Fine-grained language composition








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KING'S College LONDON

Software Development Team
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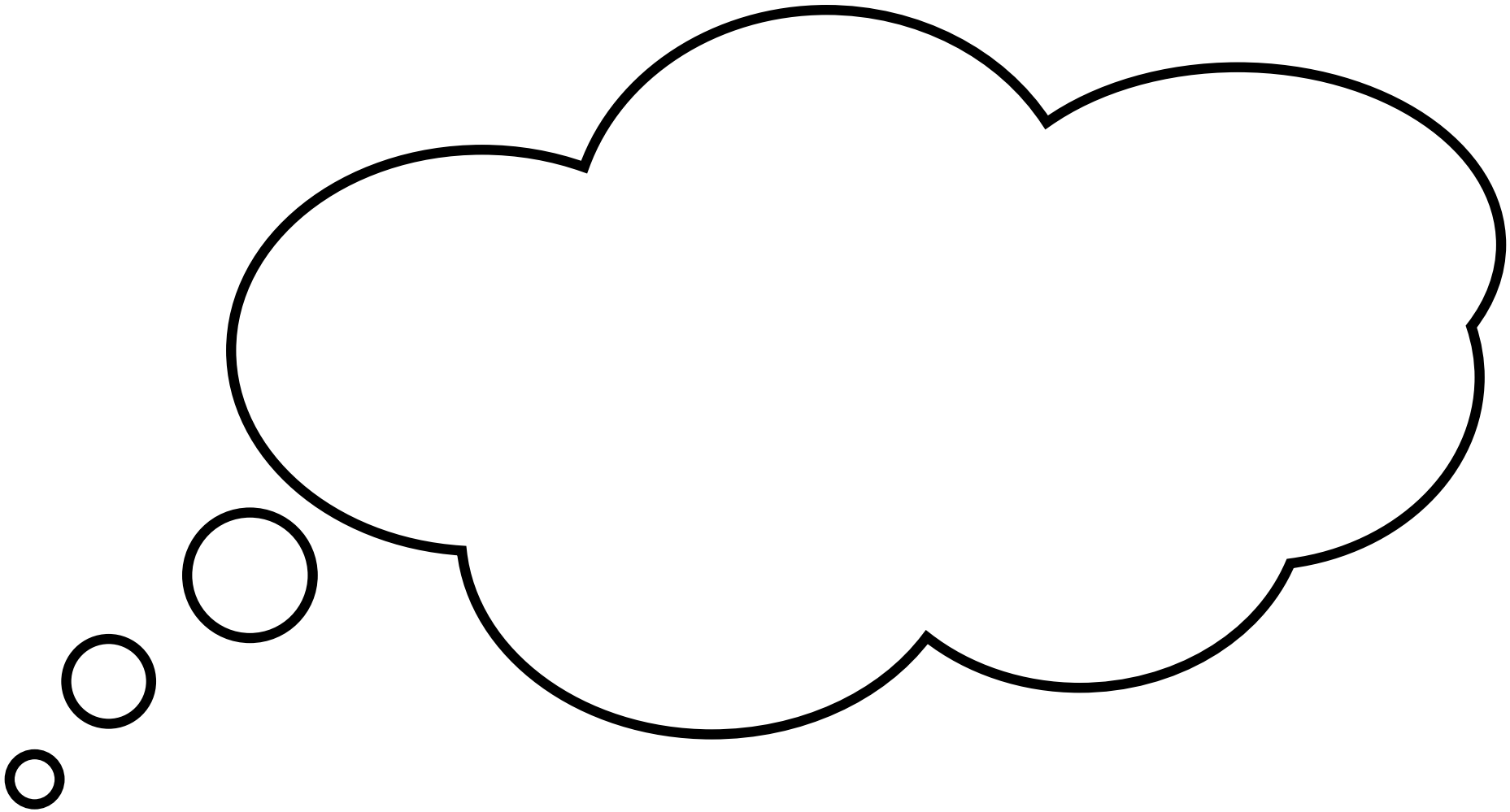
Background



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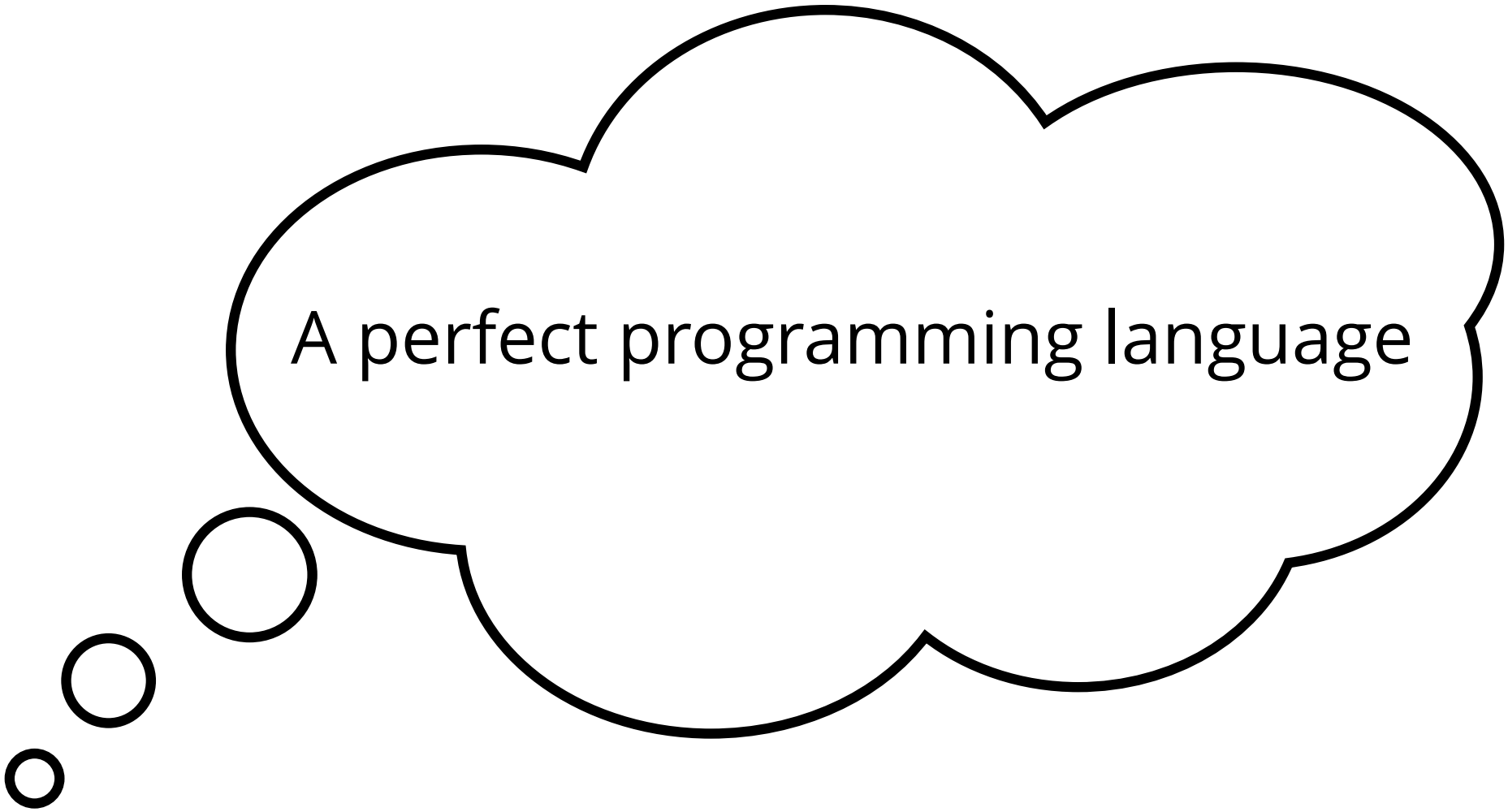


