ThoughtWorks®

The Curious Clojureist

What I see

```
(define (sym-add augend addend carry)
  (if (not (and (nil? augend) (nil? addend)))
      (let ((ag (car-or-zero augend))
            (ad (car-or-zero addend)))
        (cond ((= 1 ag ad) (recurse carry augend addend 1))
              ((any-nonzero ag ad)
               (recurse (opposite carry) augend addend carry))
              (#t (recurse carry augend addend 0))))
      (if (= 1 carry) (cons carry '()) '())))
```

What the non-Lisper sees

NEAL FORD director / software architect
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NF

Q. what is this talk about?

A. clojure's 4 elevators:

1. java interop
2. lisp
3. functional
4. state & concurrency

the ecosystem

the coolness

Q. what is clojure?

A. Clojure is a **dynamic, strongly typed, functional, high-performance** implementation of a **lisp** on the JVM.

Q. isn't lisp the one with all the ()'s?

A.

yes

Q. why all the ()'s?

A. Lisp is a *homoiconic* language.

Lisp programs consist of
lisp data structures.

all kinds of useful!

ecosystem


Clojure - home
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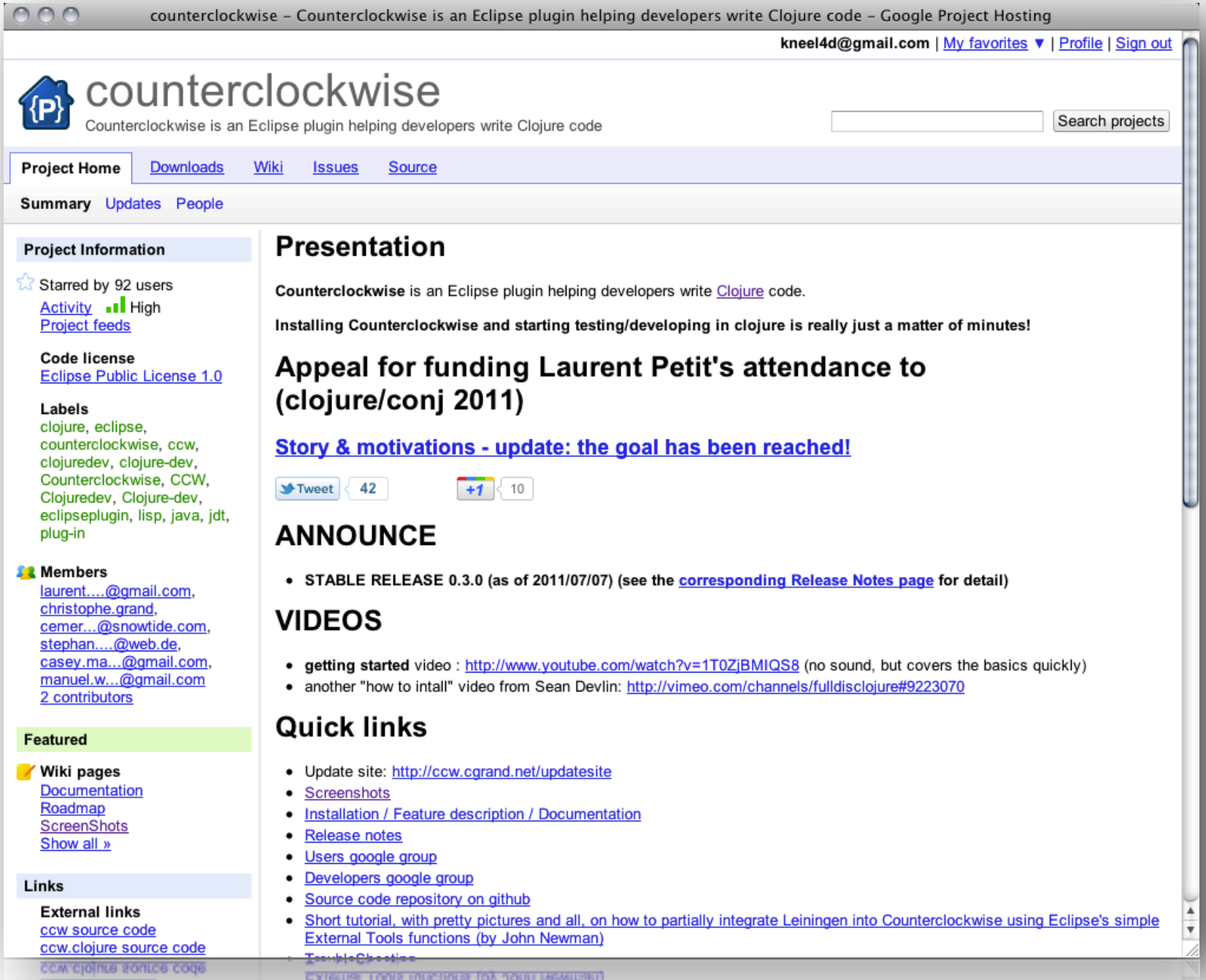
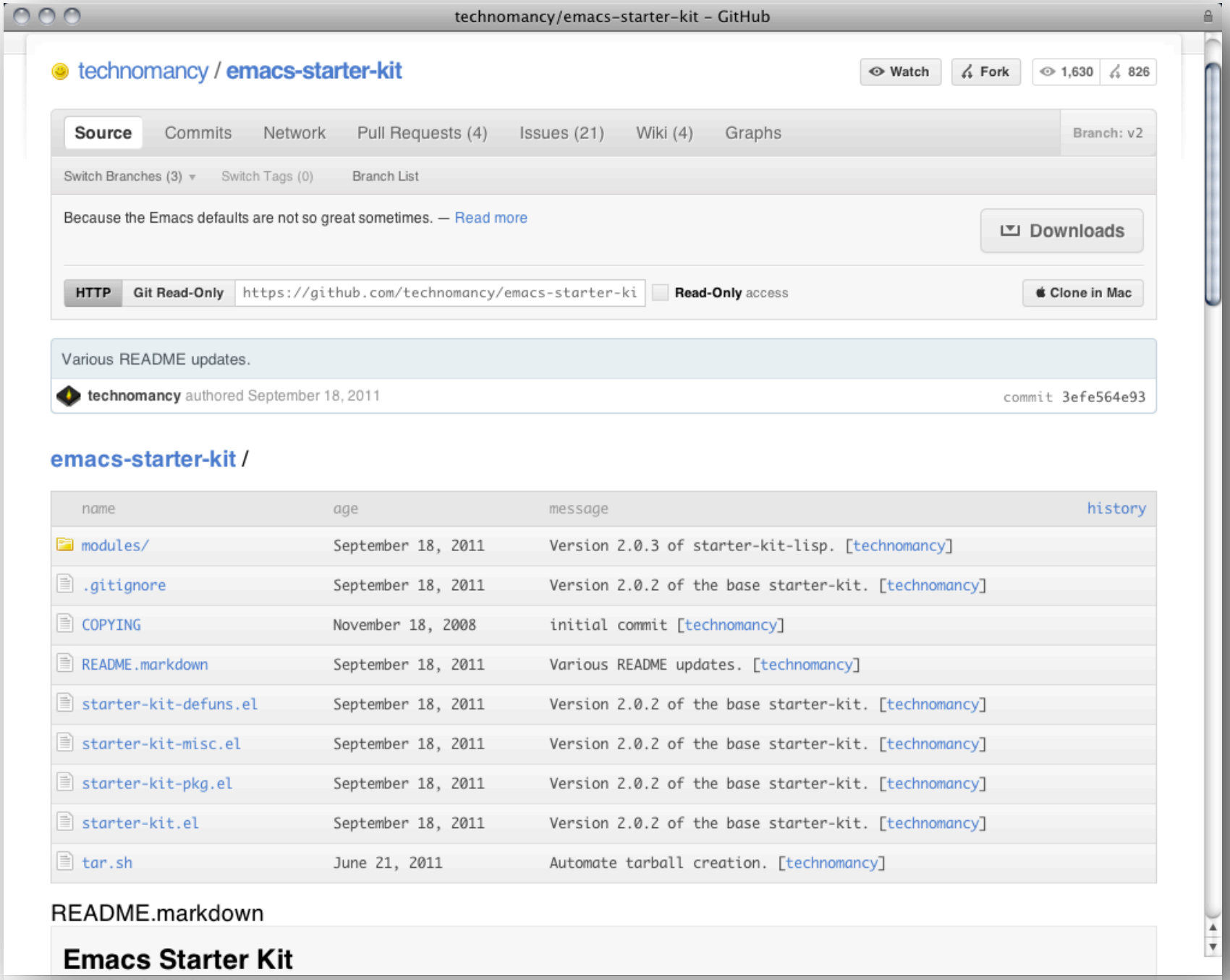
On State and Identity
Features
Dynamic Development
Functional Programming
Lisp
Runtime Polymorphism
Concurrent Programming
Hosted on the JVM
Reference
Getting Started
The Reader
The REPL and main
Evaluation
Special Forms
Macros
Other Functions
Data Structures
Datatypes
Sequences
Transients
Multimethods and
Hierarchies
Protocols
Metadata
Namespaces
Libs
Vars and Environment
Refs and Transactions
Agents
Atoms
Java Interop
Clojure is a dynamic programming language that targets the Java Virtual Machine (and the CLR, and JavaScript). It is designed to be a general-purpose language, combining the approachability and interactive development of a scripting language with an efficient and robust infrastructure for multithreaded programming. Clojure is a compiled language - it compiles directly to JVM bytecode, yet remains completely dynamic. Every feature supported by Clojure is supported at runtime. Clojure provides easy access to the Java frameworks, with optional type hints and type inference, to ensure that calls to Java can avoid reflection.
Clojure is a dialect of Lisp, and shares with Lisp the code-as-data philosophy and a powerful macro system. Clojure is predominantly a functional programming language, and features a rich set of immutable, persistent data structures. When mutable state is needed, Clojure offers a software transactional memory system and reactive Agent system that ensure clean, correct, multithreaded designs.
I hope you find Clojure's combination of facilities elegant, powerful, practical and fun to use.
The primary forum for discussing Clojure is the Google Group - please join us!
Rich Hickey
Latest News:
Clojure 1.3 is released
Clojure 1.3 RC0 is available
Clojure 1.3 beta 3 is available
Clojure 1.3 beta 2 is available
ClojureScript launched
Clojure 1.2.1 is released
New Clojure book: Clojure - Grundlagen, Concurrent Programming, Java (in German)

clojure.org/



code.google.com/p/counterclockwise/



github.com/technomancy/emacs-starter-kit

technomancy/leiningen - GitHub

Clojure | Google Groups | More sane emacs for clojure - C... | technomancy/swank-clojure - G... | technomancy/leiningen - GitHub

Leiningen

> "Leiningen!" he shouted. "You're insane! They're not creatures you can fight--they're an elemental--an 'act of God!' Ten miles long, two miles wide--ants, nothing but ants! And every single one of them a fiend from hell..." -- from Leiningen Versus the Ants by Carl Stephenson

Leiningen is for automating Clojure projects without setting your hair on fire.

