## Finding "cruxes"

- We typically will disagree with each other about problem prioritization. This is typically because of divergent beliefs, e.g., normative or empirical claims.
- It can sometimes be useful to have conversations in which we drill down to discover the crux of our disagreement, i.e., the most proximate deeper belief we hold that, if it were different, would resolve the disagreement. In the below diagram, that crux appears at belief C.
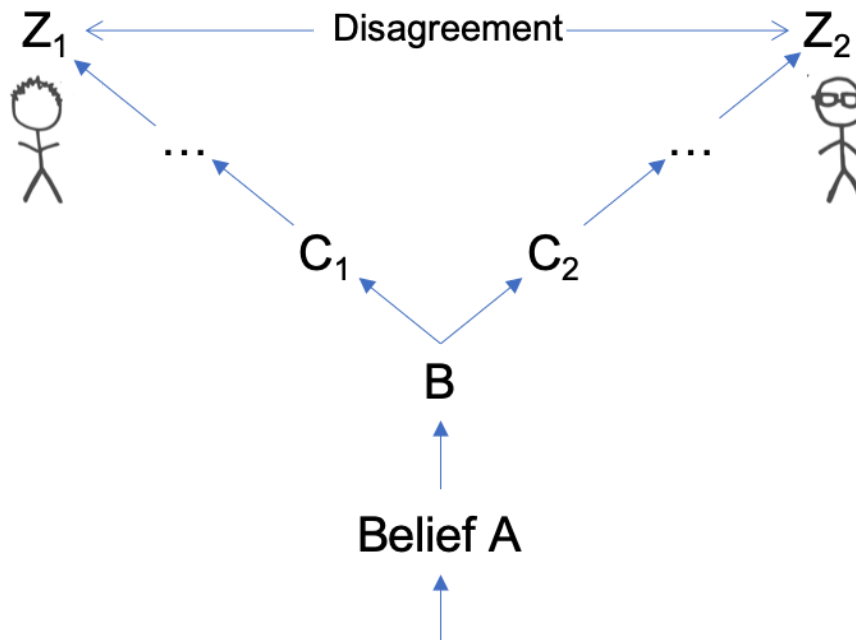
- The goal here is not to *resolve* the disagreement, but rather to *identify* this crux concern. Finding the crux – and, by corollary, the nearest point of agreement before we diverge (belief B in the diagram), is victory!

Exercise: Discuss your prioritization with a partner. Identify a disagreement you have. Then try to find the crux of your disagreement

Note 1: It will be helpful to clearly state the disagreement and define terms before embarking on your search for the crux.

Note 2: Sometimes, you or your partner will be unwilling to have this sort of conversation about an issue, which is <u>fine</u>. This can be common in these discussions, especially when questions of justice or fairness are on the table.

Note 3: If stuck, ask yourself, "What does my conversation partner see that I don't?"