

TEMPO Workshop on Software Development

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SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY IN BRATISLAVA

*“An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes
that can be made in a very narrow field.”*

Niels Bohr, Nobel price winner (1922)

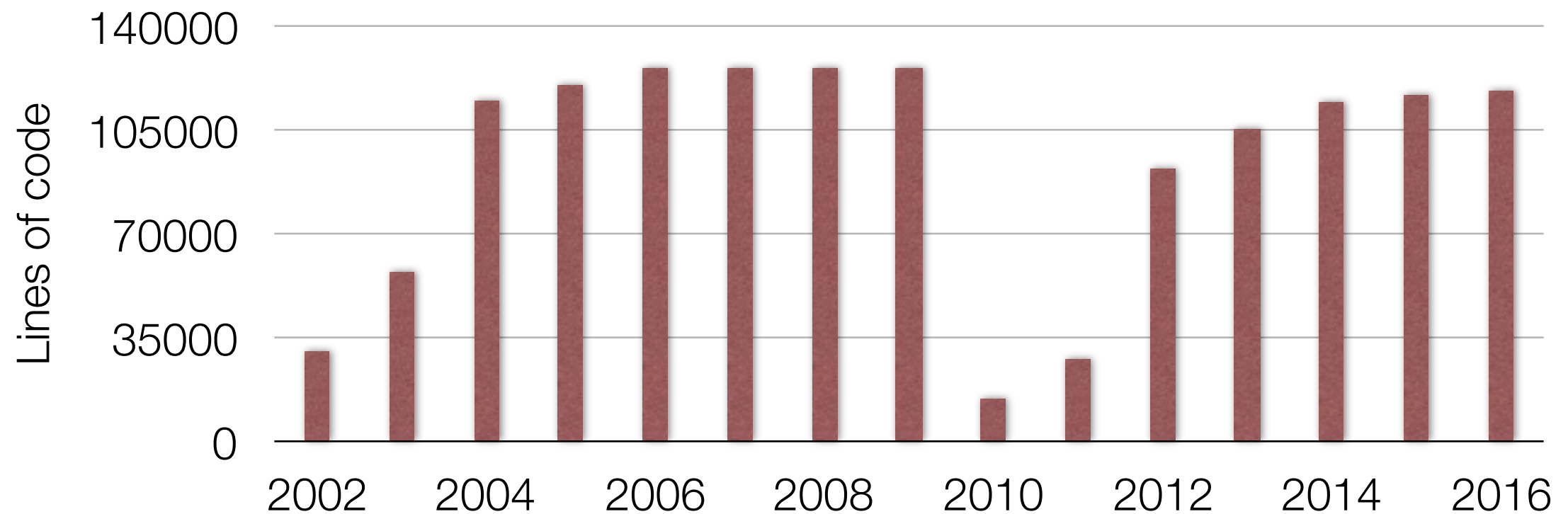
The Multi-Parametric Toolbox (MPT)

Developed since 2002

40,000+ installations world-wide

118,503 lines of code in 2,169 files

5 main developers



Agenda

Today

- version control systems and collaborative development
- Mercurial, Git, Bitbucket, GitHub
- providing support

Tomorrow

- unit testing
- documentation
- dissemination

Set of DOs and DONTs

Agenda

Today

- **version control systems and collaborative development**
- Mercurial, Git, Bitbucket, GitHub
- providing support

Tomorrow

- unit testing
- documentation
- dissemination

DONT #1: Do NOT Use Archives

mpt12.zip
mpt1_2_2.zip
mpt_ver04.zip
mpt_ver11R1.zip
mpt_ver141.zip
mpt13r1.zip
mpt_ver02.zip
mpt_ver05.zip
mpt_ver11R2.zip
mpt_ver144.zip
mpt14.zip
mpt_ver03.zip
mpt_ver11.zip
mpt_ver11R3.zip
mptv122.zip

Main problems:

- does not protect against accidental deletion
- linear development (cannot release until all new features are complete)
- single-user development
- difficult to find a change that introduced a bug

Archives do not give answers to:

- what has changed between versions?
- who made the changes?
- when and why were the changes made?
- which version is the latest stable release?

DO #1: Use a Version Control System

Main objectives:

- record changes over time
- recall a specific version later
- enable collaboration
- allow nonlinear development

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Working directory

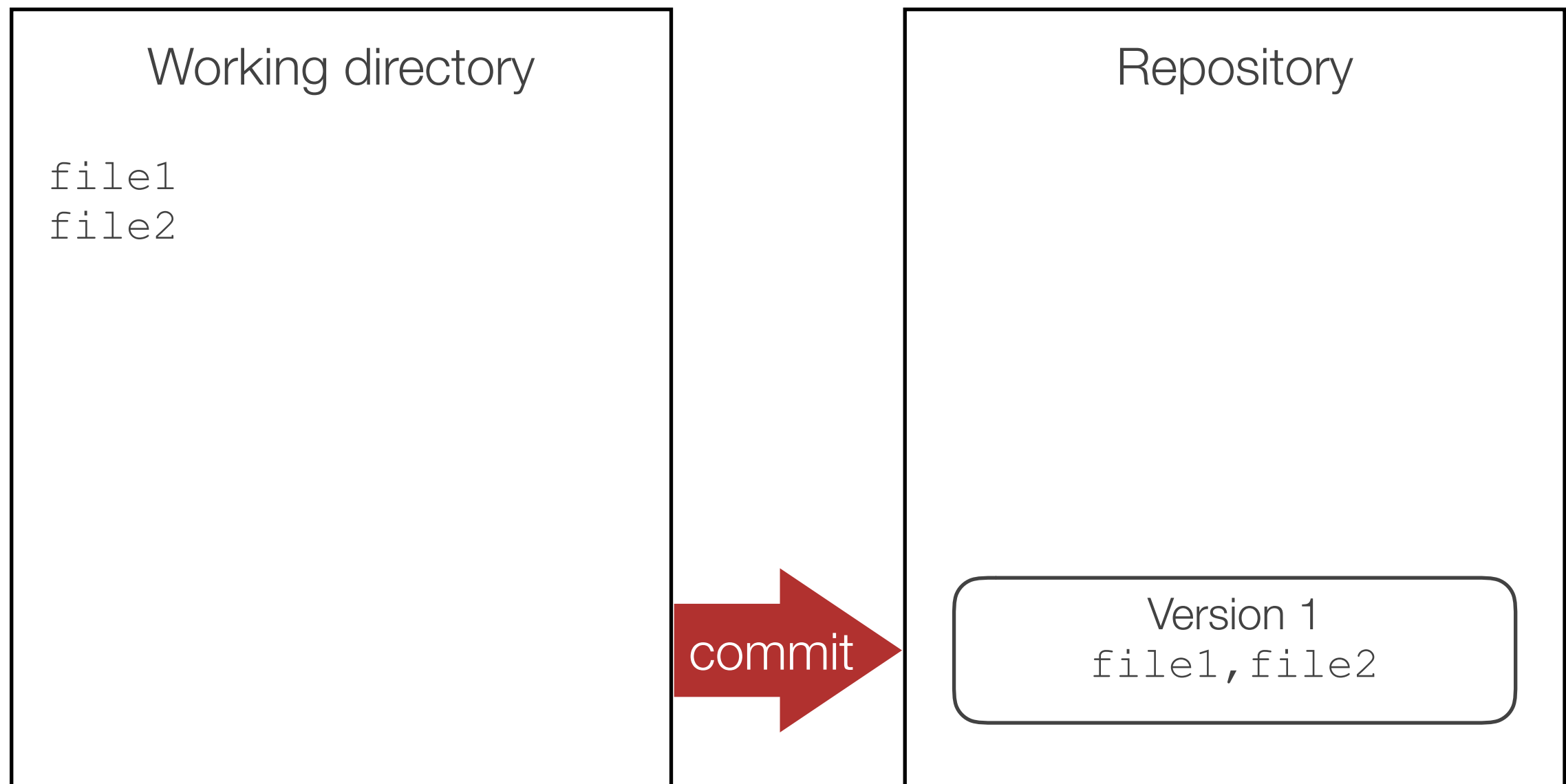
file1
file2

Repository

DO #1: Use a Version Control System

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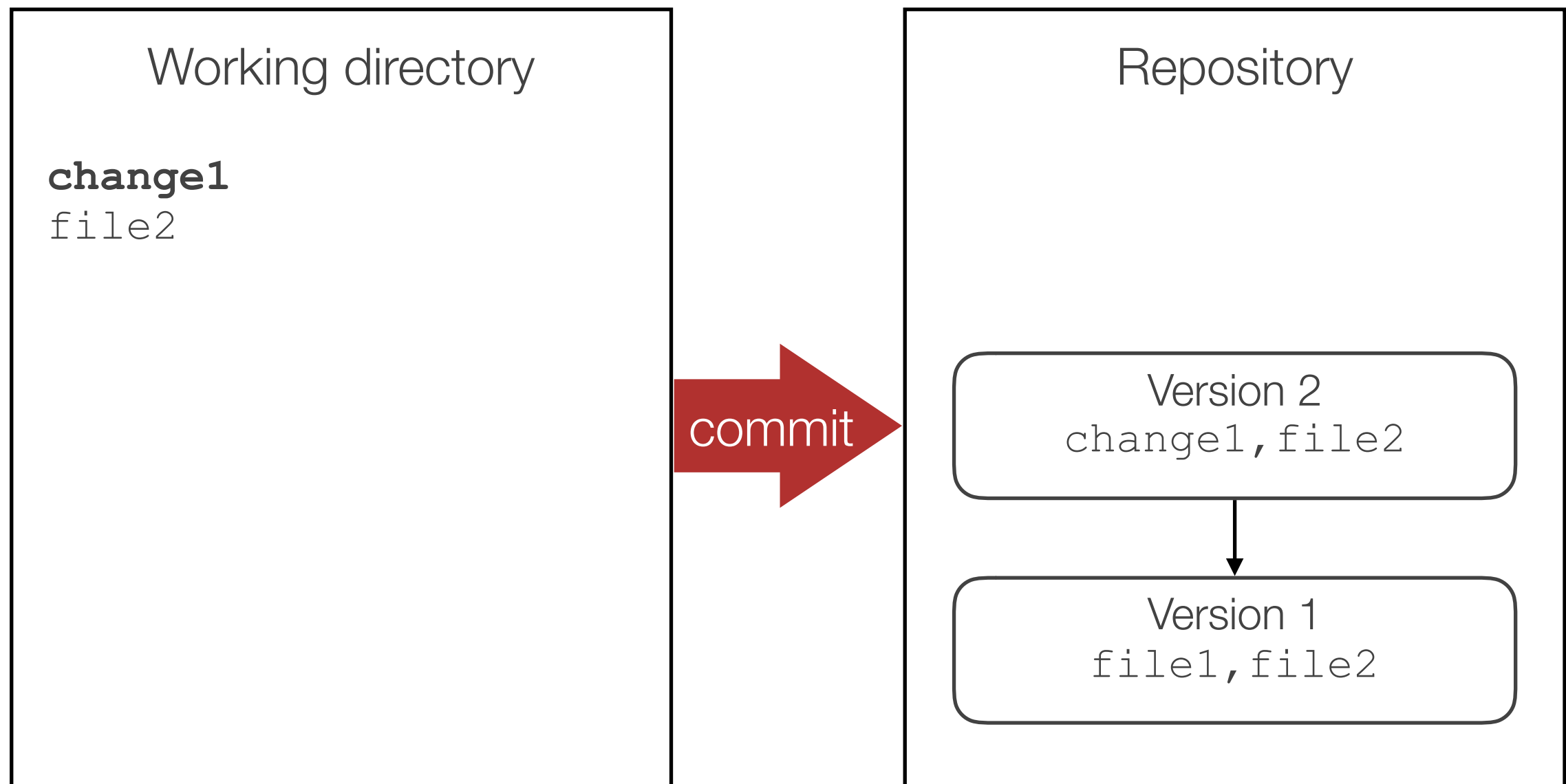
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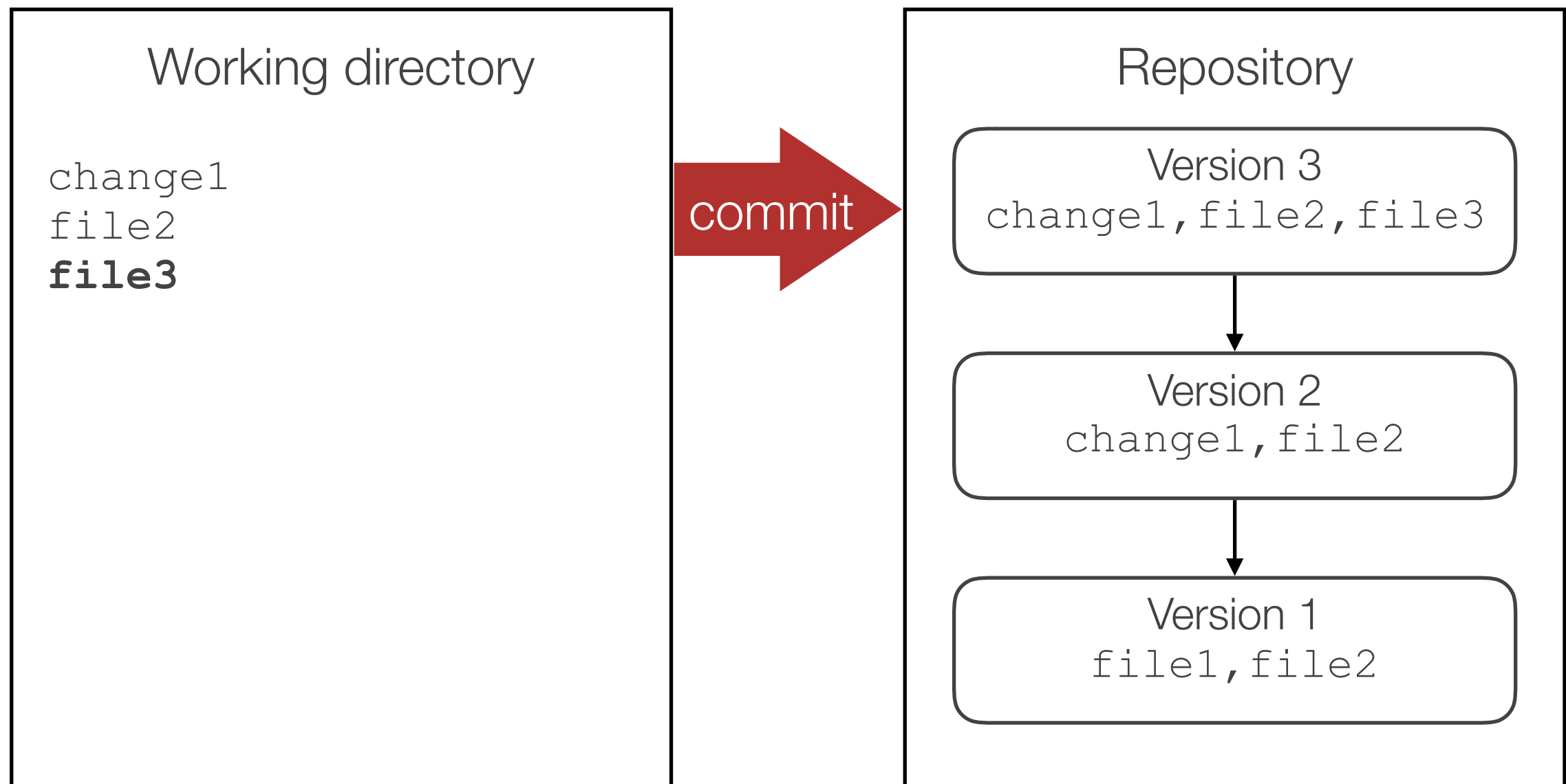
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Sidenote: VCS is for Source Code

Typically stored in VCS:

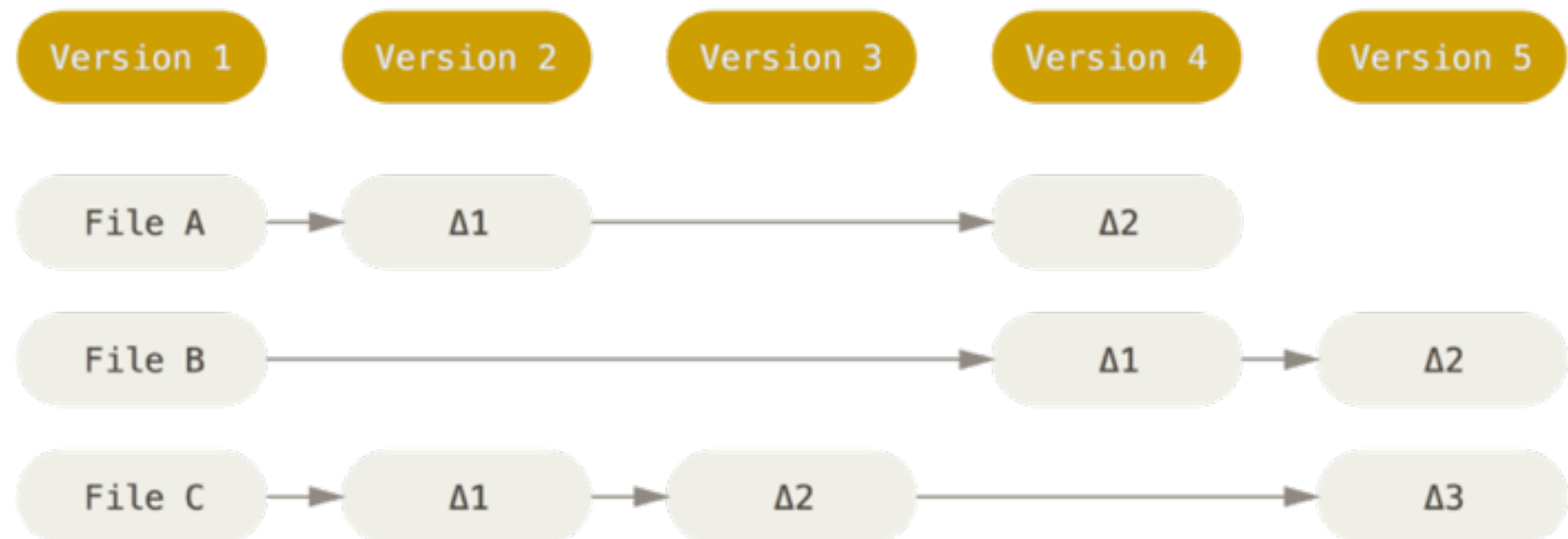
- source files
- documentation (markdown, html, LaTeX)
- binary files that do not change (e.g. logos)

Not to be stored:

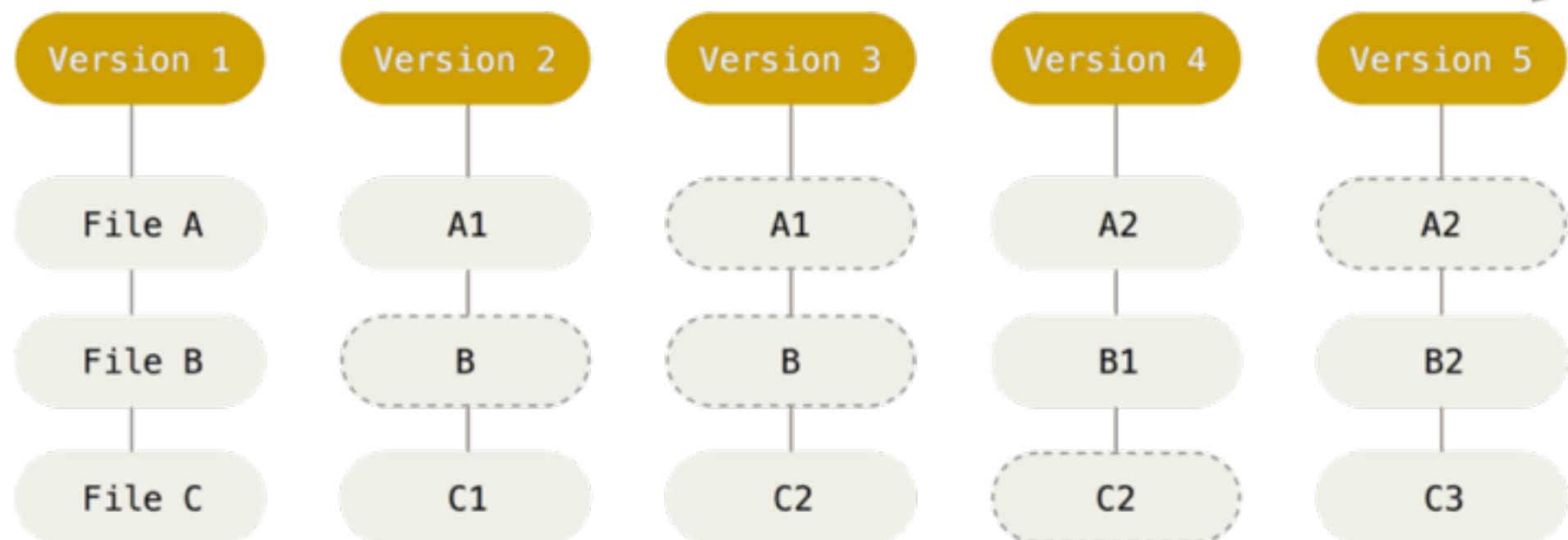
- automatically generated files (PDFs from LaTeX, compiled binaries, etc.)
- Word documents
- files containing passwords! (even when you remove the data from the top version, it stays in the repository forever in previous versions)

Sidenote: Different Storage Models

Deltas:
(Mercurial)



Snapshots:
(Git)



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Working directory

change1
~~file2~~
file3

file accidentally
deleted

Repository

Version 3
change1, file2, file3



Version 2
change1, file2

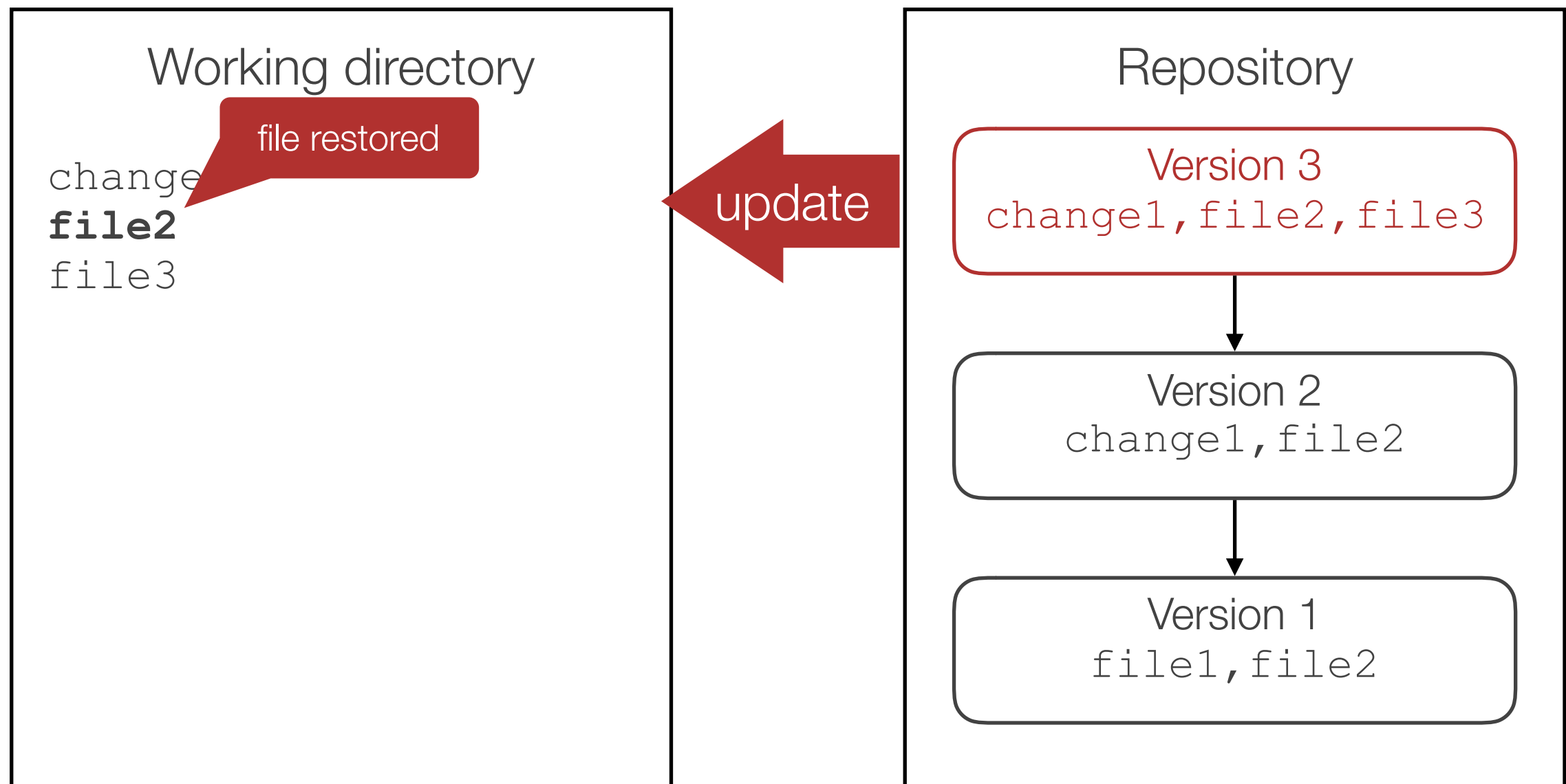


Version 1
file1, file2

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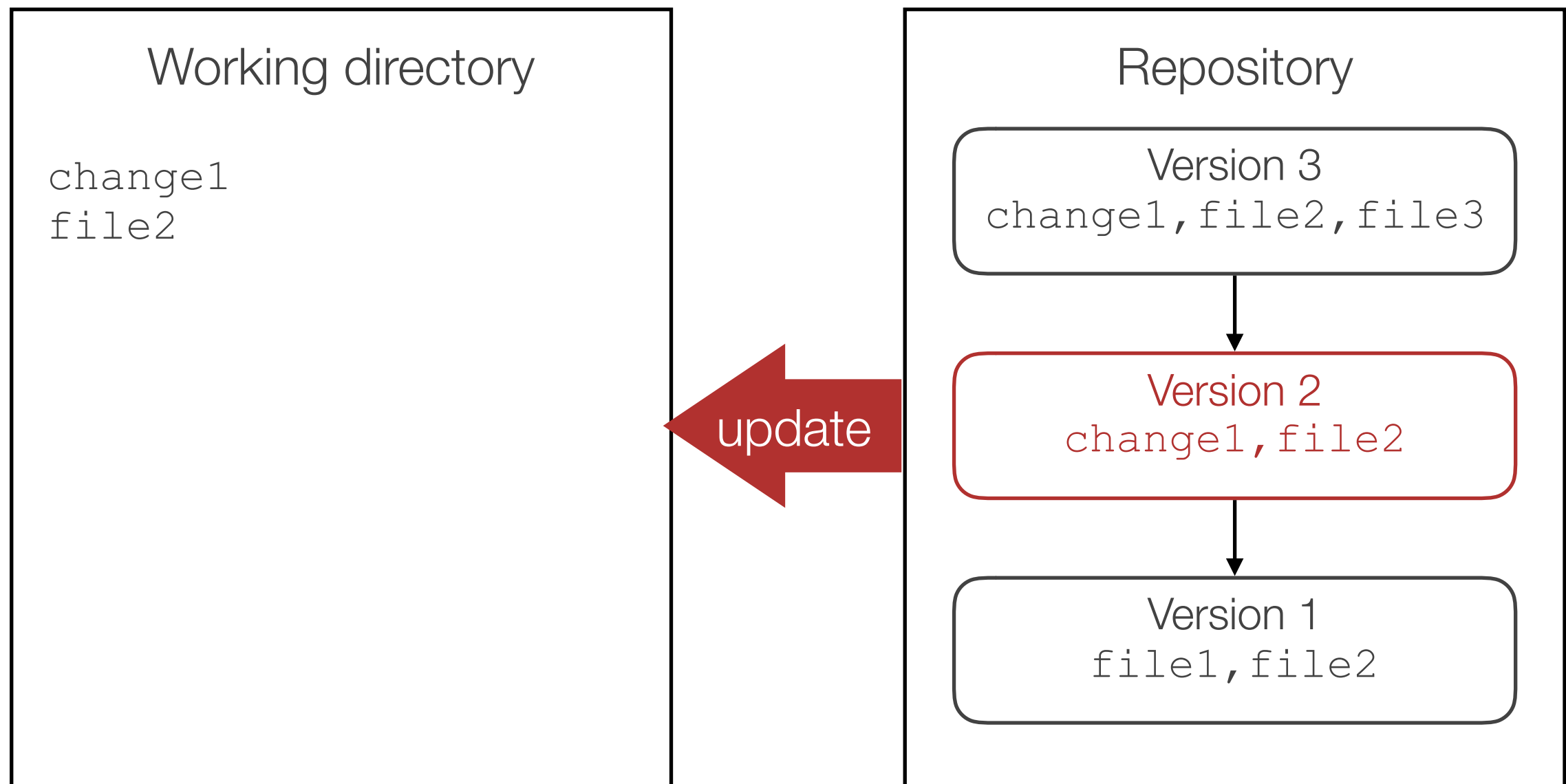
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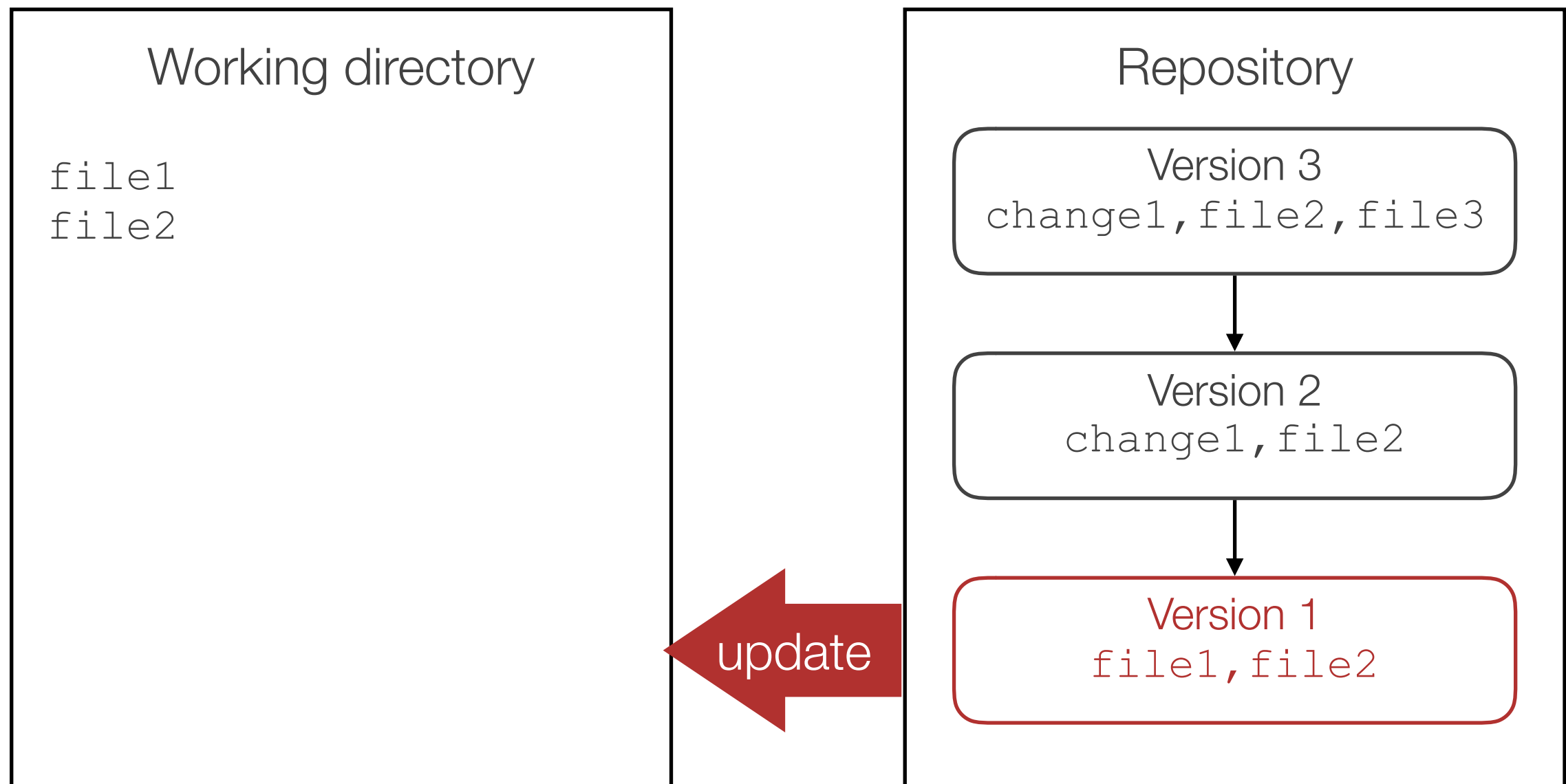
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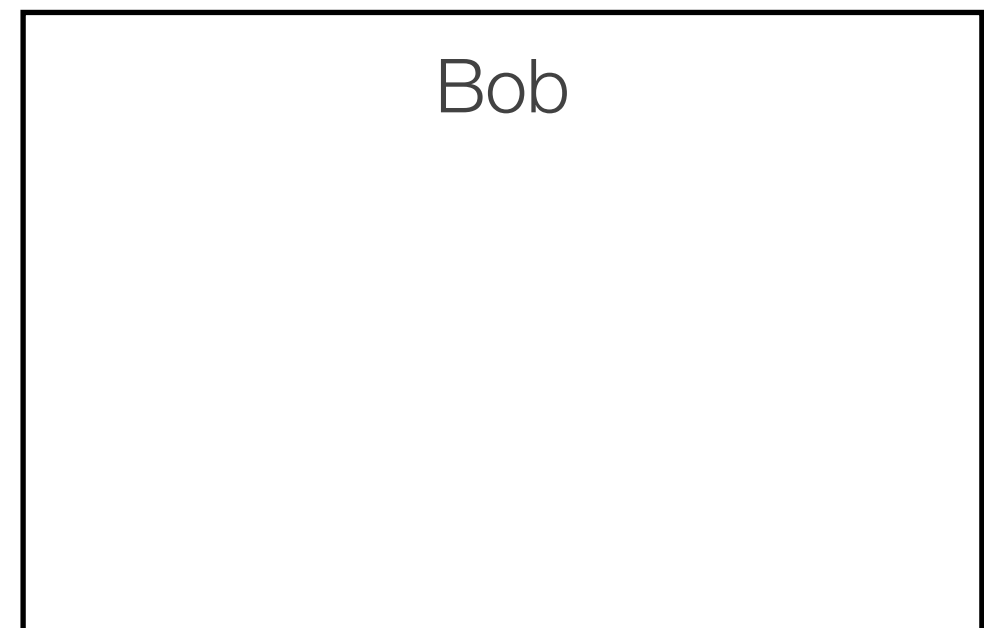
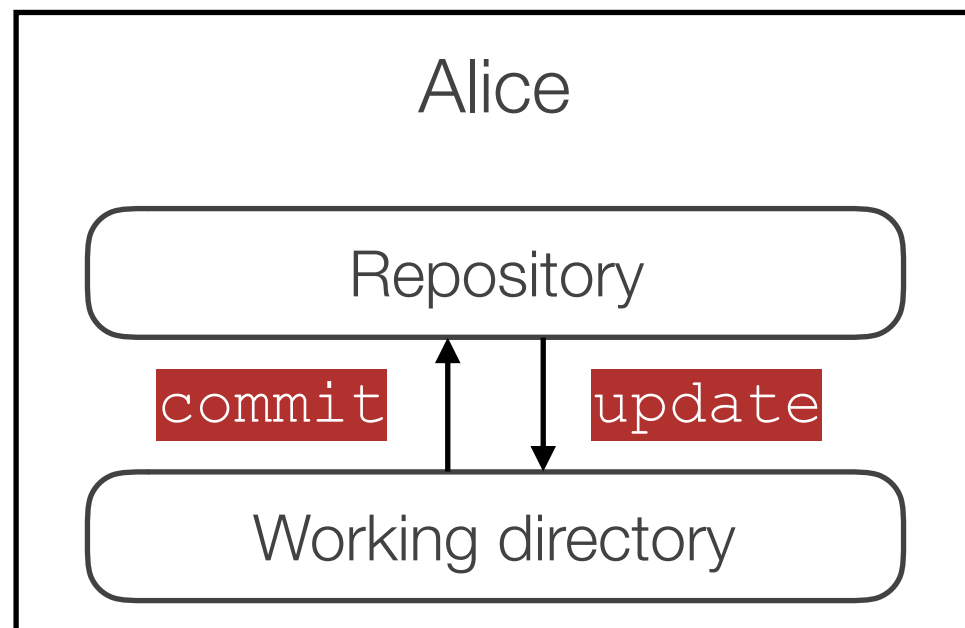
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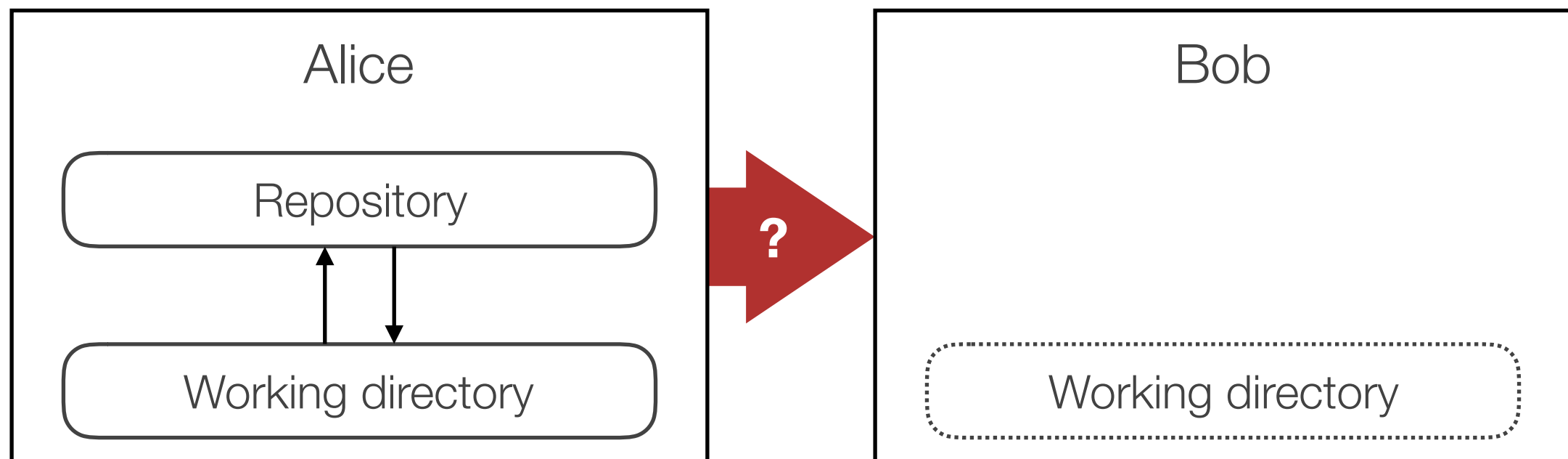
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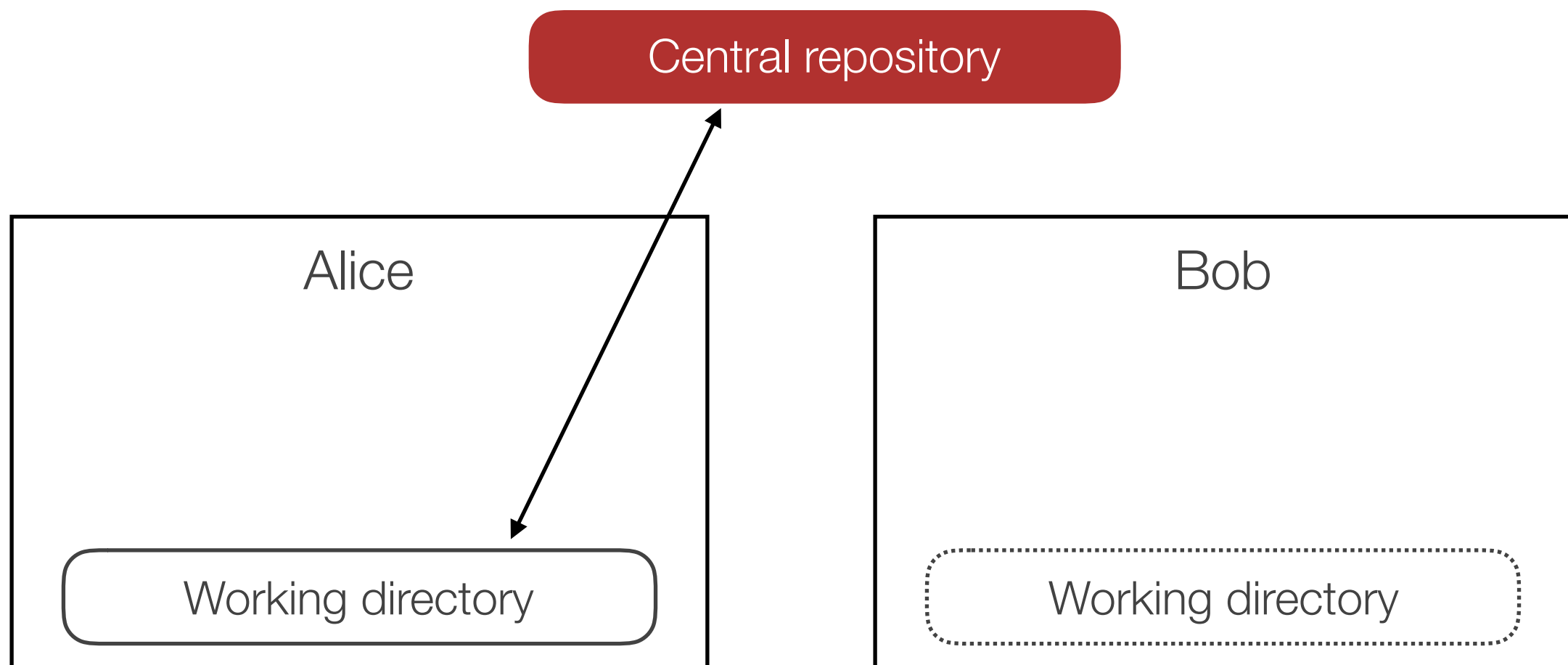
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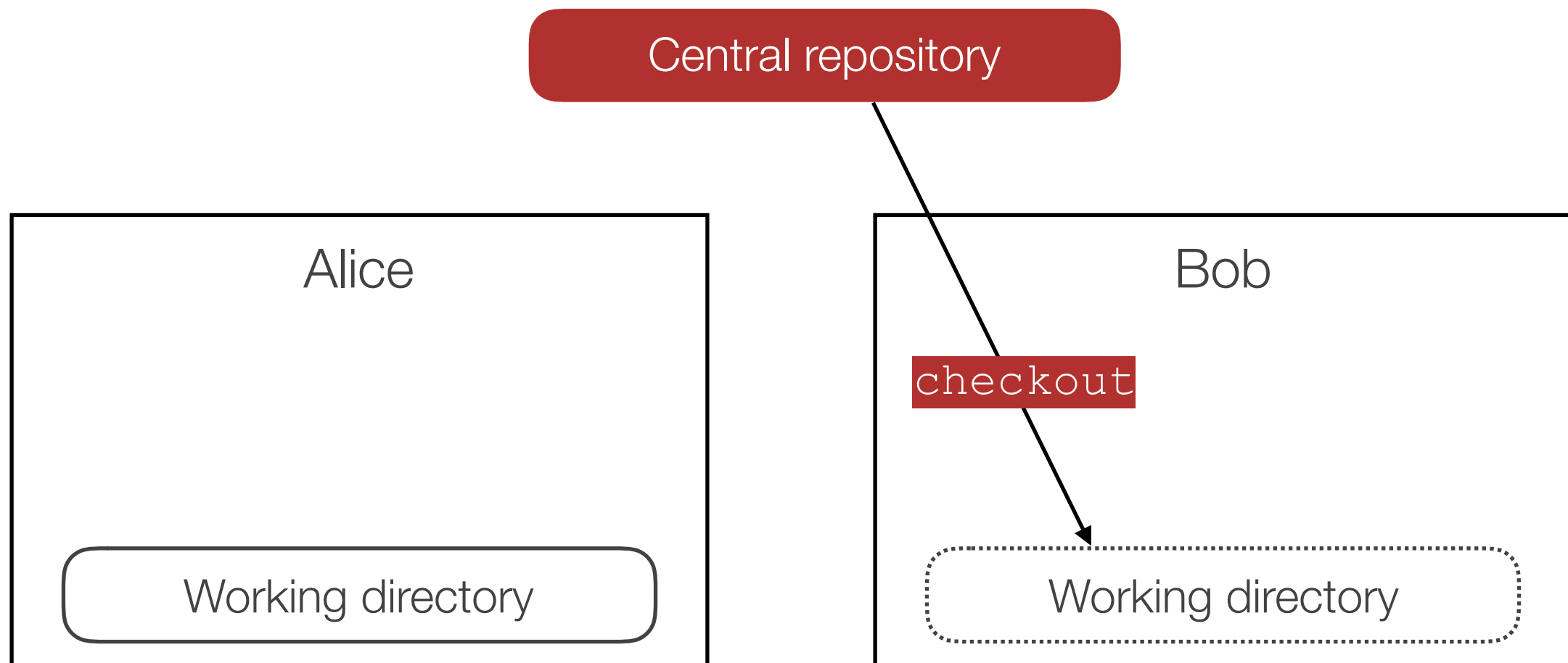
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Main idea: use a centralized repository (public server)



