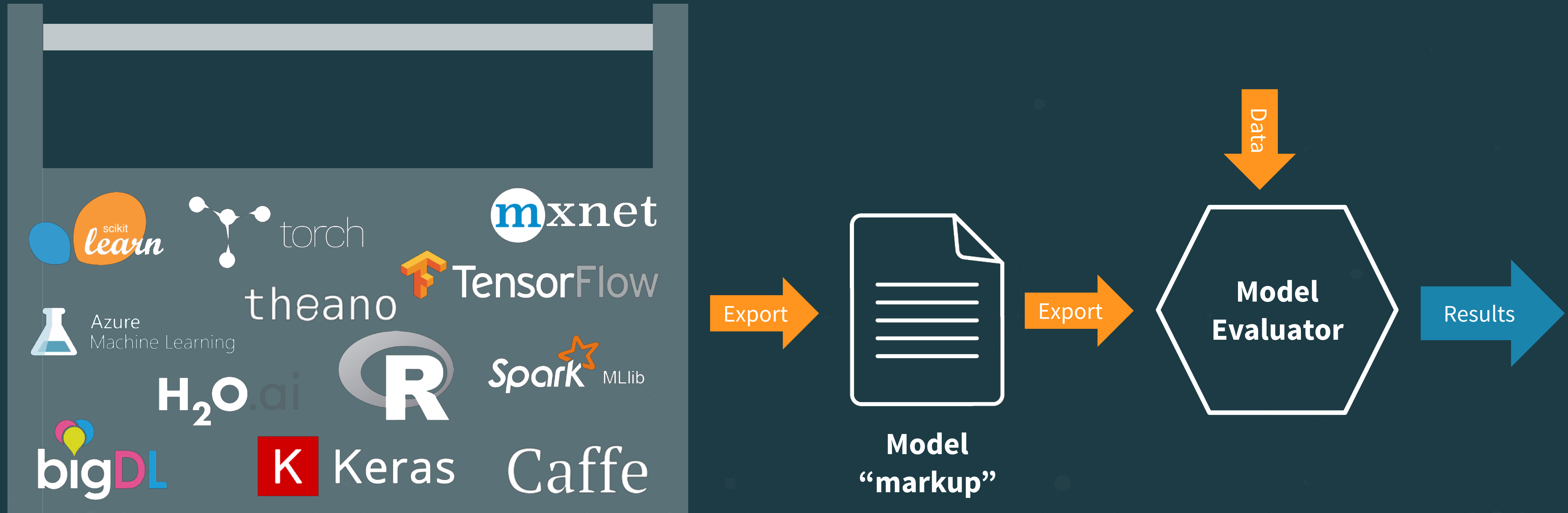
- It also *mostly* eliminates the possibility of updating the model at runtime, as the world changes*.

*Although some coding environments support dynamic loading of new code, do you really want to go there??

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Better Alternative - Model As Data



Standards:



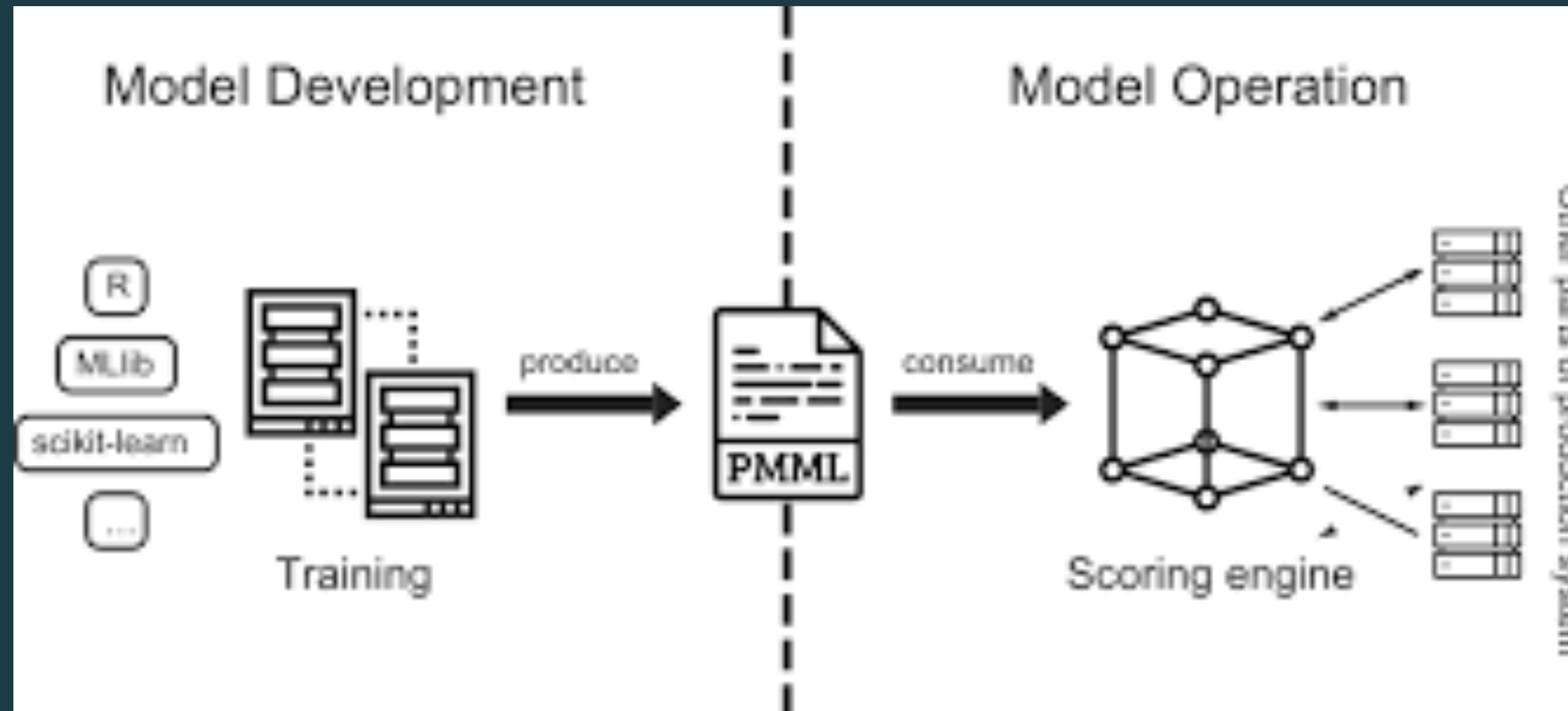
Portable Format
for Analytics
(PFA)



ONNX

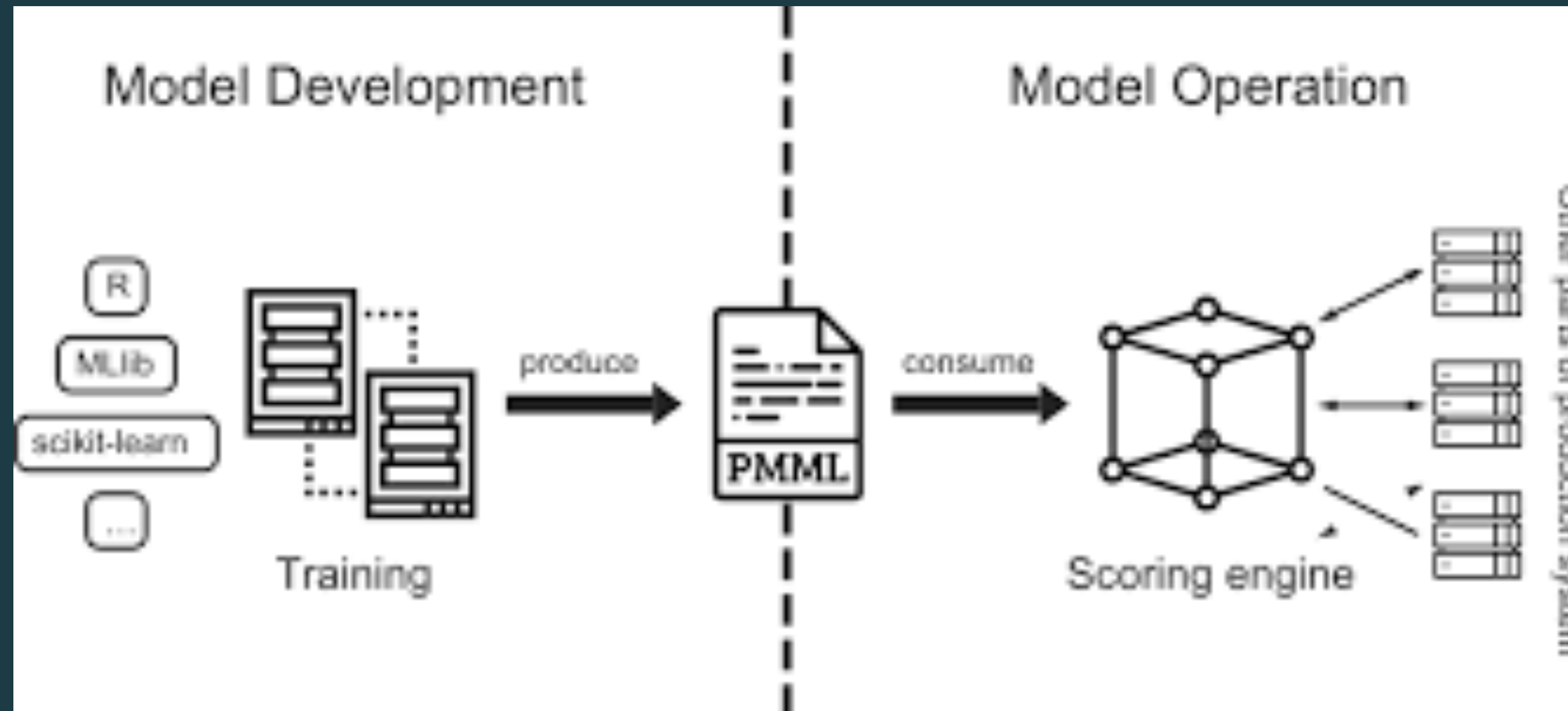


PMML



Predictive Model Markup Language (PMML) is an XML-based language that enables the definition and sharing of predictive models between applications.

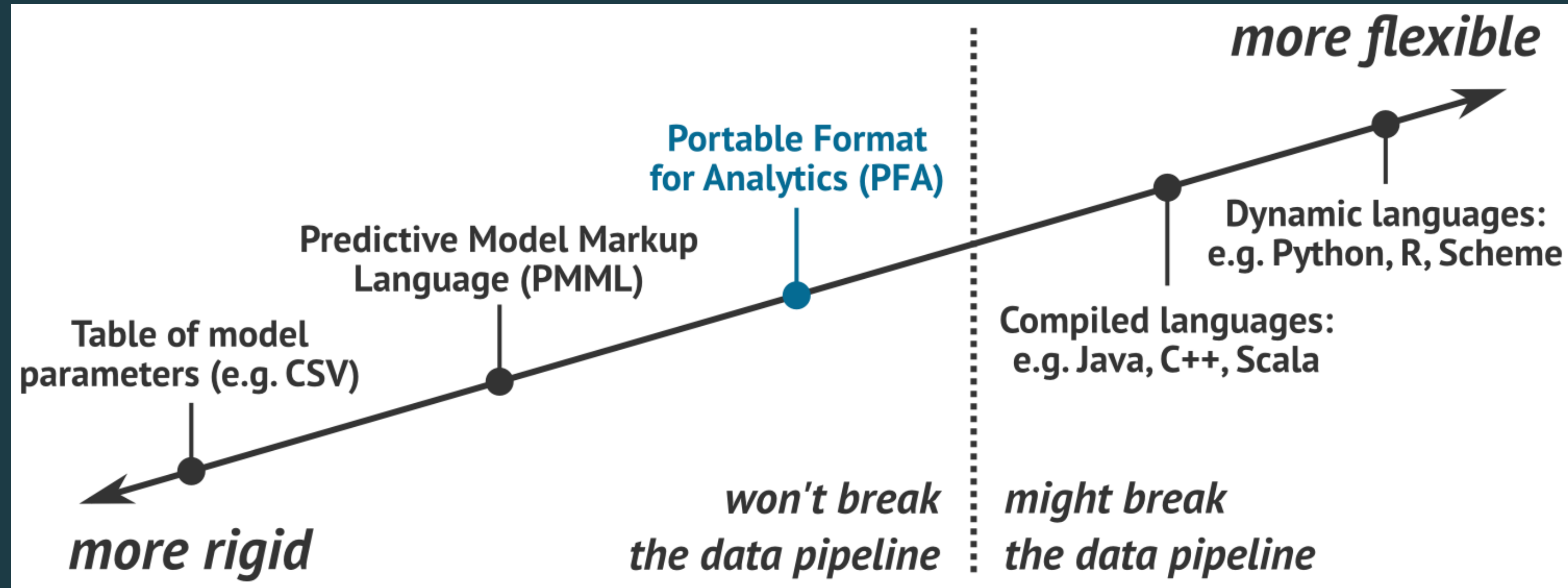
PMML



Implementations for:

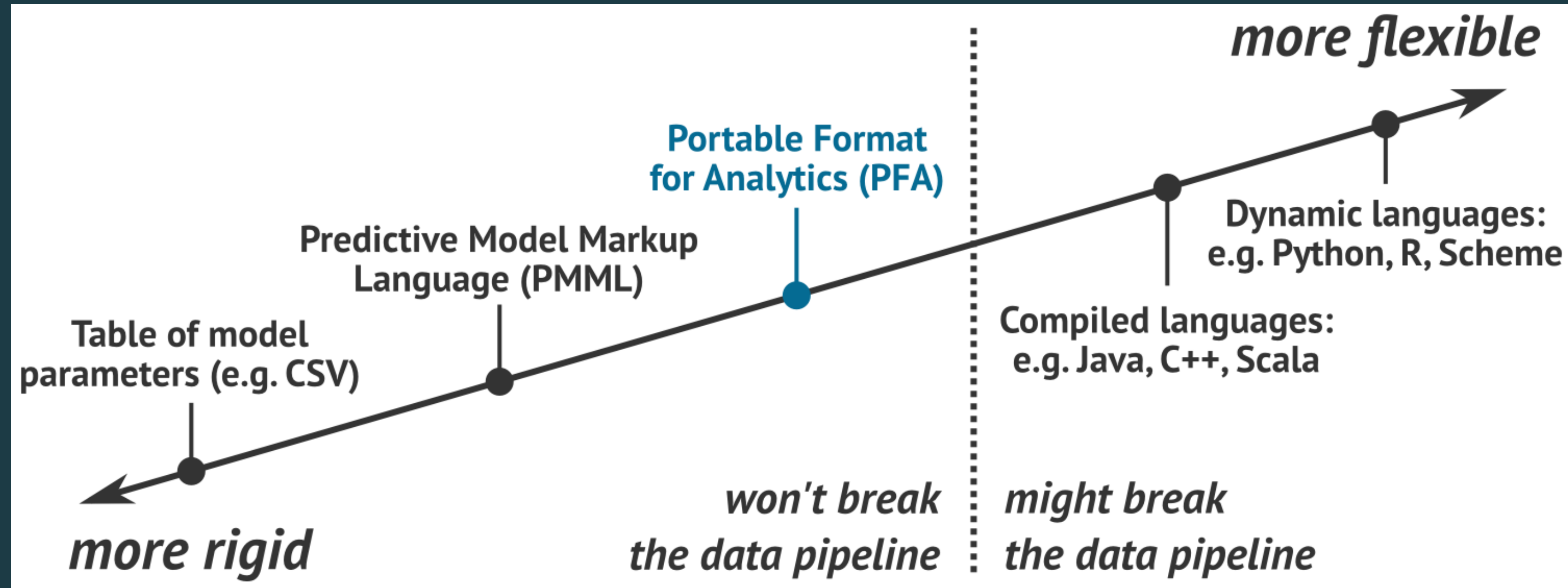
- Java ([JPMML](#)), [R](#), Python [Scikit-Learn](#), Spark [here](#) and [here](#), ...

PFA



Portable Format for Analytics (PFA) is an emerging standard for statistical models and data transformation engines. PFA combines the ease of portability across systems with algorithmic flexibility: models, pre-processing, and post-processing are all functions that can be arbitrarily composed, chained, or built into complex workflows.

PFA



Implementations for:

- Java ([Hadrian](#)), R ([Aurelius](#)), Python ([Titus](#)), Spark ([Aardpfark](#)), ...

