

Karina Puente, Hypatia City (2017)

## There is no language without deceit.

Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities (1972)



Jules Maurice Gaspard, Hypatia (1908)

#### **Submission process:**

• Send something thought-provoking to us: If you would like to attend, please submit a one-page technical position paper that presents a viewpoint on a controversial topic

#### **Millions of Tiny Databases**

Marc Brooker

Amazon Web Services

Tao Chen

Amazon Web Services

Fan Ping *Amazon Web Services* 

### Postmodern Systems

Intersubjectivity through Dialog

Quinn Wilton (she/her)

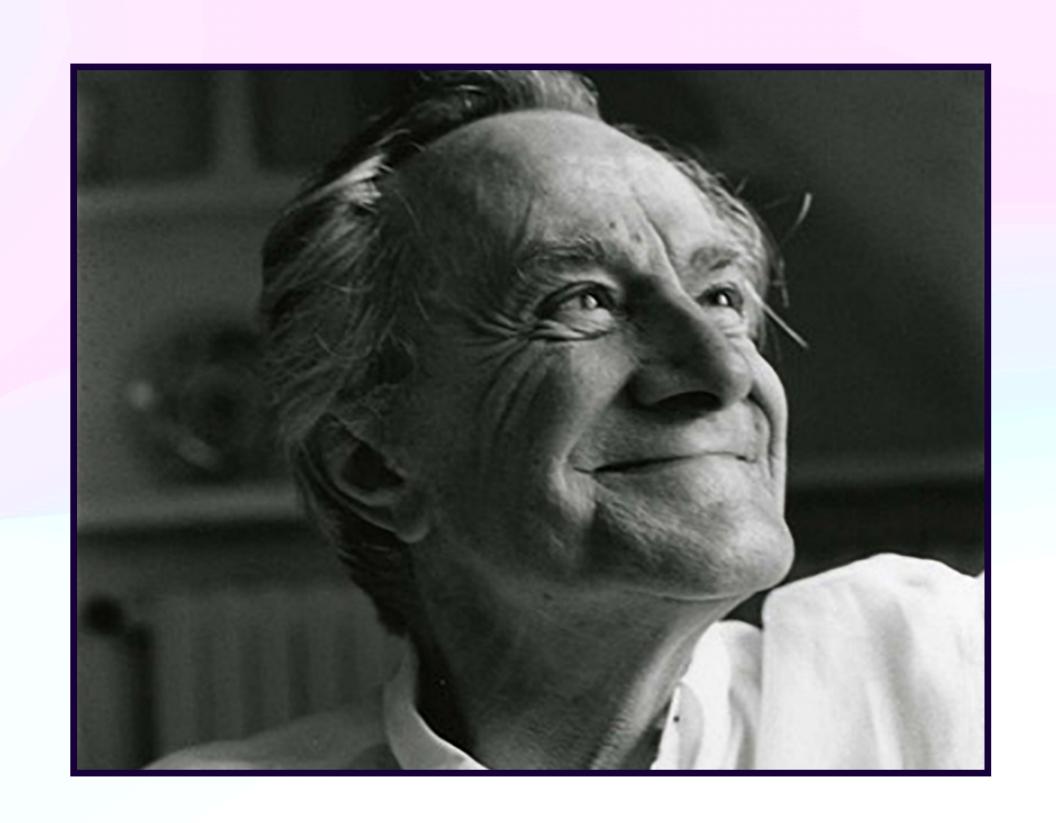
#### Quinn Wilton

#### @wilton\_quinn

- · Applied Researcher @ Fission
  - · Building a planetary scale database for local-first apps
- Programming language anthropologist and flâneuse of digital detritus
- Agenda
  - 1. Philosophy
  - 2. Language
  - 3. Data



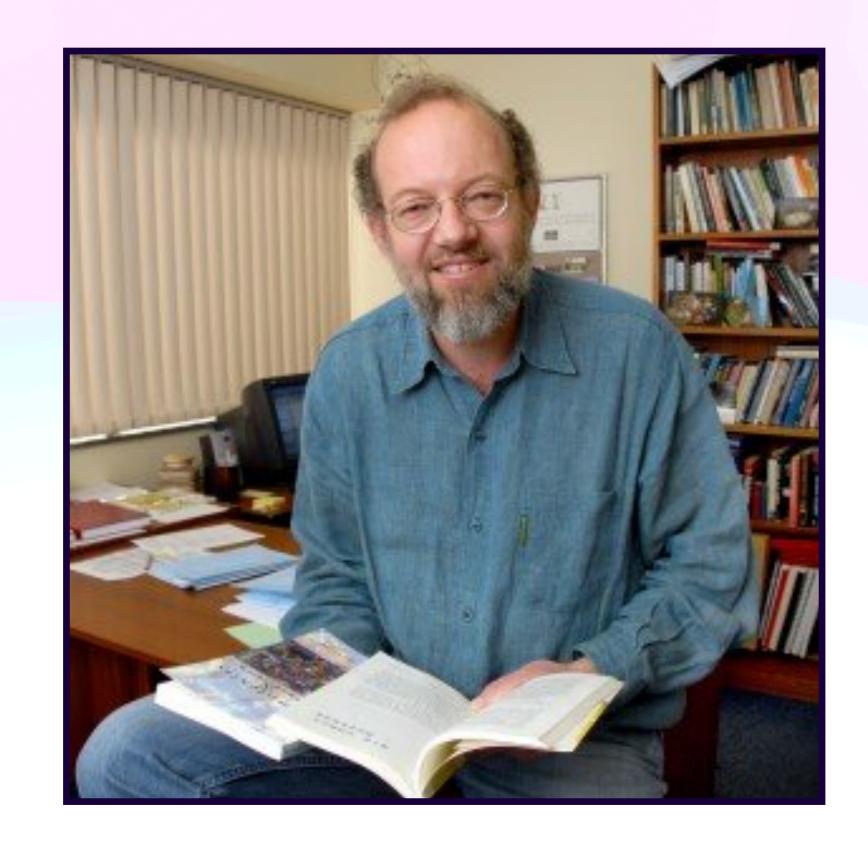




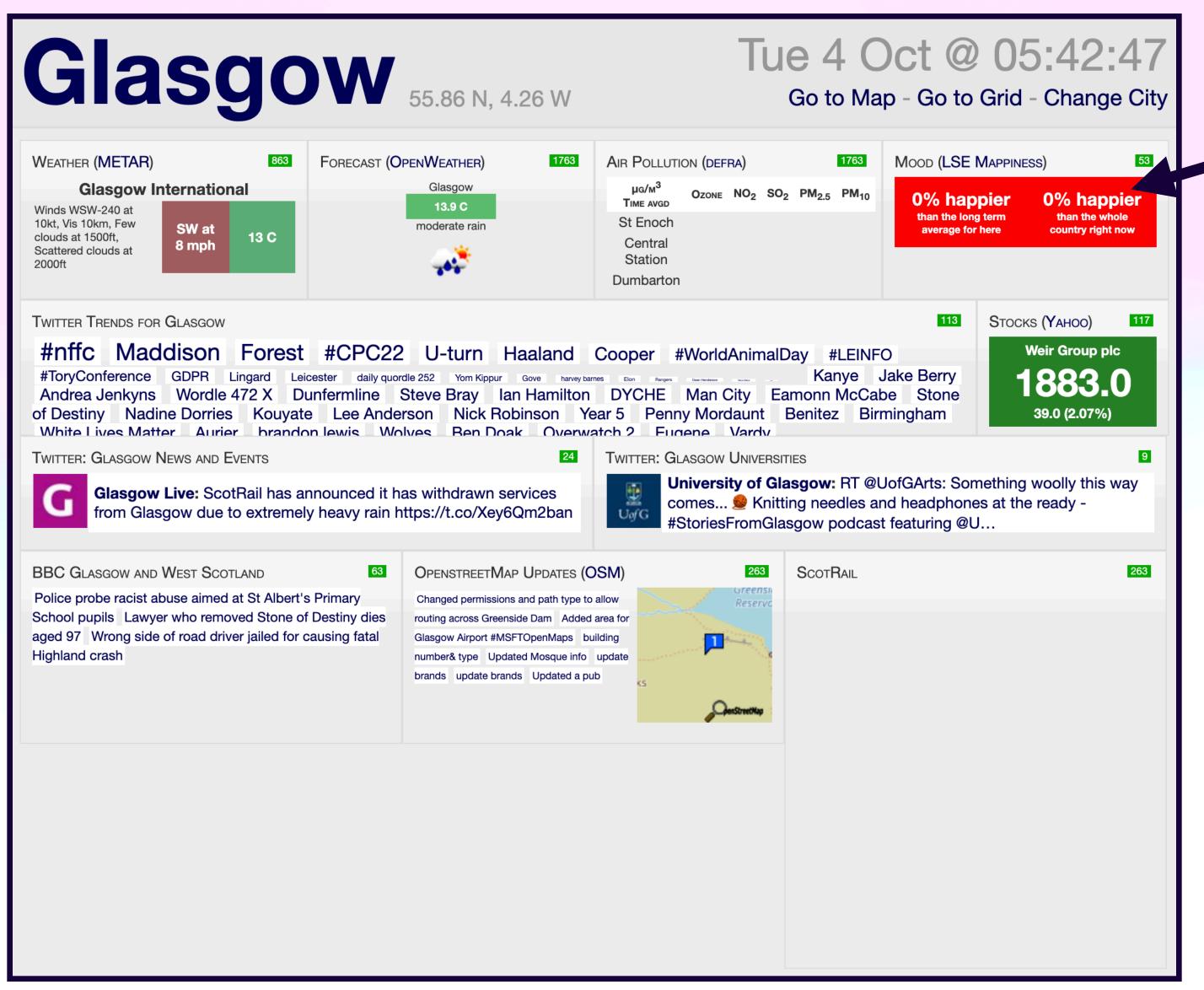
Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity toward metanarratives.

