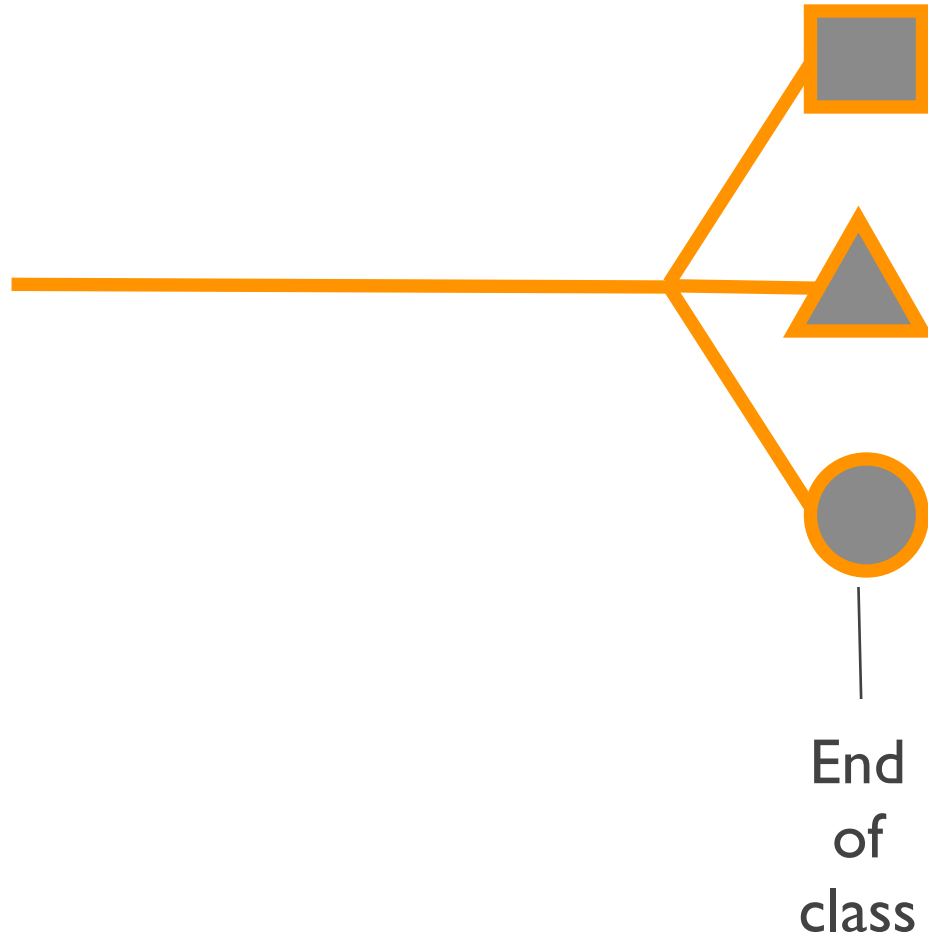


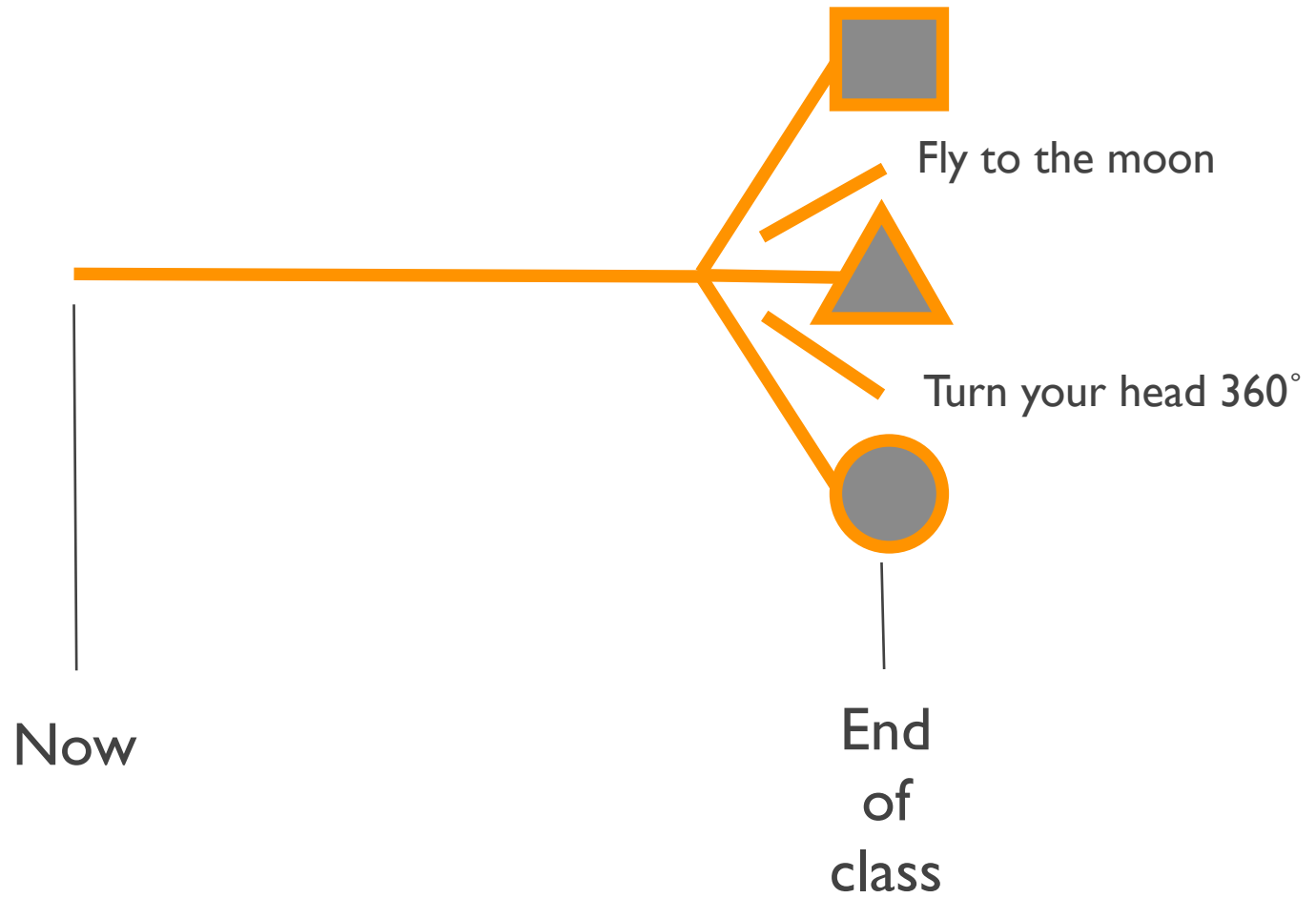
You Are Free to  
Do What You  
Want.  
Or Are You?

