

Modularity: A Retrospective

A nighttime photograph of a bridge over a river. The bridge has a dark, intricate steel truss structure. In the background, a multi-story building is illuminated with a vibrant, multi-colored pattern of squares, resembling a digital or modular display. A long, bright, horizontal light streak is visible above the bridge, suggesting motion or a train passing by.

dean@deanwampler.com
@deanwampler

Outline

- A little history
- What is “modularity”? Why is it useful?
- Modularity in Software:
 - What we’ve tried: the good and the bad
 - What we still need to do

A Little History



Interchangeable Parts

- 1760s: French General Jean-Baptiste Vaquette de Gribeauval
- Standardized cannon bores, shells
- Eli Whitney - early 1800s
- Muskets

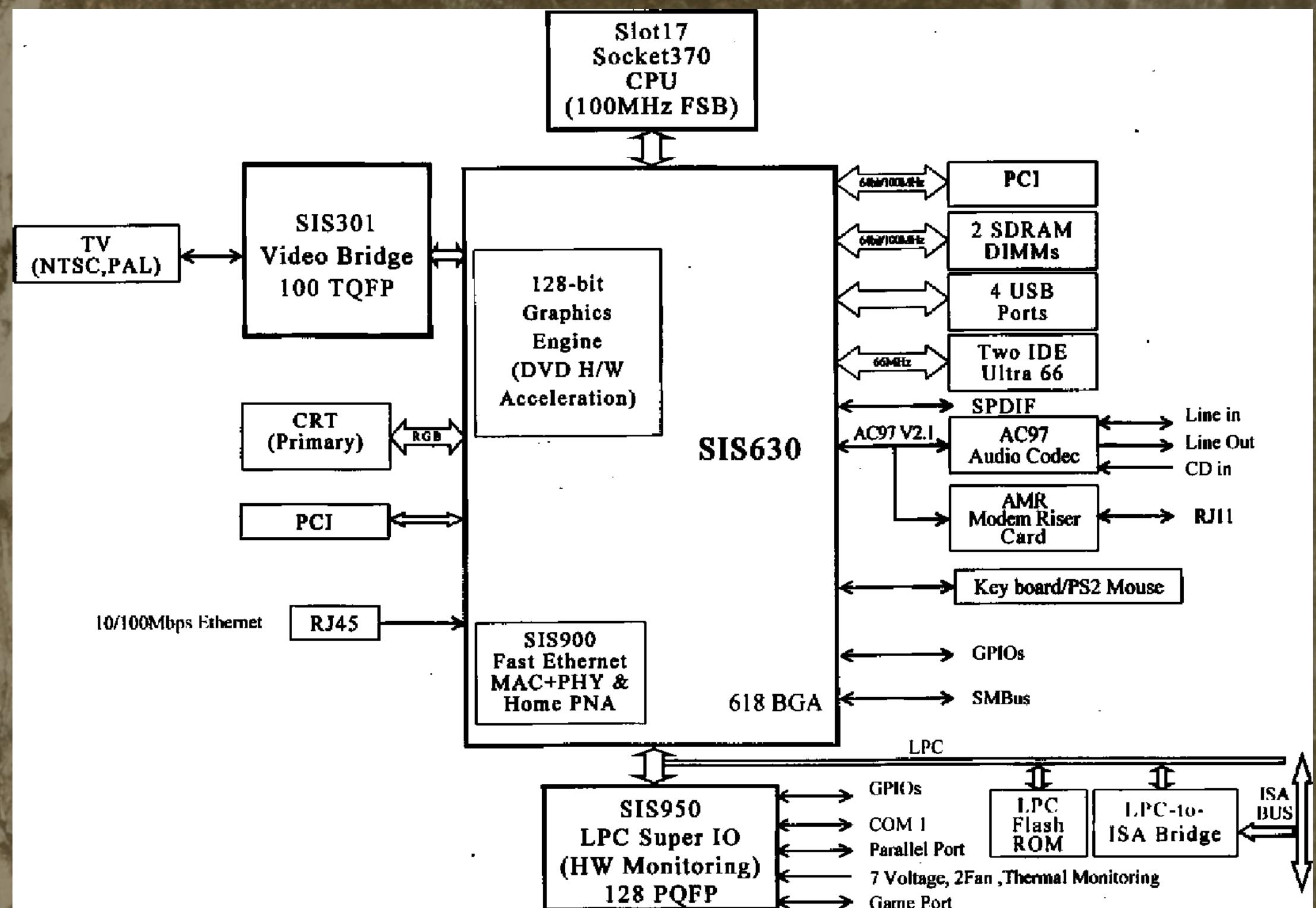
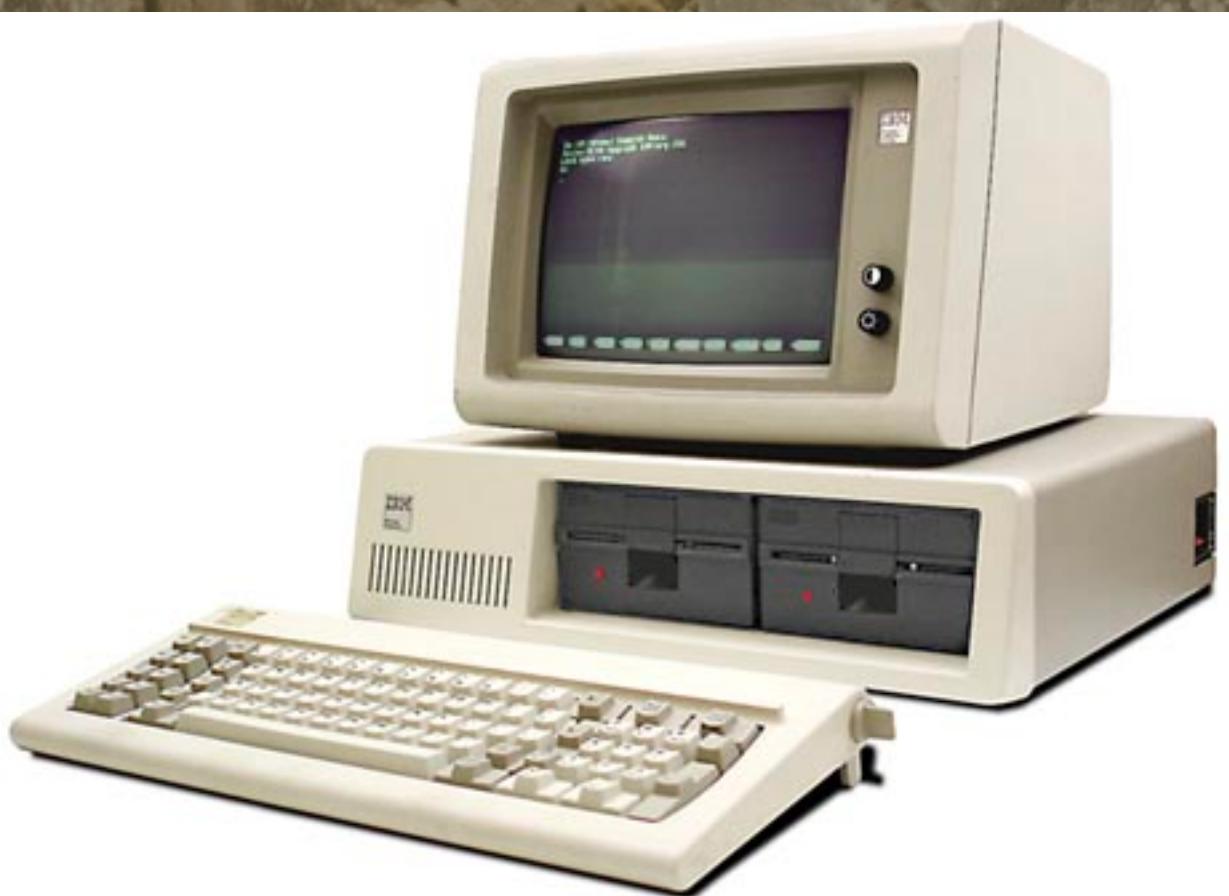


<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artillery>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musket>