Jean-François Lyotard, The Postmodern Condition (1979)

The postmodern condition is characterised by the co-existence of a multiplicity of heterogeneous discourses—a state of affairs assessed differently by different parties.



Paul Cilliers, Complexity and Postmodernism (1998)



**City Dashboard Glasgow (2022)** 

... if the CASA Geiger counter is showing a high reading, please do not panic! Somebody in the office might just have placed some Brazil nuts or another calibration source in front of the detector.

CityDashboard (2022)

... algorithms and interfaces tend to bracket out those messy and disorderly concerns that simply "do not compute." We're left with the sense that everything knowable and worth knowing about a city can fit on a screen—which simply isn't true.



Shannon Mattern,
A City is Not a Computer: Other Urban Intelligences (2021)

### 'So vague, it invites abuse': Twitter reviews controversial new privacy policy

The policy meant to tackle doxxing on the platform was weaponized by the far-right, leaving many anti-fascist activists locked out of their accounts

The Guardian (2021)

#### Stop TikTok Stalkers: How to Keep Creeps Off Your Account

TikTok can be a dangerous place. Control your privacy settings to protect yourself.

**CNET (2022)** 

### Social Media Misinformation and the 2022 Philippine Elections

November 22, 2021

**Center for Strategic and International Studies (2021)** 

### Uber makes changes amid swarm of criticism over rider safety

The app will allow on-trip reporting of incidents such as erratic driving or invasive questioning.



By Faiz Siddiqui

September 26, 2019 at 1:27 p.m. EDT

Facebook criticised after women complain of inaction over abuse

Amnesty says social media firm must do more to support users who report harassment

The Guardian (2019)

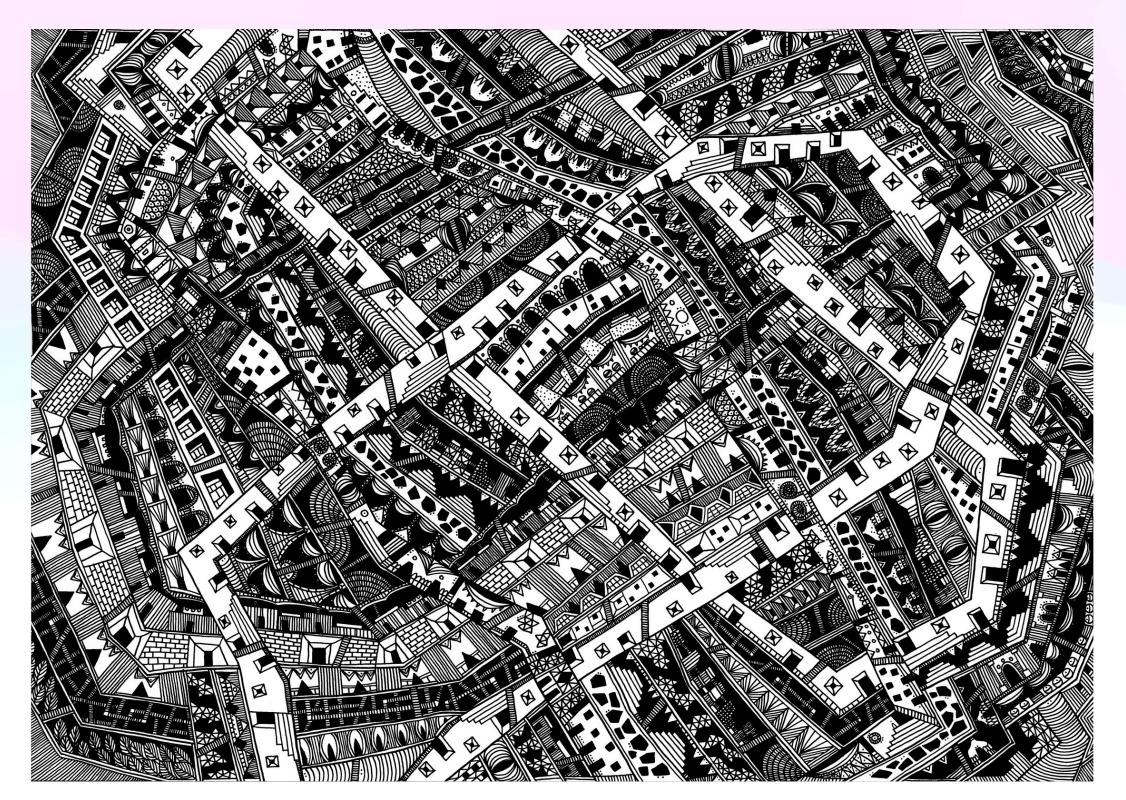
**The Washington Post (2019)** 

## Computer Science is in deep trouble. Structured design is a failure.

Gerald Jay Sussman, Robust Design through Diversity (1999)

