

# Finding Broken Promises In Asynchronous JavaScript Programs

**Saba Alimadadi**, Di Zhong, Magnus Madsen, and Frank Tip



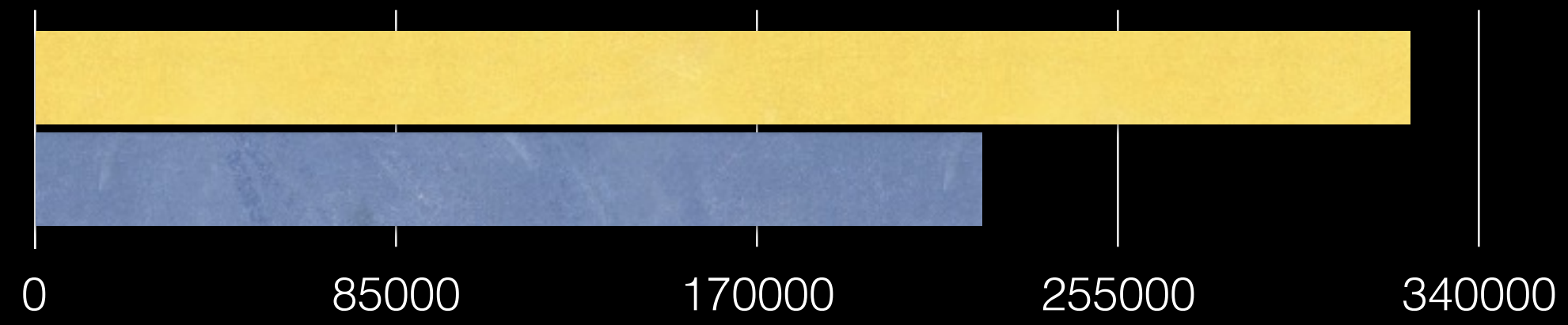
Northeastern  
University



AARHUS  
UNIVERSITET



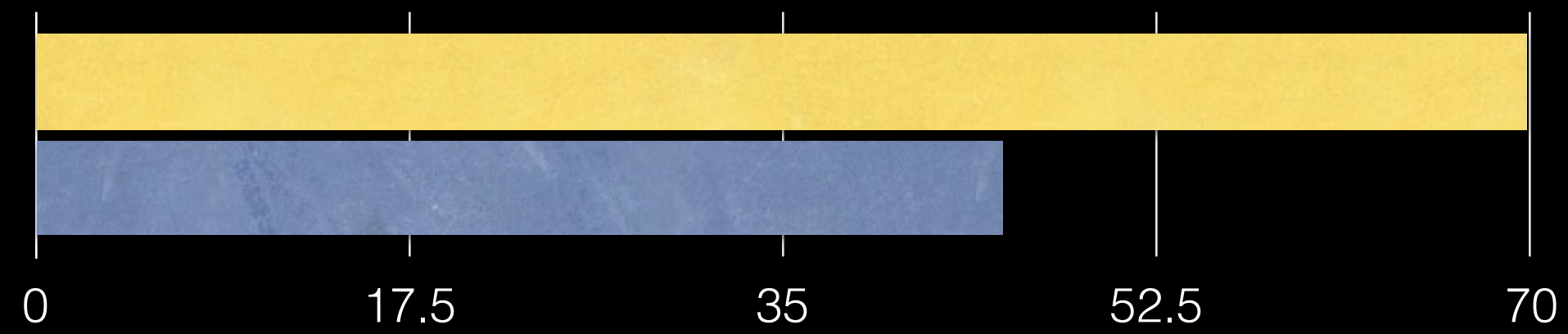
JavaScript  
Java



active repositories



JavaScript  
Java



popularity %

# J S

# Asynchronous JavaScript

```
fs.readdir(source, function (err, files) {  
  files.forEach(function (fileName, fileIndex) {  
    gm(source + fileName).size(function (err, values) {  
      widths.forEach(function (width, widthIndex) {  
        this.resize(w, h).write(nameName, function (err) {  
          })  
        })  
      })  
    })  
  })  
})
```

little pyramid of doom!

# Promise



# JavaScript Promises



Pending

```
let p = new Promise(function (resolve, reject) {  
});
```



Fulfilled

```
let p2 = p.then(handleSuccess) ;
```


```
.then(soMuchSuccess, handleRejection) ;
```



Rejected

```
.catch(moreRejection);
```

Settled



```
tcpPortUsed.check(port, 'localhost')
  .then(function (inUse) {
    if (inUse) {
      printErrorAndExit();
    } else {
      printSuccessMessage();
      startServer(port);
    }
  })
})
```

simplified and modified example from:  
<https://github.com/facebook/DocuSaurus>



```
tcpPortUsed.check(port, 'localhost')
  .then(function (inUse) {
    if (inUse) {
      printErrorAndExit();
    } else {
      printSuccessMessage();
      startServer(port);
    }
  })
```

“Currently any exceptions thrown during server startup cause the process to silently exit. This makes tracking down bugs in config files super frustrating.”

simplified and modified example from:  
<https://github.com/facebook/DocuSaurus>



```
tcpPortUsed.check(port, 'localhost')
  .then(function (inUse) {
    if (inUse) {
      printErrorAndExit();
    } else {
      printSuccessMessage();
      startServer(port);
    }
  })
+ .catch(function (ex) {
+   handleException(ex);
+ });
```

“Currently any exceptions thrown during server startup cause the process to silently exit. This makes tracking down bugs in config files super frustrating.”

simplified and modified example from:  
<https://github.com/facebook/DocuSaurus>





# In Practice

The image displays a collage of overlapping browser windows from Stack Overflow. The primary window in the foreground is titled "How to debug javascript promises?". It features a question with 61 votes and 19 answers. The question text reads: "I am trying to understand how to debug asynchronous code that is based on promises. By Promises I mean ECMAScript 6 based promises and by debugging I mean using the built-in chrome or firefox debugger. What I am having trouble with - is that when an error occurs I can't seem to get the stack trace no matter how I 'reject' it. I tried these: console.log(new Error('Error occurred')); throw new Error('Throwing an Error'); return new Error('Error returned by the onRejected function'); reject(new Error('Pass Error to the reject function')); But none of those returns the actual error in the code, or the stack trace. So my question is - how to properly debug javascript Promises? javascript promise es6-promise". The answer section shows a snippet of code: 

```
return async4();
```

 and another snippet: 

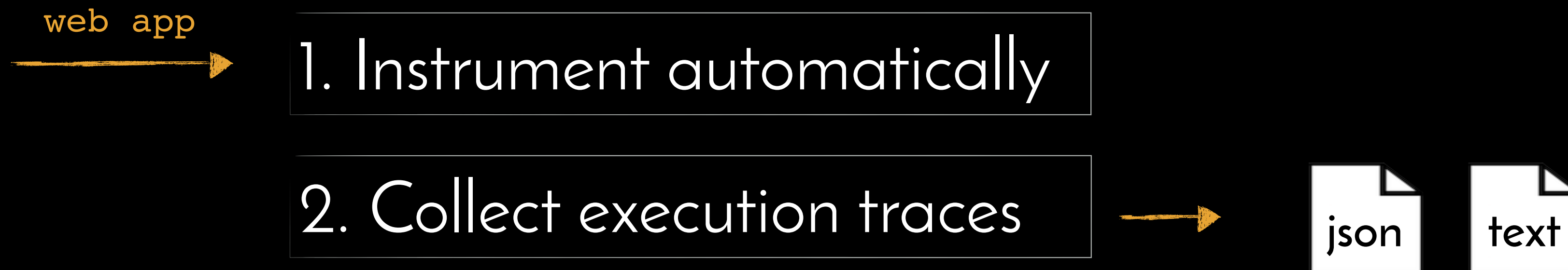
```
var serverSidePromiseChain;
```

. The page also includes a "FEATURED ON META" section with links to "Responsive design released for all Beta & Undesigned sites" and "VSTS has been renamed to Azure DevOps - let's talk about some tags". A "HOT META POSTS" section lists "Where's my quarter-million swag?". The background shows several other browser windows with various Stack Overflow URLs, such as "What is the...", "Catch all unhandled javascript...", "callback - How do JavaScript...", "How do javascript promises execute their code", and "How can I synchronously deter...".

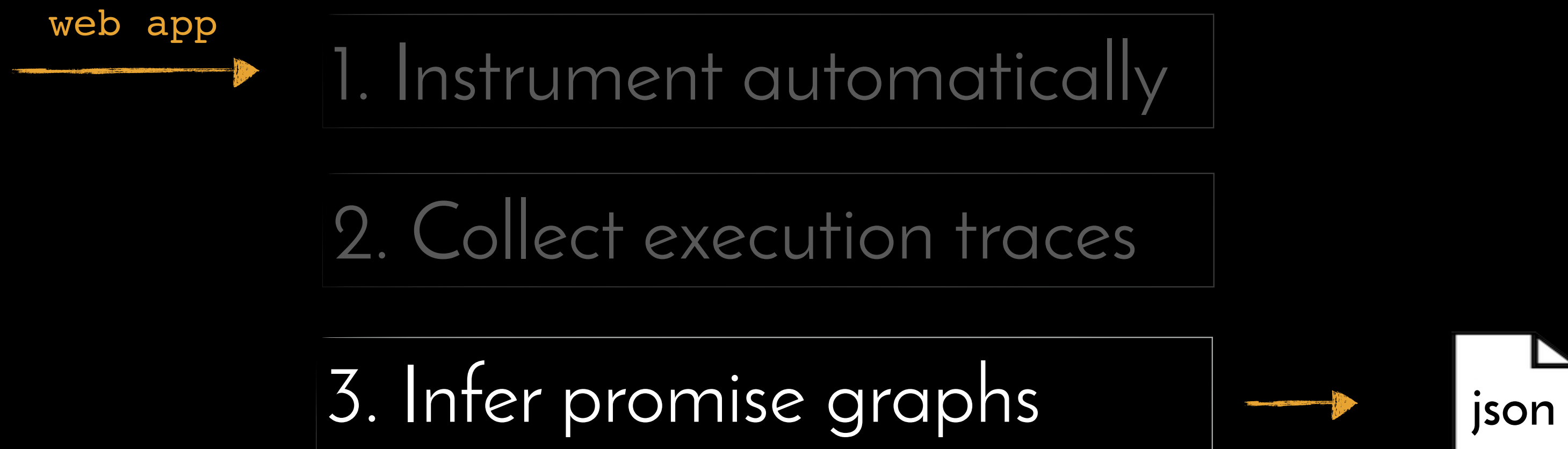


PromiseKeeper

# PromiseKeeper



# PromiseKeeper



[Madsen et al., 2017]

# PromiseKeeper

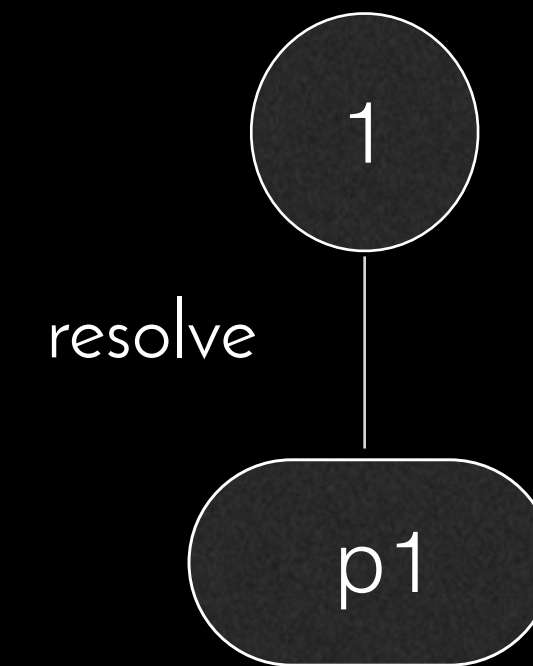
web app

1. Instrument automatically

2. Collect execution traces

3. Infer promise graphs

```
let p1 = Promise.resolve(1);
```



# PromiseKeeper

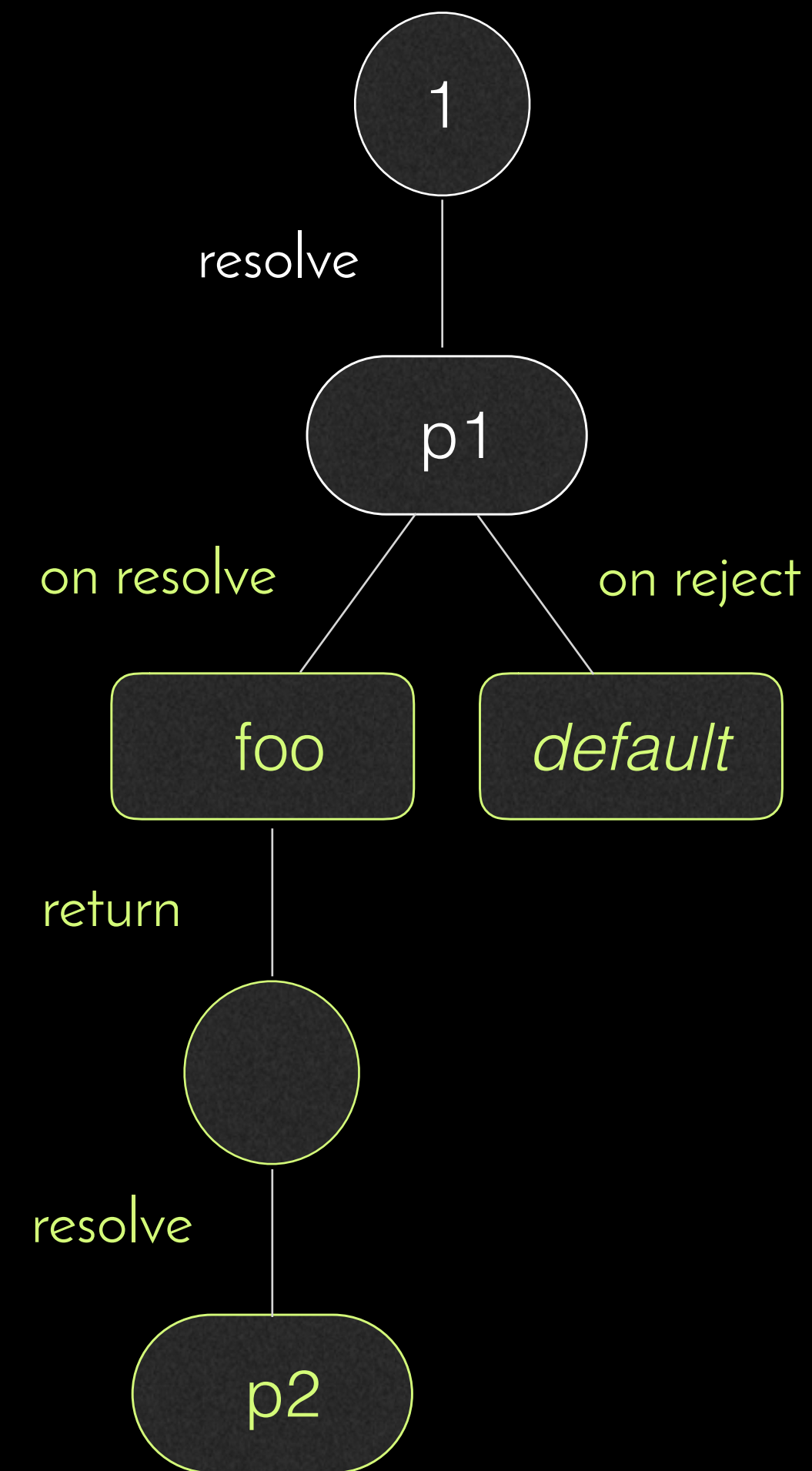
web app

1. Instrument automatically

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3. Infer promise graphs

```
let p1 = Promise.resolve(1);  
let p2 = p1.then(foo);  
function foo (x) {  
}
```



