The Myth of the Importance of Knowing All Your Goals Now!

Albert Y. Kim
@rudeboybert

SURF Sunday Dinner Talk
Sunday, June 30, 2019

Statistics Lesson

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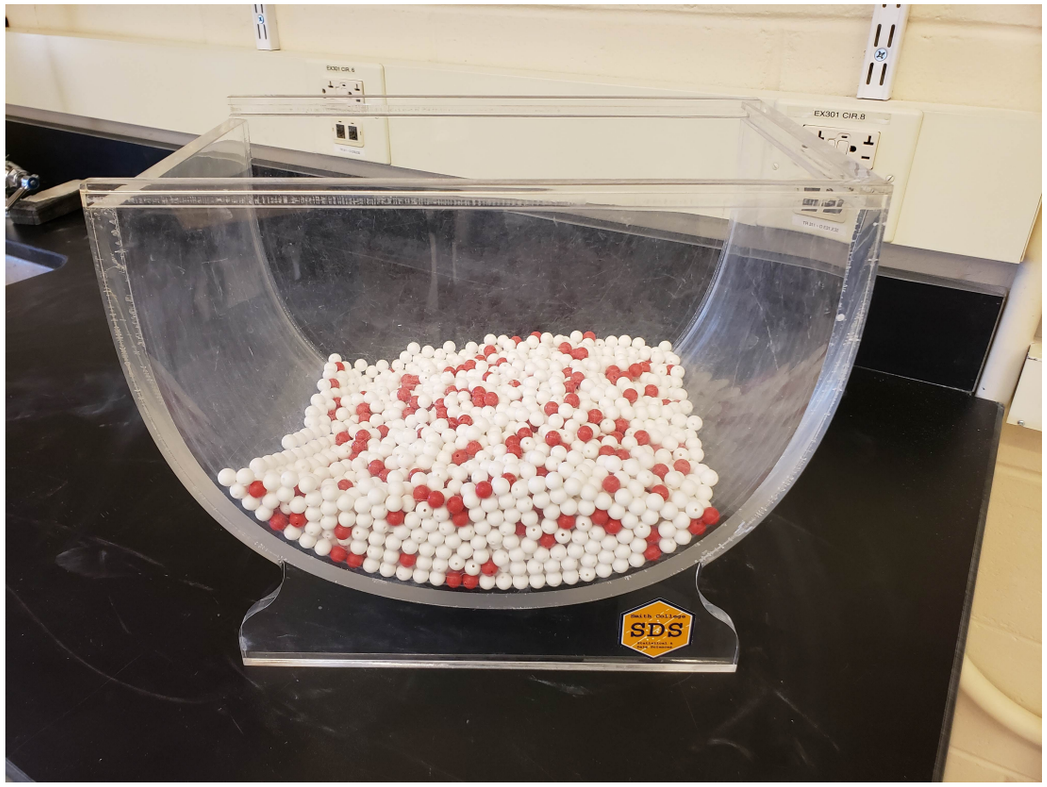

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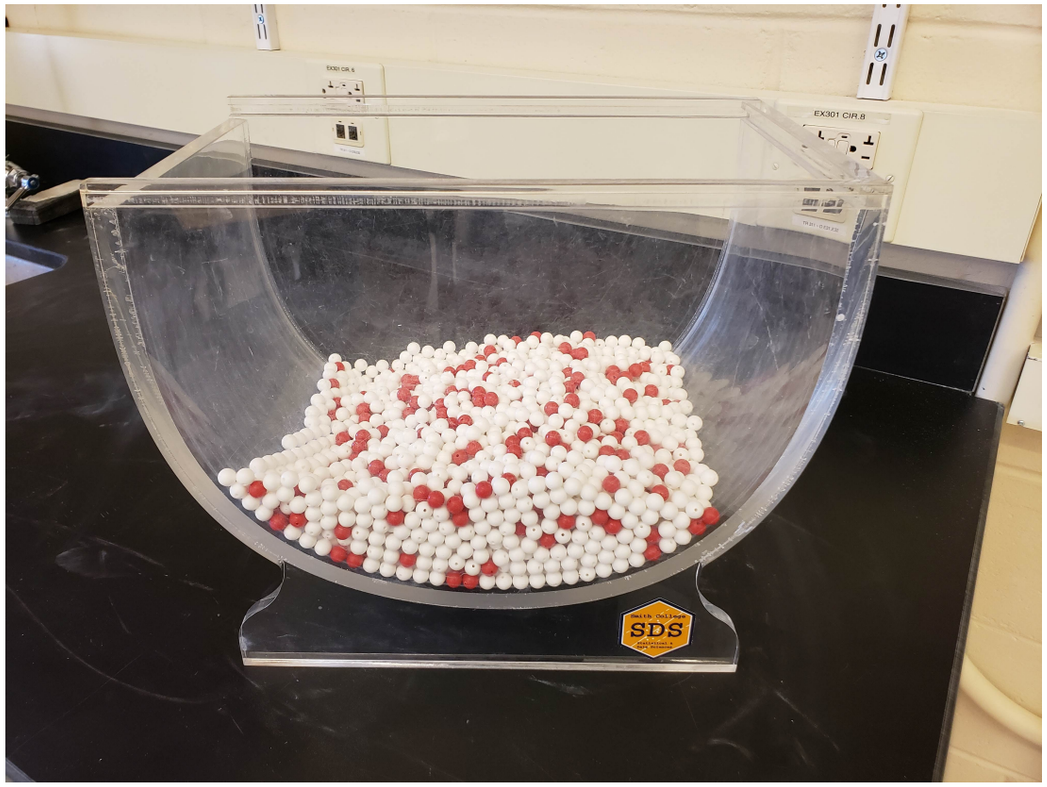

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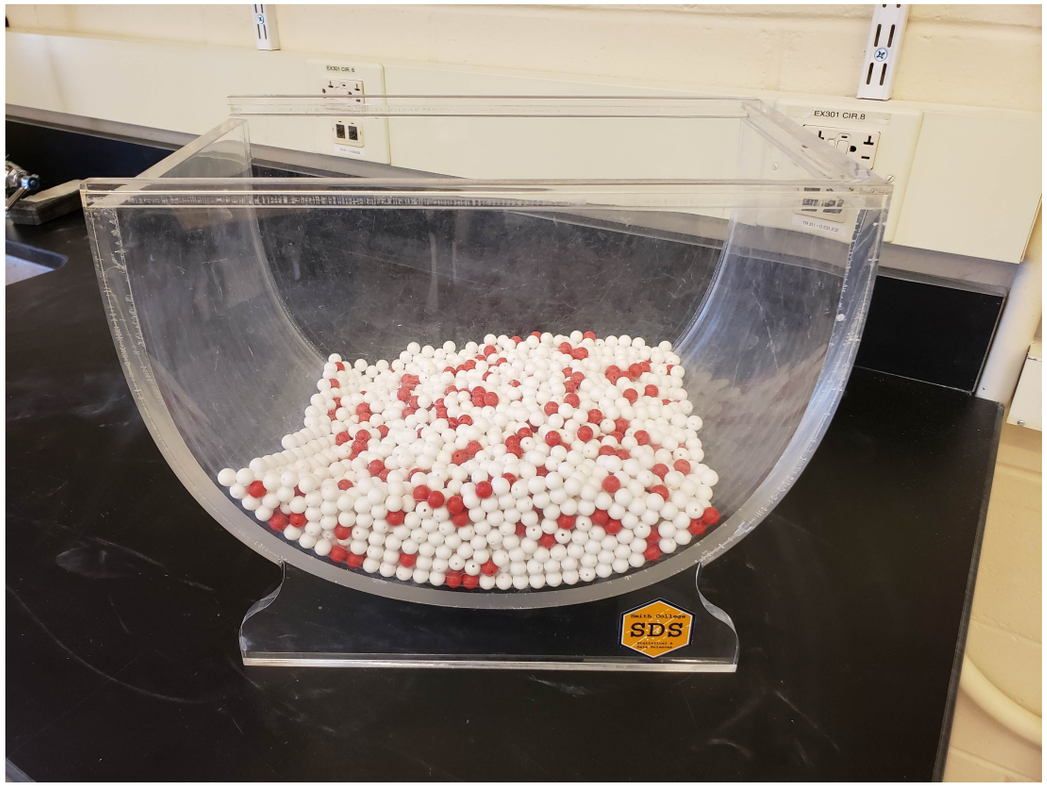

- Is the sample representative?
- How well does sample generalize?

