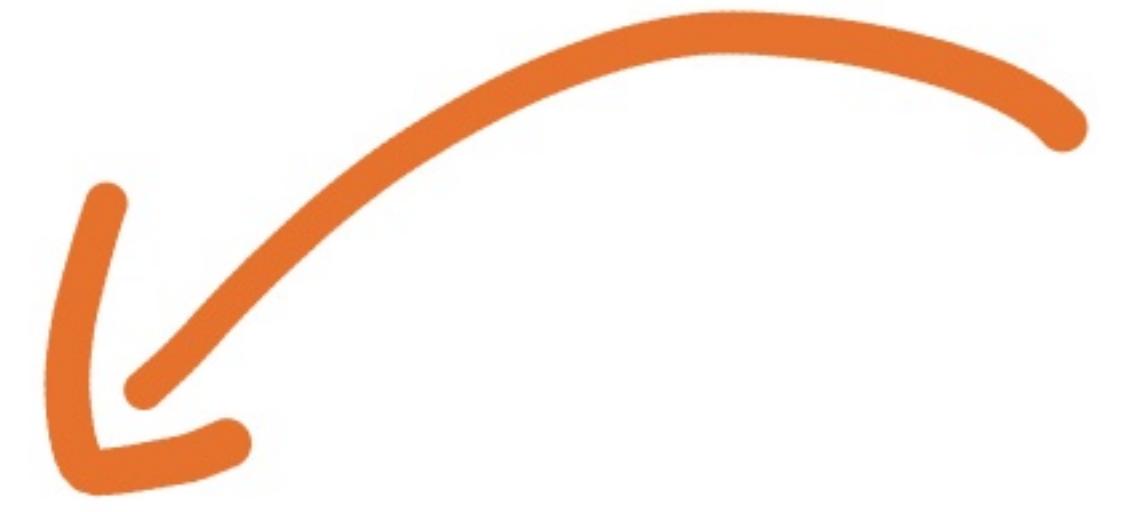


Jepsen

a syncing feeling



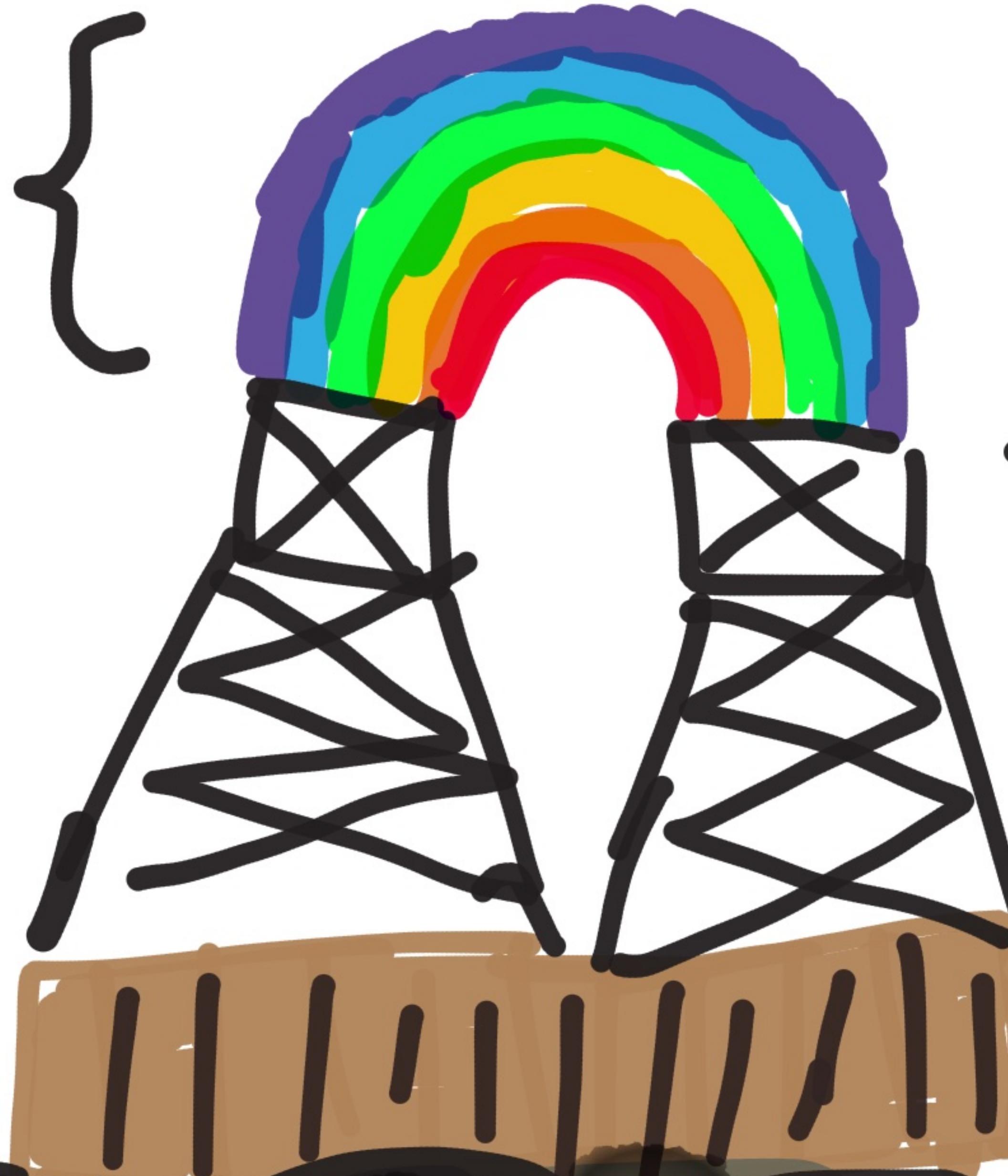
Kyle Kingsbury

@aphyr



I break  
databases!

Public  
API {



} API code

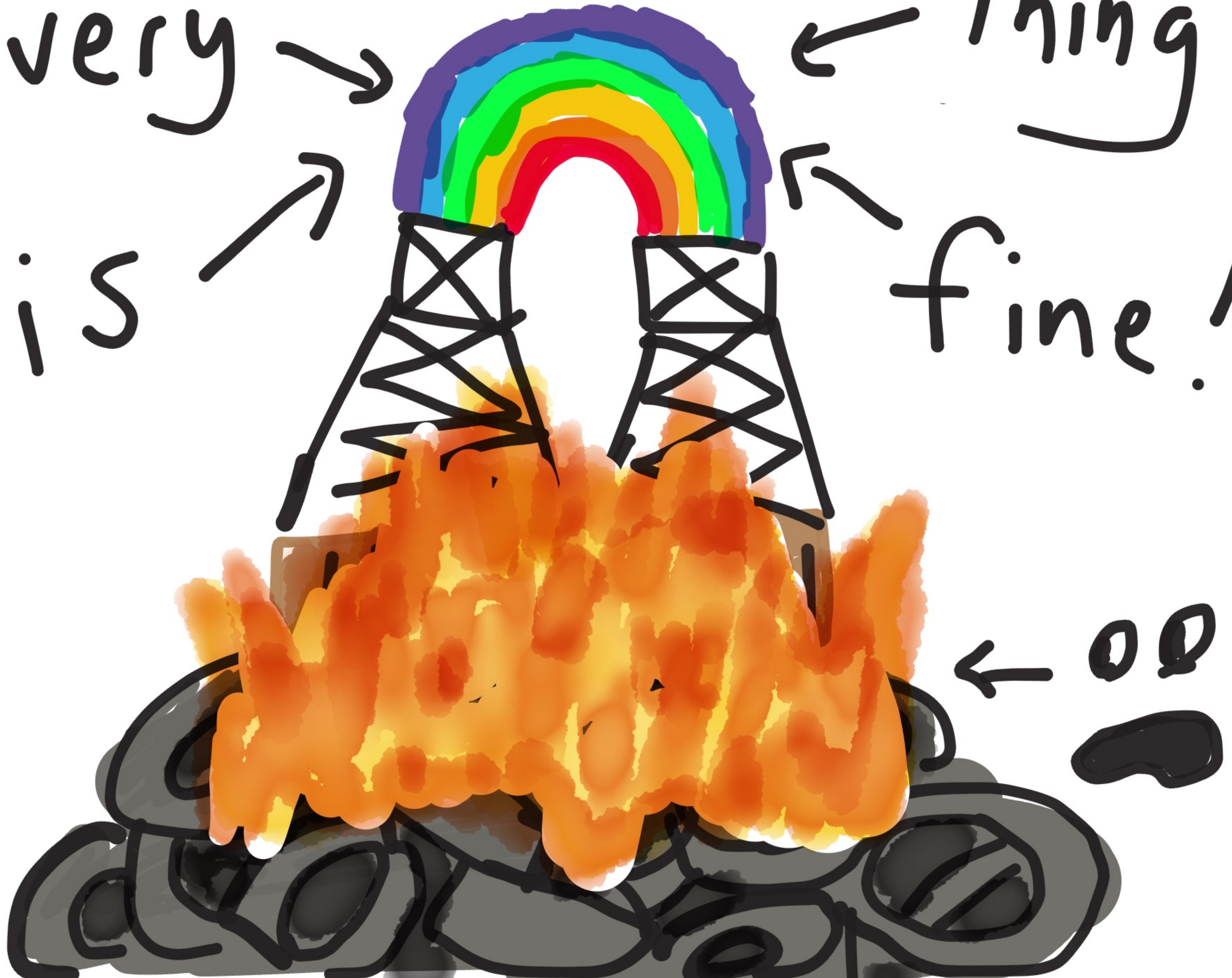
Ruby {



DBs

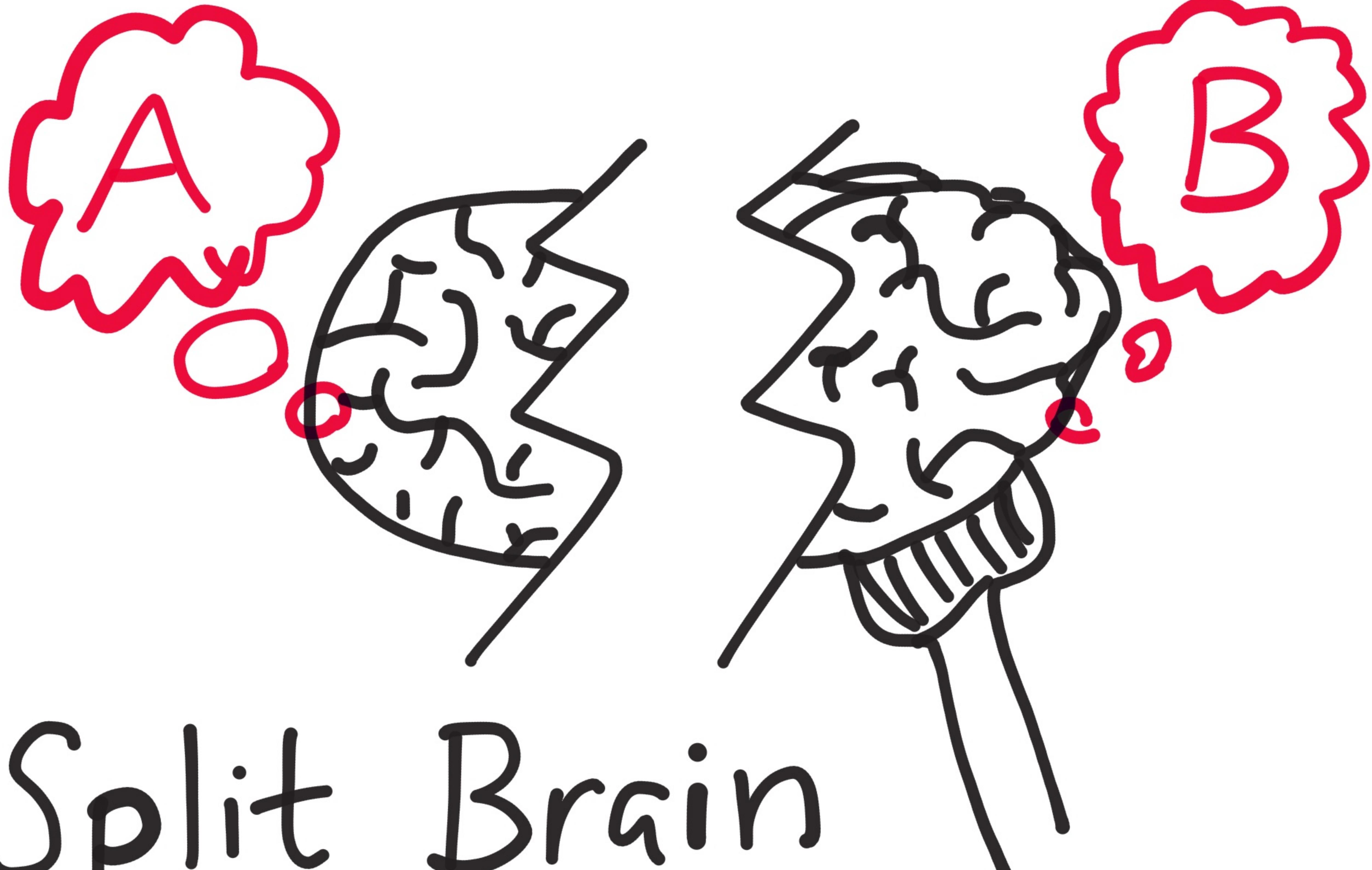
Every →  
is →

← thing  
fine !



← 00

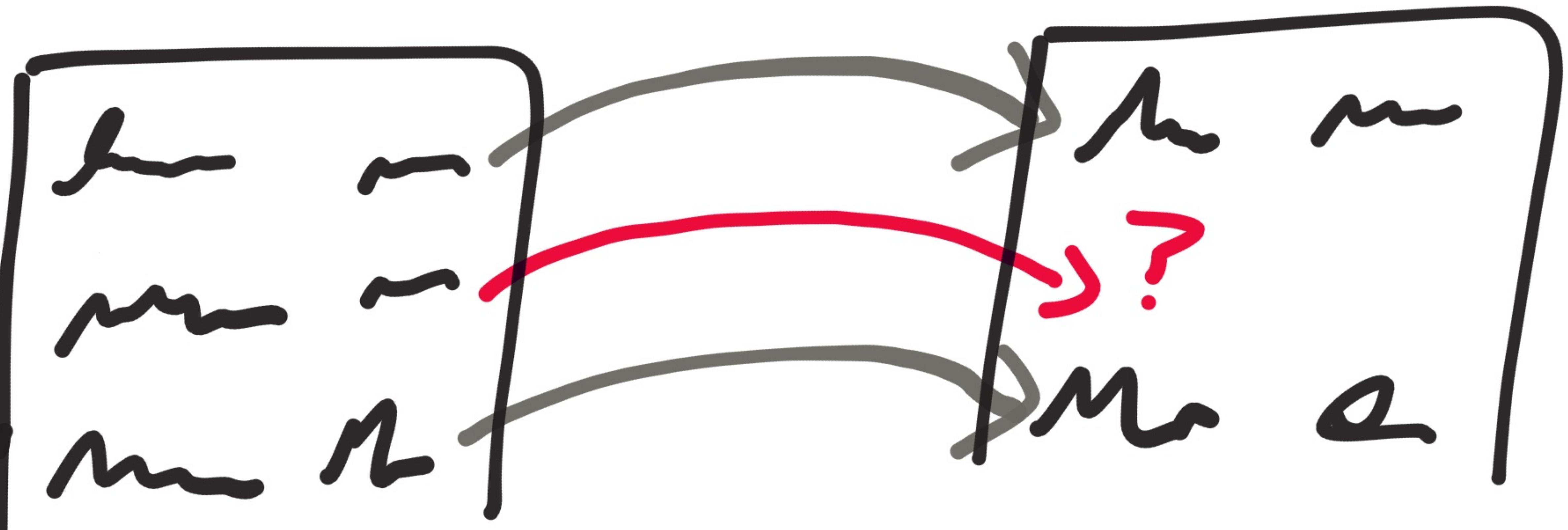
Databases! /  
Queues! /  
Discovery! /  
**THE HORROR**



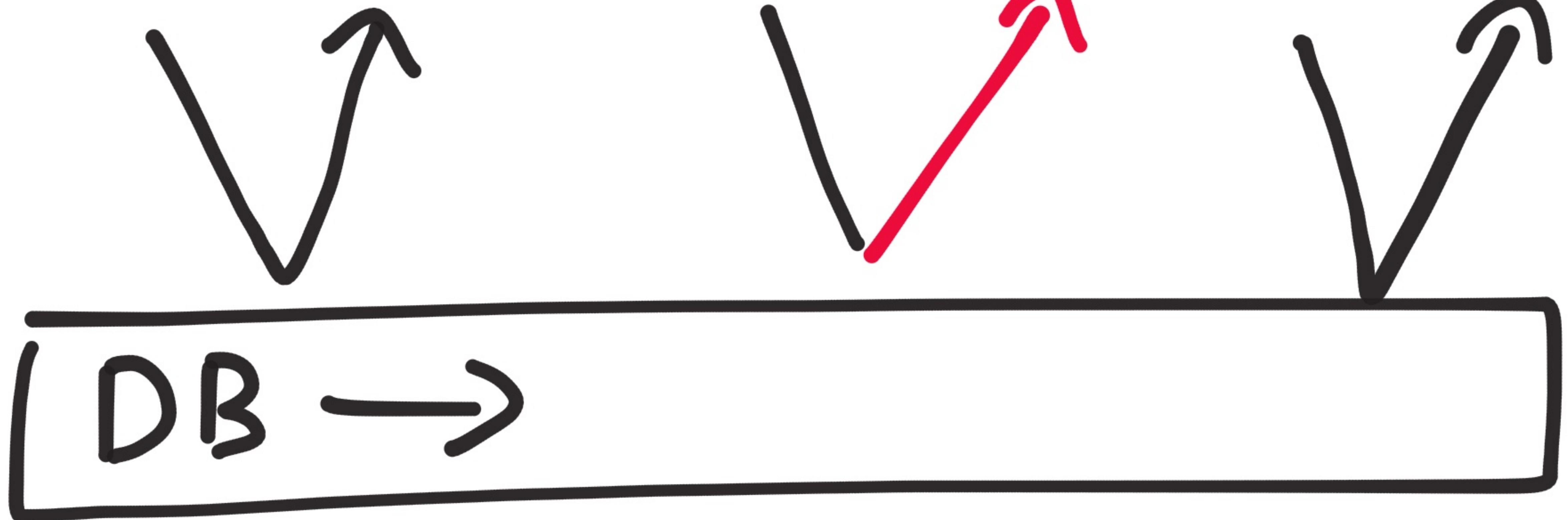
Split Brain

# Broken

# Foreign Keys



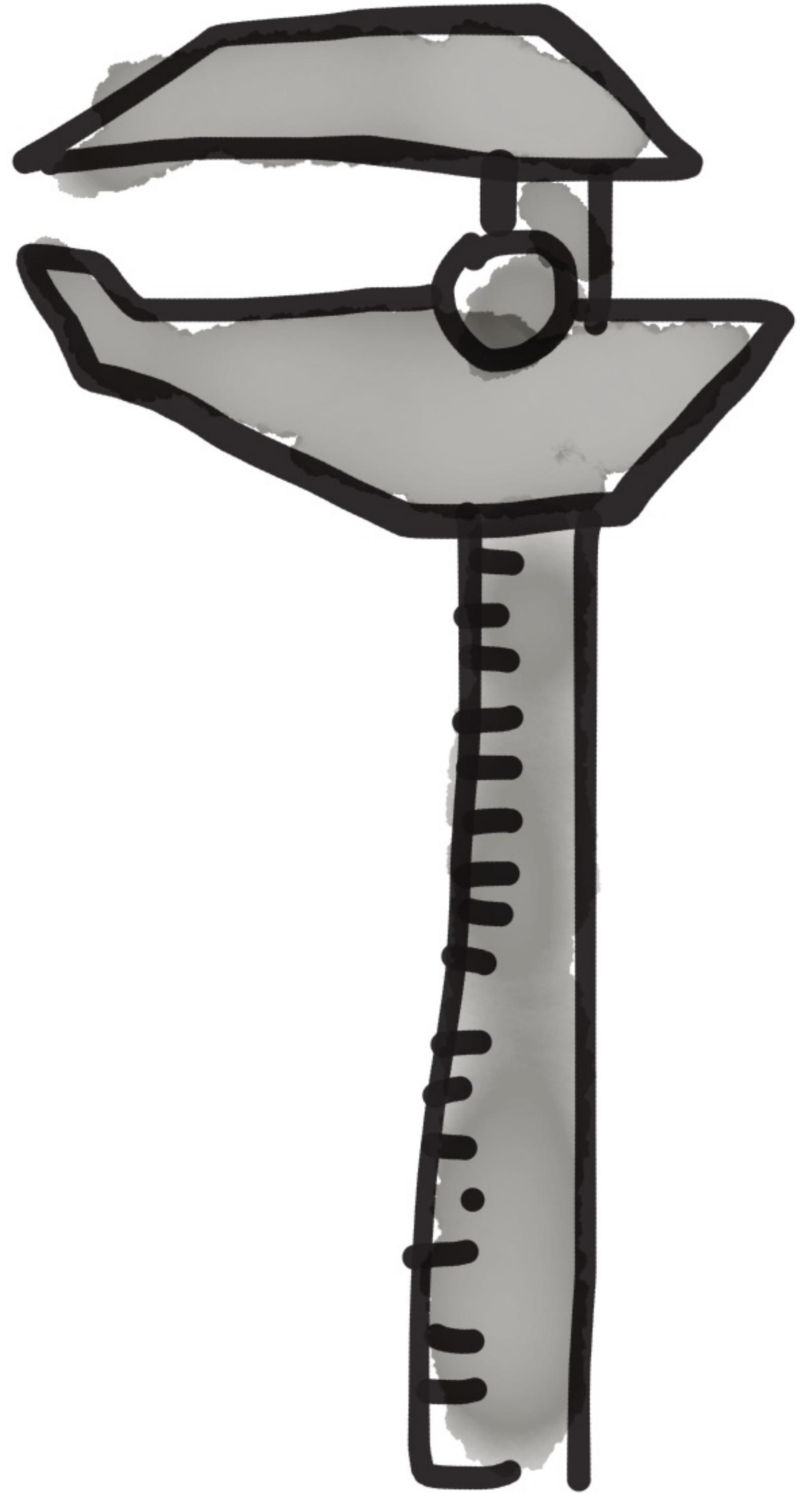
write ok      read      ↗ read ok



Anomalies

How do you  
know if a  
system is safe?

