

# Race Detection

cs378h

# Pro Forma

- Questions?
- Administrivia:
  - Course/Instructor Survey : <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/ctl/ecis/>
  - Projects going OK?
- Agenda
  - Non-blocking Sync wrap-up
  - Race Detection
- Acknowledgements:
  - <https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/1718/R204/slides-tharris-2-lock-free.pptx>
  - <http://concurrencyfreaks.blogspot.com/2013/05/lock-free-and-wait-free-definition-and.html>
  - <http://swtv.kaist.ac.kr/courses/cs492b-spring-16/lec6-data-race-bug.pptx>
  - <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~clegoues/docs/static-analysis.pptx>
  - <http://www.cs.sfu.ca/~fedorova/Teaching/CMPT401/Summer2008/Lectures/Lecture8-GlobalClocks.pptx>



# Race Detection Faux Quiz

Are linearizable objects composable? Why/why not? Is serializable code composable?

What is a data race? What kinds of conditions make them difficult to detect automatically?

What is a consistent cut in a distributed causality interaction graph?

List some tradeoffs between static and dynamic race detection

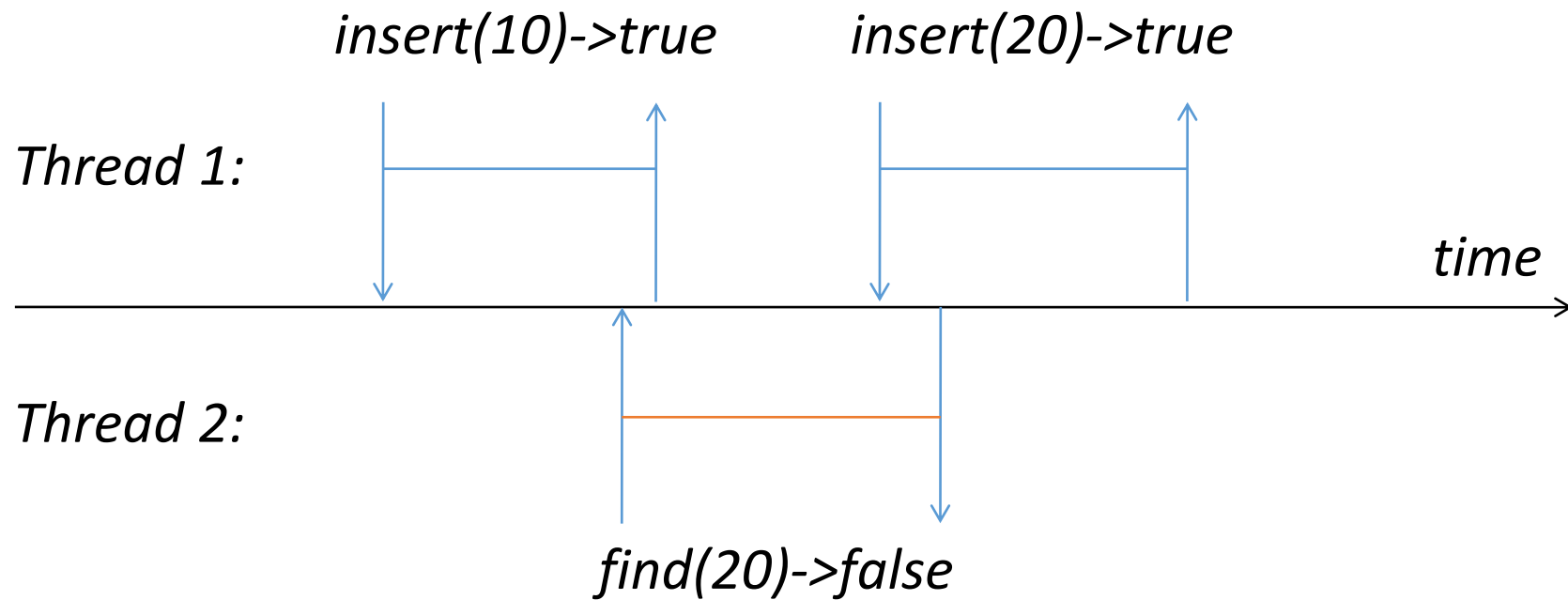
What are some pros and cons of happens-before analysis for race detection? Same for lockset analysis?

Why might one use a vector clock instead of a logical clock?

What are some advantages and disadvantages of combined lock-set and happens-before analysis?

# Review: Concurrent history

*Allow overlapping invocations*

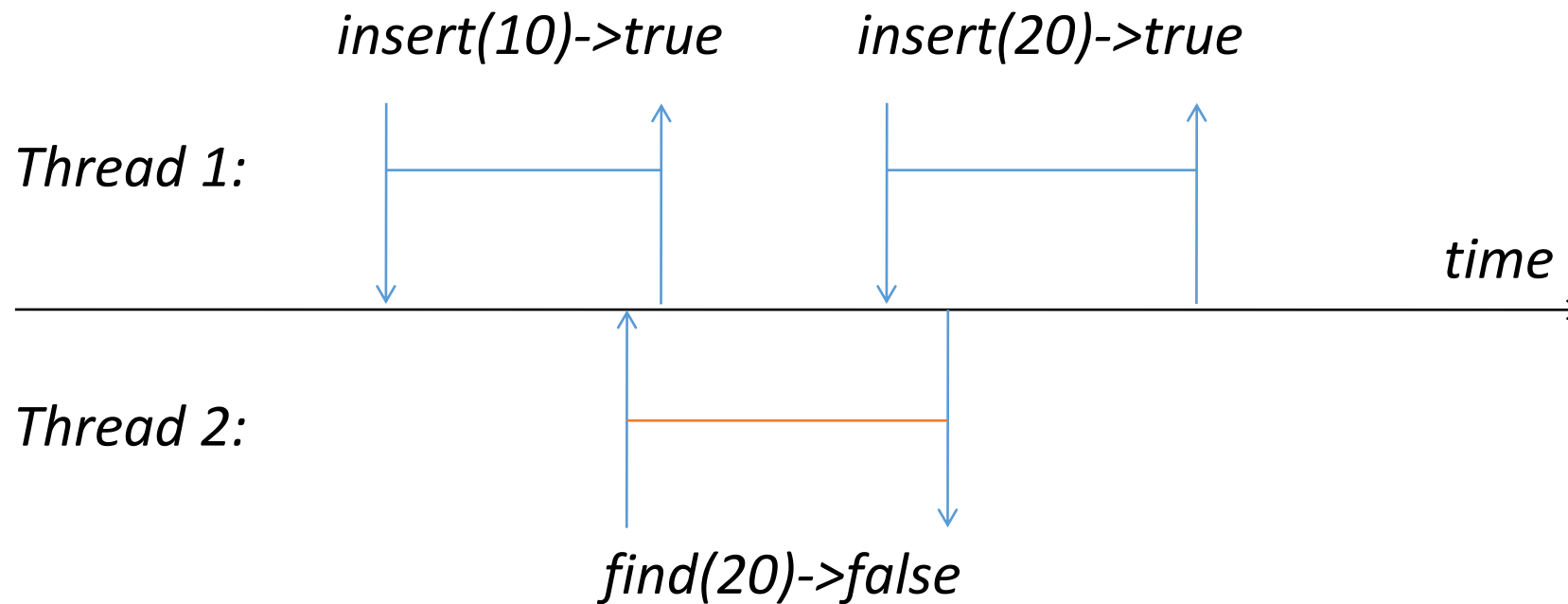


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Linearizability:

- Is there a correct sequential history:
  - Same results as the concurrent one
  - Consistent with the timing of the invocations/responses?
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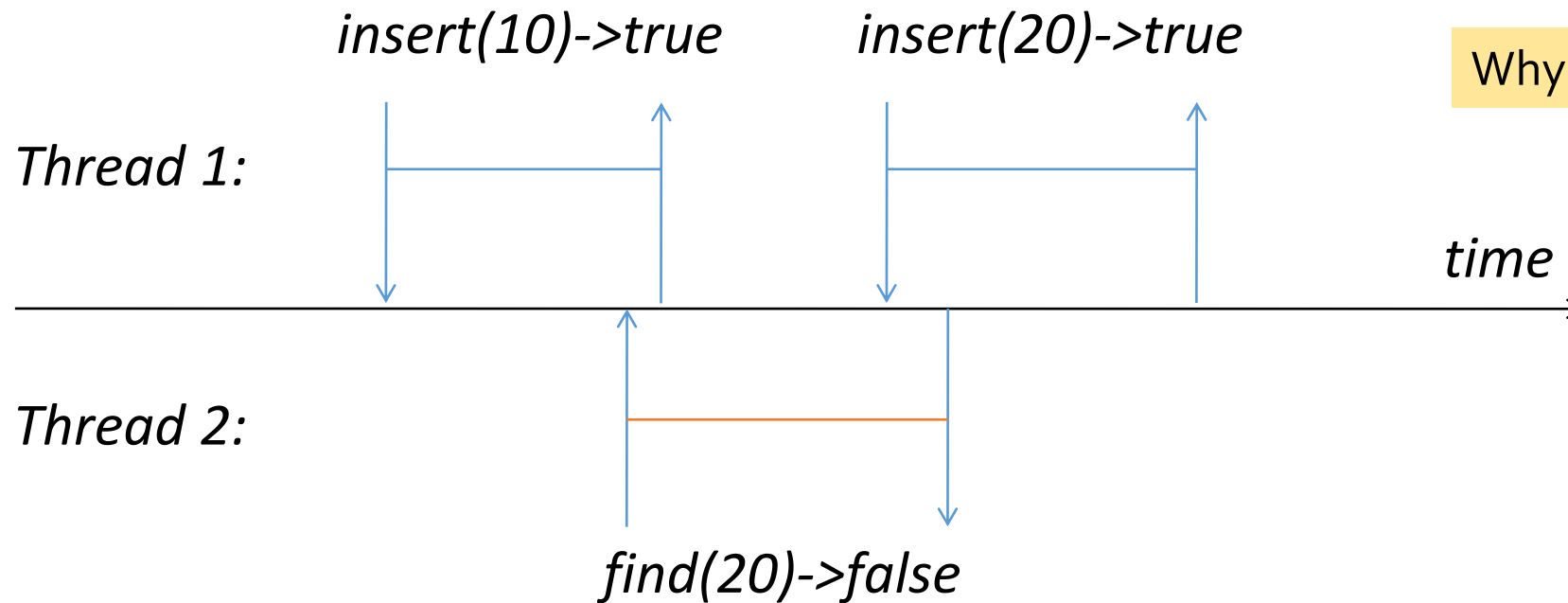


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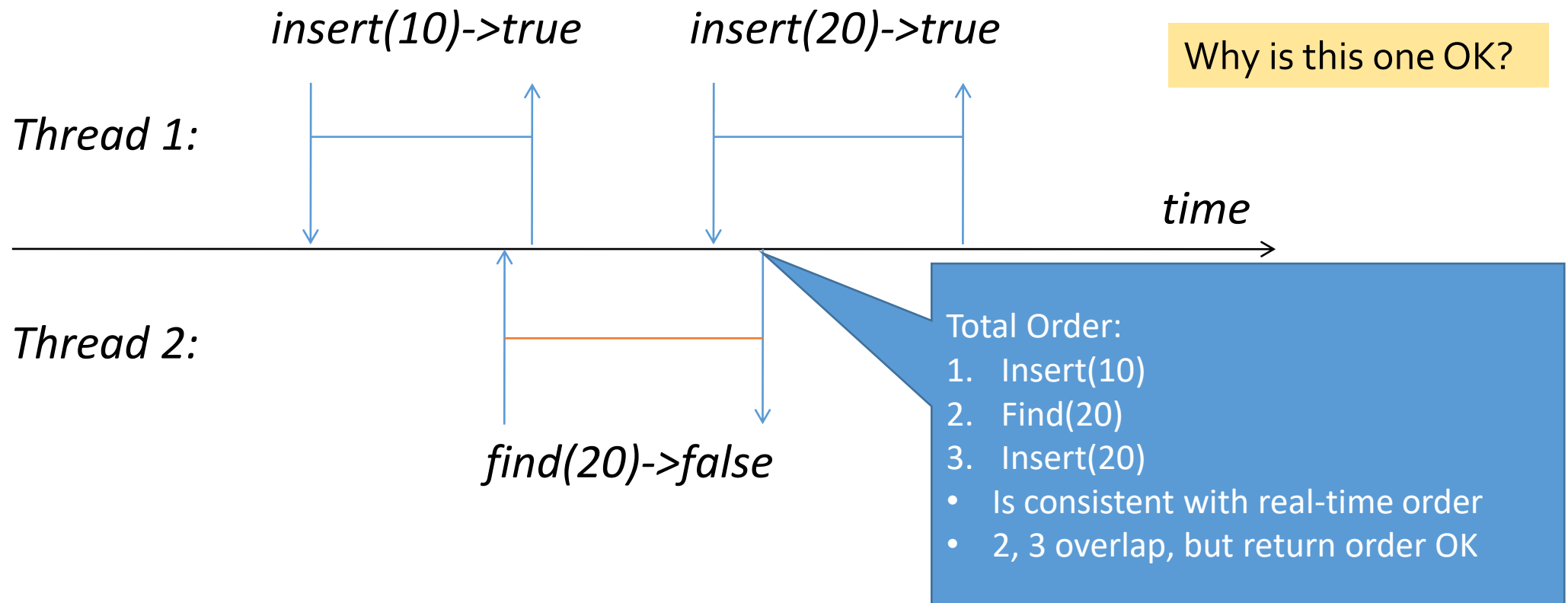
Why is this one OK?

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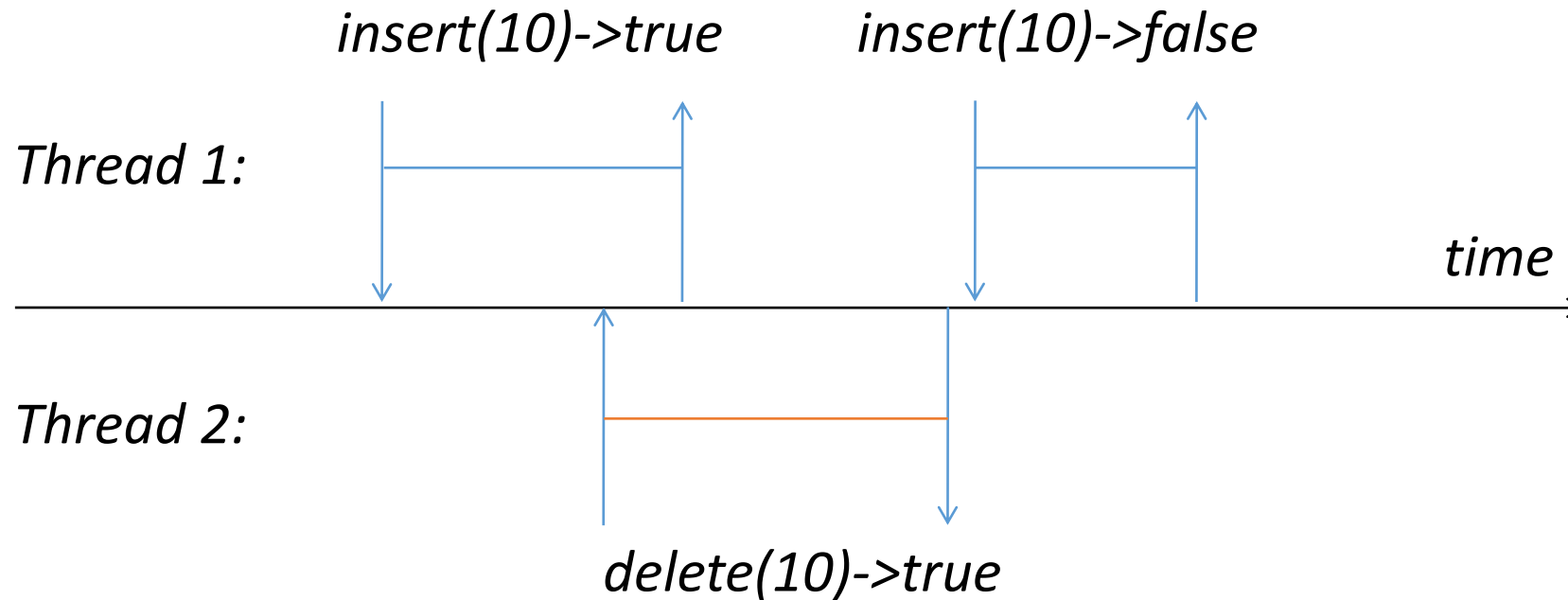
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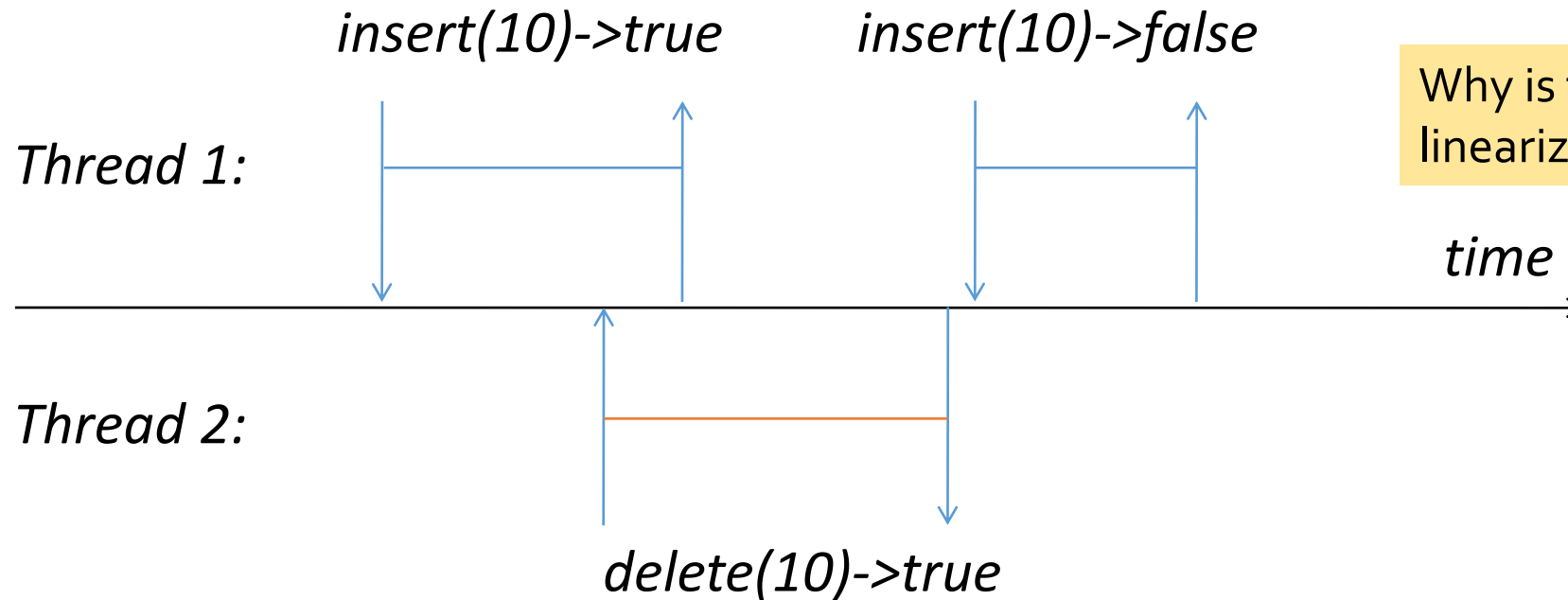


## Assumptions:

- The set is initially empty
- Return values are meaningful:
  - Insert returns true  $\rightarrow$  item wasn't present
  - Insert returns false  $\rightarrow$  item already present
  - Delete returns true  $\rightarrow$  item was present



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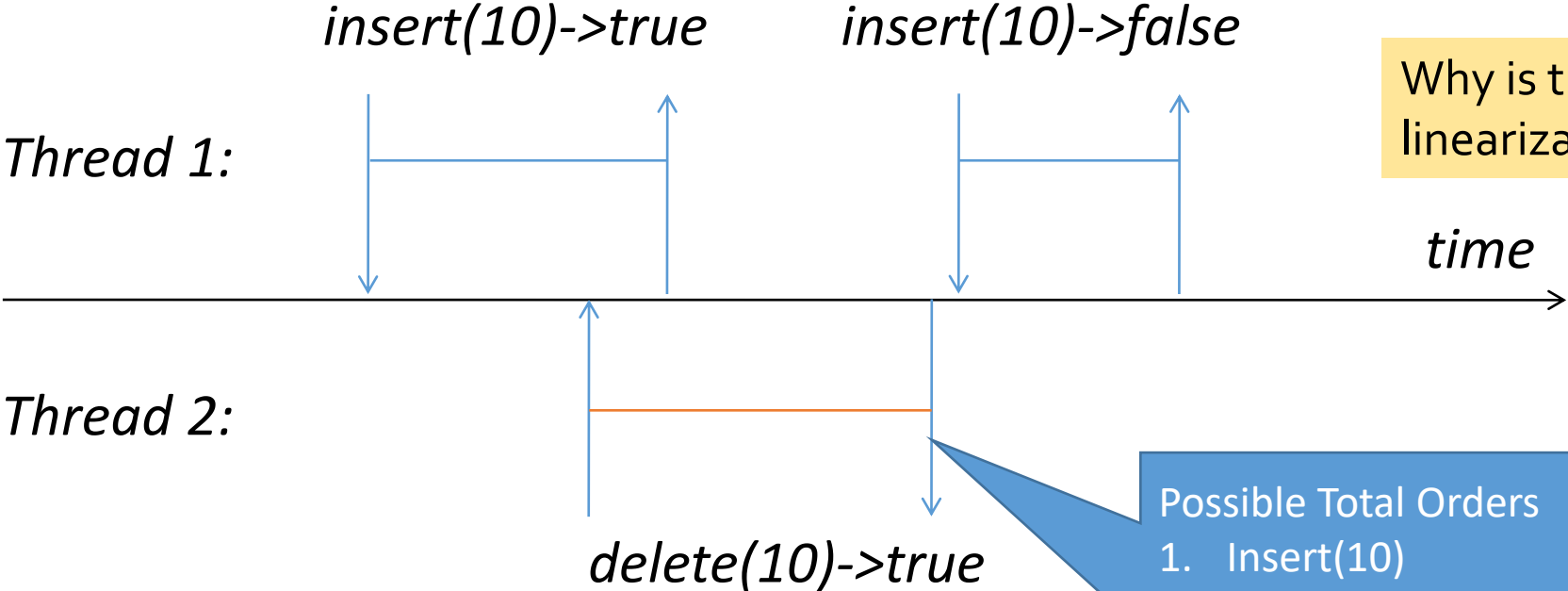


Why is this one NOT linearizable?

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# Review: not linearizable



Why is this one NOT linearizable?

- Possible Total Orders
- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Insert(10) | 1. Delete(10) |
| 2. Delete(10) | 2. Insert(10) |
| 3. Insert(10) | 3. Insert(10) |
- Both consistent with real-time order
  - Neither is consistent w return values
  - 1, 2 overlap, but 3 doesn't

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- Why is it important?
  - Serializability is not composable.

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- Why is it important?
  - Serializability is not composable.

Huh? Composable?

# Composability



# Composability

```
T * list::remove(Obj key) {  
    LOCK(this);  
    tmp = __do_remove(key);  
    UNLOCK(this);  
    return tmp;  
}
```

# Composability

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T * list::remove(Obj key) {  
    LOCK(this);  
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}  
  
void list::insert(Obj key, T * val) {  
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    __do_insert(key, val);  
    UNLOCK(this);  
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```

```
void move(list s, list d, Obj key){  
    tmp = s.remove(key);  
    d.insert(key, tmp);  
}
```

# Composability

Thread-safe?

```
T * list::remove(Obj key) {  
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    return tmp;  
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- Lock-based code doesn't compose

# Composability

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}
```

- Lock-based code doesn't compose
- If list were a linearizable concurrent data structure, composition OK

# Linearizability Properties

- **non-blocking**
  - one method is never forced to wait to sync with another.
- **local** property:
  - a system is linearizable iff each individual object is linearizable.
  - gives us **composability**.
- Why is it important?
  - Serializability is not composable.
  - Core hypotheses:
    - structuring all as concurrent objects buys composability
    - structuring all as concurrent objects is tractable/possible



# Race Detection

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Locks: a litany of problems

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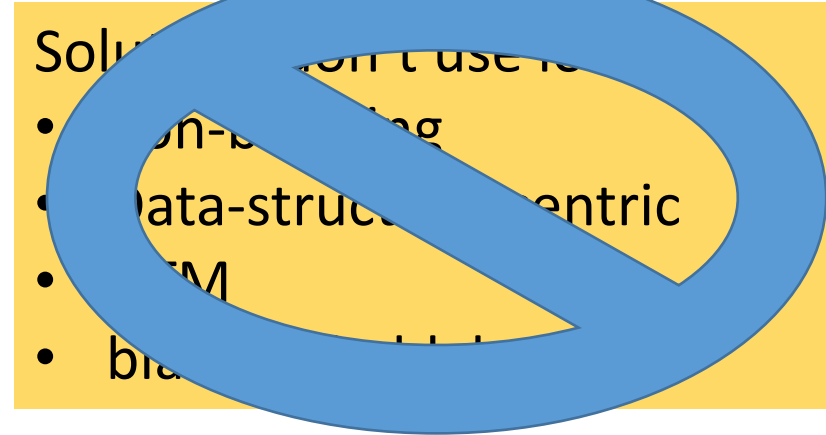
Solution: don't use locks

- non-blocking
- Data-structure-centric
- HTM
- blah, blah, blah..

# Race Detection

Locks: a litany of problems

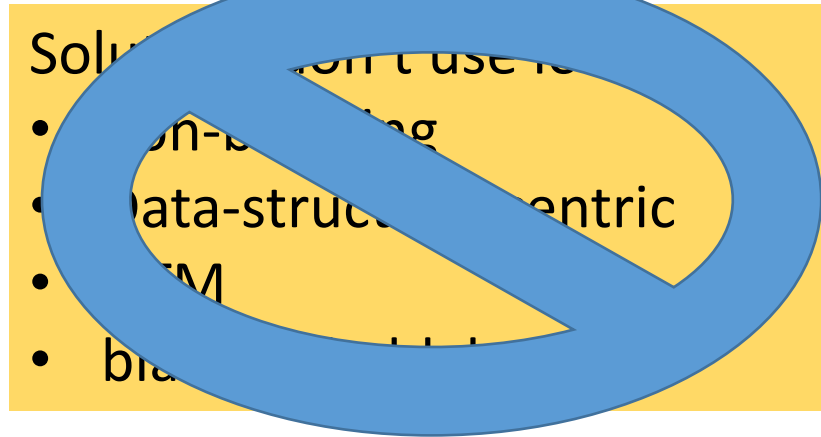
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# Race Detection

Locks: a litany of problems

- Deadlock
- Priority inversion
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Use locks!

- But automate bug-finding!

# Races

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1 Lock(lock);           1  
2 Read-Write(X);       2 Read-Write(X);  
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How to detect races:

```
forall(X) {  
    if(not_synchronized(X))  
        declare_race()  
}
```

# Races

```
1 read-write(X);          1 thread-proc() {  
2 fork(thread-proc);      2  
3 do_stuff();             3 read-write(X);  
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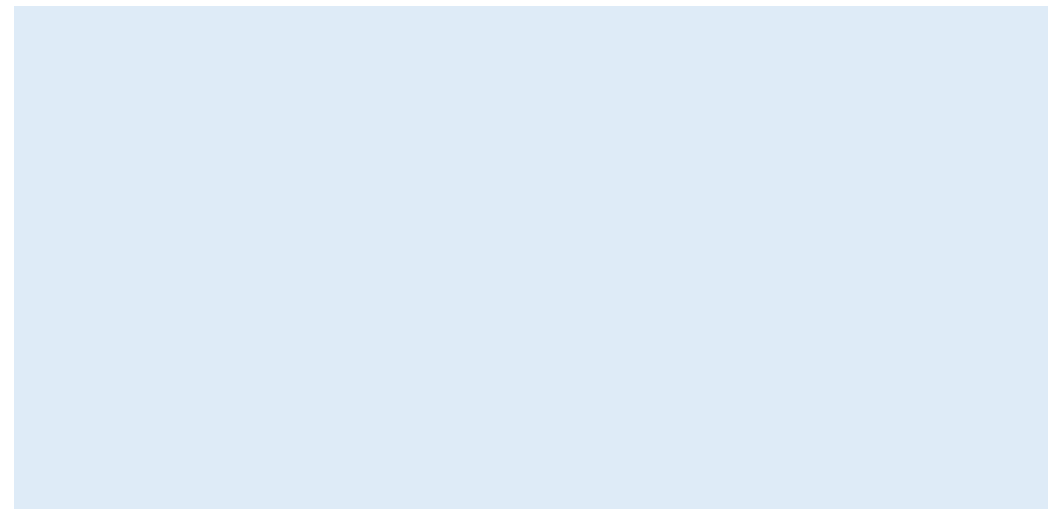
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- E.g. approximate stats counters



# Detecting Races

- Static
  - Run a tool that analyses just code
  - Maybe code is annotated to help
  - Conservative: detect races that never occur
- Dynamic
  - Instrument code
  - Check synchronization invariants on accesses
  - More precise
  - Difficult to make fast
  - ***Lockset vs happens-before***

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How to detect races:  
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# Static Data Race Detection

- Type-based analysis
  - Language type system augmented
    - express common synchronization relationships”: correct typing→no data races
  - Difficult to do
  - Restricts the type of synchronization primitives
- Language features
  - e.g., use of monitors
  - Only works for static data – not dynamic data
- Model Checking
- Path analysis
  - Doesn't scale well
  - Too many false positives

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```
1
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3
```

What if these \*never\* run concurrently? (False Positive)

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# Lockset Algorithm

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  - Every shared mutable variable is protected by some locks
- Core idea
  - Track locks held by thread  $t$


Let  $locks\_held(t)$  be the set of locks held by thread  $t$ .

For each  $v$ , initialize  $C(v)$  to the set of all locks.

- On each access to  $v$  by thread  $t$ ,
  - set  $C(v) := C(v) \cap locks\_held(t)$ ;
  - if  $C(v) = \{ \}$ , then issue a warning.

- ASSUME EVERY LOCK PROTECTS EVERY VARIABLE

- On each access, use locks held by thread to narrow that assumption

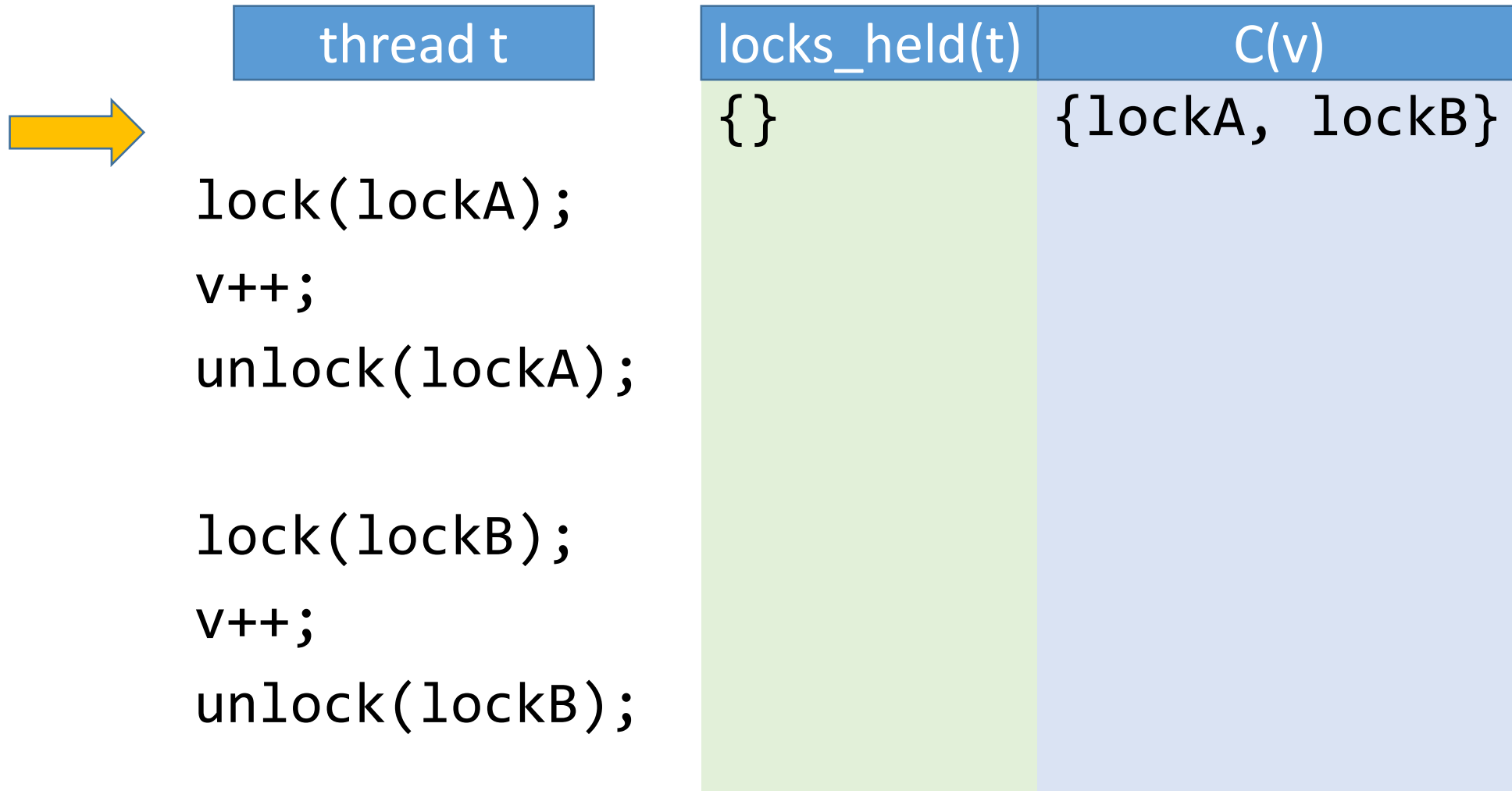


Narrow down set of locks maybe protecting  $v$

# Lockset Algorithm Example


thread t	locks_held(t)	C(v)
<pre>lock(lockA); v++; unlock(lockA);  lock(lockB); v++; unlock(lockB);</pre>	<pre>{}</pre>	<pre>{lockA, lockB}</pre>

# Lockset Algorithm Example






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lock(lockA);	{} {lockA}	{lockA, lockB}
→ v++;		{lockA}
unlock(lockA);		$C(v) \cap \text{locks\_held}(t)$
lock(lockB);		
v++;		
unlock(lockB);		


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v++;	{lockA}	{lockA}
 unlock(lockA);	{}	{lockA}
lock(lockB);	{}	{lockA}
v++;	{}	{lockA}
unlock(lockB);	{}	{lockA}


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v++;		
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unlock(lockB);		$C(v) \cap \checkmark \text{locks\_held}(t)$

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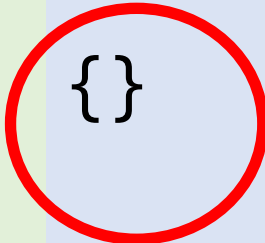
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→

ACK! race

# Lockset Algorithm Example

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	{lockB}	
lock(lockB);		
v++;		
unlock(lockB);	{}	



ACK! race

Pretty clever!  
Why isn't this  
a complete  
solution?



# Improving over lockset

thread A

```
1 read-write(X);  
2 fork(thread-proc);  
3 do_stuff();  
4 do_more_stuff();  
5 join(thread-proc);  
6 read-Write(X);
```

thread B

```
1 thread-proc() {  
2  
3 read-write(X);  
4  
5 }
```

# Improving over lockset

thread A	thread B
1 read-write(X);	1 thread-proc() {
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Lockset detects a race

There is no race: why not?

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Lockset detects a race

There is no race: why not?

