

# App design with Alloy

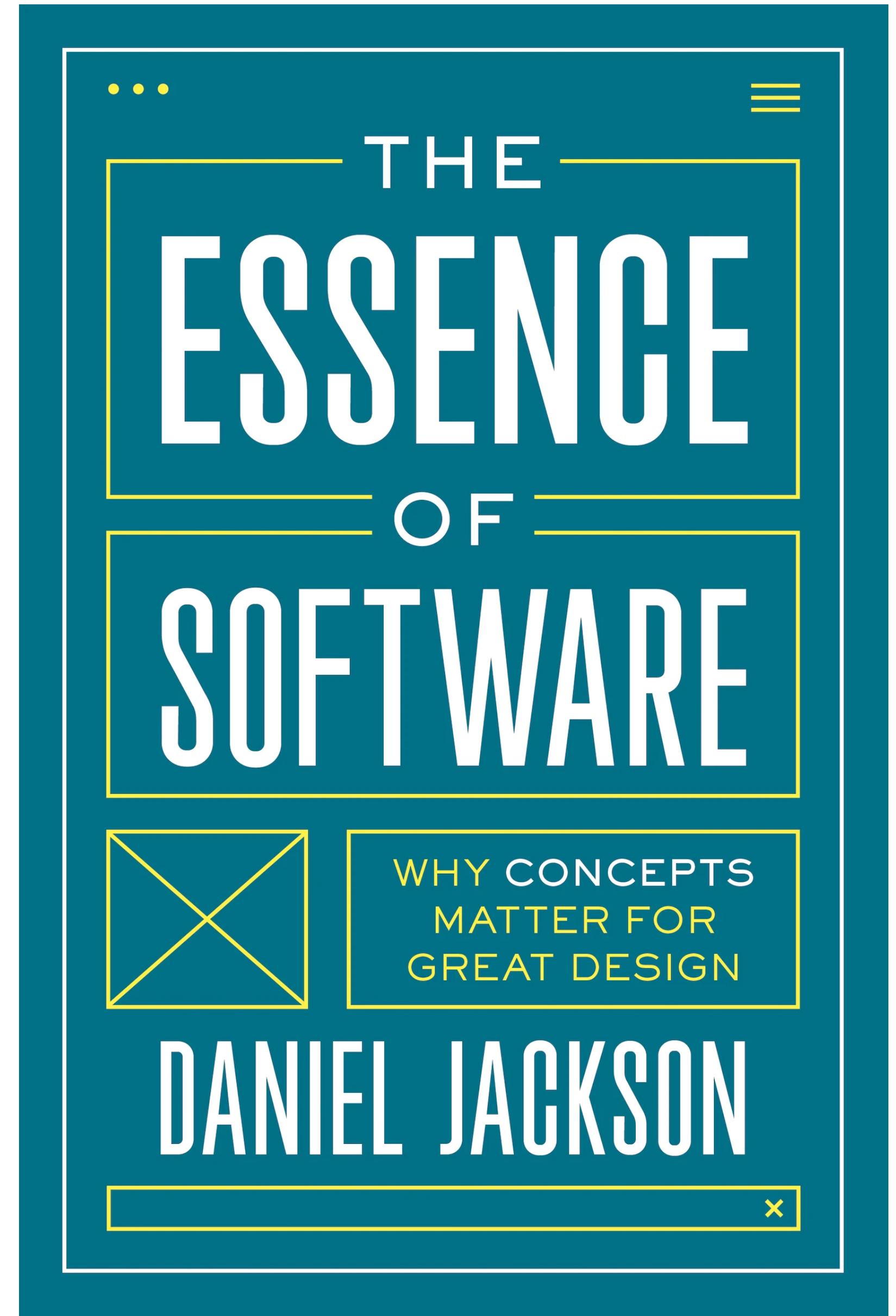
Alcino Cunha

**“I mean ‘design’ here in the same sense that the word is used in other design disciplines: the shaping of some artifact to meet a human need.**

**[...] For software, that means determining what the behavior of the software should be: what controls it will offer, and what responses it will provide in return.”**



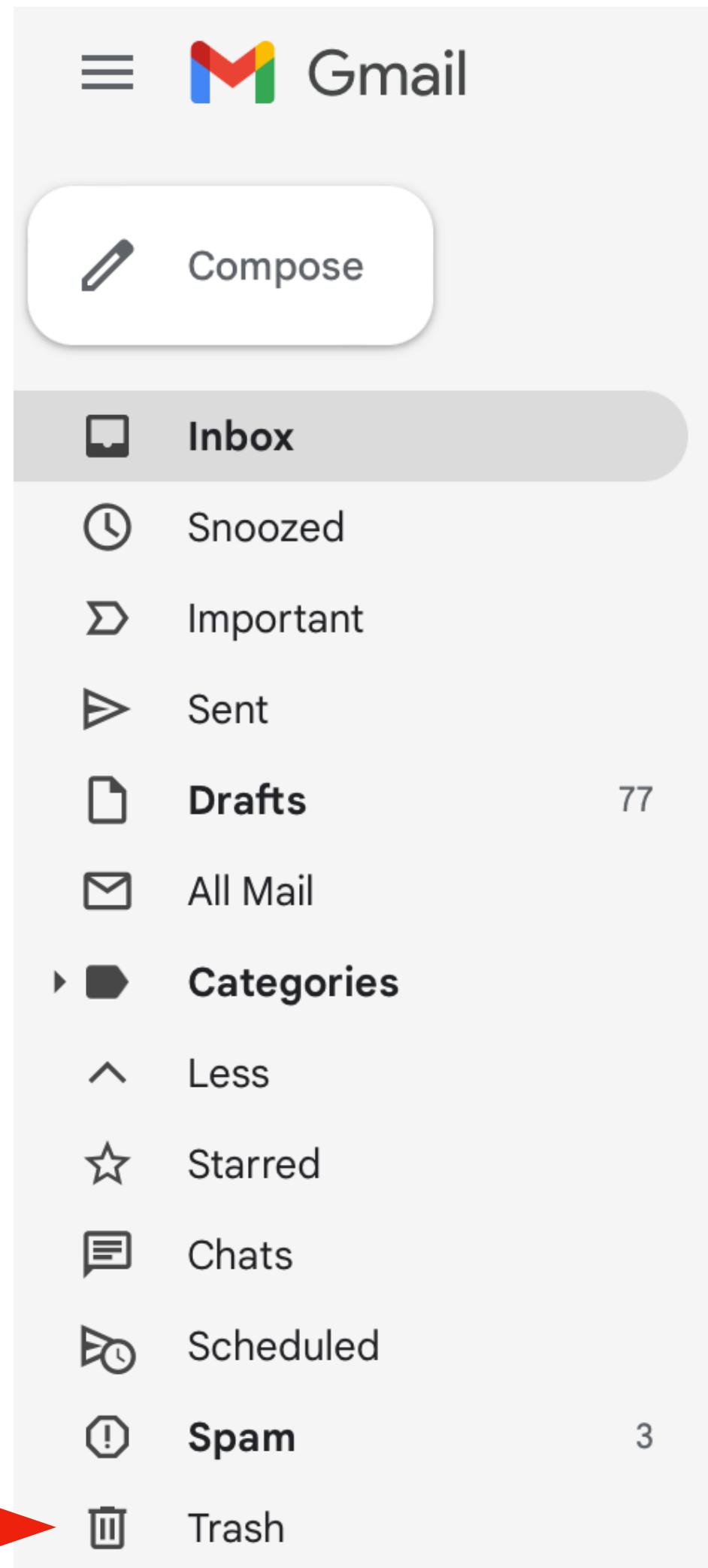
*–Daniel Jackson*



# Concepts

- Apps are made of *concepts*
- Each concept is a self-contained unit of functionality
- Concepts work together to provide the app functionality
- But can be understood independently of one another

# Trash



# Label

You can also head over to <https://getmailbox.com>

Label as:

- [Imap]/Outbox
- Apple Mail To Do
- Personal
- Receipts
- Work
- Social
- Updates
- Forums

Add star

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Label

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A

### Edit 1 photo

Location

Ankobra beach

Keywords

Type your own keywords here

Beach No People

Outdoors Sea Sand

Palm Tree Sunset Water

Twilight Ghana Africa

Suggested keywords

+ Vertical + Sky + Cloud - Sky

+ Scenics - Nature + Tree

+ Nature + Beauty In Nature

+ Photography

### This photo is in 1 album

**Japan**

377 items

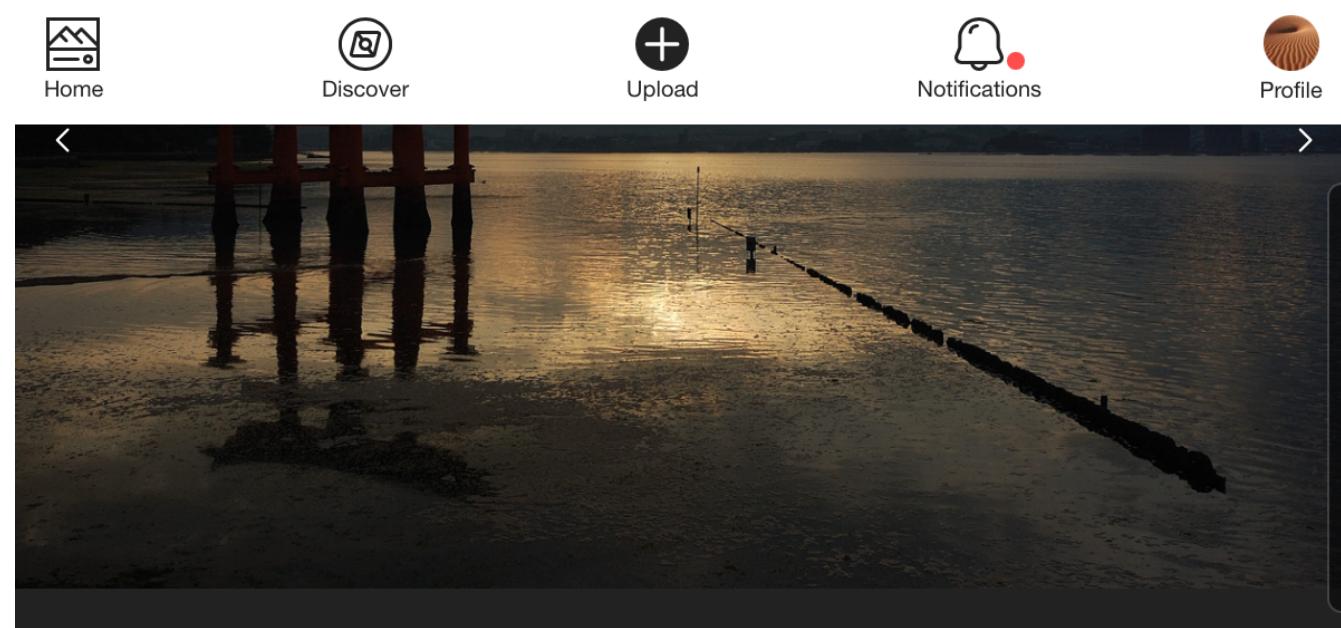
### Tags

**Add tags**

**Japan** **Tokina AT-X 124**

**Miyajima** **torii** **sunset**

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one last postcard from miyajima  
by Alcino Cunha >