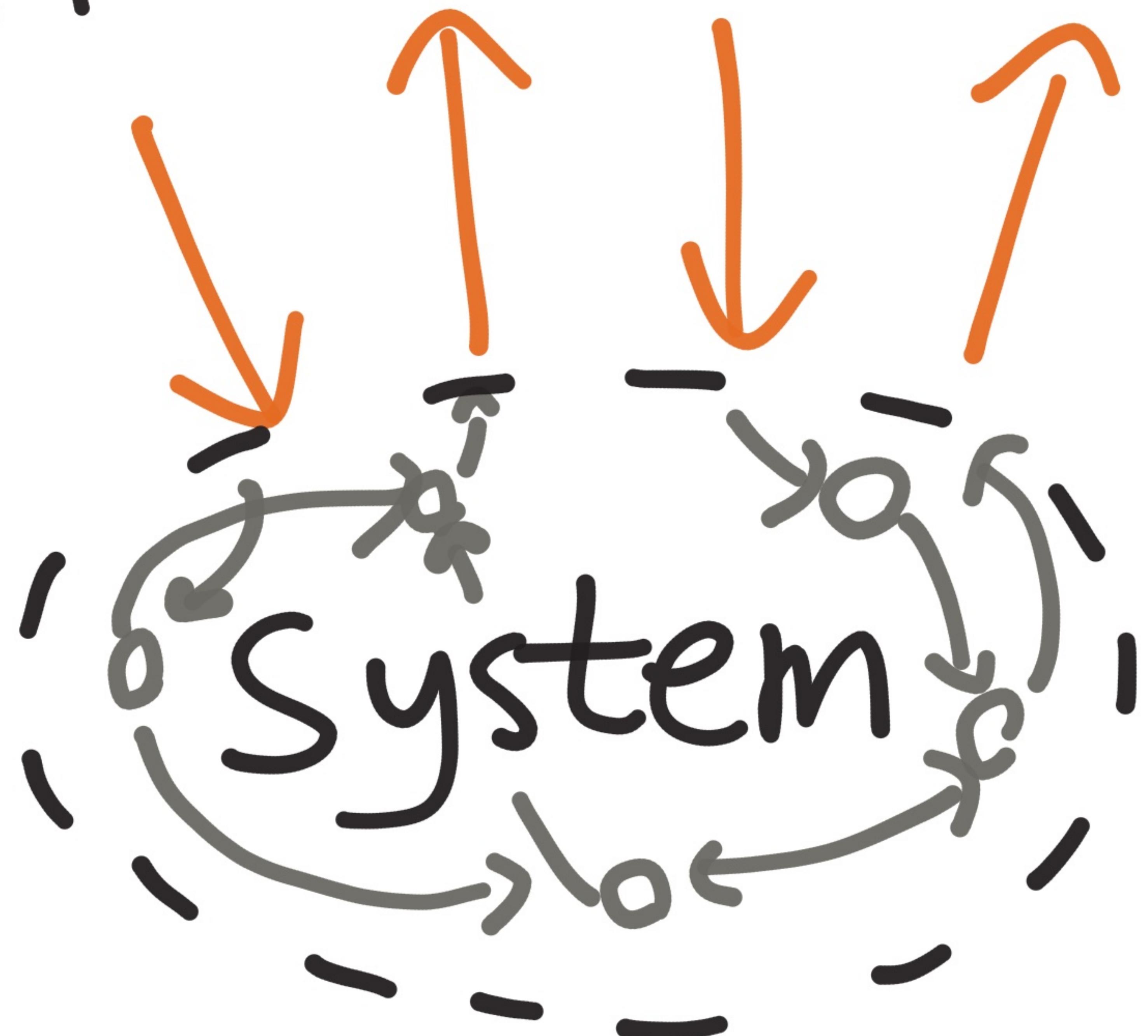
Measure  
your  
Systems



Jepsen

[github.com/aphyr/jepsen](https://github.com/aphyr/jepsen)

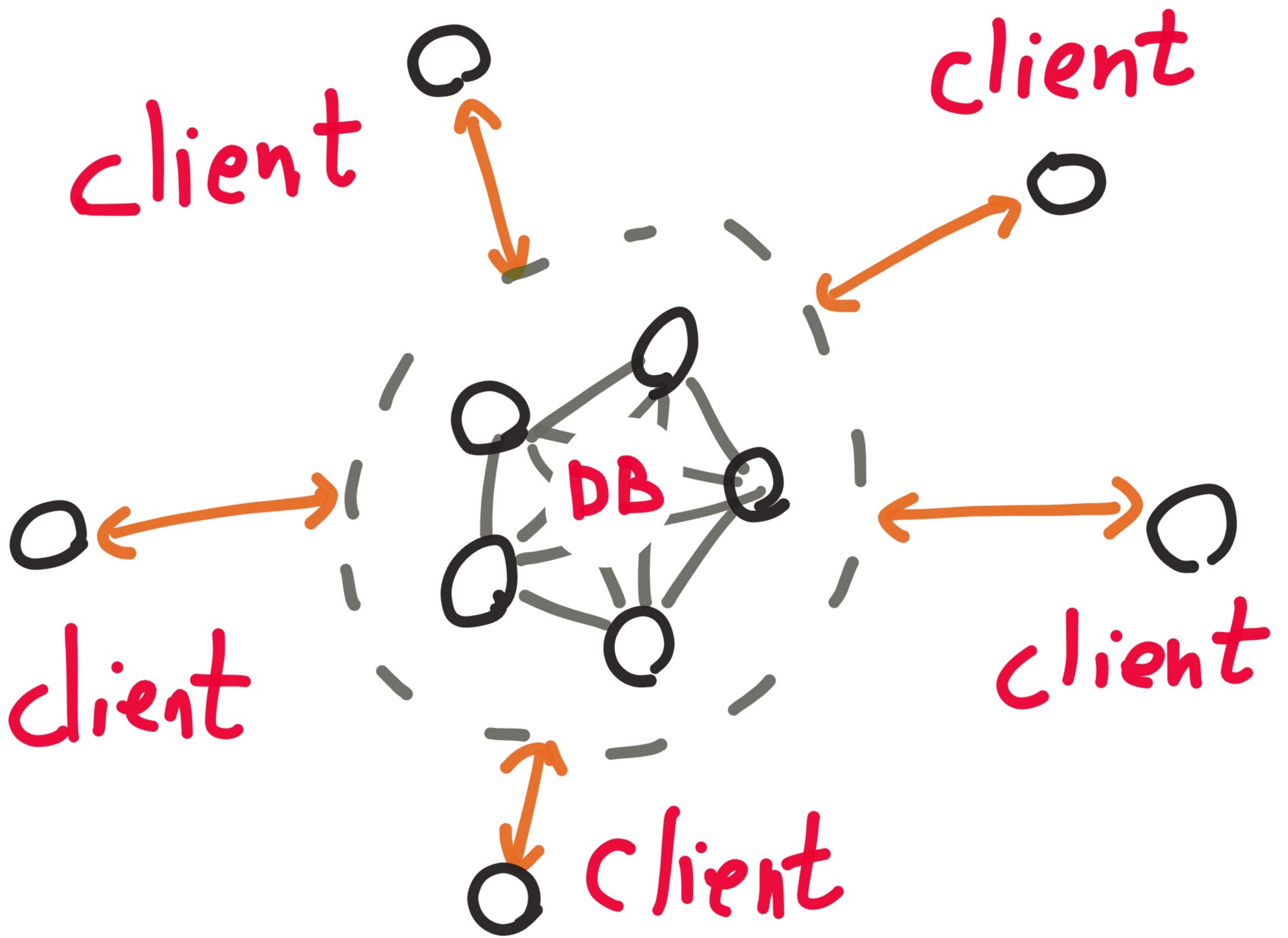
# Environment





# —INVARIANTS—





client:  $w-w'$   $r-r'$   $w-w'$

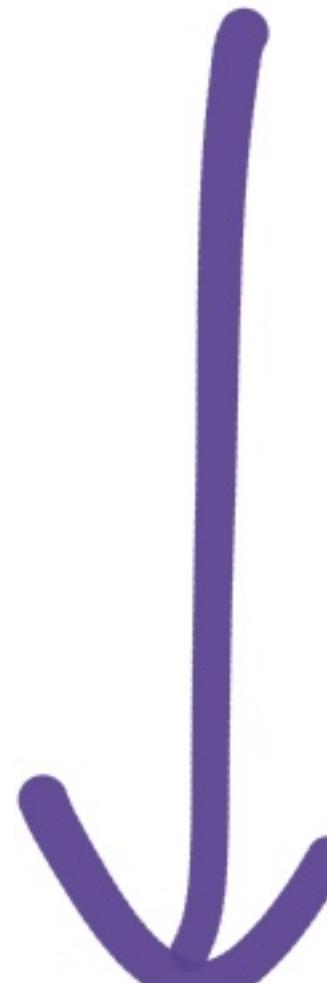
The diagram illustrates a client interacting with a central database (DB). Three arrows originate from the client and point towards the DB. The first arrow is labeled  $w-w'$ , the second  $r-r'$ , and the third  $w-w'$ . The DB is represented by a central, slightly blurred node.

DB:

client:  $w$  —  $w'$   $w$  —  $\dots$

The diagram shows a client node connected to a DB node. The DB node is also connected to a sequence of nodes labeled  $w$ ,  $w'$ , and then followed by an ellipsis ( $\dots$ ). This indicates a chain of nodes starting from the DB, passing through the client, and then continuing on.

Clients Generate  
random operations ( $w$ )  
and apply them  
to the system ( $w'$ )



invoke

ok

invoke

fail

invoke

?

?

info

?

?

?

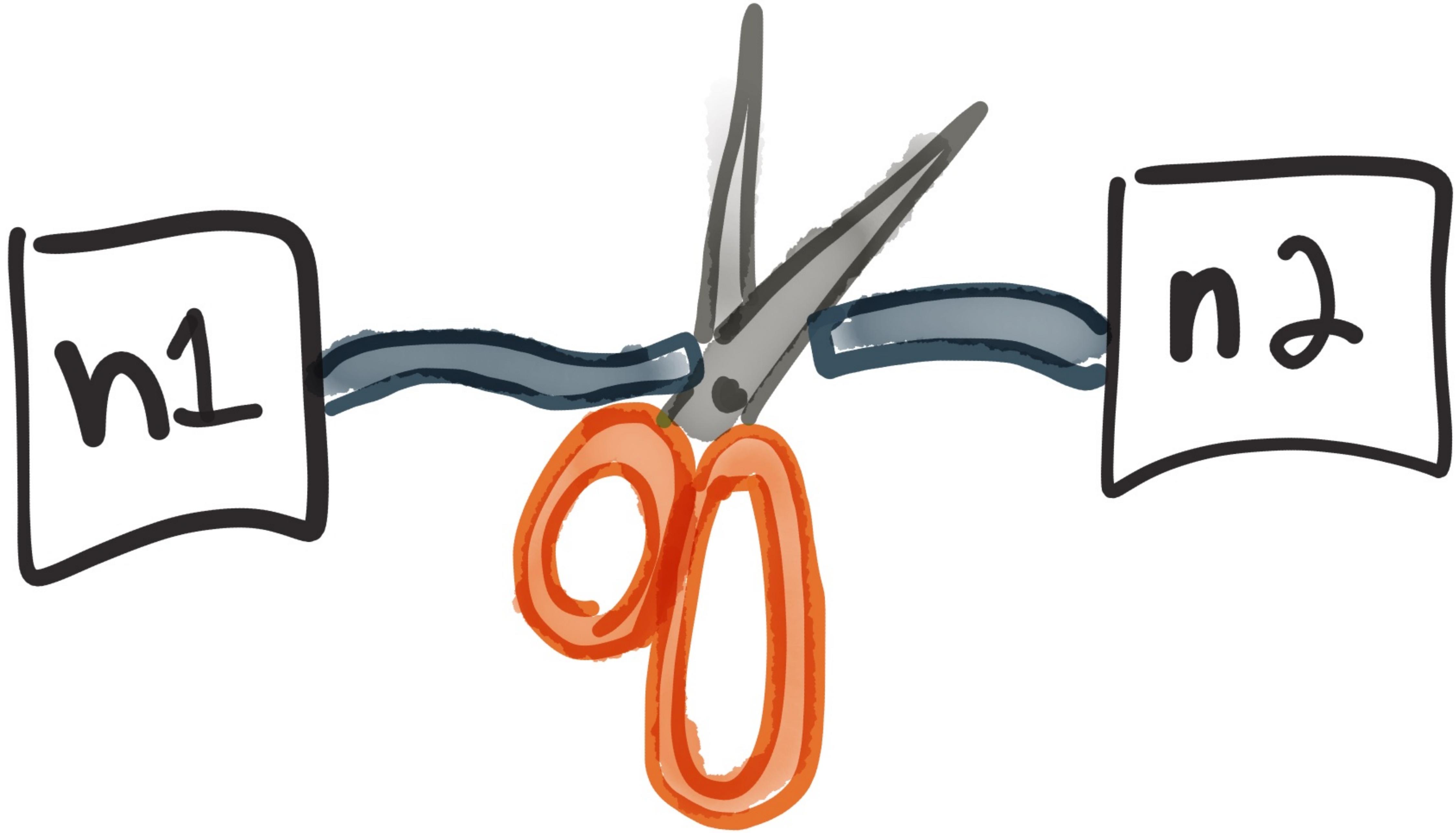
invoke ok

invoke fail

invoke ok

invoke info

1. Generate ops
2. Record history
3. Verify history is  
consistent w/ model



Partitions!

So, what  
have you  
found?

# Riak

LWW  $\rightarrow$  lost writes

CRDTs  $\rightarrow$  safe

5/13

# Mongo

Data loss at all  
Write Concerns

# Redis Sentinel

5/13

Split brain,  
massive write loss

# Cassandra

9/13

- LWW write loss
- Row isolation broken
- Transaction deadlock  
data less

# NuoDB

Beat CAP by buffering all requests in IRAM during partition

# Kafka

## In-sync Replica Set

Could shrink to 0

nodes, causing msg loss.

9/13

Zookeeper

Works.

# etcd / Consul

6/14

Stale reads

# Elastic search

Loses documents in  
every class of partition  
tested.

# RabbitMQ

Split brain, massive  
message less

# Aerospike

Claims "ACID", was  
really LWW.

# Elasticsearch

1.5.0

5/15

Still loses data  
in every test case

# MongoDB 2.6.7

---

5/15

stale reads

dirty reads

# Chronos

8/15

- Breaks forever after losing quorum

# Percona XtraDB/Galera 9/15

---

- "Snapshots" weren't
- First-committer-wins  
not preserved
- Read locks broken

# RethinkDB

---

1/16

- Basic tests passed
- Reconfiguration Could  
destroy cluster in  
rare cases

- Stale reads
- Dirty reads
- Lost writes

# Crate.io

2016

- Stale reads
- Dirty reads
- Lost/corrupt updates
- Lost inserts

# CockroachDB

---

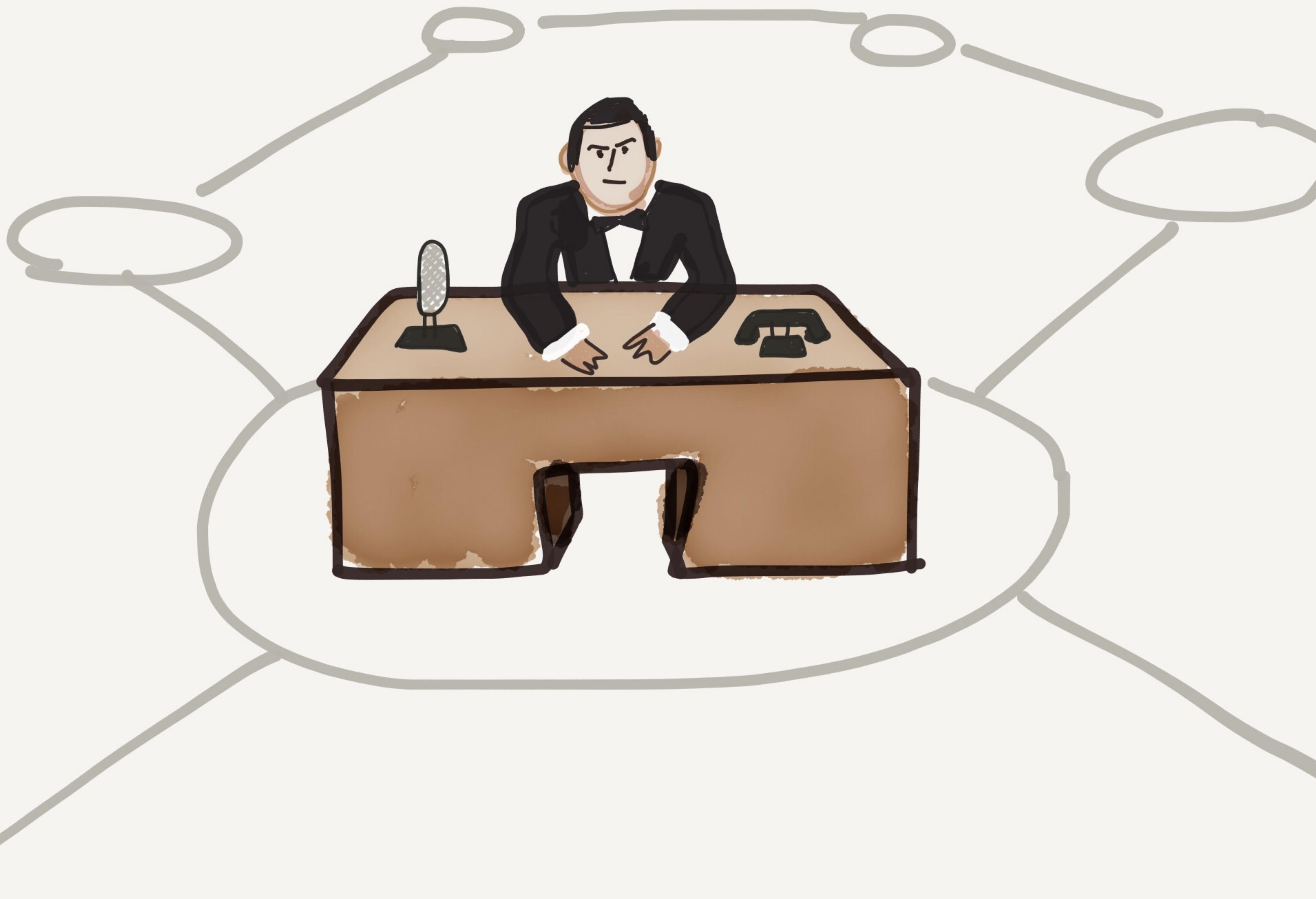
2017

- phantoms
- Double inserts

# MongoDB

2017

- v0 protocol broken,  
loses data
- Multiple data loss bugs  
in v1 protocol





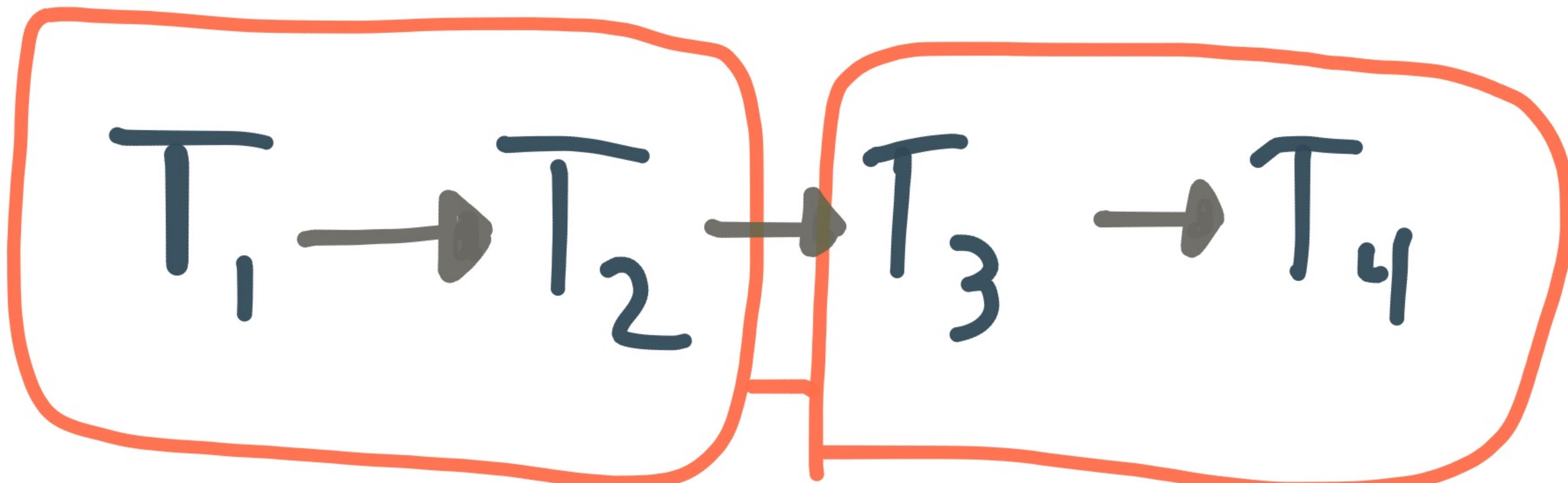
- Transaction replication
- Pluggable FSMs
- Byzantine fault tolerant

"Raft Meets  
Blockchain"

Like e.g. Raft, forms a linearizable order of txns

$$T_1 \rightarrow T_2 \rightarrow T_3 \rightarrow T_4$$

Like Raft, provides a linearizable order of txns



blockchain!