Solution

Solution

A new programming language

Reality

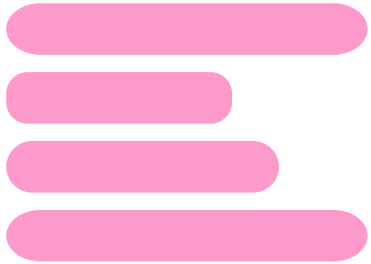
Reality

Another imperfect programming language

What to expect from this talk

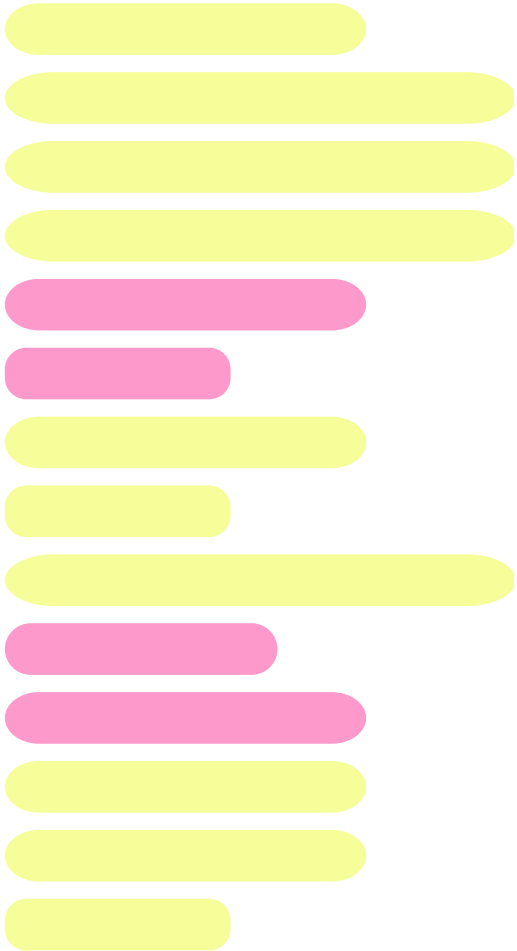
A

B



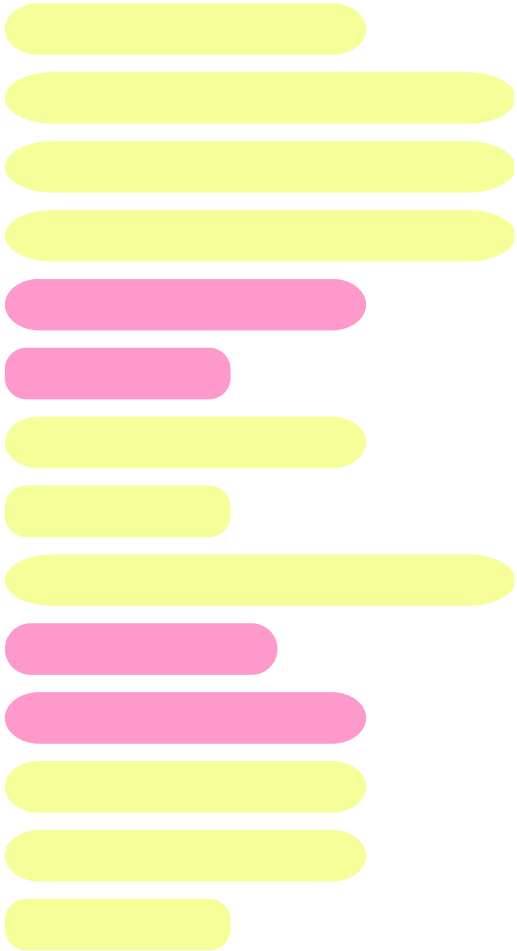
What to expect from this talk

$A \cup B$



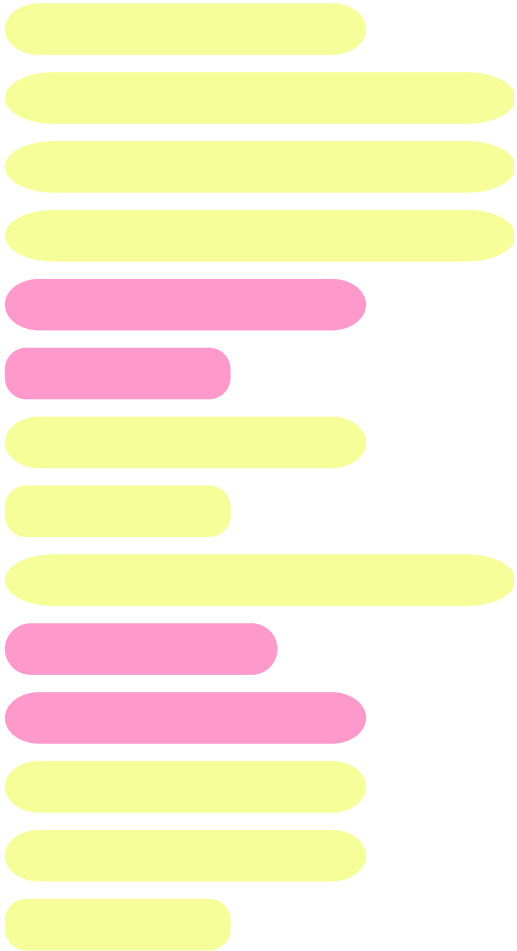
What to expect from this talk

Python ∪ Prolog



What to expect from this talk

Python ∪ PHP



Two levels of challenge

Tooling

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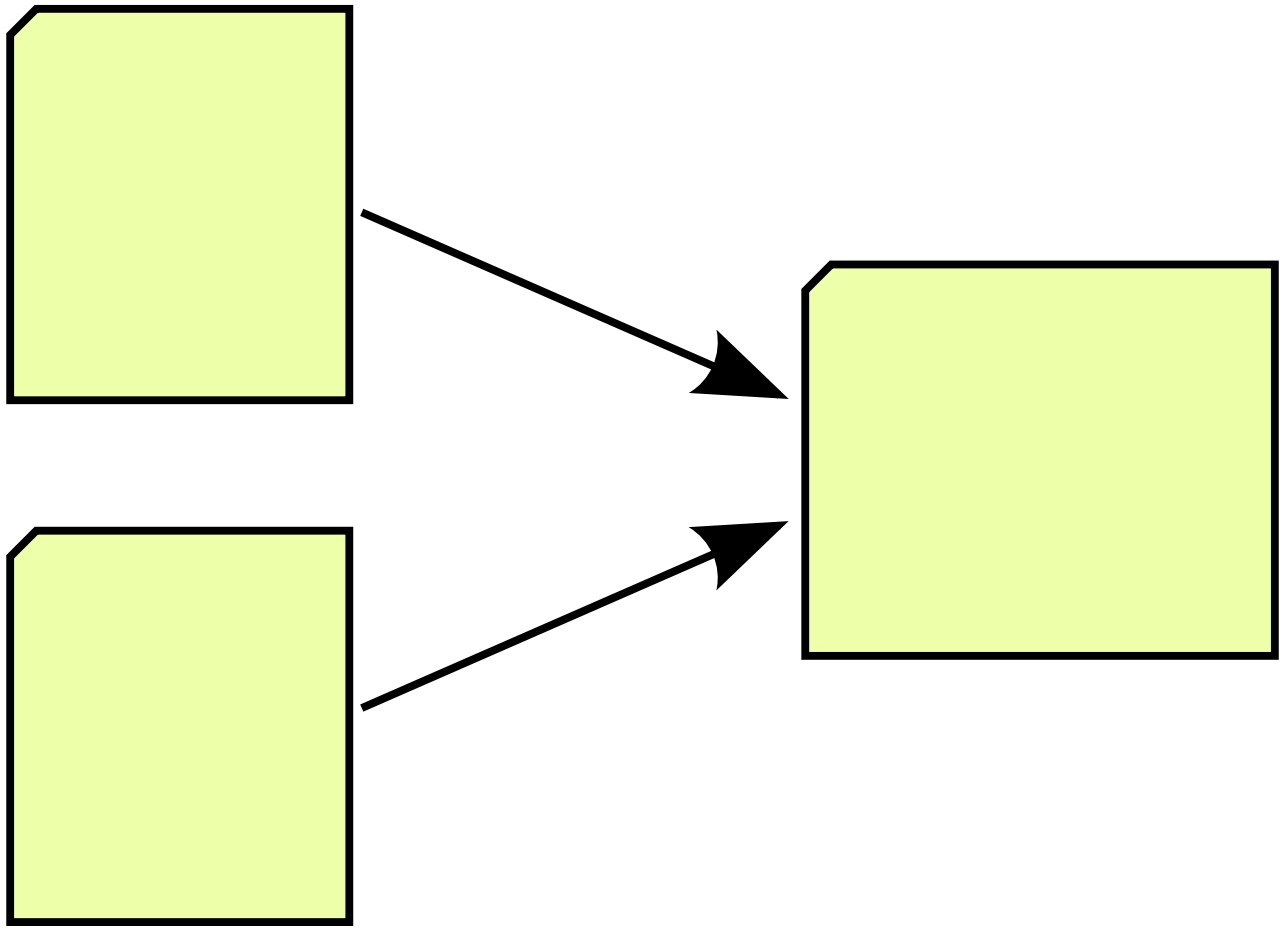
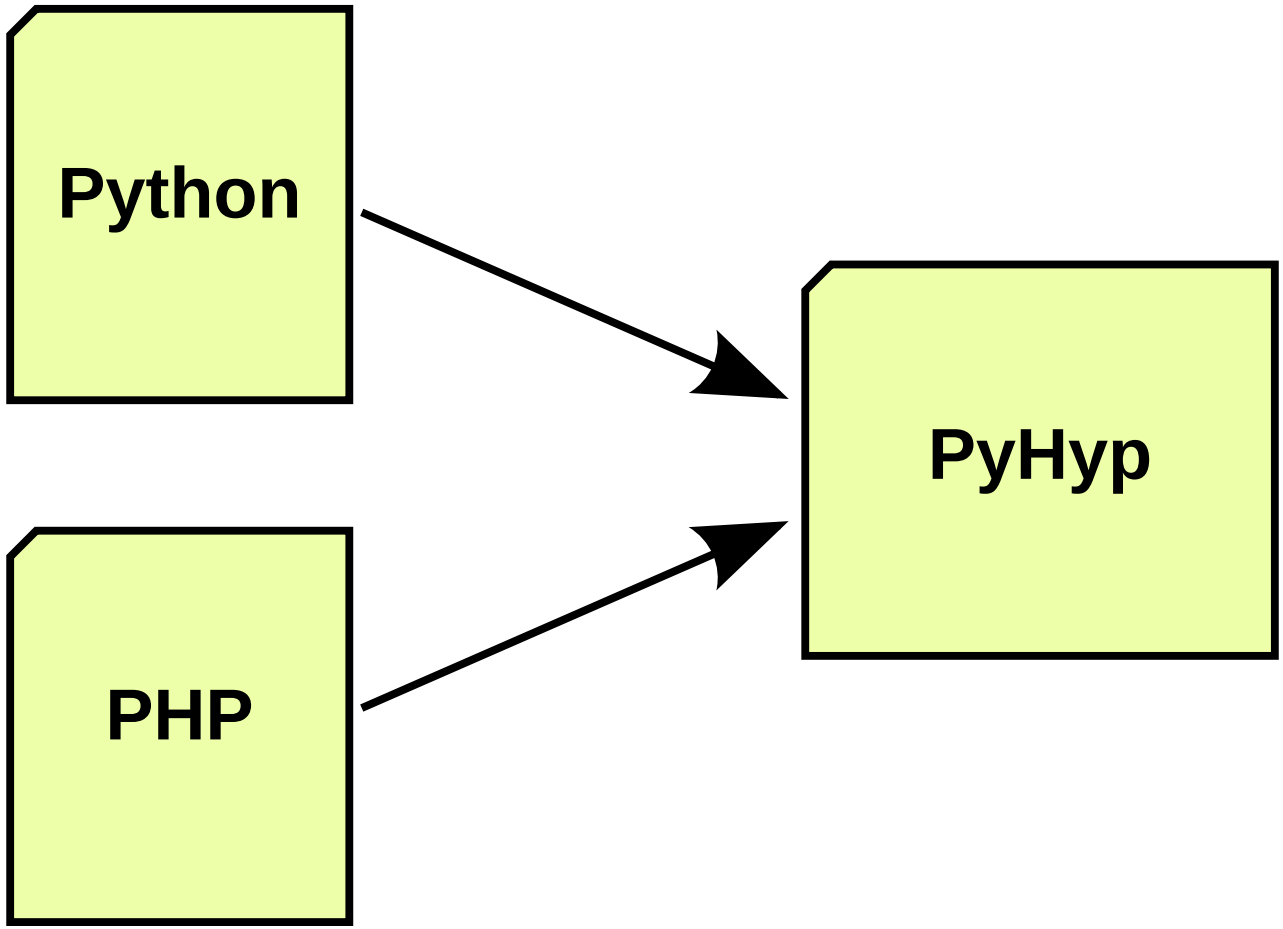
Tooling

Language friction

Tooling challenges



Tooling challenges



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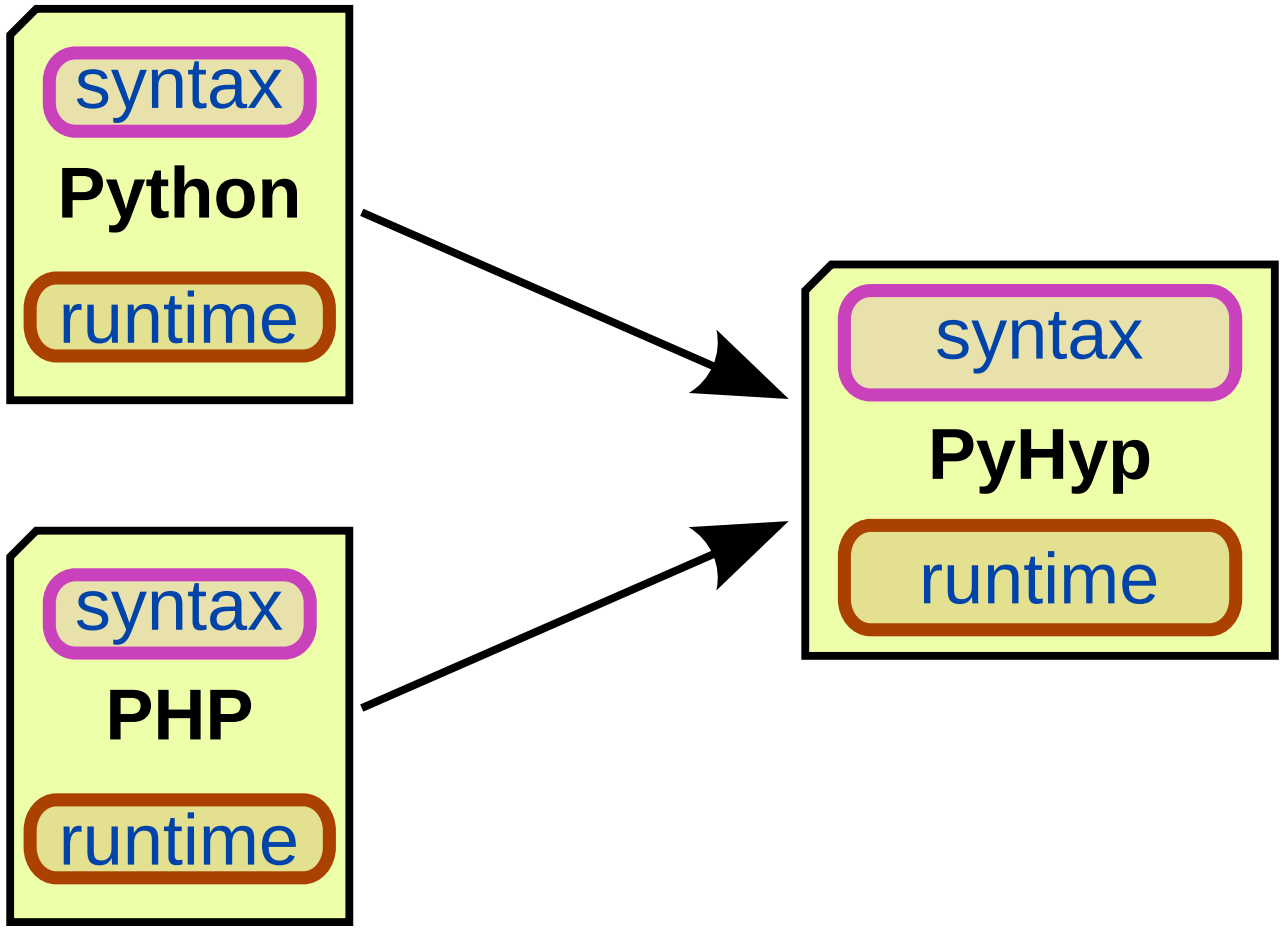

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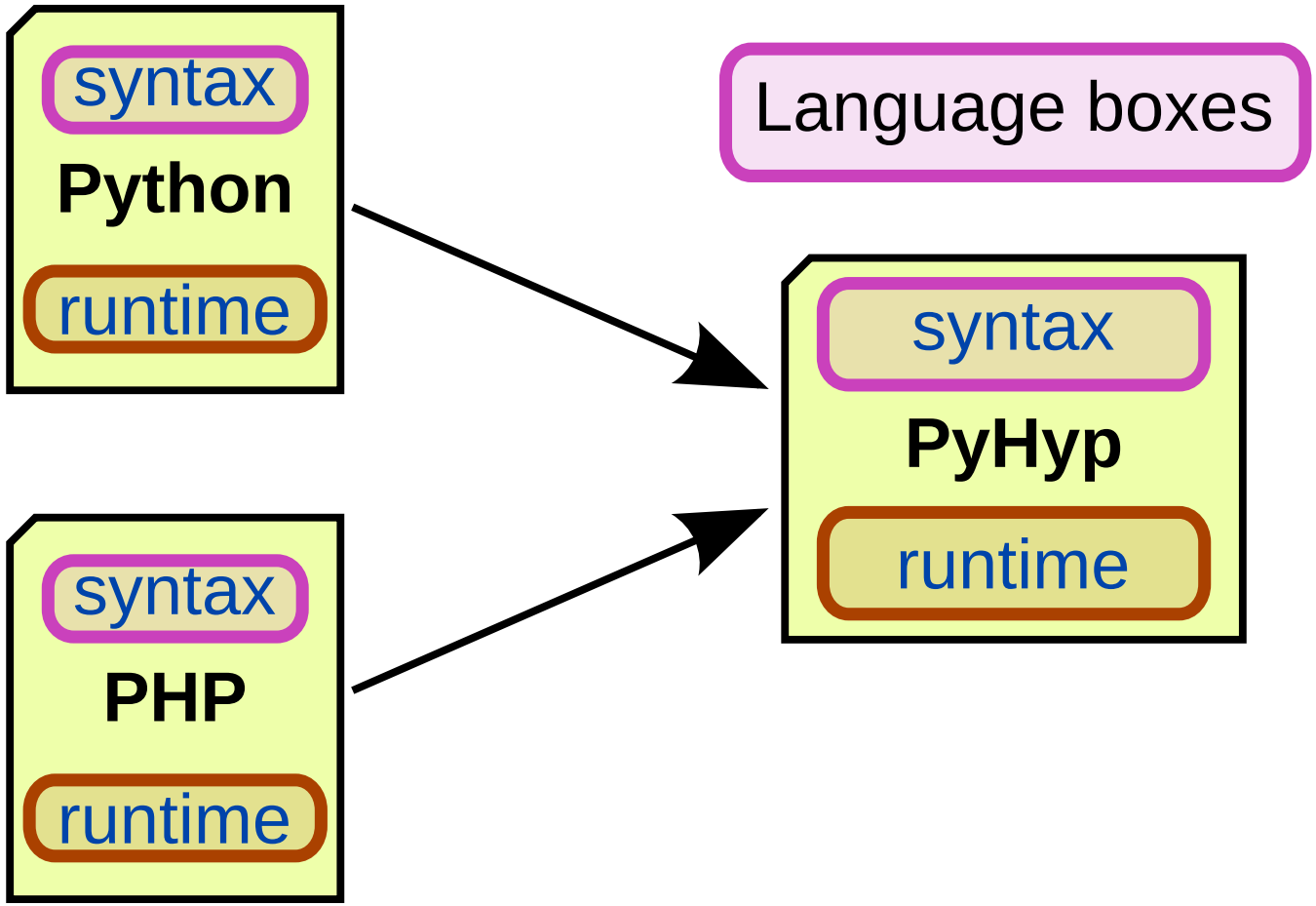