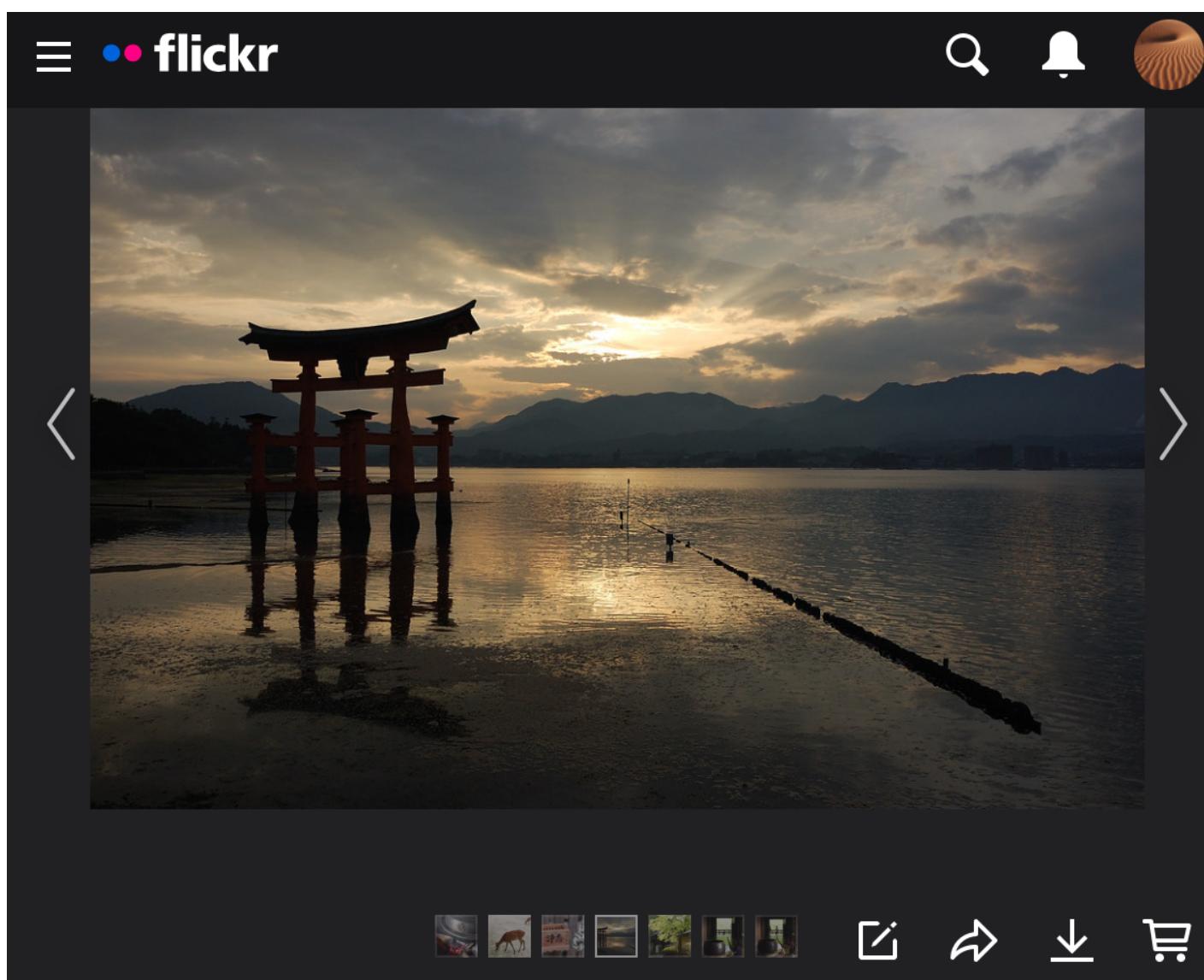
Taken: Aug 17, 2008 Uploaded: almost 11 yrs ago

Miyajima, Japan [2008]

Pulse ⓘ Impressions ⓘ Fresh ⓘ

47.4 9.1K

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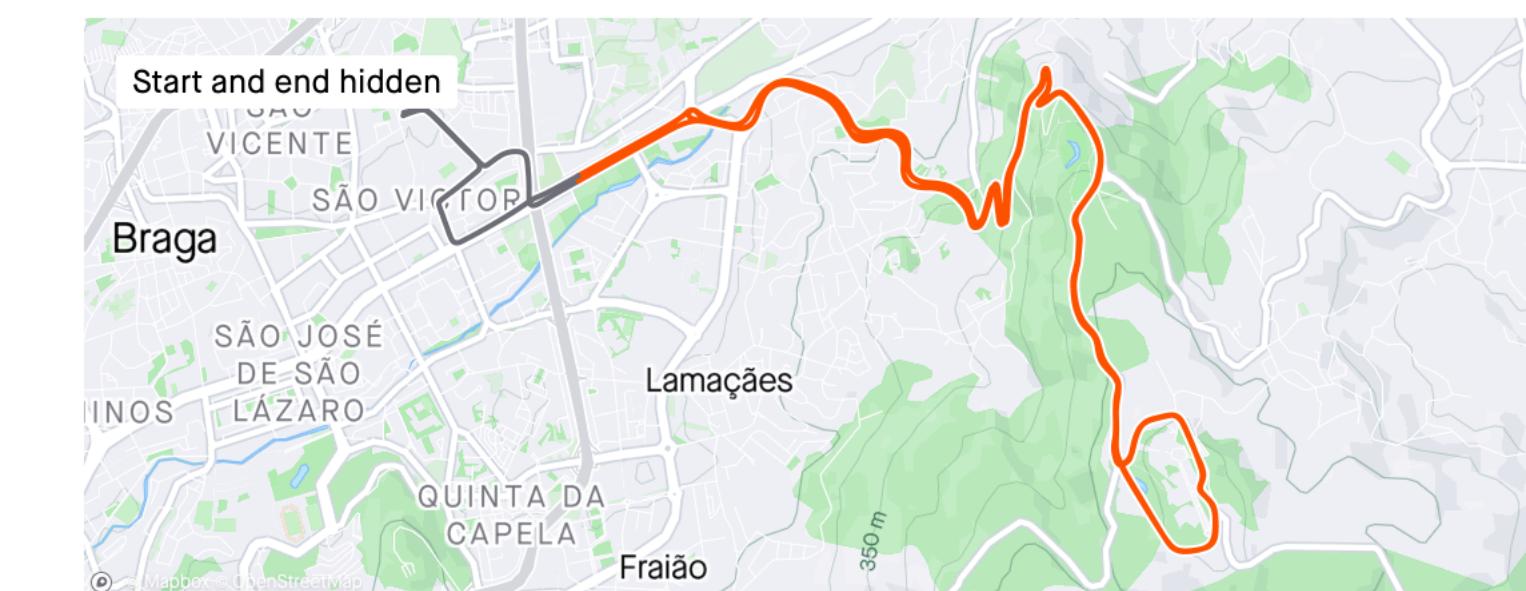
Rosino one last postcard from miyajima Miyajima, Japan [2008]

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Bike Distance: 30.01 km | Elev Gain: 794 m | Time: 1h 18m | Achievements: 5

Parque lago - Rotunda do Papa PR (4:25)



Start and end hidden

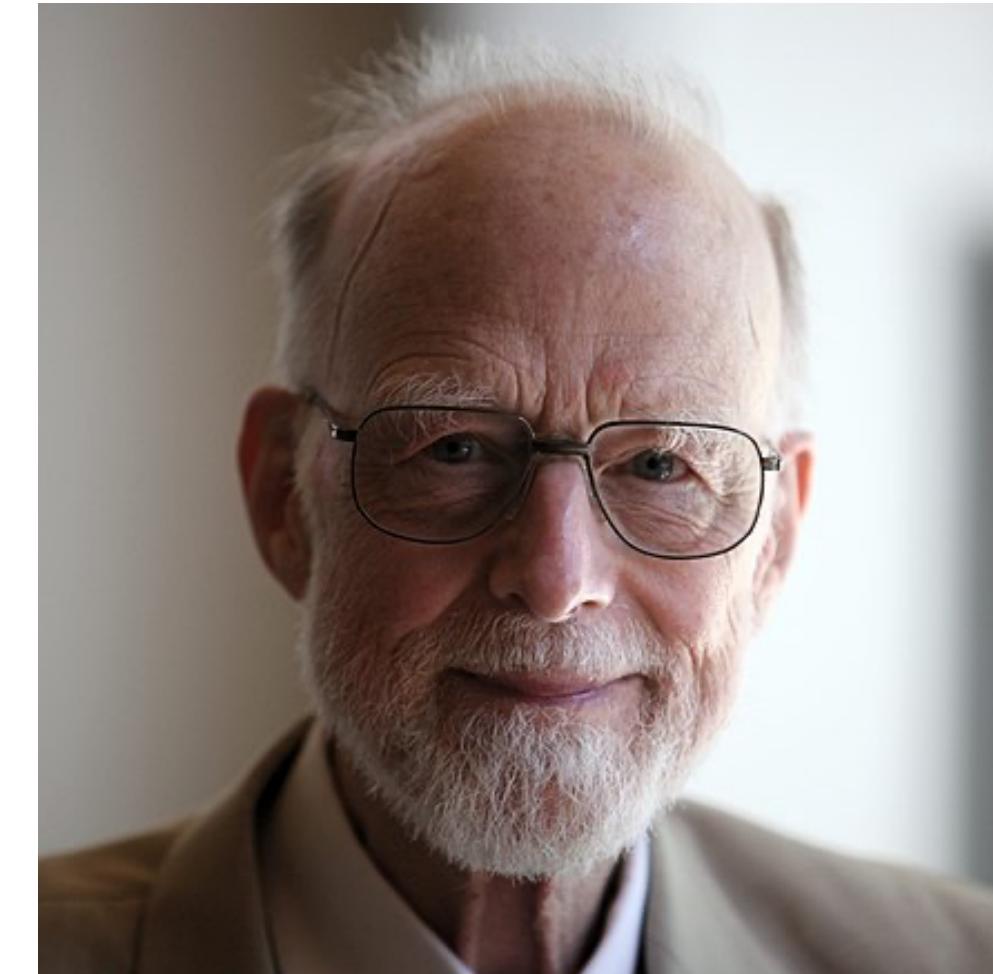
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11 kudos → Like Comment

# Concept design

- Identify a clear purpose
- Choose the appropriate *state* and *actions* to fulfill that purpose
- The focus is on ensuring correctness and reusability

**“There are two ways of constructing a software design: One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult.”**



*–Tony Hoare*

# App design

- Identify the core concepts
- Compose them, maybe providing new functionality
- The focus is on exploration

