

# Clock domains in a reactive functional language

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## A reactive extension to ML

- ▶ ML: higher order functional language
- ▶ Synchronous primitives a la Esterel
  - Logical instants, processes, signals (first-class values)
  - Causality by construction
- ▶ Efficient sequential implementation
  - Dynamic scheduling (dynamic creation)
- ▶ Discrete simulation (sensor networks)

## A simple example

- ▶ The factorial in n steps

```
let rec process pfact n =  
  pause;  
  if n <= 1 then 1  
  else  
    let v = run (pfact (n-1)) in  
    print_int (n*v)  
  
run (pfact 2) || run (pfact 3)
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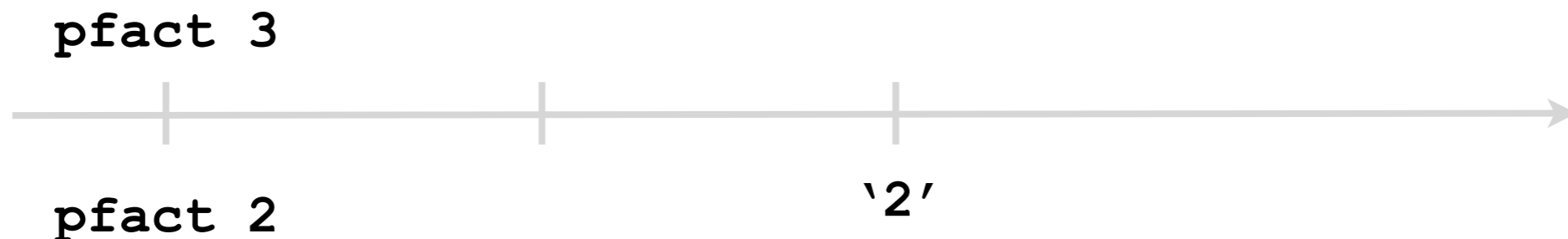
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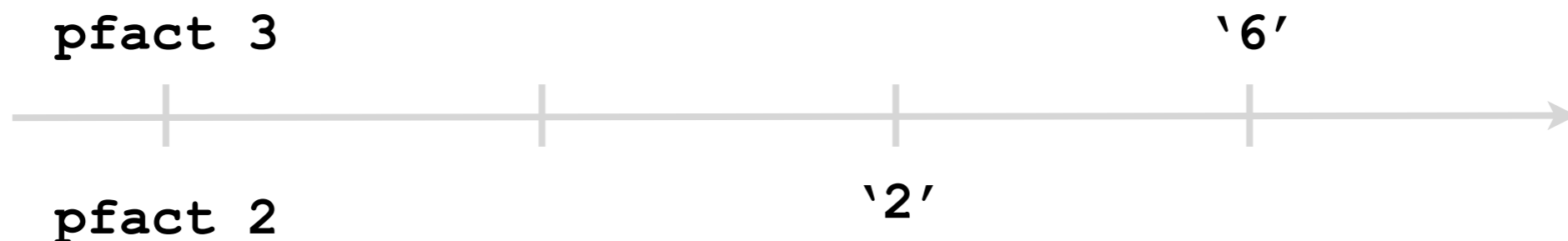
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## Communication through broadcast signals

- ▶ Multi-emission
- ▶ One instant to get the value of a signal

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signal s default 0 gather (+) in
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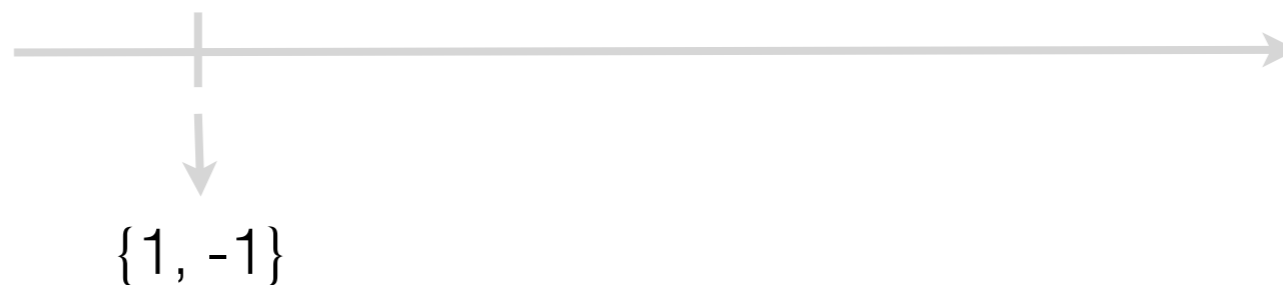
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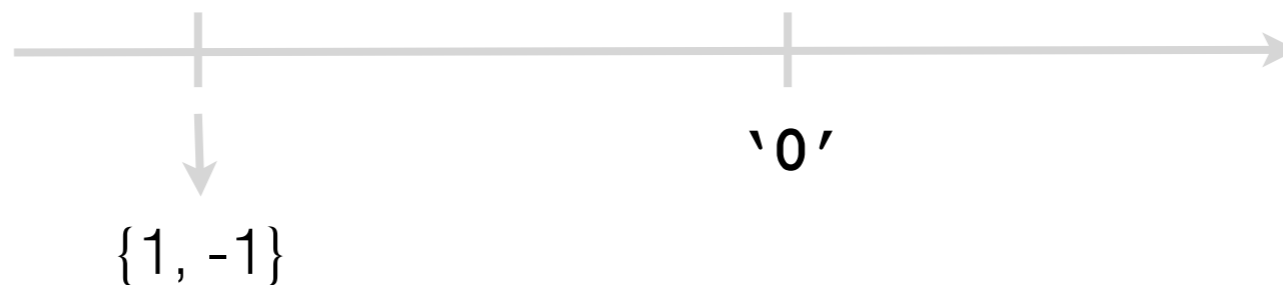
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## Simulate a solar system

- ▶ Simulate the gravitational interactions of n bodies

- ▶ Equation:

$$m_i \vec{a}_i = \vec{f}_i = \sum_j \vec{F}_{i,j}$$

- ▶ Fixed-step numerical methods

# Demo: n-body

---

```
type state =
  { mutable b_pos : vector; mutable b_vel : vector;
    b_weight : float; }

let dt = 0.1
signal env default (fun _ -> zero_vector) gather add_force

let compute_euler st f =
  st.b_pos <- add_v st.b_pos (sc_mult dt st.b_vel);
  st.b_vel <- add_v st.b_vel (sc_mult dt f)

