

Transactions & Concurrency Control

CSC443H1 Database System Technology

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Please do the course evaluation!



A DB has a notion of consistency, defined by the user

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**Sum of money in a
system should stay
constant**

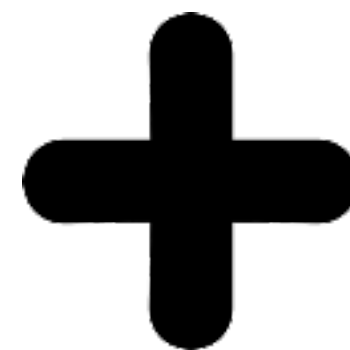


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Sum of money in a
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**An account
balance cannot
drop below zero**

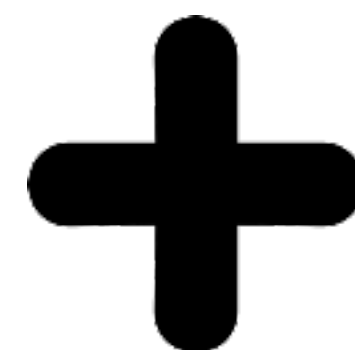


A DB has a notion of consistency, defined by the user

Sum of money in a
system should stay
constant



An account
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drop below zero



**A user must
have a valid SIN**



A DB has a notion of consistency, defined by the user

Sum of money in a
system should stay
constant

sum(balance) = X

An account
balance cannot
drop below zero

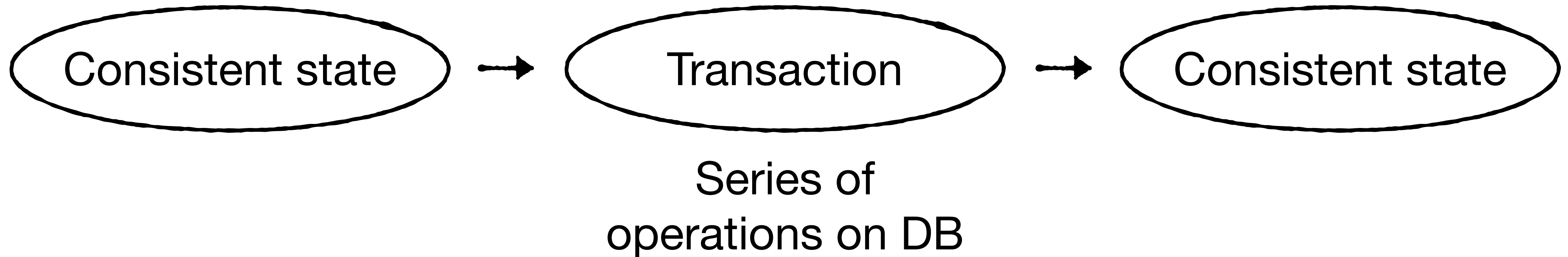
balance ≥ 0

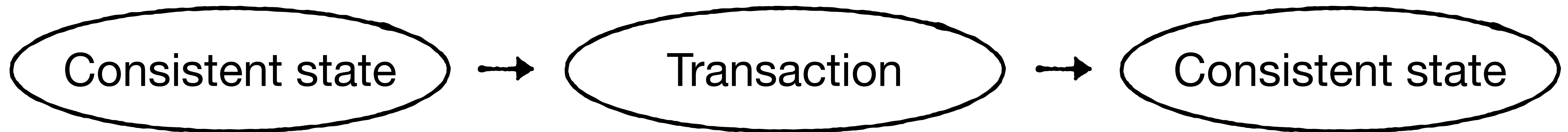
A user must
have a valid SIN

SIN $\neq$ null

These can be set as integrity constraints

To maintain consistency, database APIs expose the concept of a transaction

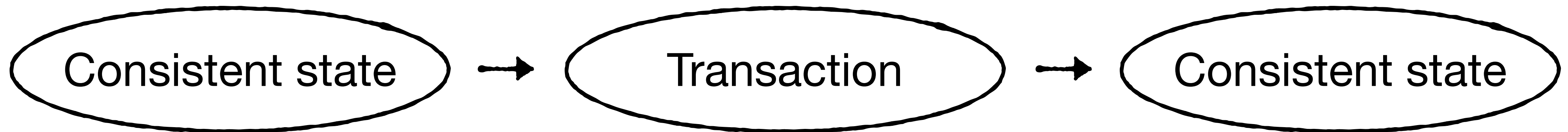




Example: Bank transfer

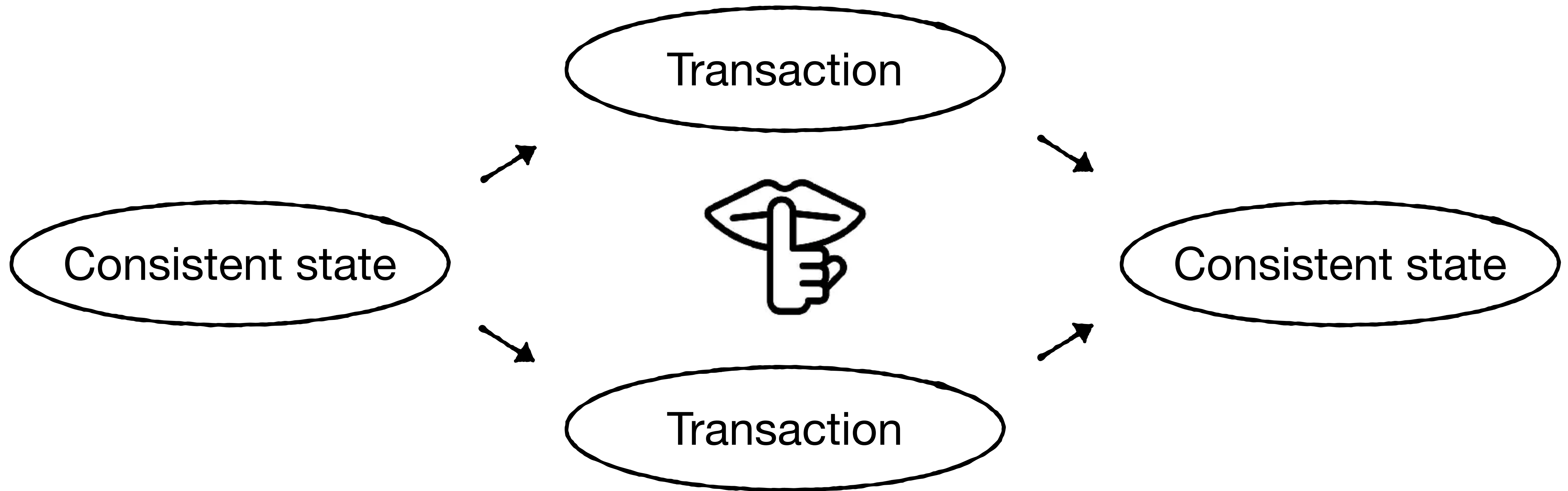
$A = A - 100$

$B = B + 100$



Example: Bank transfer

A = A - 100	←	Both operations must succeed or fail for the system to remain in a consistent state
B = B + 100	←	



Transactions do not interact with each other (i.e., by exchanging messages). A transaction is oblivious to all other ongoing transactions.

Transaction API

**Begin
Transaction**



**Some commands
(e.g., in SQL)**



Commit or Abort



Example: Money withdrawal

Begin Transaction

b = Select balance from accounts where id = x

If $b \leq 100$

Abort

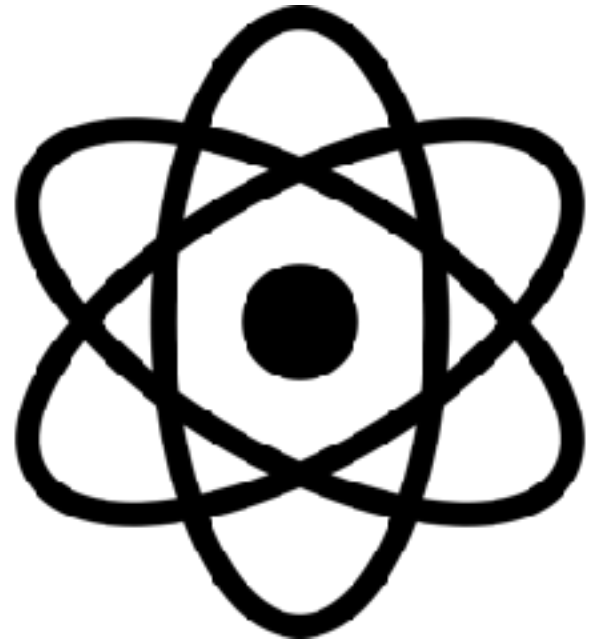
Else

Update accounts set balance = $b - 100$ where id = x

Commit

ACID semantics for Transactions

Atomicity



Consistency



Isolation

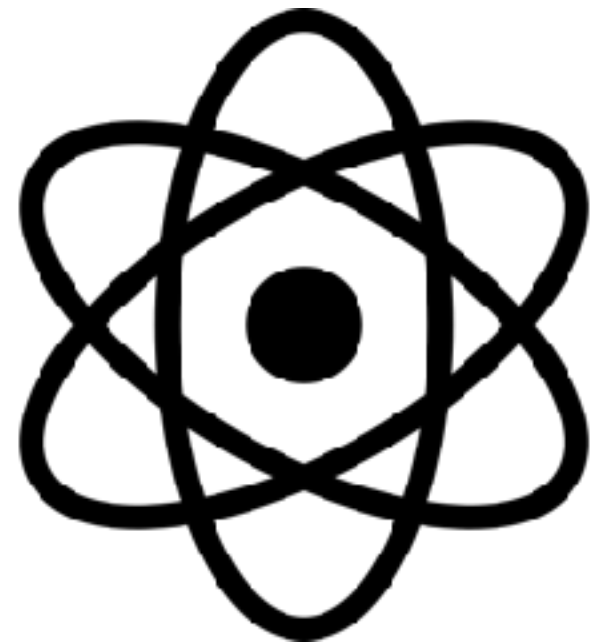


Durability



ACID

Atomicity



**All or
nothing**

Consistency



Isolation

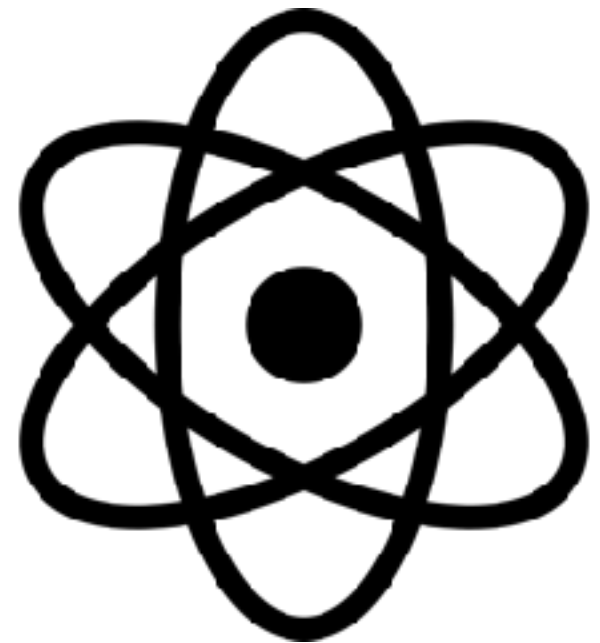


Durability



ACID

Atomicity



All or
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Consistency



**Transition across
consistent states**

Isolation

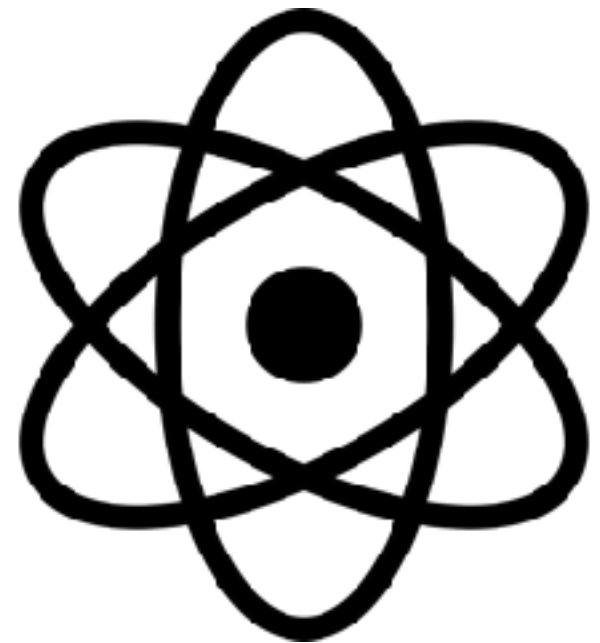


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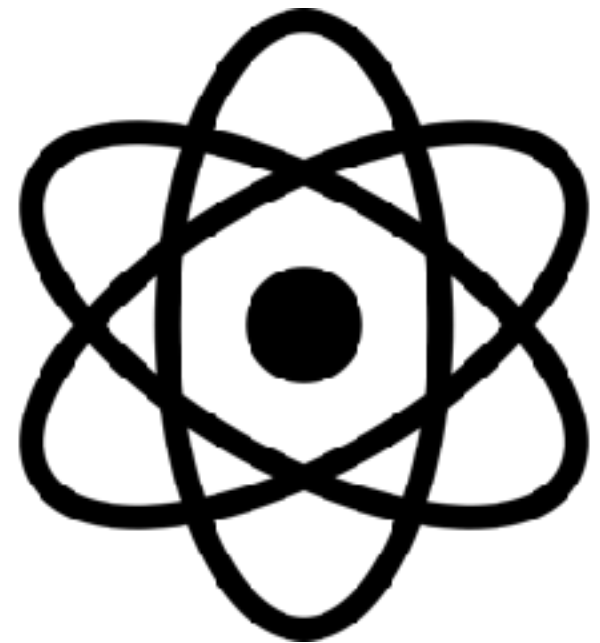
**Not corrupted by
concurrency**

Durability



ACID

Atomicity



All or
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Consistency



Transition across
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Isolation



Not corrupted by
concurrency

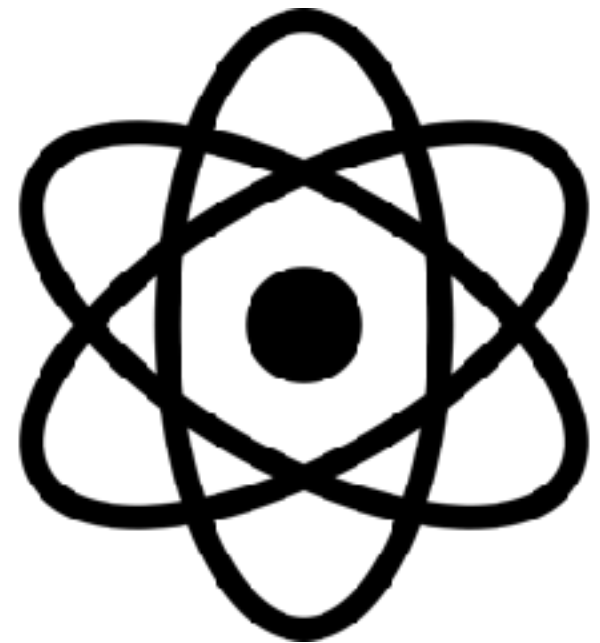
Durability



**Recover from
failure**

Who is responsible for what?

Atomicity



DB

Consistency



User

Isolation



DB

Durability



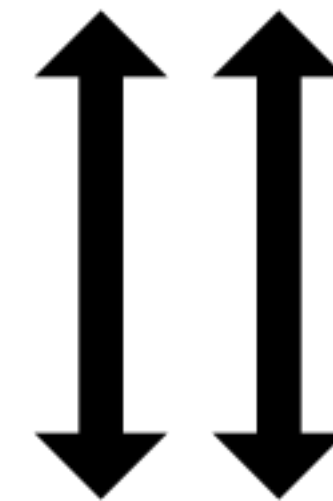
DB

What Endangers Consistency?

System Failure



Concurrency



System Failure

Power failure



Hardware failure



Data center failure



System Failure

Power failure



Example: Bank transfer

$A = A - 100$

Power fails

$B = B + 100$

System Failure

Power failure



Example: Bank transfer

$A = A - 100$

Power fails

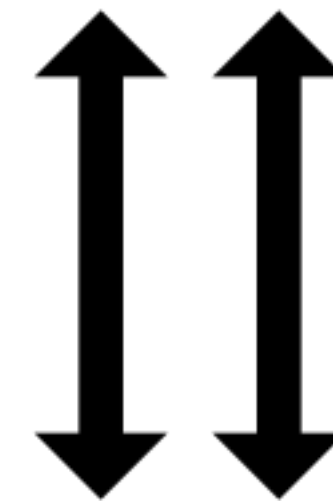
$B = B + 100$

Power fails before
transaction finishes,
leaving the system in an
inconsistent state

System Failure



Concurrency



Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Can you think of examples?

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Example 2

Updates & statistics



Example 1

T1: Interest payment

$$A = A \cdot 1.05$$

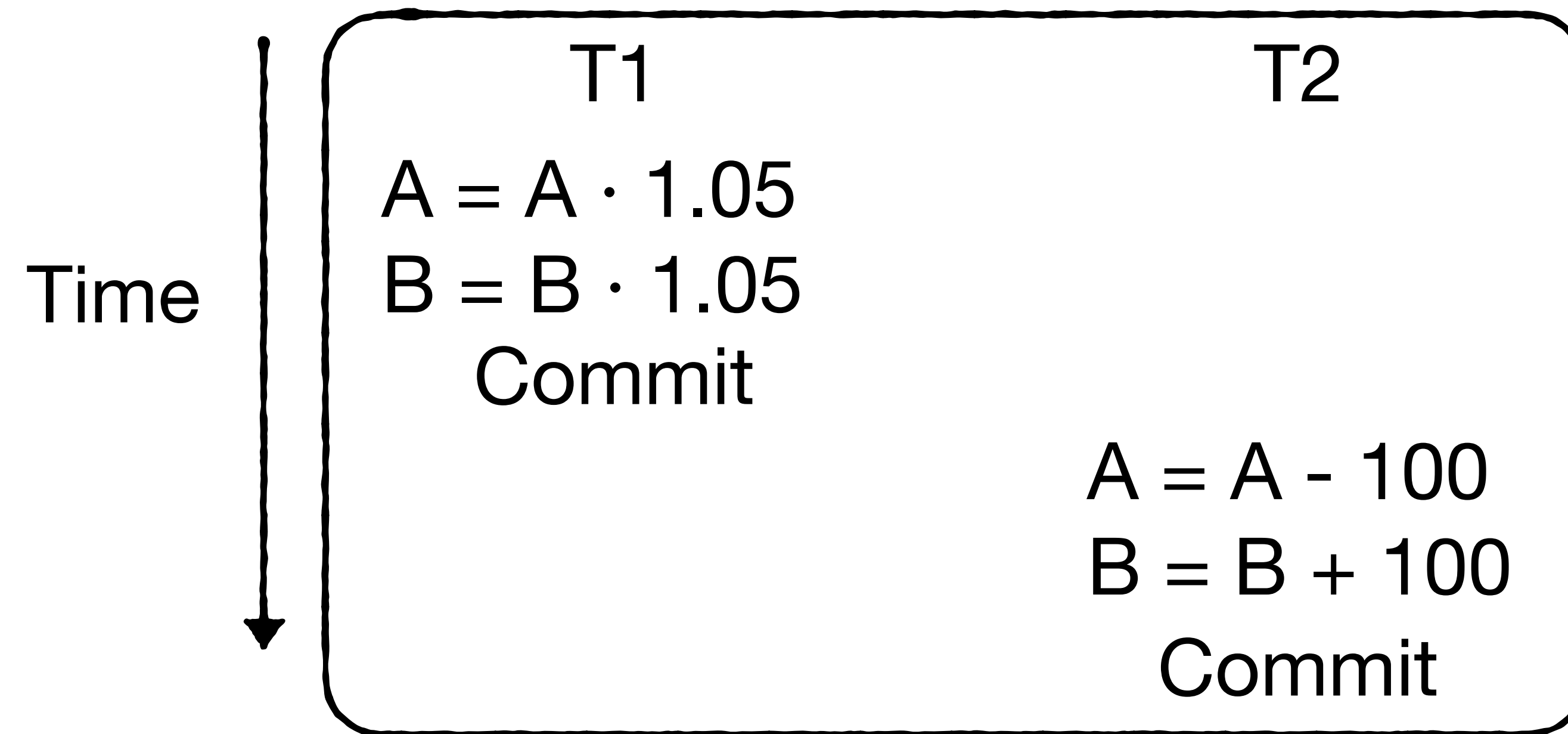
$$B = B \cdot 1.05$$

T2: Payments

$$A = A - 100$$

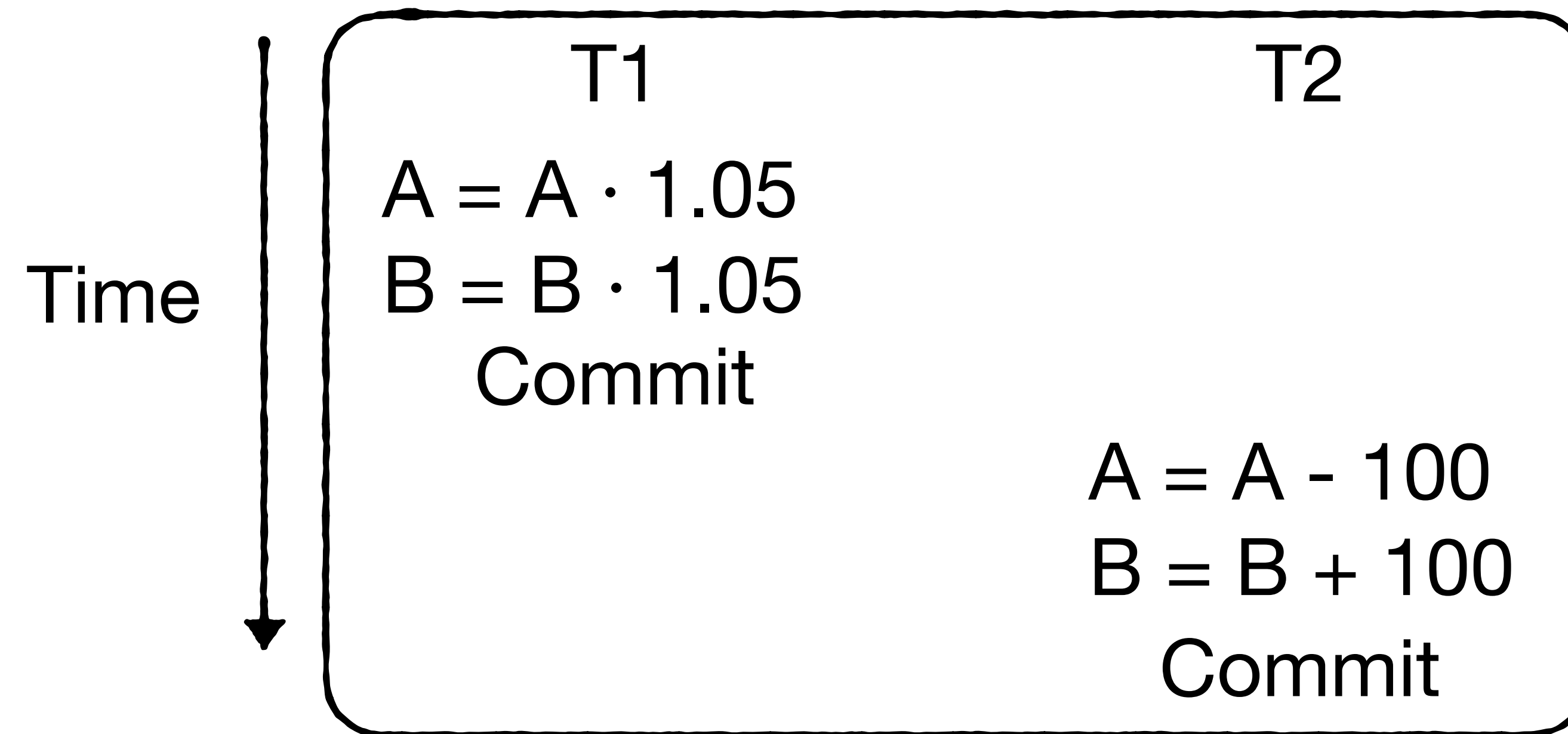
$$B = B + 100$$

Example 1



Example 1

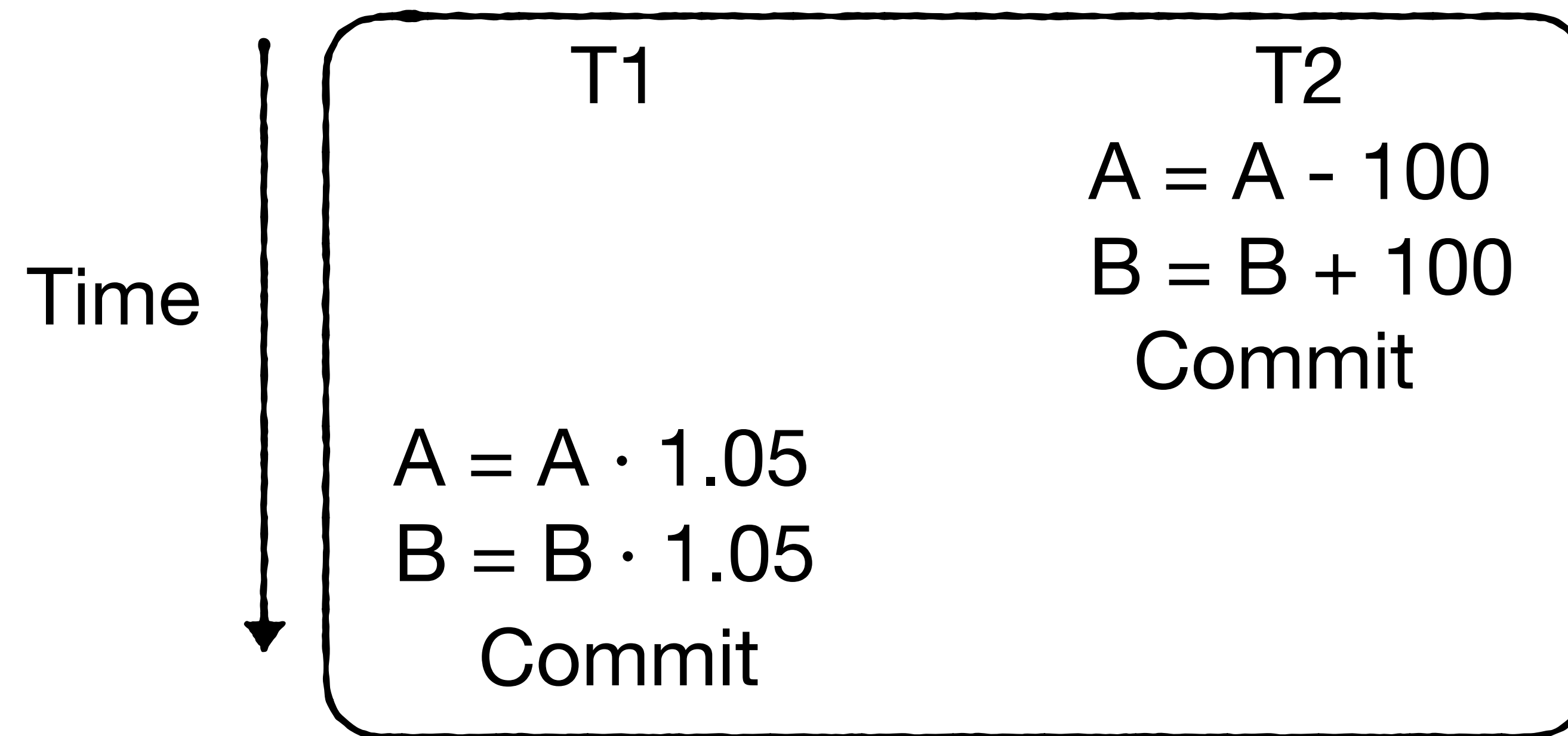
Initialization: **A=1000, B=1000**



Valid Outcome 1: A = 950, B = 1150

Example 1

Initialization: $A=1000$, $B=1000$

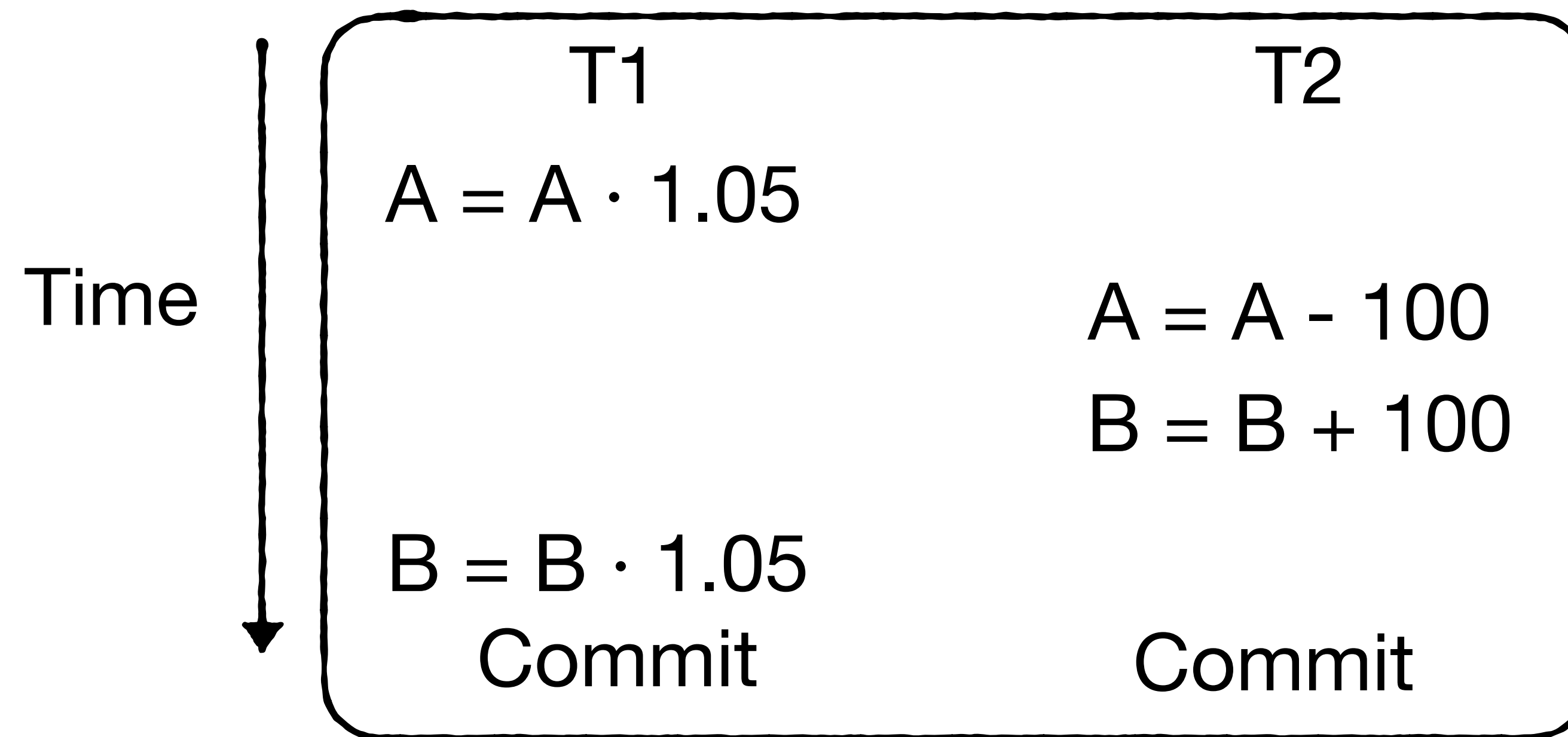


Valid Outcome 2: $A = 945$, $B = 1155$

Valid Outcome 1: $A = 950$, $B = 1150$

Example 1

Initialization: $A=1000$, $B=1000$



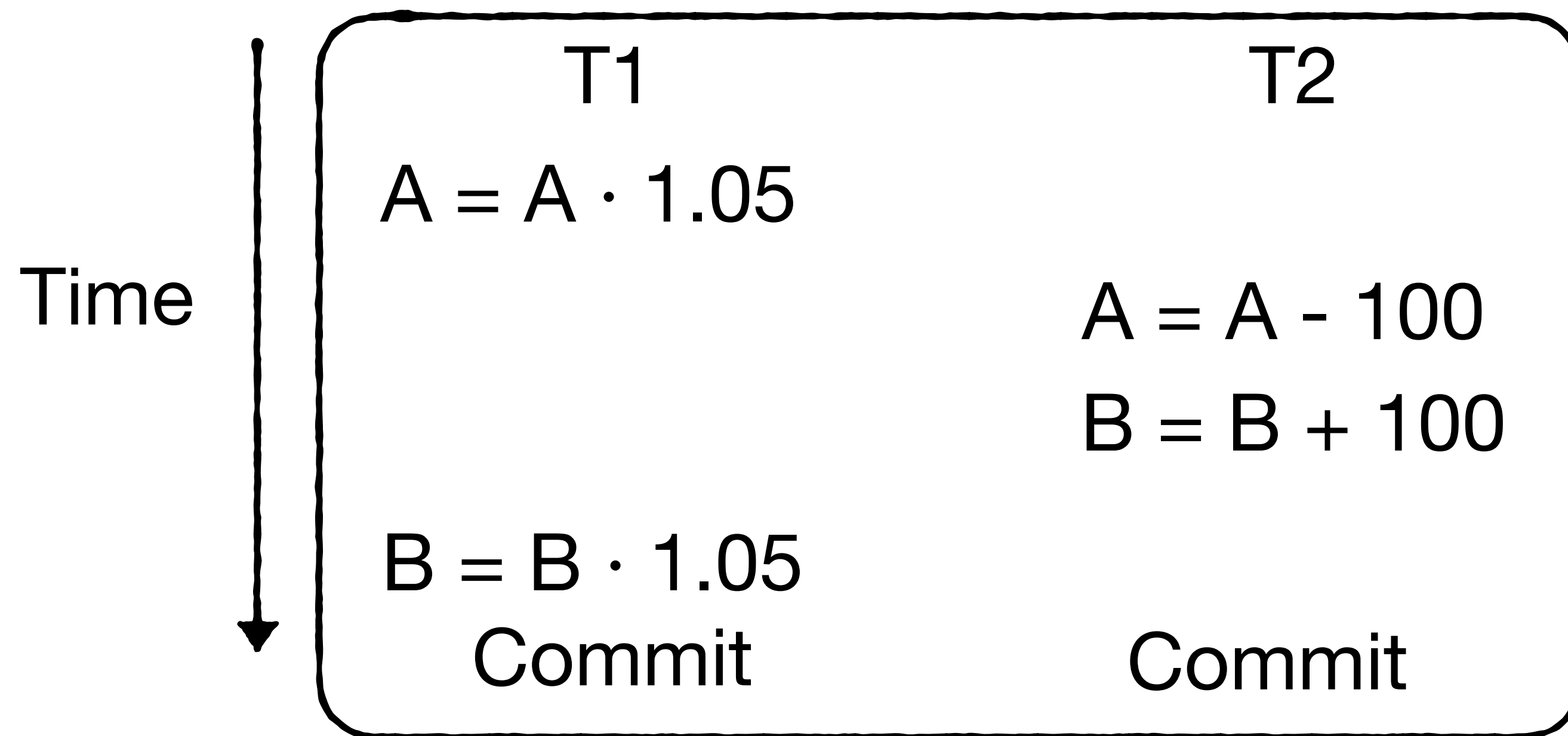
Invalid Outcome: $A = 950$, $B = 1155$

Valid Outcome 2: $A = 945$, $B = 1155$

Valid Outcome 1: $A = 950$, $B = 1150$

Example 1

Initialization: $A=1000, B=1000$



Dirty read: T2 reads a modified but uncommitted data item from T1

Invalid Outcome: $A = 950, B = 1155$

Valid Outcome 2: $A = 945, B = 1155$

Valid Outcome 1: $A = 950, B = 1150$

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Example 1

Payments & Interest



Example 2

Updates & Statistics



Example 2

T1: Account Updates

Balance += X

T2: Statistics Reporting

count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
avg(account balances)

Example 2

T1: Account Updates

bob_checking += X

T2: Statistics Reporting

count(# accounts) where user = "bob"
sum(account balances) where user = "bob"
avg(account balances) where user = "bob"

Example 2

T1: Account Updates

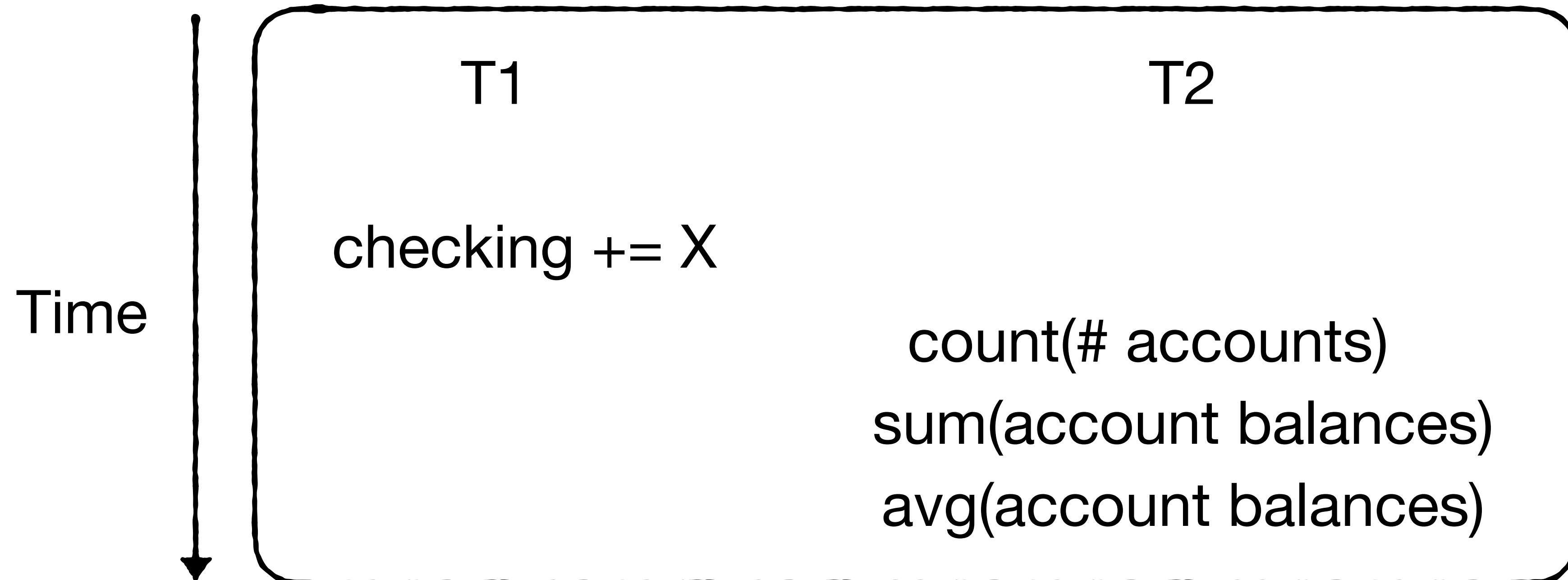
bob_checking += X

T2: Statistics Reporting

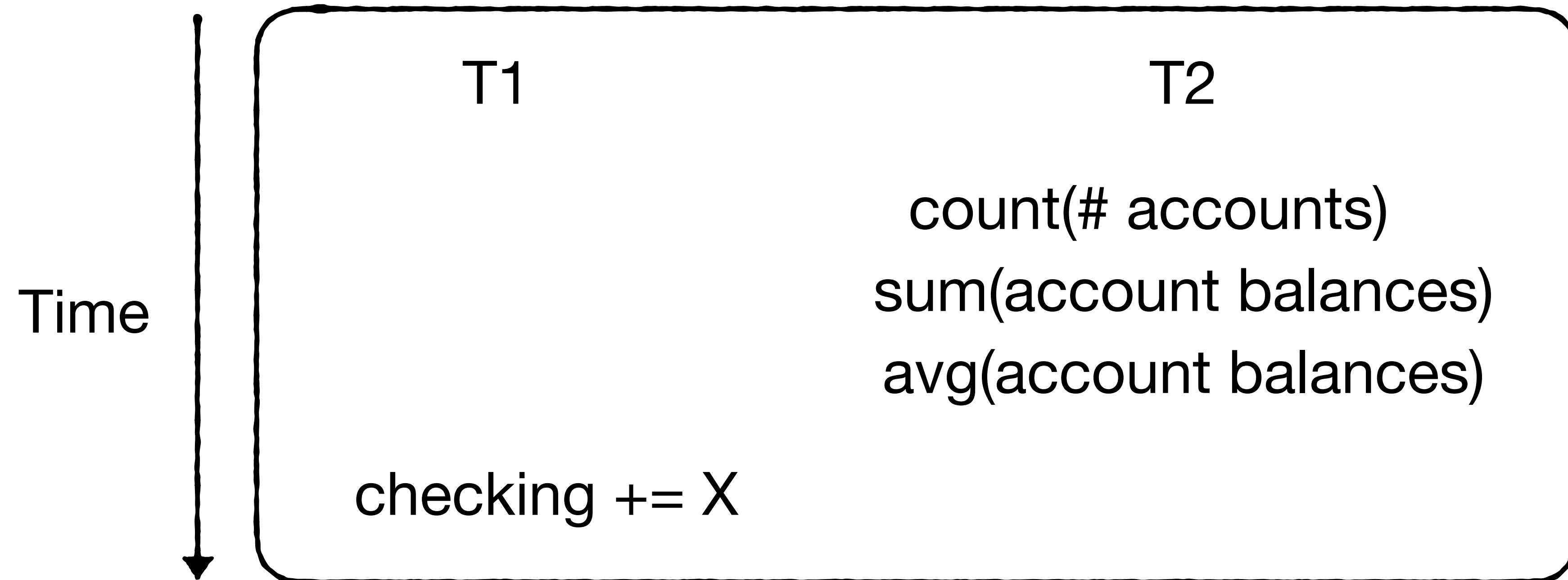
count(# accounts) where user = "bob"
sum(account balances) where user = "bob"
avg(account balances) where user = "bob"

What can go wrong?