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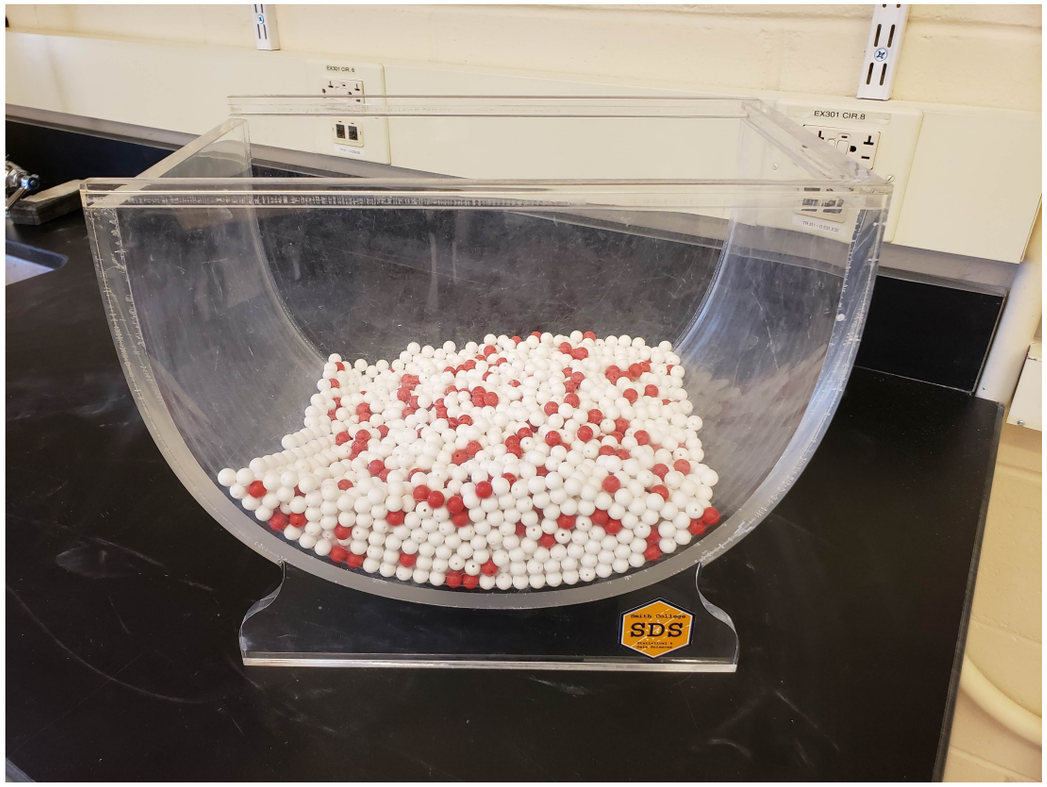

- Is the sample representative?
- How well does sample generalize?

Same for this talk (or any career talk):

- Am I a representative sample of everyone who followed these tips?
- How well do my tips generalize?

About me & my background

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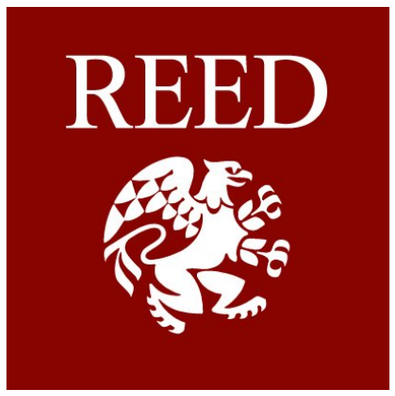

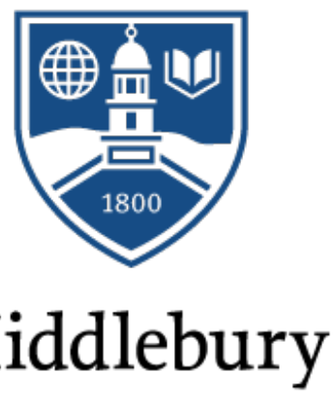

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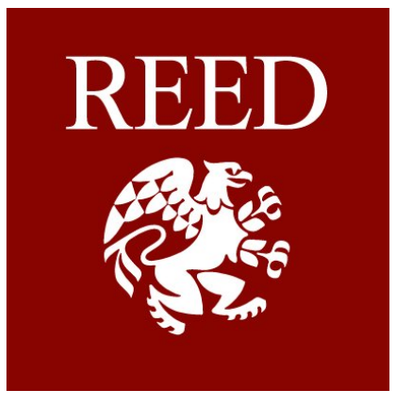

Middlebury

SMITH COLLEGE

Today's Question

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What do I want to do with my life?

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"Follow your passion!"

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Per late Apple CEO & iPhone creator Steve Jobs in 2005 Stanford University commencement speech