- A-1 happens before B-3
- B-3 happens before A-6
- Insight: races occur when “happens-before” cannot be known

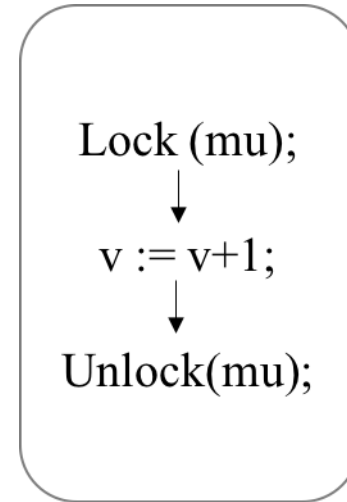
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  - Between threads
- Accessing variables not ordered by “happens-before” is a race
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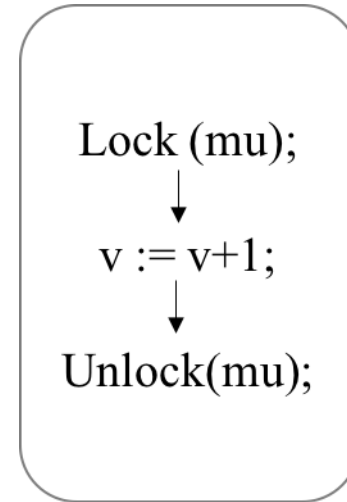
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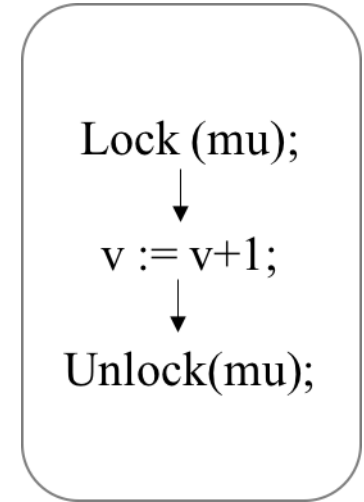
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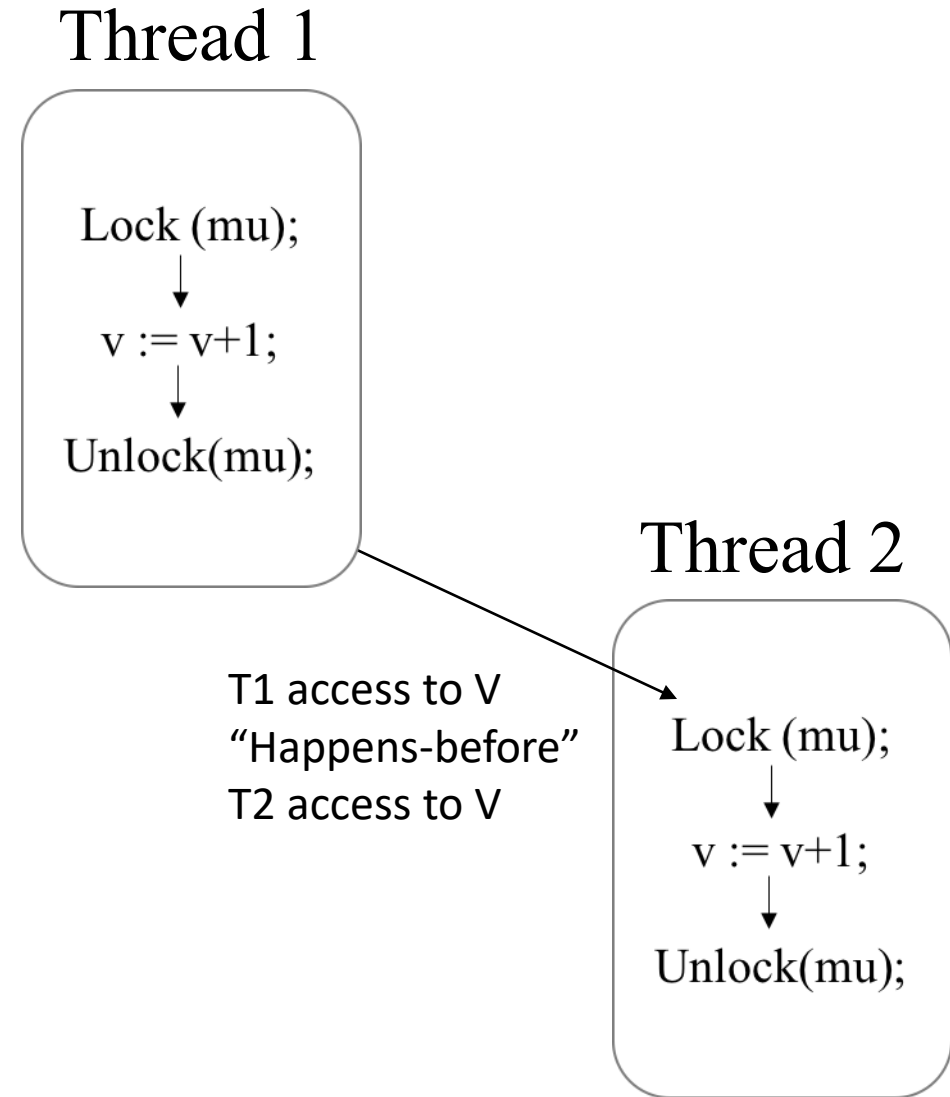


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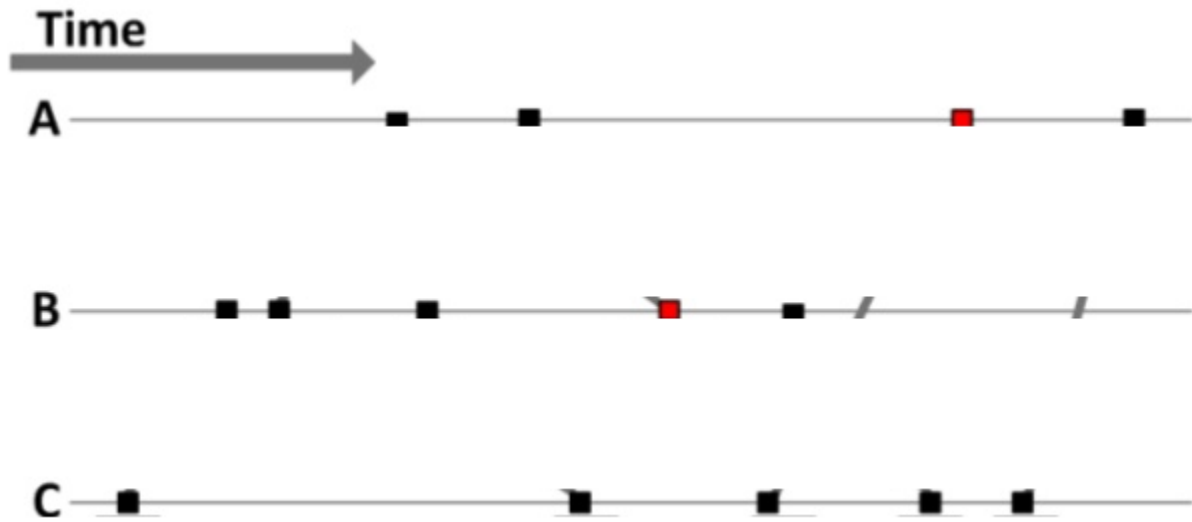


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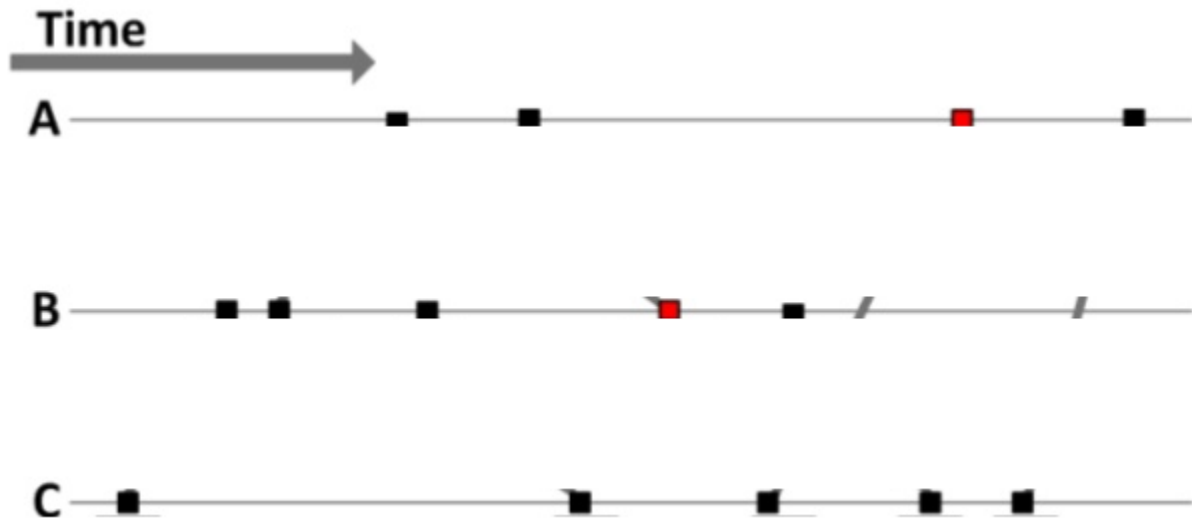


# Ordering and Causality



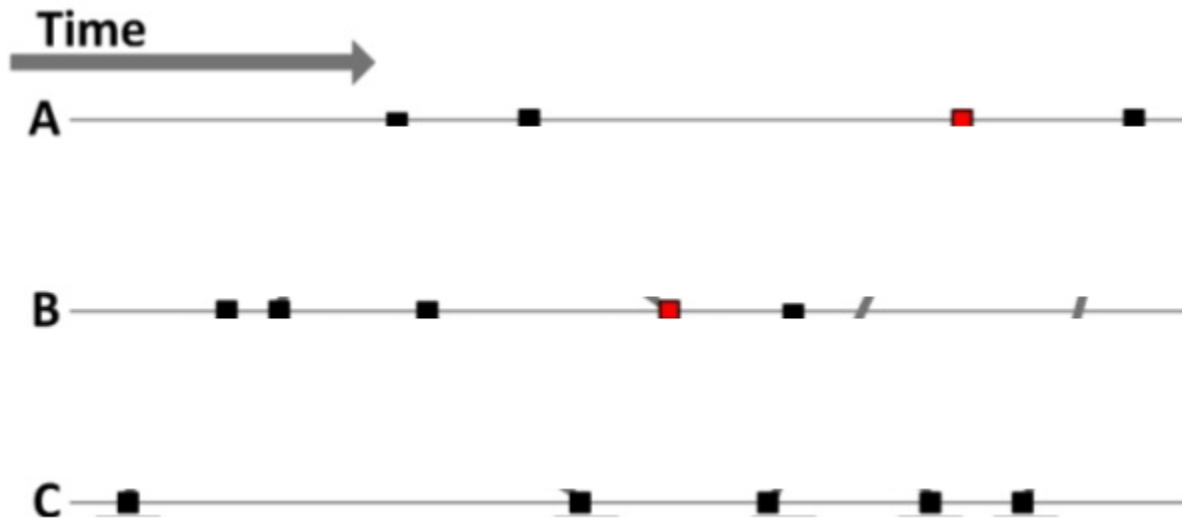


# Ordering and Causality



A, B, C have local orders

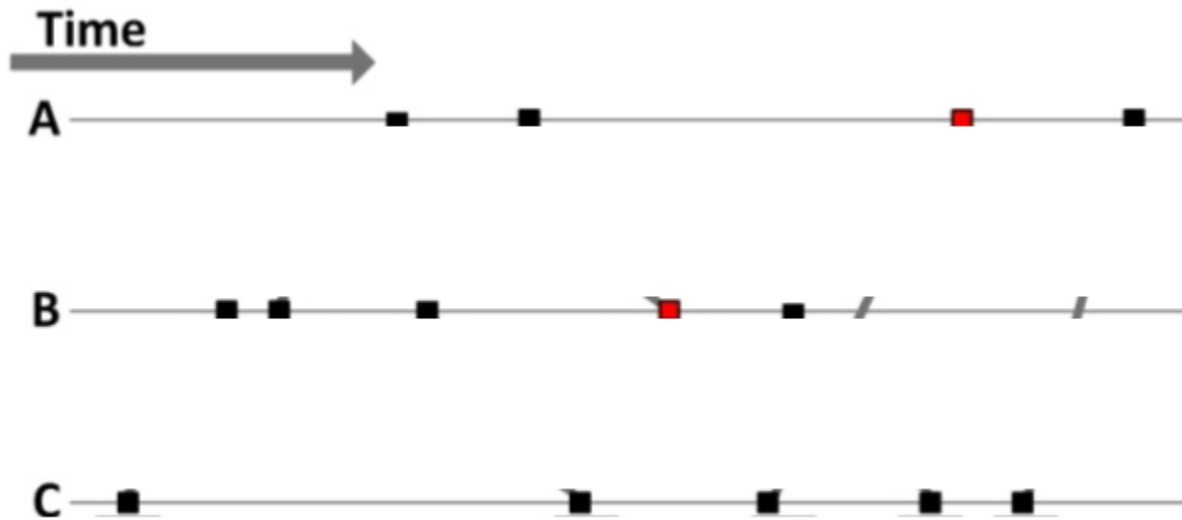
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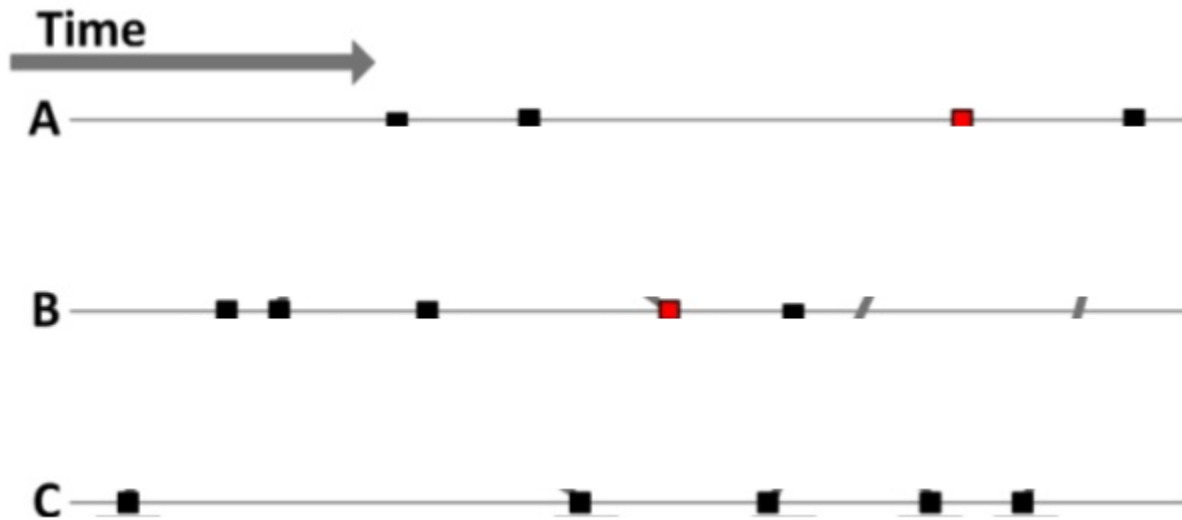


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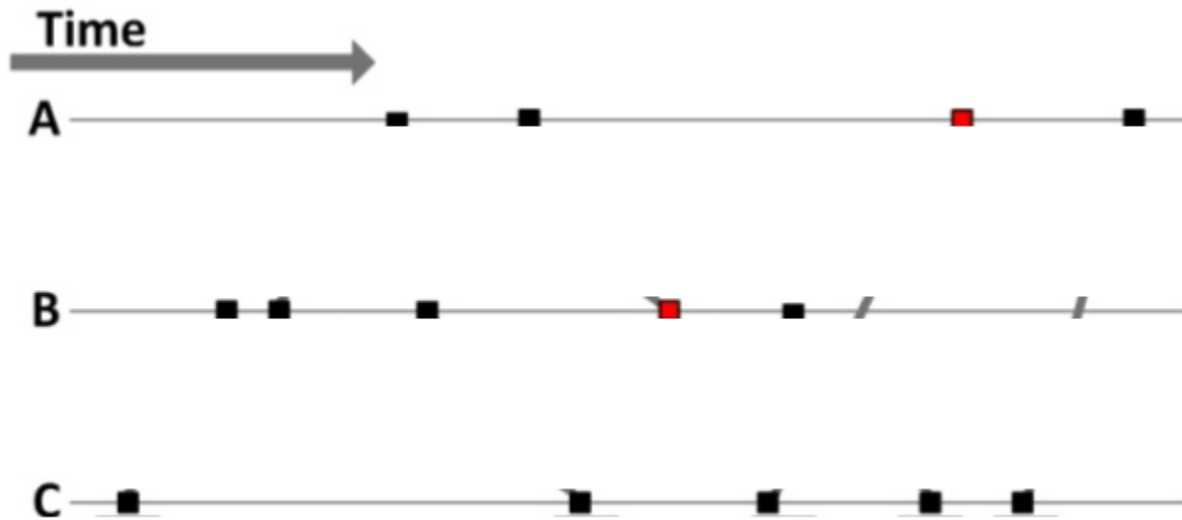
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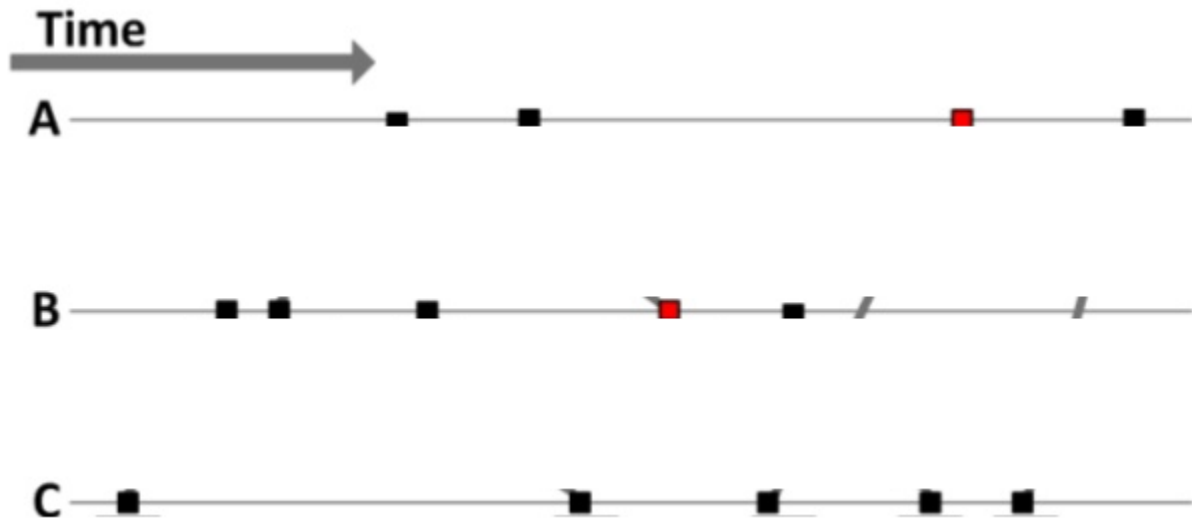
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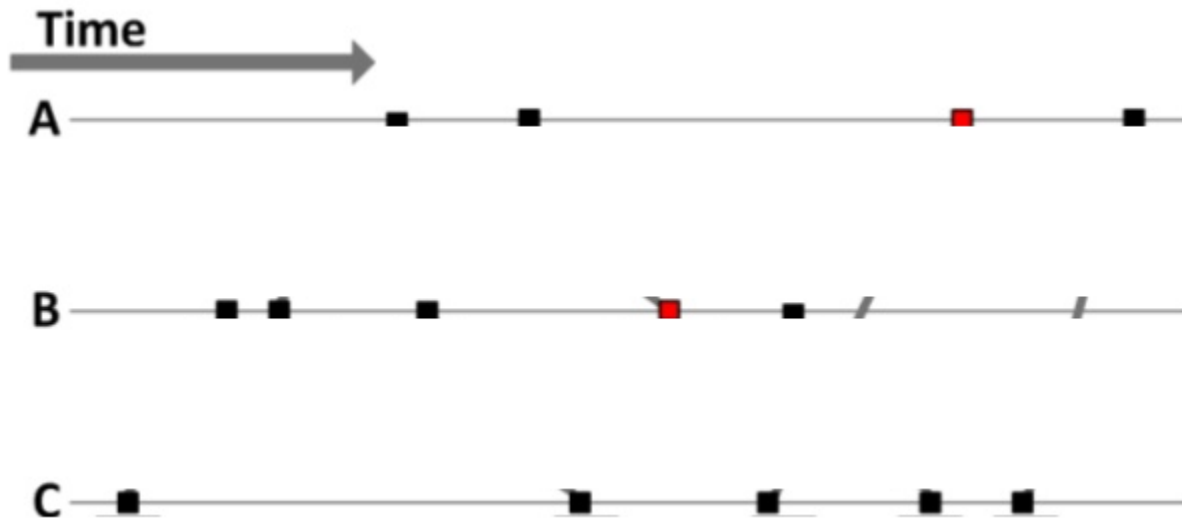
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- Matrix
  - TS(A) is  $N^2$  showing pairwise knowledge

# A Naïve Approach

- Each system records each event it performed and its timestamp
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# A Naïve Approach (cont)

- Ideally, we will construct real order of events from local timestamps and detect this dependency chain:

**System A**



**System B**

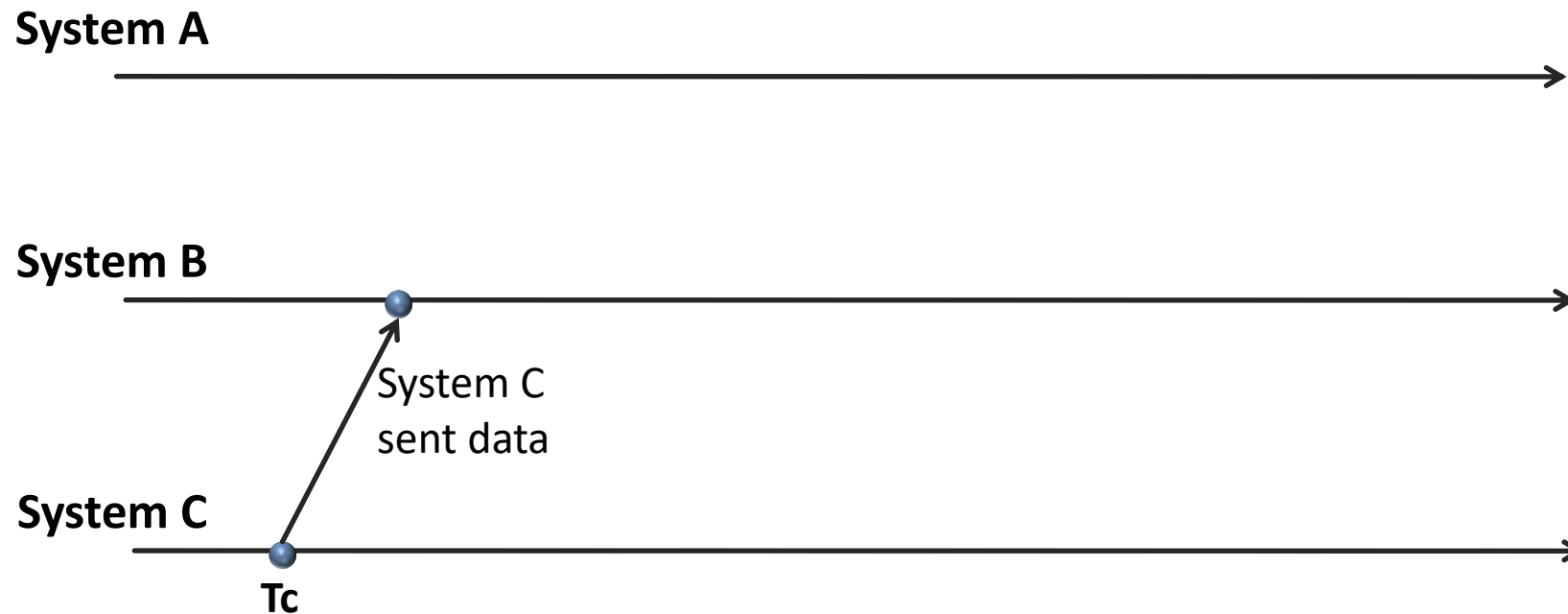


**System C**



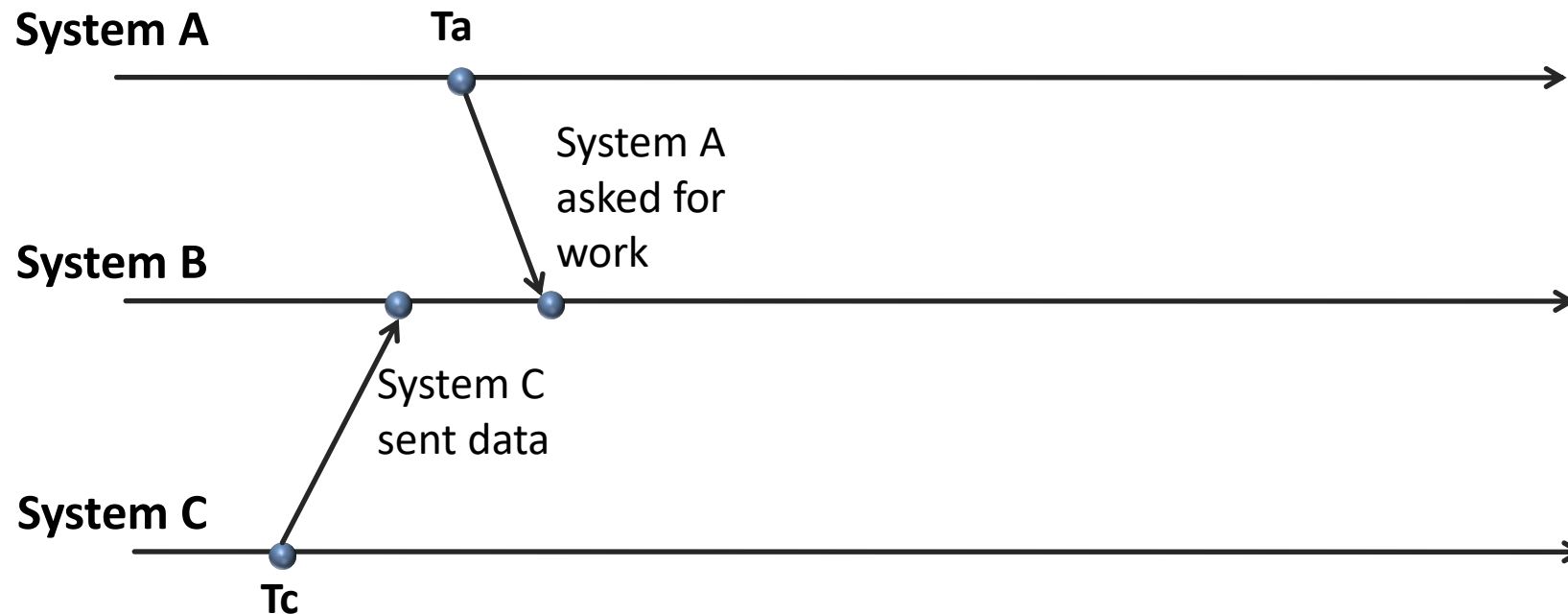
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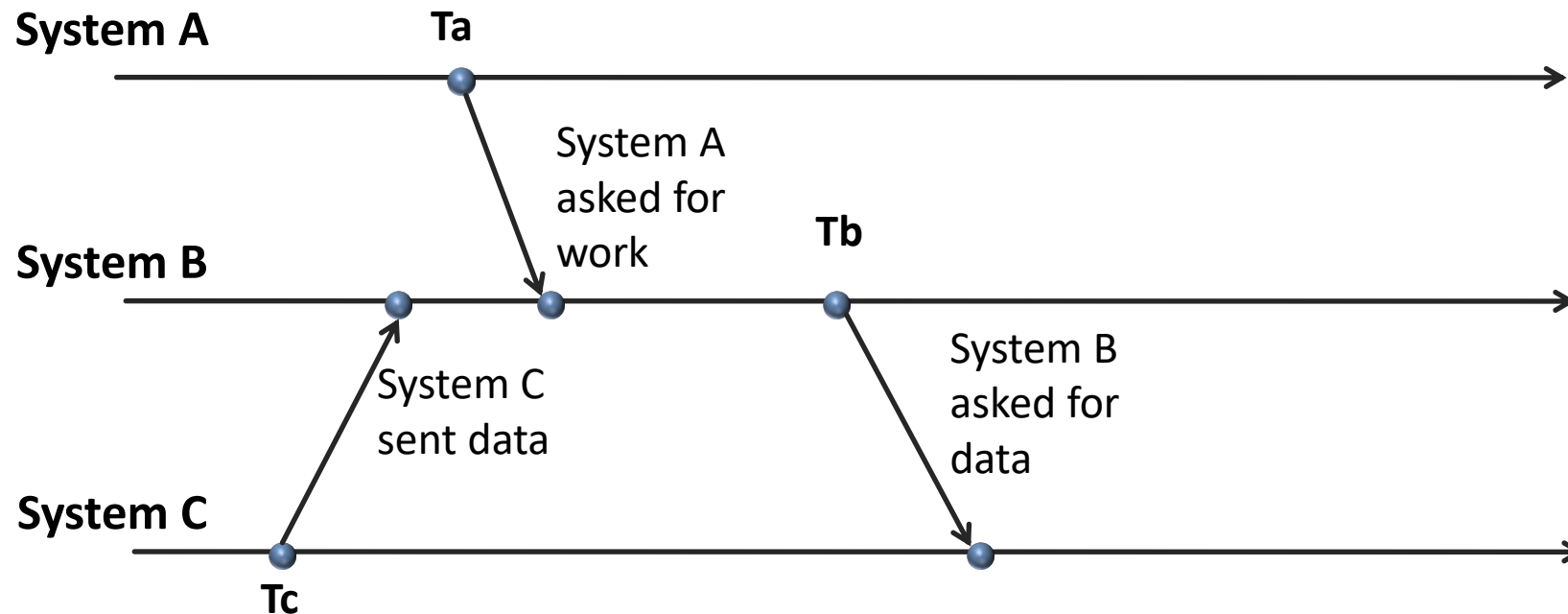
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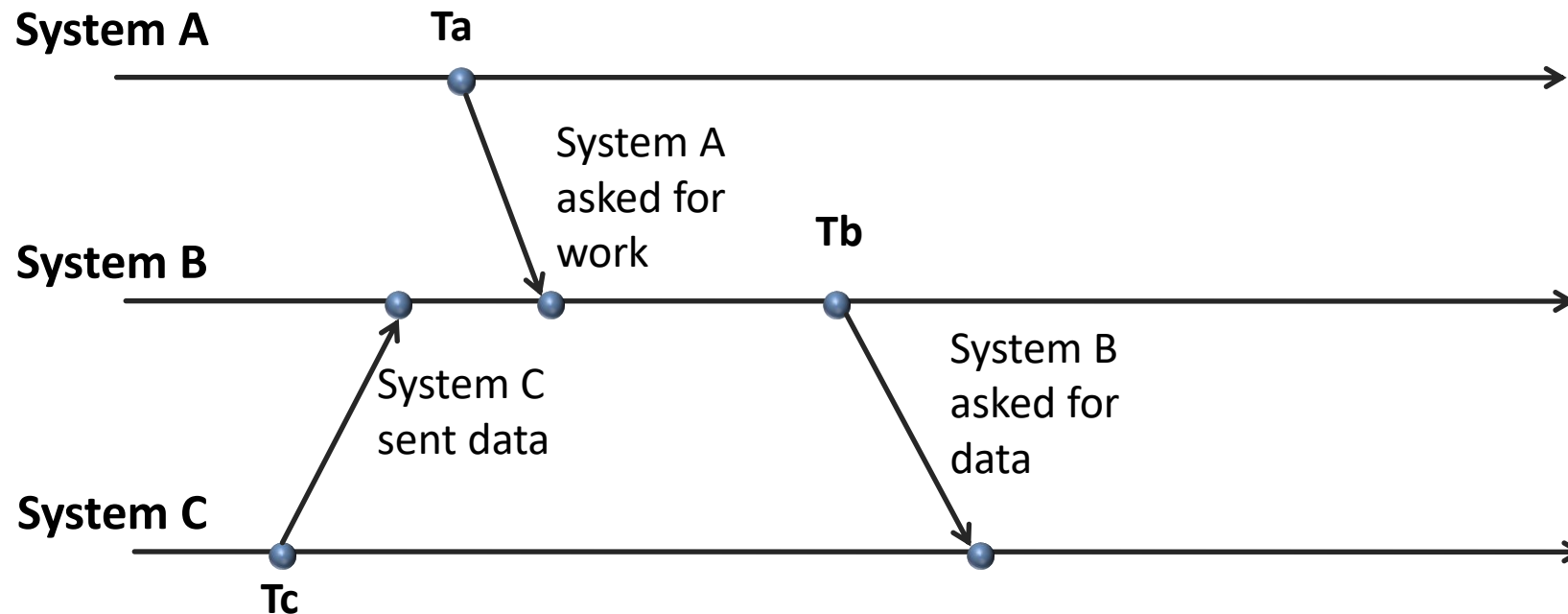
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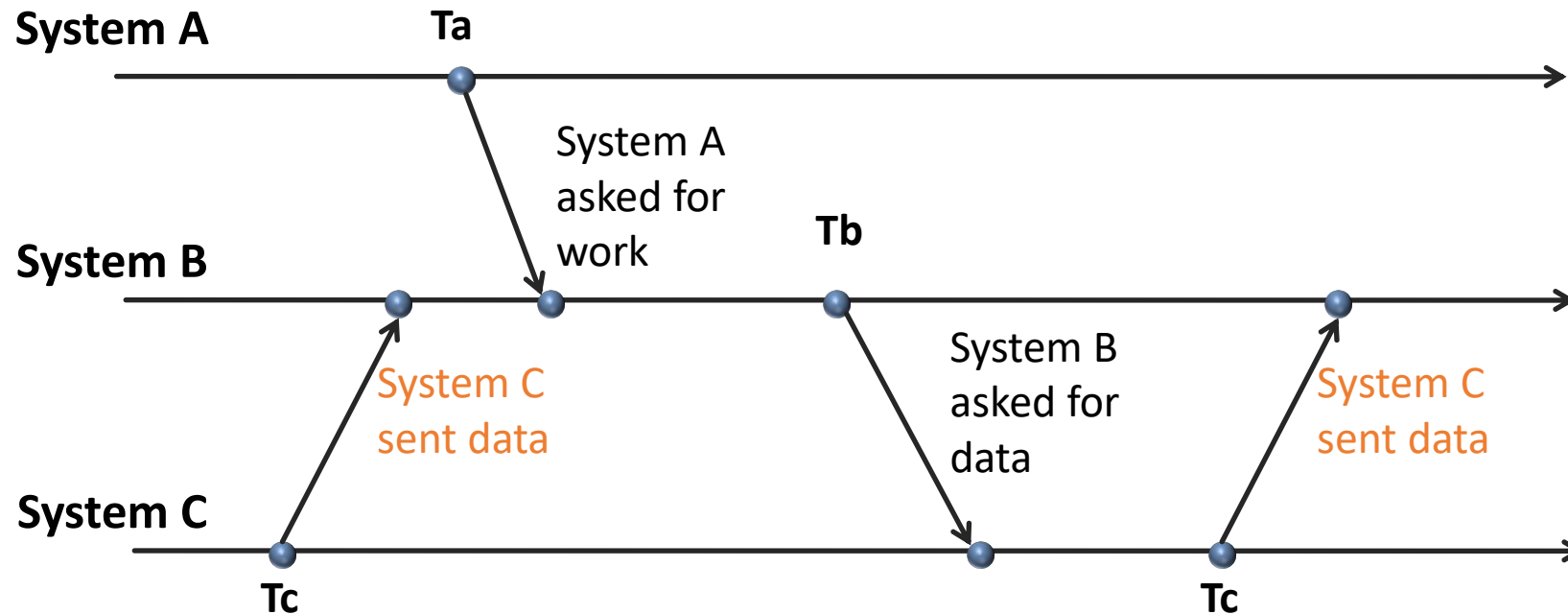
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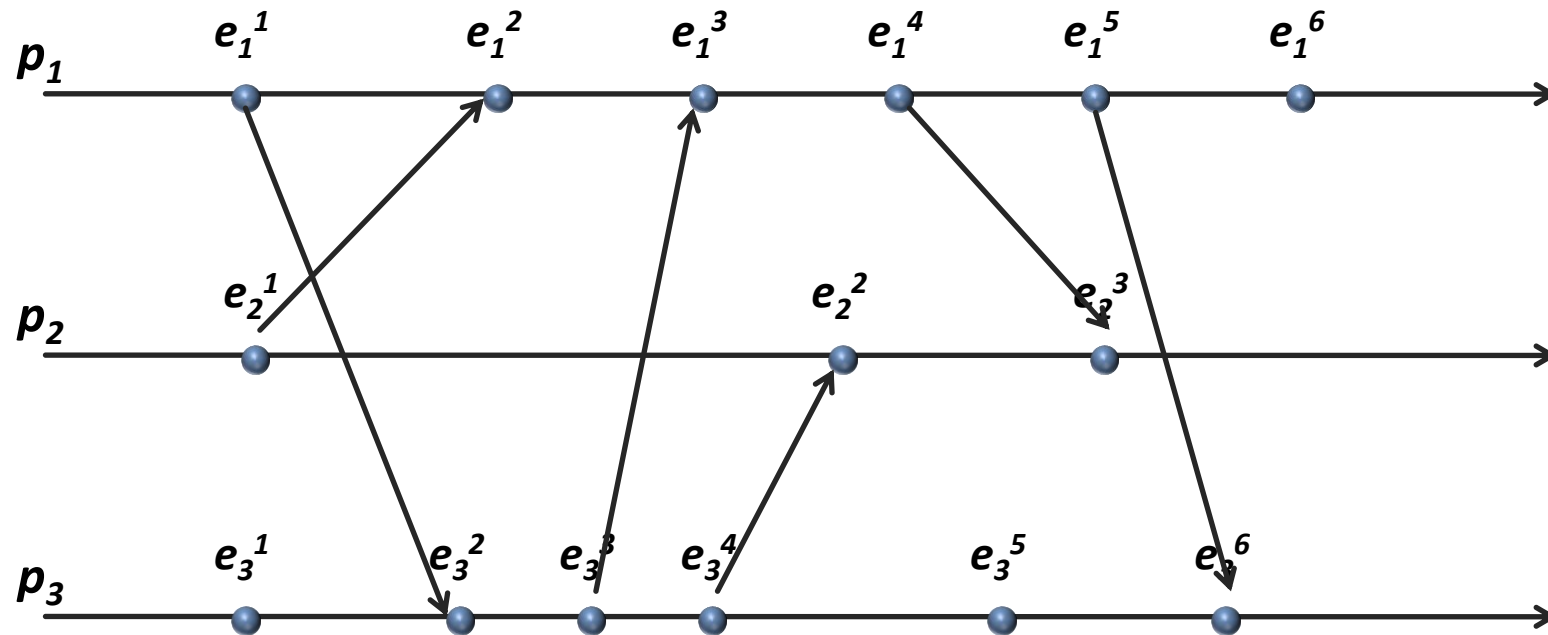
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# Rules for Ordering of Events