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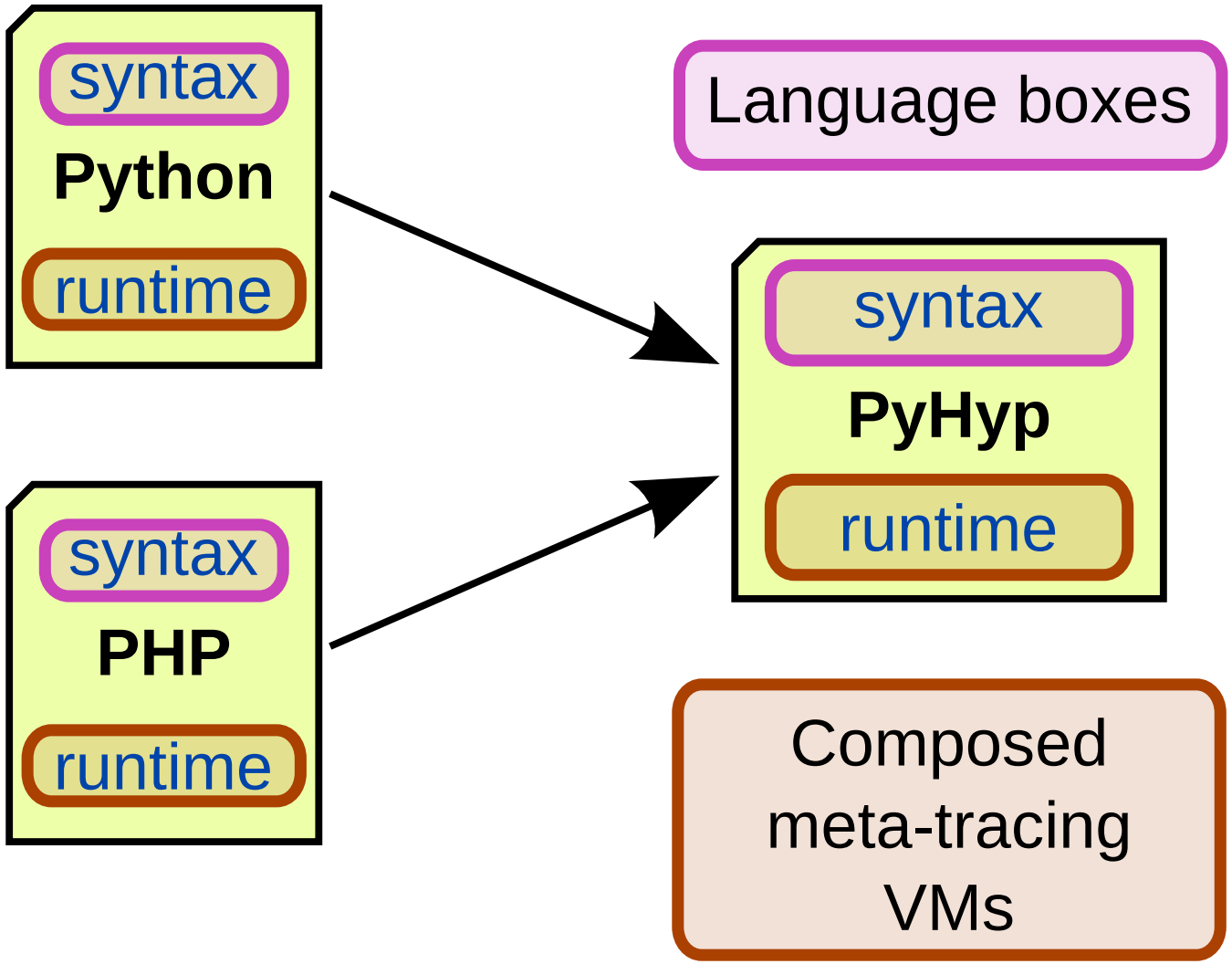


Syntax composition

PL X

<grammar>

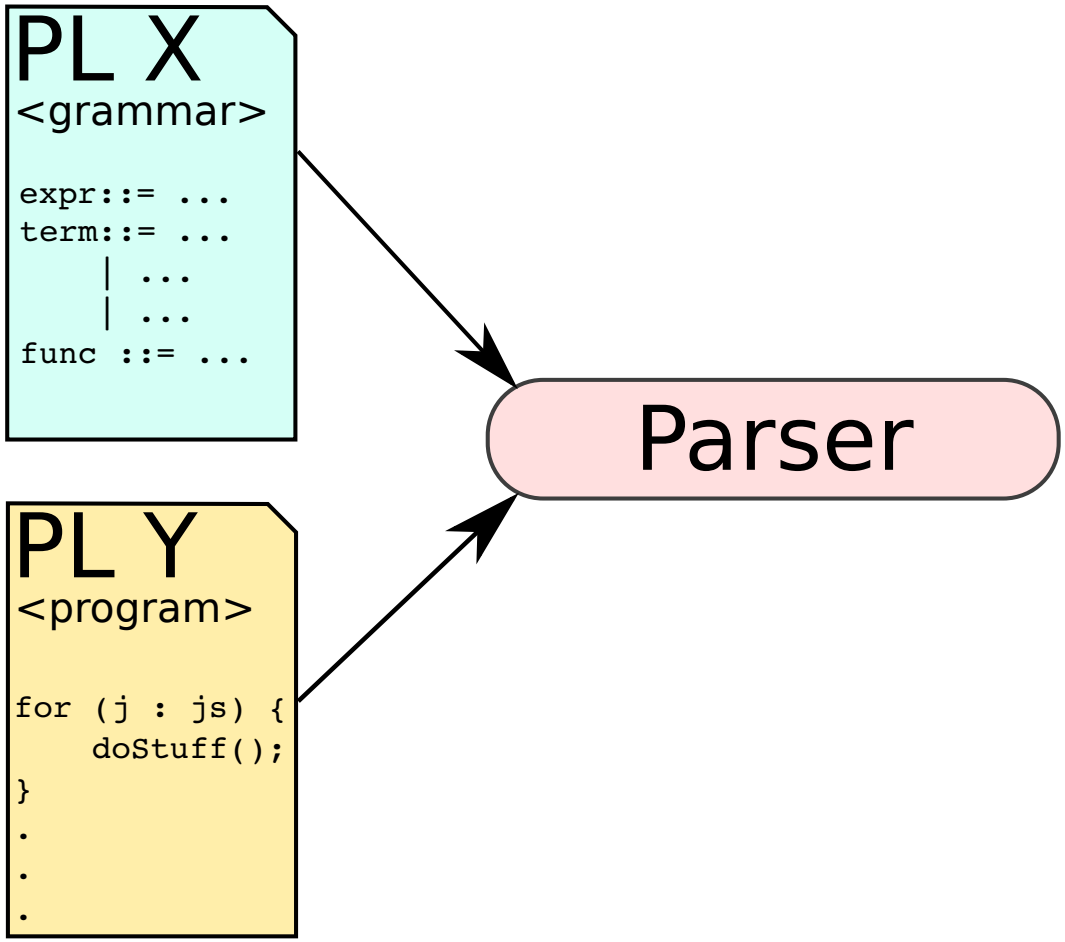
```
expr::= ...
term::= ...
    | ...
    | ...
func ::= ...
```

PL Y

<program>

```
for (j : js) {
    doStuff();
}
.
.
.
```

Syntax composition



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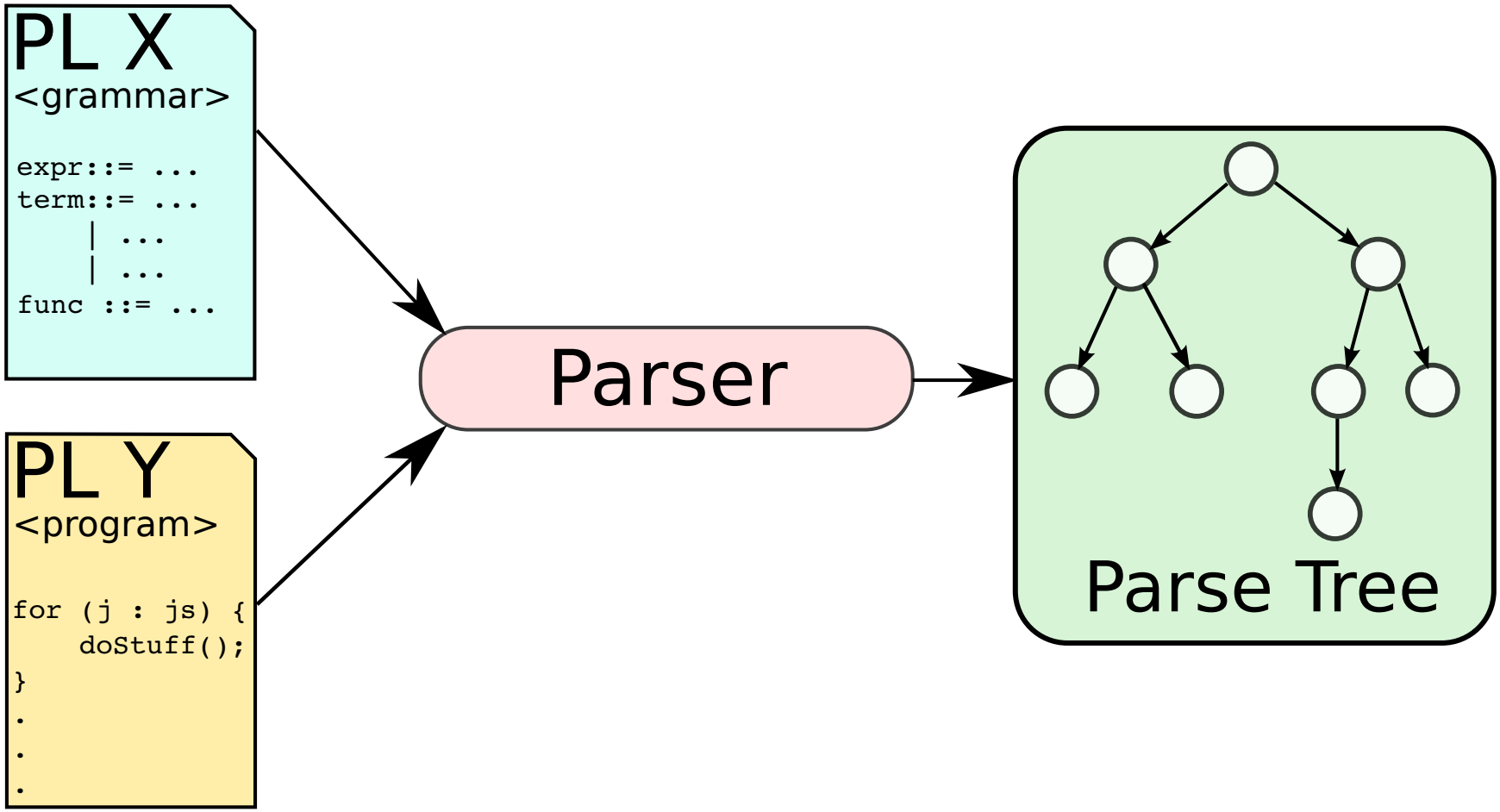


The only choice?

The only choice?

