JavaScript: Async Functions

Fetch API, Promises, async/await

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AJAX

Asynchronous JavaScript and XML

What is AJAX?

- **Asynchronous JavaScript And XML**
  - Background loading of **dynamic content/data**
  - Load data from the Web server and **render** it
- Some **examples** of AJAX usage
  - **Partial page rendering**
    - Load HTML fragment + show it in a `<div>`
  - **JSON service**
    - Loads JSON object and displays it

AJAX: Workflow

Client

Web Server

HTTP request (initial page load)

HTTP response (HTML page)

Browser

JS App

Static

REST

AJAX: Workflow

Client

Web Server

Browser

JS App

UI Interaction

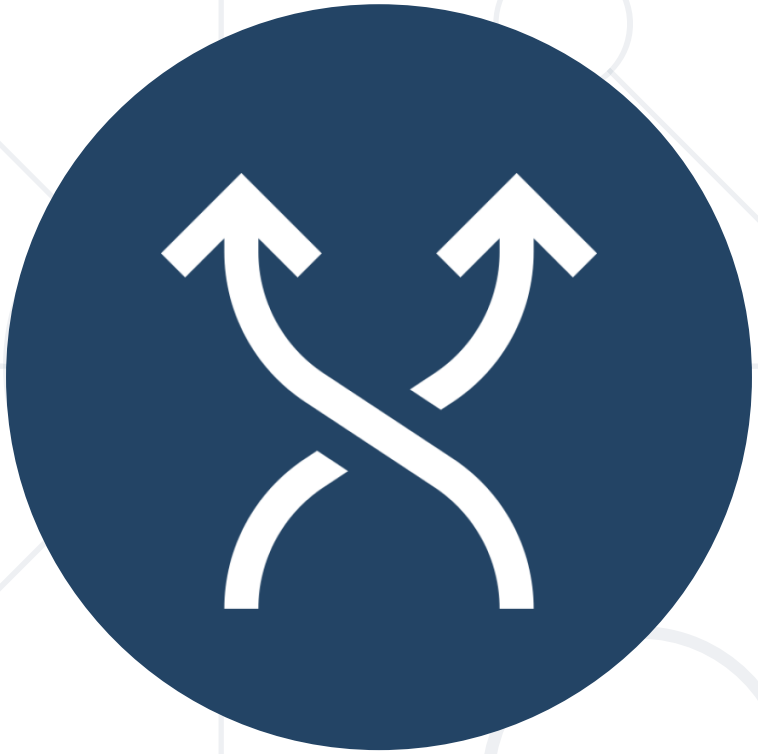
AJAX handler

Static

REST

AJAX request

Returns data as JSON



Synchronous vs Asynchronous

Asynchronous Programming

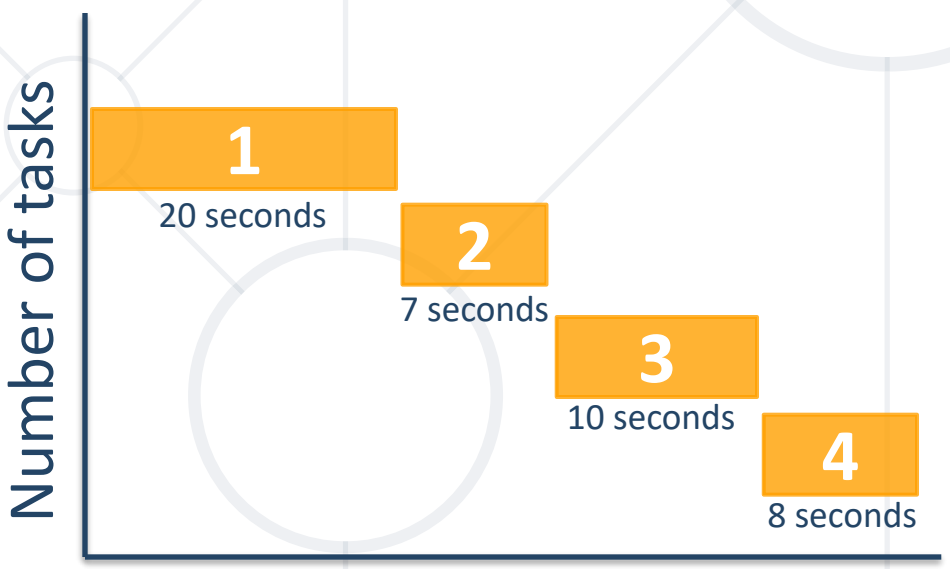
Asynchronous Programming in JS

- Structured using **callback functions**
- In current versions of JS there are
  - **Callbacks**
  - **Promises**
  - **Async Functions**
- Not the same thing as **concurrent** or **multi-threaded**
- **JS code** is generally **single-threaded**

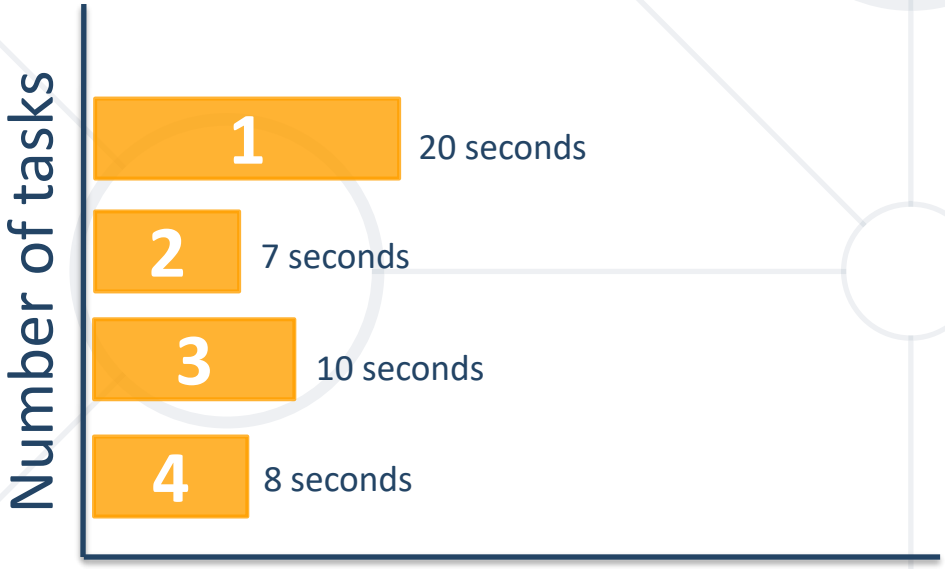
Asynchronous Programming

- Runs several tasks (pieces of code) in parallel, **at the same time**

Synchronous



Asynchronous



Asynchronous Programming – Example

- The following commands will be executed as follows

```
console.log("Hello.");

setTimeout(function() {
  console.log("Goodbye!");
}, 2000);

console.log("Hello again!");
```

```
// Hello.
```

```
// Hello again!
```

```
// Goodbye!
```

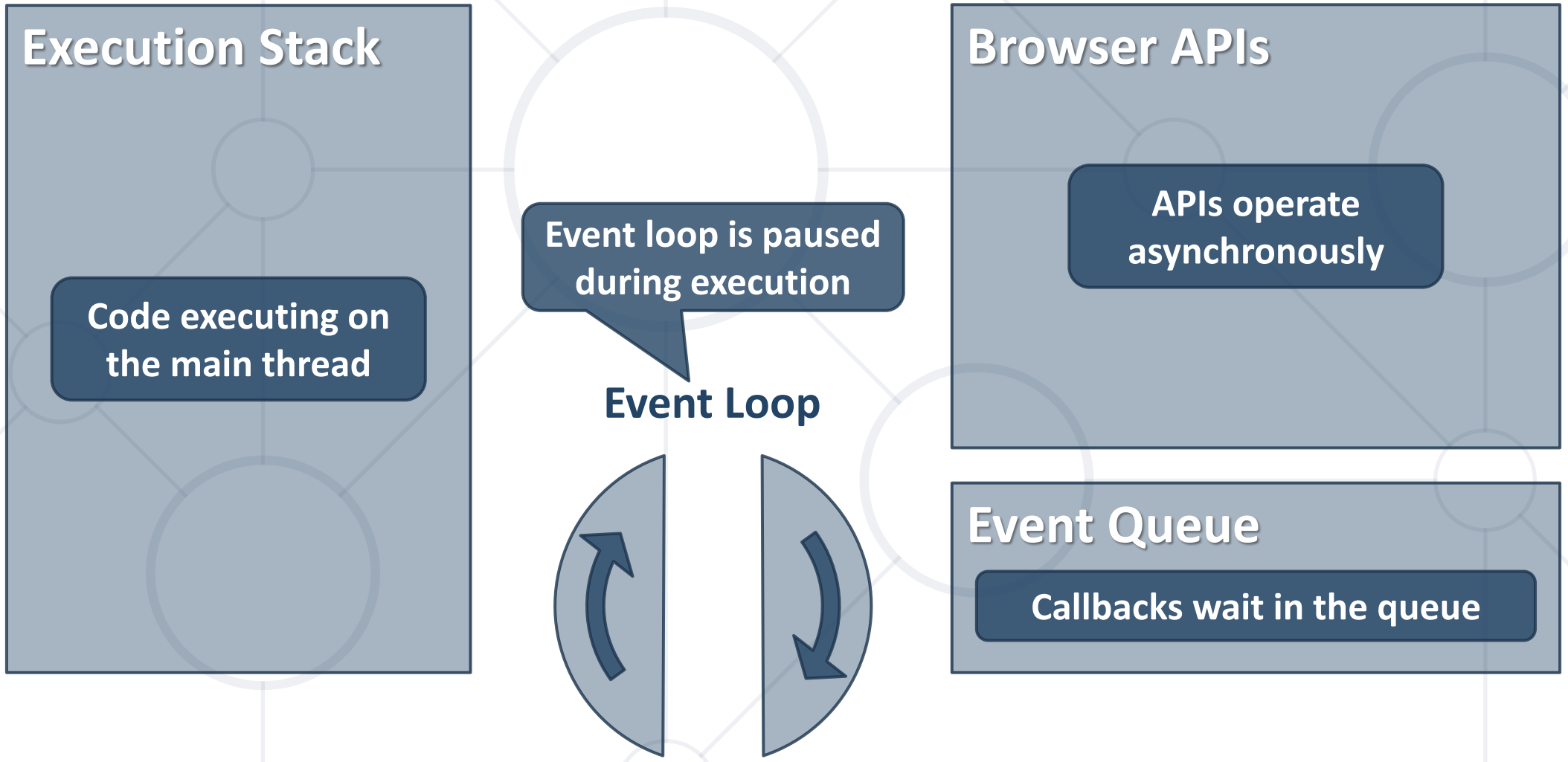
Callbacks

- Function **passed** into another function as an **argument**
- Then **invoked** inside the outer function to complete some kind of routine or action

