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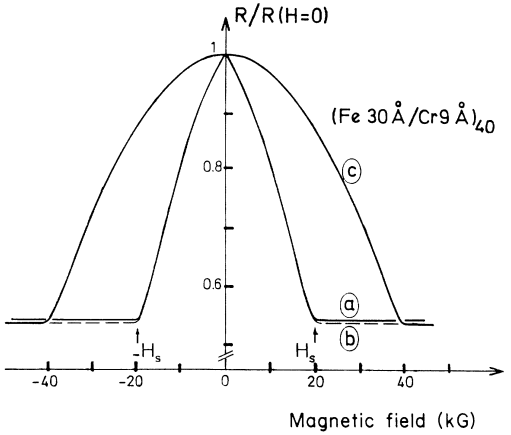
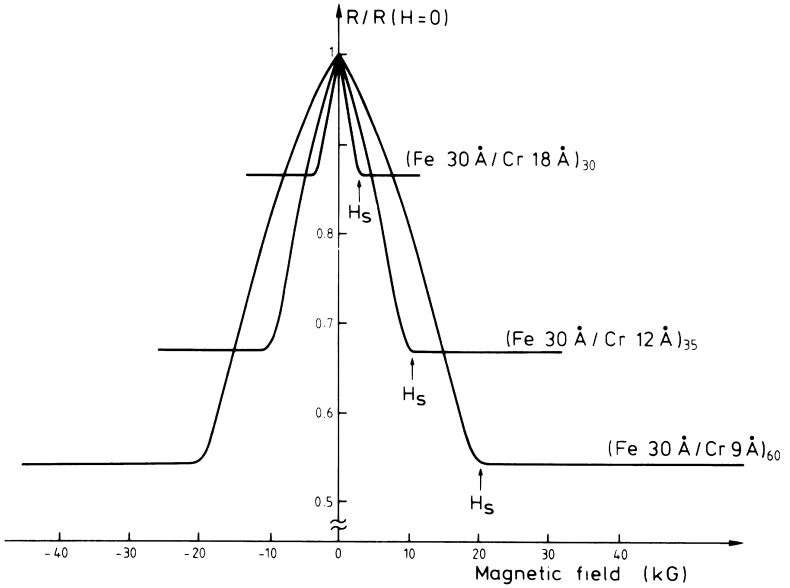


FIG. 2. Magnetoresistance of a [(Fe 30 Å)/(Cr 9 Å)]$_{40}$ superlattice of 4.2 K. The current is along [110] and the field is in the layer plane along the current direction (curve *a*), in the layer plane perpendicular to the current (curve *b*), or perpendicular to the layer plane (curve *c*). The resistivity at zero field is 54 $\mu\Omega$ cm. There is a small difference between the curves in increasing and decreasing field (hysteresis) that we have not represented in the figure. The superlattice is covered by a 100-Å Ag protection layer. This means that the magnetoresistance of the superlattice alone should be slightly higher.

of Grünberg *et al.*[4] and by the spin-polarized low-energy electron-diffraction experiments of Carbone and Alvarado.[10] The AF coupling between the Fe layers has been ascribed to indirect exchange interactions through the Cr layers, but a theoretical model of these interactions is still lacking.[4,9]

The magnetoresistance of the Fe/Cr superlattices has been studied by a classical ac technique on small rectangular samples. Examples of magnetoresistance curves at 4.2 K are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The resistance decreases during the magnetization process and becomes practically constant when the magnetization is saturated. The curves *a* and *b* in Fig. 2 are obtained for applied fields in the plane of layers in the longitudinal and transverse directions, respectively. The field H_S is the field needed to overcome the AF couplings and to saturate the magnetization (compare with Fig. 1). In contrast, fields applied perpendicularly to the layers (curve *c*) have to overcome not only the AF coupling but also the magnetic anisotropy, so that the magnetoresistance is saturated at a field higher than H_S.

The most remarkable result exhibited in Figs. 2 and 3 is the huge value of the magnetoresistance. For $t_{Cr}=9$ Å and $T=4.2$ K, see Fig. 2, there is almost a factor of 2 between the resistivities at zero field and in the saturated state, respectively (in absolute value, the resistivity change is about 23 $\mu\Omega$ cm). By comparison of the results for three different samples in Fig. 3, it can be seen



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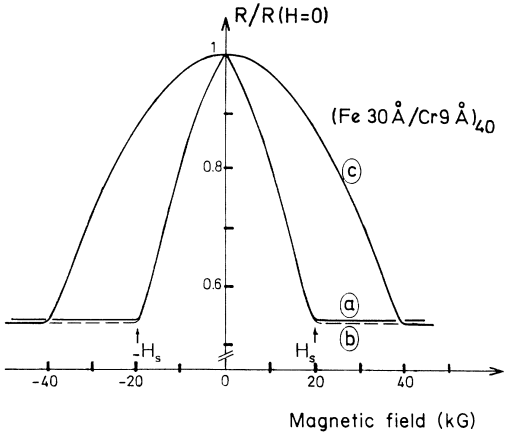

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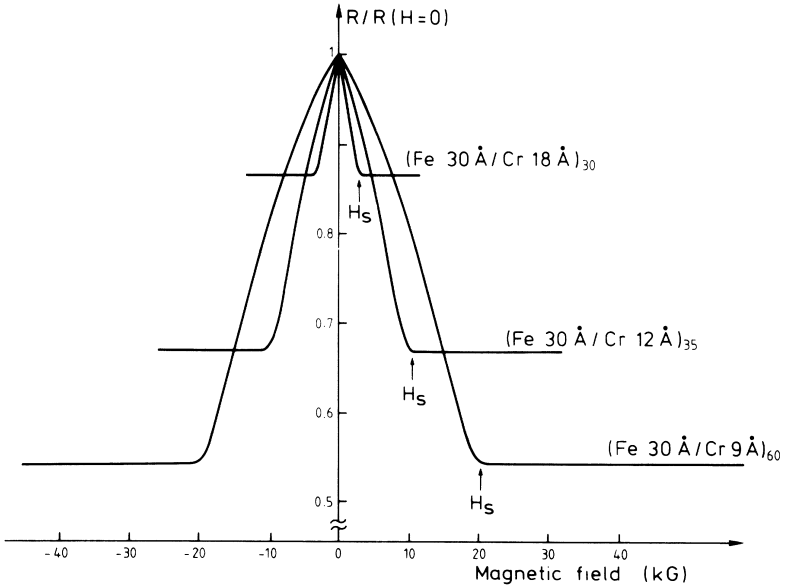

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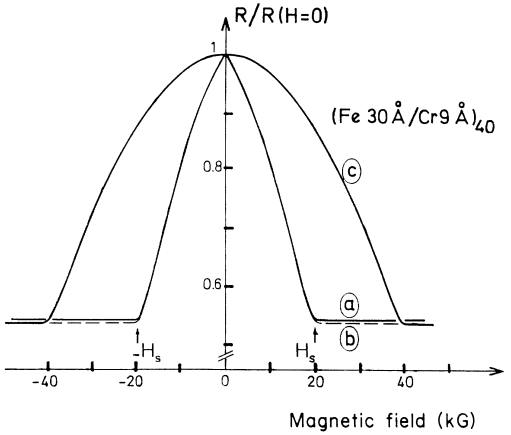

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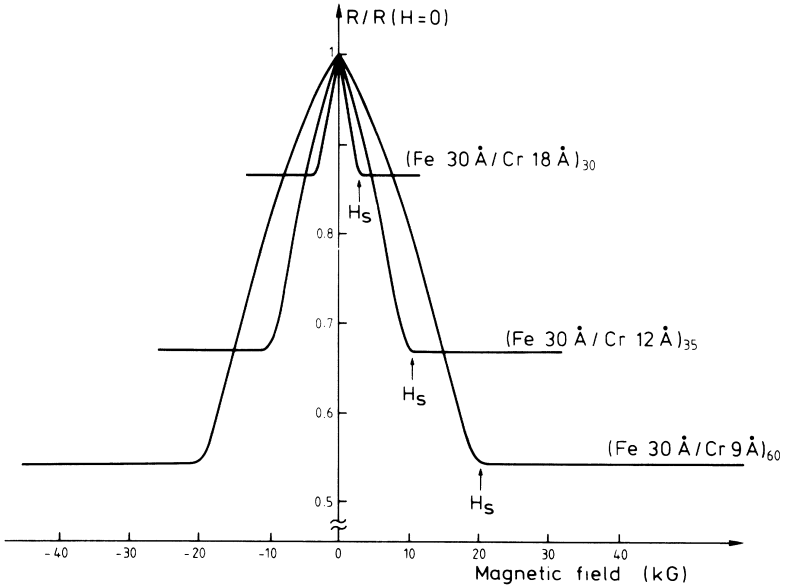

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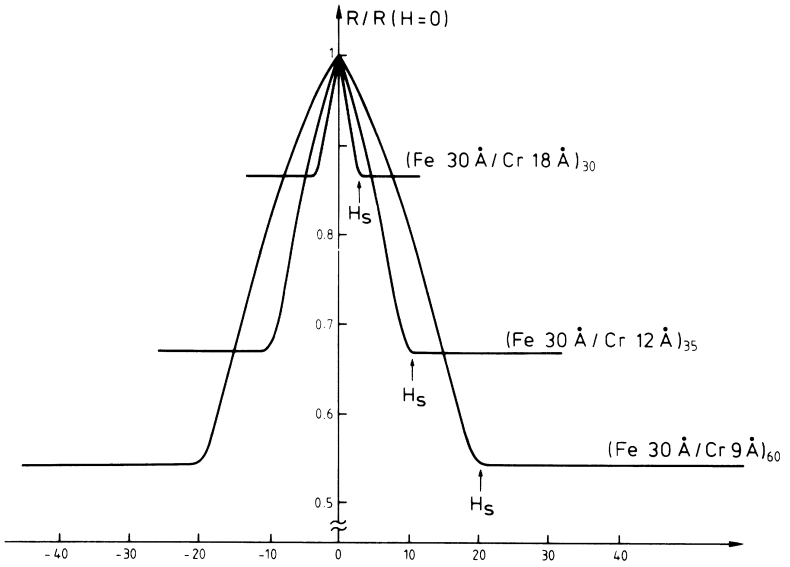
R/R(H=0)
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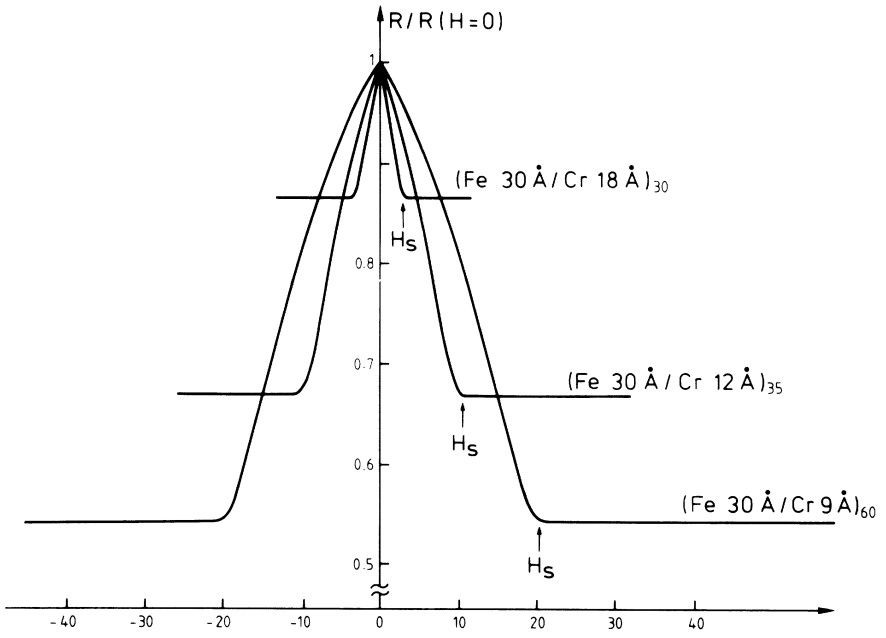
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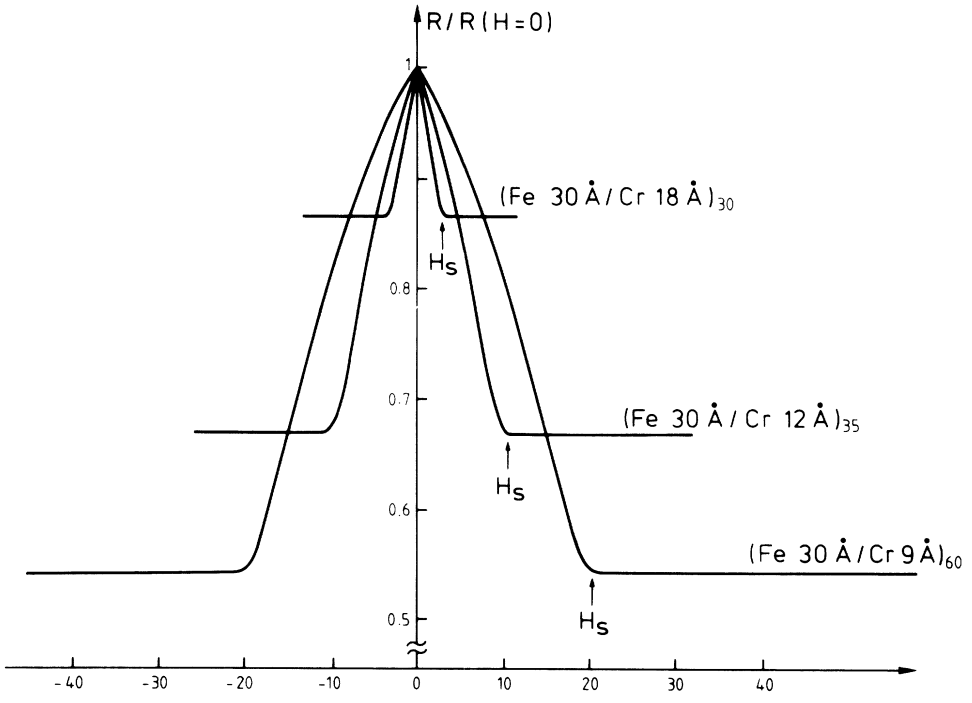
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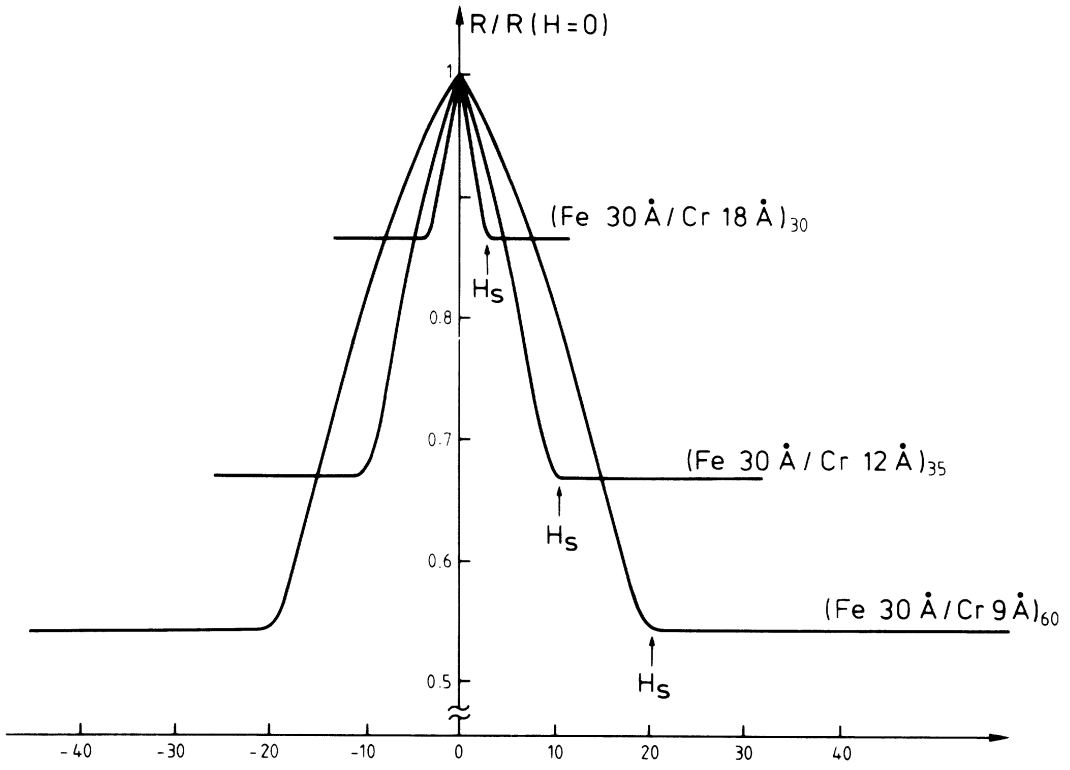
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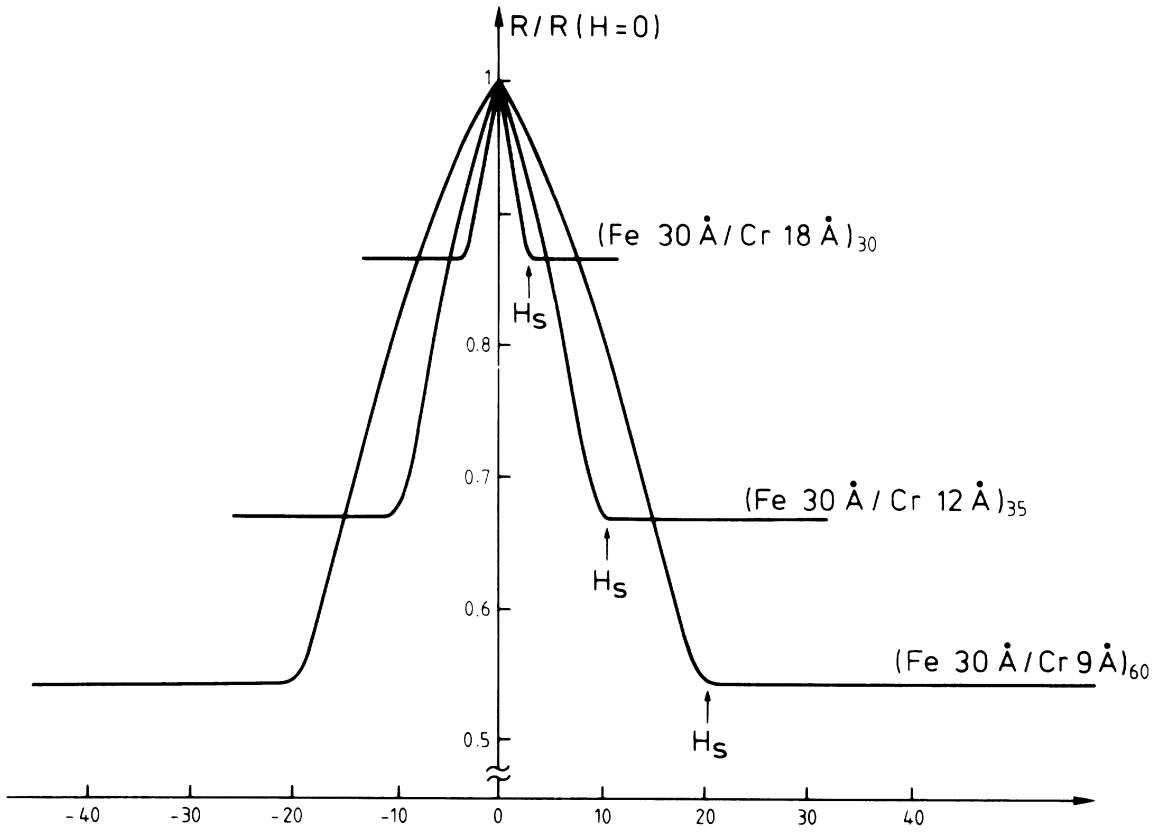
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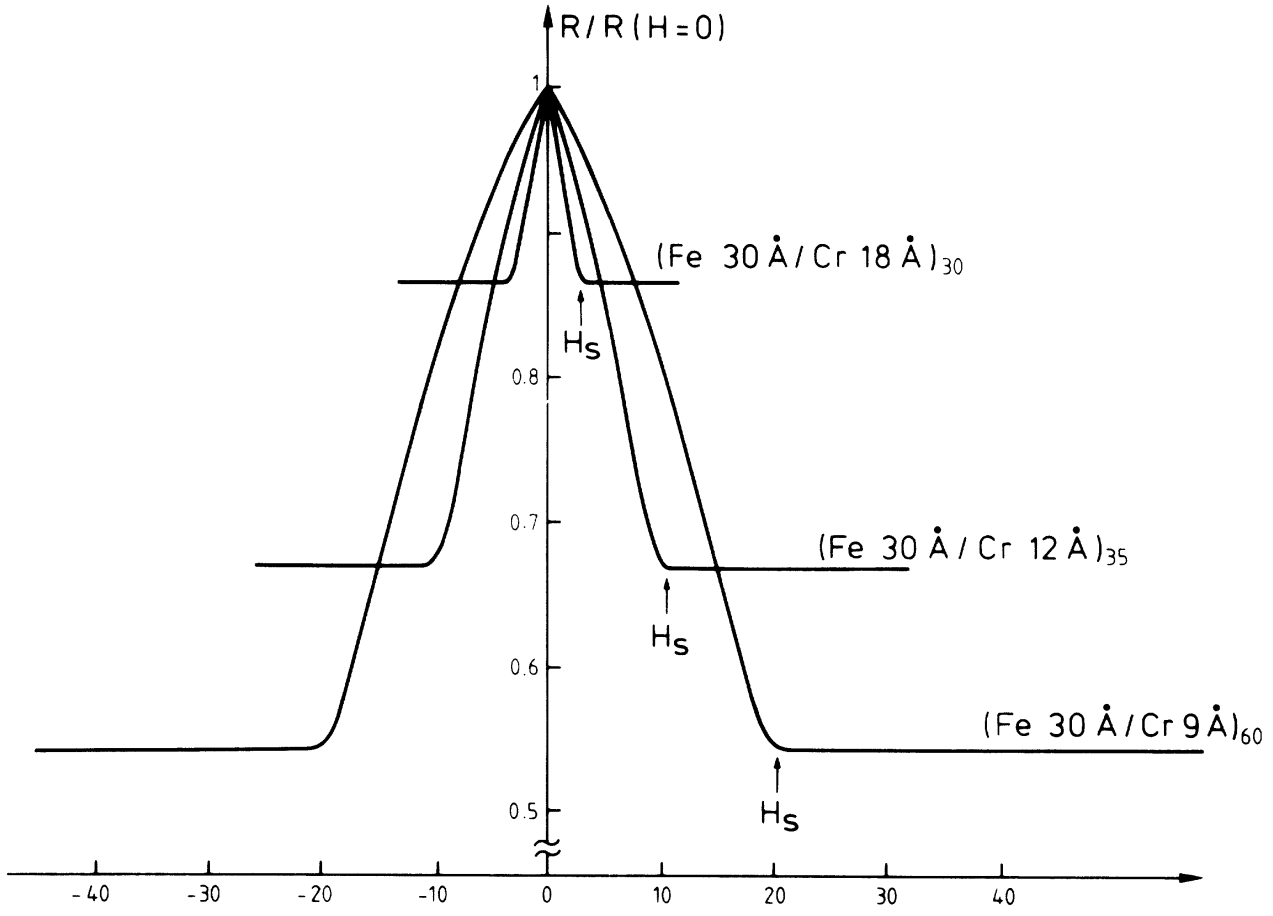
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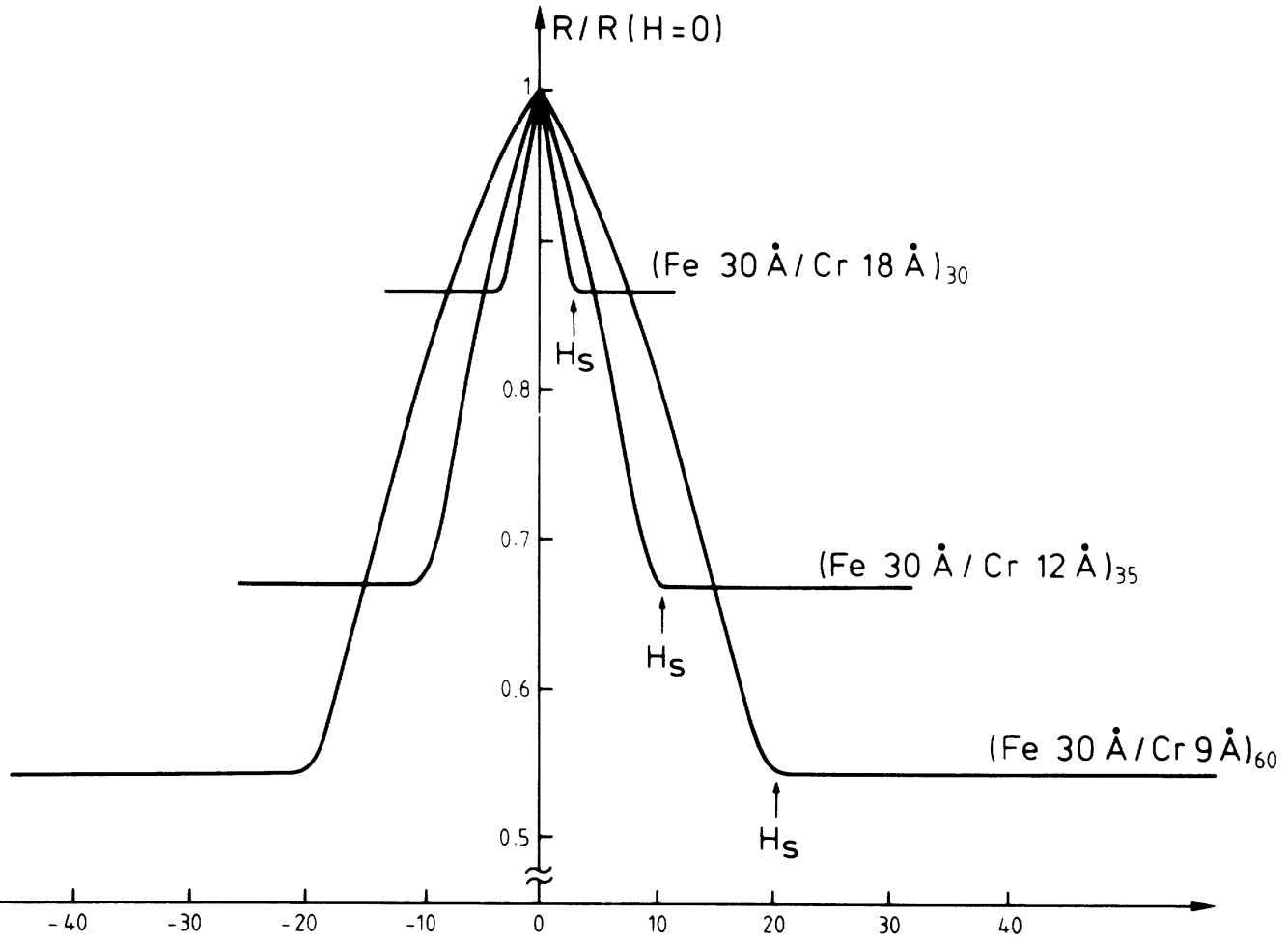
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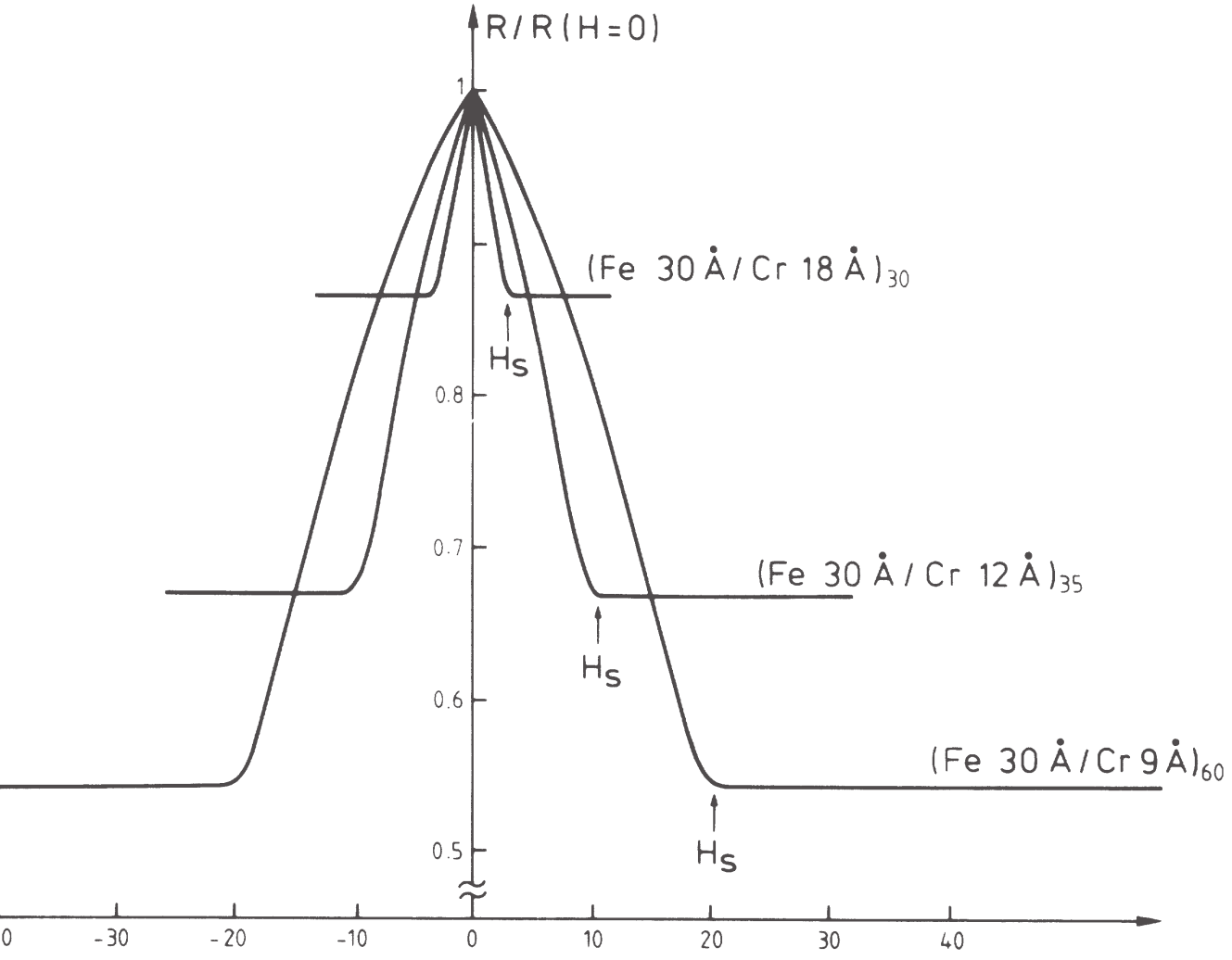
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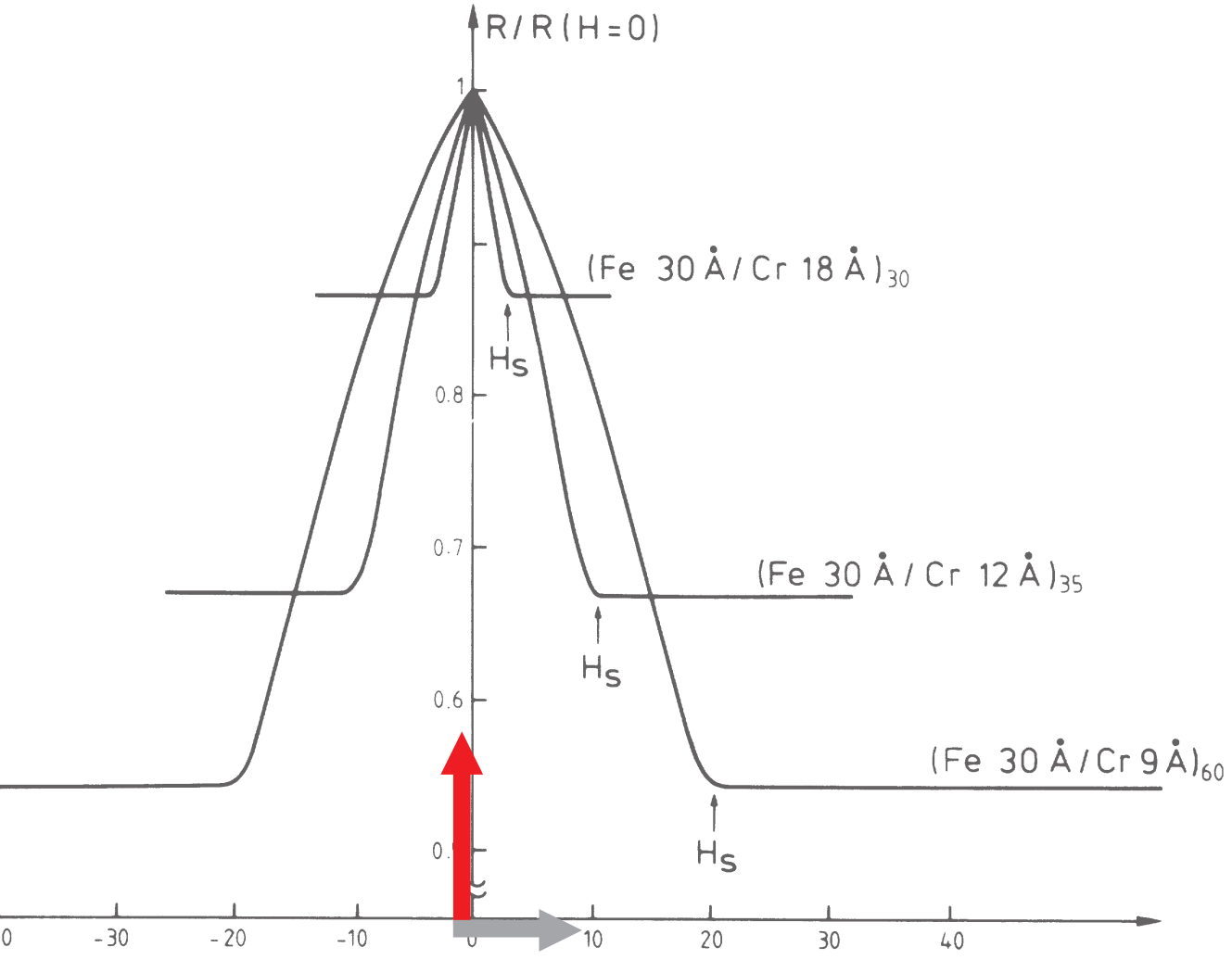
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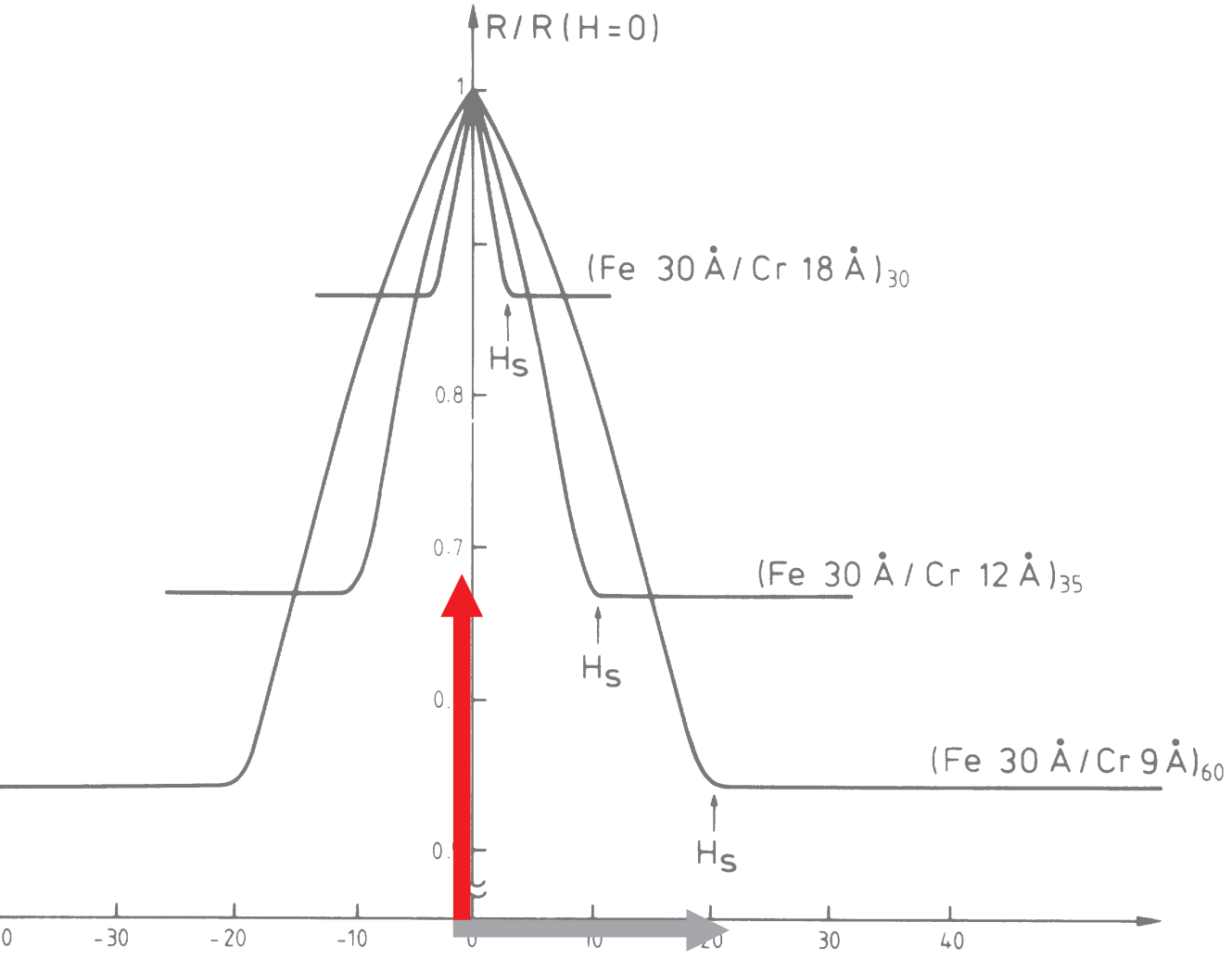
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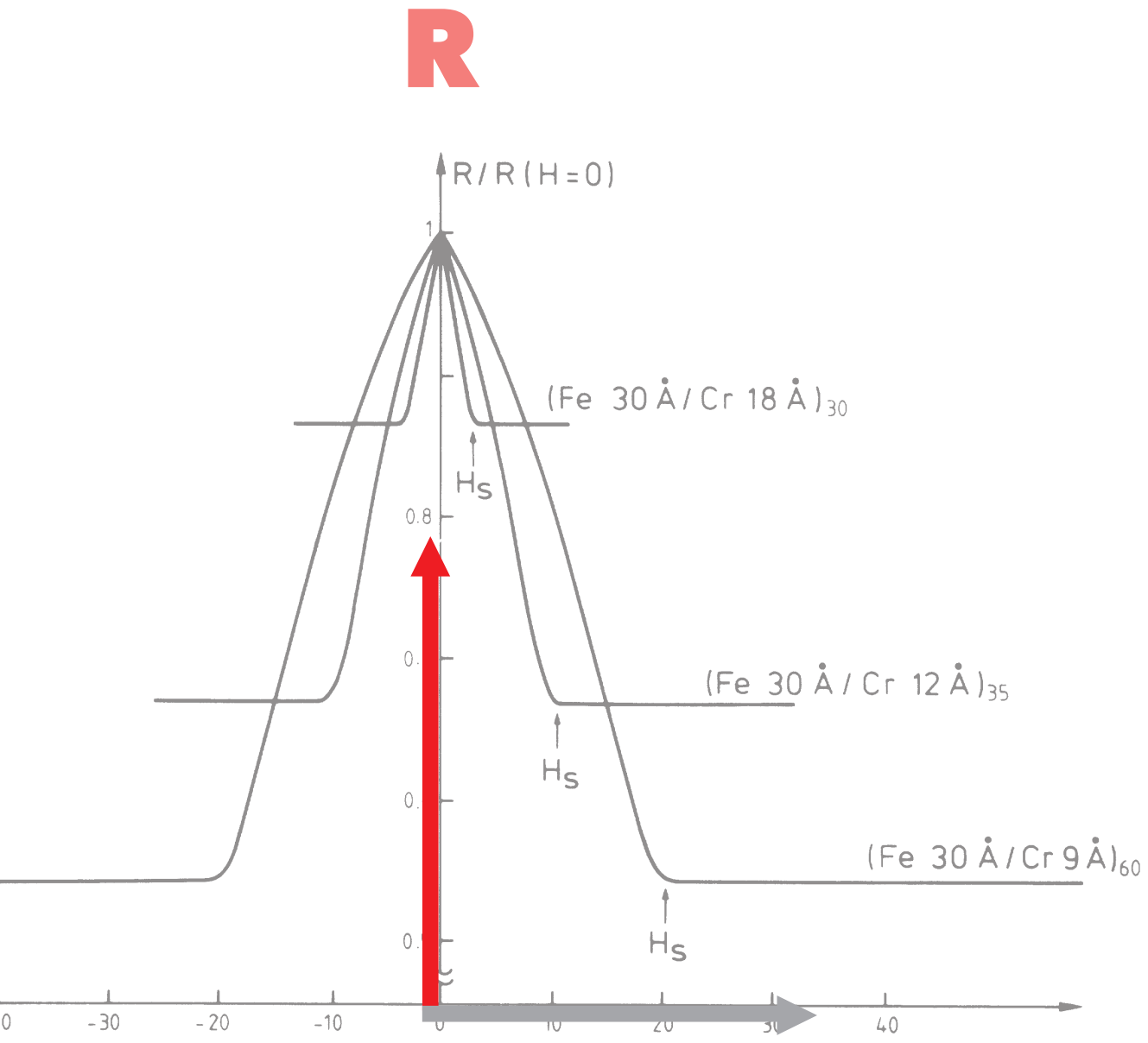
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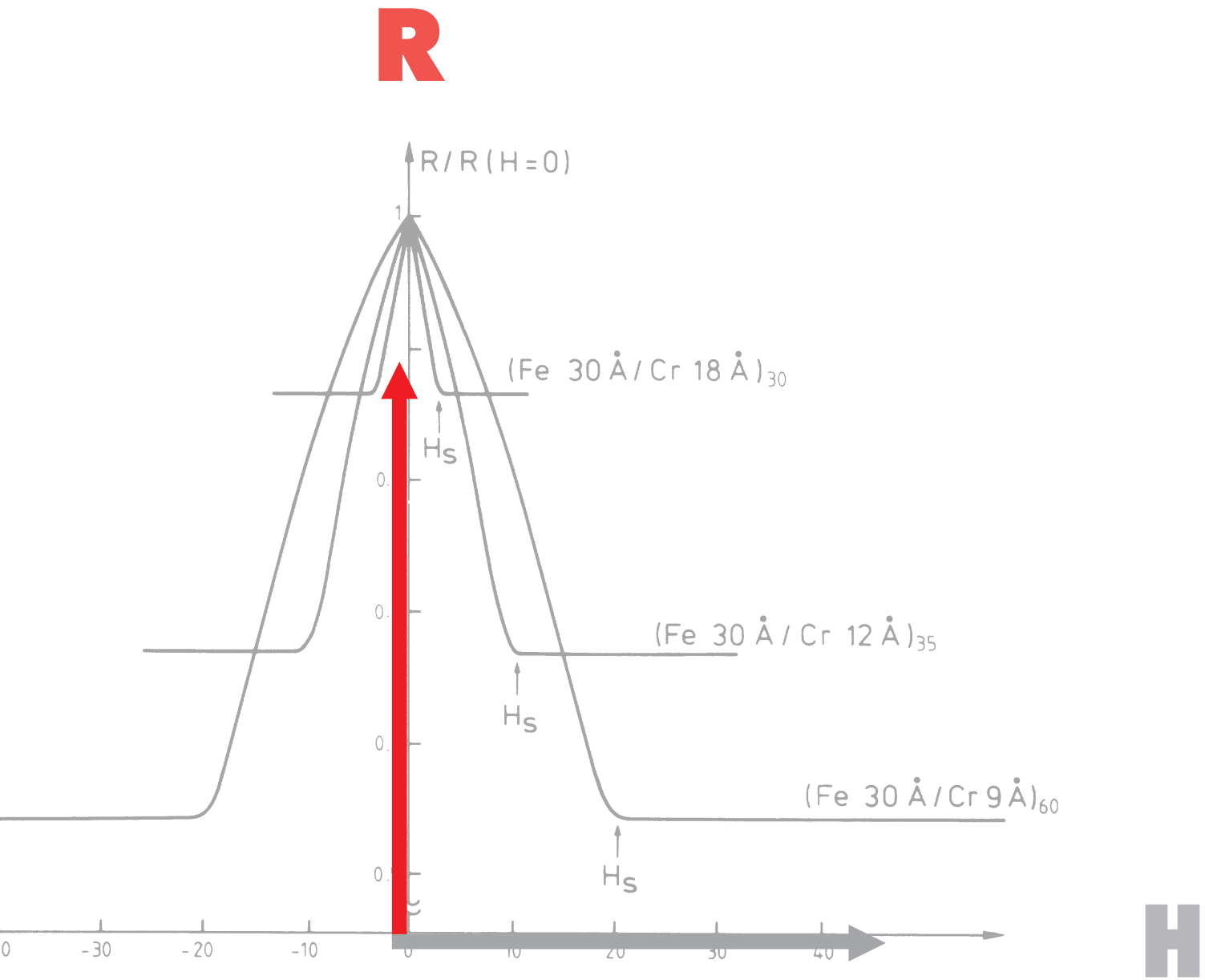
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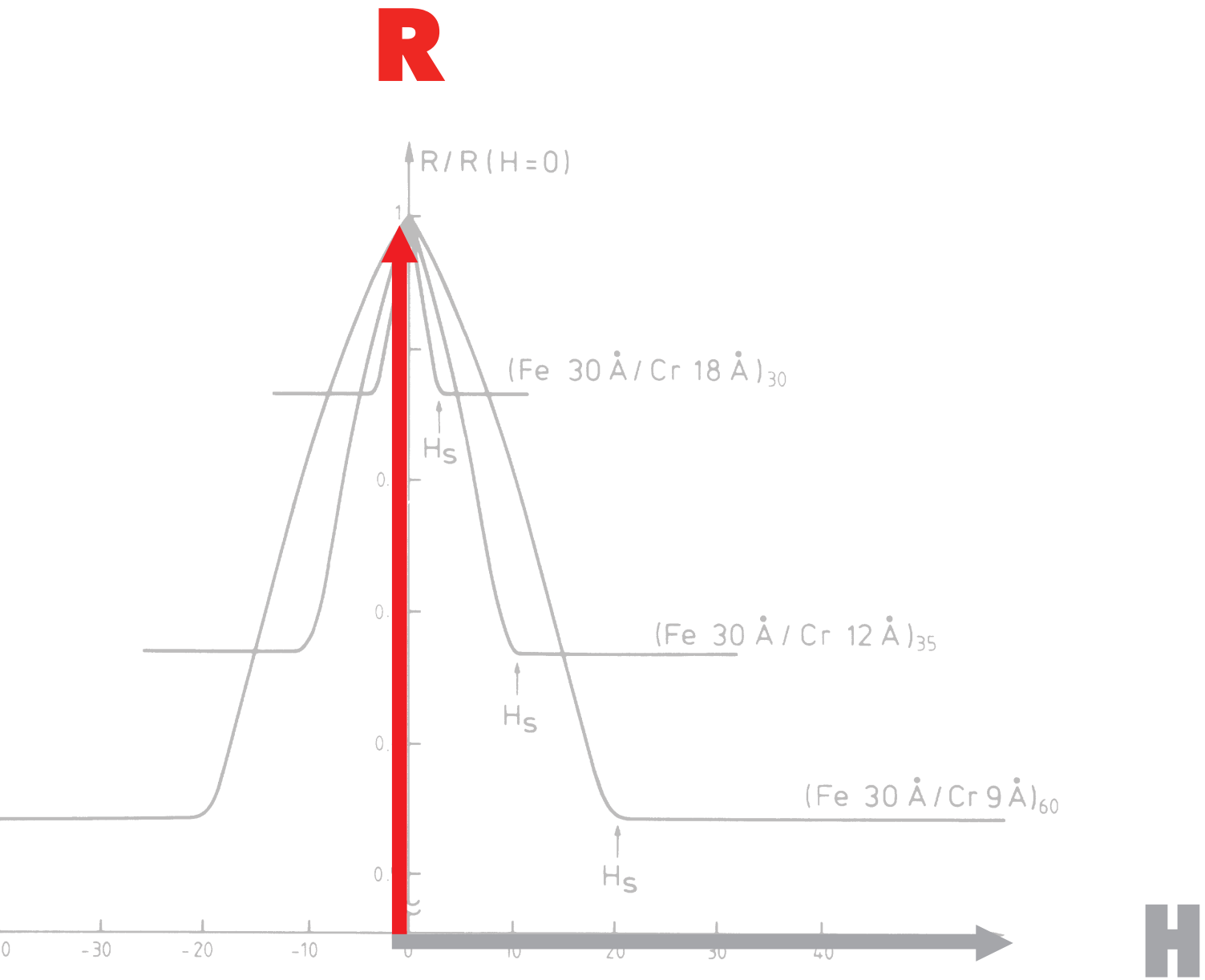
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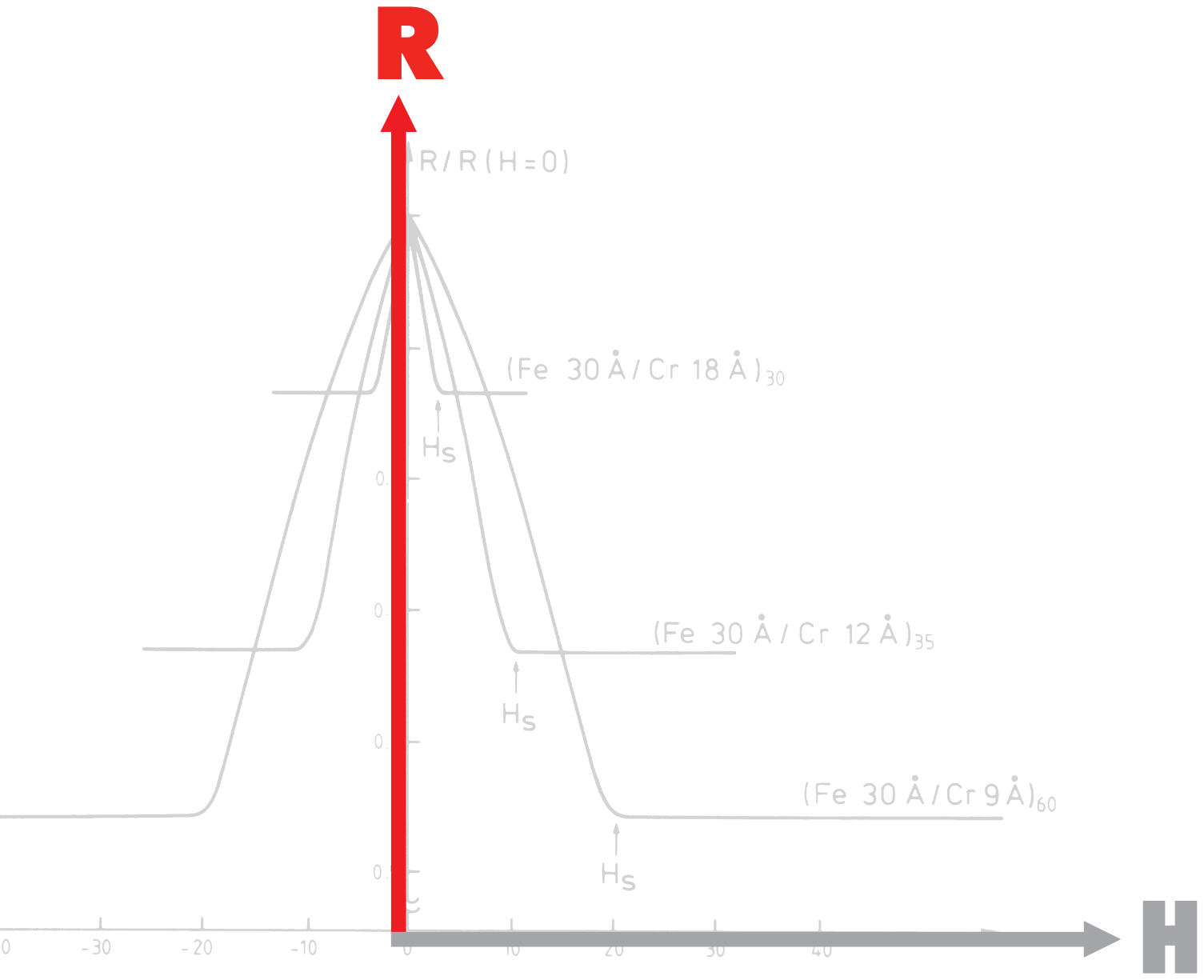
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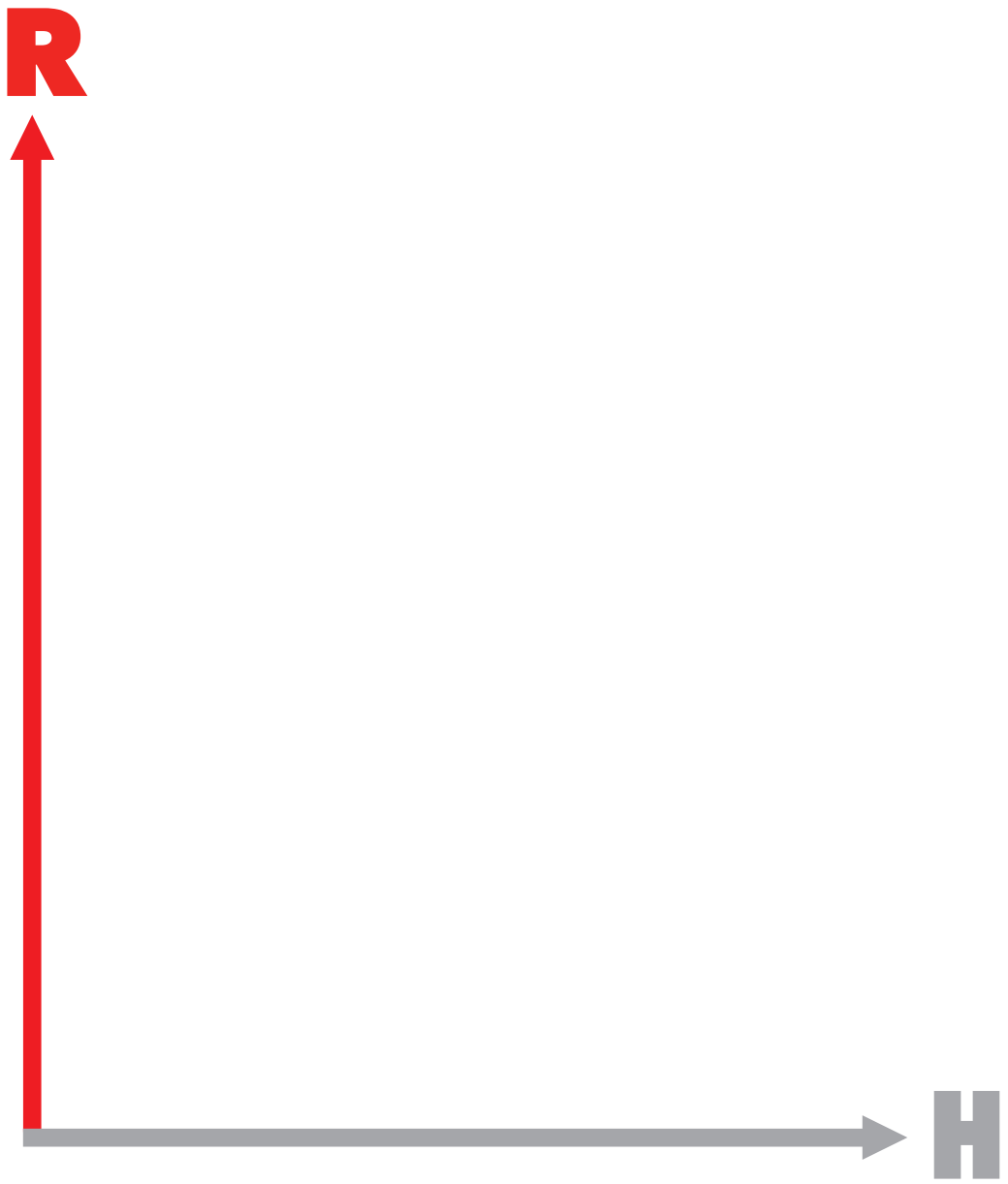
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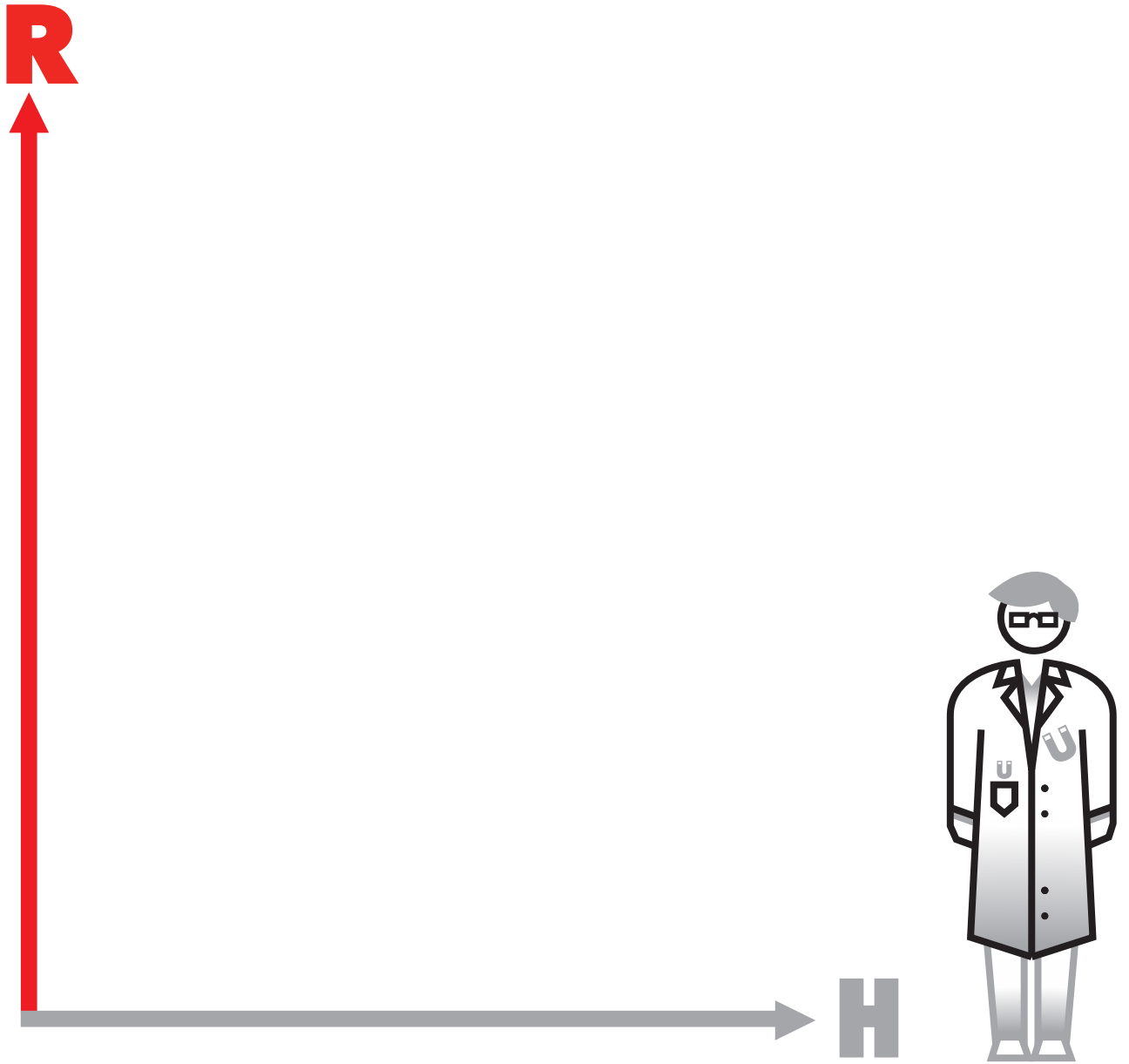
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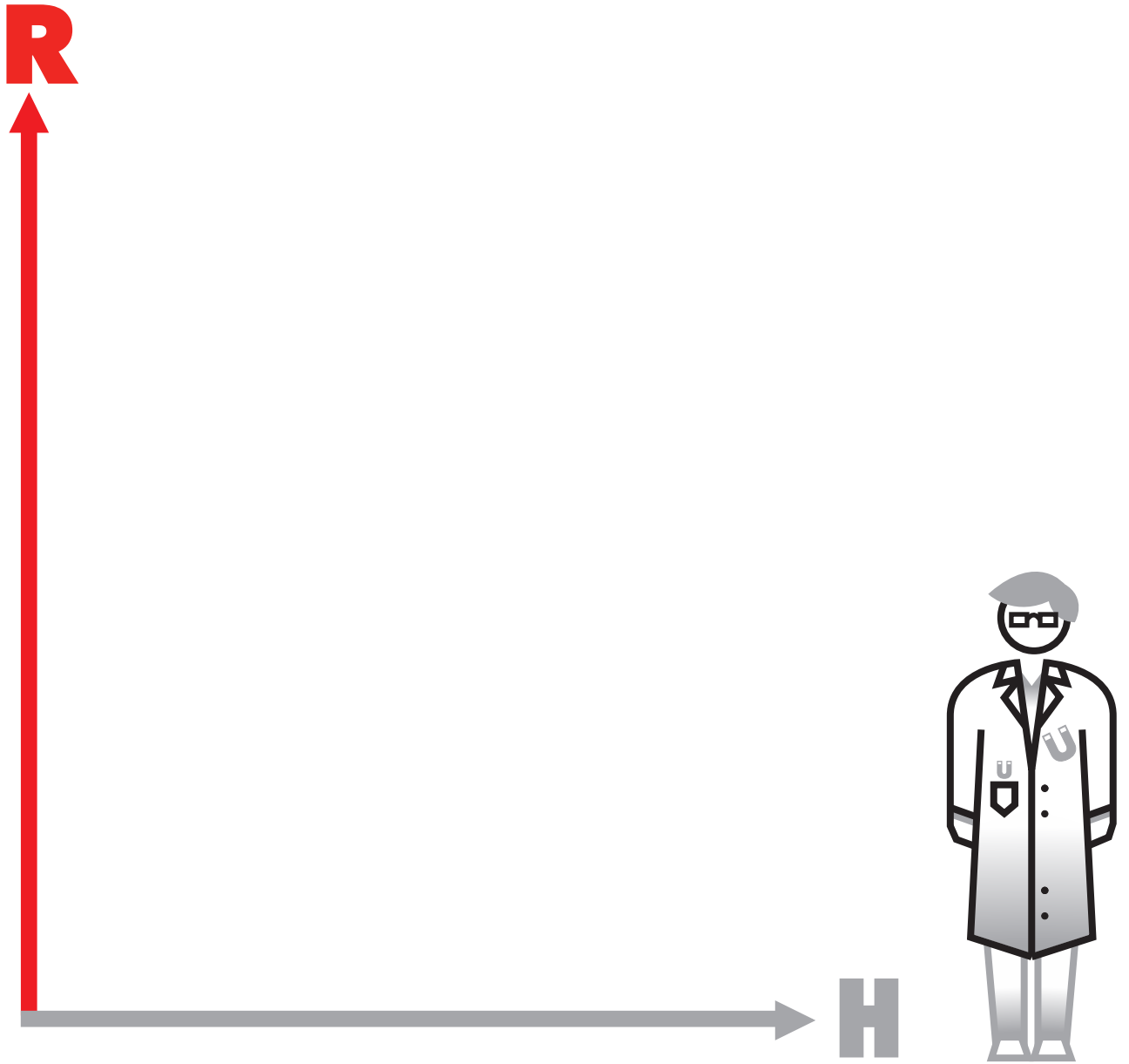
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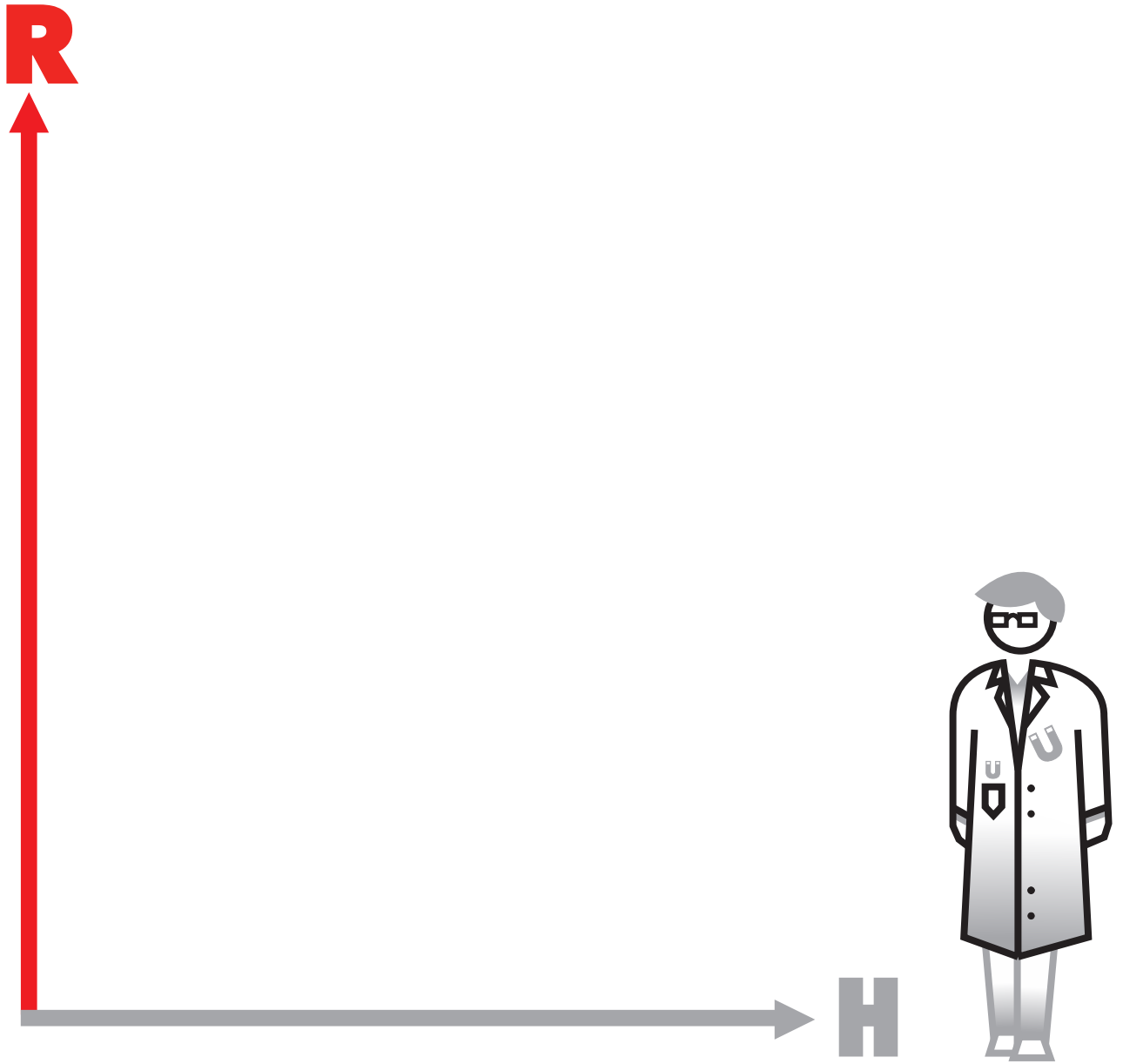
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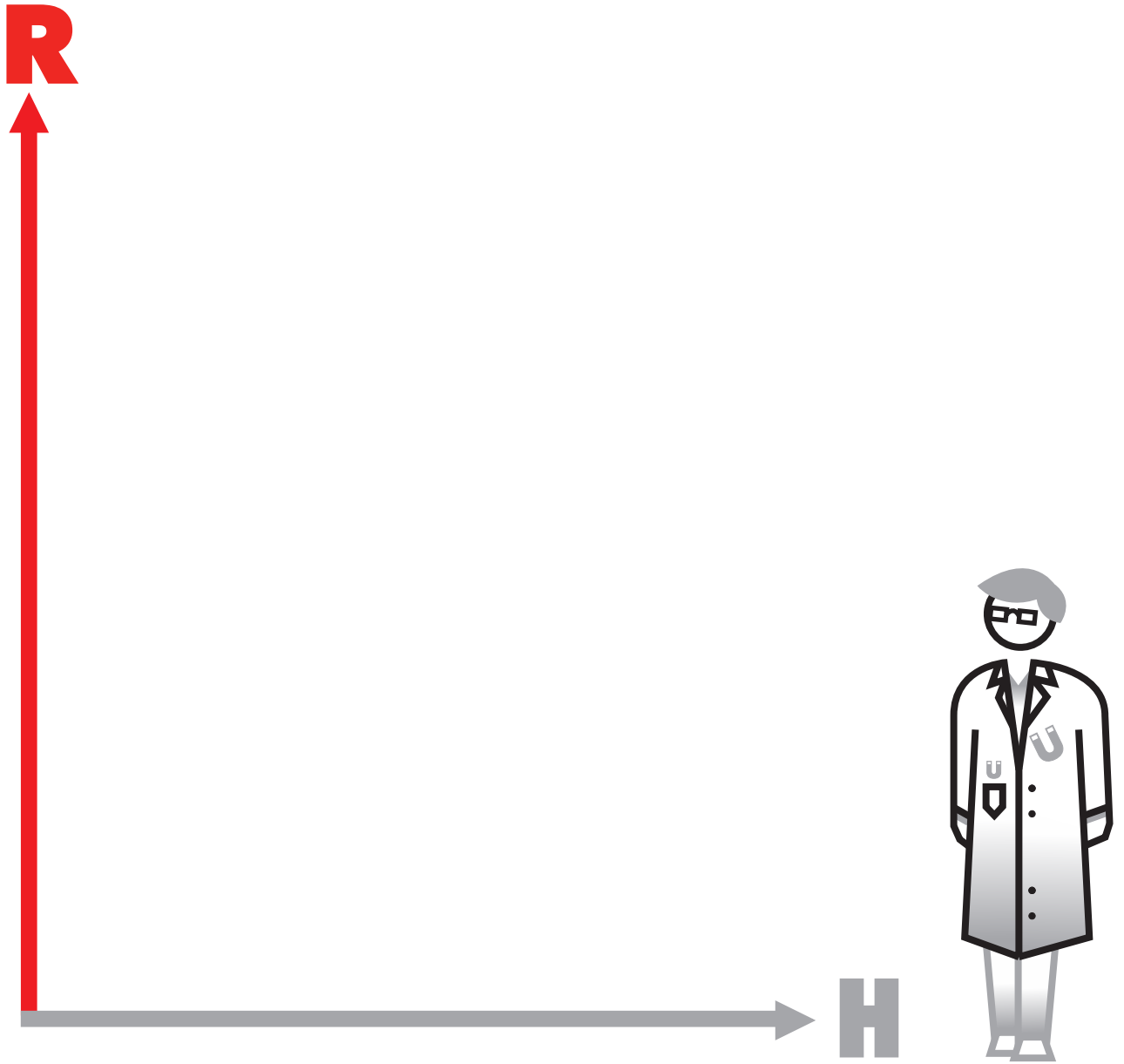
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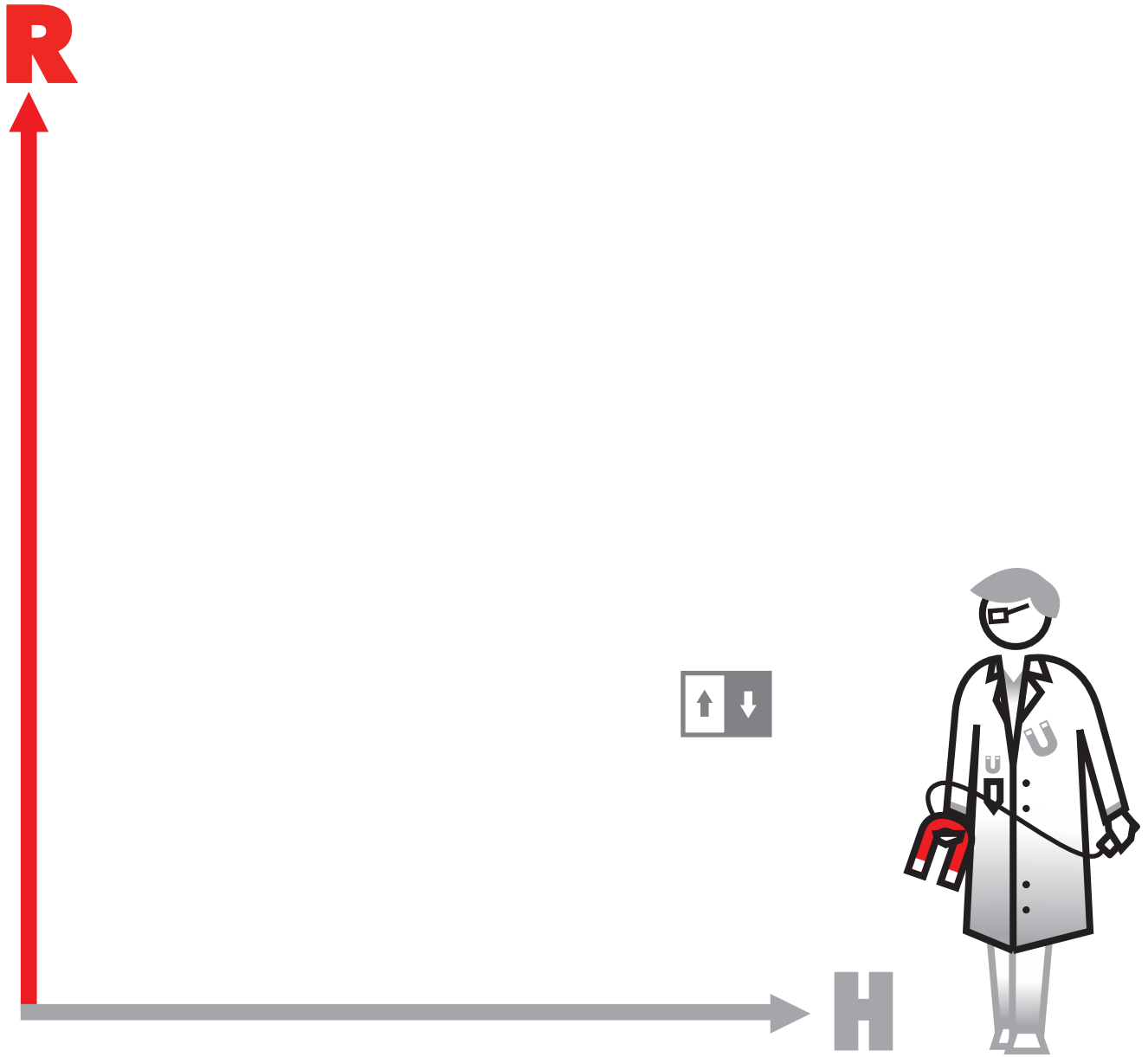
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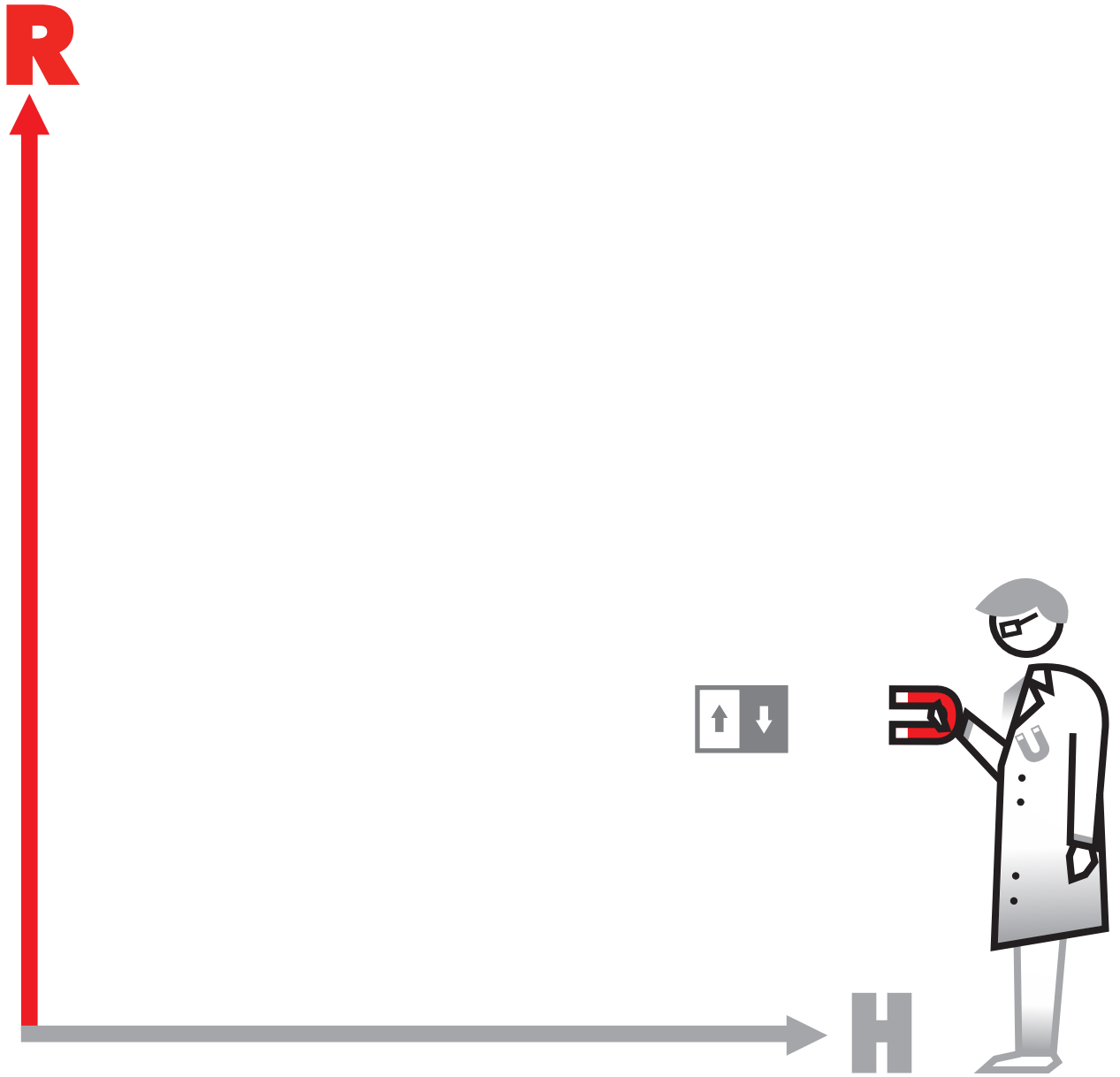
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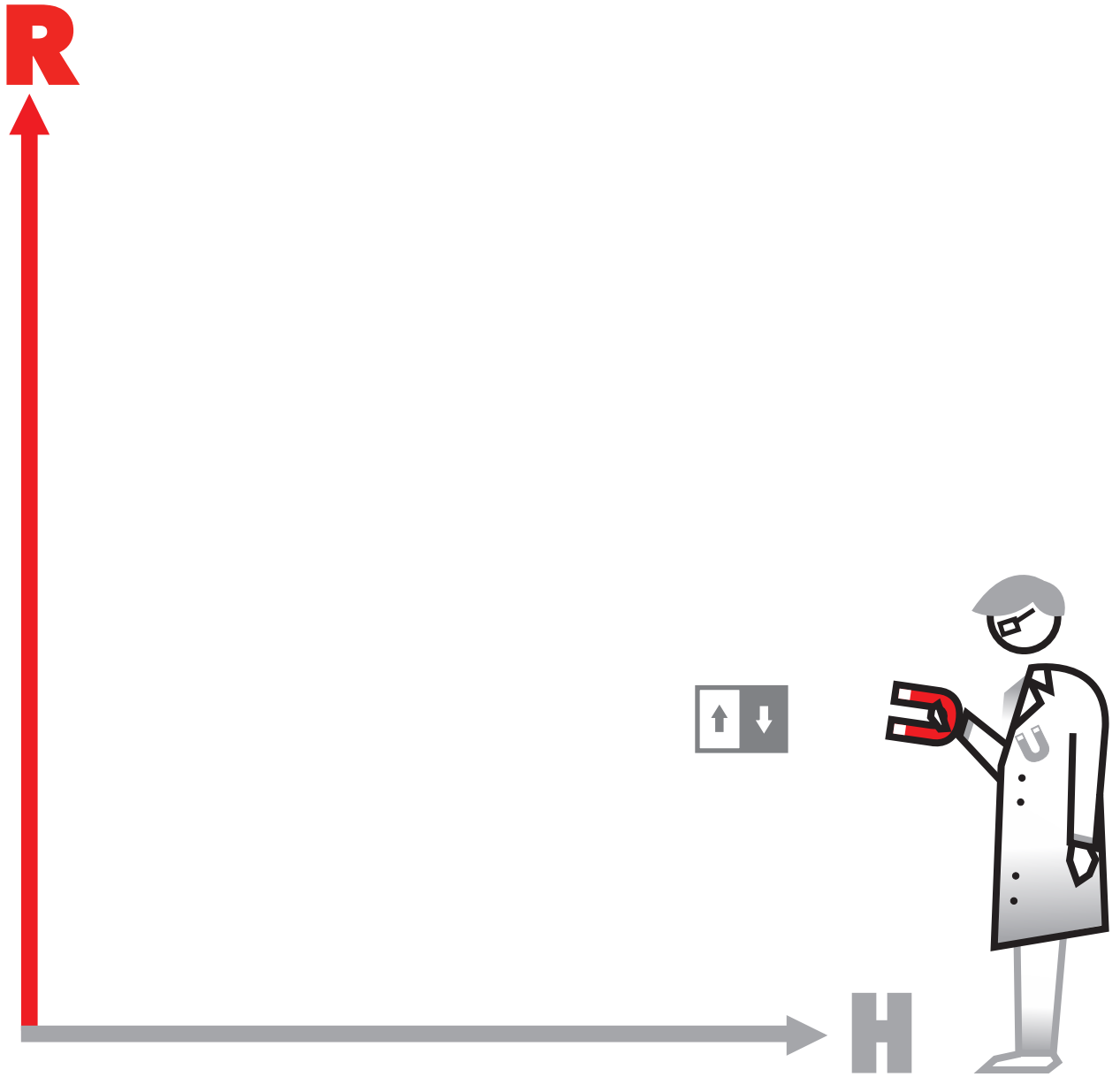
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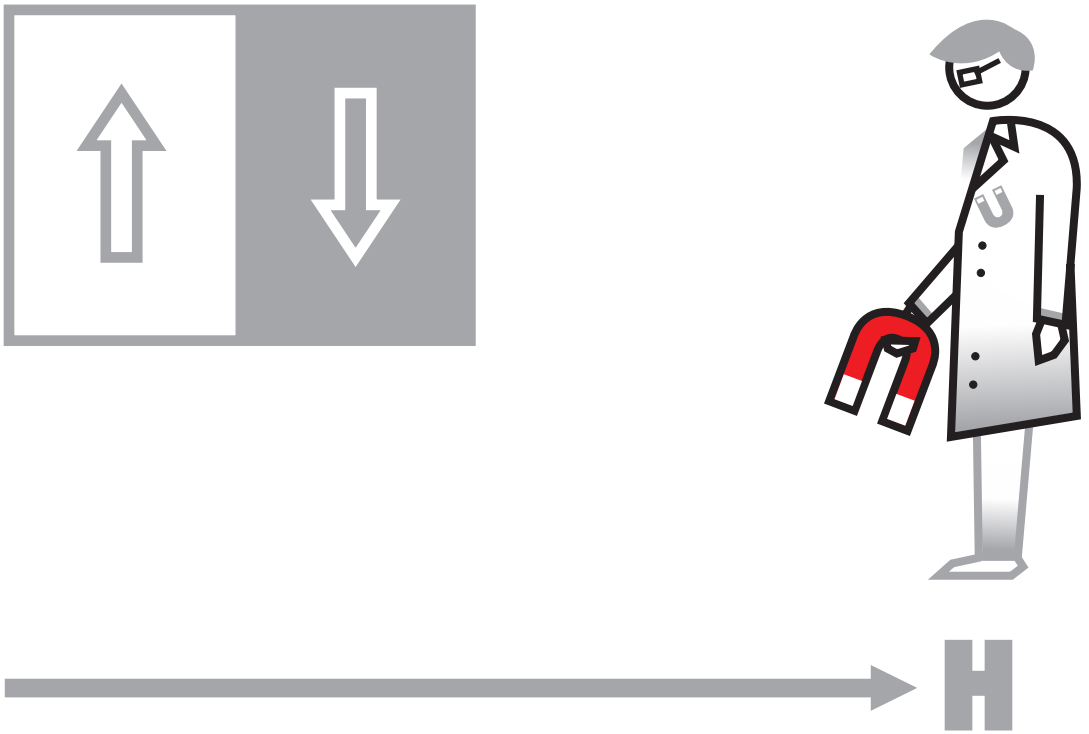
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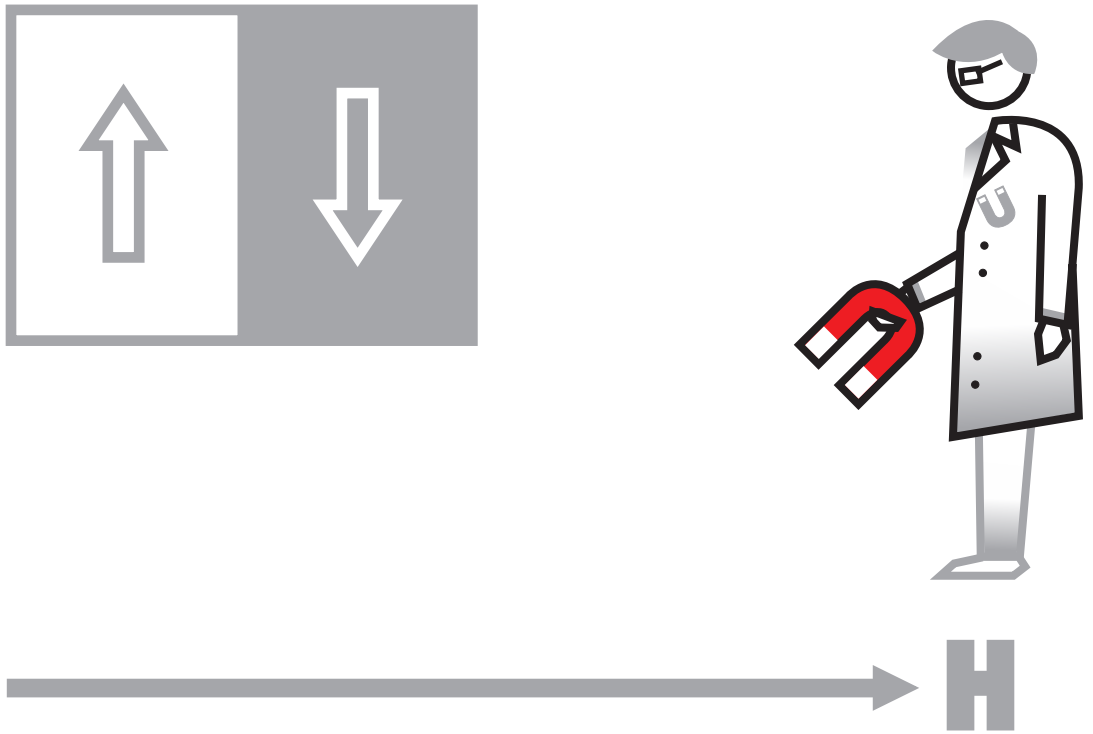
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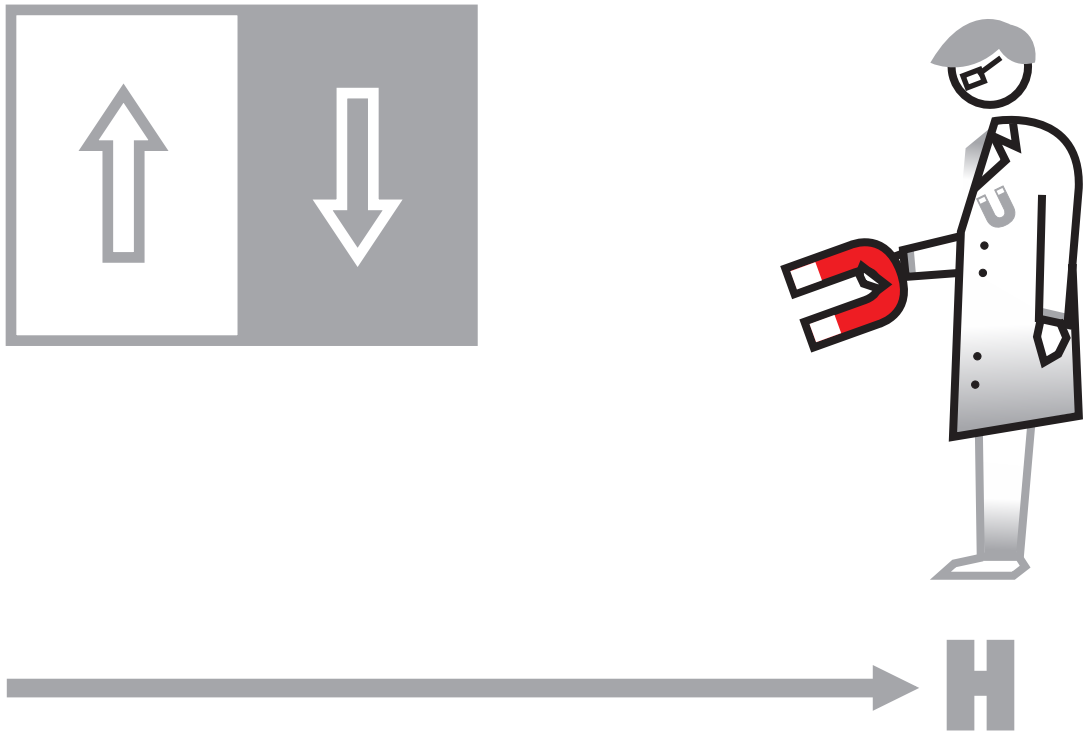
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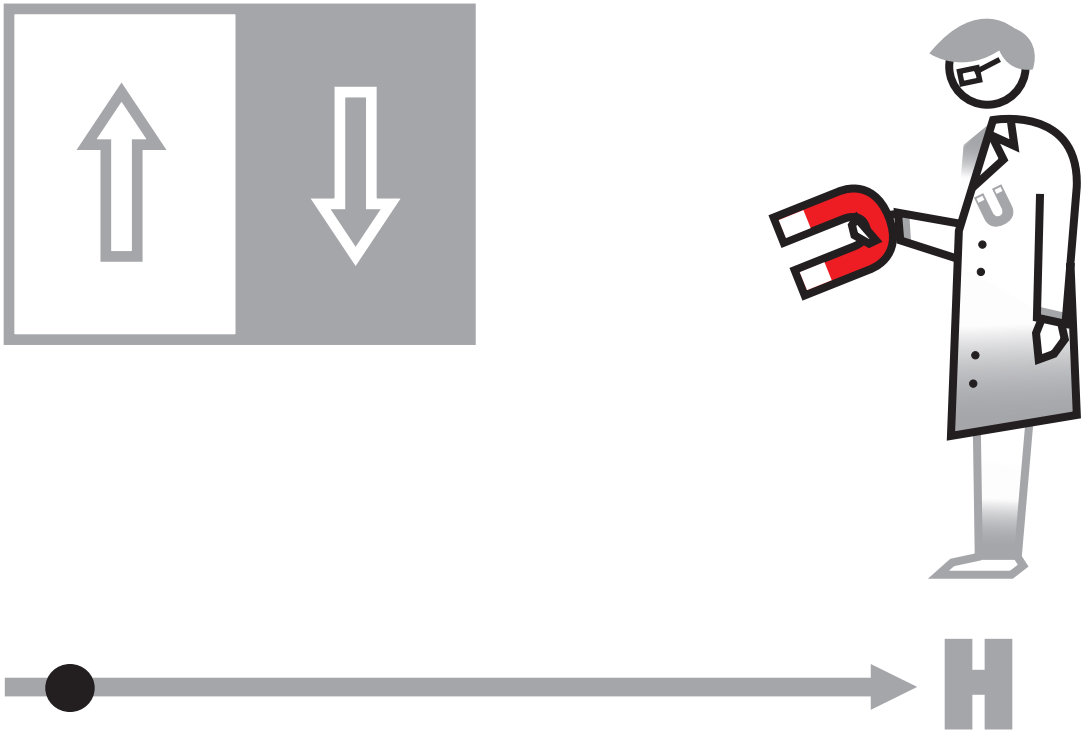
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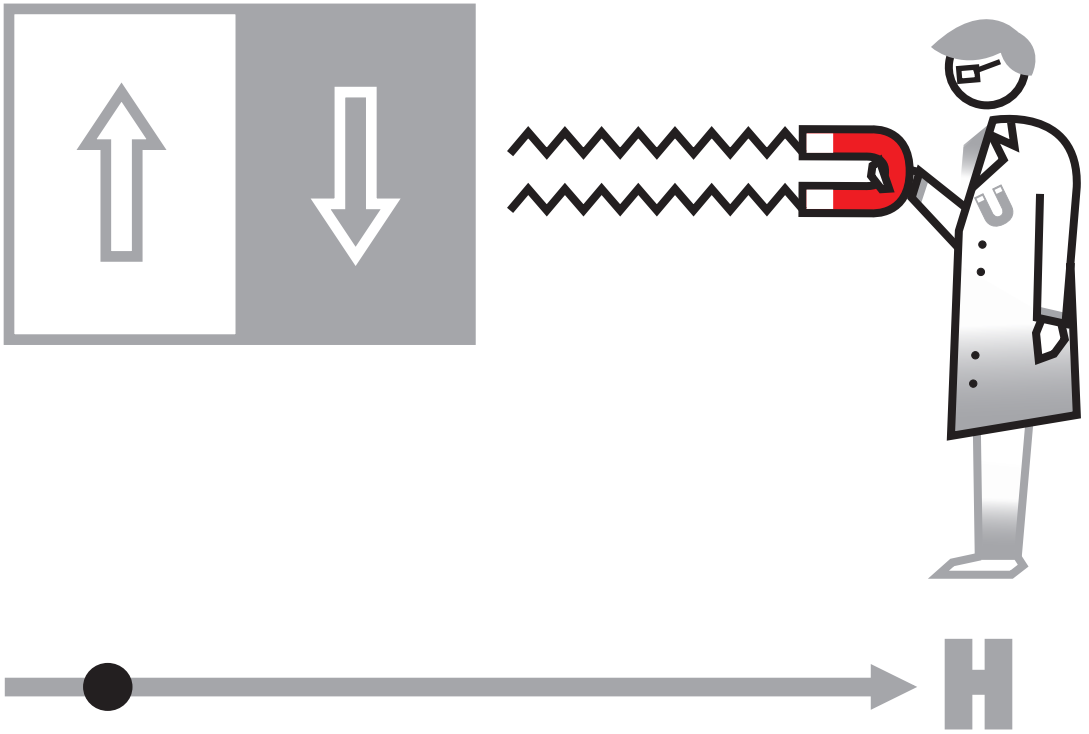
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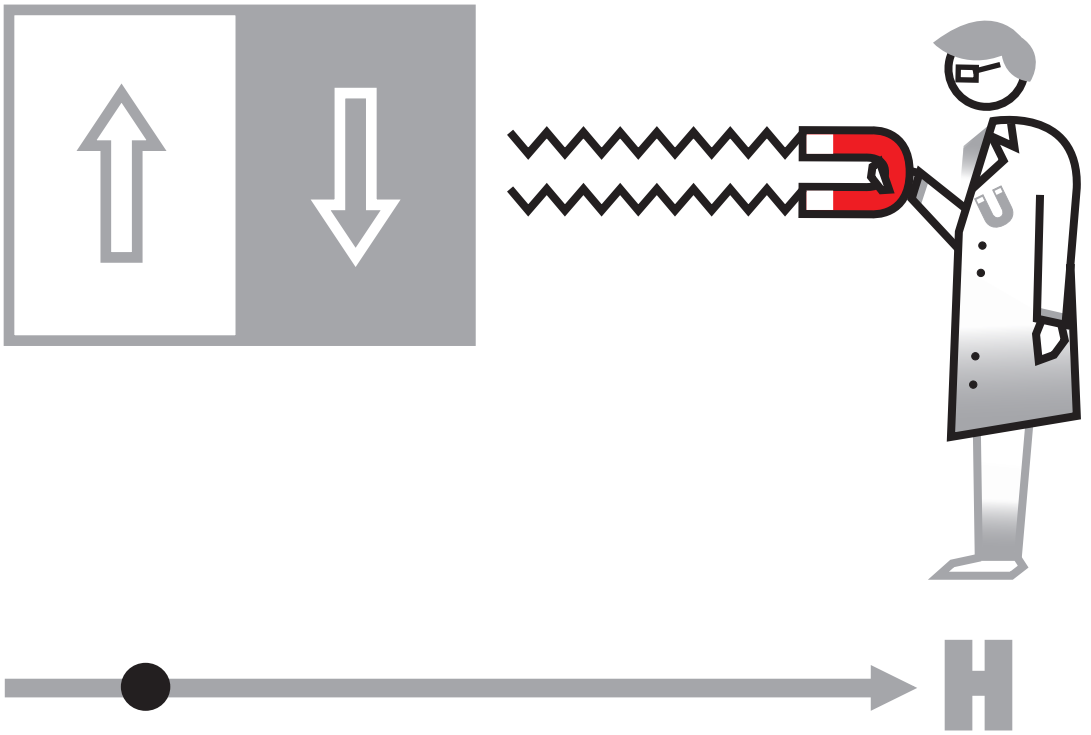
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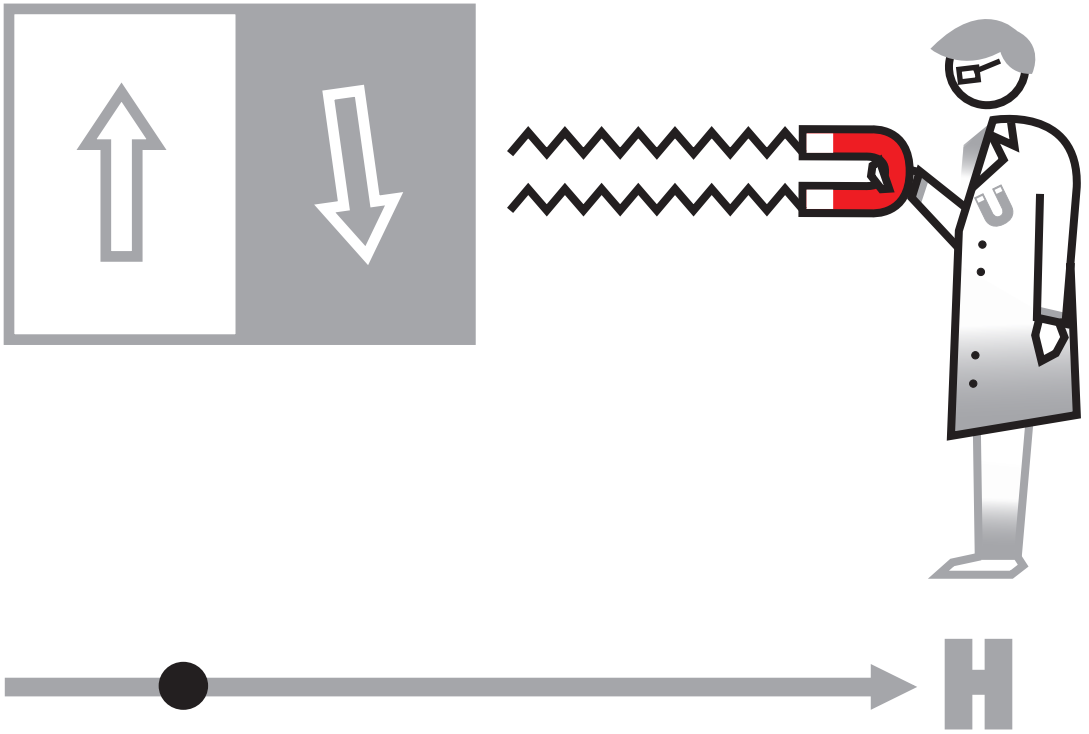
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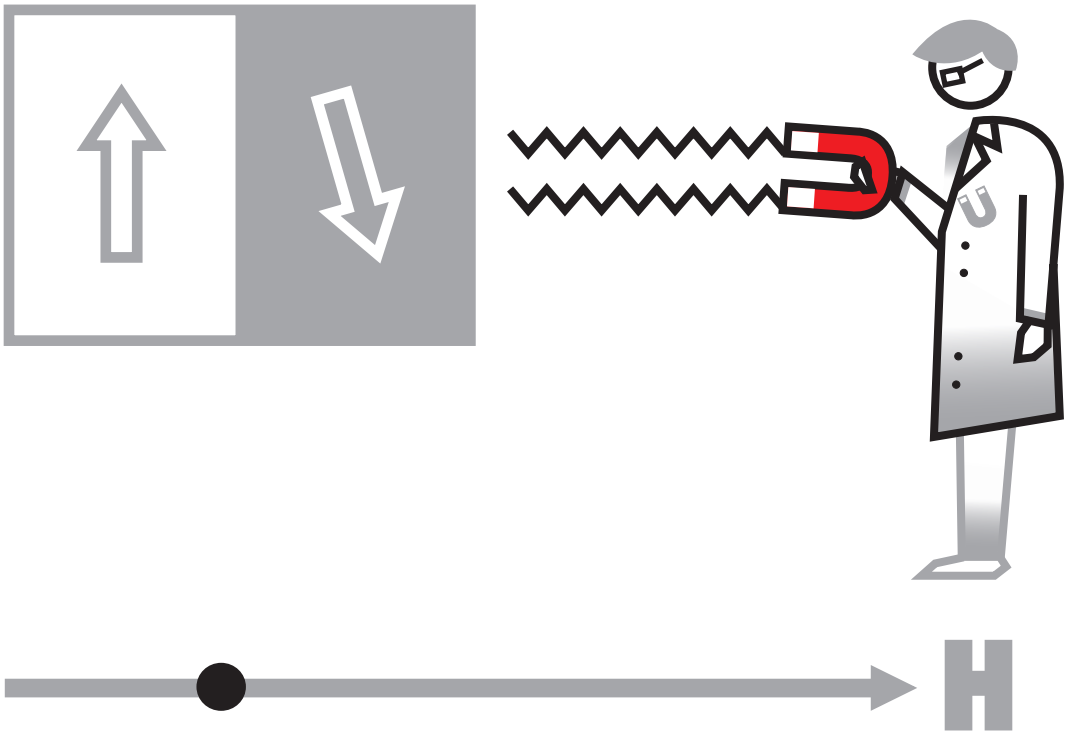
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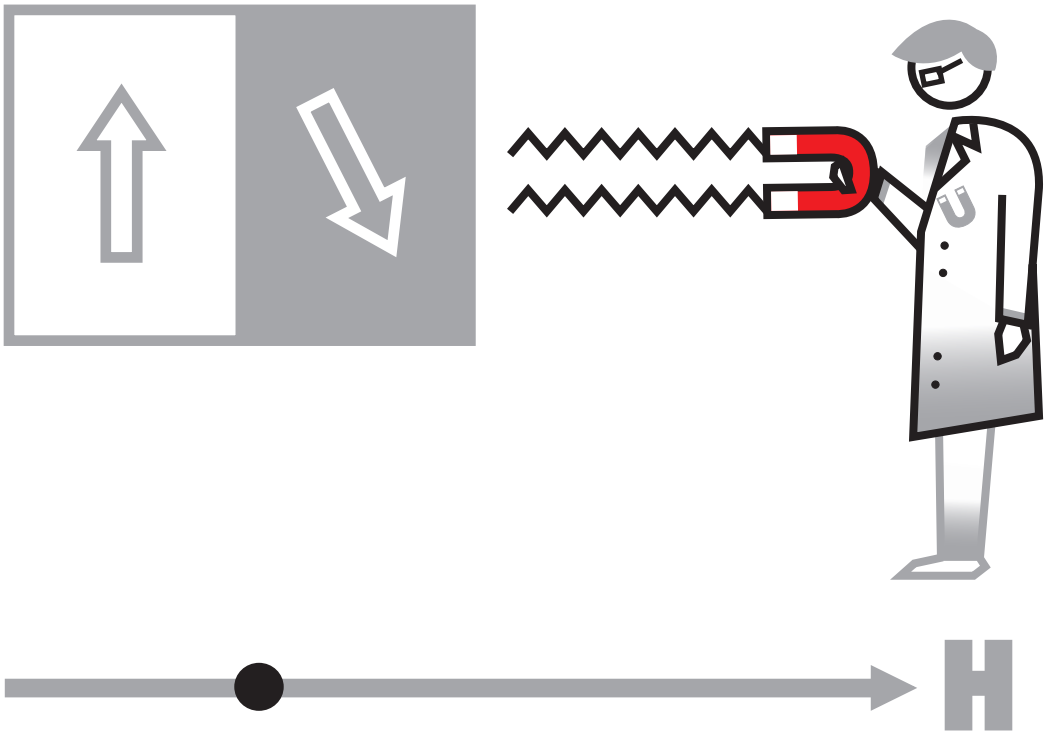
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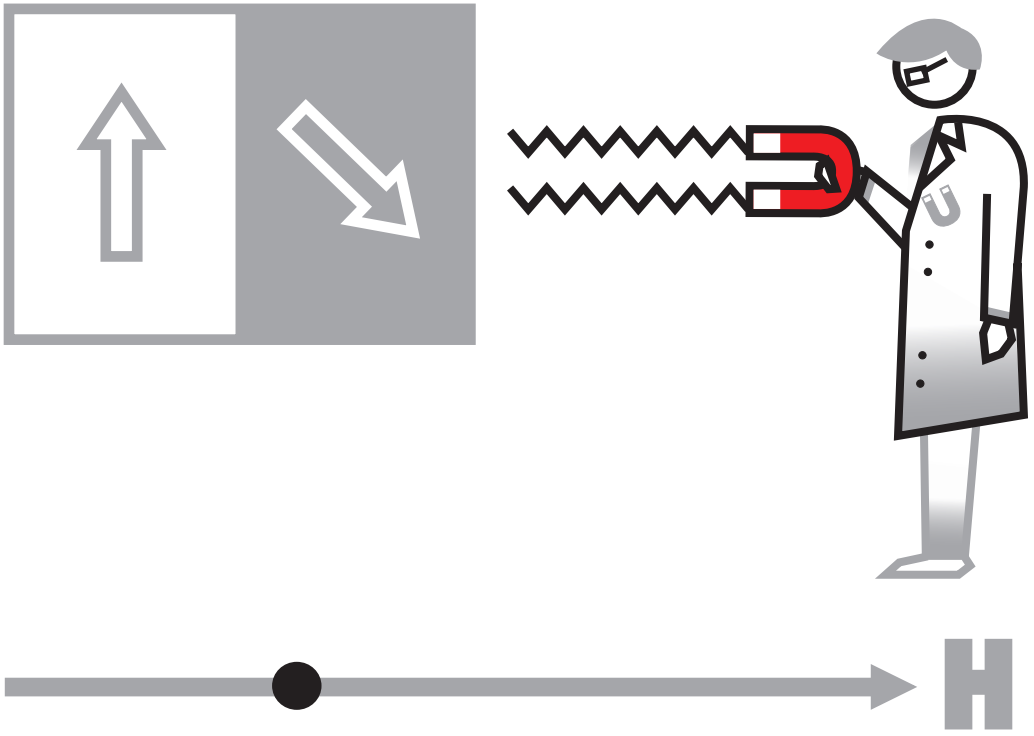
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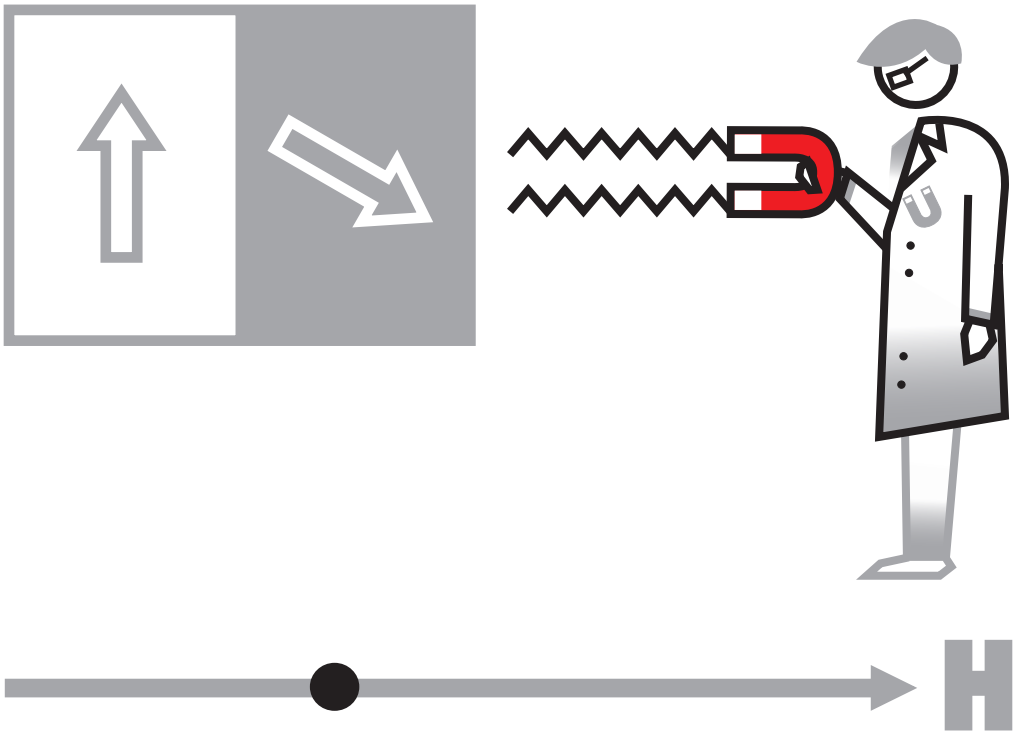
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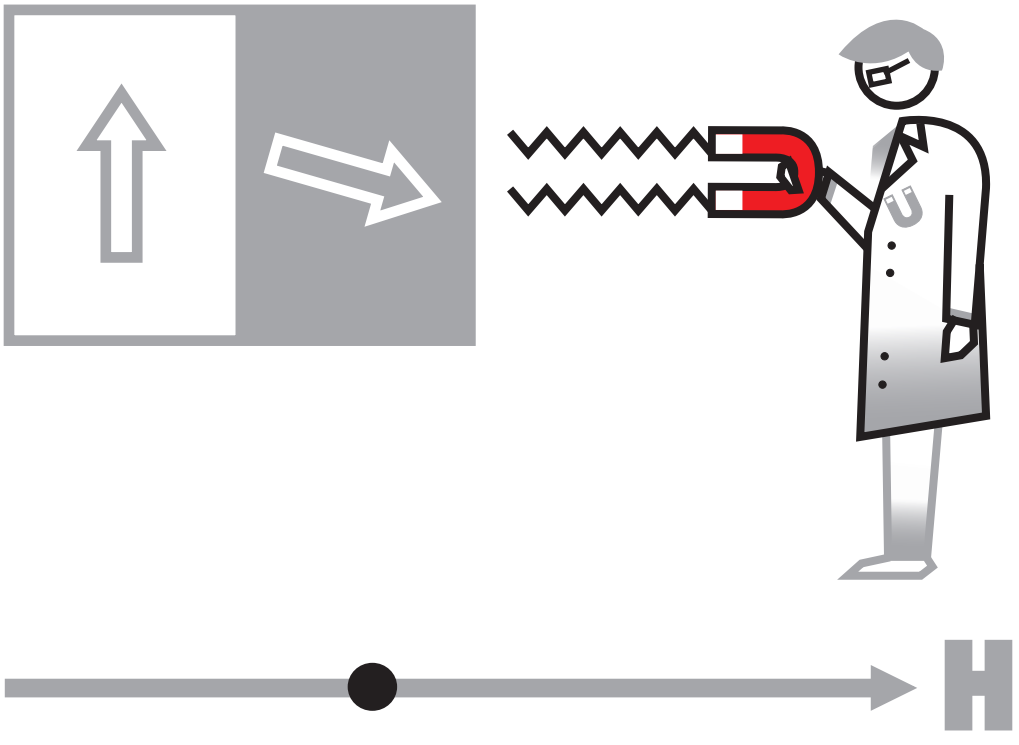
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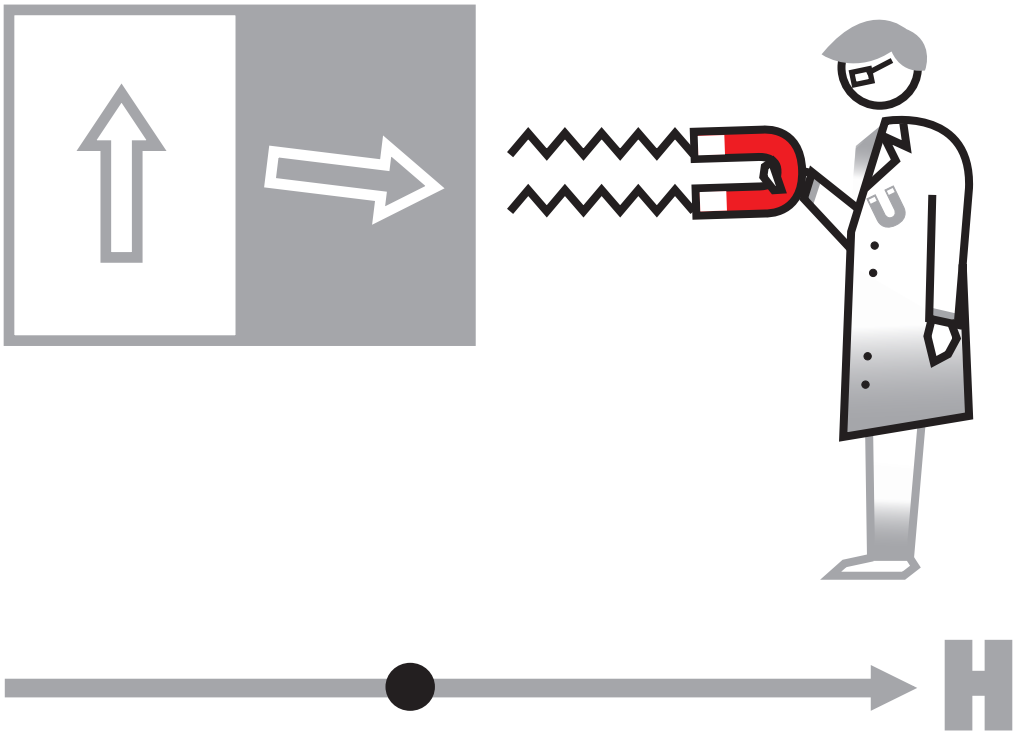
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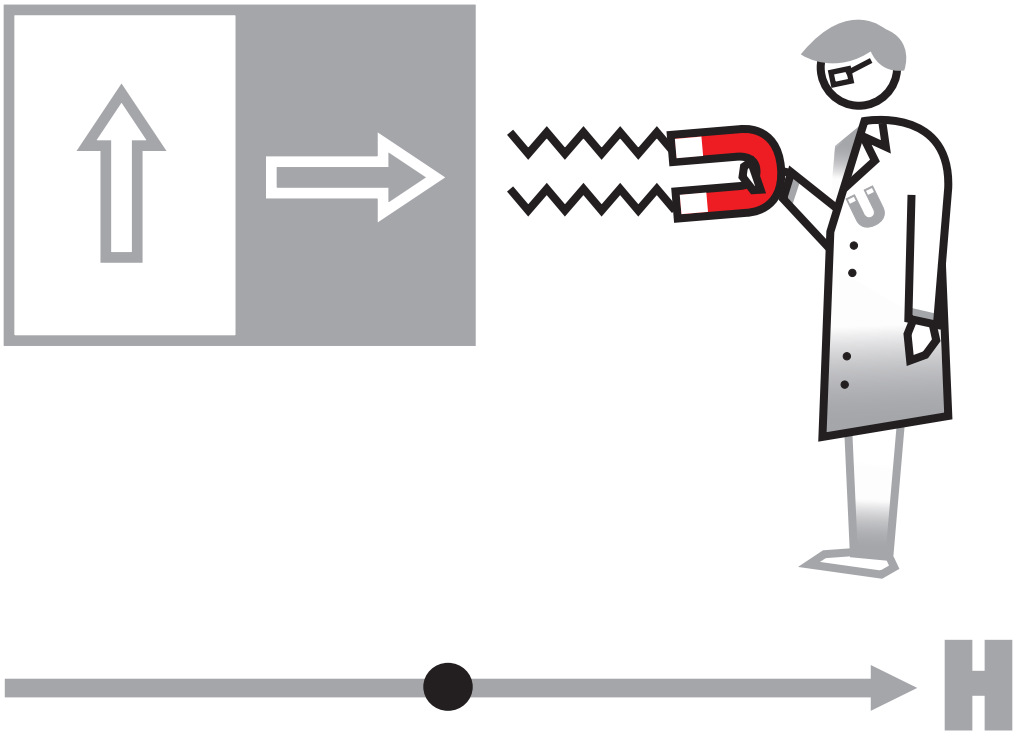
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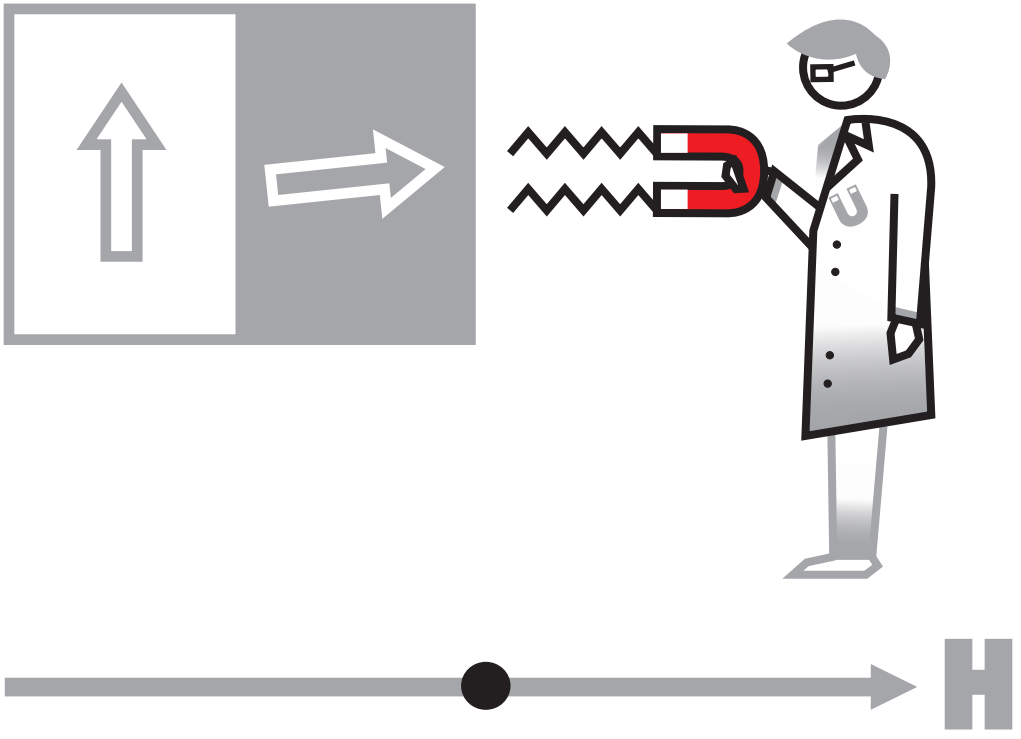
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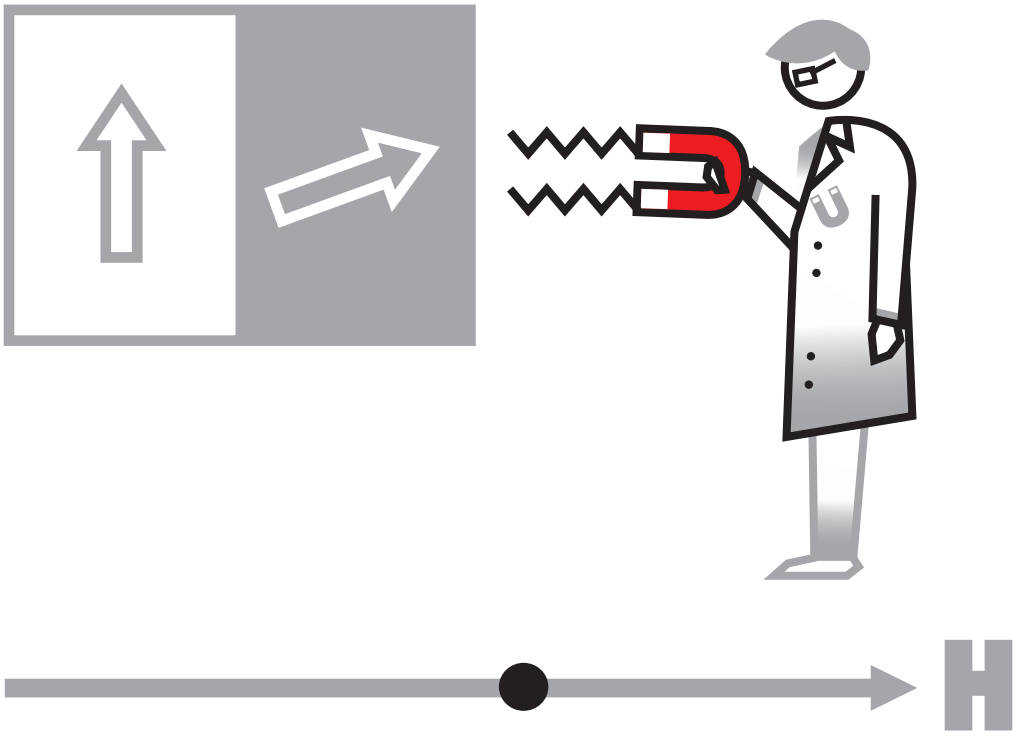
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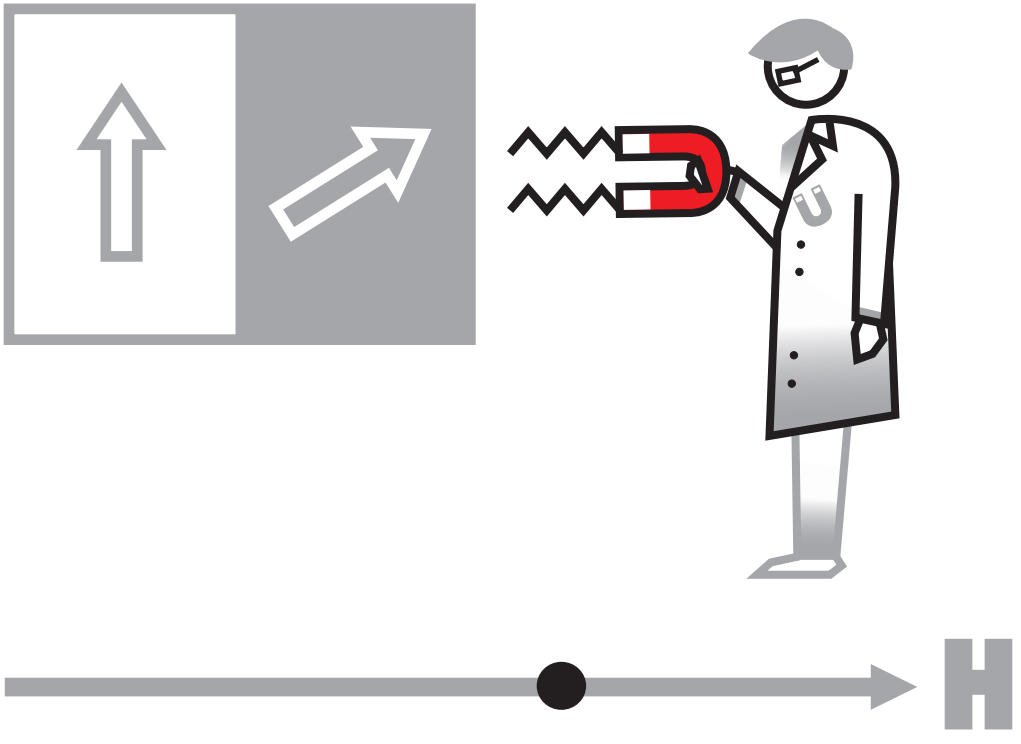
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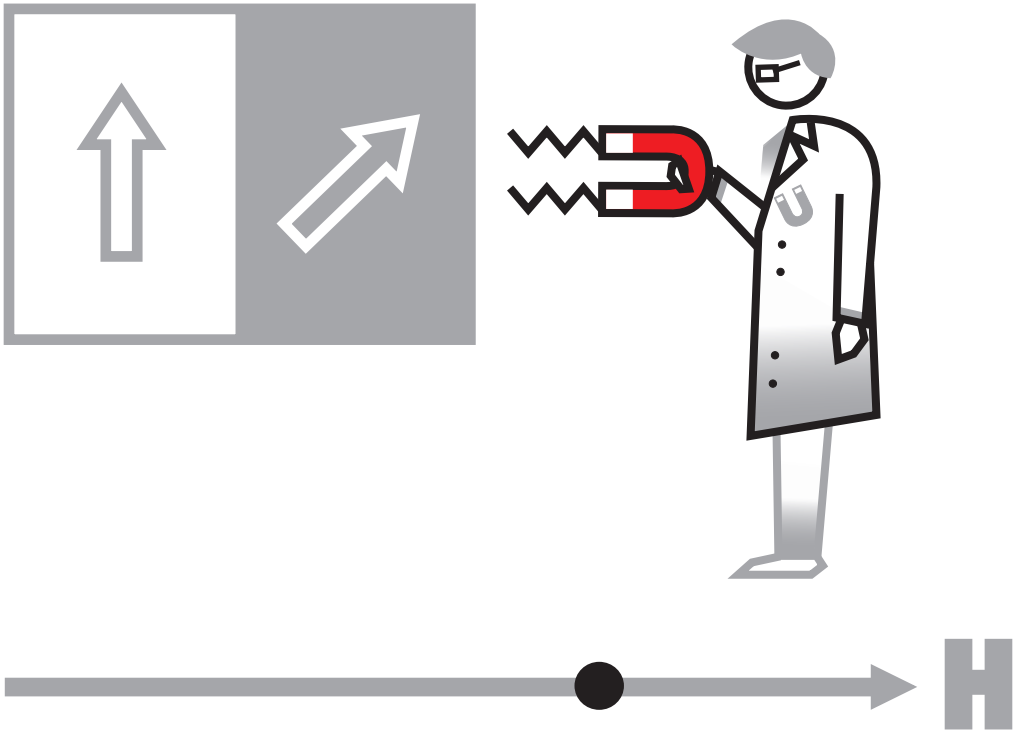
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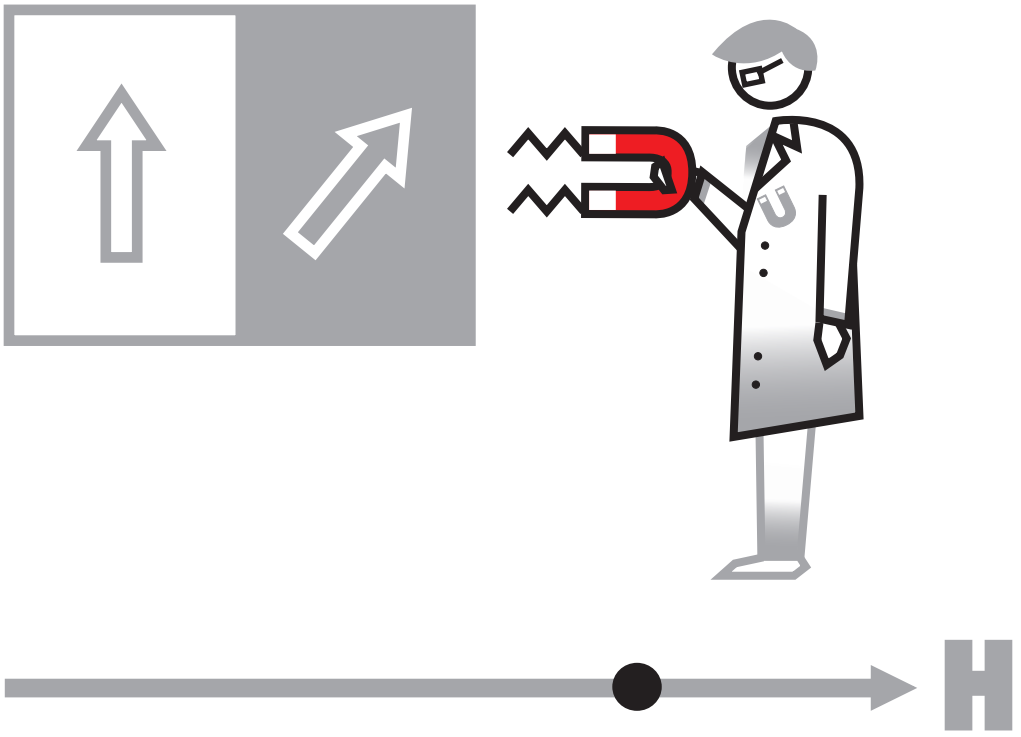
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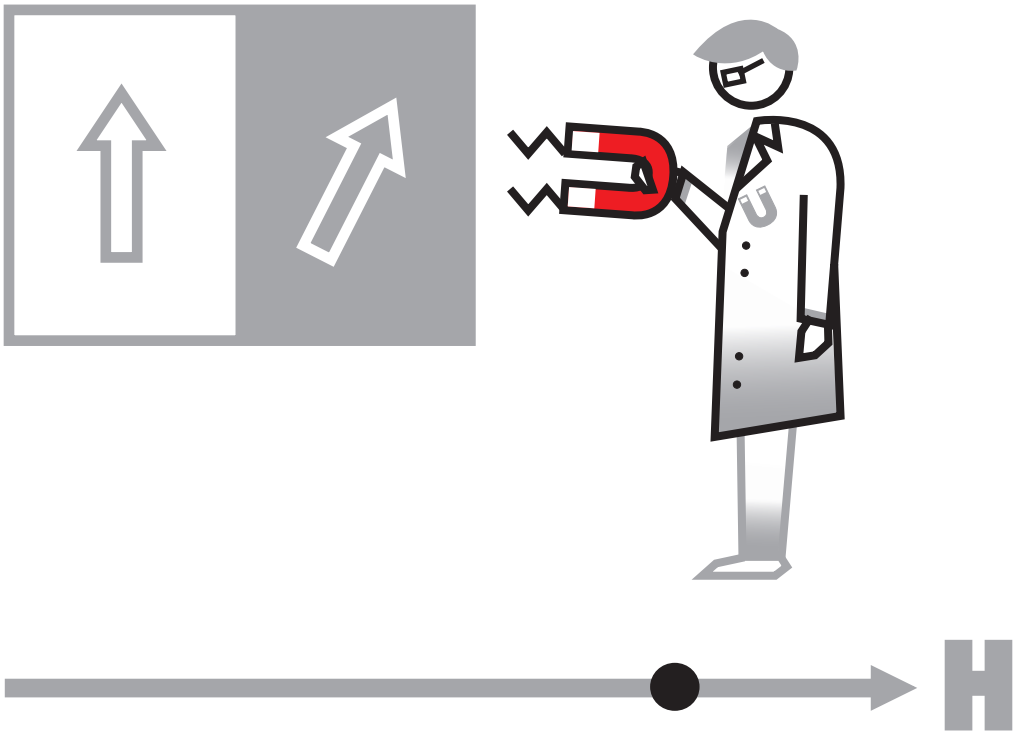
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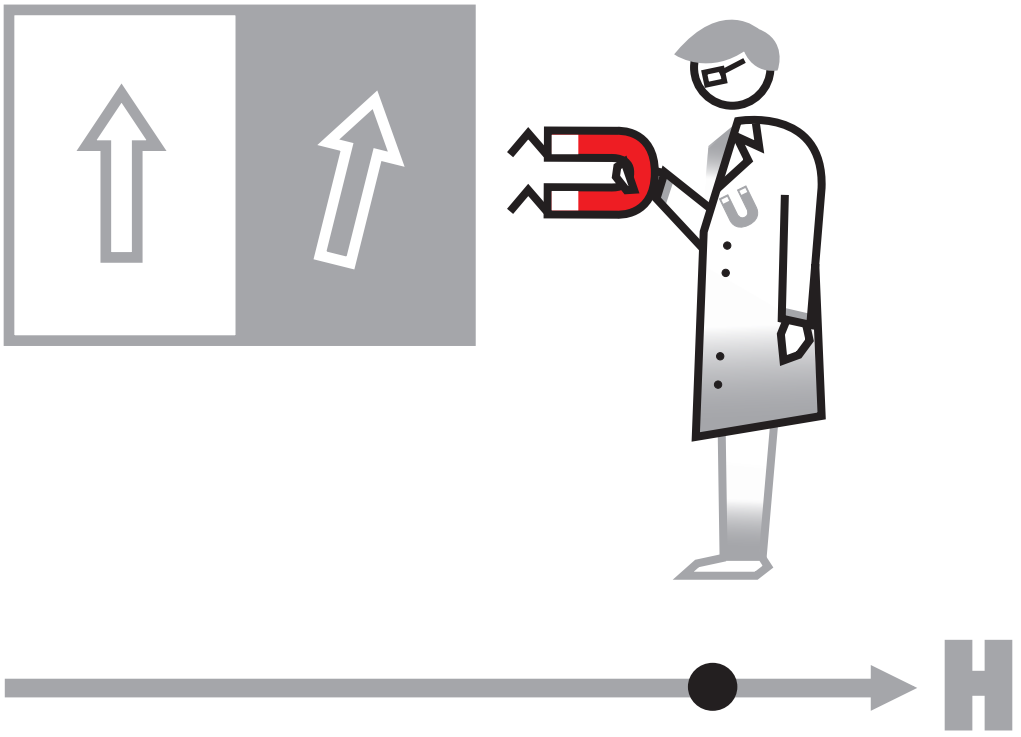
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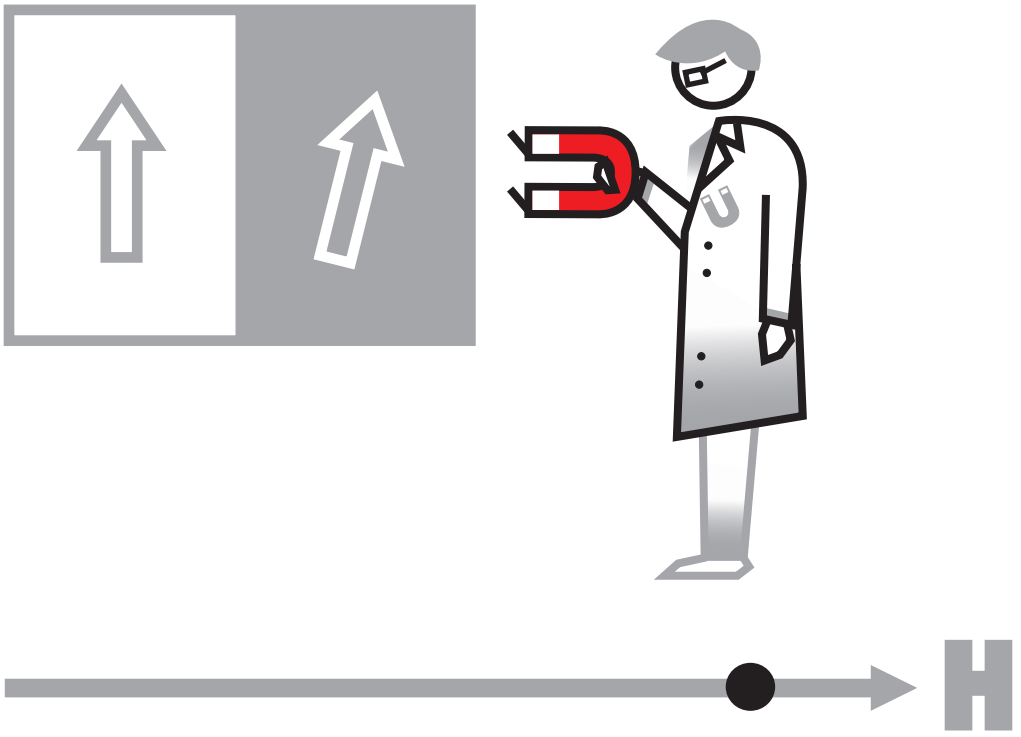
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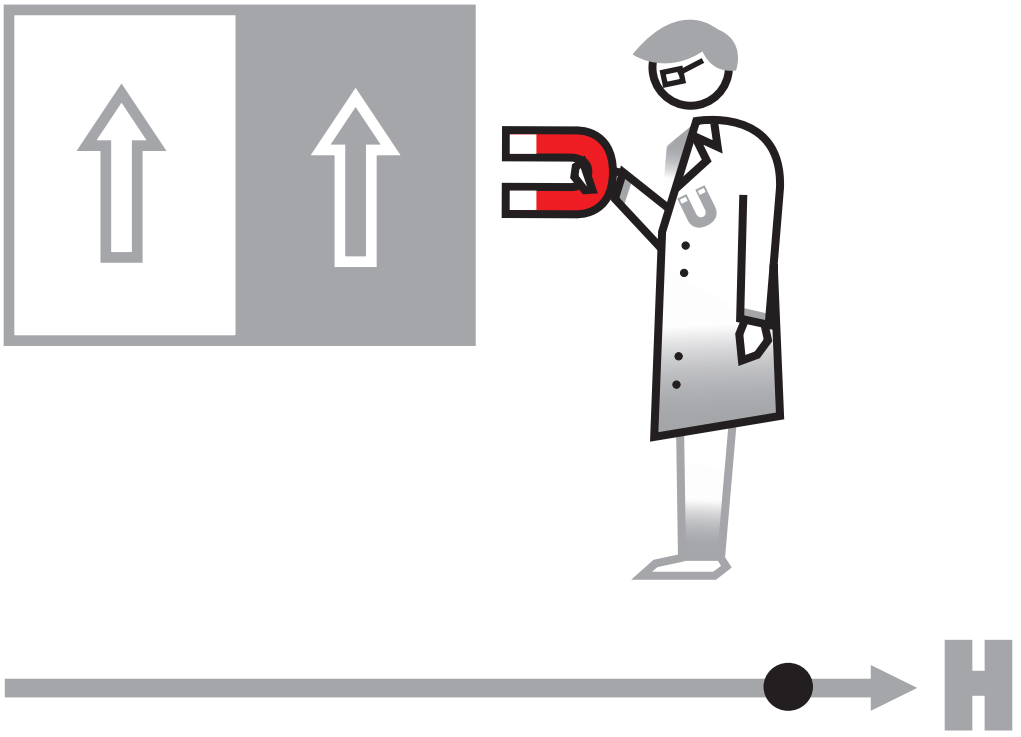
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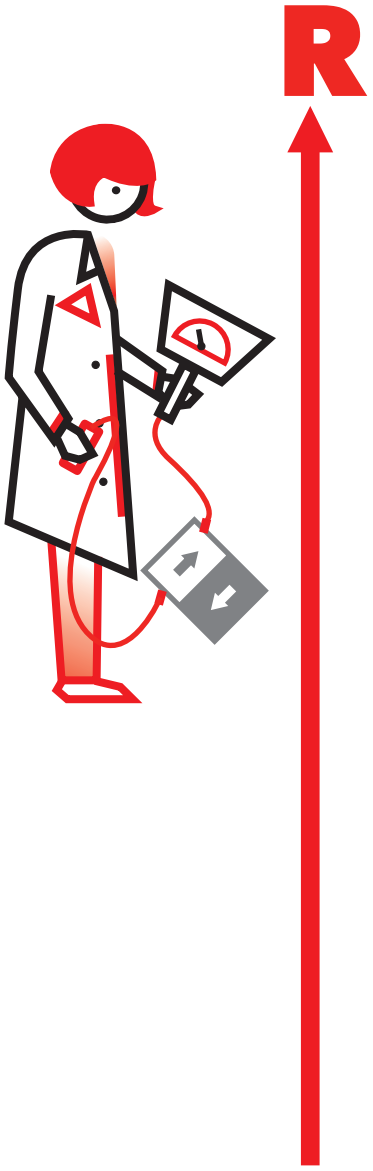
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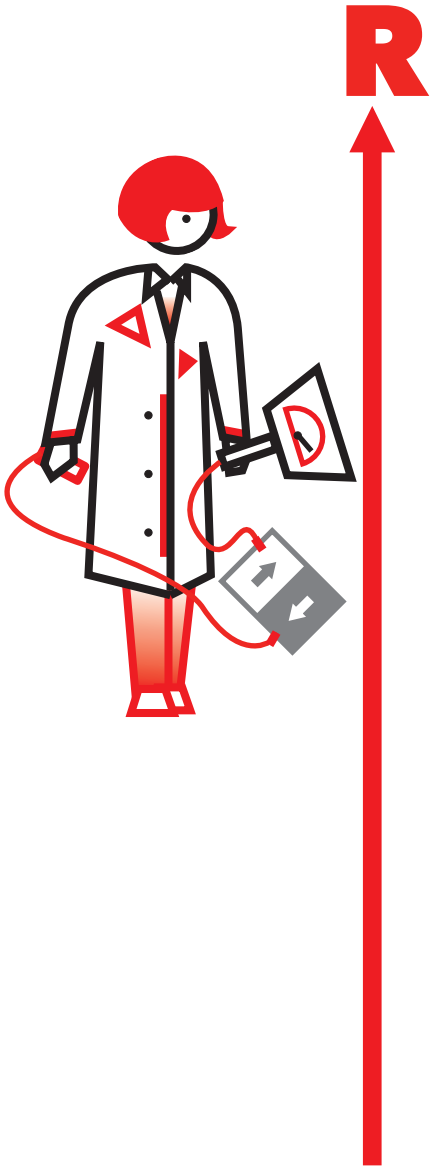
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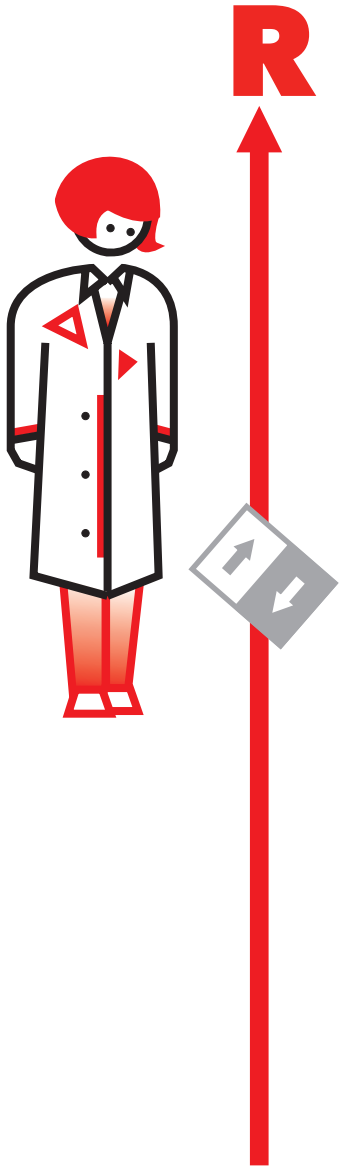
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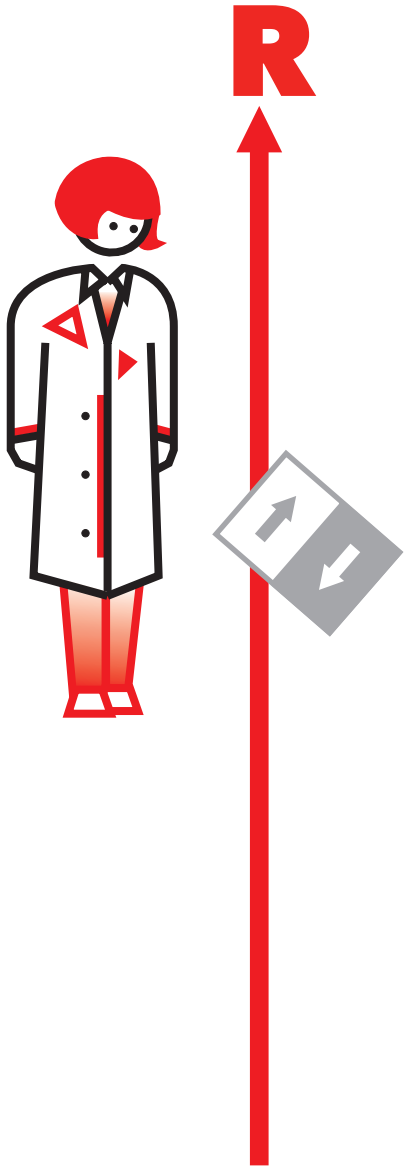
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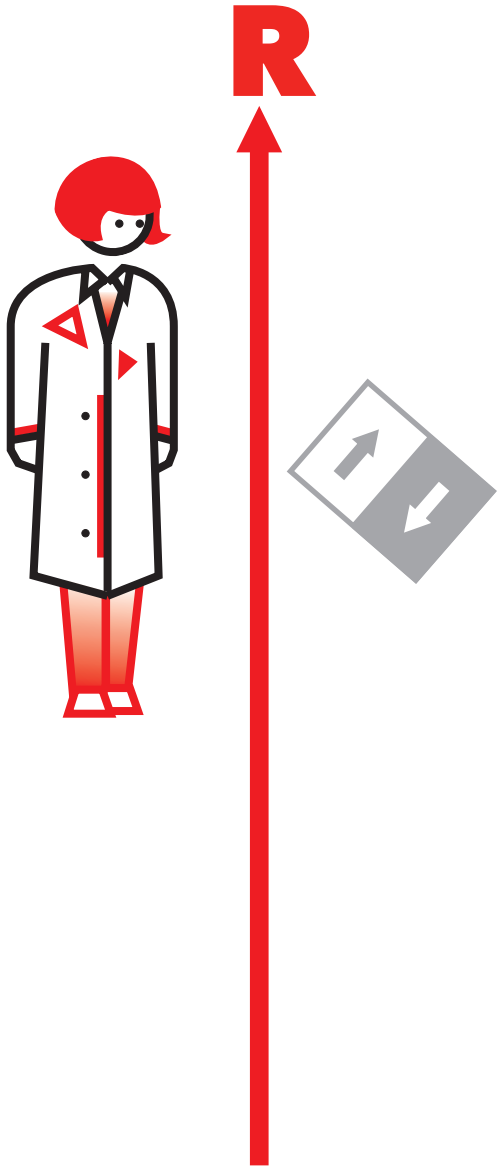
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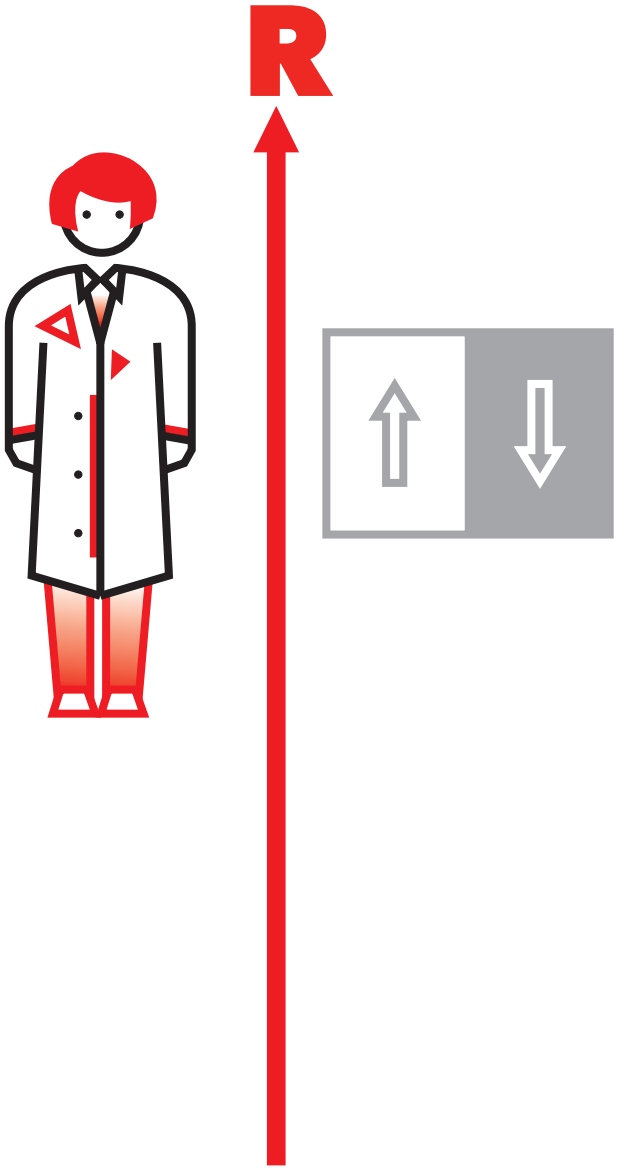
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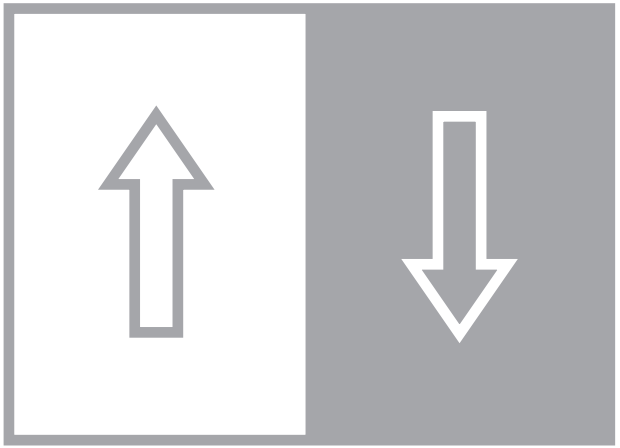

