

#### THE TYRANNY OF STRUCTURELESSNESS

For a number of years I have been familiar with the observation that the quality of programmers is a decreasing function of the density of GOTO statements in the programs they produce



EDSGER DIJKSTRA

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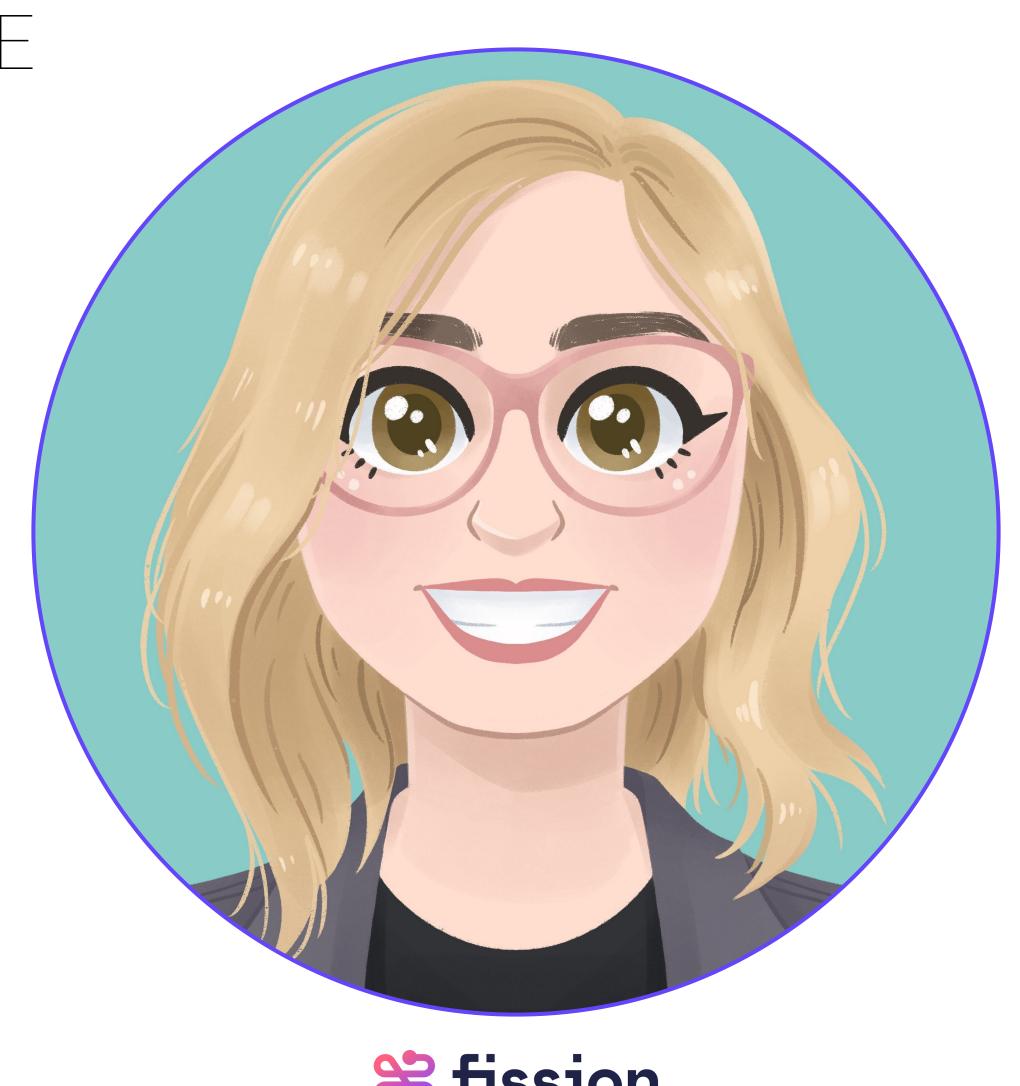
#### THE TYRANNY OF STRUCTURELESSNESS

What's she on about? Elixir doesn't have GOTOs...



THIS AUDIENCE

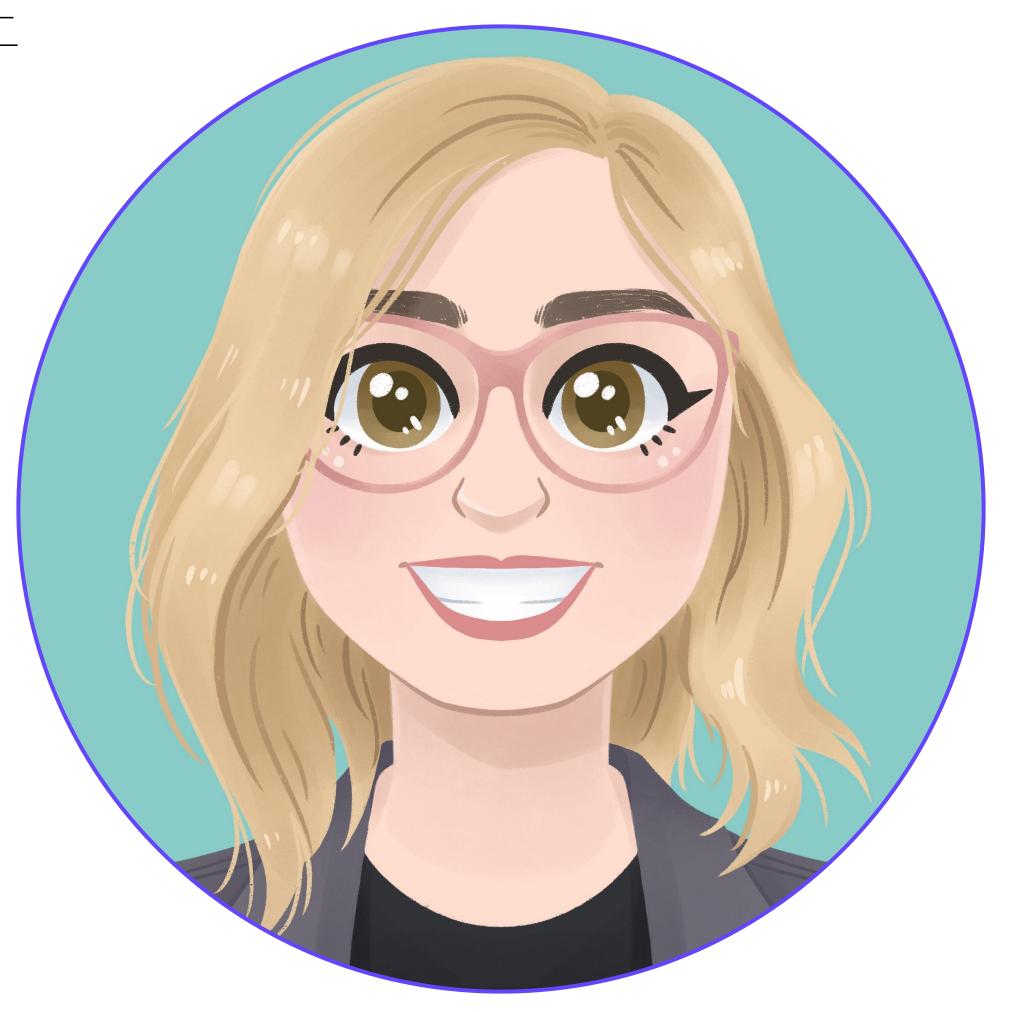
#### THE TYRANNY OF STRUCTURELESSNESS BROOKLYN ZELENKA, @EXPEDE



**#** fission

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- Cofounder/CTO at Fission
  - https://fission.codes
  - Make DevOps & Backend obsolete
  - Spending a lot of time with IPFS, DIDs, CRDTs
  - Want to hear more? Berlin FP online meetup June 2
- PLT & VM enthusiast
- Prev. Ethereum Core Developer
- Primary author of Witchcraft Suite & Exceptional
- This is a version of CodeBEAM Amsterdam 2019 keynote
  - Whova app for Q&A afterwards



**#** fission

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## THE BIG IDEA ONE-LINER

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#### THE BIG IDEA LANGUAGE DESIGN REFLECTS INTENDED USE





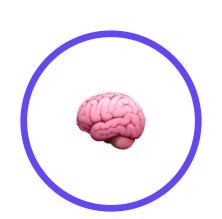


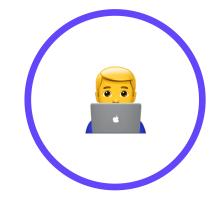


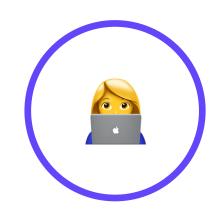


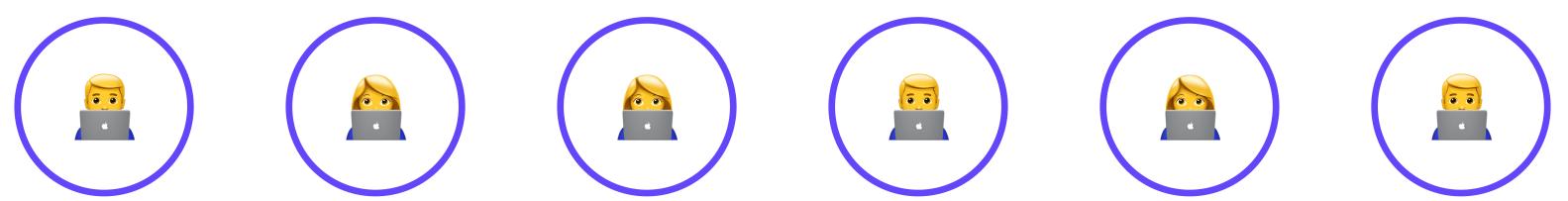
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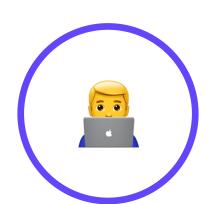
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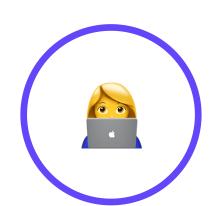


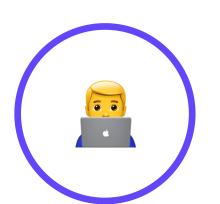


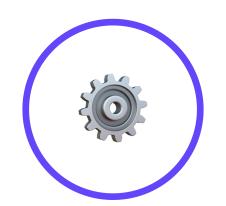




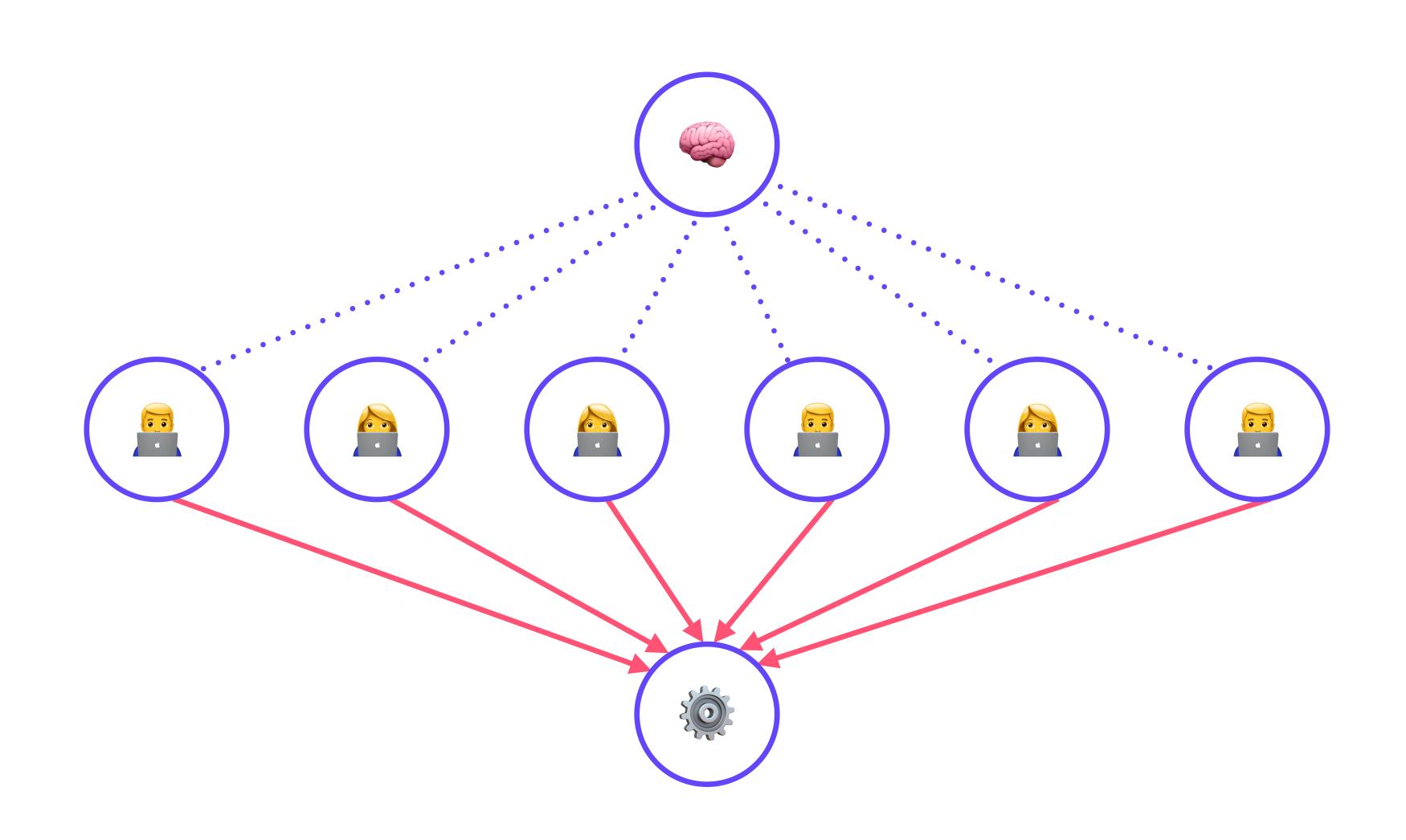




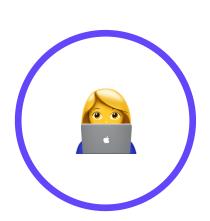


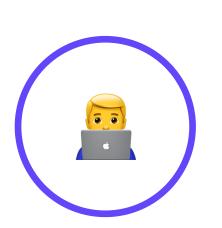


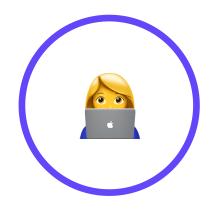
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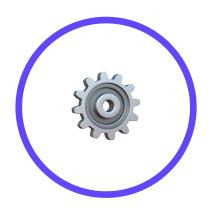