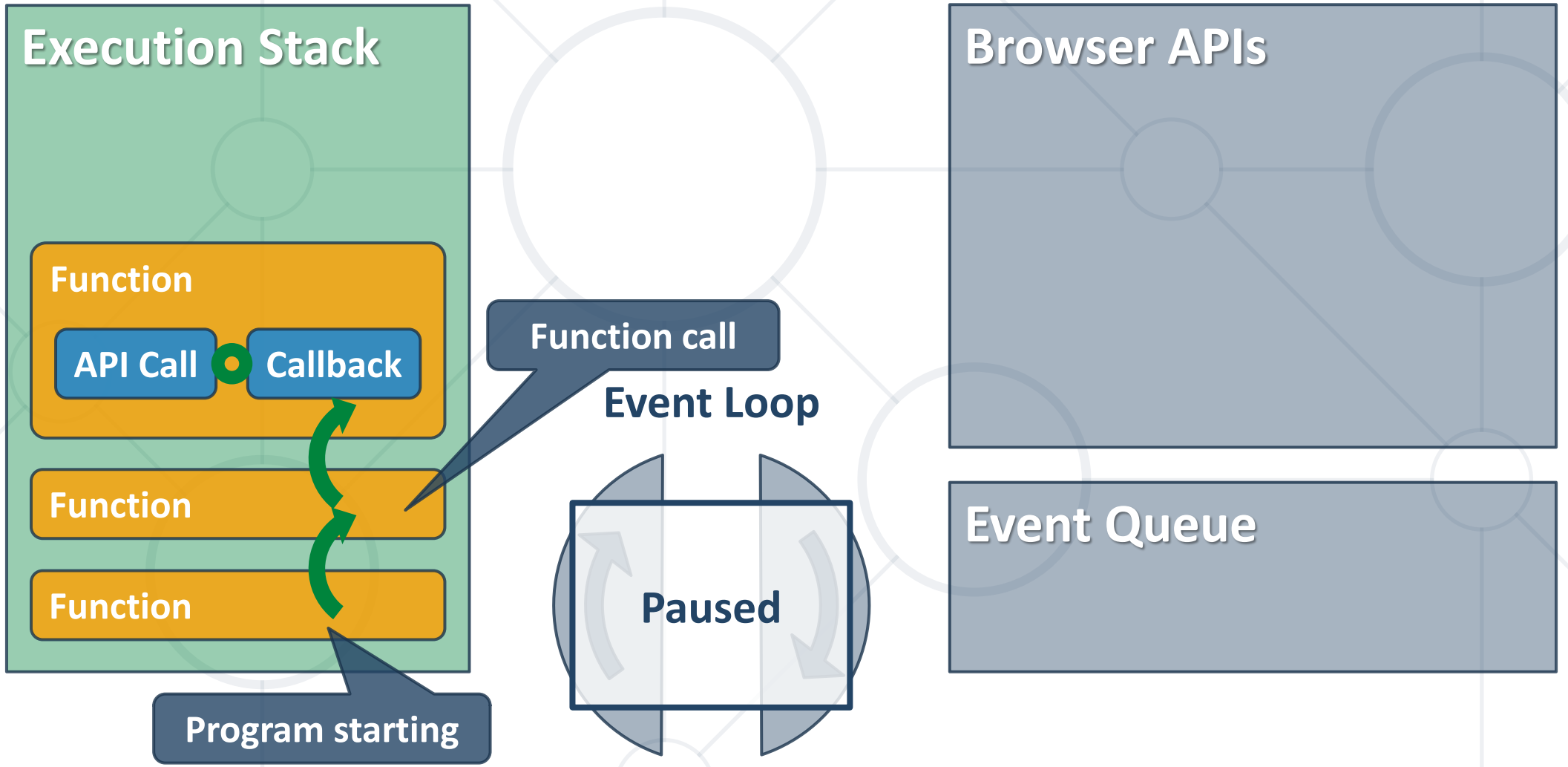
```
function running() {
    return "Running";
}
function category(run, type) {
    console.log(run() + " " + type);
}
category(running, "sprint"); // Running sprint
```

Callback function

Event Loop Synchronization



Event Loop Synchronization



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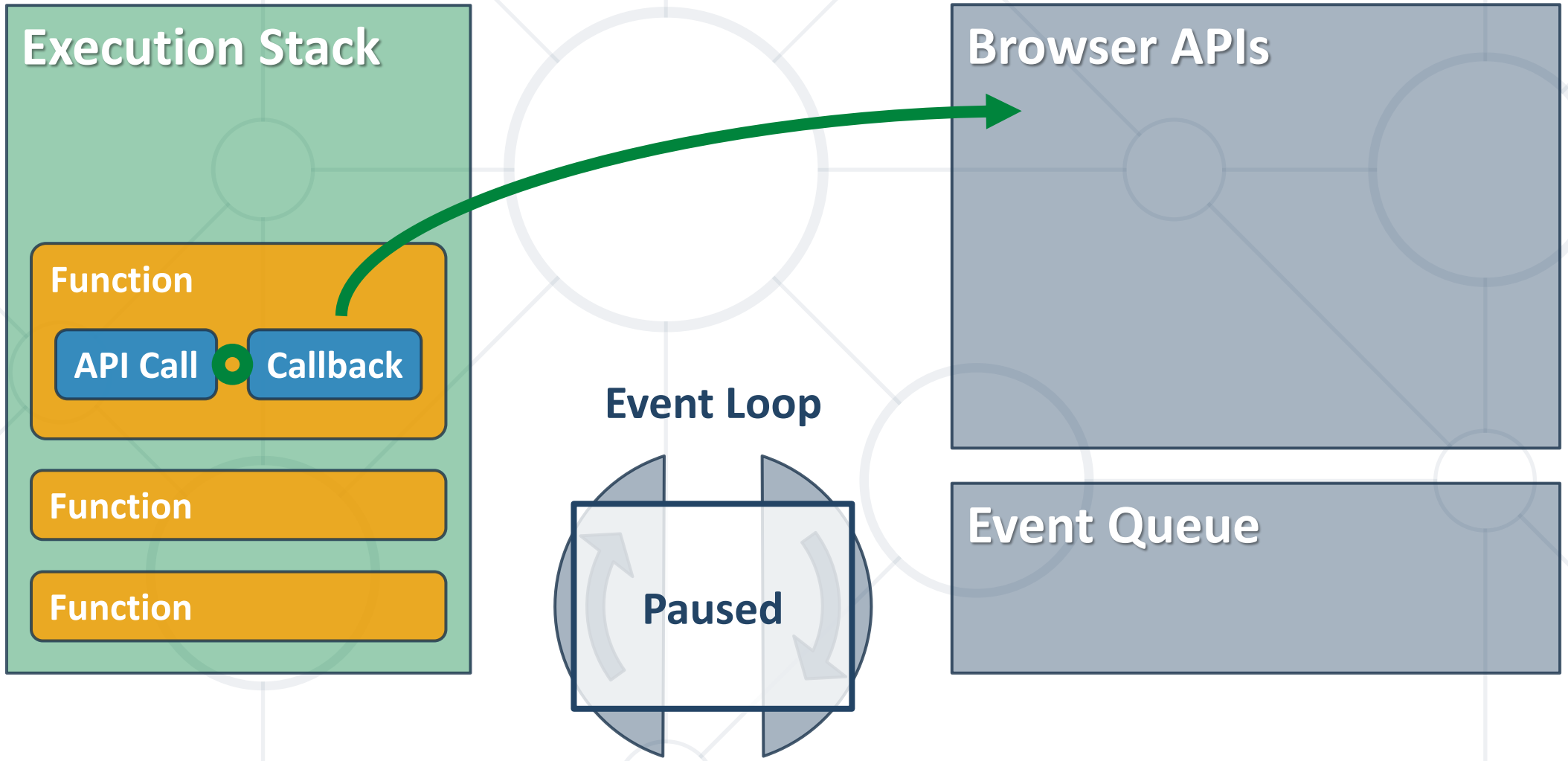

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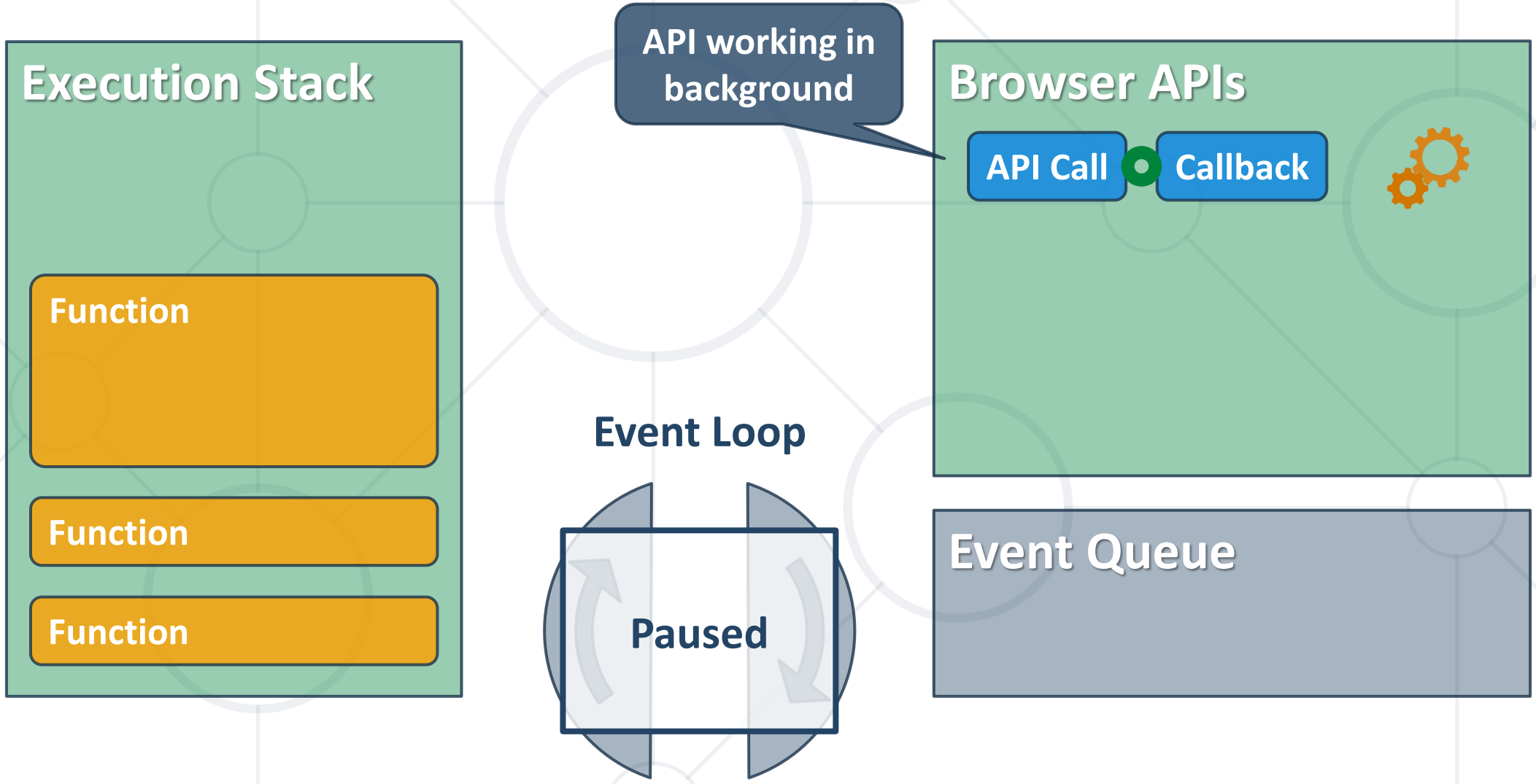