ONNX



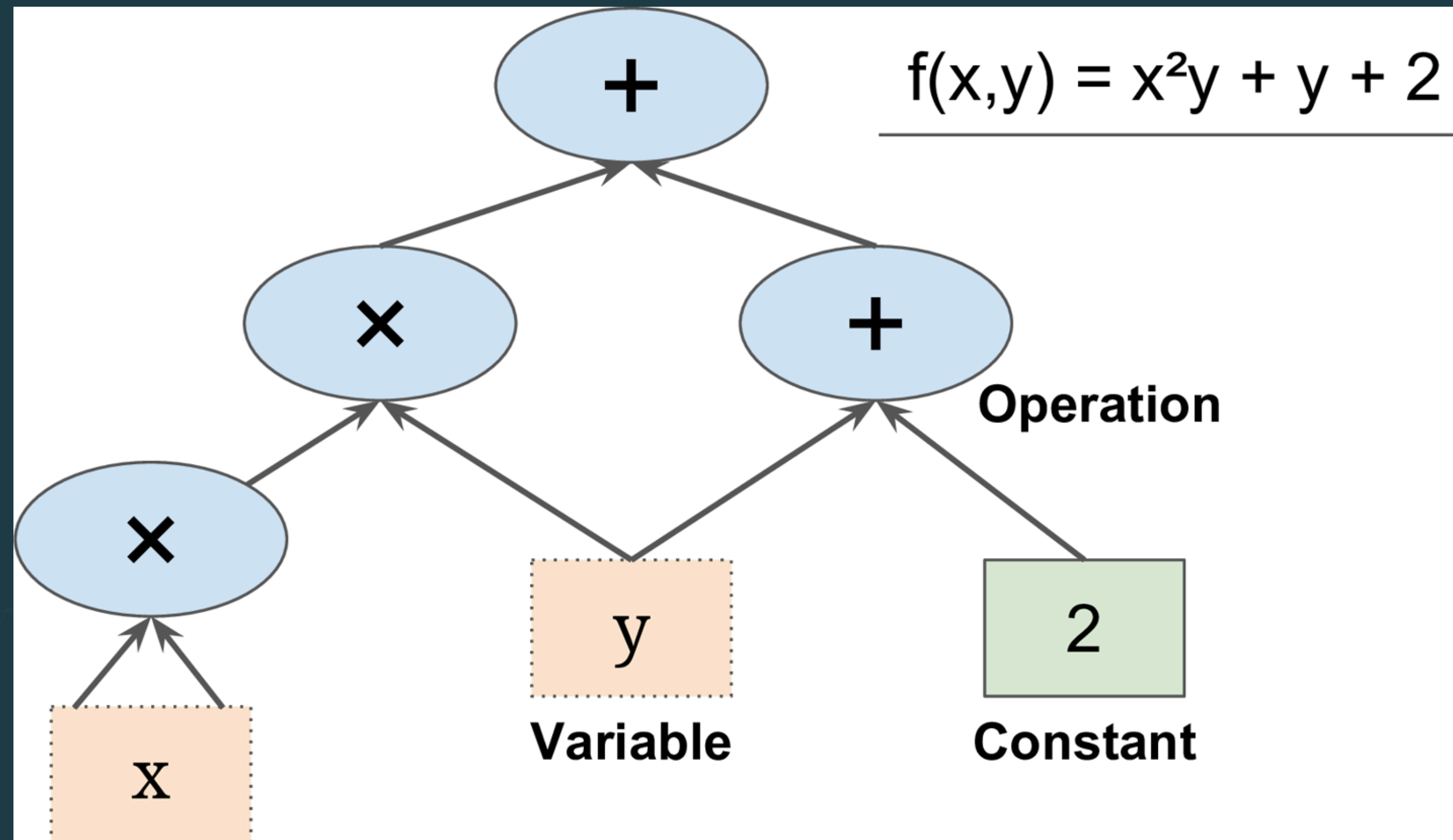
Open Neural Networks Exchange (ONNX) is an open standard format of machine learning models to offer interoperability between various AI frameworks. Led by Facebook, Microsoft, and AWS.

ONNX



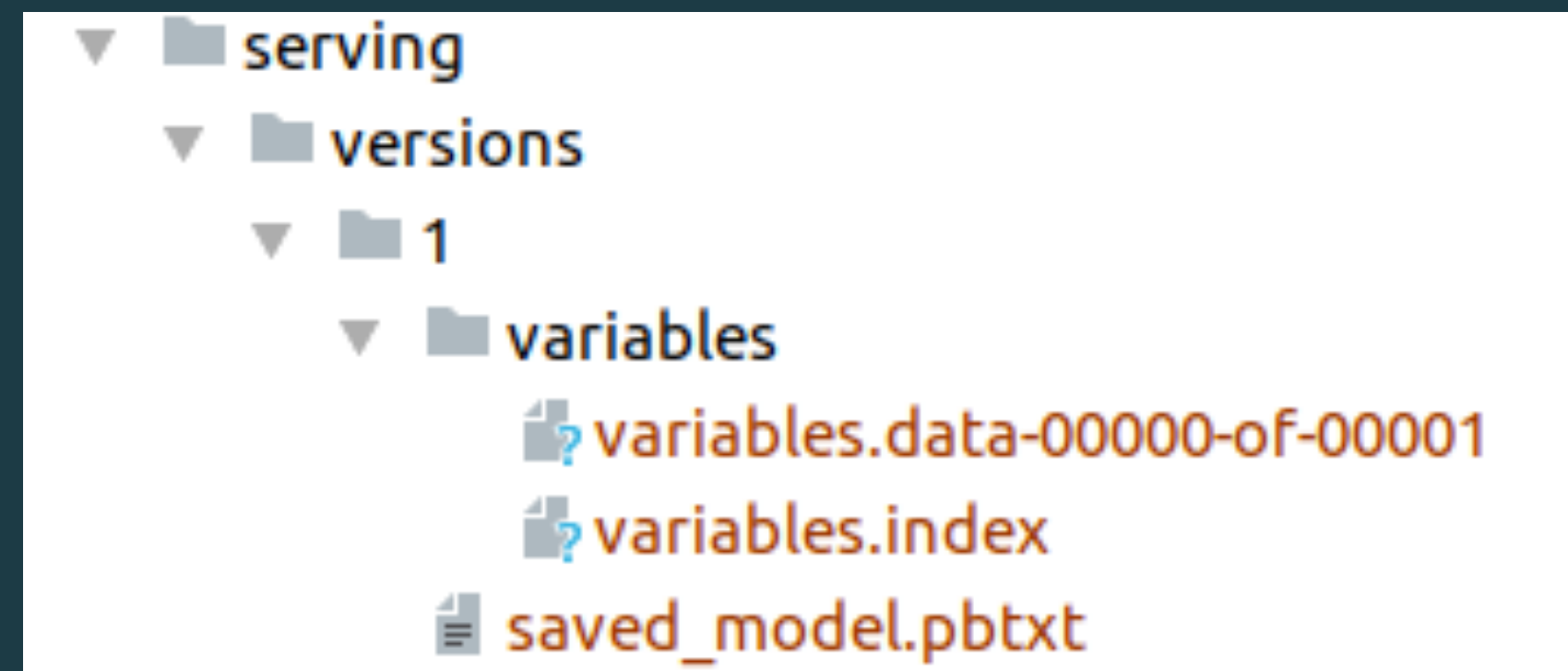
- Supported Tools page.
- Converters for Keras, CoreML, LightGBM, Scikit-Learn,
- PyTorch,
- third-party support for TensorFlow

TensorFlow



- TensorFlow model is represented as a computational graph of Tensors.
- Tensors are defined as multilinear functions which consist of various vector variables. (i.e., generalization of 2x2 matrices)
- TensorFlow supports exporting graphs in the form of binary protocol buffers

TensorFlow Export Formats



SavedModel - Features:

- Multiple graphs sharing a single set of variables.
- Support for SignatureDefs
- Support for Assets

Normal (optimized) export of a TensorFlow Graph.

- Exports the Graph into a single file, that can be sent over Kafka, for example

Considerations for Interchange Tools

- Do your *training* tools support exporting with a standard exchange format, e.g., PMML, PFA, etc.?
- Do your *serving* tools support the same format for import?
- Is there support on both ends for the model types you want to use, e.g., random forests, neural networks, etc.?
- Does the *serving* implementation faithfully reproduce the results of your *training* environment?

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Model Serving as a Service

- *Advantages*
 - Simple integration with existing technologies and organizational processes
 - Easier to understand if you come from a non-streaming world
- *Disadvantages*
 - Worse latency: remote calls instead of local function calls
 - Coupling the availability, scalability, and latency/throughput of your streaming application with the SLAs of the service

Model Serving as a Service

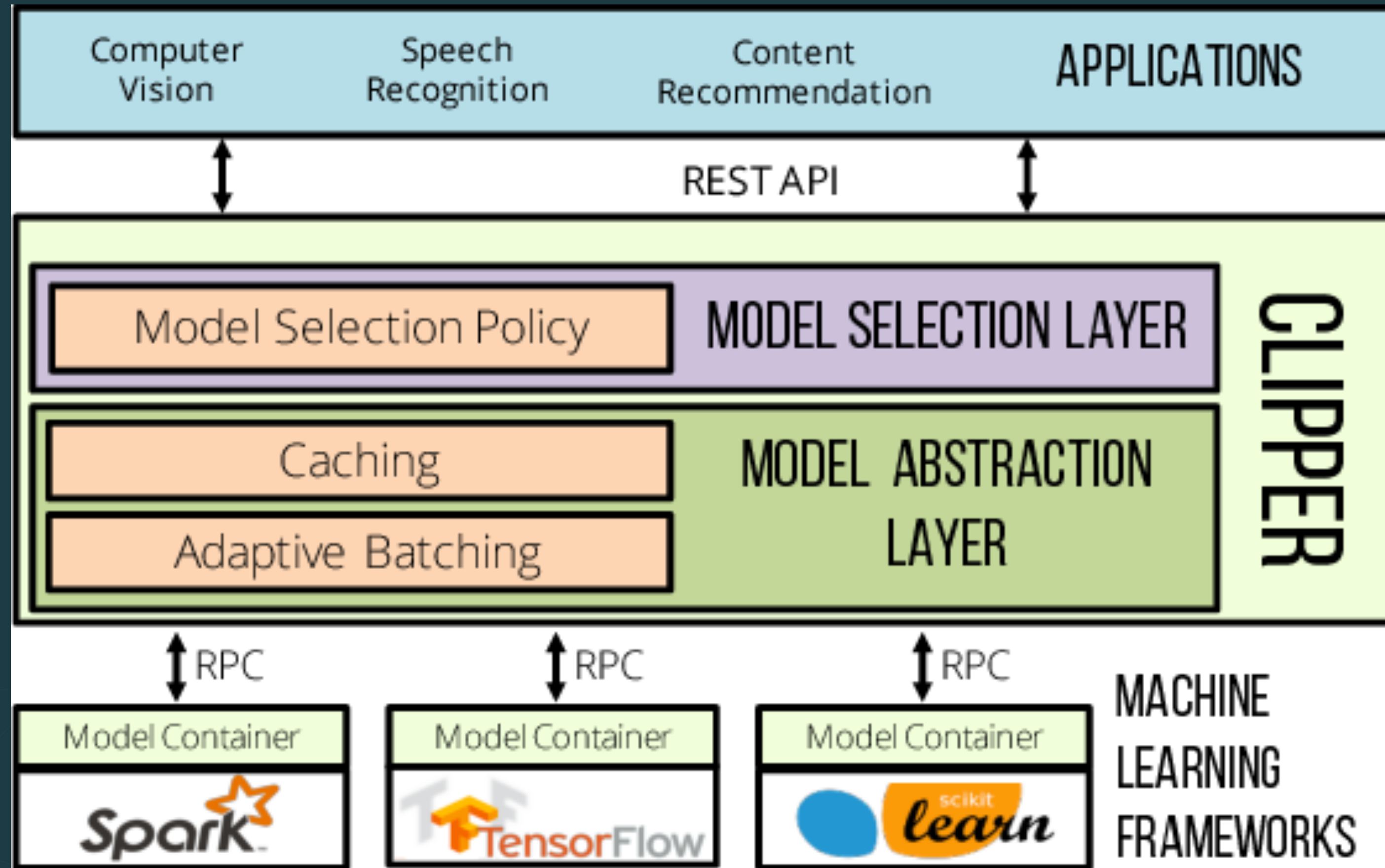
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Model Serving as a Service challenges

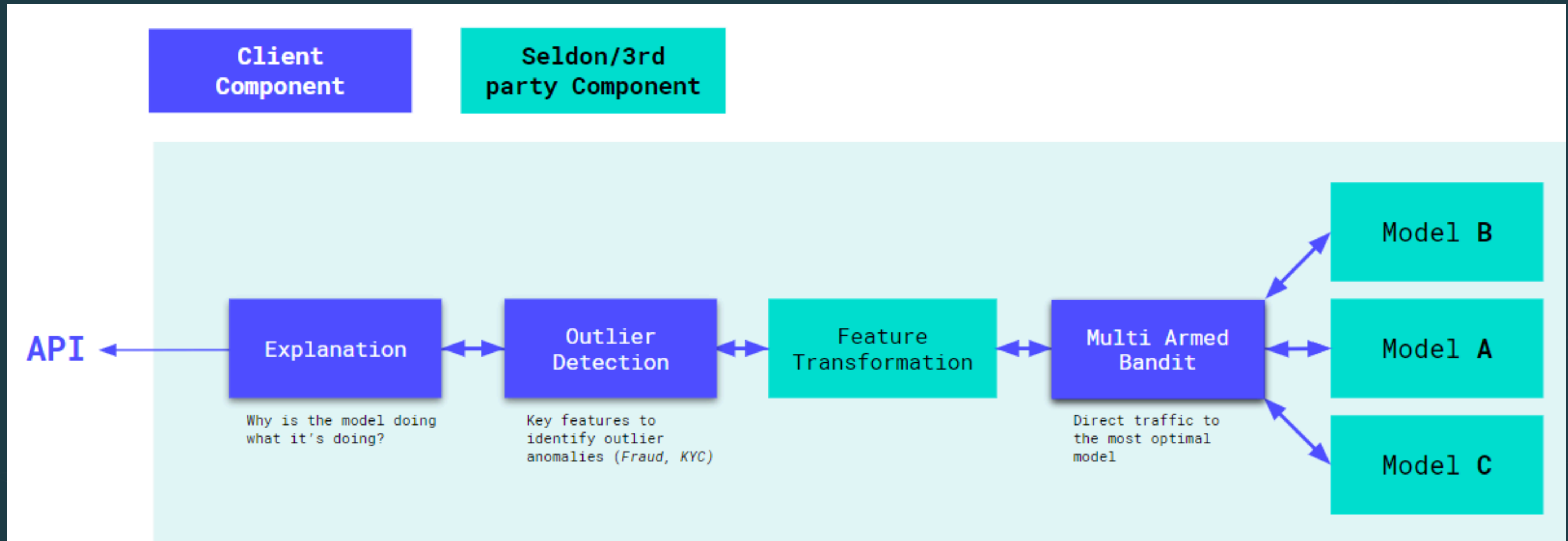
- Launch ML runtime graphs, scale up/down, perform rolling updates
- Infrastructure optimization for ML
- Latency optimization
- Connect to business apps via various APIs, e.g. REST, gRPC
- Allow Auditing and clear versioning
- Integrate into Continuous Integration (CI)
- Allow Continuous Deployment (CD)
- Provide Monitoring