Today's Question

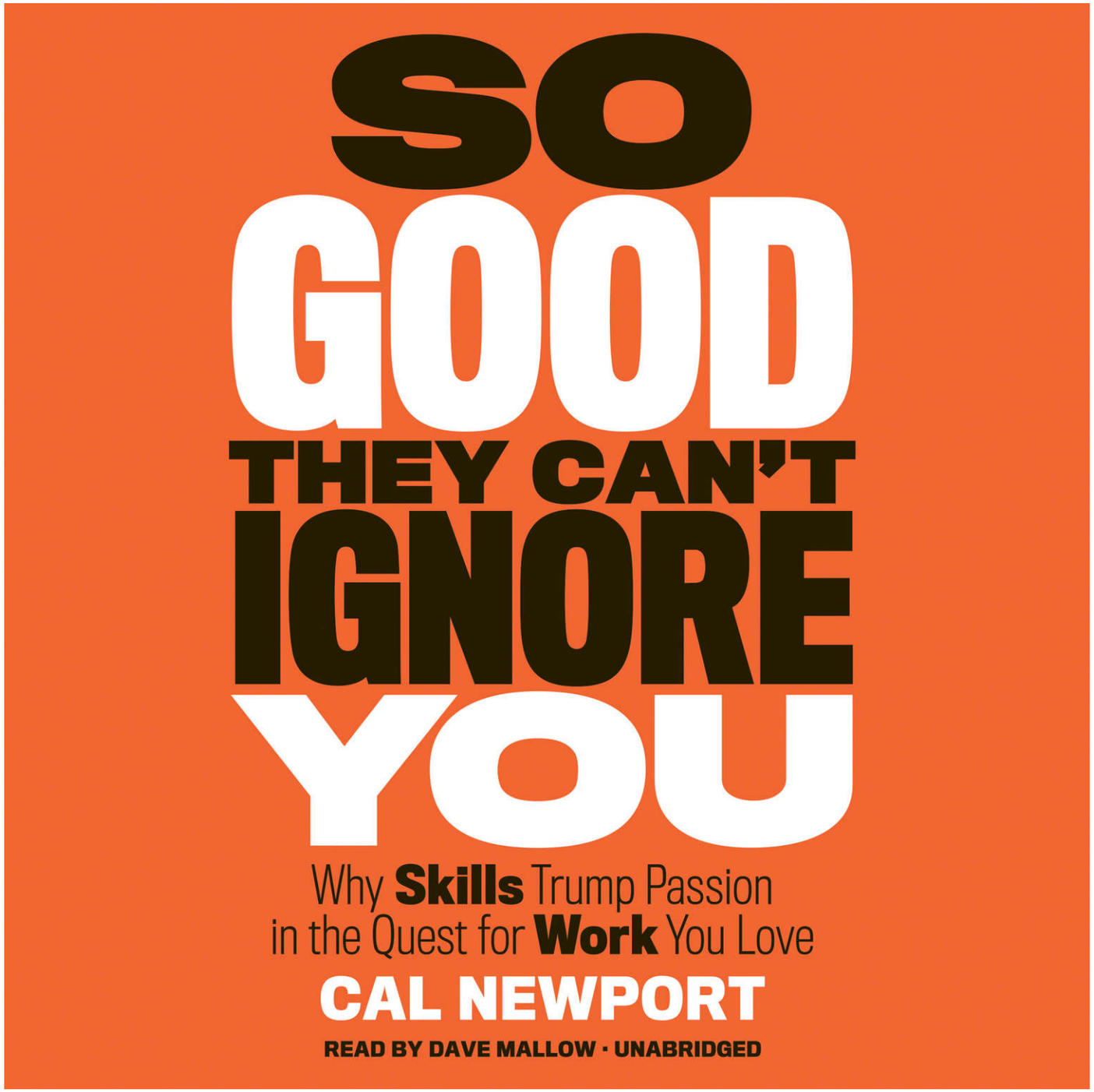
What do I want to do with my life?

"Follow your passion!"

Per late Apple CEO & iPhone creator Steve Jobs in 2005 Stanford University commencement speech

But what Steve Jobs said was not actually what he did…

Book I read at the time



Three good tips on alternative approaches I got (FWIW to you)

Your life as a dark warehouse

Master Switch Approach

A lot people search
for a master switch

Master Switch Approach

A lot people search
for a master switch

that they think when
they flip …

Master Switch Approach

A lot people search for a master switch

that they think when they flip …

… the whole warehouse illuminates all at once

Little Switch Approach

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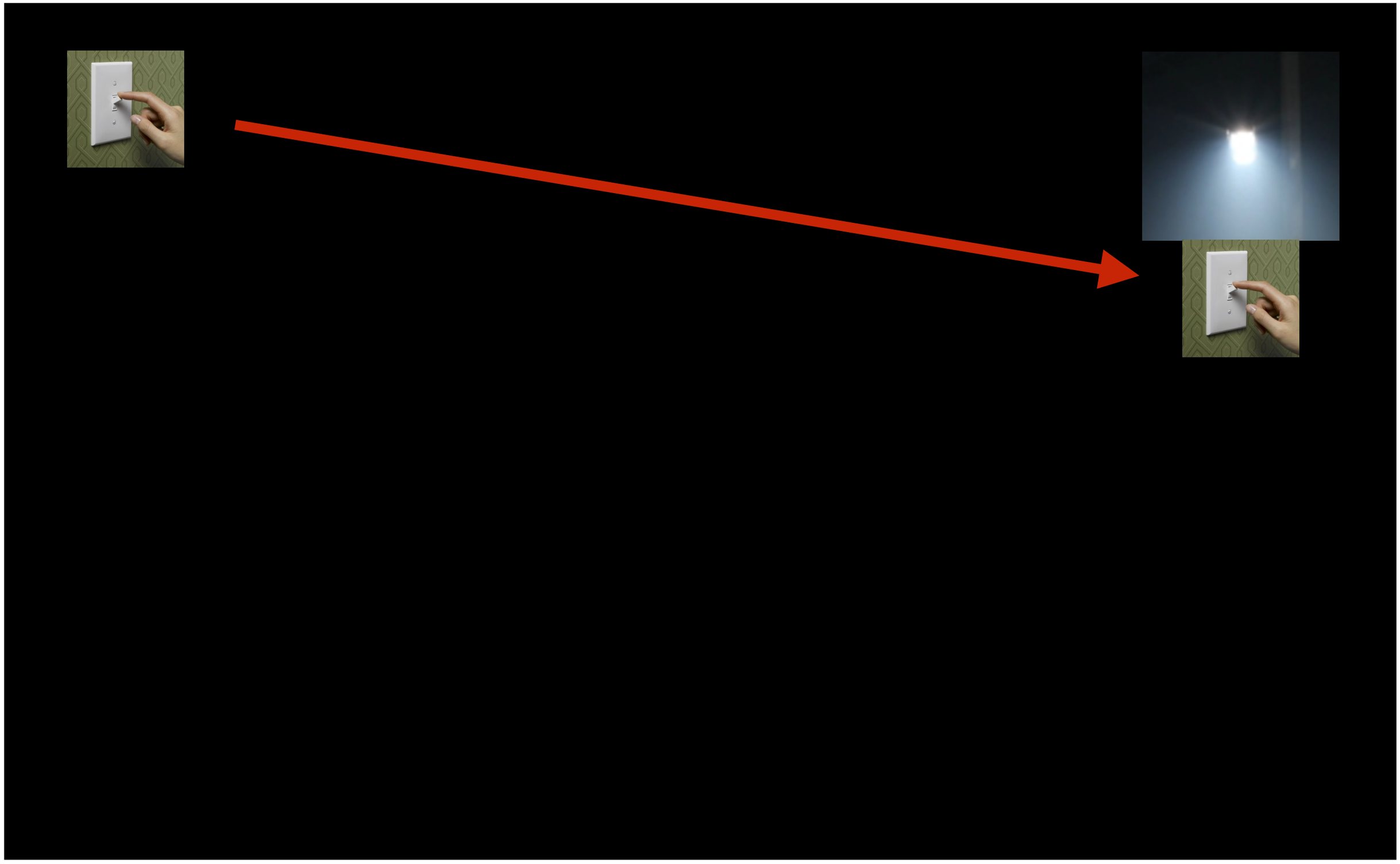