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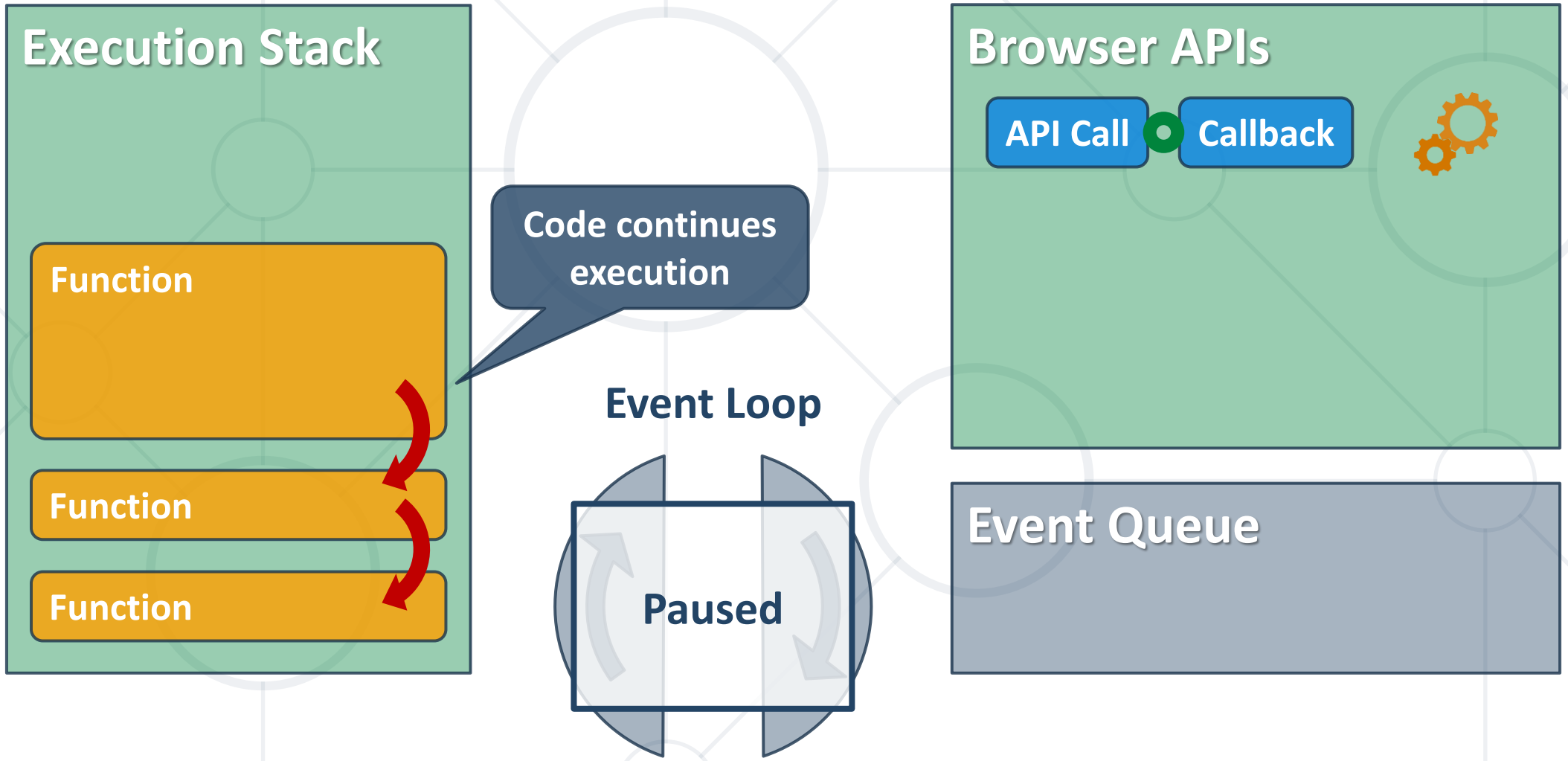

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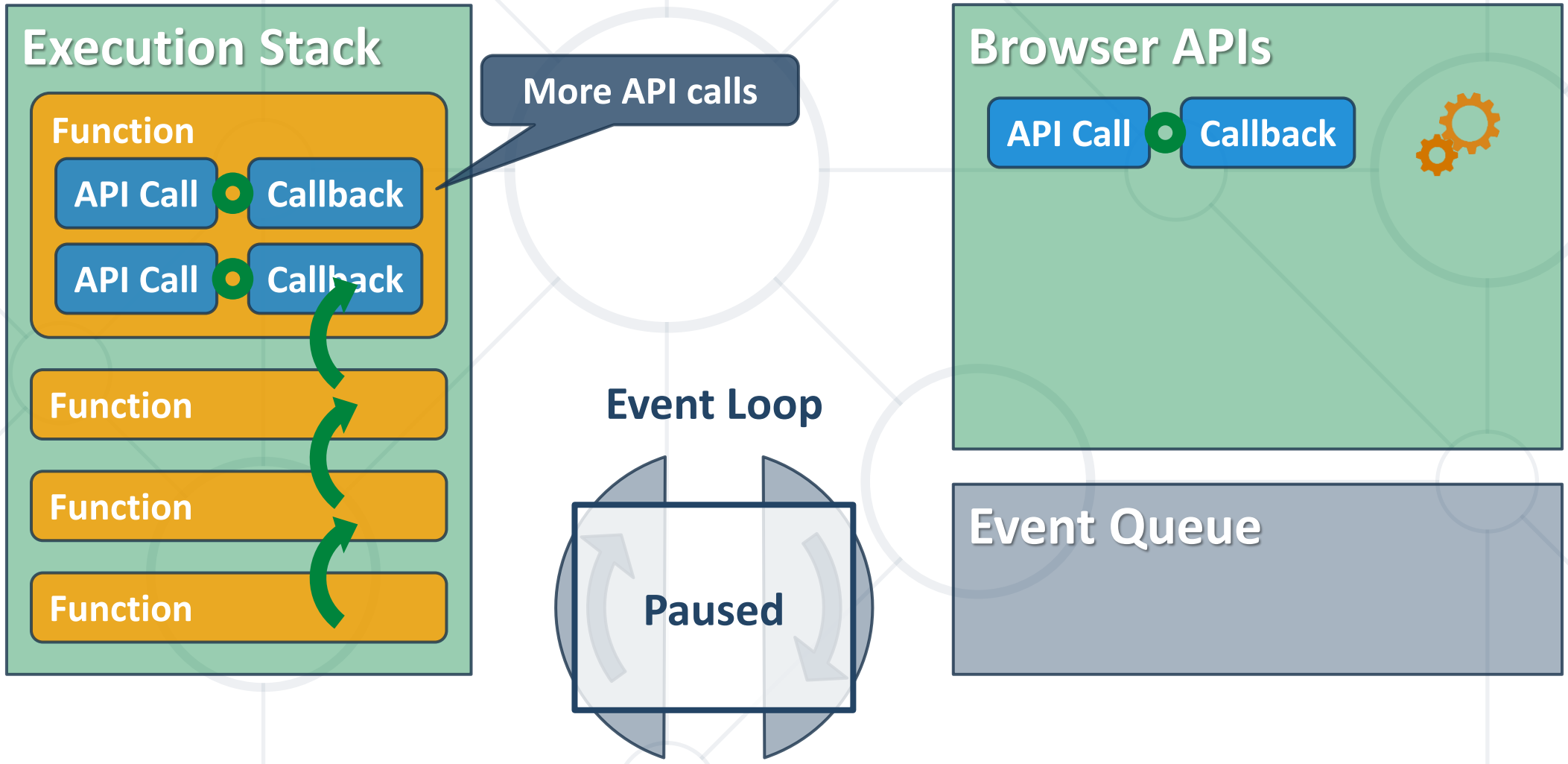

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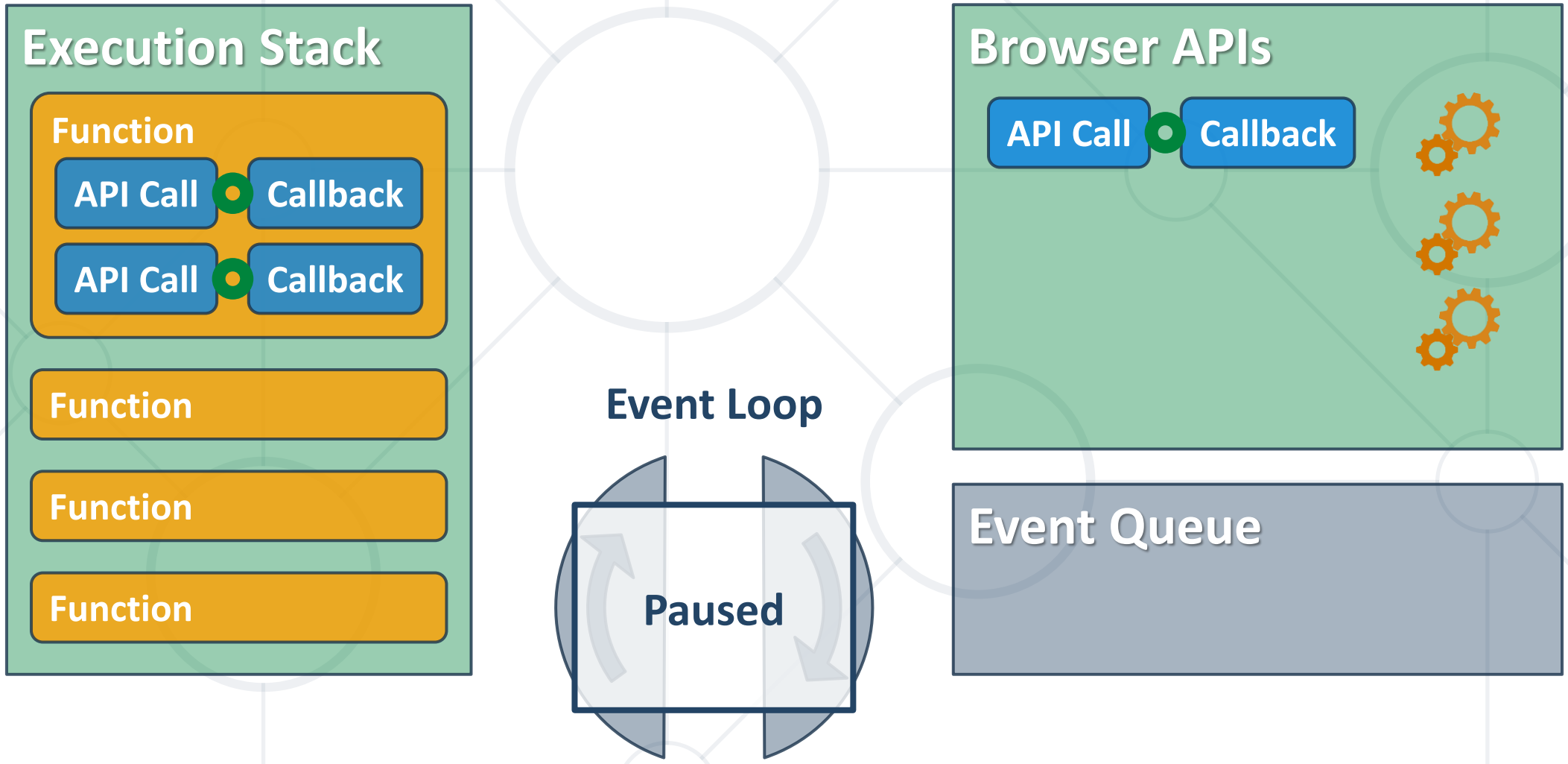

