Let's create a *total order* of operations, by associating every *set* with a timestamp

Set 42 (at t_0)

Set 18 (at t_1)

t_1

42 18

t_0
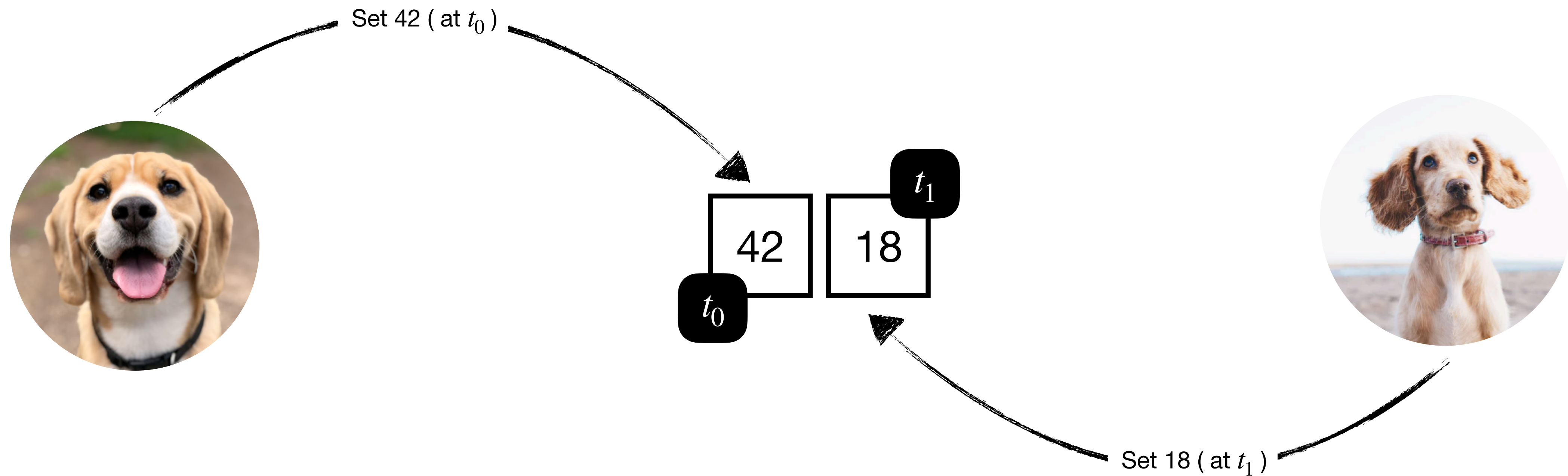
The *merge* operation always picks the value with the greatest timestamp

We call this structure a *Last Writer Wins Register*