

Himalayan Peaks of Testing Data Pipelines

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Who we are

What is Big Data

Who are DEs?

What is a pipeline?

Who needs pipelines

QA of pipeline

QA ?= QC

QA of pipeline

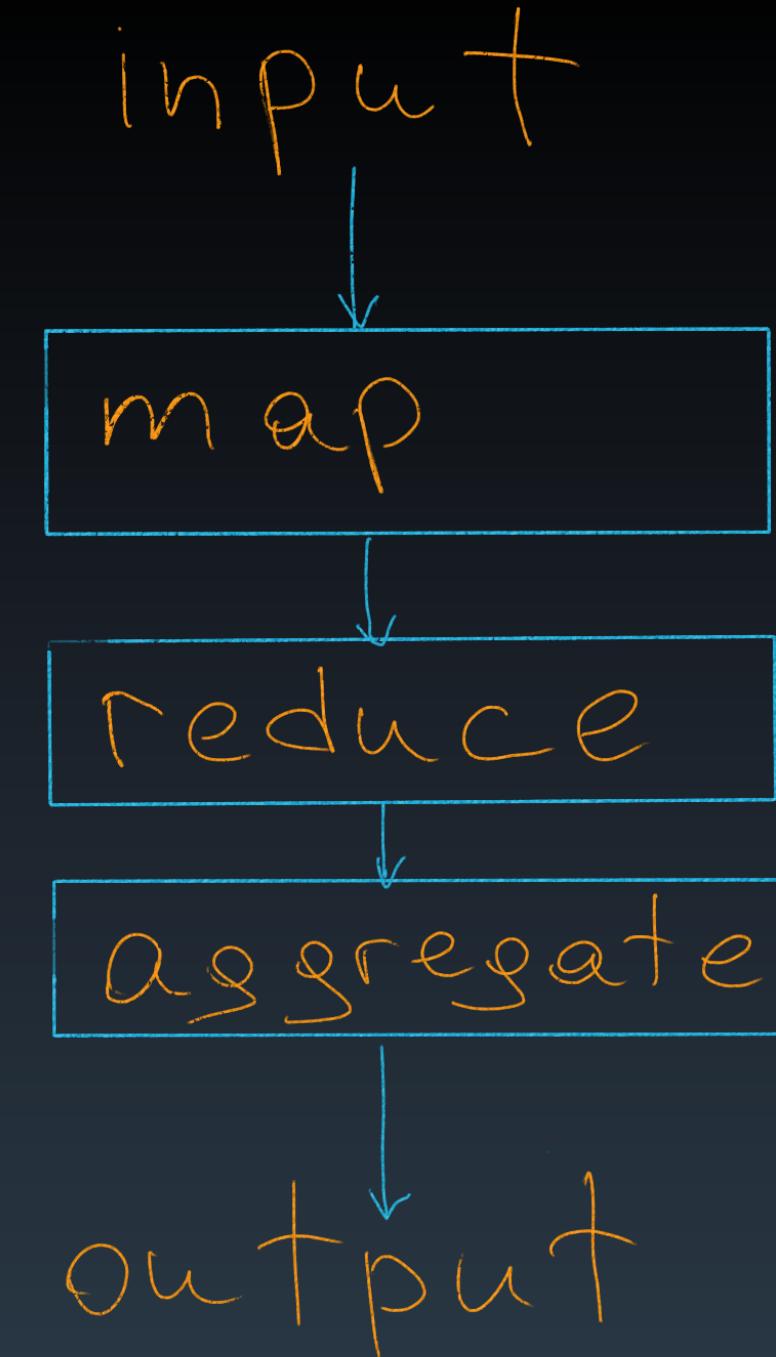
QA ≠ QC

QA is about processes and not only about software quality.

Pyramid of testing. Unit



Typical pipeline



Unit testing of pipeline

What may we test here?

A pipeline should transform data correctly!