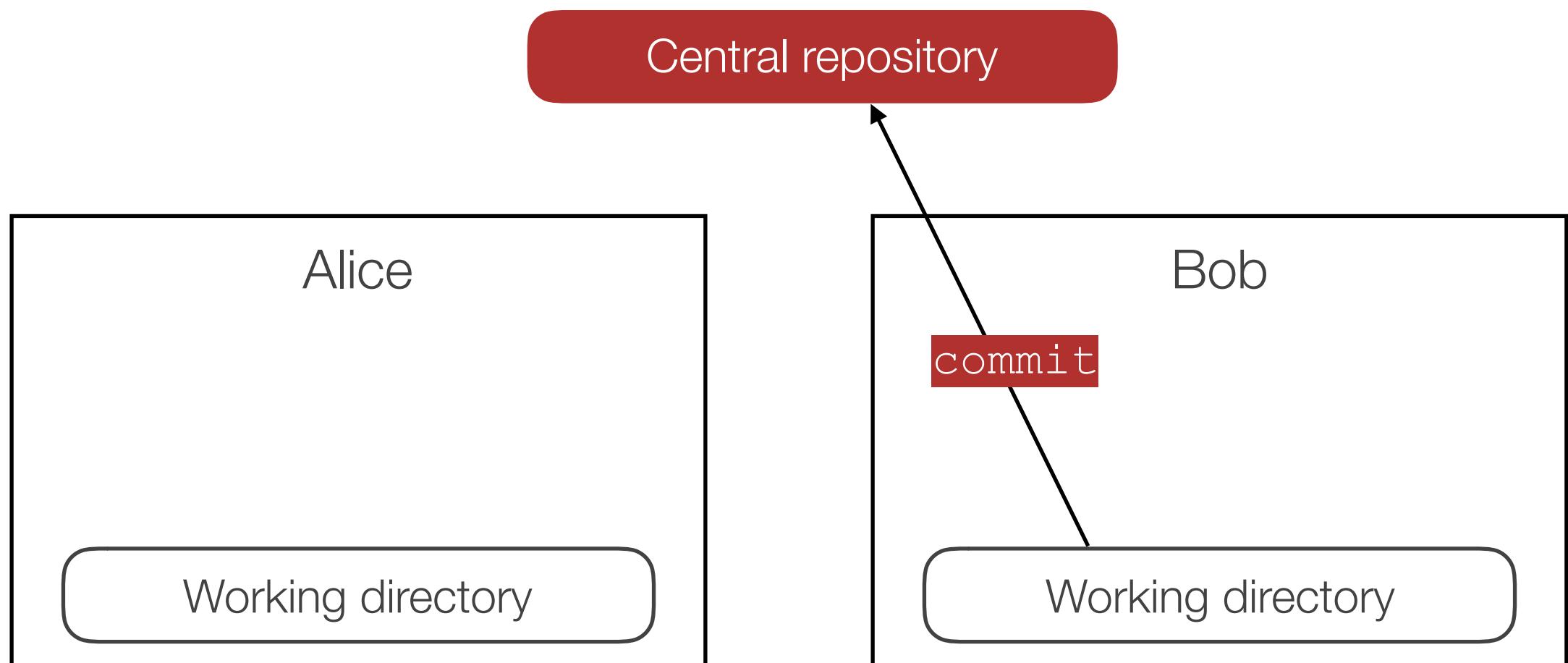
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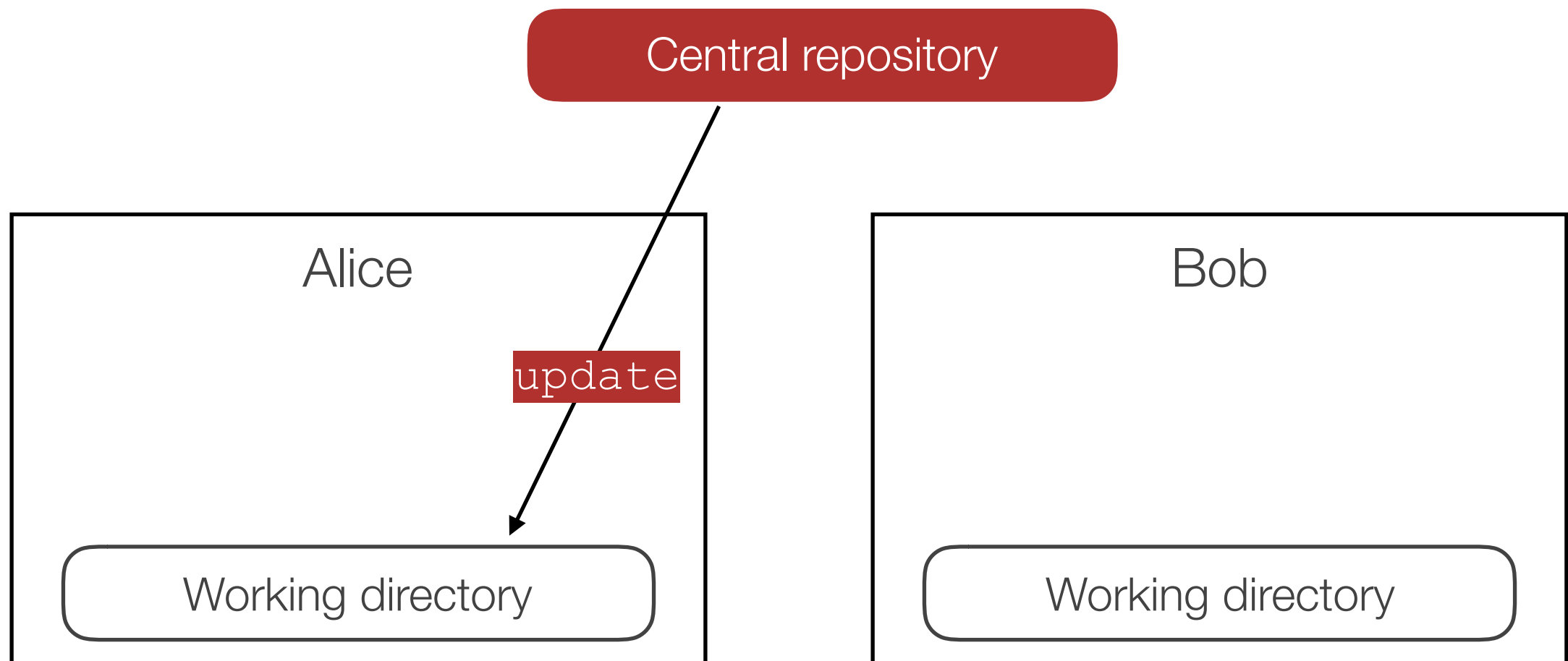
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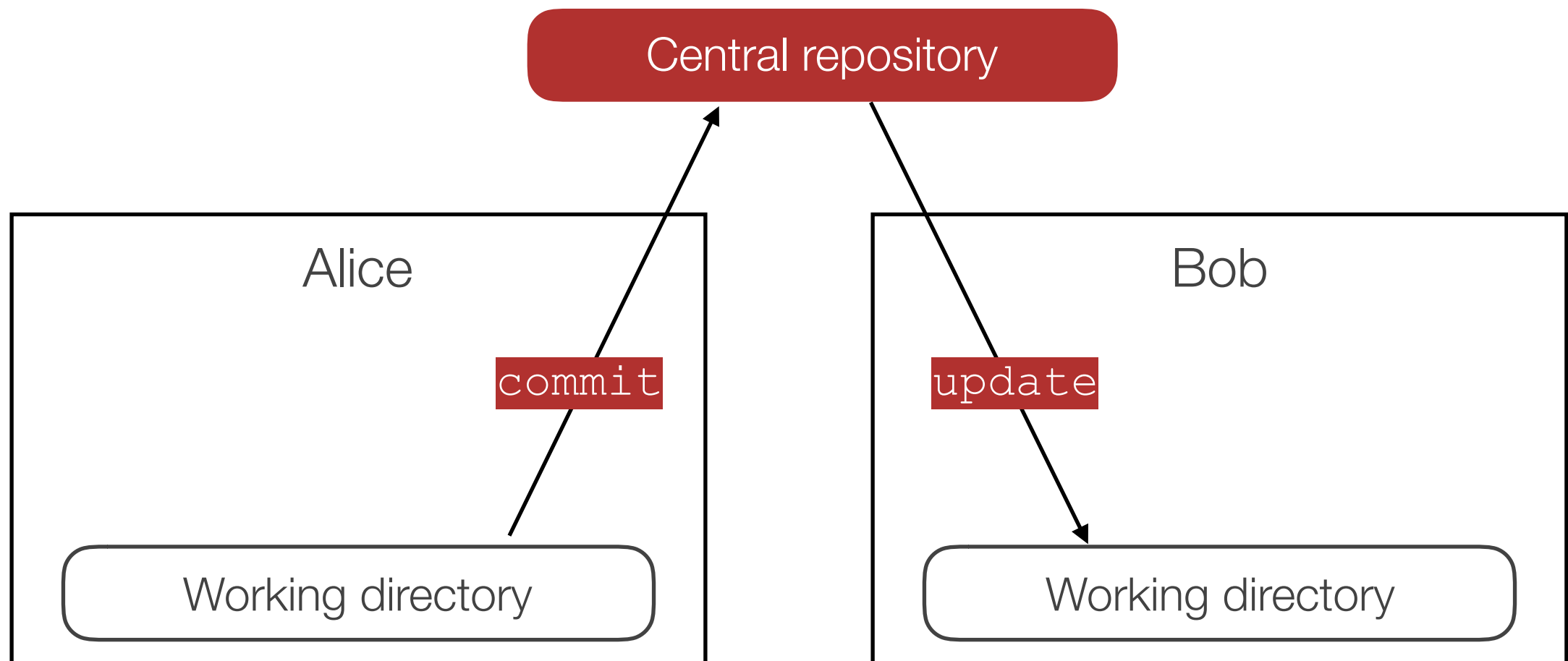
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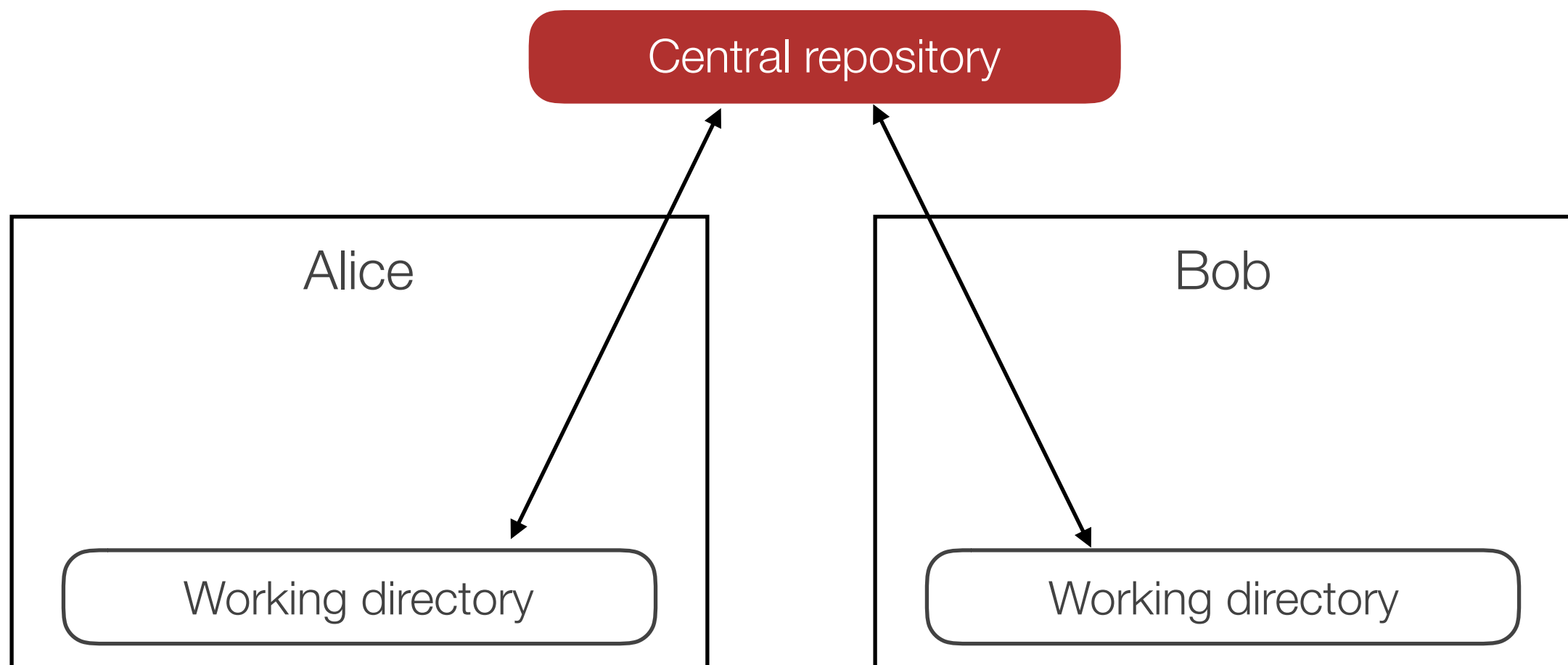


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Problems:

- requires permanent internet connection (+single point of failure)
- access rights management
- communication ("Hey, I made a change, you need to update")
- only one person can commit at a time

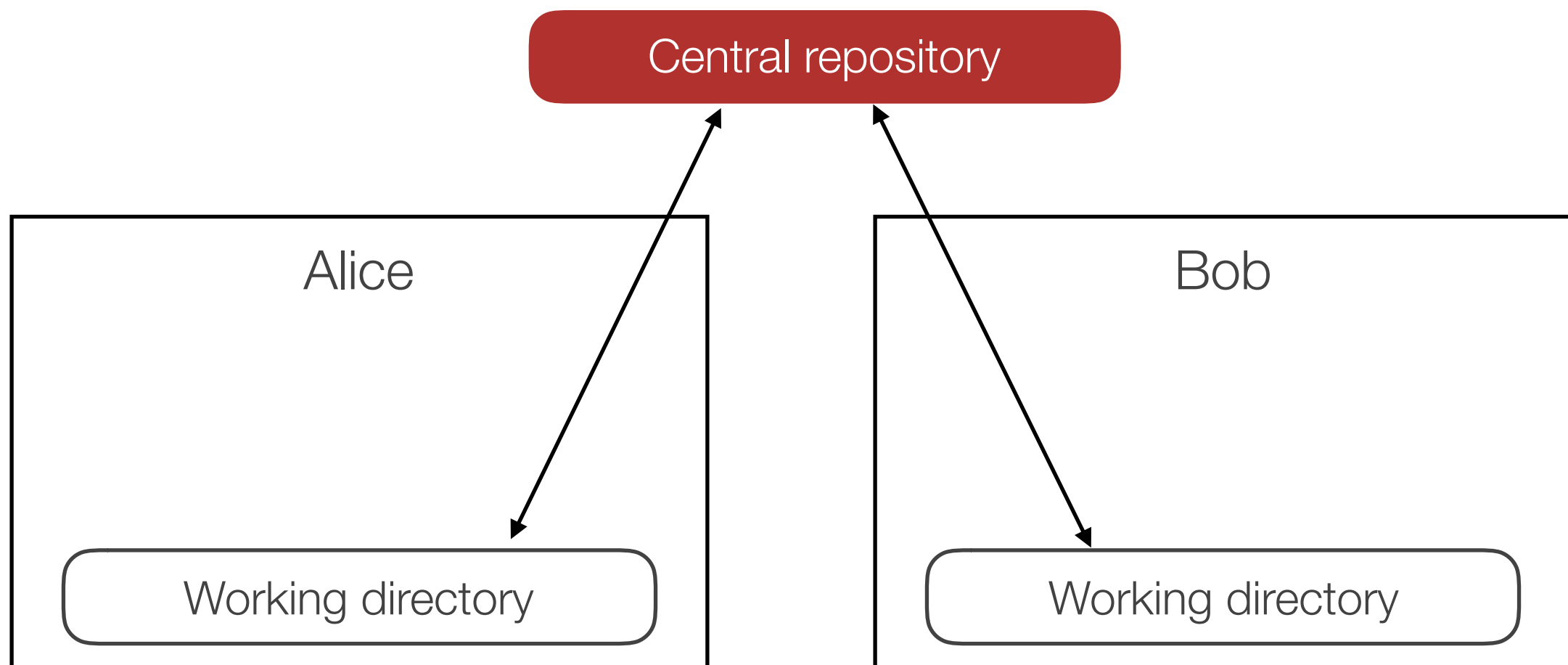


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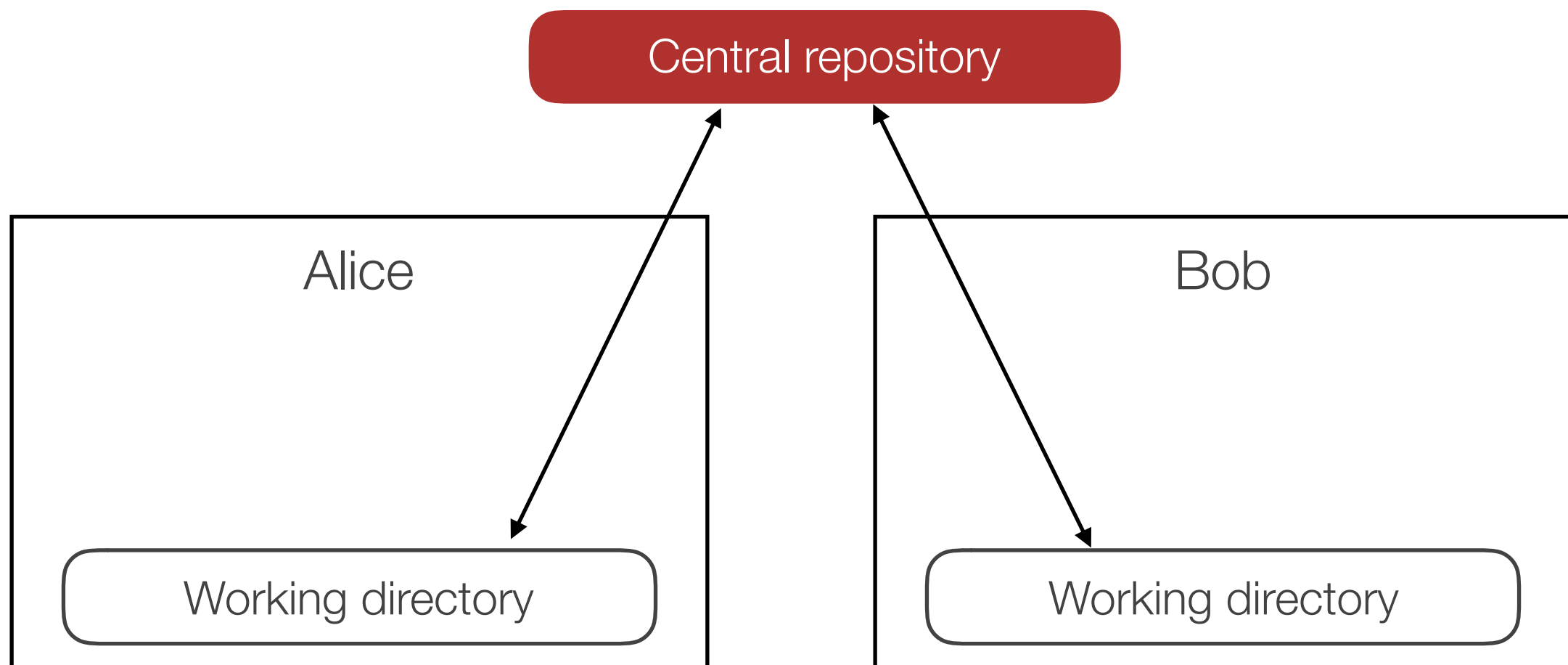


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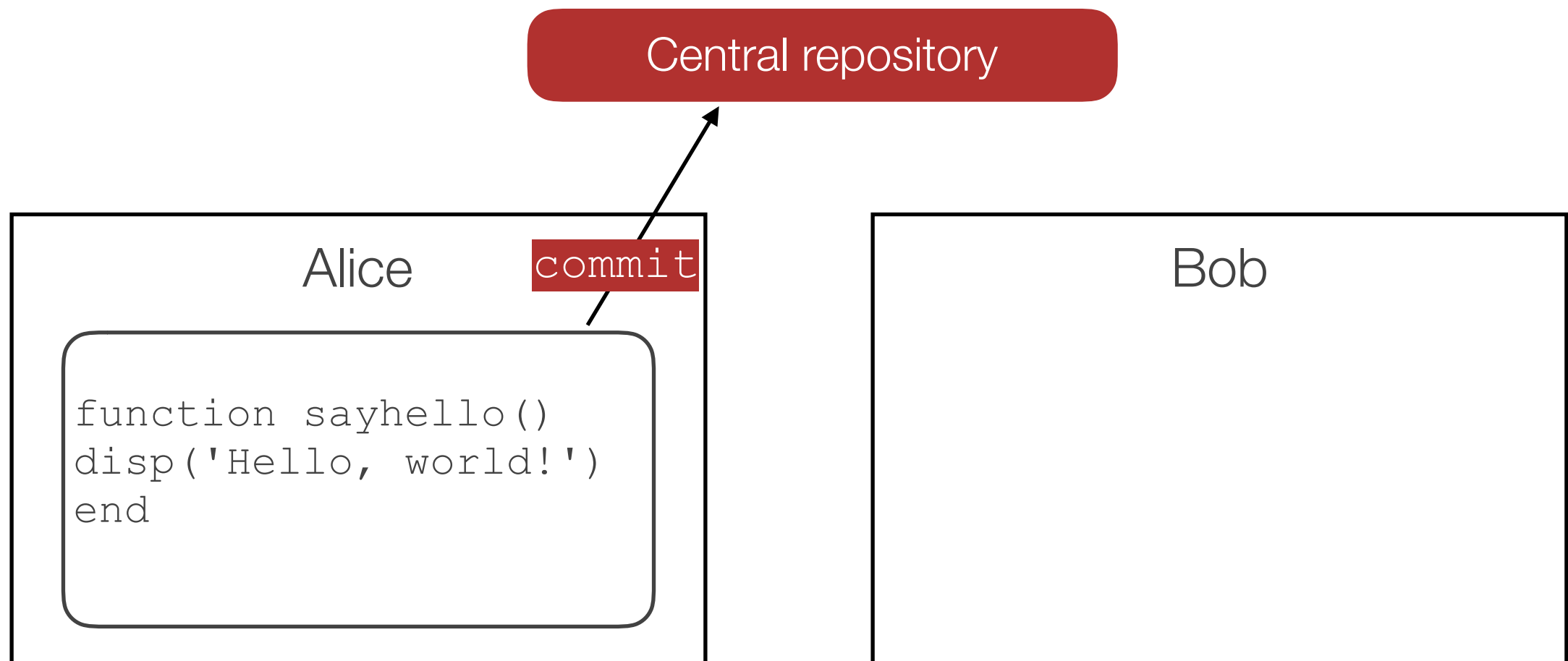
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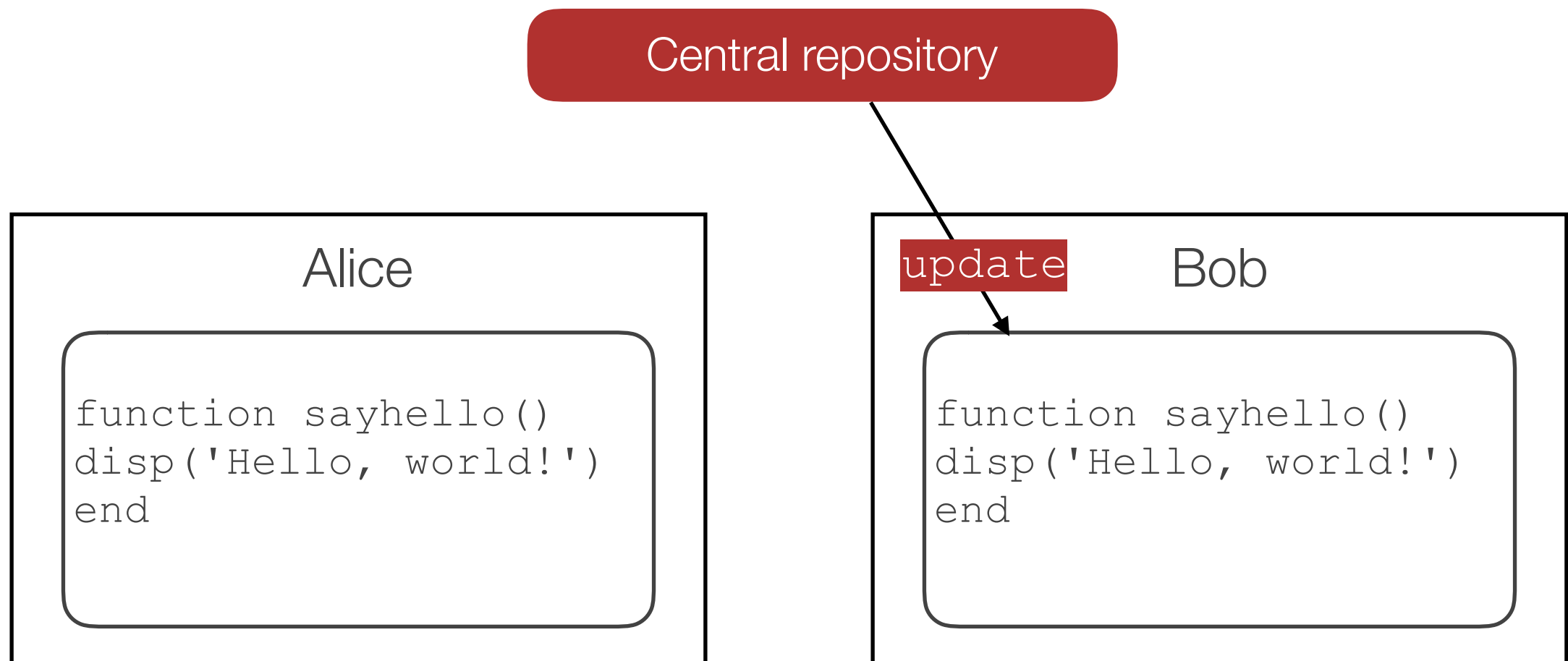
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Sidenote: Merges



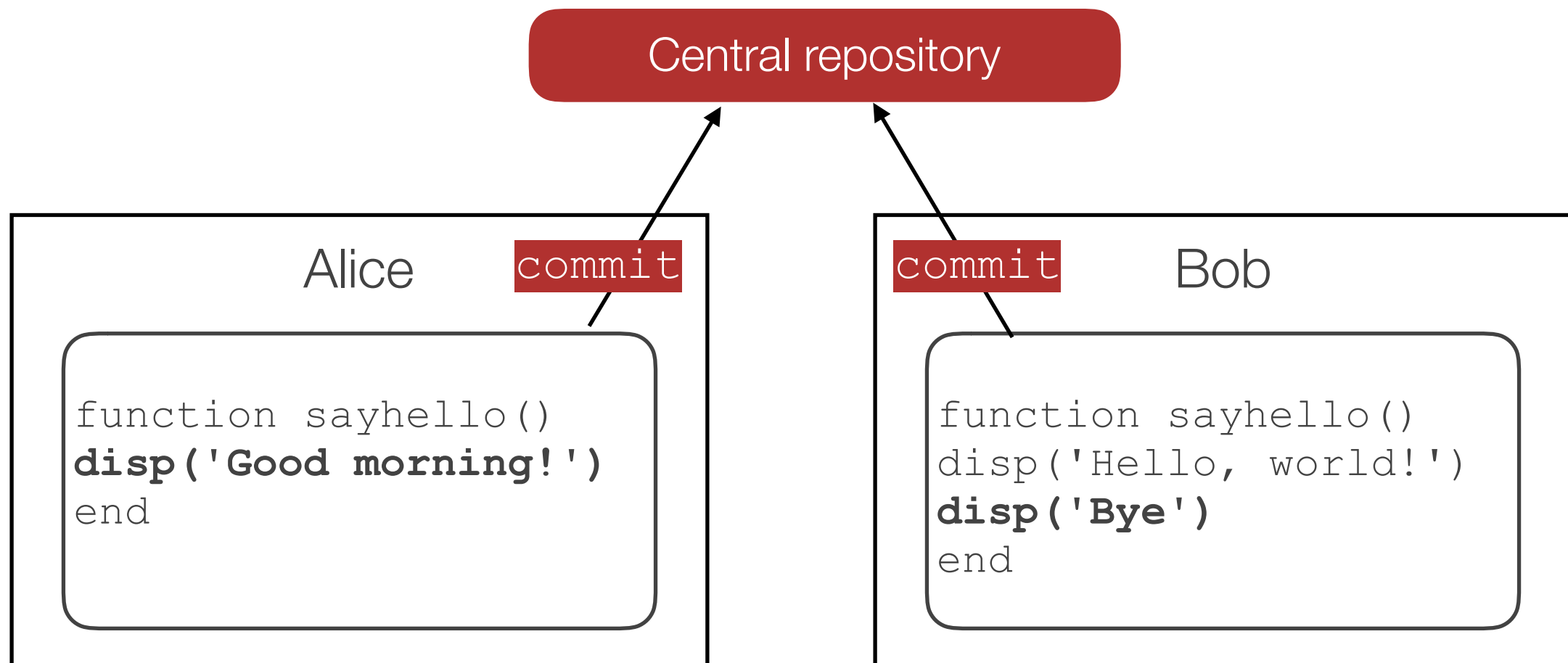
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Centralized VCS will prevent simultaneous commits