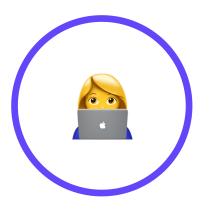
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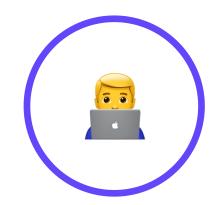


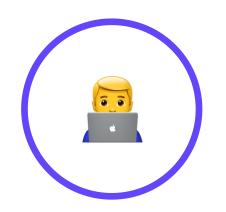




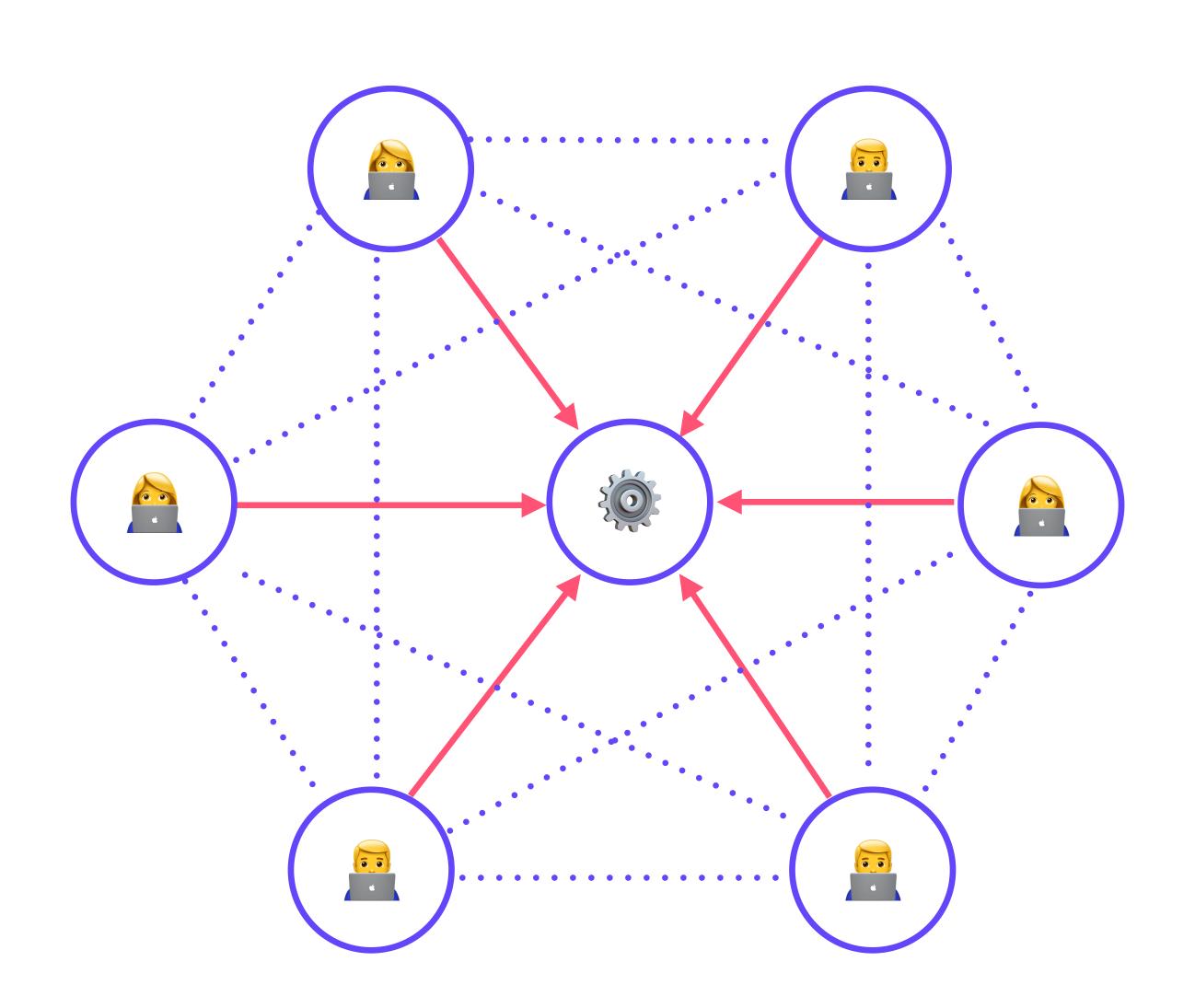








## THE BIG IDEA HOW ABOUT THIS?



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As a result, **complexity grows at an exponential rate**.

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Do you think that the patterns we use today are the best possible patterns for software?

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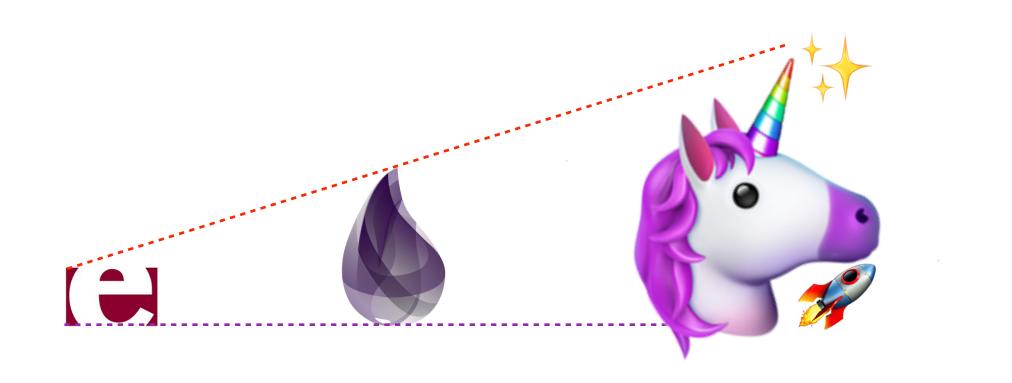
How will you write code in 2025, 2030, and 2050?

#### THE BIG IDEA CORE

We need to evolve our approach: focus on domain and structure!

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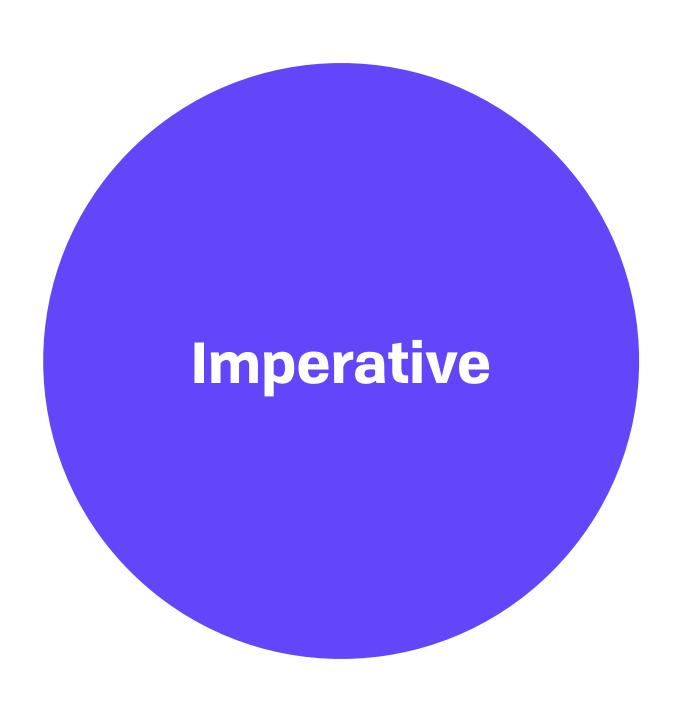


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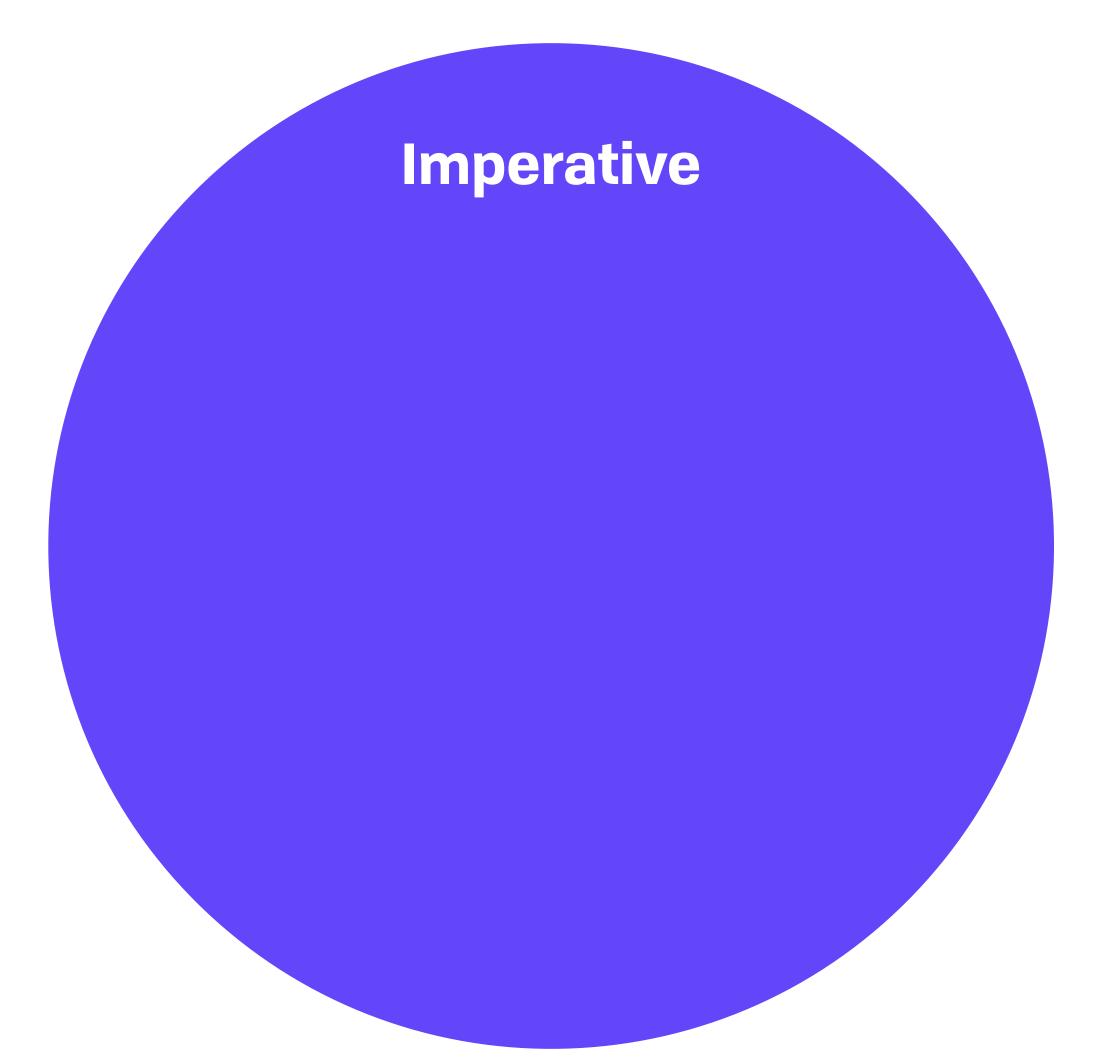
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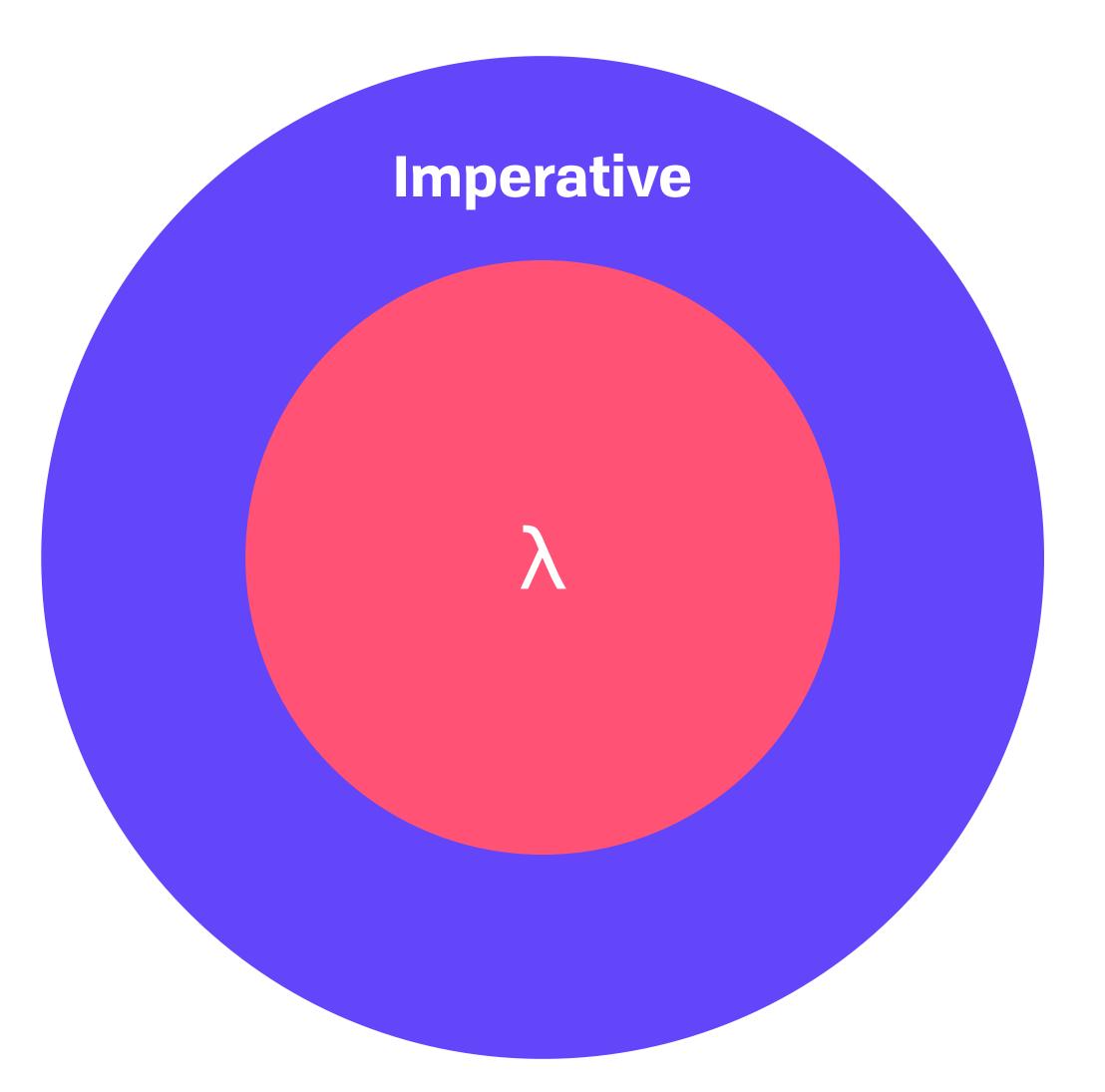
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\* Functional core, imperative shell