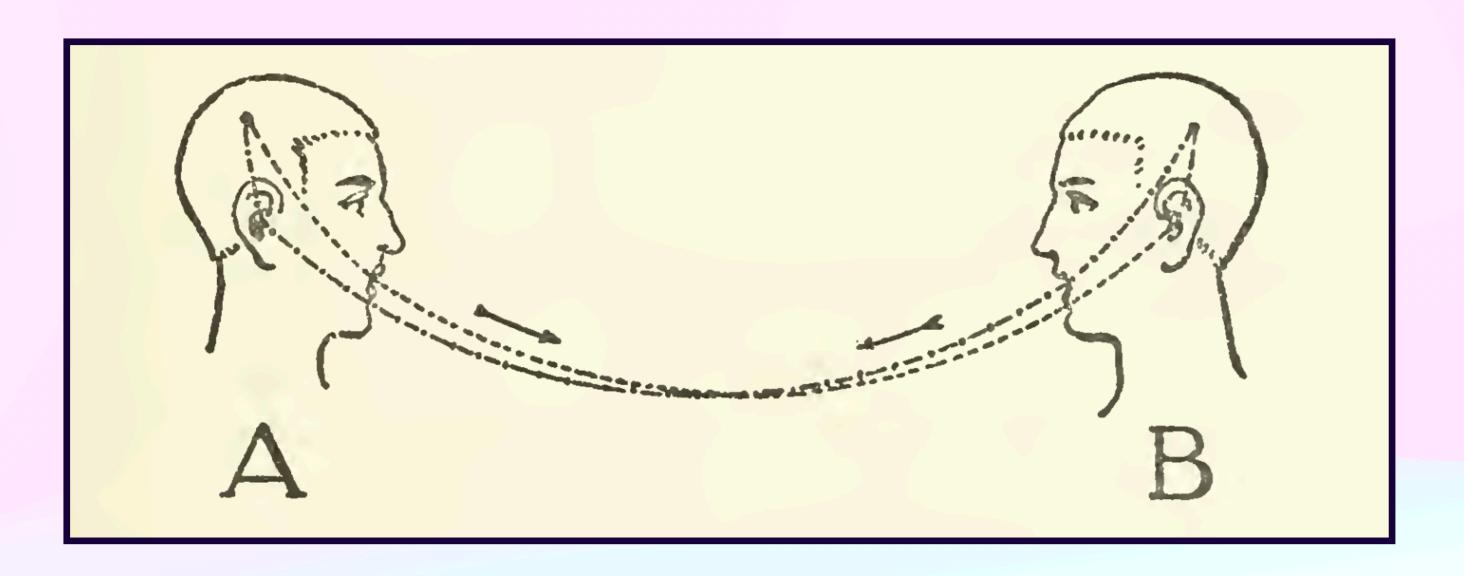


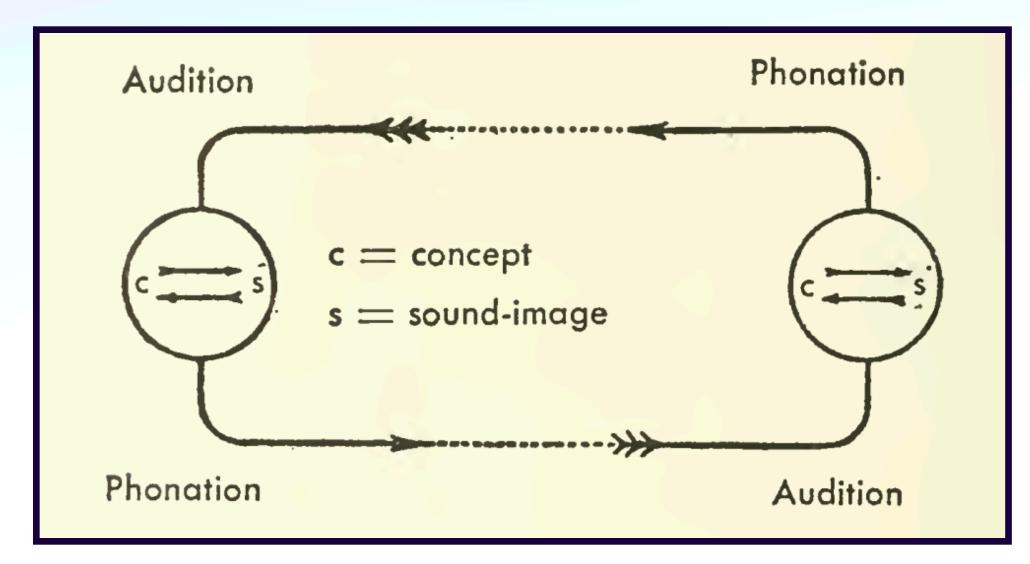
To advance beyond the existing problems we must change, in a fundamental way, the nature of the language we use to describe computational systems.



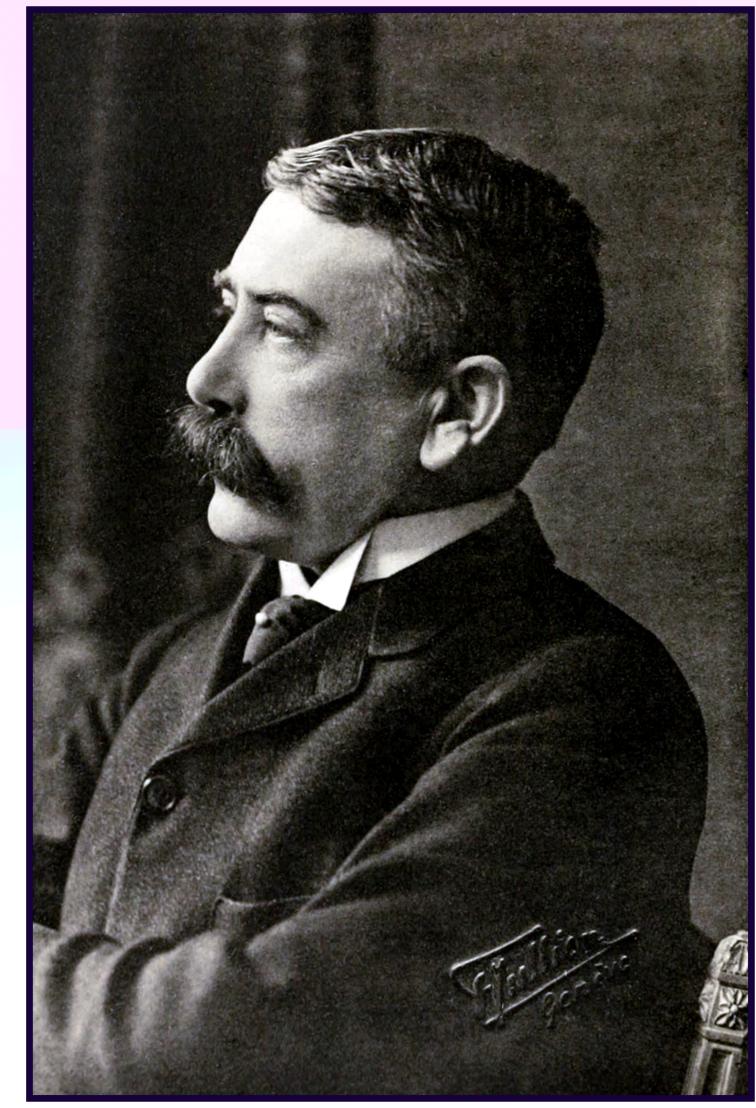
Karina Puente, Zobeide City (2017)

Gerald Jay Sussman, Robust Design through Diversity (1999)

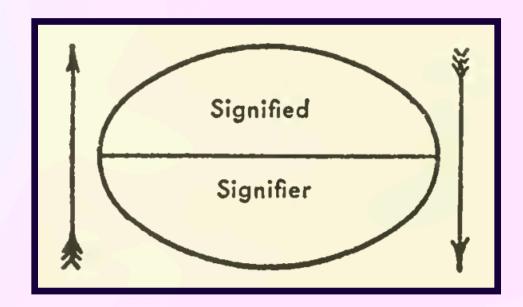


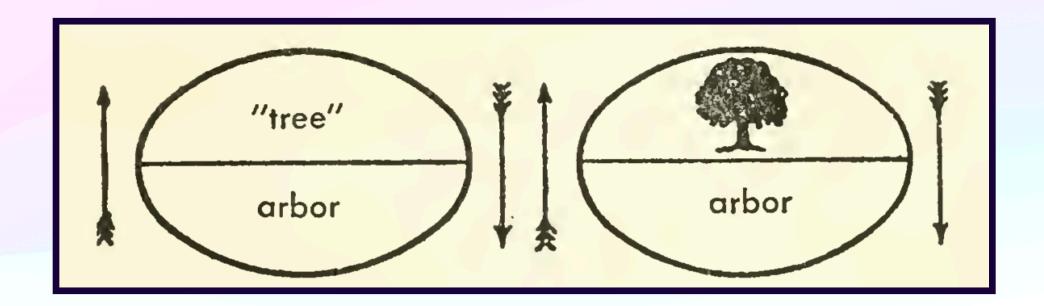


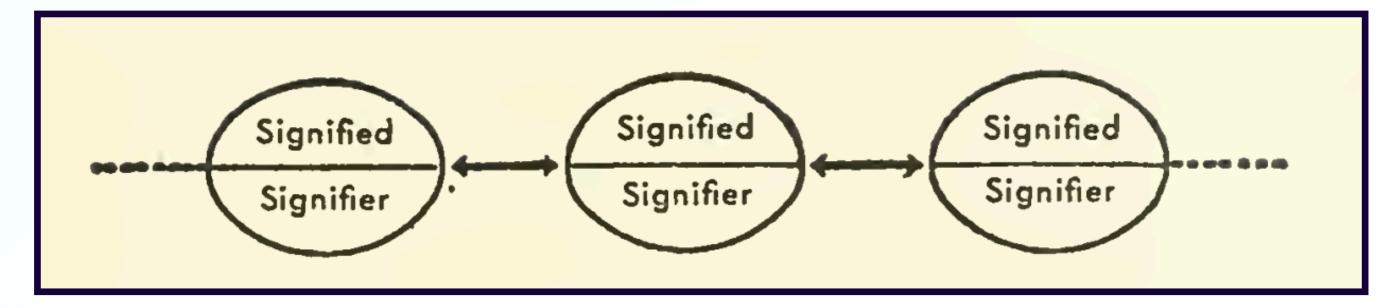
Place of Language in the Facts of Speech