- in fact, "update" locks the repository for a particular user



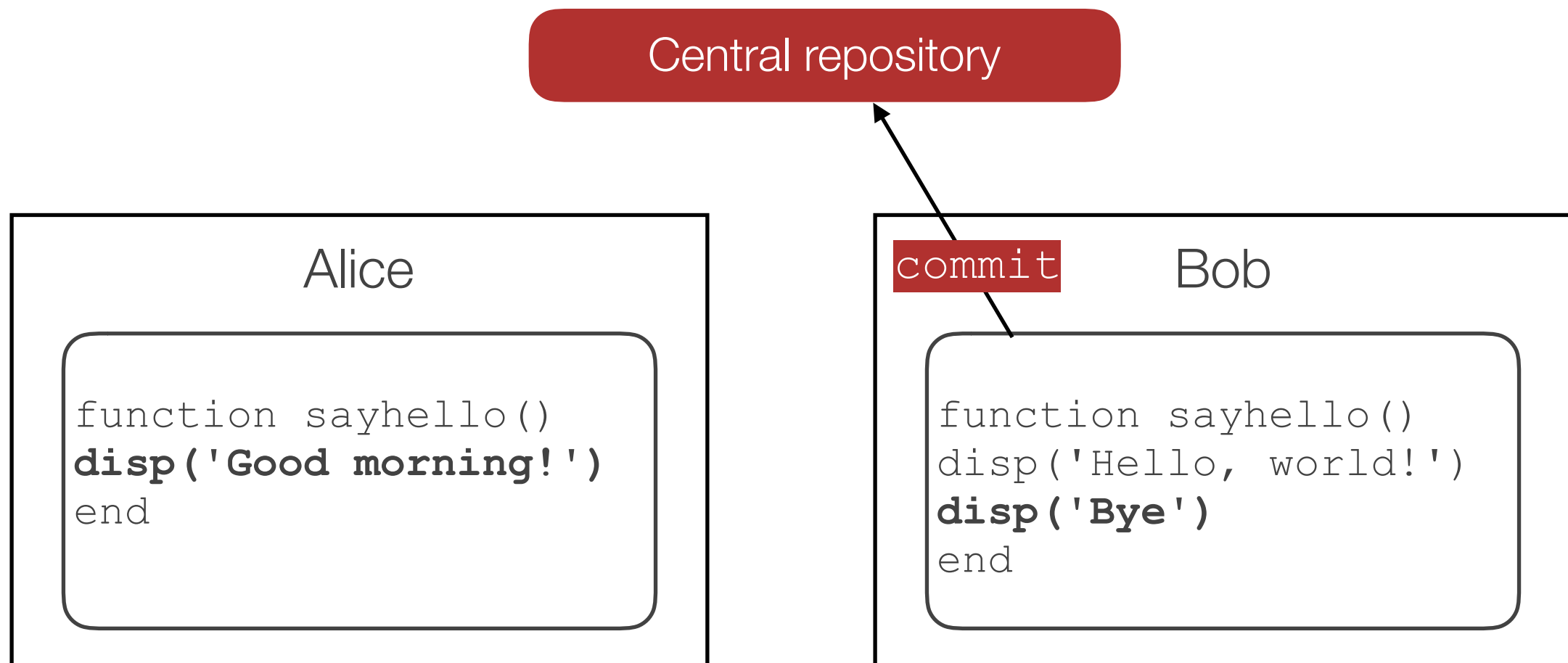
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- Alice must wait for Bob to commit
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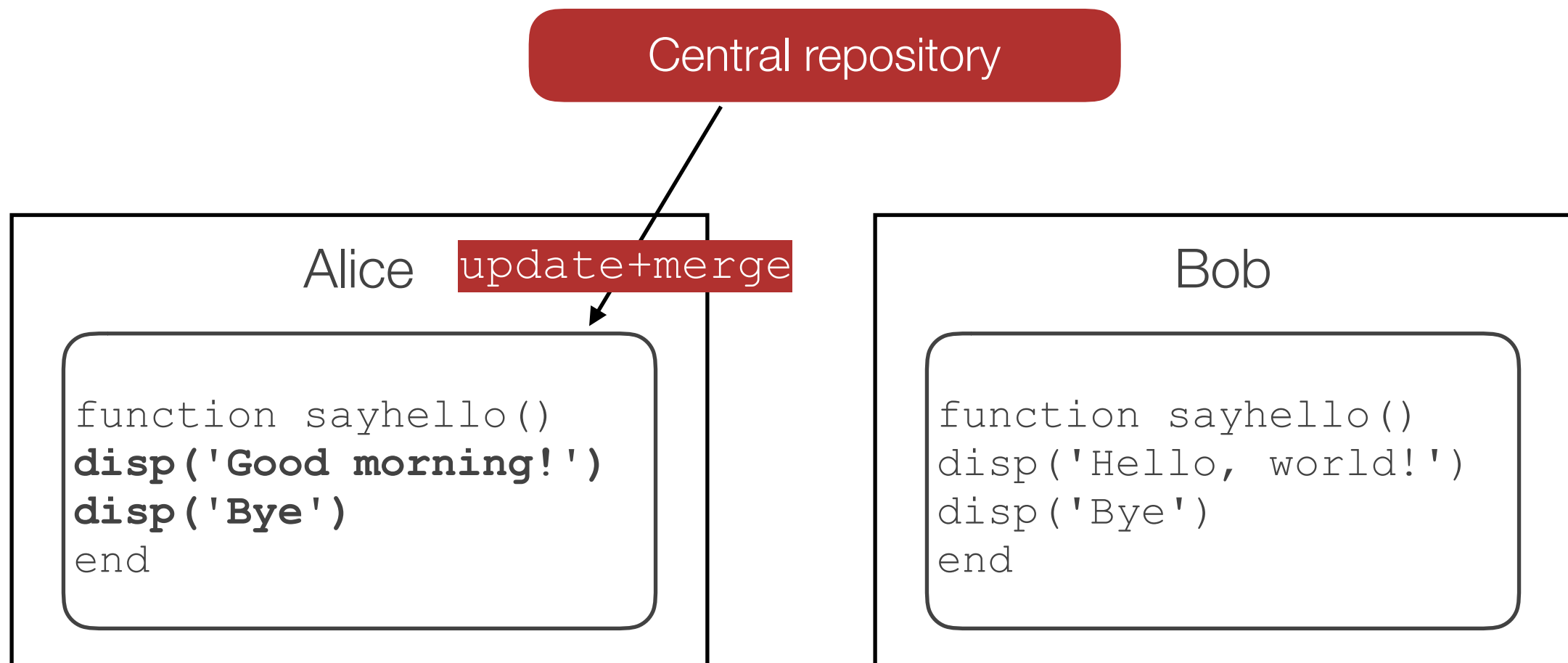
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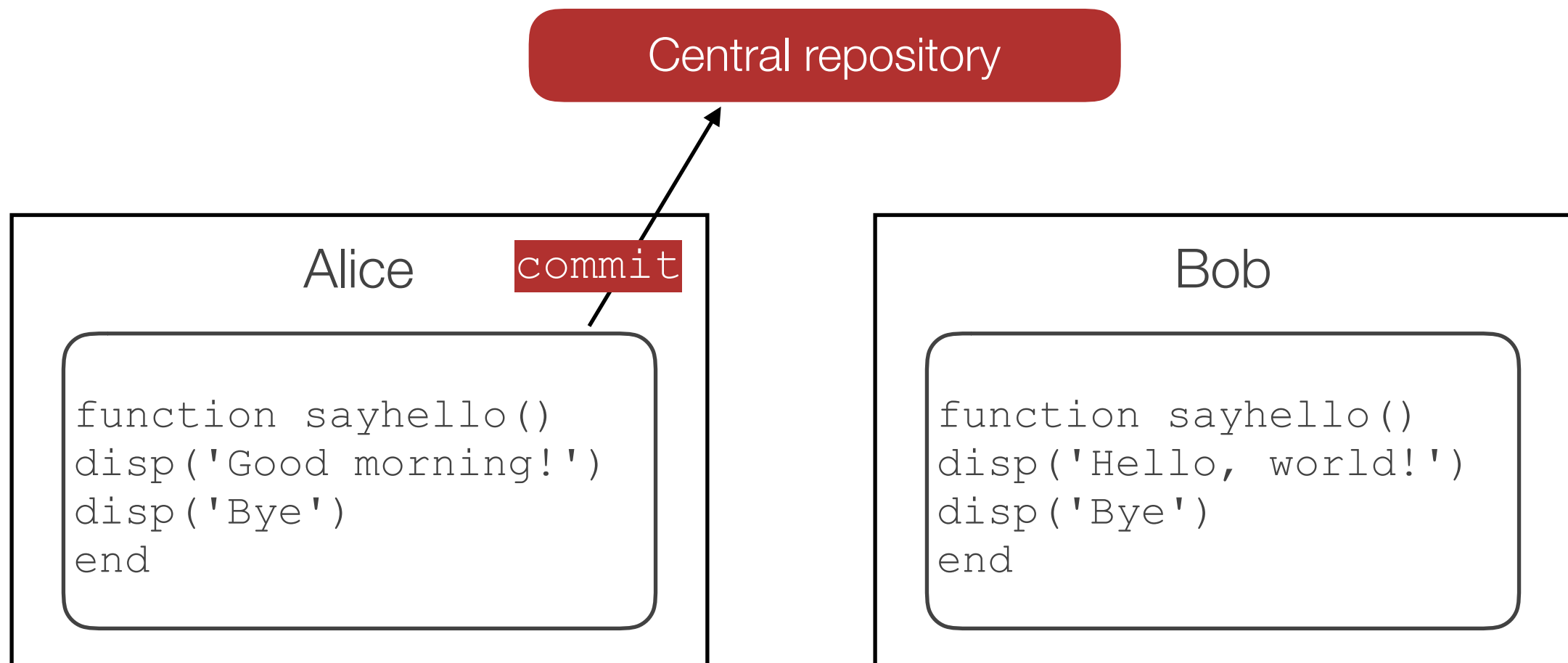
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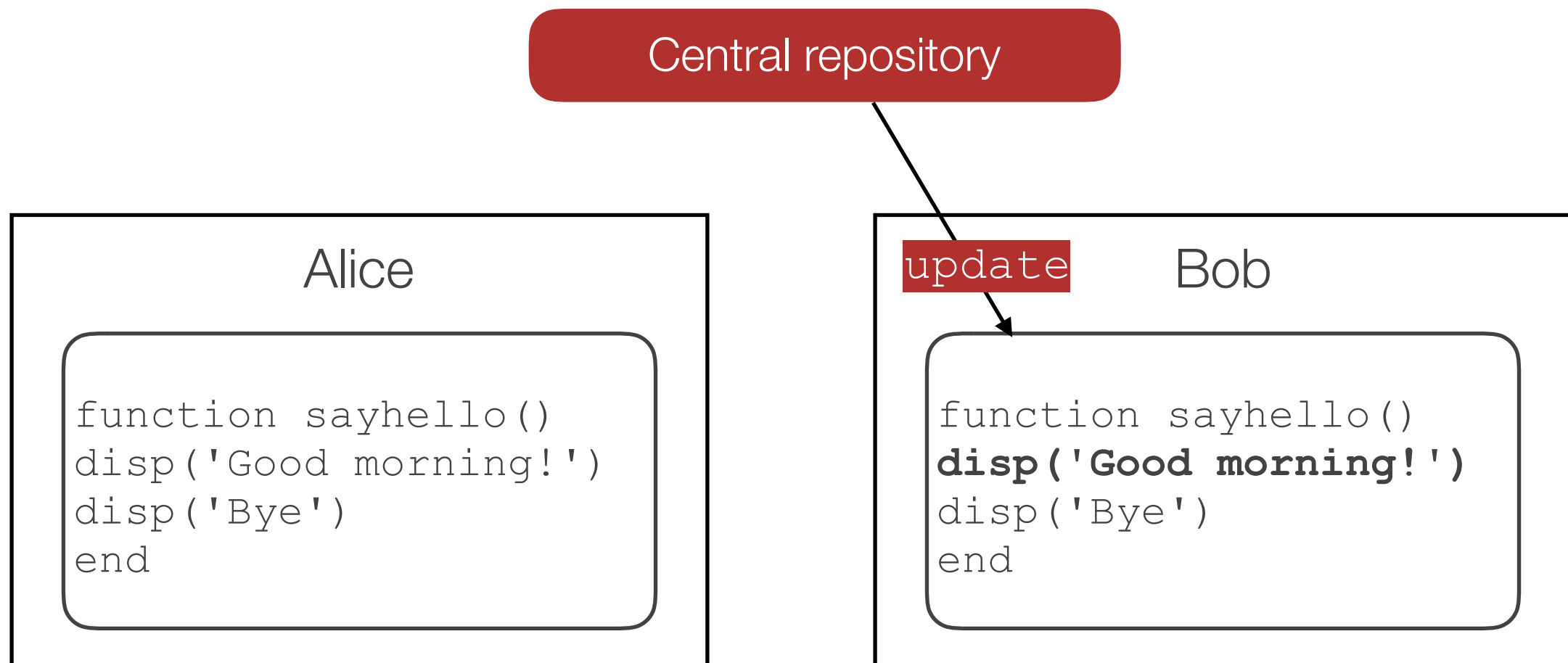
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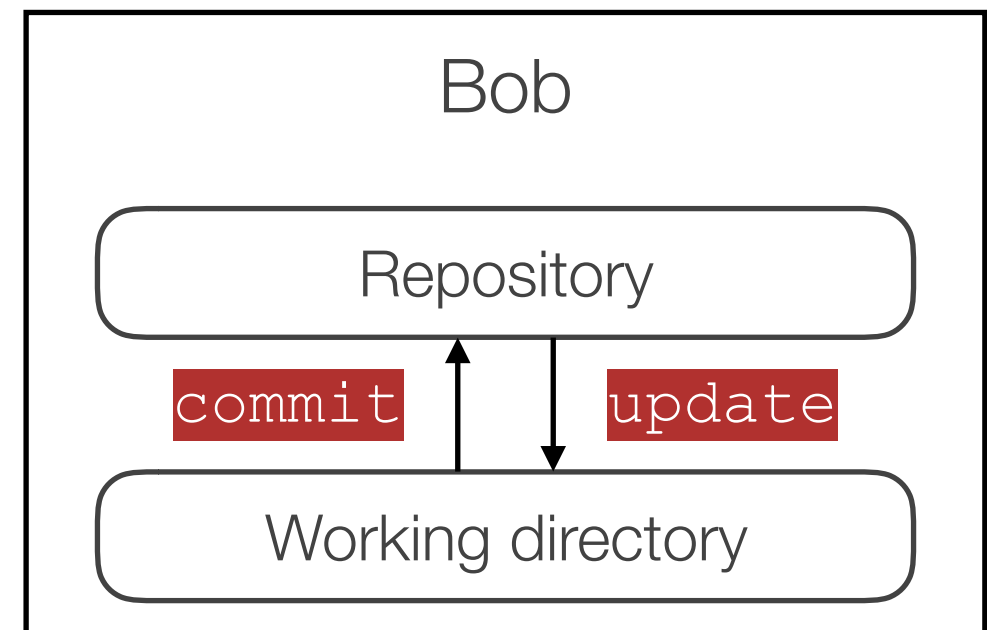
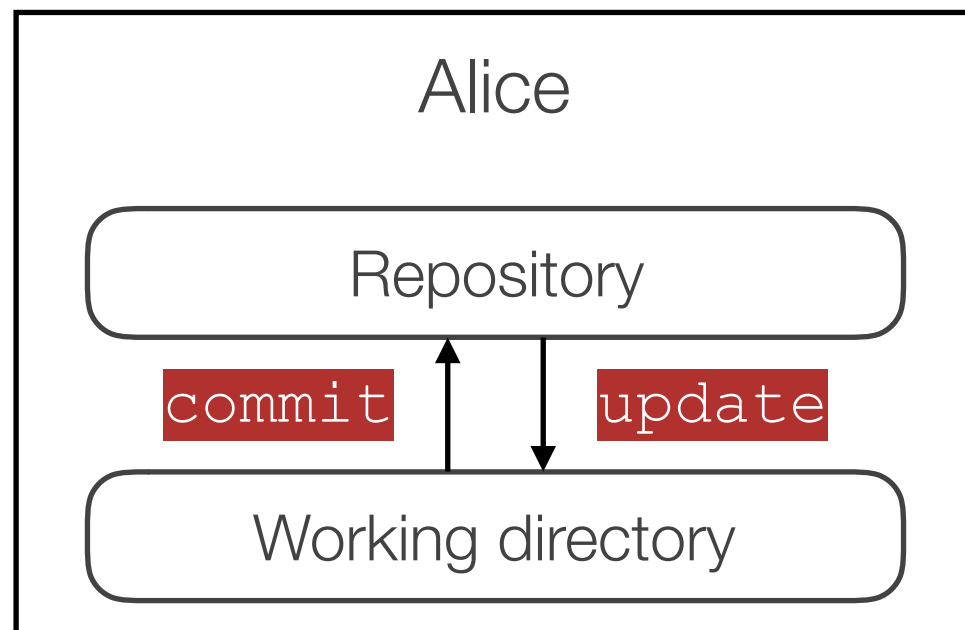
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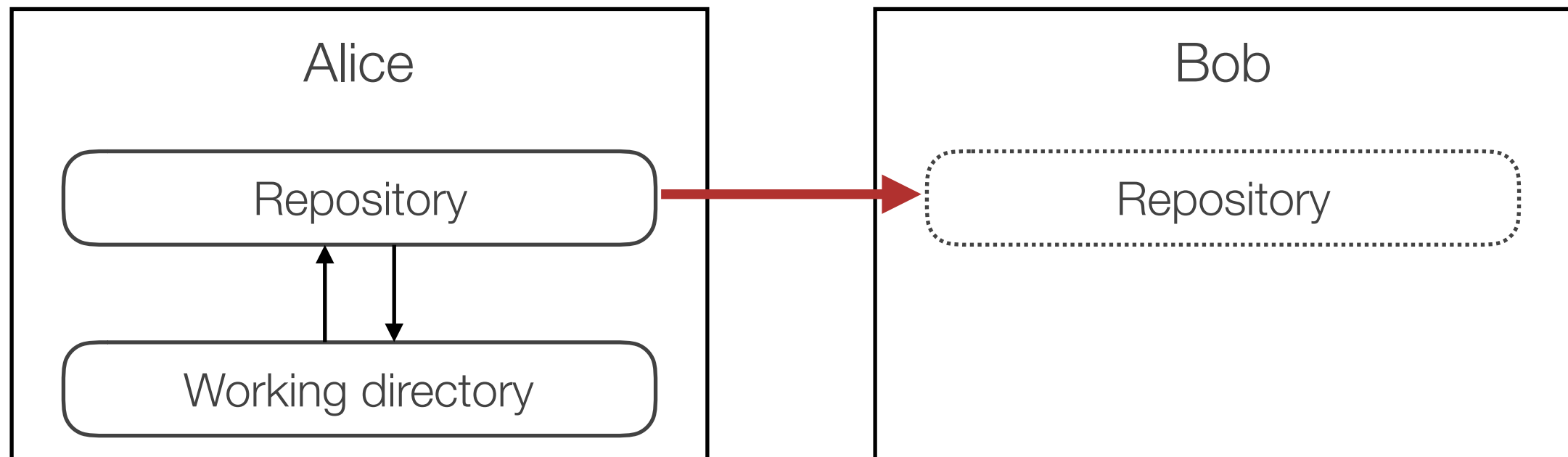
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Main idea: everybody has a local copy of the repository



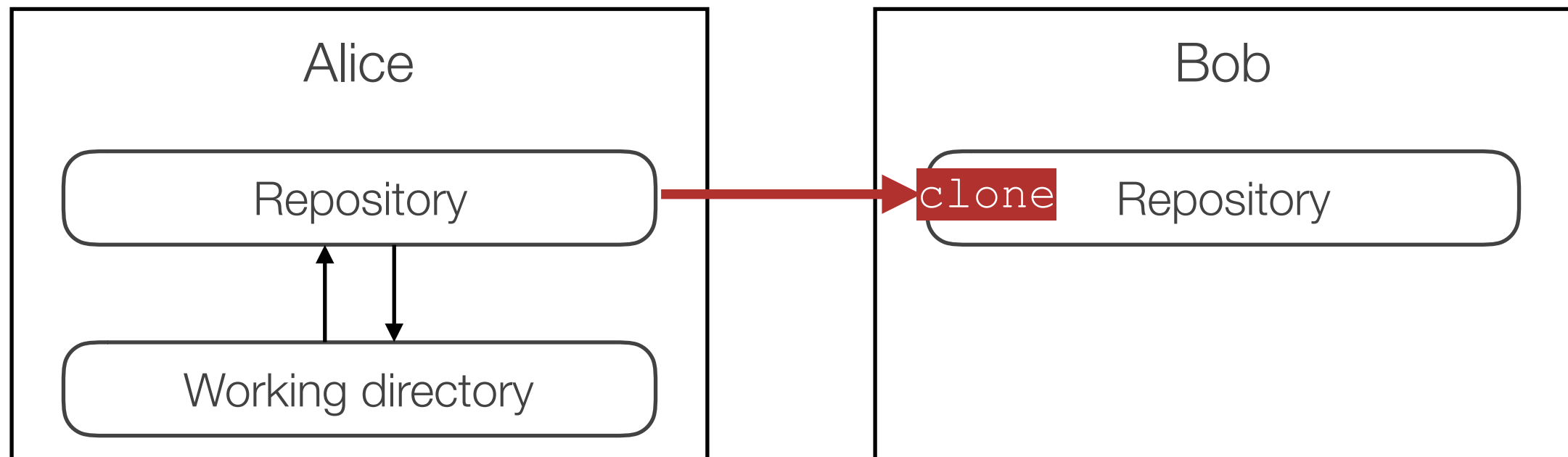
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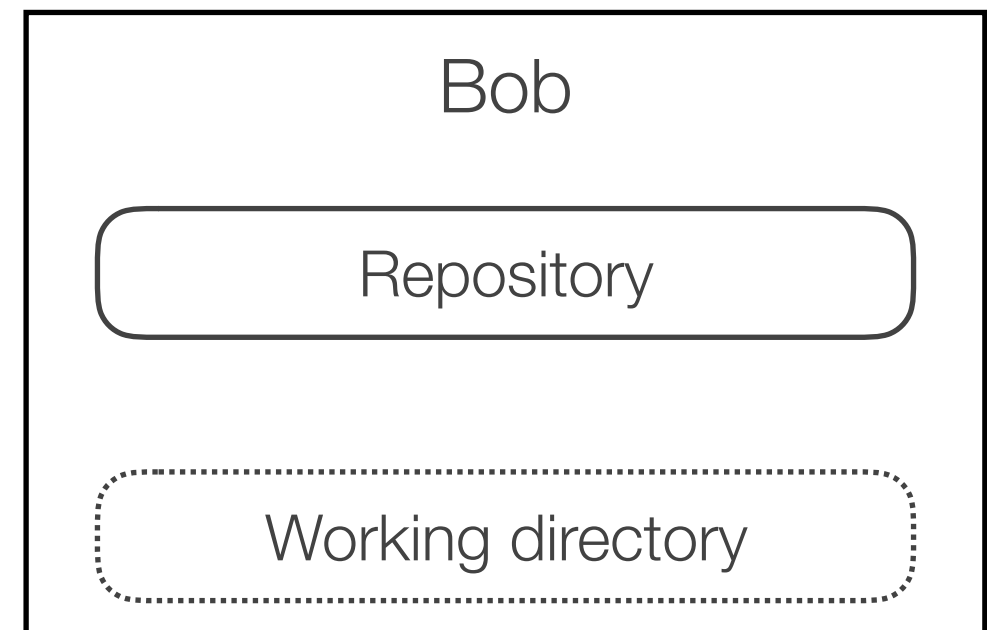
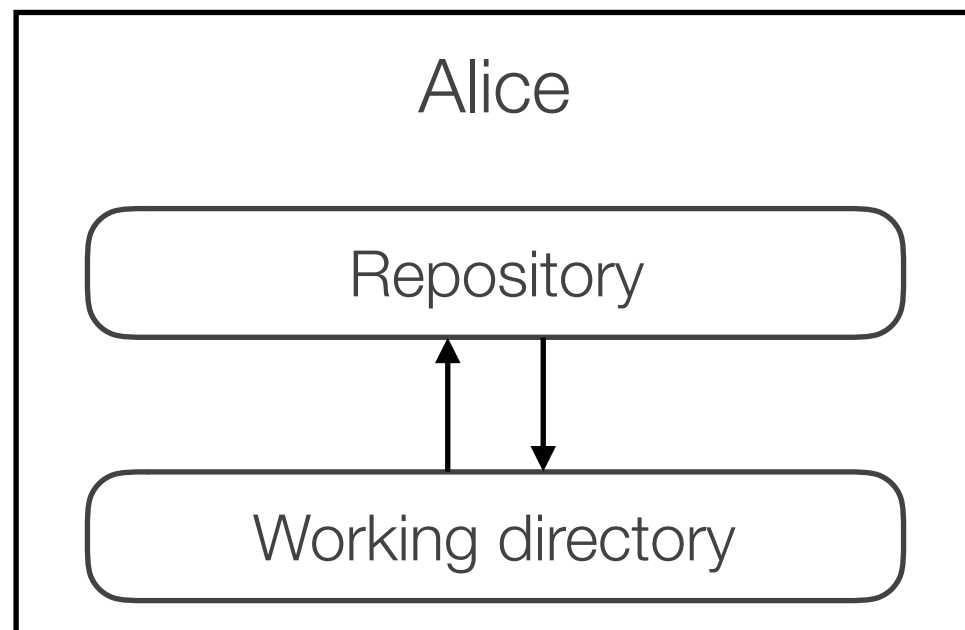
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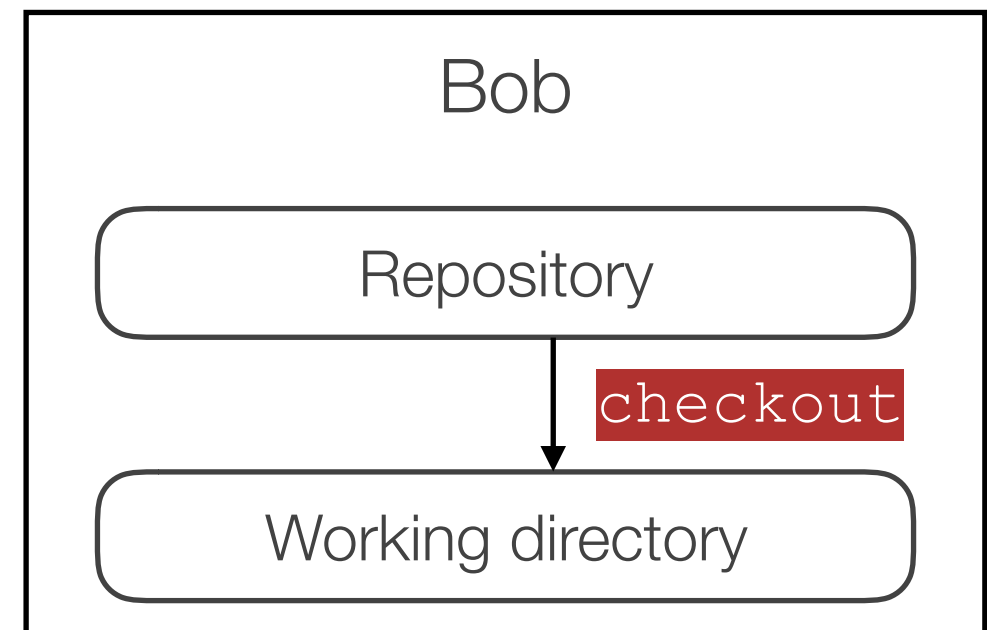
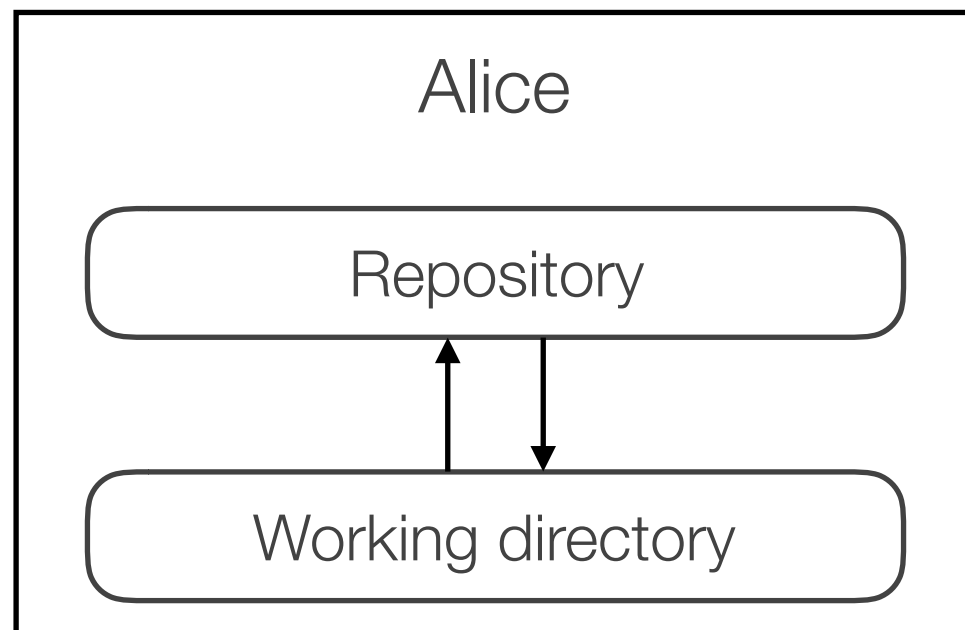
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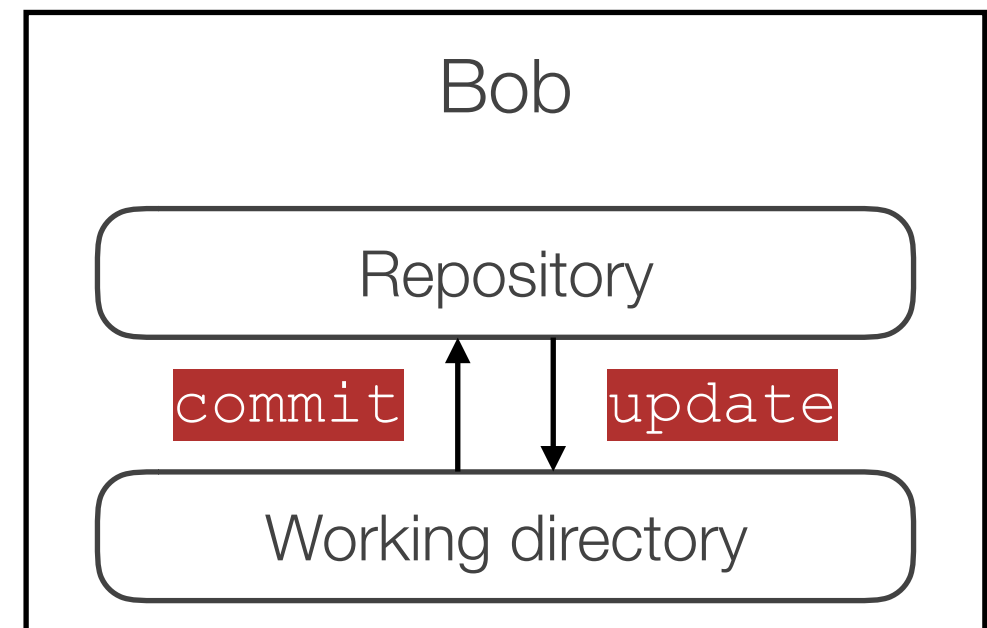
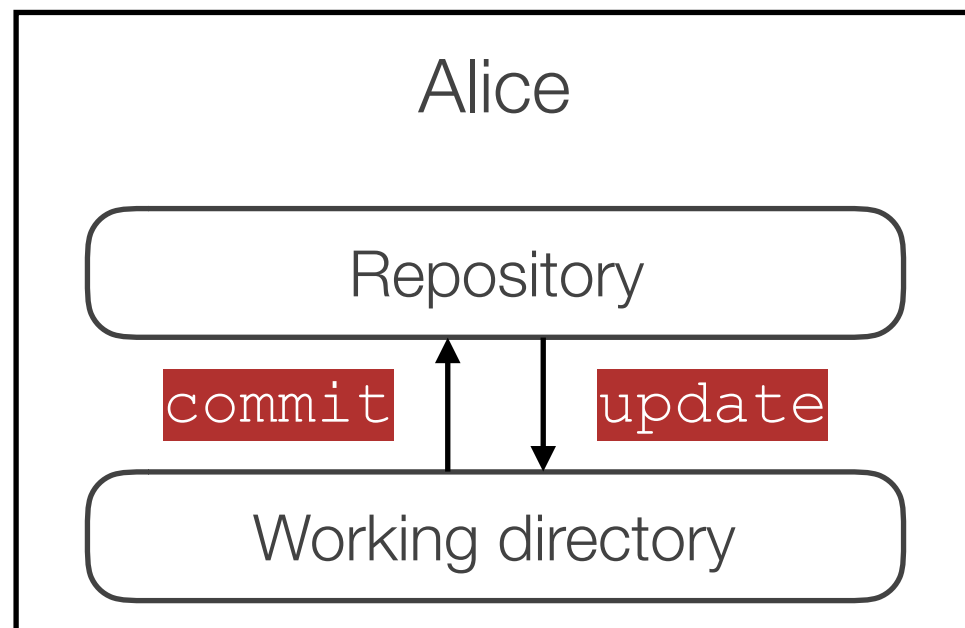
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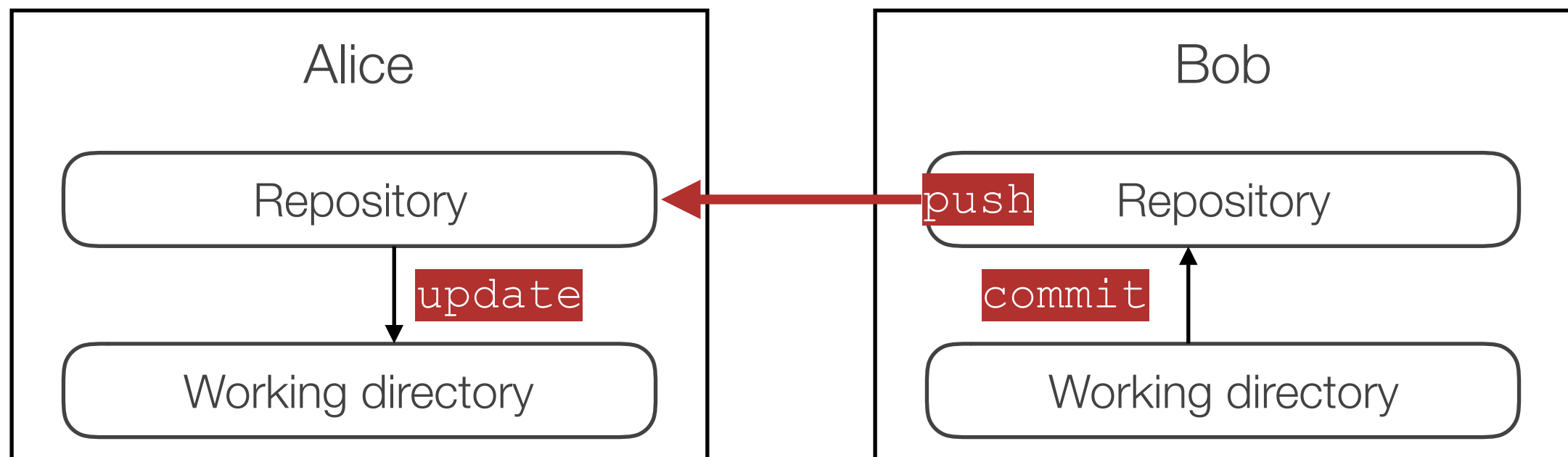
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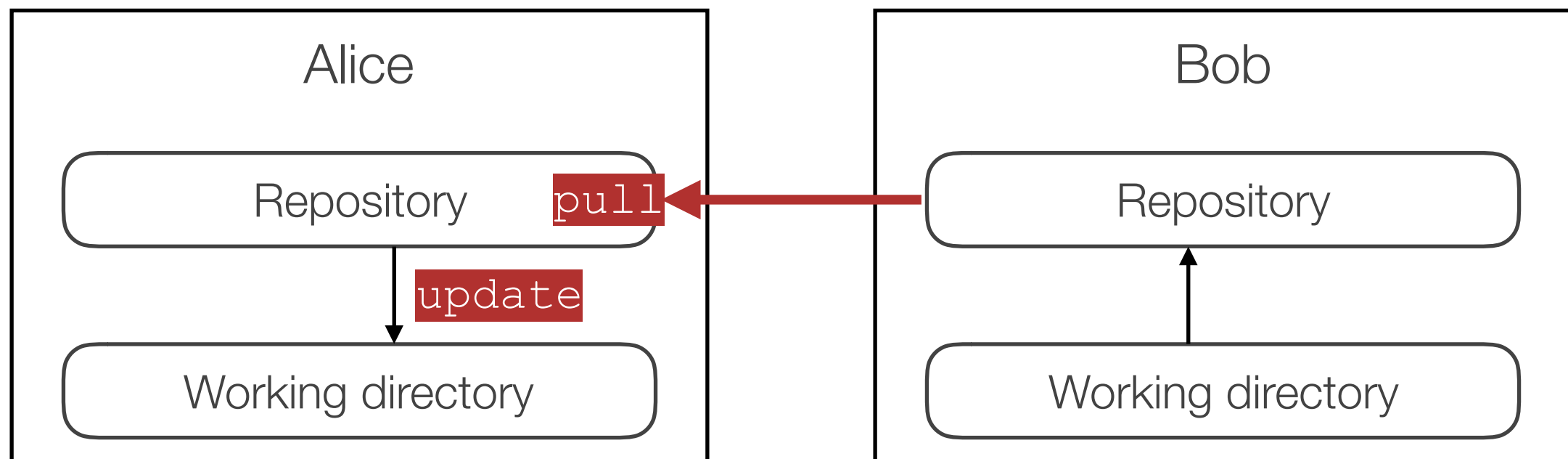
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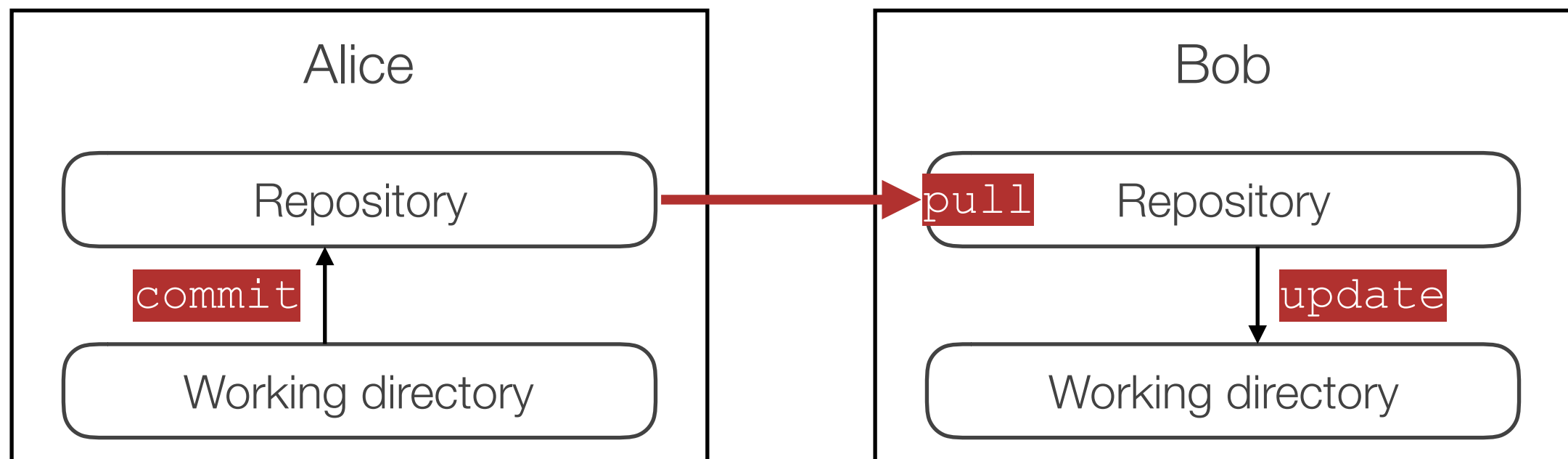
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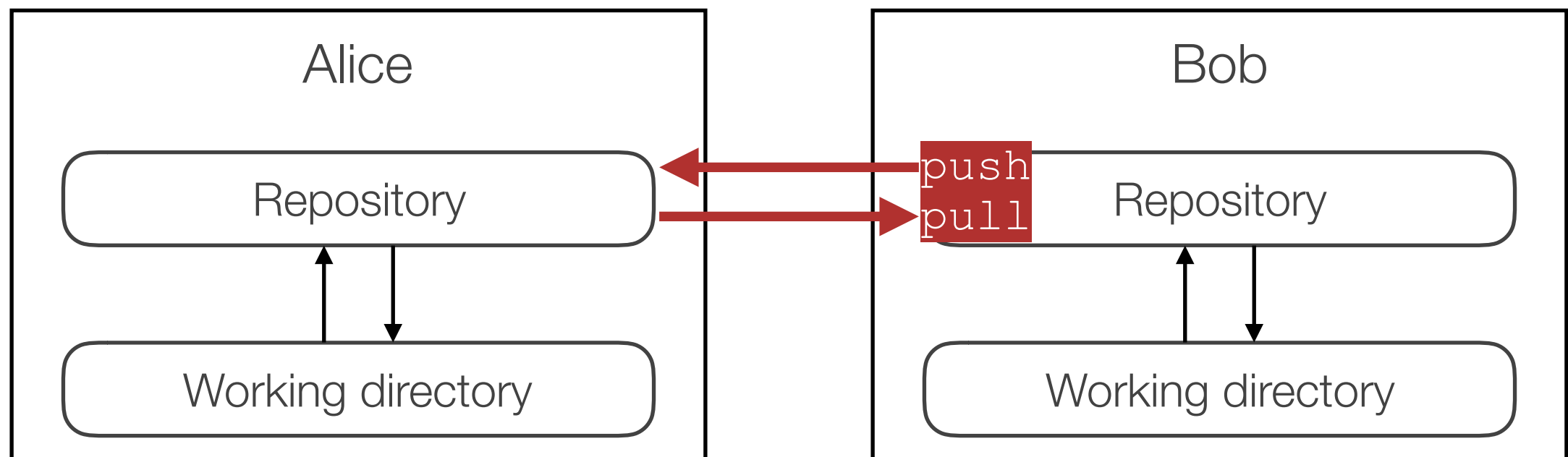


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Rule of thumb: never push to a remote repository, let its owner pull from yours



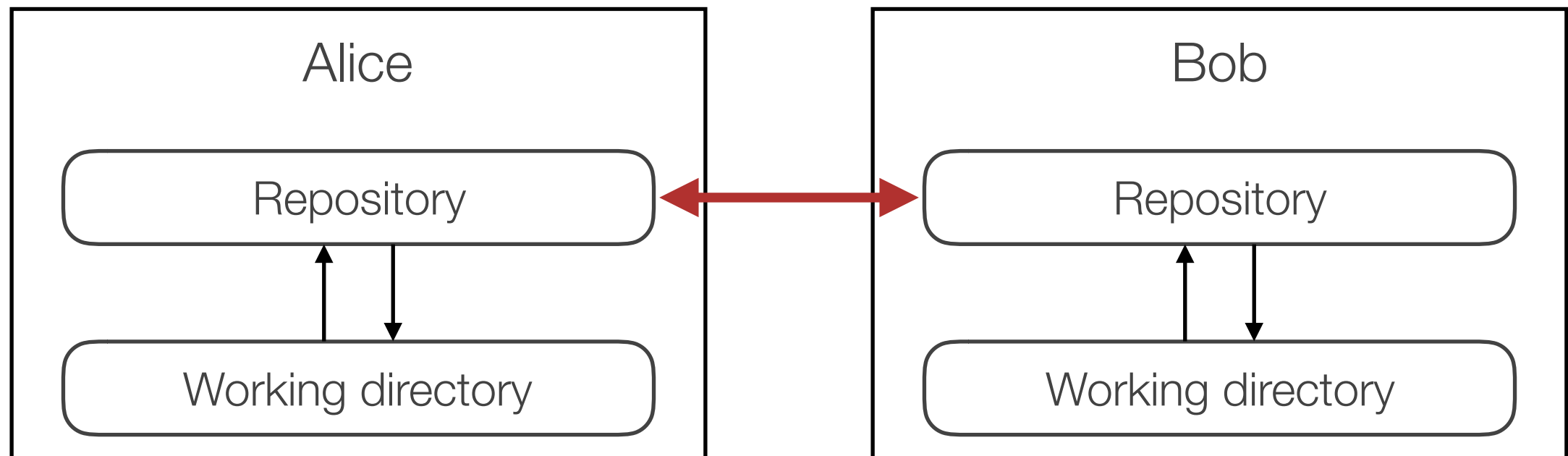
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Questions:

- access rights management?
- communication ("Hey, I made a change, you need to update")?
- which repository is the "blessed" one for production code?