Interchangeable Parts

- Electronics

- → PCs



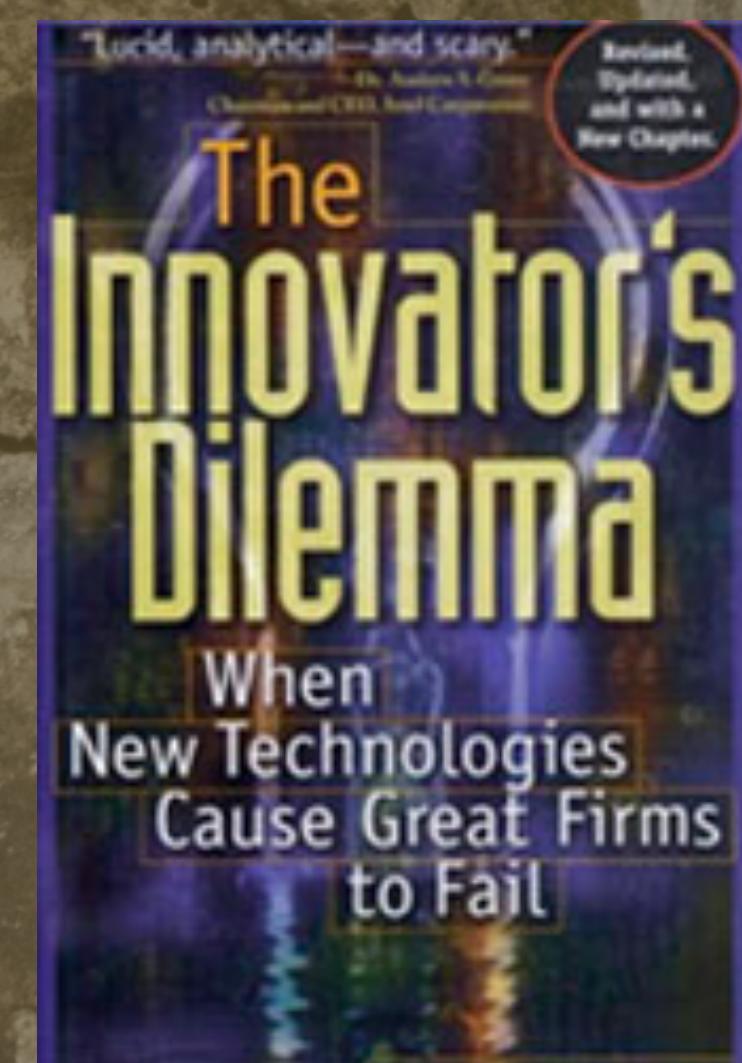
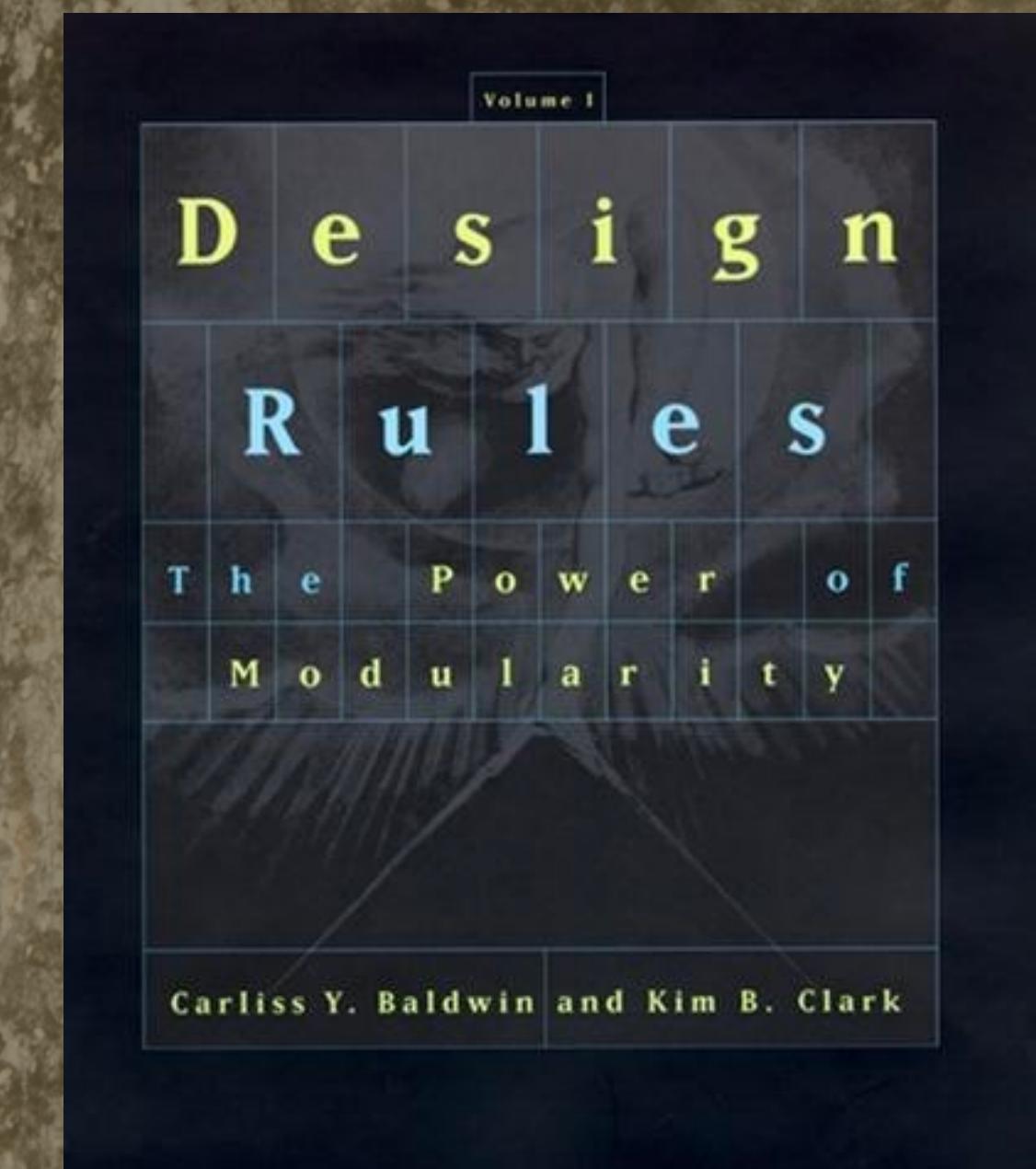
<https://fccid.io/NYYTP100/Block-Diagram/BLOCK-DIAGRAM-133927>

<http://oldcomputers.net/ibm5150.html>

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Interchangeable Parts

- Electronics
- → PCs



<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/design-rules-volume-1>

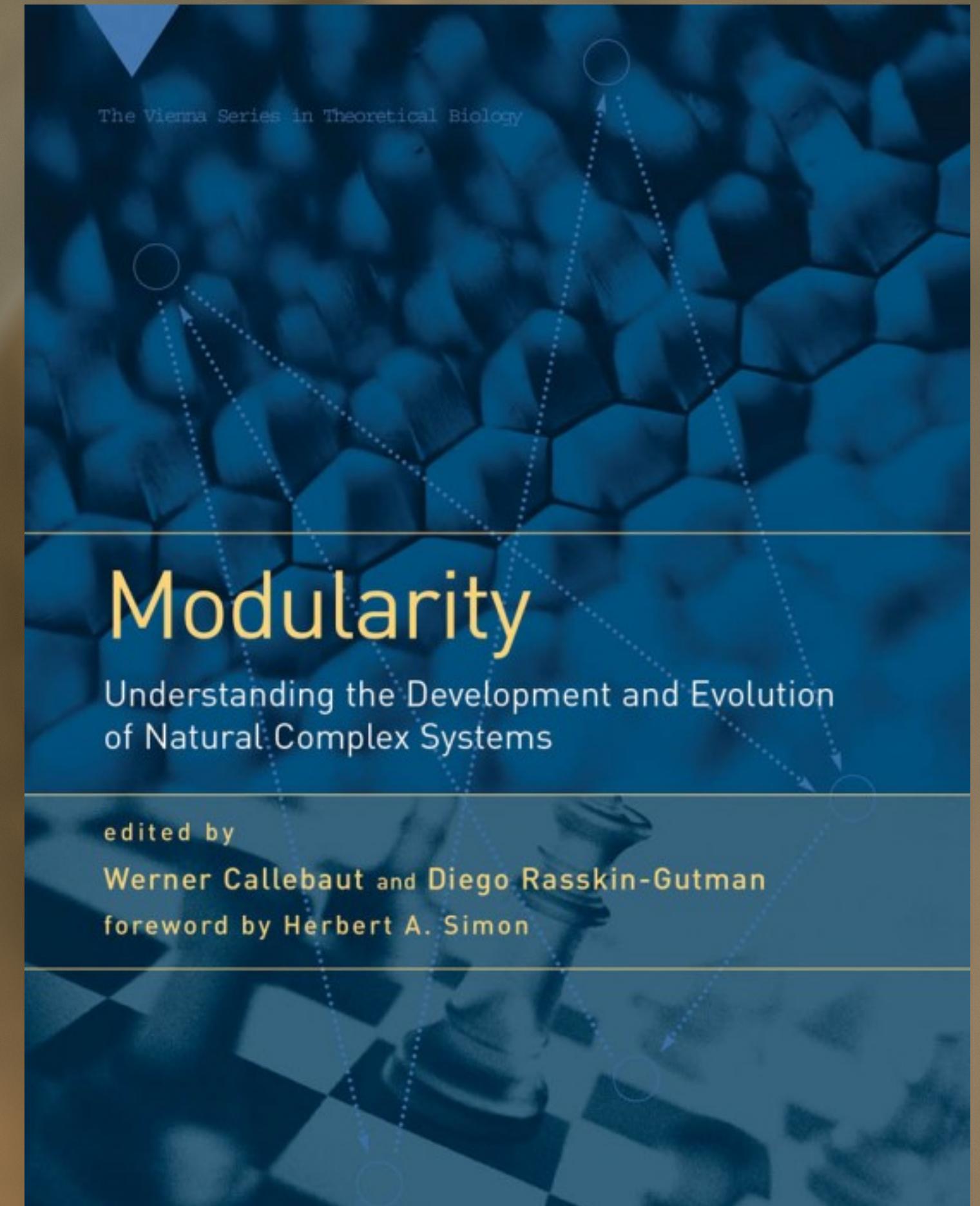
<http://claytonchristensen.com/books/the-innovators-dilemma/>

One Global Pattern...