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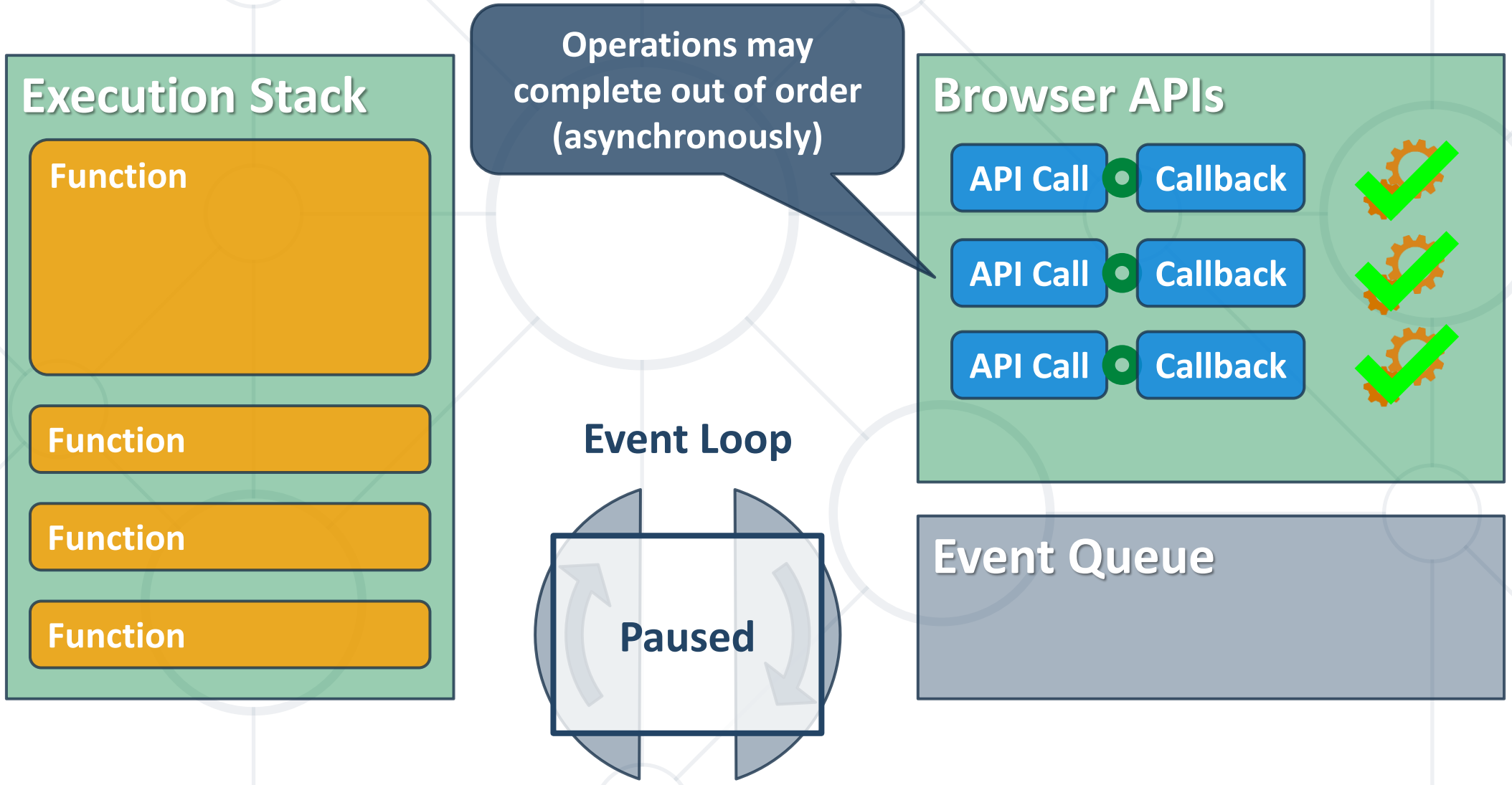

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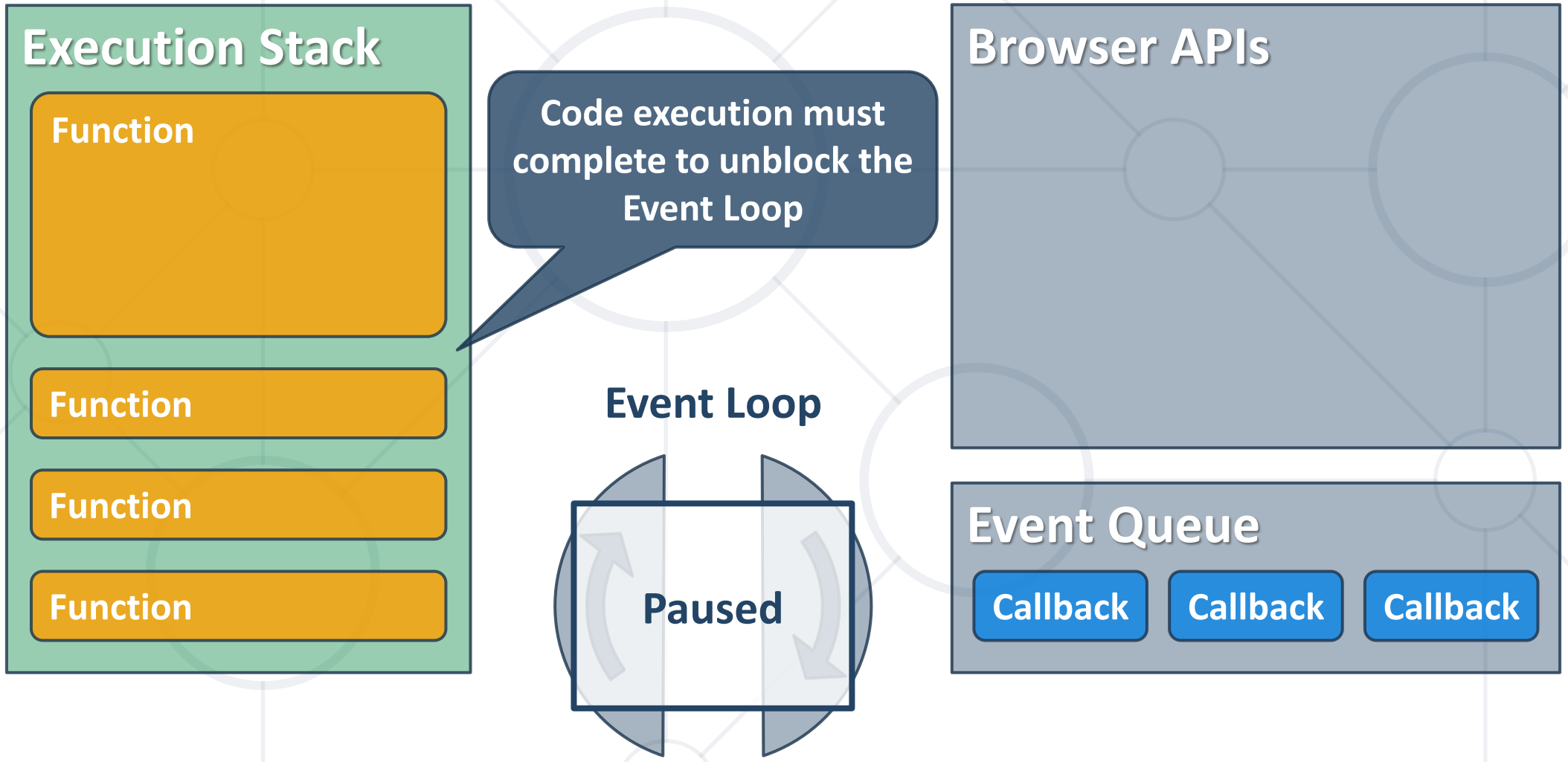

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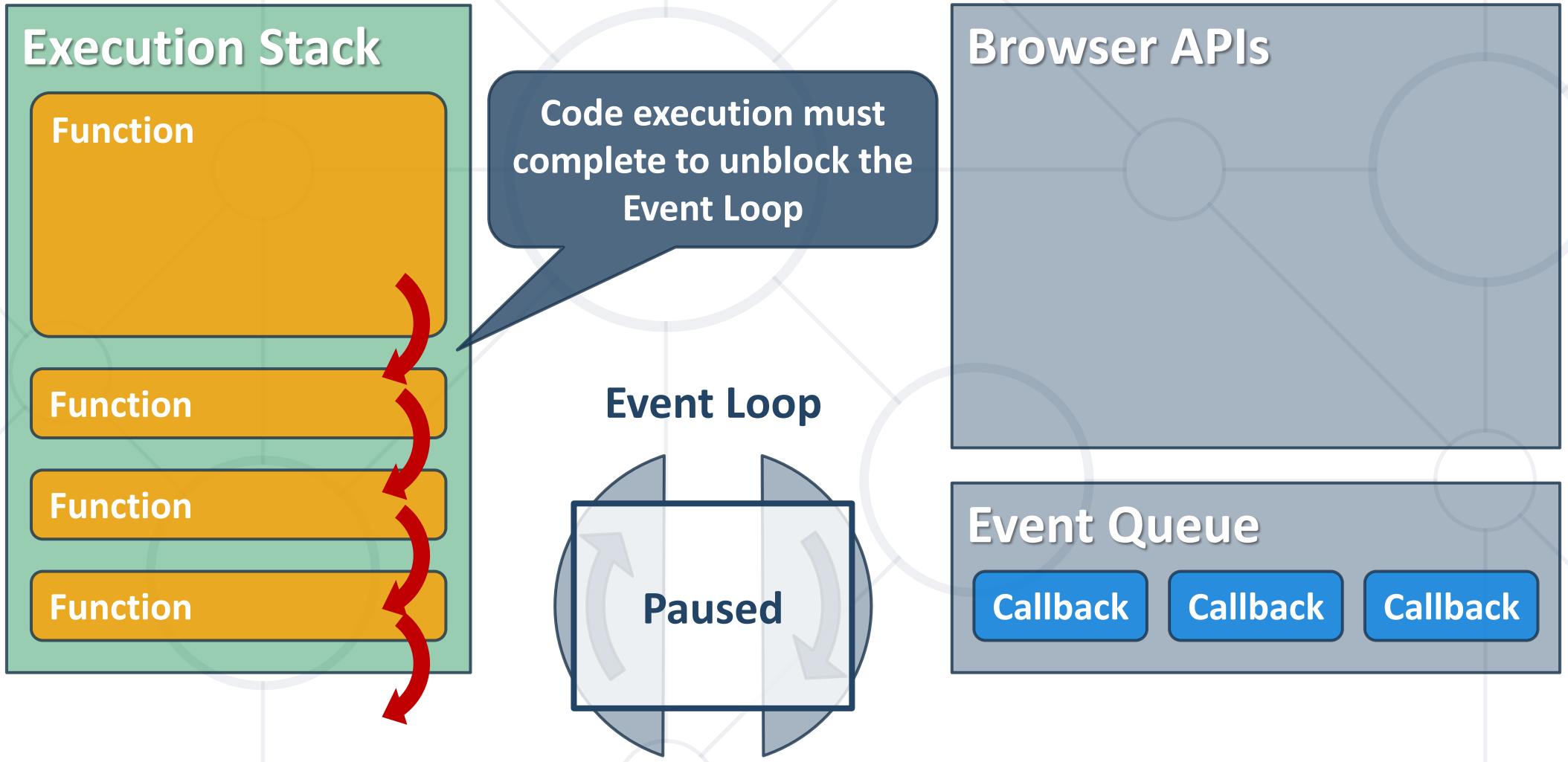

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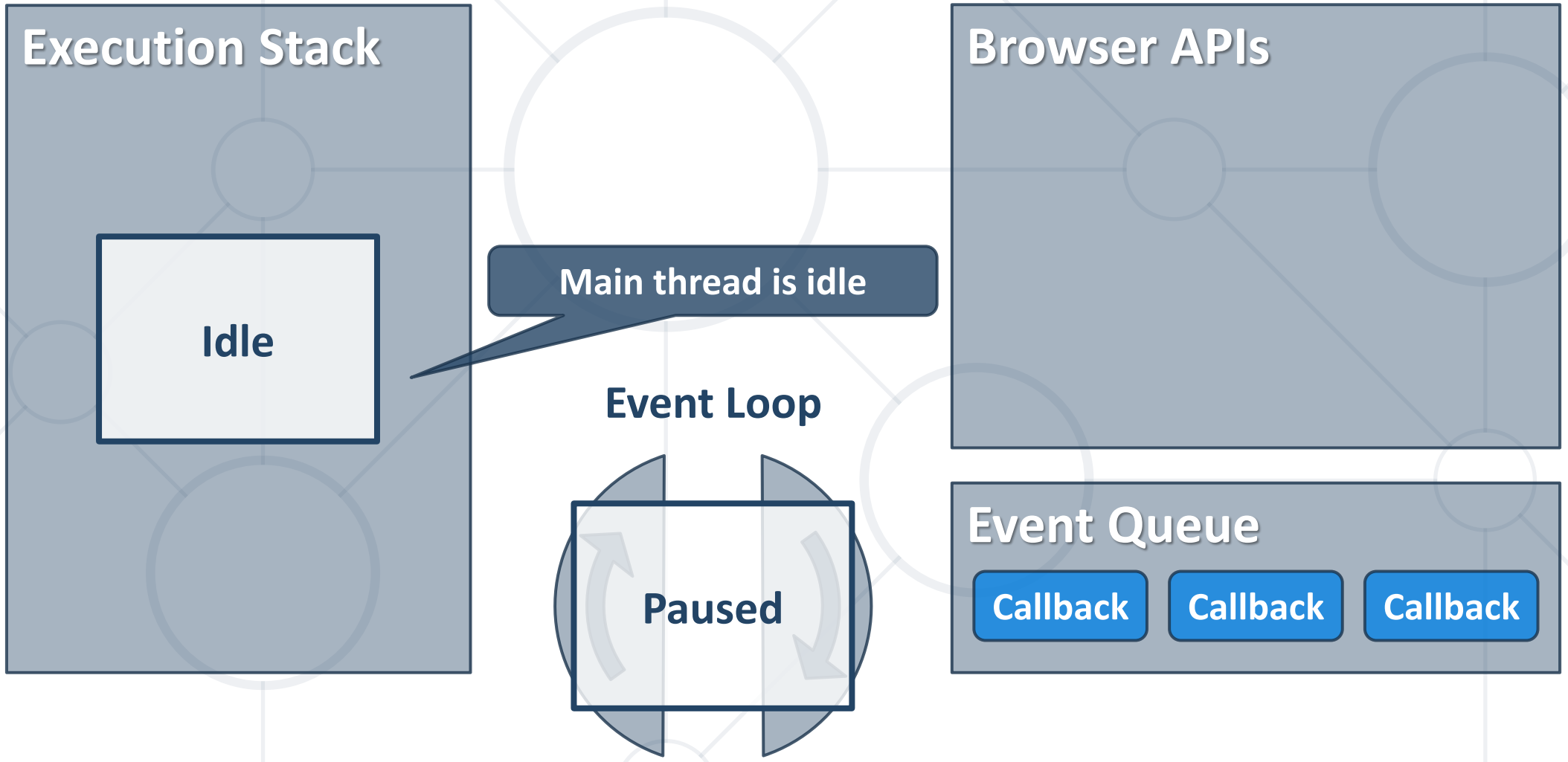