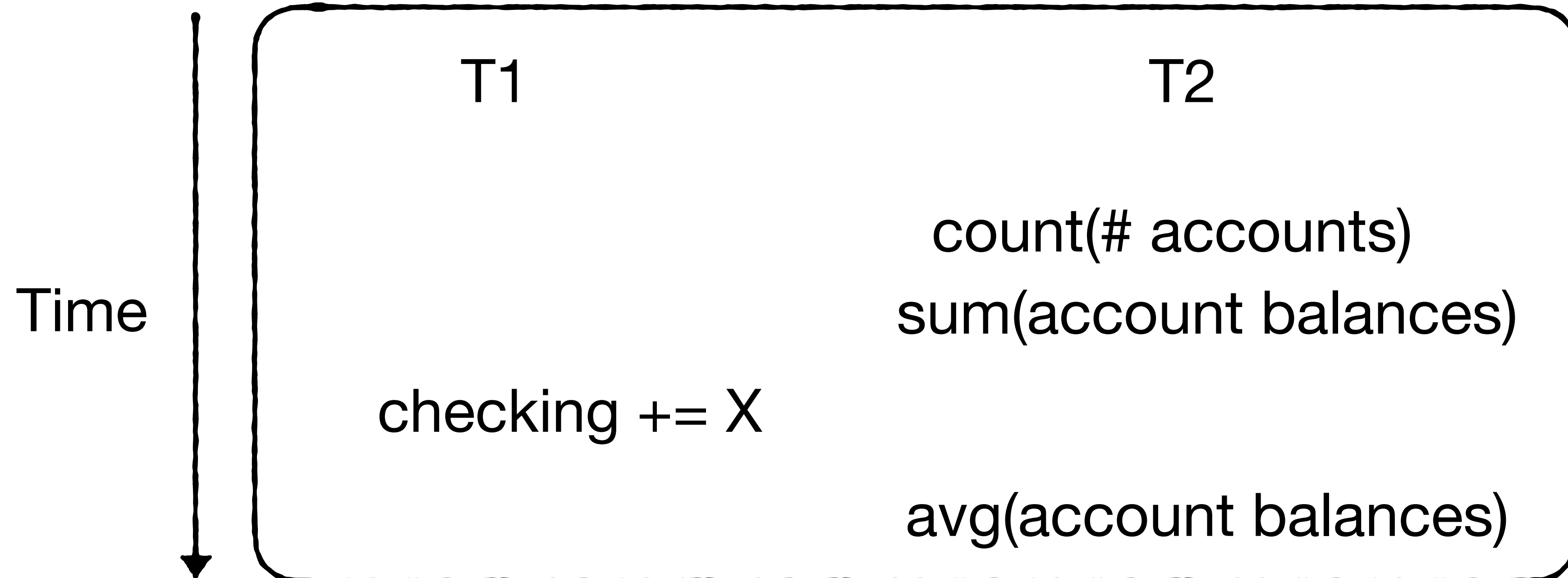
Example 2



Example 2

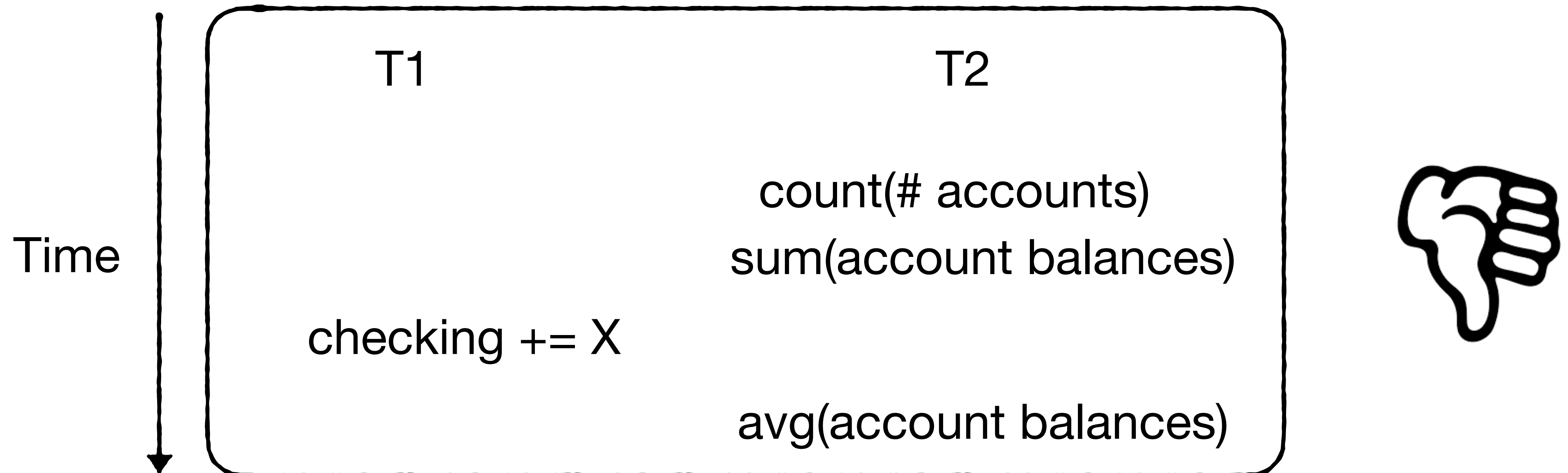


Example 2



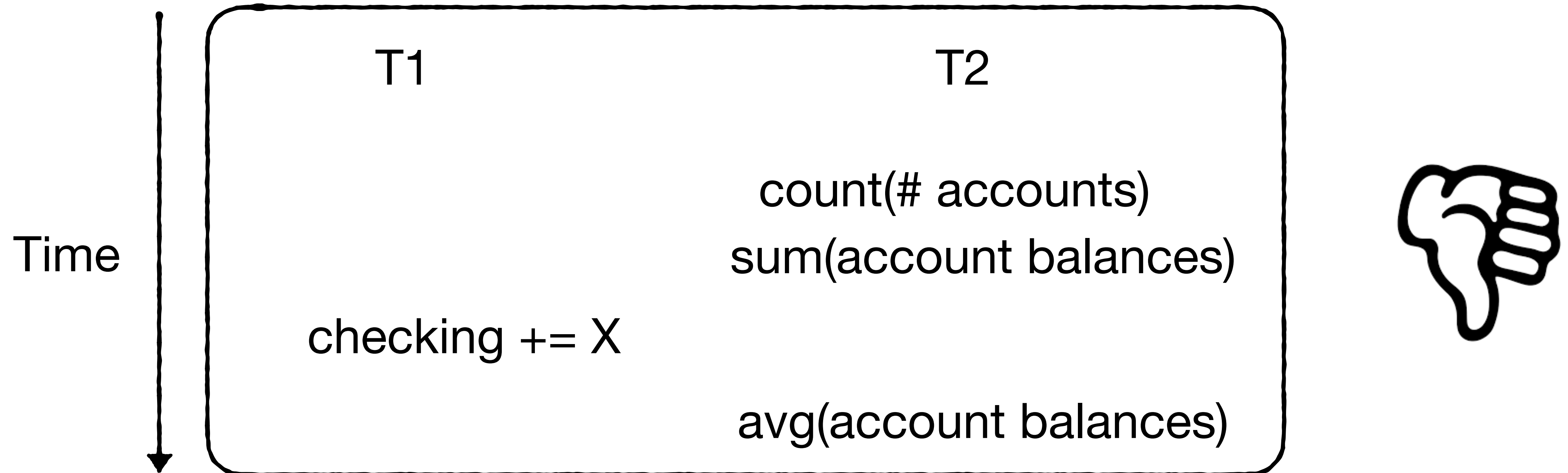
Problem?

Example 2



Problem? **Inconsistent reporting: $\text{avg} \neq \text{sum} / \text{count}$**

Example 2



More broadly, this is an **unrepeatable read anomaly**: subsequent reads of the same data are inconsistent as the data was changed in-between

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Example 1

Payments & Interest



Problem:

Dirty reads

Example 2

Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Simplest solution: lock whole DB for any modification



Problems?

Simplest solution: lock whole DB for any modification

Problems: terrible for performance



Simplest solution: lock whole DB for any modification

Problems: terrible for performance

**While one transaction waits
for a storage I/O, another
should be able to use the CPU**



Simplest solution: lock whole DB for any modification

Problems: terrible for performance

**While one transaction waits
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should be able to use the CPU**



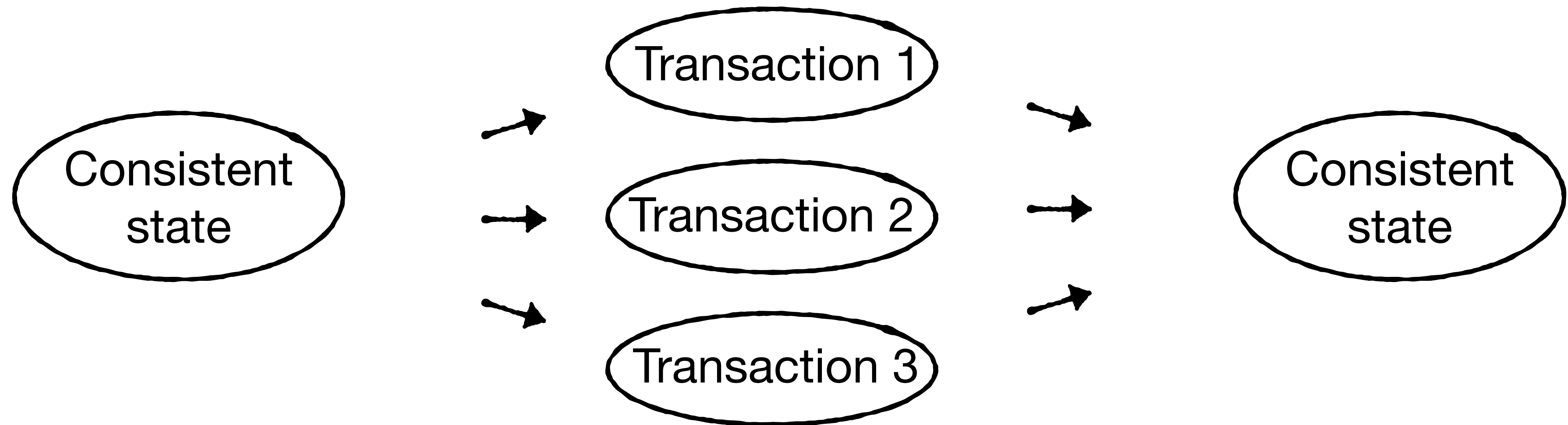
**A short transaction should not
have to wait until a long
transaction completes**



A good compromise: Serializability

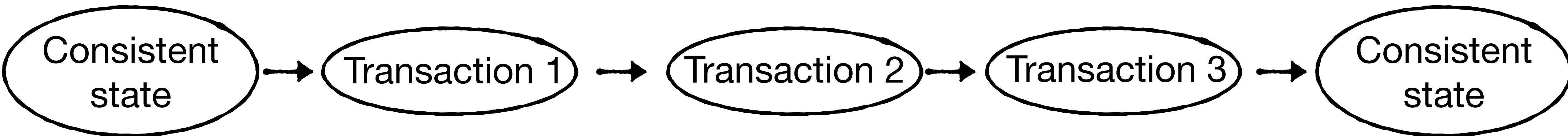
A good compromise: Serializability

Transactions can be concurrent but must result in a consistent state



A good compromise: Serializability

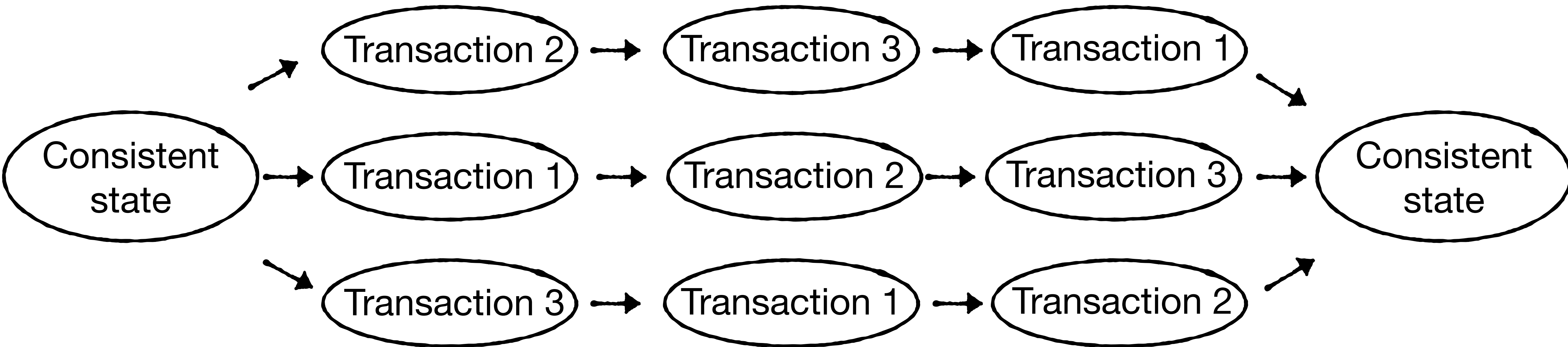
Transactions can be concurrent but must result in a consistent state



Any given state once a transaction commits should have been achievable through a serial execution of all committed transactions thus far

A good compromise: Serializability

Transactions can be concurrent but must result in a consistent state



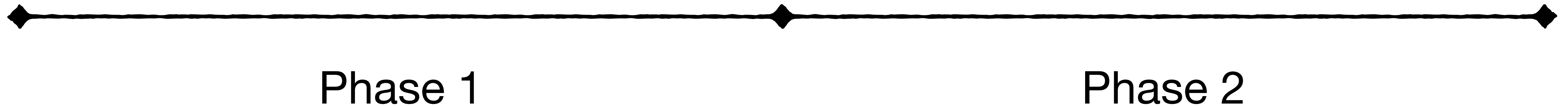
Equivalence to any serial execution is considered correct

How to achieve concurrency & serializability?

How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

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A transaction is divided into two phases



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A transaction is divided into two phases



Phase 1

Phase 2

**Lock a data item (e.g., row) when
it is accessed for the first time**

How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

A transaction is divided into two phases



Phase 1

Phase 2

Lock a data item (e.g., row) when
it is accessed for the first time

**Reads take
shared locks**



**Writes take
exclusive locks**



How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

A transaction is divided into two phases

Phase 1

Phase 2

Lock a data item (e.g., row) when
it is accessed for the first time

**Release all locks
during commit**

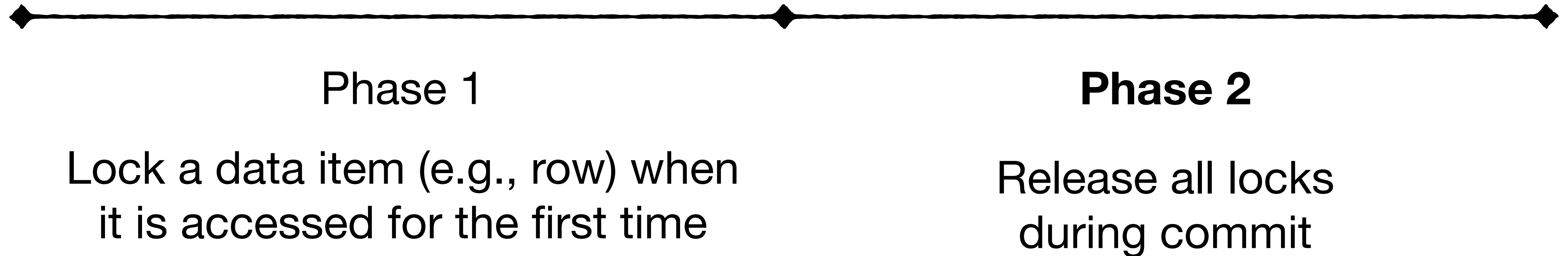
Reads take
shared locks

Writes take
exclusive locks



How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

A transaction is divided into two phases



Invariant: a data item that has been accessed by this transaction cannot be modified by another transaction until this transaction commits

Let's fix our running examples

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Problems:

Dirty reads

Example 2

Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Example 1

T1: Interest payment

$$A = A \cdot 1.05$$

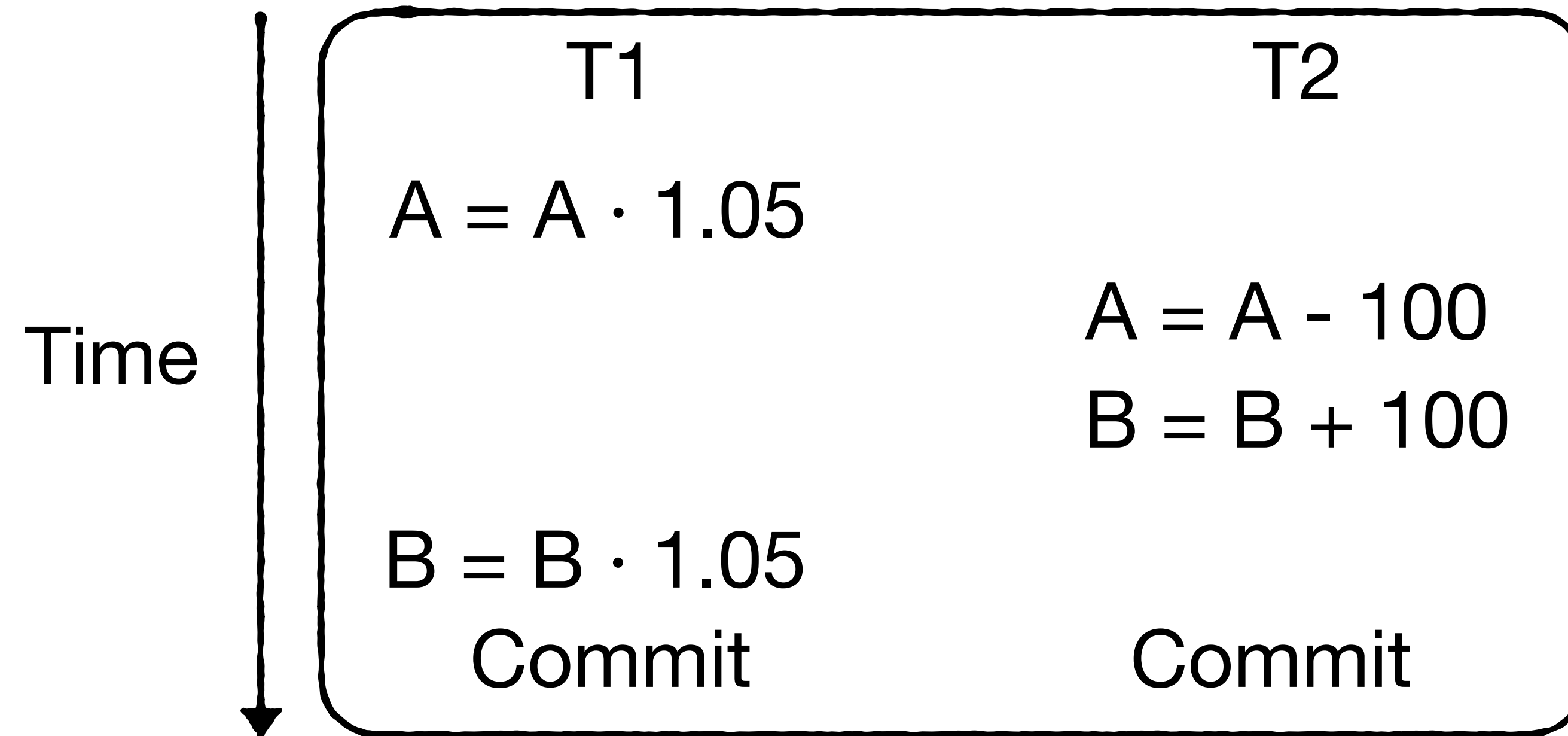
$$B = B \cdot 1.05$$

T2: Payments

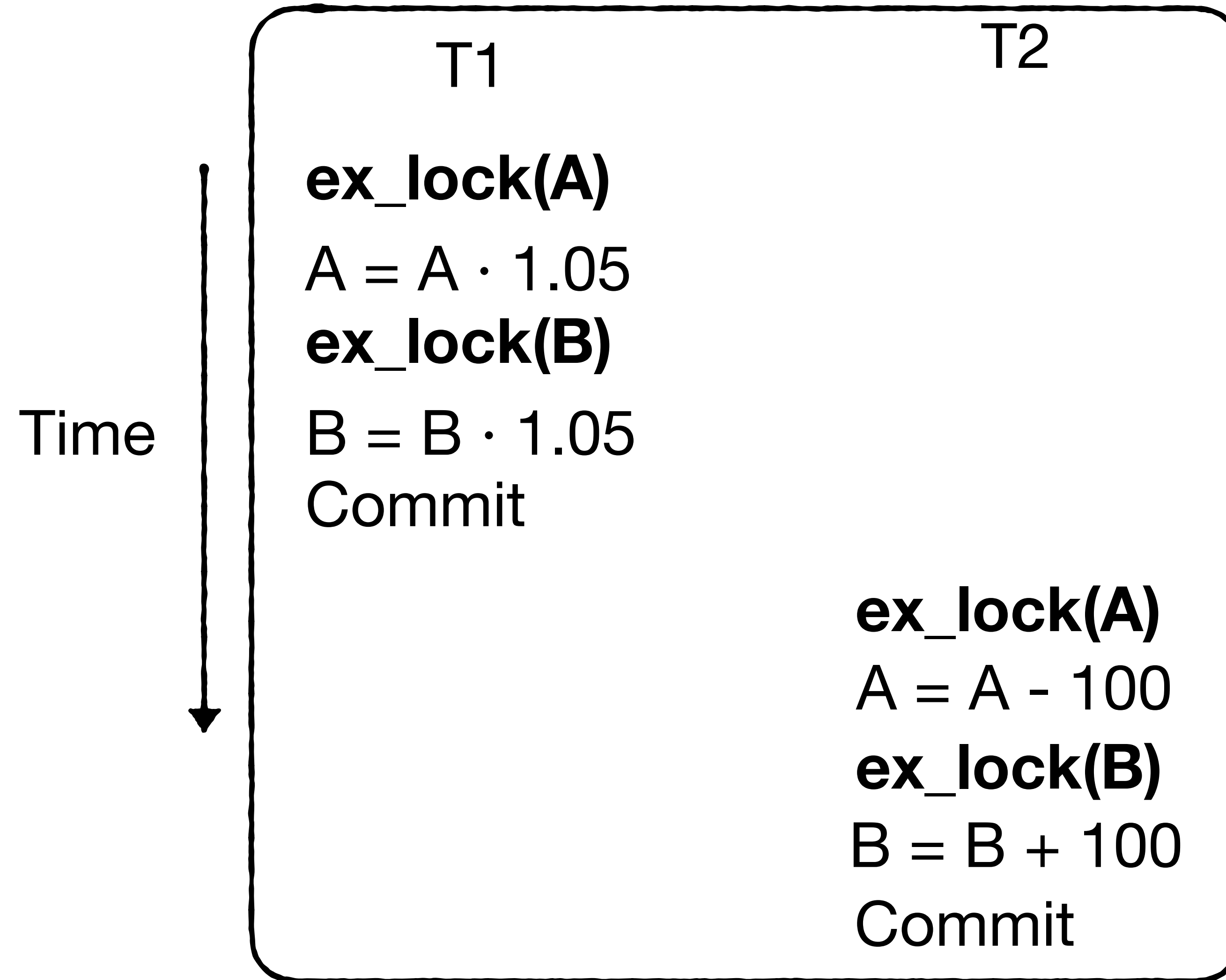
$$A = A - 100$$

$$B = B + 100$$

Example 1



Example 1



**Exclusive locks
ensure T2 cannot
modify A until T1
commits**

Let's fix our running examples

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Problems:

Dirty reads

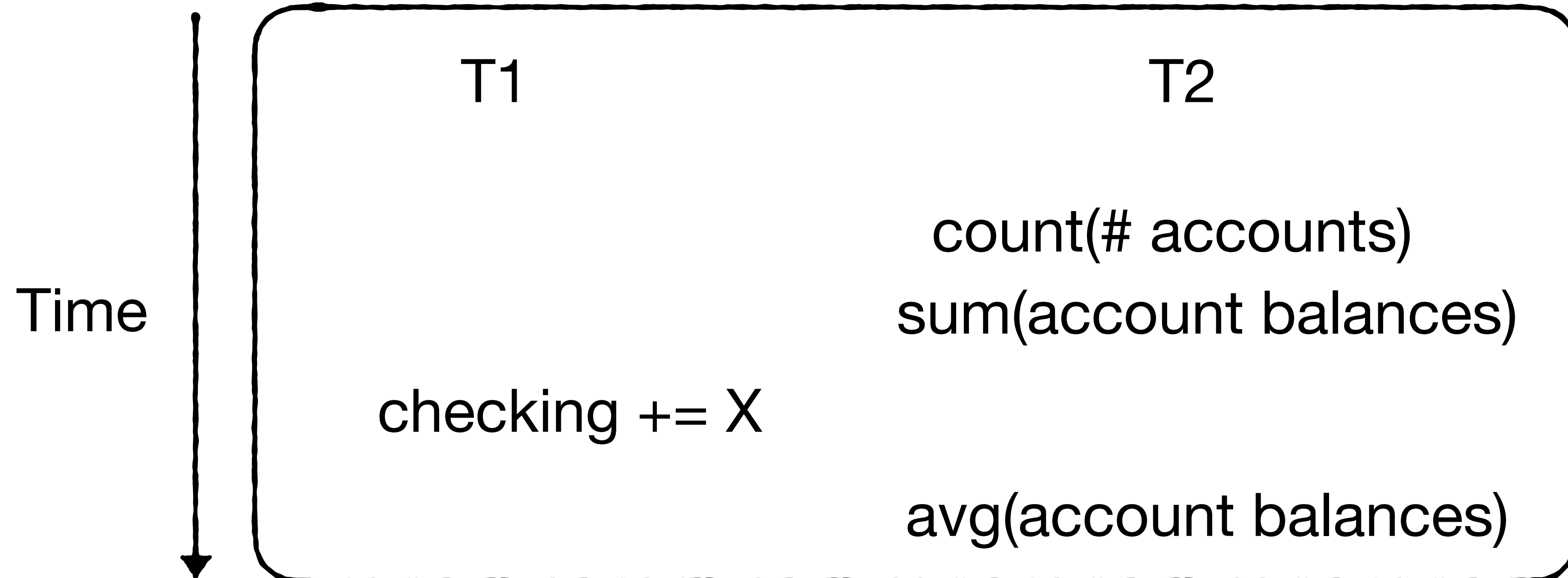
Example 2

Updates & Statistics

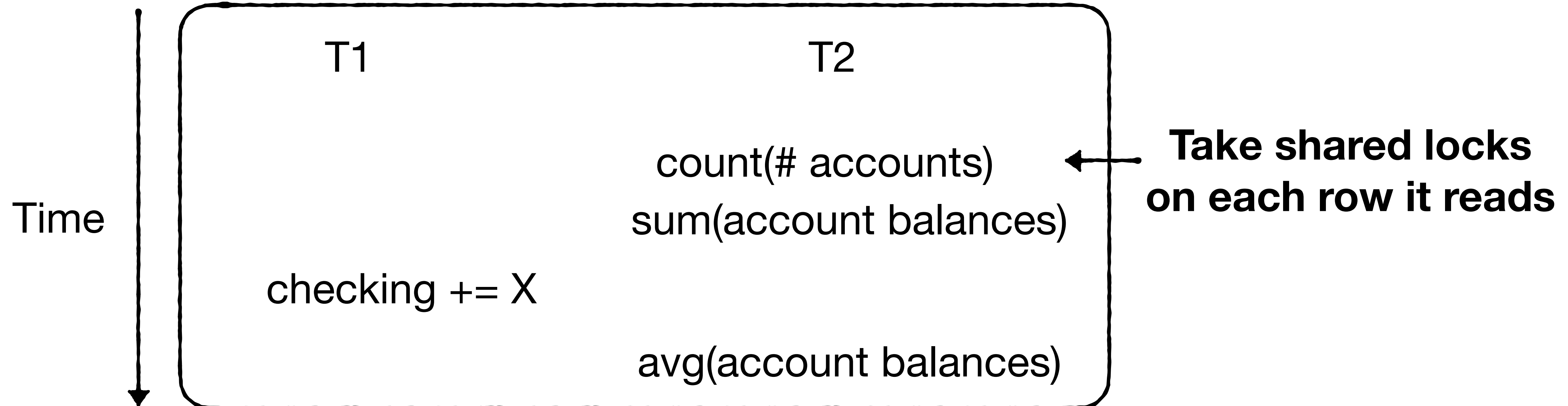


Unrepeatable reads

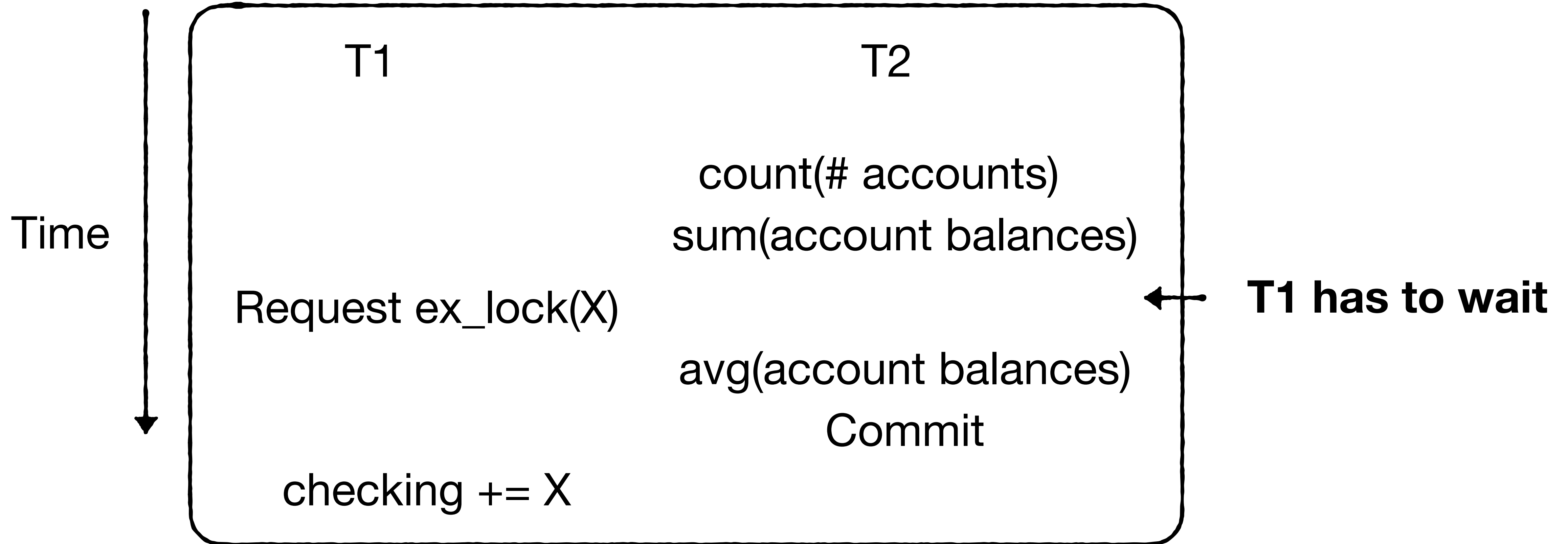
Fixing Example 2



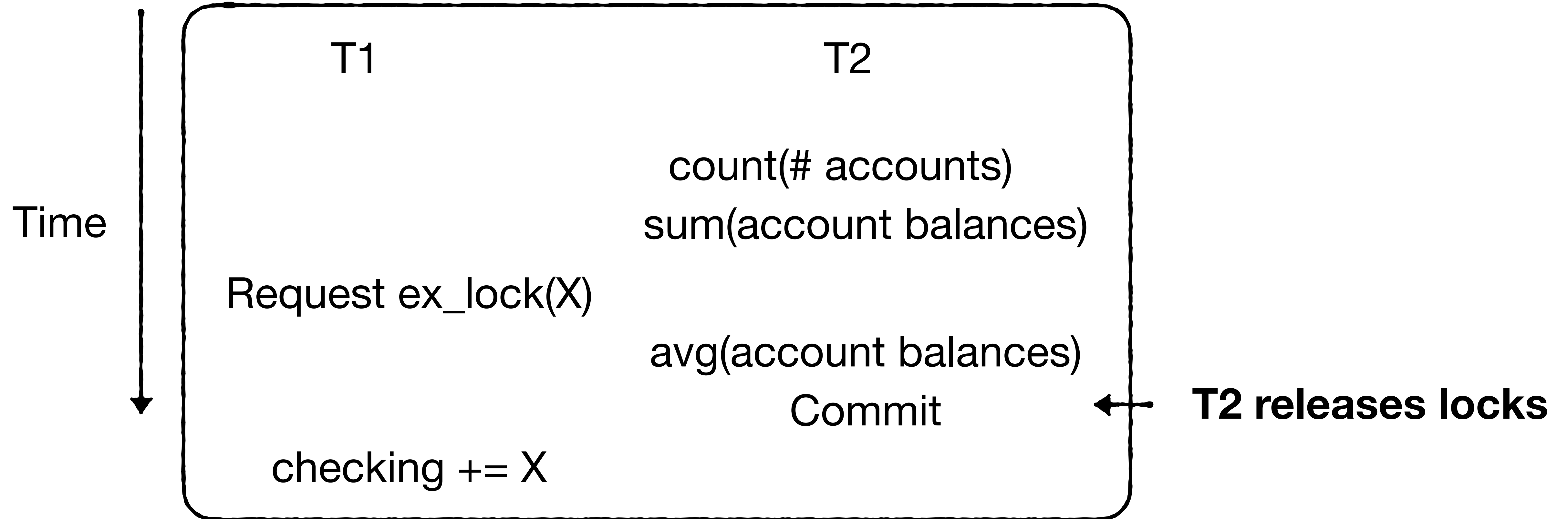
Fixing Example 2



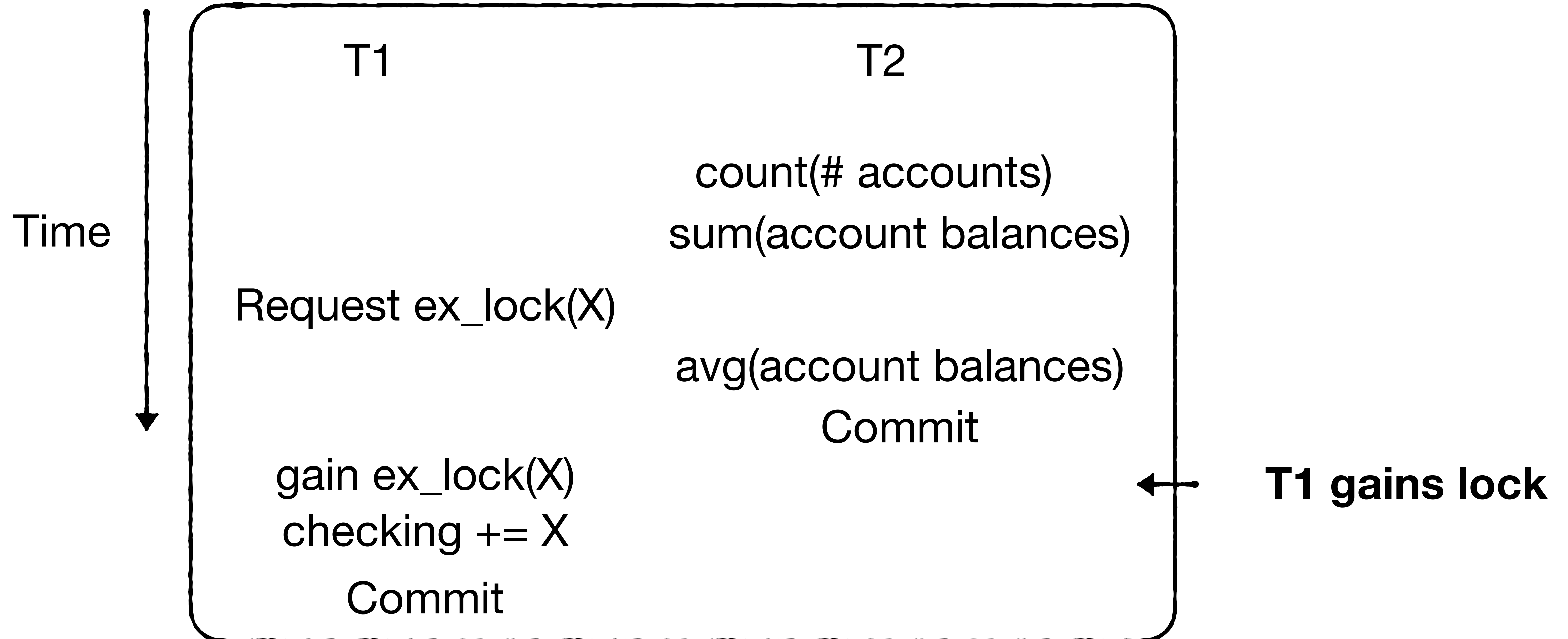
Fixing Example 2



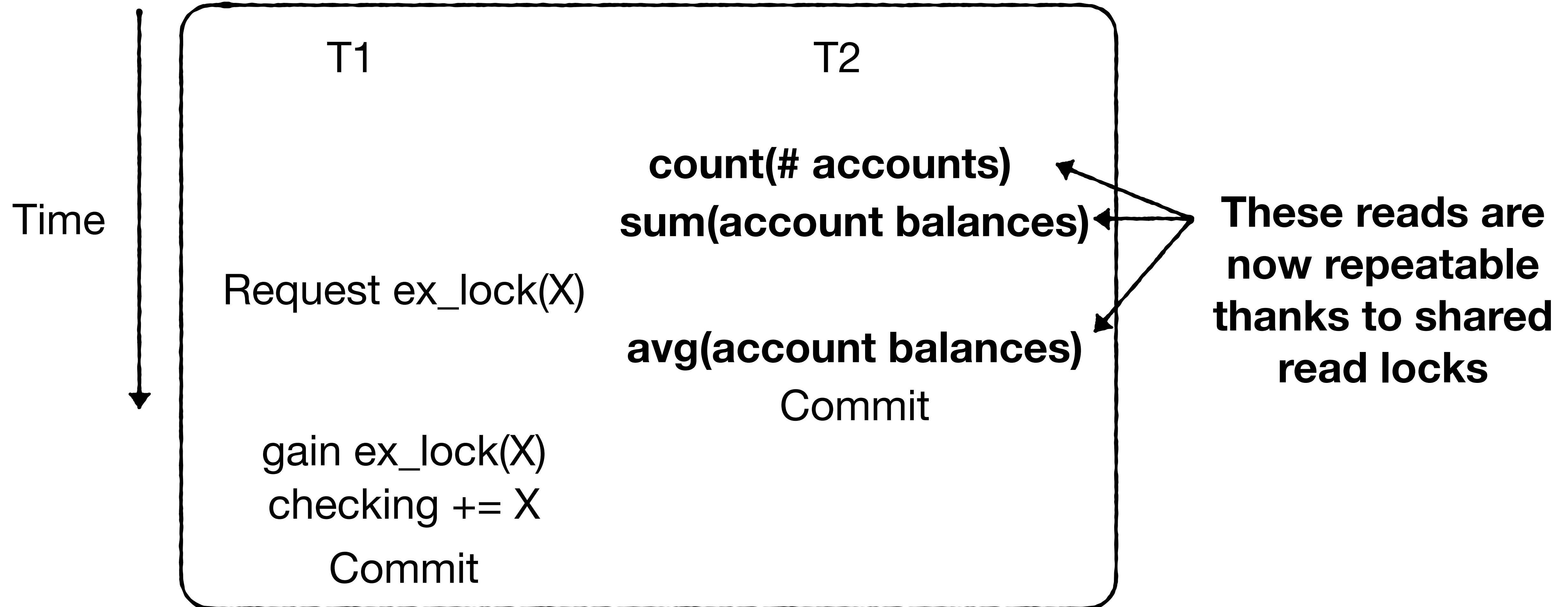
Fixing Example 2



Fixing Example 2



Fixing Example 2



Both examples now work correctly

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Problems:

Dirty reads

Solution:

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

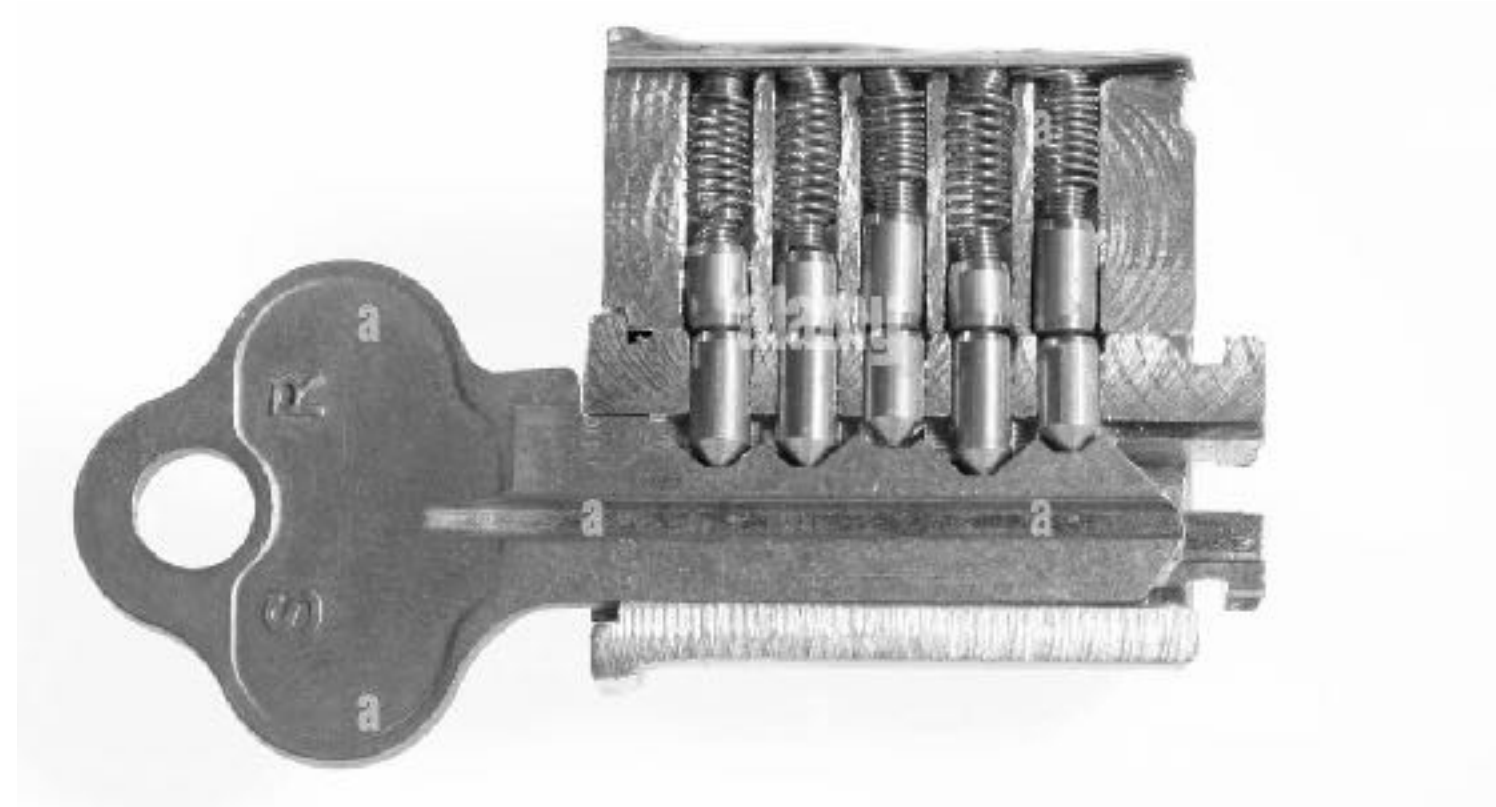
Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

How are locks implemented?



Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID

Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID $\rightarrow$ (**type**, lock **count**, **queue** of waiting requests)

Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID $\rightarrow$ (**type**, lock count, queue of waiting requests)



Shared/exclusive



Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (type, **lock count**, queue of waiting requests)



In case of shared lock



Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (type, lock count, **queue of waiting requests**)



What to invoke next when this lock is released

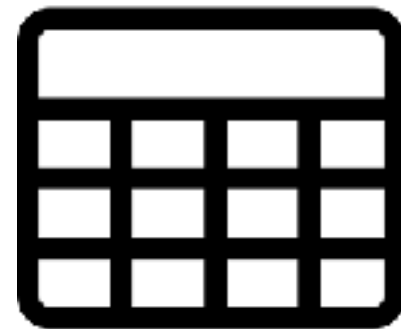


Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (type, lock count, queue of waiting requests)



e.g., Row, Page, Table



Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID $\rightarrow$ (type, lock count, queue of waiting requests)

**We lock an object the
first time it is accessed
by a transaction**



Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID $\rightarrow$ (type, lock count, queue of waiting requests)

We lock an object the first time it is accessed by a transaction



Locking table implemented via OS locking primitives (e.g., mutexes)



An important distinction

Locks



Latches



An important distinction

Locks



Latches



Separate:

Transactions

Threads

An important distinction

Locks



Latches



Separate:

Transactions

Threads

Protect:

DB content

In-memory data structures (LRU queue)

An important distinction

Locks



Latches



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In-memory data structures (LRU queue)

Duration:

Transaction

Critical section

An important distinction

Locks



Latches



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In-memory data structures (LRU queue)

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Critical section

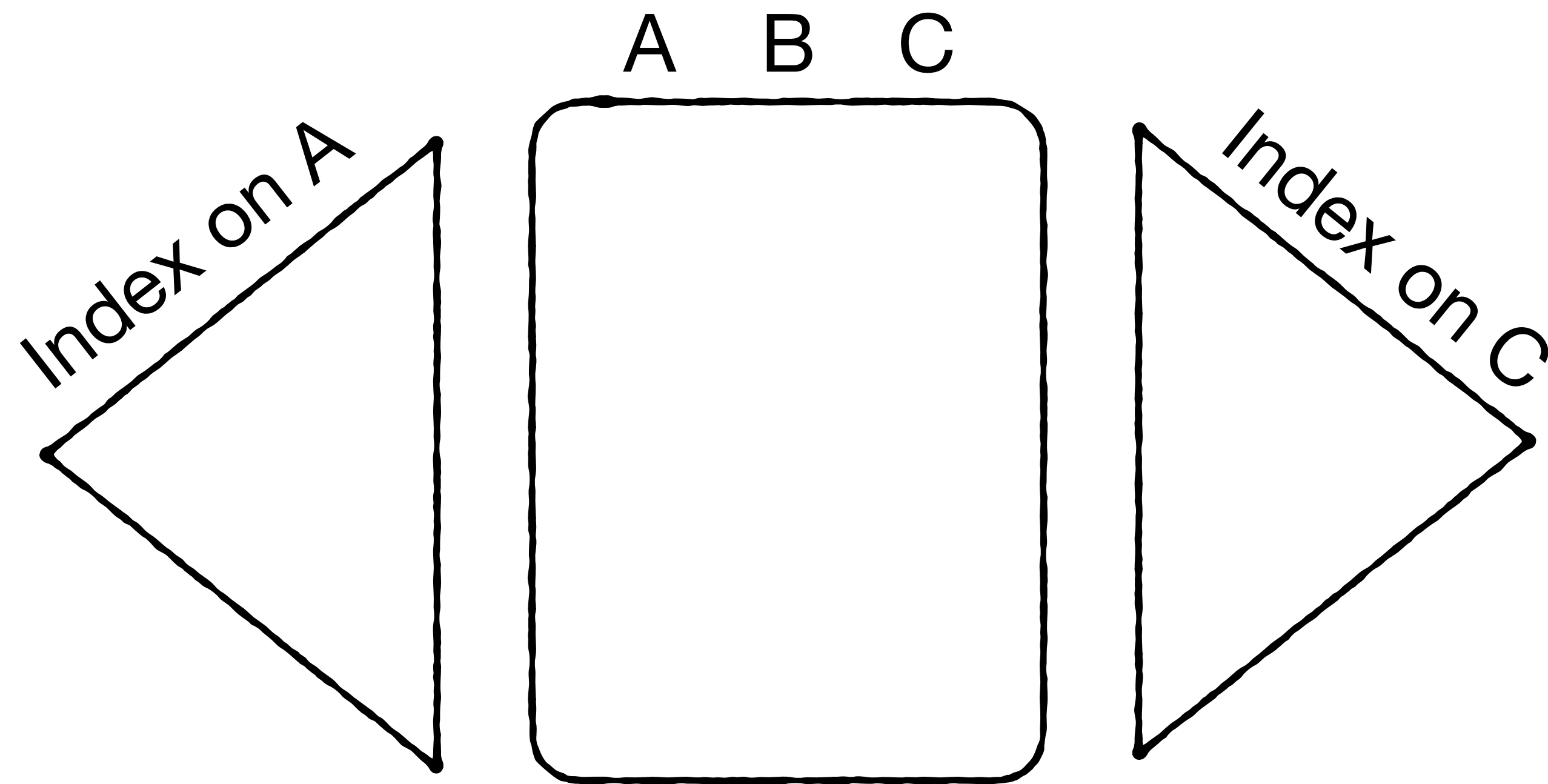
Implementation:

Lock manager

Spin-locks

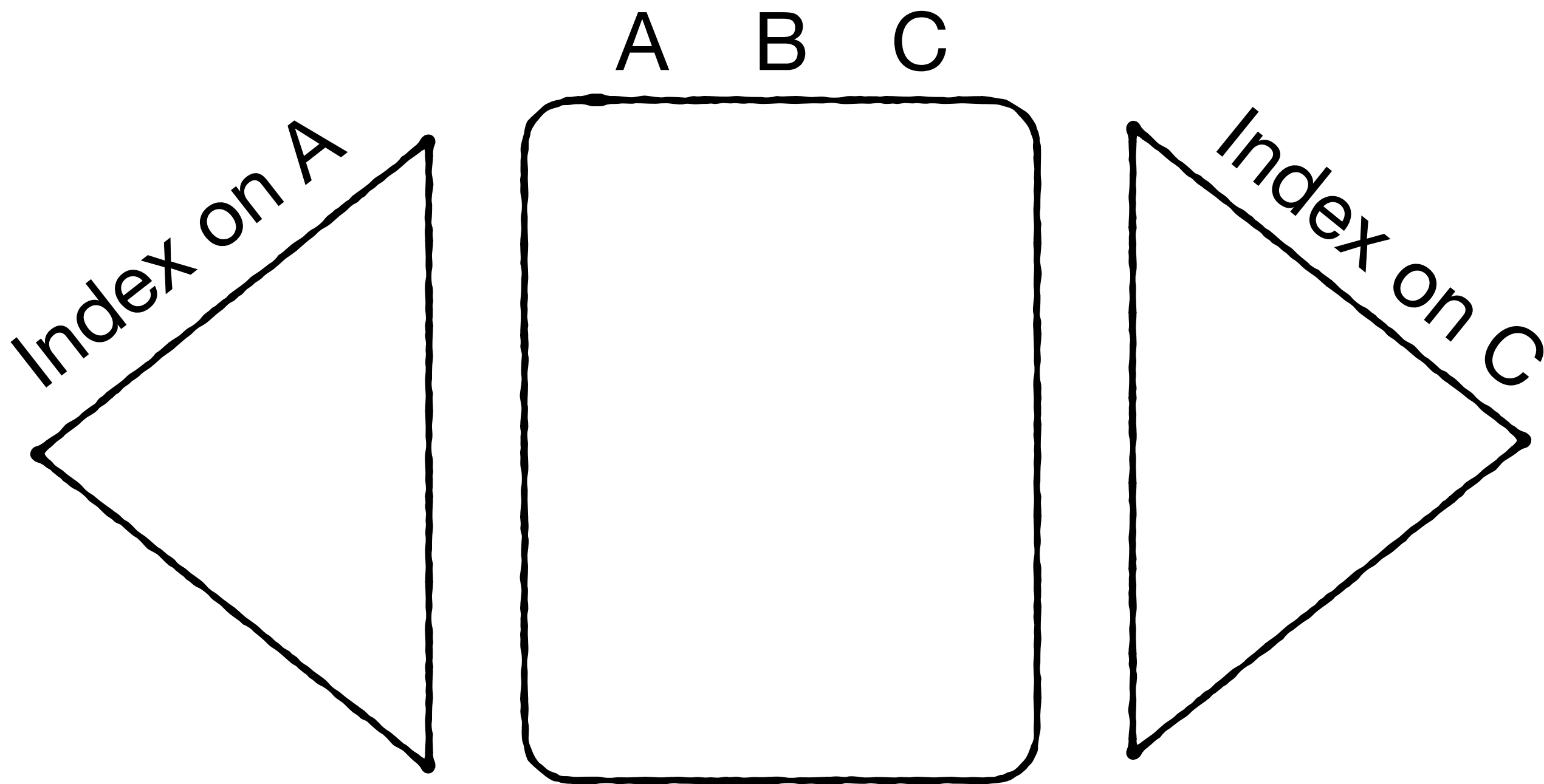
The DB modifies relevant indexes as a part of a transaction

e.g., update table set C = '...' where A '...'



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e.g., update table set C = '...' where A '...'



Schedule

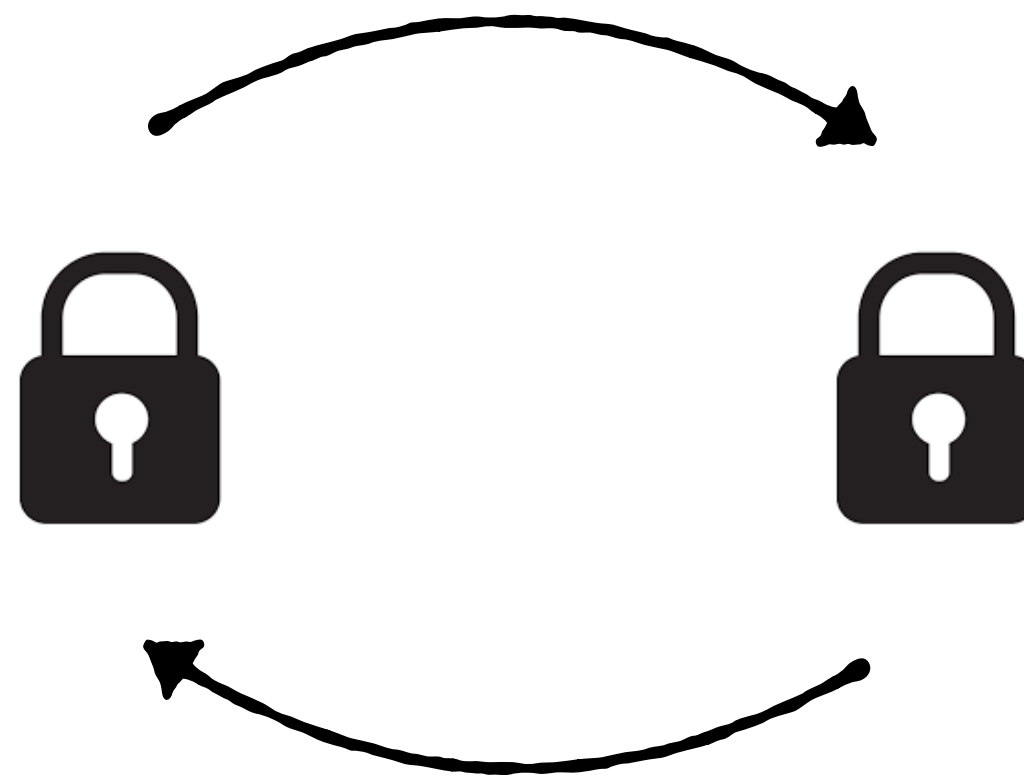
- (1) Begin transaction
- (2) Search index A
- (3) Access row and update C
- (4) Update entry in C's index
- (5) Commit

Anything to make you uneasy about two-phase locking so far?



Anything to make you uneasy about two-phase locking so far?

Deadlocks: transactions waiting on each other's locks forever



Deadlock example: concurrent payments

T1: A to B

$A = A - 100$

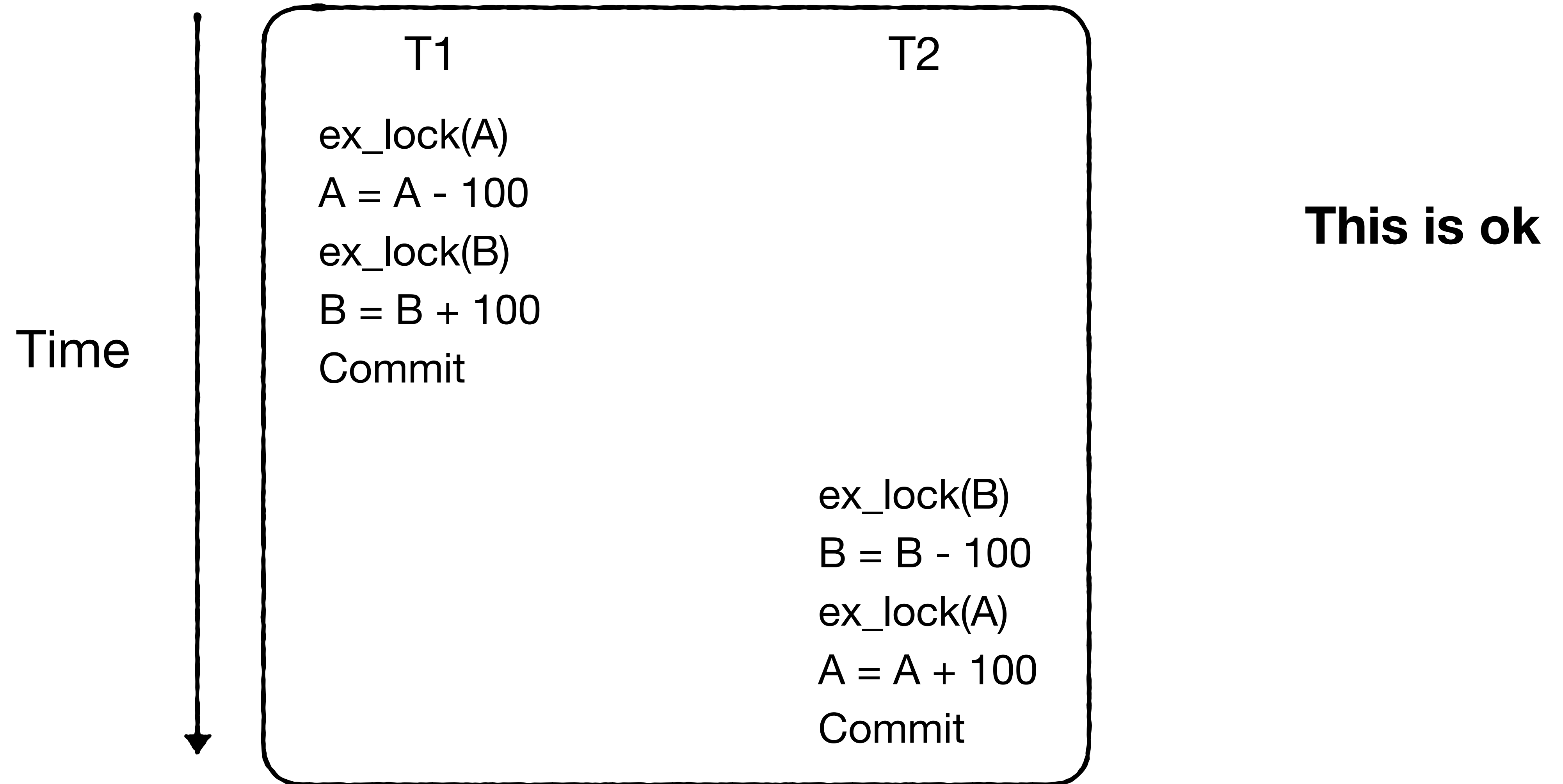
$B = B + 100$

T2: B to A

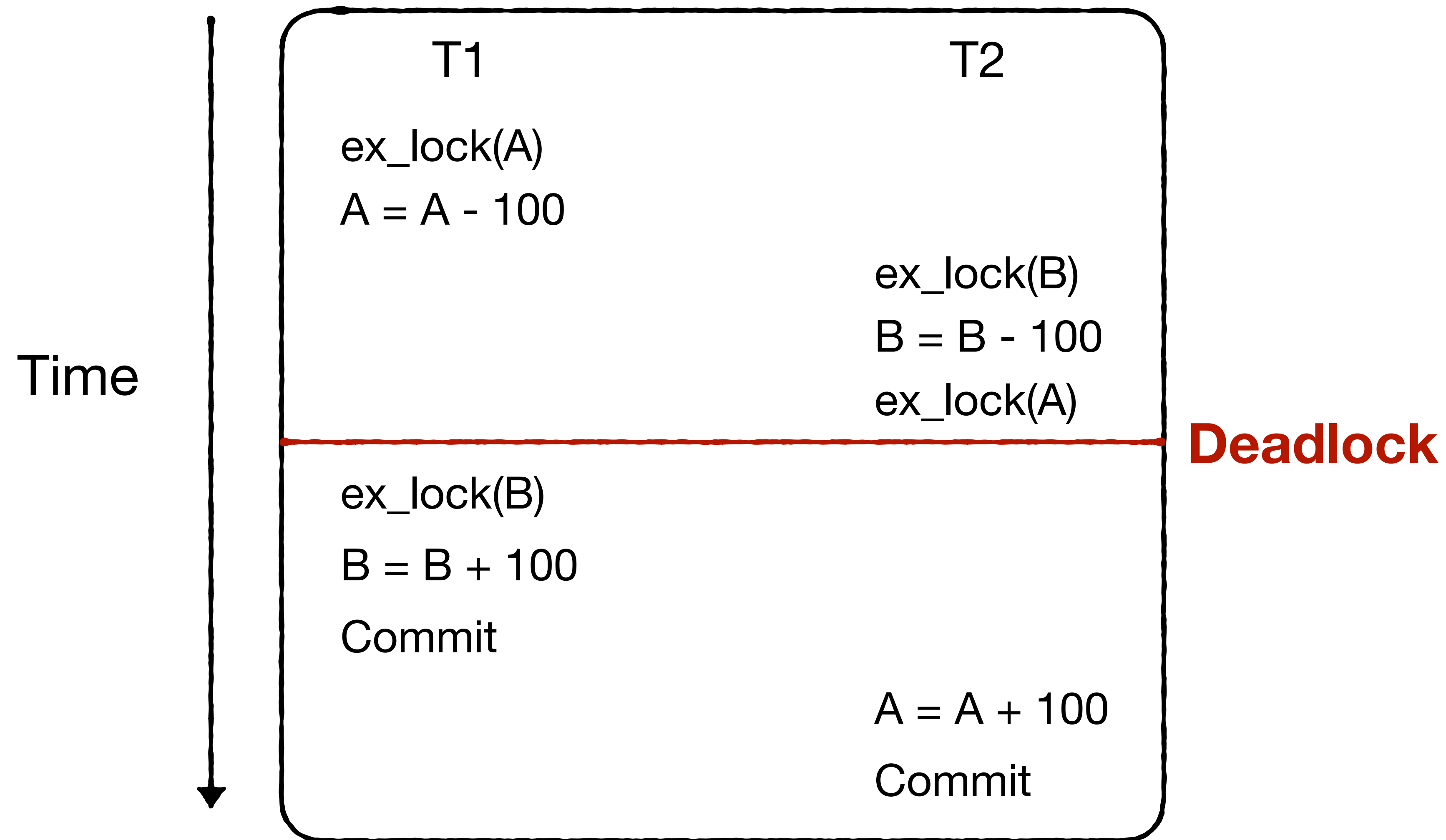
$B = B - 100$

$A = A + 100$

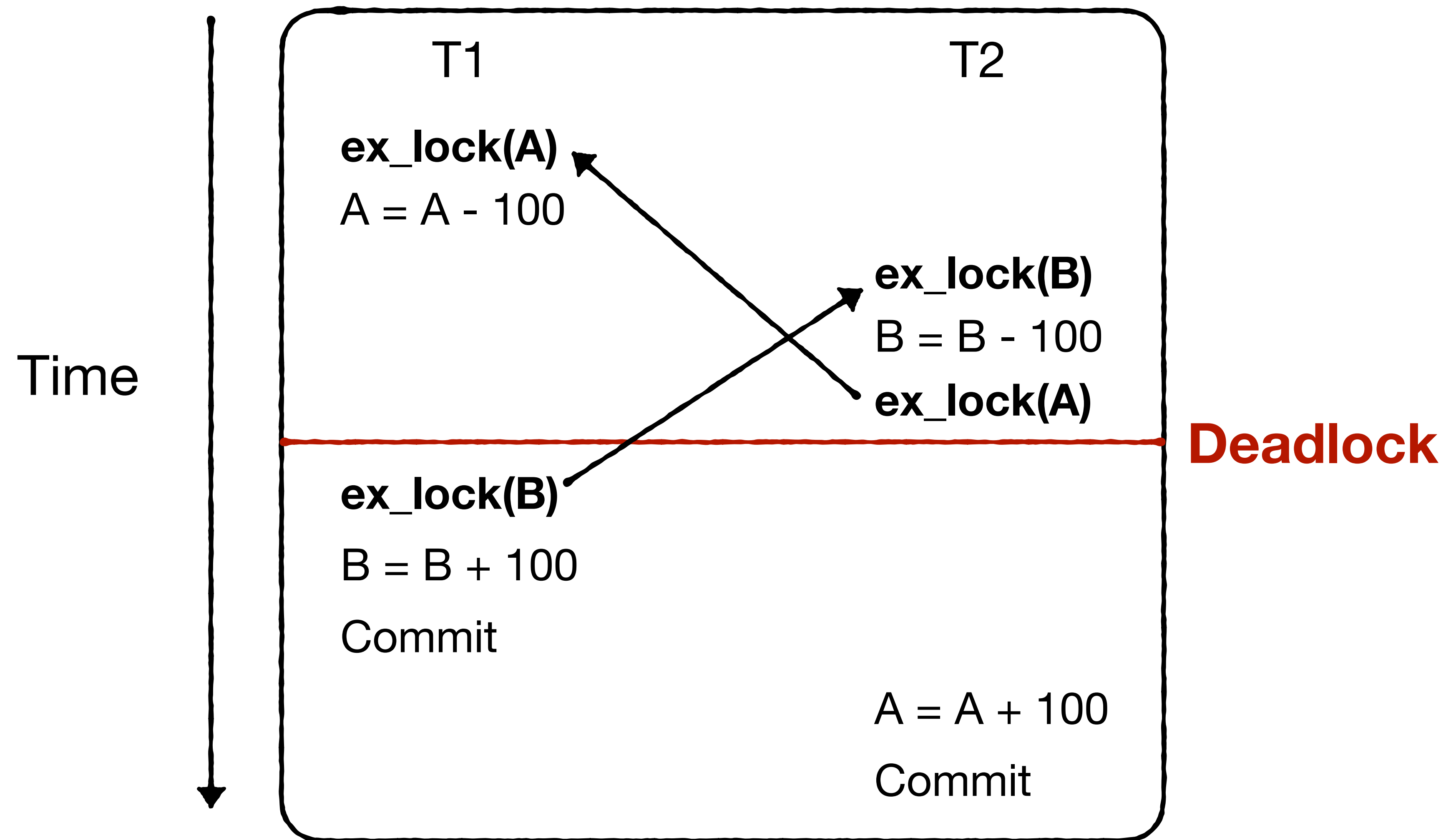
Deadlock example: concurrent payments



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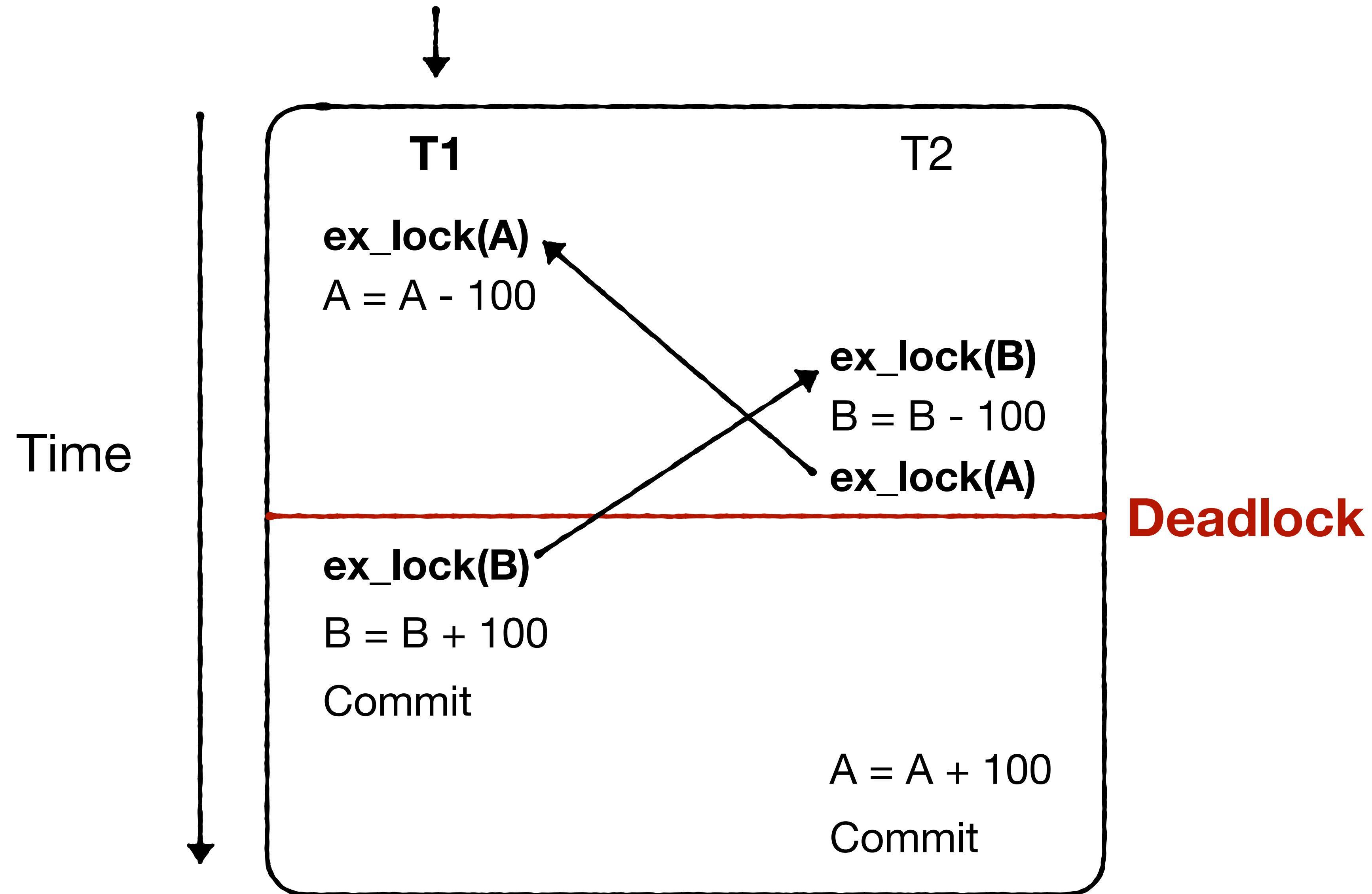
What should to do when we detect a deadlock?

What should to do when we detect a deadlock?

Abort transaction & undo all its changes



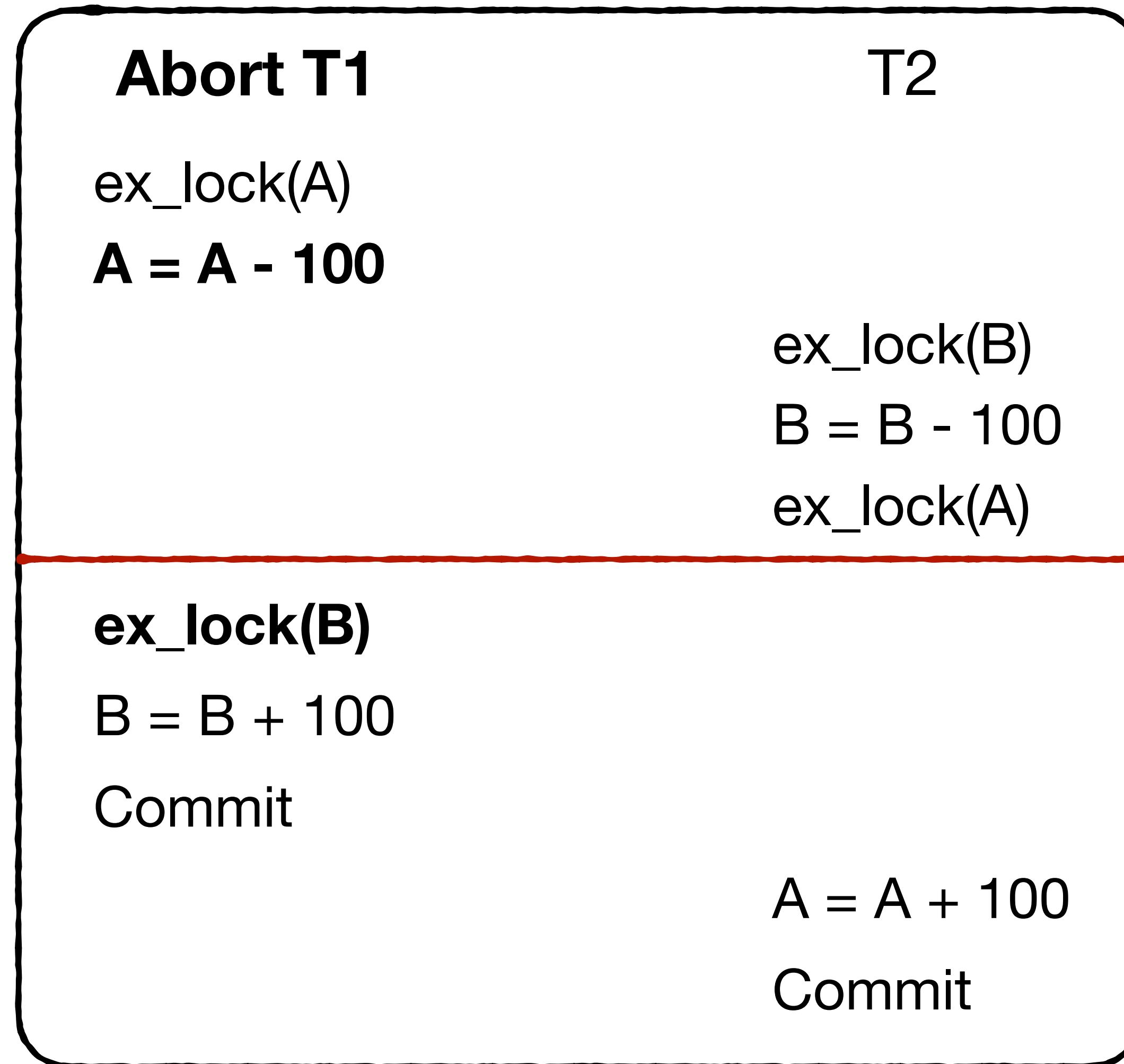
Abort transaction & undo all its changes



Abort transaction & undo all its changes



How to undo?



Deadlock

How to undo?



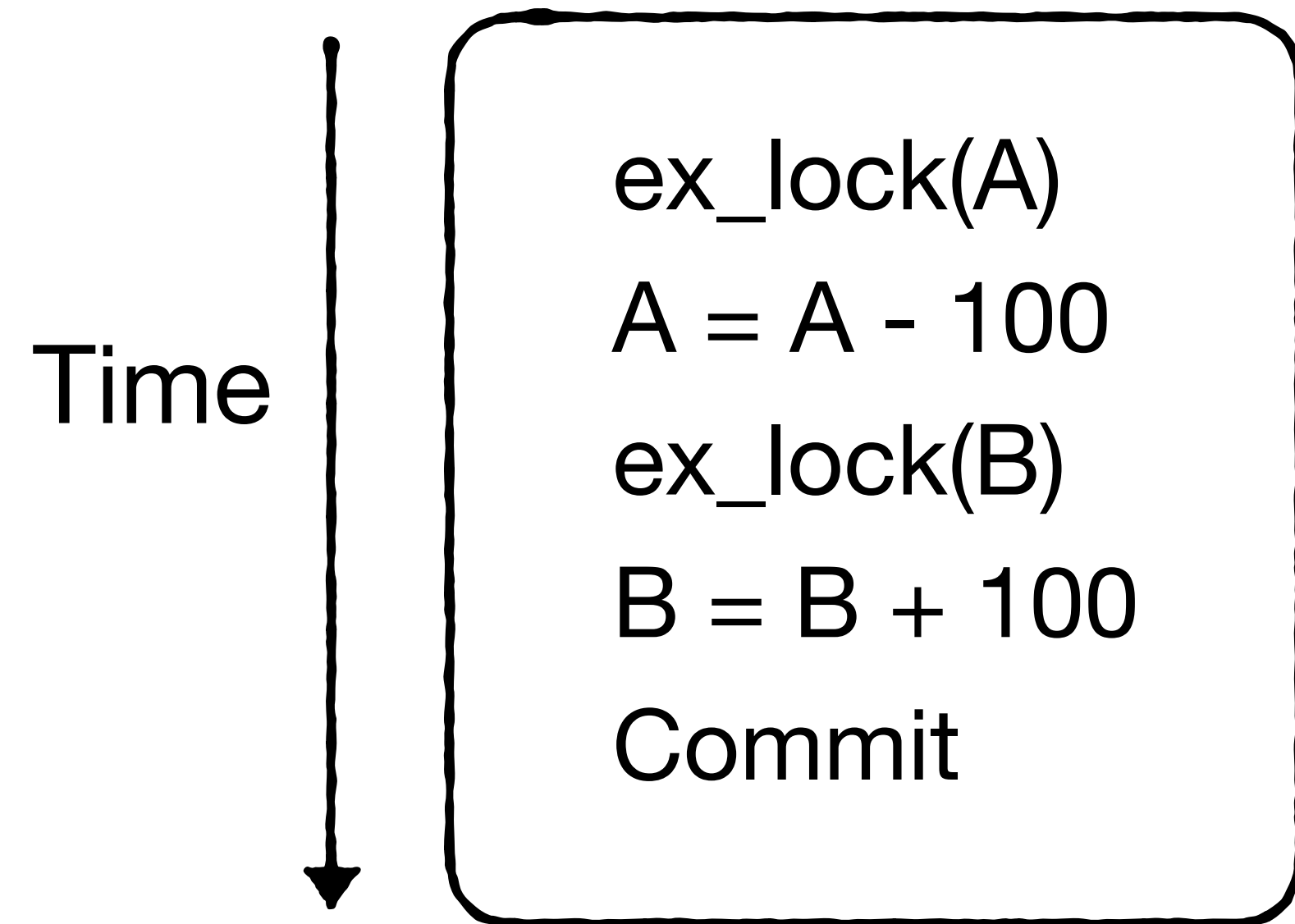
How to undo?

**record before-image for all
changes to the DB in a
sequential log.**



T1: Payment from A to B

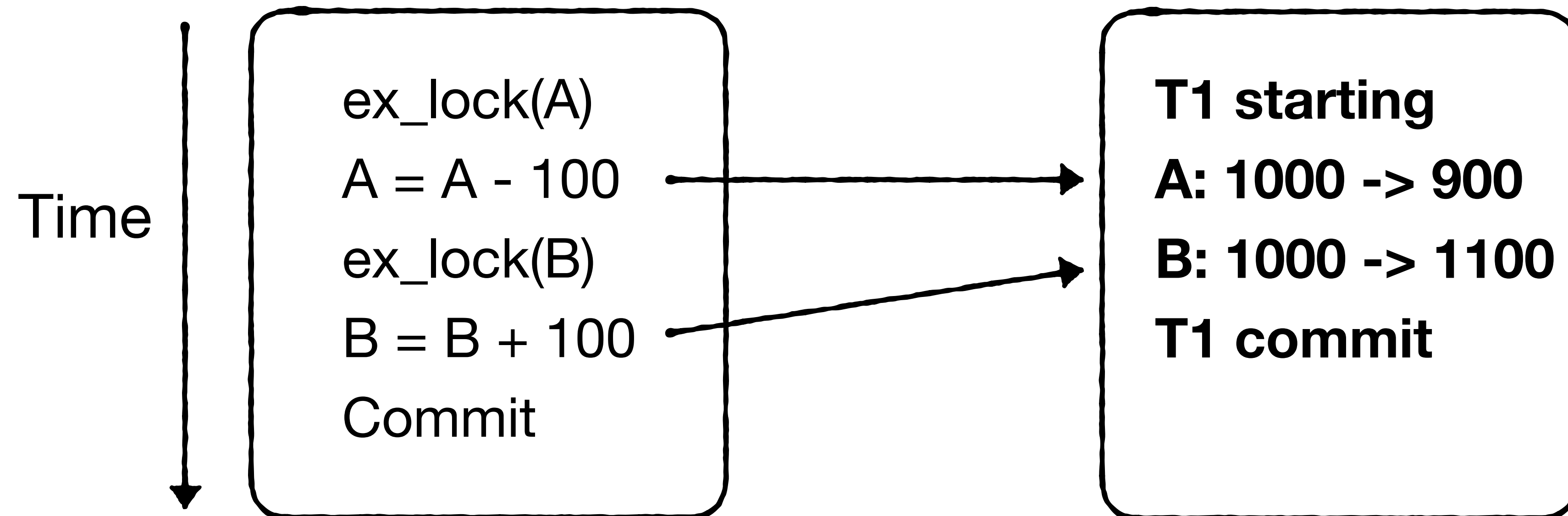
Assume $A = 1000$, $B = 2000$



record before-image for all
changes to the DB in a
sequential log.

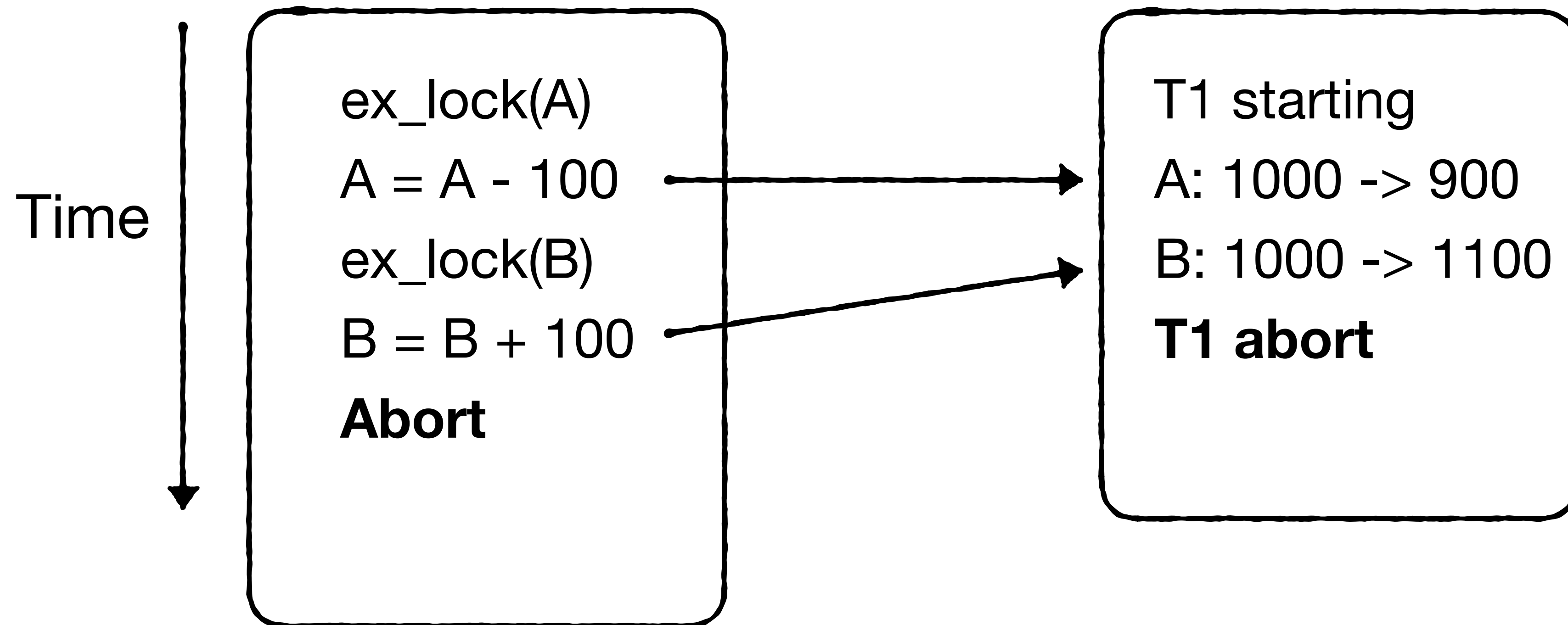
T1: Payment from A to B
Assume A = 1000, B=2000

sequential log



T1: Payment from A to B
Assume A = 1000, B=2000

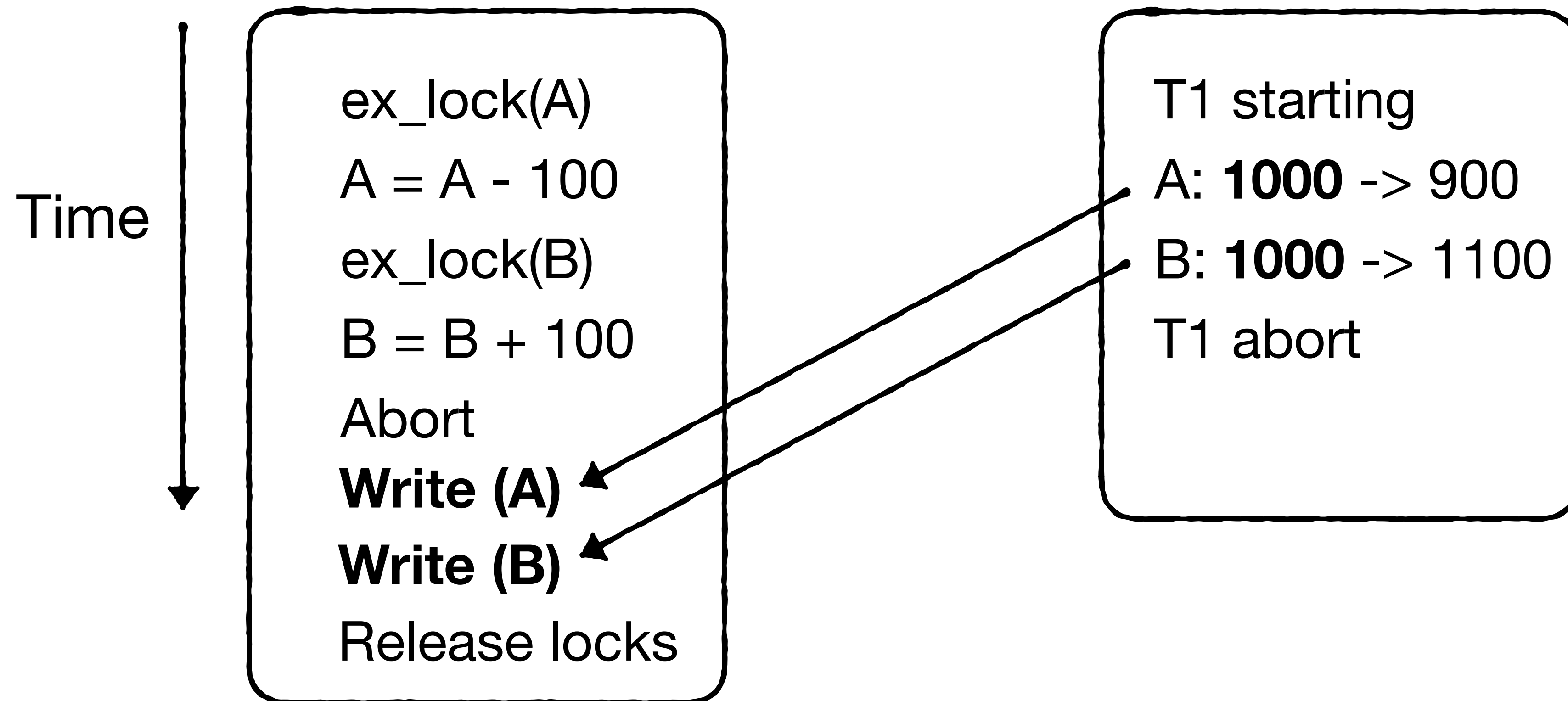
sequential log



If transaction aborts before completing, we undo its changes via its before-images in the log

T1: Payment from A to B
Assume A = 1000, B=2000

sequential log



If transaction aborts before completing, we undo its changes via its before-images in the log

How can we detect & prevent deadlocks?

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Timeouts



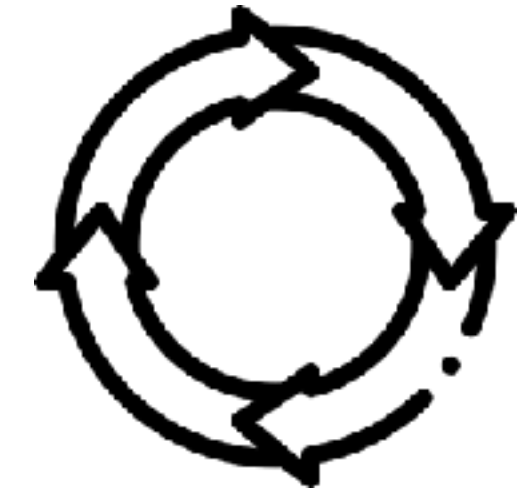
**Conservative Two
Phase Locking**



**Abort on
wait**



**Cycle
Detection**



Timeouts



Abort a transaction after waiting a certain time for a lock

Pros?

Cons?

Timeouts



Abort a transaction after waiting a certain time for a lock

Pros? **Simple**

Cons? **Speculative - wastes work aborting on non-deadlocks**

How can we detect & prevent deadlocks?

Timeouts



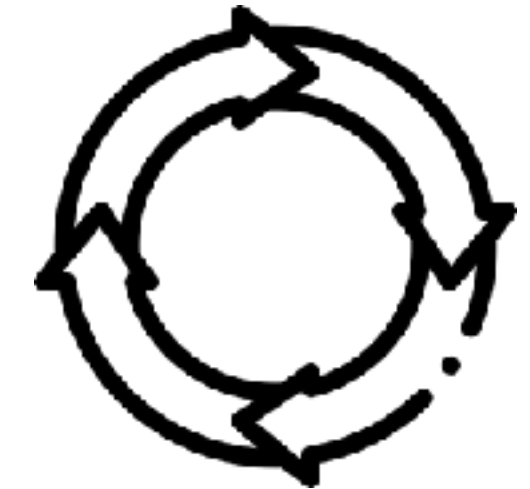
**Conservative Two
Phase Locking**



Abort on
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Cycle
Detection



Conservative Two Phase Locking

A transaction is divided into two phases



Phase 1

Phase 2

**Take all locks the transaction
could possibly need**

Release all locks
during commit

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Pros: no deadlocks

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Conservative Two Phase Locking

A transaction is divided into two phases



Phase 1

Phase 2

Take all locks the transaction
could possibly need

Release all locks
during commit

Pros: no deadlocks

Con: takes more locks and holds them for longer

How can we detect & prevent deadlocks?