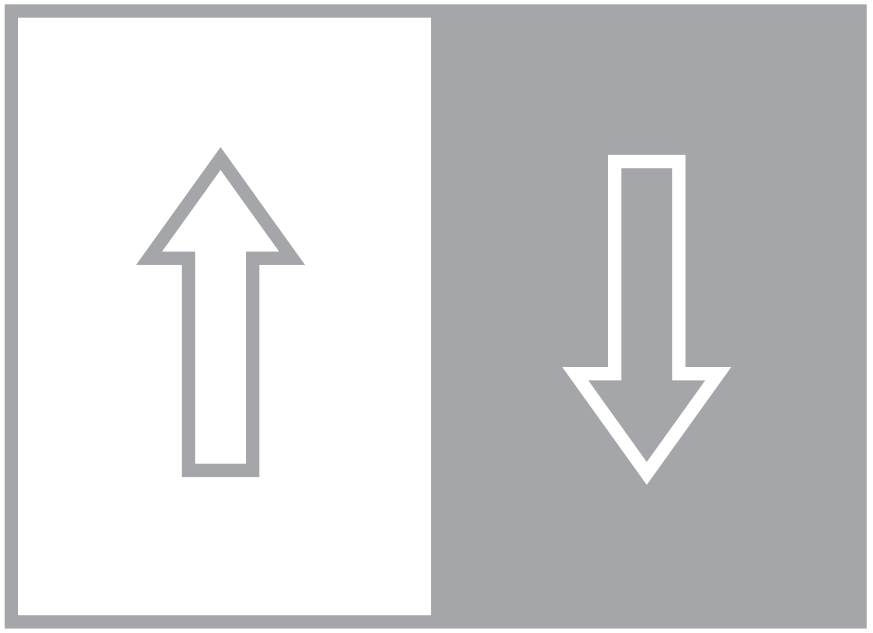

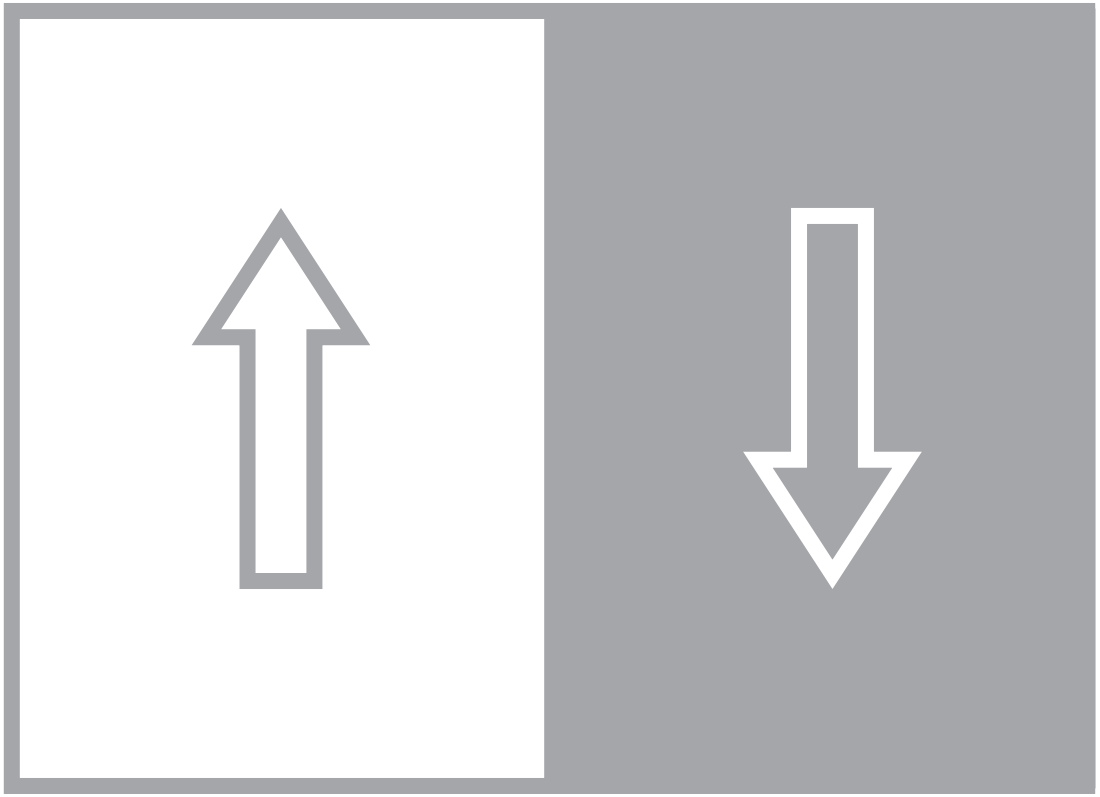

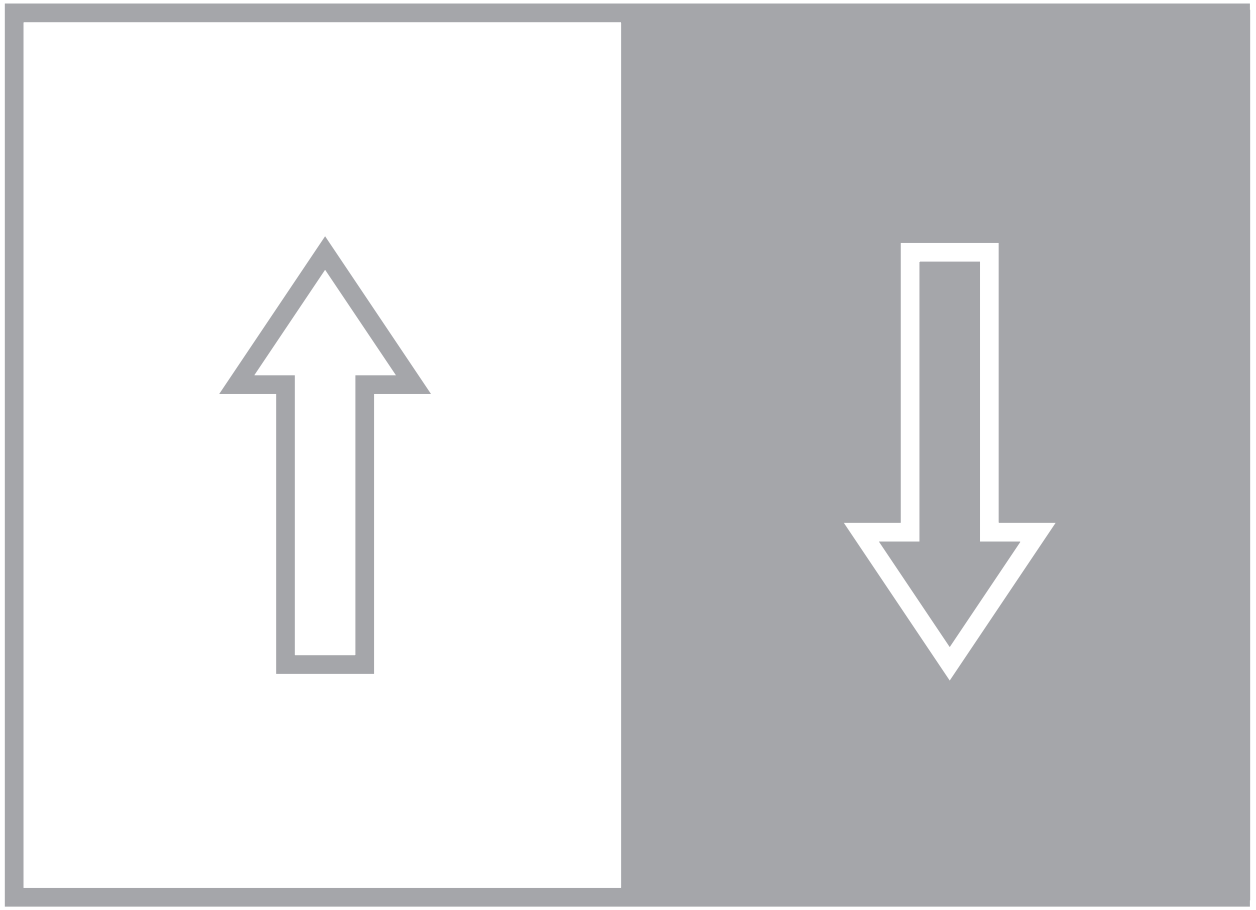

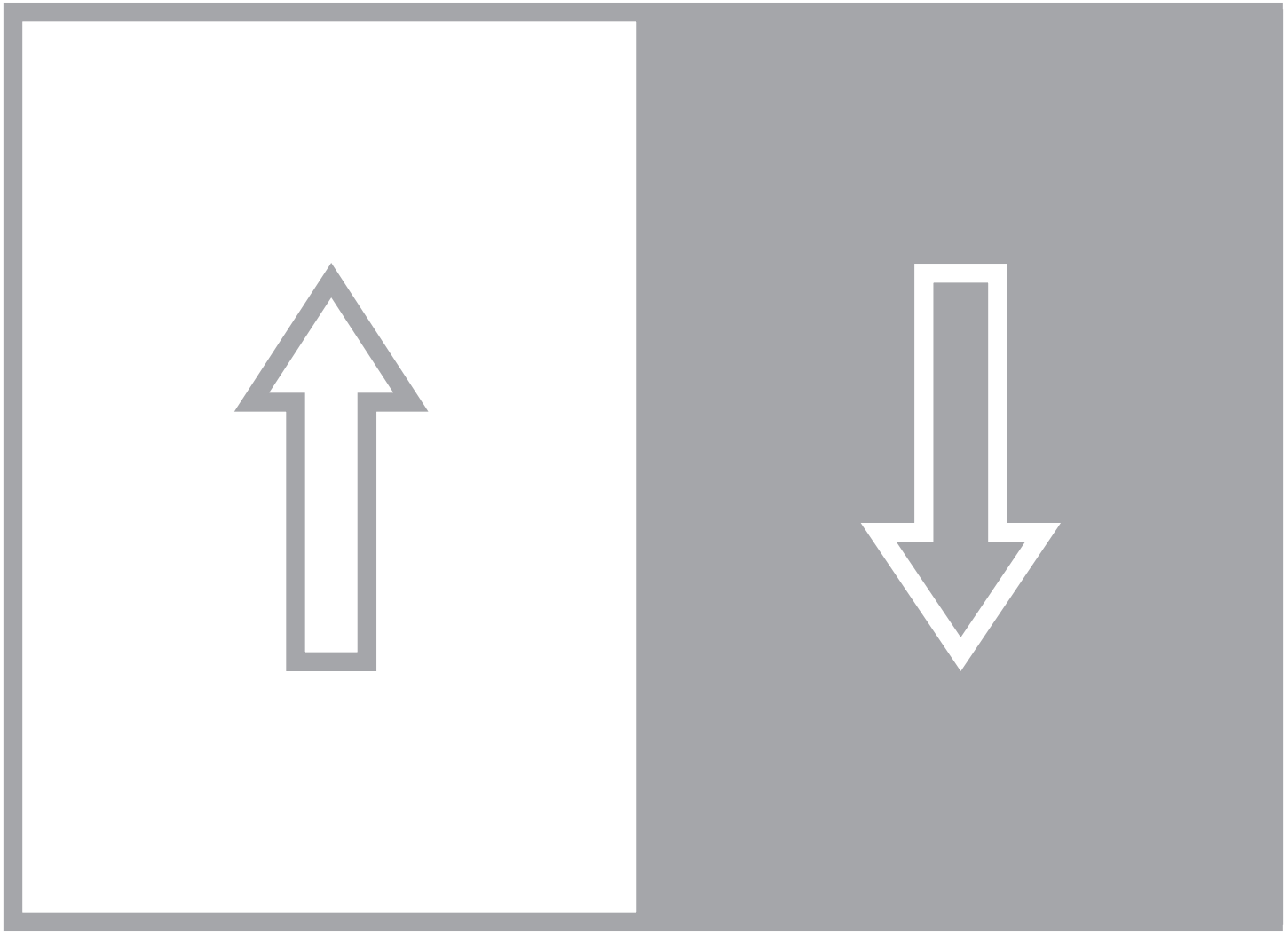

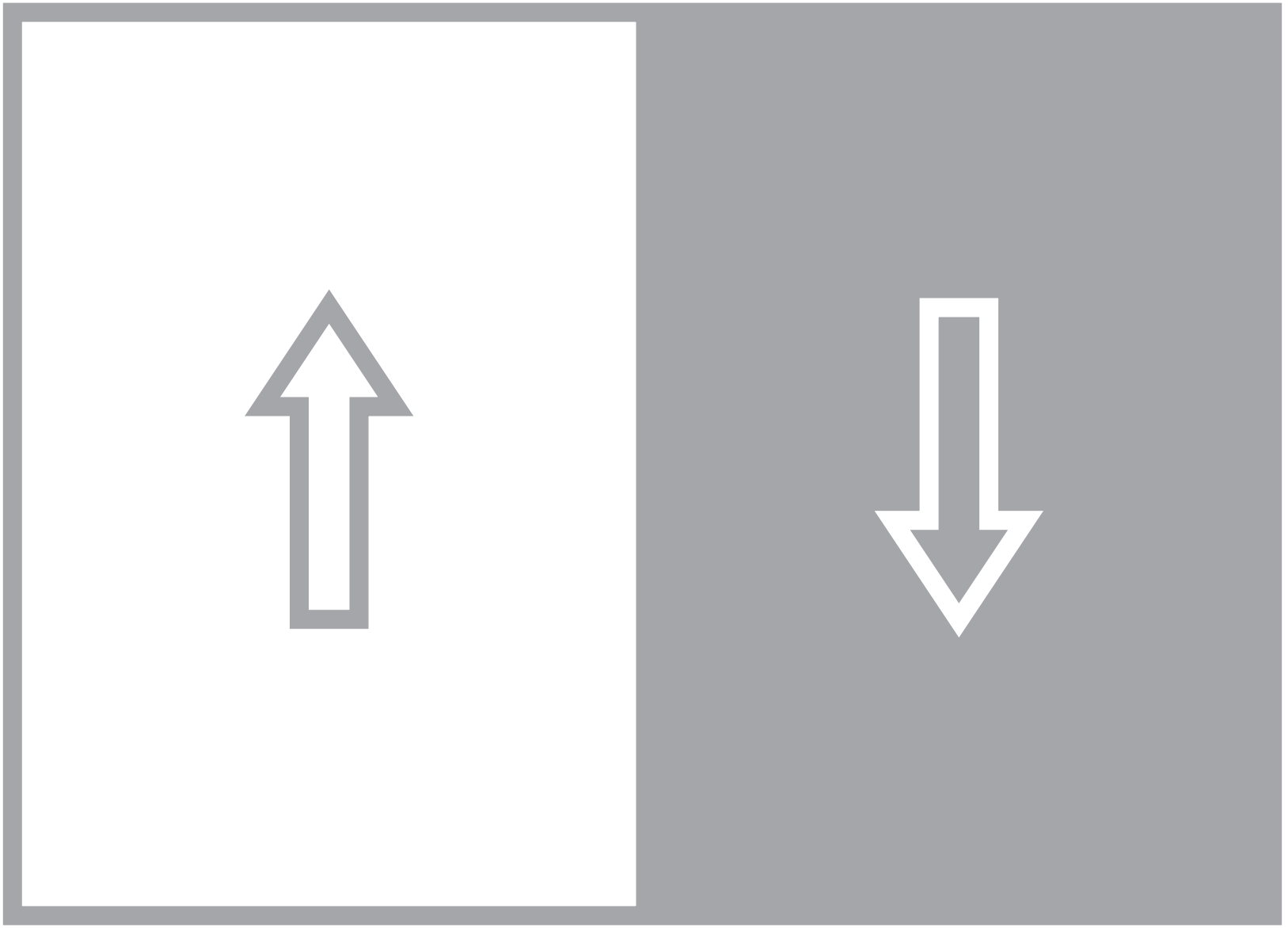

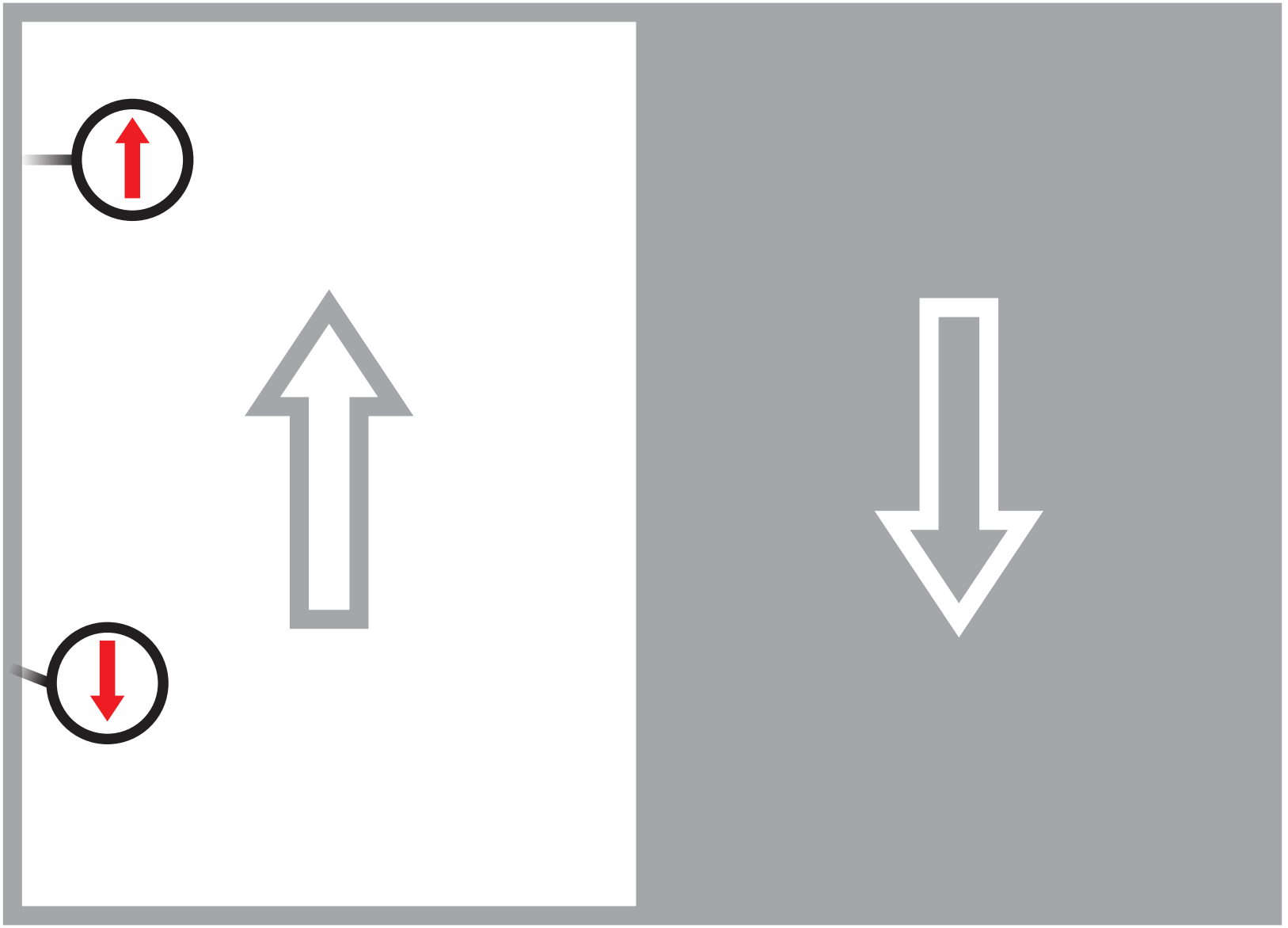

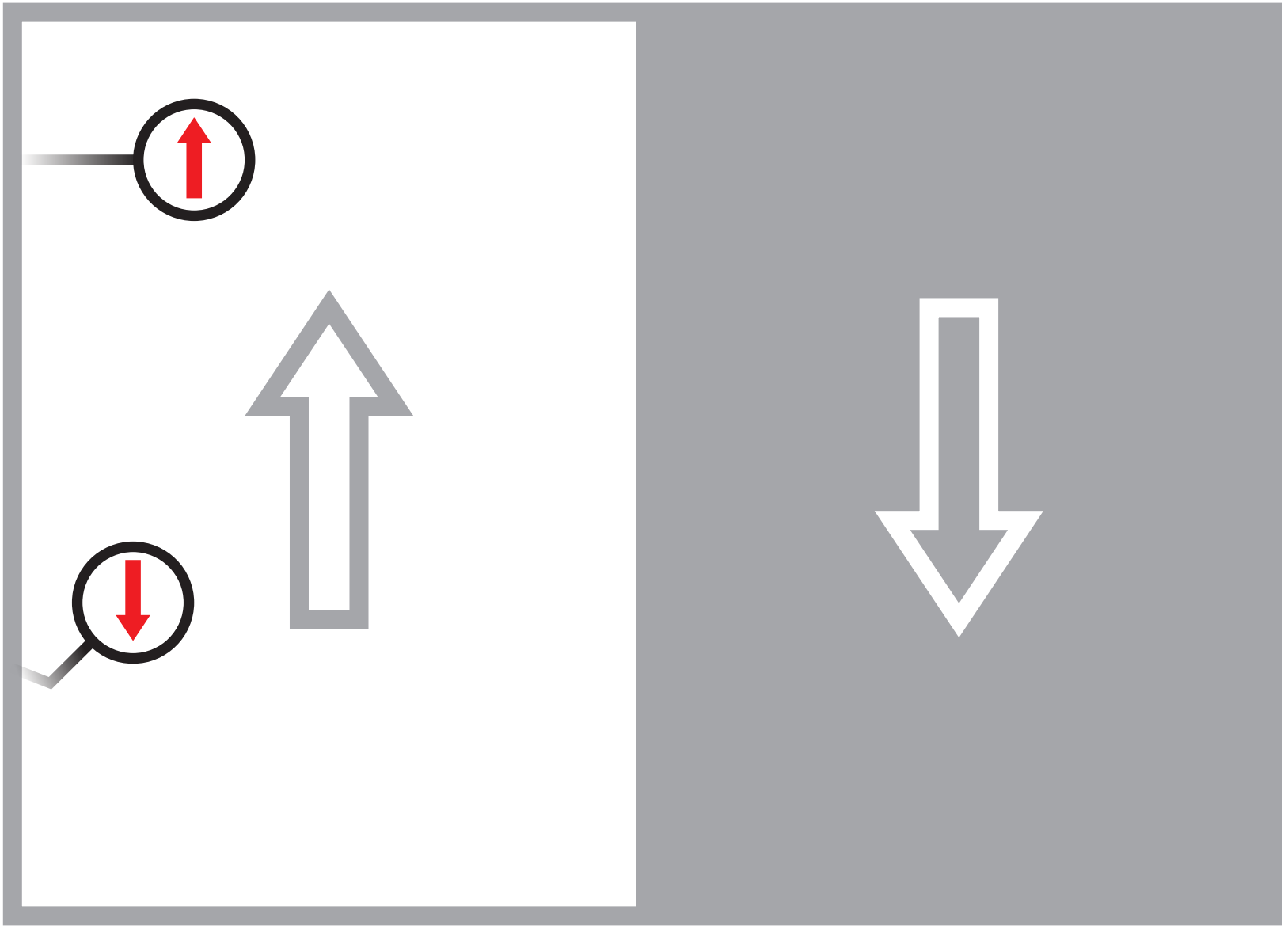

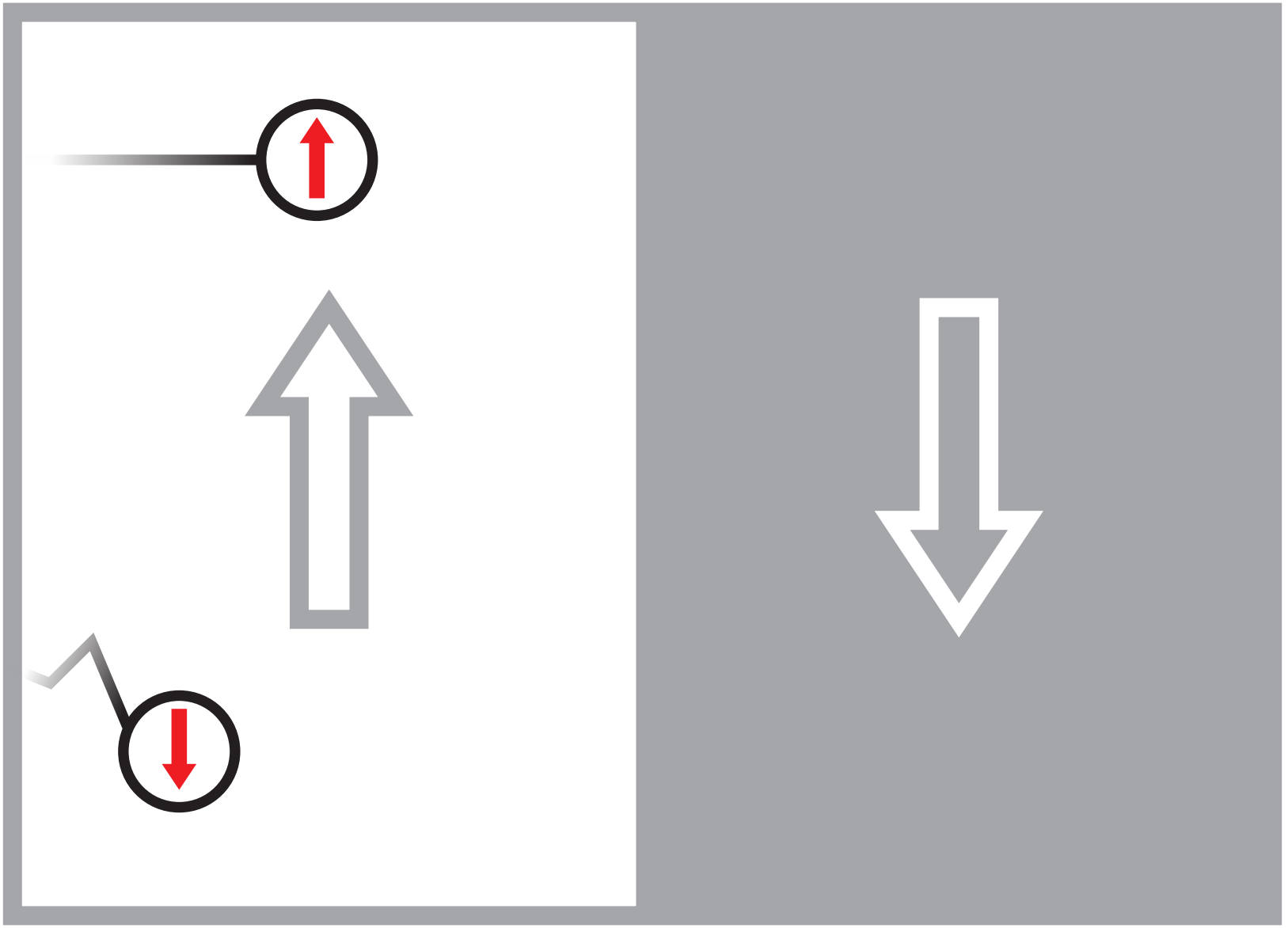

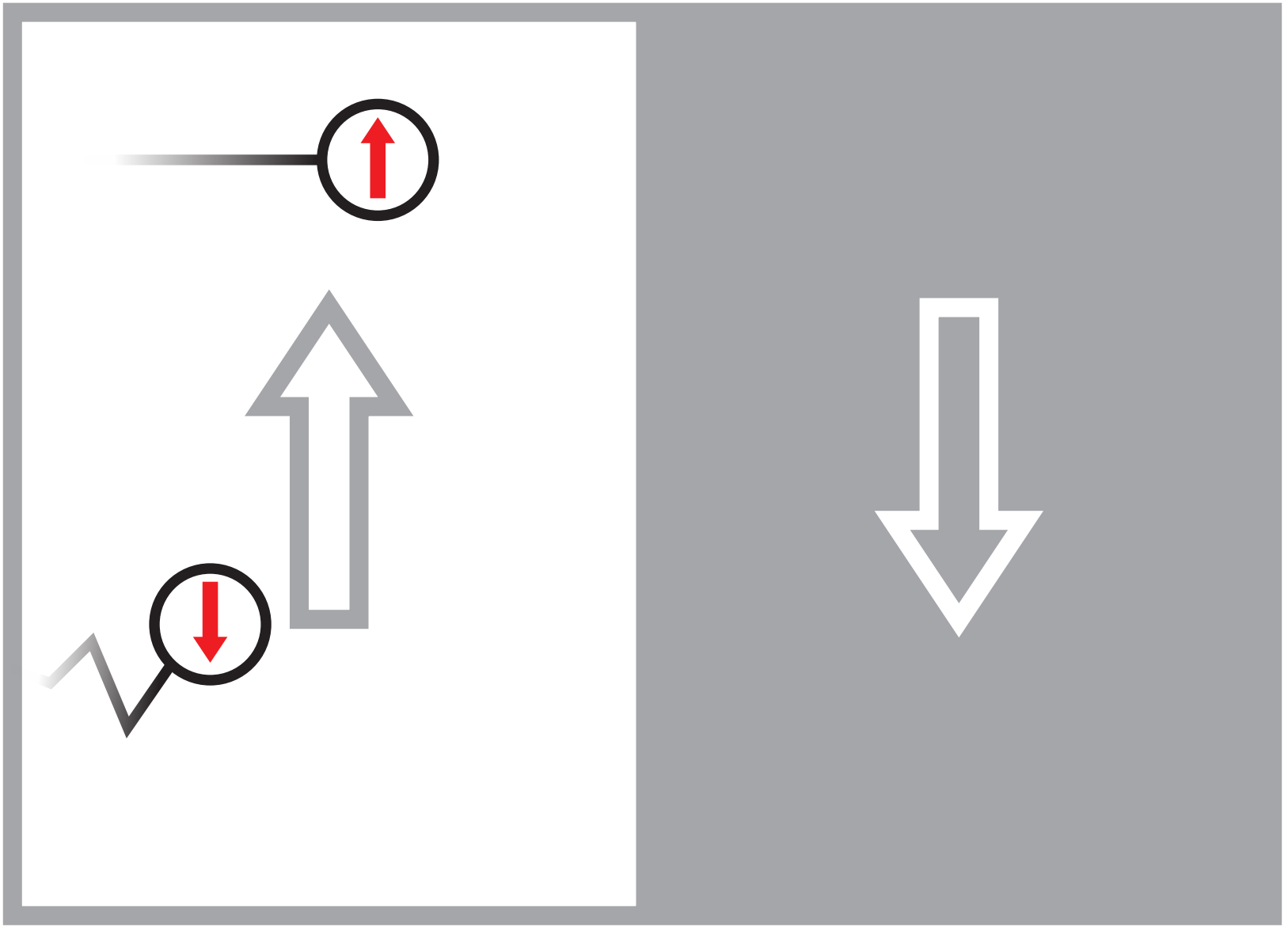

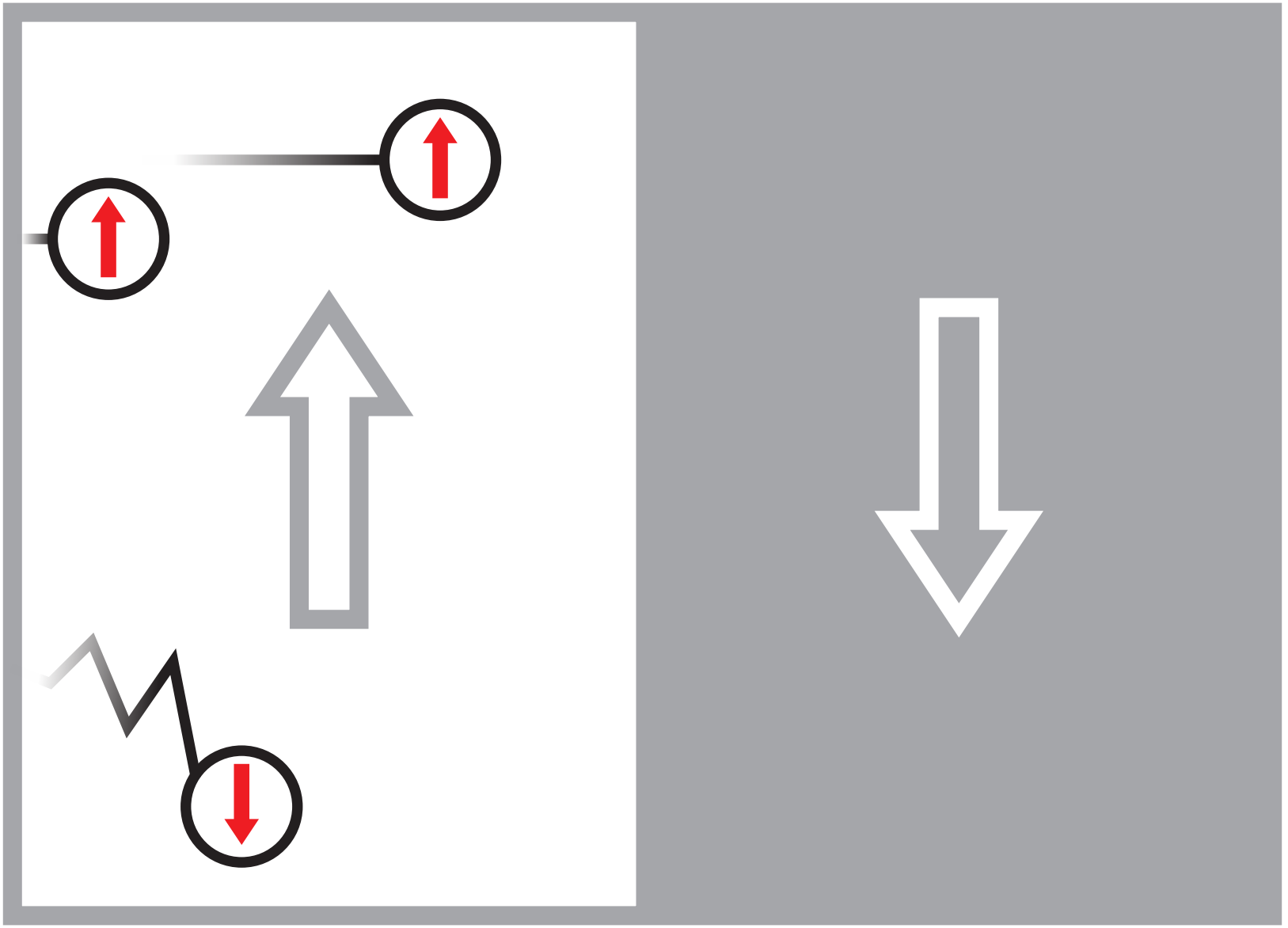

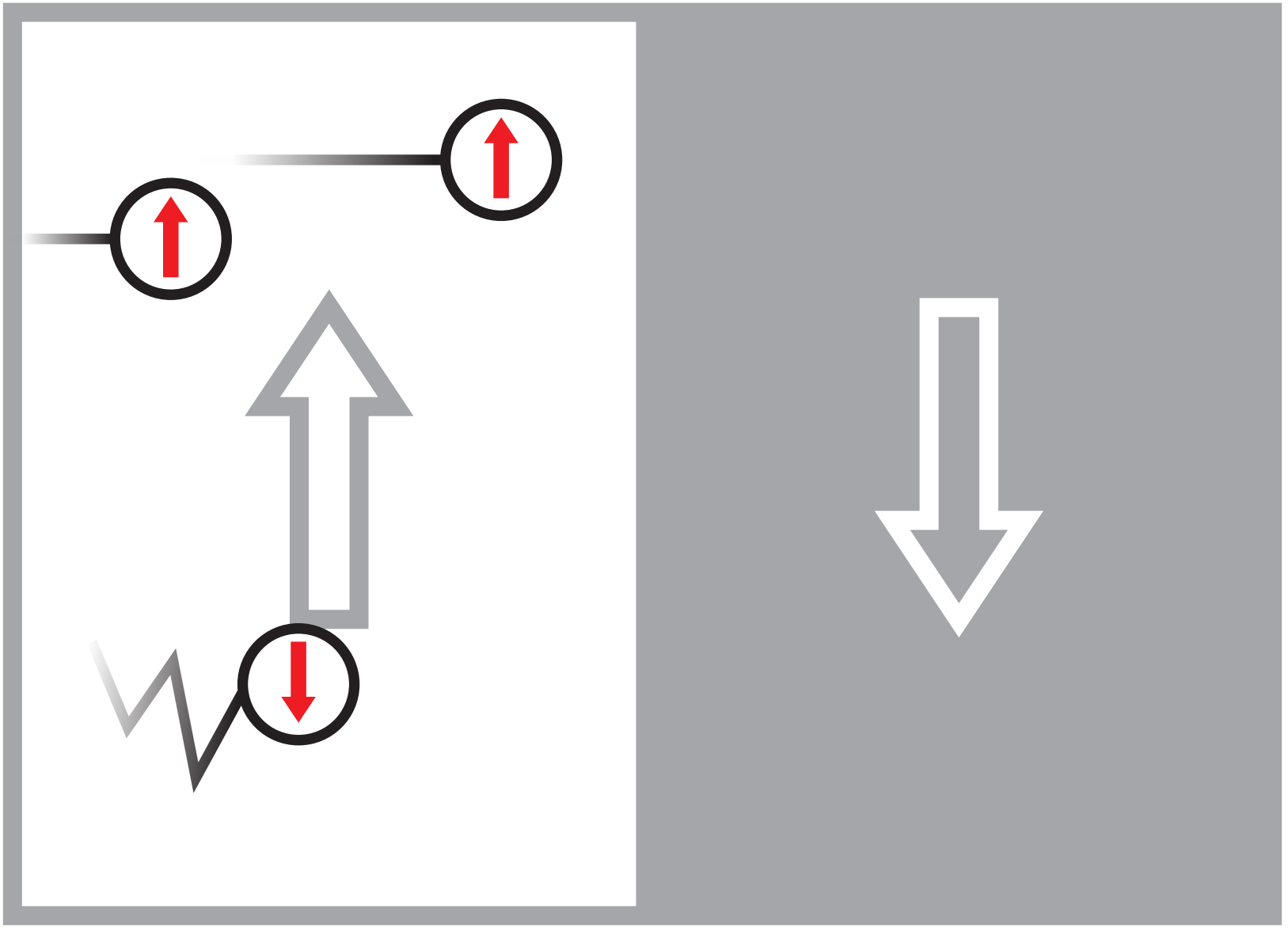

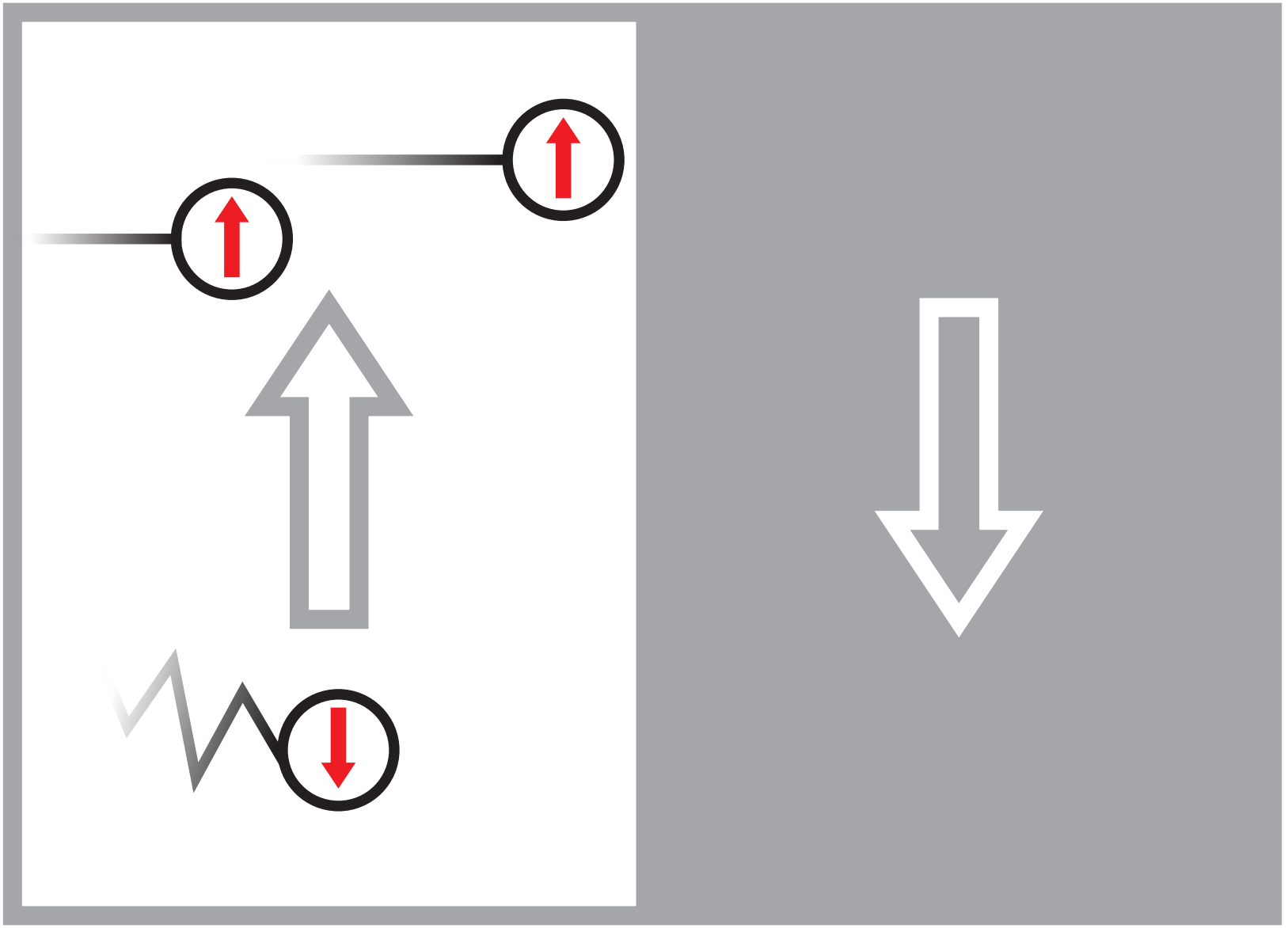

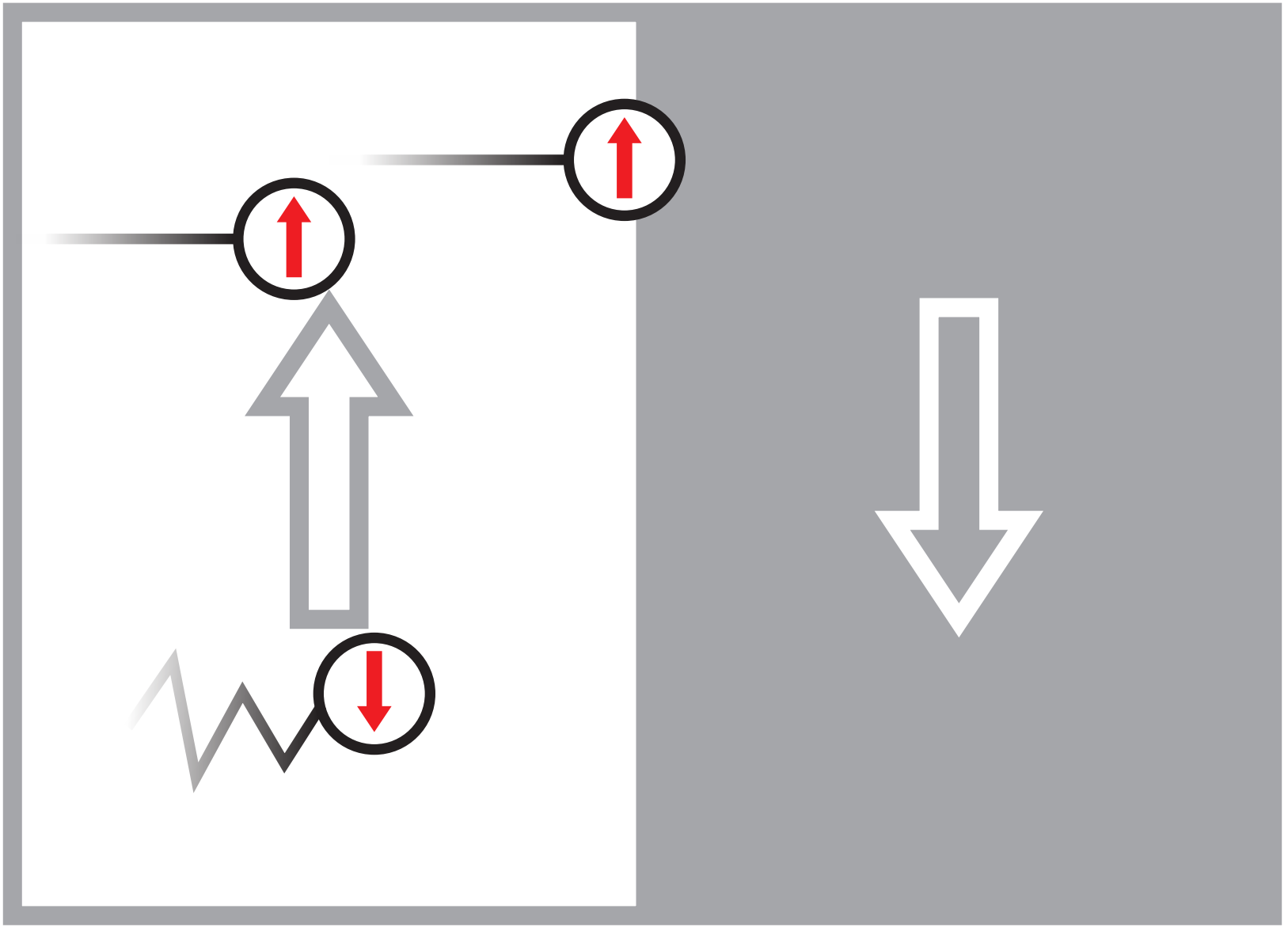

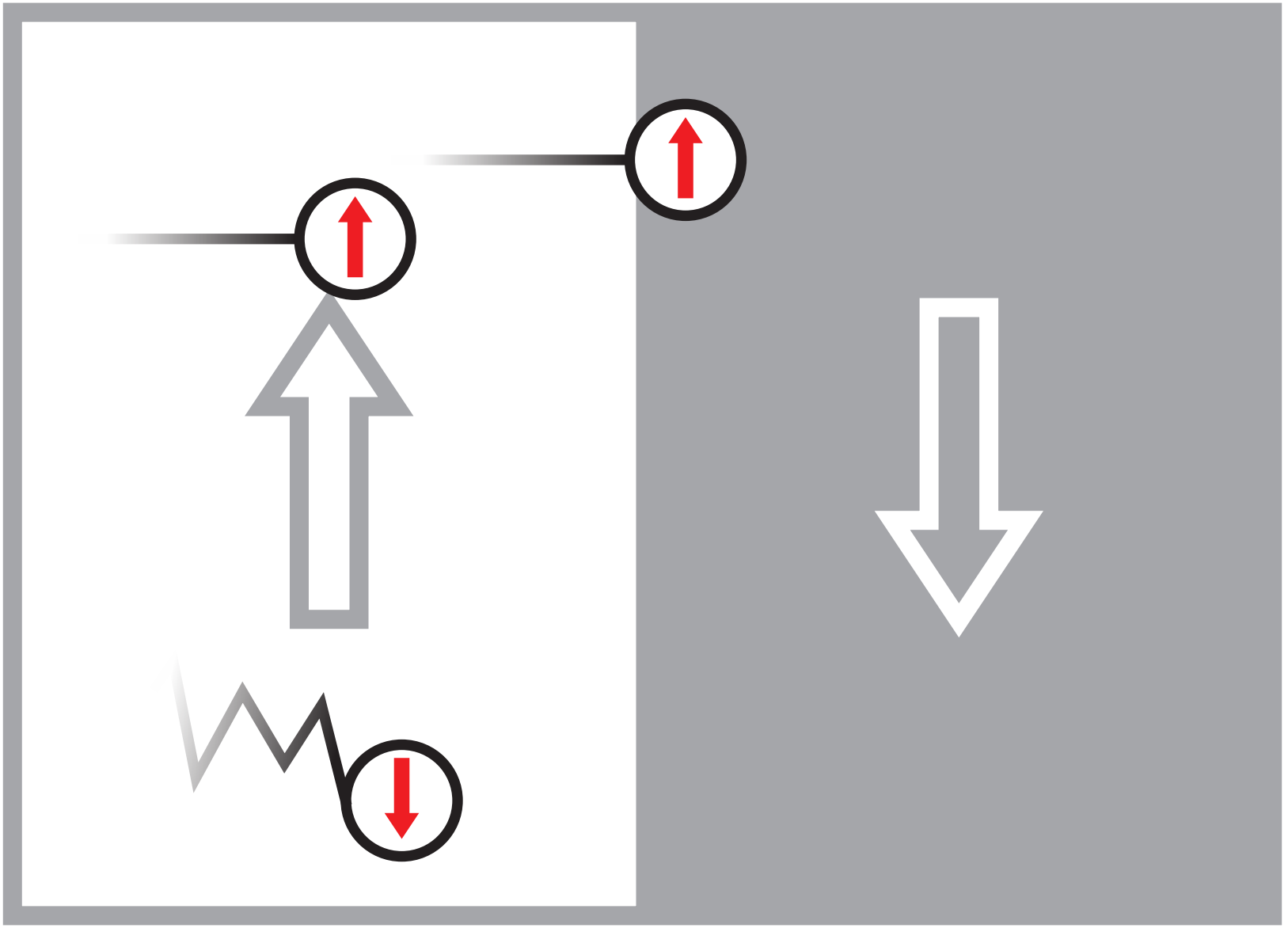

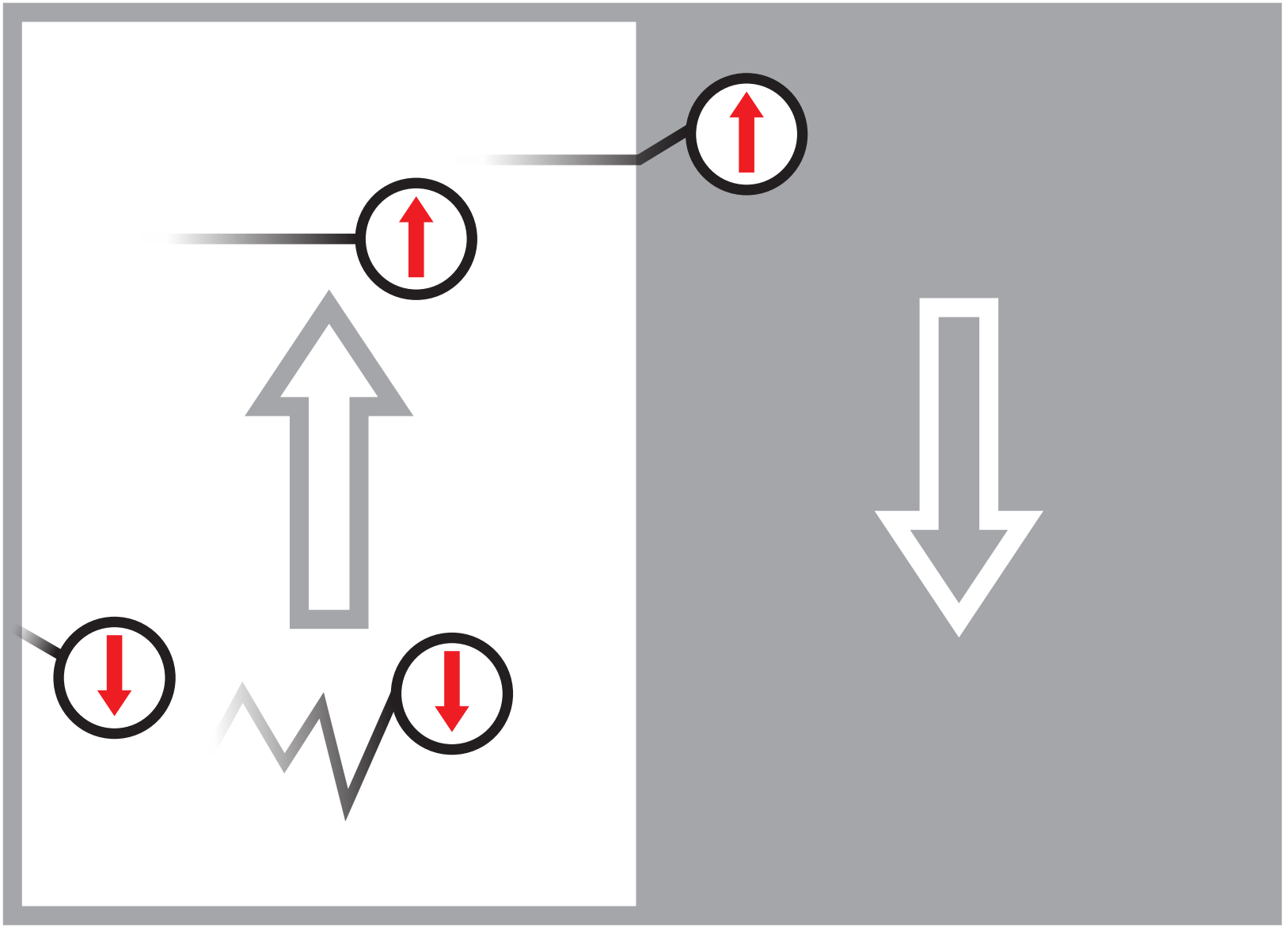

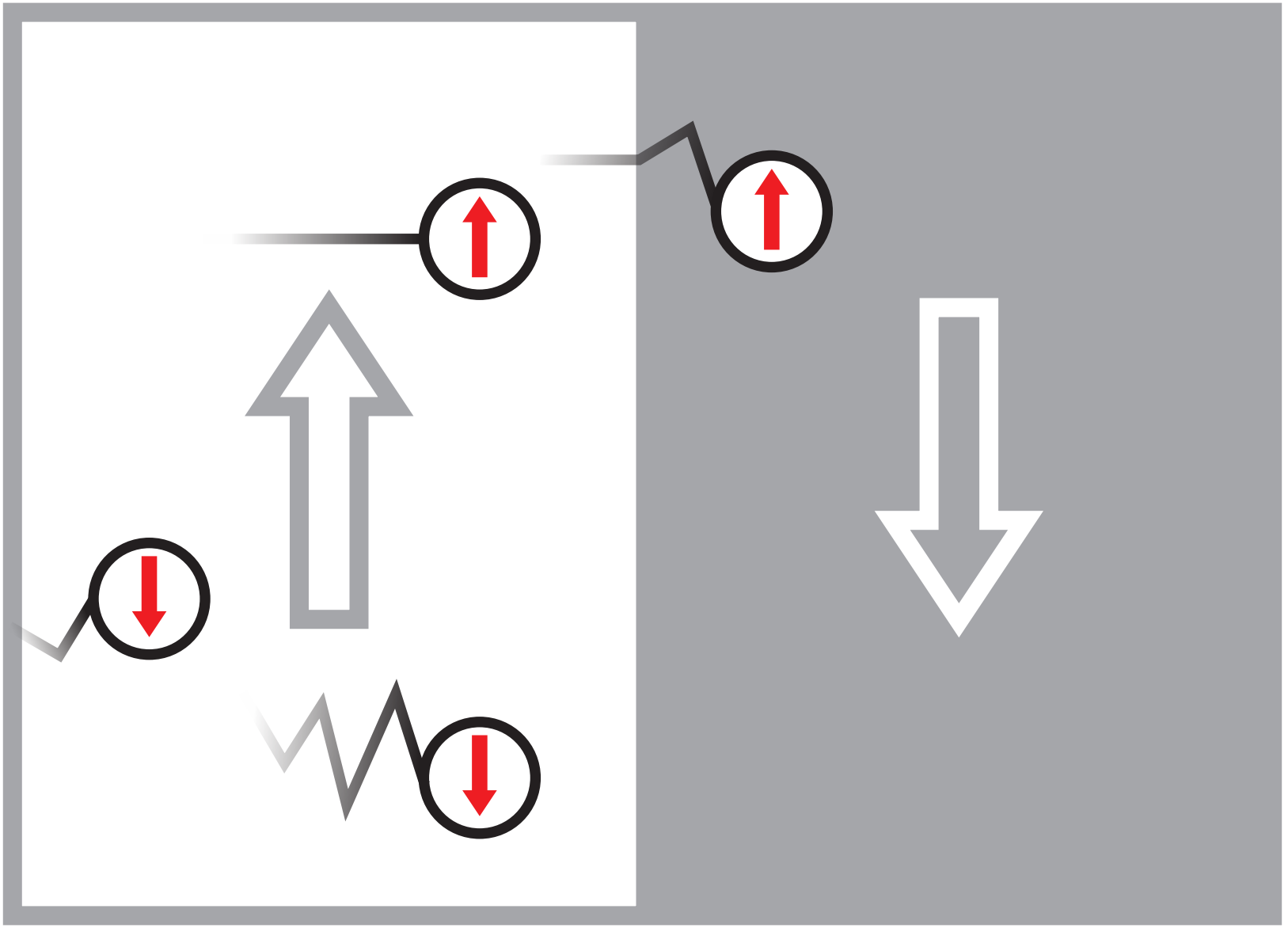

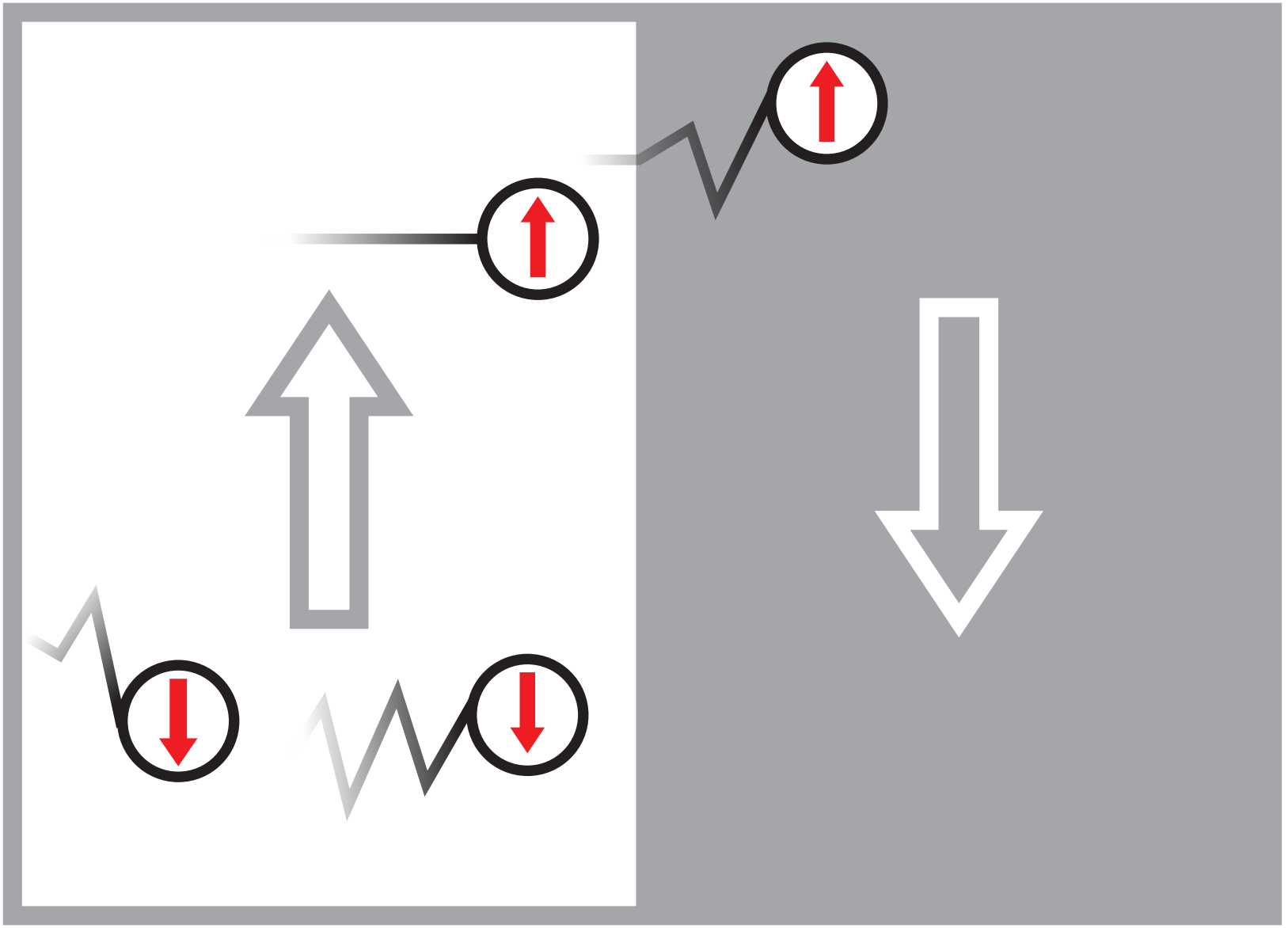

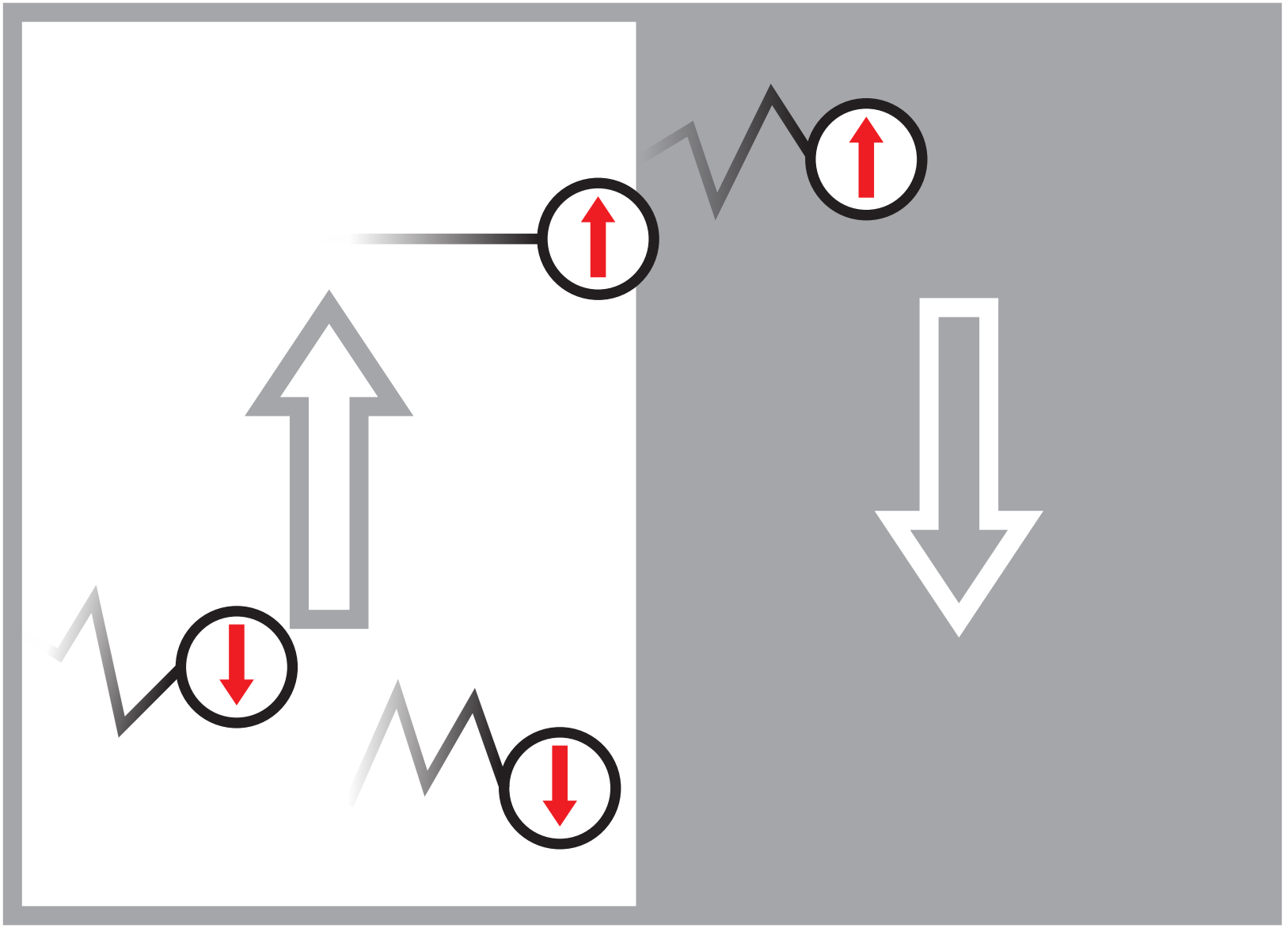

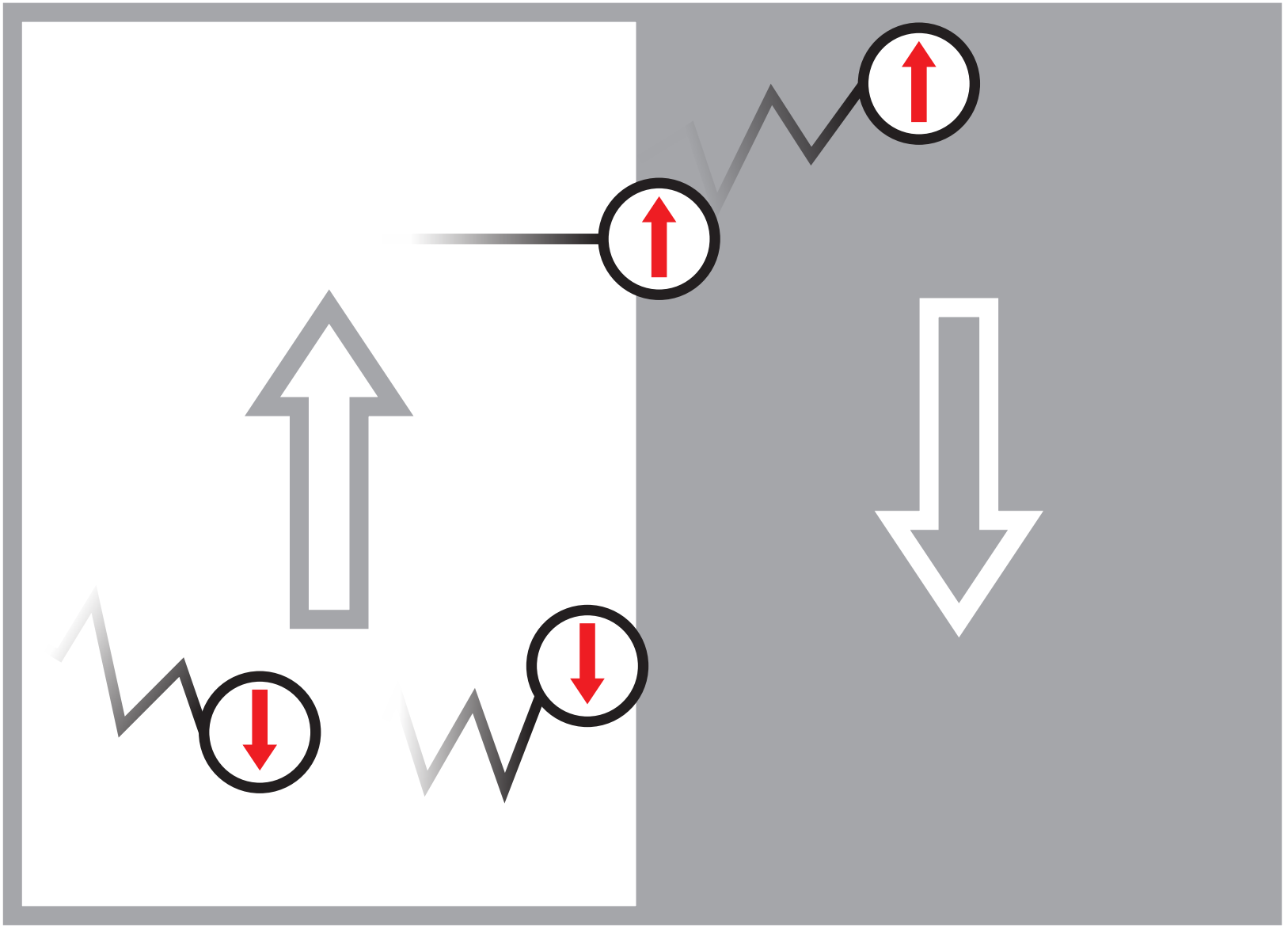

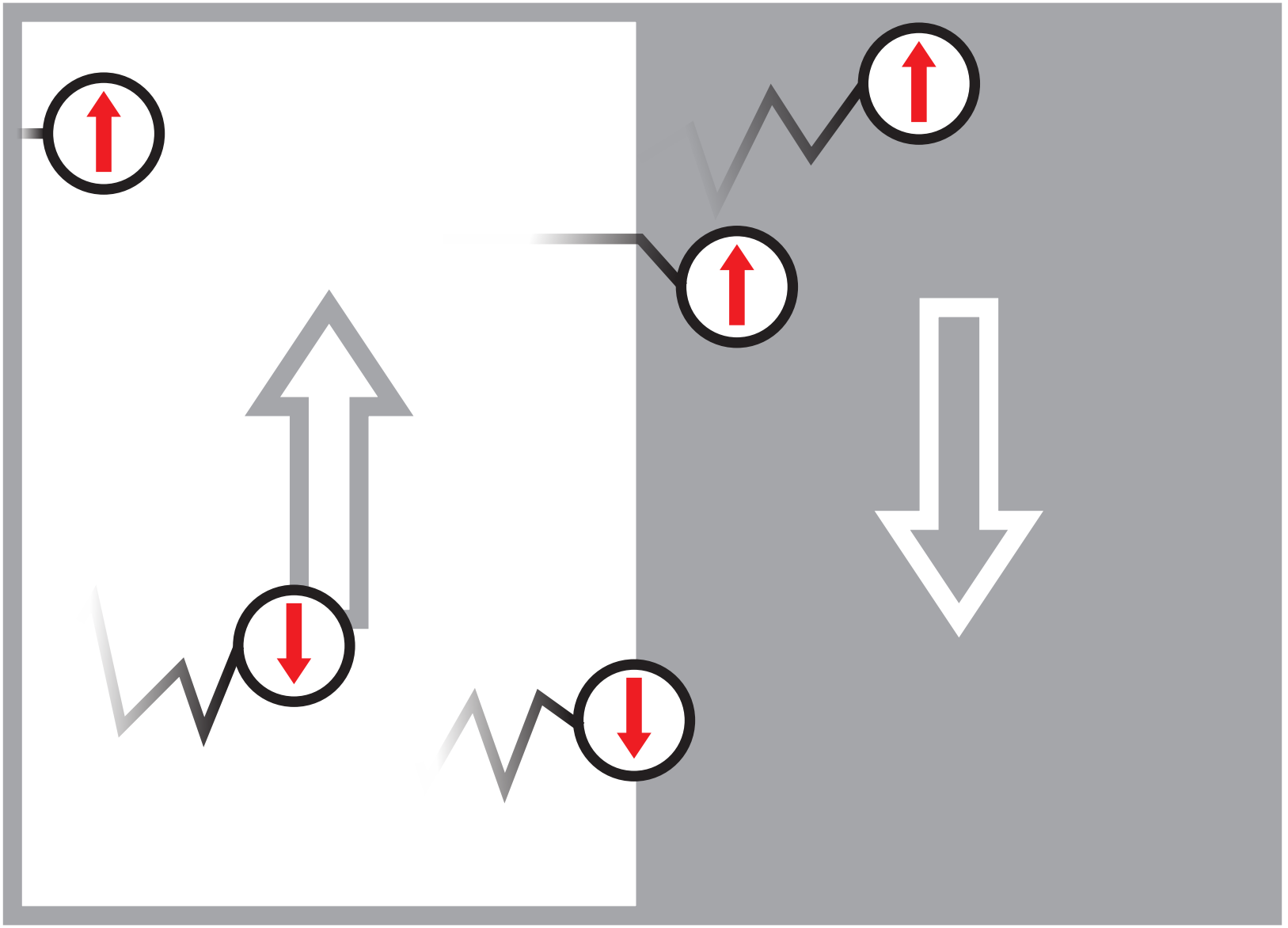

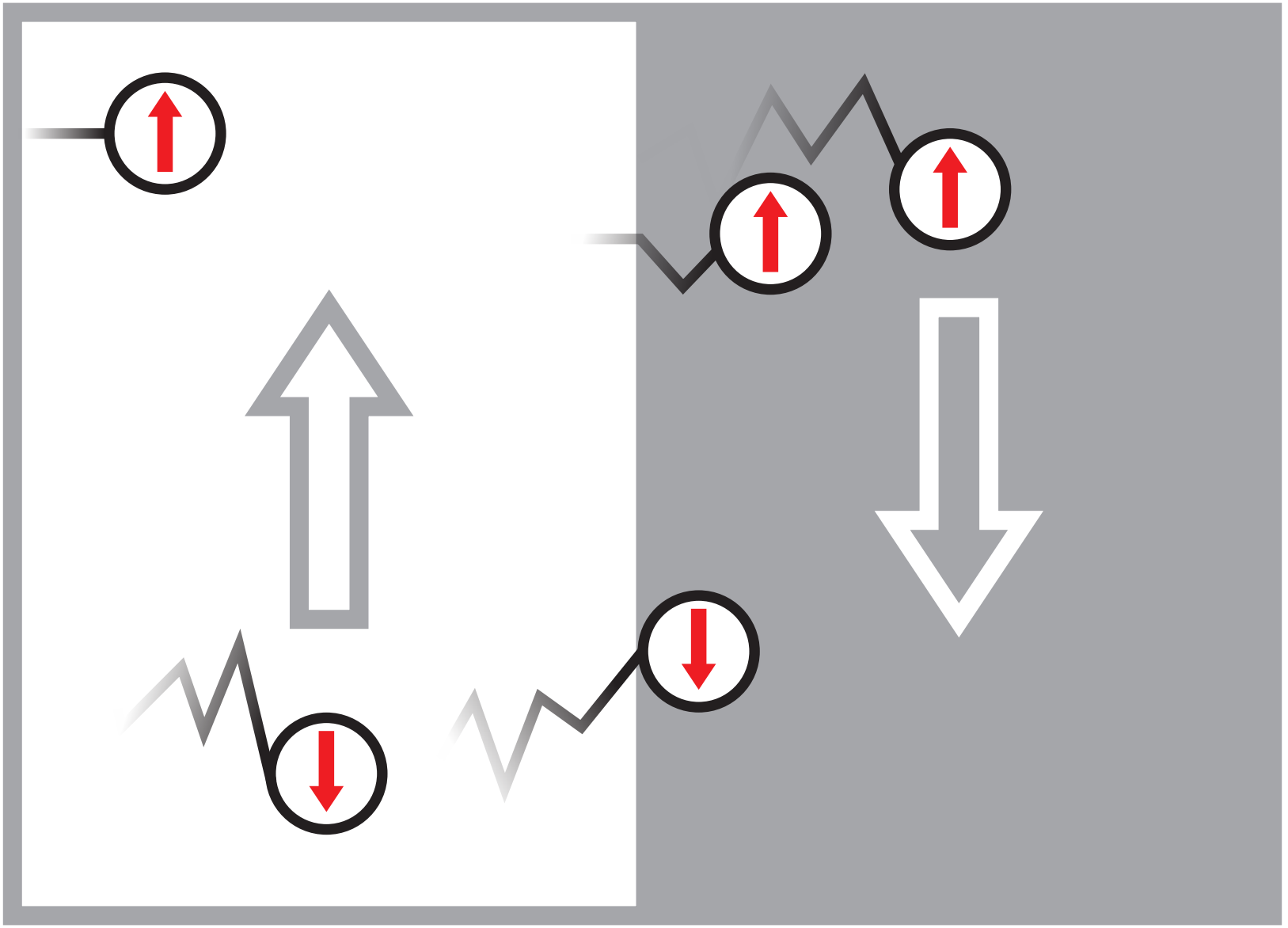

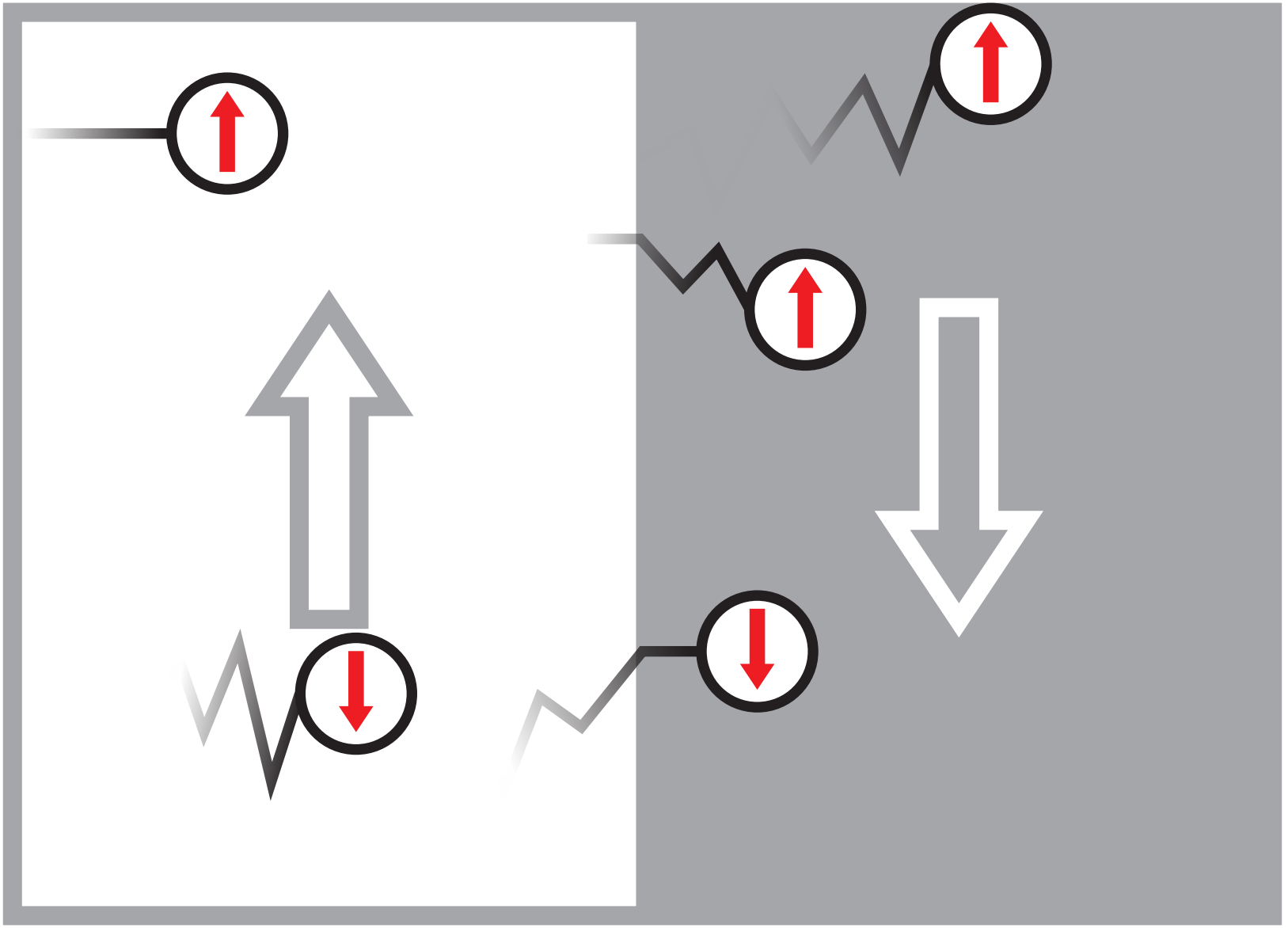

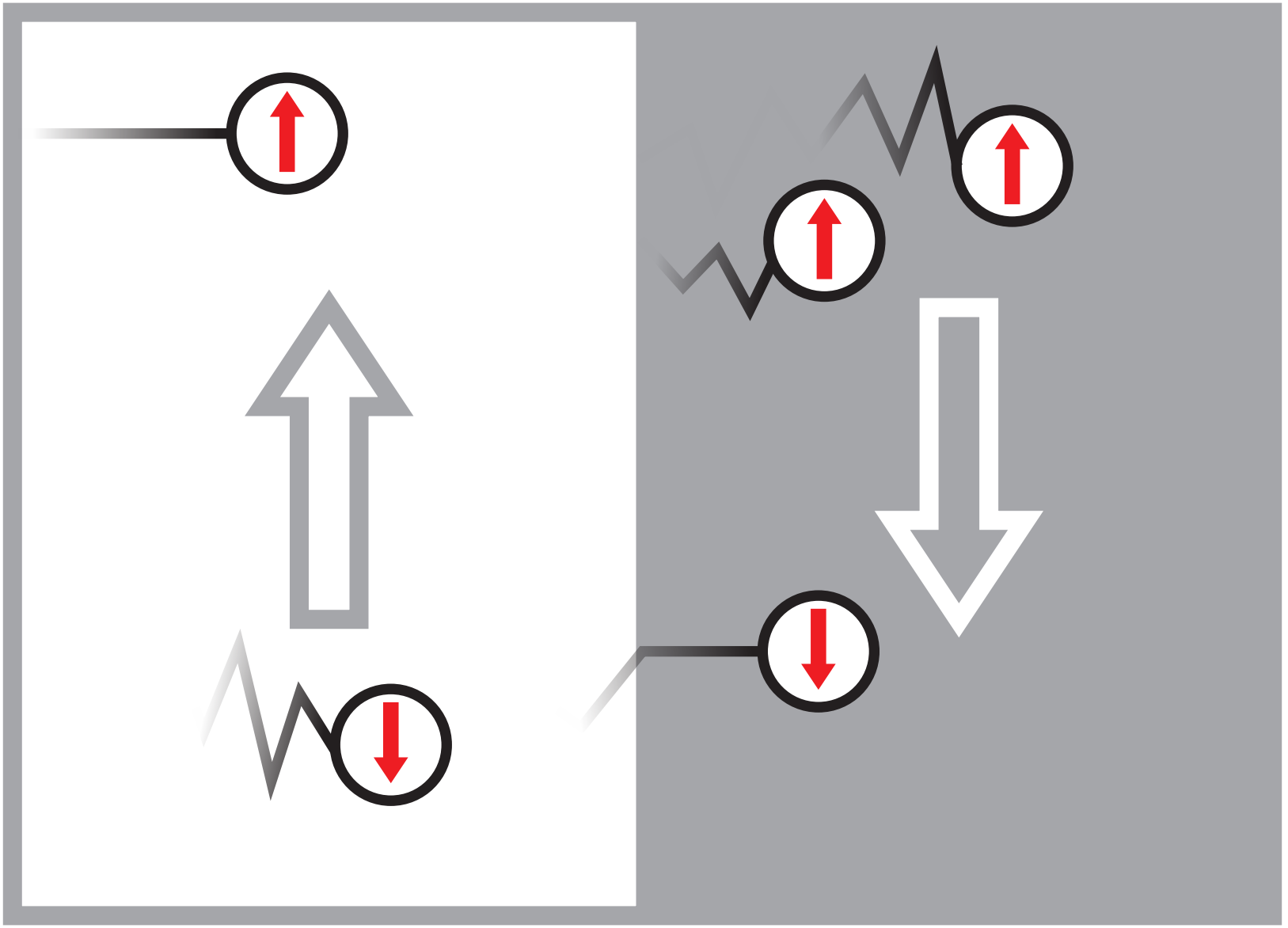

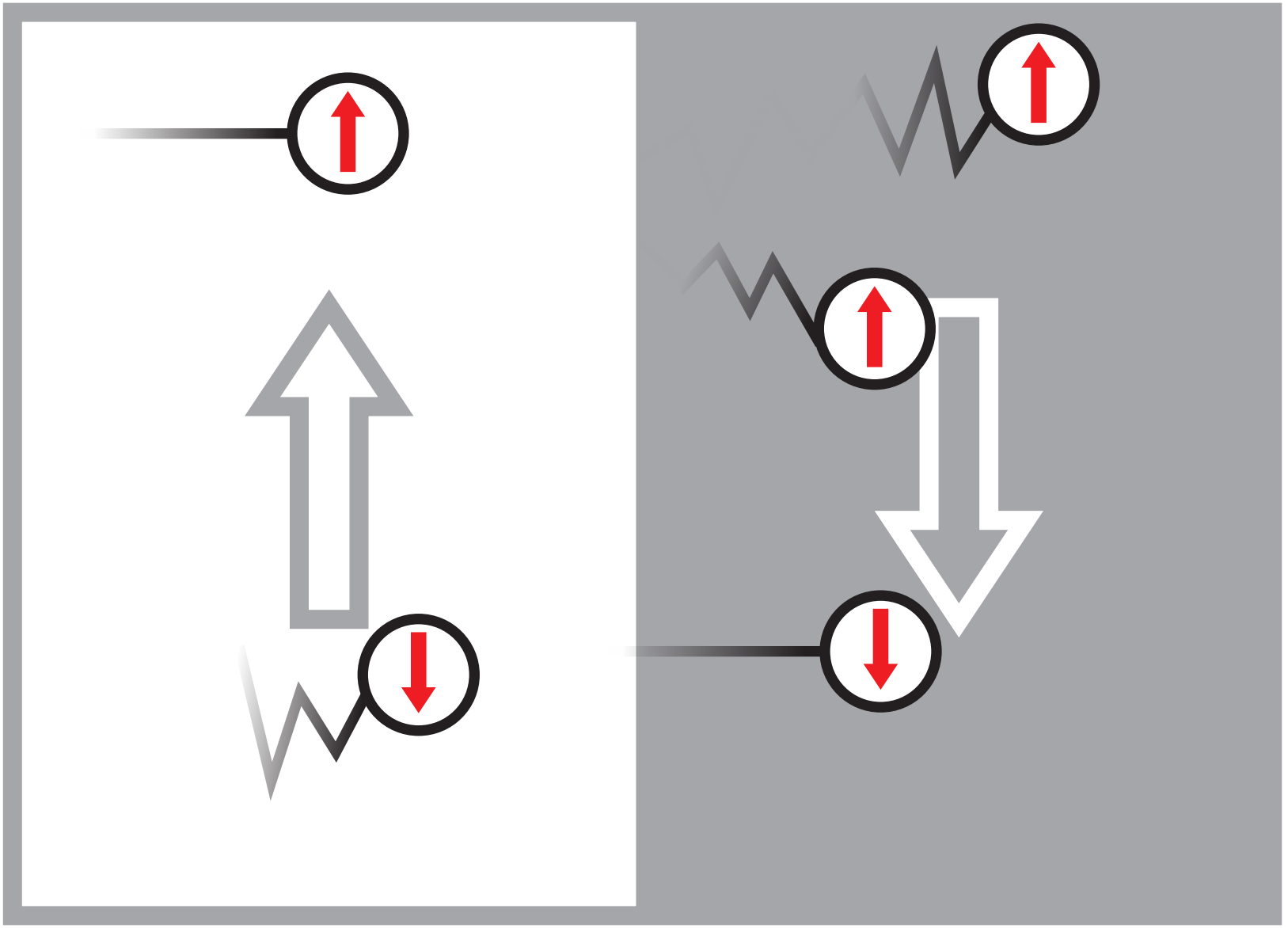

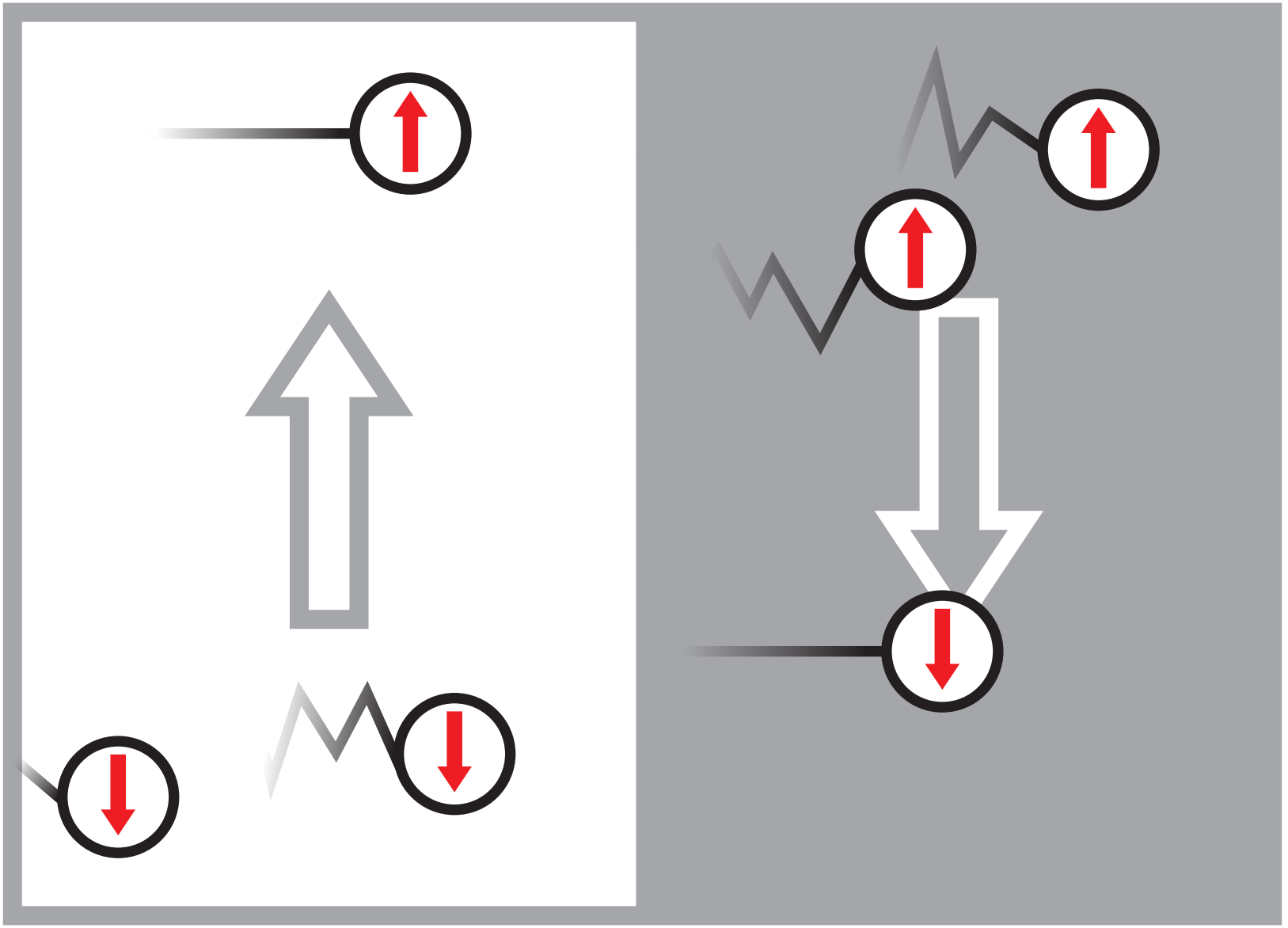

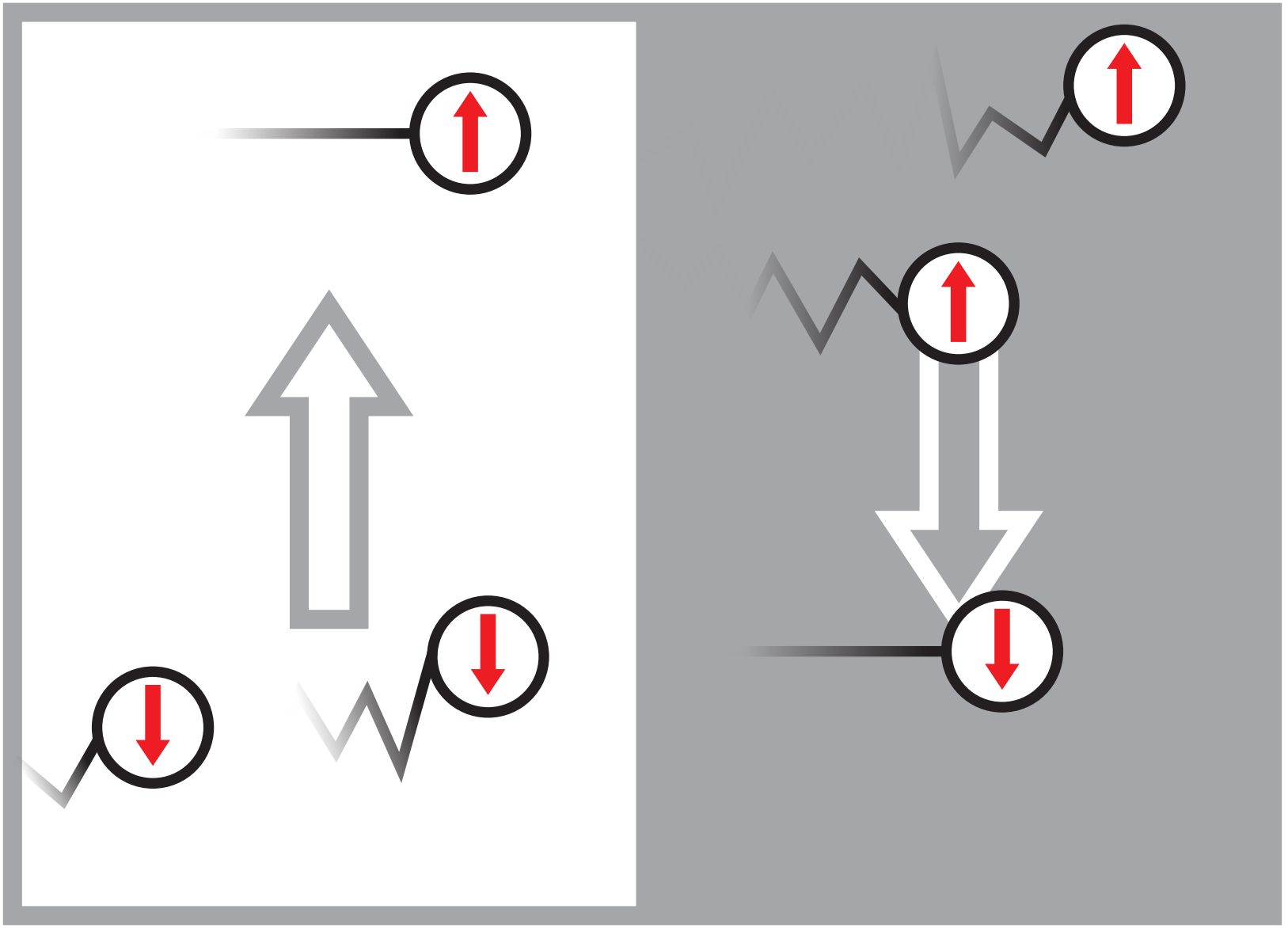

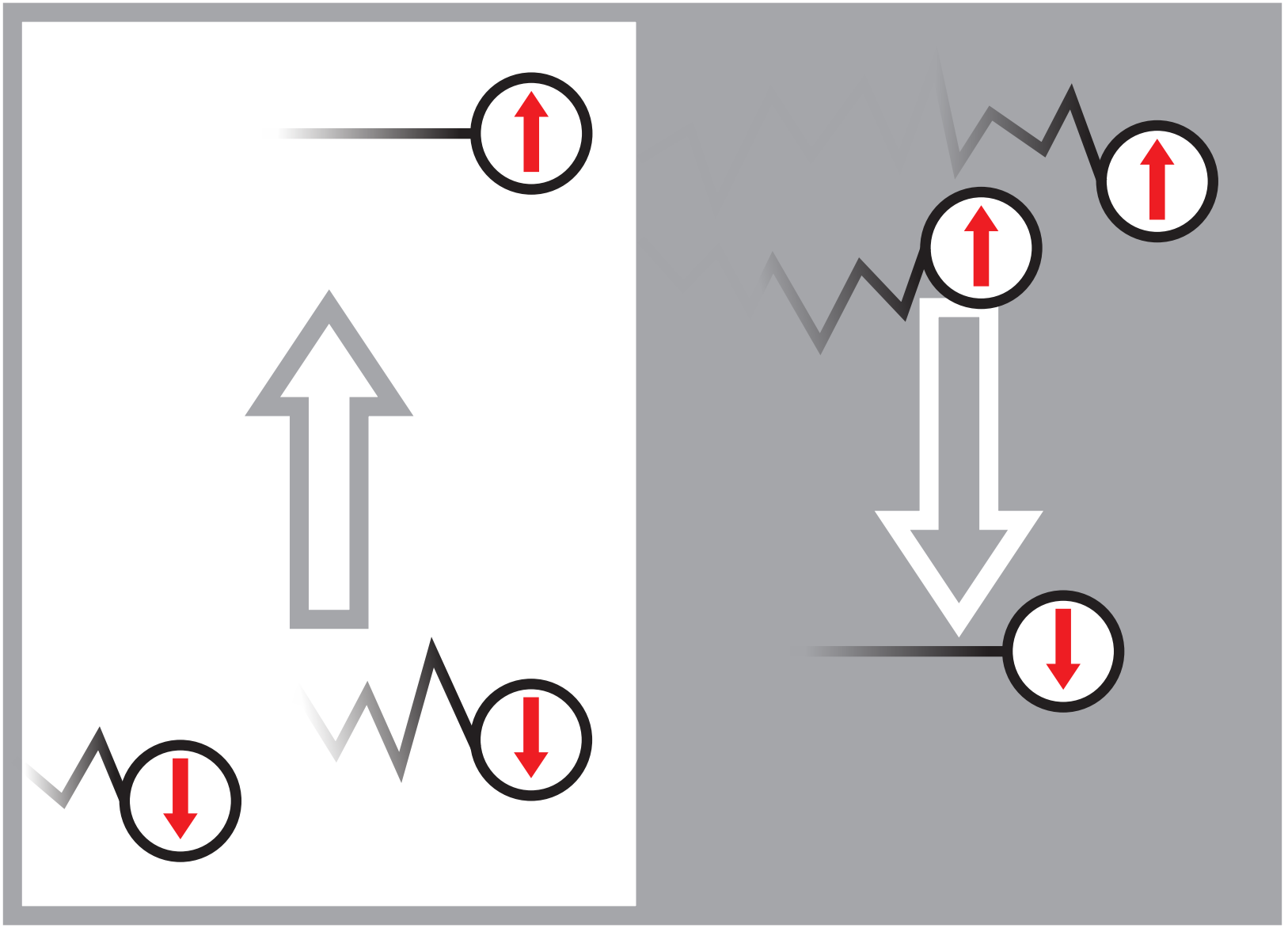

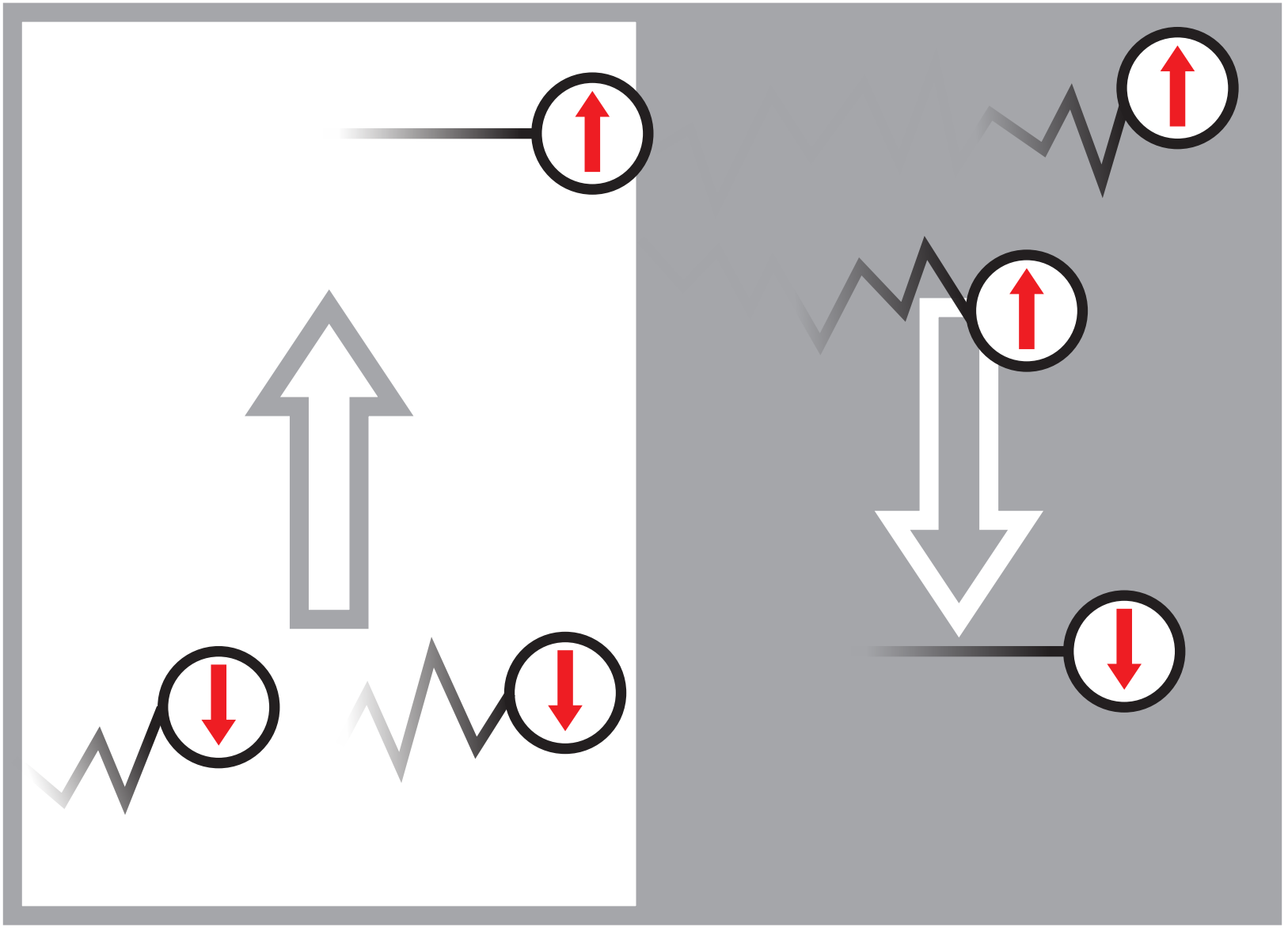

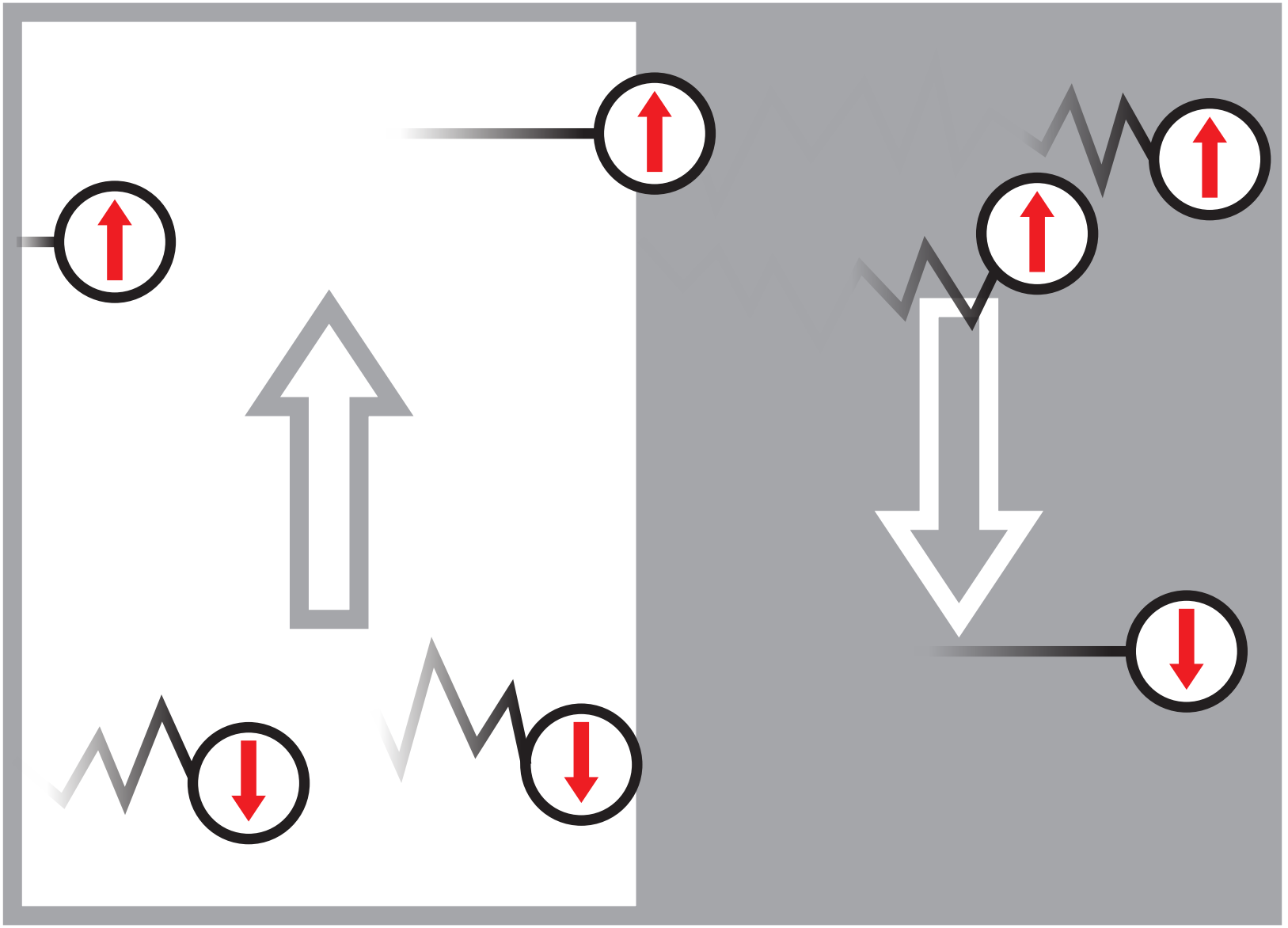

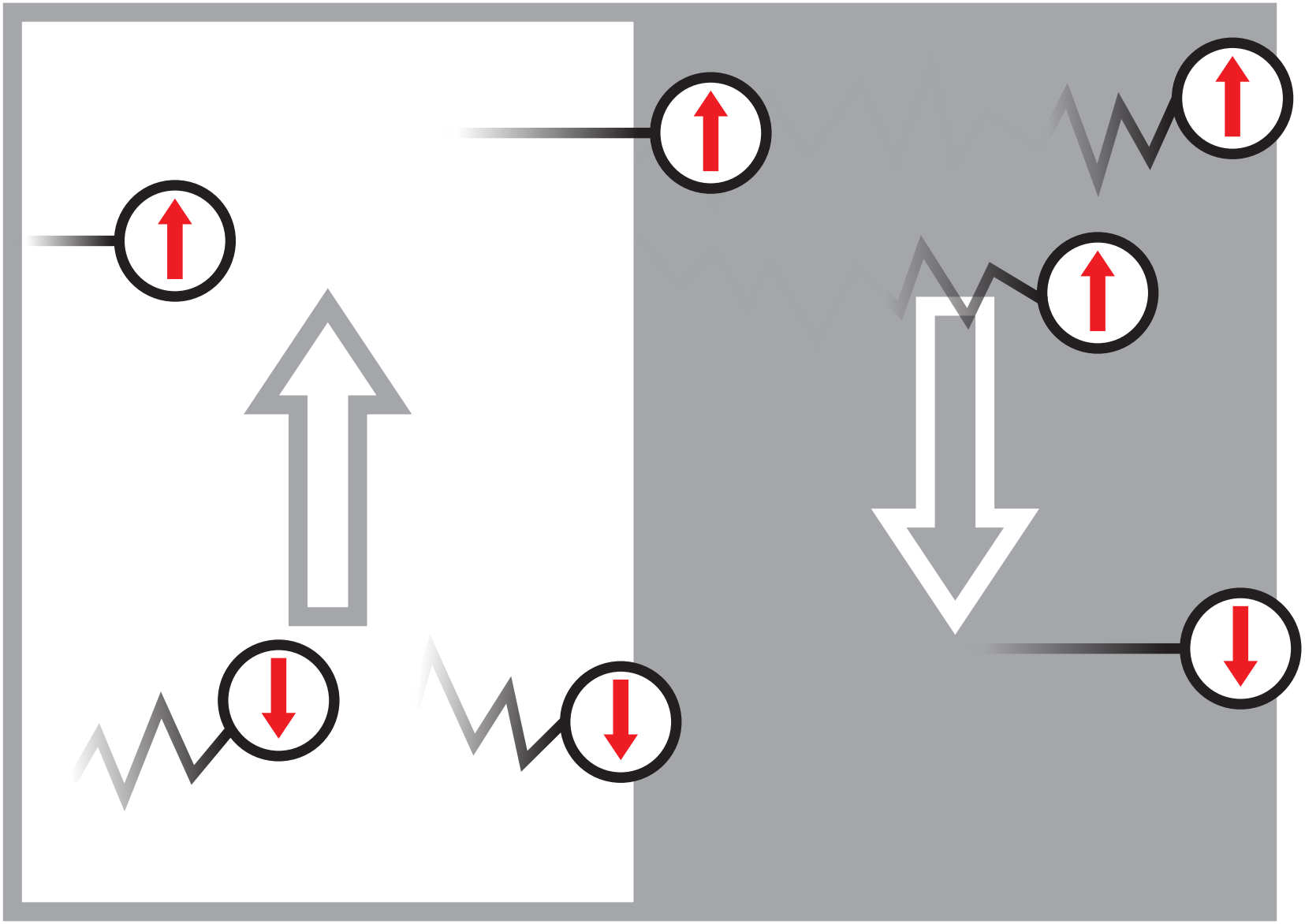

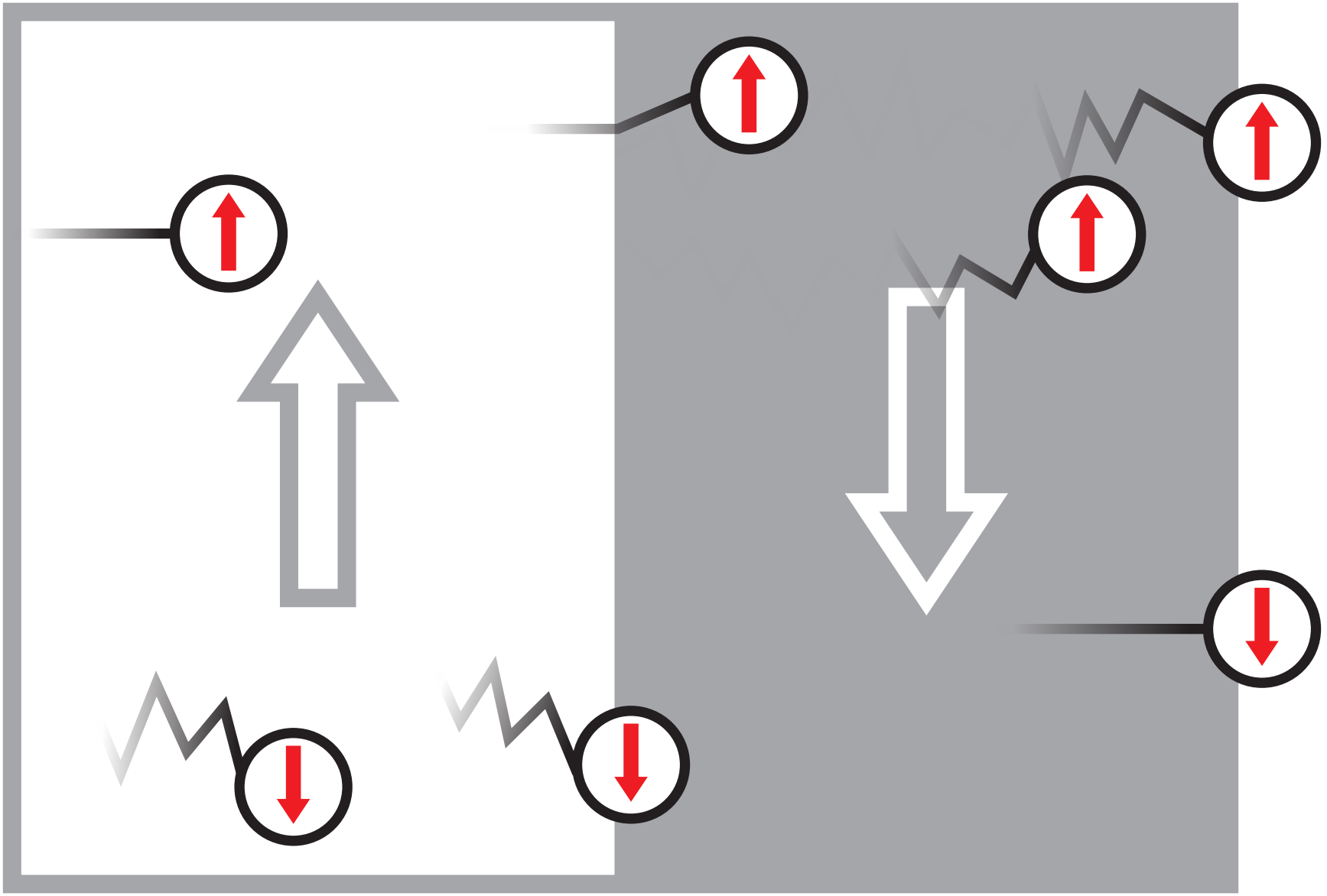

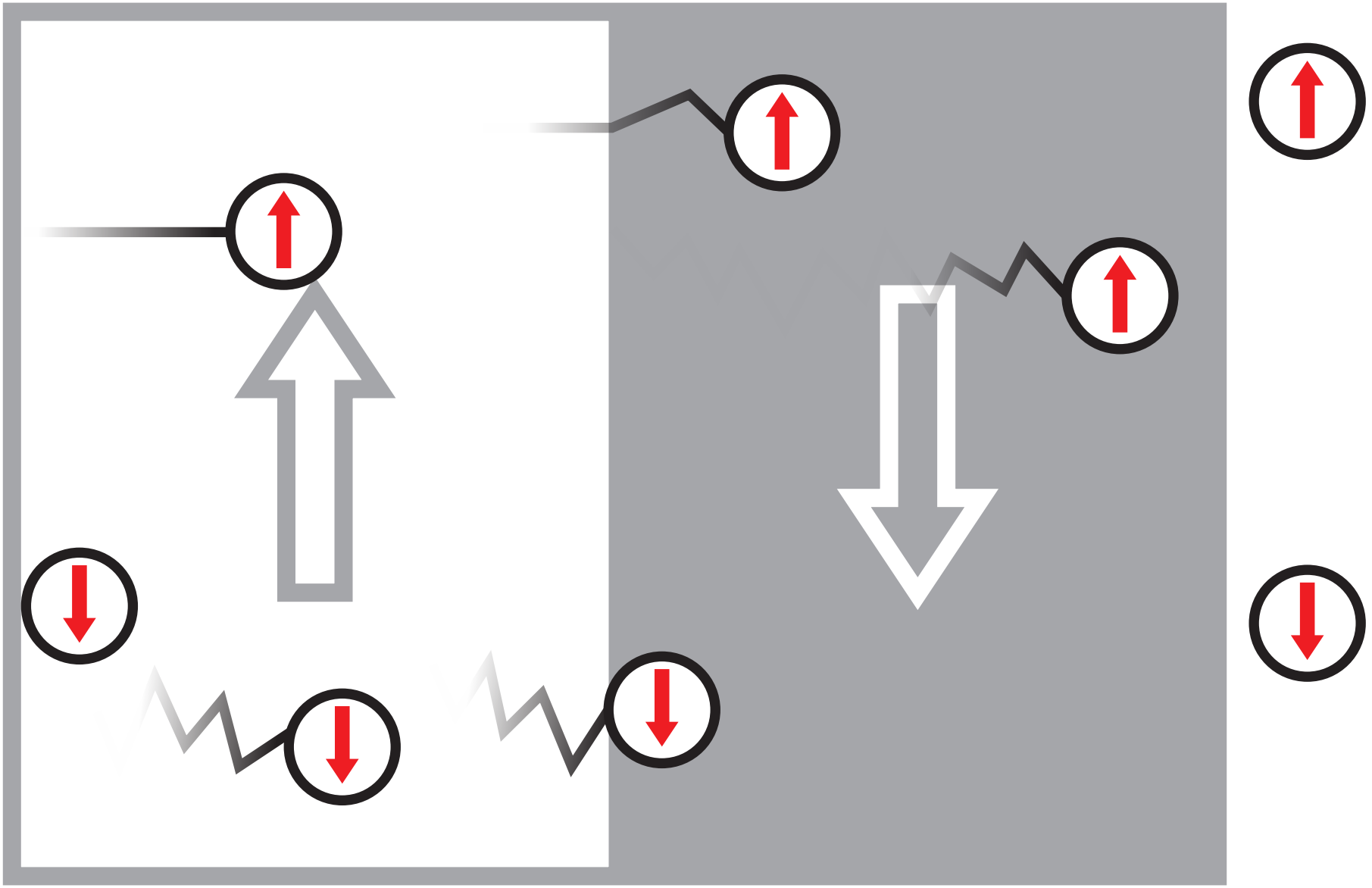

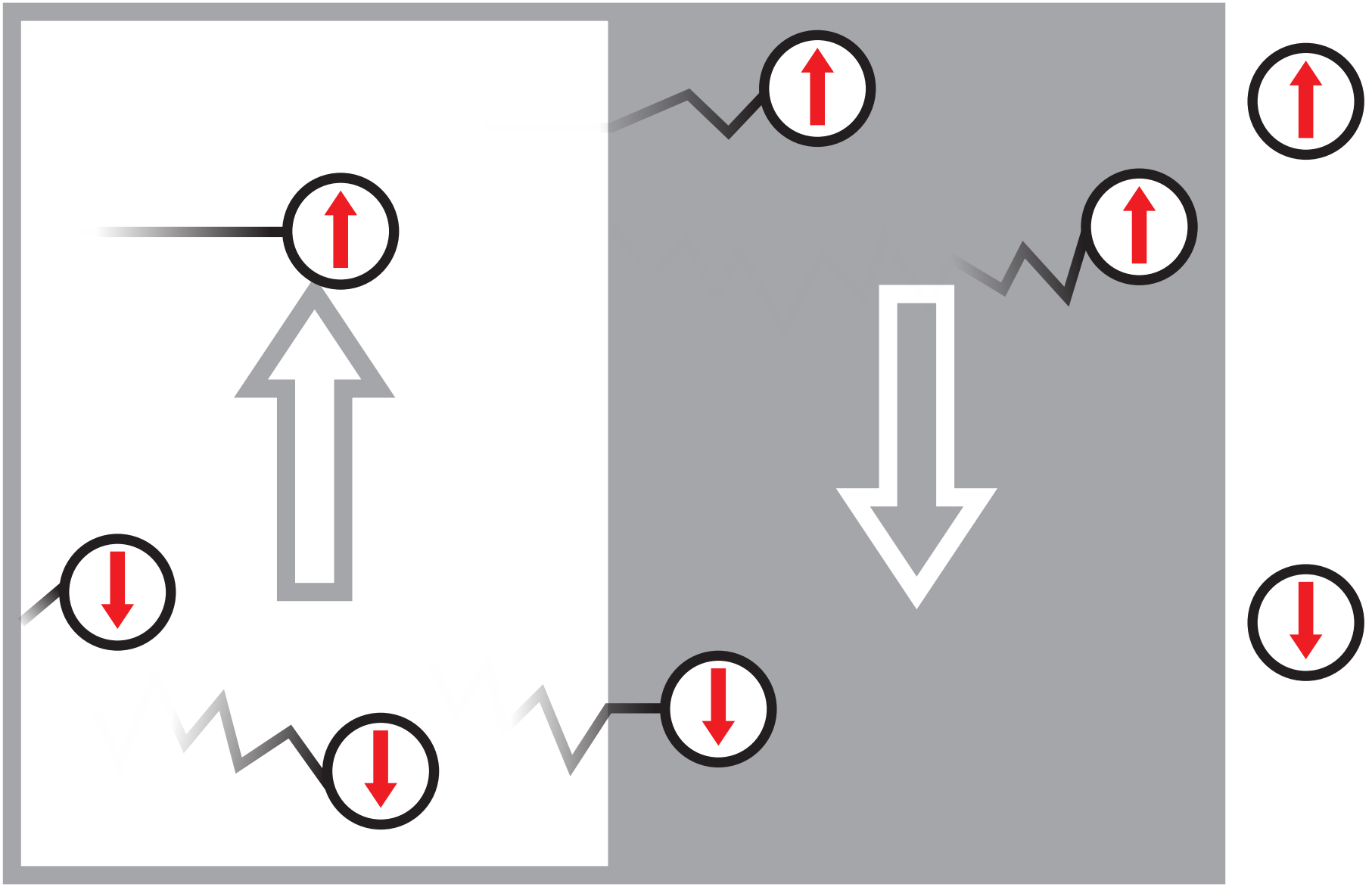

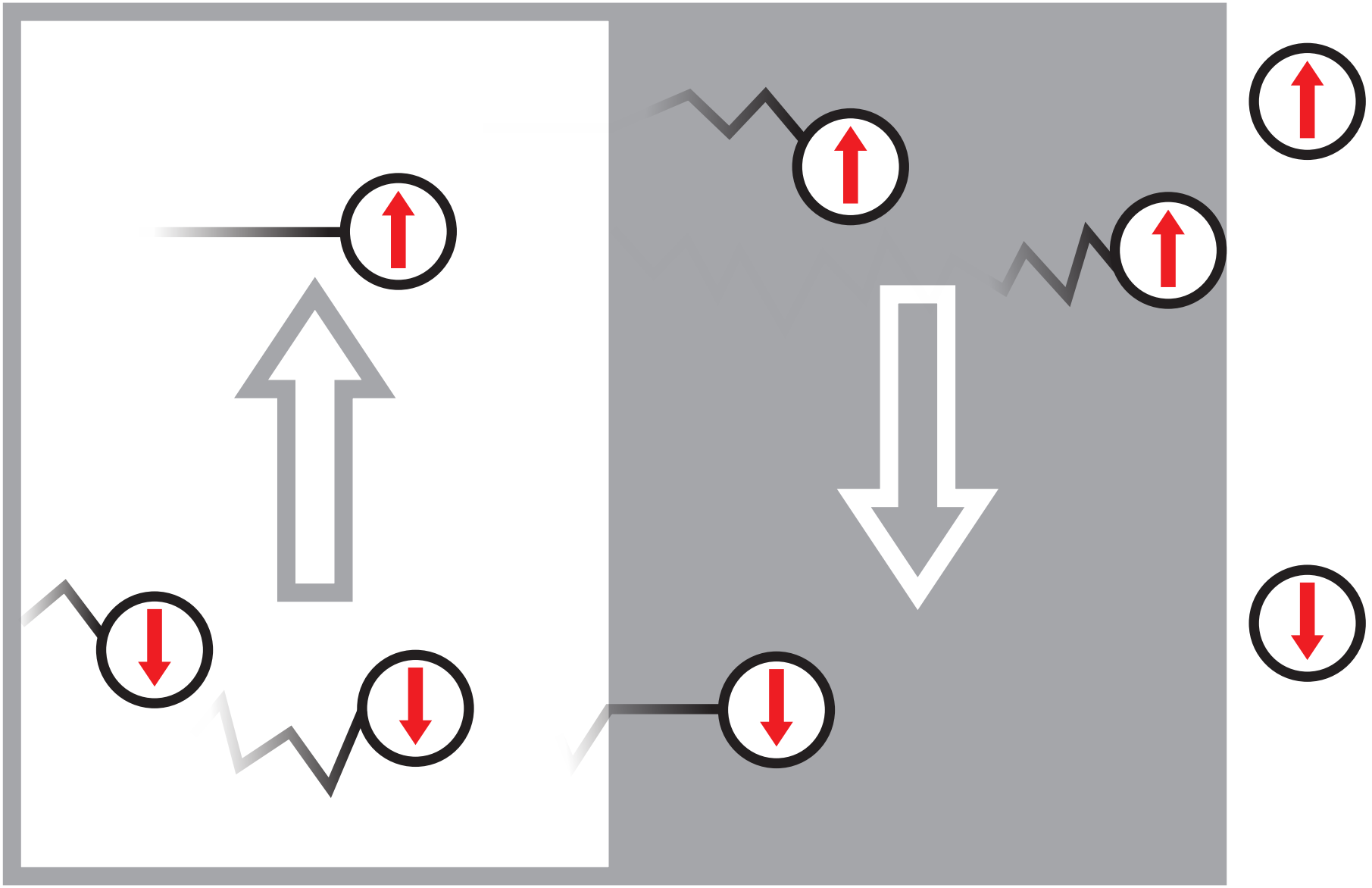

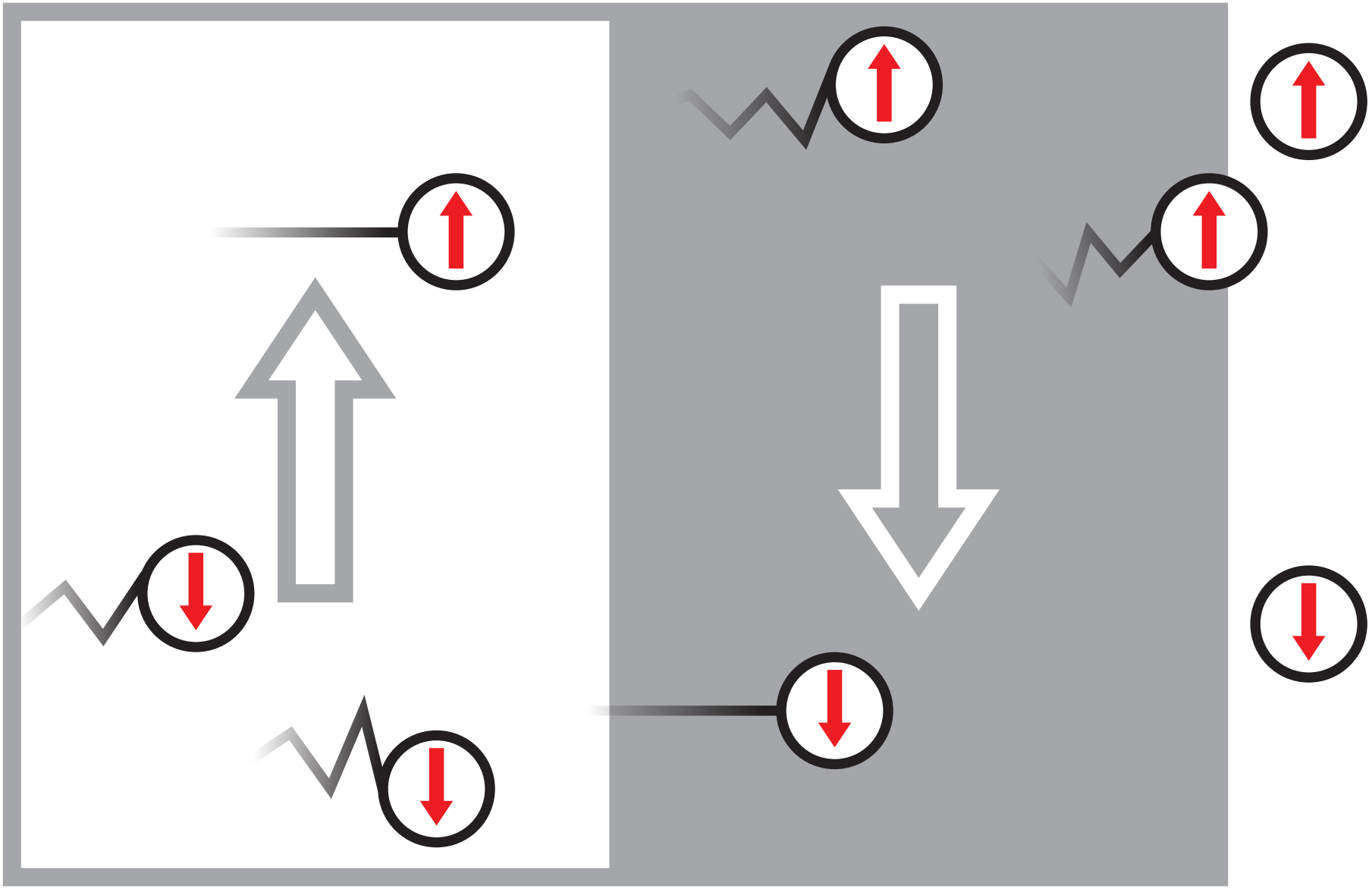

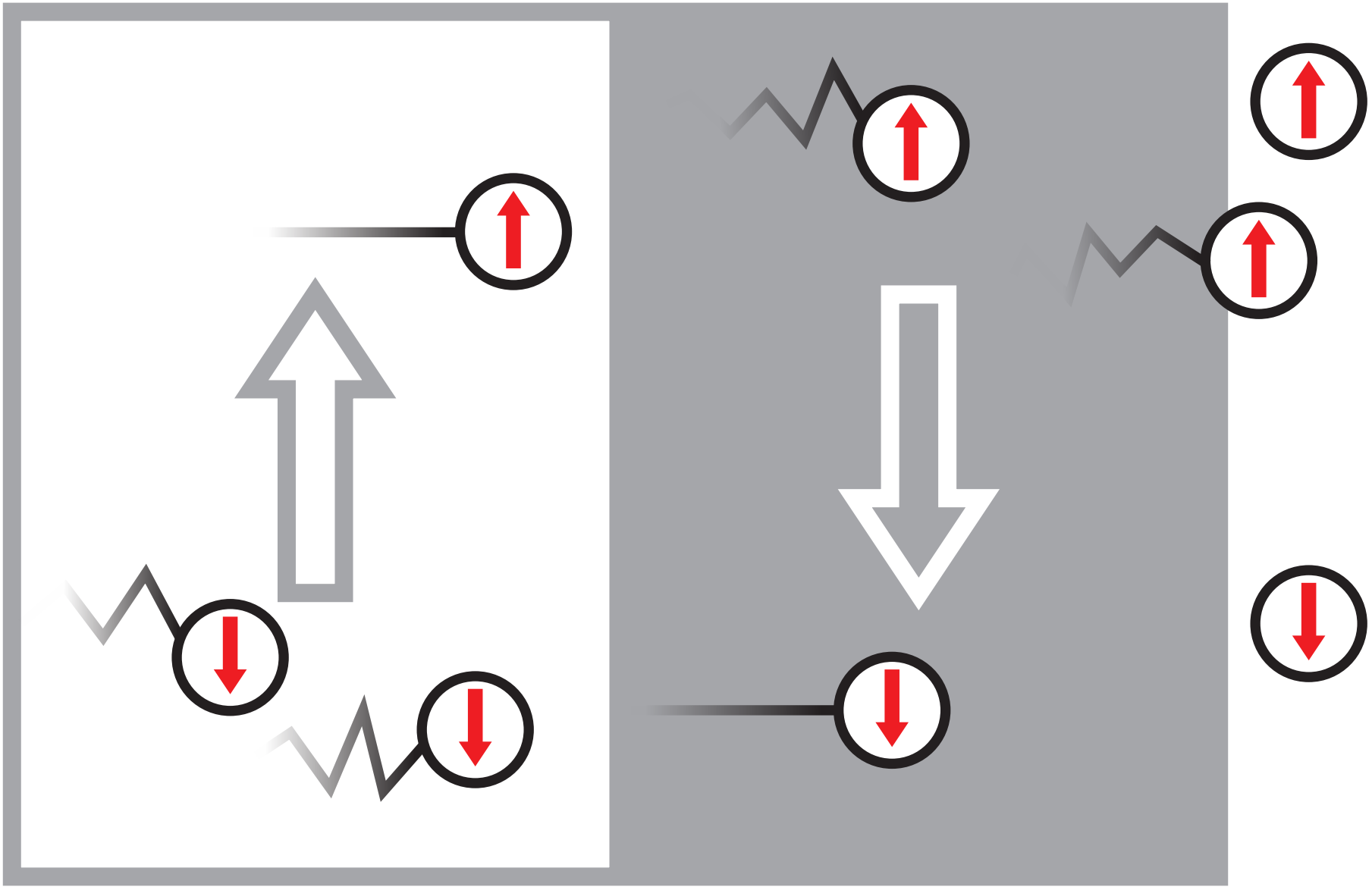

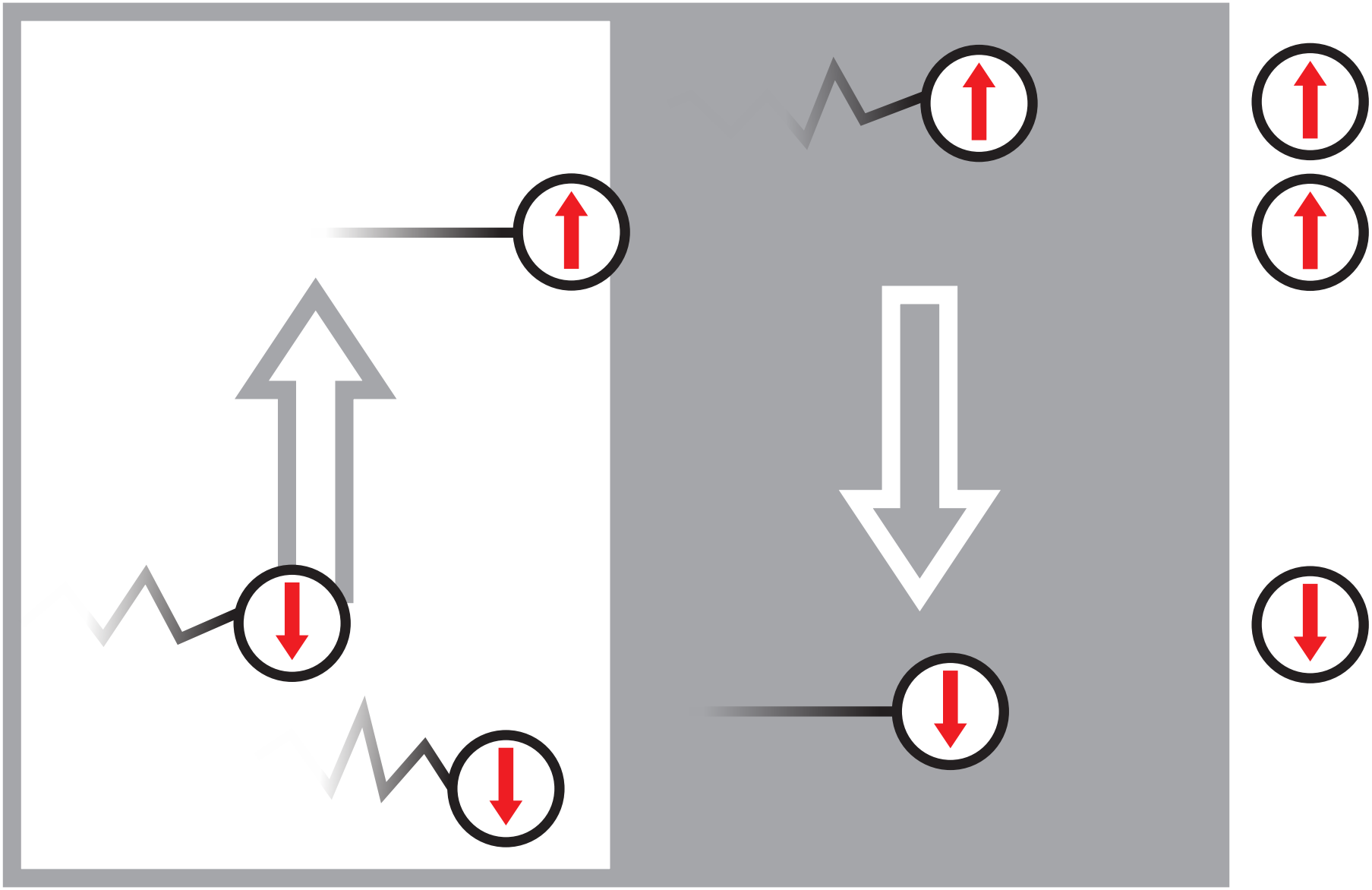

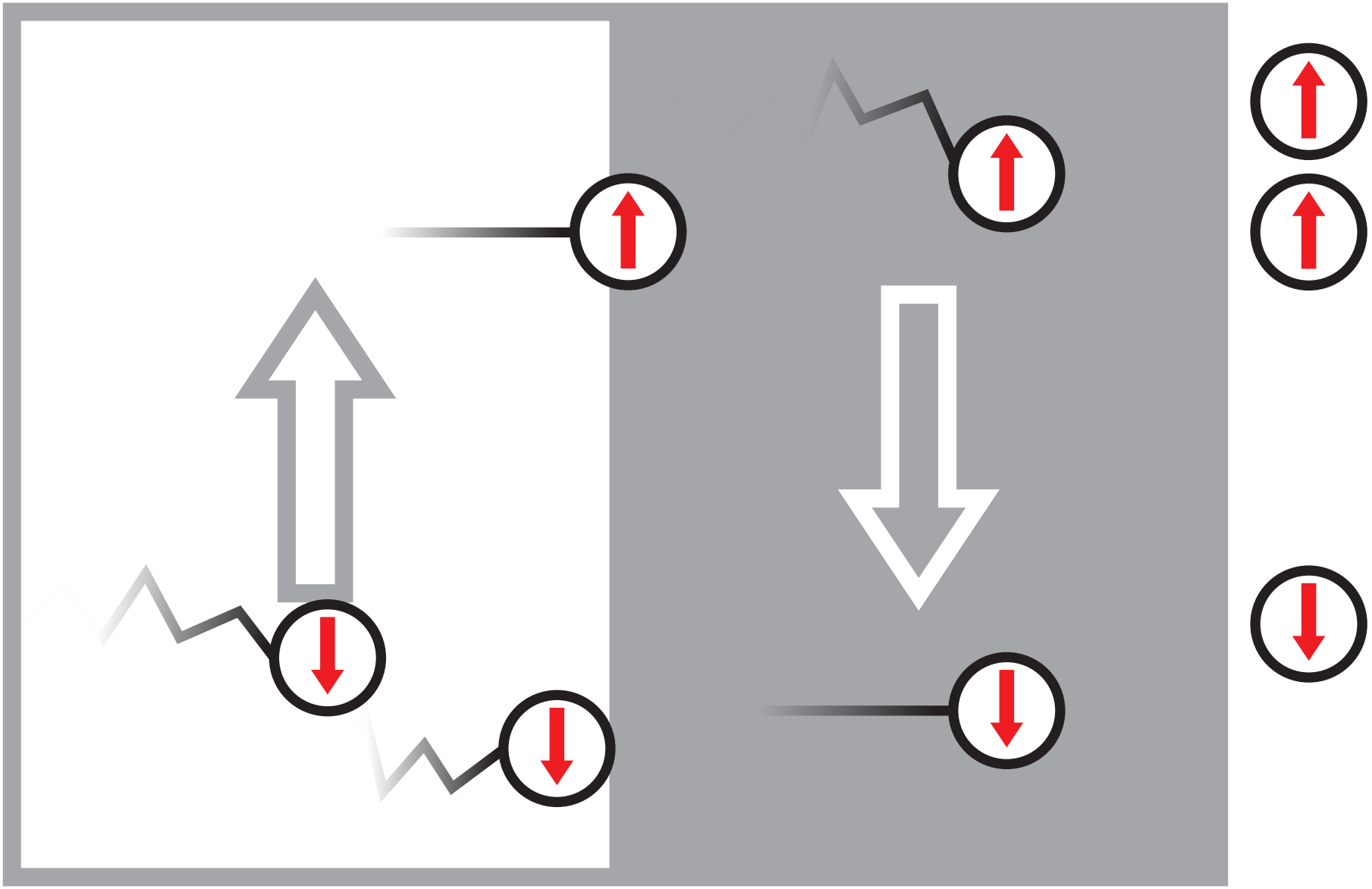

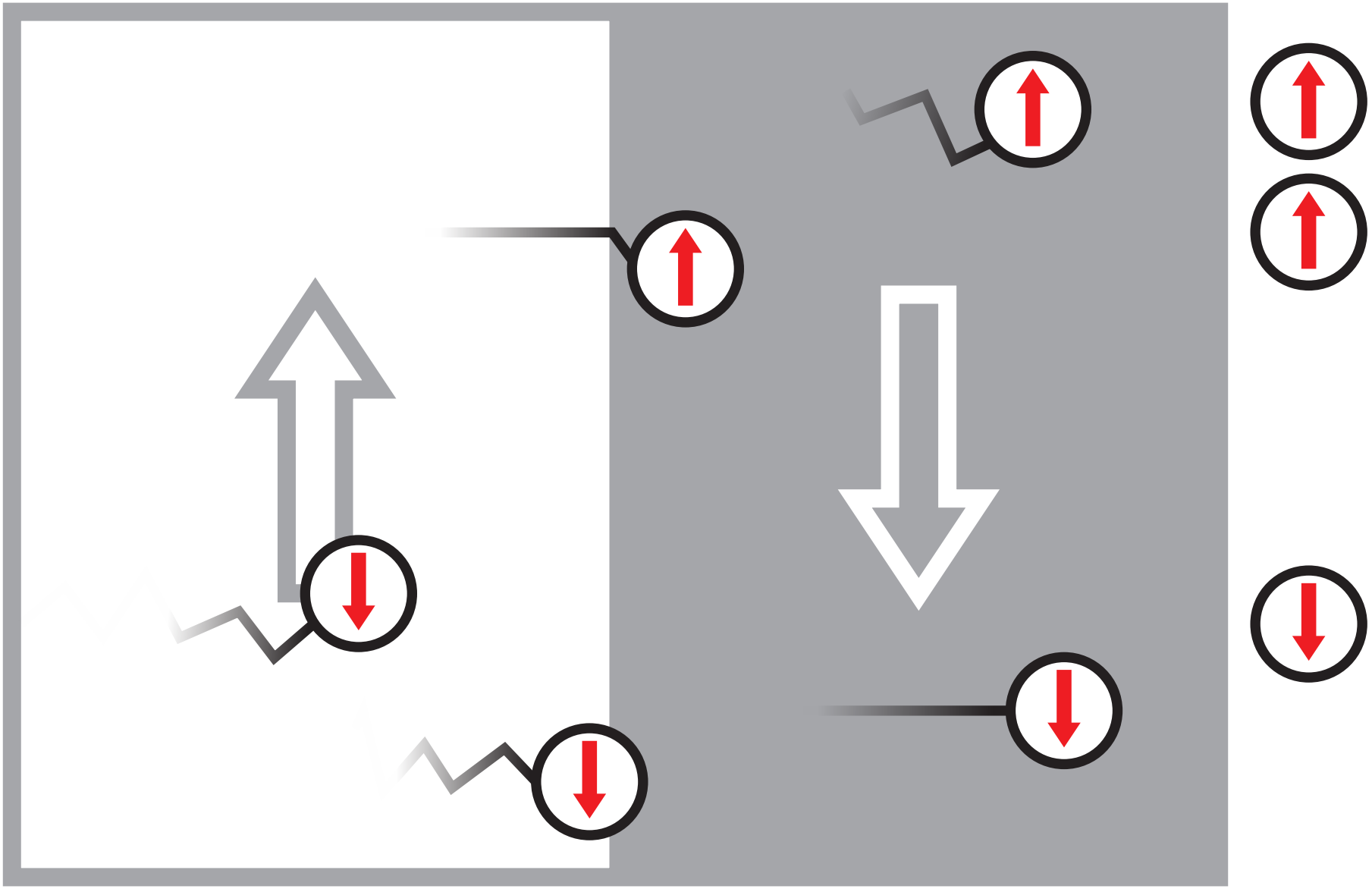

