

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



Laurence
Tratt

Warmup work in collaboration with:
Edd Barrett, Carl Friedrich Bolz, Rebecca Killick, and Sarah Mount

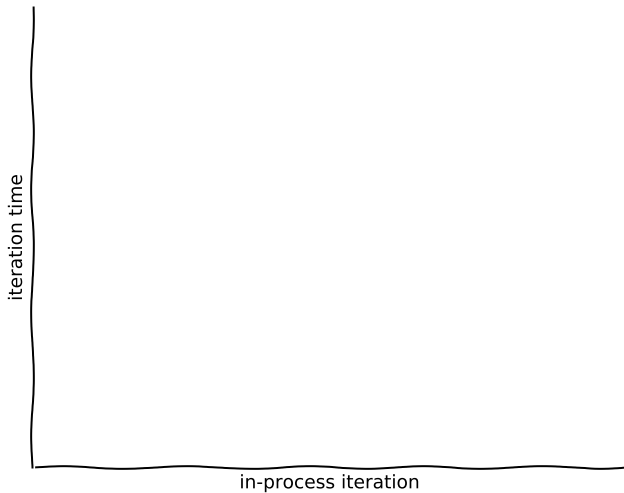


Software Development Team
2018-01-22

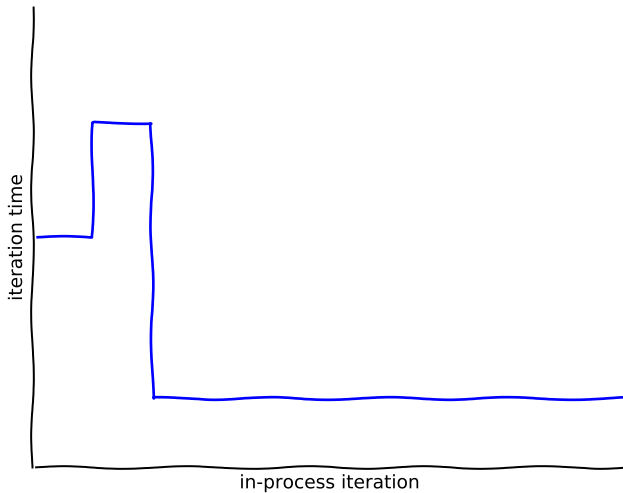
JVMs bring "gcc -O2" to the masses

-Cliff Click: A JVM does that?

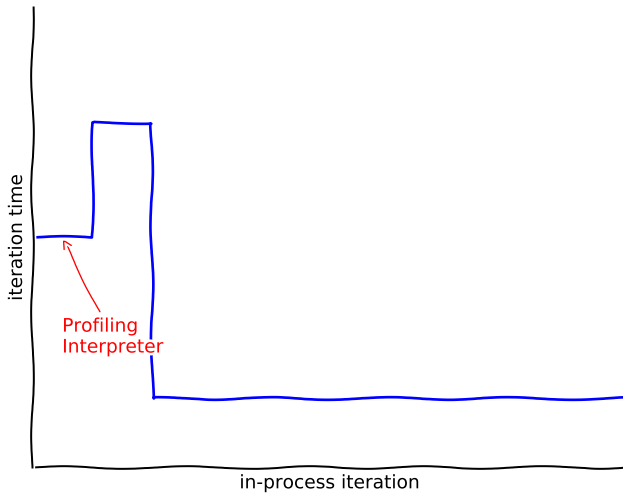
What do VM claims pertain to?



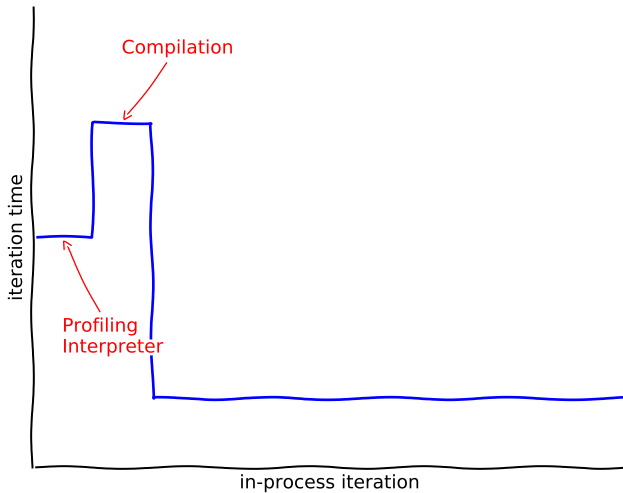
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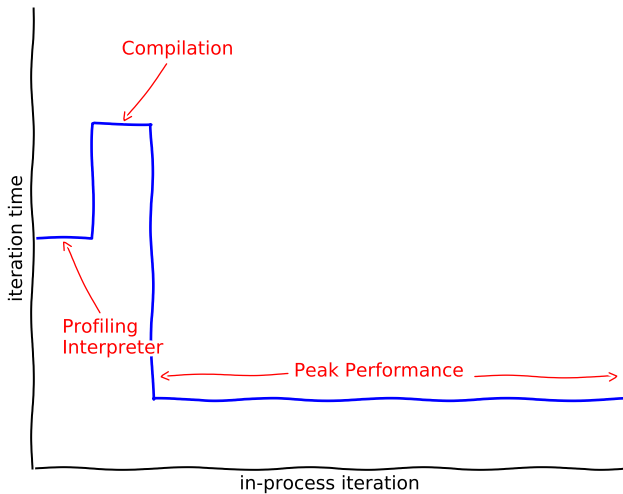
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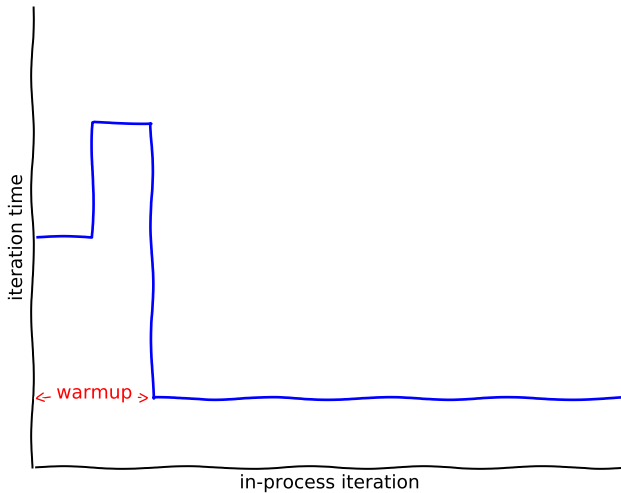
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What do VM claims pertain to?