Byzantine

Fault  
Tolerant!

shun!



shun!



shun!



Pluggable

State

Machines

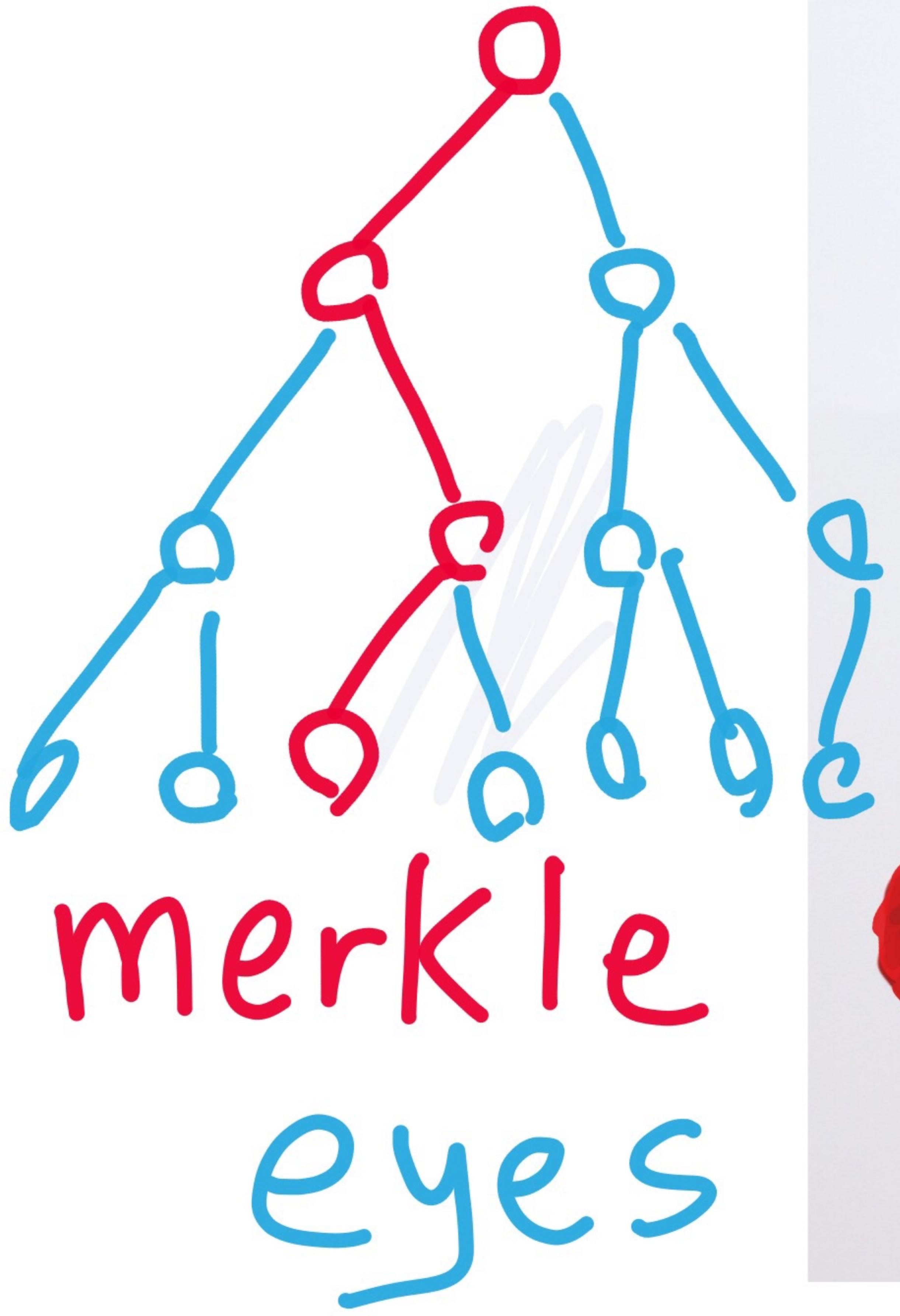
Validator

validator

State

State





# CAS-register

- read(2)
- write(5)
- cas(1, 4)

# Set

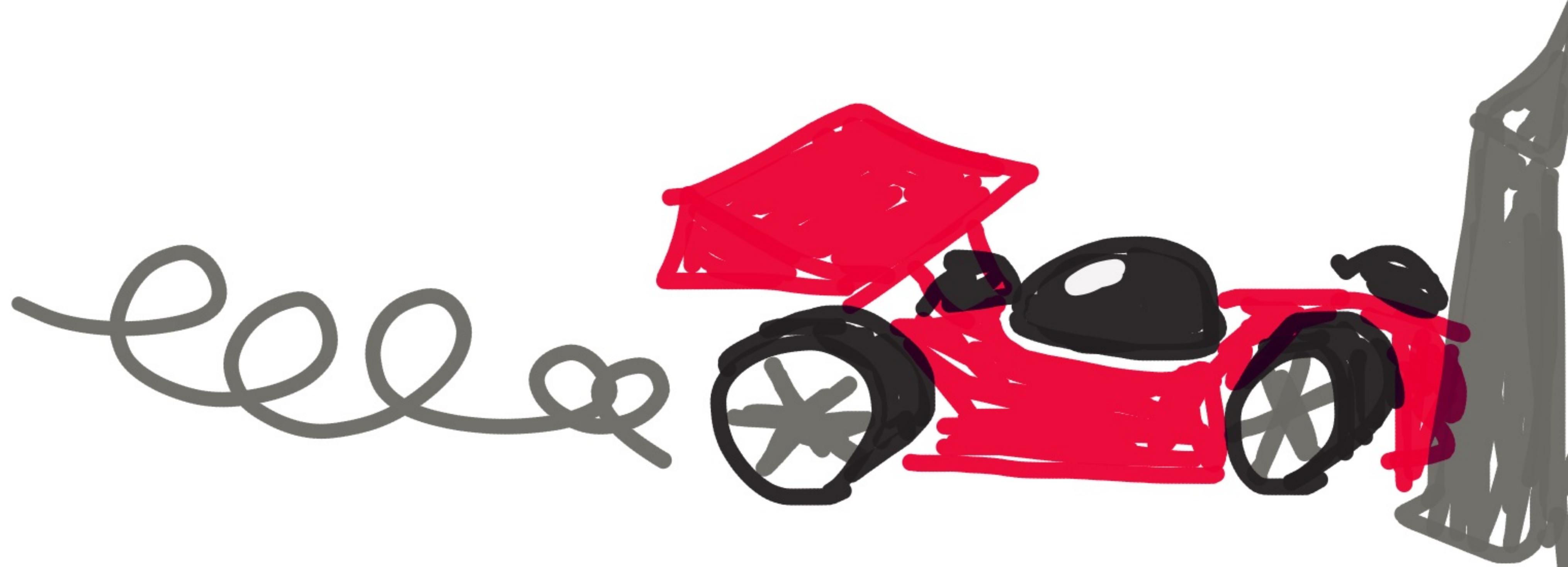
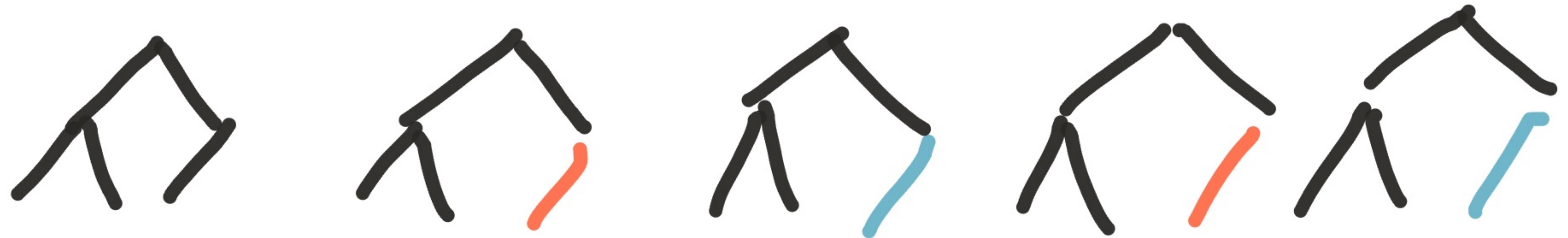
- add(6)

read({1,2,3})

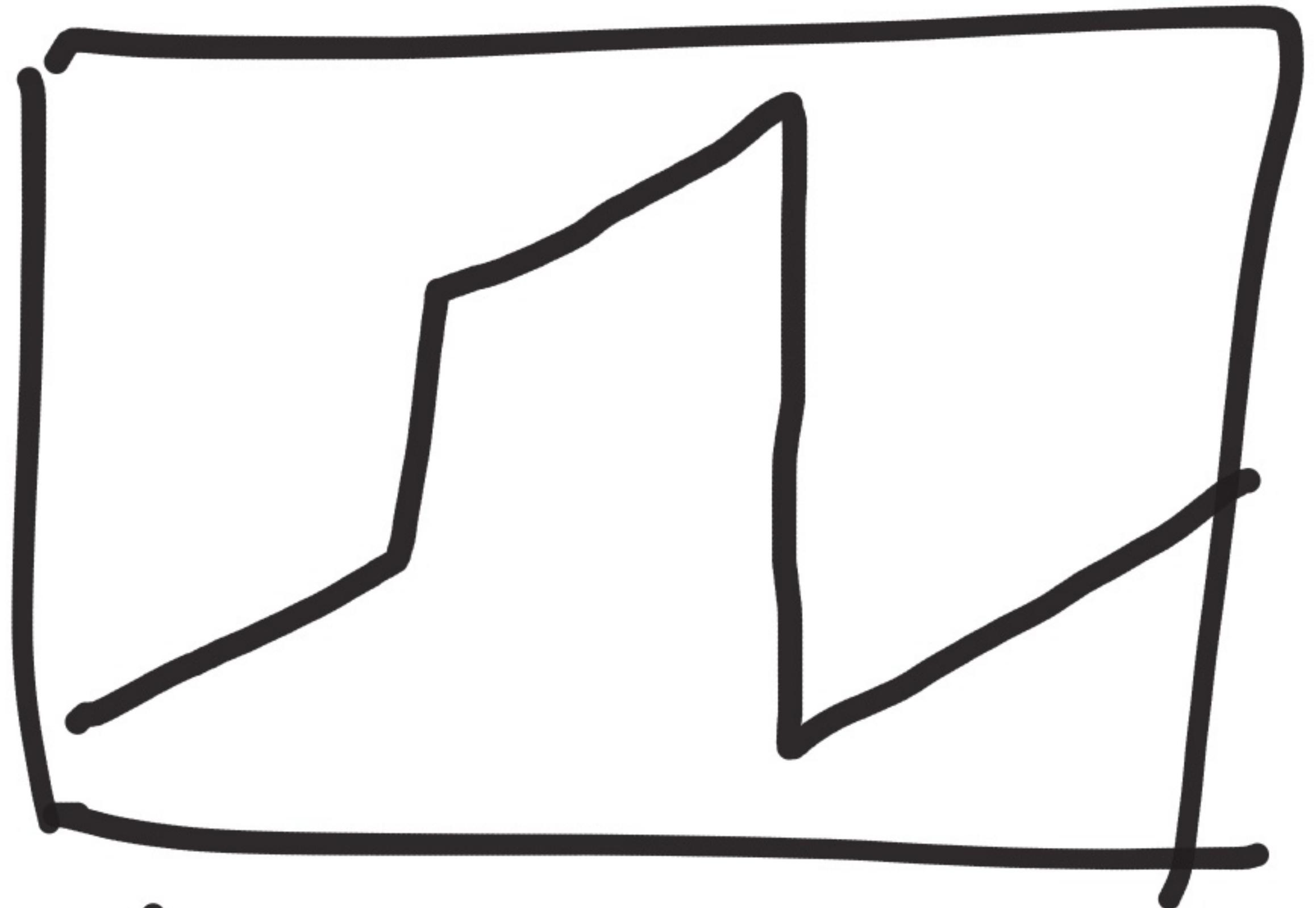
[cas({1,2,3}, {1,2,3,6})

- read({1,2,3,...})