# PromiseKeeper

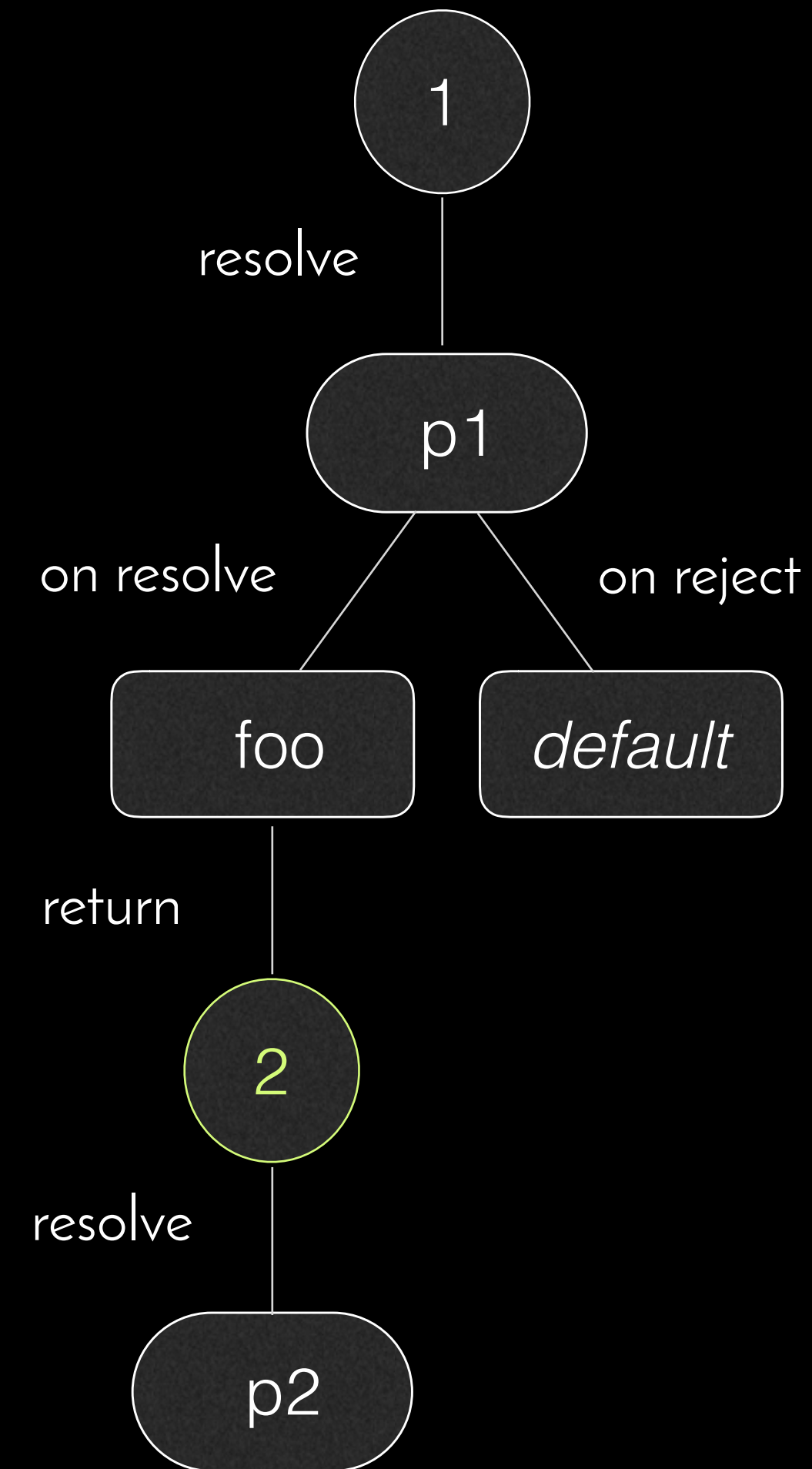
web app

1. Instrument automatically

2. Collect execution traces

3. Infer promise graphs

```
let p1 = Promise.resolve(1);  
let p2 = p1.then(foo);  
function foo (x) {  
  return x + 1;  
}
```



# PromiseKeeper

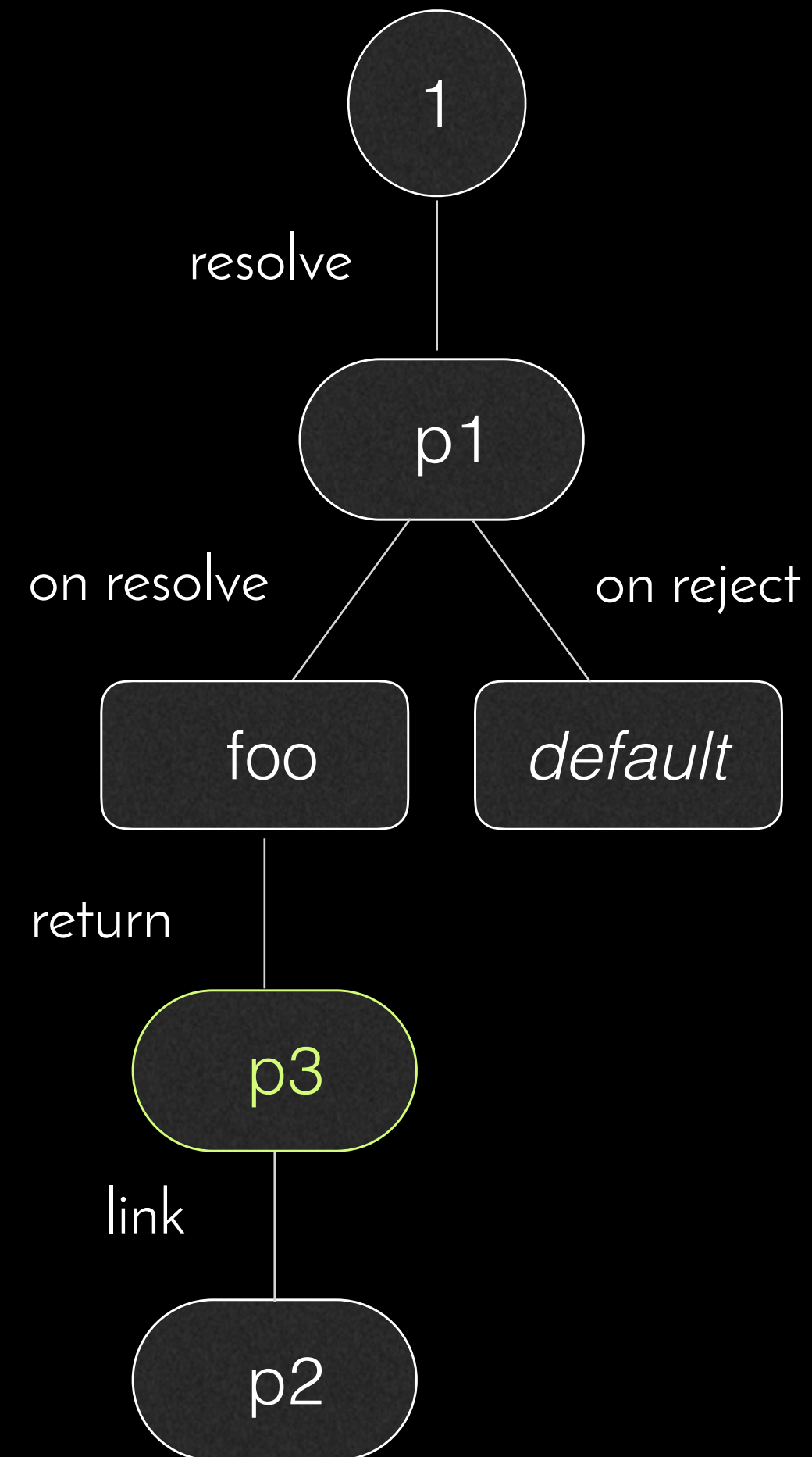
web app

1. Instrument automatically

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3. Infer promise graphs

```
let p1 = Promise.resolve(1);
let p2 = p1.then(foo);
function foo (x) {
  let p3 = Promise.resolve(x);
  return p3;
}
```