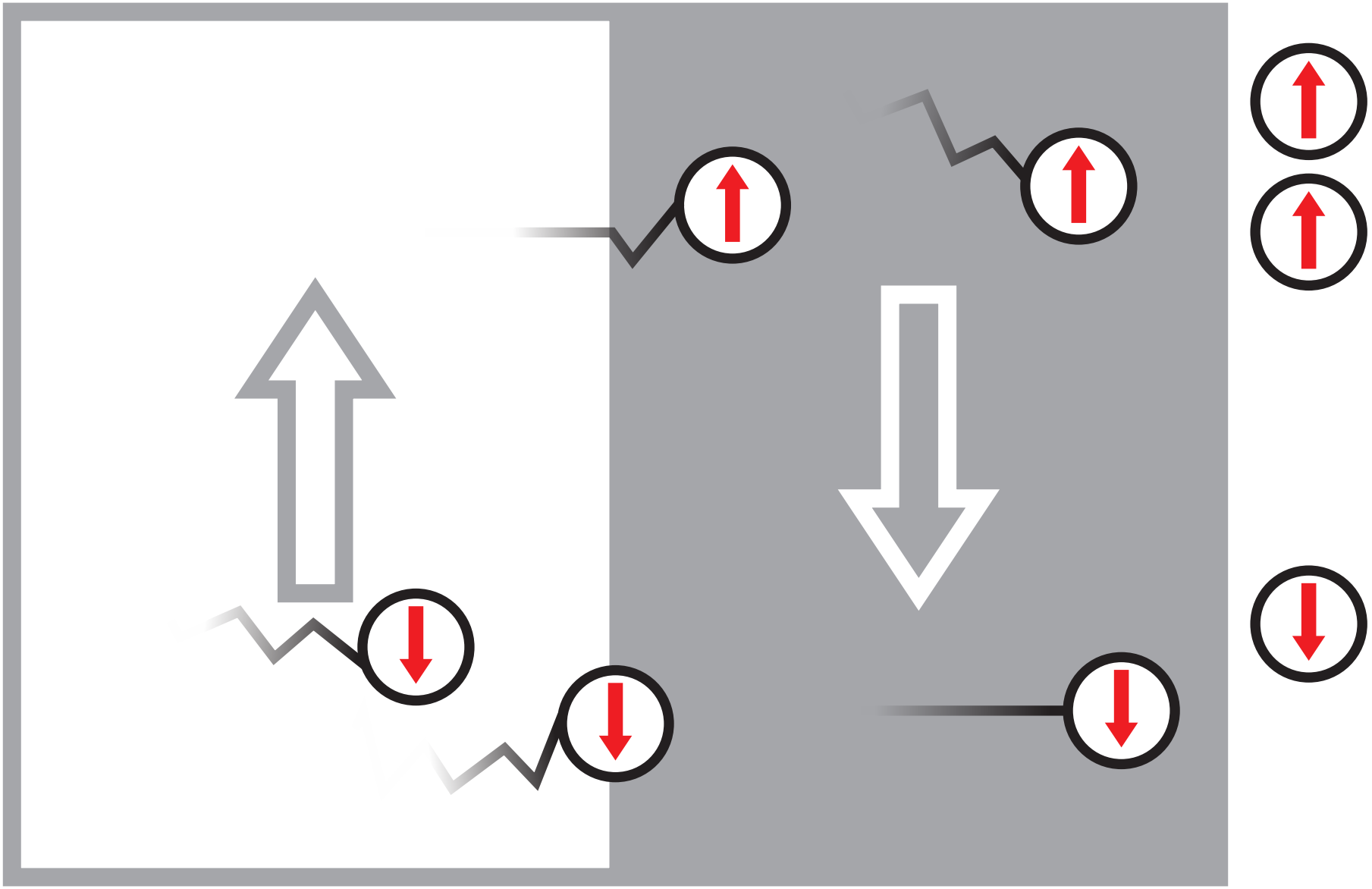

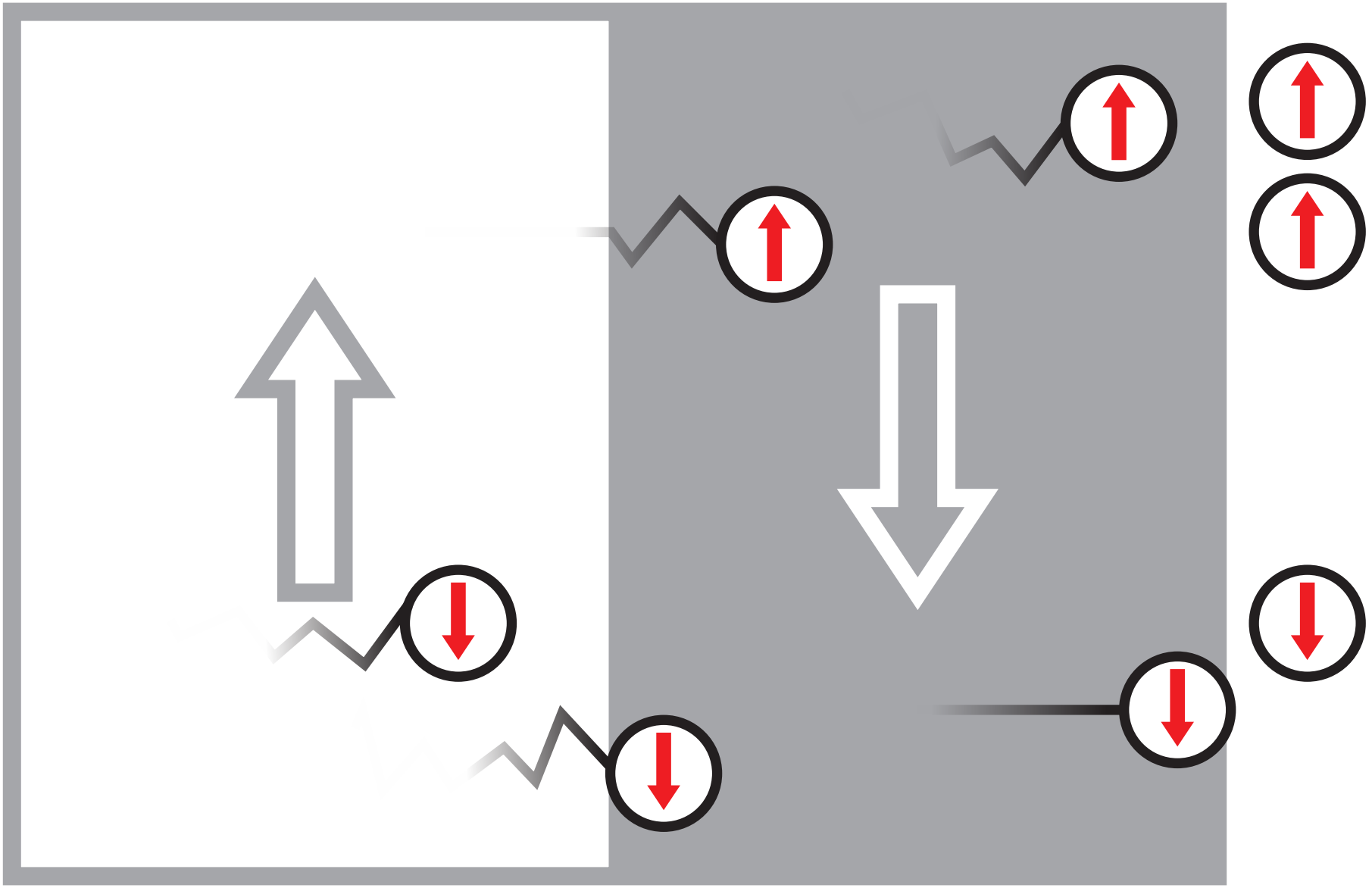

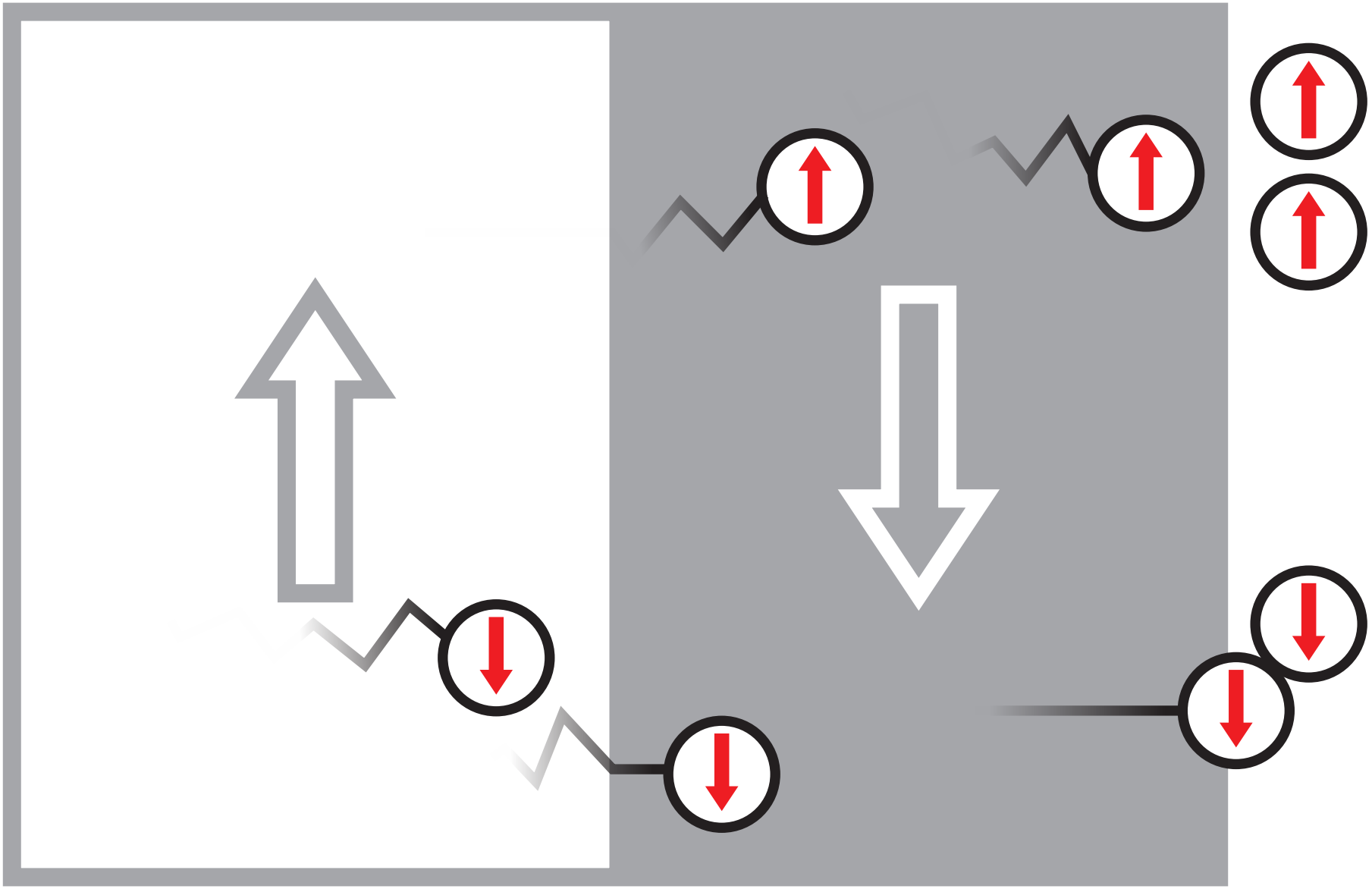

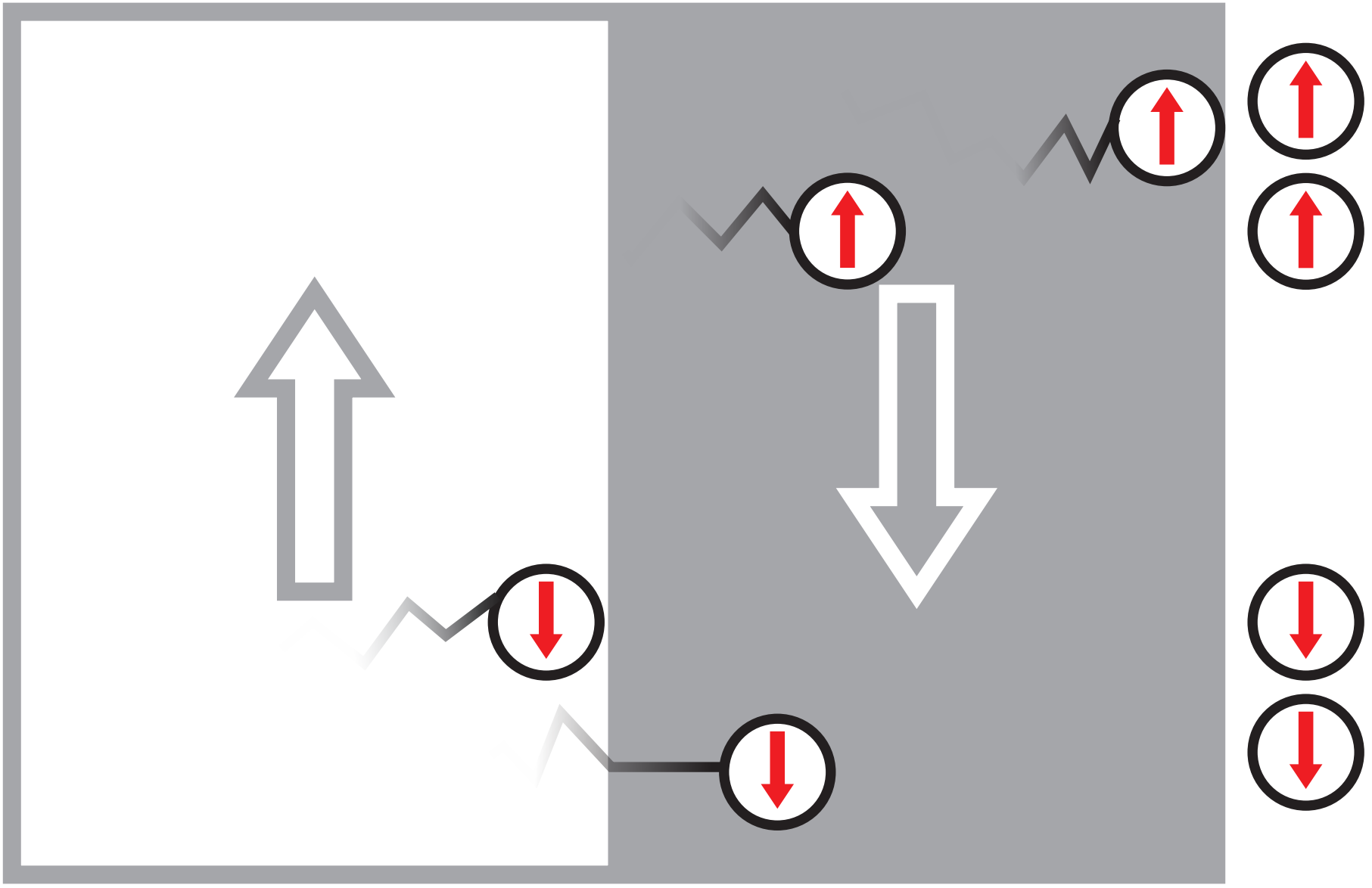

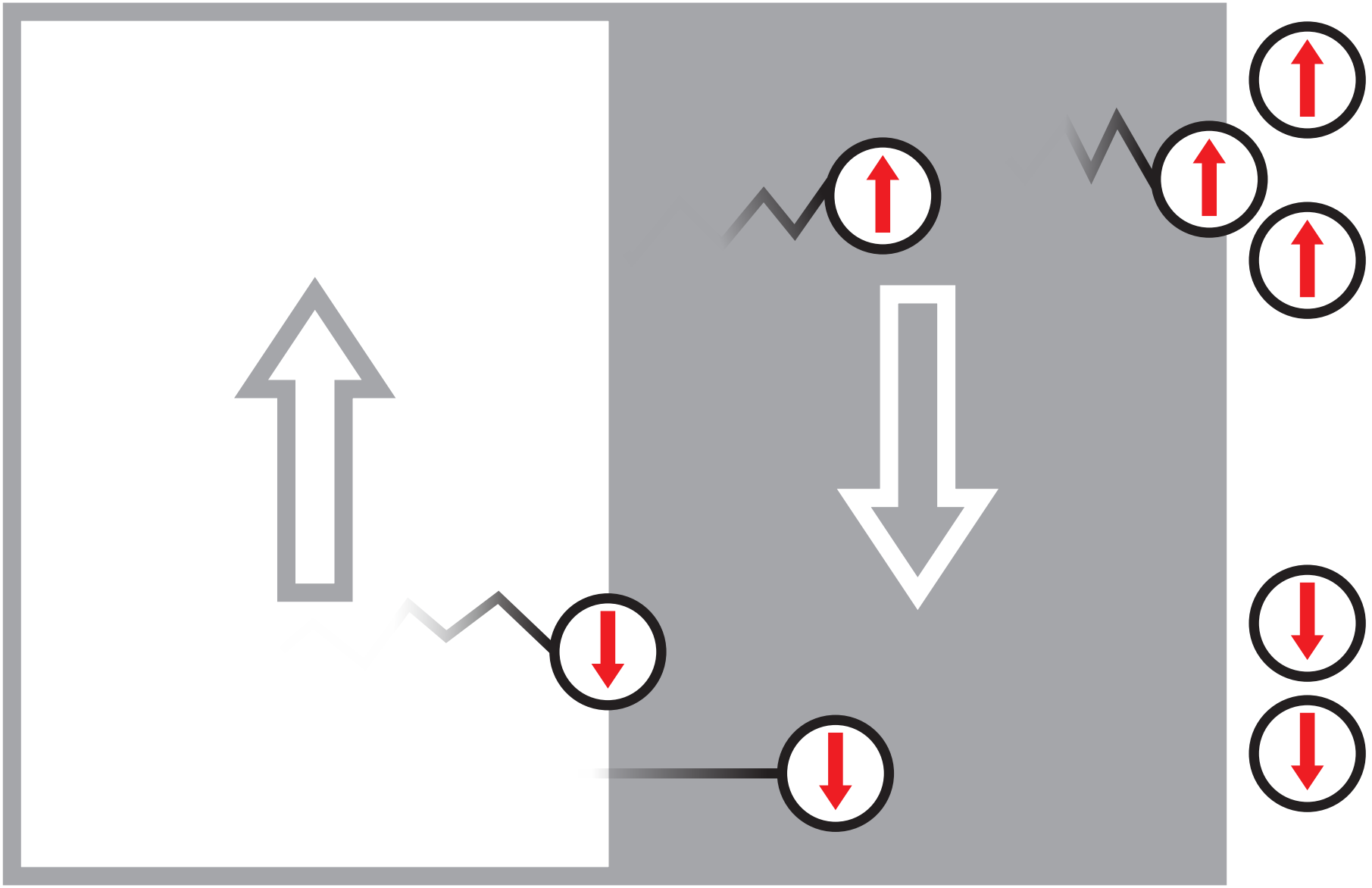

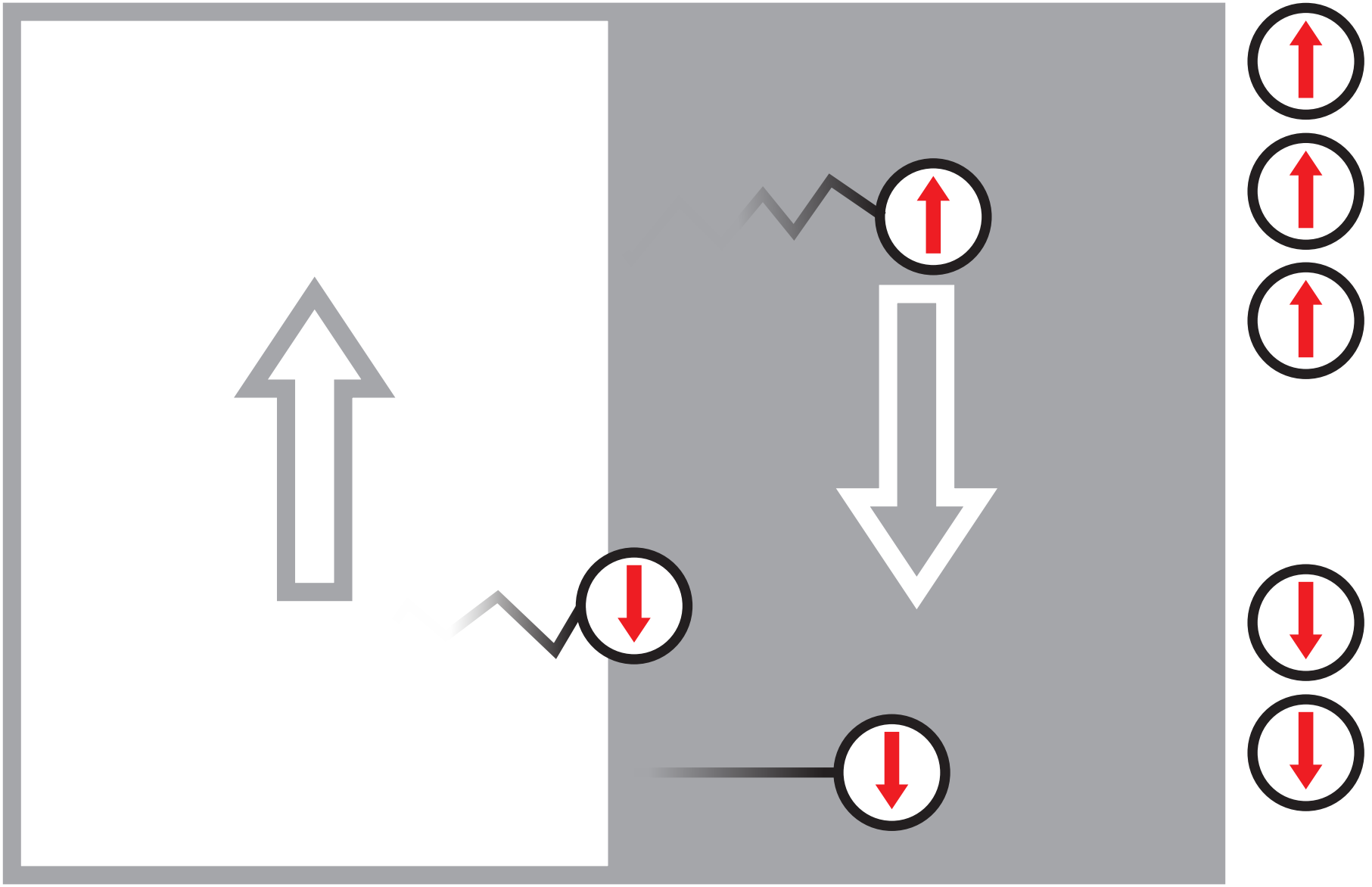

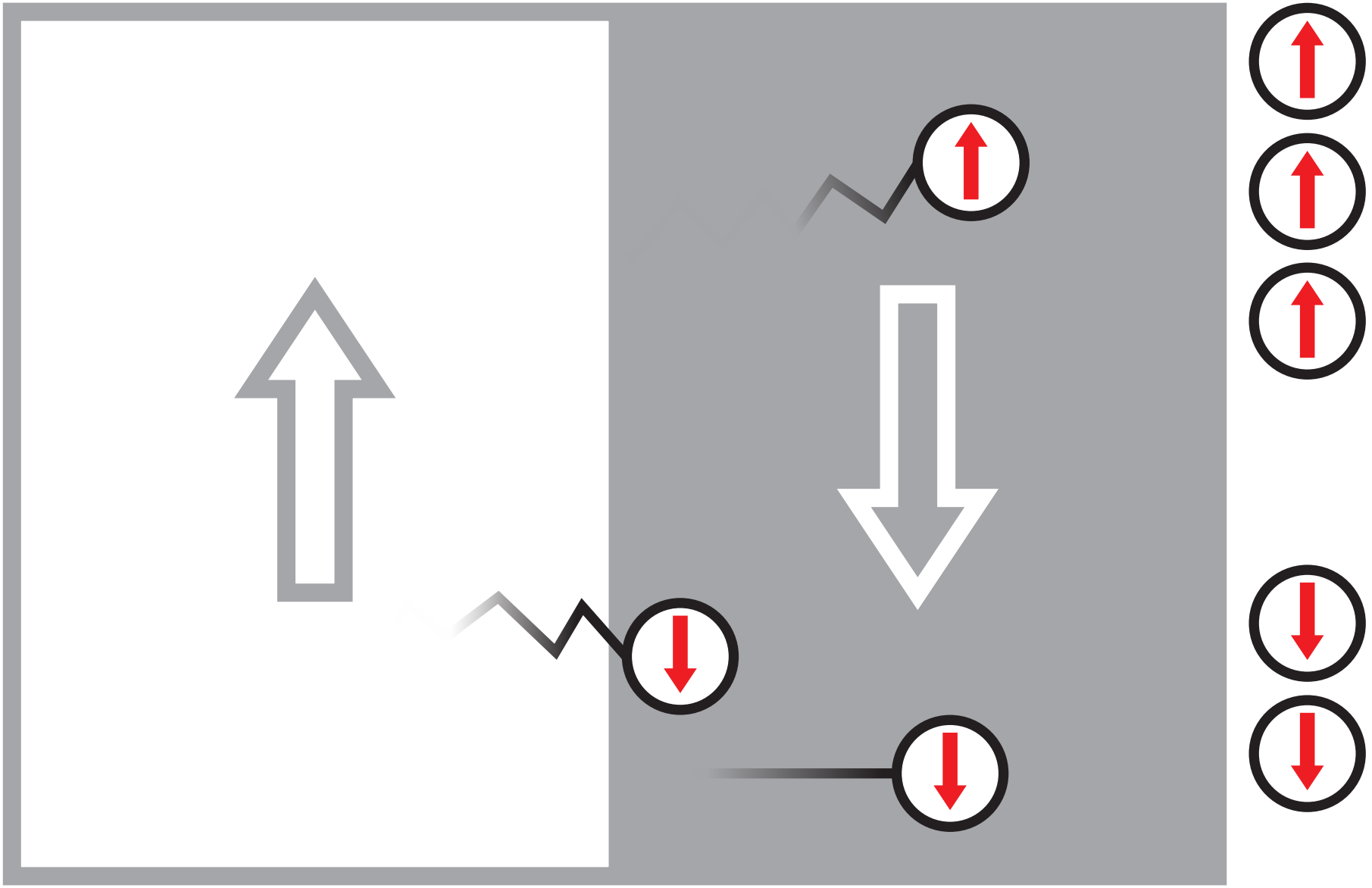

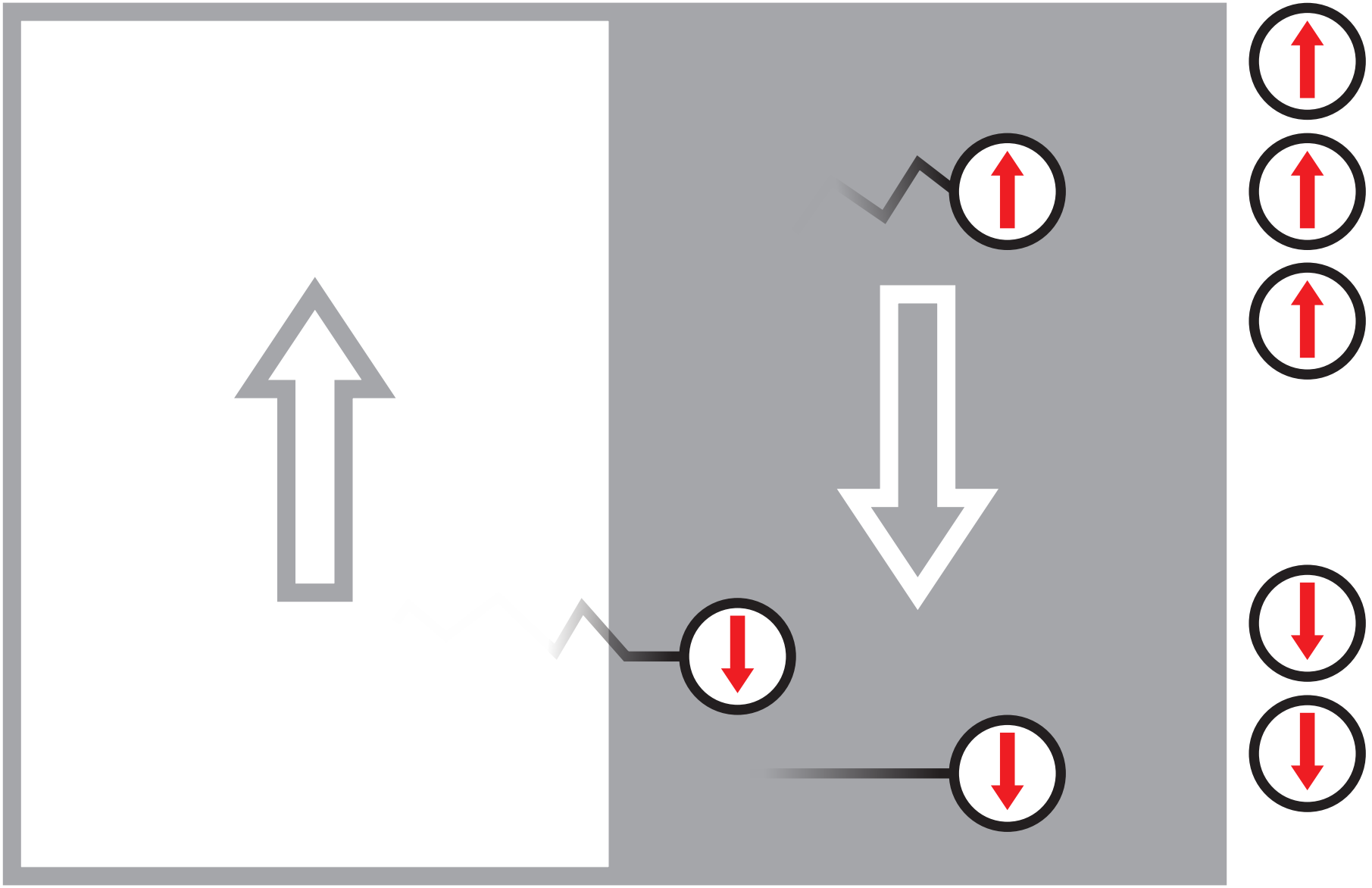

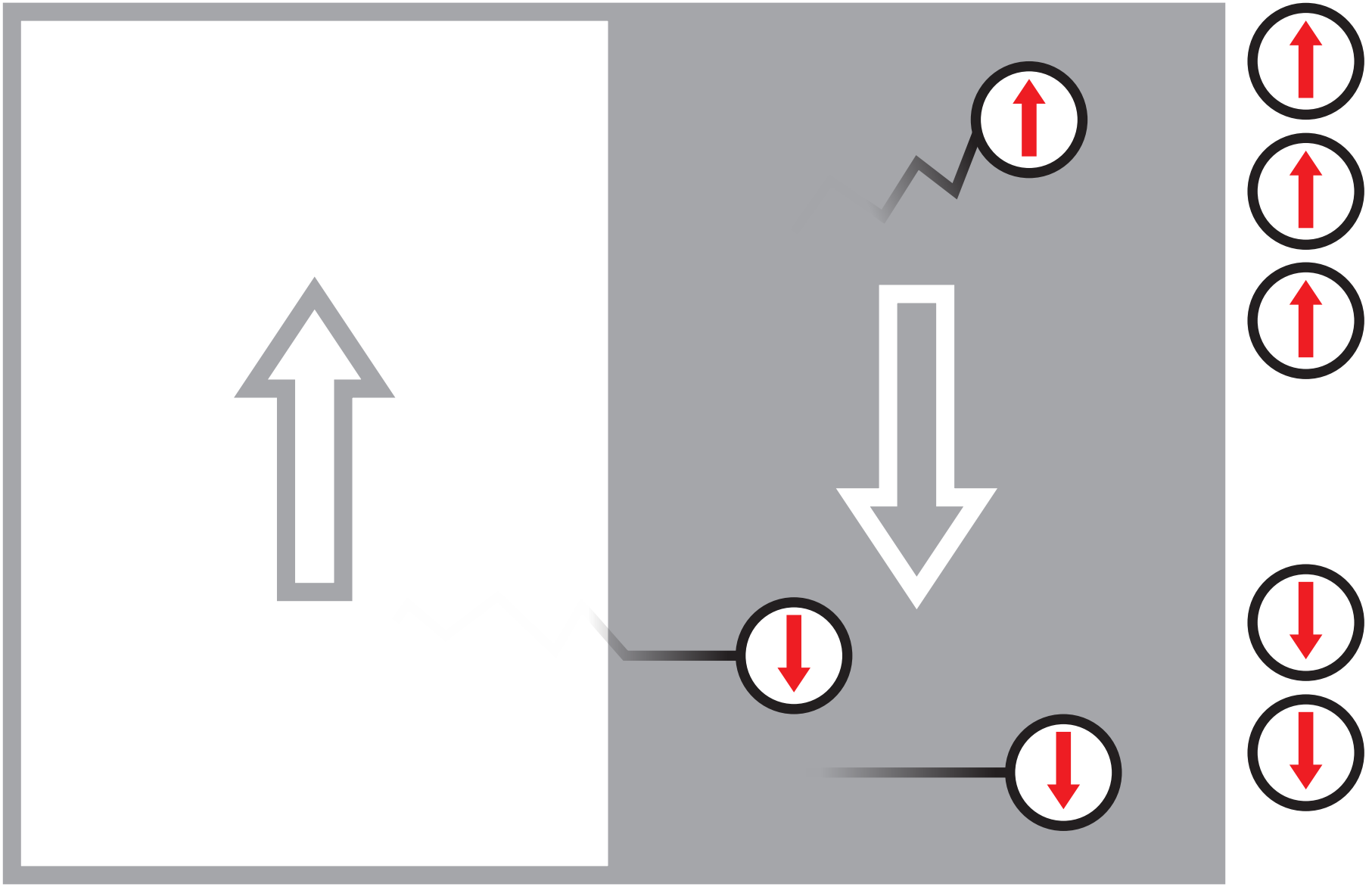

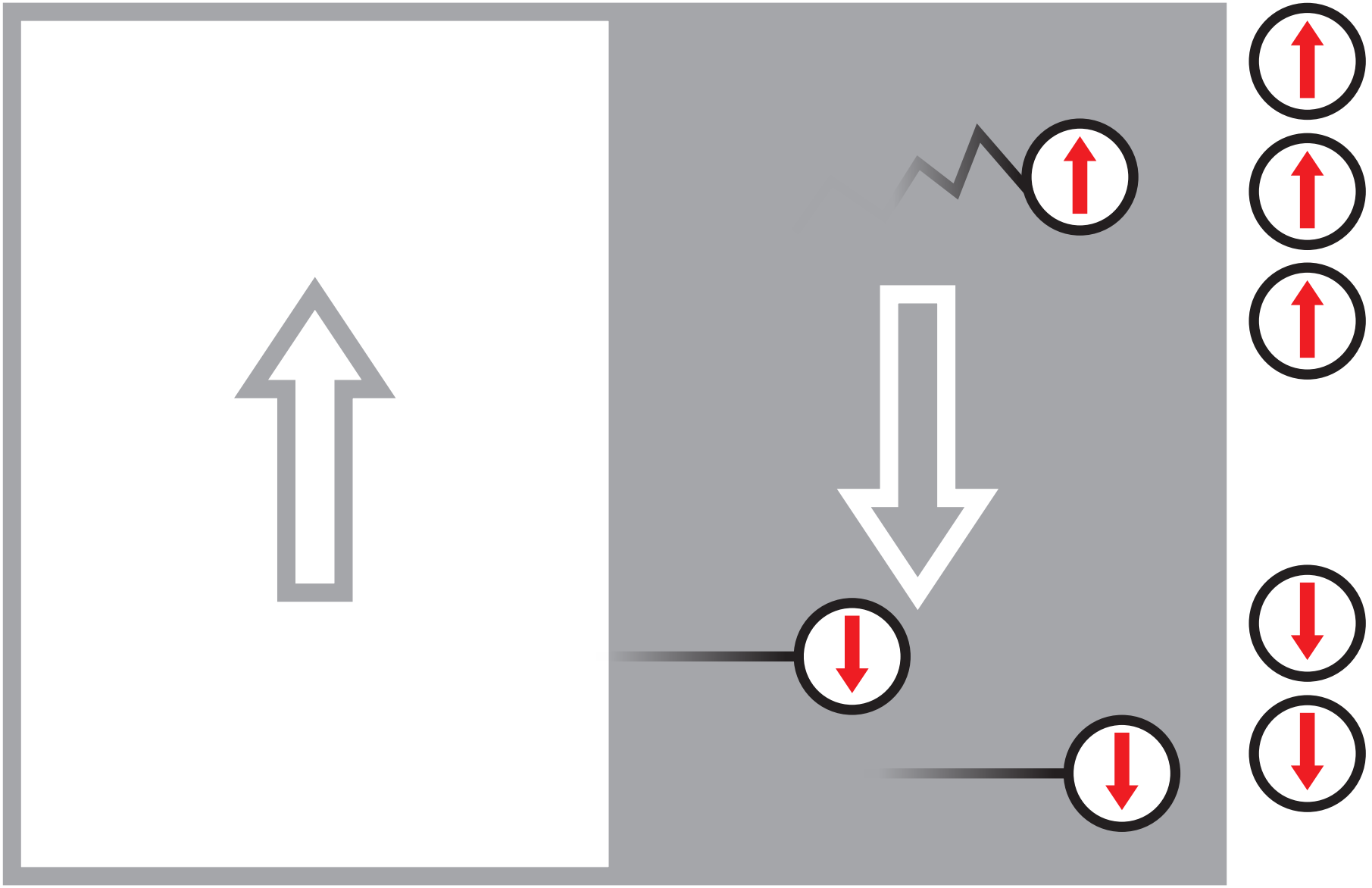

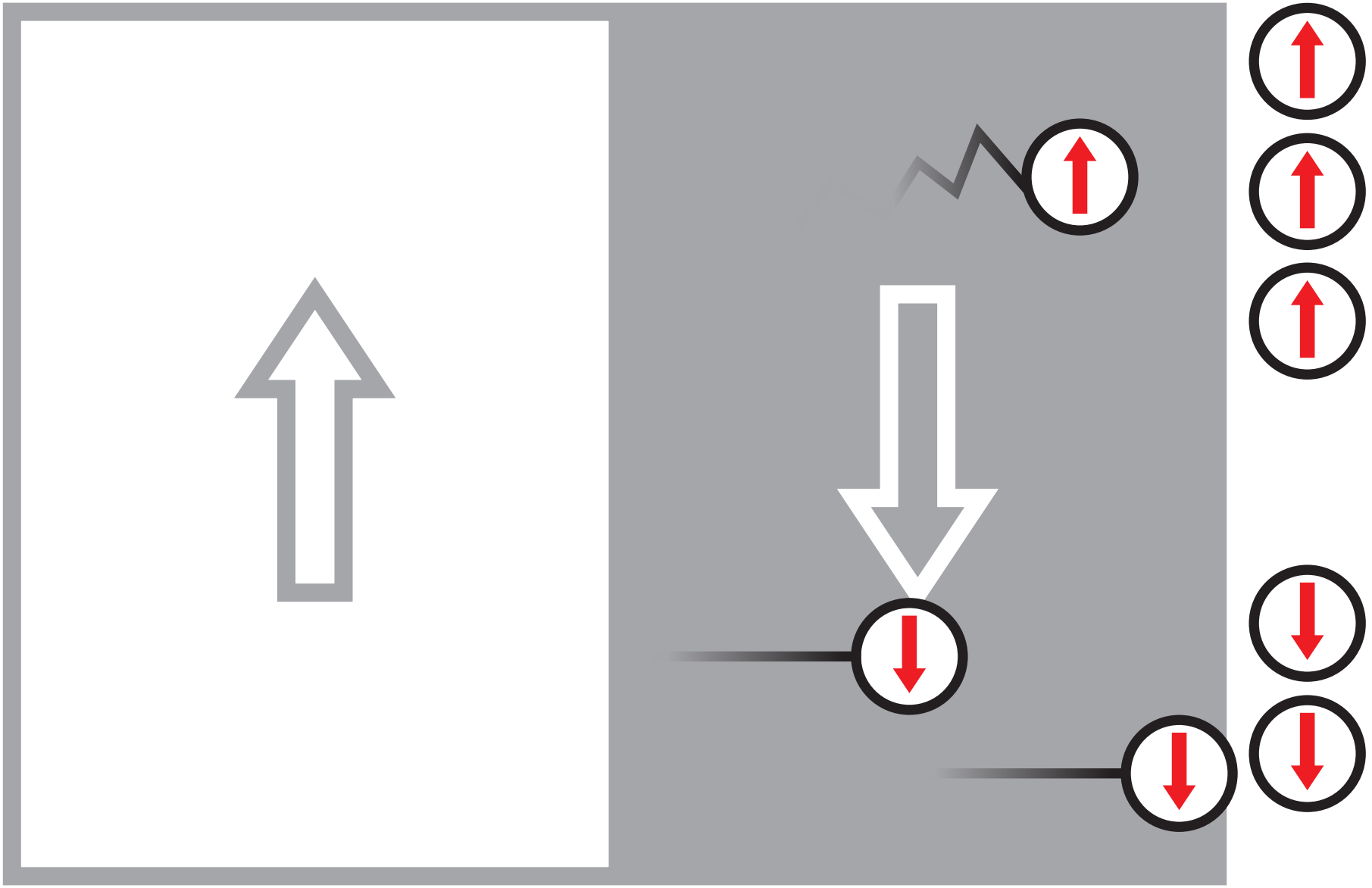

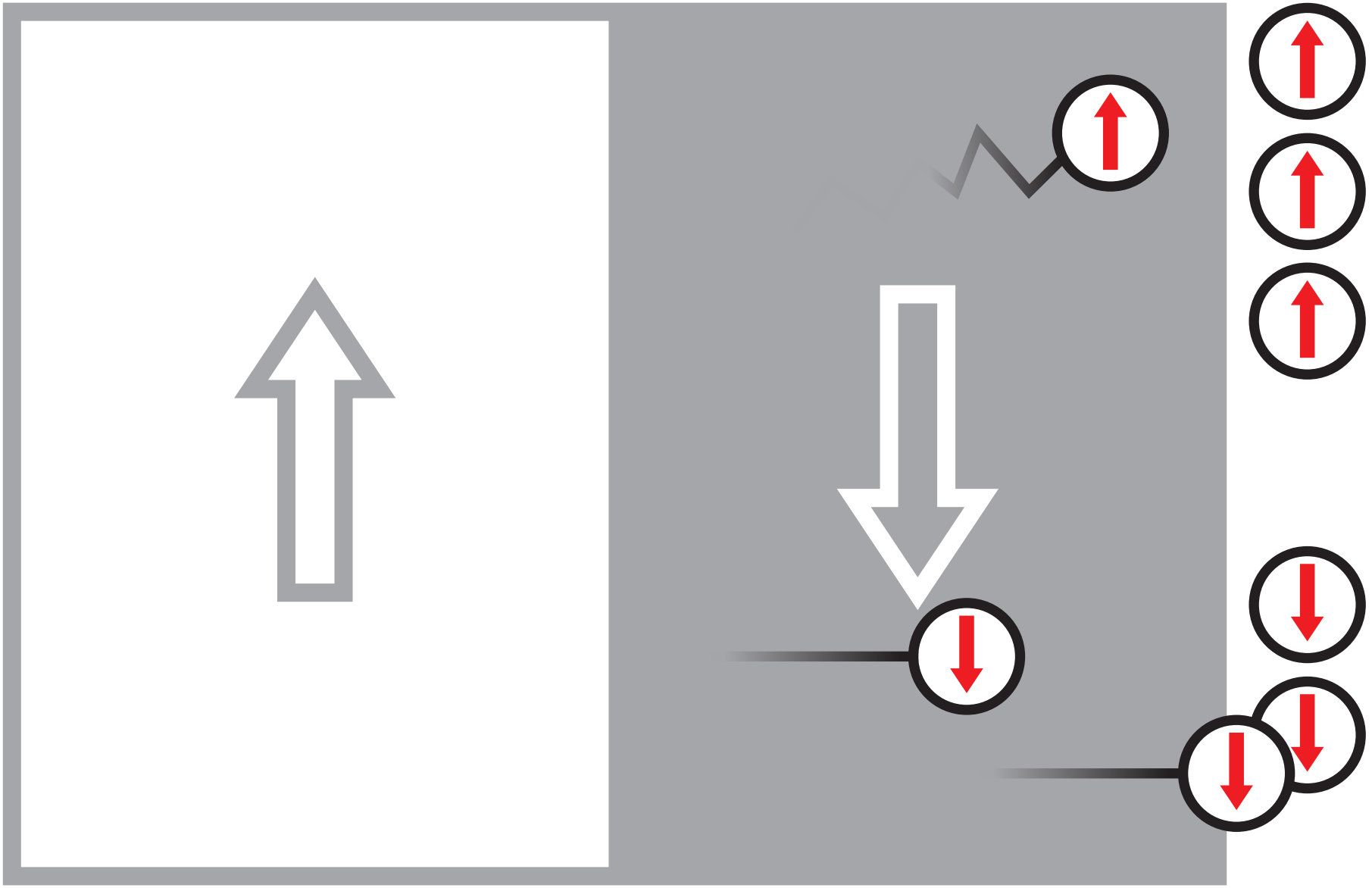

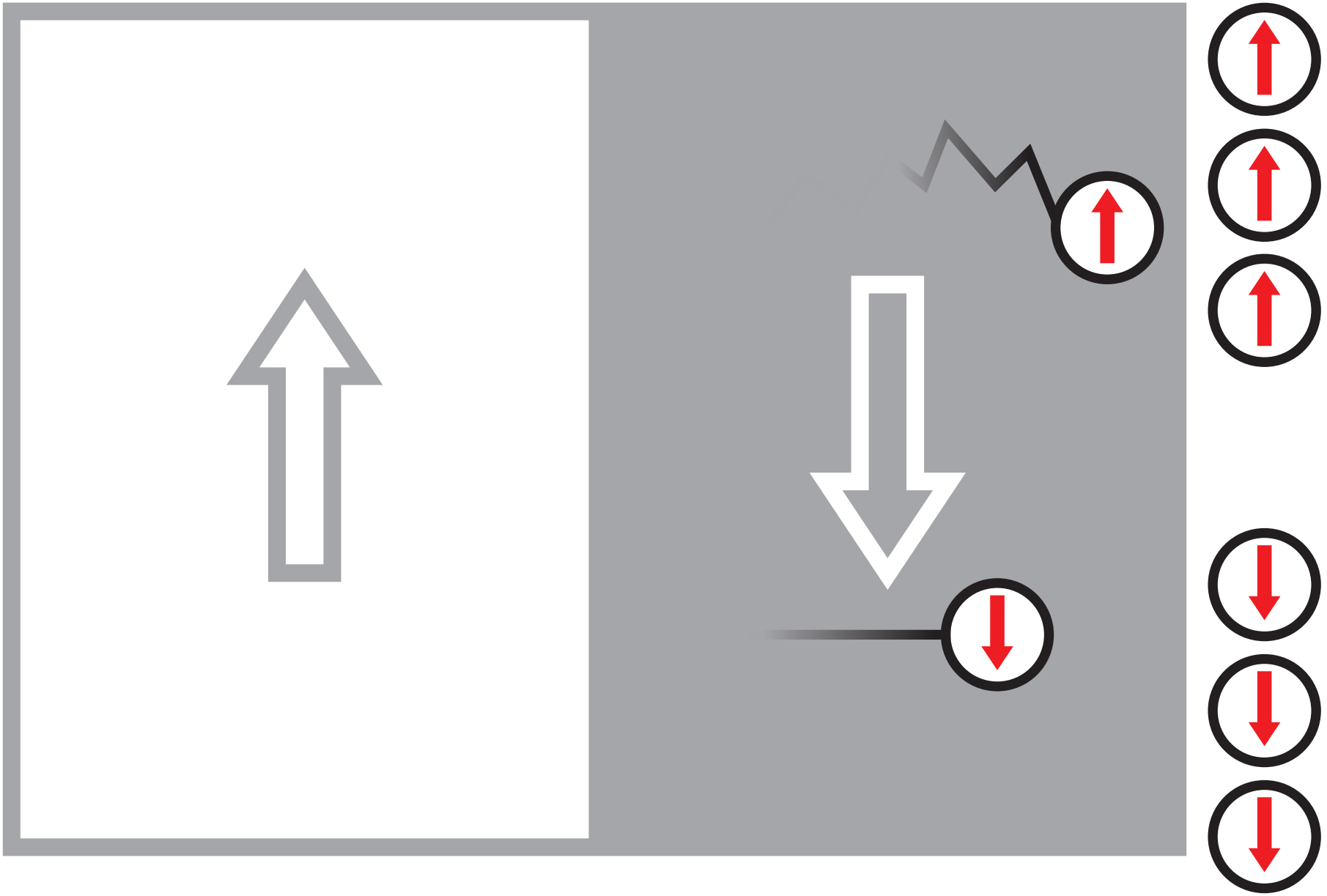

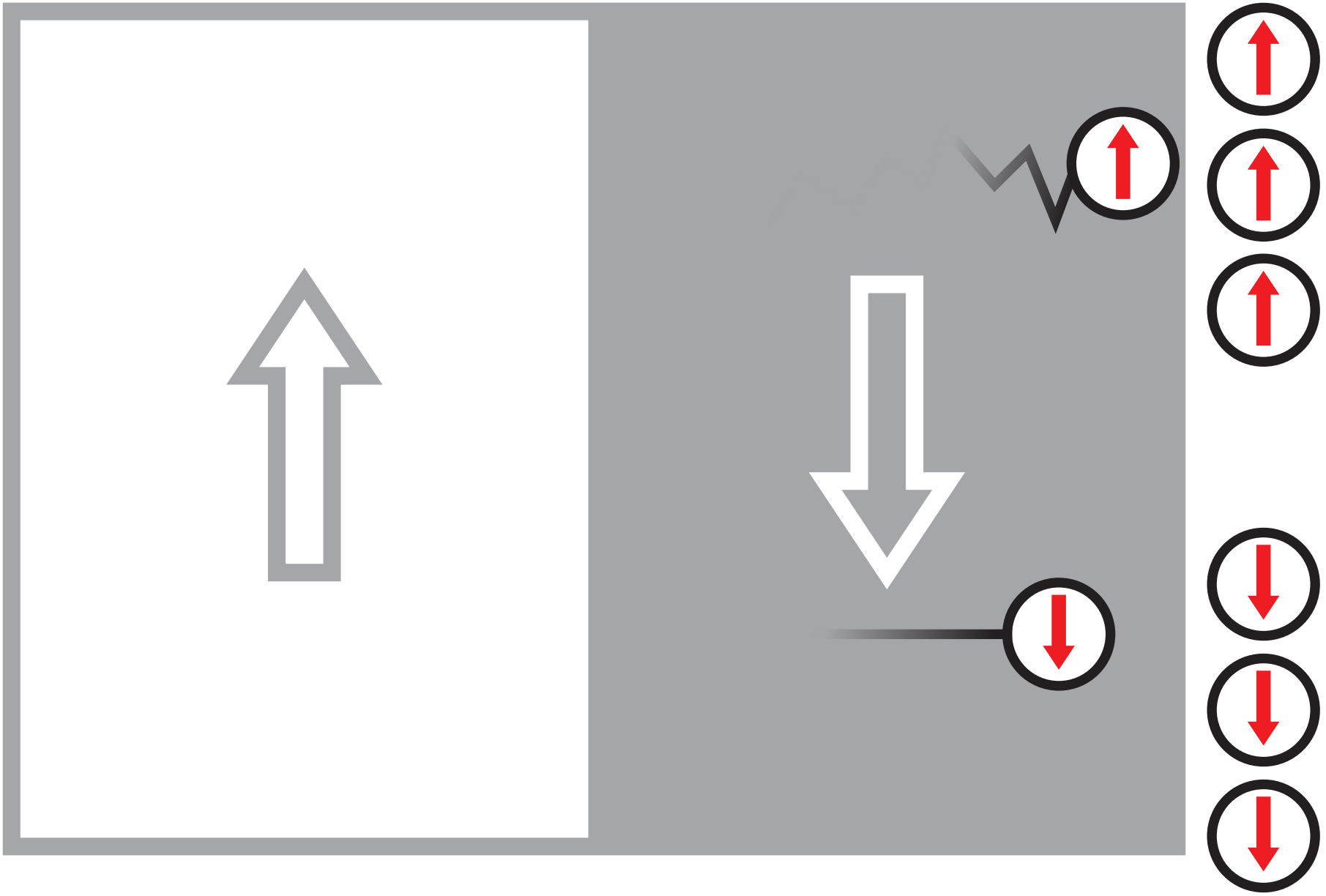

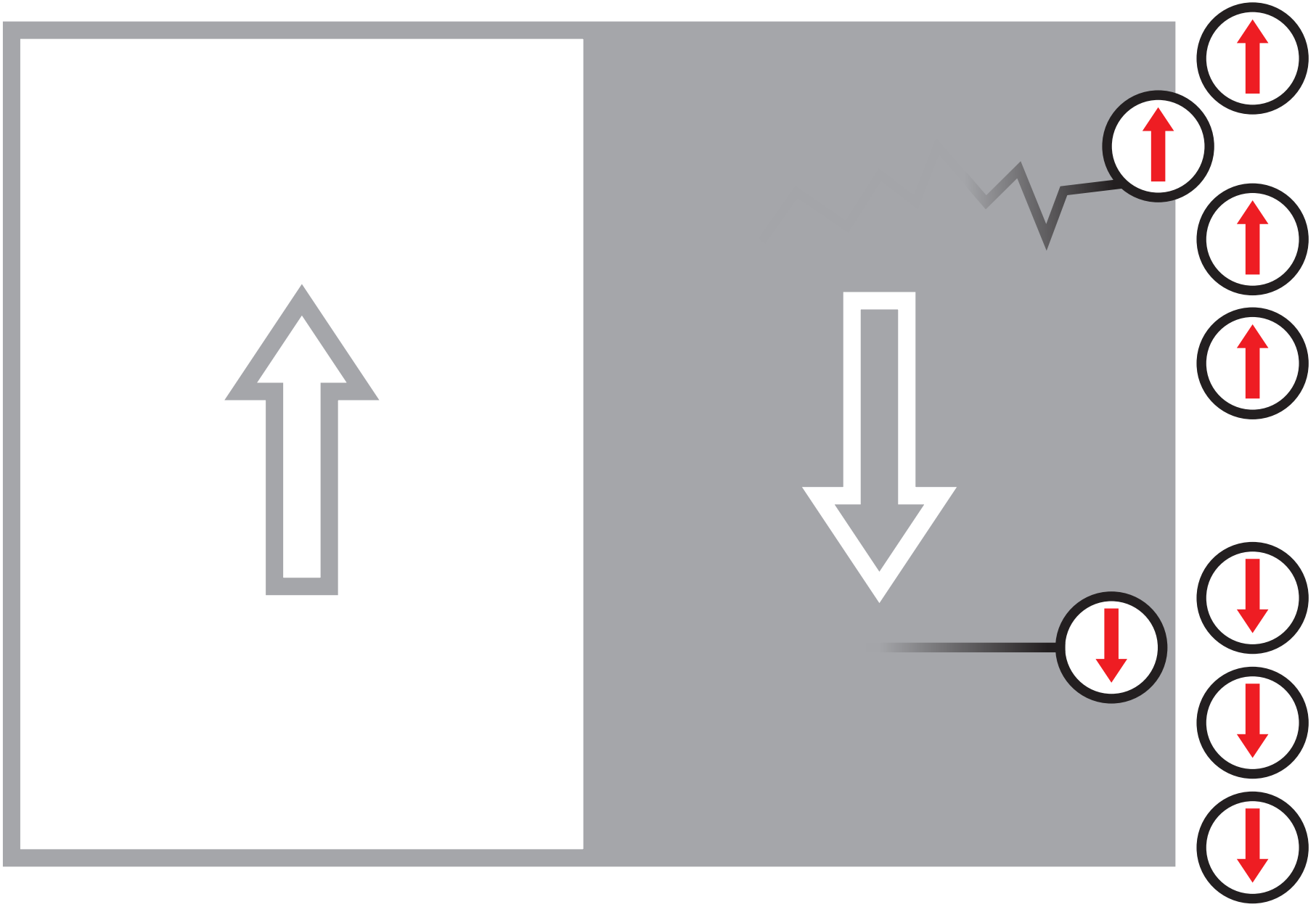

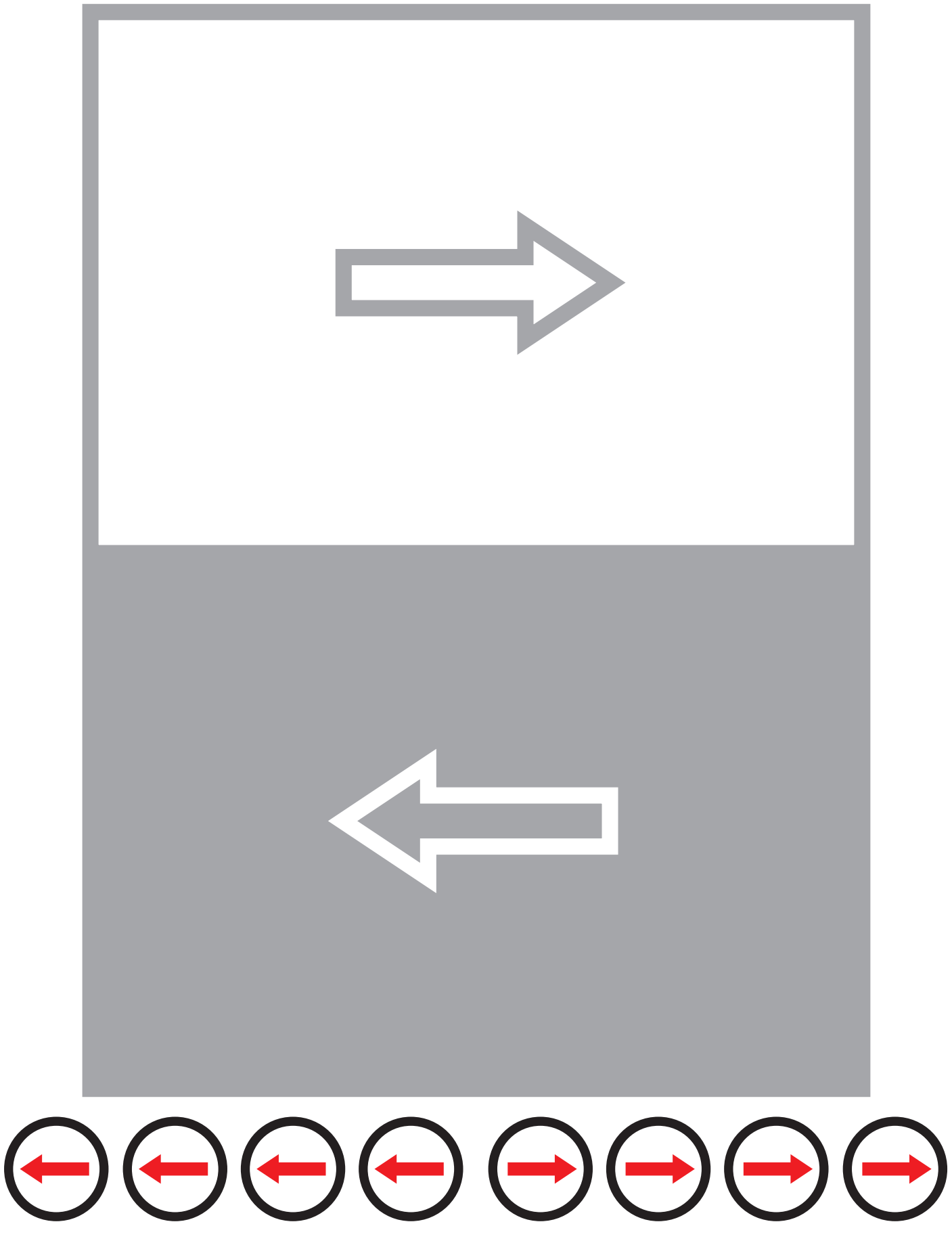

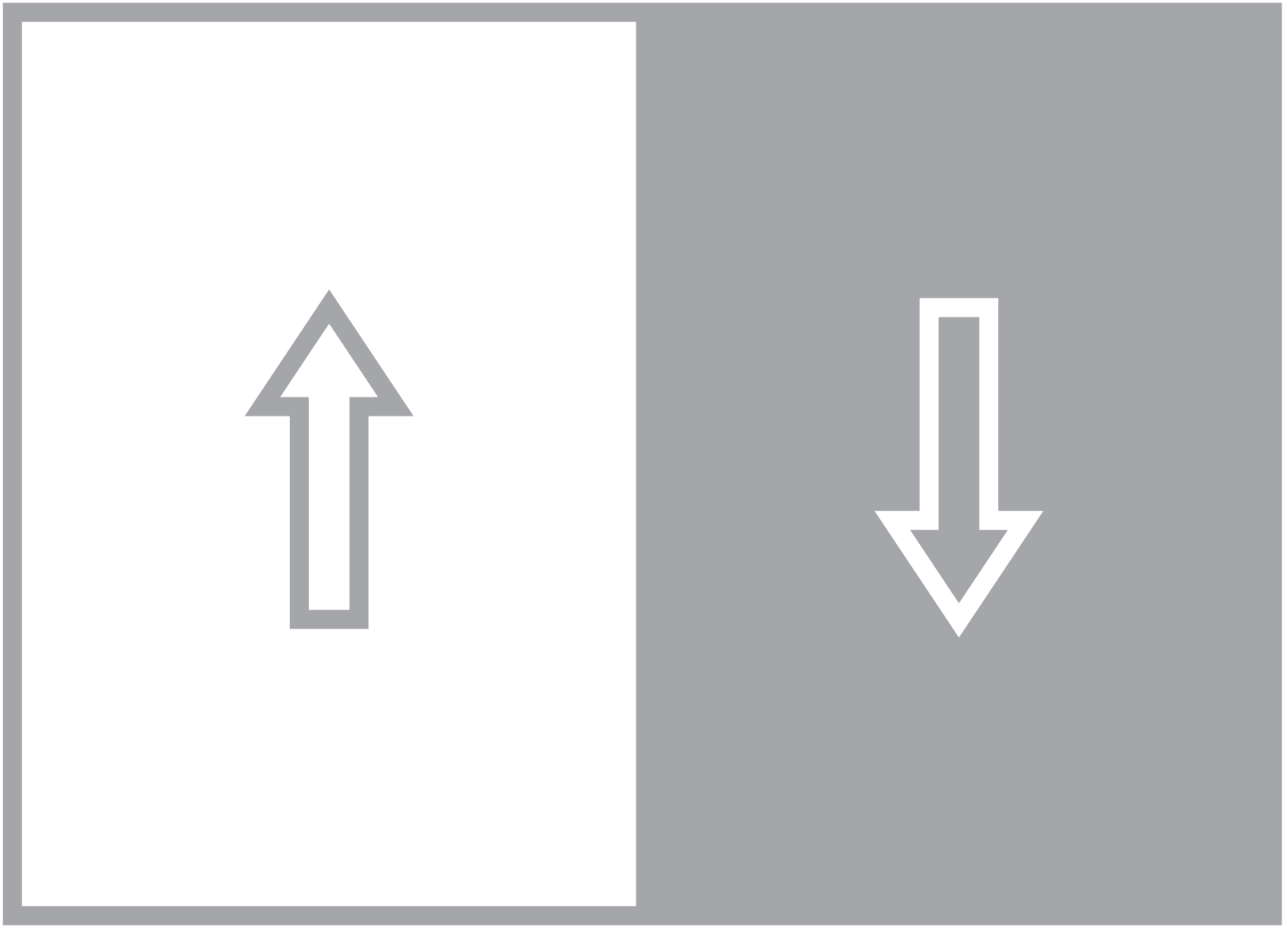

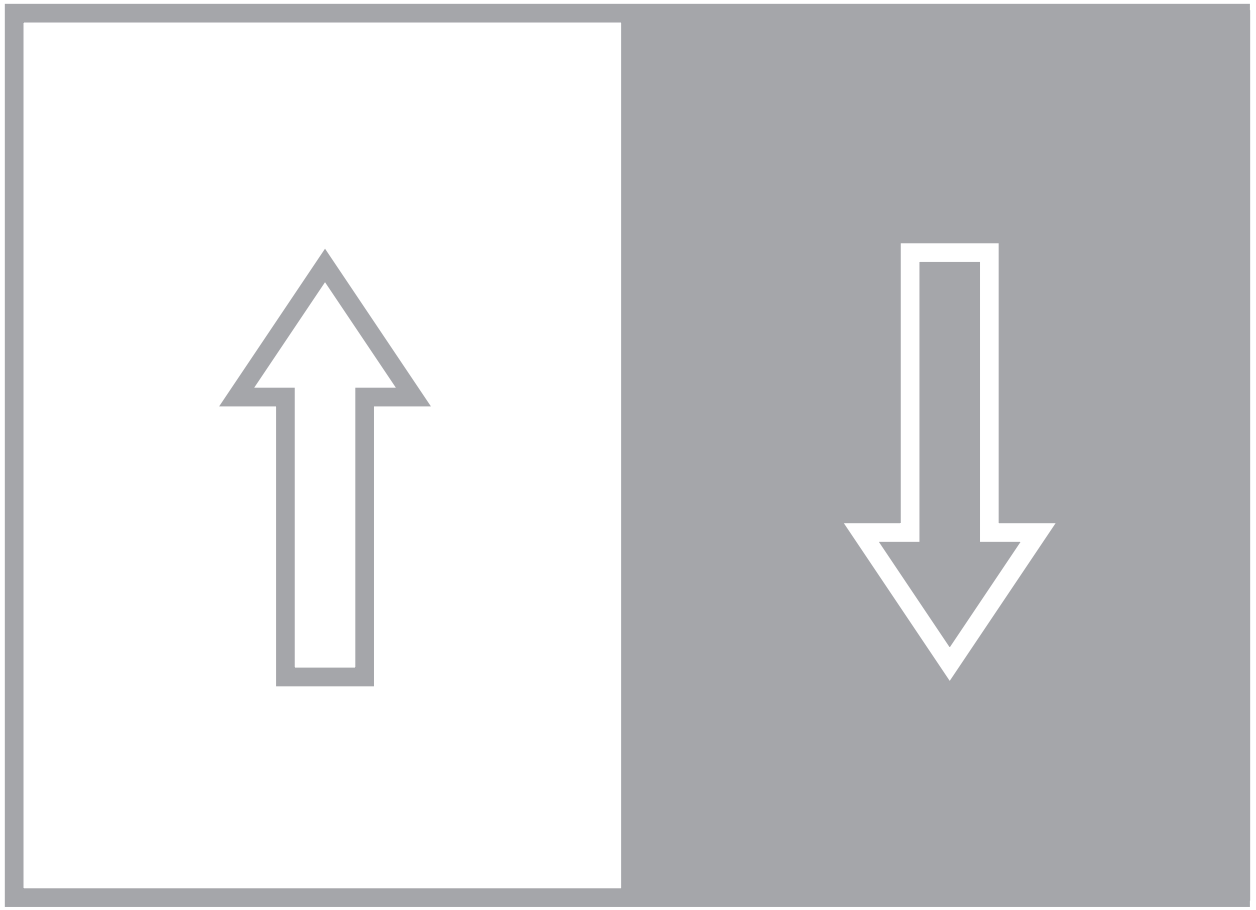

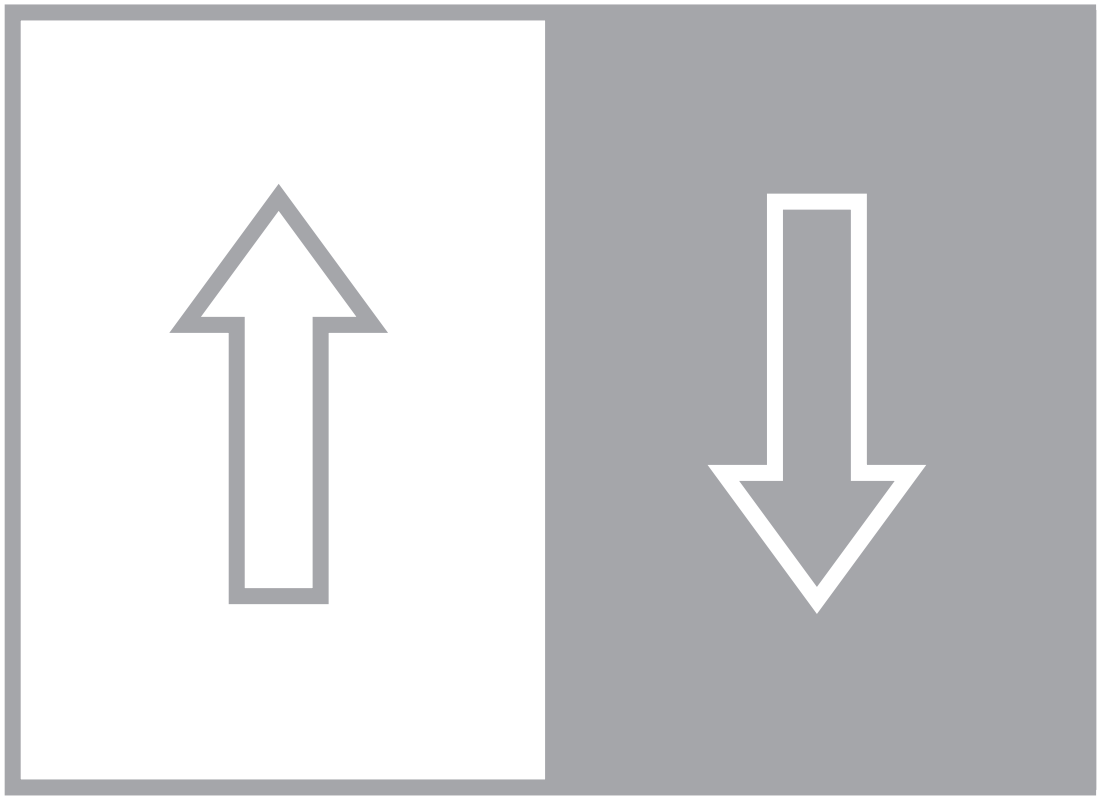

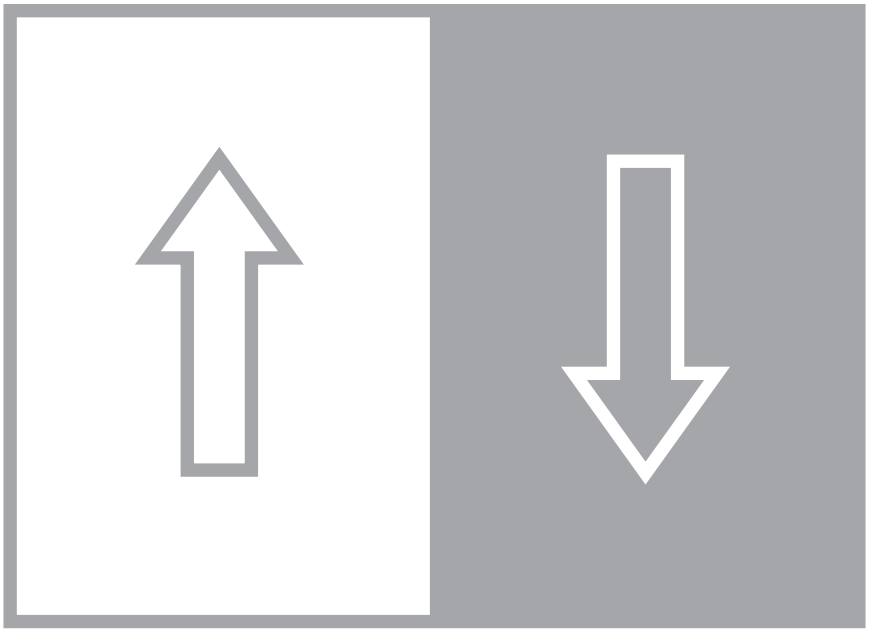

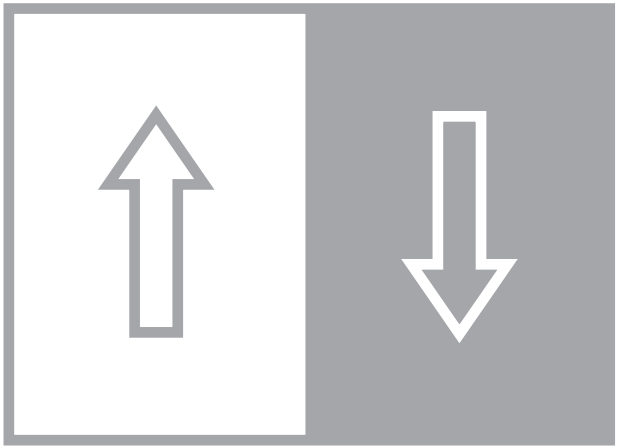

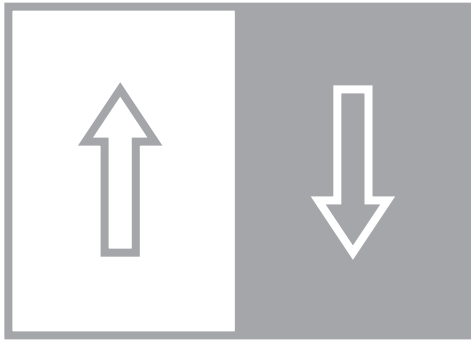

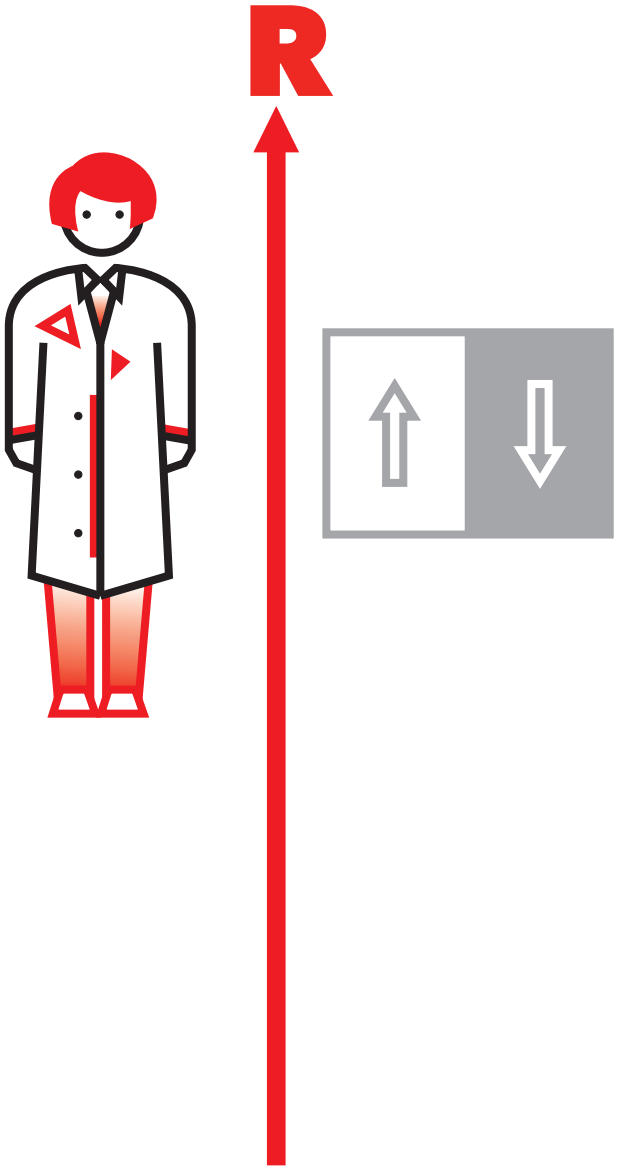
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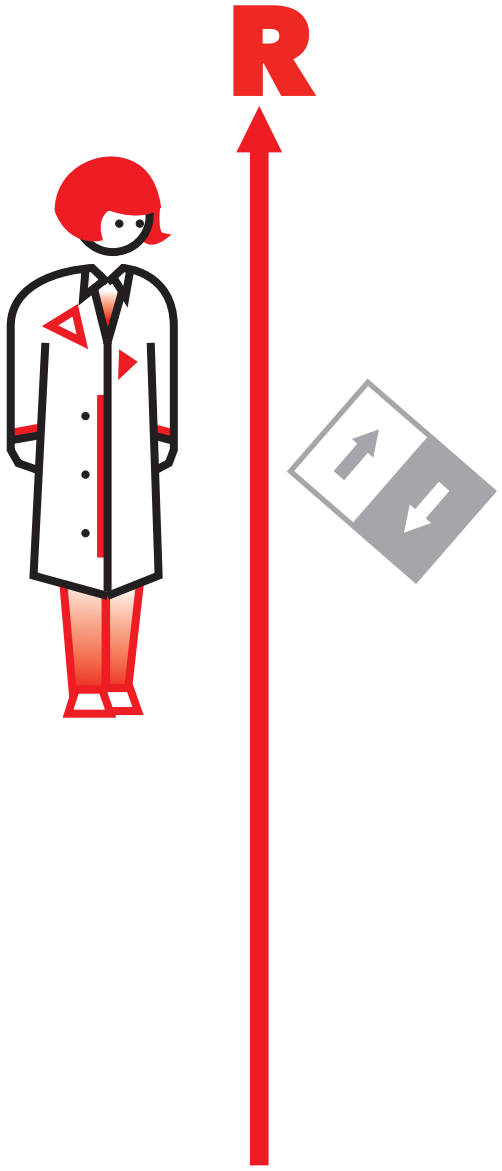
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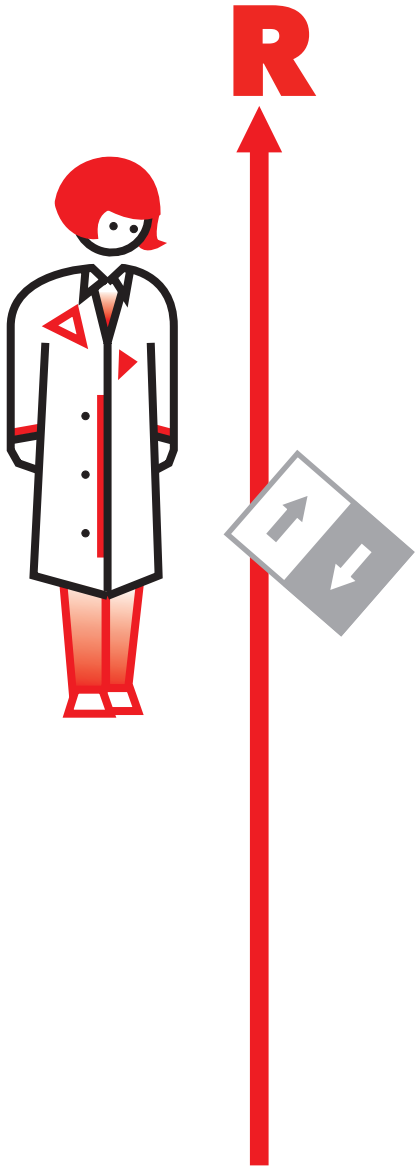
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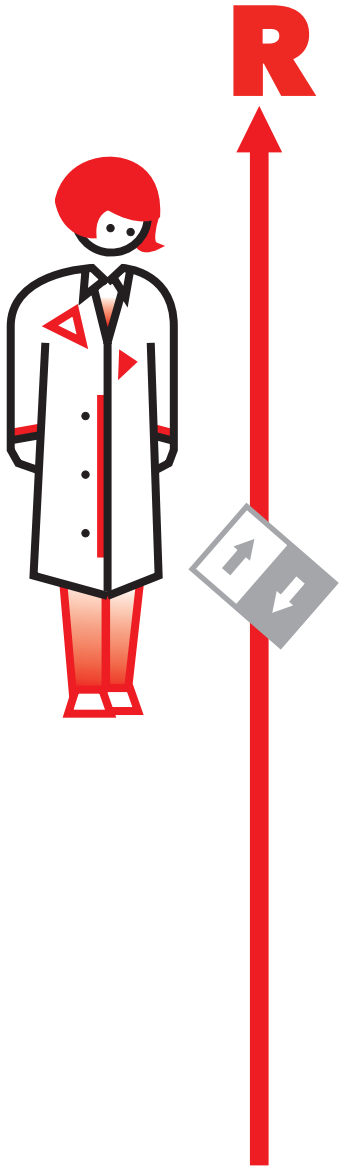
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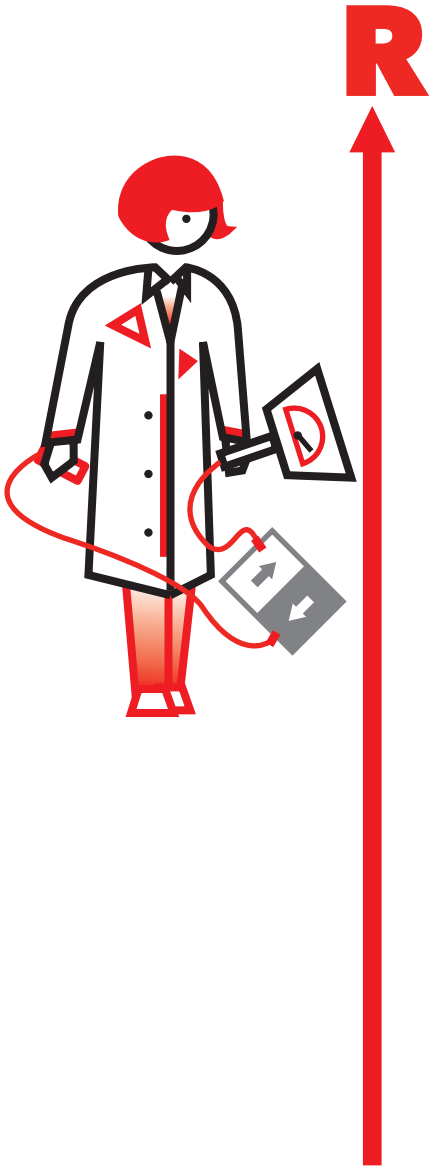
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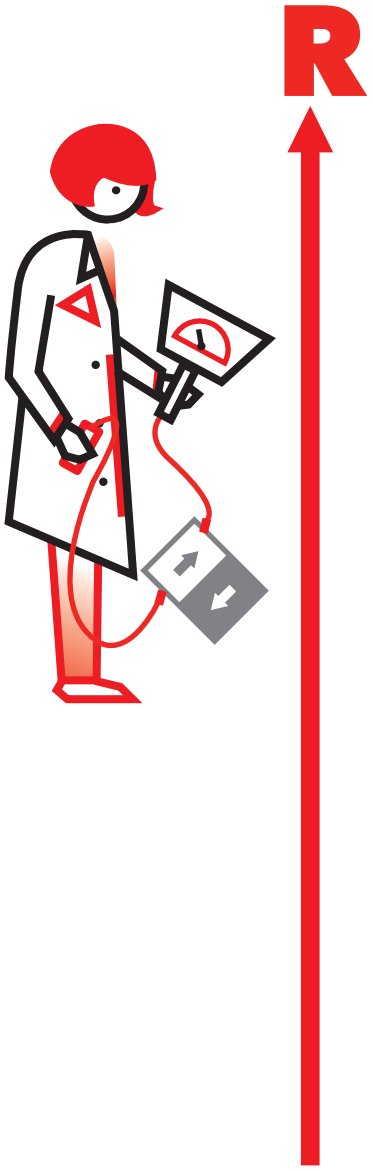
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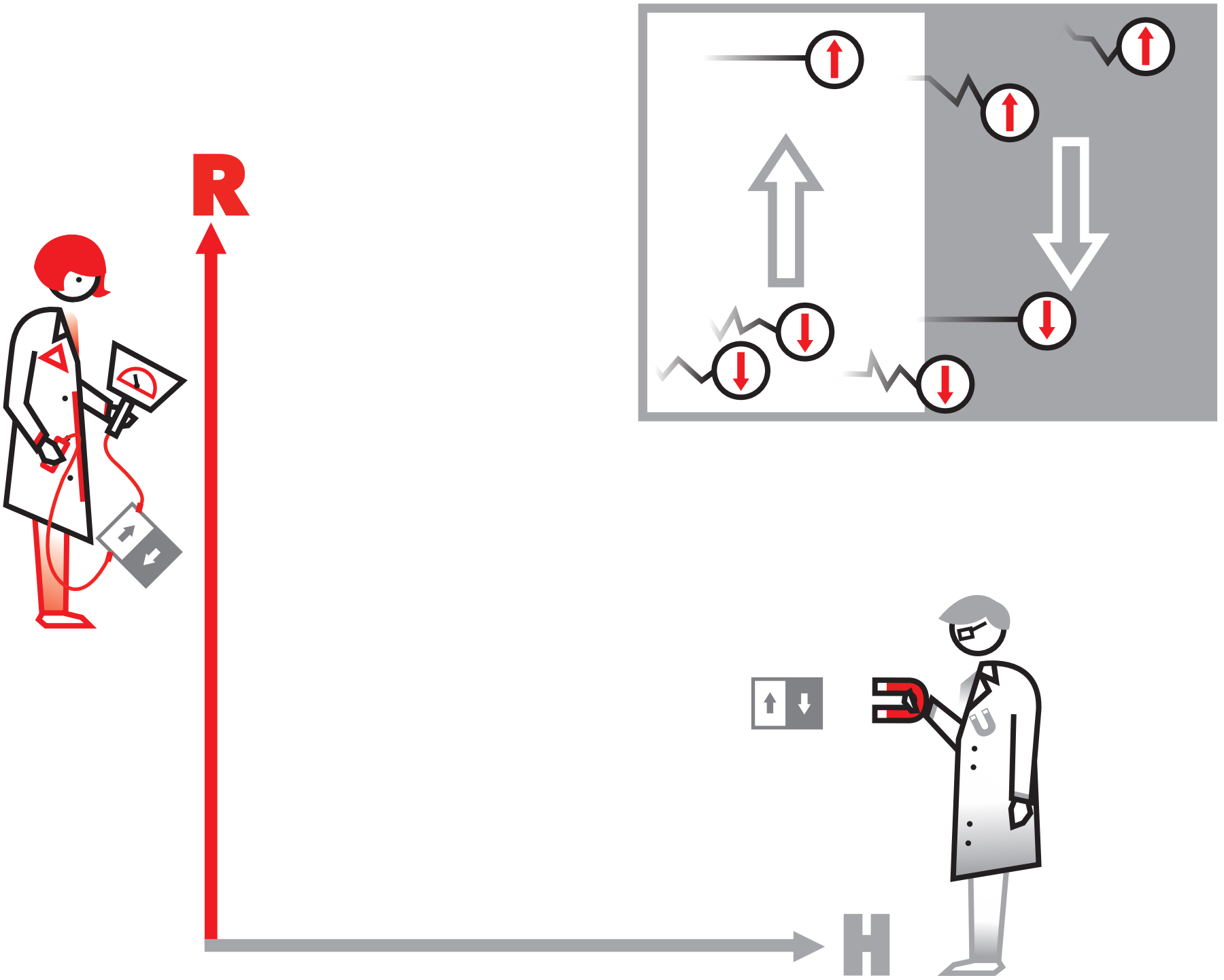
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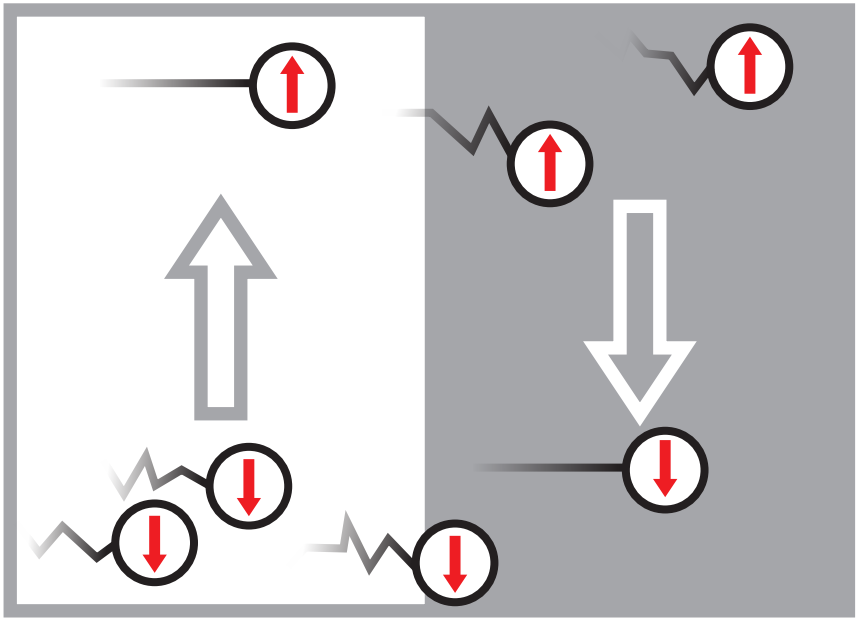