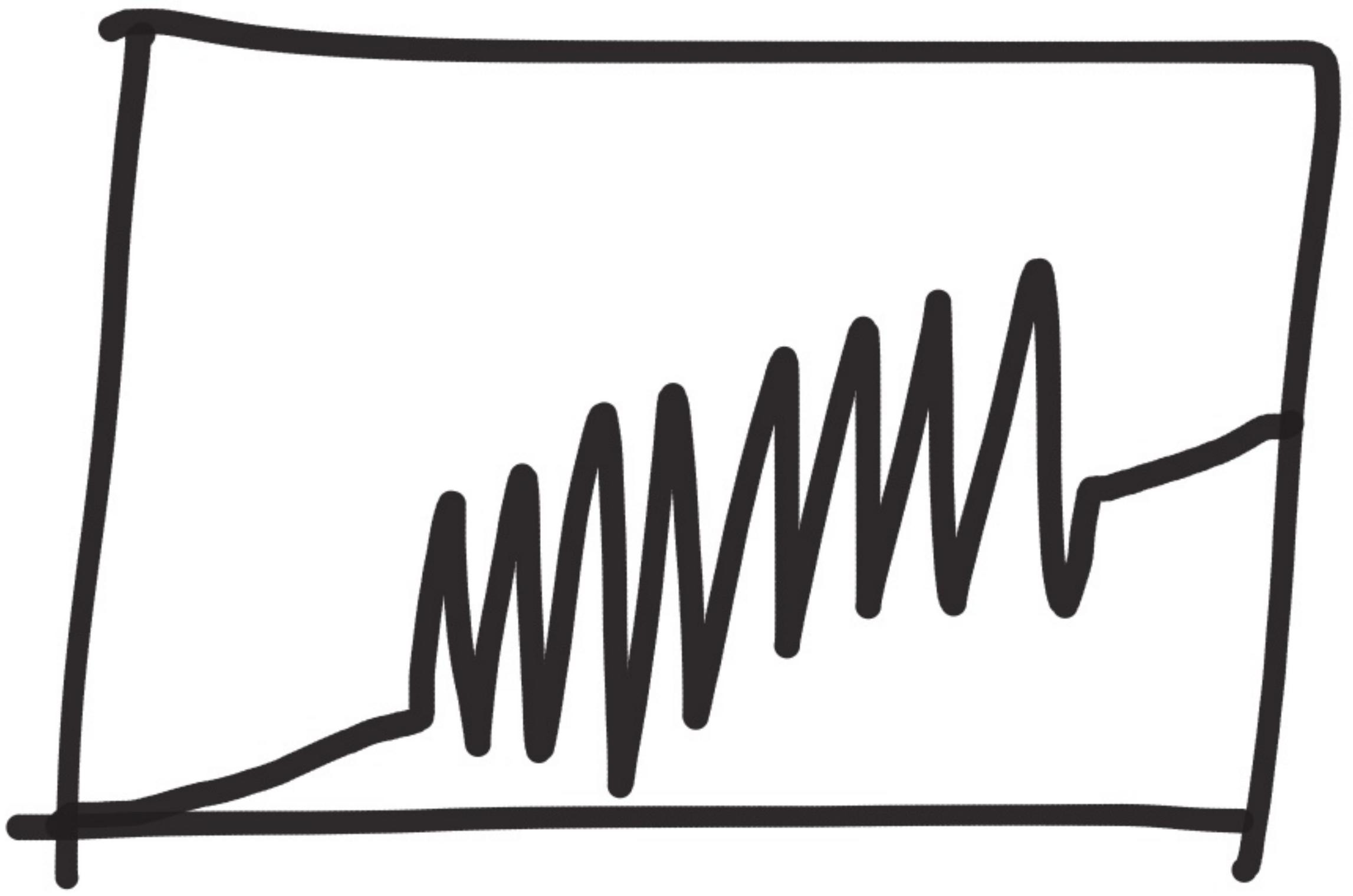
# Merkleeyes Race



clock skew



bump



strobe

# crashes

$n_1$  — 

$n_2$  — 

$n_3$  — 

$n_4$  — 

$n_5$  — 

—

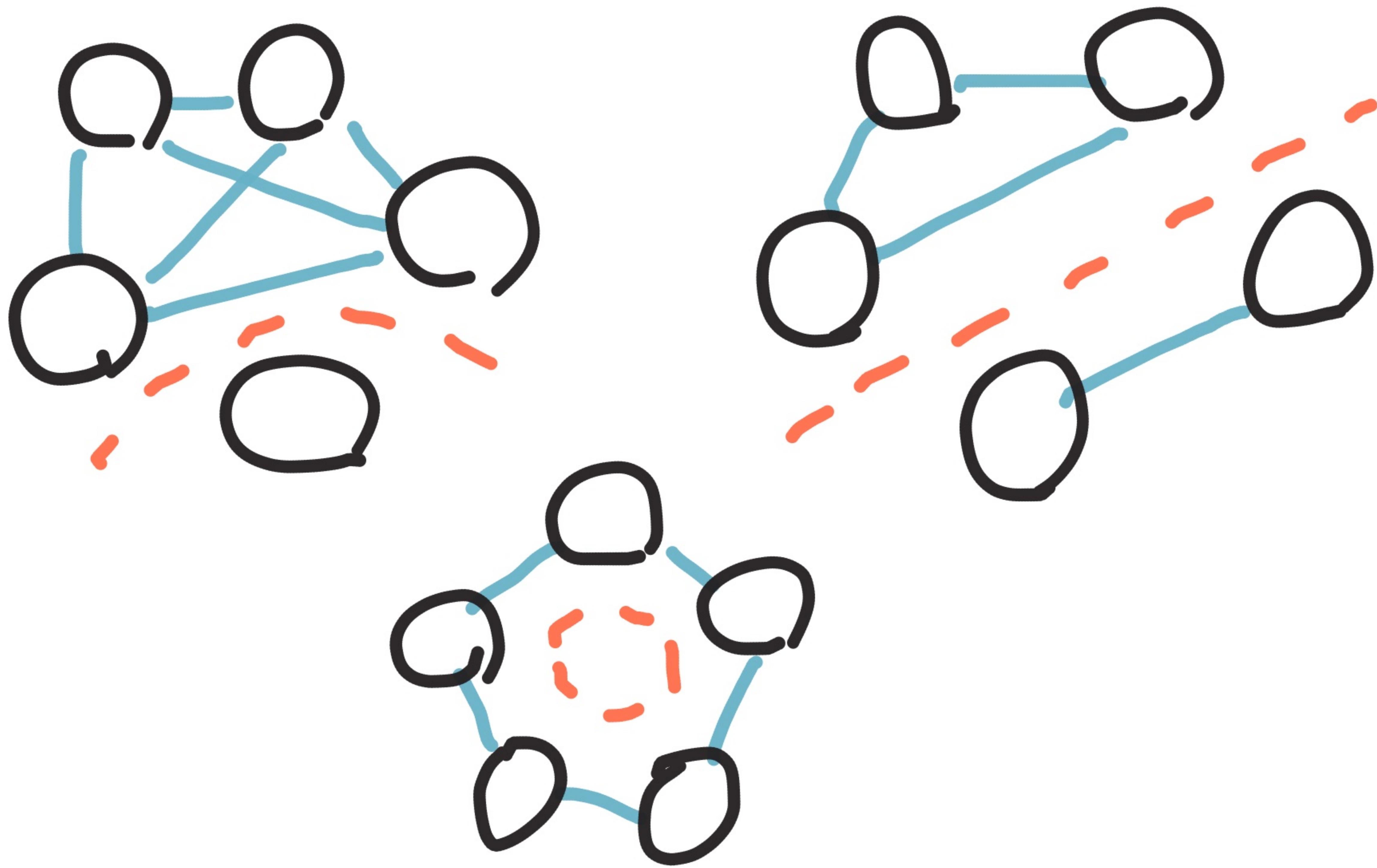
—

—

—

—

# Partitions



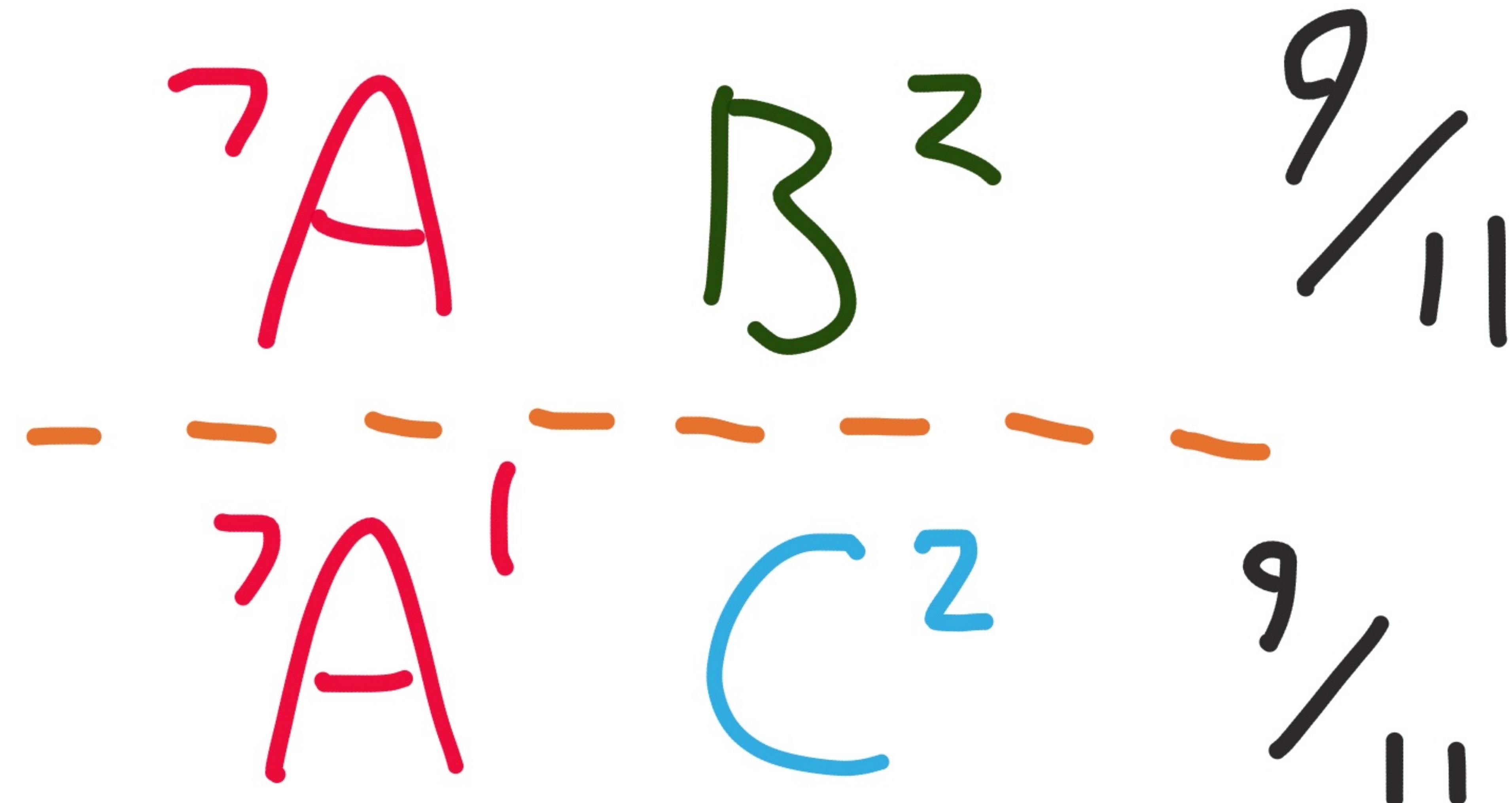
# Duplicate Validators

'A' B<sup>2</sup>

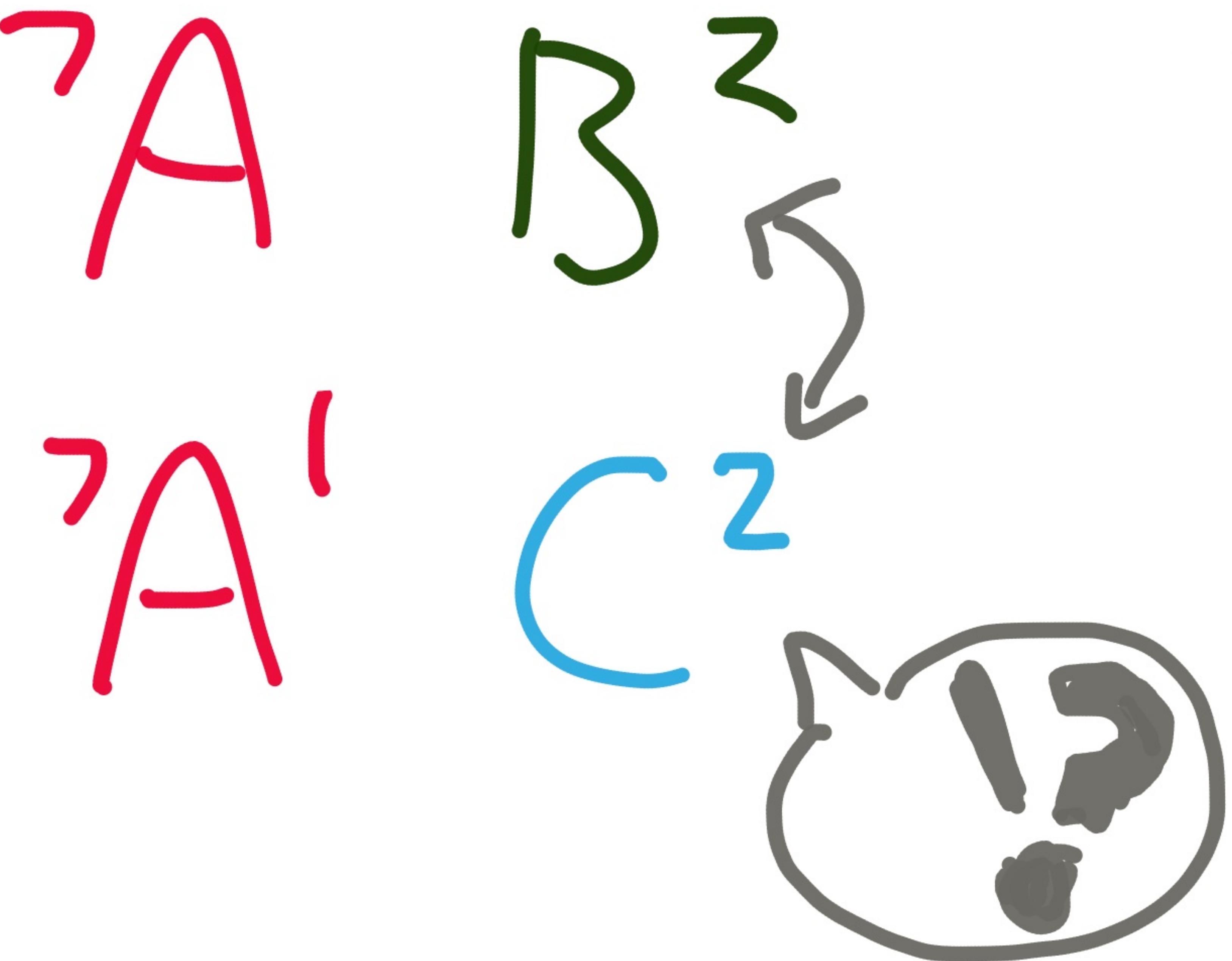
'A'<sup>1</sup> C<sup>2</sup>

$$7 + 2 + 2 = 11$$

# Duplicate Validators



# Duplicate Validators



lost

Documents



*iff*



> / 3

of votes

# file truncation



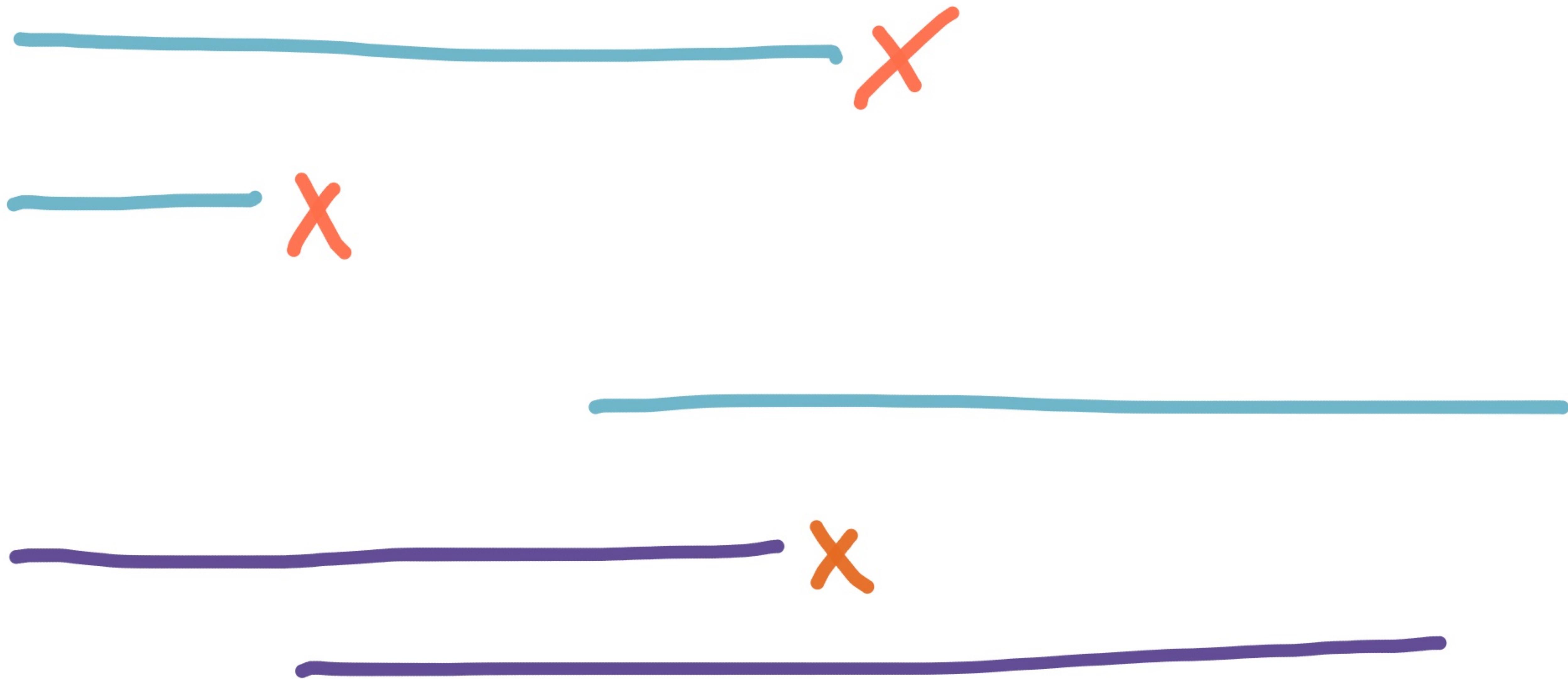
Merkleeyes crash!

(goleveldb bug)

# Tendermint

Doesn't fsync to  
disk!

# Dynamic Reconfig



Data Corruption &

Crashes are to be  
expected — Tendermint

is still in beta

Team working to

fix these issues





*hazelcast*

3.8.3

# In-memory

DATA  
GRID

Sets

Lists

IDs

Semaphores

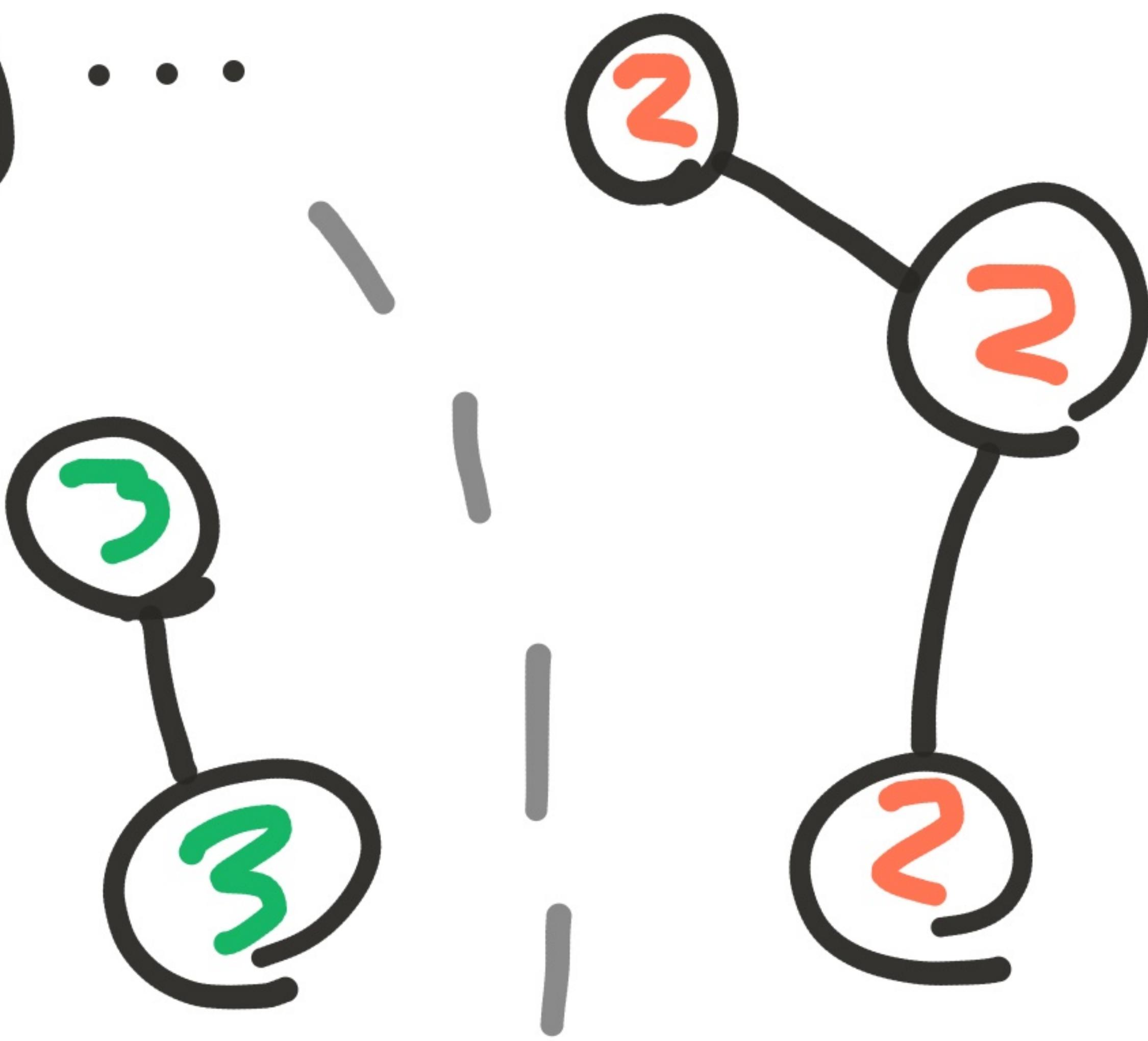
Queues

Maps

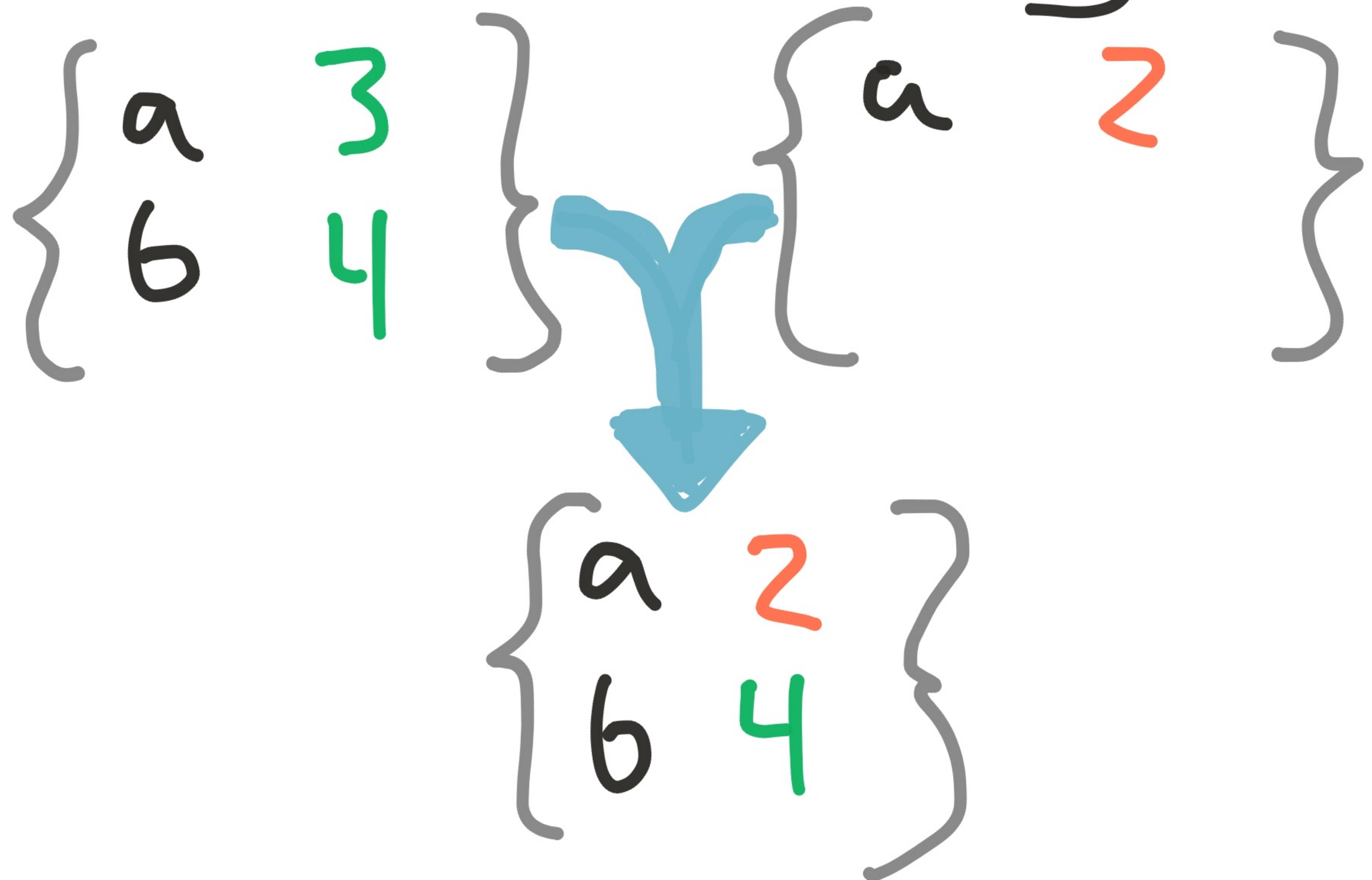
Locks

Atomic Longs

But in a partition,  
Components run  
independently ...