Timeouts



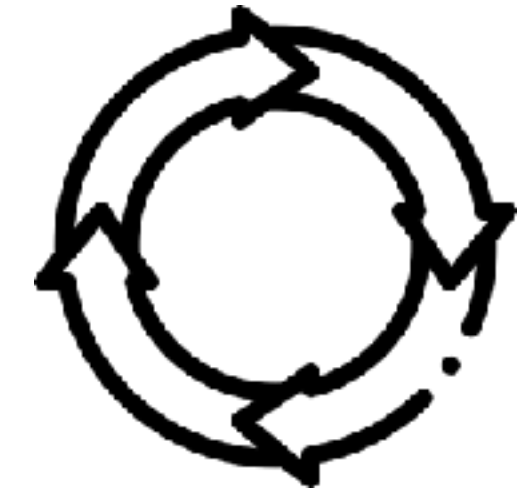
Conservative Two
Phase Locking



**Abort on
Wait**

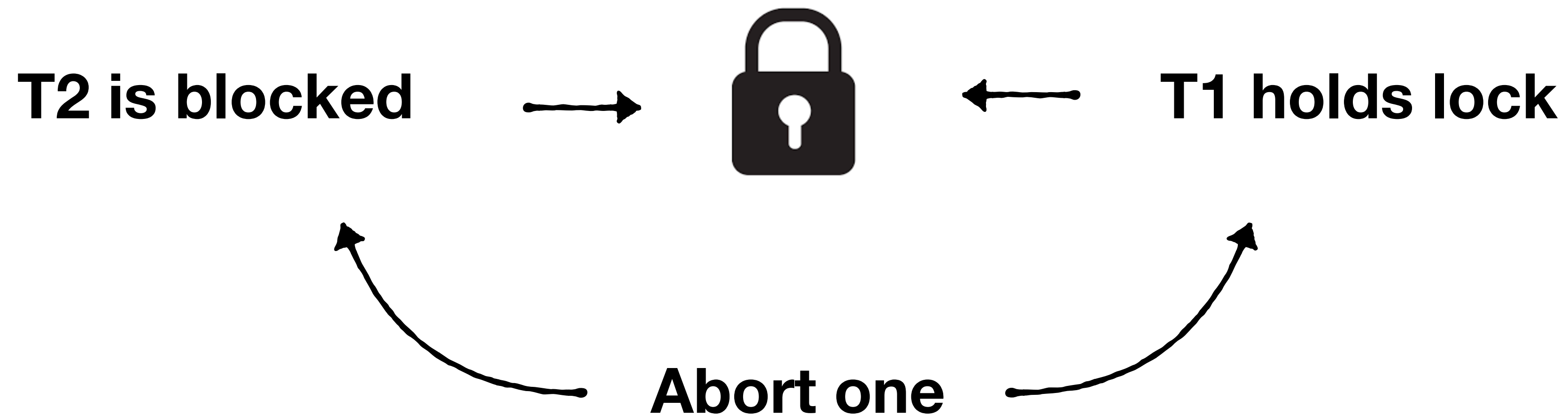


Cycle
Detection



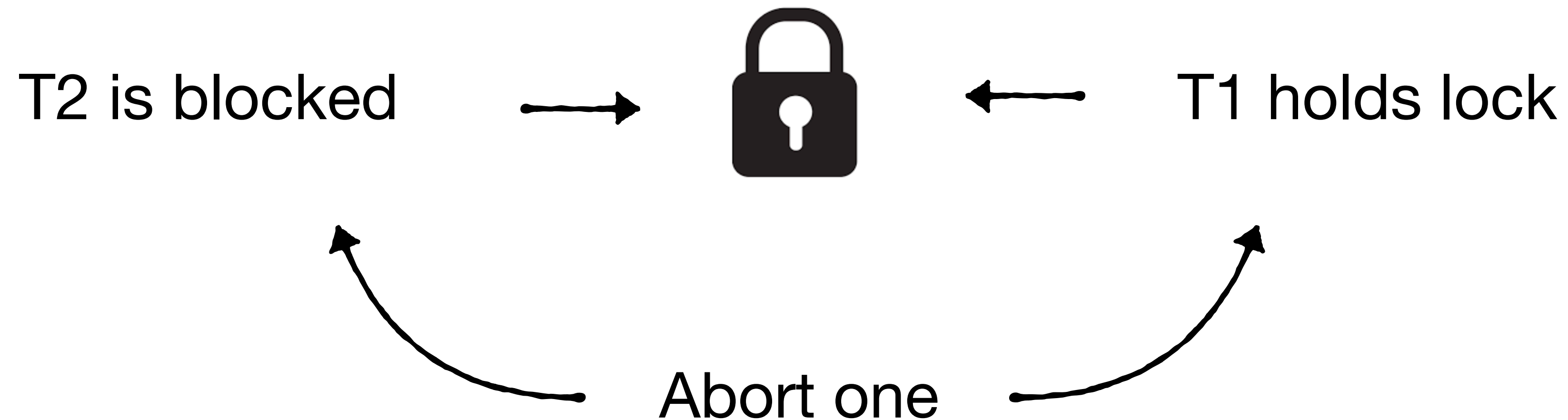
Abort on Wait

When a transaction is blocked, abort it or the transaction holding the lock.



Abort on Wait

When a transaction is blocked, abort it or the transaction holding the lock.



Pros: no deadlocks

Con: defeatist (wastes work, or aborts many transactions)

How can we detect & prevent deadlocks?

Timeouts



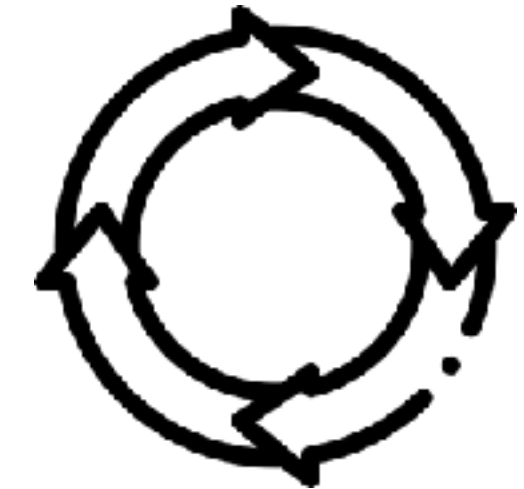
Conservative Two
Phase Locking



Abort on
wait

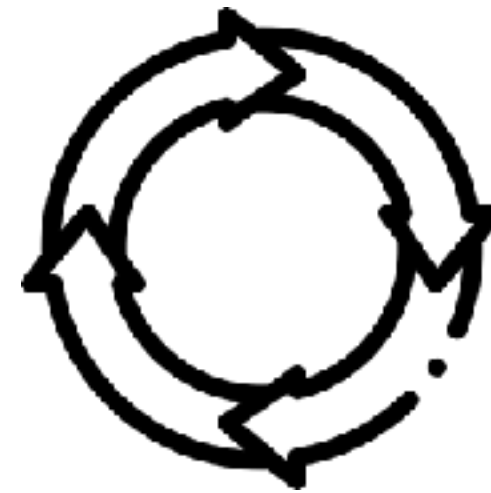


**Cycle
Detection**



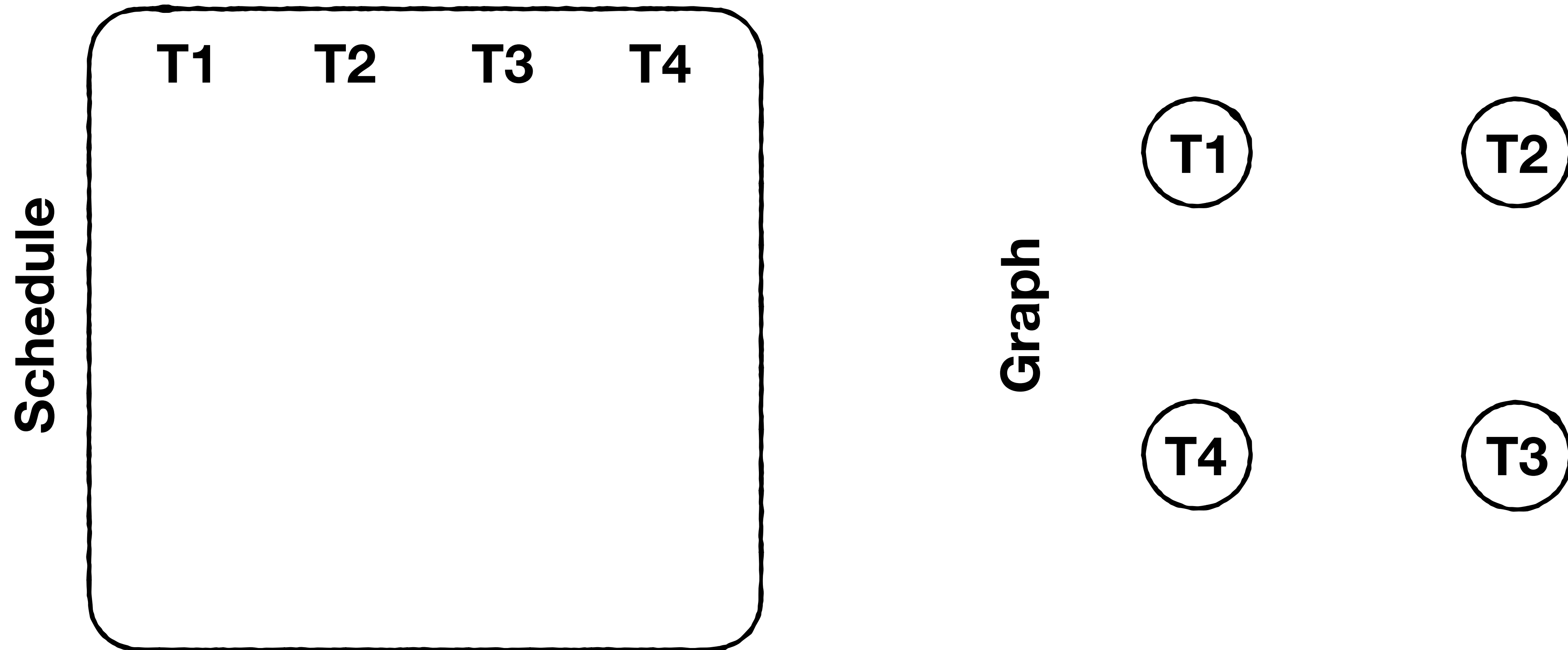
Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.



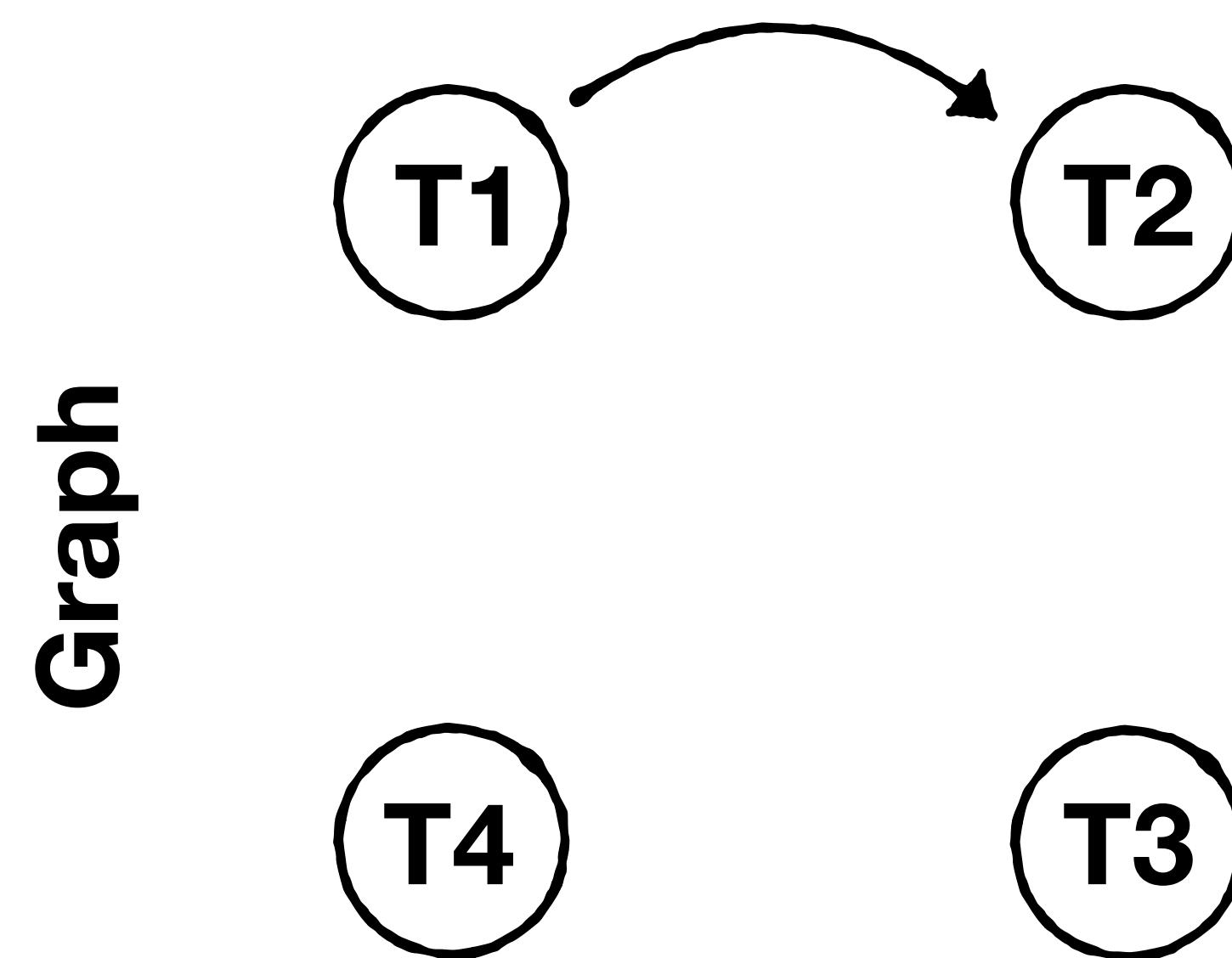
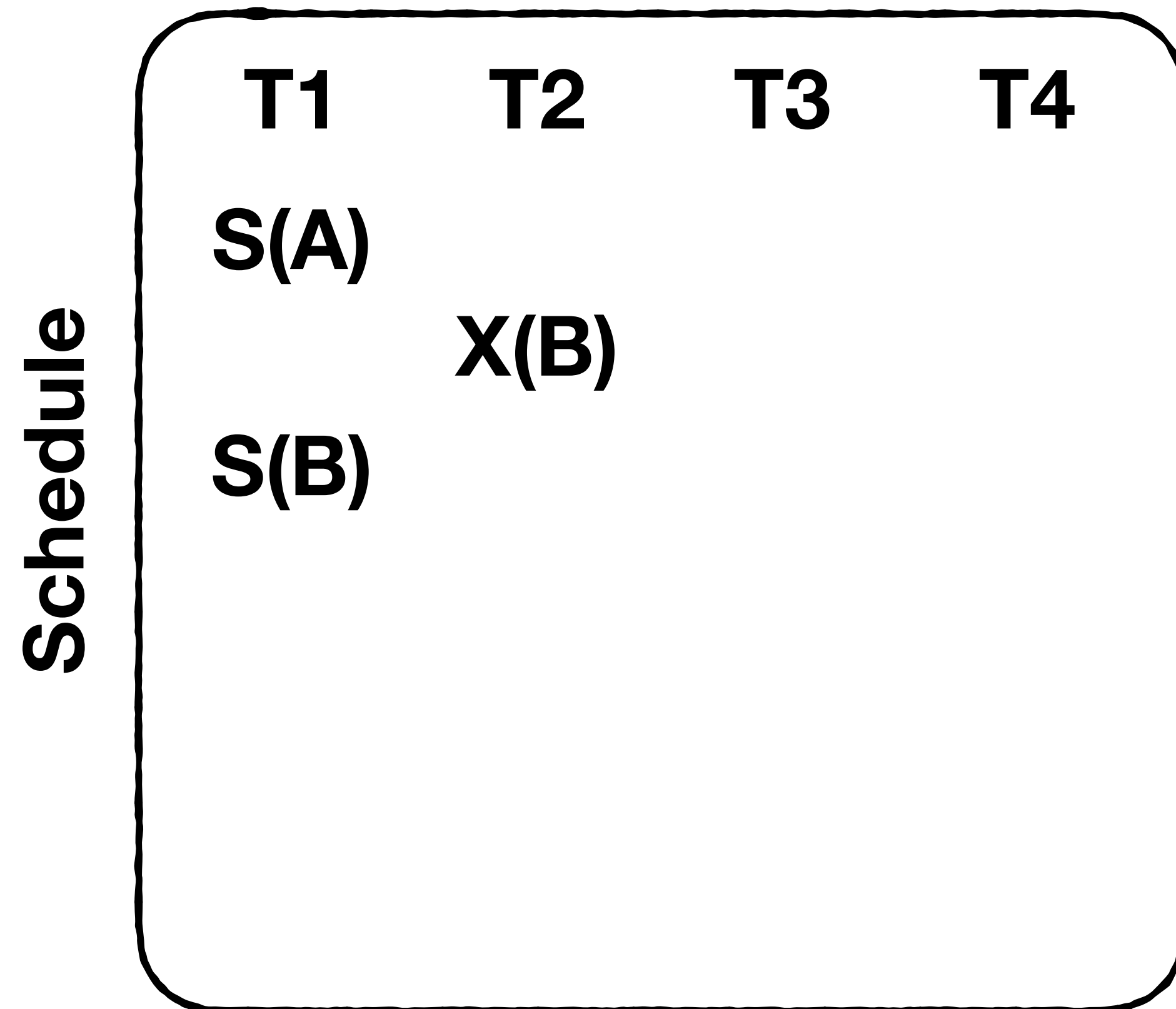
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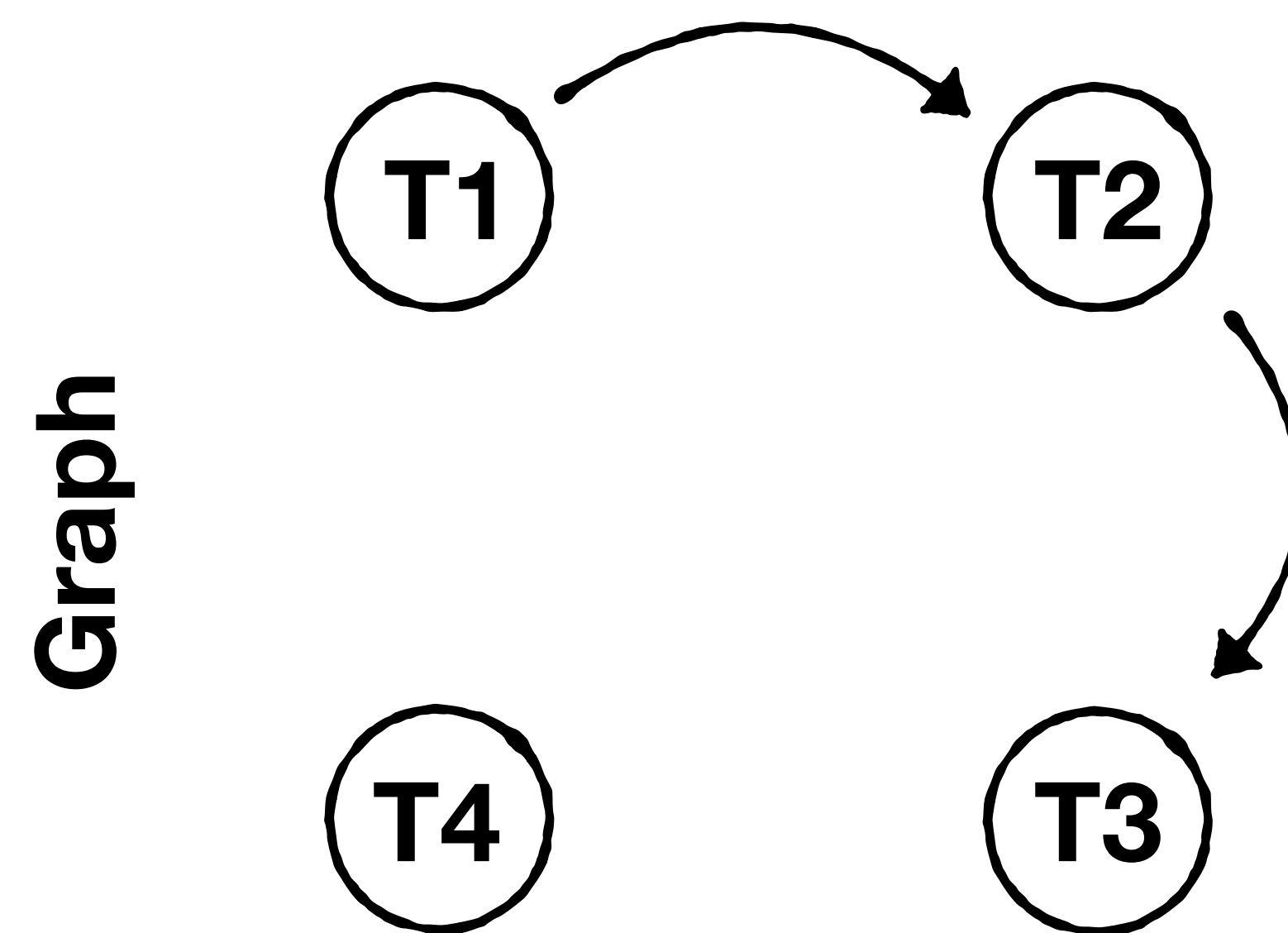
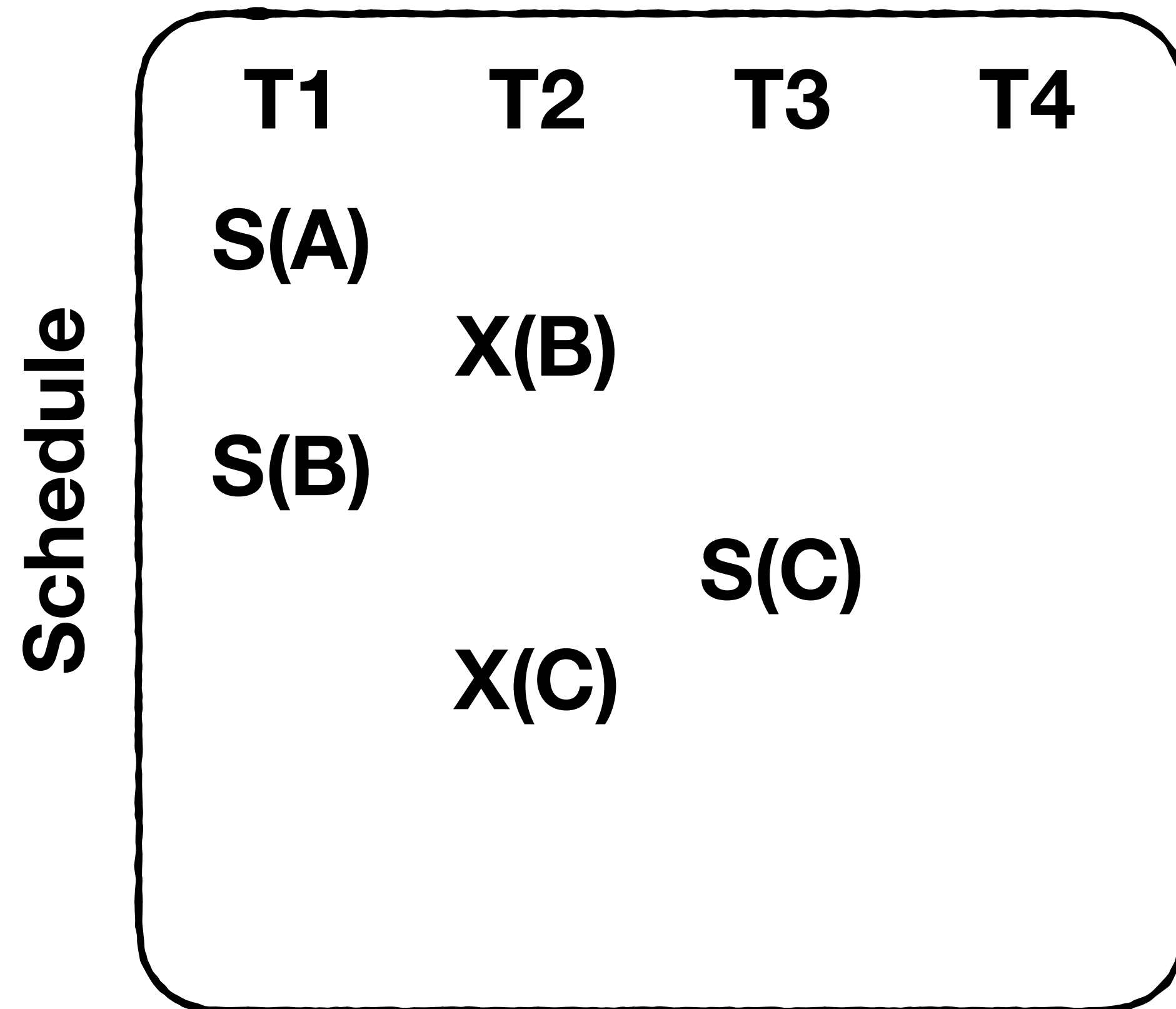
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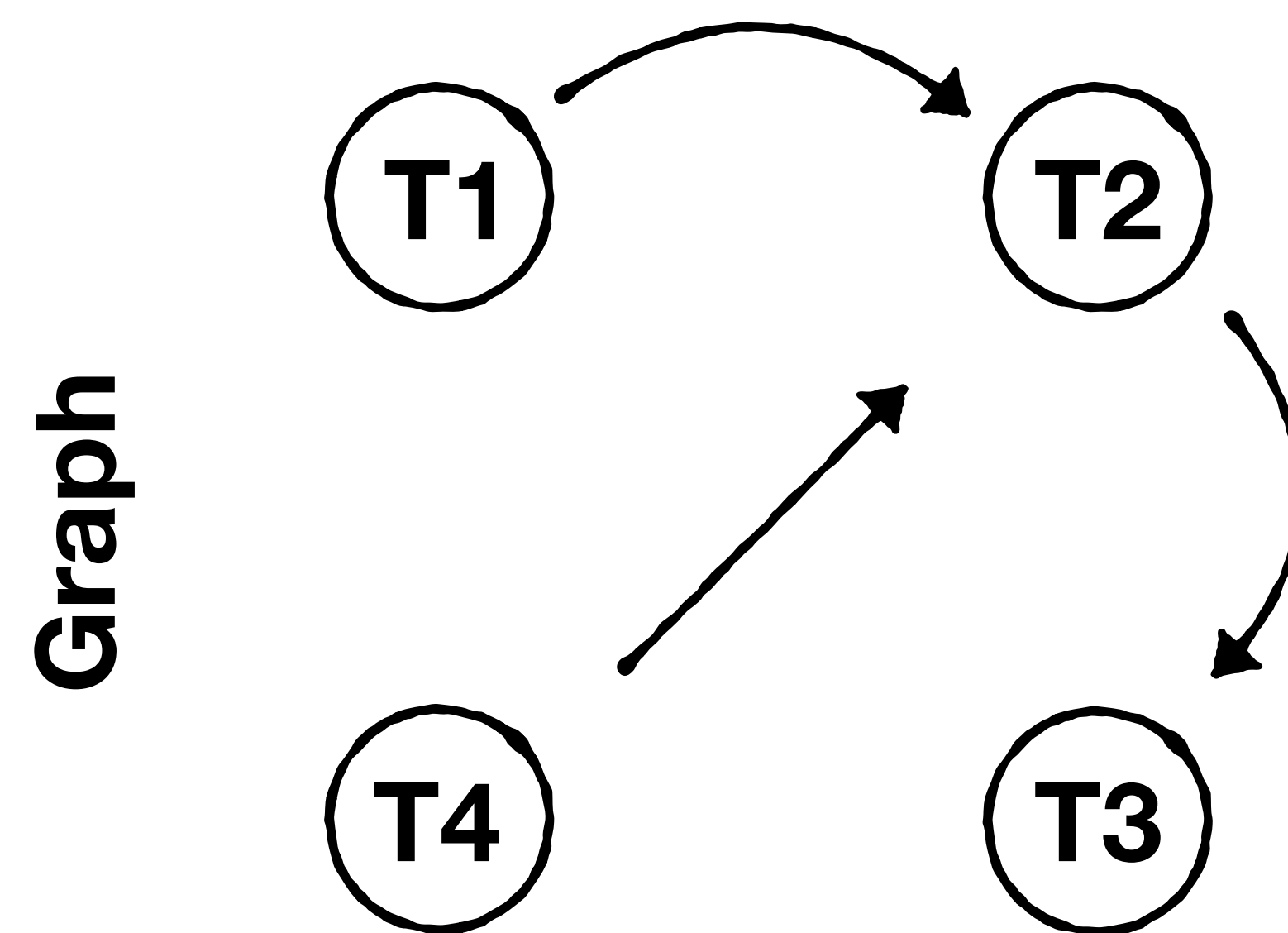
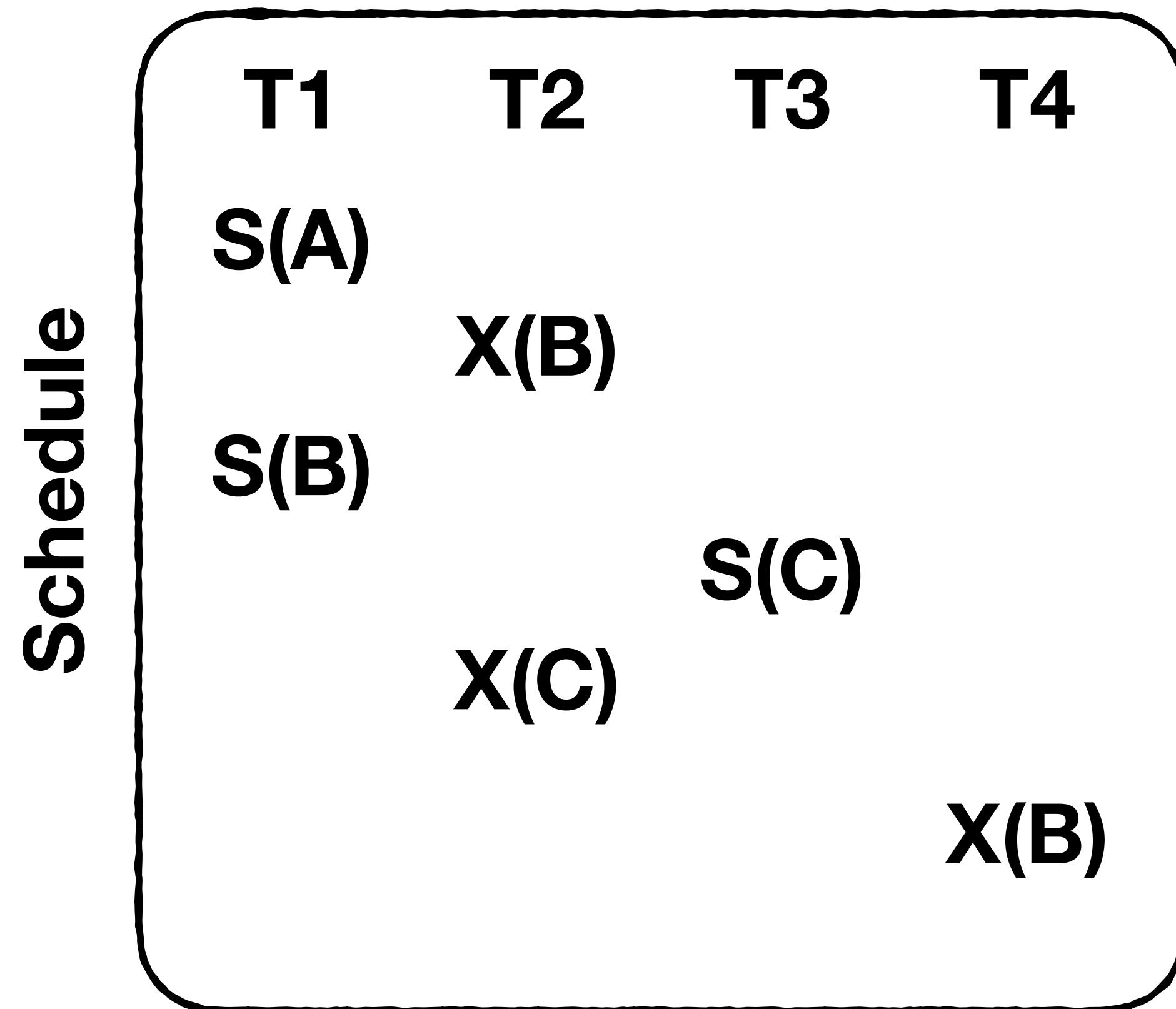
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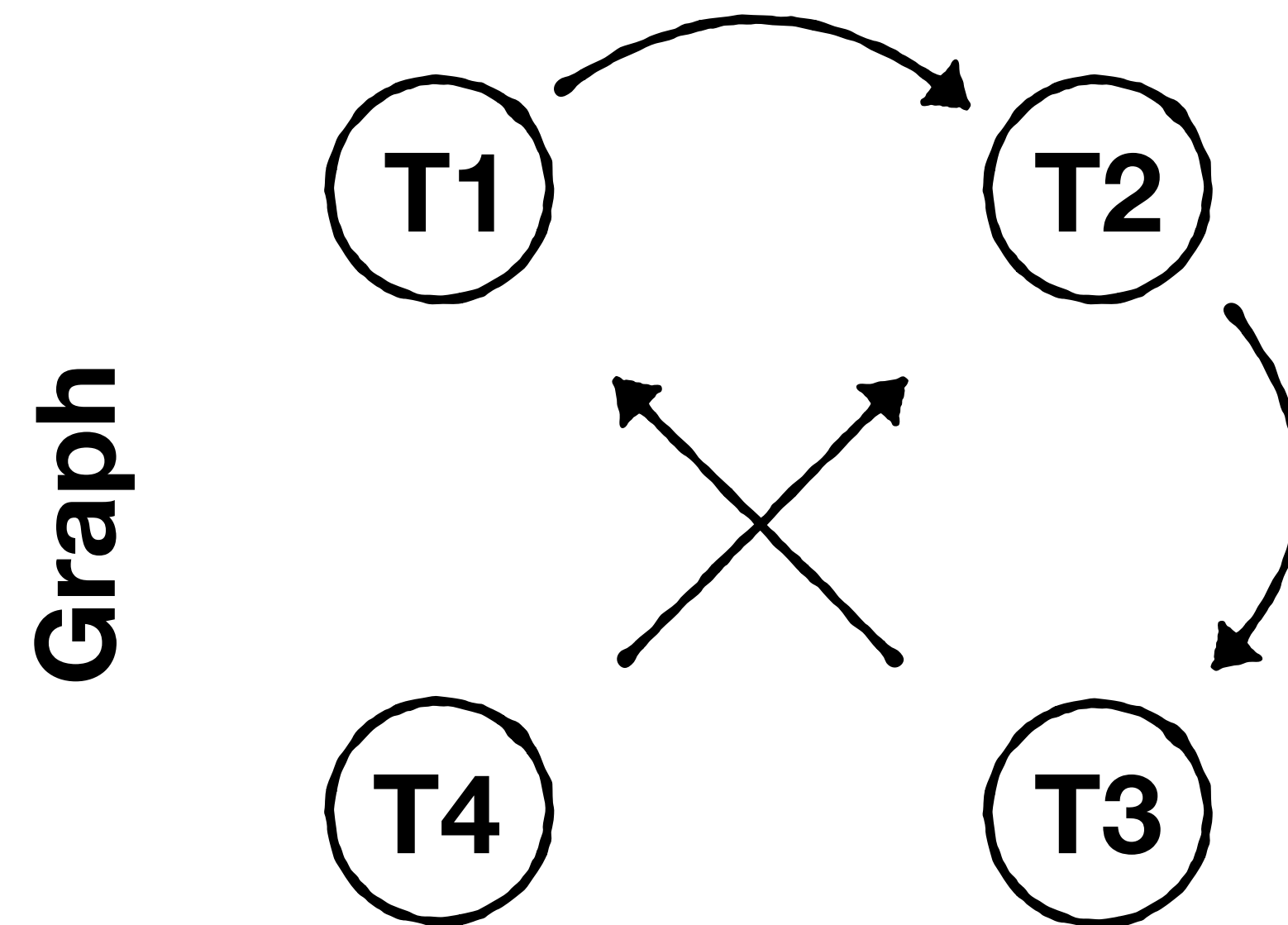
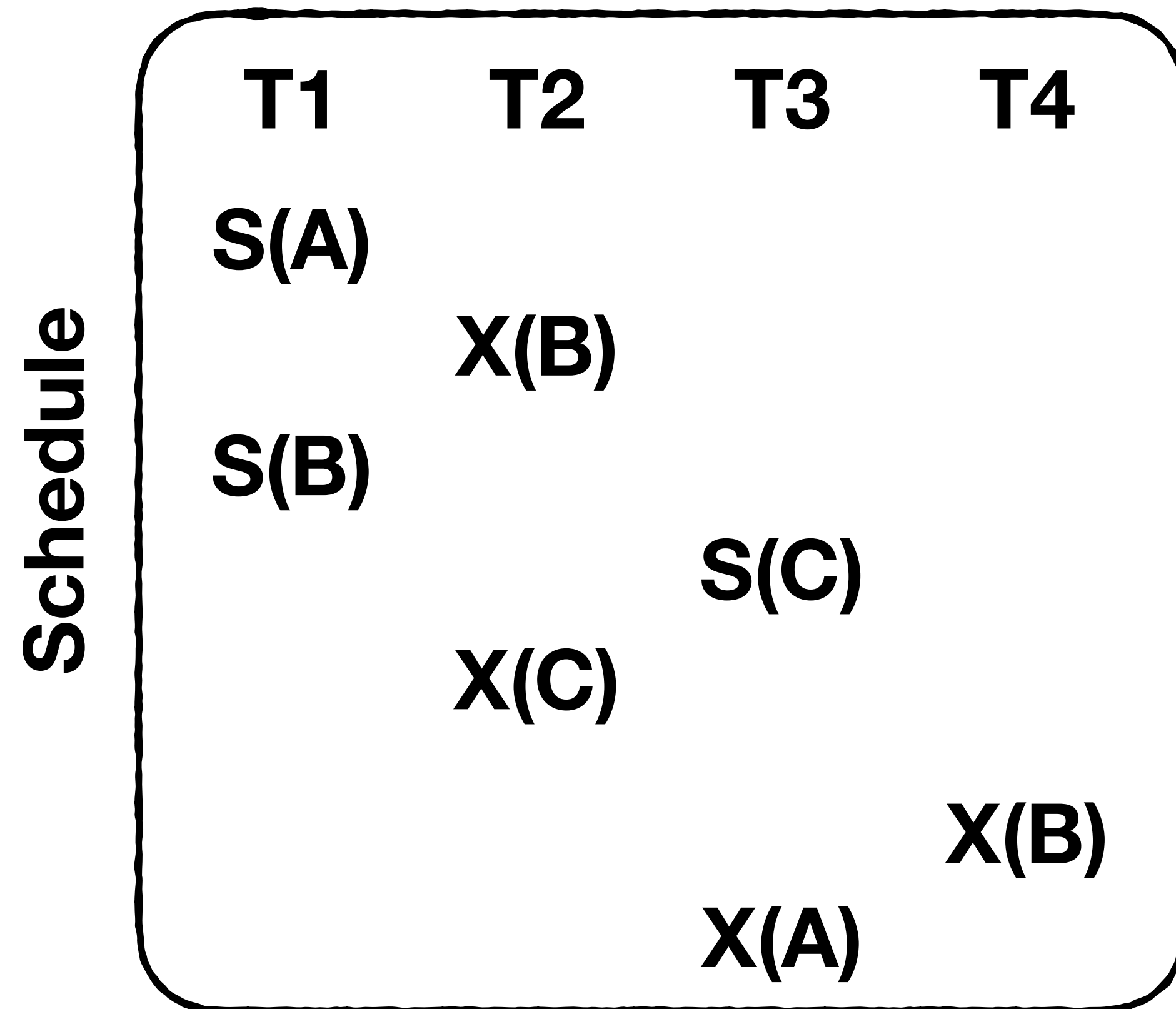
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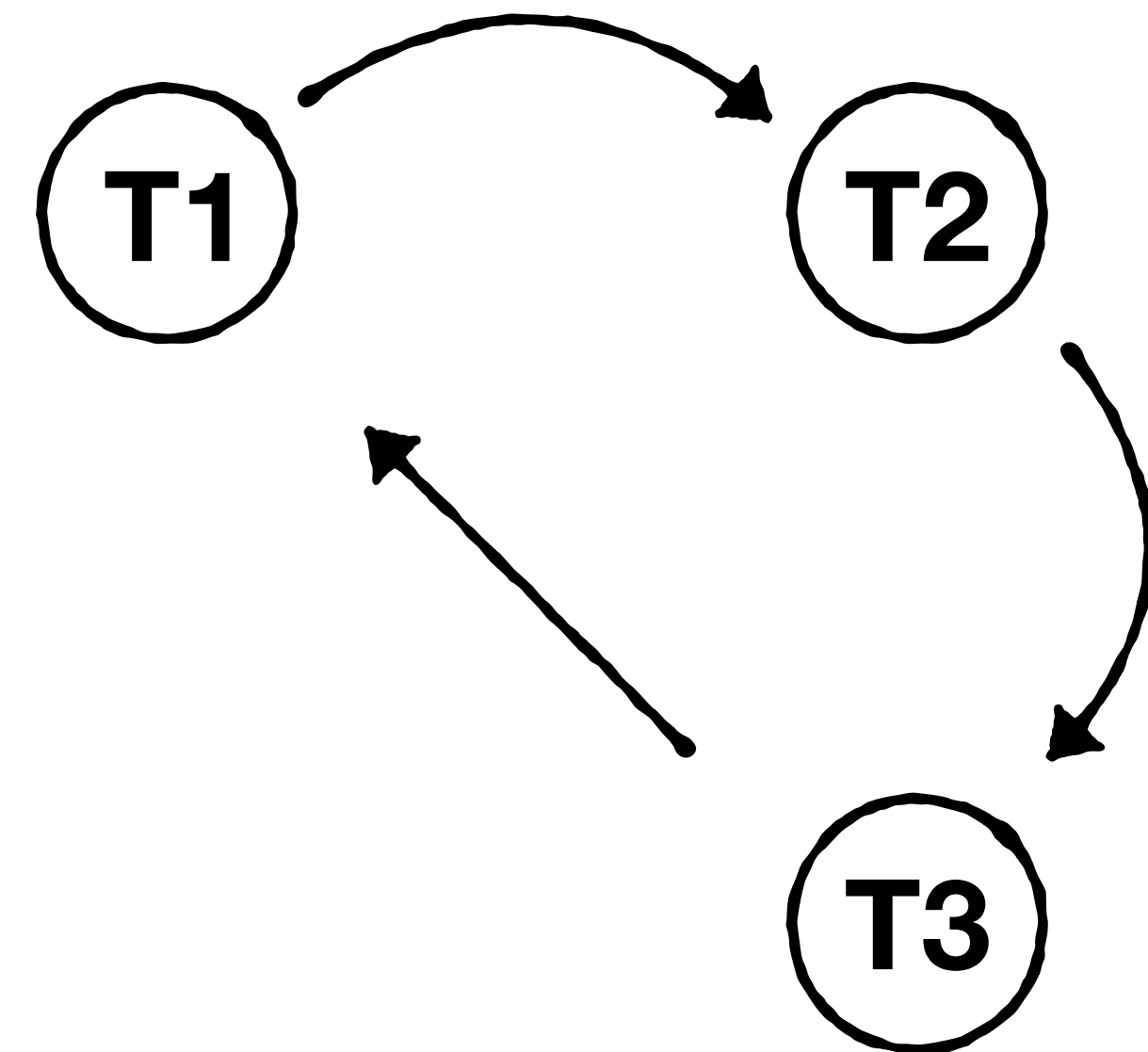


Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Other approaches are speculative

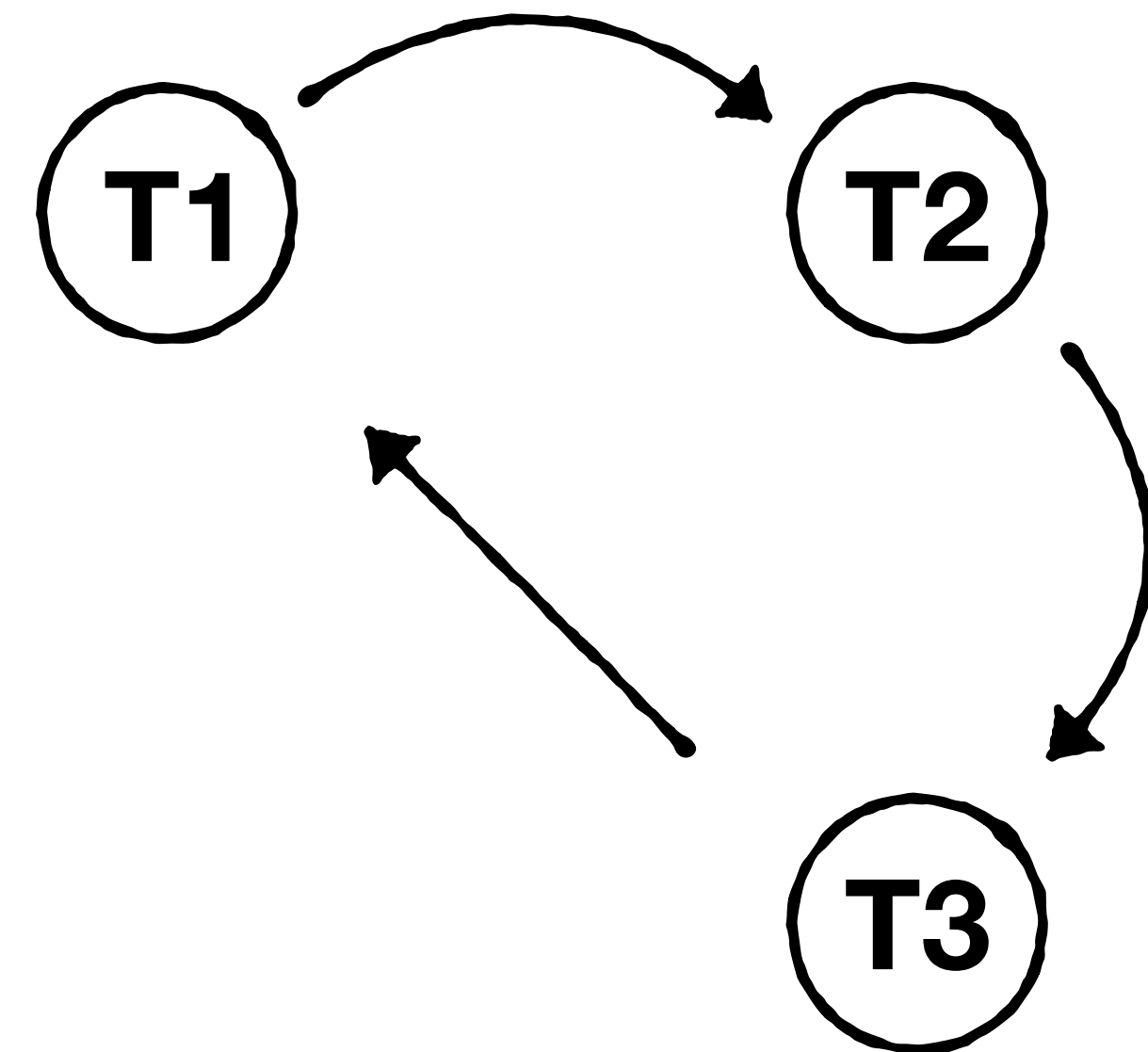
Here we detect a deadlock for sure



Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Should we abort T1, T2 or T3?