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Imperative IN THE LARGE 3-LAYER Generalization of hexagonal/12-factor

Imperative IN THE LARGE 3-LAYER Semantic DSL / 00 Generalization of hexagonal/12-factor

#### PROP + MODEL TEST

```
defmodule ListTest do
  use ExUnit.Case, async: true
  use ExUnitProperties
  property "++ is associative" do
    check all list_a <- list_of(term()),</pre>
              list_b <- list_of(term()),
              list c <- list of(term()) do</pre>
      ab_c = (list_a ++ list_b) ++ list_c
      a_bc = list_a ++ (list_b ++ list_c)
      assert ab_c == a_bc
    end
 end
```



GOTOS CONSIDERED HARMFUL WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT HAVING CONTROL? 👸 📆



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- GOTOS
- Low level instruction
- · Literally how the machine is going to see it
- Extremely flexible
- Highly concrete
- · Huge number of implicit states

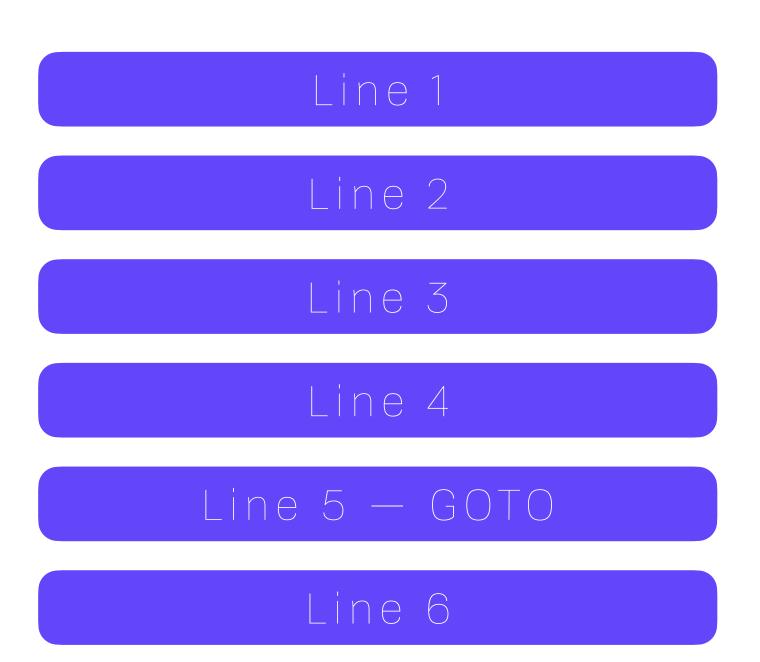
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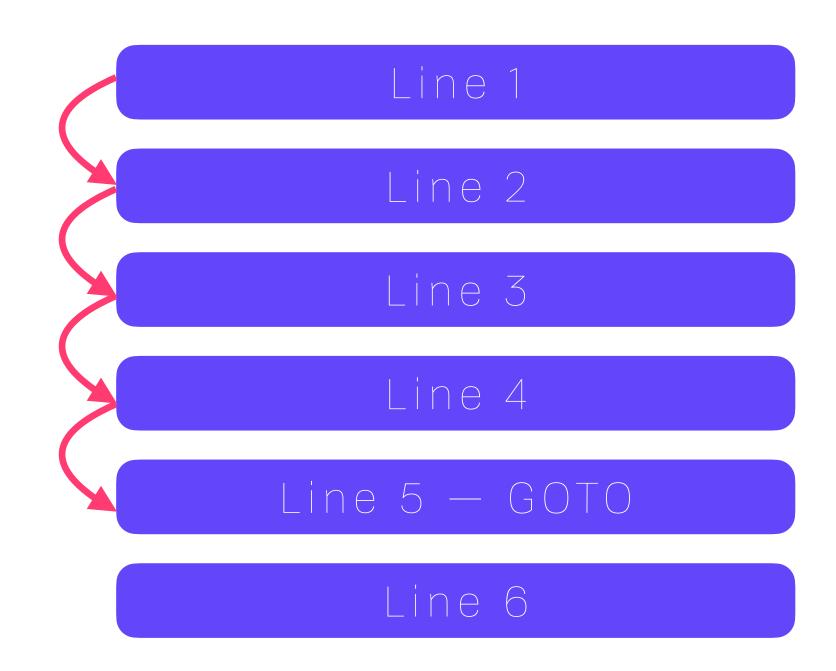


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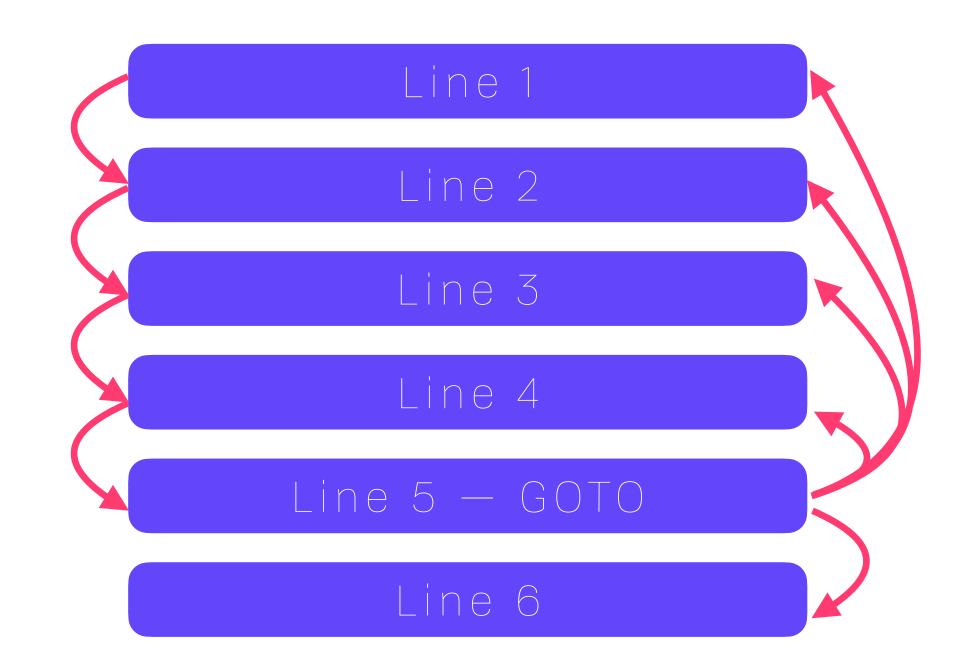
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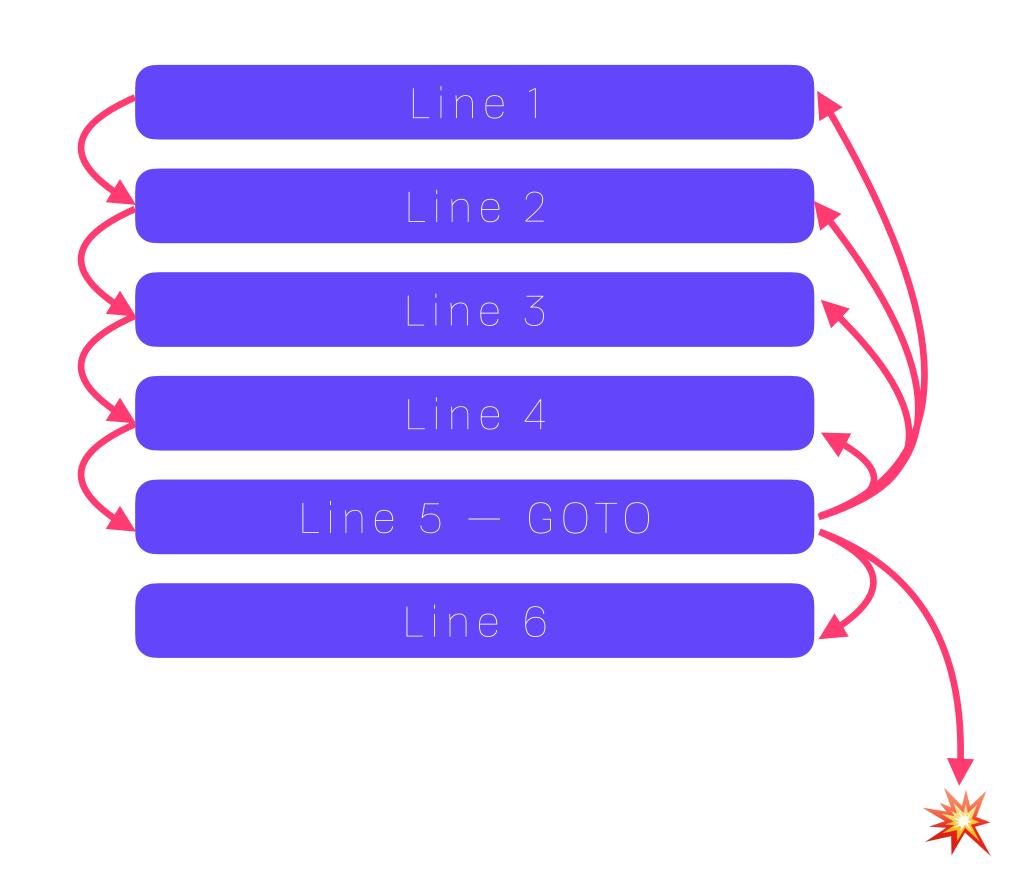


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## GOTOS CONSIDERED HARMFUL STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING



### GOTOS CONSIDERED HARMFUL STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING

- Subroutines
- Loops
- Switch/branching
- Named routines



## GOTOS CONSIDERED HARMFUL THE NEXT GENERATION \*\*\*

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- Functions
- Map
- Reduce
- Filter
- Constraint solvers

## GOTOS CONSIDERED HARMFUL TRADEOFFS

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Exchange granular control for structure

#### Meaning over mechanics

- More human than machine
- Safer!