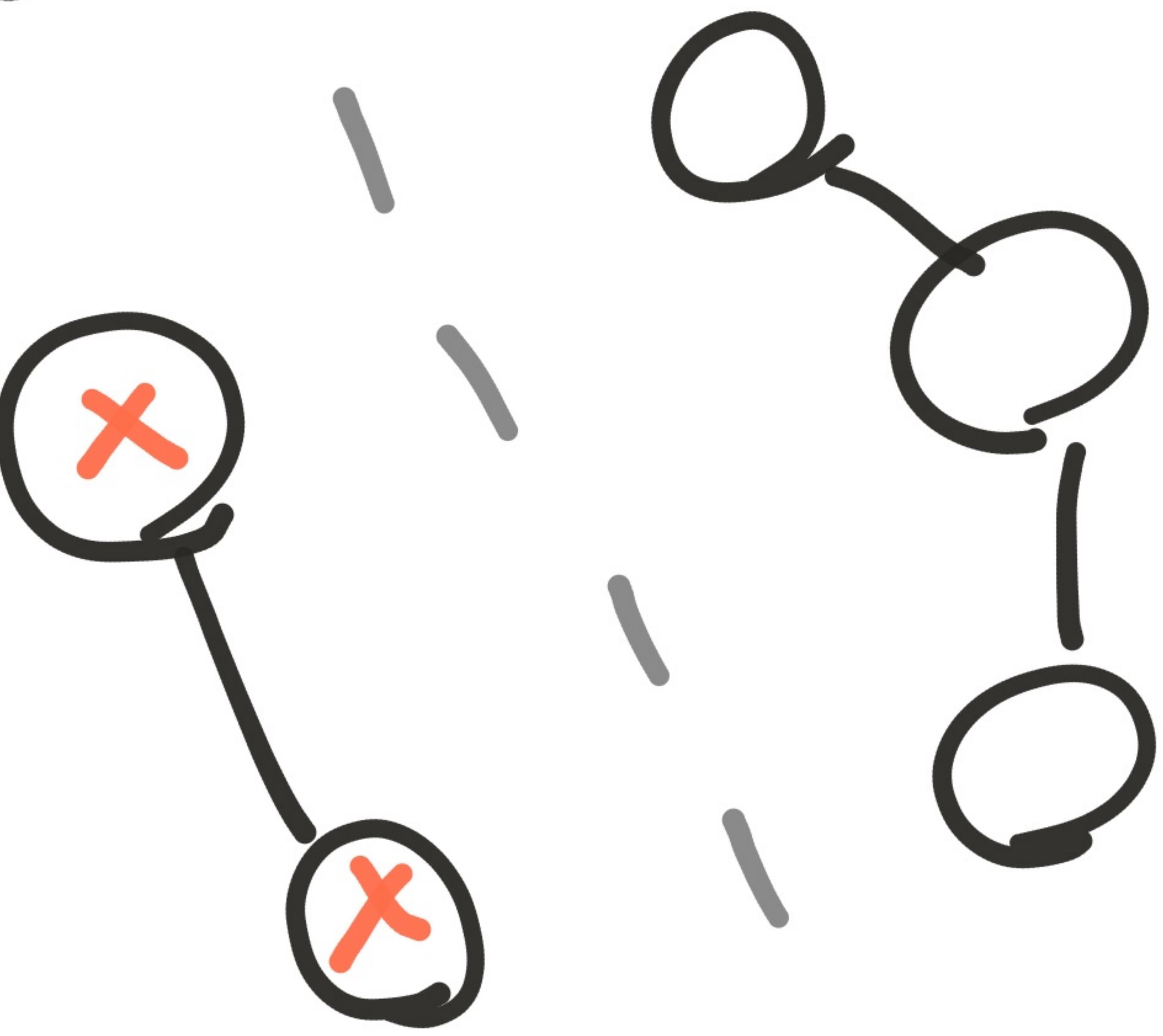


Maps have merge



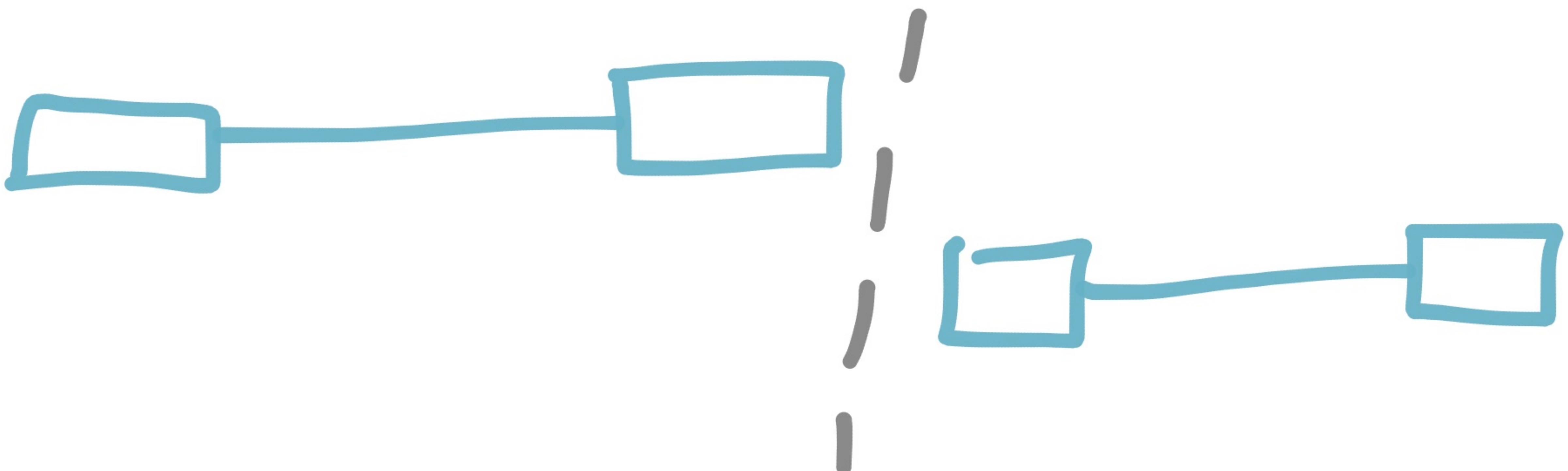
# Split-Brain Protection

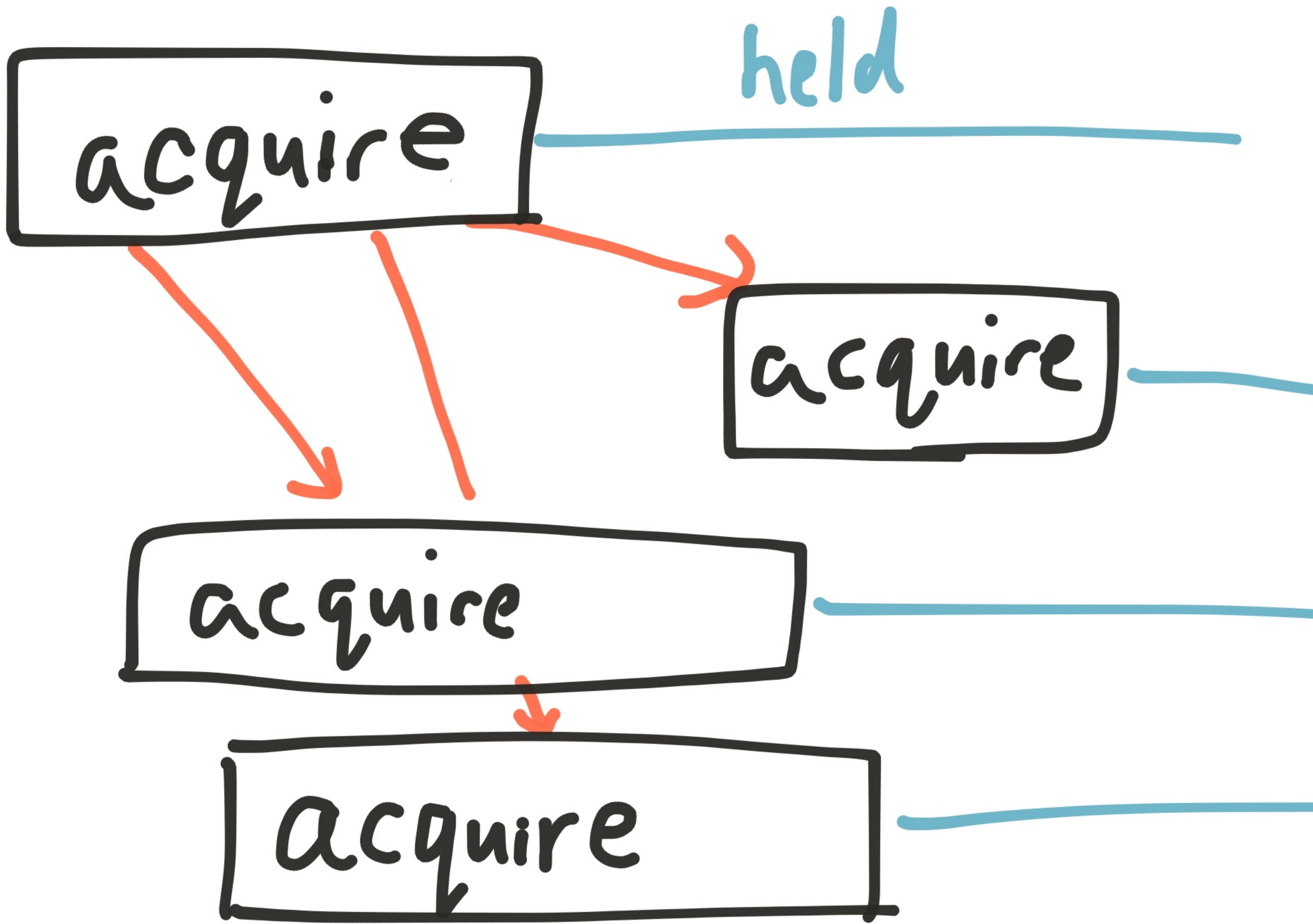
( $10^+$  seconds)



# Locks

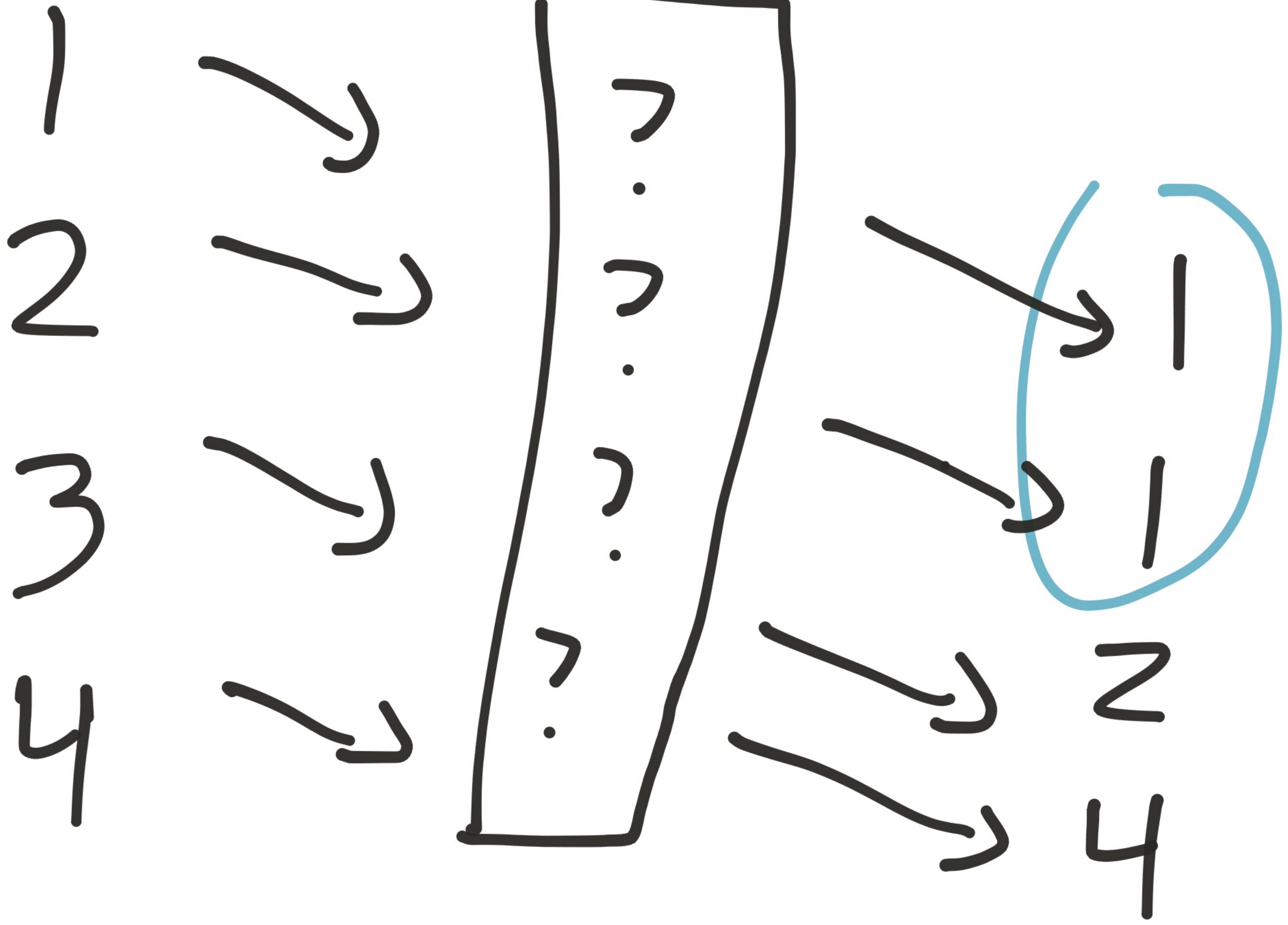
"Guaranteed to be executed by only one thread in the cluster"





# Queues

"...you can add an item  
in one machine and  
remove it from  
another one"



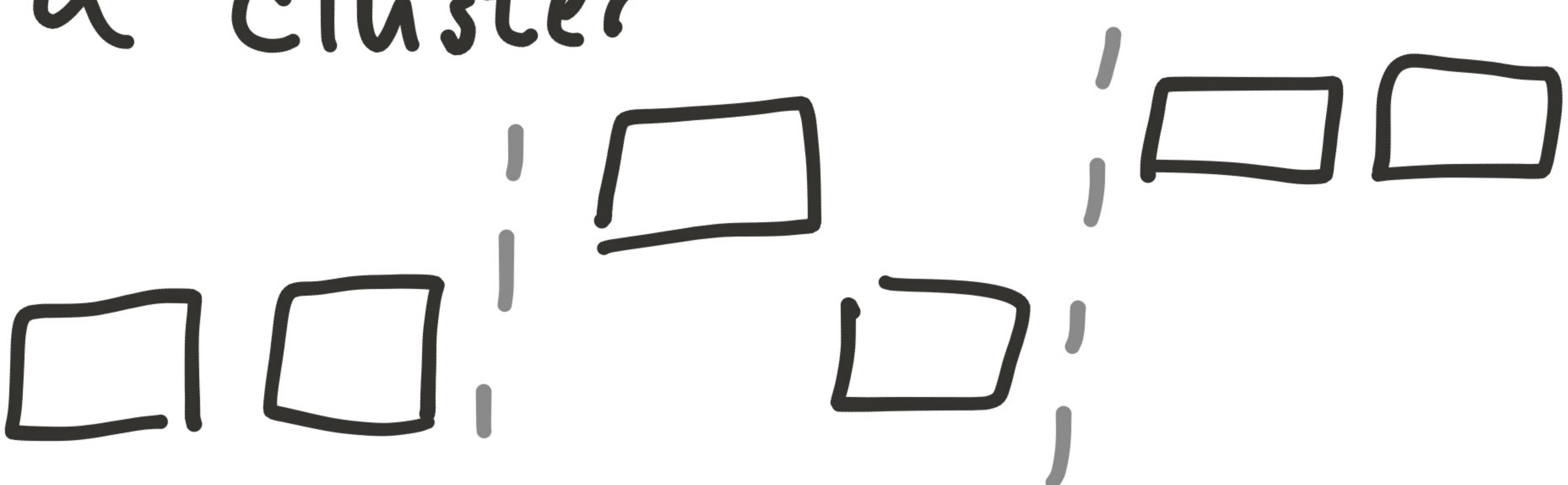
$\sim 2\%$  duplicated

$\sim 2\%$  lost

worse with default  
timeouts

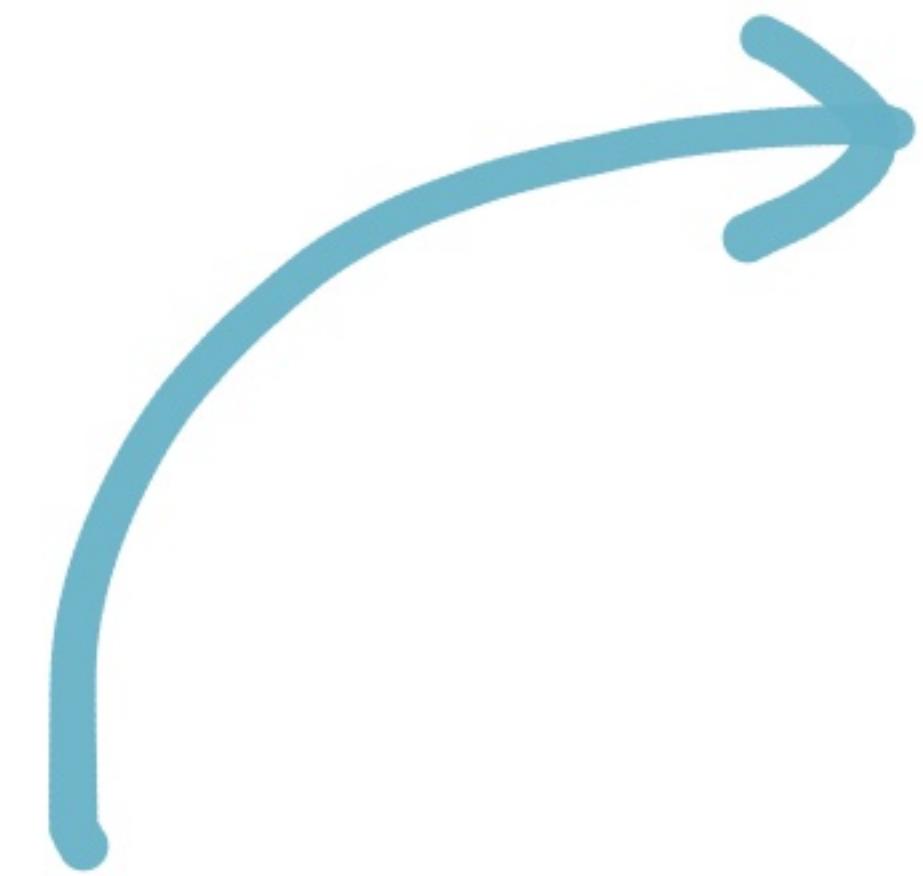
# Atomic Reference

"Guaranteed atomic  
Compare and set across  
a cluster"



increment

$$2 + 1 = 3$$

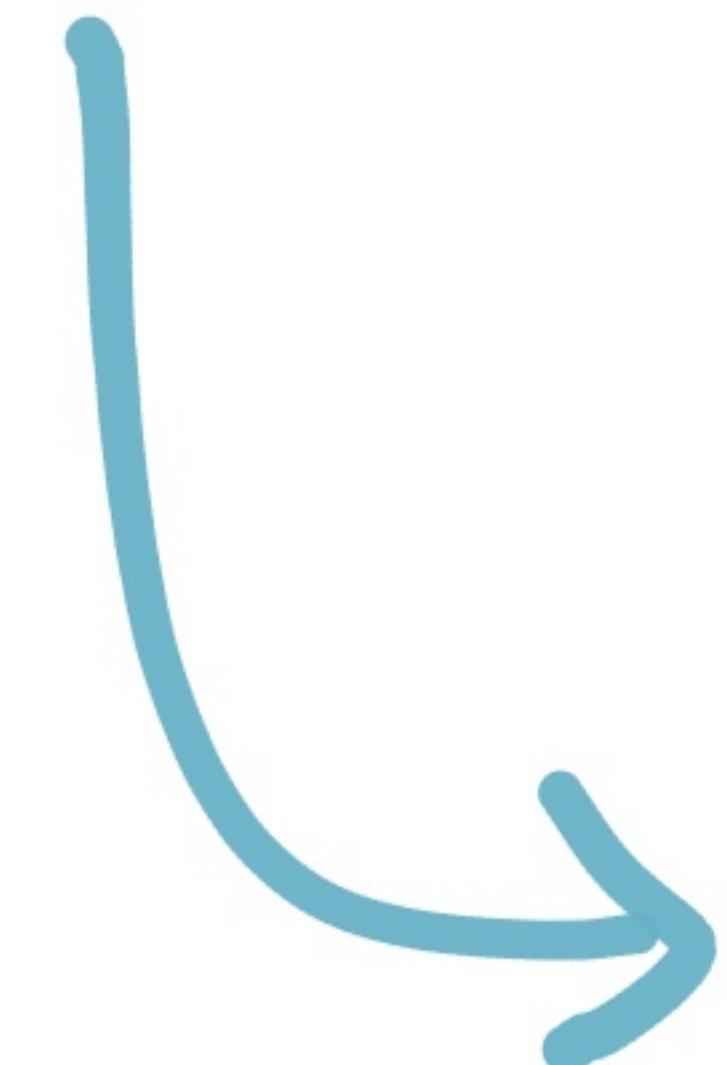


"still 2?"  
"yes!"

-2

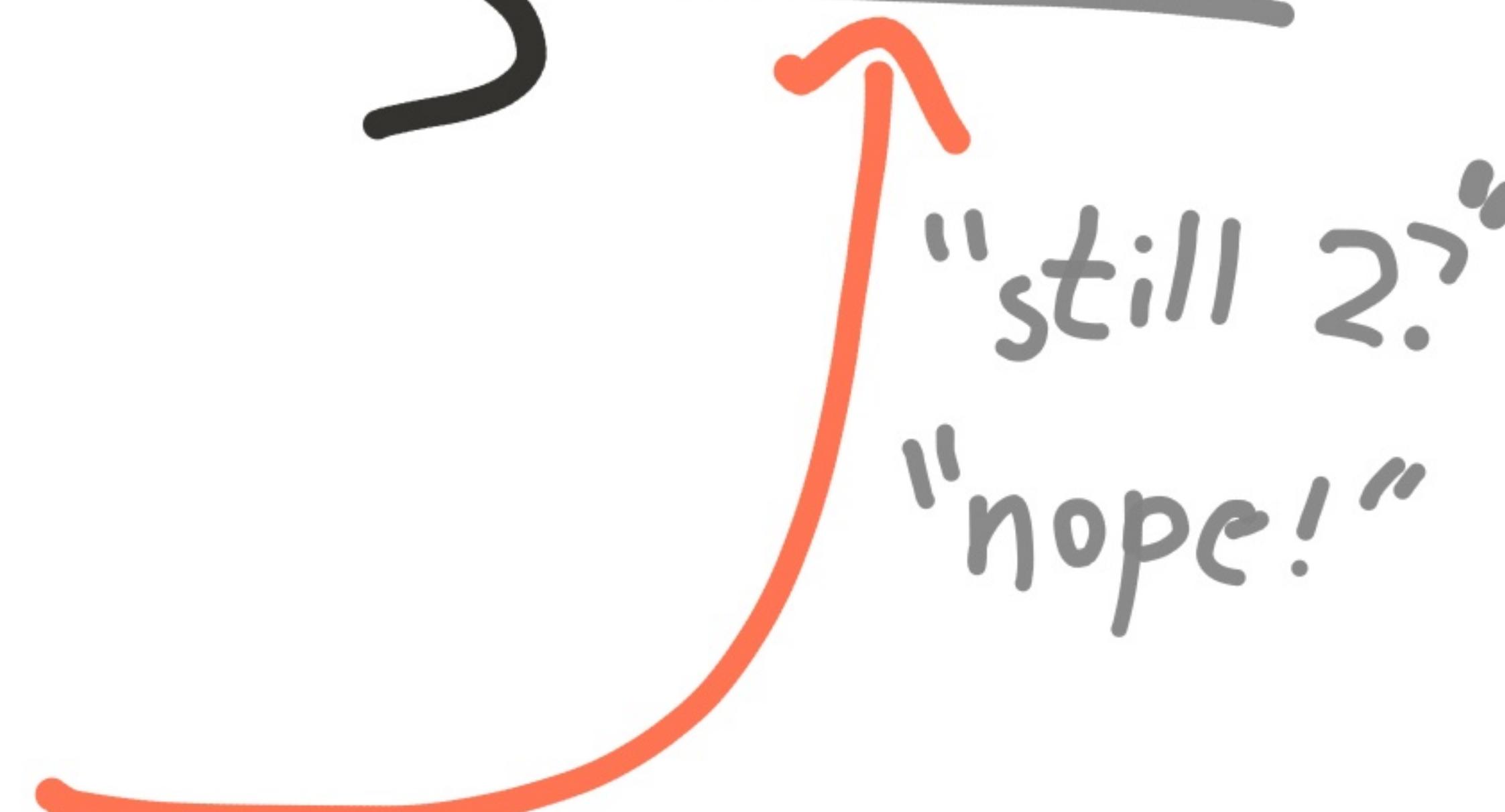


3



increment

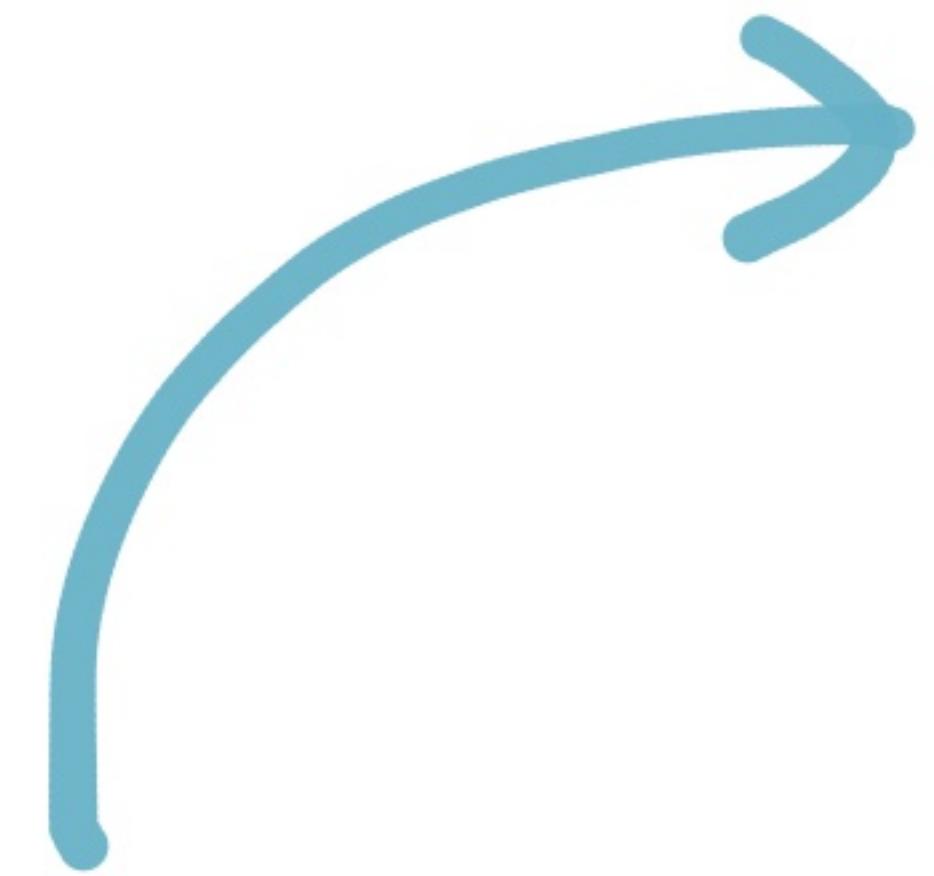
$$2 + 1 = 3$$



"still 2?"  
"nope!"

