Why Aren't More Users More Happy With Our VMs?

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Tratt

Warmup work in collaboration with:
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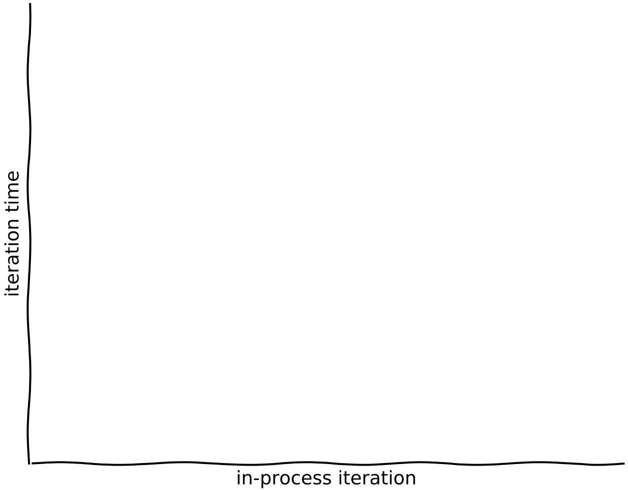
2018-11-06

JVMs bring "gcc -O2" to the masses

–*Cliff Click*: A JVM does that?

What do VM claims pertain to?



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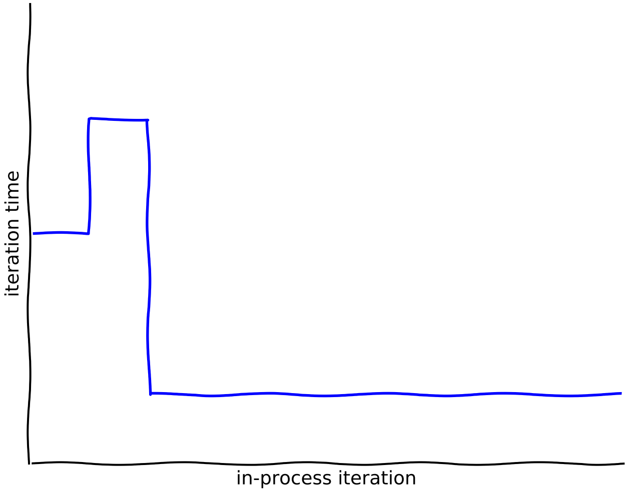

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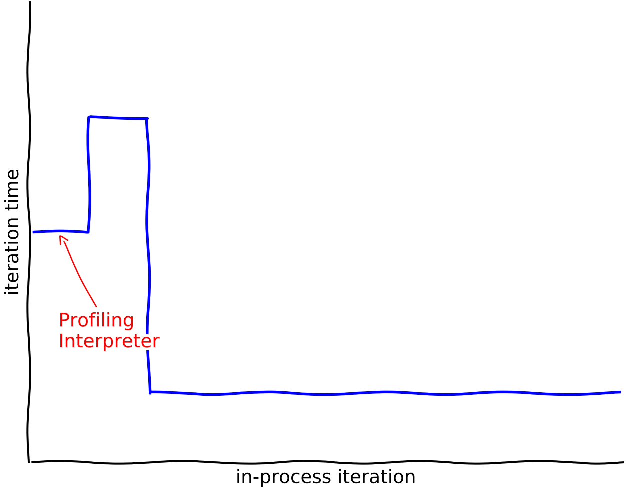

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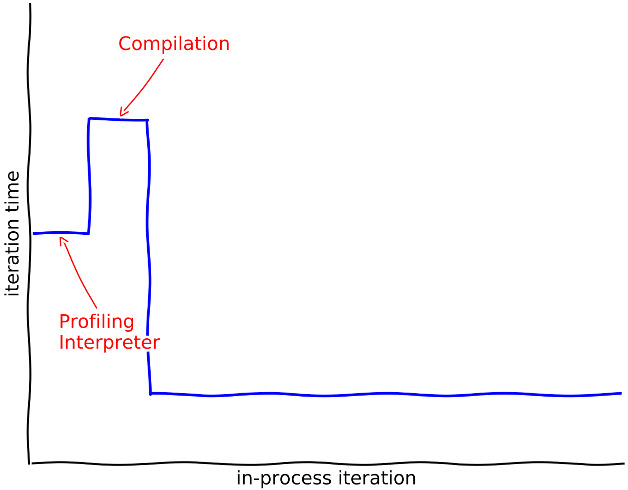

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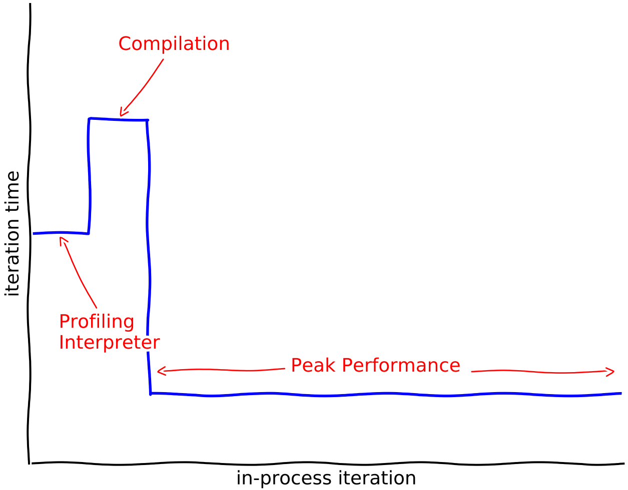

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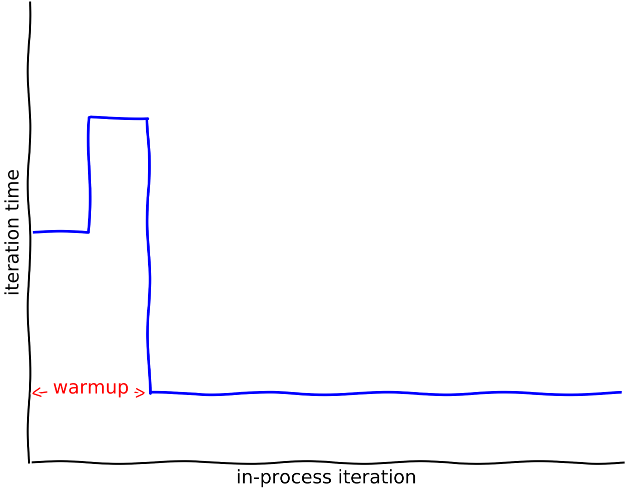

Warmup

Users *always* perceive warmup

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Maybe we should know how long it is?

The Warmup Experiment

Measure warmup of modern language implementations

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Hypothesis: Small, deterministic programs reach a steady state of peak performance.

Method 1: Which benchmarks?

The language benchmark games are perfect for us (unusually)

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The language benchmark games are perfect for us (unusually)

We removed any CFG non-determinism

We added checksums to all benchmarks

Method 2: How long to run?

2000 *in-process iterations*

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2000 *in-process iterations*

30 *process executions*

Method 3: VMs

- Graal-0.22
- HHVM-3.19.1
- TruffleRuby 20170502
- Hotspot-8u121b13
- LuaJit-2.0.4
- PyPy-5.7.1
- V8-5.8.283.32
- GCC-4.9.4

Note: same GCC (4.9.4) used for all compilation

Method 4: Machines

- Linux_{4790}, Debian 8, 24GiB RAM
- $\text{Linux}_{\text{E3-1240v5}}$, Debian 8, 32GiB RAM
- OpenBSD_{4790}, OpenBSD 6.0, 32GiB RAM

Method 4: Machines

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- Turbo boost and hyper-threading disabled
- Network card turned off.
- Daemons disabled (cron, smtpd)

Method 5: Krun

Benchmark runner: tries to control as many confounding variables as possible

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Benchmark runner: tries to control as many confounding variables as possible e.g.:

- Minimises I/O
- Sets fixed heap and stack ulimits
- Drops privileges to a ‘clean’ user account
- Automatically reboots the system prior to each proc. exec
- Reruns any proc. exec where the CPU was throttled
- Checks `dmesg` for changes after each proc. exec
- Checks system at (roughly) same temperature for proc. execs
- Enforces kernel settings (tickless mode, CPU governors, ...)

And now for data...

The experiment has gone through many versions.