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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Measure warmup of modern language implementations

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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We removed any CFG non-determinism

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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
- JRuby/Truffle (git #6e9d5d381777)
- 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

- Linux₄₇₉₀, Debian 8, 24GiB RAM
- Linux_{E3-1240v5}, Debian 8, 32GiB RAM
- OpenBSD₄₇₉₀, OpenBSD 6.0, 32GiB RAM

Method 4: Machines

- Linux₄₇₉₀, Debian 8, 24GiB RAM
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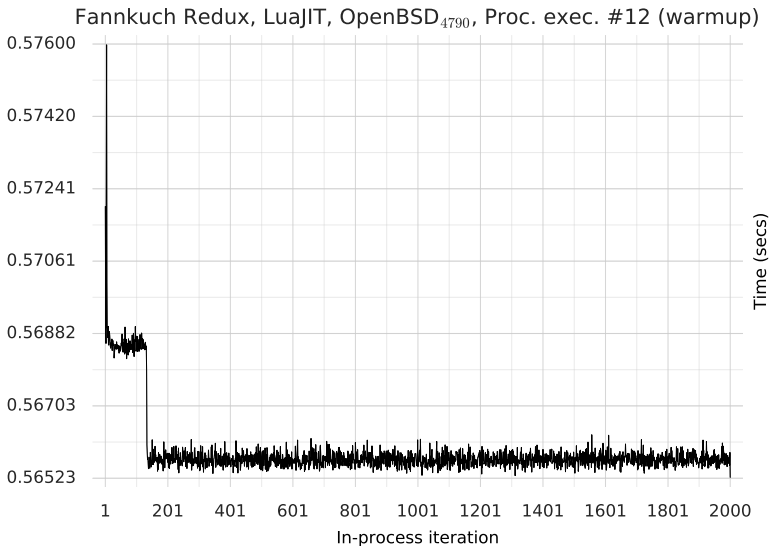
- Turbo boost and hyper-threading disabled
- Network card turned off.
- Daemons disabled (cron, smtpd)

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

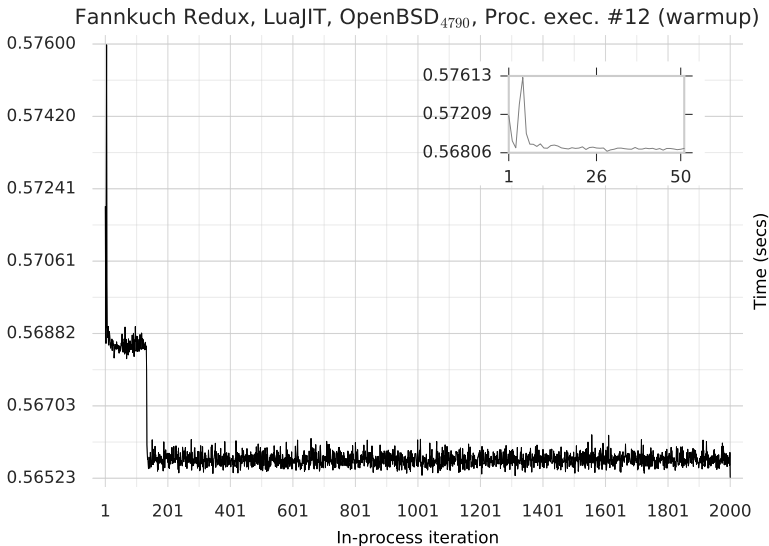
Benchmark runner: tries to control as many confounding variables as possible e.g.:

- 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
- Checks `dmesg` for changes after each proc. exec
- Checks system at (roughly) same temperature for proc. execs
- Enforces kernel settings (tickless mode, CPU governors, ...)

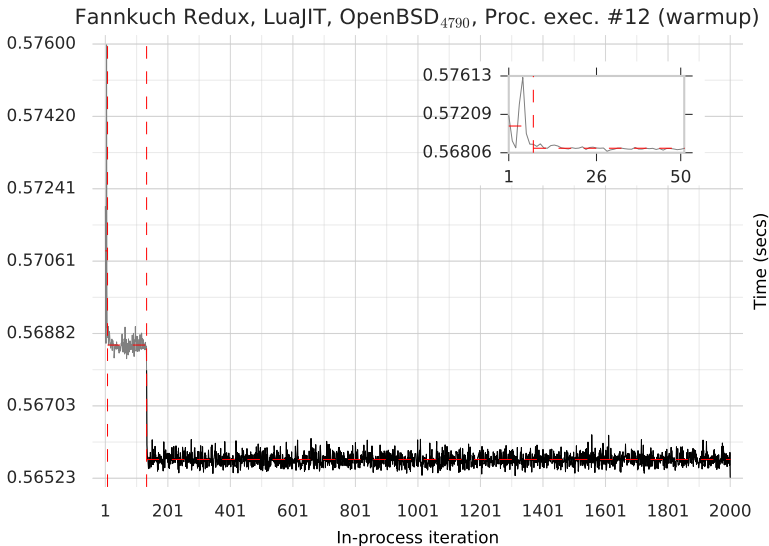
Warmup & flat (1)



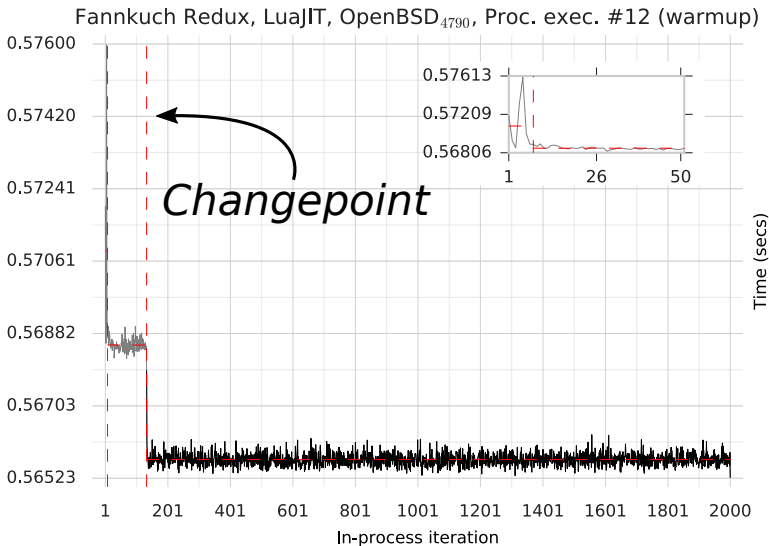
Warmup & flat (1)