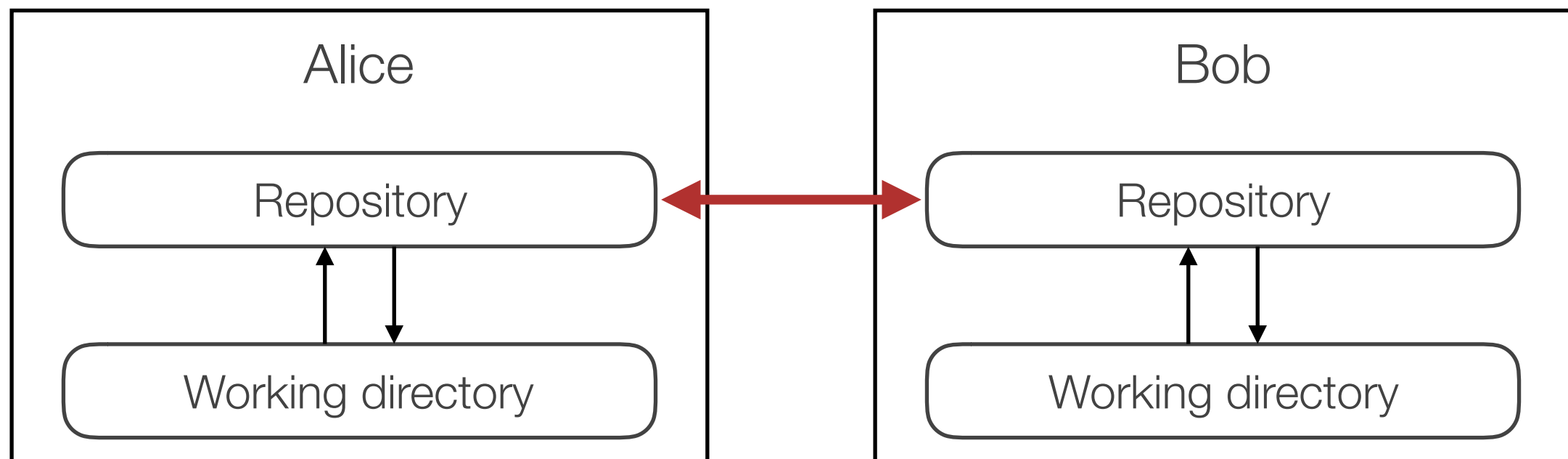
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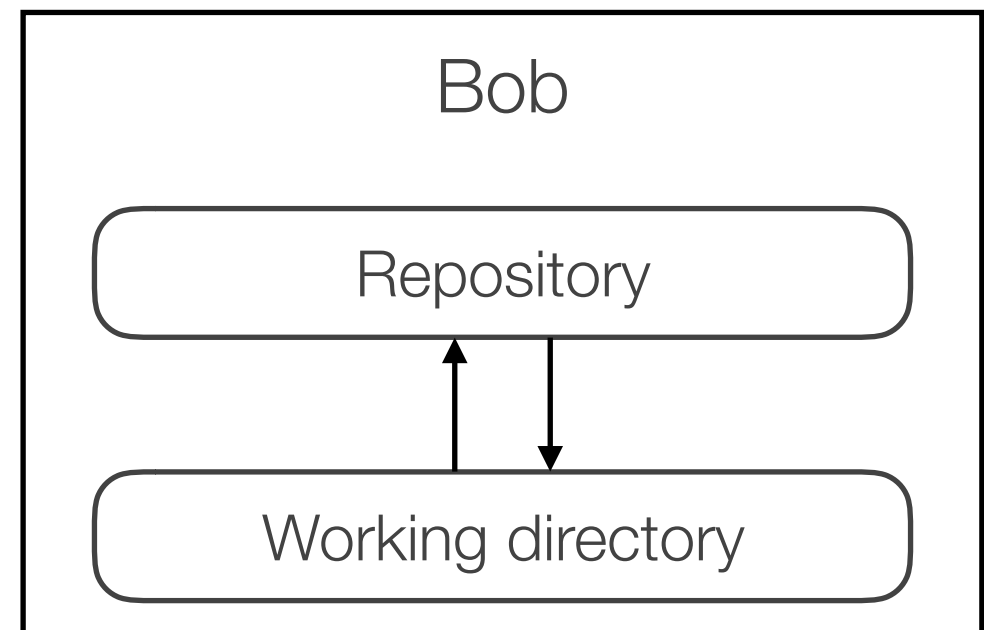
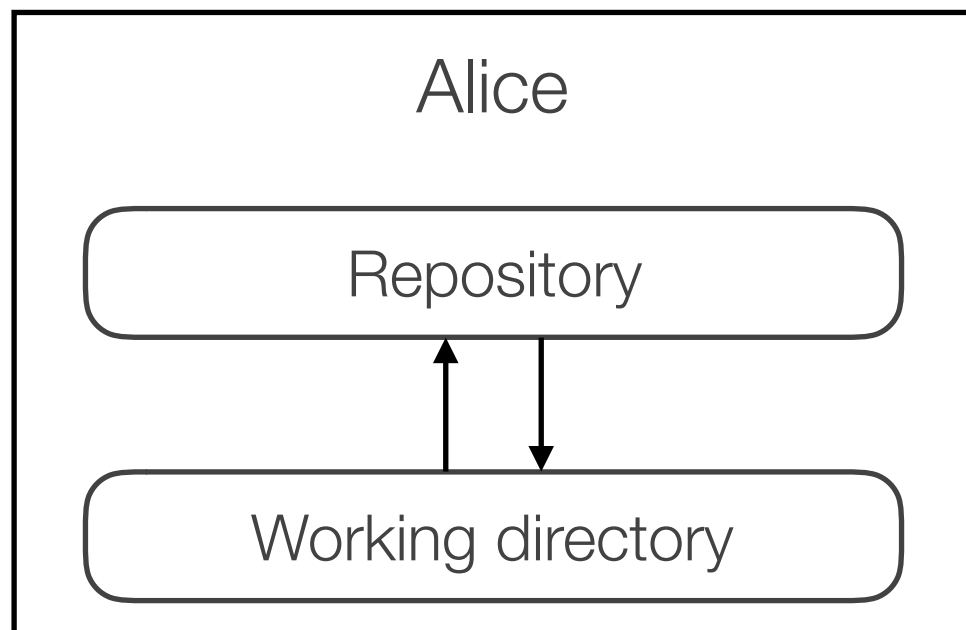
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Distributed VCS Workflows

Three possible workflows:

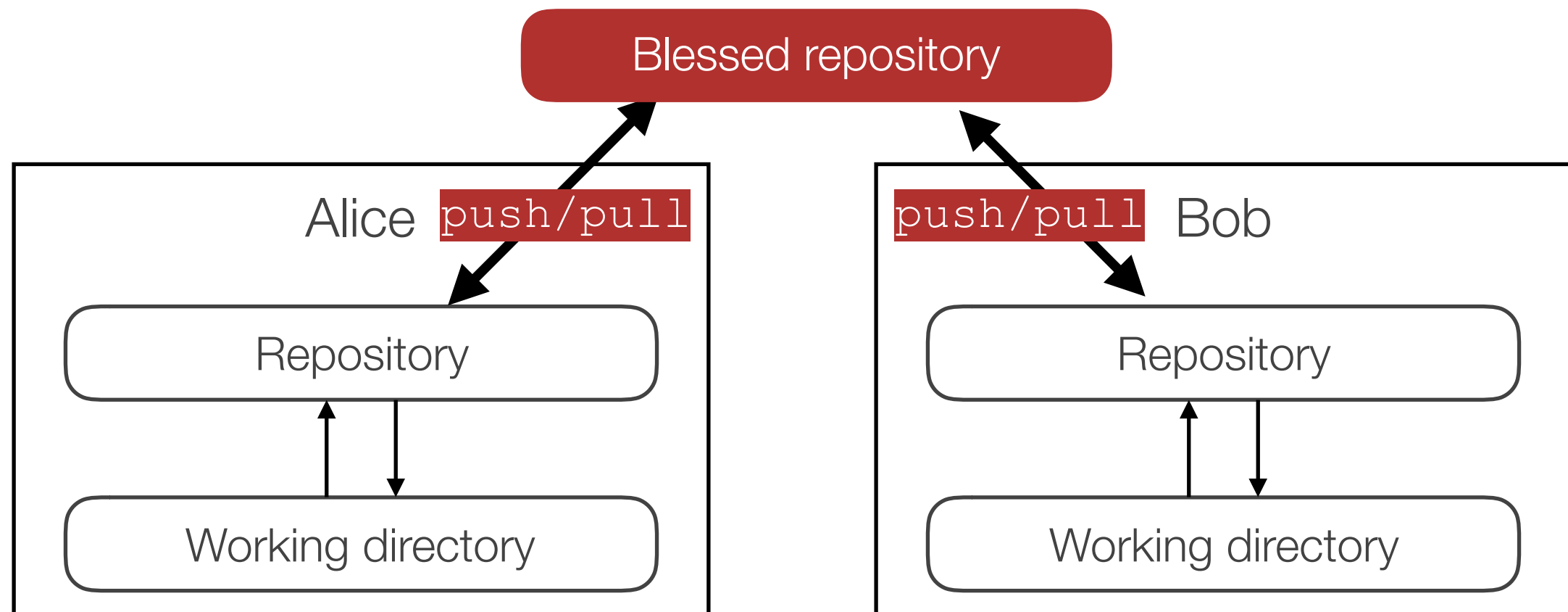
- centralized
- integration manager
- dictator / lieutenants



Centralized Workflow

Idea: use a central "blessed" repository

- but each developer has his/her own copy (no single point of failure)



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Problems:

- cannot push conflicting changes

Blessed repository

Alice

```
function sayhello()  
disp('Hello, world!')  
end
```

Bob

```
function sayhello()  
disp('Hello, world!')  
end
```

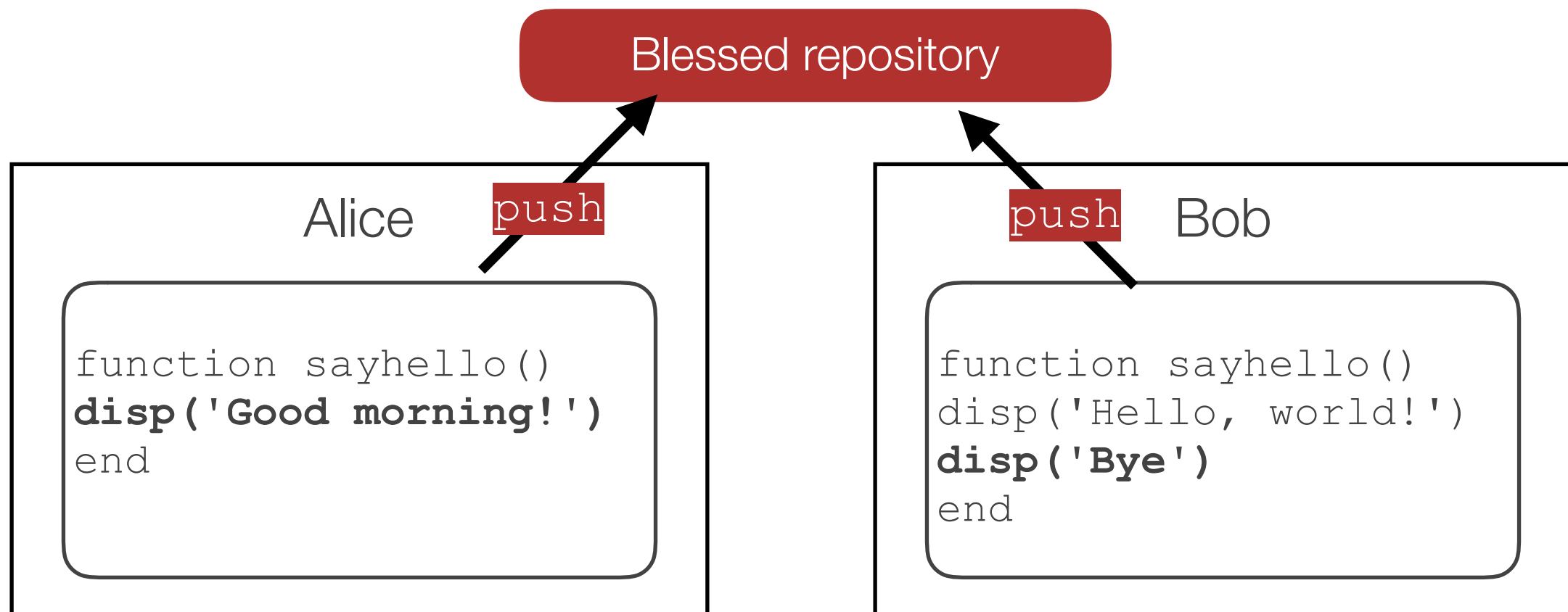
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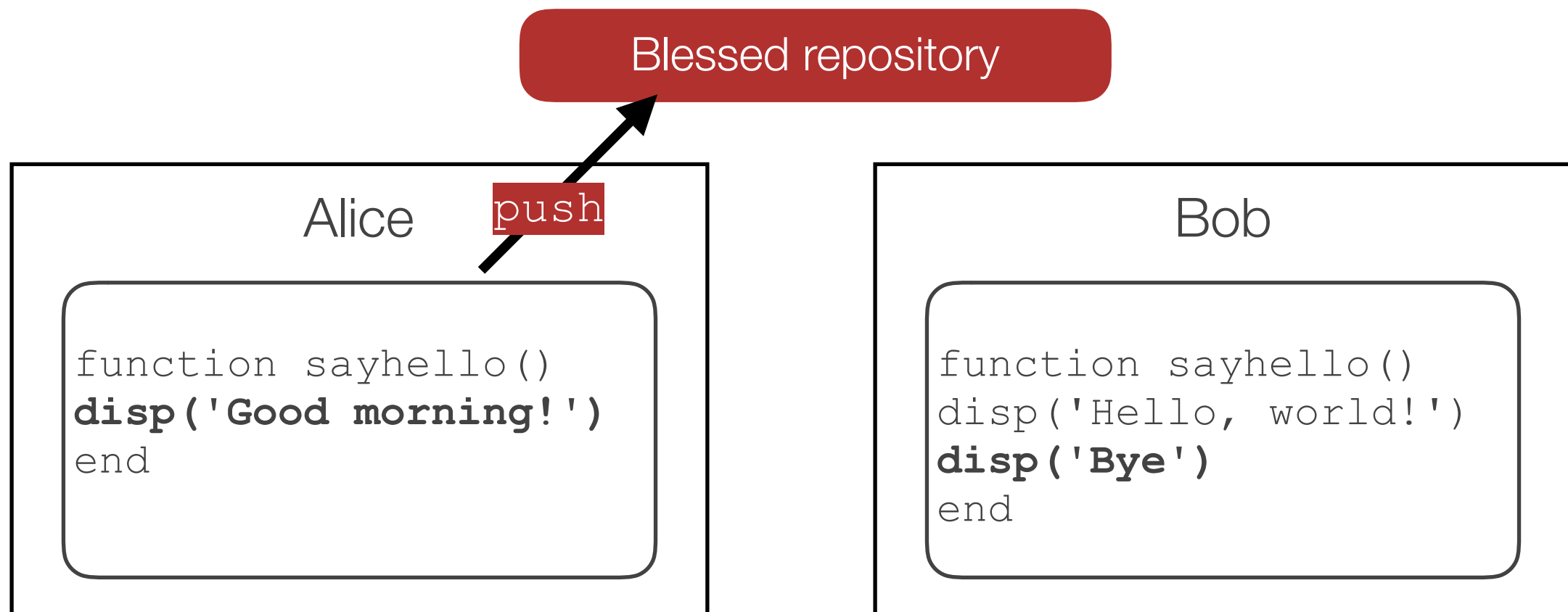
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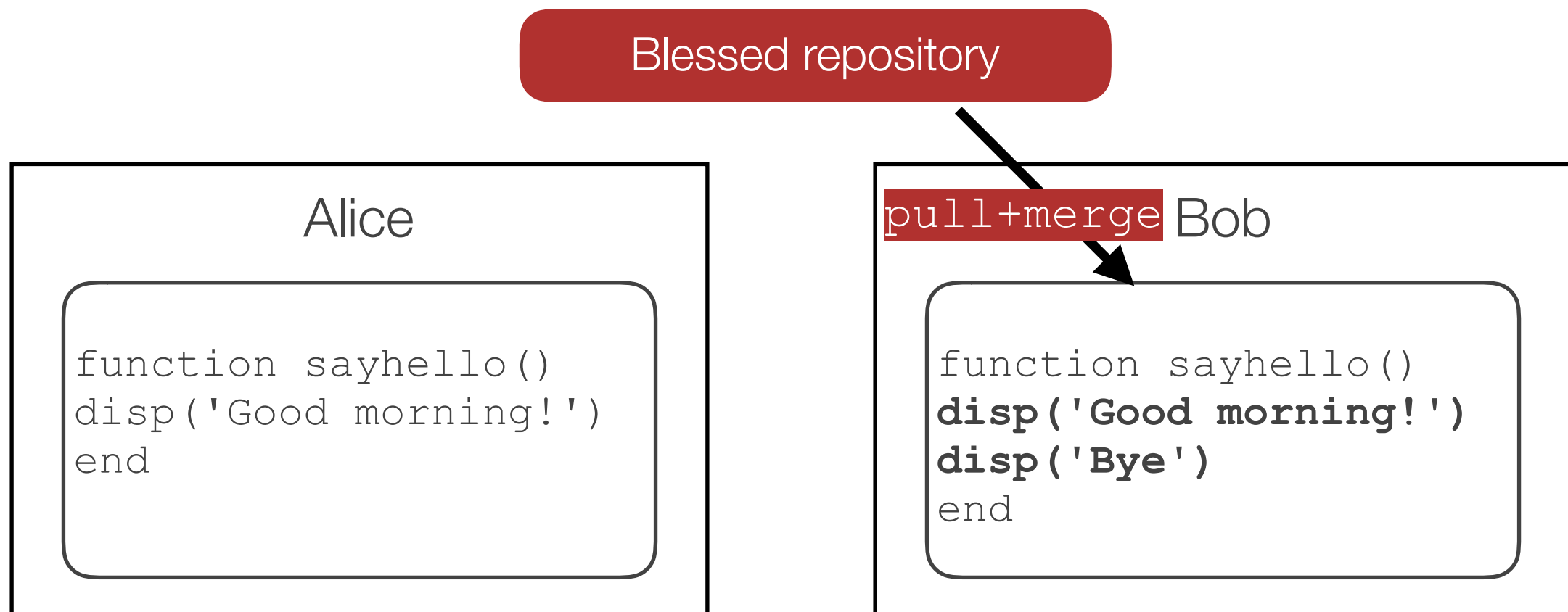
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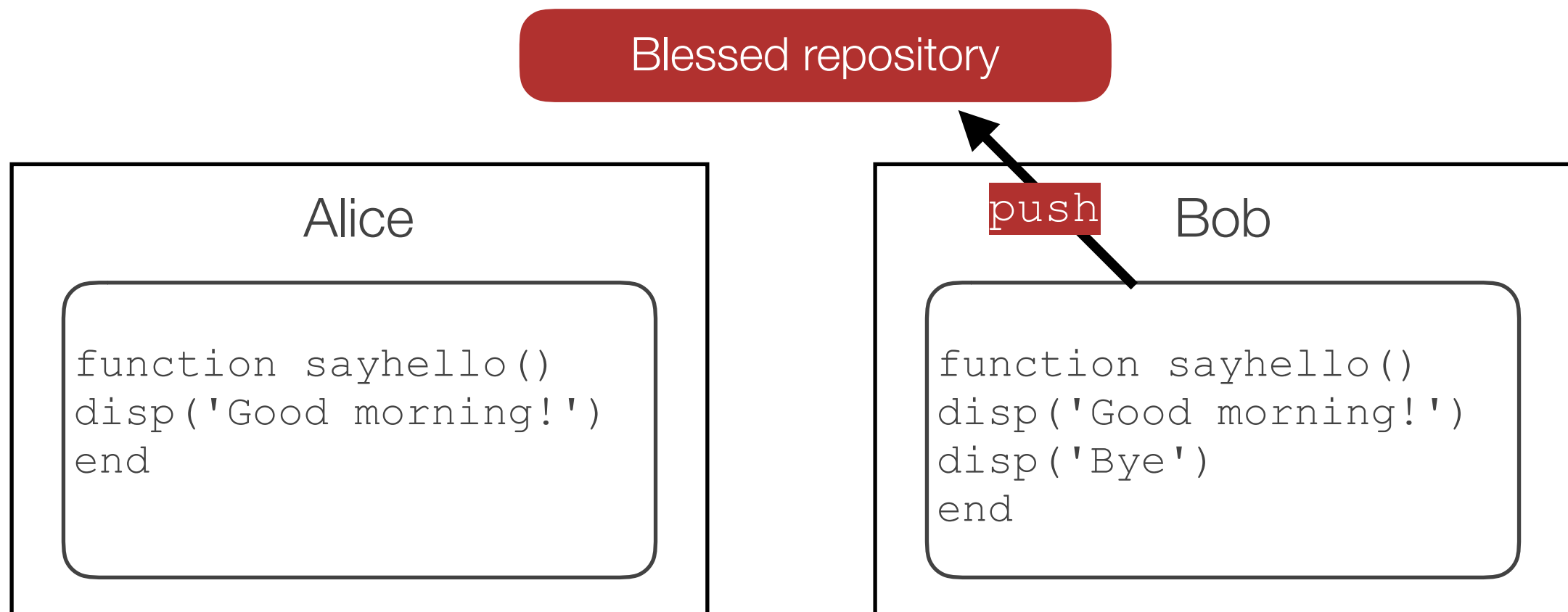
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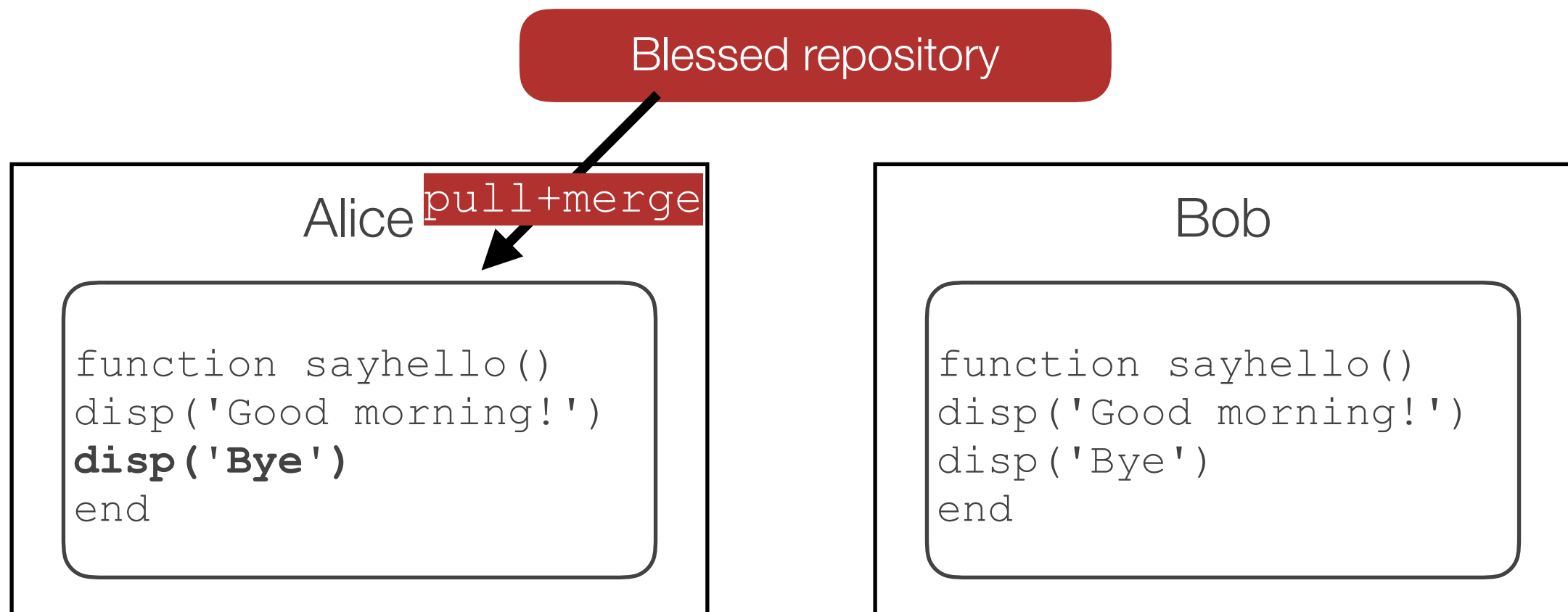
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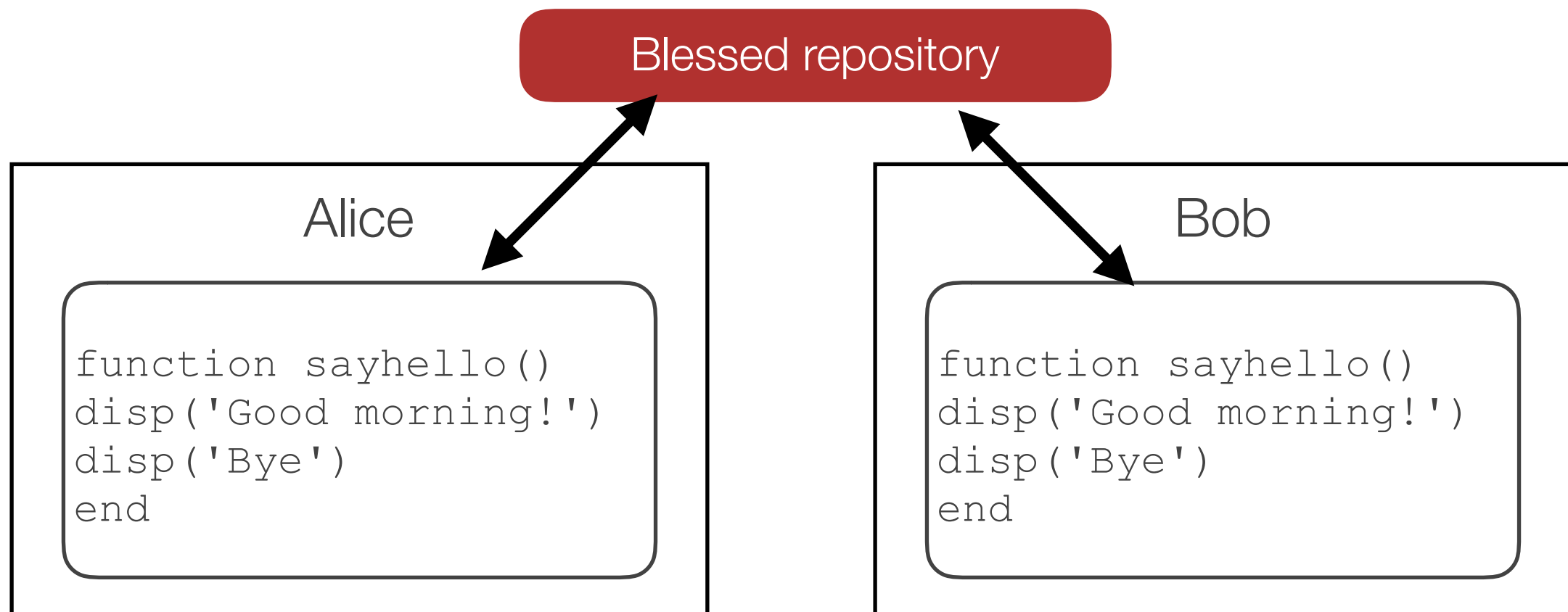
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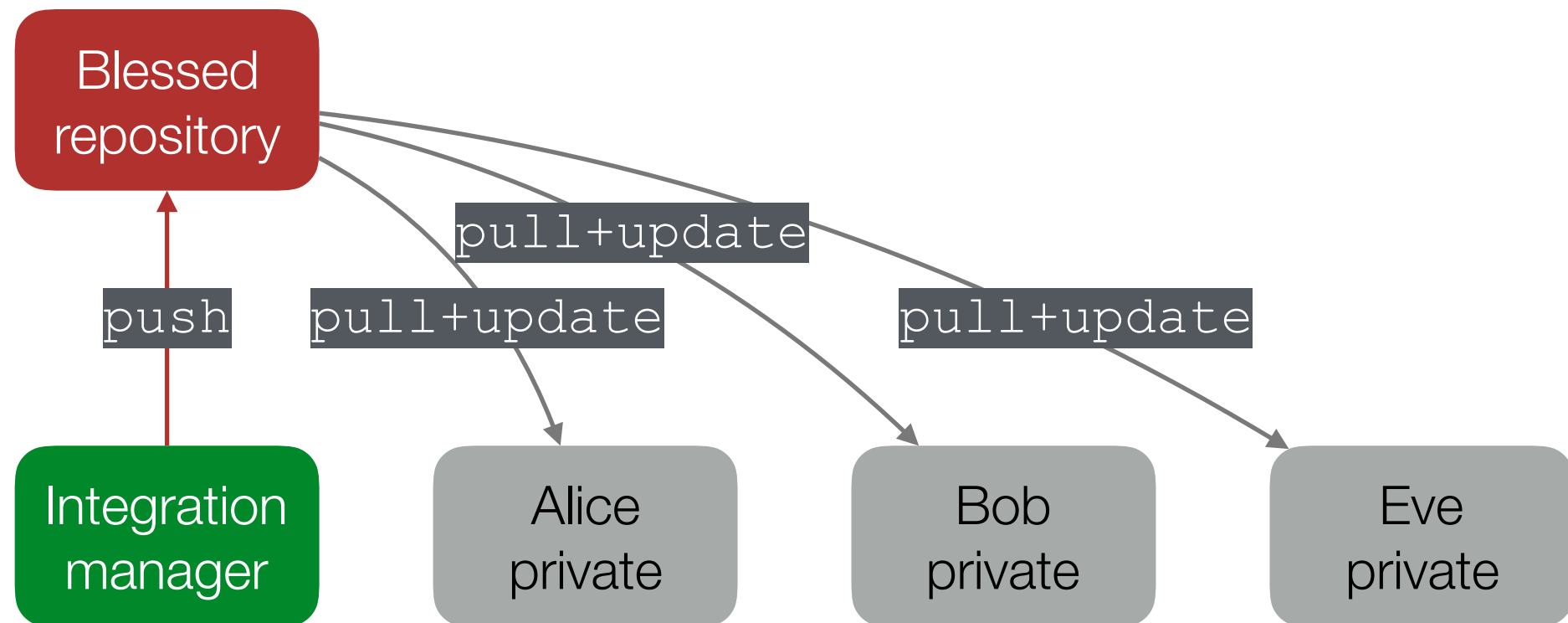
- cannot push conflicting changes (merging is required, often difficult!)
- only suitable for a small number of developers (<5)



Integration Manager Workflow

Idea: use a central "blessed" repository:

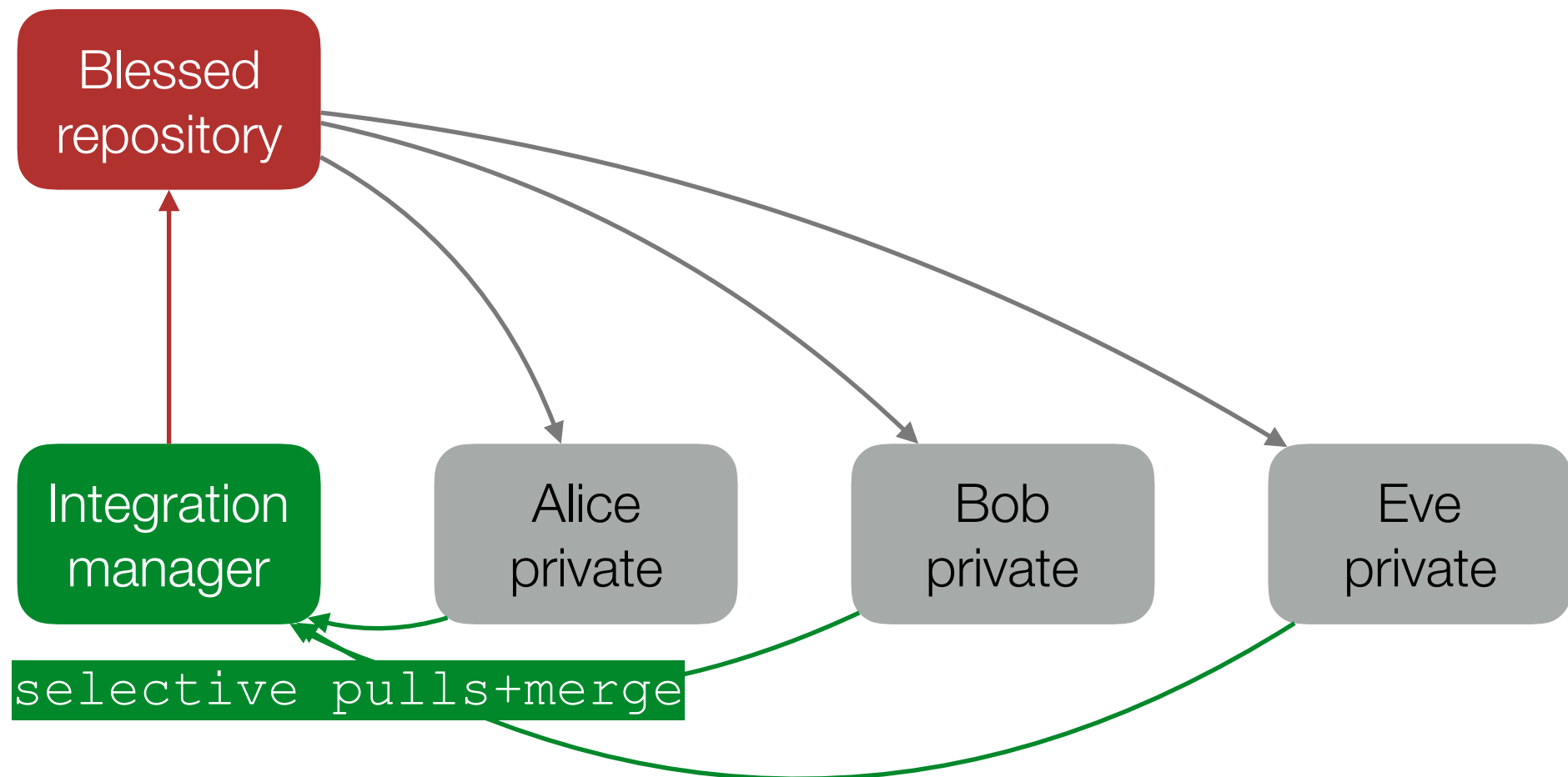
- but only the integration manager can push to it



Integration Manager Workflow

Idea: use a central "blessed" repository:

- but only the integration manager can push to it
- the manager cherry-picks changes and handles merges

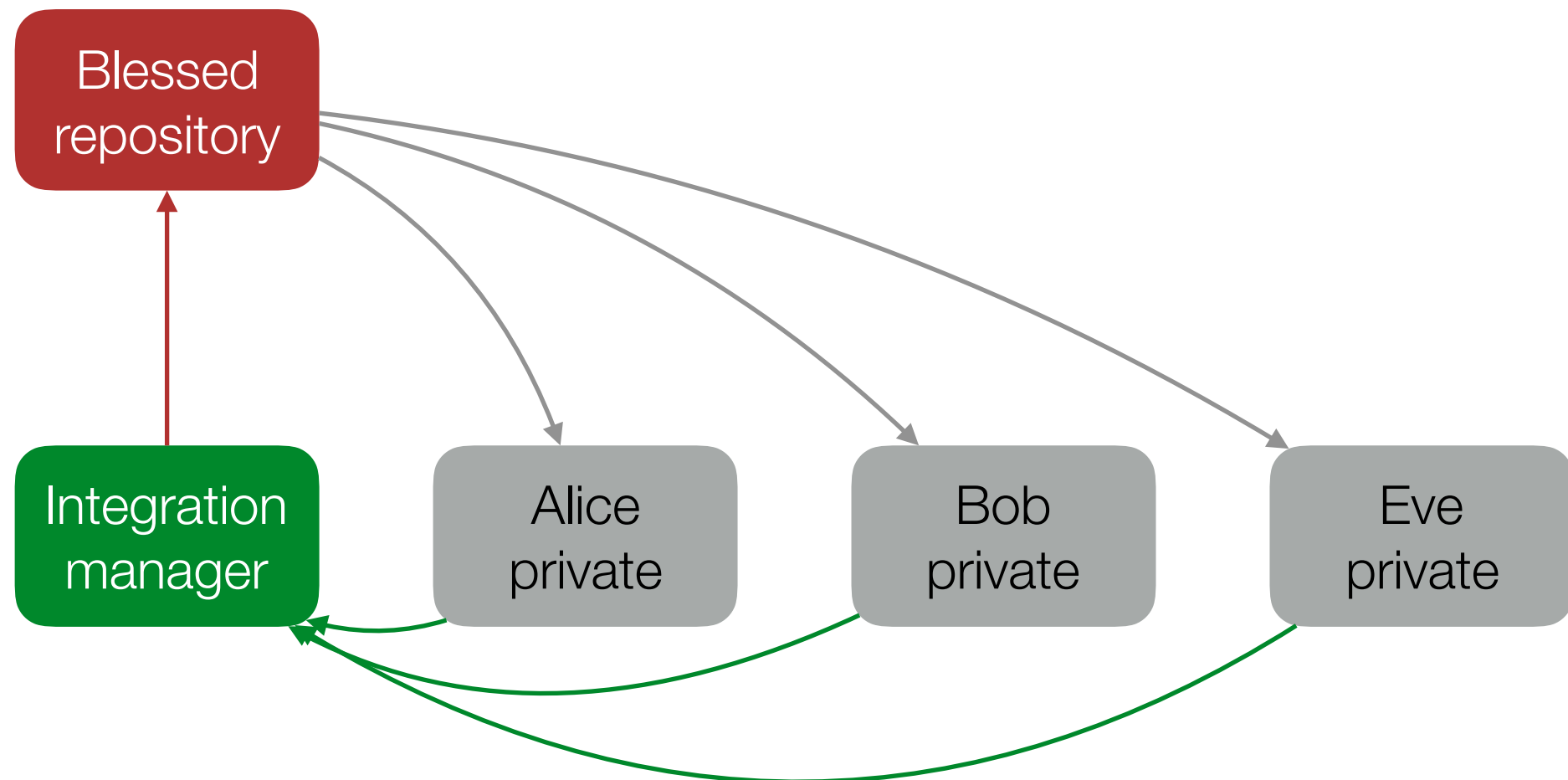


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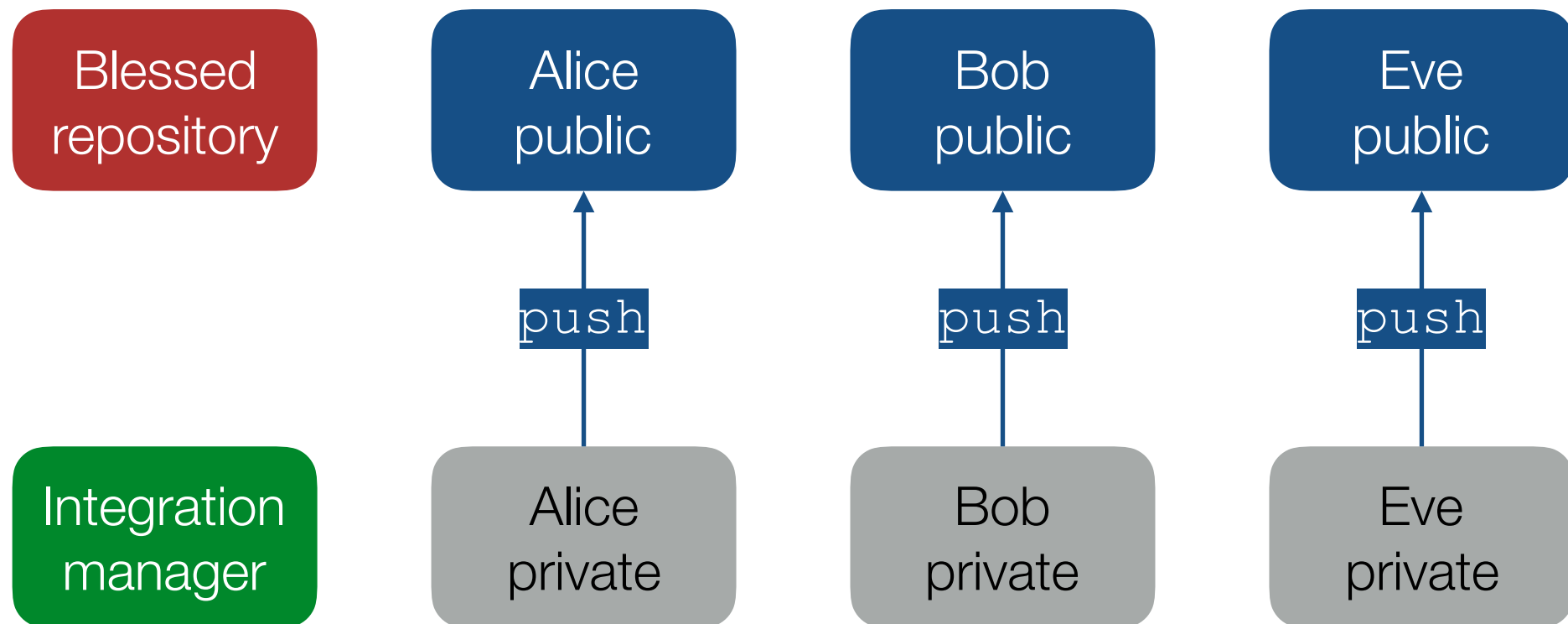
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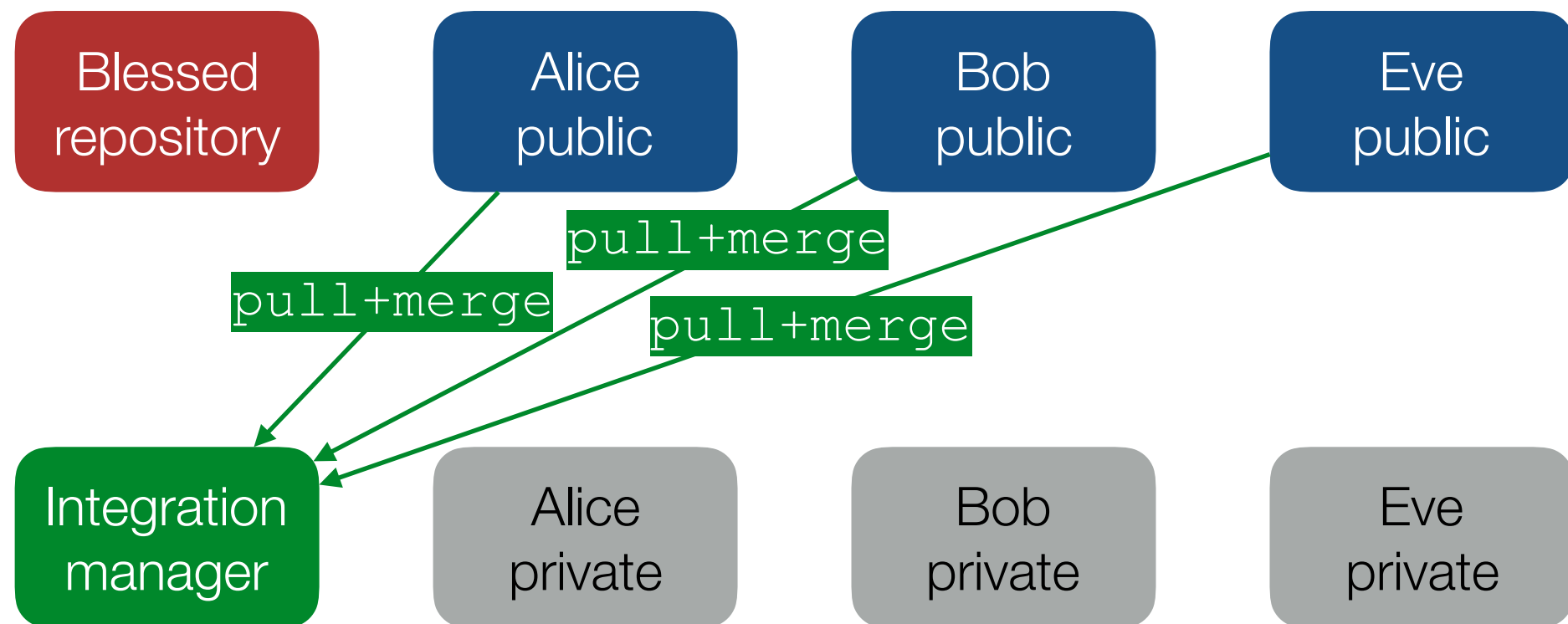
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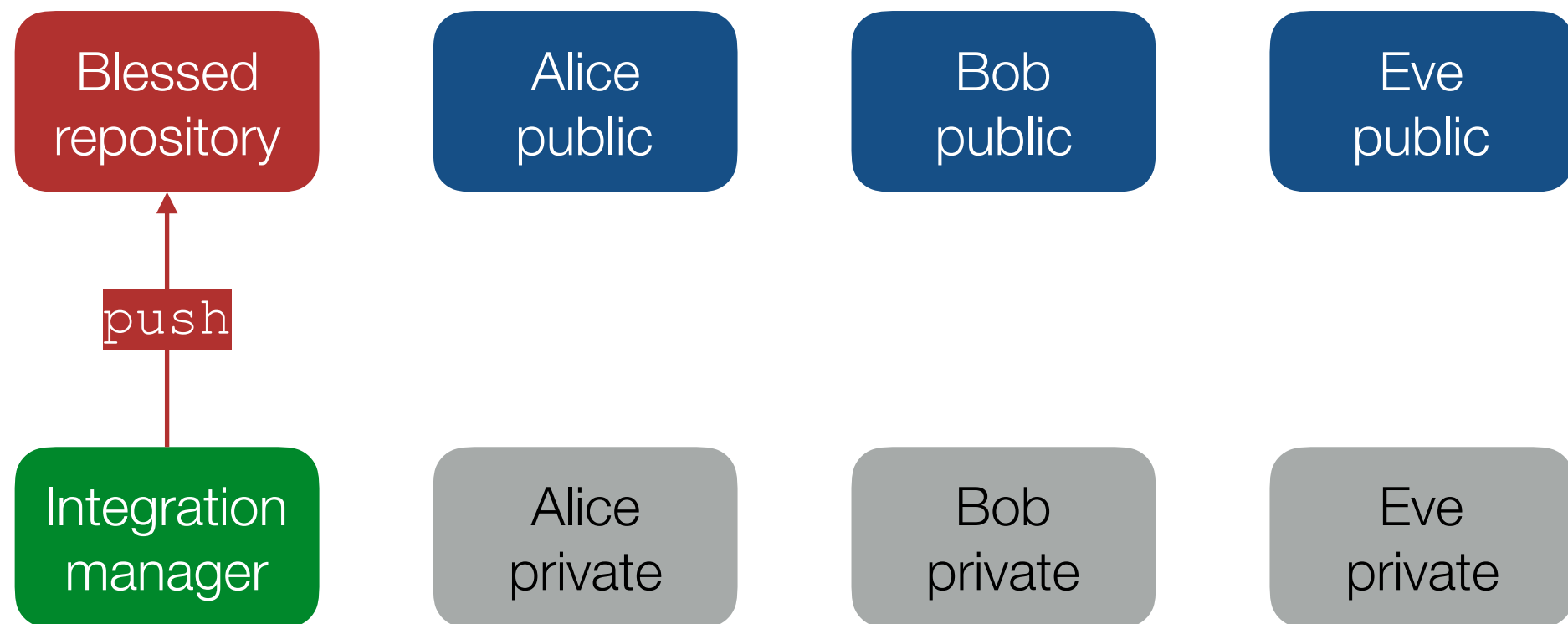
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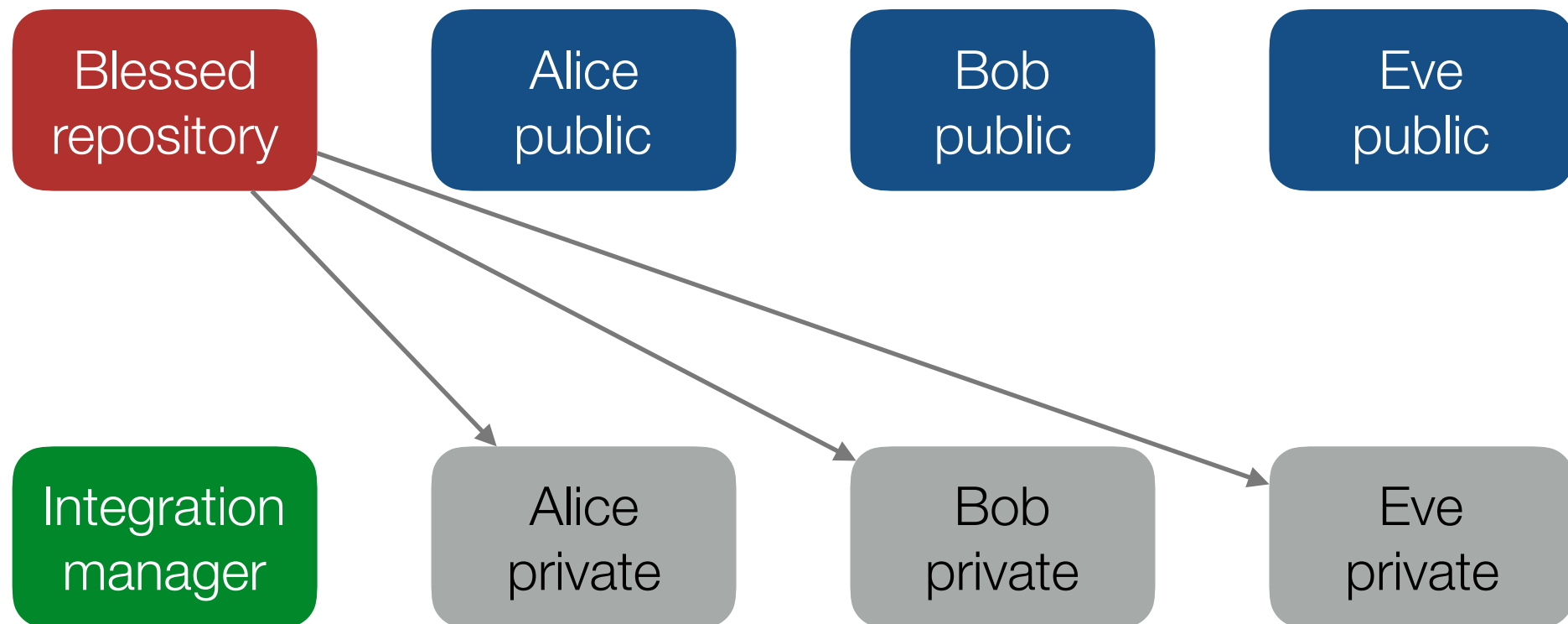
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- but only the integration manager can push to it
- the manager cherry-picks changes and handles merges