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- Exchange granular control for structure
- Meaning over mechanics
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- Spectrum
  - Turing Tarpit
  - Church Chasm
  - Haskell Fan Fiction

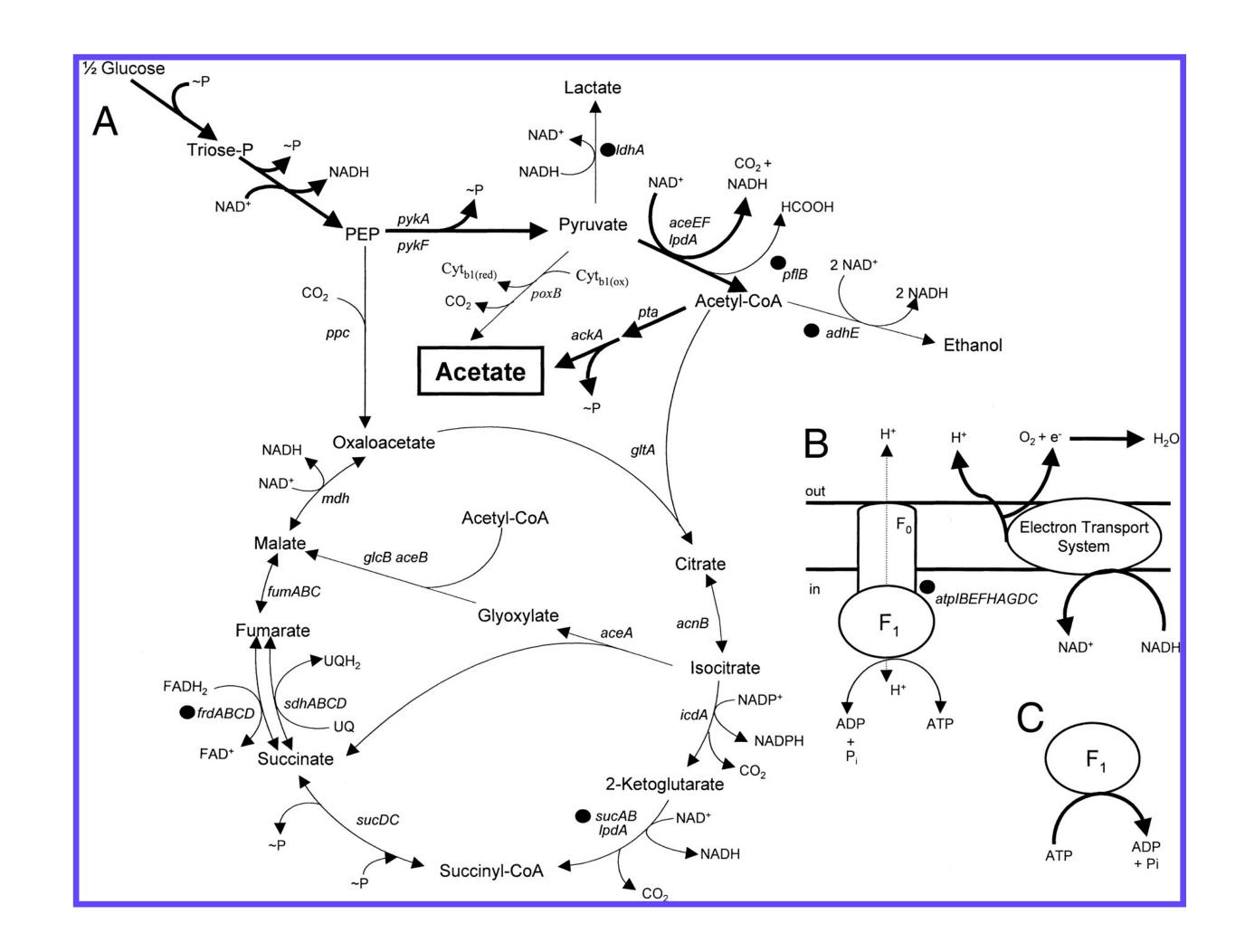
#### COMPLEXITY ACTOR ABYSS

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- 1. Each step is very simple
- 2. Reasoning about dynamic organisms is hard
  - 1. Remember to store your data for crash recovery
  - 2. Called collaborator may not be there
- 3. Complexity grows faster than linear
- 4. Find common factors your abstraction

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## GOTOS CONSIDERED HARMFUL PAYOFF