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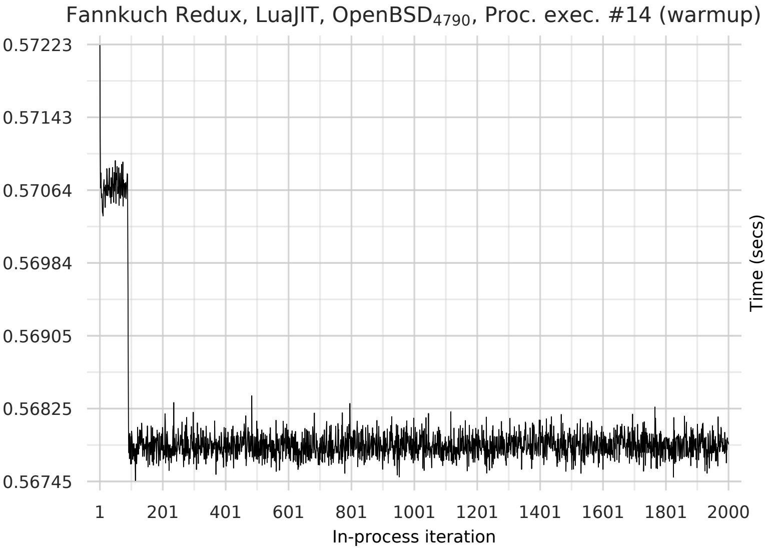
The following data is from the 1.5 run.

Warmup & flat (1)



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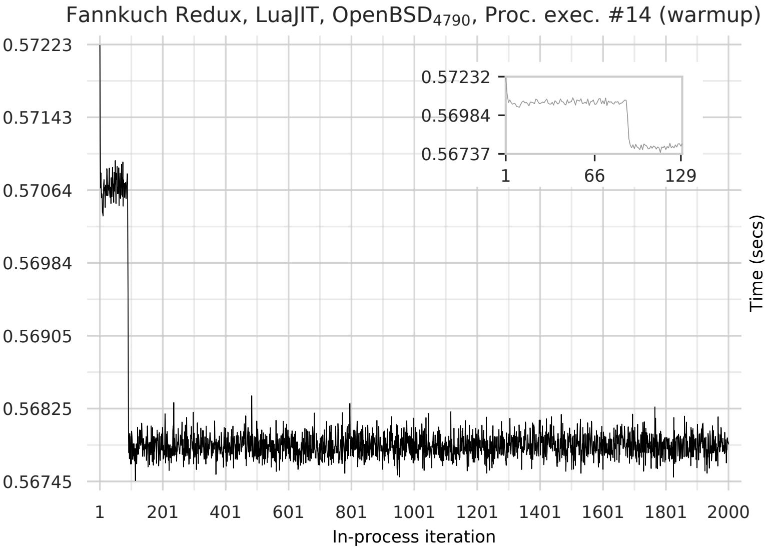

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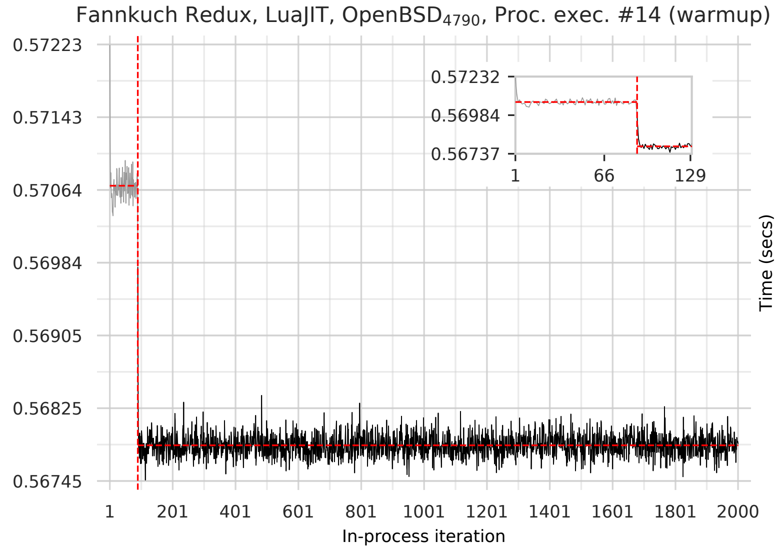

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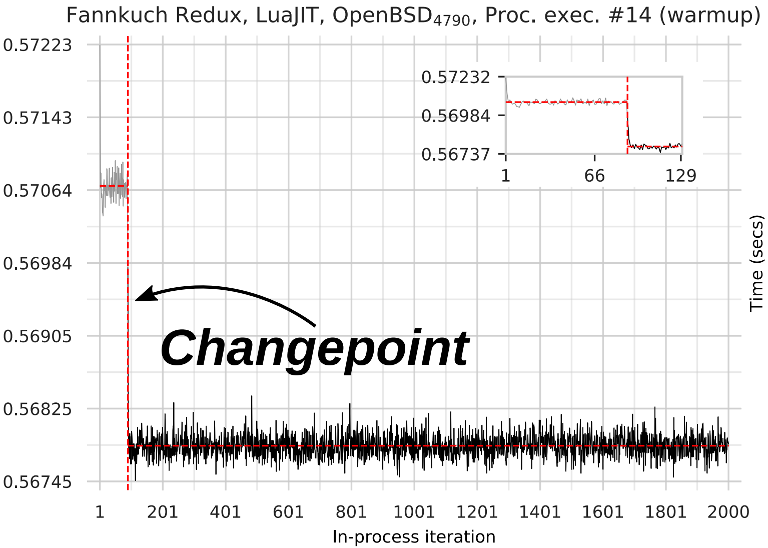
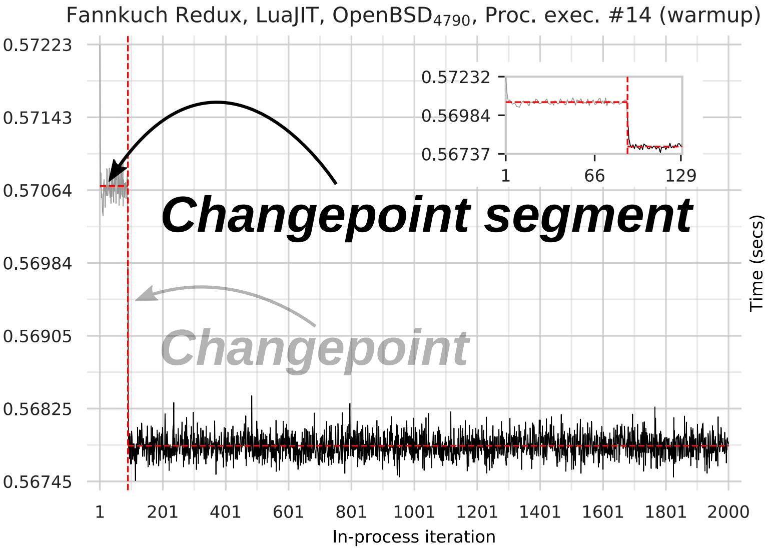
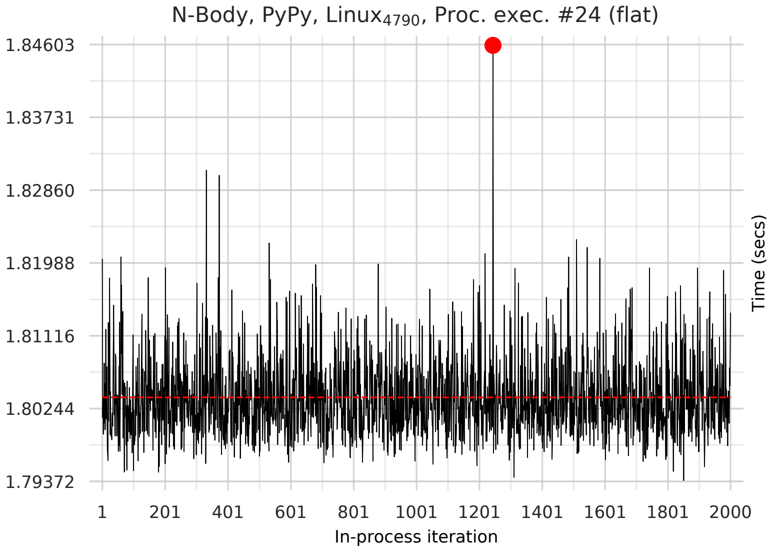



Fannkuch Redux, LuaJIT, OpenBSD4790, Proc. exec. #14 (warmup)
0.57223
0.57143
0.57064
0.56984
0.56905
0.56825
0.56745
1
201
401
601
801
1001
1201
1401
1601
1801
2000
In-process iteration
Time (secs)
0.57232
0.56984
0.56737
1
66
129
Changepoint segment
Changepoint

Warmup & flat (1)



Classification algorithm (steps in order):

- All segs are equivalent: *flat*

Method 7: Classification

Classification algorithm (steps in order):