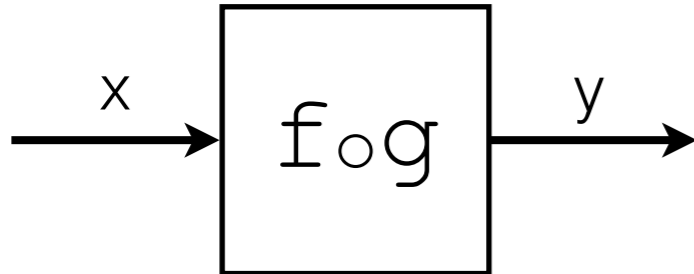
let process body =
  let st = new_state () in
  loop
    emit env (force st);
    await env(f) in
    compute_euler st (f st.b_pos)
end
```

# Modularity problem

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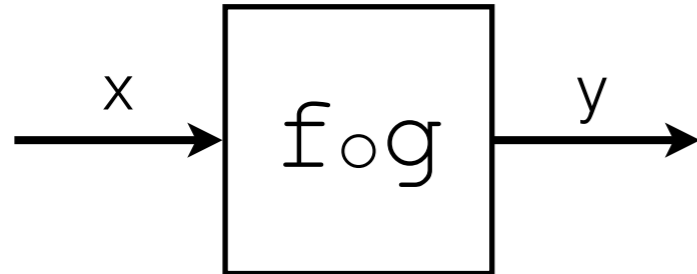
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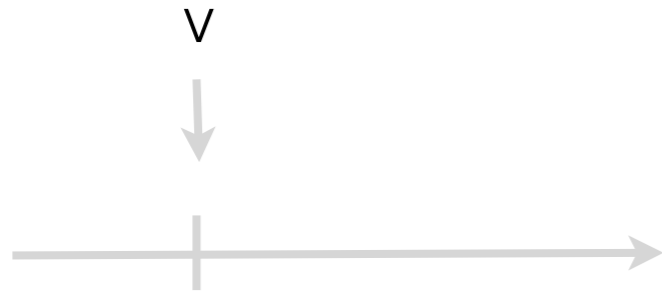


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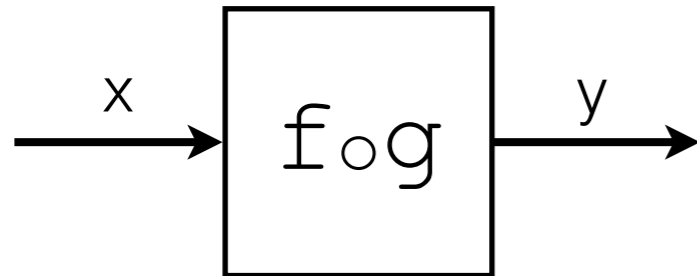


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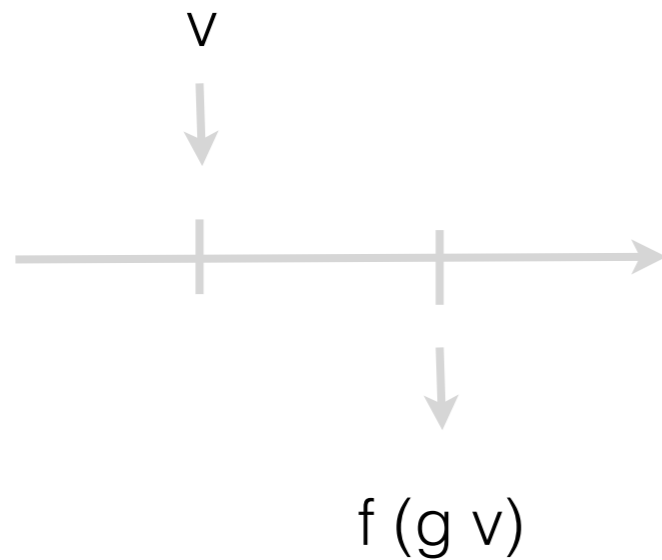




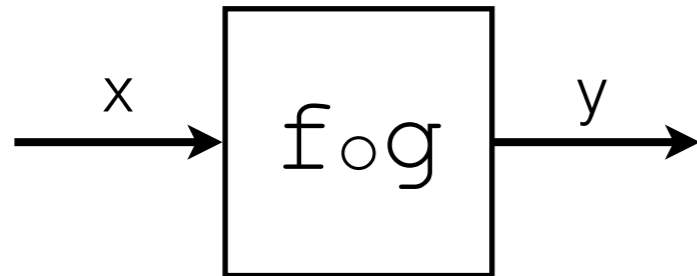
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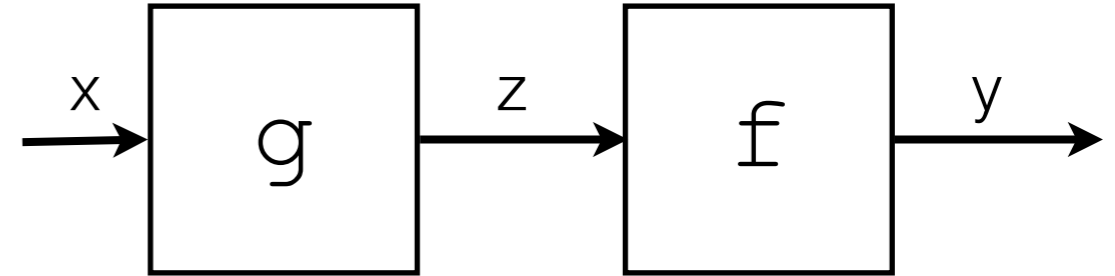
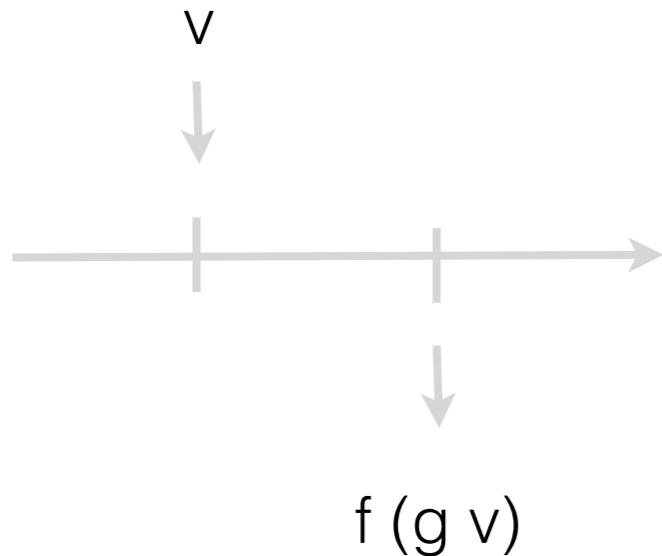
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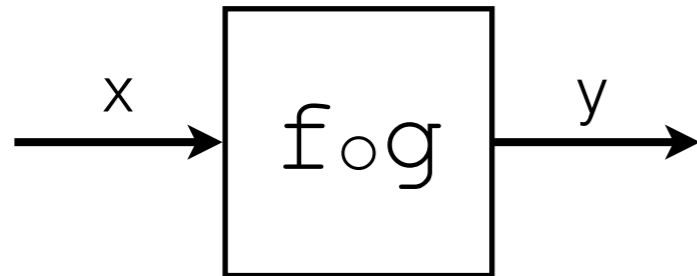


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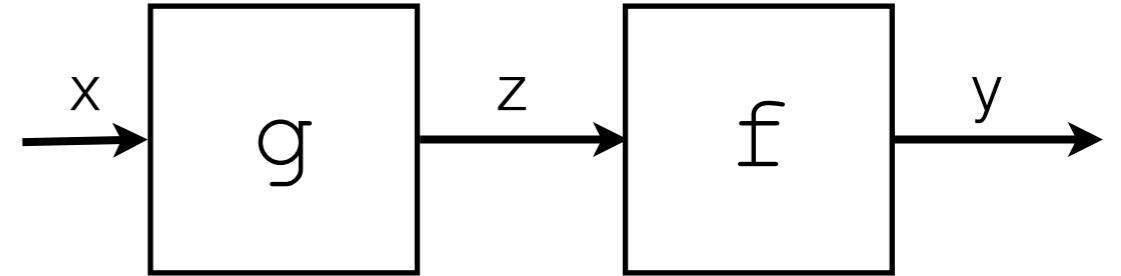
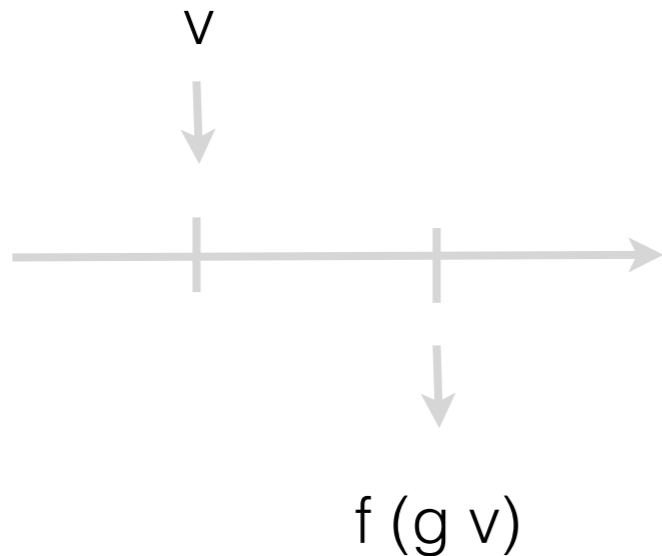


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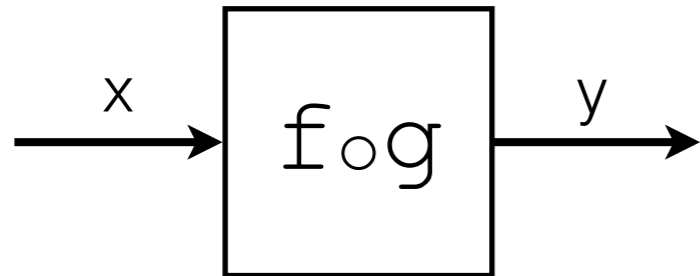
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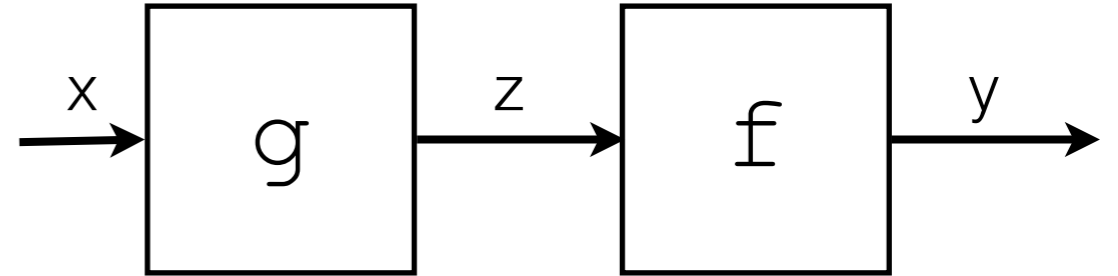
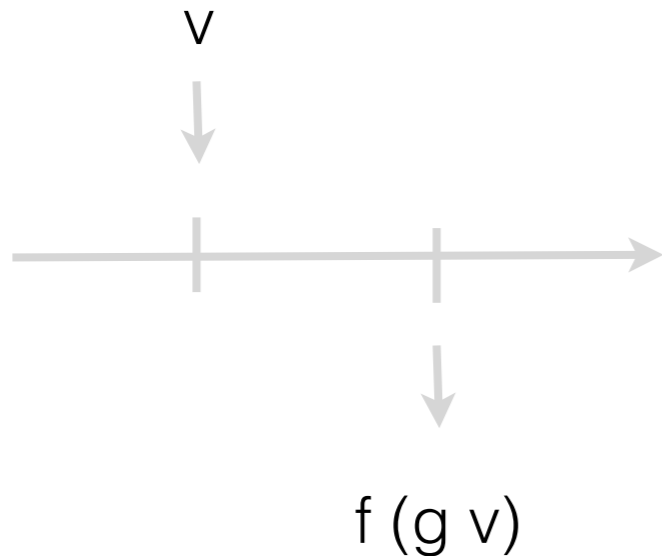
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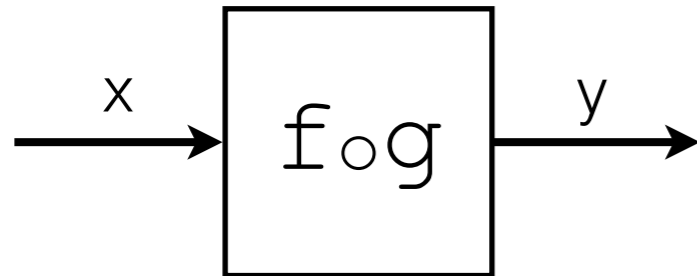
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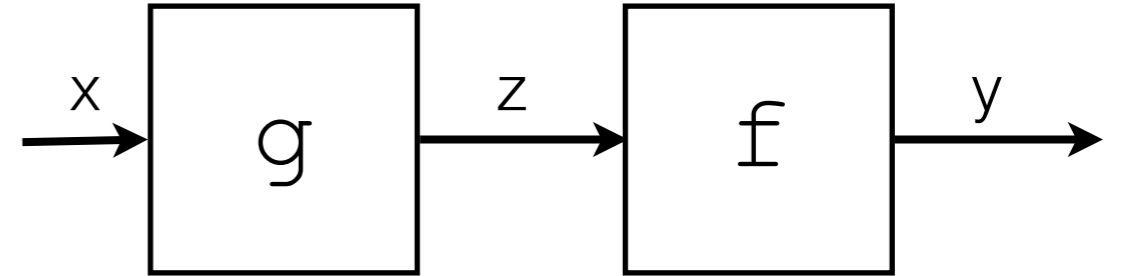
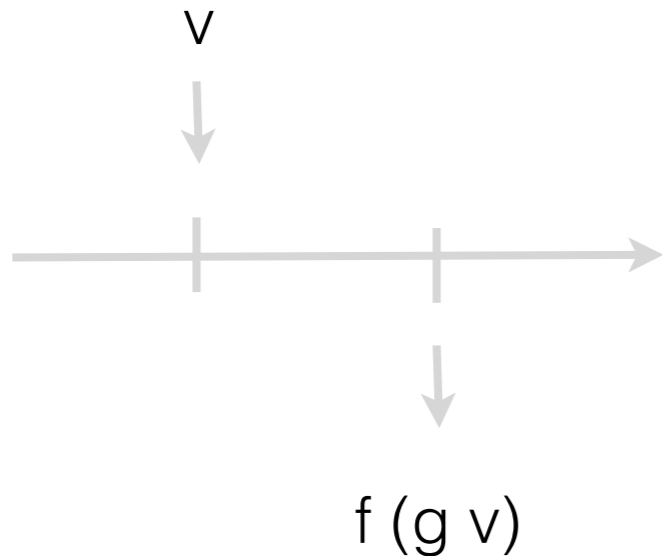
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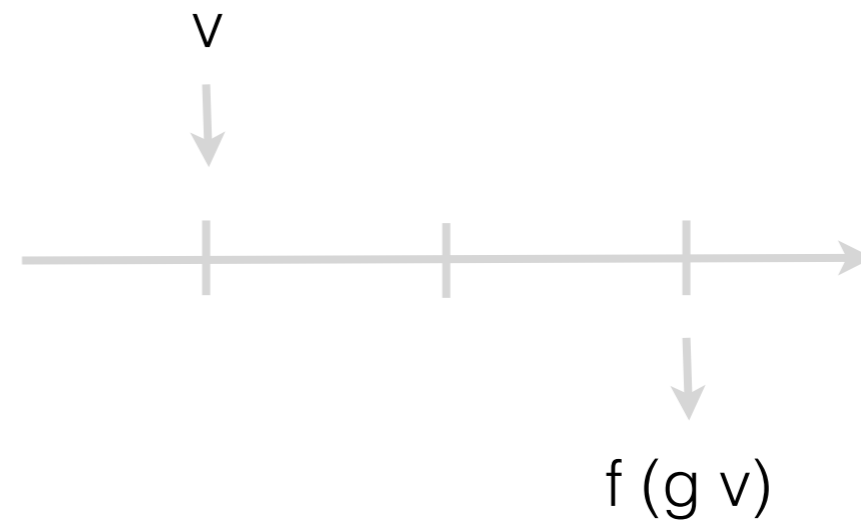
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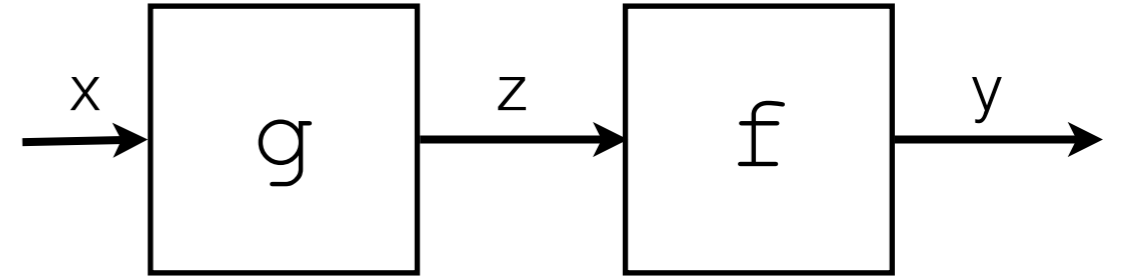
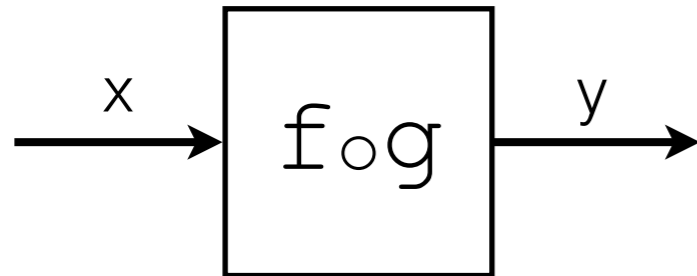
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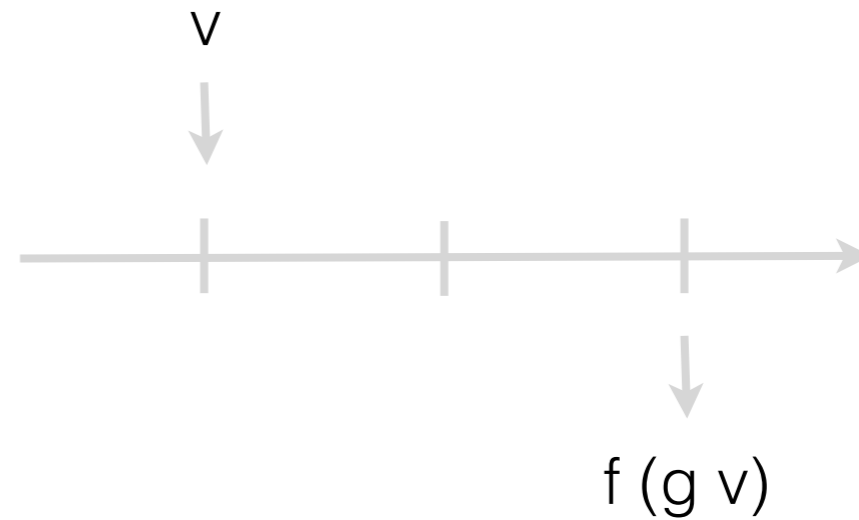
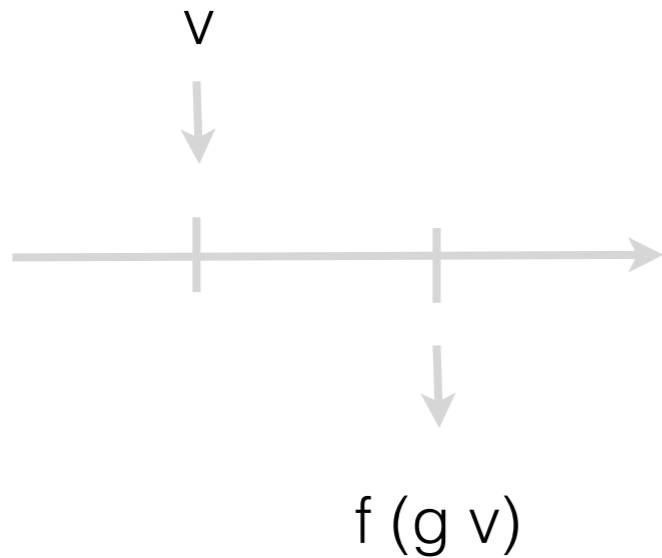
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## Communicating takes time

- ▶ No causality analysis
- ▶ Enables dynamic creation of processes

## Problems of compositionality

- ▶ It is hard to put processes with different rates in parallel
- ▶ Time refinement is hard

# The proposed solution

---

Clock domains *(aka 'Clock refinement', Gemünde et al, Synchron 2009)*

- ▶ Local notion of instant
- ▶ Hides internal steps from the outside



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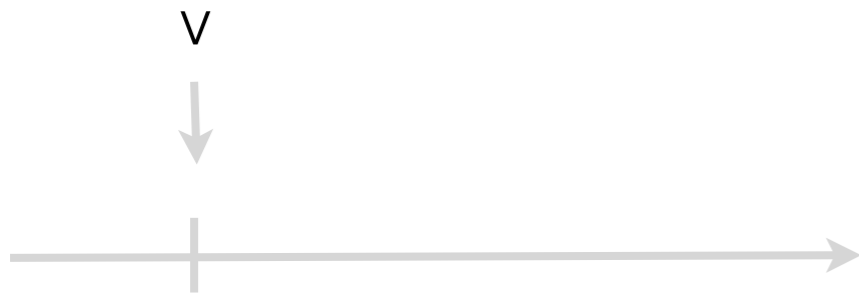
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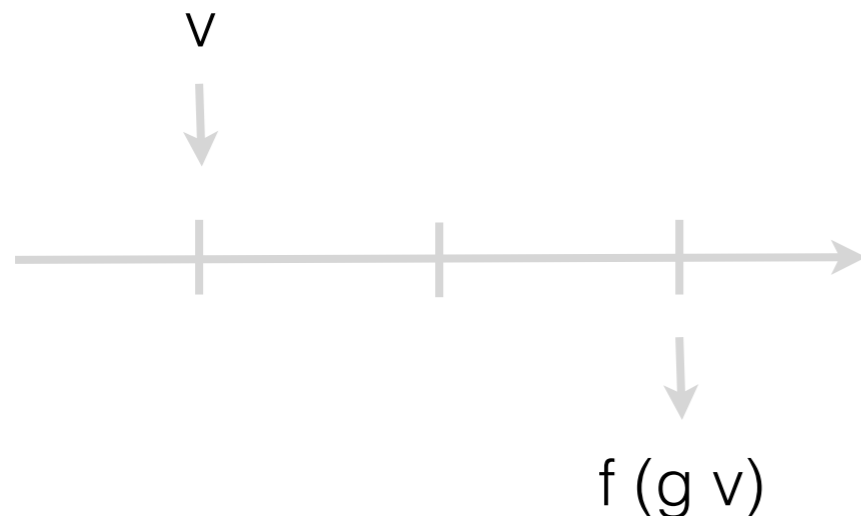


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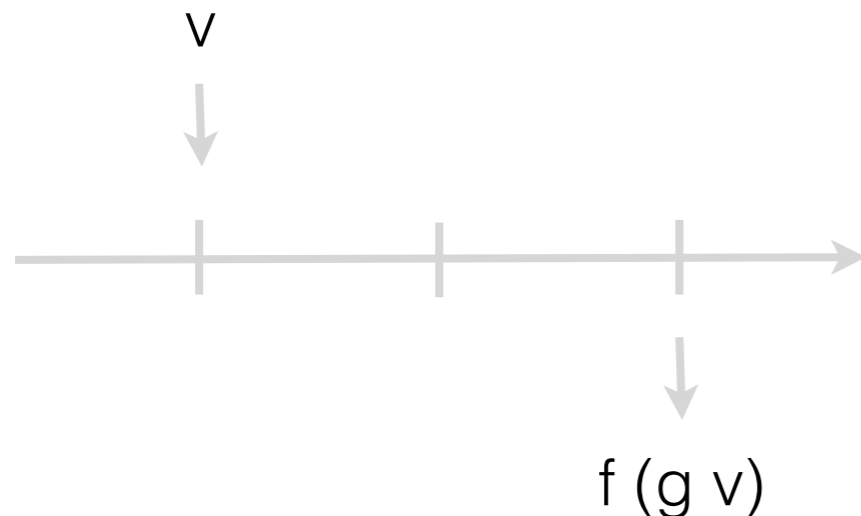
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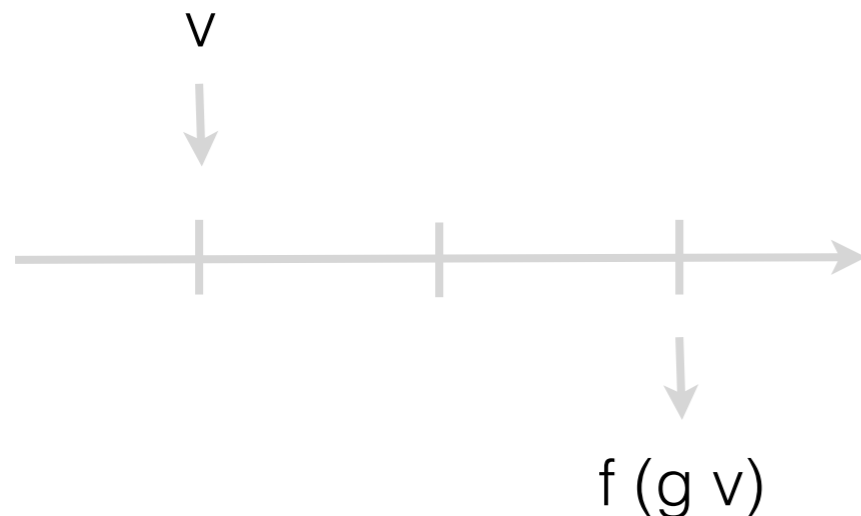


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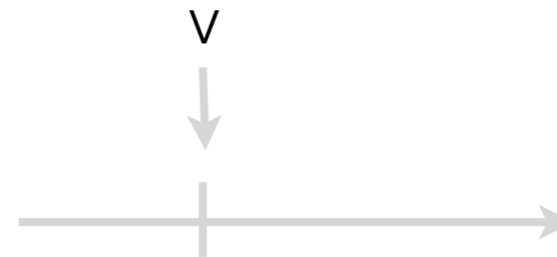
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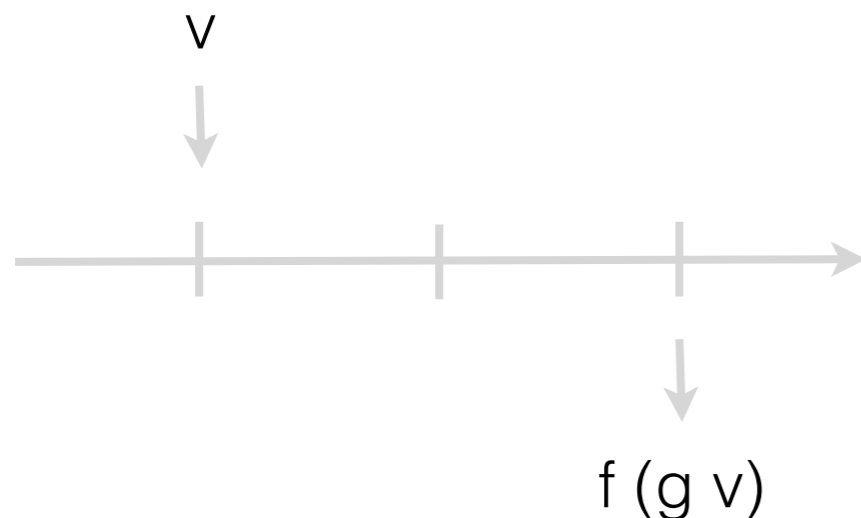


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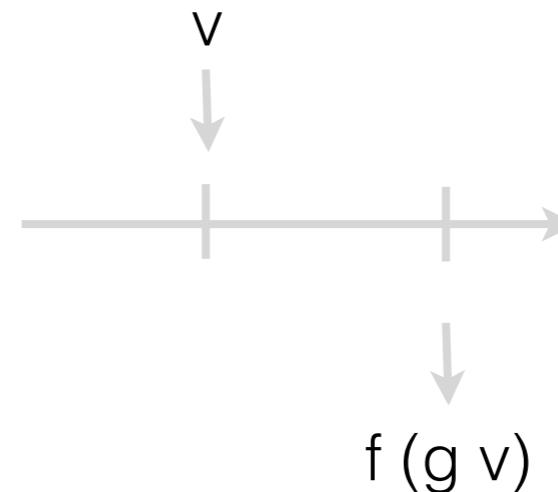
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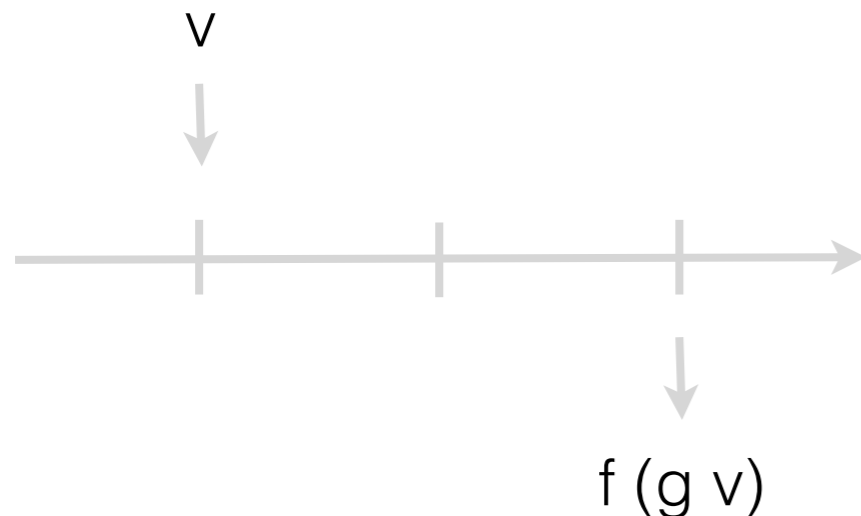


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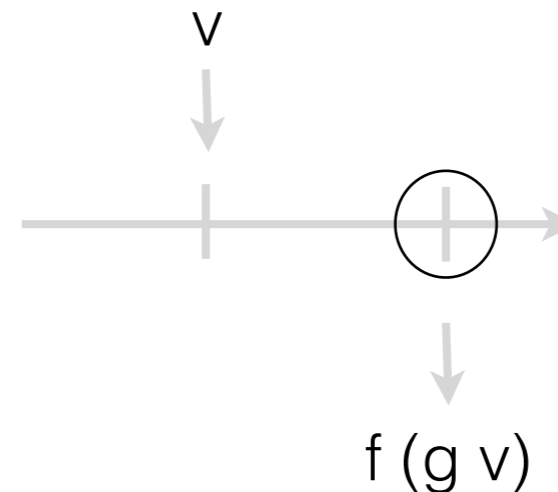
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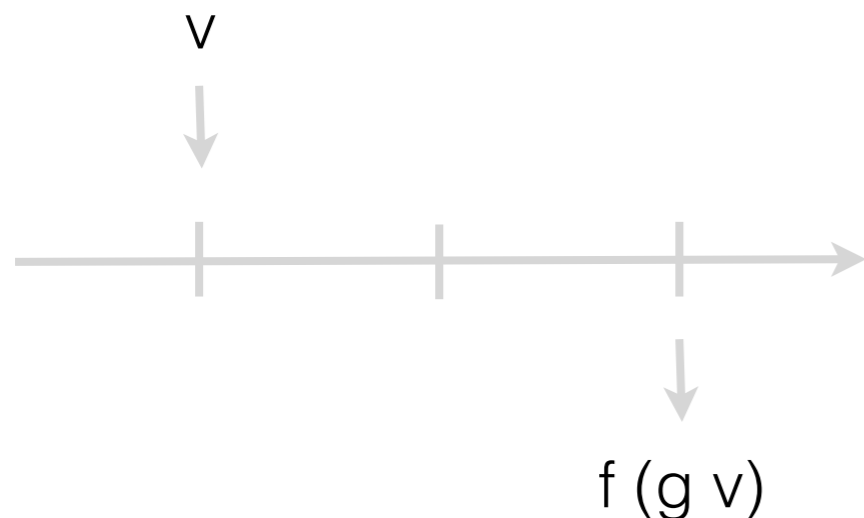


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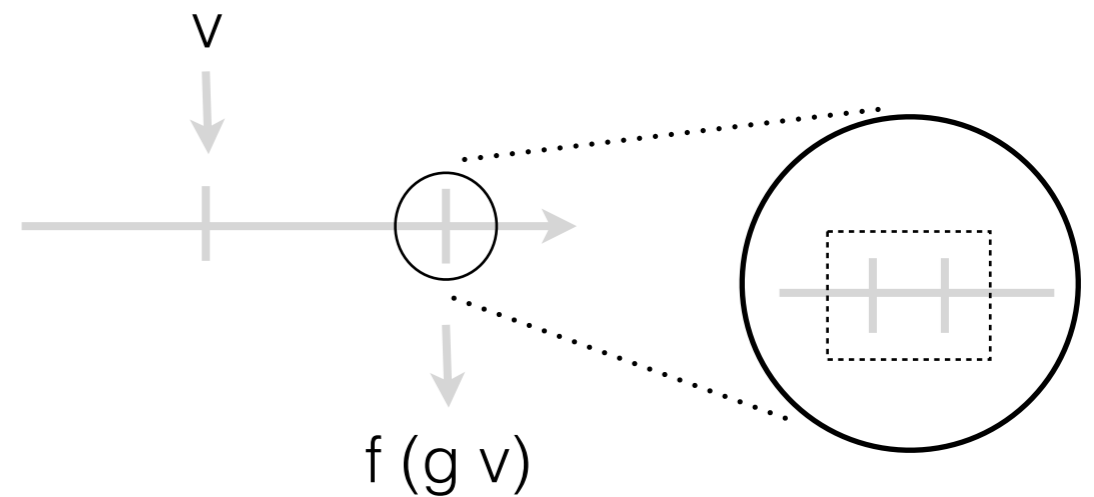
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# Some examples

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```
let process f s_out =
  newclock ck in
  loop
    emit s_out 1; pause ck;
    emit s_out 2; pause ck;
    emit s_out 3; pause topck
  end
```