<https://github.com/SeldonIO/seldon-core/blob/master/docs/challenges.md>

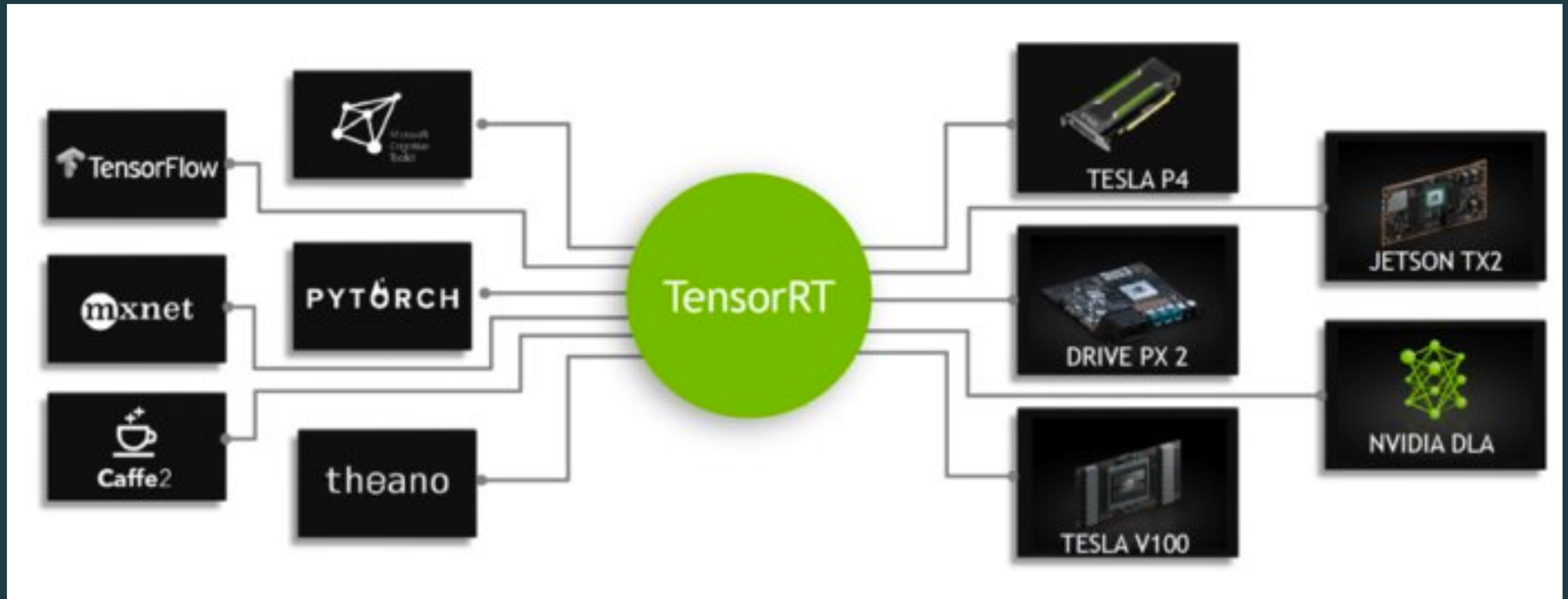
Example: Clipper



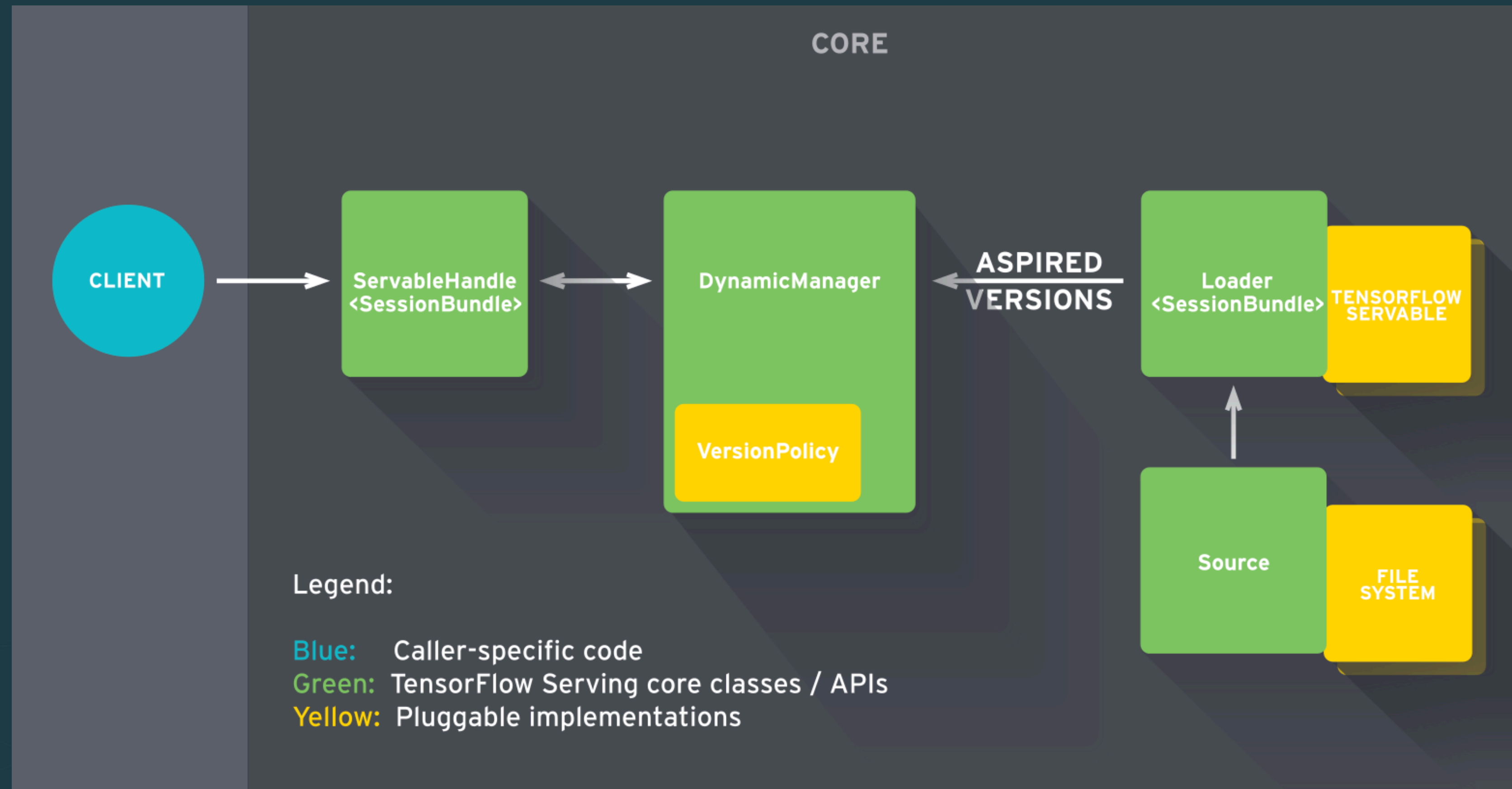
Example: Seldon Core



Example: TensorRT



Example: TensorFlow serving



Example: Kubeflow Serving (proposal)

TODO

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_s8CYdhIrQRu4BX2m7adQhVt_OTr4WSZXgUY0Z77GzY/edit#heading=h.n8q237dhw3zp

Outline

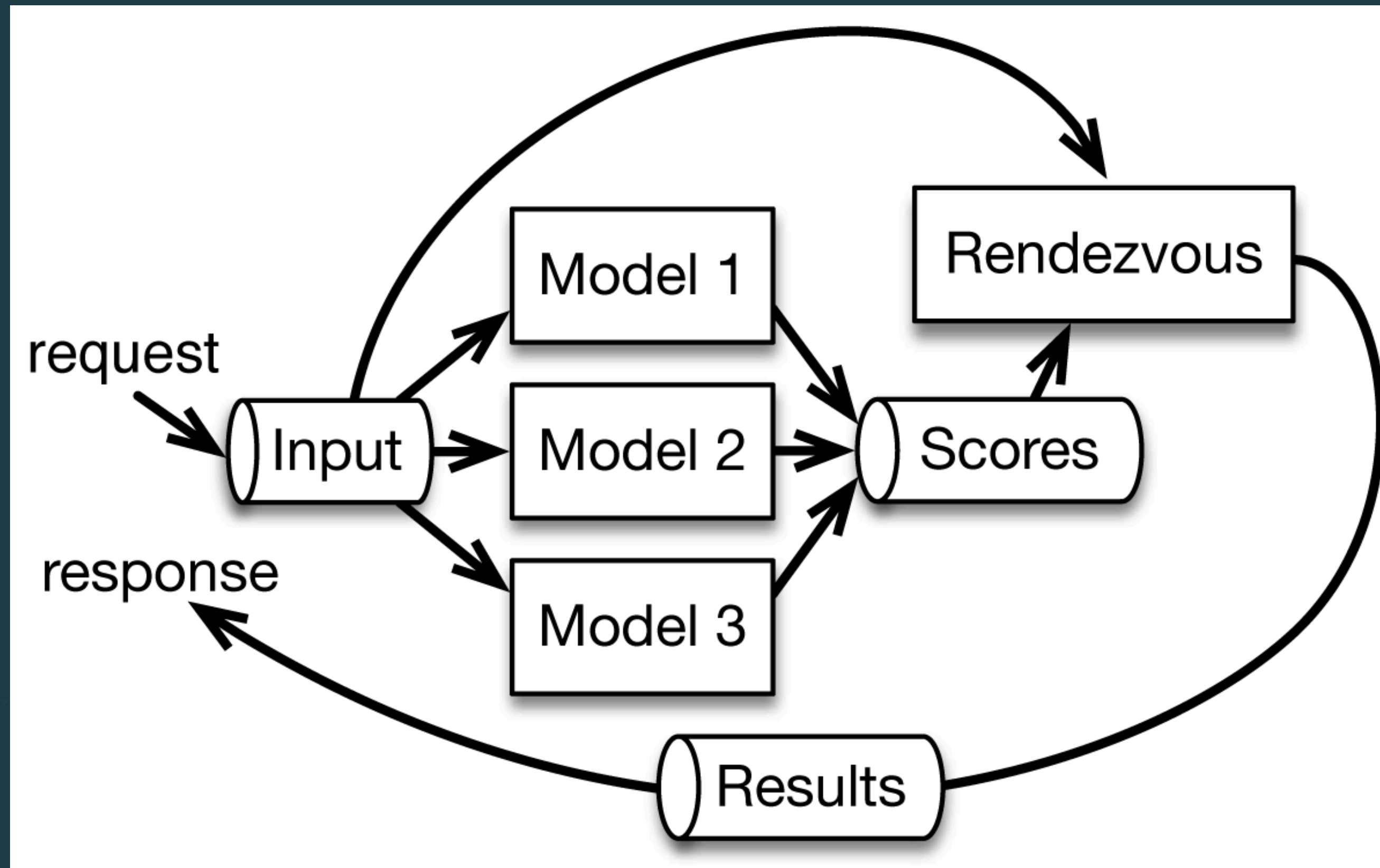
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Rendezvous Architecture

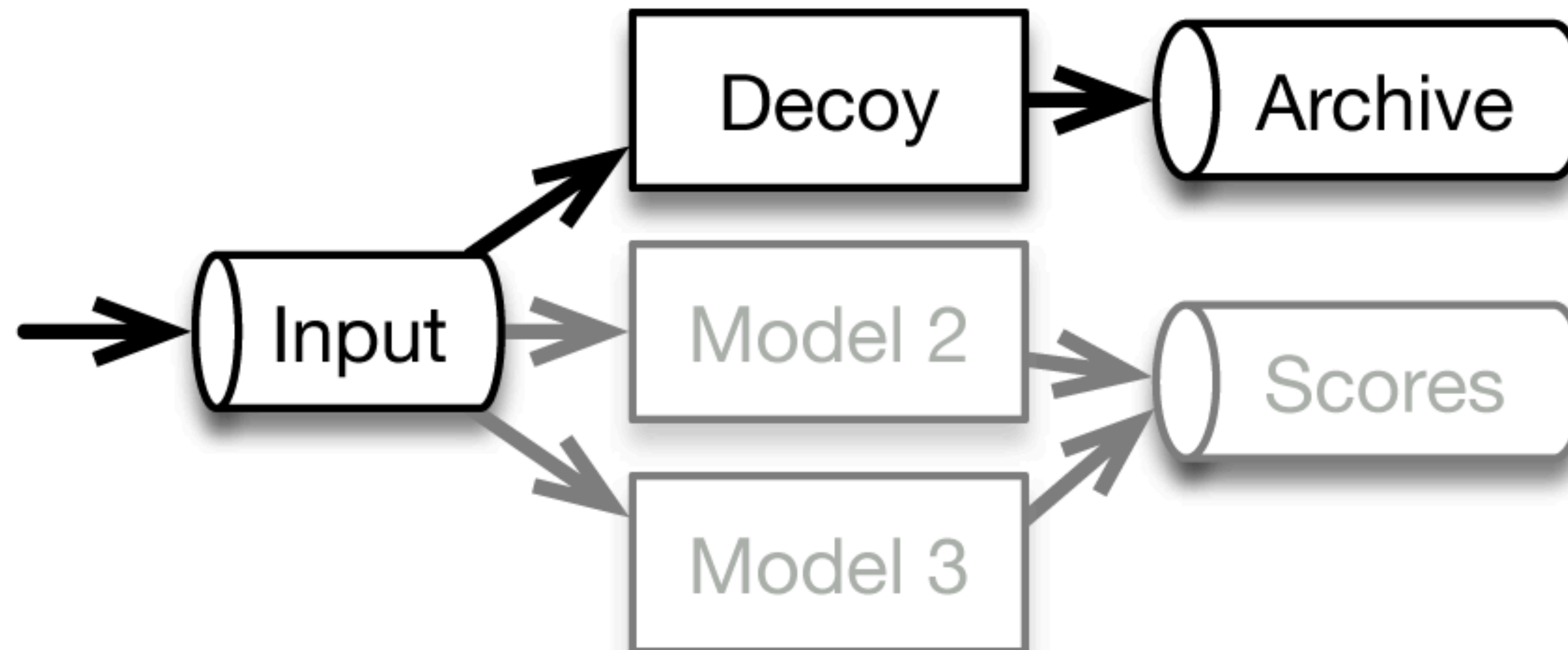
Designed to handle the logistics of ML in a flexible, responsive, convenient, and realistic way. Specifically, it provides the following:

- Collect data at scale from a variety of sources and preserve raw data so that potentially valuable features are not lost.
- Make input and output data available to many independent applications (consumers), on premise, geographically distributed, or in the cloud.
- Manage multiple models during development and production.
- Improve evaluation methods for comparing models during development and production, including use of reference models for baseline successful performance.
- Have new models poised for rapid deployment.