Duality of “Forces”

In Biology

- RNA evolves energy-stable structures that resist mutation
- But mutation still possible



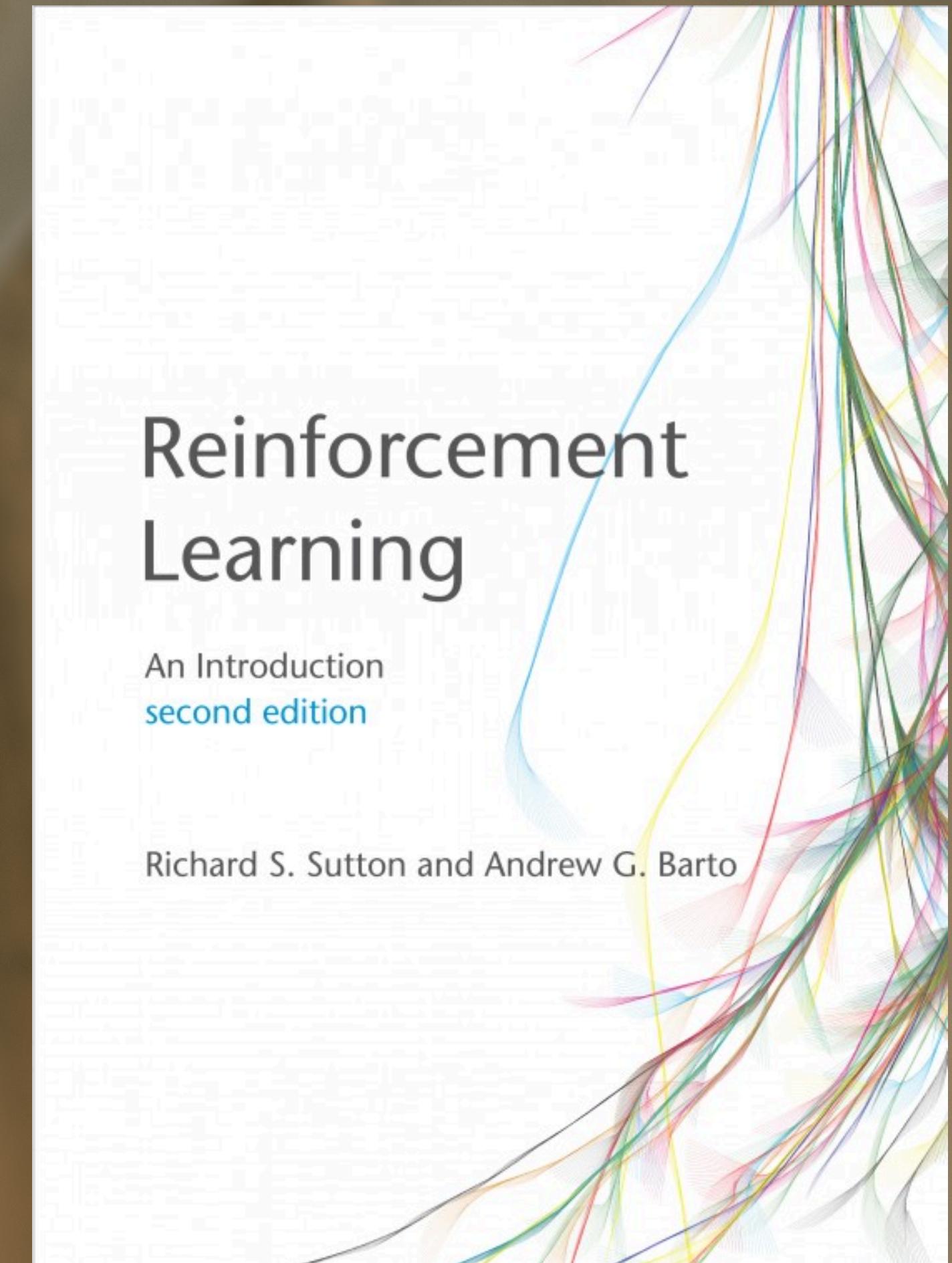
<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/modularity>

Chapter 6, Evolutionary Lock-in and Origin of Modularity in RNA Structure

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Reinforcement Learning

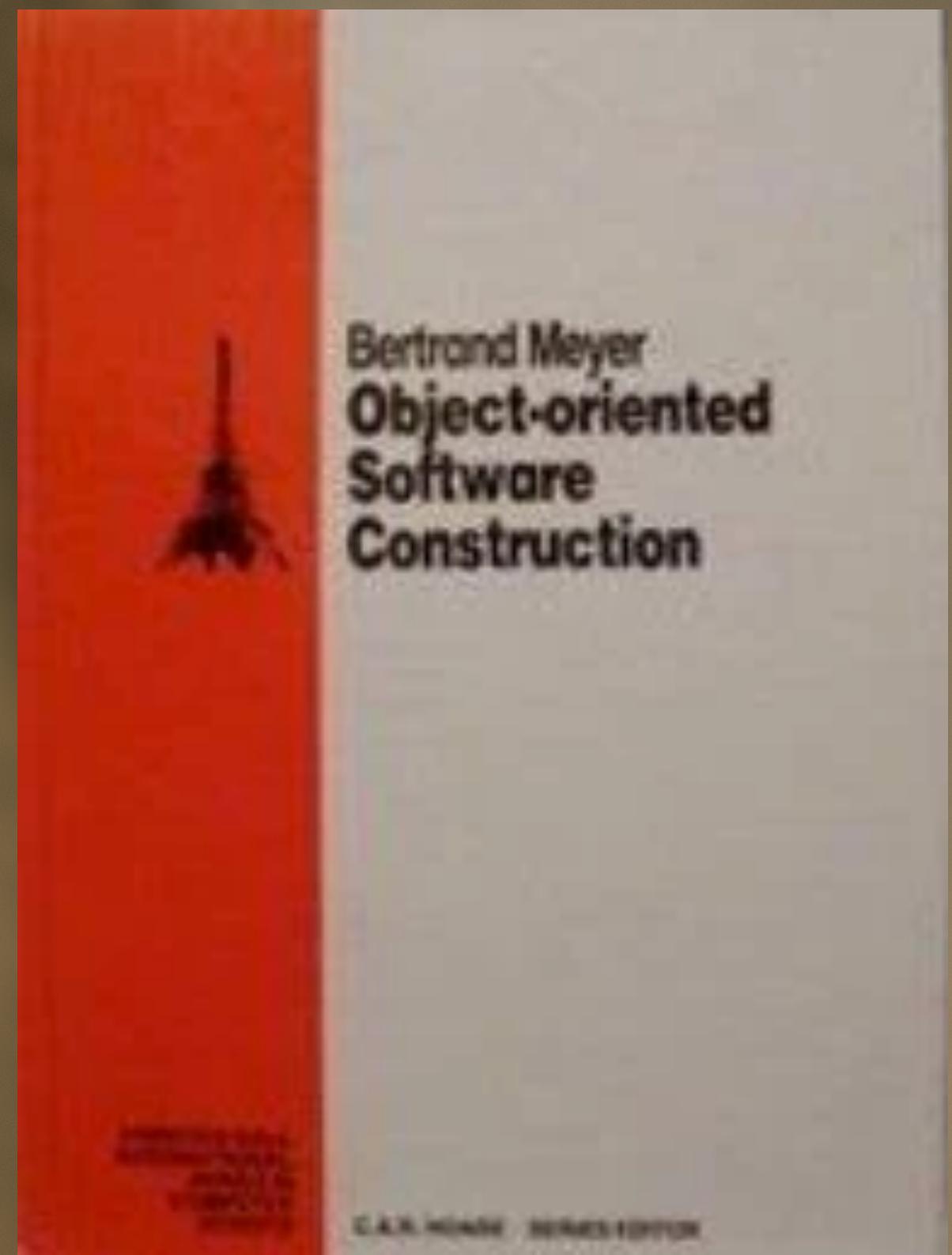
- Exploit rewarding paths
- ... but explore other paths that might be more rewarding



<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/reinforcement-learning-second-edition>

Open-Closed Principle

- A module should **open** for extension
- ... but **closed** for modification



[Wikipedia Page](#)

<rant/>

- All systems have design patterns, including FP
- Specific patterns will vary

FP “patterns”? Monads, monoids, applicatives, functors, ...

