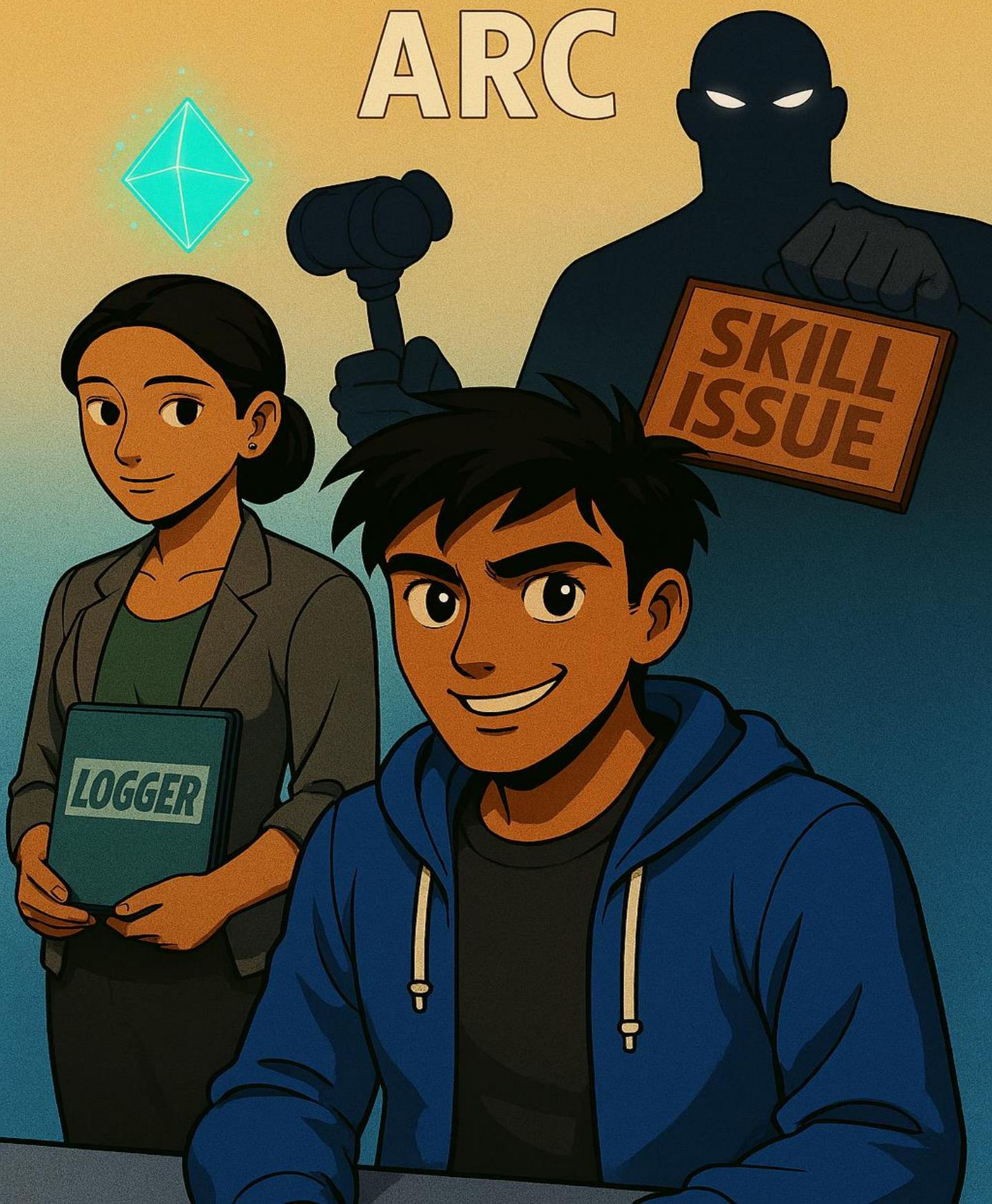


# SKILL DESERT ARC



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Week 3 of first year.