Problem: usually cannot pull from private repositories

Solution: every developer has a public version of his/her repository



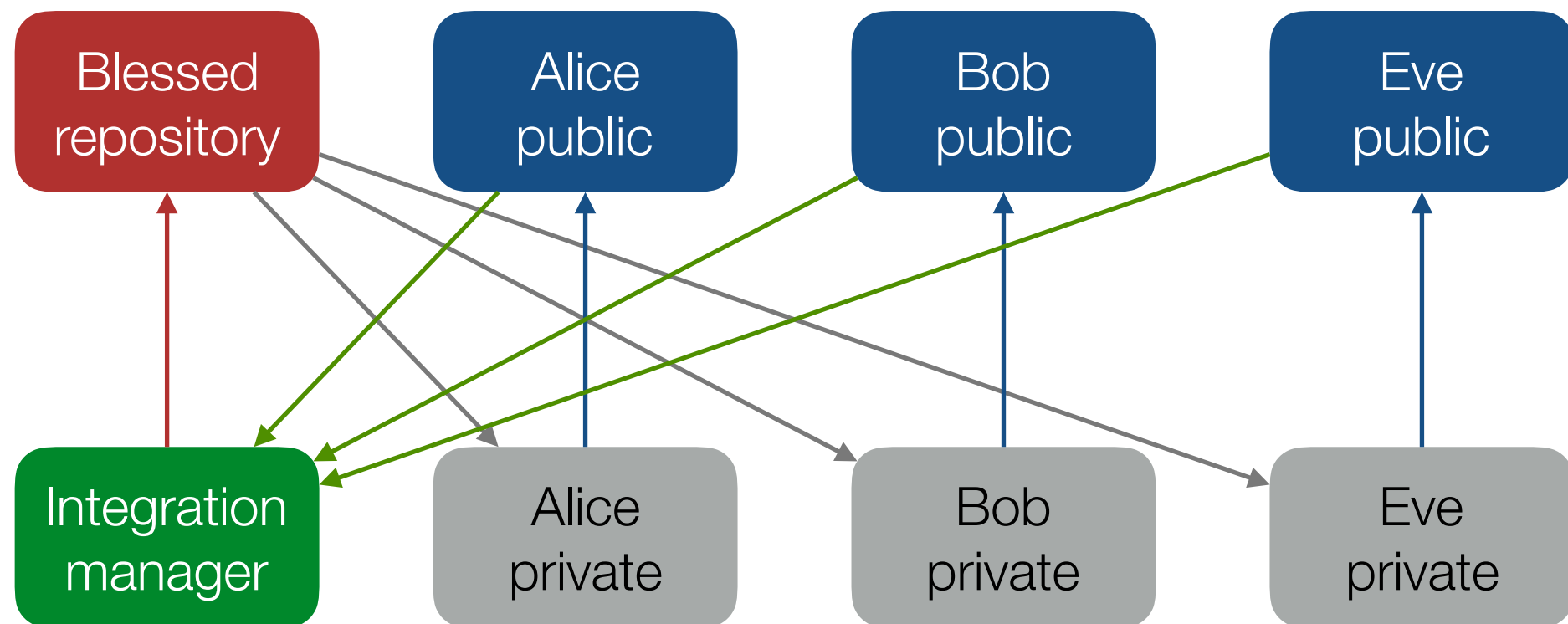
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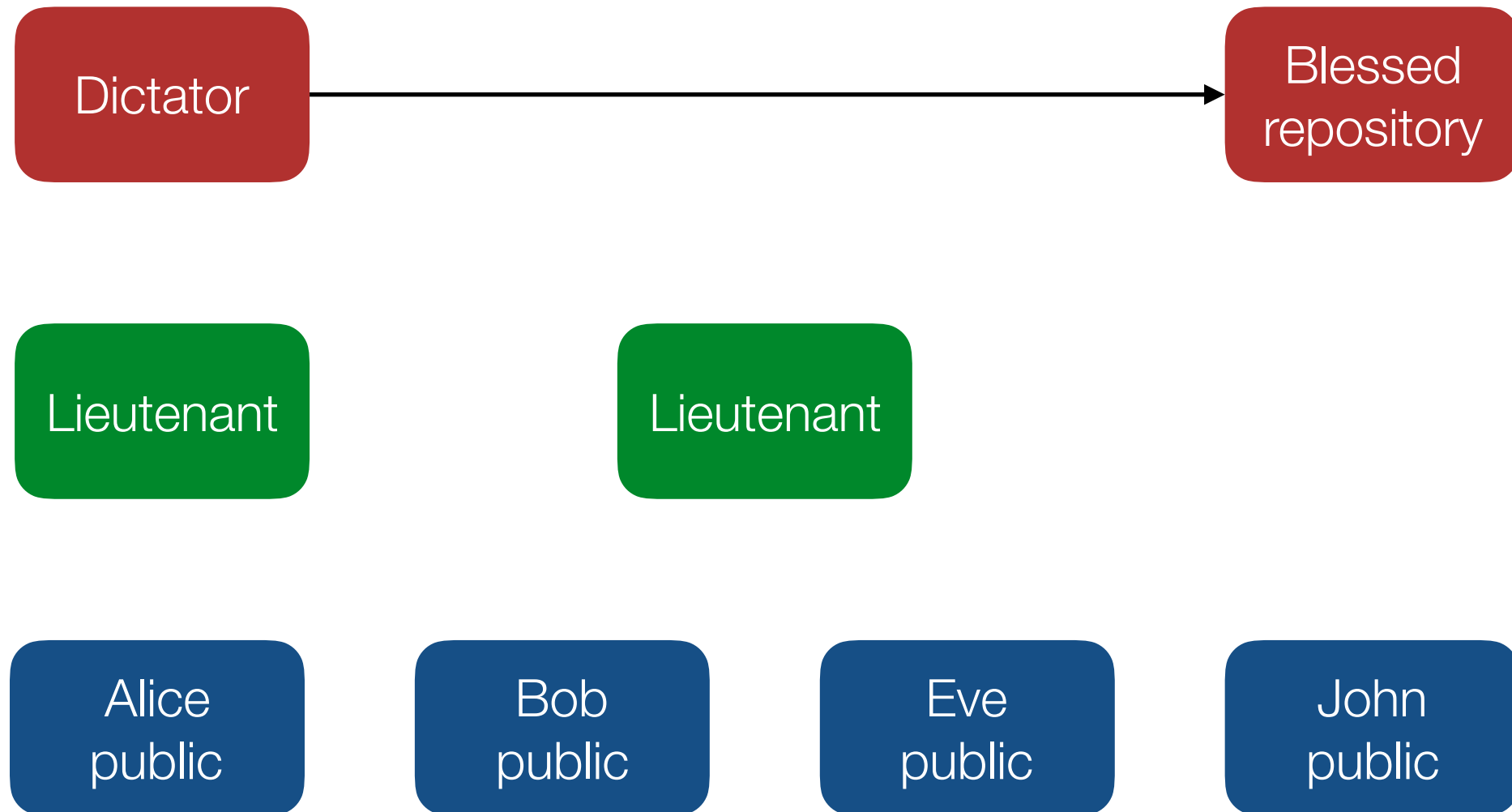
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Dictator / Lieutenants Workflow

Idea: use multiple integration managers (aka lieutenants)

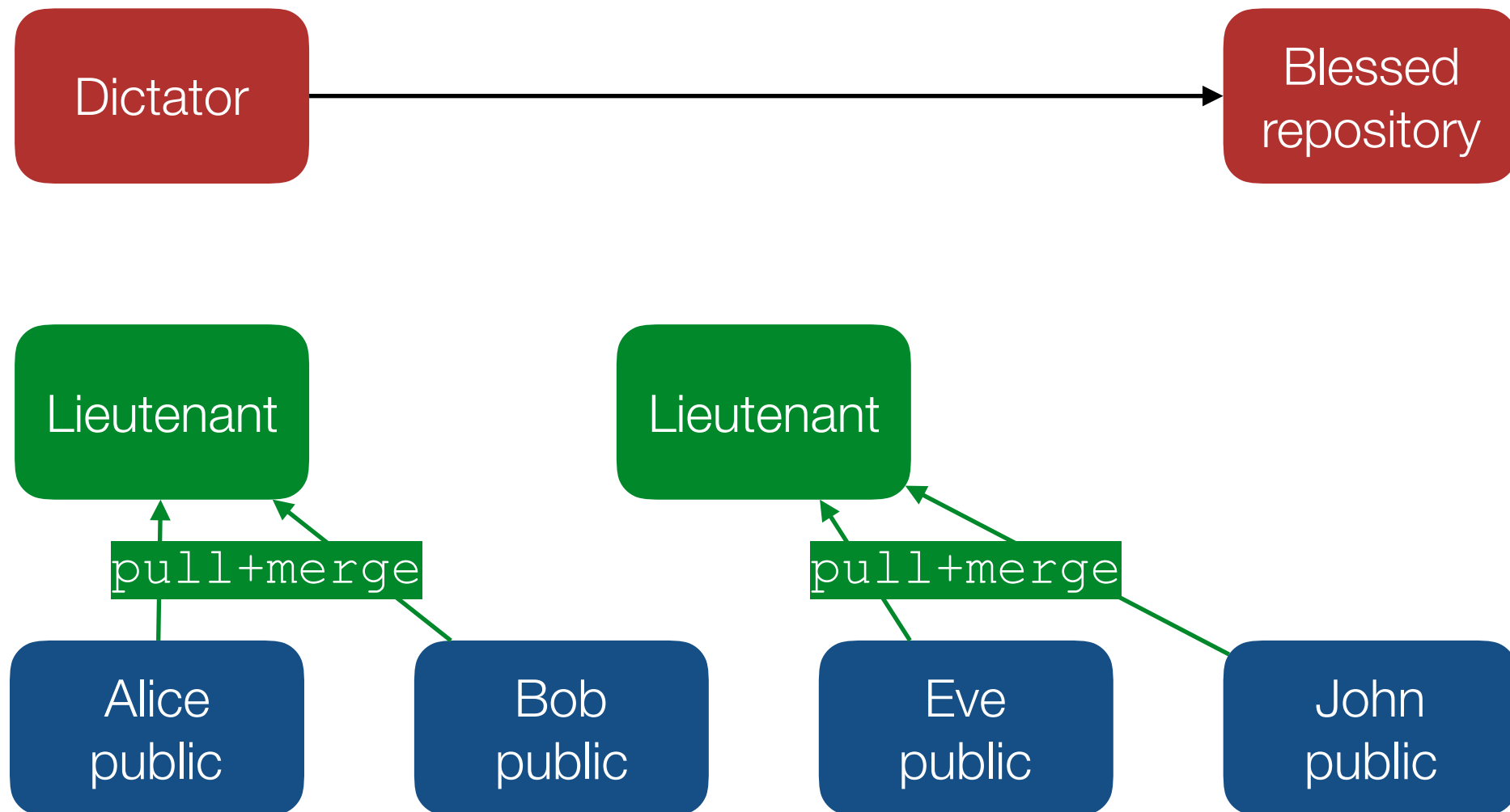
- each lieutenant is usually responsible for one module
- used for big projects (e.g. the Linux kernel, Python)



Dictator / Lieutenants Workflow

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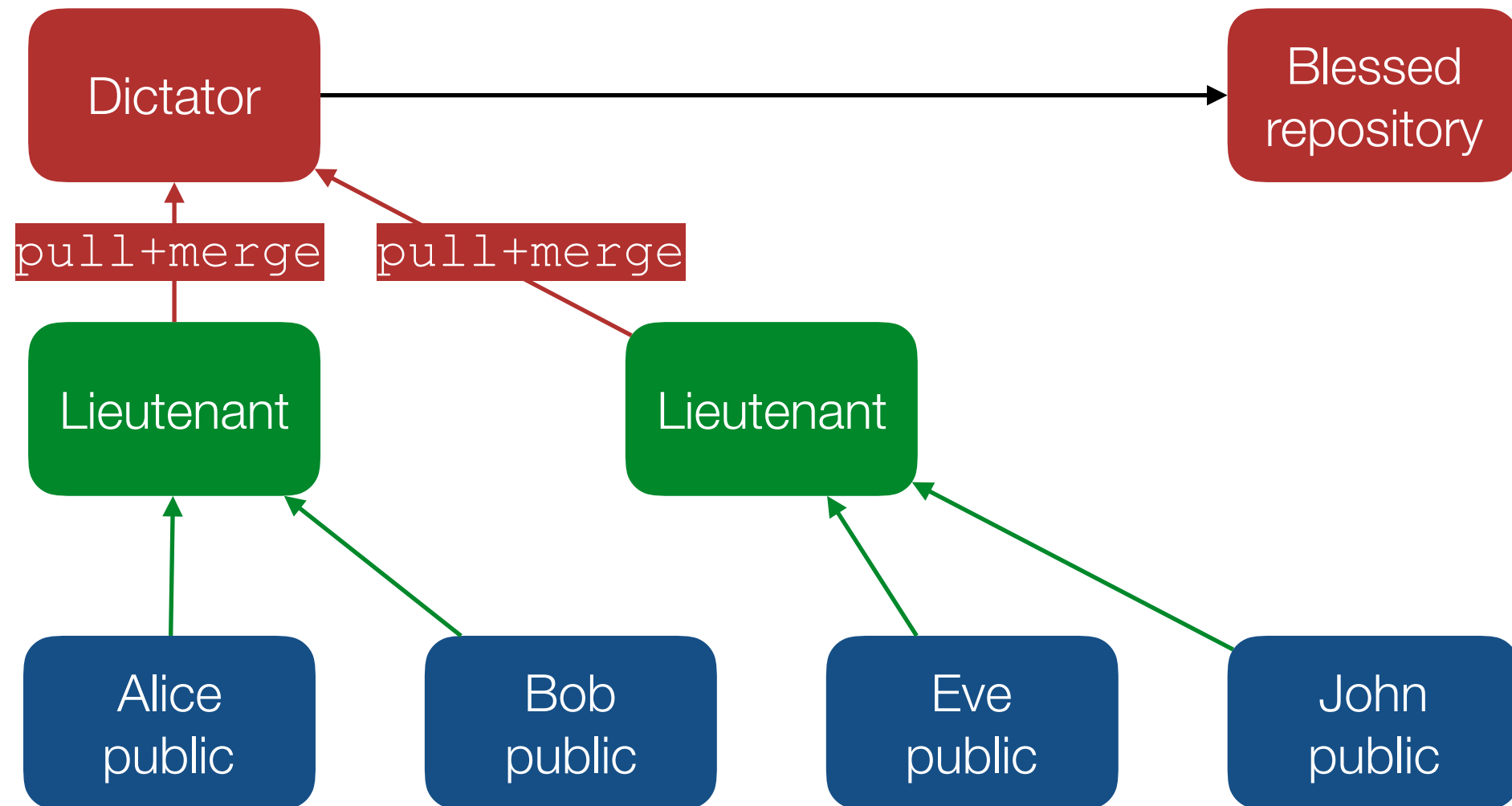
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Dictator / Lieutenants Workflow

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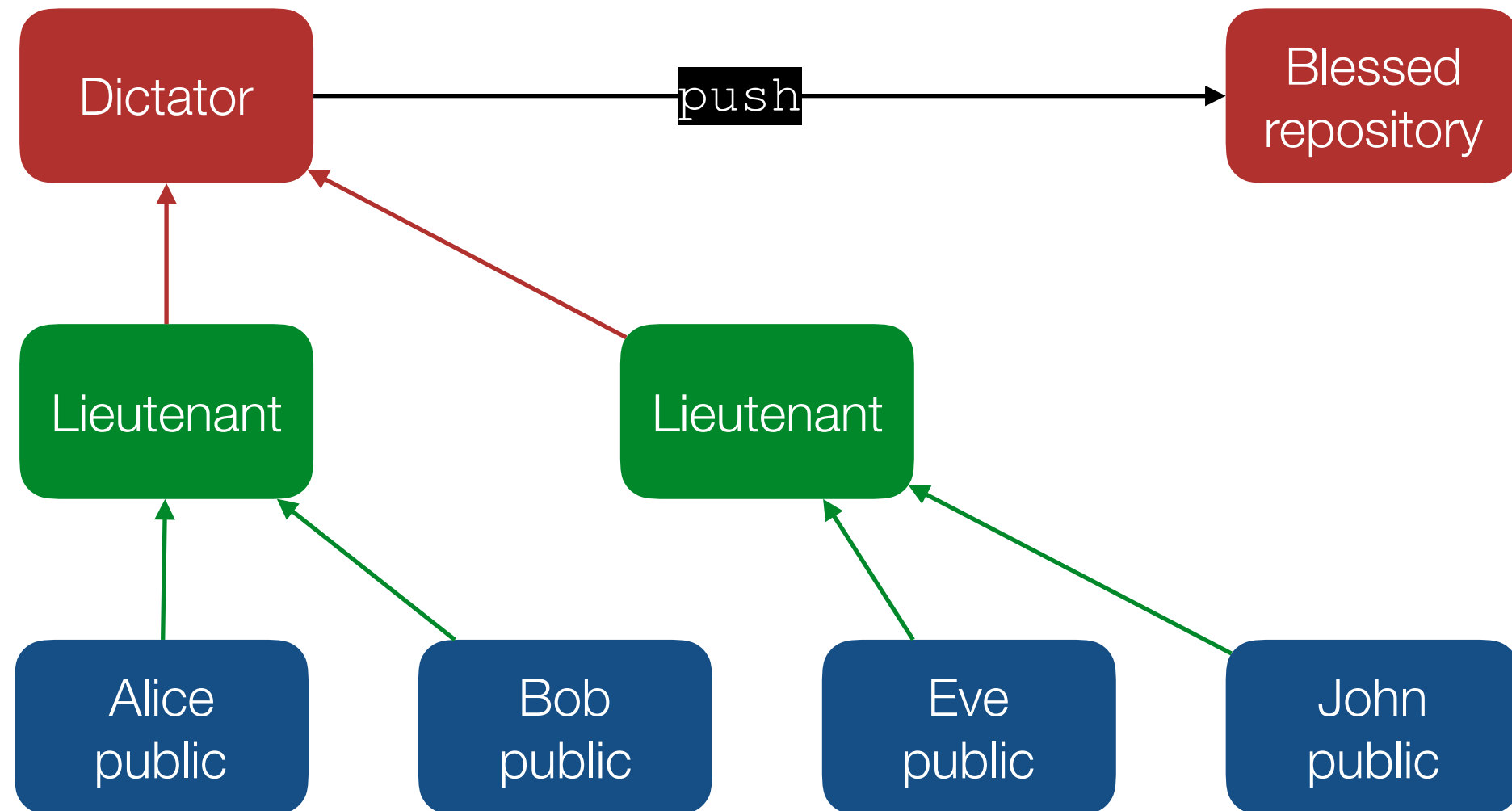
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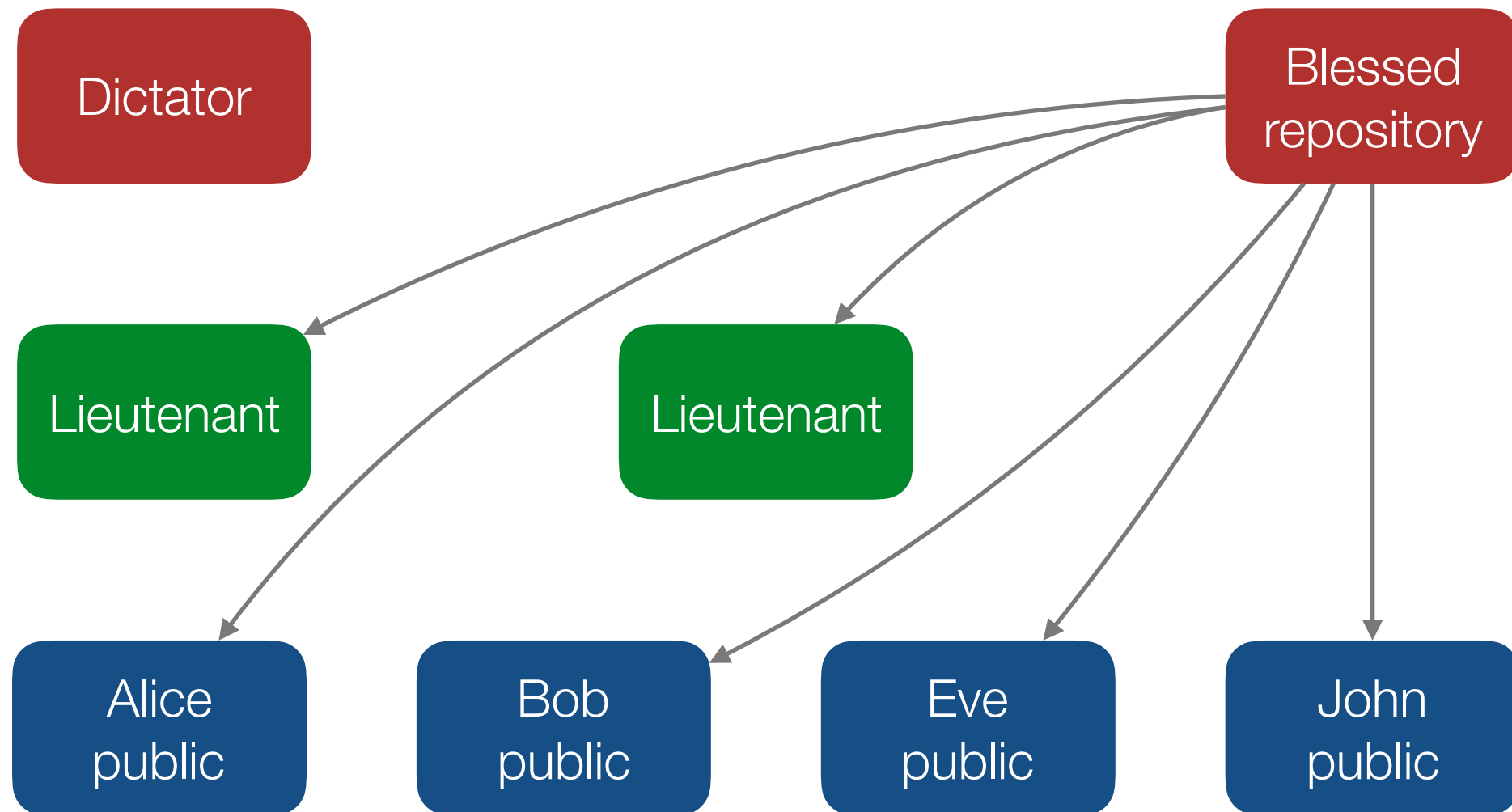
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Dictator / Lieutenants Workflow

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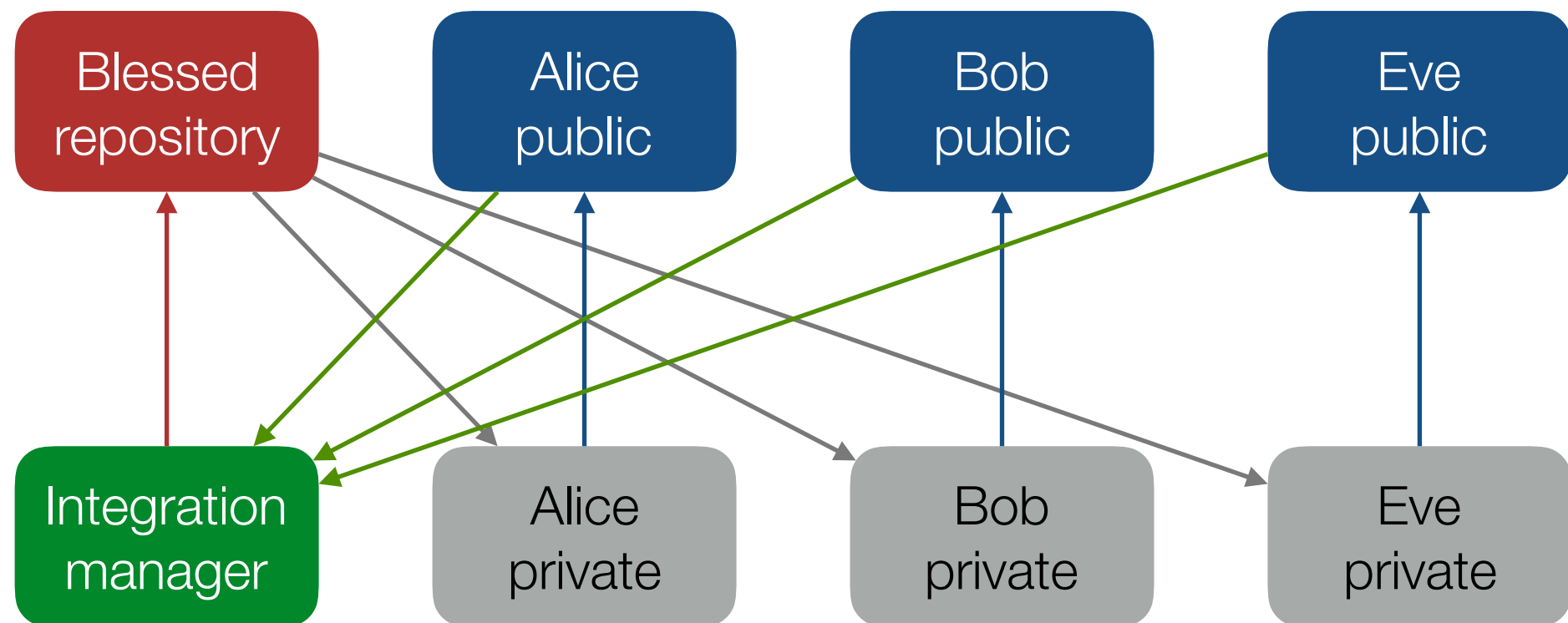
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DO #2: Use the Integration Manager Workflow

Main objectives:

- record changes over time
- recall a specific version later
- **enable collaboration**
- allow nonlinear development



DO #3: Choose a Proper Development Model

Main objectives:

- record changes over time
- recall a specific version later
- enable collaboration
- **allow nonlinear development**

DO #3: Choose a Proper Development Model

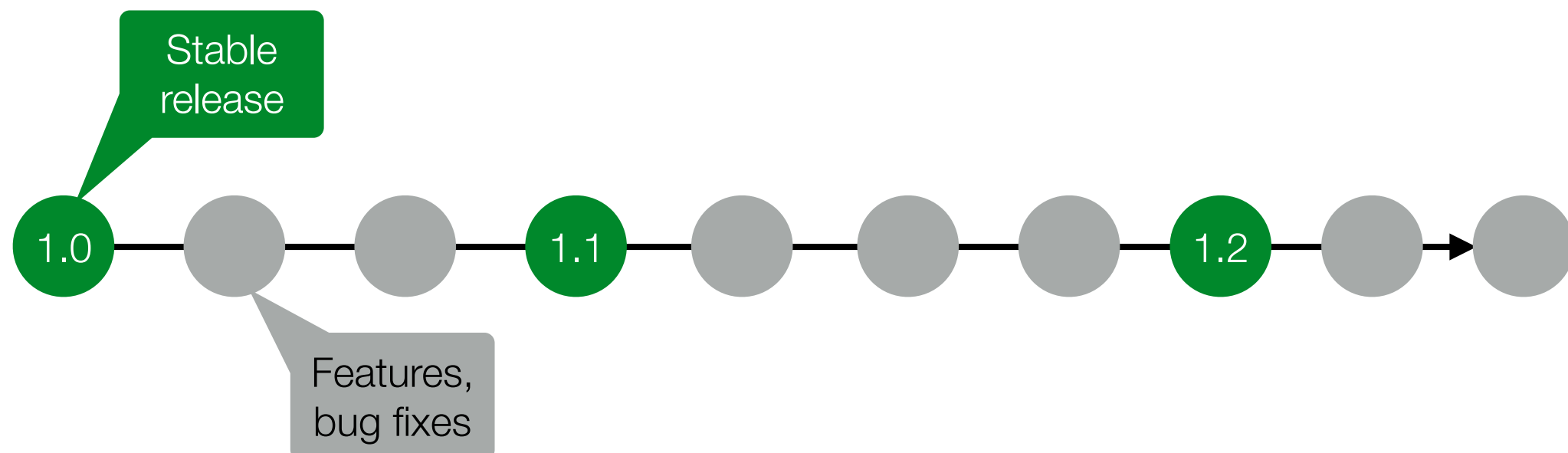
Development models:

- linear
- hotfix branches
- "master" trunk and "develop" branch
- Driessen's branching model

DO #3: Choose a Proper Development Model

Development models:

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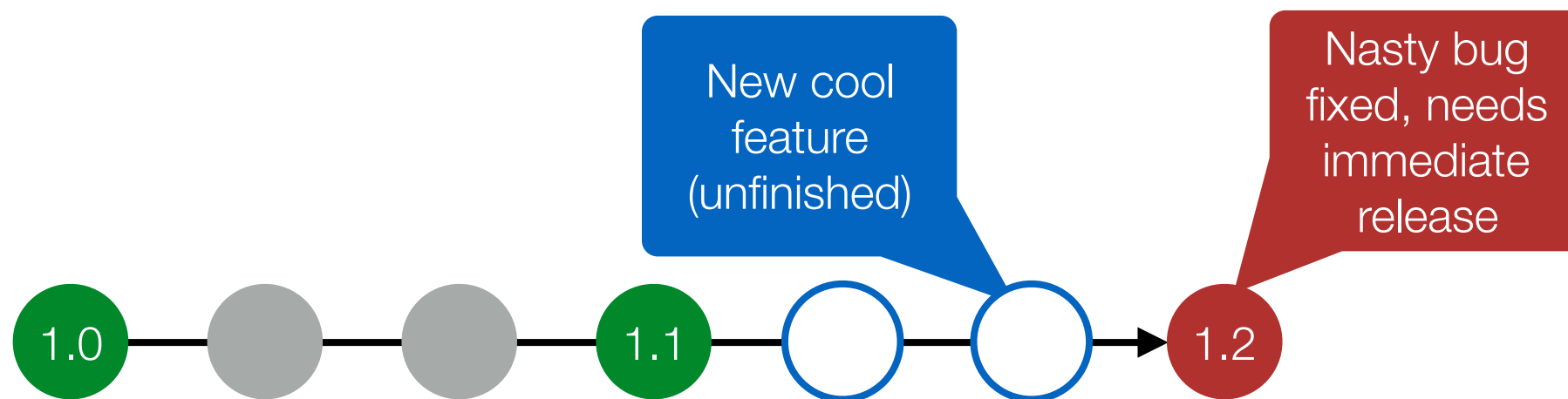


DO #3: Choose a Proper Development Model

Development models:

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Problem: release with unfinished features is not desired



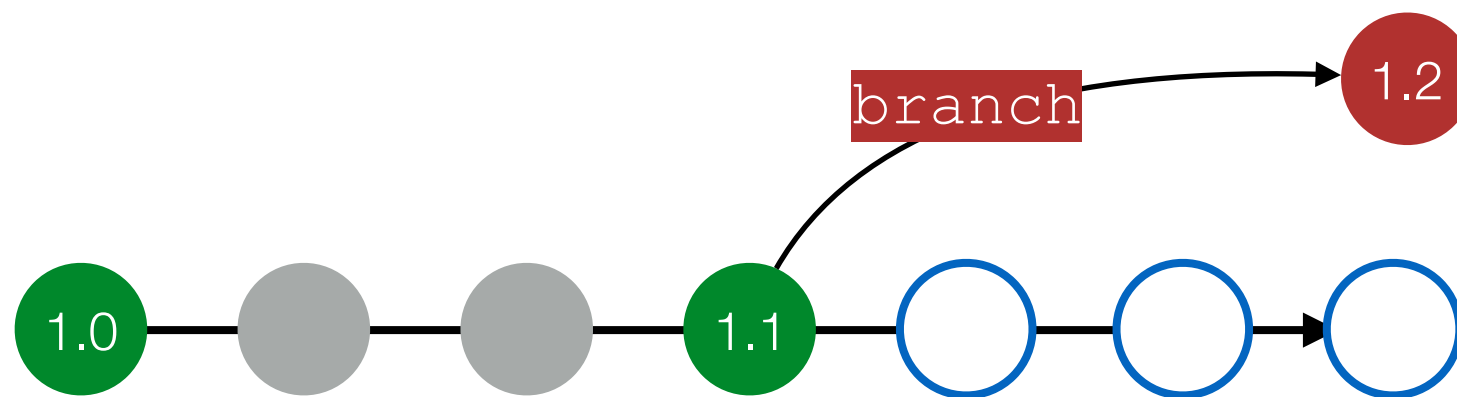
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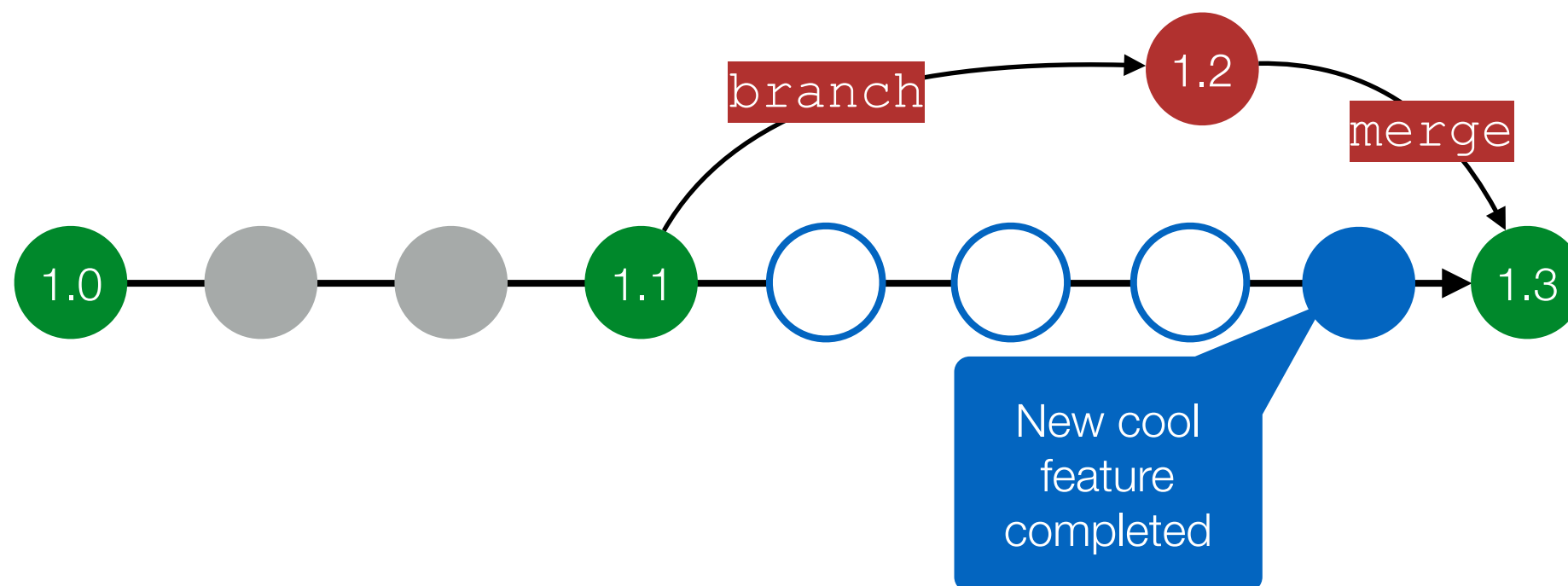
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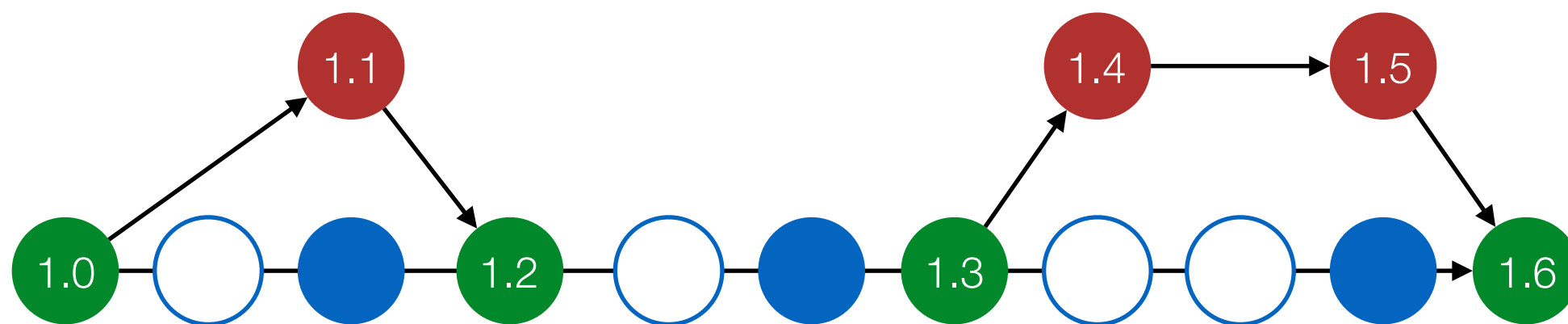
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Development models:

- linear
- **hotfix branches**
- "master" trunk and "develop" branch
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Problem: release with unfinished features is not desired

Solution: branch from latest stable release, only merge with finished features (but then the production code is the second-class citizen)

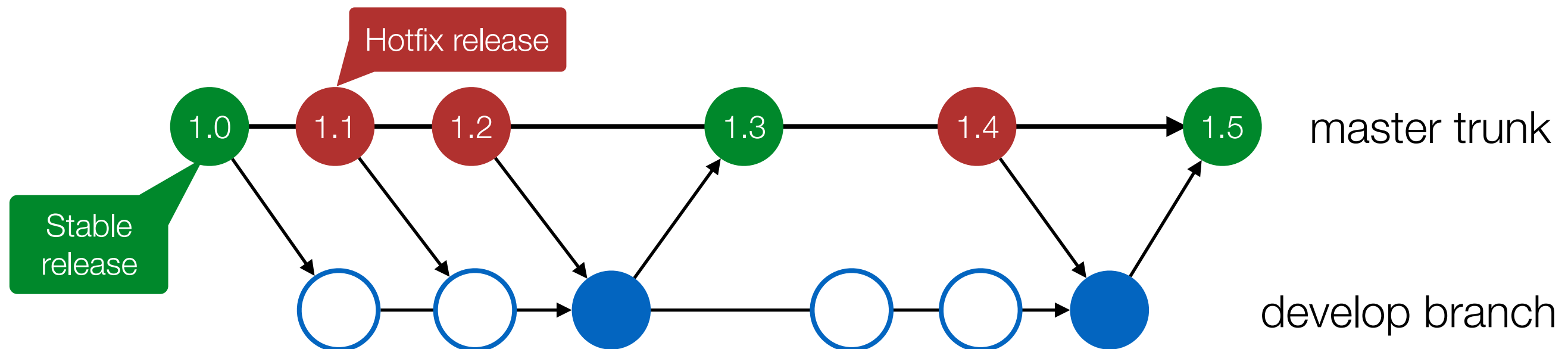


DO #3: Choose a Proper Development Model

Development models:

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- hotfix branches
- **"master" trunk and "develop" branch**
- Driessen's branching model

Idea: the trunk always contains production-ready code



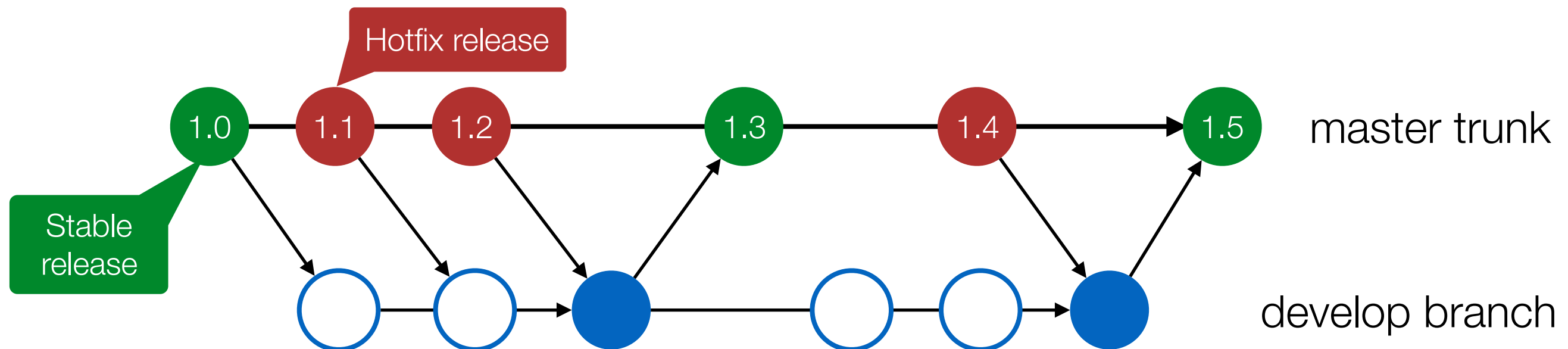
DO #3: Choose a Proper Development Model

Development models:

- linear
- hotfix branches
- **"master" trunk and "develop" branch**
- Driessen's branching model

Idea: the trunk always contains production-ready code

Problem: what if we work on multiple new features in parallel?