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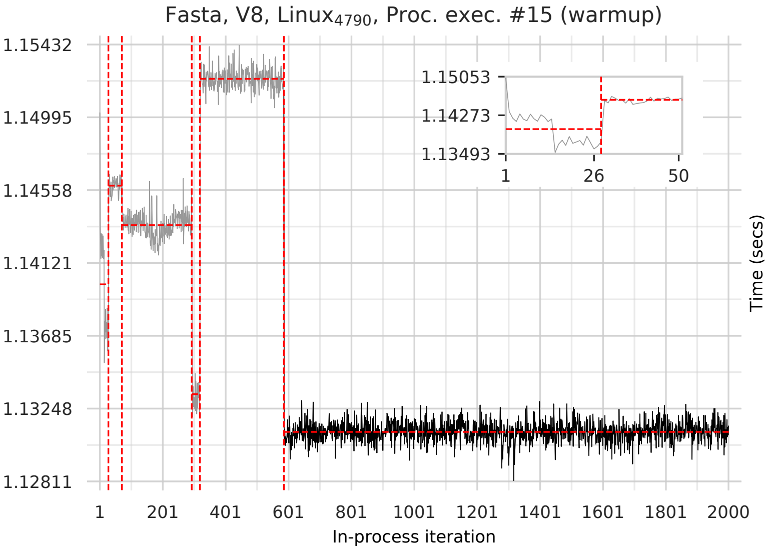
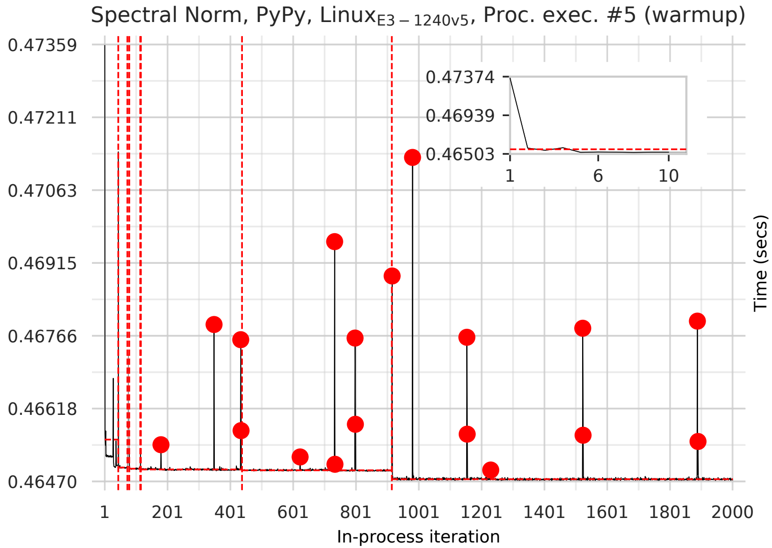
- Final seg is in fastest set: *warmup*

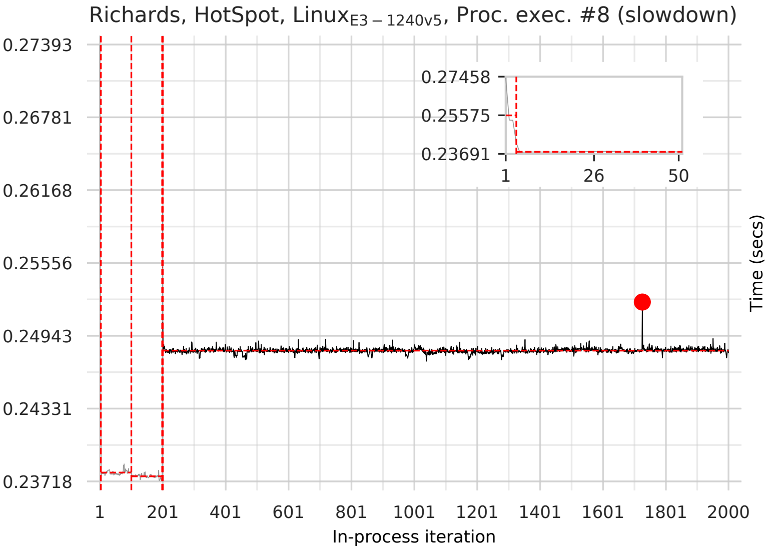
Warmup & flat (2)



Warmup & flat (2)



Slowdown (1)



Richards, HotSpot, Linux$_{E3-1240v5}$, Proc. exec. #8 (slowdown)
0.27393
0.26781
0.26168
0.25556
0.24943
0.24331
0.23718
0.27458
0.25575
0.23691
1
26
50
1
201
401
601
801
1001
1201
1401
1601
1801
2000
In-process iteration
Time (secs)

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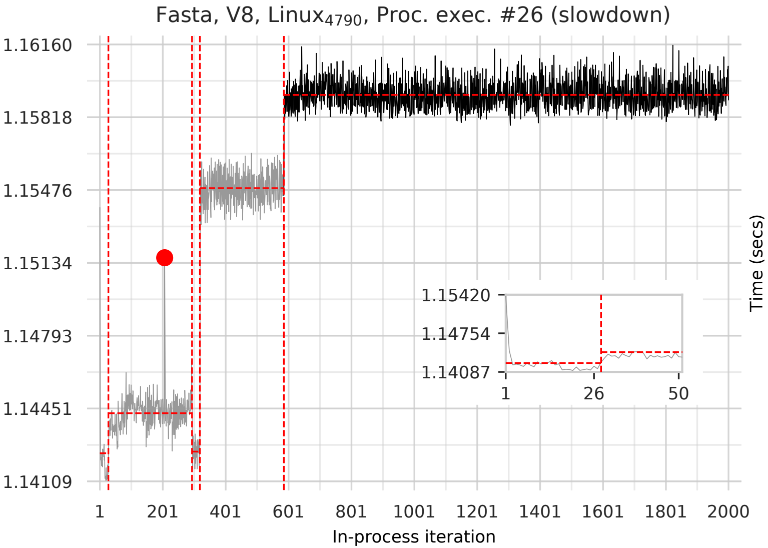
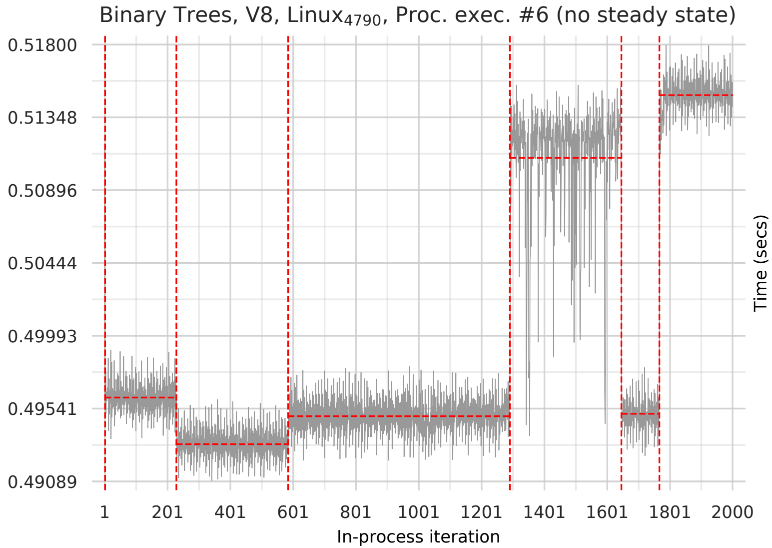
Slowdown (2)



Fasta, V8, Linux$_{4790}$, Proc. exec. #26 (slowdown)
1.16160
1.15818
1.15476
1.15134
1.14793
1.14451
1.14109
1
201
401
601
801
1001
1201
1401
1601
1801
2000
In-process iteration
Time (secs)
1.15420
1.14754
1.14087
1
26
50

No steady state (1)



Classification (3)

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Good

Classification (3)