## A periodic clock domain

- ▶ Each instant of the top clock, **ck** does three steps

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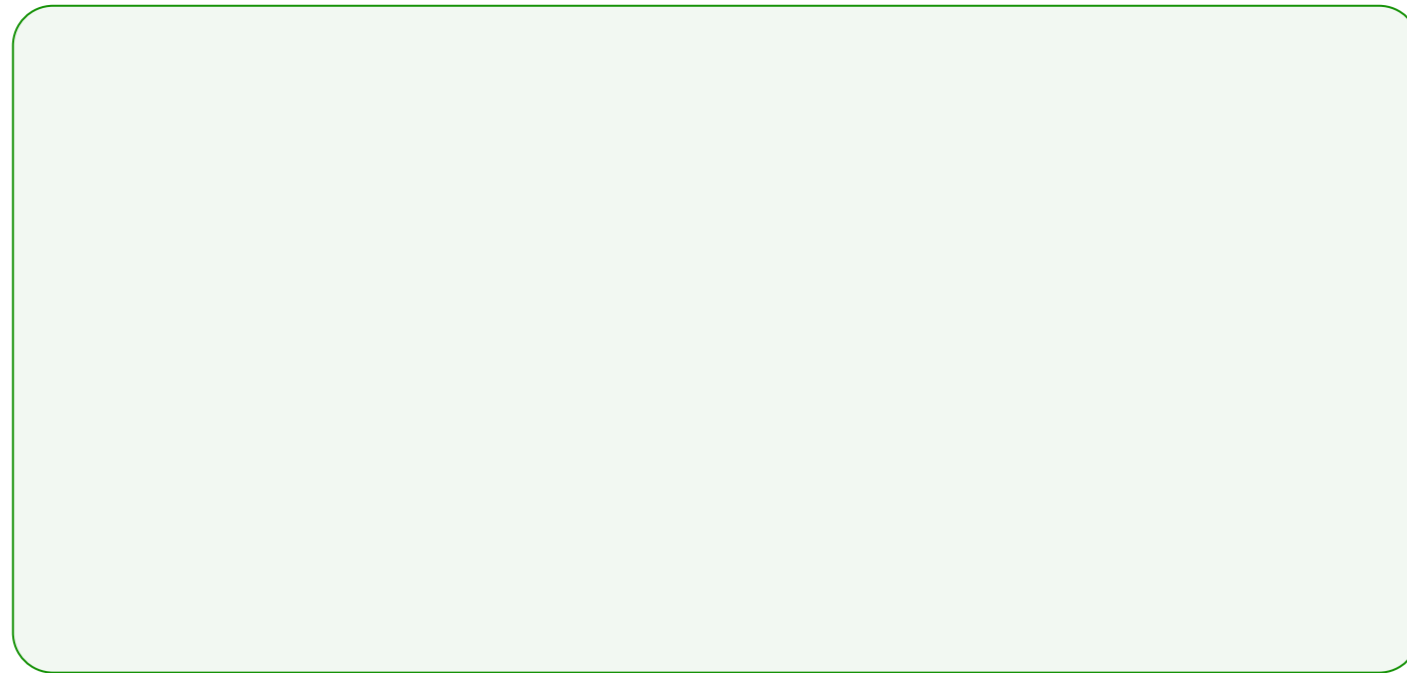
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end
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```
let process g s_out =  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1;  
    emit s_out 2;  
    emit s_out 3; pause  
  end
```

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```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```

---

||

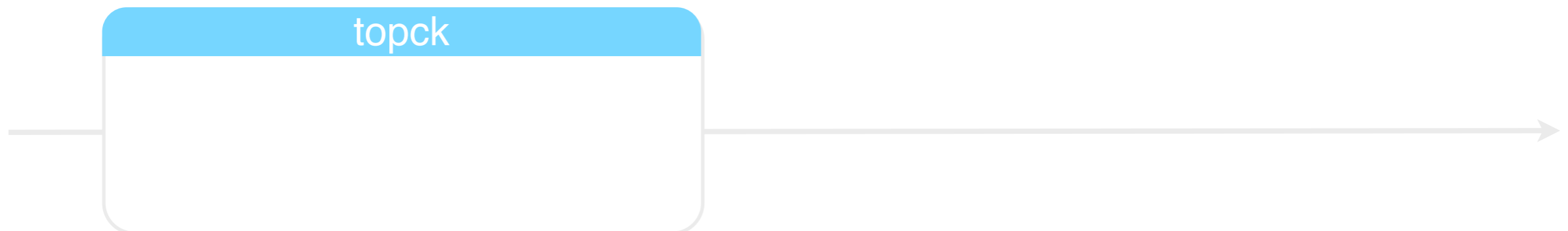
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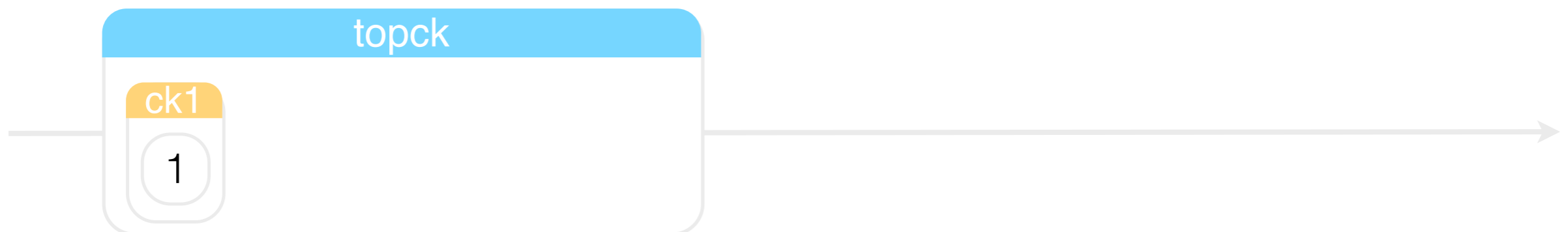


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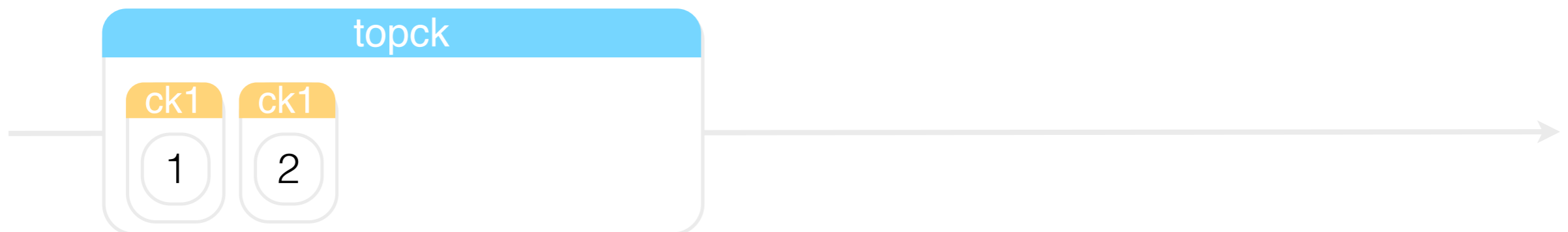
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let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

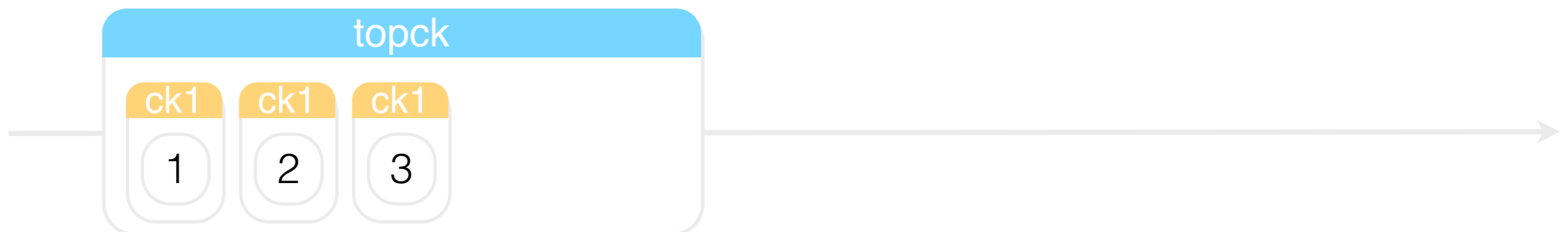
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

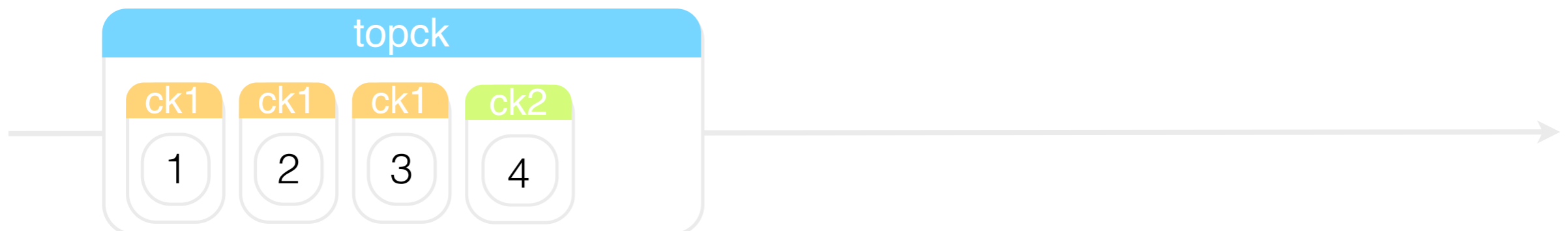
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
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  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

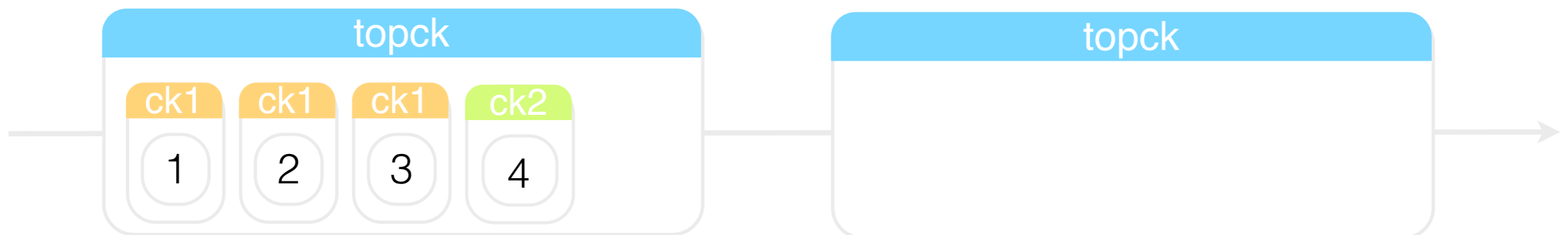
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

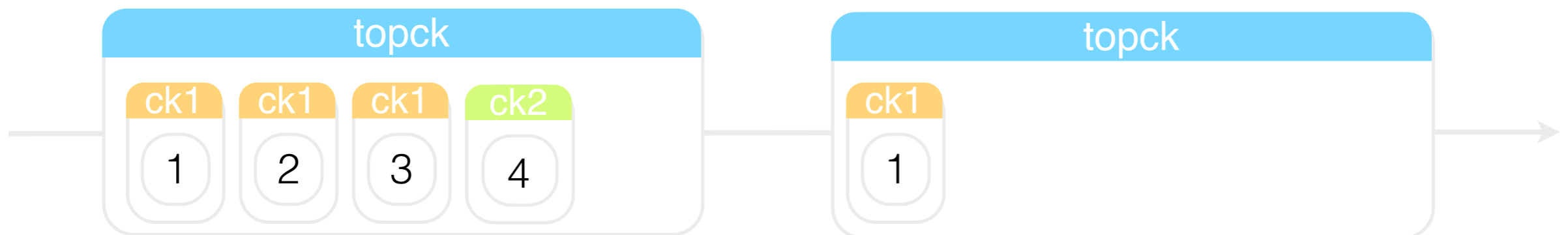
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
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  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

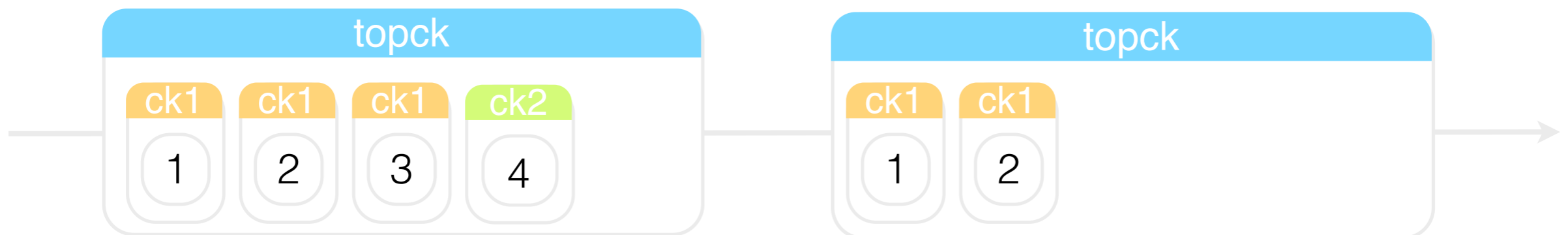
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

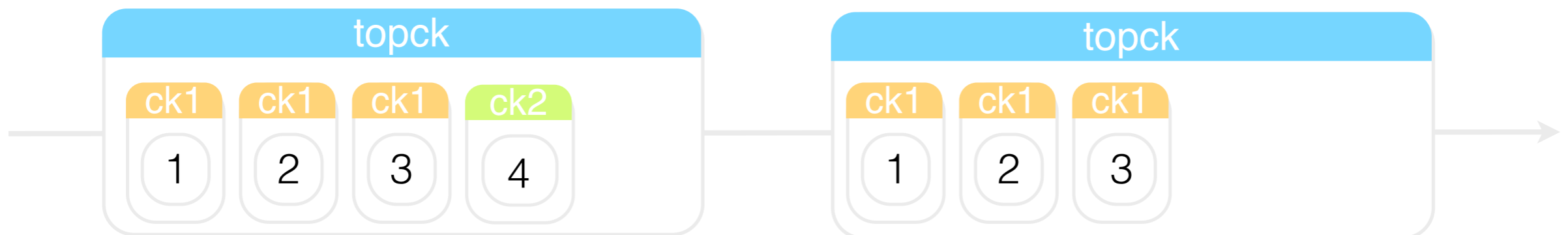
```
let process p s_out =
  newclock ck1 in
  loop
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;
    emit s_out 3; pause topck
  end
||
newclock ck2 in
  loop
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;
    emit s_out 6; pause topck
  end
end
```



||

# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```

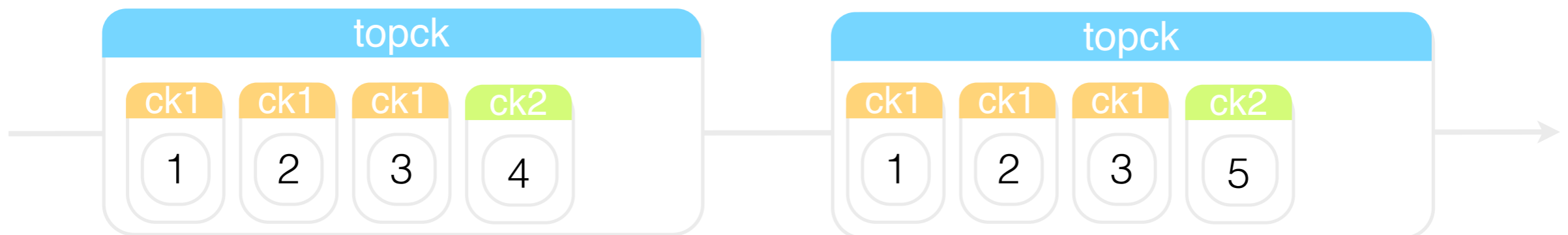


||



# Some examples

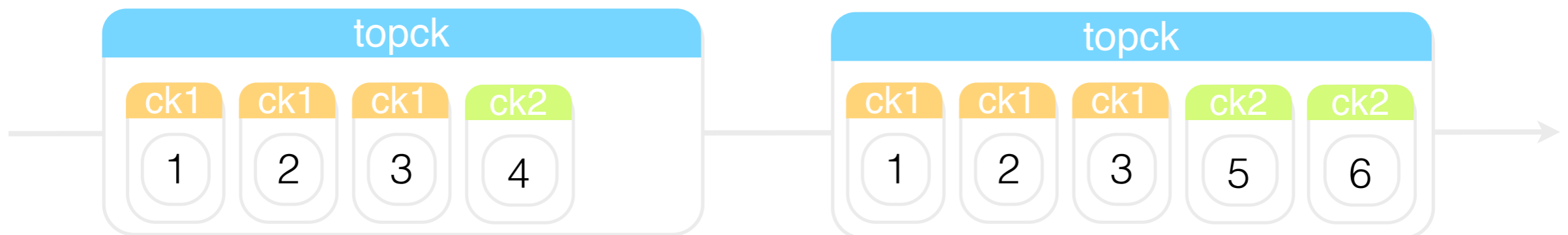
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let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
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  loop  
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  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



||

# Some examples

---

