

A Gittins Policy for Optimizing Tail Latency

Amit Harlev

Cornell CAM

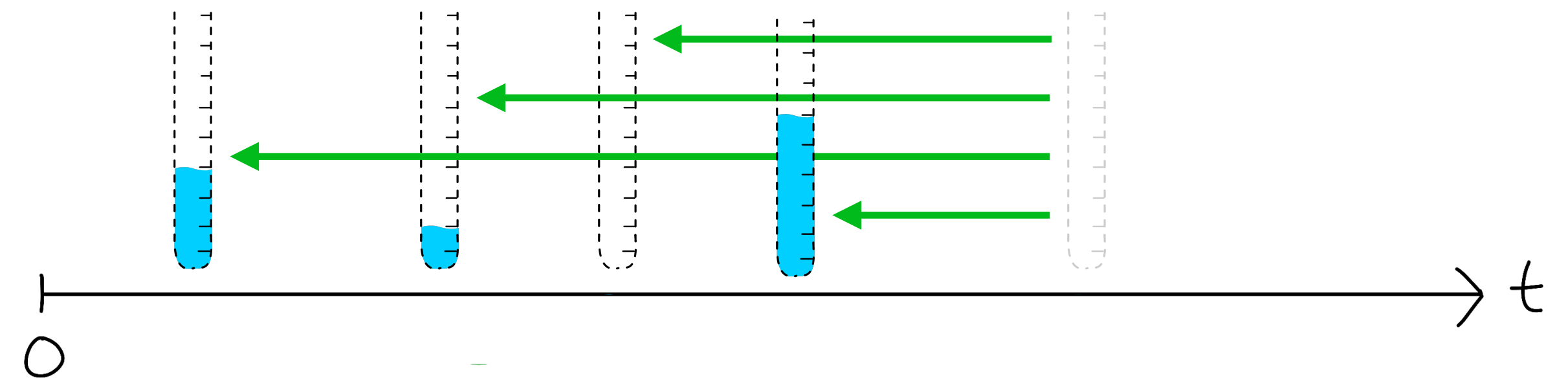
Joint work with

George Yu

Cornell ORIE

Ziv Scully

Cornell ORIE

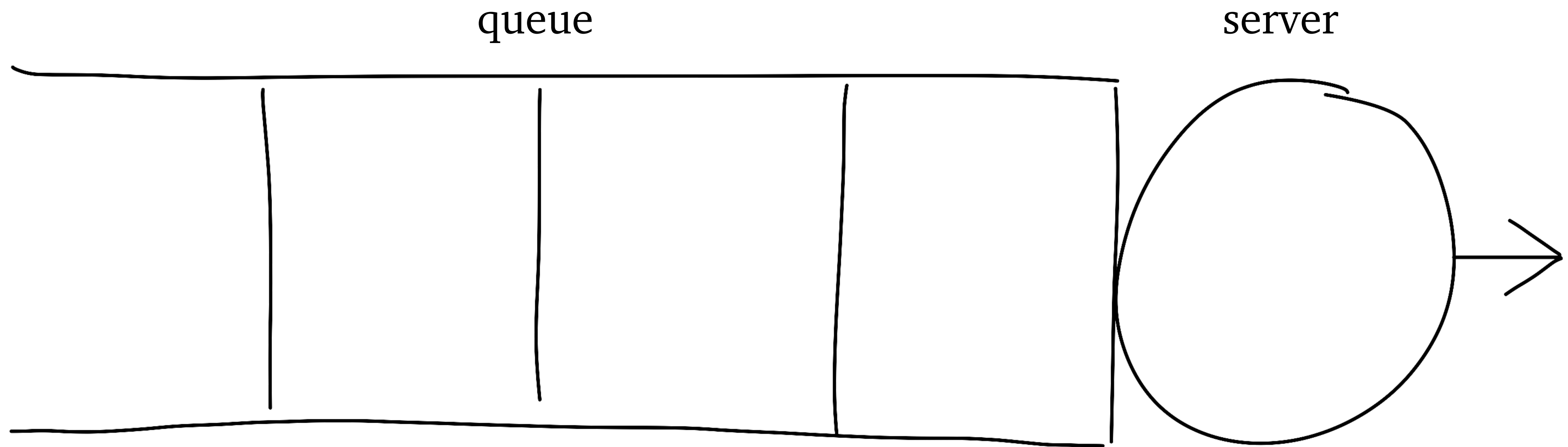


How do we minimize delays
when job sizes are unknown?

(asymptotic) tail latency
in single server queue

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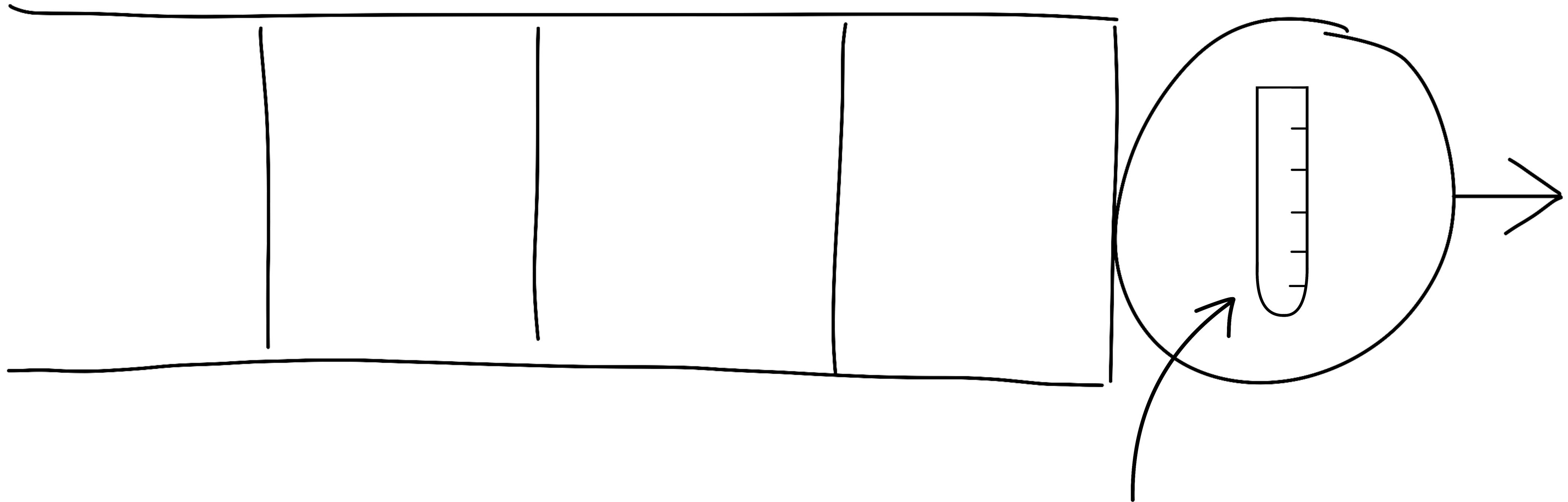
Scheduling in the M/G/1



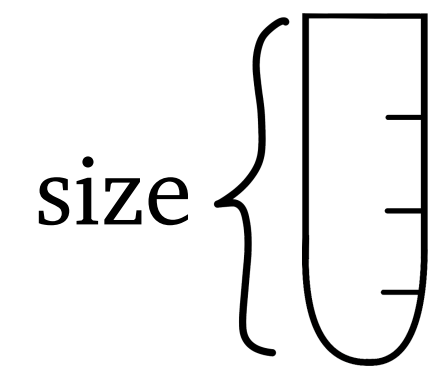
Scheduling in the M/G/1

queue

server



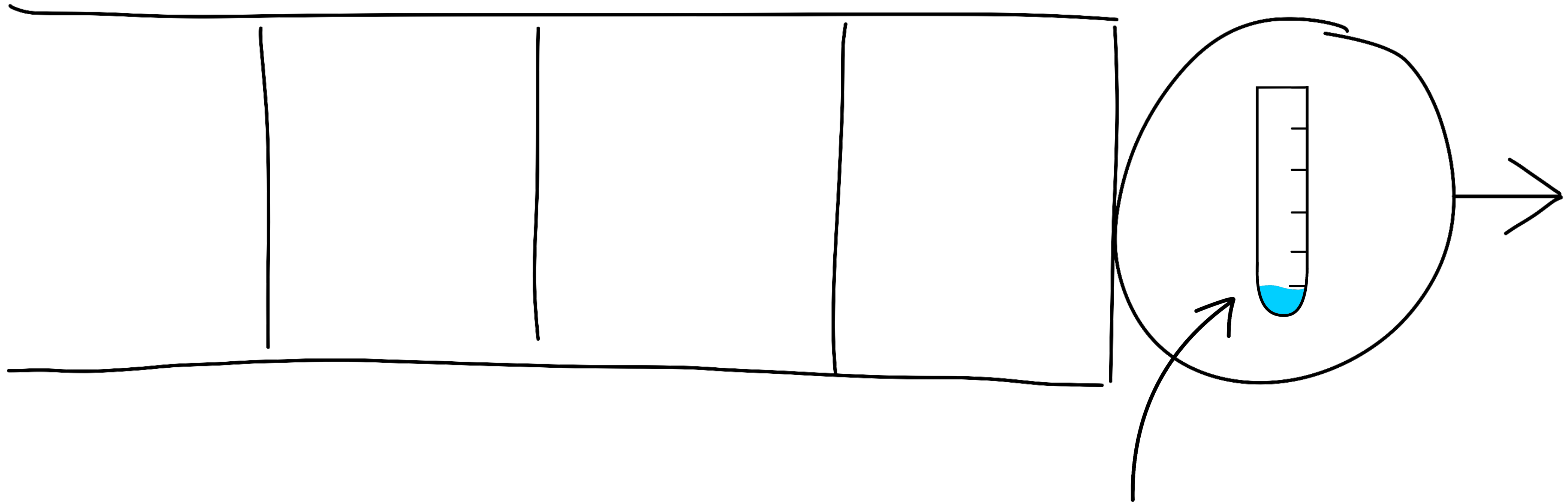
job



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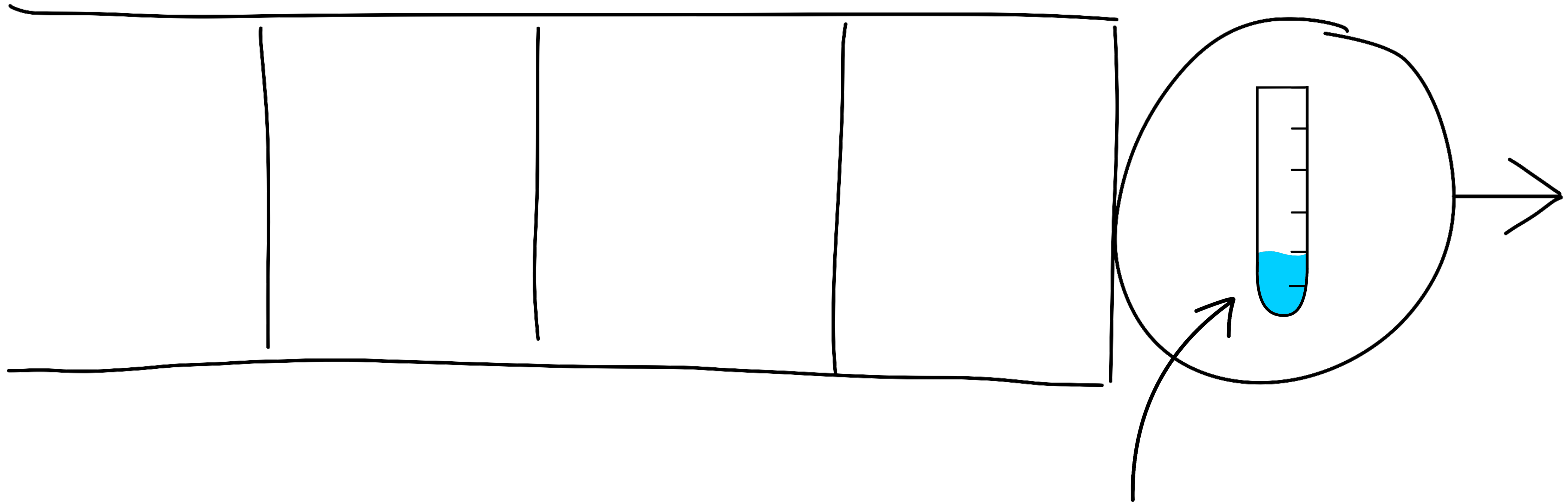
job

size {

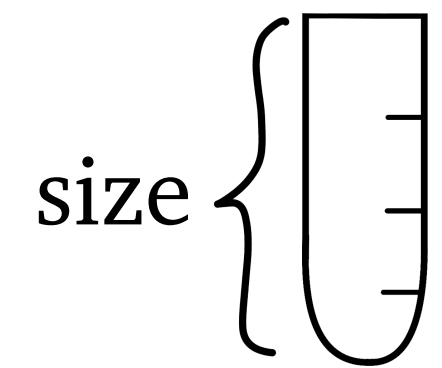
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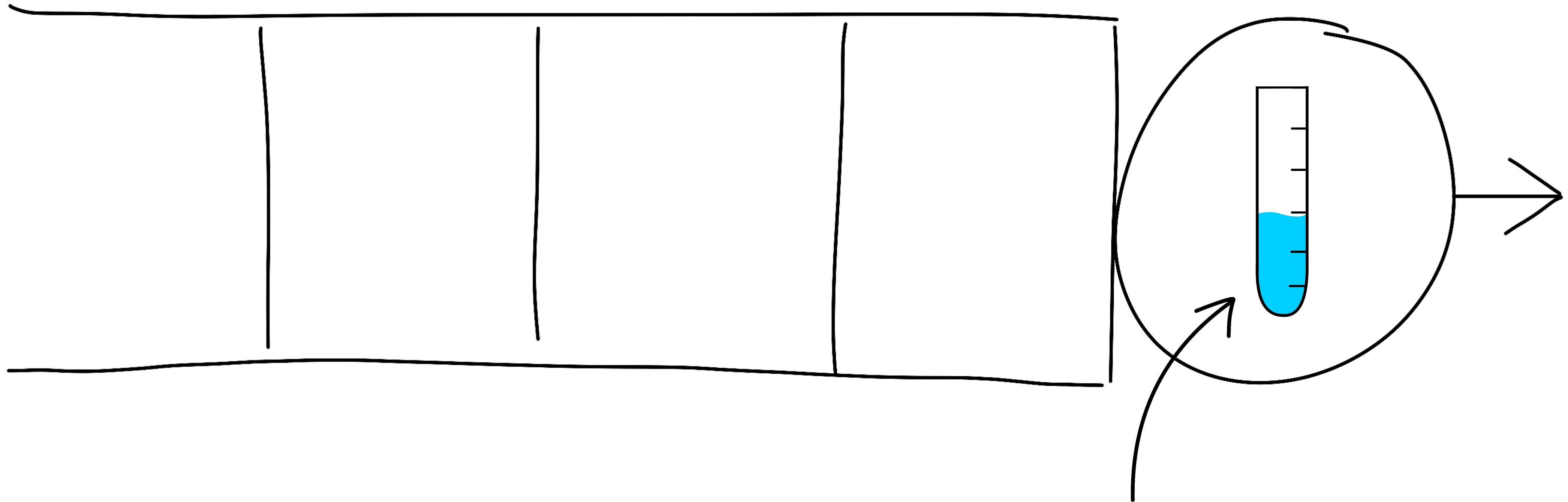
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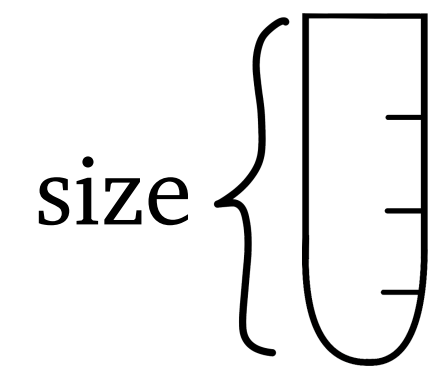
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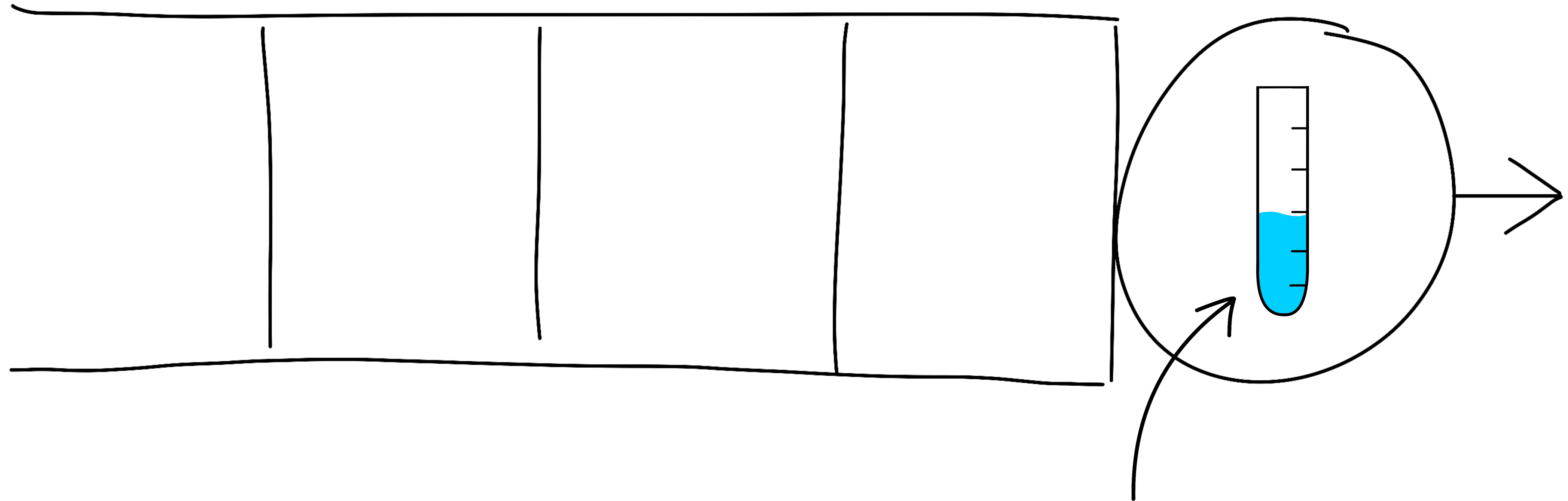
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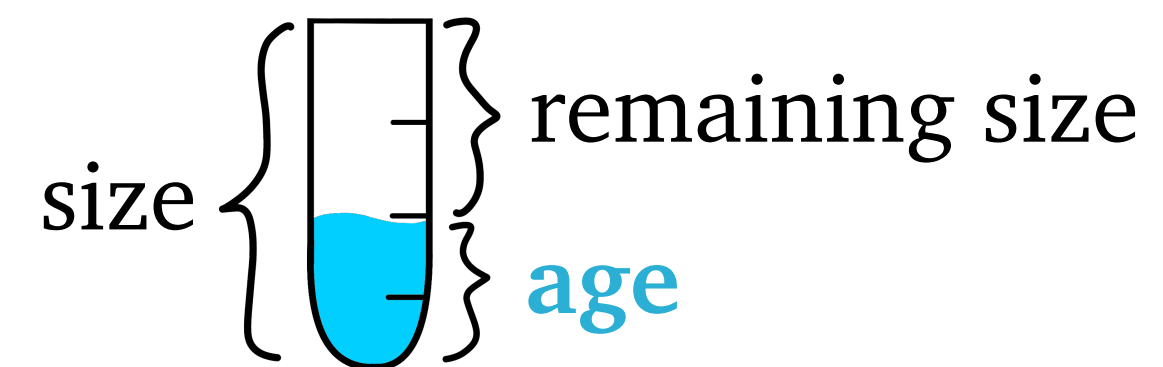
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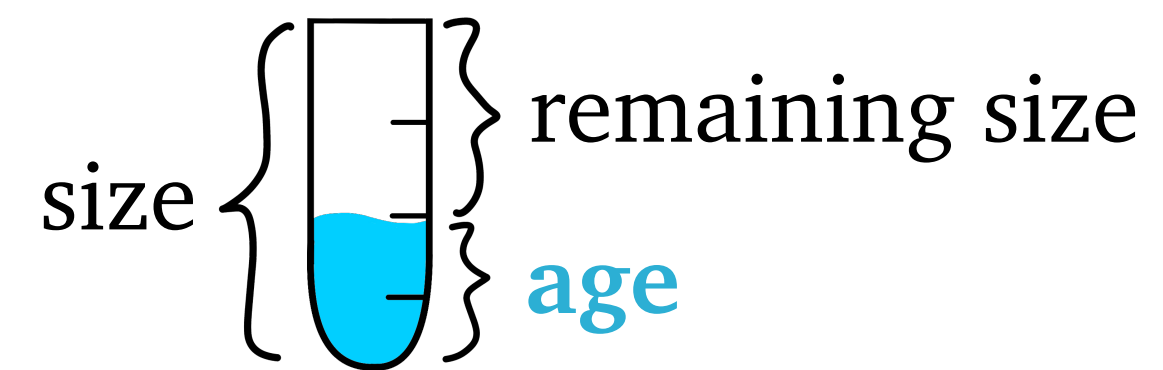
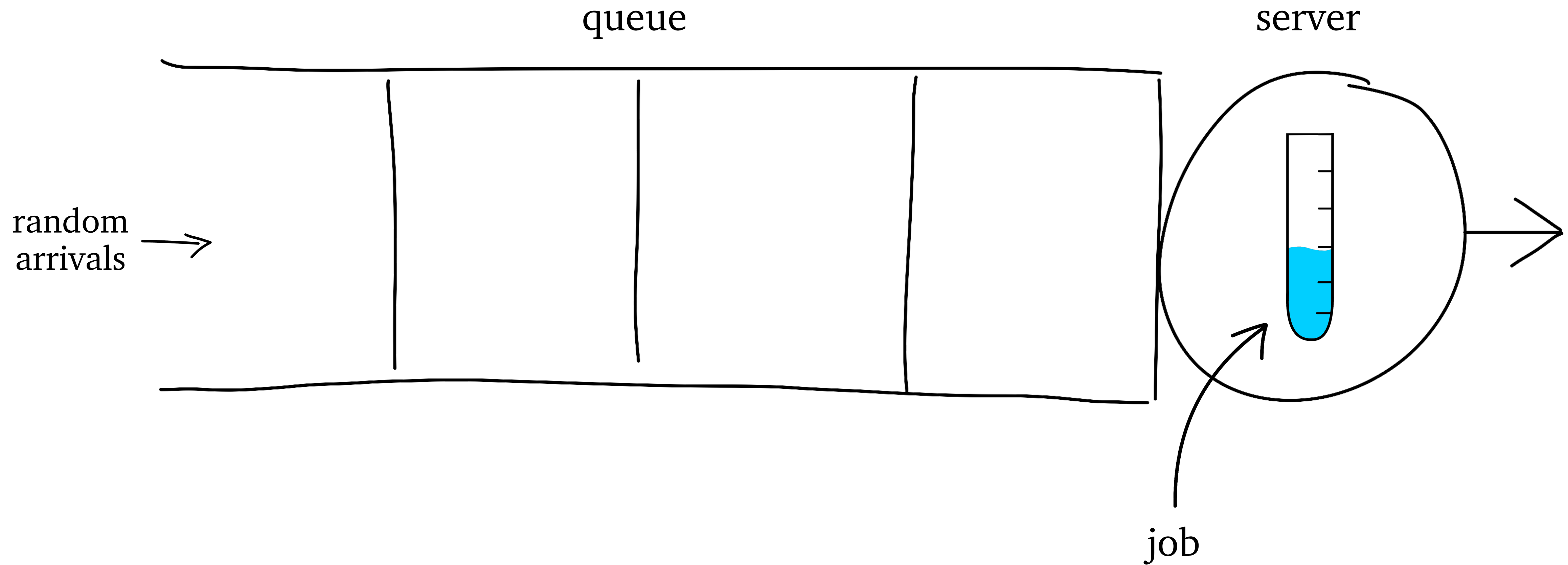
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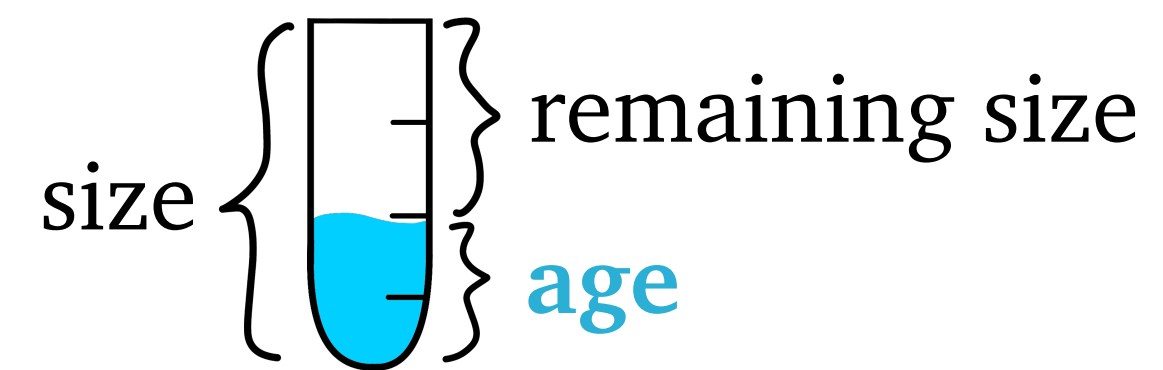
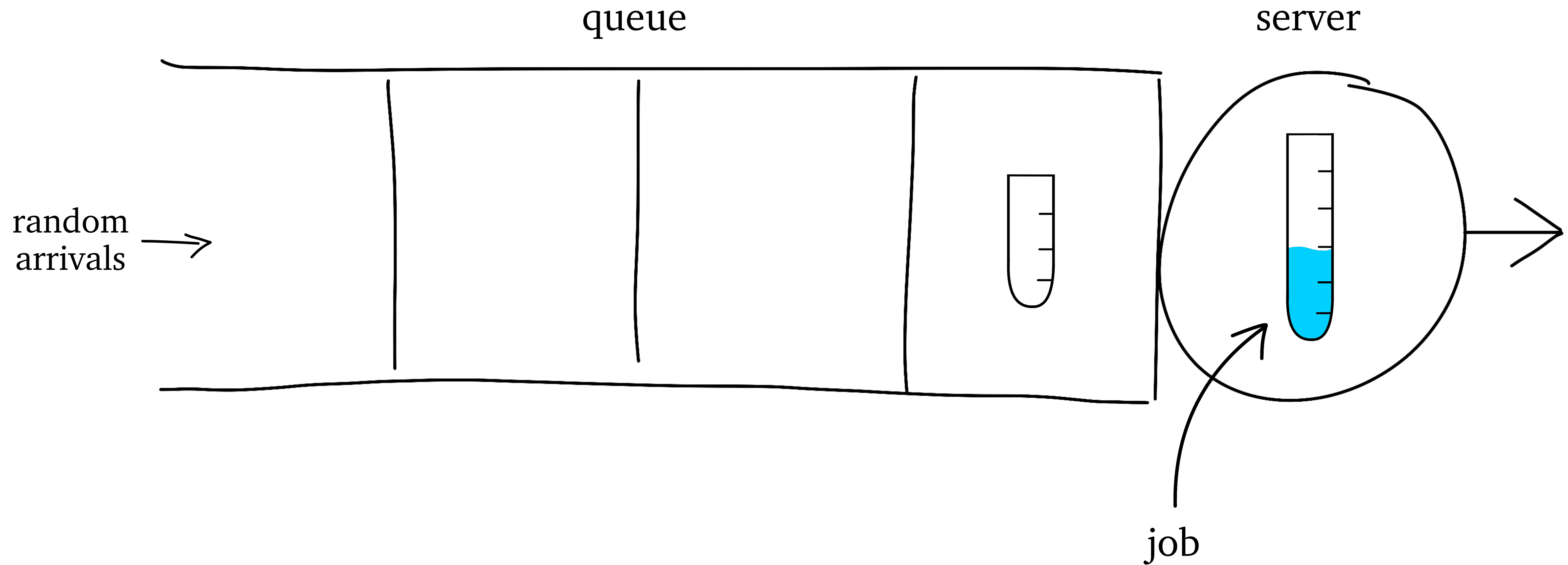
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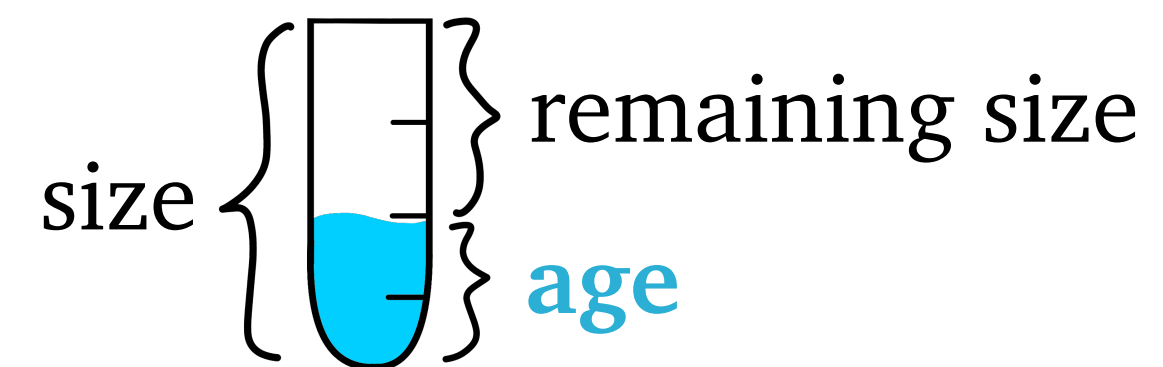
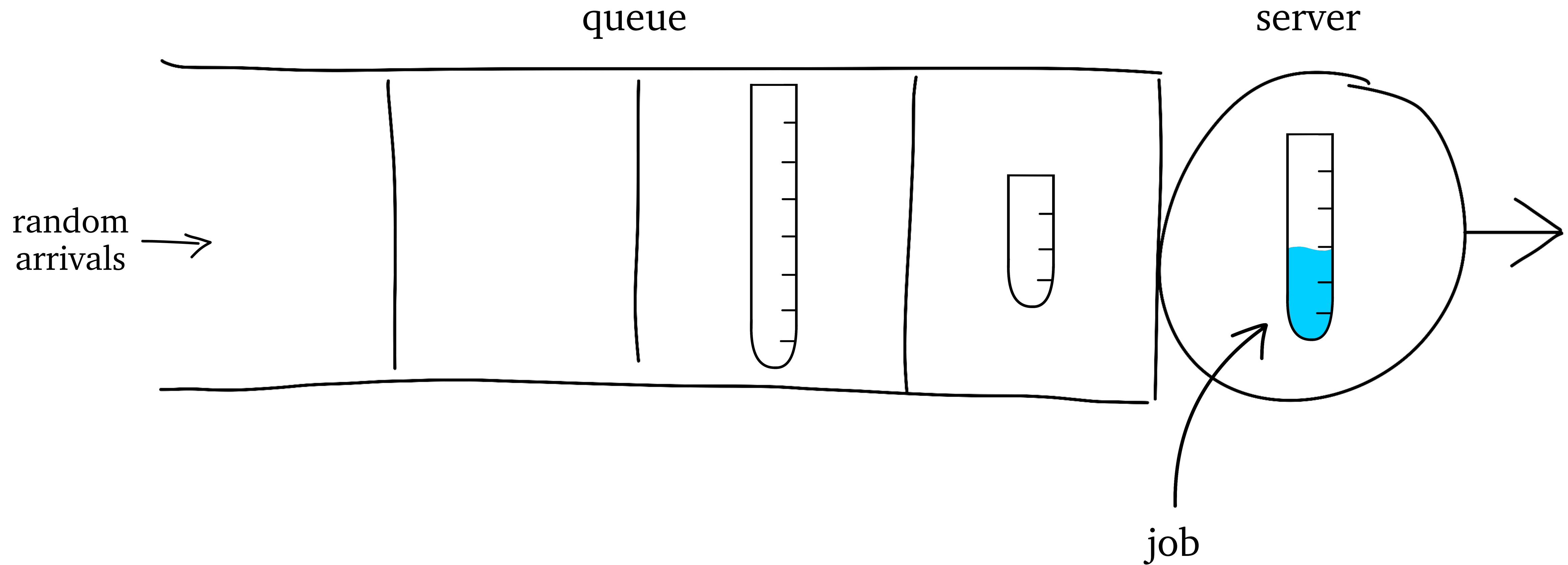
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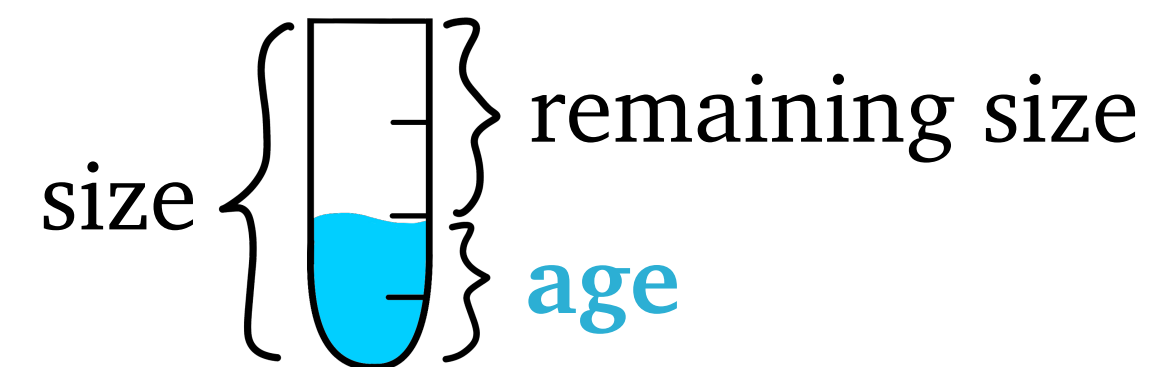
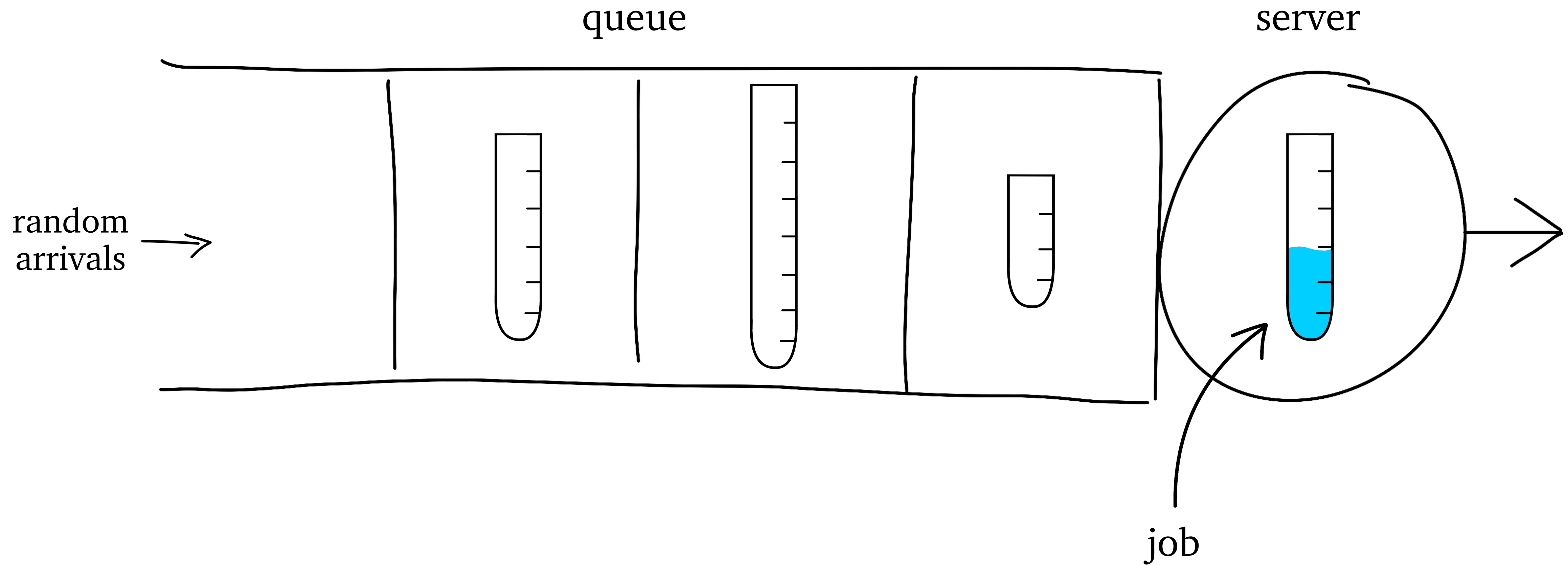
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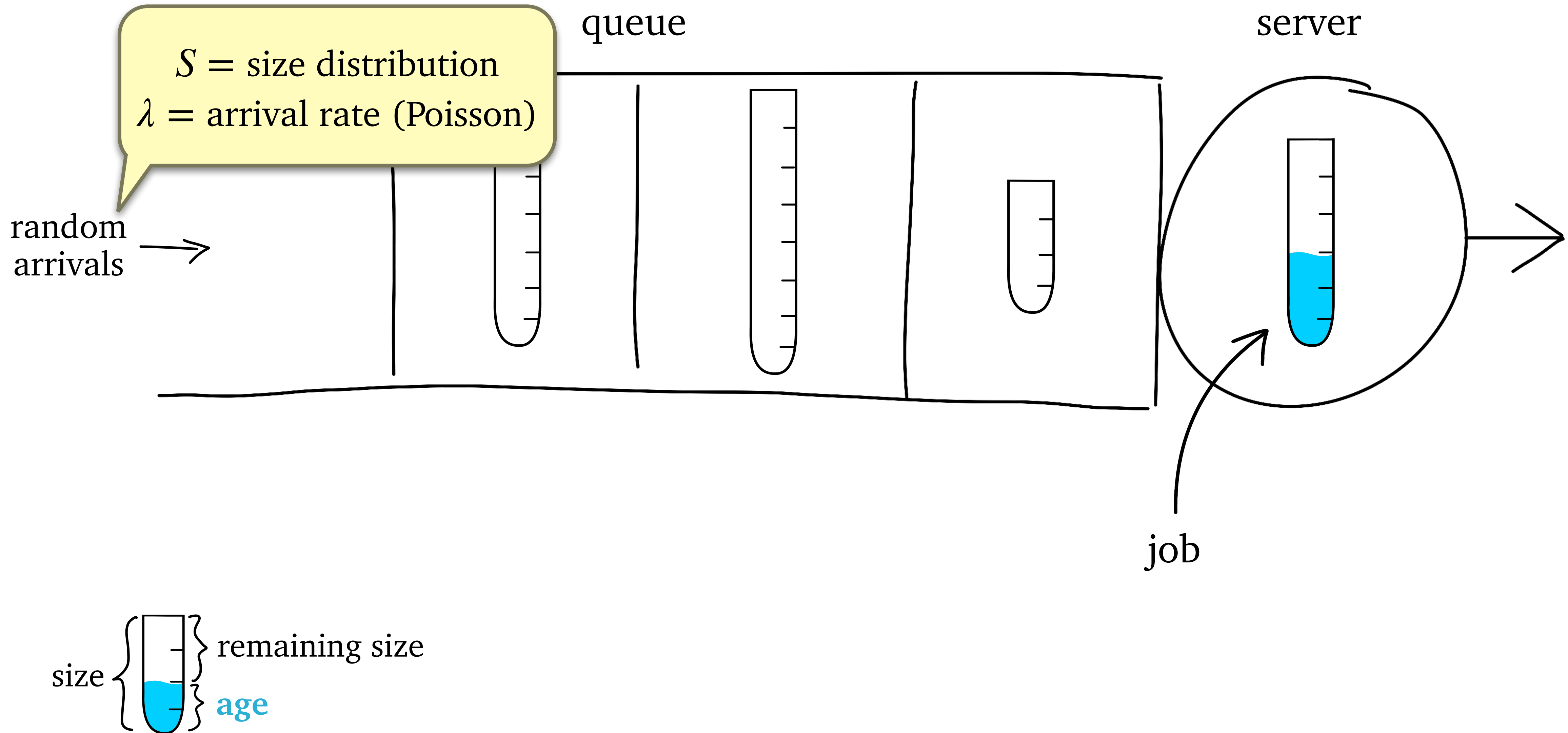
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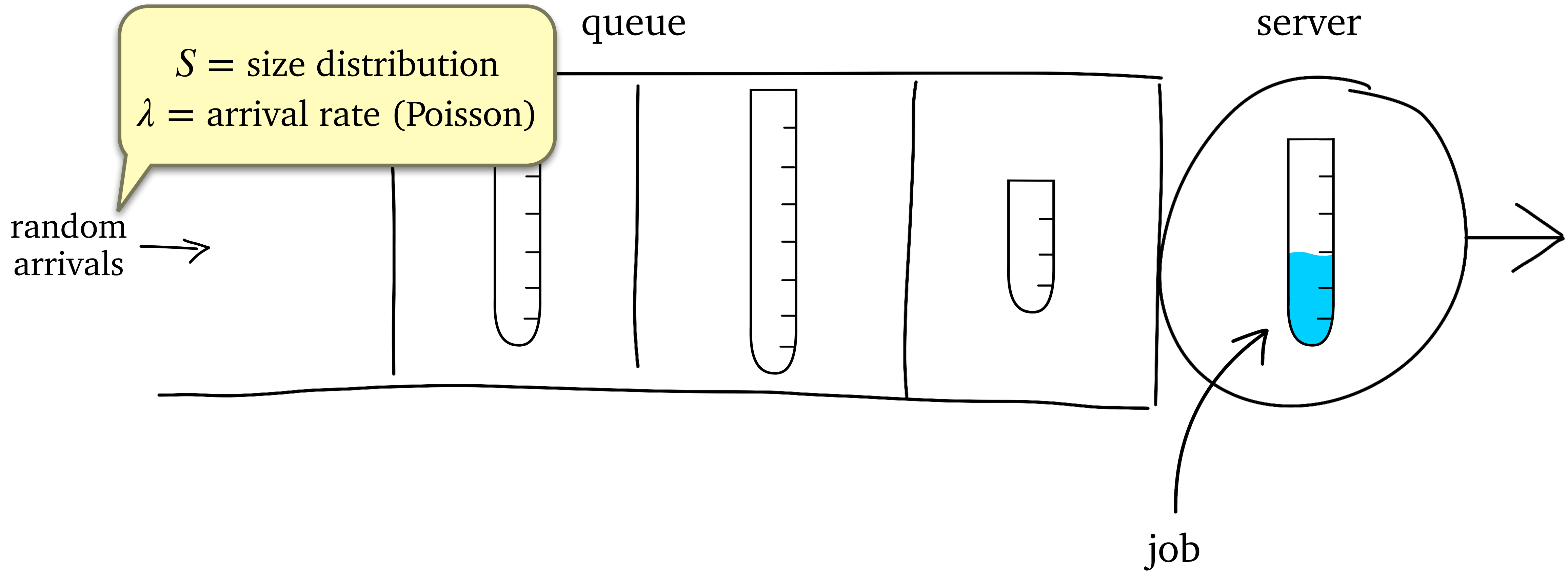
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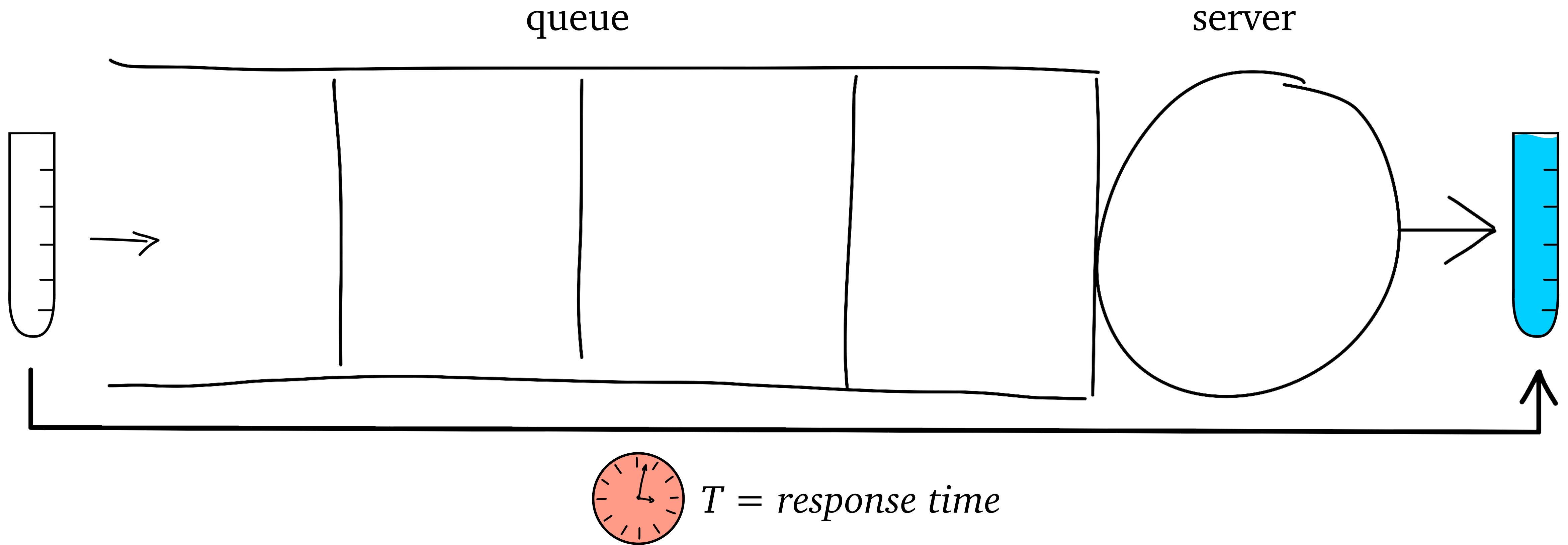
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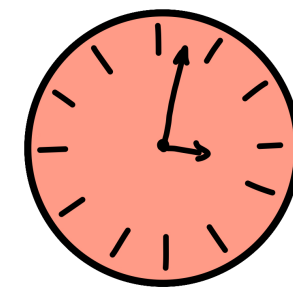
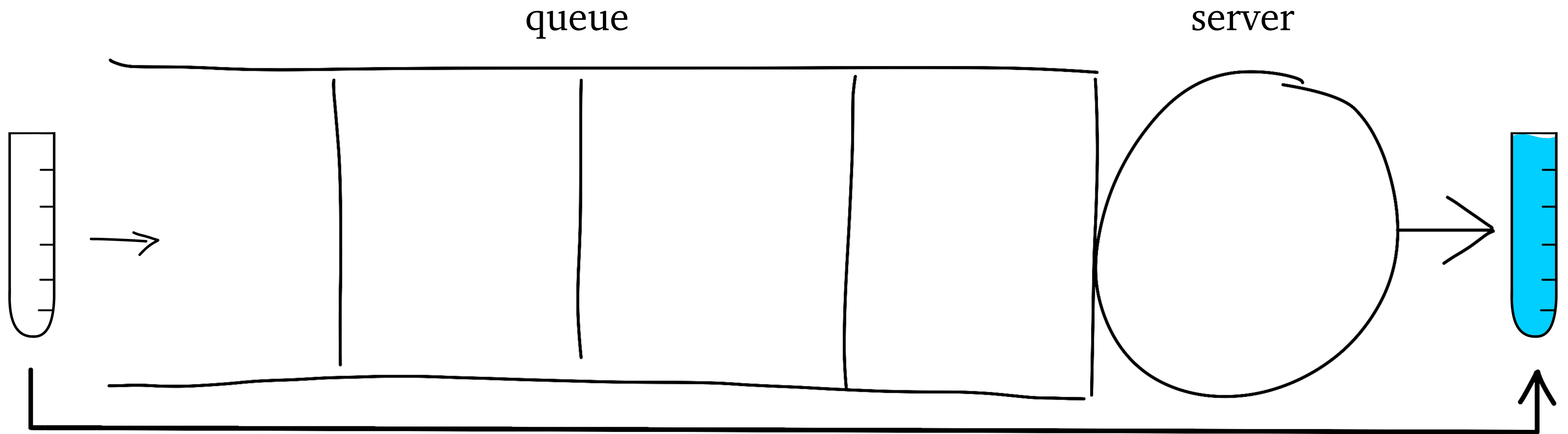
Scheduling in the M/G/1