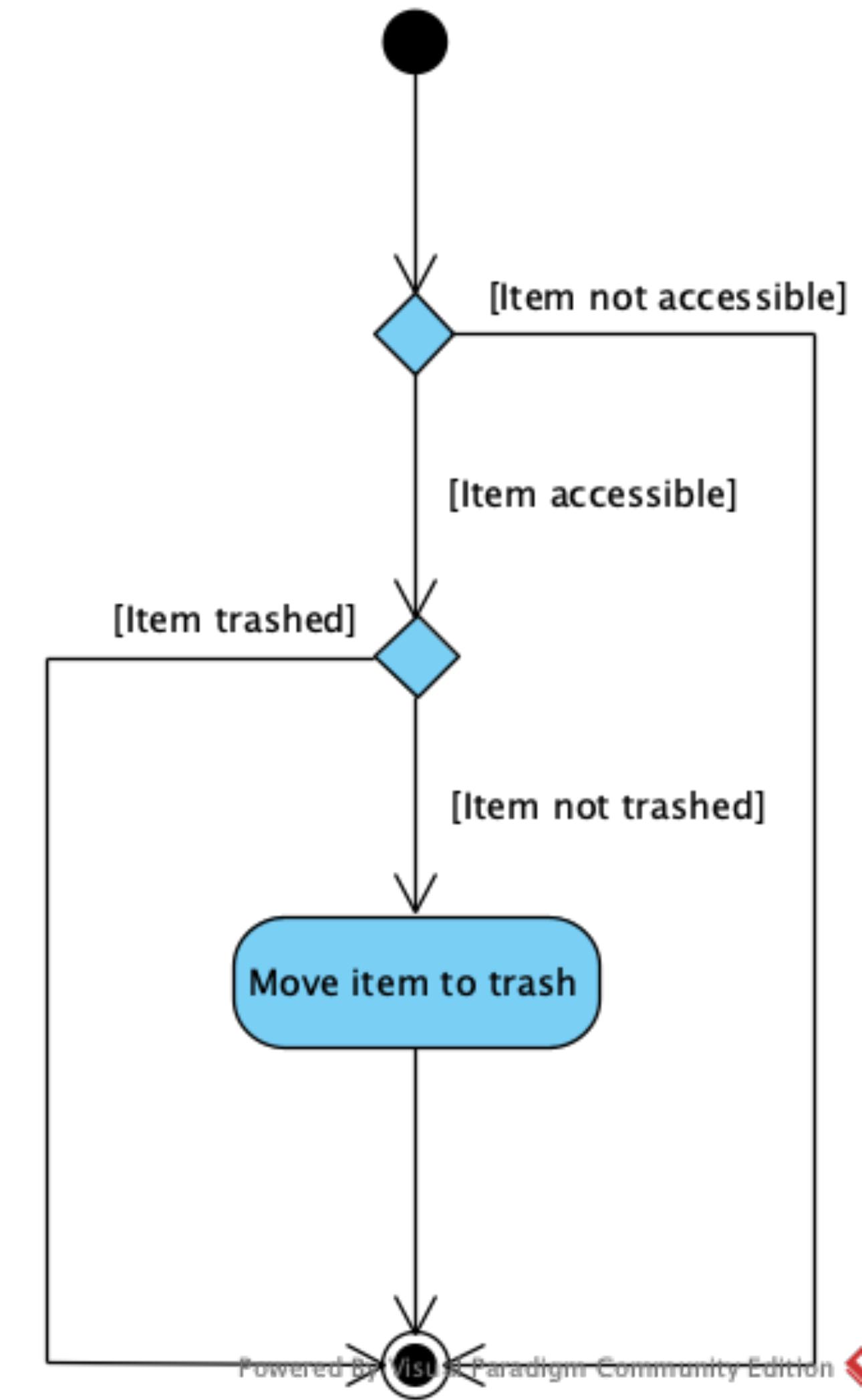
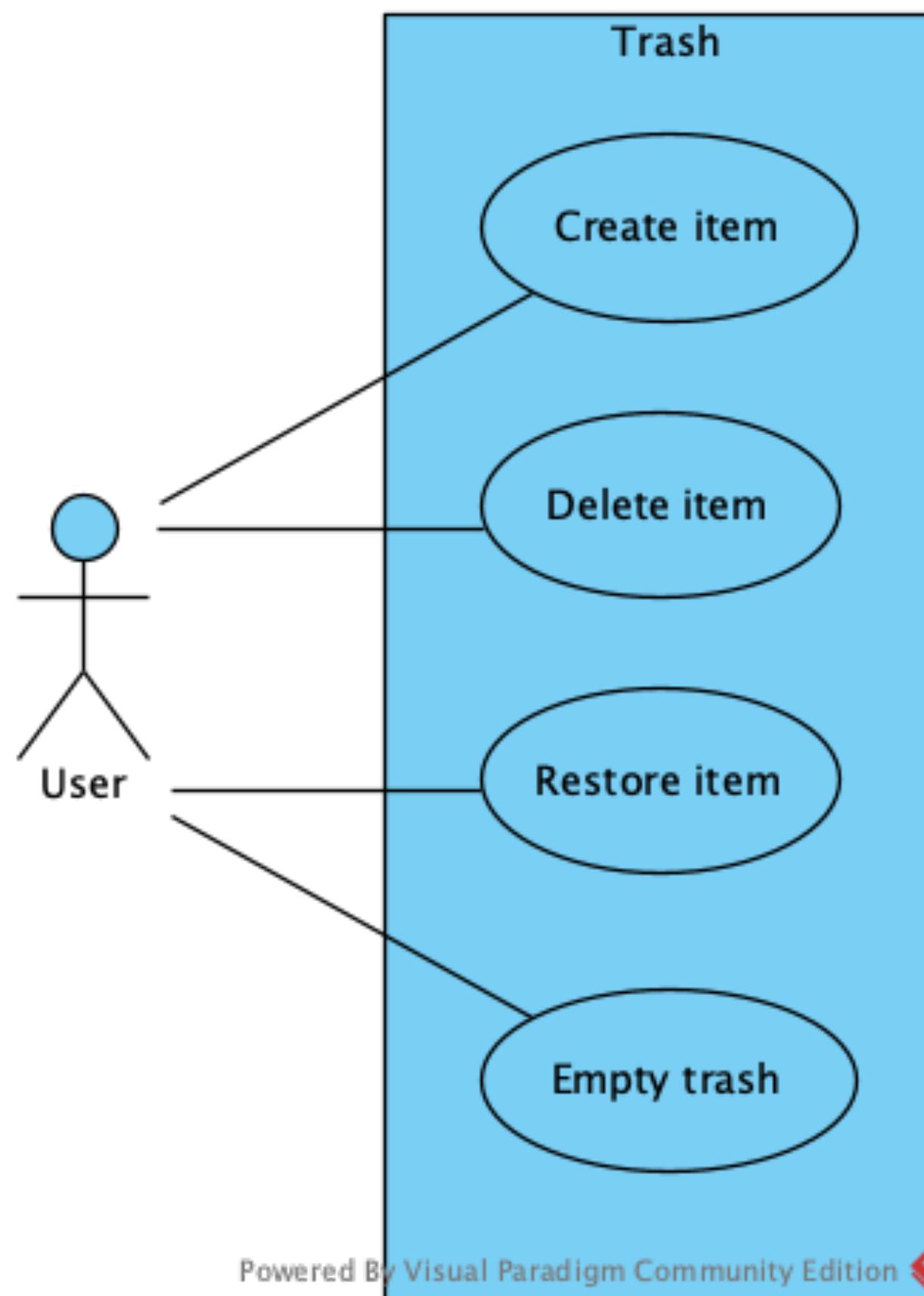
**“[...] For software, that means determining what the behavior of the software should be: what controls it will offer, and what responses it will provide in return. These questions have no right or wrong answers, only better or worse ones.”**



*-Daniel Jackson*

# Modeling concepts

# Trash modeling a la UML



# Trash “modeling” with code

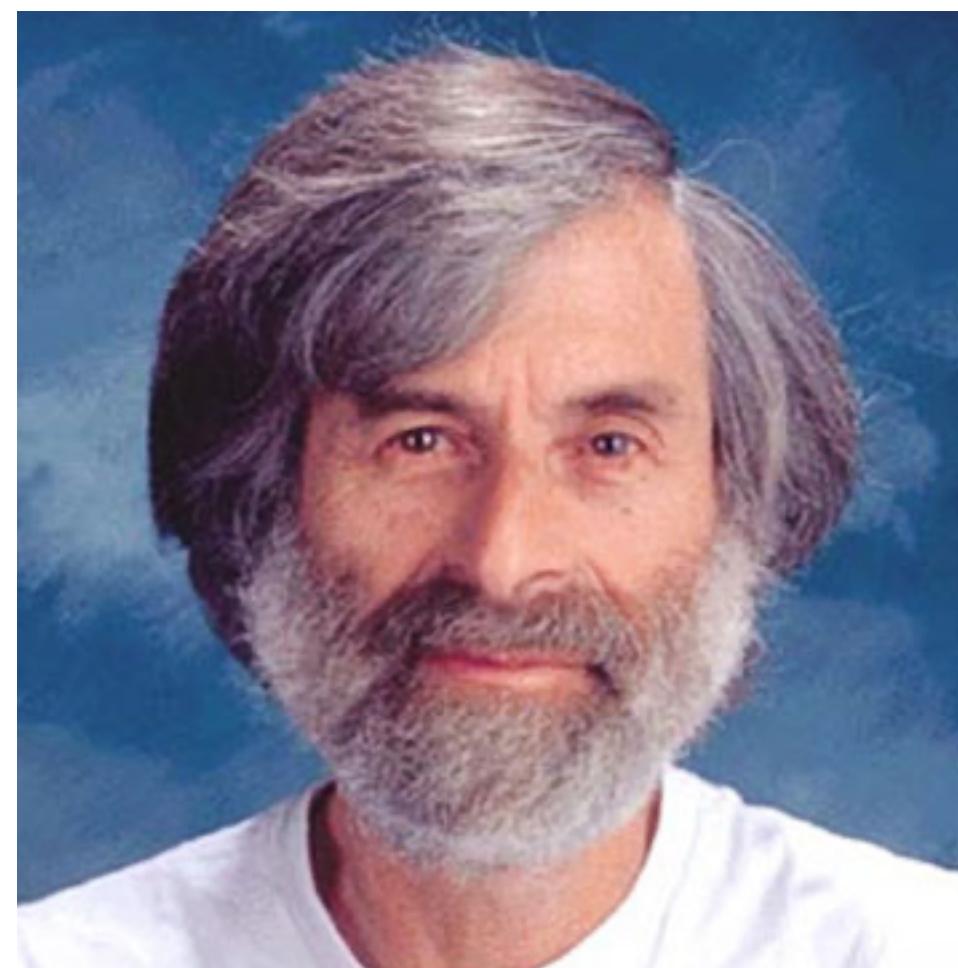
```
class Trash<Item> {

    private HashSet<Item> accessible;
    private HashSet<Item> trashed;

    void delete(Item i) throws Exception {
        if (!accessible.contains(i)) {
            throw new Exception("Item not accessible");
        }
        if (trashed.contains(i)) {
            throw new Exception("Item already trashed");
        }
        trashed.add(i);
        accessible.remove(i);
    }

    ...
}
```

**“If you’re not writing a program, don’t use a programming language.”**



*–Leslie Lamport*

# Trash modeling *a la* Jackson

**concept** trash [Item]

**purpose**

to allow undoing of deletions

**state**

accessible, trashed : set Item

**actions**

create (x : Item)

when x not in accessible or trashed

add x to accessible

delete (x : Item)

when x in accessible but not trashed

move x from accessible to trashed

restore (x : Item)

when x in trashed

move x from trashed to accessible

empty ()

when some item in trashed

remove every item from trashed

**operational principle**

after delete(x), can restore(x) and then x in accessible

after delete(x), can empty() and then x not in accessible or trashed

# Concept modeling *a la* Jackson

- Name
  - Optionally parametrized by types that can be specialized when composing
- Purpose
  - A clear reason why you might want it
- State + Actions
  - A description of the concept structure and behavior using a *transition system*
- Operational principle
  - Archetypical scenarios that show how the concept is fulfilled by the actions

# Transition systems

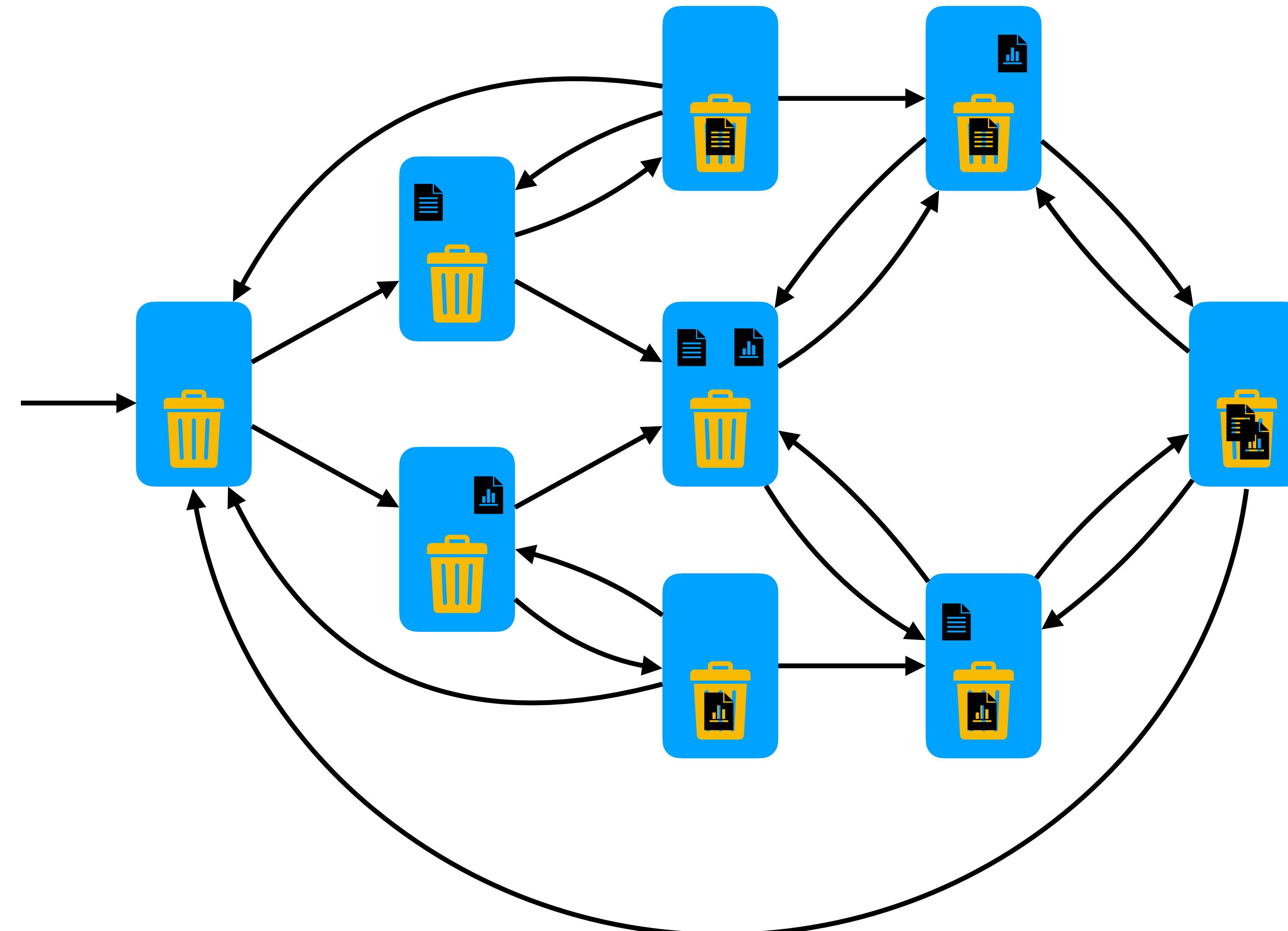
# Transition systems

- A popular model to describe the behavior of a system
- In some areas a *model* is a synonym for a transition system
- There are many variants and related formalisms
  - Labeled transition systems
  - Kripke structures
  - Finite state machines
  - Hybrid and timed automata
  - ...