# PromiseKeeper

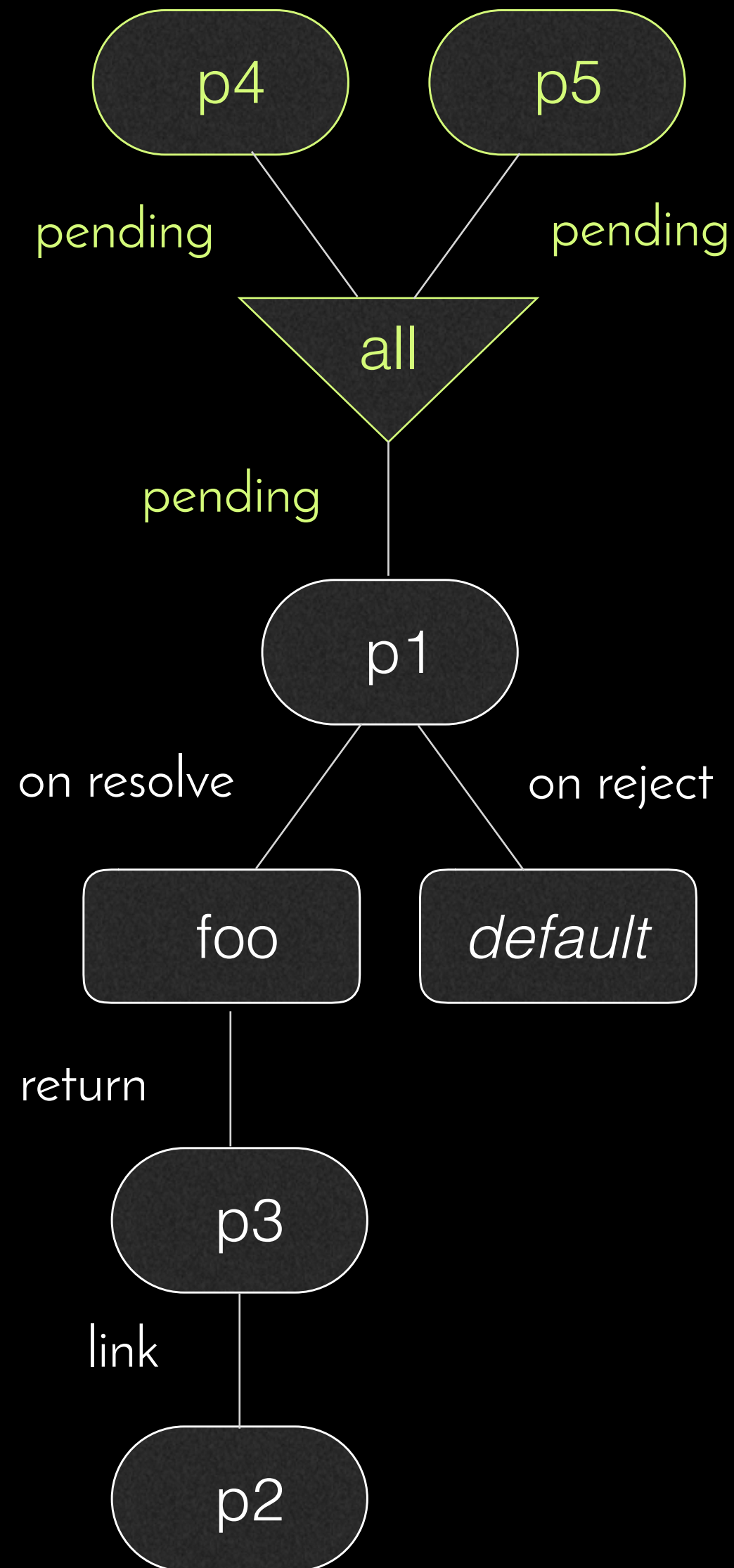
web app

1. Instrument automatically

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```
let p1 = Promise.all(p4, p5);
let p2 = p1.then(foo);
function foo (x) {
  let p3 = Promise.resolve(x);
  return p3;
}
```



# PromiseKeeper

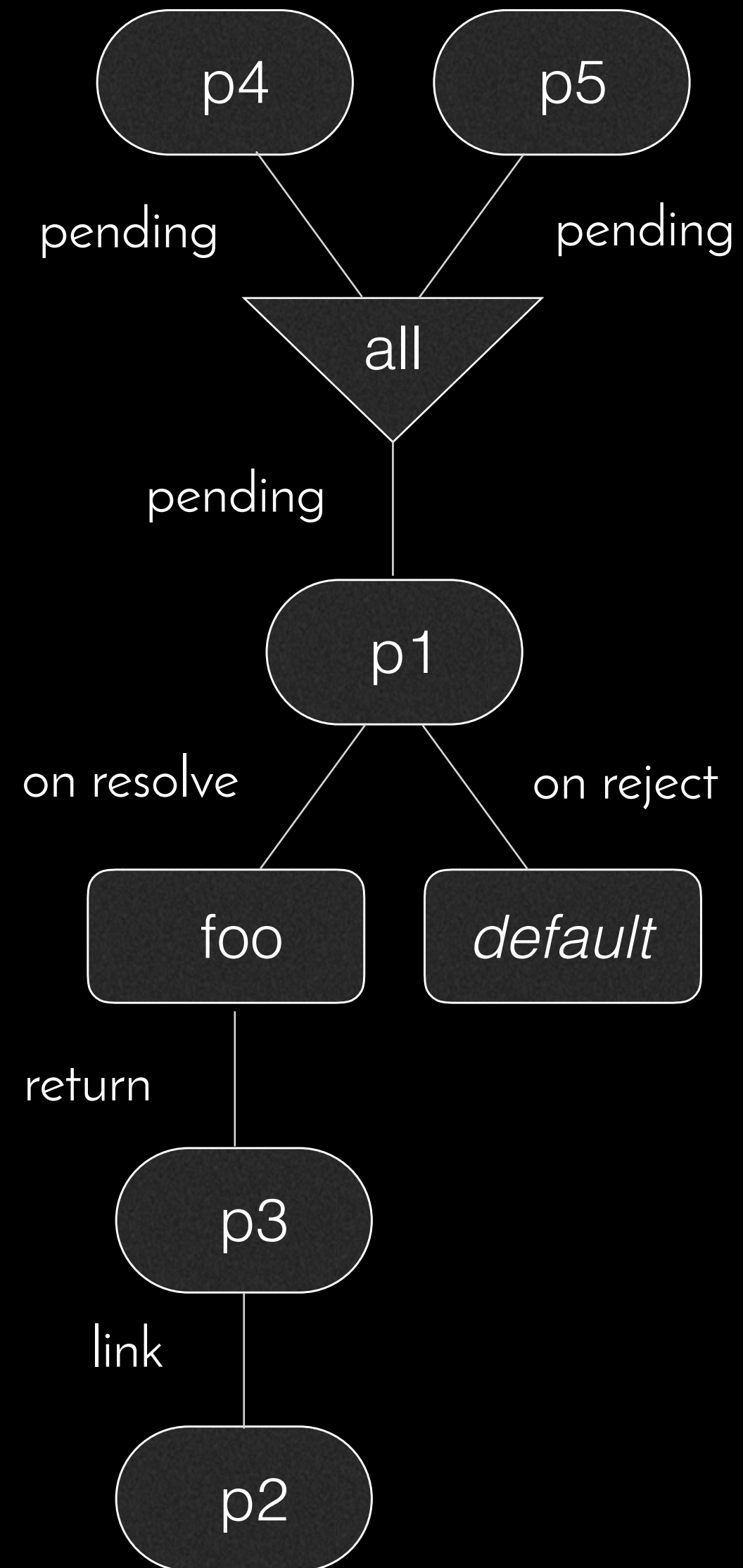
web app

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# PromiseKeeper

web app

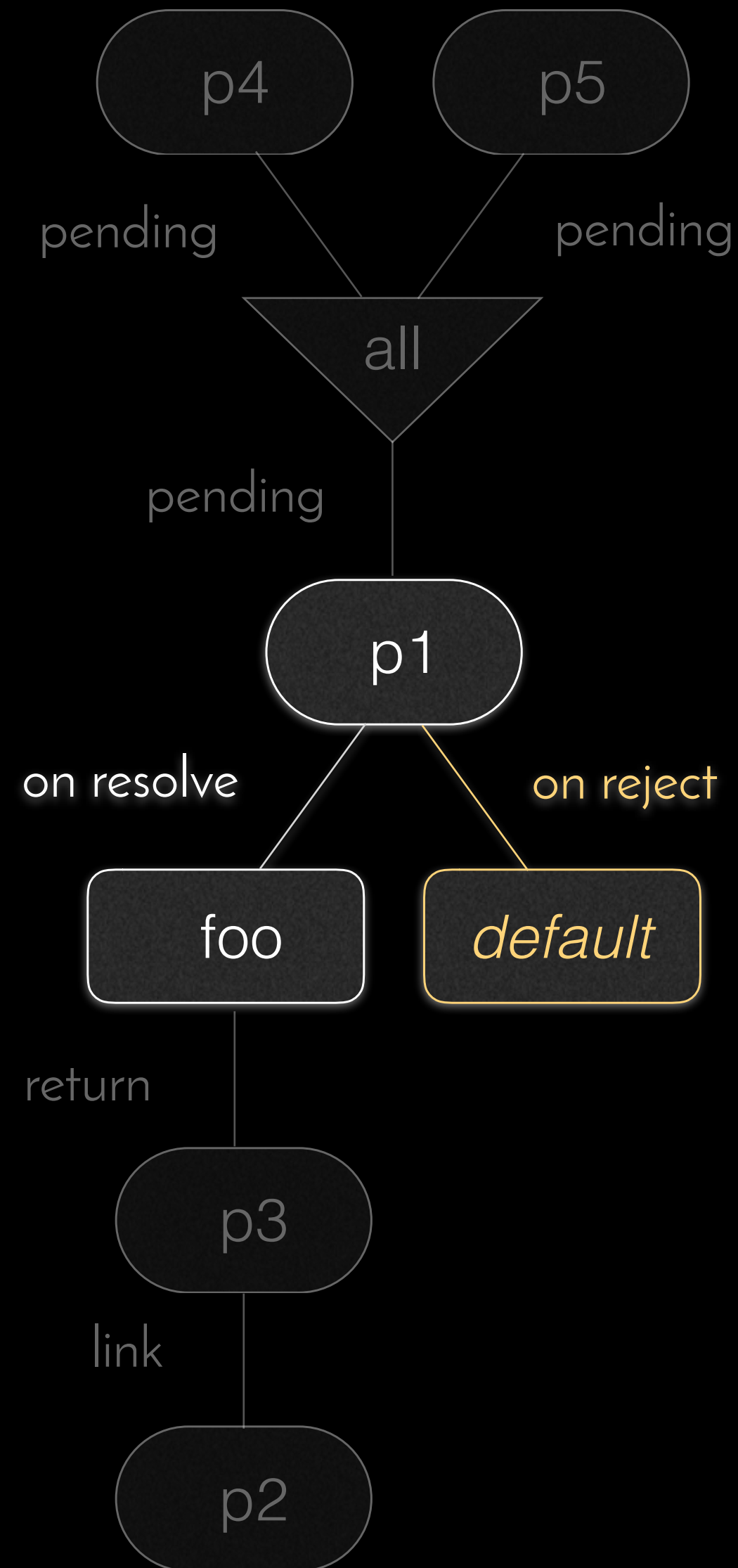
1. Instrument automatically

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4. Analyze anti-patterns

unhandled promise rejections