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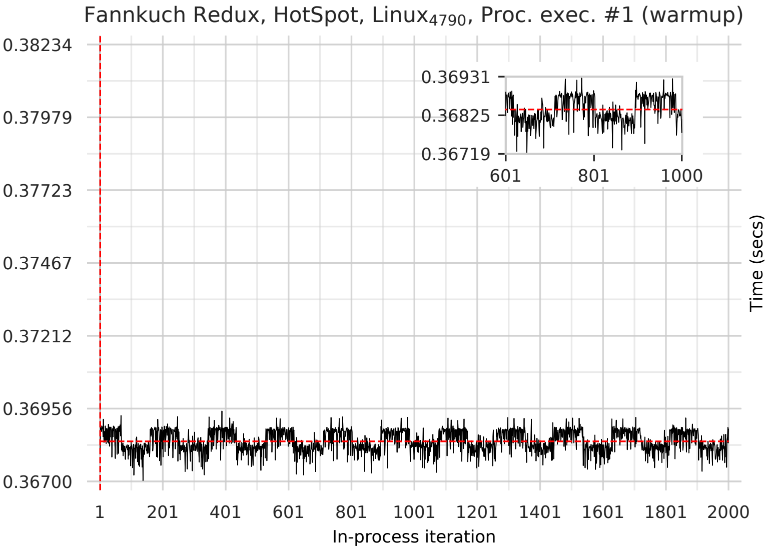
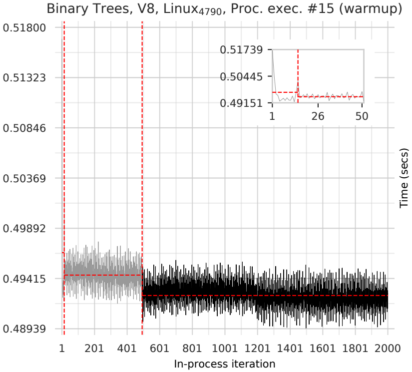
- Final seg is not in fastest set: *slowdown*
- Else: *no steady state*

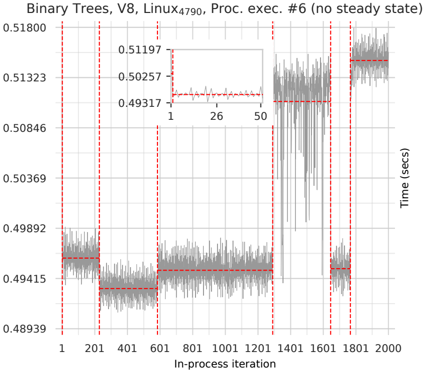
Bad

Warmup or no steady state?



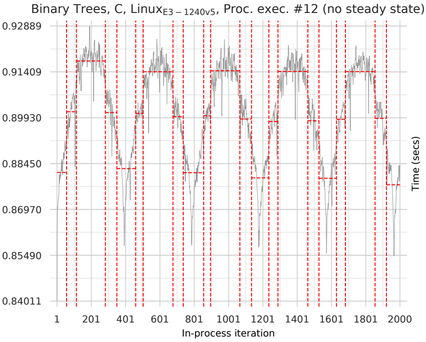
Inconsistent Process-executions

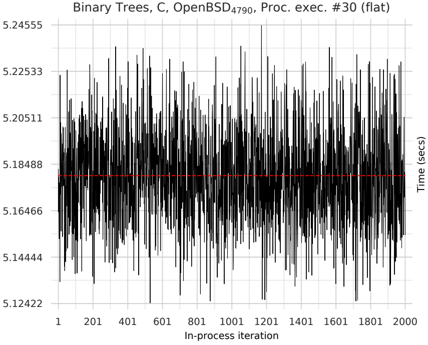




(Same machine)

Inconsistent Process-executions





(Different machines. Bouncing ball Linux-specific)

Individual benchmark stats

		Class.	Steady iter (#)	Steady iter (s)	Steady perf (s)		Class.	Steady iter (#)	Steady iter (s)	Steady perf (s)
C	*binary trees*	∿				*n-body*	–			0.40557 ±0.006155
Graal		≍ (27↘, 2↗, 1∿)					↘	6.0 (5.0,7.0)	0.86 (0.704,1.090)	0.13677 ±0.000035
HHVM		≍ (19↘, 7↗, 4∿)								
HotSpot		≍ (15↘, 13↗, 2∿)					↘	2.0 (2.0,2.0)	0.14 (0.142,0.151)	0.13699 ±0.000029
LuaJIT		≍ (25↘, 3∿, 2↗)					= (29–, 1↘)	1.0 (1.0,1.0)	0.00 (0.000,0.000)	0.25401 ±0.002040
PyPy		≍ (27∿, 3↗)					–			1.83314 ±0.024563
TruffleRuby		≍ (19↗, 11↘)	1003.0 (283.8,1009.2)	2621.96 (749.093,2639.554)	2.61136 ±0.036511		≍ (28↘, 2↗)	68.0 (68.0,1003.0)	40.45 (40.056,481.916)	0.46998 ±0.001516
V8		≍ (13–, 9↗, 8↘)	228.0 (1.0,588.0)	106.34 (0.000,275.806)	0.46927 ±0.003135		= (20–, 10↘)	1.0 (1.0,363.0)	0.00 (0.000,87.733)	0.24148 ±0.000304
C	*fannkuch redux*	≍ (25–, 5↗)	1.0 (1.0,538.9)	0.00 (0.000,224.243)	0.41742 ±0.011343	*Richards*	≍ (18–, 8↗, 4∿)			
Graal		≍ (26↘, 4∿)					↘	2.0 (2.0,35.3)	0.95 (0.879,9.745)	0.26465 ±0.007761
HHVM		≍ (28↘, 2∿)								
HotSpot		≍ (17↗, 10↘, 3∿)					≍ (28↗, 1∿, 1↘)			
LuaJIT		–			0.56287 ±0.000113		≍ (18∿, 7↗, 5↘)			
PyPy		≍ (19–, 9↘, 2↗)	1.0 (1.0,1120.3)	0.00 (0.000,1802.797)	1.60962 ±0.022821		↘	2.0 (2.0,2.0)	1.04 (1.023,1.102)	0.88940 ±0.035495
TruffleRuby		≍ (26↗, 3∿, 1↘)					↗	1021.0 (334.6,1068.9)	1521.33 (499.847,1585.296)	1.48585 ±0.011040
V8		= (28↘, 2–)	2.0 (1.5,25.0)	0.32 (0.142,7.583)	0.30634 ±0.000160		↘	3.0 (3.0,189.8)	1.04 (0.961,97.303)	0.47681 ±0.020468
C	*fasta*	–			0.06848 ±0.000167	*spectralnorm*	≍ (27↘, 2–, 1↗)	775.0 (1.5,780.0)	425.16 (0.246,426.809)	0.54581 ±0.033116
Graal		↘	4.0 (3.0,34.4)	0.75 (0.535,5.873)	0.16188 ±0.000738		↗	14.0 (2.0,94.6)	13.60 (0.830,98.737)	1.05685 ±0.000126
HHVM		≍ (13↗, 10↘, 7∿)					≍ (29↘, 1∿)			
HotSpot		≍ (27↘, 3↗)	6.0 (5.0,595.0)	0.62 (0.500,70.062)	0.11691 ±0.001949		↘	7.0 (7.0,7.5)	1.91 (1.902,3.645)	0.31472 ±0.169143
LuaJIT		≍ (19↗, 9–, 1∿, 1↘)					–			0.22181 ±0.000039
PyPy		∿					= (27–, 3↘)	1.0 (1.0,45.2)	0.00 (0.000,20.597)	0.46480 ±0.000085
TruffleRuby							≍ (25↗, 5∿)			
V8		≍ (27↗, 3↘)	586.0 (318.0,587.6)	612.12 (330.270,622.328)	1.04904 ±0.020905		↘	3.0 (3.0,3.0)	0.52 (0.523,0.526)	0.25362 ±0.000034

Individual benchmark stats

		Class.	Steady iter (#)	Steady iter (s)	Steady perf (s)
C	*spectralnorm*	⋇ (27⅂, 2—, 1⌈)	775.0 (1.5,780.0)	425.16 (0.246,426.809)	0.54581 ±0.033116
Graal		⌈	14.0 (2.0,94.6)	13.60 (0.830,98.737)	1.05685 ±0.000126
HHVM		⋇ (29⅂, 1⏦)			
HotSpot		⅂	7.0 (7.0,7.5)	1.91 (1.902,3.645)	0.31472 ±0.169143
LuaJIT		—			0.22181 ±0.000039
PyPy		= (27—, 3⅂)	1.0 (1.0,45.2)	0.00 (0.000,20.597)	0.46480 ±0.000085
TruffleRuby		⋇ (25⌈, 5⏦)			
V8		⅂	3.0 (3.0,3.0)	0.52 (0.523,0.526)	0.25362 ±0.000034

Overall benchmark stats

Class.	Linux_{4790}	Linux_{1240v5}	OpenBSD_{4790} †
	⟨VM, benchmark⟩ pairs		
—	8.9%	11.1%	13.3%
ʅ	20.0%	17.8%	20.0%
ʃ	4.4%	4.4%	3.3%
ʌʌ	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%
=	11.1%	8.9%	13.3%
⋇	51.1%	53.3%	50.0%
	Process executions		
—	22.0%	23.3%	37.7%
ʅ	48.3%	43.9%	35.2%
ʃ	20.1%	22.1%	12.1%
ʌʌ	9.6%	10.8%	15.0%