Correctness is a business term

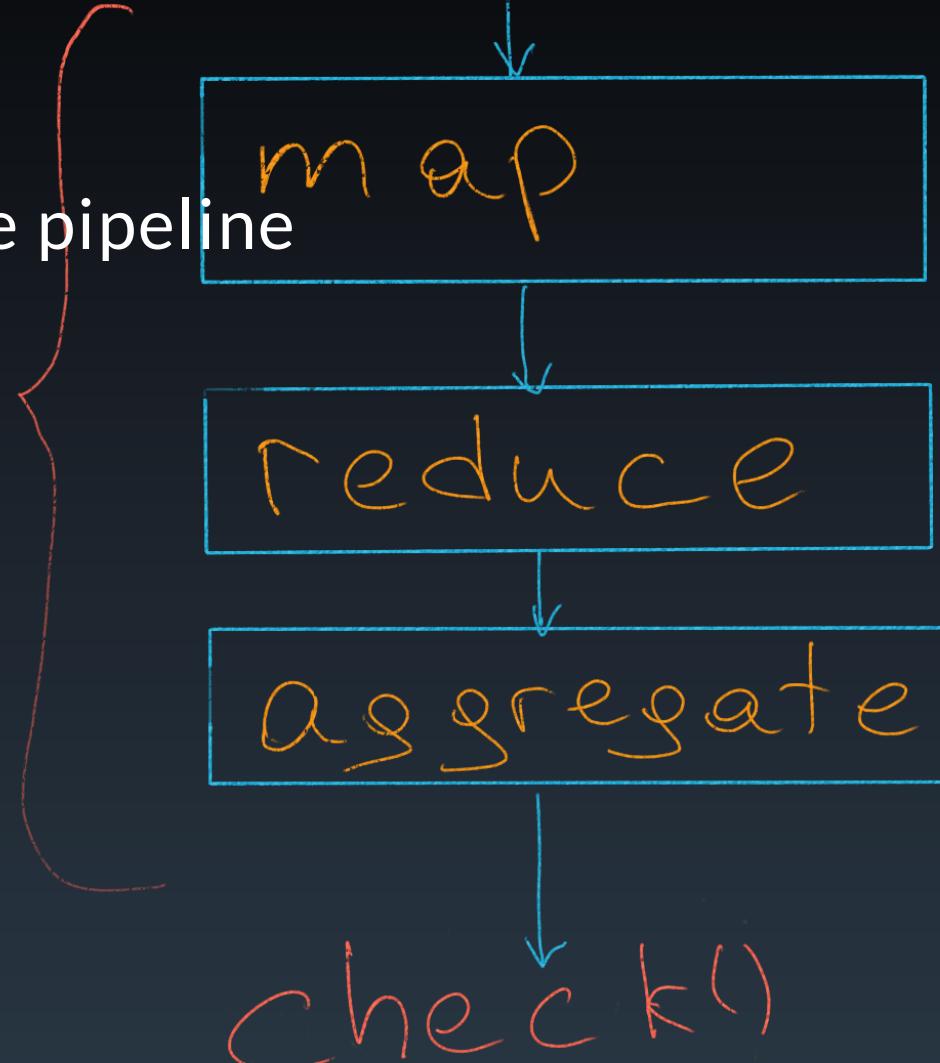
fake data

Let's paste fakes!