Scheduling: In which order should we serve jobs to minimize a desired metric?

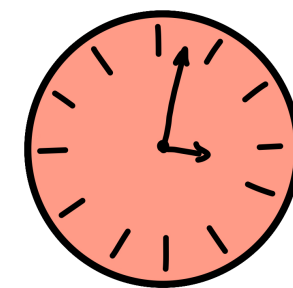
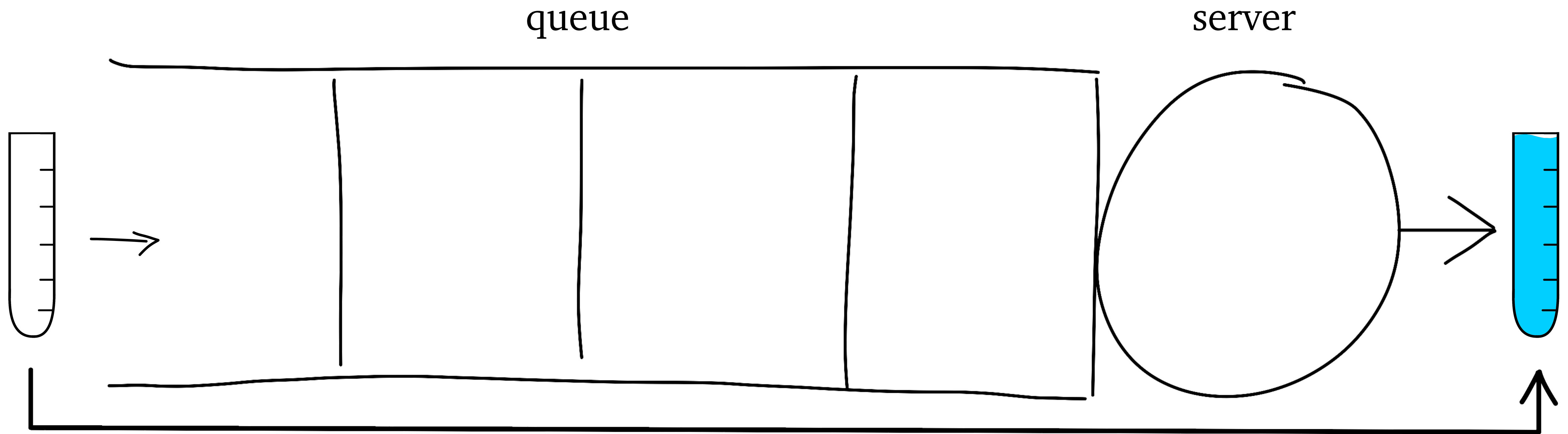


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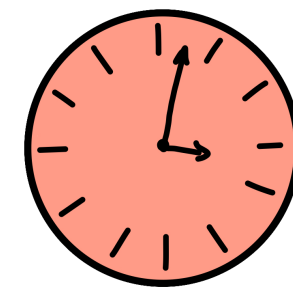
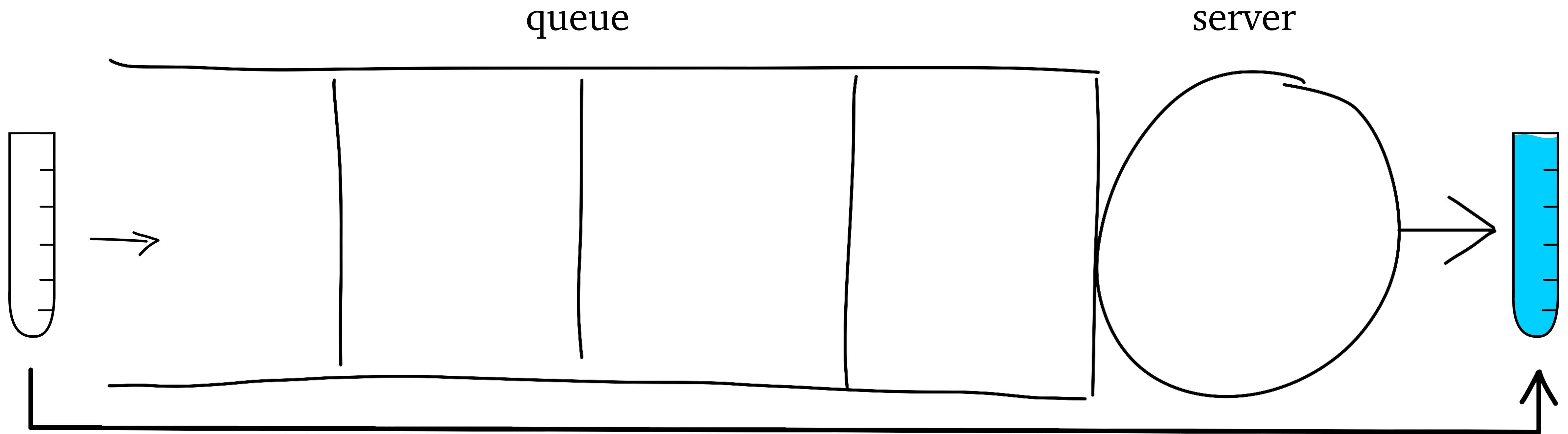
 **Theory**



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Theory

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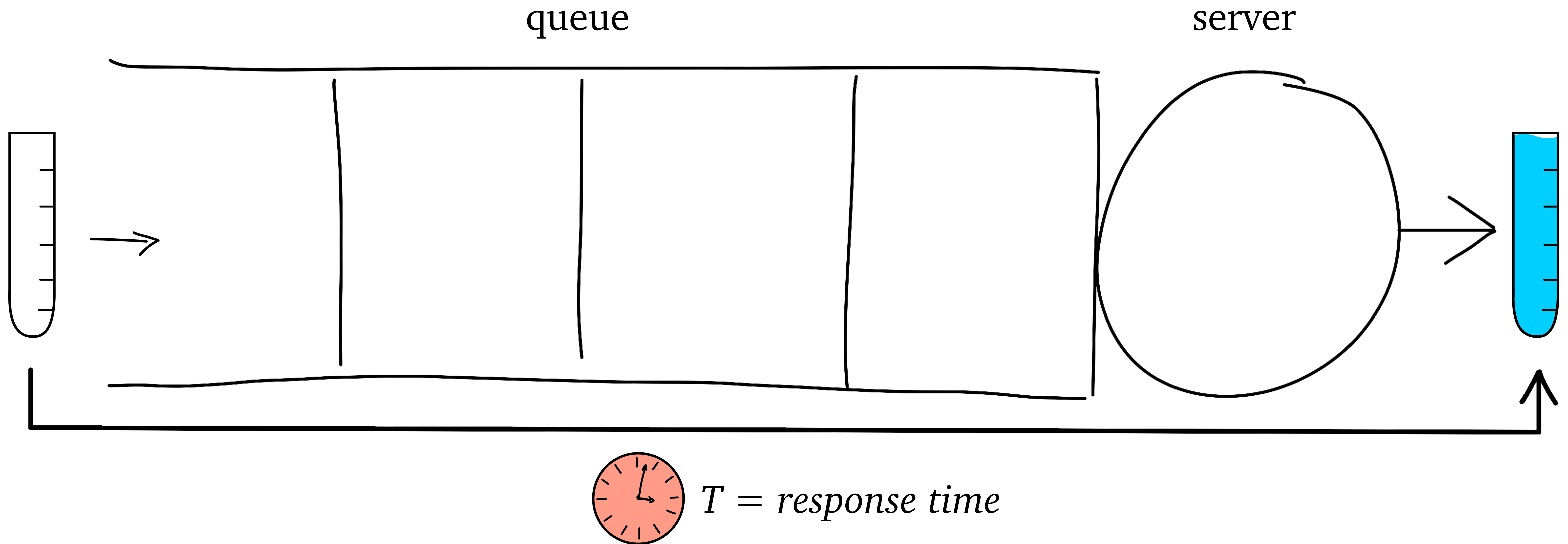


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SRPT

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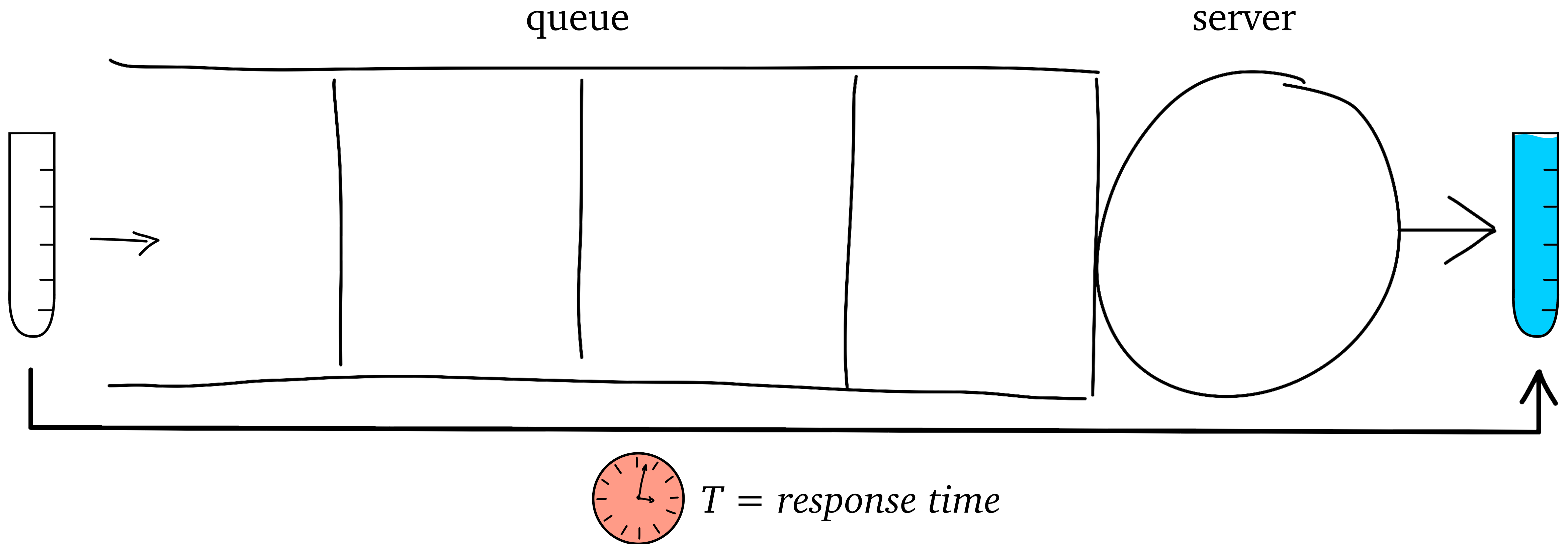
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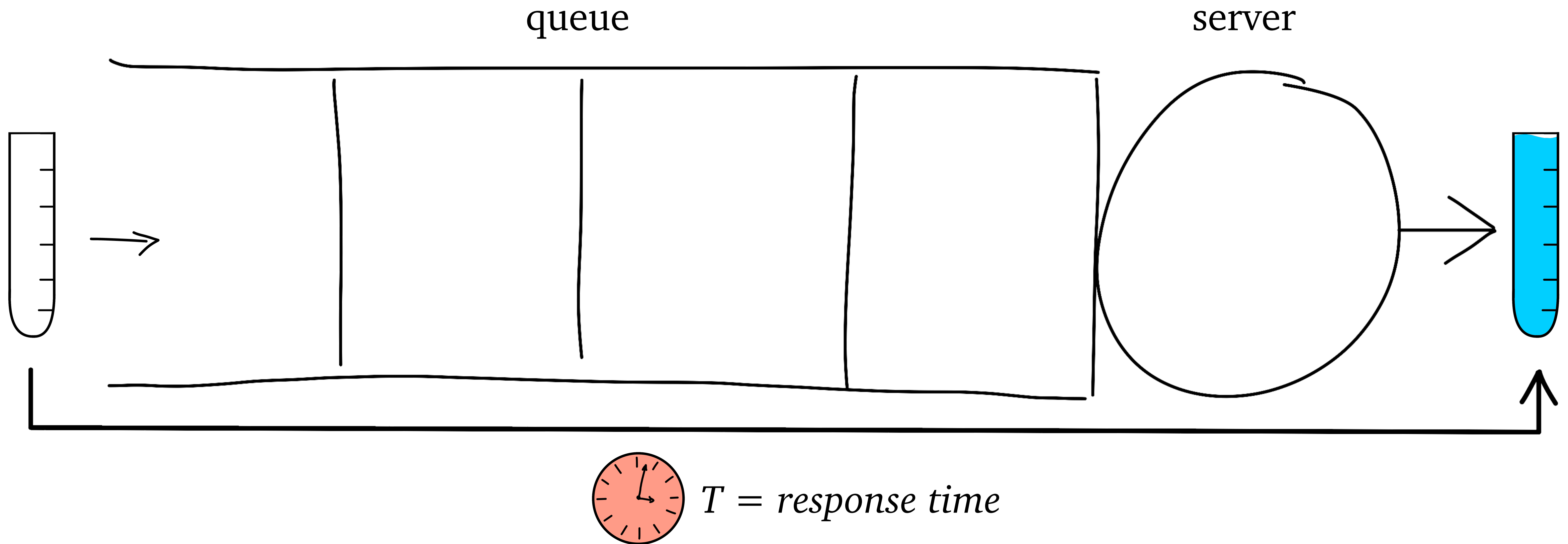


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Gittins

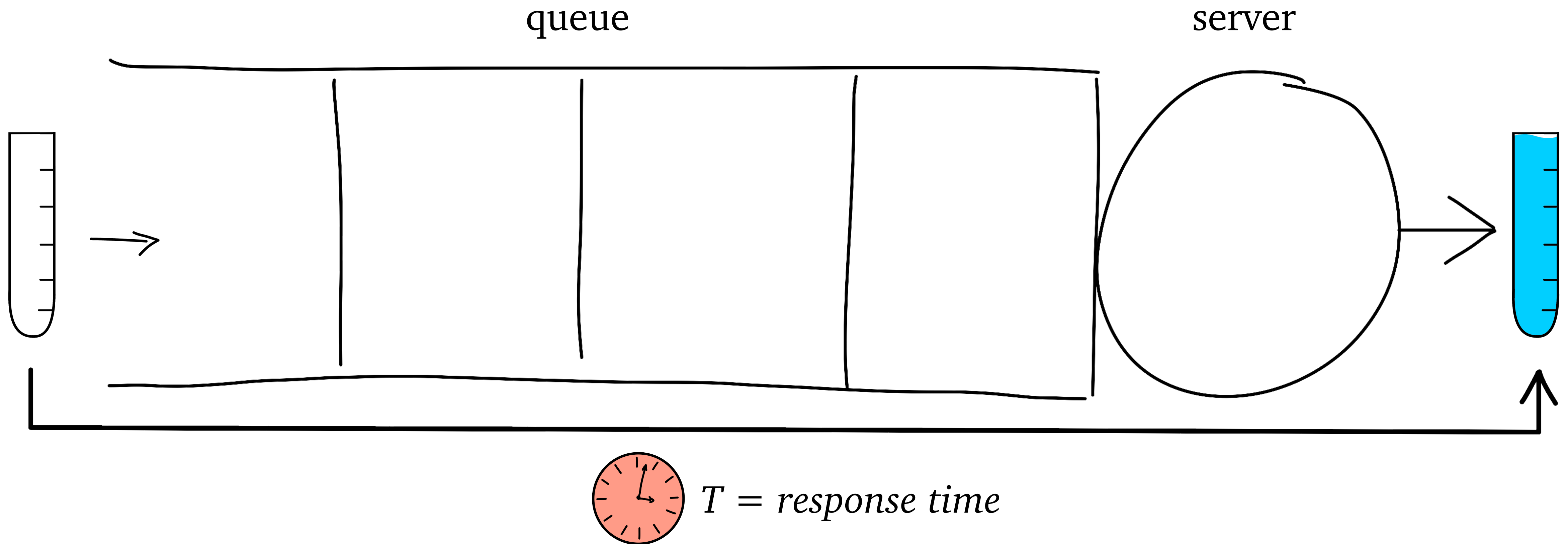


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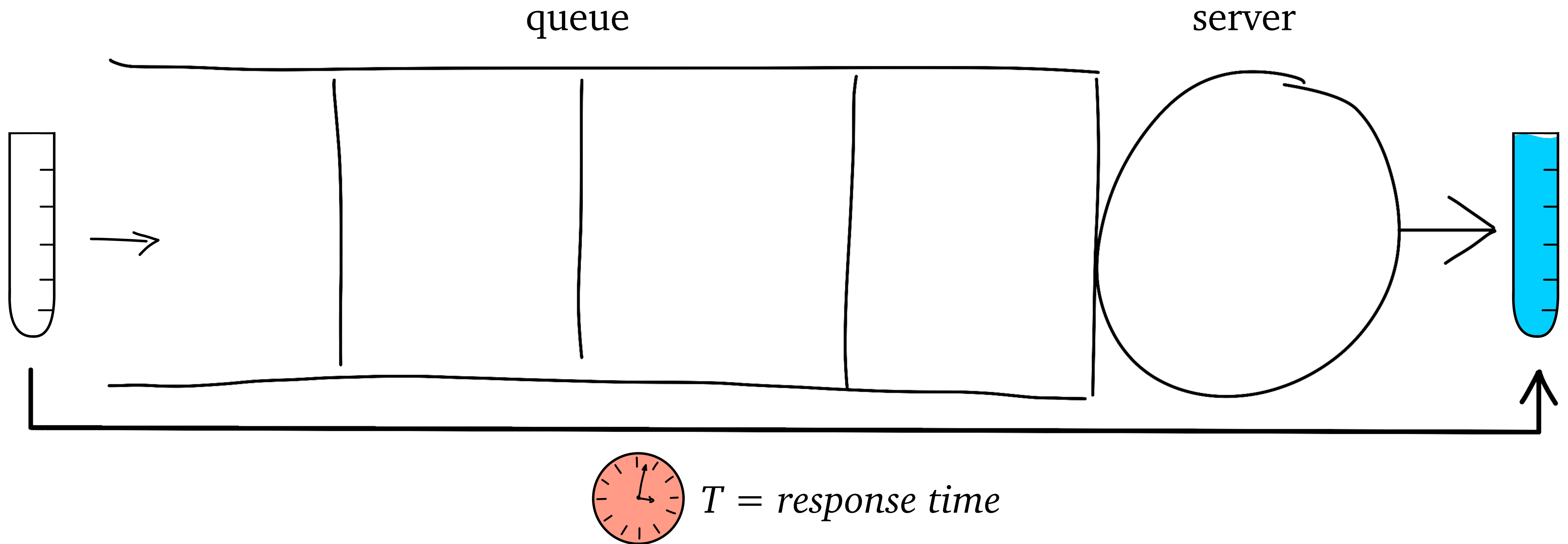
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SRPT

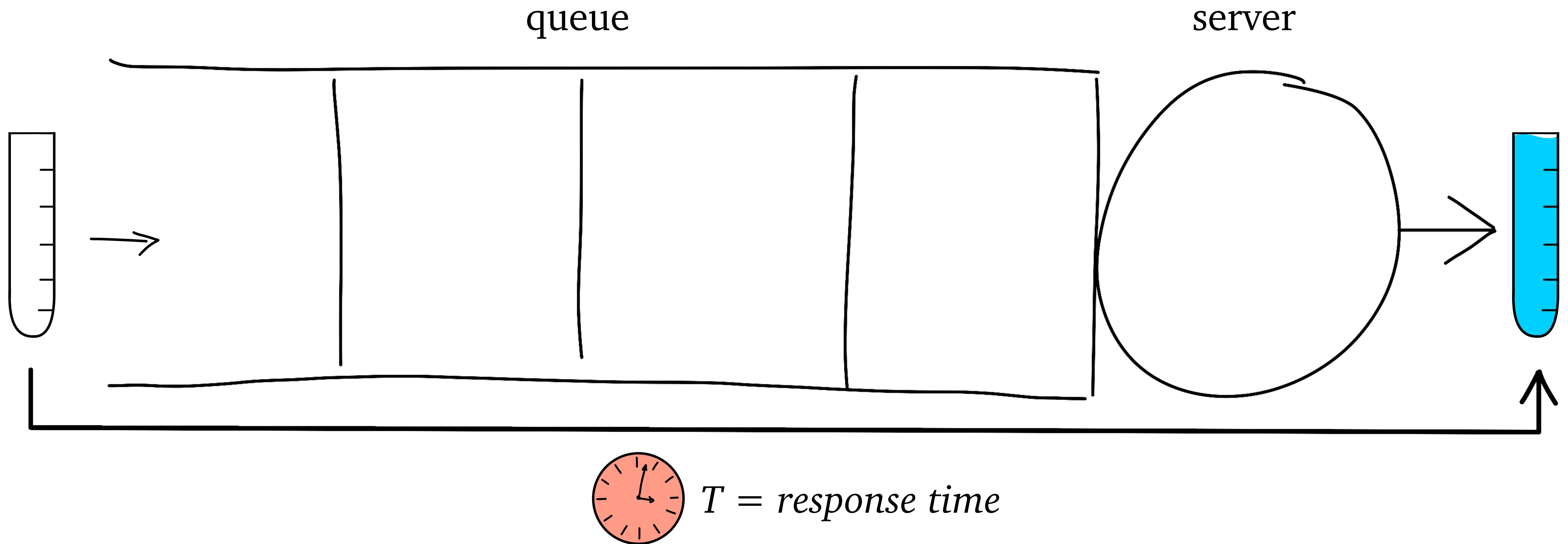
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Gittins

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- tail latency, $P[T > t]$ for large t



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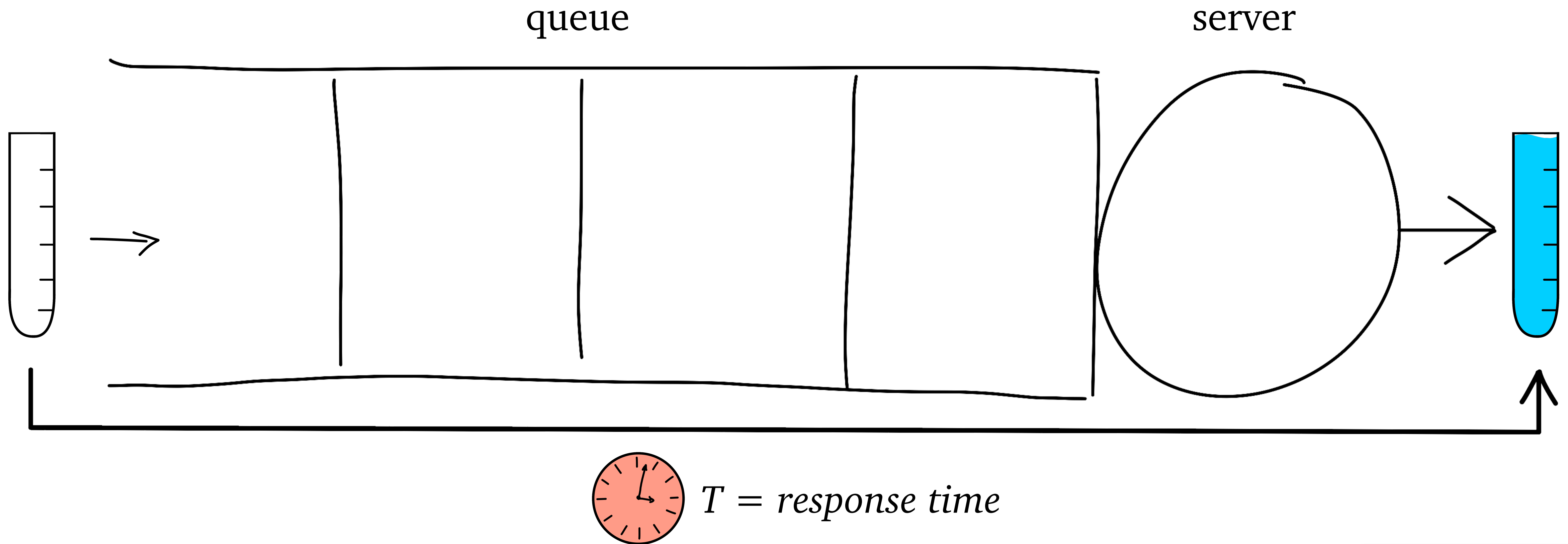
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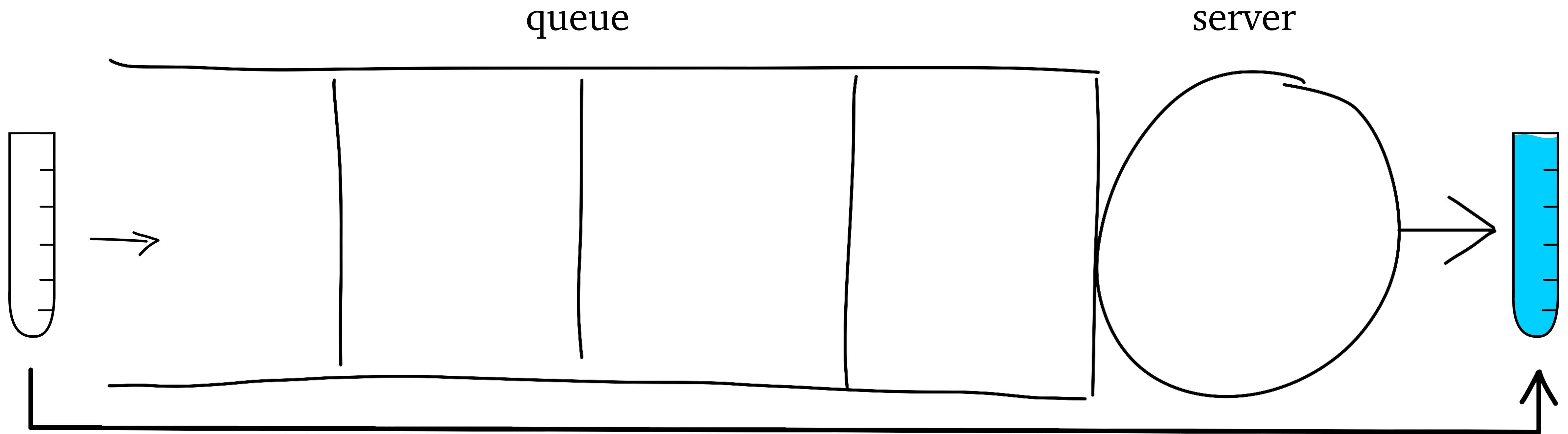
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hard to analyze

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SRPT



Th

This talk: *asymptotic tail latency*

$\mathbf{P}[T > t]$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

with unknown job sizes!

