

# Ground: A Data Context Service

Joe Hellerstein, Vikram Sreekanti, Joey Gonzalez, *et al.*

CIDR 2017

<https://github.com/ground-context/ground>



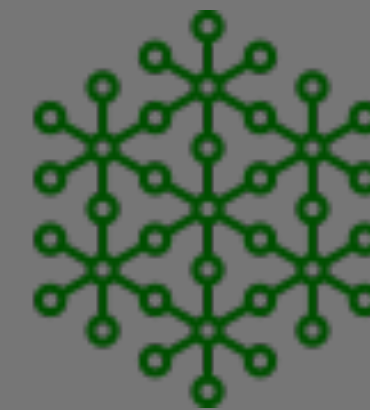
# Open Source Big Data Community Health



Data Analysis



Data Wrangling

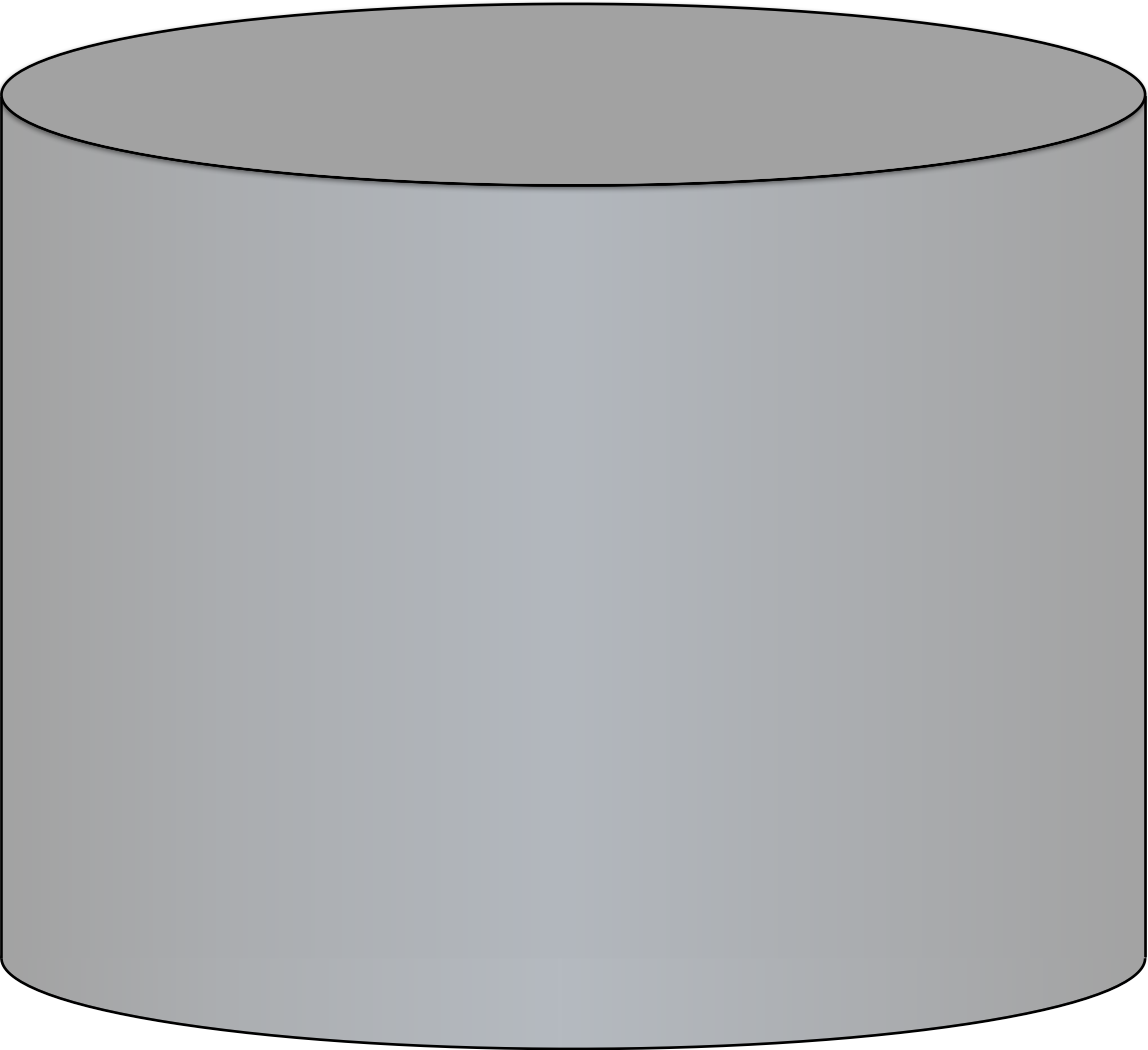


Long-term Data  
Management

**FAIL**

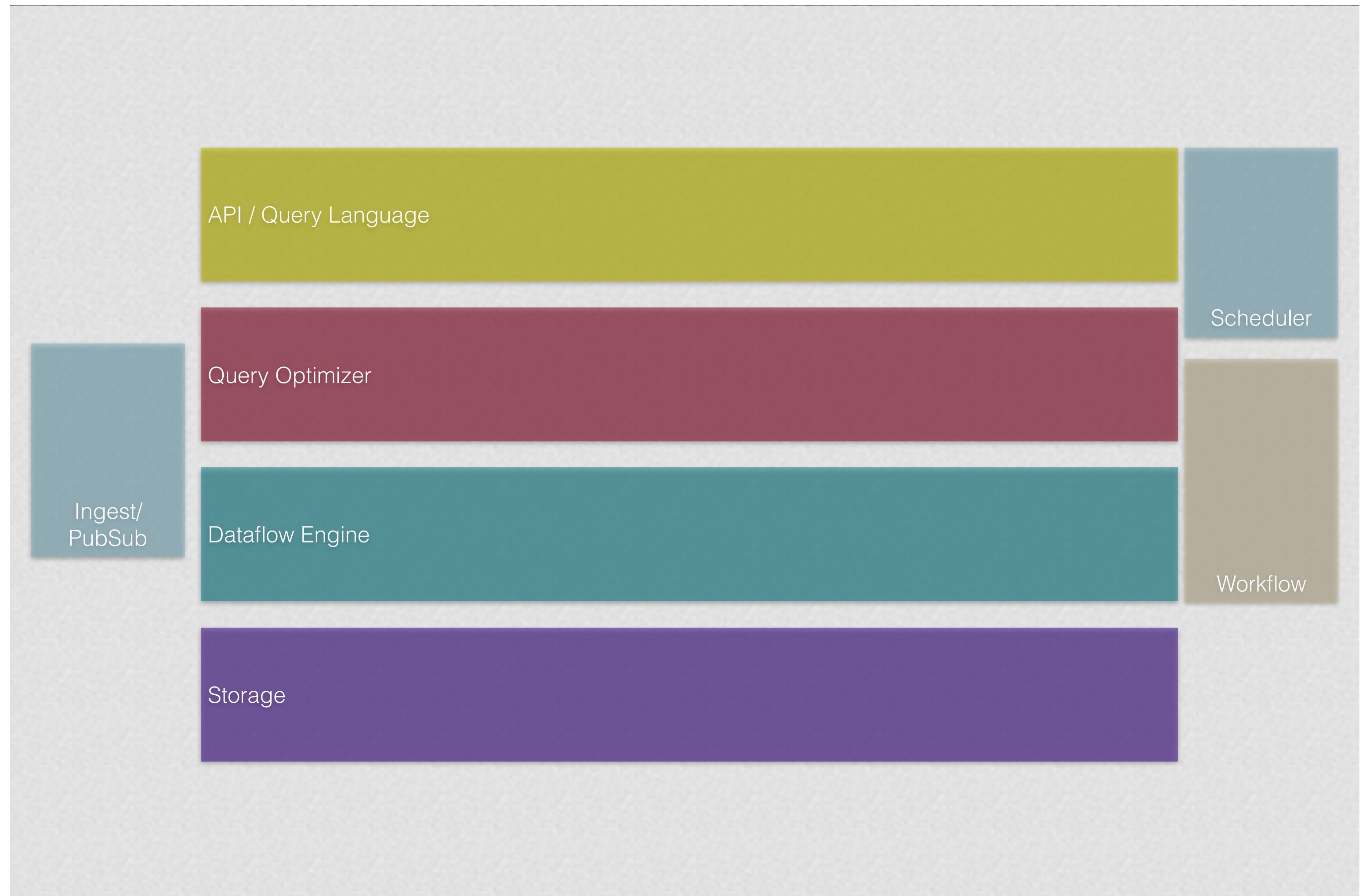
What was the big data revolution really all about?