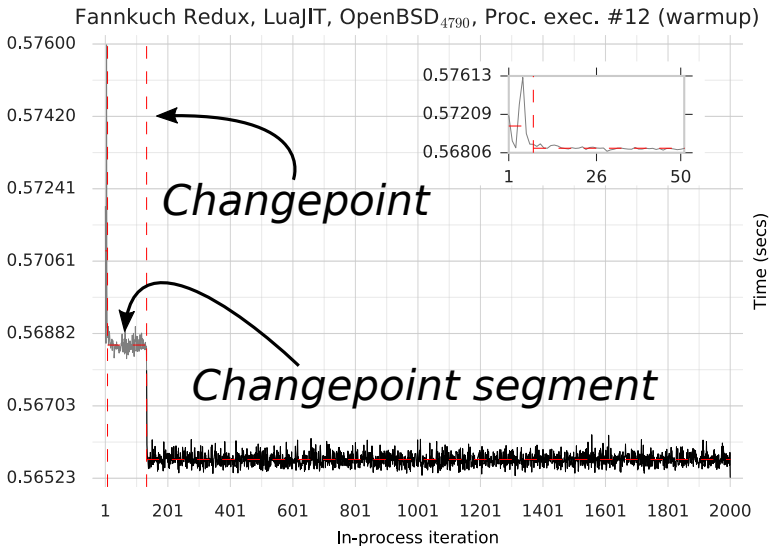
Warmup & flat (1)



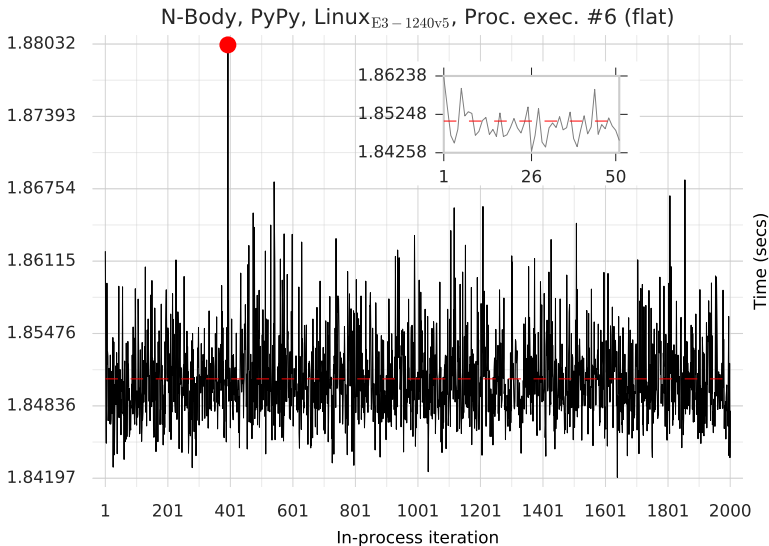
Warmup & flat (1)



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Warmup & flat (1)



Classification algorithm (steps in order):

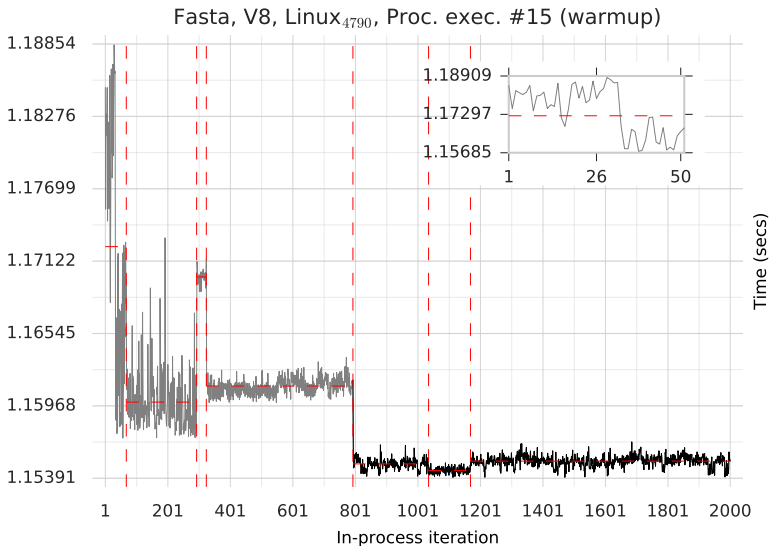
All segs are equivalent: *flat*

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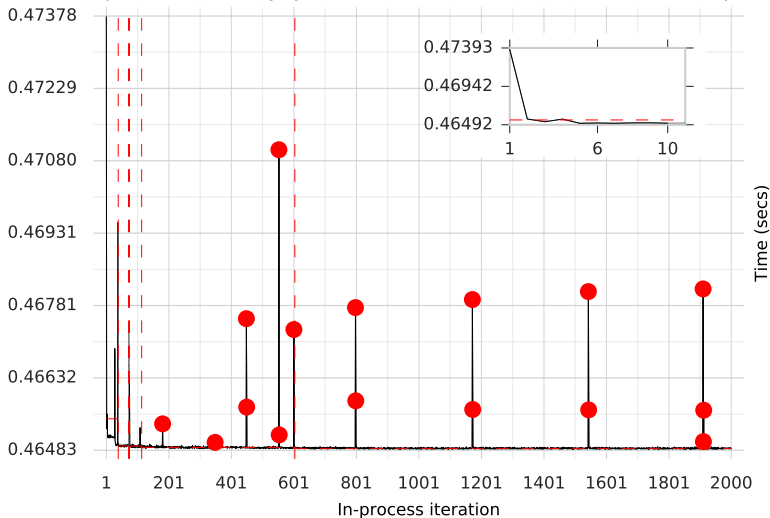
Final seg is in fastest set: *warmup*

Warmup & flat (2)