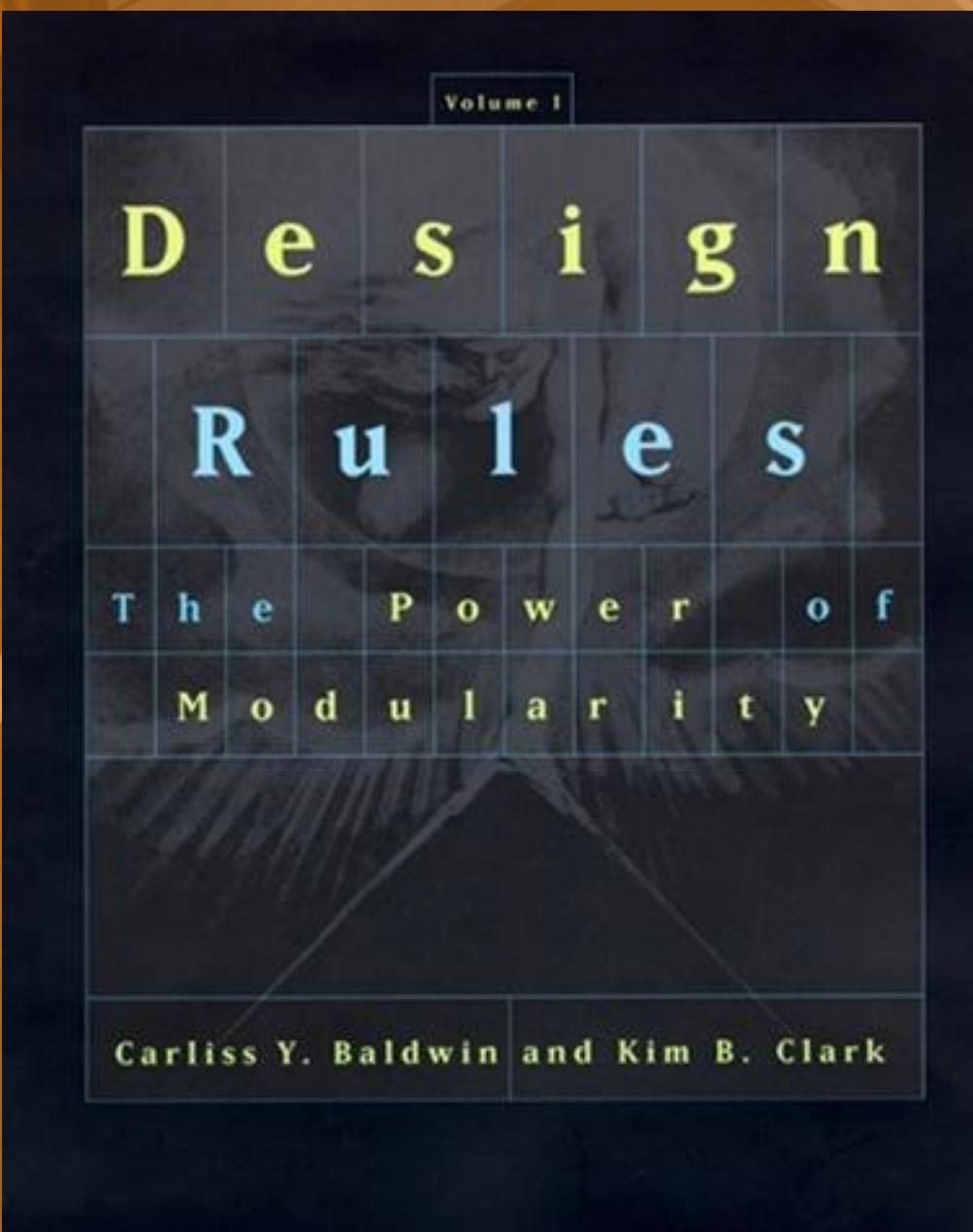
Modularity Defined



Definition

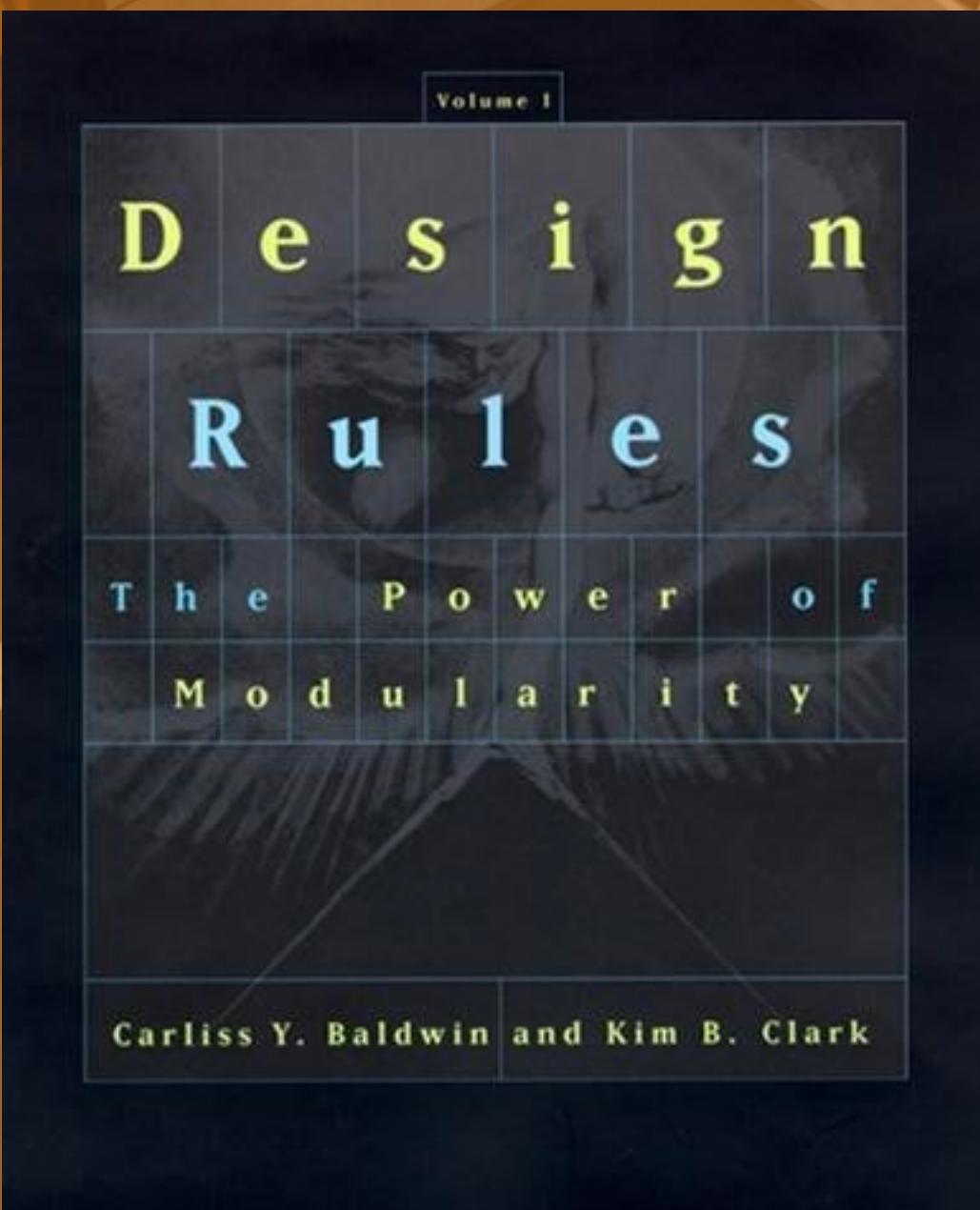
I.e., Cohesion vs. Coupling

A module is a unit whose structural elements are powerfully connected among themselves and relatively weakly connected to elements in other units.



Terms

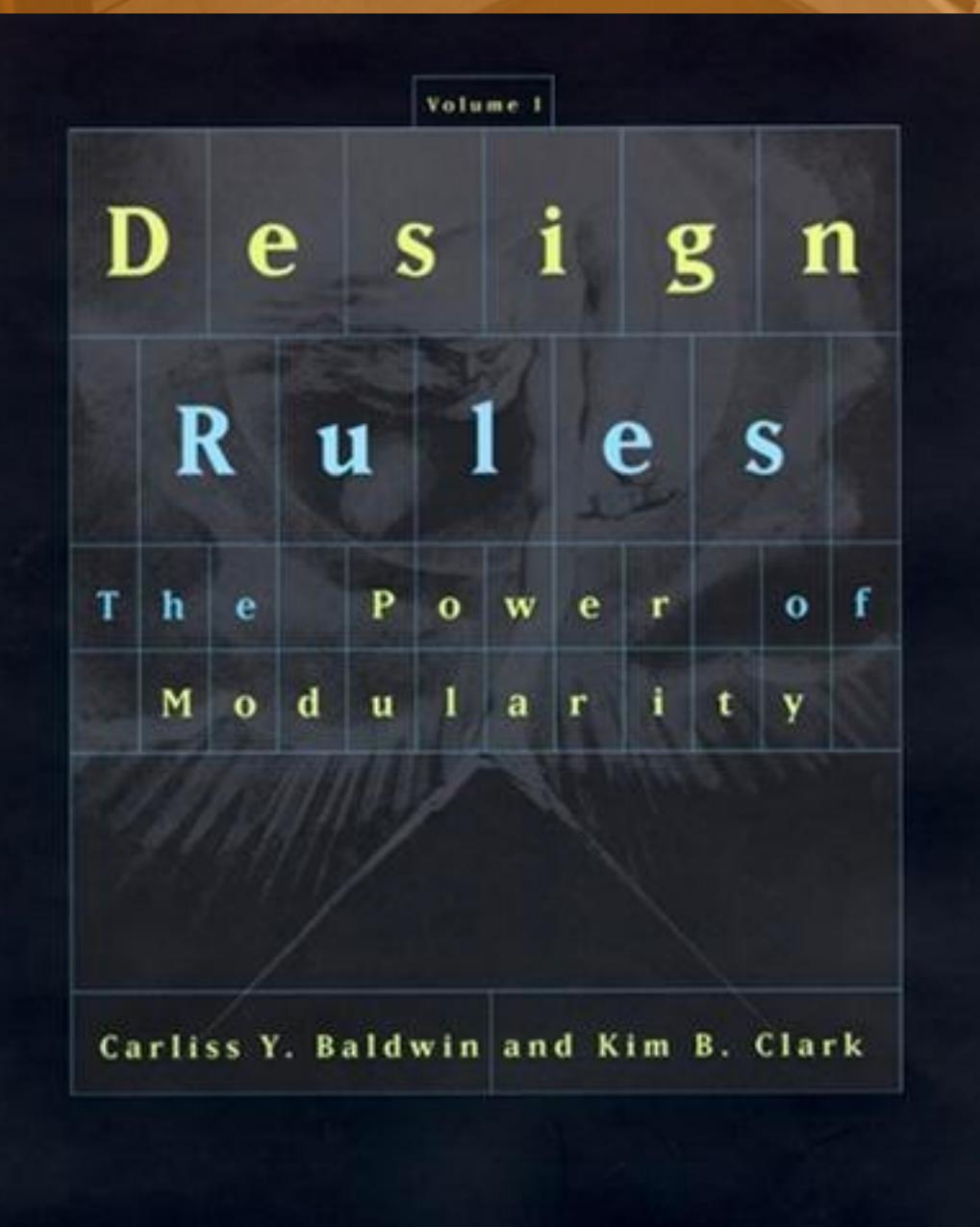
- Design Rules - fixed decisions
- Architecture - the pieces & how they are wired together
- Interfaces - How they talk to each other