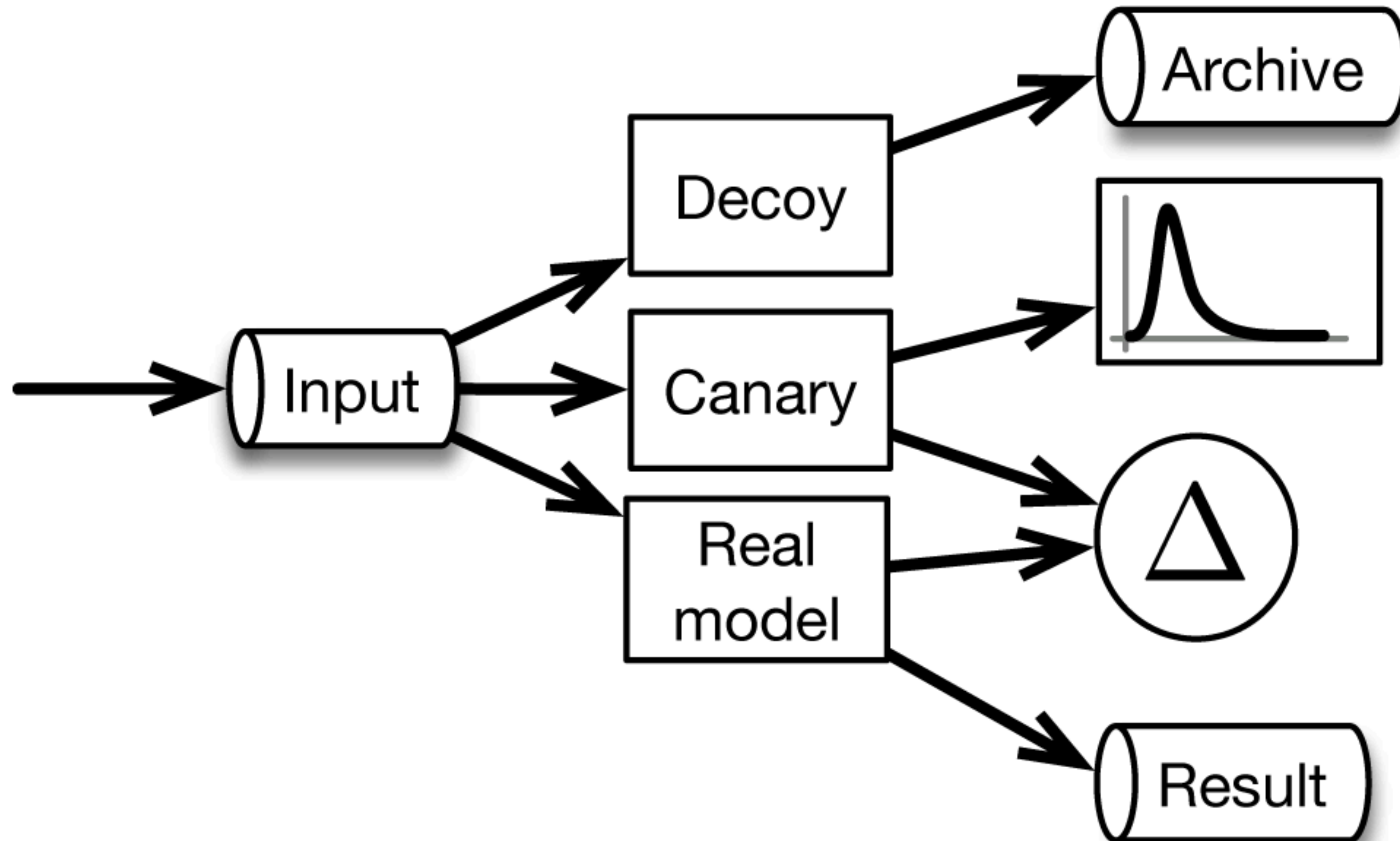
Rendezvous Architecture

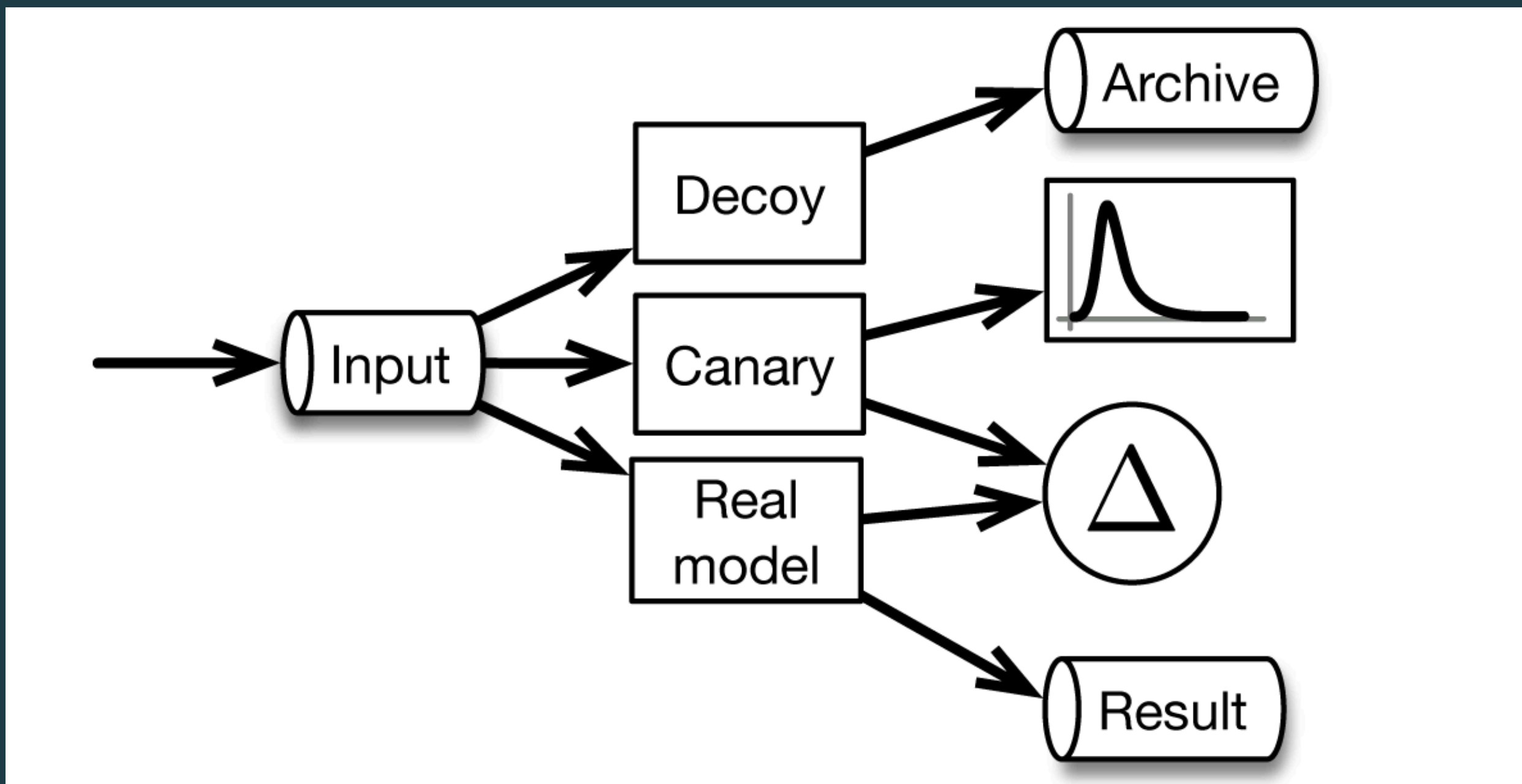


Rendezvous Architecture - Decoy



Rendezvous Architecture - Canary



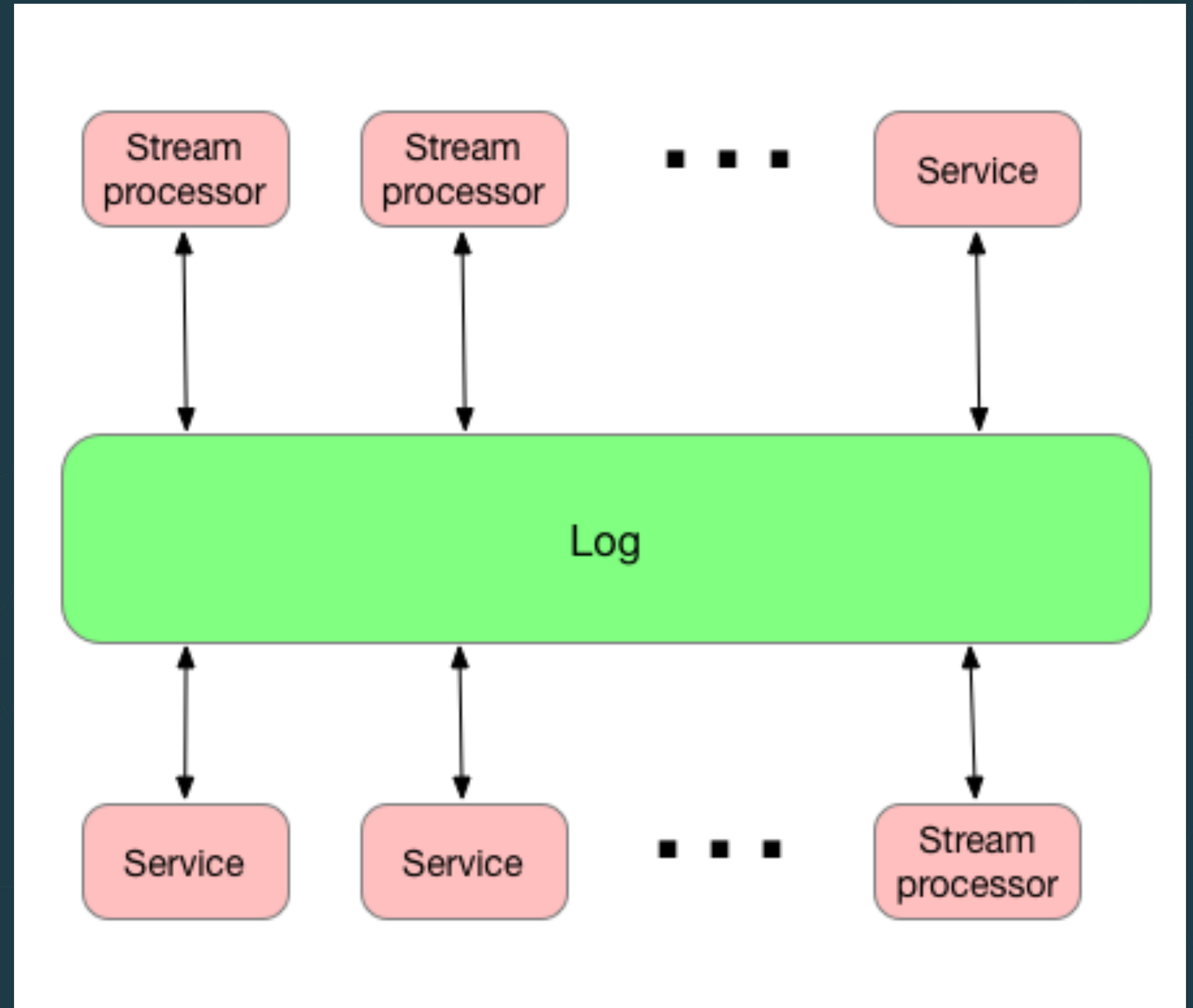


How are those “arrows” implemented?

Log-Driven Enterprise

- Complete decoupling of services.
- All communications go through the log rather than services talking to each other directly.
- Specifically, stream processors don't talk explicitly to other services, but send async. messages through the log.

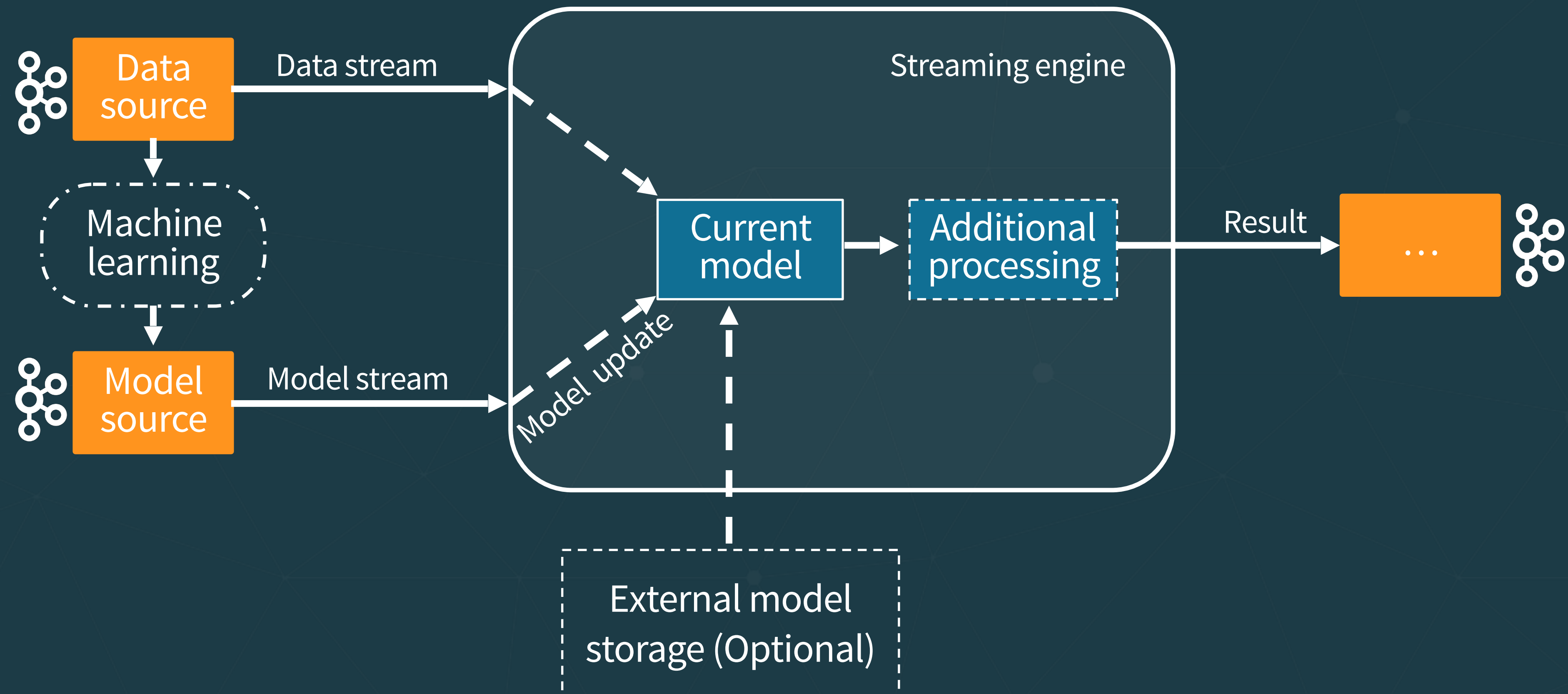
Example: Kafka 



Model Serving in a Log-Driven Enterprise

A streaming system supporting model updates without interruption of execution (dynamically controlled stream).

We'll use Kafka as the "log" system.



Model Representation (Protobufs)

```
// On the wire  
syntax = "proto3";  
// Description of the trained model.
```

```
message ModelDescriptor {  
  string name = 1;      // Model name  
  string description = 2; // Human readable  
  string dataType = 3;   // Data type for which this model is applied.  
  enum ModelType {      // Model type  
    TensorFlow = 0;  
    TensorFlowSAVED = 2;  
    PMML = 2;           // Could add PFA, ONNX, ...  
  };  
};
```

See the “protobufs” project in the example code.

```
ModelType modeltype = 4;  
oneof MessageContent {  
  // Byte array containing the model  
  bytes data = 5;  
  string location = 6;  
}  
}
```


Model Code Abstraction (Scala)

```
trait Model[RECORD, RESULT] {  
  def score(input: RECORD) : RESULT  
  def cleanup() : Unit  
  def toBytes() : Array[Byte]  
  def getType : Long  
}
```

[RECORD, RESULT] are
type parameters;
compare to Java:
<RECORD, RESULT>

See the “model” project
in the example code.

```
trait ModelFactory[RECORD, RESULT] {  
  def create(d : ModelDescriptor) : Option[Model[RECORD, RESULT]]  
  def restore(bytes : Array[Byte]) : Model[RECORD, RESULT]  
}
```

Production Concern: Monitoring

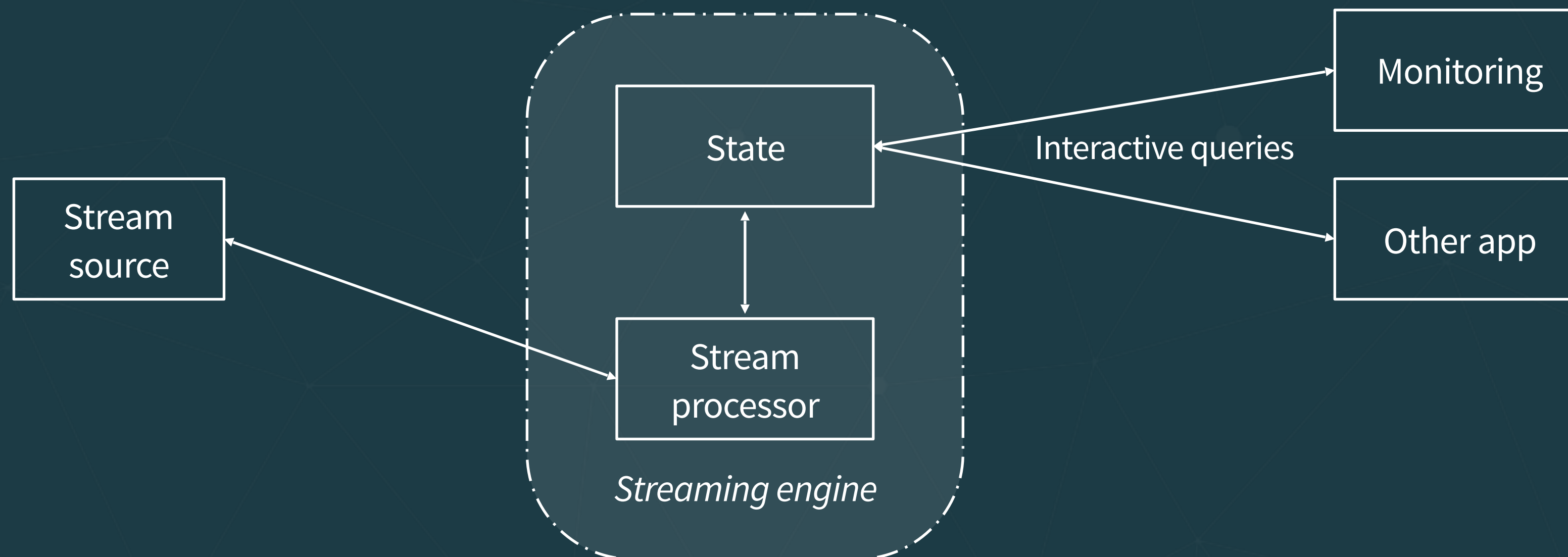
Model monitoring should provide information about usage, behavior, performance and lifecycle of the deployed models

```
case class ModelToServeStats(           // Scala example
  name: String,                         // Model name
  description: String,                  // Model descriptor
  modelType: ModelDescriptor.ModelType, // Model type
  since : Long,                         // Start time of model usage
  usage : Long = 0,                     // Number of records scored
  duration : Double = 0.0,              // Time spent on scoring
  min : Long = Long.MaxValue,           // Min scoring time
  max : Long = Long.MinValue            // Max scoring time
)
```

Queryable State

Ad hoc query of the stream state. Different than the normal data flow.

- Treats the stream as a lightweight *embedded database*.
- *Directly query the current state* of the stream.
- No need to materialize that state to a datastore first.

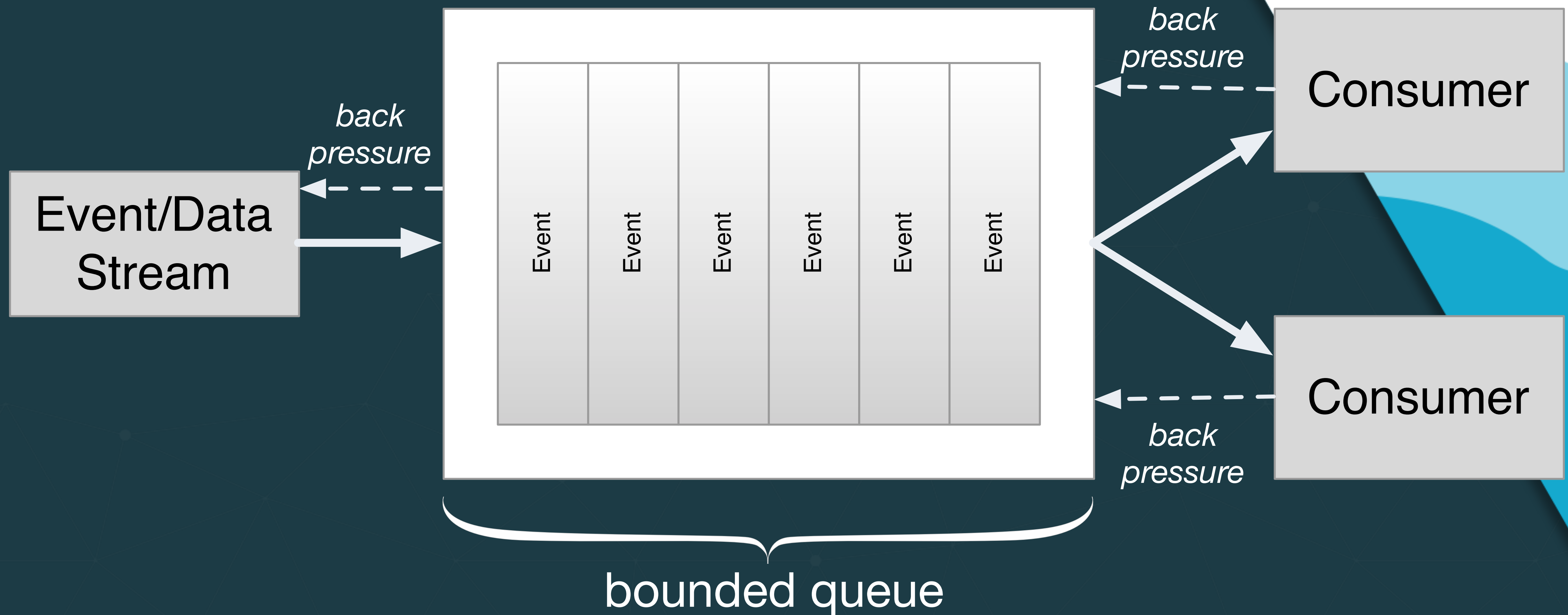


Akka Streams

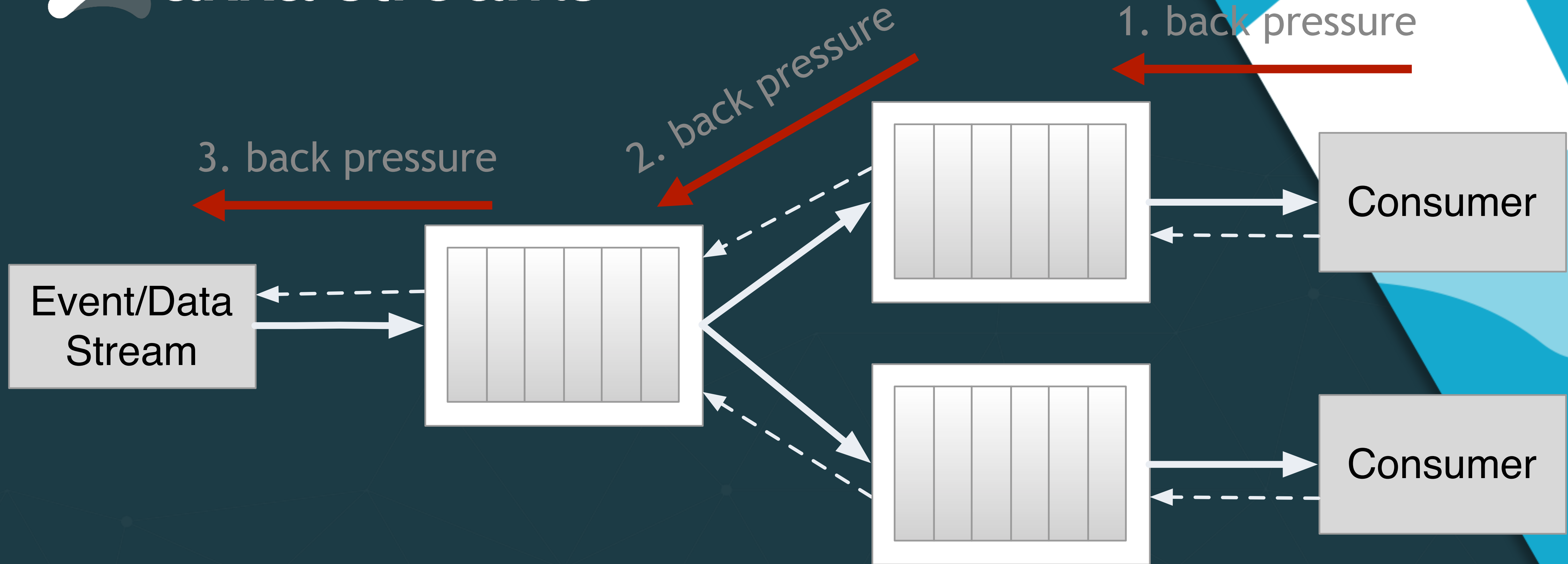
akka streams

- *A library*
- Implements Reactive Streams.
- <http://www.reactive-streams.org/>
- *Back pressure* for flow control

akka streams



akka streams



... and they compose

akka streams

- Part of the Akka ecosystem
- Akka Actors, Akka Cluster, Akka HTTP, Akka Persistence, ...
- Alpakka - rich connection library
 - like Camel, but implements Reactive Streams
- Commercial support from Lightbend

akka streams

- A very simple example to get the “gist”:
- Calculate the factorials for $n = 1$ to 10

```

import akka.stream._
import akka.stream.scaladsl._
import akka.NotUsed
import akka.actor.ActorSystem
import scala.concurrent._
import scala.concurrent.duration._

implicit val system = ActorSystem("QuickStart")
implicit val materializer = ActorMaterializer()

val source: Source[Int, NotUsed] = Source(1 to 10)
val factorials = source.scan(BigInt(1)) ( (acc, next) => acc * next )
factorials.runWith(Sink.foreach(println))