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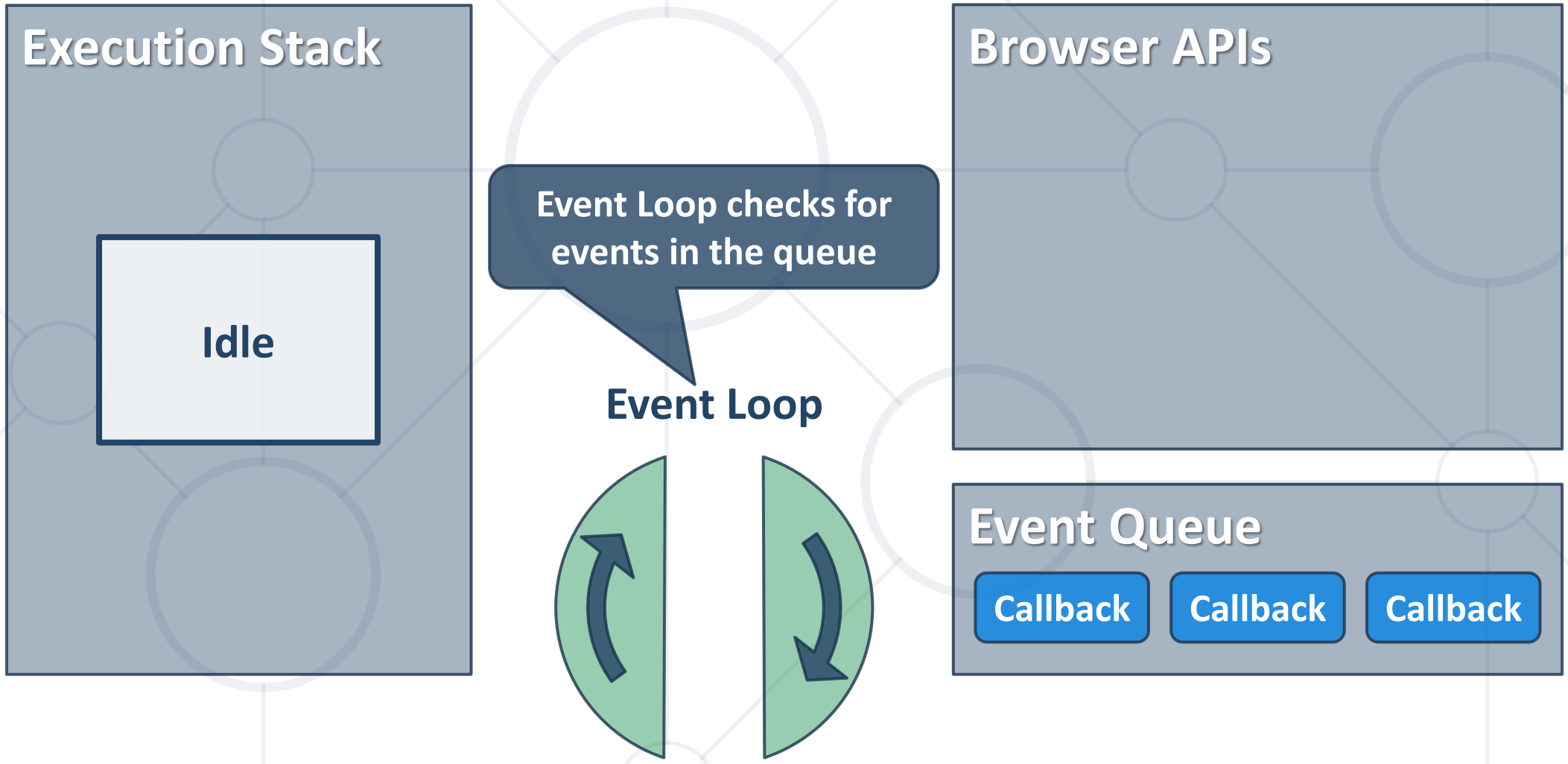

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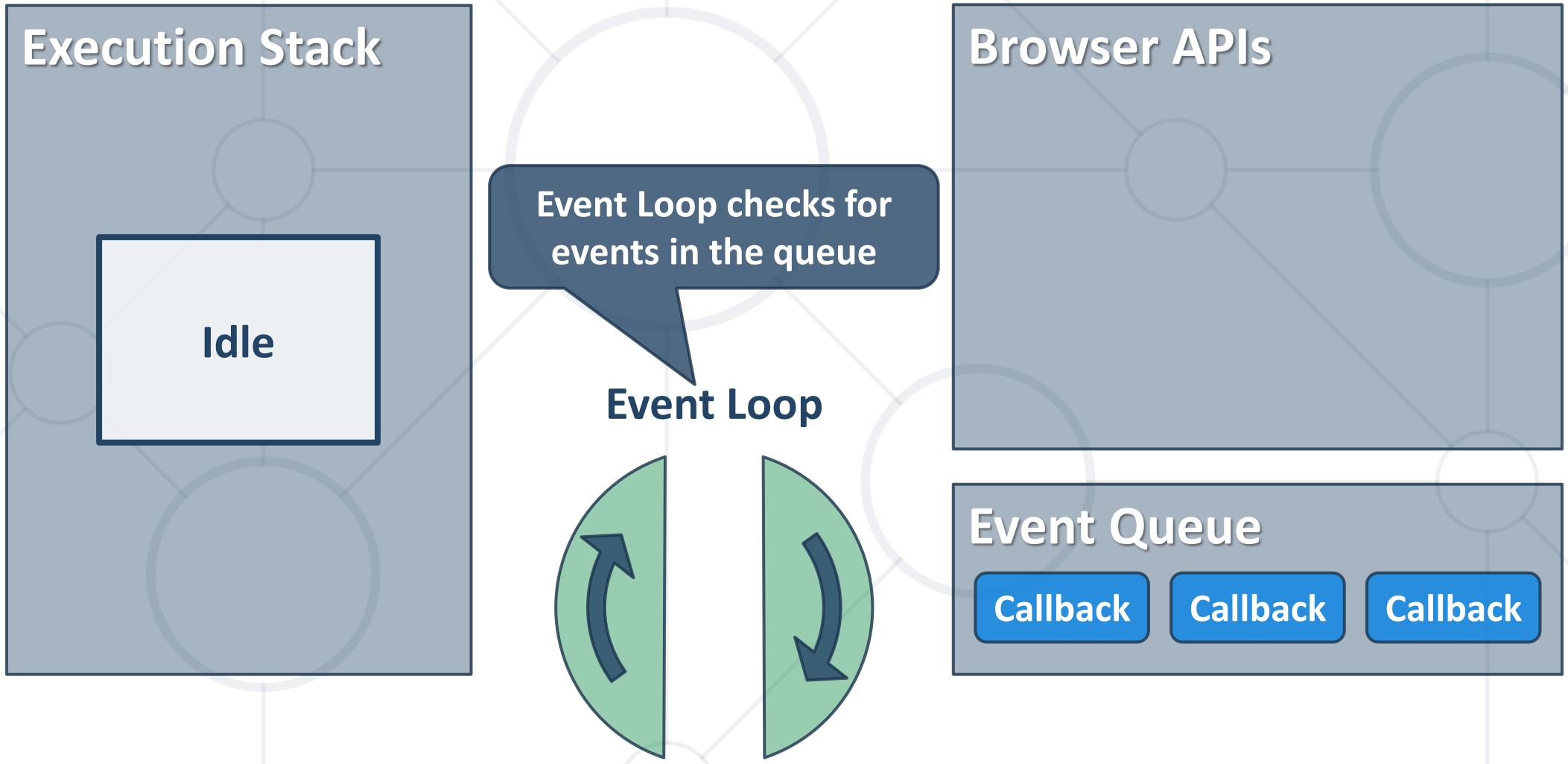

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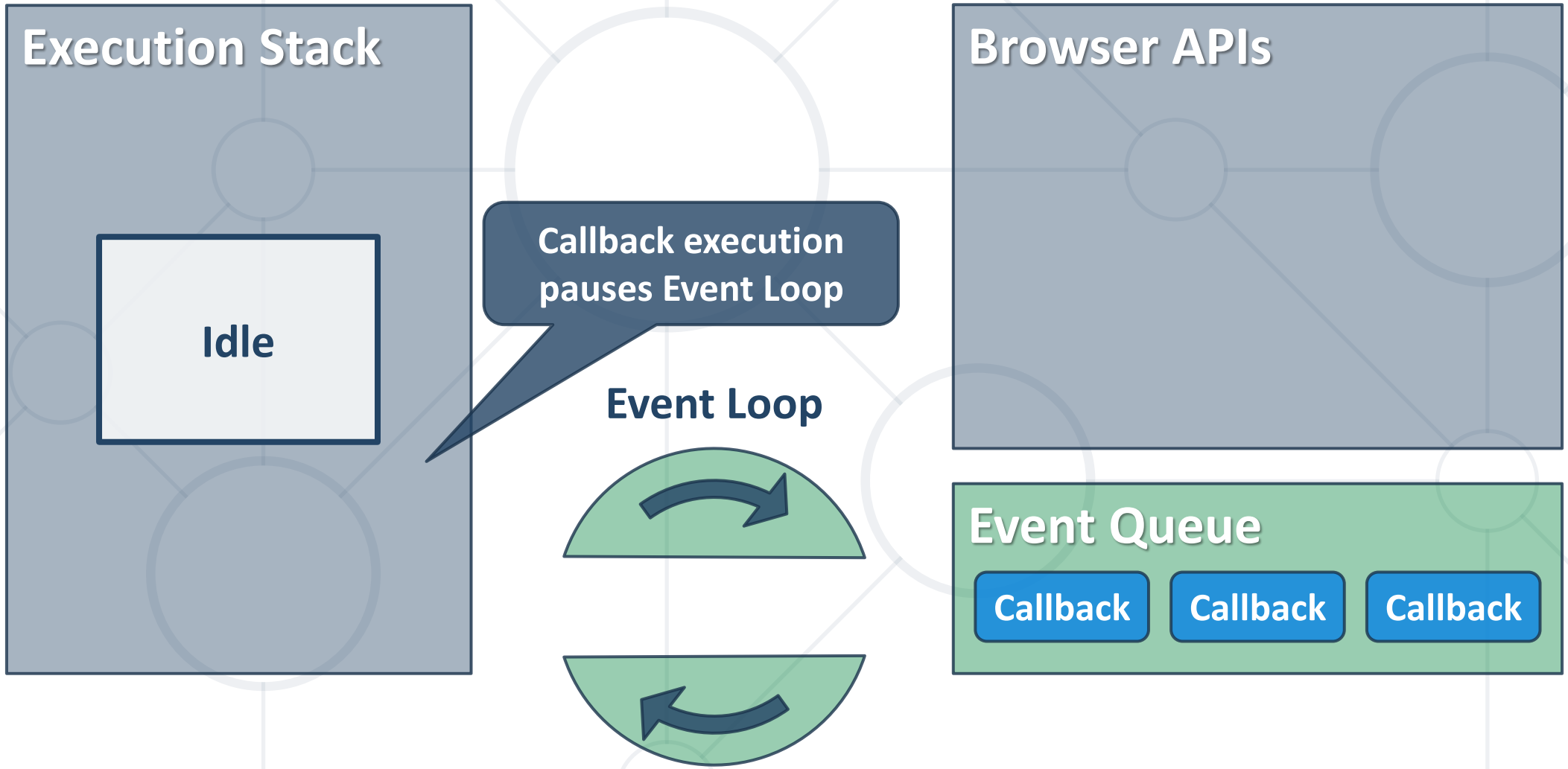