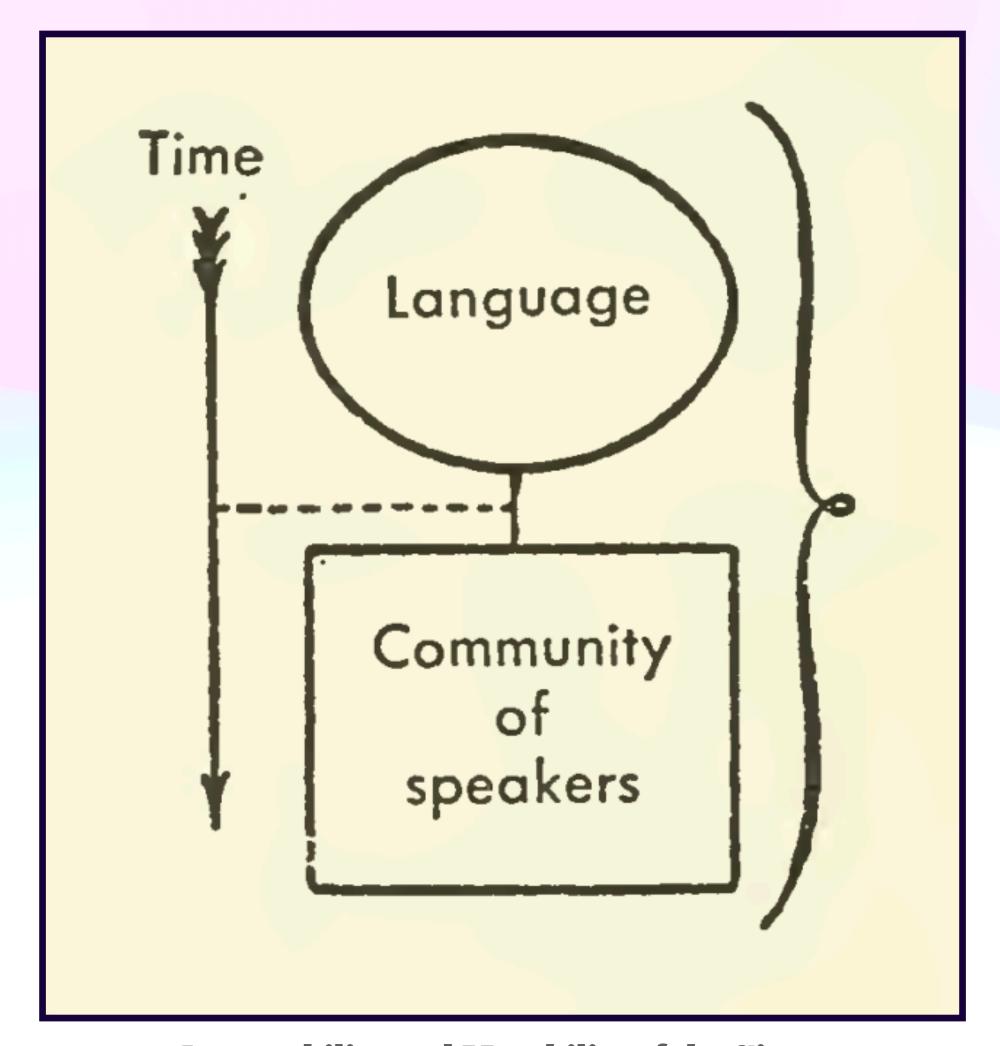
Ferdinand de Saussure Photograph by F. Jullien Genève (before 1913)







Nature of the Linguistic Sign, and Linguistic Value



**Immutability and Mutability of the Signs** 

We had first to weed out variations and irregularities characteristic of oral delivery ... and present each part of it in the order intended by the author even when his intention, not always apparent, had to be surmised.

Charles Bally & Albert Sechehaye (1915)

#### COURSE IN GENERAL LINGUISTICS

FERDINAND DE SAUSSURE

Edited by CHARLES BALLY and ALBERT SECHEHAYE

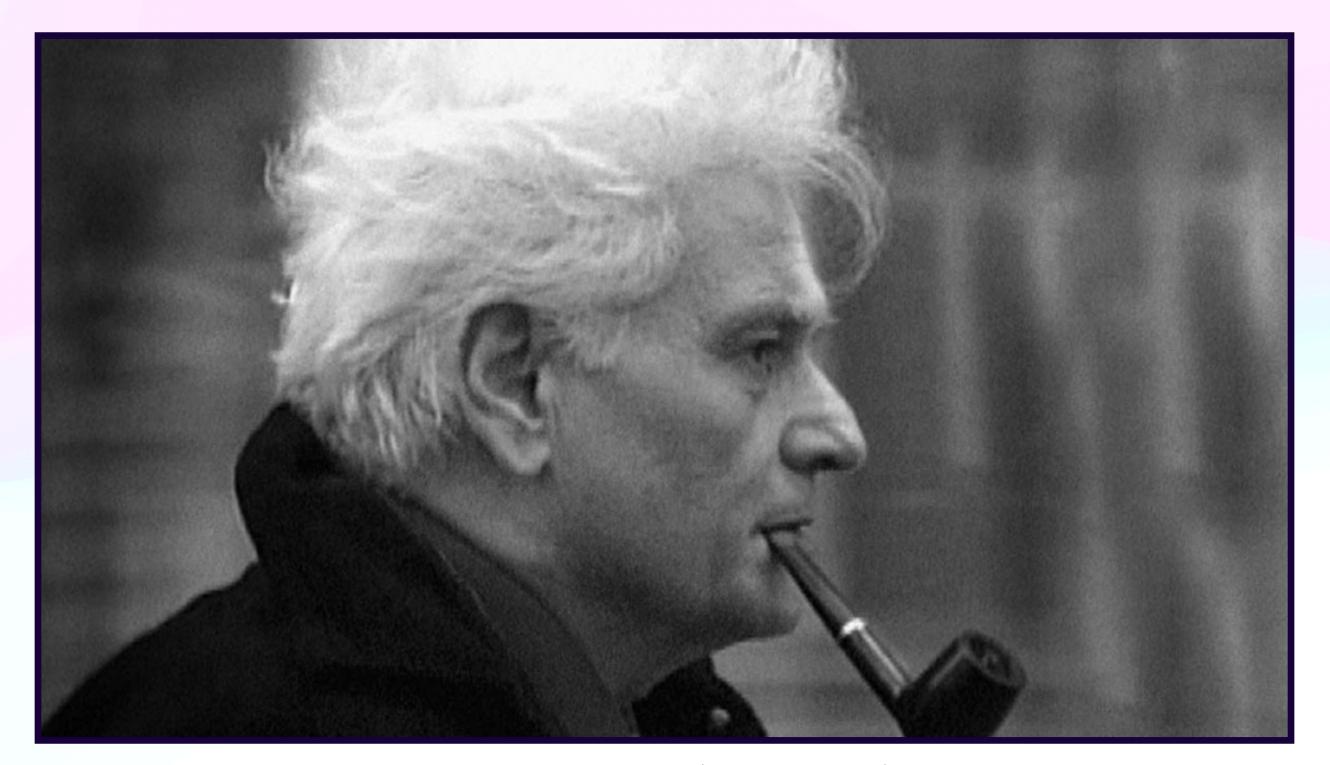
In collaboration with ALBERT REIDLINGER

Translated from the French by WADE BASKIN



PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARY

New York



**Jacques Derrida (1930 - 2004)** 

#### Of Grammatology

BY

#### Jacques Derrida

Corrected Edition

Translated by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

The Johns Hopkins
University Press
Baltimore and London

#### A Certain Tendency Of The Database Community\*

Christopher S. Meiklejohn Université catholique de Louvain christopher.meiklejohn@gmail.com

November 11, 2018

#### Abstract

We posit that striving for distributed systems that provide "single system image" semantics is fundamentally flawed and at odds with how systems operate in the physical world. We realize the database as an optimization of this system: a required, essential optimization in practice that facilitates central data placement and ease of access to participants in a system. We motivate a new model of computation that is designed to address the problems of computation over "eventually consistent" information in a large-scale distributed system.



These designs are inherently limiting: we impose a structure of a single primary site for information because it makes processing easier with the tools that we have today.