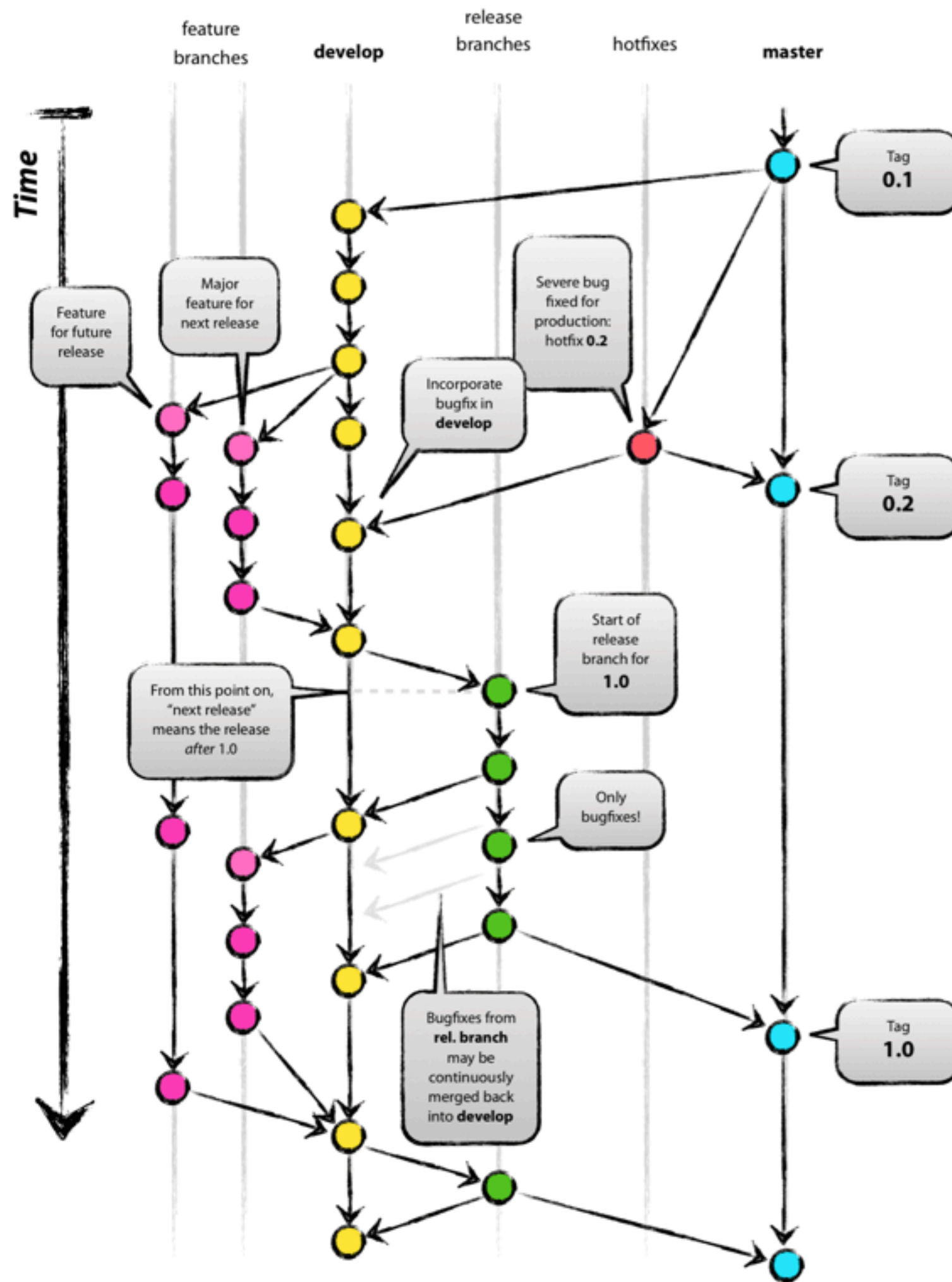


DO #3: Choose a Proper Development Model

Development models:

- linear
- hotfix branches
- "master" trunk and "develop" branch
- **Driessen's branching model**





DO #3: Use a Proper Development model

Development models:

- linear
- hotfix branches for projects with infrequent changes
- "master" trunk and "develop" branch for a single developer
- Driessen's branching model for projects with many contributors

Don't be afraid of branches, modern VCS's allow to "close and hide" branches (even unfinished ones)

Many open-source projects will only pull from you if your change is in a feature branch

DOs and DONTs

DONTs:

- do not use archives as a substitute for version control
- never use a centralized VCS (CVS, SVN)
- do not store automatically generated files (PDF, binaries, etc.) and sensitive data (e.g. passwords, logins, SSH keys, etc.)

DOs:

- use a distributed VCS (Mercurial, Git)
- use the "Integration Manager" workflow
(although the "centralized" workflow works well for papers)
- use Driessen's branching model

Agenda

Today

- version control systems and collaborative development
- **Mercurial, Git, Bitbucket, GitHub**
- providing support

Tomorrow

- unit testing
- documentation
- dissemination

Mercurial vs Git



Mercurial vs Git

Both written in April 2005 after the big BitKeeper/Torvalds split

Both are:

- distributed version control systems
- fast (Git a tad faster)
- relatively easy to use once (Mercurial more so)
- multi-platform (Mercurial "more native" on Windows)

Selecting one is mostly a matter of taste

- Git is more popular mainly due to GitHub

Mercurial vs Git



Bitbucket	Octave
Dovecot	OpenJDK
FuseSMB	OpenOffice
Growl	OpenSolaris
MPT	Python
mutt	RabbitMQ
NetBeans	rpm.org
nginx	Sphinx



Android	KVM
Debian tools	Linux kernel
Drupal	Maemo
FFmpeg	OLPC
GCC	Perl
GNOME	Samba
jQuery	VLC
Julia	Yum

Mercurial: Basic Commands

Working directory

```
file1.m  
file2.m  
file3.m
```

Mercurial: Basic Commands

Working directory

```
file1.m  
file2.m  
file3.m
```

Local repository

Initialize a new local repository: `hg init`

Mercurial: Basic Commands

Working directory

untracked

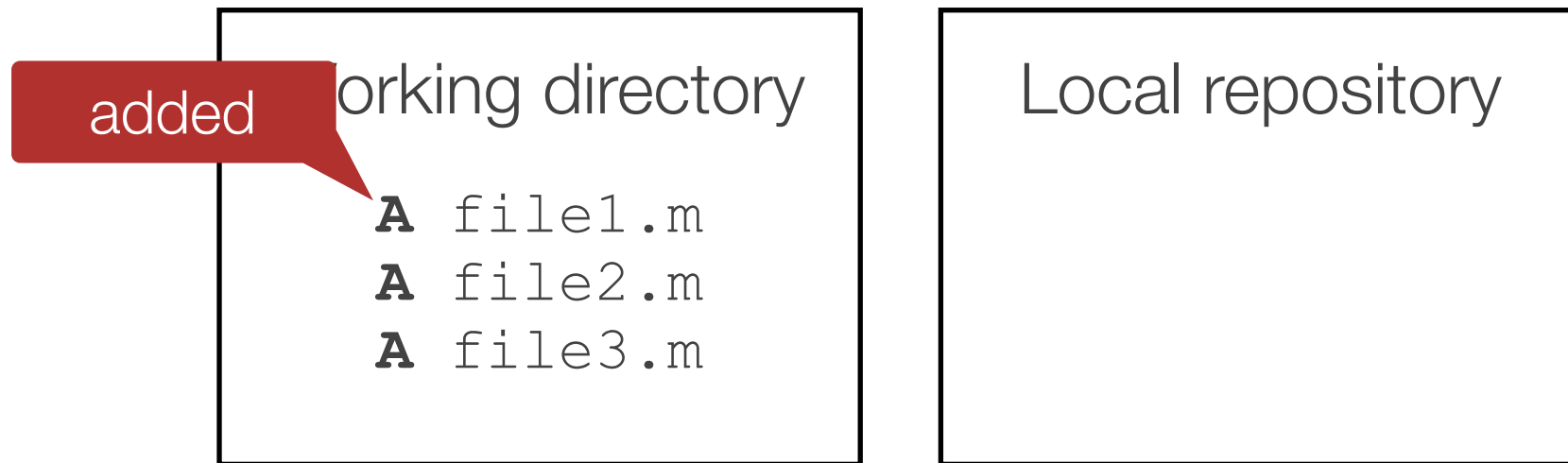
? file1.m
? file2.m
? file3.m

Local repository

Initialize a new local repository: `hg init`

Check status of files: `hg status`

Mercurial: Basic Commands

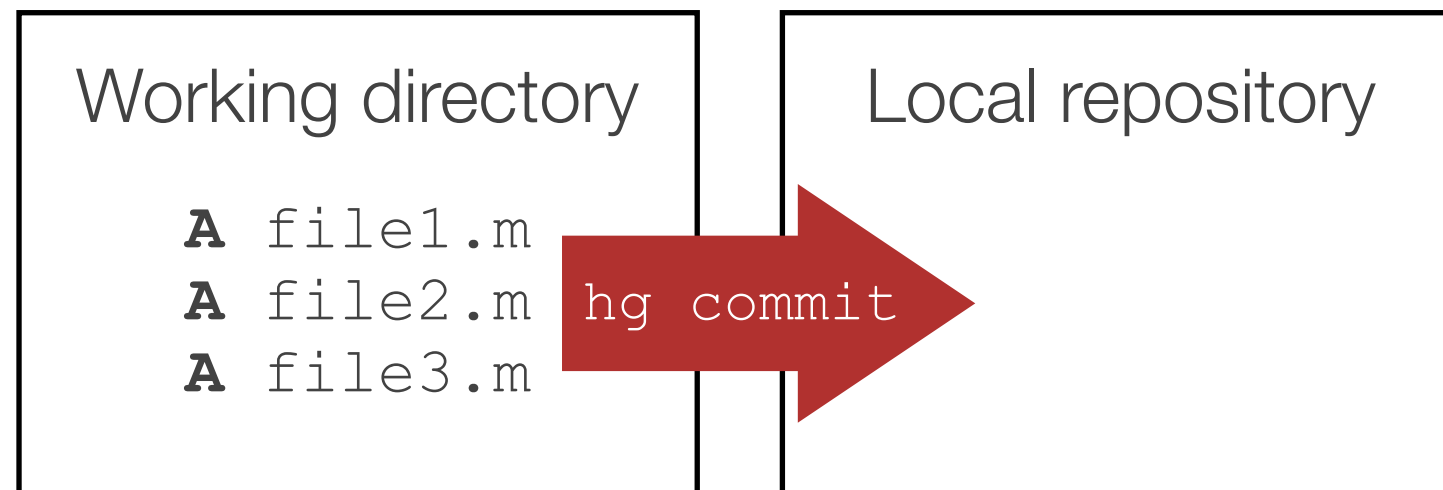


Initialize a new local repository: `hg init`

Check status of files: `hg status`

Start tracking all files: `hg add`

Mercurial: Basic Commands



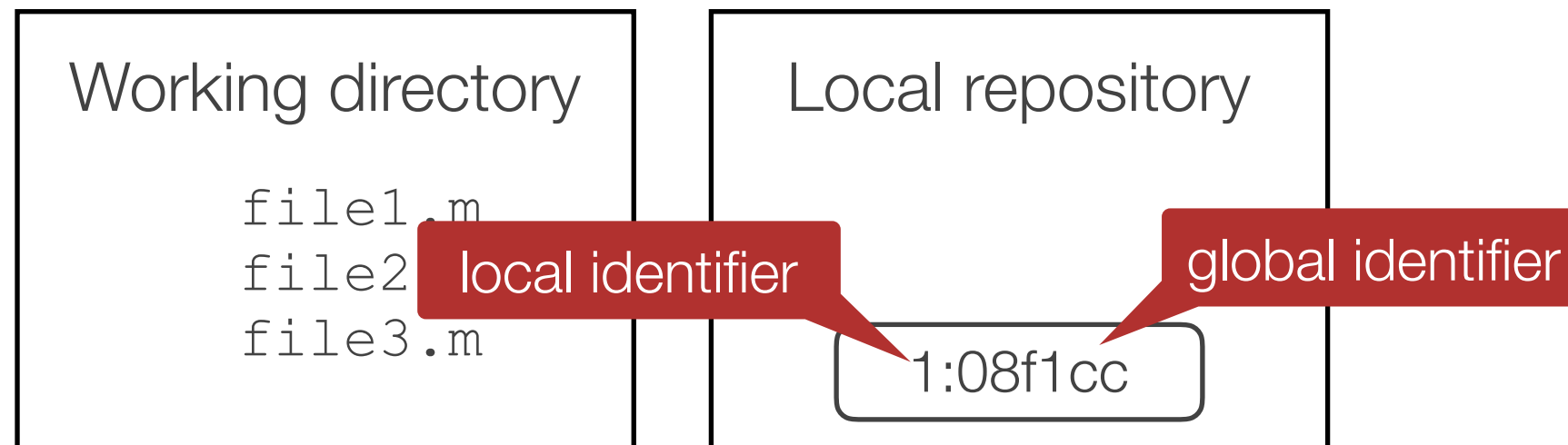
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Check status of files: `hg status`

Start tracking all files: `hg add`

Commit the added files to the repository: `hg commit -m "message"`

Mercurial: Basic Commands



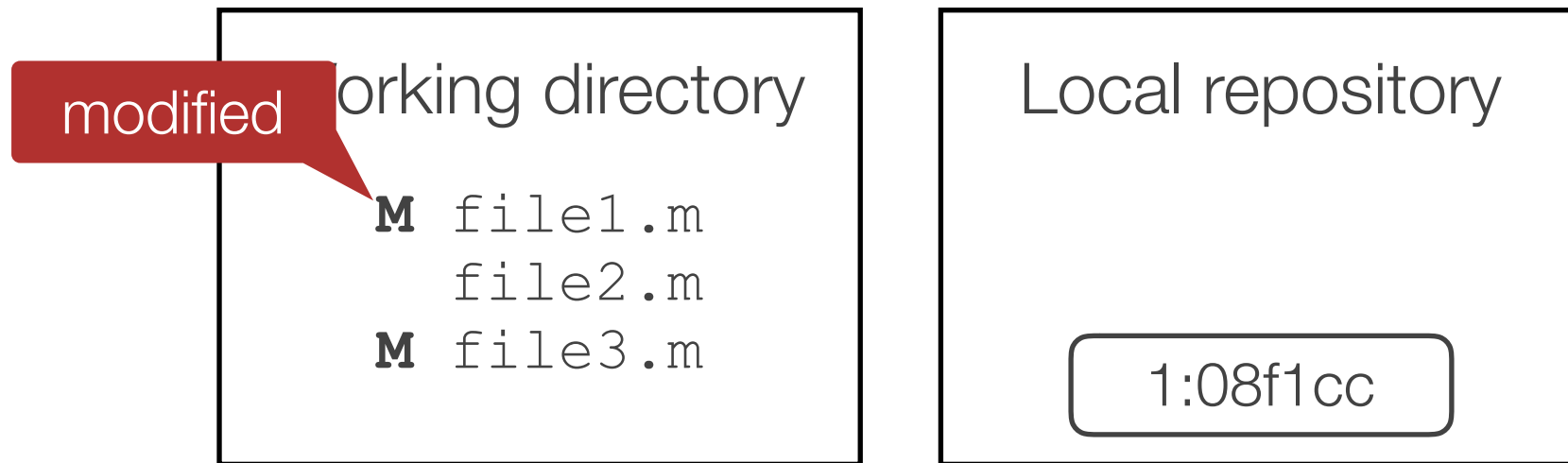
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Mercurial: Basic Commands

Working directory

M file1.m
file2.m
M file3.m

Local repository

1:08f1cc

```
diff -r 08f1cc6e1abd file1.m  
--- a/file1.m  
+++ b/file1.m  
@@ -36,6 +36,7 @@
```

```
done = false;  
backupTried = false;  
+shifted = false;
```

Initialize a new local repository: `hg init`

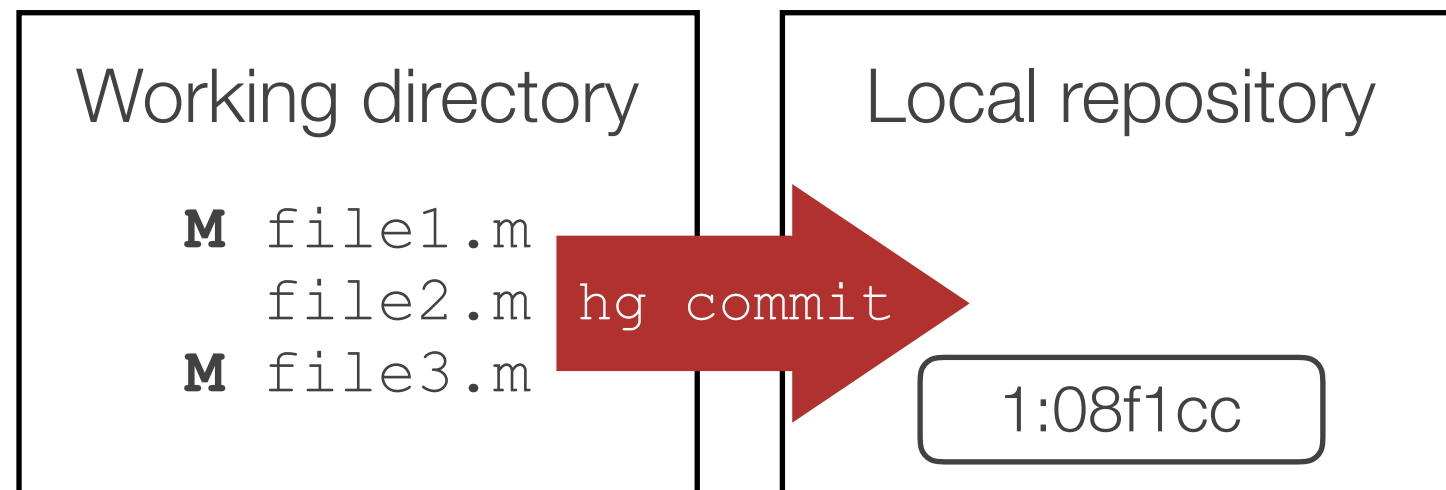
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View differences to repository: `hg diff`

Mercurial: Basic Commands



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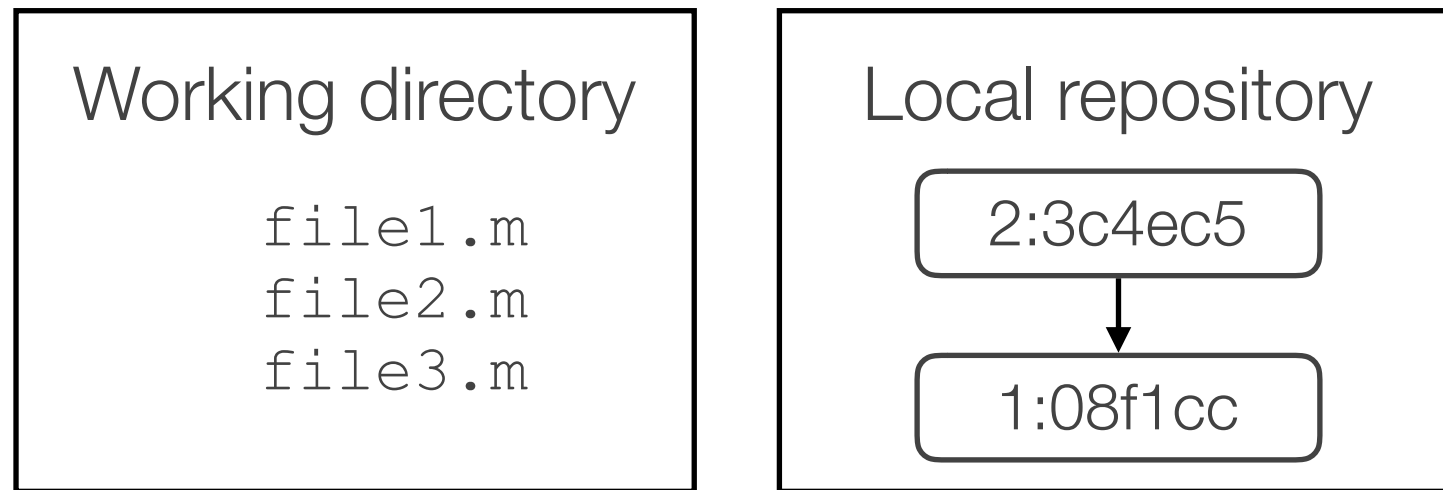
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Commit the modified files to the repository: `hg commit -m "message"`

Mercurial: Basic Commands



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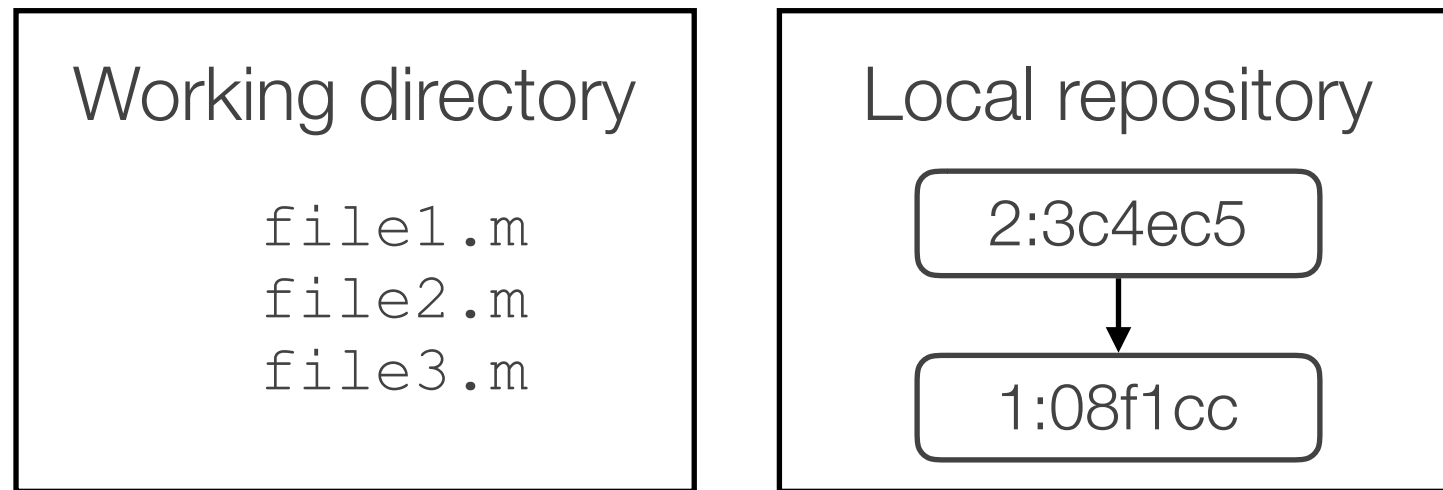
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Mercurial: Basic Commands



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Commit the added files to the repository: `hg commit -m "message"`