by David Barnett

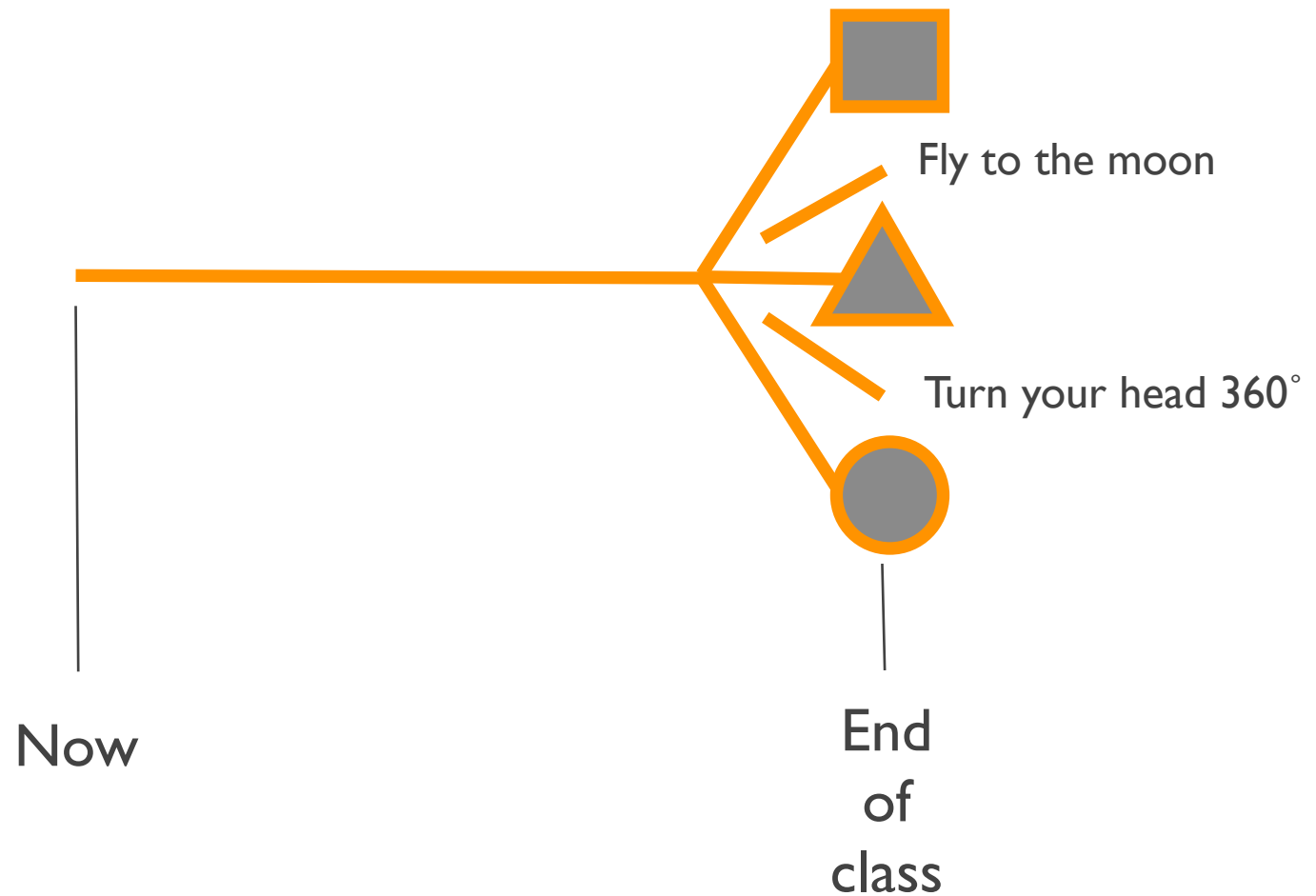
**Topic: Free Will**



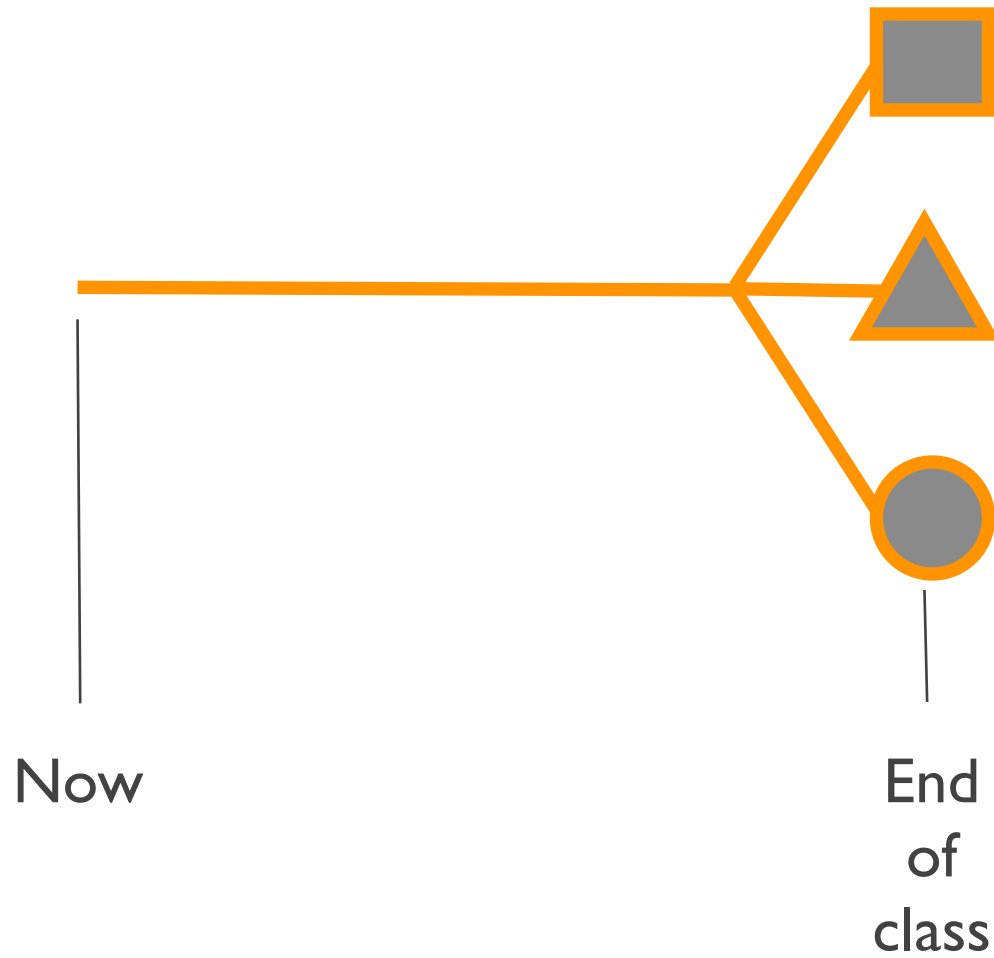
Not all futures are open to you:



To say that one has free will is to say that when one decides among forks in the road of time, one is at least sometimes able to take more than one of the forks.



It appears that you are at least  
able to bring about any of  
these three futures:



# Determinism

- ⦿ Every event is rendered inevitable by previous events + laws of nature

# Determinism

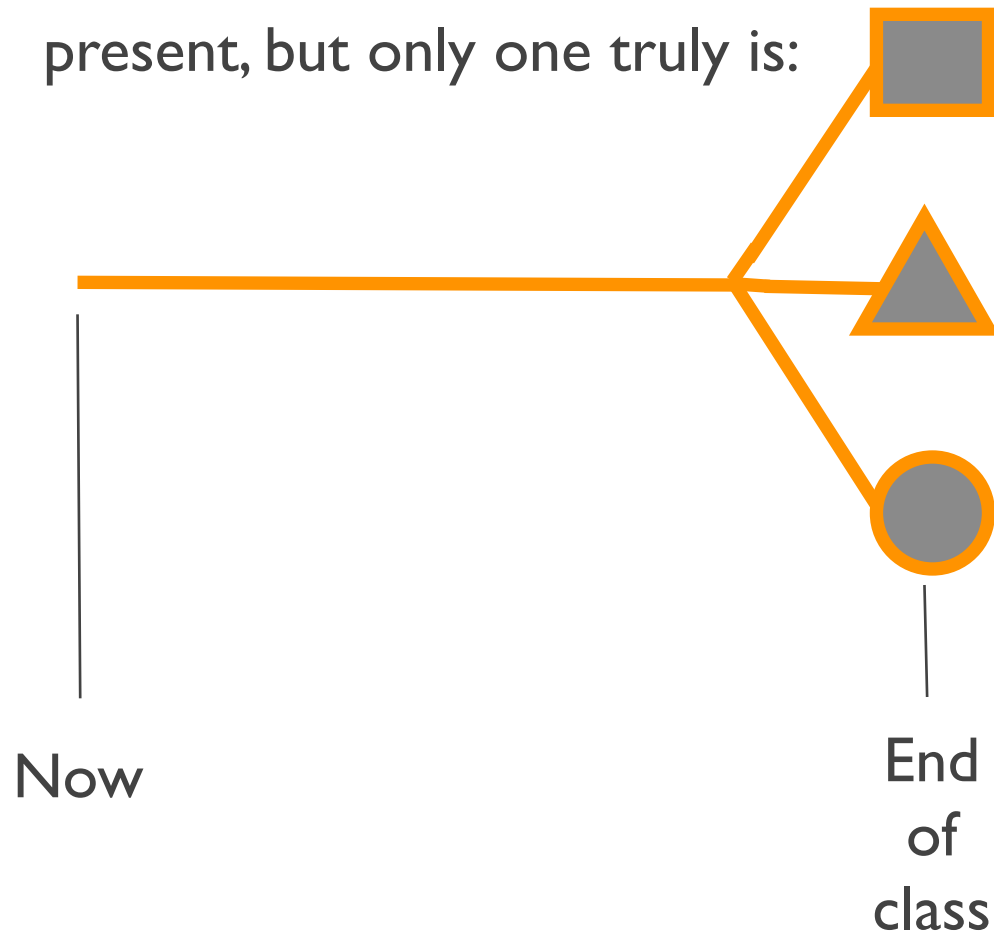
- ☉ If we have 10 closed systems that start off in exactly the same state, how will they compare in:
  - ☉ 1 minute?
  - ☉ 1 hour?
  - ☉ 1 year?
  - ☉ 1 century?

# Determinism

- 🌐 If God were to roll back time 3 million years, how would things unfold?

# DETERMINISM

It appears that all three lines are continuous with the present, but only one truly is:



# DETERMINISM

Suppose you end up drawing a  
circle:



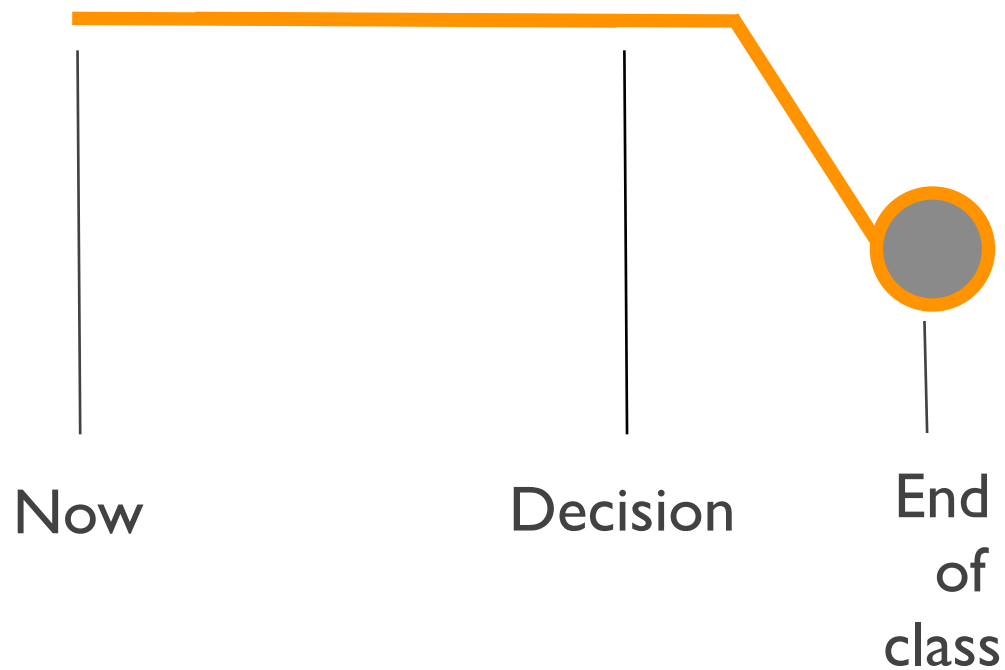
# DETERMINISM

If God were to roll back time to just an instant before you drew the circle, how would things unfold?



