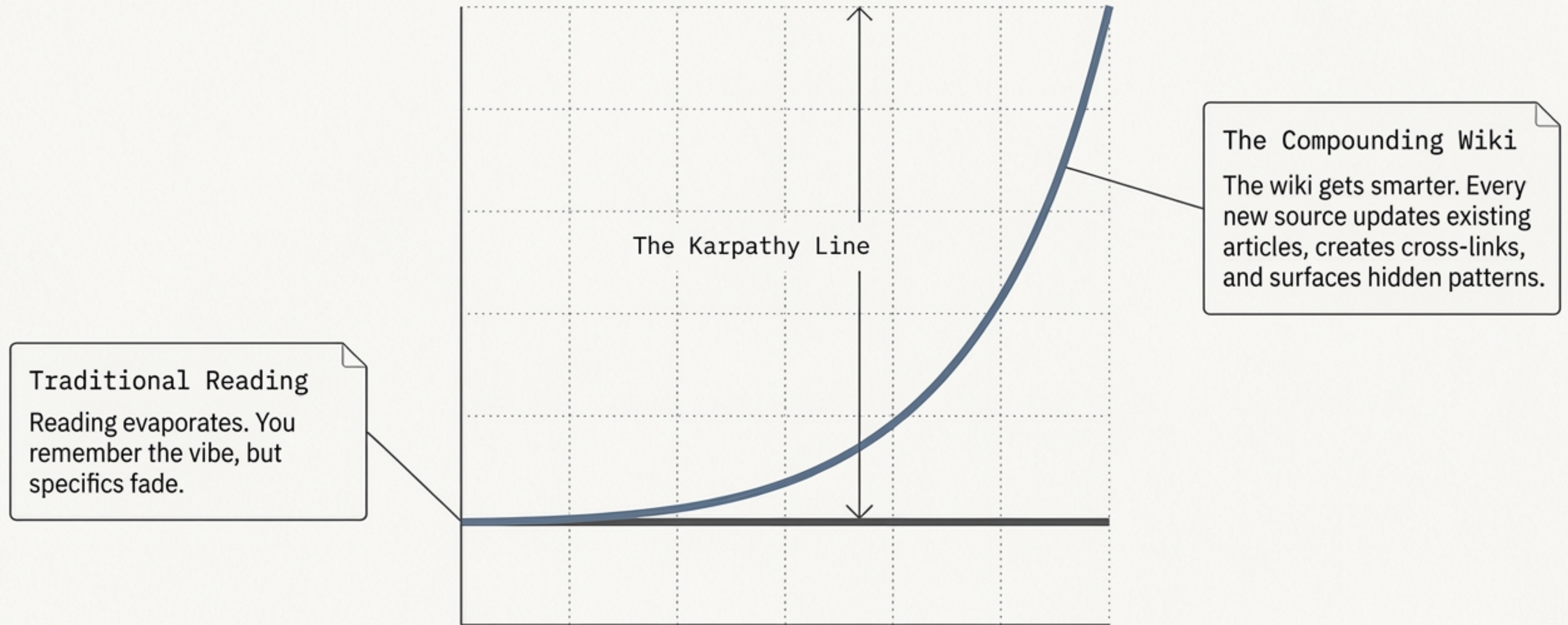


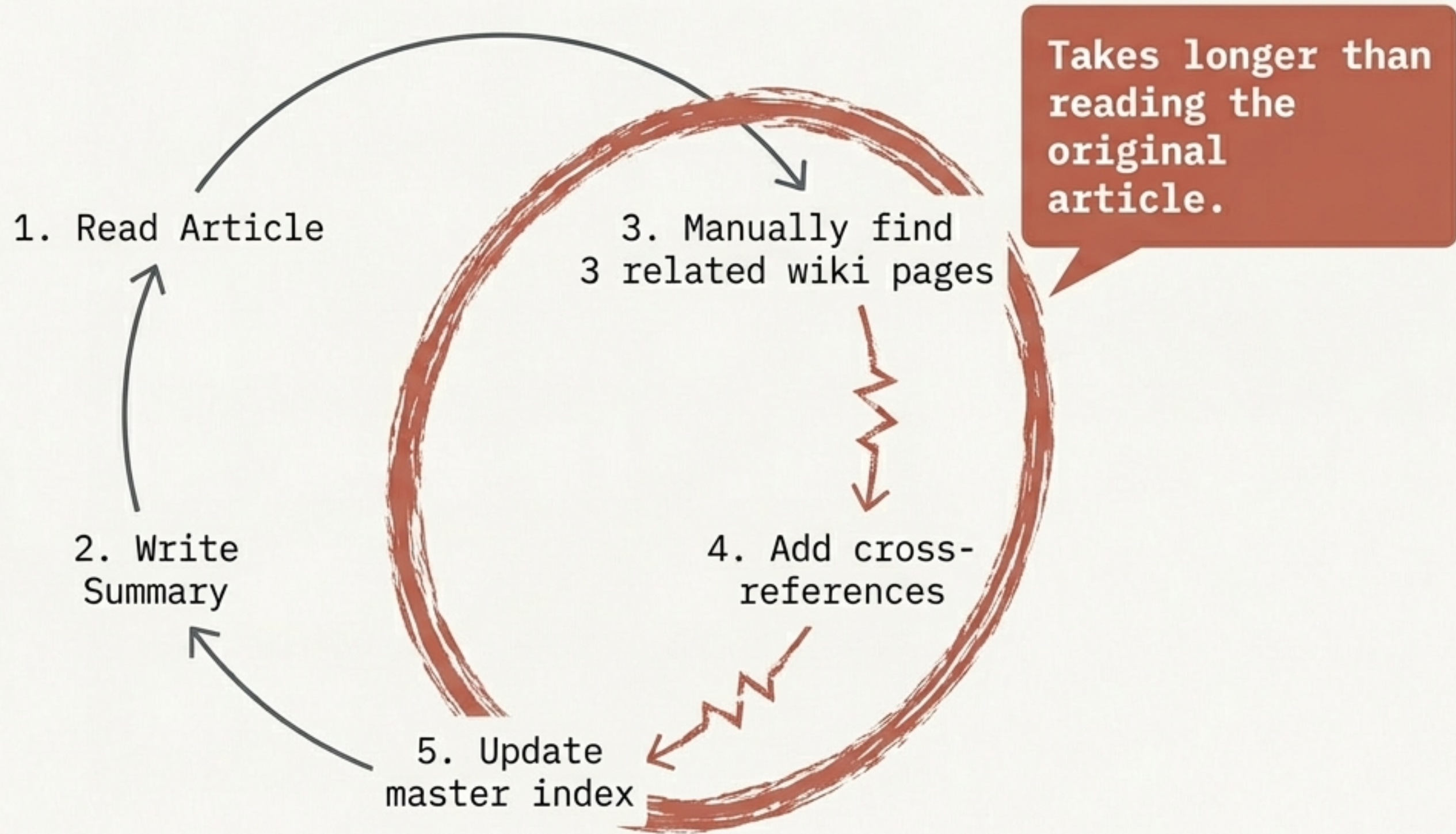
Cortex: What If Your LLM Was a Wiki Compiler? |

A paradigm shift in personal knowledge management.