Database



# A DECOUPLED STACK

Big Data



# A DECOUPLED STACK

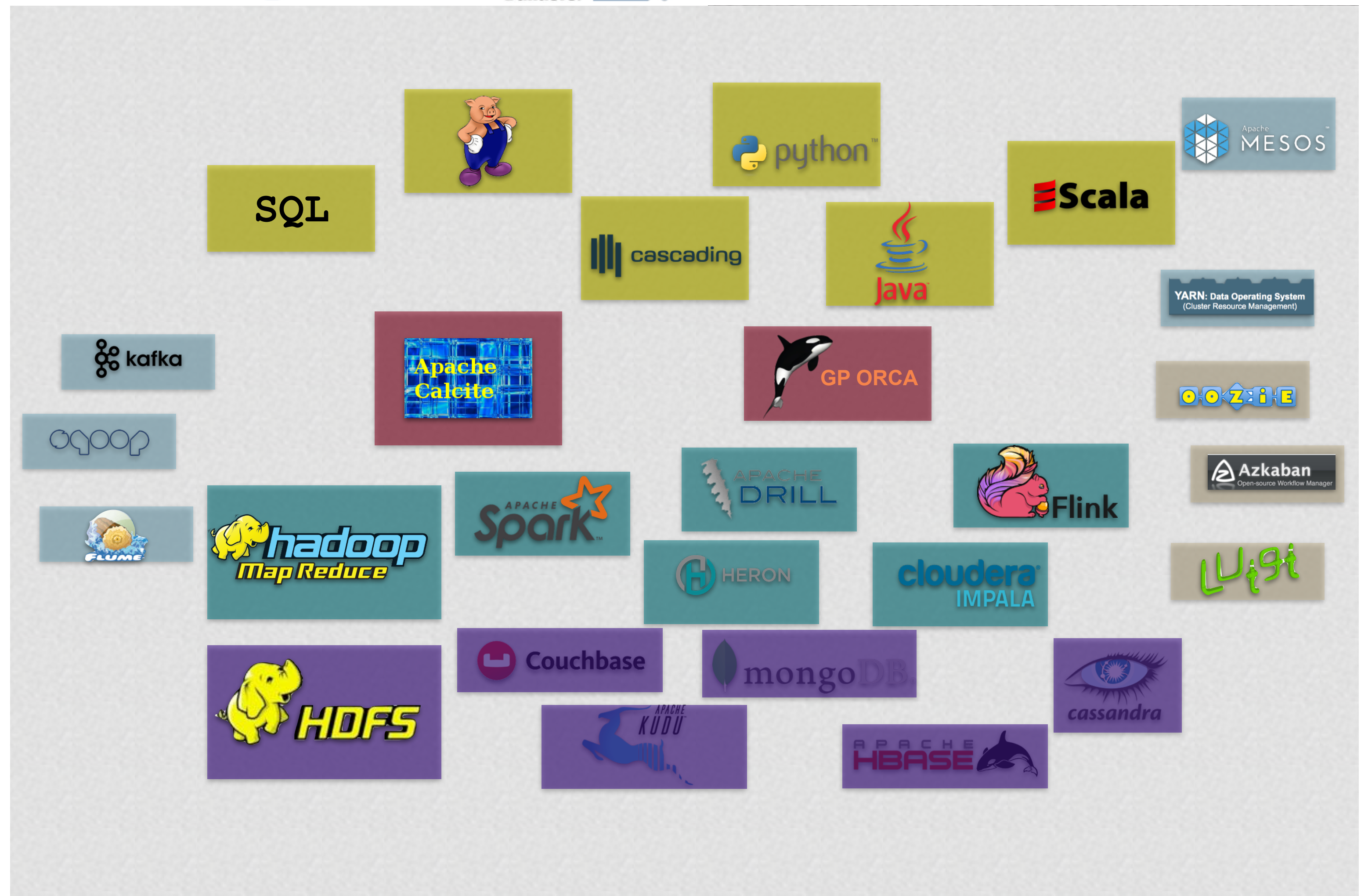
The Good: Agility



# A DECOUPLED STACK



The Bad: Dis-integration.



# CRISIS: HOW DO WE SHARE INFORMATION?

**METADATA**



# WHAT IS METADATA?

<i>supply</i>	<i>(supplier</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>project</i>	<i>quantity)</i>
1	2	5	17	
1	3	5	23	
2	3	7	9	
2	7	5	4	
4	1	1	12	


FIG. 1. A relation of degree 4

# WHAT IS METADATA?

- Data about data
  - This used to be so simple!
- But ... schema on use
  - One of many changes

```
Sep 25 00:03:12 Maple.local mdworker[19184]: code validation failed in the p
Domain=NSOSStatusErrorDomain Code=-67062 "The operation couldn't be complete
{SecCSArchitecture=ppc}
Sep 25 00:03:12 Maple.local mdworker[19184]: code validation failed in the p
Domain=NSOSStatusErrorDomain Code=-67062 "The operation couldn't be complete
{SecCSArchitecture=x86_64}
Sep 25 00:04:03 Maple.local CalendarAgent[664]: [com.apple.calendar.store.lo
because of content-type: [text/html; charset=UTF-8].]
Sep 25 00:04:05 --- last message repeated 1 time ---
Sep 25 00:04:05 Maple.local garcon[19162]: Garcon destroyed (0 alive).
Sep 25 00:04:08 Maple com.apple.xpc.launchd[1] (com.apple.imfoundation.IMRem
available on this platform.
Sep 25 00:04:08 Maple.local locationd[623]: NETWORK: requery, 0, 0, 0, 0, 11
Sep 25 00:04:09 Maple.local Safari[9673]: CFPropertyListCreateFromXMLData():
line 3. Parsing will be abandoned. Break on _CFPropertyListMissingSemicolon
Sep 25 00:04:09 --- last message repeated 4 times ---
Sep 25 00:04:09 Maple com.apple.xpc.launchd[1] (com.apple.imfoundation.IMRem
available on this platform.
Sep 25 00:04:10 Maple.local Safari[9673]: CFPropertyListCreateFromXMLData():
line 3. Parsing will be abandoned. Break on _CFPropertyListMissingSemicolon
Sep 25 00:04:40 --- last message repeated 4 times ---
Sep 25 00:04:43 Maple com.apple.xpc.launchd[1] (com.apple.imfoundation.IMRem
available on this platform.
Sep 25 00:04:44 Maple com.apple.xpc.launchd[1] (com.apple.imfoundation.IMRem
available on this platform.
Sep 25 00:04:47 --- last message repeated 2 times ---
```

# OPPORTUNITY: A BIGGER CONTEXT



Don't just  
fill a  
metadata-  
sized hole  
in the big  
data  
stack.