Benefits

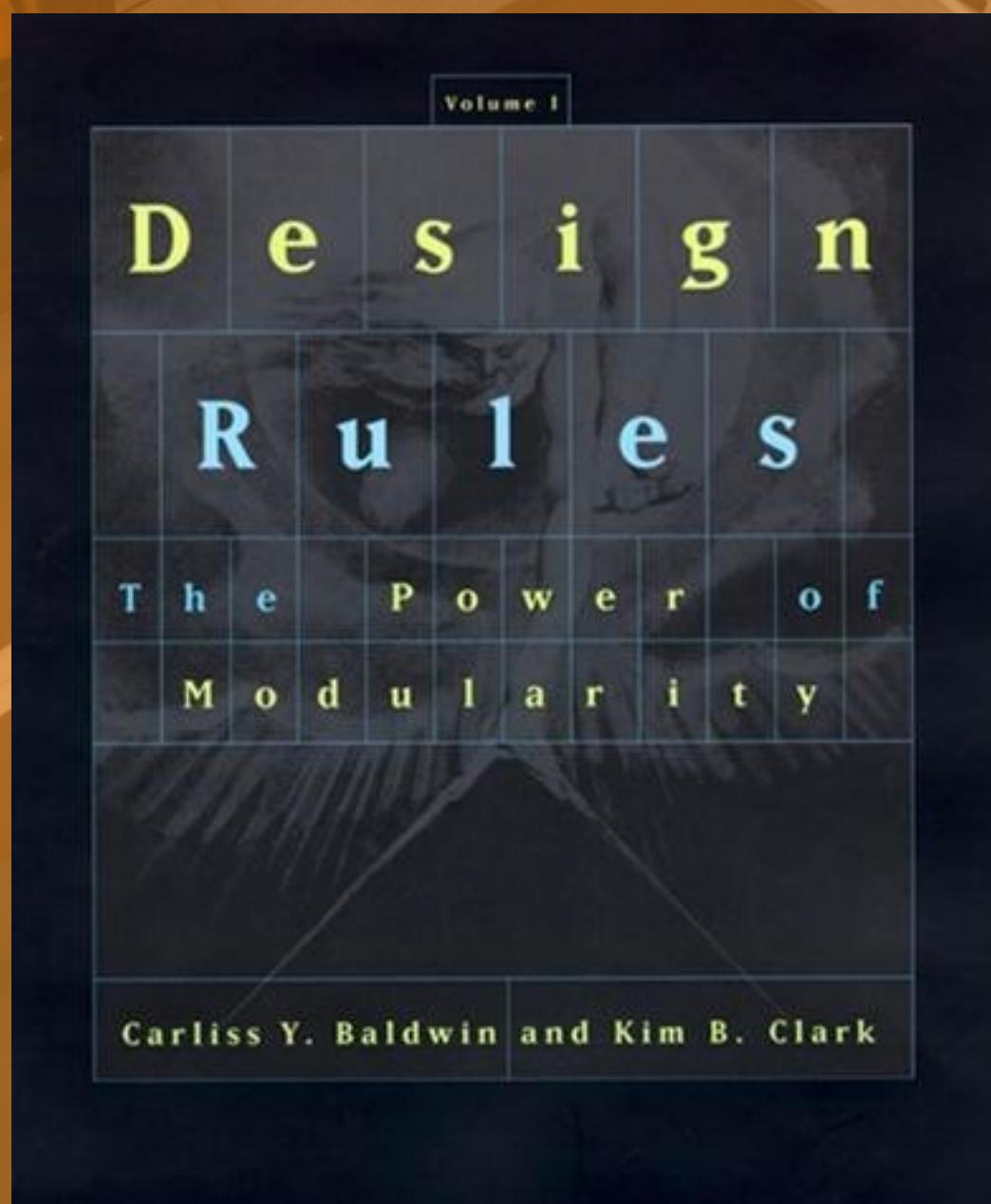
- Allows greater complexity
- Allows concurrent work
- Embrace Conway's Law

[Wikipedia Page](#)