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Summary

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67.2%–70.3% of process executions

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37.8%–40.0% of (VM, benchmark) pairs

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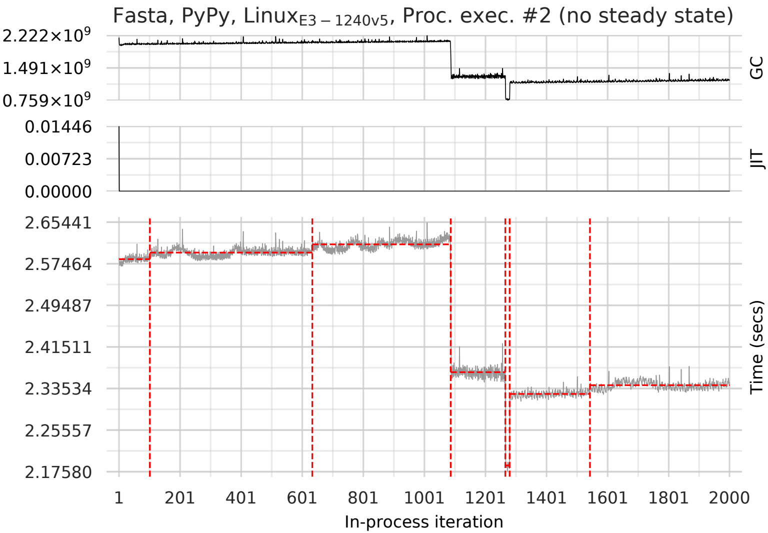
Classical warmup occurs for only:

67.2%–70.3% of process executions

37.8%–40.0% of (VM, benchmark) pairs

12.5% of benchmarks for (VM, benchmark, machine) triples

Are odd effects correlated with compilation and GC?



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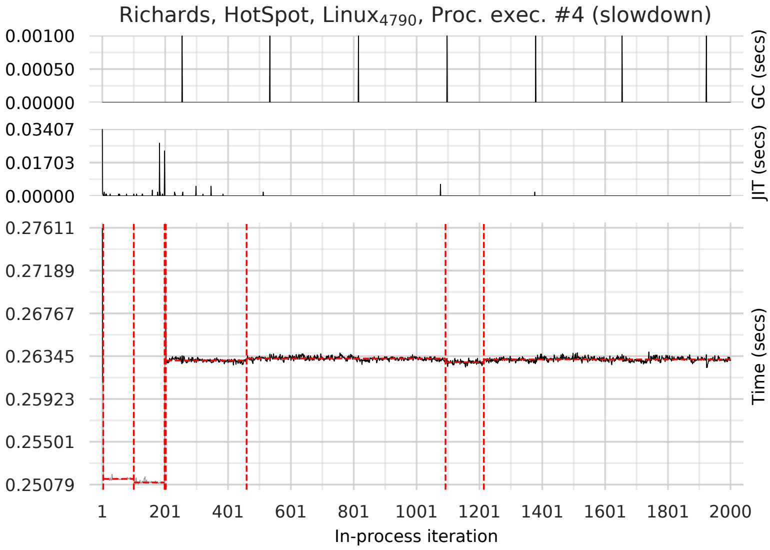

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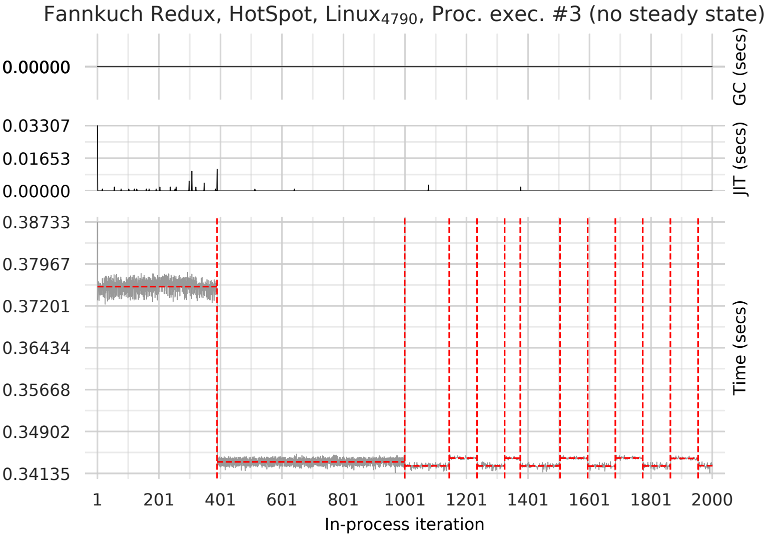

Benchmark suites

Benchmarks guide our optimisations

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Are they complete guides?

A war story

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Symptom: poor performance of a Pyston benchmark on PyPy

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Cause: RPython traces recursion

A war story

Symptom: poor performance of a Pyston benchmark on PyPy

Cause: RPython traces recursion

Fix: Check for recursion before tracing

A war story: the basis of a fix

```
diff --git a/rpython/jit/metainterp/pyjitpl.py b/rpython/jit/metainterp/pyjitpl.py
--- a/rpython/jit/metainterp/pyjitpl.py
+++ b/rpython/jit/metainterp/pyjitpl.py
@@ -951,9 +951,31 @@
          if warmrunnerstate.inlining:
              if warmrunnerstate.can_inline_callable(greenboxes):
+                 # We’ve found a potentially inlinable function; now we need to
+                 # see if it’s already on the stack. In other words: are we about
+                 # to enter recursion? If so, we don’t want to inline the
+                 # recursion, which would be equivalent to unrolling a while
+                 # loop.
                  portal_code = targetjitdriver_sd.mainjitcode
-                 return self.metainterp.perform_call(portal_code, allboxes,
-                                                     greenkey=greenboxes)
+                 inline = True
+                 if self.metainterp.is_main_jitcode(portal_code):
+                     for gk, _ in self.metainterp.portal_trace_positions:
+                         if gk is None:
+                             continue
+                         assert len(gk) == len(greenboxes)
+                         i = 0
+                         for i in range(len(gk)):
+                             if not gk[i].same_constant(greenboxes[i]):
+                                 break
+                         else:
+                             # The greenkey of a trace position on the stack
+                             # matches what we have, which means we’re definitely
+                             # about to recurse.
+                             inline = False
+                             break
+                 if inline:
+                     return self.metainterp.perform_call(portal_code, allboxes,
+                                 greenkey=greenboxes)
```

A war story: mixed fortunes

Success: slow benchmark now 13.5x faster

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Failure: some PyPy benchmarks slow down

A war story: mixed fortunes

Success: slow benchmark now 13.5x faster

Failure: some PyPy benchmarks slow down

Solution: allow *some* tracing into recursion

A war story: data

#unrollings	1	2	3	5	7	10
hexiom2	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
raytrace-simple	3.3	3.1	2.8	1.4	1.0	1.0
spectral-norm	3.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
sympy_str	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
telco	4	2.5	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
polymorphism	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.09

http://marc.info/?l=pypy-dev&m=141587744128967&w=2

A war story: conclusion

The benchmark suite said 7 levels, so that's what I suggested

A war story: conclusion

The benchmark suite said 7 levels, so that’s what I suggested

Even though I doubted it was the right global value

Benchmark suites (2)

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Benchmarks guide our optimisations

Benchmark suites (2)

Benchmarks guide our optimisations

Are they correct guides?