Fake/mock input data

Reference data at the end of the pipeline

Separate
Function

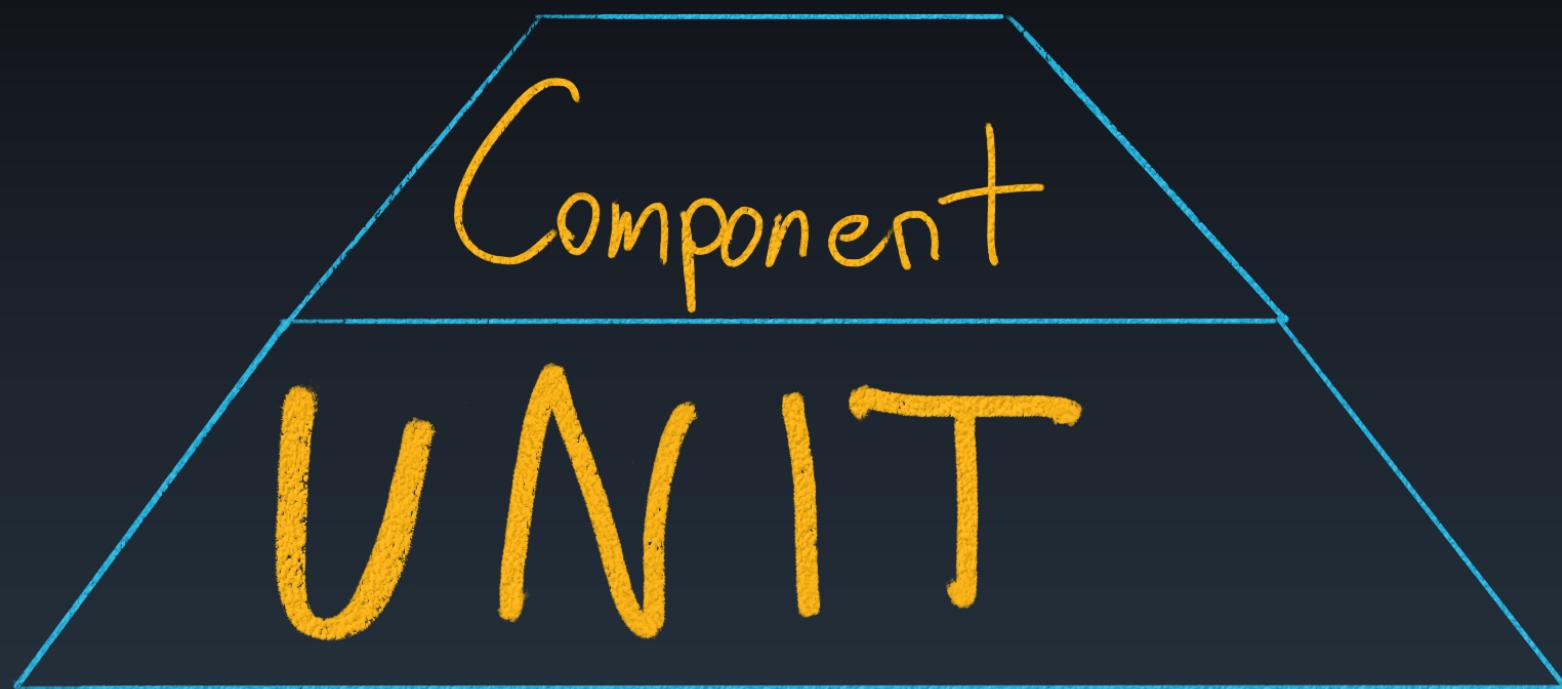


Tools

[holdenk/spark-testing-base](#) ← Tools to run tests

[MrPowers/spark-daria](#) ← tools to easily create test data

Component testing

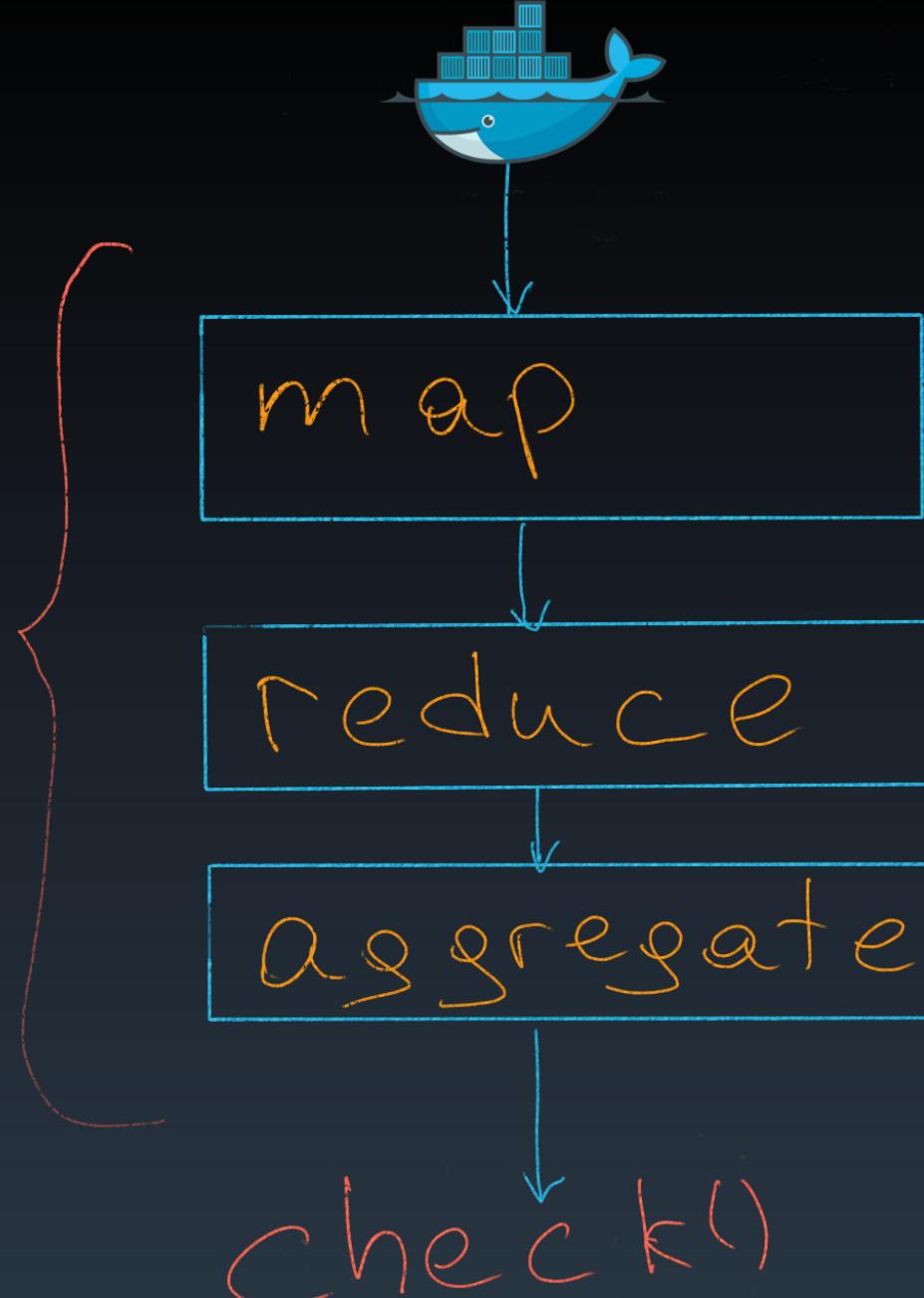




TEST CONTAINERS

TestContainers

Separate
Function



TestContainers

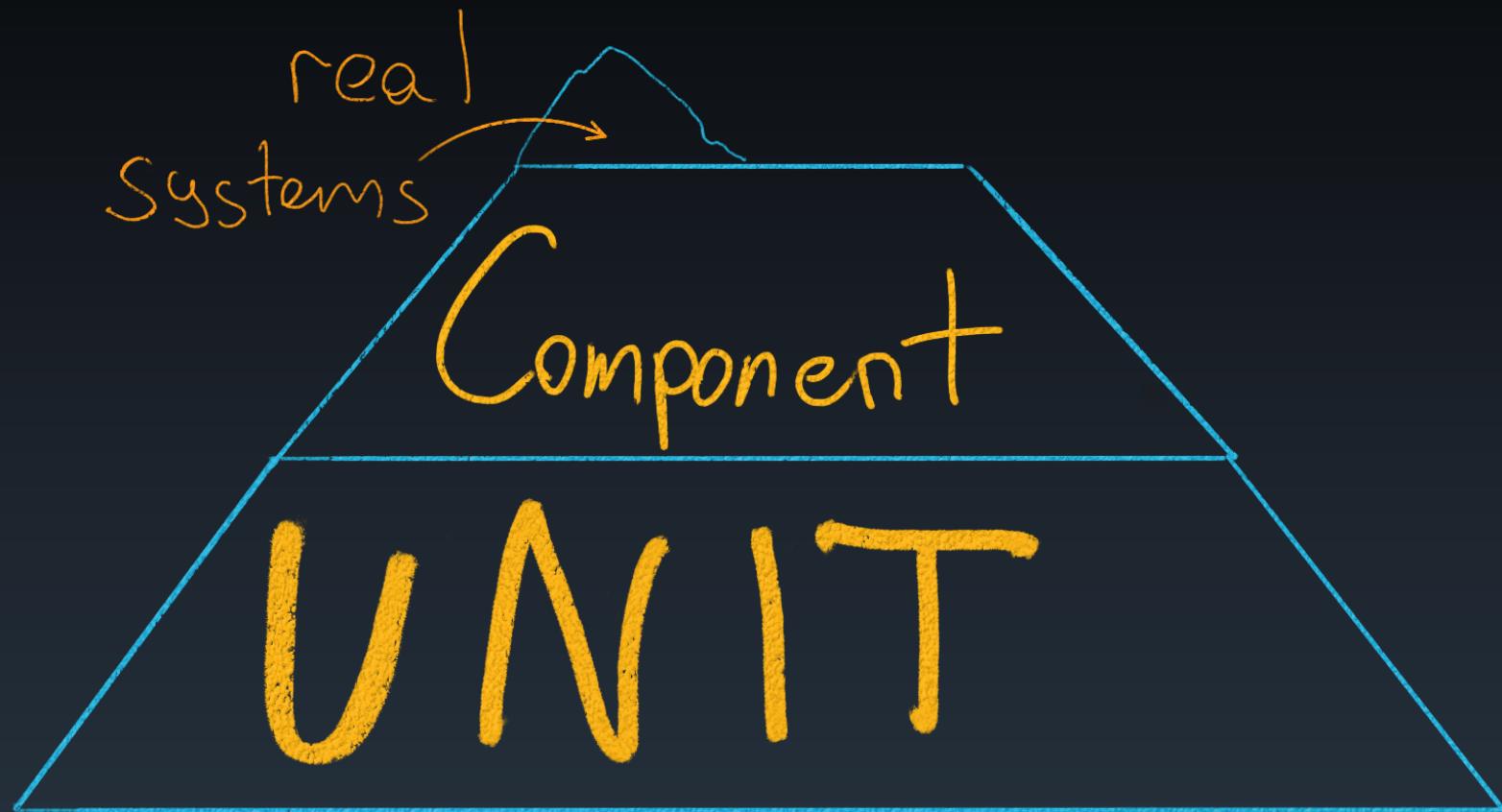
Supported languages:

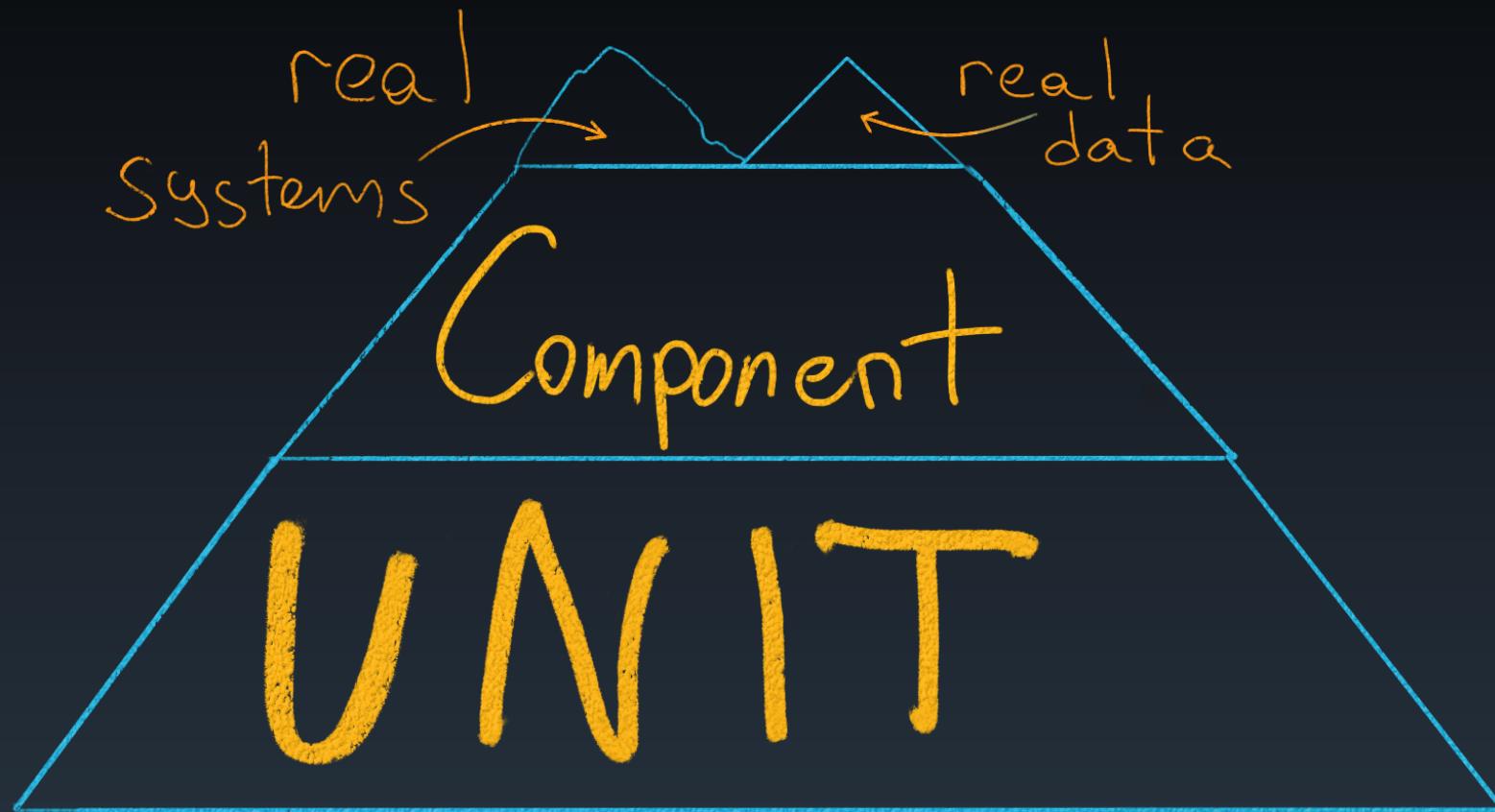
- Java (and compatibles: Scala, Kotlin, etc.)
- Python
- Go
- Node.js
- Rust
- .NET