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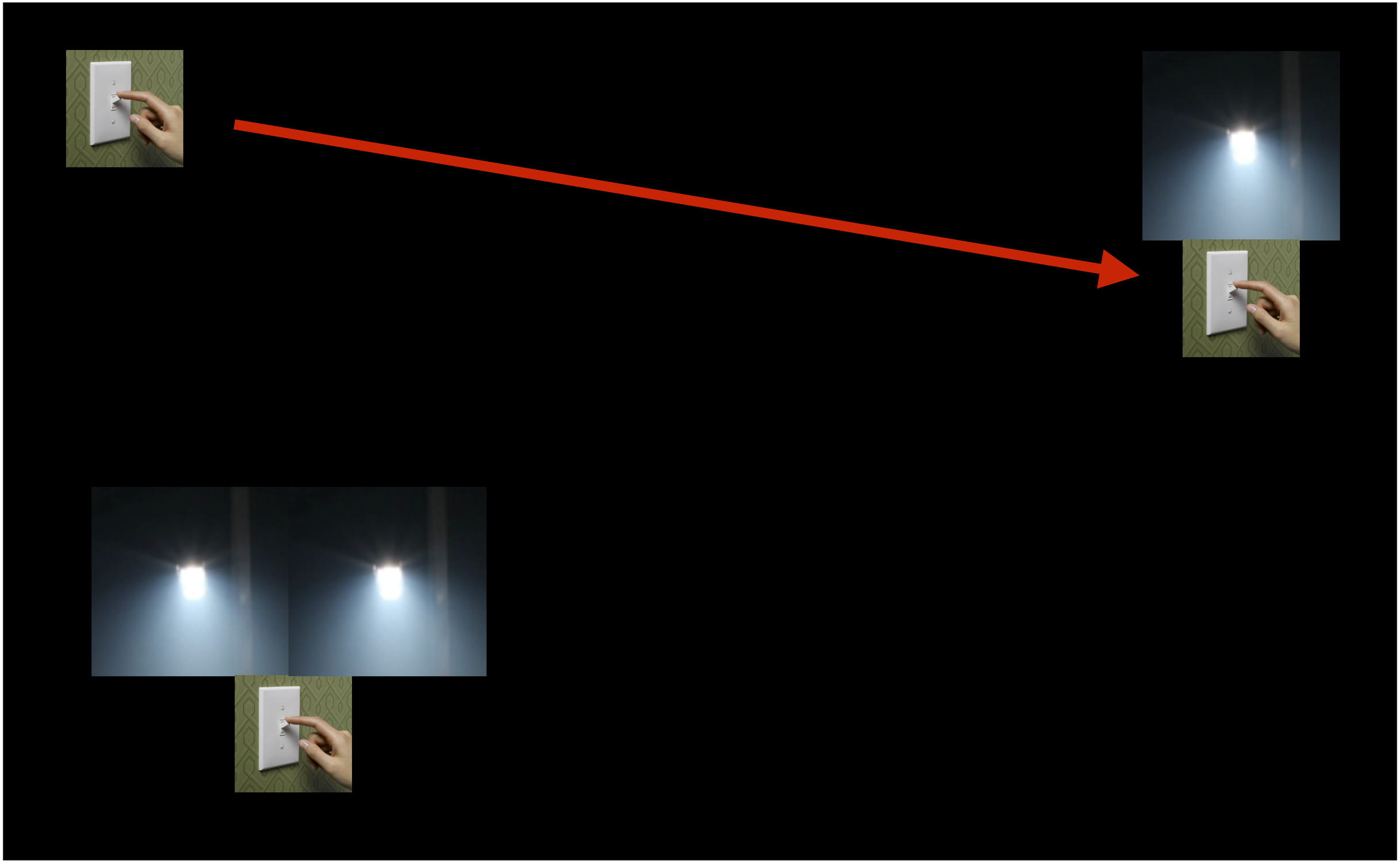

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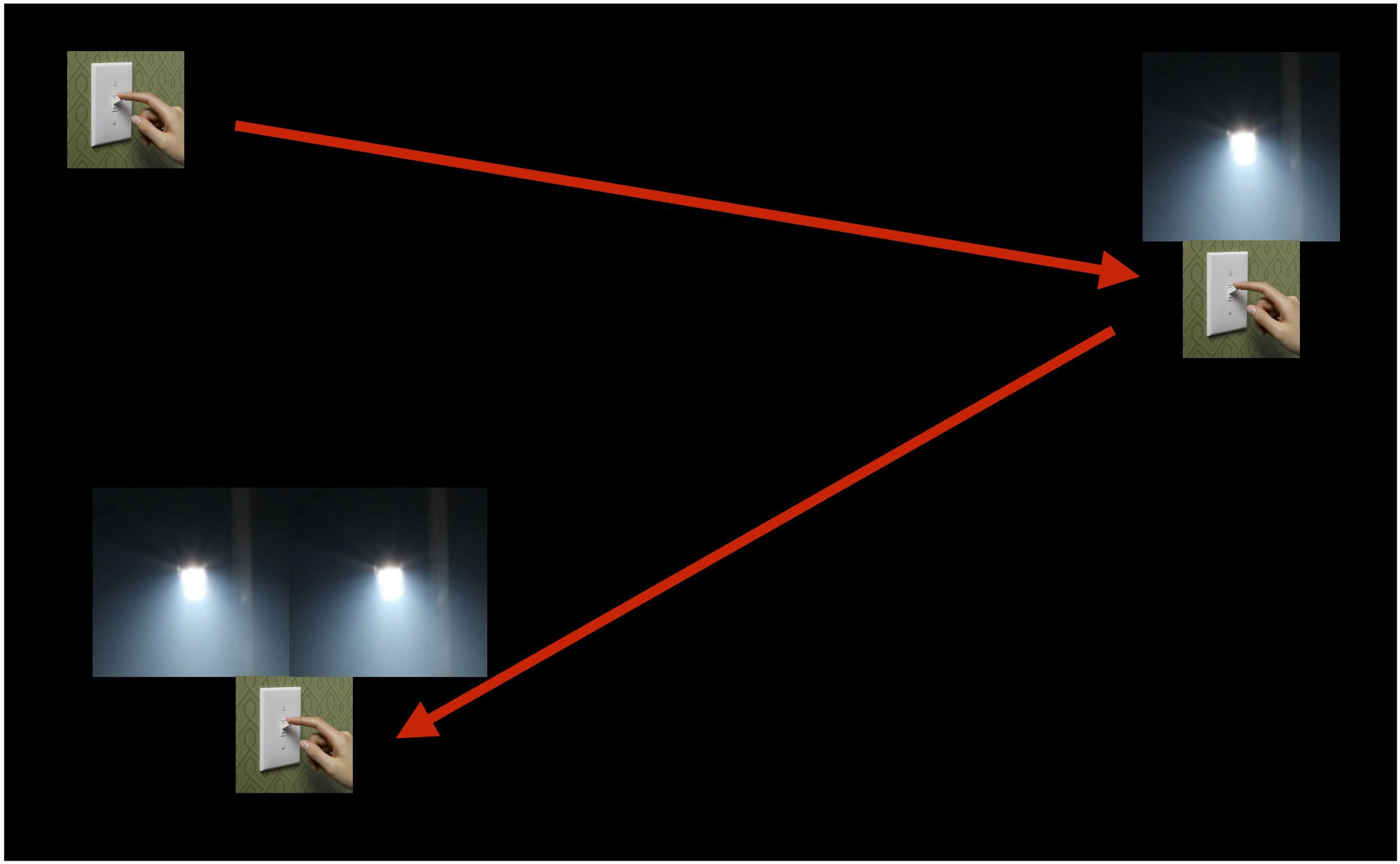