Octane

17 JavaScript benchmarks from V8

Octane

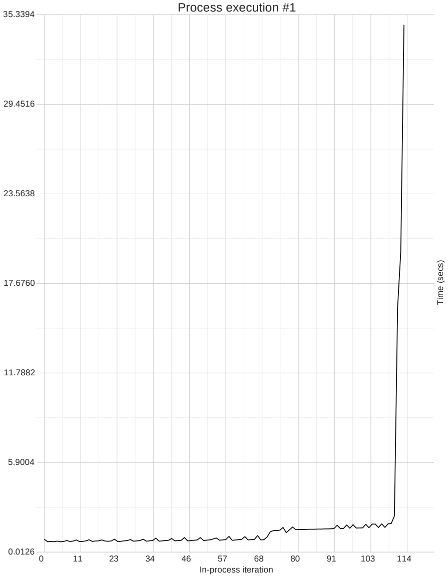
17 JavaScript benchmarks from V8

Let’s make each benchmark run for 2000 iterations

Octane: pdf.js explodes

```
$ d8 run.js
Richards
DeltaBlue
Encrypt
Decrypt
RayTrace
Earley
Boyer
RegExp
Splay
NavierStokes
PdfJS

<--- Last few GCs --->

14907865 ms: Mark-sweep 1093.9 (1434.4) -> 1093.4 (1434.4) MB, 274.8 / 0.0 ms [allocation failure] [GC in old space
14908140 ms: Mark-sweep 1093.4 (1434.4) -> 1093.3 (1434.4) MB, 274.4 / 0.0 ms [allocation failure] [GC in old space
14908421 ms: Mark-sweep 1093.3 (1434.4) -> 1100.5 (1418.4) MB, 280.9 / 0.0 ms [last resort gc].
14908703 ms: Mark-sweep 1100.5 (1418.4) -> 1107.8 (1418.4) MB, 282.1 / 0.0 ms [last resort gc].


<--- JS stacktrace --->

==== JS stack trace =========================================

Security context: 0x20d333ad3ba9 <JS Object>
    2: extractFontProgram(aka Type1Parser_extractFontProgram) [pdfjs.js:17004] [pc=0x3a13b275421b] (this=0x3de358283
    3: new Type1Font [pdfjs.js:17216] [pc=0x3a13b2752078] (this=0x4603fbdaea9 <a Type1Font with map 0x1f822134f7e1>,


#
# Fatal error in CALL_AND_RETRY_LAST
# Allocation failed - process out of memory
#

zsh: illegal hardware instruction  d8 run.js
```

Octane: analysing pdf.js



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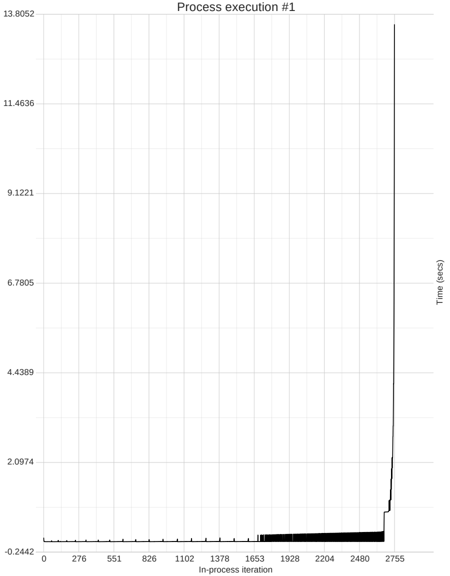
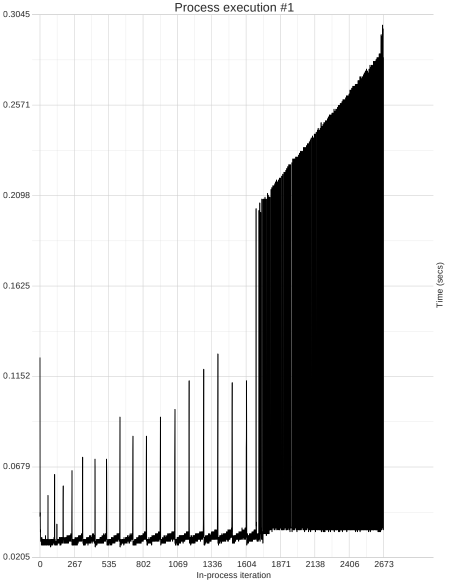


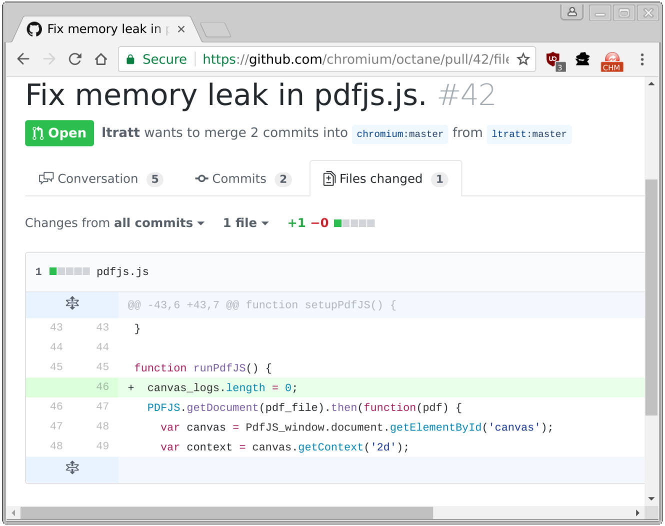
Octane: analysing pdf.js



Octane: debugging

```
pdfjs.js (/tmp/octane) - GVIM2
pdfjs.js                                                                buffers

//////// Benchmark set-up. (c) by Google. ////////

var pdf_file = "test.pdf";
var canvas_logs = [];

var PdfJS = new BenchmarkSuite("PdfJS", [10124921], [
  new Benchmark("PdfJS", false, false, 24,
    runPdfJS, setupPdfJS, tearDownPdfJS, null, 4)
]);
NORMAL  master  pdfjs.js                   jav…  utf-8[unix]   0% ¶  28/33053 :  1
function runPdfJS() {
  PDFJS.getDocument(pdf_file).then(function(pdf) {
    var canvas = PdfJS_window.document.getElementById('canvas');
    var context = canvas.getContext('2d');
    var renderContext = {canvasContext: context};
    canvas_logs.push(context.__log__);

    // Cycle through all pages.
    function renderPages(i, j) {
      if (i > j) return;
      context.clearRect(0, 0, canvas.width, canvas.height);
      pdf.getPage(i).then(function(page) {
        renderContext.viewport = page.getViewport(1);
        canvas.height = renderContext.viewport.height;
        canvas.width = renderContext.viewport.width;
        page.render(renderContext).then(renderPages.bind(null, i + 1, j));
      });
    }
    renderPages(1, pdf.numPages);
  });

  // Wait for everything to complete.
  PdfJS_window.flushTimeouts();
}
pdfjs.js                                   jav…  utf-8[unix]   0% ¶  50/33053 : 38
```

Octane: fixing



Octane: other issues

pdfjs isn't the only problem

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CodeLoadClosure also has a memory leak

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zlib complains that `Cannot enlarge memory arrays in asm.js` (a memory leak? I don't know)

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Timings are made with a non-monotonic microsecond timer

Summary

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My thesis: benchmarking *and* benchmarks are performance destiny.

Ours have misled us.

How to benchmark a bit better

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1. Run benchmarks for longer to uncover issues.
2. Accept that neither peak performance or a steady state may occur.
3. Always report warmup time.
4. Stop over-training on small benchmark suites.
5. Collect more benchmarks.
6. Focus on predictable performance.

The big question

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At least a bit... but a lot? Unclear.

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In case we can't, I have an idea...

FL Interpreter

```
program_counter = 0; stack = []
vars = {...}
while True:
  jit_merge_point(program_counter)
  instr = load_instruction(program_counter)
  if instr == INSTR_VAR_GET:
    stack.push(
     vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()])
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_VAR_SET:
    vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()]
     = stack.pop()
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_INT:
    stack.push(read_int_from_instruction())
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_LESS_THAN:
    rhs = stack.pop()
    lhs = stack.pop()
    if isinstance(lhs, int) and isinstance(rhs, int):
      if lhs < rhs:
        stack.push(True)
      else:
        stack.push(False)
    else: ...
    program_counter += 1
```

```
elif instr == INSTR_IF:
  result = stack.pop()
  if result == True:
    program_counter += 1
  else:
    program_counter +=
      read_jump_if_instruction()
elif instr == INSTR_ADD:
  lhs = stack.pop()
  rhs = stack.pop()
  if isinstance(lhs, int)
   and isinstance(rhs, int):
    stack.push(lhs + rhs)
  else: ...
  program_counter += 1
```

FL Interpreter

```
program_counter = 0; stack = []
vars = {...}
while True:
  jit_merge_point(program_counter)
  instr = load_instruction(program_counter)
  if instr == INSTR_VAR_GET:
    stack.push(
     vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()])
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_VAR_SET:
    vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()]
     = stack.pop()
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_INT:
    stack.push(read_int_from_instruction())
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_LESS_THAN:
    rhs = stack.pop()
    lhs = stack.pop()
    if isinstance(lhs, int) and isinstance(rhs, int):
      if lhs < rhs:
        stack.push(True)
      else:
        stack.push(False)
    else: ...
    program_counter += 1
```

Meta-tracing JITs

FL Interpreter	User program (lang *FL*)

```
program_counter = 0; stack = []
vars = {...}
while True:
  jit_merge_point(program_counter)
  instr = load_instruction(program_counter)
  if instr == INSTR_VAR_GET:
    stack.push(
     vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()])
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_VAR_SET:
    vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()]
     = stack.pop()
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_INT:
    stack.push(read_int_from_instruction())
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_LESS_THAN:
    rhs = stack.pop()
    lhs = stack.pop()
    if isinstance(lhs, int) and isinstance(rhs, int):
      if lhs < rhs:
        stack.push(True)
      else:
        stack.push(False)
    else: ...
    program_counter += 1
```

```
if x < 0:
  x = x + 1
else:
  x = x + 2
x = x + 3
```