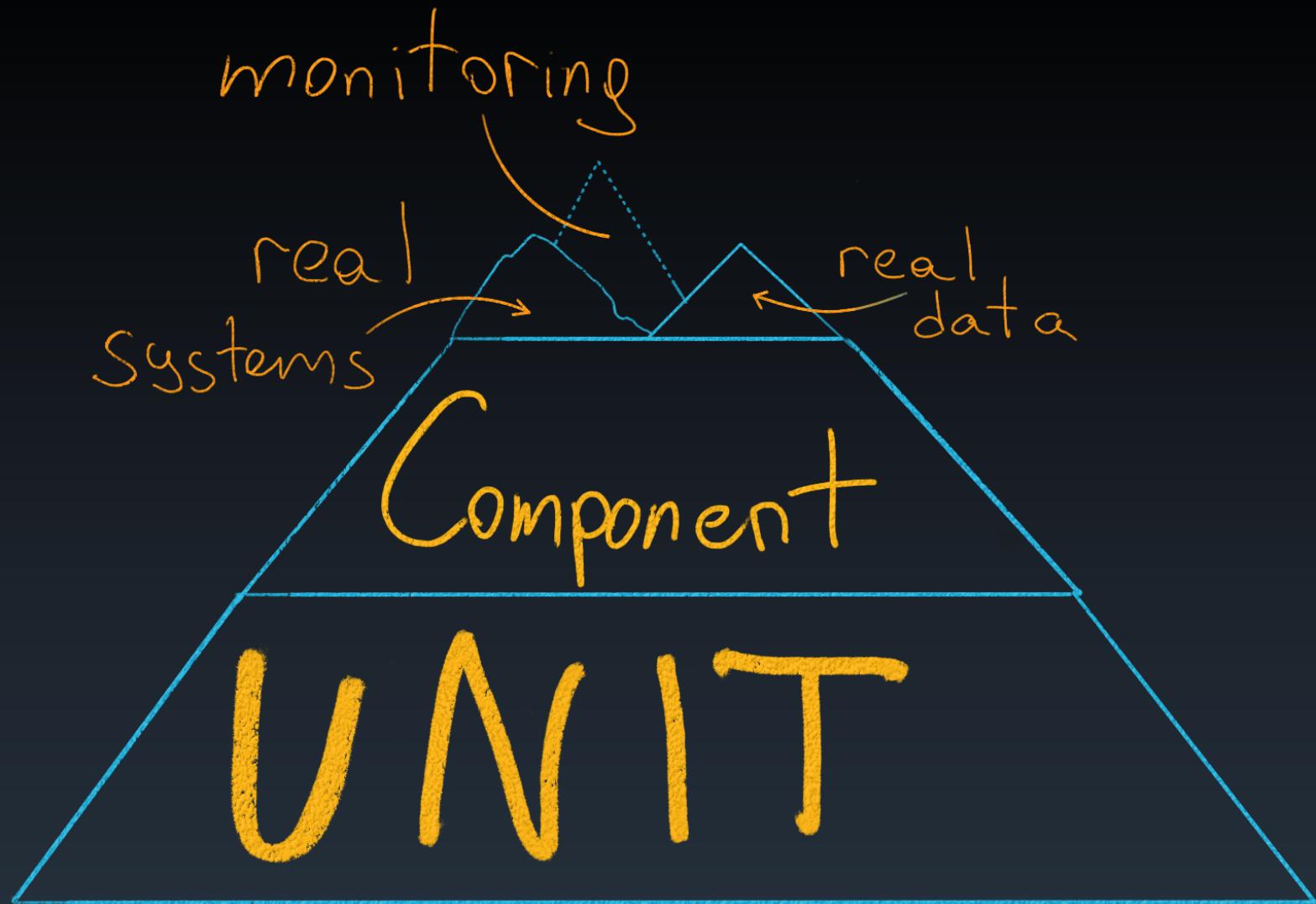
Test Containers

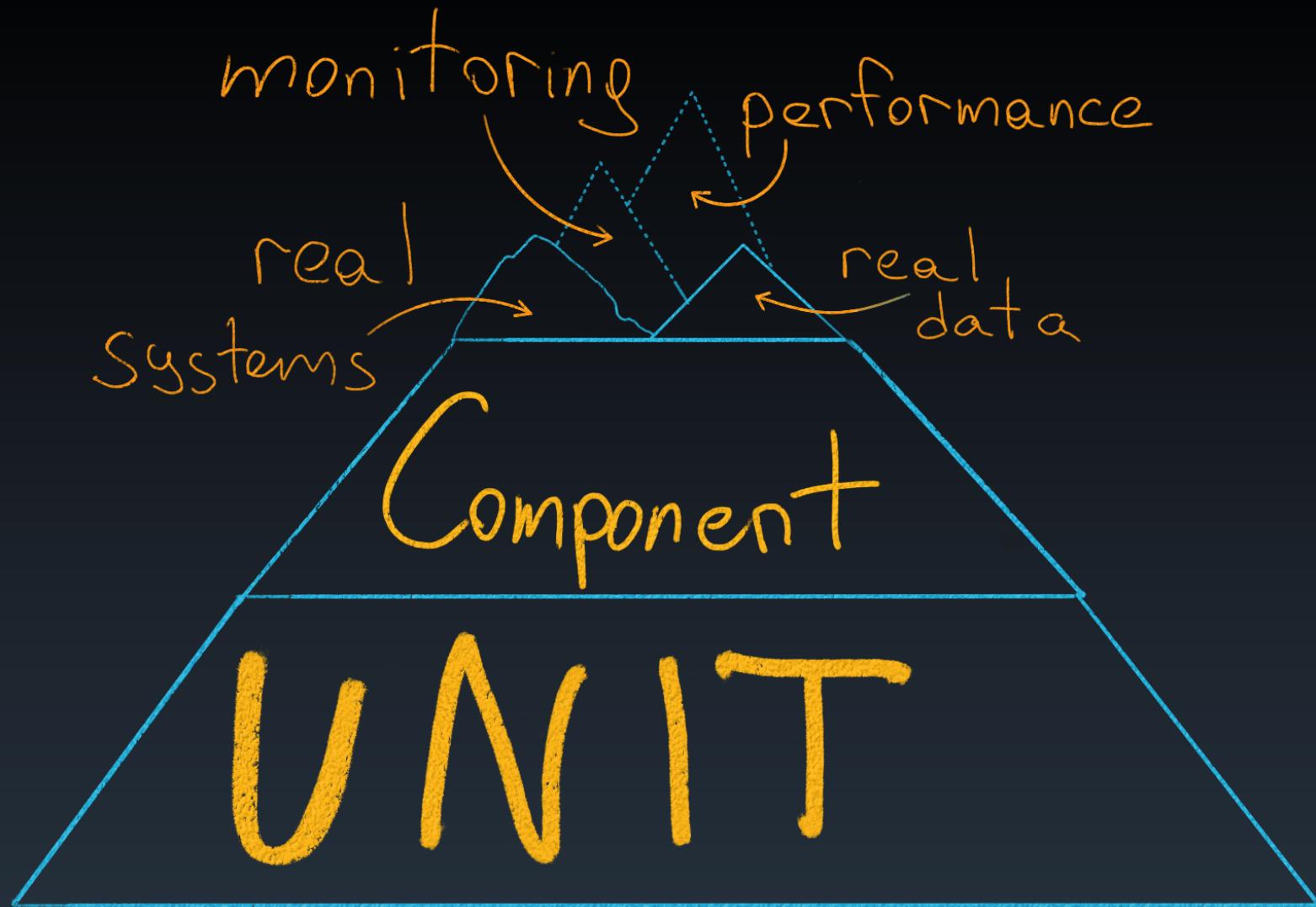
```
import sqlalchemy
from testcontainers.mysql import MySqlContainer

with MySqlContainer('mysql:5.7.17') as mysql:
    engine = sqlalchemy.create_engine(mysql.get_connection_url())
    version, = engine.execute("select version()").fetchone()
    print(version) # 5.7.17
```