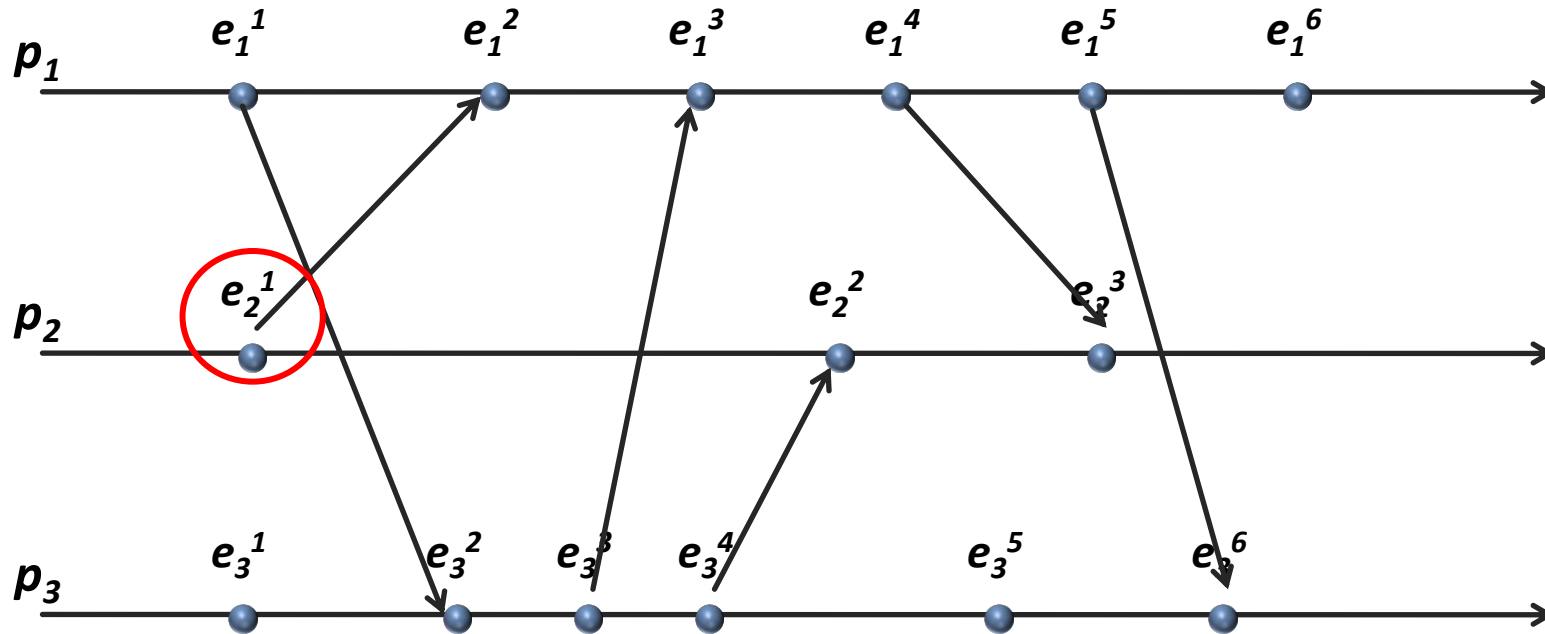
- local events precede one another  $\rightarrow$  precede one another globally:
  - If  $e_i^k, e_i^m \in h_i$  and  $k < m$ , then  $e_i^k \rightarrow e_i^m$
- Sending a message always precedes receipt of that message:
  - If  $e_i = \text{send}(m)$  and  $e_j = \text{receive}(m)$ , then  $e_i \rightarrow e_j$
- Event ordering is transitive:
  - If  $e \rightarrow e'$  and  $e' \rightarrow e''$ , then  $e \rightarrow e''$

# Space-time Diagram for Distributed Computation



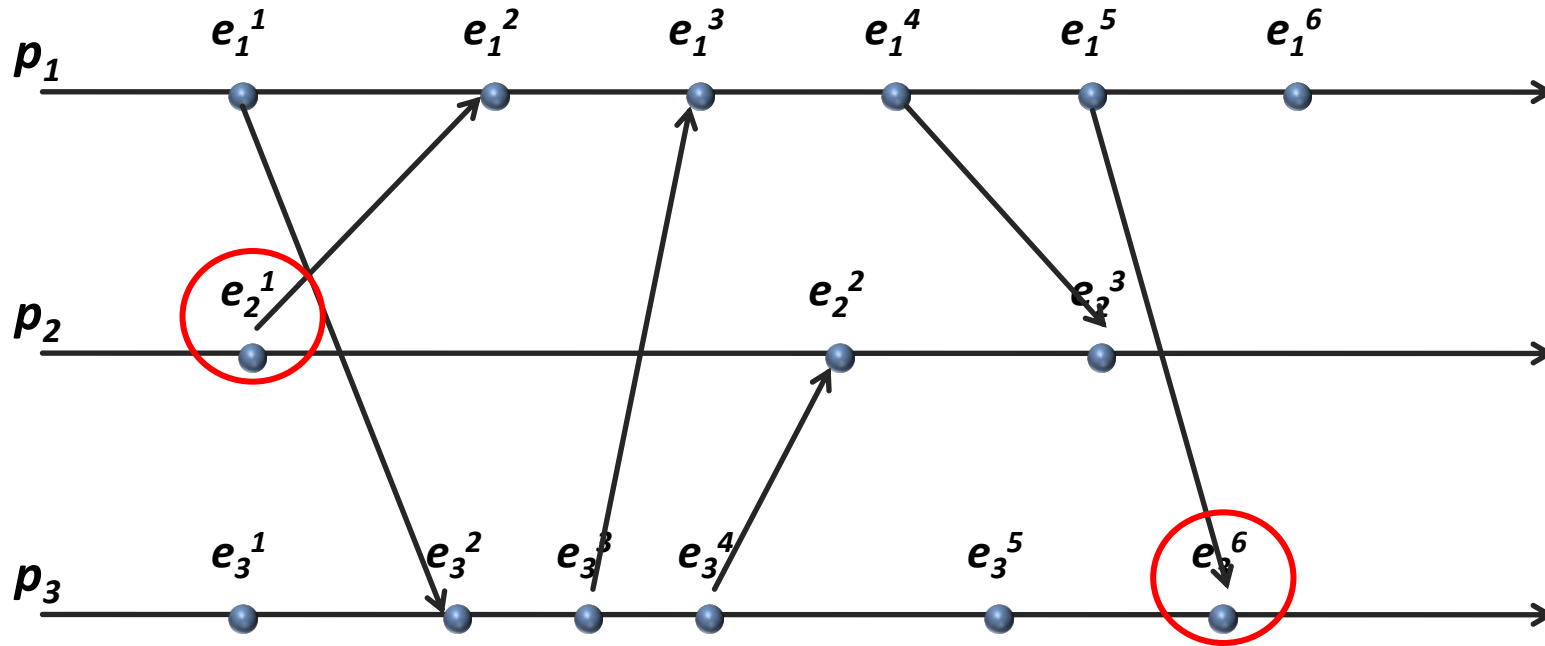
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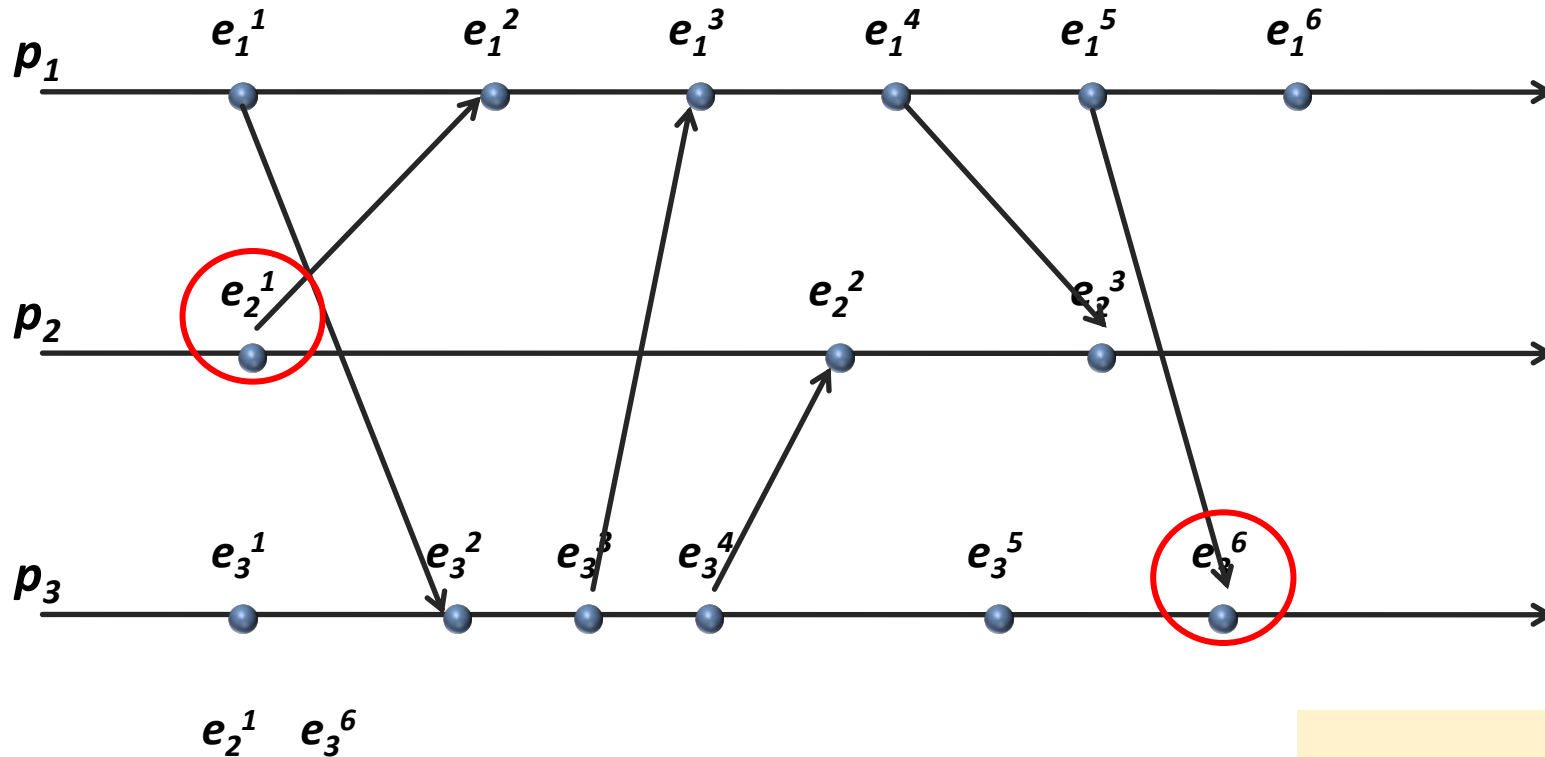
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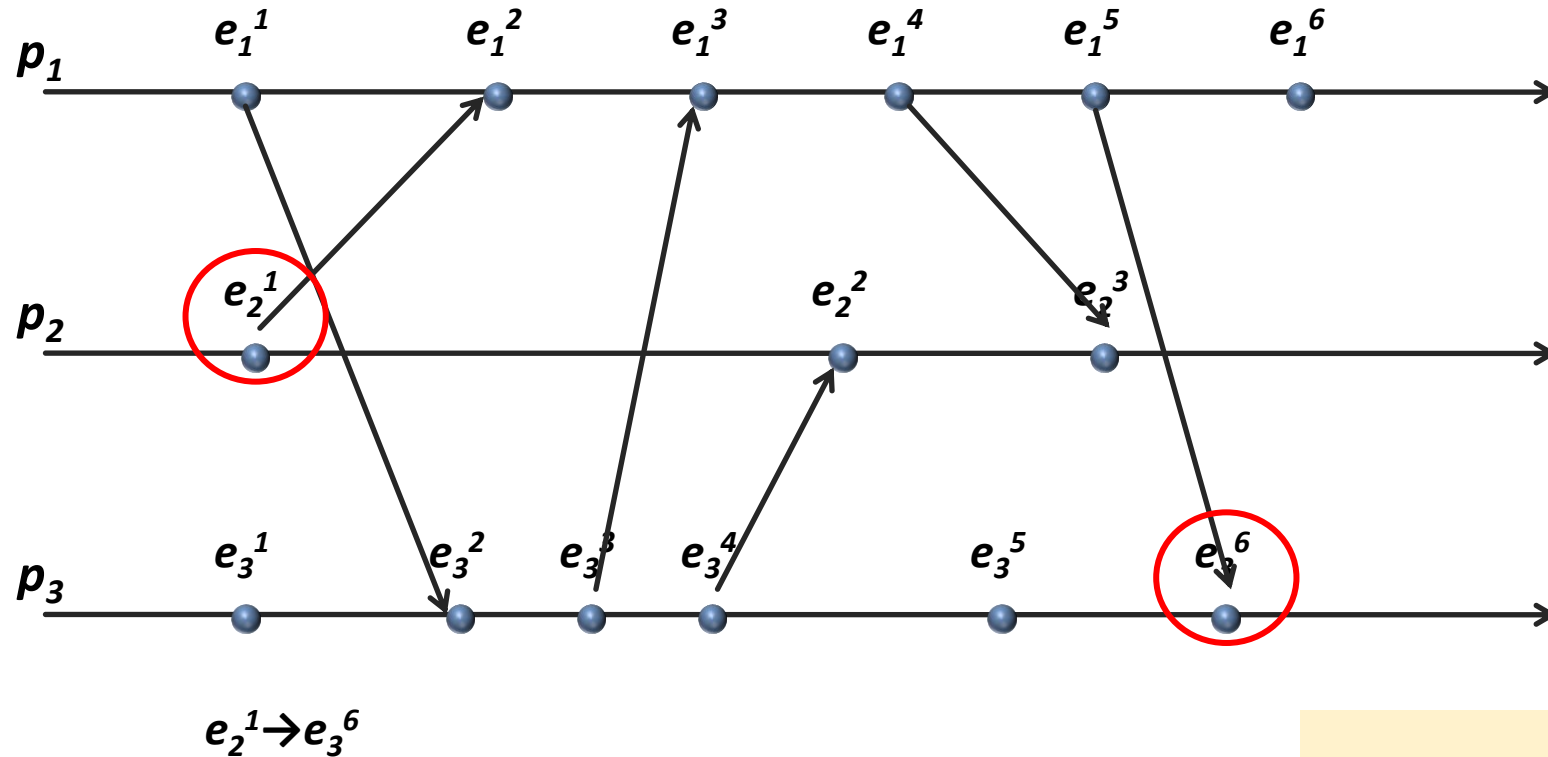
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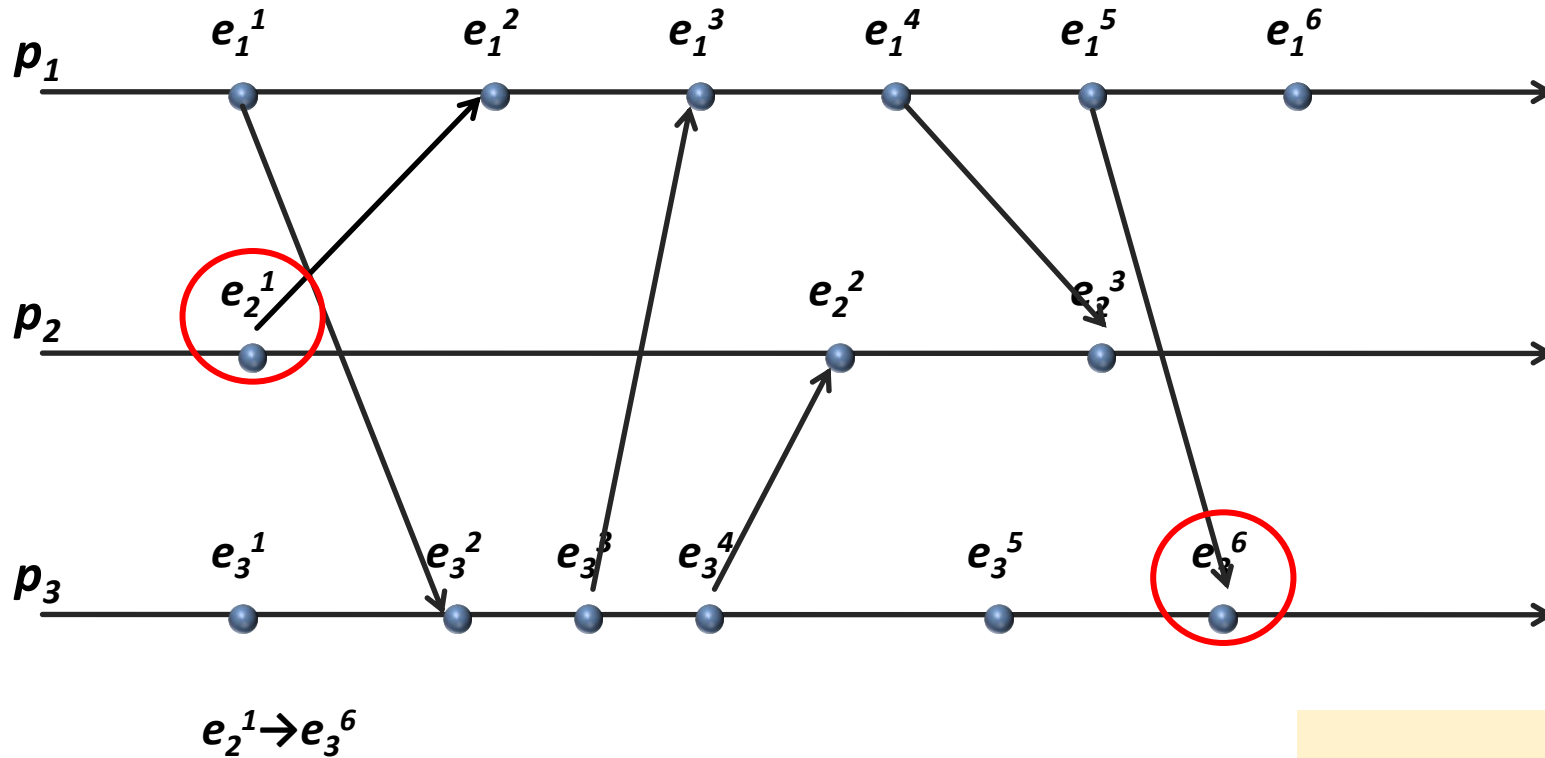
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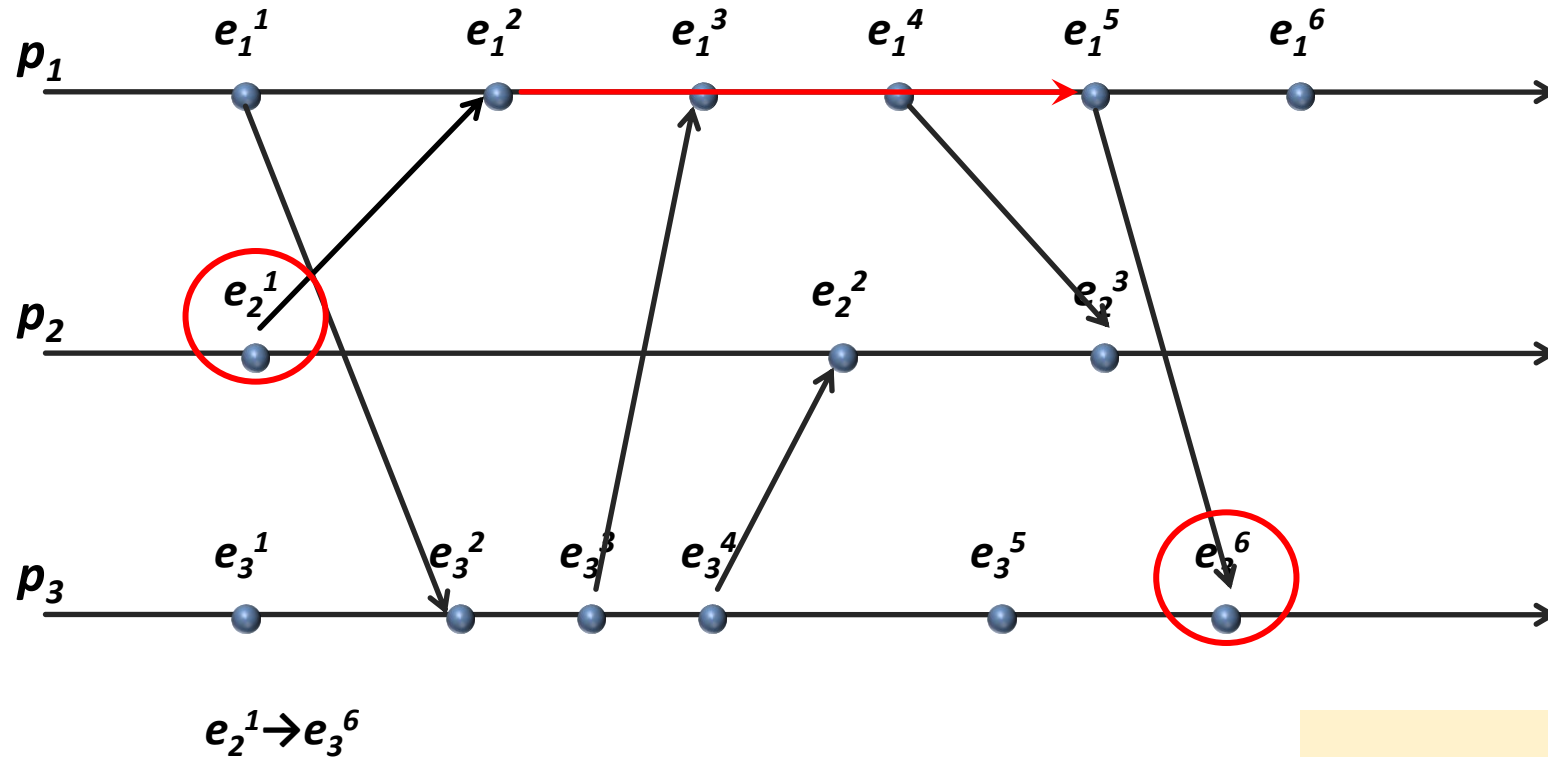
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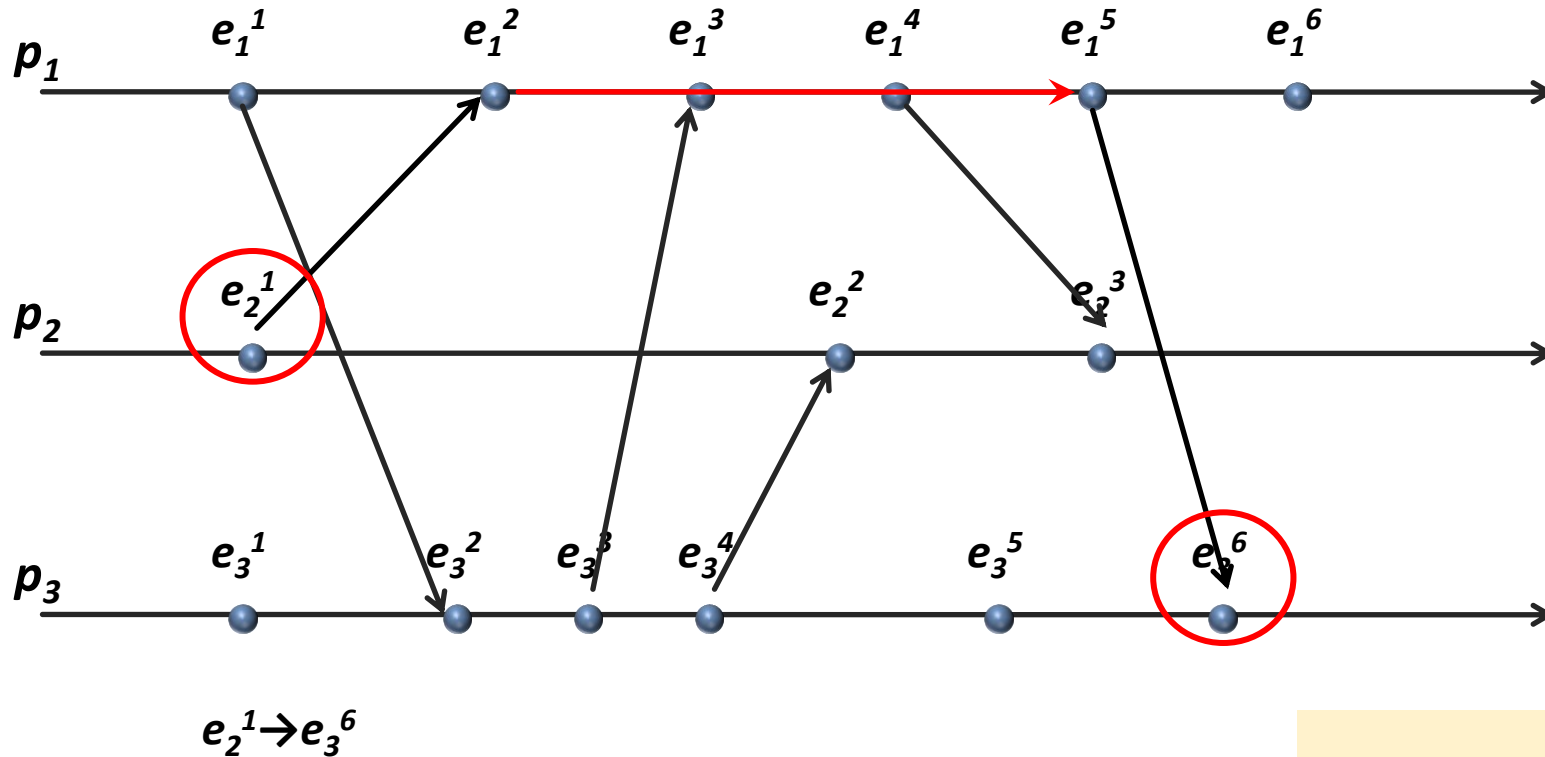


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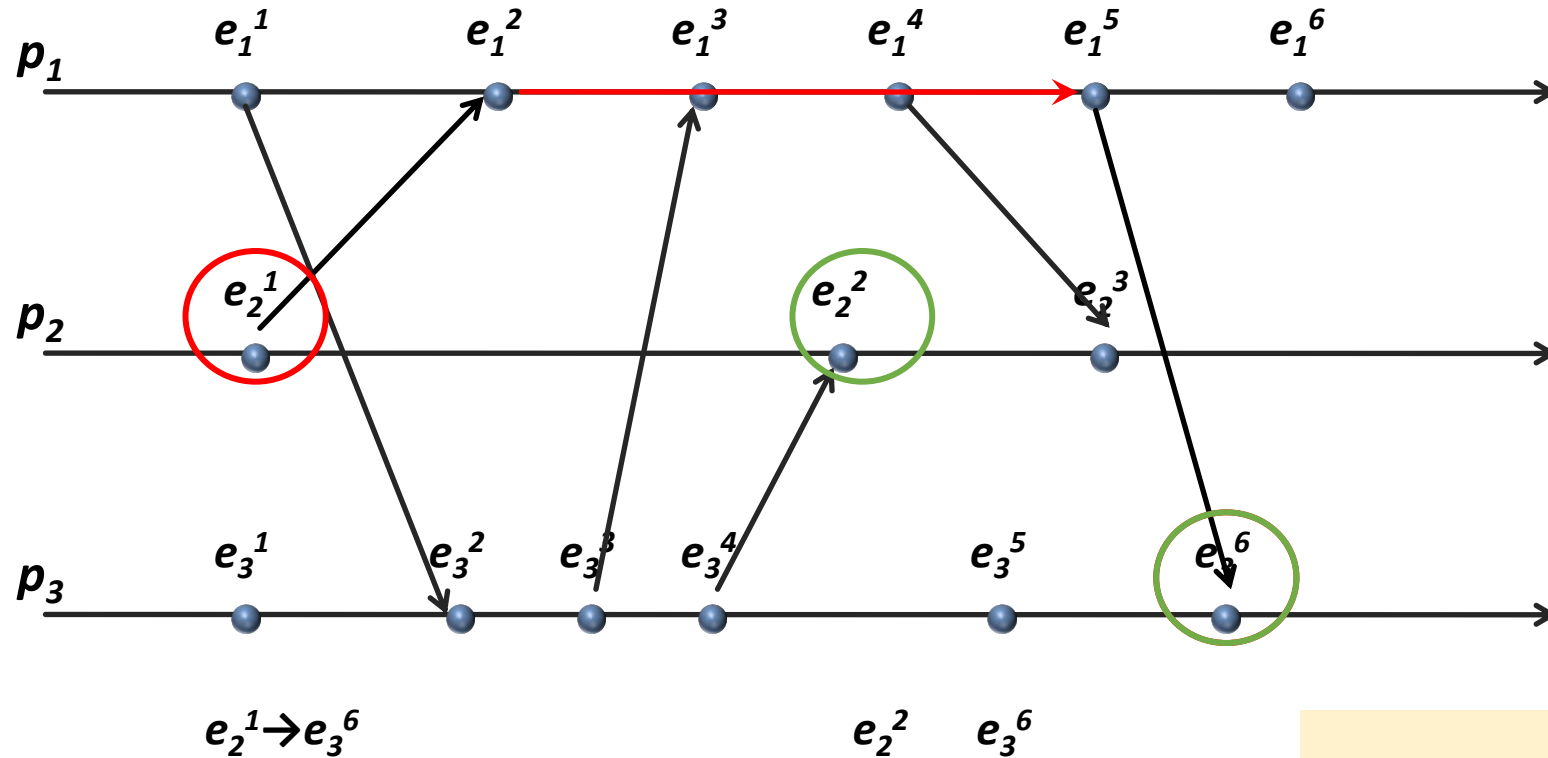
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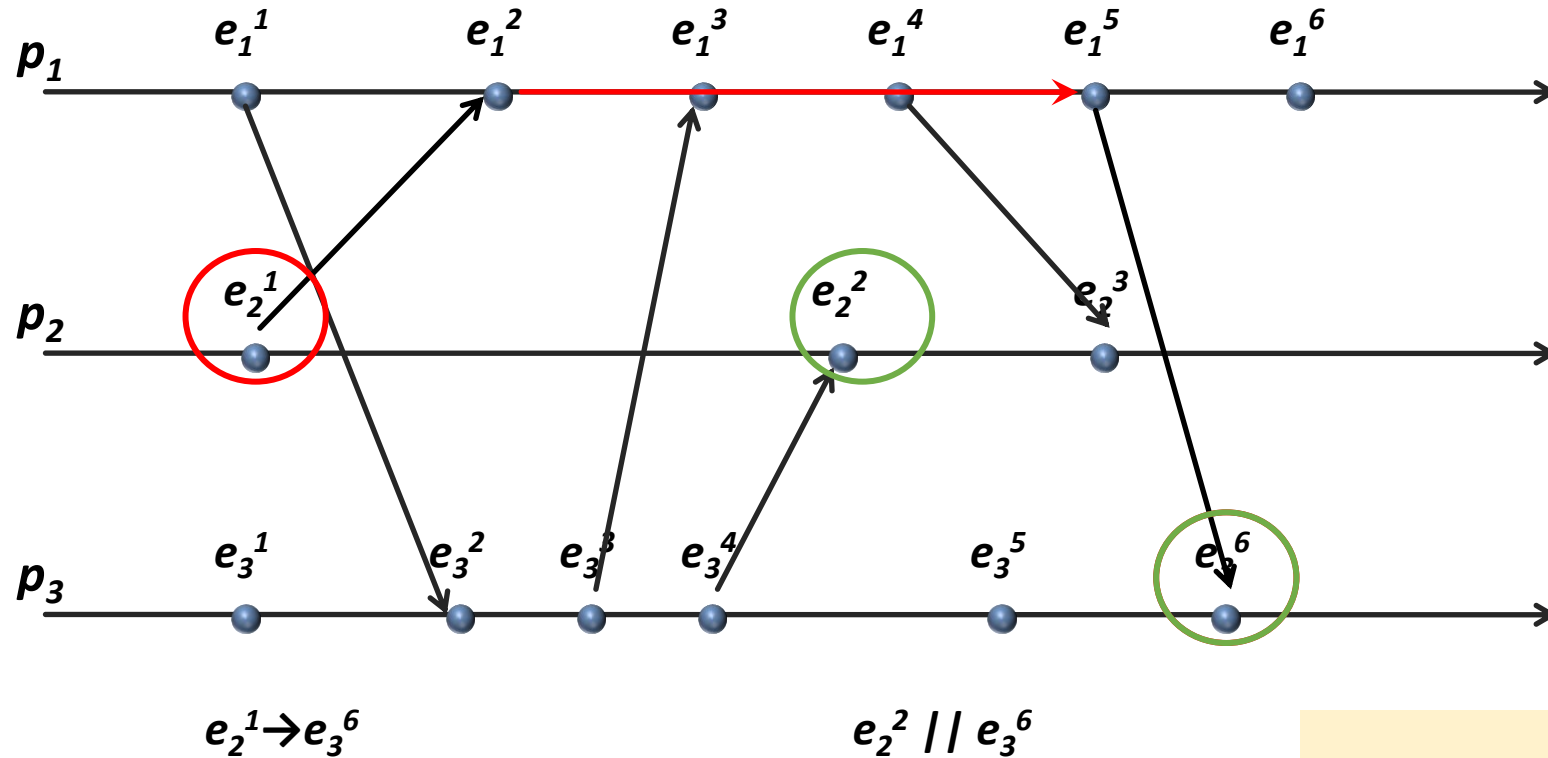
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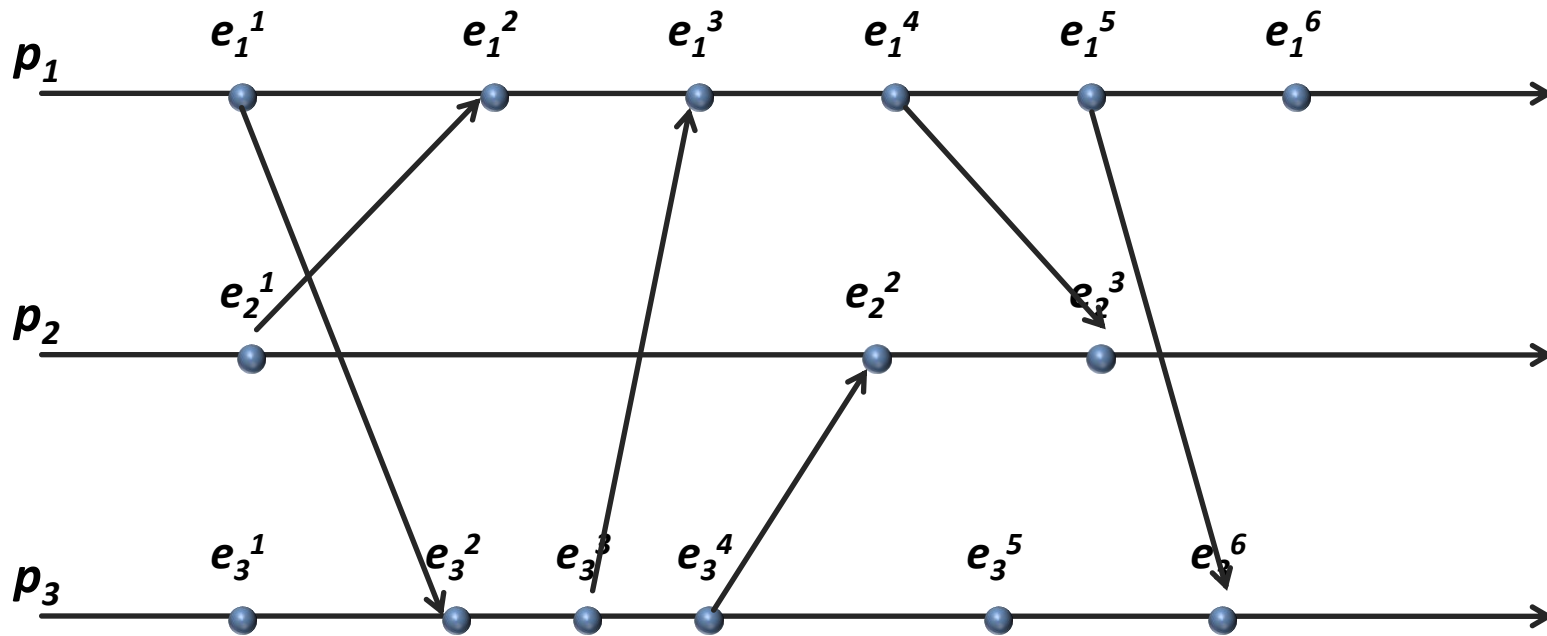