# Transition system = States + Transitions

- States
  - A *state* is a possible valuation to the mutable structures of the system
  - *Initial* states describe how the system starts
- Transitions
  - A *transition* is a changes between states
  - Transitions originate from actions of the system or the environment
- Traces
  - A *trace* is a valid path (sequence of states) in the transition system, starting in an initial state

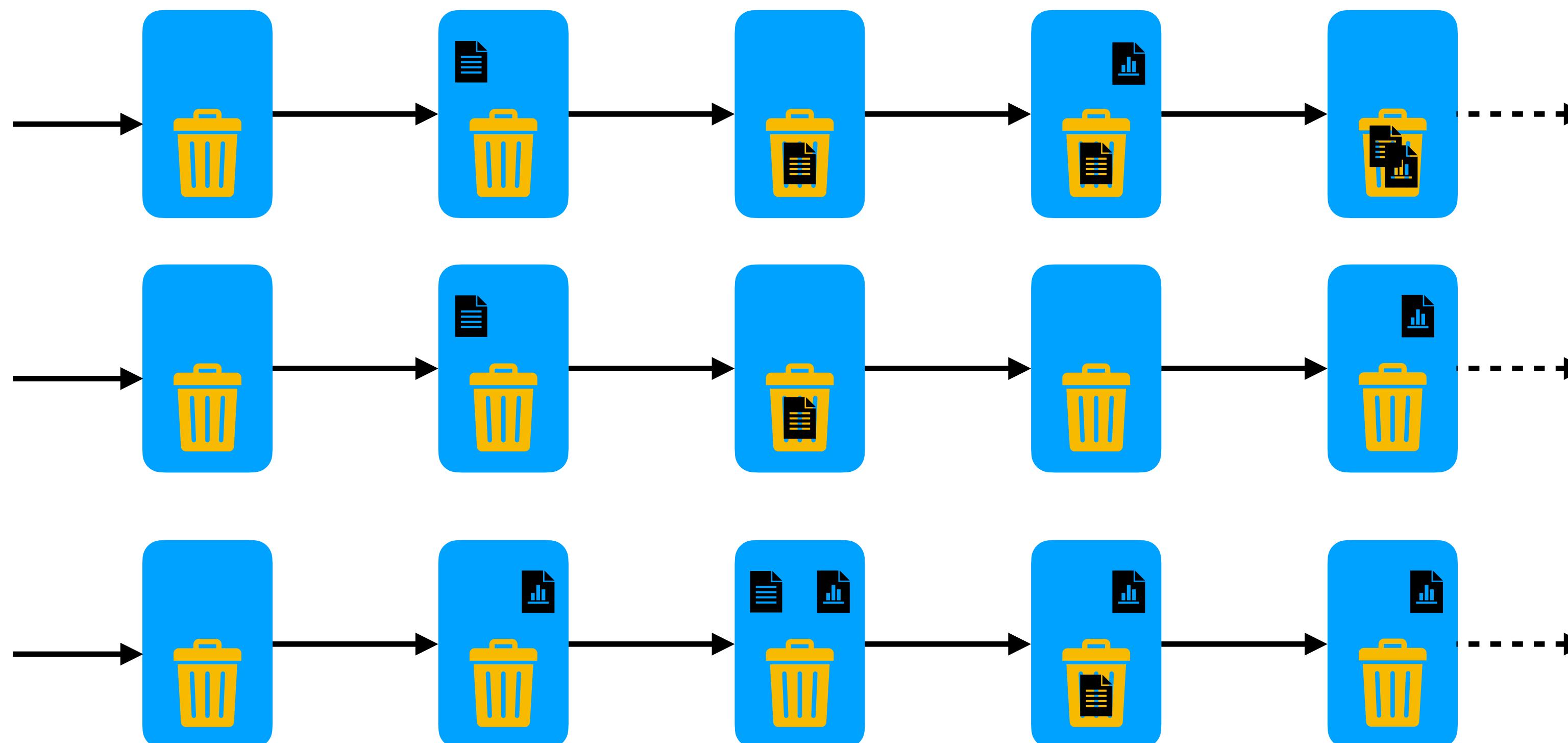
# Trash transition system



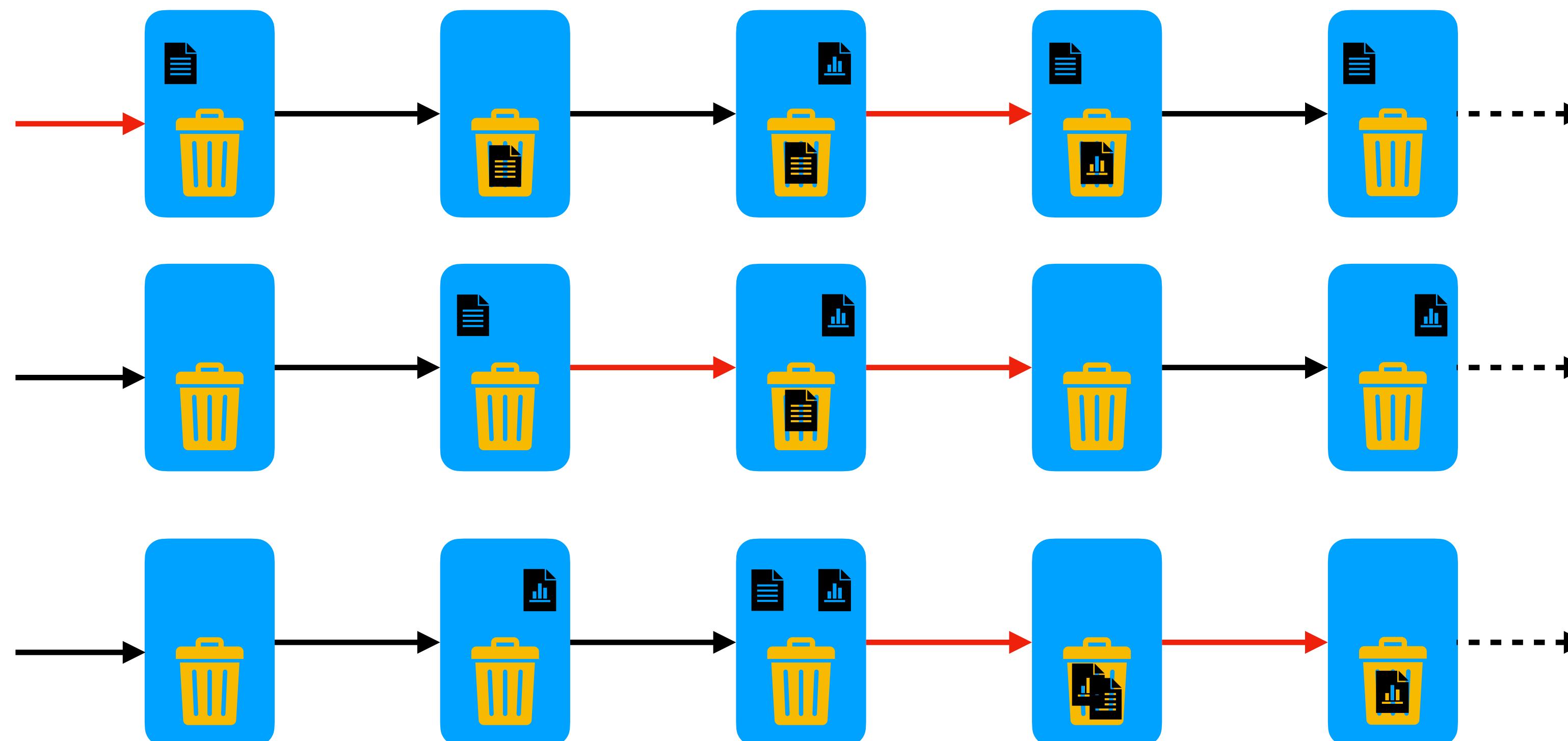
# Declarative modeling

- It is possible to describe a transition system by specifying which traces are valid
- The specification talks about a sequence of states and not just about a single state
- And thus requires some sort of *temporal logic*

# Valid trash traces



# Invalid trash traces



# Transition systems in Alloy

# Mutability

- In Alloy 6 mutable signatures and fields can be declared with keyword **var**
  - Previously only possible with the Electrum extension
  - It was possible to describe behavior in Alloy 5 by explicitly modeling the concept of state
  - But it was confusing and error prone
- Mixing mutable and static structures
  - Static field inside mutable signature yields a warning
  - Same for static signature extending or inside mutable one

# Trash states

```
sig Item {}  
var sig Accessible in Item {}  
var sig Trashed in Item {}
```

# Instances

- When mutable structures are declared, instances are **infinite traces**
- Analysis commands only return traces that can be represented finitely
  - Instances are traces that loop back at some point
- Static signatures and fields have the same value in all states
- If there are mutable top-level signatures **univ** (and **iden**) are also mutable

# Temporal logic

- Alloy 6 also added linear *temporal logic*
- Temporal logic adds *temporal operators* to relational logic
- They allow us to “quantify” the validity of a formula over the different states of a trace
- A formula without temporal operators is only required to hold in the initial states
- Alloy 6 has both future and past temporal operators

# Always and Prime

**always**  $\phi$

$R'$

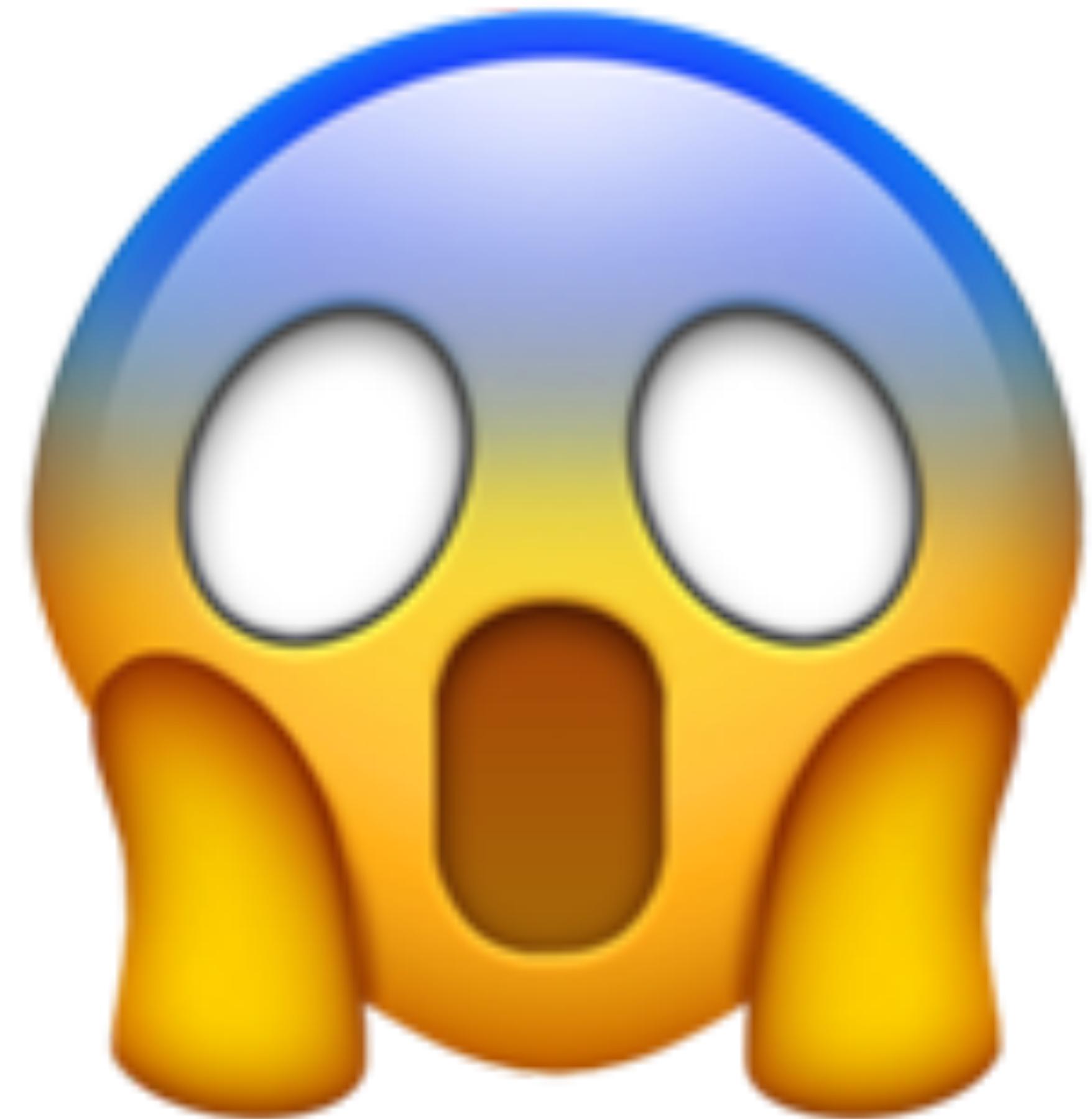
$\phi$  will always be true

The value of  $R$  in the next state

# Trash traces

```
fact Init {
    no Accessible
    no Trashed
}

fact Traces {
    always {
        // At most one item is created or deleted
        lone (Accessible - Accessible') + (Accessible' - Accessible)
        // All deleted items go to the trash
        Accessible - Accessible' = Trashed' - Trashed
        // All restored items become accessible
        (Accessible' != Accessible and Trashed' != Trashed) implies Accessible' - Accessible = Trashed - Trashed'
        // If the trash stays the same a new item must have been created
        Trashed' = Trashed implies some (Accessible' - Accessible) - Trashed
        // If no item was deleted or created an empty must have occurred
        Accessible' = Accessible implies no Trashed'
    }
}
```