View differences to repository: `hg diff`

Commit the modified files to the repository: `hg commit -m "message"`

View the log: `hg log`

Mercurial: Basic Commands

Working directory

file1.m
file2.m
file3.m

Local repository

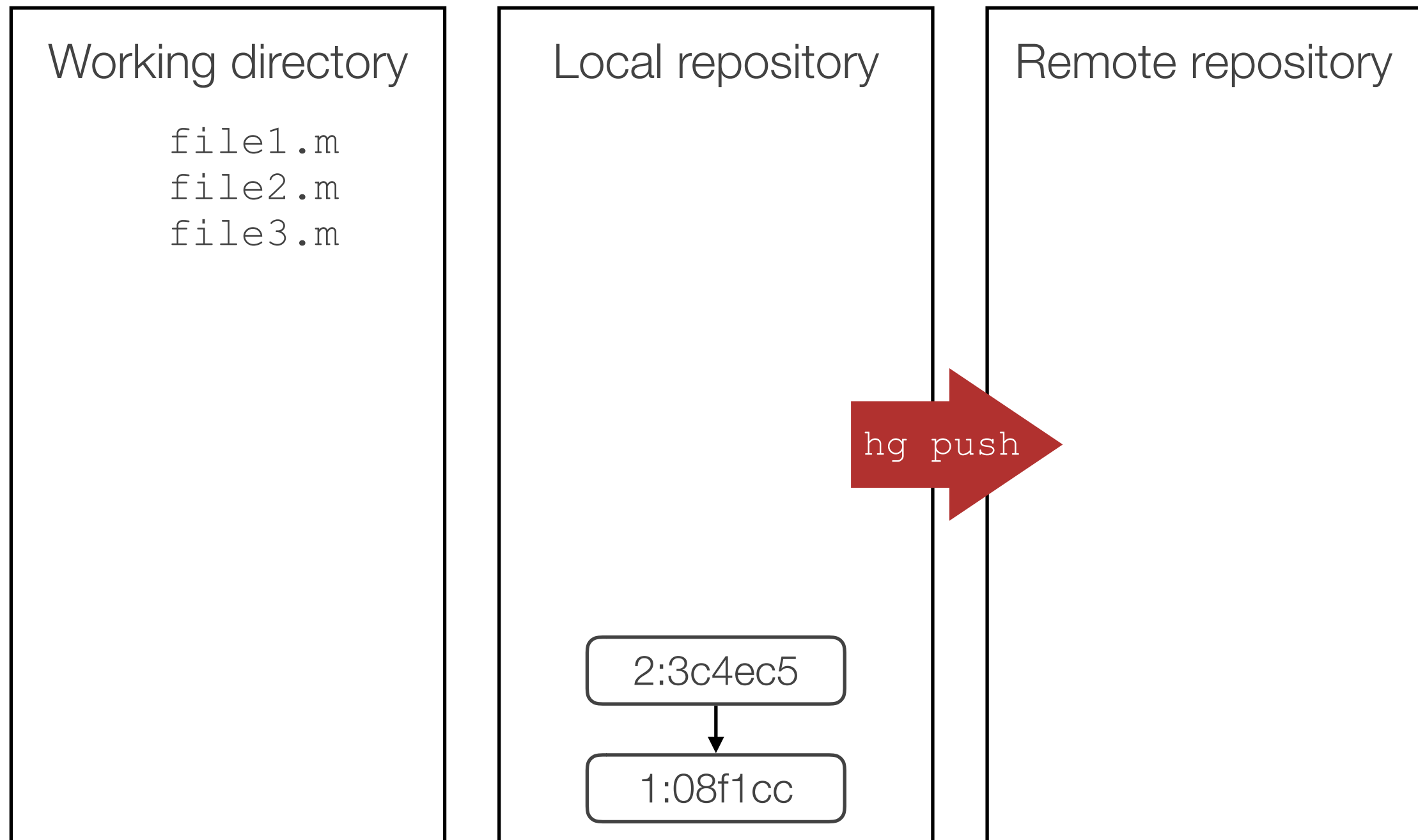
2:3c4ec5



1:08f1cc

Remote repository

Mercurial: Basic Commands



Mercurial: Basic Commands

Working directory

file1.m
file2.m
file3.m

Local repository

2:3c4ec5



1:08f1cc

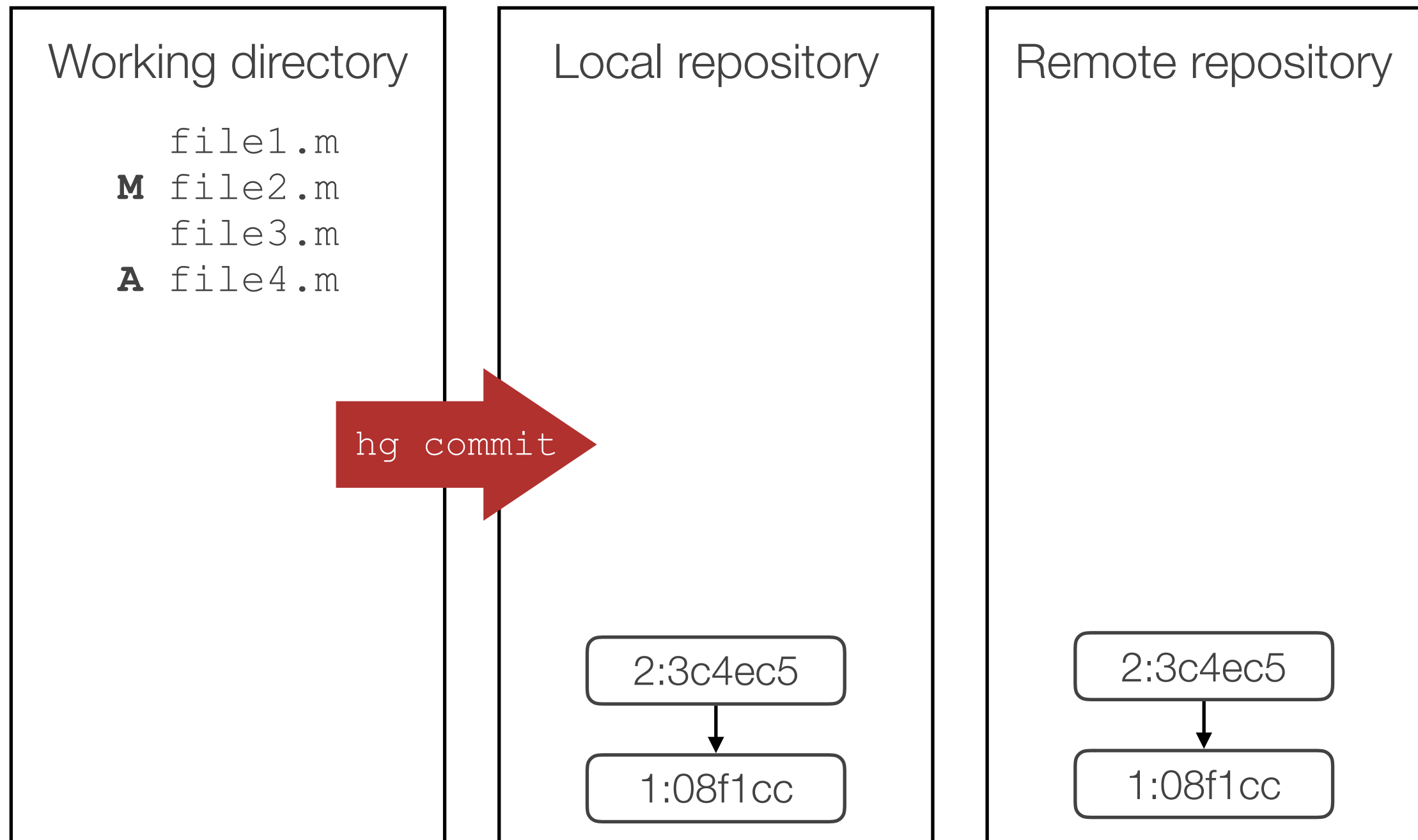
Remote repository

2:3c4ec5

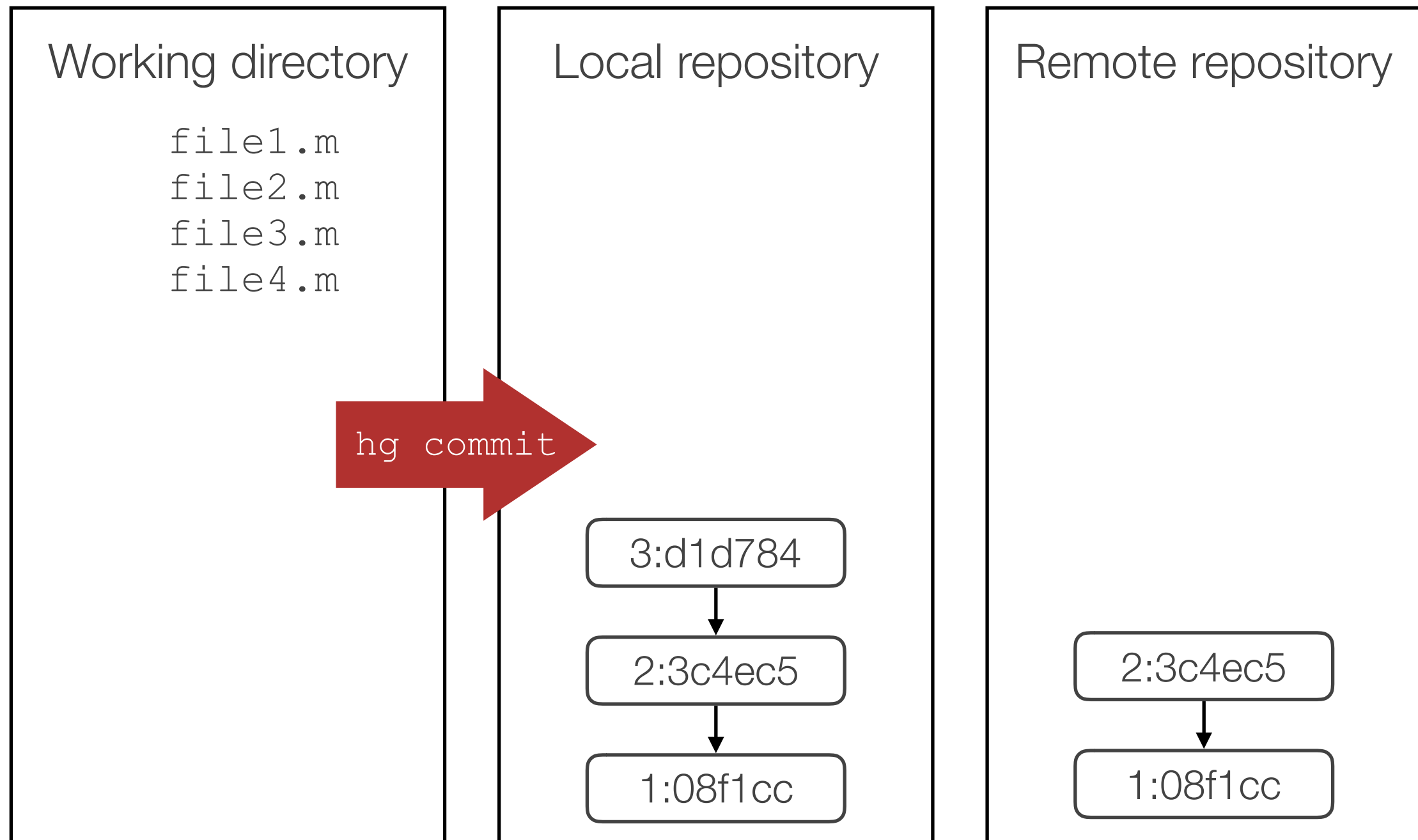


1:08f1cc

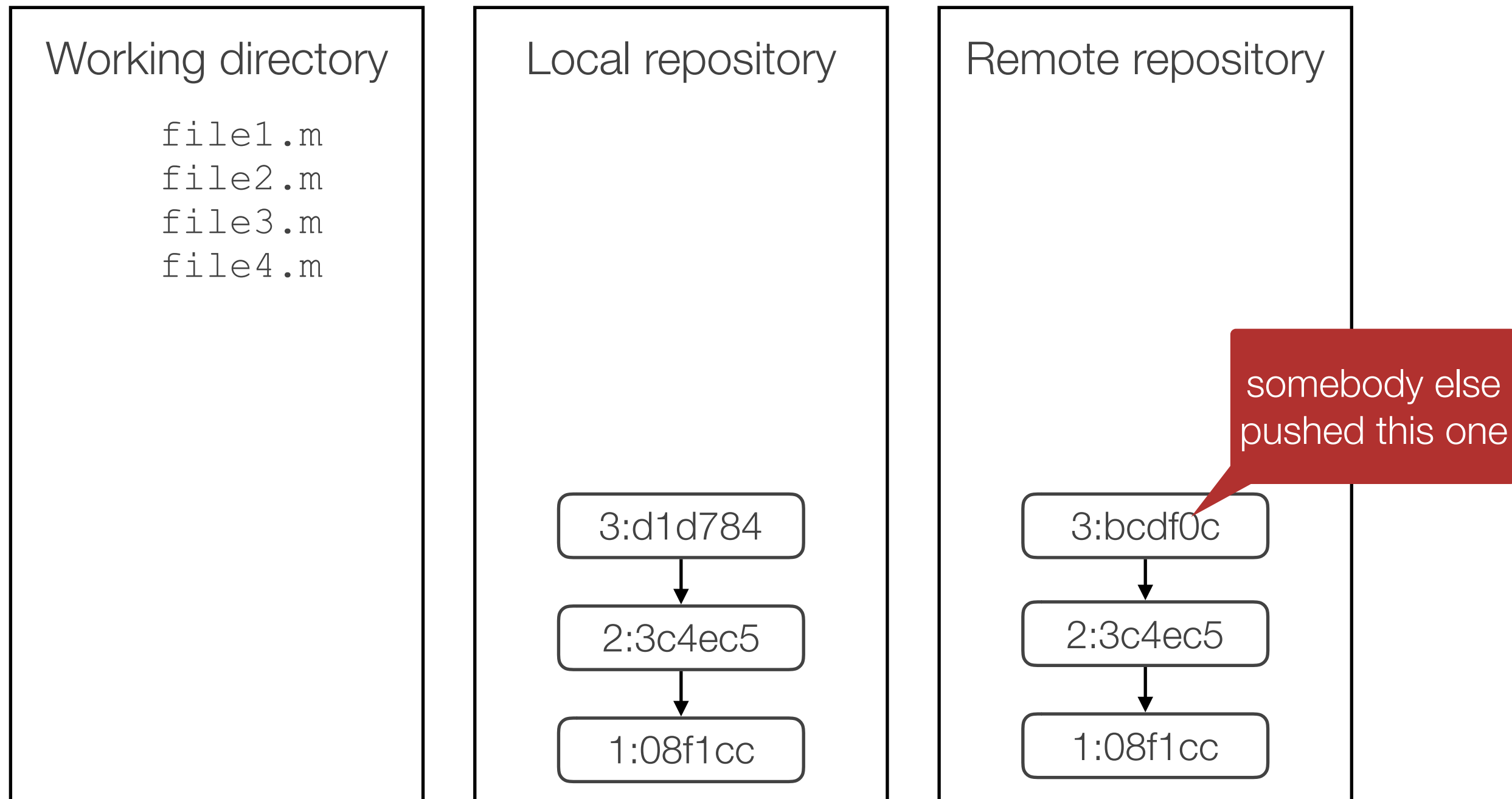
Mercurial: Basic Commands



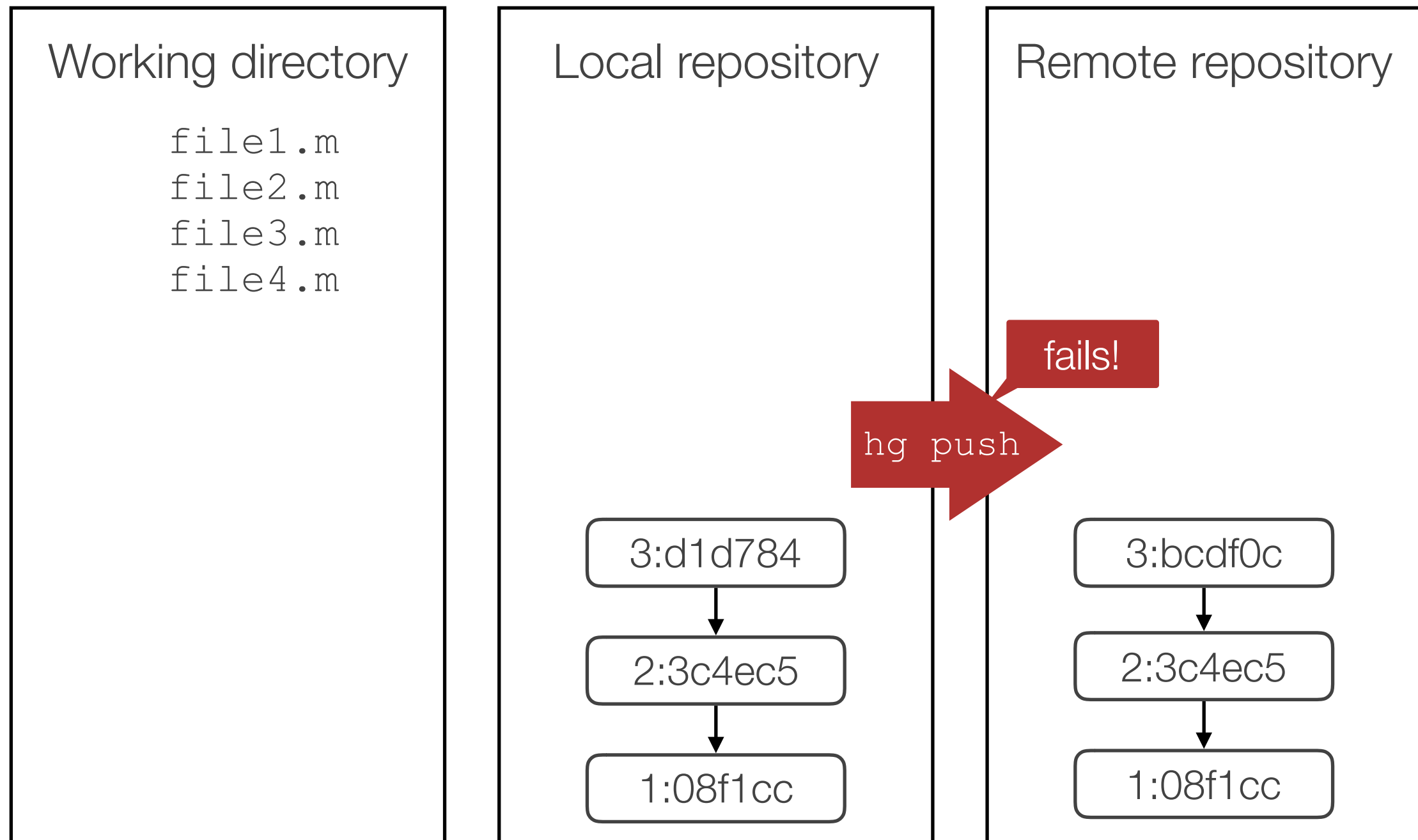
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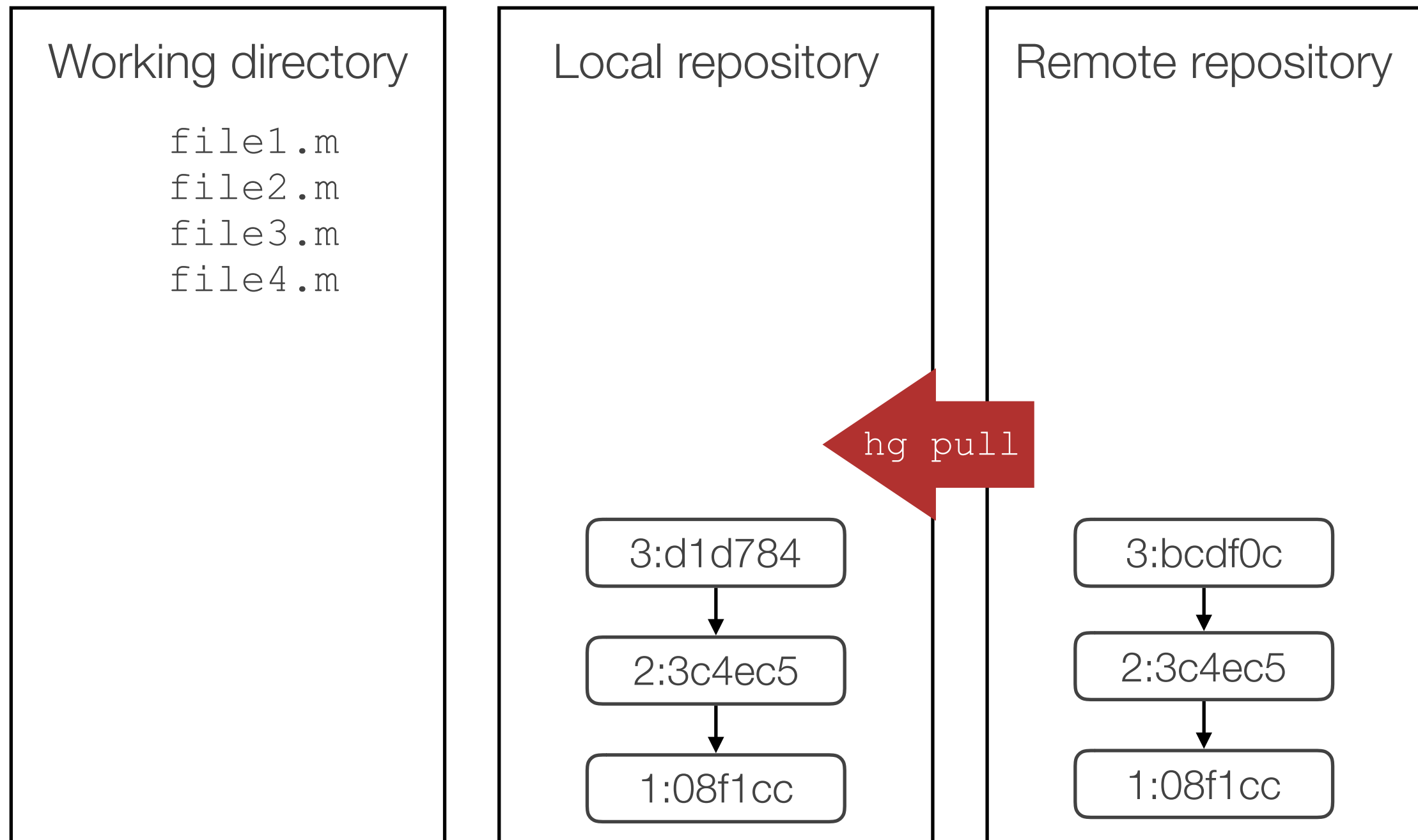
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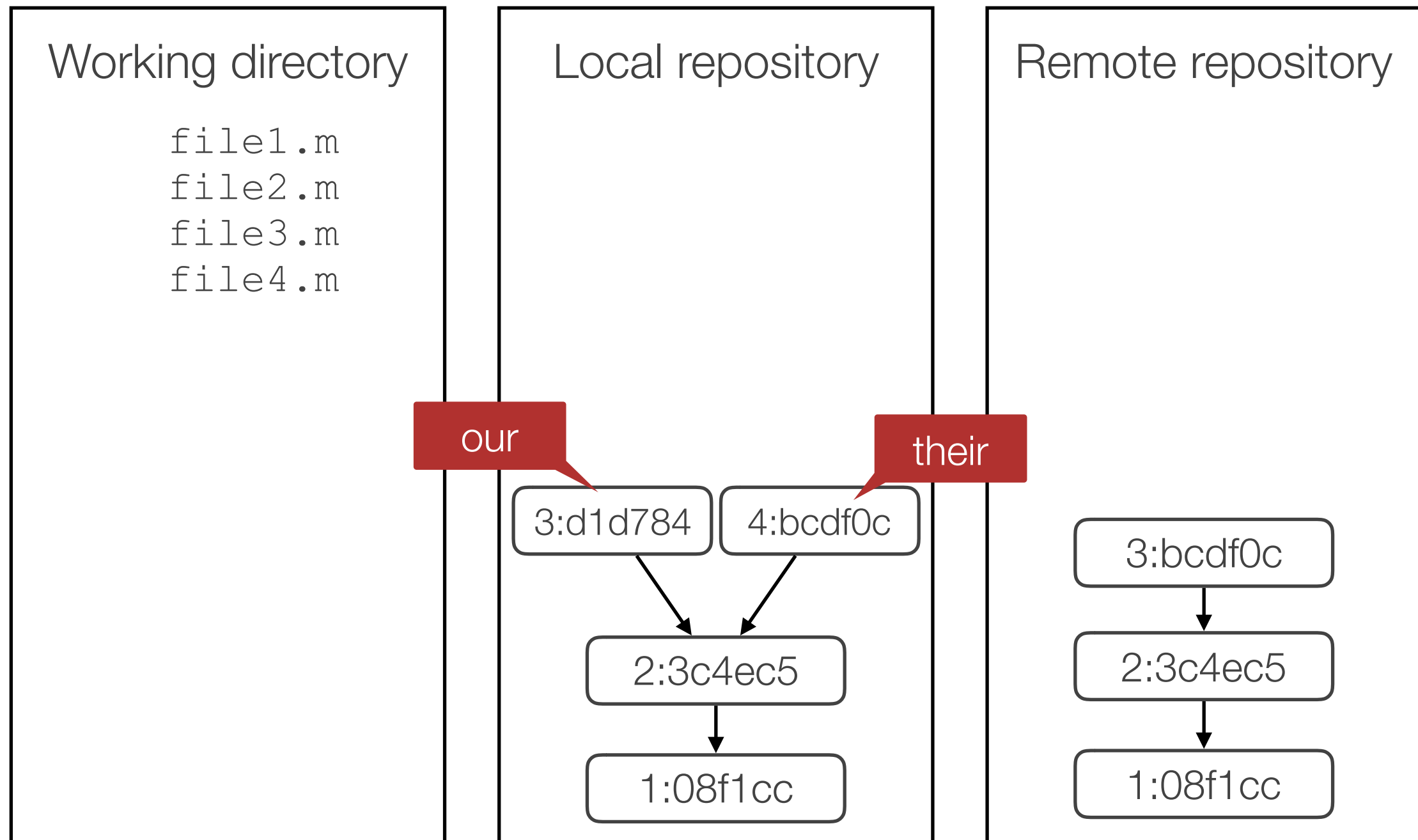
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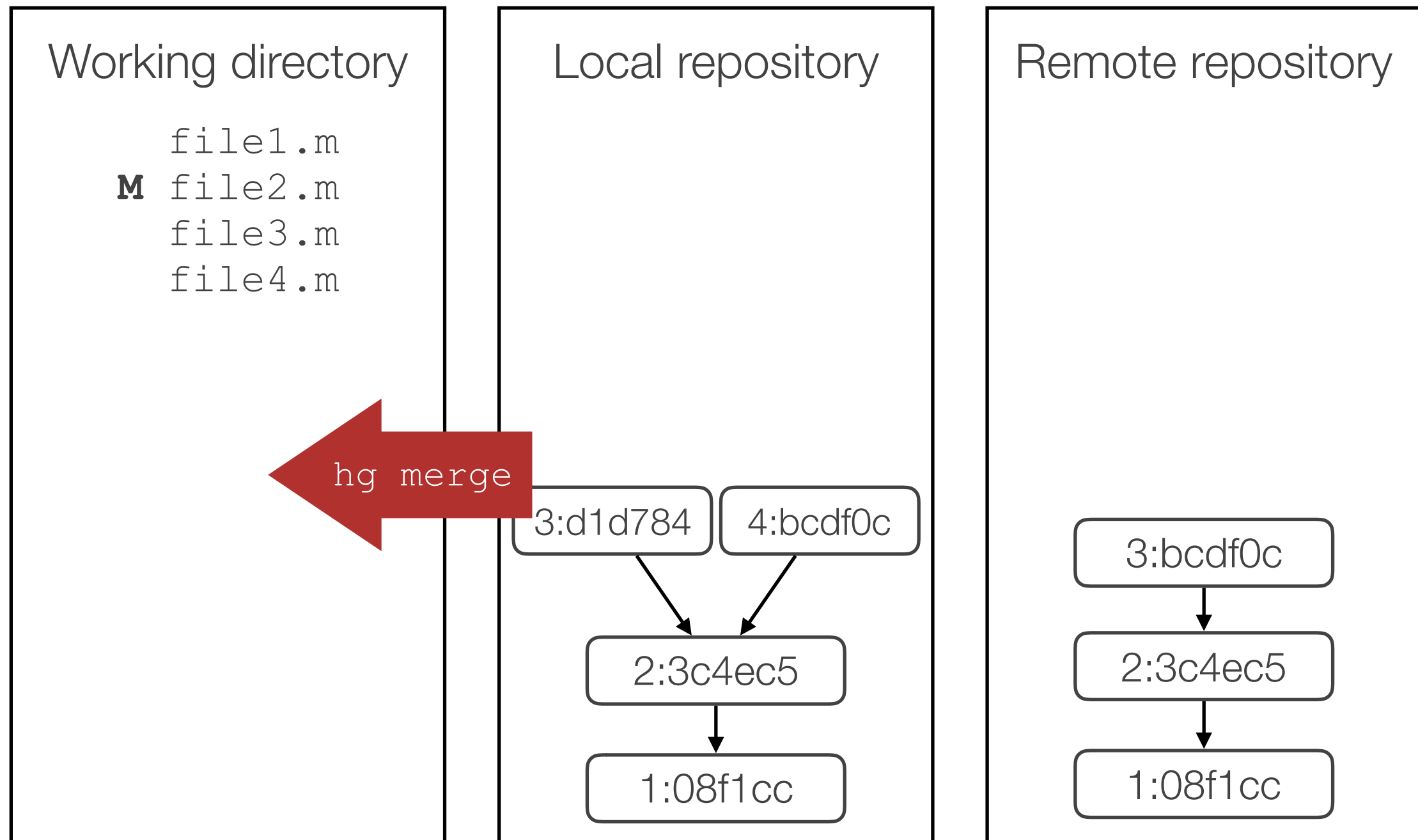
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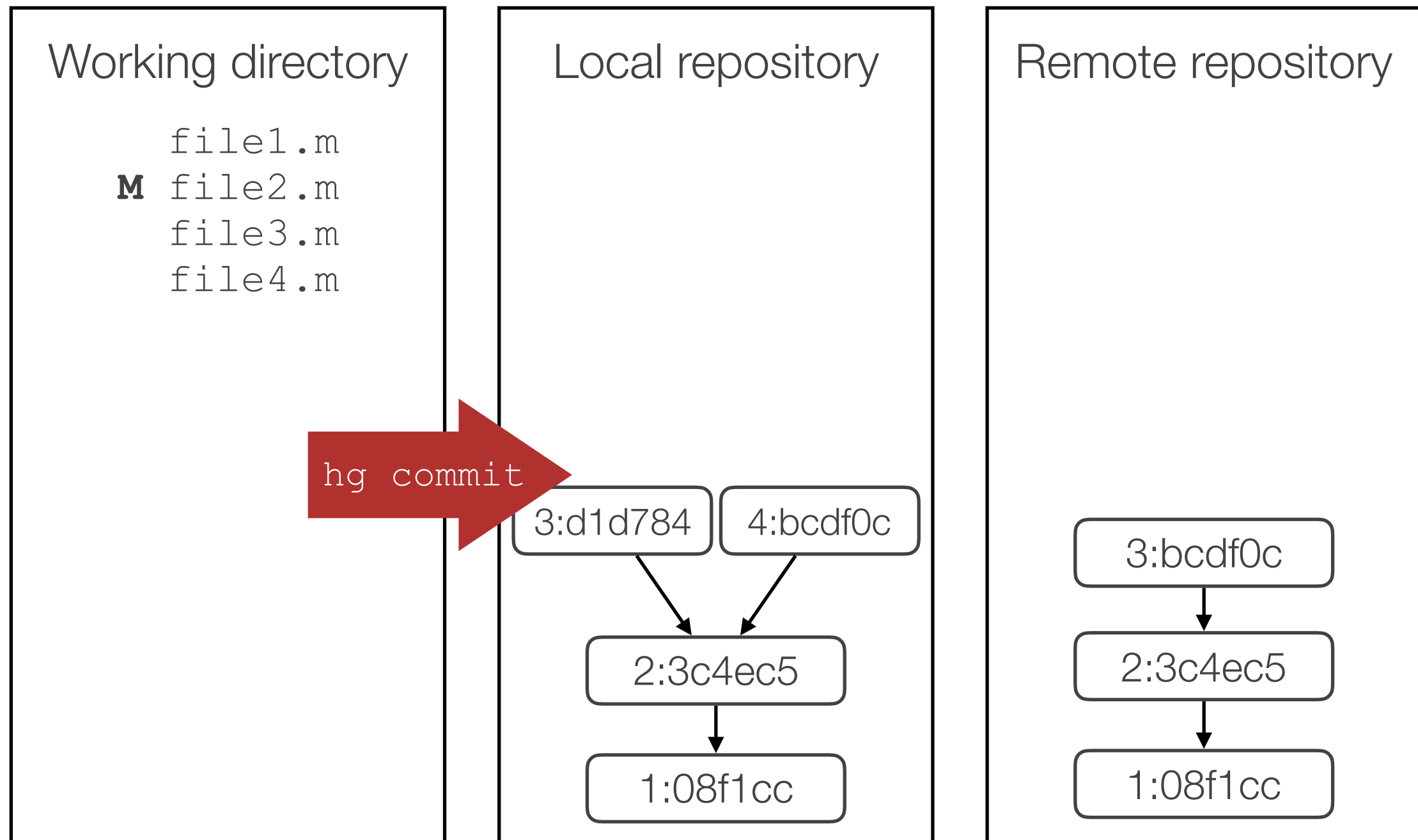
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Mercurial: Basic Commands

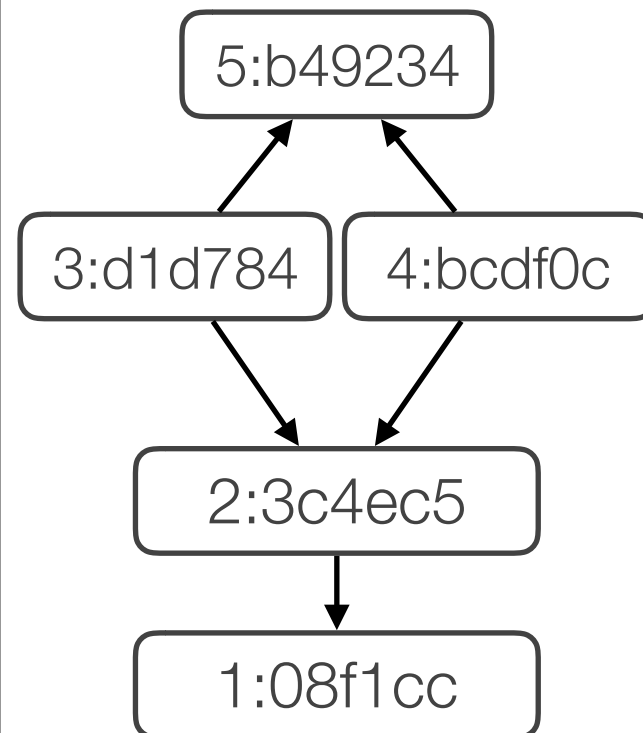


Mercurial: Basic Commands

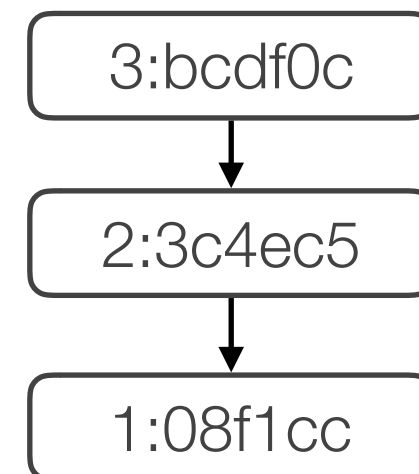
Working directory

file1.m
file2.m
file3.m
file4.m

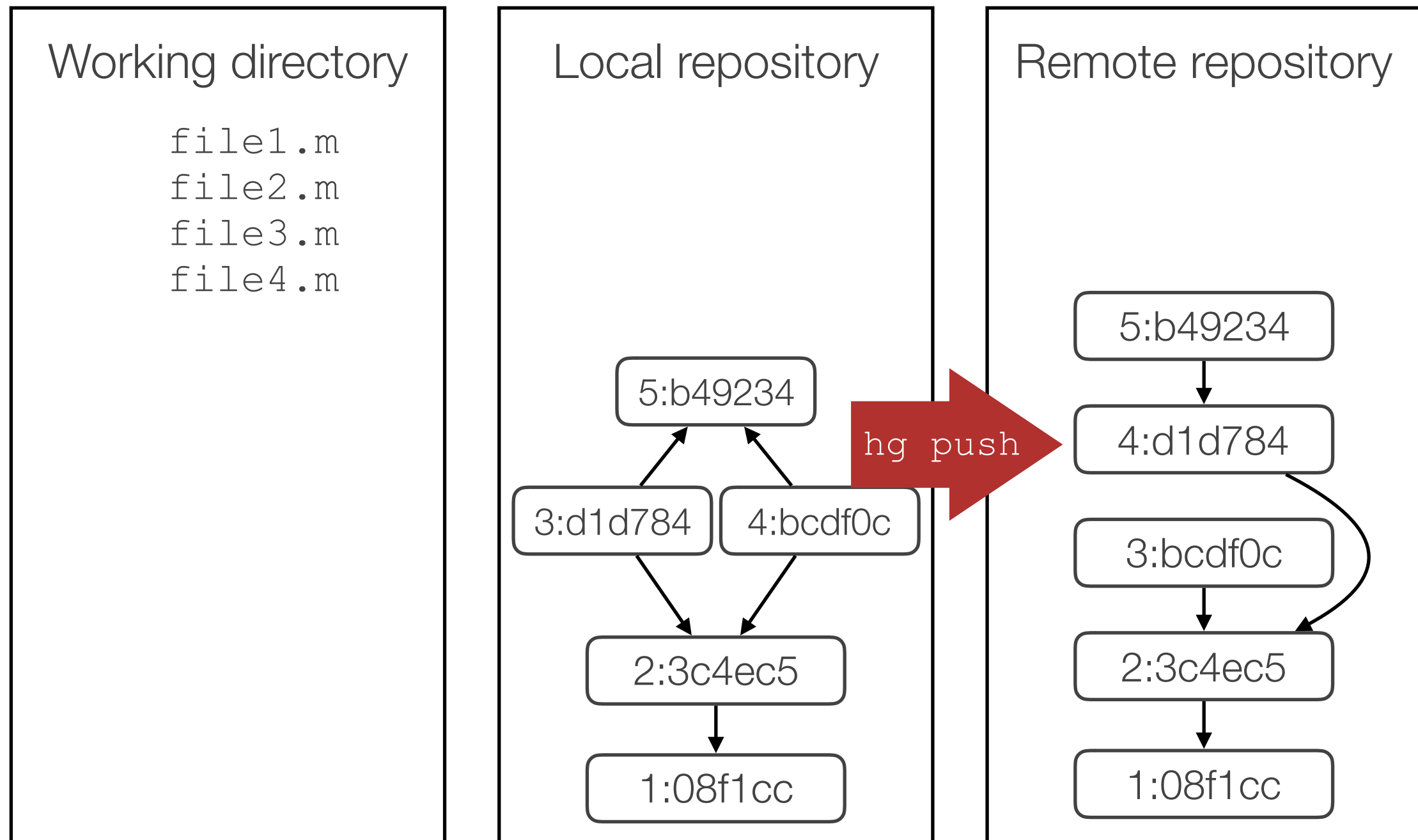
Local repository



Remote repository



Mercurial: Basic Commands

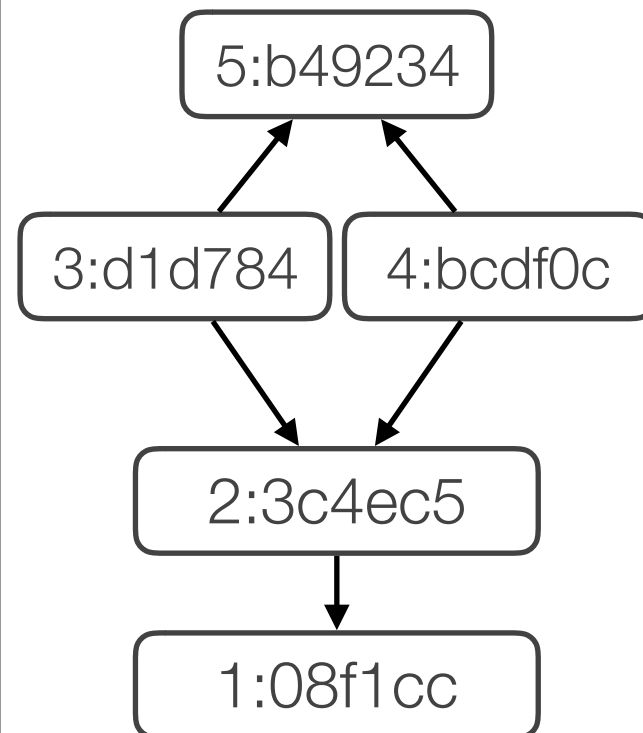


Mercurial: Basic Commands

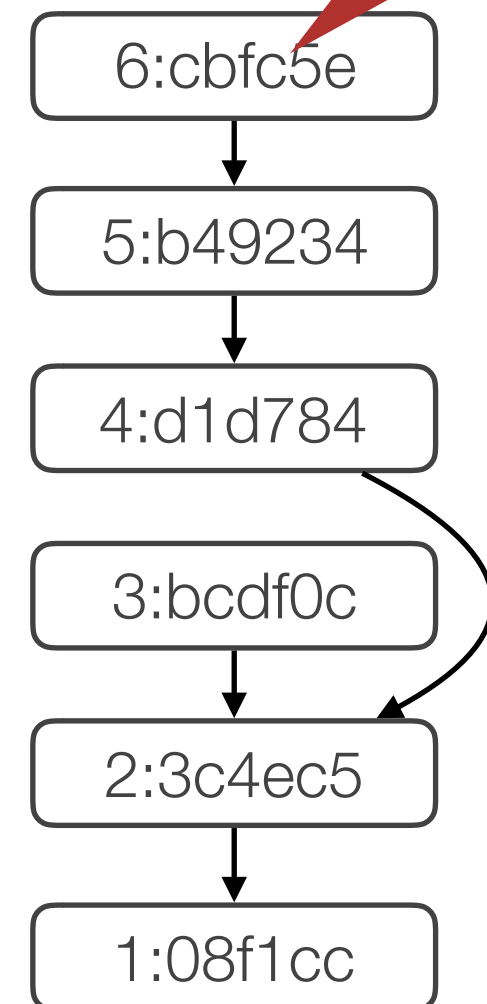
Working directory

file1.m
file2.m
file3.m
file4.m

Local repository

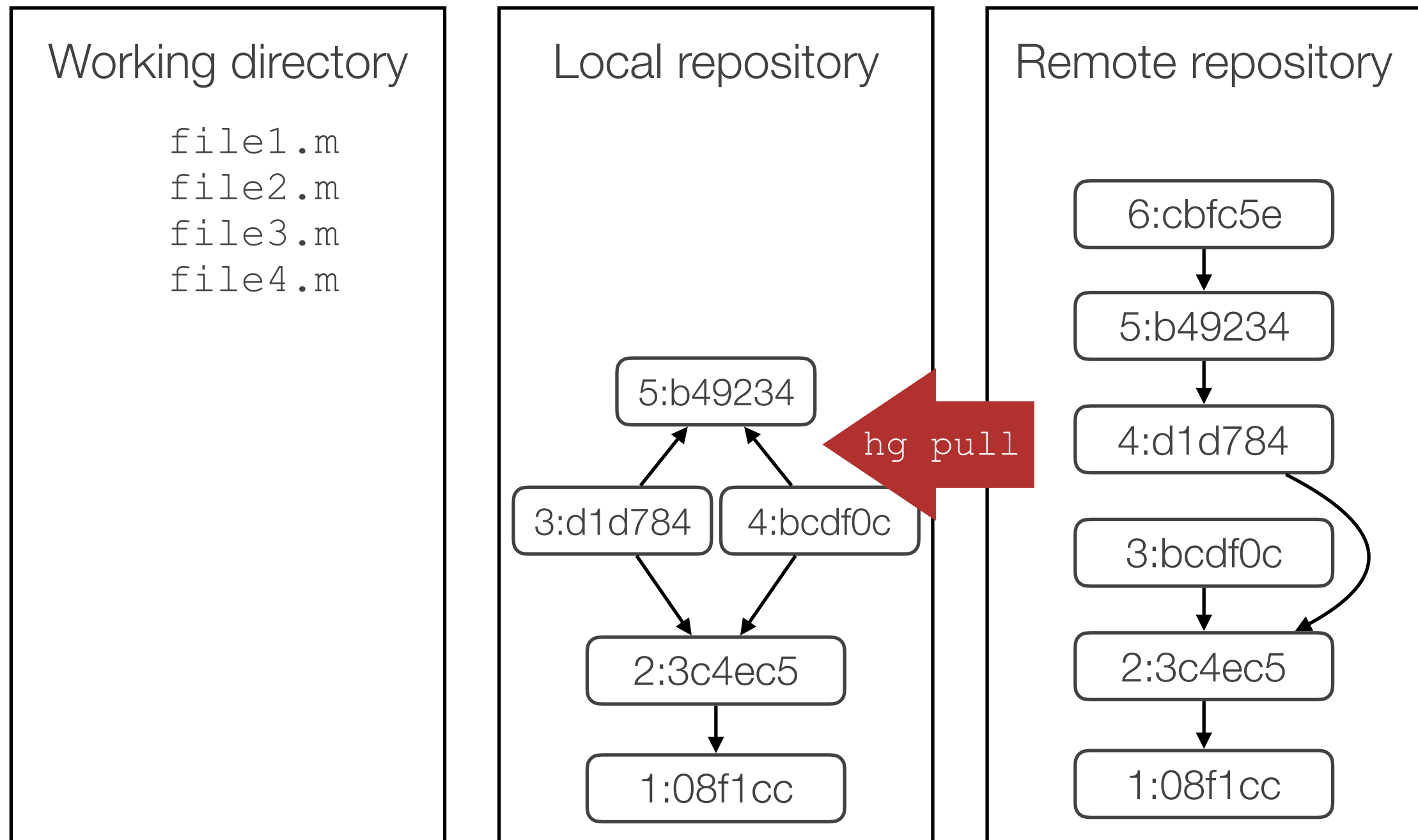


Remote repository

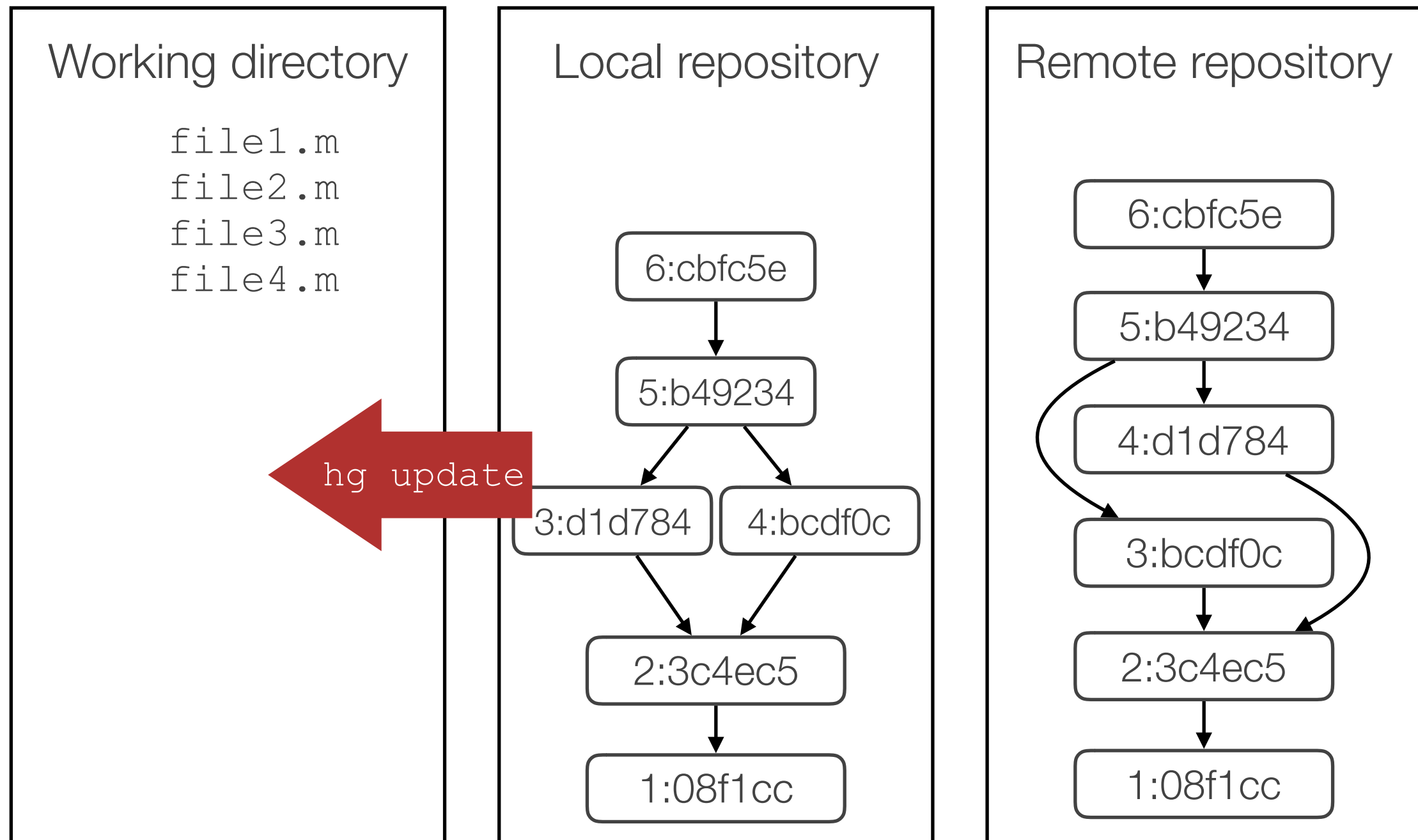


somebody else pushed this one

Mercurial: Basic Commands



Mercurial: Basic Commands



Sometime Merging is Fully Automatic...

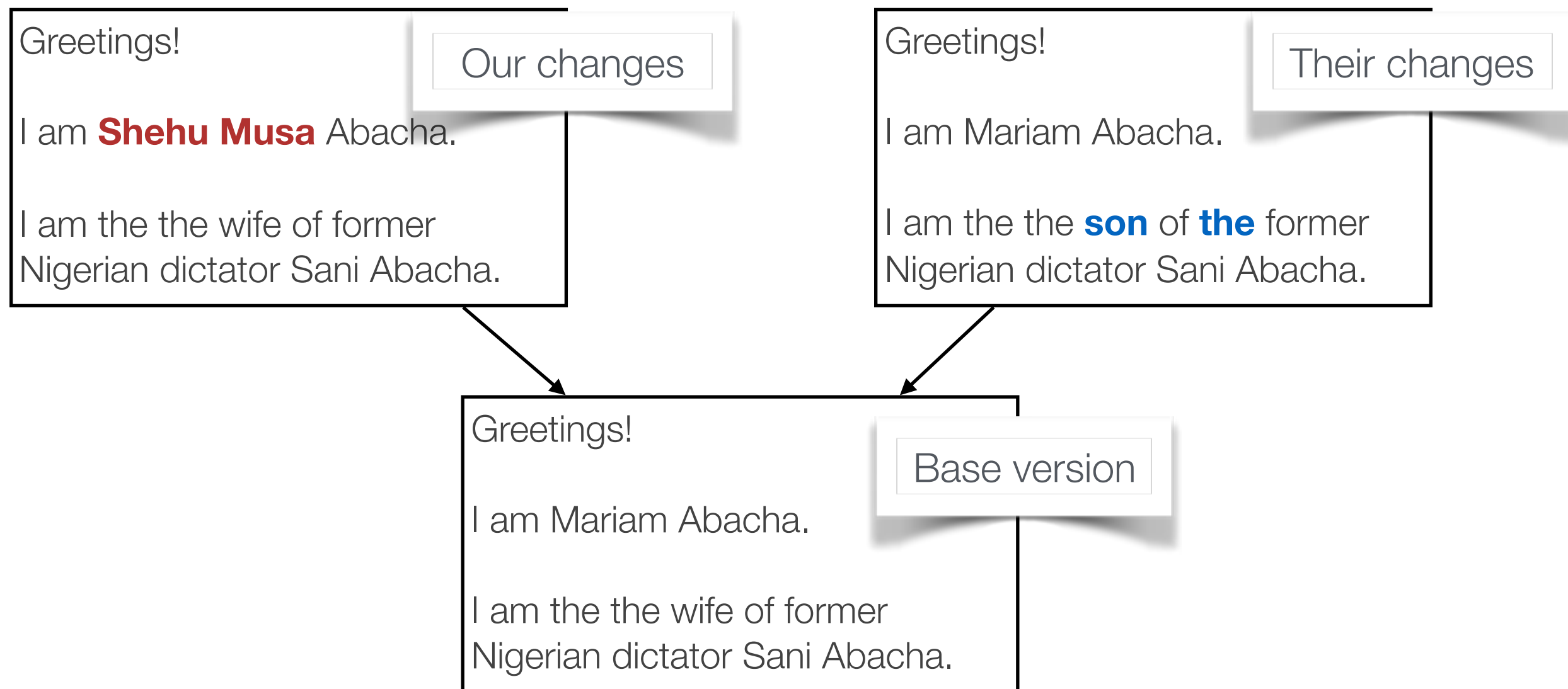
Greetings!

I am Mariam Abacha.