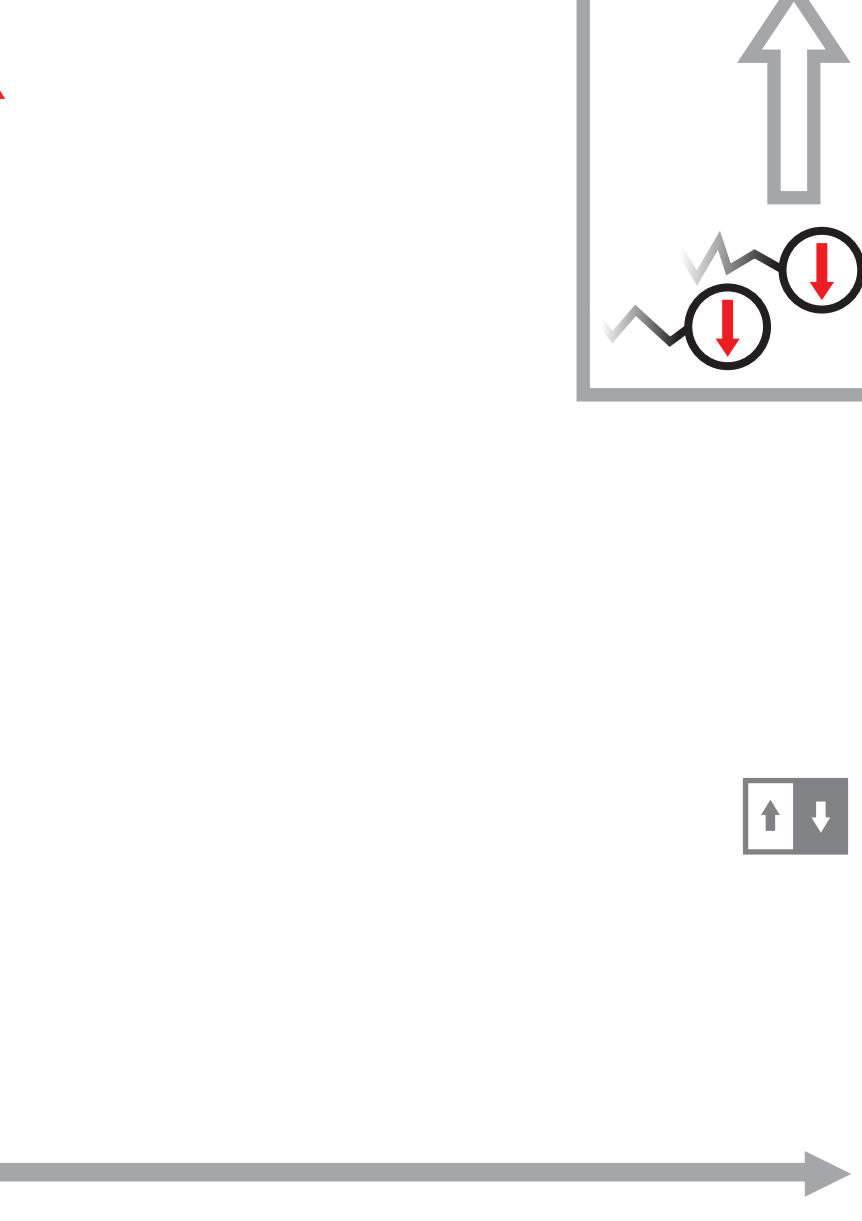
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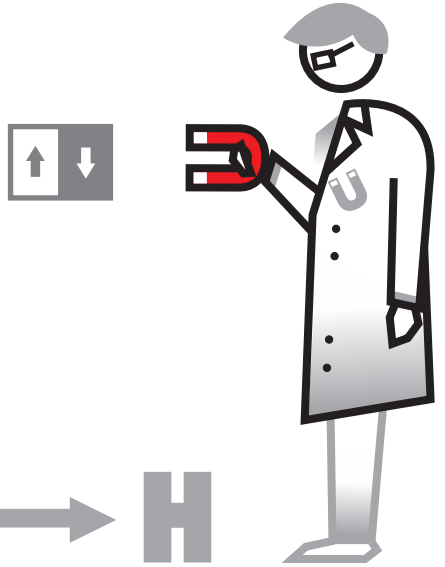

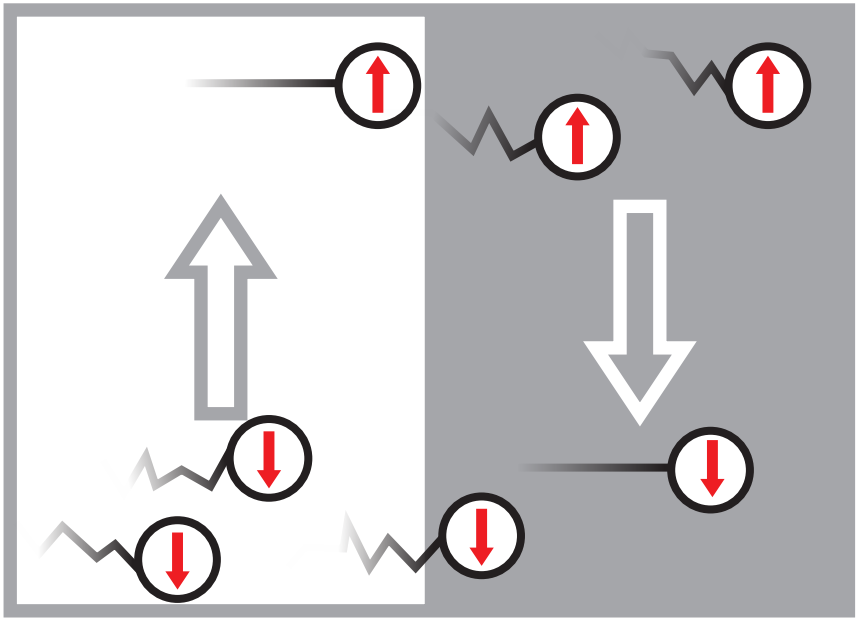

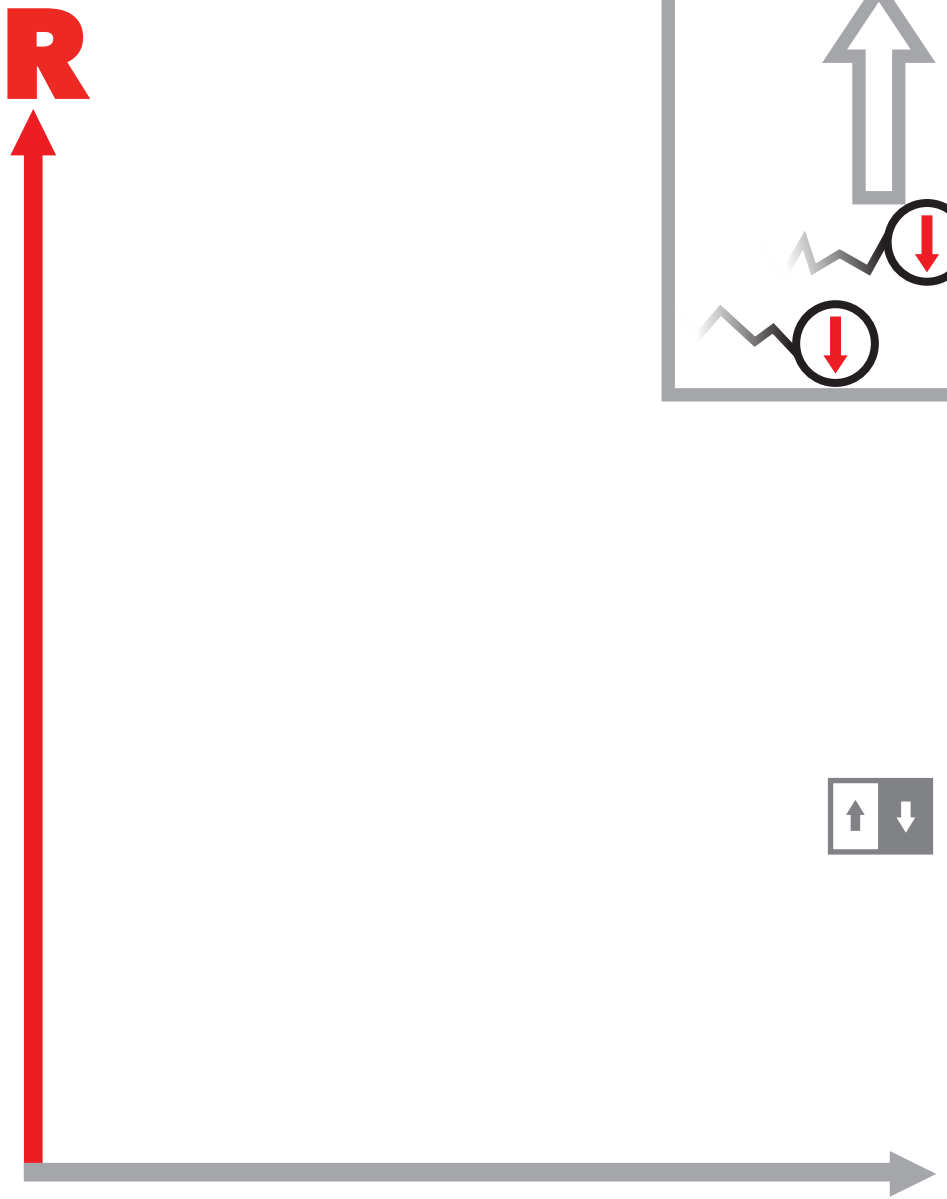
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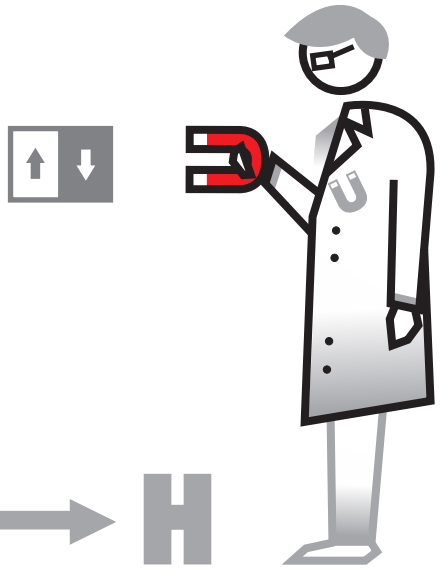

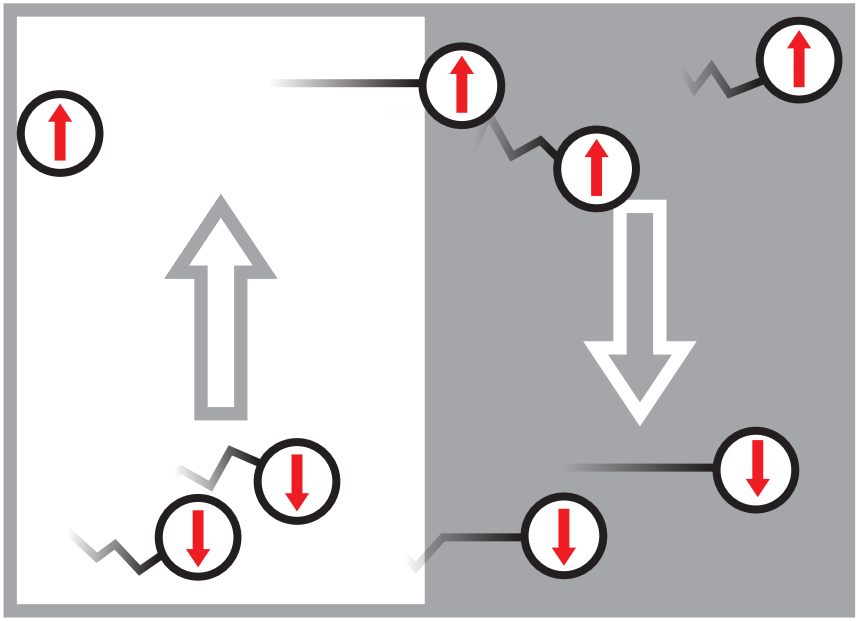

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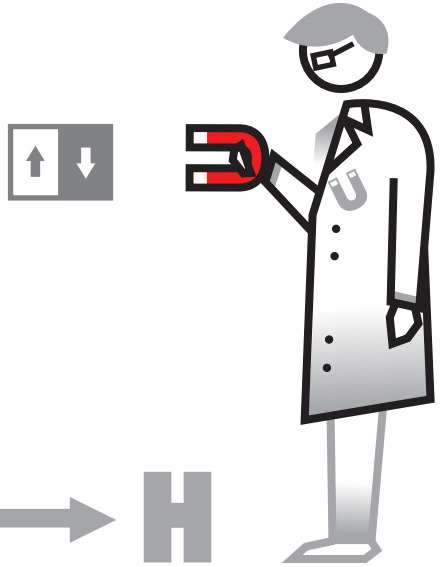

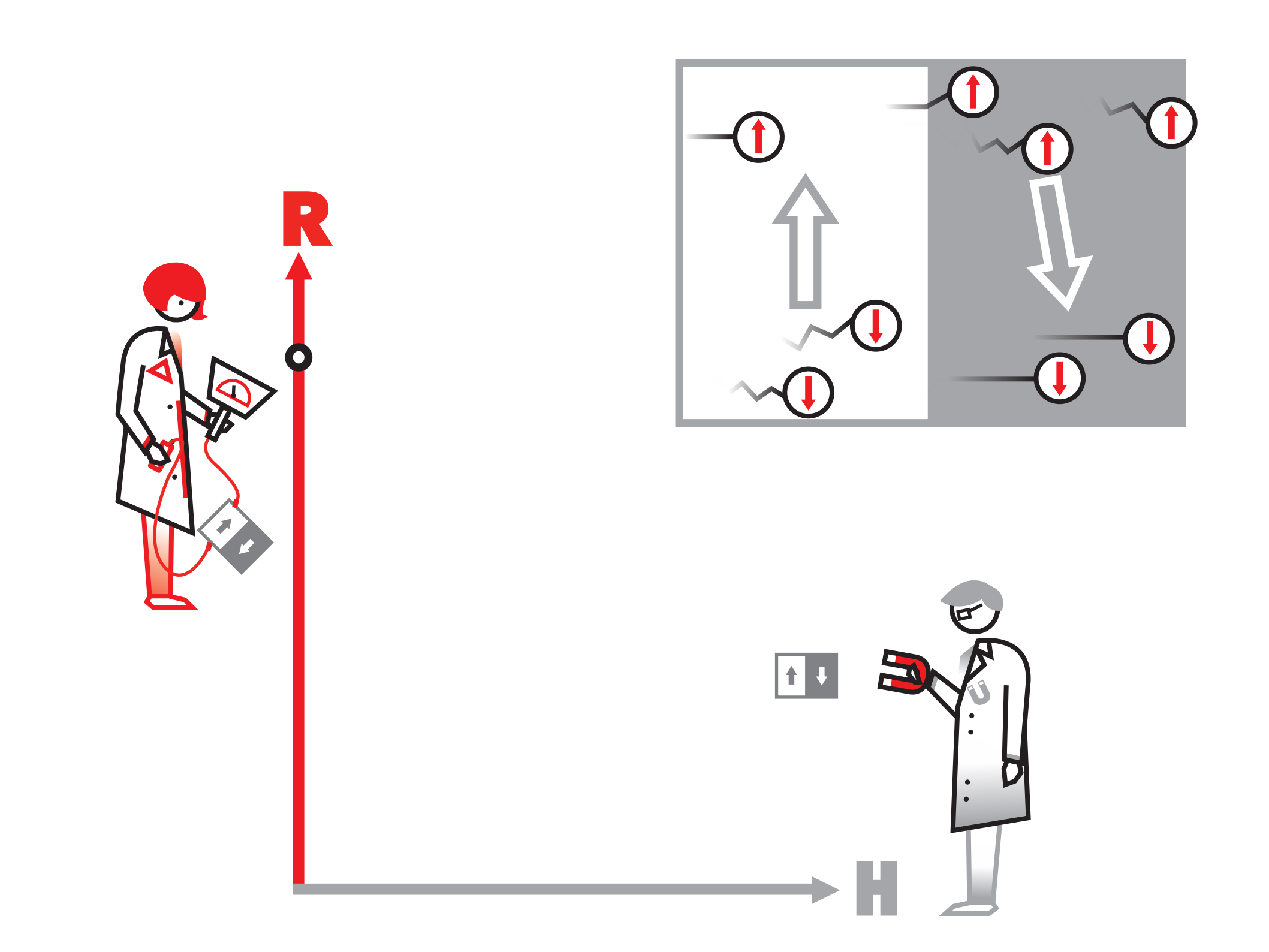
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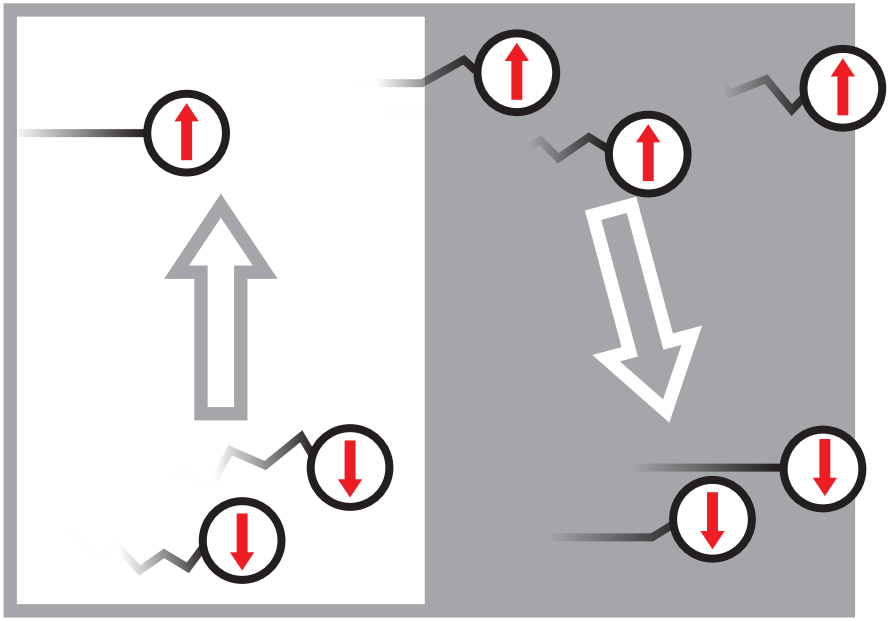

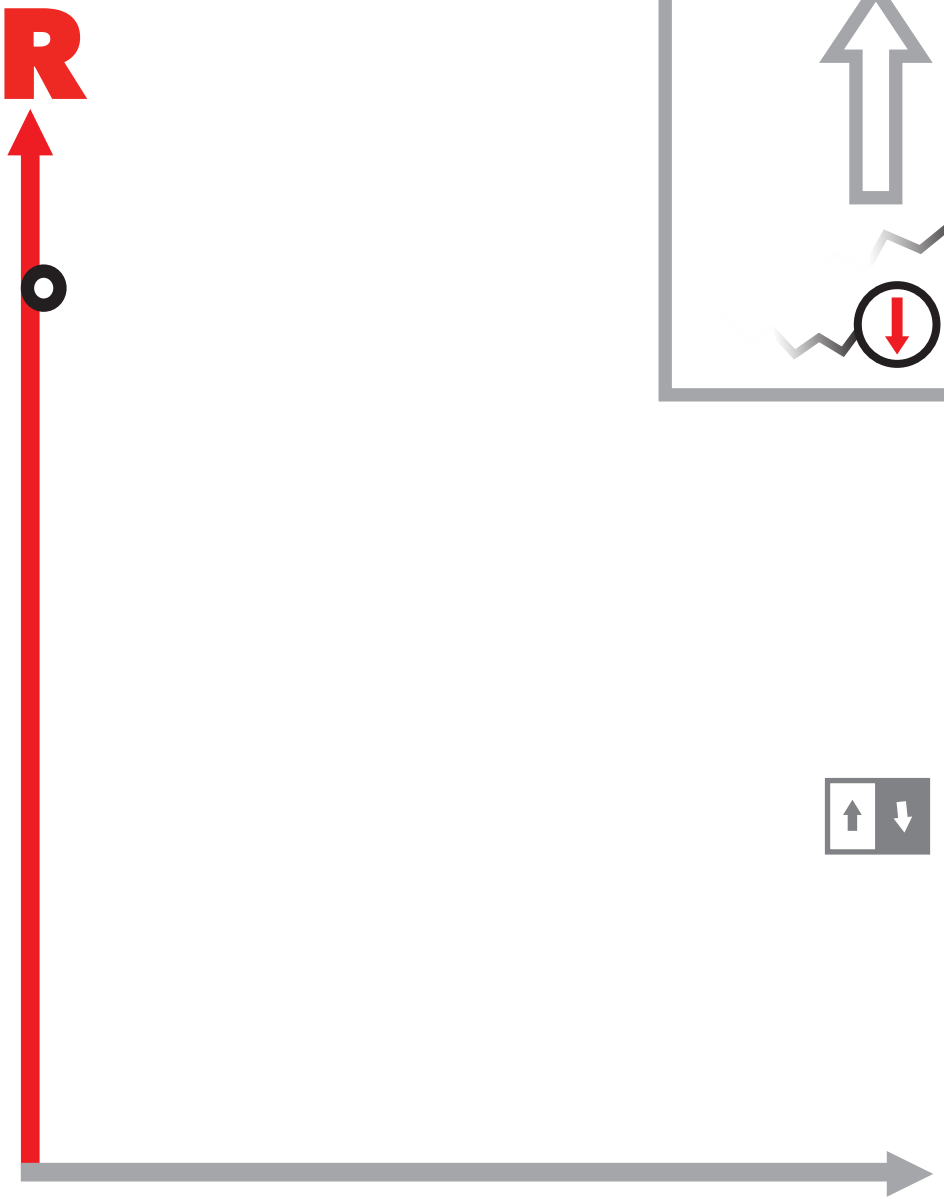
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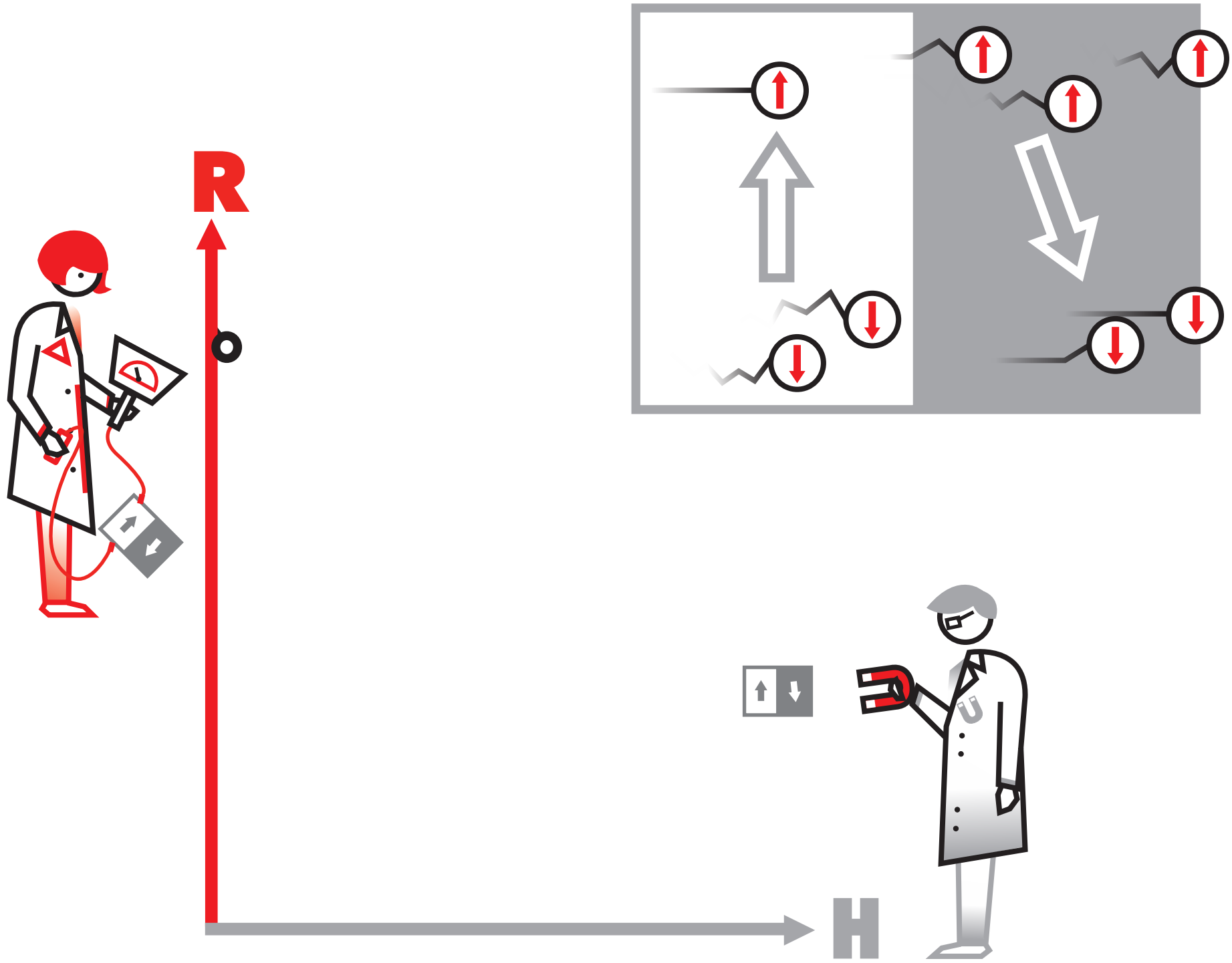
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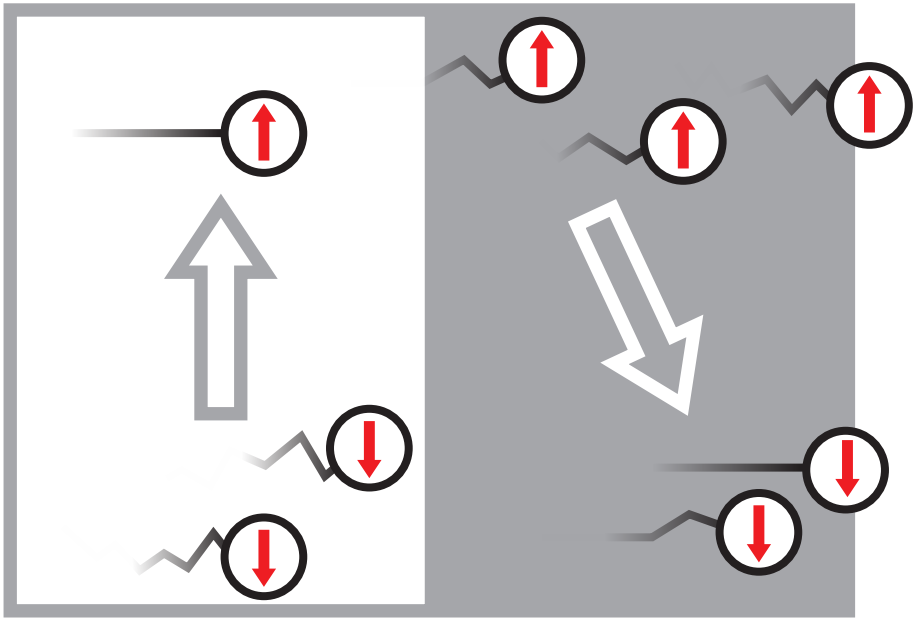

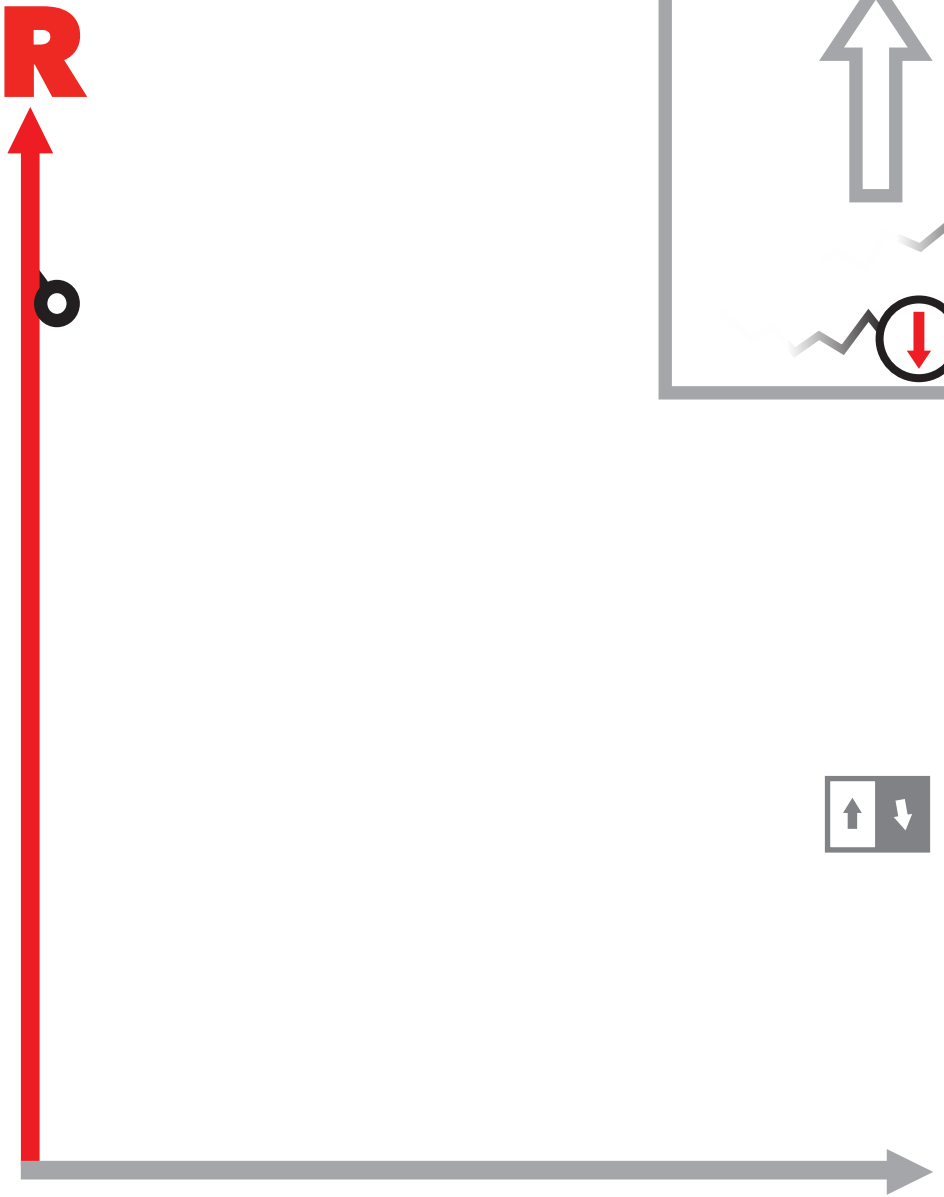
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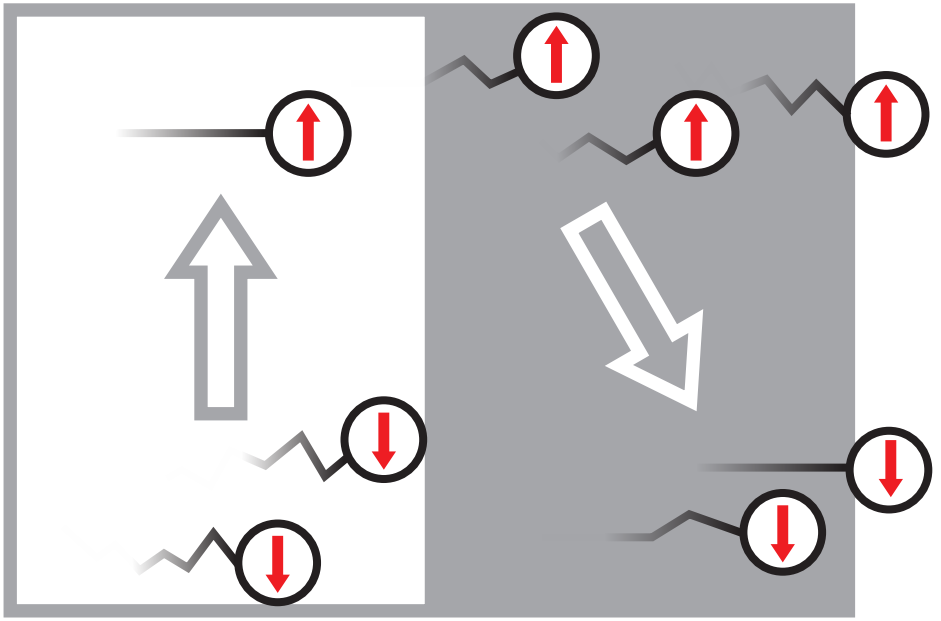

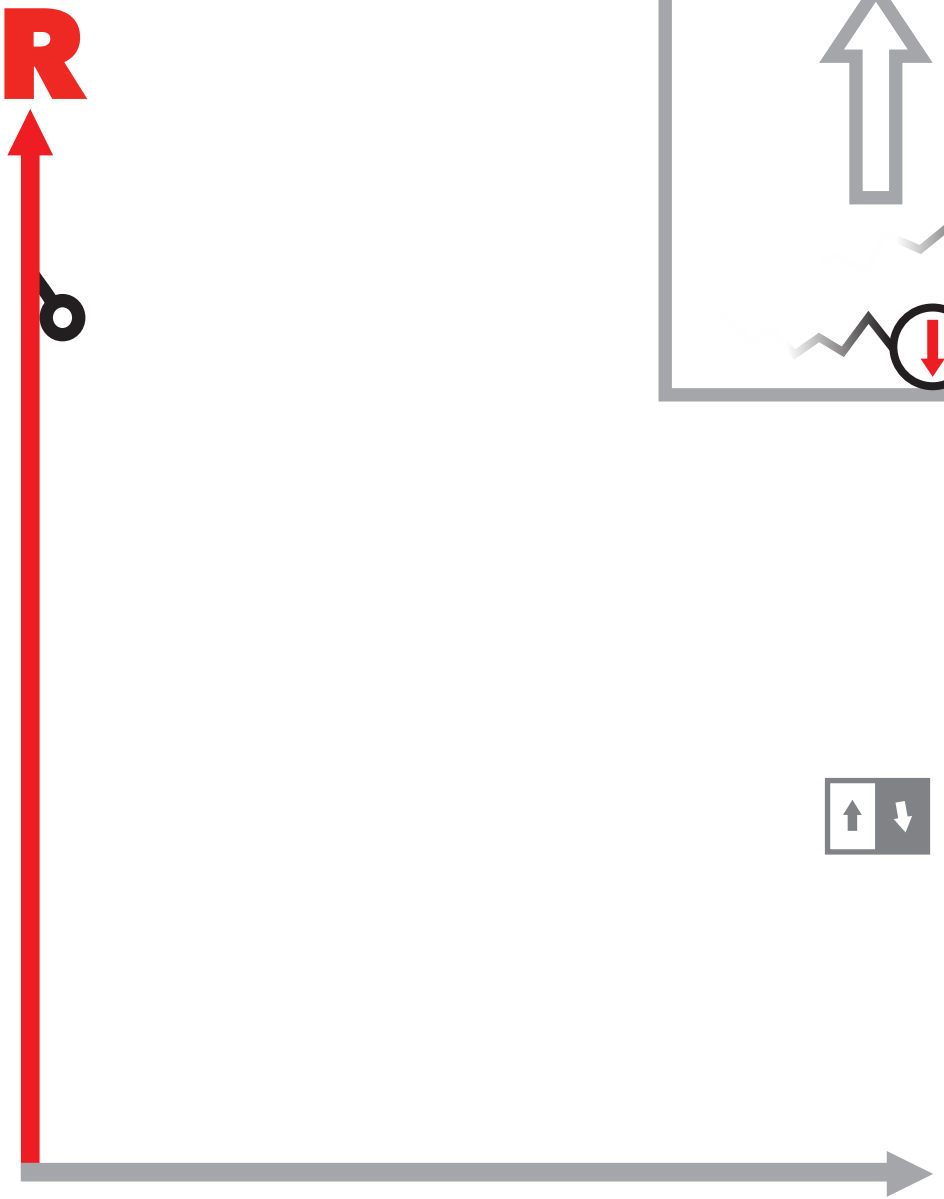
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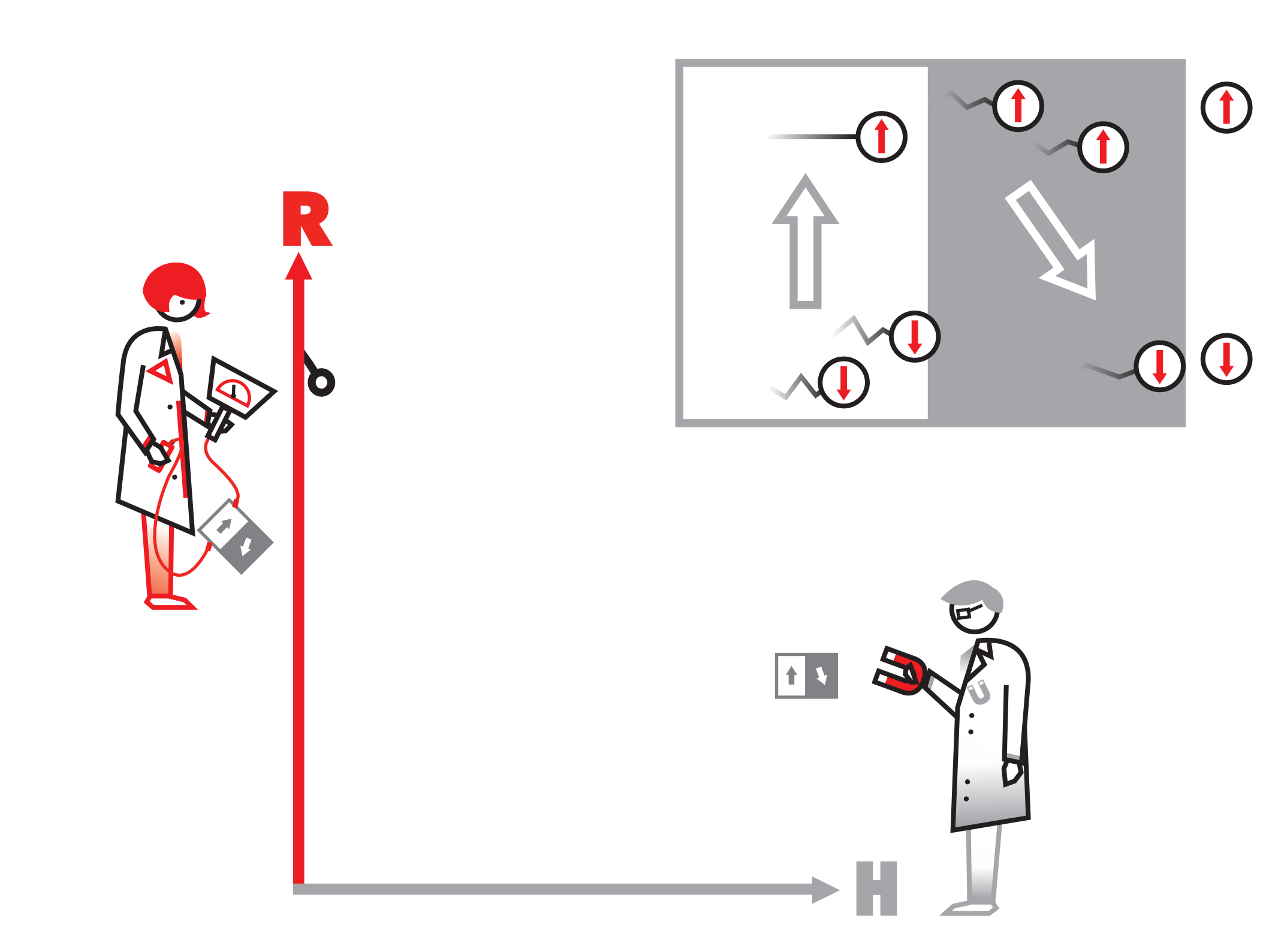
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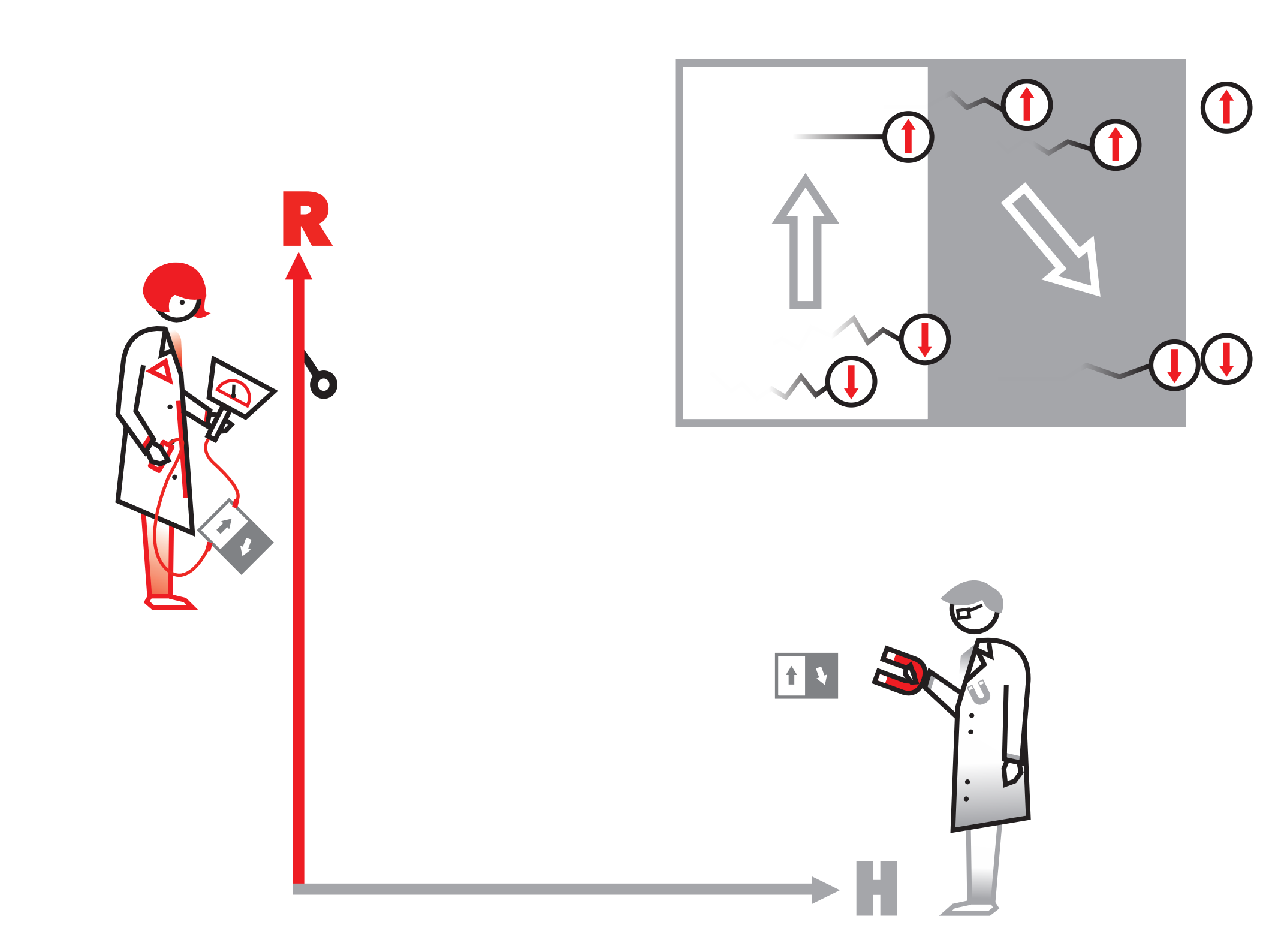
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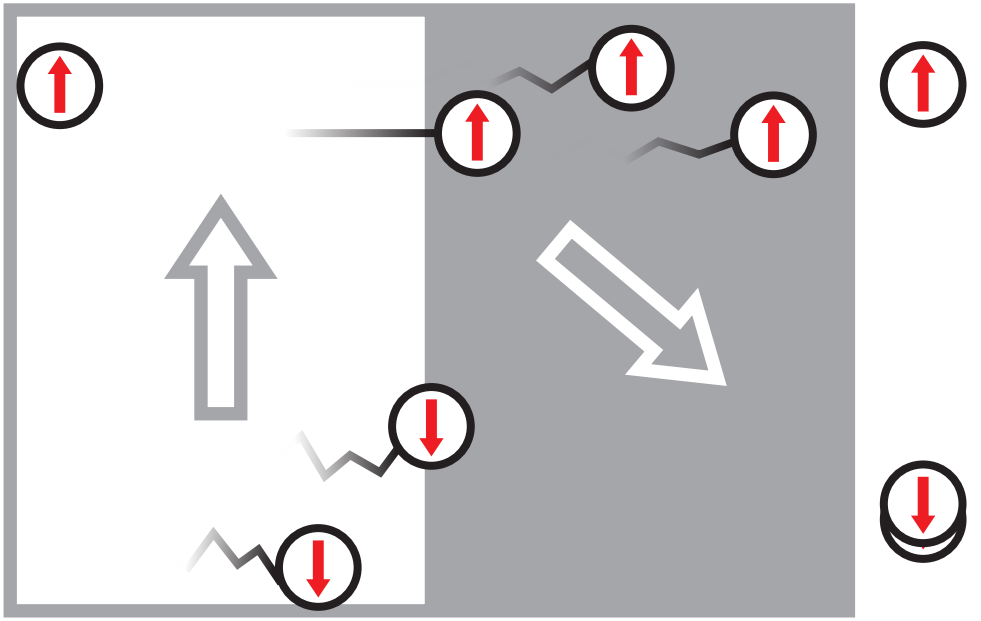

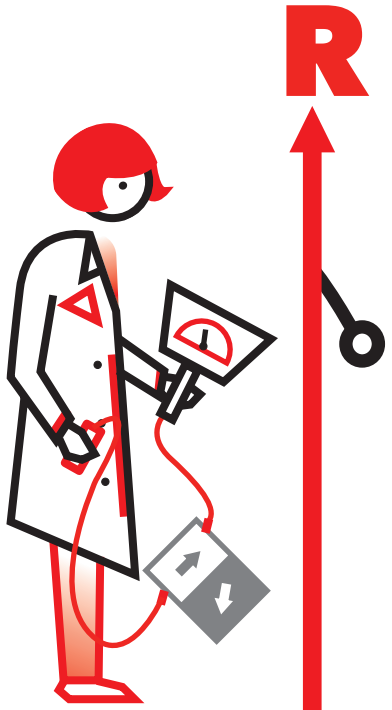

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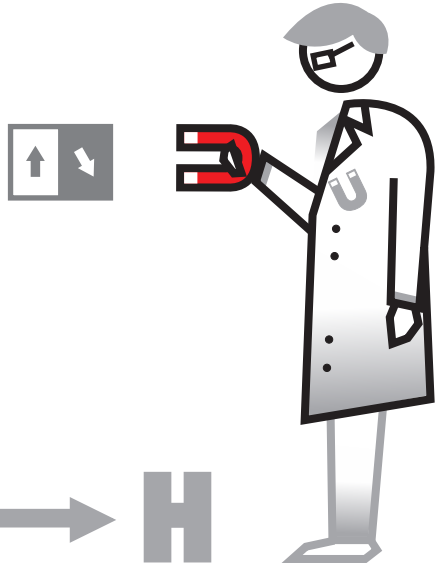

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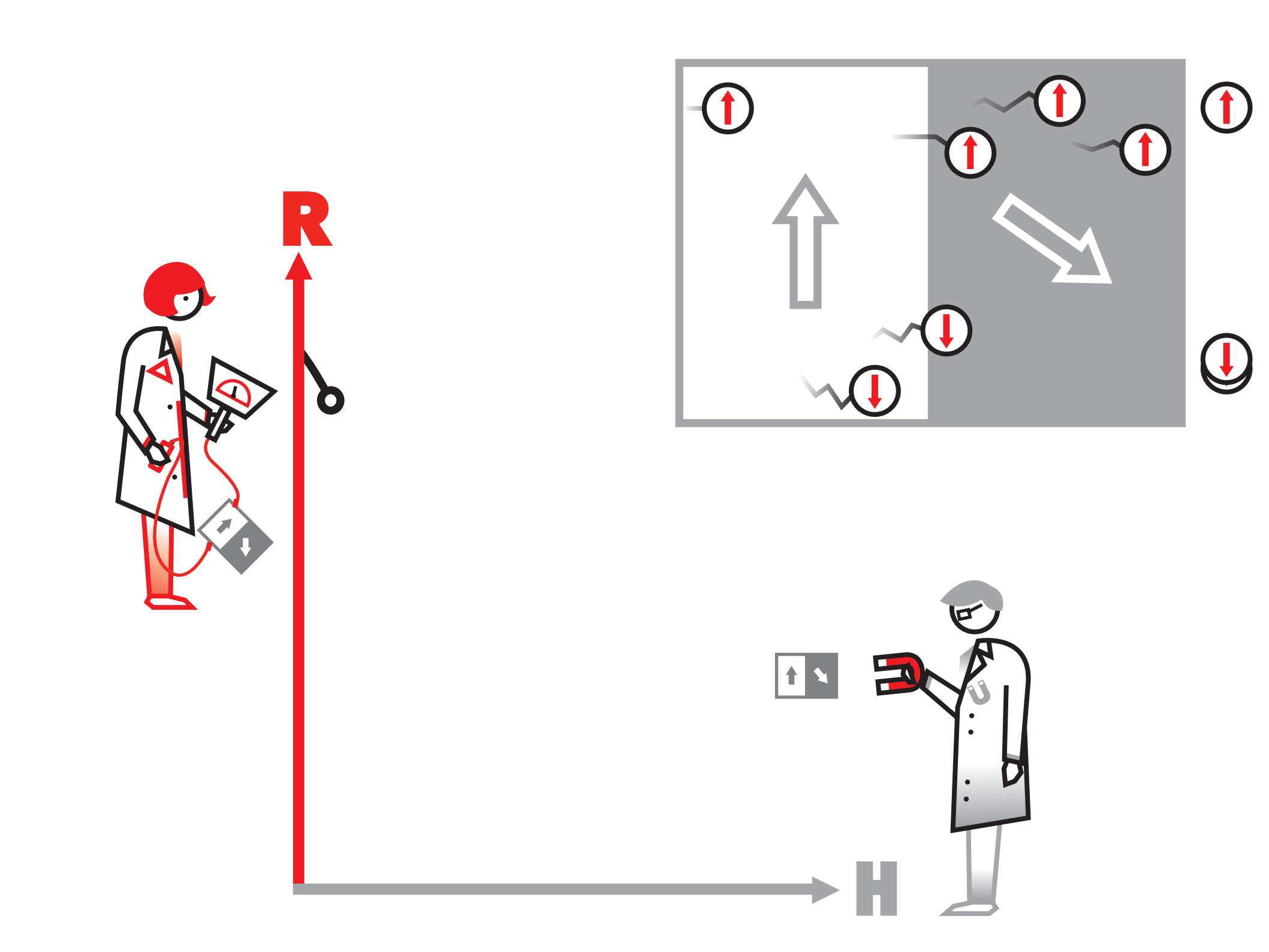
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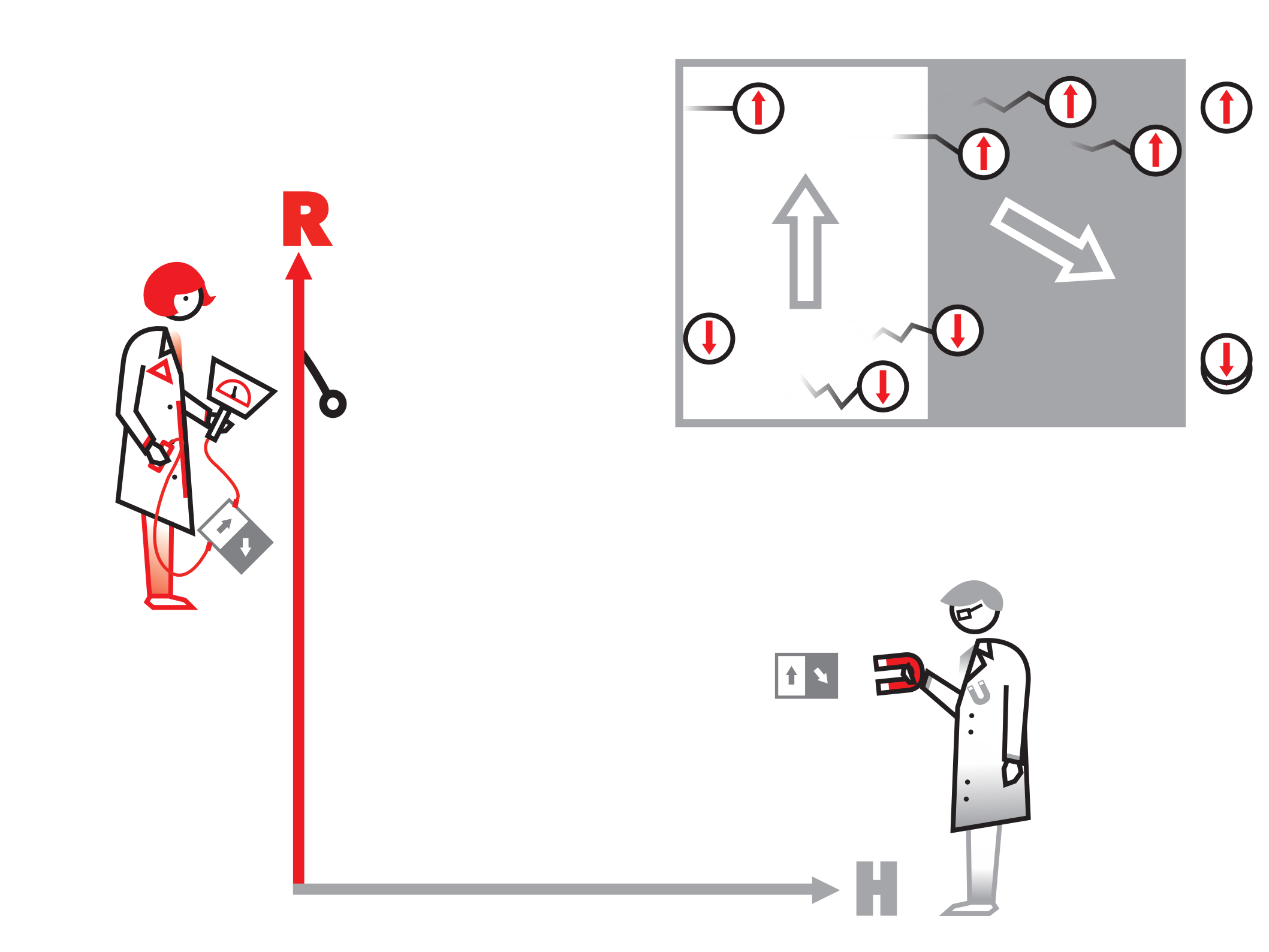
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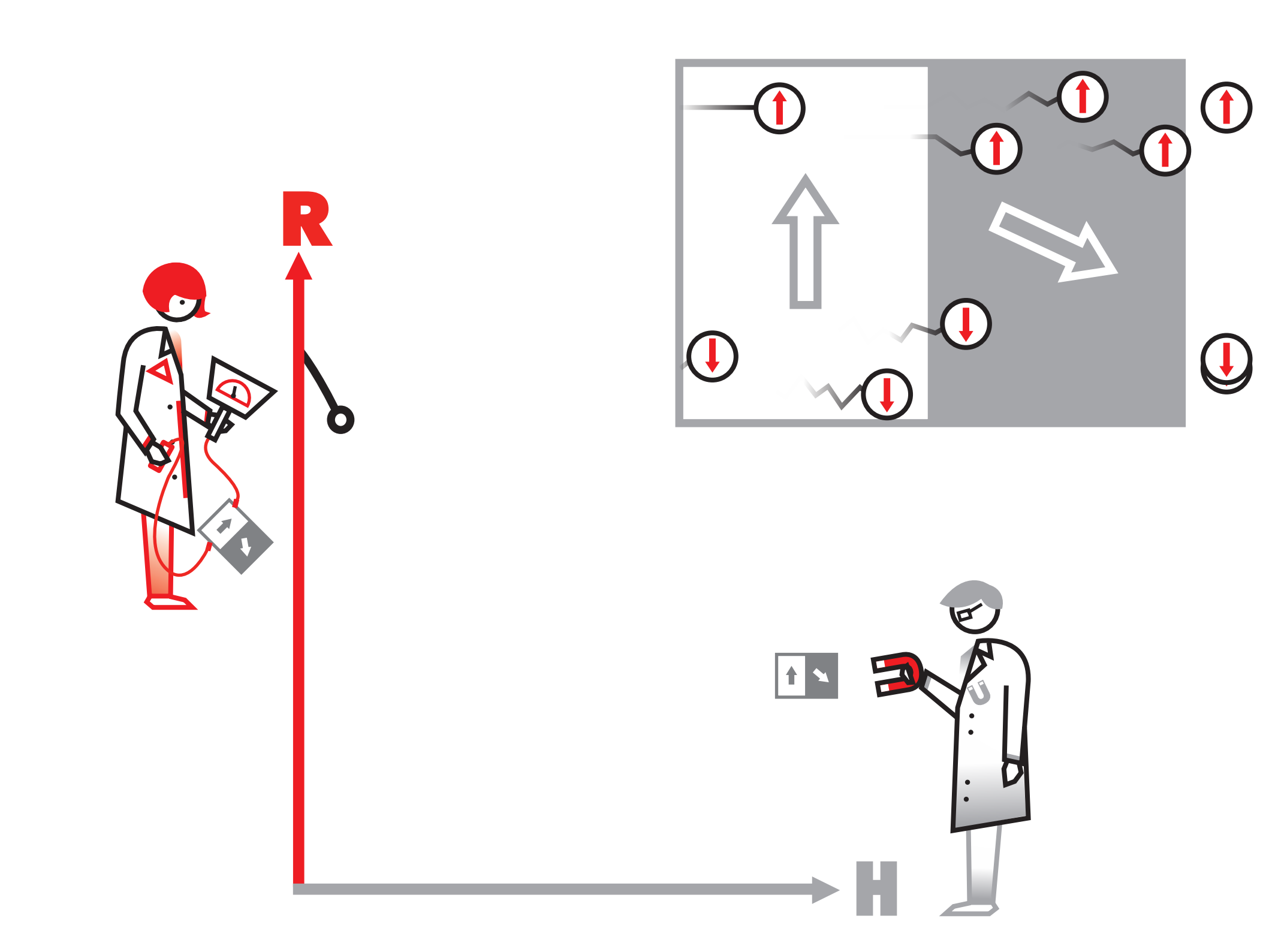
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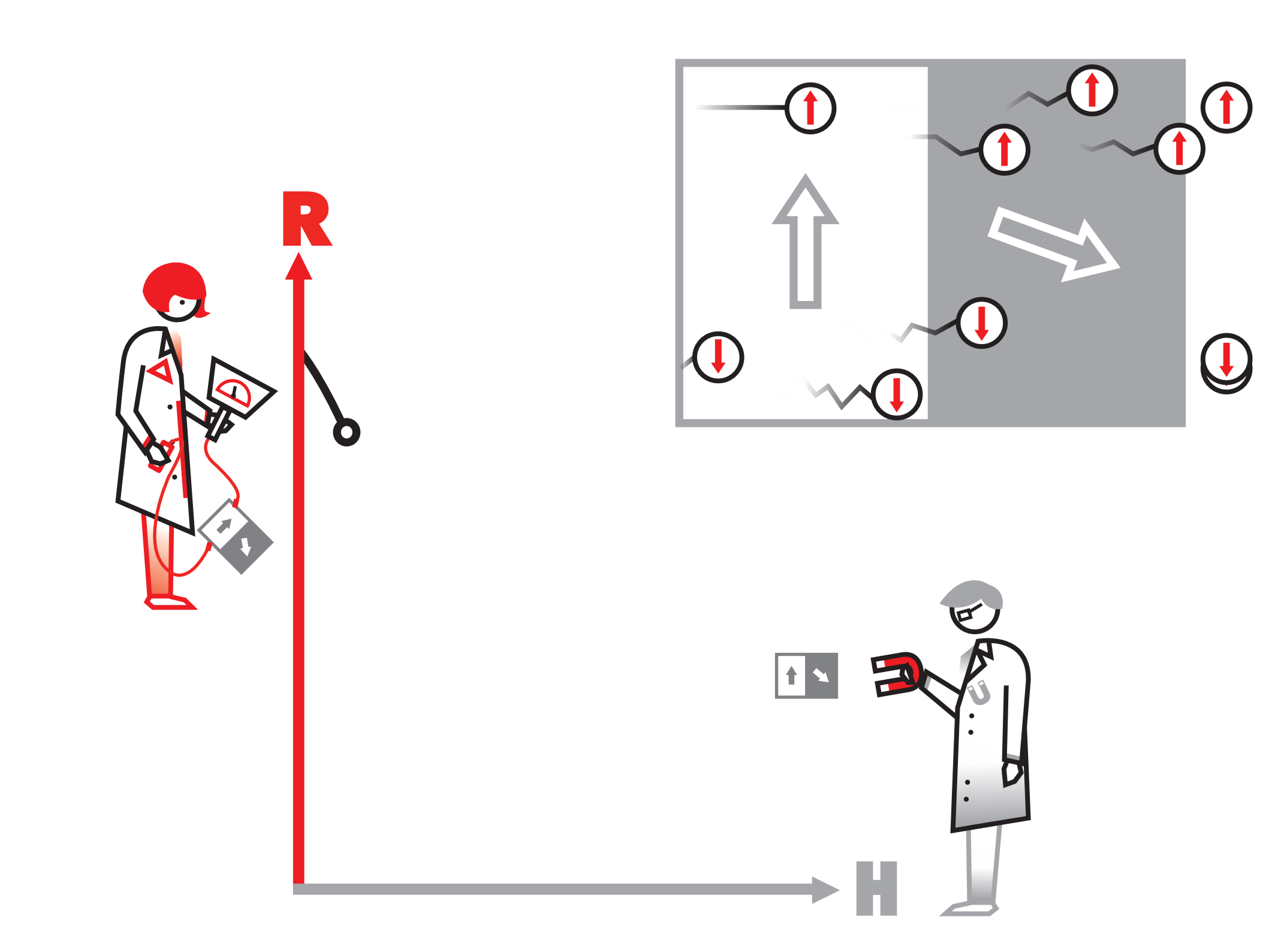
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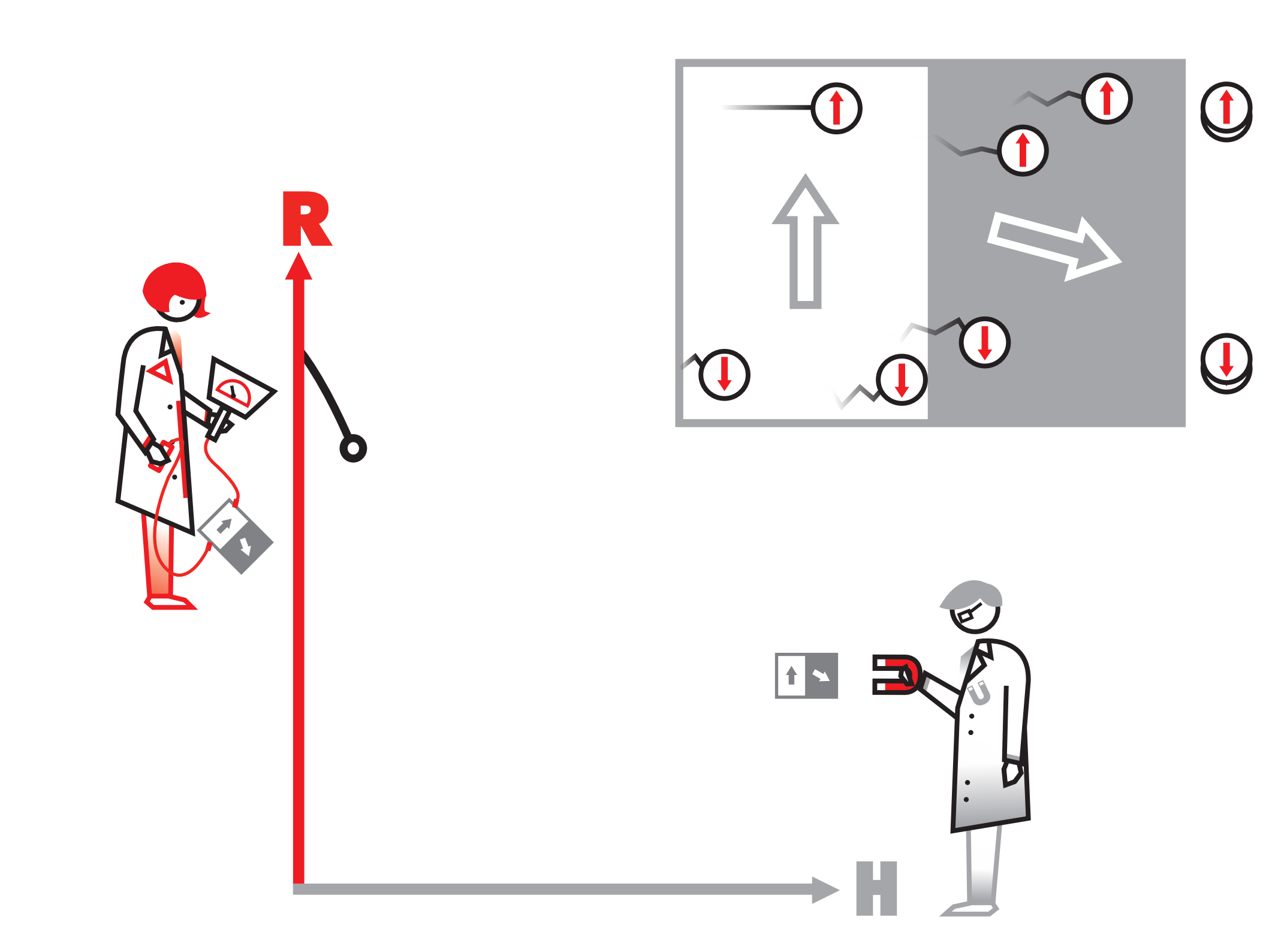
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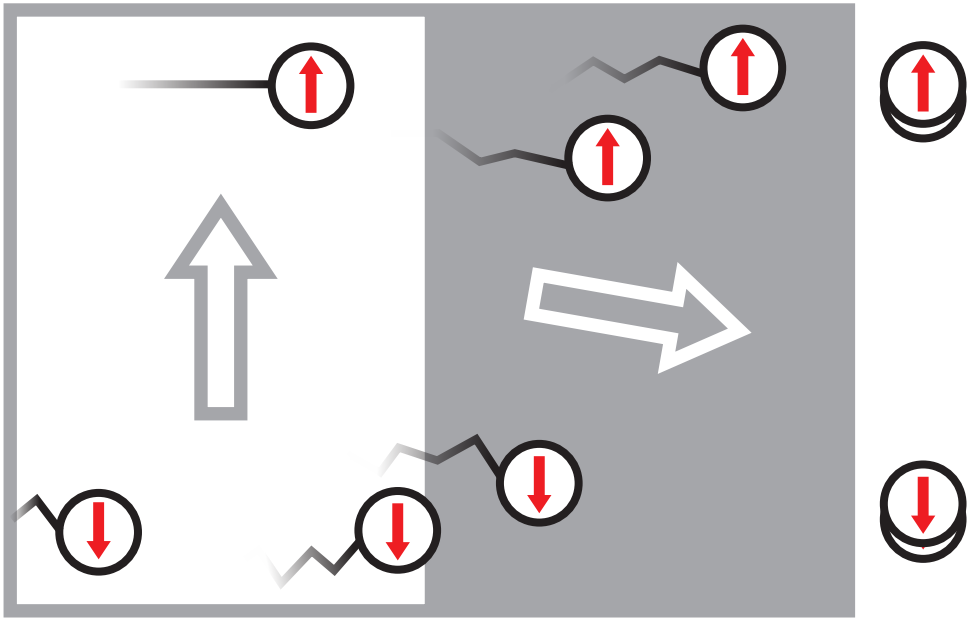

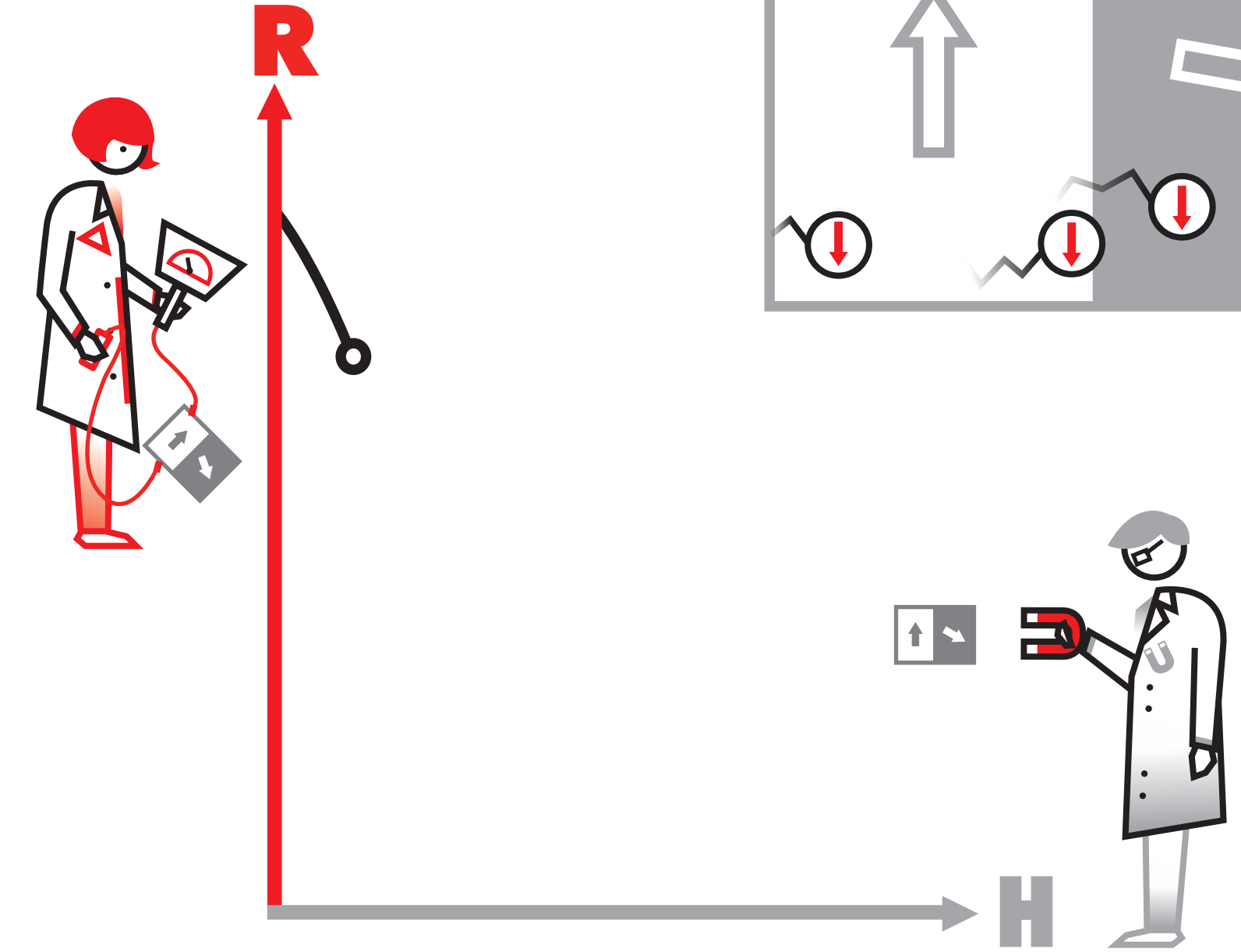
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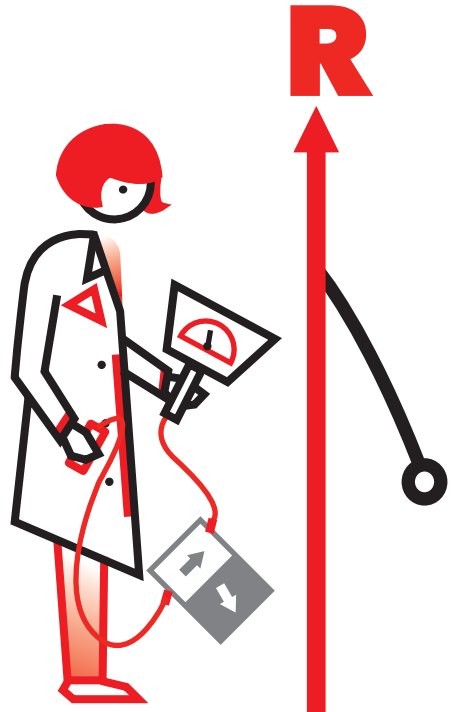

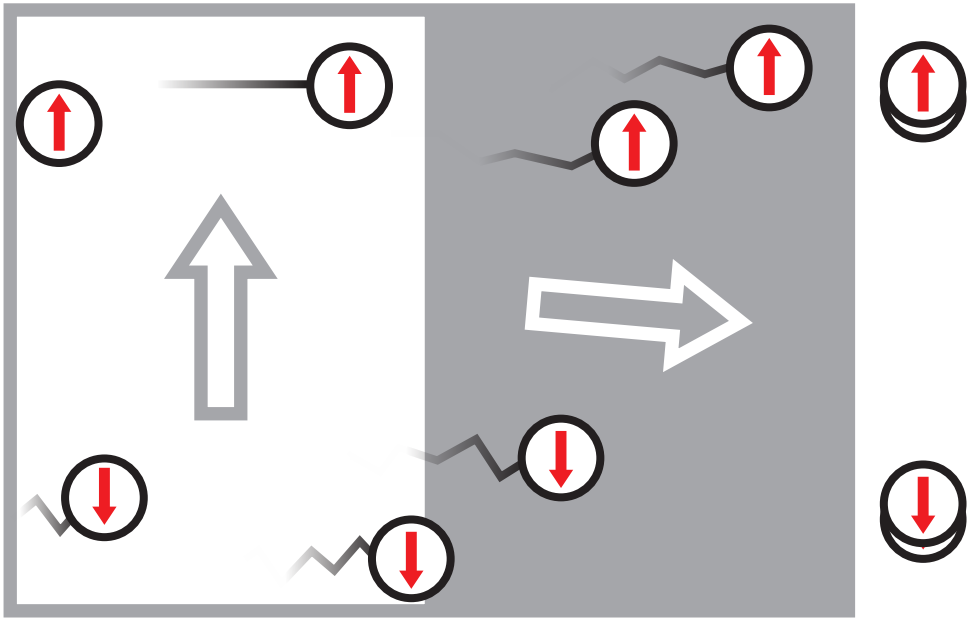

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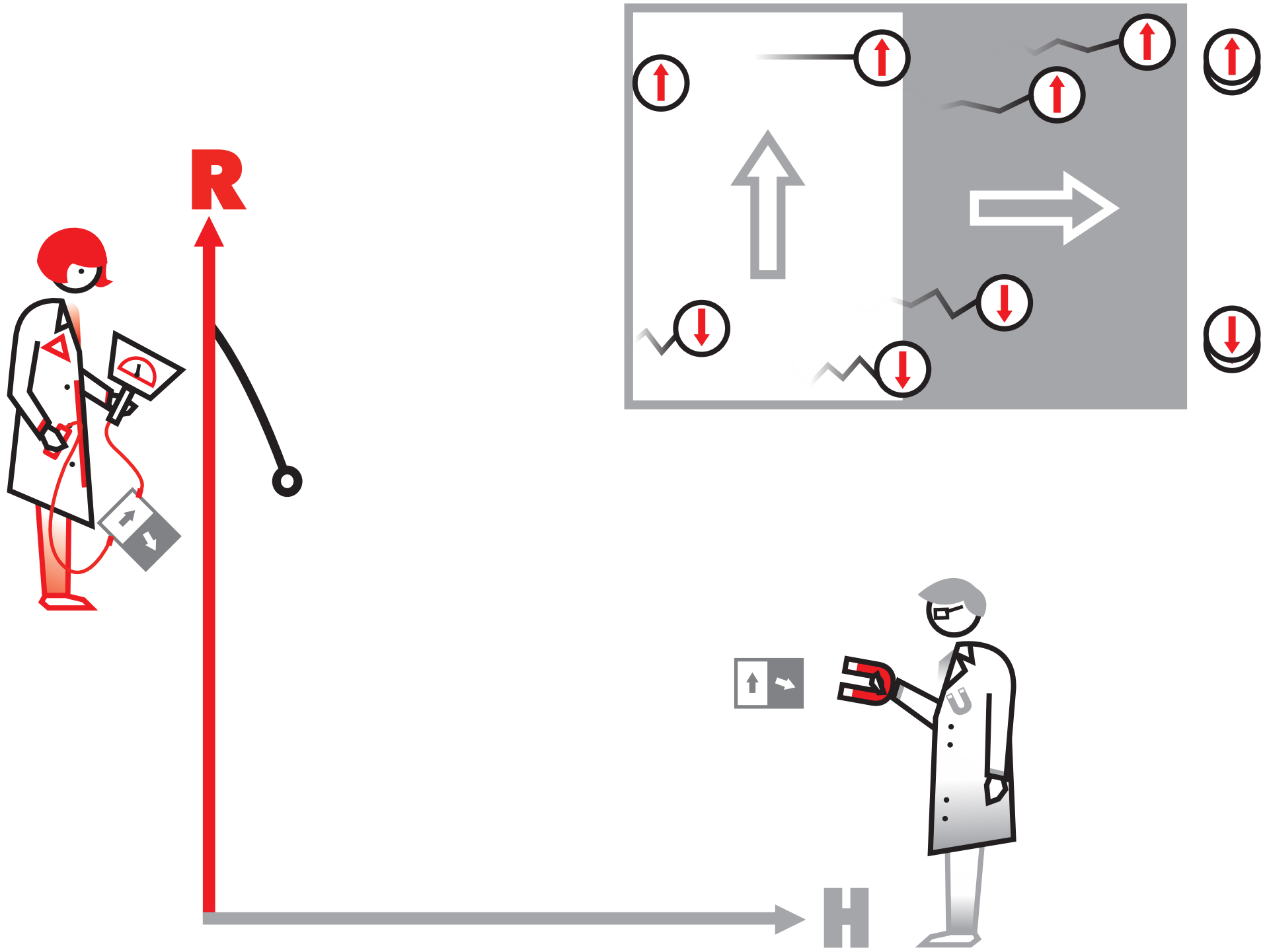
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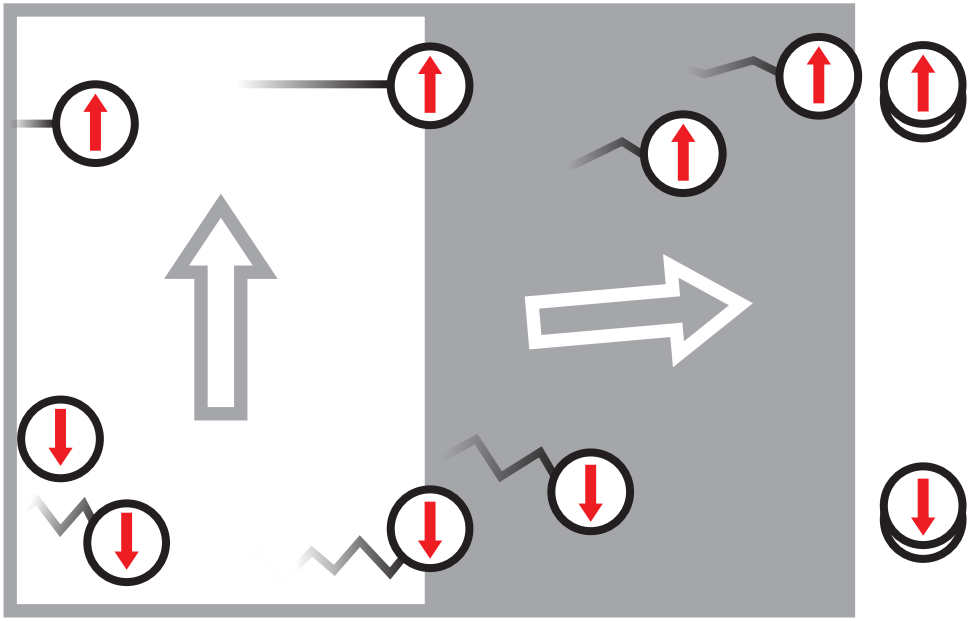