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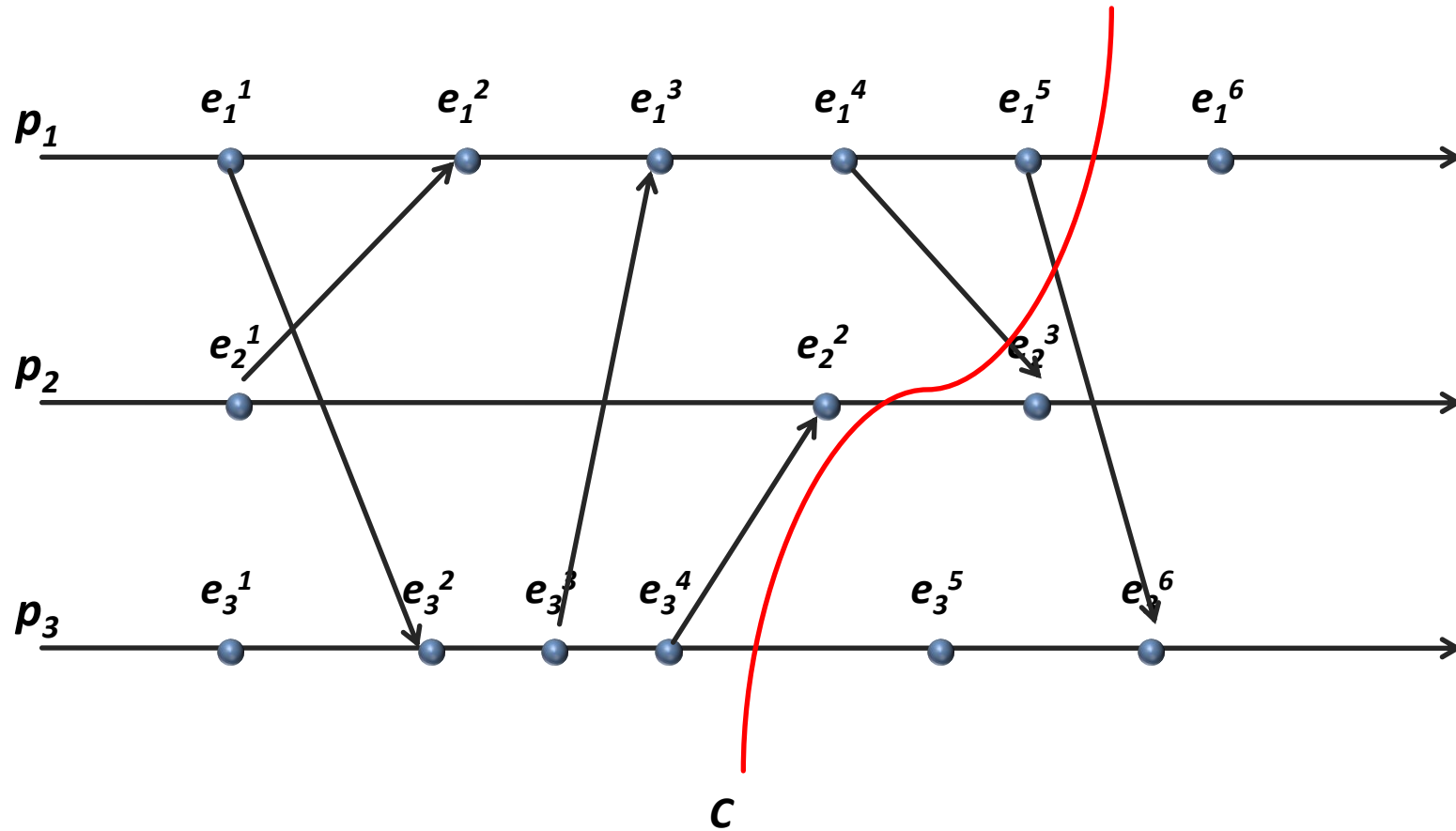
# Cuts of a Distributed Computation

- Suppose there is an ***external monitor*** process
- External monitor constructs a global state:
  - Asks processes to send it local history
- Global state constructed from these local histories is:  
***a cut of a distributed computation***

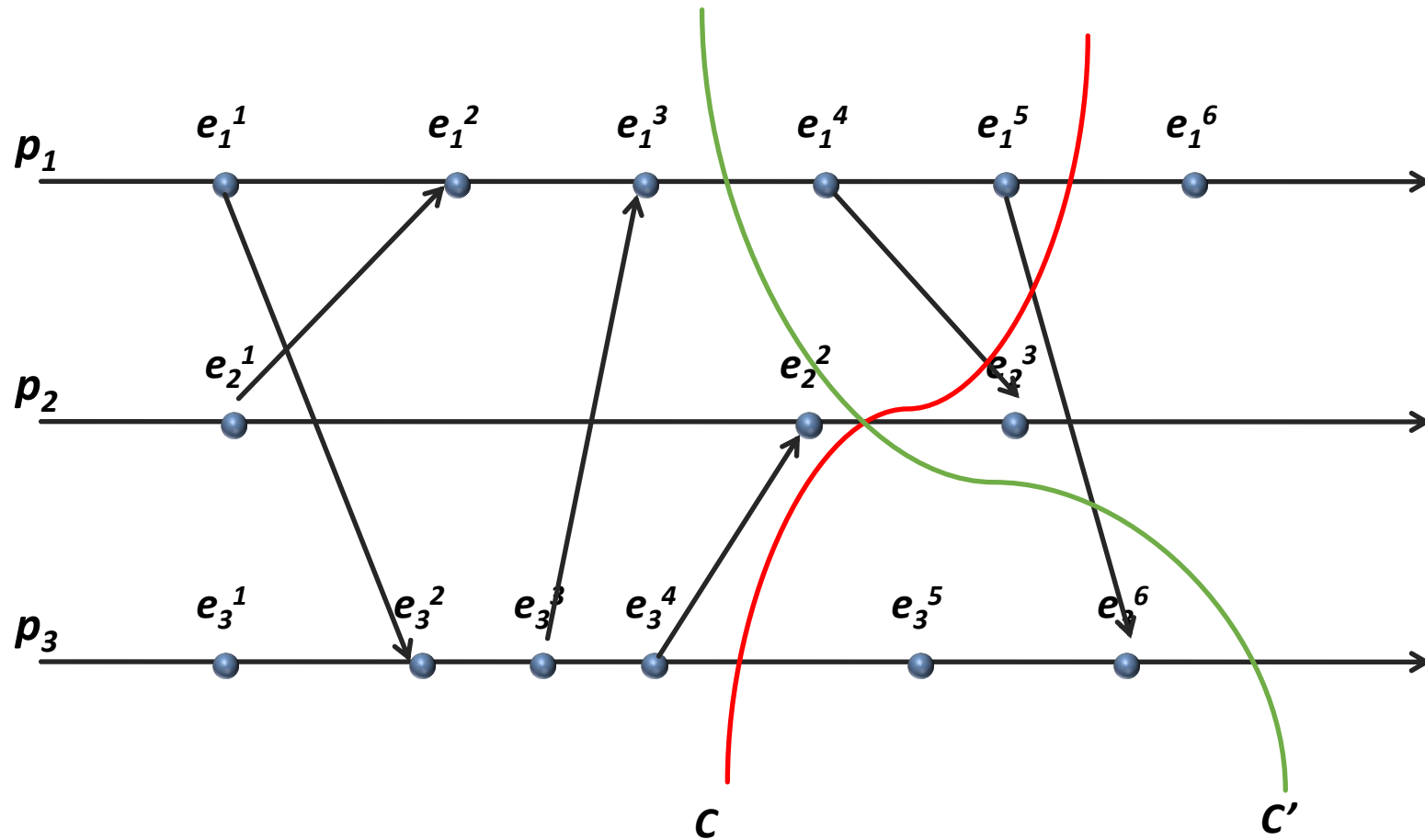
# Example Cuts



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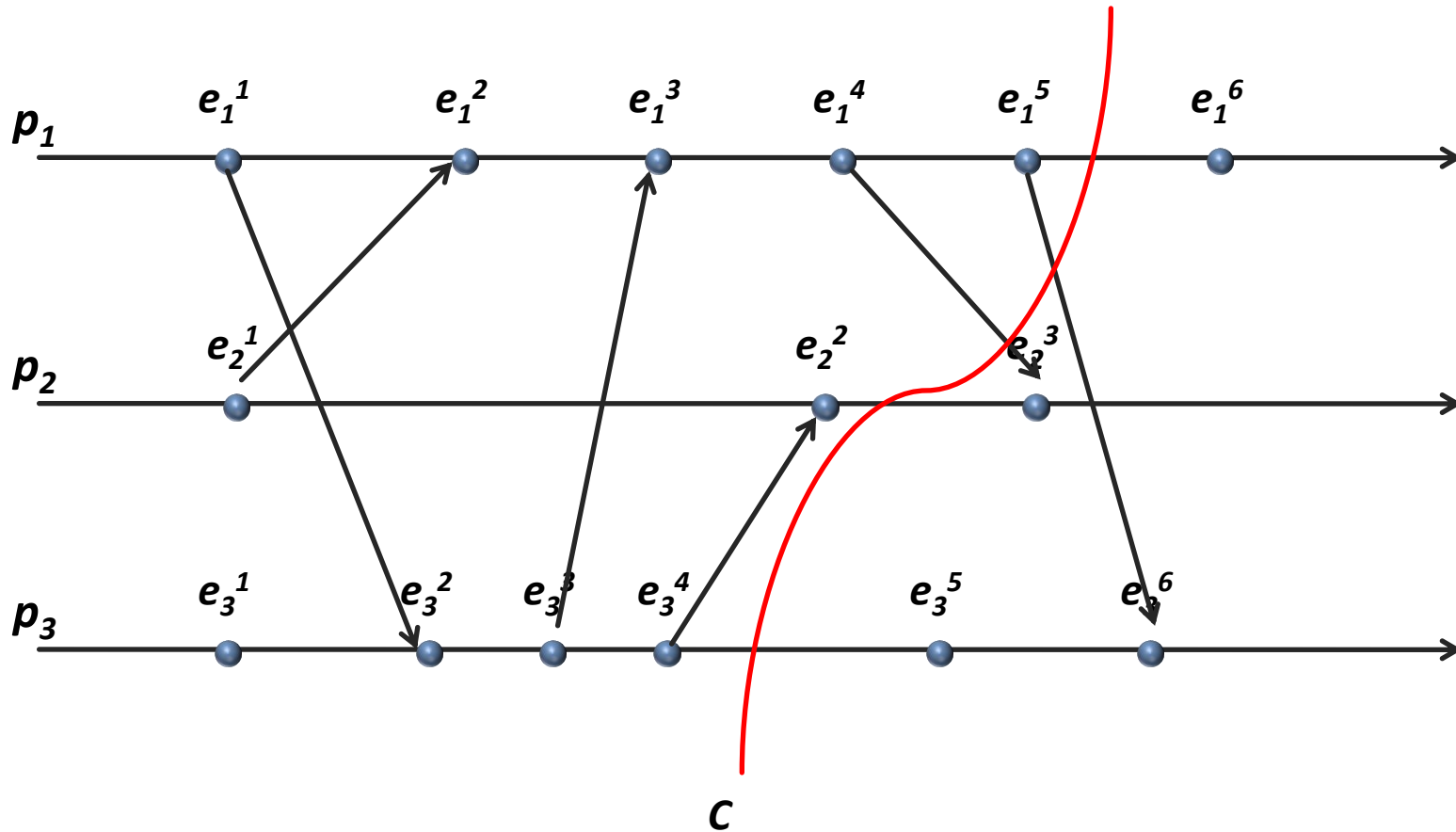




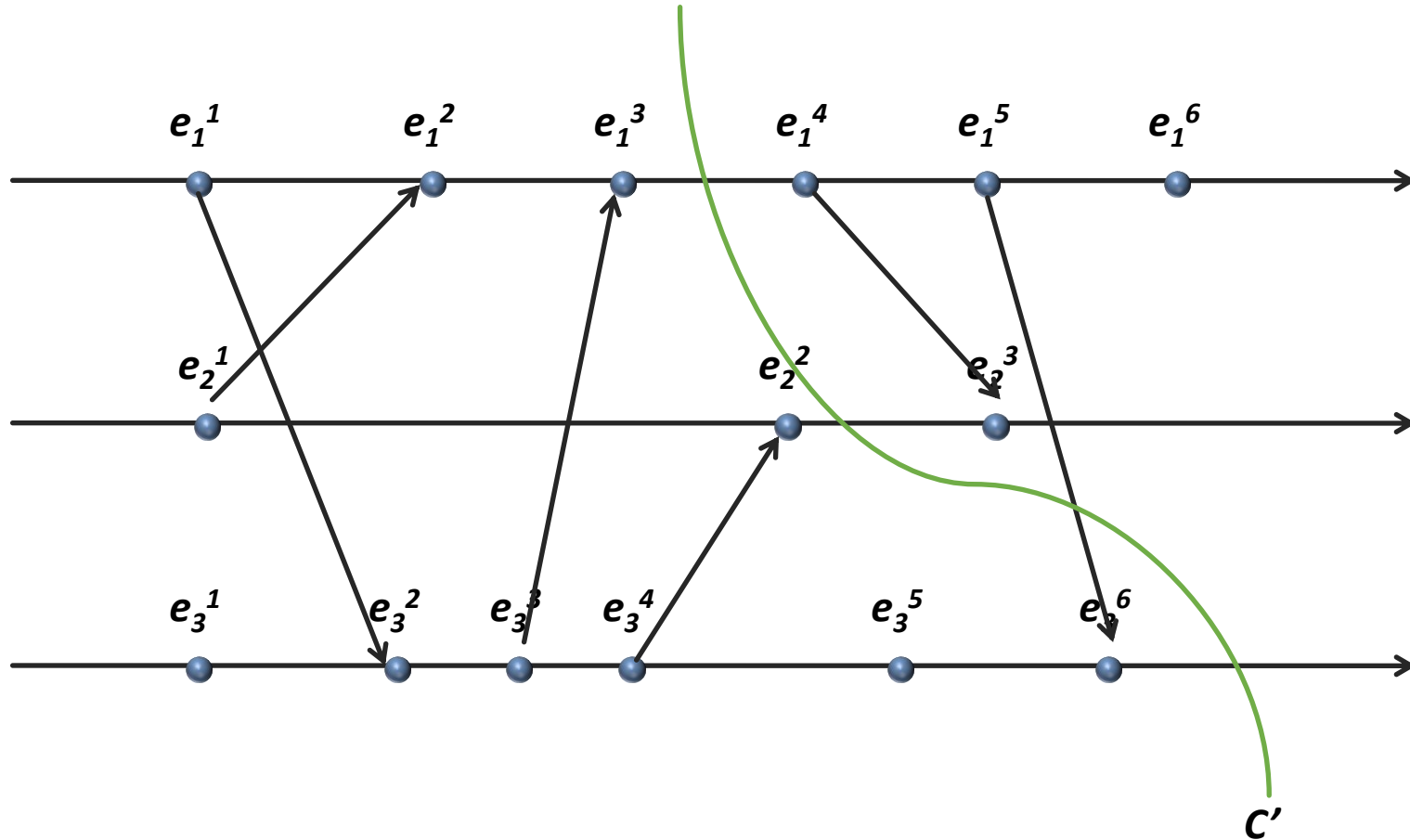
# Consistent vs. Inconsistent Cuts

- A cut is consistent if
  - for any event  $e$  included in the cut
  - any event  $e'$  that causally precedes  $e$  is also included in that cut
- For cut  $C$ :  
$$(e \in C) \wedge (e' \rightarrow e) \Rightarrow e' \in C$$

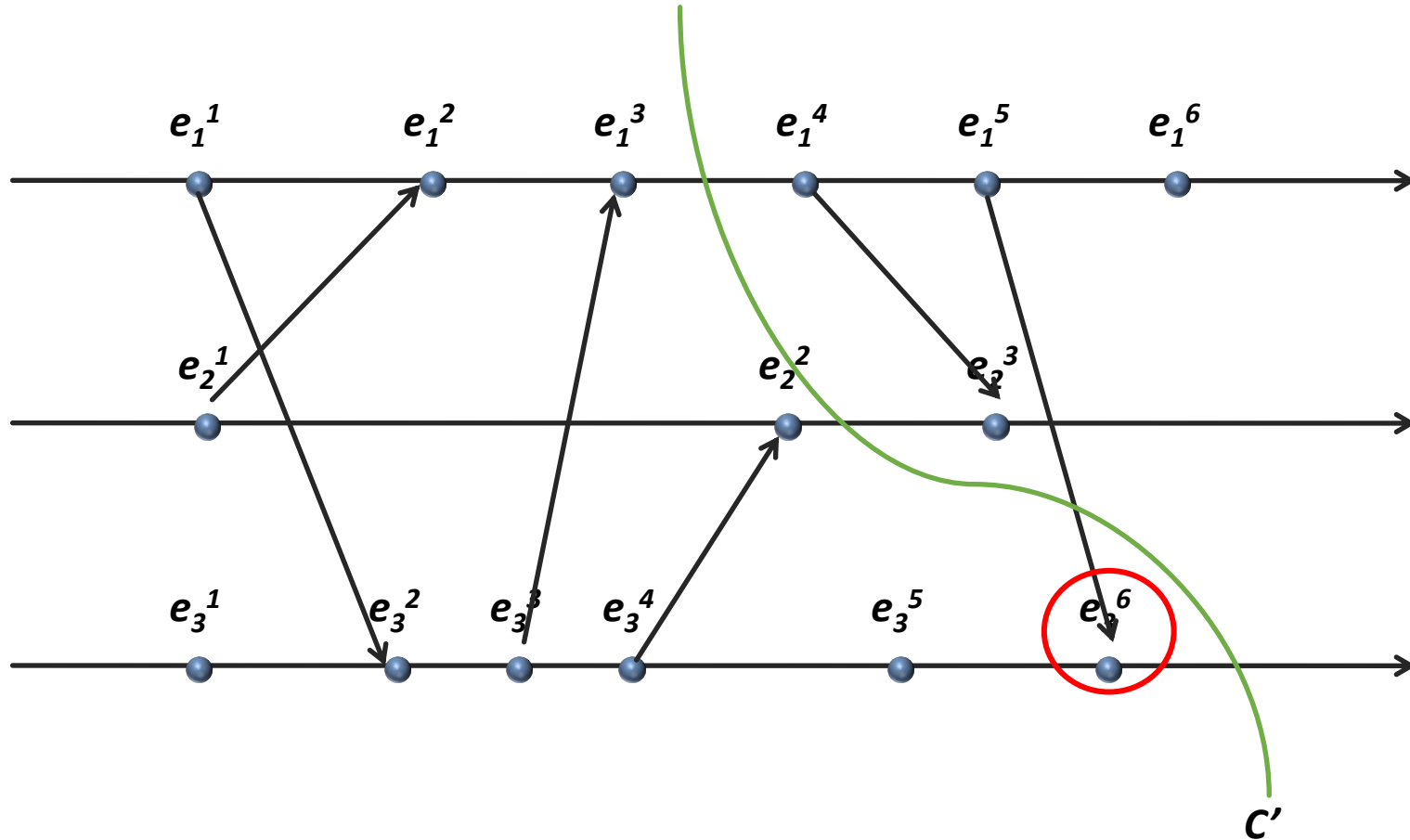
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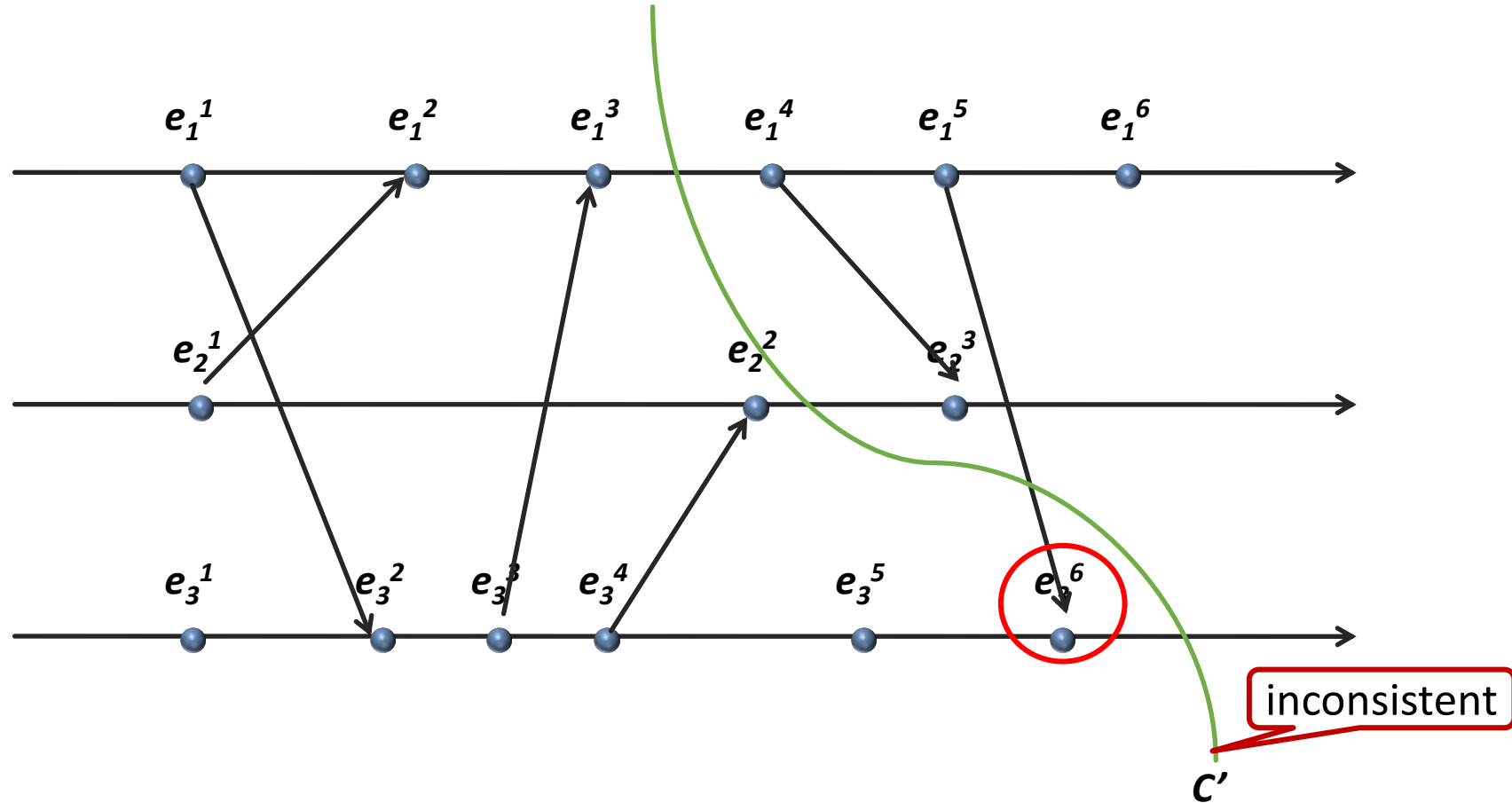
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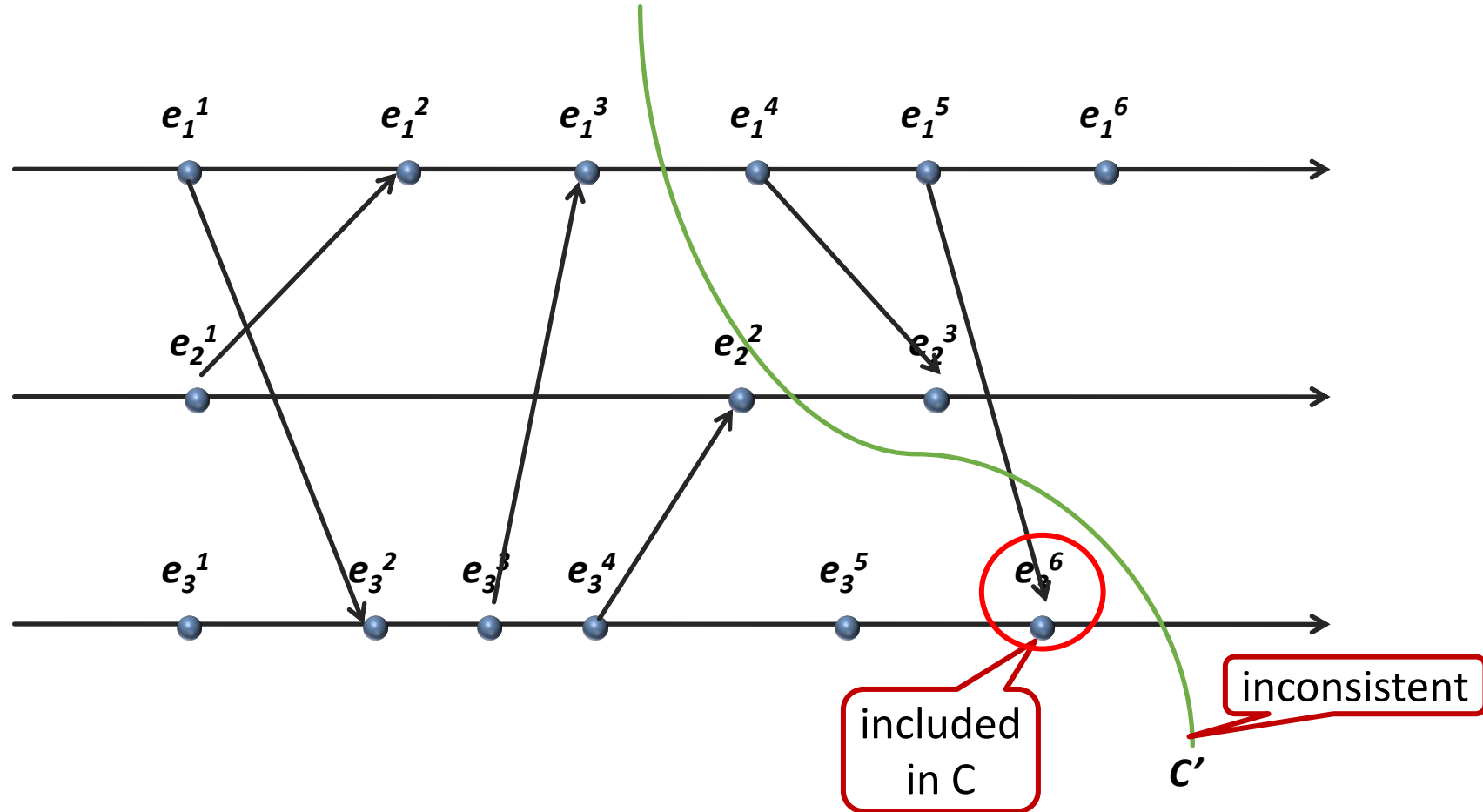
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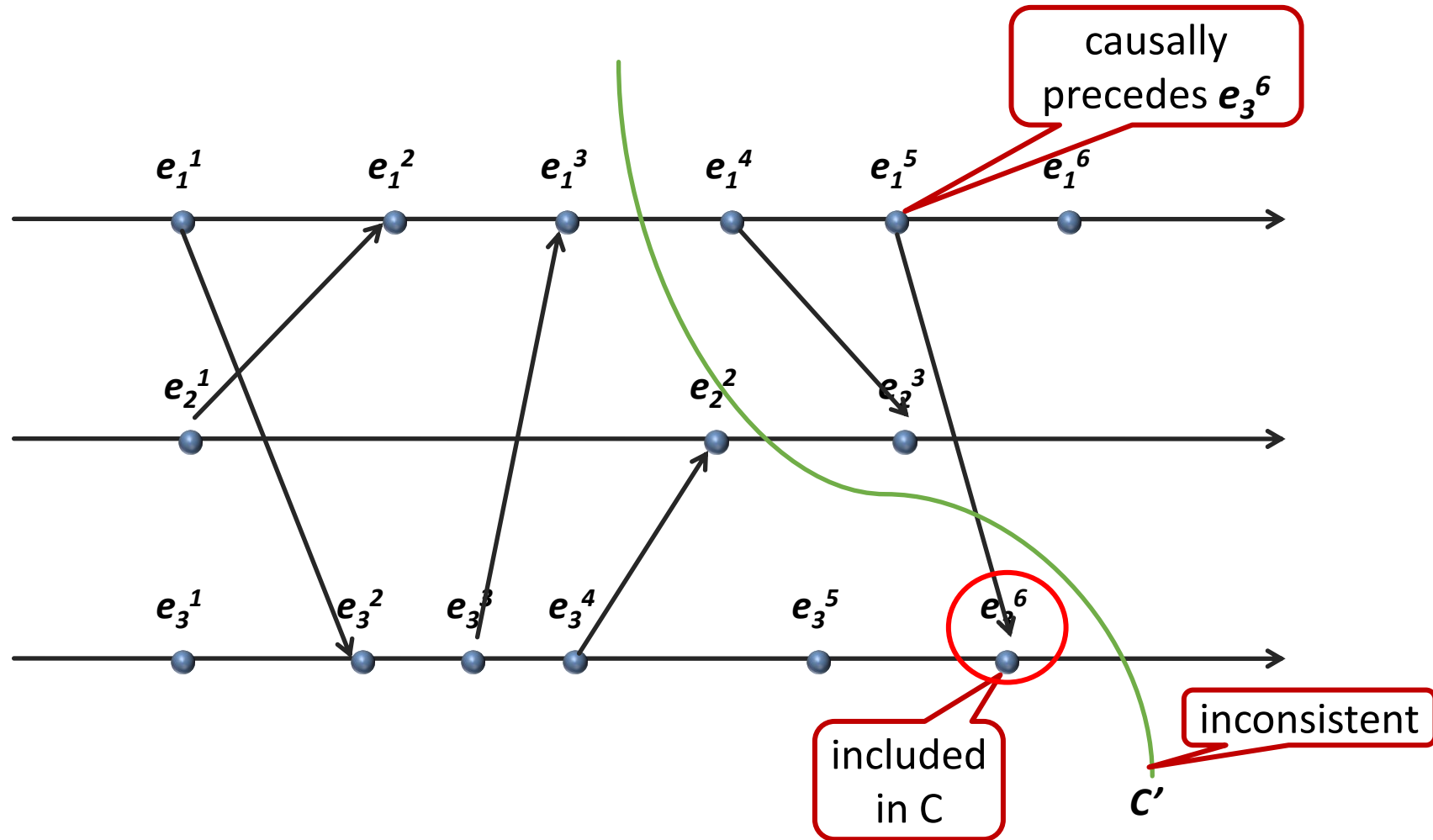
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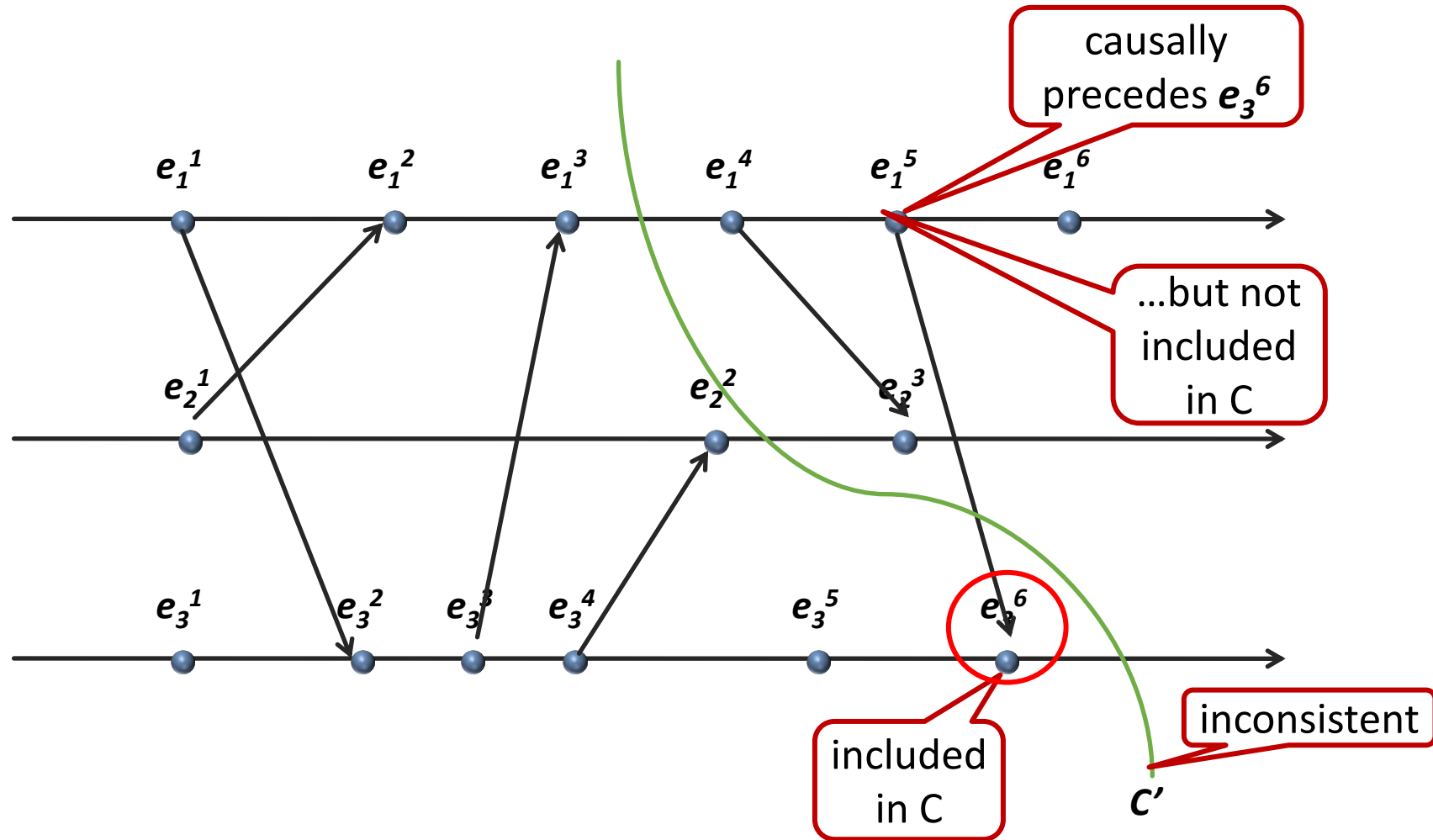
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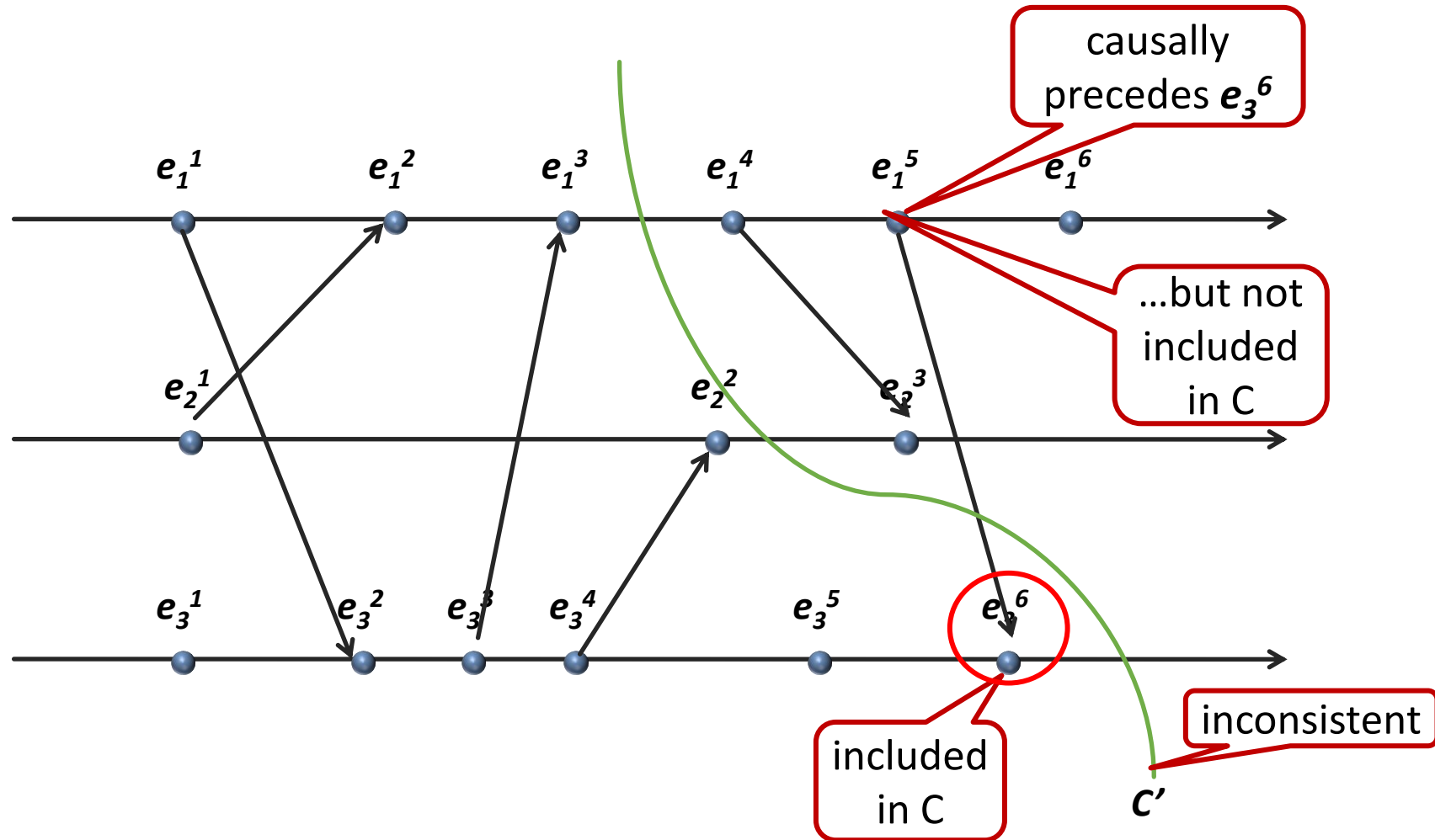