# Trash traces

```
fact Init {
    no Accessible
    no Trashed
}

fact Traces {
    always {
        // create item
        some i : Item - Accessible - Trashed | Accessible' = Accessible + i and Trashed' = Trashed
        or
        // delete item
        some i : Accessible | Accessible' = Accessible - i and Trashed' = Trashed + i
        or
        // restore item
        some i : Trashed | Accessible' = Accessible + i and Trashed' = Trashed - i
        or
        // empty trash
        some Trashed and Accessible' = Accessible and no Trashed'
    }
}
```

# Trash traces

```
fact Init {
    no Accessible
    no Trashed
}

fact Traces {
    always {
        some i : Item | create[i]
        or
        some i : Item | delete[i]
        or
        some i : Item | restore[i]
        or
        empty
    }
}
```

# Anatomy of an action

- The specification of an action is a conjunction of three kinds of formulas
  - *Guards*, that specify when it can occur
  - *Effects*, that specify what changes when it occurs
  - *Frame conditions*, special effects that specify what does not change when it occurs
- Guards usually have no temporal operators
  - But can use past temporal operators to recall something about the past
- Effects and frame conditions use the prime operator to specify the relation between the present and the next value of mutable signatures and fields
  - If nothing is specified about a mutable signature or field it can change freely

# Create item

```
pred create [i : Item] {  
    // guard  
    i not in Accessible + Trashed  
    // effect  
    Accessible' = Accessible + i  
    // frame condition  
    Trashed' = Trashed  
}
```

# Delete item

```
pred delete [i : Item] {  
    // guard  
    i in Accessible  
    // effects  
    Accessible' = Accessible - i  
    Trashed' = Trashed + i  
}
```

# Restore item

```
pred restore [i : Item] {  
    // guard  
    i in Trashed  
    // effects  
    Accessible' = Accessible + i  
    Trashed' = Trashed - i  
}
```

# Empty trash

```
pred empty {  
    // guard  
    some Trashed  
    // effect  
    no Trashed'  
    // frame condition  
    Accessible' = Accessible  
}
```

# Validation

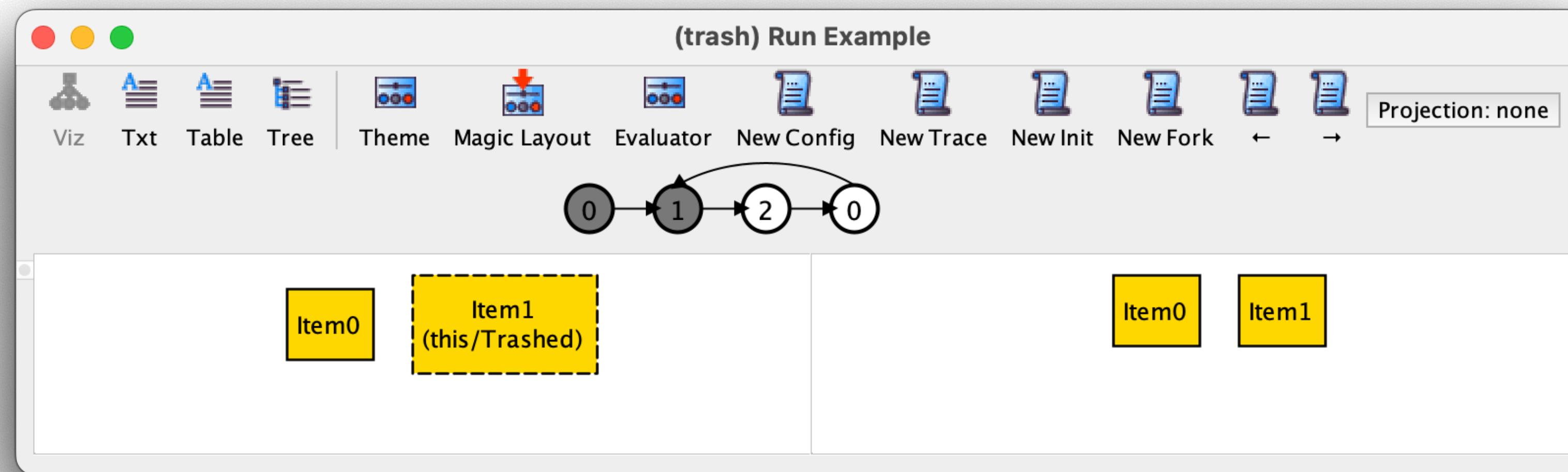
# Validation

- As usual, **run** commands can be used to validate the model
- Optionally a formula can be given to look for specific scenarios
- The scope of a mutable signature defines the maximum number of different atoms in the full trace, not a maximum per state
- Keyword **expect** can be used to distinguish positive and negative scenarios

# Trace visualization

- The visualizer depicts two consecutive states of the trace side-by-side
  - By default mutable structures are depicted with dashed lines
- A representation of the infinite trace is shown above
  - Different states have different numbers
  - The loop back is explicitly depicted
  - Clicking on a state focus on that (and the succeeding) state
  - It is possible to move forwards and backwards in the trace with → and ←

# Trace visualization



# Simulation

- It possible to perform “simulation” with the New instance buttons
  - *New config*, returns a trace with a different configuration (a different value to the immutable structures)
  - *New trace*, returns any different trace with the same configuration
  - *New init*, returns a trace with the same config, but a different initial state
  - *New fork*, returns a trace with the same prefix, but a different next state

# Simulation



# Semi-colon

$\phi$  ;  $\psi$

$\psi$  is valid after  $\phi$

# Some trash scenarios

```
run Scenario1 {
    some i : Item {
        create[i]; delete[i]; restore[i]; delete[i]; empty
    }
} expect 1

run Scenario2 {
    some disj i,j : Item {
        create[i]; delete[j]
    }
} expect 0
```

# Verification

# Model checking

- *Model checking* is the process of automatically verifying if a temporal logic specification holds in a finite transition system model of a system
  - If the specification is false a counter-example is returned
  - A finite transition system may have infinite non-looping traces
  - But every invalid specification can be falsified with a looping trace
- *Complete* or *unbounded* model checking explores all traces of the transition system
- *Bounded* model checking explores all traces up to a given maximum number of transitions before looping back

# Verification

- As usual, **check** commands can be used to verify assertions
- The default verification mechanism is bounded model checking
  - The default maximum number of transitions is 10
  - This can be changed by setting a scope for **steps**
- Alloy 6 also supports unbounded model checking
  - Activated by the special scope `1.. steps`
  - Requires model checkers nuXmv or NuSMV to be installed

# Future temporal operators

**always**  $\phi$

$\phi$  will always be true

**eventually**  $\phi$

$\phi$  will eventually be true

**after**  $\phi$

$\phi$  will be true in the next state

$\psi$  **until**  $\phi$

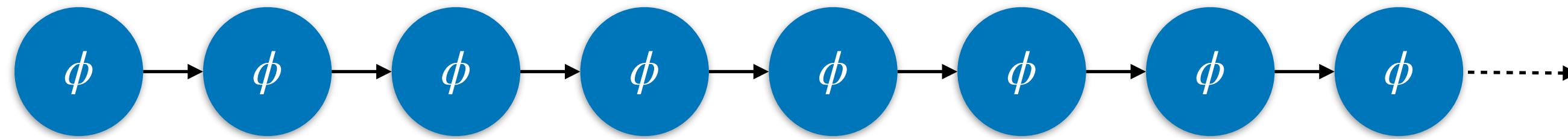
$\phi$  will eventually be true and  $\psi$  is true until then

$\phi$  **releases**  $\psi$

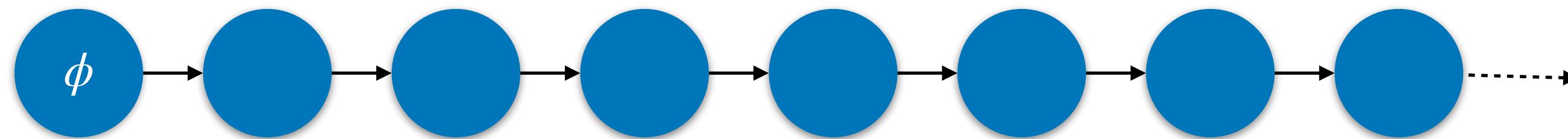
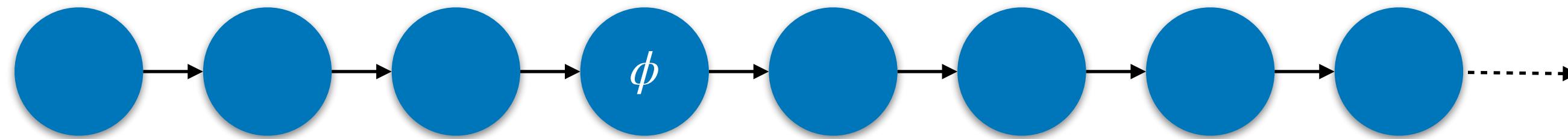
$\psi$  can only stop being true after  $\phi$

# Future operators

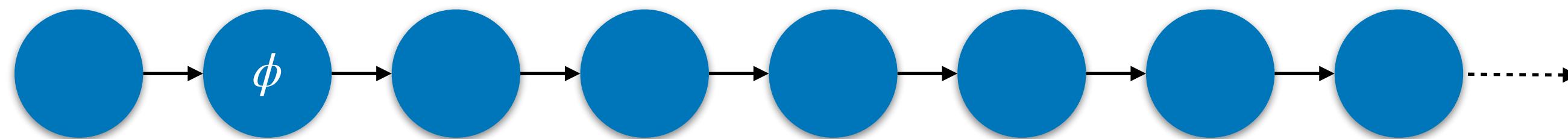
**always**  $\phi$



**eventually**  $\phi$

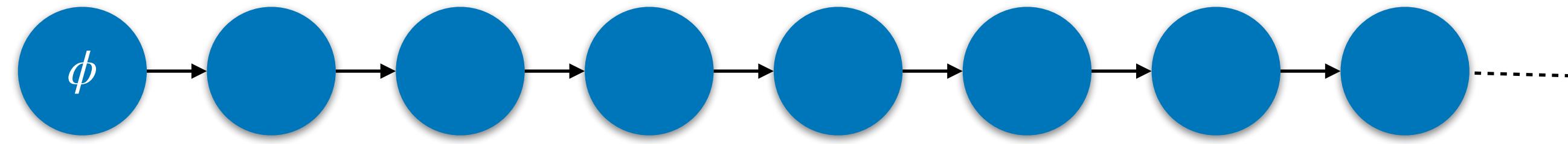
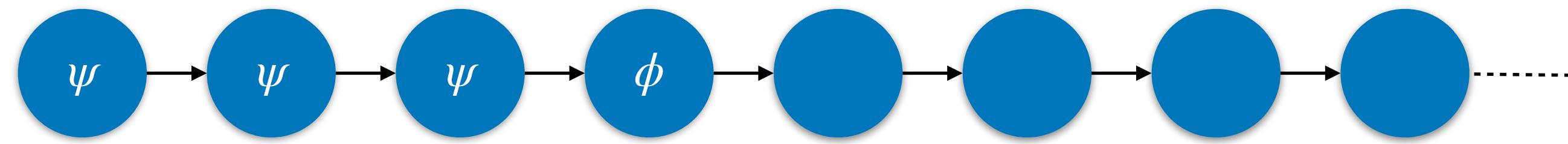