#### Structured

Unstructured

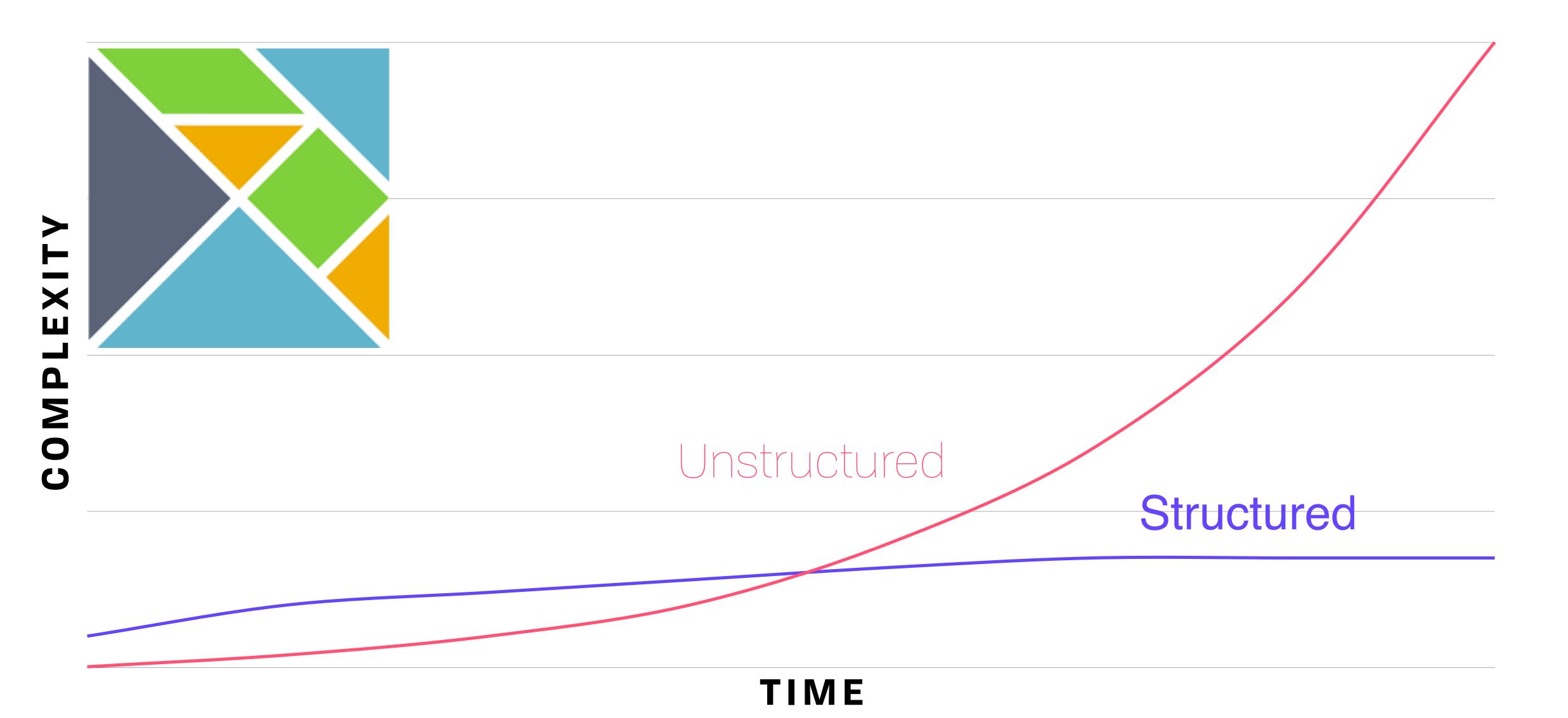
## GOTOS CONSIDERED HARMFUL PAYOFF

Structured

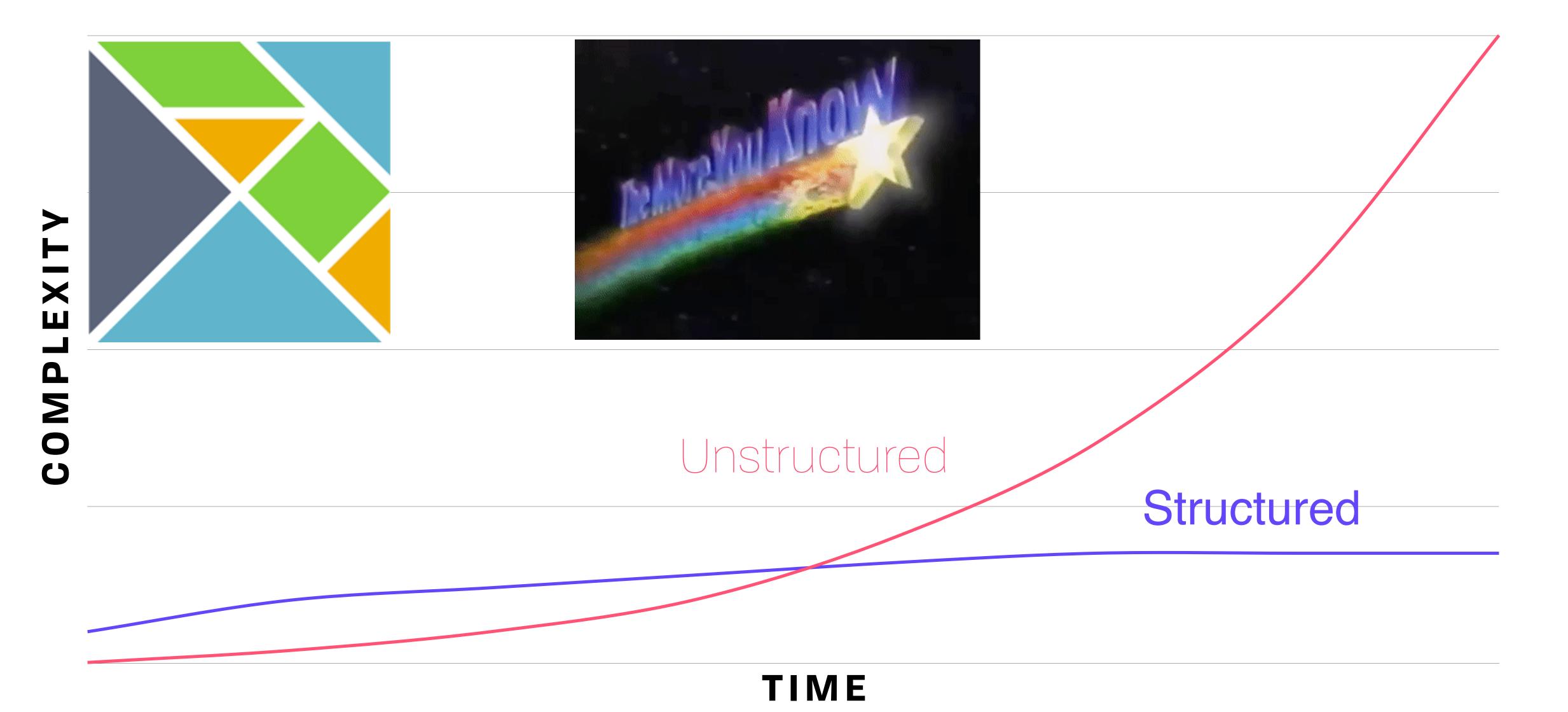
Unstructured

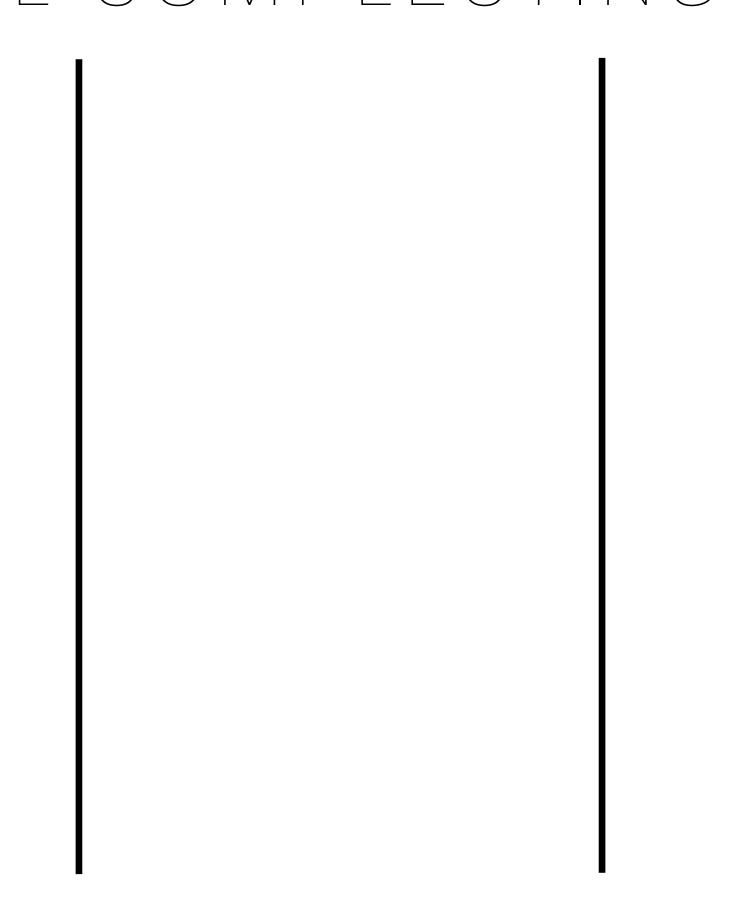
## Unstructured Structured TIME

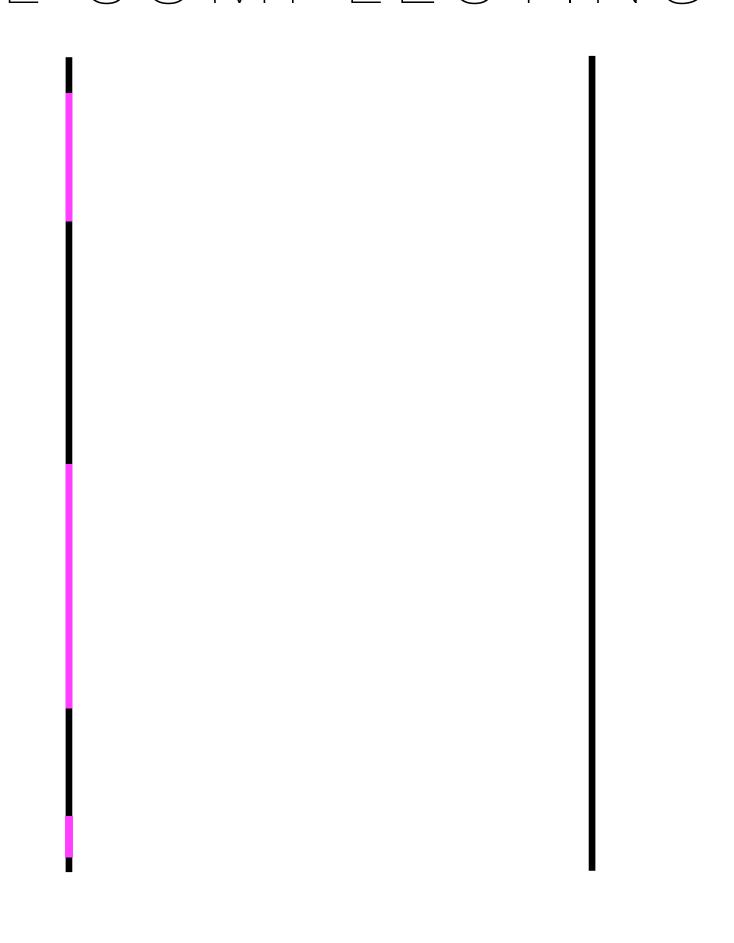
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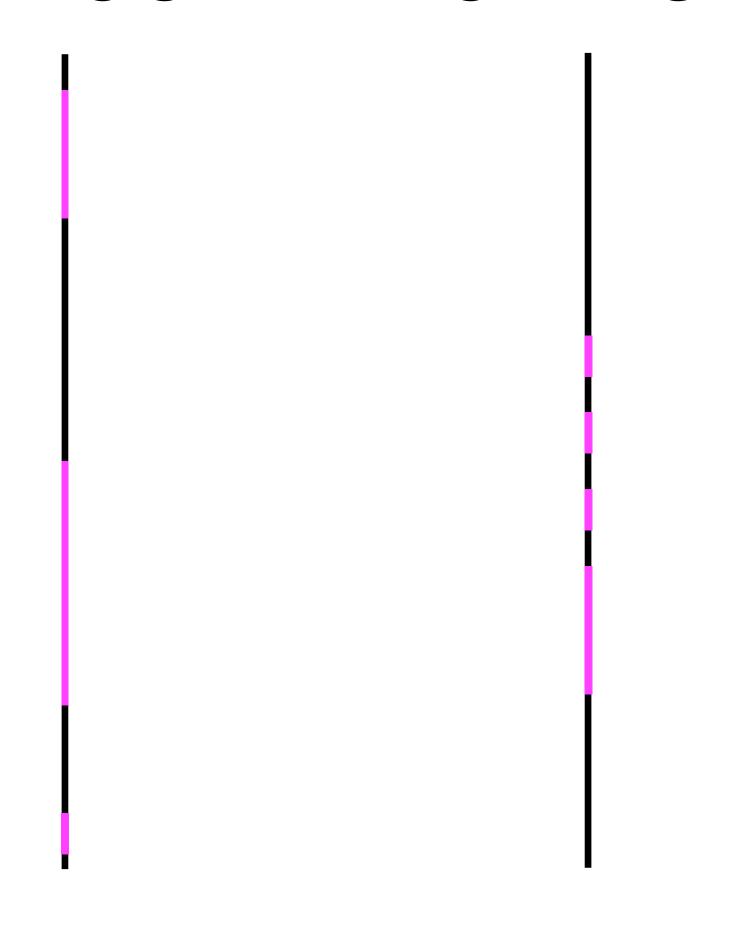


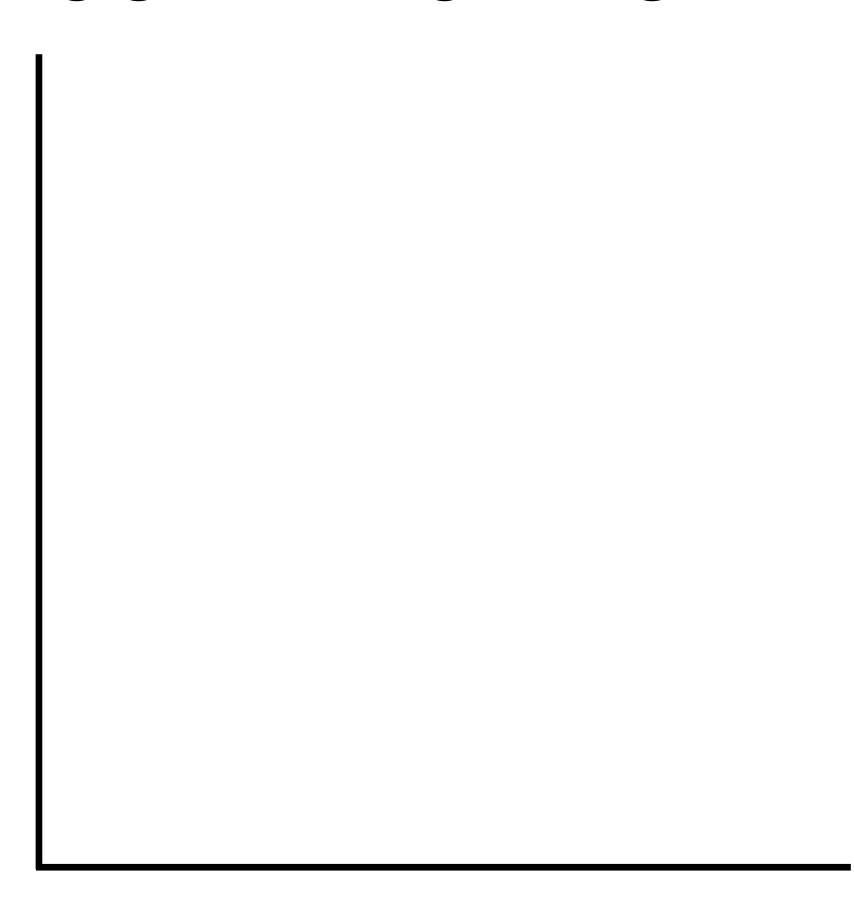
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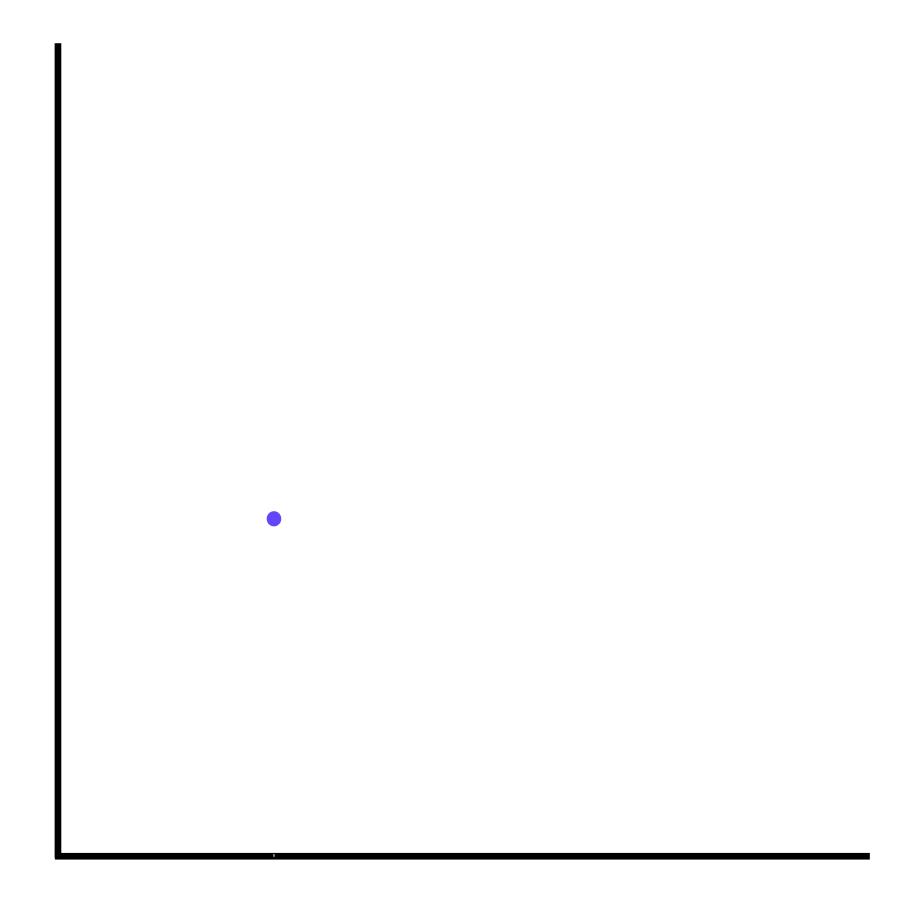