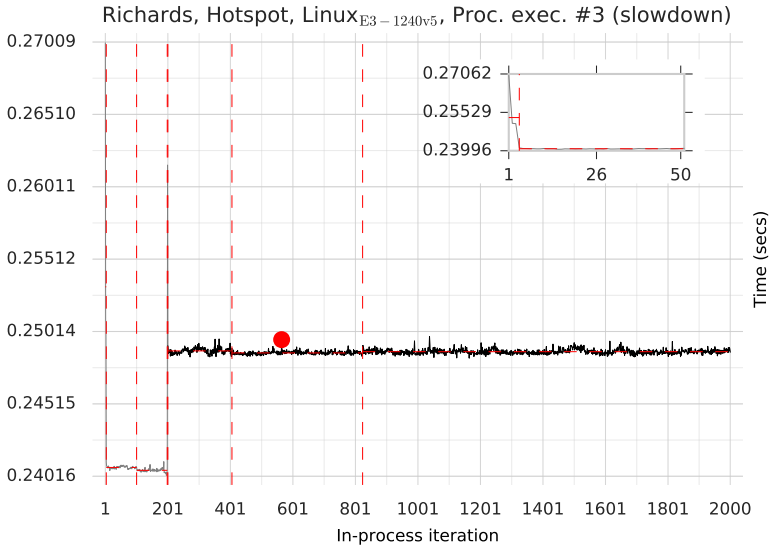


Warmup & flat (2)

Spectral Norm, PyPy, Linux_{E3-1240v5}, Proc. exec. #13 (warmup)



Slowdown (1)



Classification algorithm (steps in order):

All segs are equivalent: *flat*

Final seg is in fastest set: *warmup*

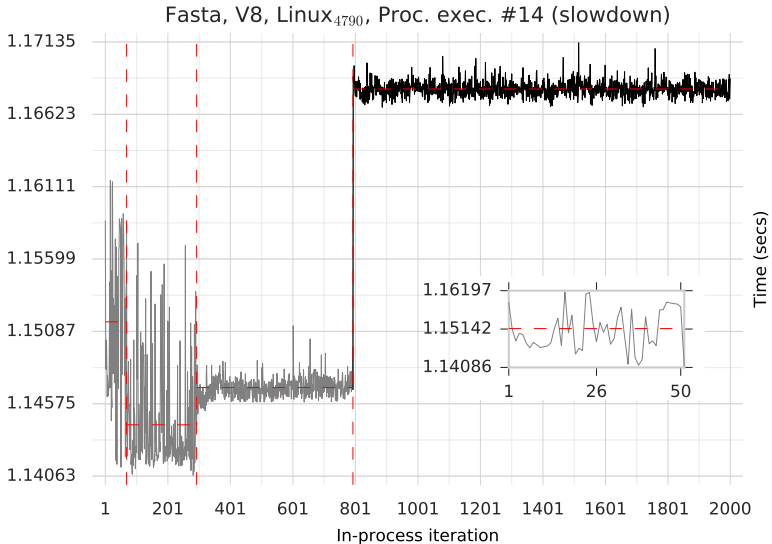
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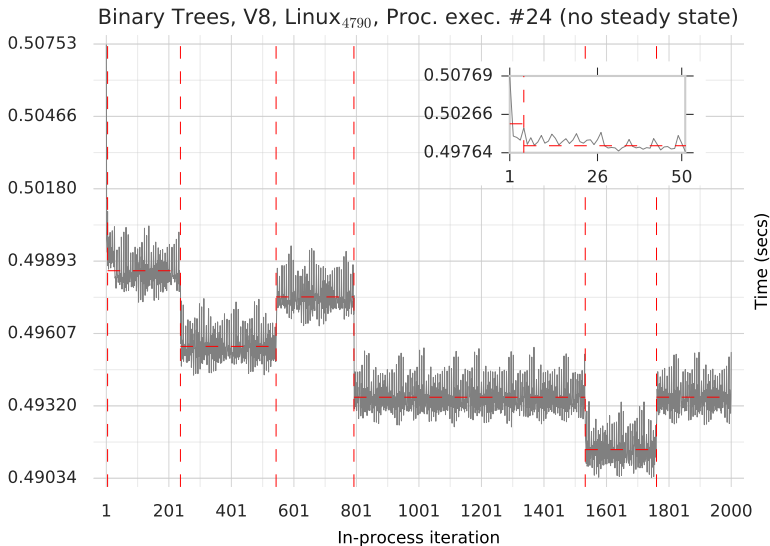
Final seg is in fastest set: *warmup*

Final seg is not in fastest set: *slowdown*

Slowdown (2)



No steady state (1)



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Else: *no steady state*

Good

Classification algorithm, in order:

All segs are equivalent: *flat*

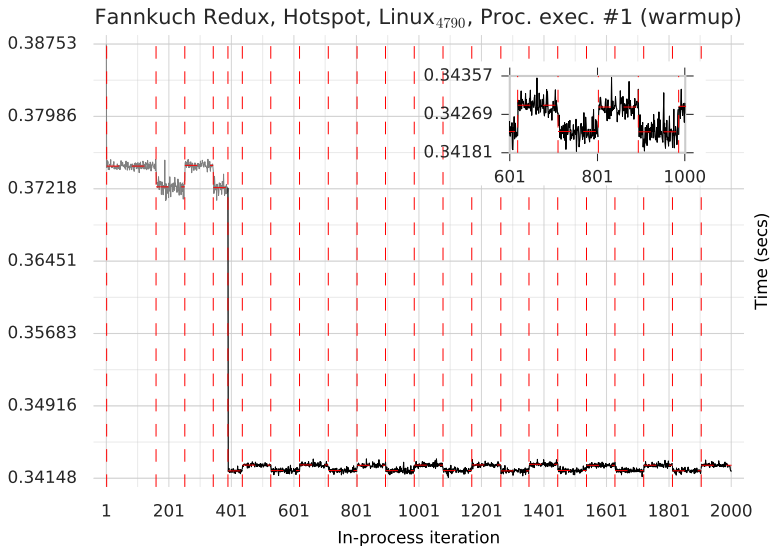
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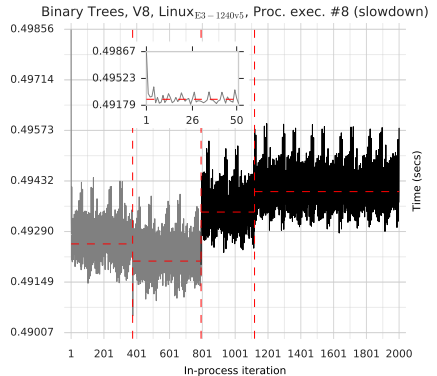
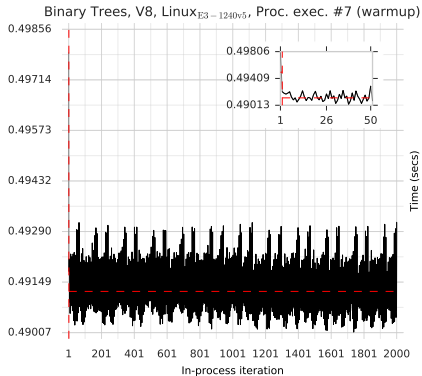
Else: *no steady state*

Bad

Warmup or no steady state?