Real systems

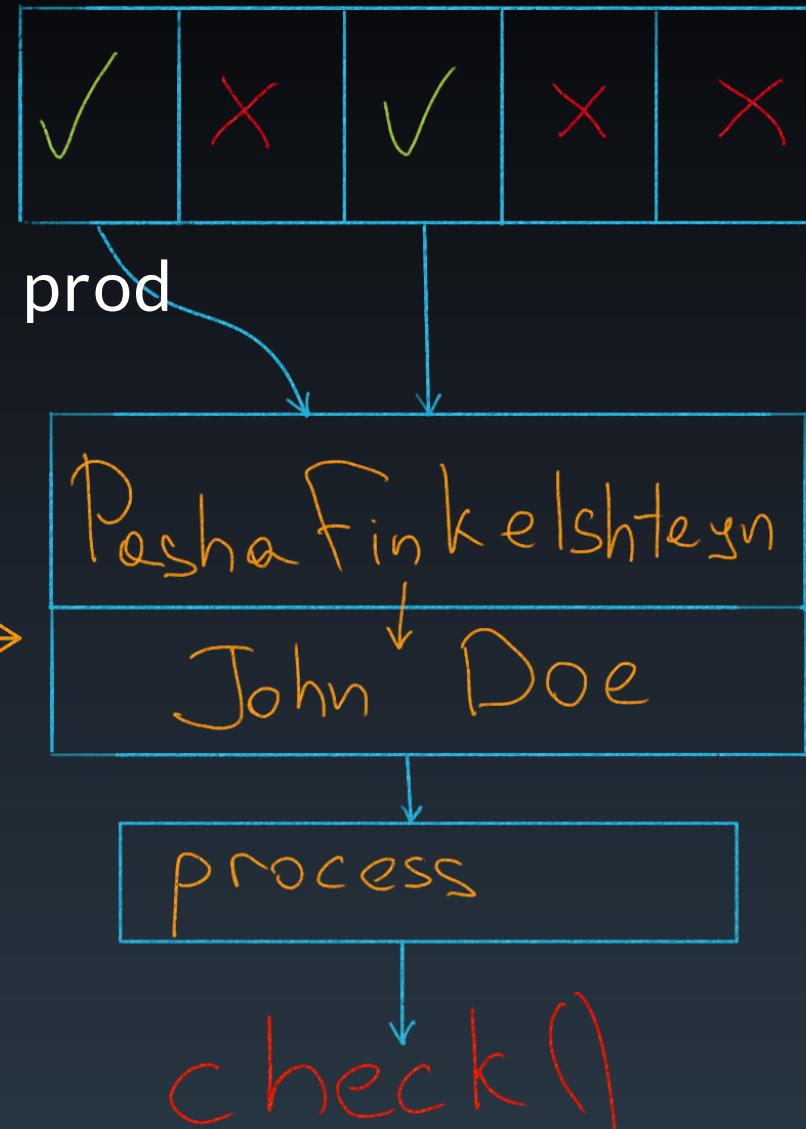
Why are component tests not enough?