```

```

1
2
6
24
120
720
5040
40320
362880
3628800

```

```
import akka.stream._
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```

Imports!

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```

Initialize and specify
now the stream is
“materialized”

```
val source: Source[Int, NotUsed] = Source(1 to 10)
val factorials = source.scan(BigInt(1)) ( (acc, next) => acc * next )
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1
2
6

5040

40320

362880

3628800


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```

```
val factorials = source.scan(BigInt(1))((acc, next) => acc * next)
```

```
factorials.runWith(Sink.foreach(println))
```

Create a **source** of
Ints. Second type
represents a hook used
for “materialization” -
not used here

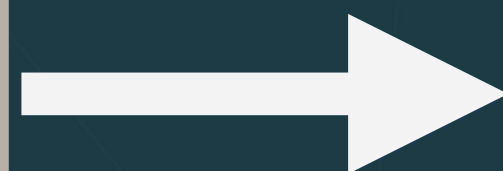
1
2
6

40320

362880

3628800

Source



```
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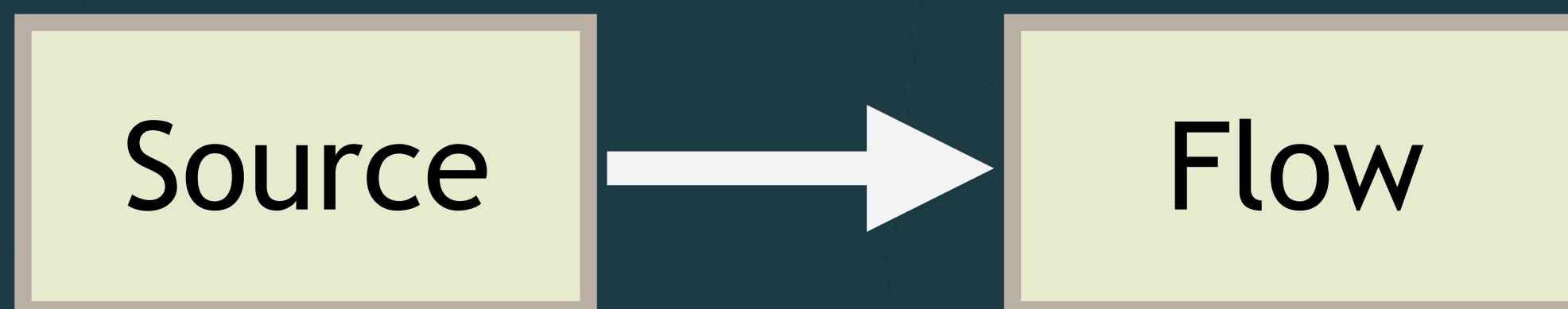
```
factorials.runWith(Sink.foreach(println))
```

1
2
6
24
120

Scan the source and compute factorials, with a seed of 1, of type BigInt (a flow)

362880

3628800



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```