# PromiseKeeper

web app

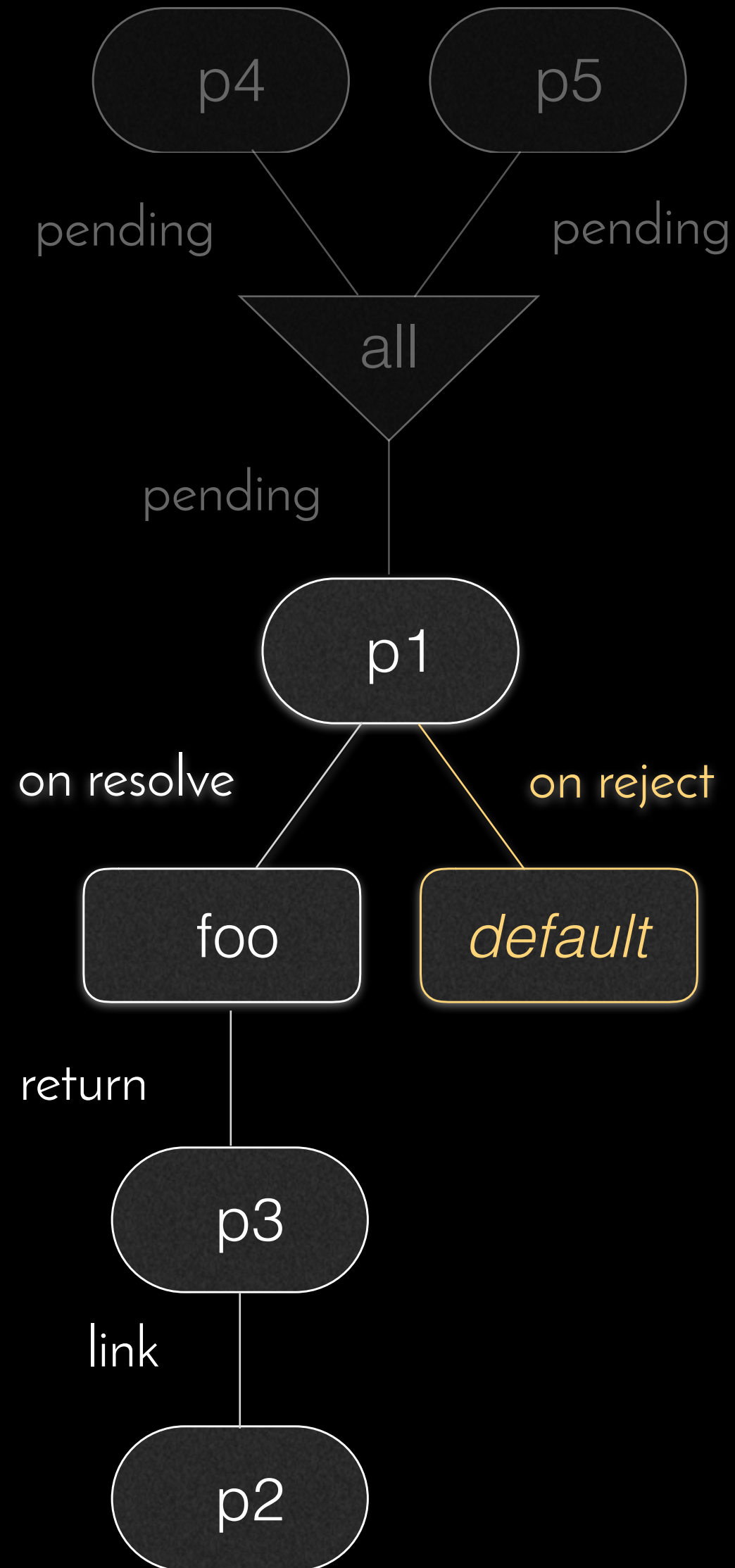
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# PromiseKeeper

web app

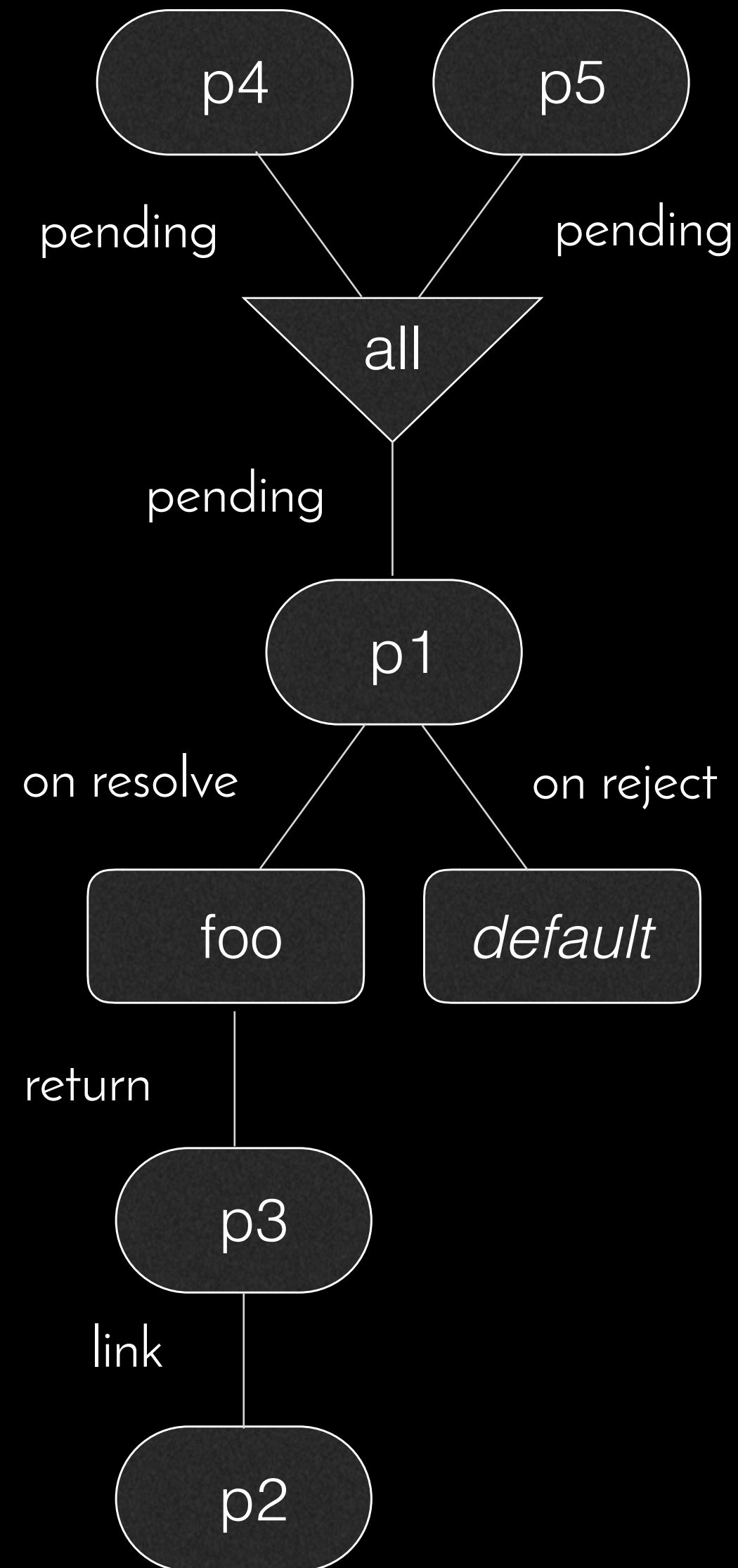
1. Instrument automatically

2. Collect execution traces

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**unsettled promises**



# PromiseKeeper

web app



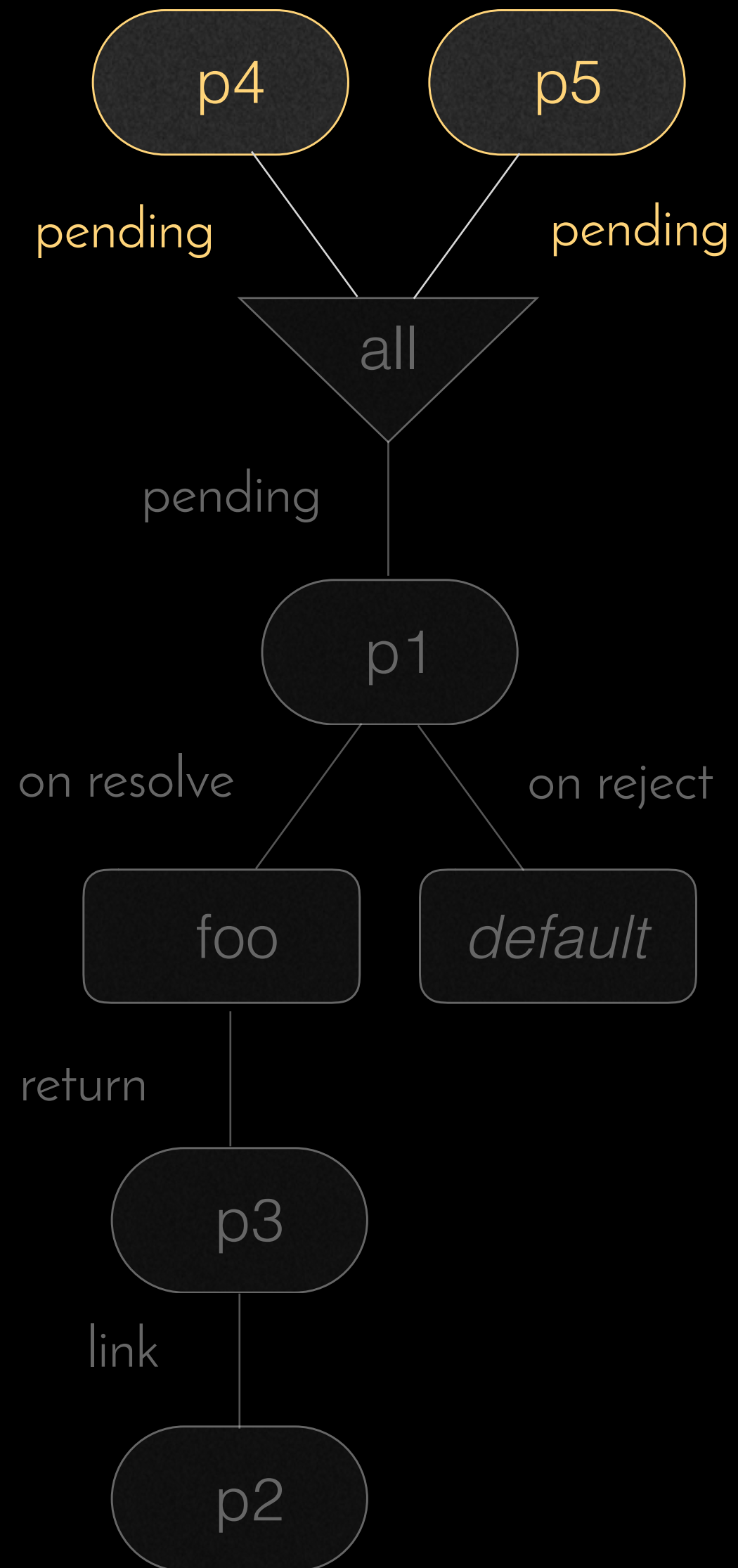
1. Instrument automatically

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**unsettled promises**



# PromiseKeeper

web app

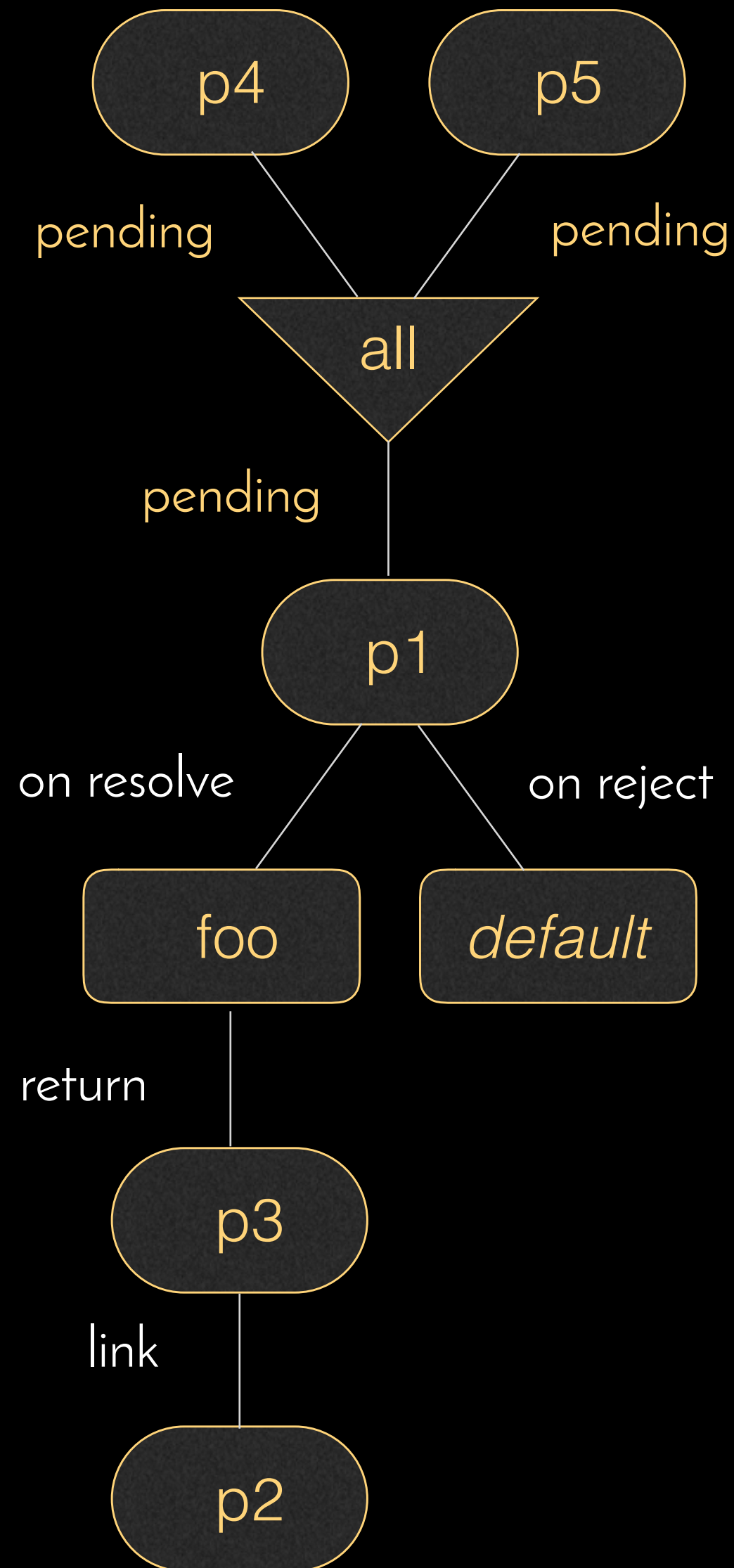
1. Instrument automatically

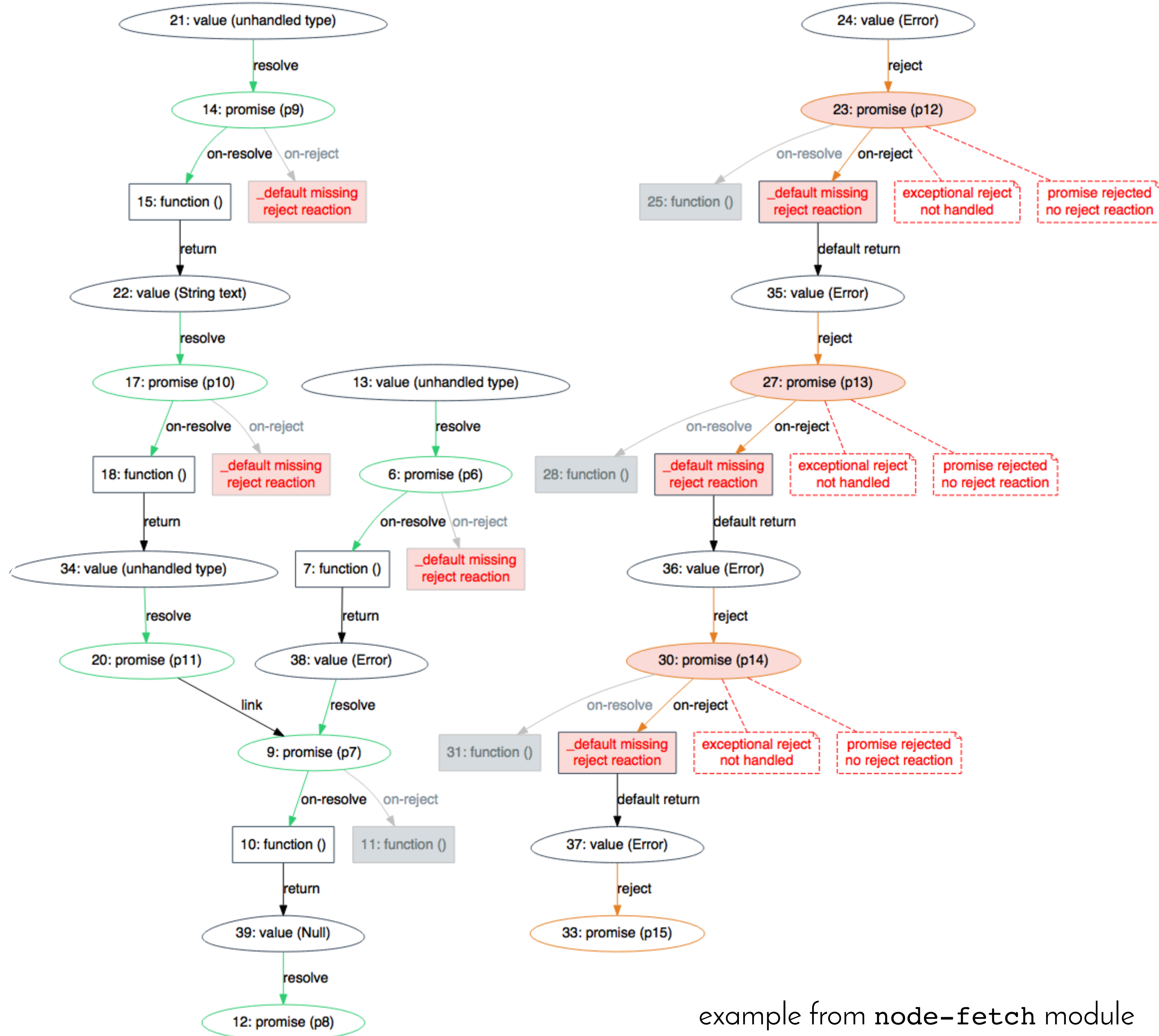