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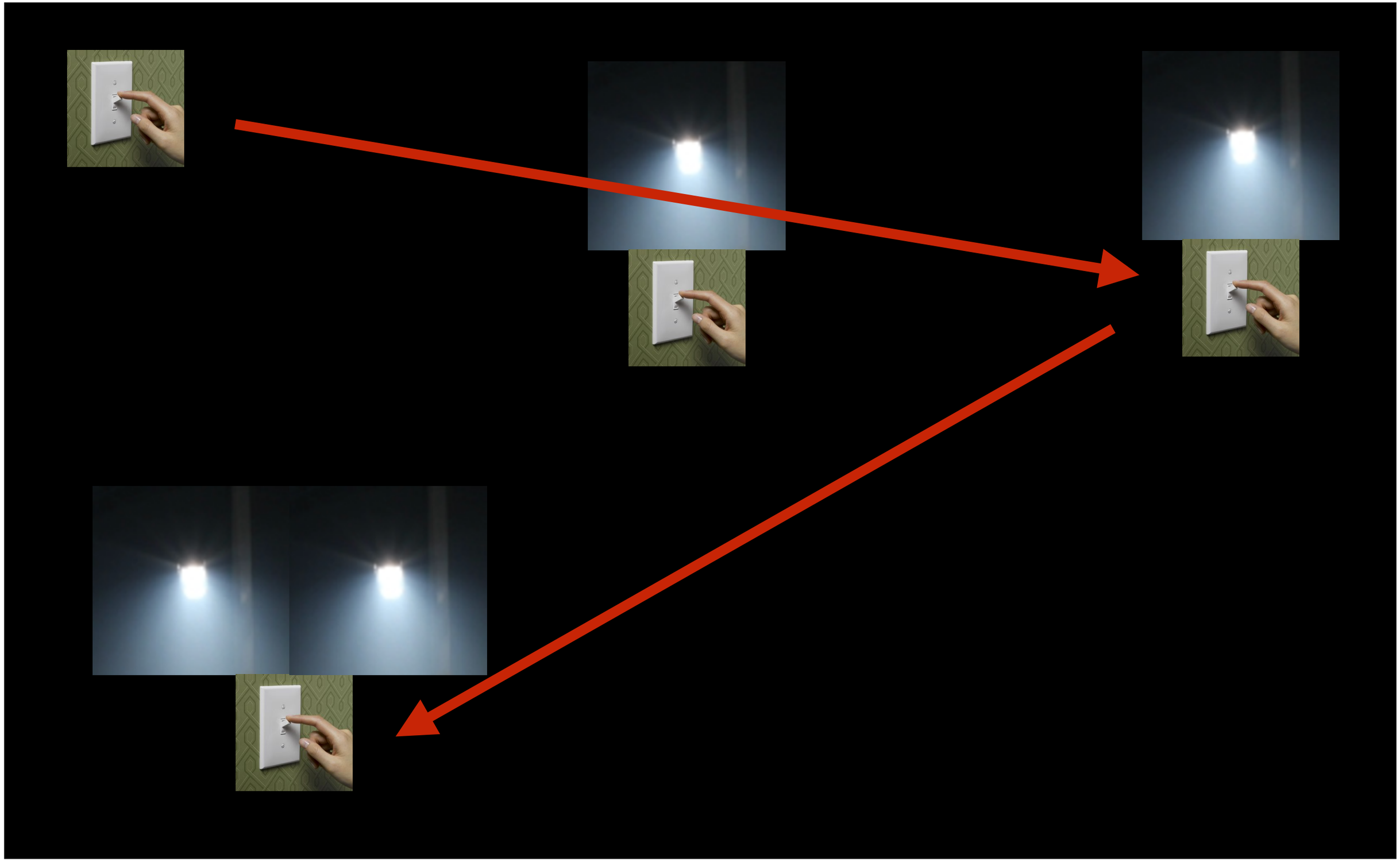

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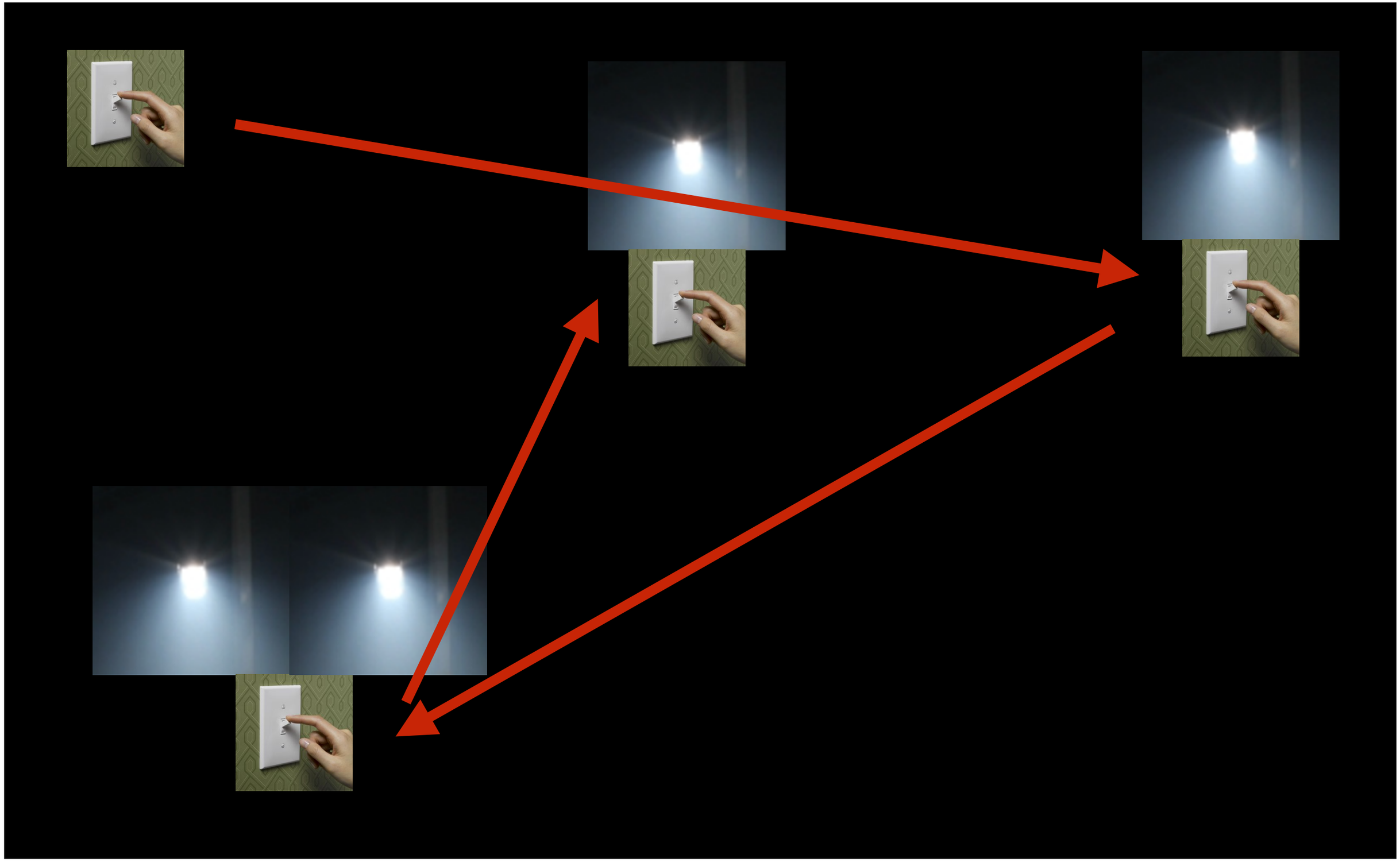