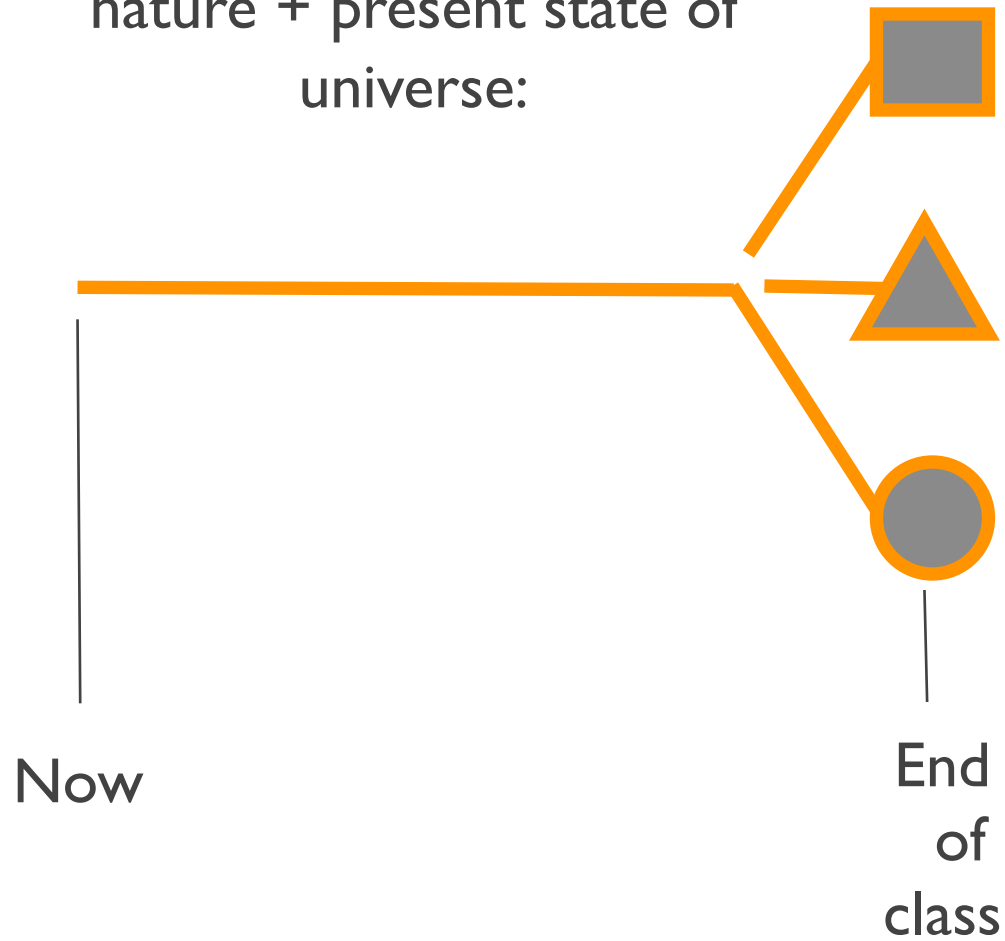
# DETERMINISM

If God were to roll back time  
to an instant before you  
decided to draw the circle,  
how would things unfold?



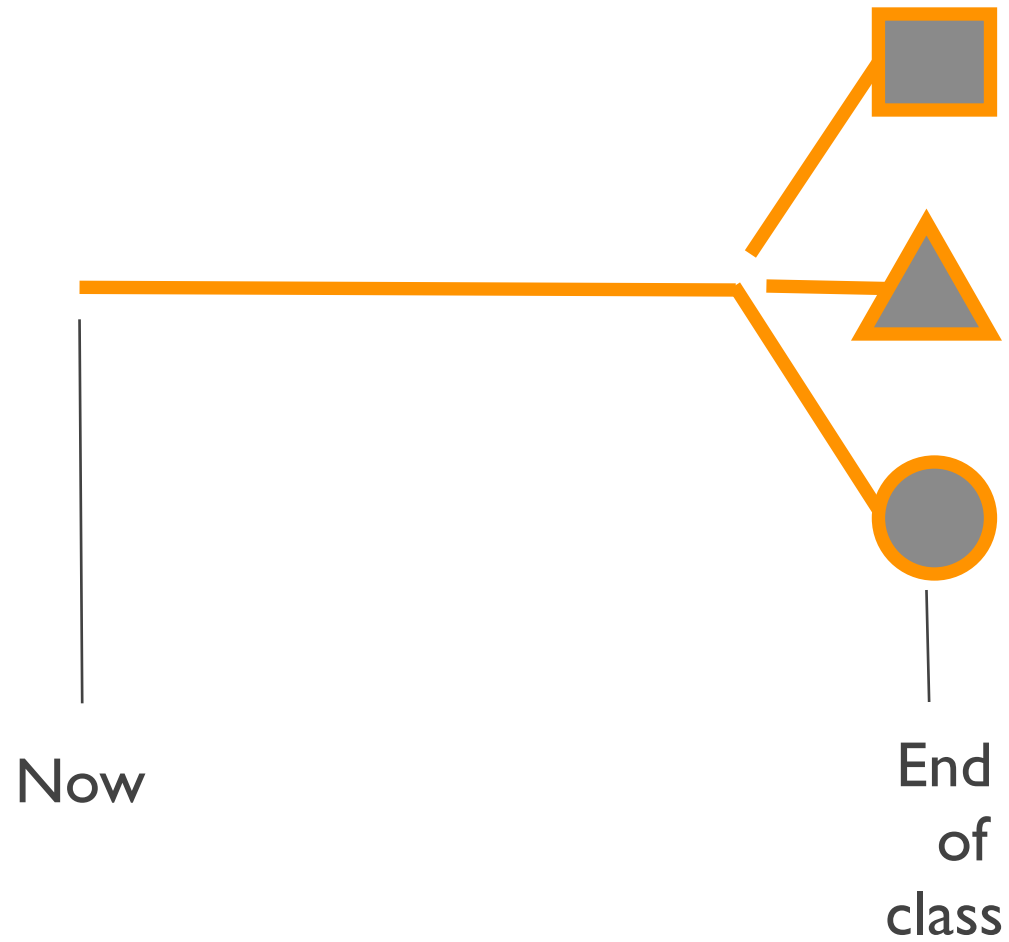
# DETERMINISM

Two apparently open futures  
are excluded by the laws of  
nature + present state of  
universe:



# DETERMINISM

Free will appears to be inconsistent with determinism:



Might free will merely be an illusion?