Christopher S. Meiklejohn, A Certain Tendency of the Database Community (2018)

CONJECTURE 1. Consistency And Logical Monotonicity (CALM). A program has an eventually consistent, coordination-free execution strategy if and only if it is expressible in (monotonic) Datalog.

Joseph M. Hellerstein, The Declarative Imperative (2010)

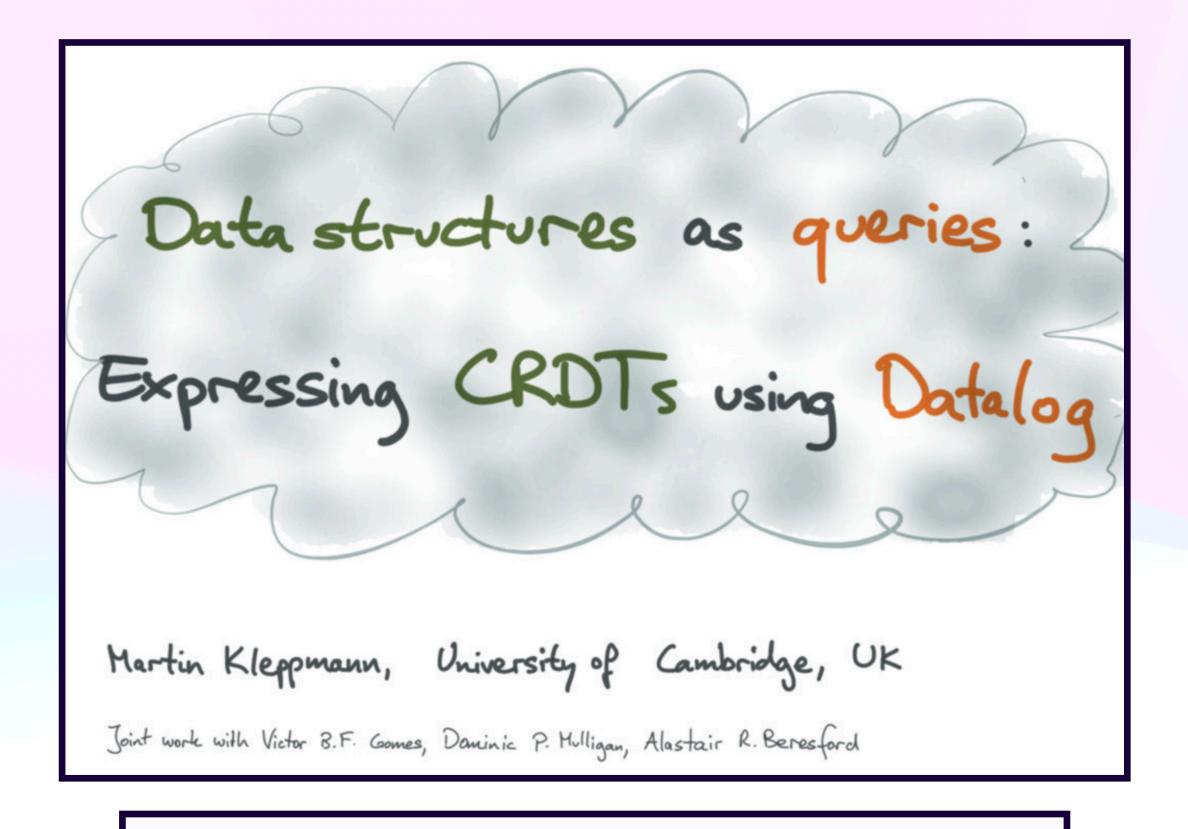
```
pending(Id, Sender, P) :-
    request(Id, Sender, P).

pending(Id, Sender, P)@next :-
    pending(Id, Sender, P),
    !response(Id, Sender, _).

service_out(P, Out)@async :-
    request(Id, Sender, P),
    service_in(P, Out).

response(Sender, Id, O) :-
    pending(Id, Sender, P),
    service_out(P, O).
```

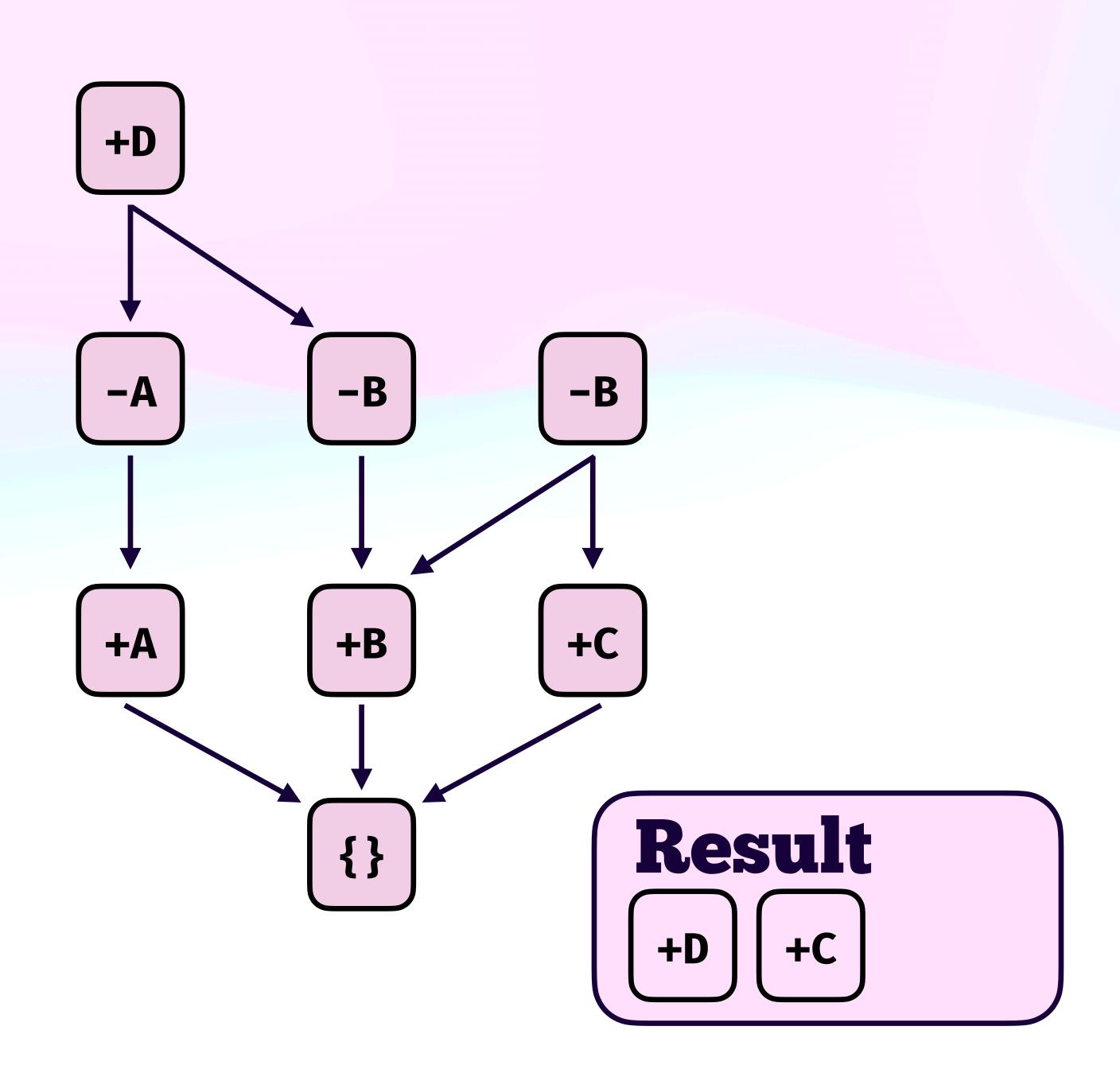
**An asynchronous service in Dedalus The Declarative Imperative (2010)** 