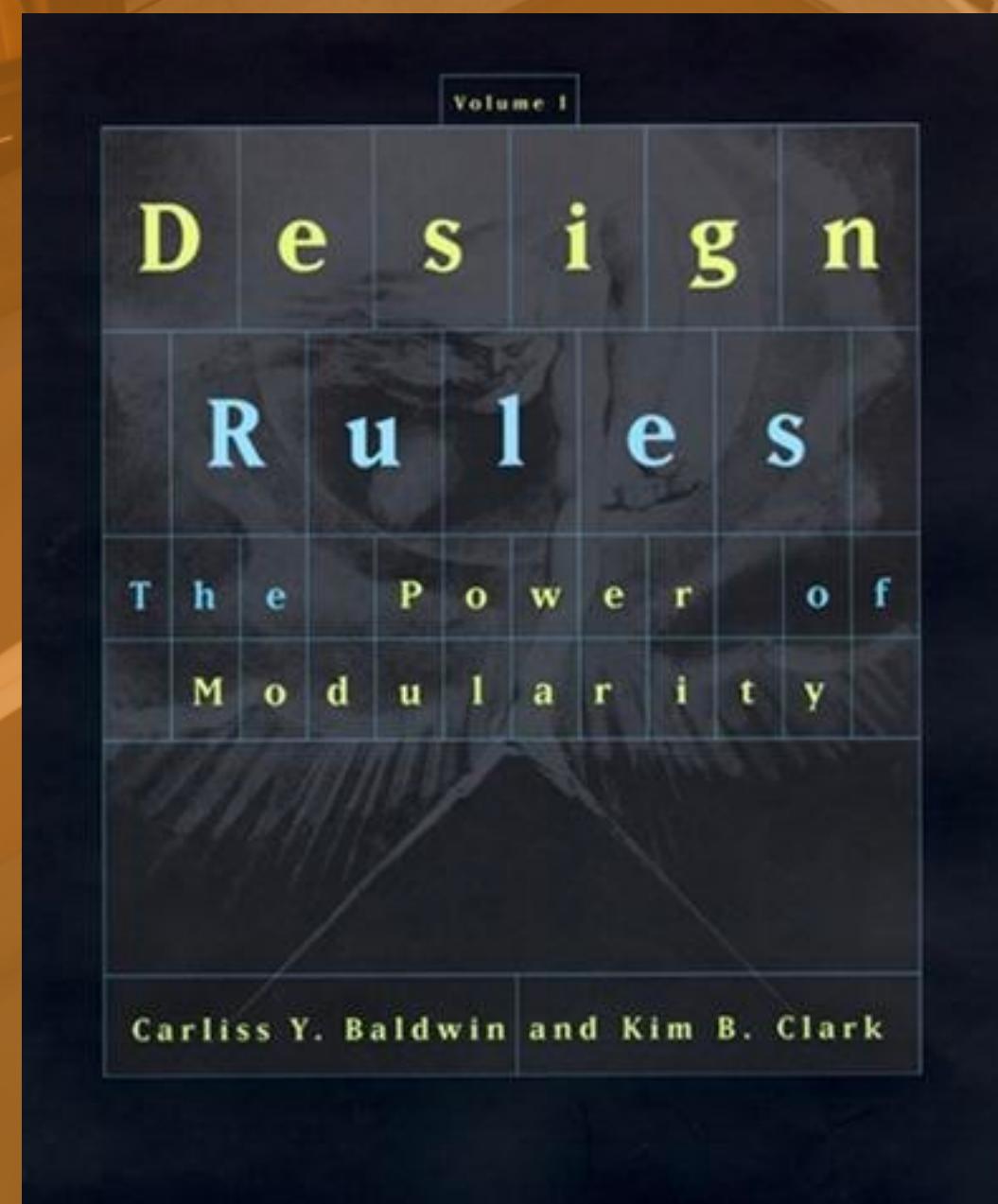
Benefits

- Accommodates uncertainty
- the flexibility to evolve internally



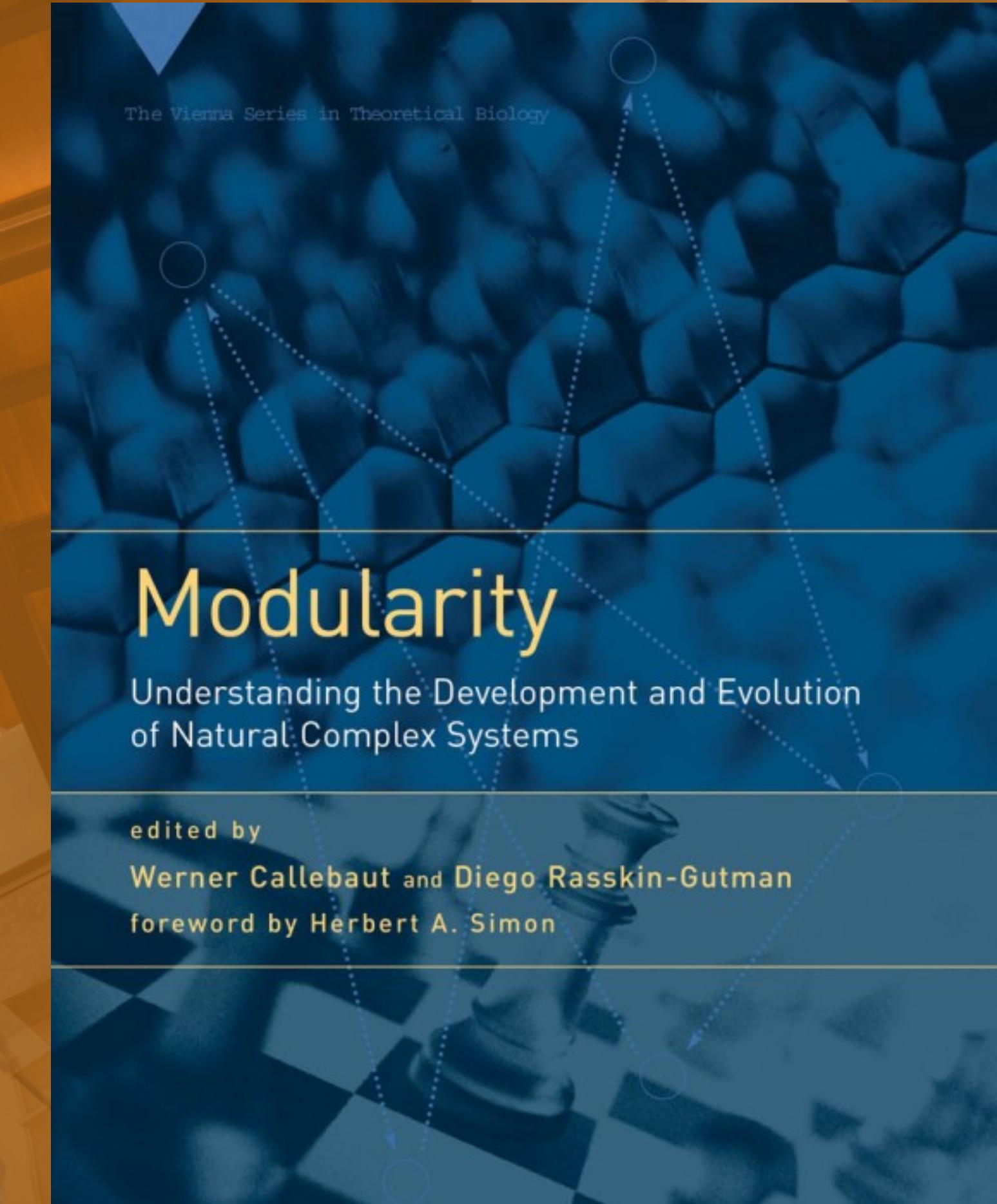
Benefits

- Not stated in the book are “DevOps” concerns, e.g.,
 - Independent scalability
 - Independent replacement



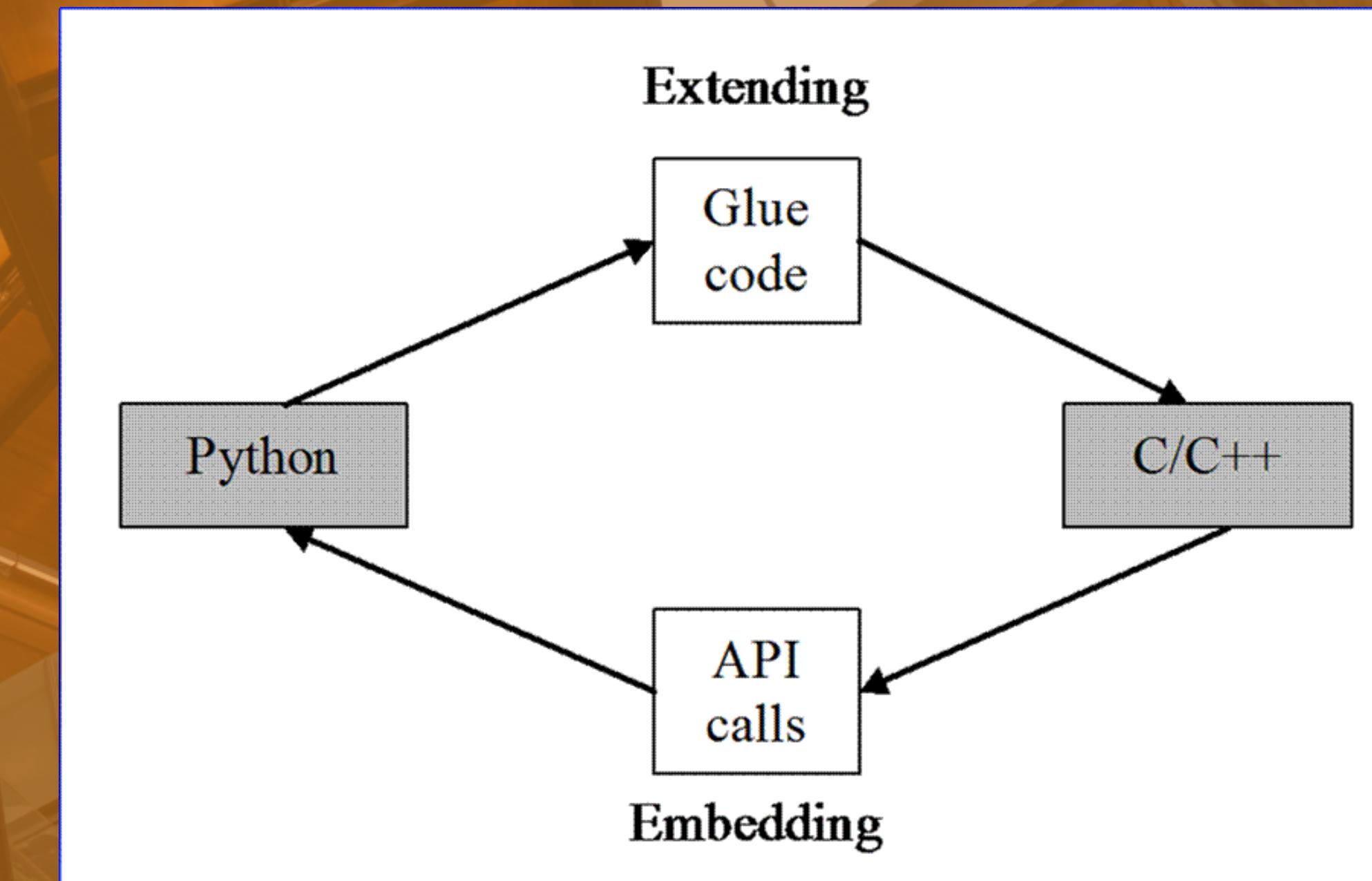
Insights

- Modules can be
 - structural
 - procedural



Insights

- Procedures =
Libraries of components
+ Scripts as glue for
procedures



What is the type of a procedure??

Software



Examples

- Microservices?
- DLL Hell...
- OOP vs. FP vs. ... what?
- New Modularities

Microservices

Microservices



Yawar Amin @yawaramin · 21h

'I think microservices and the hype around them is one of the most damaging trends that has hit web development in the last ten years.'

'Microservices is what you do when you have teams so large that they essentially need ... [full control]'

- @dhh

[corecursive.com/045-david-hein...](https://corecursive.com/045-david-heinemeier-hansson-software-contrarian/)

Troof!



David Heinemeier Hansson, Software Contrarian - CoRecursive Podcast

David Heinemeier Hansson talks to Adam about being avoiding a software monoculture. He explains why we should find a programming language th...

corecursive.com

3

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Show this thread

<https://corecursive.com/045-david-heinemeier-hansson-software-contrarian/>

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Microservices

- Why Microservices?
- Conway's Law
- Independent scaling, etc.

Istio



Istio 1.4

Istio 1.4.4 is now available! [Click here to learn more](#)

[Docs](#) [Blog](#) [News](#)

- Abandoned Microservices?
- Because most deployments have one administrator
- They now release as one deployable service

Istio

Connect, secure, control, and observe services.

<https://istio.io/>



DLL hell

DLL hell

holden karau
@holdenkarau

If I never have to debug a Guava diamond dependency once more in my life it will be too many.

9:43 PM · Feb 17, 2020 · Twitter Web App

19 Likes

- Is semantic versioning really enough?

DLL hell

- Clojure - once you release a function, type, etc., never change it.
- Can we define more rigorous specifications of interfaces?

DLL hell

- Unison language
- Why do we rely on names?

<https://www.unisonweb.org/2020/04/10/reducing-churn/>

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OOP vs. FP vs. ??

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OOP vs. FP vs. ??

- OOP - Why didn't we get true modularity and reusability?
- Inheritance too fragile
- Behavior not sequential
- Lack of constraints...

Constraints



Constraints



**Constraints Liberate,
Liberties Constrain**

Rúnar Bjarnason [@runarorama](https://twitter.com/runarorama)
Scala World 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GamsQeSzMdw>

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Constraints



Constraints



The more kinds of things something could *potentially* be,
the less we can reason about what it *actually* is.



