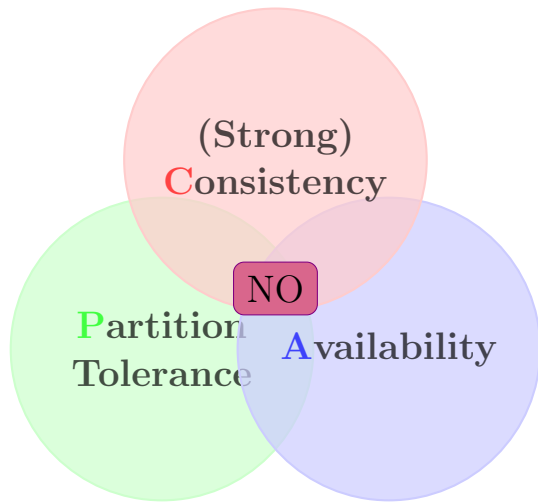


e.g., acts like a single, centralized system



statement about
underlying asynchronous system

each invocation
eventually receives a response