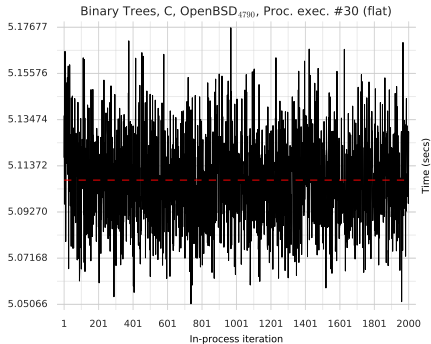
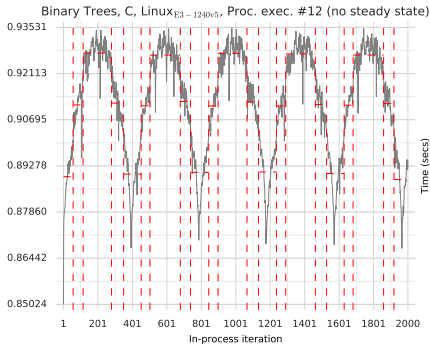


Inconsistent Process-executions



(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	∞				-				0.40555 ± 0.00110
Graal	$\times$ (27L, 3J)	32.0 (17.0, 193.8)	6.60 (3.729, 36.698)	0.18594 ± 0.000315	$\mathcal{L}$		8.0 (7.5, 8.5)	1.22 (1.126, 1.358)	0.13334 ± 0.00045
HHVM	$\times$ (24L, 4J, 2 ∞)				$\times$ (16L, 11J, 3 ∞)				
HotSpot	$\times$ (25L, 5J)	7.0 (7.0, 31.5)	1.19 (1.182, 9.703)	0.18279 ± 0.00016	$\mathcal{L}$		2.0 (2.0, 2.0)	0.14 (0.141, 0.143)	0.13699 ± 0.00032
JRuby+Truffle	$\mathcal{L}$	1082.0 (999.0, 1232.5)	2219.59 (2039.304, 2516.021)	2.05150 ± 0.01738	$\mathcal{L}$		69.0 (69.0, 70.0)	17.95 (17.716, 18.127)	0.20644 ± 0.001568
LuaJIT	$\times$ (23L, 4J, 2 ∞ , 1 ∞)				-				0.25399 ± 0.004471
PyPy	$\times$ (27J, 3 ∞)				-				1.85835 ± 0.012893
V8	$\times$ (15 ∞ , 9L, 6J)	1.5 (1.0, 794.0)	0.25 (0.000, 391.026)	0.49237 ± 0.003198	$=$ (25 ∞ , 5L)		1.0 (1.0, 361.6)	0.00 (0.000, 87.367)	0.24138 ± 0.00389
C	$\times$ (21 ∞ , 6L, 2J, 1 ∞)				$\times$ (19 ∞ , 5J, 4 ∞ , 2L)				
Graal	$\times$ (28L, 1 ∞ , 1J)				$\times$ (28L, 1 ∞ , 1J)				
HHVM	$\mathcal{L}$	10.0 (10.0, 10.0)	52.66 (52.660, 52.708)	1.35779 ± 0.011948	$\mathcal{L}$				
HotSpot	$\mathcal{L}$	390.0 (2.0, 390.0)	153.70 (0.407, 155.254)	0.36202 ± 0.022767	$\times$ (26J, 2 ∞ , 2L)				
JRuby+Truffle	$\mathcal{L}$	1016.5 (999.0, 1023.1)	1039.04 (1014.290, 1059.967)	1.08833 ± 0.038480	$\mathcal{L}$		1021.0 (1014.9, 1027.0)	917.30 (901.708, 946.683)	0.89509 ± 0.027590
LuaJIT	-				$\times$ (21 ∞ , 7J, 2L)				
PyPy	$\times$ (15L, 13 ∞ , 2J)	2.0 (1.0, 28.9)	1.57 (0.000, 43.483)	1.55442 ± 0.020549	$\mathcal{L}$		2.0 (2.0, 5.0)	1.12 (1.114, 4.054)	0.96809 ± 0.010950
V8	$=$ (19L, 11 ∞)	2.0 (1.0, 23.5)	0.31 (0.000, 7.525)	0.30401 ± 0.000154	$=$ (29L, 1 ∞)		4.0 (4.0, 16.0)	1.44 (1.434, 7.135)	0.47421 ± 0.001218
C	-			0.07048 ± 0.000210	$\times$ (28L, 1 ∞ , 1J)		997.0 (2.0, 1001.0)	546.38 (0.546, 547.717)	0.54547 ± 0.002562
Graal	$\times$ (29L, 1 ∞)				$\times$ (29J, 1 ∞)		15.0 (2.0, 21.0)	12.40 (0.812, 17.804)	0.89293 ± 0.00067
HHVM	$\times$ (27L, 2 ∞ , 1J)				$\mathcal{L}$		35.0 (34.0, 41.0)	139.18 (136.909, 147.626)	1.40690 ± 0.011133
HotSpot	$\times$ (18L, 12J)	261.0 (6.0, 595.0)	30.73 (0.614, 70.021)	0.11744 ± 0.001723	$\mathcal{L}$		7.0 (7.0, 8.6)	1.90 (1.901, 2.425)	0.31470 ± 0.000029
JRuby+Truffle	$\mathcal{L}$				$\mathcal{L}$		1011.0 (1007.5, 1014.0)	893.38 (888.985, 896.562)	0.83633 ± 0.014403
LuaJIT	∞				-				0.22435 ± 0.000020
PyPy	∞				$\mathcal{L}$		75.0 (75.0, 75.0)	34.43 (34.429, 34.437)	0.46489 ± 0.000046
V8	$\times$ (19L, 10J, 1 ∞)				$\mathcal{L}$		3.0 (3.0, 3.0)	0.55 (0.554, 0.554)	0.24963 ± 0.000039