Does free will require indeterminism?

# Indeterminism

- ⊖ Not every event is rendered inevitable by previous events + laws of nature

# Indeterminism

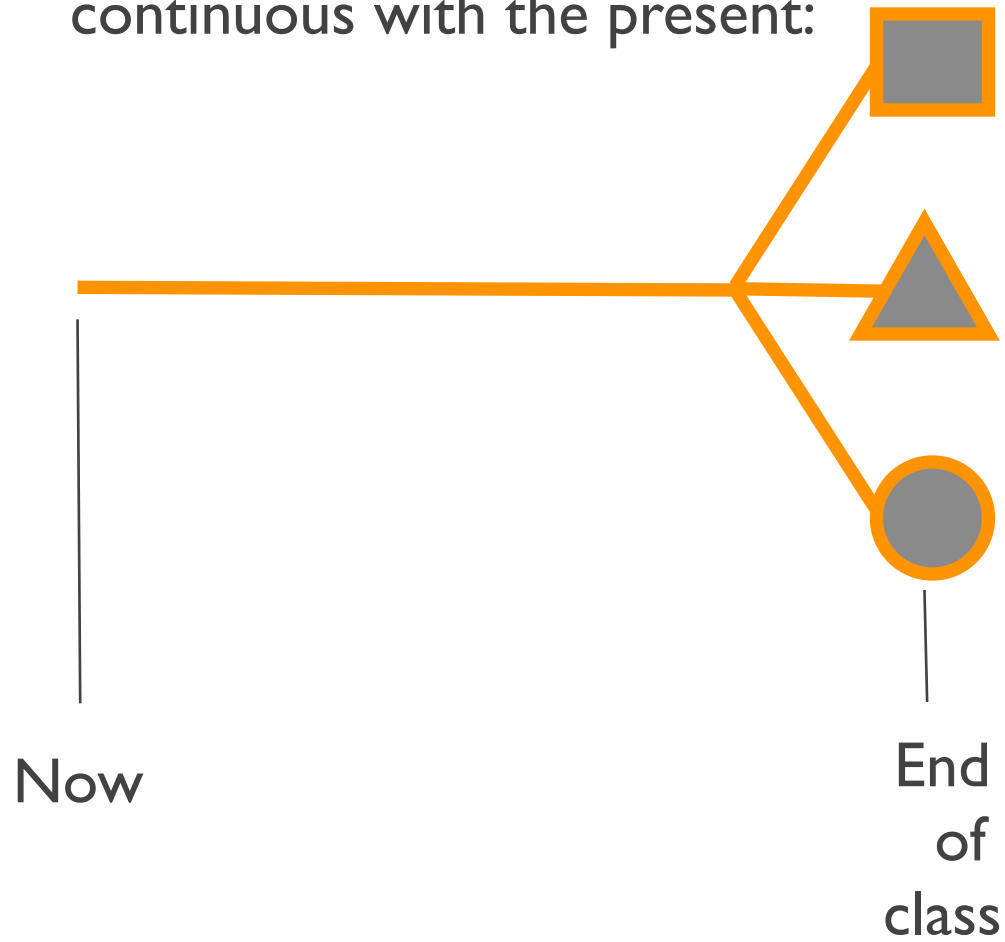
- ④ If we have 10 closed systems that start off in exactly the same state, how will they compare in:
  - ④ 1 minute?
  - ④ 1 hour?
  - ④ 1 year?
  - ④ 1 century?

# Indeterminism

- 🌐 If God were to roll back time 3 million years, how would things unfold?

# INDETERMINISM

All three lines really are  
continuous with the present:



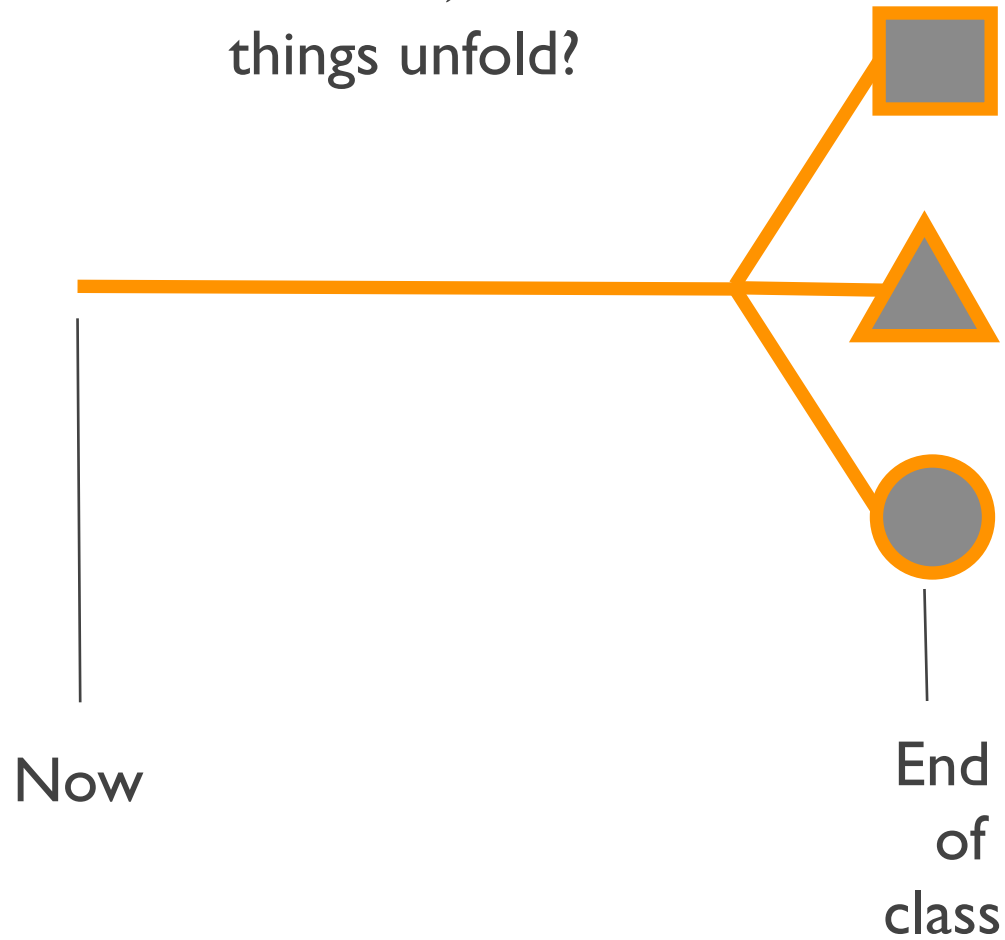
# INDETERMINISM

Suppose you end up drawing a circle:



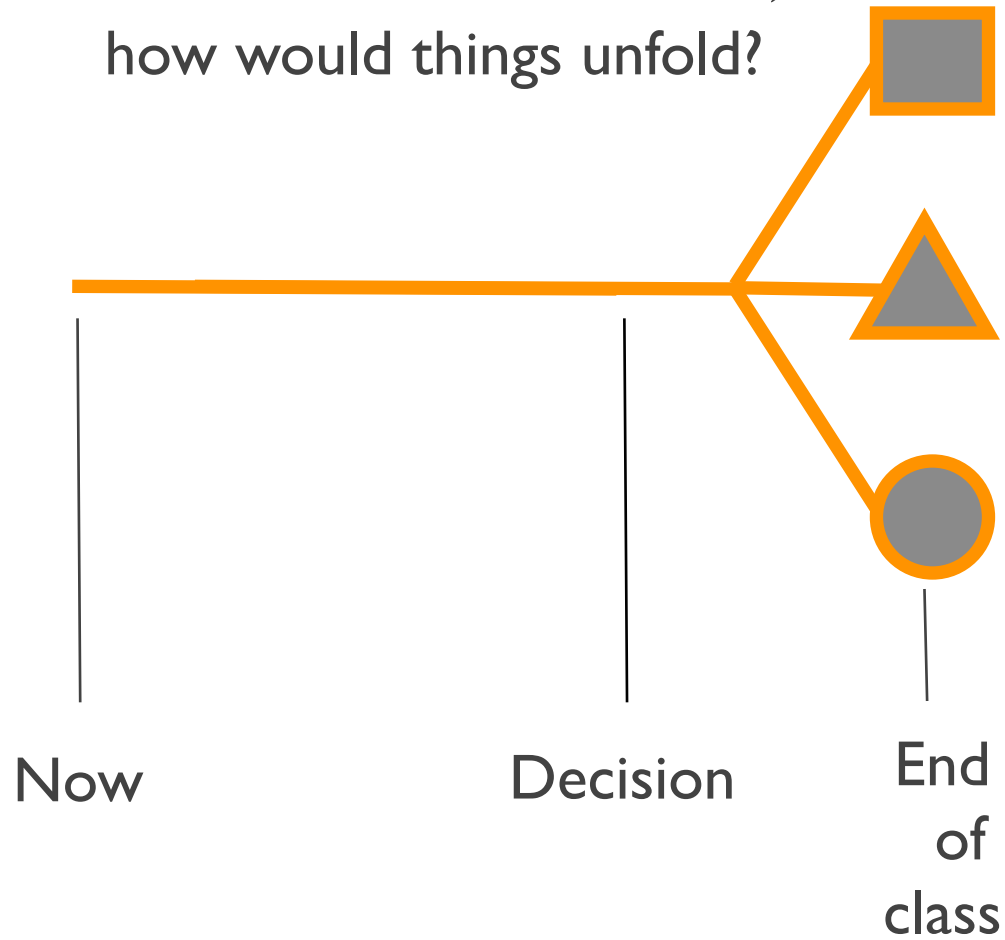
# INDETERMINISM

If God were to roll back time to just an instant before you drew the circle, how would things unfold?