Working on Clojure projects with tools designed for Java can be an exercise in frustration. With Leiningen, you just write Clojure.

Installation

Leiningen bootstraps itself using the `lein` shell script; there is no separate 'install script'. It installs its dependencies upon the first run on unix, so the first run will take longer.

1. Download the script.
2. Place it on your path and chmod it to be executable.

I like to place it in ~/bin, but it can go anywhere on the $PATH.

On Windows most users can

1. Download the Windows distribution leiningen-1.5.2-win.zip
2. Unzip in a folder of choice.
3. Include the "lein" directory in PATH.

If you have wget.exe or curl.exe already installed and in PATH, you can download either the stable version lein.bat, or the development version and use self-install.

Usage

The tutorial has a detailed walk-through of the steps involved in creating a new project, but here are the commonly-used tasks:

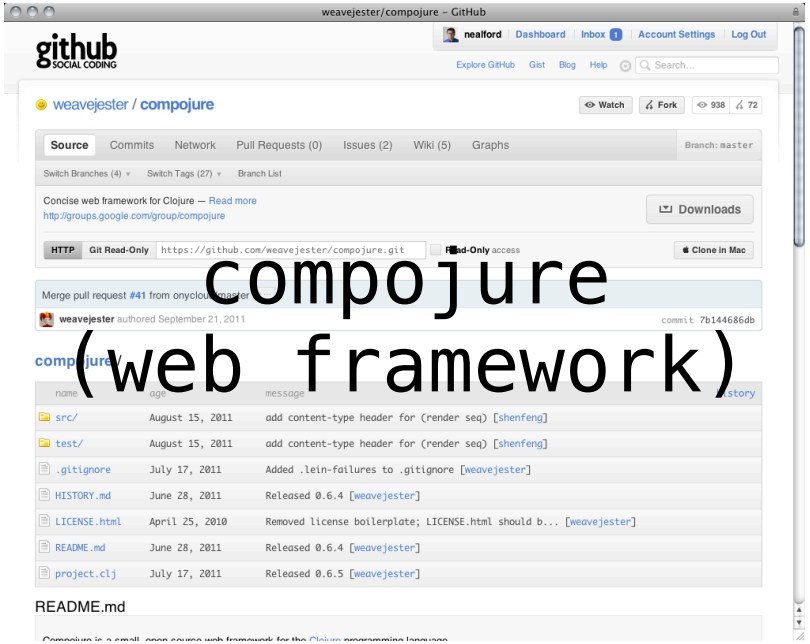
```
$ lein new NAME # generate a new project skeleton

$ lein test [TESTS] # run the tests in the TESTS namespaces, or all tests

$ lein repl # launch an interactive REPL session and socket server

$ lein jar # package up the whole project as a .jar file
```

github.com/technomancy/leiningen

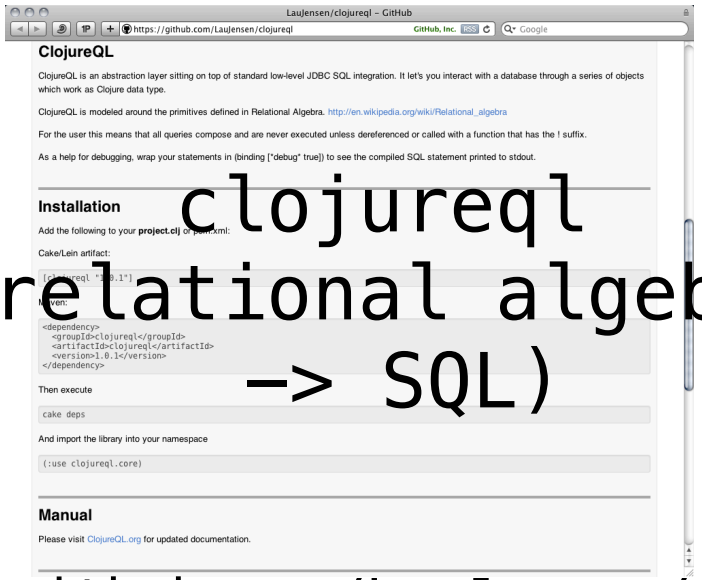


compojure
(web framework)

github.com/weavejester/
compojure

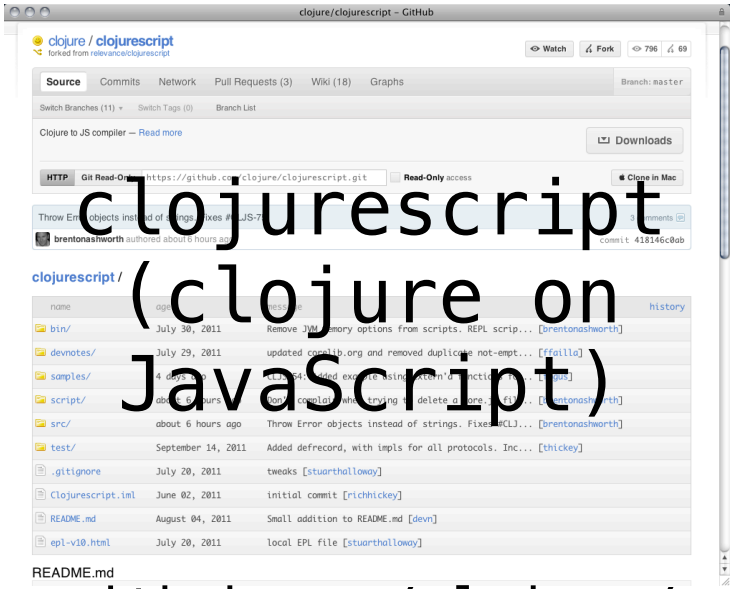
clj-record
(pseudo-port of
ActiveRecord)

github.com/duelinmarkers/
clj-record



clojureql
(relational algebra
-> SQL)

github.com/LauJensen/
clojureql



clojurescript
(clojure on
JavaScript)

github.com/clojure/
clojurescript

what does clojure code look like?

Q.

data types?

A.

type	example	java equivalent
string	`"foo"`	String
character	`\f`	Character
regex	`#"fo*"`	Pattern
a. p. integer	42	Int/Long/BigInteger
double	3.14159	Double
a.p. double	3.14159M	BigDecimal
boolean	true	Boolean
nil	nil	null
symbol	foo, +	N/A
keyword	:foo, ::foo	N/A

Q. data literals?

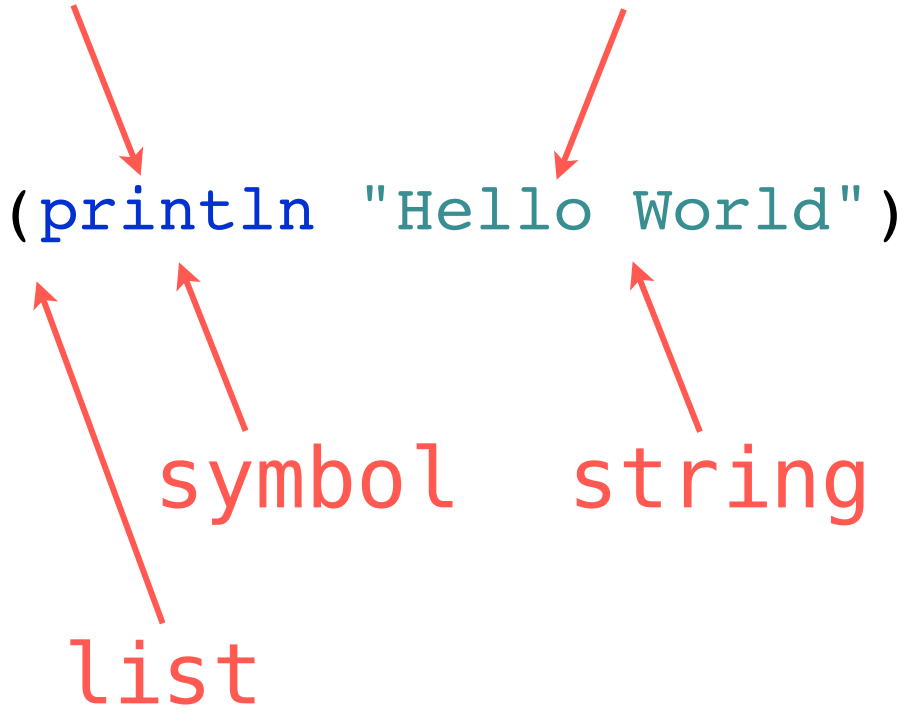
A.

type	properties	example
list	singly-linked, insert at front	`(1 2 3)`
vector	indexed, insert at rear	`[1 2 3]`
map	key/value	`{:a 100 :b 90}`
set	key	`#{:a :b}`