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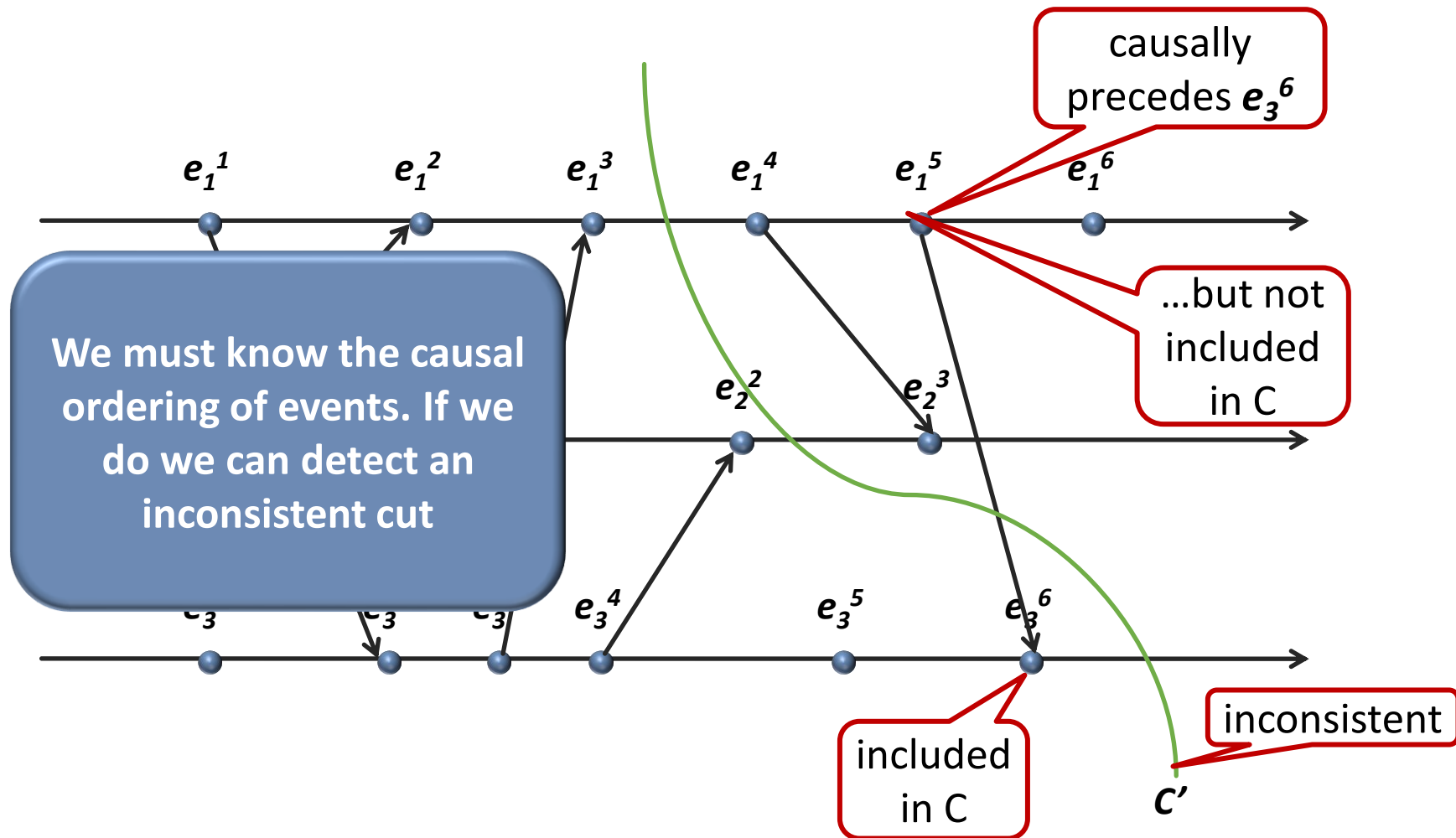


# Are These Cuts Consistent?



***A consistent cut corresponds to a consistent global state***

# What Do We Need to Know to Construct a Consistent Cut?



# Logical Clocks

- Each process maintains a local value of a logical clock  $LC$
- Logical clock of process  $p$  counts **how many events in a distributed computation causally preceded the current event at  $p$**  (including the current event).
- $LC(e_i)$  – the logical clock value at process  $p_i$  at event  $e_i$
- Suppose we had a distributed system with only a single process

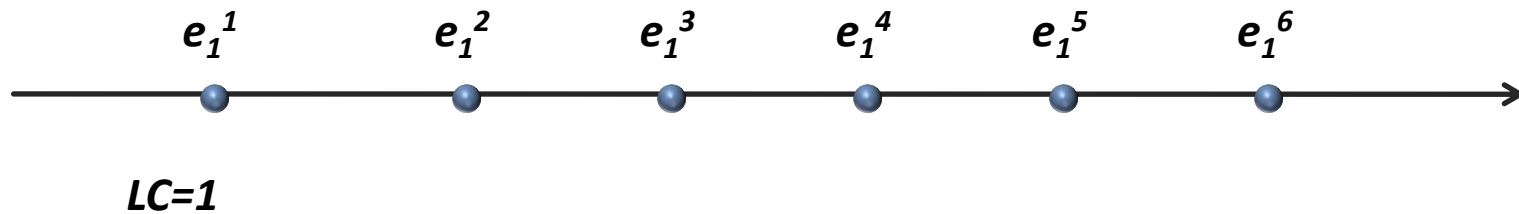
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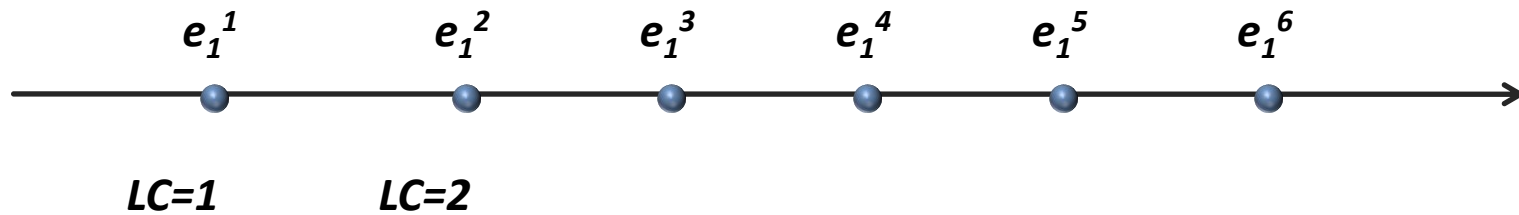
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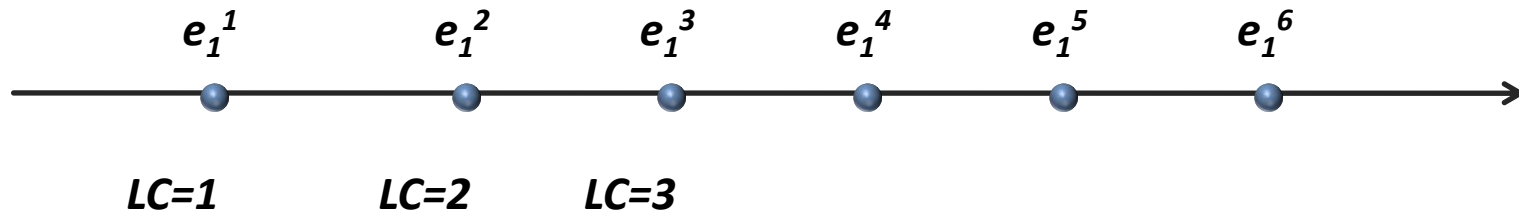
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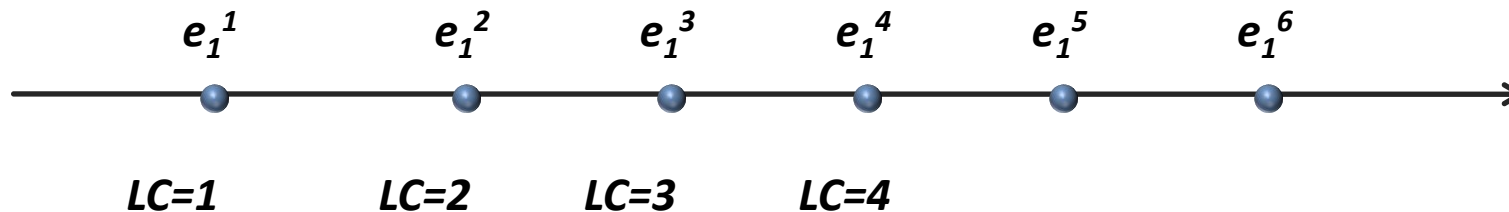
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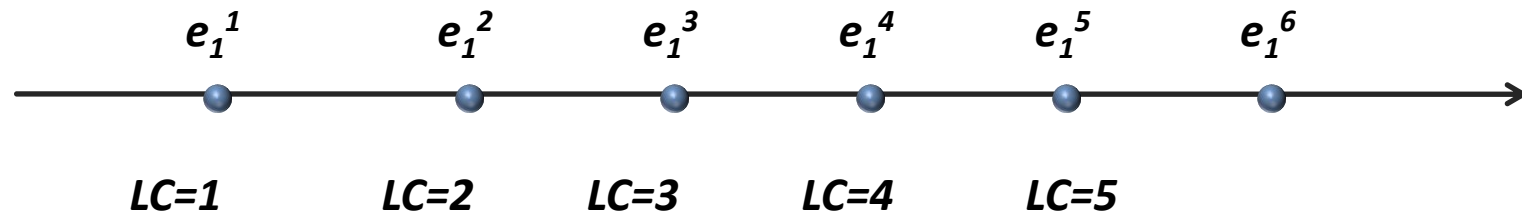
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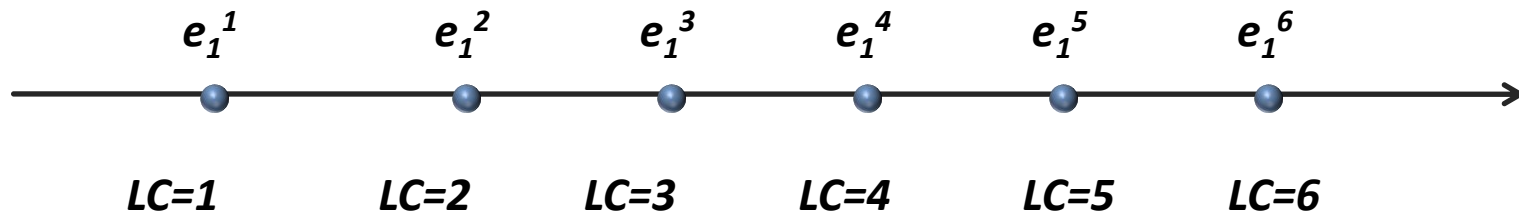
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# Logical Clocks

- Each process maintains a local value of a logical clock  $LC$
- Logical clock of process  $p$  counts **how many events in a distributed computation causally preceded the current event at  $p$**  (including the current event).
- $LC(e_i)$  – the logical clock value at process  $p_i$  at event  $e_i$
- Suppose we had a distributed system with only a single process

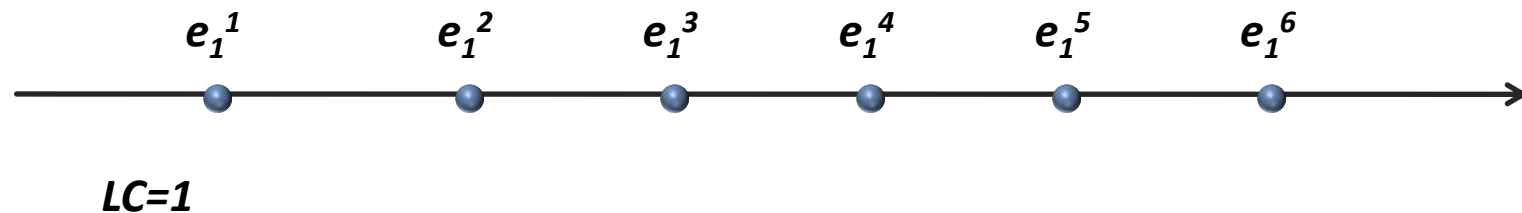


# Logical Clocks (cont.)

- In a system with more than one process logical clocks are updated as follows:
- Each message  $m$  that is sent contains a timestamp  $TS(m)$
- $TS(m)$  is the logical clock value associated with sending event at the sending process

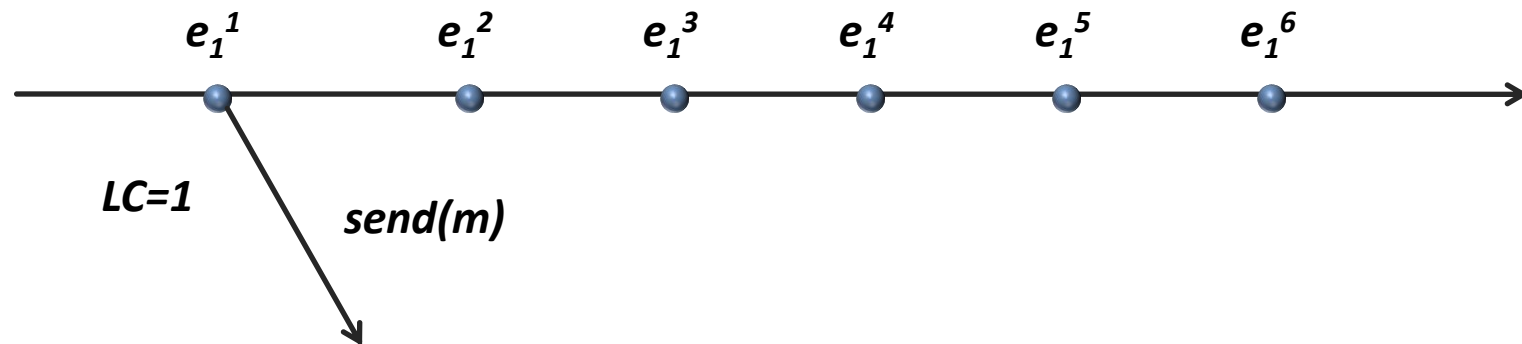
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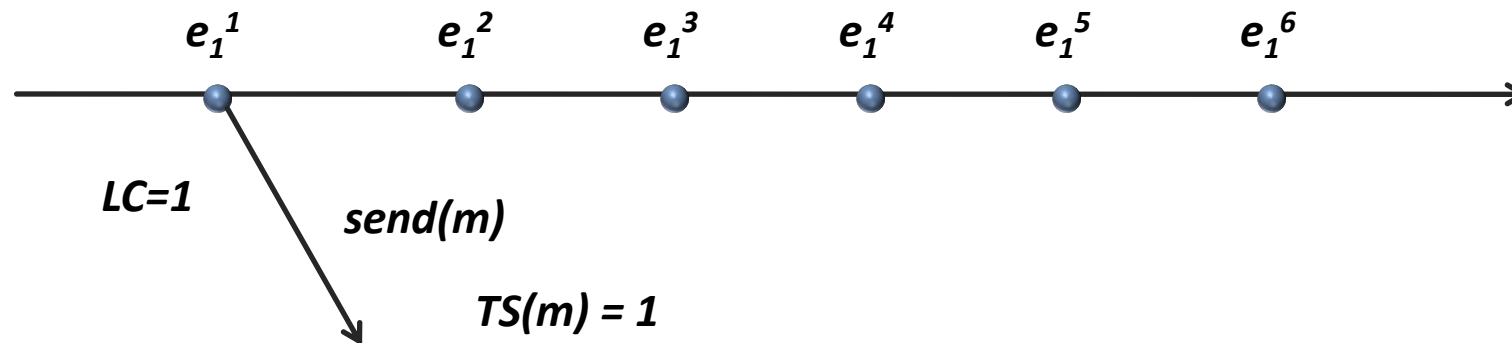
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# Logical Clocks (cont)

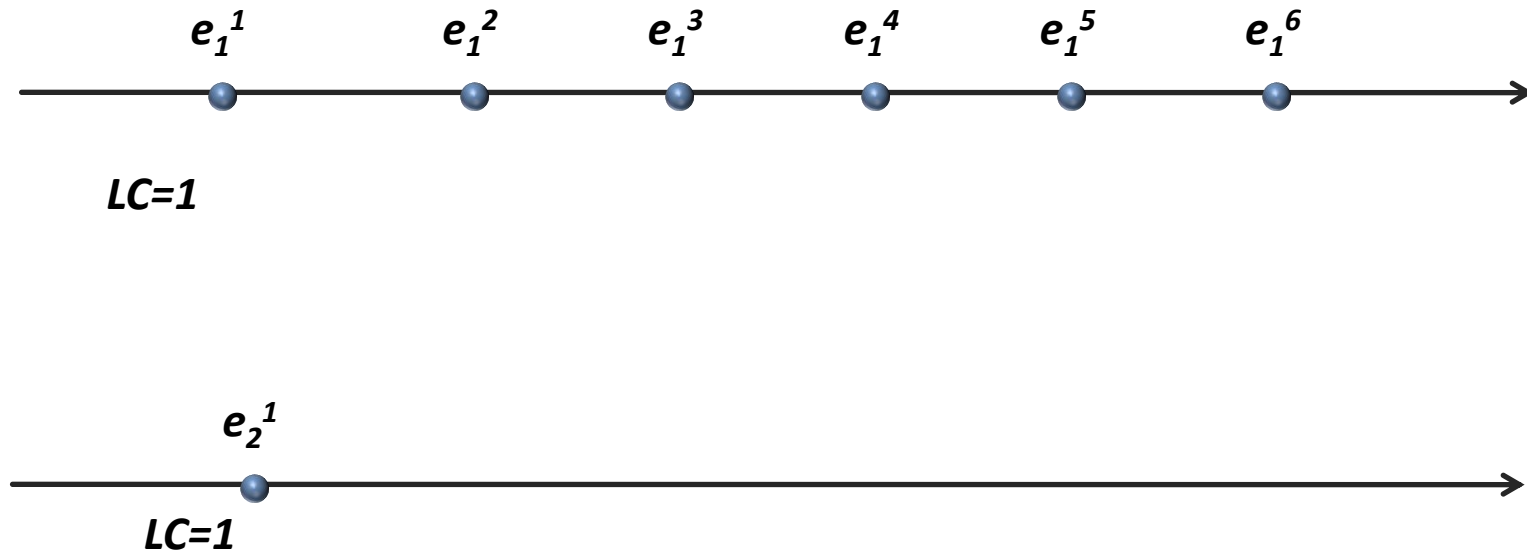
- When the receiving process receives message  $m$ , it updates its logical clock to:

$$\mathit{max}\{\mathit{LC}, \mathit{TS}(m)\} + 1$$

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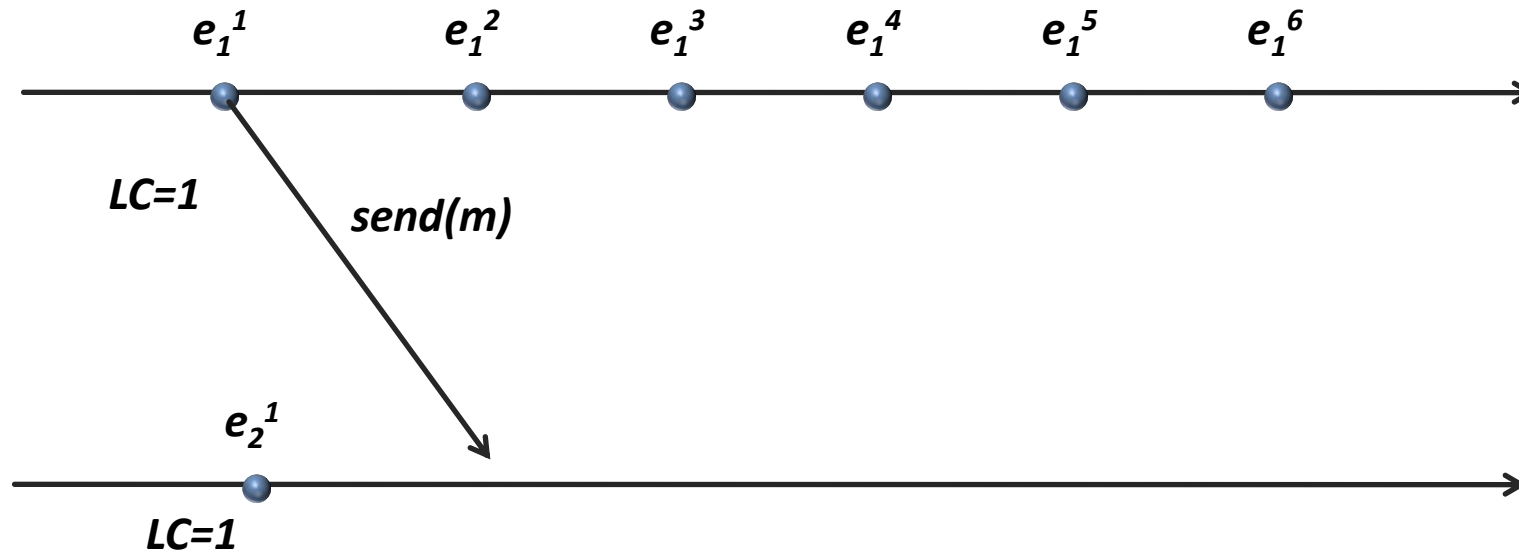




# Logical Clocks (cont)

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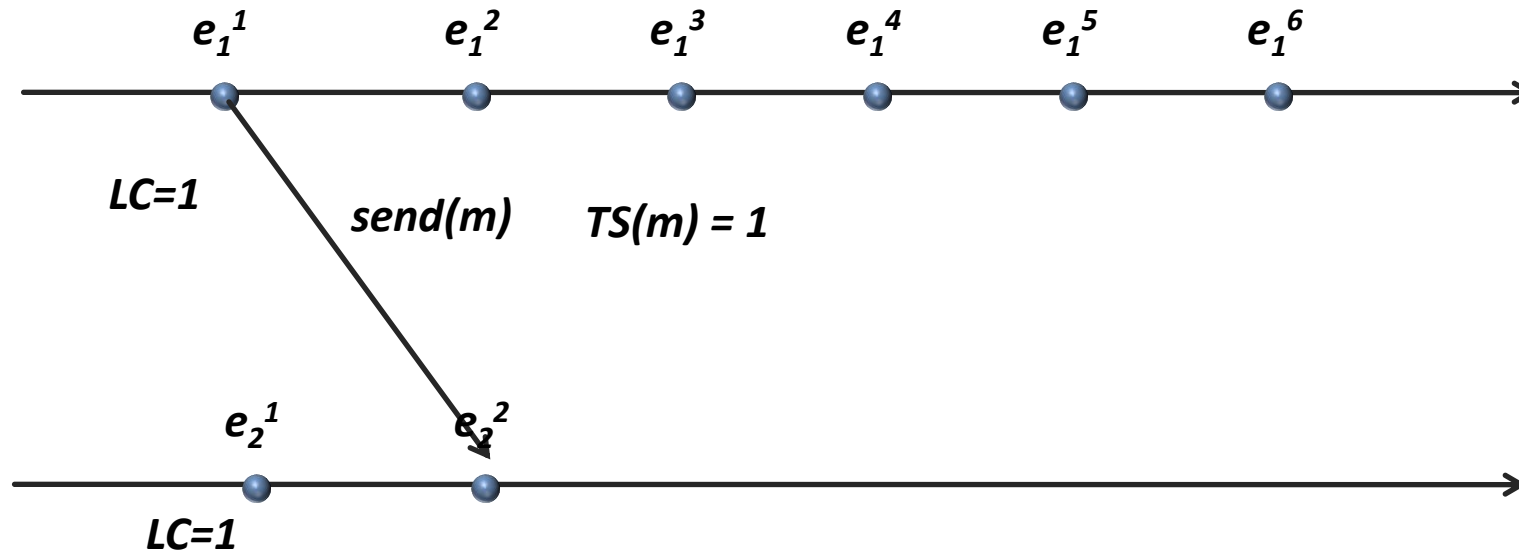
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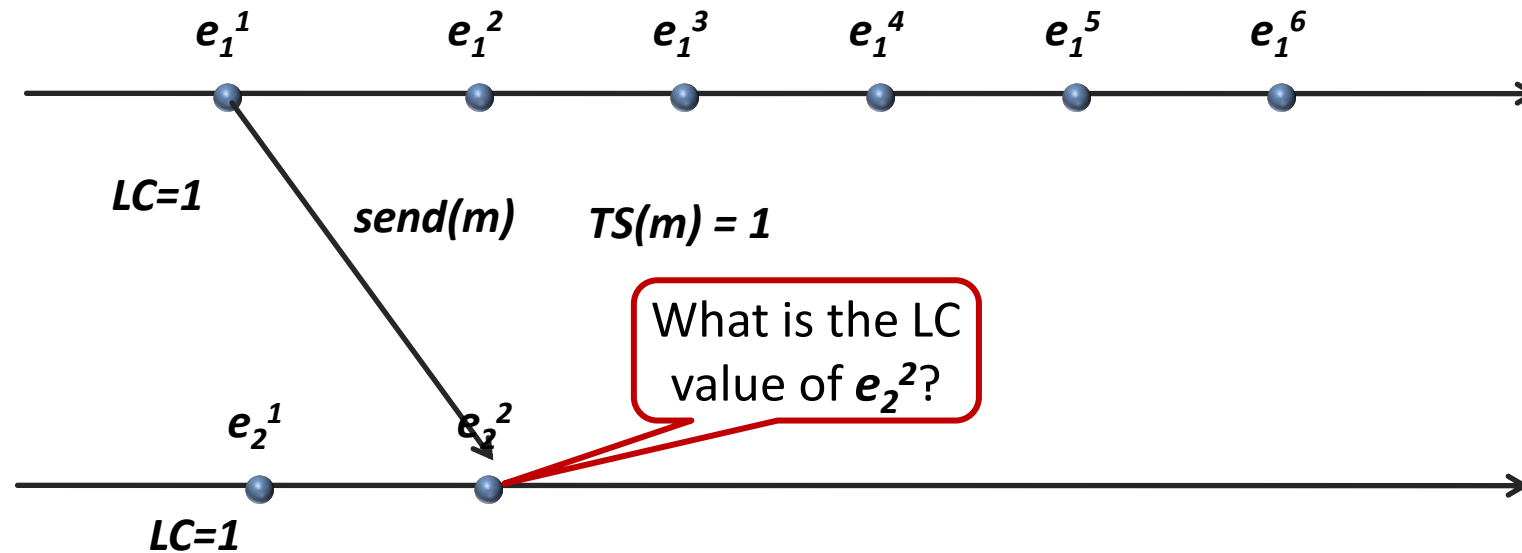
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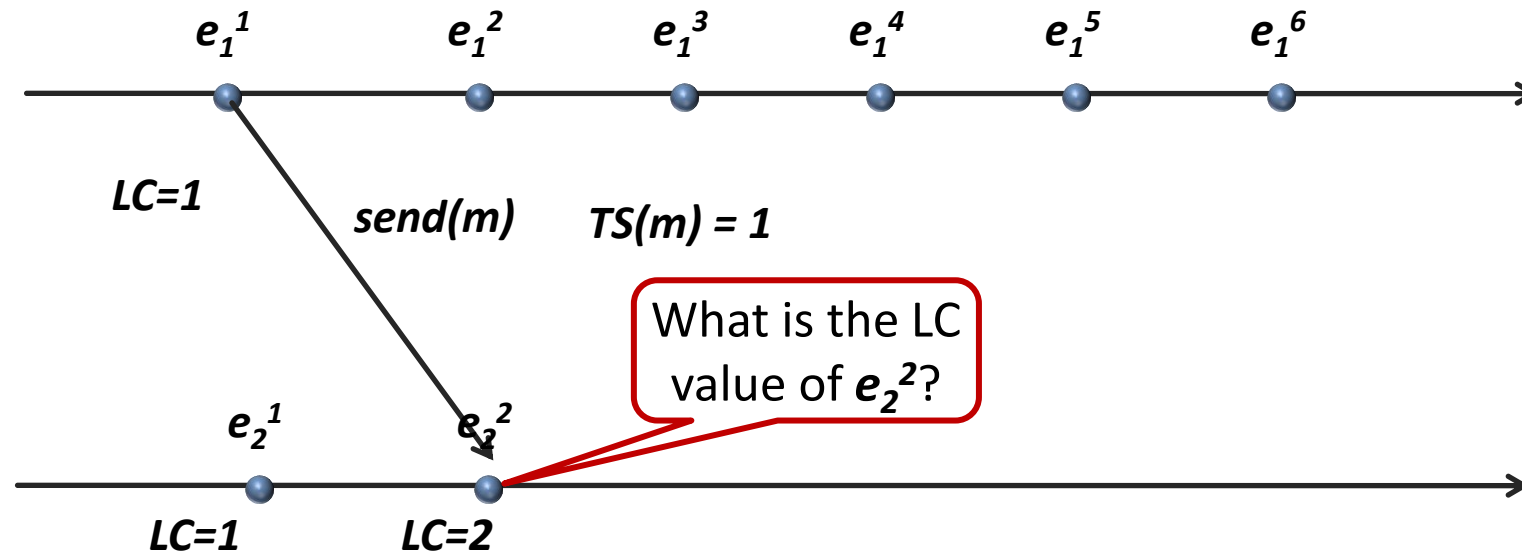
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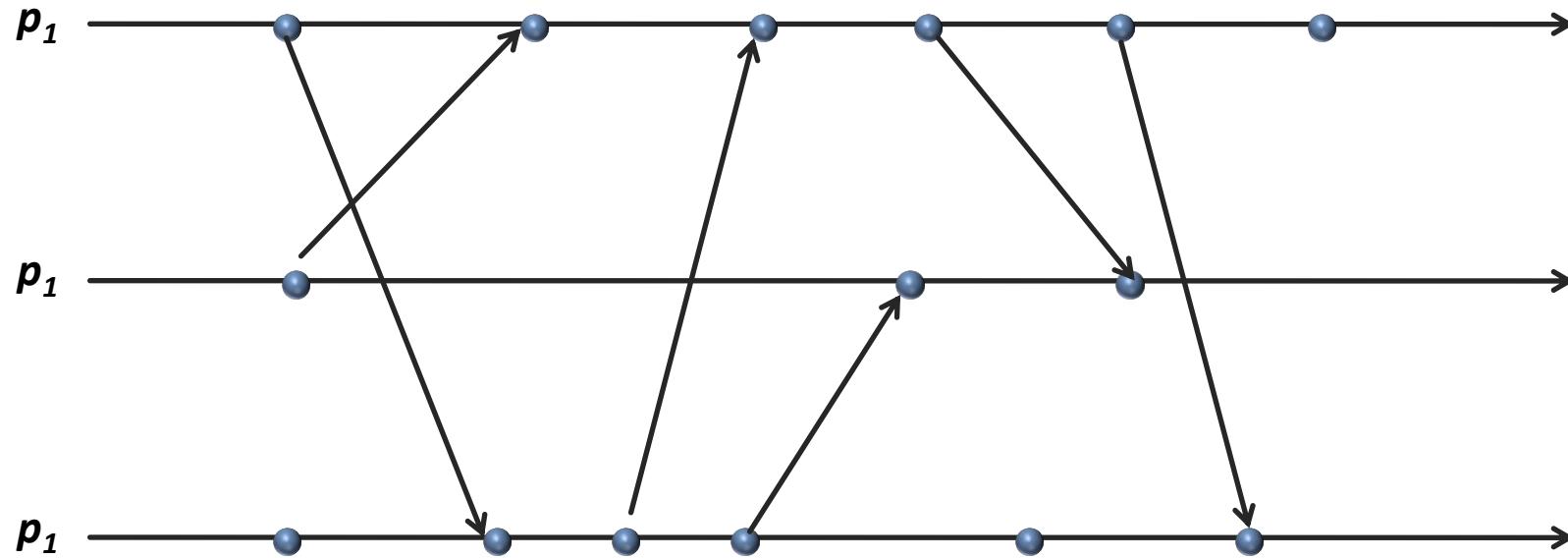
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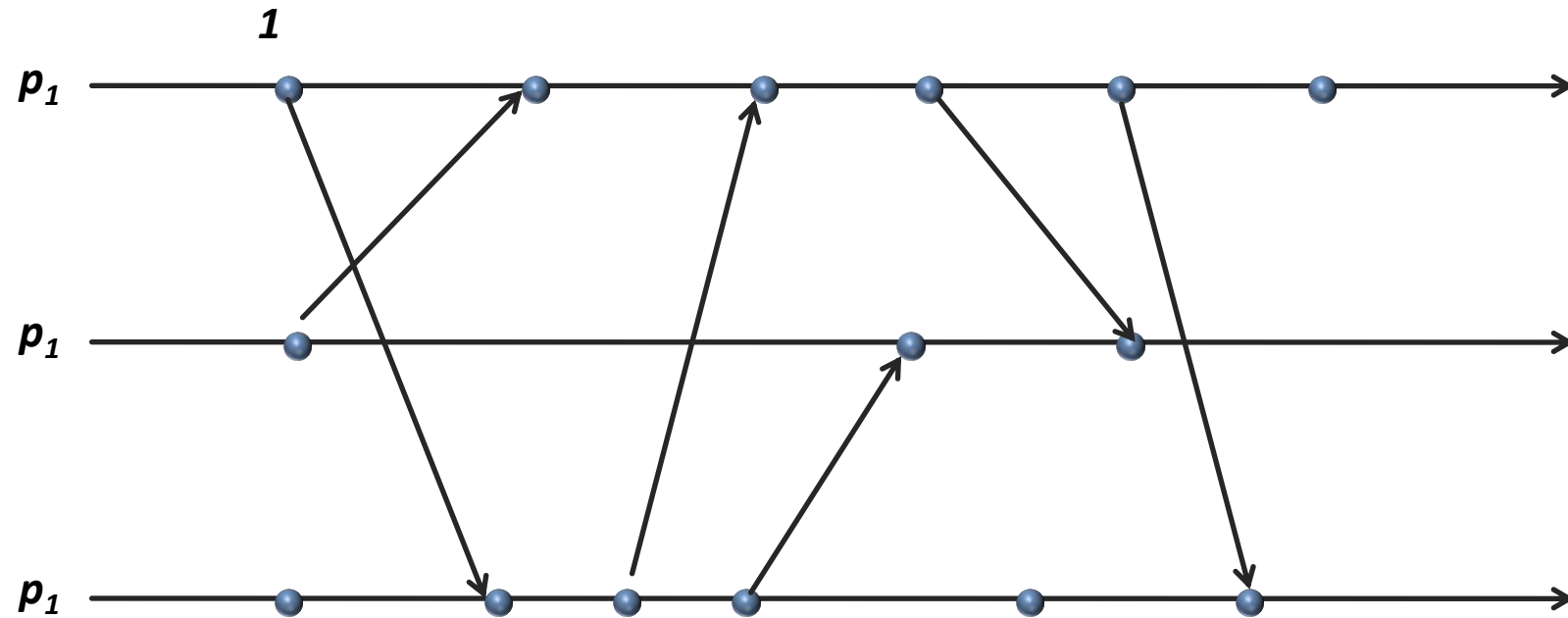
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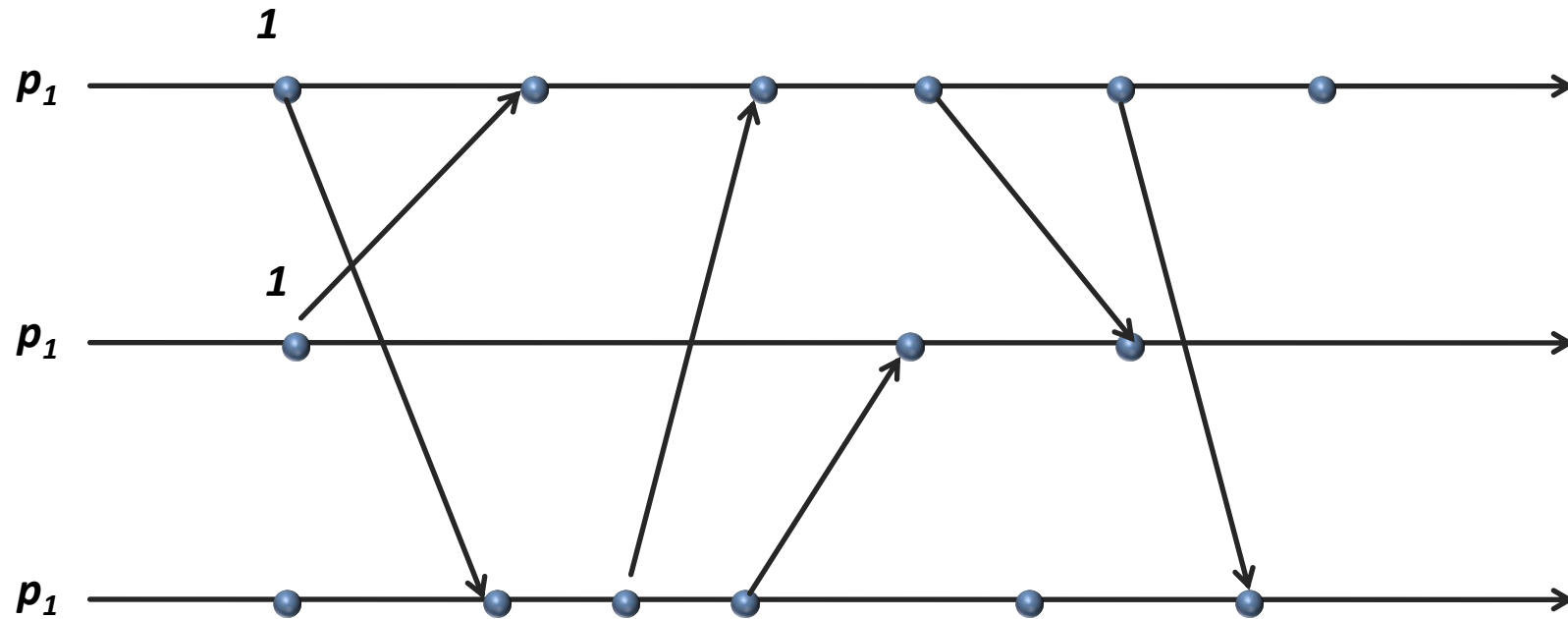
# Illustration of a Logical Clock