```
let process p s_out =
  newclock ck1 in
    loop
      emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;
      emit s_out 3; pause topck
    end
  ||
  newclock ck2 in
    loop
      emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;
      emit s_out 6; pause topck
    end
end
```

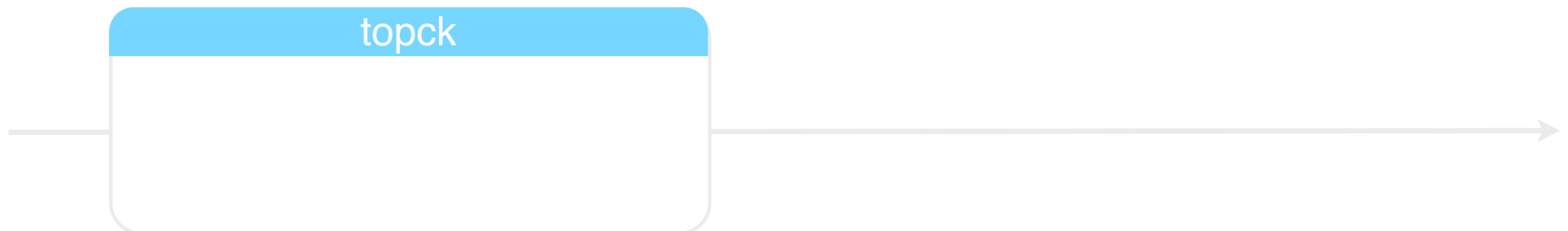
# Some examples

---

```
let process p s_out =
  newclock ck1 in
    loop
      emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;
      emit s_out 3; pause topck
    end
  ||
  newclock ck2 in
    loop
      emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;
      emit s_out 6; pause topck
    end
end
```

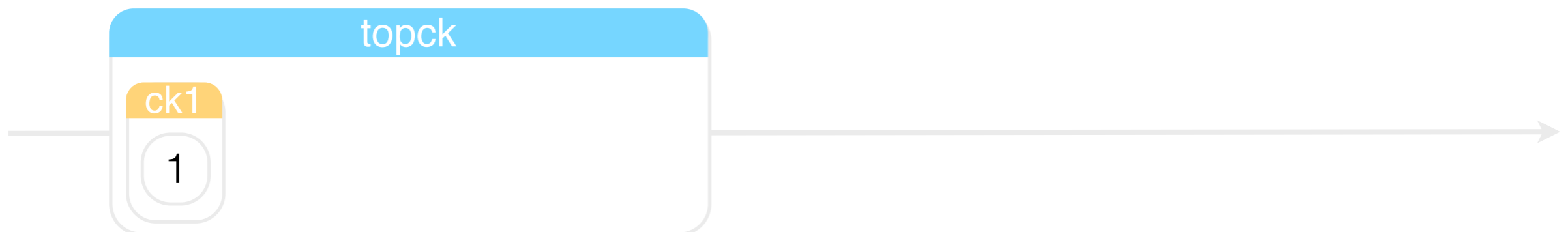
# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



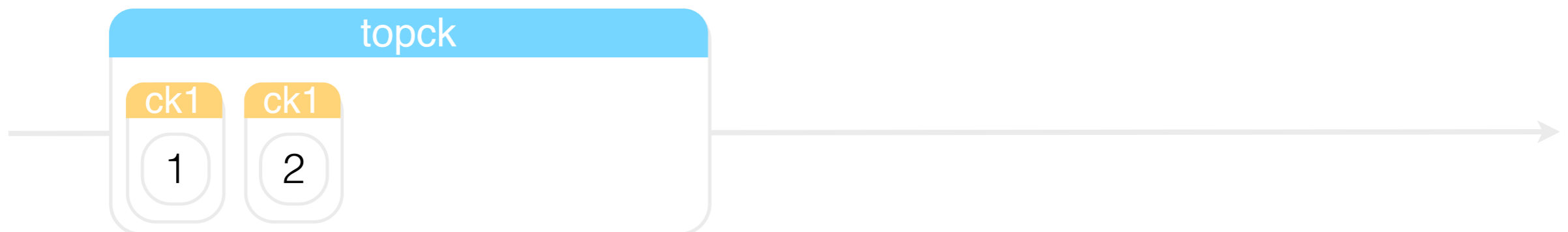
# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



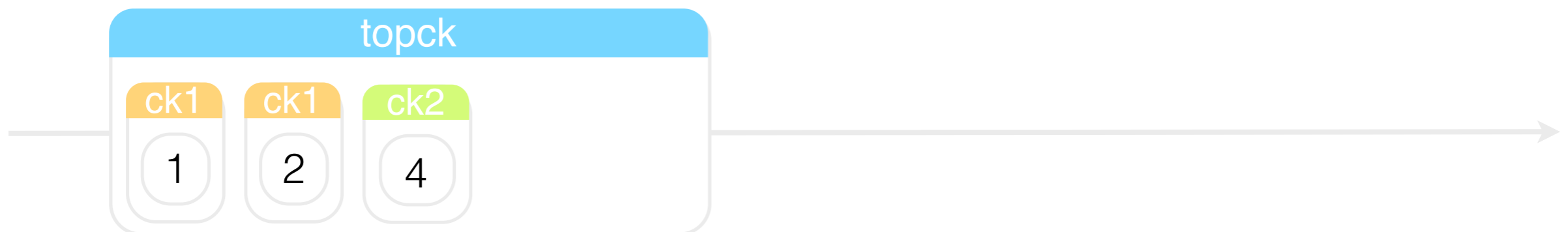
# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



# Some examples

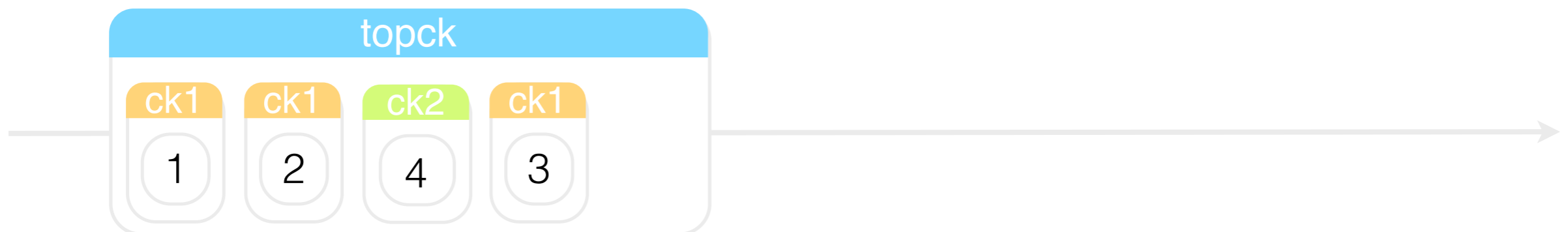
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```





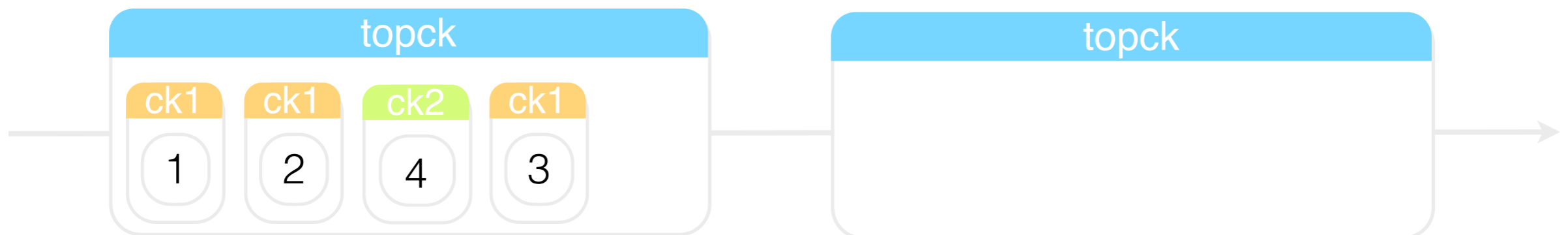
# Some examples

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let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



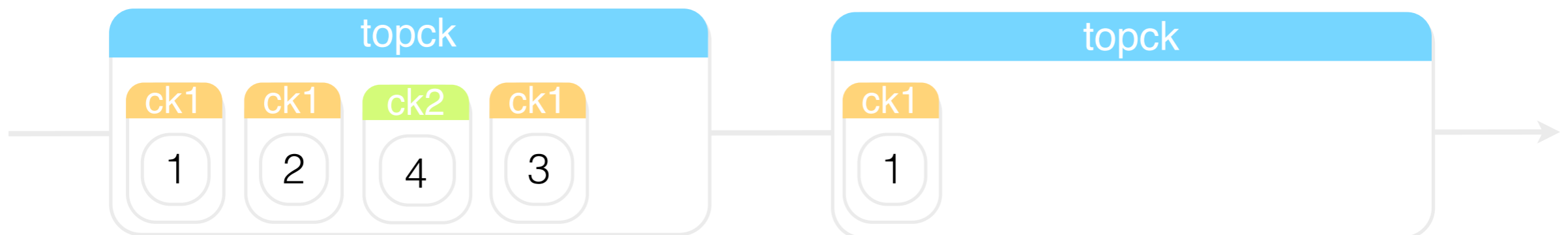
# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



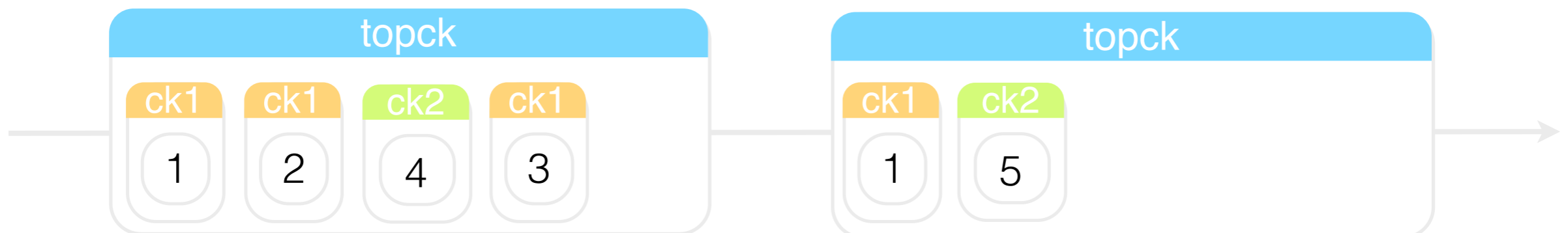
# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
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newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



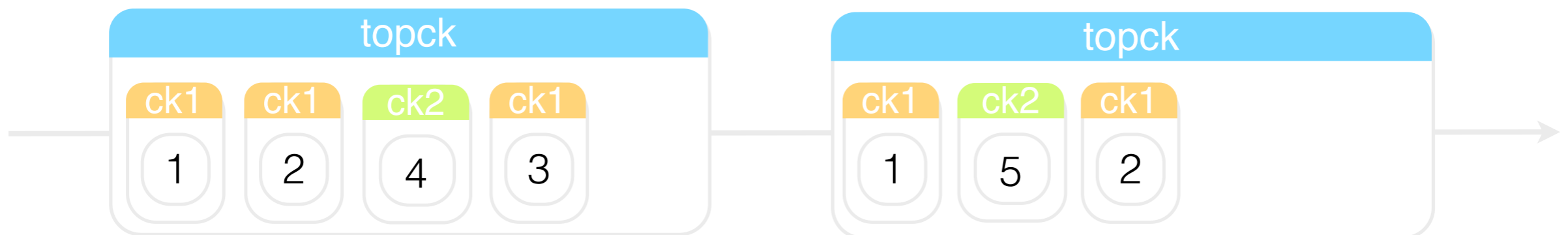
# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
    emit s_out 3; pause topck  
  end  
||  
newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



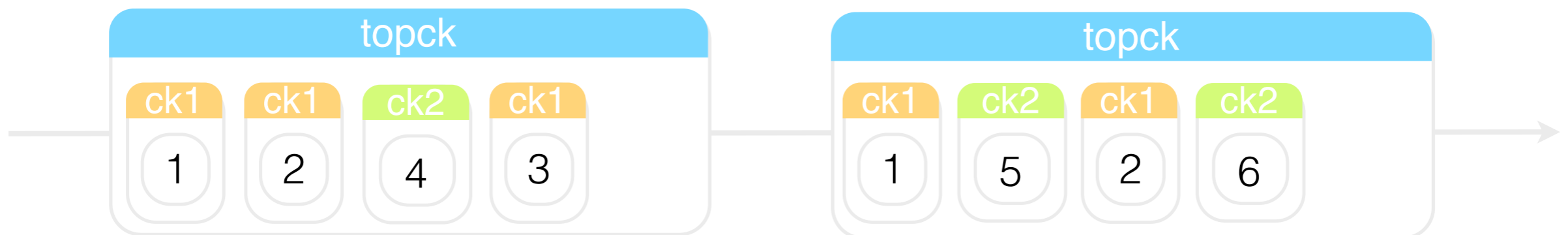
# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
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  end  
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  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



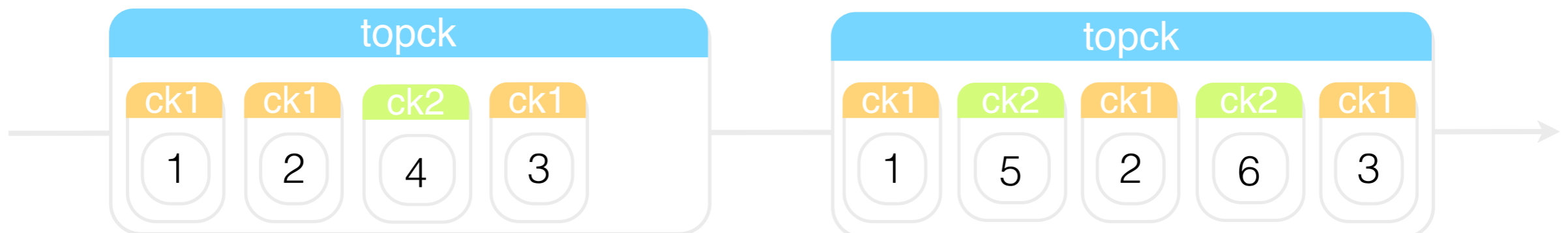
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```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck1 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;  
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  end  
||  
  newclock ck2 in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;  
    emit s_out 6; pause topck  
  end  
end
```