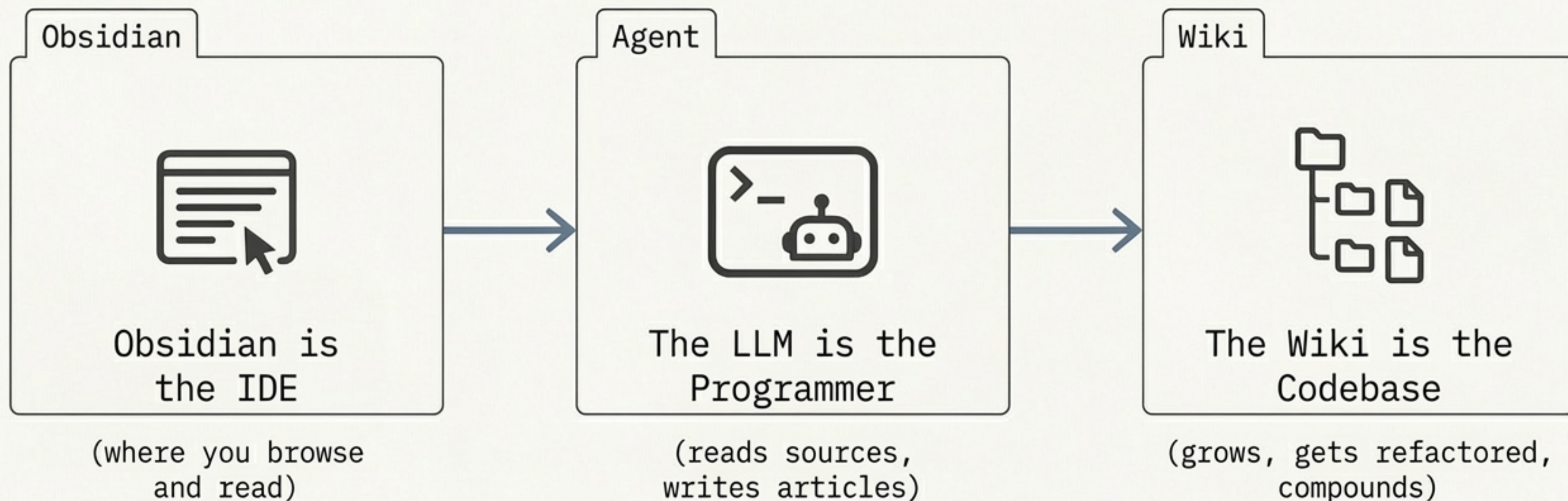
The Karpathy Line



The Brutal Friction of Maintenance



The Personal Knowledge Compiler



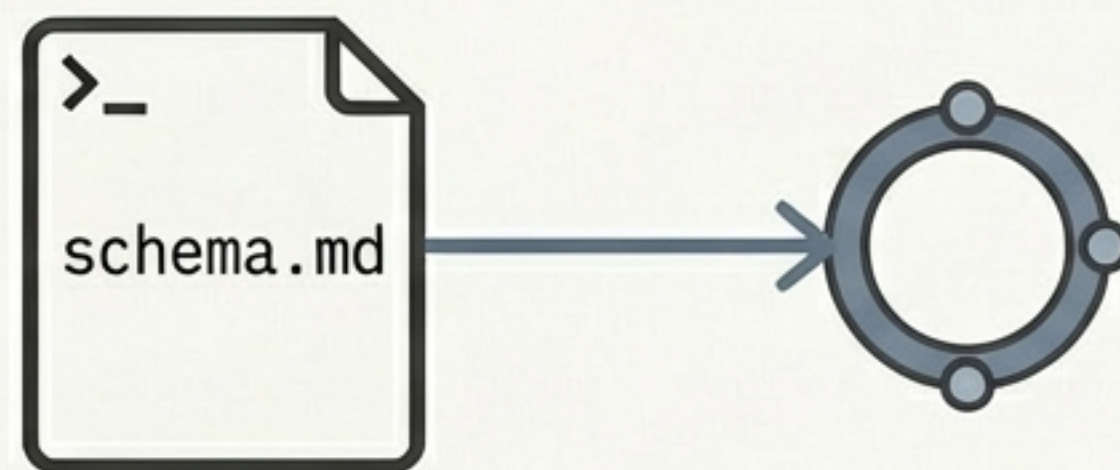
The Compiler Specification

The actual compilation logic lives in a markdown file called the schema. It instructs the agent on:

- When to create vs. update
- How to cite sources
- How to maintain the index



~~Programming WITH the LLM~~
(Prompt Chains & API Scripts)