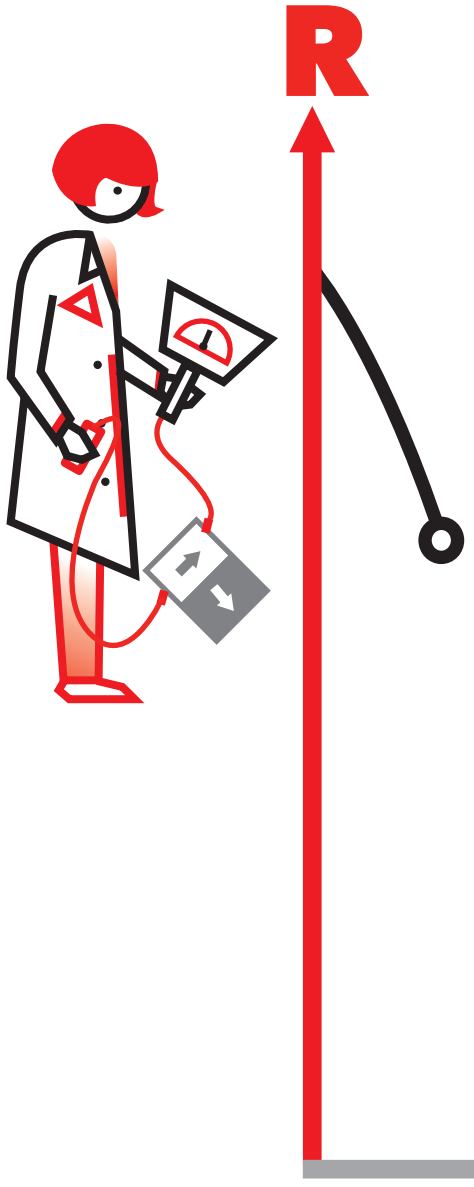
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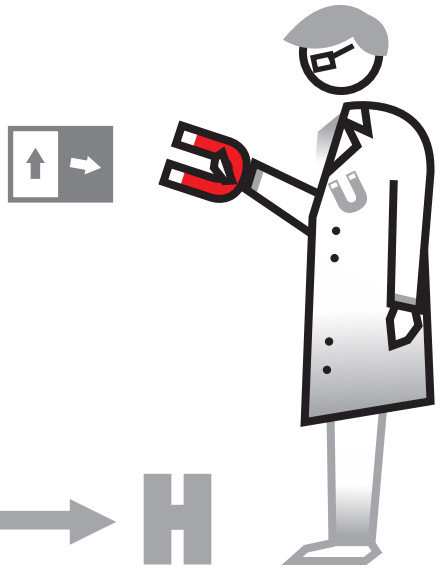