2. Collect execution traces

3. Infer promise graphs

4. Analyze anti-patterns

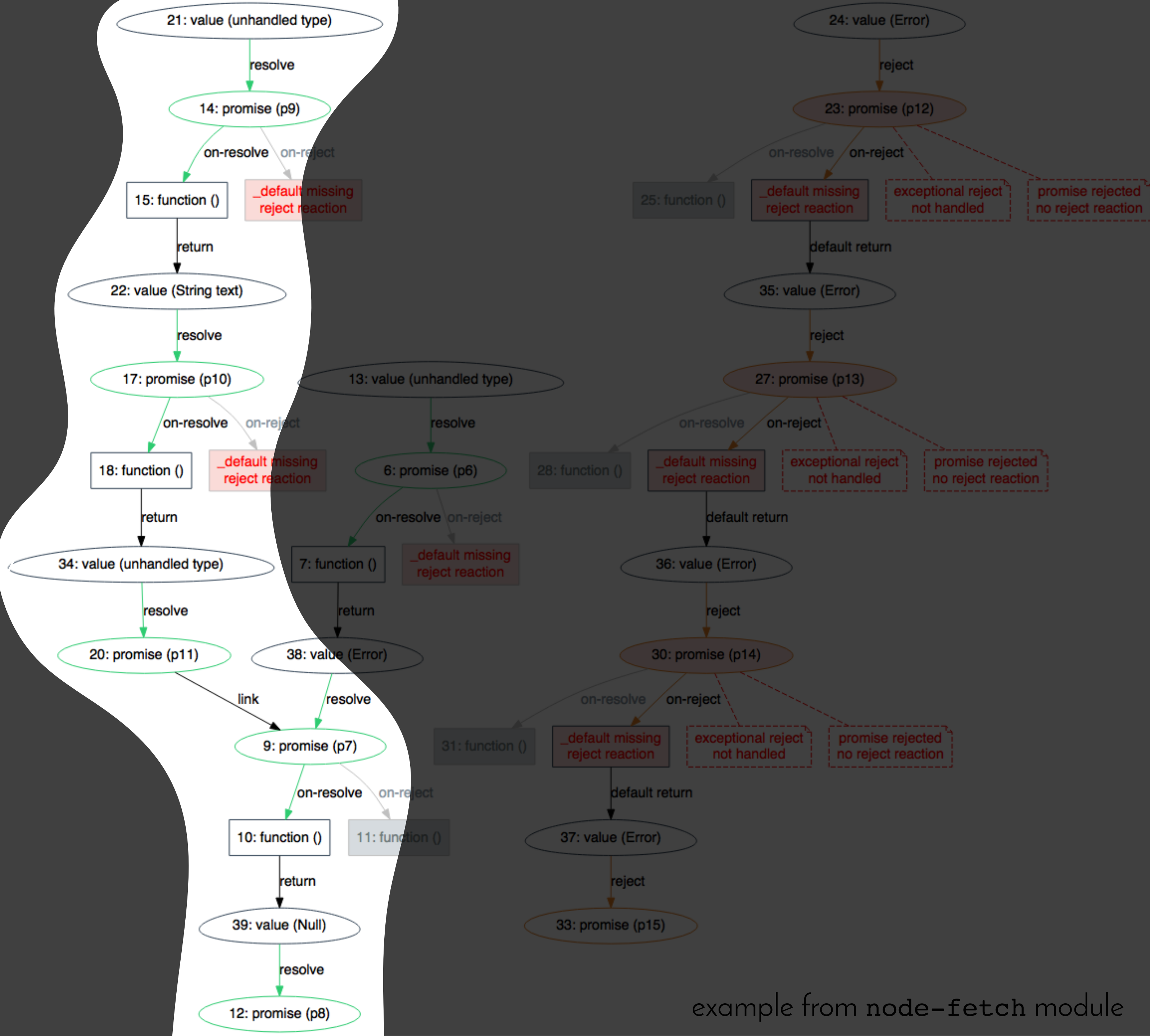
**unsettled promises**





example from node-fetch module

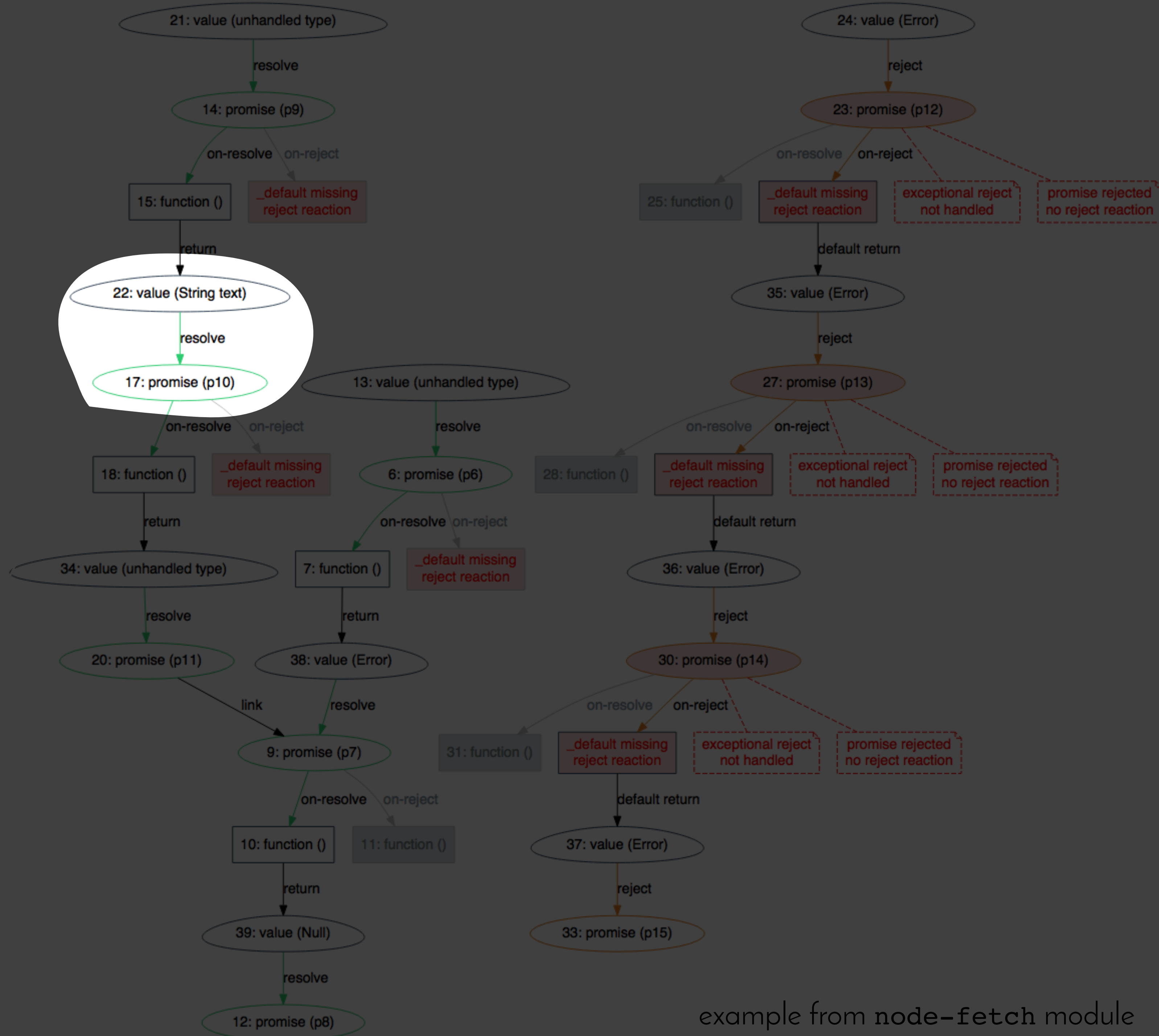




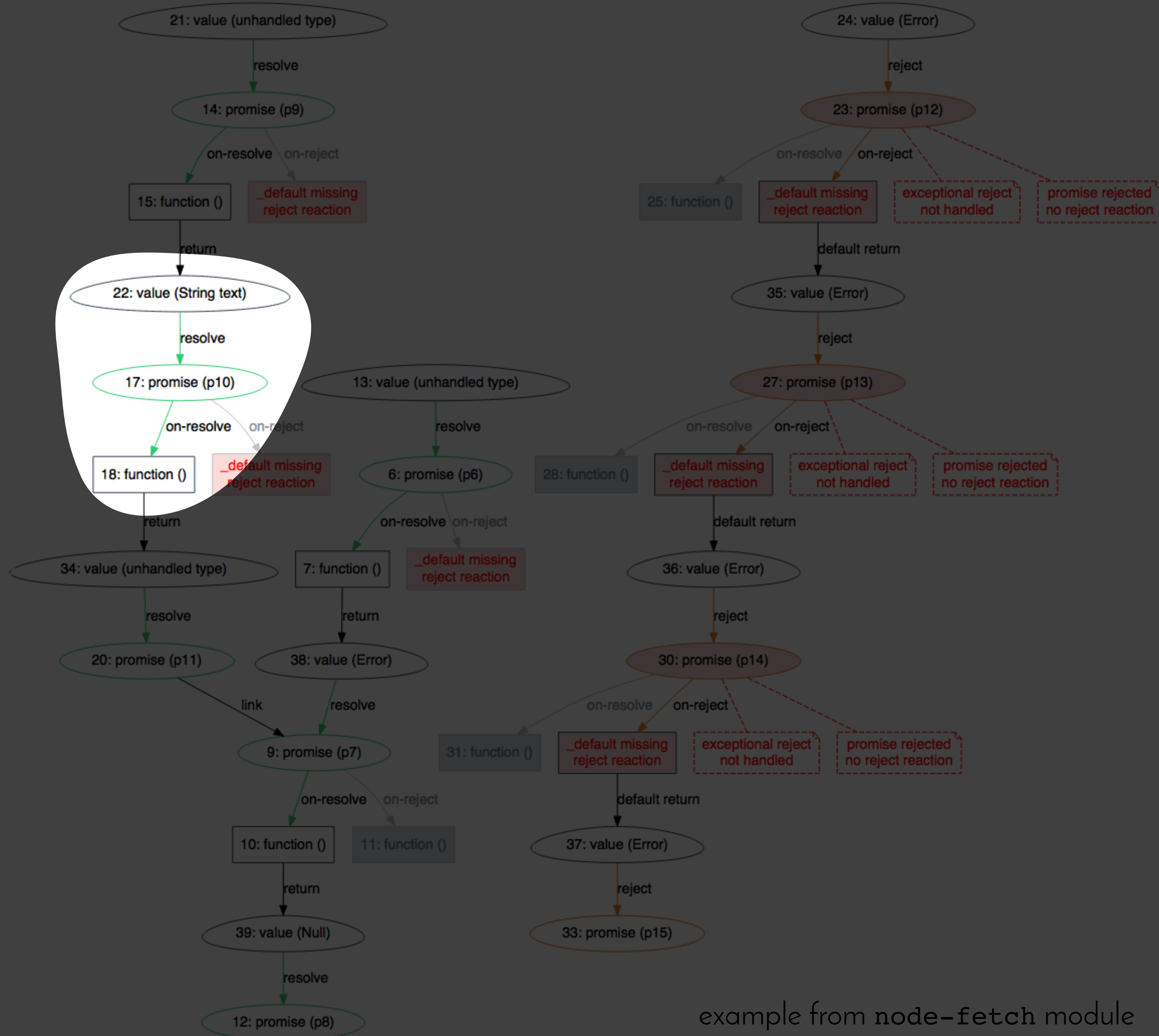
example from node-fetch module



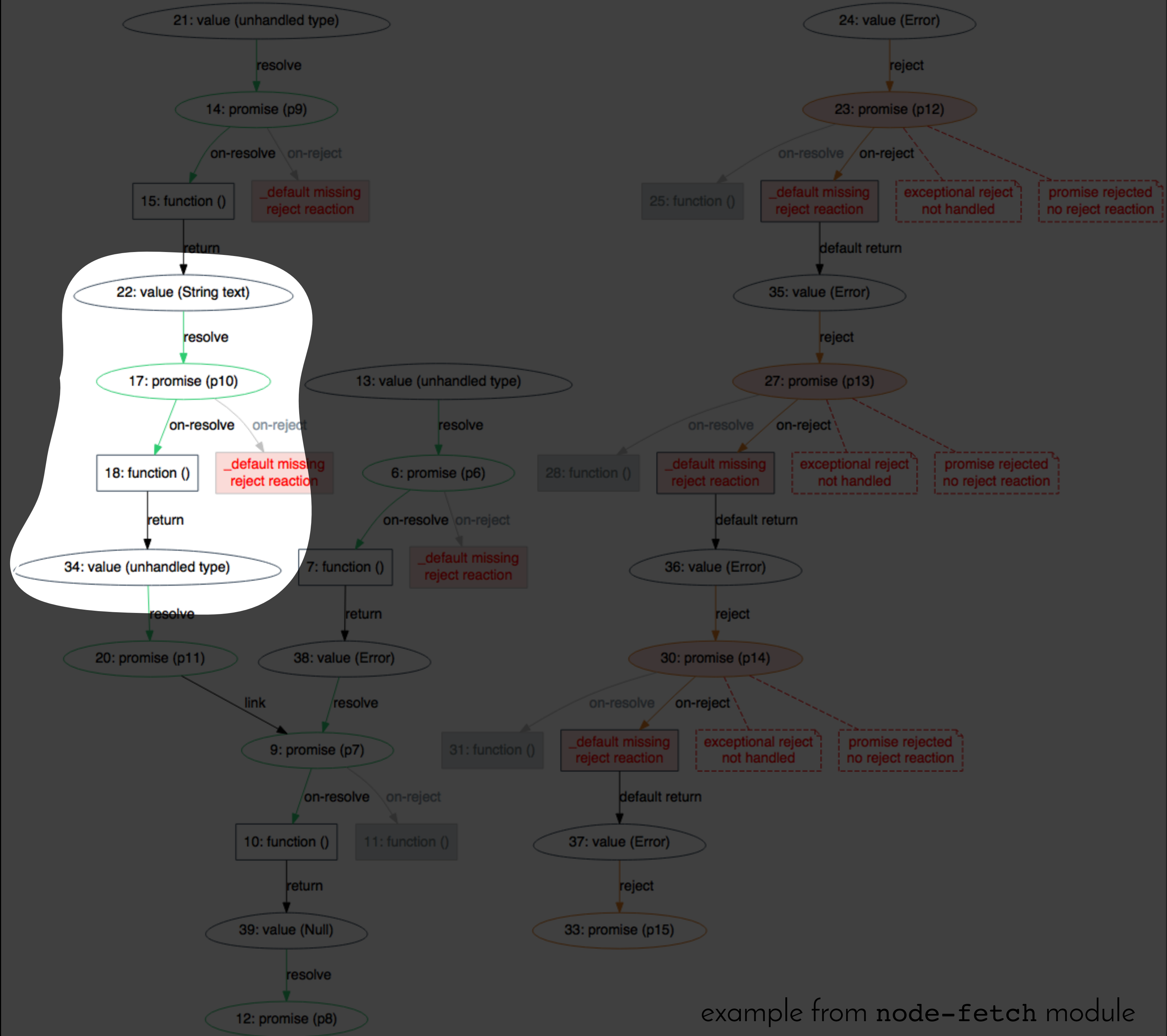
example from node-fetch module



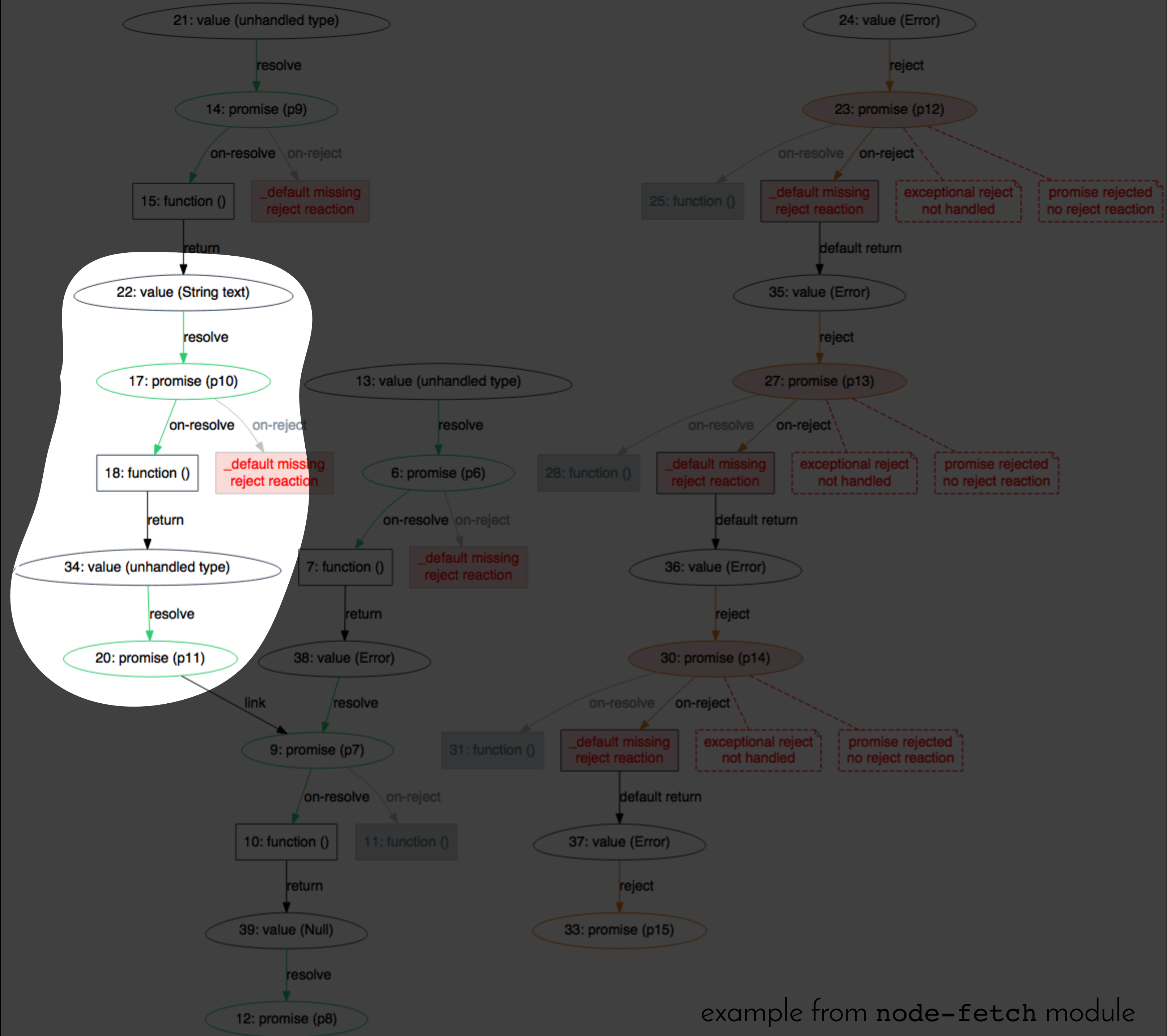
example from node-fetch module



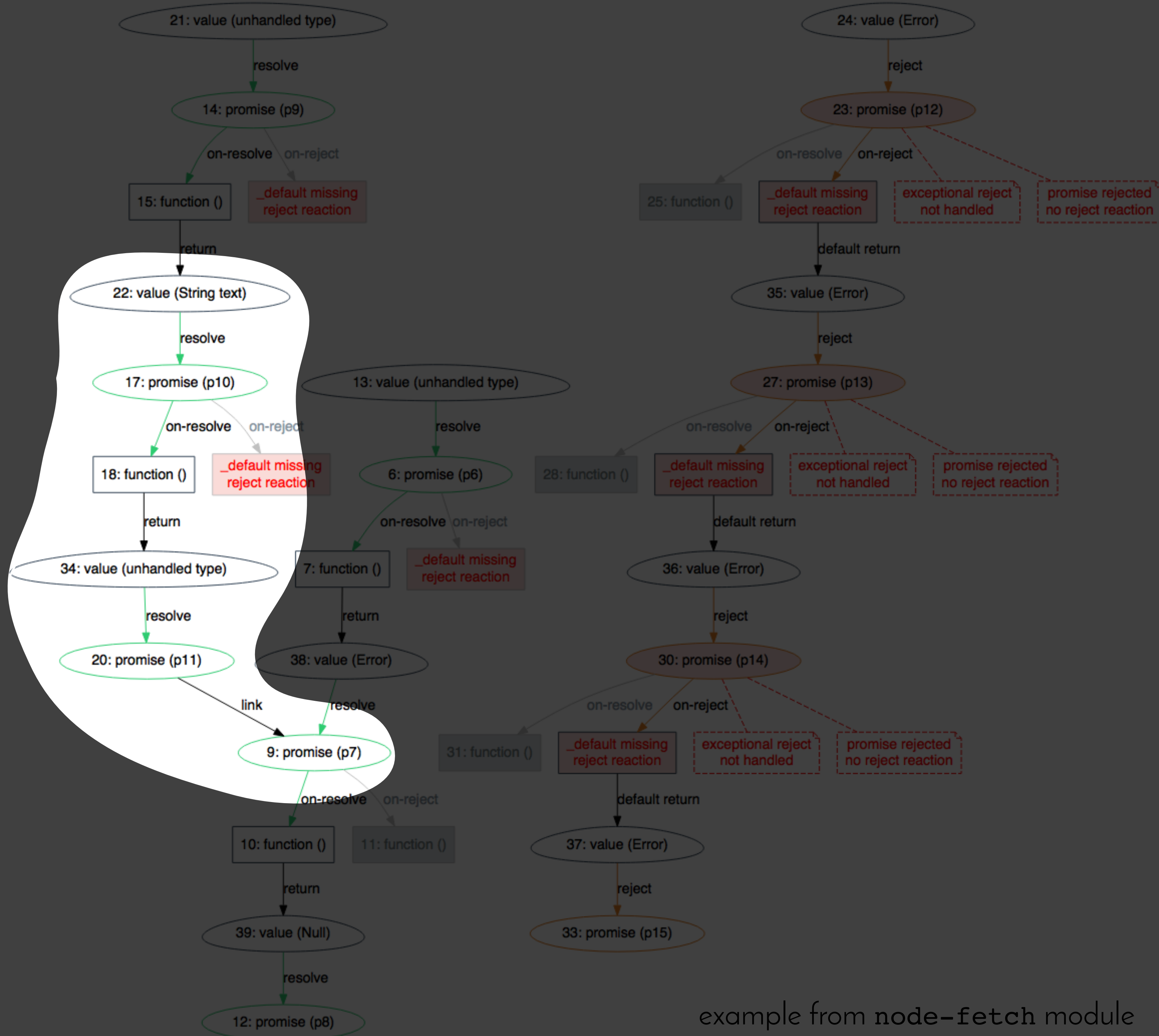
example from node-fetch module



example from node-fetch module



example from node-fetch module