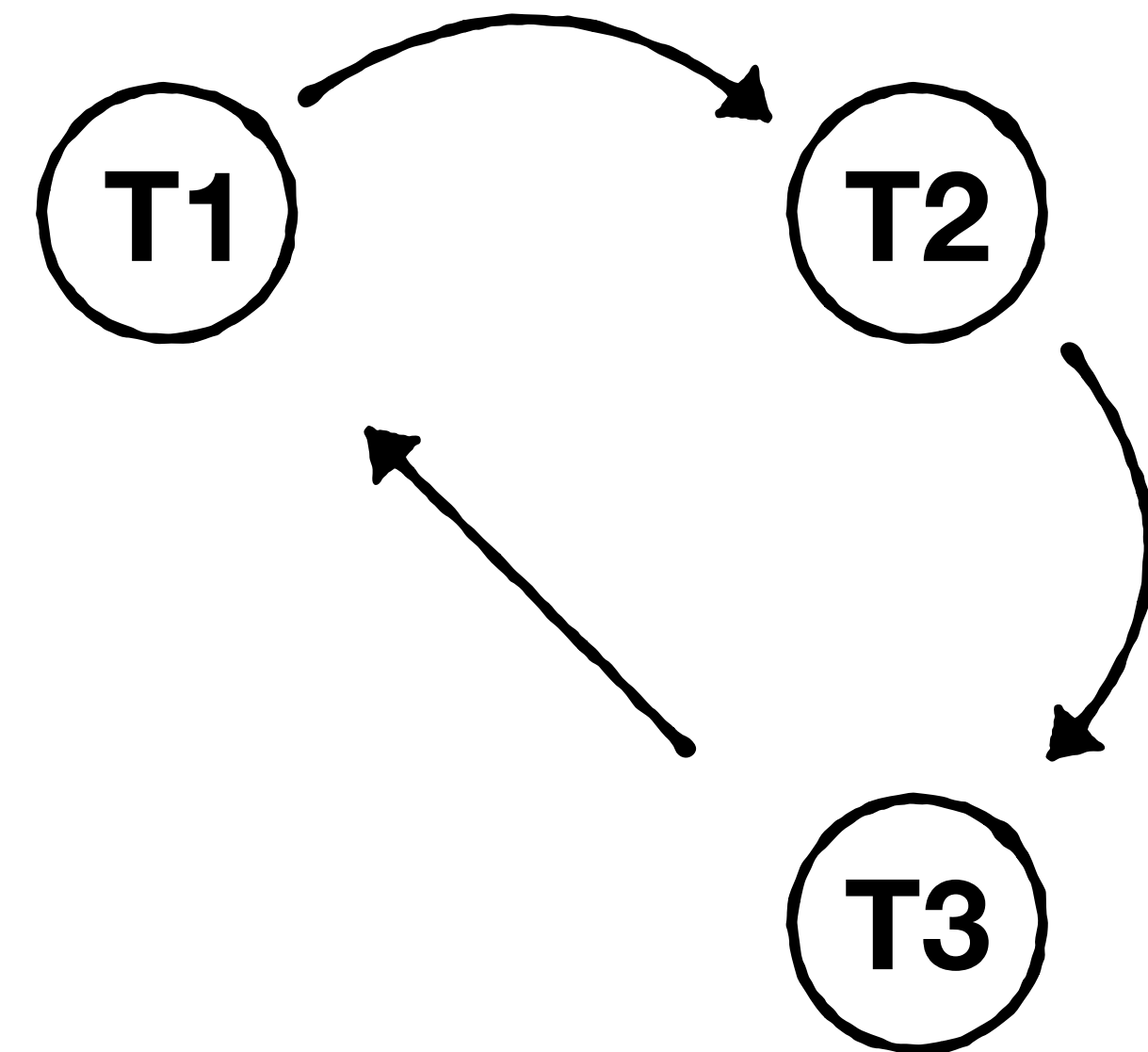


Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Abort the transaction that:

(1) has done the least work



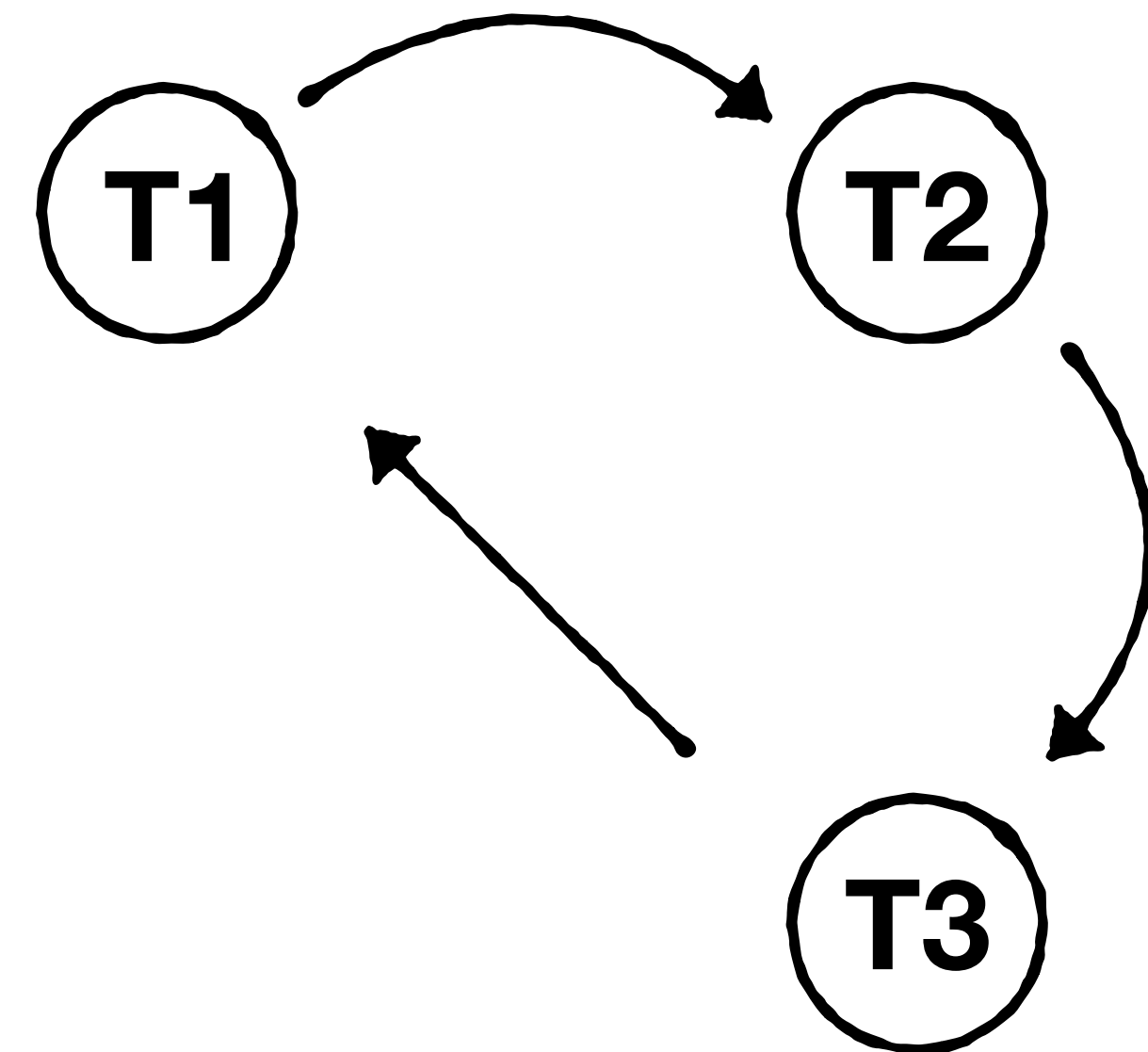
Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Abort the transaction that:

(1) has done the least work

(2) Farthest from completion

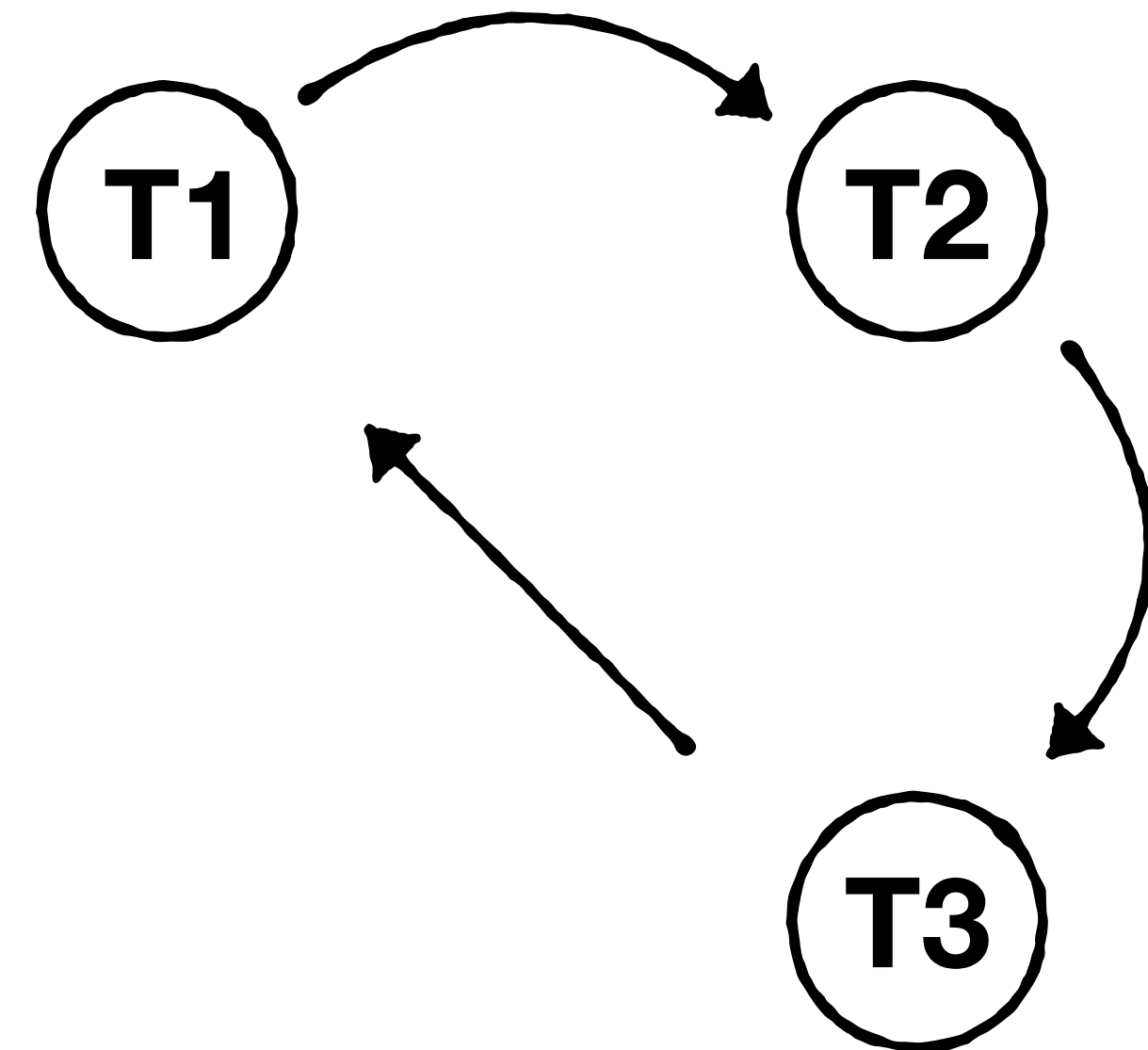


Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Abort the transaction that:

- (1) has done the least work
- (2) Farthest from completion
- (3) Been aborted the least times**



Timeouts



Conservative Two
Phase Locking



Abort on
wait



**Cycle
Detection**



There is still a problem

Let's return to our running examples

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Problems:

Dirty reads

Solution:

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Let's return to our running examples

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

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Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Example 3

Inserts & Statistics



?

?

Example 3

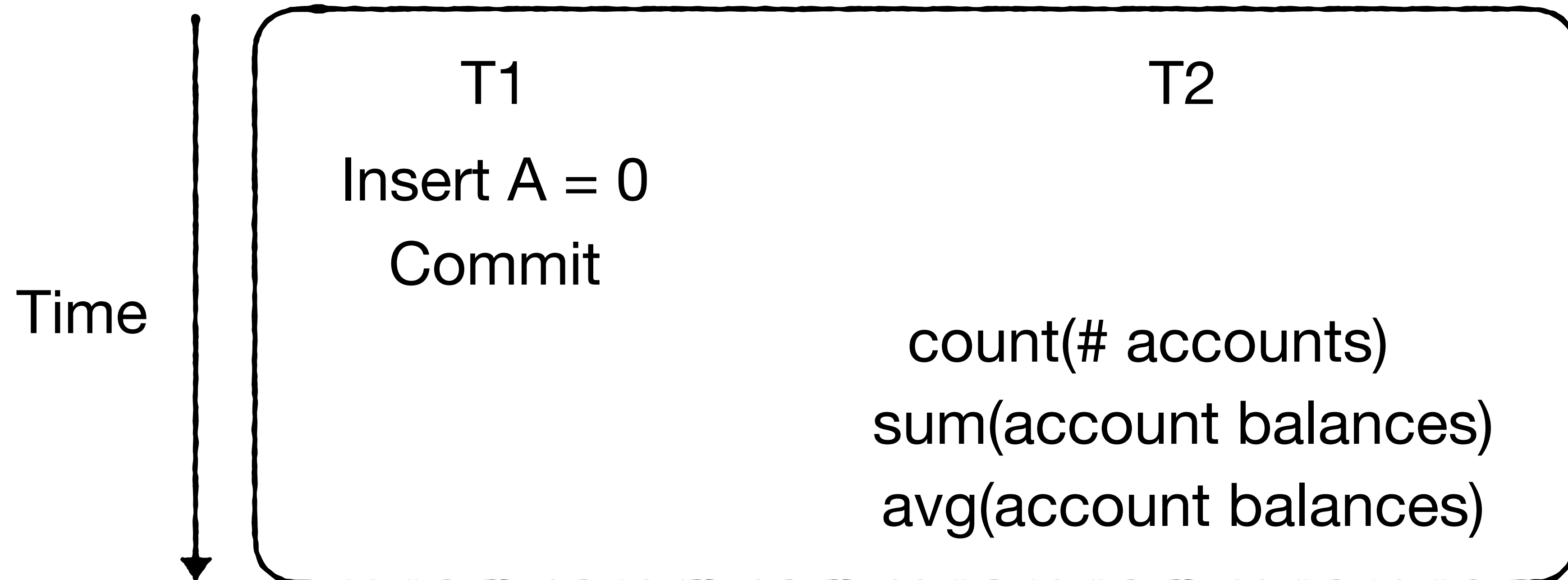
T1: insert account

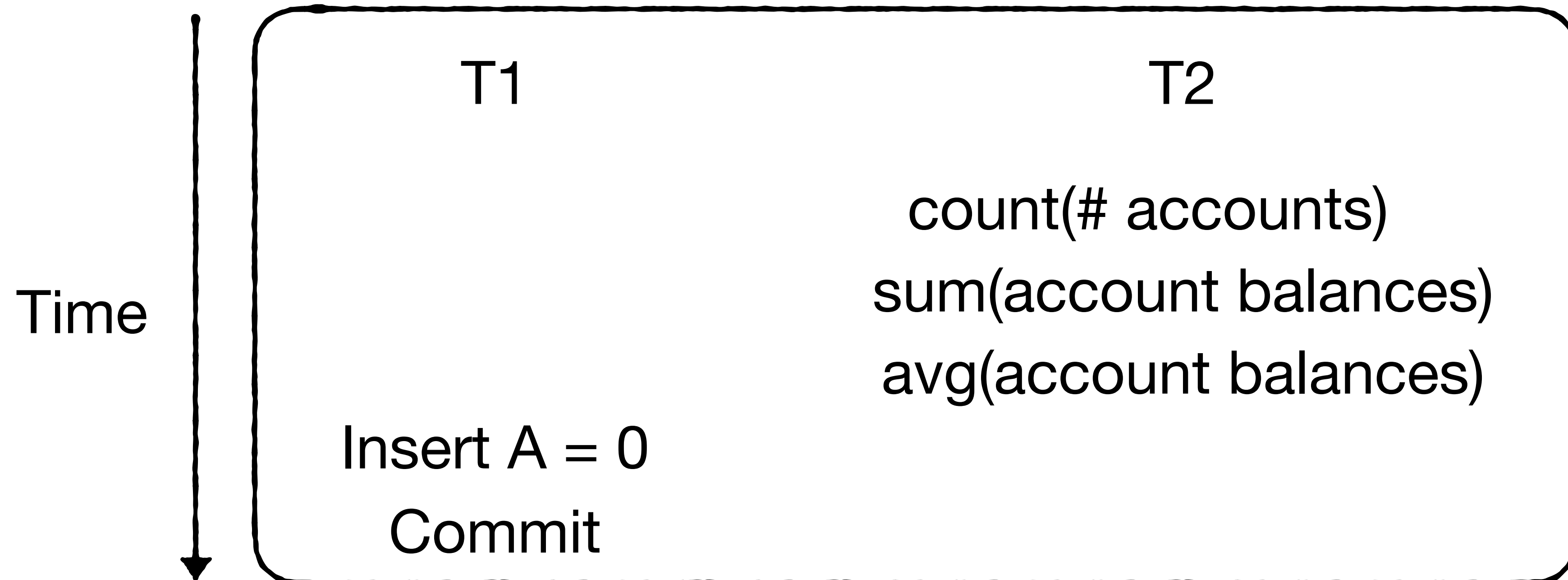
Insert A = 0

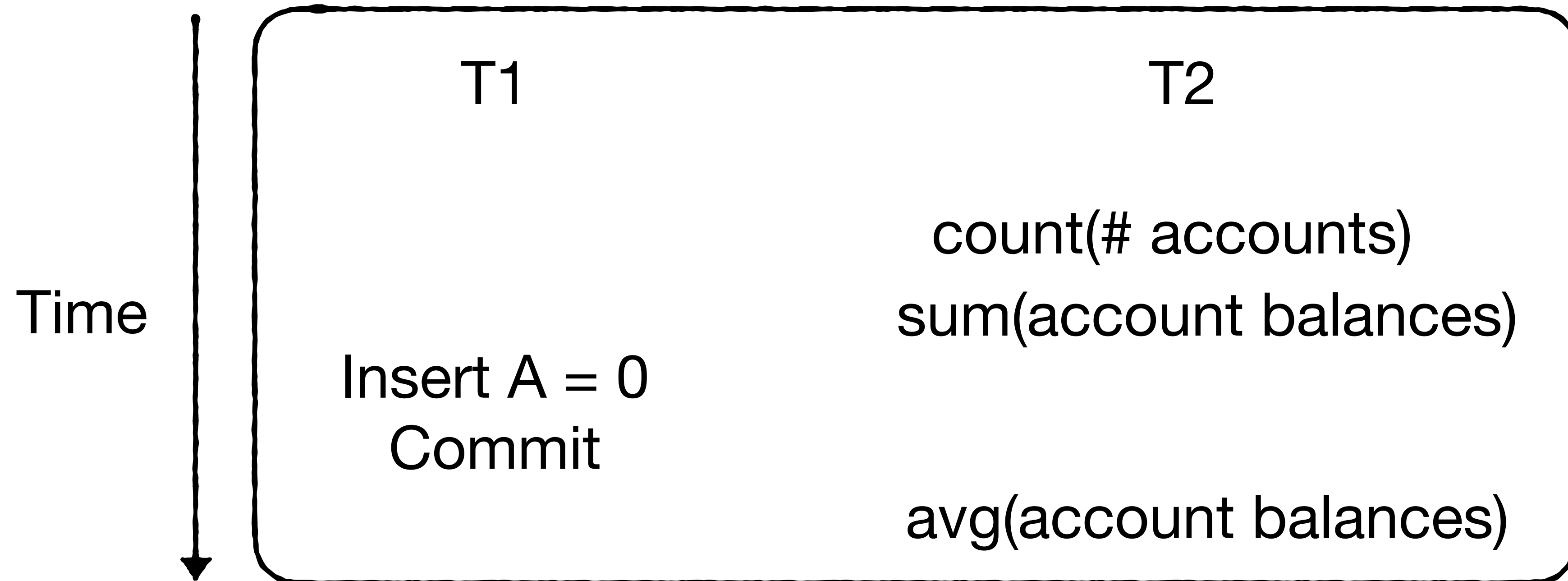
T2: statistics reporting

count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
avg(account balances)

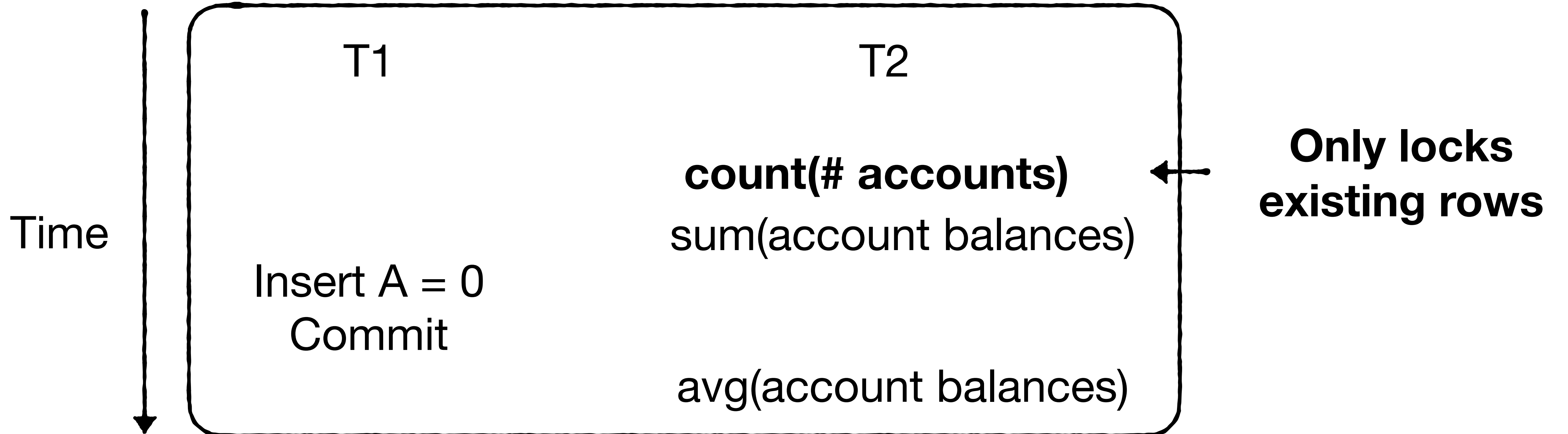
Example 3



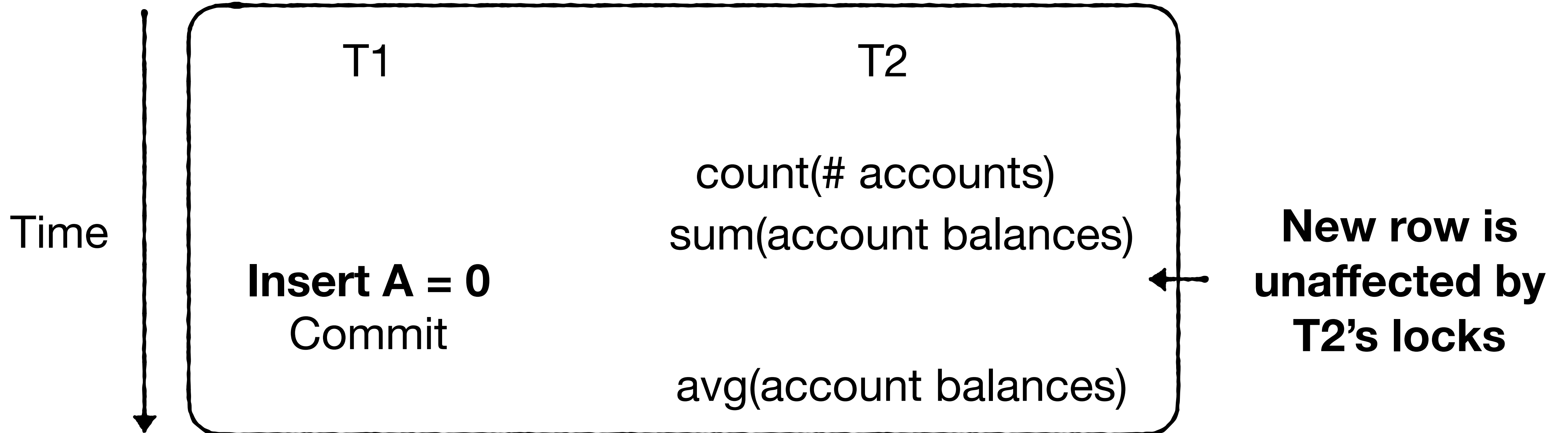




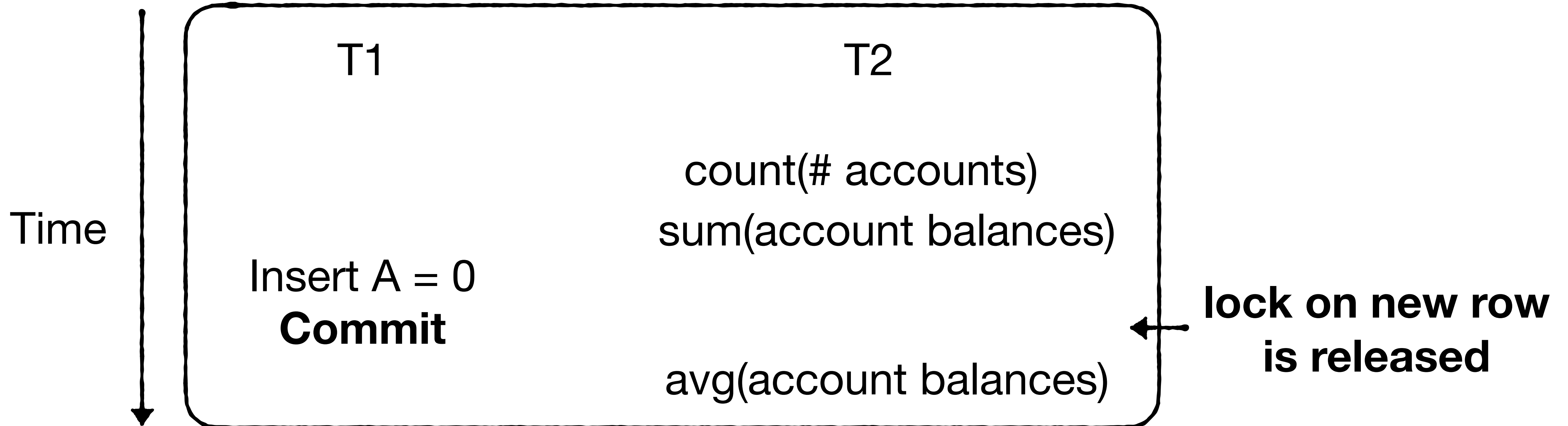
Problem?



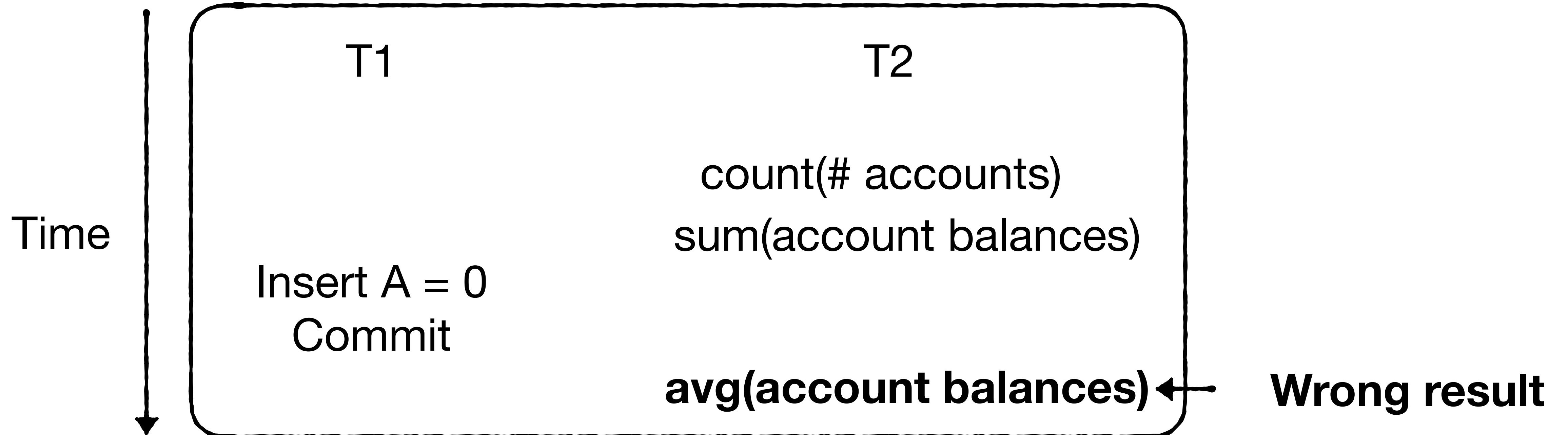
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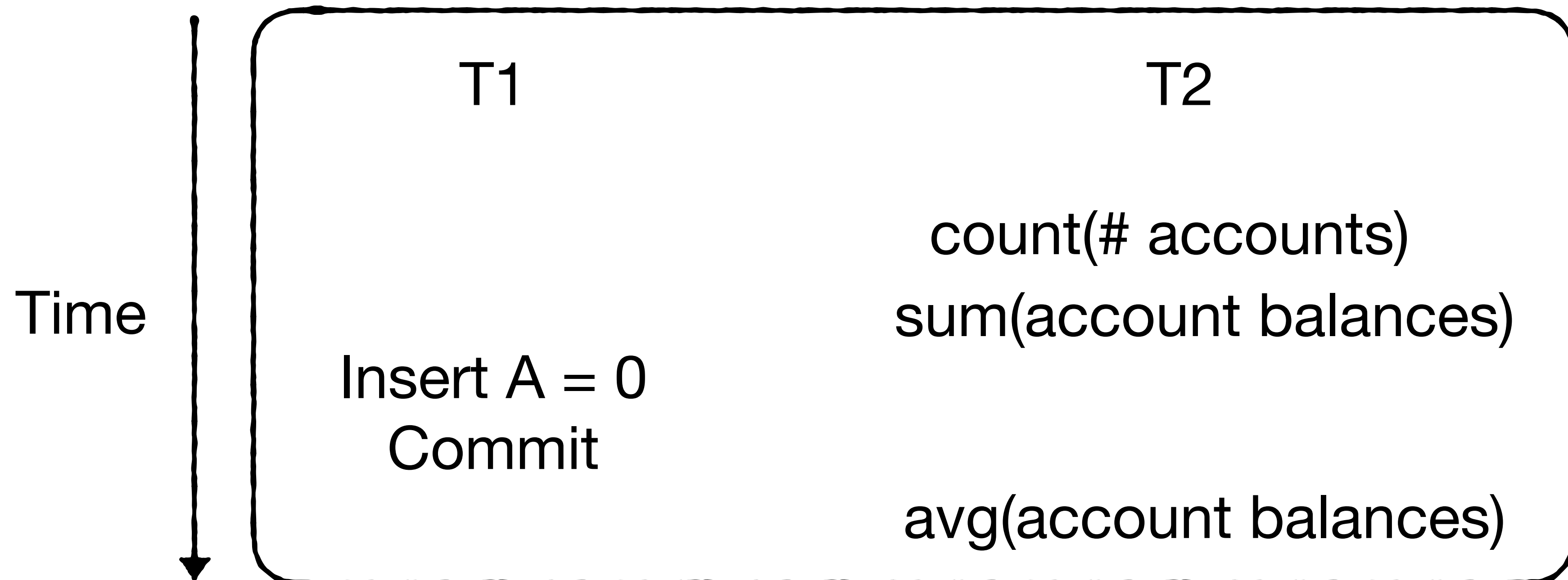
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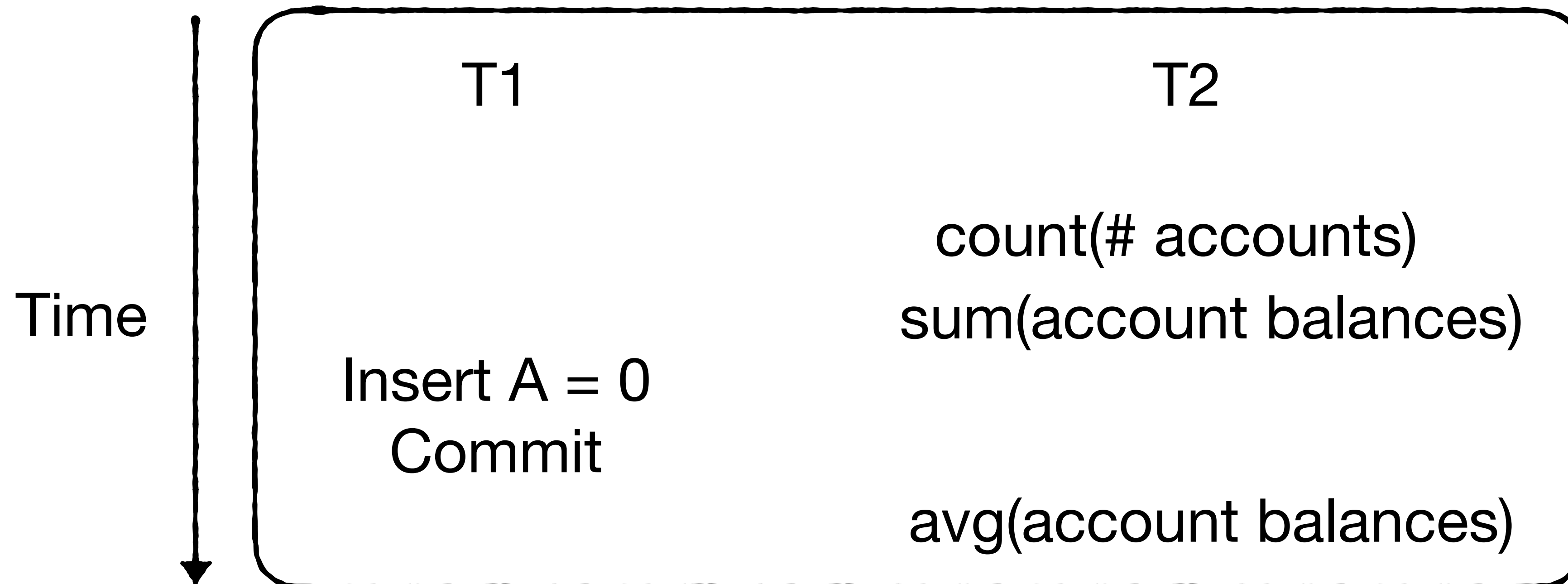


Problem? **Inconsistent reporting: $\text{avg} \neq \text{sum} / \text{count}$**



More broadly, this is a **phantom read**: a transaction accesses a set of rows twice, and qualifying rows are added in-between

How can we prevent phantom reads?



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How can we prevent phantom reads?

lock table



Aggressive

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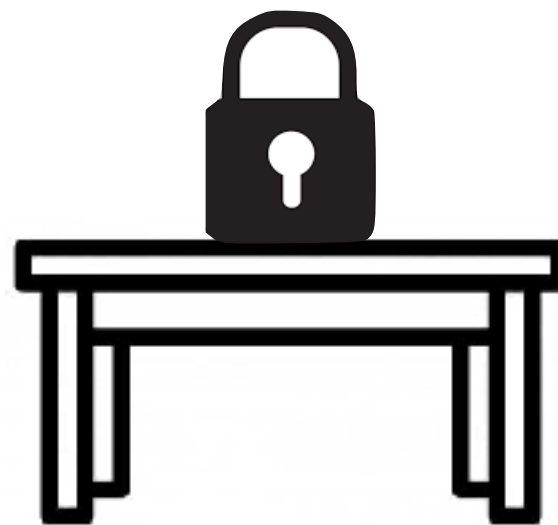
**Predicate
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**Complex &
expensive**

How can we prevent phantom reads?