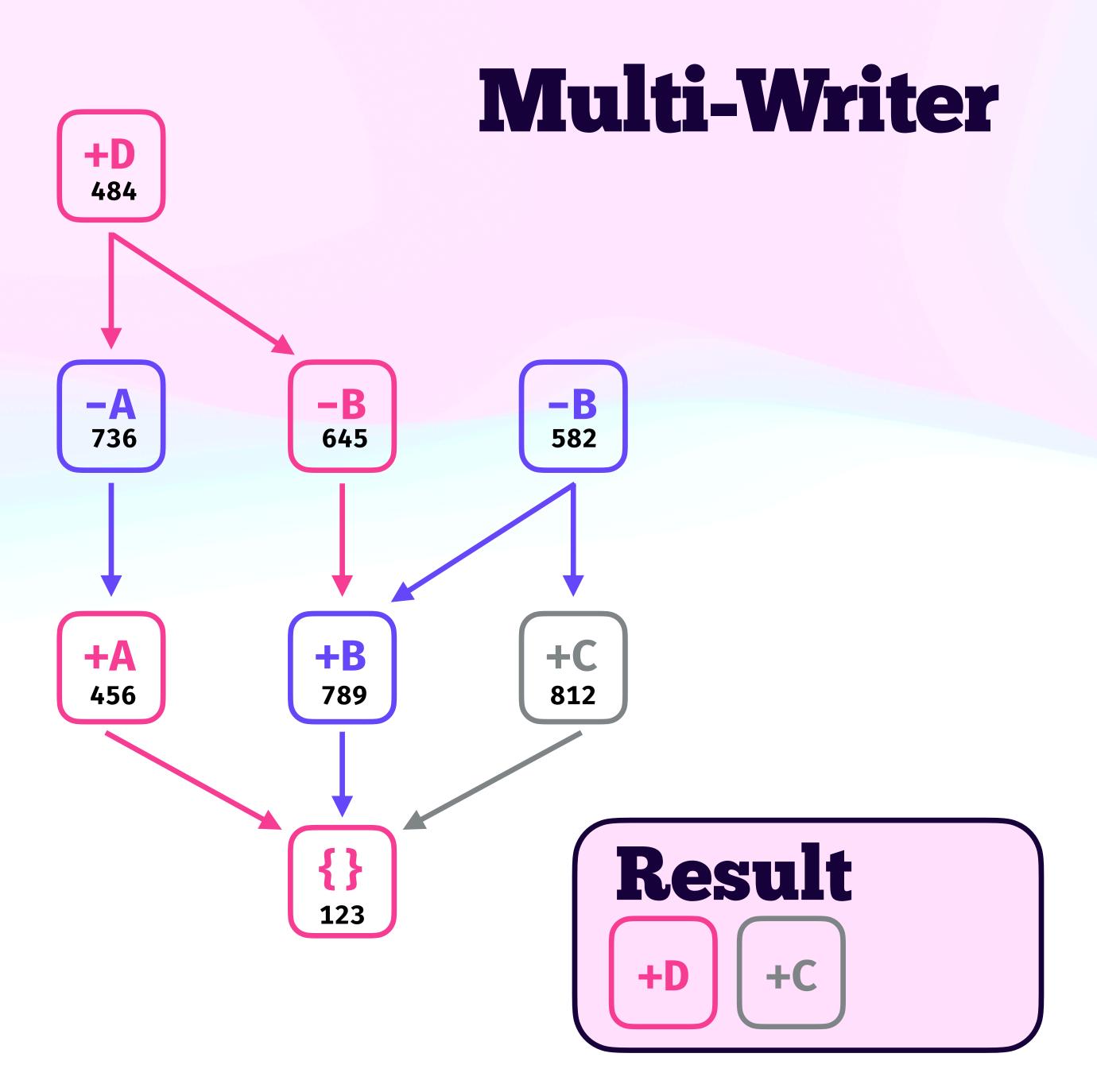
Local-first software
You own your data, in spite of the cloud