Q. function calls?

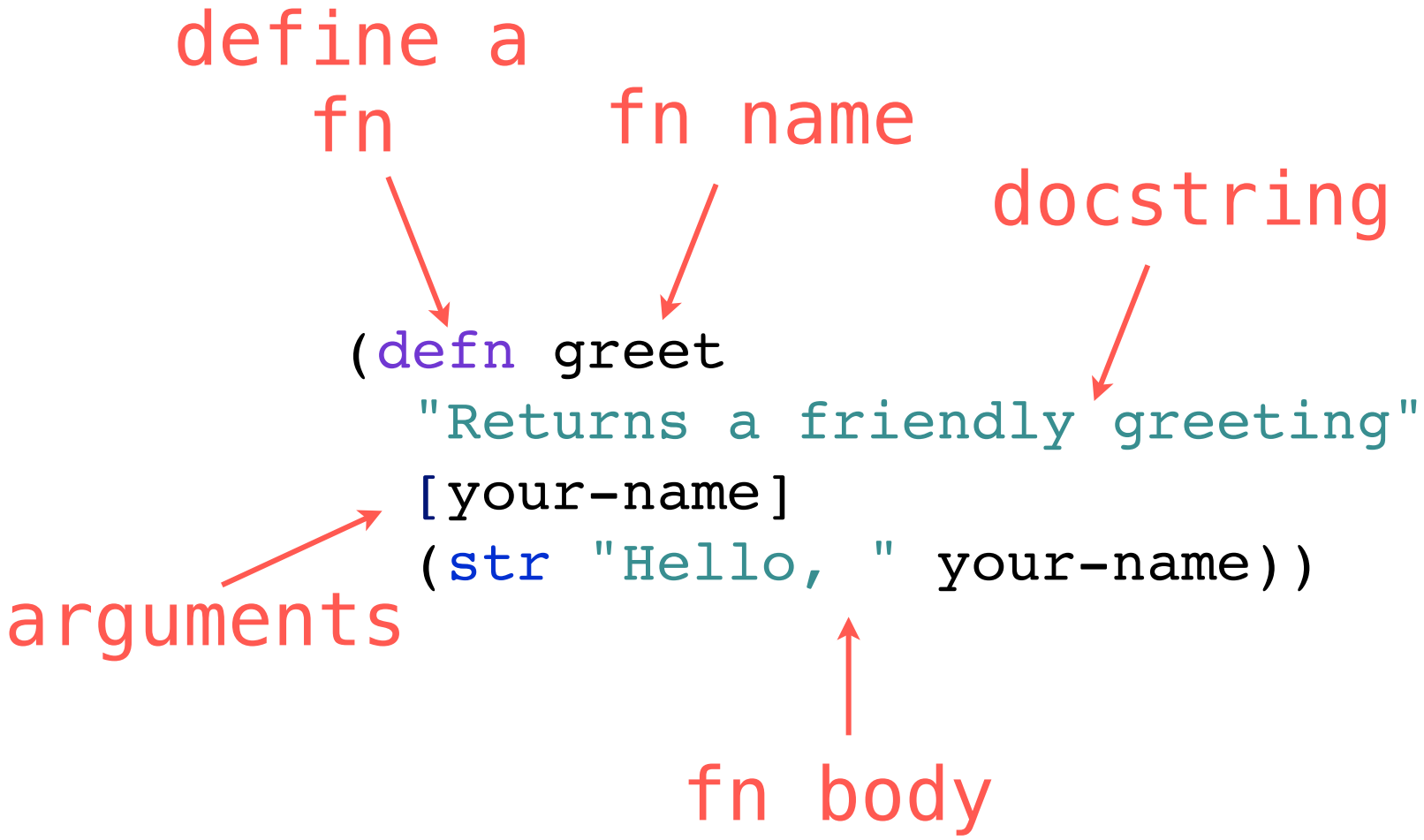
A.

semantics: fn call arg



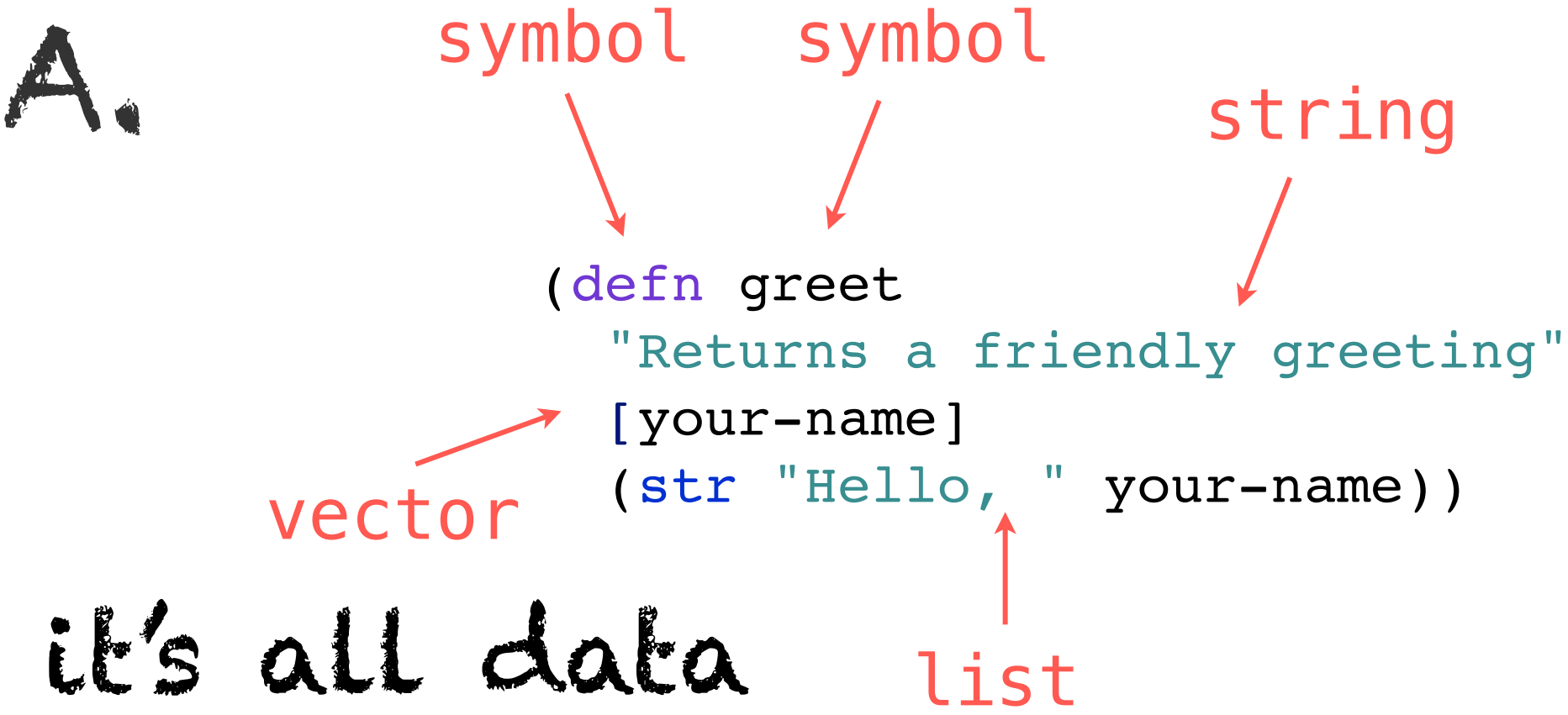
Q. function definition?

A.



Q. homoiconicity?

A.



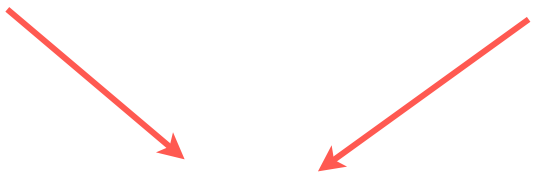
it's all data

Q. function meta-data?

A.

prefix with ^

class name or arbitrary map



```
(defn ^String greet
  "Returns a friendly greeting"
  [your-name]
  (str "Hello, " your-name))
```

what is the java interop story with clojure?

Q.

interop?

A.

syntax extensions to reach all of Java

compiles to bytecode

fast

call Clojure from Java

Q. construction?

A.


```
new Widget("foo")
```

```
(Widget. "red")
```

Q. static members?

A.


```
Math.PI
```

```
Math/PI
```

Q. instance members?

A.


```
rnd.nextInt()
```

```
(.nextInt rnd)
```

Q. chained access?

A.


```
person.getAddress().getZipCode()
```

```
(.. person getAddress getZipCode)
```

Q. () count?

A.


```
new Widget("Foo")
Math.PI
rnd.nextInt()
person.getAddress().getZipCode()
```

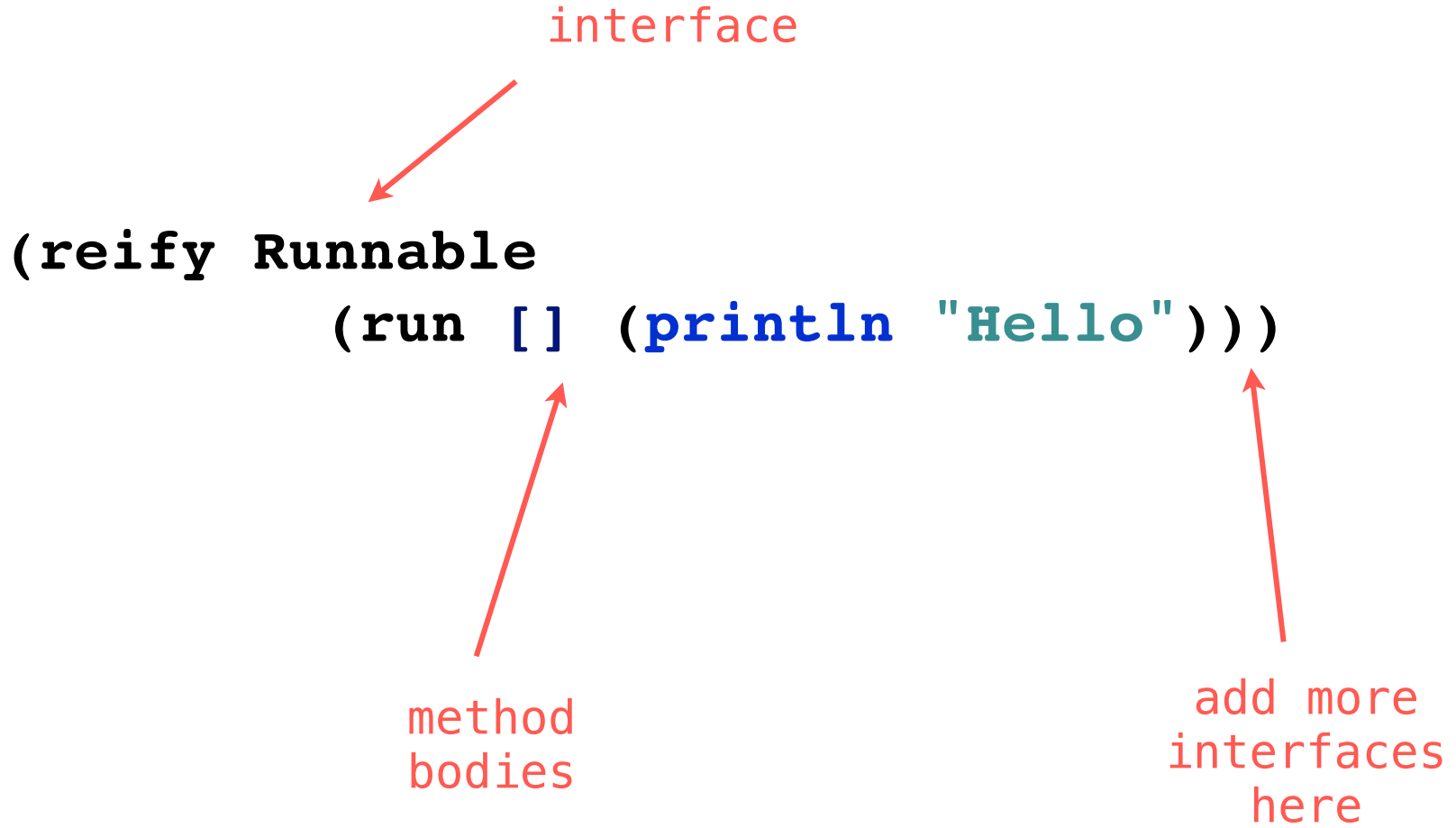
8

```
(Widget. "red")
Math/PI
(.nextInt rnd)
(.. person getAddress getZipCode)
```

6

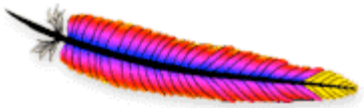
Q. how would you implement an interface?