Programming THE LLM

Radical Minimalism



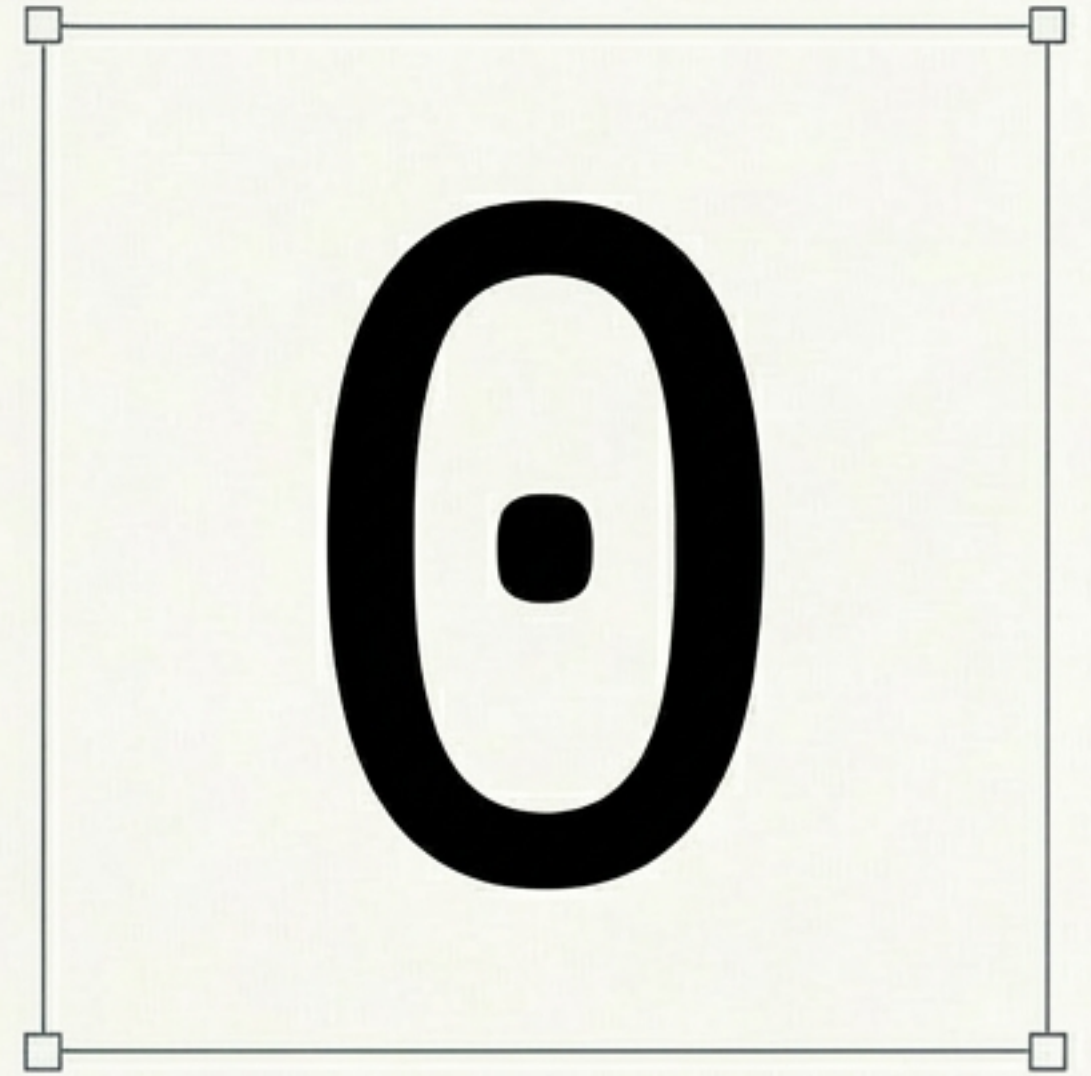
15

Source Files



5

Runtime
Dependencies



0

Databases

The Architecture of No

- ~~[X] Database~~ → Flat JSON manifest & Markdown index in Git
- ~~[X] Search Engine~~ → External qmd MCP server for hybrid BM25 + vector search
- ~~[X] LLM Client Code~~ → The Schema markdown document
- ~~[X] Compilation Pipeline~~ → The agent's native reasoning