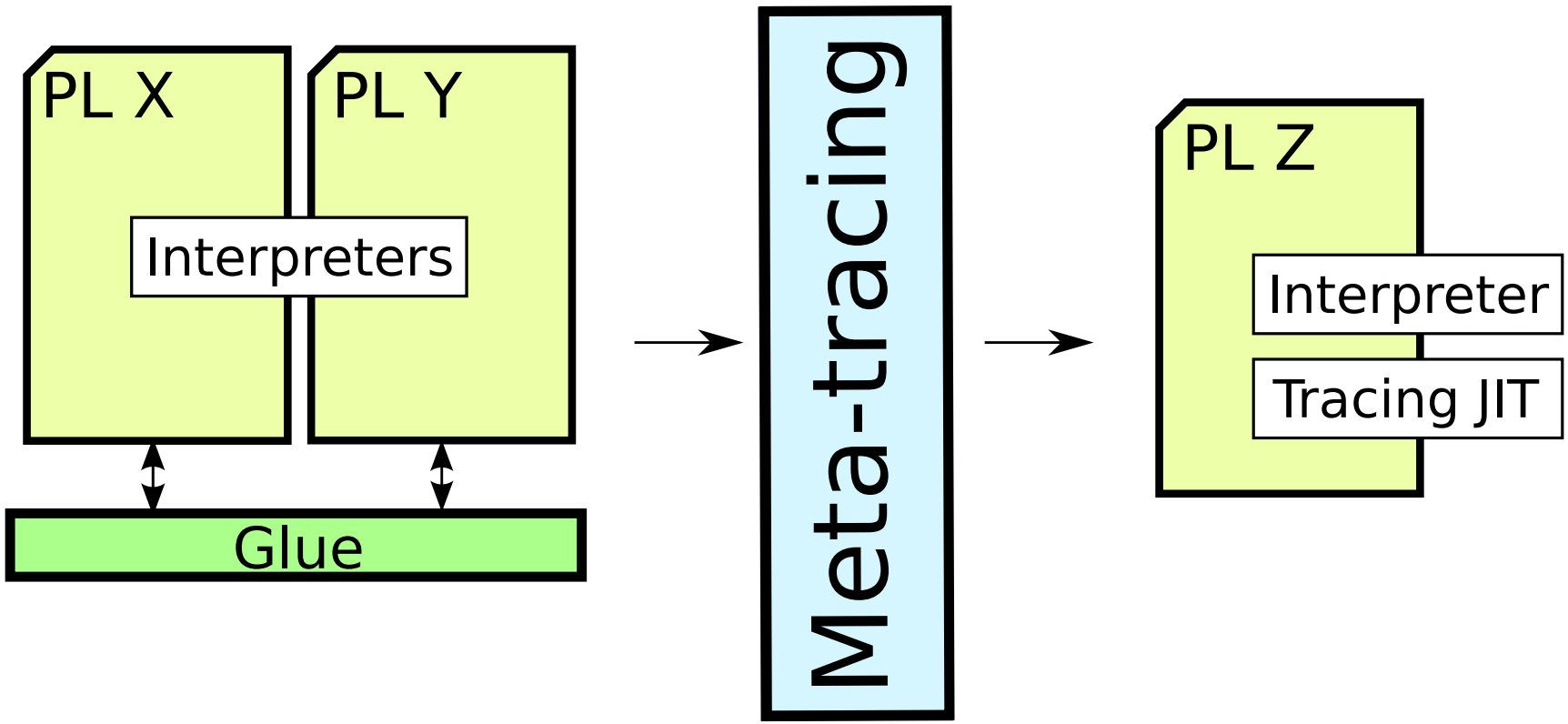
SDE

Challenge:
SDE's power +
a text editor feel?

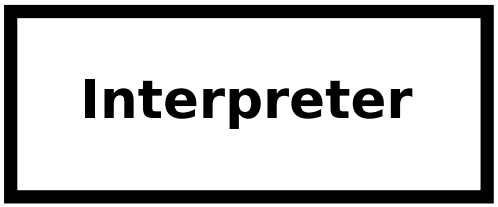
Eco demo

Runtime composition

Runtime composition



Meta-tracing translation with RPython



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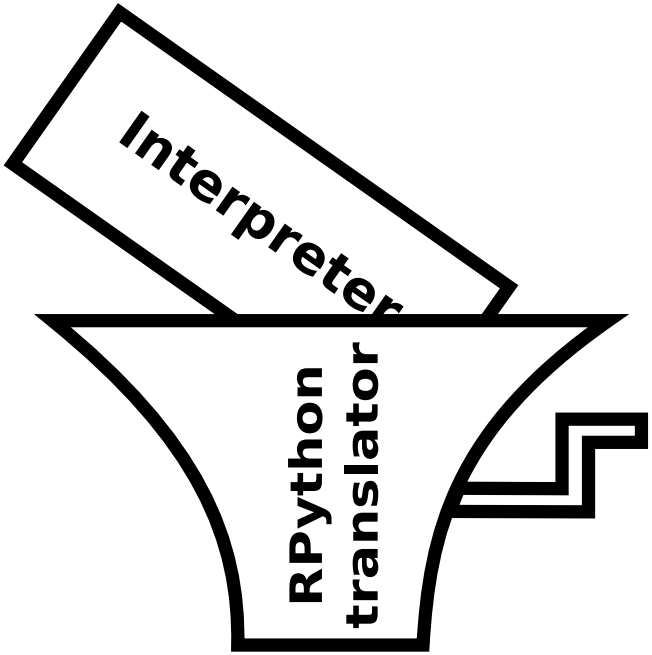

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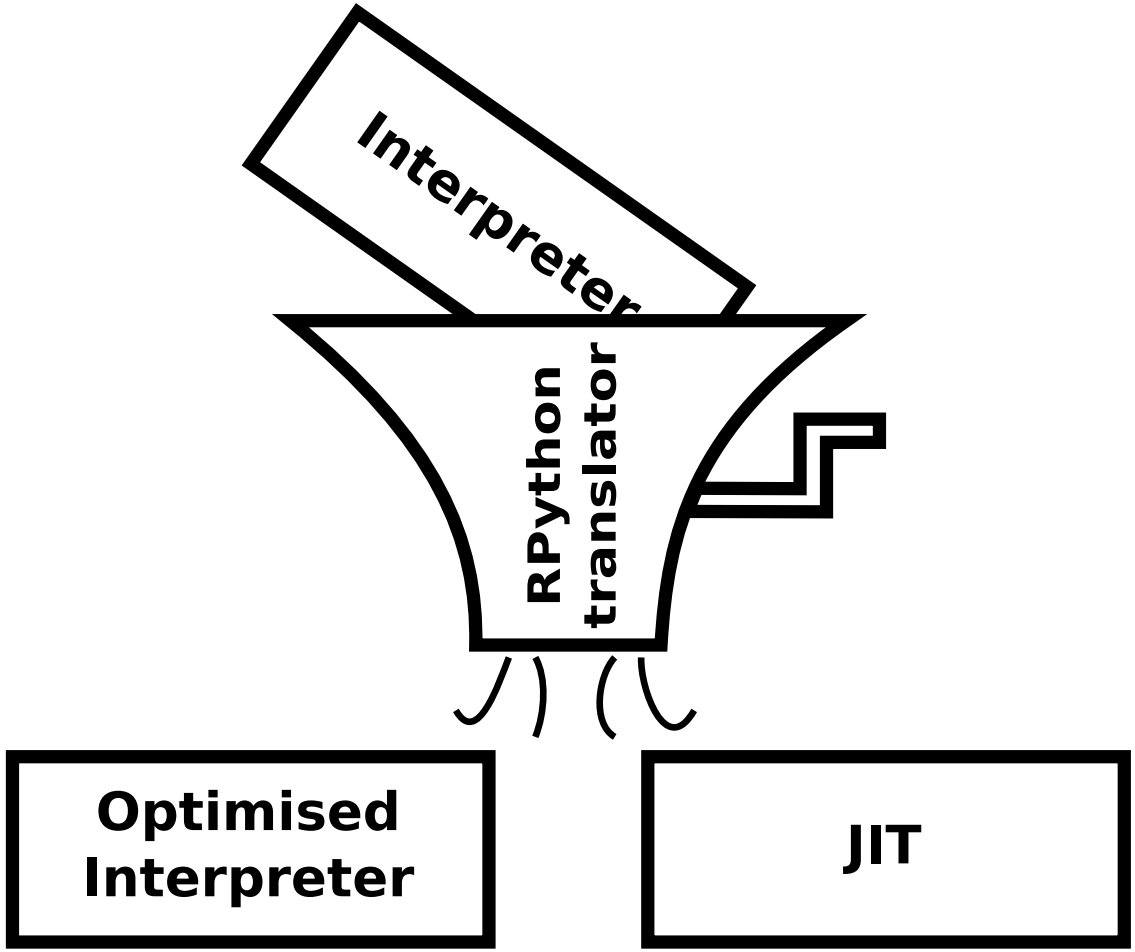

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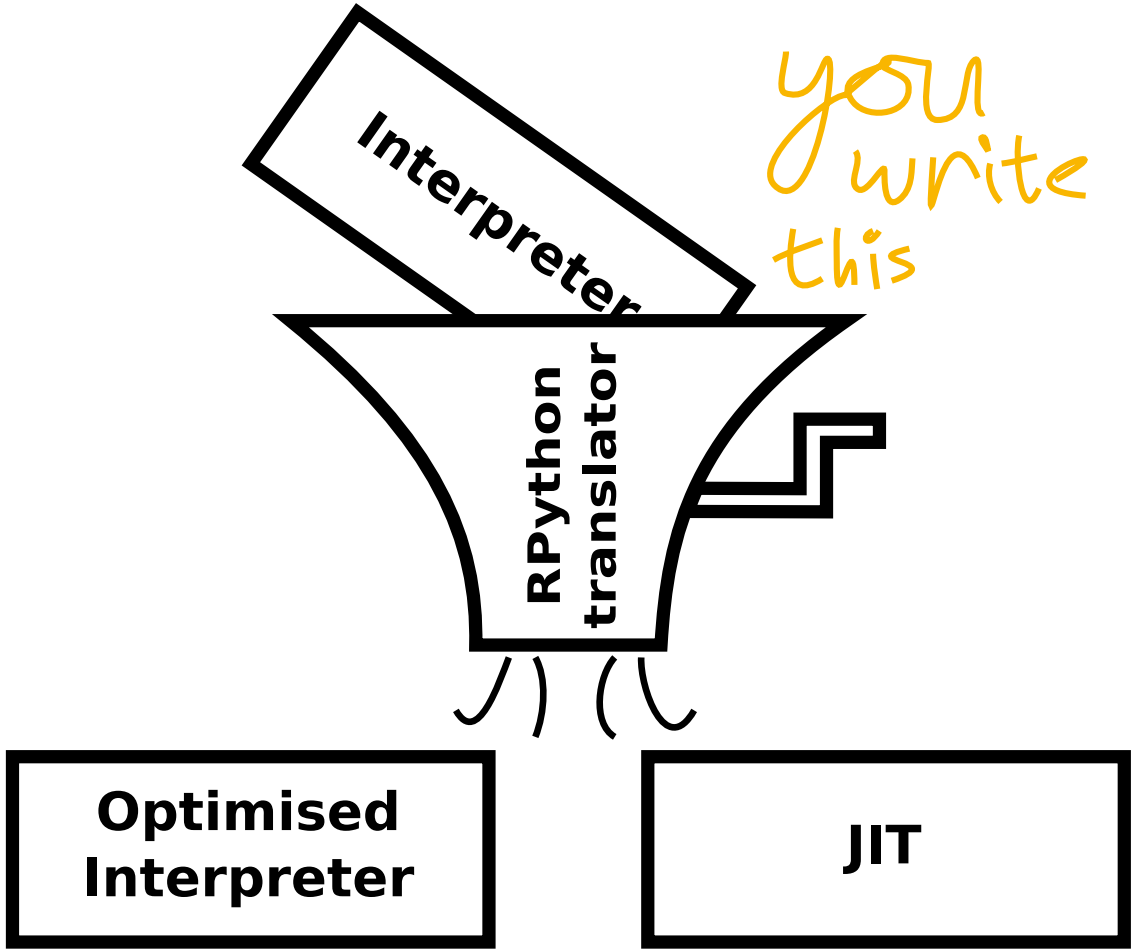