- mean respo
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Gittins

response time



Practice

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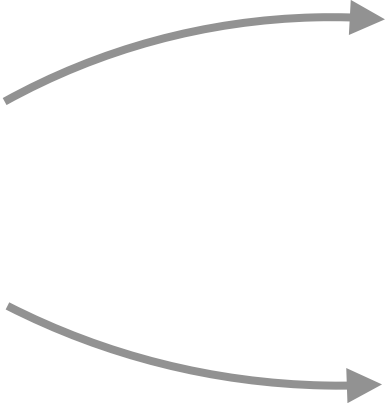
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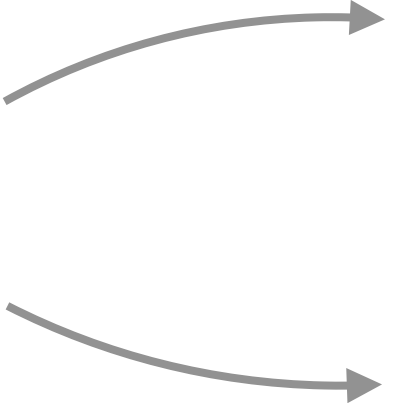
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Our contribution: new policy + proof of strong optimality

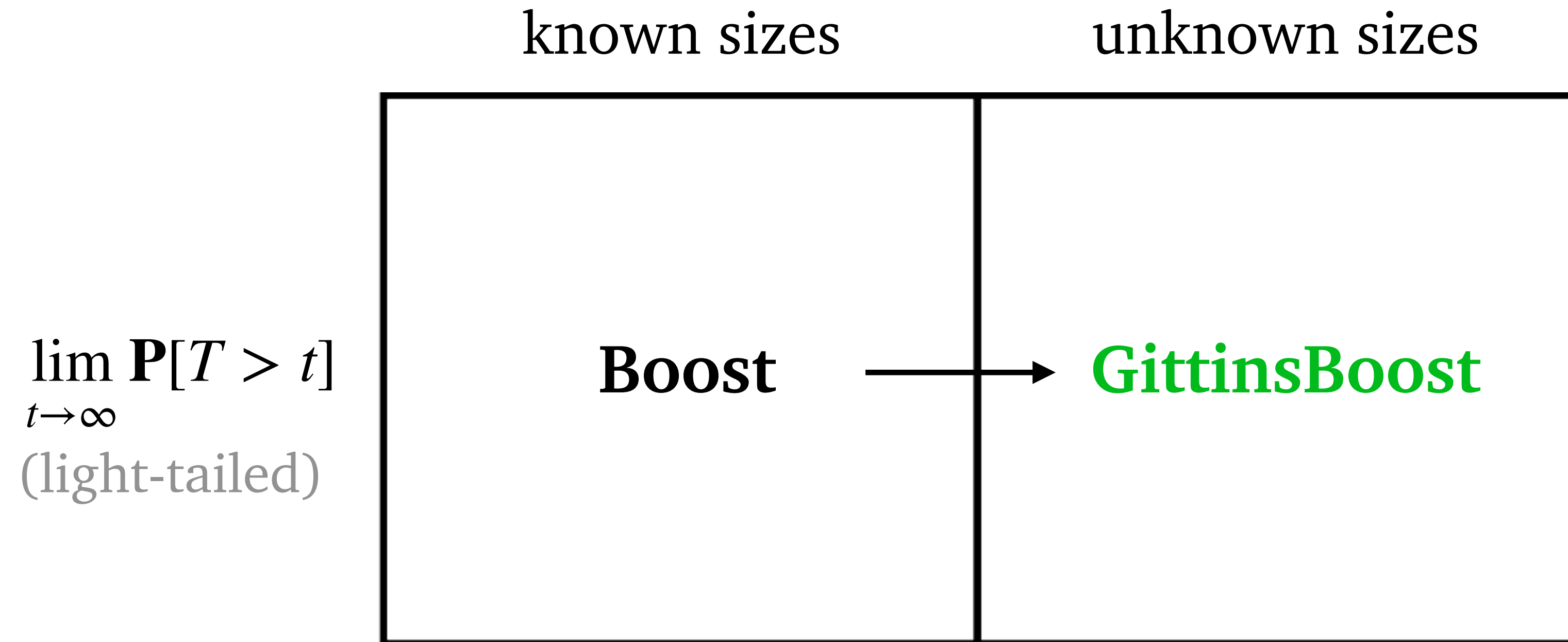


GittinsBoost

Our contribution: **GittinsBoost** + proof of strong optimality



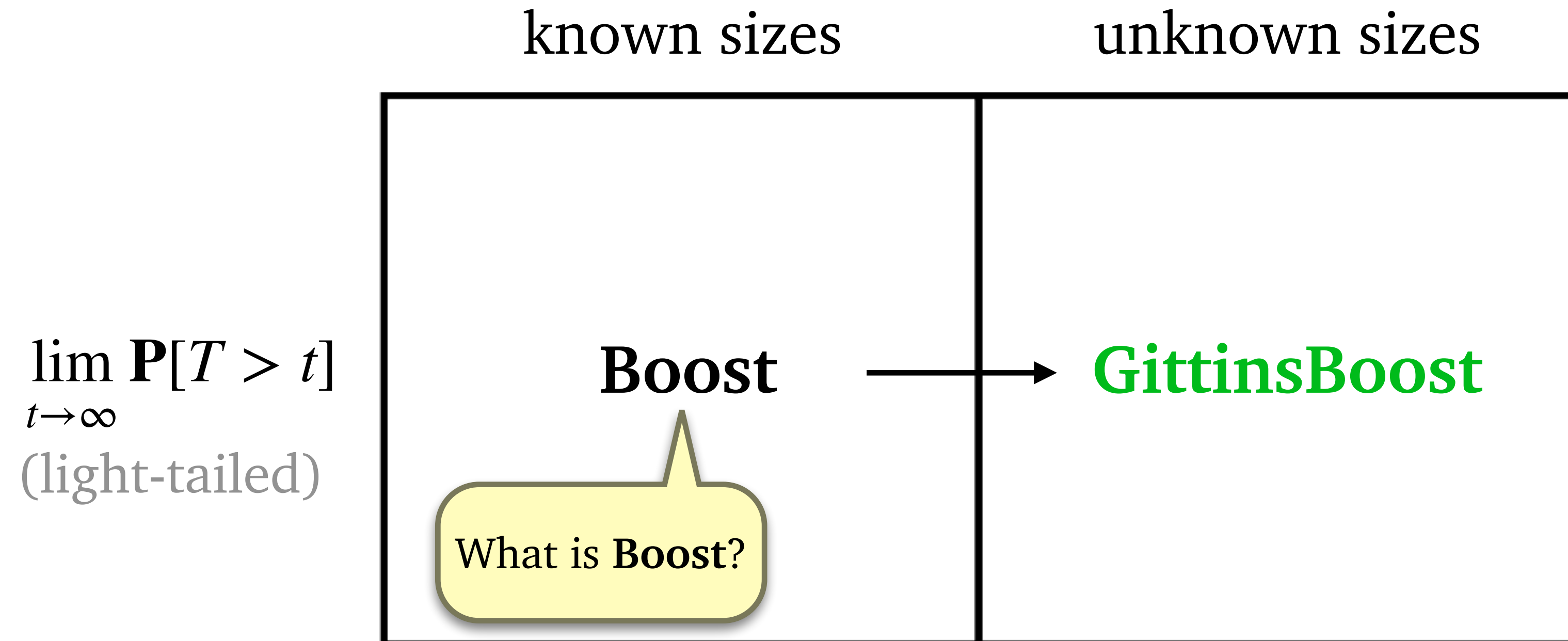
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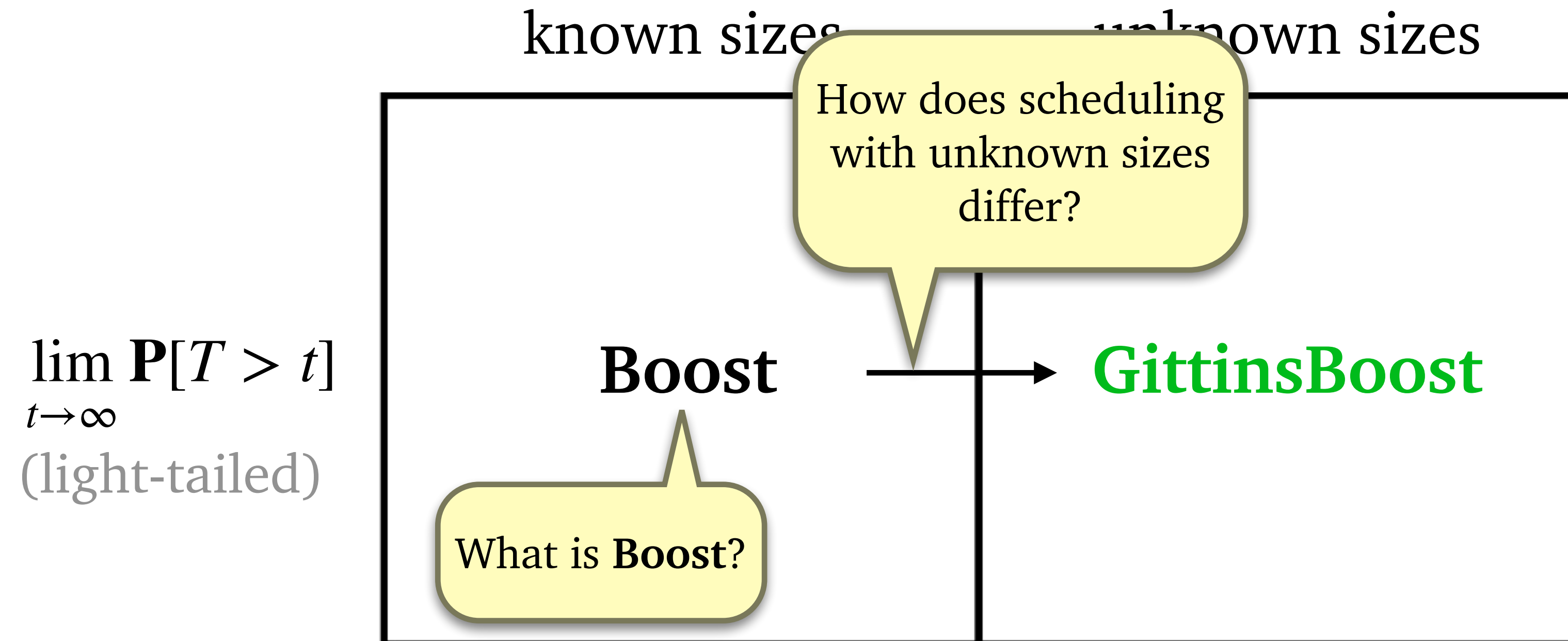
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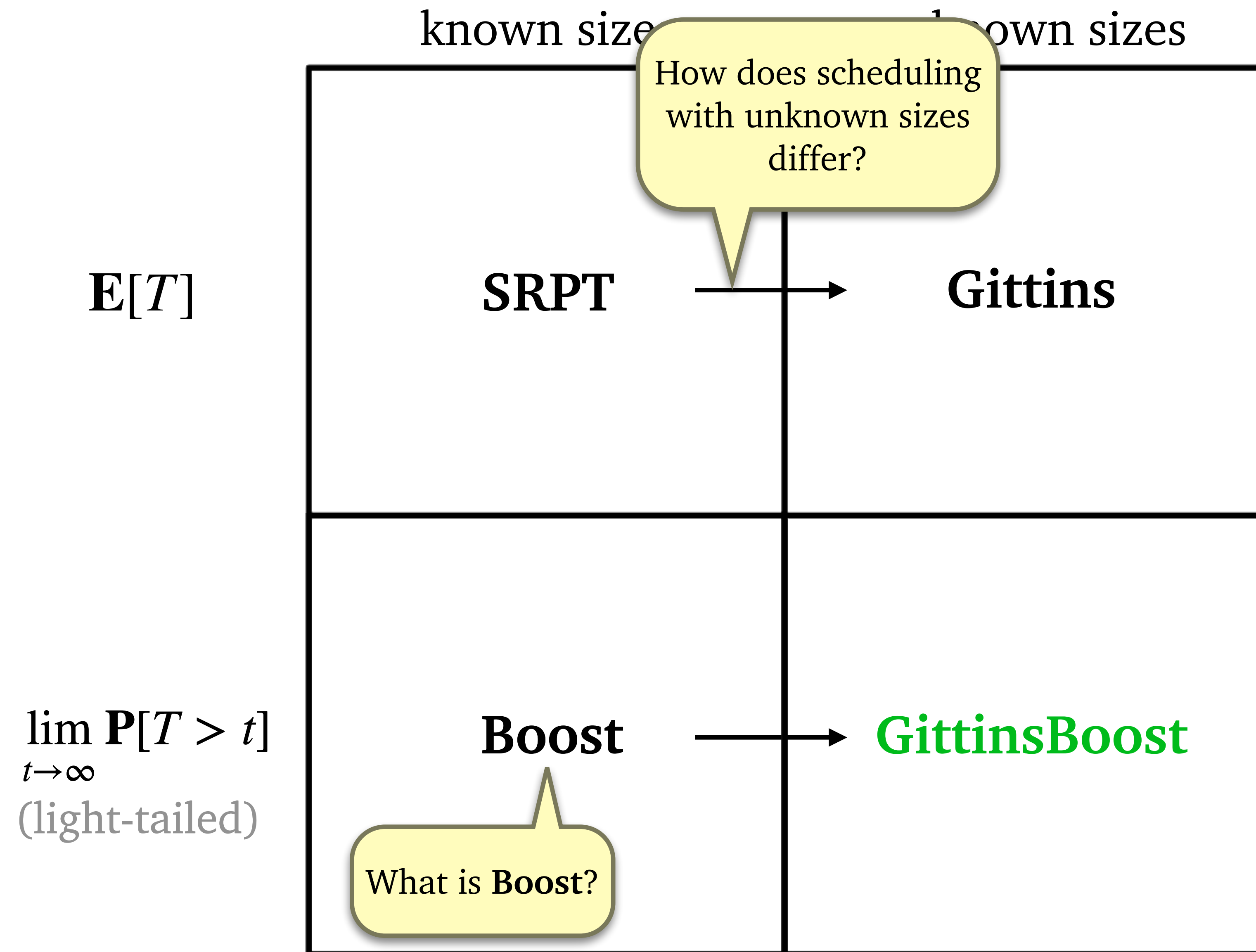
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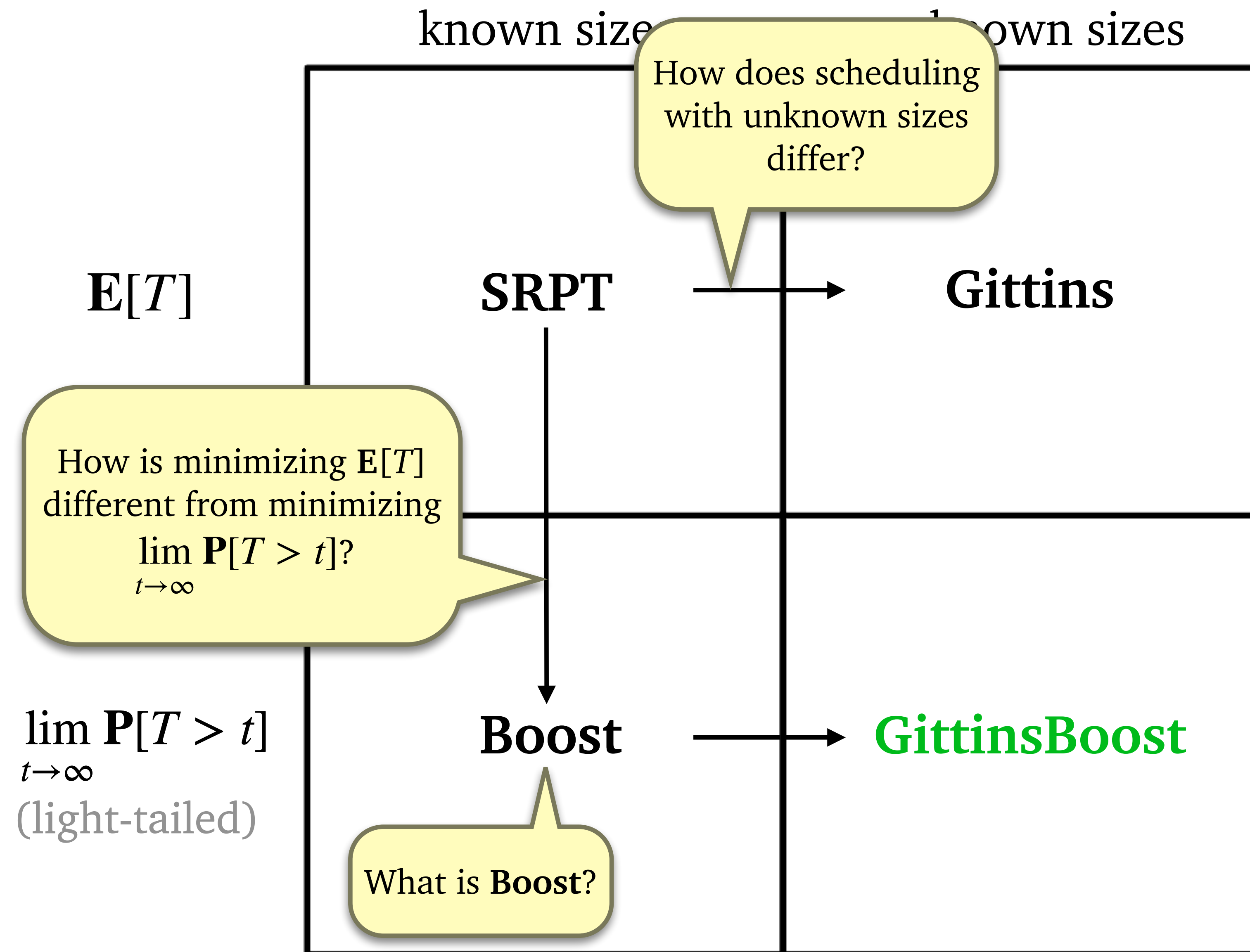
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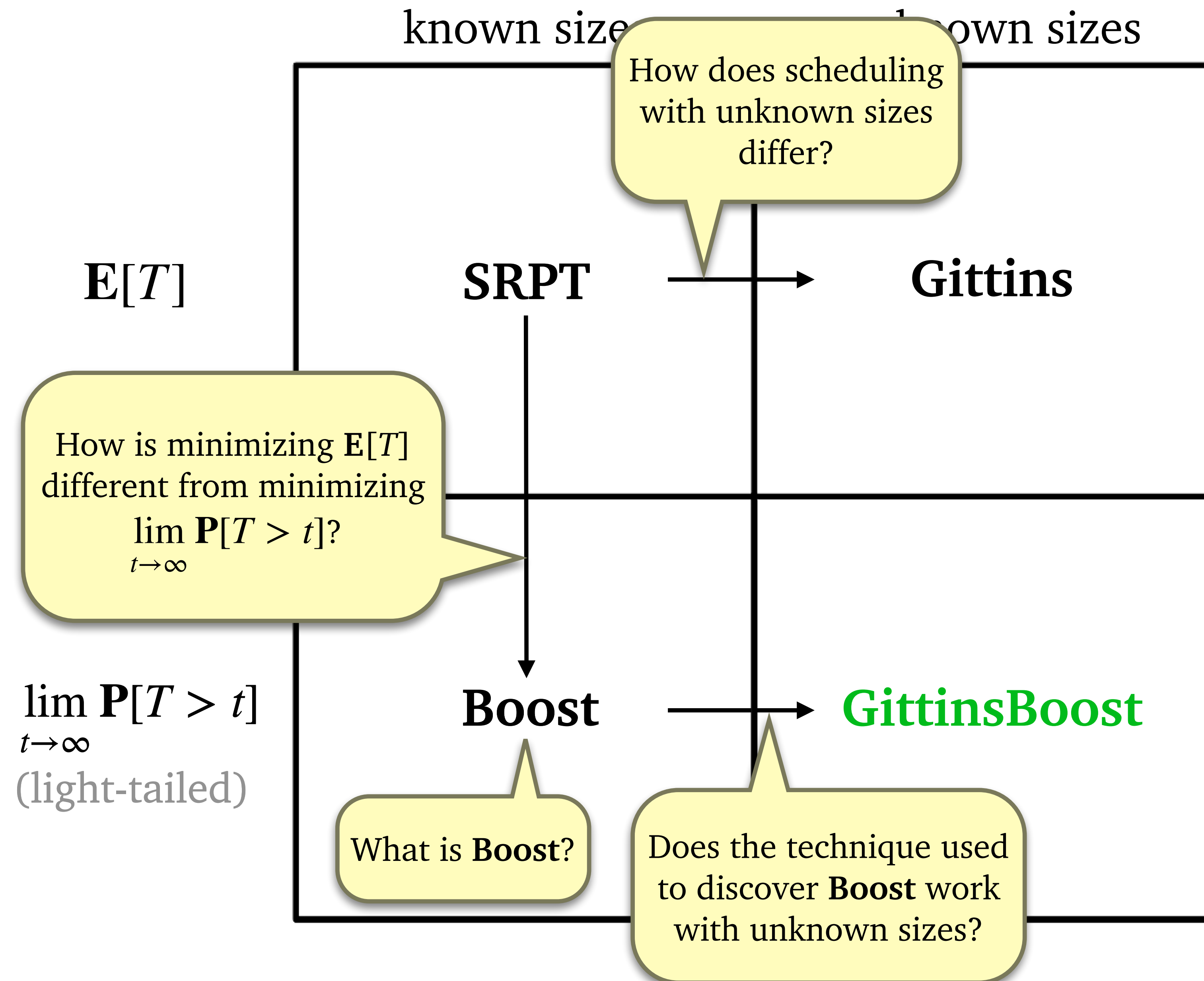
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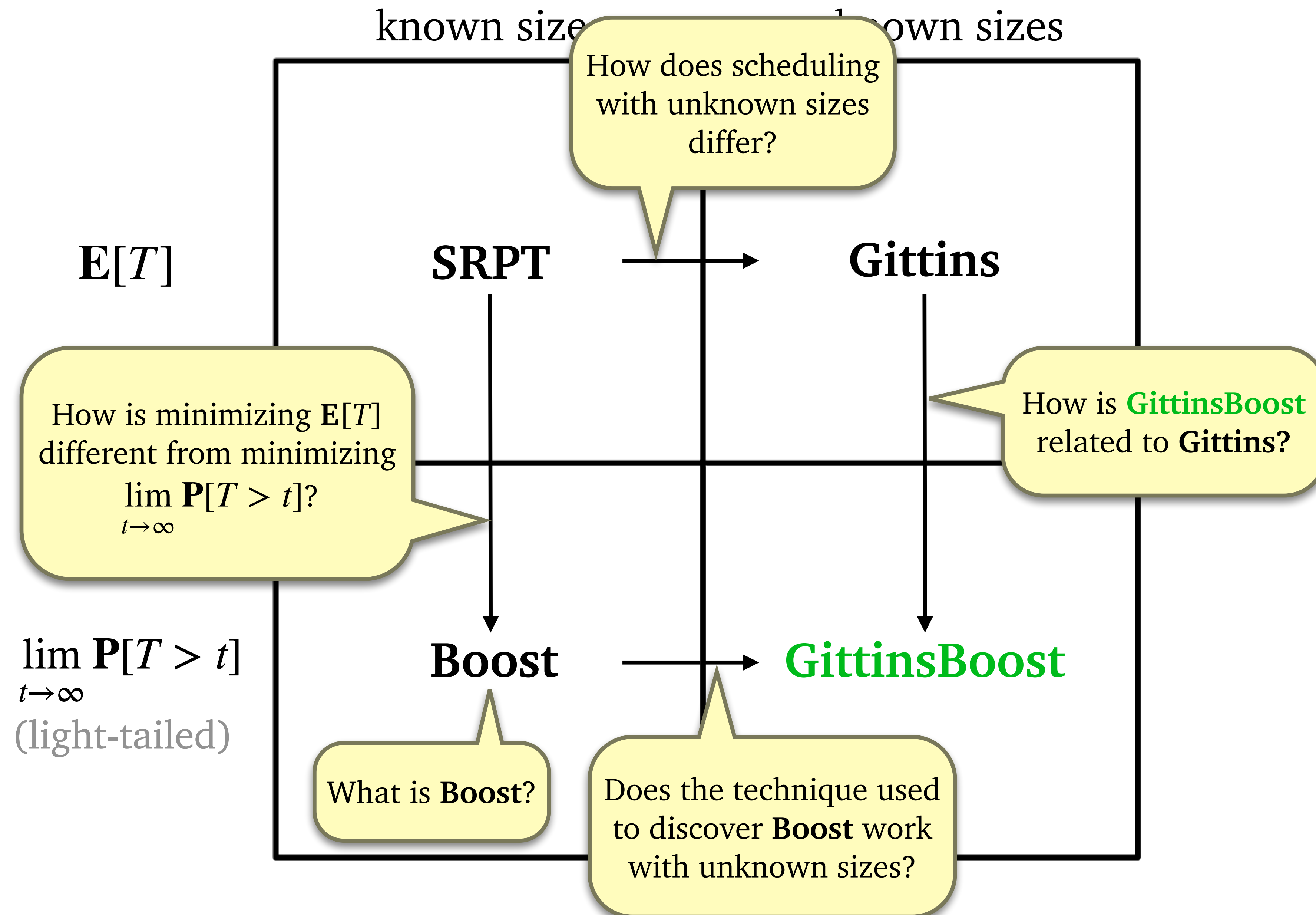
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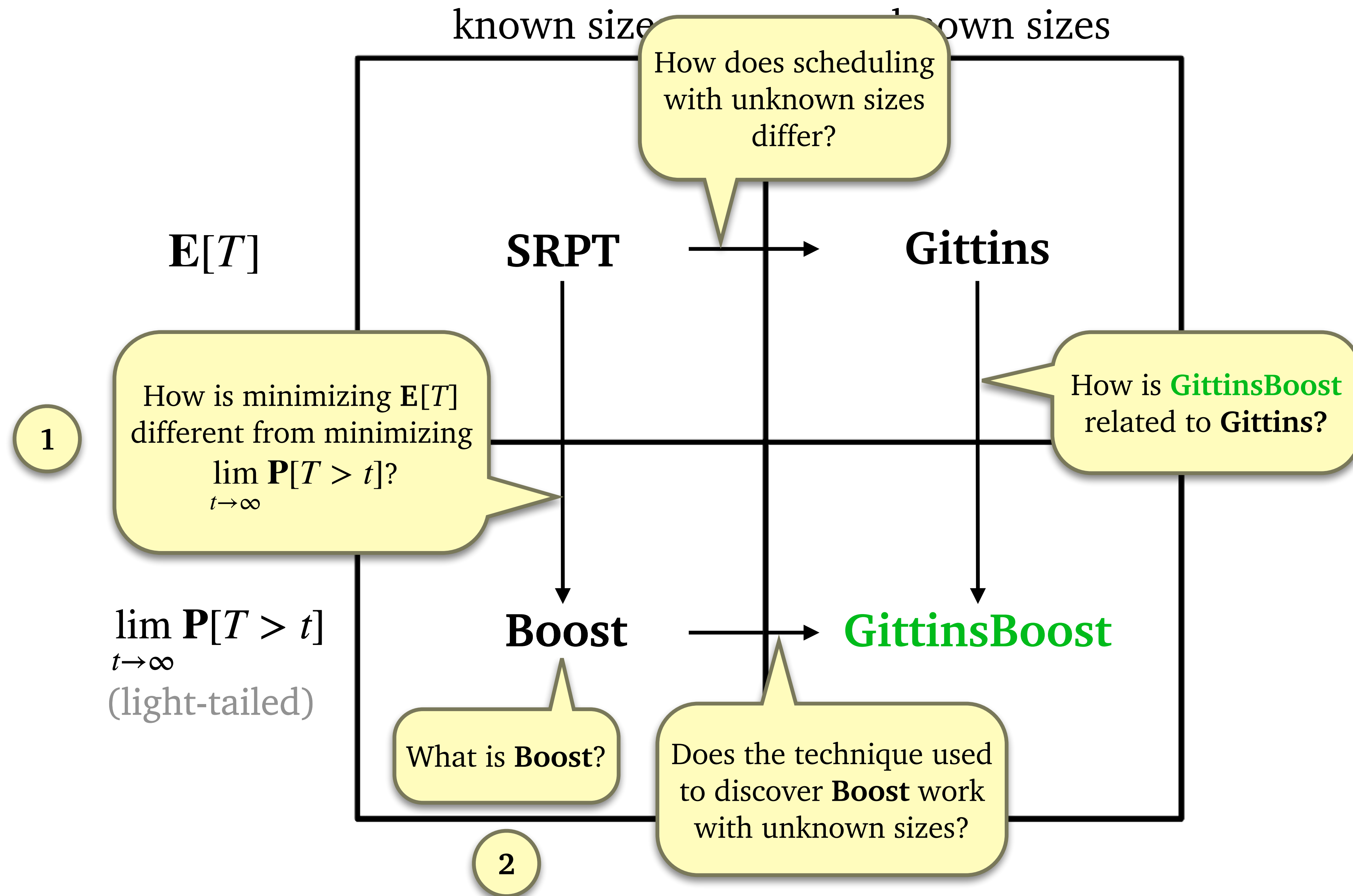
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Optimizing Means vs Optimizing Tails

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Boost: a way to balance this tradeoff!

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$$\text{boosted arrival time} = \text{arrival time} - \text{boost}$$

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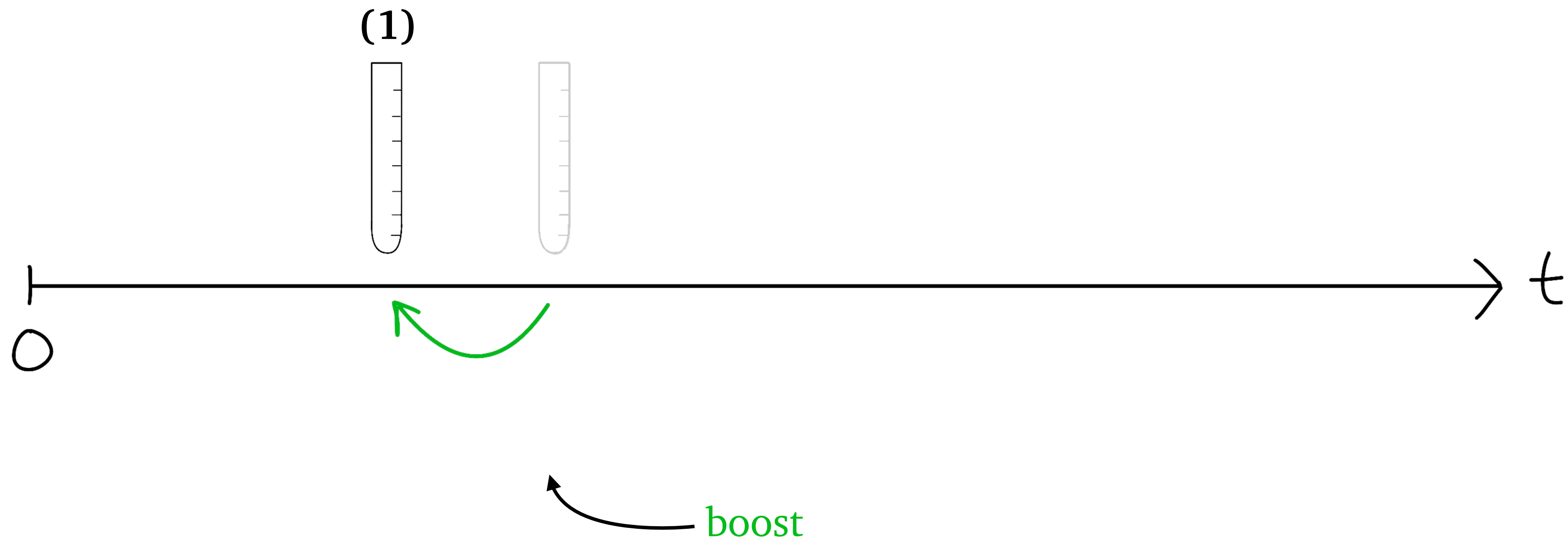


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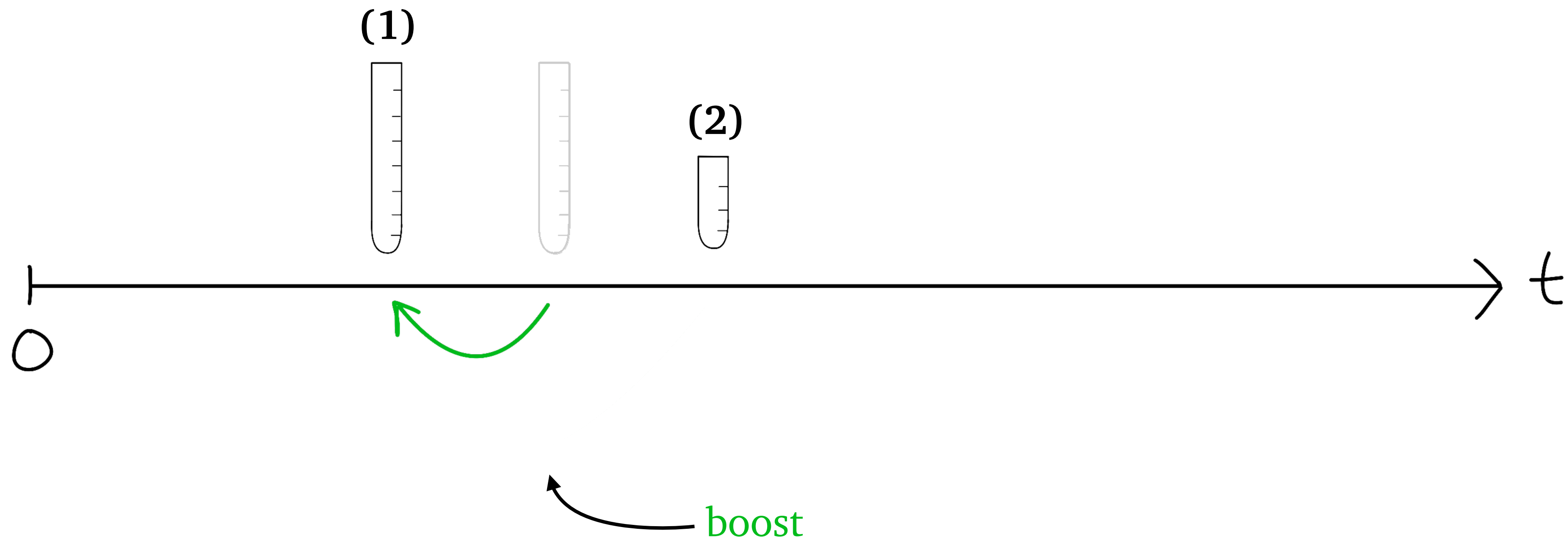


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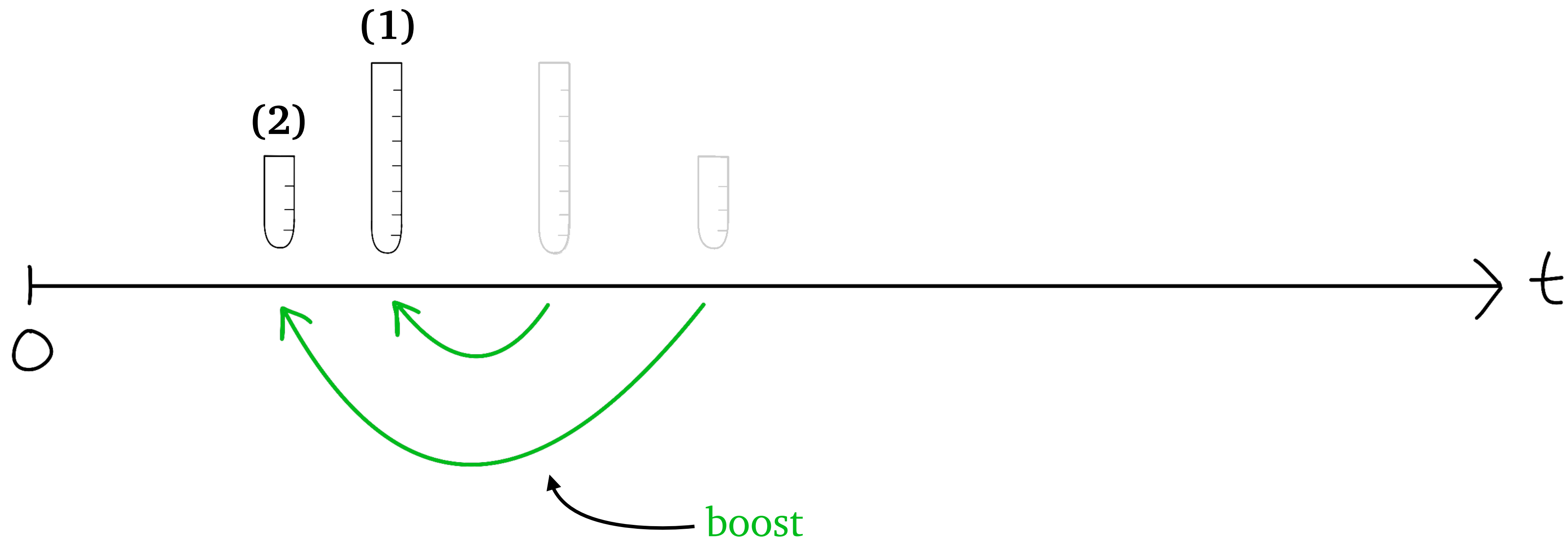


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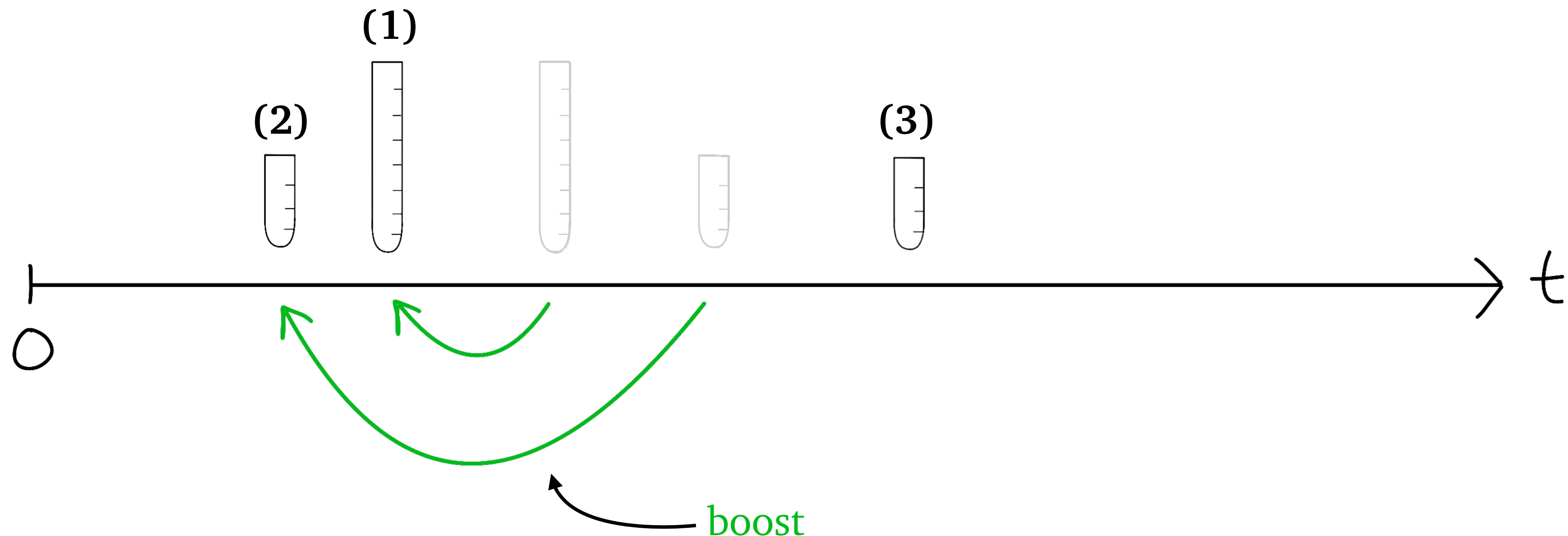


What is Boost?