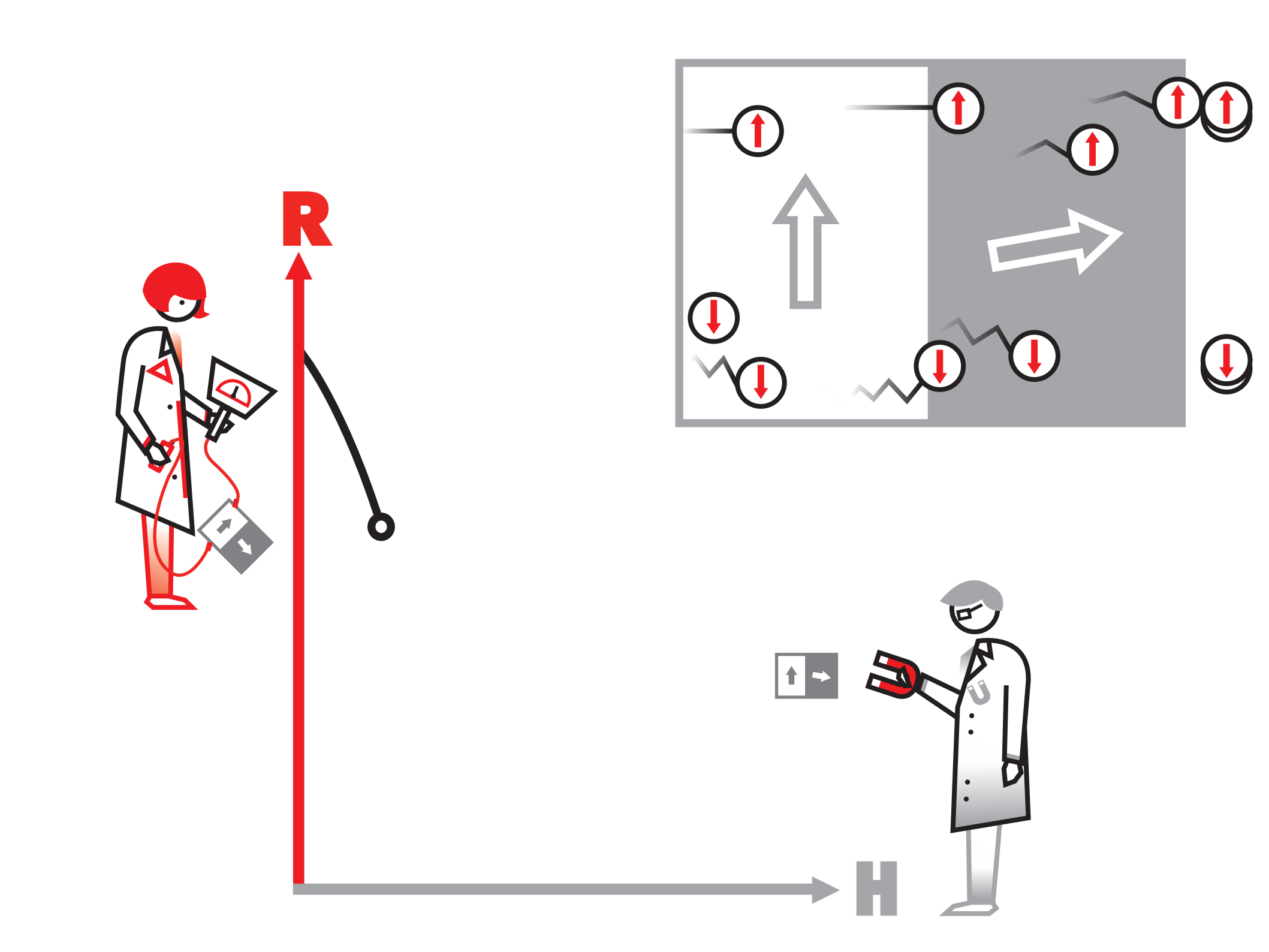
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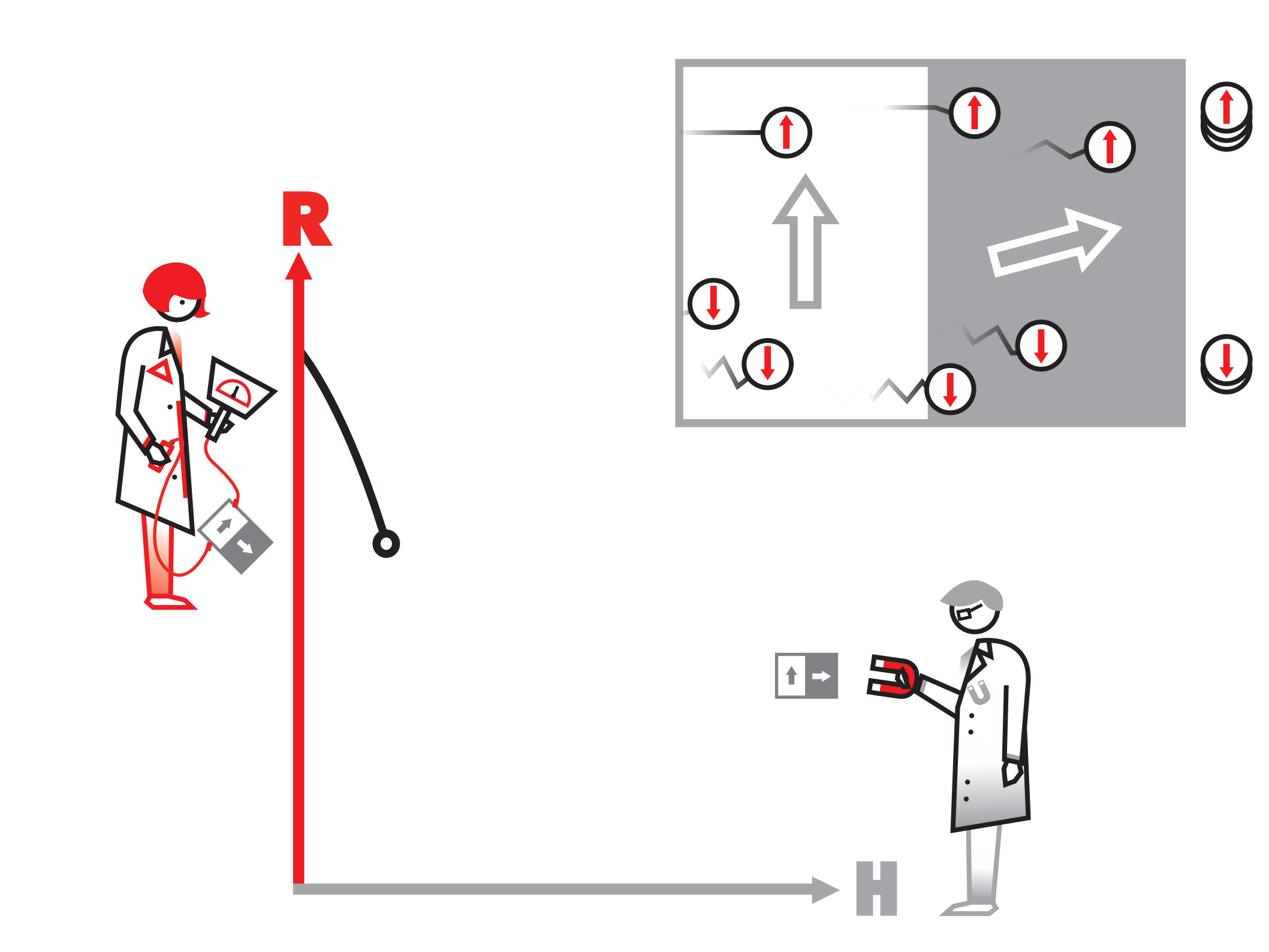
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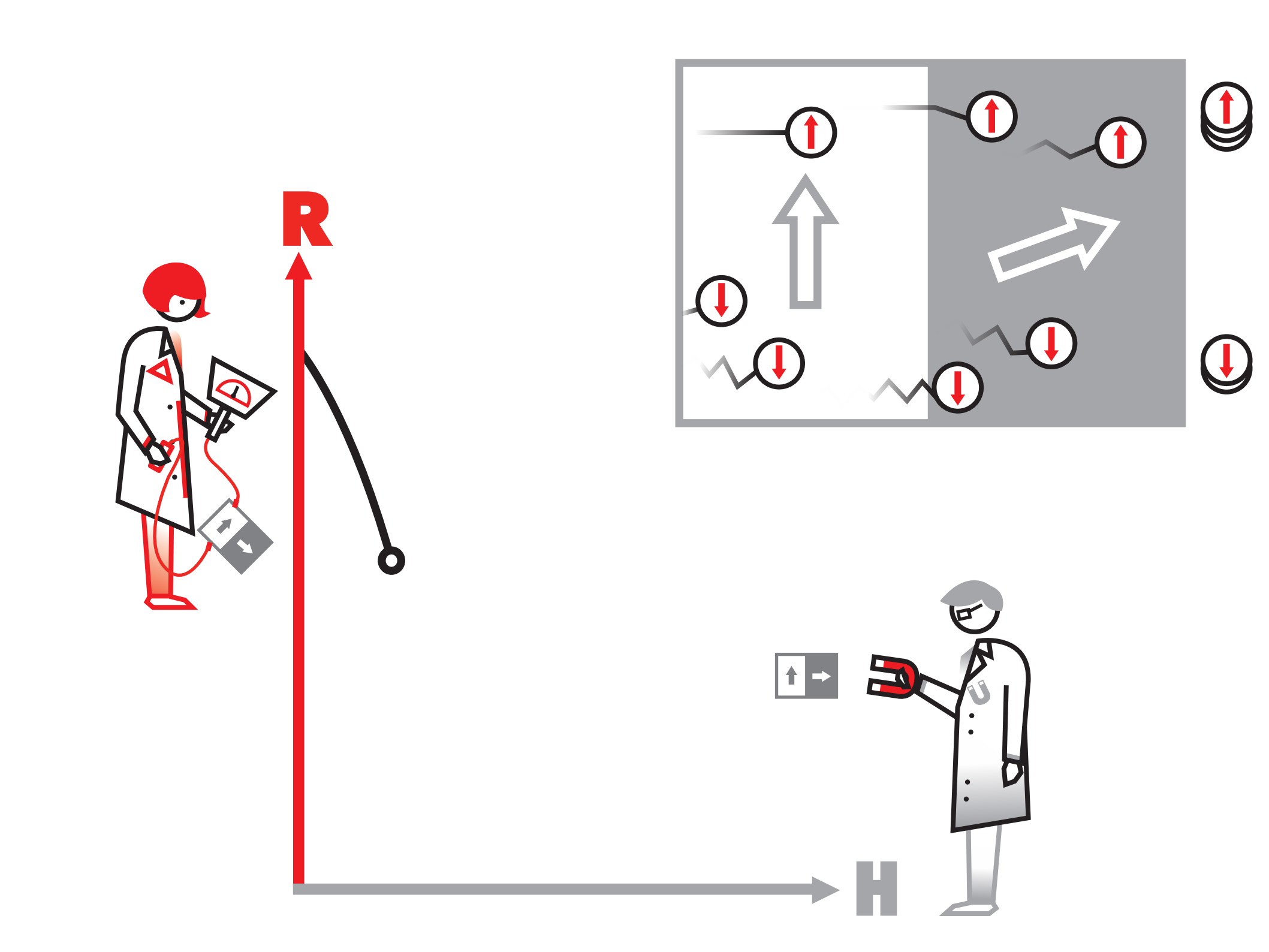
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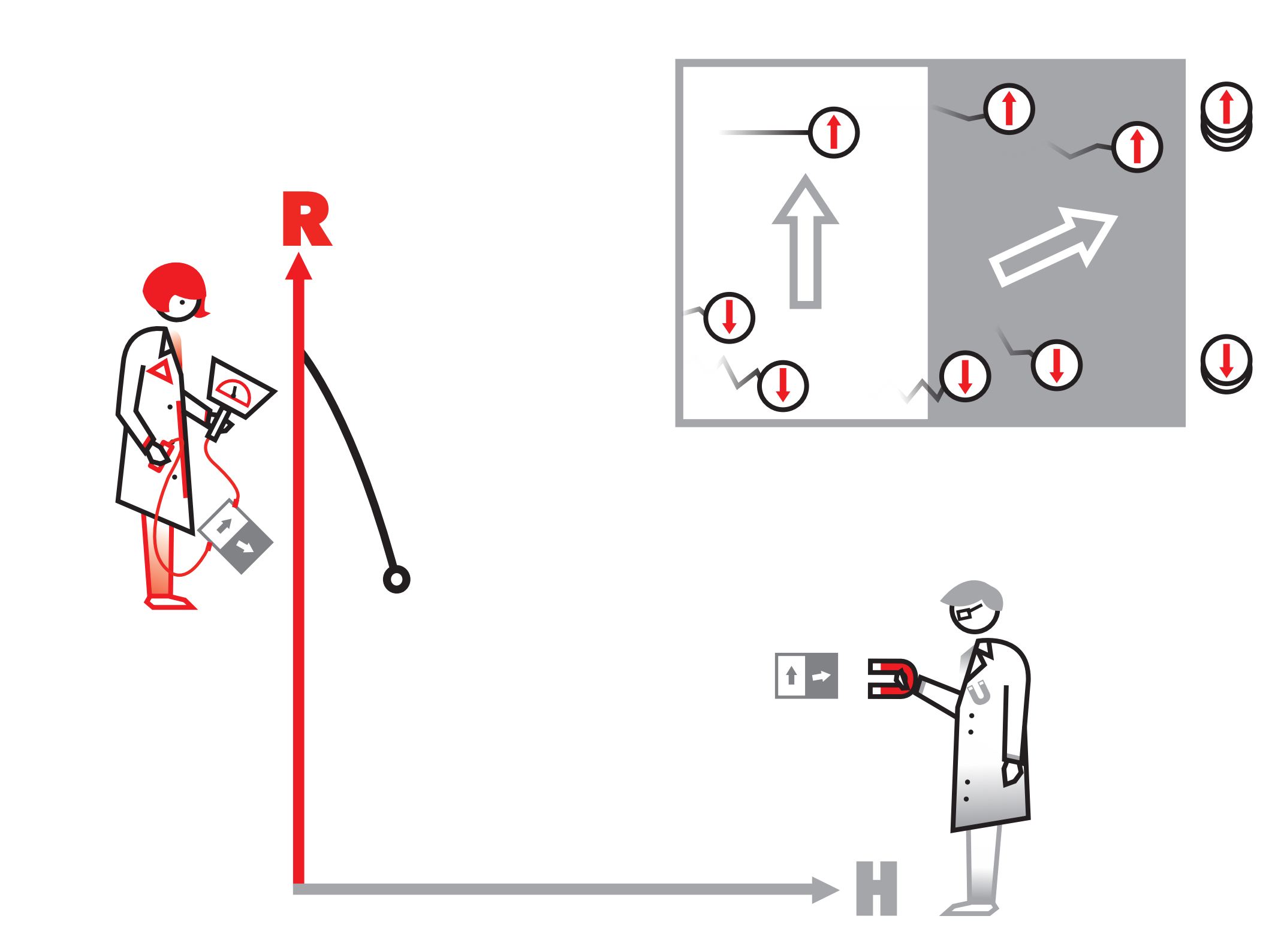
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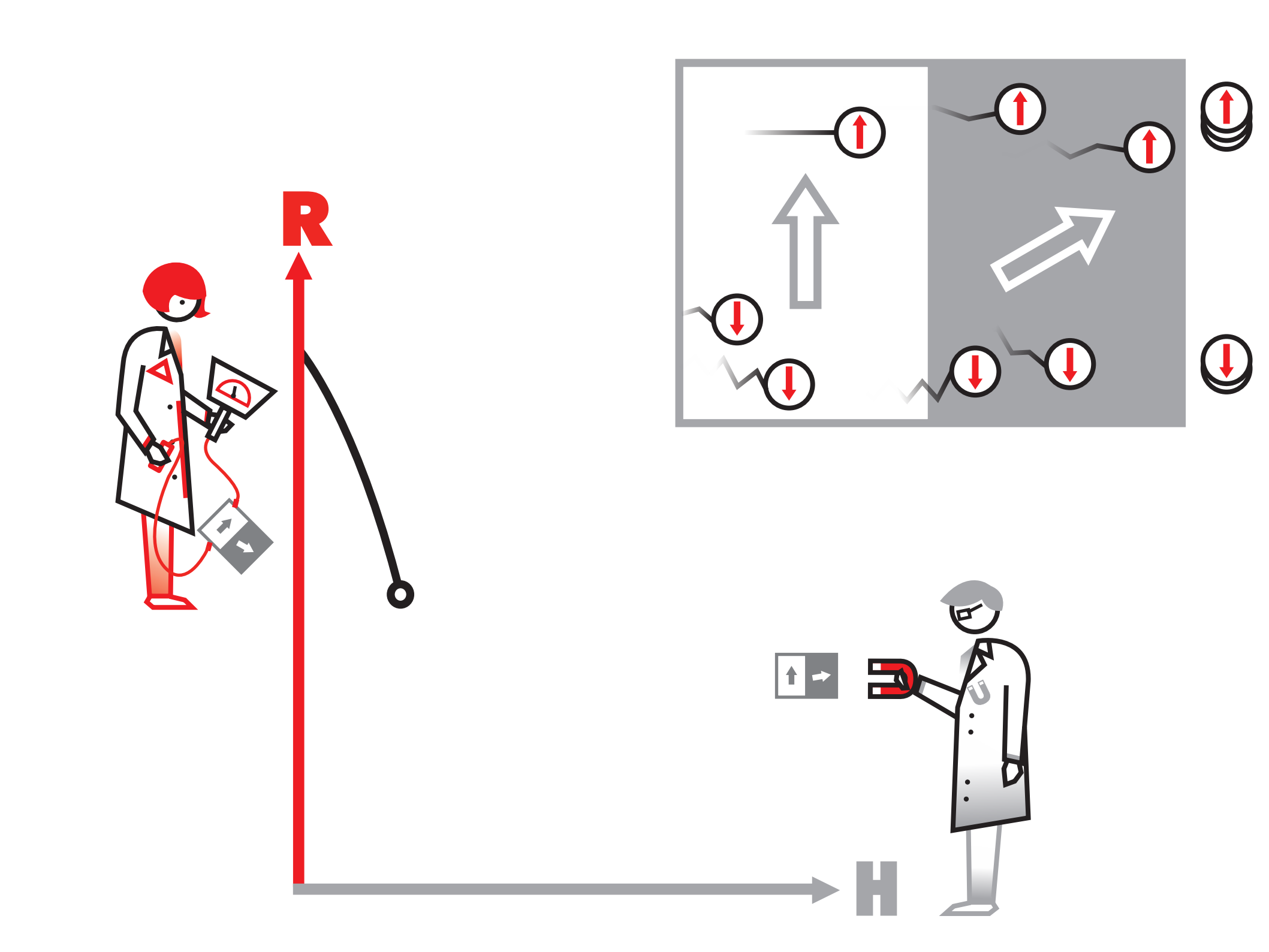
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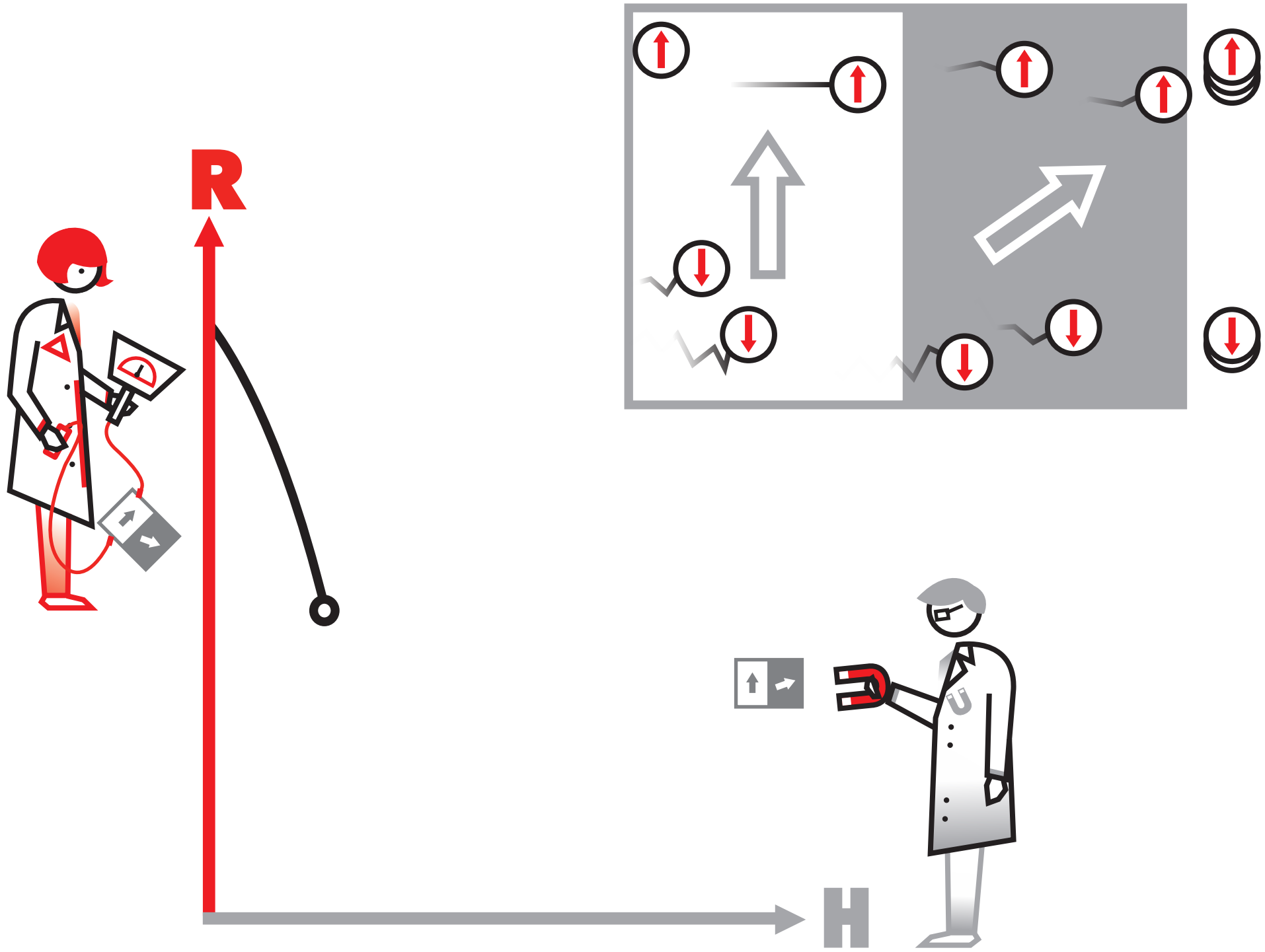
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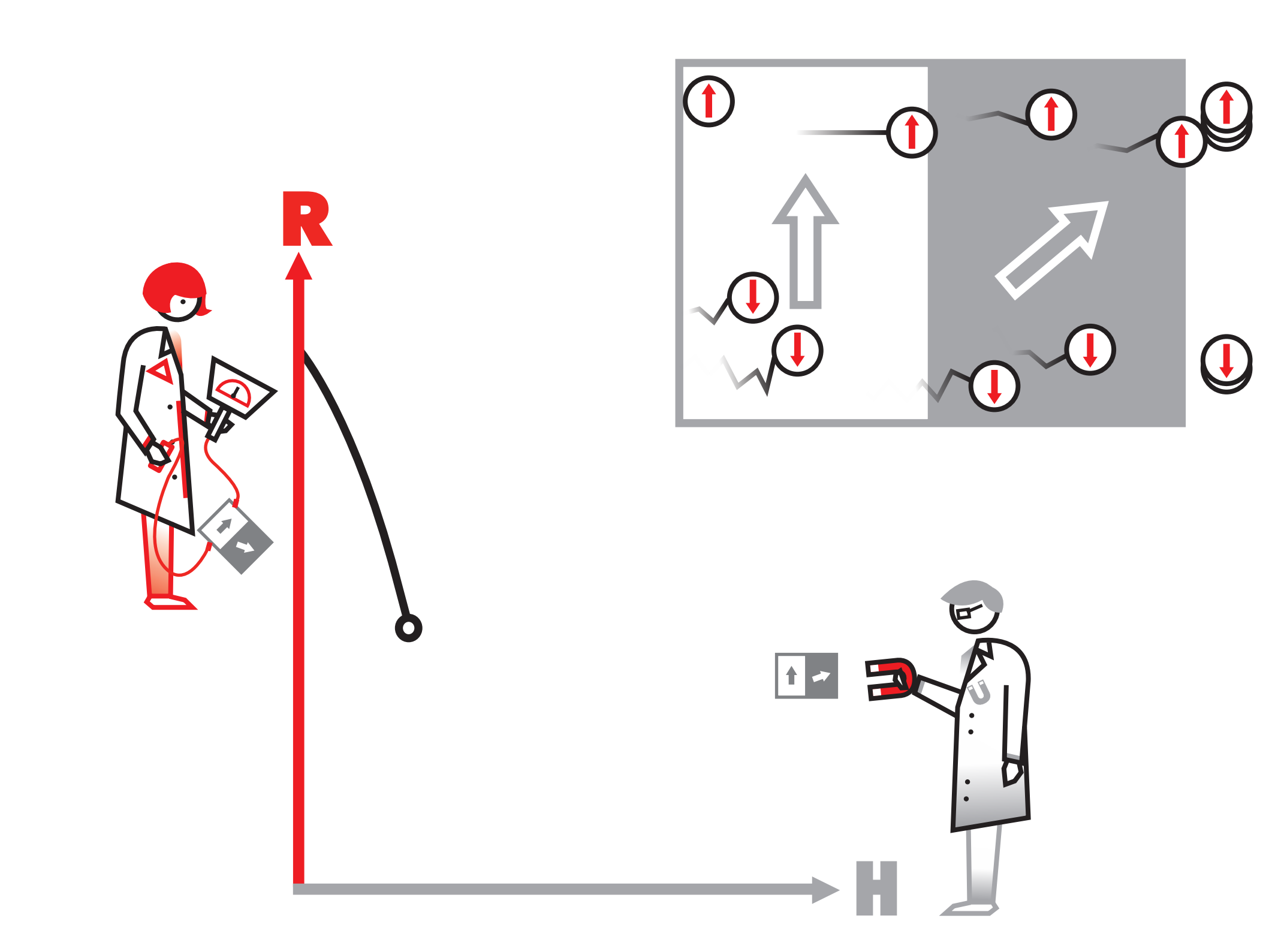
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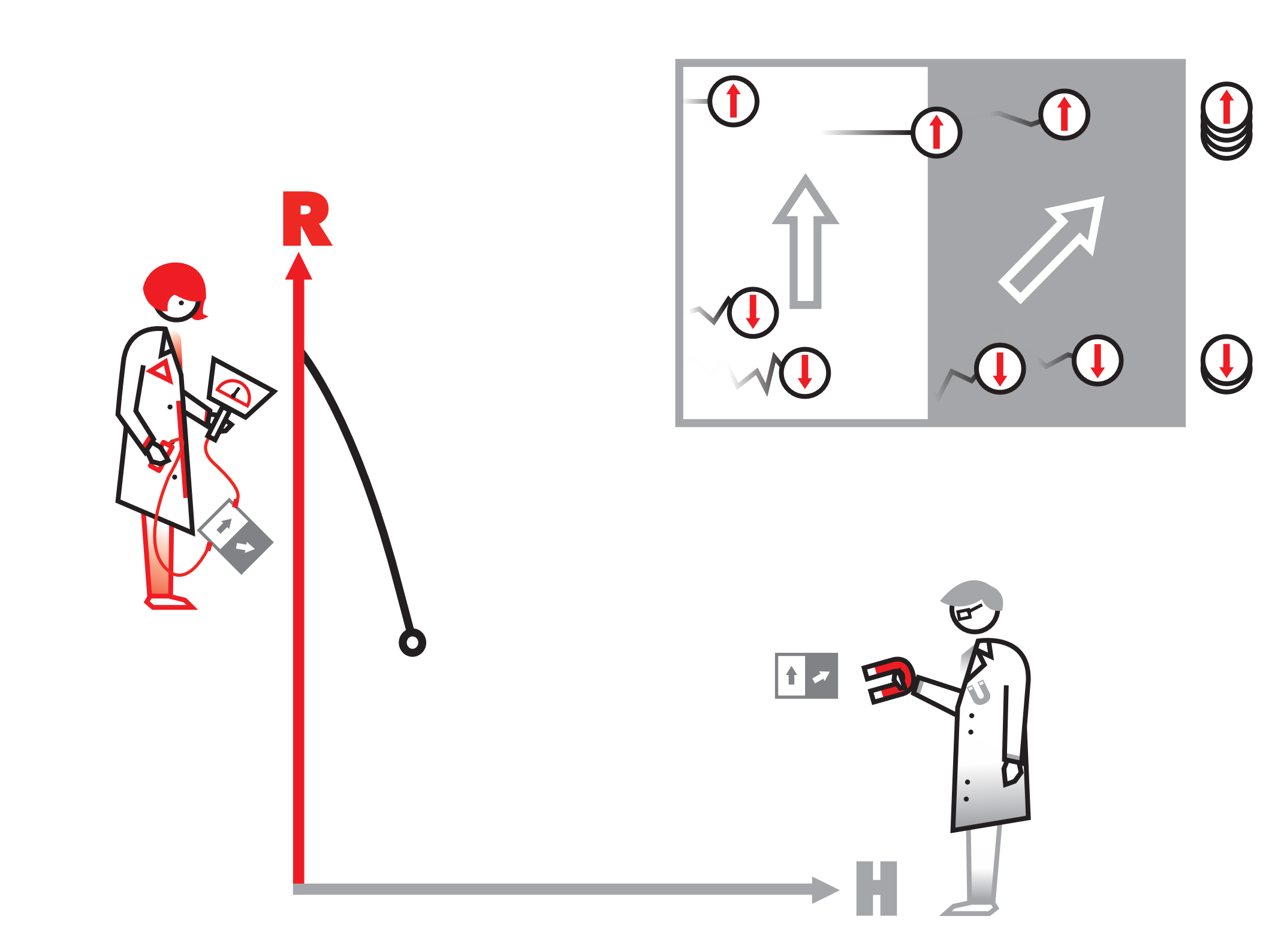
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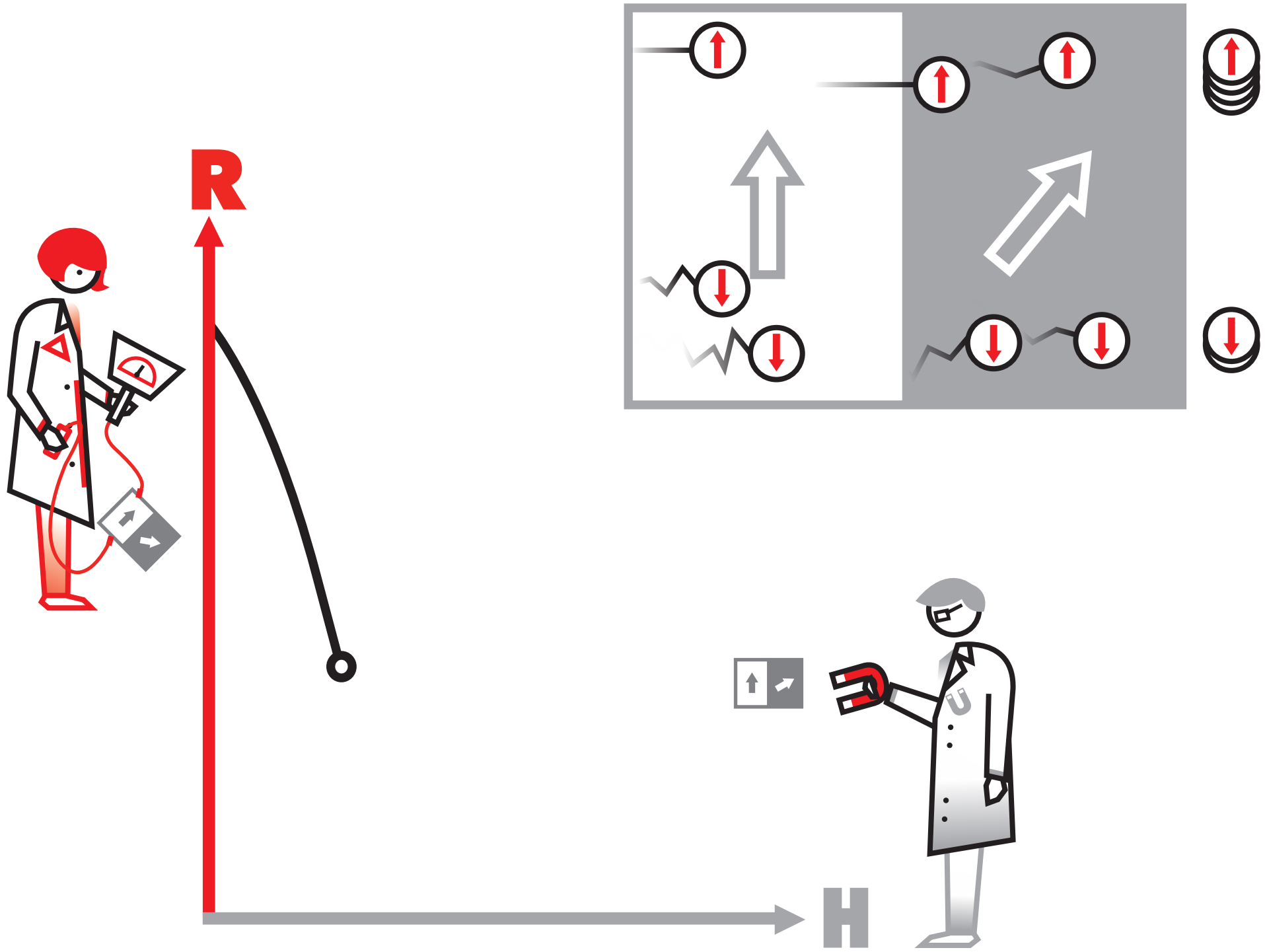
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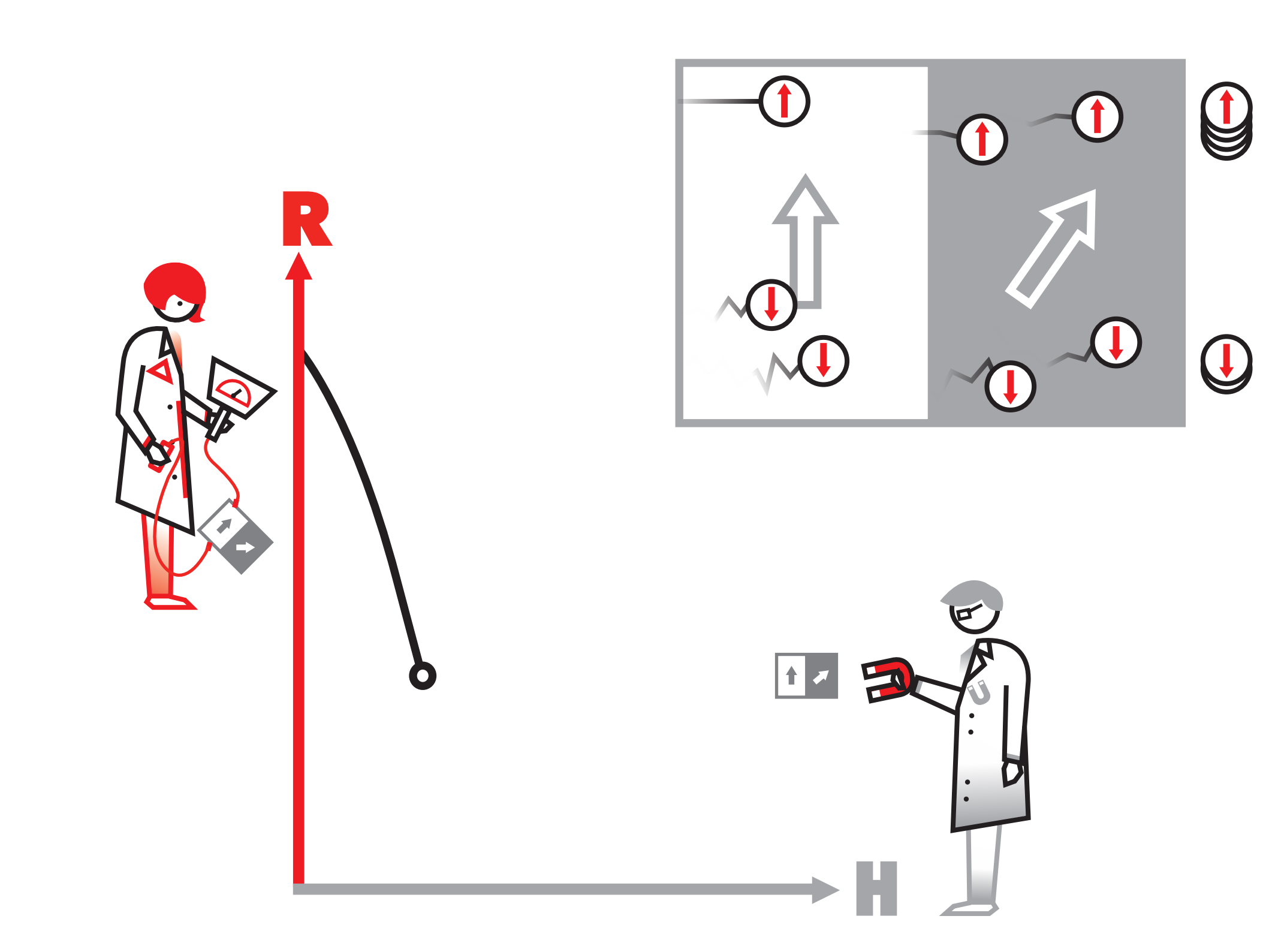
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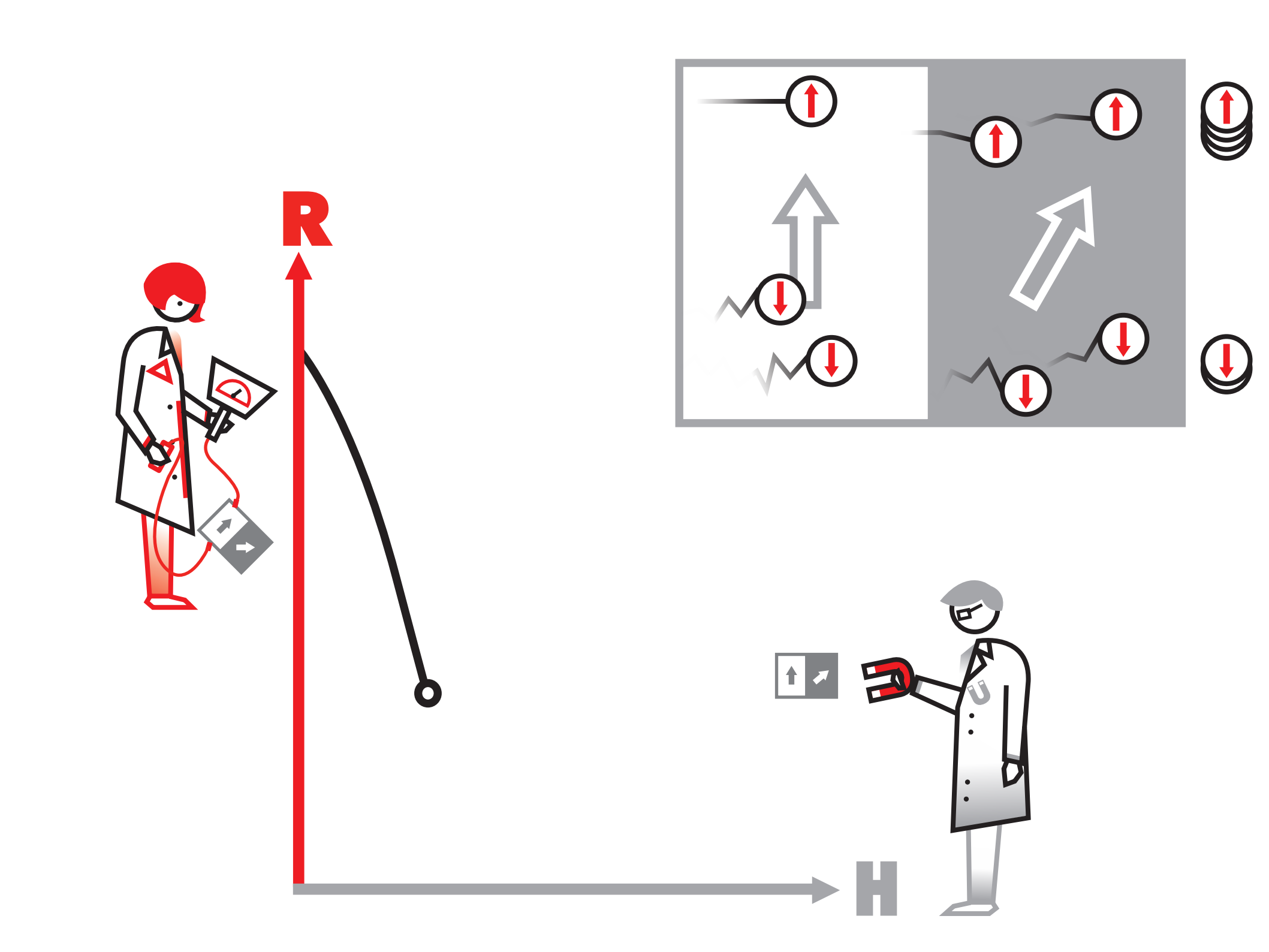
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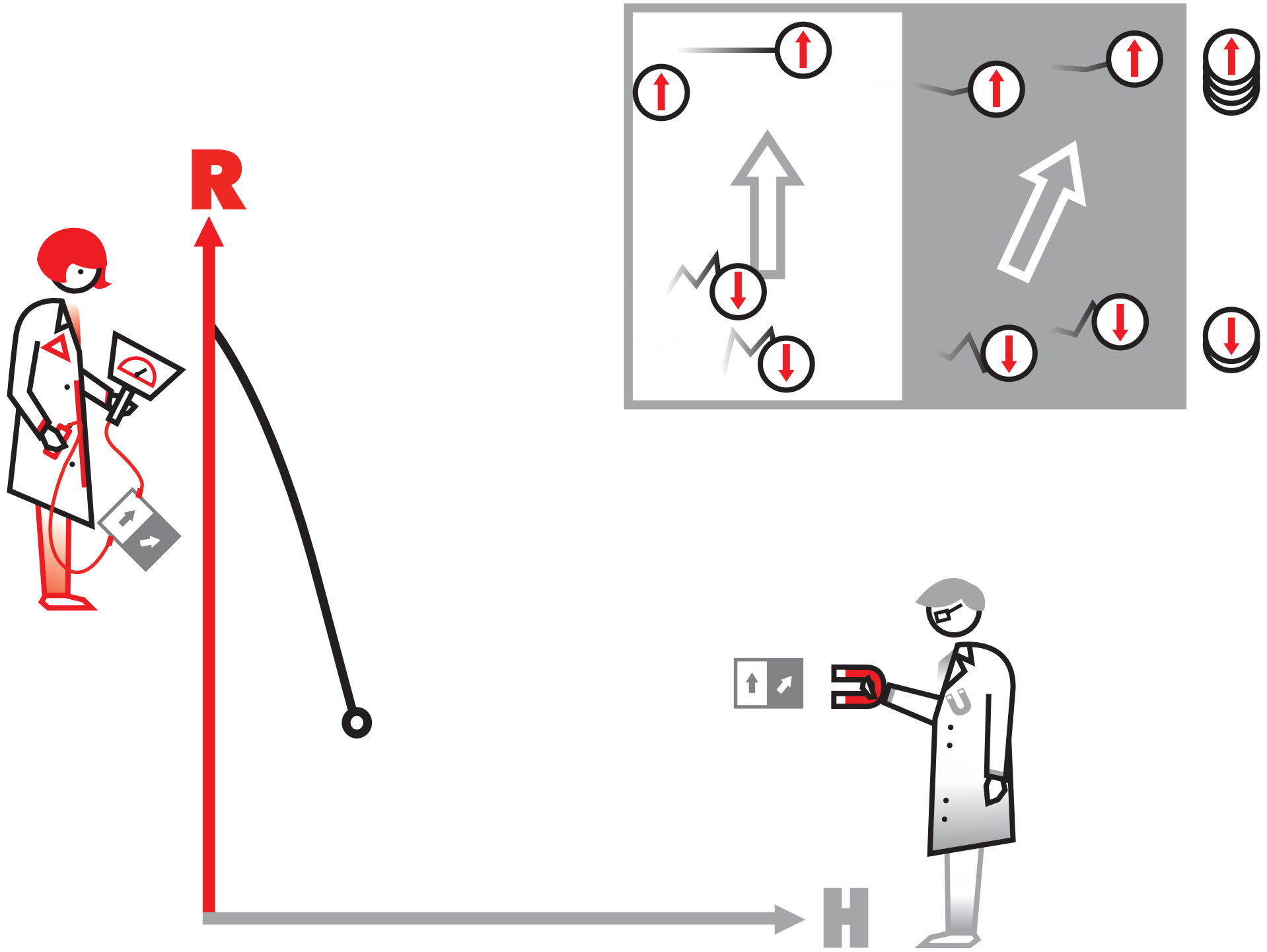
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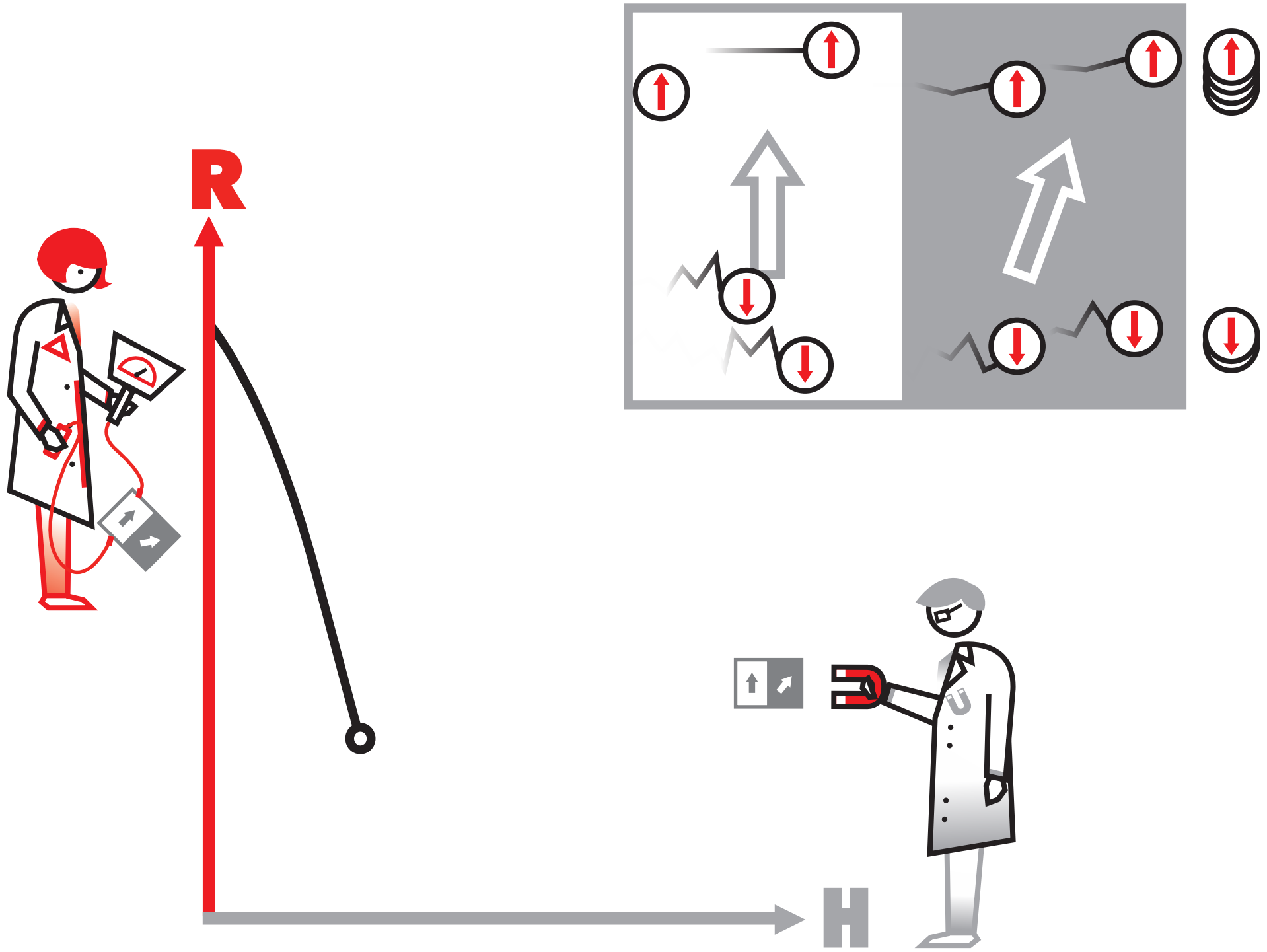
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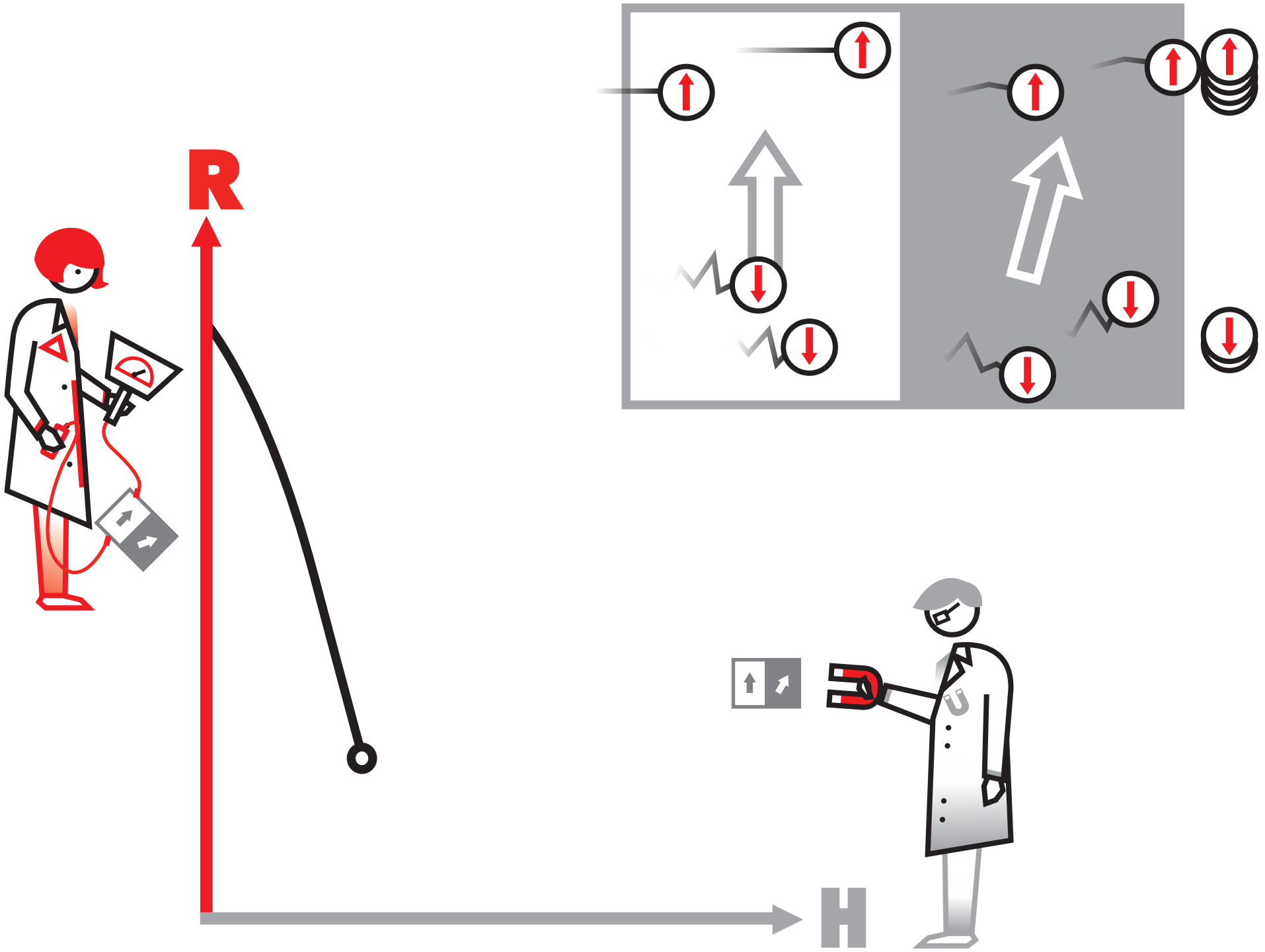
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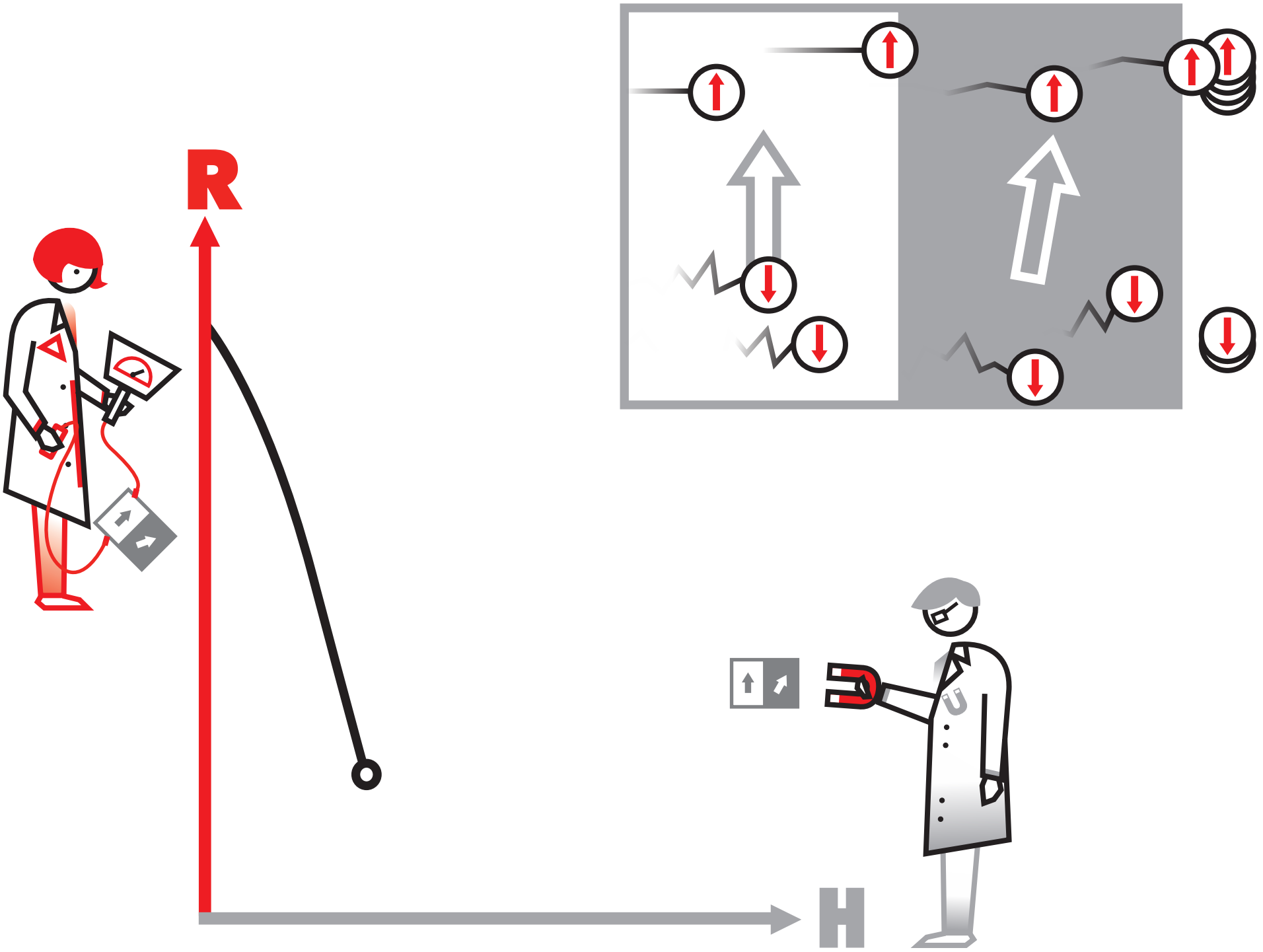
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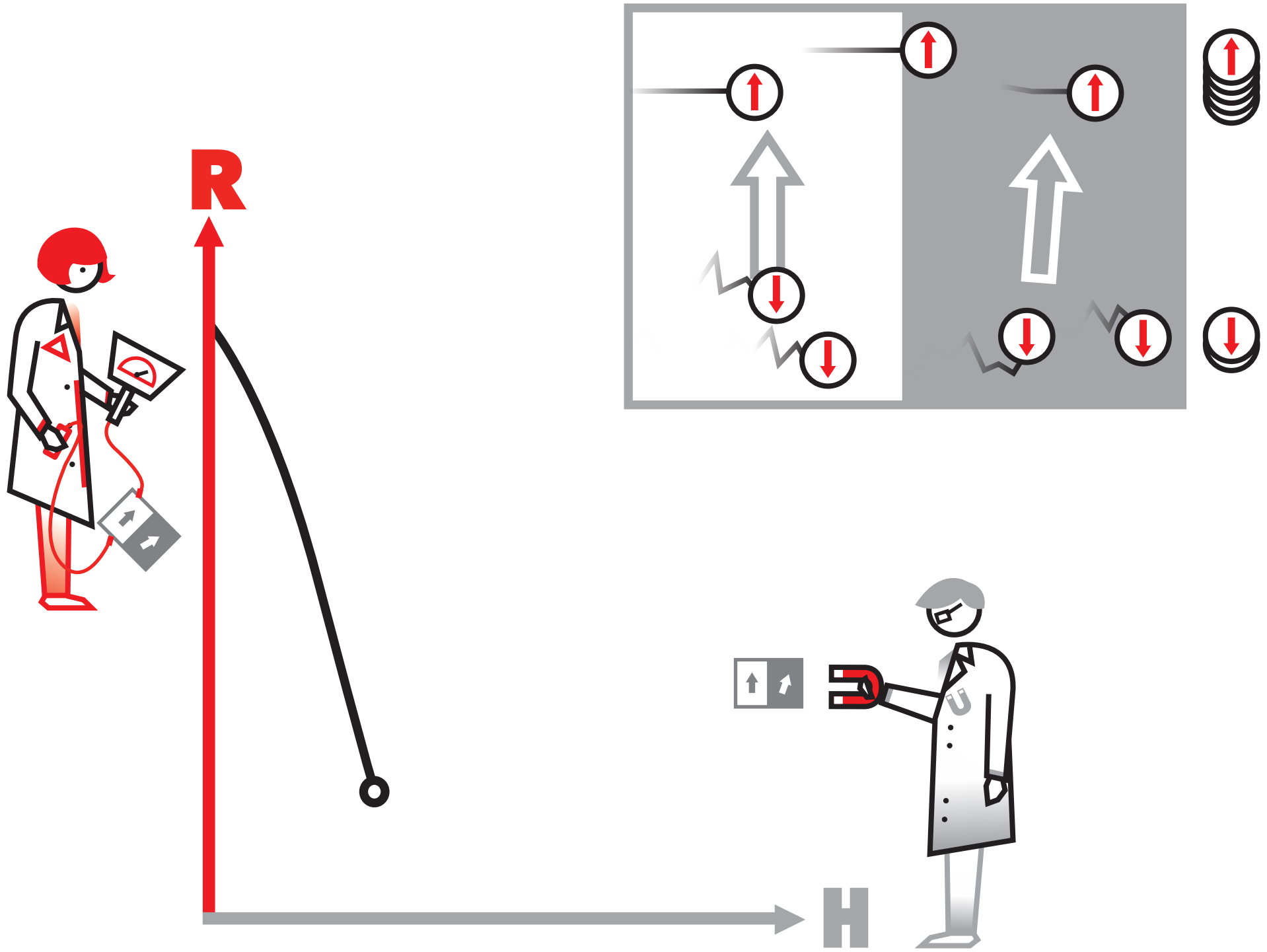
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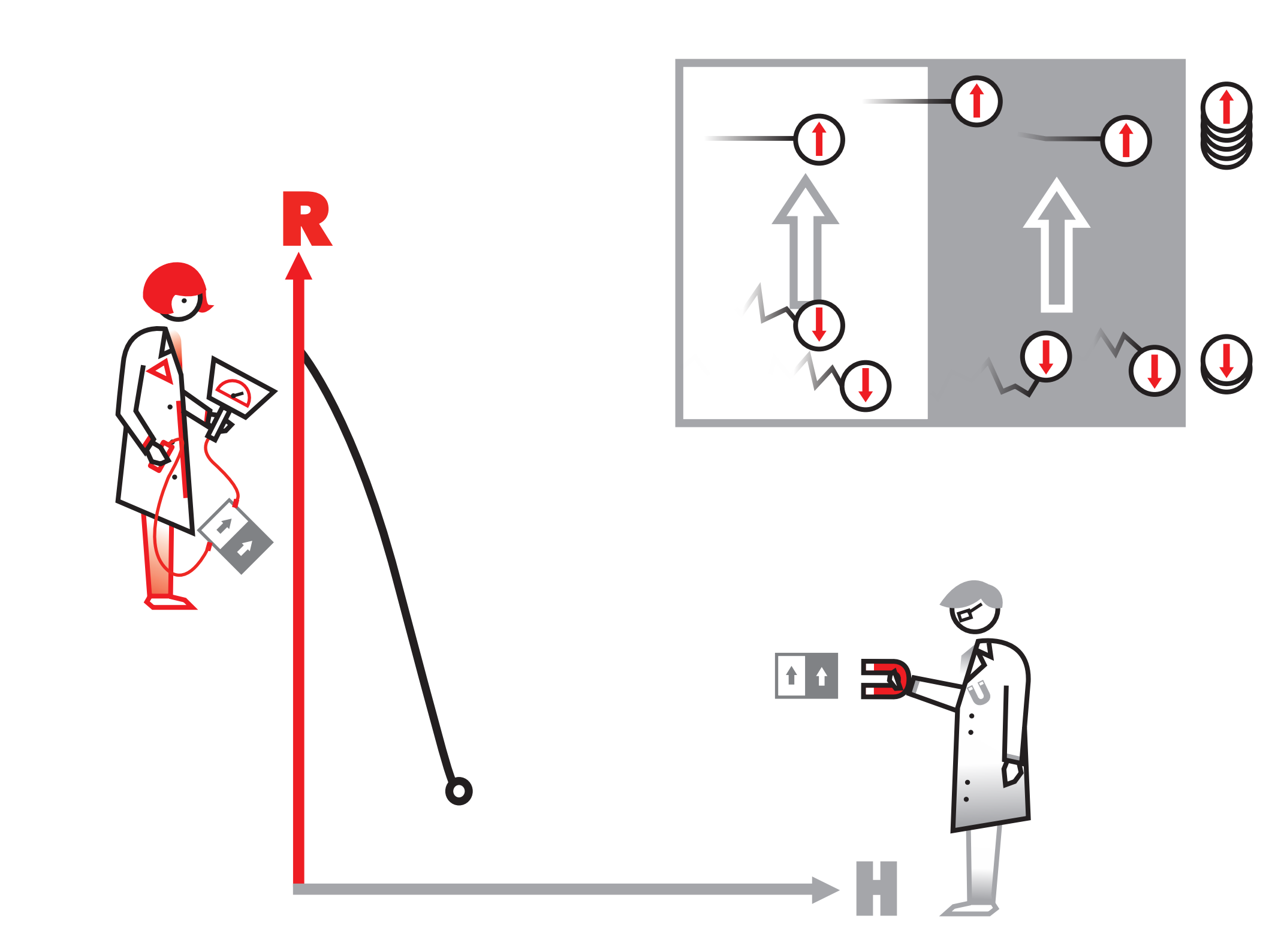
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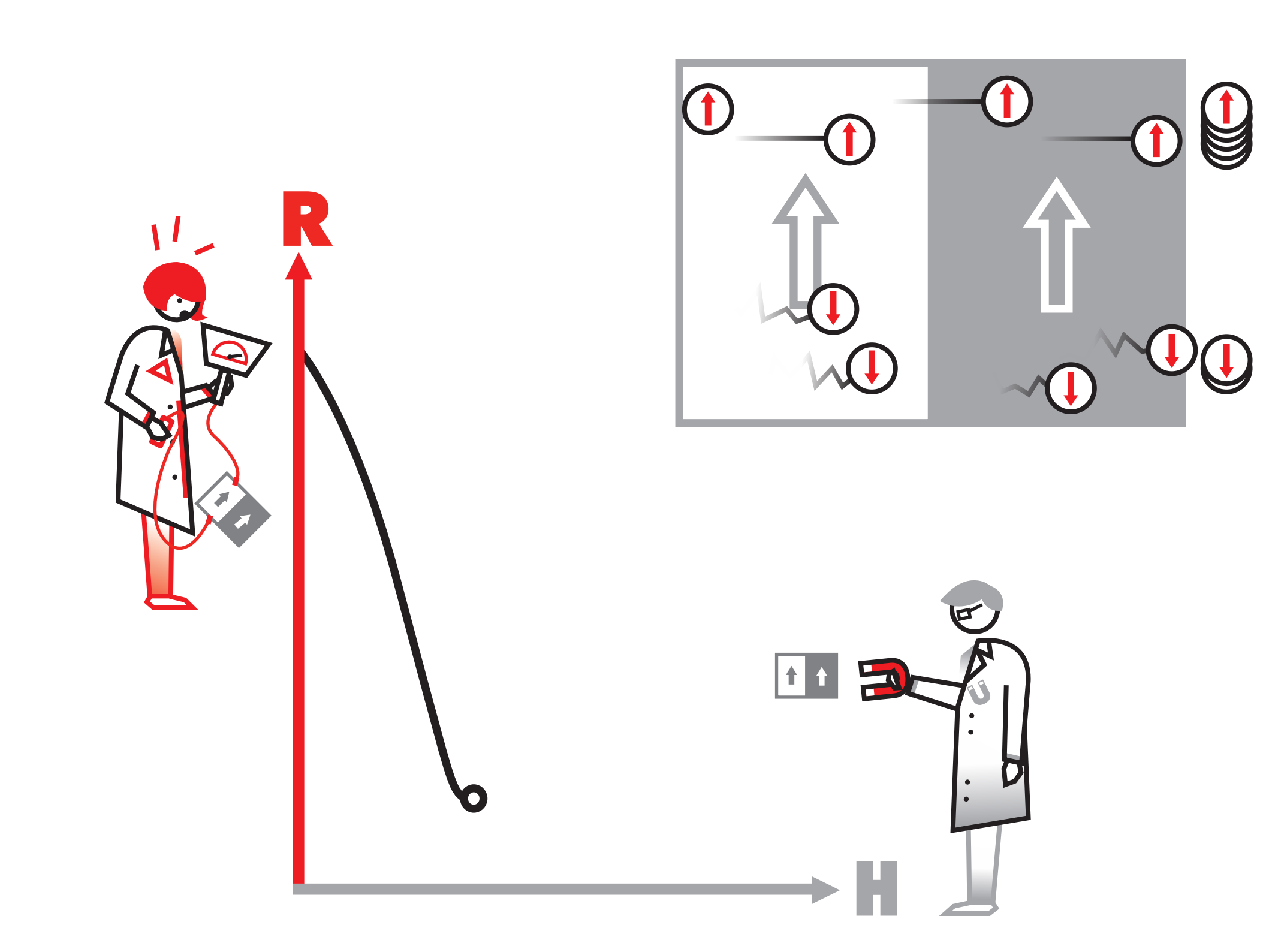
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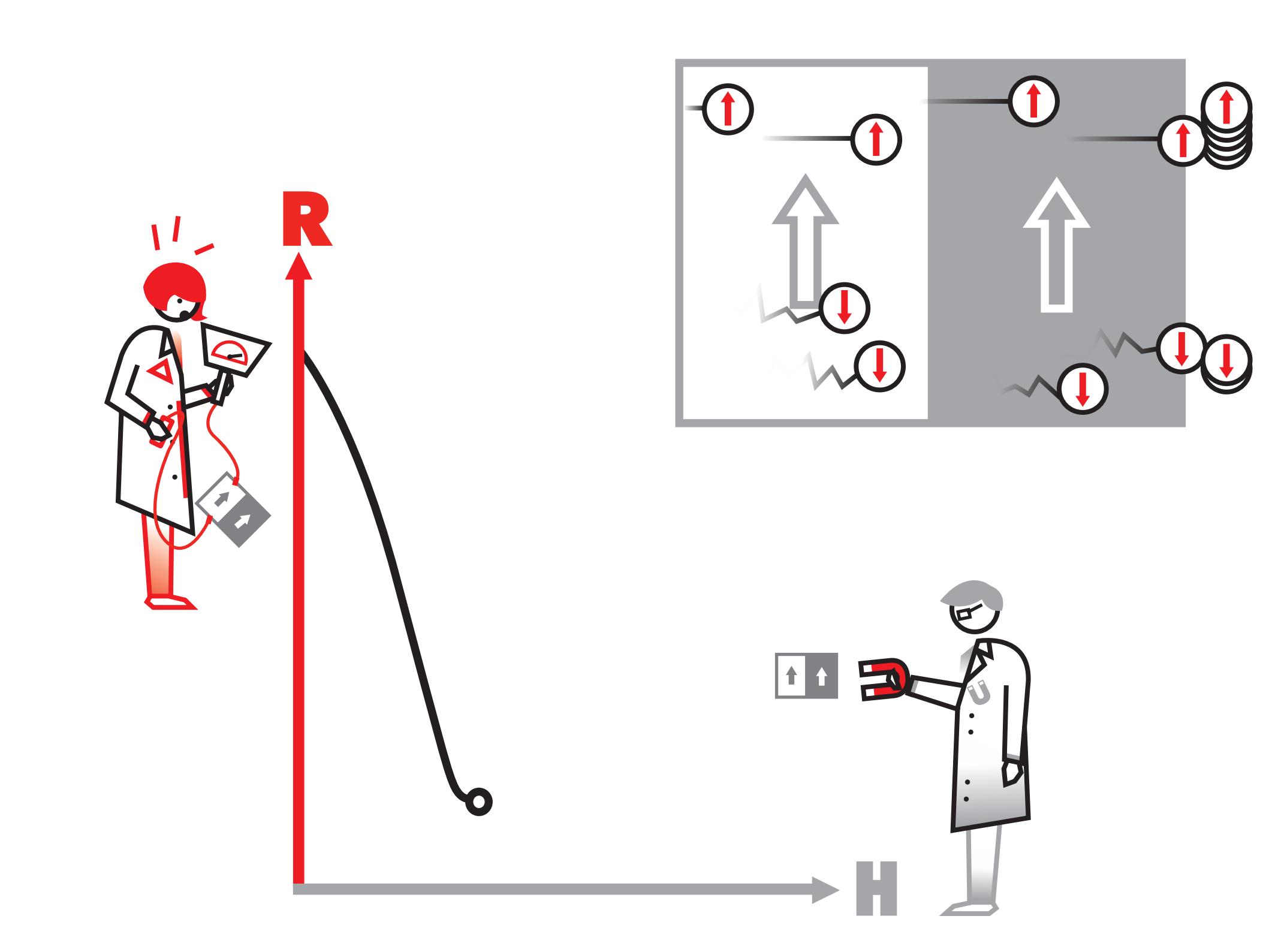
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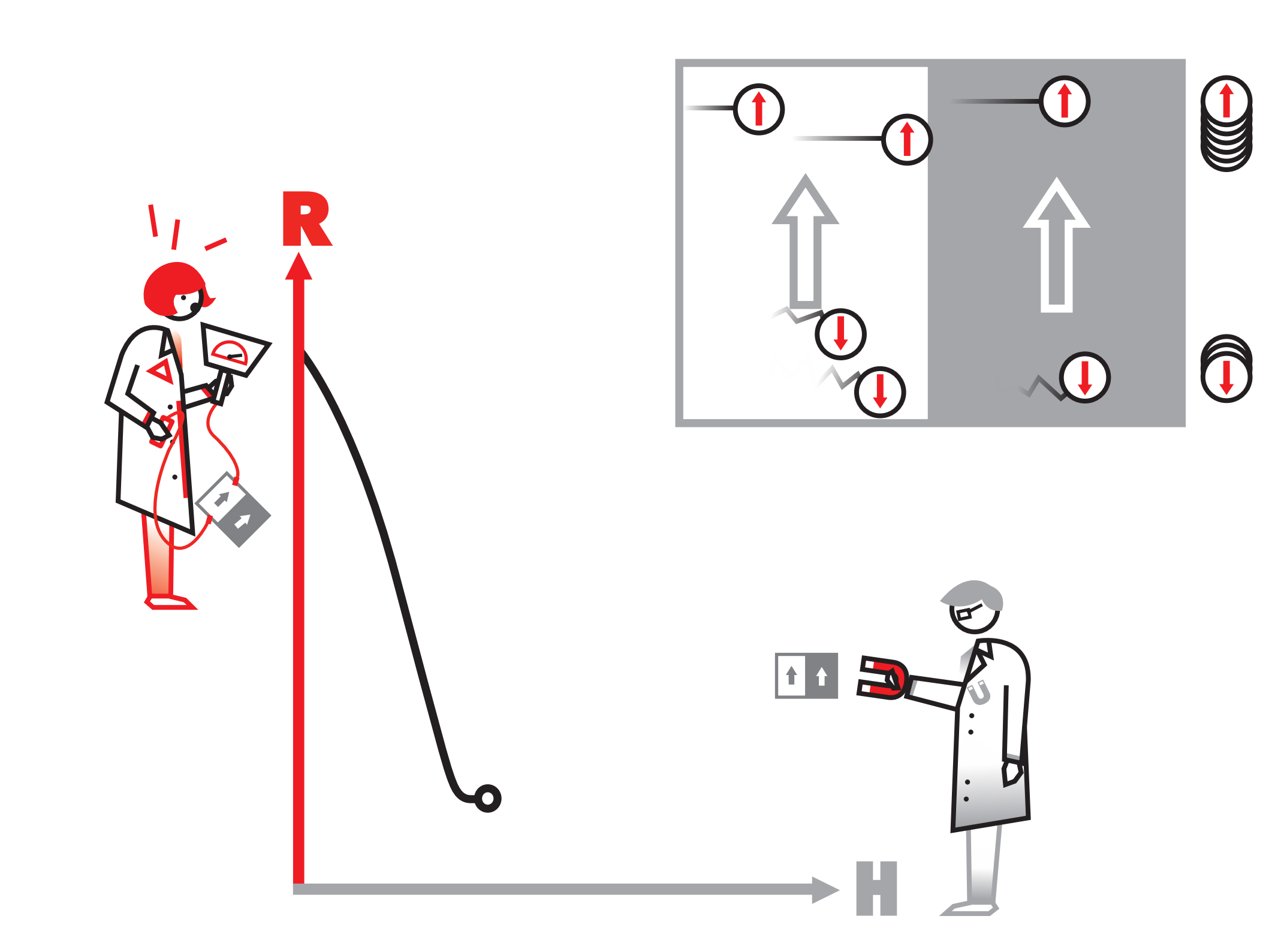
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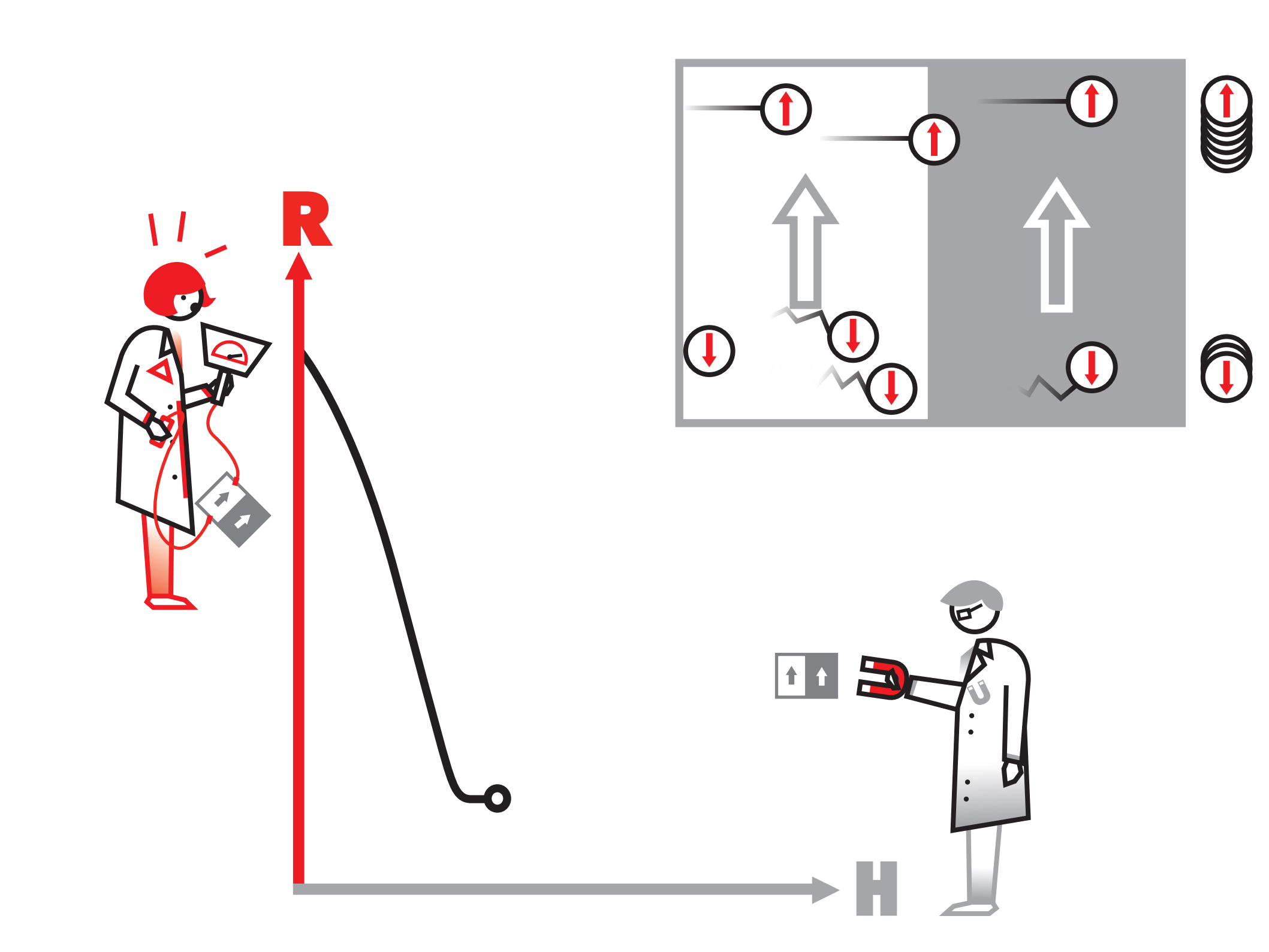
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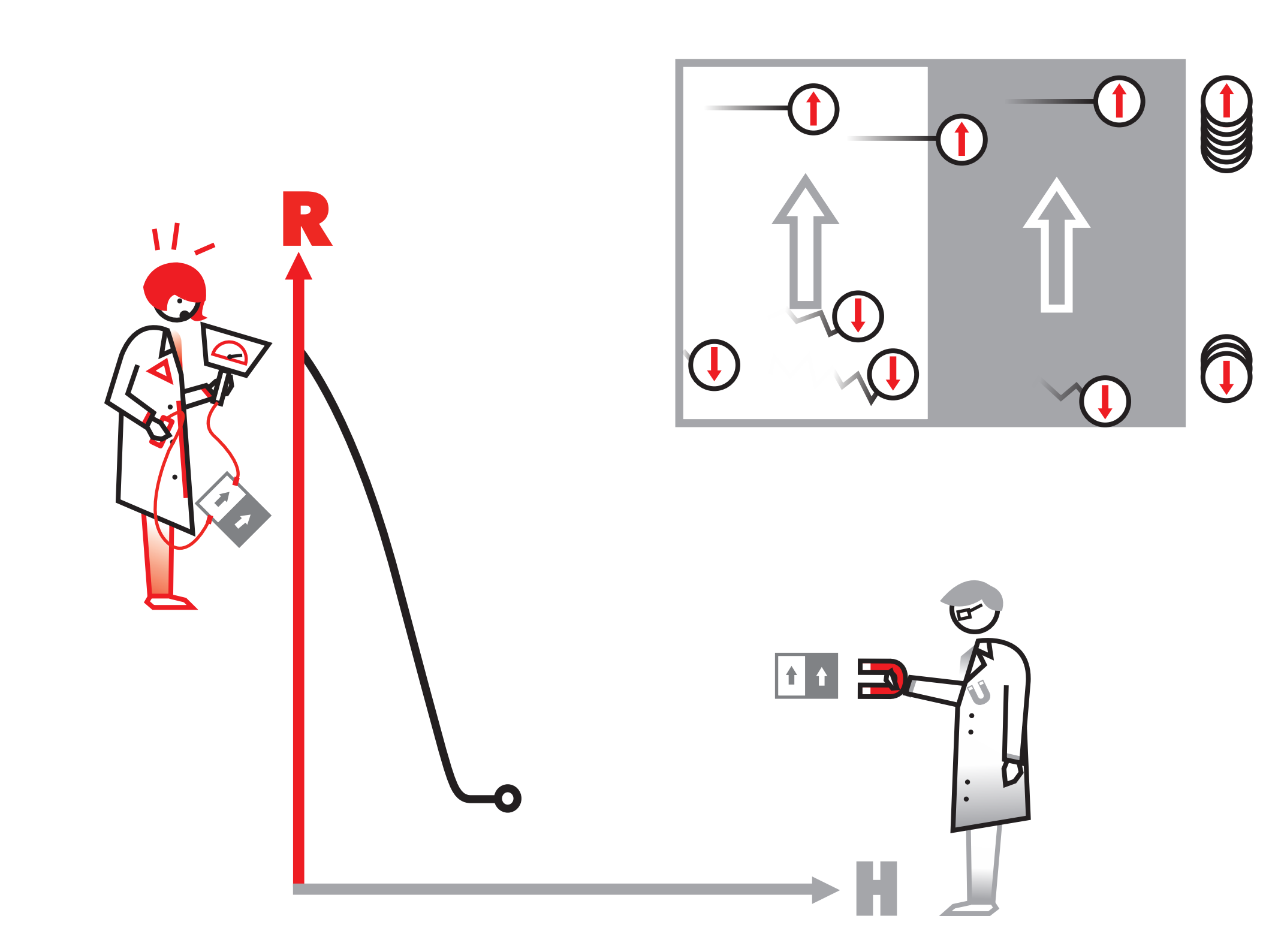
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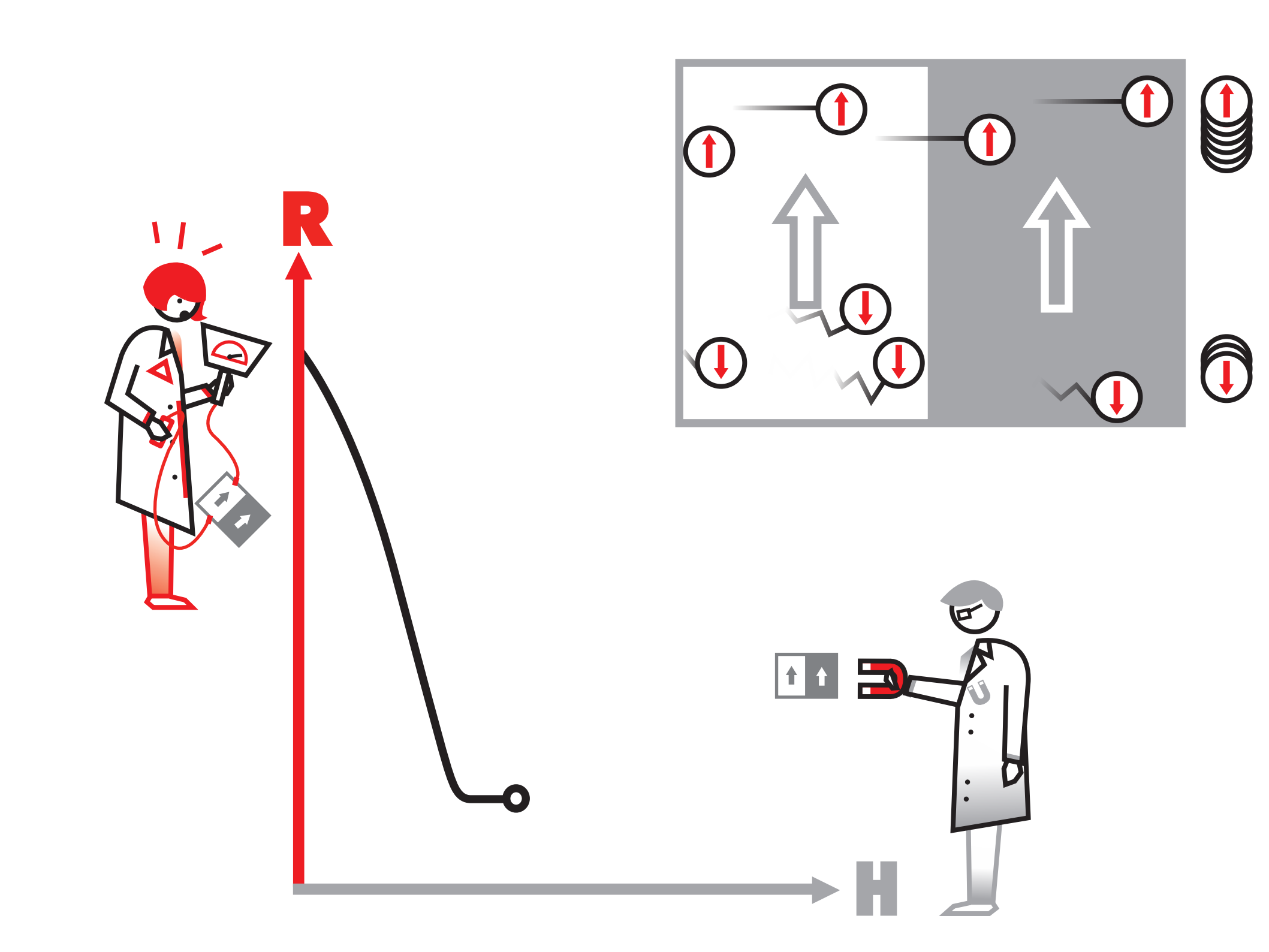
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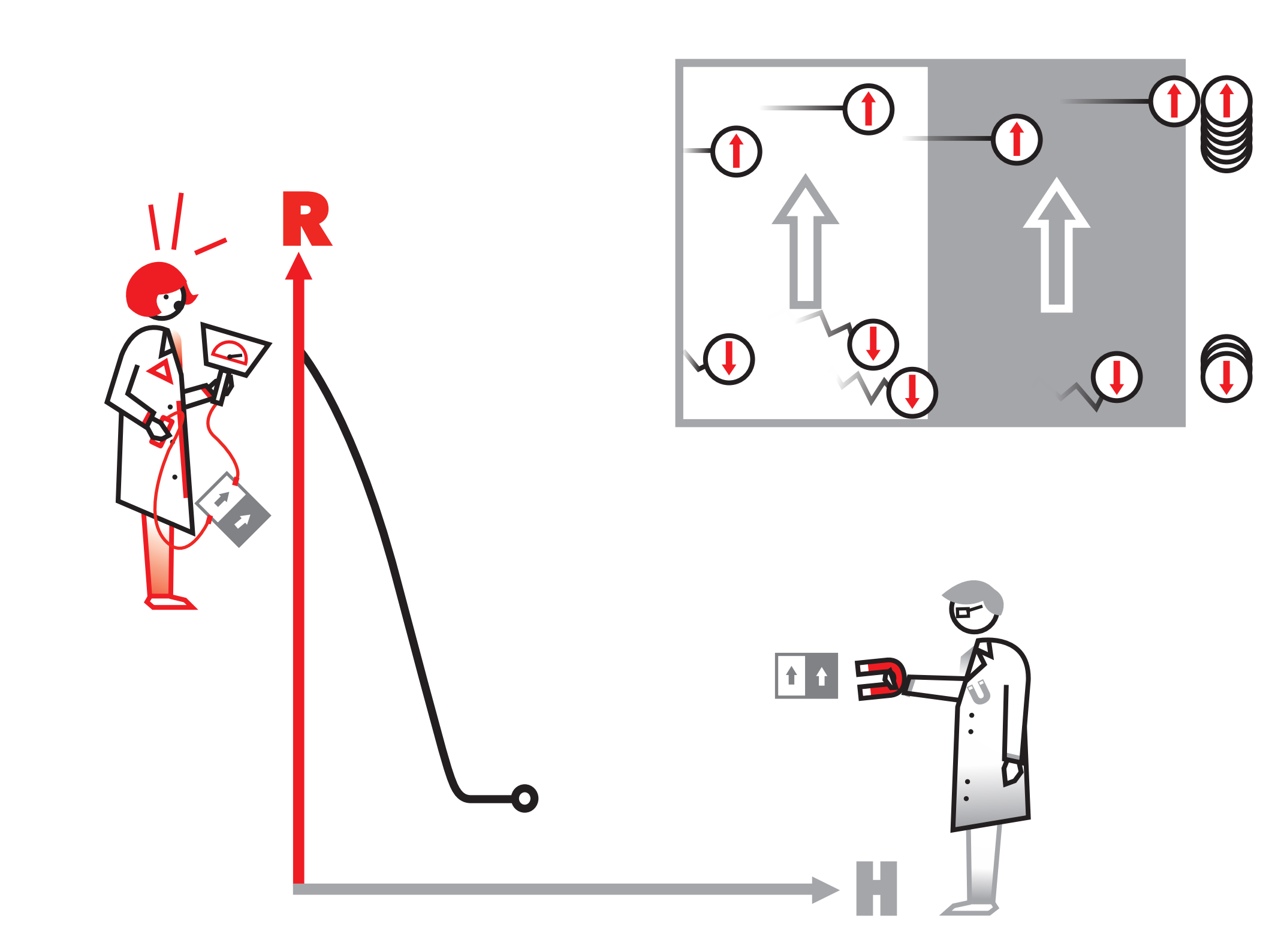
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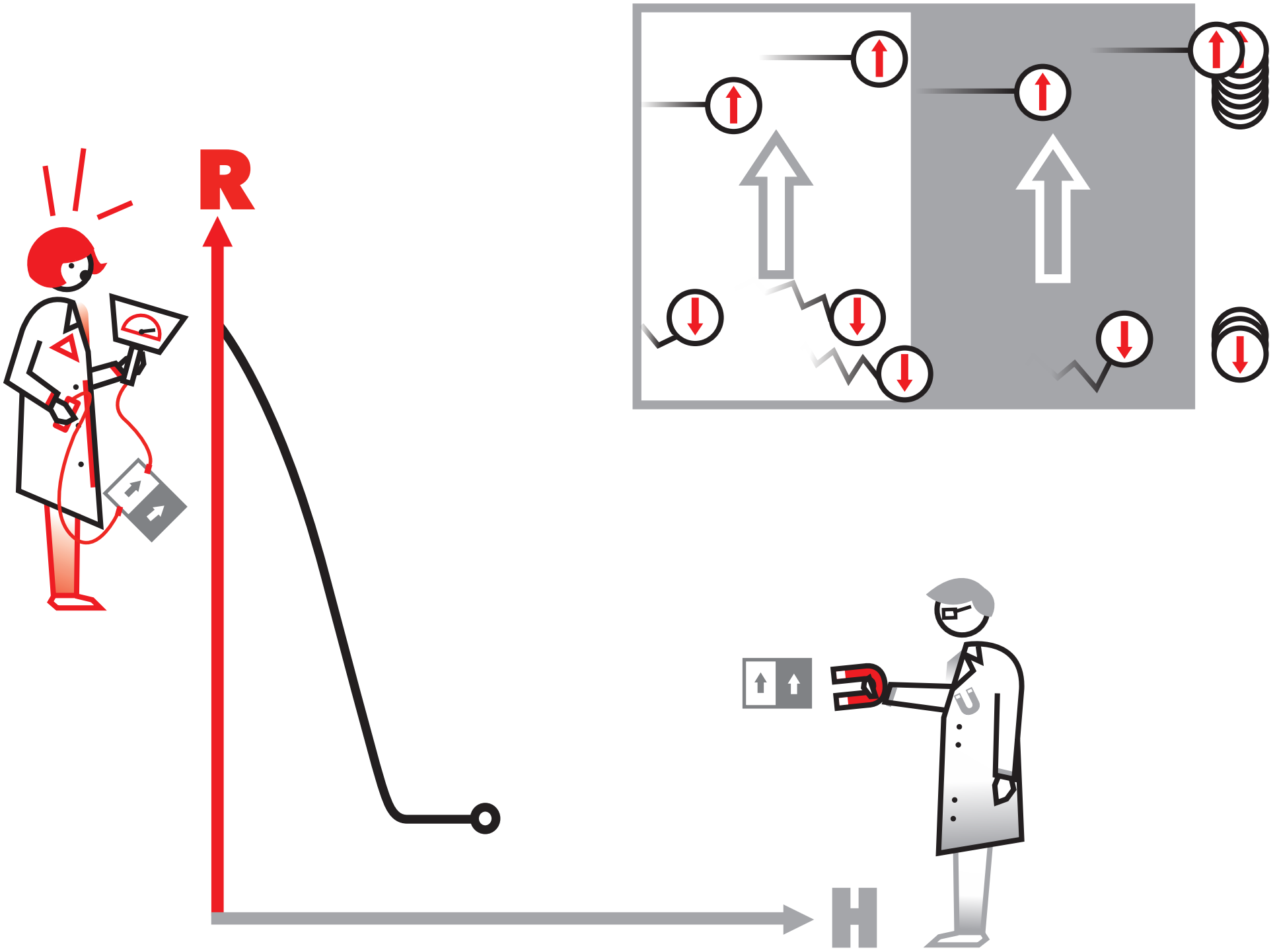