increment

$$2 + 1 = 3$$



"still 2?"  
"yes!"

$$-2$$

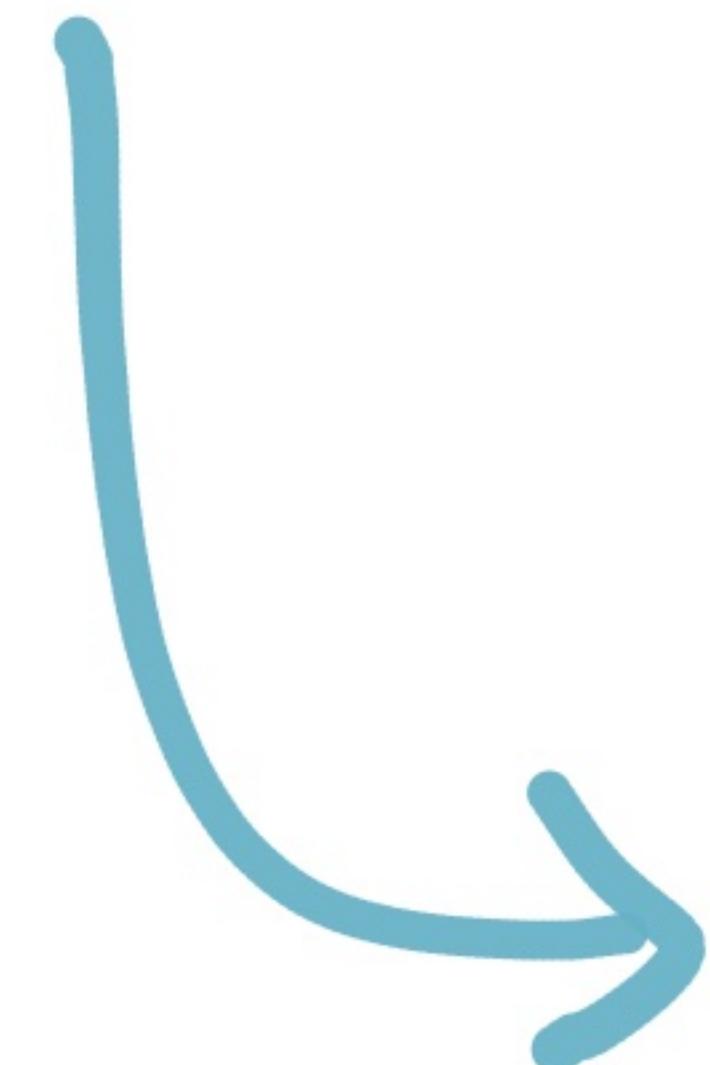


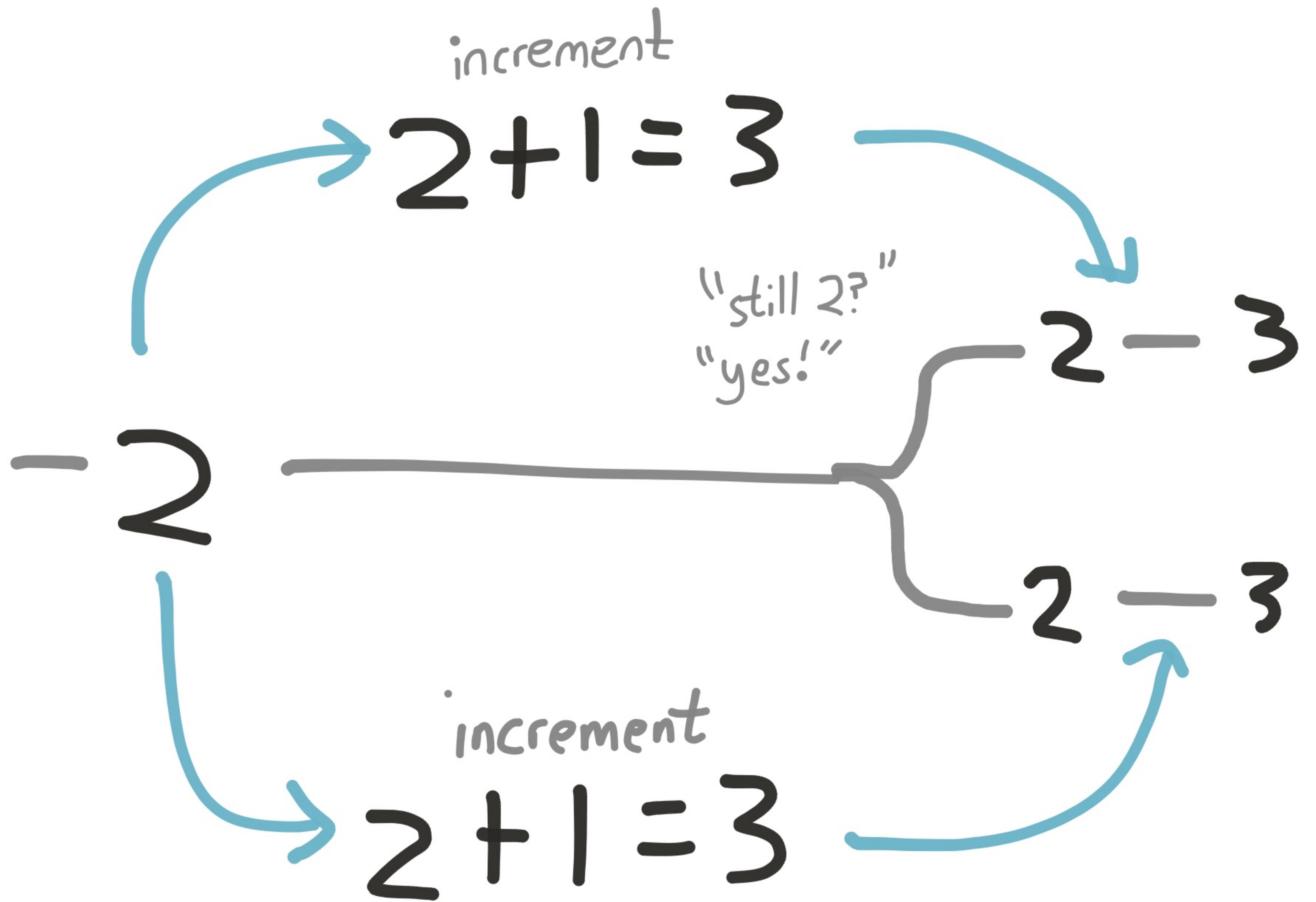
$$3 - 3$$

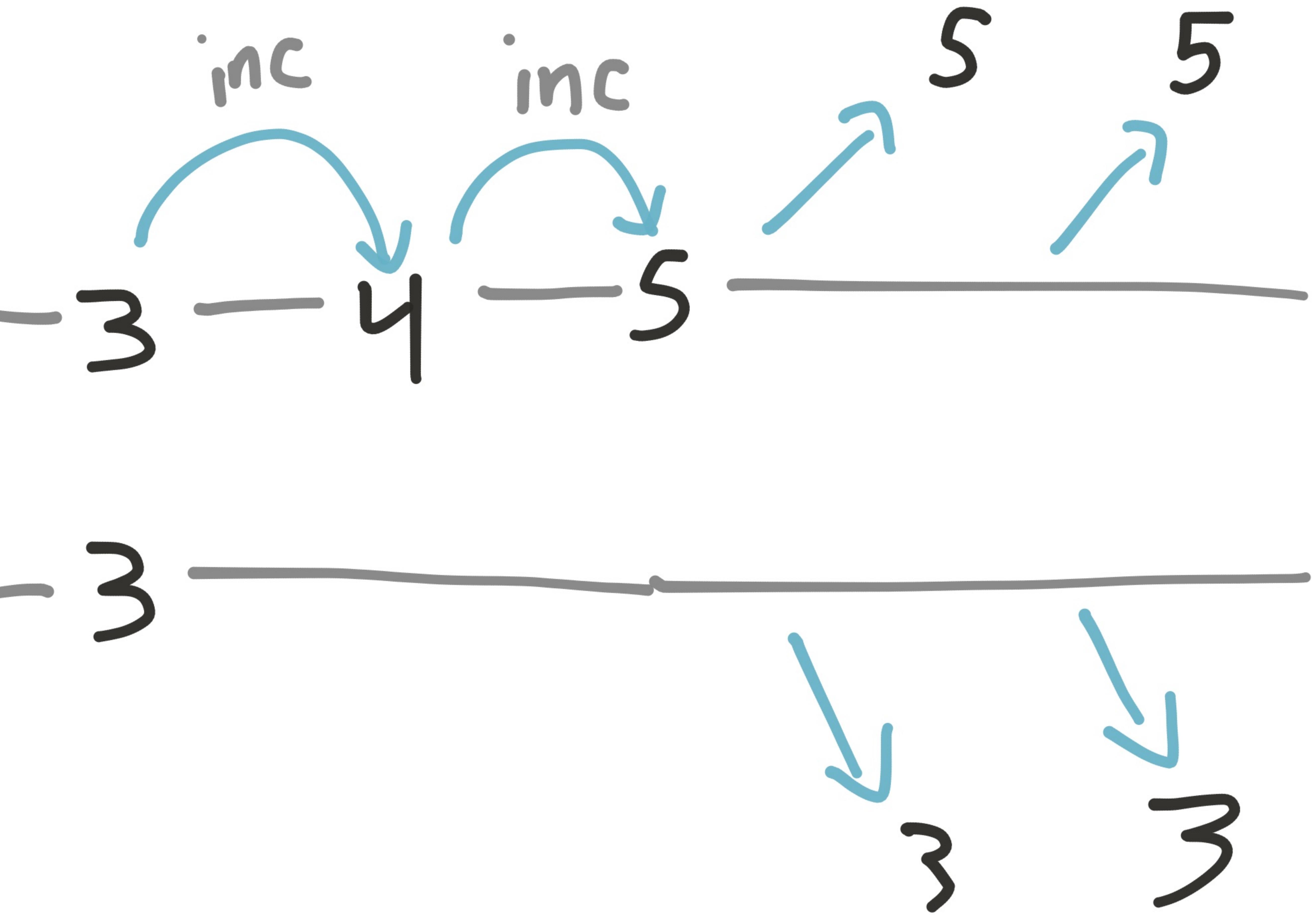


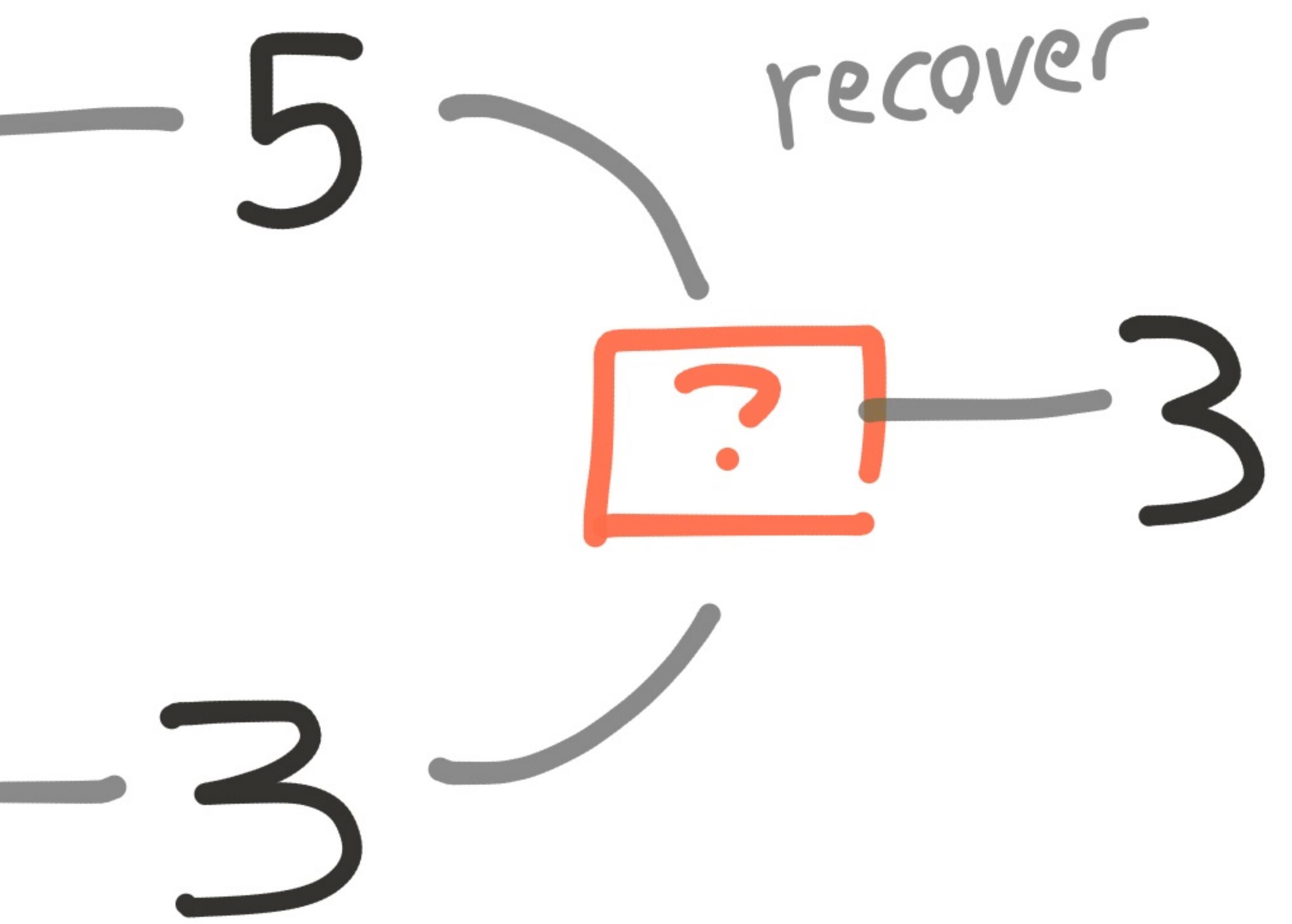
increment

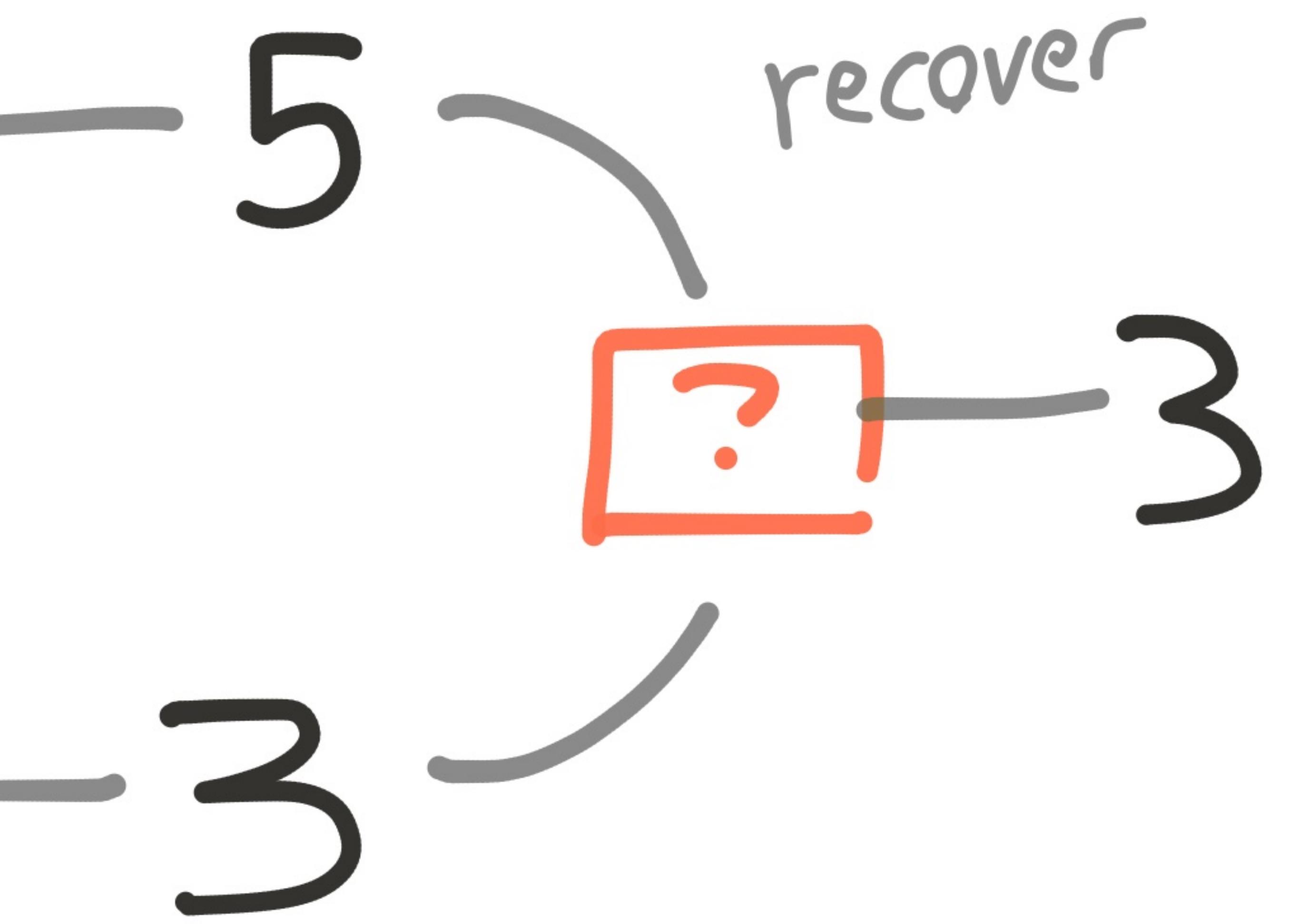
$$2 + 1 = 3$$

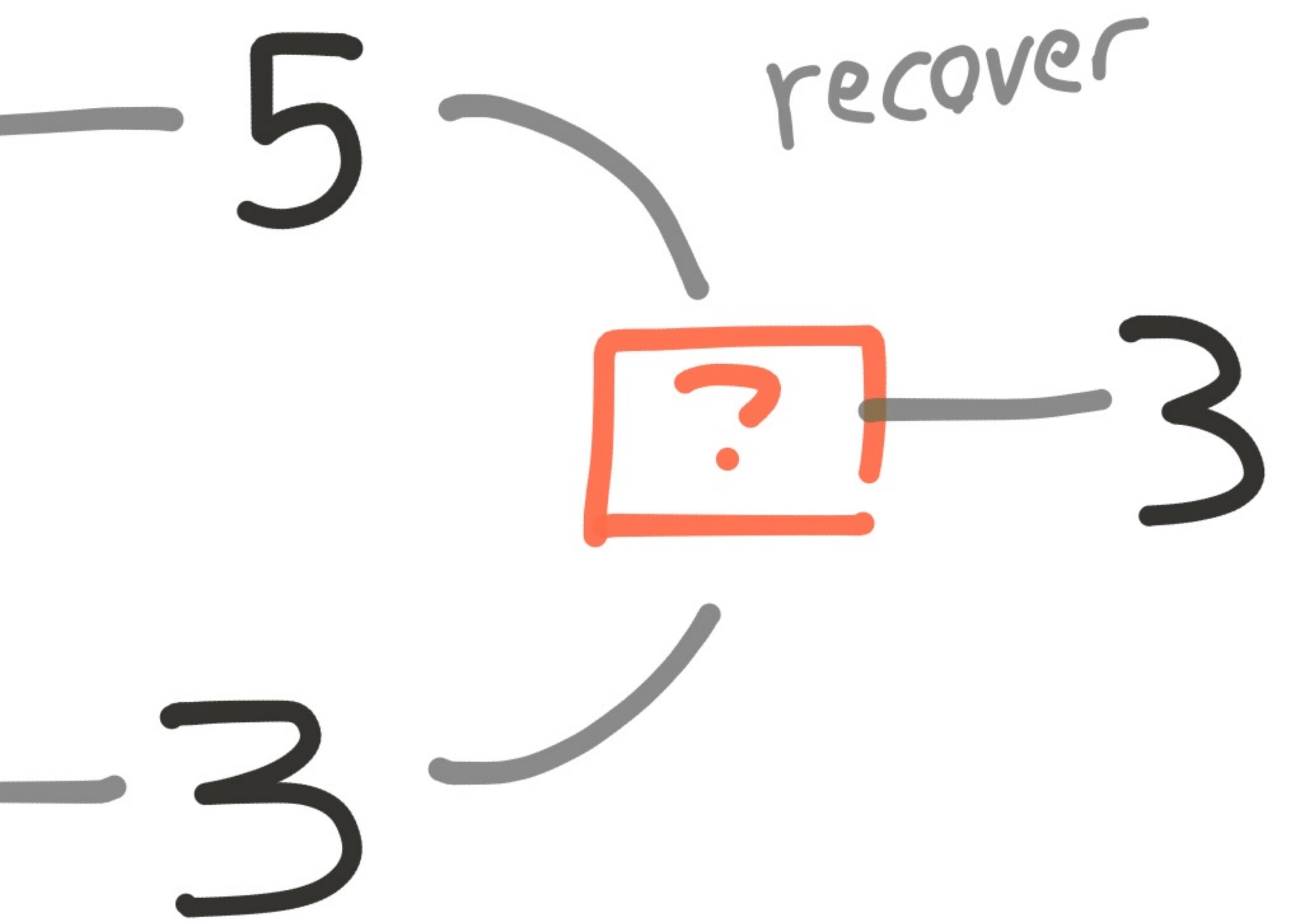












LOOK AT  
—your—  
LIFE



—5 — recover  
—3 —

—3 —  
Look at your  
CHOICES

LOOK AT  
—your—  
LIFE



# ID Generator

---

- Same deal

~91,000 dup ids in 30 s

---

834,000 generated

# Maps

- putIfAbsent (k, v)
- replace (k, v, v')



Lost updates!