Individual benchmark stats

	Class.	Steady iter (#)	Steady iter (s)	Steady perf (s)
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Graal	✖ (27┐, 3┐)	32.0 (17.0, 193.8)	6.60 (3.729, 36.608)	0.18594 ±0.000316
HHVM	✖ (24┐, 4┐, 2~)			
HotSpot	✖ (25┐, 5┐)	7.0 (7.0, 53.5)	1.19 (1.182, 9.703)	0.18279 ±0.000116
JRuby+Truffle	┐	1082.0 (999.0, 1232.5)	2219.59 (2039.304, 2516.021)	2.05150 ±0.017737
LuaJIT	✖ (23┐, 4┐, 2-, 1~)			
PyPy	✖ (27┐, 3~)			
V8	✖ (15-, 9┐, 6┐)	1.5 (1.0, 794.0)	0.25 (0.000, 391.026)	0.49237 ±0.003198

binary trees

Overall benchmark stats

Class.	Linux ₄₇₉₀	Linux _{1240v5}	OpenBSD ₄₇₉₀ [†]
⟨VM, benchmark⟩ pairs			
—	8.7%	13.0%	6.7%
⌋	28.3%	23.9%	10.0%
⌈	6.5%	6.5%	0.0%
≈	4.3%	6.5%	0.0%
=	6.5%	6.5%	13.3%
⋈	45.7%	43.5%	70.0%
Process executions			
—	26.4%	20.9%	34.0%
⌋	48.3%	51.5%	52.1%
⌈	16.7%	17.9%	11.1%
≈	8.7%	9.6%	2.8%

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43.4%–43.5% of (VM, benchmark) pairs

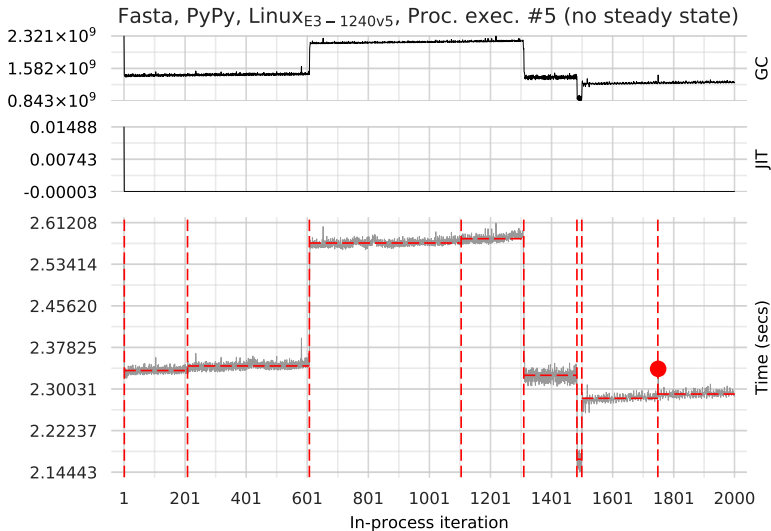
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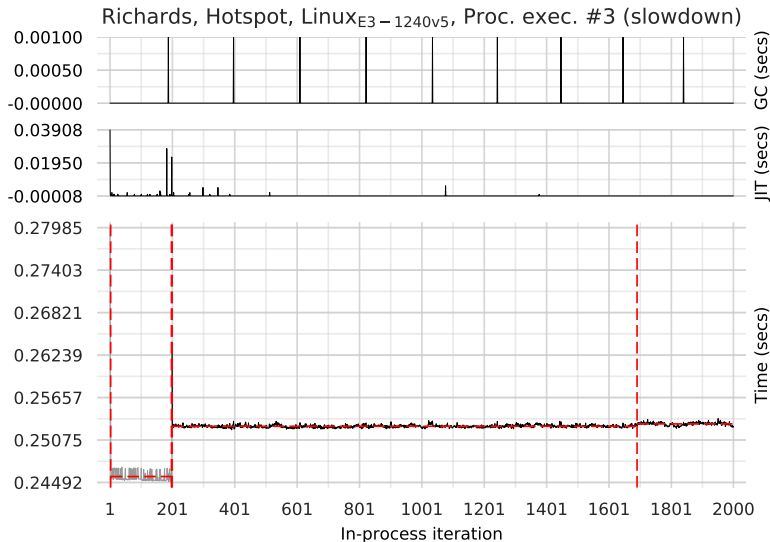
43.4%–43.5% of (VM, benchmark) pairs

0% of benchmarks for (VM, benchmark,
machine) triples

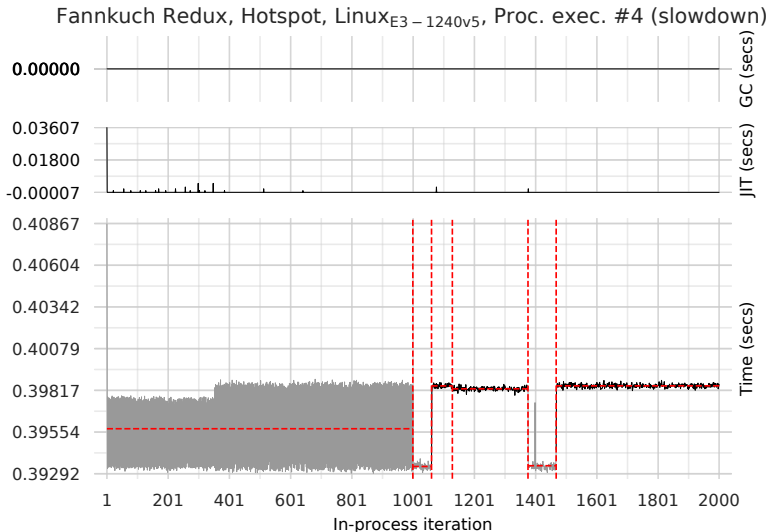
Are odd effects correlated with compilation and GC?



Are odd effects correlated with compilation and GC?



Are odd effects correlated with compilation and GC?



Benchmark suites

Benchmarks guide our optimisations

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Are they complete guides?

A war story

Symptom: poor performance of a Pyston benchmark on PyPy

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Cause: RPython traces recursion

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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

A war story: mixed fortunes

Success: slow benchmark now 13.5x faster

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)

Benchmarks guide our optimisations

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Are they correct guides?