A.



Q. what would a typical method look like in clojure?

A.



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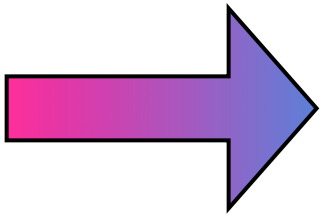
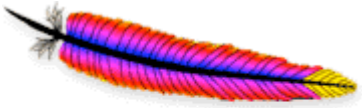
`isBlank()`



Q.



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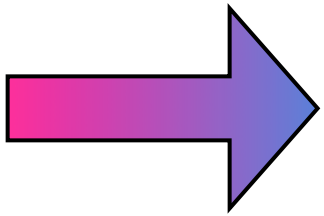
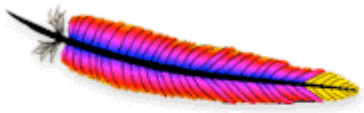


A.

```
public class StringUtils {
  public static boolean isBlank(String str) {
    int strLen;
    if (str == null || (strLen = str.length()) == 0) {
      return true;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < strLen; i++) {
      if ((Character.isWhitespace(str.charAt(i)) == false)) {
        return false;
      }
    }
    return true;
  }
}
```

Q.



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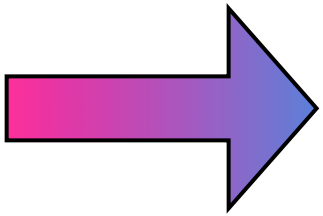
isBlank()



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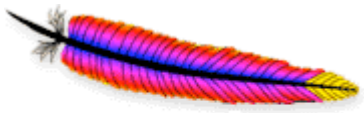
      if ((Character.isWhitespace(str.charAt(i)) == false)) {
        return false;
      }
    }
    return true;
  }
}
```

— types

Q.



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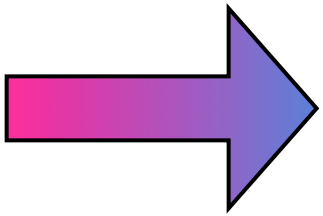

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      if ((Character.isWhitespace(str.charAt(i)) == false)) {
        return false;
      }
    }
    return true;
  }
}
```
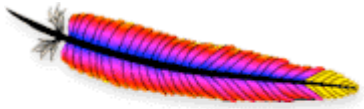

— class

Q.



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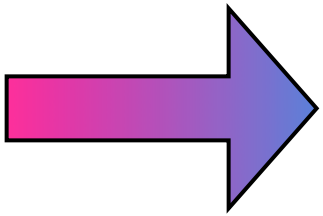
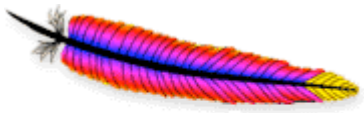


A.

```
public isBlank(str) {
  if (str == null || (strLen = str.length()) == 0) {
    return true;
  }
  every (ch in str) {
    Character.isWhitespace(ch);
  }
  return true;
}
```

+ higher-order function

Q.



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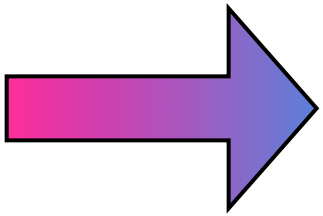
isBlank()

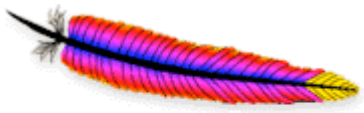


A.

```
public isBlank(str) {
  every (ch in str) {
    Character.isWhitespace(ch);
  }
}
```

— corner cases

Q.



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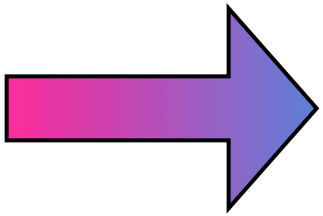


A.

```clojure
(defn blank? [s]
  (every? #(Character/isWhitespace %) s))
```

Lispify!

Q. when does verbosity == obscurity?

A.

```
public class StringUtils {
  public static boolean isBlank(String str) {
    int strLen;
    if (str == null || (strLen = str.length()) == 0) {
      return true;
    }
    for (int i = 0; i < strLen; i++) {
      if ((Character.isWhitespace(str.charAt(i)) == false)) {
        return false;
      }
    }
    return true;
  }
}
```

```
(defn blank? [s]
  (every? #(Character/isWhitespace %) s))
```

Q. what's so special about Lisp?

A.

feature	industry norm	cool kids	clojure
conditionals	✔	✔	✔
variables	✔	✔	✔
garbage collection	✔	✔	✔
recursion	✔	✔	✔
function type		✔	✔
symbol type		✔	✔
whole language available		✔	✔
everything's an expression		✔	✔
homoiconicity			✔

http://www.paulgraham.com/diff.html

Q. what are special forms?

A. the syntactic scaffolding of your language

- imports
- scopes
- protection
- meta-data
- control flow
- *anything using a keyword*

Q. how are special forms outside lisp different?

A.

- limited to specific use
- look different
- may have special semantics unavailable to you
- hamper reuse

Q. what's special about Lisp's special forms?

A.

- λ look just like everything else
- λ may have special semantics *available* to you
- λ can be augmented with macros

Q. all forms are created equal?

A.

form	syntax	example
function	list	`(println "hello")`
operator	list	`(+ 1 2)`
method call	list	`(.trim " hello ")`
import	list	`(require 'mylib)`
metadata	list	`(with-meta obj m)`
control flow	list	`(when valid? (proceed))`
scope	list	`(dosync (alter ...))`

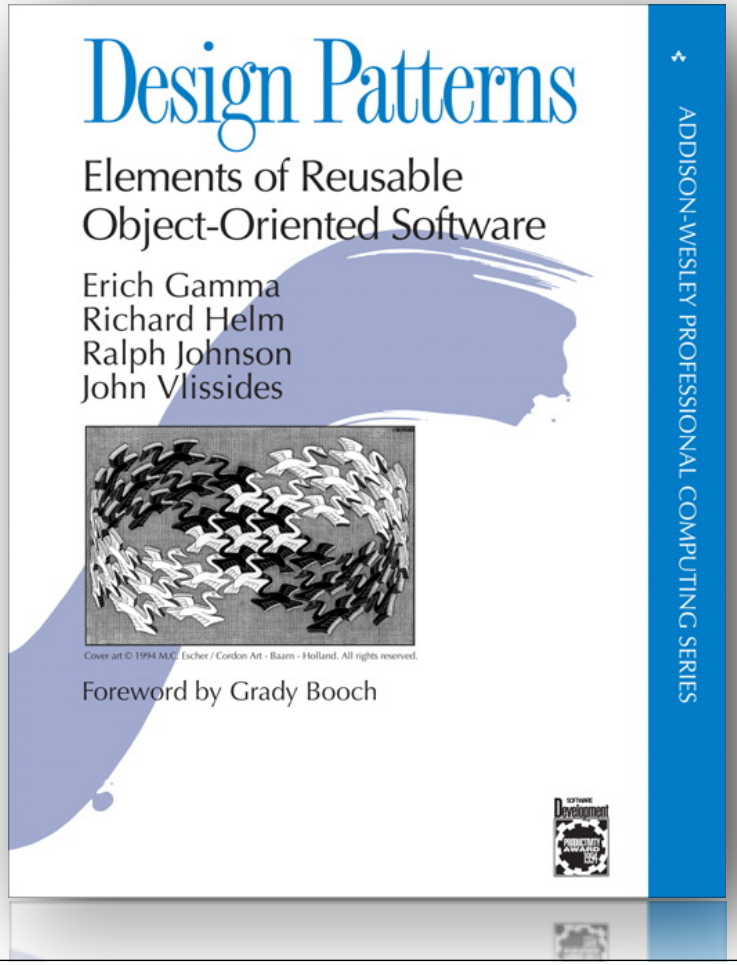
Q. why is this important?

A. special forms are easier to understand *individually*…

…but create combinatorial complexity in *aggregate*

to deal with complexity, you categorize

& you end up



Q. what's the alternative to patterns in Lisp?

A.

m a c r o s

Q. how can macros reduce repetition?

A.

```
(.add frame panel)
(.pack frame)
(.setVisible frame true)
```

```
(doto frame
  (.add panel)
  (.pack)
  (.setVisible true))
```

say it only once

doto returns frame
now we have an *expression*

Q. Many of the features of Clojure are implemented with macros. How can you tell?

A.

you can't!

Q. an example of a simple macro?

A.

```
(defmacro when
[test & body]
(list
 'if test
 (cons 'do body)))
```

it's all data

```
(when x
  (println "x is true")))
```

macroexpansion

```
(if x
  (do (println "x is true")))
```

Q. what are some types of macros?

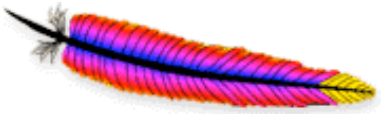
A.

type	examples
control flow	**when when-not and or**
vars	**defn defmacro defmulti**
java interop	**.. doto deftype proxy**
rearranging	**-> ->> -?>**
scopes	**dosync time with-open**
“special form”	**fn lazy-seq let**

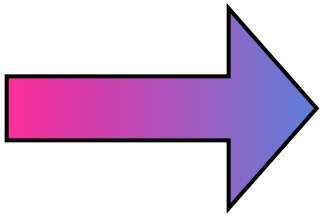
how does "functional" make my life better?

Q. how does function change the structure of my code?

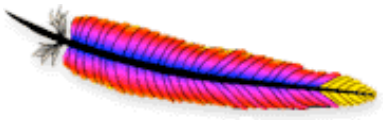
A.



Apache Commons
http://commons.apache.org/
indexOfAny



Q.