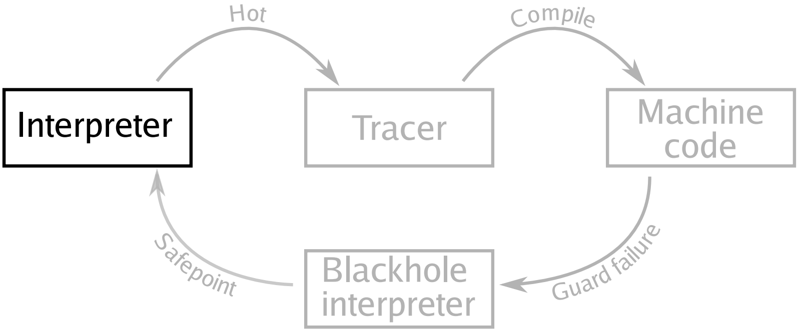
Meta-tracing JITs

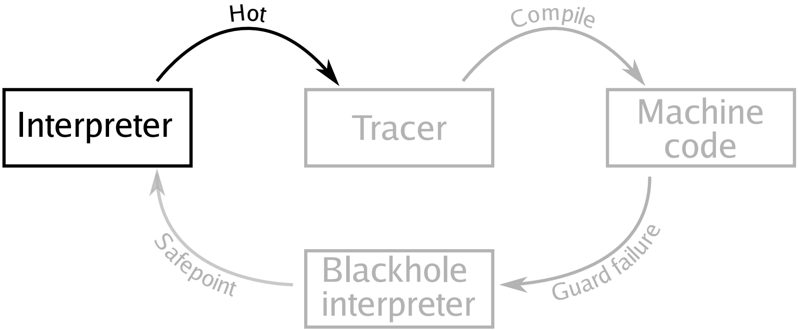
FL Interpreter	Initial trace

```
program_counter = 0; stack = []
vars = {...}
while True:
  jit_merge_point(program_counter)
  instr = load_instruction(program_counter)
  if instr == INSTR_VAR_GET:
    stack.push(
     vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()])
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_VAR_SET:
    vars[read_var_name_from_instruction()]
     = stack.pop()
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_INT:
    stack.push(read_int_from_instruction())
    program_counter += 1
  elif instr == INSTR_LESS_THAN:
    rhs = stack.pop()
    lhs = stack.pop()
    if isinstance(lhs, int) and isinstance(rhs, int):
      if lhs < rhs:
        stack.push(True)
      else:
        stack.push(False)
    else: ...
    program_counter += 1
```

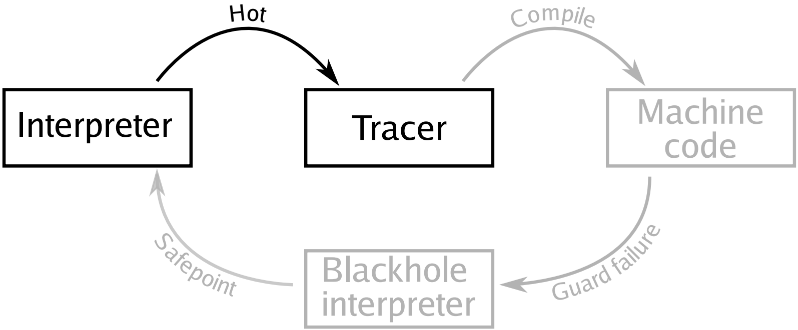
```
v0 = <program_counter>
v1 = <stack>
v2 = <vars>
v3 = load_instruction(v0)
guard_eq(v3, INSTR_VAR_GET)
v4 = dict_get(v2, "x")
list_append(v1, v4)
v5 = add(v0, 1)
v6 = load_instruction(v5)
guard_eq(v6, INSTR_INT)
list_append(v1, 0)
v7 = add(v5, 1)
v8 = load_instruction(v7)
guard_eq(v8, INSTR_LESS_THAN)
v9 = list_pop(v1)
v10 = list_pop(v1)
guard_type(v9, int)
guard_type(v10, int)
guard_not_less_than(v9, v10)
list_append(v1, False)
v11 = add(v7, 1)
v12 = load_instruction(v11)
guard_eq(v12, INSTR_IF)
v13 = list_pop(v1)
guard_false(v13)
...
```

Meta-tracer states




Hot
Compile
Interpreter
Tracer
Machine code
Safepoint
Blackhole interpreter
Guard failure

Meta-tracer states



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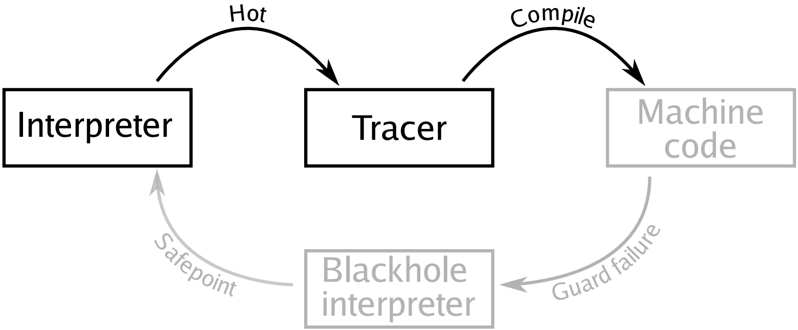

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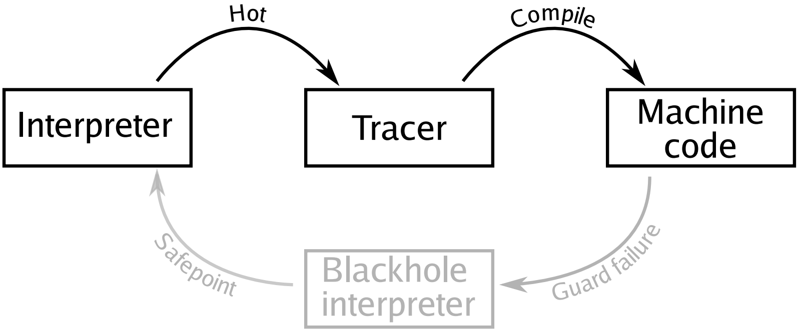

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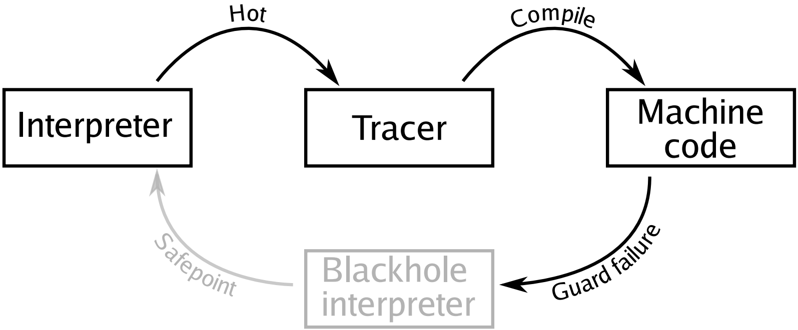
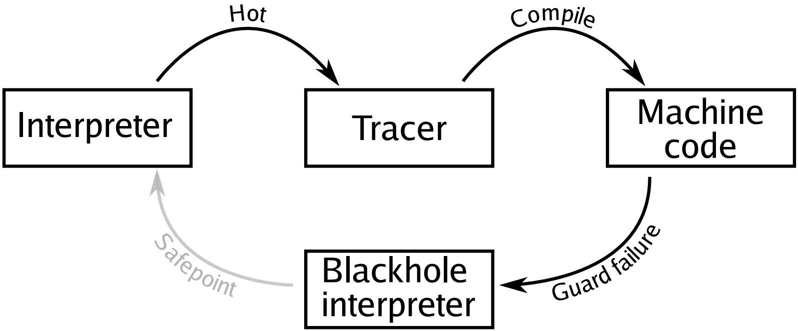