Boost serves jobs in order of ascending *boosted arrival time*:

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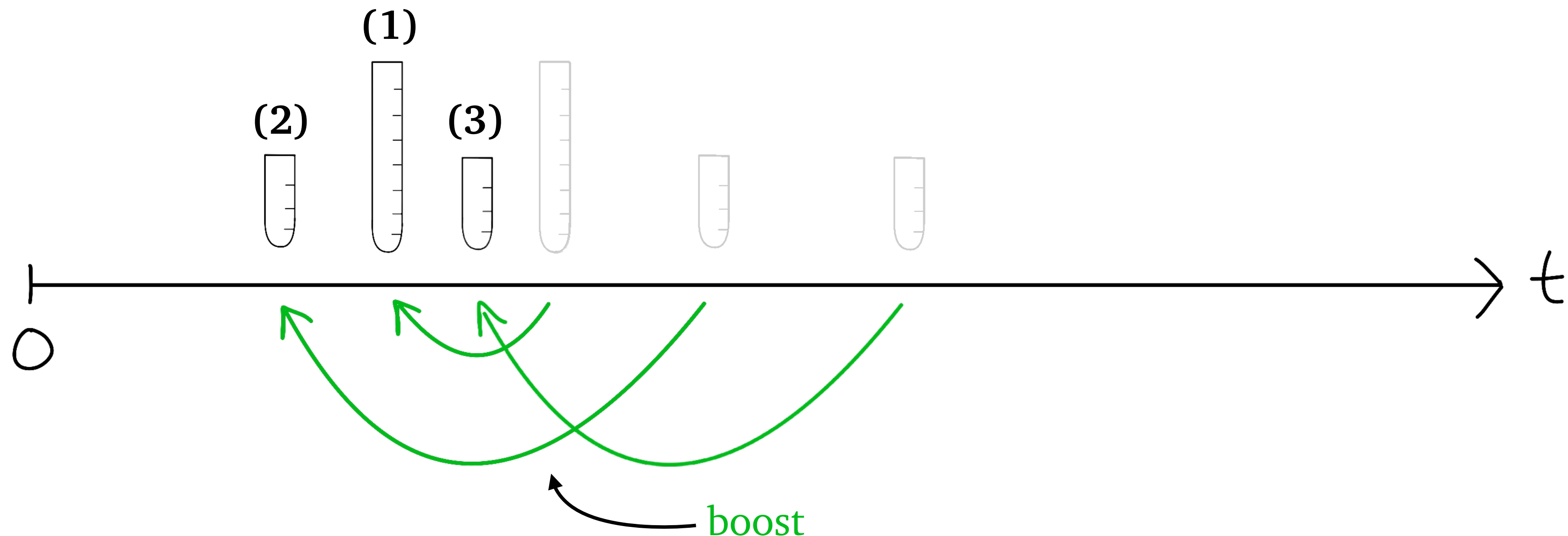


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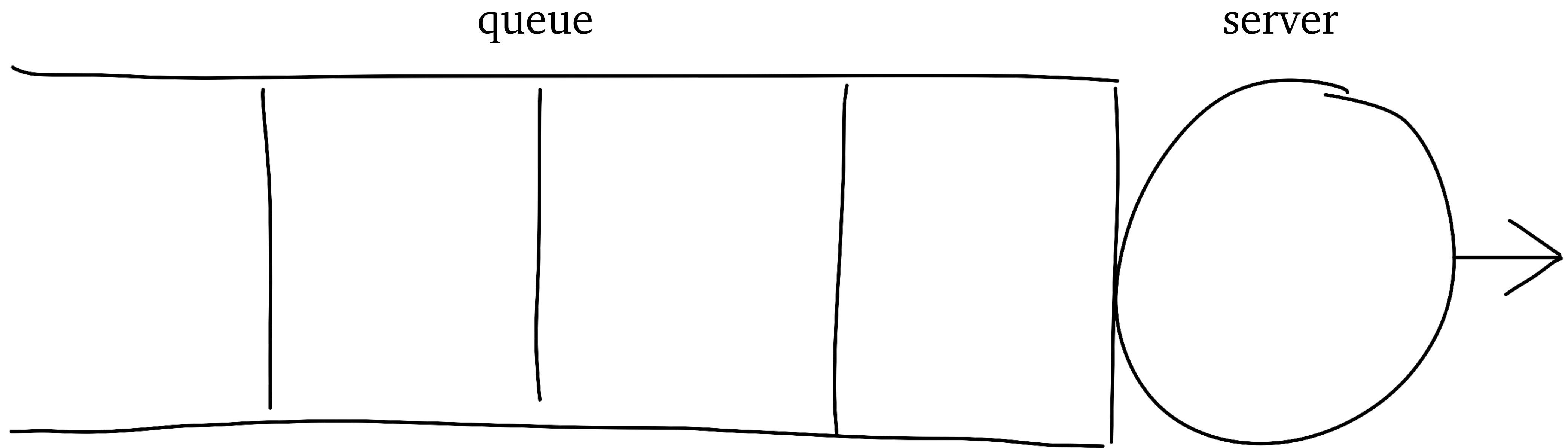
Which boost function minimizes asymptotic tail latency?

choosing:

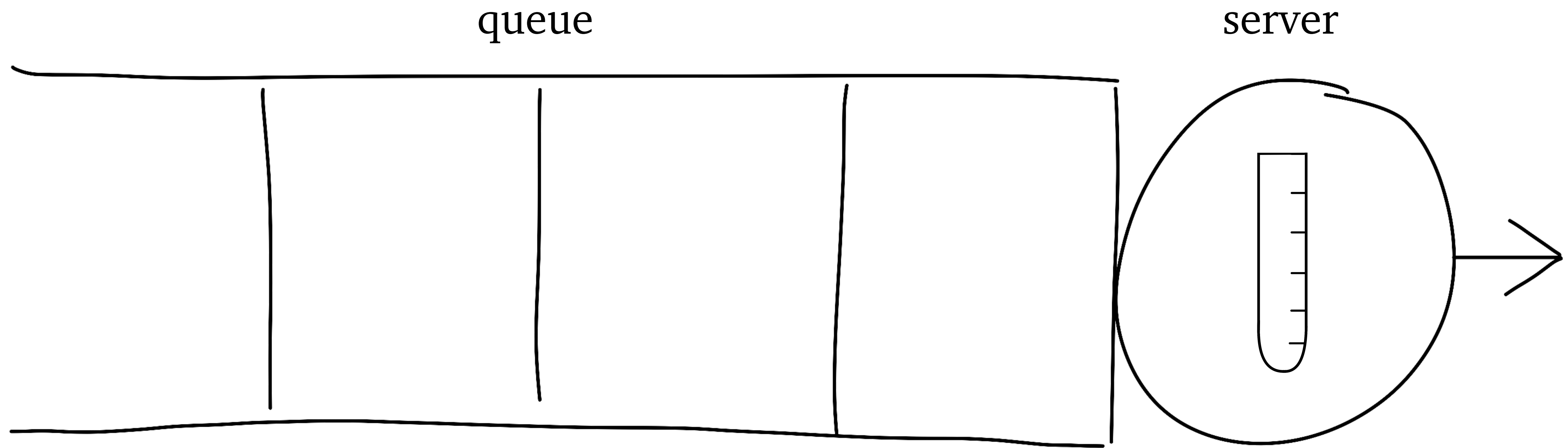
$$b(s) = \frac{1}{\gamma} \log \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\gamma s}}$$

results in strongly optimal policy (Yu & Scully, 2024)

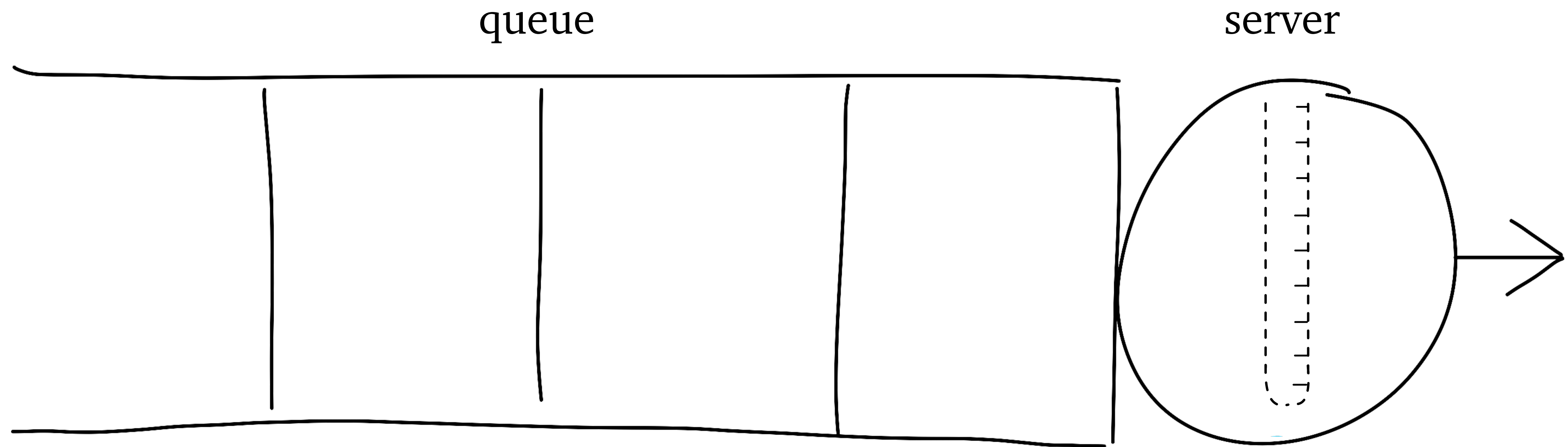
Scheduling with unknown job sizes



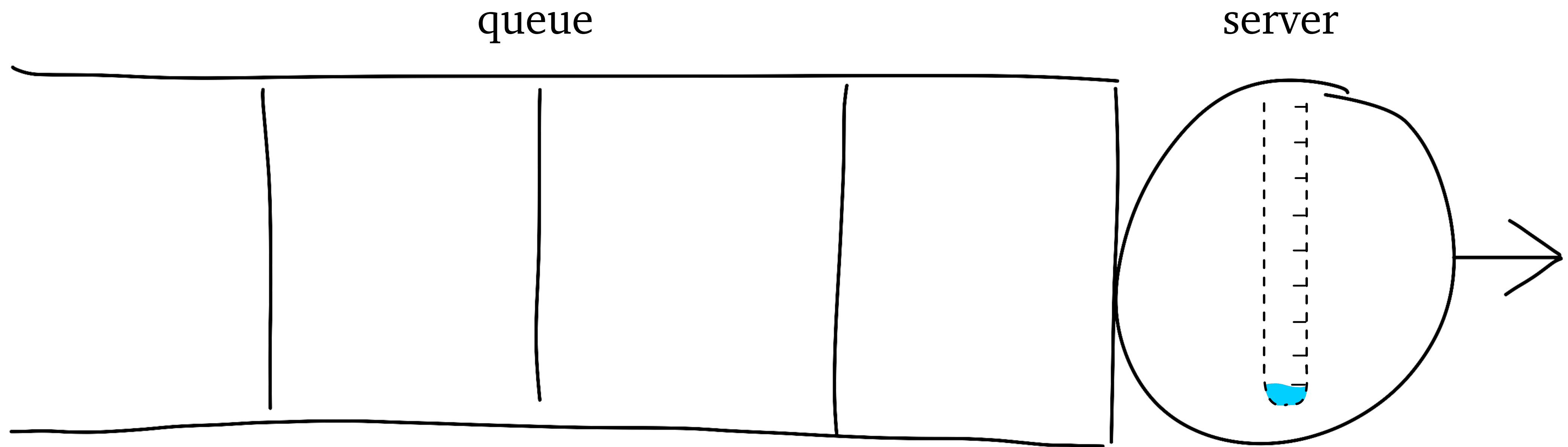
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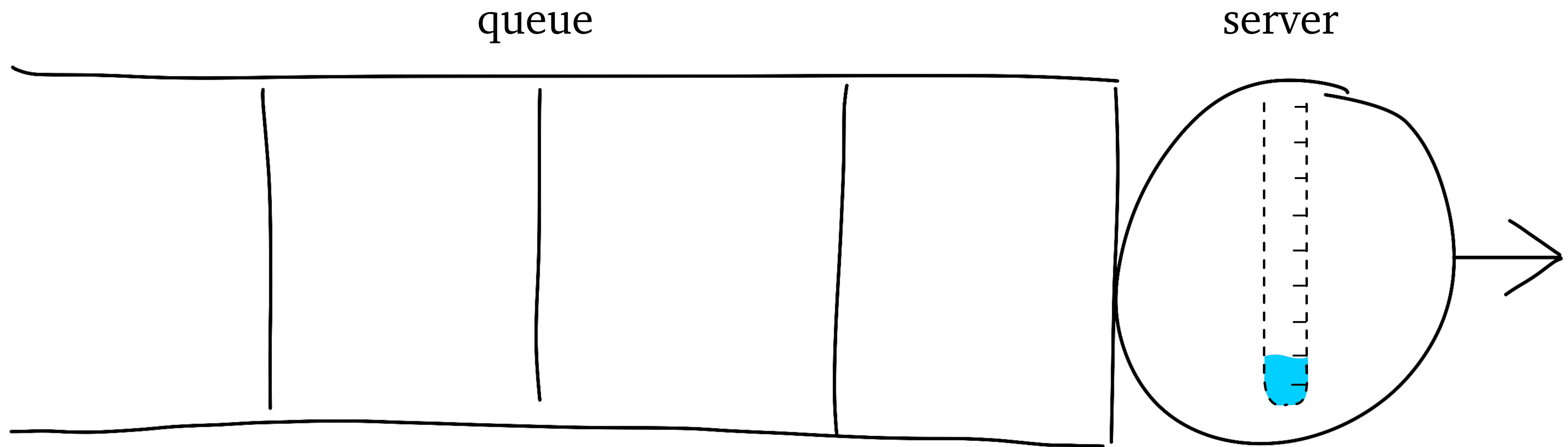
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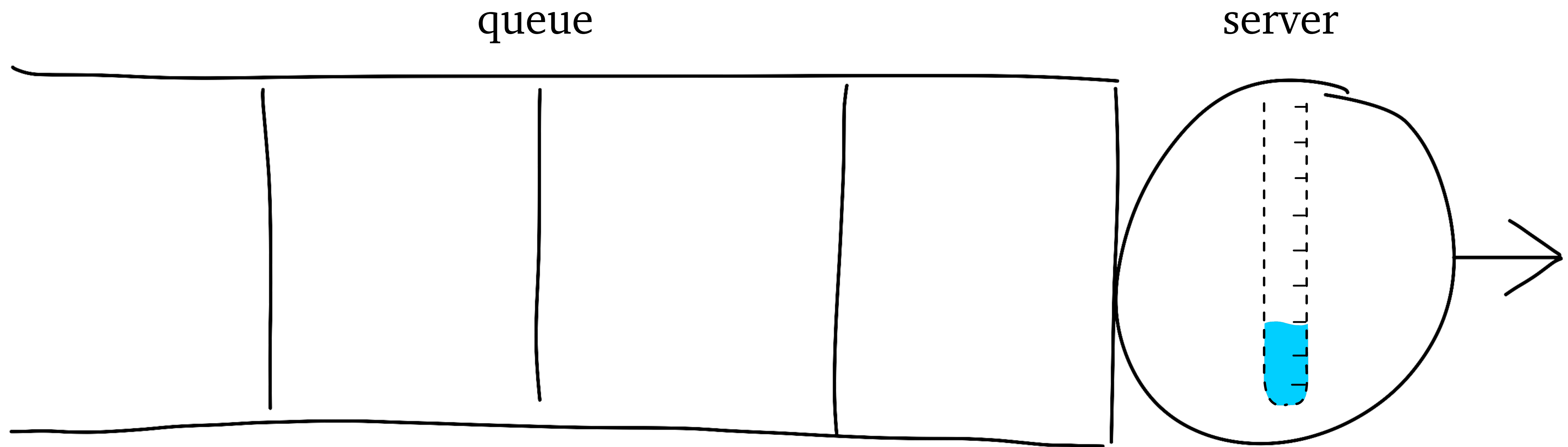
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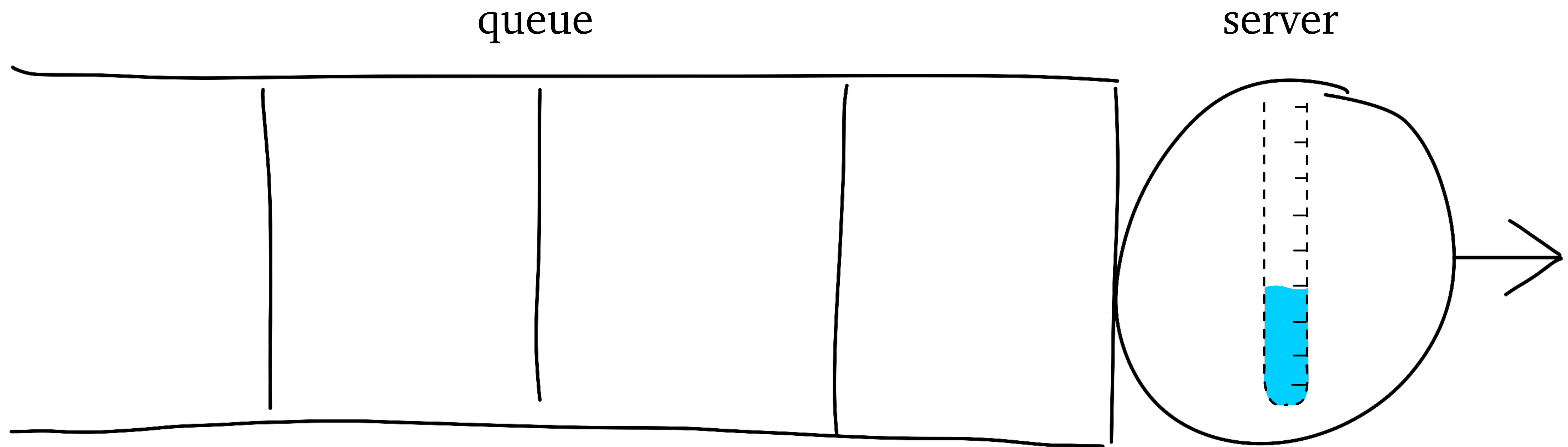
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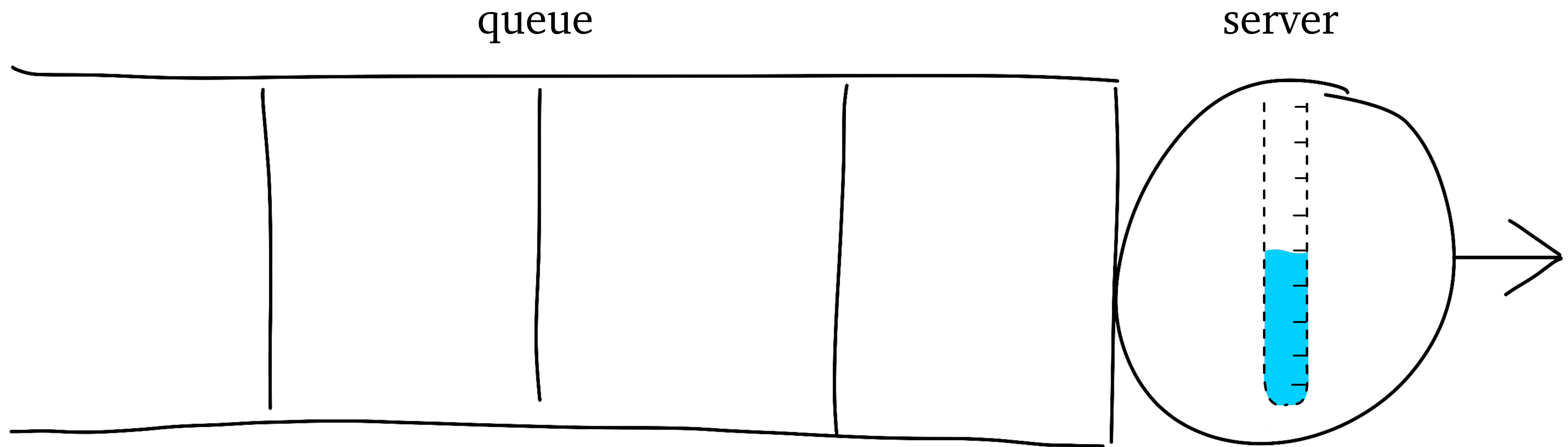
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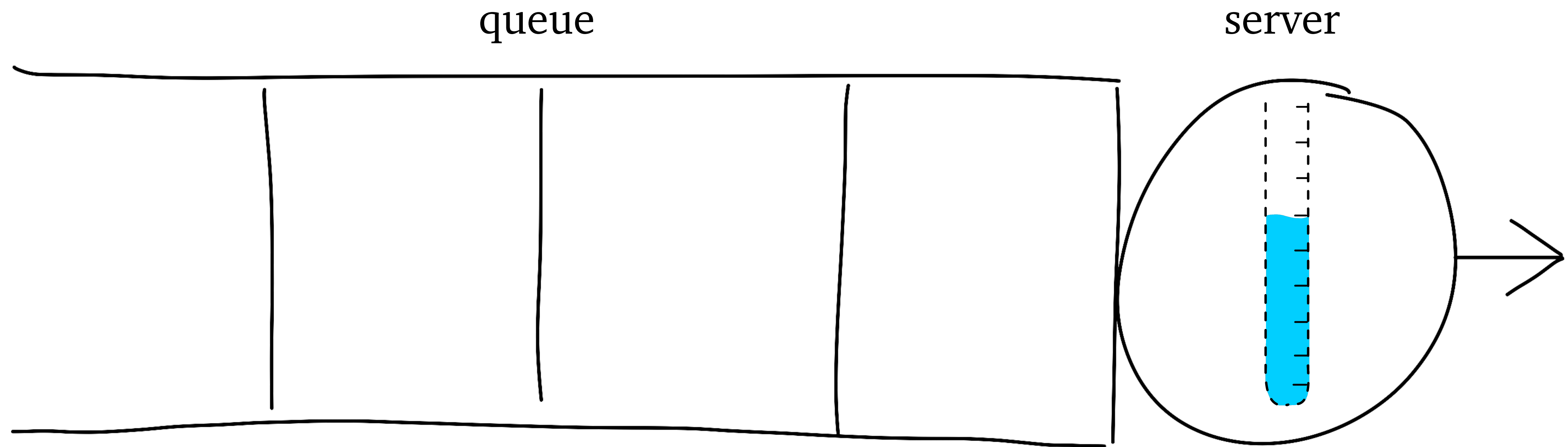
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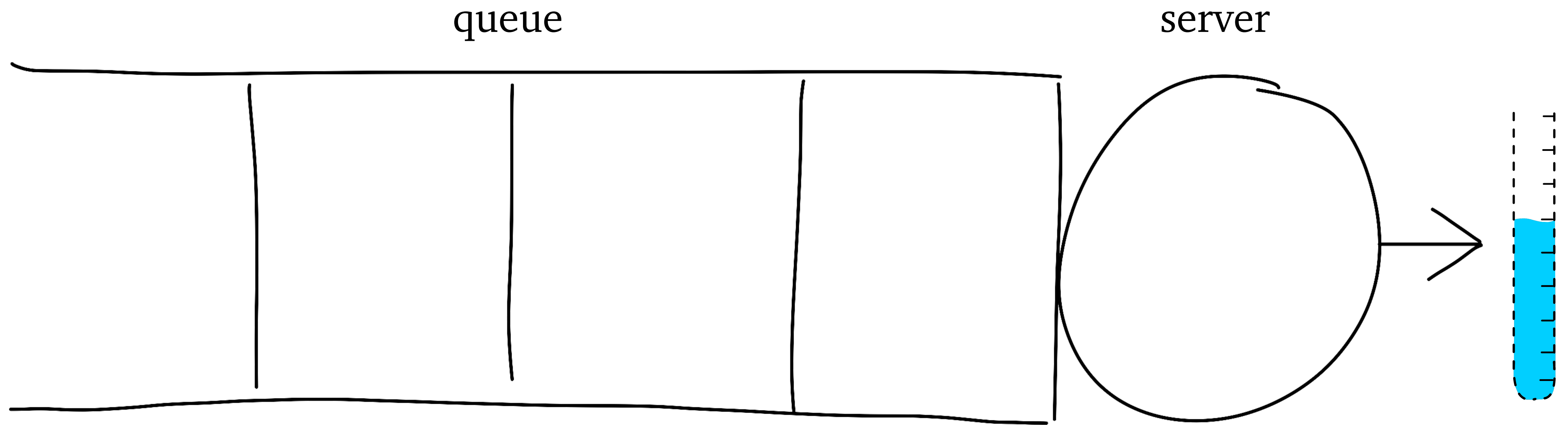
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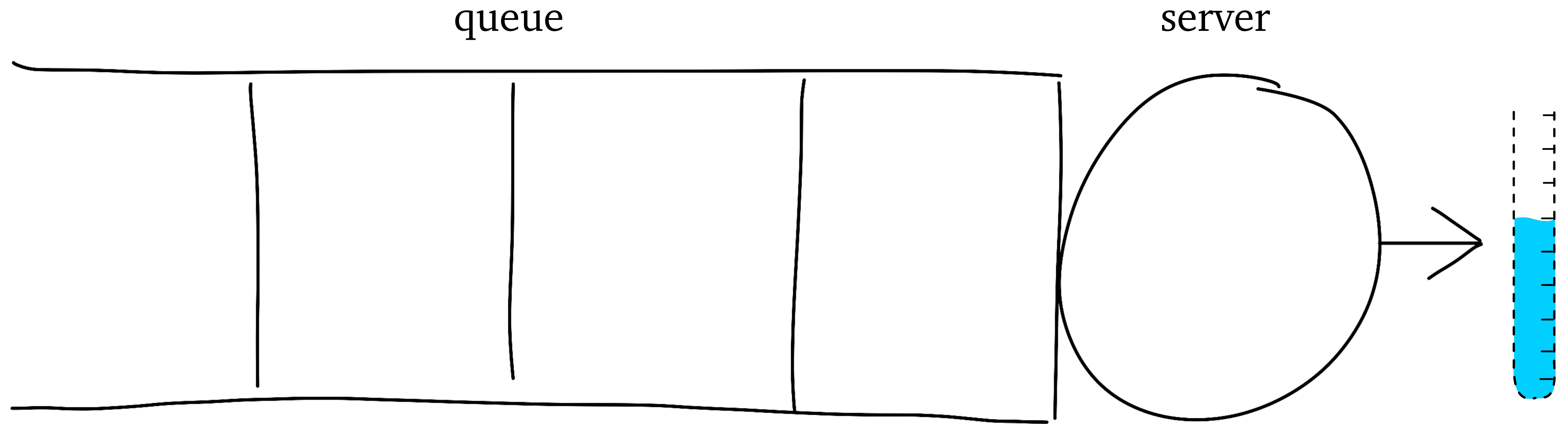
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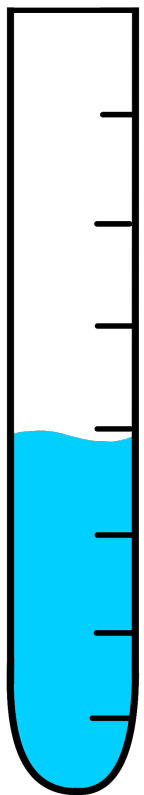
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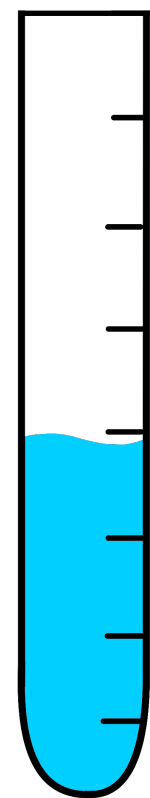
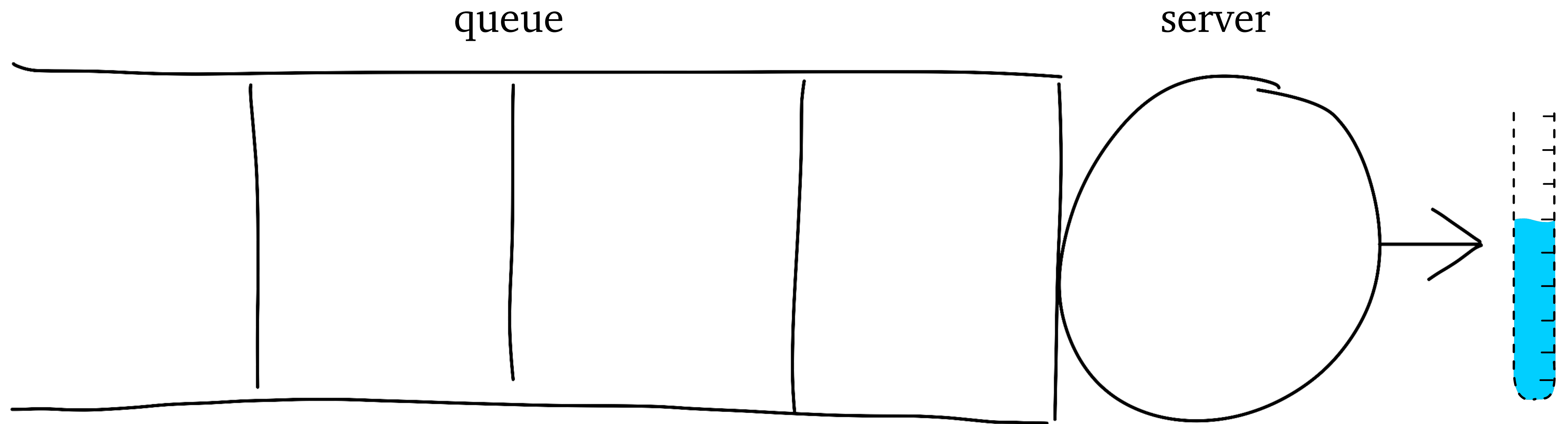
Scheduling with unknown job sizes



state = (size, age, arrival time)



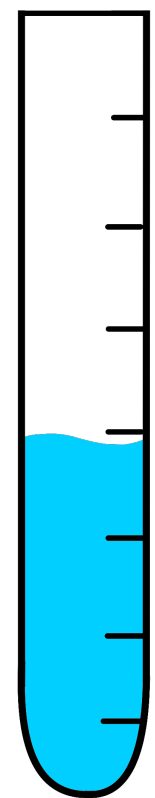
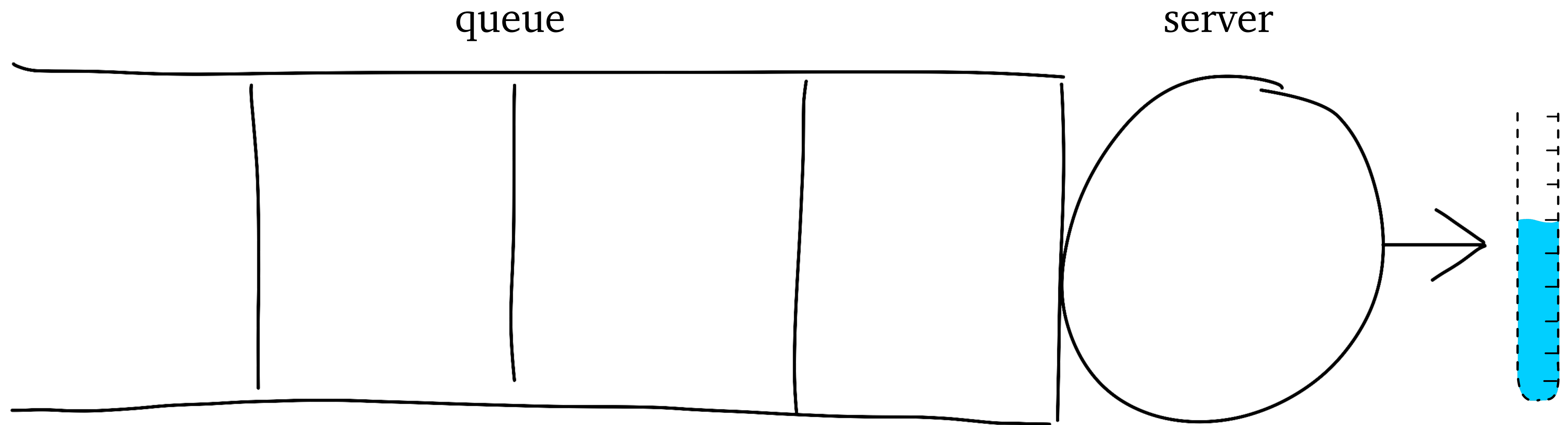
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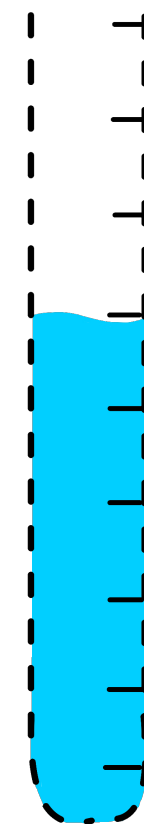
SRPT: order by [size - age]

Scheduling with unknown job sizes



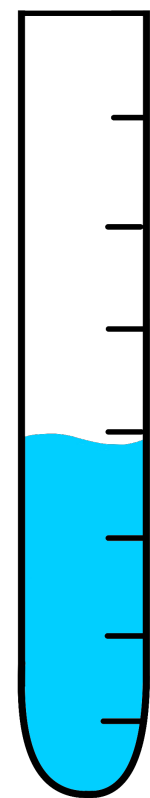
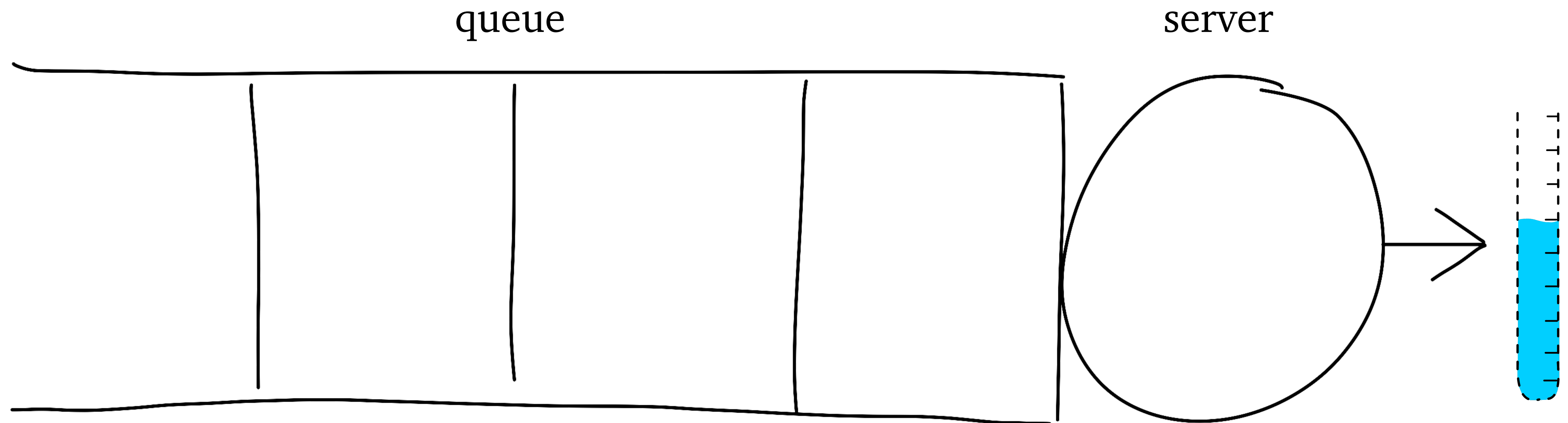
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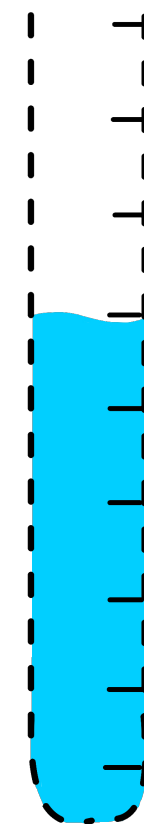
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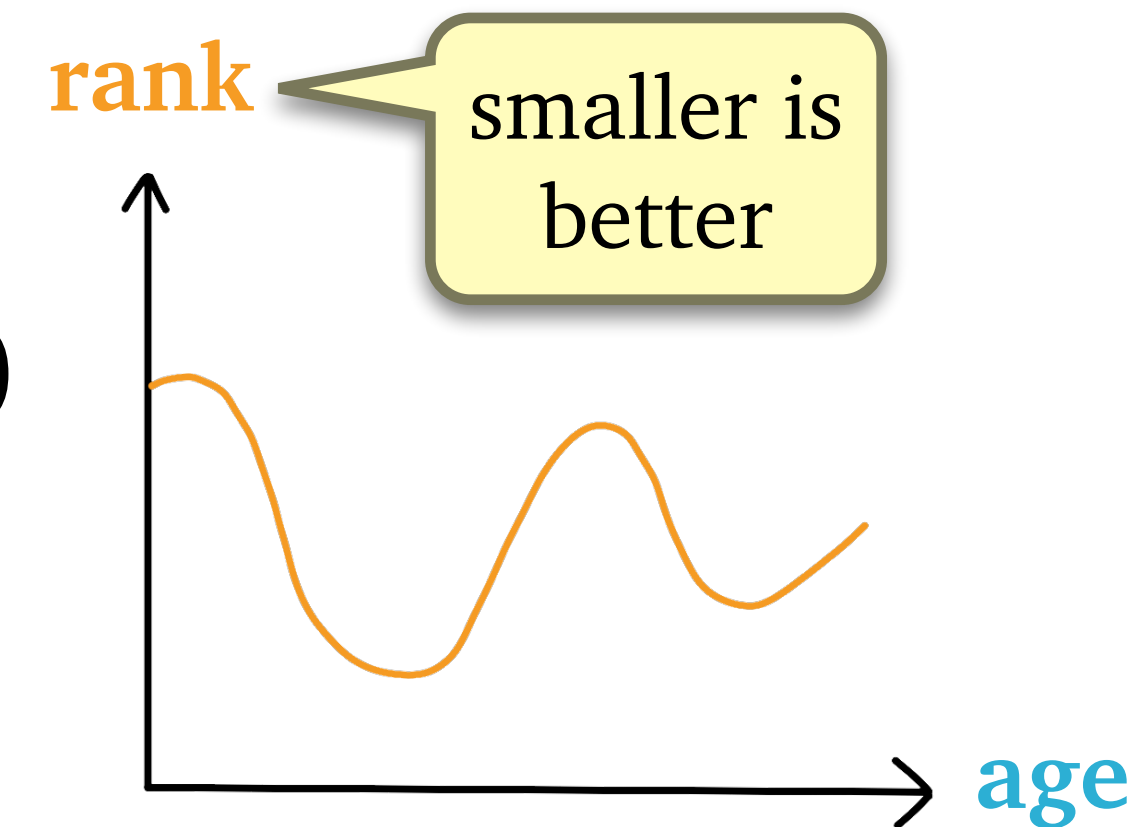
state = (size, age, arrival time)

SRPT: order by [size - age]

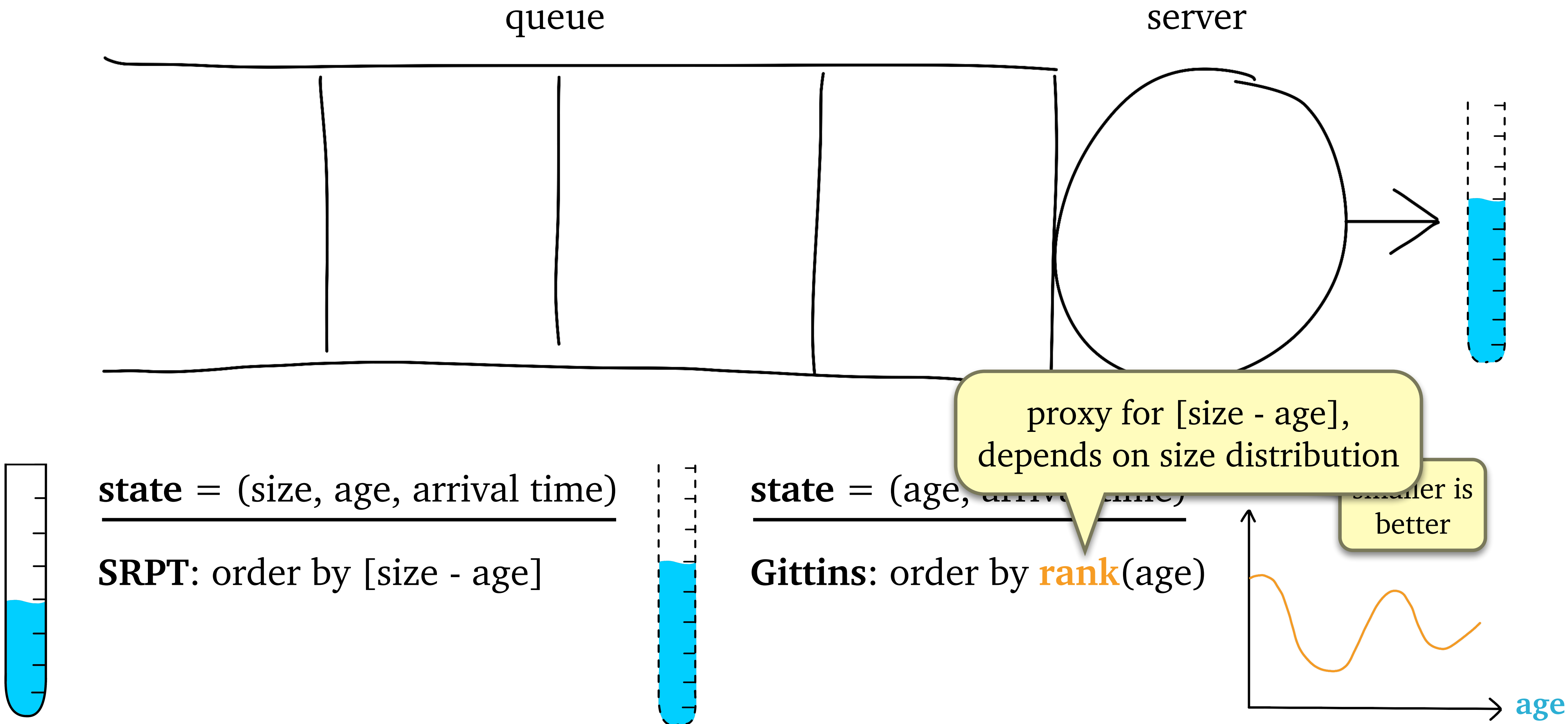


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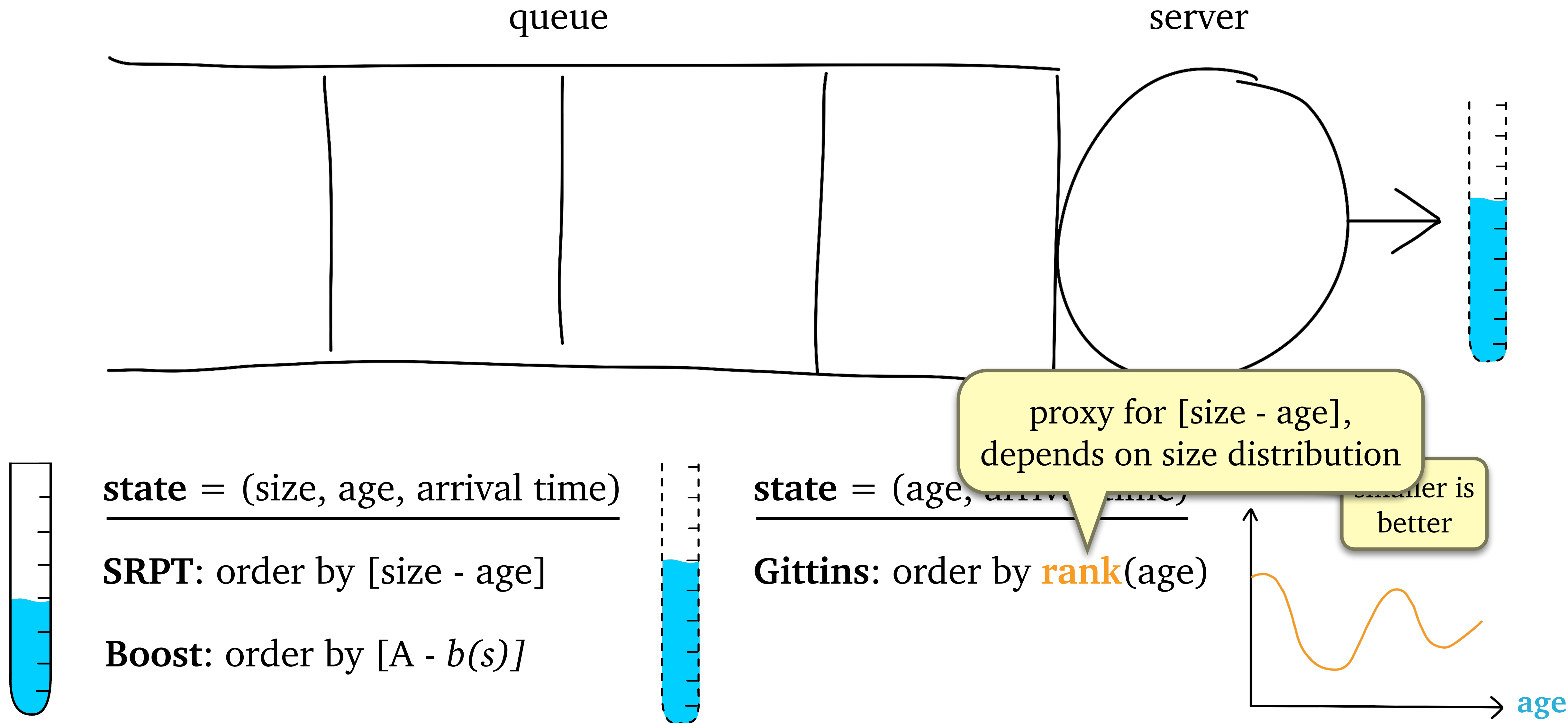
Gittins: order by **rank**(age)