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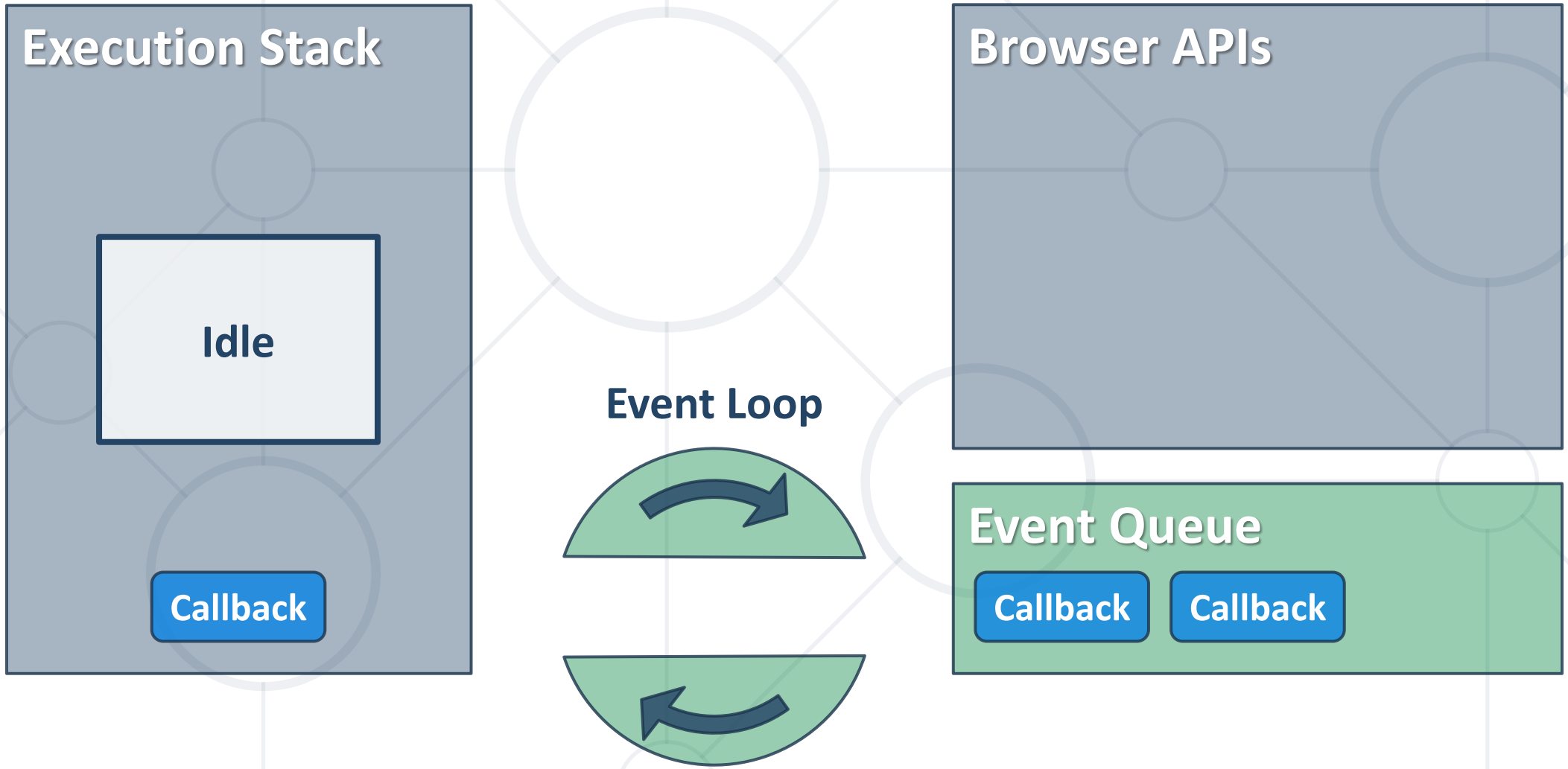

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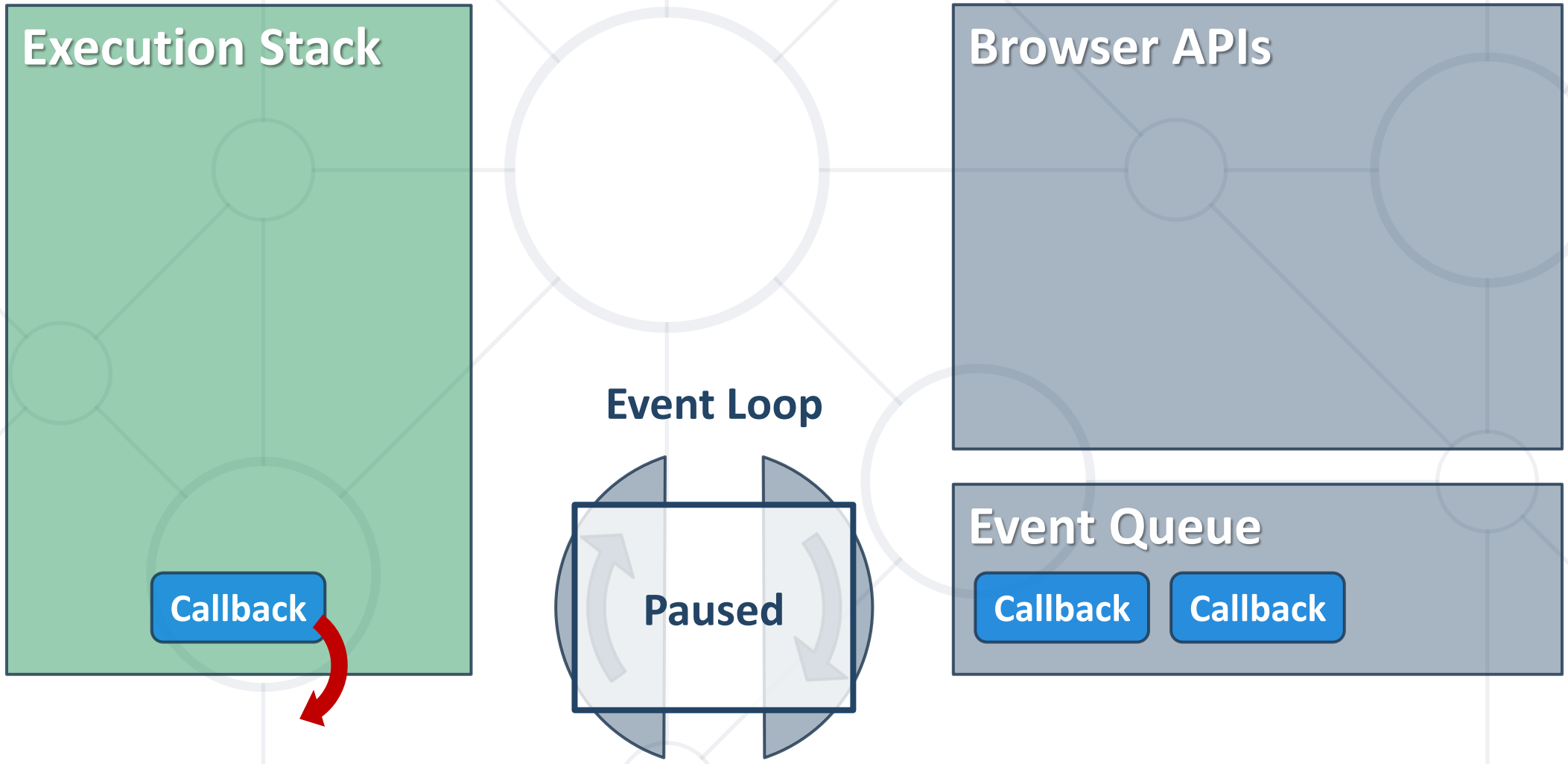

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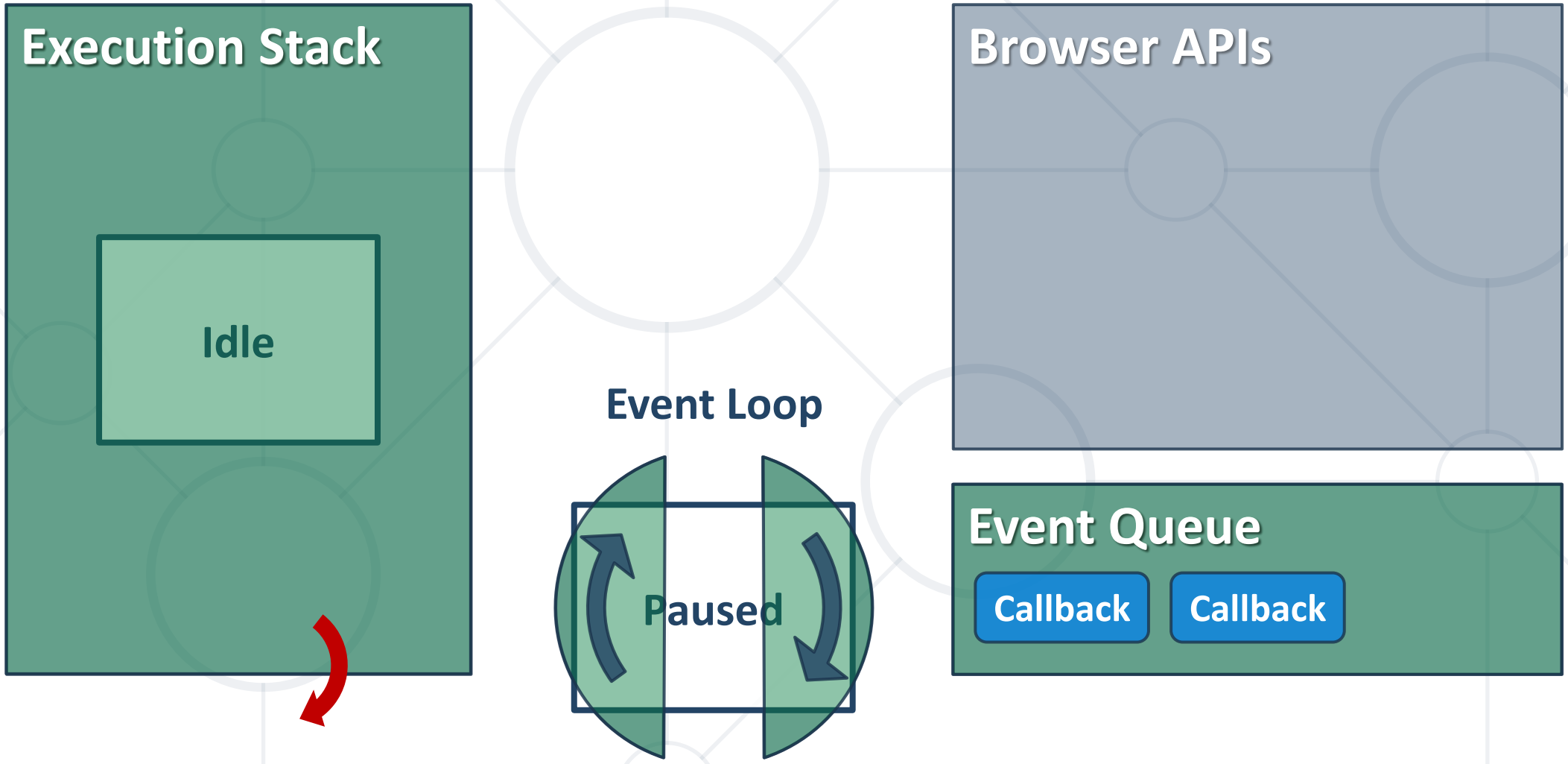