Lay the groundwork for rich  
**data context.**

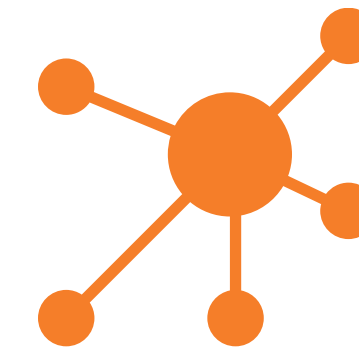
# WHAT IS DATA CONTEXT?

*All the information surrounding the use of data.*



# The ABCs of Data Context

**Application Context:** Views, models, code



**Behavioral Context:** Data lineage & usage



**Change Over Time:** Version histories



Generated by—and useful to—many applications and components.



Janet

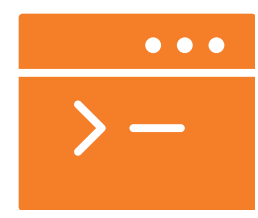


I bet social media content can predict which customers might cancel their accounts!

10100  
10010  
010...

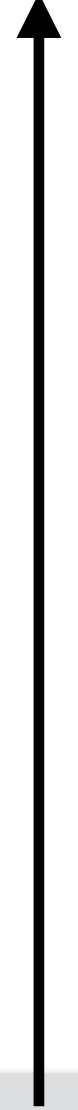


By the way: Sue used this following related table and script.

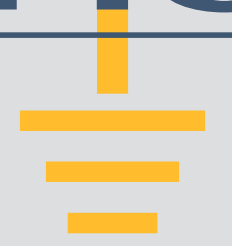


Hey Janet! We already paid for a full Gnip feed from Twitter — you can find it here

10100  
10010  
010...



ground



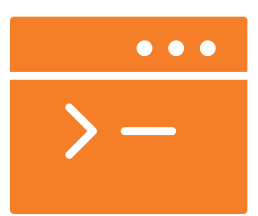


Janet

I bet social media content can predict which customers might cancel their accounts!

Hey Janet! This looks like Twitter JSON. Many people use this script to turn it into a table.

Be careful: When people store outputs from this script, the following fields are often flagged by IT as PII.



BTW, have you tried the sentiment analysis package?

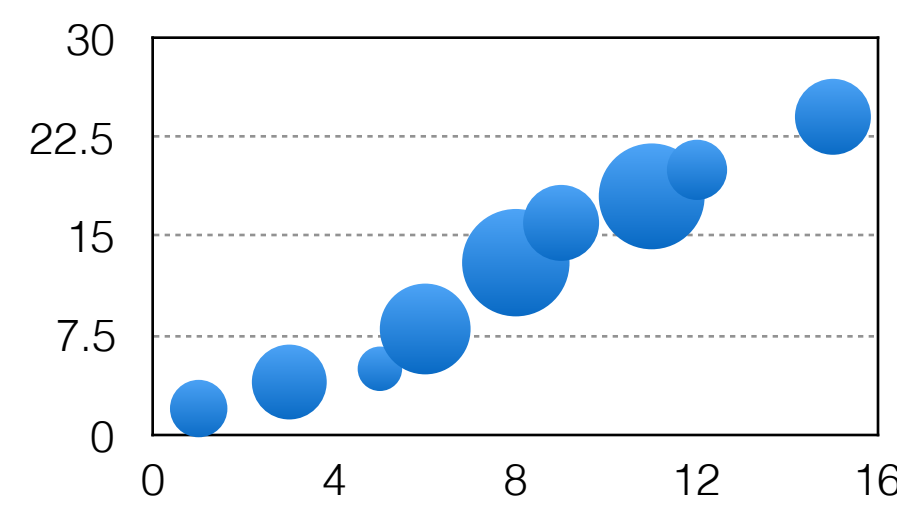


ground



Janet

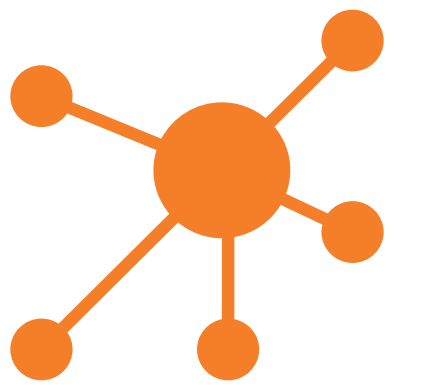
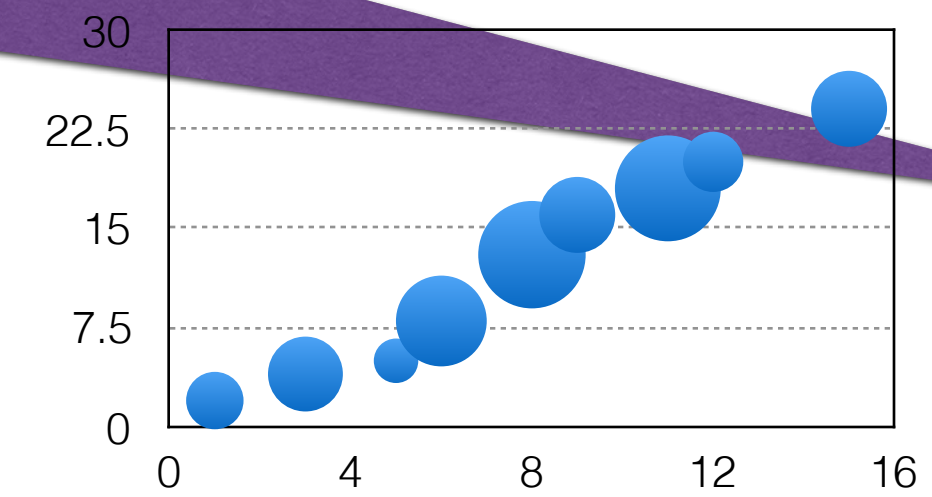
It looks true!  
Tweets predict churn!



Sue



I wonder if Janet's sentiment analysis will help with my discount targeting pipeline.



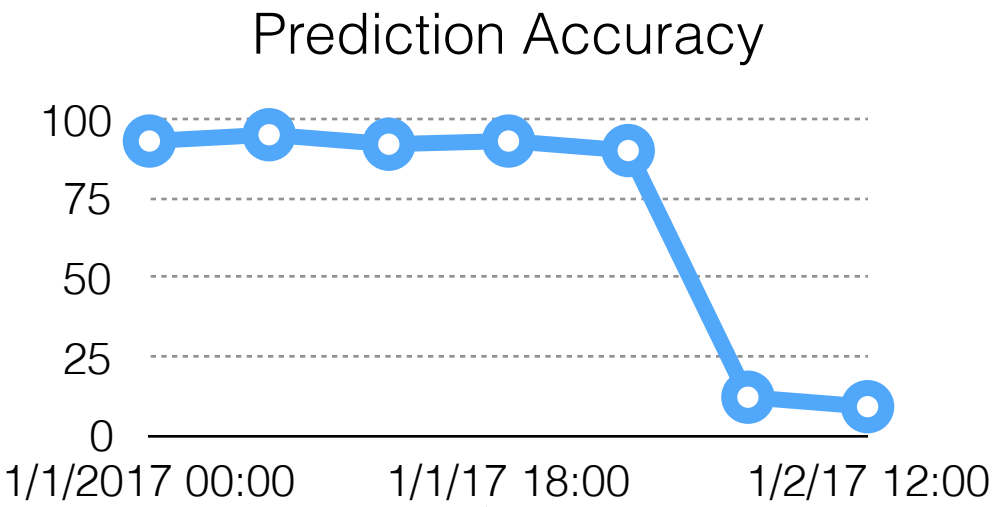
Sue

TweetId	Text	neg	pos	neut
47	"sad!"	1	0	0
53	"awesome!"	0	1	0
57	"go packers!"	0	0	1
64	"fleek!"	0	1	0



ground

Time passes...