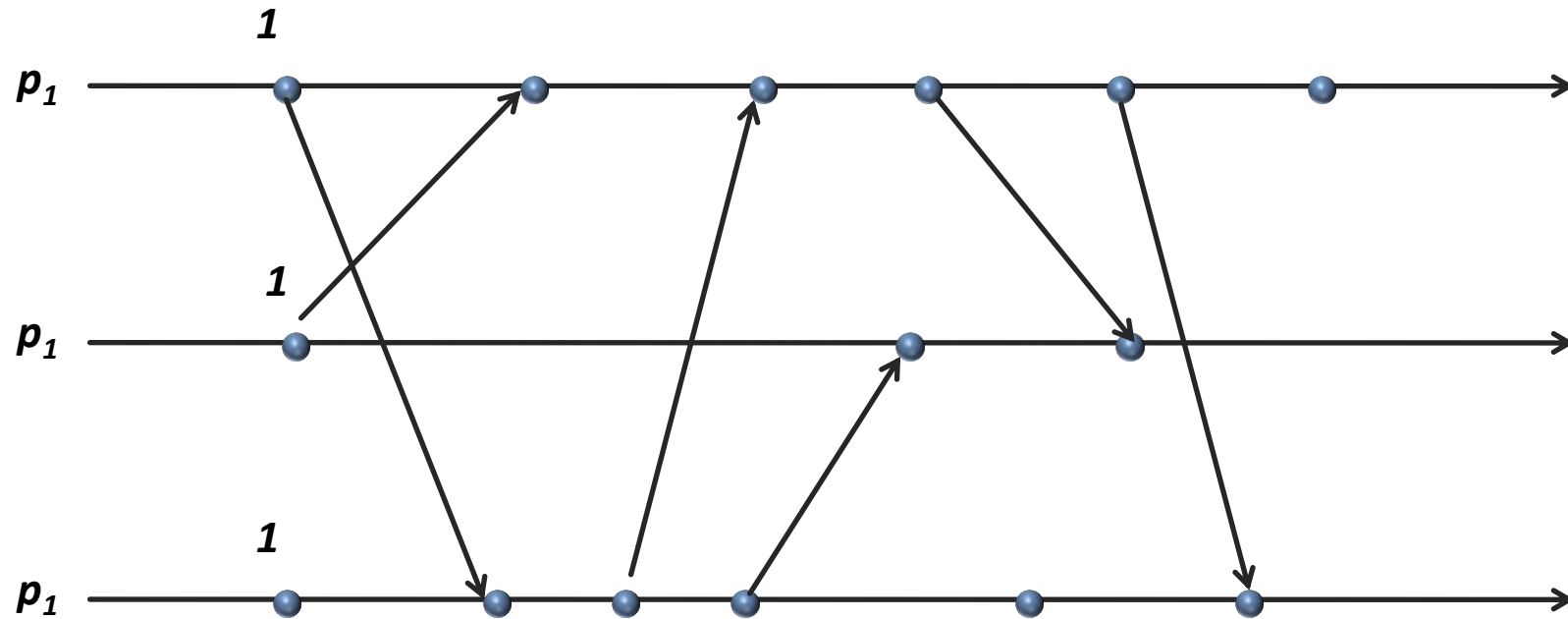
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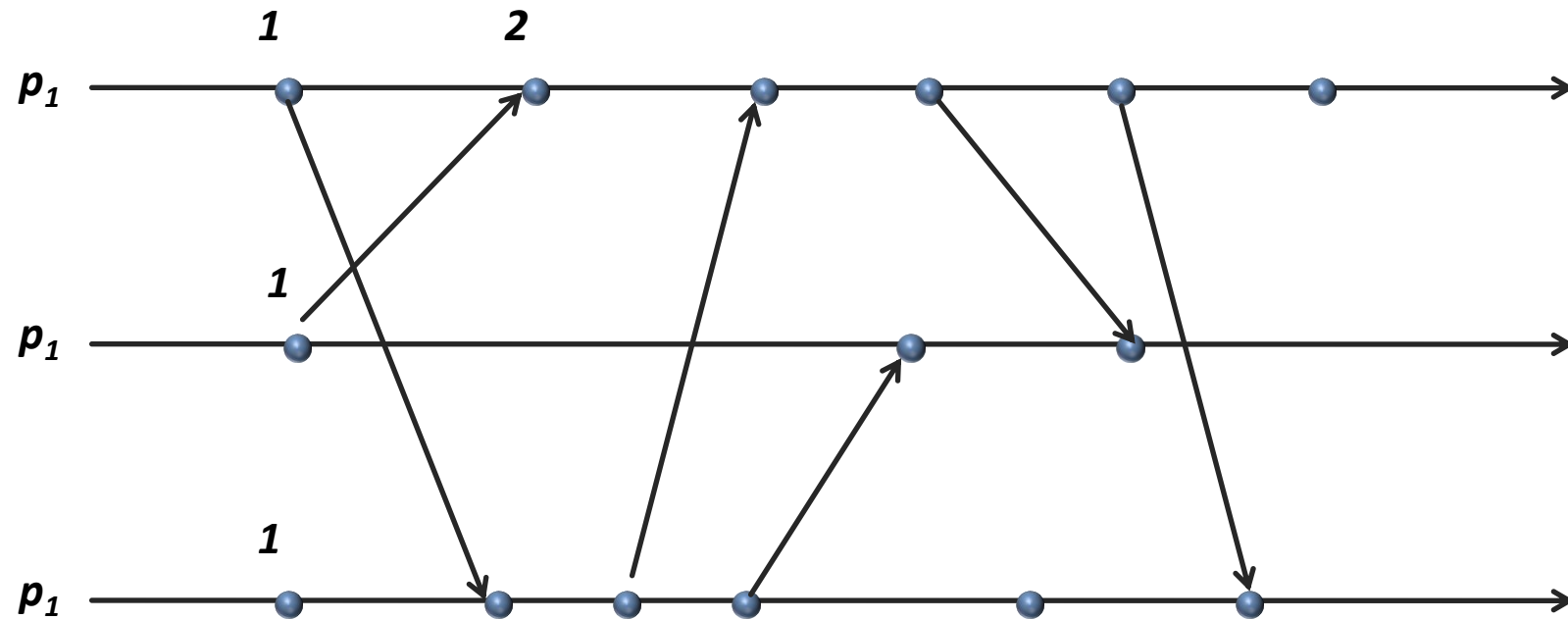


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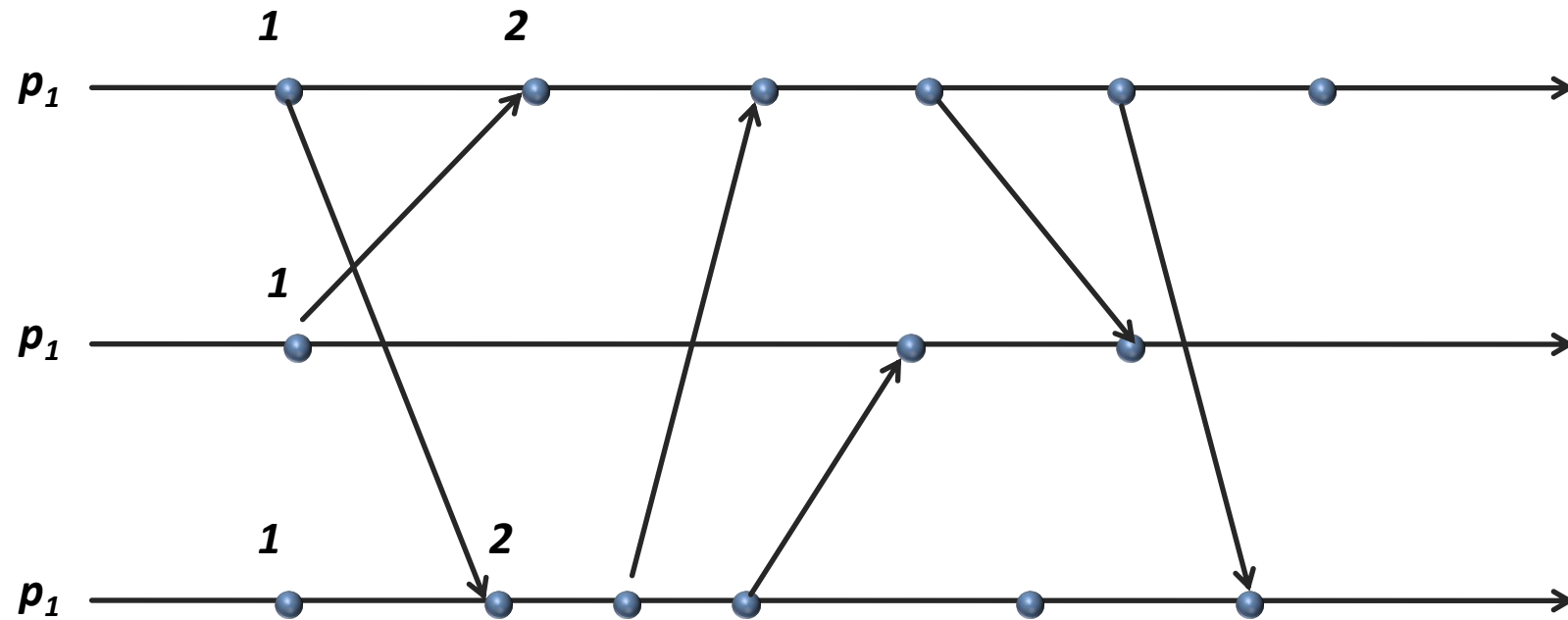




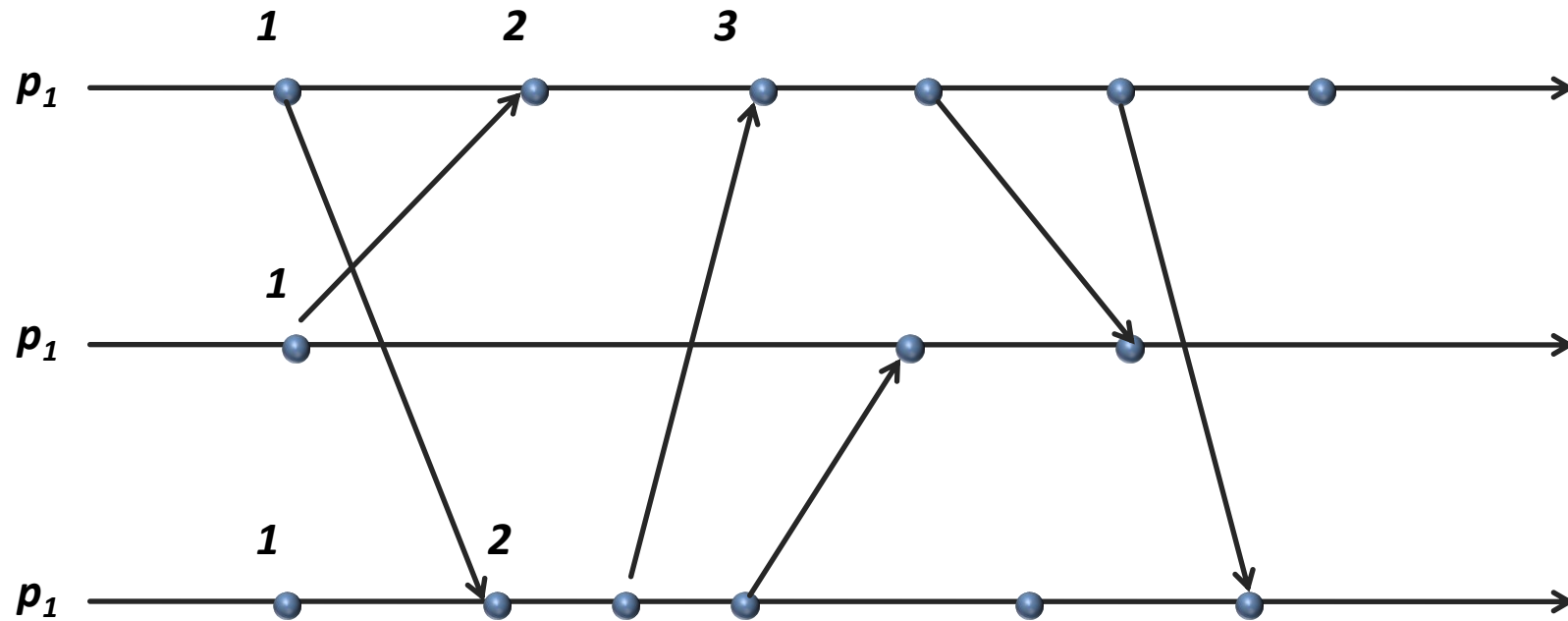
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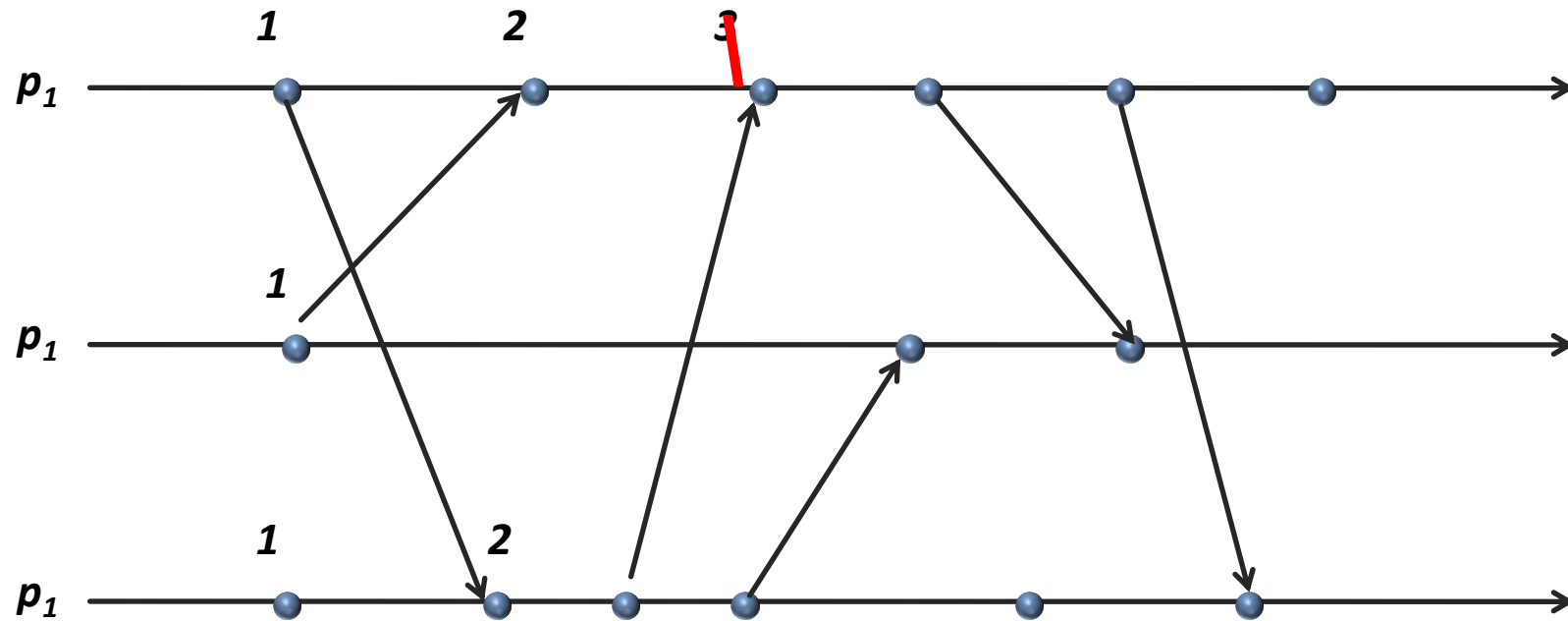
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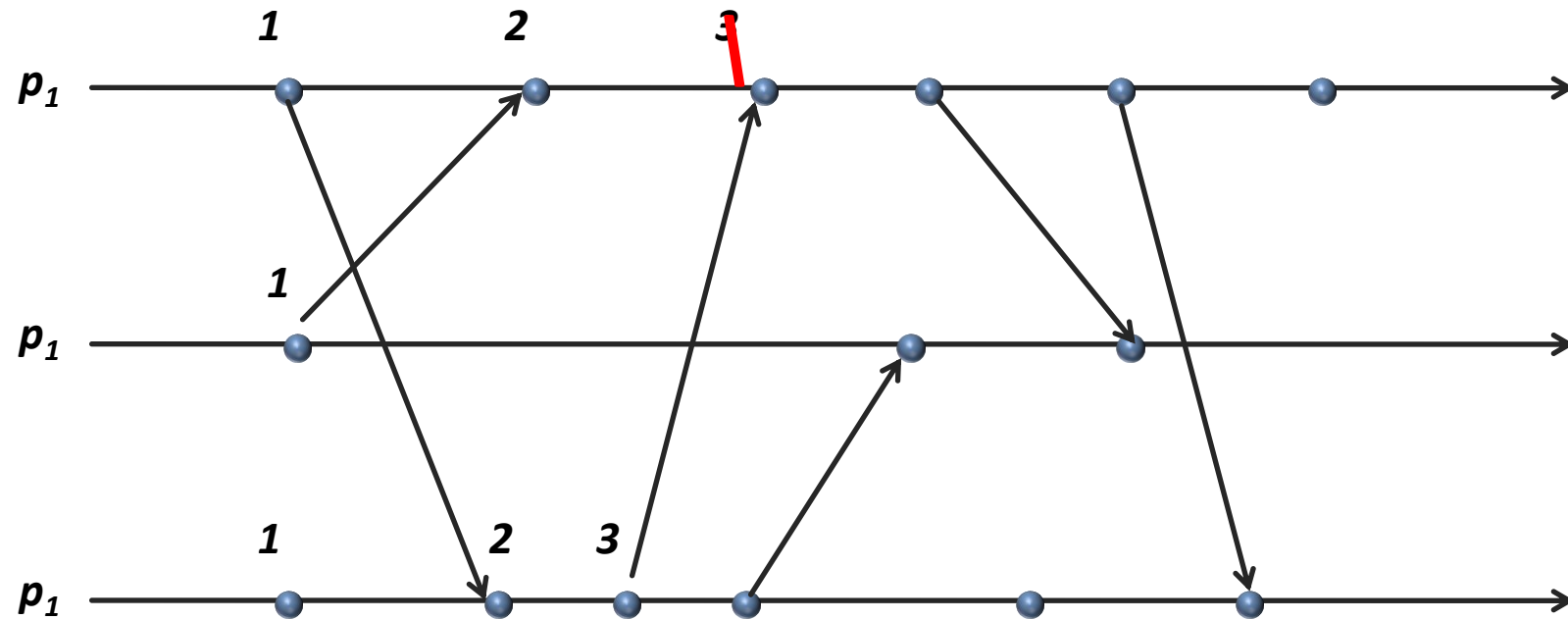
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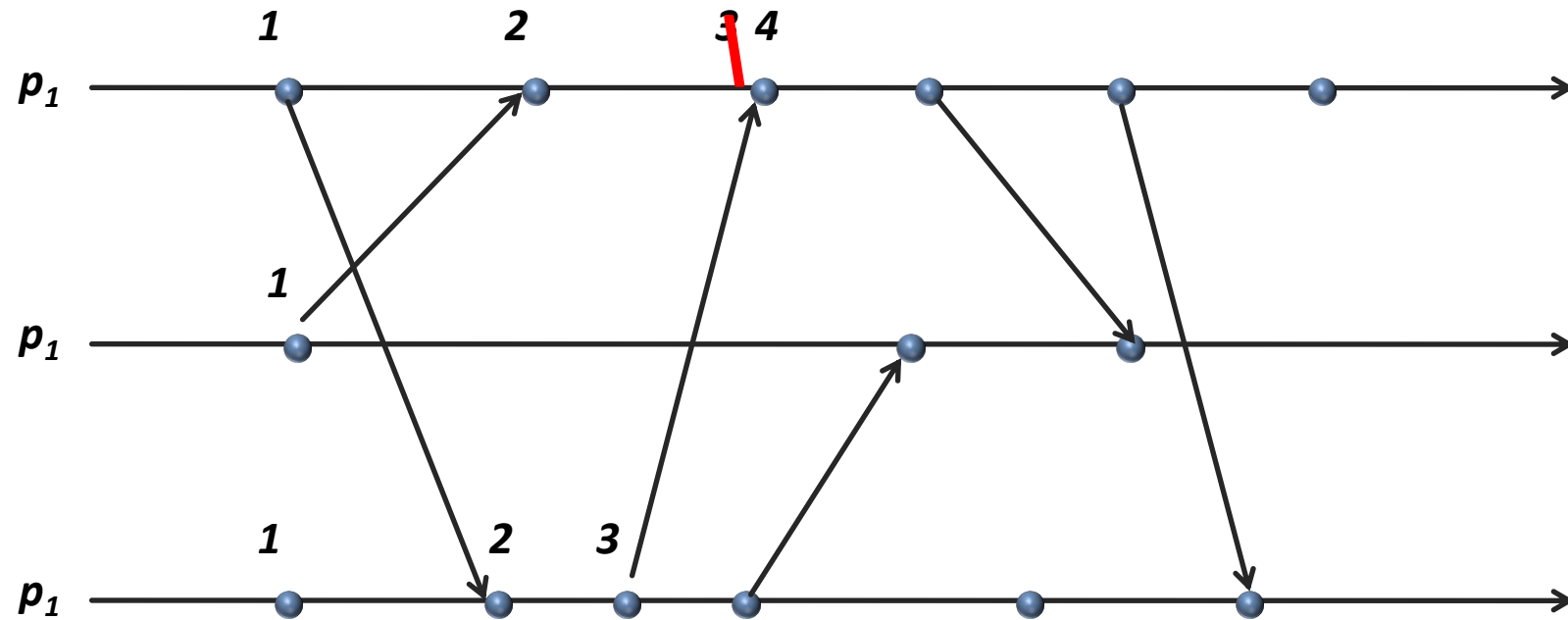
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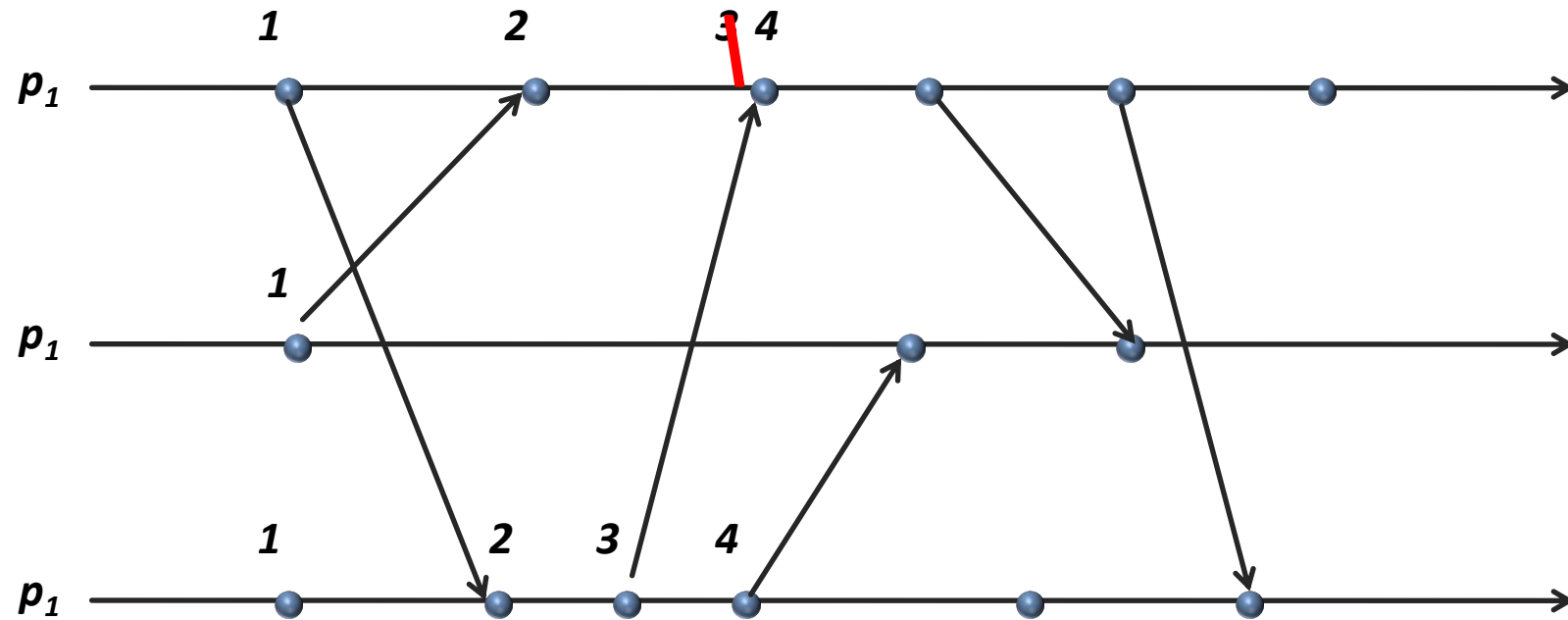
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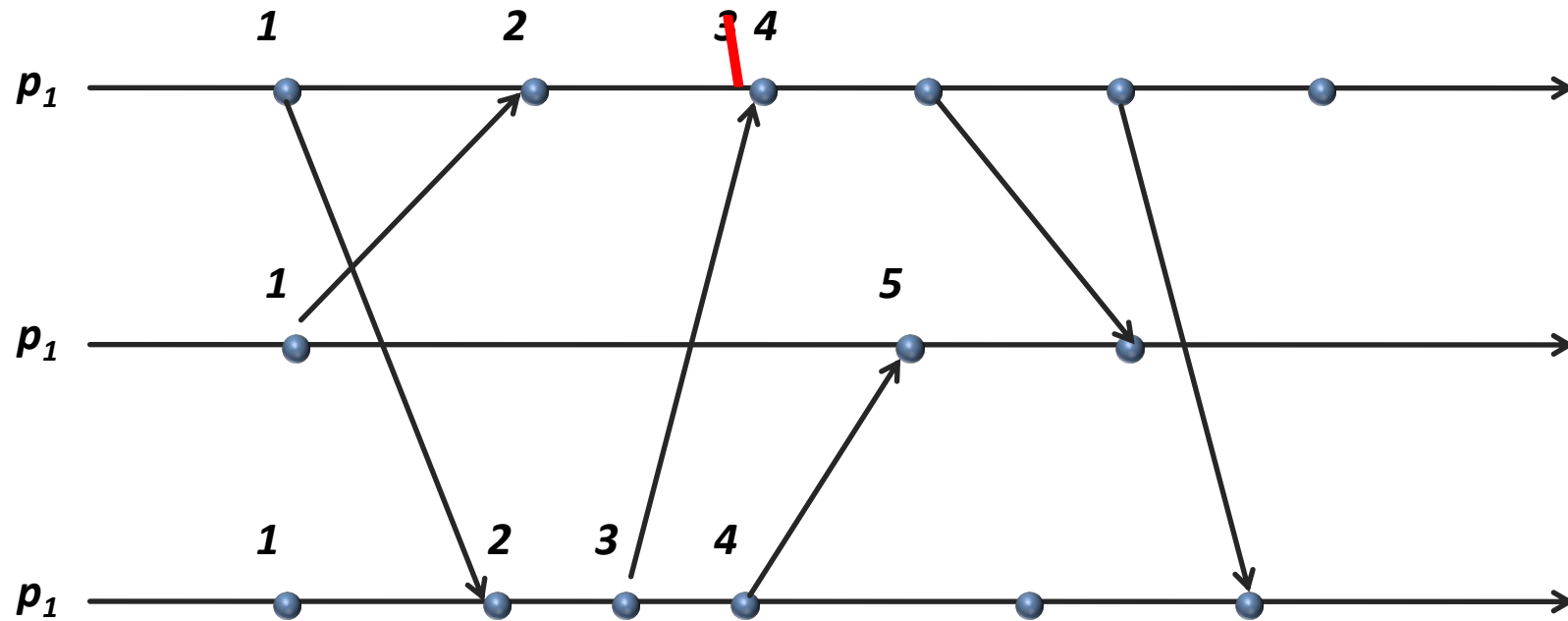
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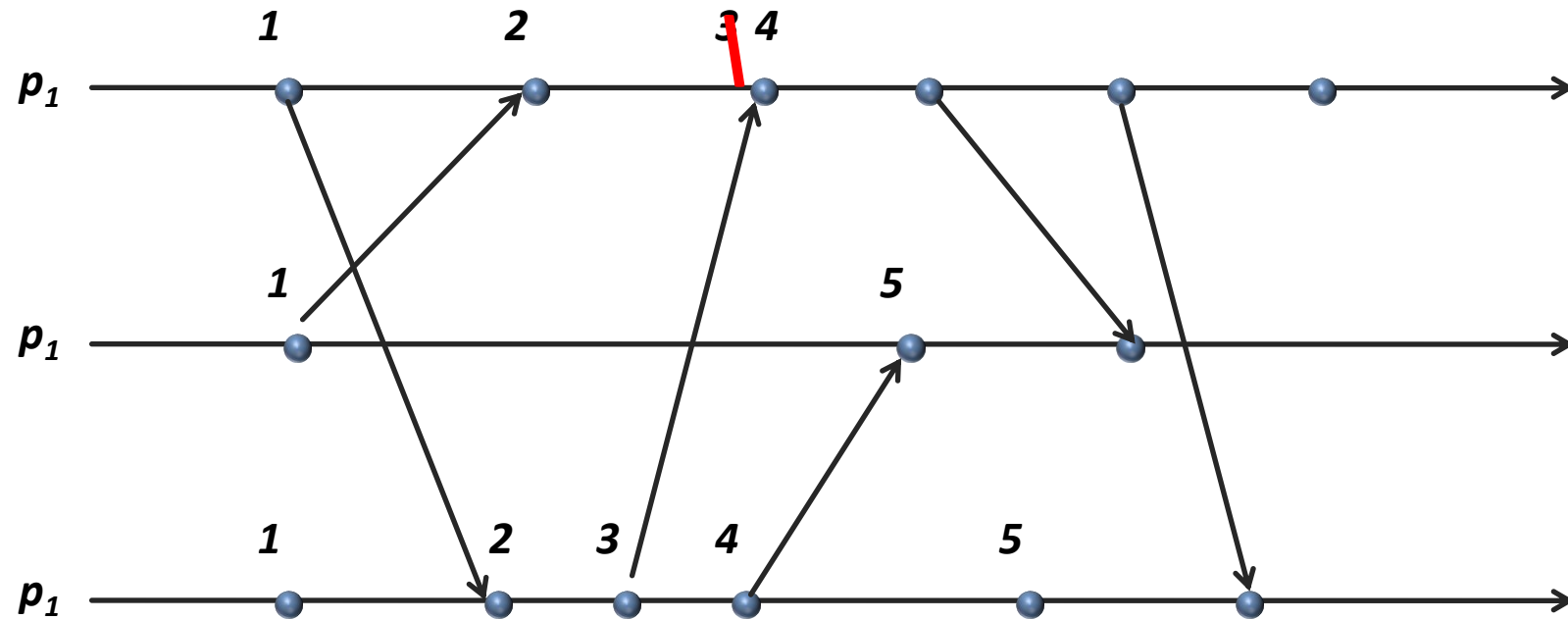