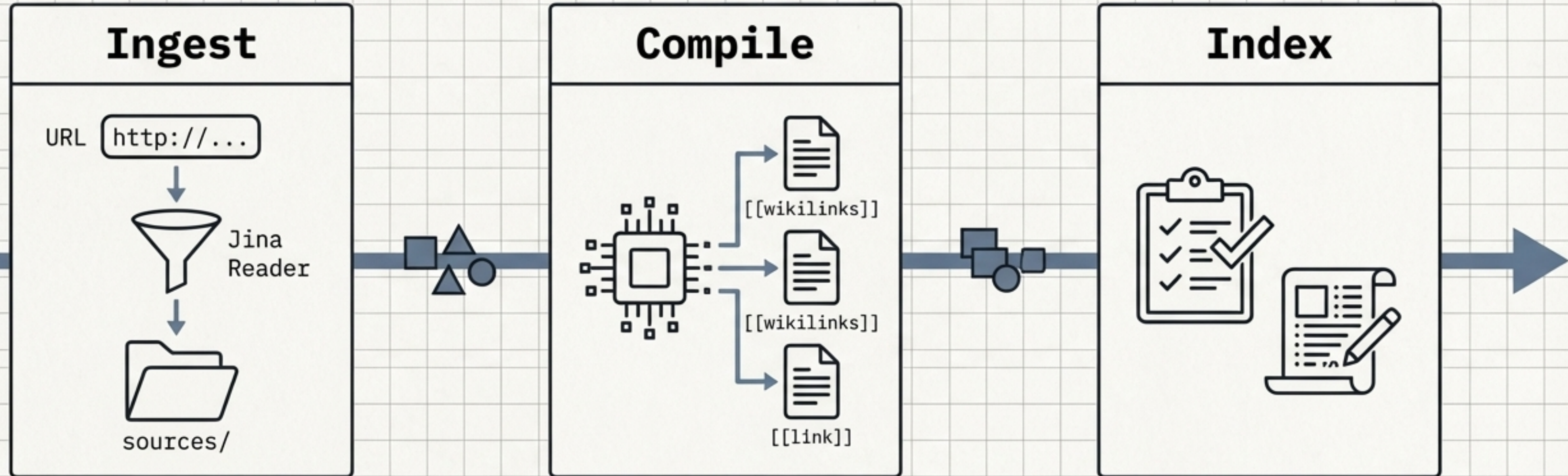
Cortex handles writes. qmd handles reads. Two MCP servers, each doing one thing well.

Separation of State

sources/	wiki/
State: Immutable	State: Mutable
Role: Evidence	Role: Synthesis
Action: Read & Ingested once	Action: Continuously updated
Value: Permanent record	Value: Compounding knowledge

Update the wiki articles that cite a source, never the source itself.

The Processing Pipeline

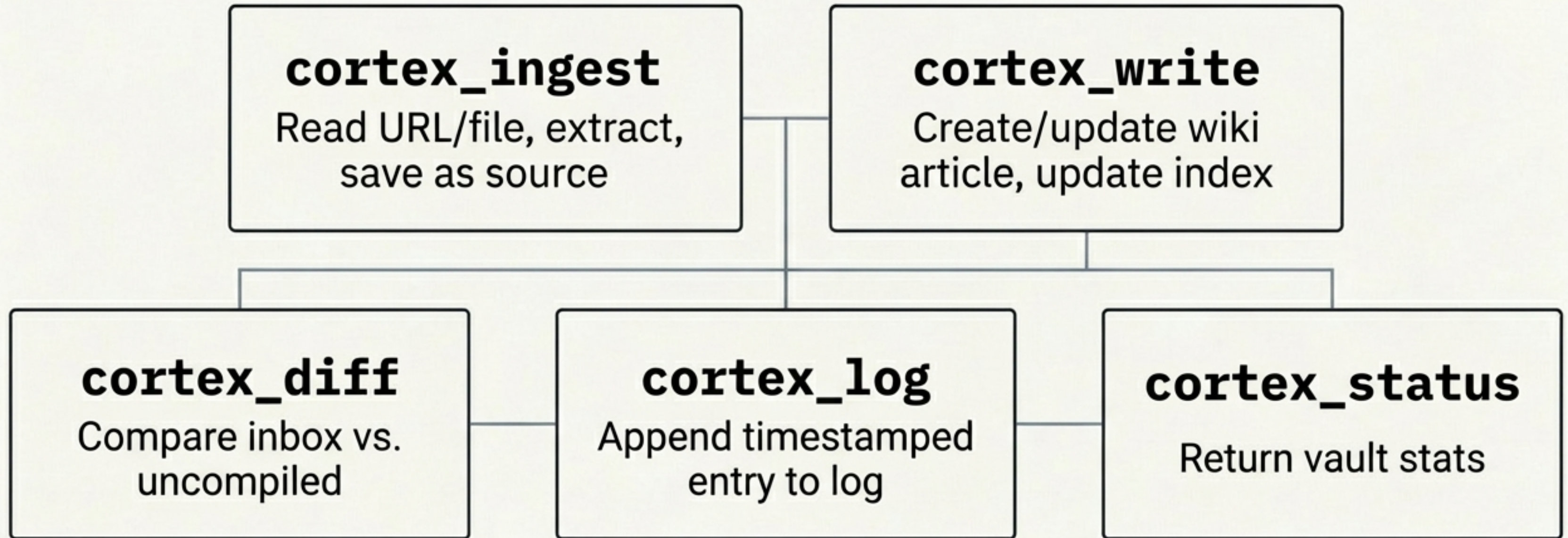


Extracts markdown
& generates YAML
frontmatter.