Constraints

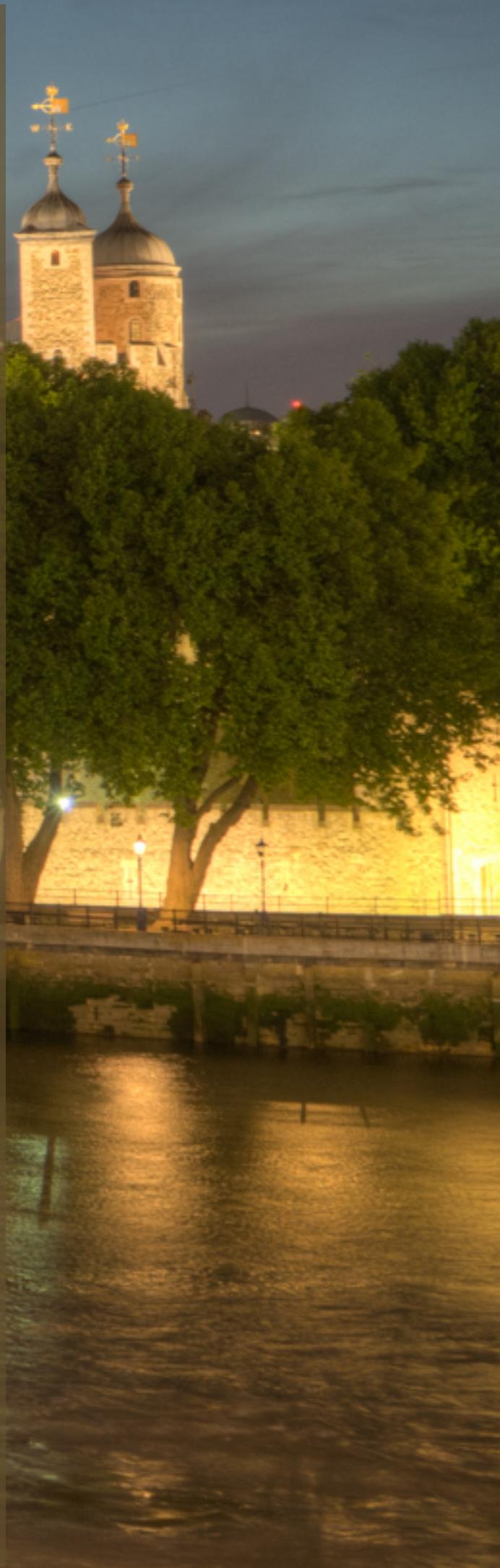
```
def foo(array: Array[Int]): Int
```

vs.

```
def foo[A](array: Array[A]): Int
```

Constraints

- Side effects? - they undermine
 - reuse
 - compositionality
 - concurrency
 - “algebraic reasoning”



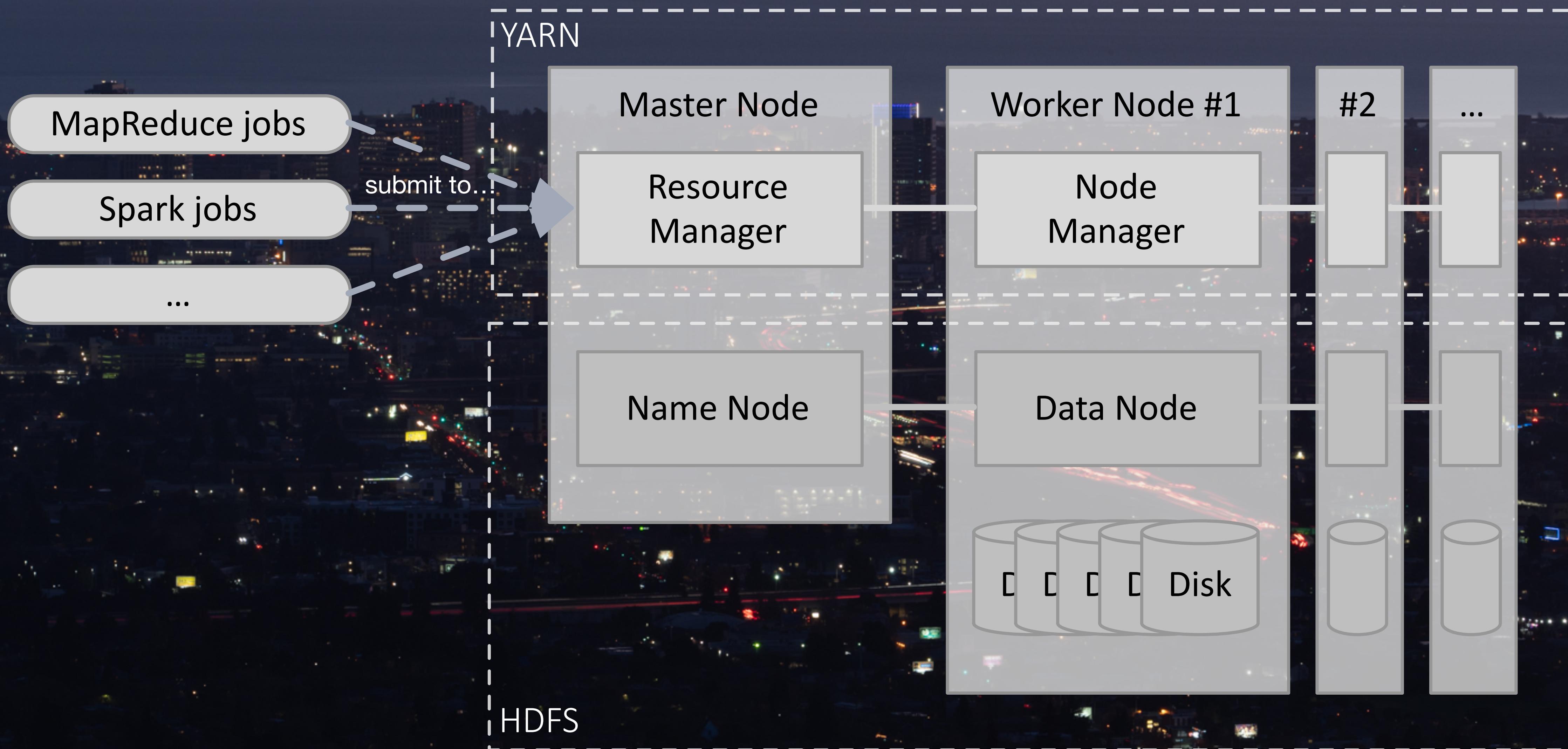
Success Stories



Databases vs. Hadoop

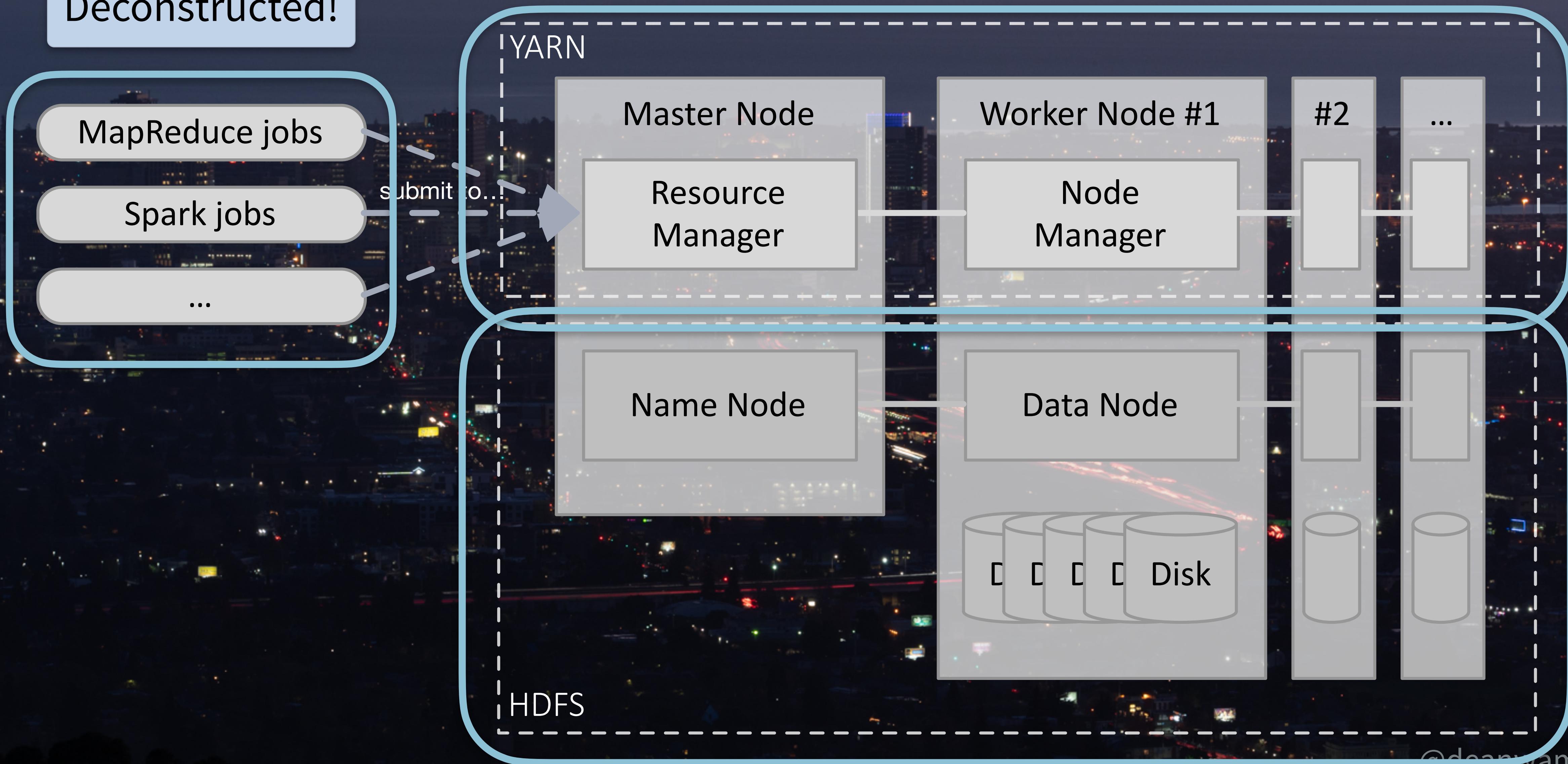


Databases vs. Hadoop



Databases vs. Hadoop

Database
Deconstructed!