# Some examples

```
let process p s_out =
  newclock ck1 in
  loop
    emit s_out 1; pause ck1; emit s_out 2; pause ck1;
    emit s_out 3; pause topck
  end
||
newclock ck2 in
  loop
    emit s_out 4; pause topck; emit s_out 5; pause ck2;
    emit s_out 6; pause topck
  end
end
```



# Some examples

```
let process f compute s_in s_out =
  newclock ck in
  loop
    await s_in(v) in
    let res = run (compute ck v) in
    emit s_out res
  end
```

f : (clock -> 'a -> 'b process) ->  
( 'c, 'a) event -> ('b, 'd) event -> unit process

- ▶ Same external behaviour no matter how long compute lasts



# Some examples

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let process f compute s_in s_out =  
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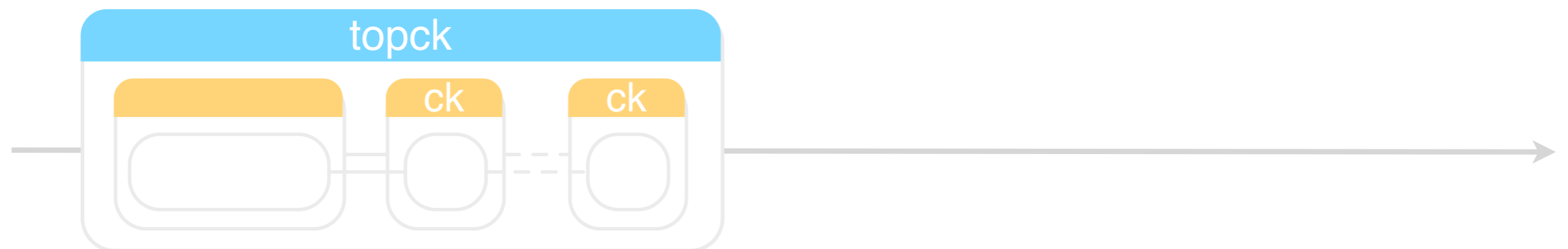


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let process f compute s_in s_out =  
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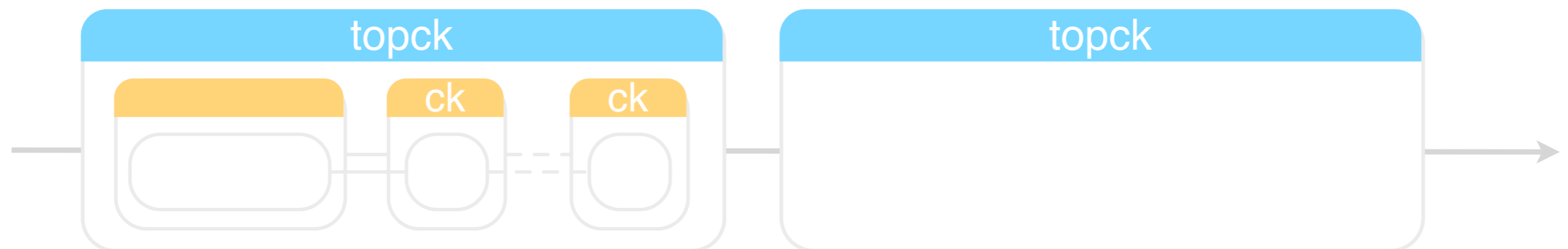


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let process f compute s_in s_out =  
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  loop  
    await s_in(v) in  
    let res = run (compute ck v) in  
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let process f compute s_in s_out =  
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# Clocks and data dependencies

---

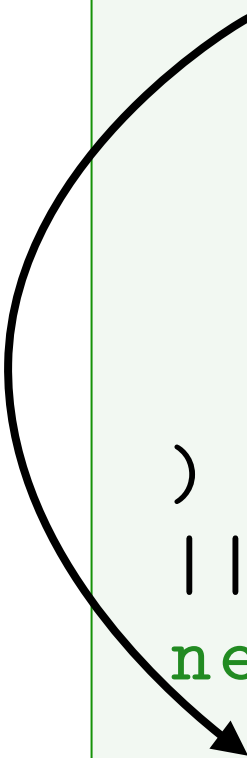
```
signal s in
newclock ck1 in (
  await immediate s;
  print_int 1
  ||
  pause ck1; pause ck1;
  print_int 0
)
||
newclock ck2 in
  emit s
```



# Clocks and data dependencies

---

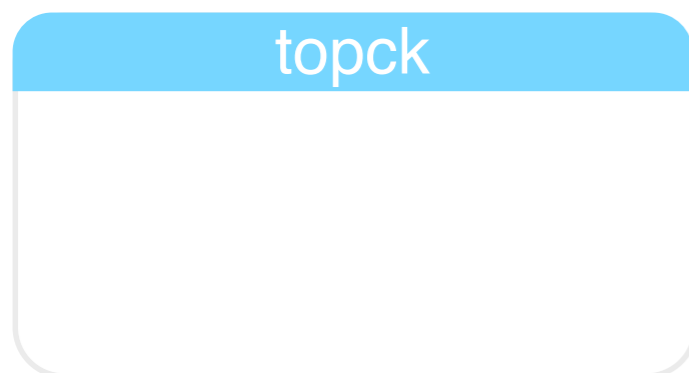
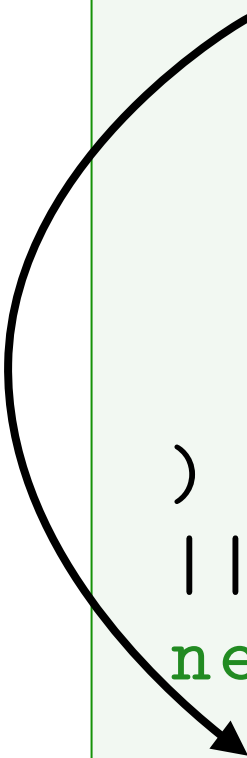
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newclock ck2 in
  emit s
```



# Clocks and data dependencies

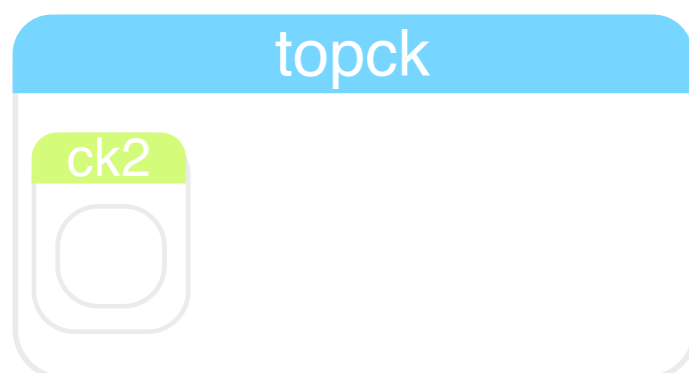
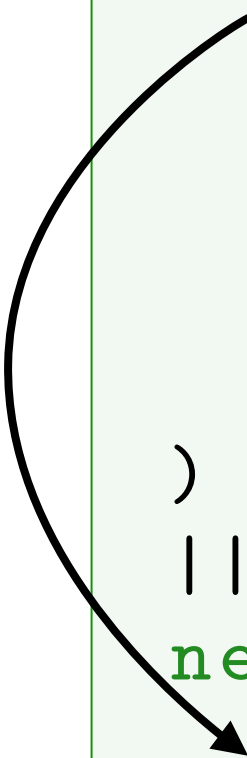
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signal s in
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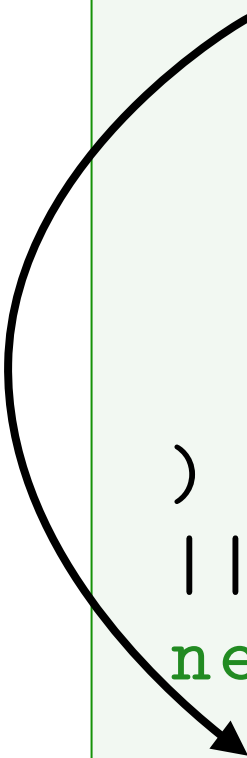
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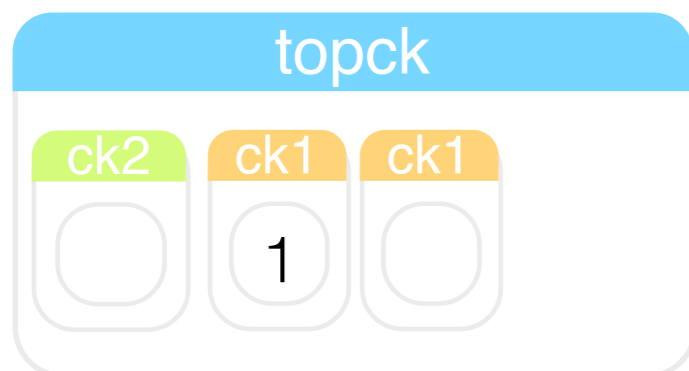
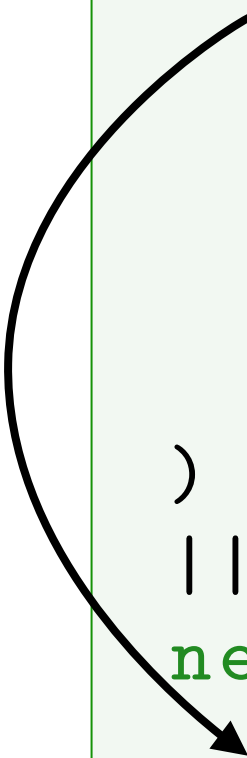
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  await immediate s;
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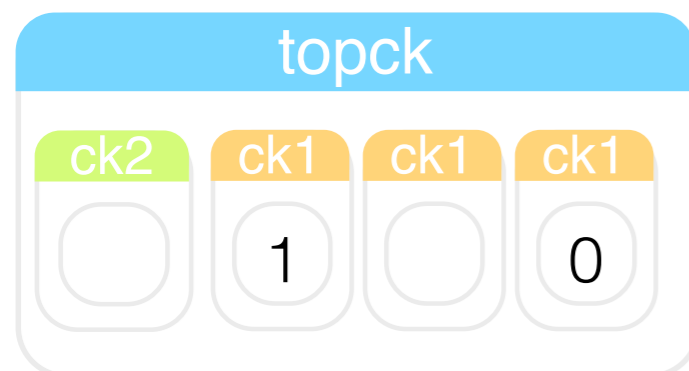
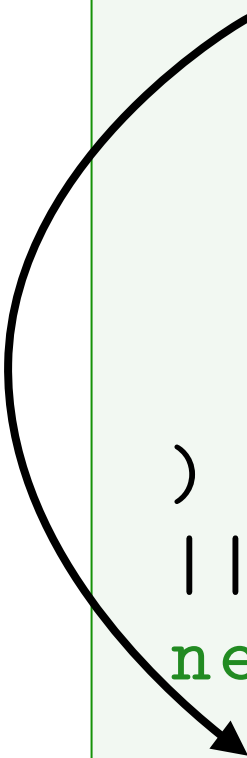
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# Clocks and data dependencies

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# Clocks and data dependencies

---

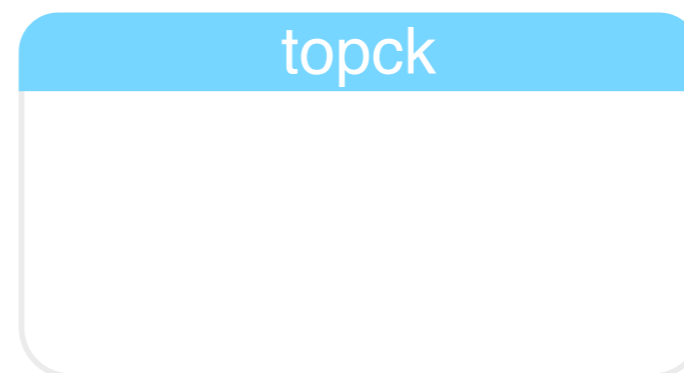
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  await s; print_int 1
  ||
  pause ck1; pause ck1;
  print_int 0
)
||
newclock ck2 in
  emit s
```