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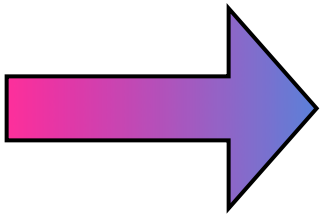
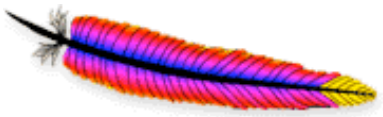
indexOfAny



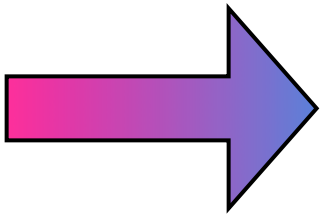
A.

```
StringUtils.indexOfAny(null, *)                = -1
StringUtils.indexOfAny("", *)                  = -1
StringUtils.indexOfAny(*, null)                = -1
StringUtils.indexOfAny(*, [])                  = -1
StringUtils.indexOfAny("zzabyycdxx",['z','a']) = 0
StringUtils.indexOfAny("zzabyycdxx",['b','y']) = 3
StringUtils.indexOfAny("aba", ['z'])           = -1
```

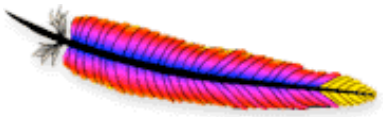


Apache Commons
http://commons.apache.org/

indexOfAny



```
// From Apache Commons Lang, http://commons.apache.org/lang/
public static int indexOfAny(String str, char[] searchChars) {
  if (isEmpty(str) || ArrayUtils.isEmpty(searchChars)) {
    return -1;
  }
  for (int i = 0; i < str.length(); i++) {
    char ch = str.charAt(i);
    for (int j = 0; j < searchChars.length; j++) {
      if (searchChars[j] == ch) {
        return i;
      }
    }
  }
  return -1;
}
```



Apache Commons
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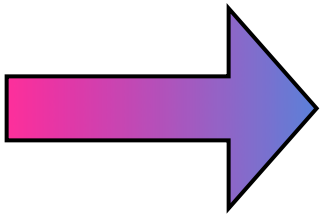
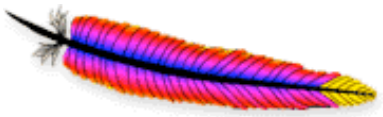
indexOfAny



```
public static int indexOfAny(String str, char[] searchChars) {
  when (searchChars)
    for (int i = 0; i < str.length(); i++) {
      char ch = str.charAt(i);
      for (int j = 0; j < searchChars.length; j++) {
        if (searchChars[j] == ch) {
          return i;
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

simplify corner cases



Apache Commons
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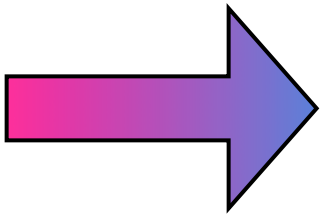
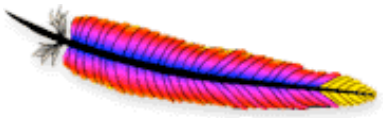
indexOfAny



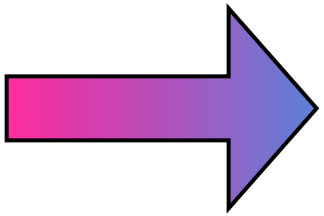
```
indexOfAny(str, searchChars) {
  when (searchChars)
    for (i = 0; i < str.length(); i++) {
      ch = str.charAt(i);
      for (j = 0; j < searchChars.length; j++) {
        if (searchChars[j] == ch) {
          return i;
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

— type decls



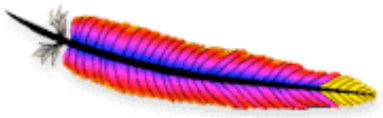
Apache Commons
http://commons.apache.org/

indexOfAny



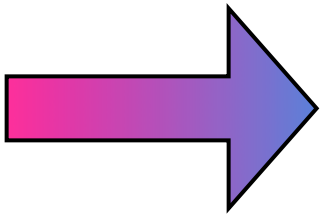
```
indexOfAny(str, searchChars) {
  when (searchChars)
    for (i = 0; i < str.length(); i++) {
      ch = str.charAt(i);
      when searchChars(ch) i;
    }
  }
}
```

+ when clause



Apache Commons
http://commons.apache.org/

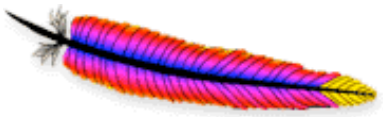
indexOfAny



```
indexOfAny(str, searchChars) {
  when (searchChars)
    for ([i, ch] in indexed(str)) {
      when searchChars(ch) i;
    }
  }
}
```

+ comprehension

Q.



Apache Commons
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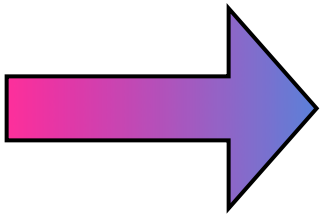
indexOfAny



A.

```
(defn index-filter [pred coll]
  (when pred
    (for [[idx elt] (indexed coll) :when (pred elt)] idx)))
```

Lispify

Q. which version is simpler?

A.

	imperative	functional
functions	1	1
classes	1	0
internal exit points	2	0
variables	3	0
branches	4	0
boolean ops	1	0
function calls*	6	3
total	***18***	***4***

Q. which is more general?

A.

```
; idxs of heads in stream of coin flips
(index-filter #{:h}
[:t :t :h :t :h :t :t :t :h :h])
-> (2 4 8 9)

; Fibonaccis pass 1000 at n=17
(first
  (index-filter #(> % 1000) (fibo)))
-> 17
```

Q. which is more general?

A.

imperative	functional
searches strings	searches *any sequence*
matches characters	matches *any predicate*
returns first match	returns *lazy seq of all matches*

what's clojure's unique take on state & concurrency?

Q. what about persistent data structures?

A. immutable

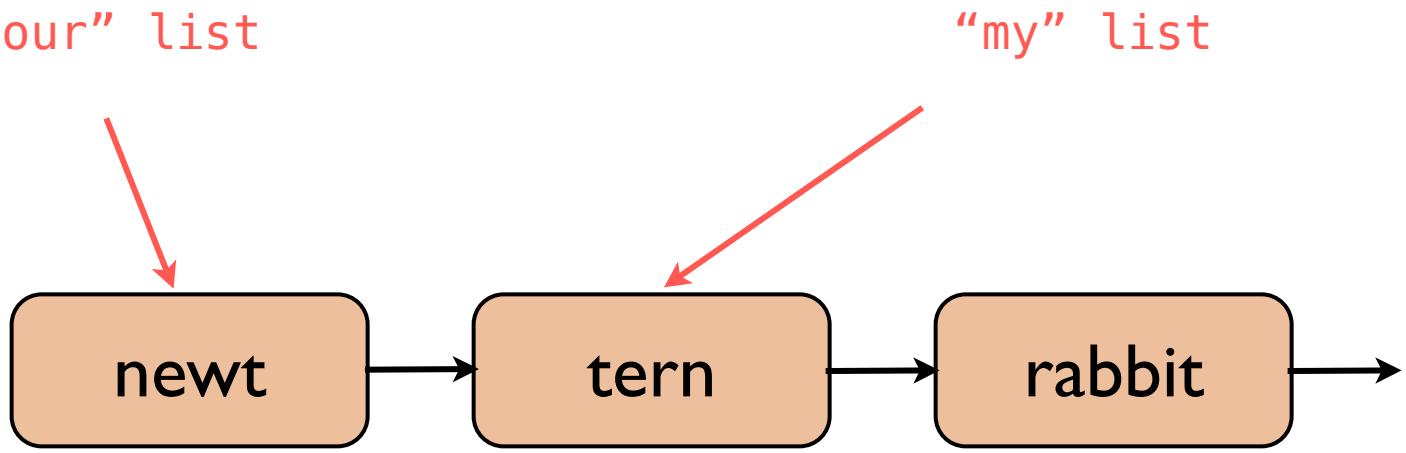
“change” by function application

maintain performance guarantees

full fidelity old versions

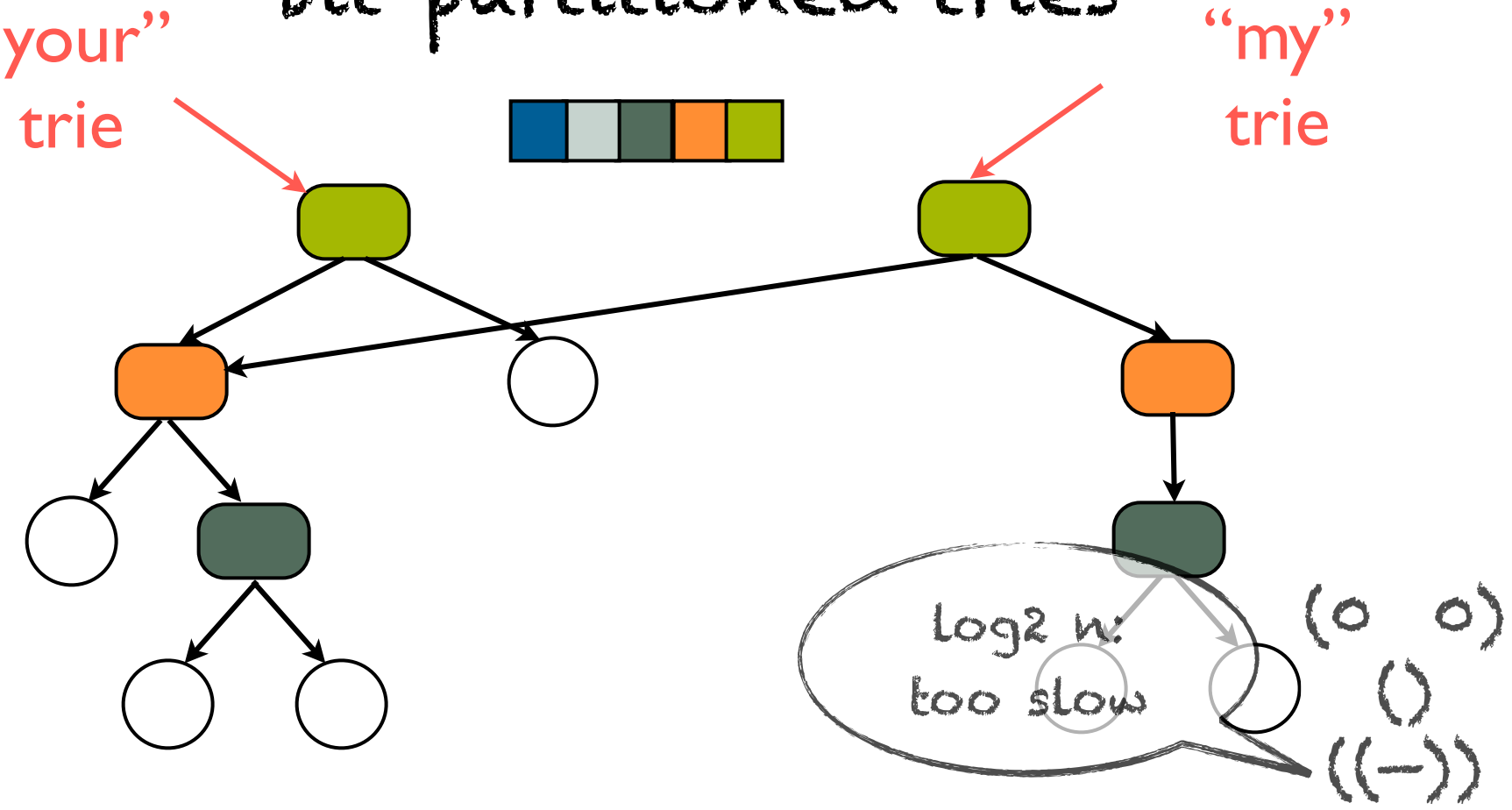
Q. how would that work with a linked list?