**after**  $\phi$

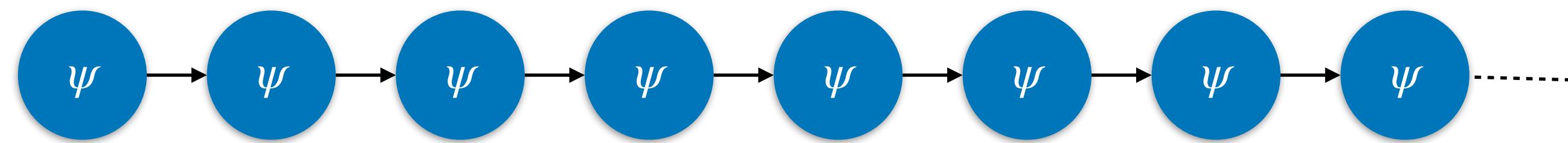
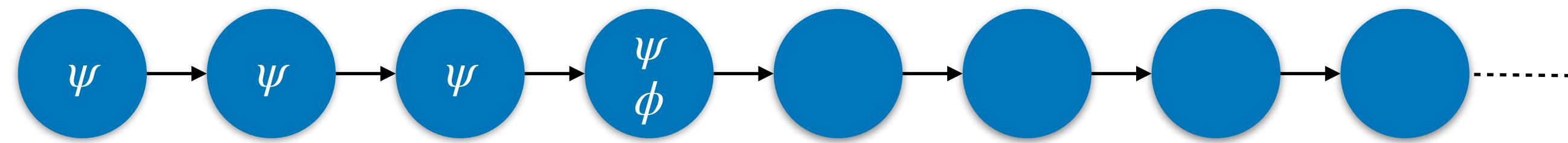


# Future operators

$\psi$  until  $\phi$

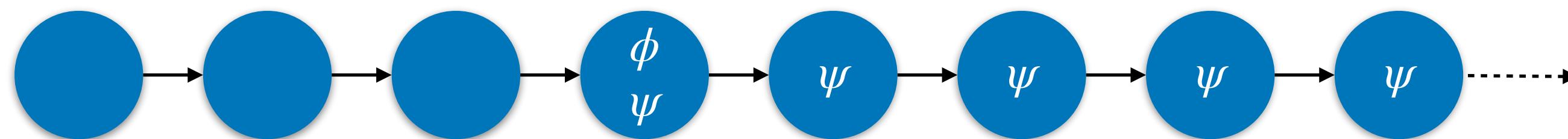


$\phi$  releases  $\psi$

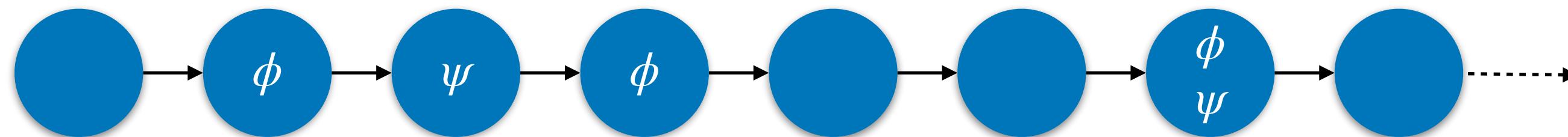


# Mixing operators

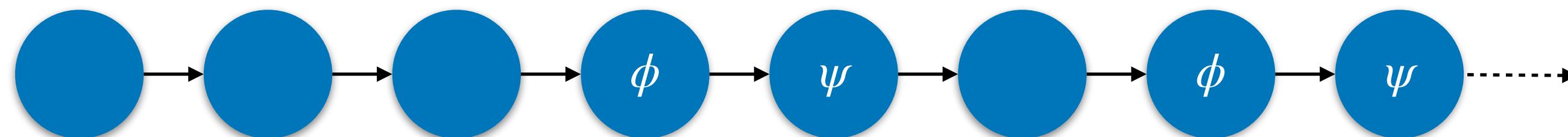
**always ( $\phi$  implies always  $\psi$ )**



**always ( $\phi$  implies eventually  $\psi$ )**

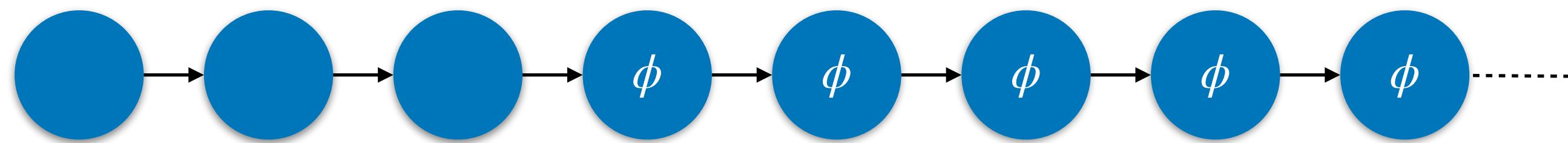


**always ( $\phi$  implies after  $\psi$ )**

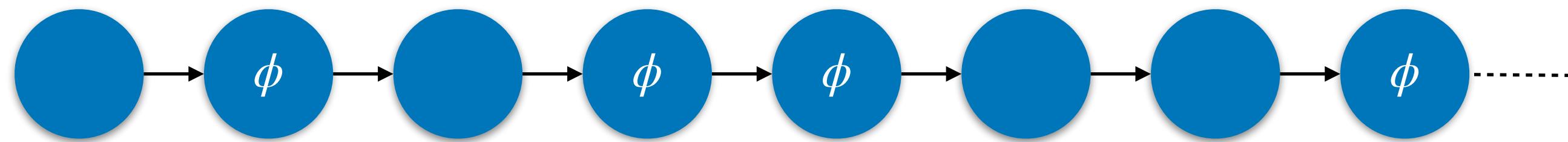


# Mixing operators

**eventually (always  $\phi$ )**



**always (eventually  $\phi$ )**

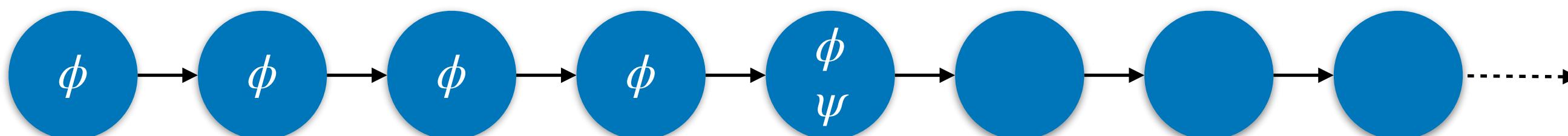


# Past temporal operators

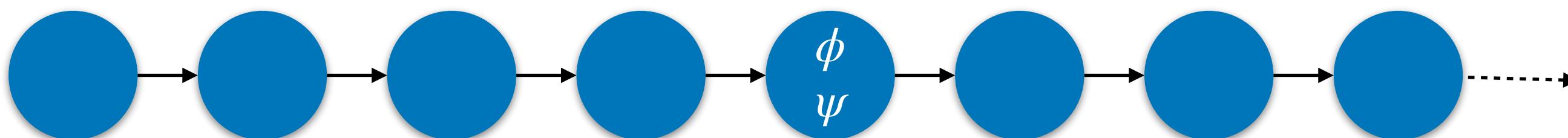
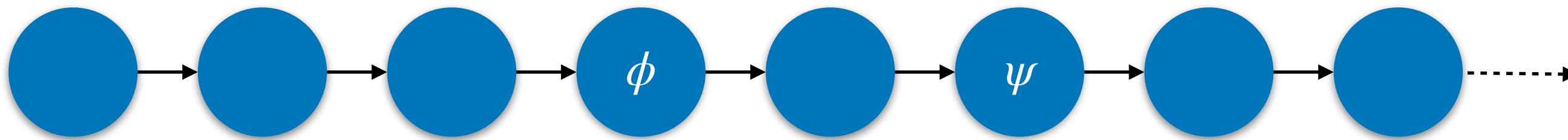
<b>historically</b> $\phi$	$\phi$ was always true
<b>once</b> $\phi$	$\phi$ was once true
<b>before</b> $\phi$	$\phi$ was true in previous state
$\psi$ <b>since</b> $\phi$	$\phi$ was once true and $\psi$ was true since then
$\phi$ <b>triggered</b> $\psi$	$\psi$ was always true back to the point where $\phi$ was true

# Past operators

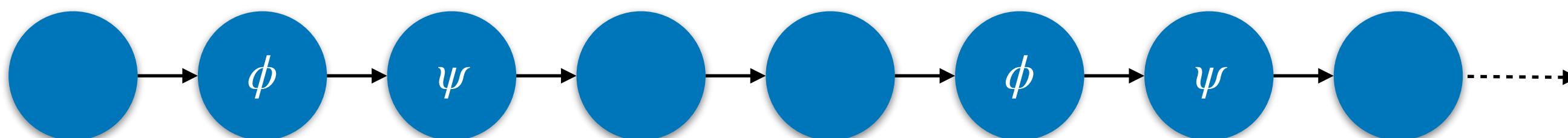
**always ( $\psi$  implies historically  $\phi$ )**



**always ( $\psi$  implies once  $\phi$ )**

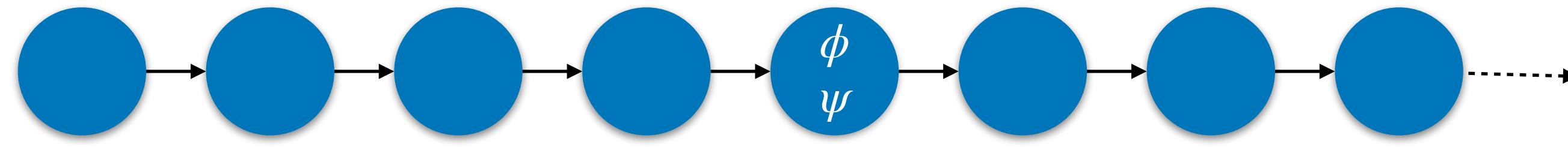
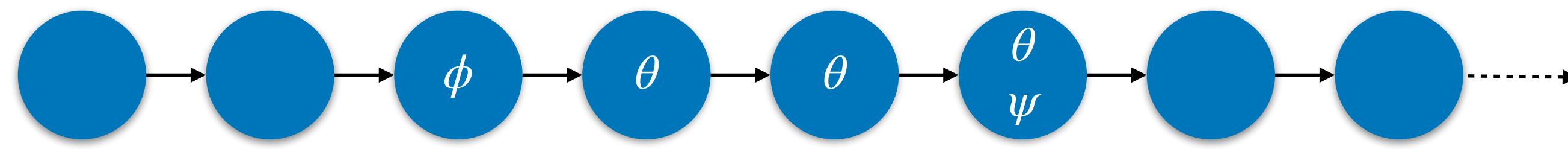


**always ( $\psi$  implies before  $\phi$ )**

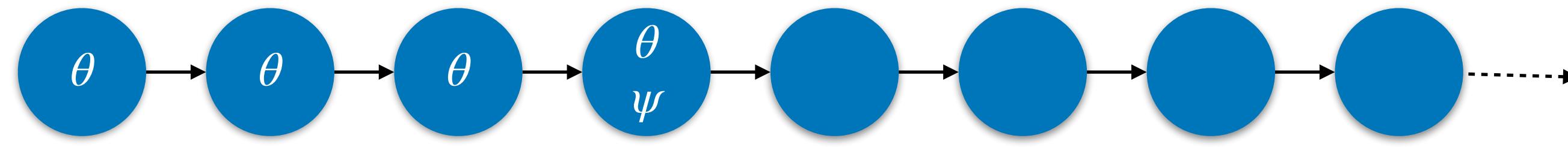
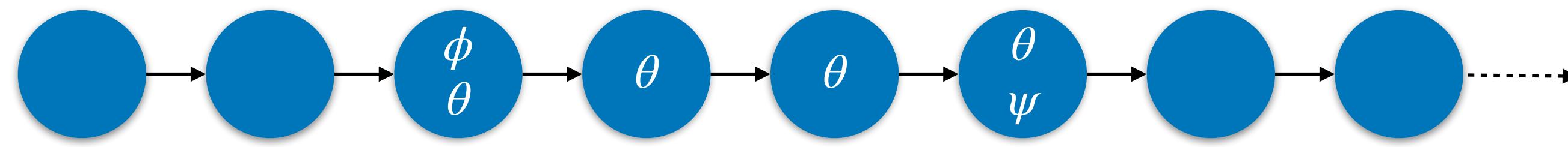


# Past operators

**always ( $\psi$  implies  $\theta$  since  $\phi$ )**



**always ( $\psi$  implies  $\phi$  triggered  $\theta$ )**



# Safety vs Liveness

- *Safety* properties prevent some undesired behaviors from happening
  - Easier to model check, since it suffices to search for a finite sequence of steps that leads to a bad state
  - It is irrelevant what happens afterwards, and any continuation leads to a counter-example
  - The archetypal safety property is **always**  $\phi$
- *Liveness* properties force some desired behaviors to happen
  - Harder to model check, since it is necessary to search for a complete infinite trace where the desired behavior never happened
  - Harder to specify, since they require fairness assumptions that prevent the system from stuttering forever
  - The archetypal liveness property is **eventually**  $\phi$
- In this course we will focus only on safety properties