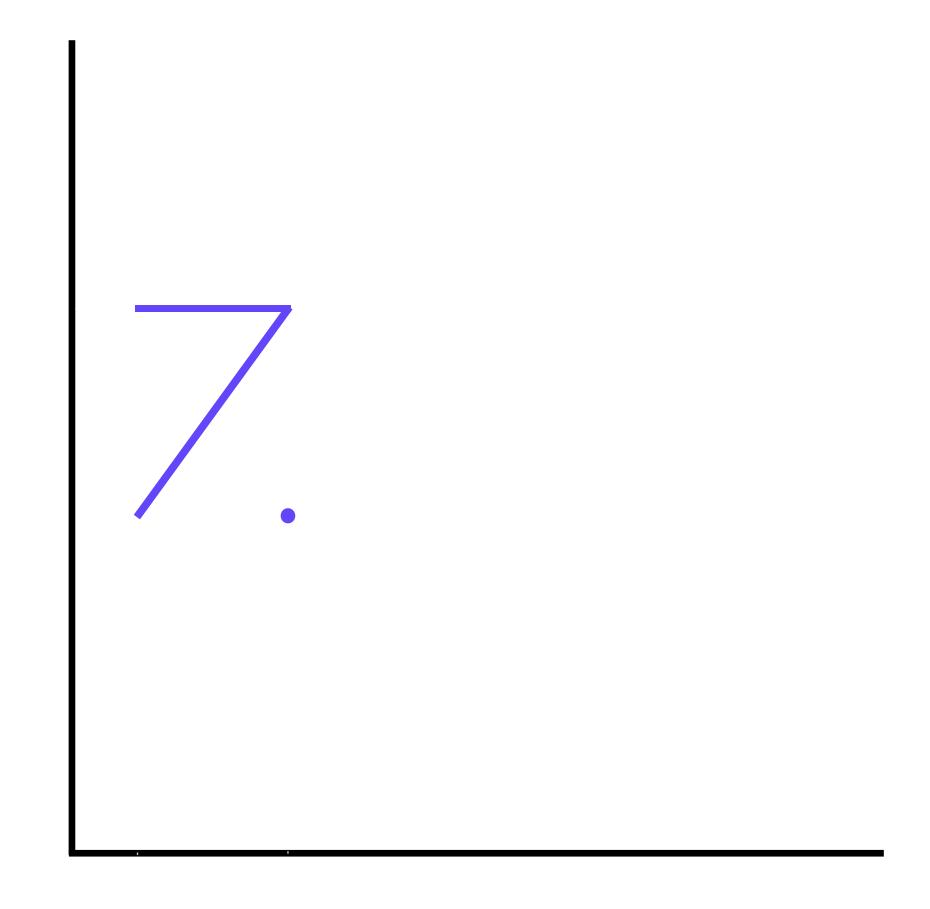


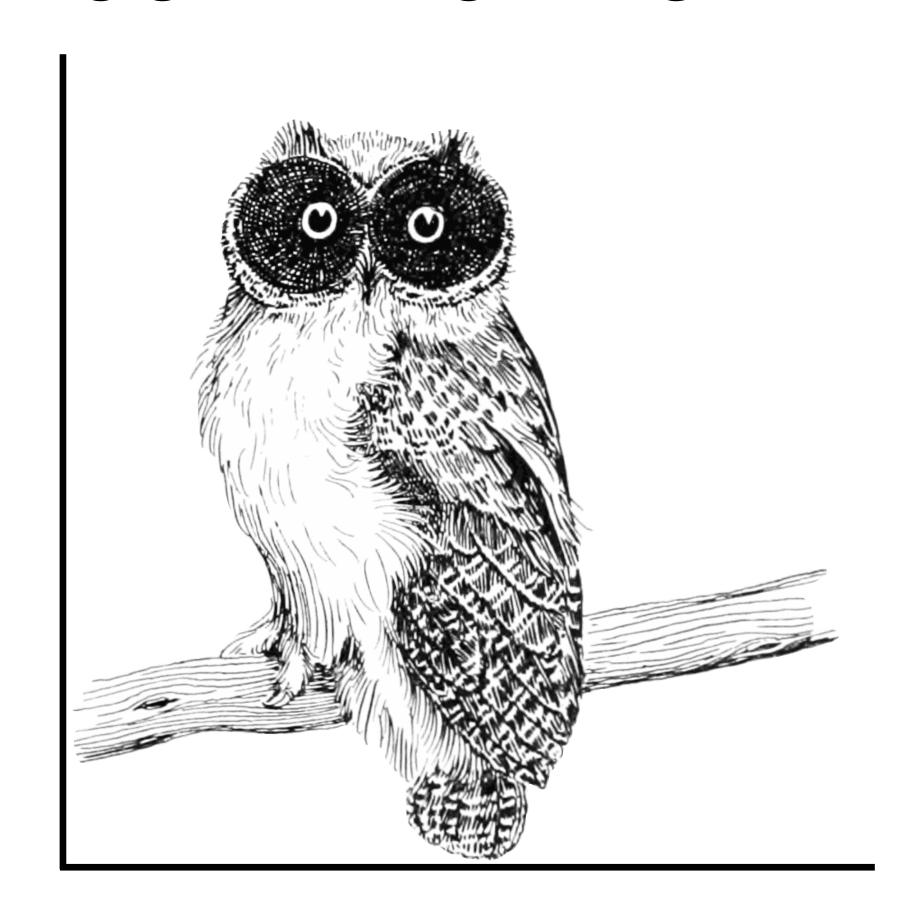


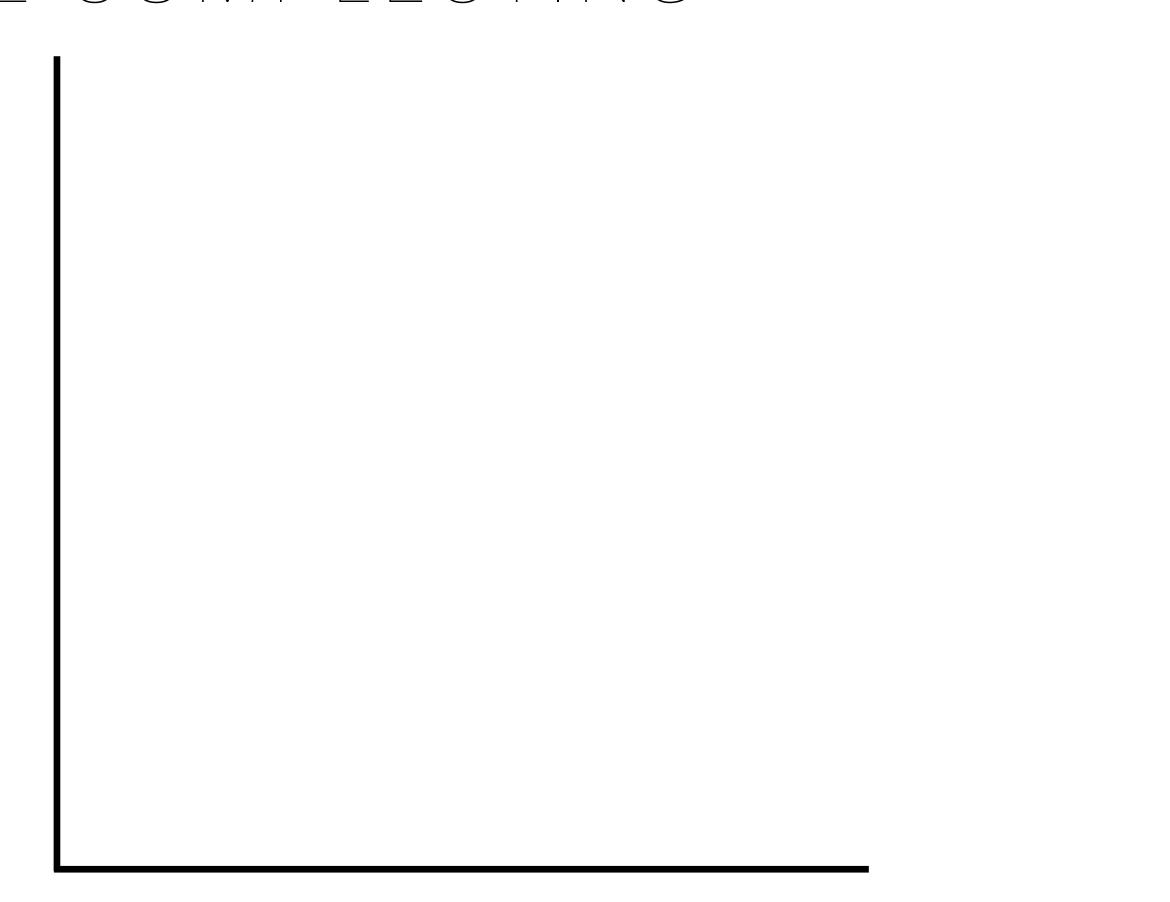


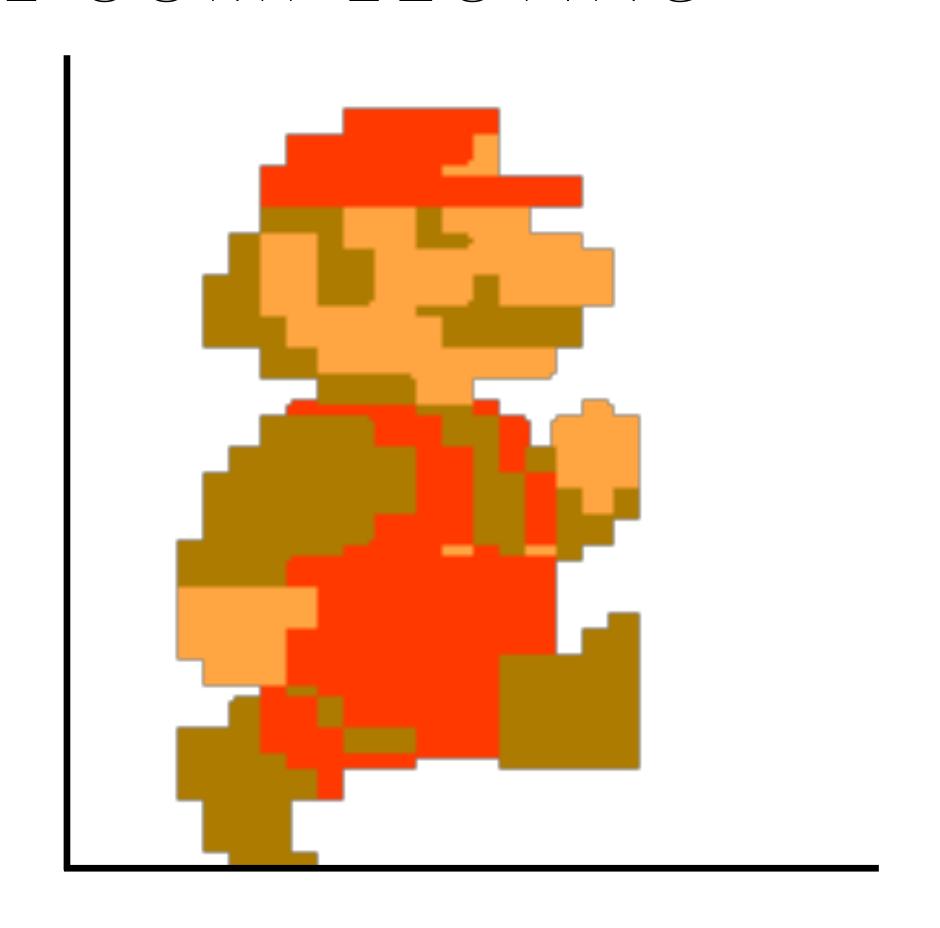


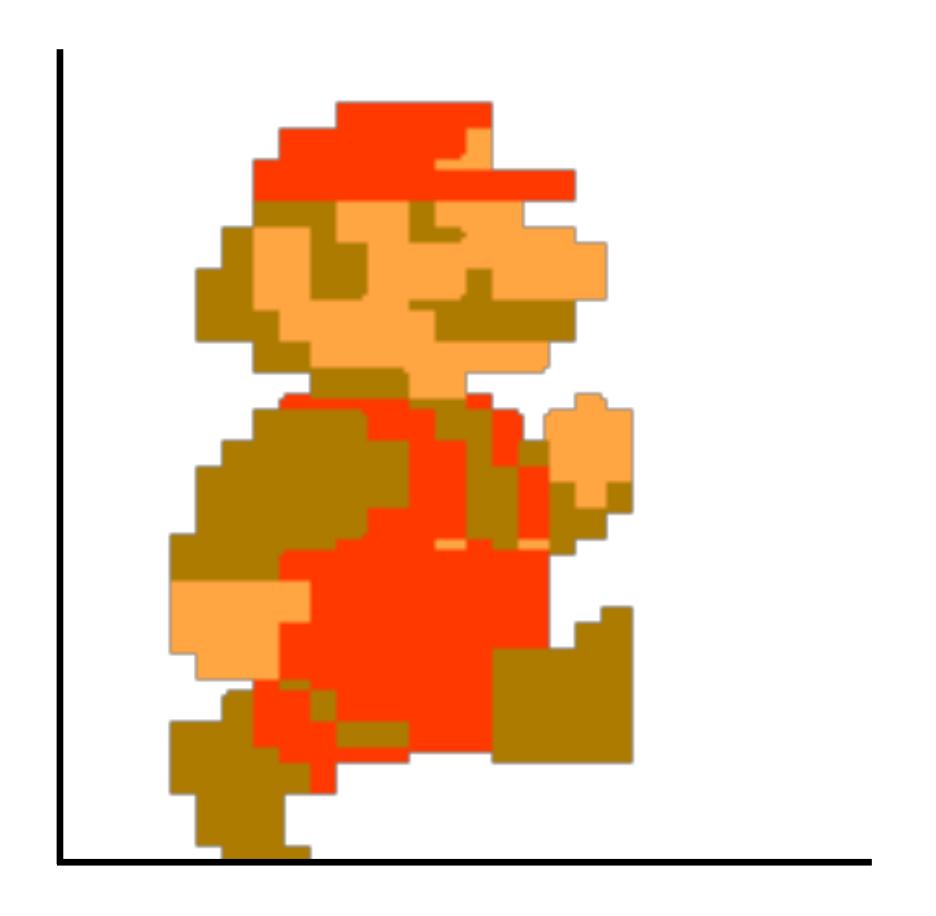




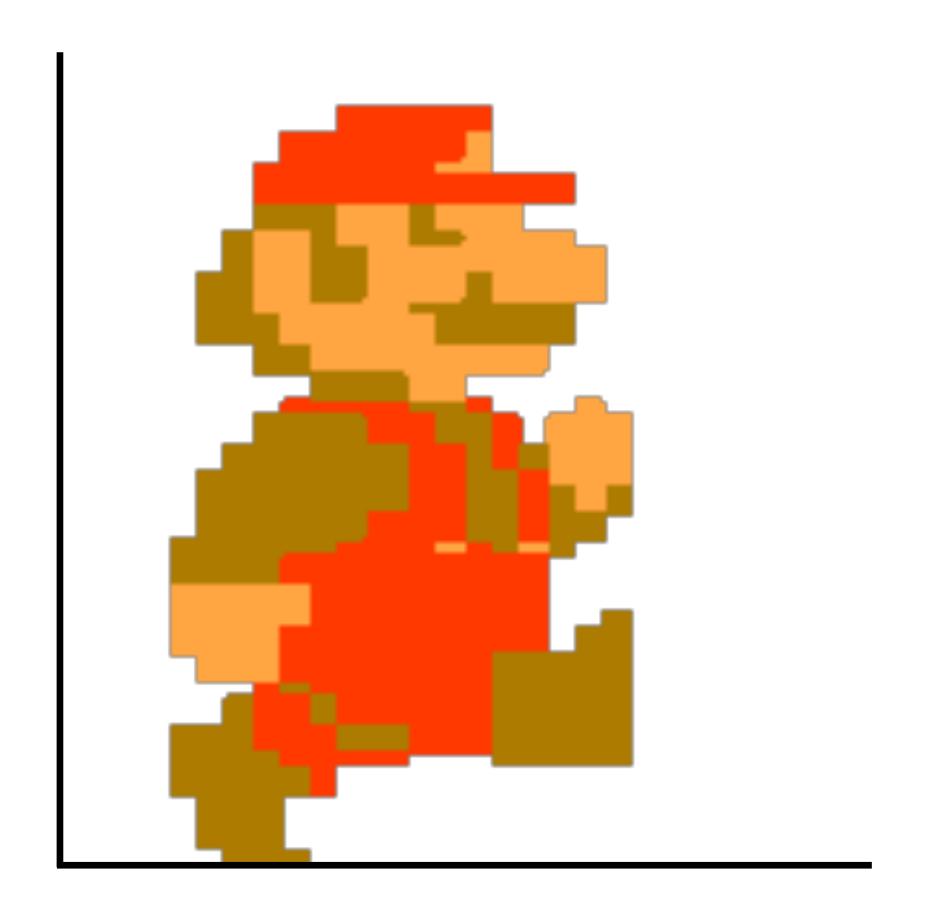






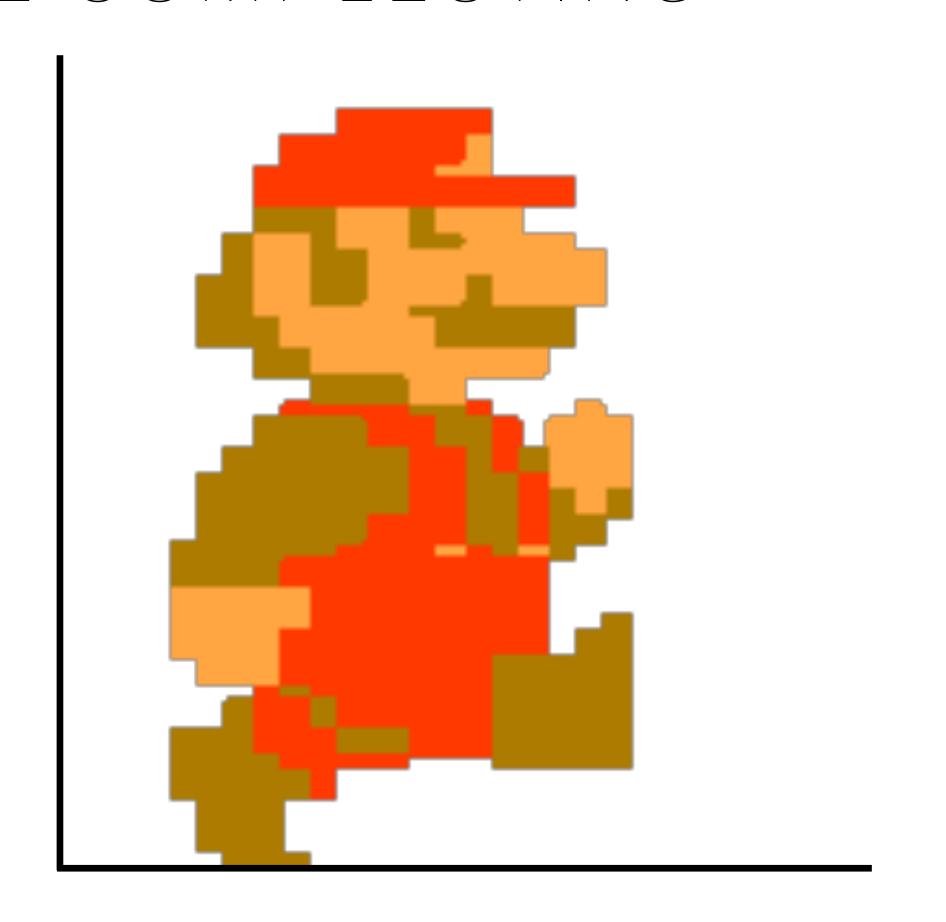








Structures: 4





Structures: 4

Results: effectively limitless



# ÓN ABSTRACTION & DSLS NOT GETTING TRAPPED IN THE DETAILS

#### ABSTRACTION & DSLS COMMONALITIES

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#### ABSTRACTION & DSLS COMMONALITIES