# INDETERMINISM

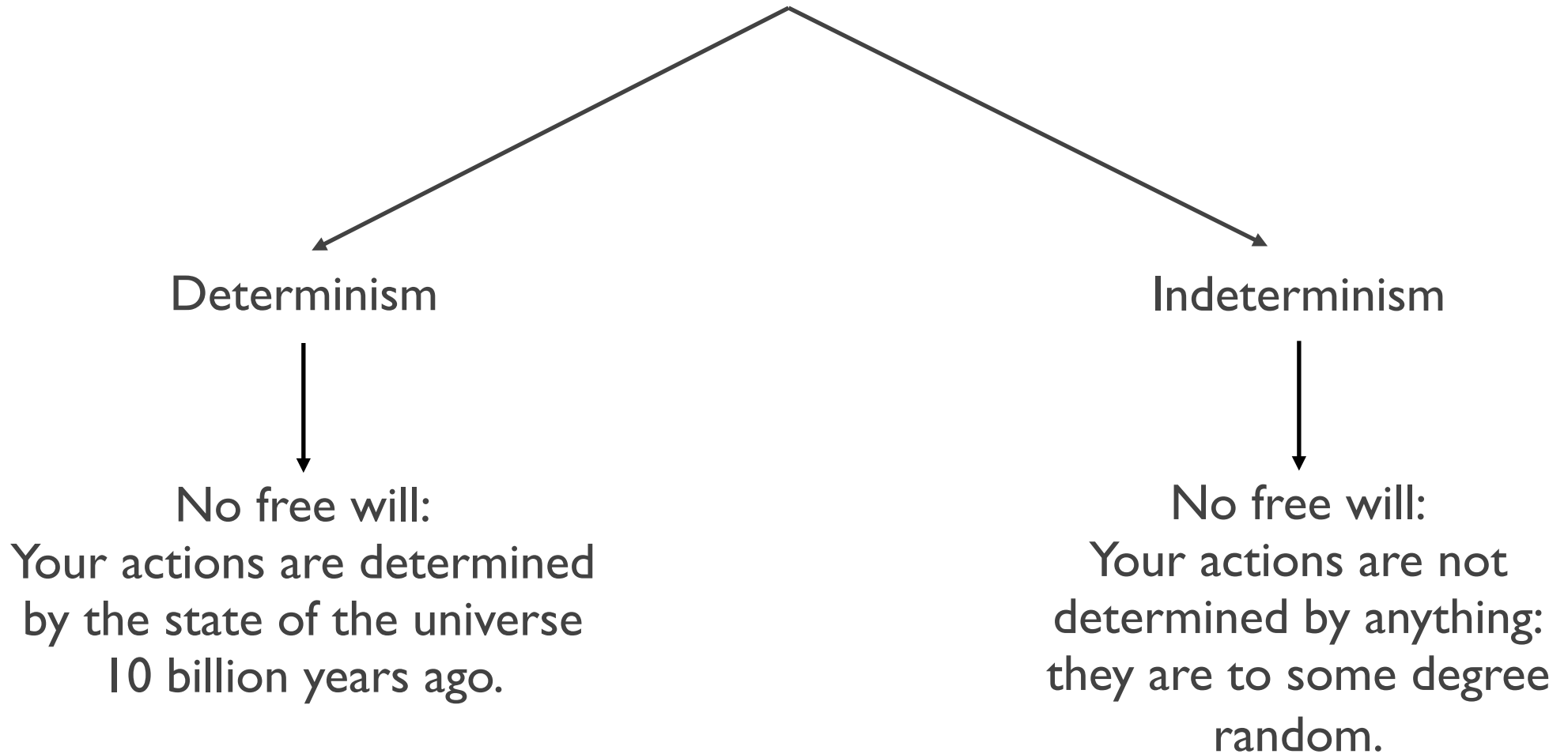
If God were to roll back time to an instant before you decided to draw the circle, how would things unfold?



# Indeterminism

- ⦿ Whatever you end up drawing, it will -- to some degree -- be random.
- ⦿ Hence, you have no genuine control over what you draw.
- ⦿ Hence, indeterminism appears inconsistent with free will.
- ⦿ Moreover, given the indeterministic theory that dominates physics today, the movements of our bodies are governed by certain statistical laws that have never been observed to be violated.

# Free Will Dilemma



Either way, free will is just an illusion.



# Responses to the dilemma

# Incompatibilism

- ⦿ Free will is incompatible with determinism.
- ⦿ Explaining the fact that Trog hugged Tana in terms of deterministic laws together with prior states of the world is incompatible with explaining it in terms of Trog's freely choosing to hug Tana.

# Incompatibilism

Free will is incompatible with determinism

Libertarianism

Because we have  
free will, determinism must be  
false.

Hard Determinism

Because determinism is true,  
we do not have  
free will.

# Frankfurt Against Incompatibilism

- Free will does not require alternative open possibilities for action.
- Frankfurt-style Example.

# Compatibilism

- Free will is compatible with determinism.
- Explaining the fact that Trog hugged Tana in terms of deterministic laws together with prior states of the world is compatible with explaining it in terms of Trog's freely choosing to hug Tana.
- Analogy: explaining the fact that Al had a heart attack in terms of deterministic laws together with prior states of the world is compatible with explaining it in terms of his prior physiological condition together with generalizations about physiology.

# Hume

- Determinism is not just compatible with free-will, it's required by it.
- Otherwise, nothing causes our behavior, including ourselves.

You are now free to  
complete your diagram...

Or are you?