# Some trash properties

```
assert Properties {
    // No item can simultaneously be accessible and trashed
    always no Accessible & Trashed
    // A restore is only possible after a delete
    all x : Item | always (restore[x] implies once delete[x])
    // After deleting an item stays trashed until an empty or a restore
    all x : Item | always (delete[x] implies after ((empty or restore[x]) releases x in Trashed))
    // A restore undos a delete
    all x : Item | always ((delete[x];restore[x]) implies Accessible'' = Accessible and Trashed'' = Trashed)
}
```

check Properties

```
Executing "Check Properties"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..10 steps. 79912 vars. 560 primary vars. 189949 clauses. 3388ms.
No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 2295ms.
```

# The trash operational principle

```
assert OperationalPrinciple {
    all x : Item | always {
        // after delete(x), can restore(x) and then x in accessible
        delete[x] implies after (x in Trashed and (restore[x] implies after x in Accessible))
        // after delete(x), can empty() and then x not in accessible or trashed
        delete[x] implies after (some Trashed and (empty implies after x not in Trashed+Accessible))
    }
}

check OperationalPrinciple for 4 Item, 20 steps
```

```
Executing "Check OperationalPrinciple for 20 steps, 4 Item"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..20 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..20 steps. 60638 vars. 2260 primary vars. 102411 clauses. 463ms.
No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 7ms.
```



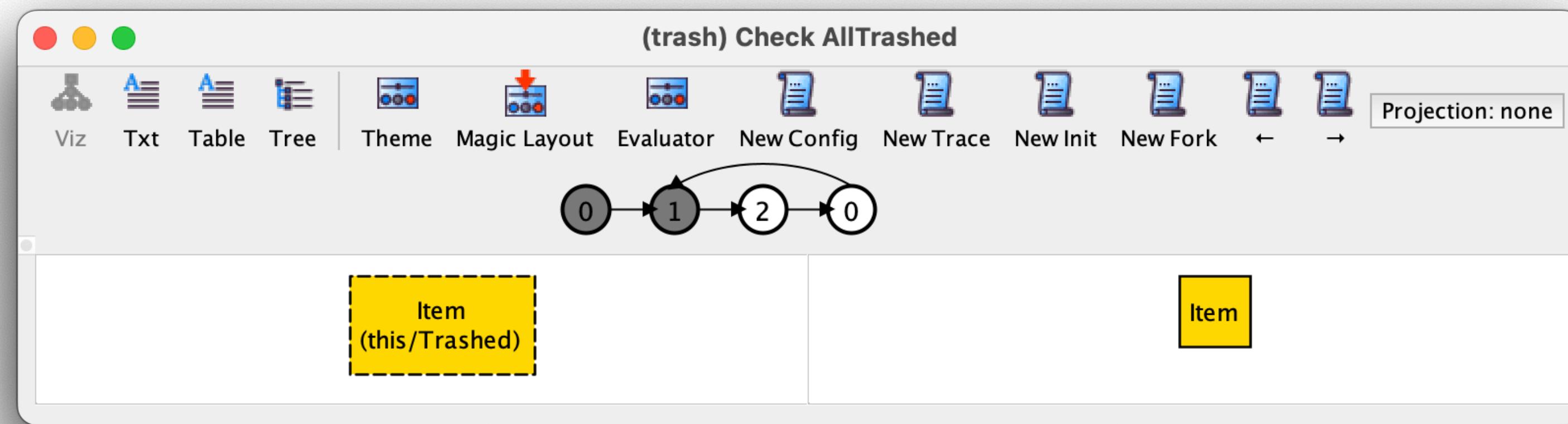


# Yet another trash property

```
assert AllTrashed {  
    // If all items are in the trash and the trash is emptied no more items will exist  
    always (Item in Trashed and empty implies always no Accessible)  
}  
  
check AllTrashed
```

```
Executing "Check AllTrashed"  
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch  
1..3 steps. 1058 vars. 63 primary vars. 1950 clauses. 103ms.  
Counterexample found. Assertion is invalid. 31ms.
```

# A counter-example



# Trash create revisited

```
pred create [i : Item] {
    // guard
    i not in Accessible + Trashed
    historically i not in Accessible
    // effect
    Accessible' = Accessible + i
    // frame condition
    Trashed' = Trashed
}
```

# Yet another trash property

```
assert AllTrashed {  
    // If all items are in the trash and the trash is emptied no more items will exist  
    always (Item in Trashed and empty implies always no Accessible)  
}  
  
check AllTrashed
```

```
Executing "Check AllTrashed"  
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch  
1..10 steps. 36989 vars. 780 primary vars. 89666 clauses. 314ms.  
No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 59ms.
```

**Back to validation**

# Simulation



# Another trash scenario

```
run Scenario3 {  
    some i : Item {  
        create[i]; delete[i]; empty  
    }  
} for 1 Item expect 1
```

```
Executing "Run Scenario3 for 1 Item expect 1"  
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=OFF Mode=batch  
2..10 steps. 23038 vars. 324 primary vars. 34558 clauses. 185ms.  
No instance found. Predicate may be inconsistent, contrary to expectation. 9ms.
```



# Inconsistency

- This scenario is not possible because it cannot be extended to an infinite trace
- Once the trash is empty no other action is possible and we stated that at every state some action must occur
- At least a *stuttering* action should be possible at that point

# **Stuttering**

# A clock specification

```
pred clock_spec {  
    h = 0 and m = 0  
    always {  
        m' = (m+1) % 60 and  
        m=59 implies h'=(h+1)%12 and  
        m!=59 implies h'=h  
    }  
}
```



# Ceci n'est pas une montre?!

**check clock\_spec**

```
Executing "Check clock_spec"
Solver=sat4j Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..2 steps. 55 vars. 12 primary vars. 59 clauses. 3ms.
Counterexample found. Assertion is invalid. 3ms.
```



# A clock specification

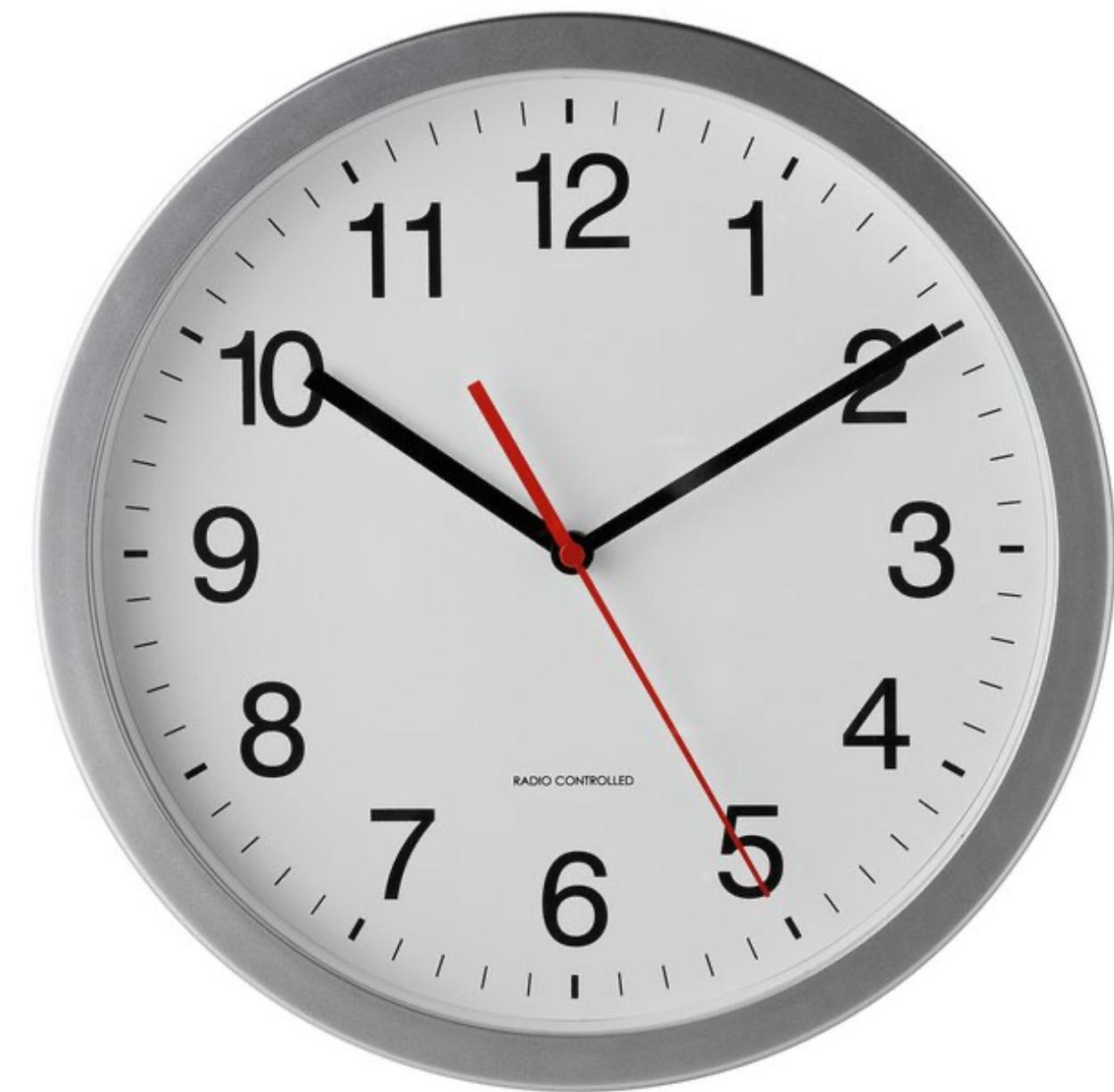
```
pred clock_spec {  
    h = 0 and m = 0  
  
    always {  
        m' = (m+1) % 60 and  
        m=59 implies h'=(h+1)%12 and  
        m!=59 implies h'=h  
        or  
        m'=m and h'=h  
    }  
}
```



# A clock

**check clock\_spec**

```
Executing "Check clock_spec"
Solver=sat4j Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..10 steps. 151901 vars. 1875 primary vars. 413006 clauses. 1042ms.
No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 298ms.
```



# Stuttering

- It is good practice to allow the system to stutter in every state
- Stuttering can represent events by the environment or by other components of the system (not yet modeled)
- Stuttering will enable the composition of concepts when specifying apps

# Stuttering

```
pred stutter {  
    Accessible' = Accessible  
    Trashed' = Trashed  
}
```

# Fixing the model

```
fact Init {
    no Accessible
    no Trashed
}

fact Traces {
    always {
        some i : Item | create[i]
        or
        some i : Item | delete[i]
        or
        some i : Item | restore[i]
        or
        empty
        or
        stutter
    }
}
```

# Back to validation and verification

```
Executing "Run Example"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..1 steps. 195 vars. 11 primary vars. 341 clauses. 47ms.
Instance found. Predicate is consistent. 24ms.

Executing "Run Scenario1 expect 1"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=OFF Mode=batch
1..6 steps. 8860 vars. 231 primary vars. 15567 clauses. 76ms.
Instance found. Predicate is consistent, as expected. 18ms.

Executing "Run Scenario2 expect 0"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..10 steps. 43716 vars. 851 primary vars. 74166 clauses. 170ms.
No instance found. Predicate may be inconsistent, as expected. 5ms.

Executing "Run Scenario3 for 1 Item expect 1"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=OFF Mode=batch
1..10 steps. 45050 vars. 905 primary vars. 76090 clauses. 19ms.
Instance found. Predicate is consistent, as expected. 15ms.

Executing "Check OperationalPrinciple for 20 steps, 4 Item"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..20 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..20 steps. 402690 vars. 3965 primary vars. 930231 clauses. 1609ms.
No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 7ms.

Executing "Check Properties"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..20 steps. 491221 vars. 4525 primary vars. 1138363 clauses. 2874ms.
No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 2819ms.

Executing "Check AllTrashed"
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..20 steps. 528430 vars. 5305 primary vars. 1228359 clauses. 298ms.
No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 112ms.

7 commands were executed. The results are:
#1: Instance found. Example is consistent.
#2: Instance found. Scenario1 is consistent, as expected.
#3: No instance found. Scenario2 may be inconsistent, as expected.
#4: Instance found. Scenario3 is consistent, as expected.
#5: No counterexample found. OperationalPrinciple may be valid.
#6: No counterexample found. Properties may be valid.
#7: No counterexample found. AllTrashed may be valid.
```



# Another concept

# The label

**concept** label [Item]

**purpose**

organize items into overlapping categories

**state**

labels : Item -> set Label

**actions**

affix (i : Item, l : Label)

add l to the labels of i

detach (i : Item, l : Label)

remove l from the labels of i

find (l : Label) : set Item

return the items labelled with l

clear (i : Item)

remove item i and all its labels

**operational principle**

after affix(i,l) and no detach(i,l), i in find(l)

if no affix(i,l), or detach(i,l), i not in find(l)

# The label in Alloy

```
sig Item {
    var labels : set Label
}

sig Label {}

fun find [l : Label] : set Item { labels.l }

fact Init {
    no labels
}

fact Traces {
    always {
        some i : Item, l : Label | affix[i,l] or detach[i,l]
        or
        some i : Item | clear[i]
        or
        stutter
    }
}
```