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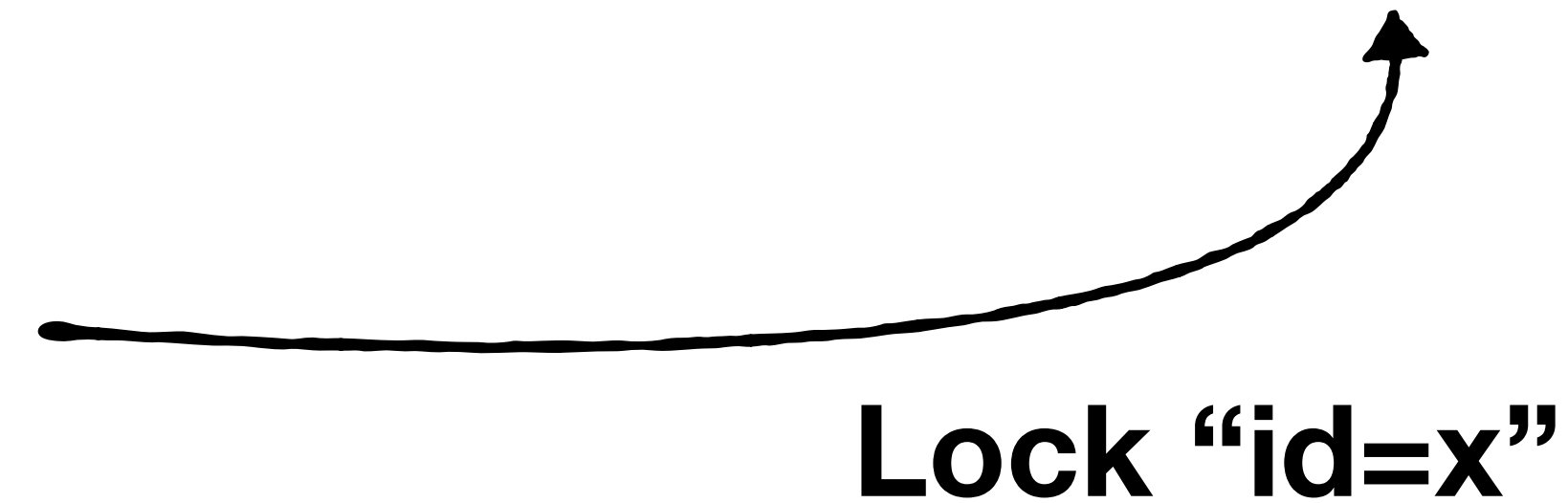
Aggressive

**Predicate
locking**



**Complex &
expensive**

Select * from table
where **ID=x**



Lock "id=x"

How can we prevent phantom reads?

lock table



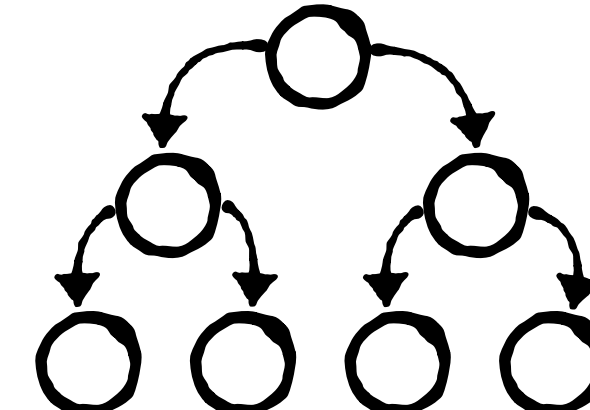
Aggressive

Predicate
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**Index
locking**

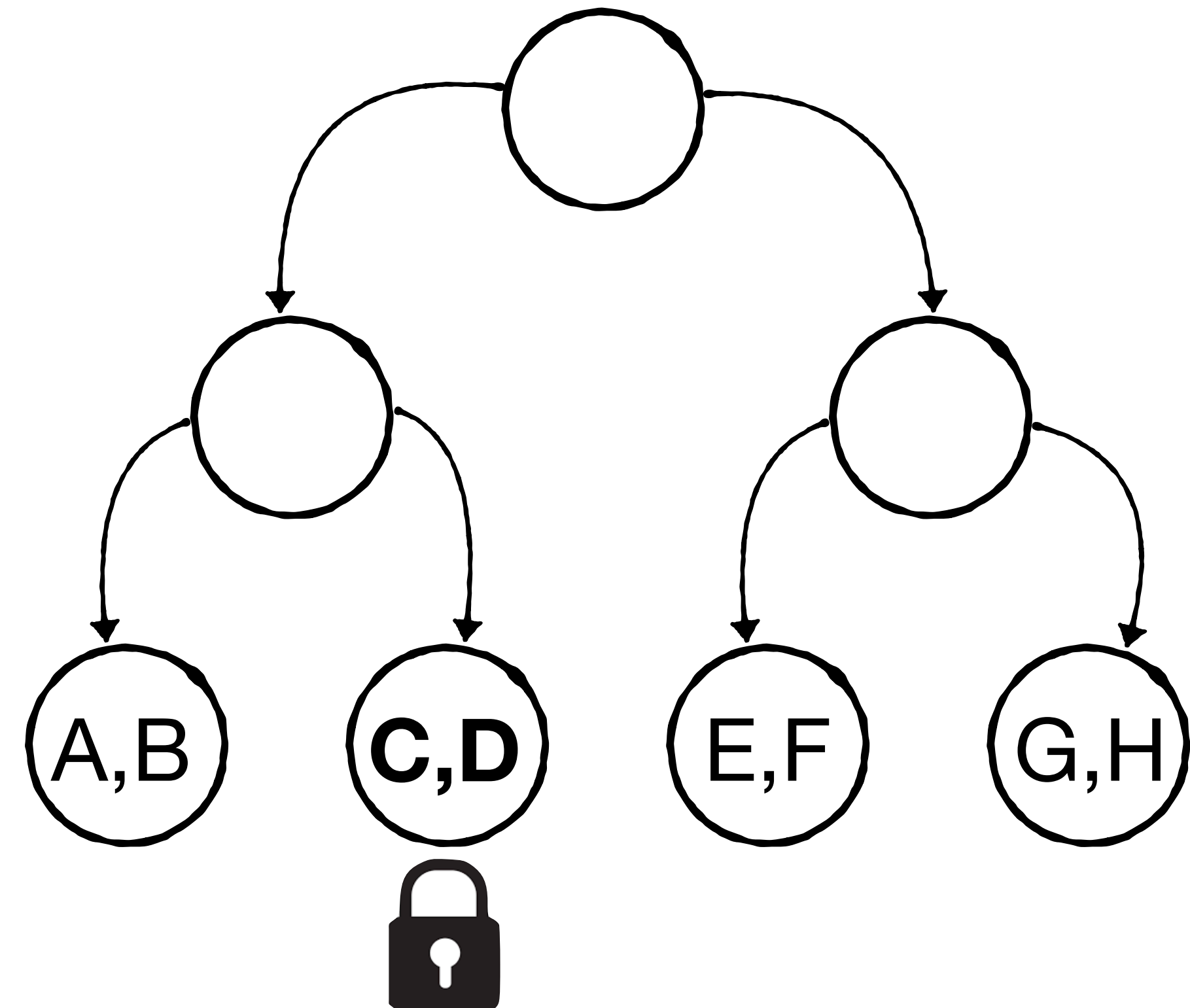


**Good but
requires an index**

Index Locking

Lock B-tree leaf storing relevant range

Example: Select * from accounts
where **ID="Cindy"**

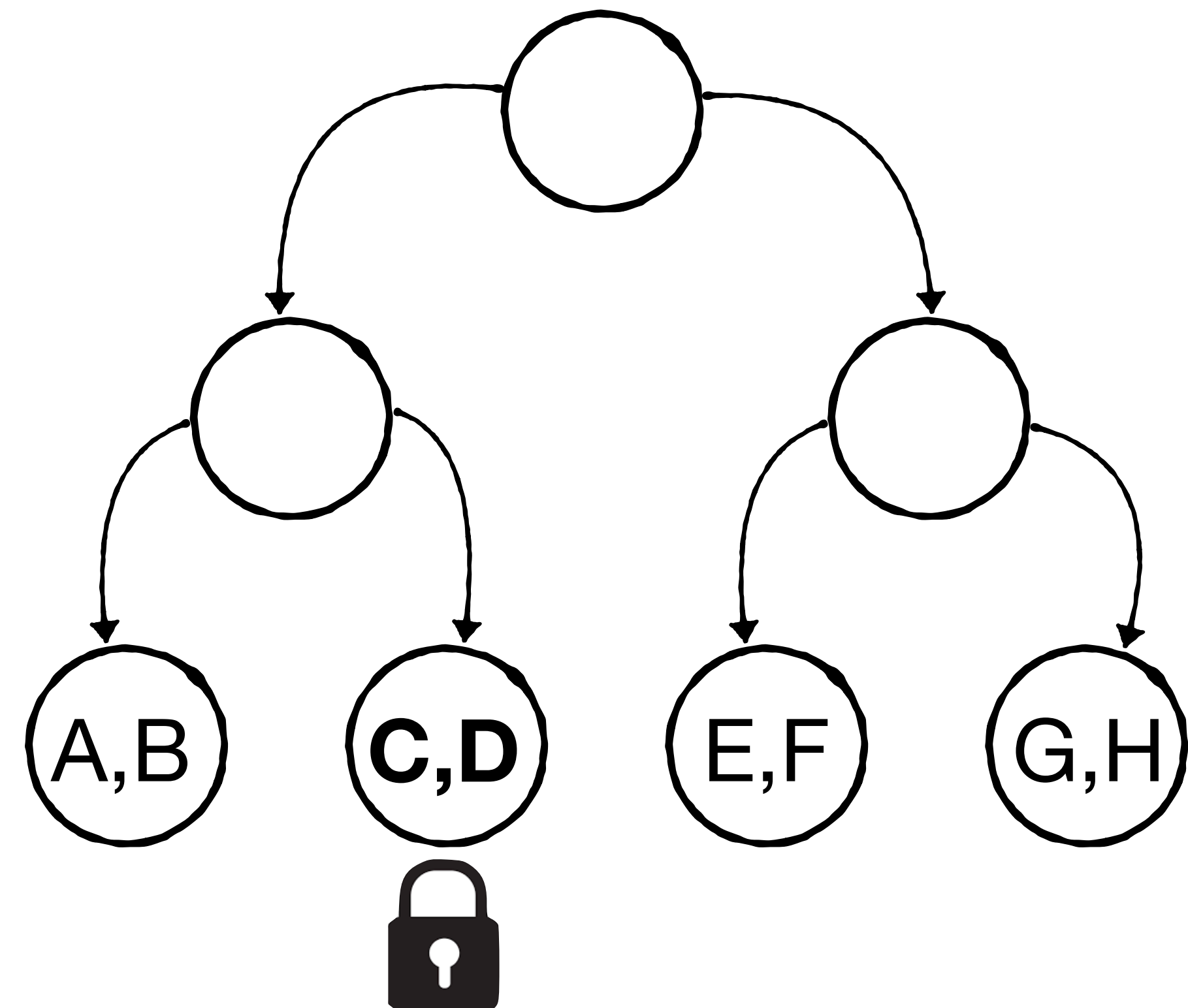


Index Locking

Lock B-tree leaf storing relevant range

Example: Select * from accounts
where **ID="Cindy"**

**So we do not have to lock the whole
table as long as we have an index :)**



Example 1

Interest & Payments



Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Example 3

Inserts & Statistics



Phantom Read

Range locks

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Example 3

Inserts & Statistics



Phantom Read

Range locks

More correct but slower

Example 1

Interest & Payments



Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics



Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

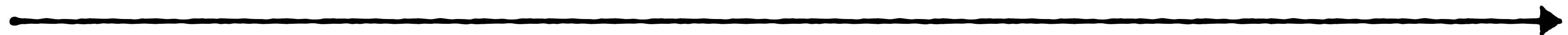
Example 3

Inserts & Statistics



Phantom Read

Range locks



Compromising correctness is fine for some applications

ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

	Dirty read	Unrepeatable read	Phantom reads
Read uncommitted			
Read committed			
Repeatable reads			
Serializable			

ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

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ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

Read uncommitted

Exclusive write locks not held until a transaction ends

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Repeatable reads

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ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

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Serializable	

ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

Read uncommitted	Exclusive write locks not held until a transaction ends
Read committed	Shared read locks not held until a transaction ends
Repeatable reads	Range locks not employed (e.g., no tree/table locking)
Serializable	Everything is fully correct

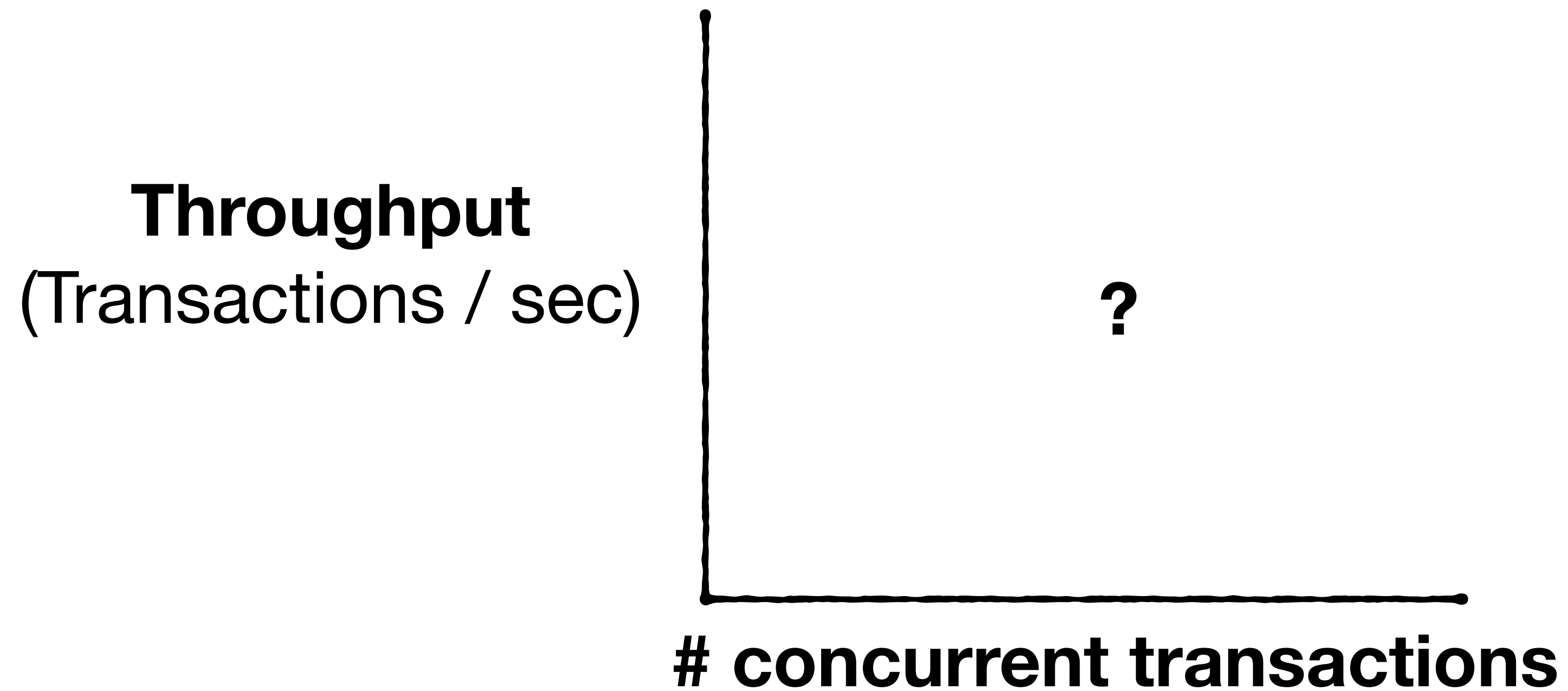
The default in many relational DB systems



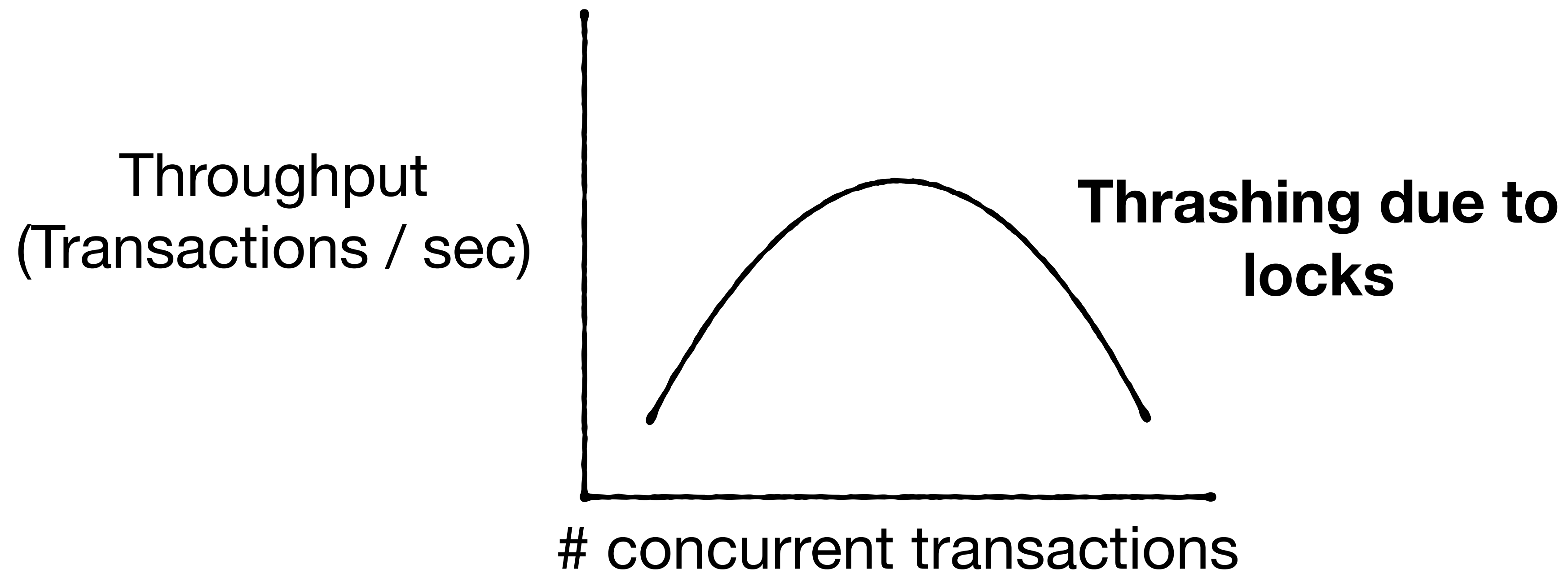
Repeatable reads

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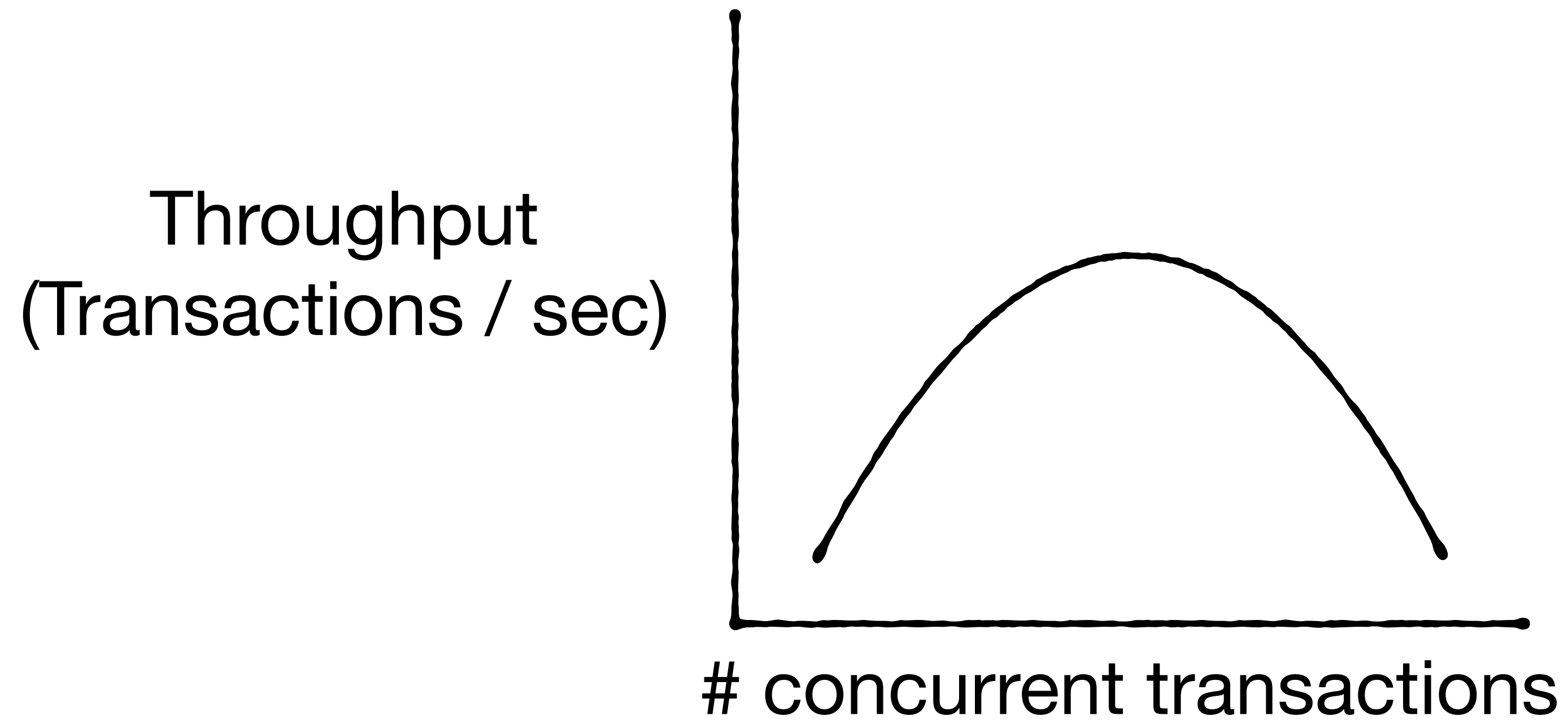
What do you think this curve should look like?



What do you think this curve should look like?



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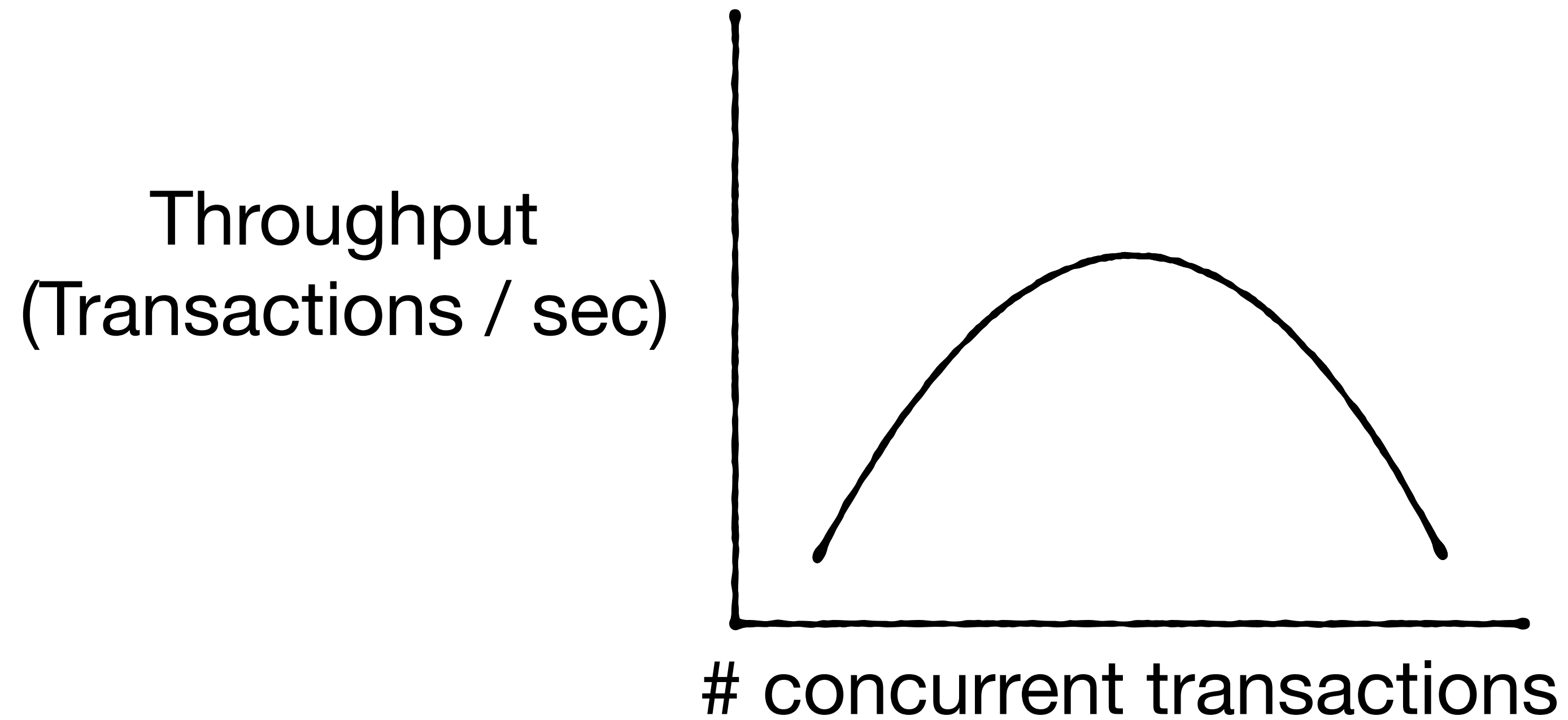


How can we address this?

(1)

(2)

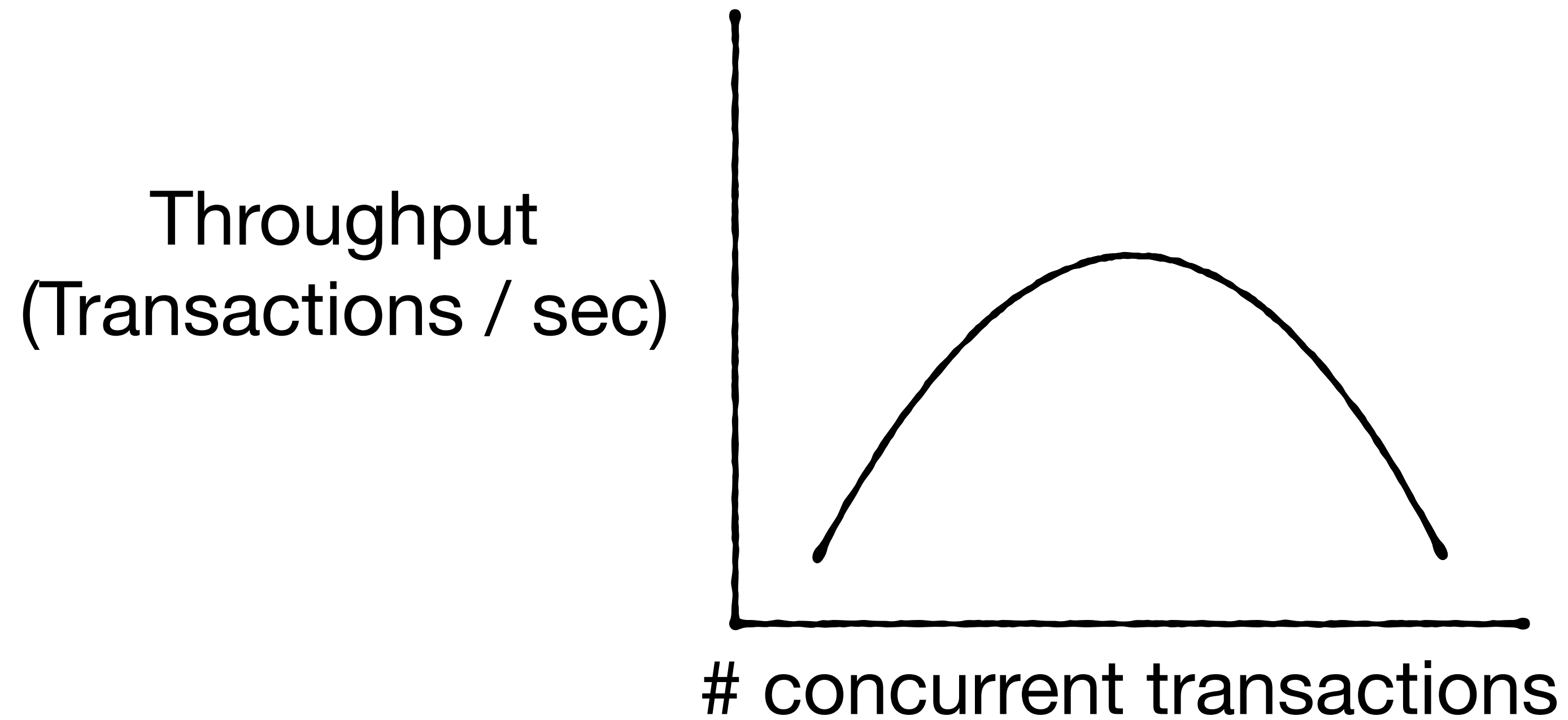
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How can we address this?

- (1) **Design the application such that transactions are short**
- (2)

What do you think this curve should look like?

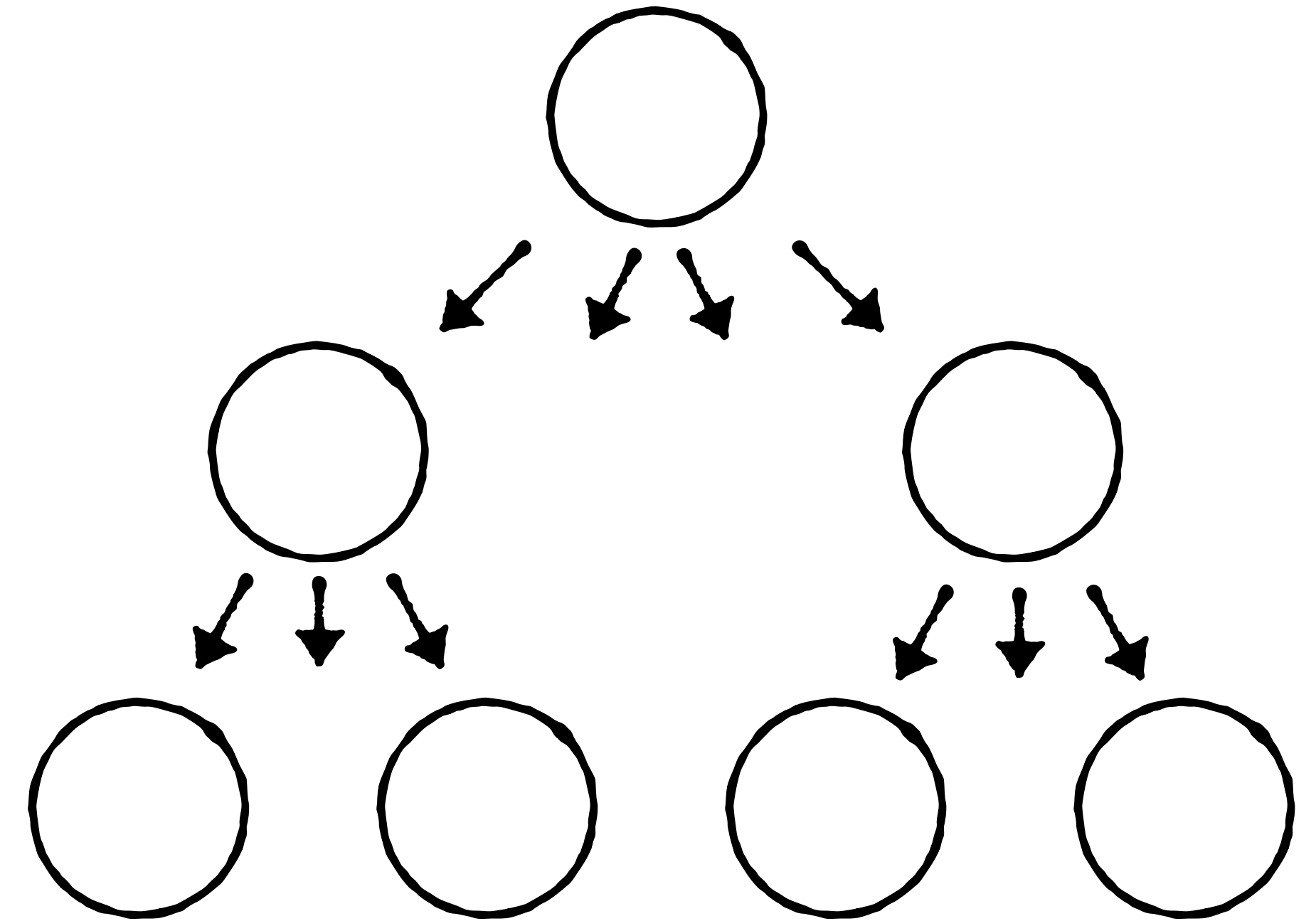


How can we address this?

- (1) Design the application such that transactions are short
- (2) **Restrict the maximum number of concurrent transactions**

With Strict Two-Phase Locking, a transaction locks all objects on its path until it commits

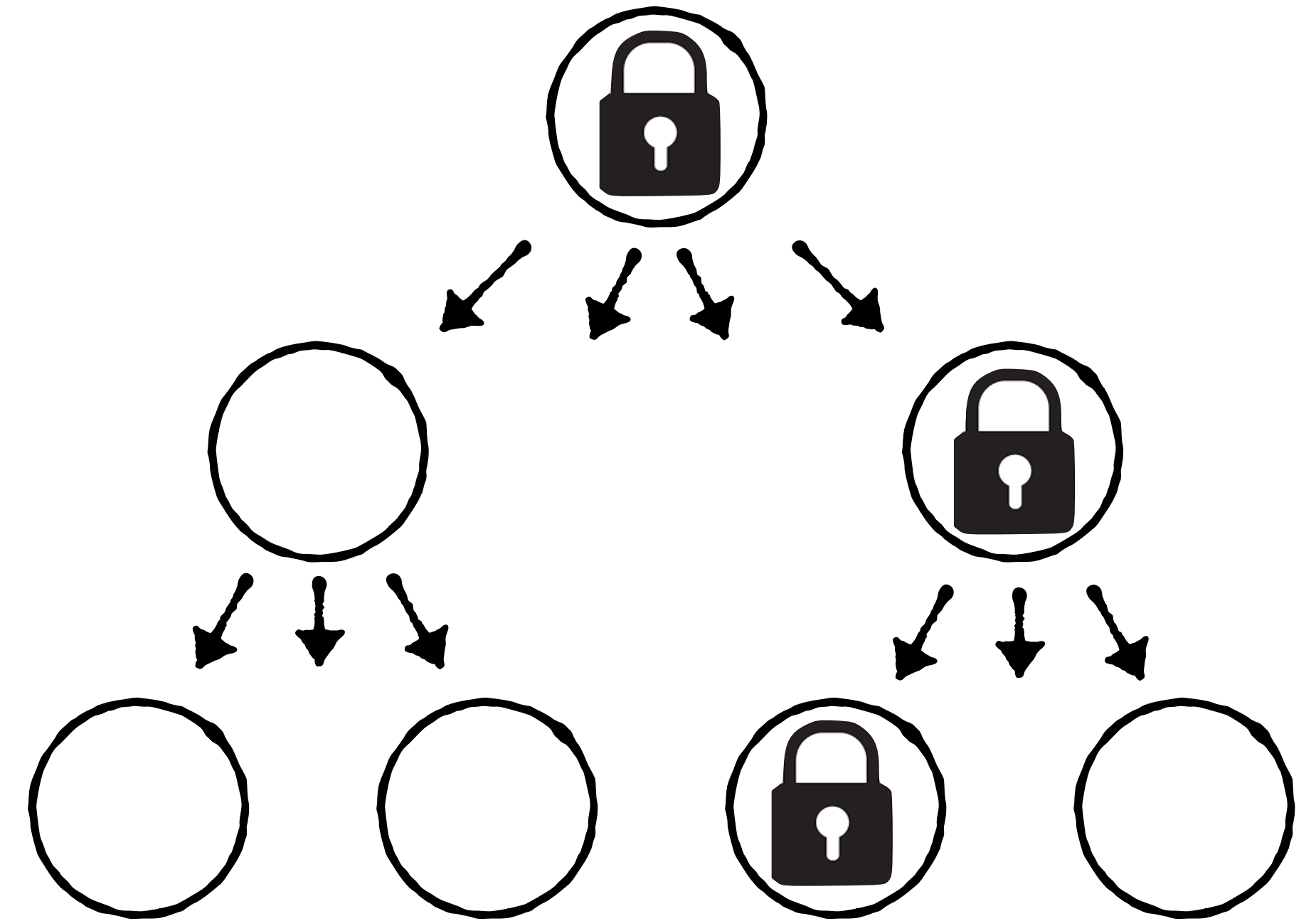
Why is this a problem for B-tree update?



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Why is this a problem for B-tree update?

Lots of locking contention at root and upper levels

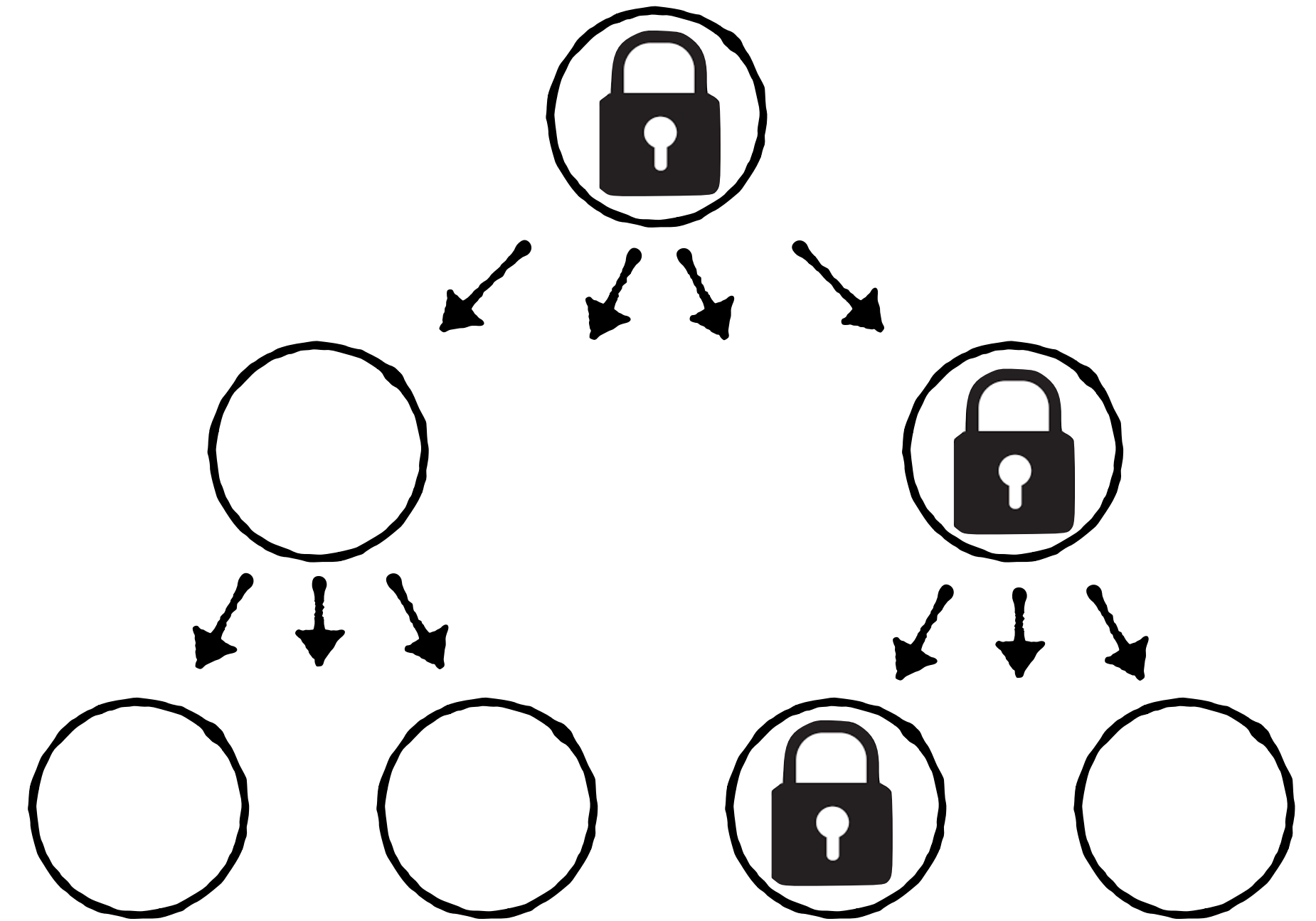


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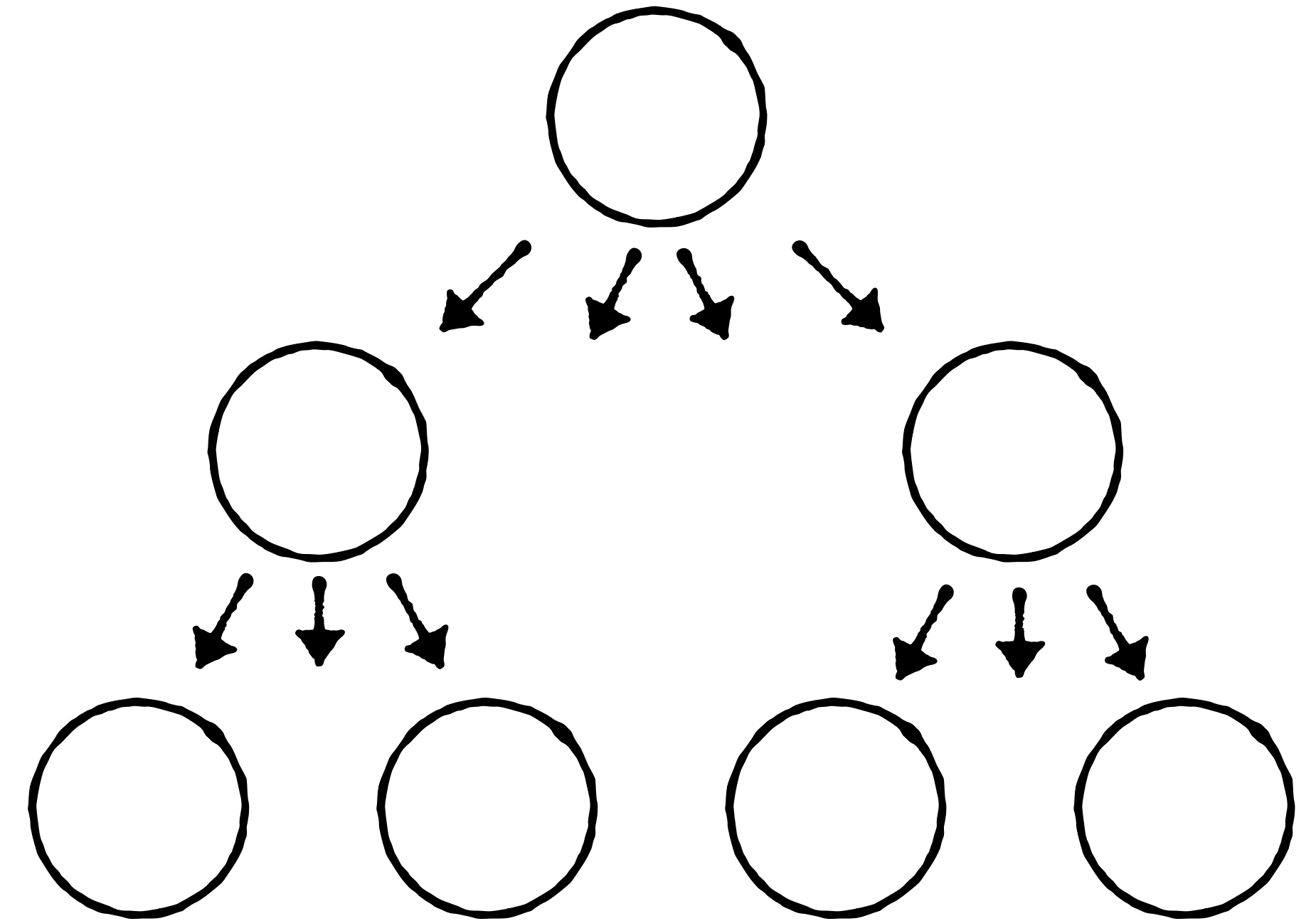
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Any solutions?

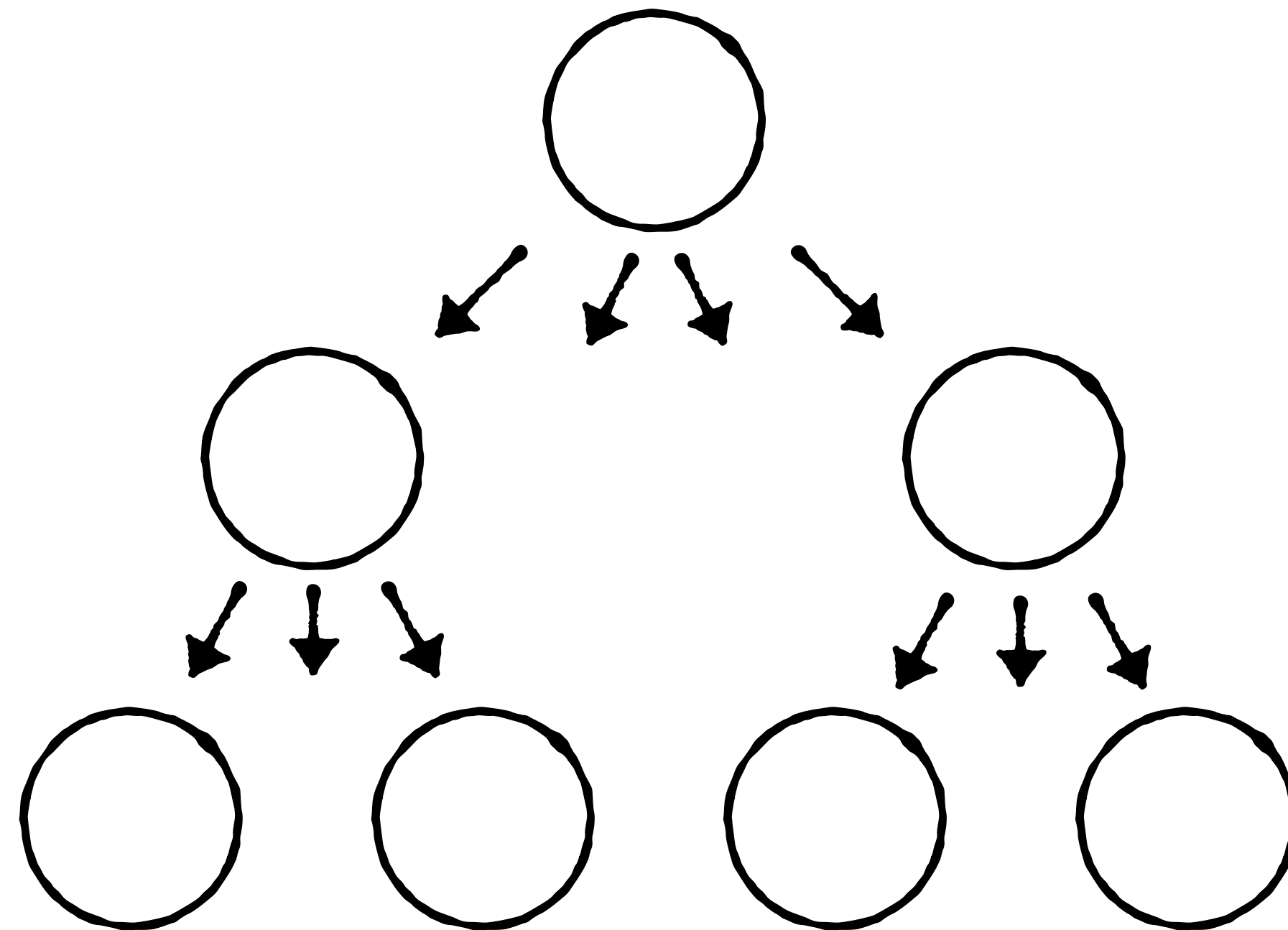


What must we lock at minimum to ensure correctness?