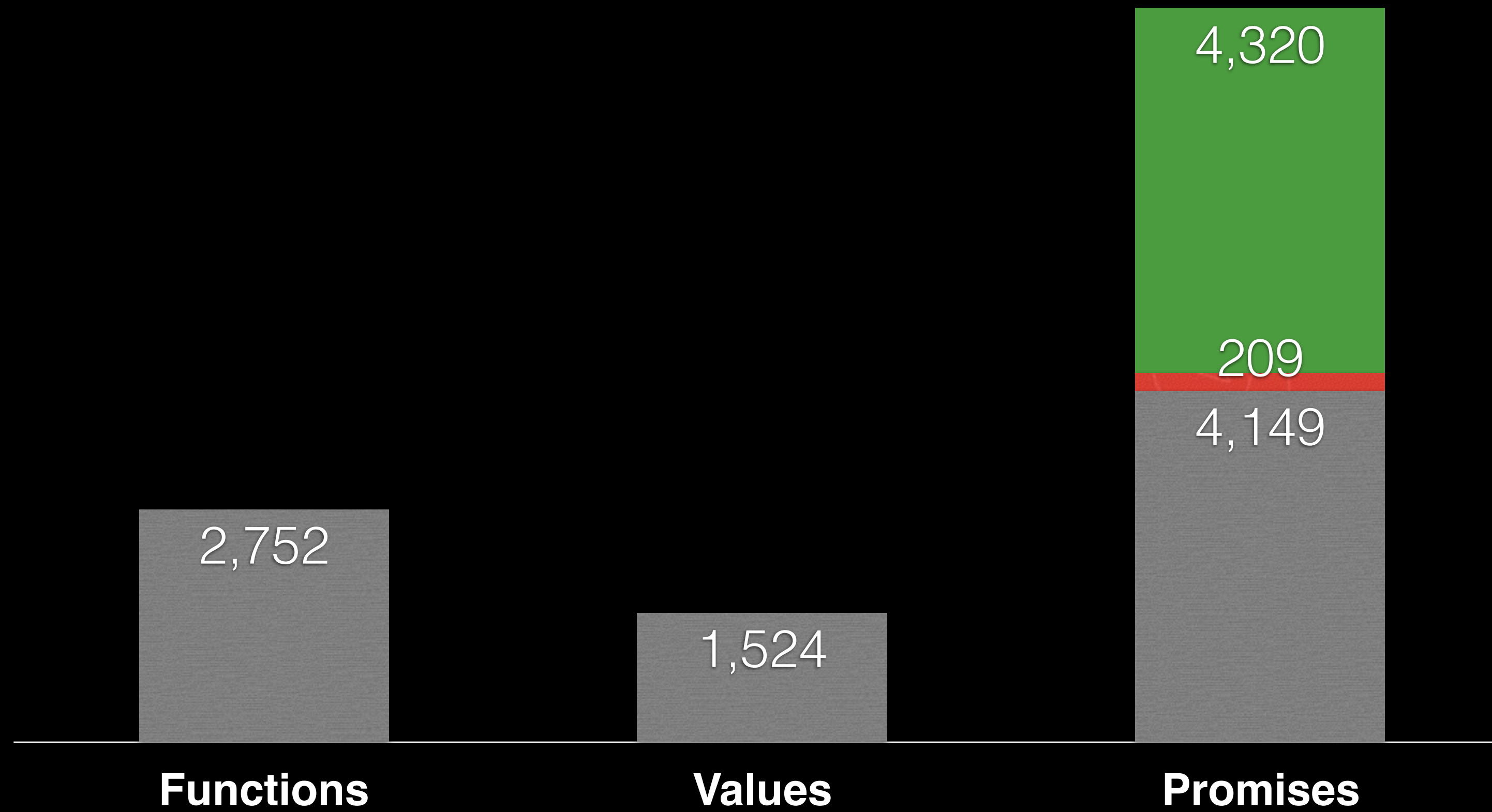


example from node-fetch module

# Broken Promises







115,000  
Lines of



209

209  
rejected promises

209

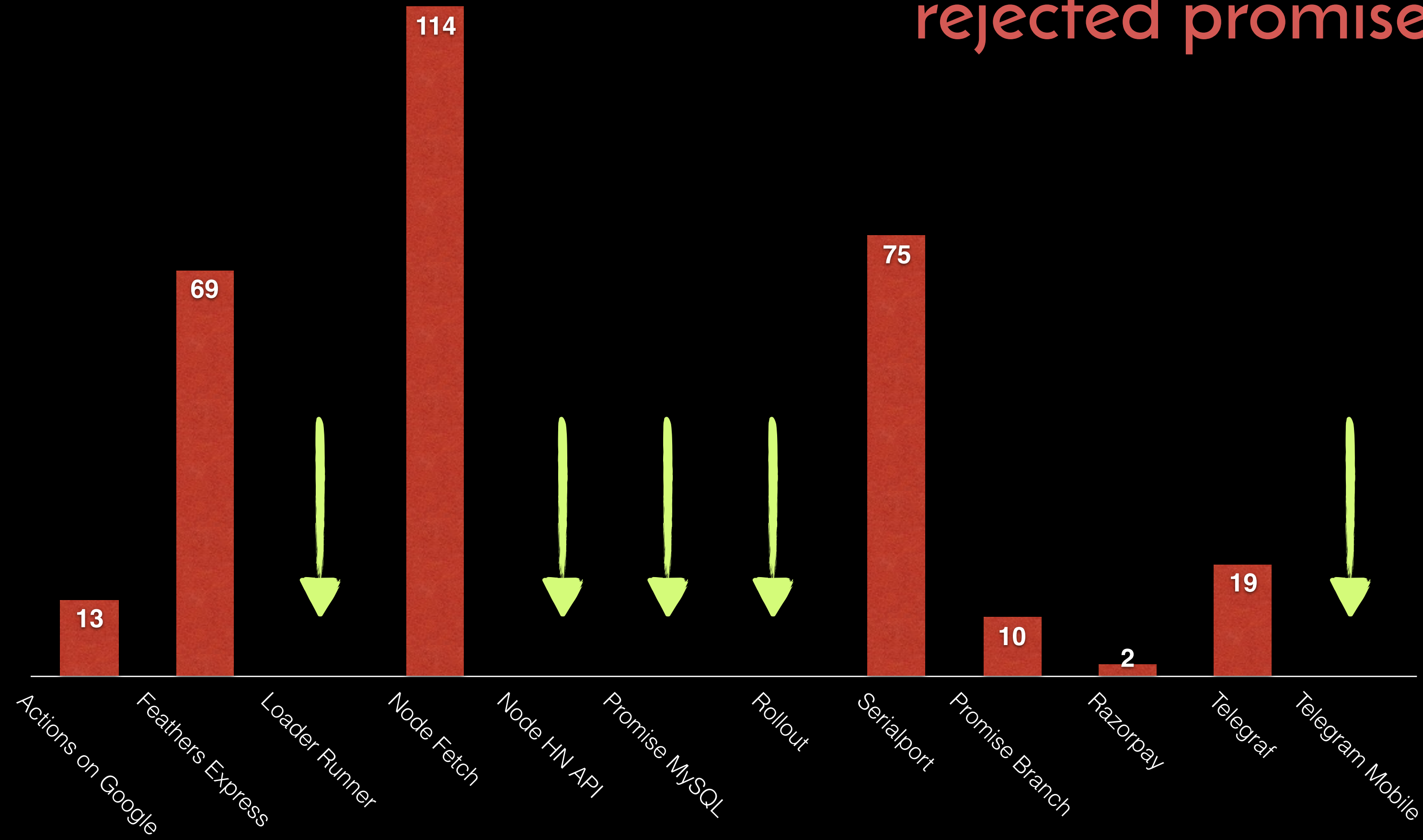
rejected promises

---

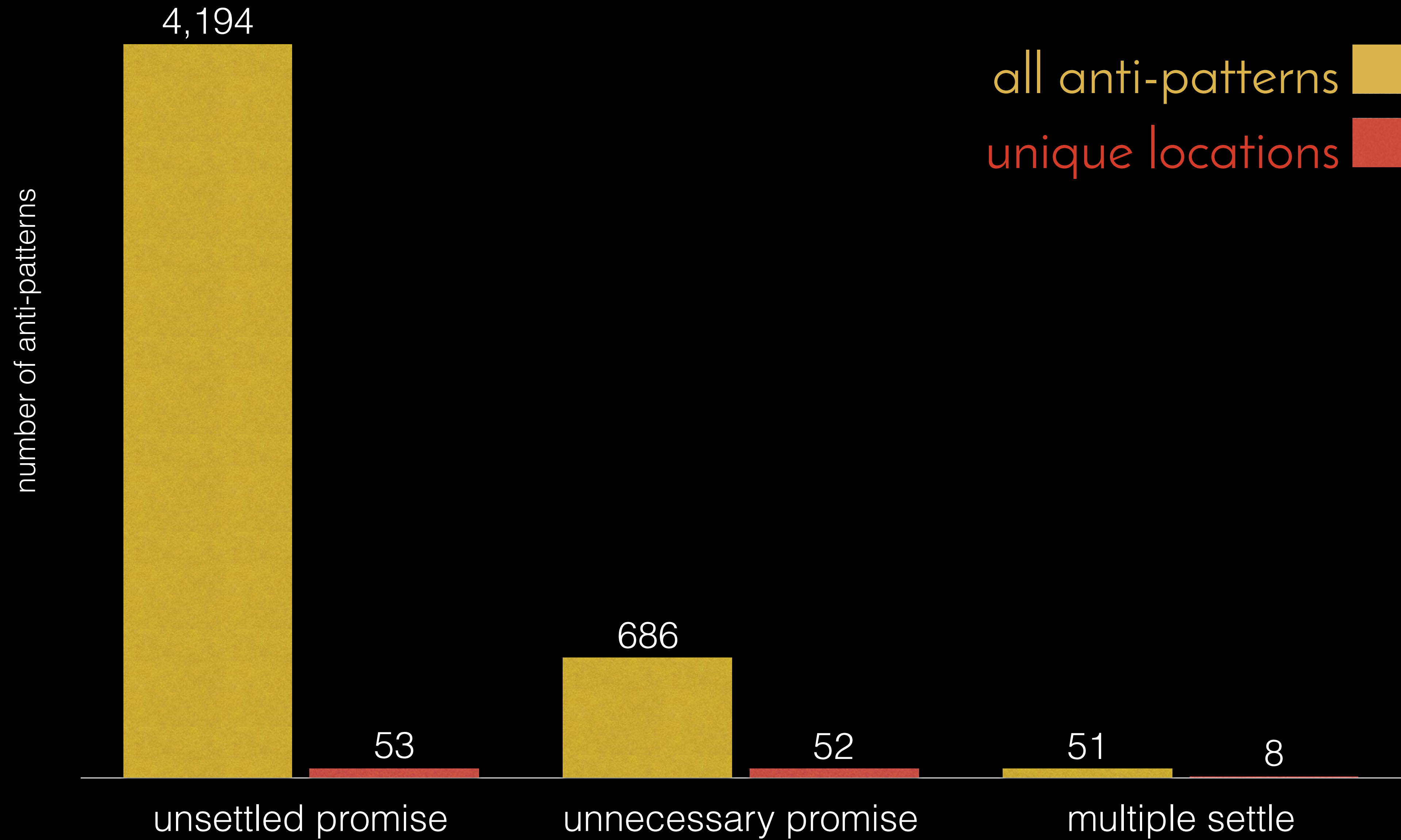
total  
8698

# rejected promises

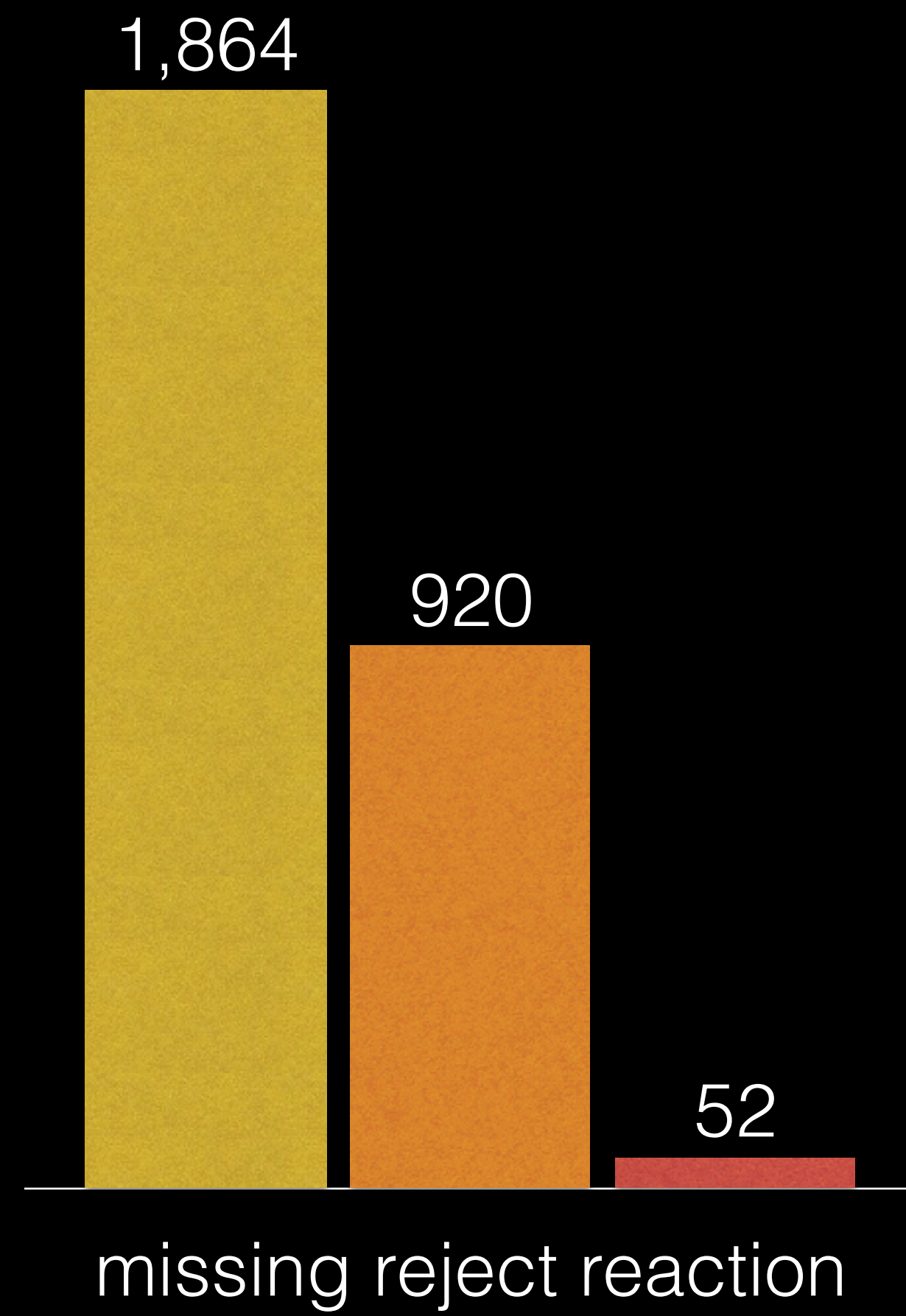
number of rejected promises

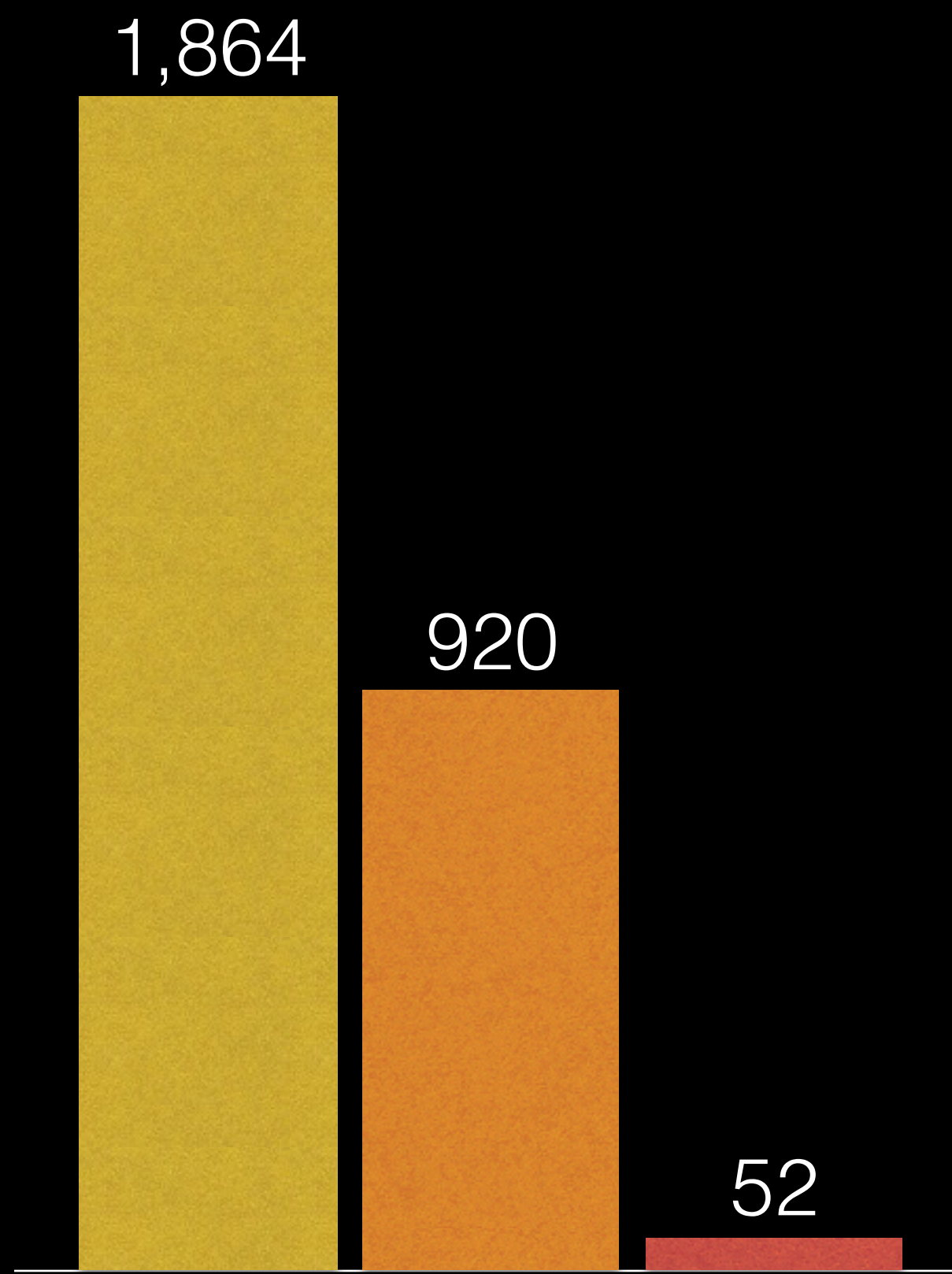


subject applications



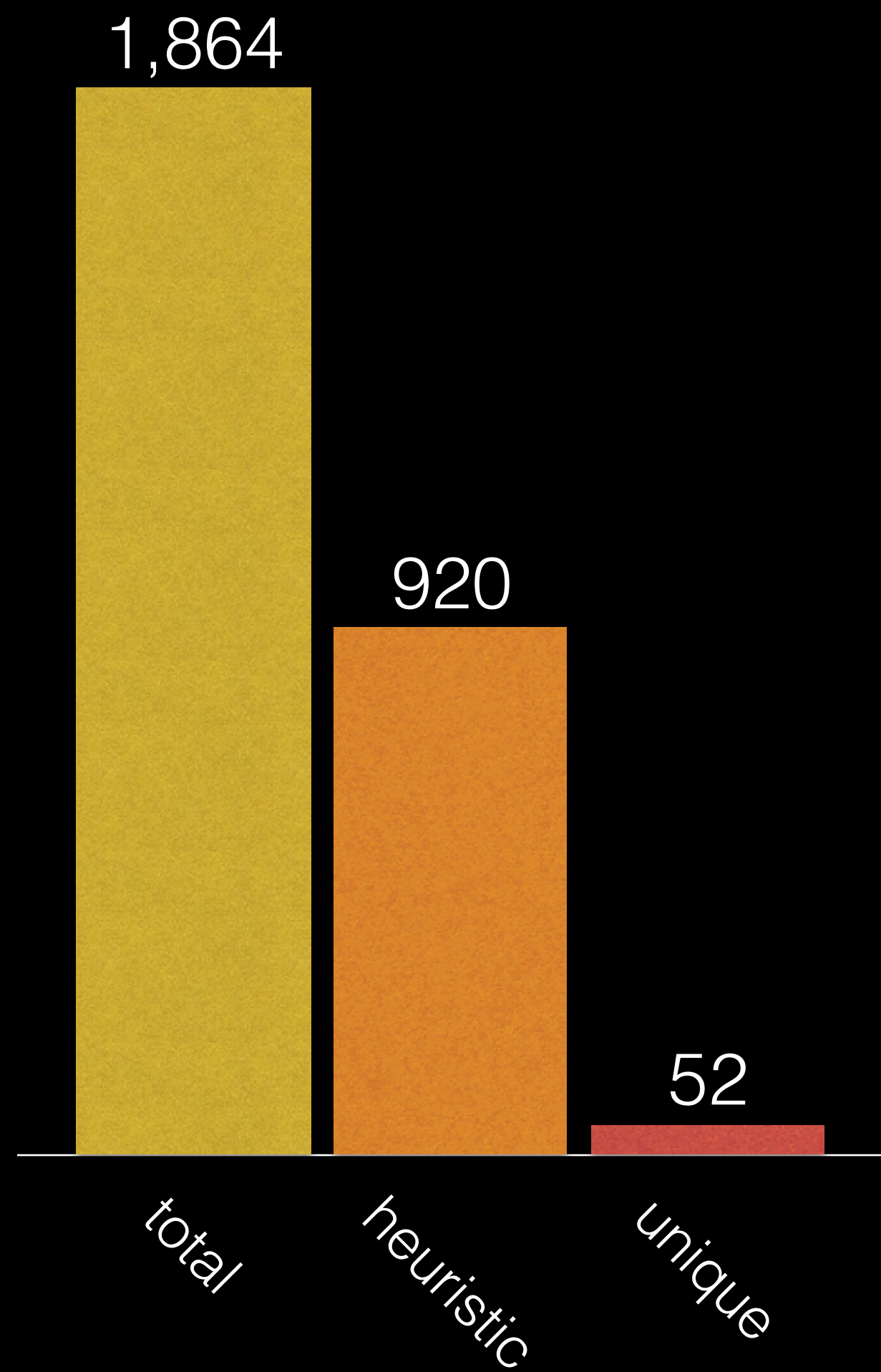






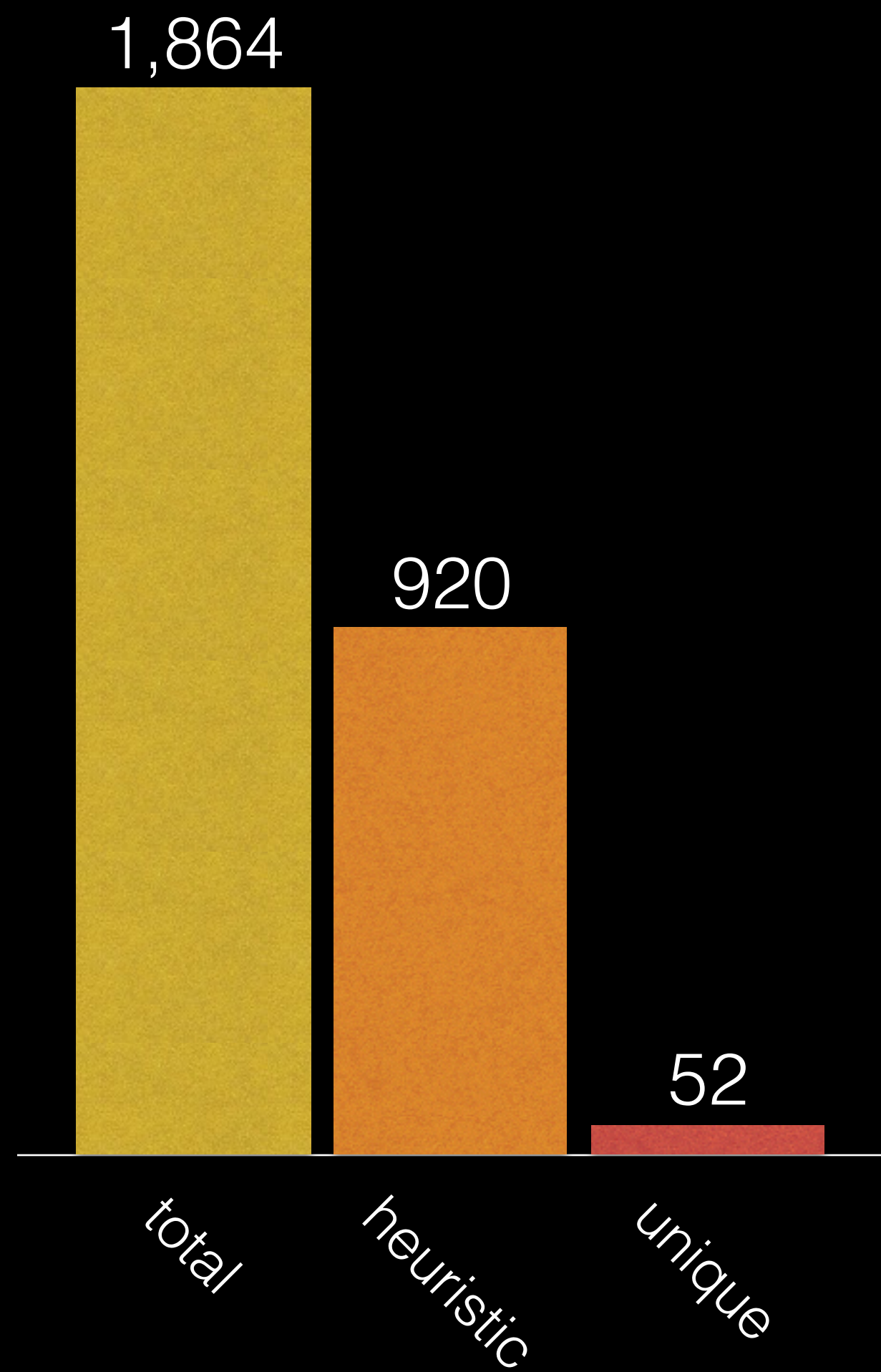


missing reject reactions

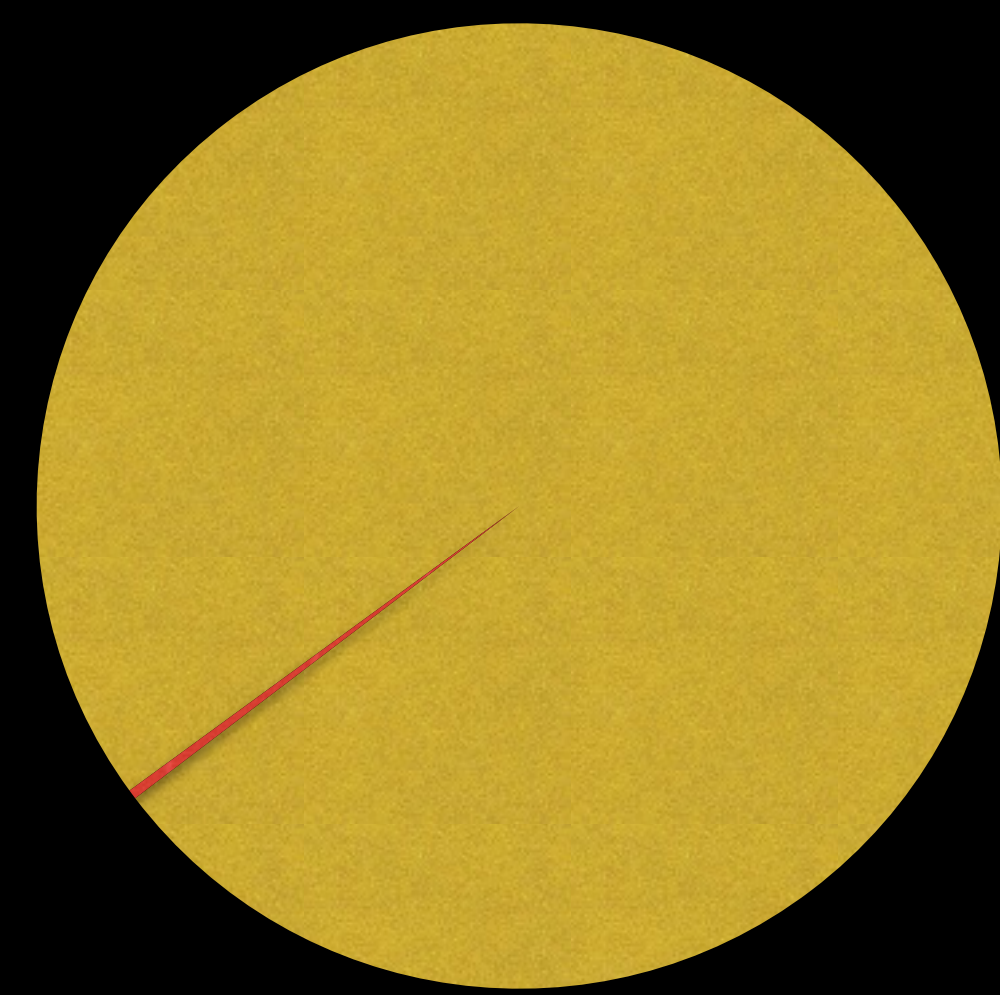
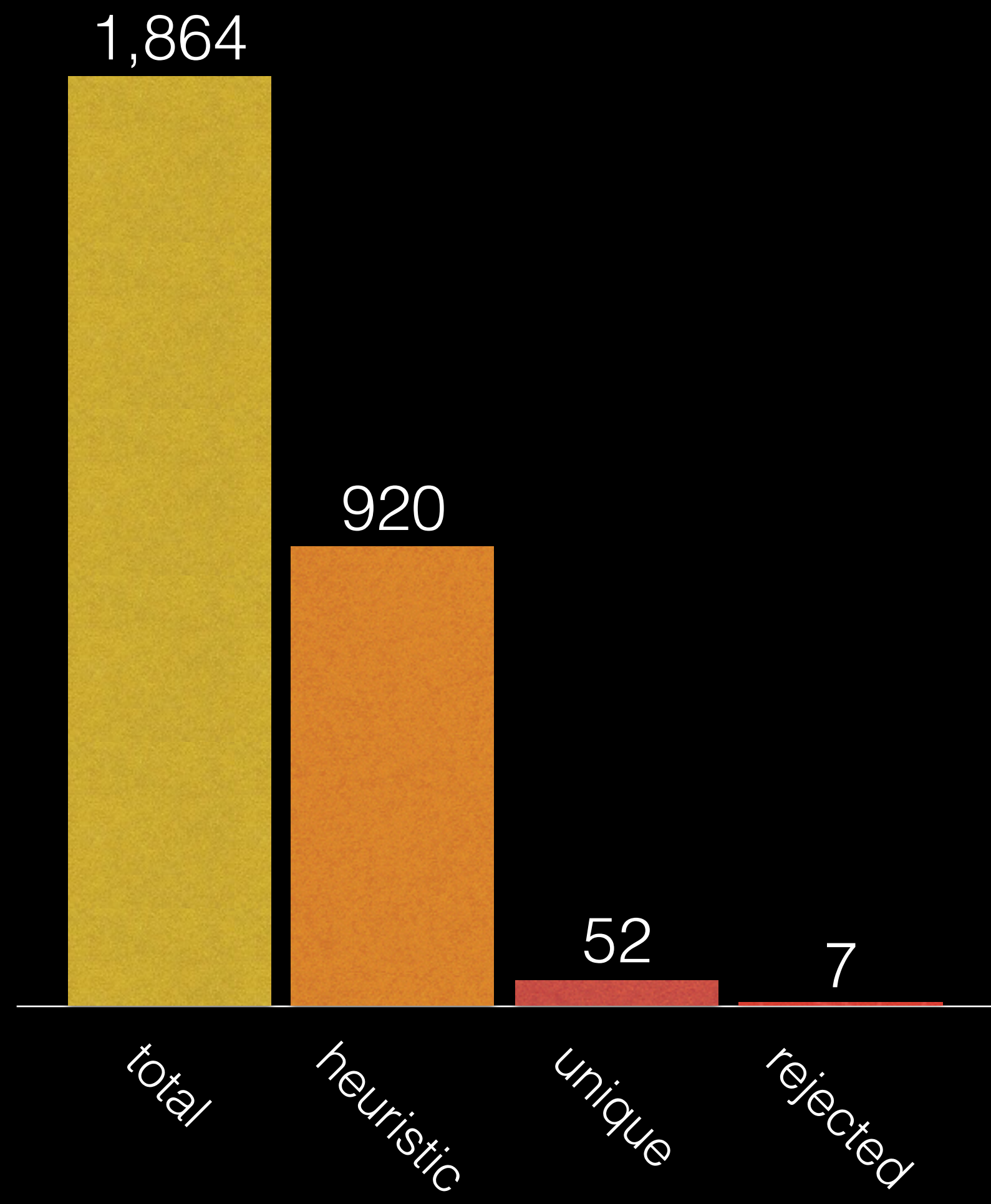