- They clearly have a similar structure
  - NOT equally expressive
  - Enumerable
    - Always converted to List
  - Witchcraft.Functor

```
def seq_fun(input) do
   position = input / 5

  one_more = input + 1
  bang = inspect(one_more) <> "!"
  string = "#{one_more}#{bang}"

  String.at(string, round(position))
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   end)

String.at(Task.await(string), round(Task.await(position)))
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- Different, but also have similar structure
  - Not very pipeable because 2 paths
  - ...lots of duplicate code

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  - ...lots of duplicate code
- Why limit to only to two ways?

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• Describe what the overall solution looks like — "front end" interface

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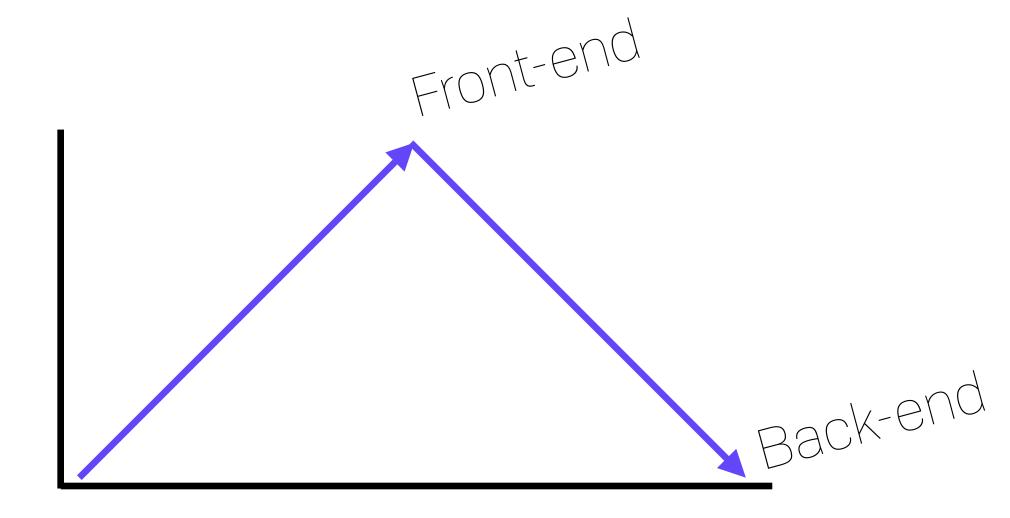
- Describe what the overall solution looks like "front end" interface
- · Choose how it gets run contextually "back end" runner

- Always a two-phase process
- Abstract, then concrete
- Do concretion at application boundary

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# ABSTRACTION & DSLS IMPROVING Kernel

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- Fallback keys
- Bang-functions

Composition is at the heart of modularity

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#=> 4
  |> List.first() |> fallback(:empty)
#=> :empty
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- Let's abstract default values!
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- Let's abstract default values!
  - More focused (does one thing)
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  - Ad hoc function extension

```
def get(map, key, default \( nil)

%{a: 1} |> Map.get(:b, 4)

#=> 4

def fallback(nil, default), do: default
def fallback(val, _), do: value

%{a: 1} |> Map.get(:b) |> fallback(4)

#=> 4

[] |> List.first() |> fallback(:empty)
#=> :empty
```

```
Map.fetch!(%{a: 1}, :b)
#=> ** (KeyError) key :b not found in: %{a: 1}
```

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#### IMPROVING Kernel — BANG FUNCTIONS

```
Map.fetch!(%{a: 1}, :b)
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use Exceptional

error = SafeMap.fetch(%{a: 1}, :b)
#=> %KeyError{key: :b, message: "..."}
```

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value = SafeMap.fetch(%{a: 1}, :a)
```

#=> 1

#### IMPROVING Kernel — BANG FUNCTIONS

🥦 Map.fetch!(%{a: 1}, :b)

```
#=> ** (KeyError) key :b not found in: %{a: 1}
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    Abstracted out
                            fensure!(x)
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                             #=> ** (KeyError) key :b not found in: %{a: 1}
                             value = SafeMap.fetch(%{a: 1}, :a)
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                          OK value ~> (&(&1 + 1))
                             #=> 2
                             error ~> (&(&1 + 1))
                             #=> %KeyError{key: :b, message: "..."}
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#### IMPROVING Kernel — BANG FUNCTIONS

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🥦 Map.fetch!(%{a: 1}, :b)
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Abstracted out foo!/\* from foo/\*

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```

Works everywhere
Any data
Any error struct
Any flow (esp. pipes)

Super easy to test

### ABSTRACTION & DSLS

### IMPROVING Kernel — BANG FUNCTIONS

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```

Works everywhere
Any data
Any error struct
Any flow (esp. pipes)

Super easy to test

### **BONUS**

Disambiguate between nil value and actual errors

### ABSTRACTION STORYTELLING

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- 1. Your code read like a story
- 2. We even see this in high-level goals of (e.g.) Phoenix
- 3. Gomake some DSLs!

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- 1. Your code read like a story
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- 3. Go make some DSLs!

```
|> route()
  parse()
> model()
  view()
> render()
```

# FIGHTING GenSoup

# FIGHTING GenSoup



# FIGHTING GenSoup GOOD INTERFACES != GOOD ABSTRACTIONS

### FIGHTING GenSoup GOOD INTERFACES != GOOD ABSTRACTIONS

- GenServer & co are actually pretty low level
  - Add some semantics!
- Don't reinvent the wheel every time
- · Let's look at a very common example

FIGHTING GenSoup

ABSTRACTION — INTERFACE / FRONT END

### ABSTRACTION — INTERFACE / FRONT END

```
defprotocol KeyValue do
  def init(proxy)
  def get(db, value)
  def set(db, key, value)
ena
```

### FIGHTING GenSoup

### SIMPLE SYNCHRONOUS CASE (BACK END)

```
defimpl KeyValue, for: Map do
  def init(_), do: %{}
  def get(db, value), do: Map.get(db, value, :not_found)
  def set(db, key, value), do: Map.put(db, key, value)
end
```

### ASYNC CASE — UNDERLYING MECHANICS