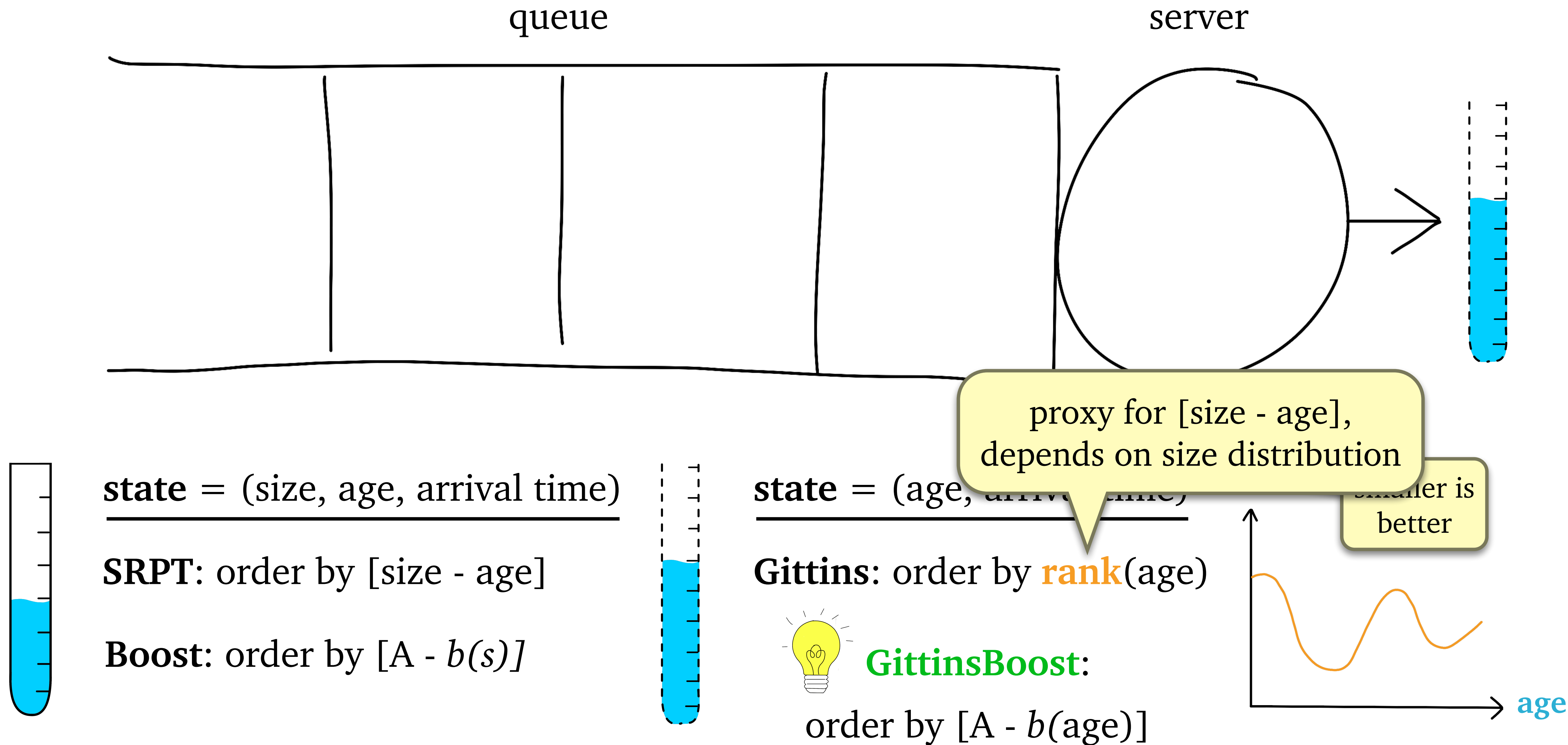
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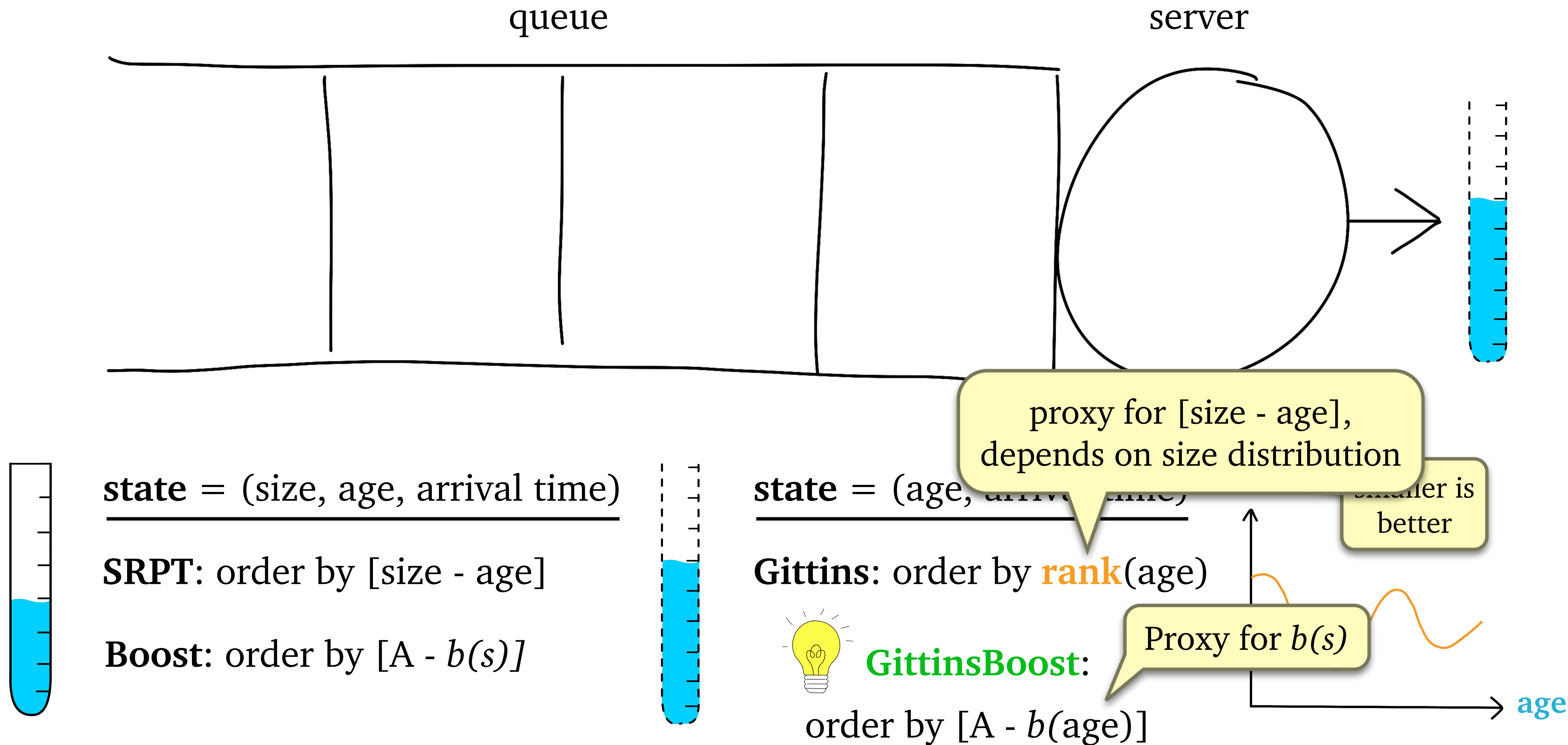
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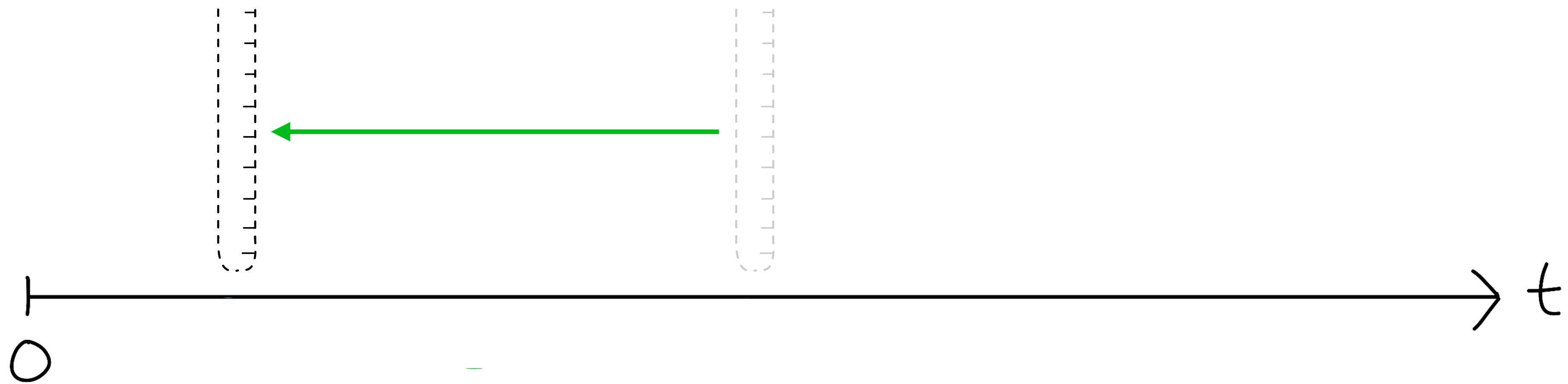


The GittinsBoost policy

defined by a *boost function* $b(x) \geq 0$ that maps **age** to boost

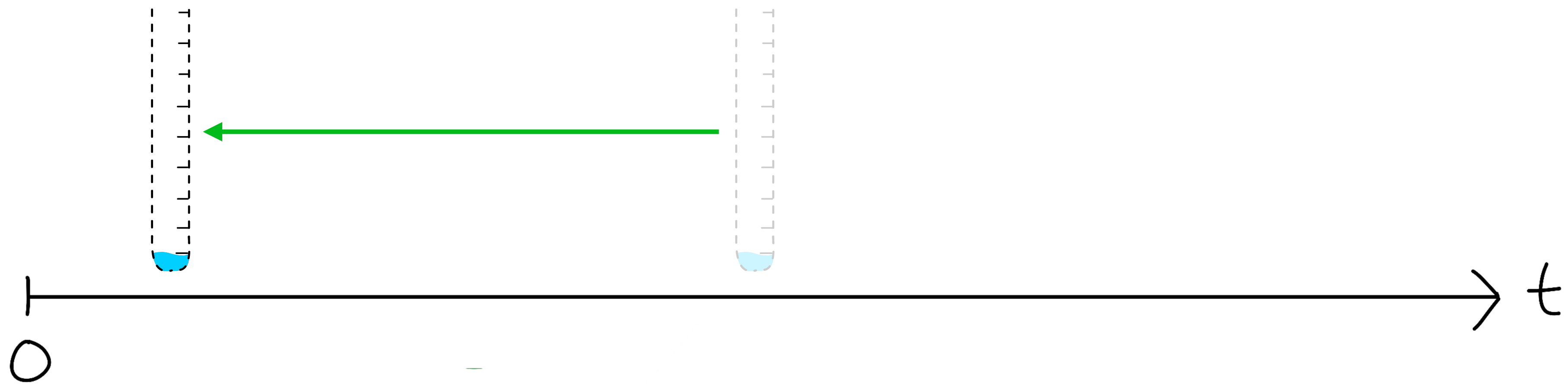
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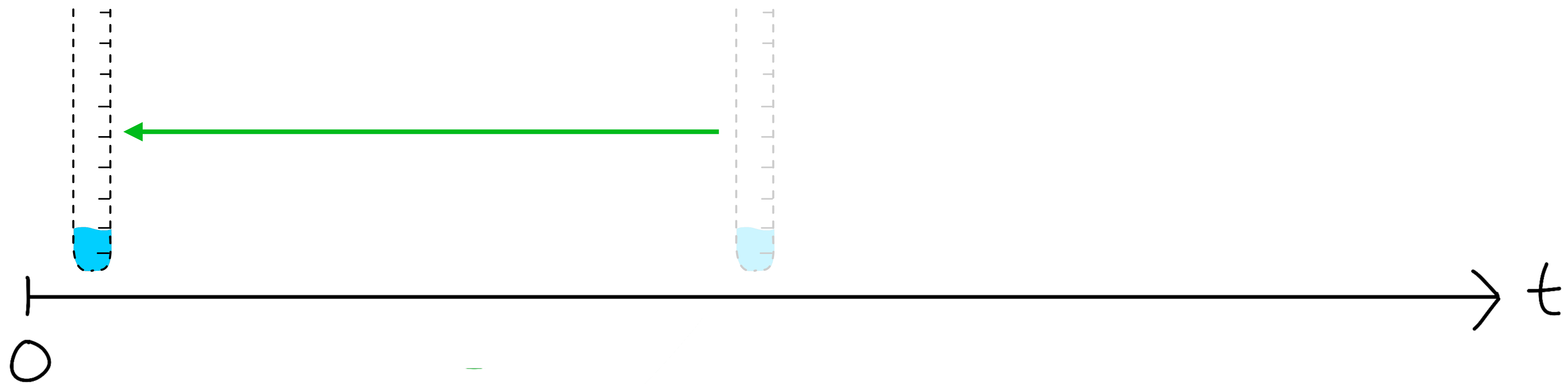
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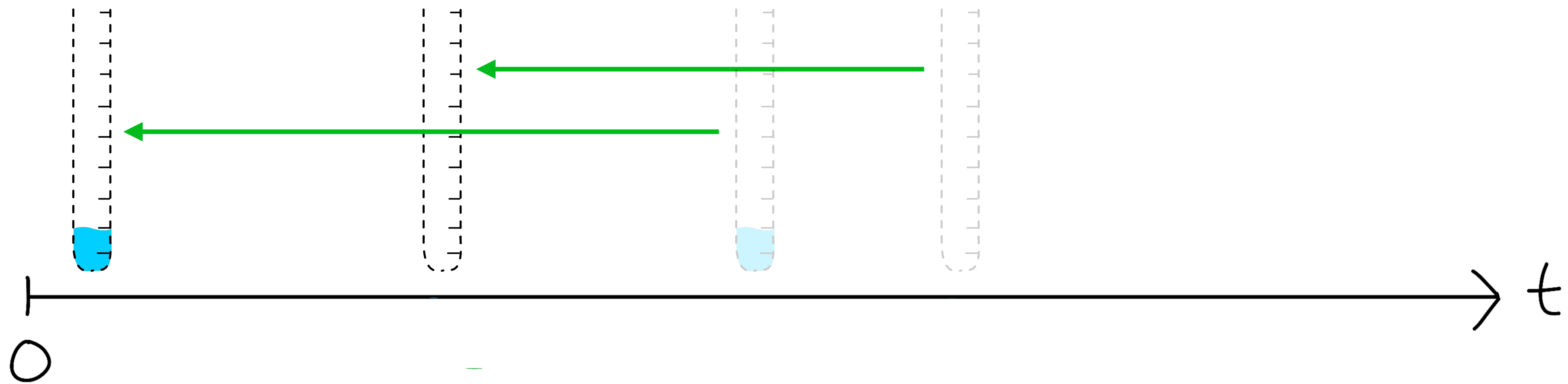
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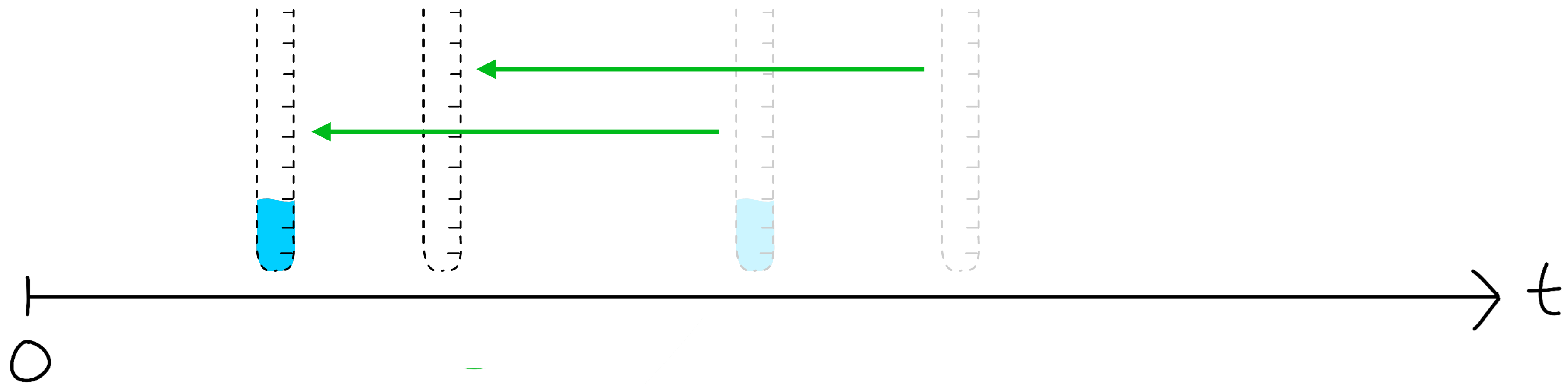
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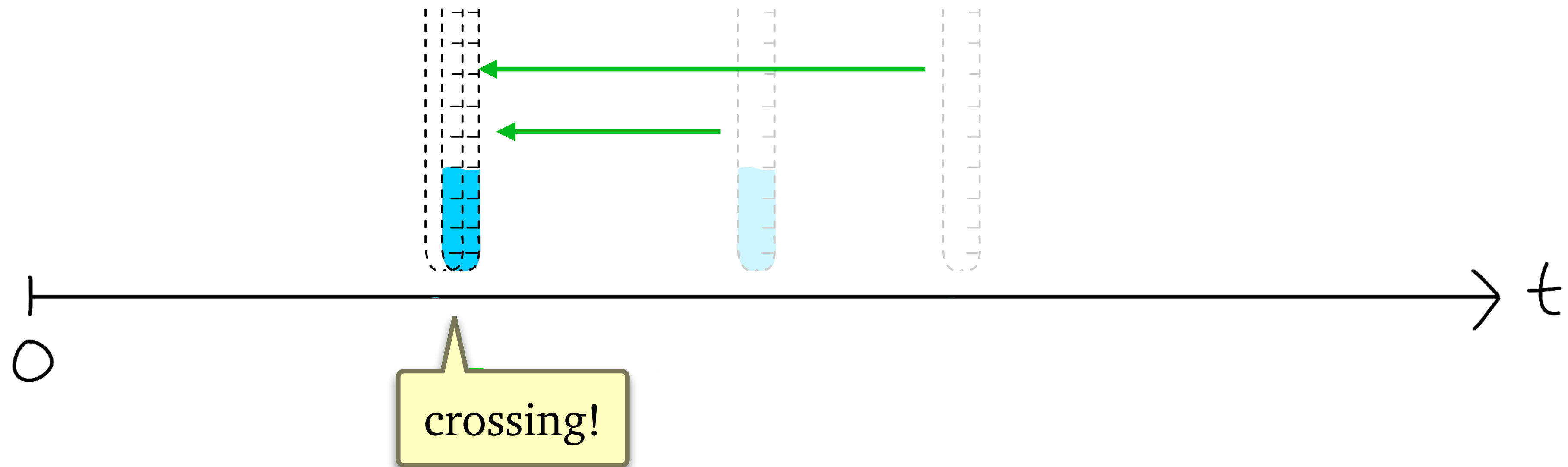
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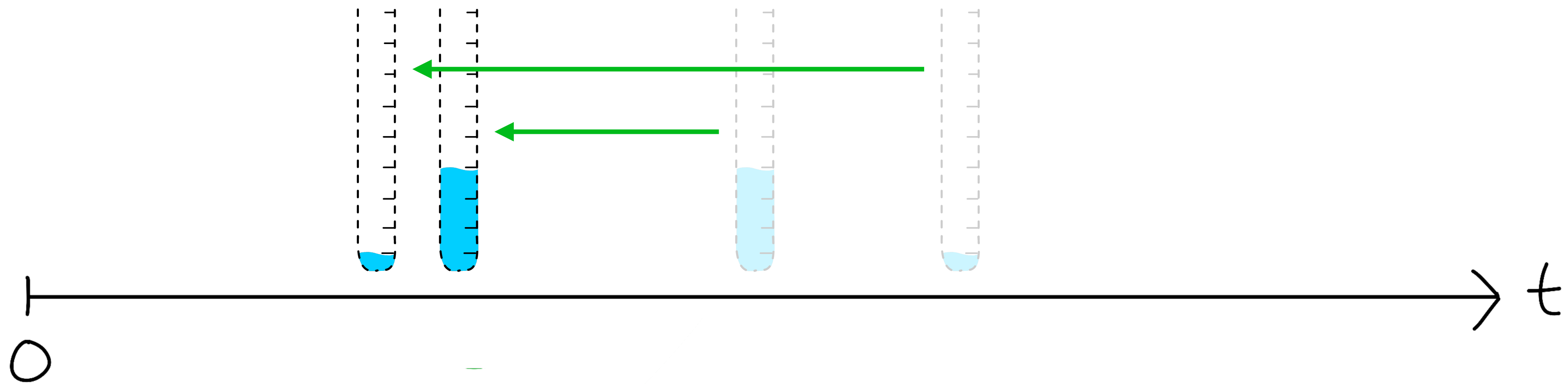
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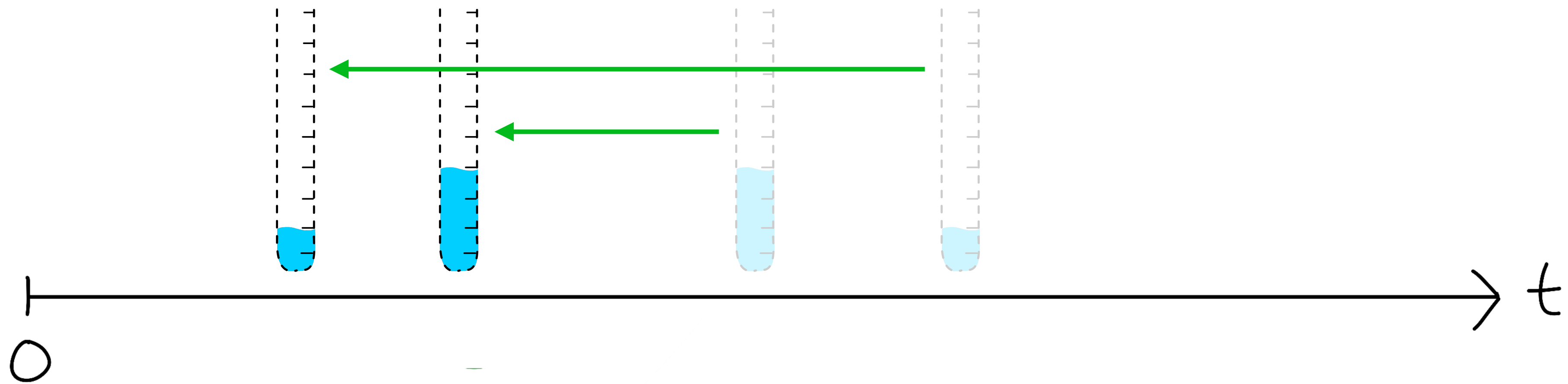
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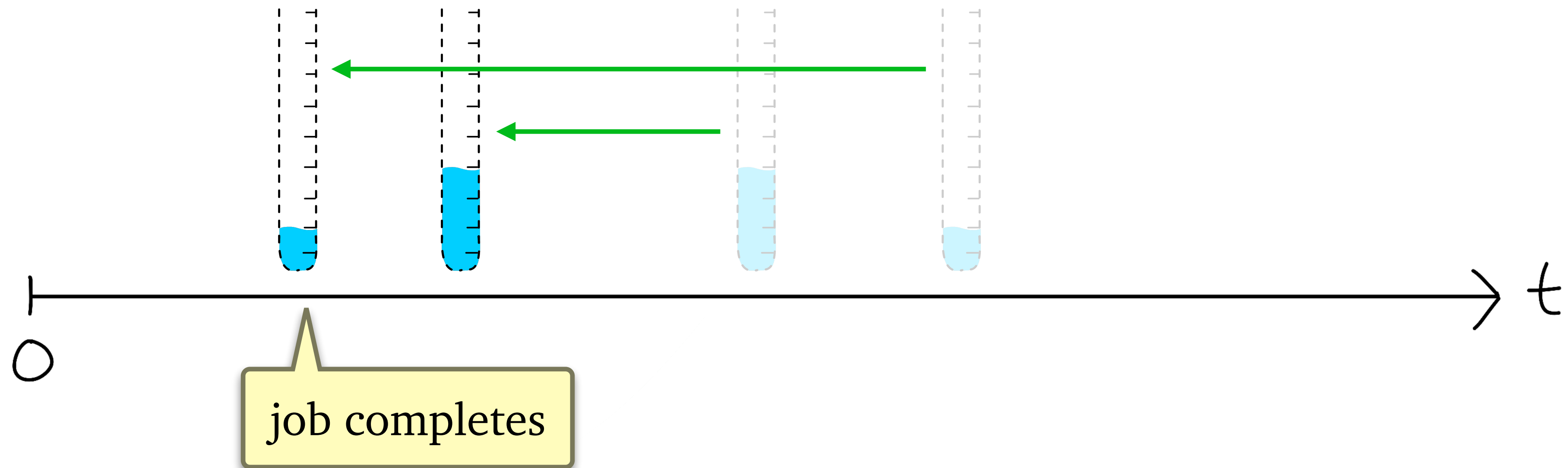
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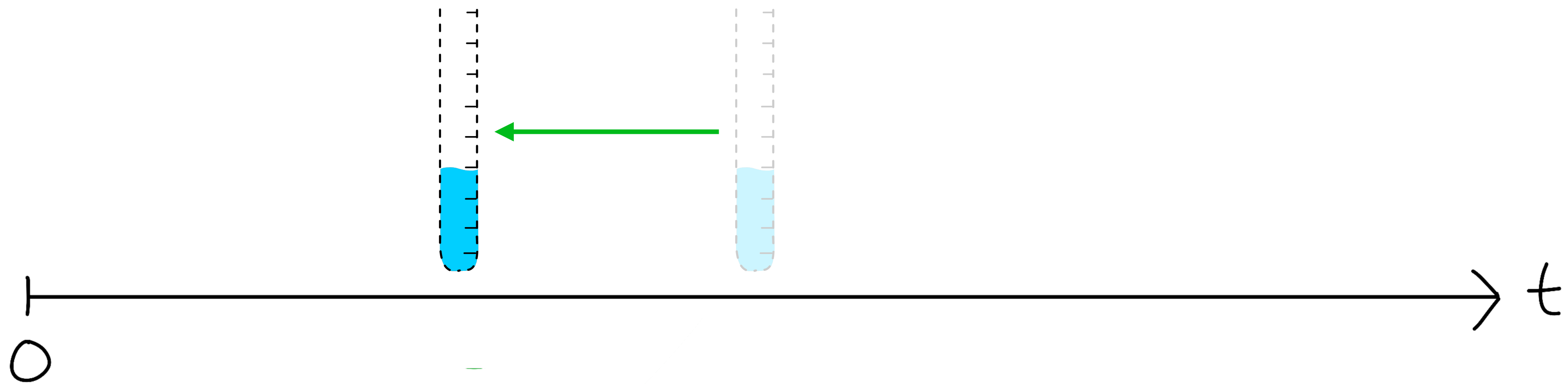
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choosing:

$$b(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma} \log \left(\sup_{y > x} \frac{\mathbf{E}[e^{\gamma S} \mathbf{1}(S \leq y) \mid S > x]}{\mathbf{E}[e^{\gamma((S \wedge y) - x)} - 1 \mid S > x]} \right)$$

gets us a strongly optimal policy in the class of policies that don't use job size information.

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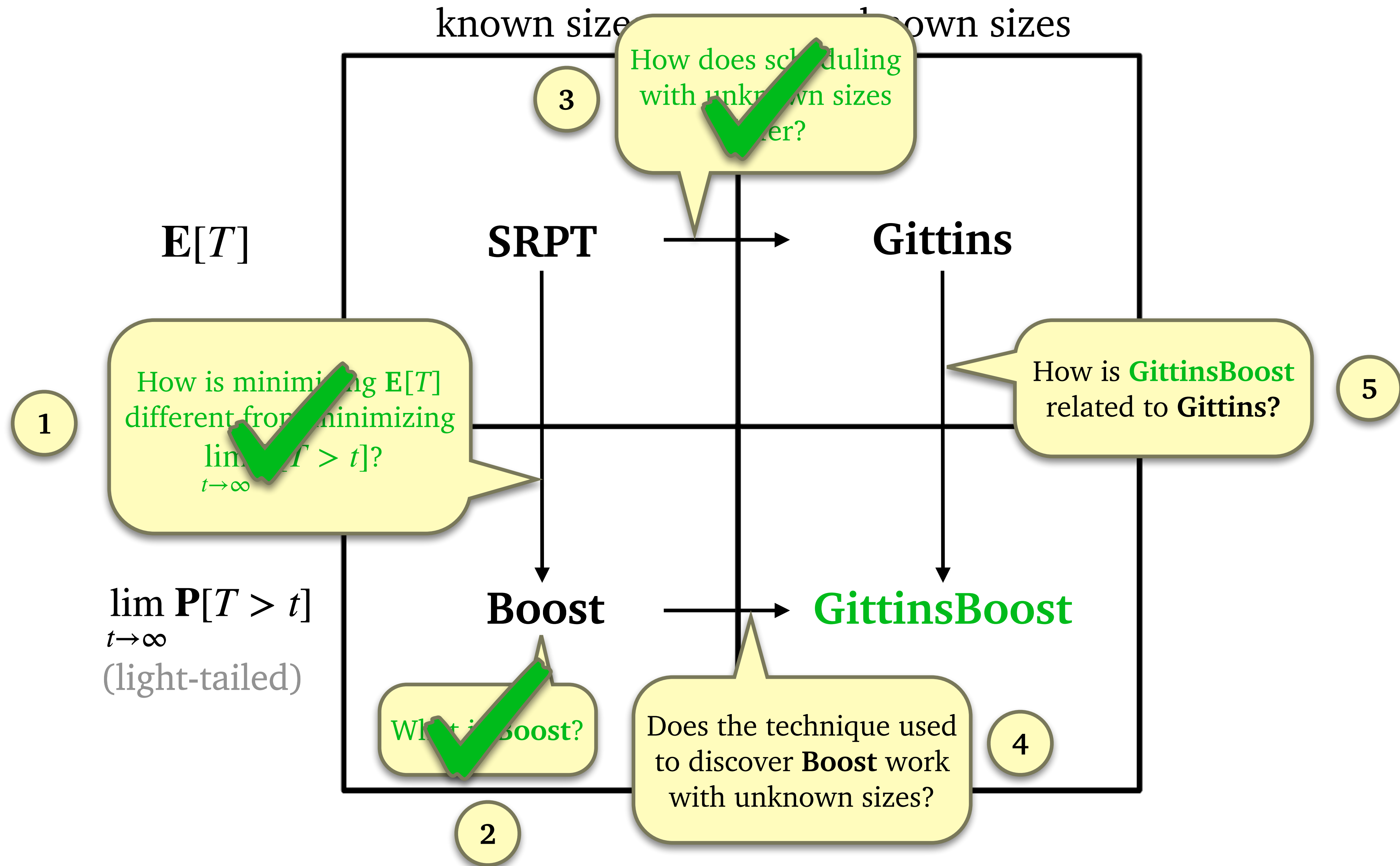
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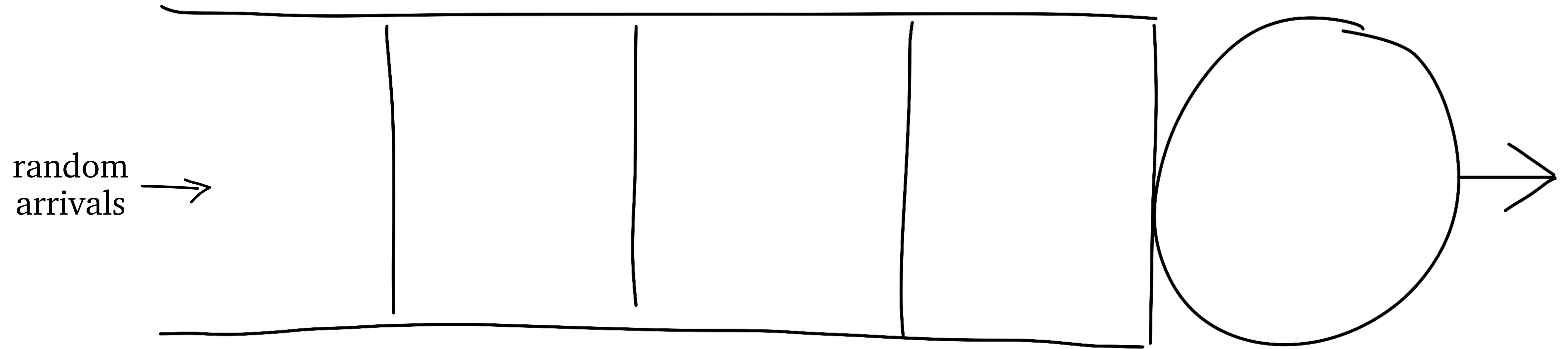
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looks similar to the
Gittins rank function...

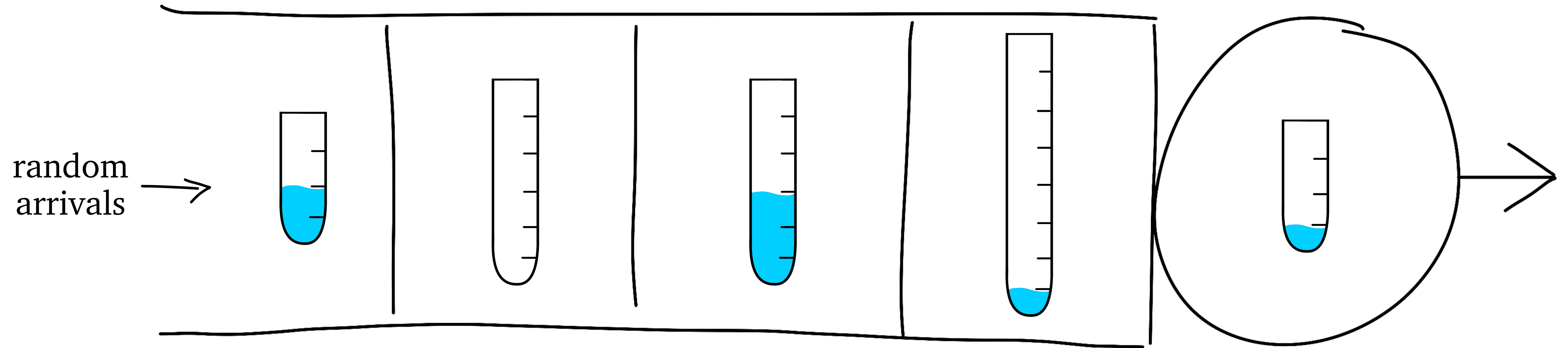
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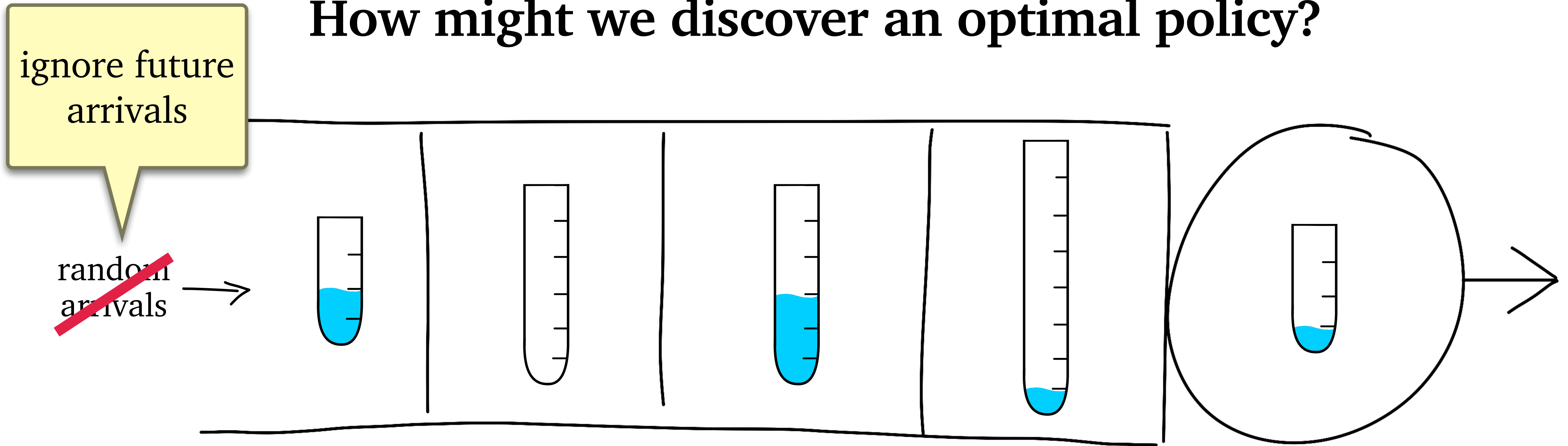
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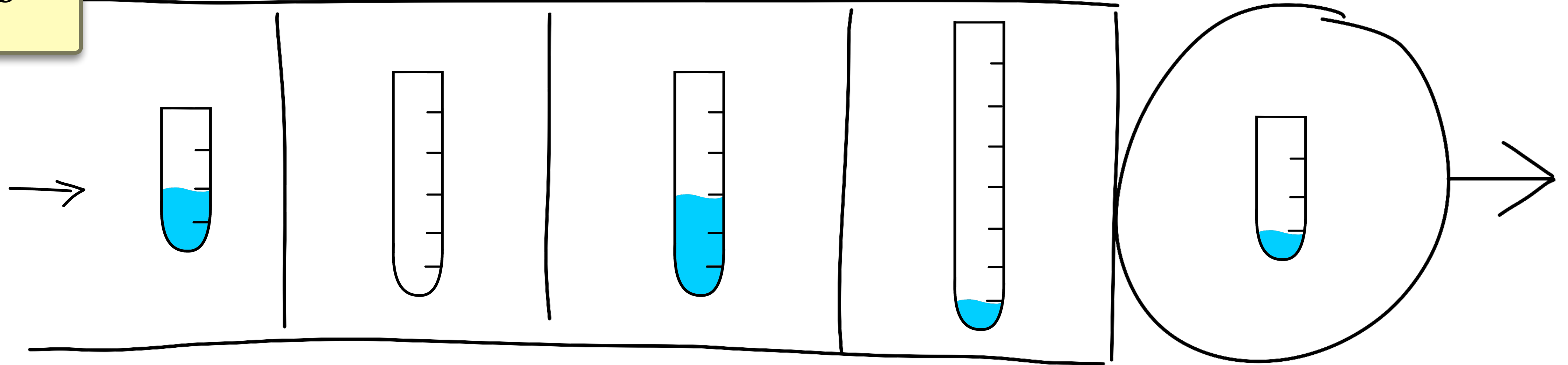
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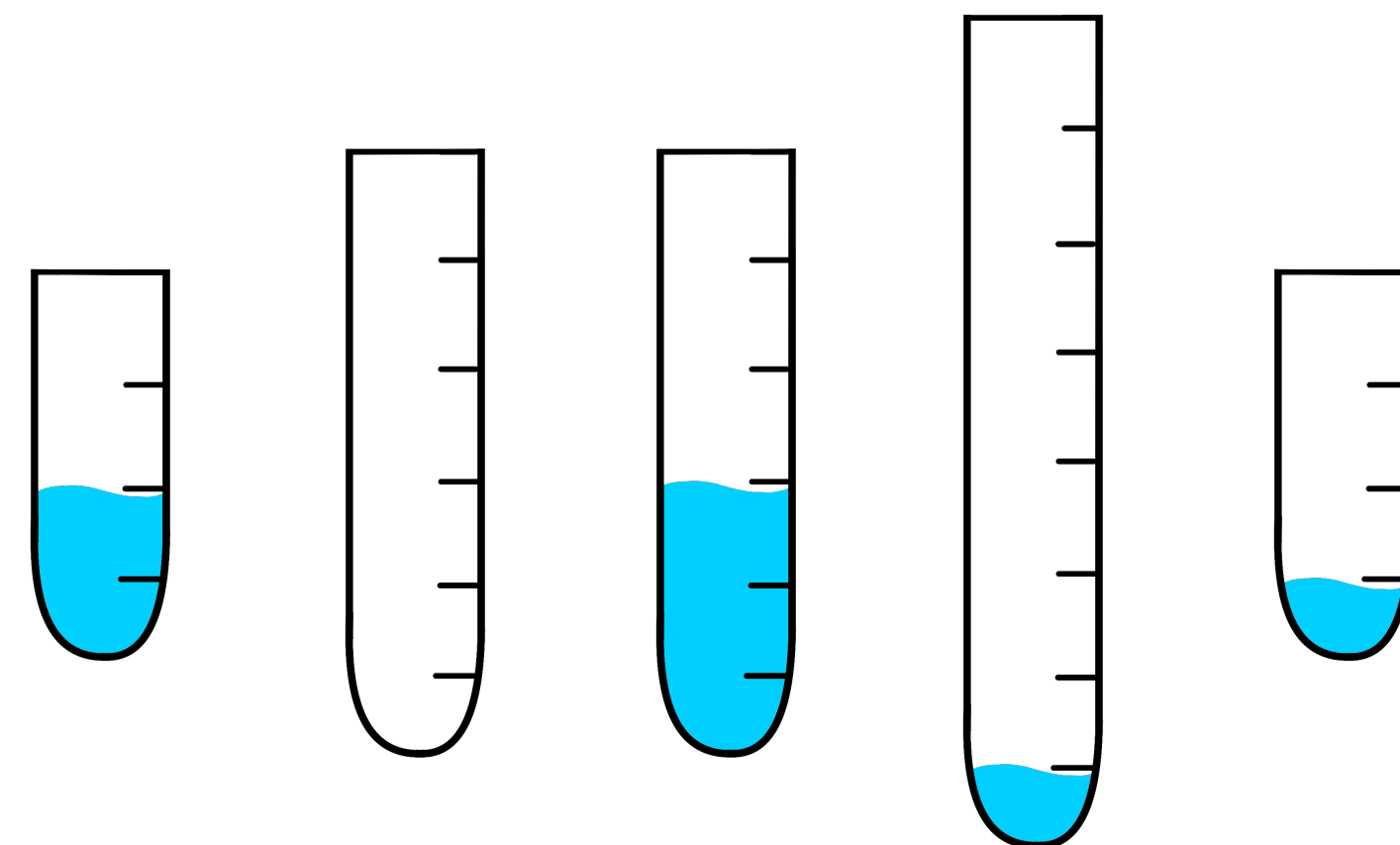
How might we discover an optimal policy?

ignore future arrivals

~~random arrivals~~



Batch Problem:



What is the optimal policy for the batch problem?