- vendor lock tools (DB, processing, etc.)
- external error handling

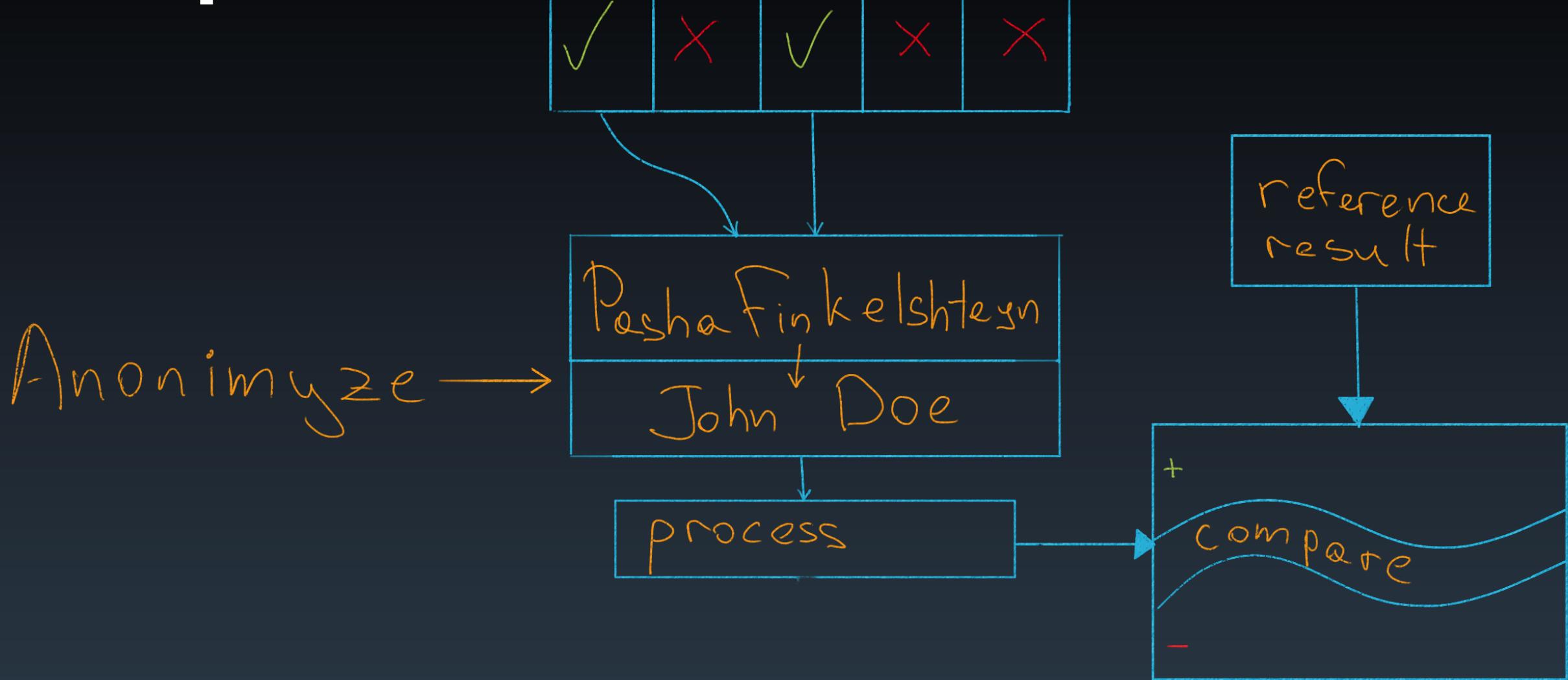
Real data

- get data samples from prod
- anonymize it

Anonymize →



Compare to reference



Real data expectations

Test:

- ✓ no data
- ✓ valid data
- ✗ invalid data
- ✗ illegal data format

- Property-based testing

Real data expectations. Tools:

- [great expectations](#),
- [Deequ](#)

Monitoring

Why?

- The only REAL testing is production
- Data tends to change over time

Monitoring

What?

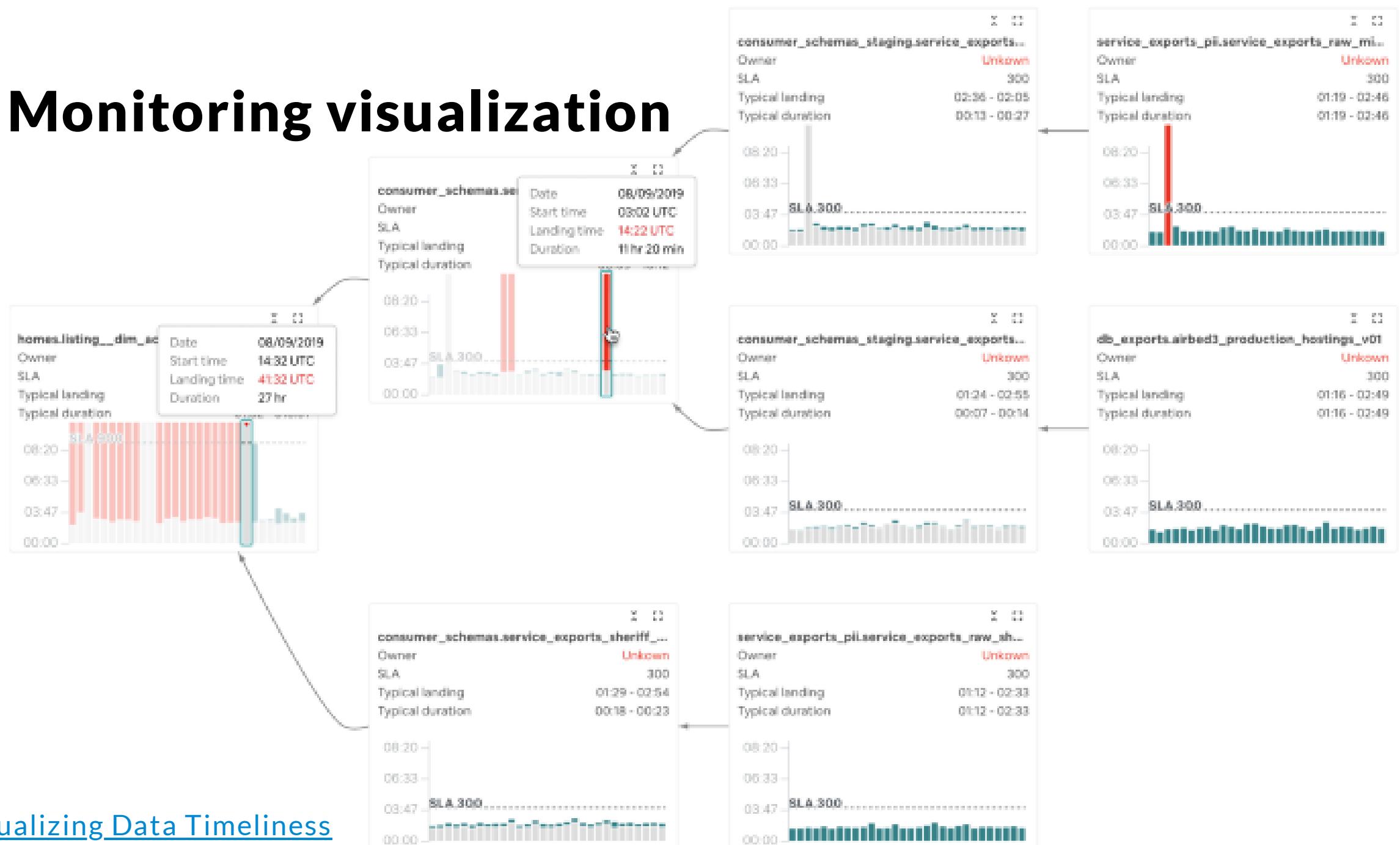
- data volumes
- counters
- time
- dead letter queue monitoring