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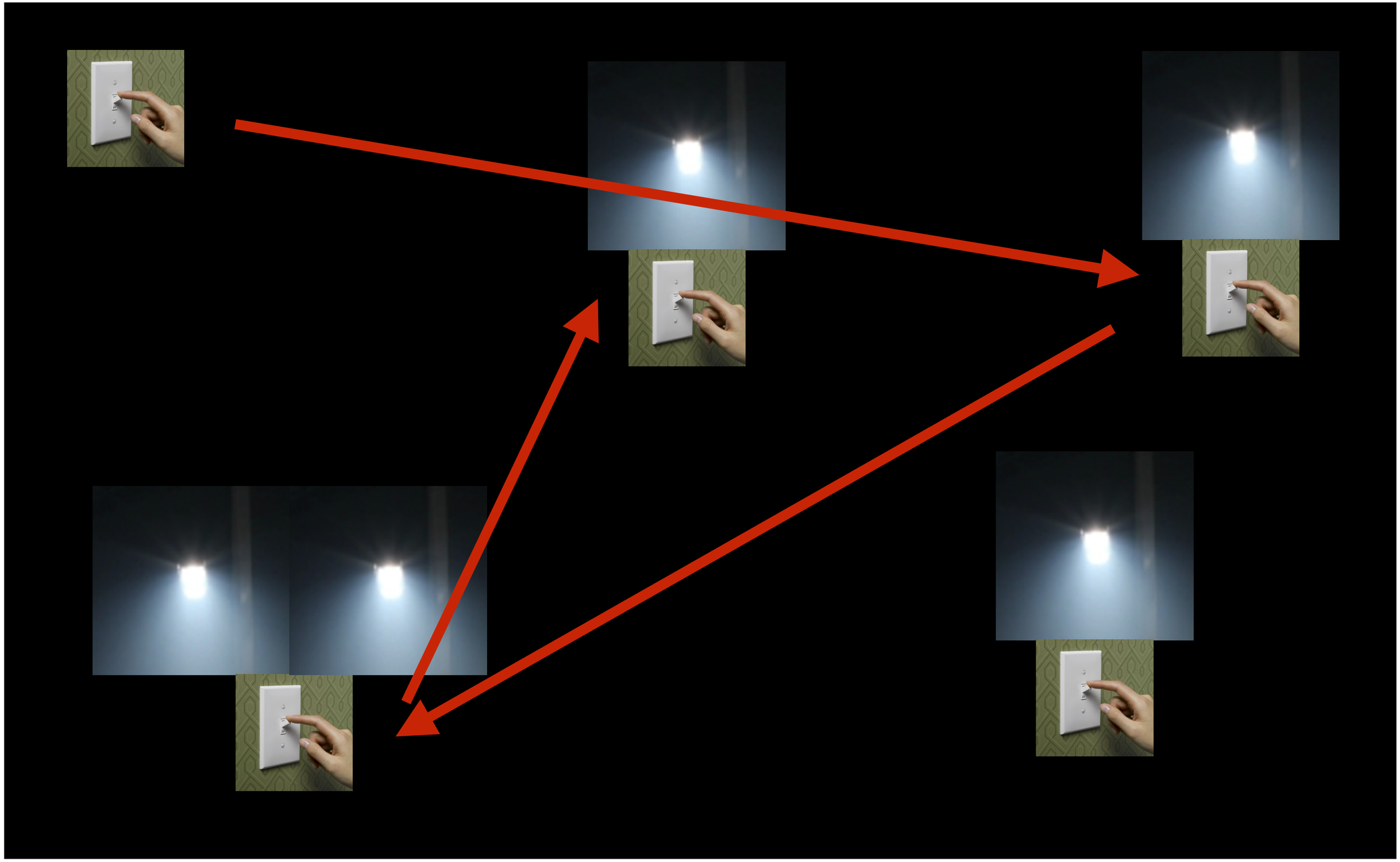

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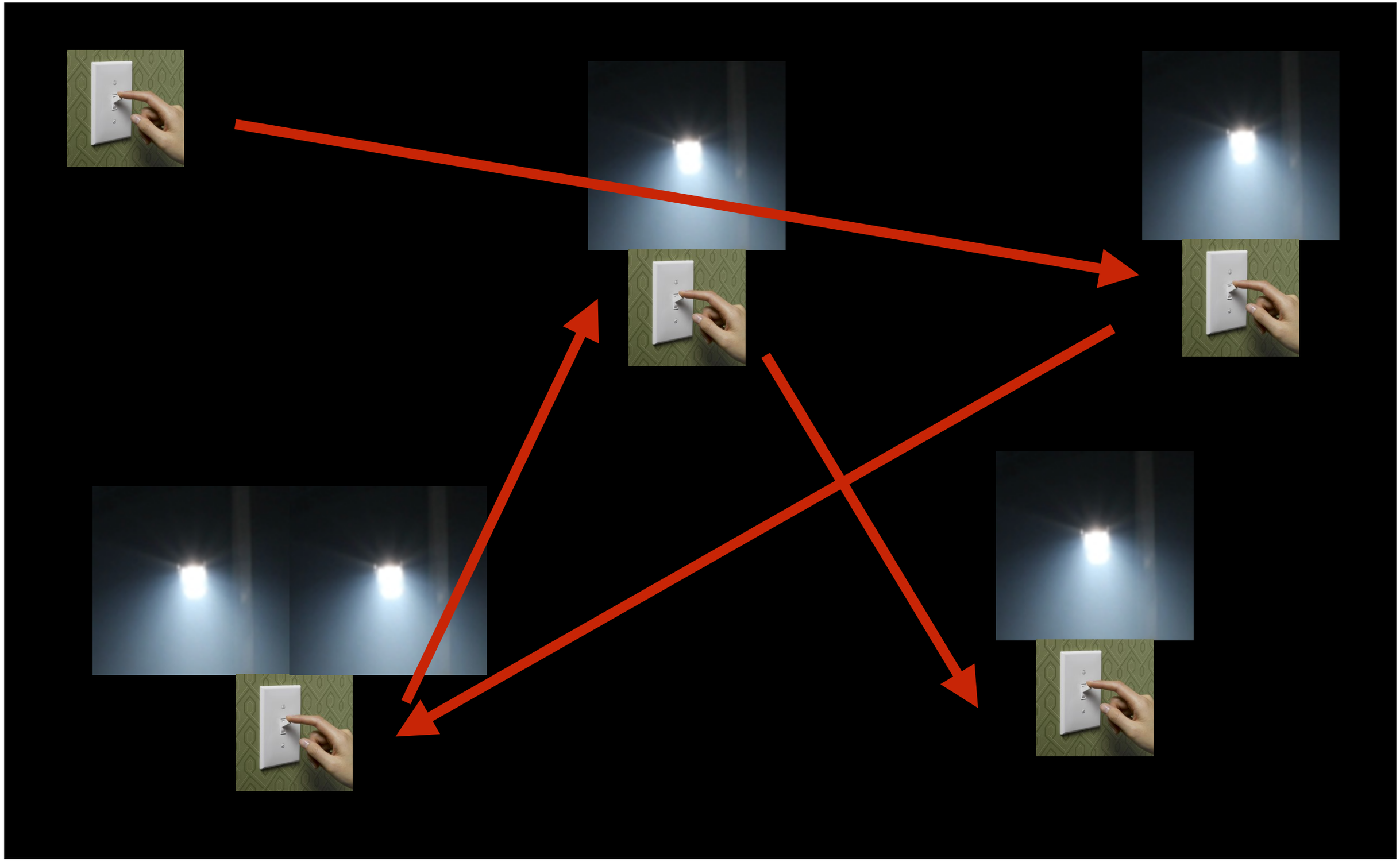