Meta-tracer states



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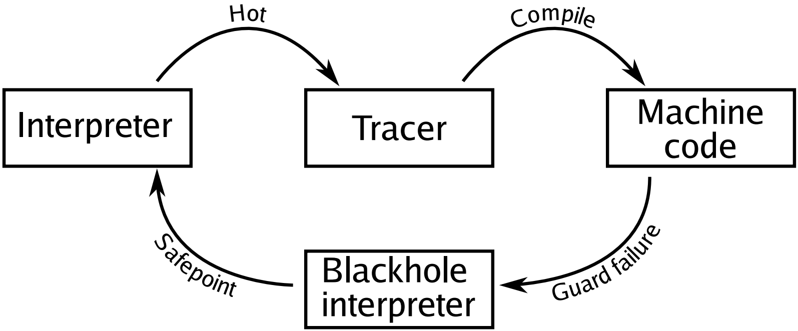
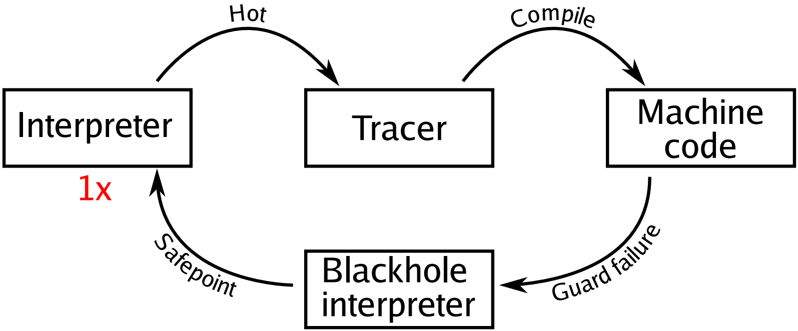


Meta-tracer performance (now)



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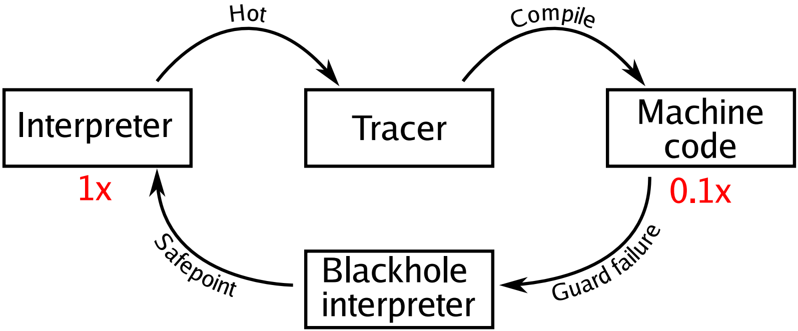

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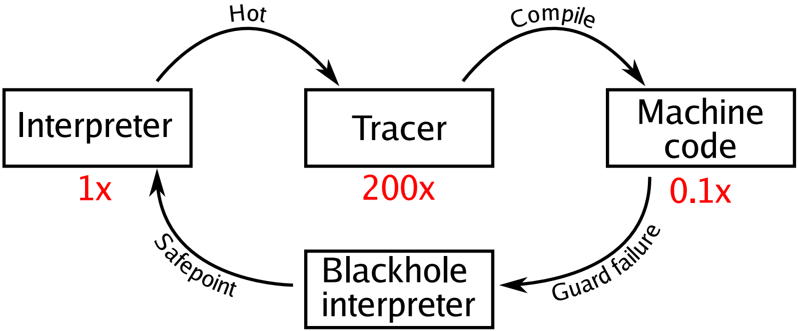
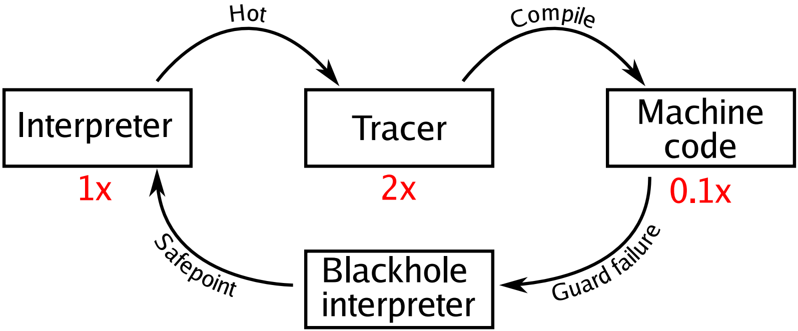


Meta-tracer performance (our aim)



References

VM Warmup Blows Hot and Cold
E. Barrett, C. F. Bolz, R. Killick, V. Knight, S. Mount and L. Tratt.

Rigorous Benchmarking in Reasonable Time
T. Kalibera and R. Jones

Specialising Dynamic Techniques for Implementing the Ruby Programming Language
C. Seaton (Chapter 4)

Quantifying performance changes with effect size confidence intervals
T. Kalibera and R. Jones

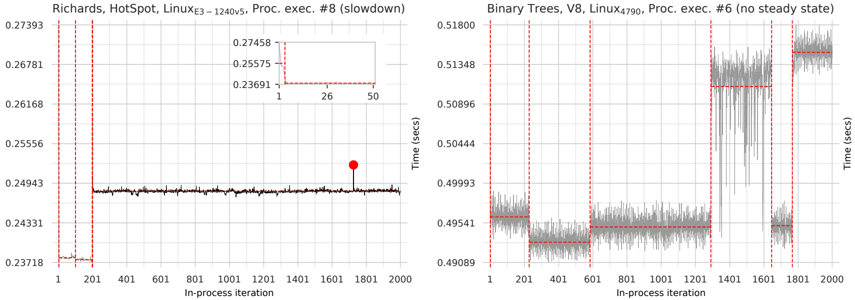
Software

warmup_stats	Use our statistical method on your VMs http://soft-dev.org/src/warmup_stats/
Krun	Run experiments in a controlled manner http://soft-dev.org/src/krun/

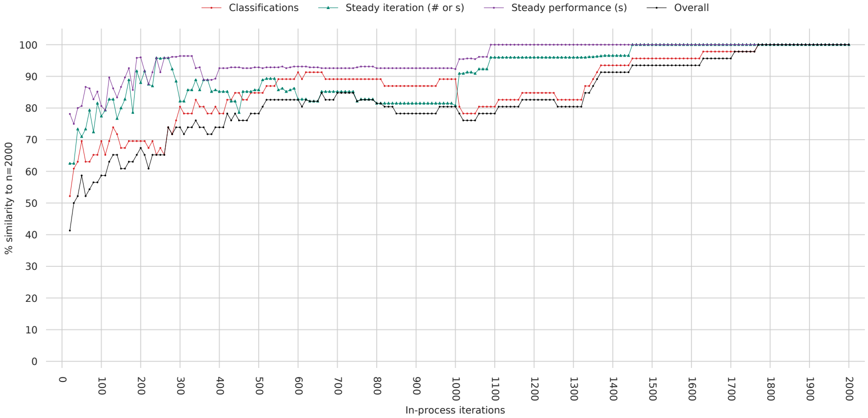
Thanks

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

Thanks for listening



How long to run things for (0.8)



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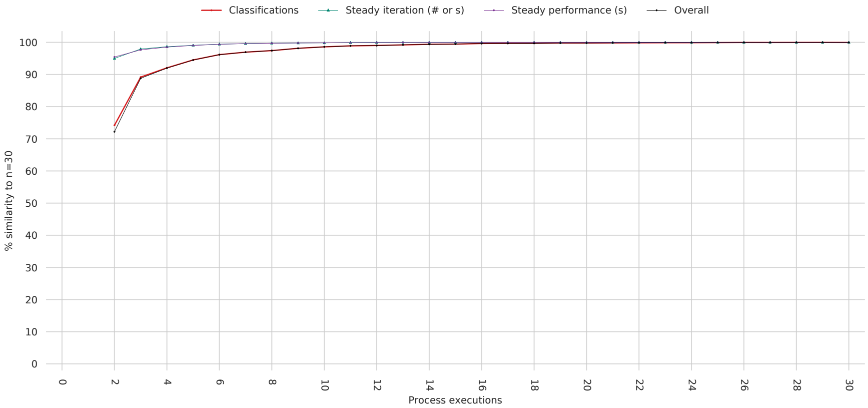

Diffing results (0.8 → 1.5)

		Class.	Steady iter (#)	Steady iter (s)	Steady perf (s)
binarytrees	Graal	≭ (27ℸ, 2⅃, 1⇝)			
fannkuch_redux	Graal	≭ (26ℸ, 4⇝)			
fasta	Graal	ℸ	4.0 (3.0,34.4)	0.75 (0.535,5.873)	0.16188 ±0.000738
nbody	Graal	ℸ	6.0 δ=−2.0 (5.0,7.0)	0.86 δ=−0.352 (0.704,1.090)	0.13677 δ=+0.00343 ±0.000035
richards	Graal	ℸ	2.0 (2.0,35.3)	0.95 (0.879,9.745)	0.26465 ±0.007761
spectralnorm	Graal	⅃	14.0 (2.0,94.6)	13.60 (0.830,98.737)	1.05685 δ=+0.16392 ±0.000126