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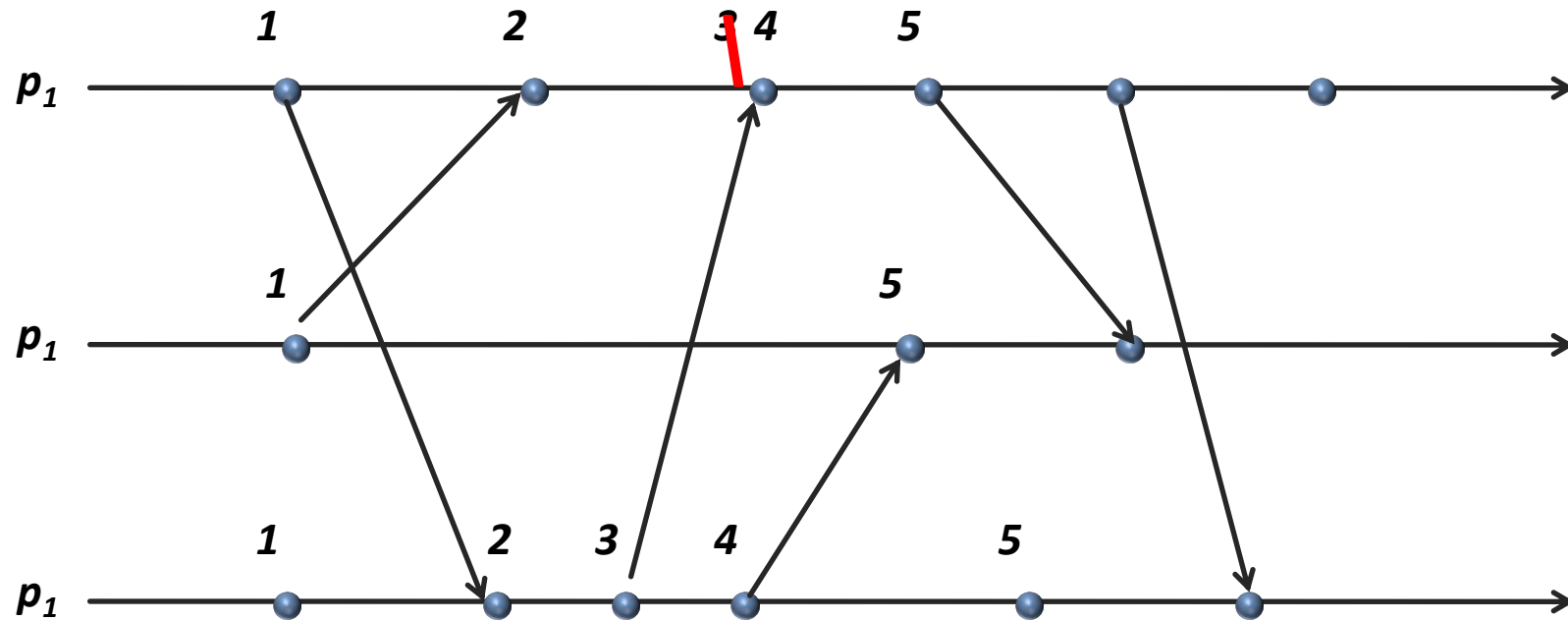




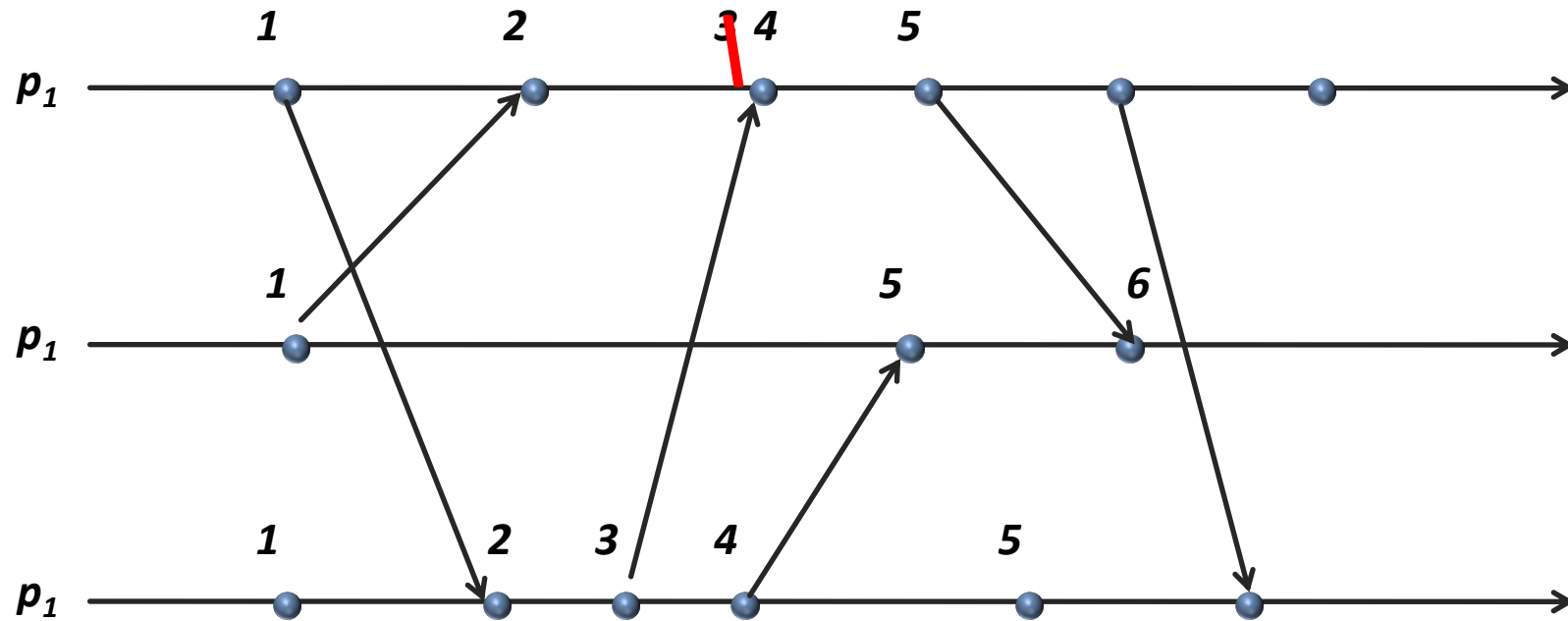
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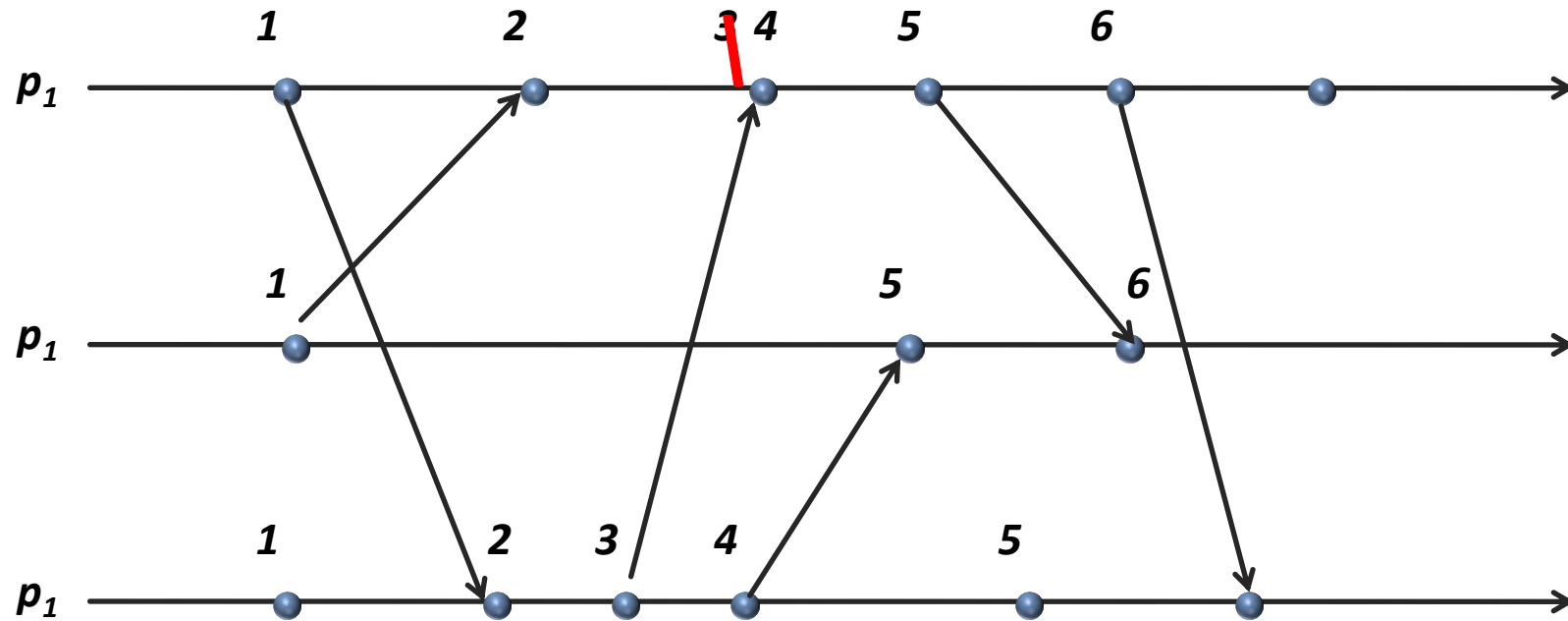
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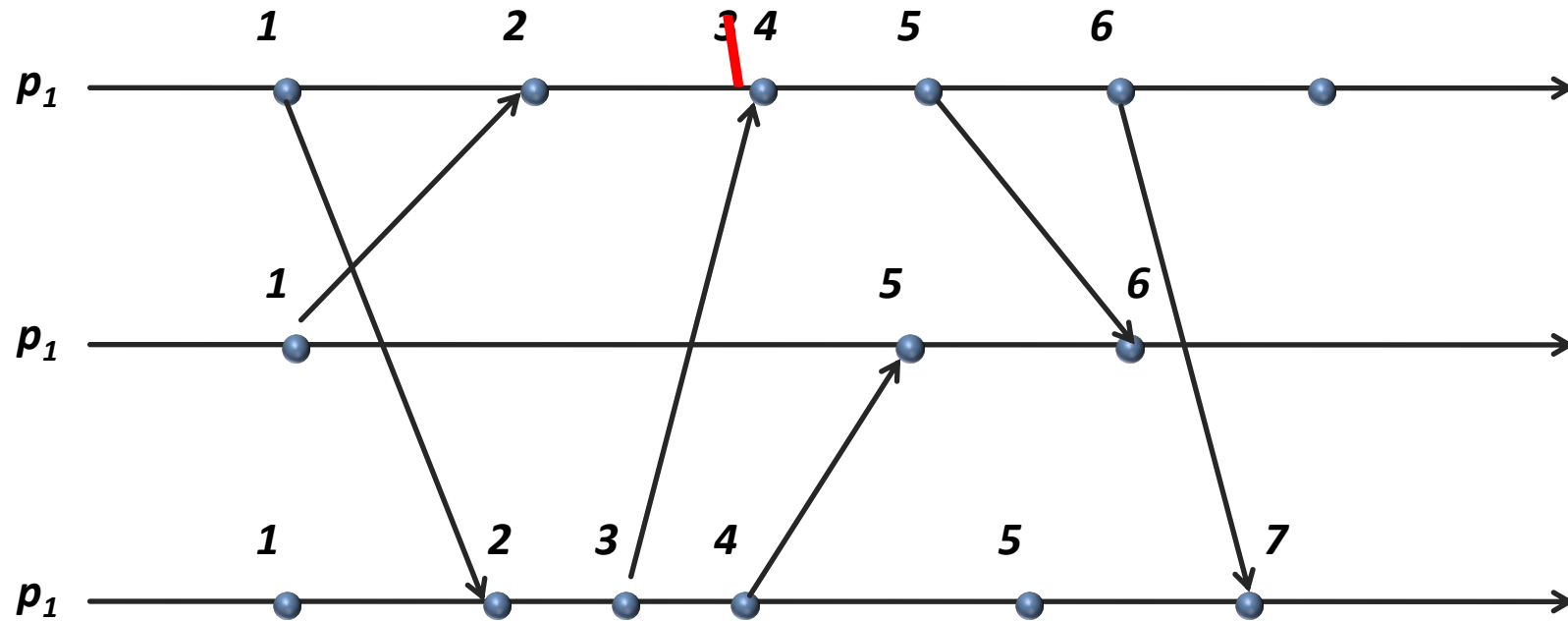
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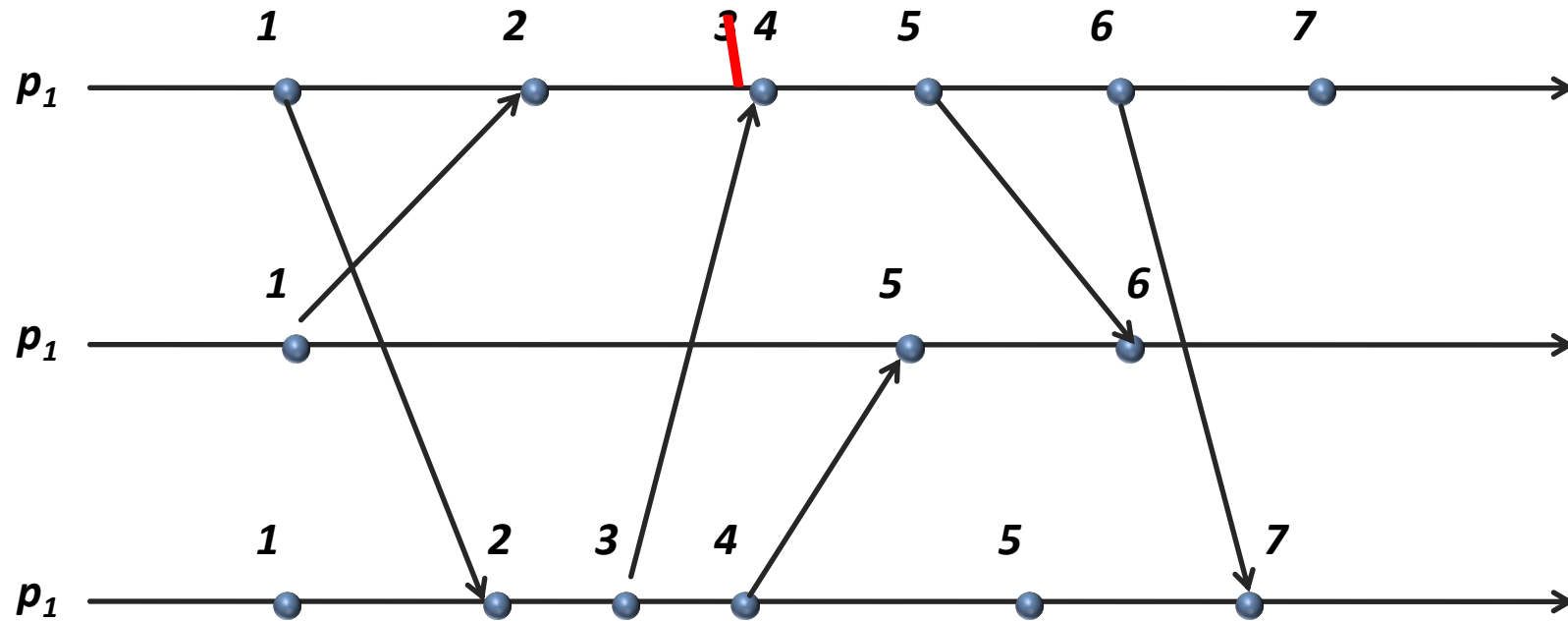
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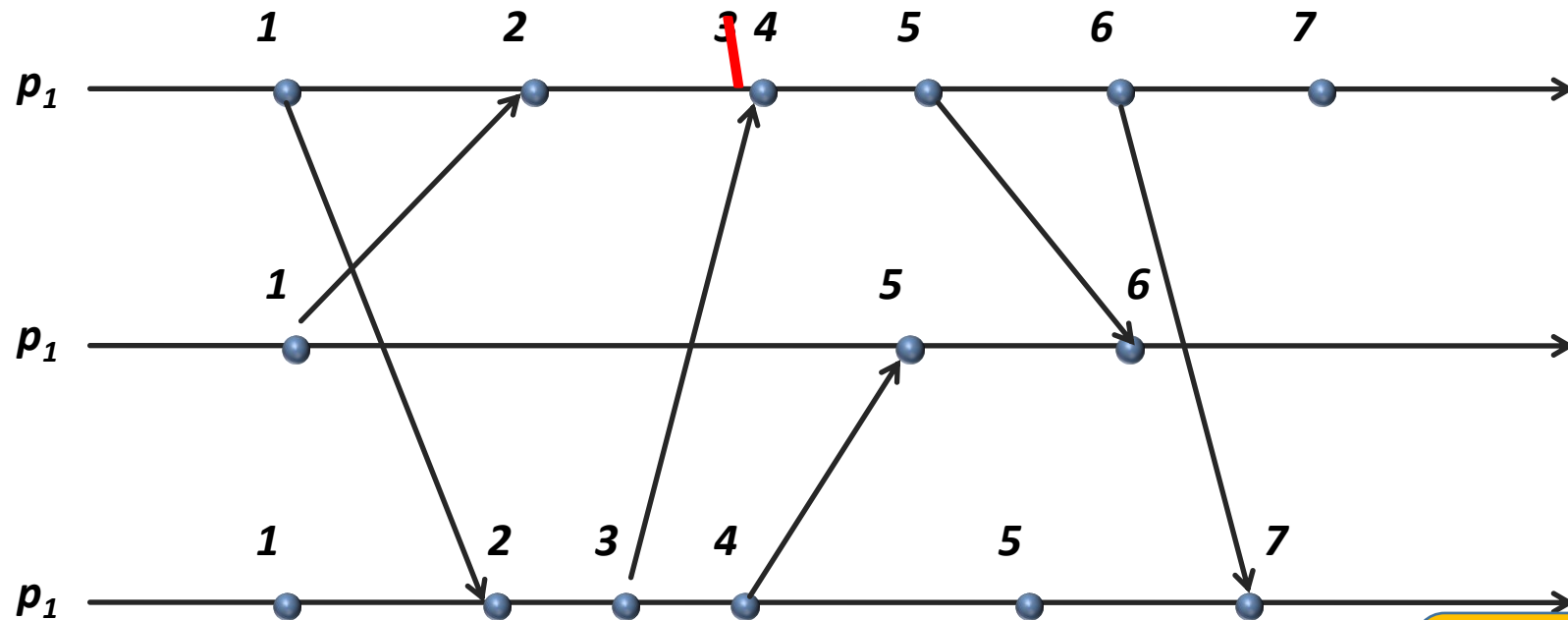
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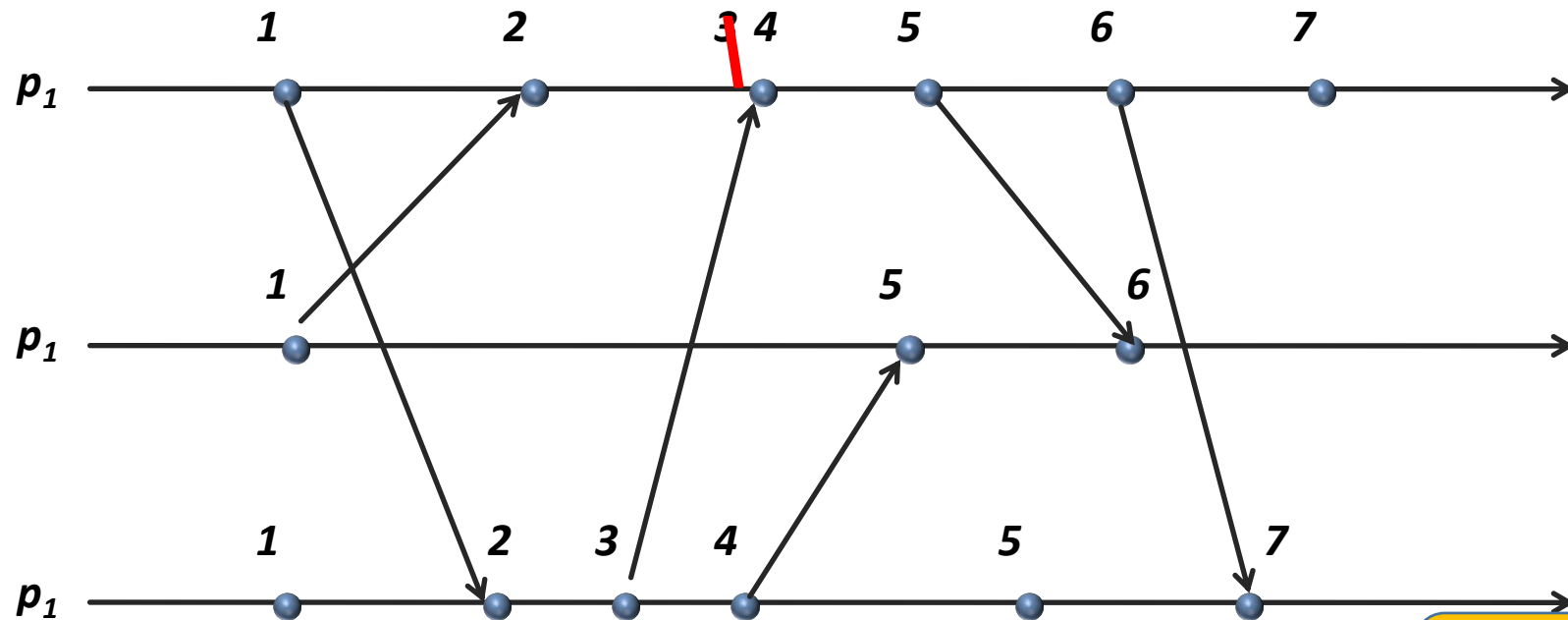


# Illustration of a Logical Clock



Awesome, right?  
Any drawbacks?

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Any drawbacks?

Total vs Partial Order



# Vector Clock

# Vector Clock

*Replace Single Logical value with Vector!*

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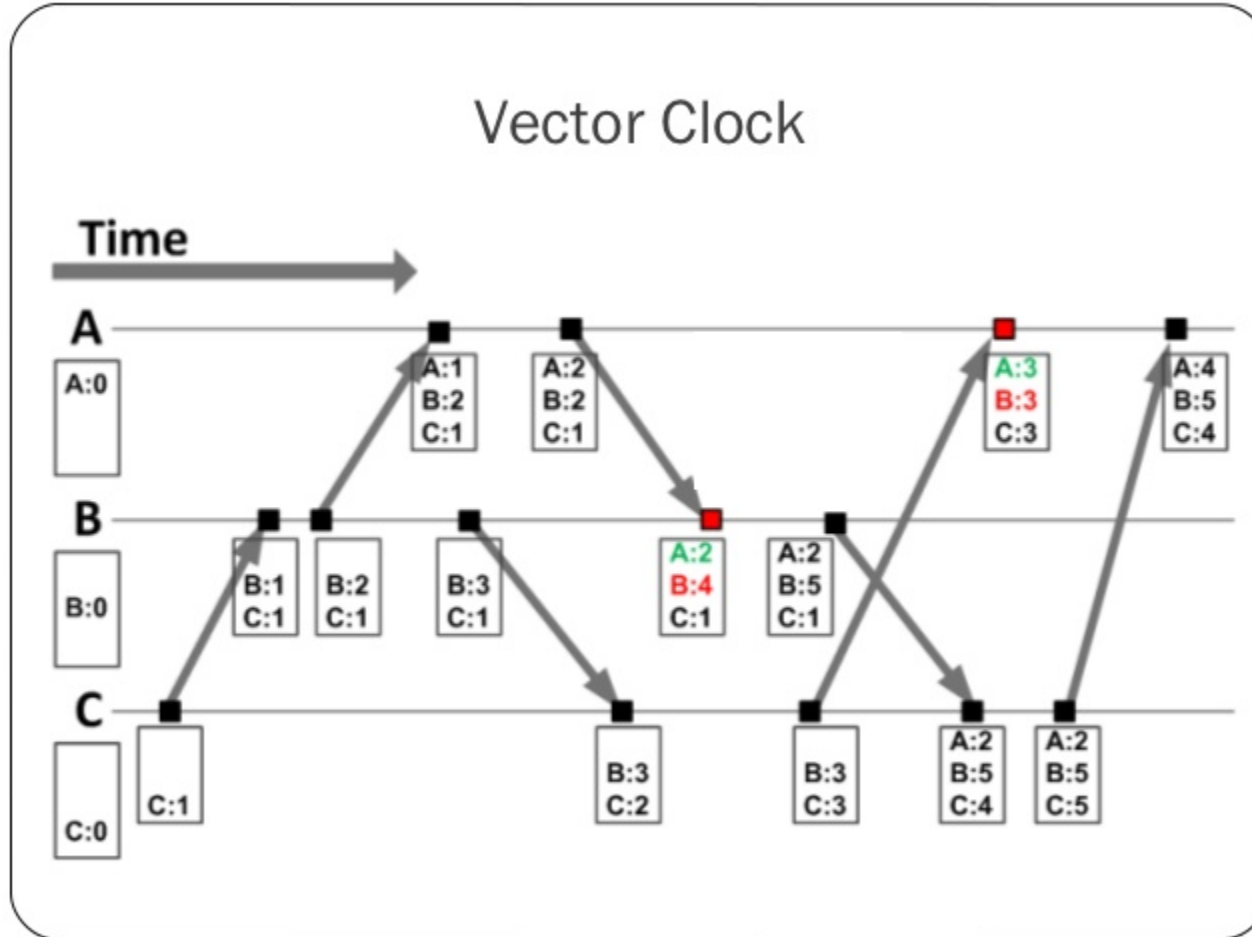
$V_i[i]$  : #events occurred at i

$V_i[j]$  : #events i knows occurred at j

Update

- On local-event: increment  $V_i[i]$
- On send-message: increment, piggyback entire local vector  $V$
- On recv-message:  $V_j[k] = \max(V_j[k], V_i[k])$ 
  - $V_j[i] = V_j[i] + 1$  (increment local clock)
  - Receiver learns about number of events sender knows occurred elsewhere

# Vector Clock



*Replace Single Logical value with Vector!*

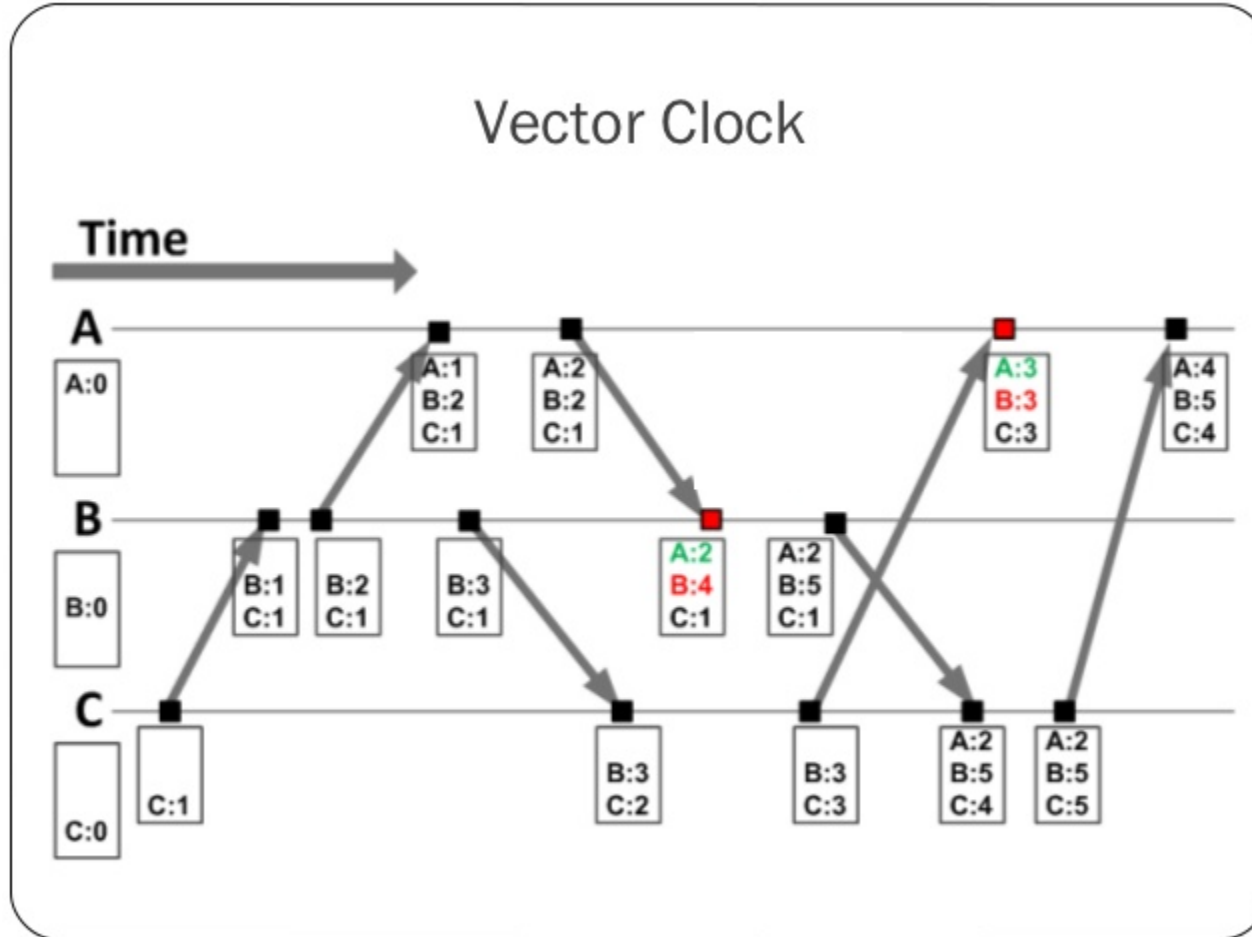
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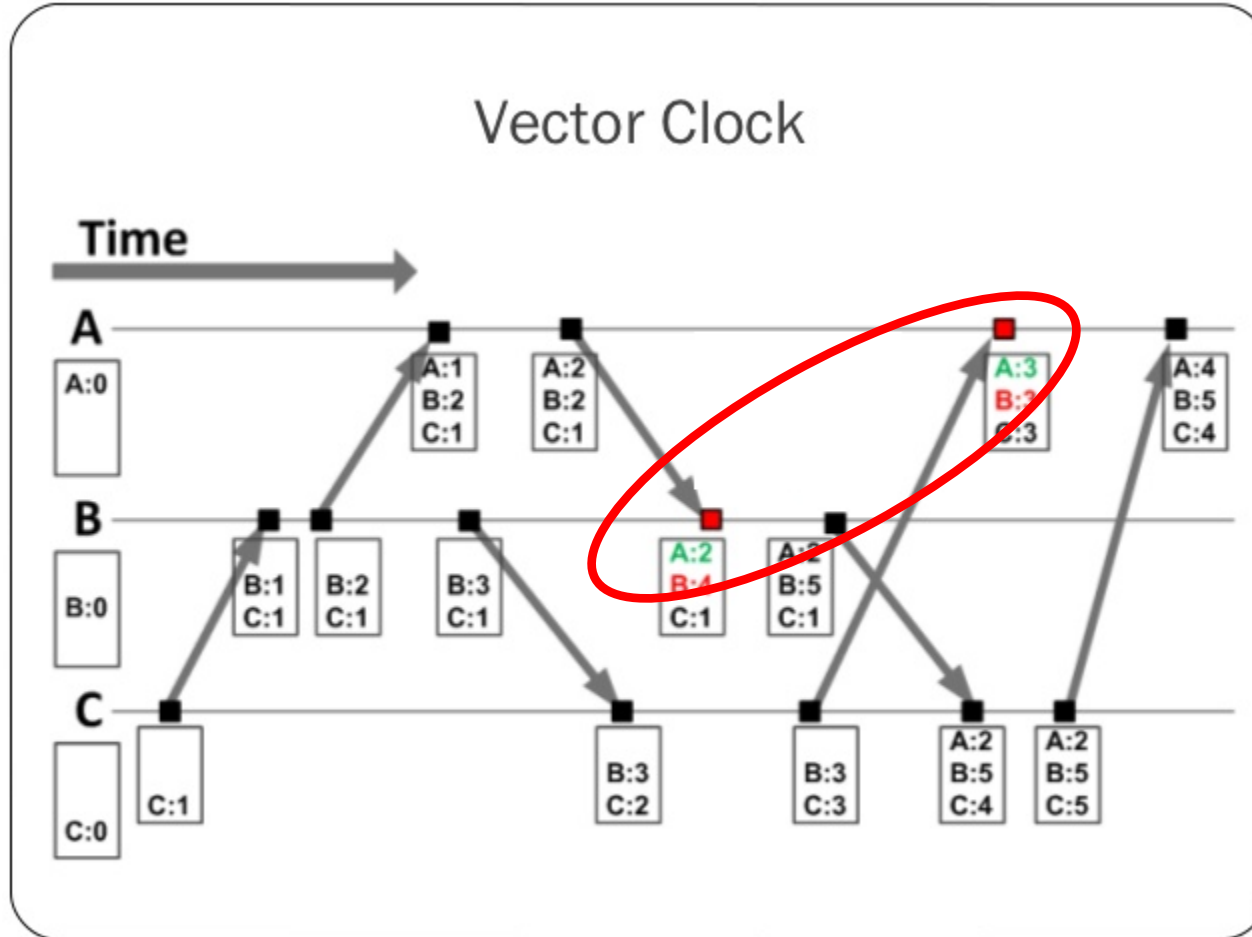
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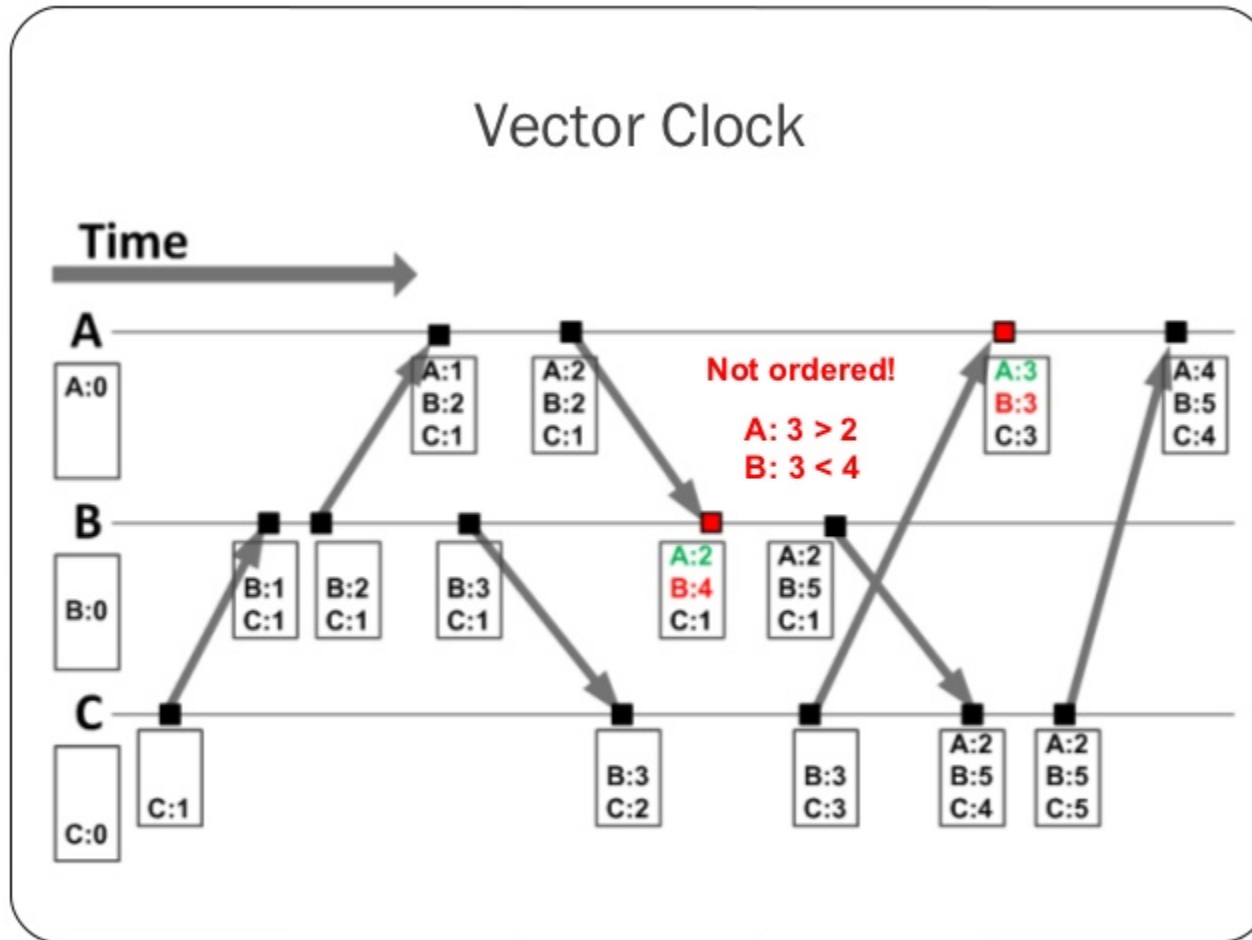
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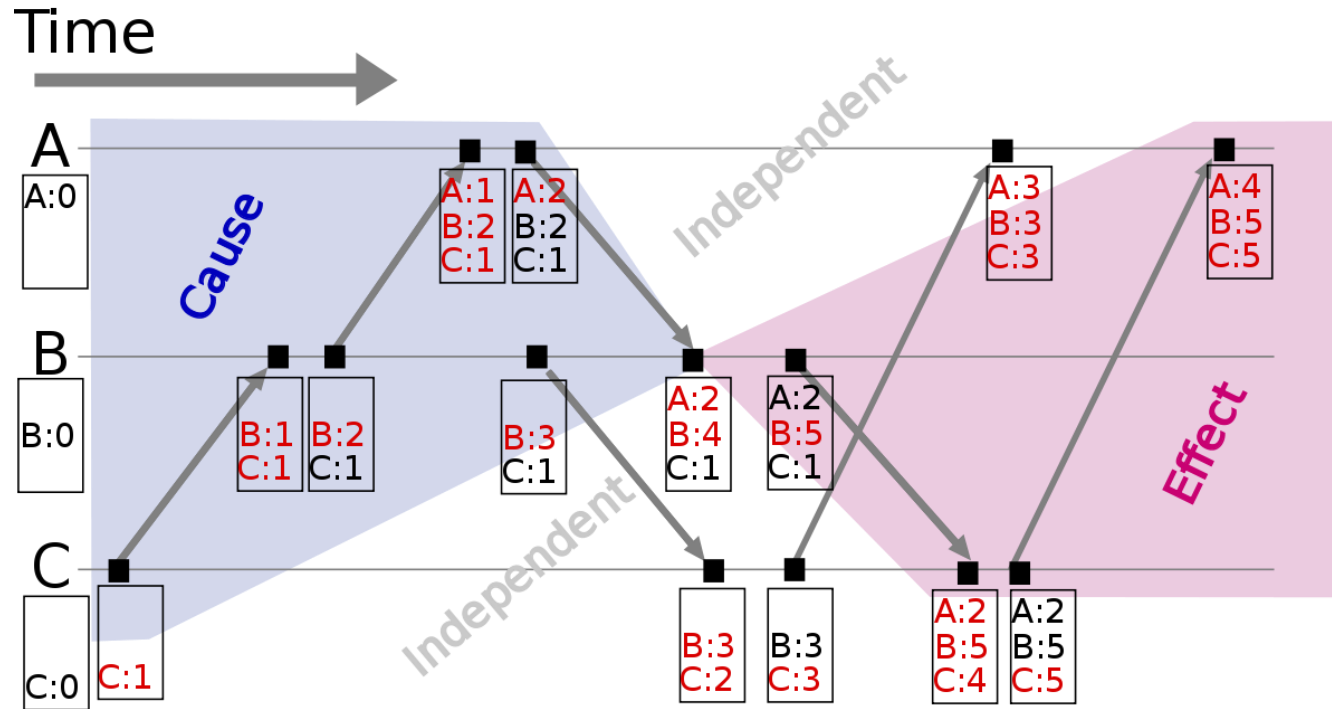
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# Vector Clock Example