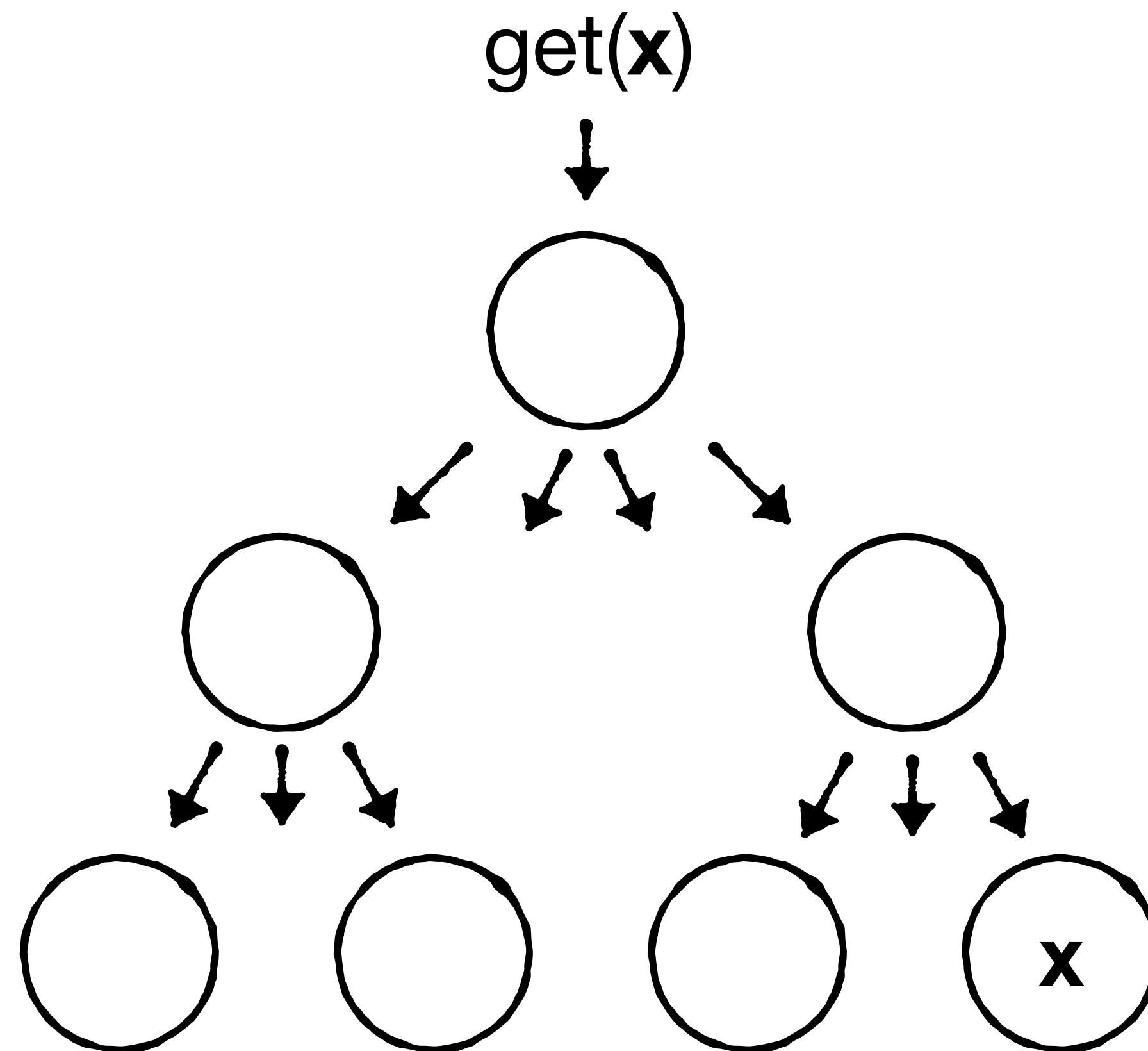
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(1) We must maintain lock on parent as we acquire lock on child. Otherwise, another transaction may split child before we get to it



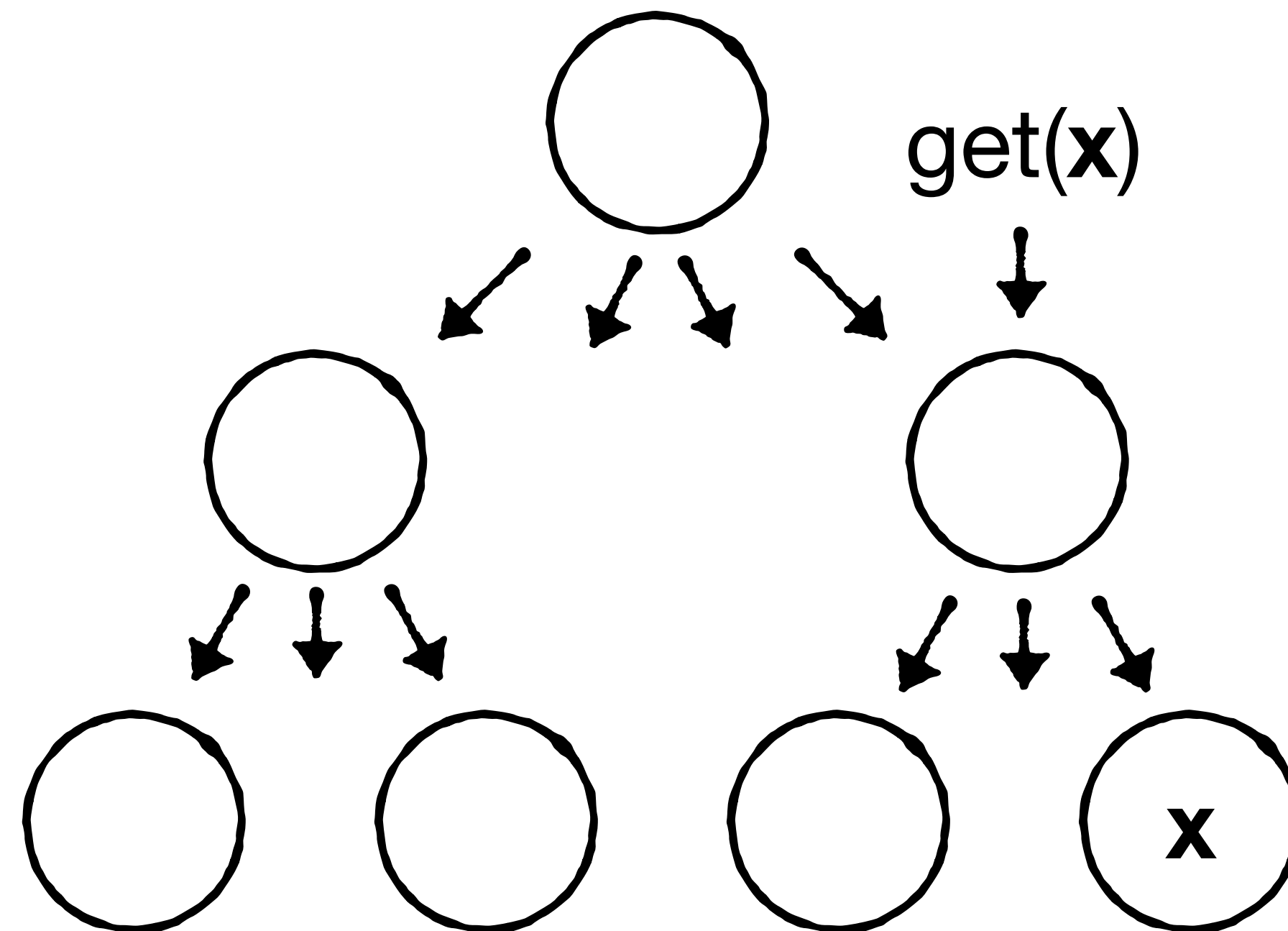
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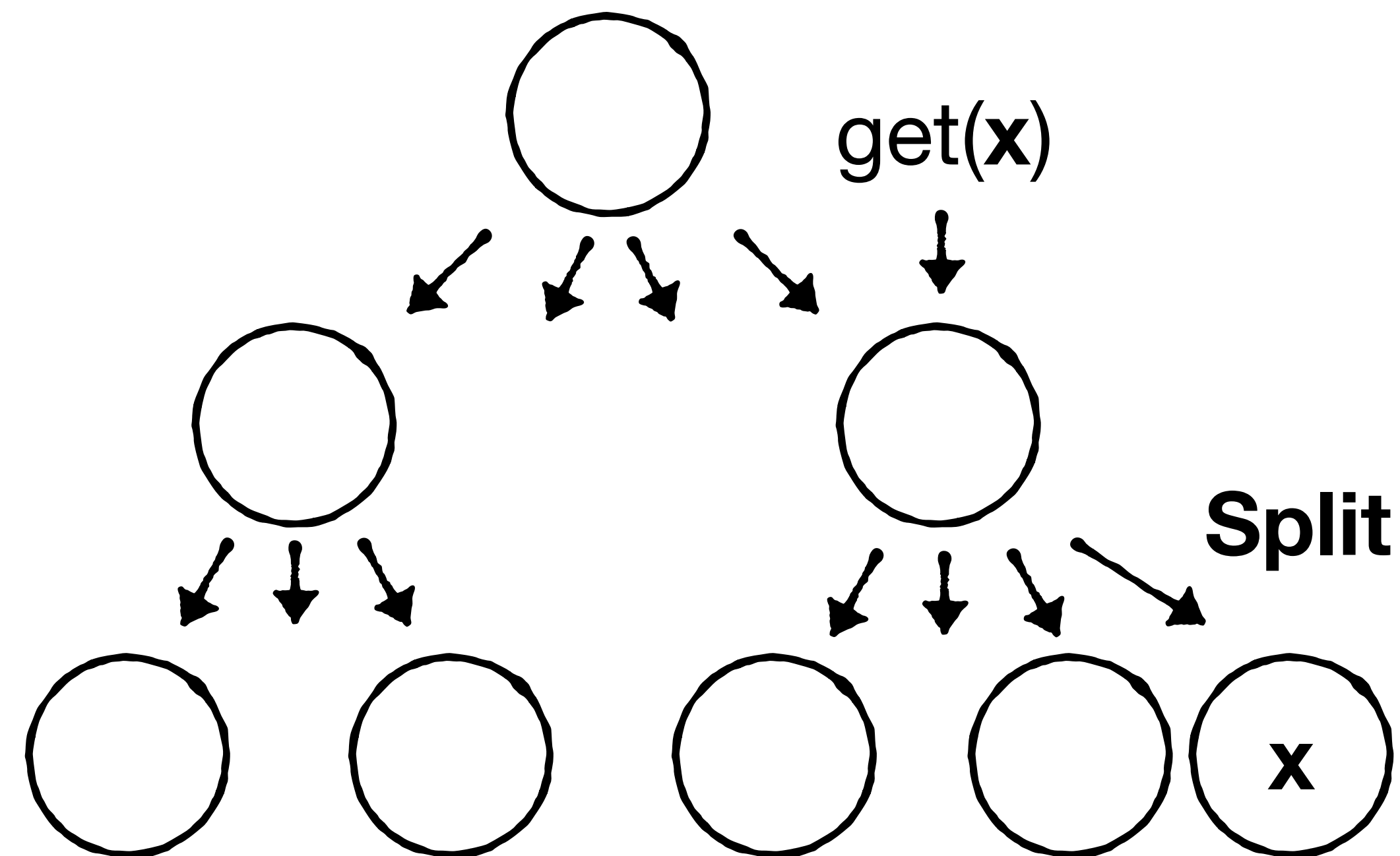
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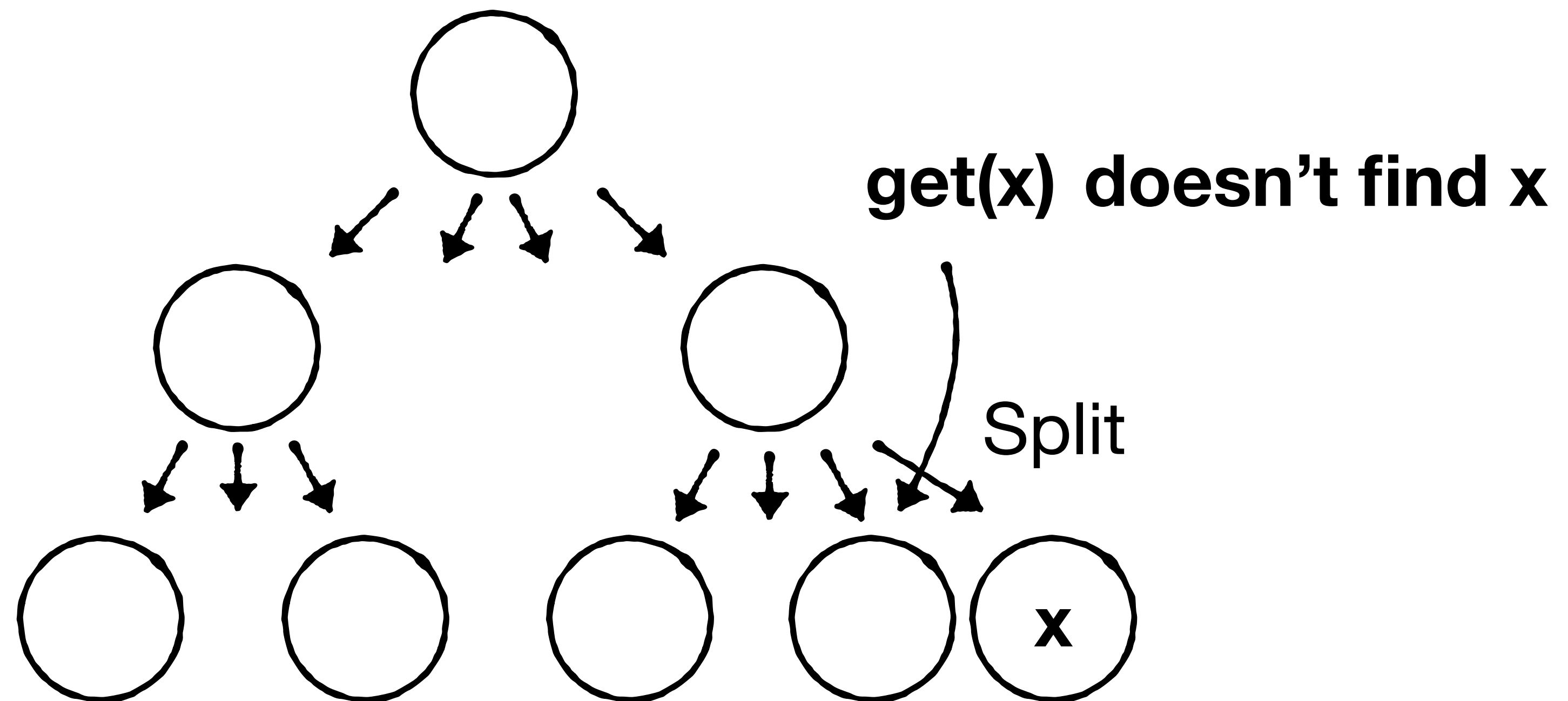
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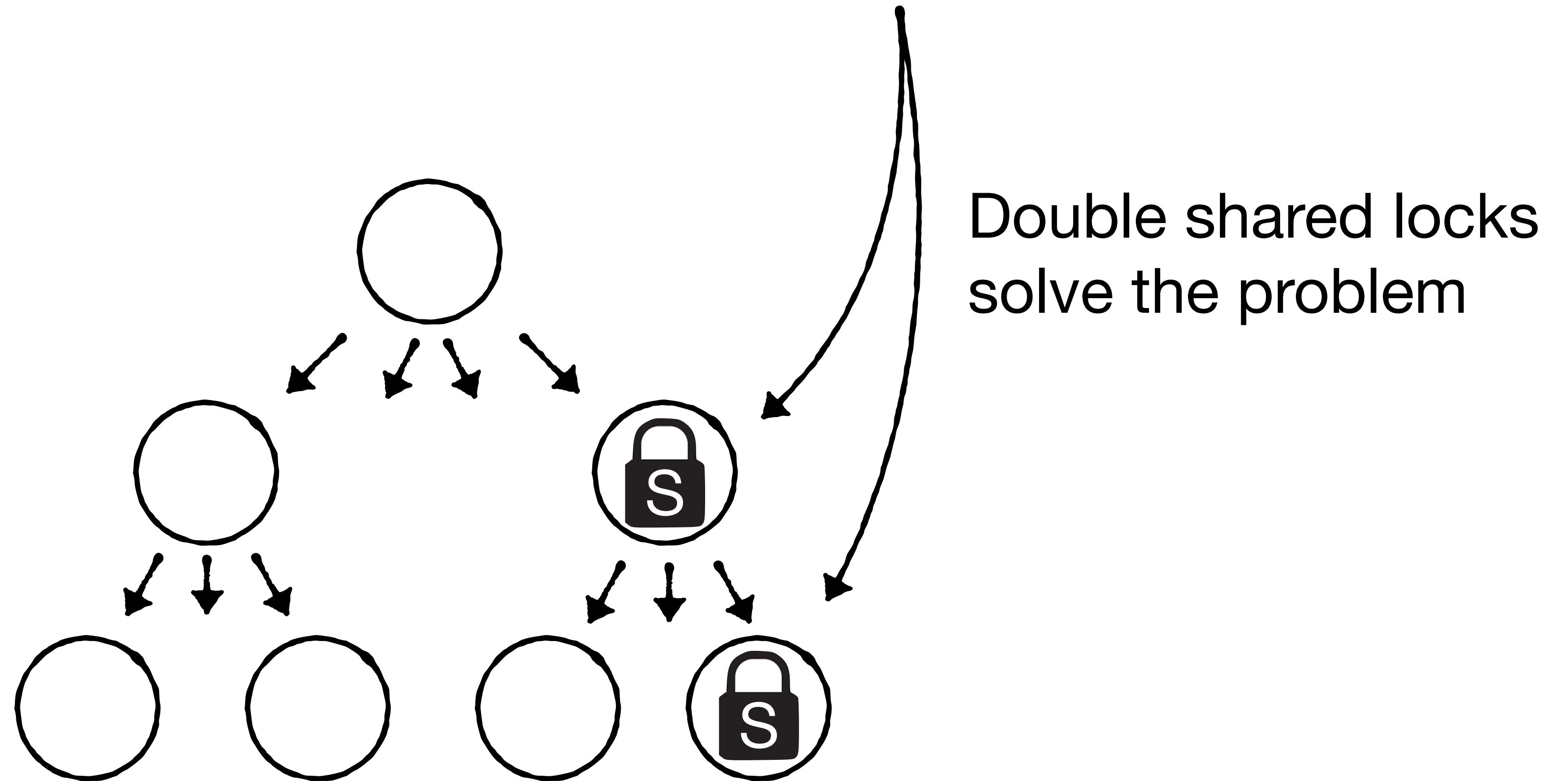
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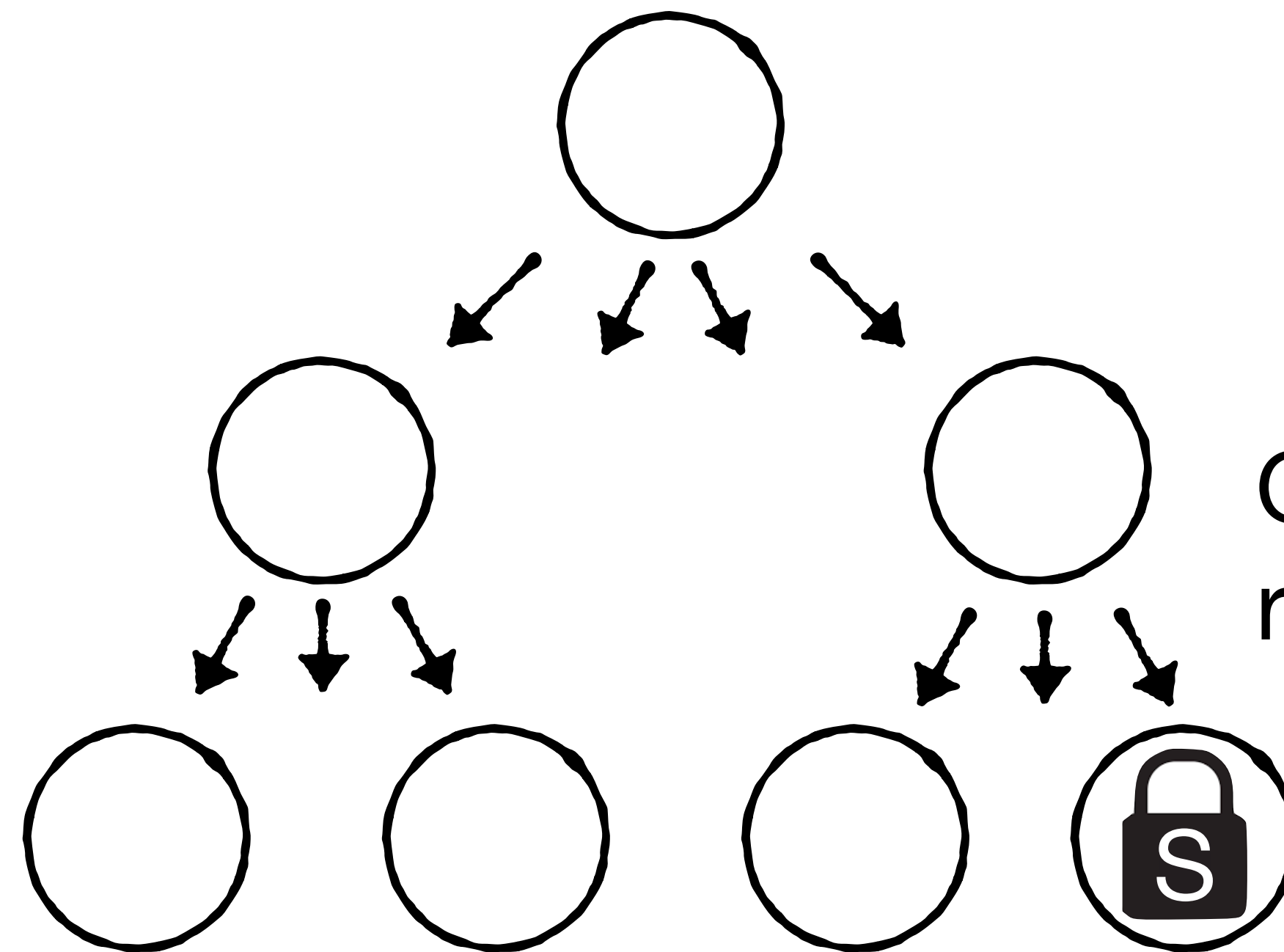
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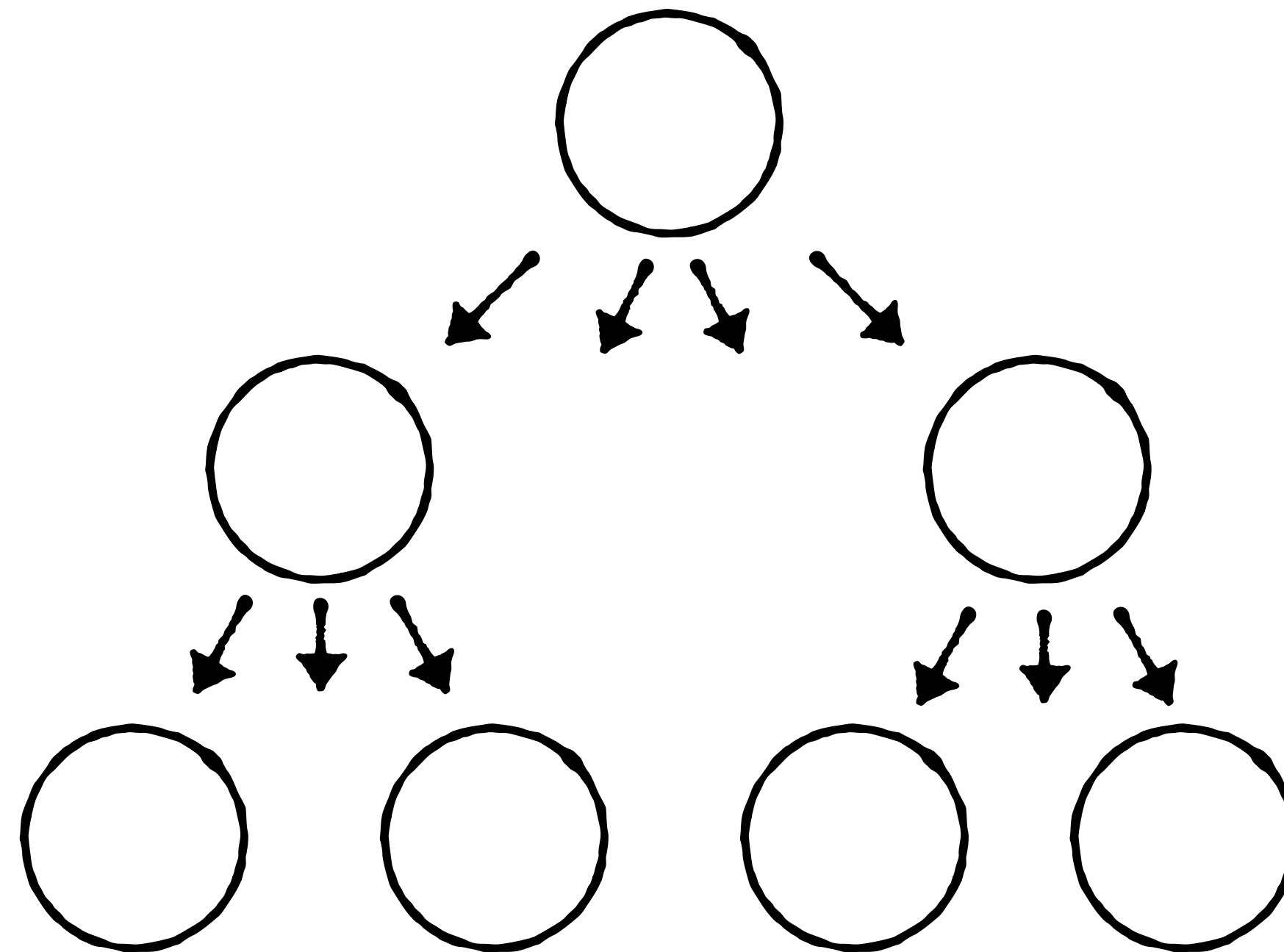
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Once we hold lock on child,
release lock on parent

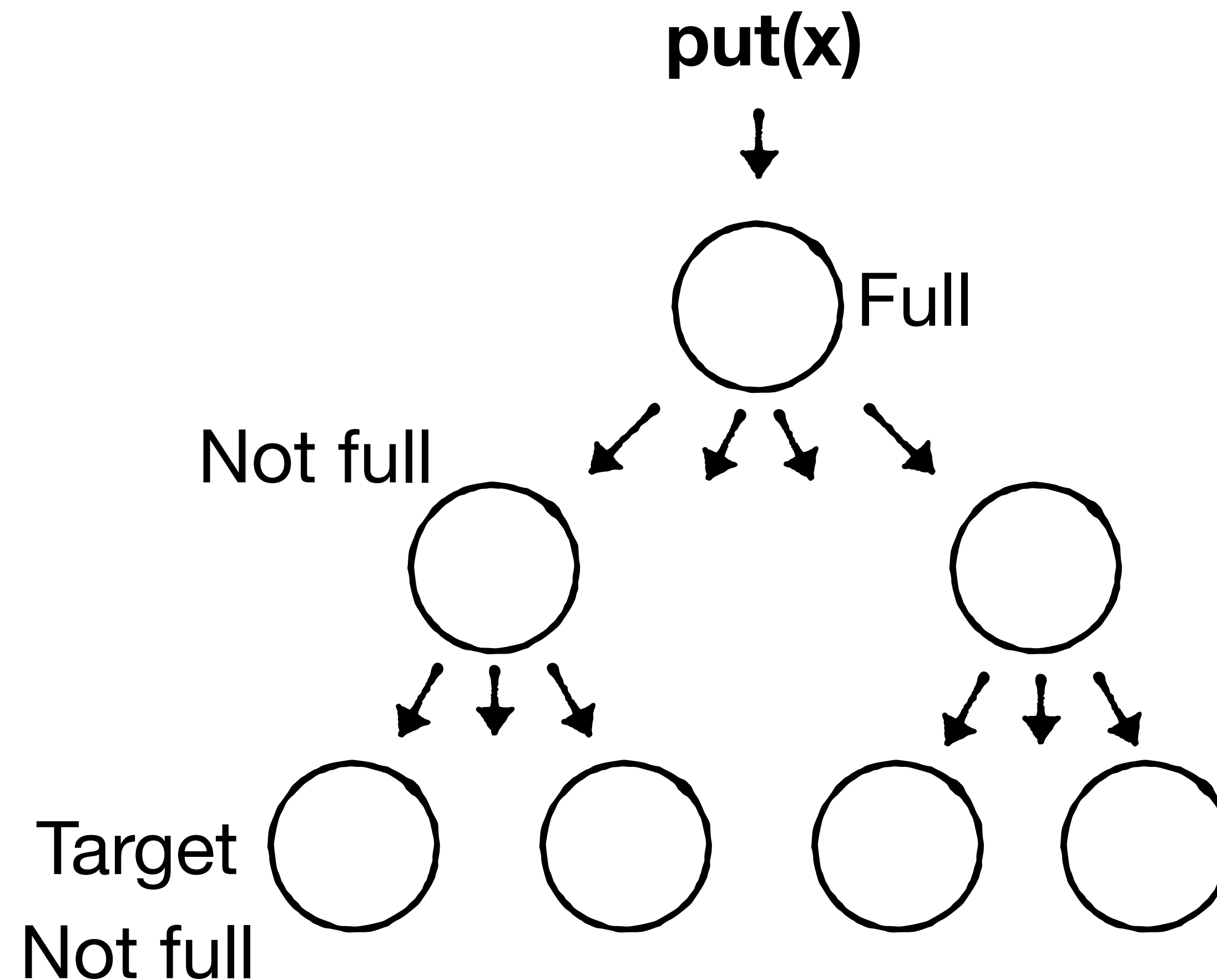
What must we lock at minimum to ensure correctness?

(2) Once we reach child, we only need to hold a lock on a parent if the child is full, as a split would propagate upwards



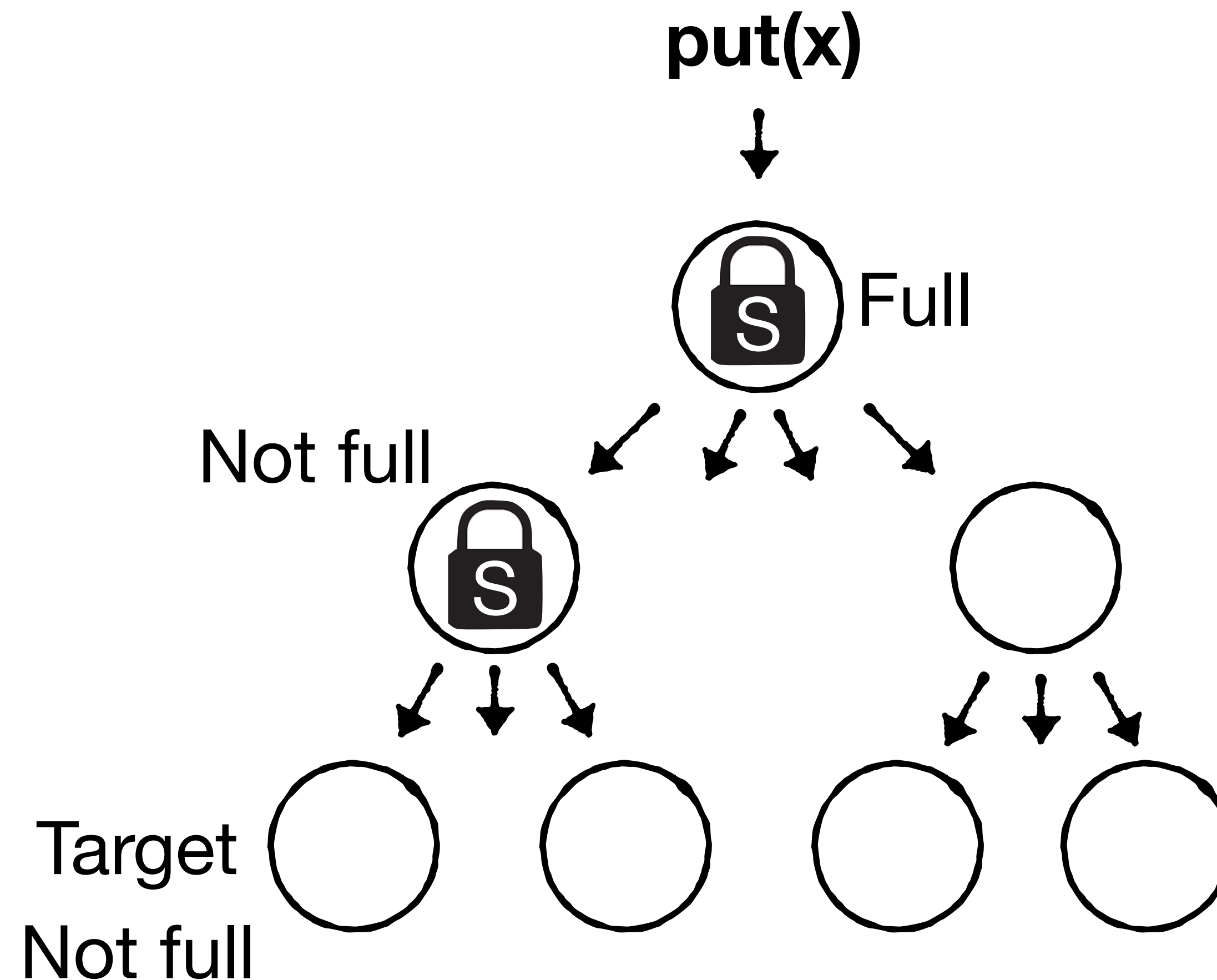
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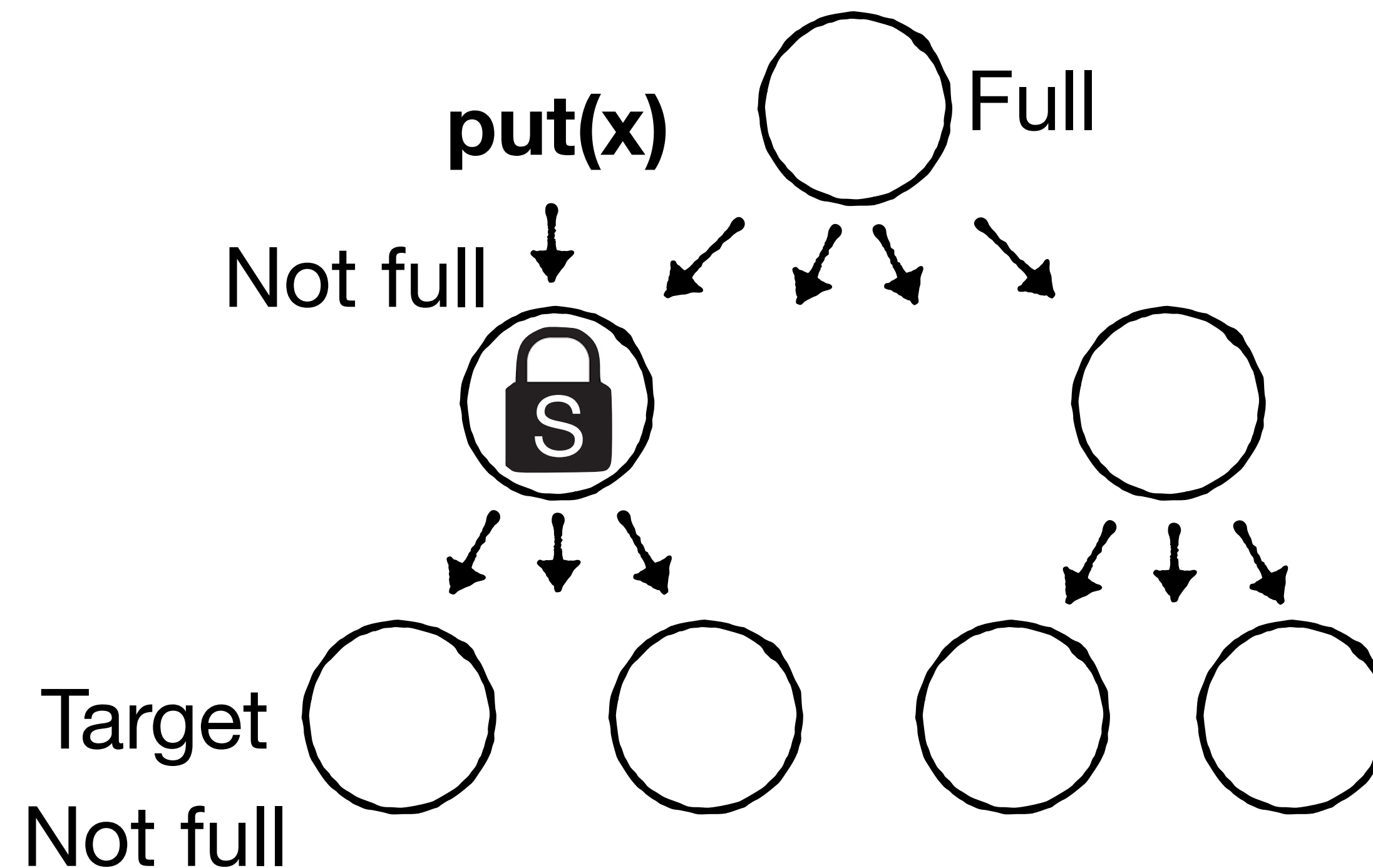
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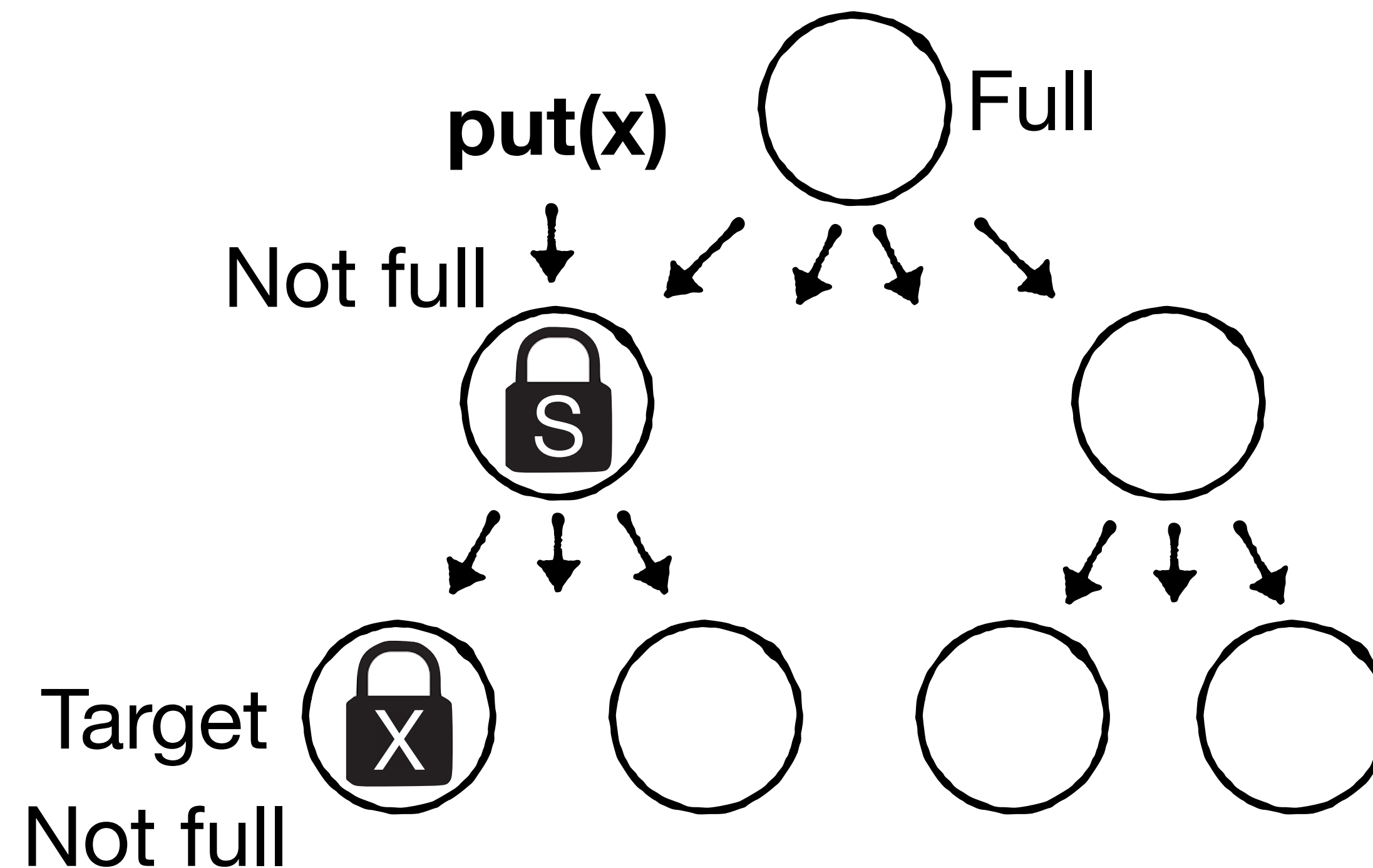
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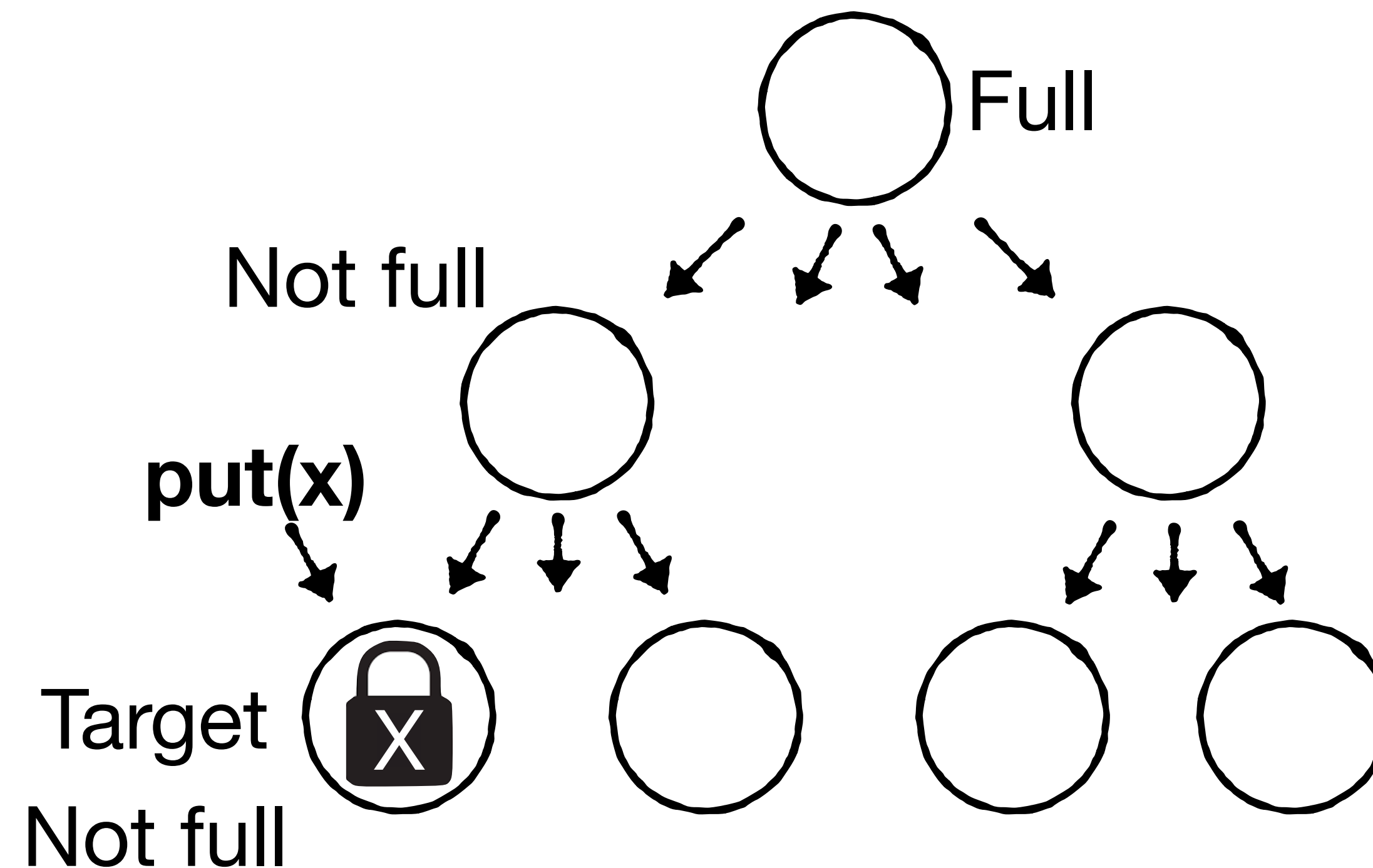
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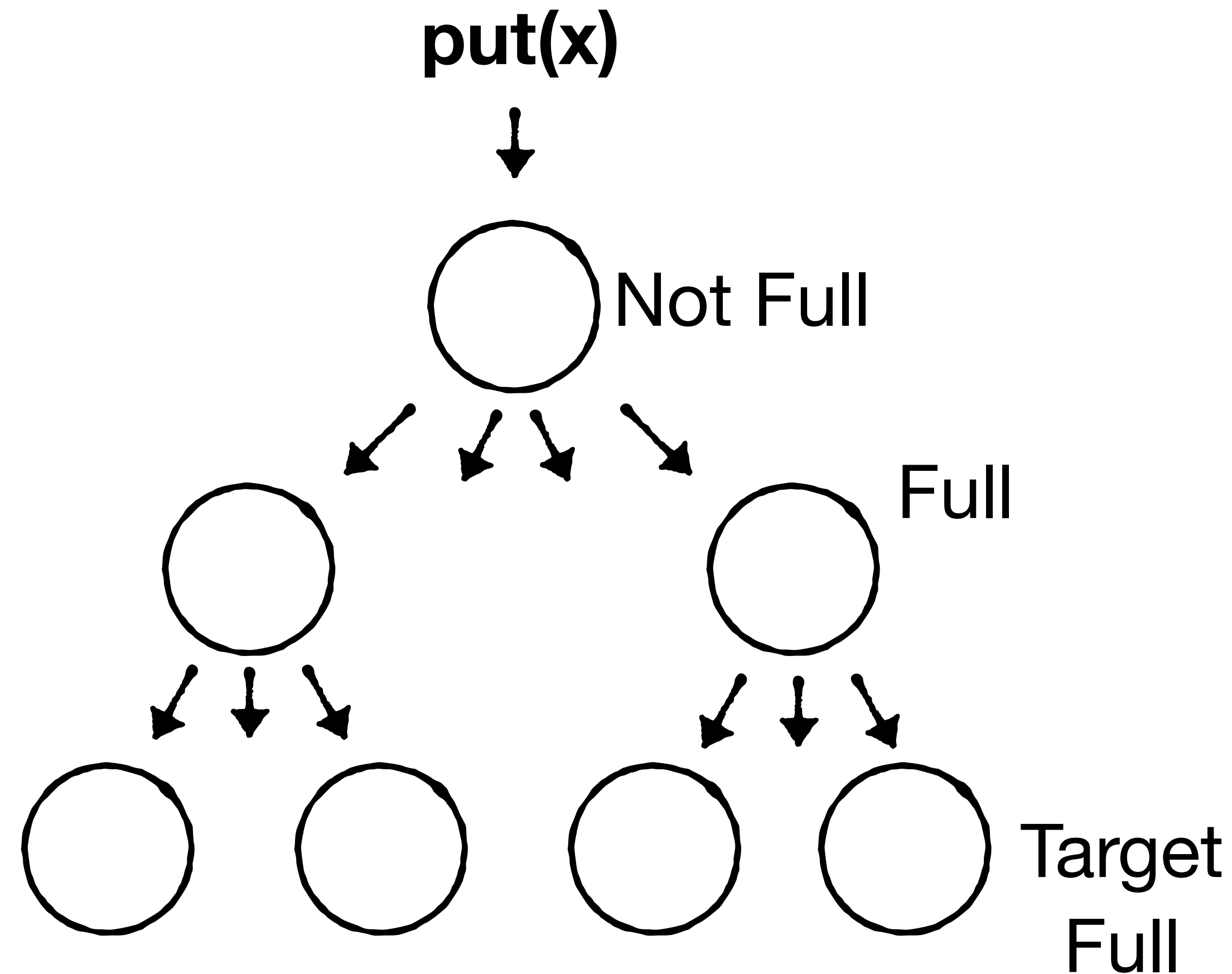
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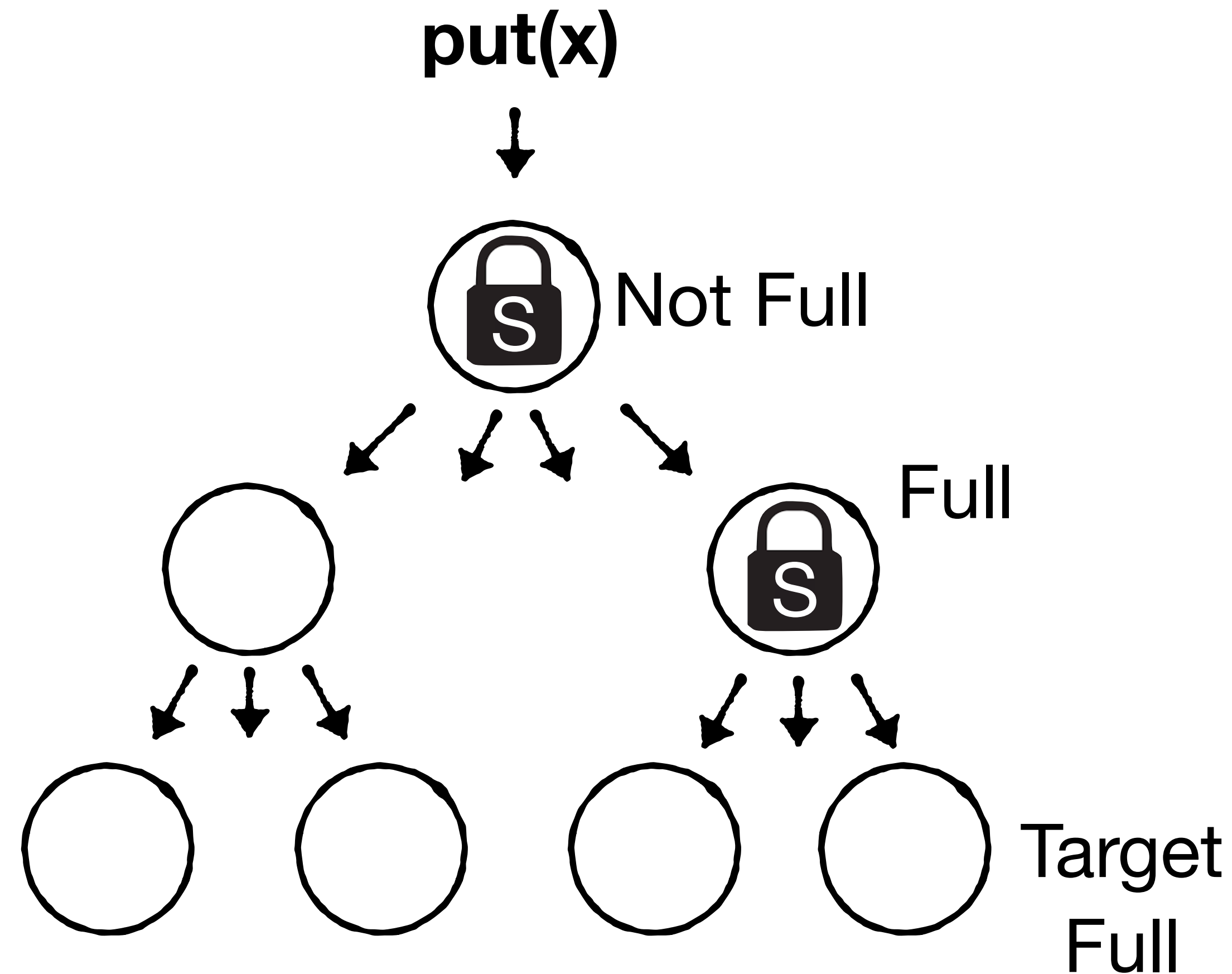
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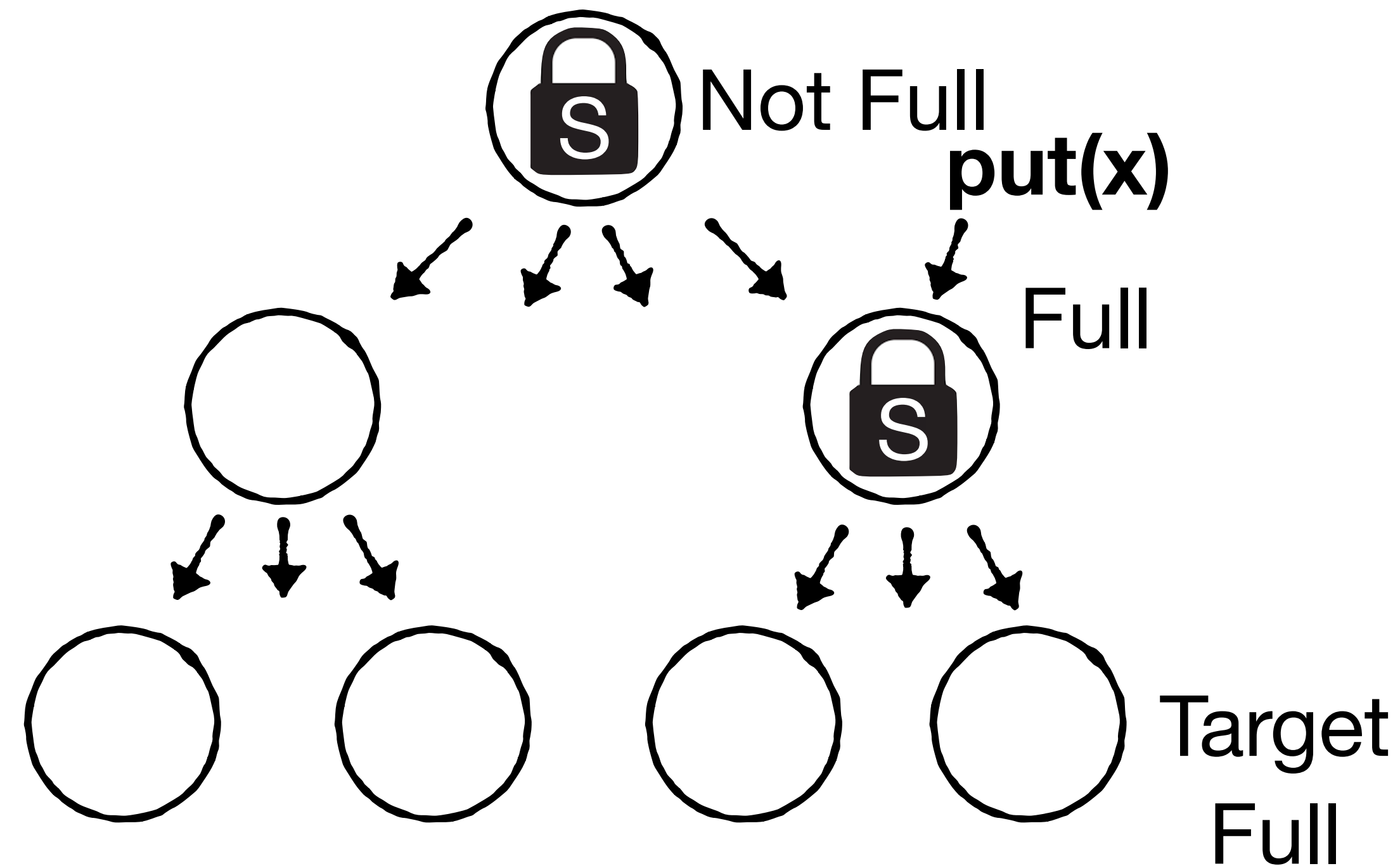
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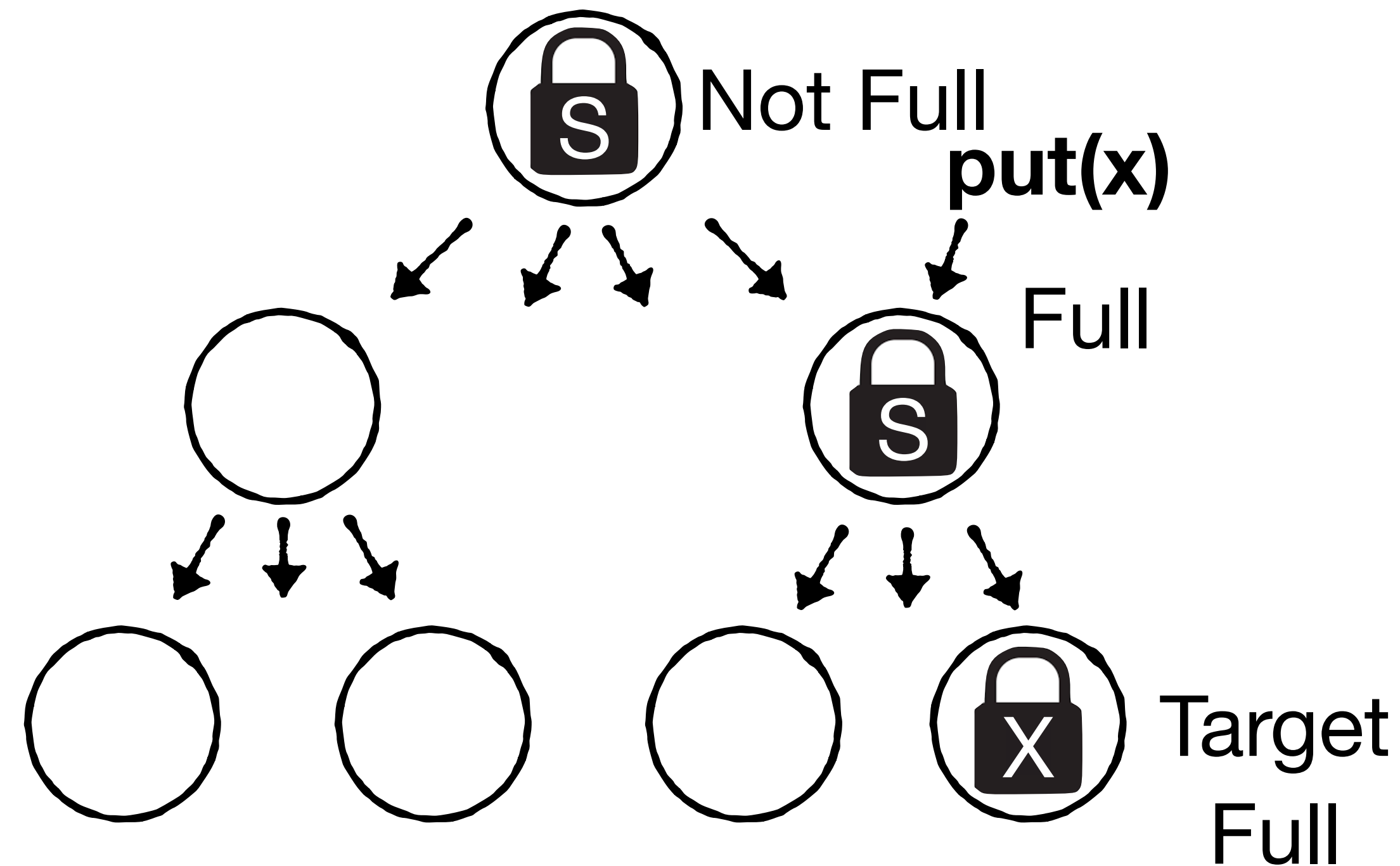
What must we lock at minimum to ensure correctness?