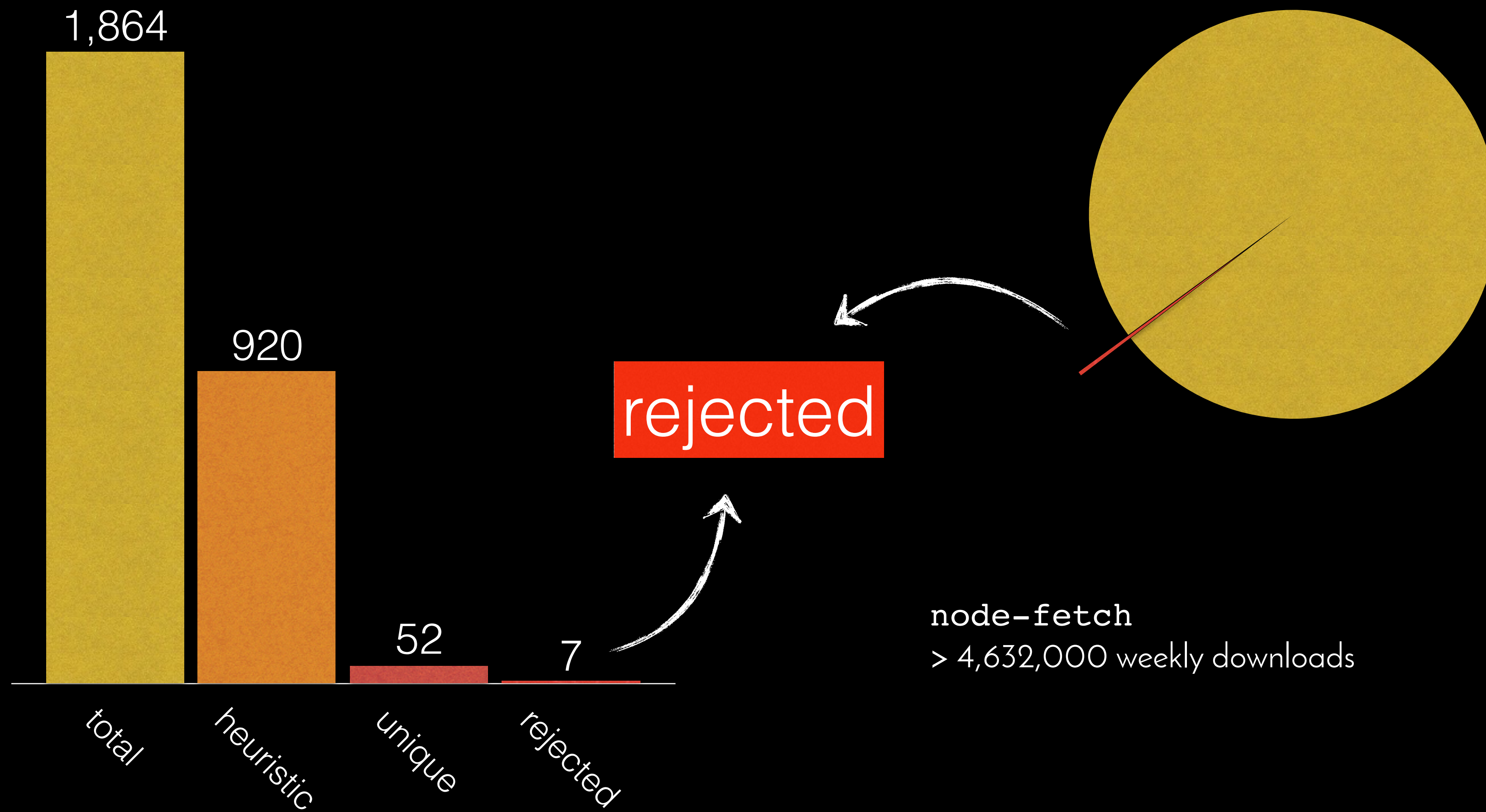
missing reject reactions

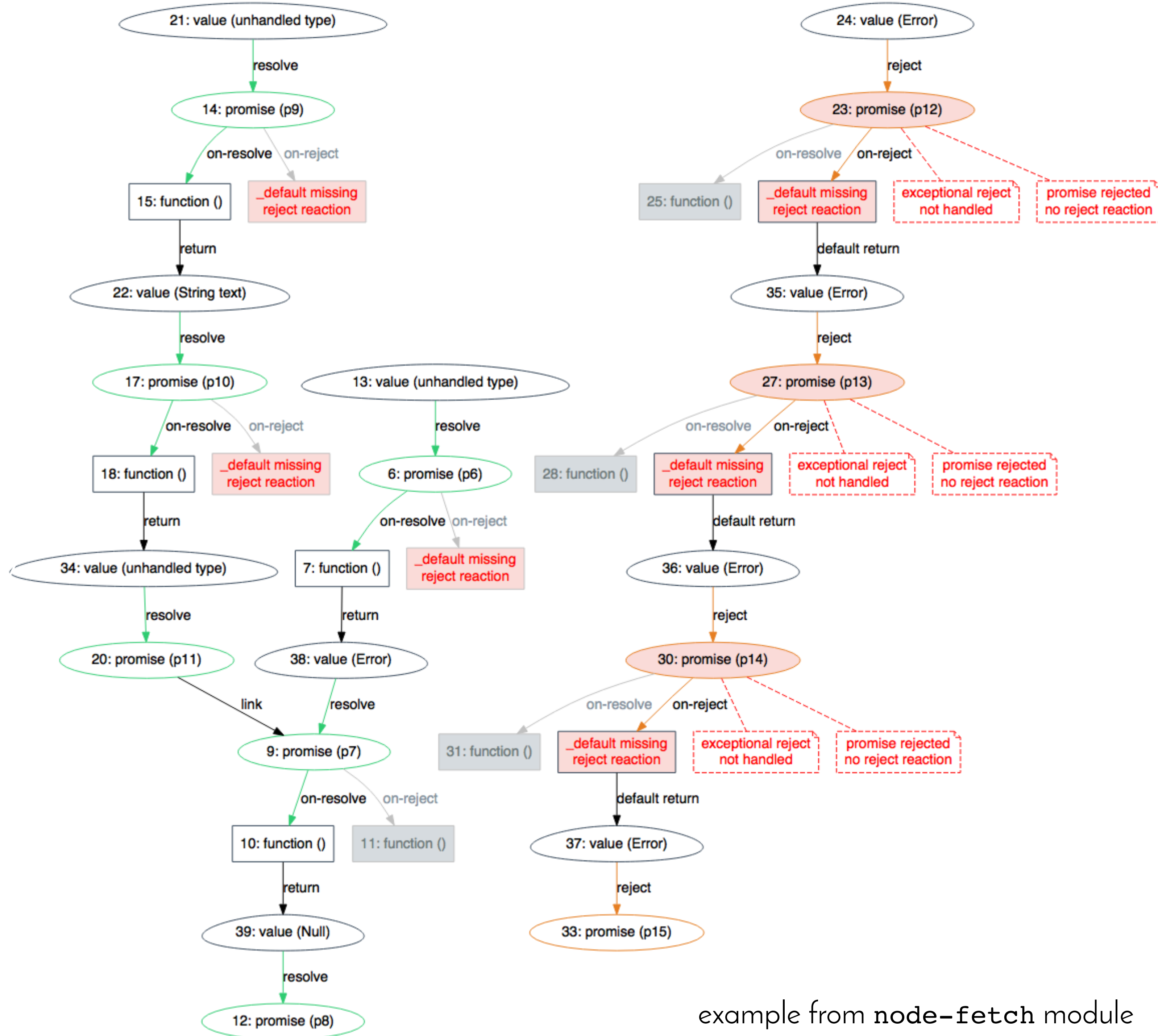


missing reject reactions



missing reject reactions

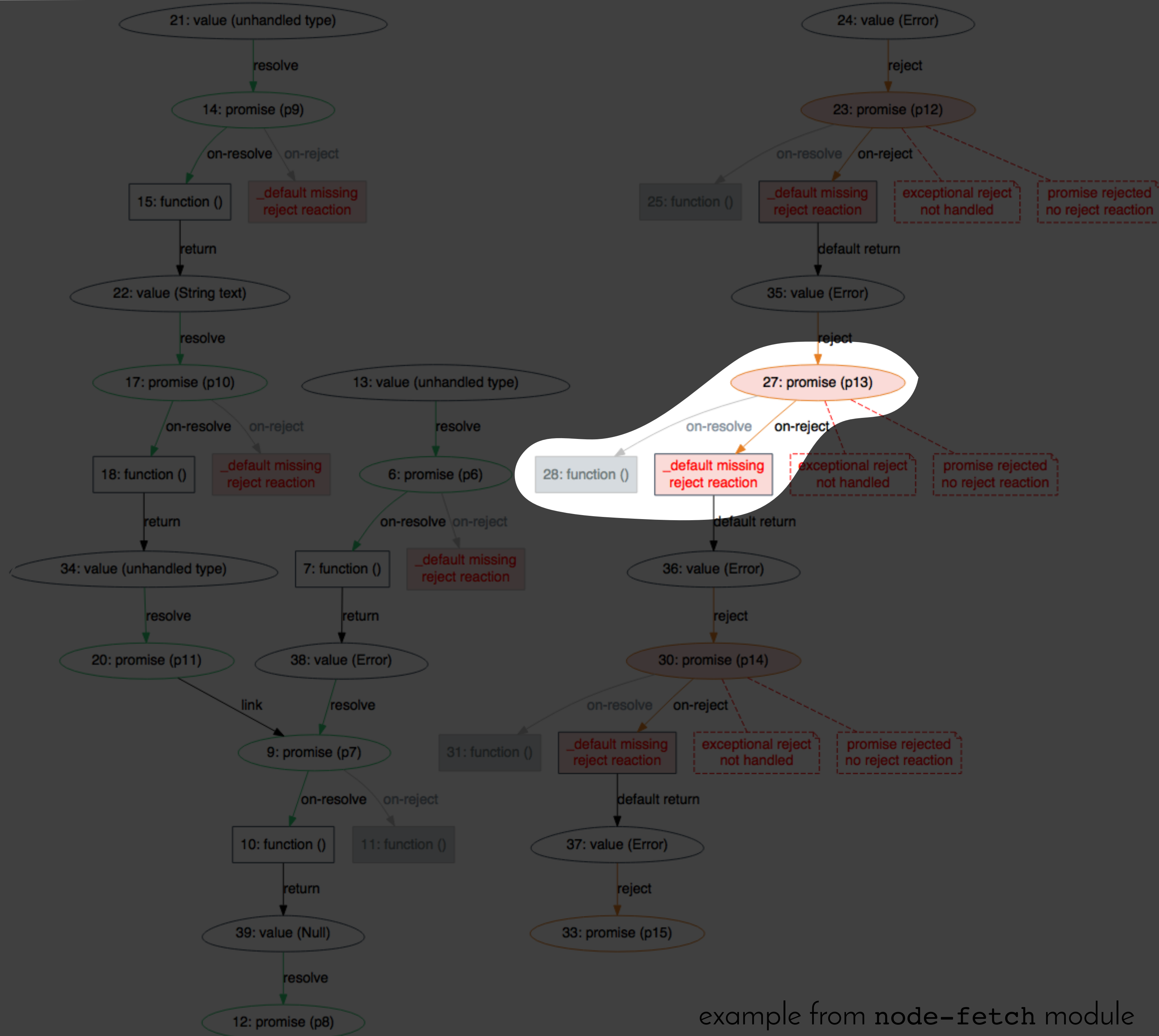




example from node-fetch module

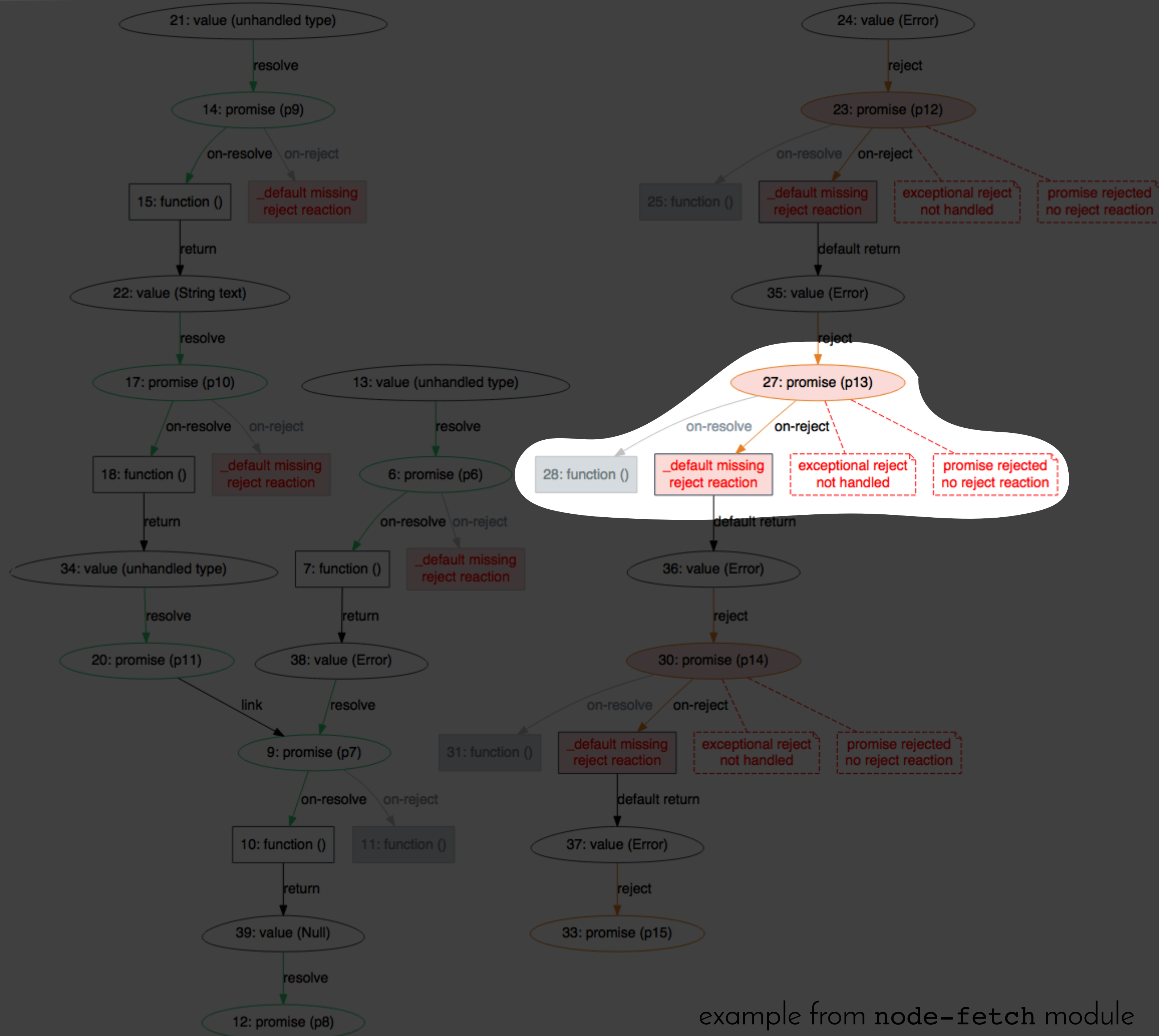


example from node-fetch module

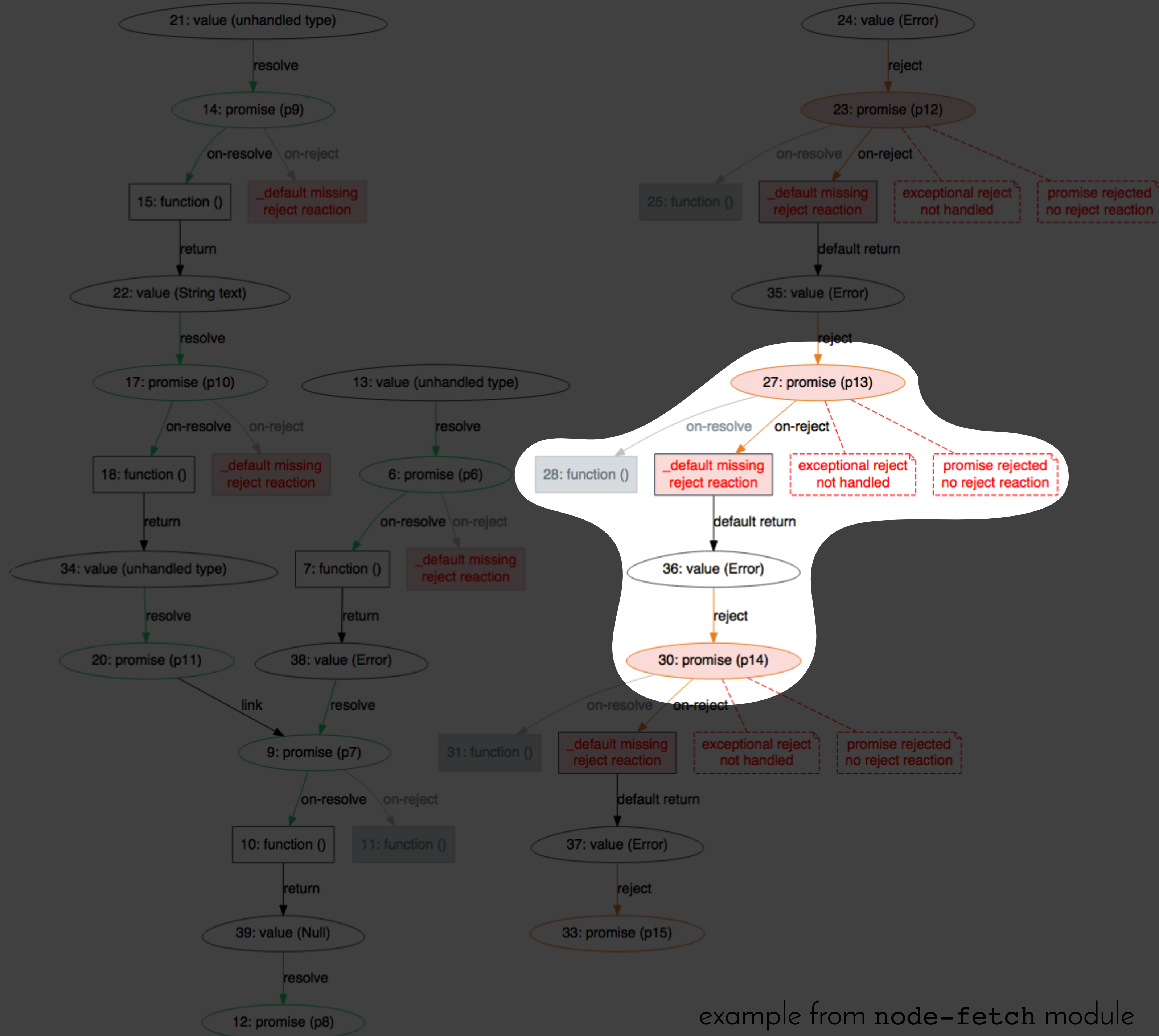


example from node-fetch module

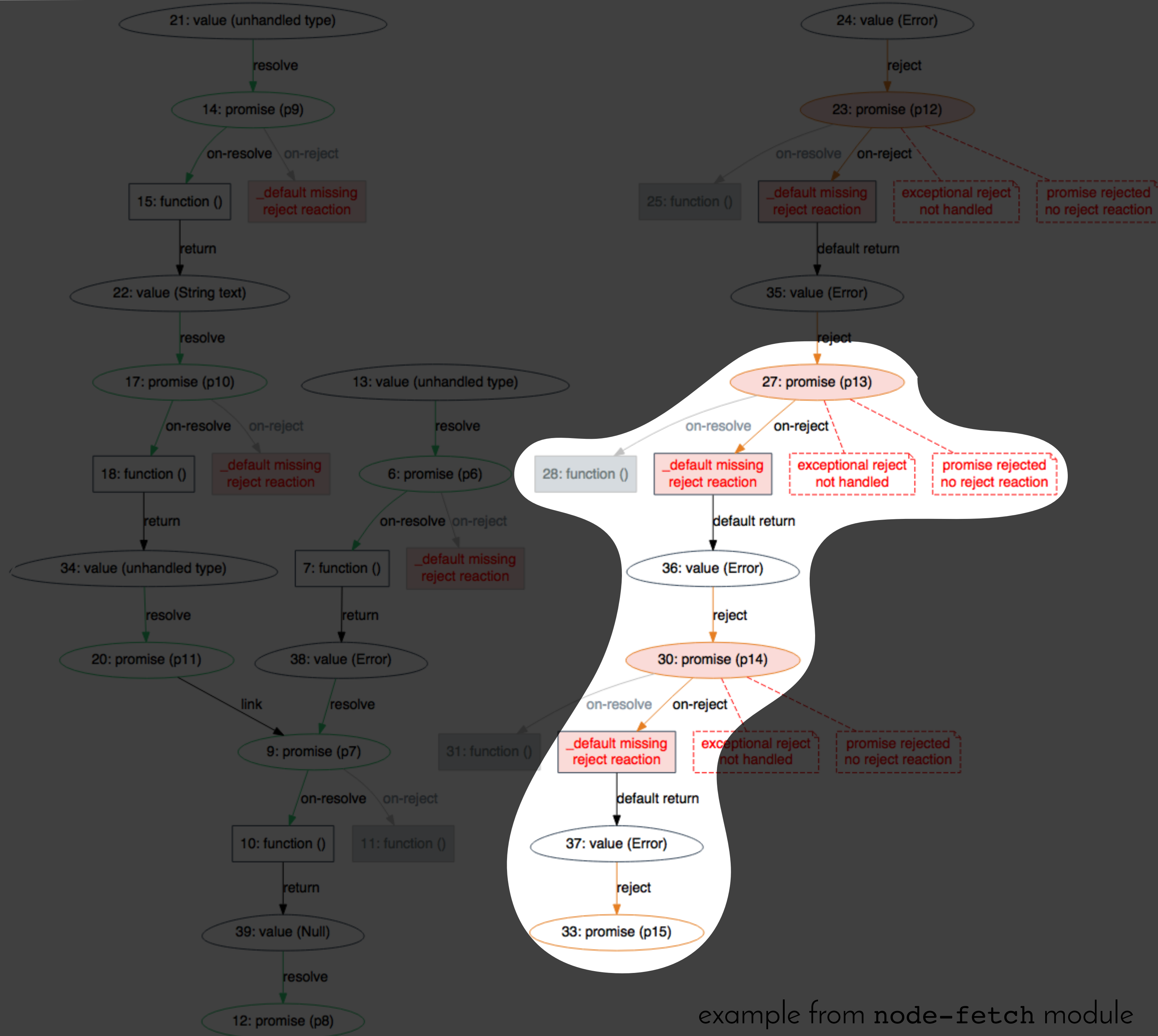




example from node-fetch module



example from node-fetch module



example from node-fetch module

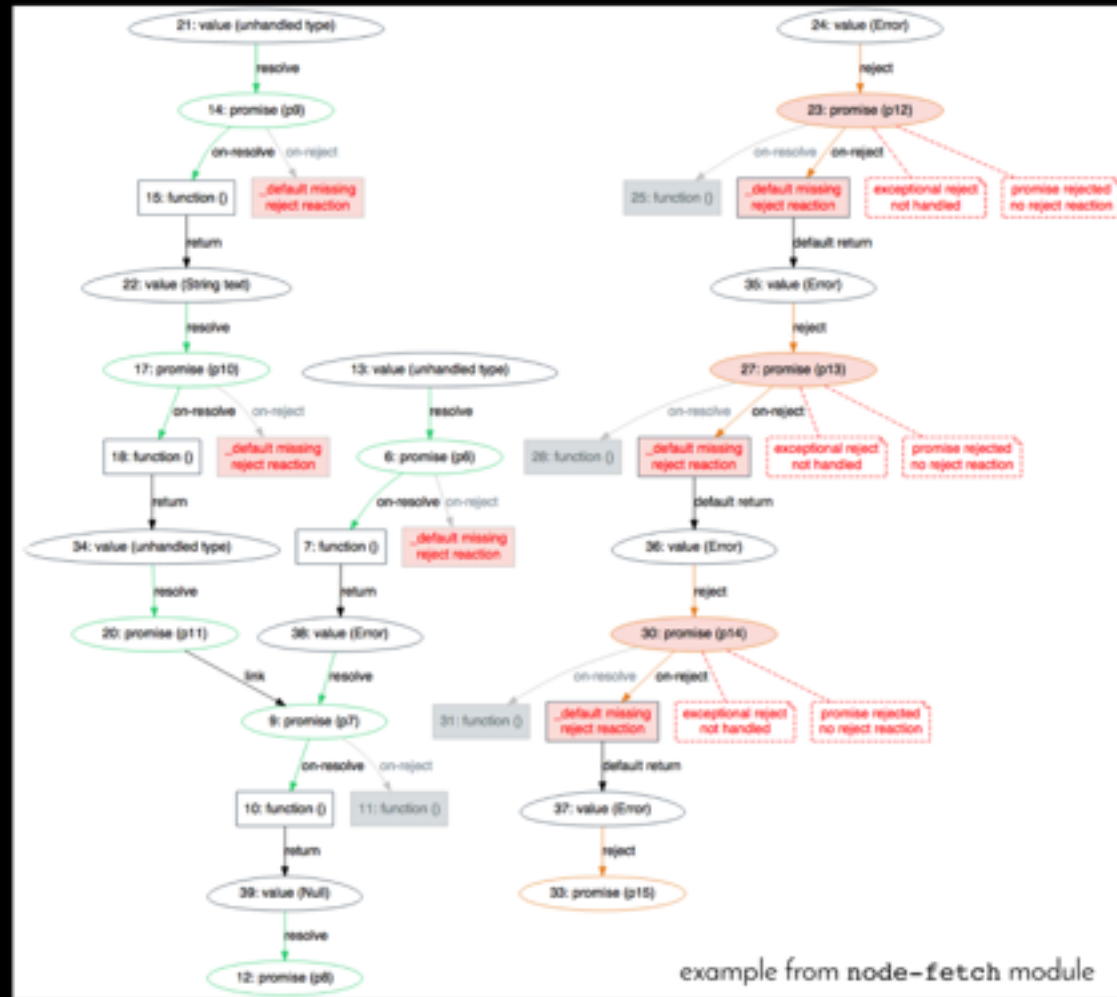
# JavaScript Promises