Oh dear. I better call a meeting to introduce better governance on sentiment labeler.

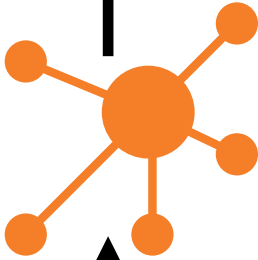
Uh oh, prediction accuracy metrics are down!



Sue



TweetId	Text	Sentiment
47	"sad!"	sadness
53	"awesome!"	elation
57	"go packers!"	sports
64	"fleek!"	trendy



```
VERSION HISTORY
12/31/2016 00:00 -800
hash:
6dda491064bcce14f558bf83867b8c247027c423
user: will
```

FYI: Janet's wrangling script changed!

# WHAT DID CONTEXT ENABLE?

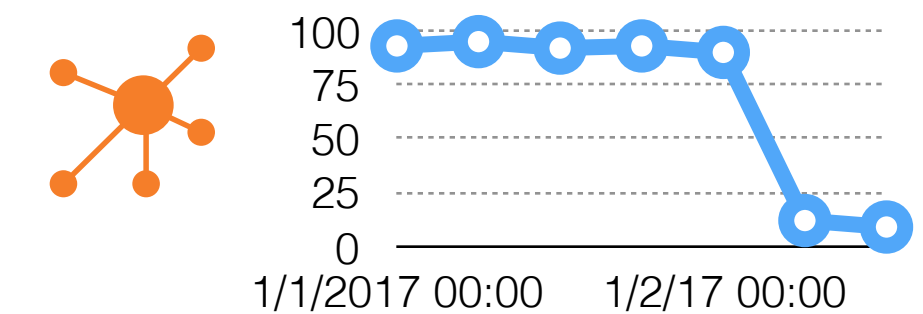
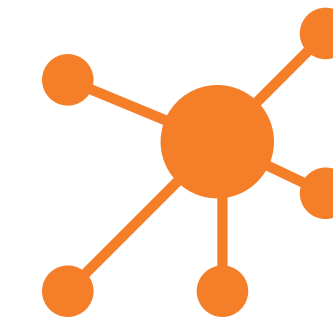
Self-service catalog, wrangling and analytics.

Collective governance of data.

Fueling our model accuracy monitor.

Figuring out which changes introduced the error.

Determining who made the change to help us resolve the issue.



**VERSION HISTORY**



**user: will**

# THE BIG CONTEXT



Where are the interesting technical challenges?  
All over!

Our goal is **not** to solve all these challenges.  
It's to provide an environment to enable solutions.