# Clocks and data dependencies

```
signal s in
newclock ck1 in (
  await immediate s;
  print_int 1
  ||
  pause ck1; pause ck1;
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)
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newclock ck2 in
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---

signal

# Clocks and data dependencies

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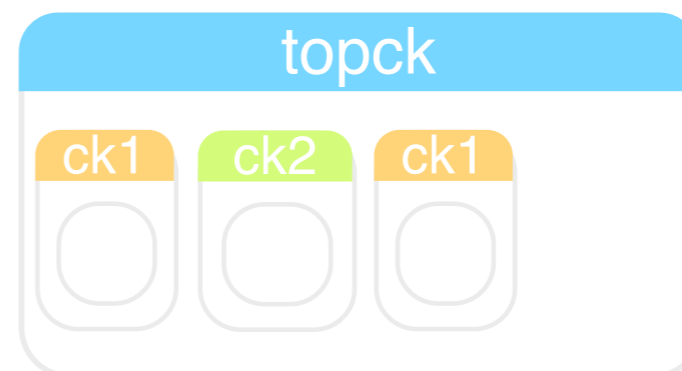
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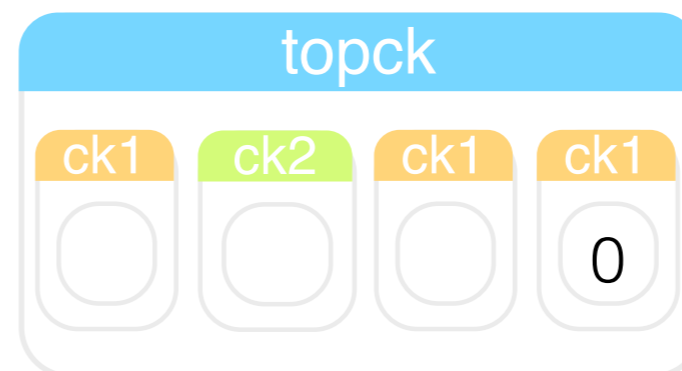
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  print_int 0
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)
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signal s in
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  ||
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  print_int 0
)
||
newclock ck2 in
  emit s
```

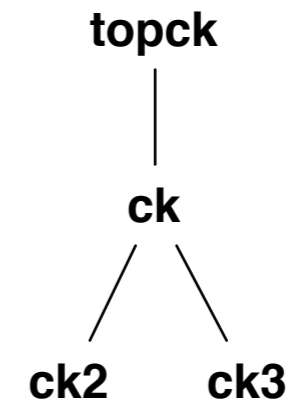






## The clocks tree

```
newclock ck in
  newclock ck2 in p2
  ||
  newclock ck3 in p3
```



## Execution of a clock domain

- ▶ Do one step of the internal clock
- ▶ If all processes are waiting on a slower clock, wait for the next instant of the parent clock
- ▶ Otherwise, do another step
- ▶ Dynamic, unbounded number of steps

# Clocks and Reactivity

---

An uncooperative clock domain

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
end
```

# Clocks and Reactivity

---

An uncooperative clock domain

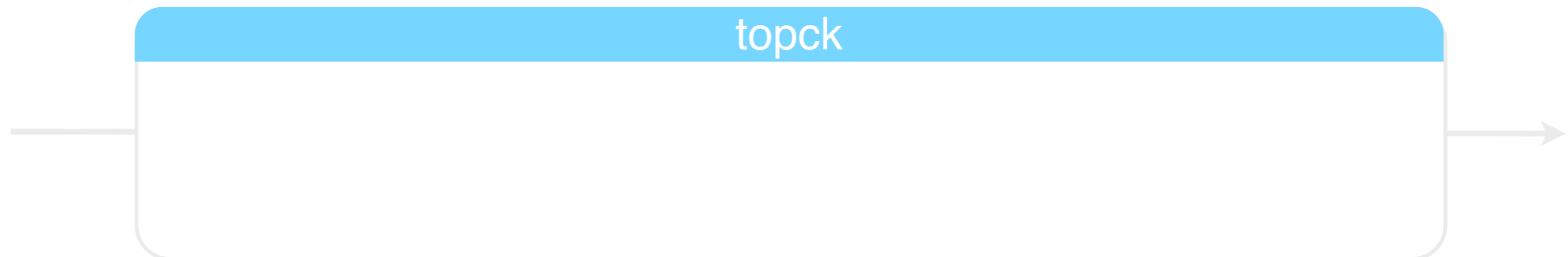
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    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
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# Clocks and Reactivity

An uncooperative clock domain

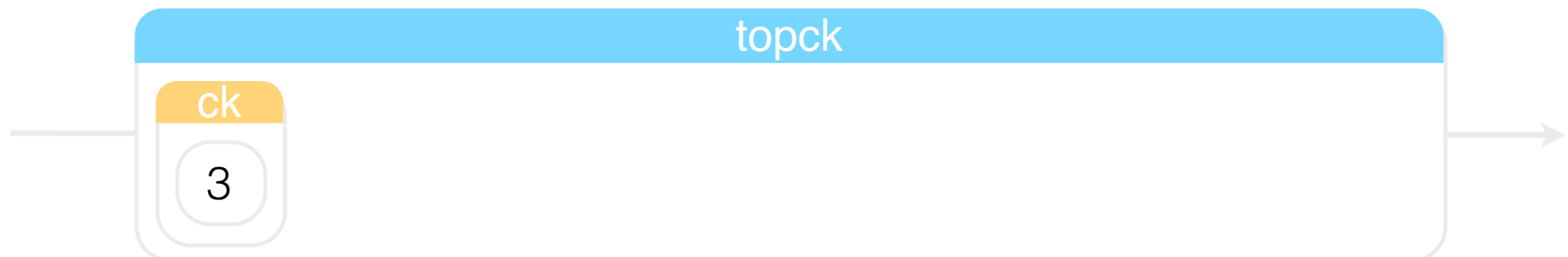
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

An uncooperative clock domain

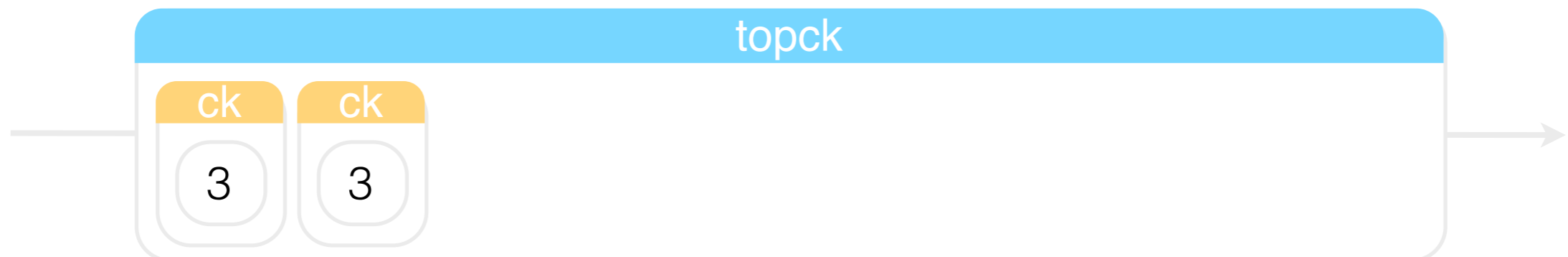
```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## An uncooperative clock domain

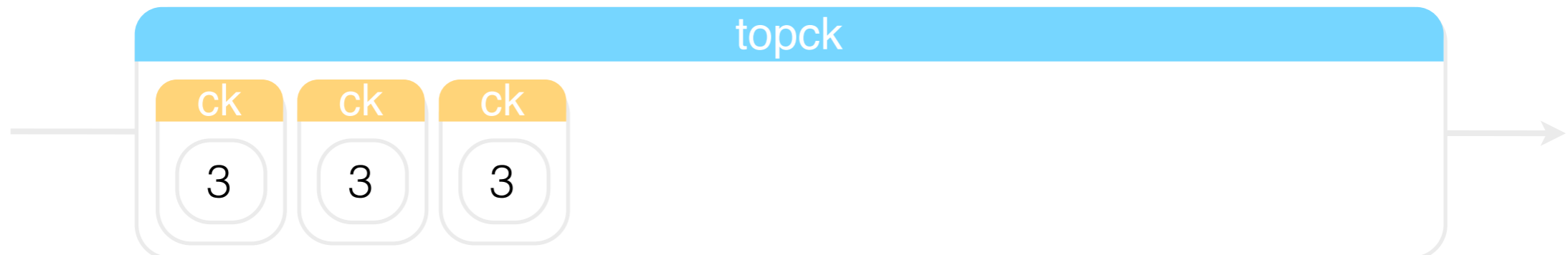
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let process p s_out =  
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  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## An uncooperative clock domain

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let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck in  
  loop  
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end
```

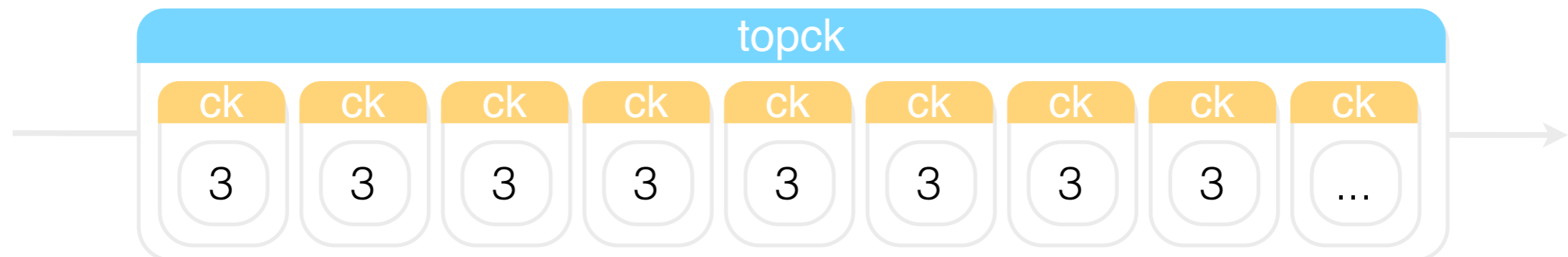




# Clocks and Reactivity

An uncooperative clock domain

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## Pausing a clock domain

- ▶ **pauseclock ck** forces the clock domain ck to wait for the next instant of its parent clock

```
let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
  end  
  ||  
  loop  
    pause ck; pause ck; pauseclock ck  
  end
```

# Clocks and Reactivity

## Pausing a clock domain

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  end  
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  loop  
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  end
```

# Clocks and Reactivity

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  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
  end  
  ||  
  loop  
    pause ck; pause ck; pauseclock ck  
  end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

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  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
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  ||  
  loop  
    pause ck; pause ck; pauseclock ck  
  end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## Pausing a clock domain

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  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
  end  
  ||  
  loop  
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  end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## Pausing a clock domain

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  newclock ck in  
  loop  
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  ||  
  loop  
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  end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## Pausing a clock domain

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  loop  
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end
```





# Clocks and Reactivity

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  loop  
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  end  
  ||  
  loop  
    pause ck; pause ck; pauseclock ck  
  end  
end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## Pausing a clock domain

- ▶ **pauseclock ck** forces the clock domain ck to wait for the next instant of its parent clock

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let process p s_out =  
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  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
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  ||  
  loop  
    pause ck; pause ck; pauseclock ck  
  end  
end
```



# Clocks and Reactivity

## Pausing a clock domain

- ▶ **pauseclock ck** forces the clock domain ck to wait for the next instant of its parent clock

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let process p s_out =  
  newclock ck in  
  loop  
    emit s_out 3; pause ck  
  end  
  ||  
  loop  
    pause ck; pause ck; pauseclock ck  
  end  
end
```



## A signal has a clock

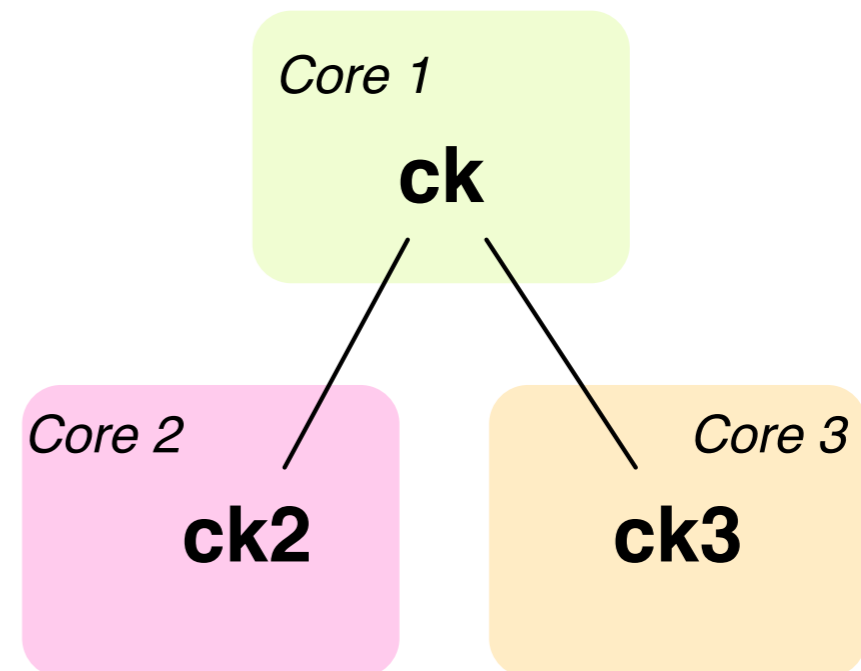
- ▶ Syntax: `signal s at ck in e`
- ▶ It cannot be used on a slower clock
- ▶ Type and effect system to prevent the use of a signal outside of its clock domain

# Clocks and Parallelism

Parallelization is done at the level of clock domains

- ▶ Less synchronizations
- ▶ Locality of signals

```
newclock ck in
  newclock ck2 in p2
  ||
  newclock ck3 in p3
```



# In a data-flow setting

---

```
node f(a : int) = (o : int)
var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((
```

# In a data-flow setting

```
node f(a : int) = (o : int)
var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```



# In a data-flow setting

```
node f(a : int) = (o : int)
var x : int; c : bool;
let
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  o = x when c
tel
```





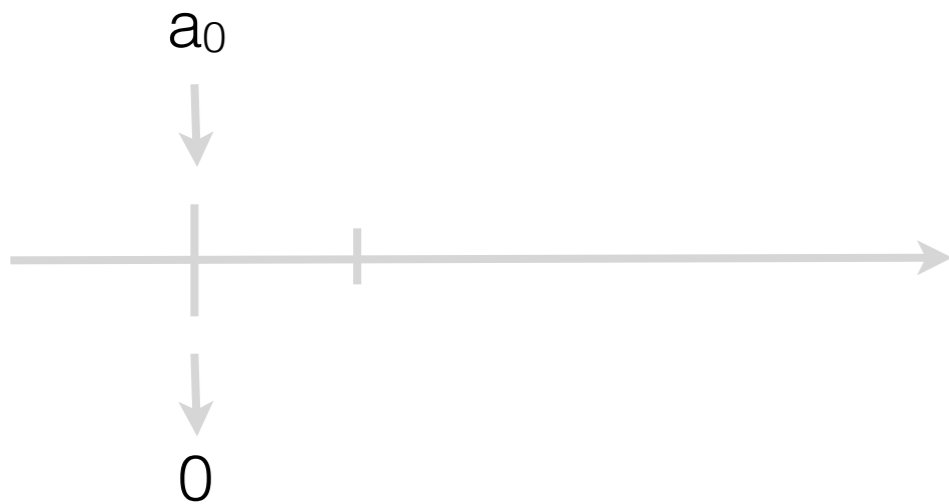
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tel
```



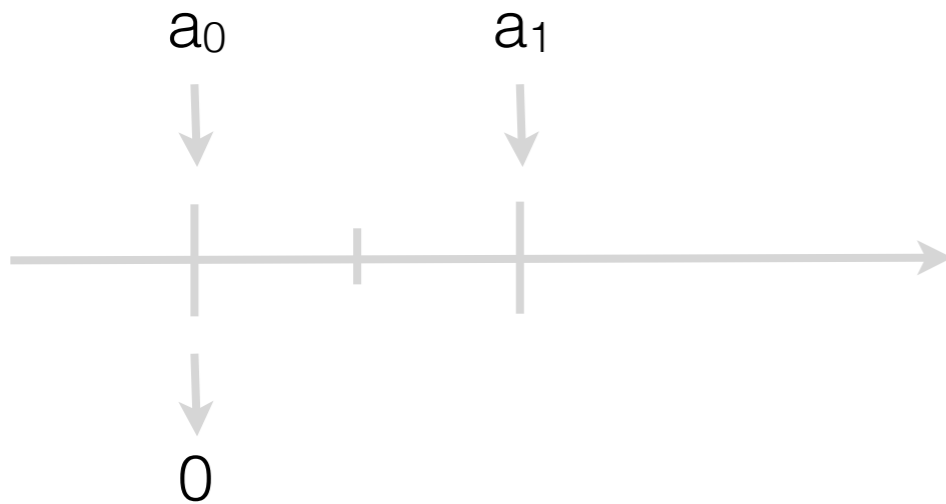
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var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
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tel
```