A.



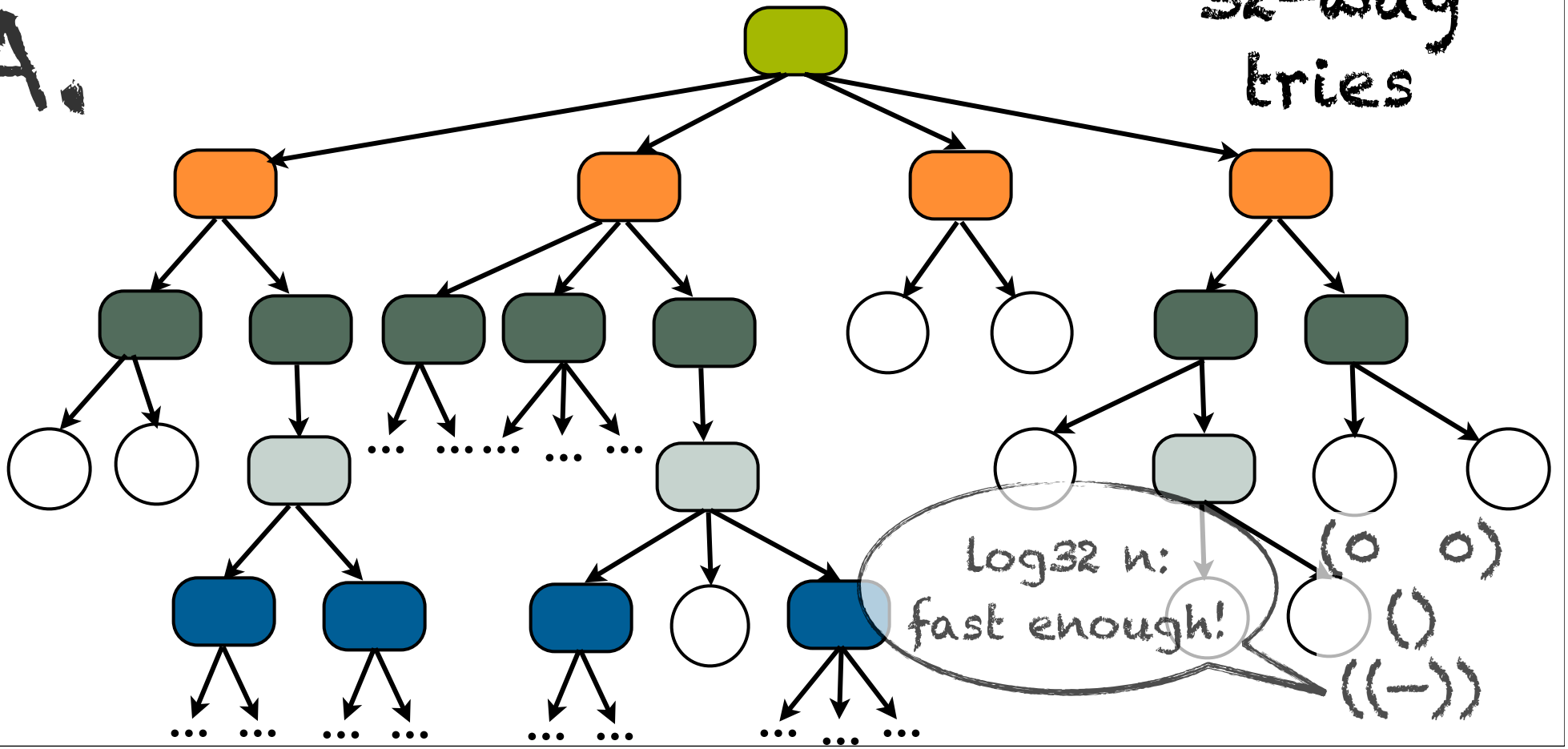
Q. ...and more complex data structures?

A. bit-partitioned tries



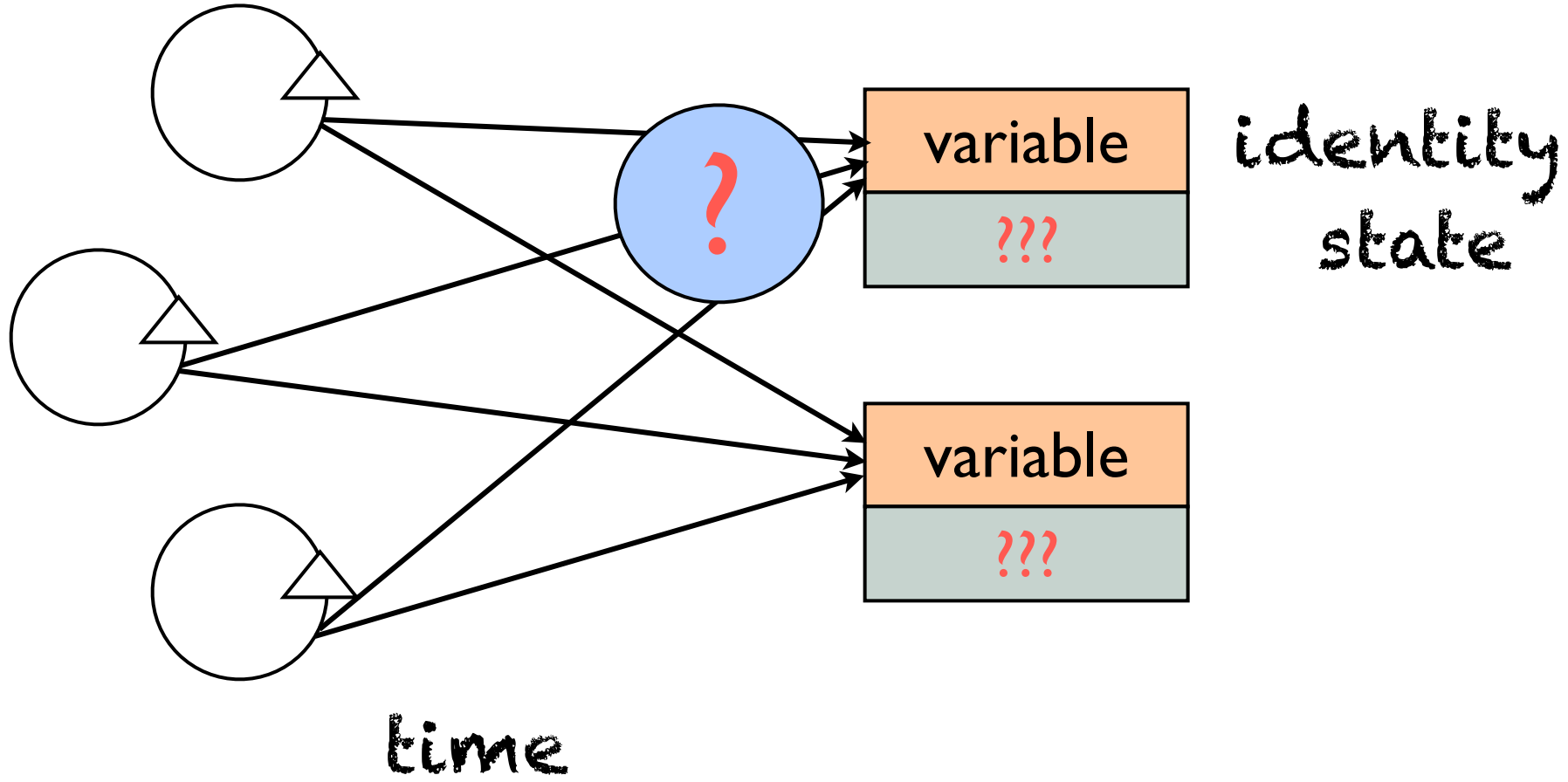
Q. how many tries to make it fast enough?

A.