Monitoring

How?

- use Listeners
- use data aggregations

Monitoring visualization



End-to-End tests

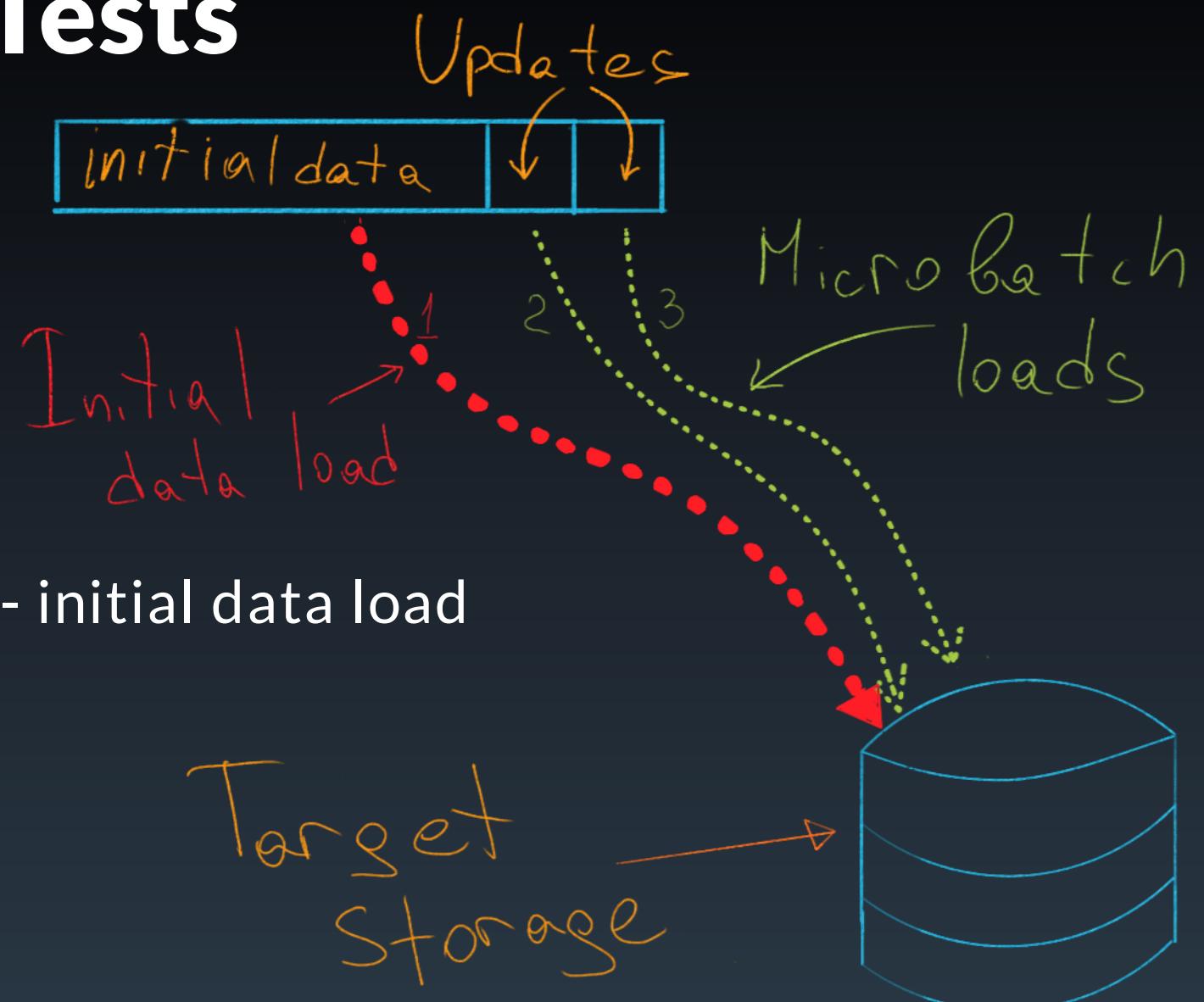
Compare with reports, old DWH

Multiple dimensions:

- data
- data latency
- performance, scalability

Performance Tests

- Start with SLA
- Best performance test - initial data load



How to apply?

Real data, real system

Deploy full data backup on stage env, anonymize it 

Real prod

- run a parallel job with different sink

[Using production data for testing in a post GDPR world](#)