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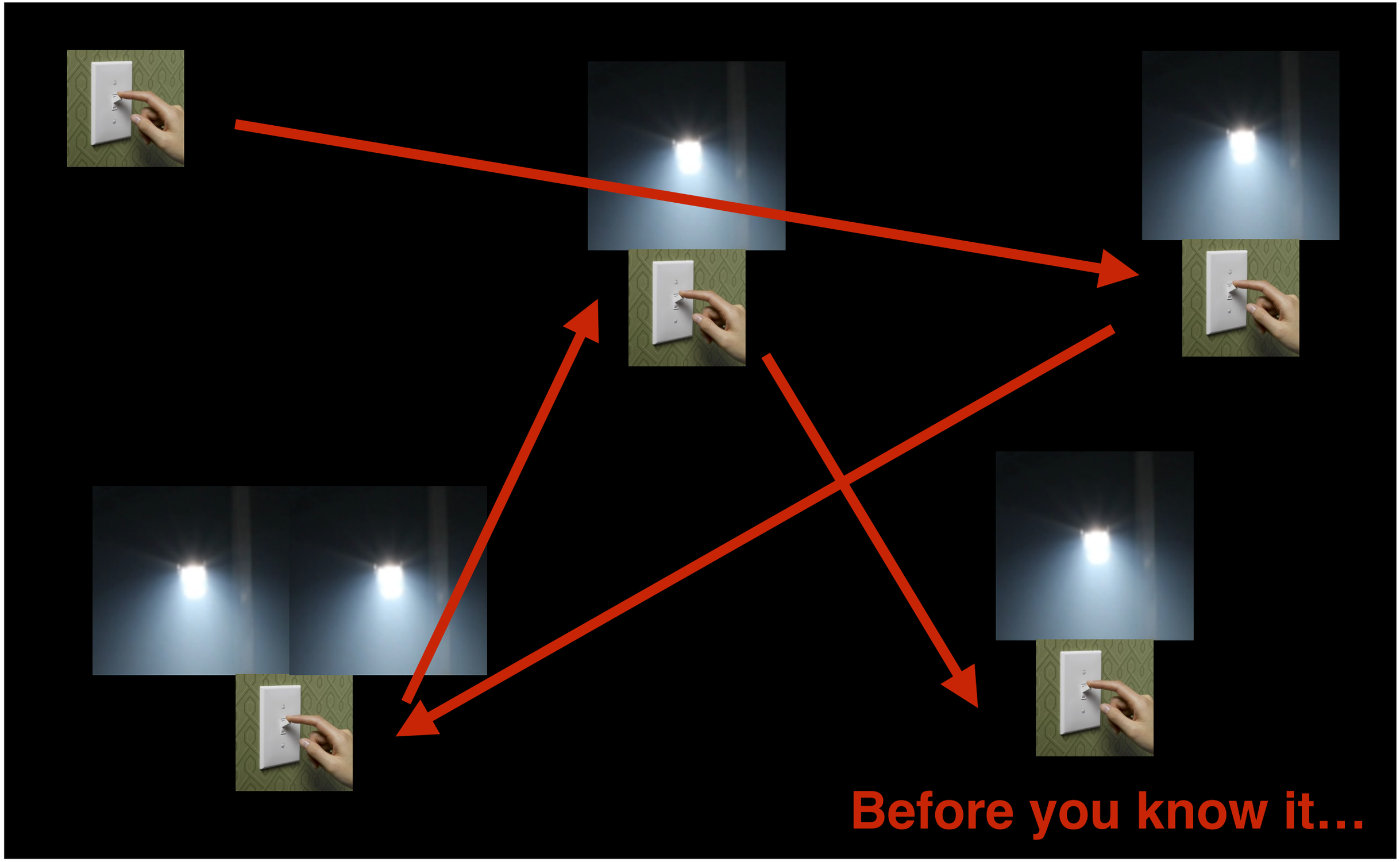

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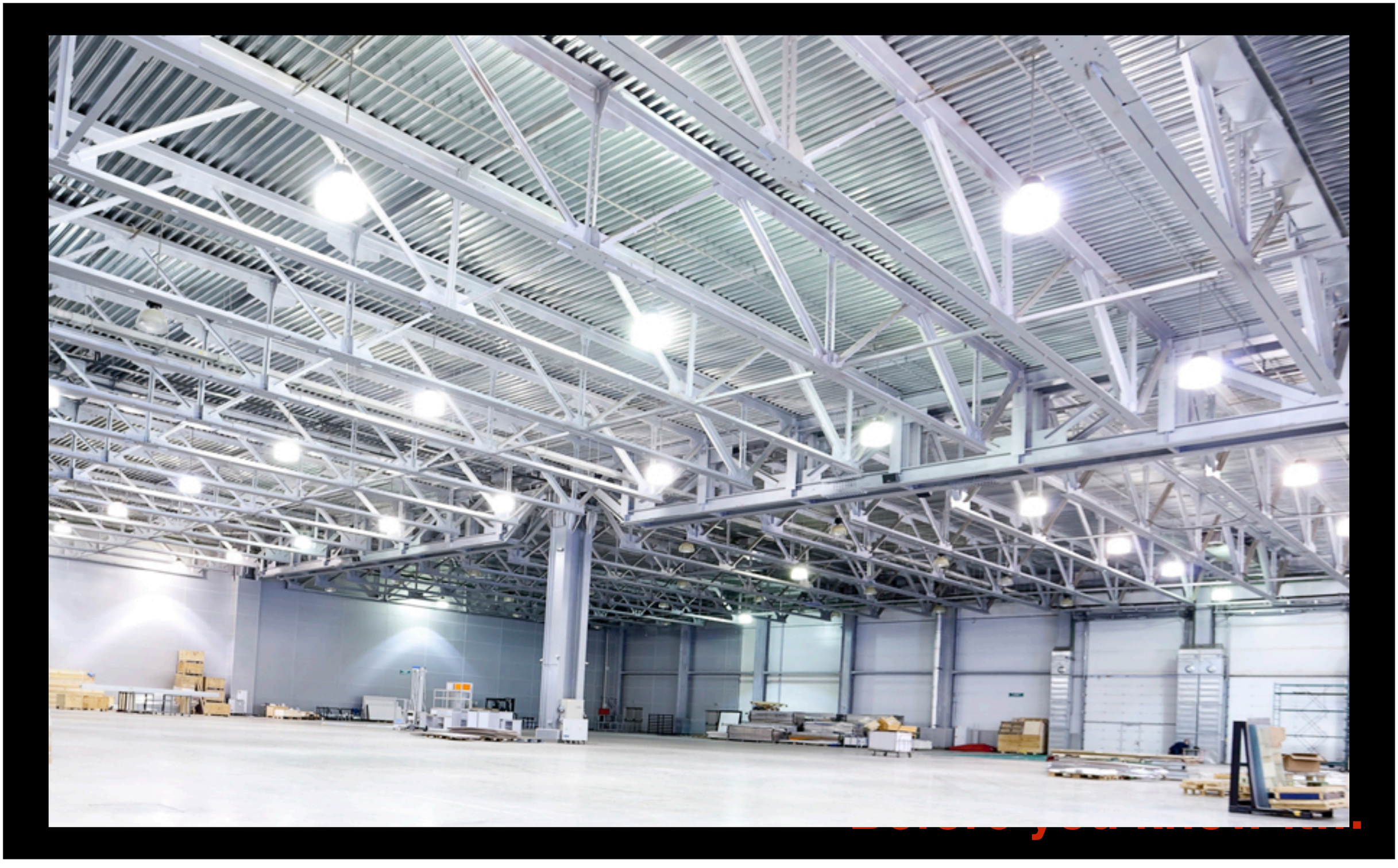

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For example, things I learned about myself:

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Little Switch Approach

For example, things I learned about myself:

- I hate having only 3 weeks vacation.
- Giving presentations is something I'm sort of good at
- I like designing interfaces
- I like "performing"
- I love to code

Tip 1: “Think of your life as a dark warehouse”

Another book I read at the time

LEAN IN

WOMEN, WORK, AND
THE WILL TO LEAD

SHERYL SANDBERG

#1 NATIONAL BEST SELLER

Career Ladder vs Career Jungle Gym

Career Ladder vs Career Jungle Gym

Think of advancement as a jungle gym, not a ladder
If you must change projects, teams, jobs, even fields!