17 JavaScript benchmarks from V8

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 =====
```

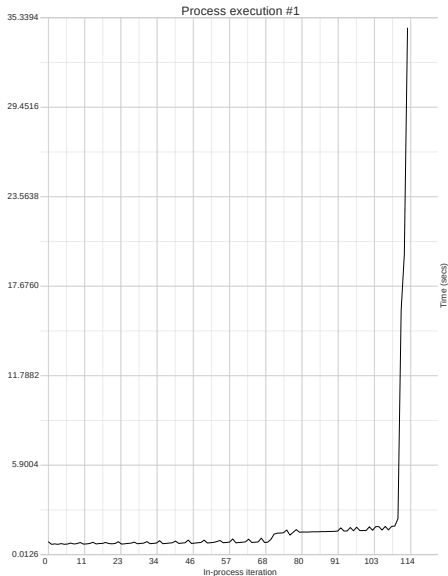
```
Security context: 0x20d333ad3ba9 <JS Object>
```

```
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>,
```

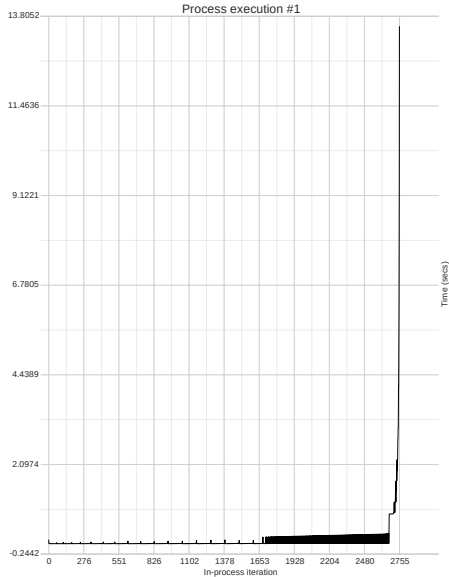
```
#
# Fatal error in CALL_AND_RETRY_LAST
# Allocation failed - process out of memory
#
```

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

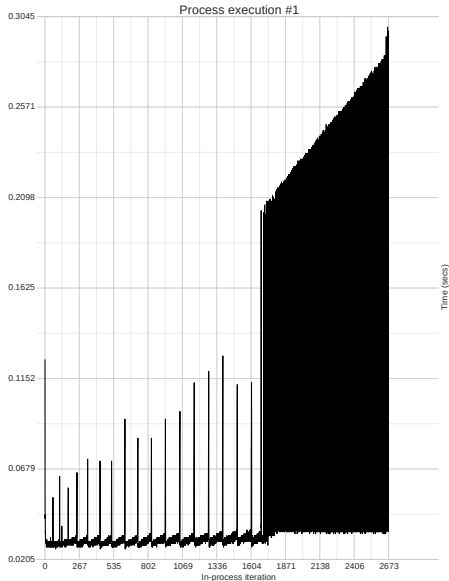
Octane: analysing pdf.js



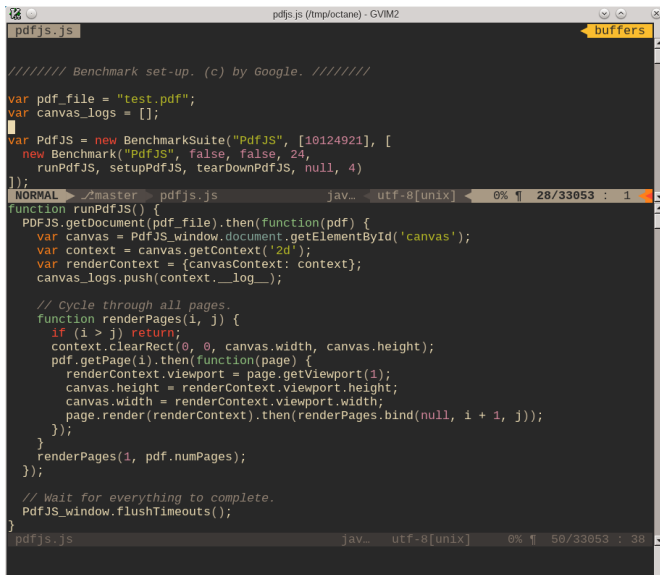
Octane: analysing pdf.js



Octane: analysing pdf.js



Octane: debugging



```
pdfjs.js

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

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

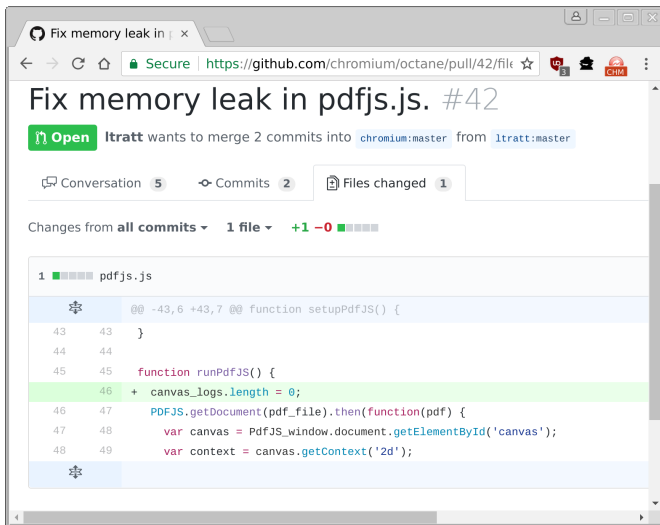
var PdfJS = new BenchmarkSuite("PdfJS", [10124921], [
  new Benchmark("PdfJS", false, false, 24,
    runPdfJS, setupPdfJS, tearDownPdfJS, null, 4)
]);

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();
}
```

Octane: fixing



pdfjs isn't the only problem

pdfjs isn't the only problem

CodeLoadClosure also has a memory leak

pdfjs isn't the only problem

CodeLoadClosure also has a memory leak

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

pdfjs isn't the only problem

CodeLoadClosure also has a memory leak

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

Timings are made with a non-monotonic
microsecond timer

Summary

Why aren't more users more happy with
our VMs?

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

Why aren't more users more happy with
our VMs?

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.

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- 2 Accept that peak performance may not occur.

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- 2 Accept that peak performance may not 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

Can we fix existing VMs?

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

Can we fix existing VMs?

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

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
```

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                stack.push(False)
        else: ...
    program_counter += 1
```

Meta-tracing JITs

FL Interpreter