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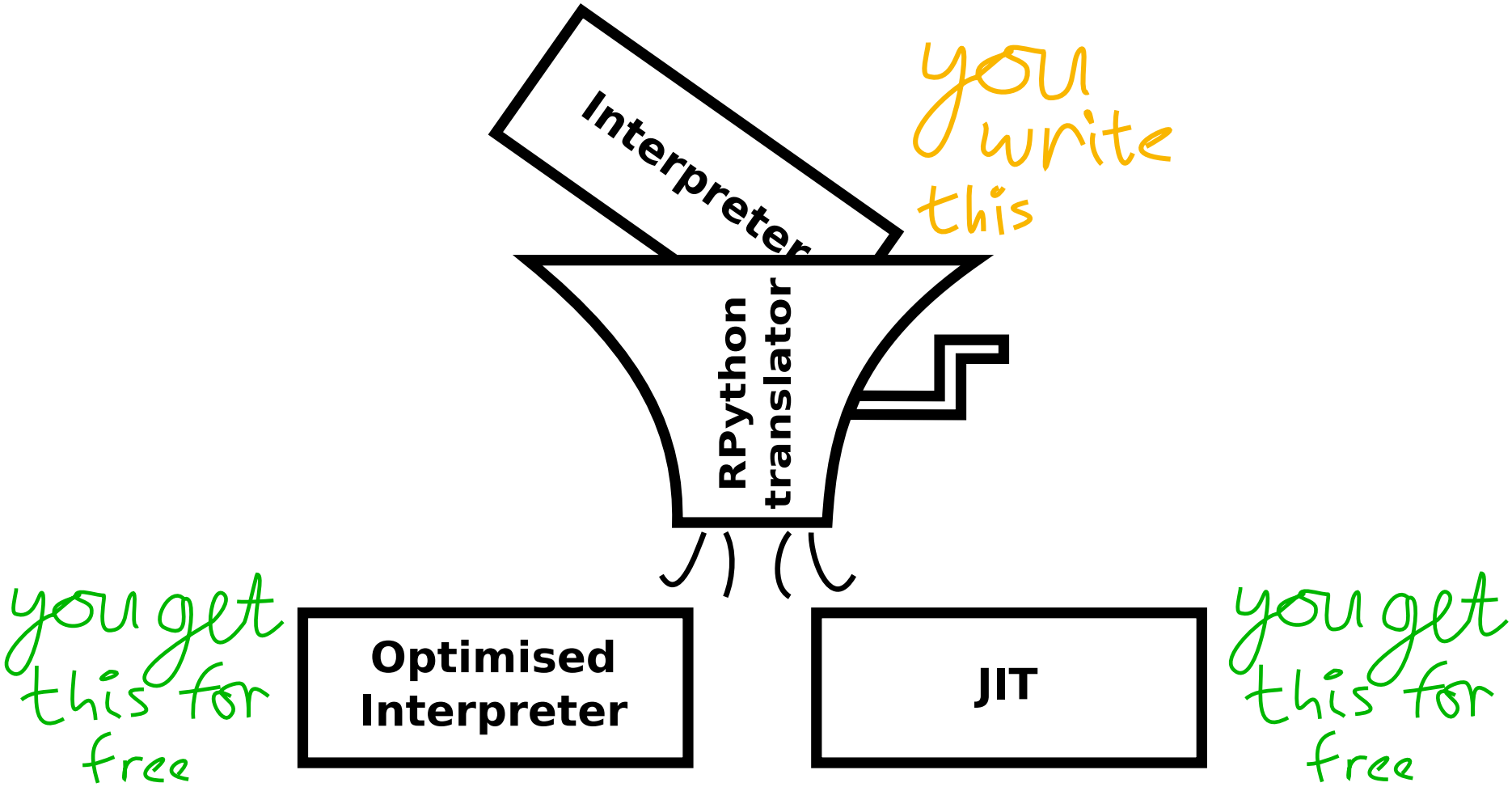
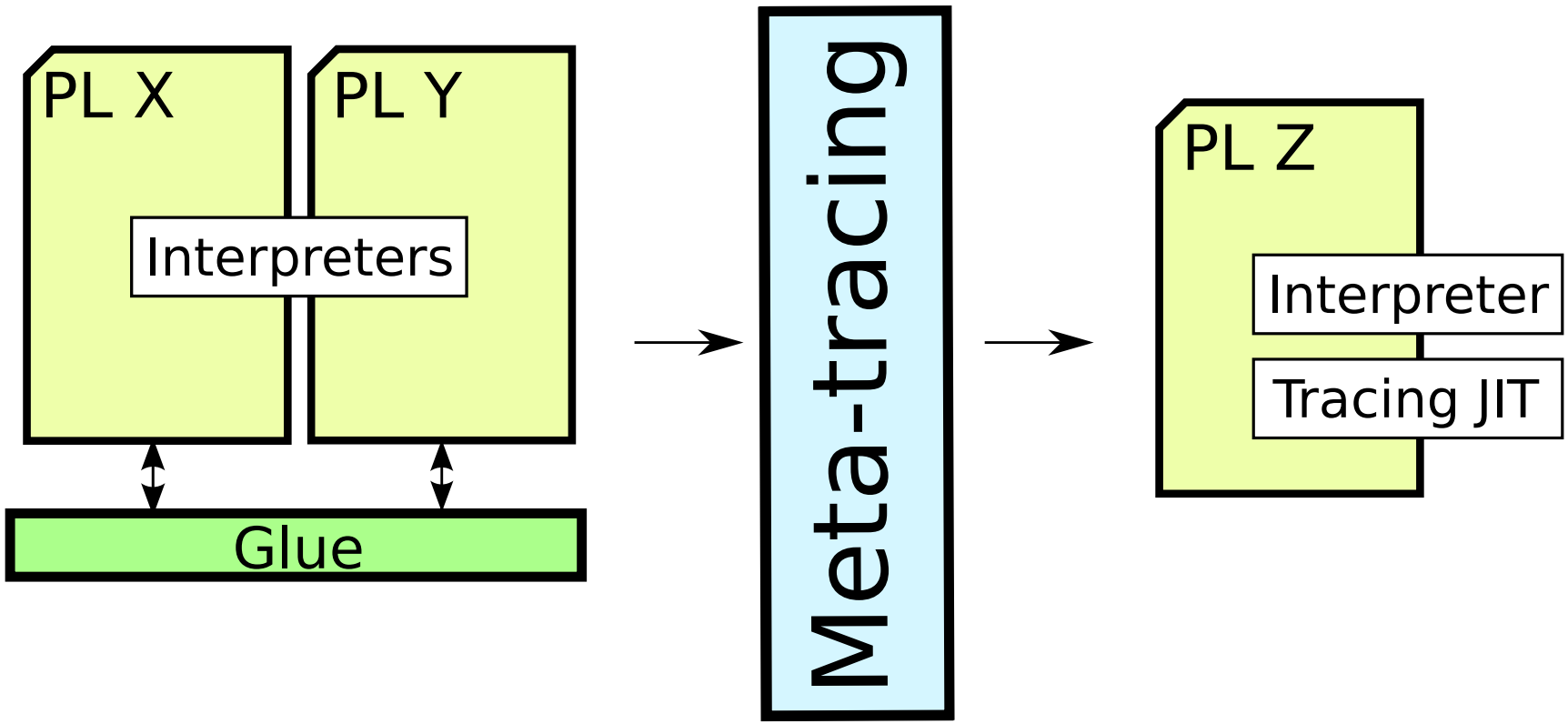


Runtime composition



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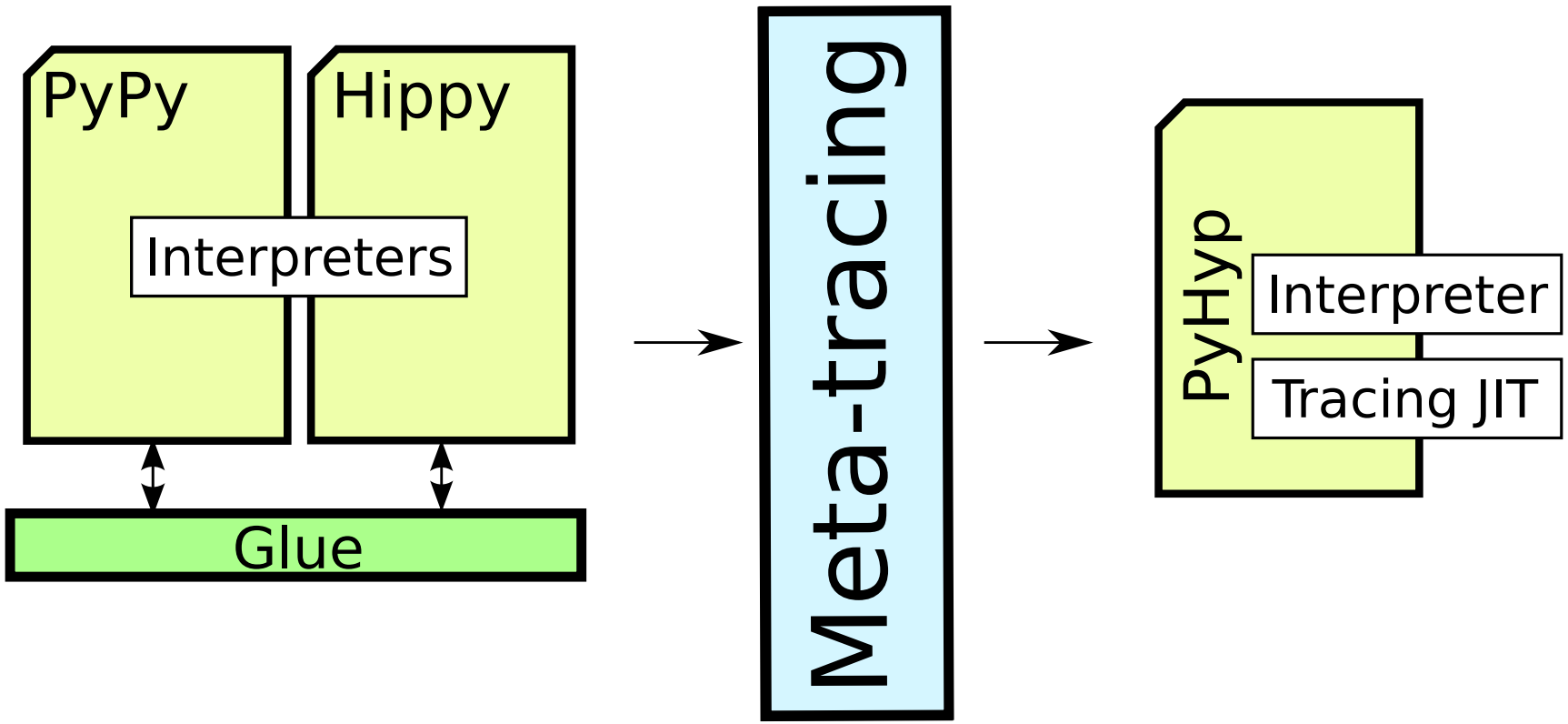

Performance demo

Composed Richards vs. other VMs

Type	VM	
Mono	CPython 2.7.7	9.475 ± 0.0127
	HHVM 3.4.0	4.264 ± 0.0386
	HippyVM	0.250 ± 0.0008
	PyPy 2.4.0	0.178 ± 0.0006
	Zend 5.5.13	9.070 ± 0.0361

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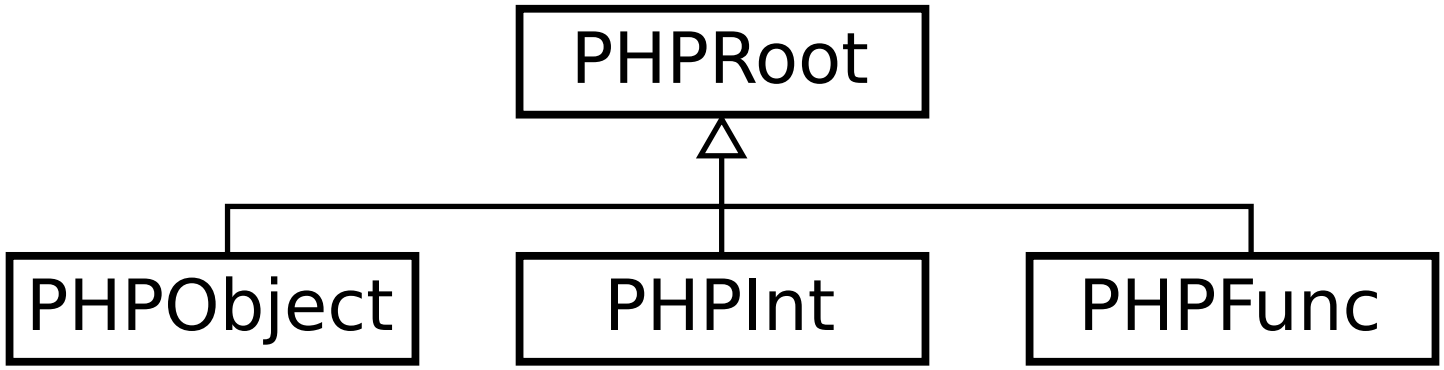
Datatype conversion



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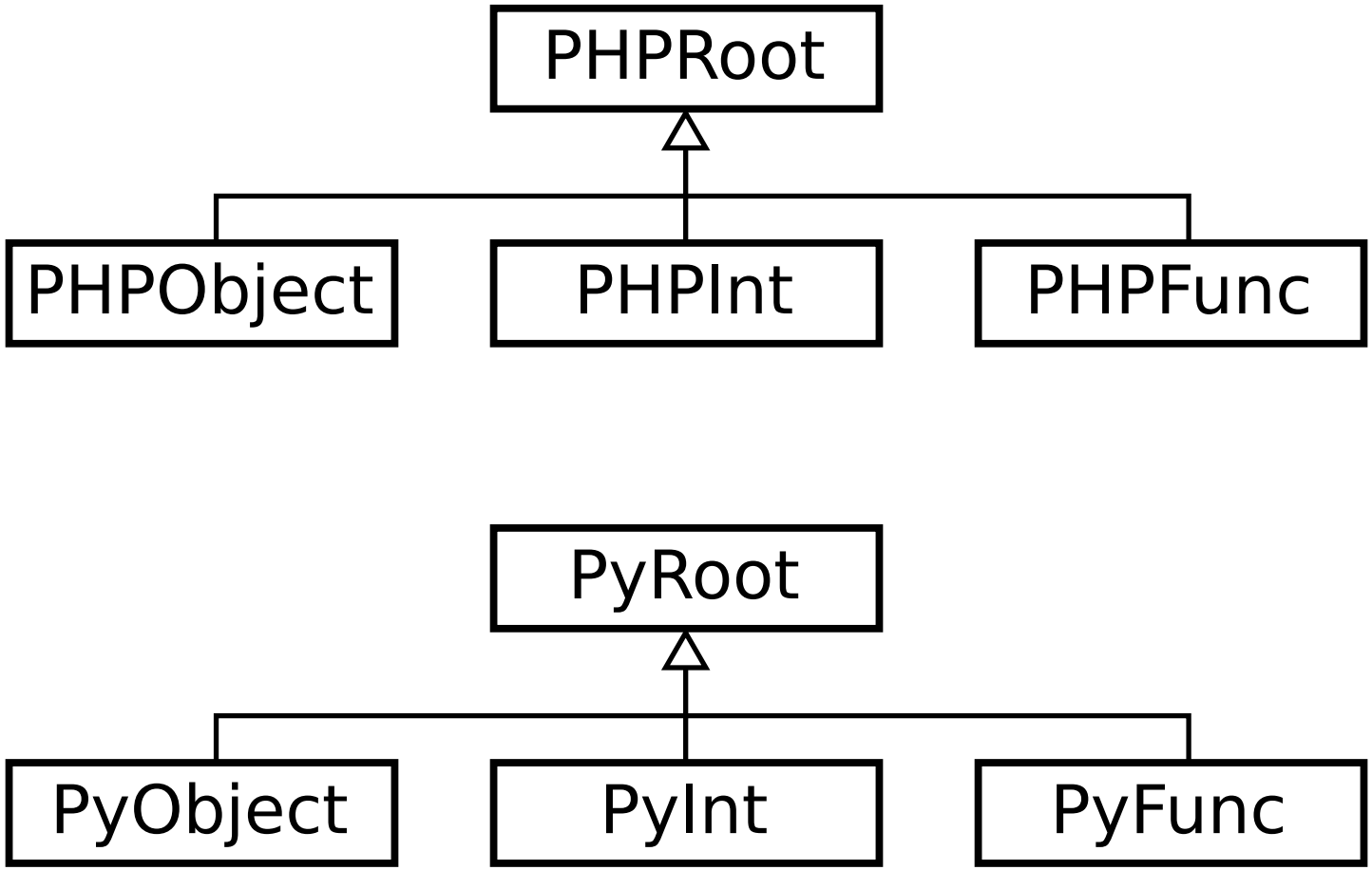