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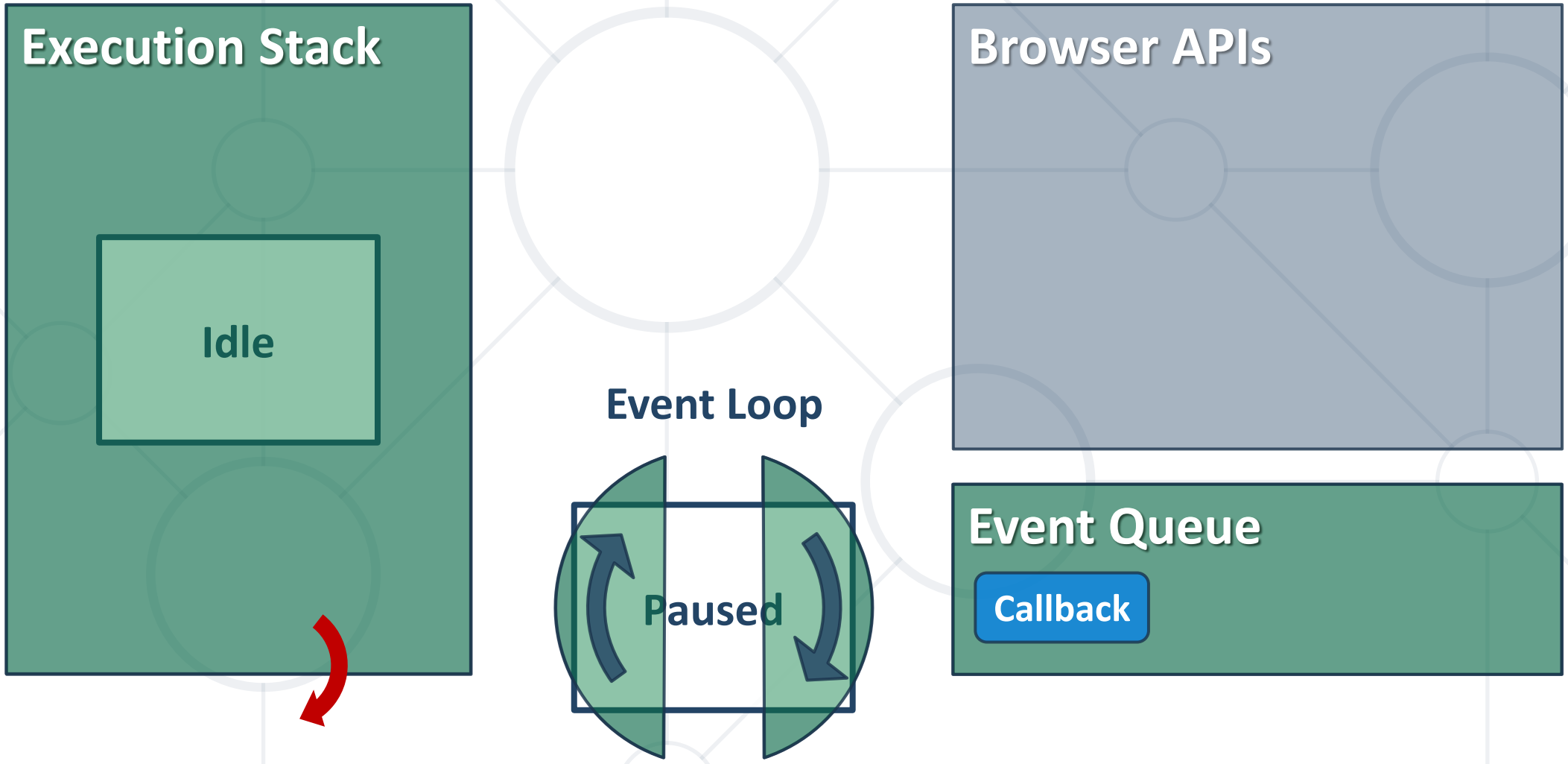

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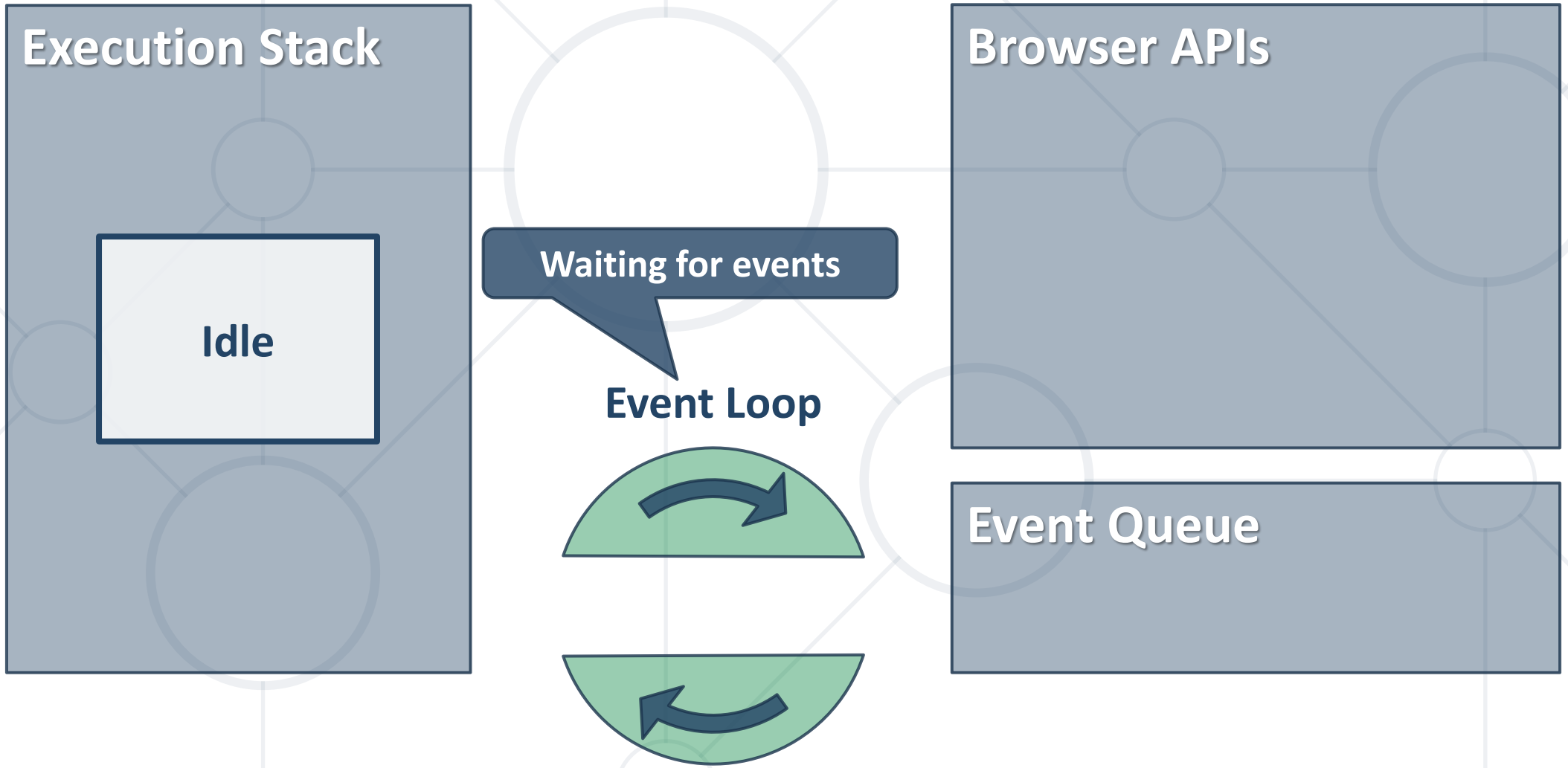


Promises

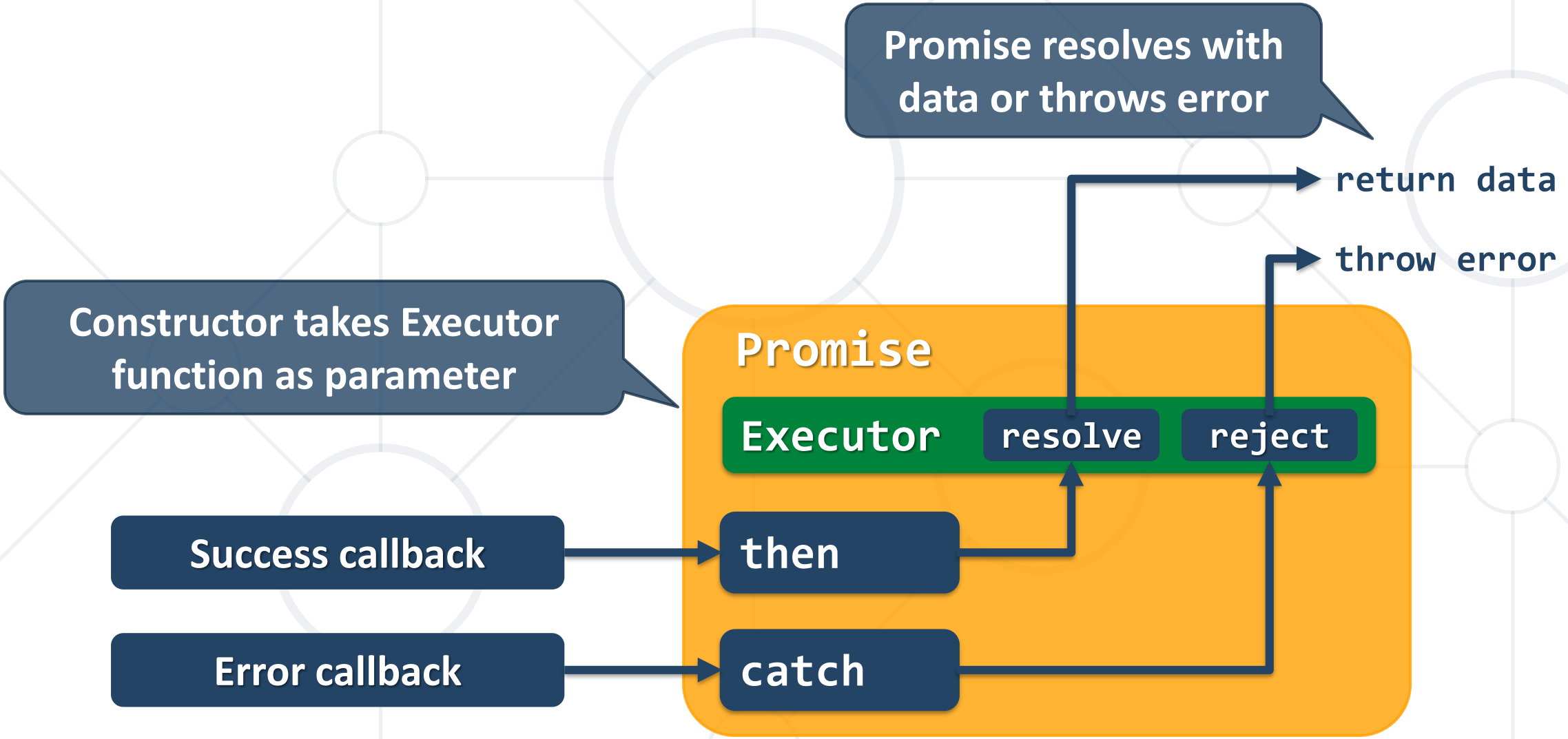
Objects Holding Asynchronous Operations

What is a Promise?