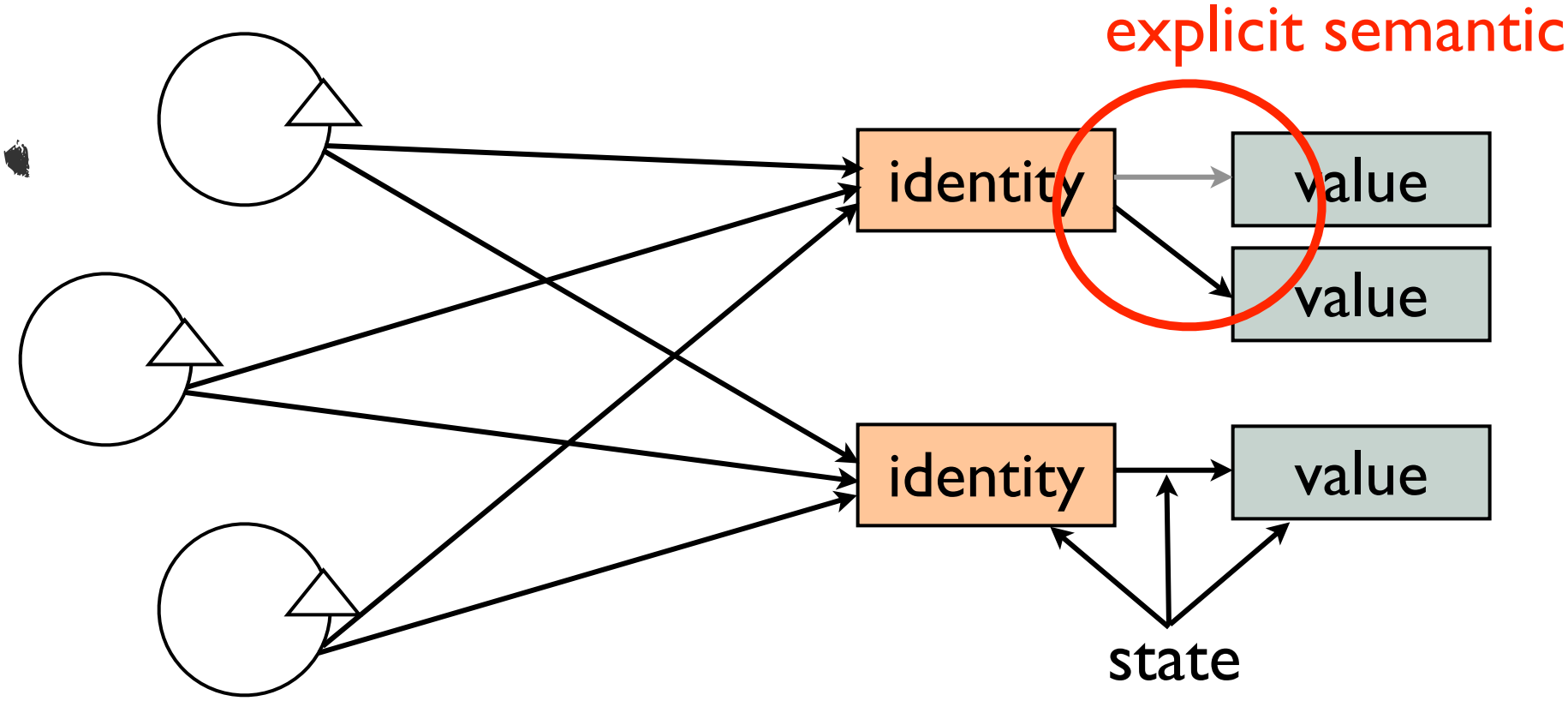
Q. what's wrong with variables?!?

A.



Q. what's clojure's view of identity

A.



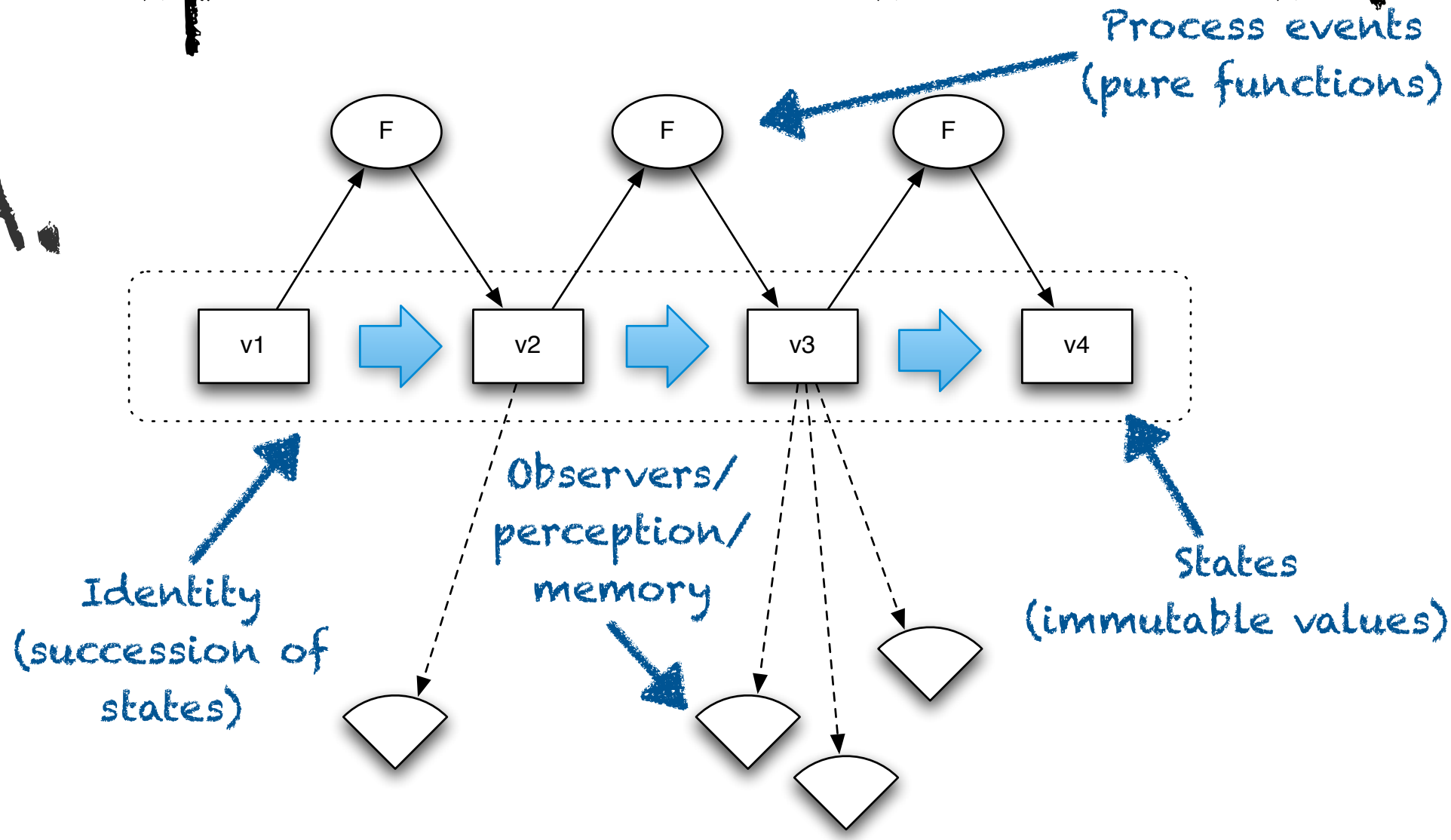
Q. compare identity, state, & time?

A.

term	*meaning*
value	immutable data in a persistent data structure
identity	series of causally related values over time
state	identity at a point in time
time	relative: before/ simultaneous/after ordering of causal values

Q. what is clojure's epochal time model?

A.



Q. what's the "unified update model"?

A.