Generates pages,
citations &
cross-links.

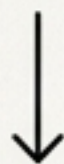
Updates master list
& appends to log.

The Entire MCP Surface Area



Five tools. All file I/O. The intelligence is in the schema, not the server.

The Trigger



```
$ echo $PATH  
/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin
```

```
$ ls -la
```

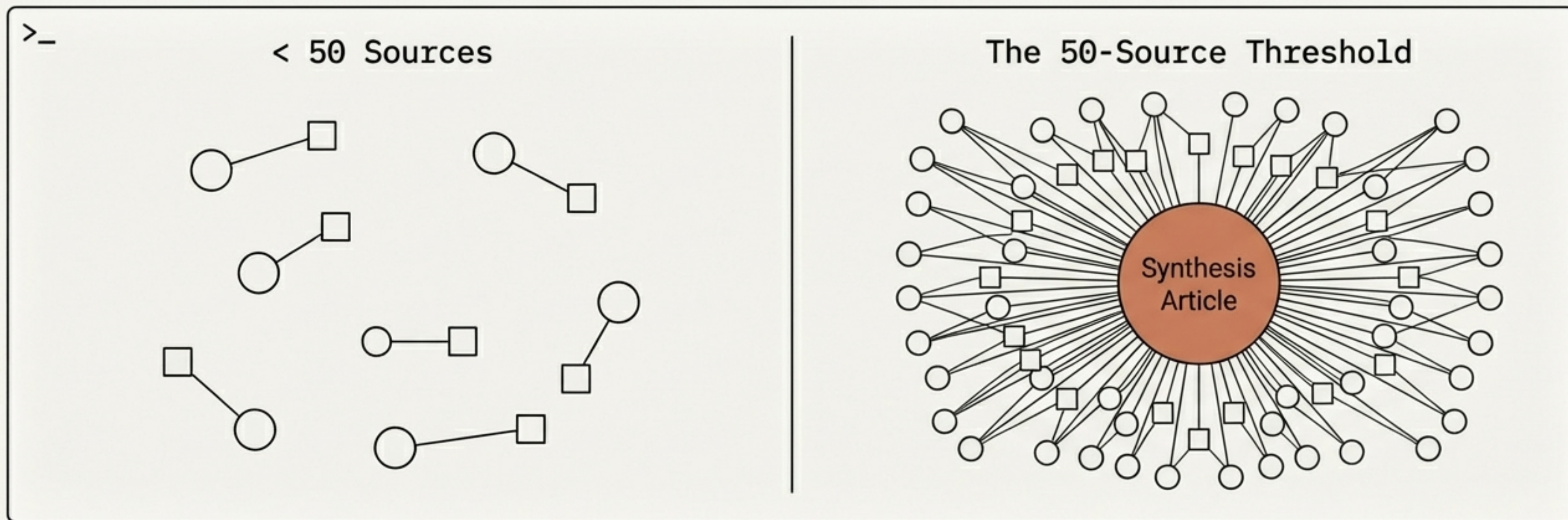
```
[Cortex] 3 files in inbox/ waiting to be processed.
```

```
$ █
```

A simple shell hook nudges
Claude Code on your next prompt.

The 50-Source Threshold

The wiki compounds. Articles you didn't explicitly ask for start appearing—synthesis hubs that connect themes across multiple sources.



The more you feed it, the more valuable every new source becomes.

A screenshot of a code editor window. The left sidebar shows a file tree with folders like 'Inbox', 'Daily Notes', 'Projects', and files like 'Agreements'. The main area contains a large text overlay. The text area has line numbers 1 through 10 on the left. A thick black vertical bar is positioned below the text.

The best tool is the one that disappears.

Cortex has no UI, no dashboard, no settings page. It is 5 MCP tools and a markdown file that teaches your AI how to think about knowledge. Everything else is Obsidian.

github.com/xingfanxia/cortex