- A promise is an **asynchronous action** that **may complete** at some point and **produce a value**
- States
  - **Pending**
    - Operation still running (unfinished)
  - **Fulfilled**
    - Operation finished (the result is available)
  - **Failed**
    - Operation failed (an error is present)
- Promises use the **Promise class**

```
new Promise(executor);
```

Promise Flowchart



Promise.then() – Example

```
console.log('Before promise');

new Promise(function(resolve, reject) {
  setTimeout(function() {
    resolve('done');
  }, 500);
})
.then(function(res) {
  console.log('Then returned: ' + res);
});

console.log('After promise');
```

Resolved after 500 ms

```
// Before promise

// After promise

// Then returned: done
```

Promise Methods

- `Promise.reject`(reason)
  - Returns an **object** that is **rejected** with the given **reason**
- `Promise.resolve`(value)
  - Returns an object that is **resolved** with the given **value**
- `Promise.all`(iterable)
  - Returns a **promise**
    - Fulfills when **all** of the promises **have fulfilled**
    - Rejects as soon as **one** of them **rejects**

Promise Methods

- `Promise.allSettled`(iterable)
  - Wait until all promises have settled
- `Promise.race`(iterable)
  - Returns a promise that fulfills or rejects as soon as one of the promises in an iterable is settled
- `Promise.prototype.finally`()
  - The handler is called when the promise is settled

What is Fetch?

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- The `fetch()` method allows making network requests
- It is similar to **XMLHttpRequest** (XHR). The main **difference** is that the **Fetch API**
  - Uses **Promises**
  - Enables a **simpler** and **cleaner** API
  - Makes code more readable and maintainable

```
fetch('./api/some.json')
  .then(function(response) {…})
  .catch(function(err) {…})
```

Basic Fetch Request

- The response of a `fetch()` request is a **Stream** object
- The **reading** of the stream happens **asynchronously**
- When the `json()` method is called, a **Promise** is **returned**
  - The **response status** is checked (should be **200**) **before parsing** the response as **JSON**

```
if (response.status !== 200) {
  // handle error
}
response.json()
  .then(function(data) { console.log(data)})
```

Requests

- **Fetch API** uses the **GET** method so that a direct call would be like this

```
fetch('https://api.github.com/users/testnakov/repos')
  .then((response) => response.json())
  .then((data) => console.log (data))
  .catch((error) => console.error(error))
```

- To make a **POST** request, we can set the **method** and **body** parameters in the `fetch()` options

```
fetch('/url', {
    method: 'post',
    headers: { 'Content-type': 'application/json' },
    body: JSON.stringify(data),
})
```

Body Methods

- `clone()`
  - Create a clone of the response
- `json()`
  - Resolves the promise with JSON
- `redirect()`
  - Create new promise but with different URL
- `text()`
  - Resolves the promise with string

Body Methods

- `arrayBuffer()`
  - resolve body with `ArrayBuffer`
- `blob()`
  - Resolve body with `Blob` (file, image, etc.)
- `formData()`
  - Resolve body with `FormData`

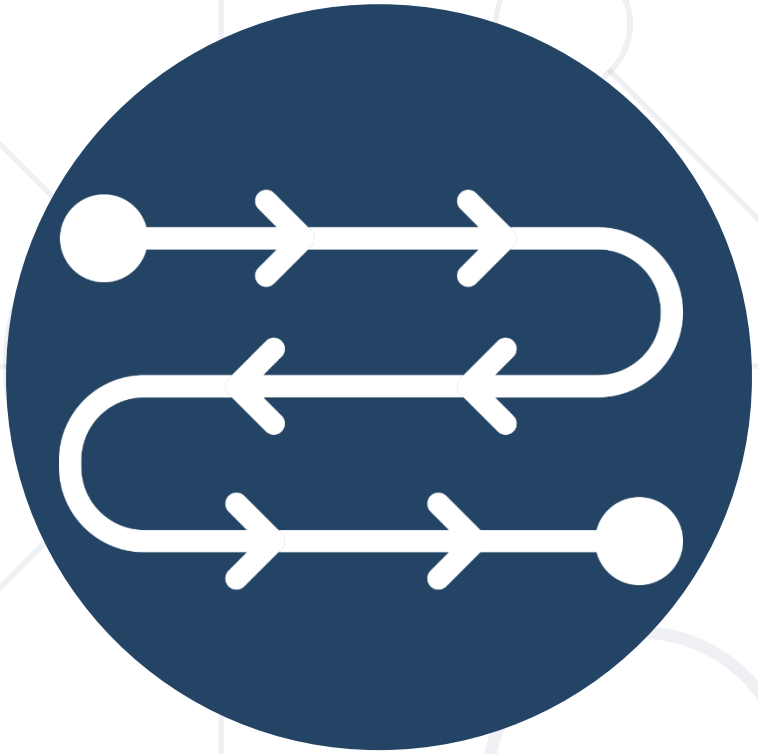
Response Types

- `Basic`
  - Normal, same origin response
- `cors`
  - Response was received from a valid cross-origin request
- `Error`
  - Error network
- `opaque`
  - Response for "no-cors" request to cross-origin resource
- `opaqueredirect`
  - The fetch request was made with **redirect: "manual"**

Chaining Promises

- When working with a JSON API, you can
  - Define the **status** and **JSON parsing** in **separate functions**
  - The functions **return promises** which can be **chained**

```
fetch('users.json')
  .then(status)
  .then(json)
  .then(function(data) {…})
  .catch(function(error) {…});
```



Async / Await

Simplified Promises

Async Functions

- Returns a **promise**, that can await other promises in a way that **looks synchronous**
- Operate **asynchronously** via the event loop
- Contains an **await** expression that
  - Is **only valid** inside **async functions**
  - **Pauses** the execution of that function
  - Waits for the Promise's **resolution**

Async Functions

```
function resolveAfter2Seconds() {
  return new Promise(resolve => {
    setTimeout(() => {
      resolve('resolved');
    }, 2000);
  });
}
```

```
Expected output:
// calling
// resolved
```

```
async function asyncCall() {
  console.log('calling');
  let result = await resolveAfter2Seconds();
  console.log(result);
}
```

Async Functions

- Do not confuse `await` with `Promise.then()`
  - `await` is always used for a **single promise**
  - To **await two or more** promises in **parallel**, use `Promise.all()`
- If a promise resolves normally, then `await` promise **returns the result**
- In case of a rejection, it **throws an error**

Async / Await vs Promise.then

- Promise.then

```
function logFetch(url) {
  return fetch(url)
    .then(response => {
      return response.text()
    })
    .then(text => {
      console.log(text);
    })
    .catch(err => {
      console.error(err);
    });
}
```

- Async / Await

```
async function logFetch(url) {
  try {
    const response =
       await fetch(url);
    console.log(
      await response.text()
    );
  }
  catch (err) {
    console.log(err);
  }
}
```

Error Handling

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```
async function f() {
  try {
    let response = await fetch();
    let user = await response.json();
  } catch (err) {
    // catches errors both in fetch andresponse.json
    alert(err);
  }}
```

```
async function f() {
  let response = await fetch();
}
// f() becomes a rejected promise
f().catch(alert);
```

Sequential Execution

- To execute various promise methods **one by one**, use **Async** /**Await**

```
function execute(x,sec) {
  return new Promise(resolve => {
  console.log('Start: ' + x);
    setTimeout(() => {
      console.log('End: ' + x);
      resolve(x);
  }, sec *1000); }); }
```

```
async function serialFlow() {
  let result1 = await execute(1, 1);
  let result2 = await execute(2, 2);
  let result3 = await execute(3, 3);
  let finalResult = result1 + result2 + result3;
  console.log(finalResult);
}
```

```
// Start: 1
// End: 1
// Start: 2
// End: 2
// Start: 3
// End: 3
// 6
```

Concurrent Execution

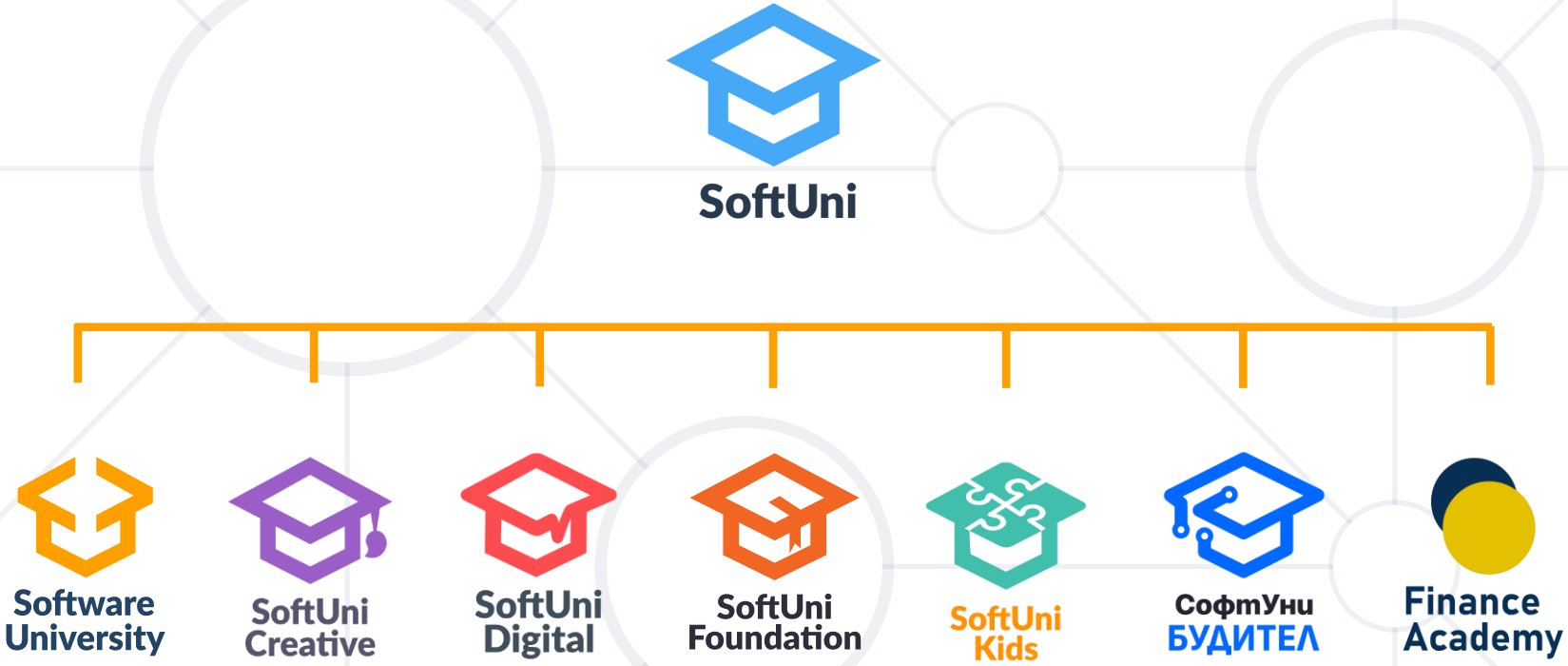
```
async function parallelFlow() {
  let result1 = execute(1,1);
  let result2 = execute(2,2);
  let result3 = execute(3,3);
  let finalResult = await result1 +
                    await result2 +
                    await result3;
  console.log(finalResult);
}
```

```
// Expected output:
// Start: 1
// Start: 2
// Start: 3
// End: 1
// End: 2
// End: 3
// 6
```

Summary

- Asynchronous programming
  - Runs several tasks in parallel, at the same time
- Promises hold operations
  - Can be resolved or rejected
- Async functions contain an await expression
  - Yields the execution
  - Waits for the promise's resolution

Questions?



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