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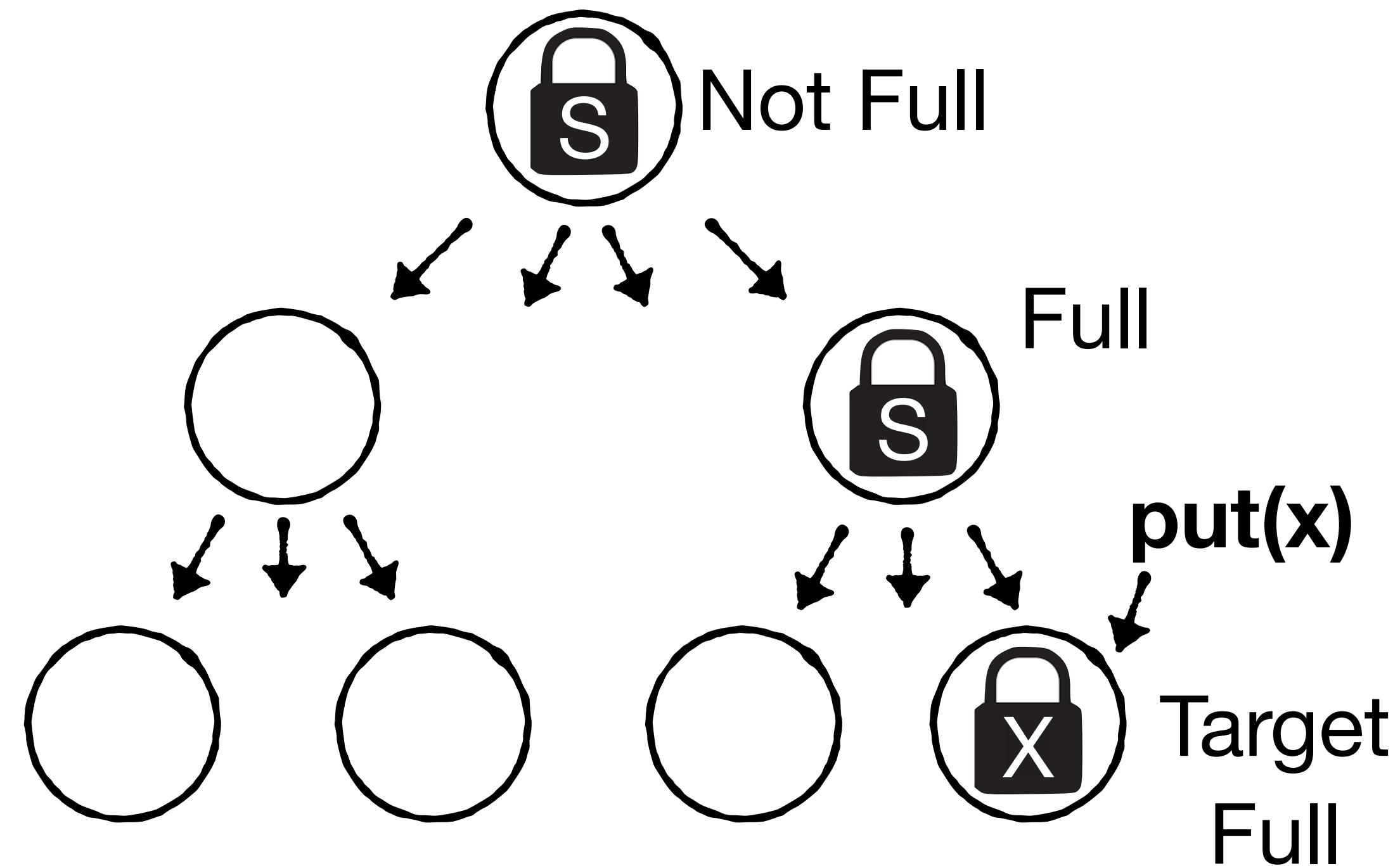
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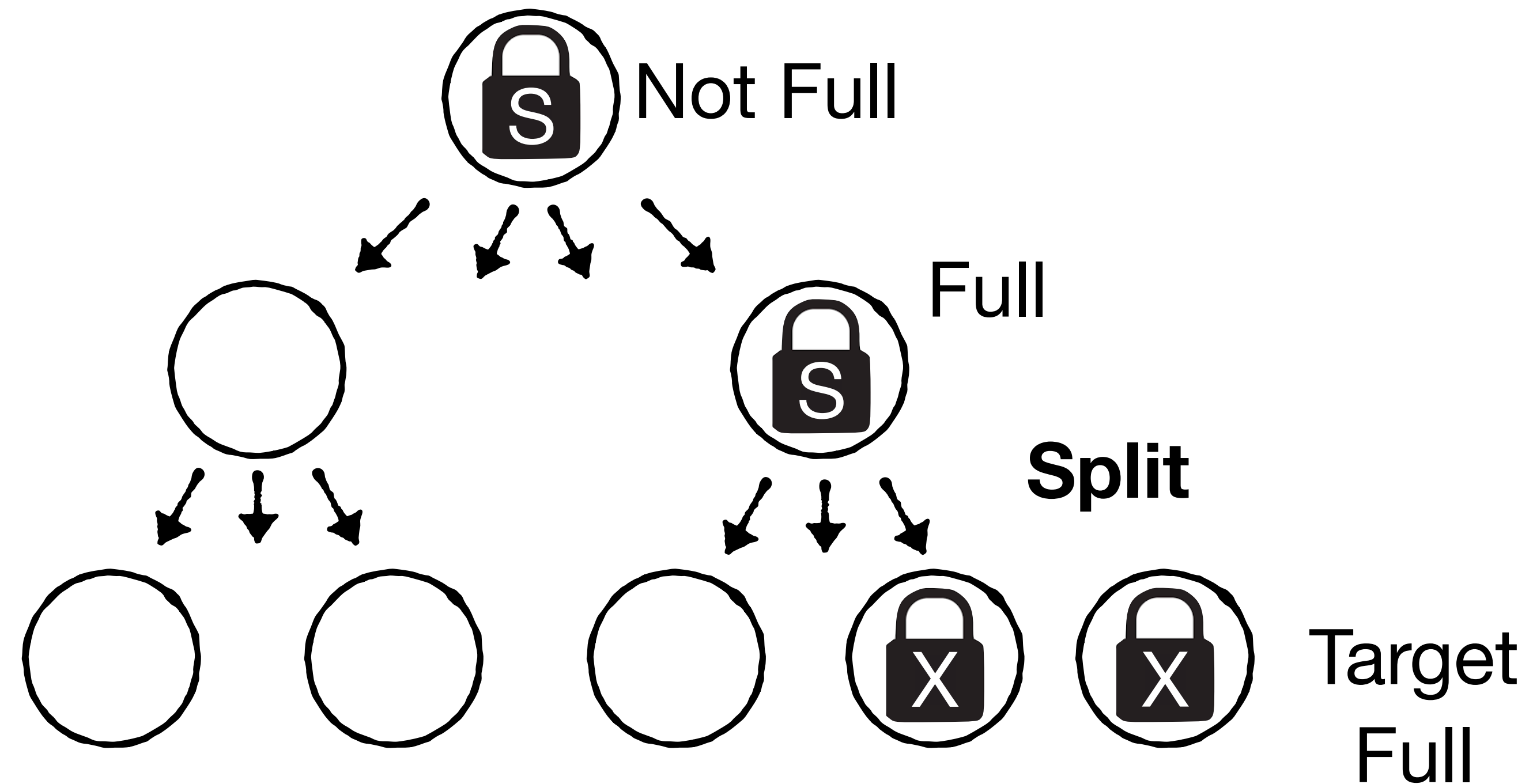
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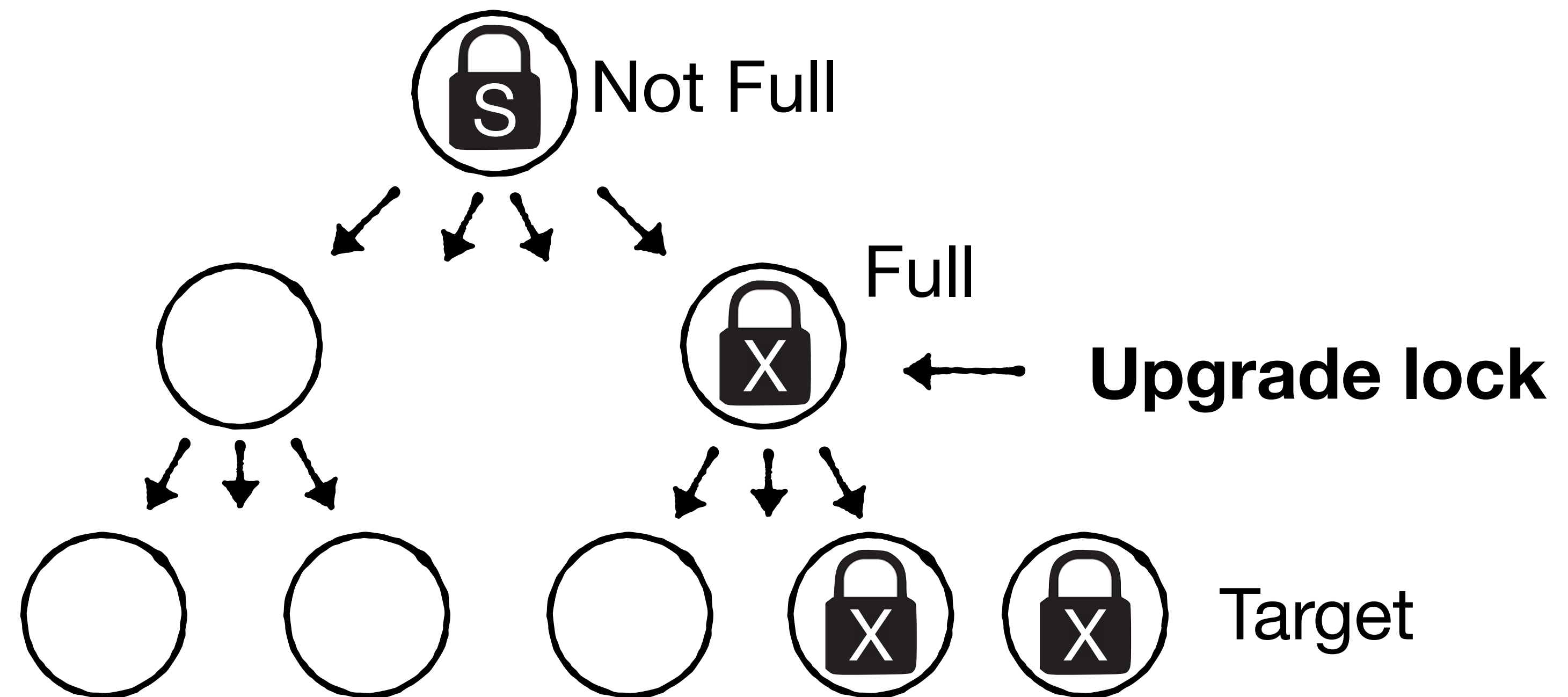
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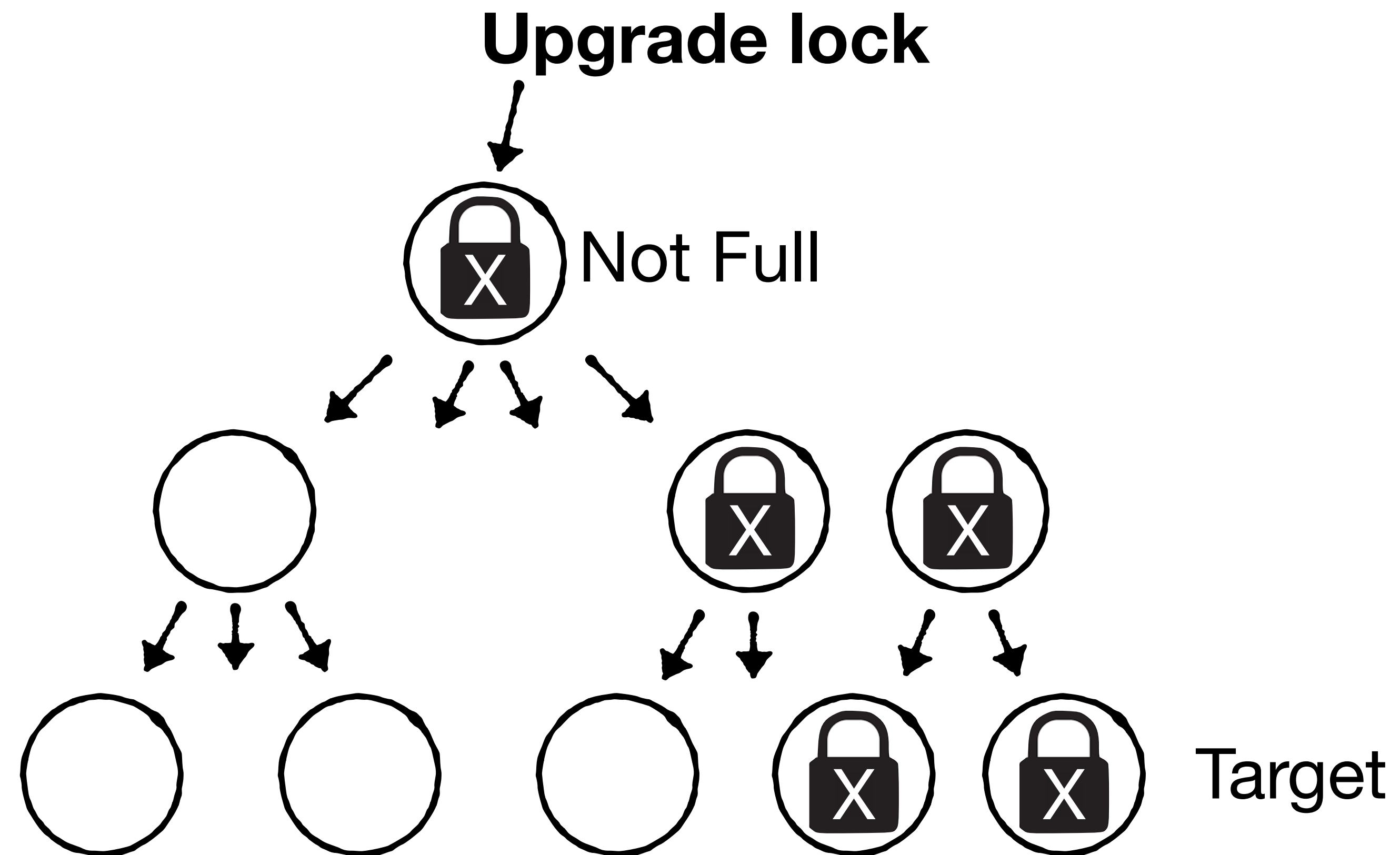
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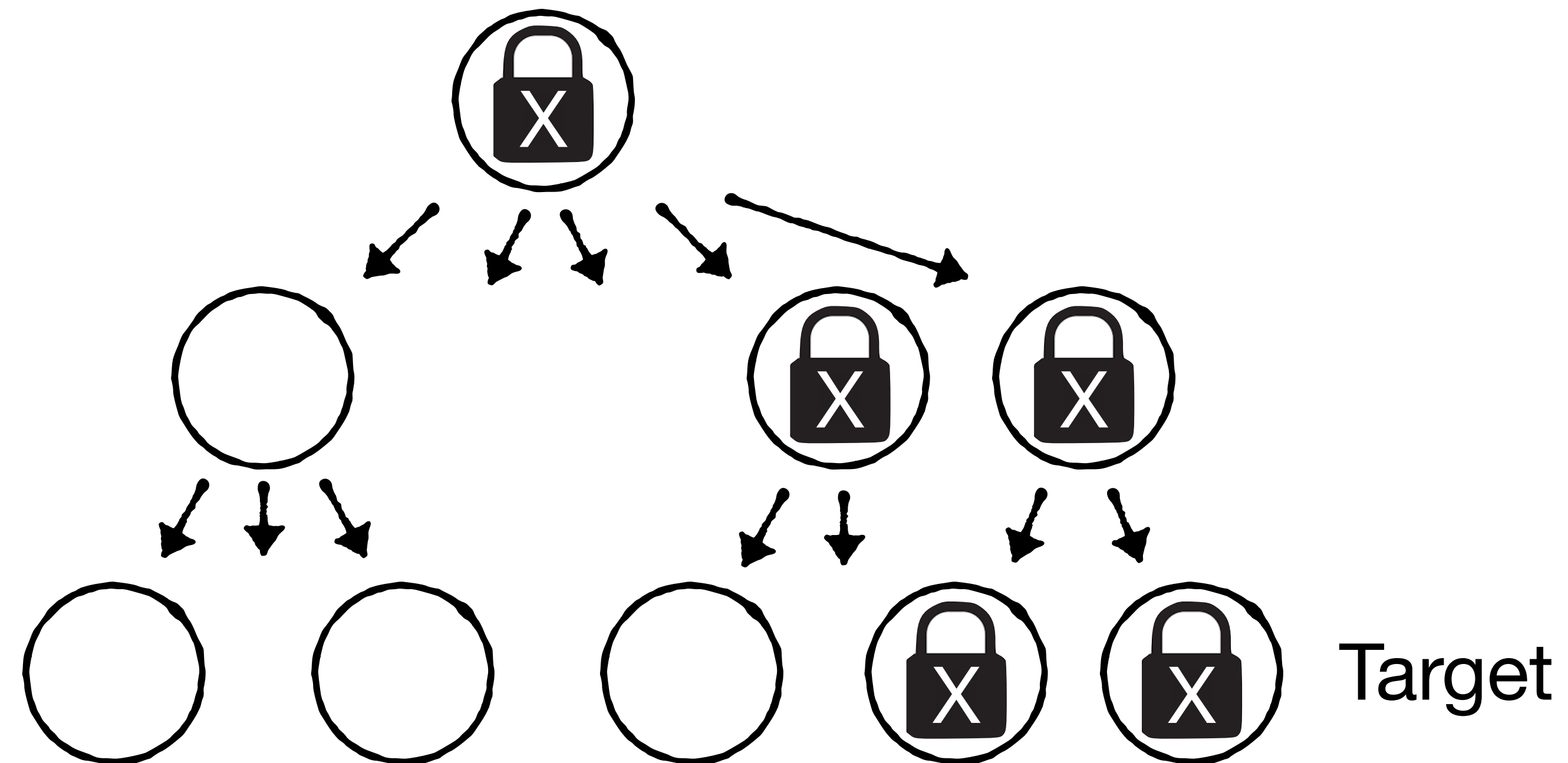
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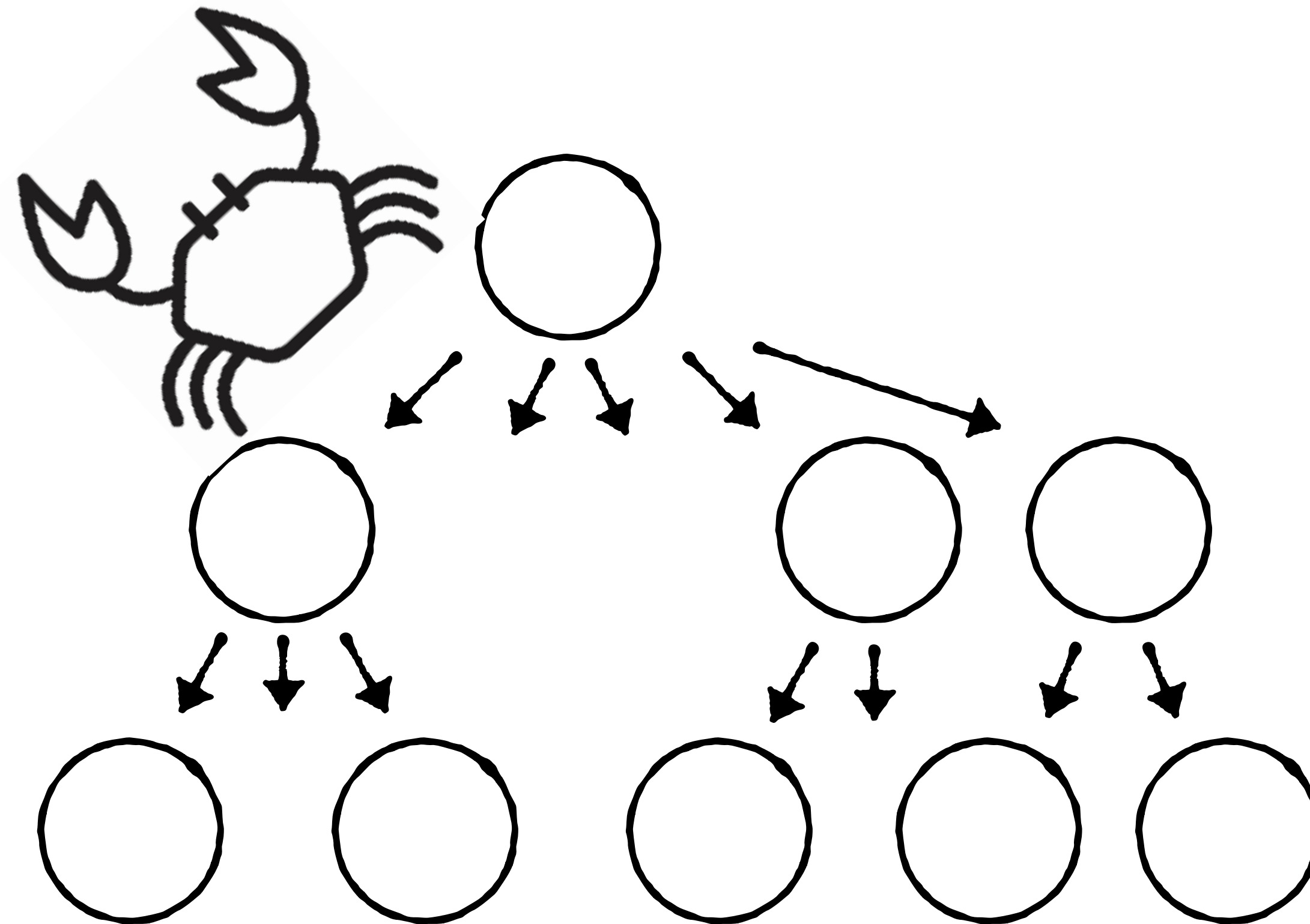


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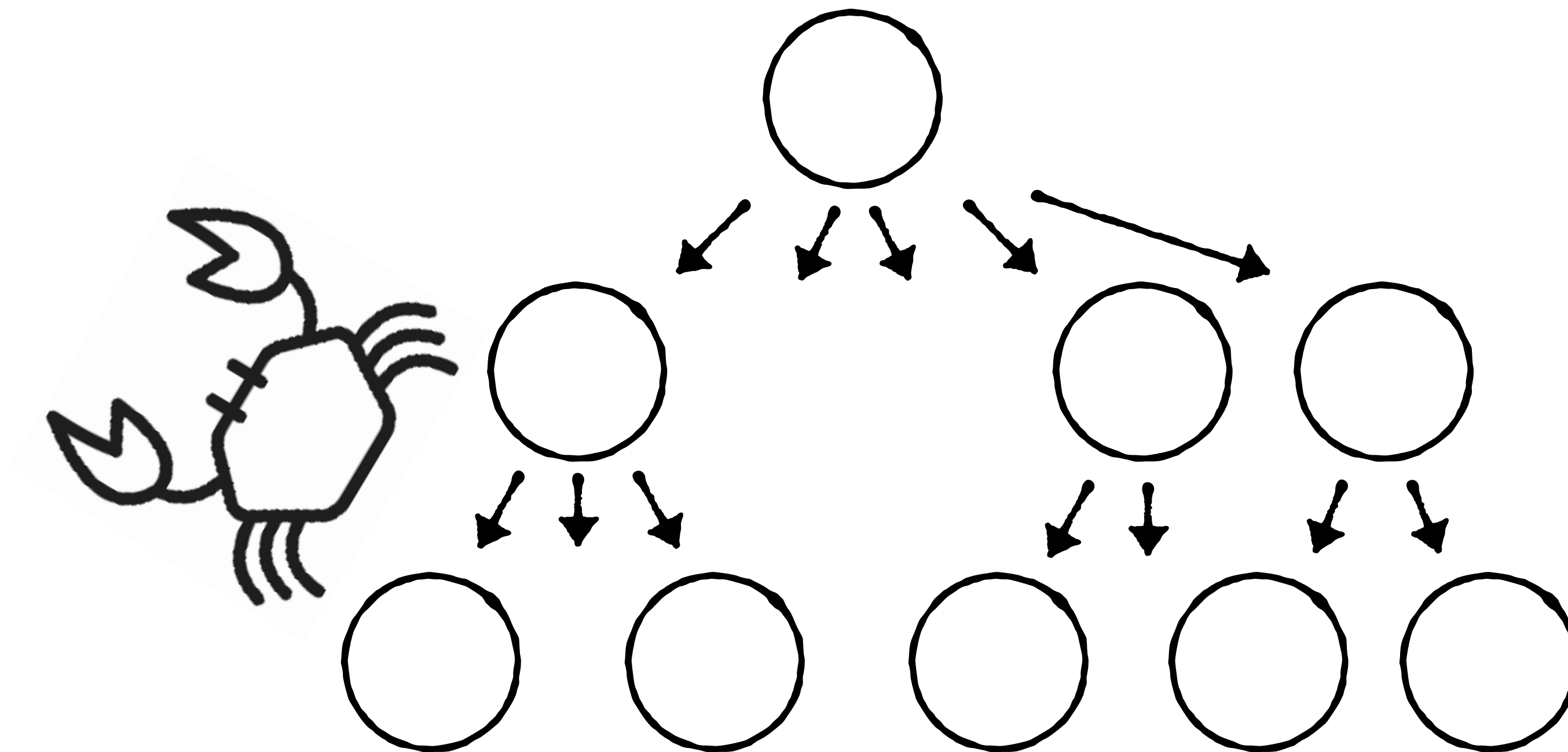
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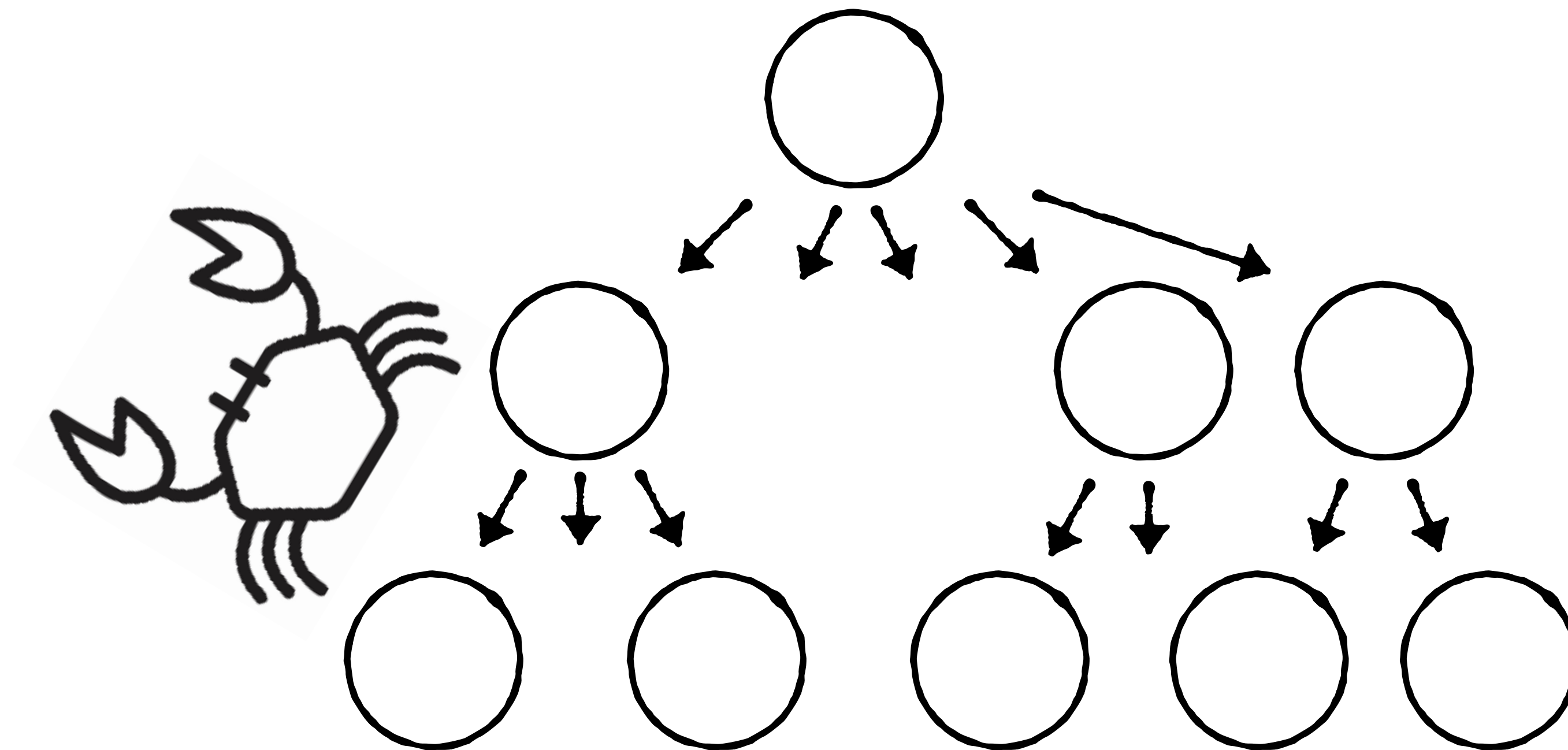
Protocol known as Lock-Coupling, or Crabbing



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Shows that while strict two-phase locking is correct, it can sometimes be relaxed while maintaining correctness



And now, office hours