` **}III** Ink & Switch

Martin Kleppmann
Adam Wiggins
Peter van Hardenberg
Mark McGranaghan
April 2019

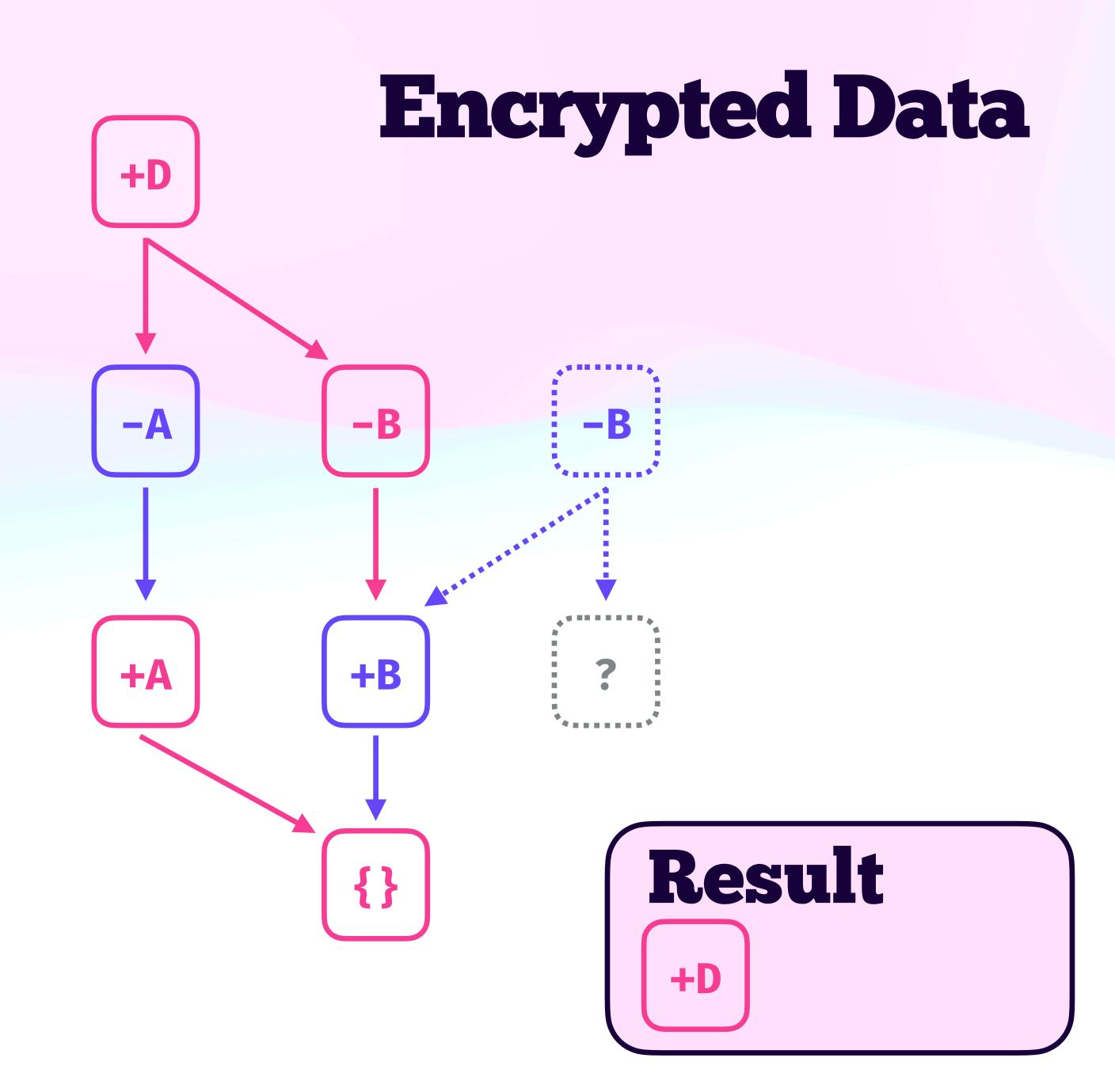






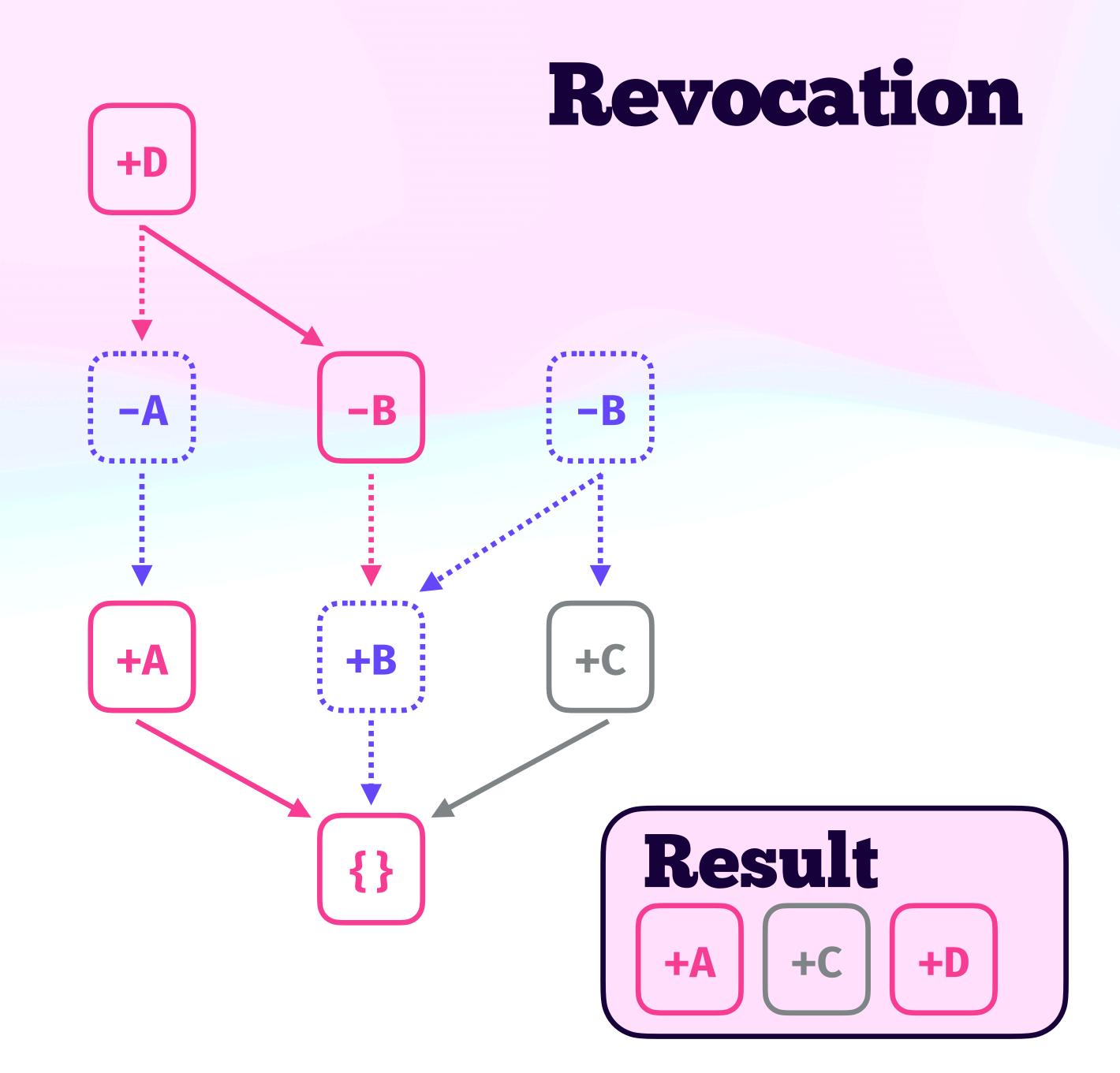




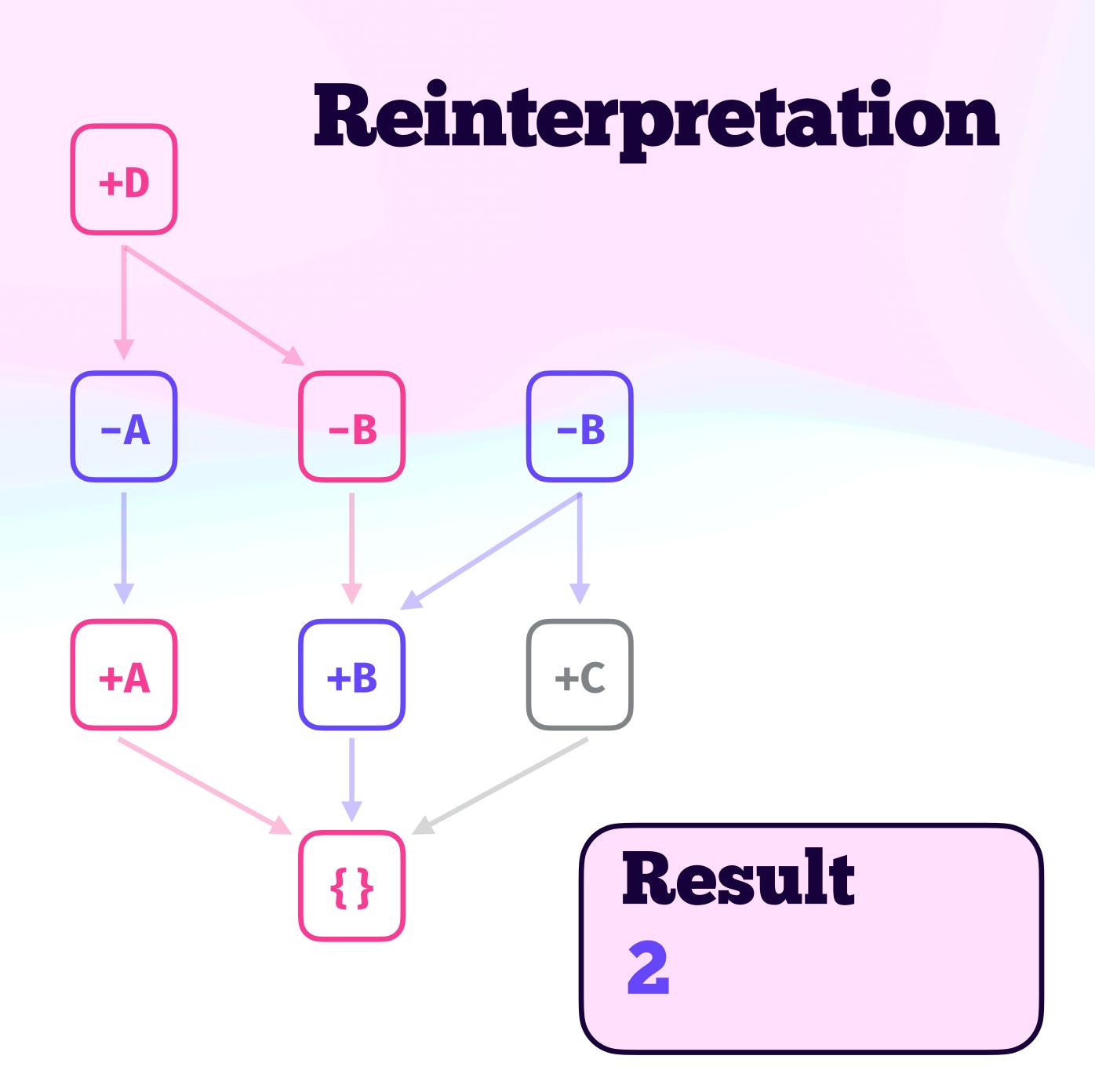


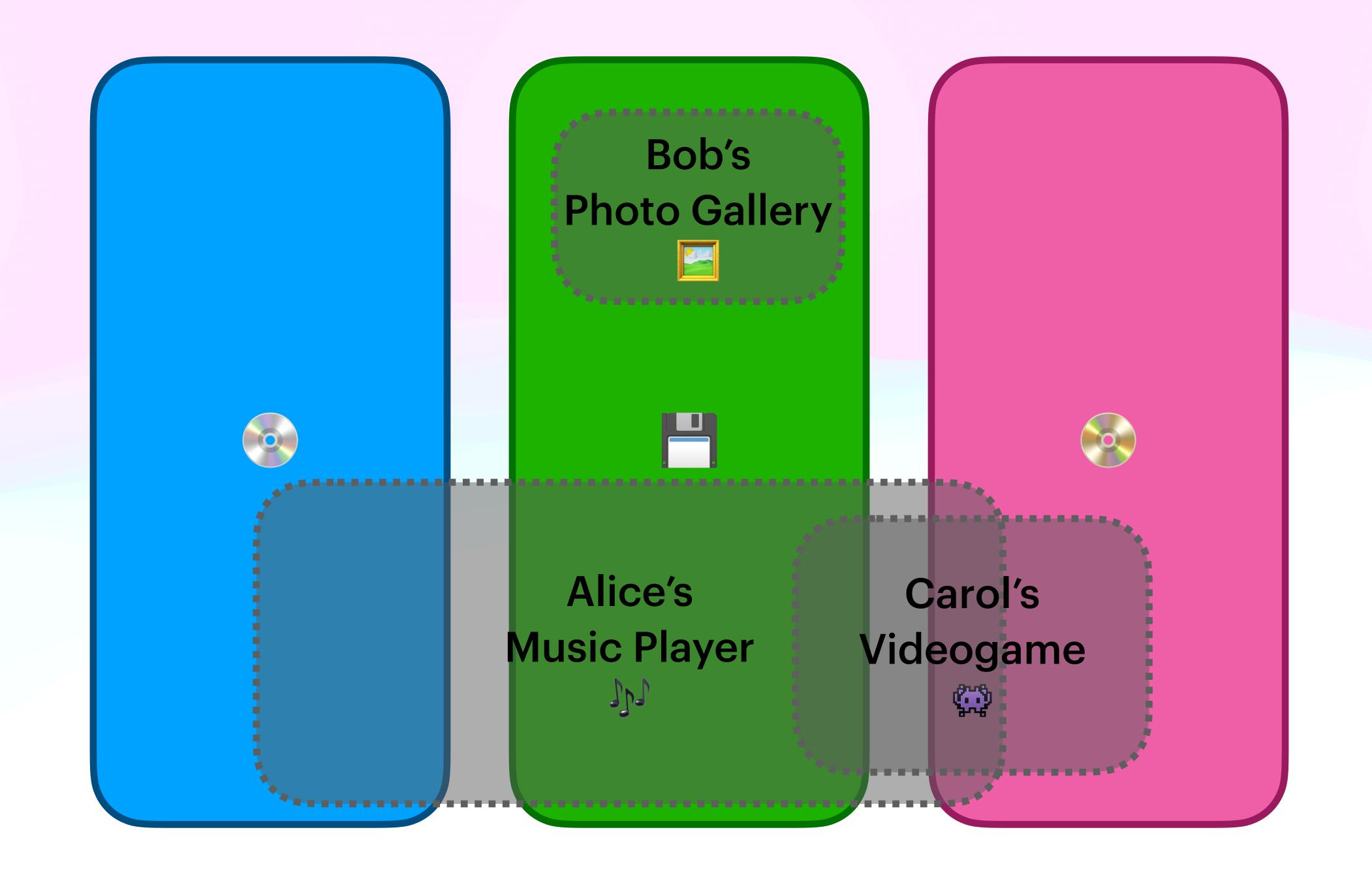






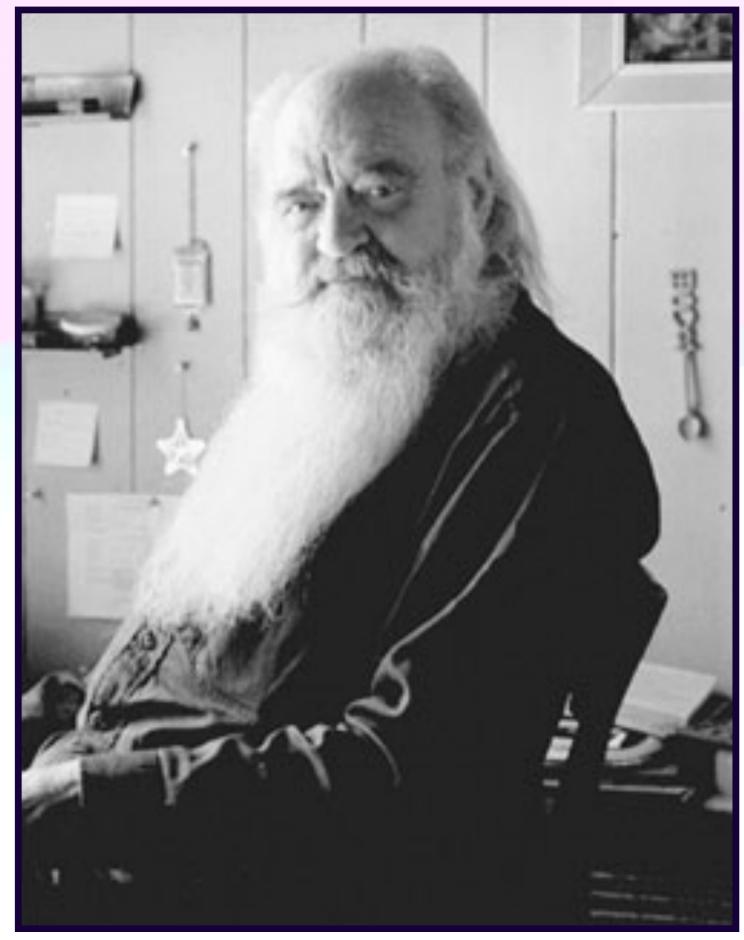




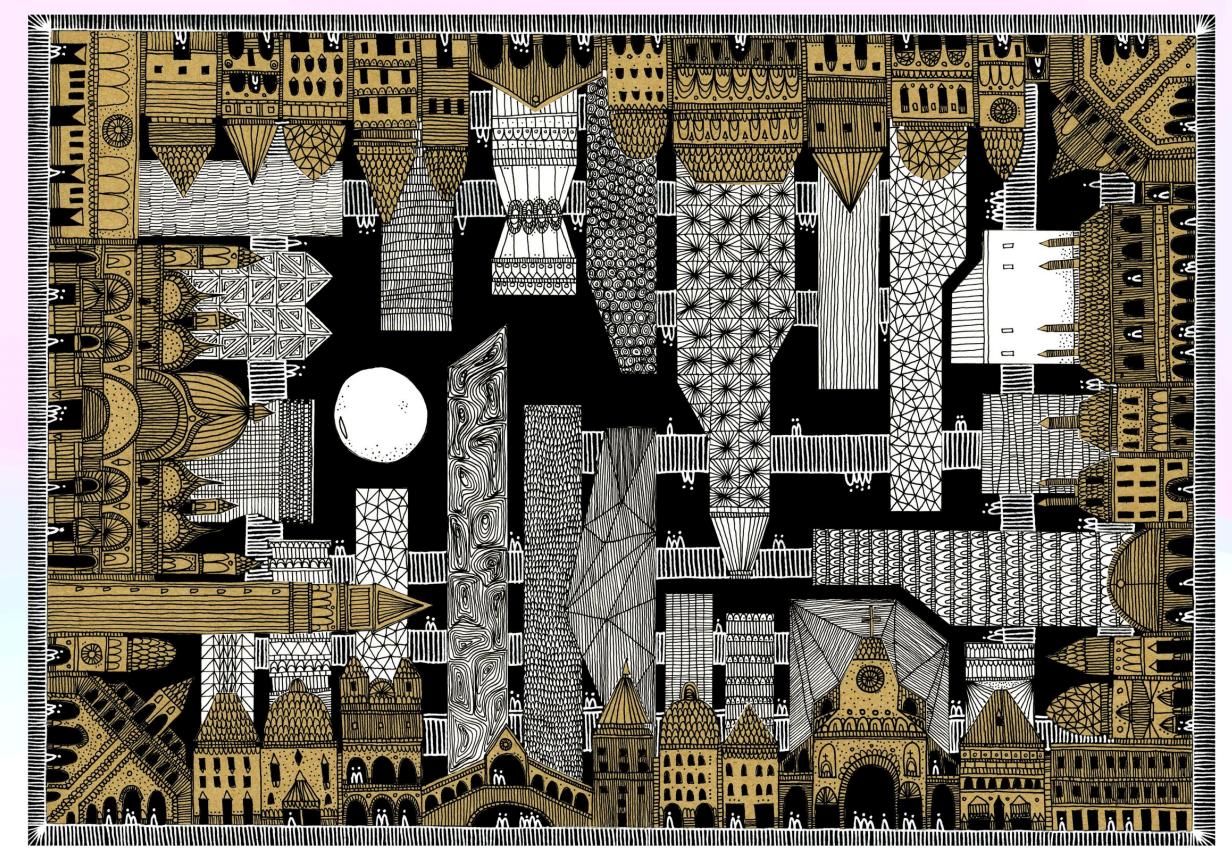


Science is ... a world view in which real systems are annihilated in trying to understand them, in which relations are lost because they are not categorized, in which synthesis is relegated to poetry and mysticism ...

Stafford Beer, Preface to Autopoiesis: The Organization of the Living (1980)



Futures not achieved are only branches of the past: dead branches.



Karina Puente, Maurilia City (2017)

### Thank you HPTS! @wilton\_quinn