return becomes next state of ref

gets current state of ref

```
(change-state ref fn [args*])
```

snapshot always available

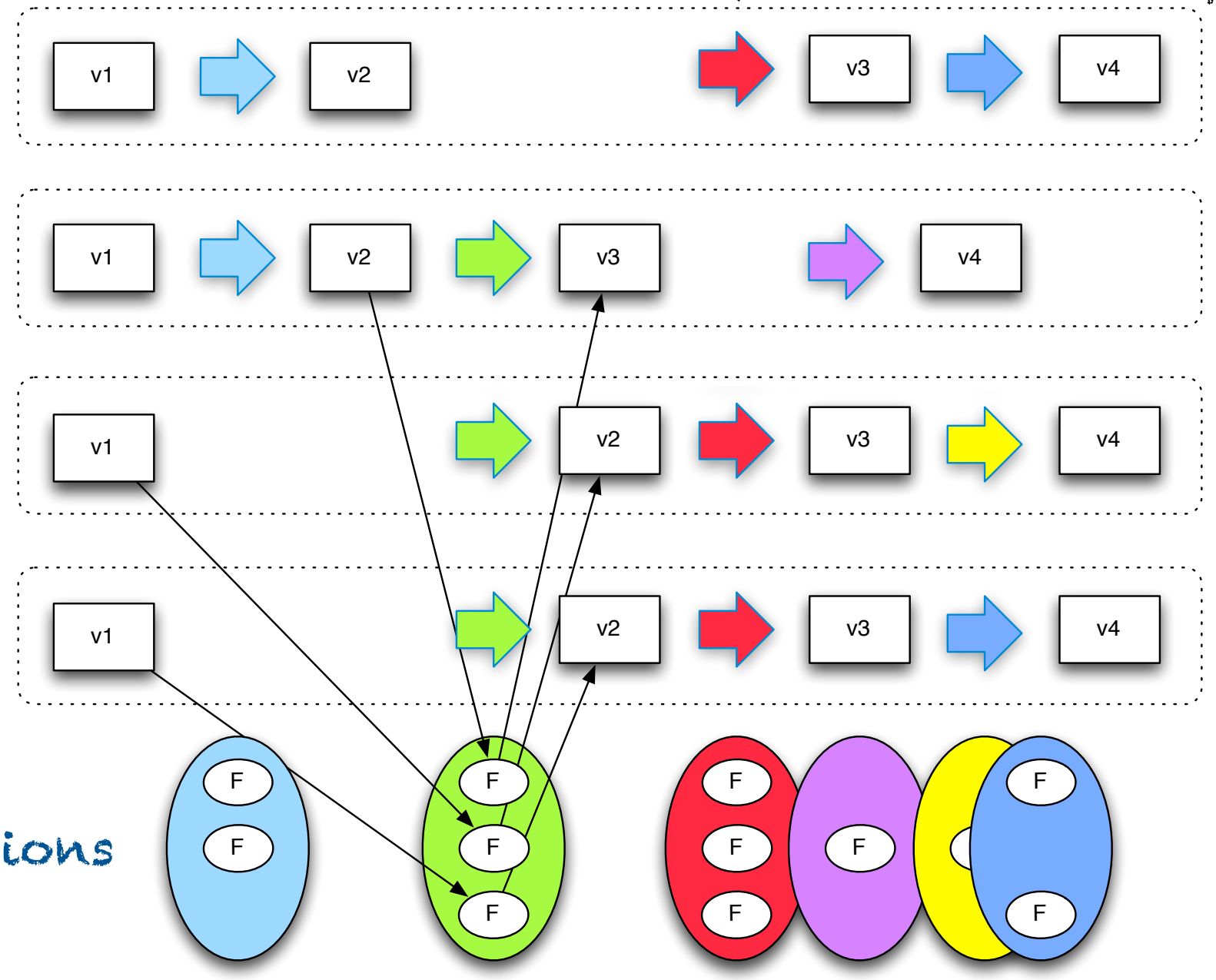
no user locking, no deadlocks

writes never impede readers

software transactional memory

Q. how does STM work?

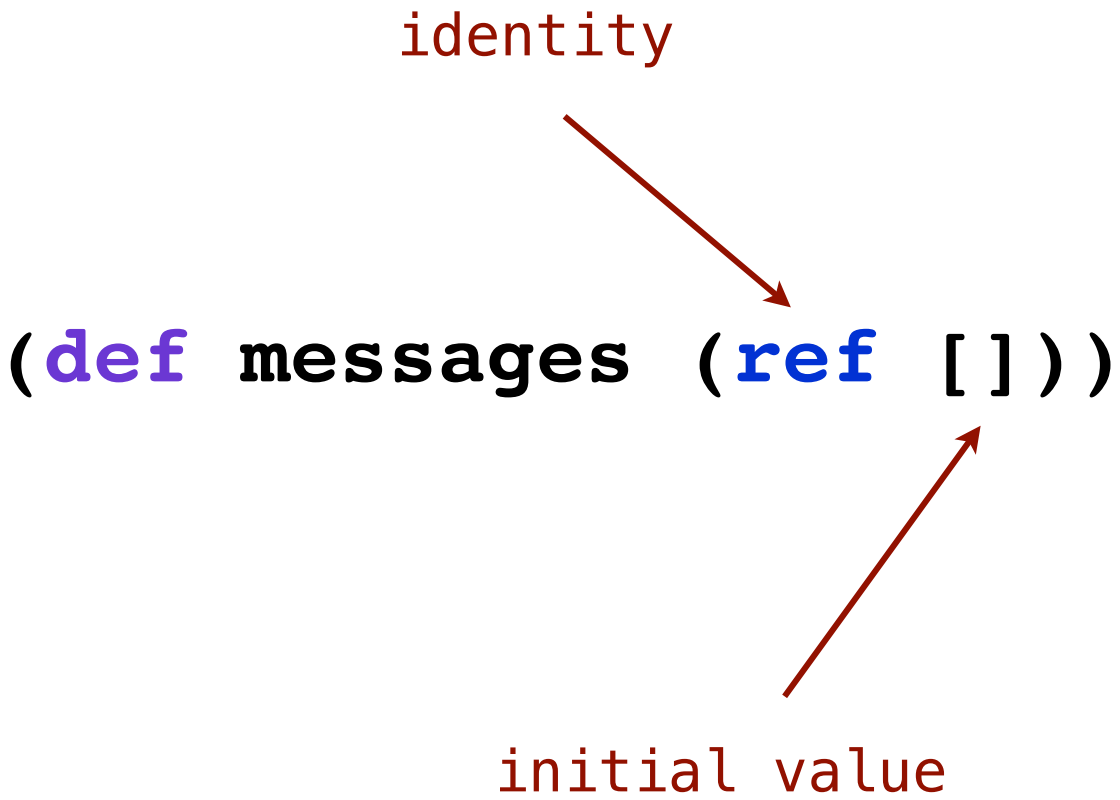
A.



transactions

Q. what's the syntax for STM?

A.



Q. how do you read a value?

A.

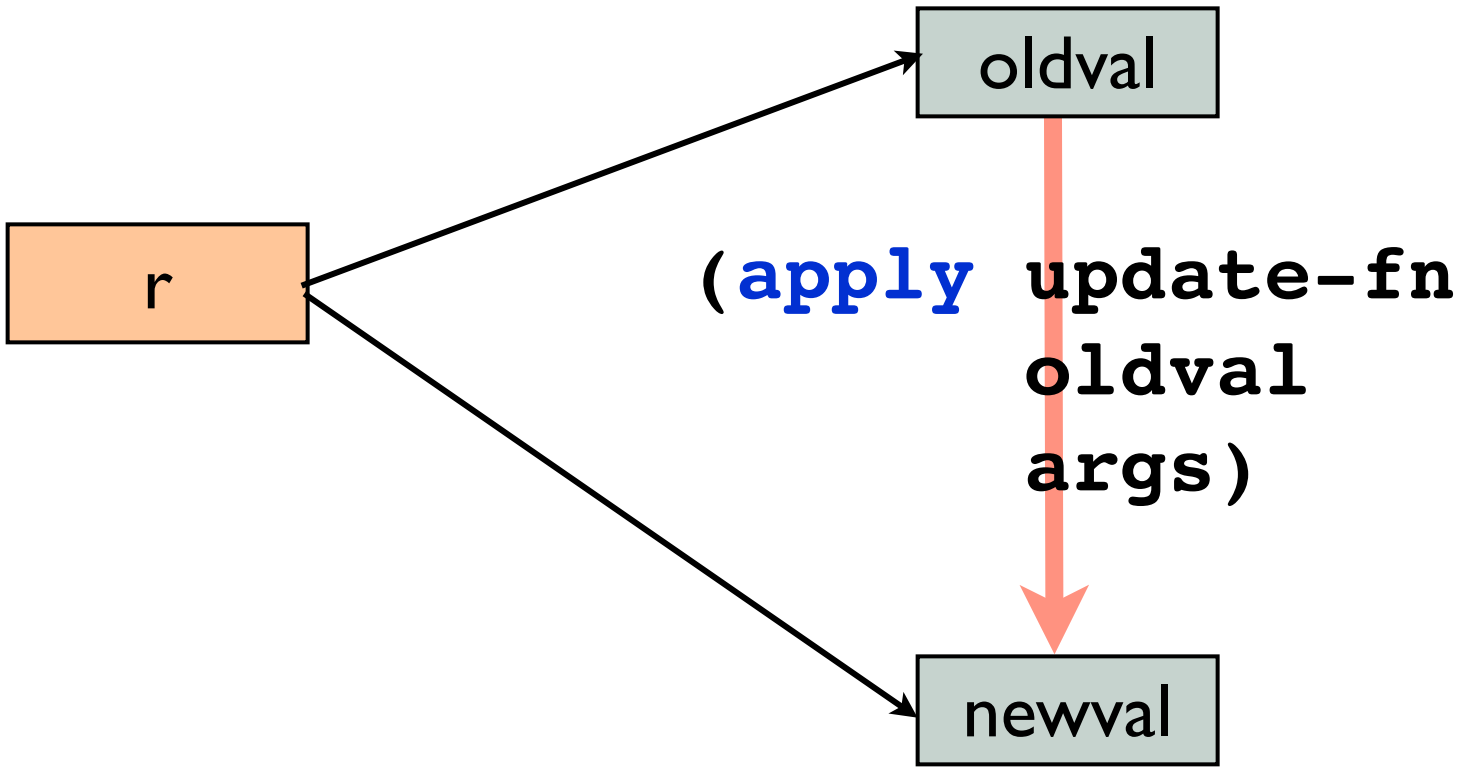
```
(deref messages)
=> []

@messages
=> []
```

Q. how do you alter a message?

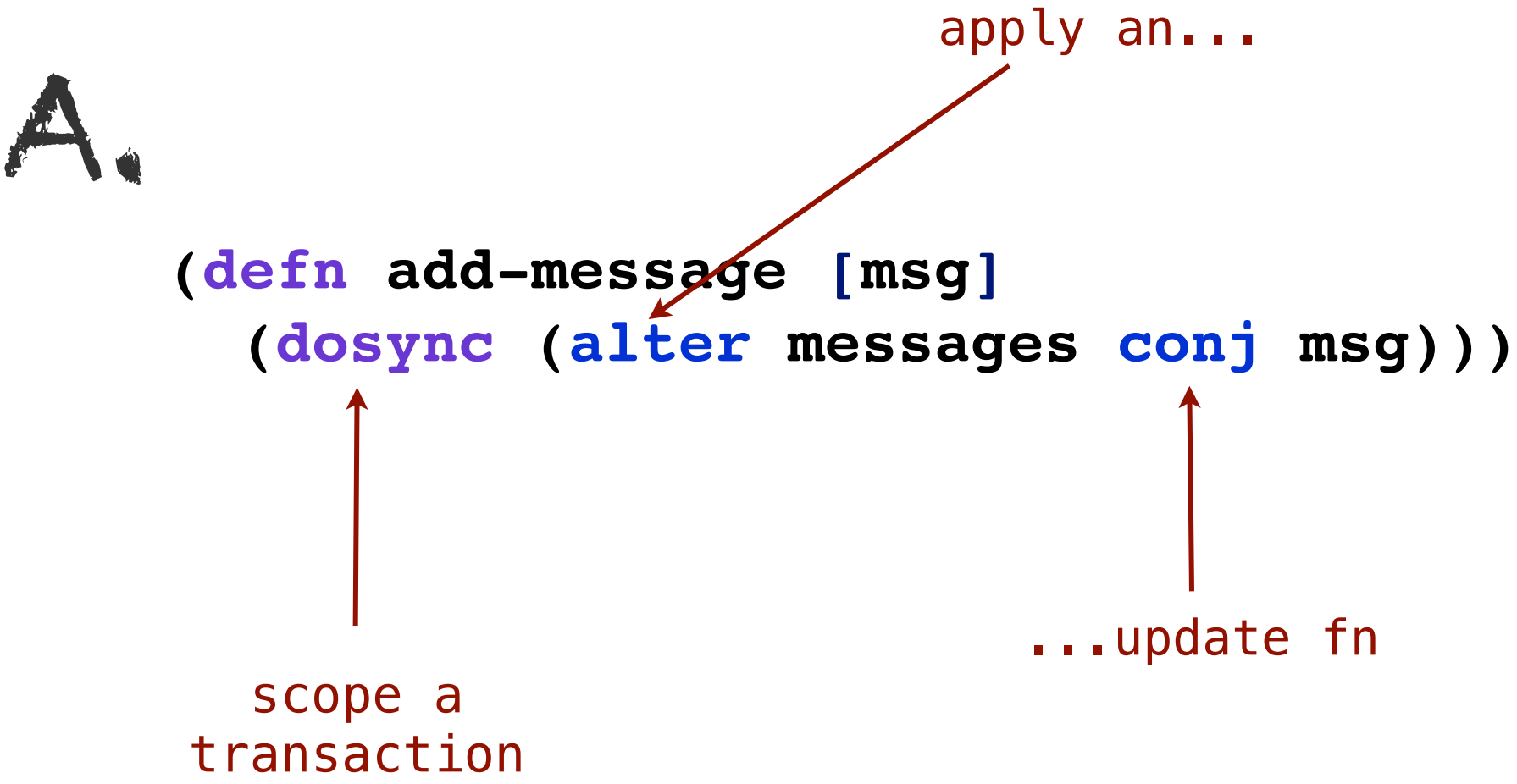
```
(alter r update-fn & args)
```

A.



Q. how do you update a message?

A.



Q. what's cool about clojure?

A.

highly expressive language

seamless java interop

functional

advanced concurrency

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