Datatype conversion: primitive types

PHP

Python

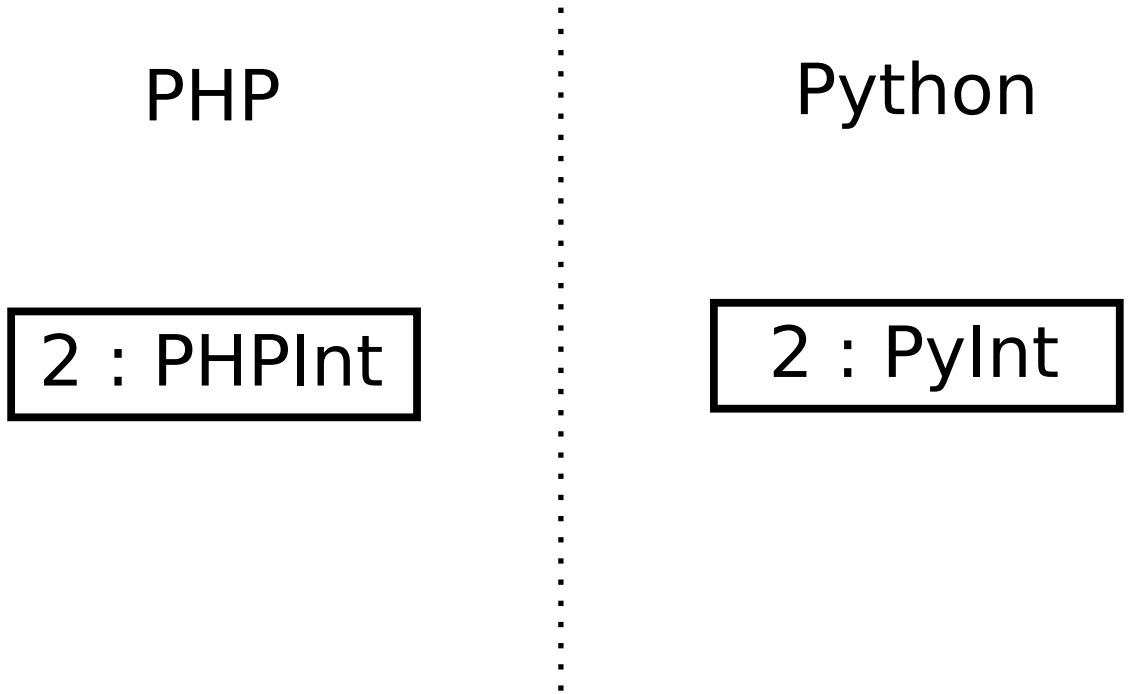
Datatype conversion: primitive types

PHP

Python

2 : PHPInt

Datatype conversion: primitive types

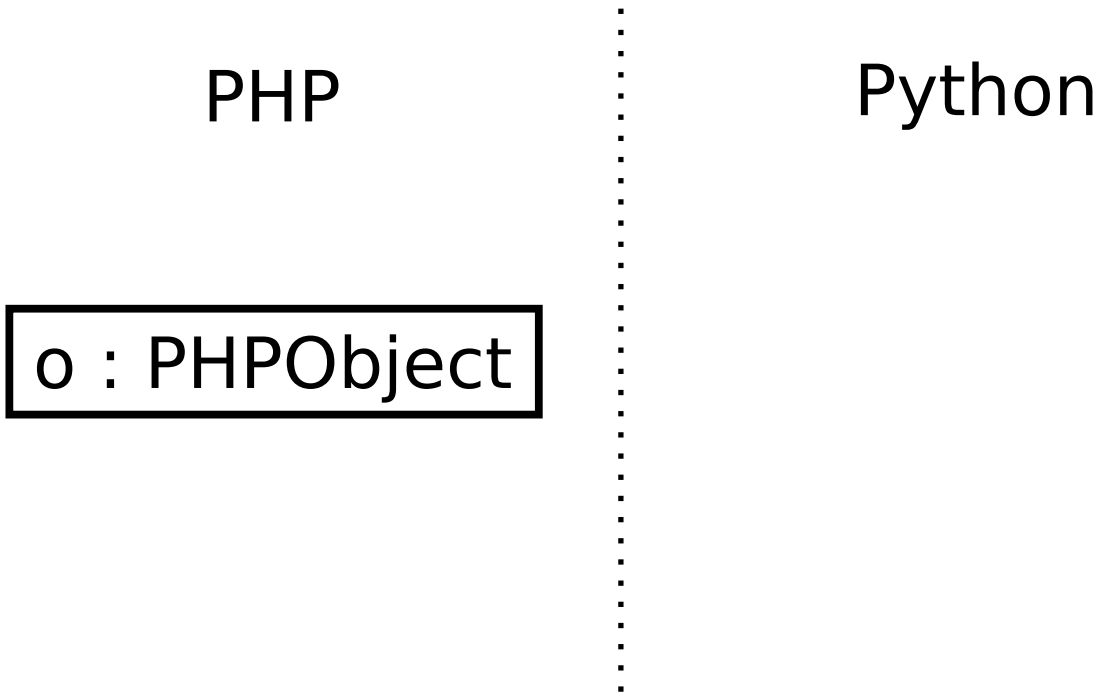


Datatype conversion: user types

PHP

Python

Datatype conversion: user types



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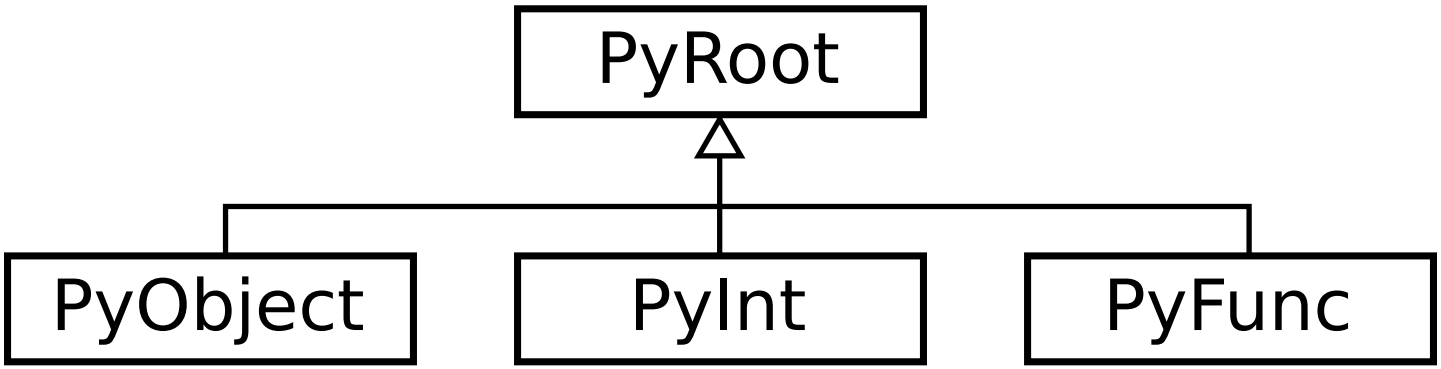

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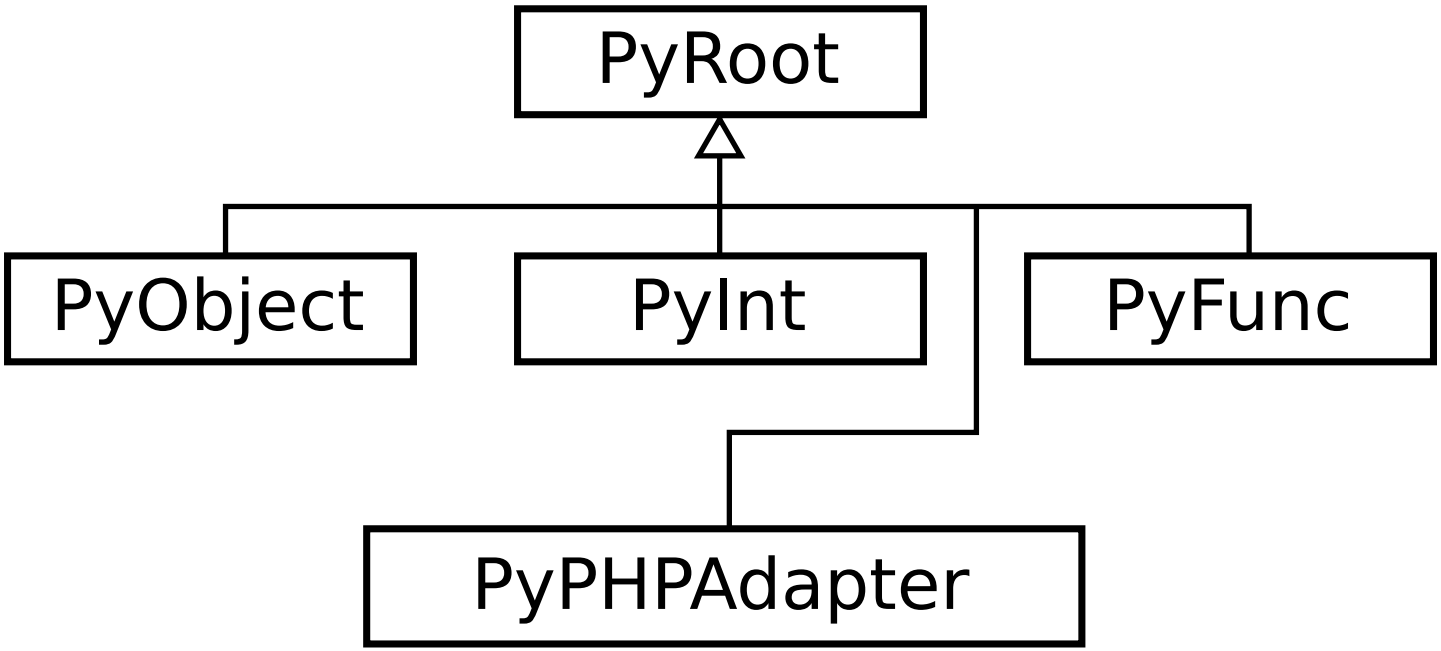

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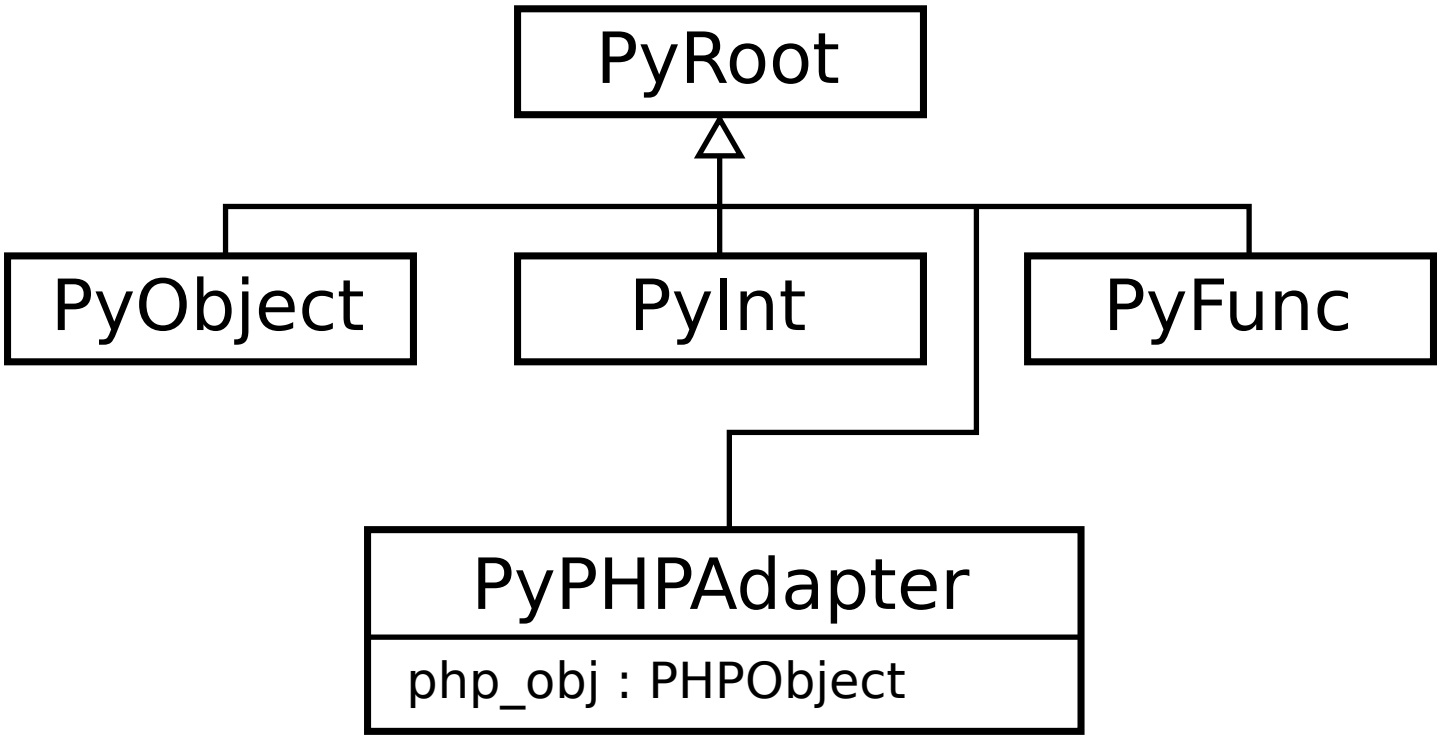