Even with  
quorum protection

However...

w/ custom merge

function, can build

safe CRDTs

# Recommendations

- Choose replication algo appropriate for datatype
- Flake IDs, PN-Counters, Paxos

- Don't rely on Hz for safety!
- Bagri DB txn IDs
- Orient DB cluster state  
(used to be txns!)

DISTRIBUTED



*aren't*

R E A I



Distributed, sharded

{ Document }

store

3.5.4:

- Trivial split-brain
- Lost updates
- Stale & Dirty reads

2 Years of  
fundamental redesign  
work . . .

# 4.0: Linearizable Mole

---

- Custom Consensus protocol
- Reduced loss in AP mode

(start  
of  
test)

read ↗

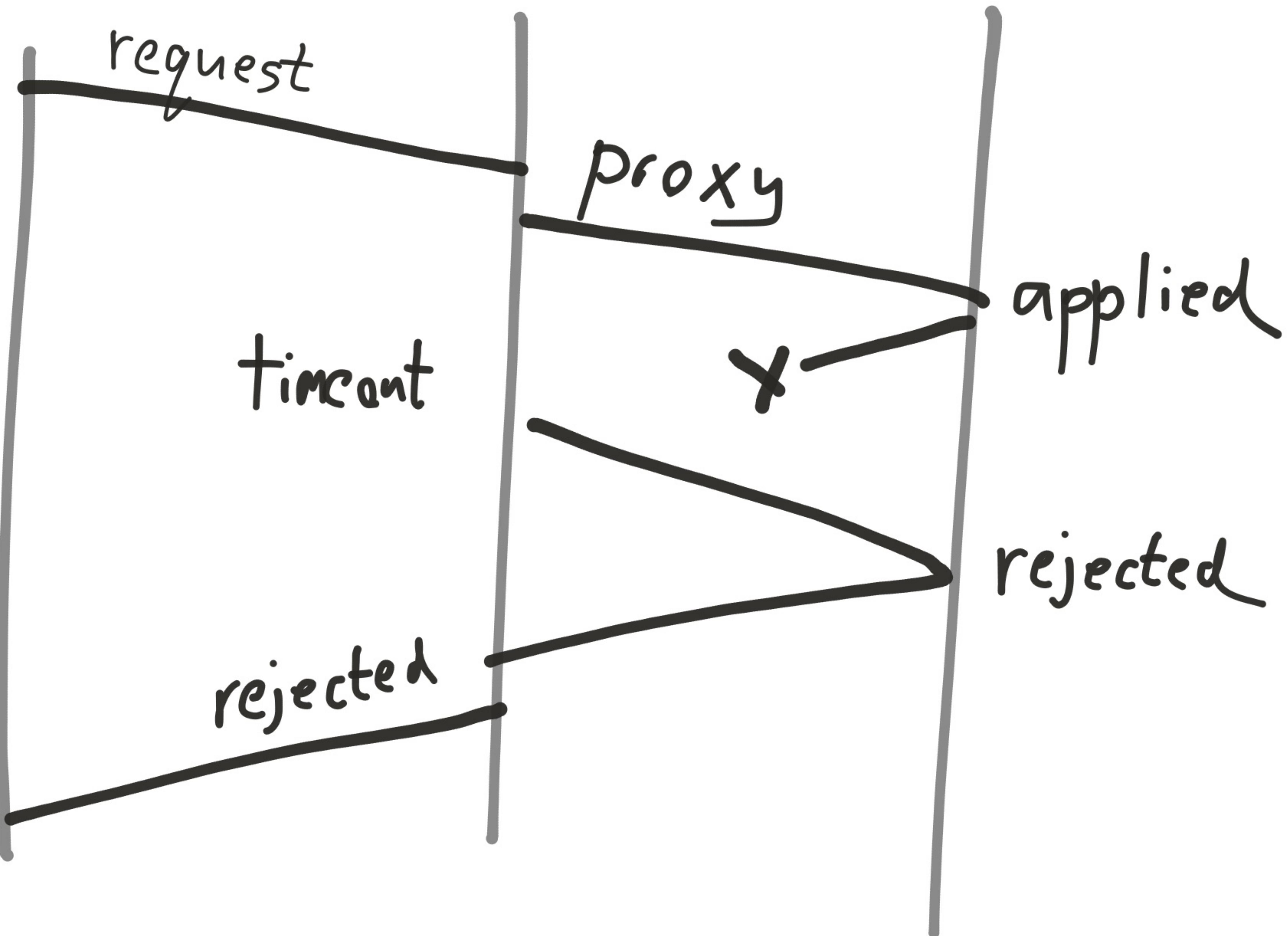
fail



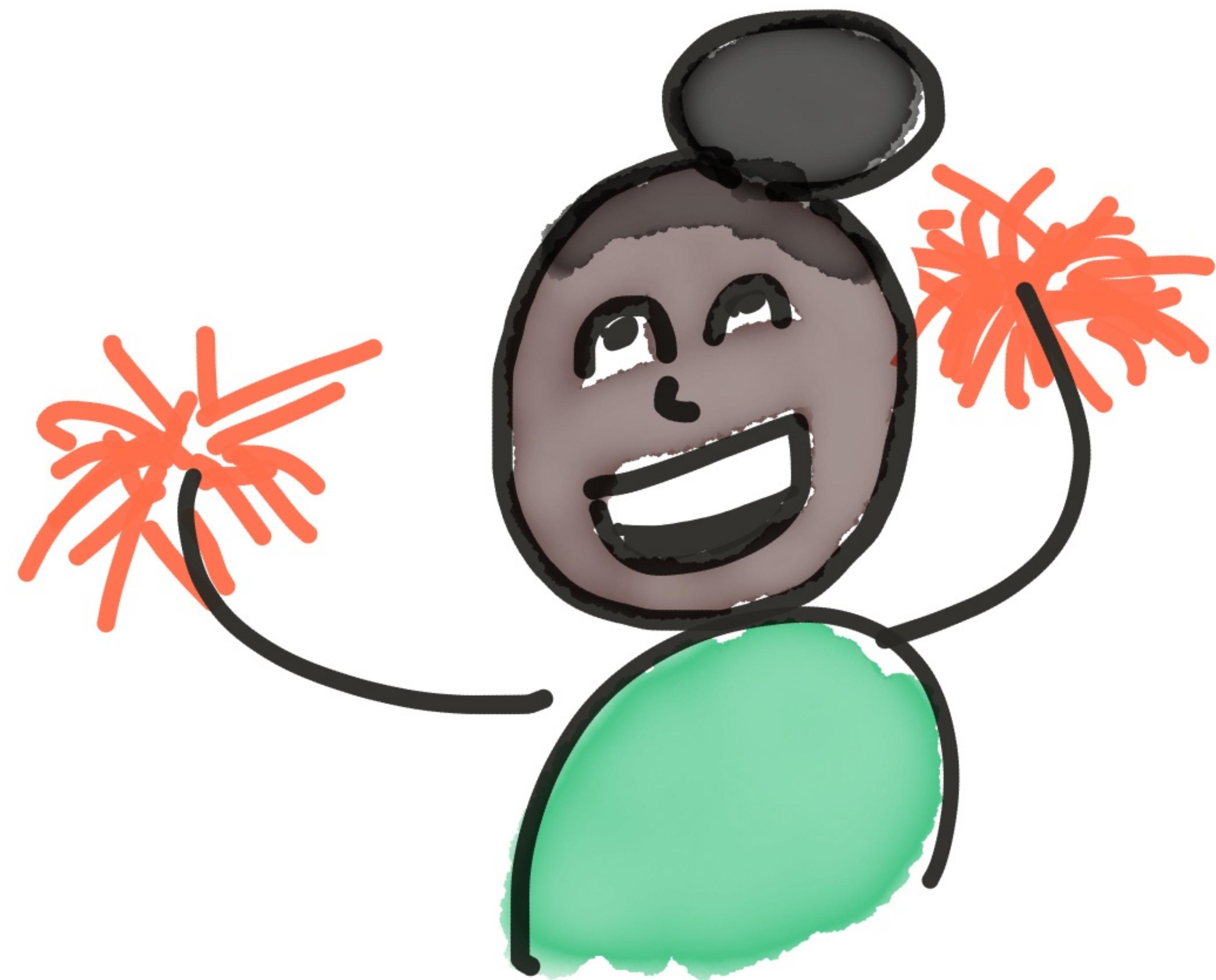
ok



client      server      server



fixed in 3.99.1.5



# Node crashes



client

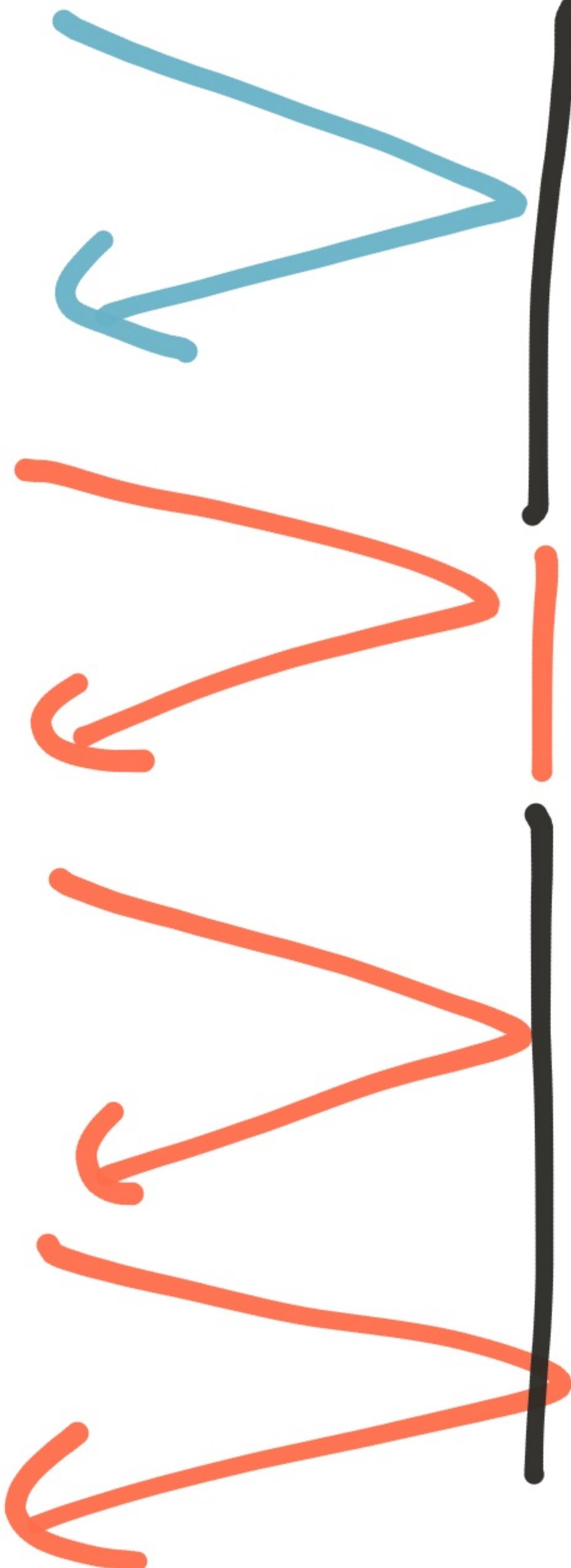
s

s

s

s

s



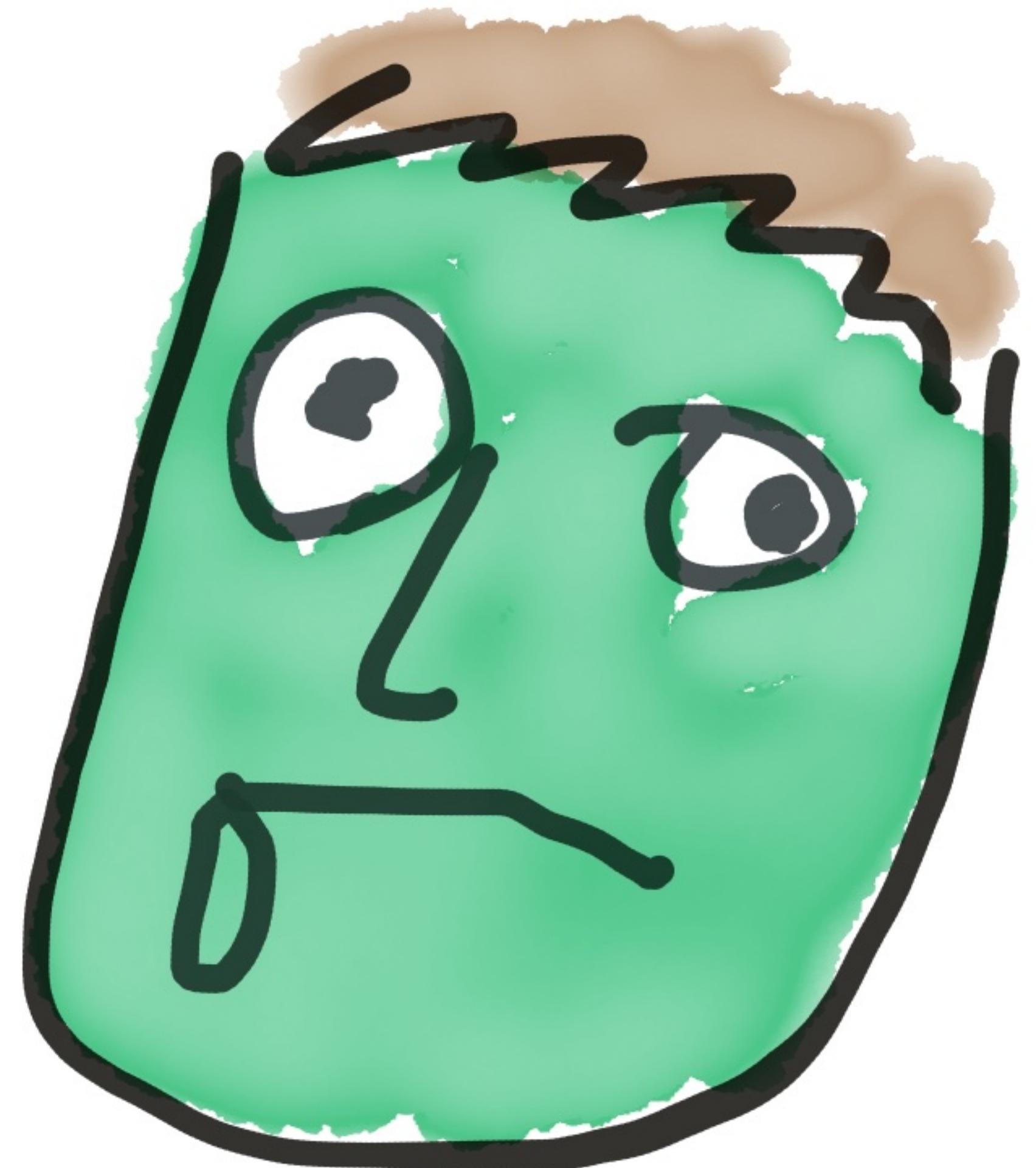
[press E to revive]



Dead partitions

may not be all

there...



AS didn't flush

writes to disk

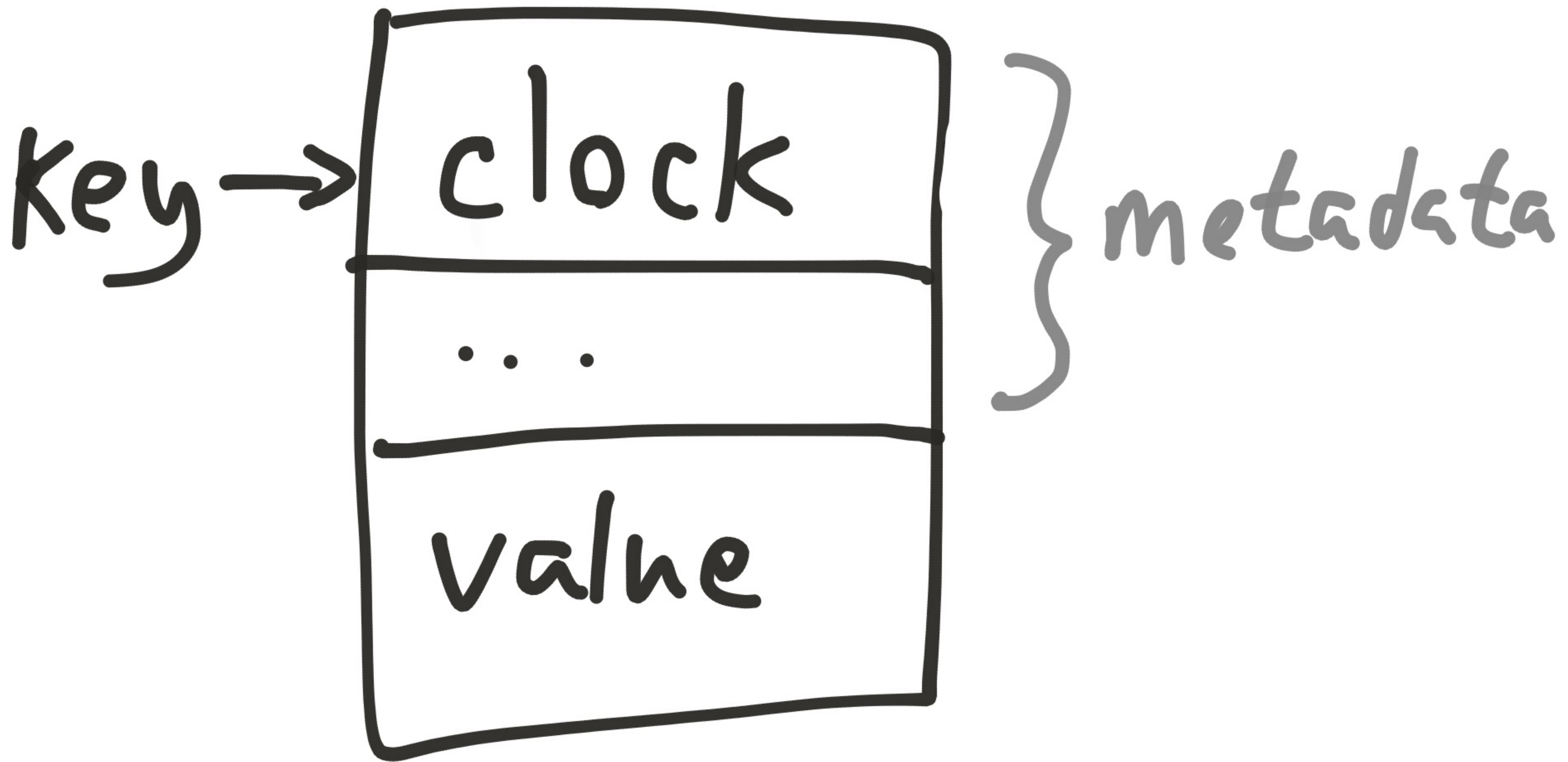
before acknowledging

(fixed in 3.99.2.1)

Clock Skew can

lead to Lost

updates



# Clock

regime

wall-clock

Counter

increment  
on  
election

node  
local

for mult.  
updates in  
same clock

*fits in cache line*

*regime*

*wall-clock*

*Counter*

*6 bits*

$w_1$

**A** (primary for regime 1)

! pause!