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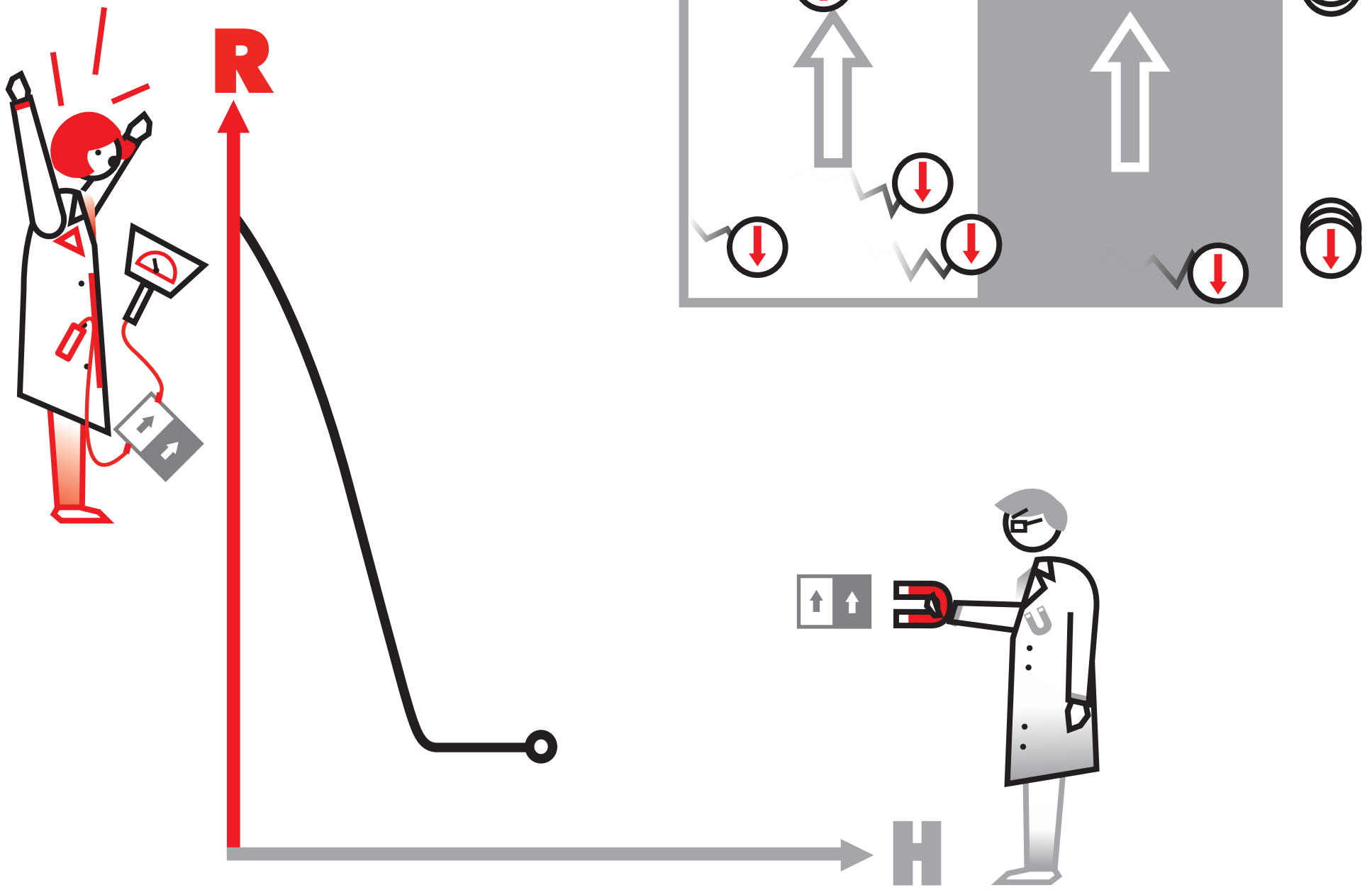
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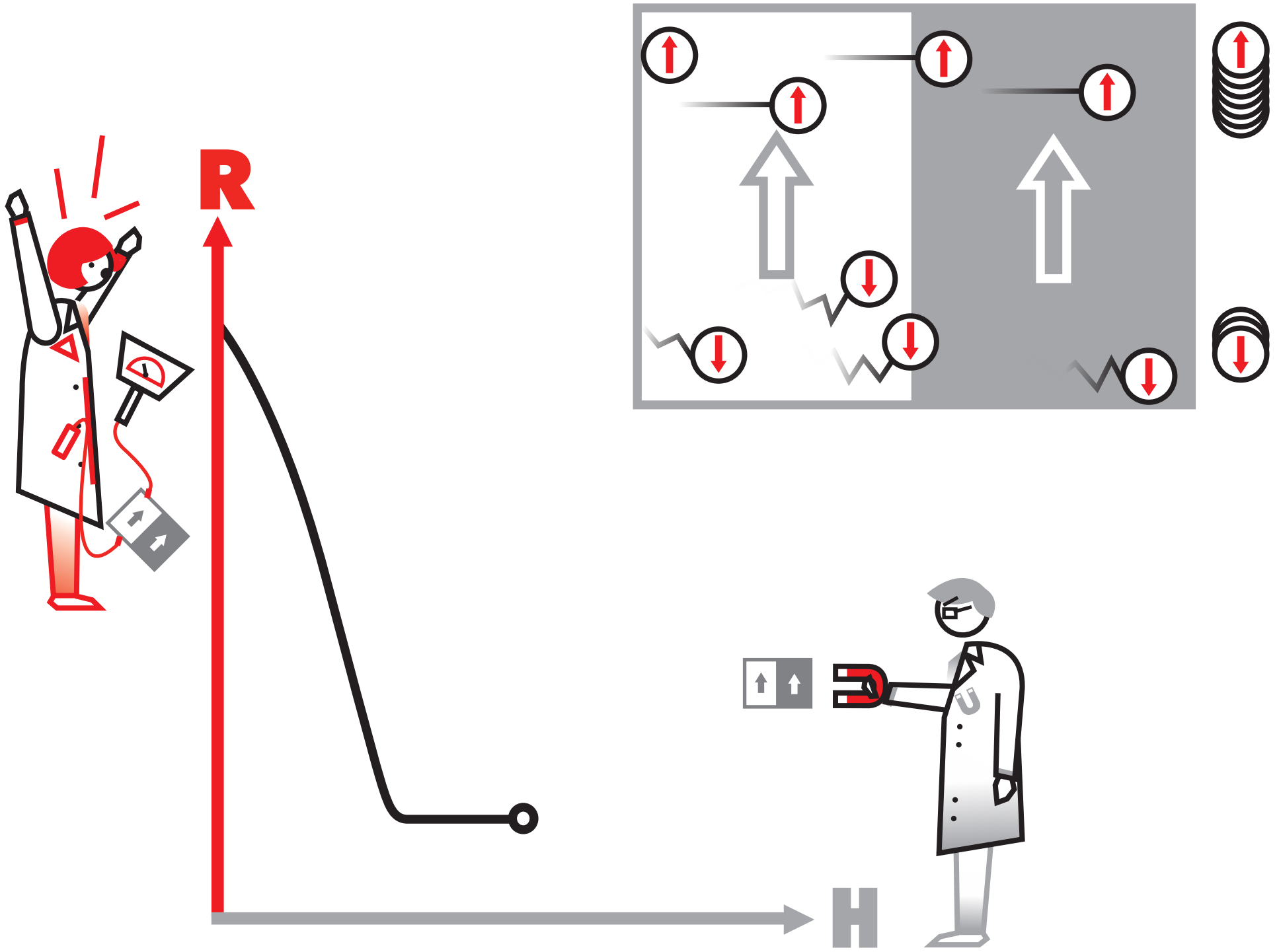
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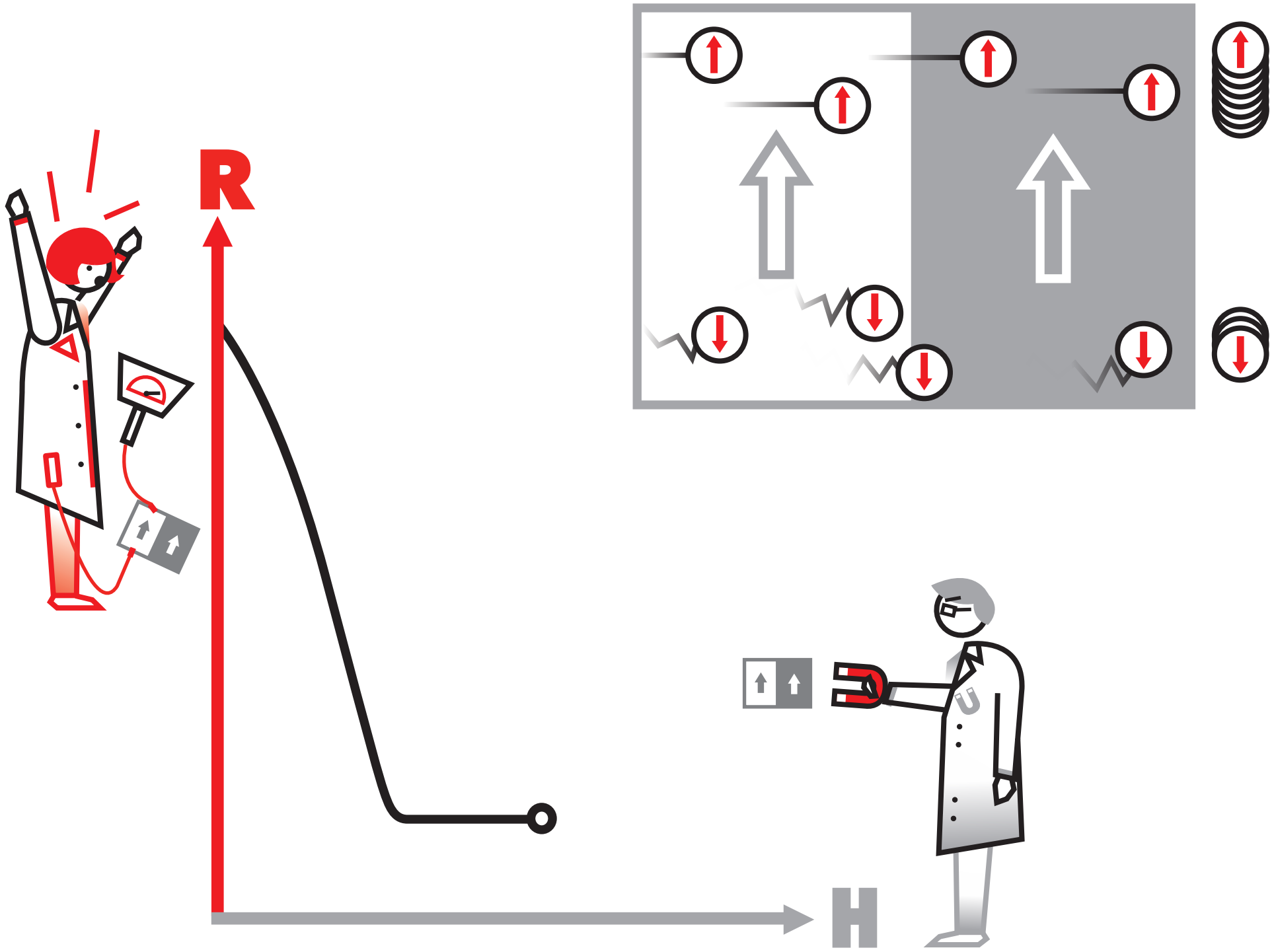
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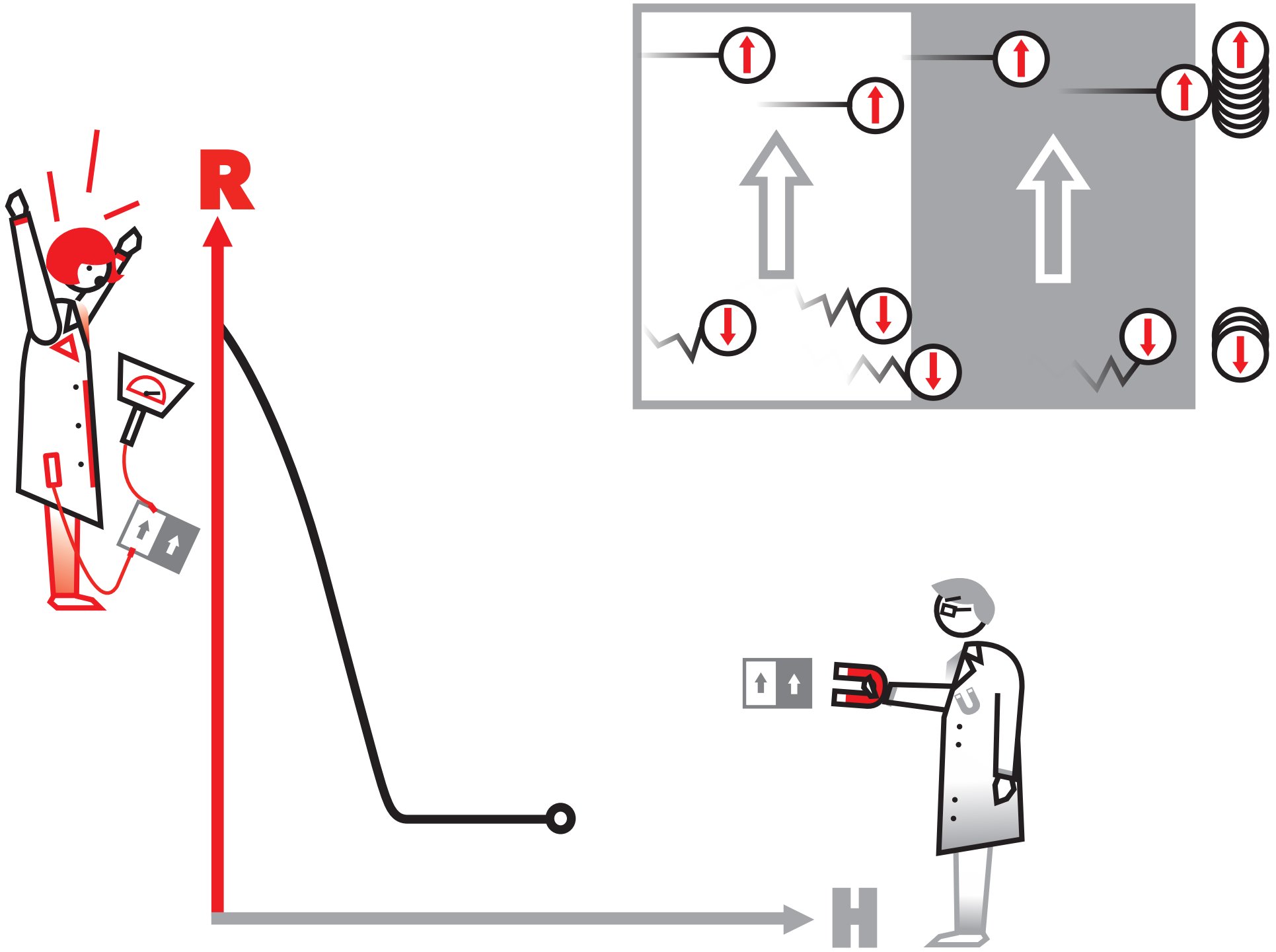
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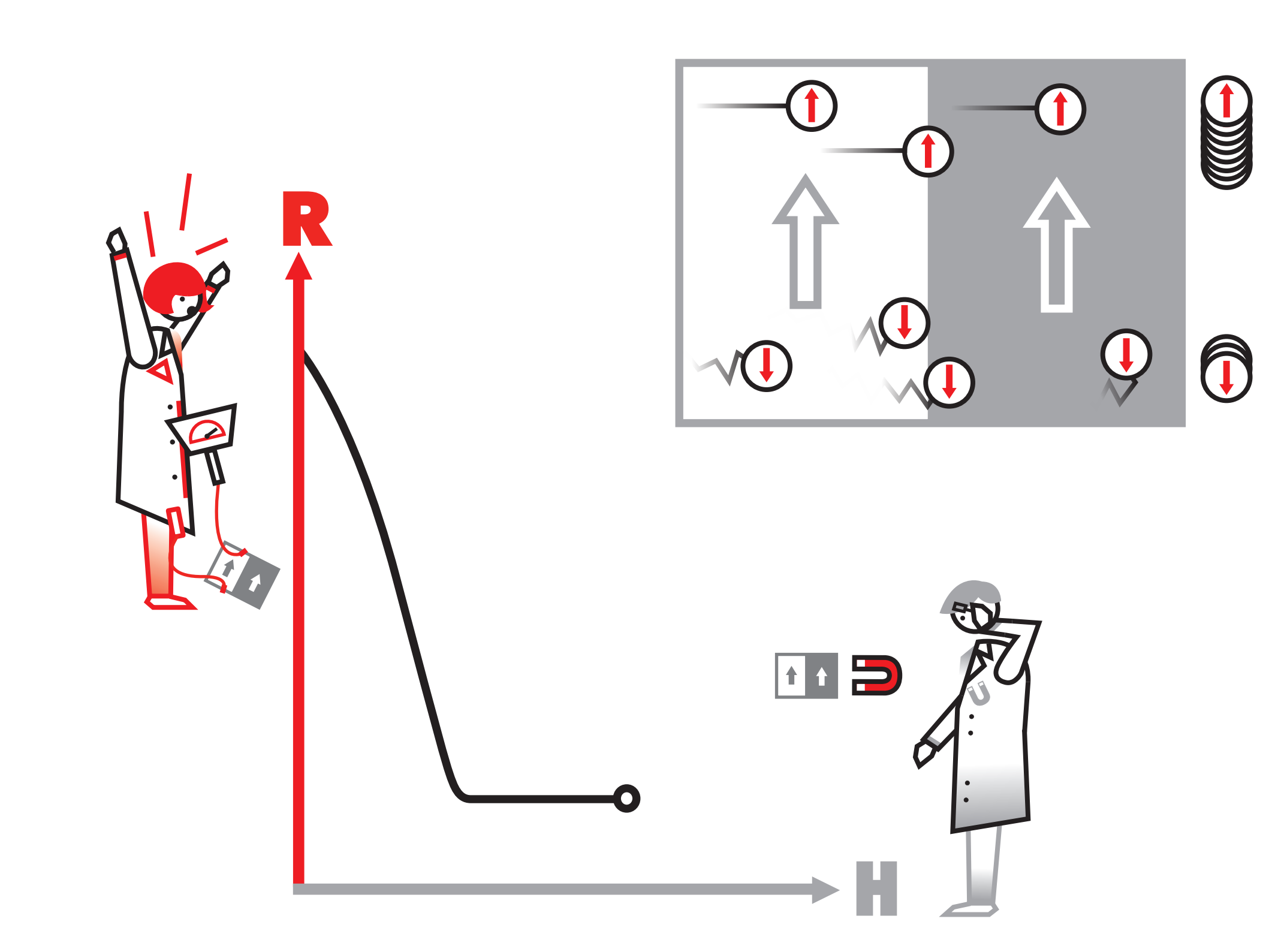
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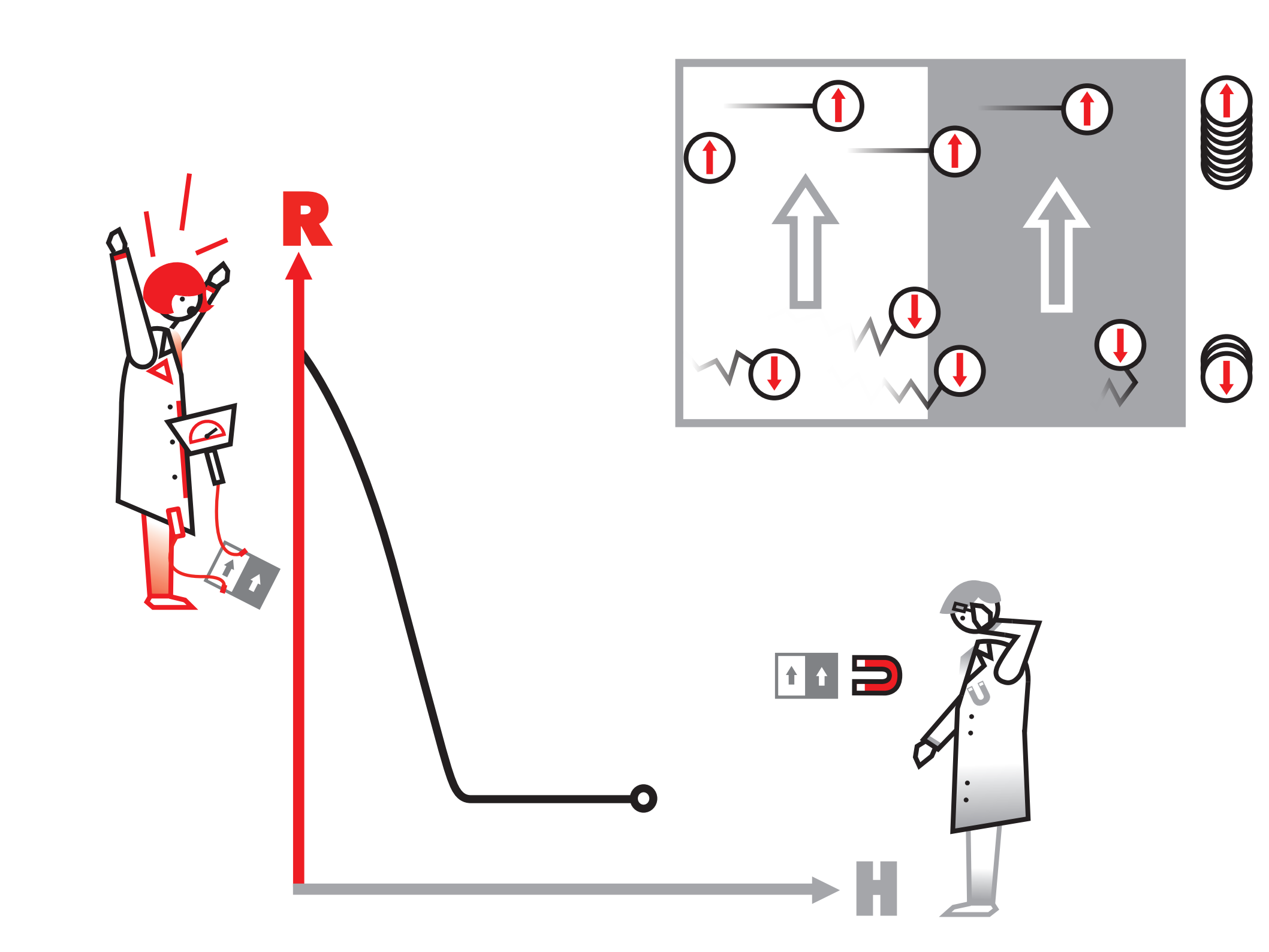
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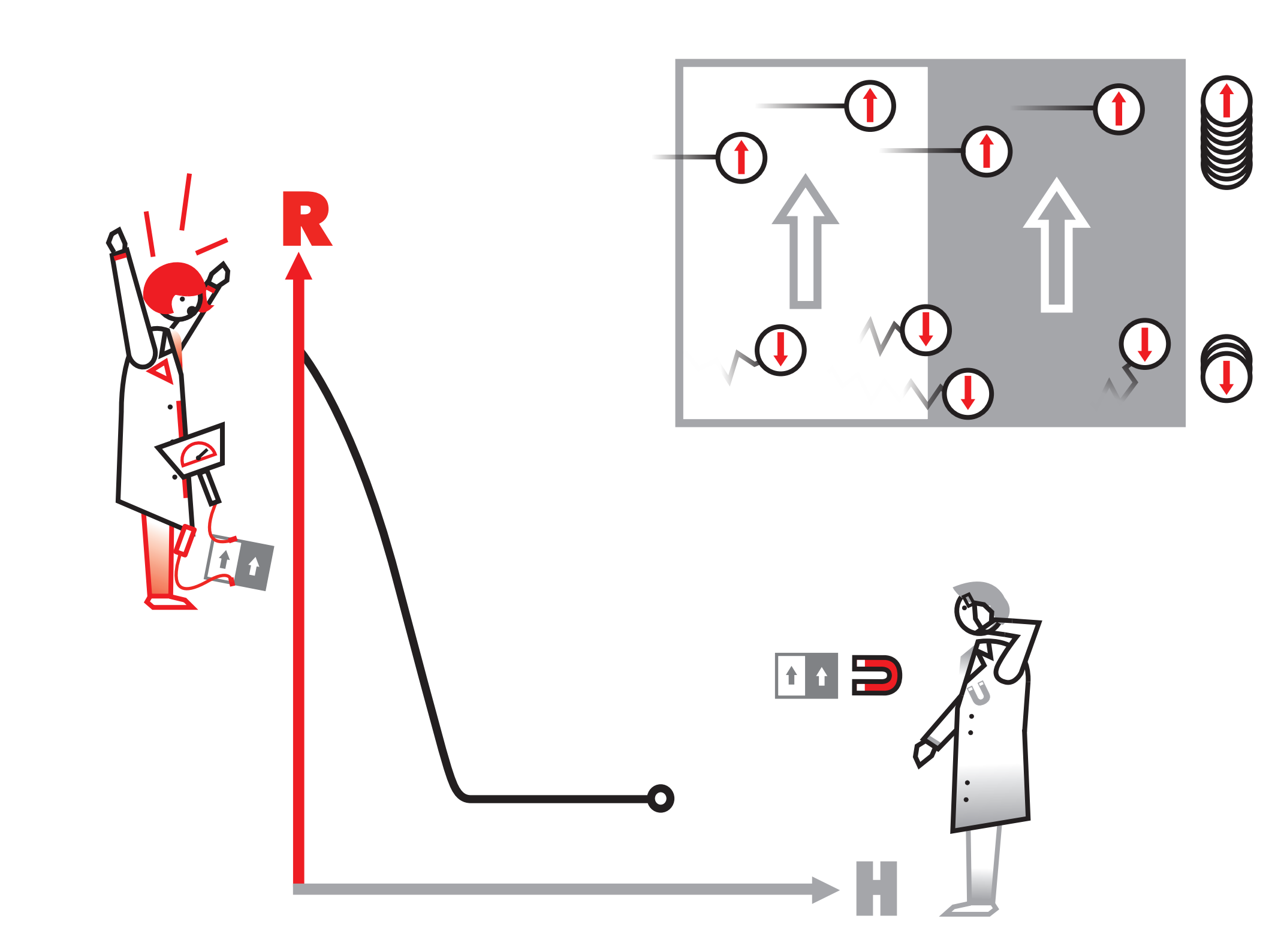
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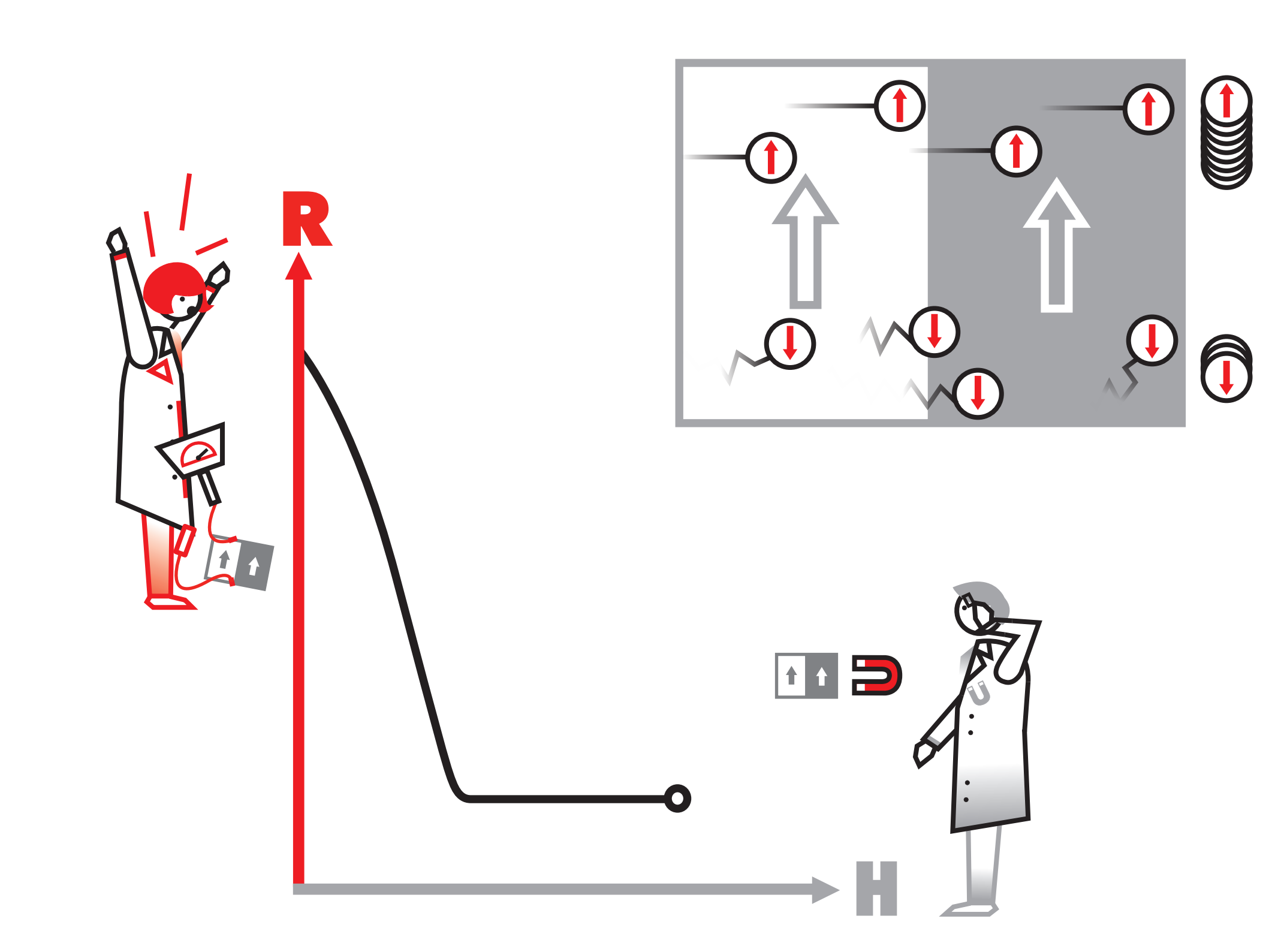
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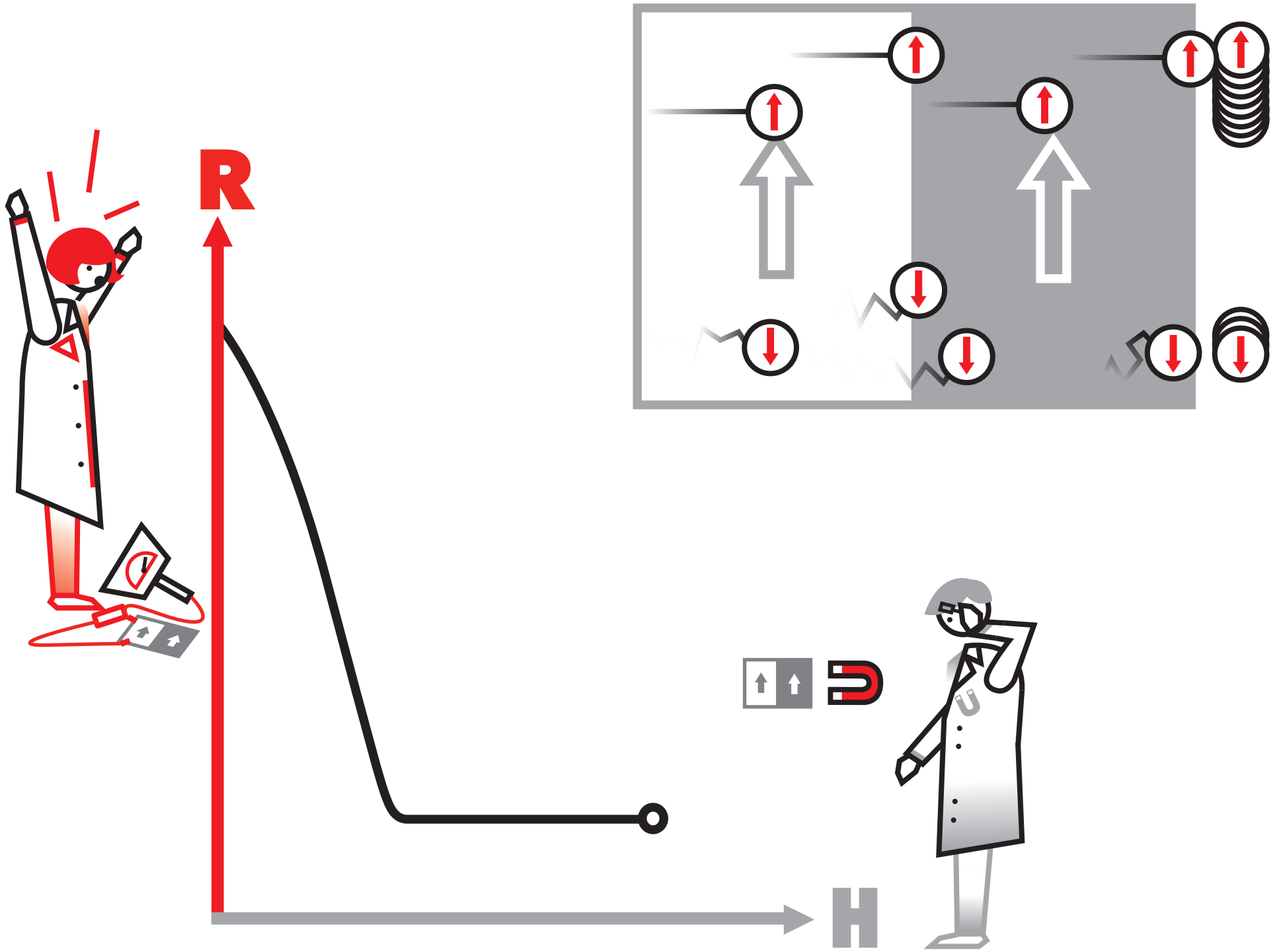
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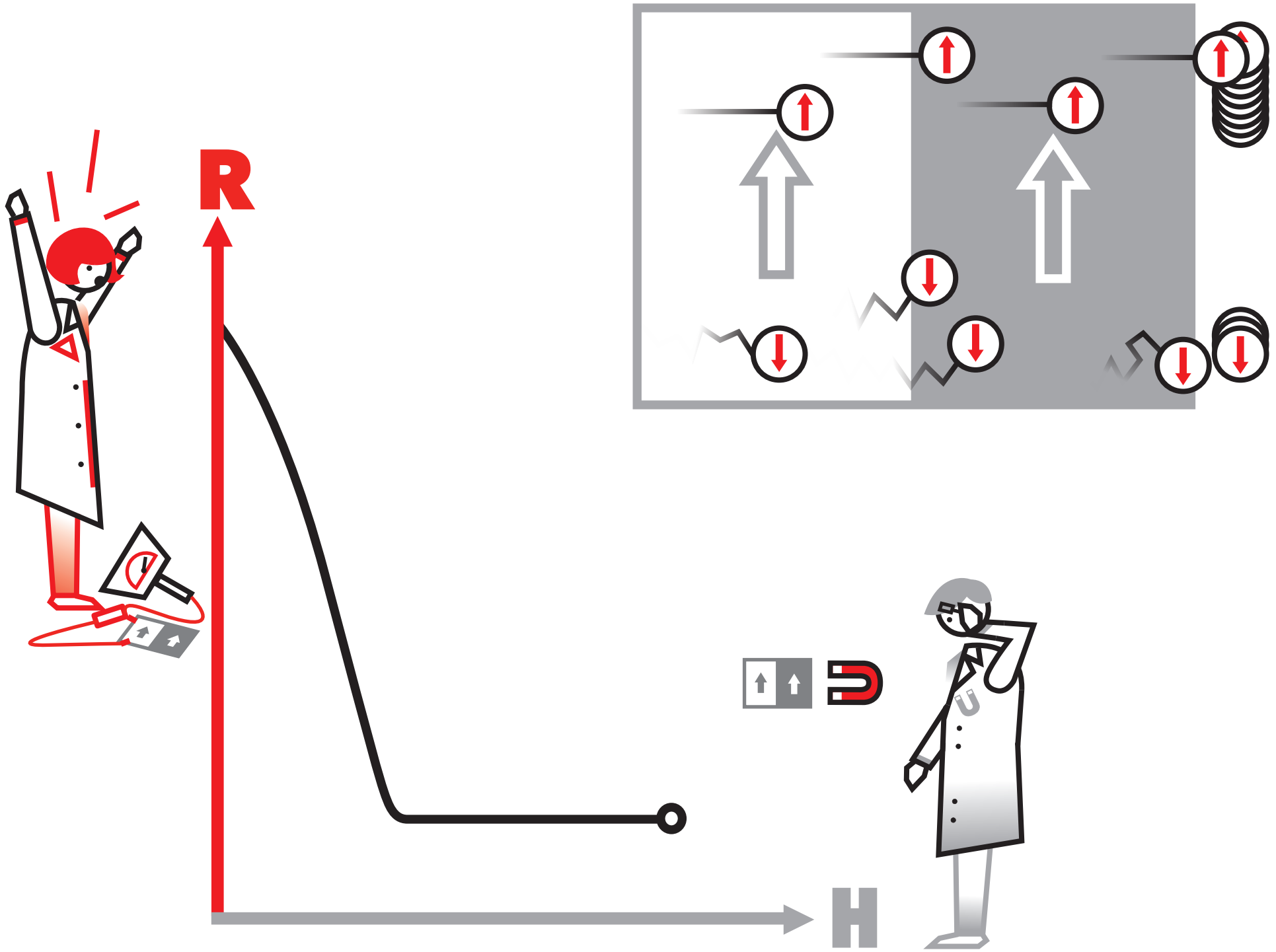
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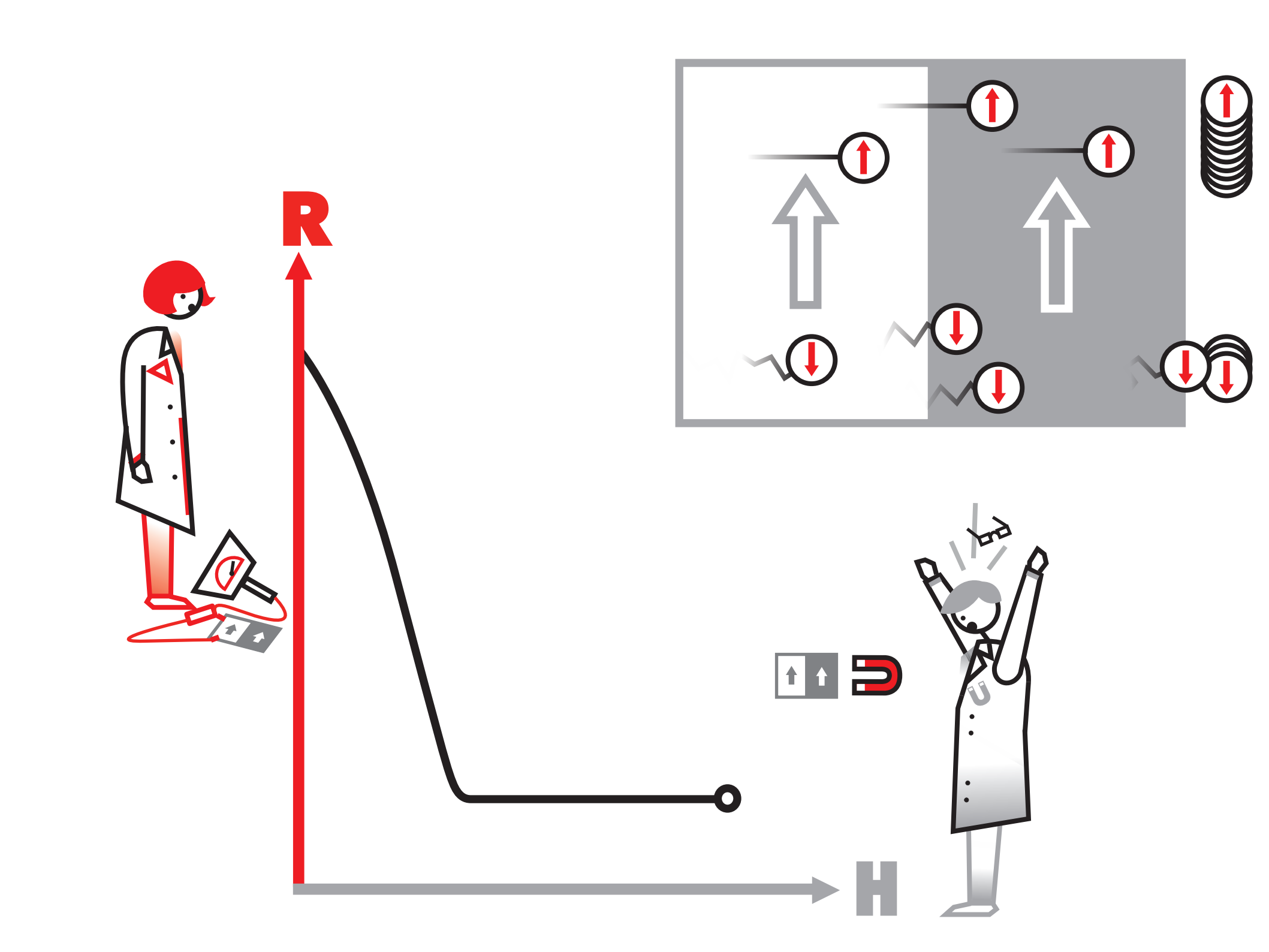
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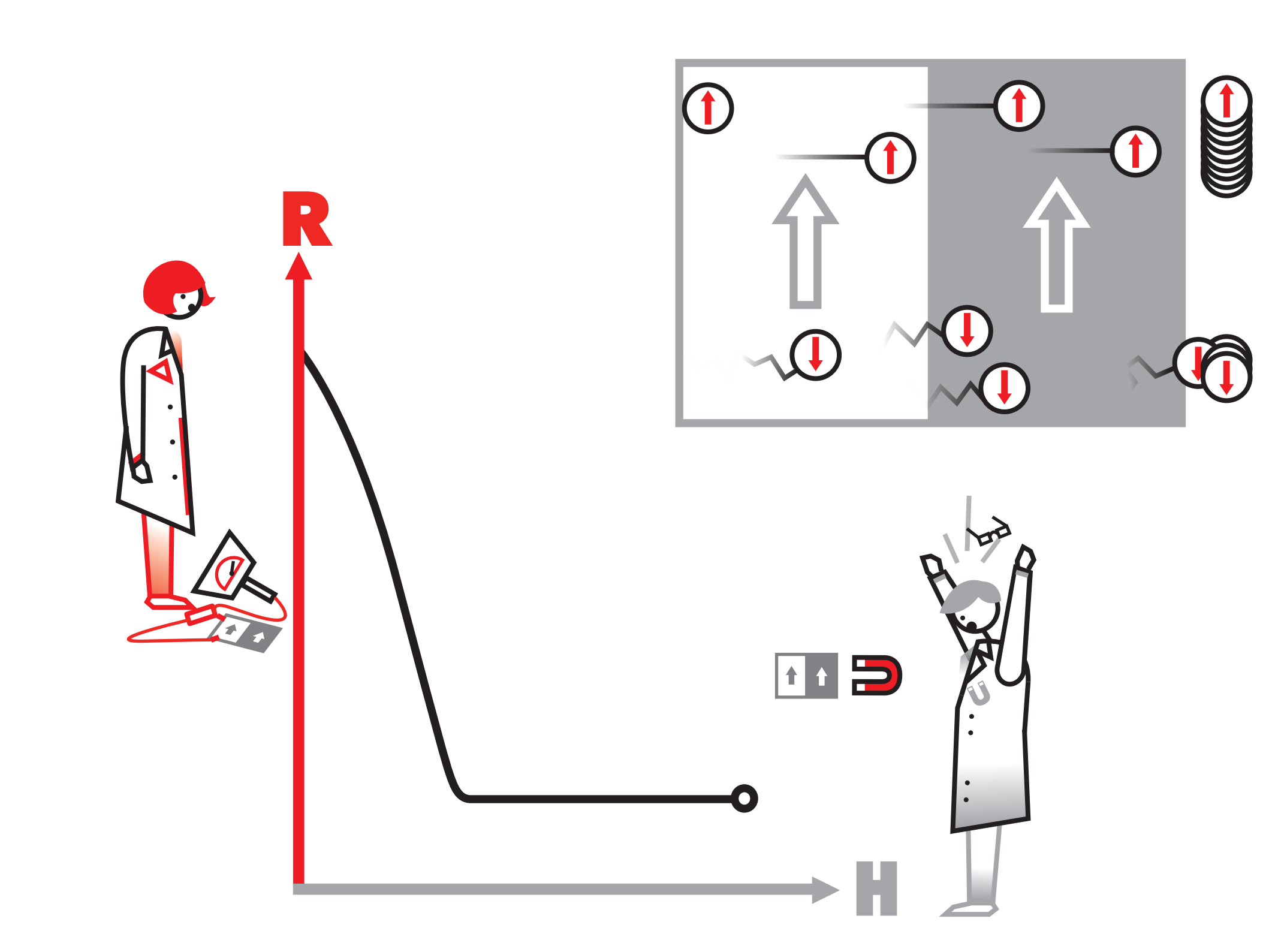
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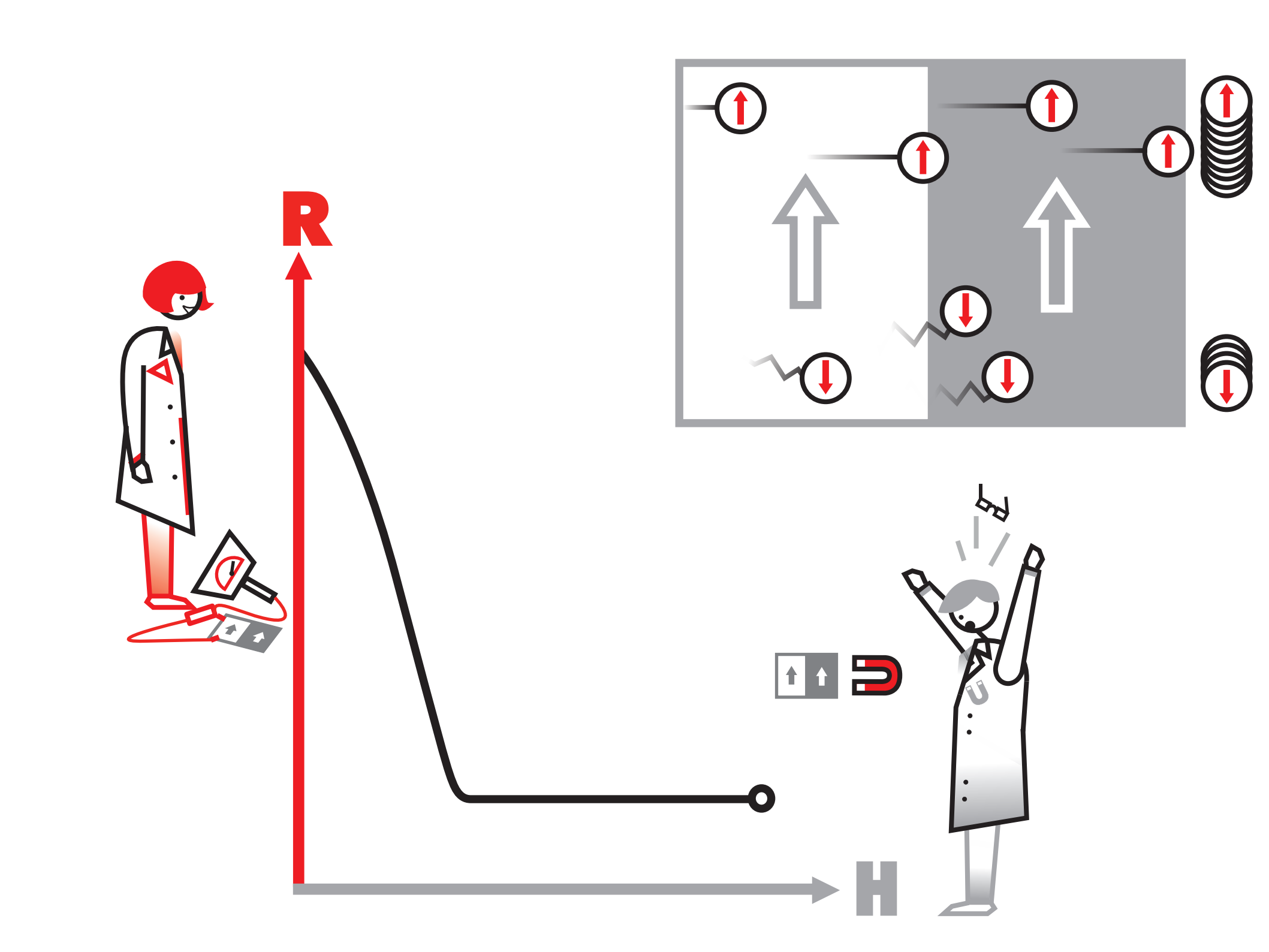
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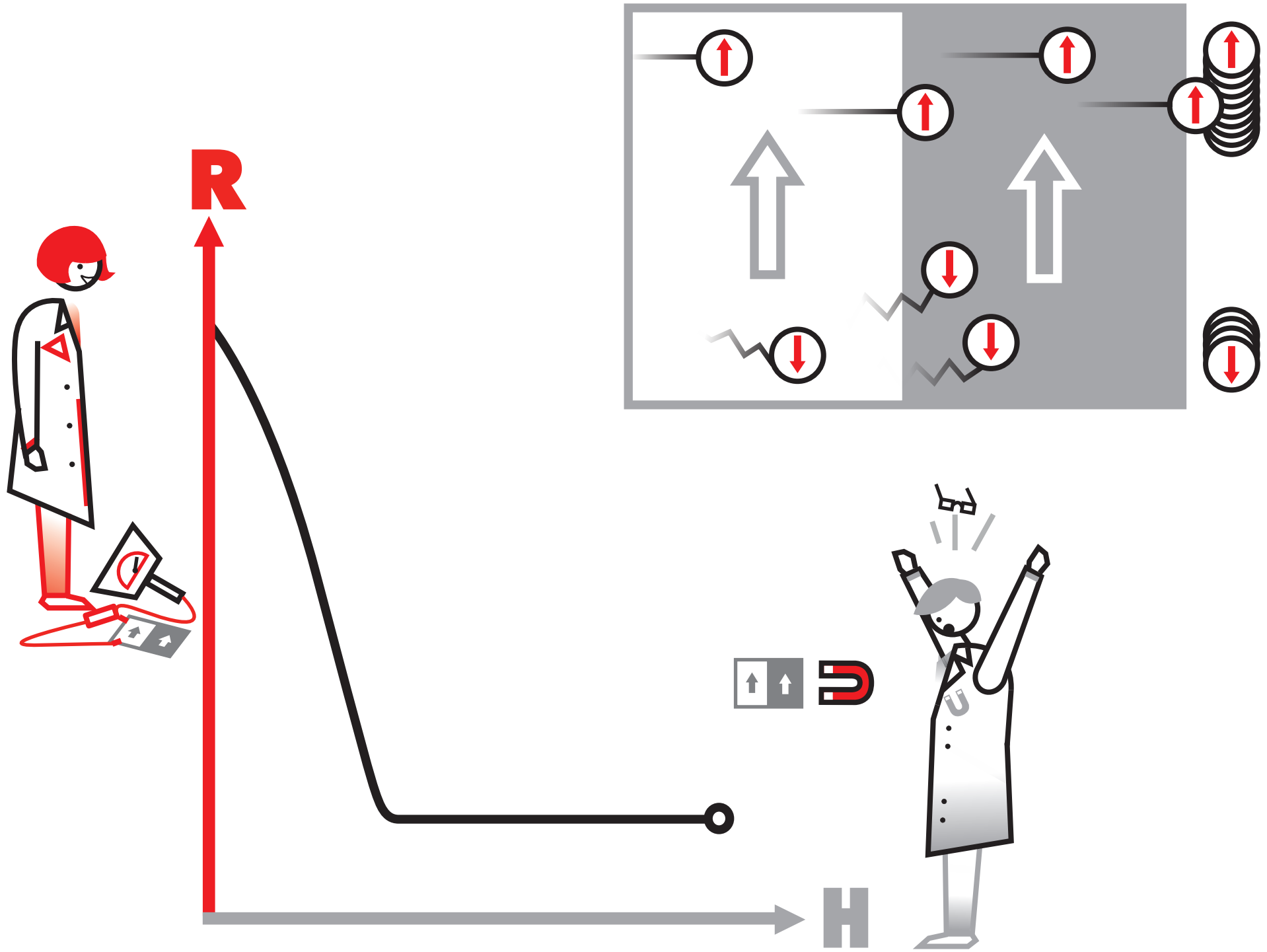
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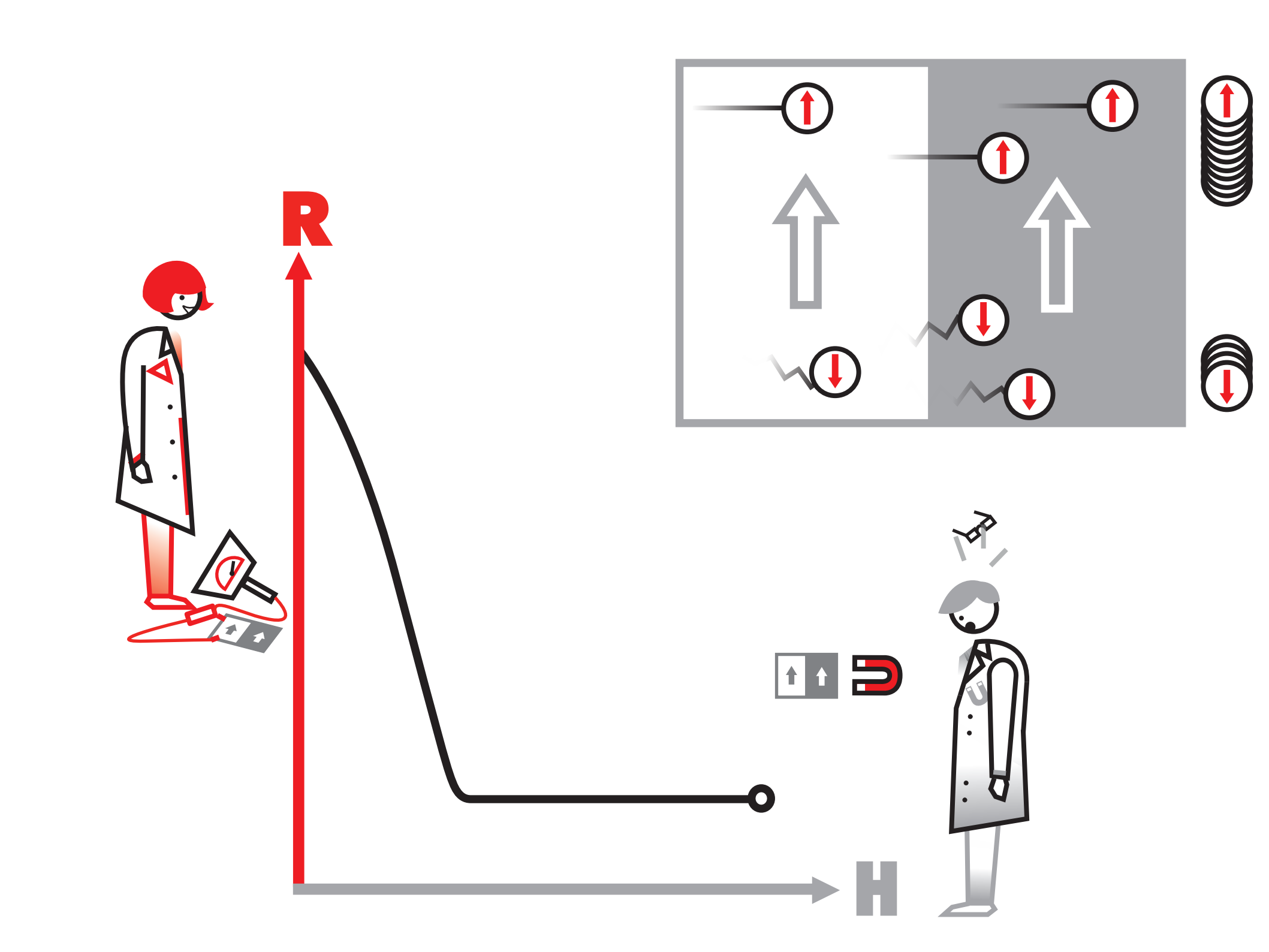
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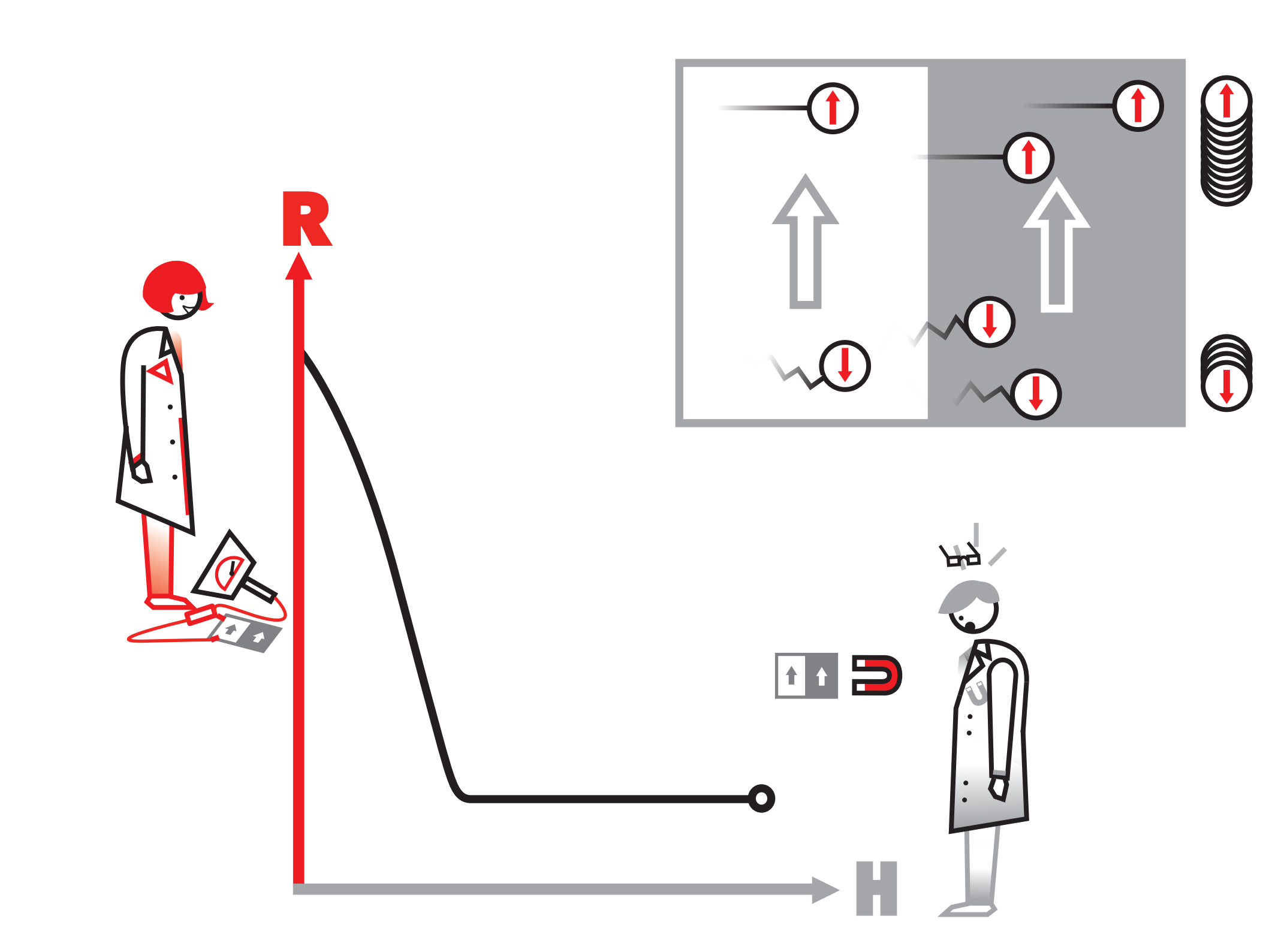
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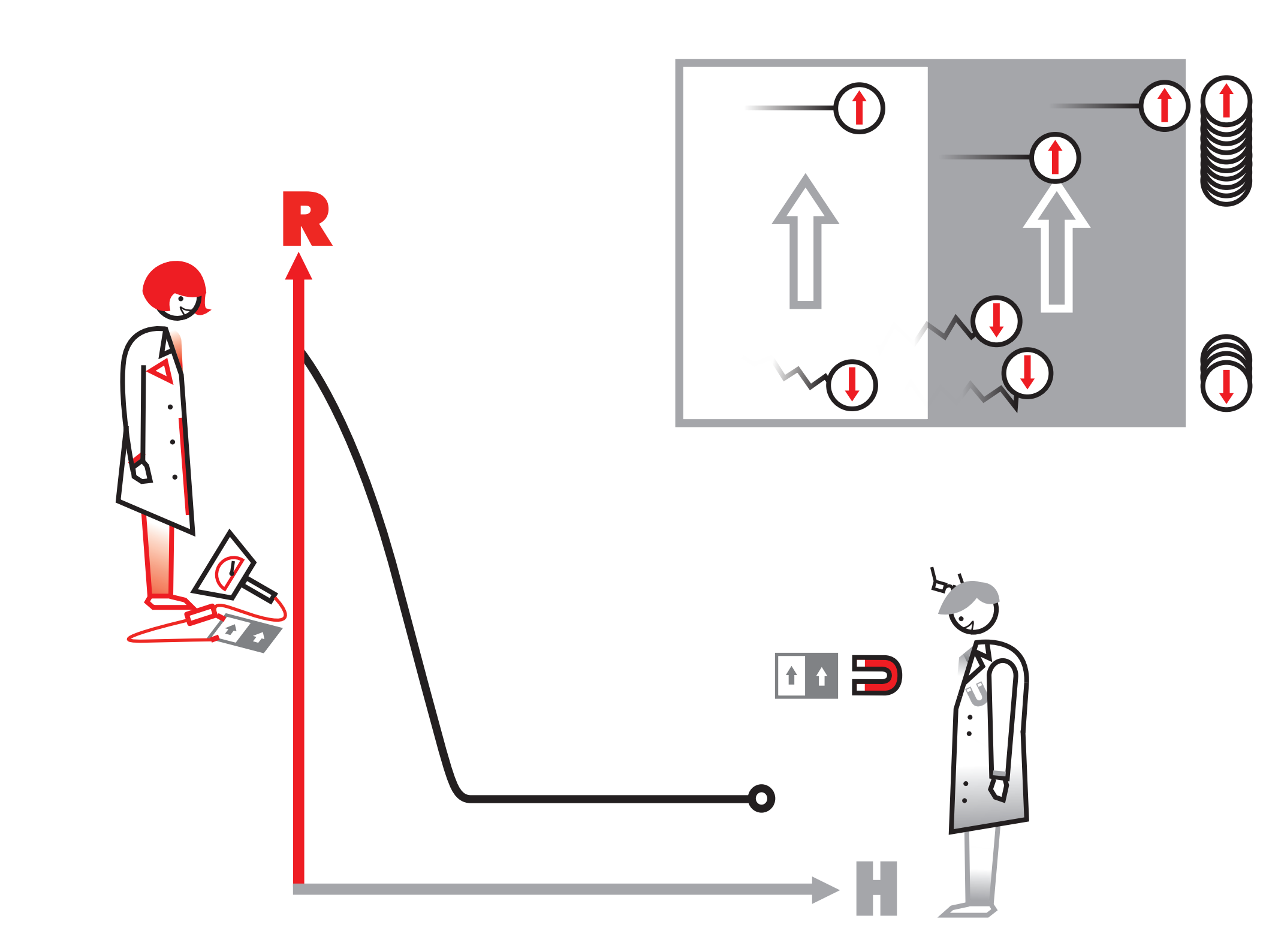
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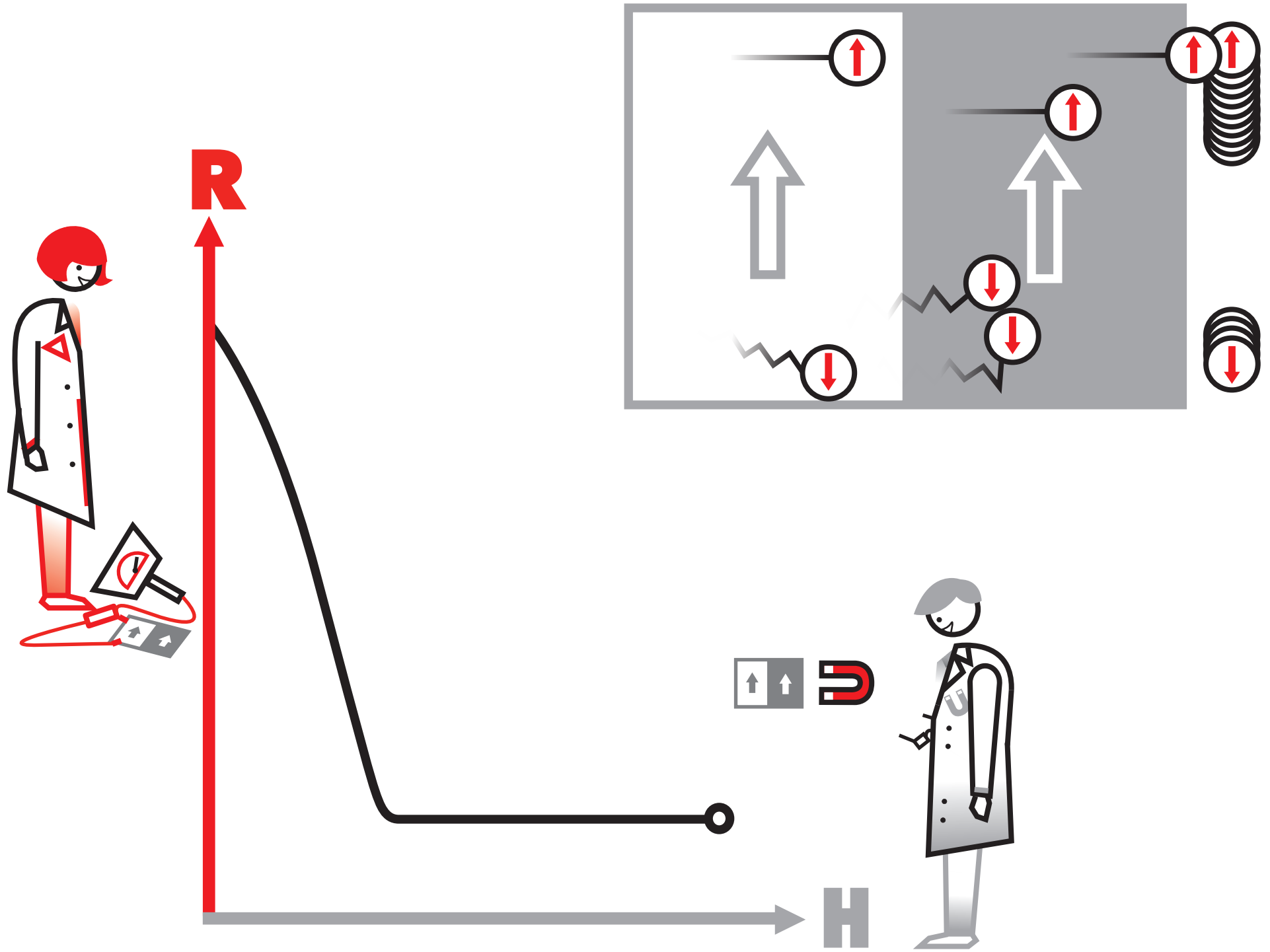
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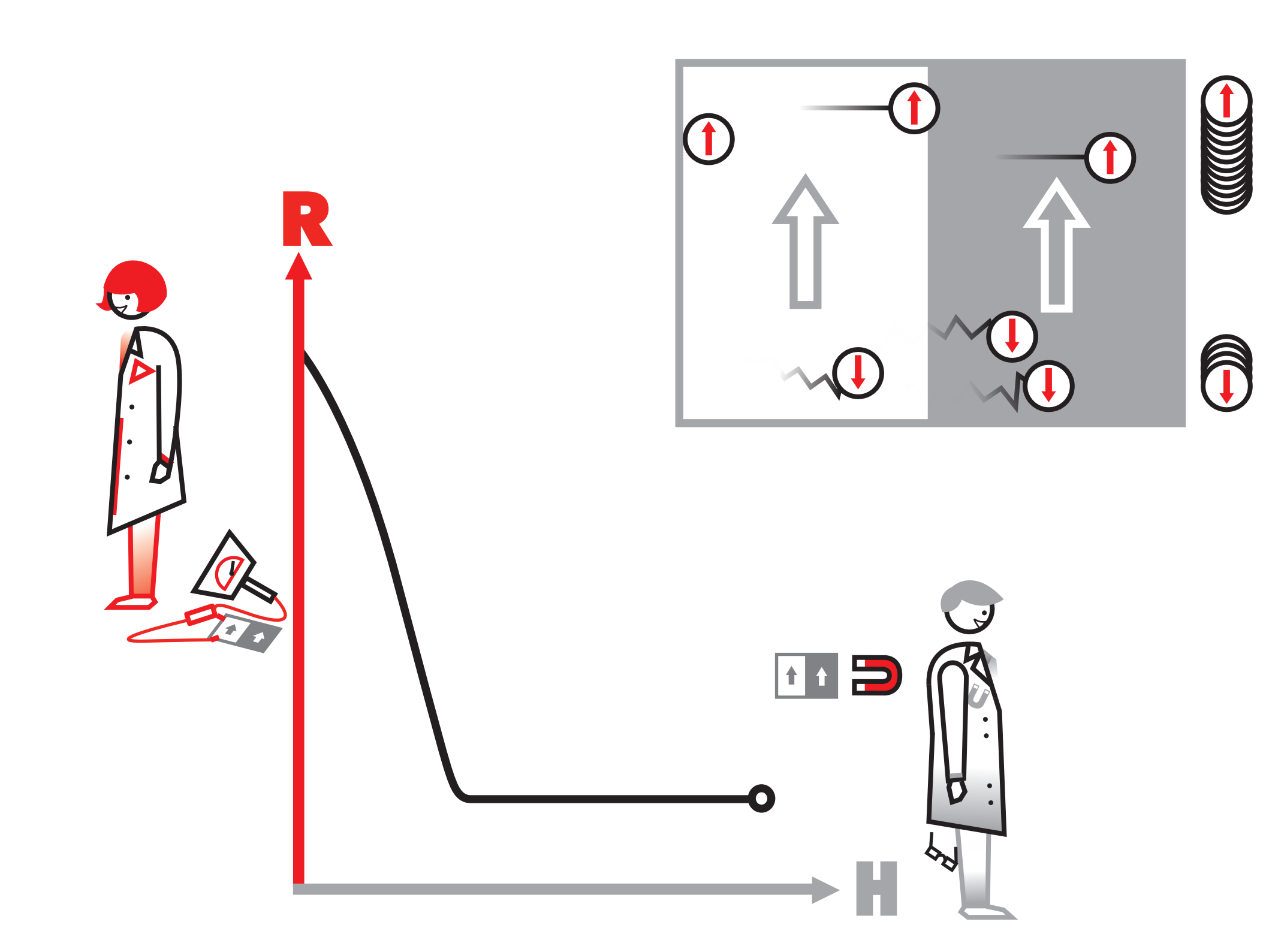
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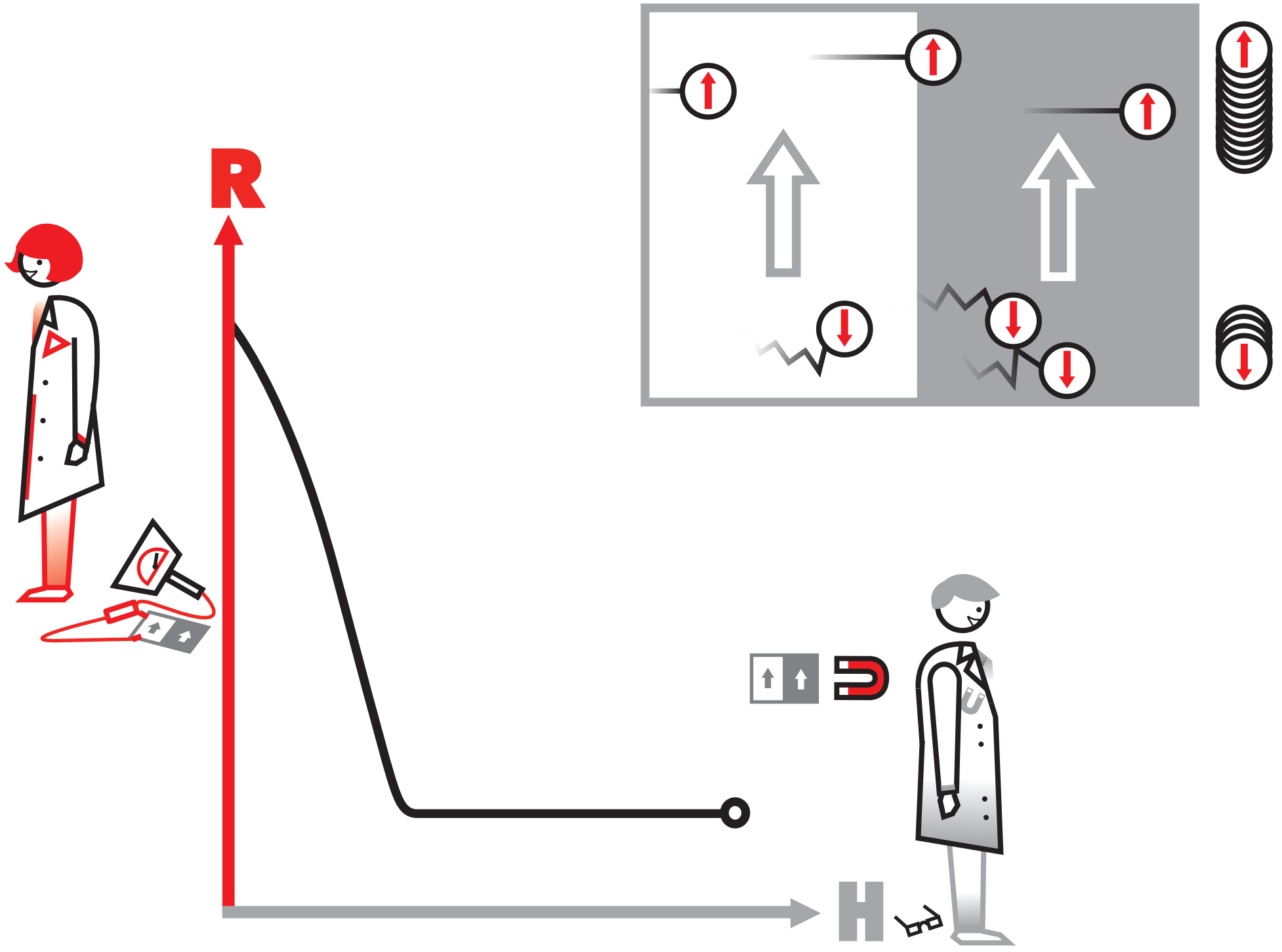
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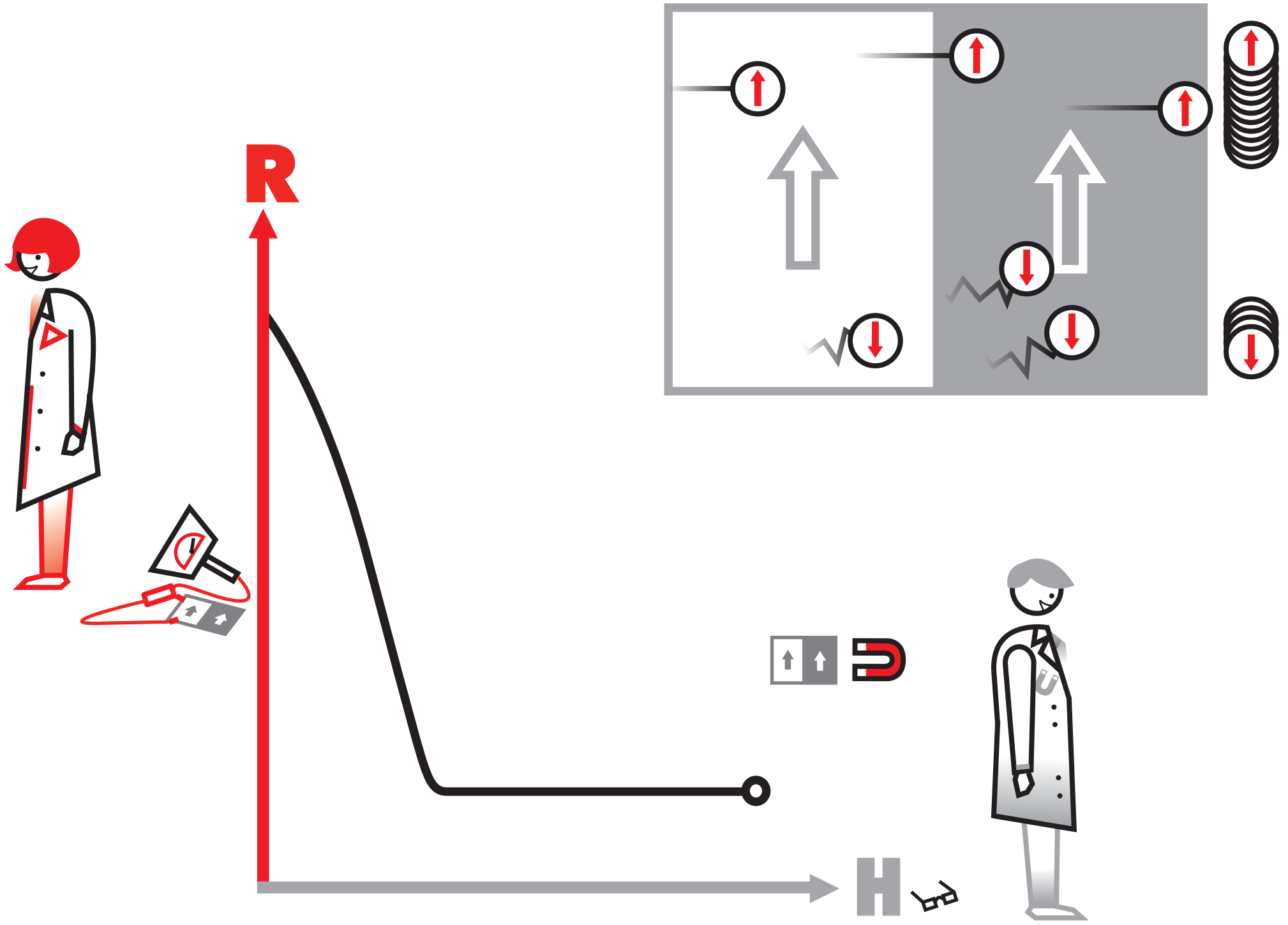
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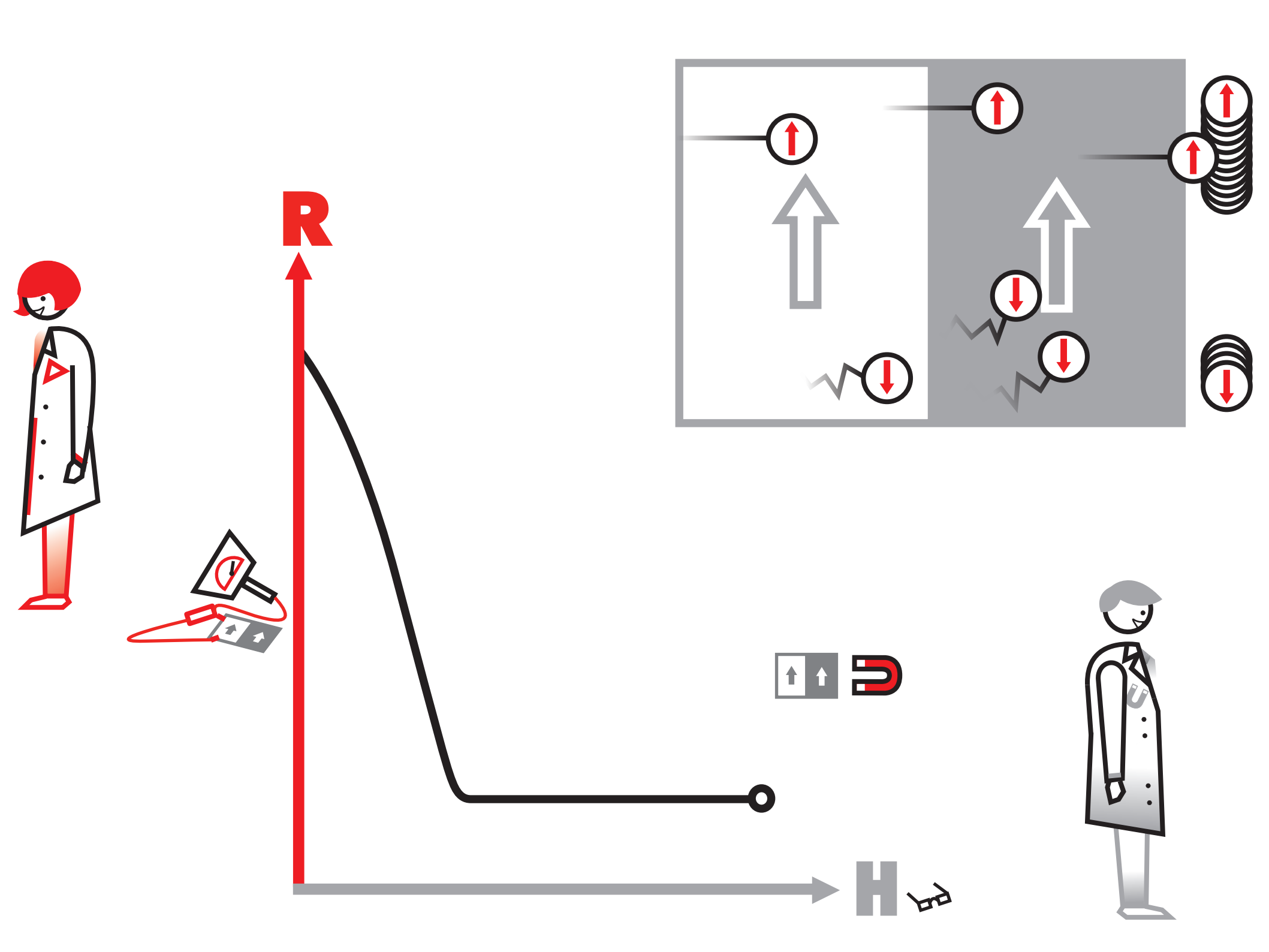
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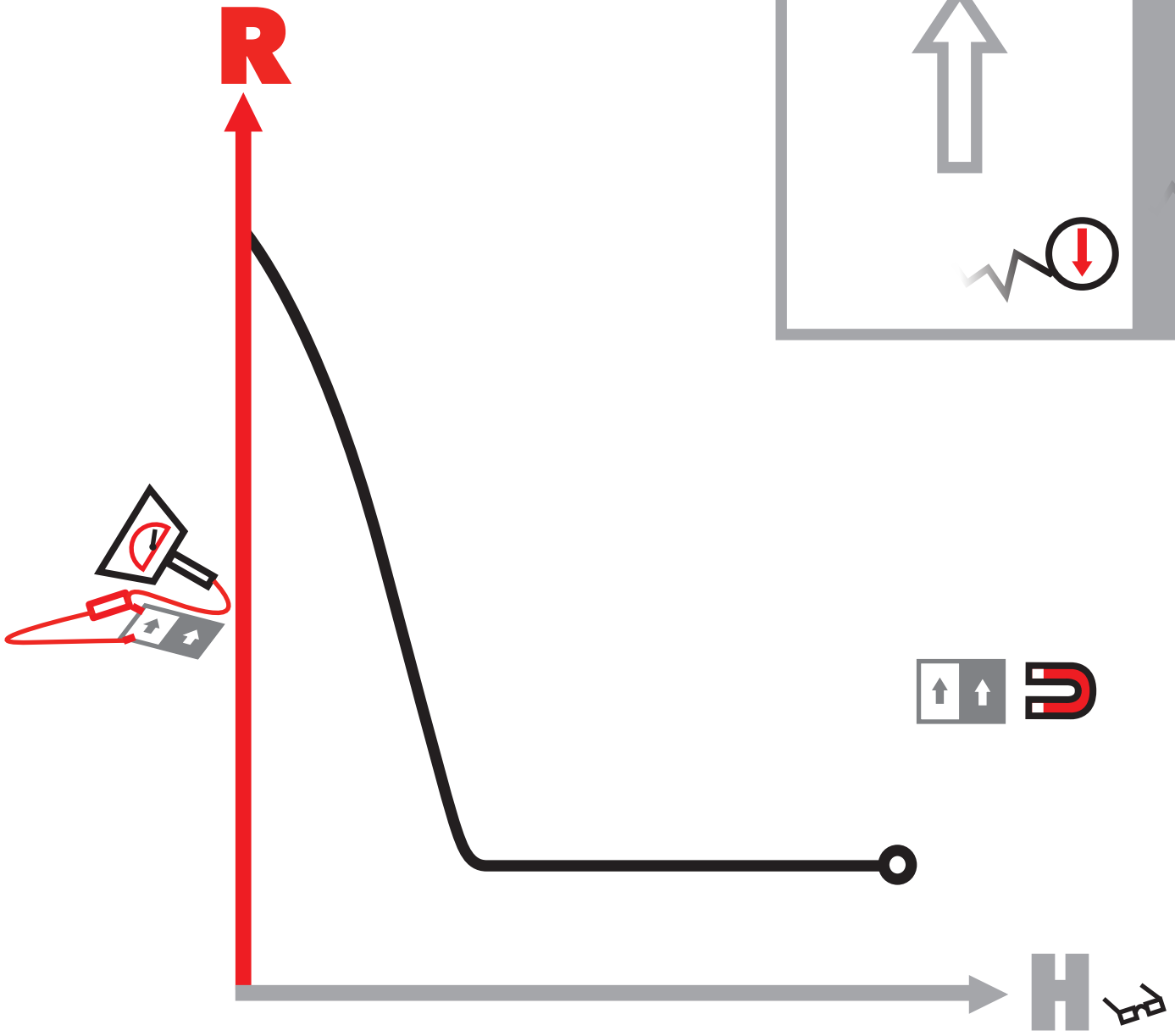
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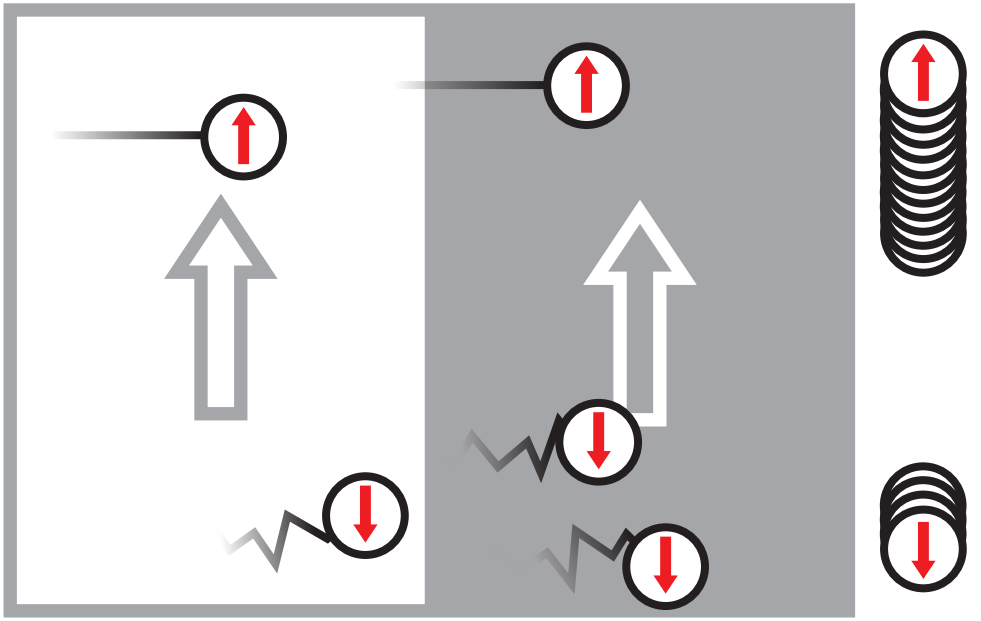