Ray (and systems like it...)



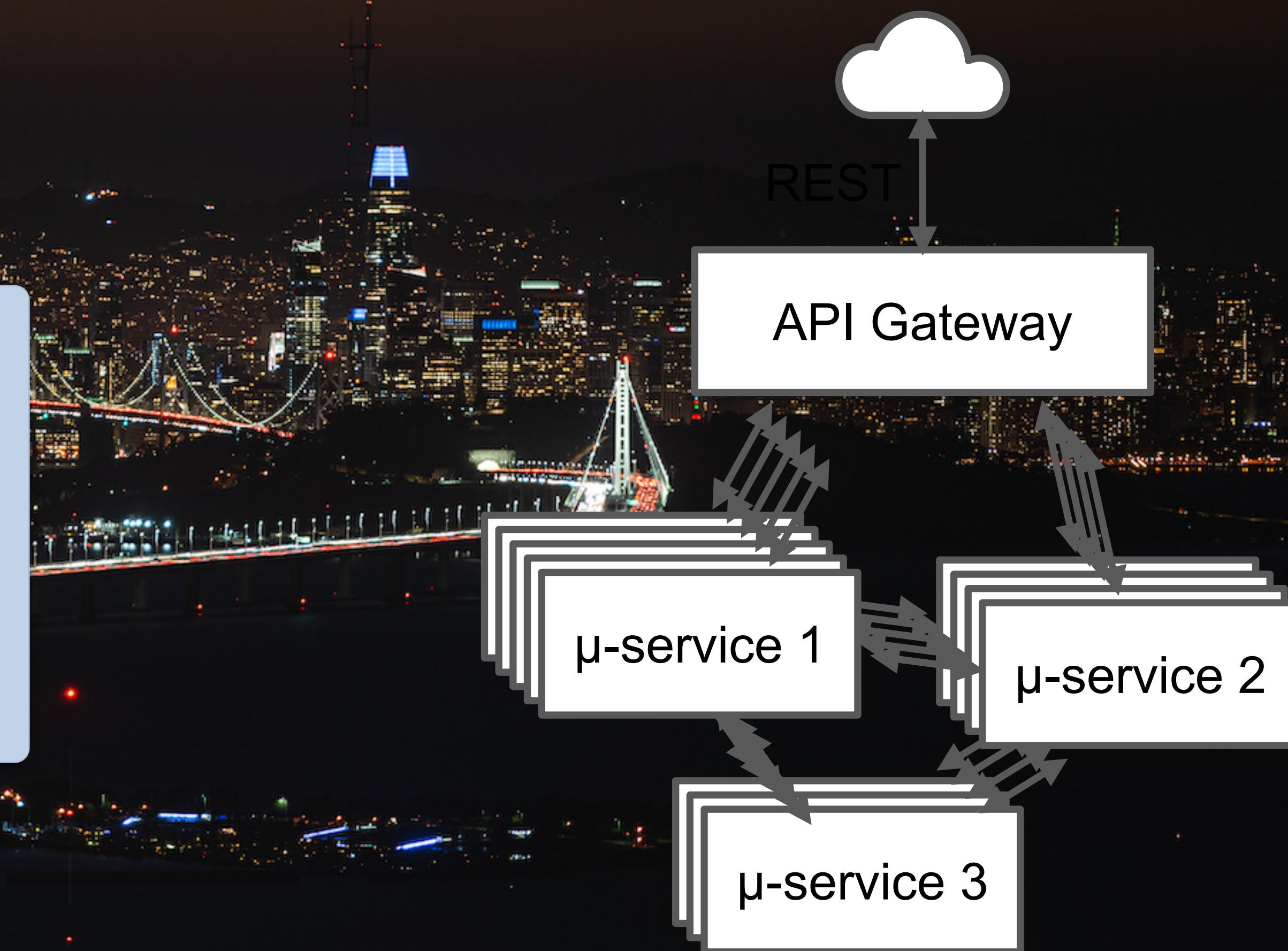
Microservices (again)



Microservices (again)

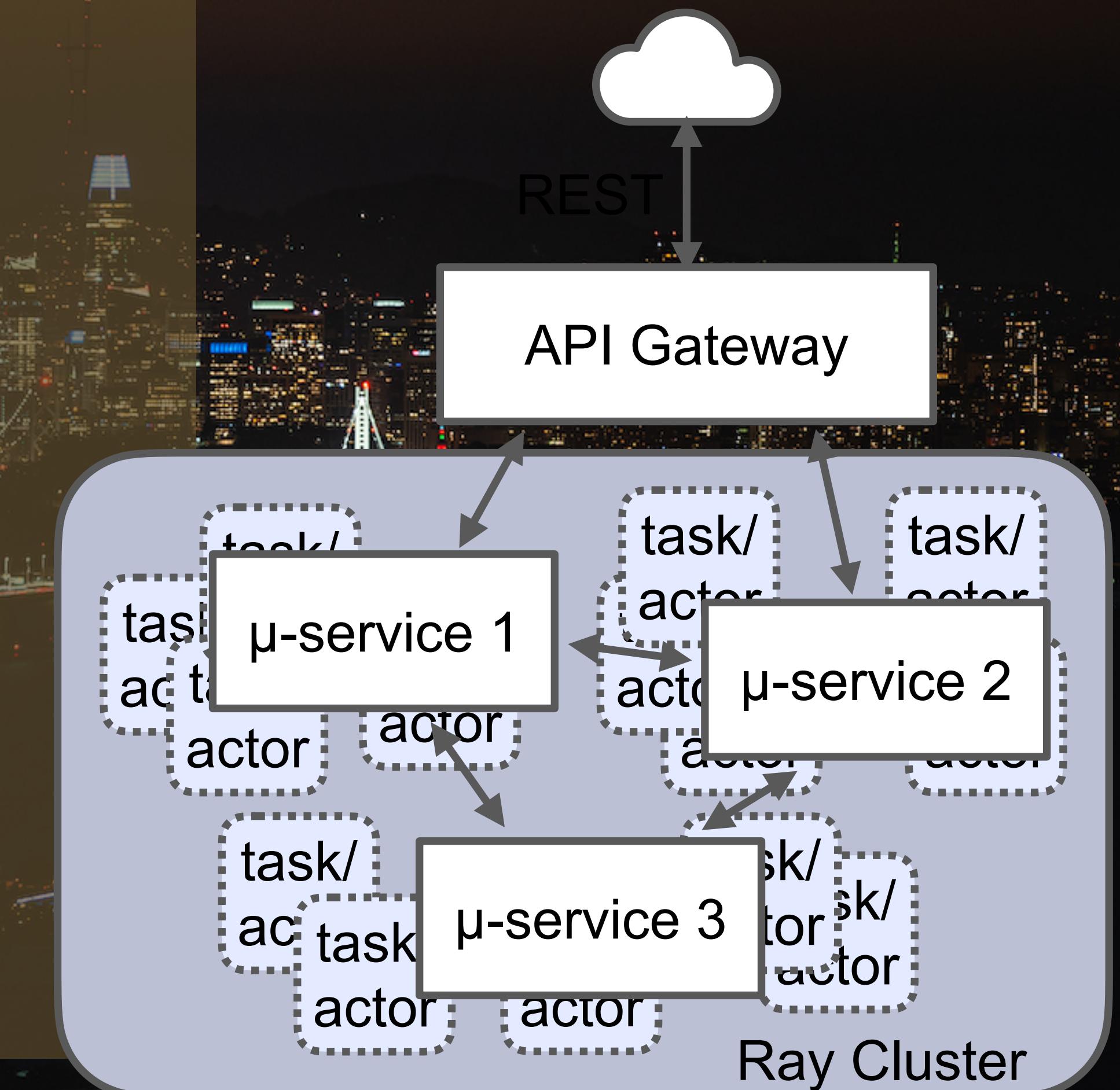
Need to Scale??

Why do YOU have to
manage all these
instances yourself??



- Pretend you have ONE instance of the microservice.

- Let systems like Ray manage horizontal scaling.



Apache Arrow

- Standardize in-memory data
- Storage, schema, ...
- Reuse across apps & libs

arrow.apache.org

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over the San Francisco Bay. The sky is filled with dramatic, wispy clouds colored in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, dark silhouettes of hills and trees are visible. Across the bay, the city of San Francisco is lit up at night, and the Golden Gate Bridge stands prominently against the horizon.

polyglotprogramming.com/talks
dean@deanwampler.com

@deanwampler