⋮

**B**

⋮

$w_1$

**A**

(primary for regime 1)

! pause!

|

|

|

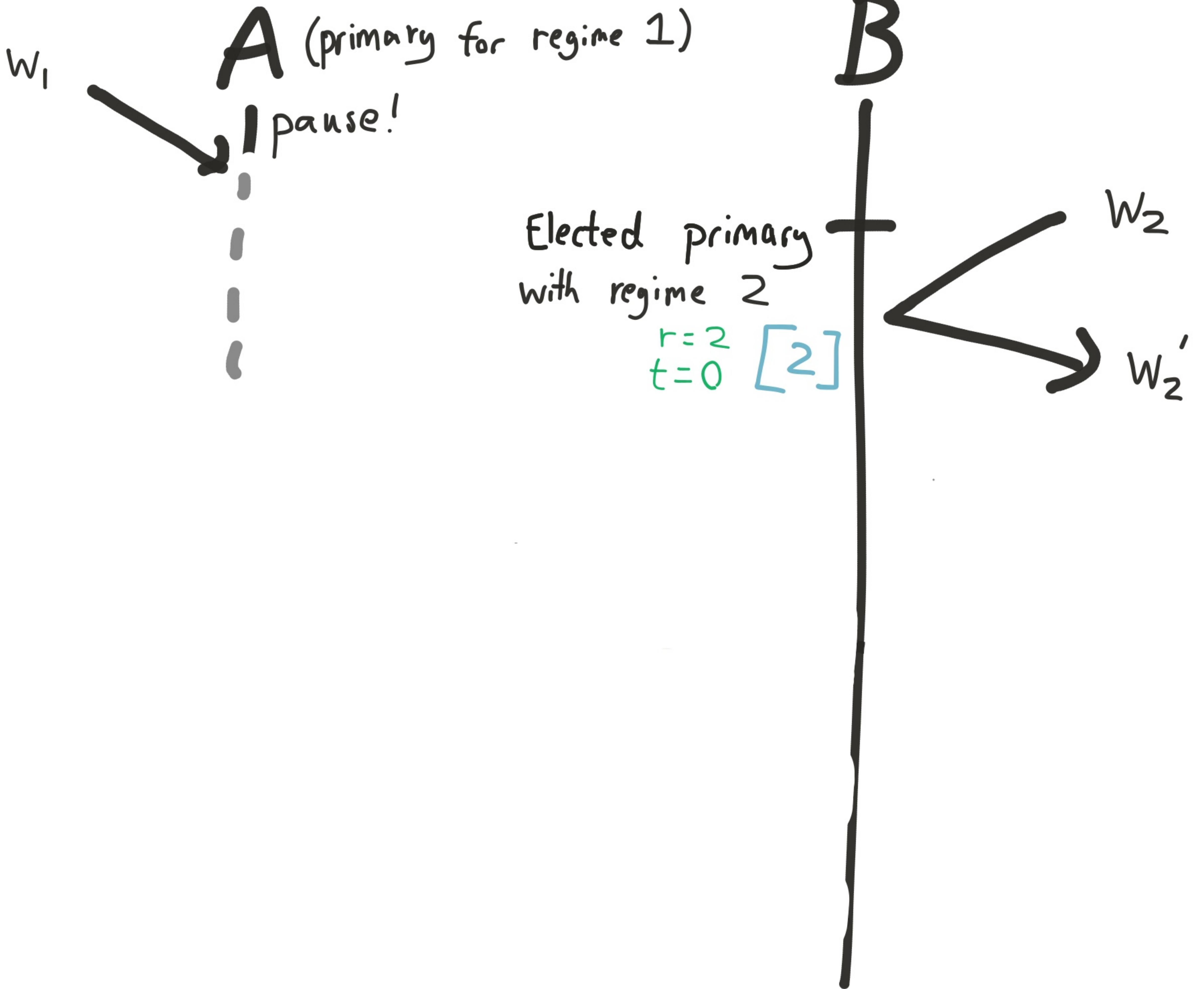
Elected primary  
with regime 2

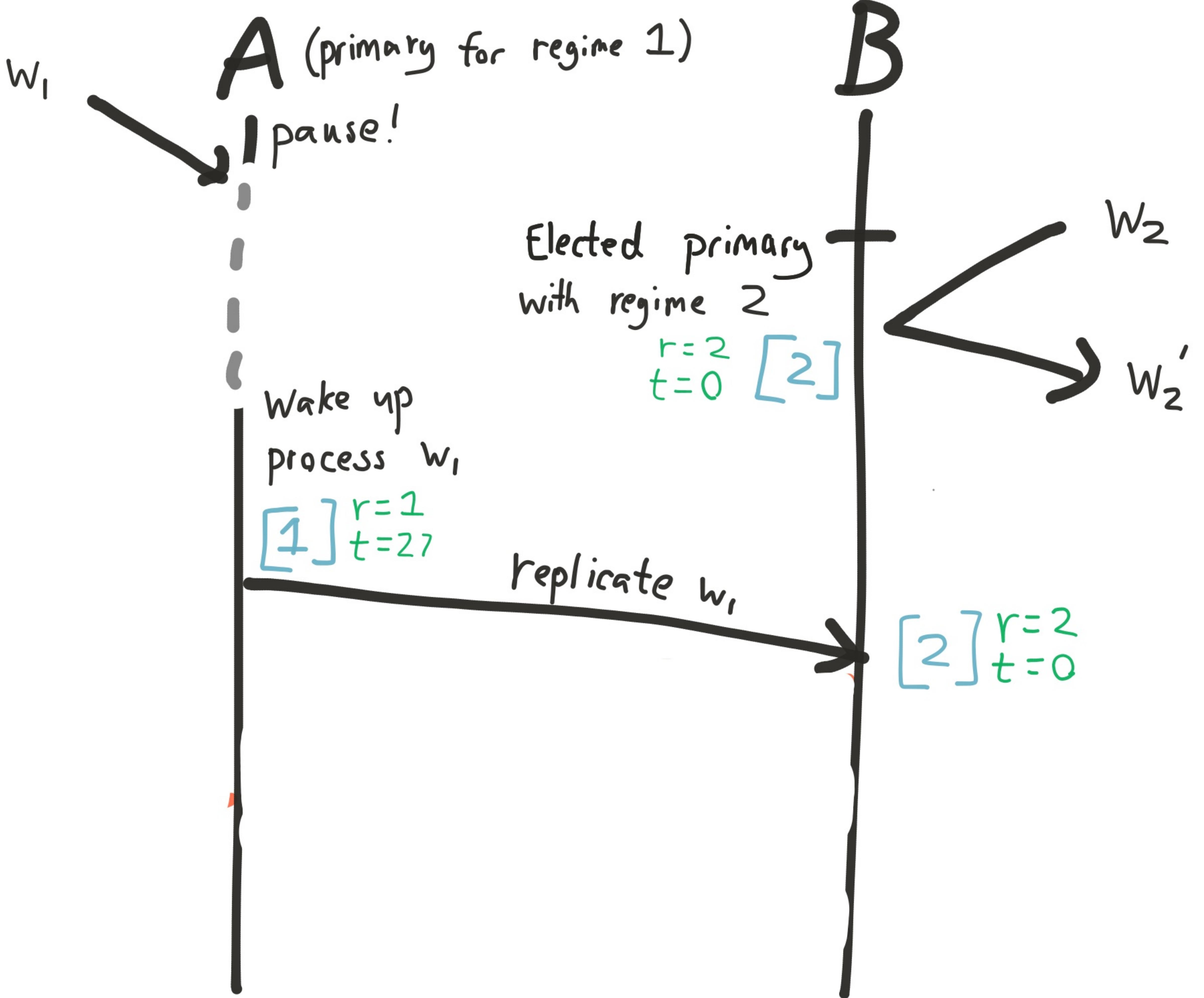
**B**

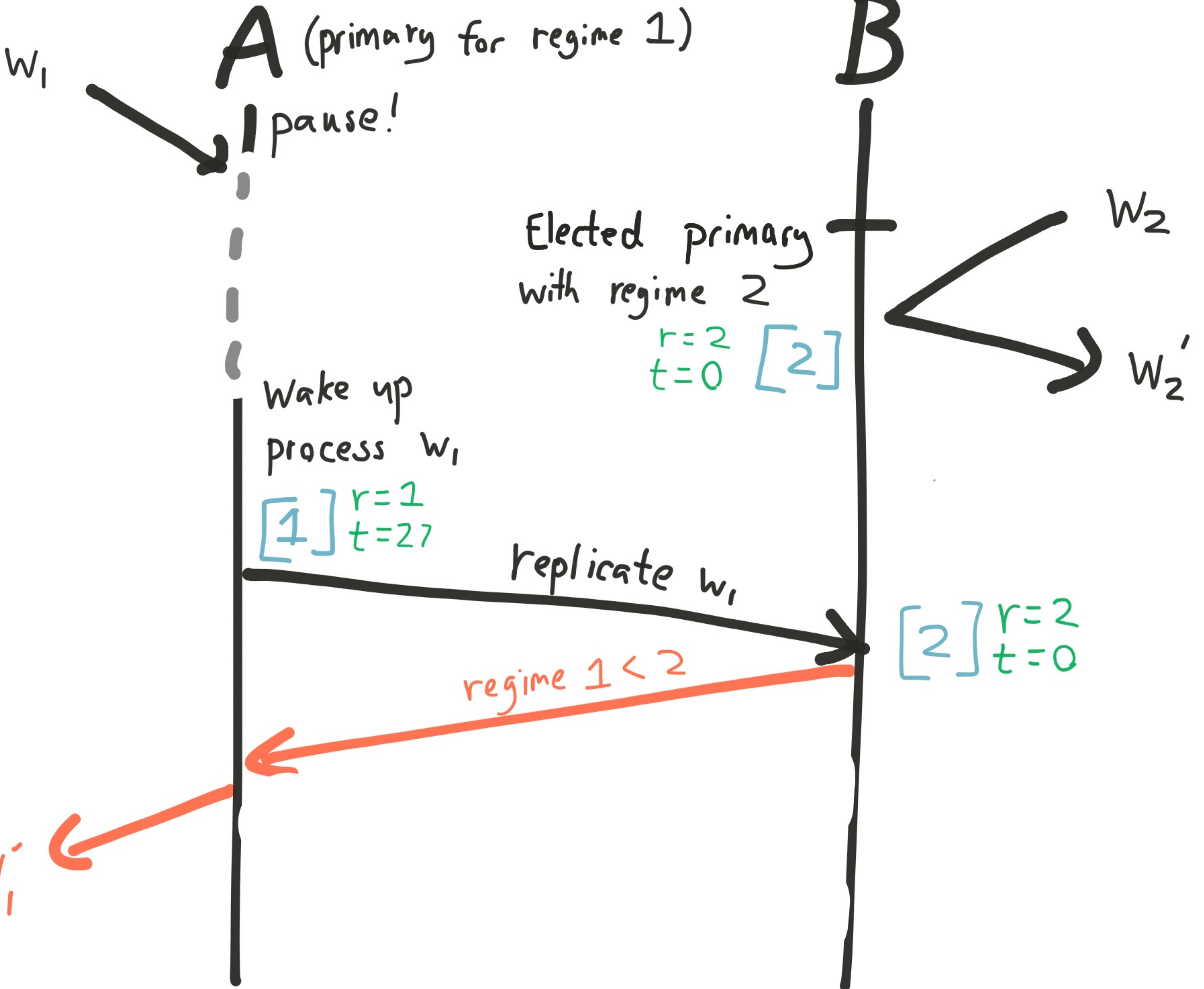
|

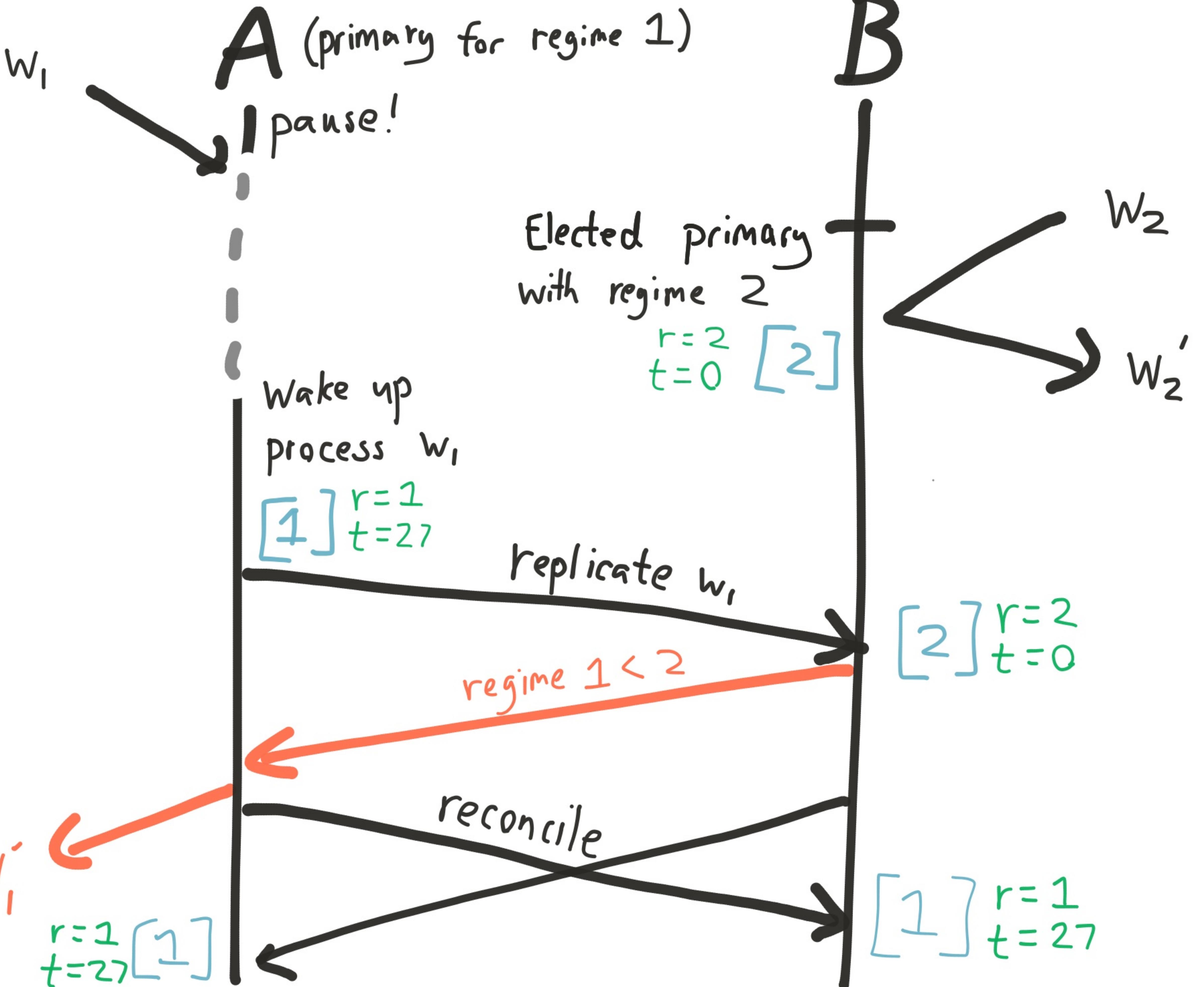
+

|











REALLY?

Beth clock skew ≠

hot using fSync were

Known failure modes

Stay in clock-skew  
bands & use durable  
flag . . .

looks |inearizable!

---

But XDR, scans, UDFs  
don't go through the SC  
mechanism yet

future work!

# Recap



Read the docs!



Then test it

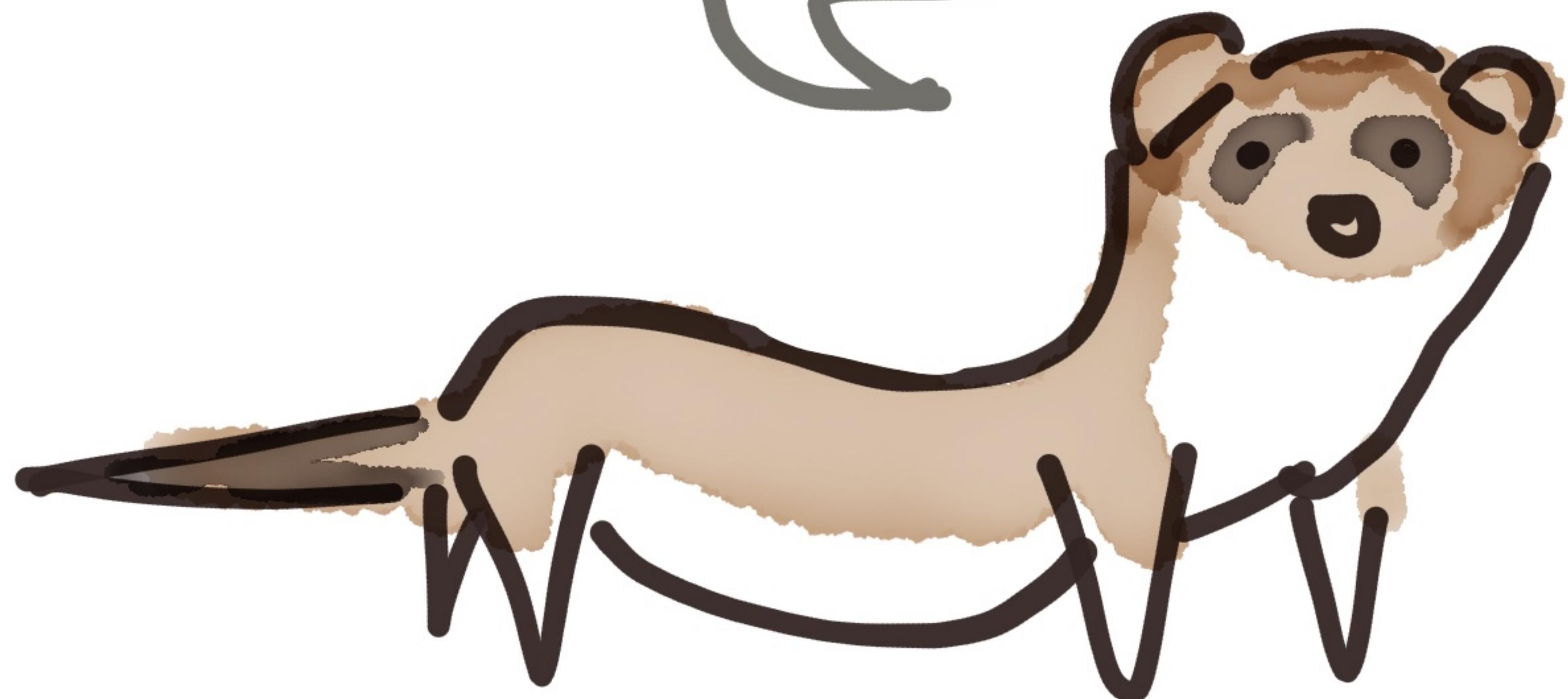
— for —

yourself

"Strict"

"ACID"

"Strong"



Be Formal

Be Specific.

*Figure out the  
invariants  
your system needs*

---

Consider  
your  
failure modes

# Processus Crash

#kill -9 1234

# Node failure

- AWS terminate
- Physical power switch

# Clock Skew

```
# date 10 28 0000  
# fake time ...
```

# GC/IO Pause

# killall -s STOP foo

# killall -s CONT foo

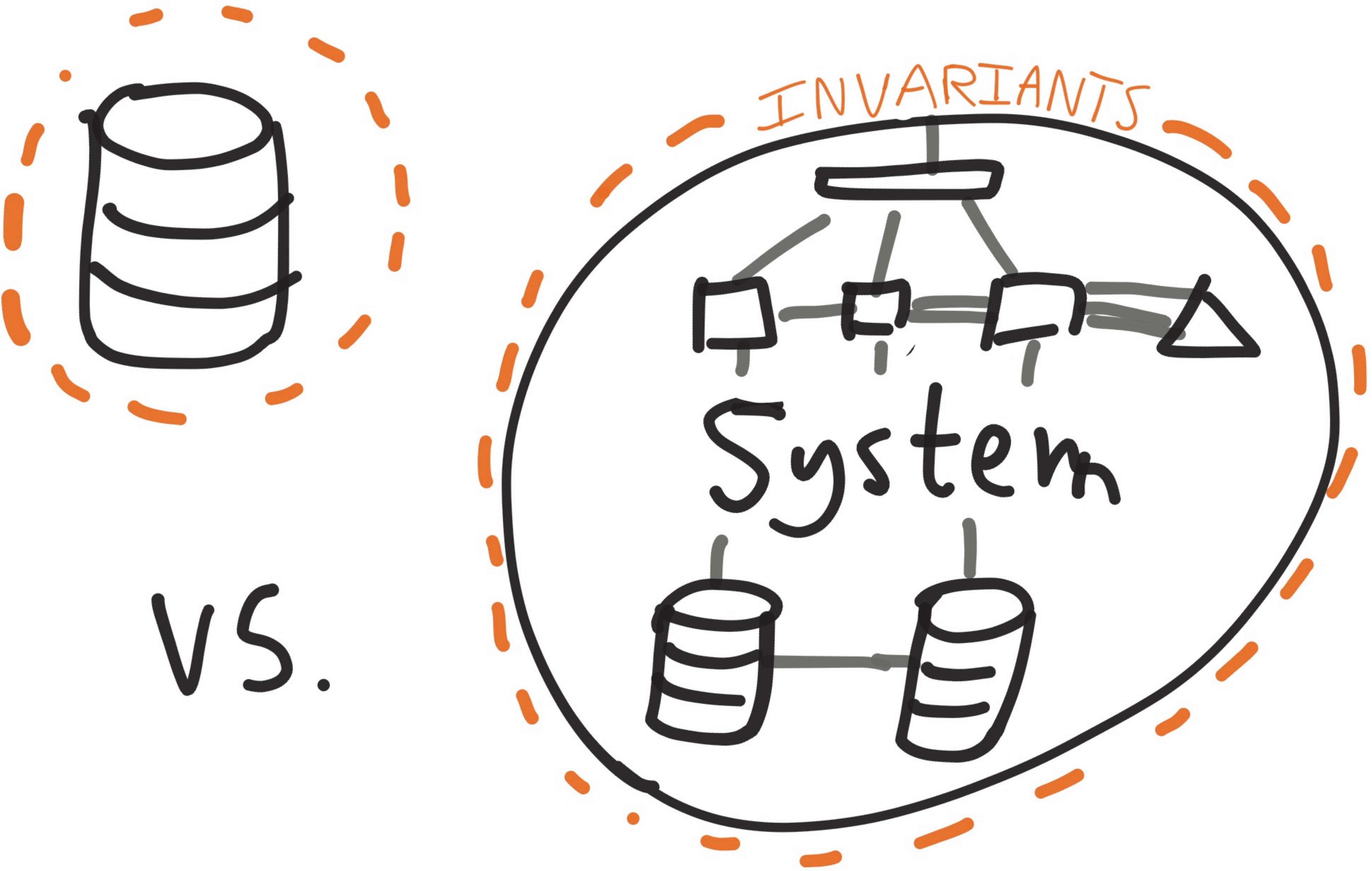
# Network Partition

```
# iptables -j DREP  
# tc qdisc ... delay...  
      drop...
```

Test your

Systems

end ————— to —————→ end



If you look for

+ *perfection* +

you will never be  
content

- Property testing
- High-level invariants
- With distsys failure Modes

# Thanks

---

Tendermint 

Hazelcast

Jordan Halterman

Luigi Dell'Aquila

Luca Galli

# Thanks

---

Denis Sukhoreslev

Aerospike



Peter Alvara



<http://jepsen.ie>