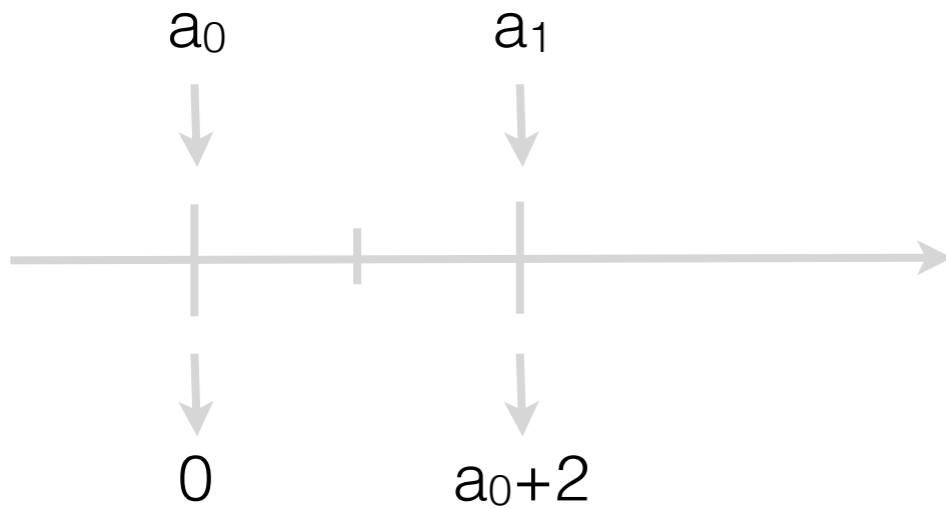
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var x : int; c : bool;
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tel
```



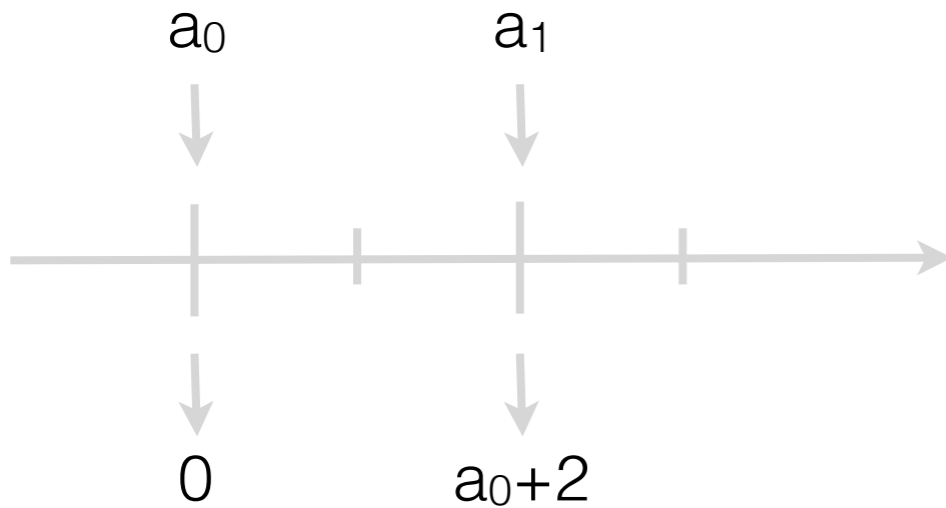
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var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
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  o = x when c
tel
```



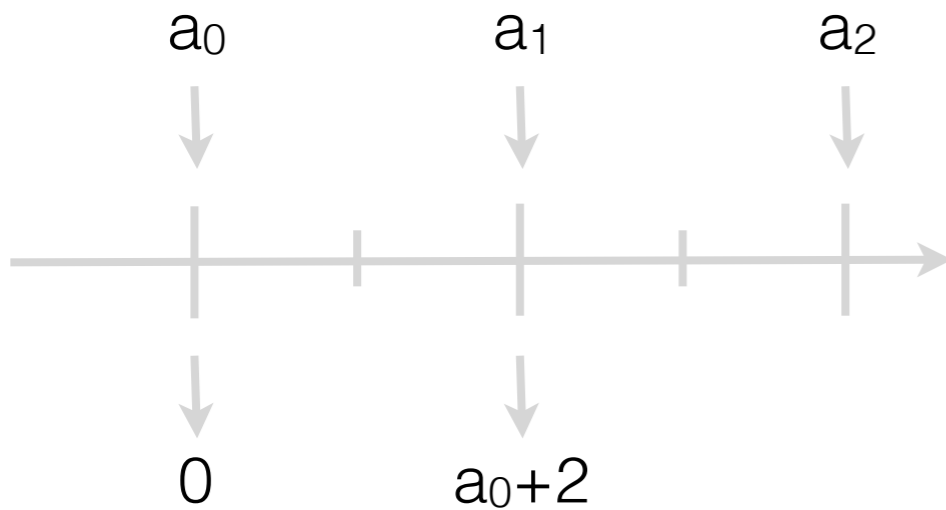
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tel
```



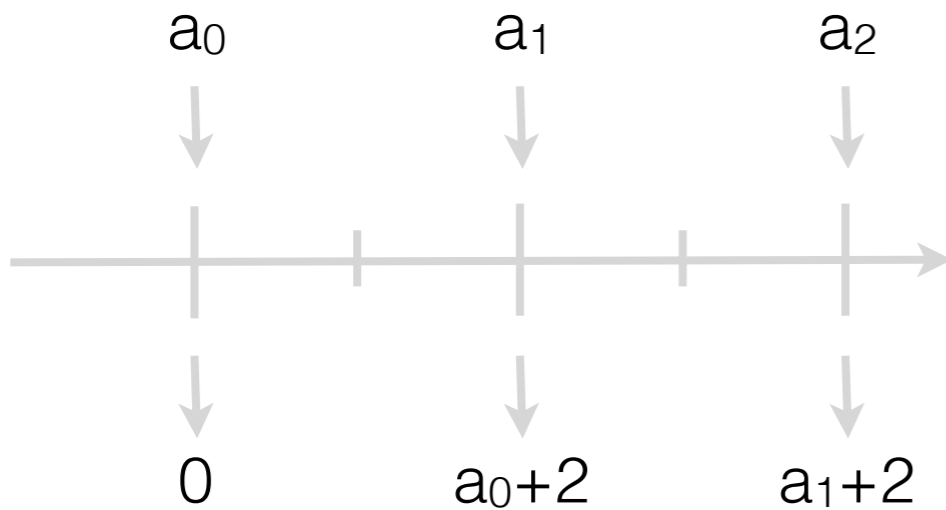
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```



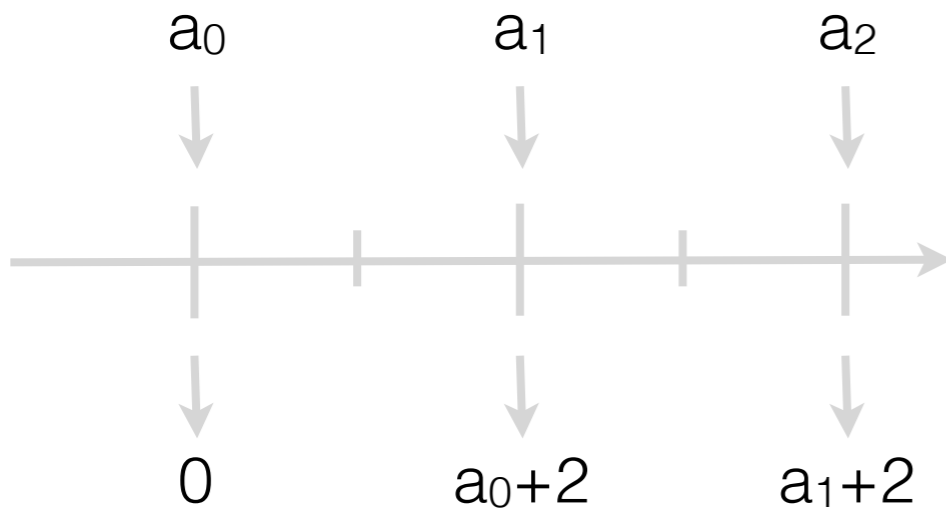
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```

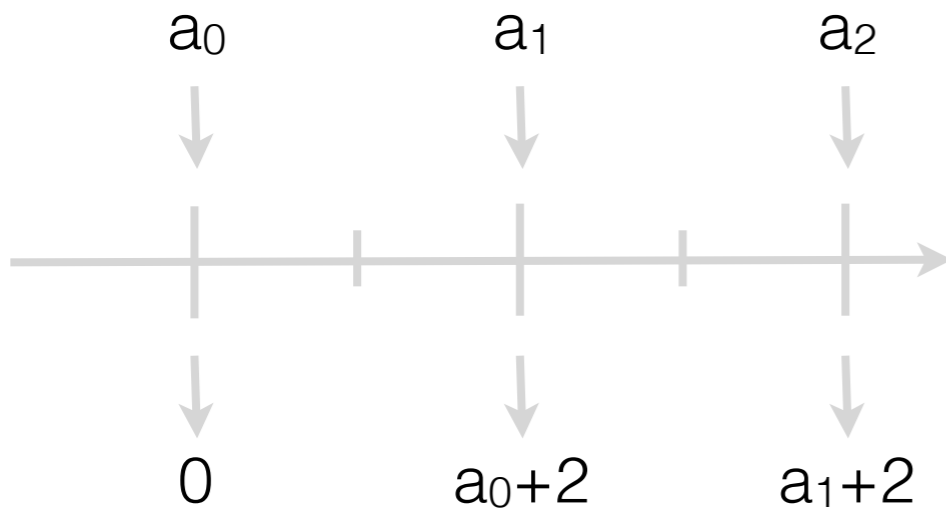


$$f :: \alpha \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} \alpha \text{ on } c$$



# In a data-flow setting

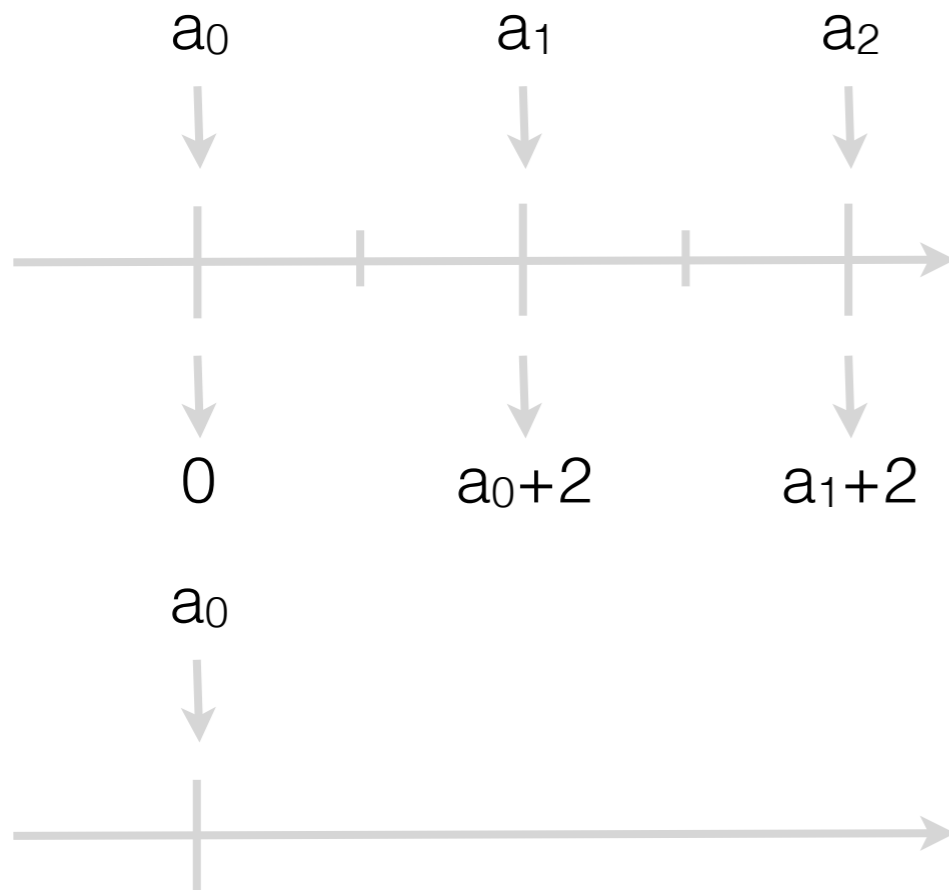
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tel
```



$$f :: \alpha \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} \alpha \text{ on } c$$

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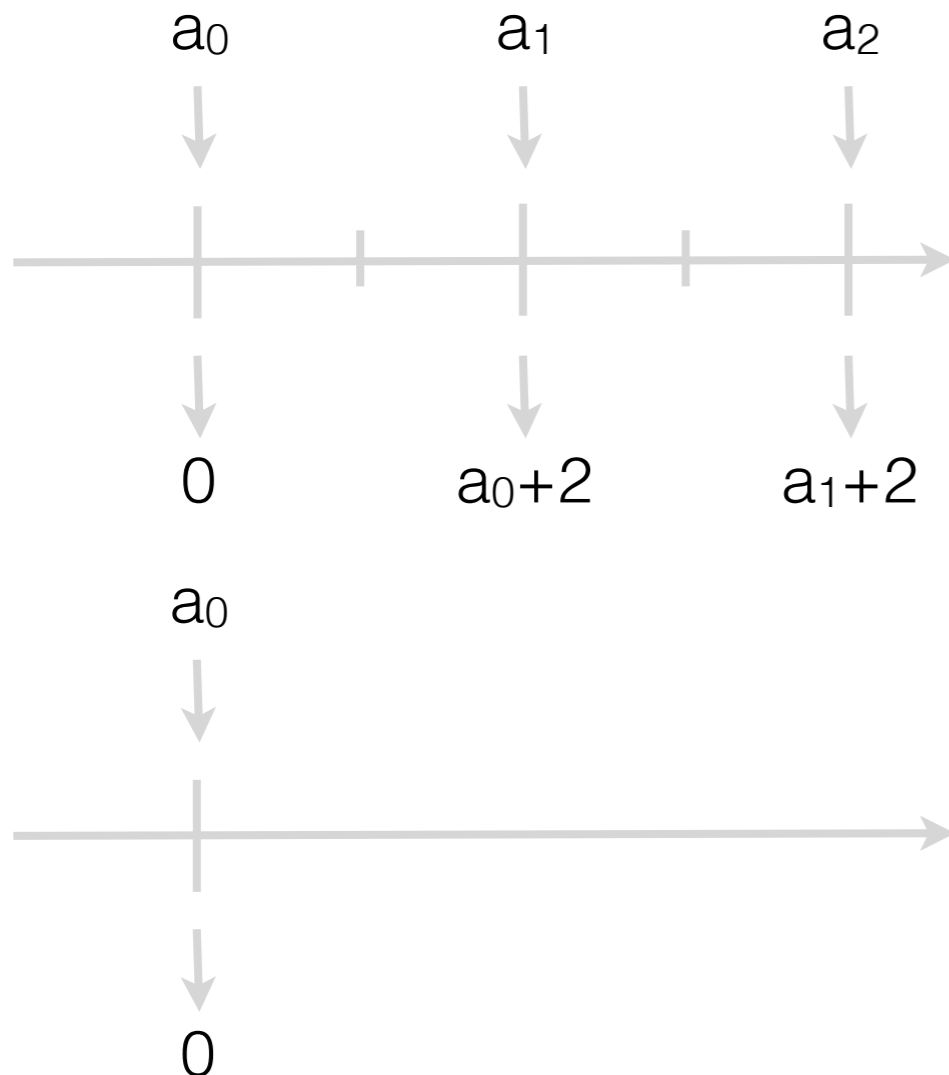
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let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```



$$f :: a \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} a \text{ on } c$$