```
defmodule ProcDB do
  use Agent
  defstruct [:pid]
  # Works with any inner data type!
  def start_link(starter), do: Agent.start_link(fn -> starter end)
  def get(pid, key) do
    Agent.get(pid, fn state -> KeyValue.get(state, key) end)
  end
  def set(pid, key, value) do
    Agent.update(pid, fn state -> KeyValue.set(state, key, value) end)
  end
end
```

### ASYNC CASE — IMPLEMENTATION (BACK END)

# FIGHTING GenSoup WHAT DID WE GET?

# FIGHTING GenSoup WHAT DID WE GET?

- Common interface
- Encapsulate the detail
- Don't have to think about mechanics anymore

FIGHTING GenSoup

ABSTRACTION = FOCUS/ESSENCE

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```
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defprotocol KeyValue do
  def init(proxy)
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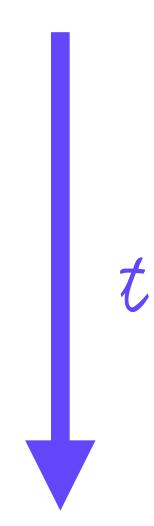
# LET'S DO SOMETHING WILD

# LET'S DO SOMETHING WILD + POWER UP

Parallel pipes

- Parallel pipes
- Concurrency = partial order

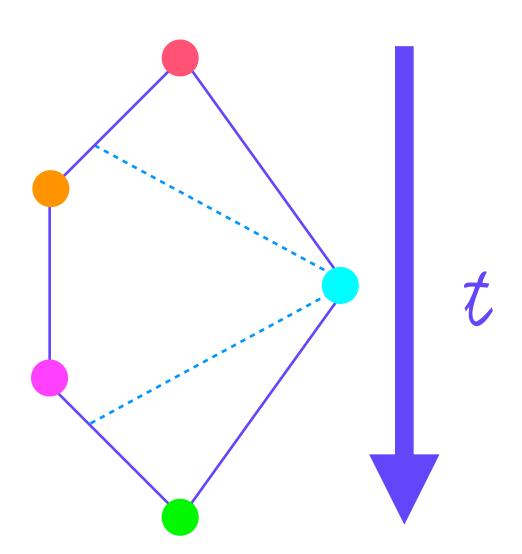
- Parallel pipes
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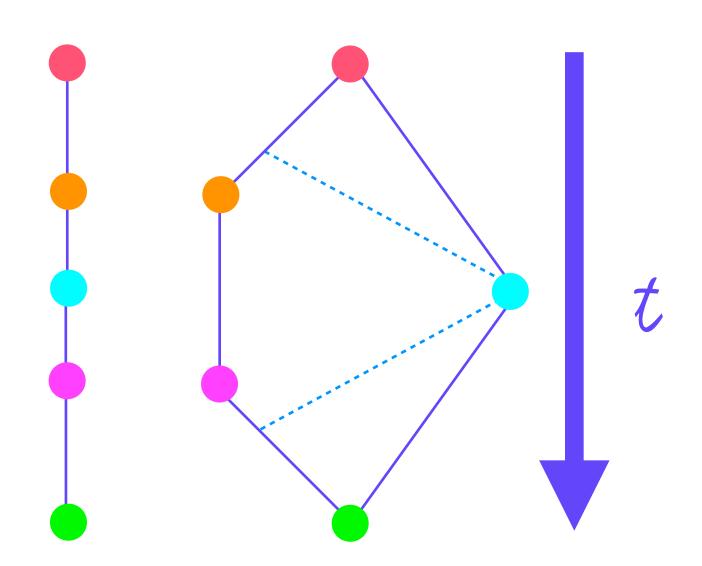
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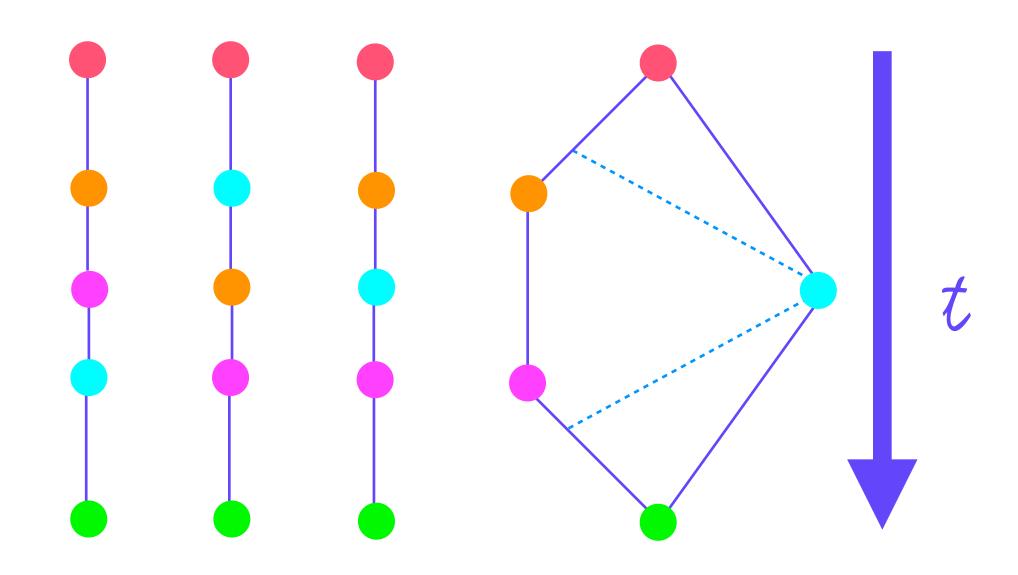
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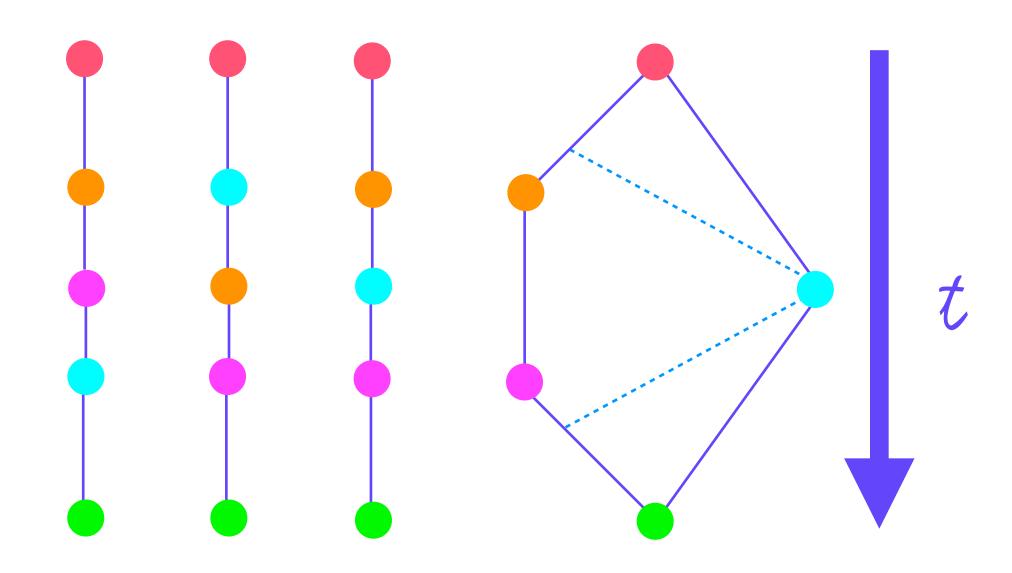
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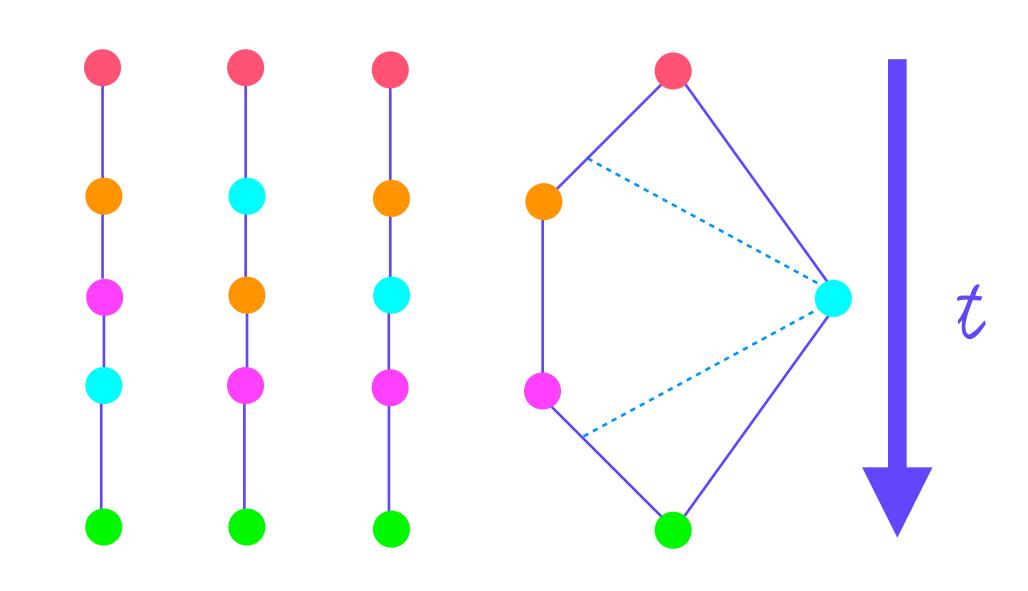
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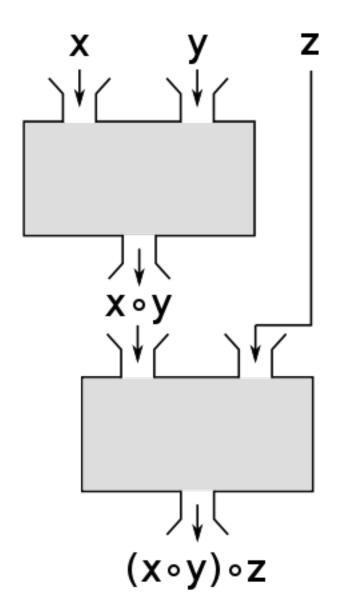


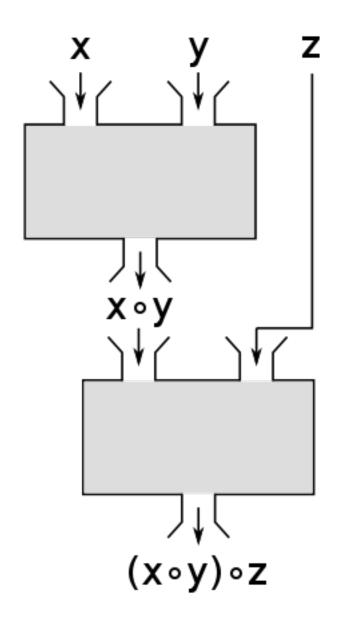
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- Monotonic

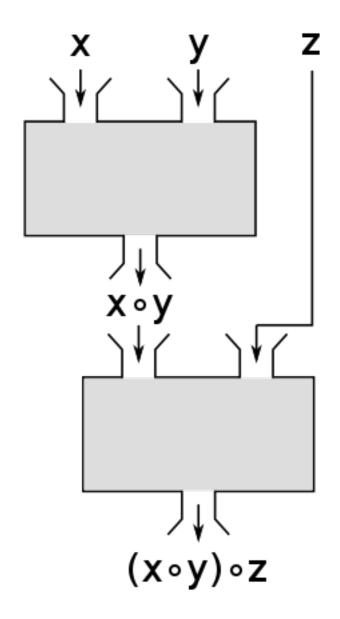


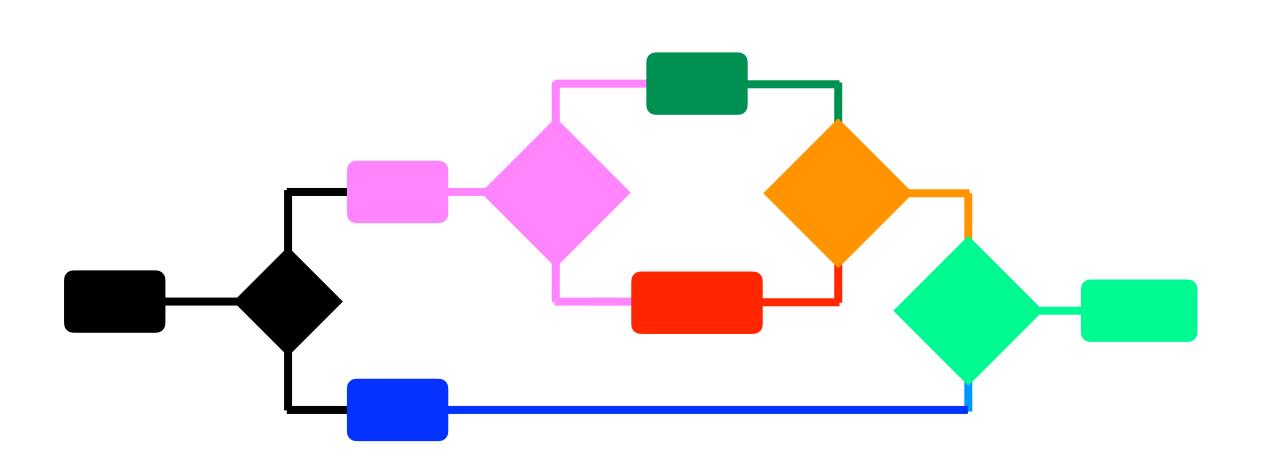
- Parallel pipes
- Concurrency = partial order
- Monotonic
- Properties
  - Serial composition
  - Parallel composition
  - Explicit evaluation strategy

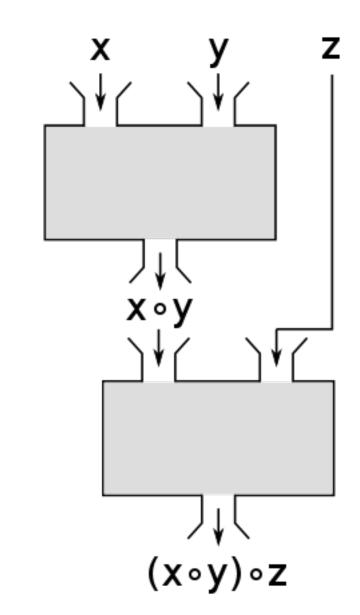












### POWER UP PROTOCOL / "FRONT END"

```
defprotocol Dataflow do
  def split(input, path_a, path_b)
  def unsplit(pre_spilt, by: combine)
end
```

### POWER UP CLEANUP

```
split do
  fn x -> x / 5 end
  fn y -> y + 1 end |> into(split do
   &inspect/1
    fn z -> z end
  end)
  |> unsplit(fn (a, b) -> "#{b}#{a}" end)
end
|> unsplit(&String.at(&2, round(&1)))
```

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split do
  fn x -> x / 5 end
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> unsplit(&String.at(&2, round(&1)))
```

```
%Unsplit{
  split: %Split{
    left: fn x -> x / 5 end,
    right: %Tree{
      node: fn y -> y + 1 end,
      left: %Unsplit{
        node: %Split{
          left: &inspect/1,
          right: fn z -> z end
        with: fn (left, right) -> "#{right}#{left}" end
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```

```
defimpl Dataflow, for: Any do
  def split(input, path_a, path_b) do
    {path_a(input), path_b(input)}
  end

def unsplit({a, b}, by: combine), do: combine(a, b)
end
```

#### POWER UP SIMPLE CASE BACK END

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defprotocol Dataflow do
  def split(input, path_a, path_b)
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end
```

```
defmodule Async do
  defstruct :value

def asyncify(input) do
  %Async{value: input}
  end

def syncify(%{value: value}), do: value
end
```

#### POWER UP ASYNC BACK END

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defprotocol Dataflow do
  def split(input, path_a, path_b)
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#### POWER UP

#### ASYNC BACK END

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- Model-testable
- · Composable with other pipes and change evaluation strategies

```
def unreliable() do
   exploding()
   dangerous()
   bad()
   mightFail()
rescue
   err -> handleOrReport(err)
end
```

Happy Path (Continue)

Error Case (Skip)

No Effect (Afterwards)

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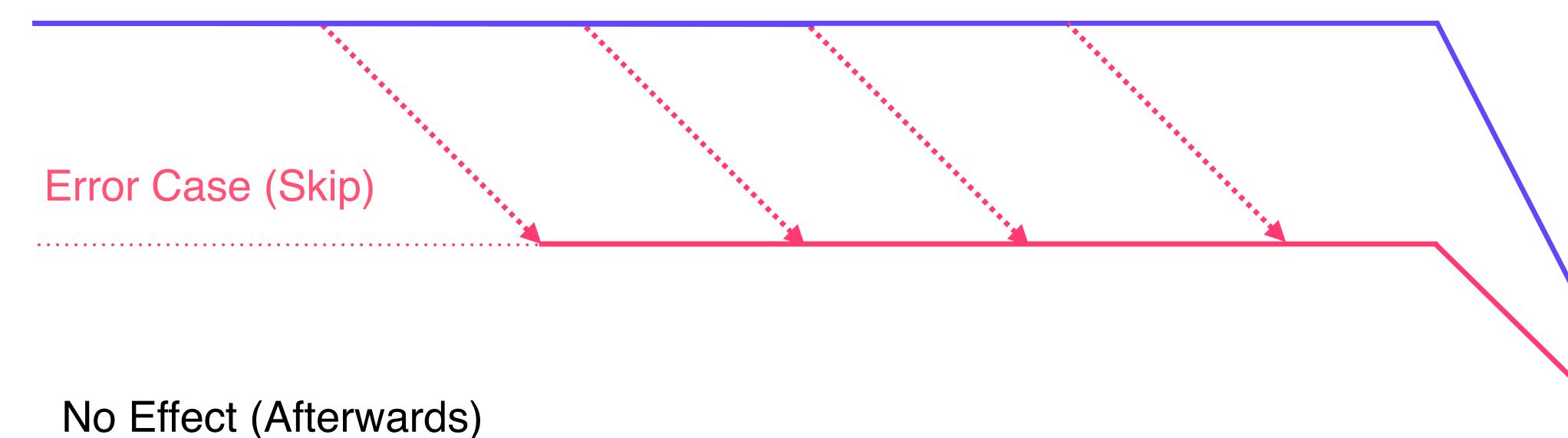
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#### Happy Path (Continue)



#### SURPRISING NUMBER OF FACTORS

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Log

```
Task.async(fn ->
    IO.inspect(val)

bar = fn (inner_val) ->
    Task.async(fn ->
        IO.inspect(inner_val)
    end)
end

bar(val + 2) .....
end)
end

foo(42)
```

def foo(val) do

Program

#### SURPRISING NUMBER OF FACTORS

```
Log
```





# SUMMARY KEPIN MIND

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- 1. Protocols-for-DDD
- 2. Add a semantic layer
- 3. How do you locally test your distributed system? Look at the properties!
- 4. Under which conditions does your code work? What are your assumptions?
- 5. Prop testing is useful for structured abstractions
- 6. You should be able to code half-asleep

https://fission.codes

https://talk.fission.codes

https://tools.fission.codes



#### THANK YOU, INTERNET



brooklyn@fission.codes github.com/expede @ e x p e d e