Another  
lab. Another  
10/10.

Here's a cleaner  
implementation  
and a test scaffold.

Perfect.  
Paste and  
go.

Clack  
clack

Marks climb.  
Confidence climbs faster.

## Grade Sheet

Lab	Mark
1	10
2	9.5
3	10
4	9.5
5	10

Why struggle  
when the model  
already knows?

I'll circle  
back later.



Note:  
base case  
+self-  
reduction?

## Recursion Exercise

Write a function to  
calculate factorial( $n$ )  
using recursion.

Lab

Crushing  
it, Ravi!

TOP OF  
COHORT

Belief sets.



I've got  
this.

Third year, first week.



NO  
EXTERNAL  
AI TOOLS



No...  
external...  
AI?

Easy... right?

Implement factorial with recursion;  
then debug intermittent memory  
leak in C module.

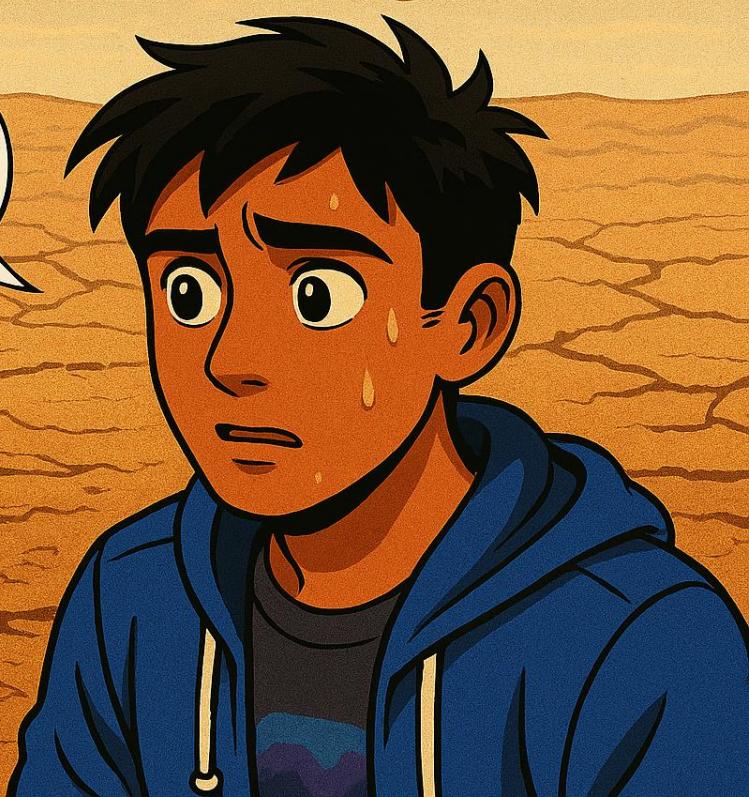
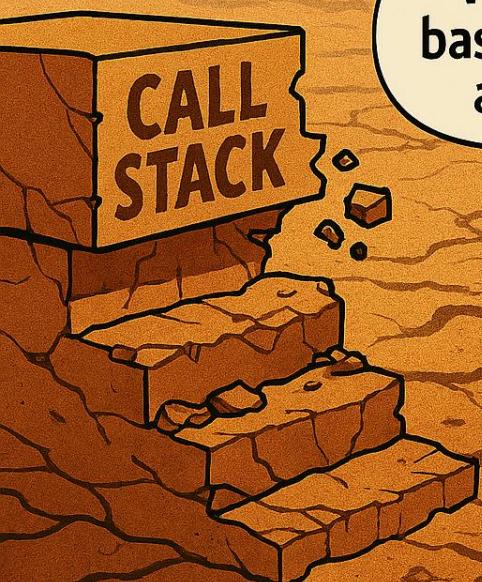
Easy... right?

Blinks...  
*blinks...*

When the tailwind stops,  
momentum isn't mastery.

SKILL DESERT

What's  
base case  
again?