# In a data-flow setting

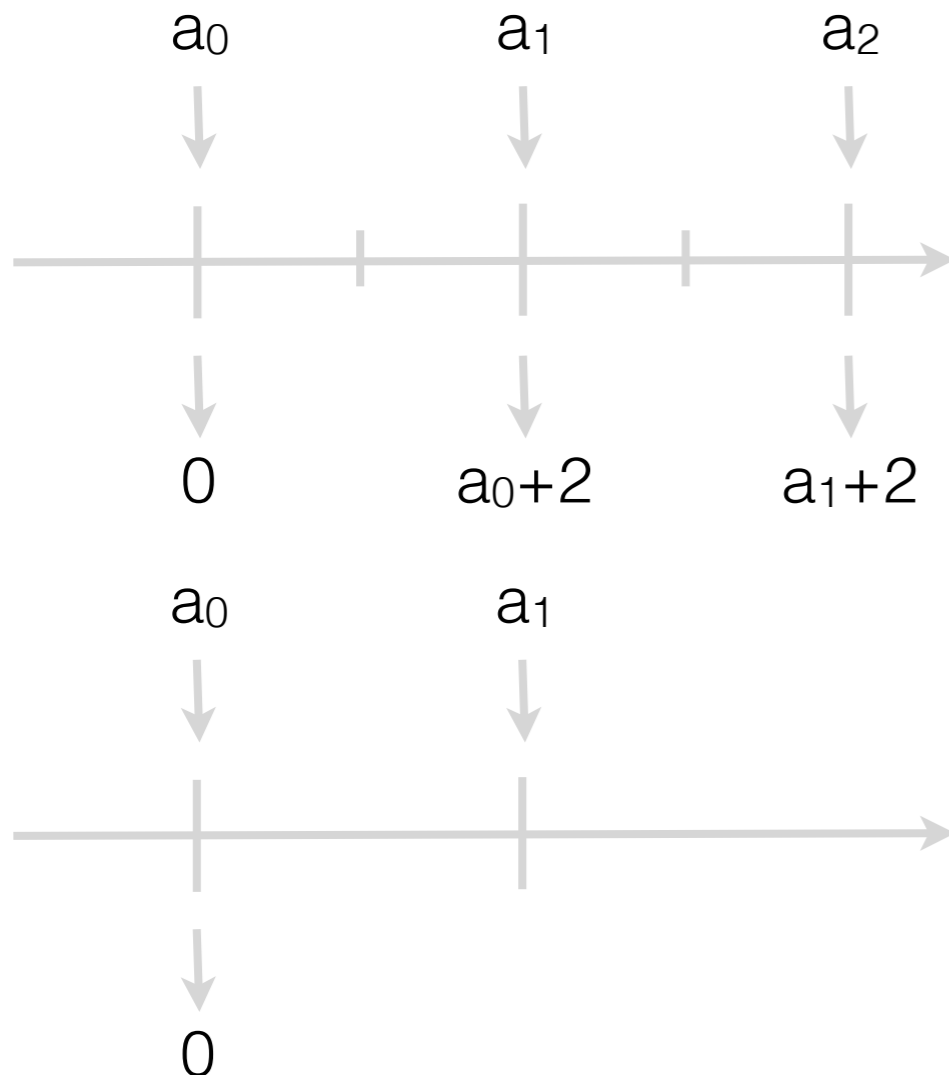
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tel
```



$$f :: \alpha \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} \alpha \text{ on } c$$

# In a data-flow setting

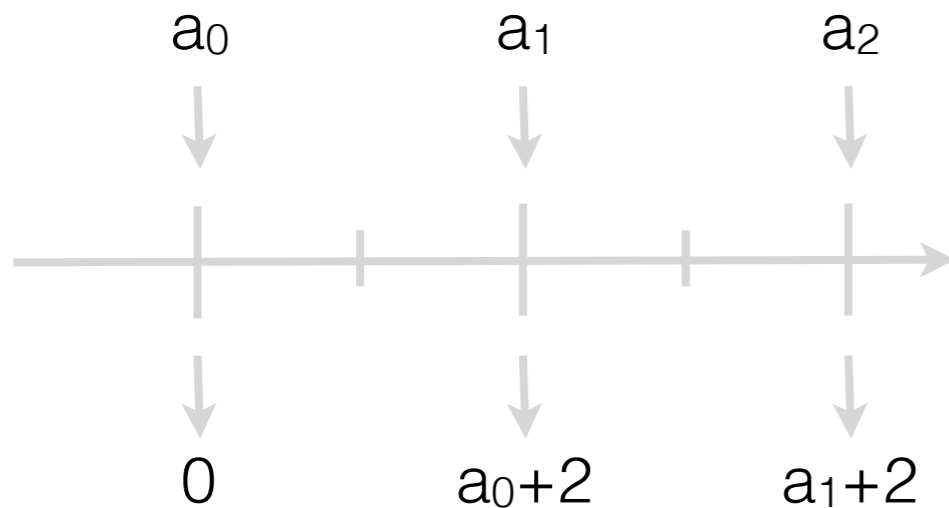
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let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```



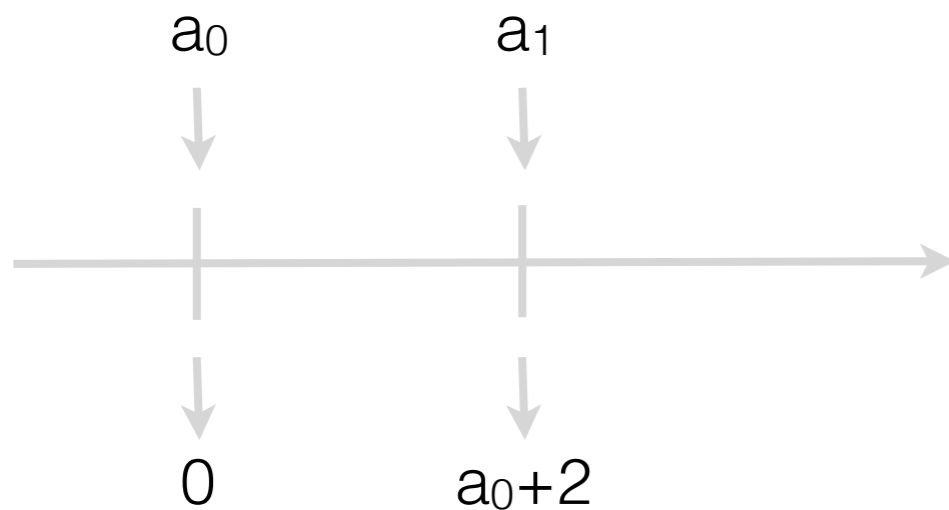
$$f :: a \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{a} a \text{ on } c$$

# In a data-flow setting

```
node f(a : int) = (o : int)
var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```

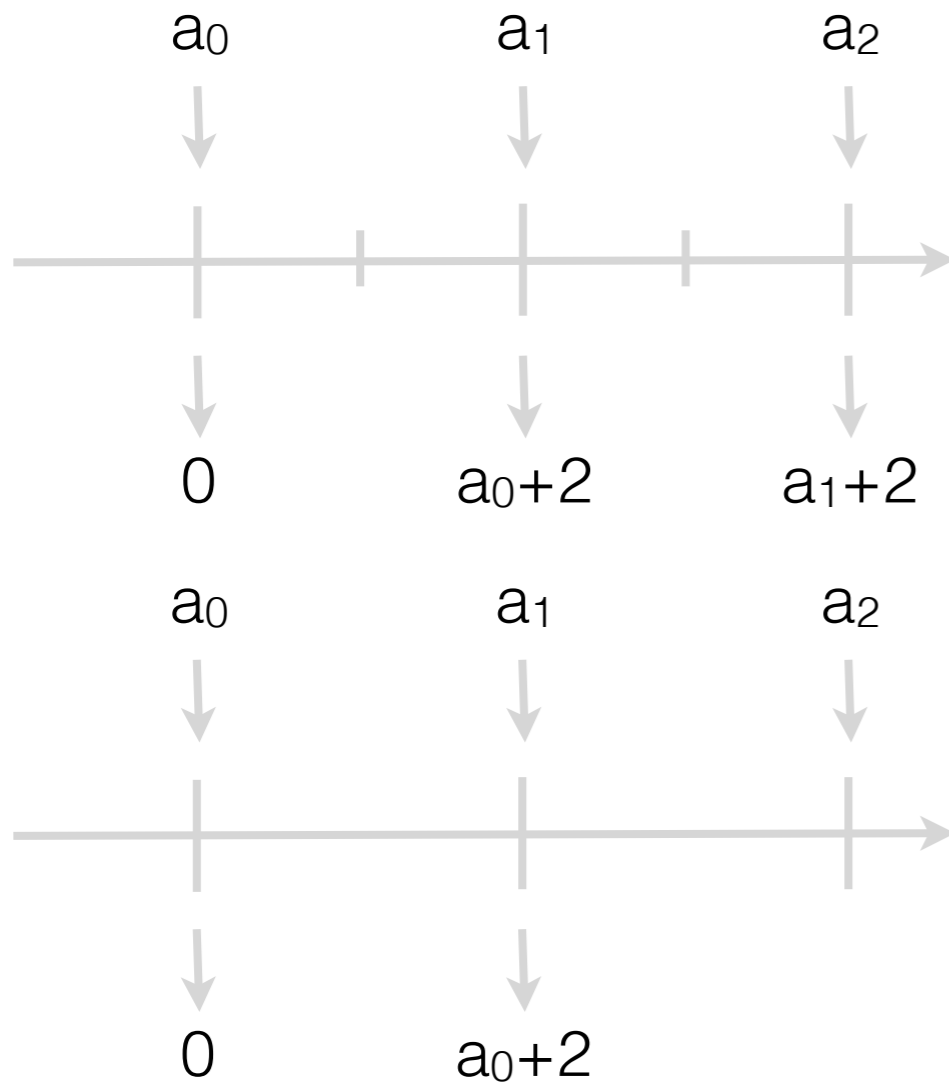


$$f :: a \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} a \text{ on } c$$



# In a data-flow setting

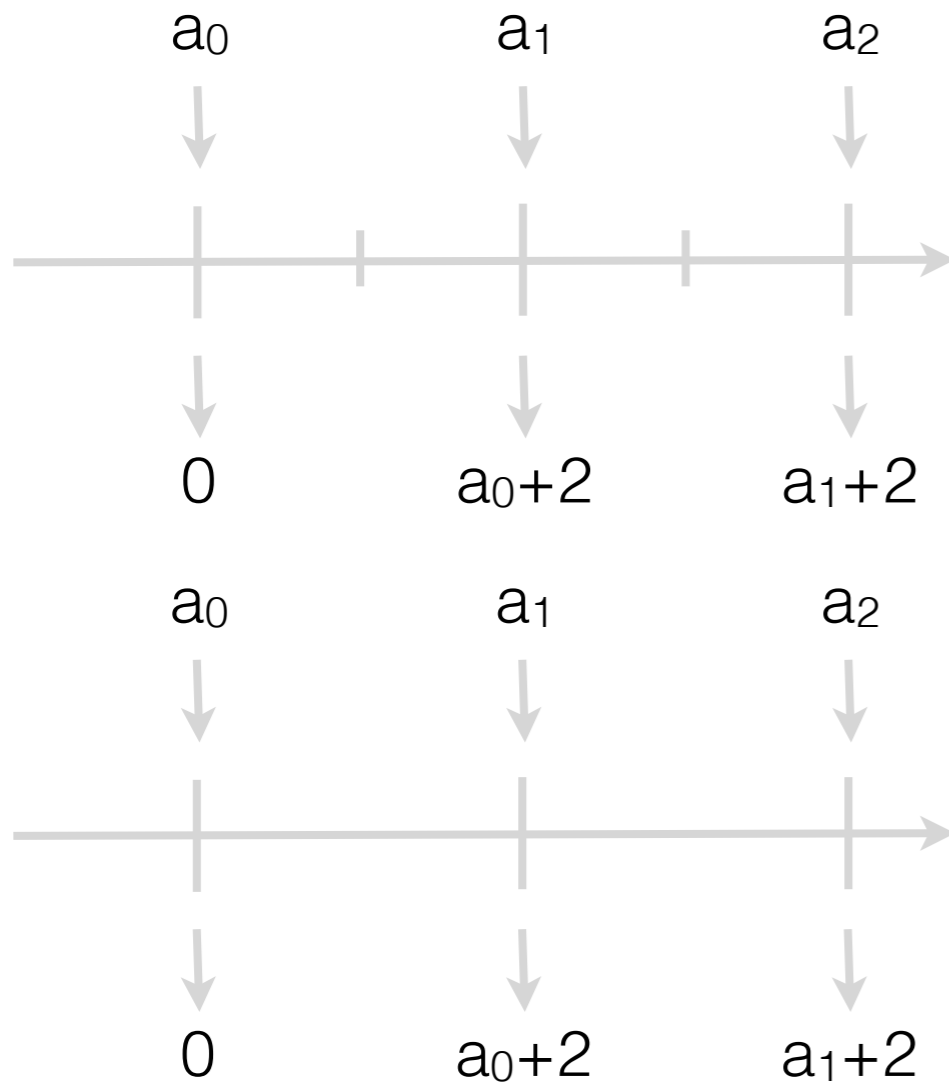
```
node f(a : int) = (o : int)
var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```



$$f :: \alpha \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} \alpha \text{ on } c$$

# In a data-flow setting

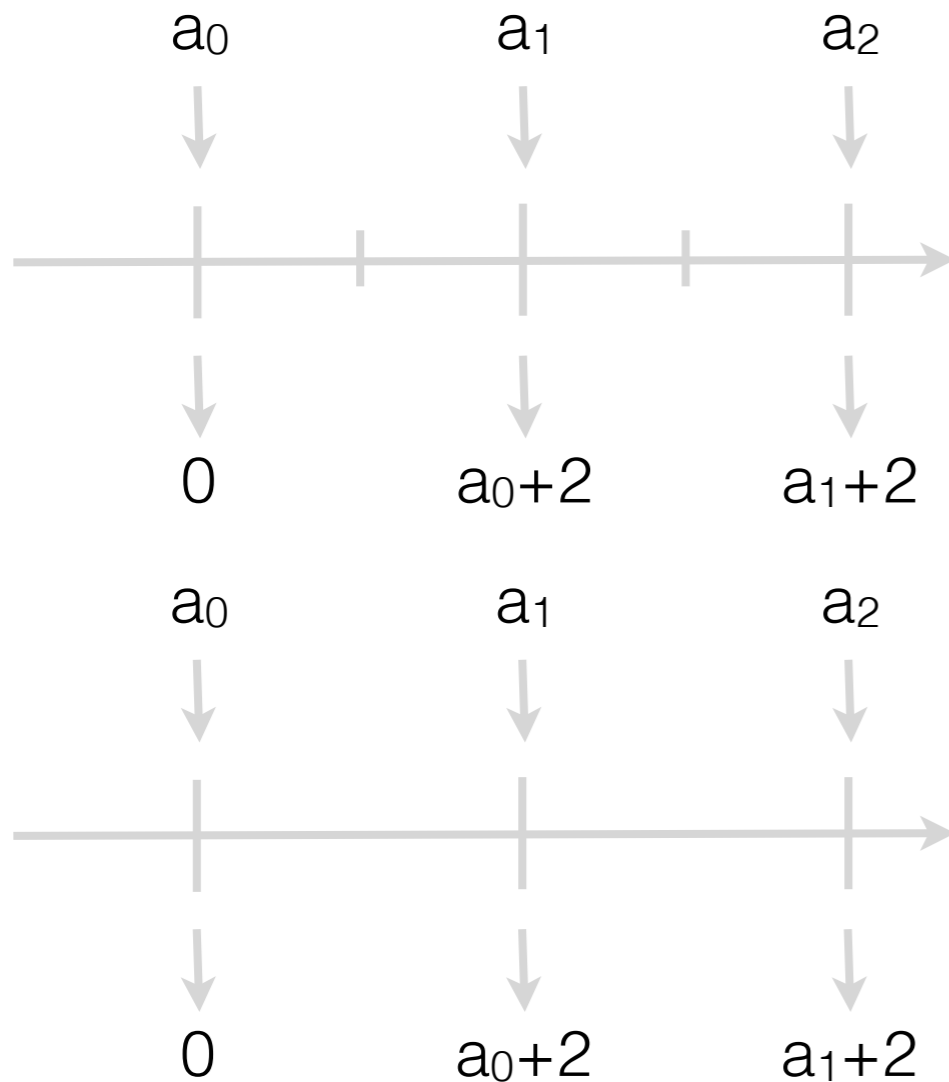
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var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```



$$f :: \alpha \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} \alpha \text{ on } c$$

# In a data-flow setting

```
node f(a : int) = (o : int)
var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```



$$f :: \alpha \text{ on } c \xrightarrow{\alpha} \alpha \text{ on } c$$

$$f :: \beta \xrightarrow{\beta} \beta$$



# In a data-flow setting

```
node f(a : int) = (o : int)
var x : int; c : bool;
let
  c = true fby false fby c;
  x = 0 fby ((merge c a (x whenot c)) + 1);
  o = x when c
tel
```

```
int f_step (int a) {
  do {
    ...
    if(c)
      o = ...
    ...
  } while(!c)
  return o;
}
```

# Demo: n-body with multiple steps

---

## Multiple step integration methods

- ▶ The computation of the next position is done in multiple steps, shared by all planets
- ▶ Internal steps hidden by a clock domain
- ▶ Can easily and transparently switch between methods
- ▶ eg Runge-Kutta:

$$y_{n+1} = y_n + \frac{1}{6} (k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)$$

$$k_1 = hf(t_n, y_n)$$

$$k_2 = hf(t_n + \frac{1}{2}h, y_n + \frac{1}{2}k_1)$$

$$k_3 = hf(t_n + \frac{1}{2}h, y_n + \frac{1}{2}k_2)$$

$$k_4 = hf(t_n + h, y_n + k_3)$$

$$y' = f(t, y)$$
$$y(t_0) = y_0$$

# Demo: n-body with multiple steps

---

```
let process compute_a env x w =  
  emit env (force (x, w));  
  await env(f) in  
  f x
```

```
let process compute_rk4 env st =  
  (* step 1 *)  
  let k1_v = run (compute_a env st.b_pos st.b_weight) in  
  let k1_p = st.b_vel in  
  (* step 2 *)  
  let k2_p = add_v st.b_vel (sc_mult (dt /. 2.0) k1_v) in  
  let x_2 = add_v st.b_pos (sc_mult (dt /. 2.0) k1_p) in  
  let k2_v = run (compute_a env x_2 st.b_weight) in  
  . . . .
```

## Adaptive integration

- ▶ Compute in multiple steps
  - The new positions
  - An estimation of the error
- ▶ If the error is too big, try again with a smaller step

## Implementation

- ▶ Two nested clock domains
- ▶ Still one step on the top clock

# Current and Future Work

---

## Done so far

- ▶ Operational semantics
- ▶ Proof of concept of type system
- ▶ Sequential implementation

## Future work

- ▶ Distributed implementation (message passing)

## New notion of clock domain

- ▶ Improves modularity
- ▶ Helps parallelization
- ▶ Little changes to the language and runtime