Queue Objective				
Batch Objective				
Optimal Policy				

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Queue Objective	$E_{\pi}[T]$ w/ known sizes			
Batch Objective				
Optimal Policy				

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Queue Objective	$E_{\pi}[T]$ w/ known sizes			
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Optimal Policy				

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Optimal Policy				

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Batch Objective	$\sum_{i=1}^N (D_i - A_i)$ w/ known sizes			
Optimal Policy				

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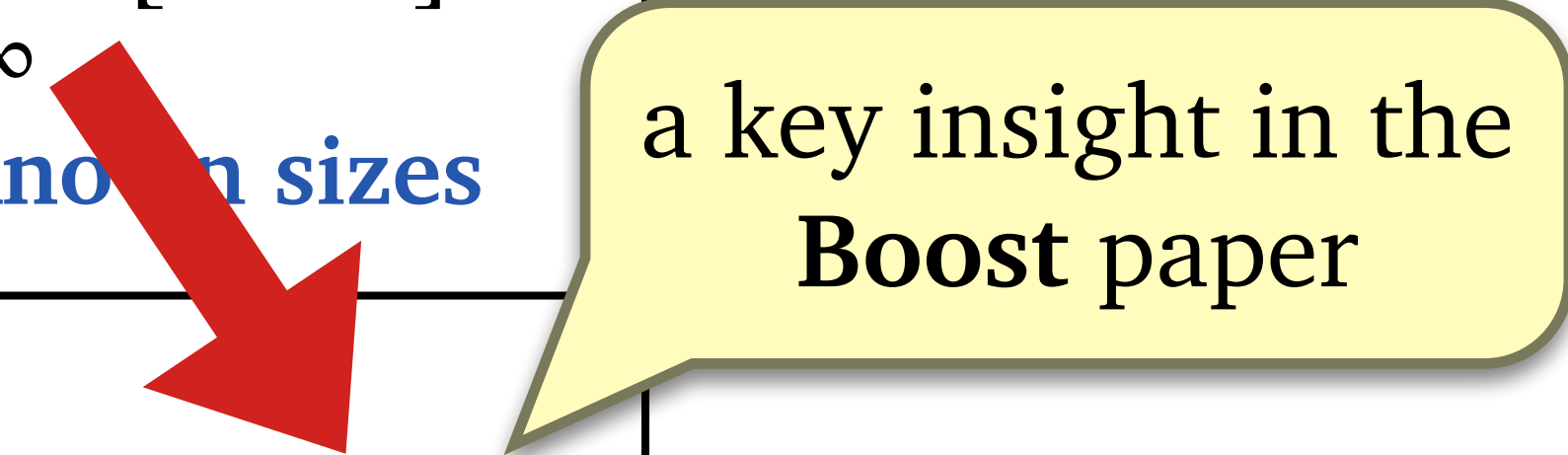
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Optimal Policy	SRPT	Gittins		

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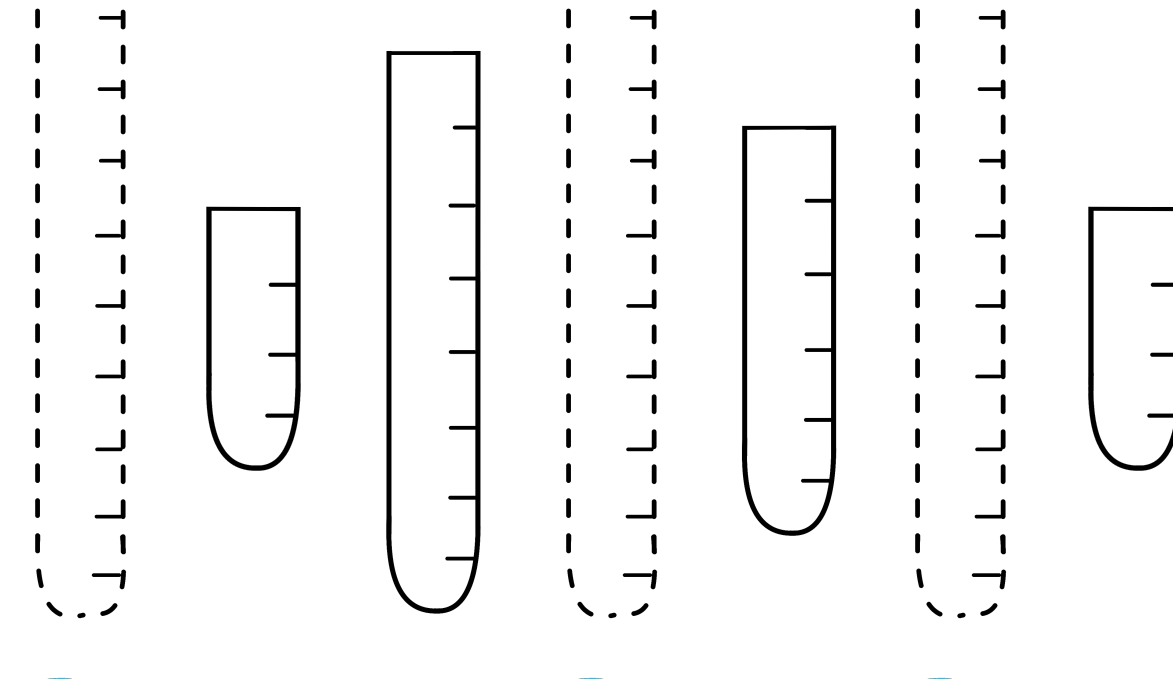
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All of these are in the Gittins family of policies!

What is the Gittins family of policies?

Gittins policies solve the family of batch problems:

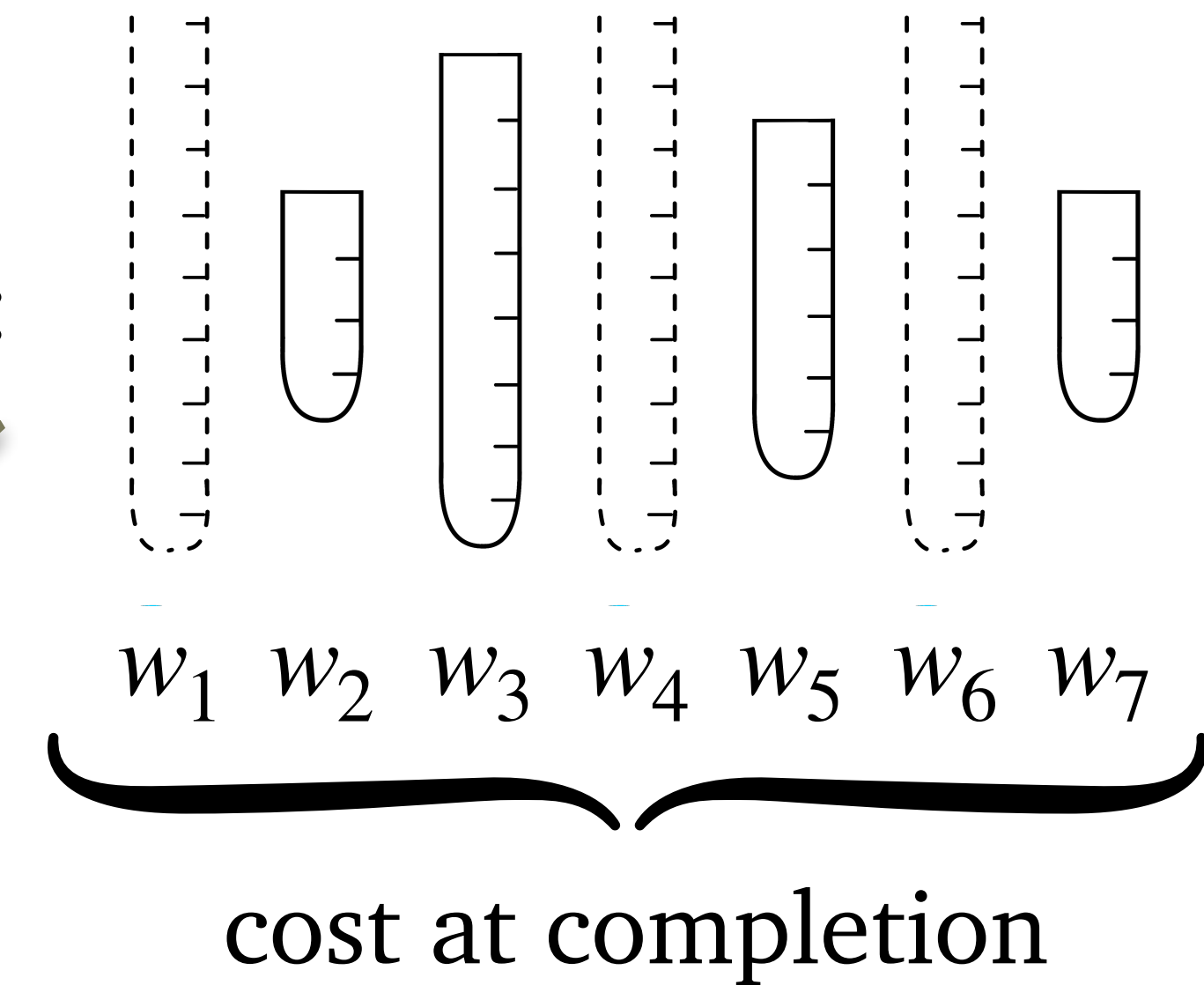
job sizes independent



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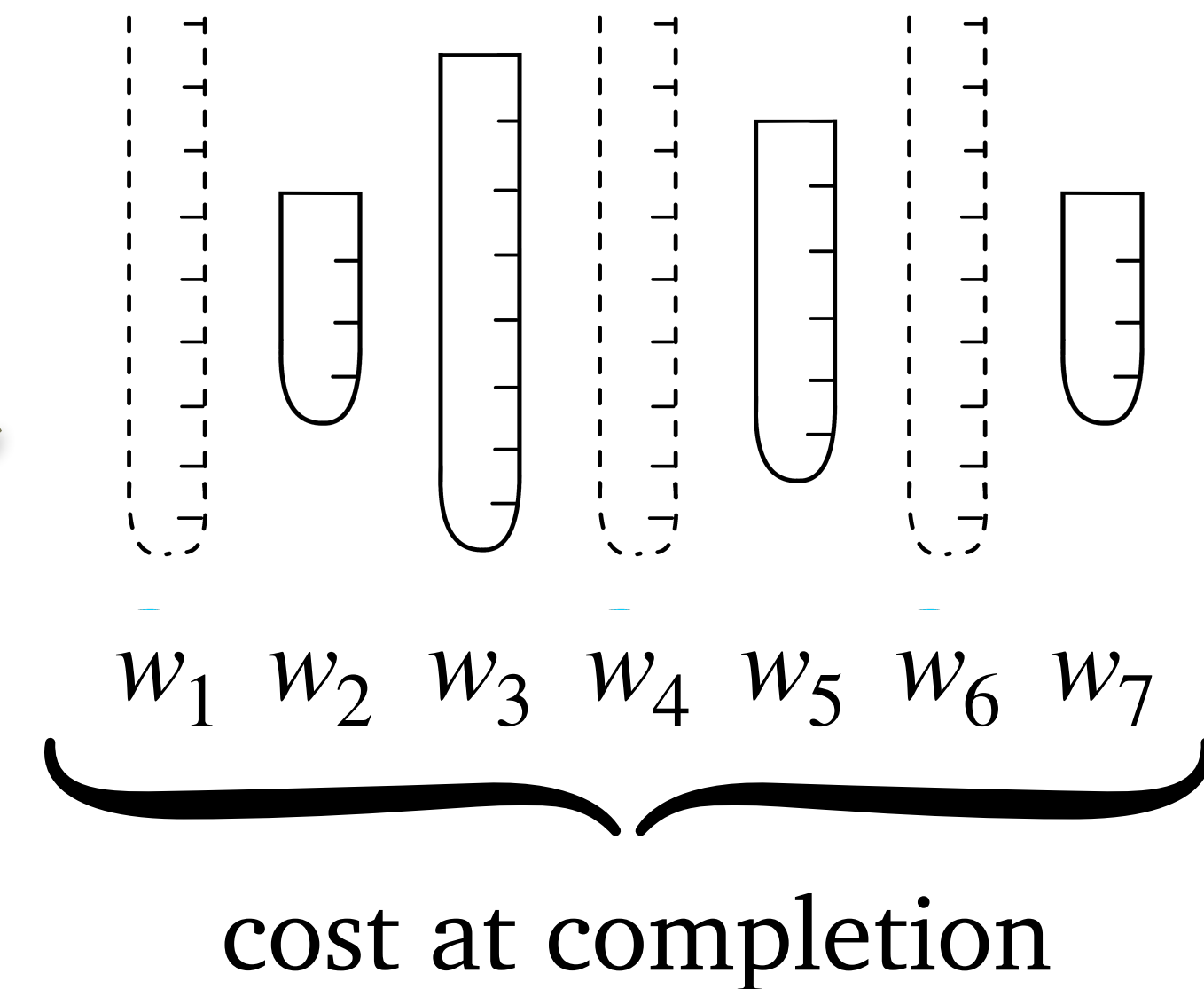
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What is the Gittins family of policies?

Gittins policies solve the family of batch problems:

job sizes independent



with objective:

discounting

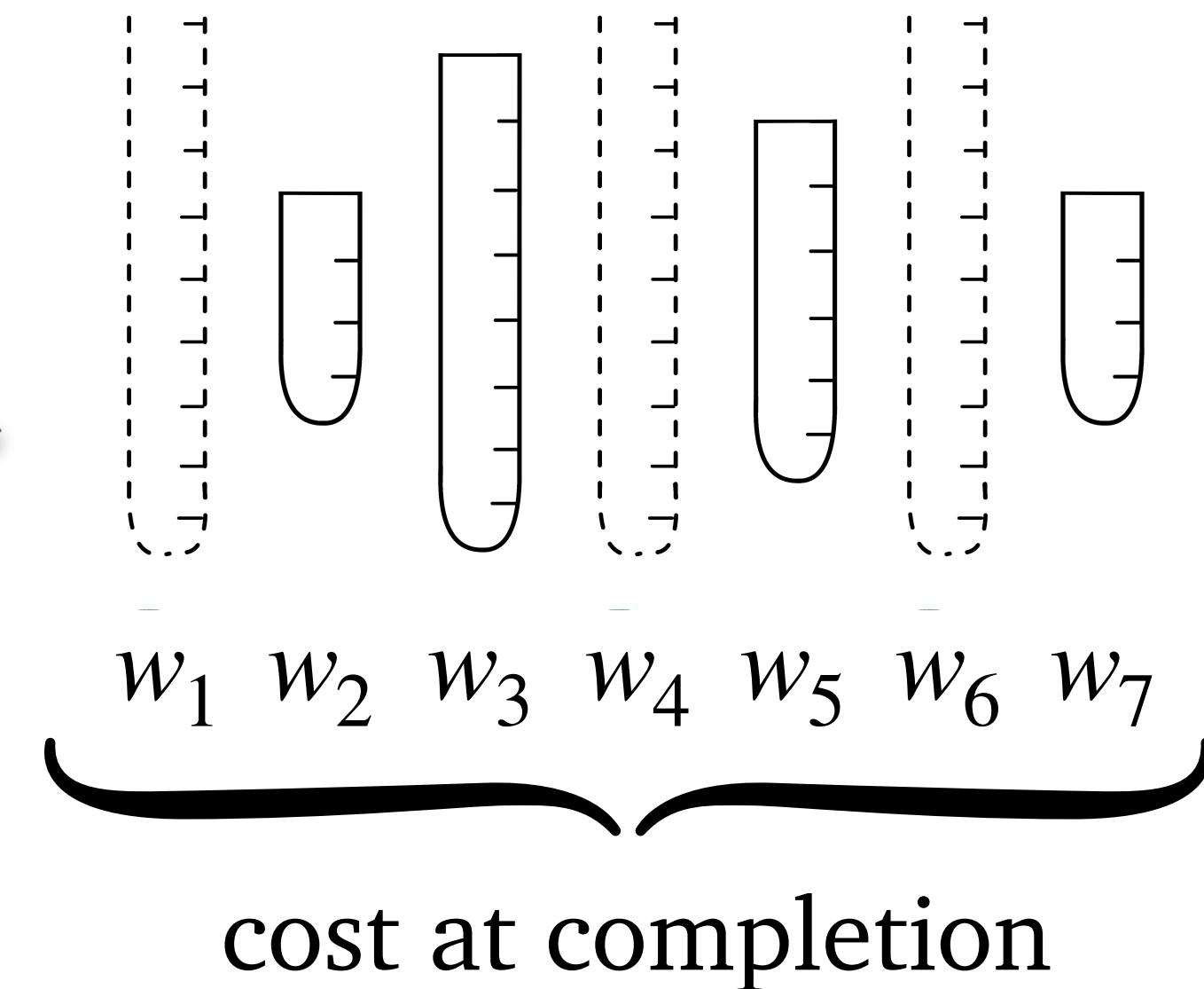
$$\text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right]$$

$$(\beta > 0)$$

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with objective:

discounting

$$\text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right] \quad \text{or} \quad \text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N D_i w_i \right]$$

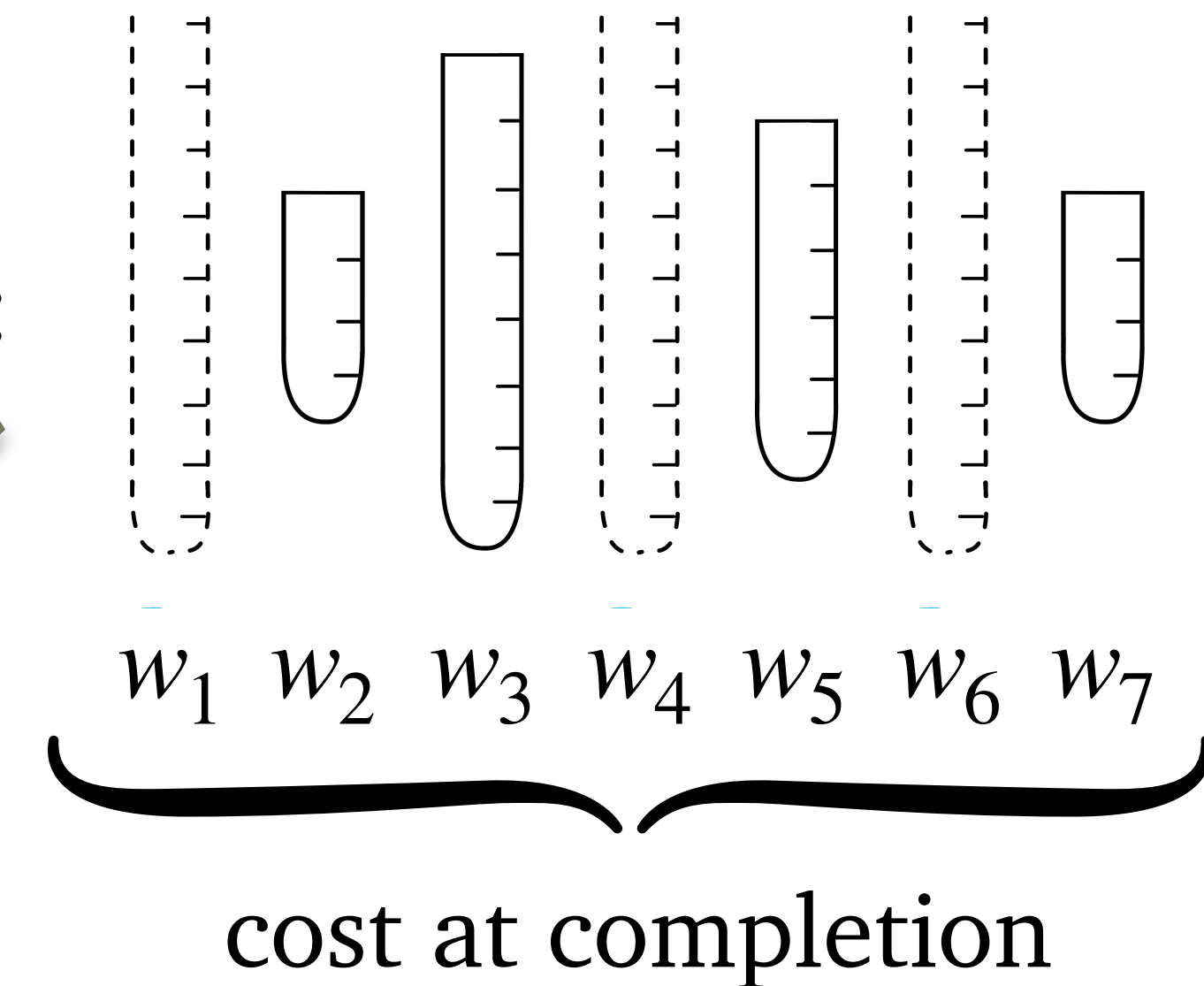
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$$“(\beta = 0)”$$

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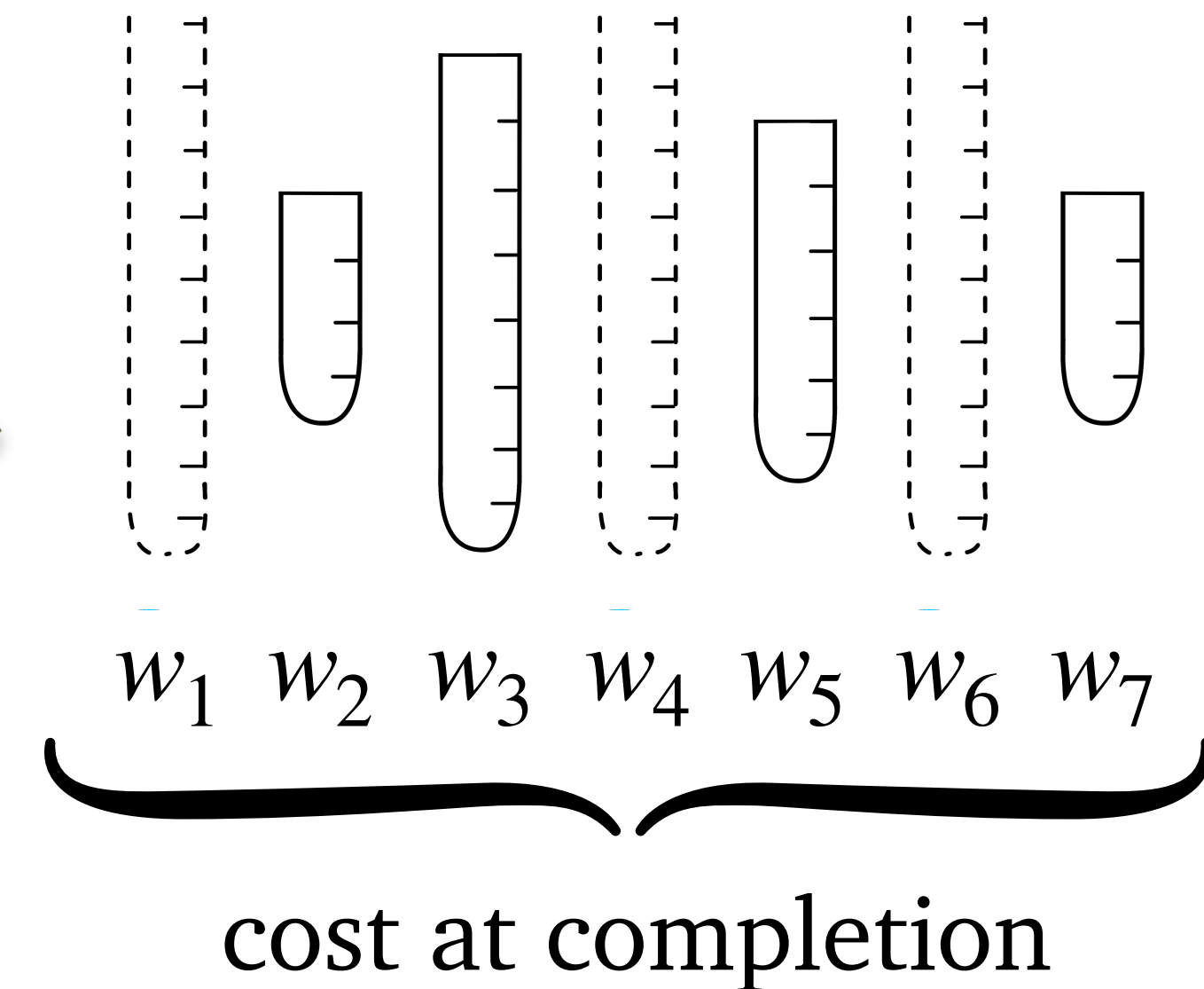
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$(\beta > 0)$
 $“(\beta = 0)”$
new-ish!
 $(\beta < 0)$

What is the Gittins family of policies?

Gittins policies solve the family of batch problems:

job sizes independent



with objective:

discounting

$$\text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right]$$

$$(\beta > 0)$$

or

$$\text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N D_i w_i \right]$$

$$“(\beta = 0)”$$

or

$$\text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right]$$

$$(\beta < 0)$$

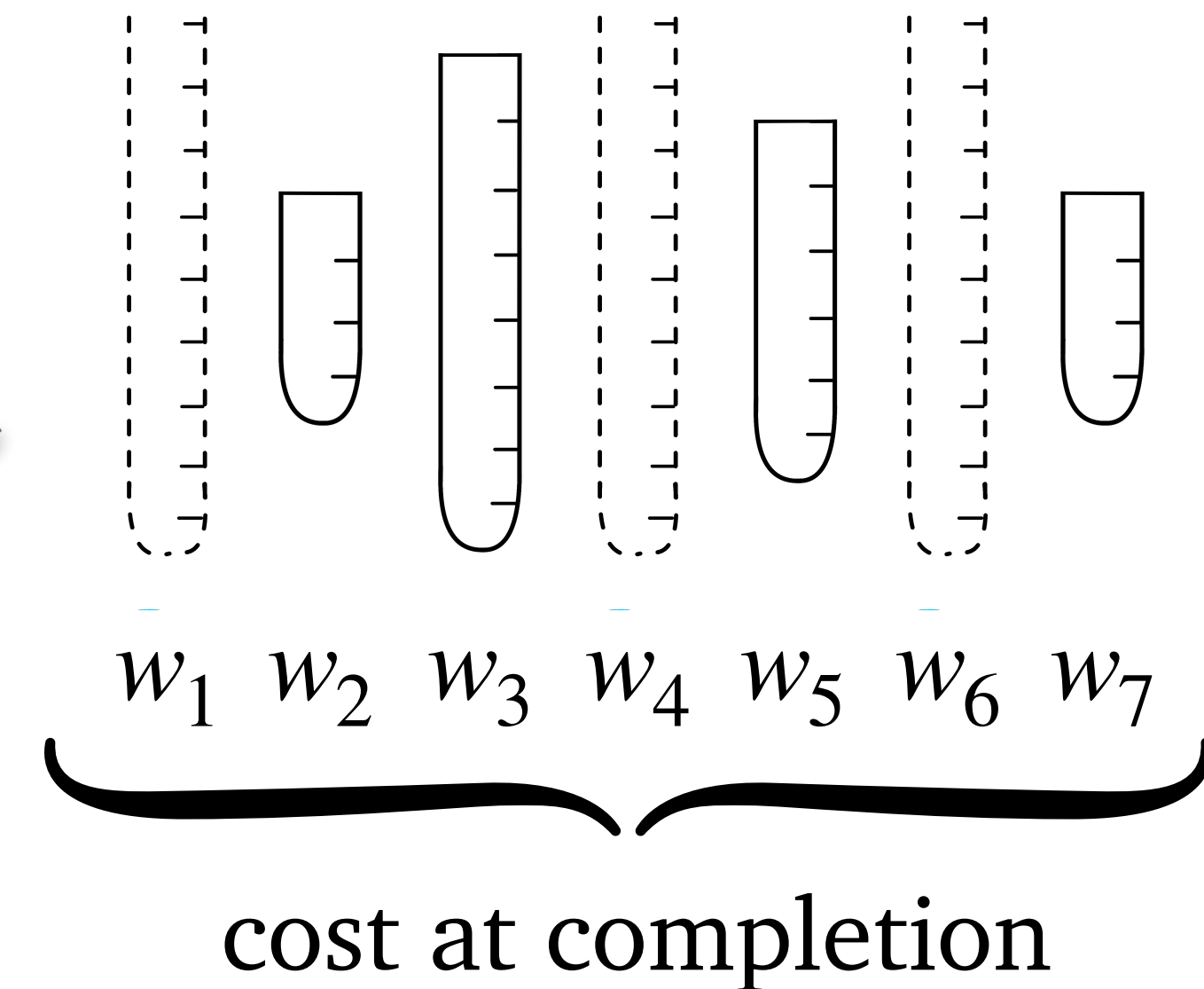
negative discounting = inflation

new-ish!

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$$\text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right] \quad \text{or} \quad \text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N D_i w_i \right] \quad \text{or} \quad \text{minimize } \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{-\beta D_i} w_i \right]$$

$(\beta > 0)$ “ $(\beta = 0)$ ” **new-ish!** $(\beta < 0)$

$$e^{\gamma D_i} e^{-\gamma A_i}$$

What is the optimal policy for the batch problem?

Queue Objective	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi}[T]$ w/ known sizes	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi}[T]$ w/ unknown sizes	$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P}[T > t]$ w/ known sizes	$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P}[T > t]$ w/ unknown sizes
Batch Objective	$\sum_{i=1}^N D_i$ w/ known sizes	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi}\left[\sum_{i=1}^N D_i\right]$ w/ unknown sizes	$\sum_{i=1}^N e^{\gamma D_i} e^{-\gamma A_i}$ w/ known sizes	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi}\left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{\gamma D_i} e^{-\gamma A_i}\right]$ w/ unknown sizes
Optimal Policy	SRPT	Gittins	Boost	GittinsBoost

All of these are in the Gittins family of policies!

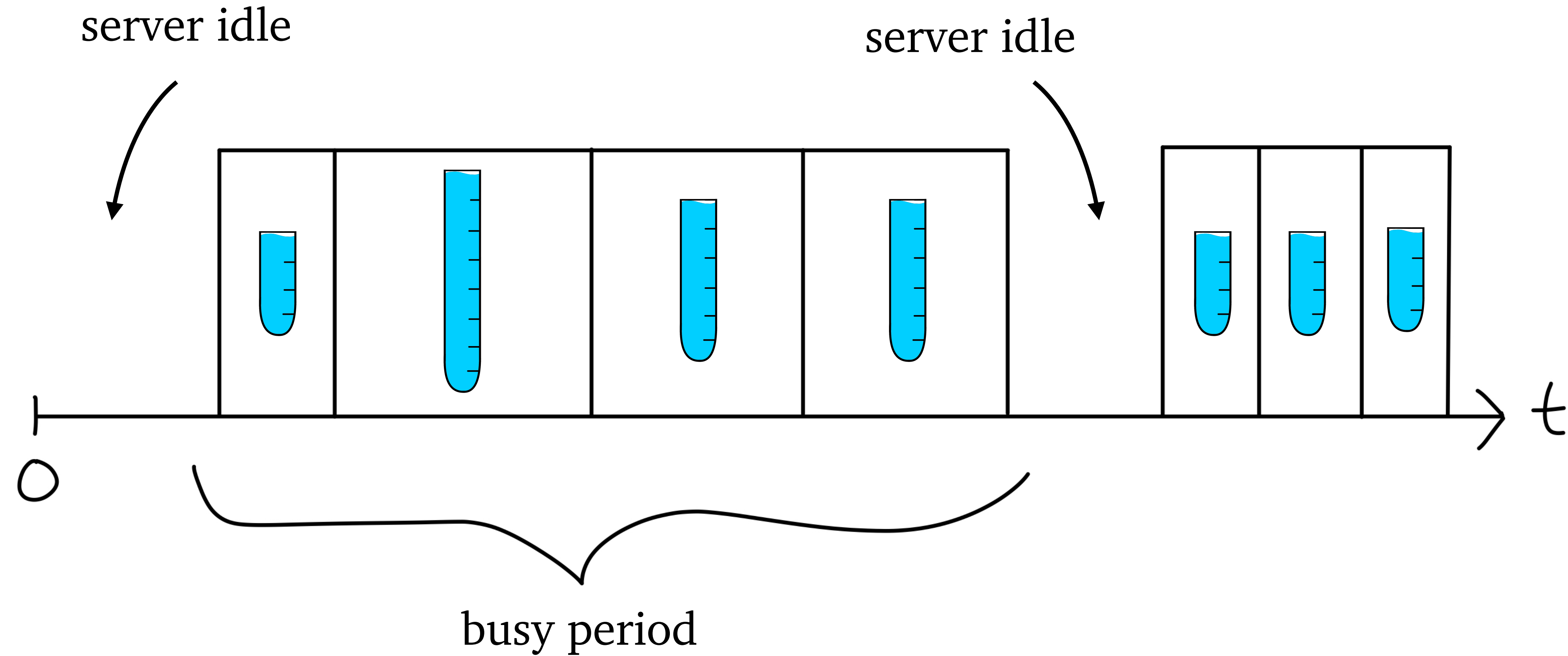
What is the optimal policy for the batch problem?

Queue Objective	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi}[T]$ w/ known sizes	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi}[T]$ w/ unknown sizes	$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P}[T > t]$ w/ known sizes	$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P}[T > t]$ w/ unknown sizes
Batch Objective	$\sum_{i=1}^N D_i$ w/ known sizes	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N D_i \right]$ w/ unknown sizes	$\sum_{i=1}^N e^{\gamma D_i} e^{-\gamma A_i}$ w/ known sizes	$\mathbf{E}_{\pi} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N e^{\gamma D_i} e^{-\gamma A_i} \right]$ w/ unknown sizes
Optimal Policy	SRPT	Gittins	Boost	GittinsBoost

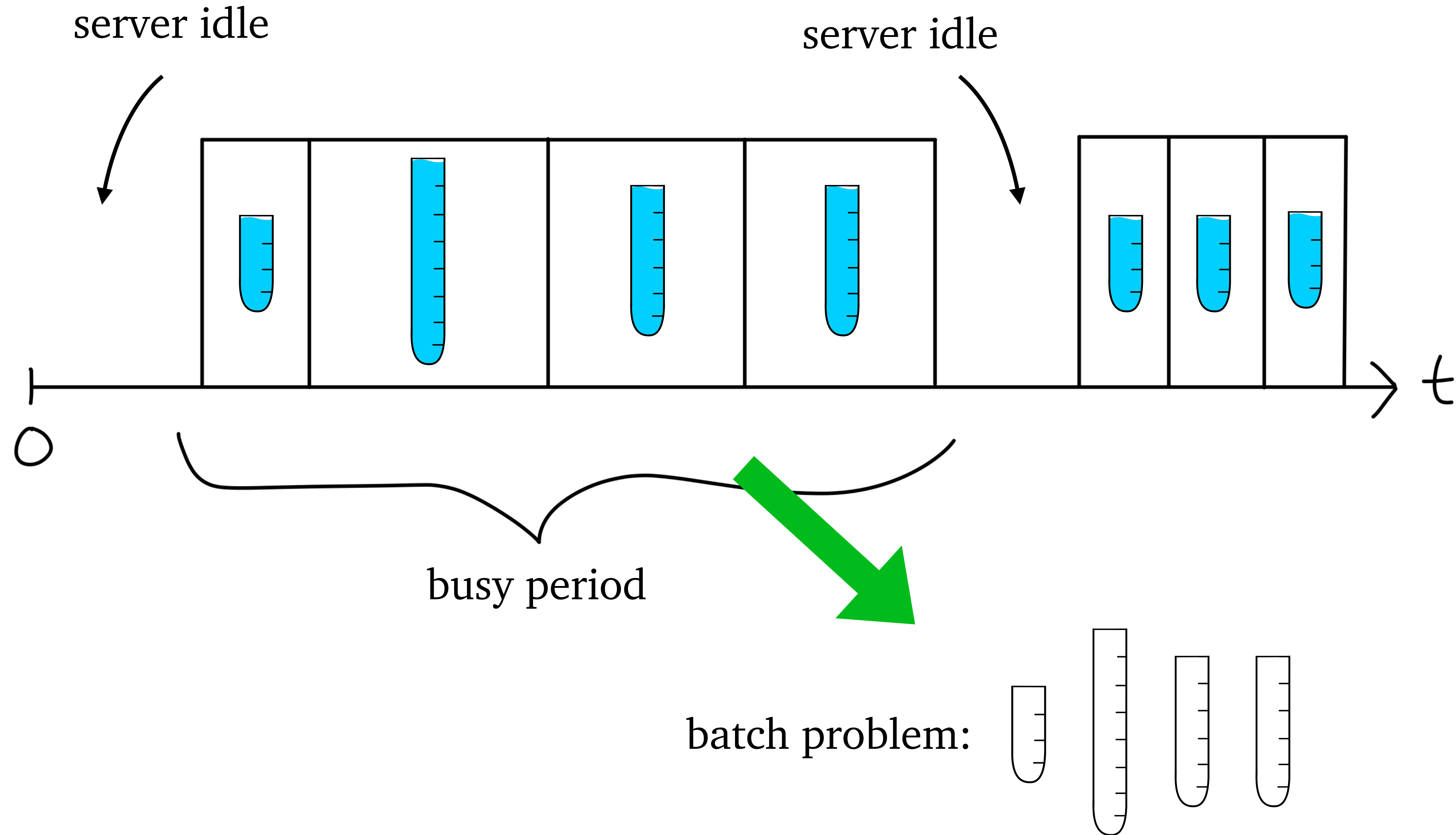
All of these are in the Gittins family of policies!

How do we show optimality in the queue setting?