```
val factorials = source.scan(BigInt(1))((acc, next) => acc * next)
```

```
factorials.runWith(Sink.foreach(println))
```

Output to a **sink**,
and run it

1
2
6
24
120
720
5040
40320
362880
3628800

Source

Flow

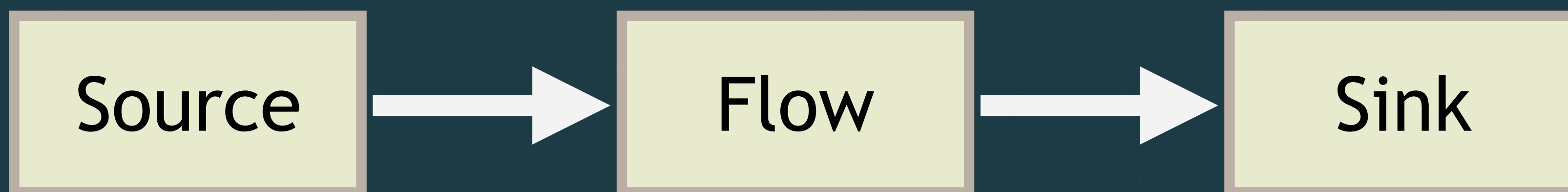
Sink


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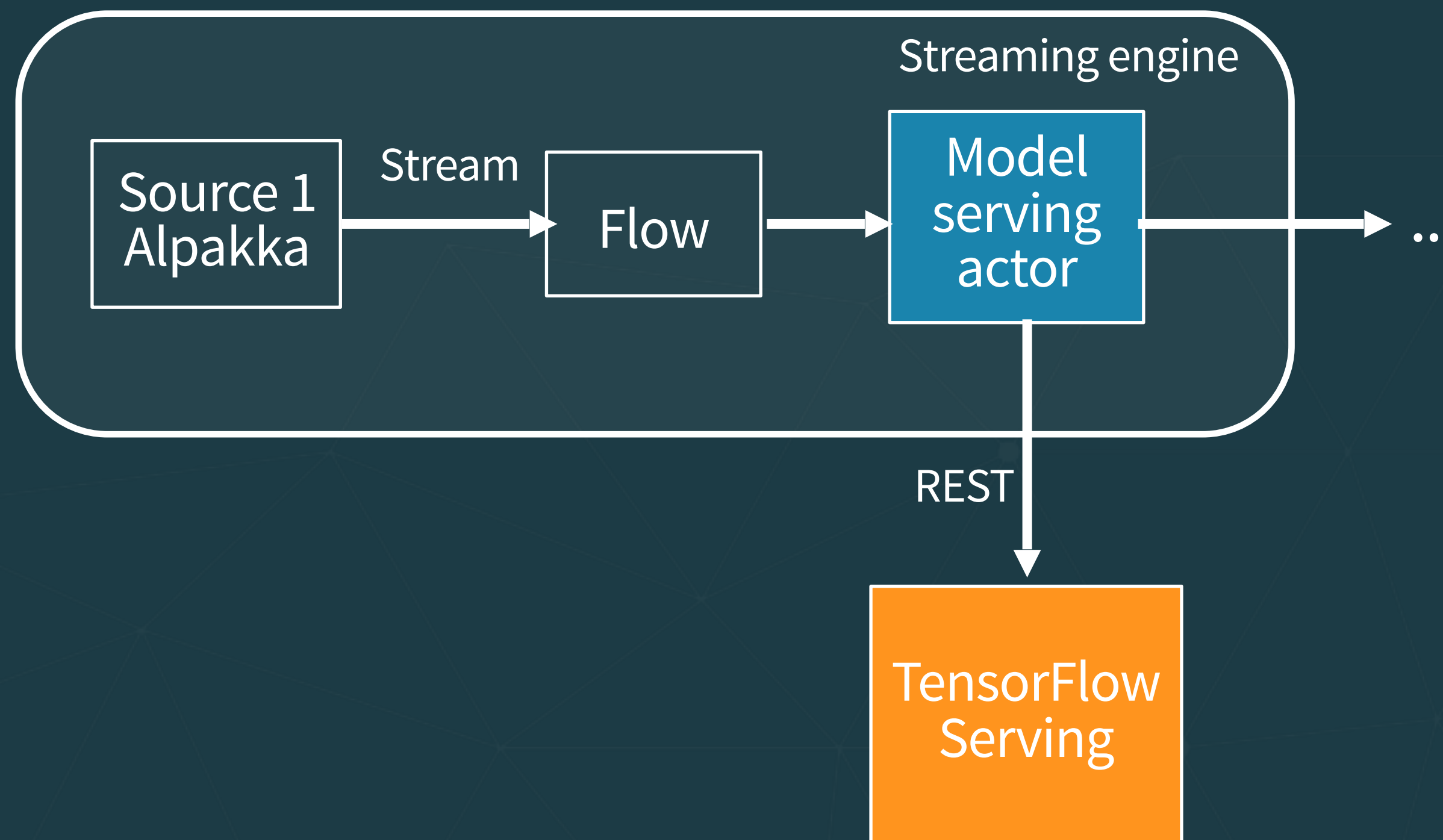
A source, flow, and sink constitute a graph



1
2
6
24
120
720
5040
30240
2880
5028800

Using TensorFlow Serving in Akka Streams

Use Custom Actor to access TensorFlow Serving Server



Code Time

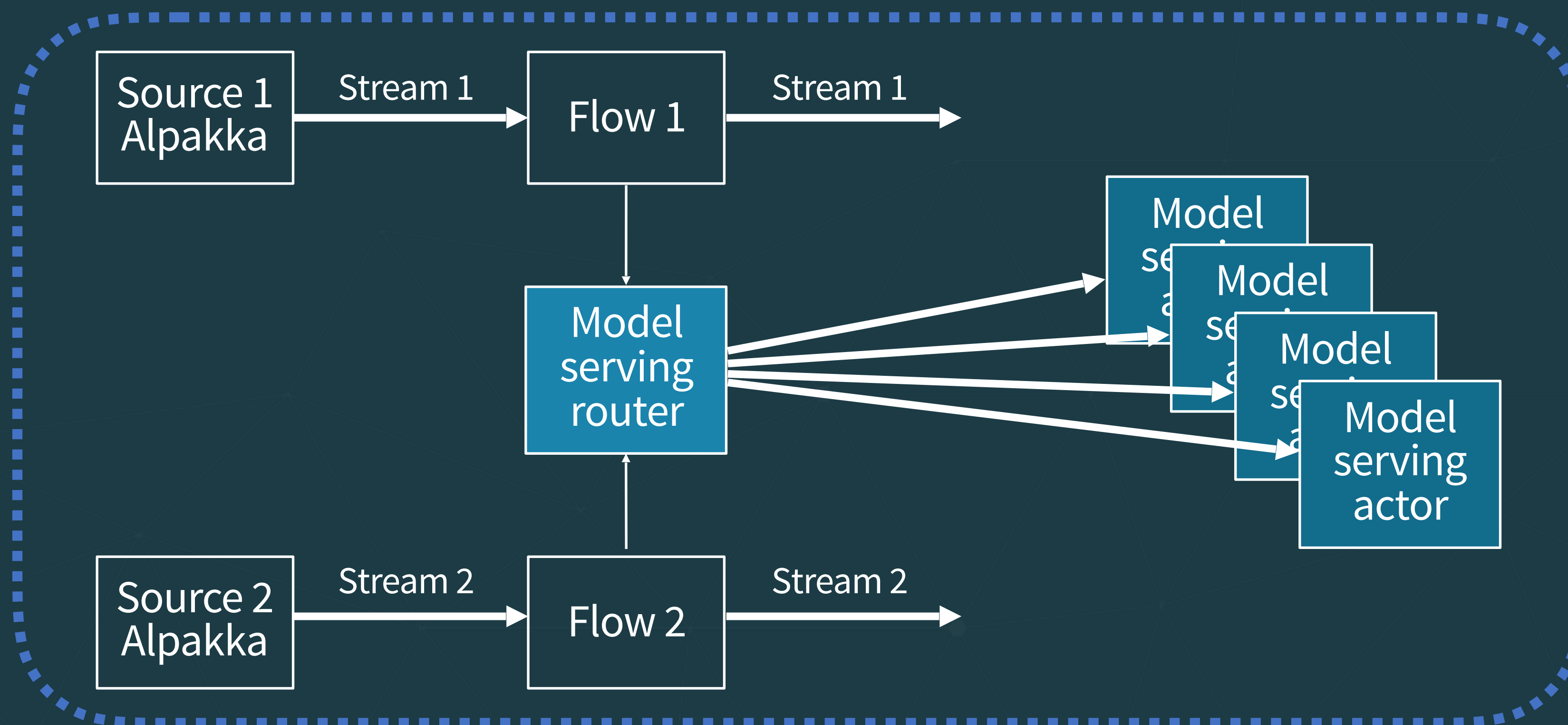
- Open the example code project
- We'll walk through the project at a high level
- Familiarize yourself with the *tensorflowserver* code
- Load and start the TensorFlow model serving Docker image
 - See Using TensorFlow Serving in the README
- Try the implementation and see if you have any questions

Model Serving from an Akka Streams App

- How do we integrate model serving (or any other new stateful capability) into an Akka Streams app?
- Make asynchronous calls to Akka Actors to do anything you want and keep the state
 - We'll discuss Actors that implement model serving within the microservice boundary (i.e., with a library)
 - Actors could also call an external service, like TensorFlow Serving (not shown)

Using Invocations of Akka Actors

Use a router actor to forward requests to the actor(s) responsible for processing requests for a specific model type. Clone for scalability!!



Akka Streams Example

Code time

1. Run the *client* project (if not already running)
2. Explore and run *akkaServer* project

Akka Streams Example

Check Queryable state

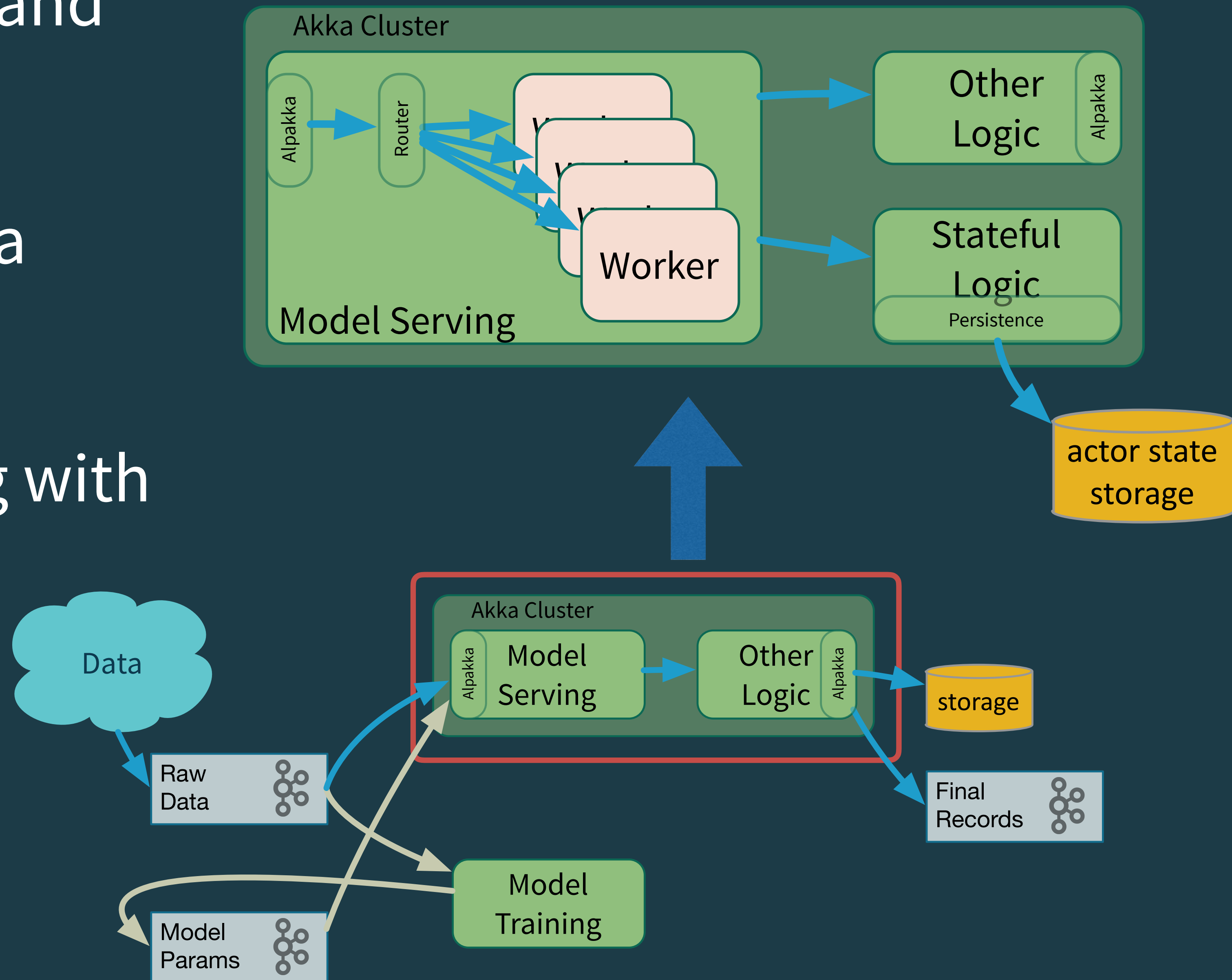
Curl or open in a browser:

<http://localhost:5500/models>

<http://localhost:5500/state/wine>

Handling Other Production Concerns with Akka and Akka Streams

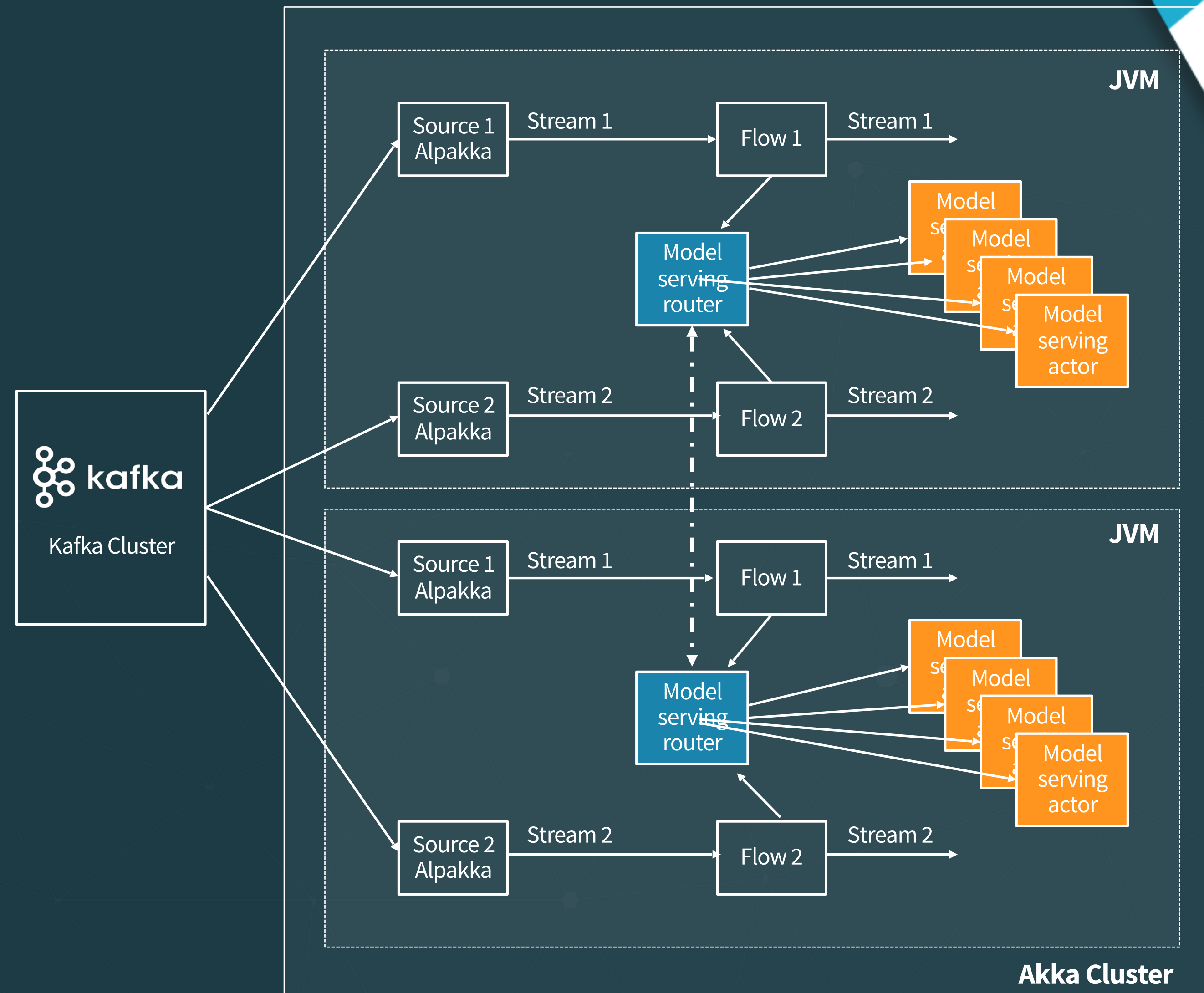
- Scale scoring with workers and routers, across a cluster
- Persist actor state with Akka Persistence
- Connect to *almost* anything with Alpakka



Using Akka Cluster

Two approaches for scalability:

- Kafka partitioned topic; add partitions and corresponding listeners.
- Akka cluster sharing: split model serving actor instances across the cluster.



Flink

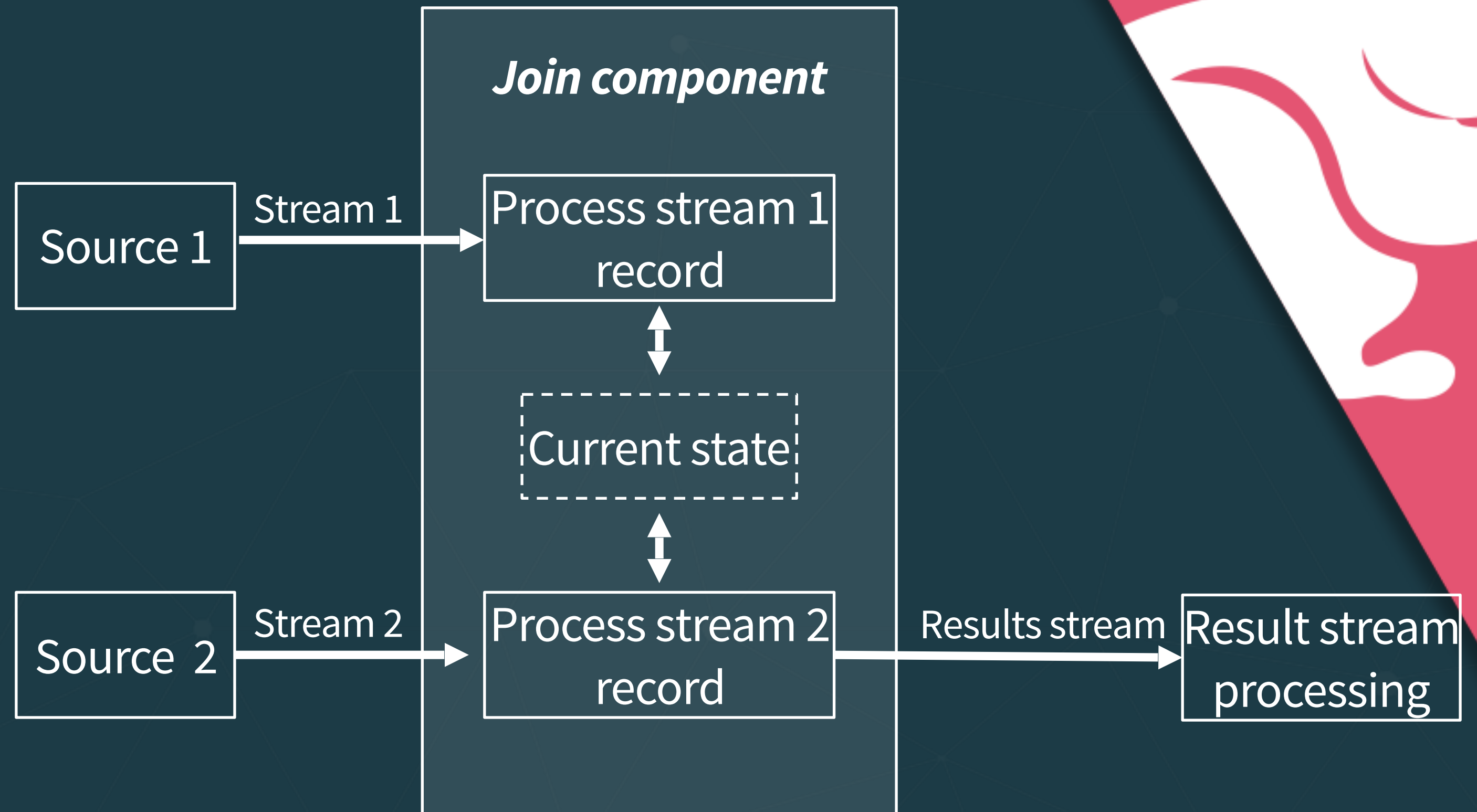


Flink is an open source stream-processing engine (SPE) that provides the following:

- Scales well, can run on thousands of nodes.
- Provides powerful checkpointing and save-pointing facilities that enable fault tolerance and restart ability.
- Provides state support for streaming applications, which minimizes the need for external databases for external access to the state.
- Provides powerful window semantics, enabling calculation of accurate results, even in the case of out-of-order or late-arriving data.

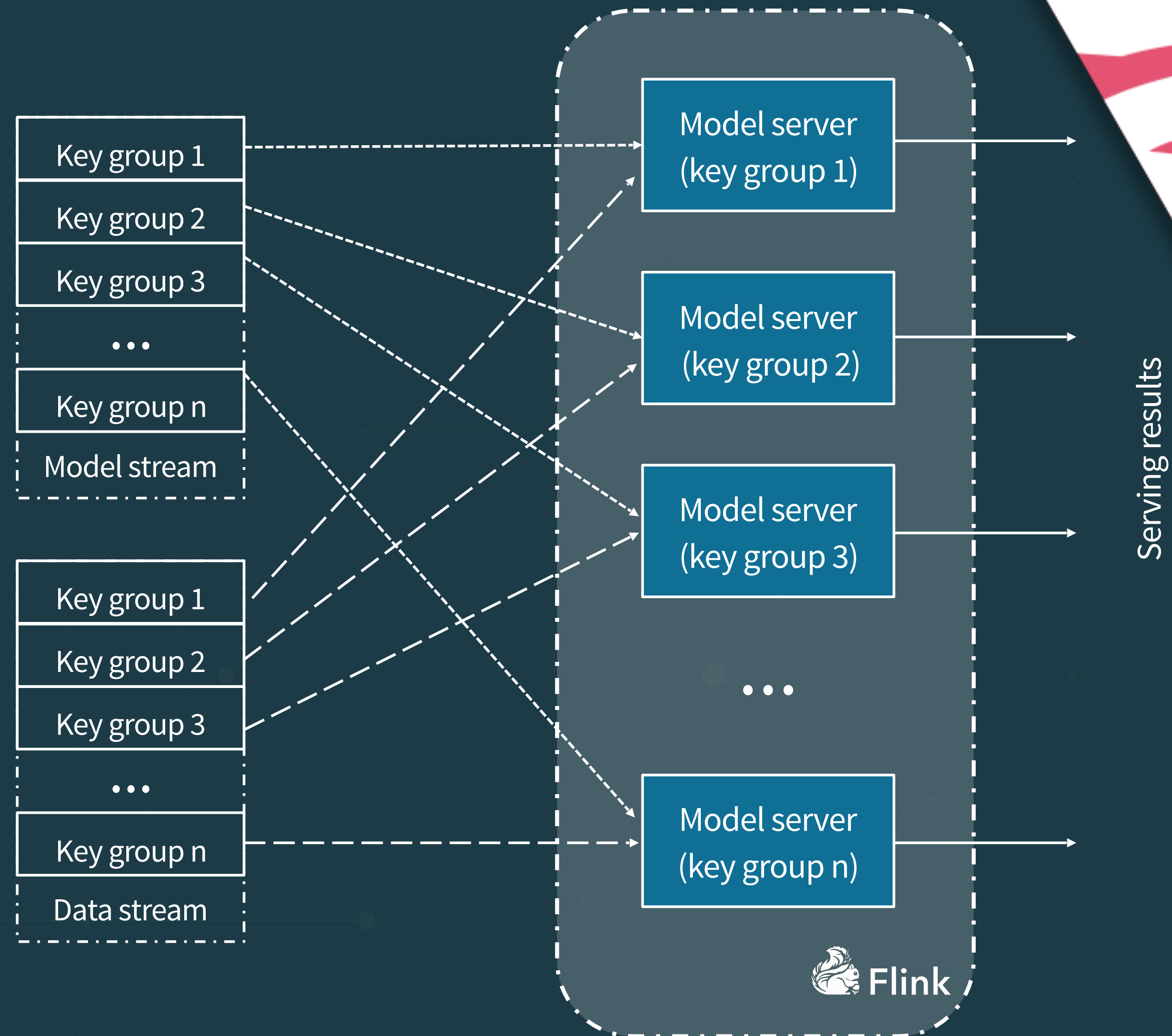
Flink Low Level Join

- Create a state object for one input (or both)
- Update the state upon receiving elements from its input
- Upon receiving elements from the other input, probe the state and produce the joined result



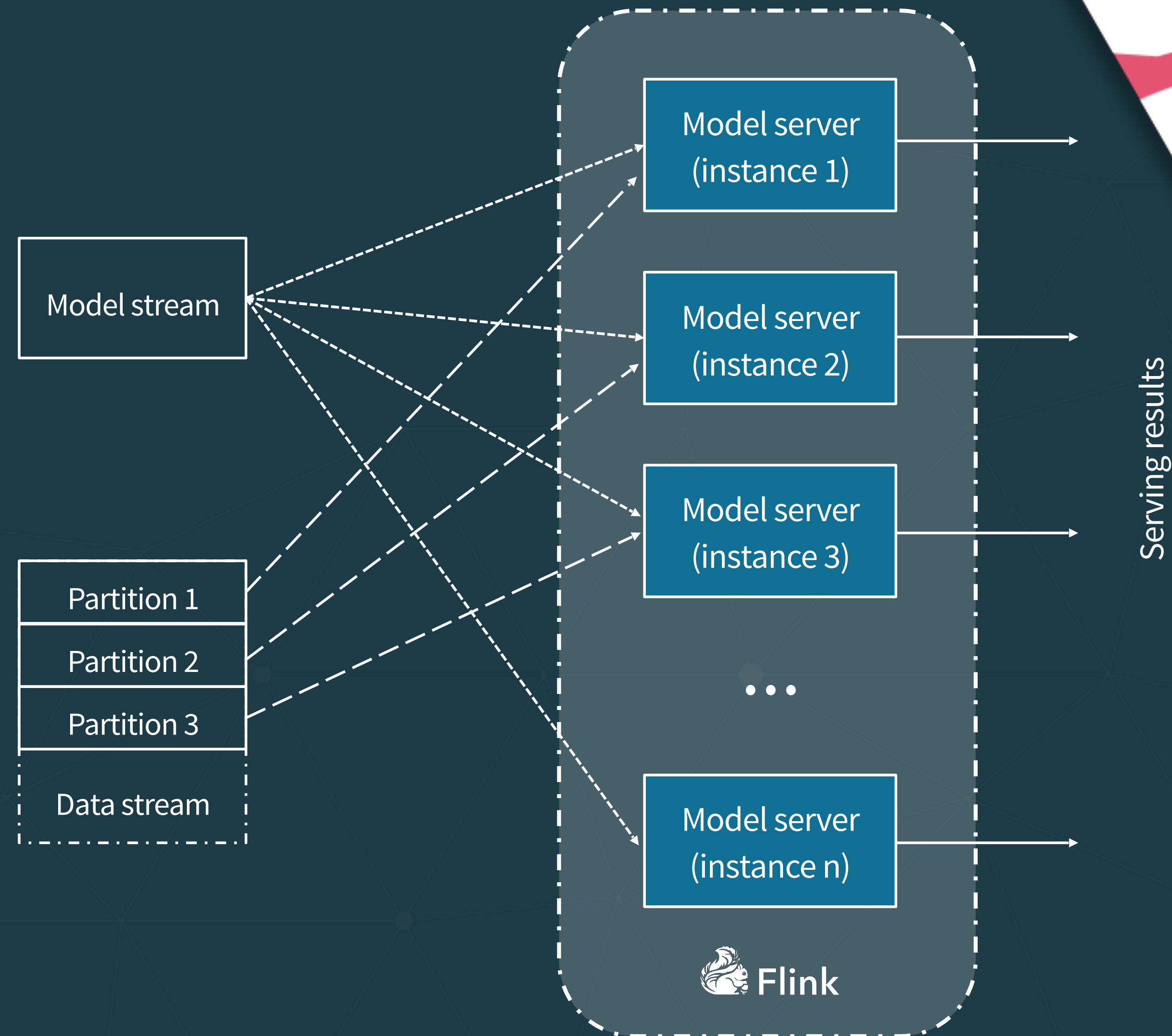
Key based join

Flink's *CoProcessFunction* allows key-based merge of 2 streams. When using this API, data is key-partitioned across multiple Flink executors. Records from both streams are routed (based on key) to the appropriate executor that is responsible for the actual processing.