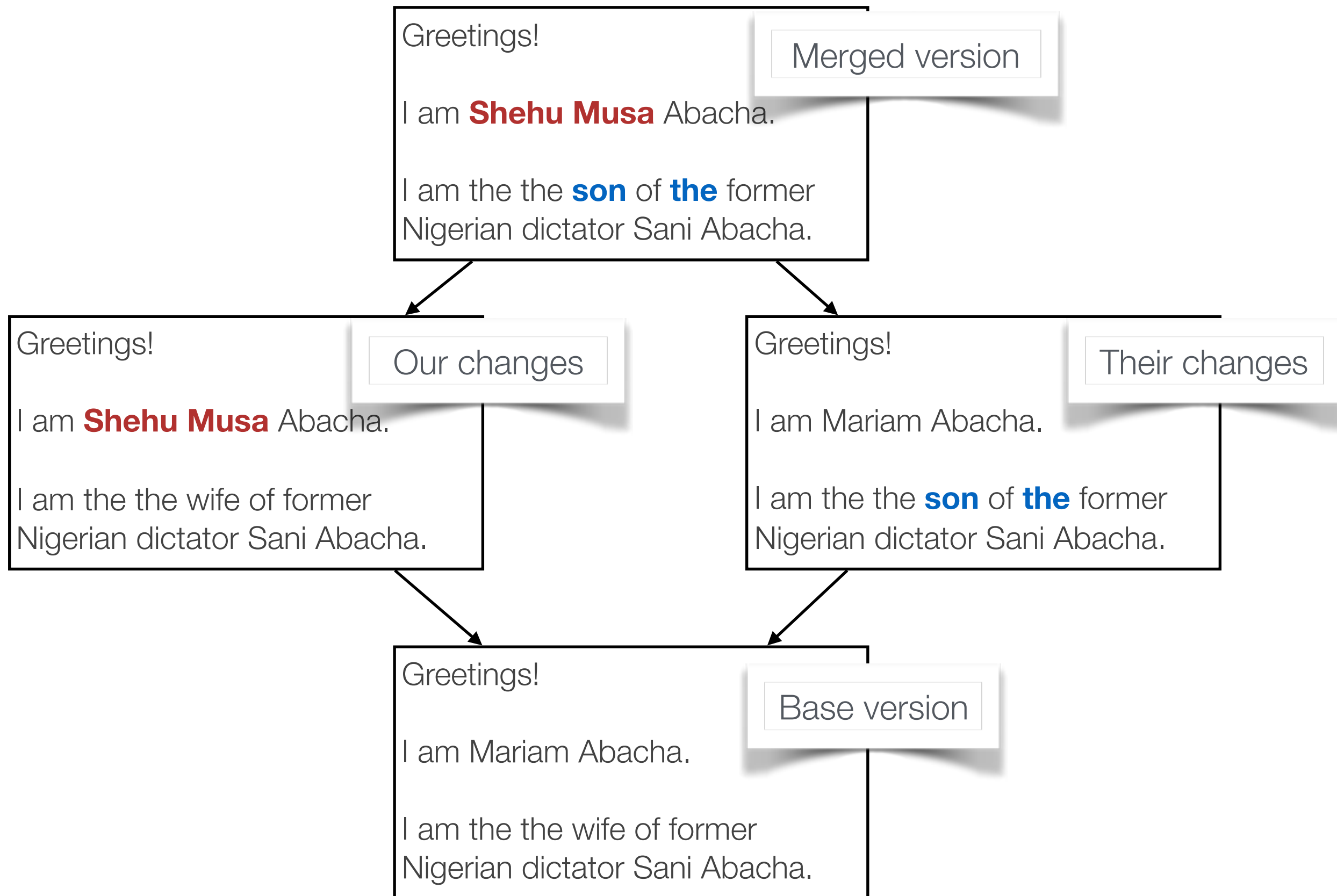
I am the the wife of former
Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha.

Base version

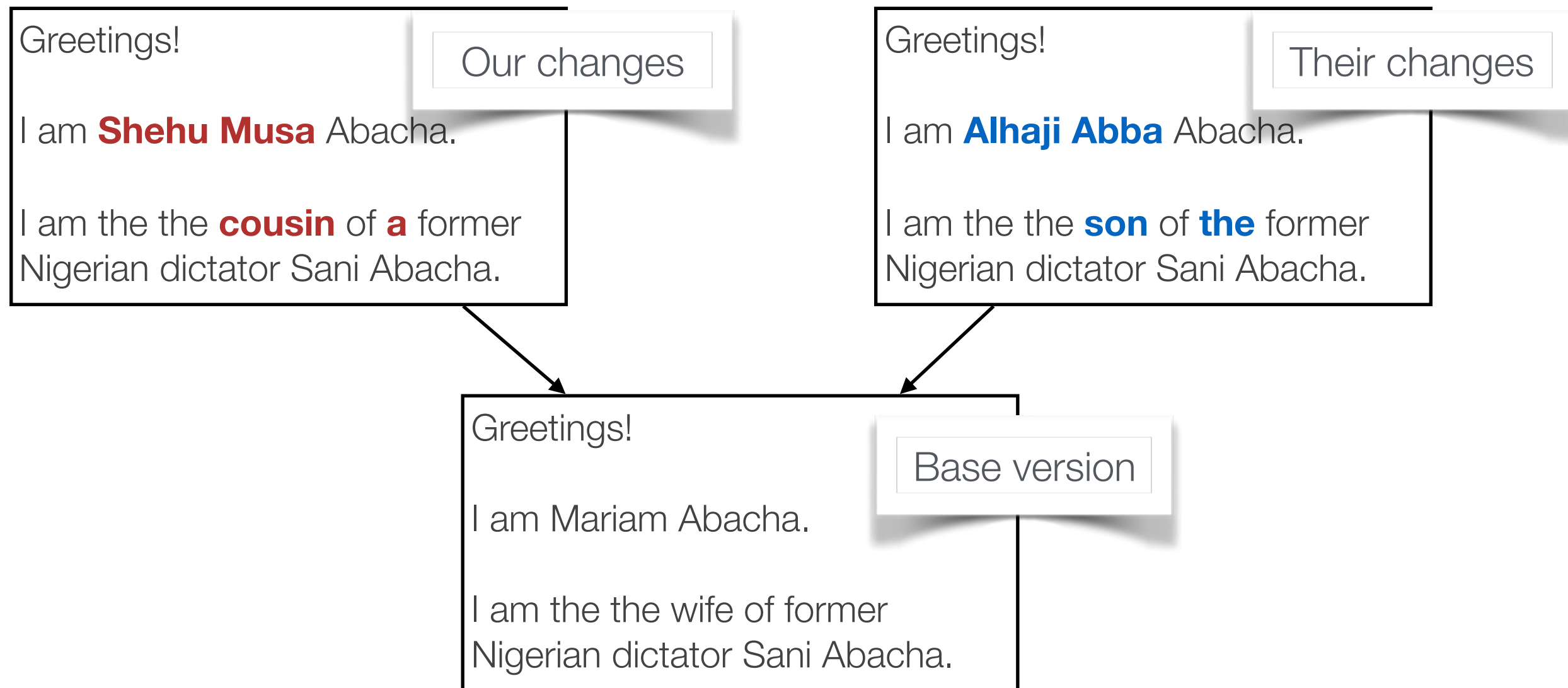
Sometime Merging is Fully Automatic...



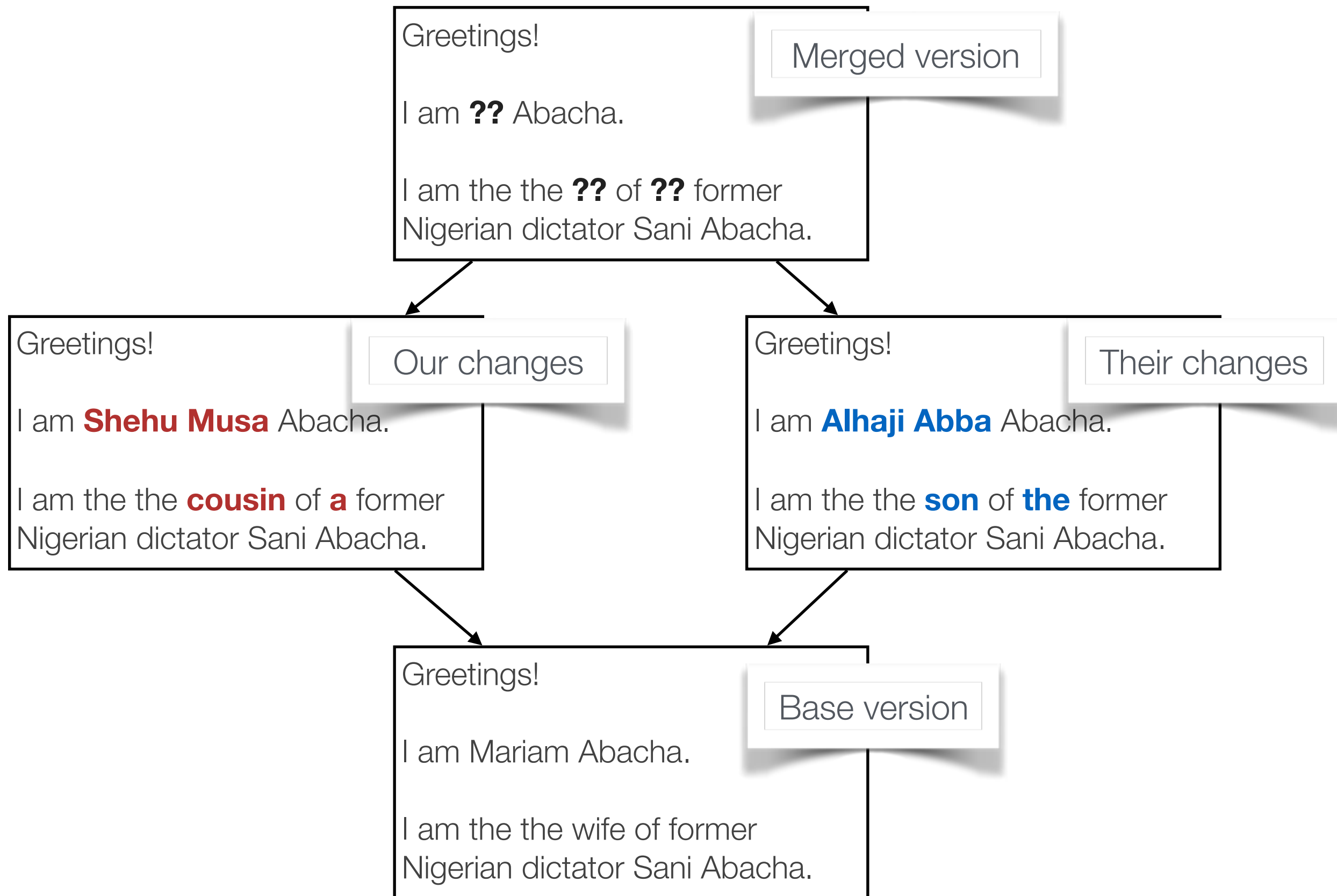
Sometime Merging is Fully Automatic...



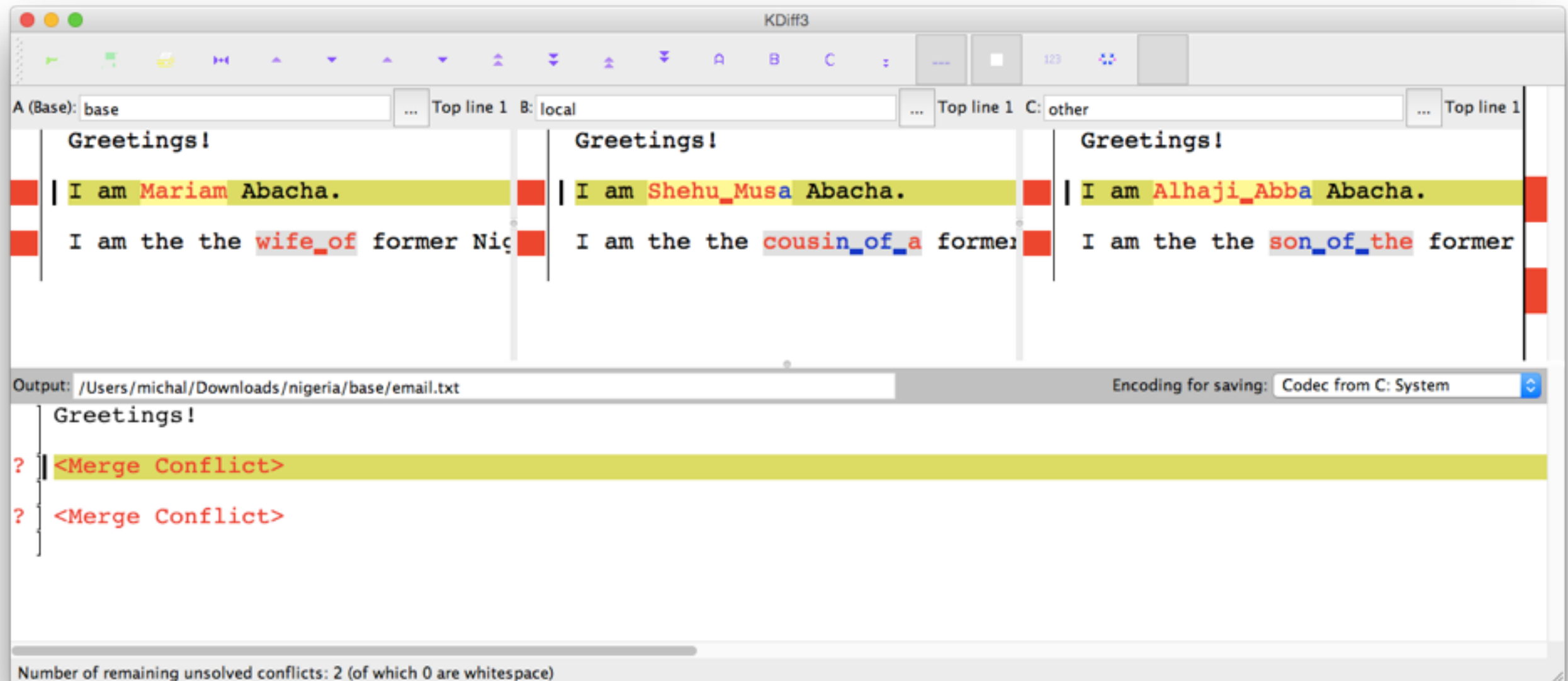
...and Sometimes Must be Resolved Manually



...and Sometimes Must be Resolved Manually



...and Sometimes Must be Resolved Manually



...and Sometimes Must be Resolved Manually

KDiff3

A (Base): base ... Top line 1 B: local ... Top line 1 C: other ... Top line 1

Greetings!

I am Mariam Abacha.

I am the the wife_of former Nig

Greetings!

I am Shehu_Musa Abacha.

I am the the cousin_of_a former

Greetings!

I am Alhaji_Abba Abacha.

I am the the son_of_the former

Output: /Users/michal/Downloads/nigeria/base/email.txt [Modified] Encoding for saving: Codec from C: System

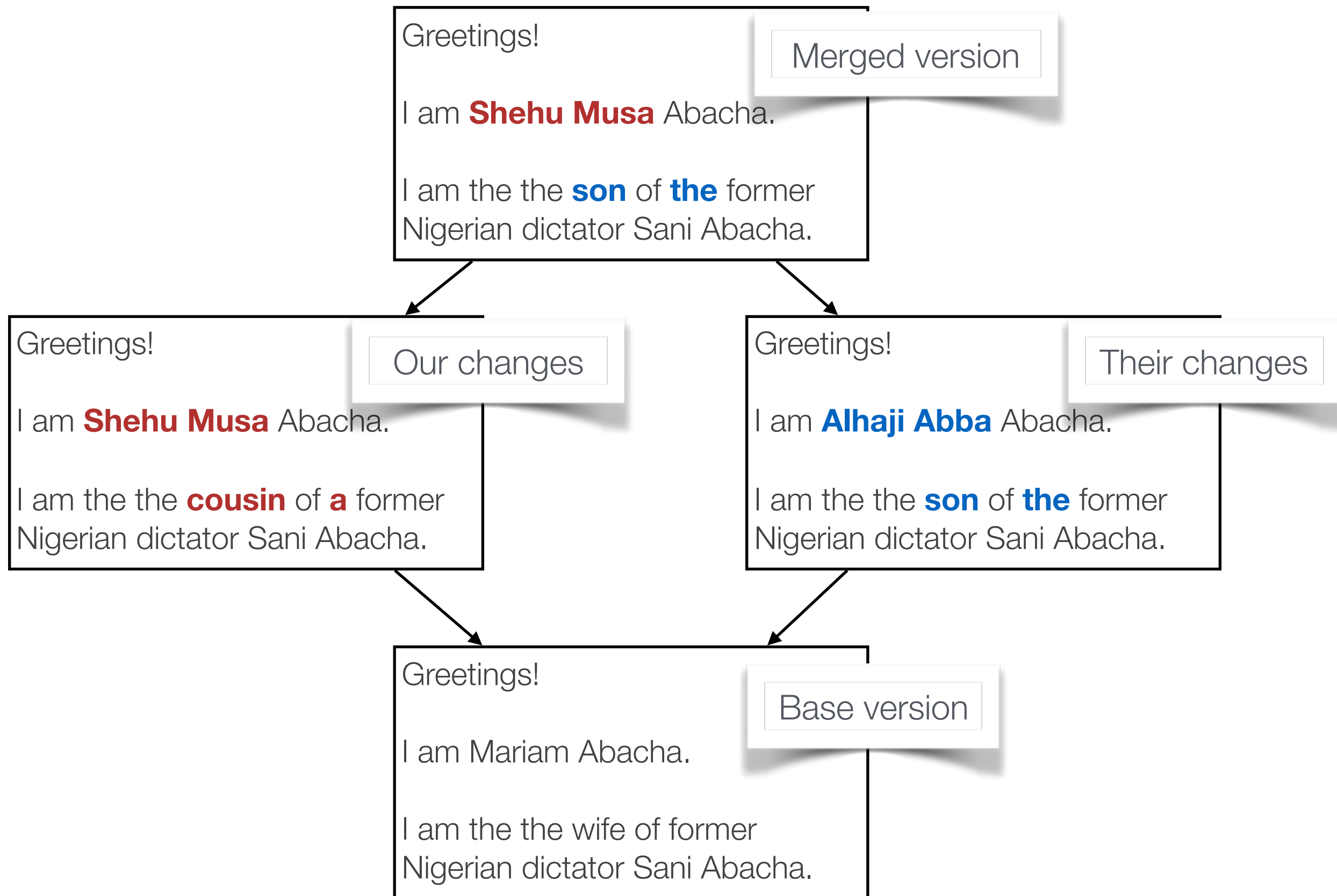
Greetings!

B I am Shehu Musa Abacha.

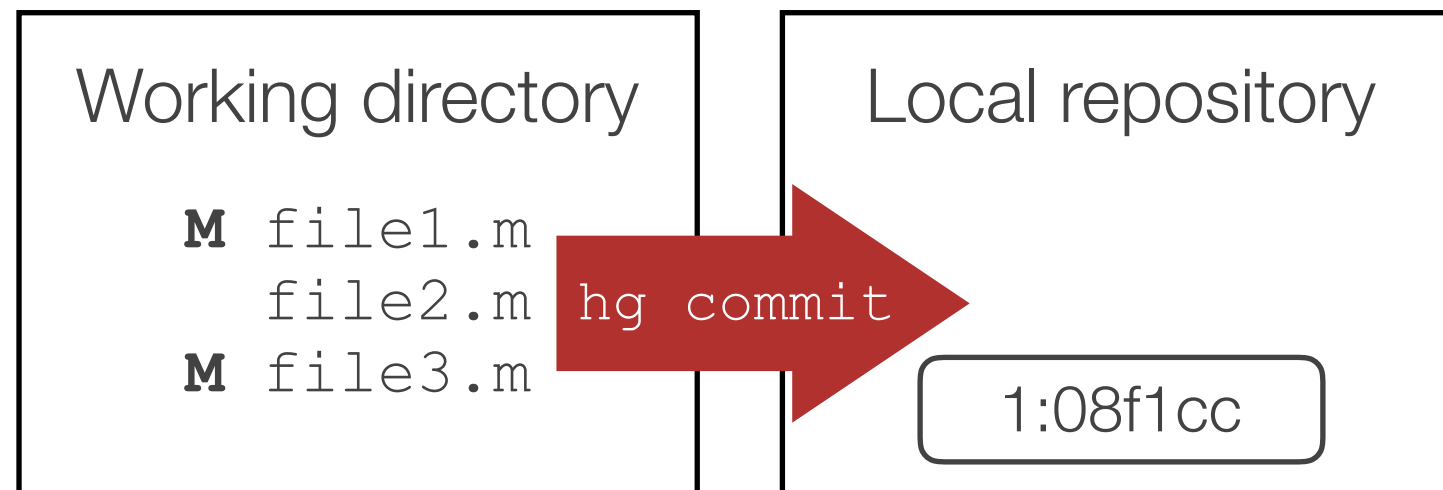
C I am the the son of the former Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha.

Number of remaining unsolved conflicts: 0 (of which 0 are whitespace)

...and Sometimes Must be Resolved Manually



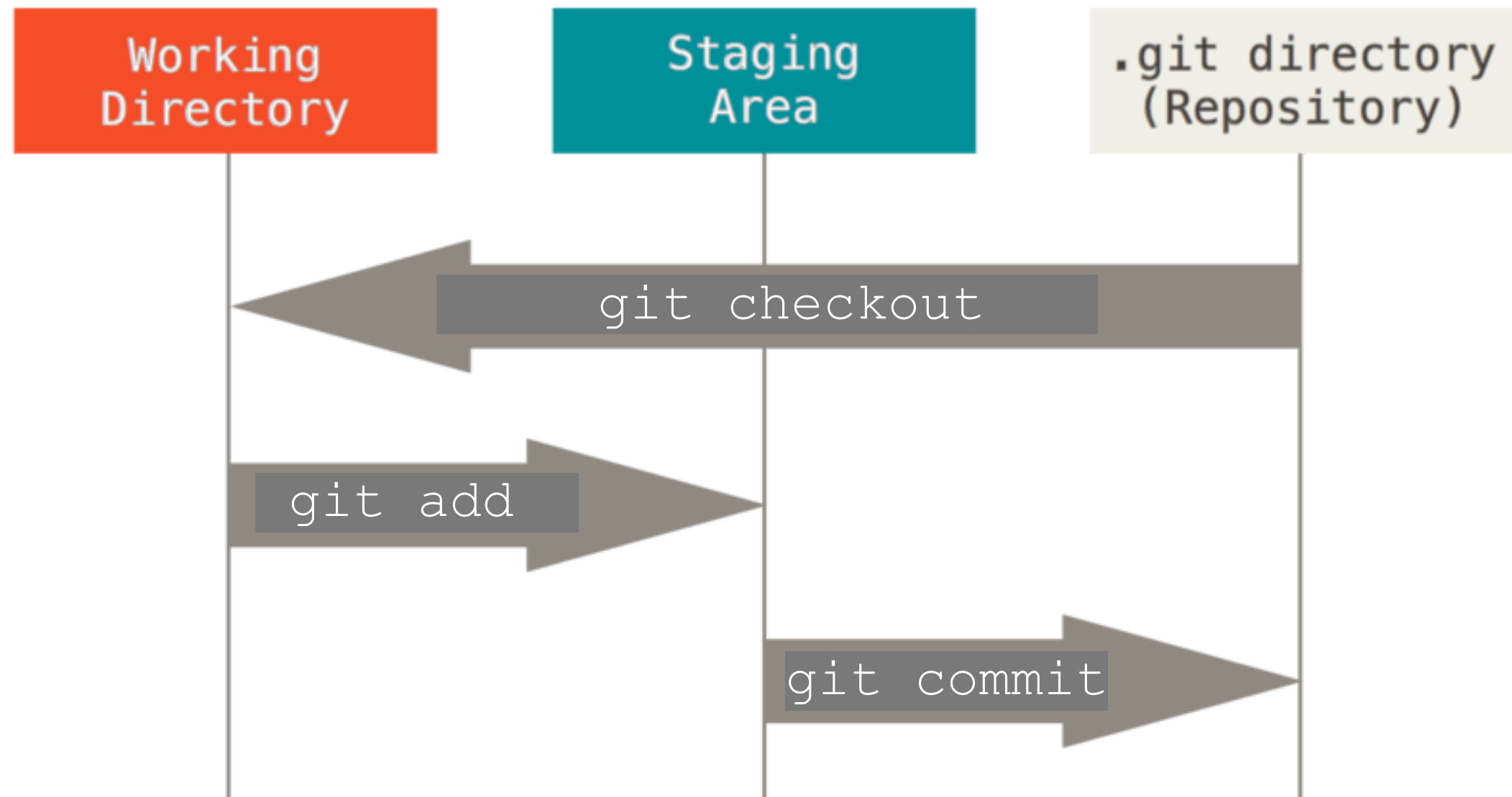
Sidenote: Committing in Git



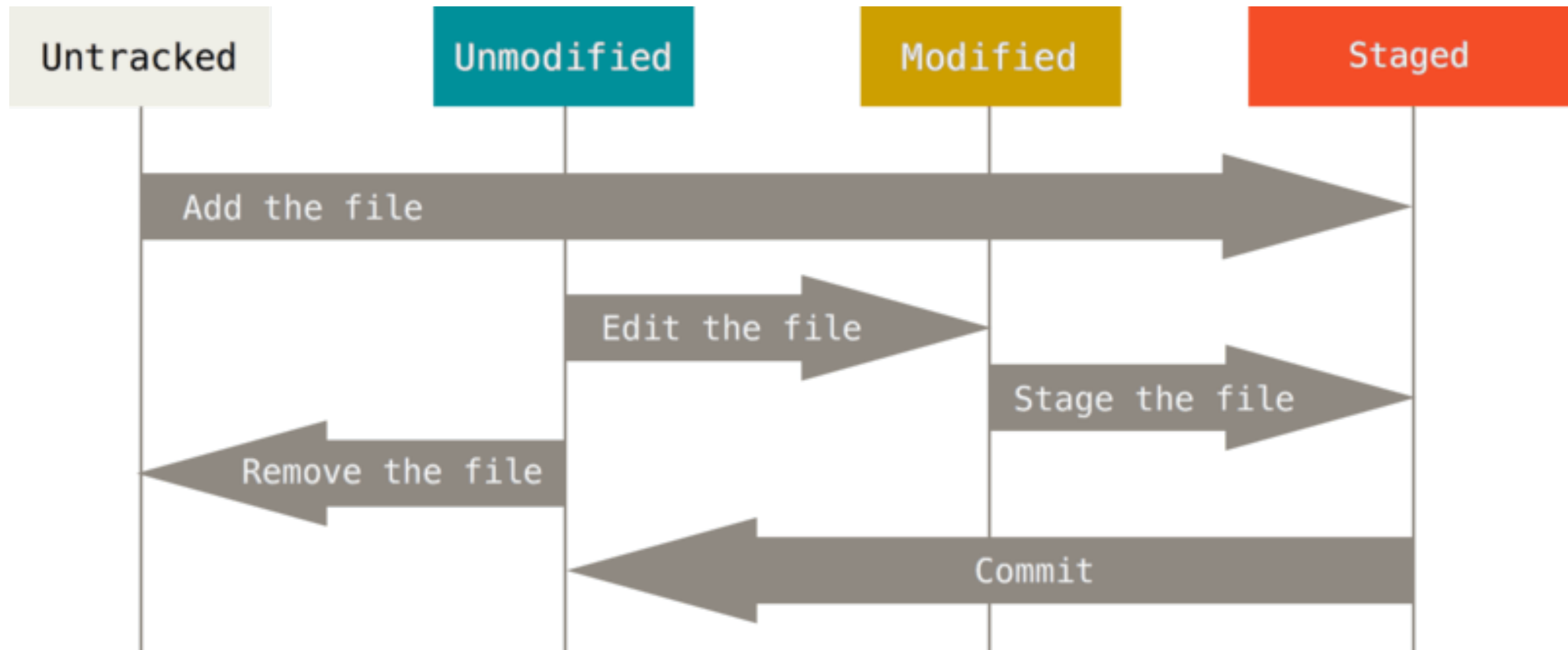
In Mercurial, `hg commit` automatically commits all modified files

In Git, things a bit more complicated...

Sidenote: Committing in Git



Sidenote: Committing in Git

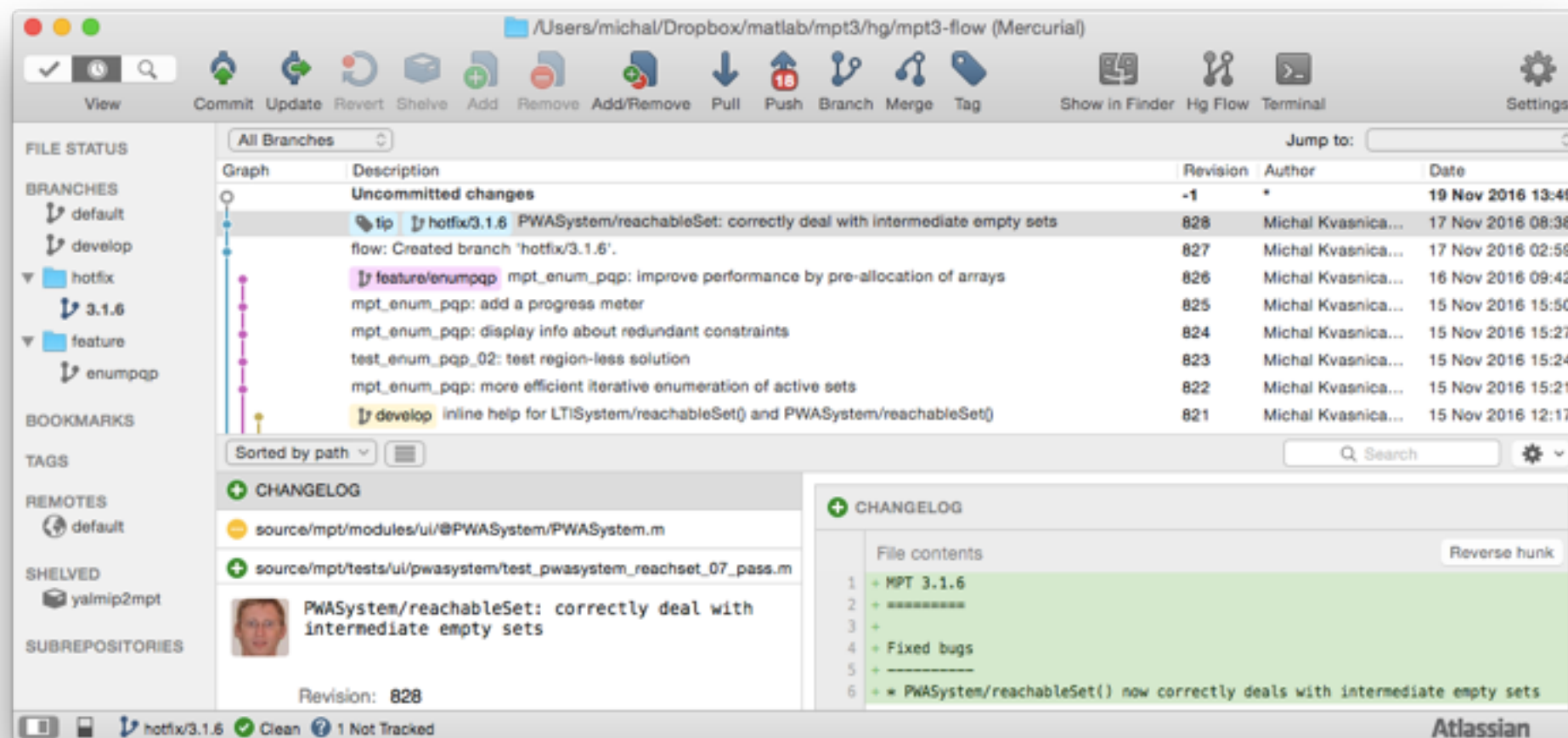


GUIs

Learn the command-line syntax first to understand concepts

Then use GUIs:

- my choice: SourceTree (hg, git, win, mac, free)
- other options: GitHub Desktop, GitEye, SmartGit, ...



SourceTree

Demo

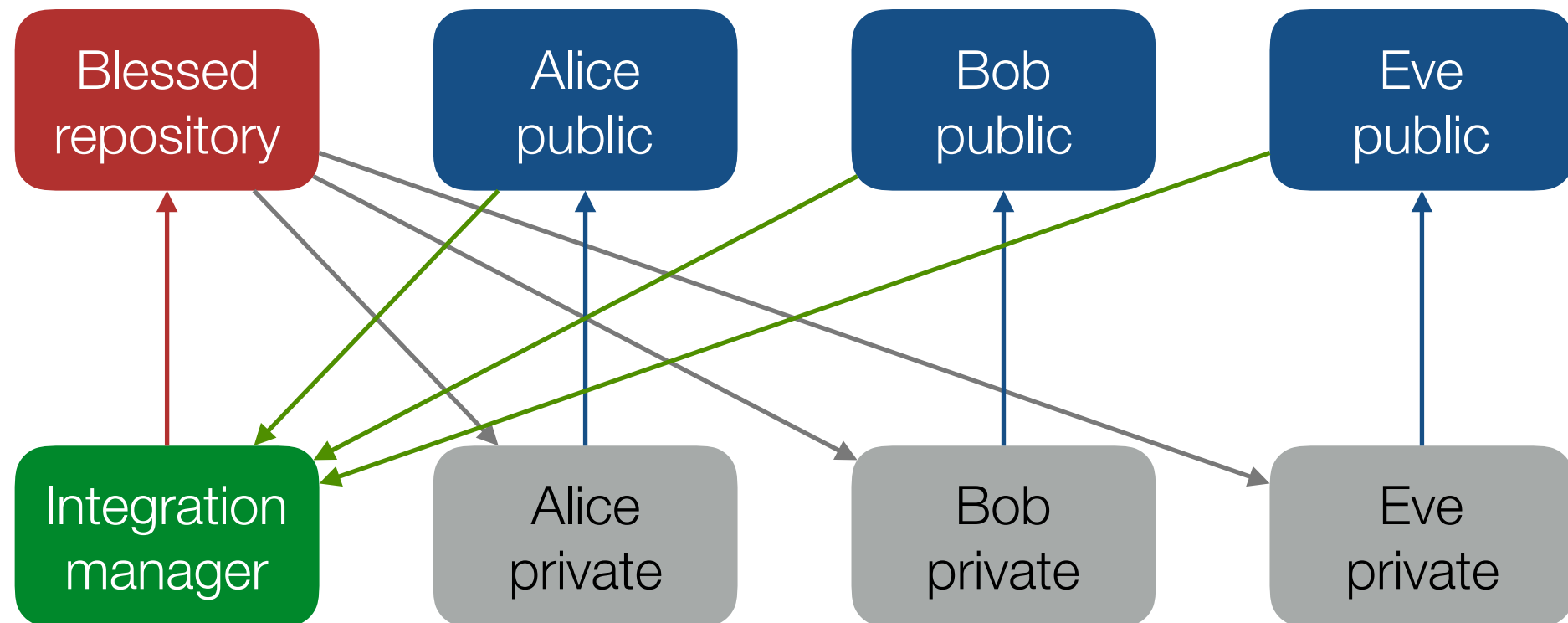
Public Repository Hosting

Cloud-based:

- Bitbucket (Mercurial+Git)
- GitHub (only Git)
- GitLab (only Git)

Self-hosted:

- Rhodocode (Mercurial+Git)
- Bitbucket Server (only Git)
- GitLab (only Git)



Bitbucket vs GitHub

Both:

- are free for academia (Bitbucket even free for small teams)
- offer code hosting, code review, issue tracking, wikis
- support pull requests

My choice: Bitbucket

But GitHub is more popular and visually more appealing

Bitbucket

Demo

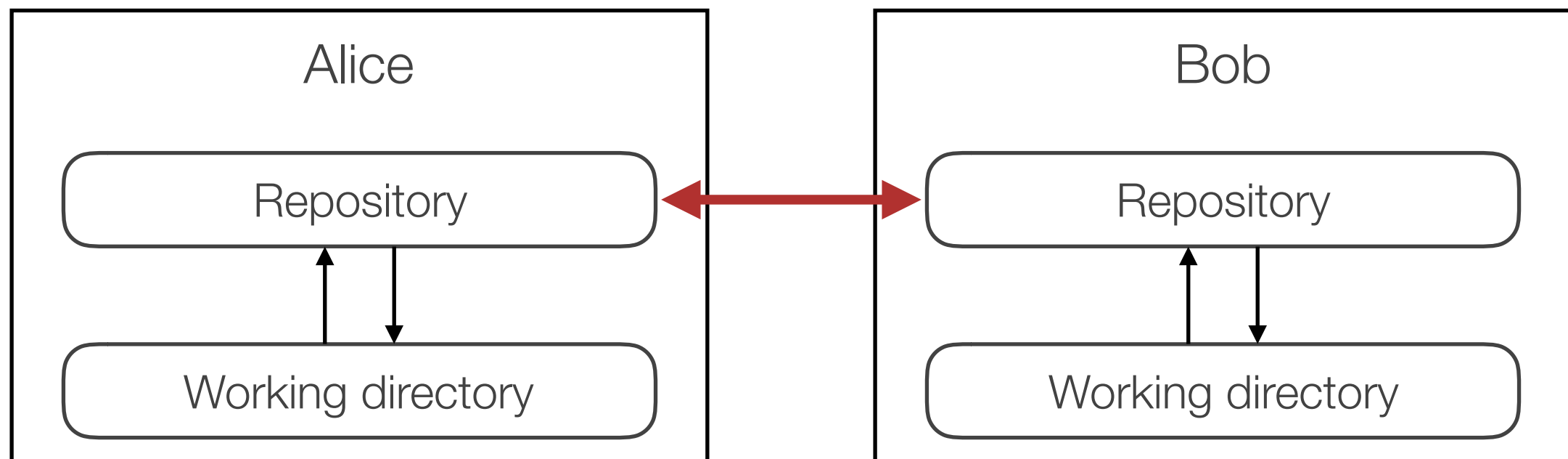
Pull Requests

Main idea: everybody has a local copy of the repository

- every developer can commit/update at any time to his/her repository
- no permanent connection required

Question: **communication?** ("Hey, I made a change, you need to update")

Answer: **pull requests**



Pull Requests in Bitbucket

Demo

Mercurial vs Git: Summary

DOs:

- learn the command line syntax to understand the concepts
- install a merging tool (e.g. kdiff3)
- pick a GUI that supports both systems
- write meaningful commit messages
- use pull requests

DONTs:

- do not lead religious wars about your choices, write code

Agenda

Today

- version control systems and collaborative development
- Mercurial, Git, Bitbucket, GitHub
- **providing support**

Tomorrow

- unit testing
- documentation
- dissemination

Providing Support

Request tracking:

- email + a request tracking system

Bug tracking:

- Bitbucket/GitHub

Discussion groups/fora:

- Google Groups

Request tracking

Create a generic email (e.g. `mpt@`) instead of using `username@`

- allows to dispatch the email to a support group
- lets you to change your affiliation later

Keep track of which emails have been answered:

- sounds easy, but difficult if we have multiple persons providing support
- use Trello as a simple request tracking system
- or set up a more complex system (Request Tracker, Roundup, ...)

Trello

The screenshot shows a Trello board interface with a blue header bar. The header includes a 'Boards' button, a search icon, the Trello logo, a user profile for 'Michal Kvasnica', and notification icons. The board itself is titled 'MPT' and is marked as 'Private'. It is organized into three columns: 'Reports', 'Bugs', and 'Features'. Each column contains several cards with text descriptions, dates, and icons for attachments or comments. The 'Reports' column has four cards, the 'Bugs' column has two, and the 'Features' column has six. Each column ends with an 'Add a card...' button.

Boards **Michal Kvasnica**

MPT ☆ Private ... Show Menu

Reports ...

- Re: Issue with missing regions using the parametric QP solver
 Oct 28
- Re: How can i define polytopic uncertain system in mpt 3 and compute its invariant set ?
 Oct 28
- mpt+cplex
 Oct 30
- Strange cddmex error for vertex-ray polyhedron
 Nov 2 1
- PWA reachable set computation problem
 Nov 17
- Add a card...

Bugs ...

- Wrong volume due to failed vertex enumeration
- consistent handling of Opt/yalmip, Opt/removeEqualities
- Add a card...

Features ...

- add mpt_enum_pqp
 8/10
- introduce Opt/getRegion
- unified progress reports
- consistent handling of MPTOPTIONS.verbose
- Drop "_pass"/"_fail" suffixes from tests
- PolyUnion methods should not require the function name if the object has a single function
- mpt_voronoi: take points stored row-wise
- mptopt: allow mptopt('modules.ui.InvariantSet.maxIterations', 1000000)
- Add a card...

Bug Tracking

10 years ago:

- many options: Bugzilla, Redmine, Trac, Roundup
- tried them all, liked Roundup the most

Today:

- use issue tracking modules in Bitbucket and GitHub

Persuade your users to submit bug reports

How to Write Good Bug Reports

Check if you are using the latest version and whether the bug is known

File each issue separately

- bad: "fun1 errors, fun2 misbehaves, and, btw, there is a typo in fun3"

Give the report a descriptive name

- bad: "IT DOES NOT WORK!"
- good: "fun1 breaks when called with a string"

State what is the expected result and what is the actual behavior

Give steps to reproduce the issue

- give information about your setup (OS/Matlab version, etc.)
- provide a minimal code!

Discussion Groups

Fact: same questions are asked over and over again

Idea: let users provide support to each other

The screenshot displays the Google Groups web interface. At the top, there's a Google logo, a search bar with the text 'Search for topics', and a user profile icon with a notification badge. Below the header, the 'Groups' section is visible on the left, showing 'My groups' (Home, Starred) and 'Favorites' (YALMIP, **mpt-user**, Gurobi Optimization, comp.soft-sys.matlab, openbuild). The main content area shows the 'mpt-user' group, which is 'Shared publicly' and has '30 of many topics'. It includes links for 'Manage', 'Members', and 'About'. A message states 'This group does not have a welcome message.' with a link to 'Add welcome message'. Below this, a list of recent topics is shown:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Topic	Author	Posts	Views	Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PWA reachable set computation problem	wilson420813@gmail.com	4	6	Nov 17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reachable set computation	Wilson	6	13	Nov 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sum of different norms in cost function	persen91@gmail.com	4	7	Nov 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	How to draw the explicit Hybrid MPC when state is bigger than 2.	legolas140@sina.com	14	22	Nov 10

Side note: redirect the support mail to the group

Google Groups

Demo

Agenda

Today

- version control systems and collaborative development
- Mercurial, Git, Bitbucket, GitHub
- providing support

Tomorrow

- unit testing
- documentation
- dissemination