Boost optimality in the queue setting

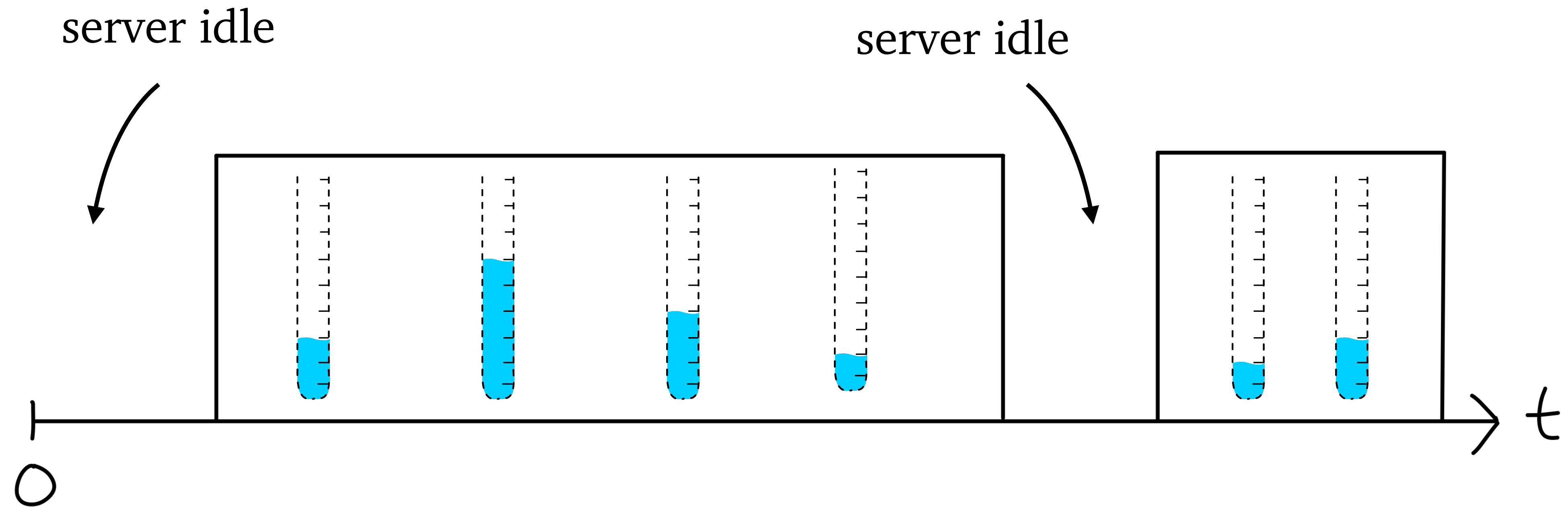


Boost optimality in the queue setting

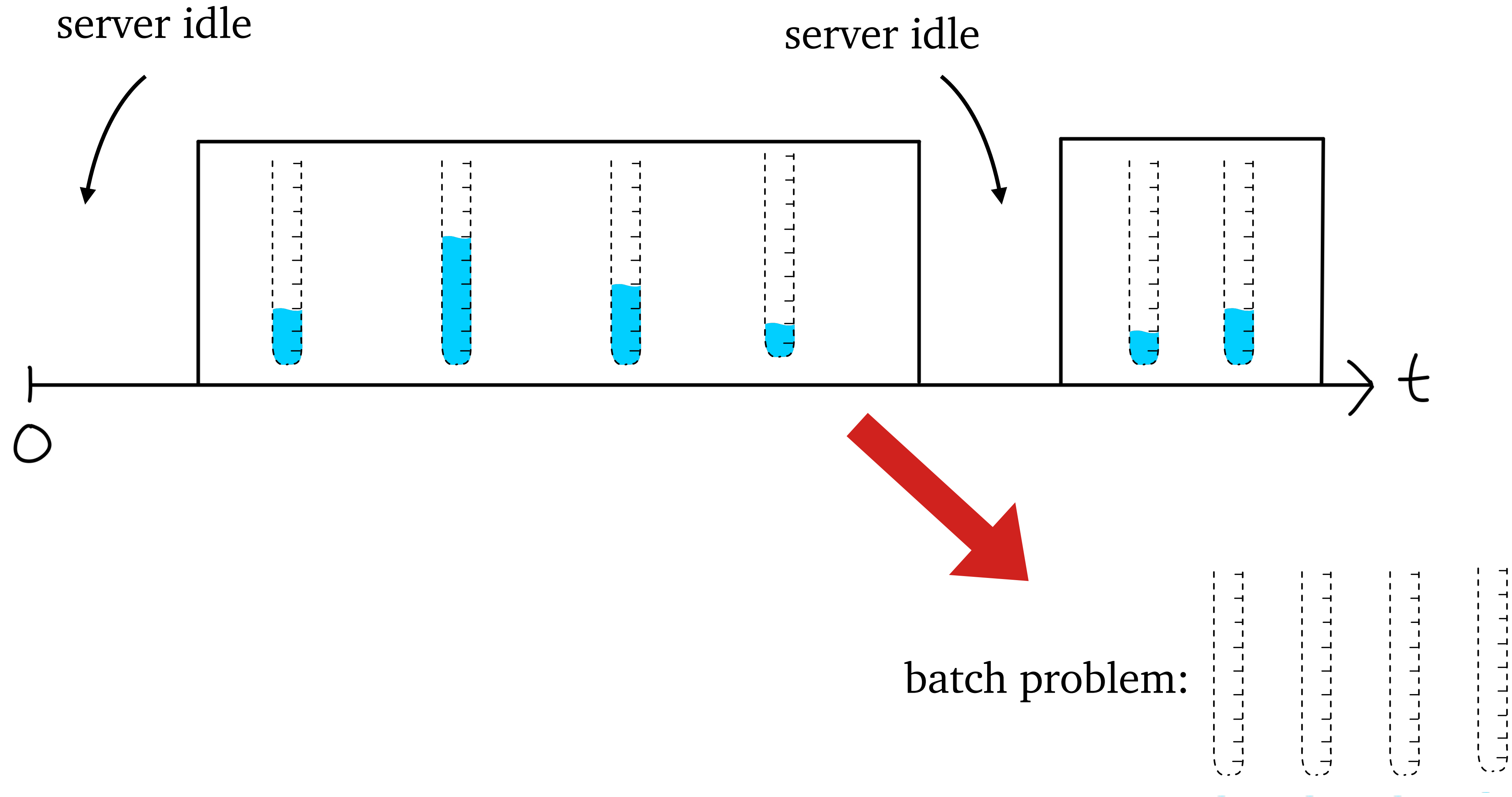


GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

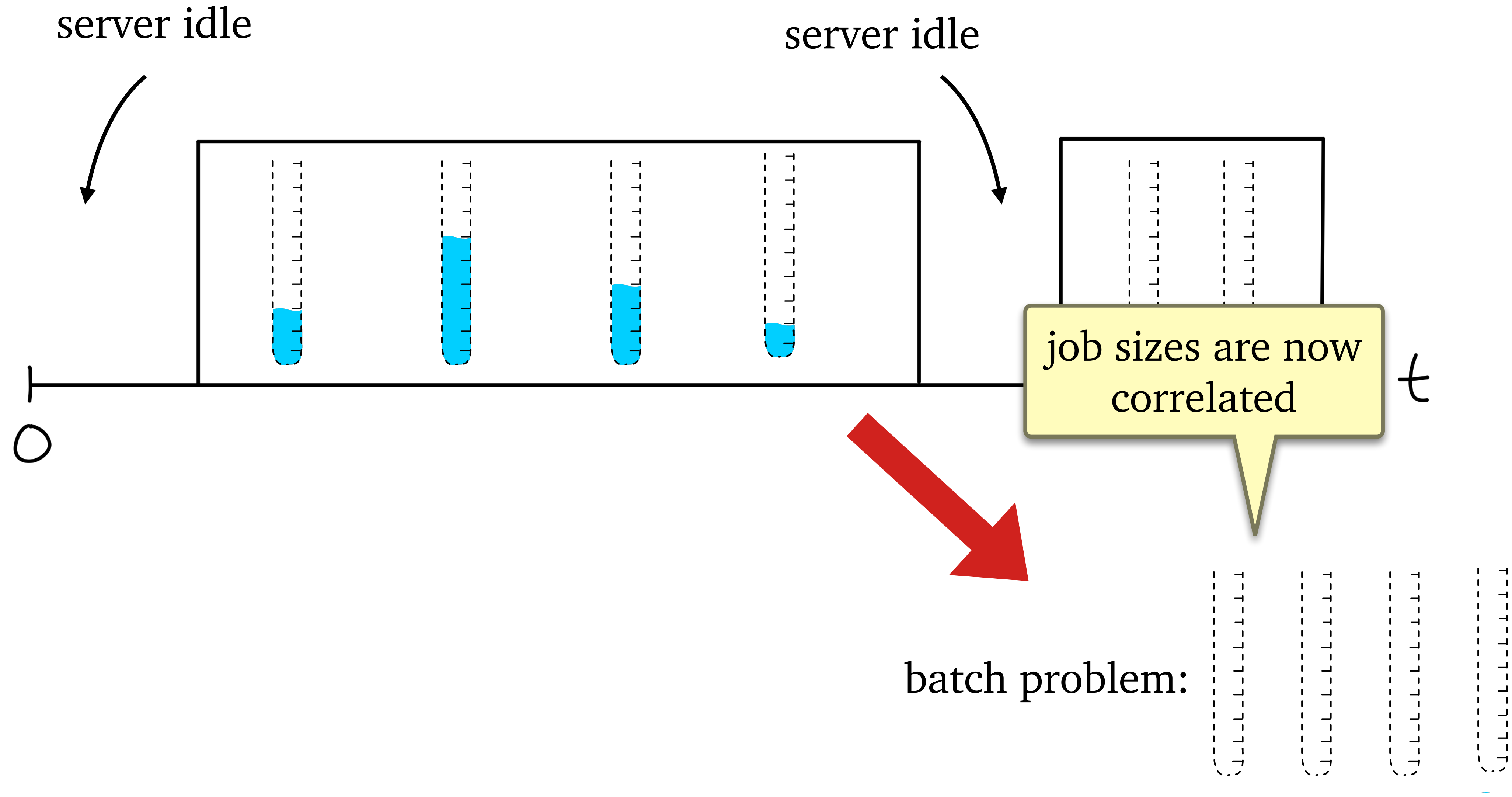
GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



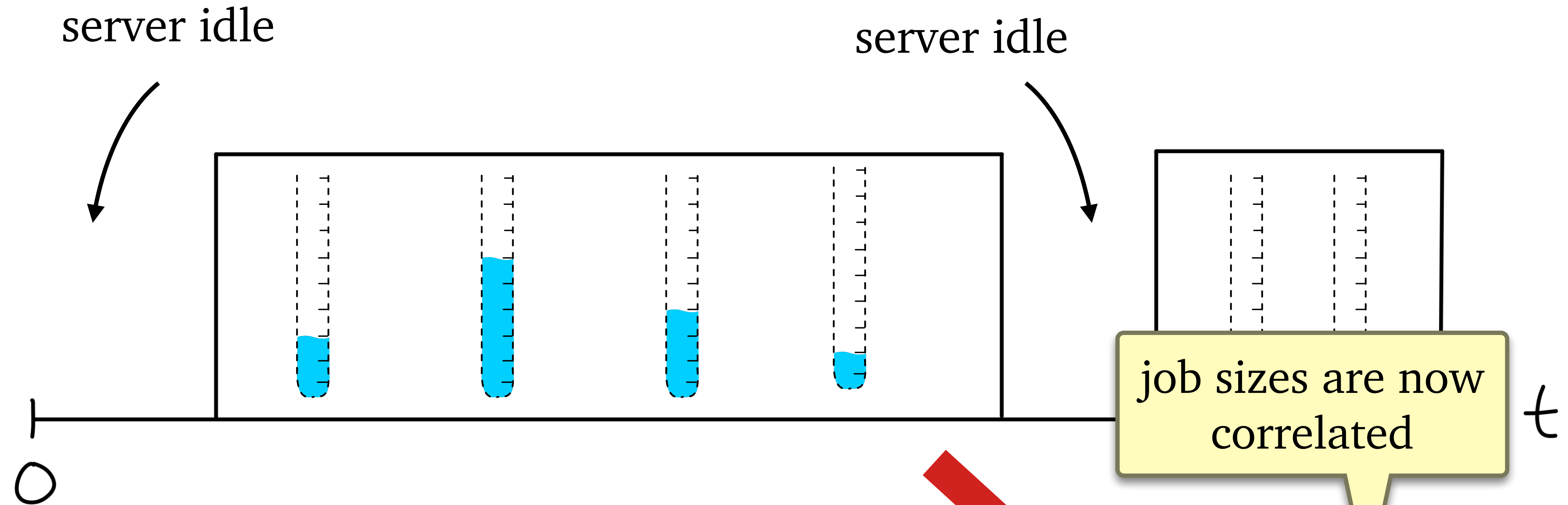
GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



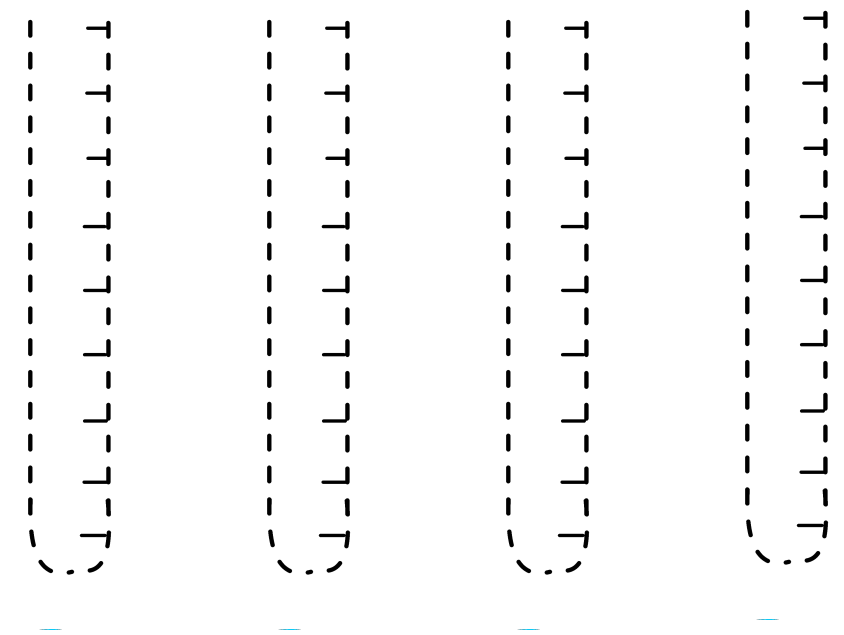
GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



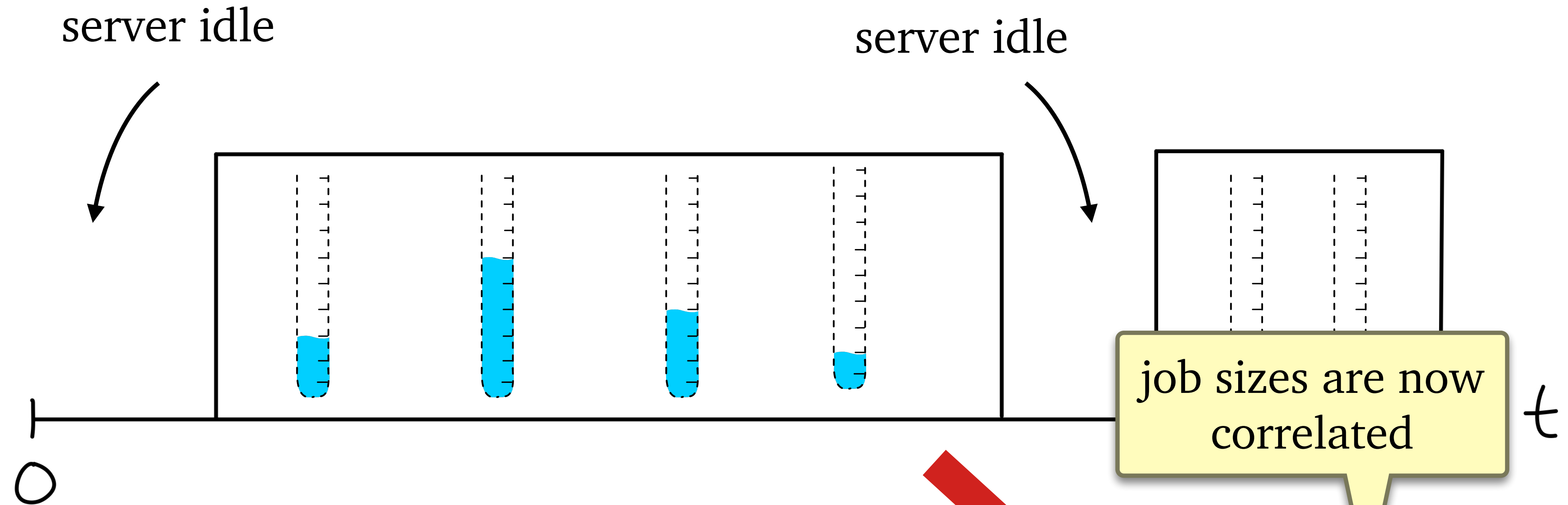
Example

$\lambda = \varepsilon \ll 1$ and $S = \text{Unif}\{1, \varepsilon\}$

batch problem:



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting

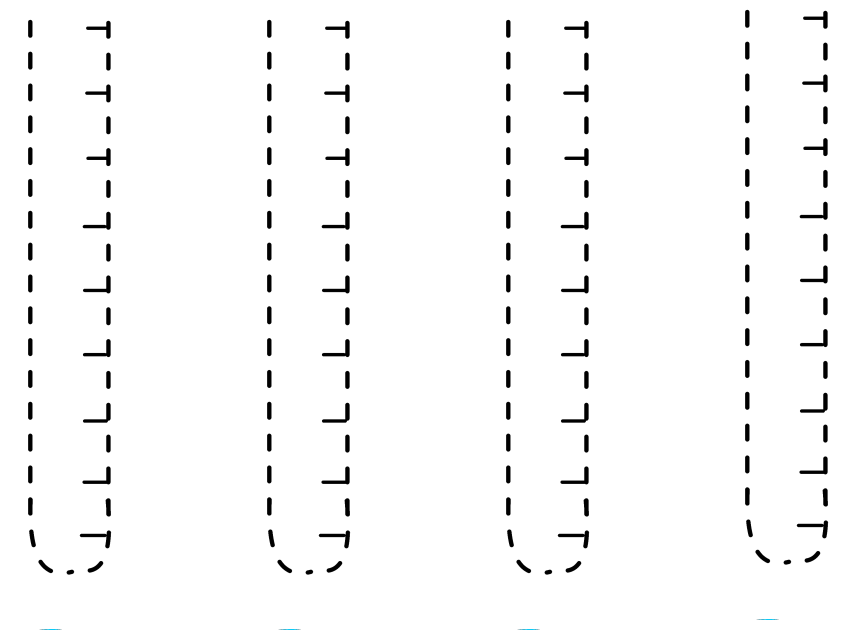


Example

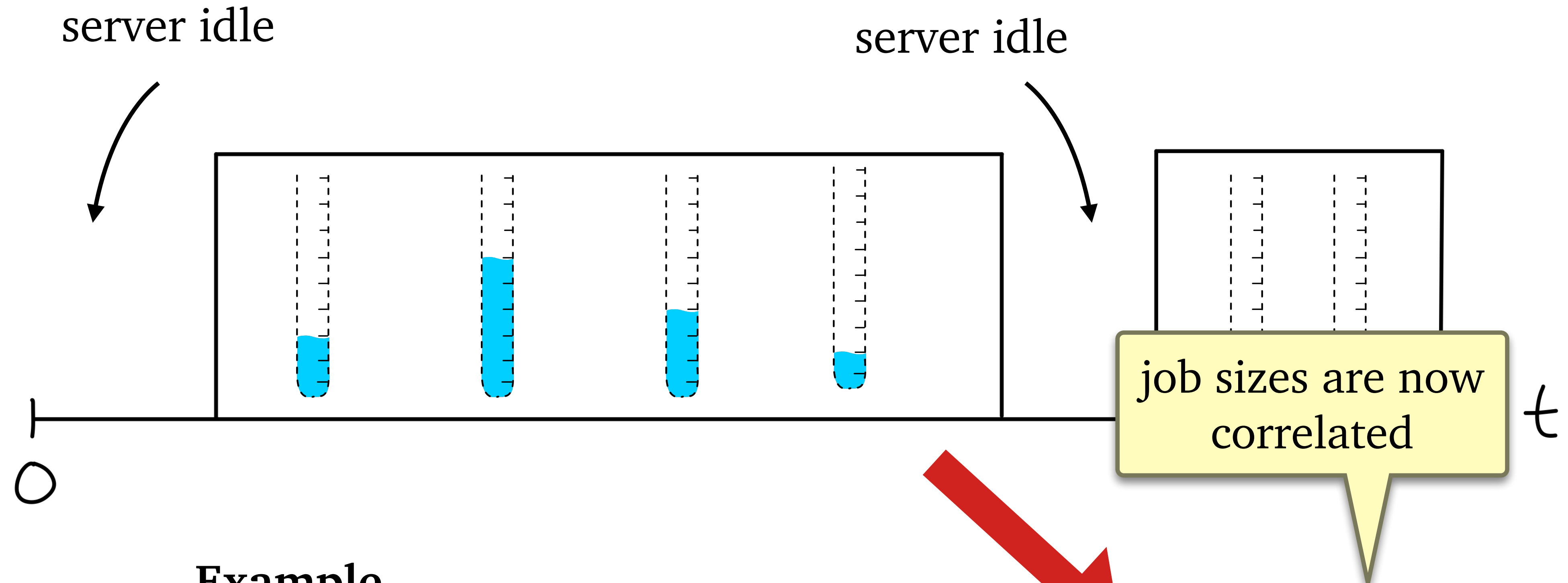
$\lambda = \varepsilon \ll 1$ and $S = \text{Unif}\{1, \varepsilon\}$

3 jobs: $A_1 = 0$, $A_2 = \varepsilon^2$, $A_3 = 1$

batch problem:



GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



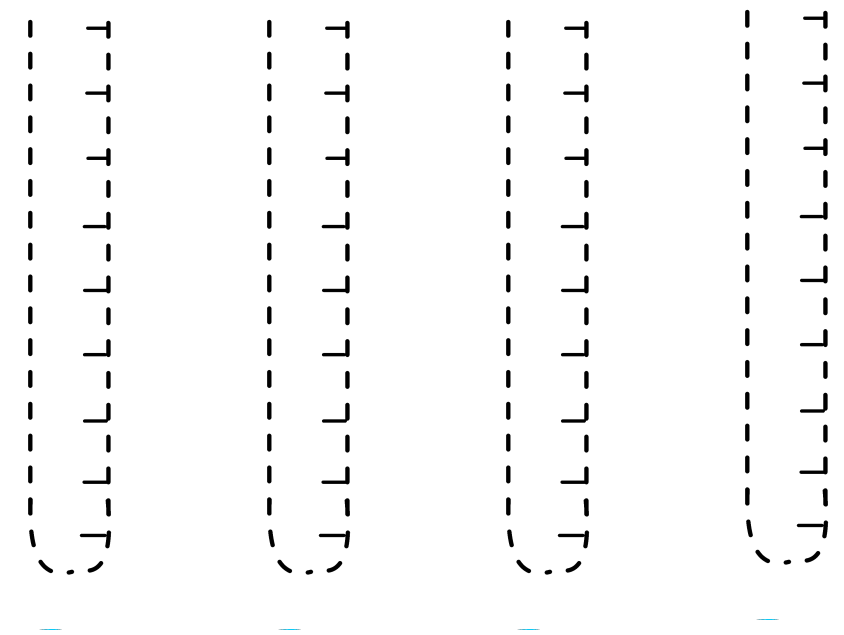
Example

$\lambda = \varepsilon \ll 1$ and $S = \text{Unif}\{1, \varepsilon\}$

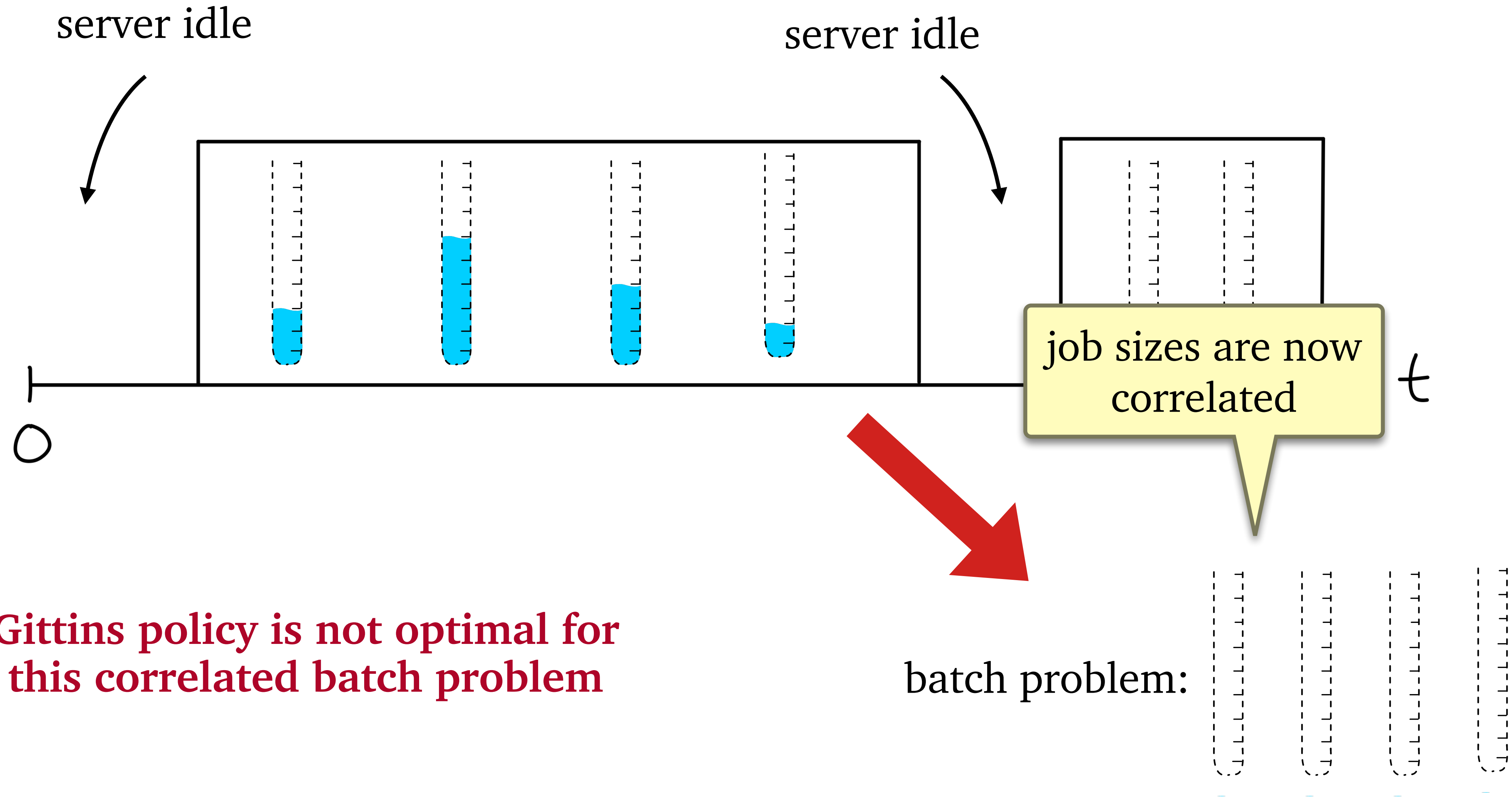
3 jobs: $A_1 = 0$, $A_2 = \varepsilon^2$, $A_3 = 1$

If $S_1 = \varepsilon$ then $S_2 = 1$

batch problem:

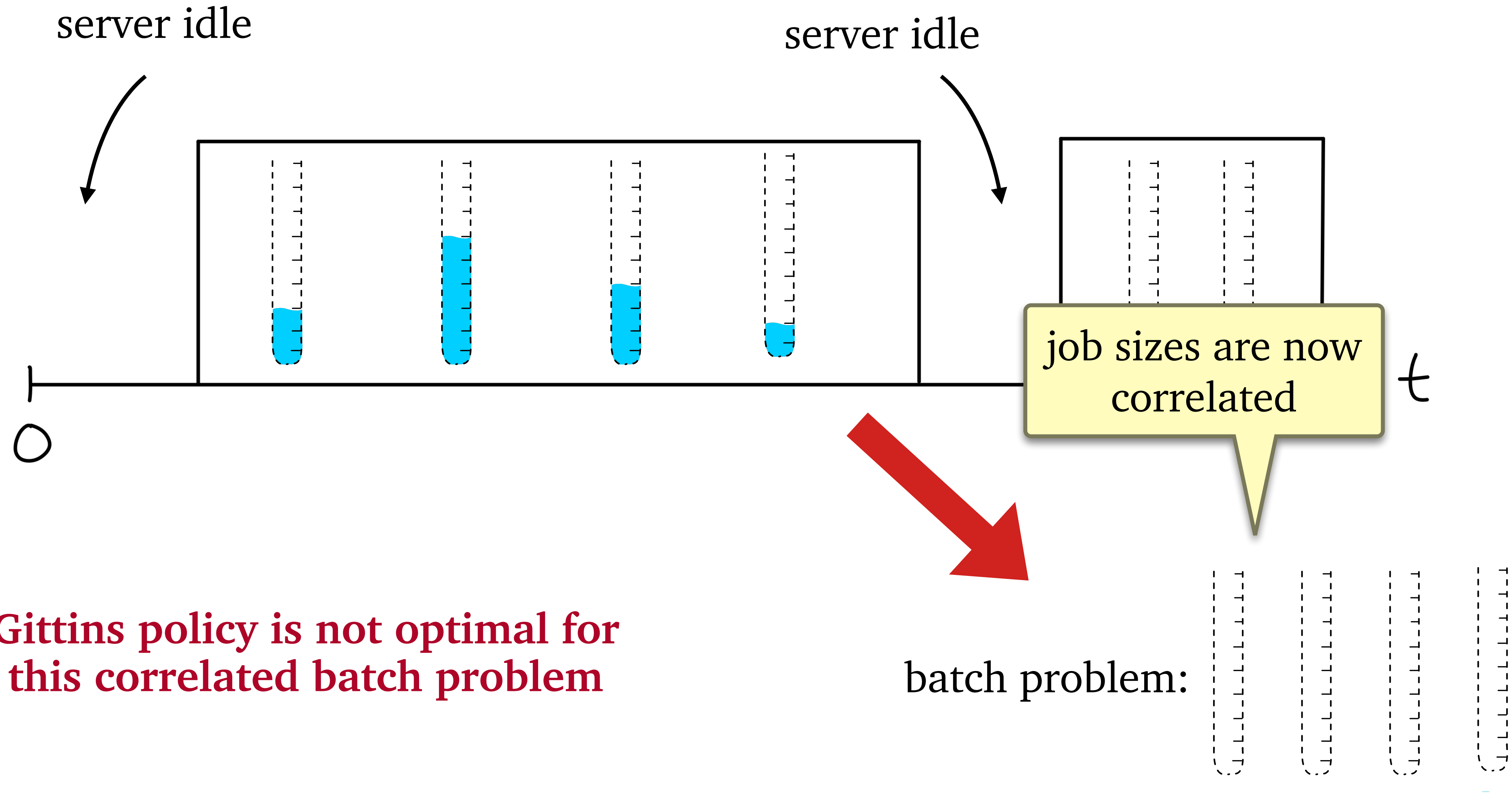


GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



Gittins policy is not optimal for this correlated batch problem

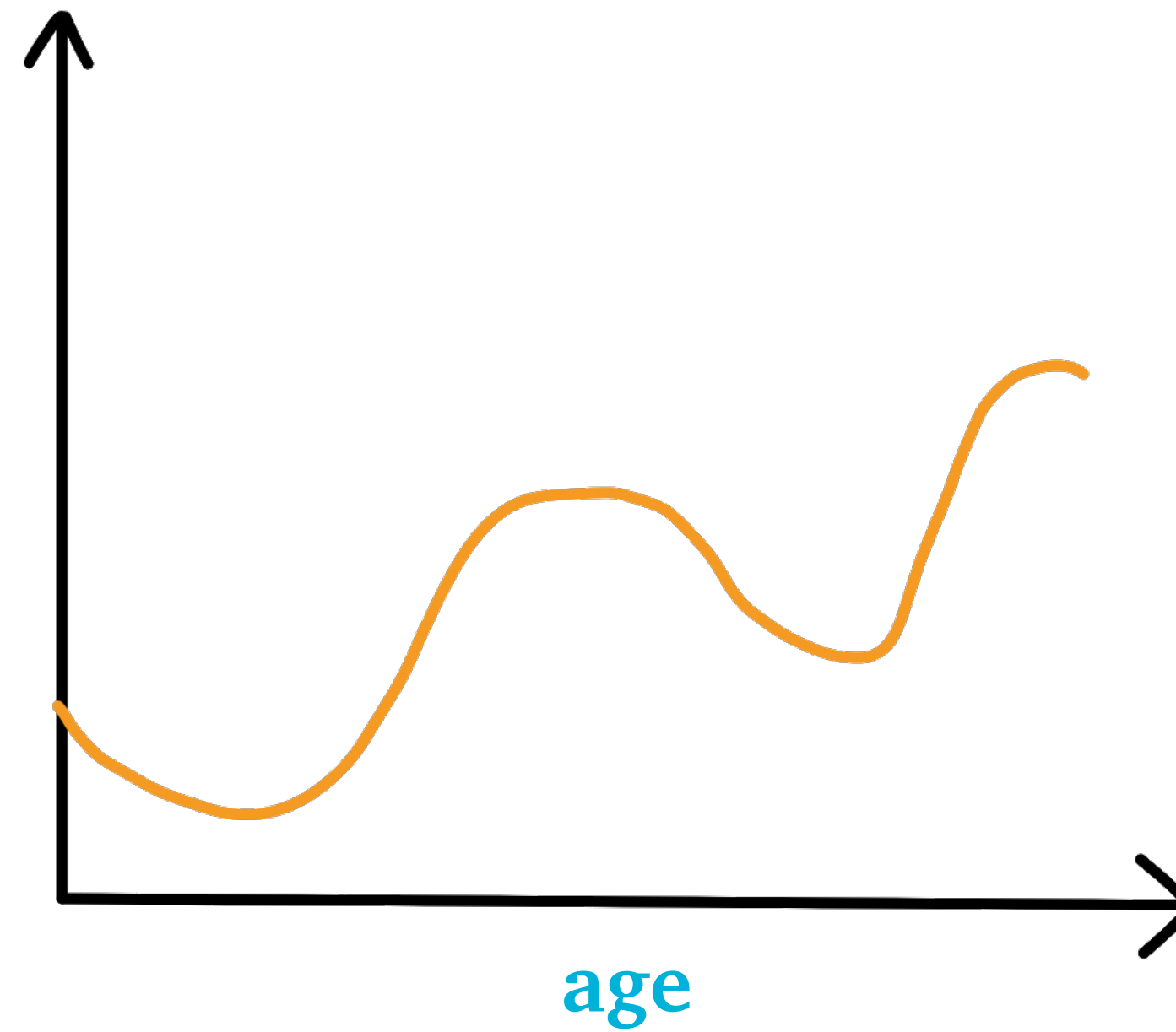
GittinsBoost optimality in the queue setting



main technical challenge: showing optimality in queue setting

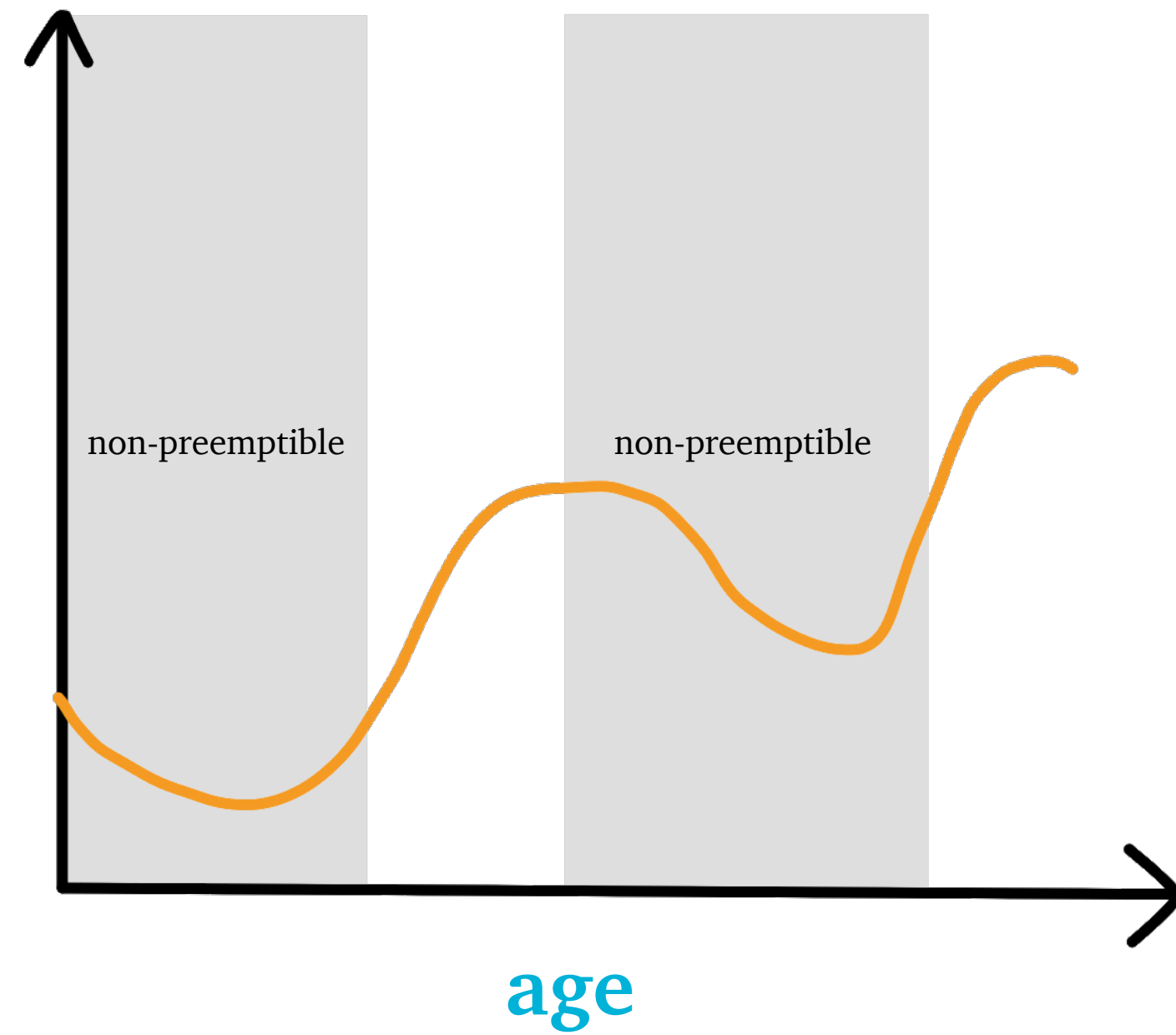
What was our approach?