Each process  $i$  maintains a vector  $V_i$

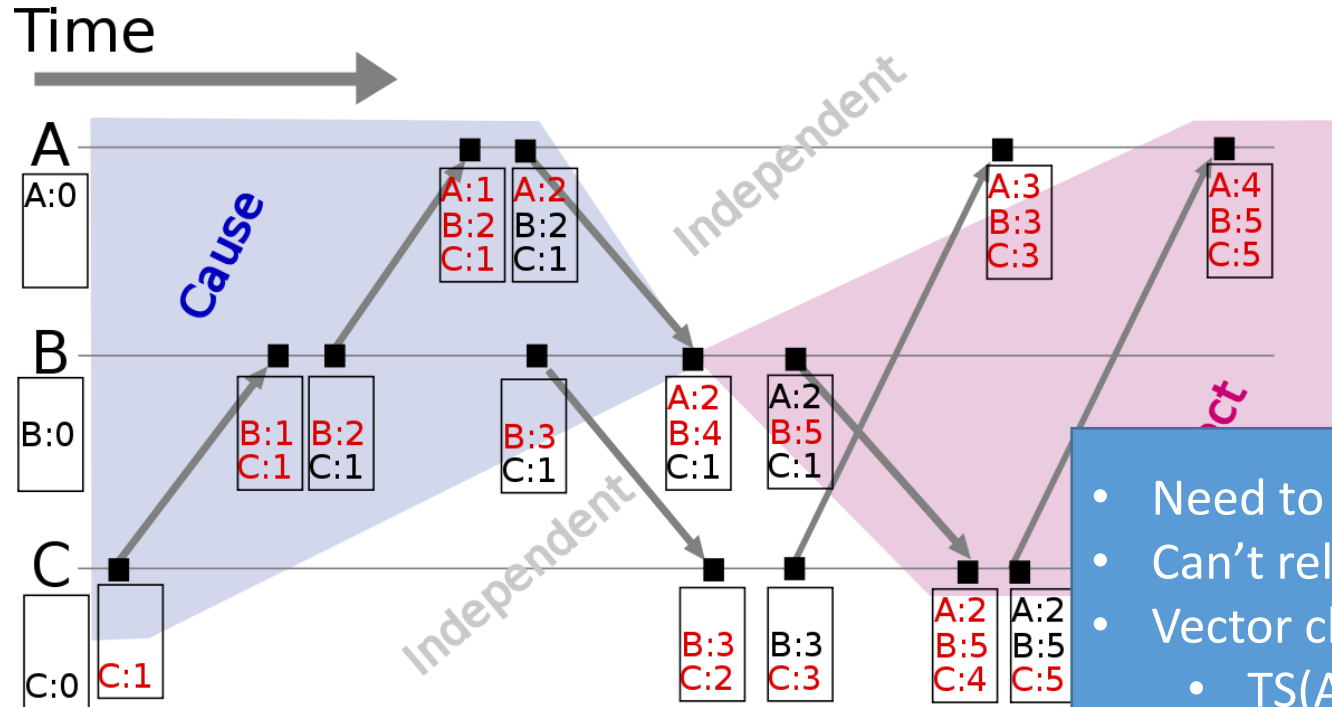
- $V_i[i]$  : number of events that have occurred at  $i$
- $V_i[j]$  : number of events I knows have occurred at process  $j$

Update

- Local event: increment  $V_i[i]$
- Send a message :piggyback entire vector  $V$
- Receipt of a message:  $V_j[k] = \max(V_j[k], V_i[k])$ 
  - Receiver is told about how many events the sender knows occurred at another process  $k$
  - Also  $V_j[i] = V_j[i] + 1$



# Vector Clock Example



Each process  $i$  maintains a vector  $V_i$

- $V_i[i]$  : number of events that have occurred at  $i$
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Update

- Local event: increment  $V_i[i]$

- Need to order operations
- Can't rely on real-time
- Vector clock: timestamping algorithm s.t.
  - $TS(A) < TS(B) \rightarrow A$  happens before  $B$
  - Independent ops remain unordered

*See any drawbacks?*

or  $V_i[k]$   
is the  
process  $k$

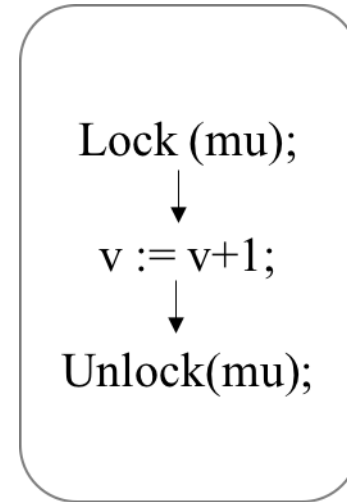
# *Happens-before*

- *Happens-before* relation
  - Within single thread
  - Between threads
- Accessing variables not ordered by “happens-before” is a race
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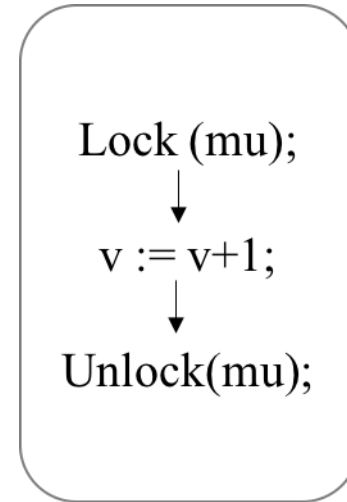
Thread 1



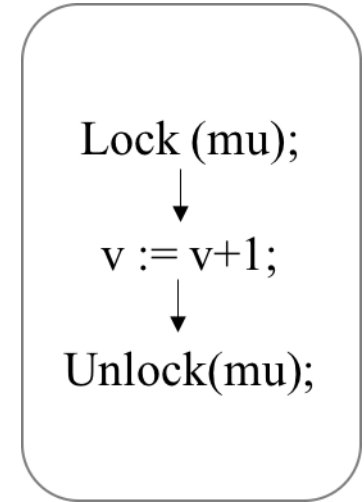
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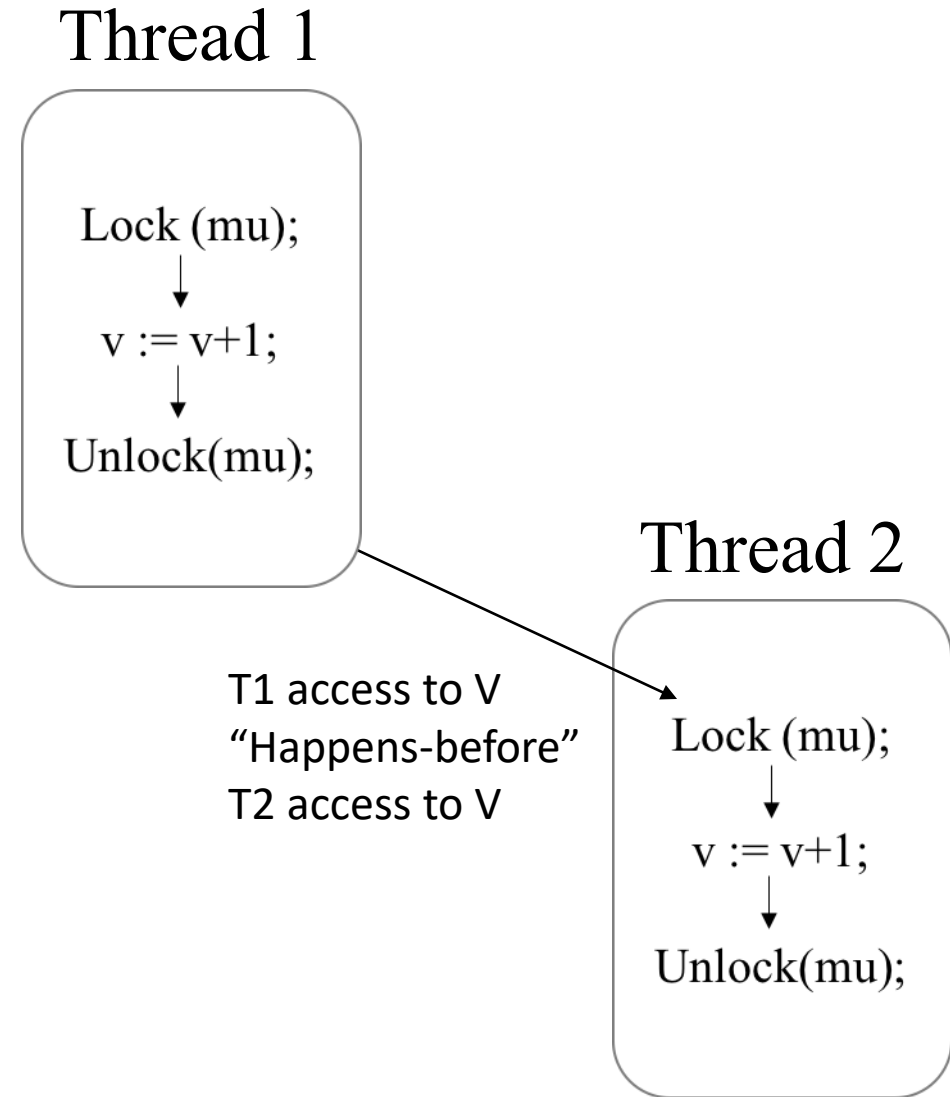


Thread 2



# Happens-before

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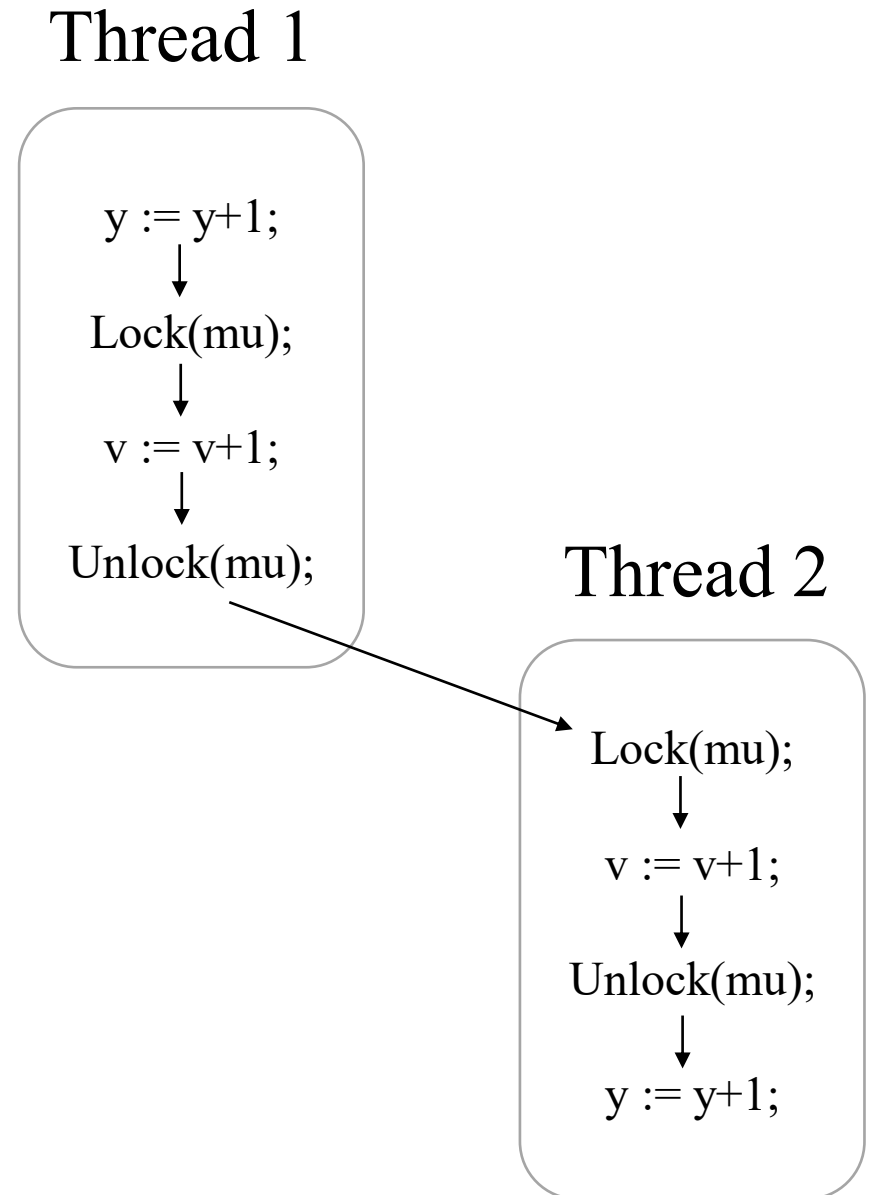


# Flaws of *Happens-before*

- Difficult to implement
  - Requires per-thread information
- Dependent on the interleaving produced by the scheduler
- Example

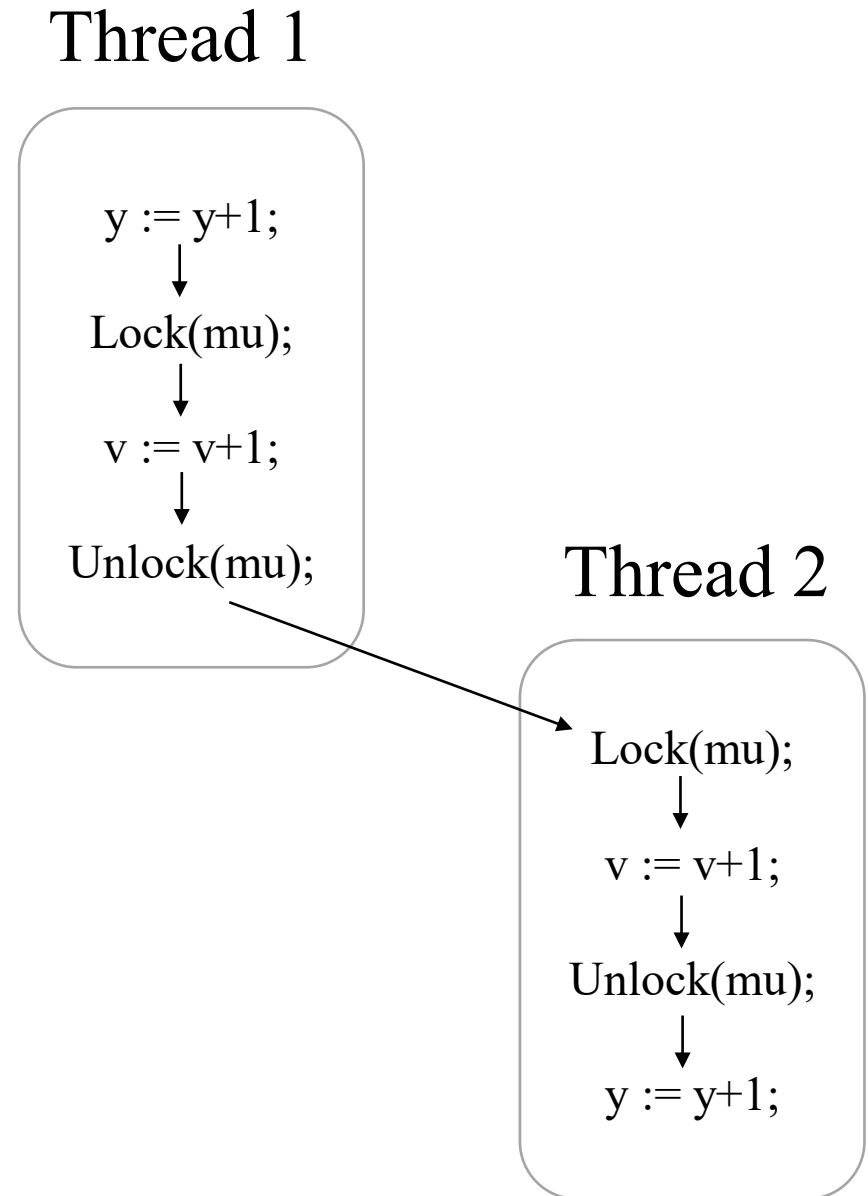
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  - Finding doesn't generalize



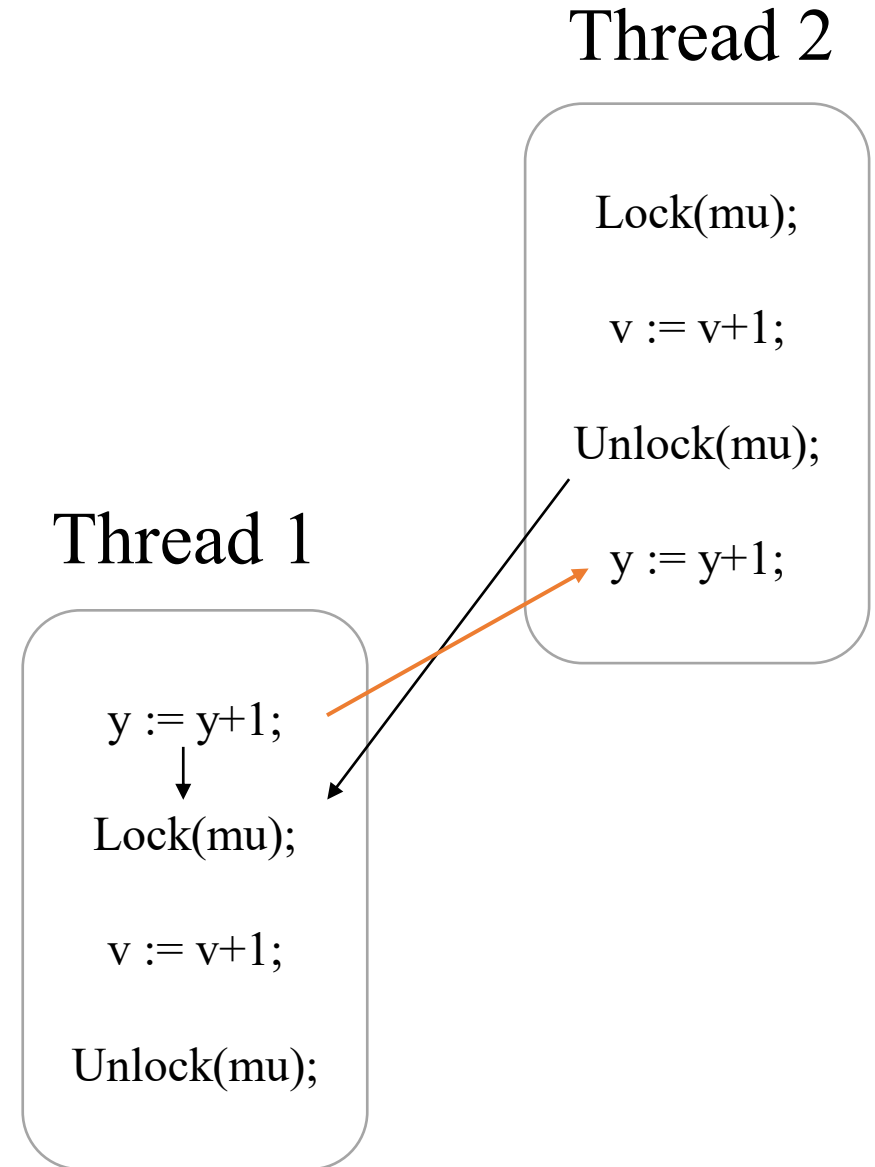


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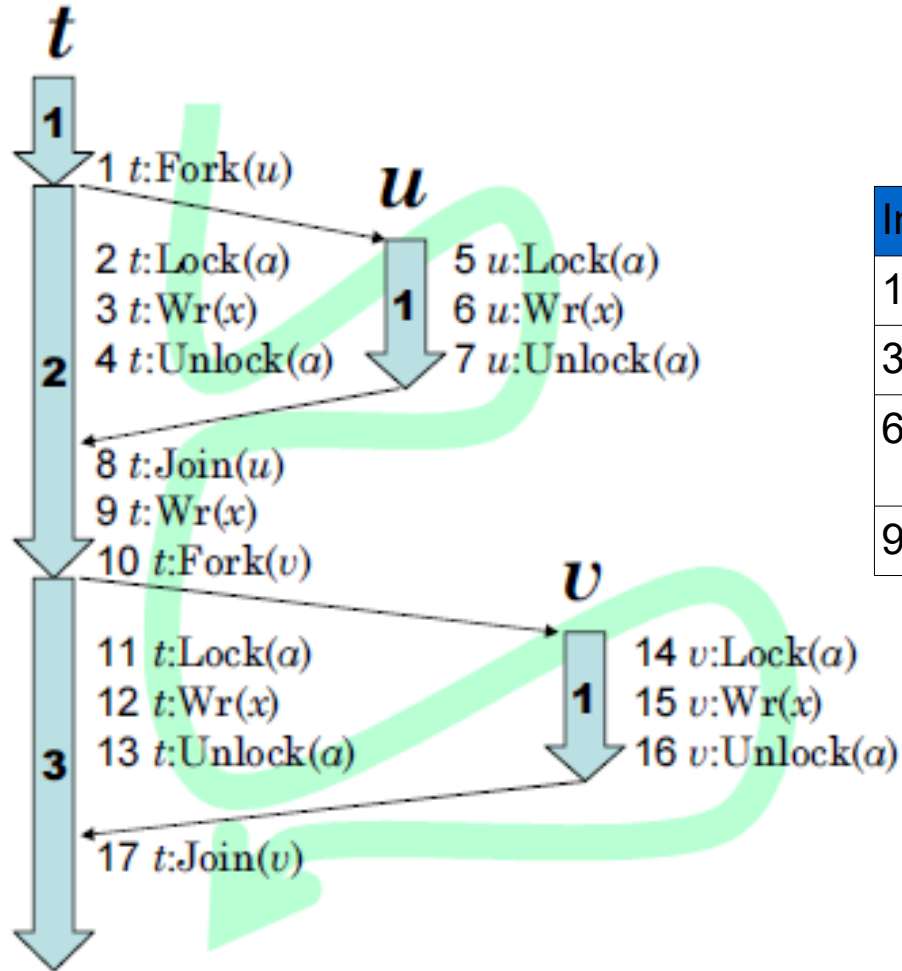


# Dynamic Race Detection Summary

- Lockset: verify locking discipline for shared memory
  - ✓ Detect race regardless of thread scheduling
  - ✗ False positives because other synchronization primitives (fork/join, signal/wait) not supported
- Happens-before: track partial order of program events
  - ✓ Supports general synchronization primitives
  - ✗ Higher overhead compared to lockset
  - ✗ False negatives due to sensitivity to thread scheduling

*RaceTrack = Lockset + Happens-before*

# False positive using Lockset



Tracking accesses to X

Inst	State	Lockset
1	Virgin	{}
3	Exclusive: <b>t</b>	{}
6	Shared Modified	{ <b>a</b> }
9	Report race	{}

# RaceTrack Notations

Notation	Meaning
$L_t$	Lockset of thread $\mathbf{t}$
$C_x$	Lockset of memory $\mathbf{x}$
$B_u$	Vector clock of thread $\mathbf{u}$
$S_x$	Threadset of memory $\mathbf{x}$
$\mathbf{t}_i$	Thread $\mathbf{t}$ at clock time $\mathbf{i}$

$$|V| \triangleq |\{t \in T : V(t) > 0\}|$$

$$Inc(V, t) \triangleq u \mapsto \text{if } u = t \text{ then } V(u) + 1 \text{ else } V(u)$$

$$Merge(V, W) \triangleq u \mapsto \max(V(u), W(u))$$

$$Remove(V, W) \triangleq u \mapsto \text{if } V(u) \leq W(u) \text{ then } 0 \text{ else } V(u)$$

# RaceTrack Algorithm

Notation	Meaning
$L_t$	Lockset of thread $t$
$C_x$	Lockset of memory $x$
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$t_1$	Thread $t$ at clock time 1

$$|V| \triangleq |\{t \in T : V(t) > 0\}|$$

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At  $t$ :Lock( $l$ ):

$$L_t \leftarrow L_t \cup \{l\}$$

At  $t$ :Unlock( $l$ ):

$$L_t \leftarrow L_t - \{l\}$$

At  $t$ :Fork( $u$ ):

$$L_u \leftarrow \{\}$$

$$B_u \leftarrow Merge(\{\langle u, 1 \rangle\}, B_t)$$

$$B_t \leftarrow Inc(B_t, t)$$

At  $t$ :Join( $u$ ):

$$B_t \leftarrow Merge(B_t, B_u)$$

At  $t$ :Rd( $x$ ) or  $t$ :Wr( $x$ ):

$$S_x \leftarrow Merge(Remove(S_x, B_t), \{\langle t, B_t(t) \rangle\})$$

if  $|S_x| > 1$

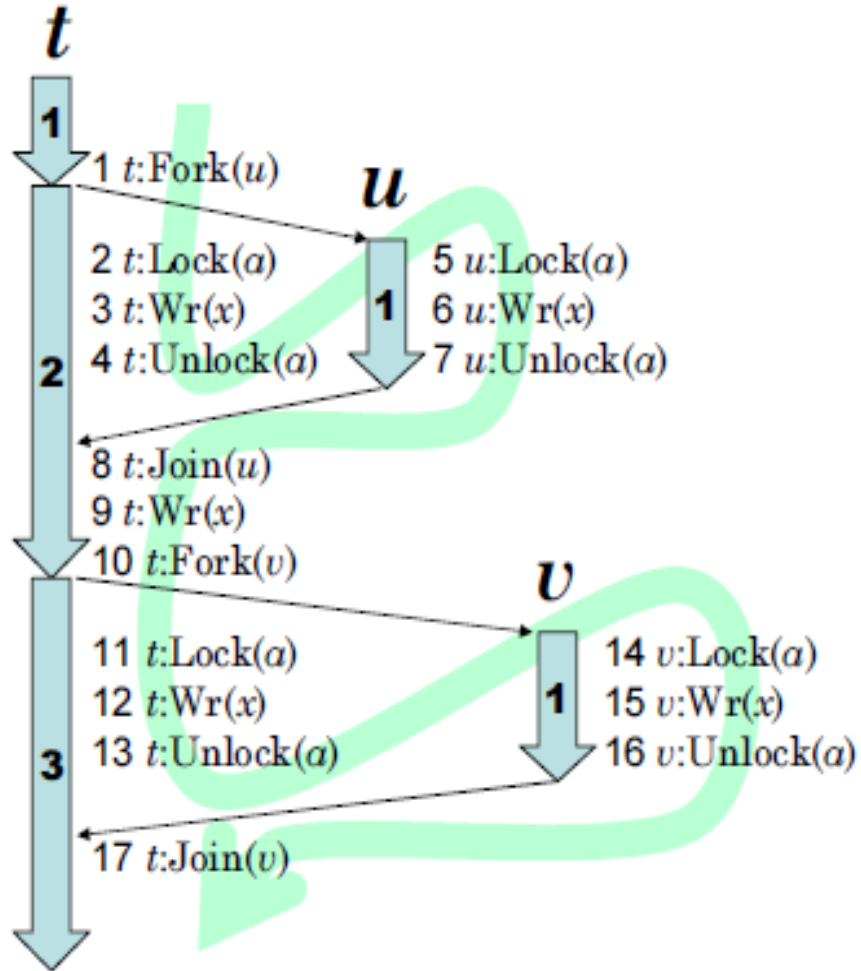
then  $C_x \leftarrow C_x \cap L_t$

else  $C_x \leftarrow L_t$

if  $|S_x| > 1 \wedge C_x = \{\}$  then report race

# Avoiding Lockset's false positive (1)

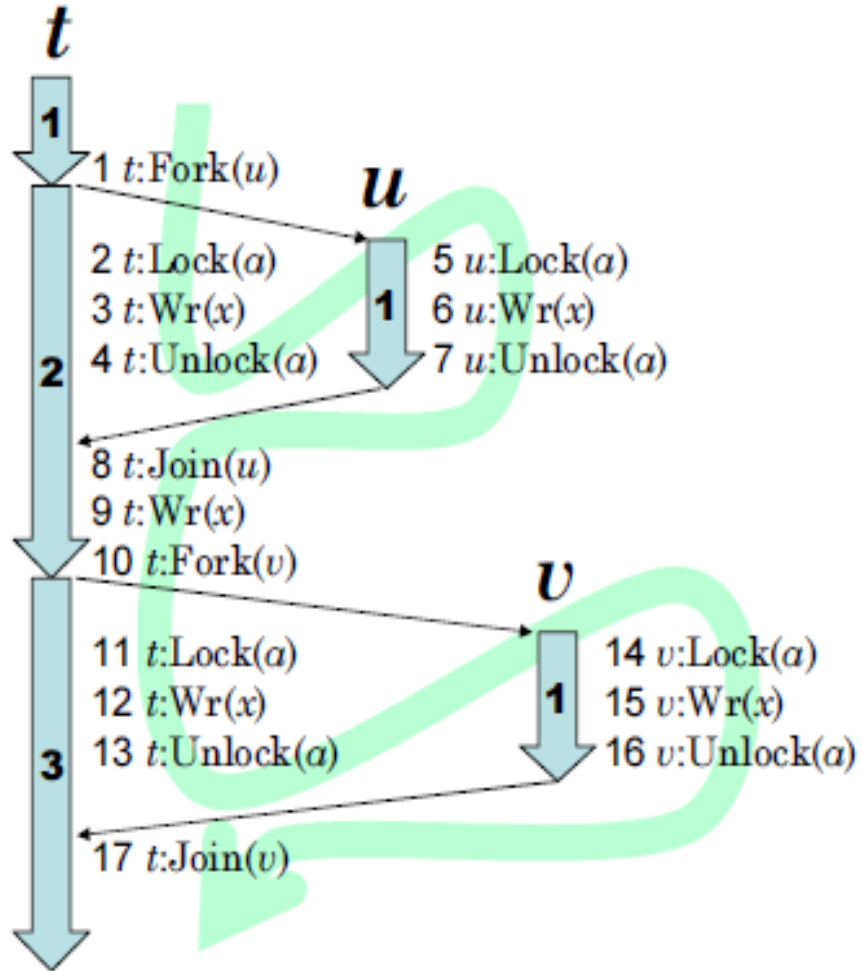
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Inst	$C_x$	$S_x$	$L_t$	$B_t$	$L_u$	$B_u$
0	All	{}	{}	{ $t_1$ }	-	-
1				{ $t_2$ }	{}	{ $t_1, u_1$ }
2			{ $a$ }			
3	{ $a$ }	{ $t_2$ }				
4			{}			
5					{ $a$ }	
6		{ $t_2, u_1$ }				
7					{}	
8				{ $t_2, u_1$ }	-	-

# Avoiding Lockset's false positive (2)

Notation	Meaning
$L_t$	Lockset of thread $t$
$C_x$	Lockset of memory $x$
$B_t$	Vector clock of thread $t$
$S_x$	Threadset of memory $x$
$t_1$	Thread $t$ at clock time 1

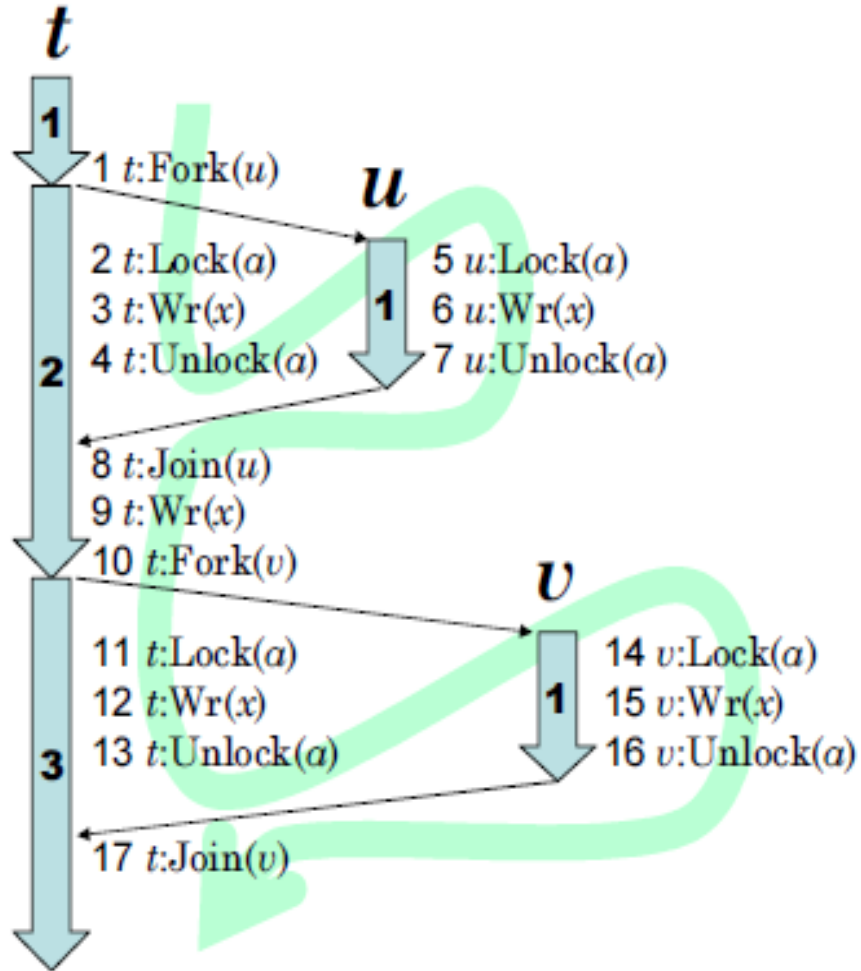


Inst	$C_x$	$S_x$	$L_t$	$B_t$	$L_v$	$B_v$
8	{ $a$ }	{ $t_2, u_1$ }	{}	{ $t_2, u_1$ }	-	-
9	{}	{ $t_2$ }				
10				{ $t_3, u_1$ }	{}	{ $t_2, v_1$ }
11			{ $a$ }			
12	{ $a$ }	{ $t_3$ }				
13			{}			
14					{ $a$ }	
15		{ $t_3, v_1$ }				
16					{}	



Notation	Meaning
$L_t$	Lockset of thread $t$
$C_x$	Lockset of memory $x$
$B_t$	Vector clock of thread $t$
$S_x$	Threadset of memory $x$
$t_1$	Thread $t$ at clock time 1

# Avoiding Lockset's false positive (2)



Inst	$C_x$	$S_x$	$L_t$	$B_t$	$L_v$	$B_v$
8	{a}	{ $t_2, u_1$ }	{}	{ $t_2, u_1$ }	-	-
9	{}	{ $t_2$ }				
10				{ $t_3, u_1$ }	{}	{ $t_2, v_1$ }
11			{a}			
12	{a}	{ $t_3$ }				
13			{}			
14					{a}	
15		{ $t_3, v_1$ }				
16					{}	

Only one thread!  
Are we done?