```

    P
    Pending
    let p = new Promise(function (resolve, reject) {
    });

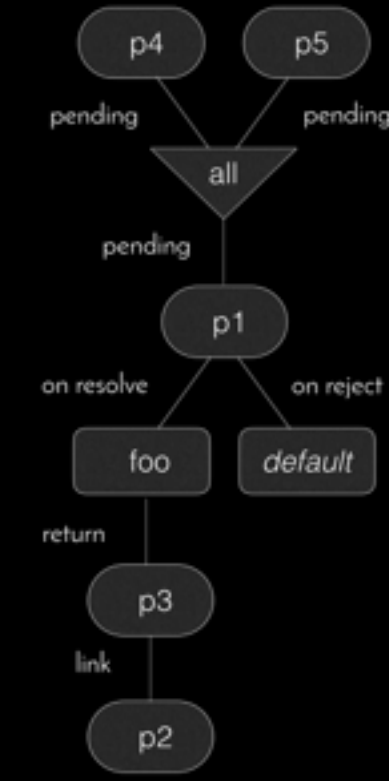
    P
    Fulfilled
    let p2 = p.then(handleSuccess)
                .then(soMuchSuccess, handleRejection)
                .catch(moreRejection);

    P
    Rejected
  
```



## PromiseKeeper

- web app →
1. Instrument automatically
  2. Collect execution traces
  3. Infer promise graphs
  4. Analyze anti-patterns



**HIRE ME!**

@saba\_a