Partition based join

Flink's *RichCoFlatMapFunction* allows merging of 2 streams in parallel (based on parallelization parameter). When using this API, on the partitioned stream, data from different partitions is processed by dedicated Flink executor.



Flink Example

Code time

1. Run the *client* project (if not already running)
2. Explore and run *flinkServer* project

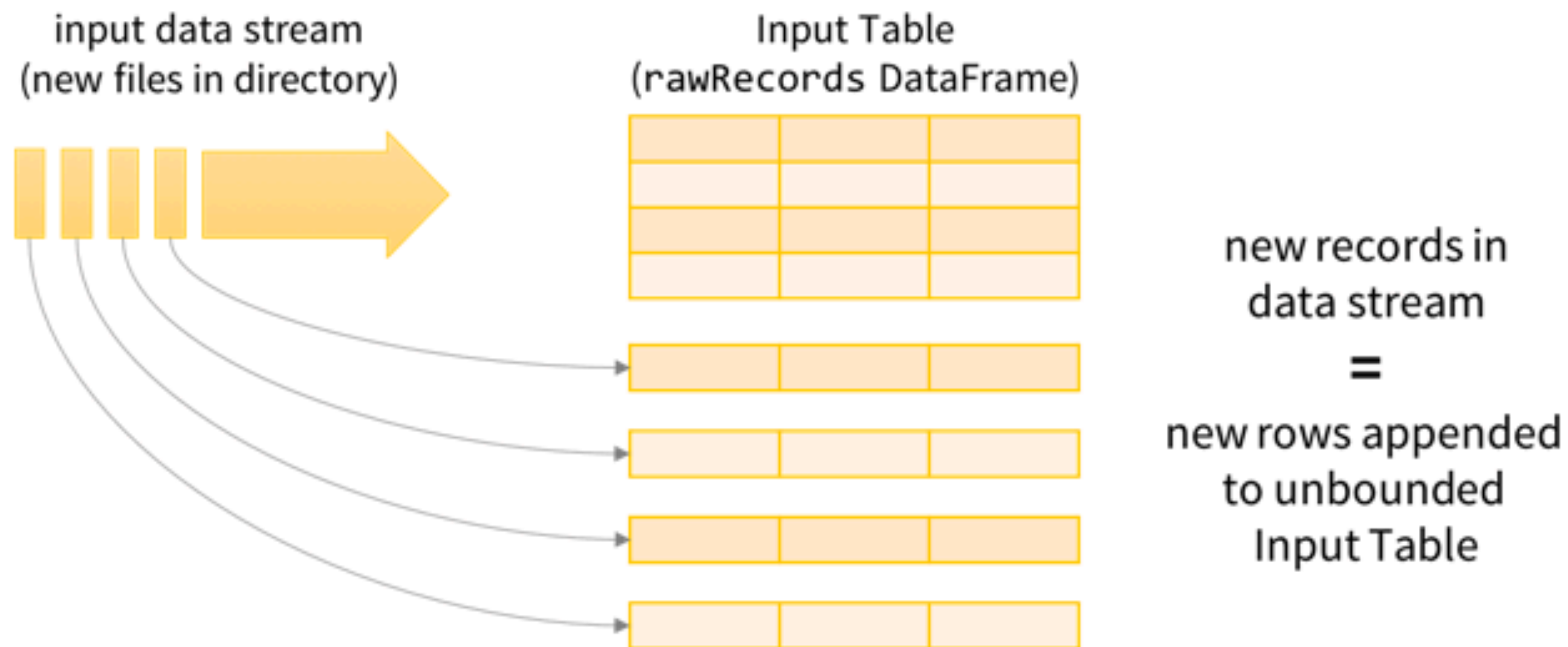
Spark Structured Streaming

Spark Structured Streaming

Structured Streaming is a scalable and fault-tolerant stream processing engine built on the Spark SQL engine.

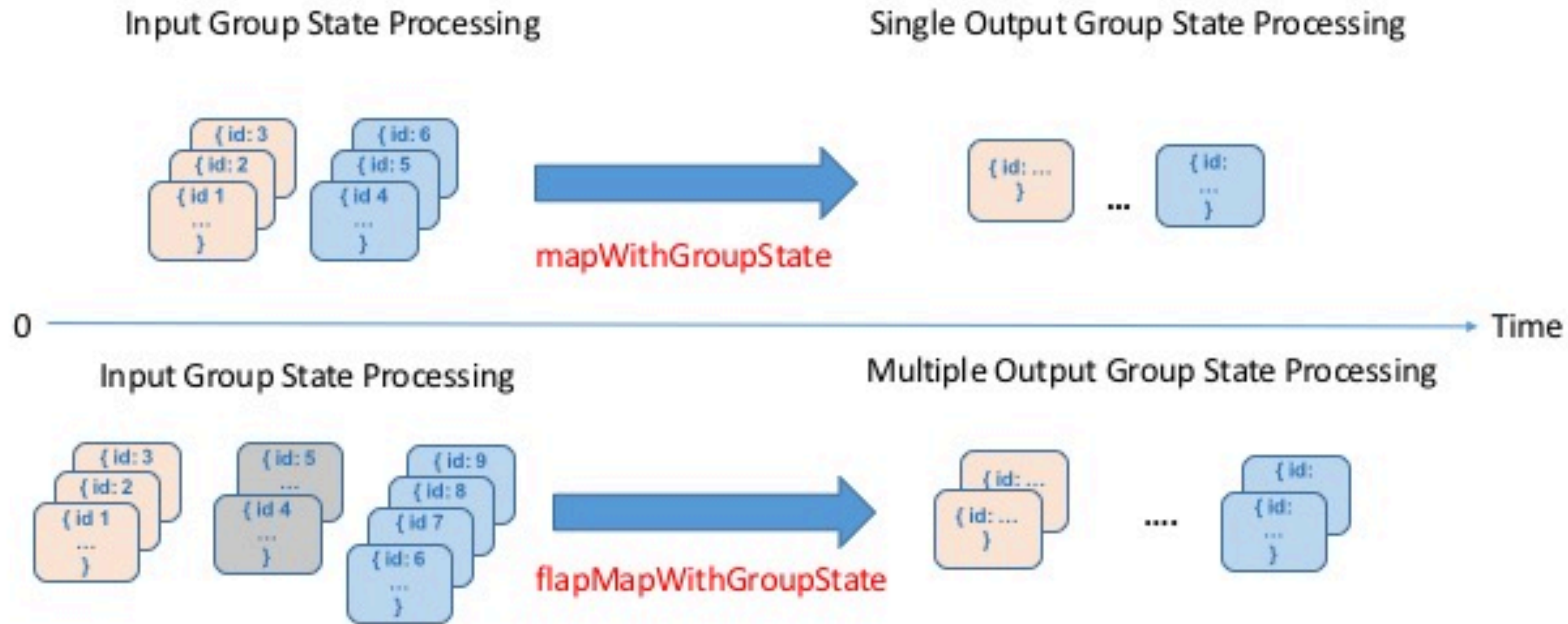
- Scales well, runs on thousands of nodes.
- Express your streaming computation the same way you would express a batch SQL computation on static data:
 - The Spark SQL engine will take care of running it incrementally and continuously and updating the final result as streaming data continues to arrive.

Spark Structured Streaming

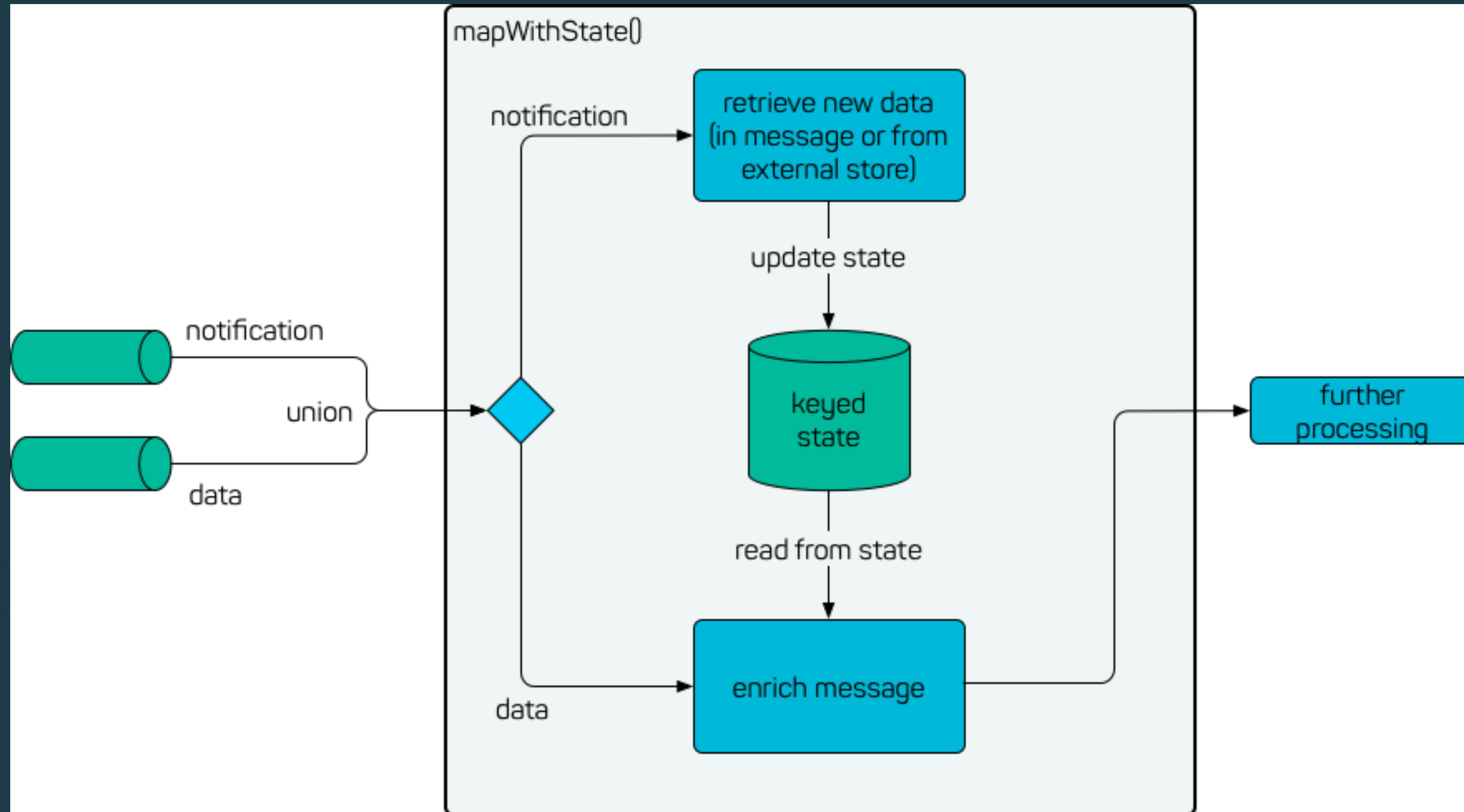


Structured Streaming Model
treat data streams as unbounded tables

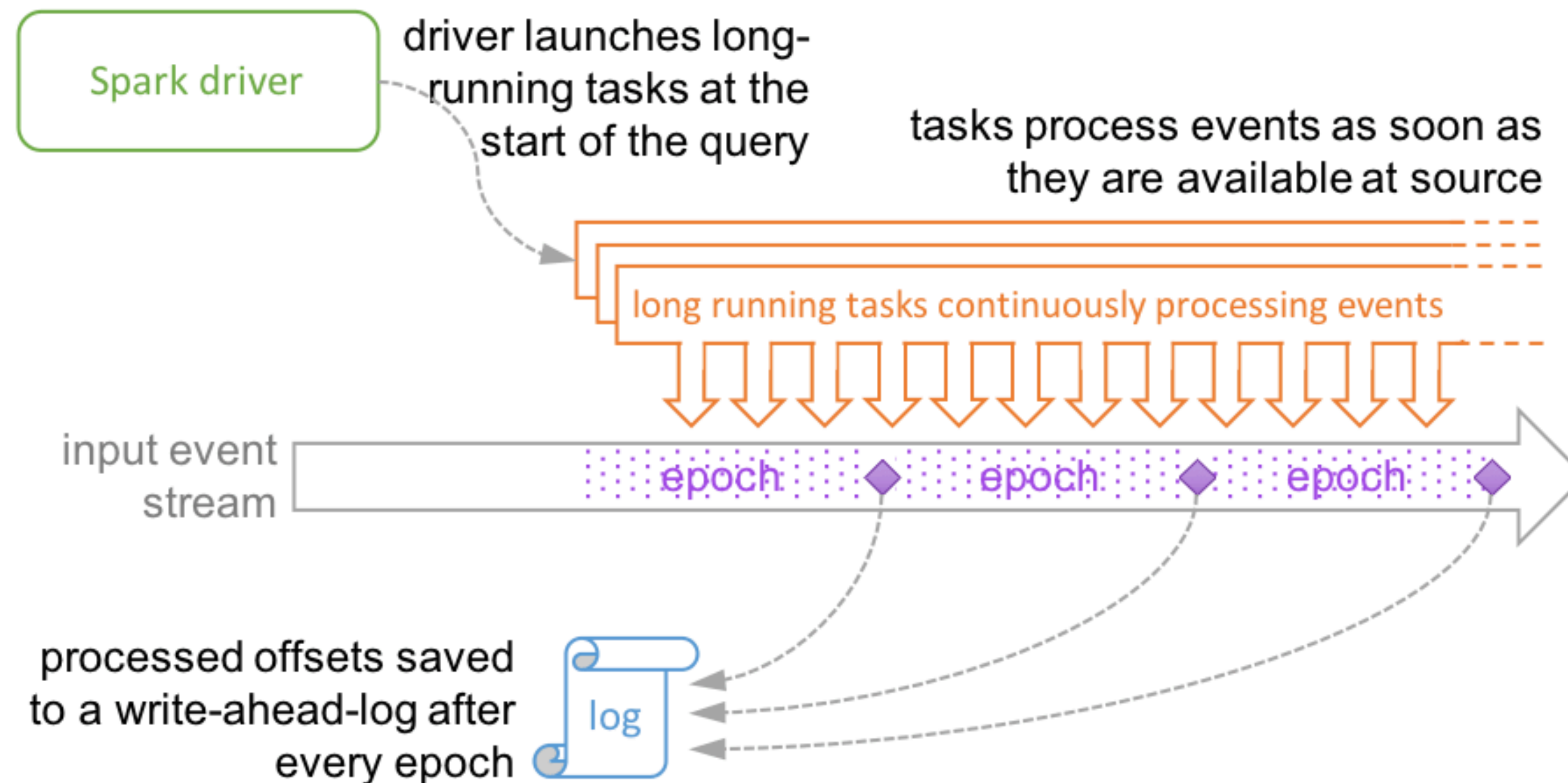
Arbitrary Stateful Processing in Structured Streaming



Spark Structured Streaming - mapWithState

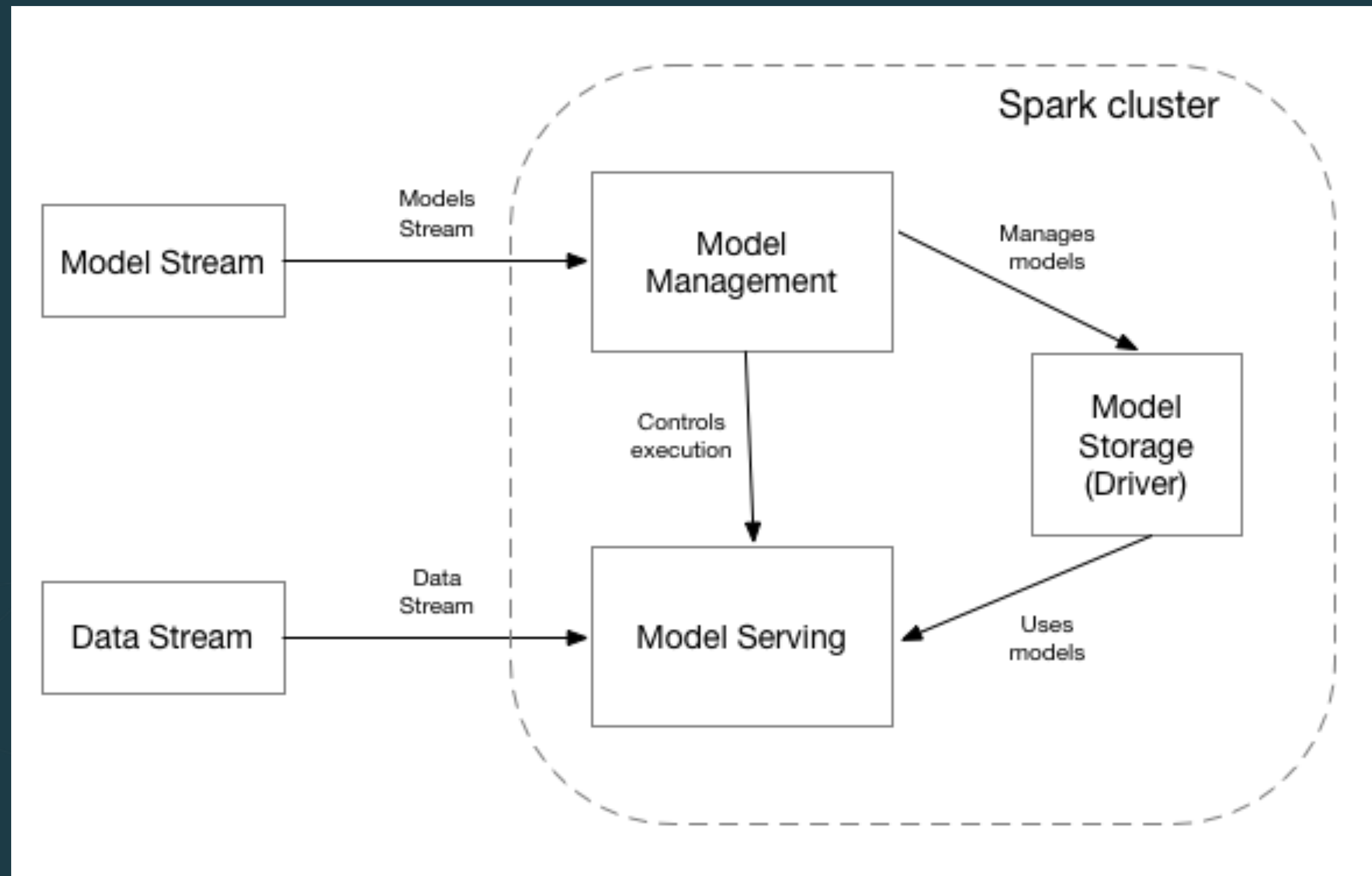


Spark Structured Streaming - continuous processing



Continuous Processing uses long-running tasks to continuously process events

Multi loop continuous processing



Spark Example

Code time

1. Run the *client* project (if not already running)
2. Explore and run *sparkServer* project

Outline

- Hidden technical debt in machine learning systems
- Model serving patterns
 - Embedding - models as code
 - Models as data
 - External services
 - Dynamically controlled streams
- Additional production concerns for model serving
- Wrap up

Additional Production Concerns for Model Serving

- Implications of *models as data*
- Software process, e.g., CI/CD
- Speculative execution of models

Models as Data - Implications

- If models are data, they are subject to all the same *Data Governance* concerns as the data itself!
- Security and privacy considerations
- Traceability, e.g., for auditing
- ...

Security and Privacy Considerations

- Models are intellectual property
 - So controlled access is required
- How do we preserve privacy in model-training, scoring, and other data usage?
- **papers and articles on privacy preservation**

Model Traceability - Motivation

- You update your model periodically
- You score a particular record **R** with model version **N**
- Later, you audit the data and wonder why **R** was scored the way it was
- You can't answer the question unless you know which model version was actually used for **R**

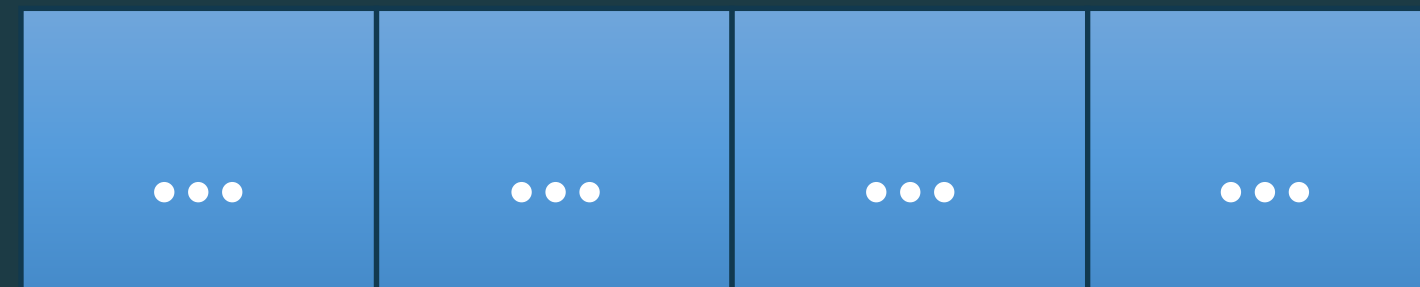
Model Traceability Requirements

- A model repository
- Information stored for each model instance, possibly including:
 - Name
 - Version (or other unique ID)
 - Creation, deployment, and retirement dates
 - Model parameters
 - Quality metric
 - ...

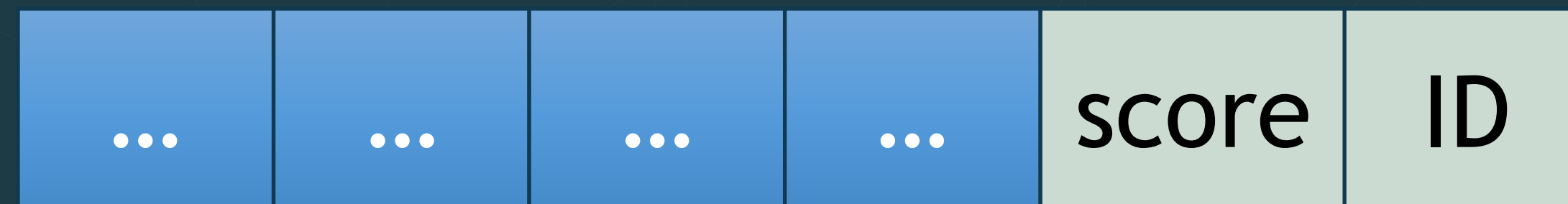
Model Traceability in Use

- You also need to augment the records with the model ID, as well as the score.

- Input Record

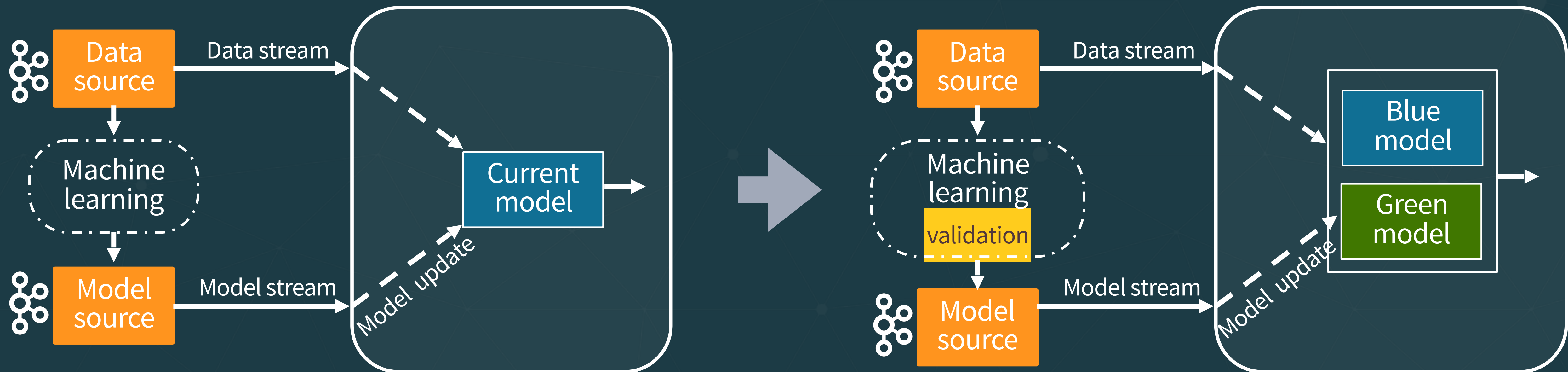


- Output Record with Score, model version ID