# Affix label

```
pred affix [i : Item, l : Label] {  
    // guard  
    i not in find[l]  
    // effect  
    i.labels' = i.labels + 1  
    // frame condition  
    all j : Label - i | j.labels' = j.labels  
}
```

# Affix label

```
pred affix [i : Item, l : Label] {  
    // guard  
    i not in find[l]  
    // effect  
    labels' = labels + i->l  
}
```

# Detach label

```
pred detach [i : Item, l : Label] {  
    // guard  
    i in find[l]  
    // effect  
    labels' = labels - i->l  
}
```

# Clear item

```
pred clear [i : Item] {  
    // effect  
    labels' = labels - i->Label  
}
```

# Label scenarios

```
run Scenario1 {  
    some i : Item, disj l,m : Label {  
        affix[i,l]; affix[i,m]; clear[i]  
    }  
}
```

```
} expect 1  
  
run Scenario2 {  
    some i : Item, l : Label {  
        affix[i,l]; affix[i,l]  
    }  
}  
} expect 0
```

# Label operational principle

```
assert Op {
    all i : Item, l : Label {
        // after affix(i,l) and no detach(i,l), i in find(l)
        always (affix[i,l] implies after ((detach[i,l] or clear[i]) releases i in find[l]))
        // if no affix(i,l), or detach(i,l), i not in find(l)
        all i : Item, l : Label | affix[i,l] releases i not in find[l]
        always ((clear[i] or detach[i,l]) implies after (affix[i,l] releases i not in find[l]))
    }
}

check Op
```

# Concept composition

# Modularizing concepts

- To enable reuse and specialization each concept should be in a parametrized module
- The module can still be used on its own, as Alloy implicitly declares parameter signatures
- Since a parameter signature cannot be extended with new fields, some trick might be necessary to declare them

# Trash

```
module Trash [Item]

sig Item {}

var sig Accessible in Item {}
var sig Trashed in Item {}

...
```

# Label

```
module Label [Item]
```

```
sig Item {  
    var labels : set Label  
}  
  
sig Label {  
    var items : set Item  
}  
  
fun labels : Item -> set Label {  
    ~items  
}  
  
...
```

# Specifying apps

- Import the required concepts, specializing parameter signatures as needed
- Compose the concepts
  - Enforce interleaving, by requiring at most one concept not to stutter
  - Synchronize actions as needed
- Validate, validate, validate
- Check some expected properties

# A filesystem

- Composed of trash and label
- Many options to explore
  - When to allow affixing labels?
  - When to delete labels?
  - Whether to use special labels?

# Free composition

```
open Trash[File] as trash
open Label[File] as label
```

```
sig File {}
```

```
fact Interleave {
    always {
        trash/stutter or
        label/stutter
    }
}
```

```
run Example {}
```

# Simulation



# Filesystem v1

- Allow labelling only when accessible
- Clear labels when file is deleted

# Filesystem v1

```
pred labelled [f : File] {
    some l : Label | f in find[l]
}

fact Synchronization {
    // Allow affixing only if file is accessible
    all f : File, l : Label | always (affix[f,l] implies f in Accessible)

    // Clear all labels after file is deleted
    all f : File | always (delete[f] and labelled[f] implies after clear[f])
}
```

# Filesystem v1

```
run Scenario1 {
    some f : File, l : Label {
        create[f]; affix[f,l]; delete[f]
    }
} expect 1

run Scenario2 {
    some f : File, l : Label {
        create[f]; delete[f]; affix[f,l]
    }
} expect 0
```

# Filesystem v2

- Allow labelling when accessible or trashed
- Clear labels when file is permanently deleted

# Filesystem v2

```
pred labelled [f : File] {
    some l : Label | f in find[l]
}

pred exists [f : File] {
    f in Accessible+Trashed
}

fact Synchronization {
    // Allow affixing only if file is exists
    all f : File, l : Label | always (affix[f,l] implies f in Accessible exists[f])

    // Clear all labels after file is permanently deleted
    all f : File | always {
        delete[f] f in Trashed and empty and labelled[f] implies after clear[f]
    }
}
```

# Filesystem v2

```
run Scenario1 {
    some f : File, l : Label | create[f]; affix[f,l]; delete[f]
} expect 1

run Scenario2 {
    some f : File, l : Label | create[f]; delete[f]; affix[f,l]
} expect 1

Executing "Run Scenario4 expect 1"
run Sc Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=OFF Mode=batch
    some 2..10 steps. 72419 vars. 1791 primary vars. 158243 clauses. 453ms.
} expe No instance found. Predicate may be inconsistent, contrary to expectation. 16ms.

run Scenario4 {
    some disj f1,f2 : File, l : Label | create[f1]; create[f2]; delete[f1]; affix[f2,l]; delete[f2]; affix[f1,l]; empty
} expect 1

run Scenario5 {
    some disj f1,f2 : File, l : Label | create[f1]; delete[f1]; affix[f1,l]; empty; create[f2]
} expect 0
```

# Filesystem v2

```
pred labelled [f : File] {
    some l : Label | f in find[l]
}

pred exists [f : File] {
    f in Accessible+Trashed
}

fact Synchronization {
    // Allow affixing only if file is exists
    all f : File, l : Label | always (affix[f,l] implies exists[f])

    // Clear all labels after file is permanently deleted
    all f : File | always {
        f in Trashed and empty and labelled[f] implies after clear[f]
        ((some t : File | not exists[t] and labelled[t] and clear[t])) until clear[f]
    }
}
```

# Filesystem v3

- Allow labelling when accessible or trashed
- Clear labels when file is permanently deleted
- Affix special label Trashed when file is deleted
- Detach special label Trashed when file is restored

# Filesystem v3

```
one sig Trashed extends Label {}

fact Synchronization {
    // Allow affixing only if file is exists
    all f : File, l : Label | always (affix[f,l] implies exists[f])

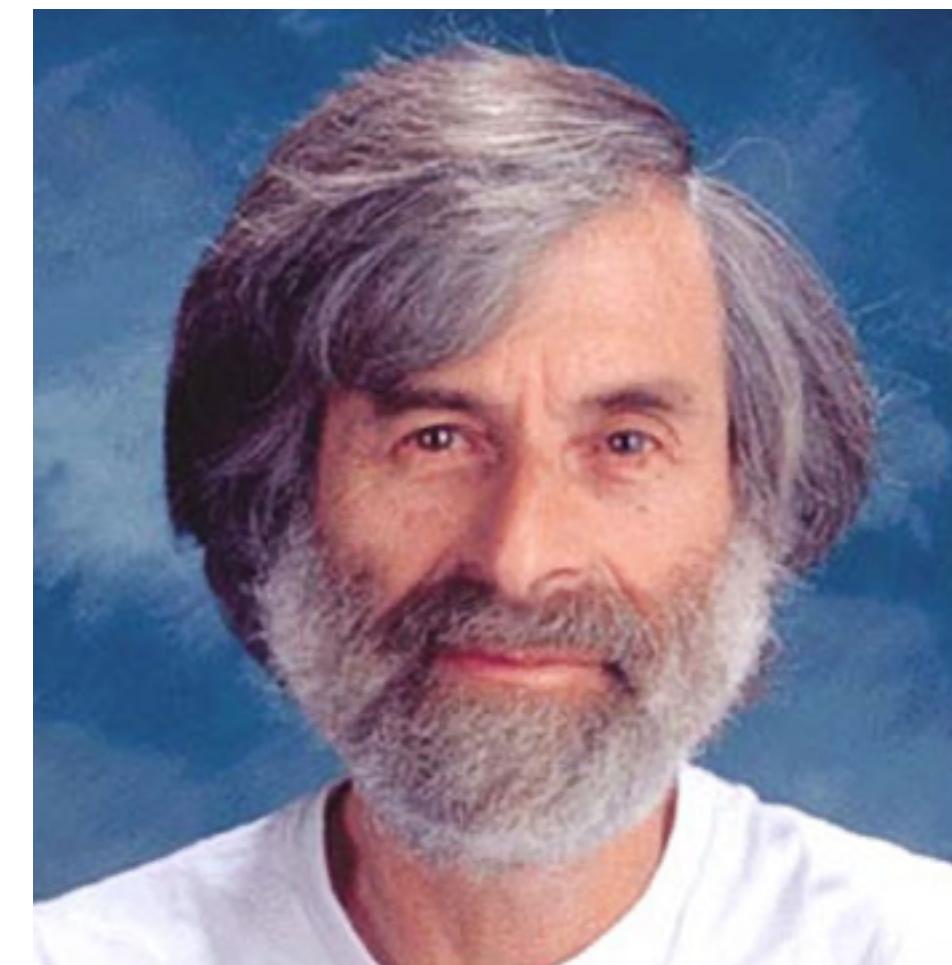
    // Clear all labels after file is permanently deleted
    all f : File | always {
        f in Trashed and empty and labelled[f] implies after
            ((some t : File | not exists[t] and labelled[t] and clear[t])) until clear[f]
    }

    // Affix label Trashed when deleting
    all f : File | always (delete[f] and f not in find[Trashed] implies after affix[f,Trashed])

    // Detach label Trashed when restoring
    all f : File | always (restore[f] and f in find[Trashed] implies after detach[f,Trashed])
}
```

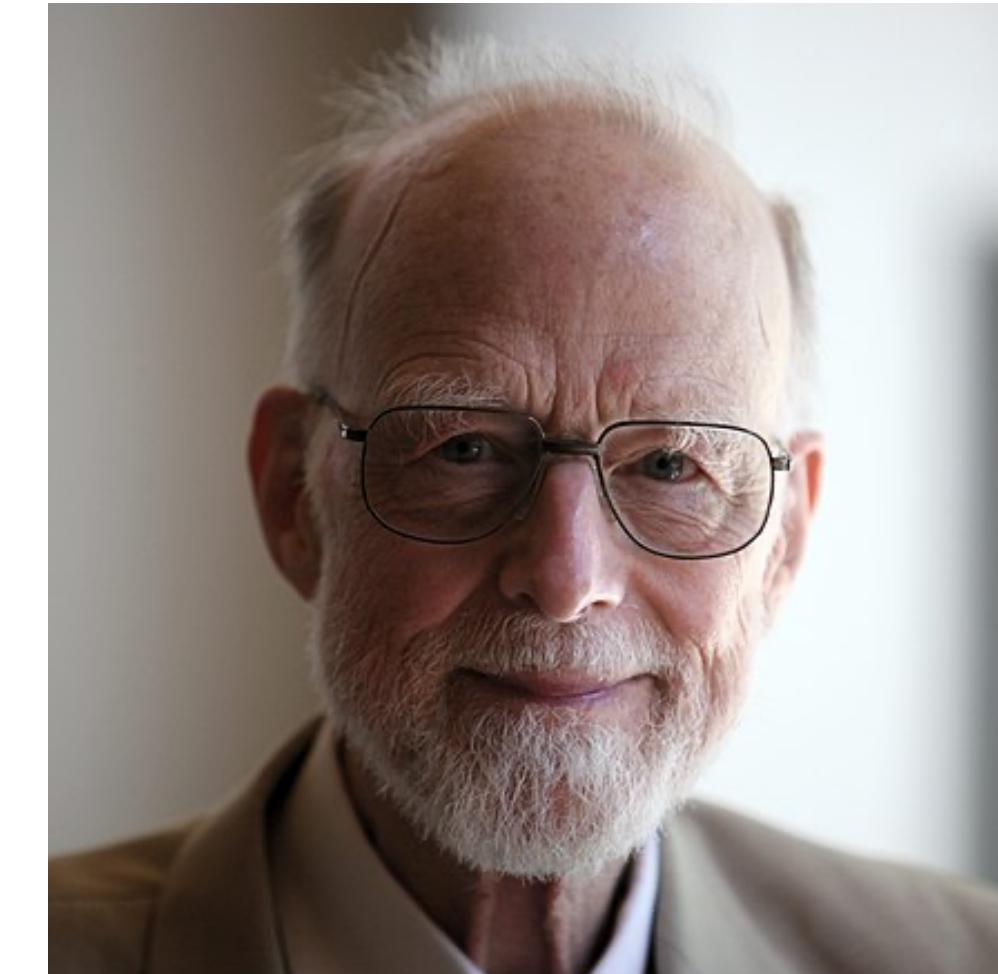
# Epilogue

**“A specification is an *abstraction*. It describes some aspects of the system and ignores others. [...] But I don’t know how to teach you about abstraction. A good engineer knows how to abstract the essence of a system and suppress the unimportant details when specifying and designing it. The art of abstraction is learned only through experience.”**



*–Leslie Lamport*

**“There are two ways of constructing a software design: One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult.”**



*–Tony Hoare*

Epigram 31

**“Simplicity does not precede complexity, but follows it.”**



*-Alan Perlis*