Boosted Arrival
Time

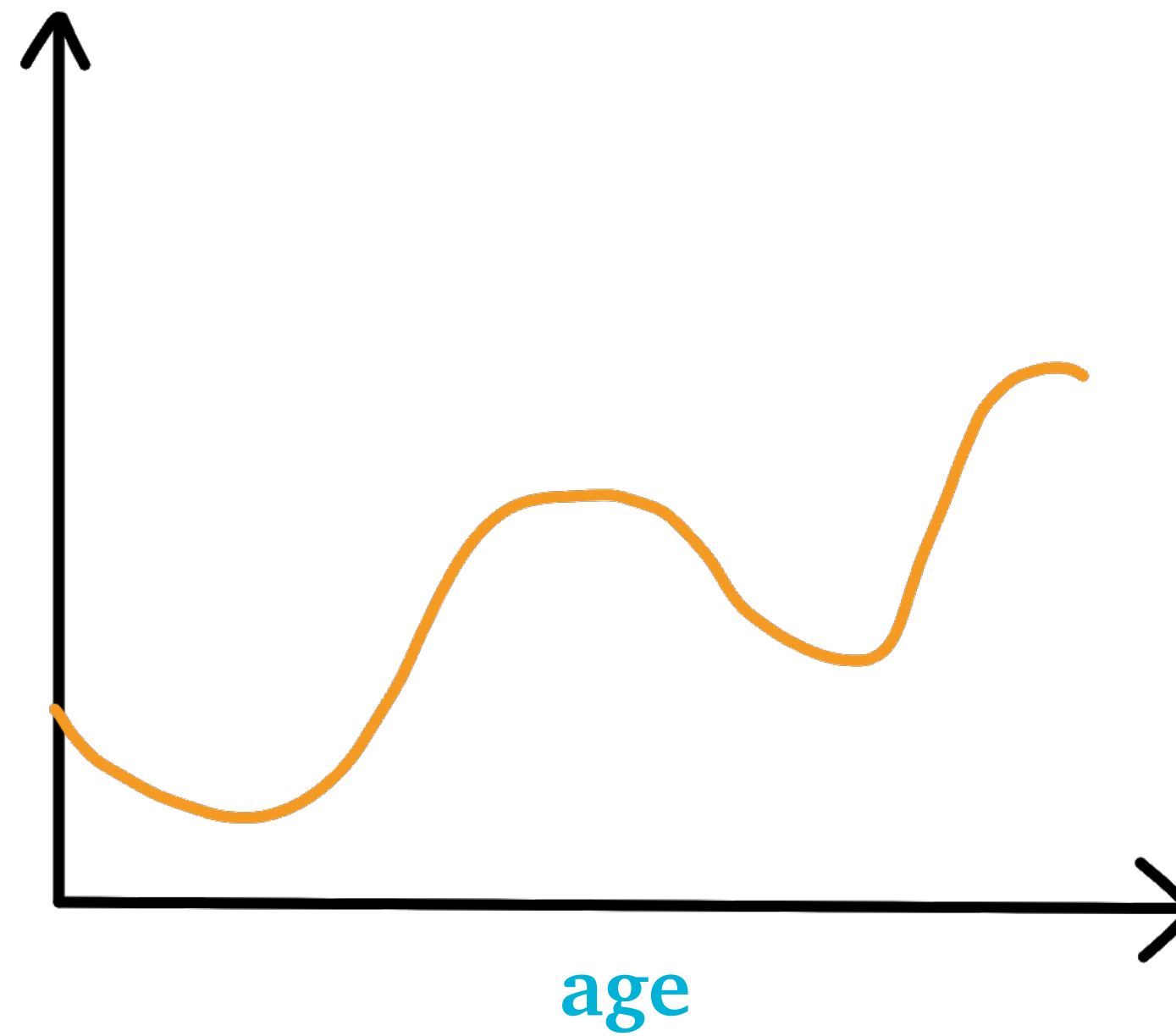


What was our approach?

Boosted Arrival
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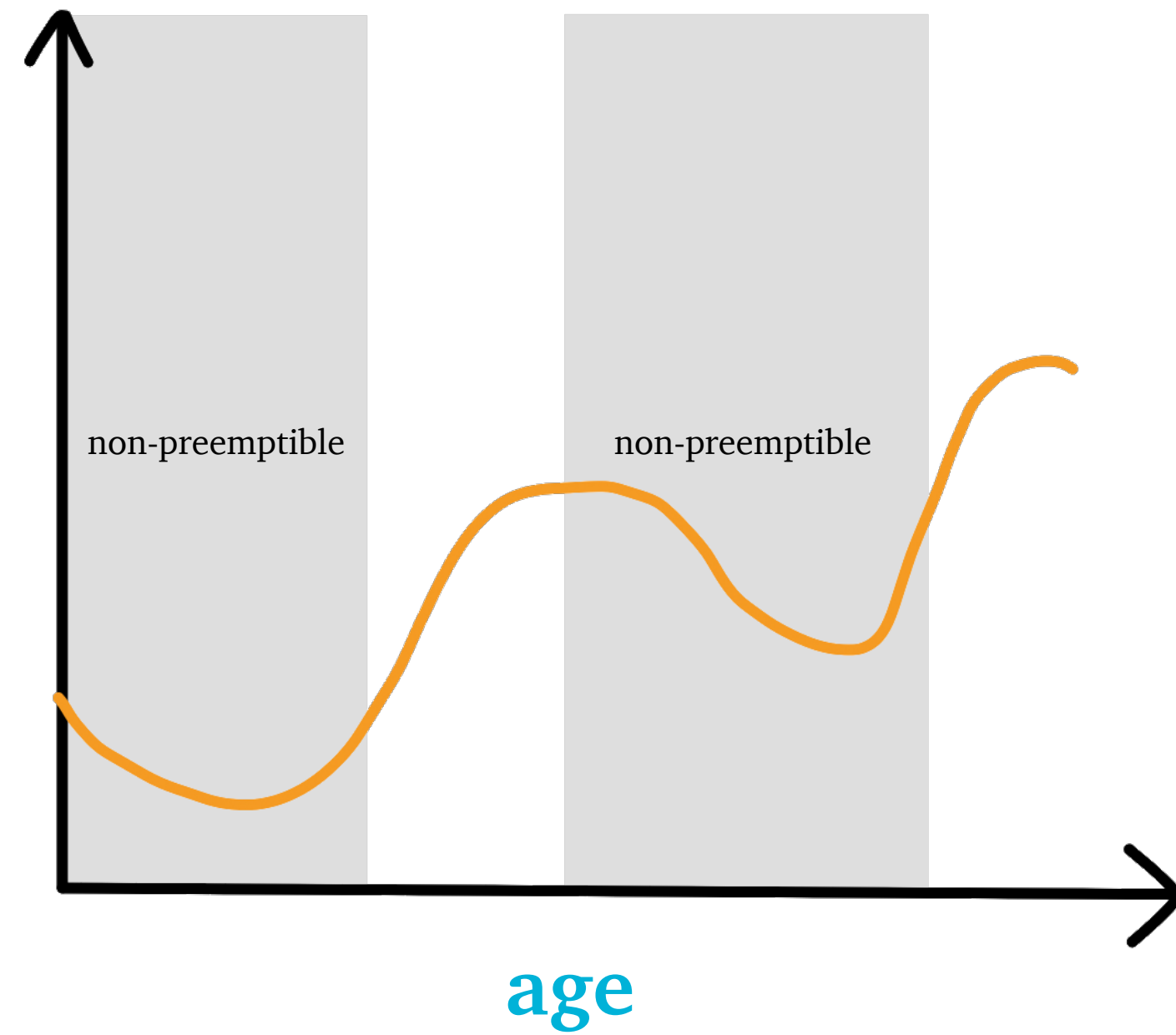


Boosted Arrival
Time

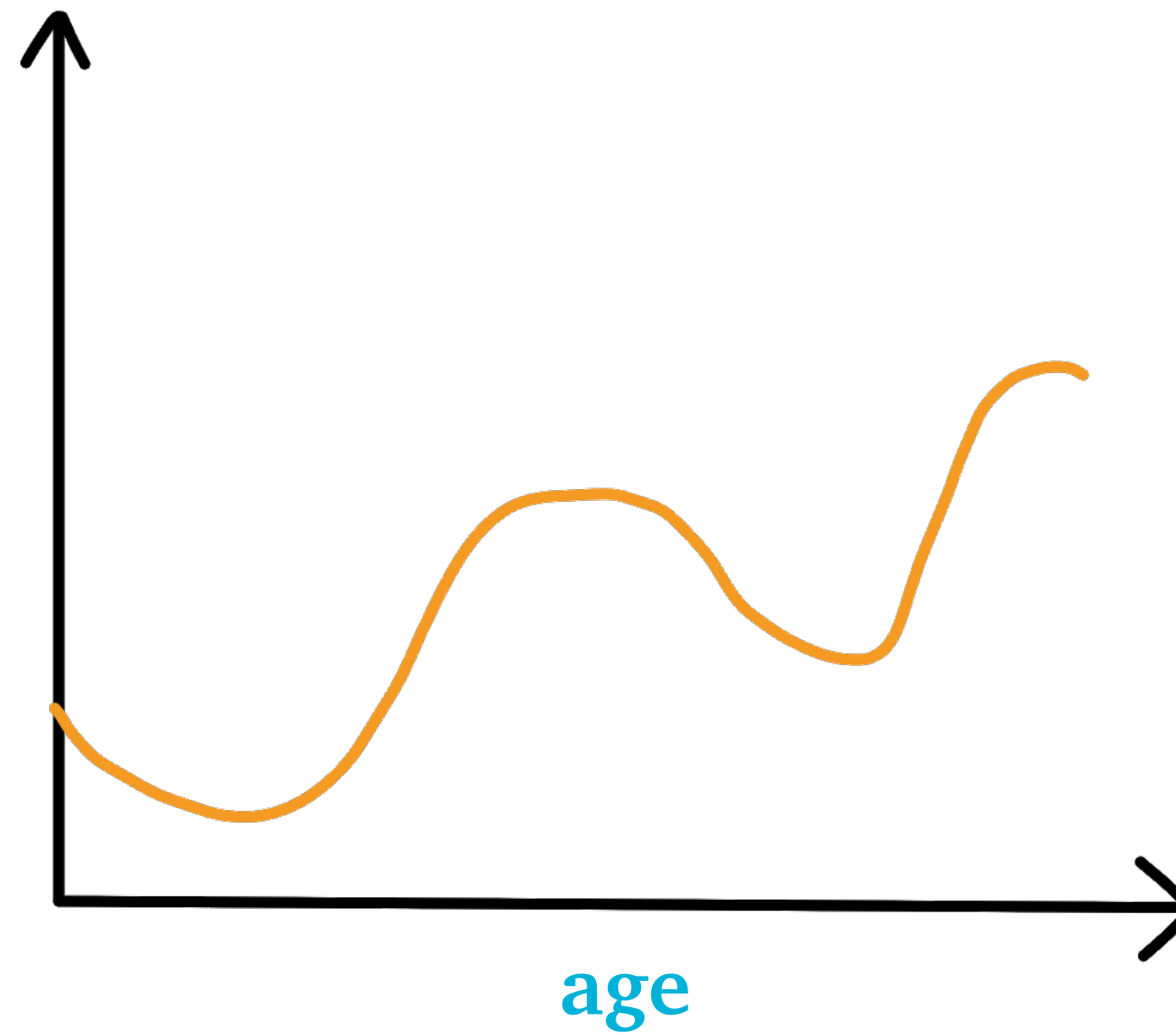


What was our approach?

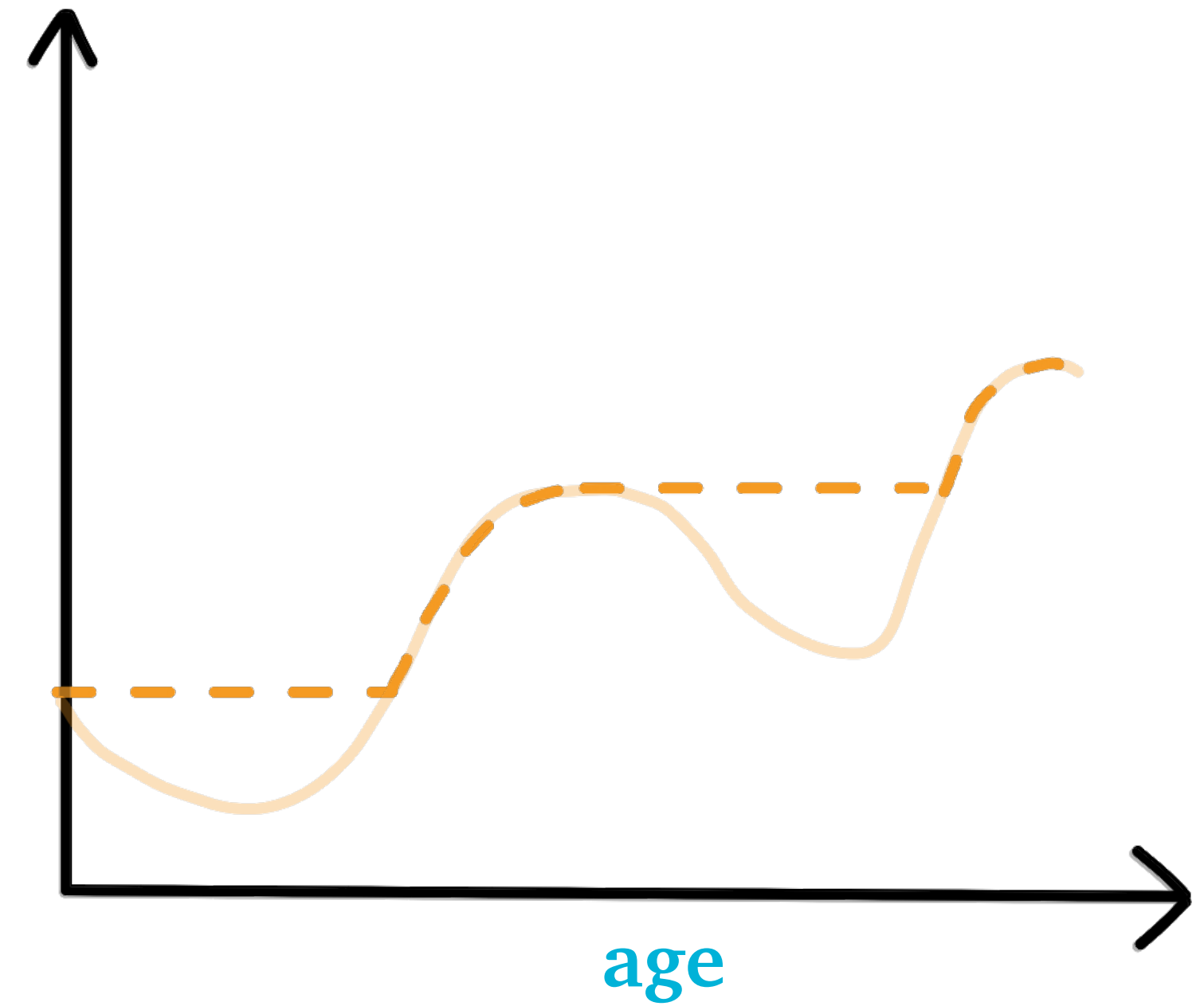
Boosted Arrival
Time



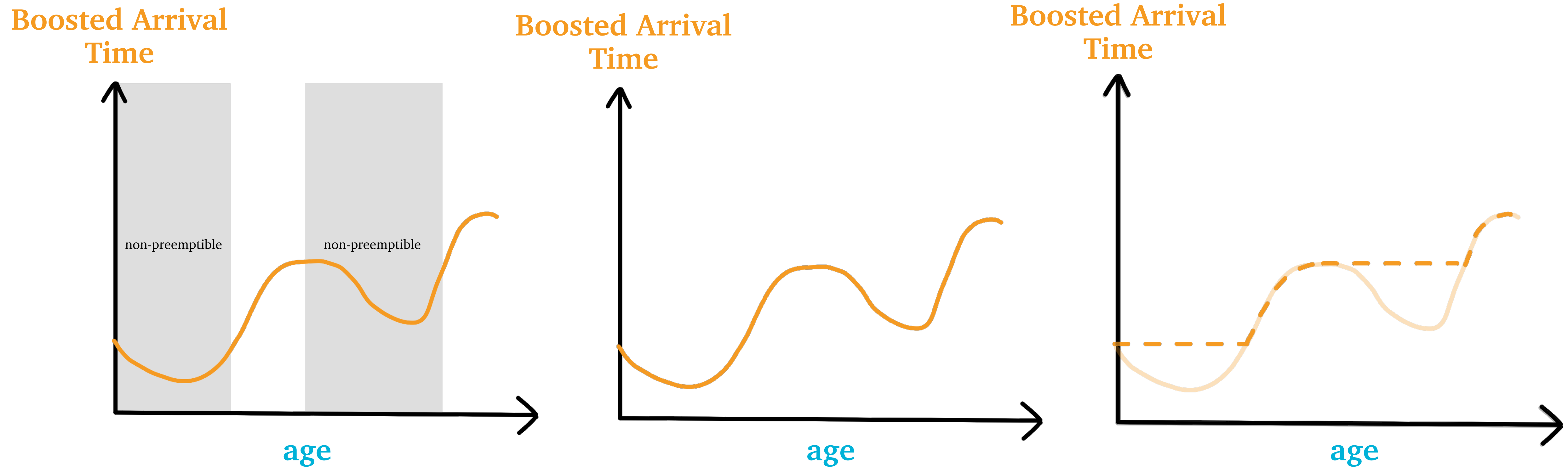
Boosted Arrival
Time



Boosted Arrival
Time

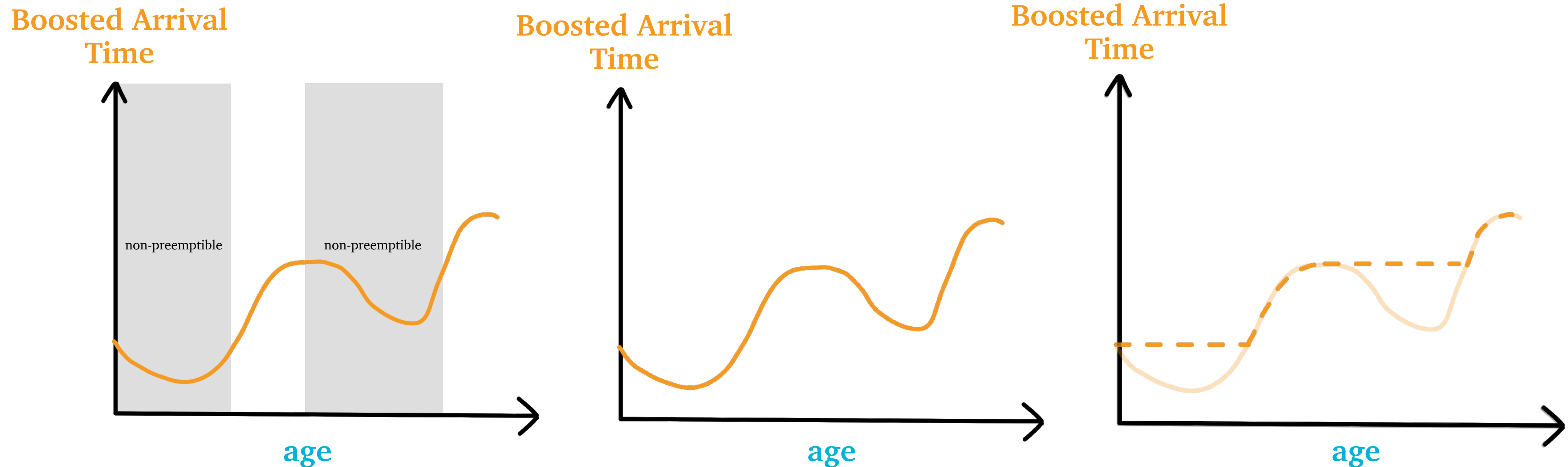


What was our approach?



Batch Setting Optimality: all three policies are the same

What was our approach?



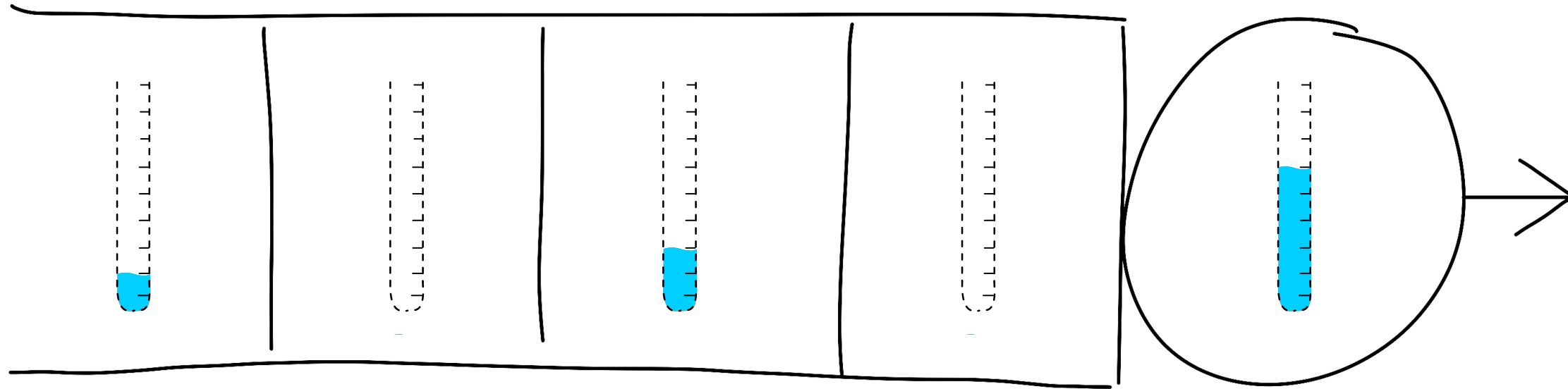
Batch Setting Optimality: all three policies are the same

Queue Setting Optimality: all three policies have the same asymptotic tail behavior

Summary

Summary

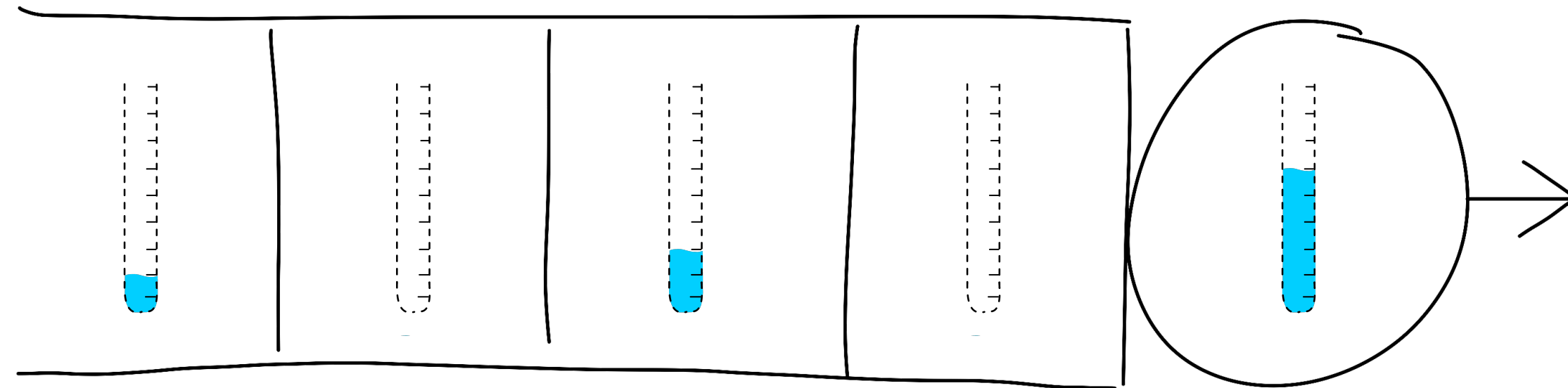
Problem



Schedule for $\mathbf{P}[T > t]$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

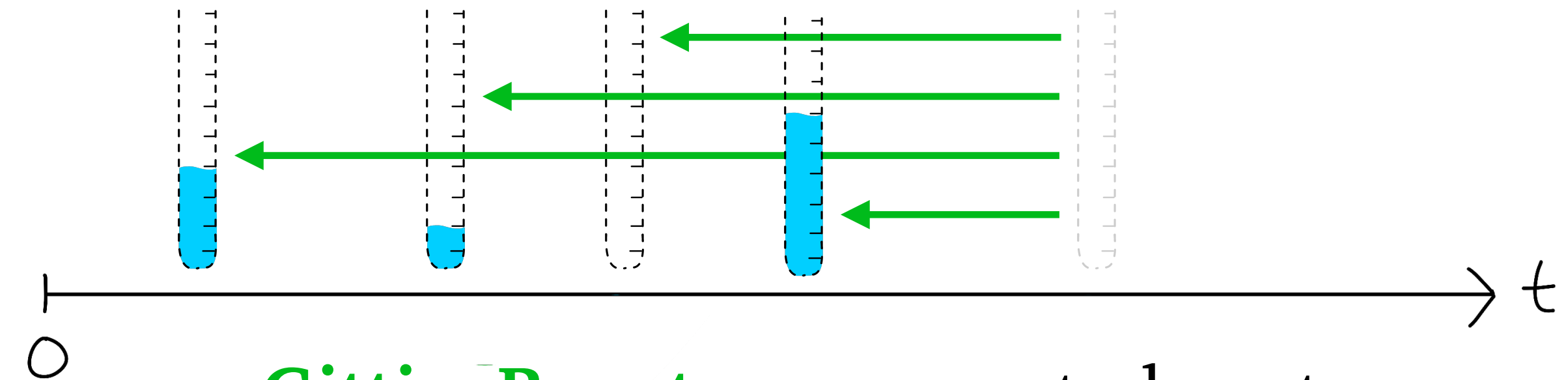
Summary

Problem



Schedule for $\mathbf{P}[T > t]$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

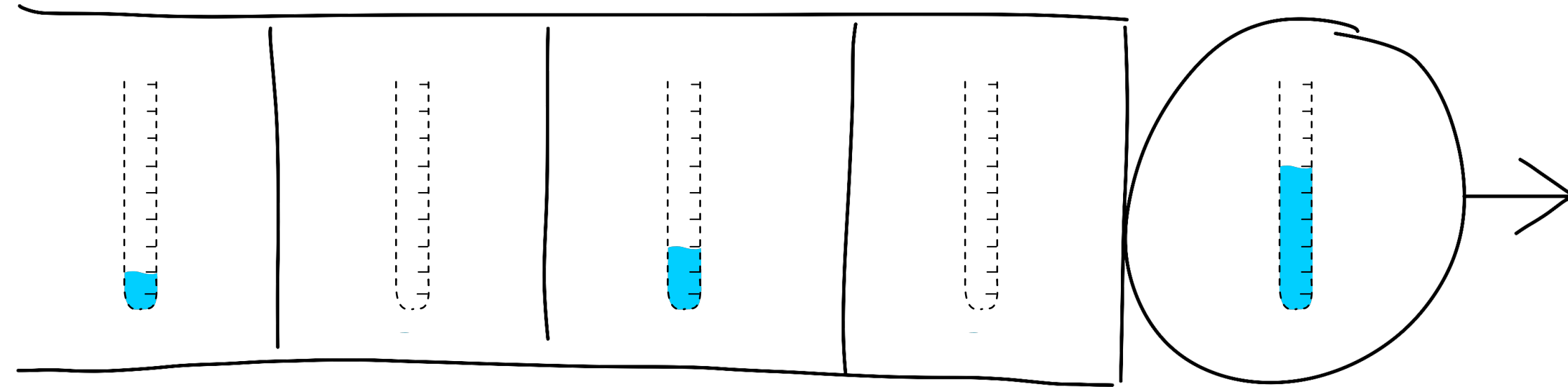
Contribution



GittinsBoost: map **age** to boost

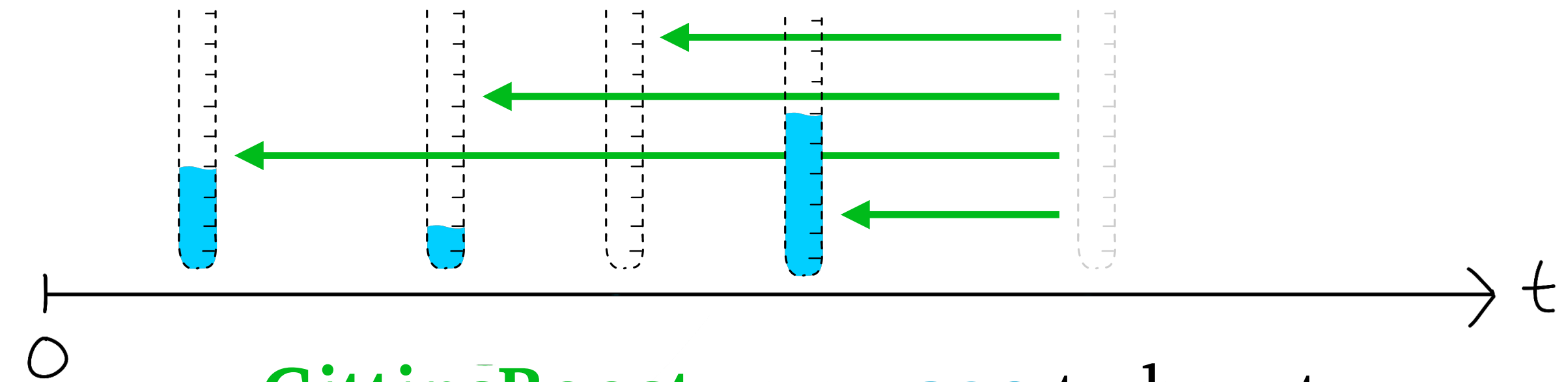
Summary

Problem



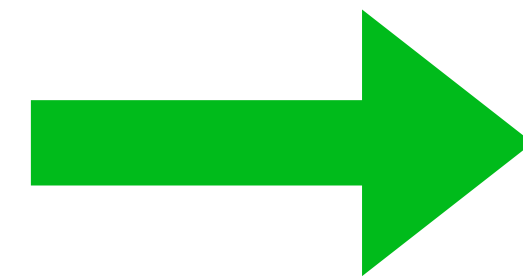
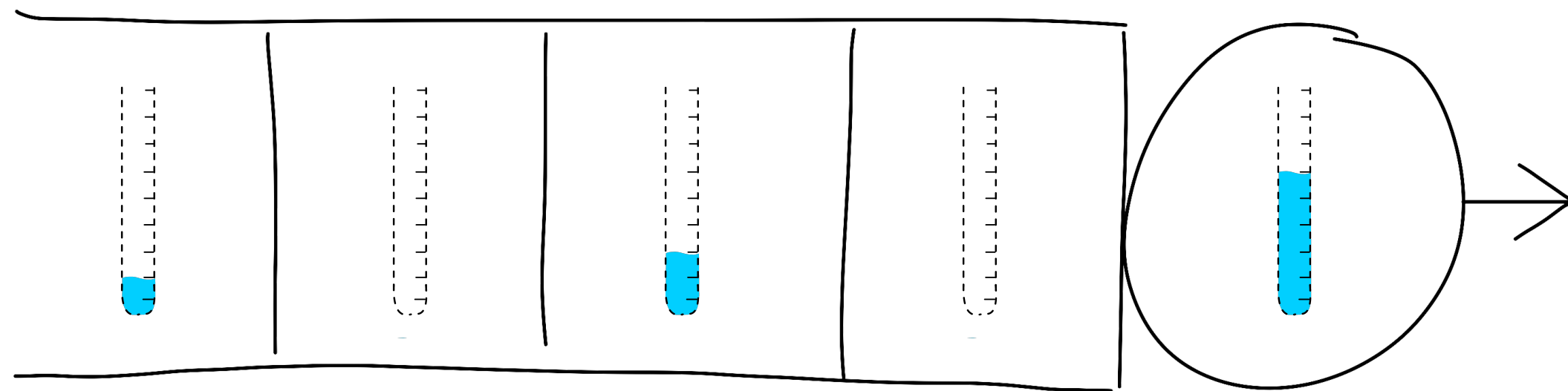
Schedule for $\mathbf{P}[T > t]$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

Contribution

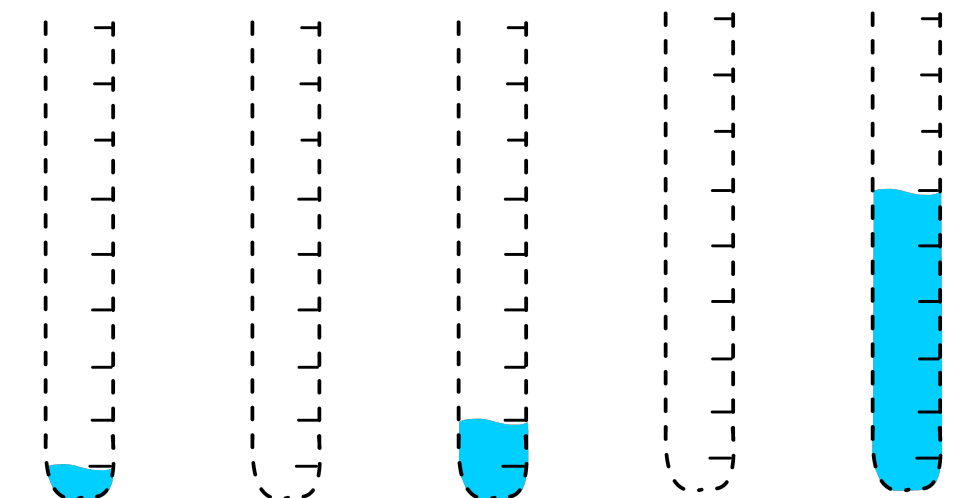


GittinsBoost: map **age** to boost

Main Ideas

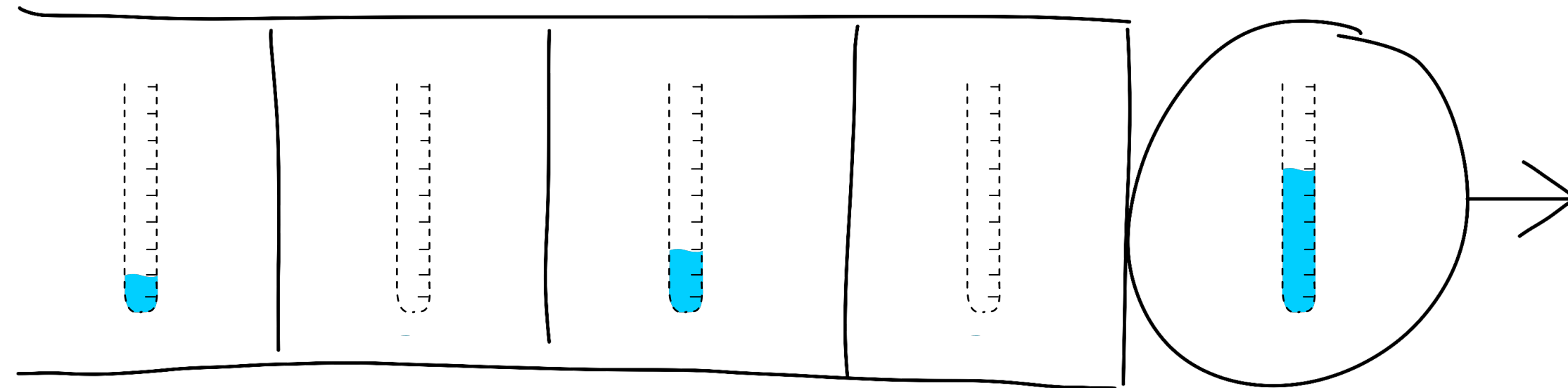


batch problem:



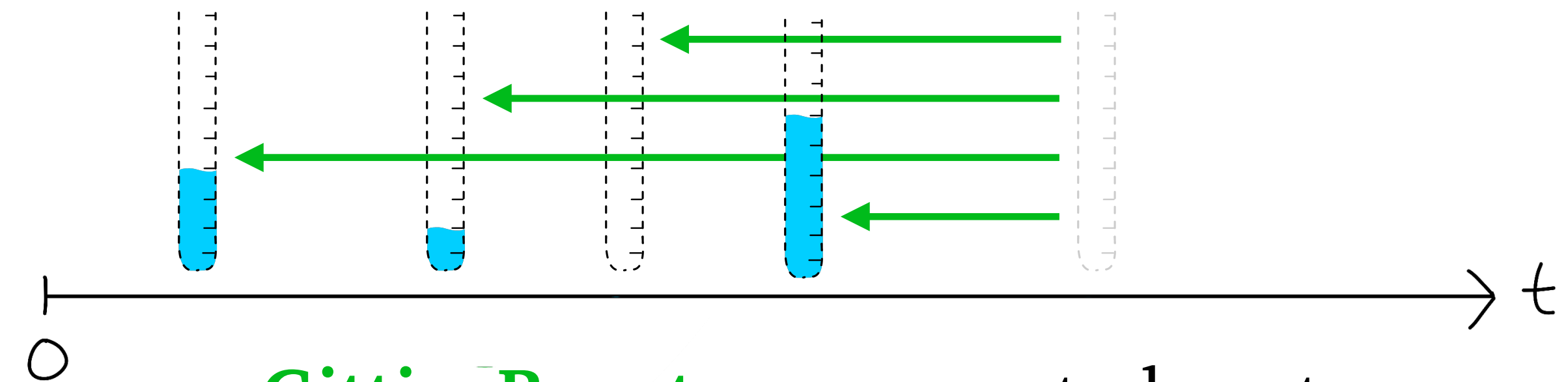
Summary

Problem



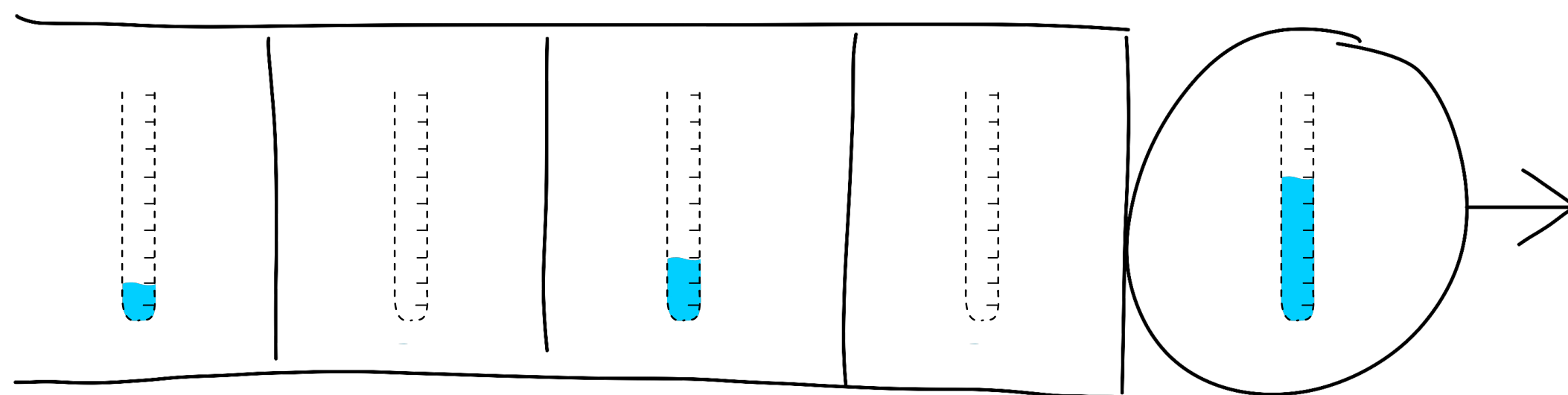
Schedule for $\mathbf{P}[T > t]$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

Contribution

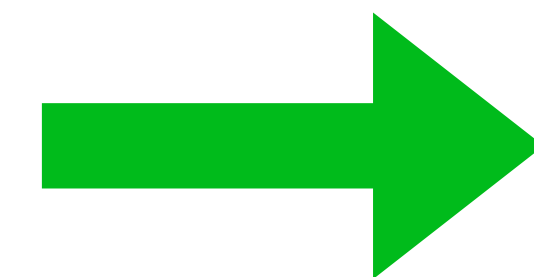


GittinsBoost: map **age** to boost

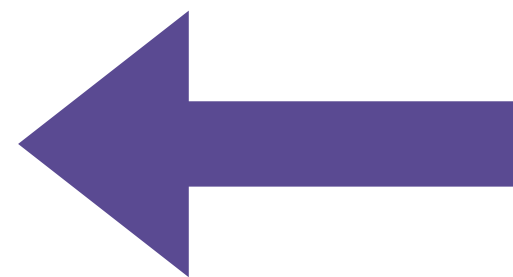
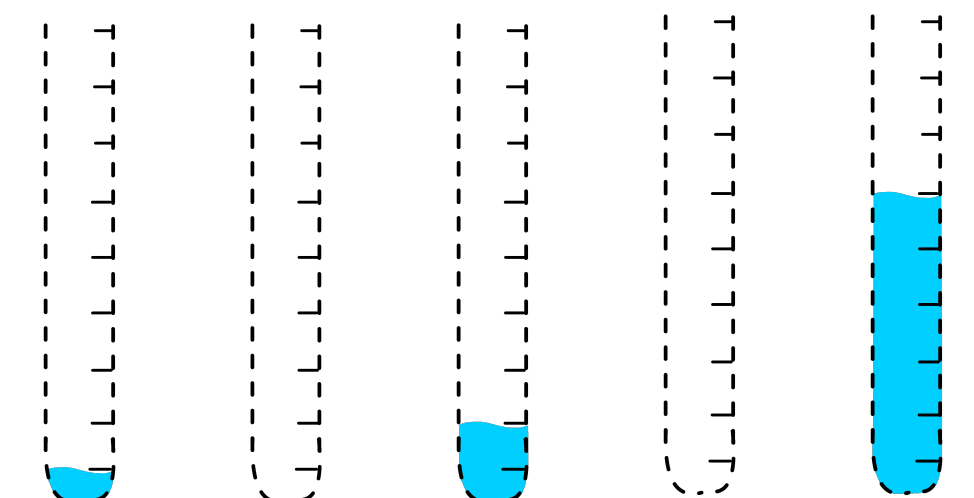
Main Ideas



queue optimality



batch problem:



batch optimality

main technical challenge