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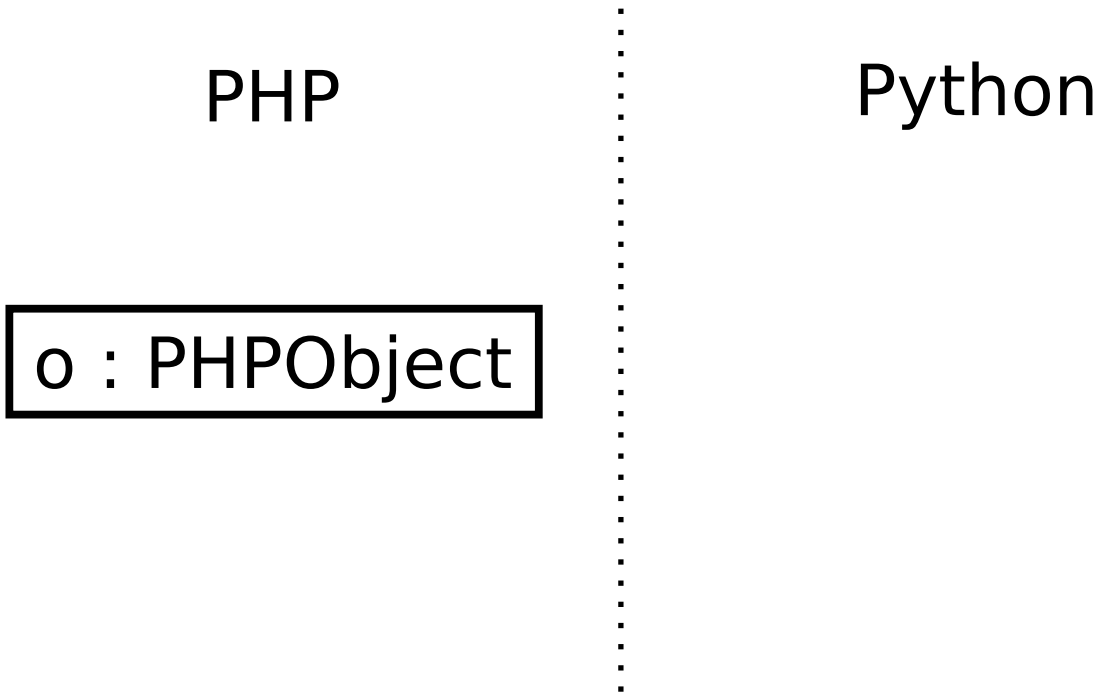

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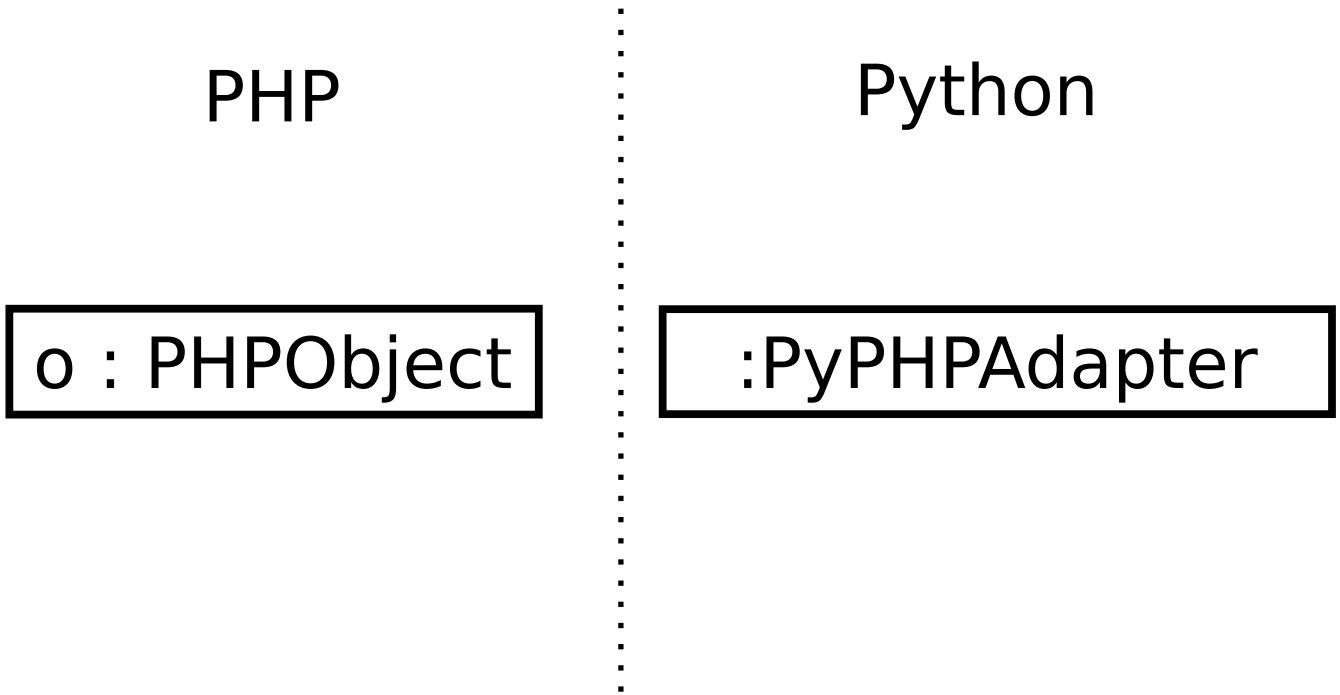

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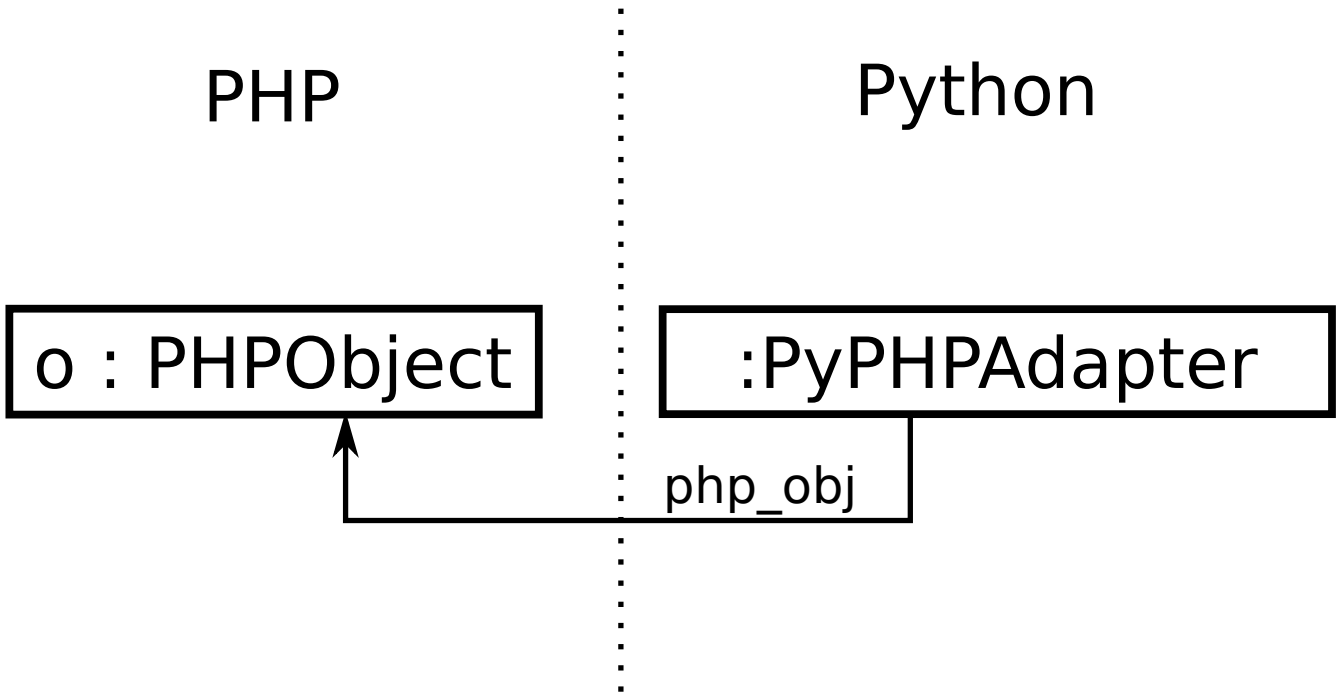

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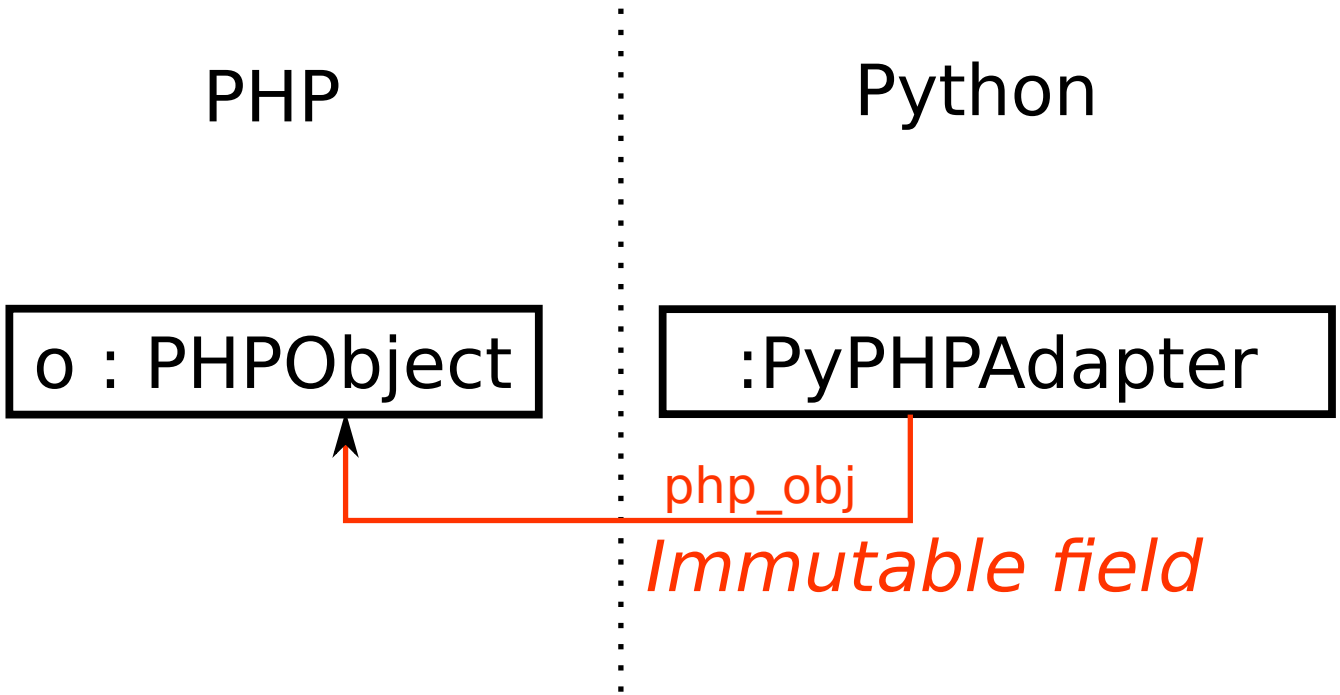