## Infinite calls

```
factorial<n>
factorial<n>
factorial<n>
factorial<n>
factorial<n>
factorial<n>
factorial<n>
```

**BEEP—STACK LIMIT REACHED**

## Memory leak

**Leak suspected near buffer\_copy()**

80MiB

60MiB

50MiB

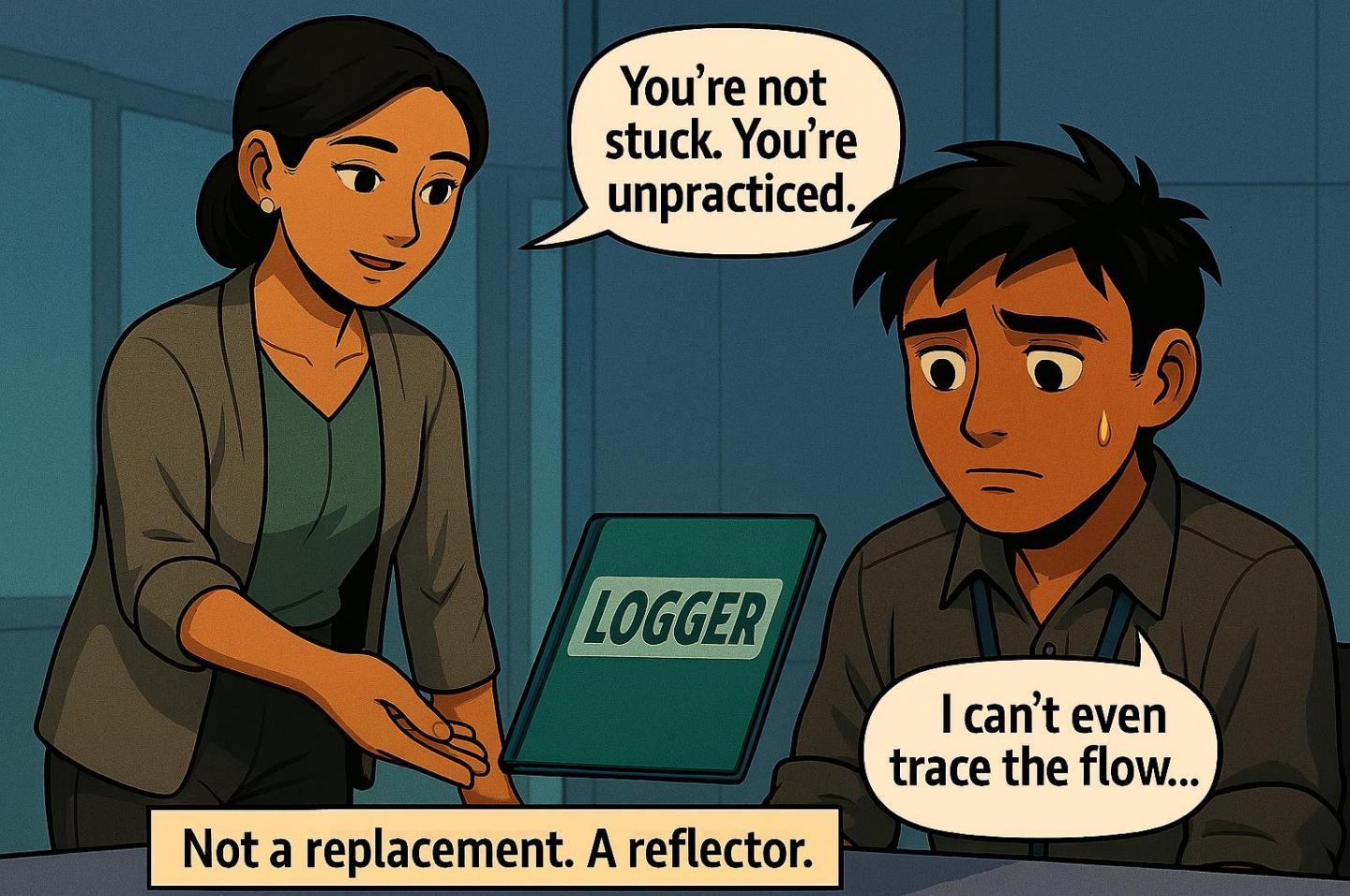
I can't even trace the flow..