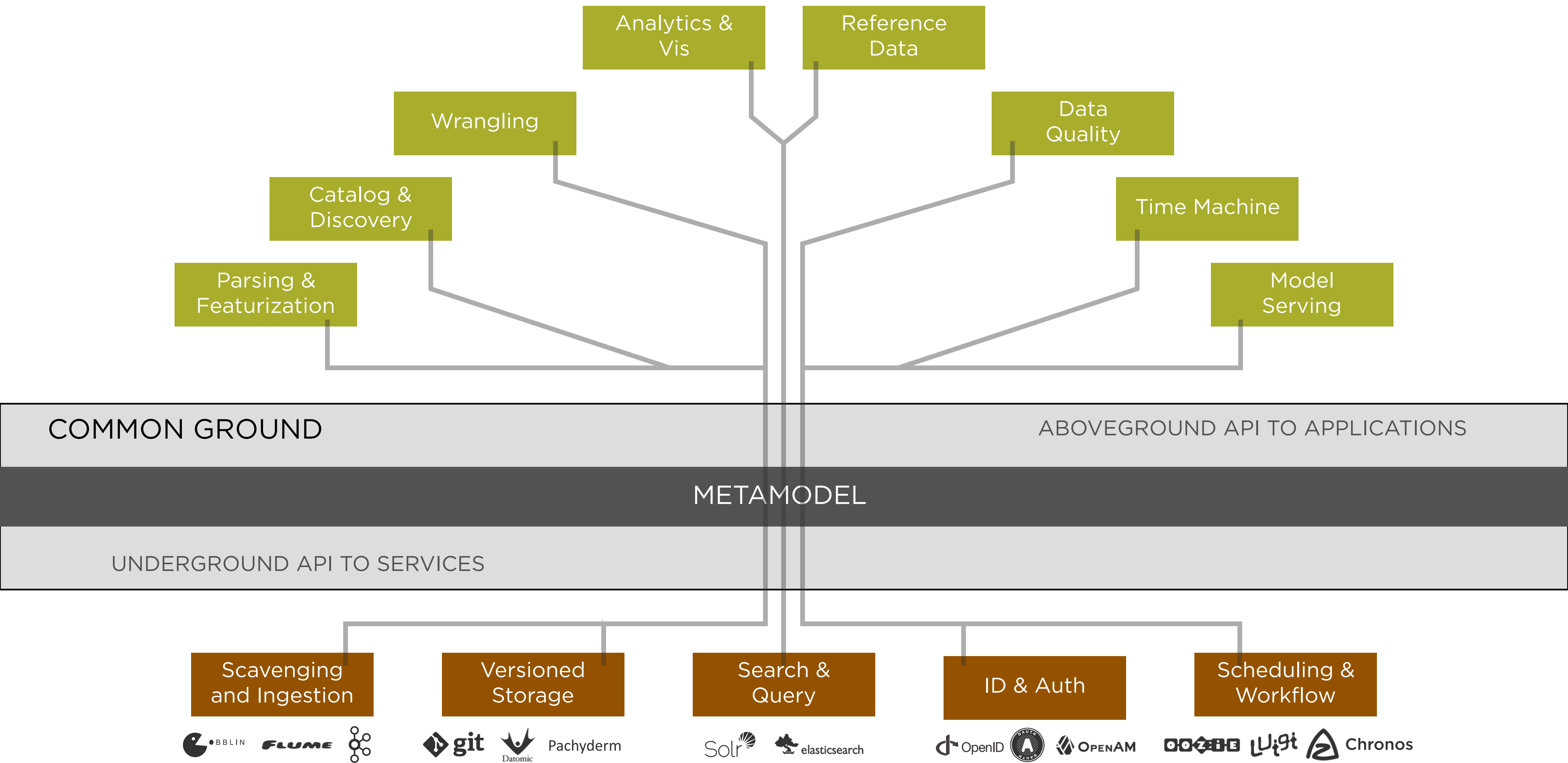


COMMON GROUND

ABOVEGROUND API TO APPLICATIONS

METAMODEL

UNDERGROUND API TO SERVICES

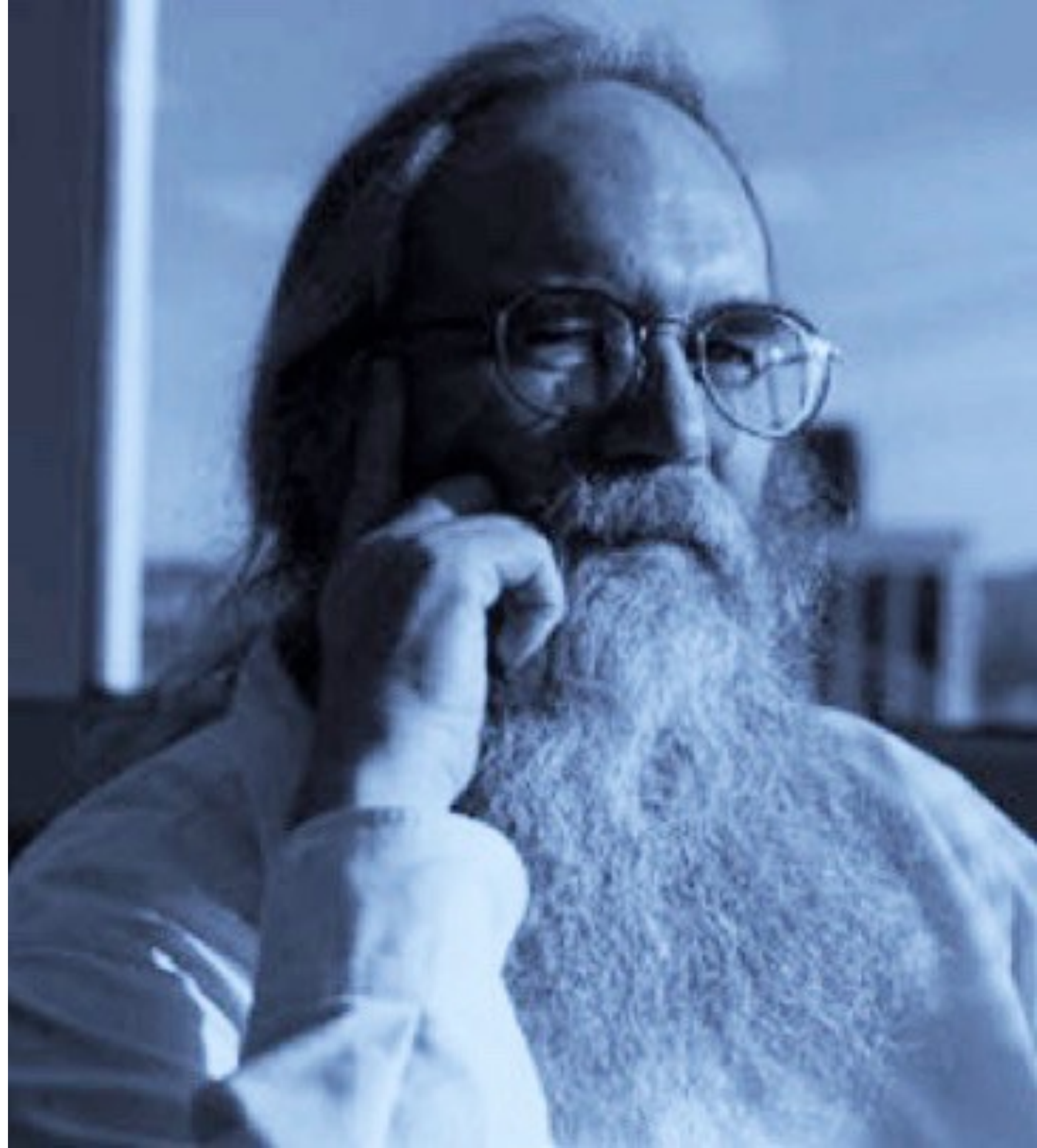


# DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- Model-agnostic
- Immutable
- Scalable
- Politically Neutral

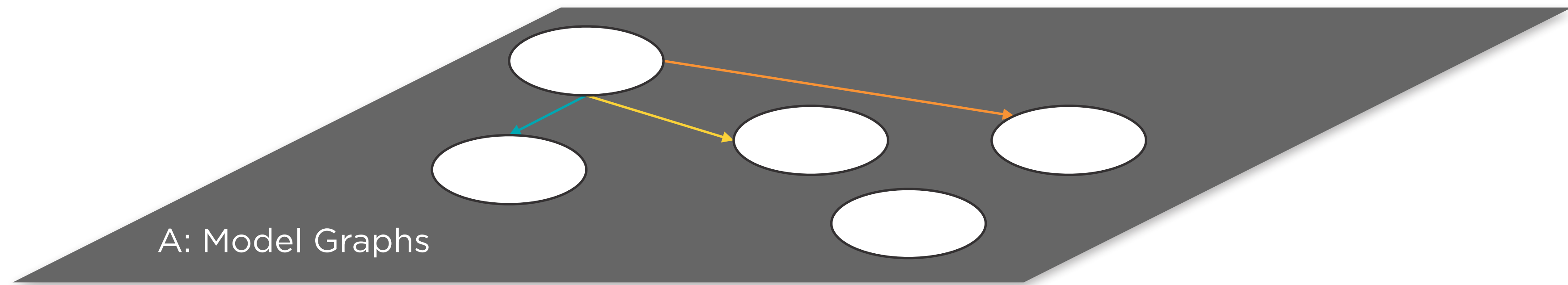
# Postel's Law

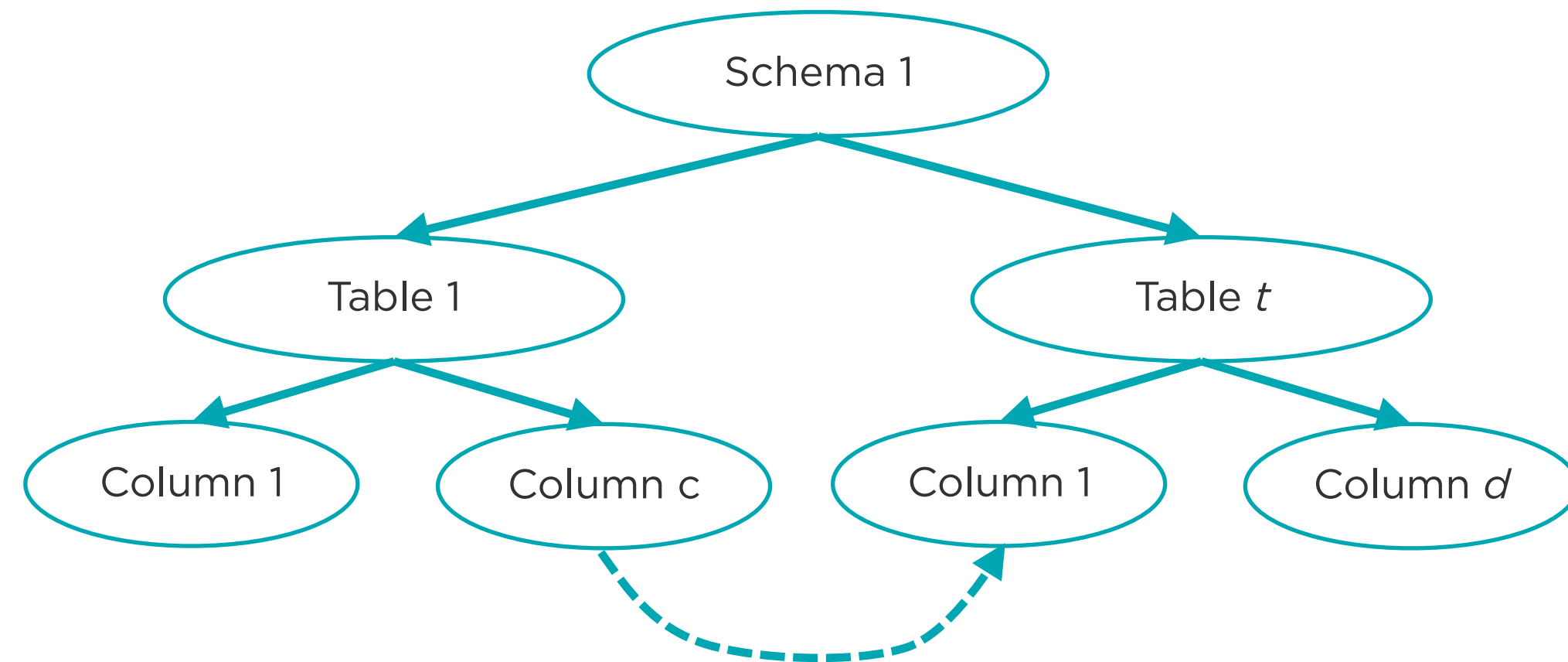
“Be conservative in what you do,  
be liberal in what you  
accept from others”