Friction

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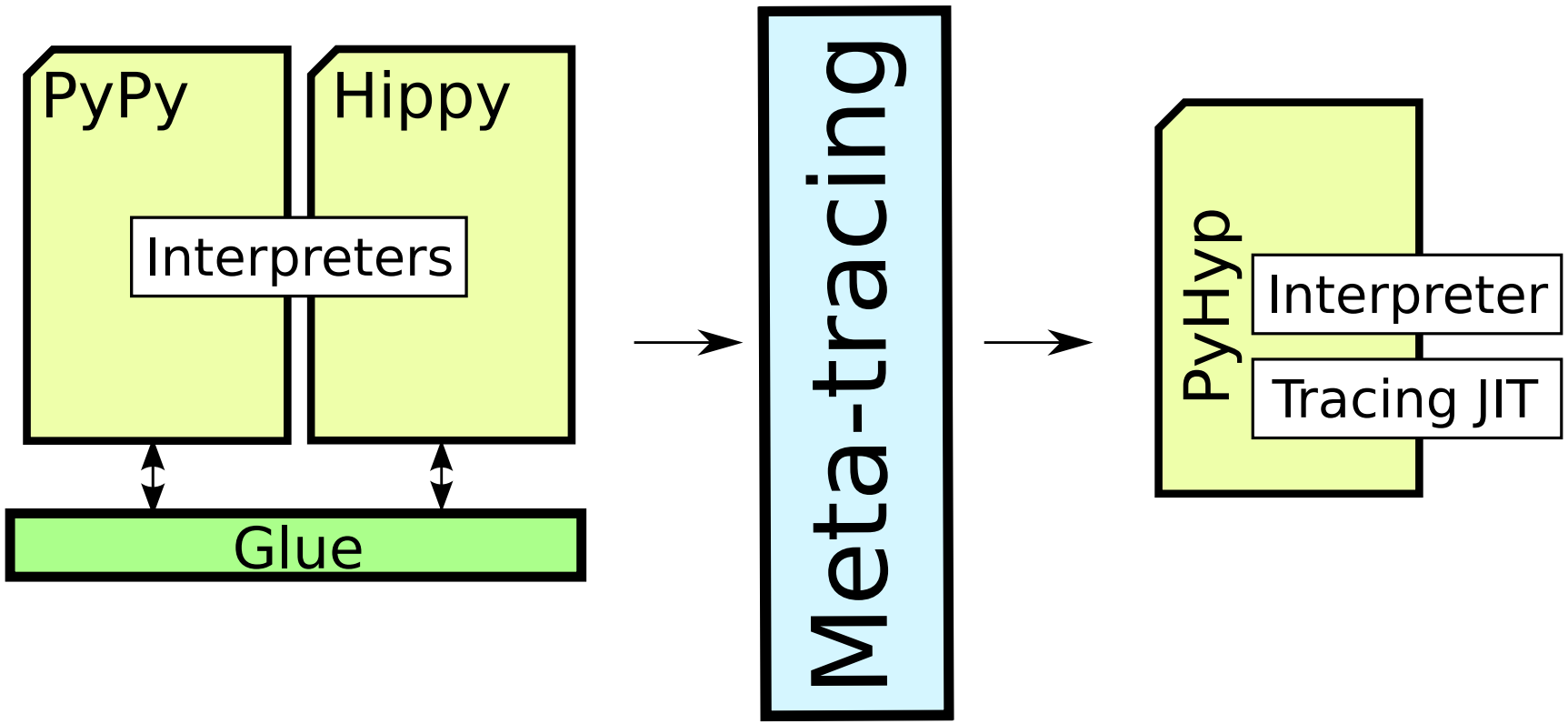
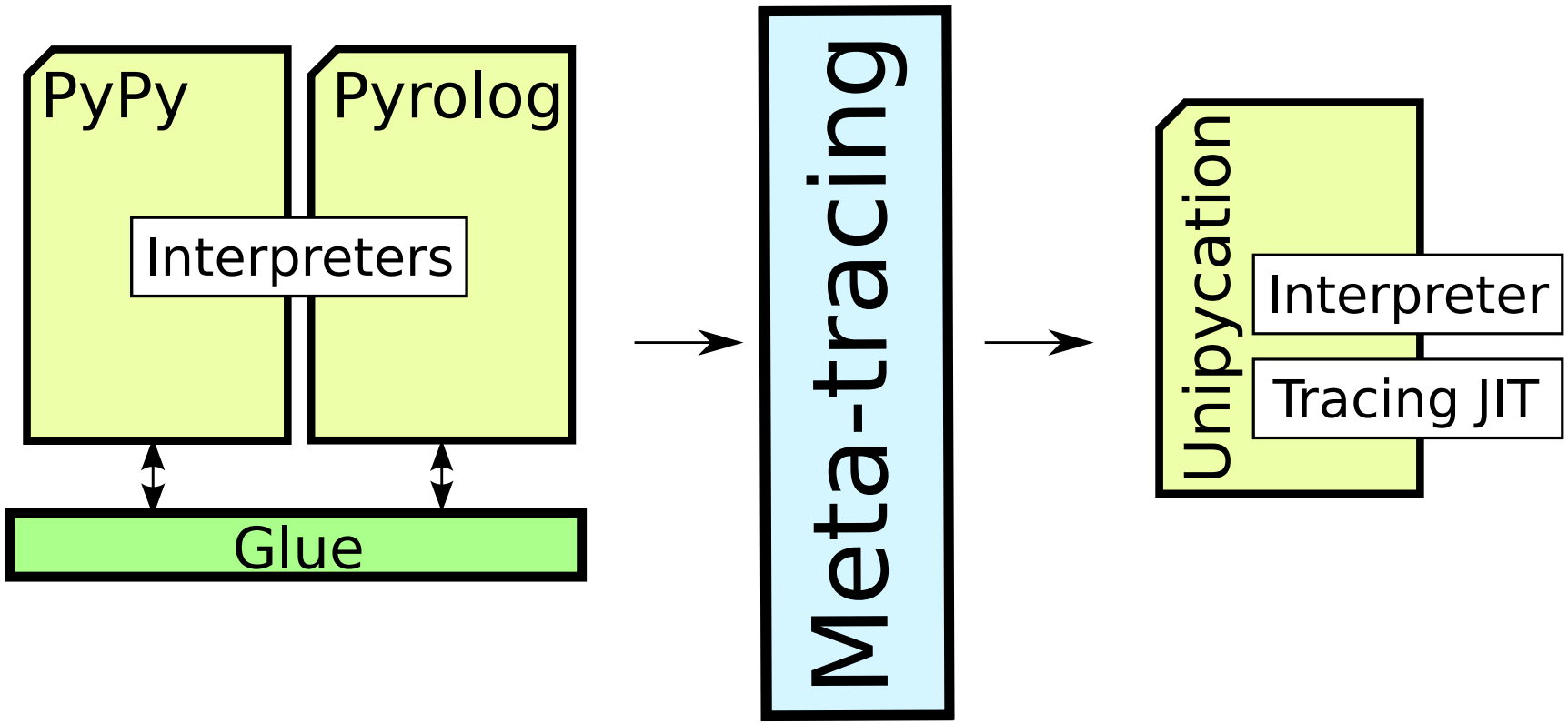
- Lexical scoping (or lack thereof) in PHP and Python (semantic friction)
- PHP datatypes are immutable except for references and objects; Python's are largely mutable (semantic and performance friction)
- PHP has only dictionaries; Python has lists and dictionaries (semantic friction)

Unipycation



Unipycation



Unipycation demo

Absolute timing comparison

VM	Benchmark	*Python*		*Prolog*		*Python* → *Prolog*	
CPython-SWI	SmallFunc	0.125s	±0.007	0.257s	±0.002	28.893s	±0.227
	L1A0R	2.924s	±0.284	7.352s	±0.048	9.310s	±0.084
	L1A1R	4.184s	±0.038	18.890s	±0.111	20.865s	±0.067
	NdL1A1R	7.531s	±0.080	18.643s	±0.197	667.682s	±6.895
	TCons	264.415s	±2.250	48.819s	±0.252	2185.150s	±18.225
	Lists	9.374s	±0.059	25.148s	±0.221	2207.304s	±16.073
Unipycation	SmallFunc	0.001s	±0.000	0.006s	±0.001	0.001s	±0.000
	L1A0R	0.085s	±0.000	0.086s	±0.000	0.087s	±0.000
	L1A1R	0.112s	±0.000	0.114s	±0.000	0.115s	±0.000
	NdL1A1R	0.500s	±0.003	0.548s	±0.085	2.674s	±0.012
	TCons	6.053s	±0.288	2.444s	±0.003	36.069s	±0.225
	Lists	0.845s	±0.002	1.416s	±0.003	5.056s	±0.035
Jython-tuProlog	SmallFunc	0.088s	±0.003	3.050s	±0.053	52.294s	±0.475
	L1A0R	1.078s	±0.009	206.590s	±3.846	199.963s	±2.476
	L1A1R	2.145s	±0.232	293.311s	±5.691	294.781s	±6.193
	NdL1A1R	7.939s	±0.457	1857.687s	±5.169	1990.985s	±15.071
	TCons	543.347s	±3.289	8014.477s	±17.710	8202.362s	±24.904
	Lists	5.661s	±0.046	6981.873s	±18.795	5577.322s	±15.754

Relative timing comparison

VM	Benchmark	$\frac{Python \to Prolog}{Python}$		$\frac{Python \to Prolog}{Prolog}$		$\frac{Python \to Prolog}{\text{Unipycation}}$	
CPython-SWI	SmallFunc	231.770×	±13.136	112.567×	±1.242	27821.079×	±2331.665
	L1A0R	3.184×	±0.300	1.266×	±0.014	107.591×	±0.995
	L1A1R	4.987×	±0.049	1.105×	±0.007	181.899×	±0.590
	NdL1A1R	88.654×	±1.368	35.814×	±0.554	249.737×	±2.922
	TCons	8.264×	±0.101	44.760×	±0.453	60.583×	±0.637
	Lists	235.459×	±2.314	87.772×	±1.017	436.609×	±4.415
Unipycation	SmallFunc	1.295×	±0.105	0.182×	±0.054	1.000×	
	L1A0R	1.020×	±0.002	1.012×	±0.002	1.000×	
	L1A1R	1.025×	±0.002	1.002×	±0.003	1.000×	
	NdL1A1R	5.349×	±0.045	4.879×	±0.924	1.000×	
	TCons	5.959×	±0.282	14.756×	±0.092	1.000×	
	Lists	5.982×	±0.045	3.569×	±0.026	1.000×	
Jython-tuProlog	SmallFunc	592.904×	±19.517	17.143×	±0.338	50354.204×	±4341.413
	L1A0R	185.460×	±2.818	0.968×	±0.021	2310.844×	±28.093
	L1A1R	137.427×	±14.537	1.005×	±0.028	2569.873×	±52.847
	NdL1A1R	250.776×	±14.666	1.072×	±0.009	744.699×	±6.726
	TCons	15.096×	±0.106	1.023×	±0.004	227.409×	±1.592
	Lists	985.149×	±8.674	0.799×	±0.003	1103.206×	±8.338

What can we use this for?

What can we use this for?

First-class languages

What can we use this for?

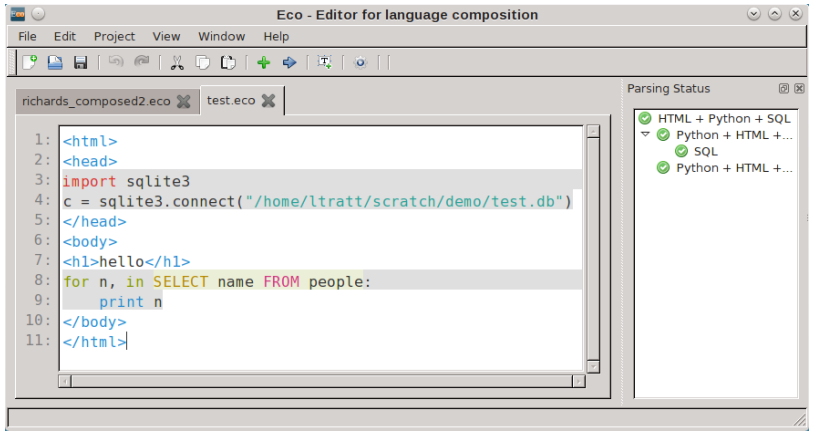
First-class languages

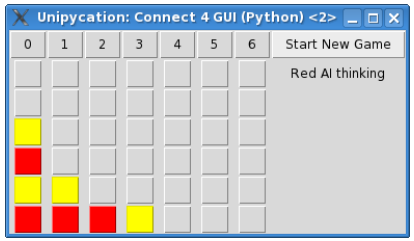
Language migration

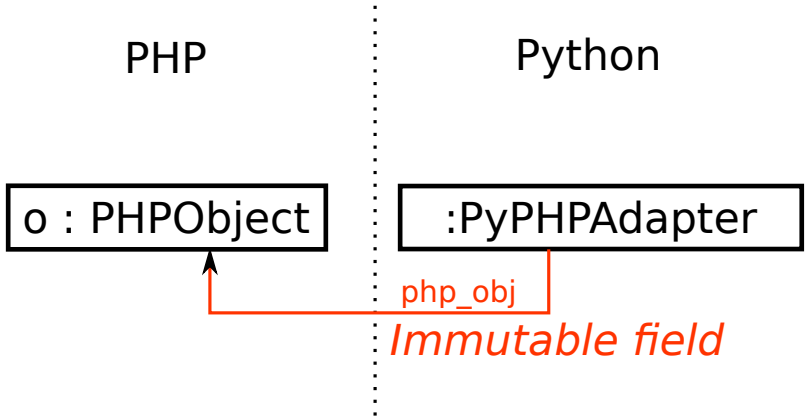
Thanks to our funders

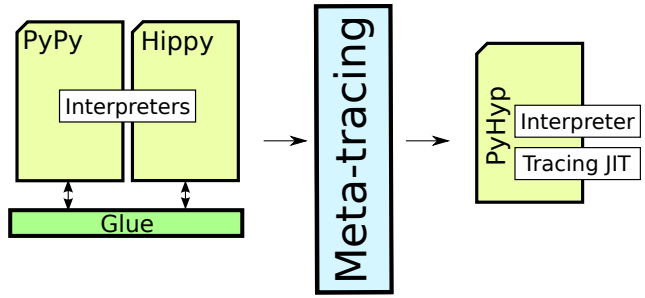
- EPSRC: *COOLER* and *Lecture*.
- Oracle: various.

Thanks for listening









http://soft-dev.org/