High marks.  
Low intuition.

SKILL  
ISSUE

SKILL  
ISSUE

Was I just...  
copy-pasting  
competence?



You're not stuck. You're unpracticed.



Not a replacement. A reflector.

# LOGGER

Capture

Deconstruct

Hypothesize

Experiment

Explain

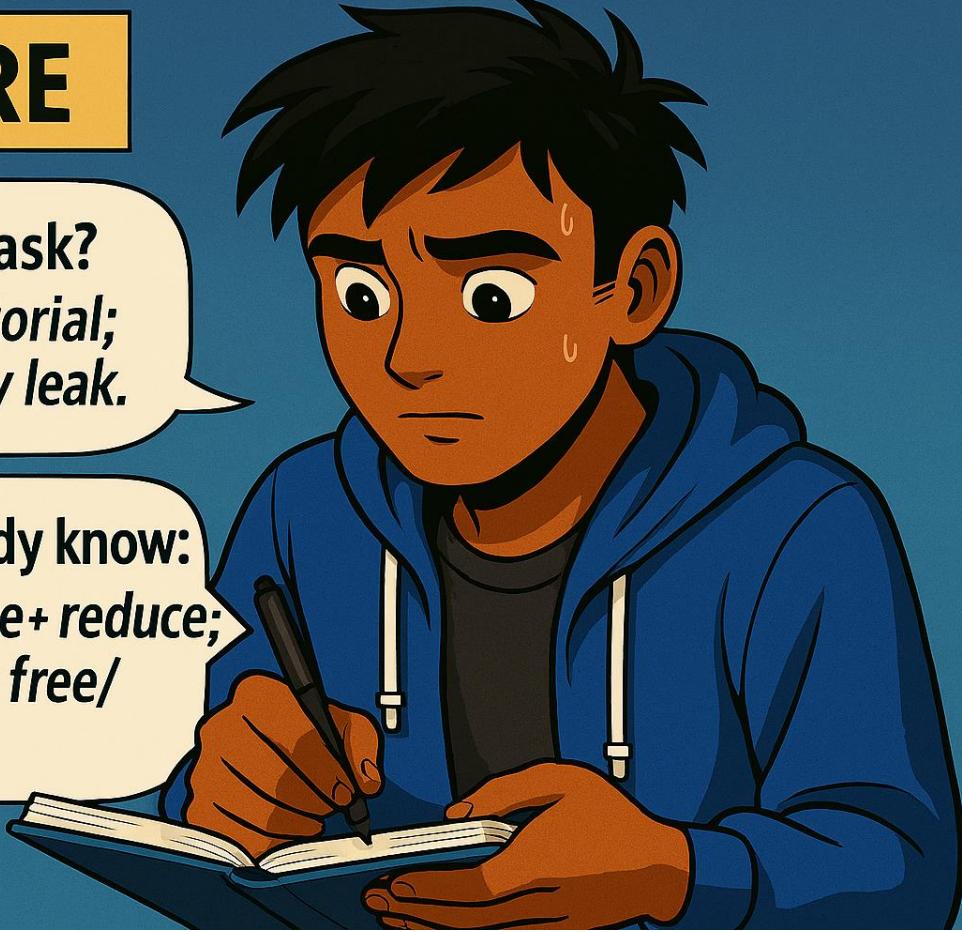
**SKILL  
ISSUE**

Write what you think before you test.  
Make thinking visible.

# CAPTURE

What's the task?  
*Recursive factorial;  
debug memory leak.*

What do I already know:  
*Recursion = base + reduce;  
leaks = missing free/  
unpaired alloc.*



CTRL+S Save the Planet . Avoid Printing



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All resources and materials are available at <http://alishakiba.github.io/beyond-declaration>