Software Process

- How and when should new models be deployed? (CI/CD)
- Are there a quality control steps first?
- Should you do **blue-green deployments**, perhaps using a **canary release** as a validation step?



Speculative Execution

According to Wikipedia, speculative execution is an **optimization** technique, where:

- The system performs work that may not be needed, before it's known if it will be needed.
- If and when it *is* needed, we don't have to wait.
- The results are discarded if they aren't needed.

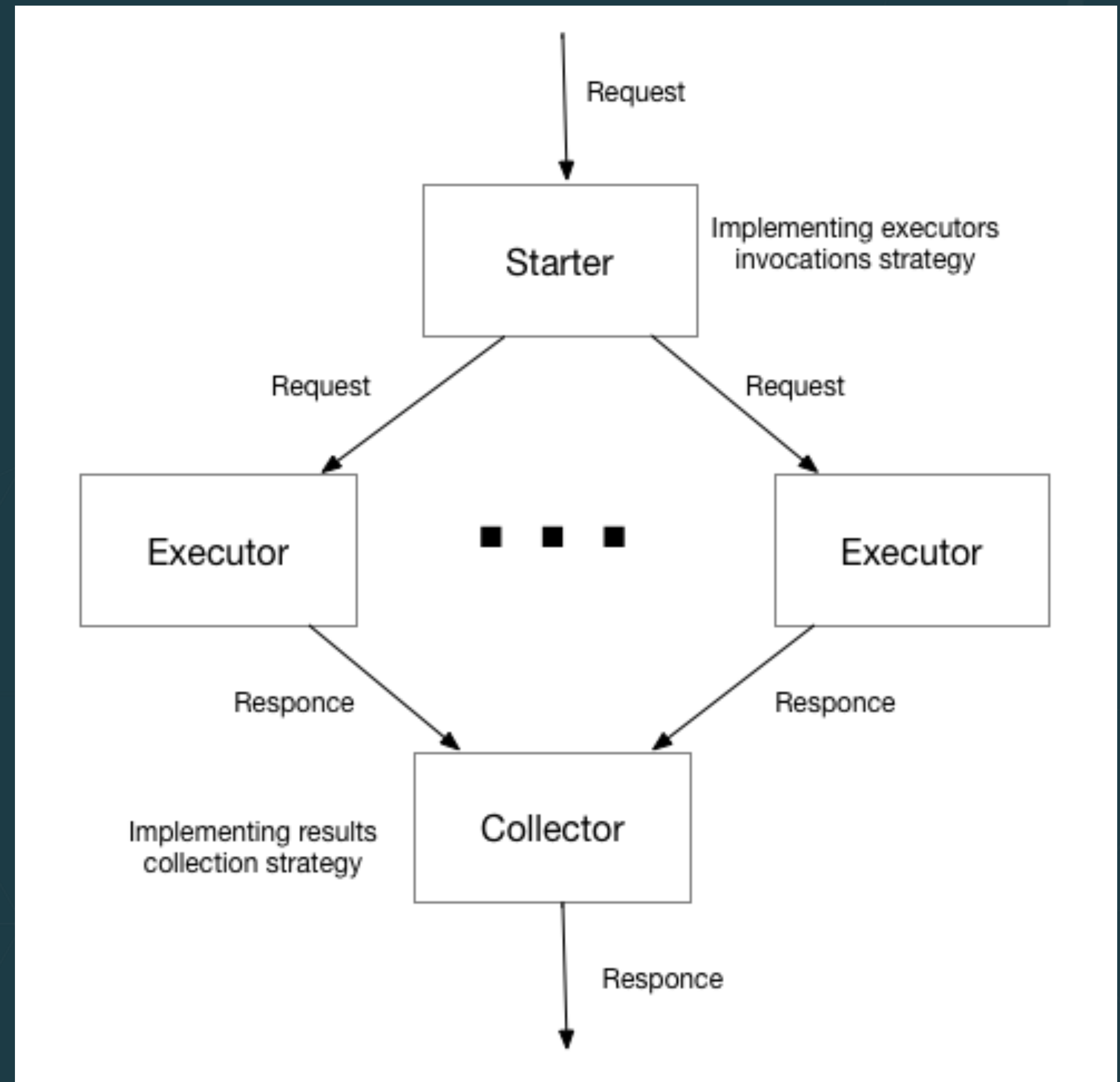
Speculative Execution

- Provides more concurrency if extra resources are available.
- Used for:
 - **branch prediction** in **pipelined processors**,
 - value prediction for exploiting value locality,
 - **prefetching instructions** and files,
 - etc.

Why not use it with machine learning??

General Architecture for Speculative Execution

- Starter (proxy) controls parallelism and invocation strategy
- Parallel execution by executors
- Collector responsible for bringing results from executors together



General Architecture for Speculative Execution

- Starter (p
parallelis
strategy
- Parallel ex
- Collector
bringing r
together

Look familiar? It's similar to the pattern we saw previously for invoking a "farm" of actors or external services.

But we must add logic to pick the result to return.

Implementing executors
invocations strategy

Request

Executor

Response

Response

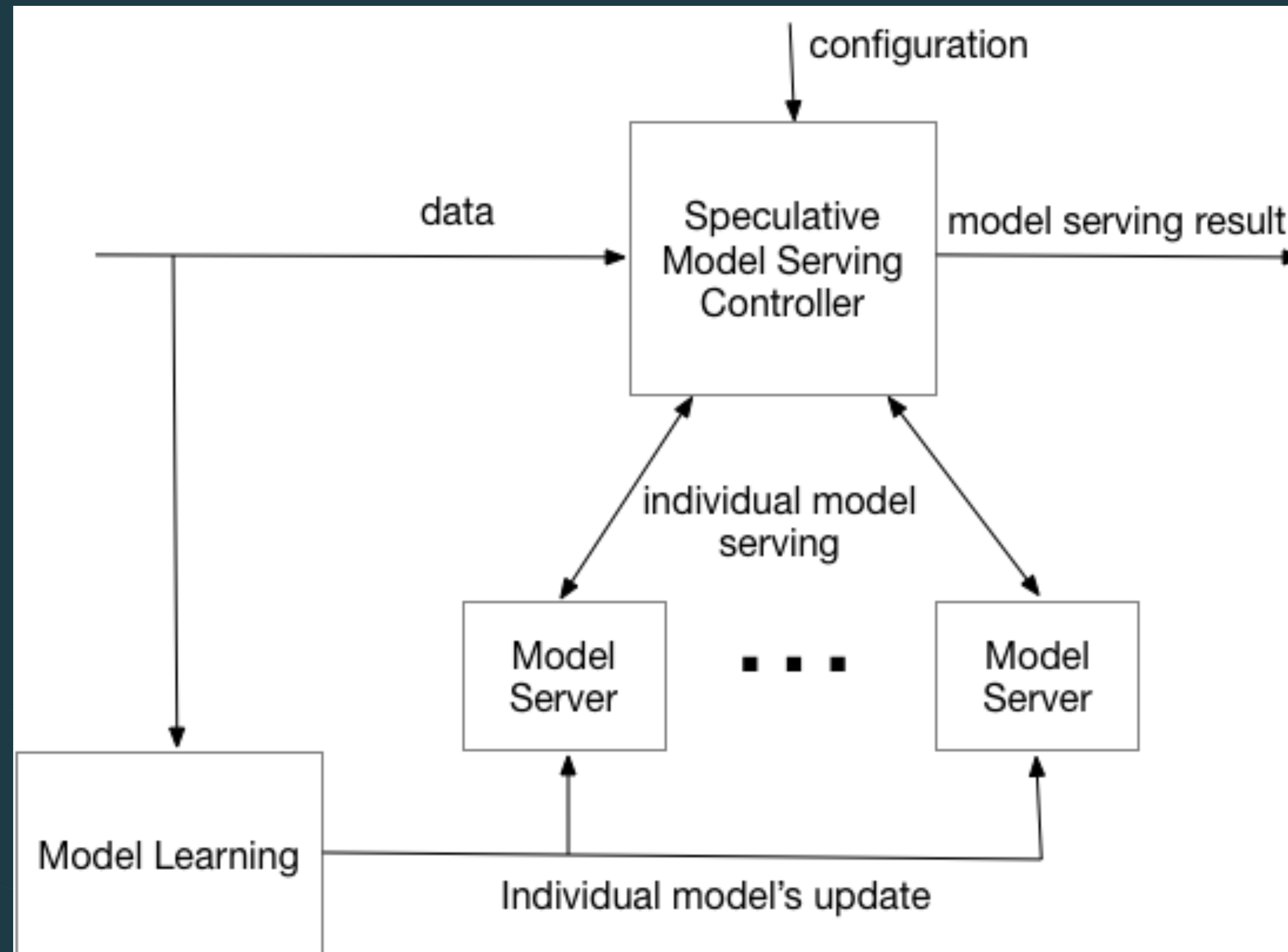
Model Serving Use Case - Guarantee Execution Time

- I.e., meet a latency SLA
- Run several models:
 - A smart model, but takes time $T1$ for a given record
 - A “less smart”, but faster model with a fixed upper-limit on execution time, with $T2 \ll T1$
- If timeout (latency budget) T occurs, where $T2 < T < T1$, return the less smart result
- But if $T1 < T$, return that result
 - (Do you understand why $T2 < T < T1$ is required?)

Model Serving Use Case - Ensembles of Models

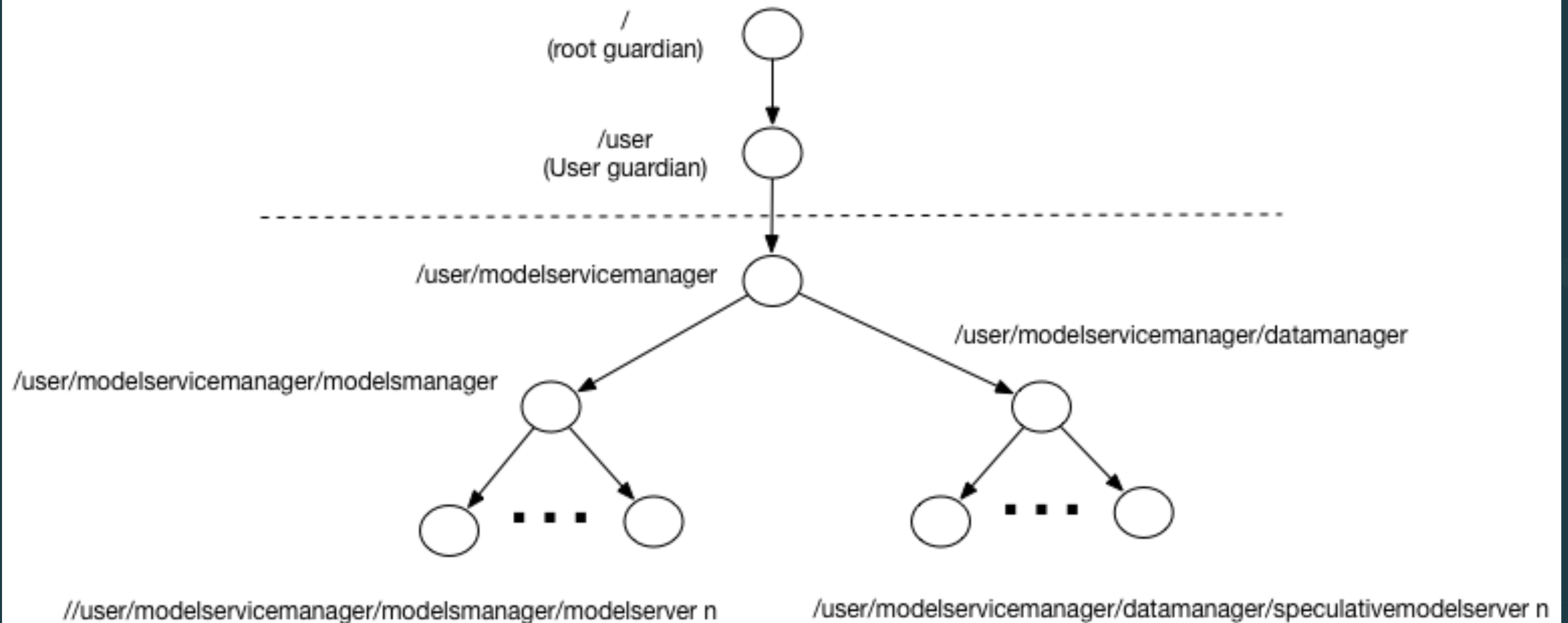
- Consensus-based model serving
 - N models ($N > 2$)
 - Score with all of them and return the majority result
- Quality-based model serving
 - N models with the same quality metric
 - Pick the result with the best quality score for a given record
- Similarly for more sophisticated **boosting** and **bagging** systems

Architecture



<https://developer.lightbend.com/blog/2018-05-24-speculative-model-serving/index.html>

One Design Using Actors



Outline

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Recap

- Model serving is one small(-ish) part of the whole ML pipeline
- Use *logs* (e.g., Kafka) to connect most services
- Models as data provides the most flexibility
- Model serving can be implemented in “general” microservices (e.g., Akka Streams) or data systems like Flink, Kafka
- Model serving can in process (embedded library) or external service (e.g., TensorFlow Serving)
- Production concerns include integration with your CI/CD pipeline, and data governance

Thanks for coming!

Questions?

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Don't miss:

- Sean Glover, *Put Kafka in Jail with Strimzi*
4:20pm–5:00pm Wednesday. Location: 2006
- Dean Wampler, *Executive Briefing: What it takes to use machine learning in fast data pipelines*
3:50pm–4:30pm Thursday. Location: 2020