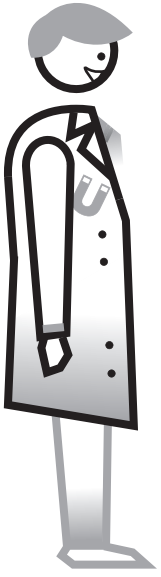

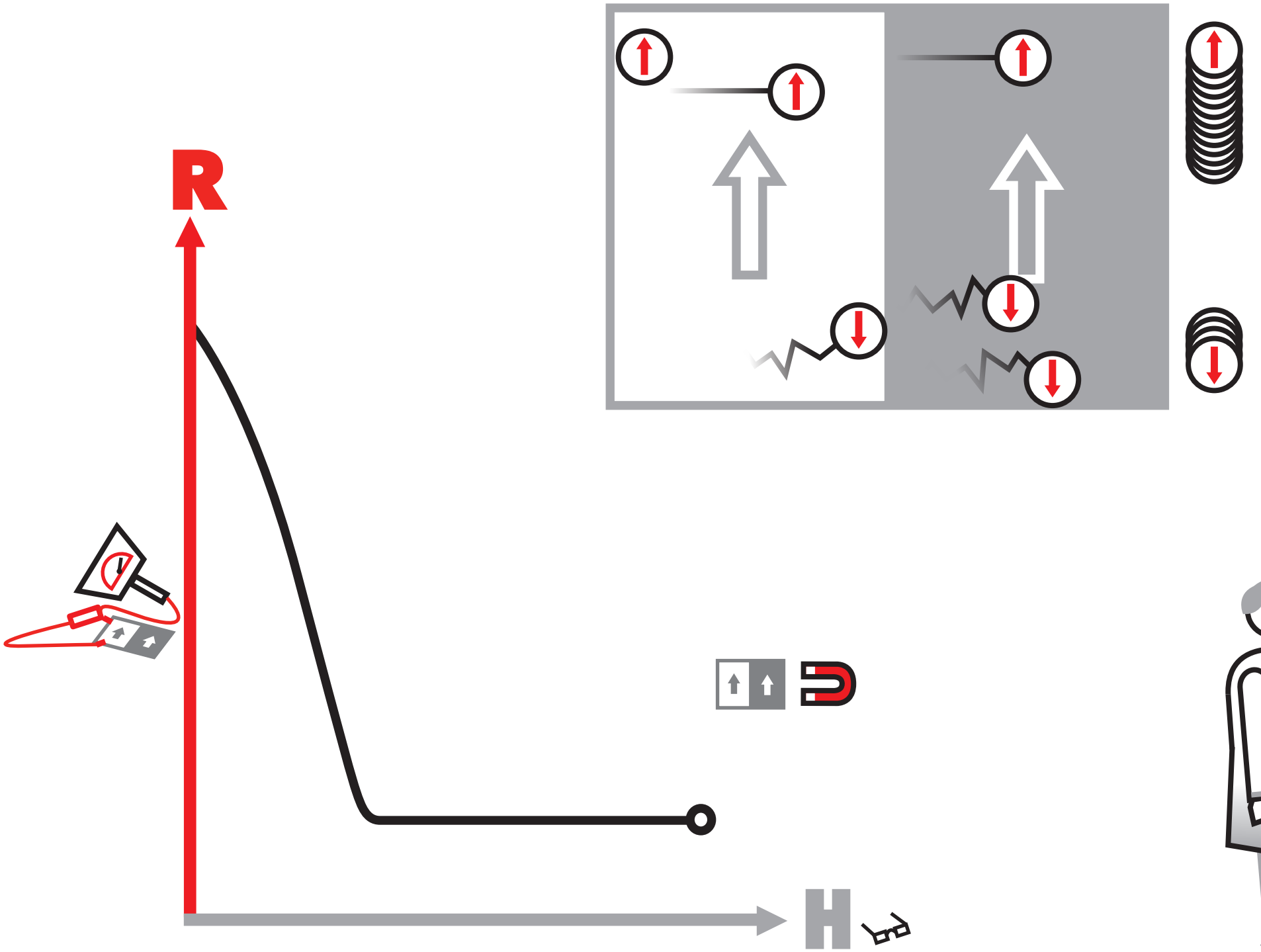
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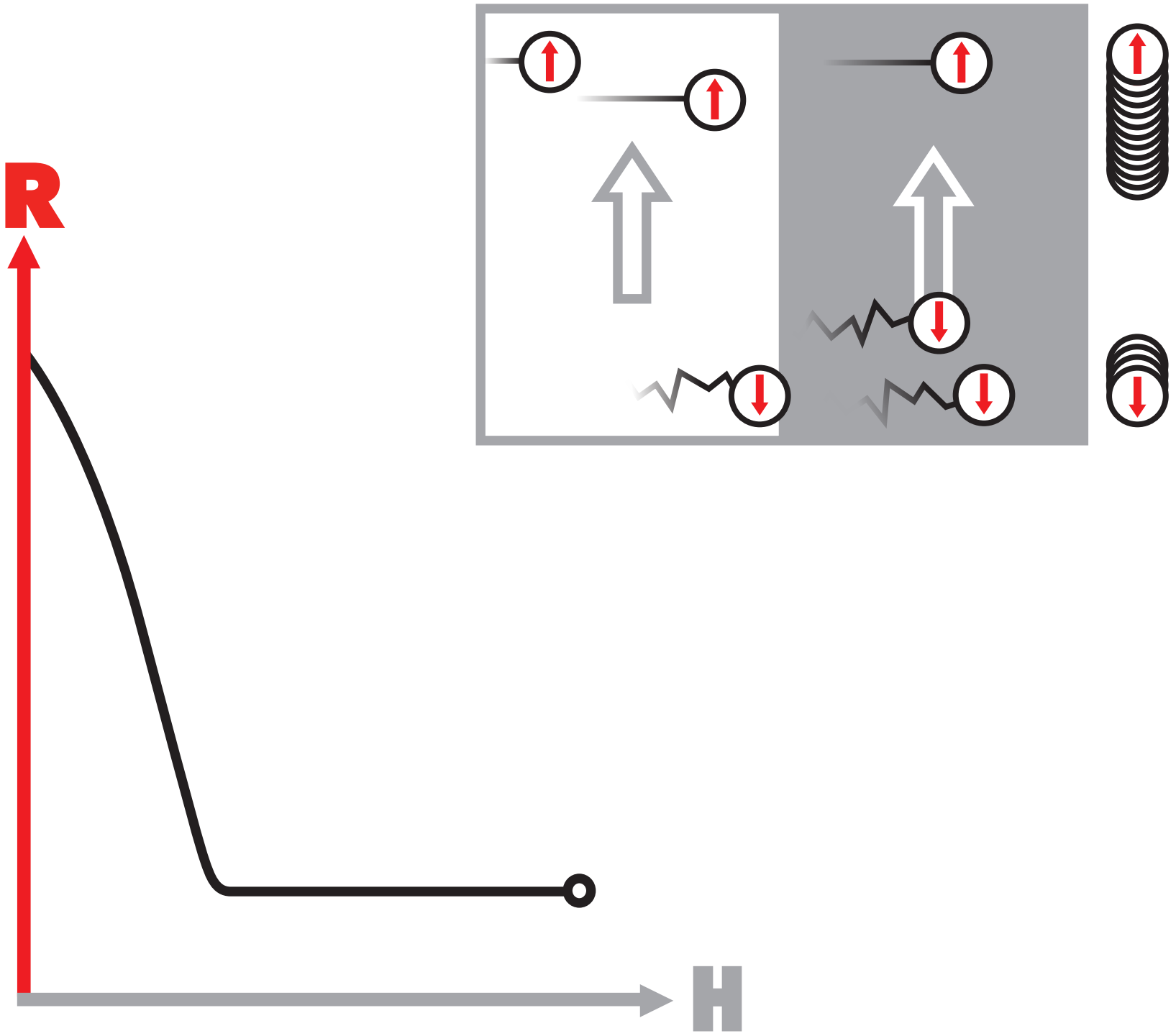
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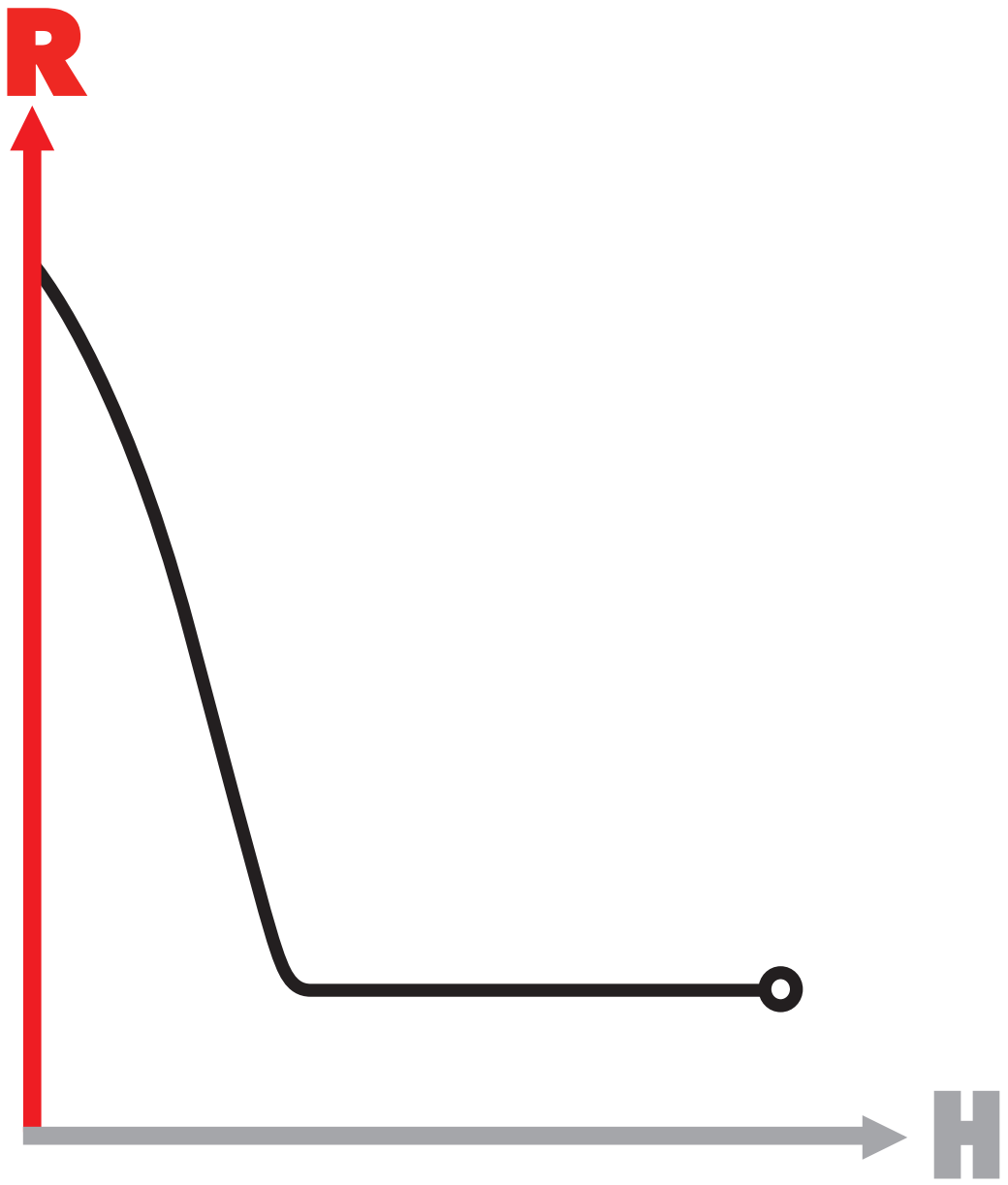
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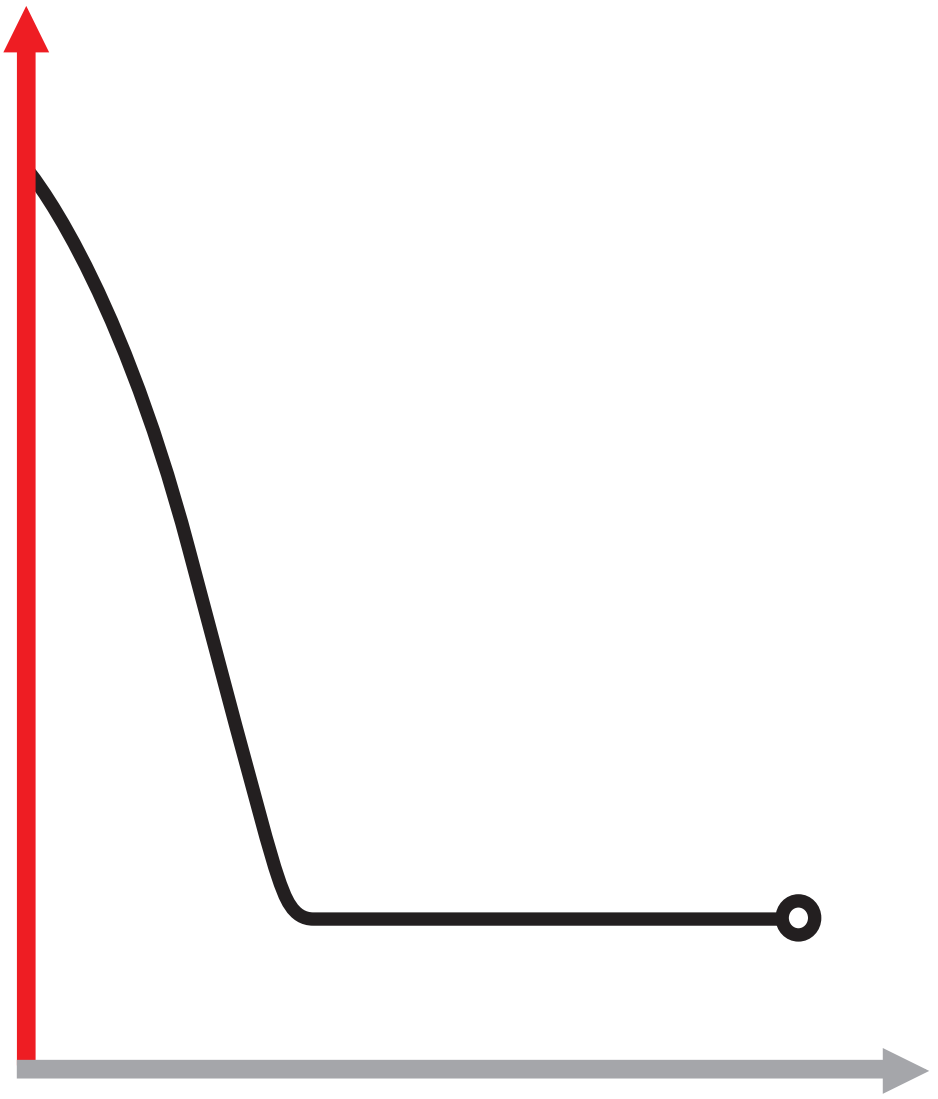

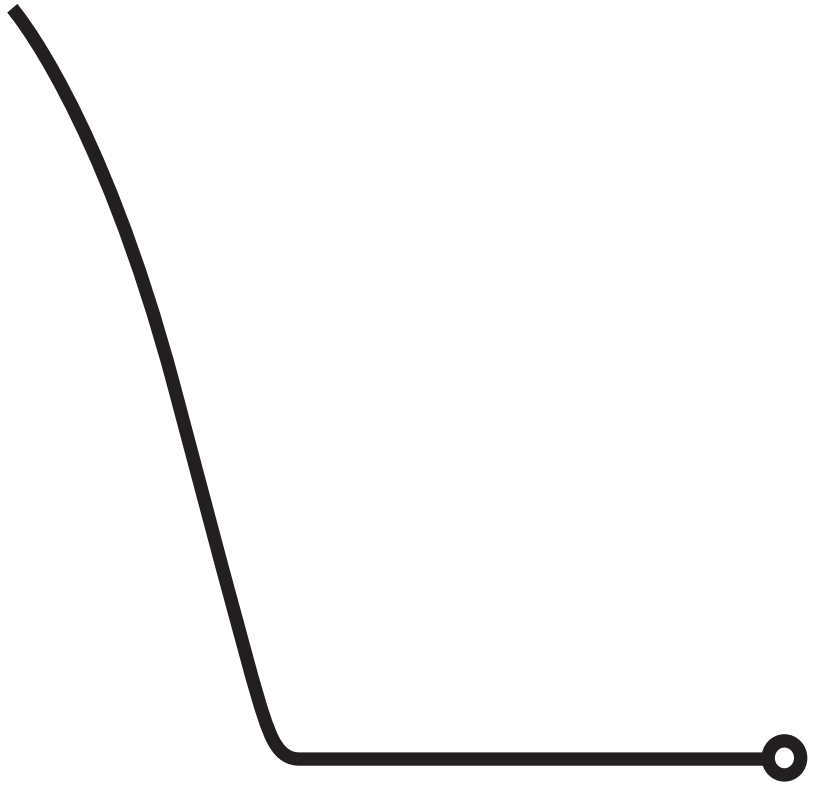

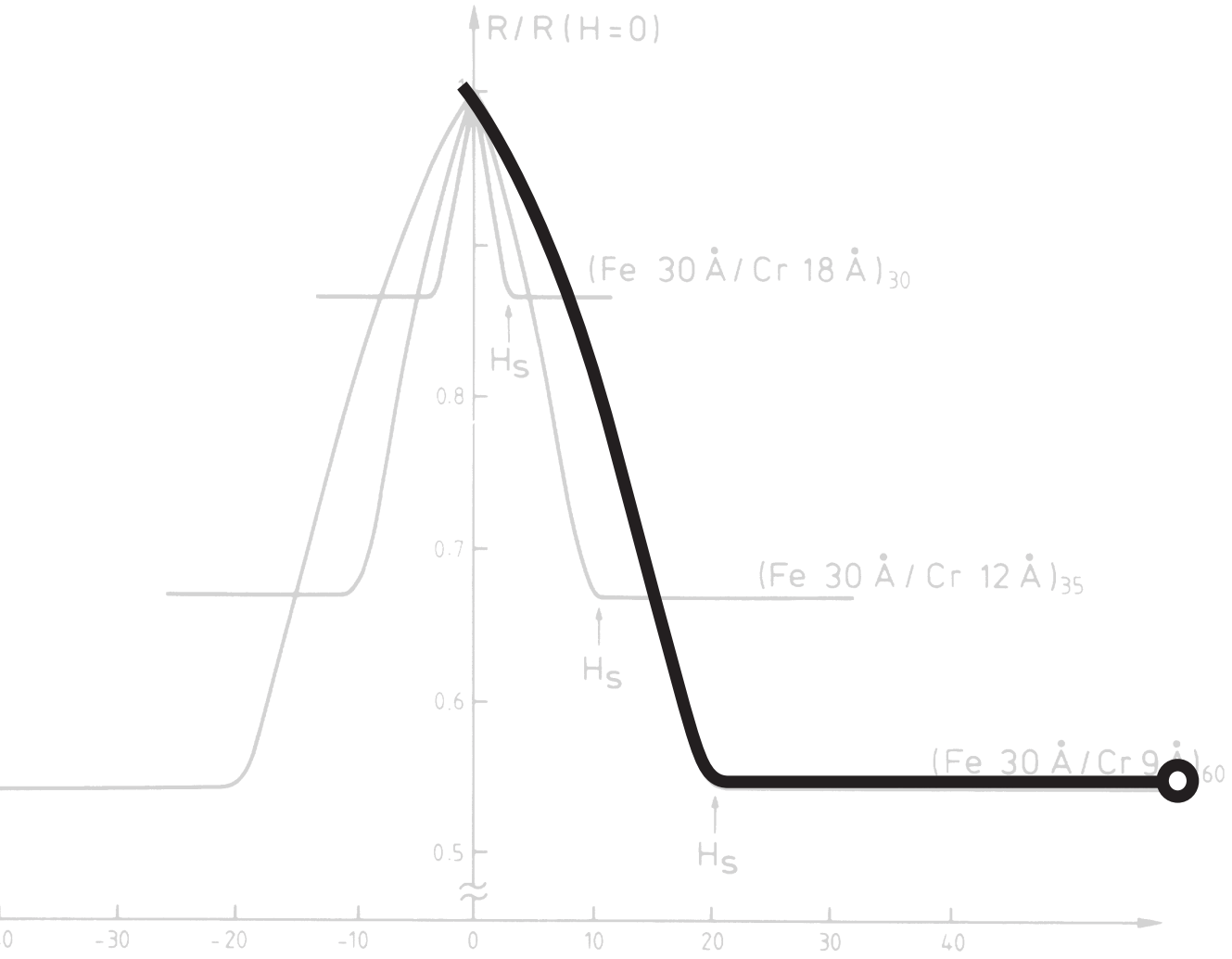
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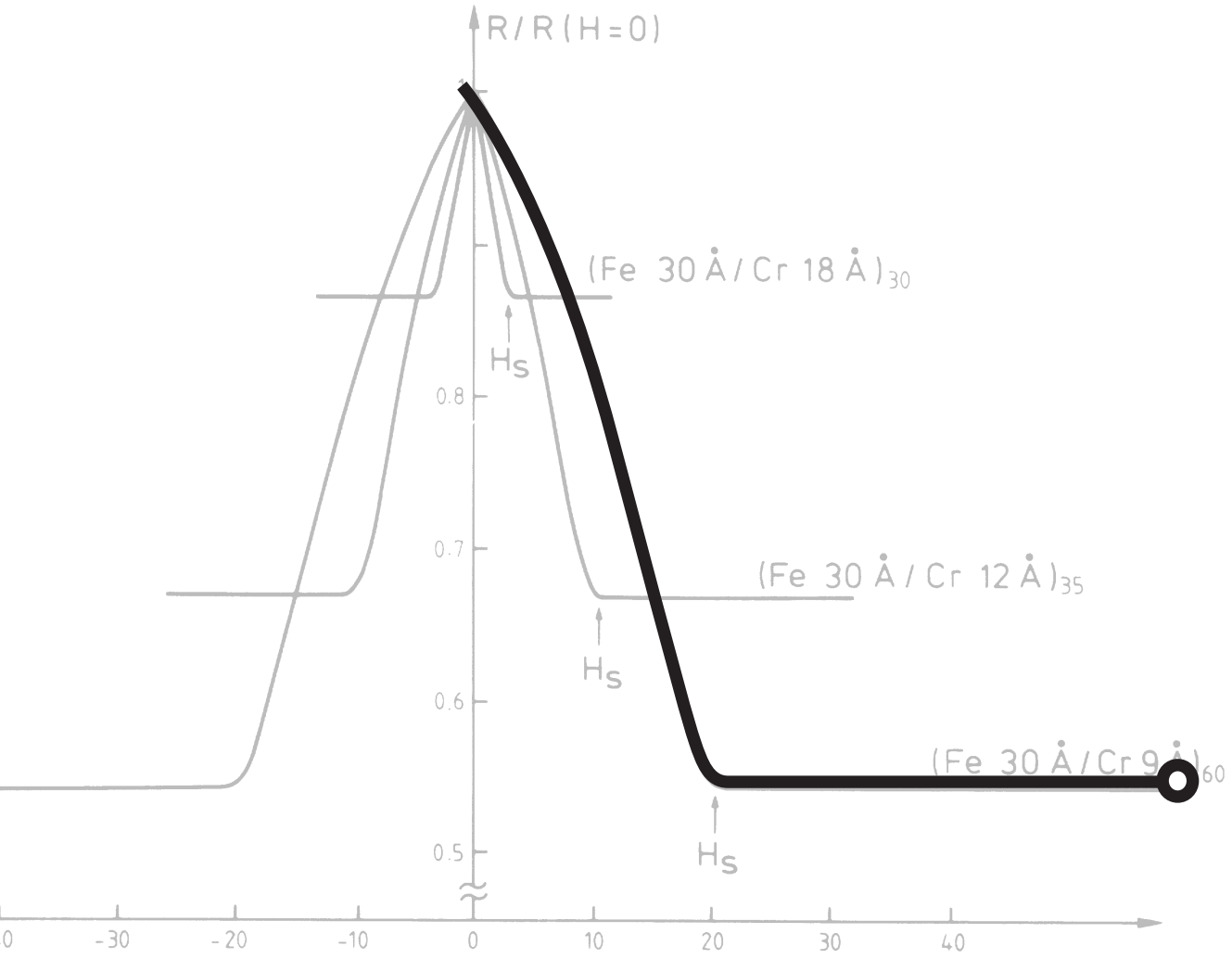
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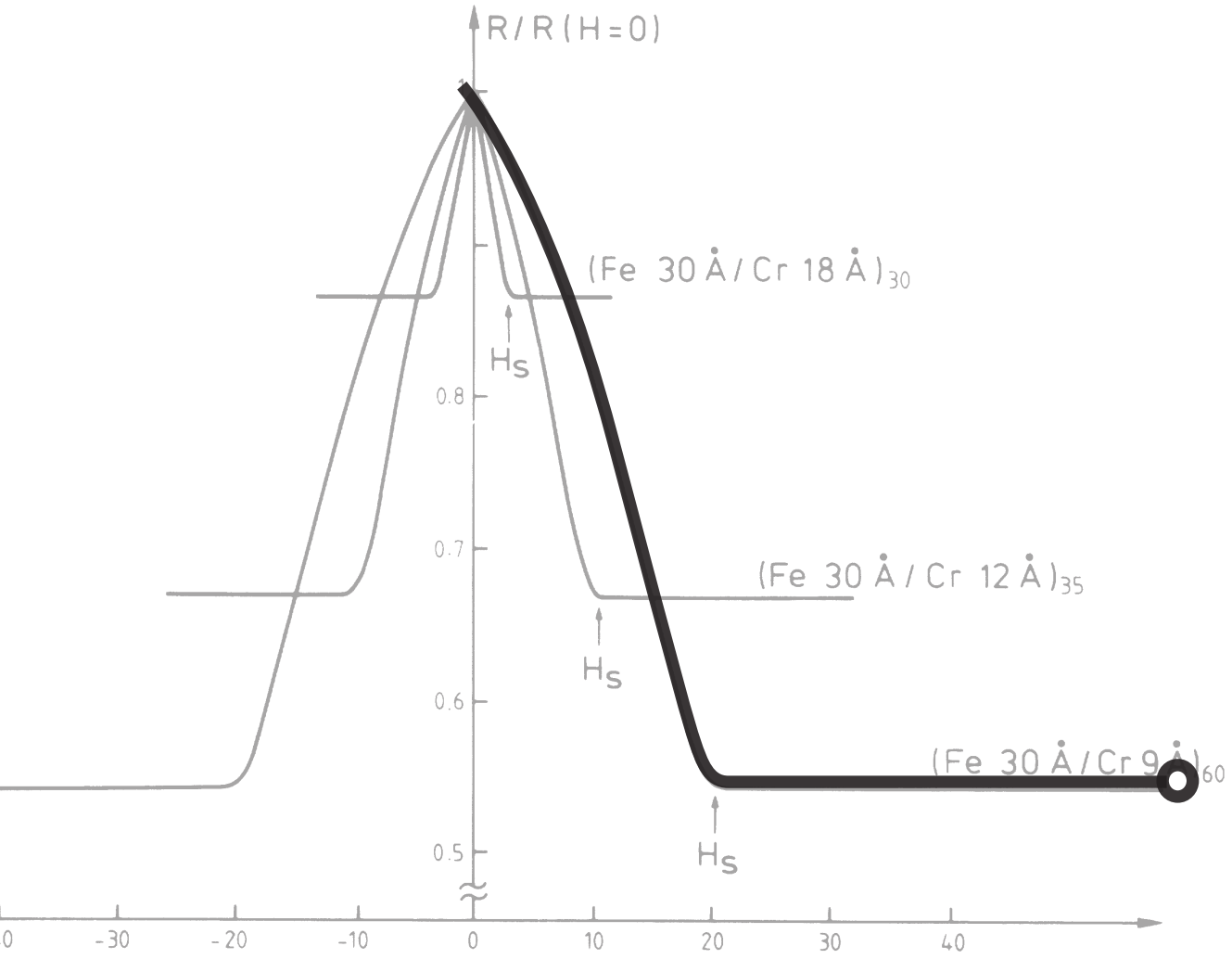
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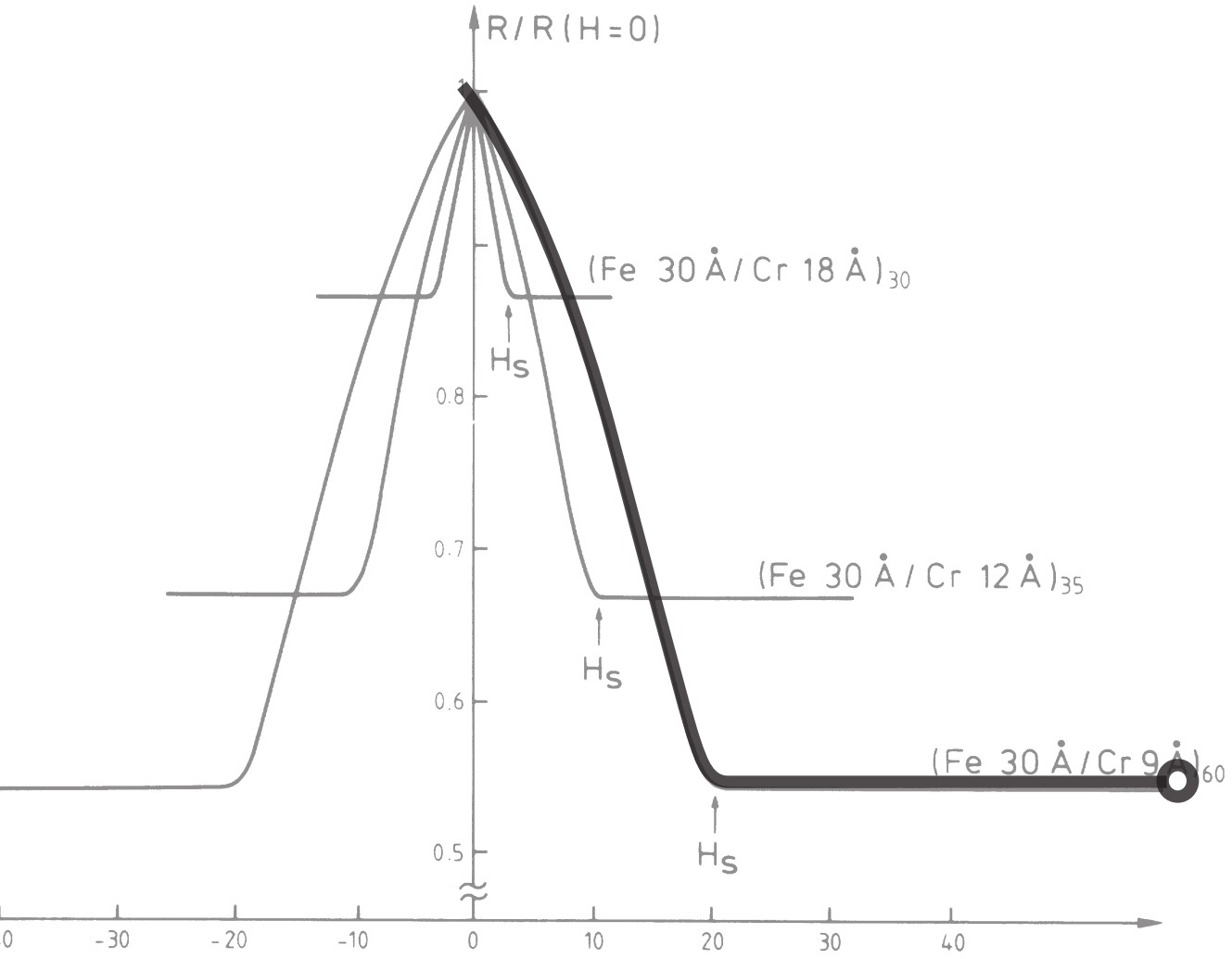
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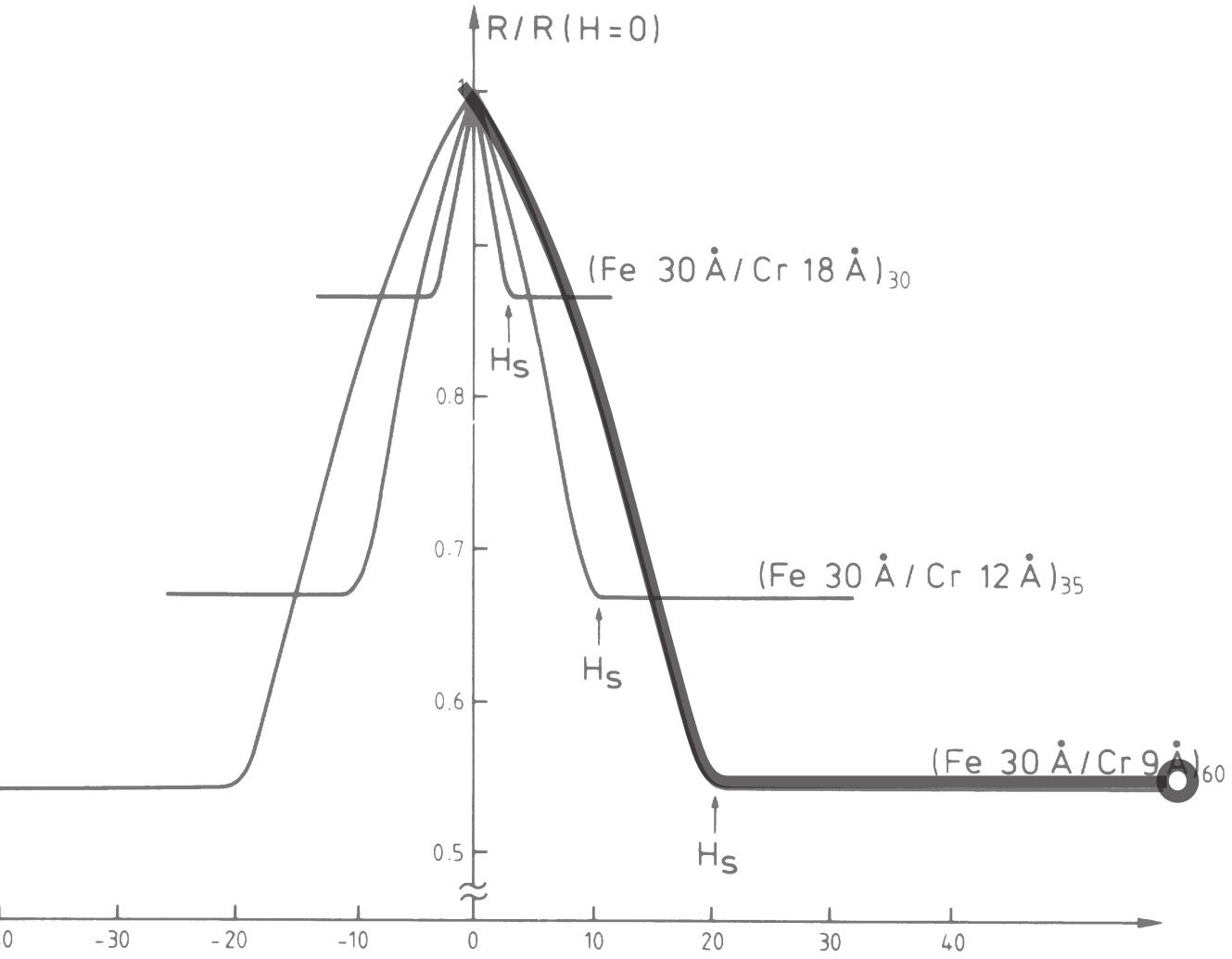
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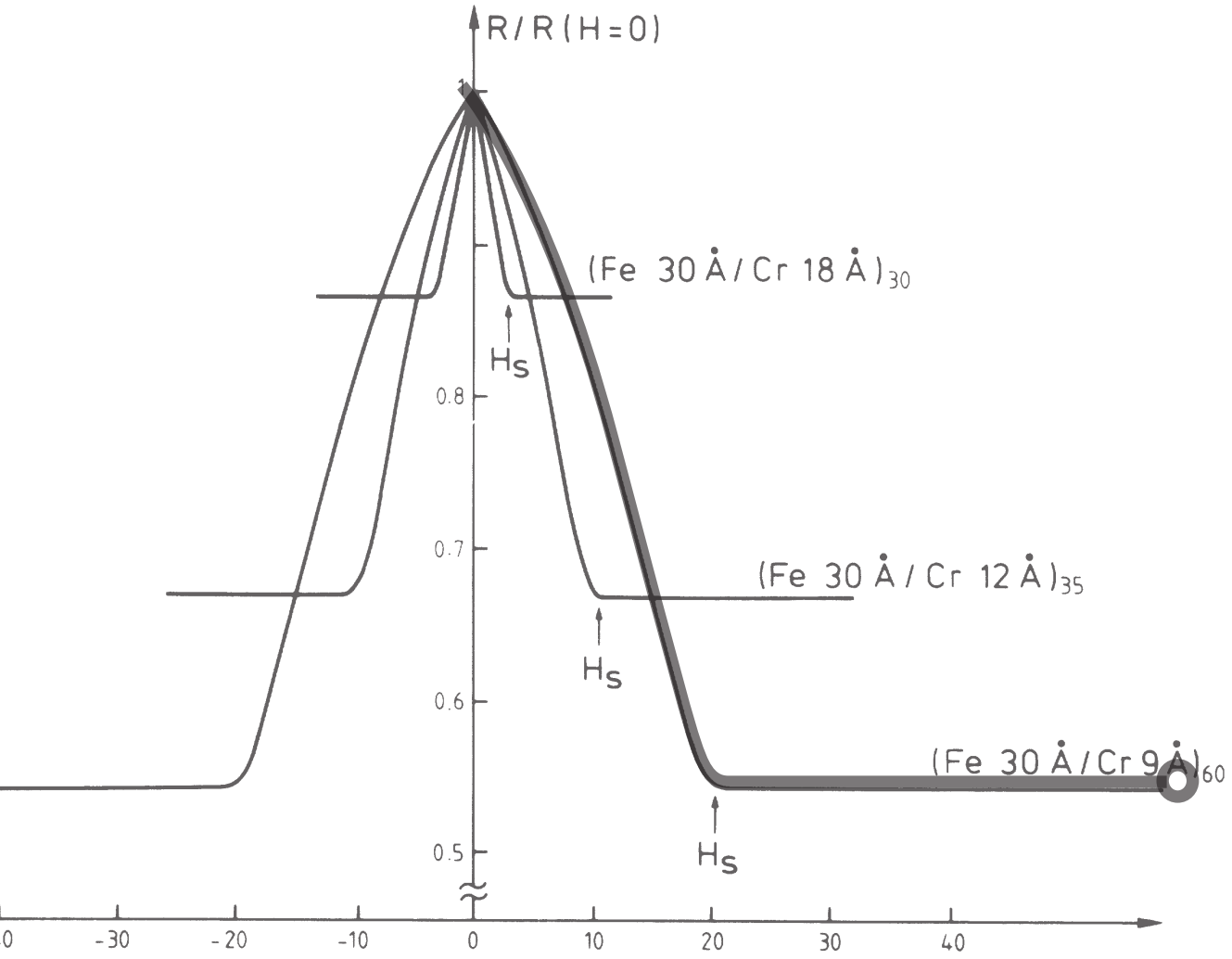
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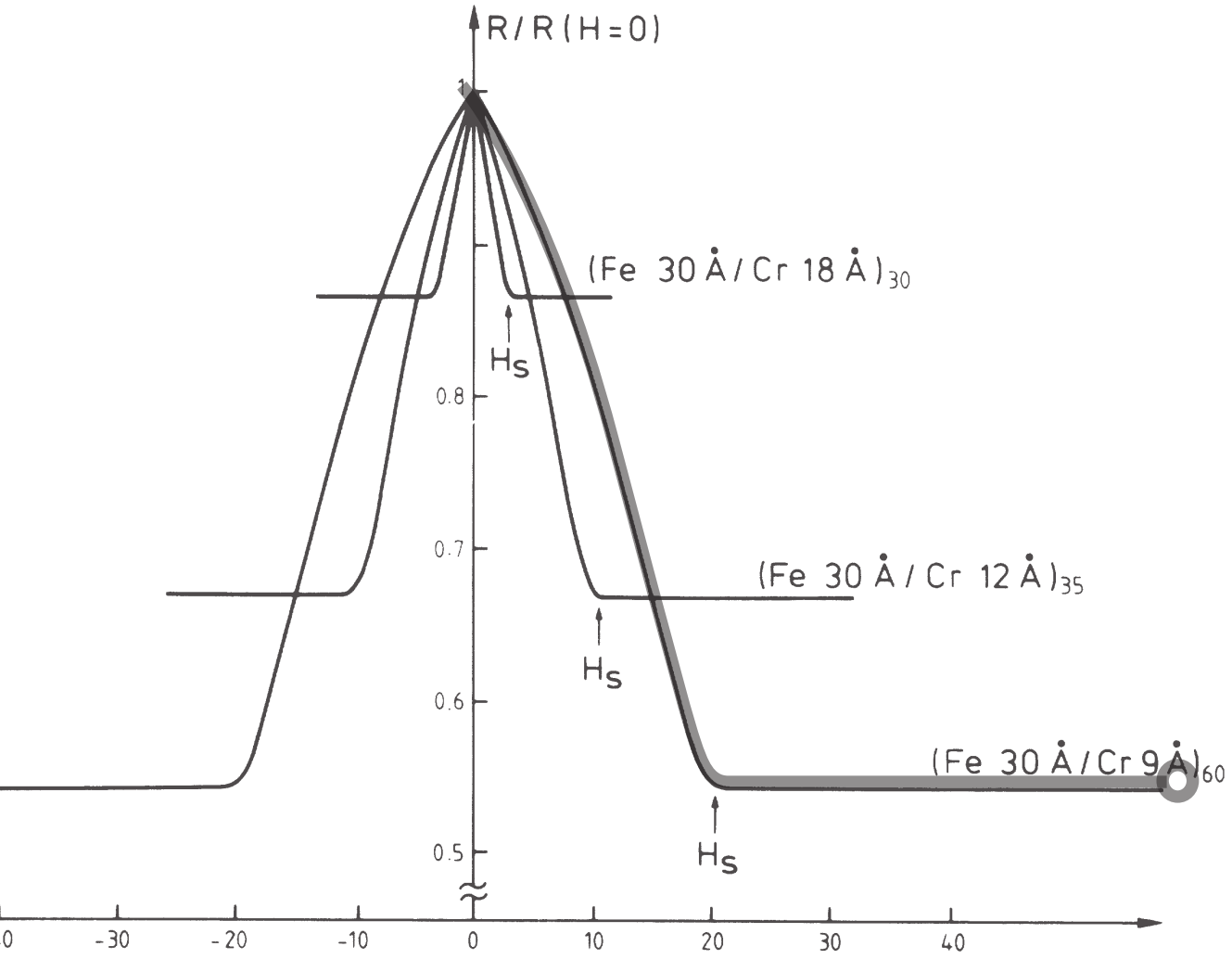
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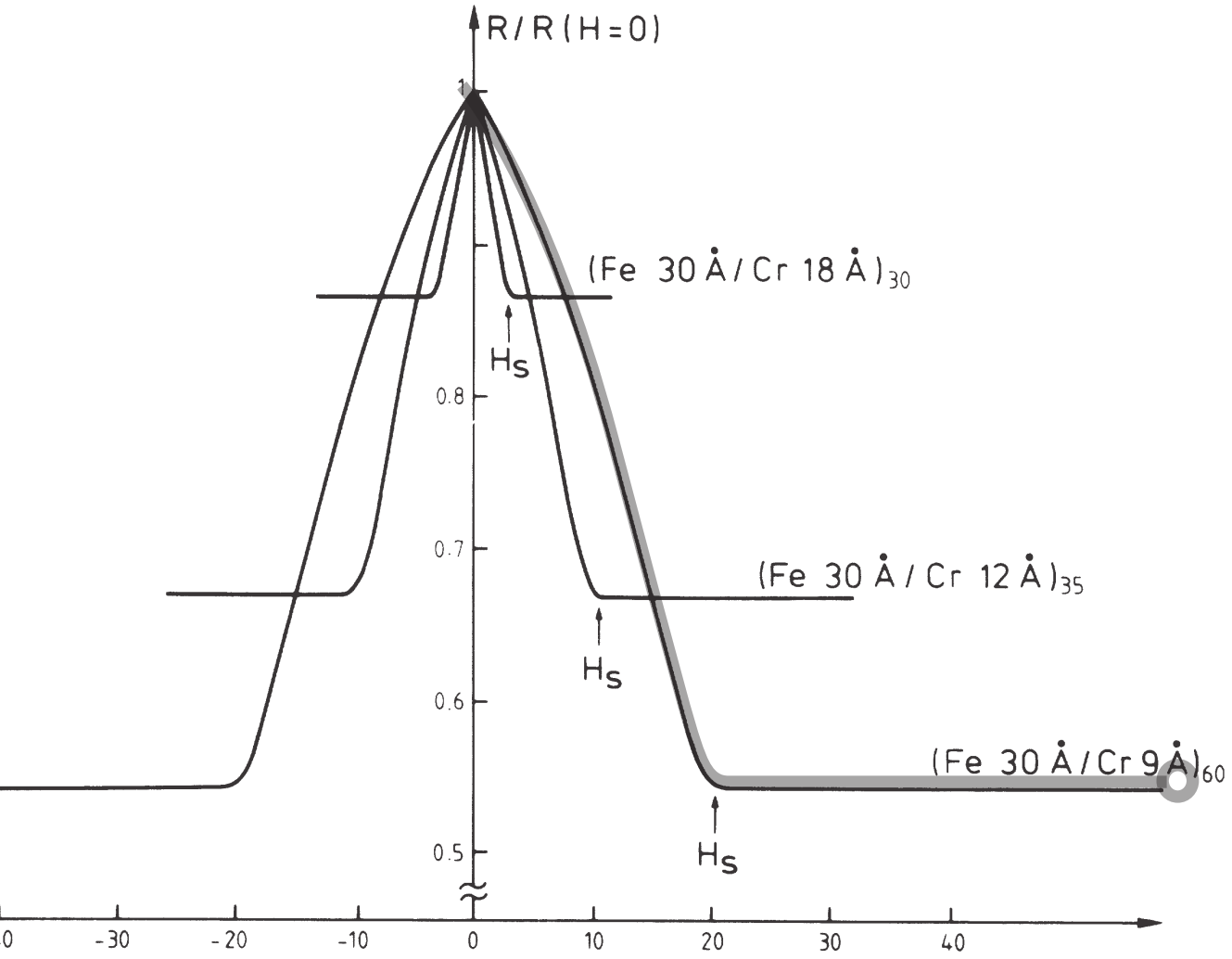
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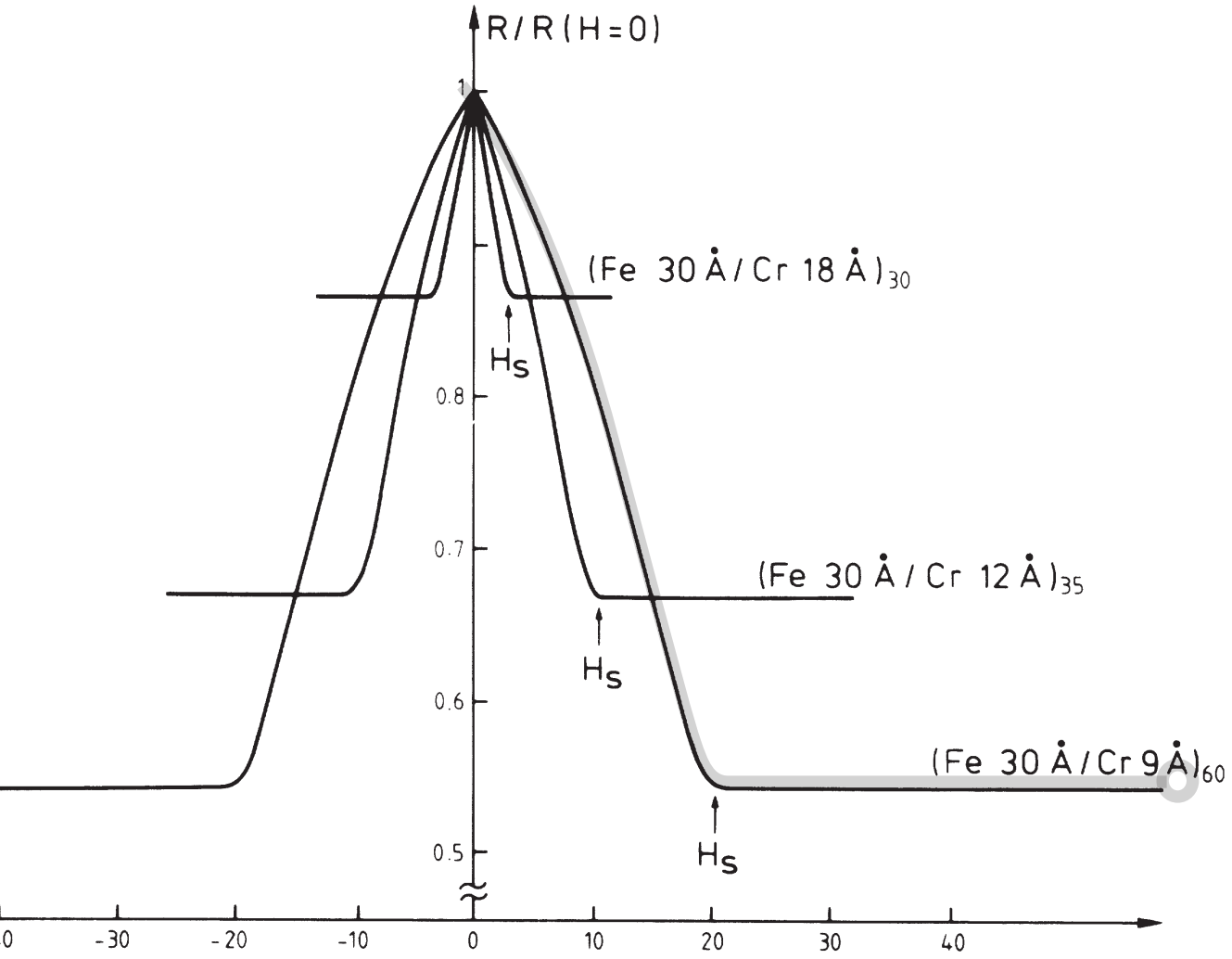
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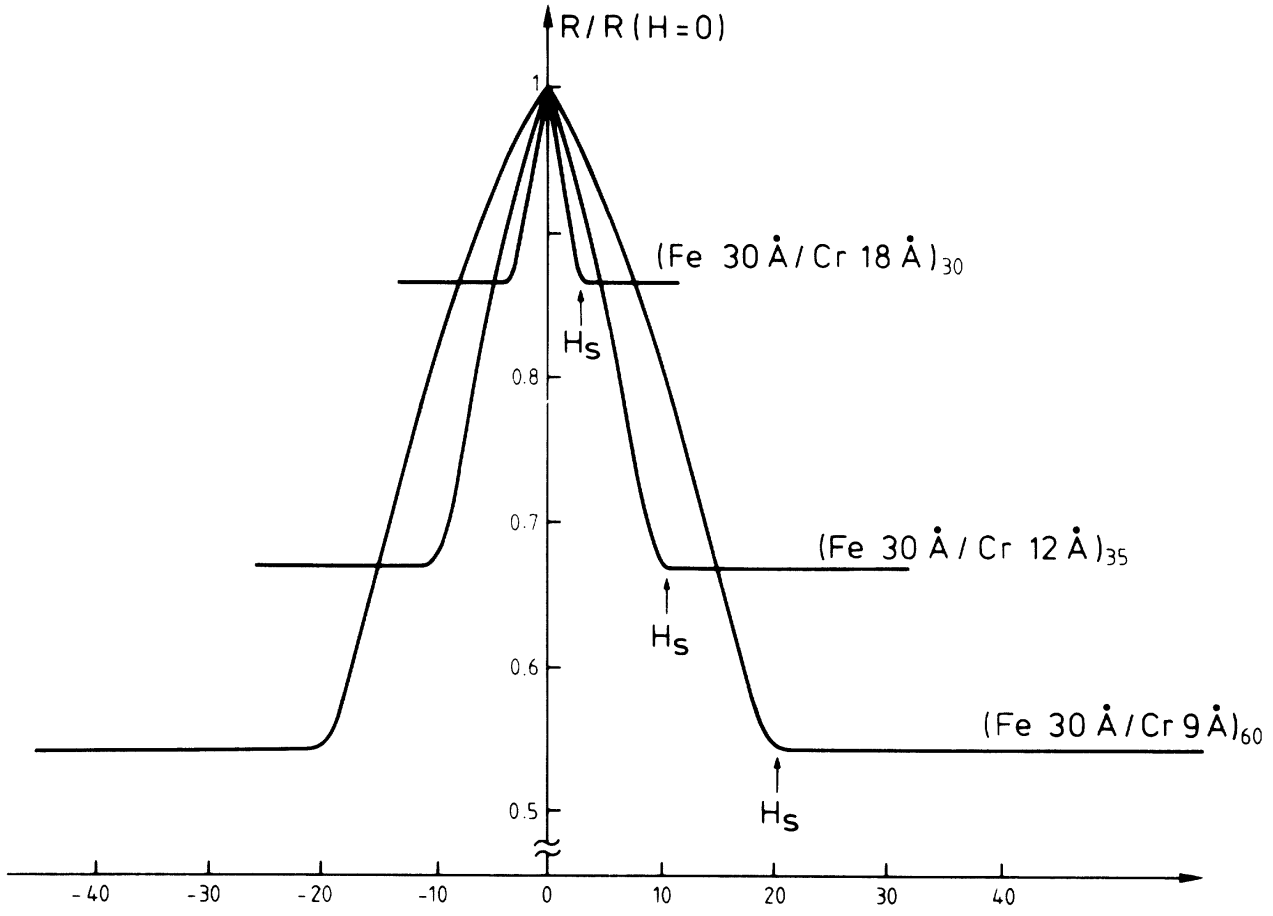
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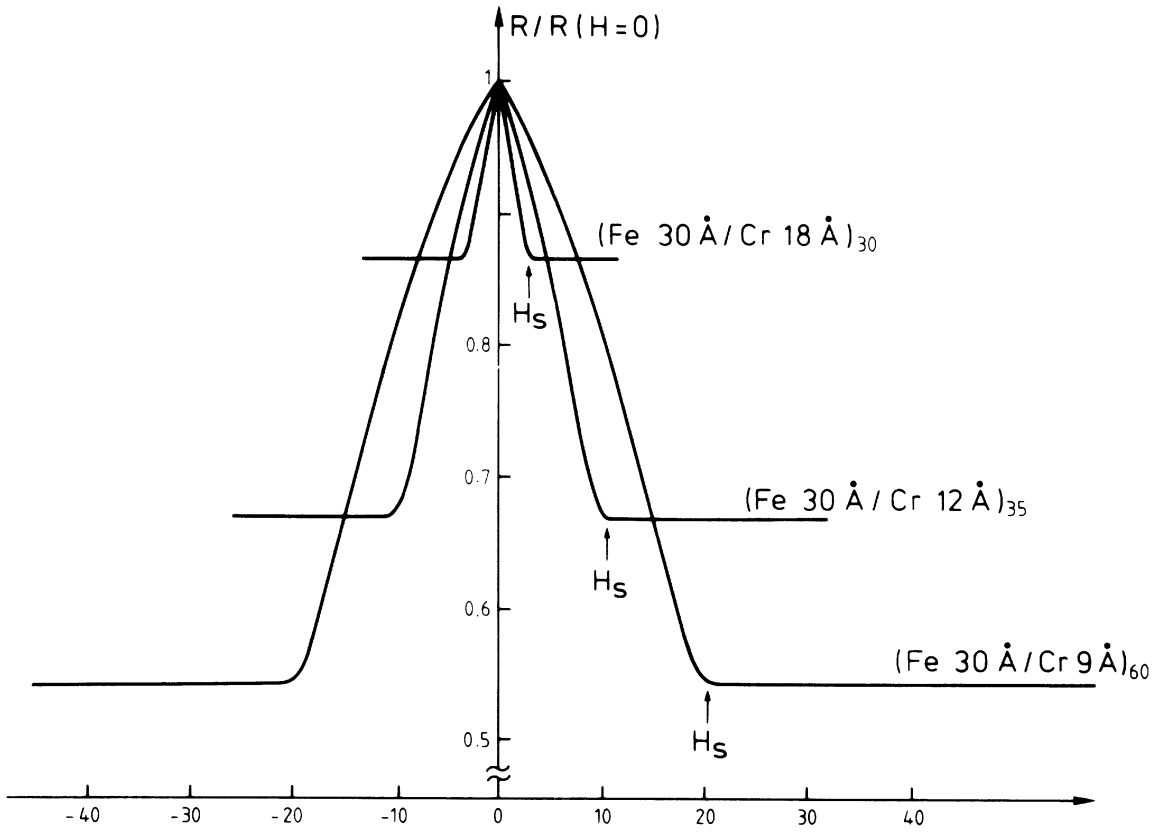
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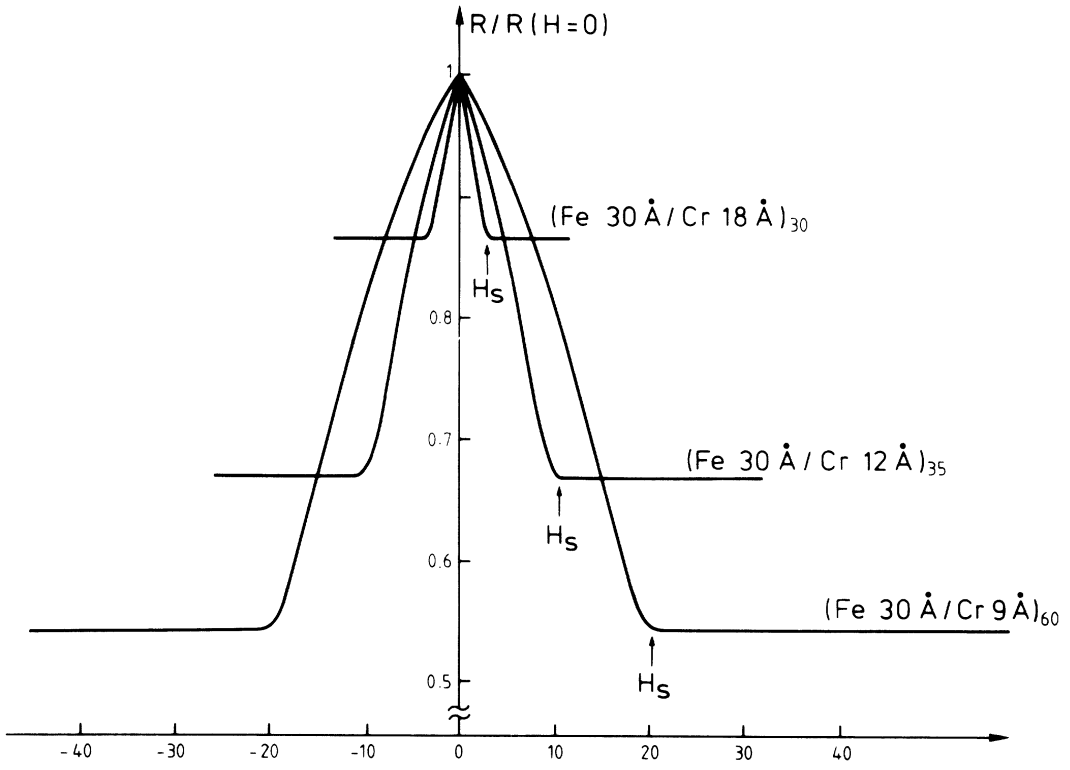
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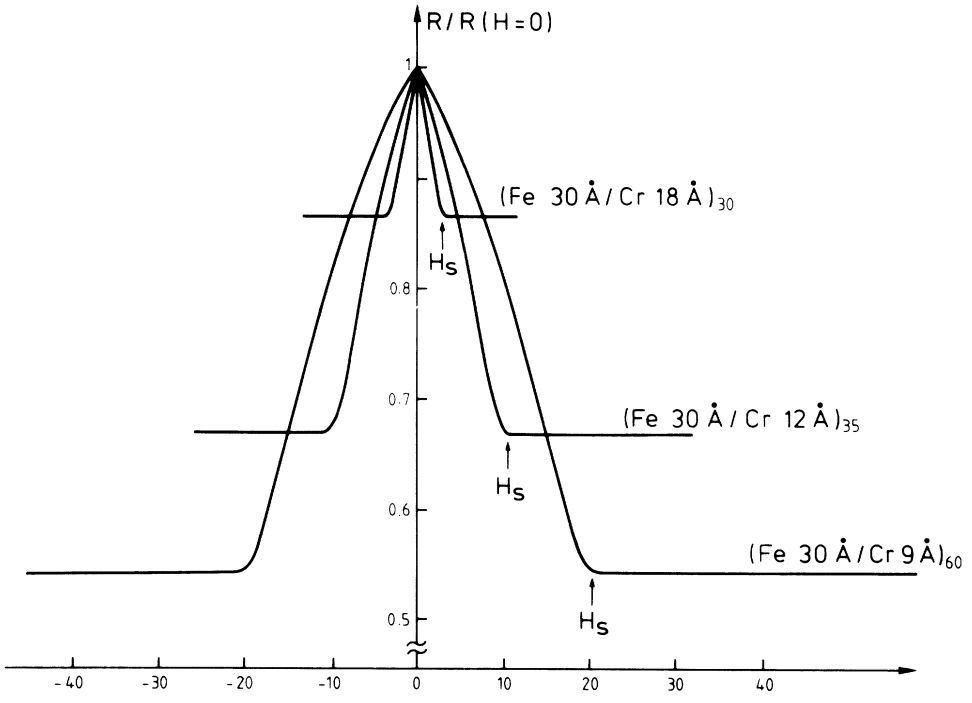
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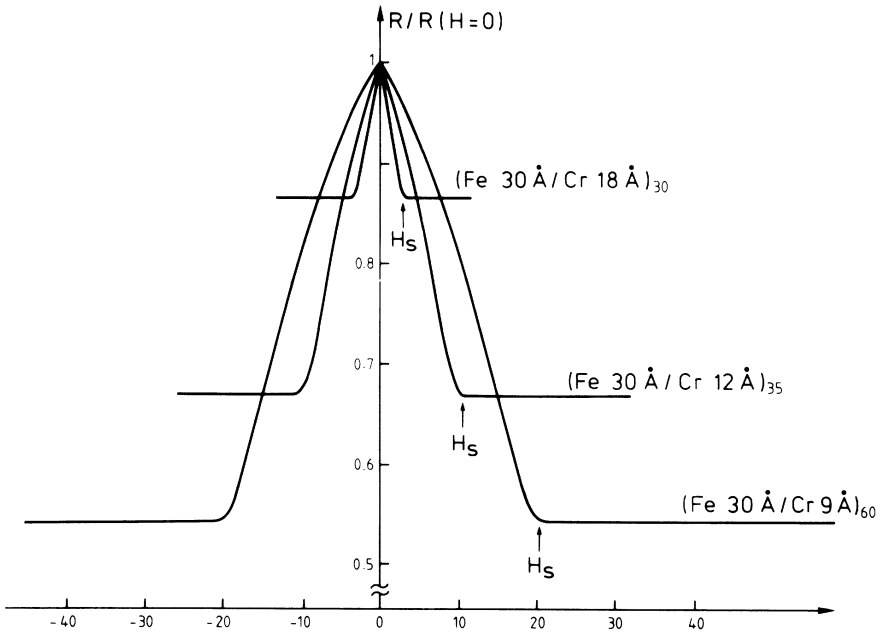
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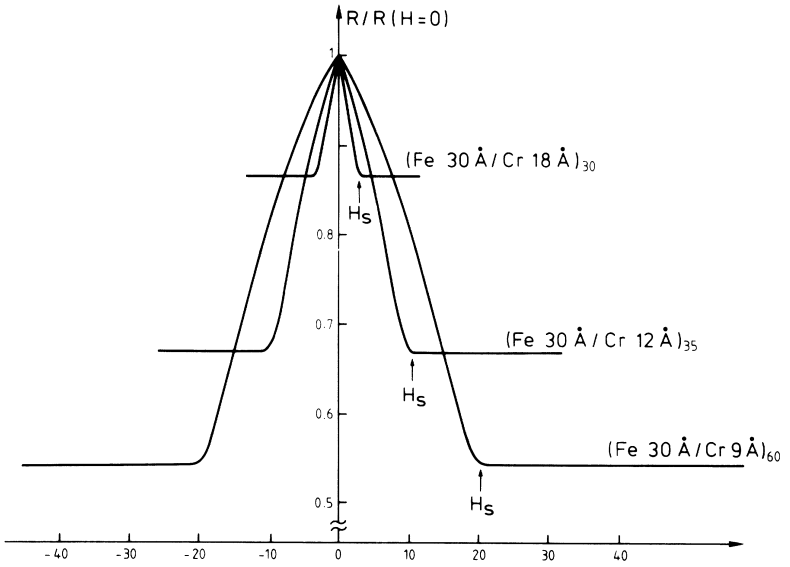
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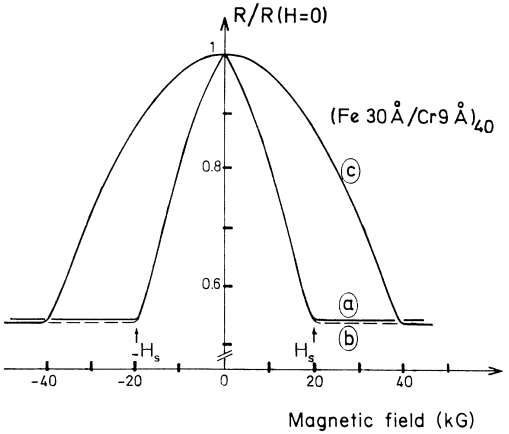

FIG. 2. Magnetoresistance of a [(Fe 30 Å)/(Cr 9 Å)]$_{40}$ superlattice of 4.2 K. The current is along [110] and the field is in the layer plane along the current direction (curve *a*), in the layer plane perpendicular to the current (curve *b*), or perpendicular to the layer plane (curve *c*). The resistivity at zero field is 54 $\mu\Omega$ cm. There is a small difference between the curves in increasing and decreasing field (hysteresis) that we have not represented in the figure. The superlattice is covered by a 100-Å Ag protection layer. This means that the magnetoresistance of the superlattice alone should be slightly higher.

of Grünberg *et al.*[4] and by the spin-polarized low-energy electron-diffraction experiments of Carbone and Alvarado.[10] The AF coupling between the Fe layers has been ascribed to indirect exchange interactions through the Cr layers, but a theoretical model of these interactions is still lacking.[4,9]

The magnetoresistance of the Fe/Cr superlattices has been studied by a classical ac technique on small rectangular samples. Examples of magnetoresistance curves at 4.2 K are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The resistance decreases during the magnetization process and becomes practically constant when the magnetization is saturated. The curves *a* and *b* in Fig. 2 are obtained for applied fields in the plane of layers in the longitudinal and transverse directions, respectively. The field H_S is the field needed to overcome the AF couplings and to saturate the magnetization (compare with Fig. 1). In contrast, fields applied perpendicularly to the layers (curve *c*) have to overcome not only the AF coupling but also the magnetic anisotropy, so that the magnetoresistance is saturated at a field higher than H_S.

The most remarkable result exhibited in Figs. 2 and 3 is the huge value of the magnetoresistance. For $t_{Cr}=9$ Å and $T=4.2$ K, see Fig. 2, there is almost a factor of 2 between the resistivities at zero field and in the saturated state, respectively (in absolute value, the resistivity change is about 23 $\mu\Omega$ cm). By comparison of the results for three different samples in Fig. 3, it can be seen

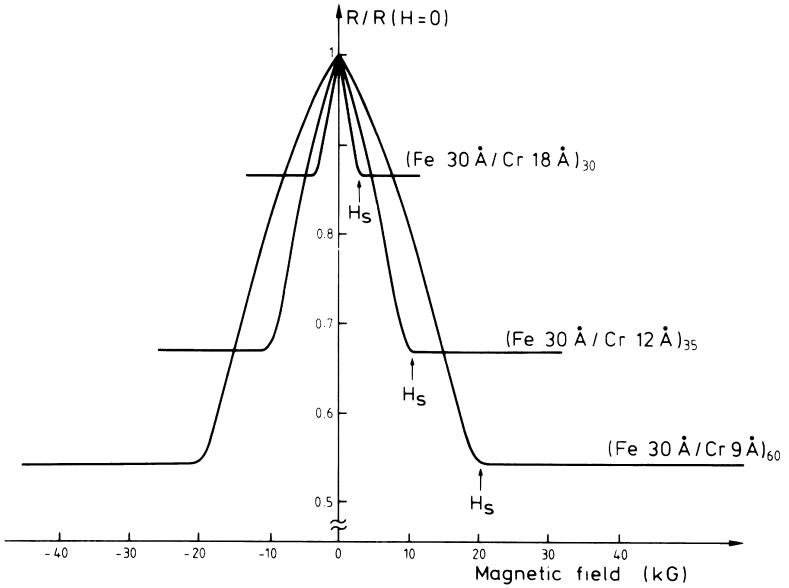

FIG. 3 Magnetoresistance of three Fe/Cr superlattices at 4.2 K. The current and the applied field are along the same [110] axis in the plane of the layers.

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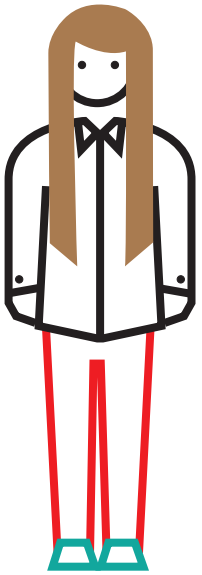

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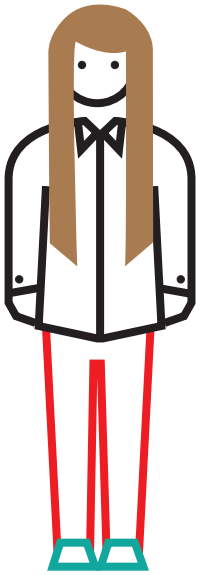

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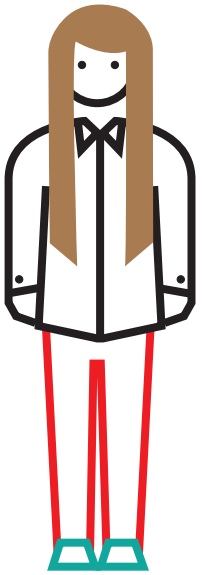

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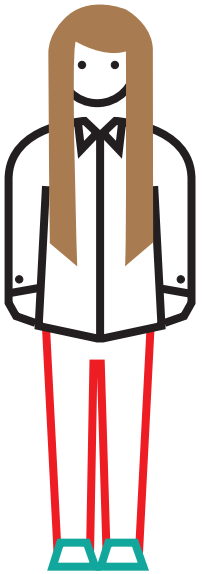

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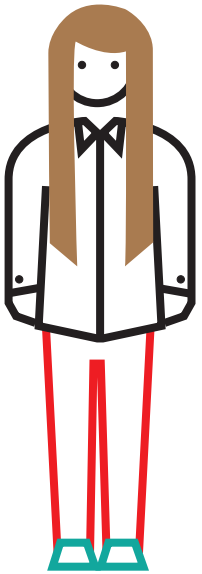

Chloé PASSAVANT

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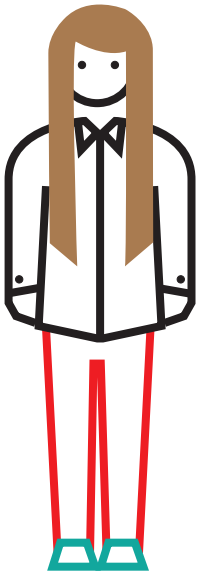

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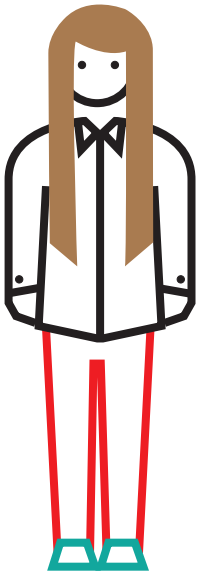

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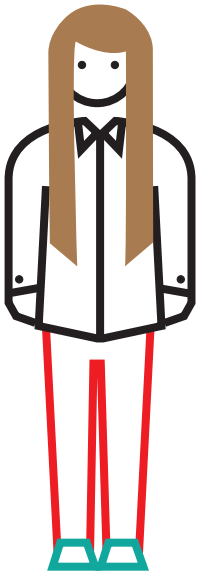

Chloé PASSAVANT

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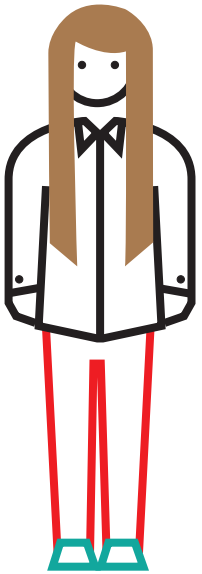

Chloé PASSAVANT

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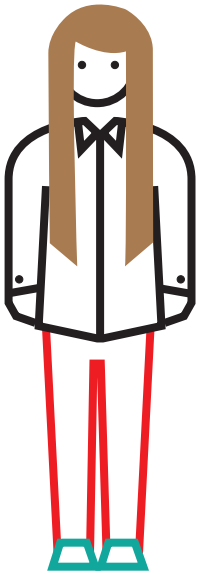

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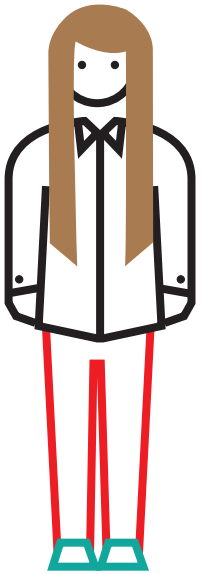

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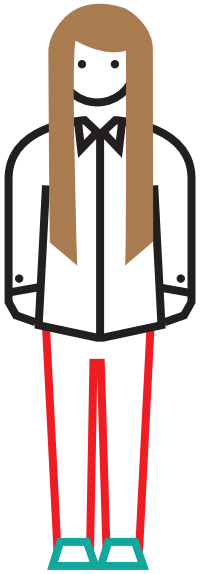

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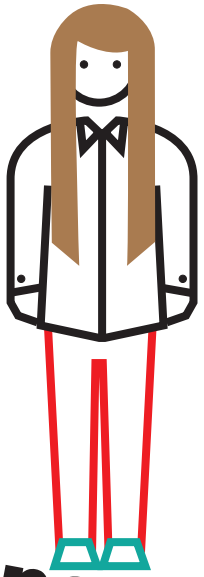

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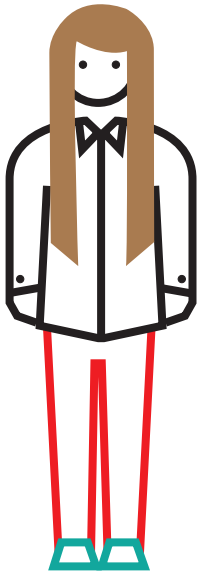

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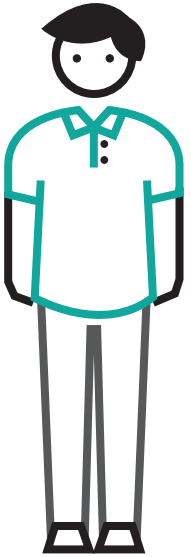

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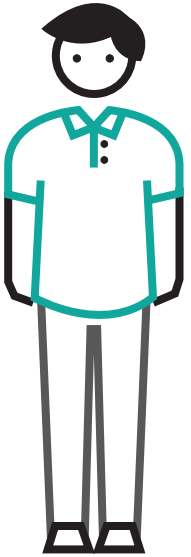

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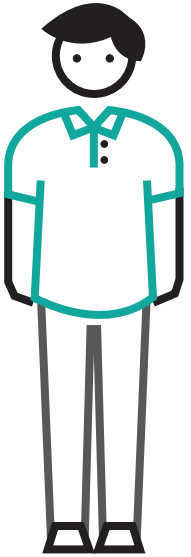

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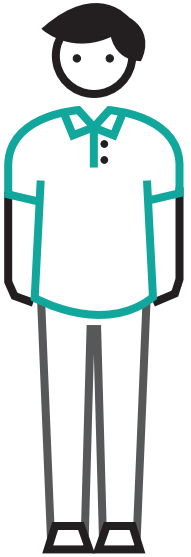

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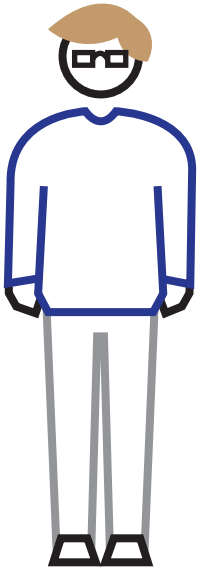

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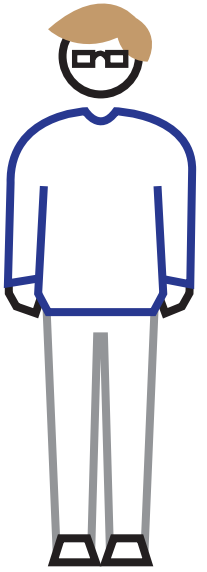

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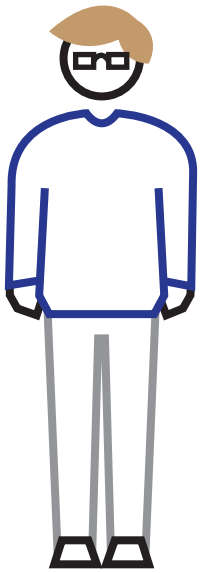

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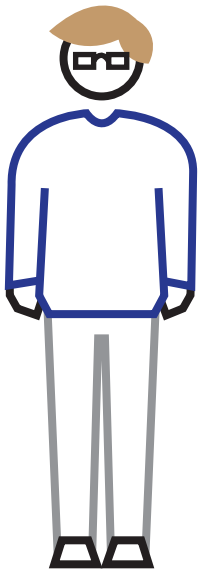

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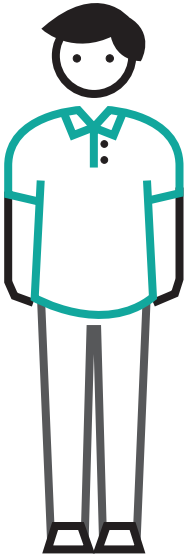

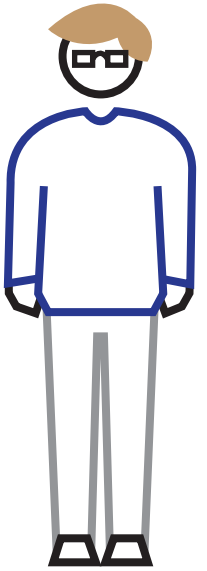

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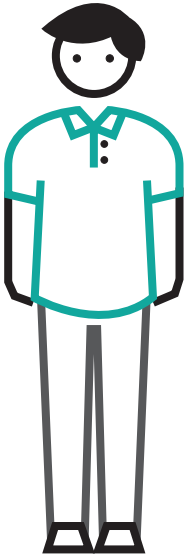

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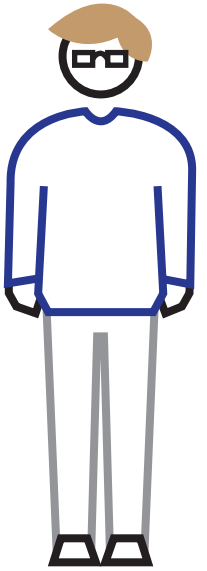

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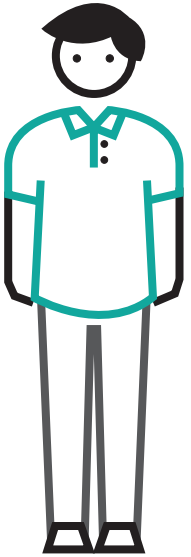

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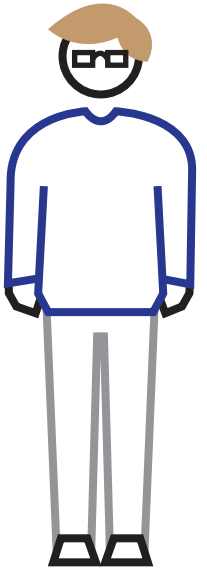

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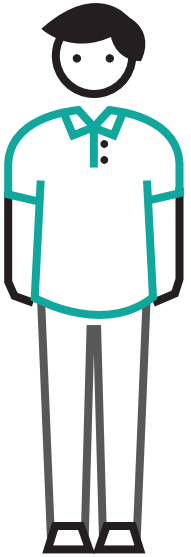

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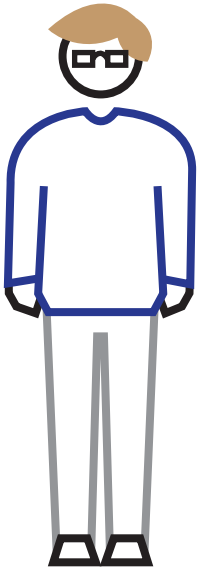

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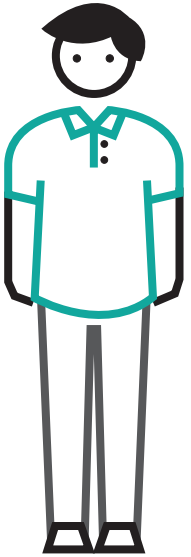

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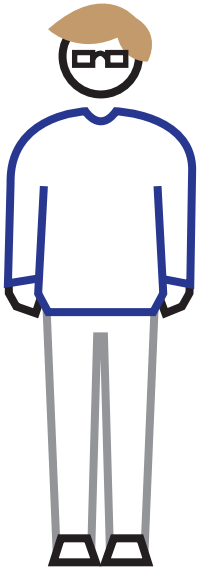

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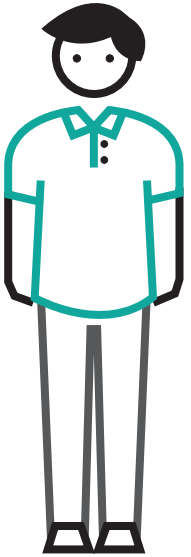

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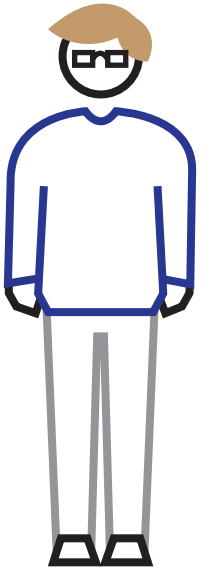

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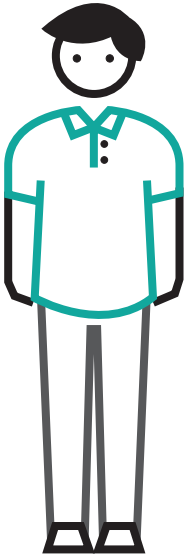

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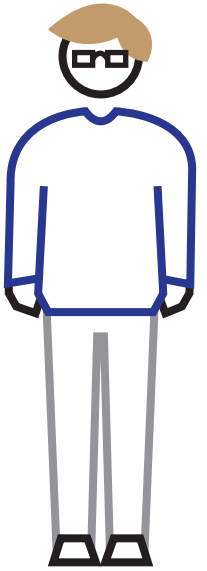

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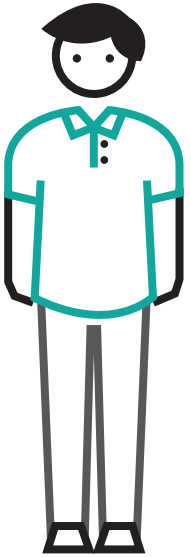

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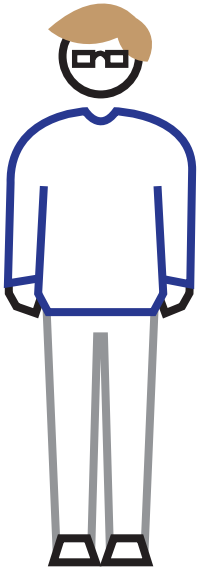

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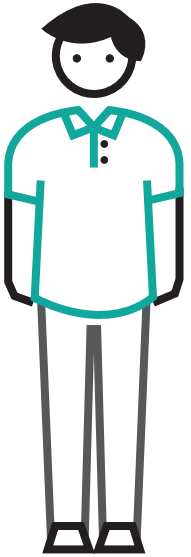

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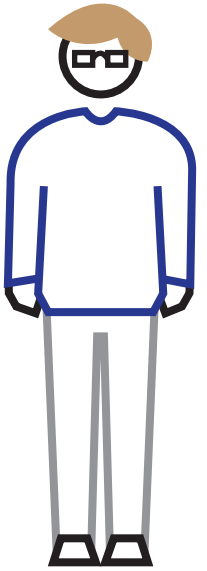

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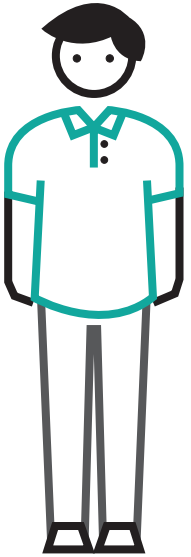

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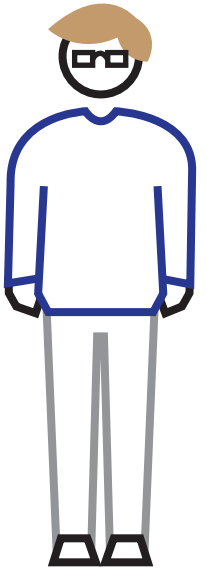

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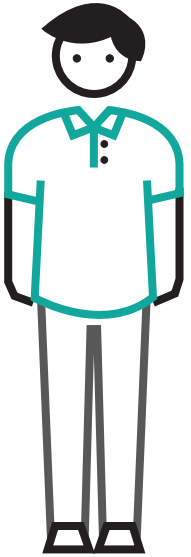

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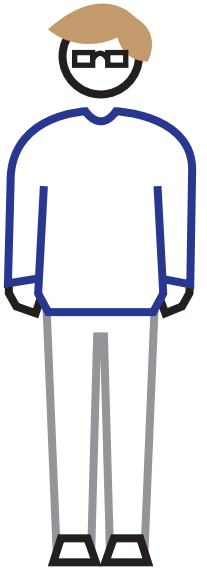

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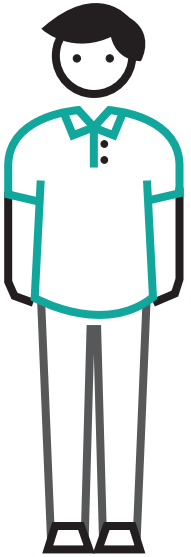

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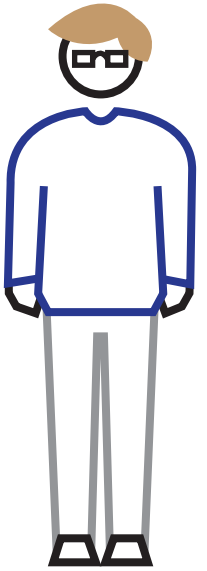

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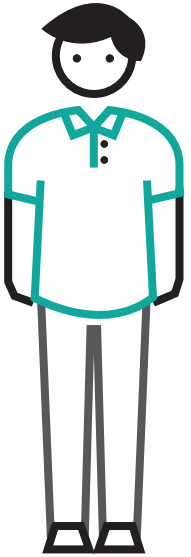

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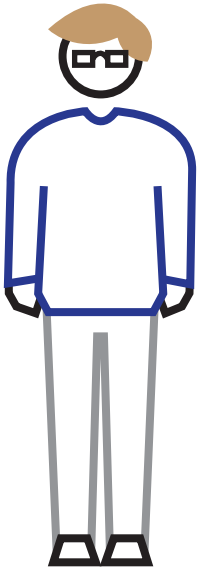

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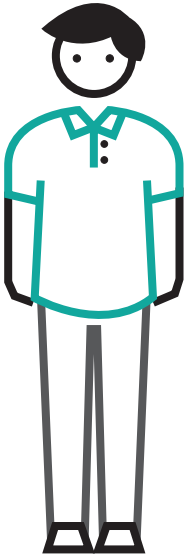

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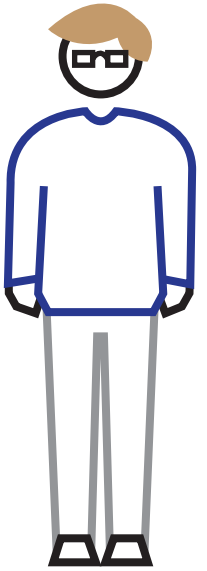

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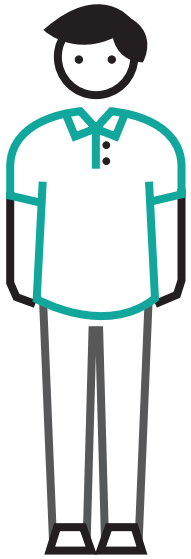

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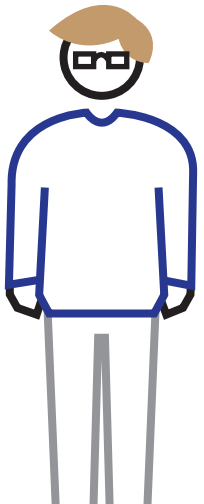

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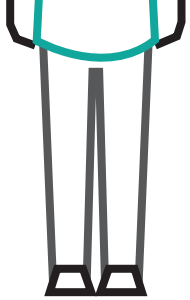

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