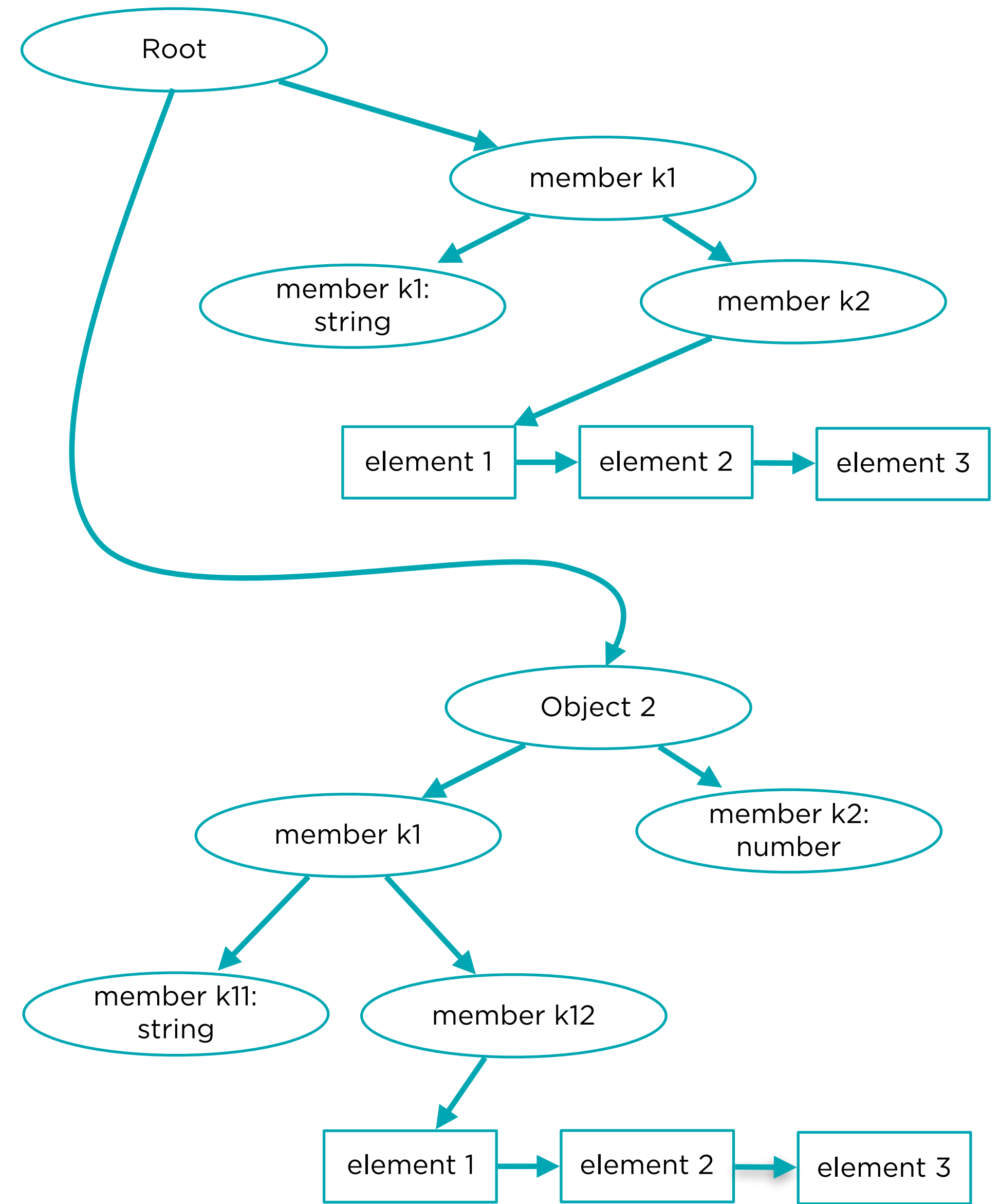
# COMMON GROUND

The metamodel





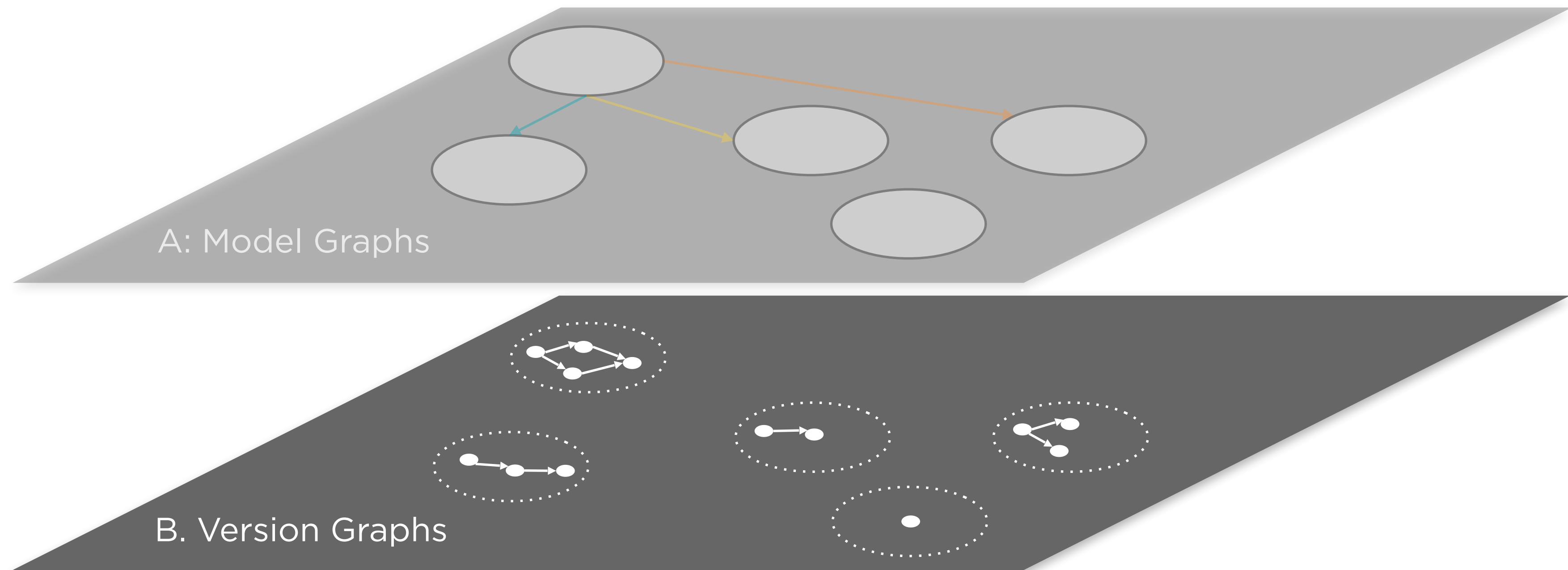
**RELATIONAL SCHEMA**



**JSON DOCUMENT**

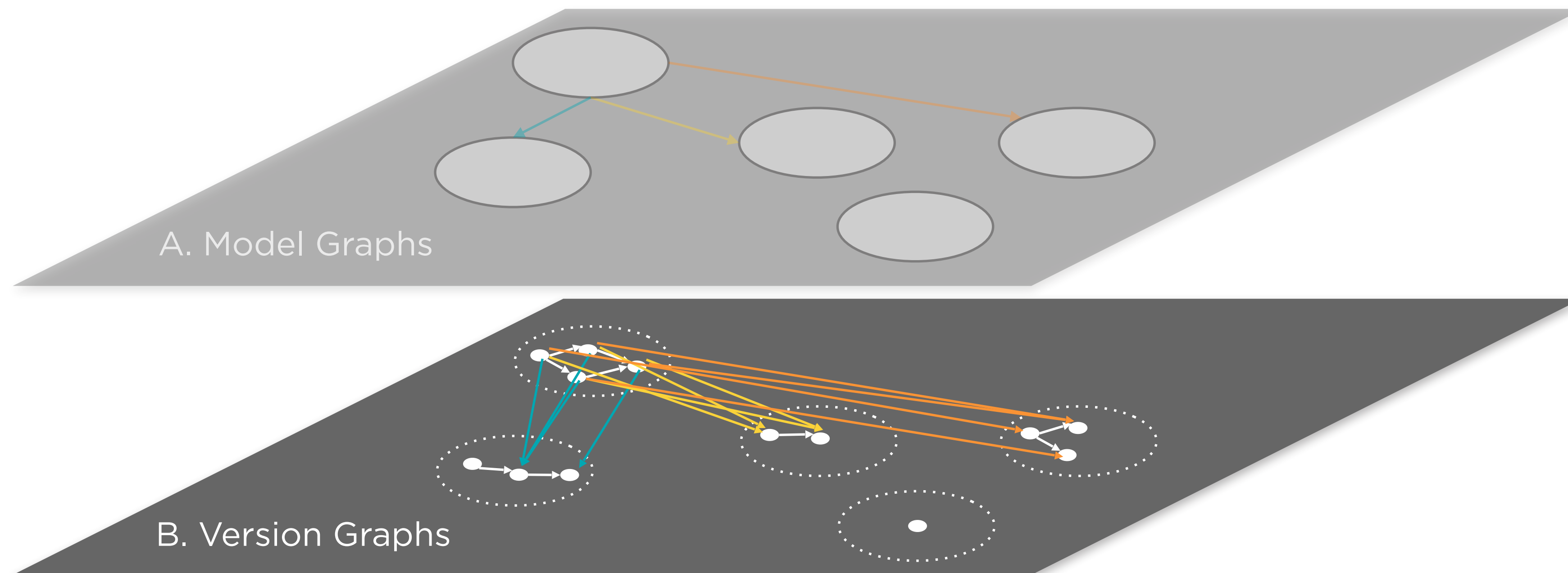
# COMMON GROUND

The versioning model



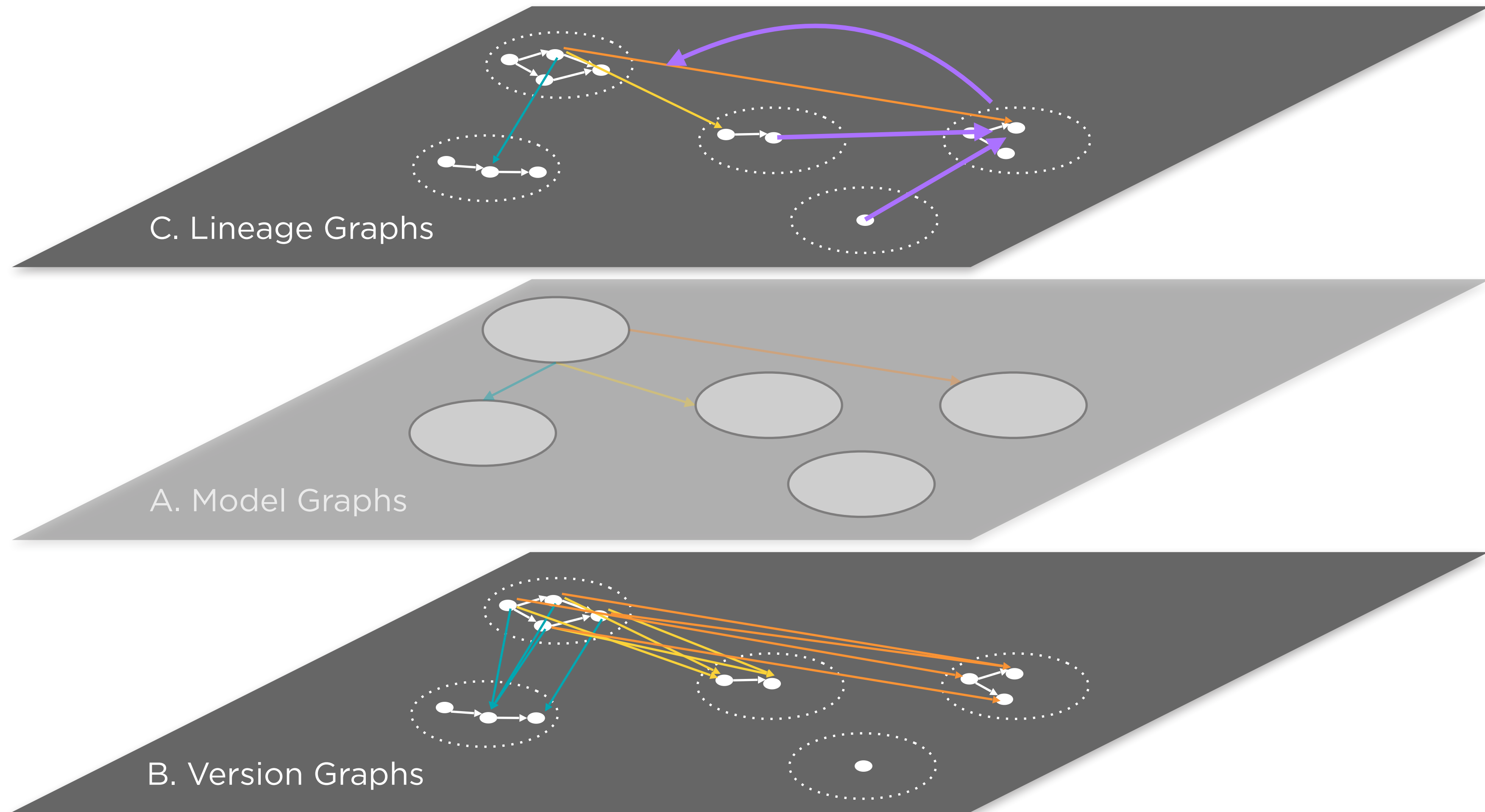
# COMMON GROUND

The versioning model



# COMMON GROUND

## The usage model



# SCALABLE, IMMUTABLE BACKEND

Longstanding open problem

## Workloads?

- Graph queries for metamodel traversal
- Log analysis queries for usage

## Room for improvement

- Goal: compete with in-memory performance (“the McSherry baseline”)