Tip 2: “Don’t be afraid of lateral moves”

Conversation I had with Diane Tang

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While typing furiously “Albert! What can I do for you?”

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“Hey Diane! I’m having a hard time getting motivated with work. I was wondering if you could give me a top down perspective about what the work is and why it’s important?”

While typing furiously “Albert! What can I do for you?”

“Hey Diane! I’m having a hard time getting motivated with work. I was wondering if you could give me a top down perspective about what the work is and why it’s important?”

Stops typing & stares at me. “Albert. Do you know what the difference between intrinsic & extrinsic motivation is?”

While typing furiously “Albert! What can I do for you?”

“Hey Diane! I’m having a hard time getting motivated with work. I was wondering if you could give me a top down perspective about what the work is and why it’s important?”

Stops typing & stares at me. “Albert. Do you know what the difference between intrinsic & extrinsic motivation is?”

Um… No?!?

While typing furiously “Albert! What can I do for you?”

“Hey Diane! I’m having a hard time getting motivated with work. I was wondering if you could give me a top down perspective about what the work is and why it’s important?”

Stops typing & stares at me. “Albert. Do you know what the difference between intrinsic & extrinsic motivation is?”

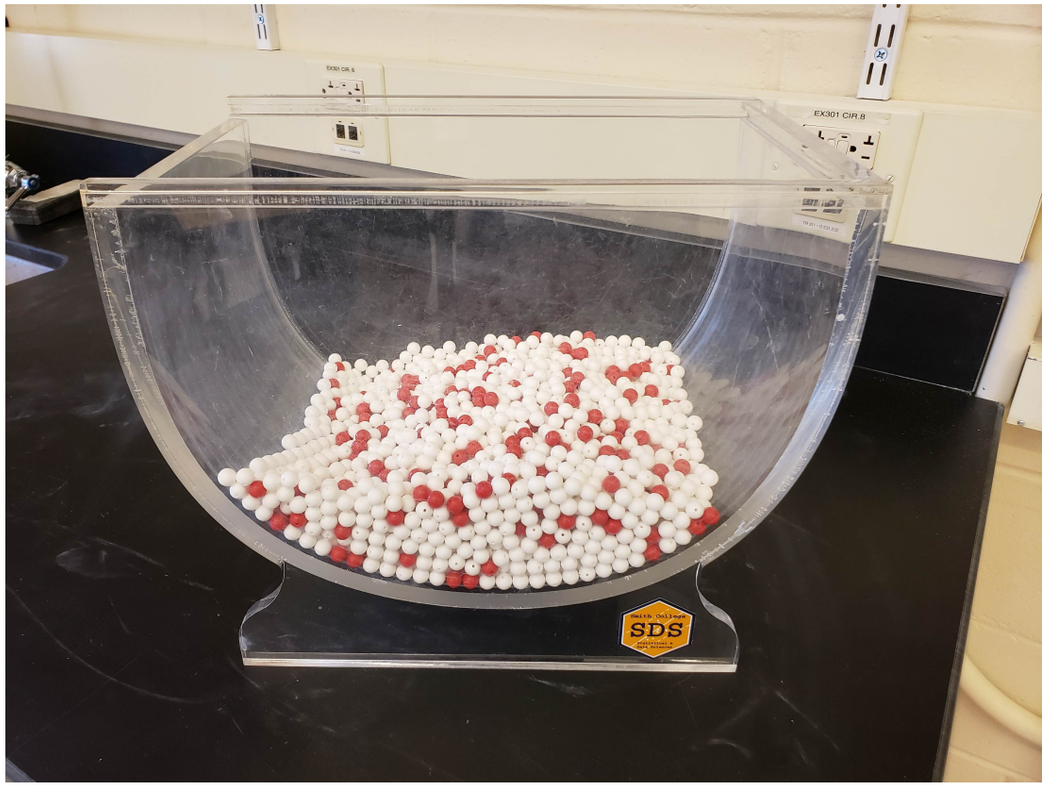
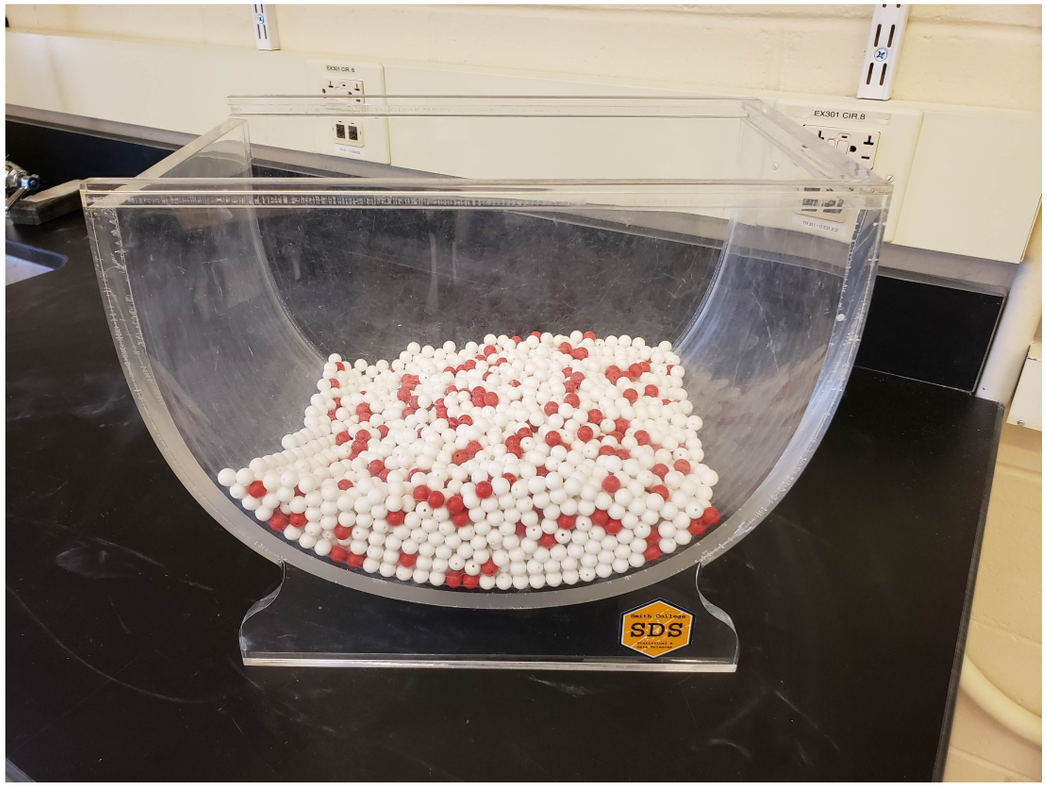
Um… No?!?

Resumes typing. “You should go look it up. Ok, bye!”

Tip 3: “Do you know what the difference between intrinsic & extrinsic motivation?”

Thanks!

Thanks!



Thanks!