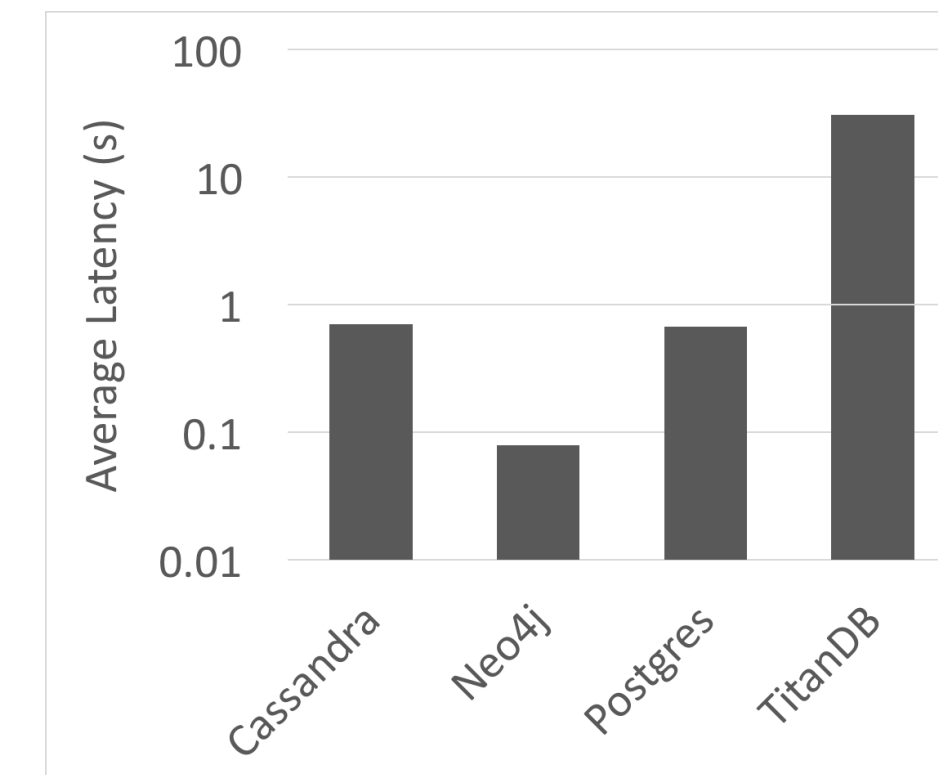


Figure 8: Dwell time analysis.

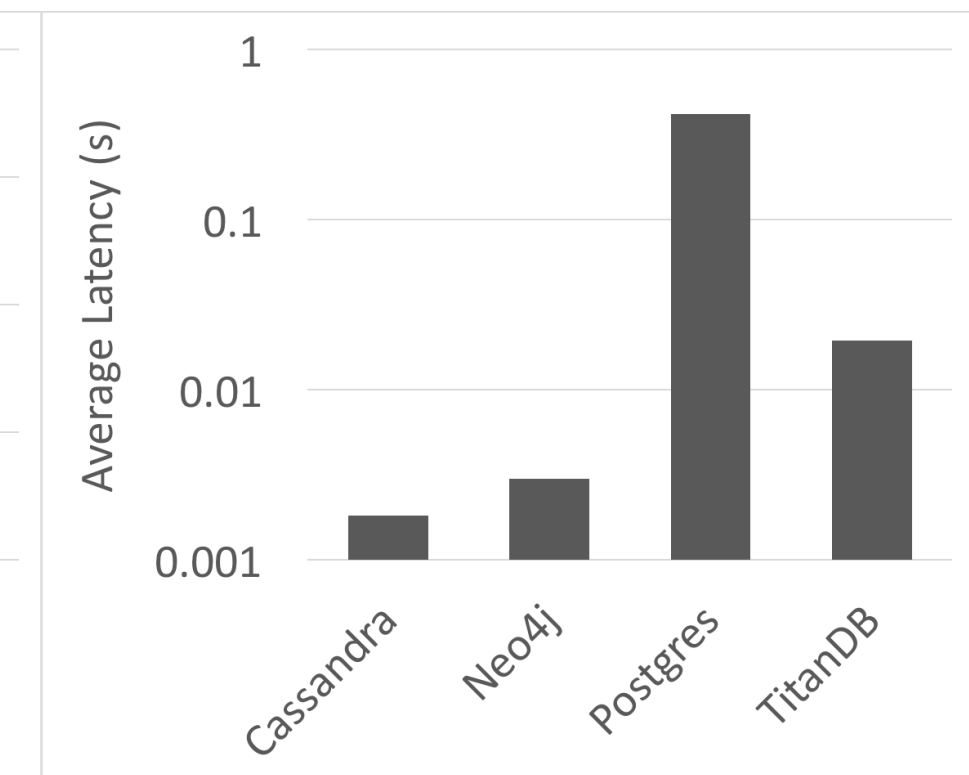


Figure 9: Impact analysis.

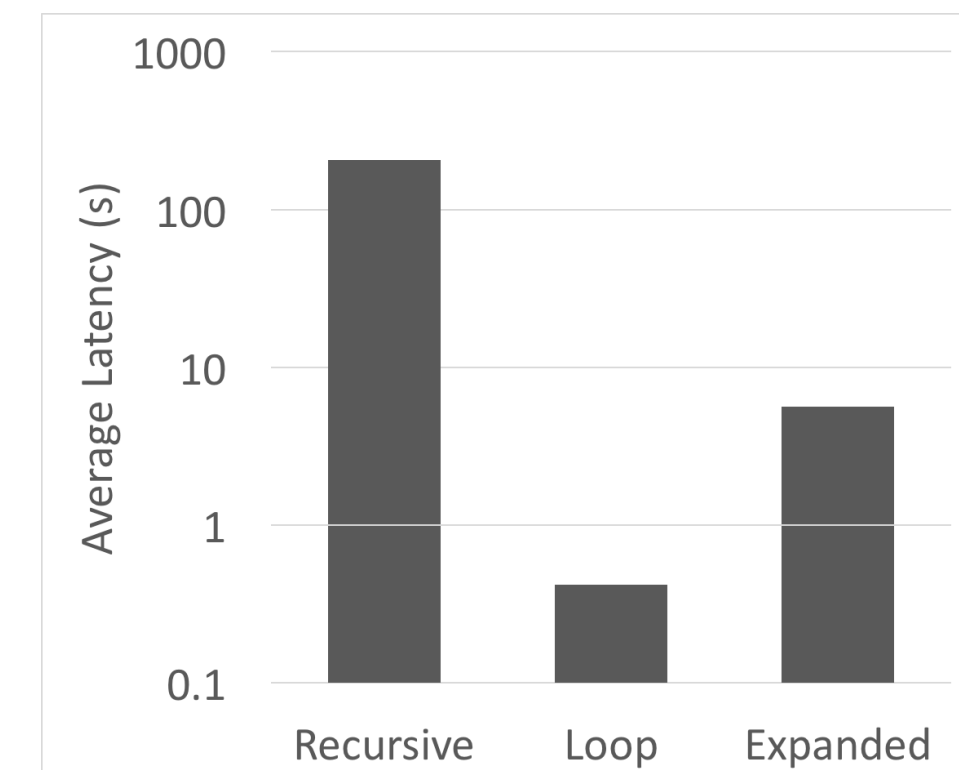


Figure 10: PostgreSQL transitive closure variants.

# NEUTRALITY

Reminder:



There will be  $k$  competing solutions for:

- Data wrangling
- Data cataloging
- Schema extraction
- Feature extraction
- Social network analysis
- Etc.
- This will consolidate somewhat, but only over time

Goal: foster the ecosystem



# NEUTRALITY



awake  
networks

Capital One®

cloudera®

DATA GUISE

LinkedIn

skyhigh

TRIFACTA

YOU

ground

# MANY OPEN RESEARCH QUESTIONS

## Underground

- Workloads
- Common Ground representations
- No-overwrite versioned DB
- Time travel queries: point and trend Graph queries + log analysis
- Consistency

## Aboveground

- Content extraction
- Analytic user exhaust
- Socio-technical networks
- Collective governance
- Reproducibility
- Lifecycle of systems that learn

# CURRENT STATUS

## Alpha Release

- Integrated with LinkedIn Gobblin, Kafka, Hive Metastore, Github
- All components have Docker images on DockerHub
- We'd love feedback!



[www.ground-context.org](http://www.ground-context.org)