```
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while True:
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        program_counter += 1
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        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
```

User program (lang FL)

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

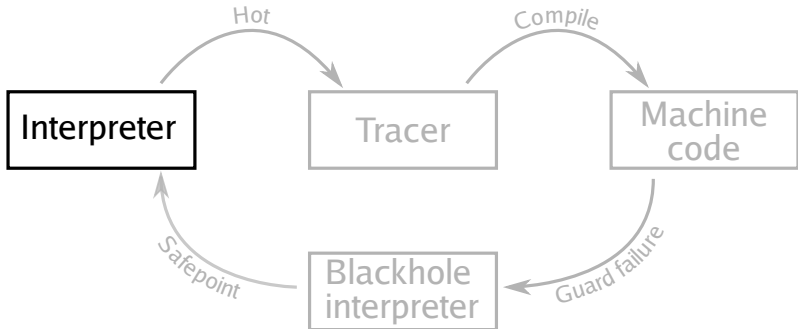
FL Interpreter

```
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
```

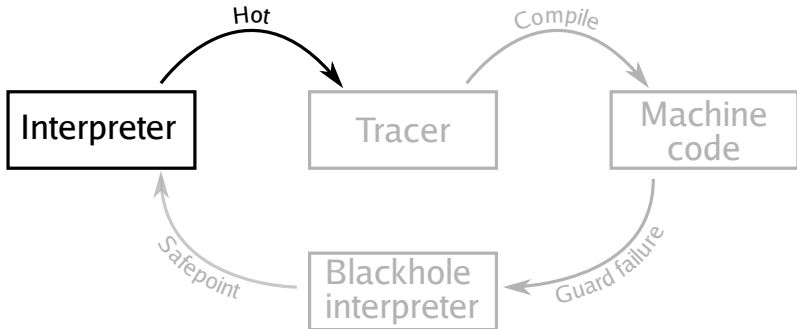
Initial trace

```
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)
...
```

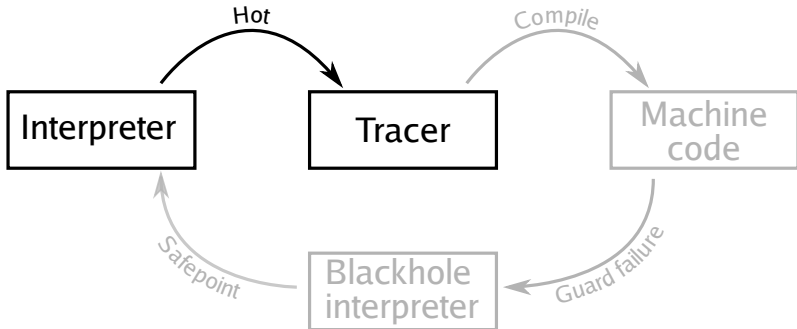
Meta-tracer states



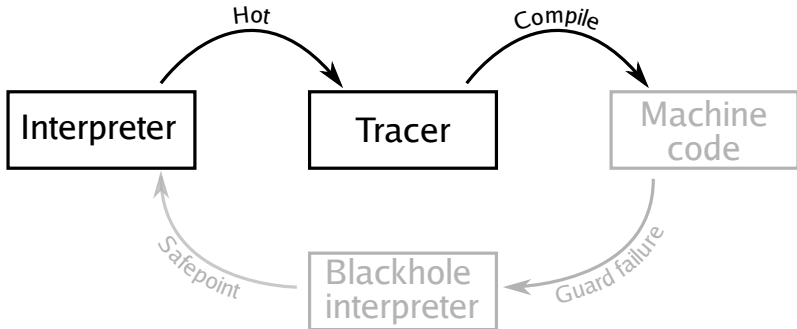
Meta-tracer states



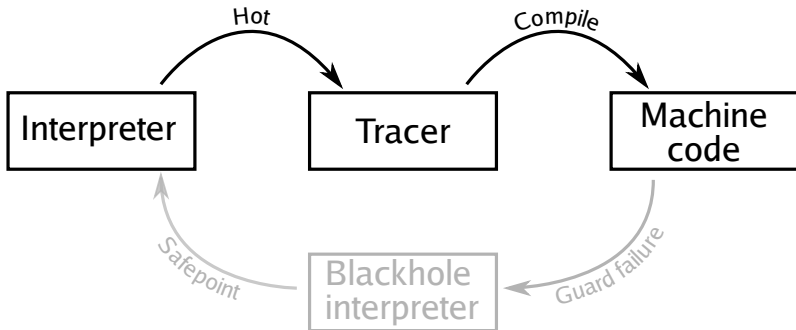
Meta-tracer states



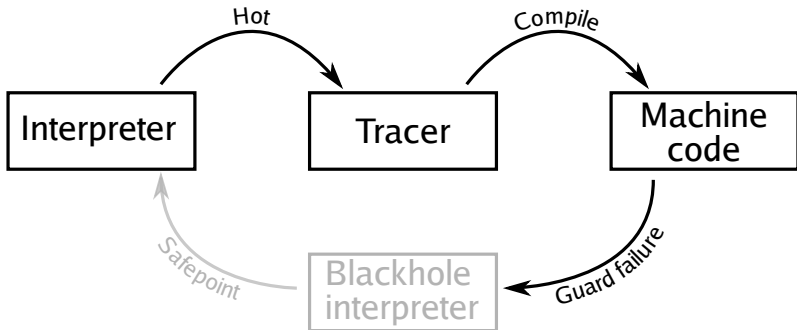
Meta-tracer states



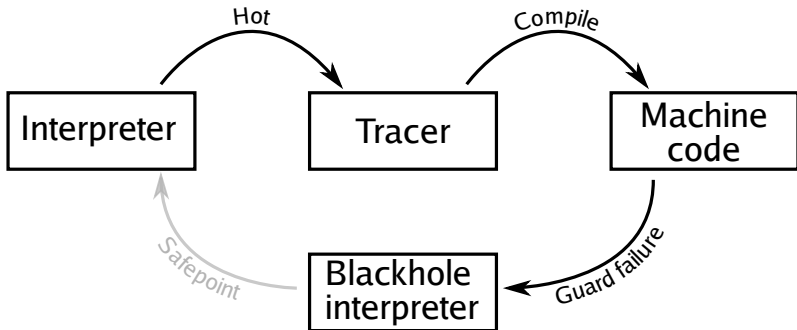
Meta-tracer states



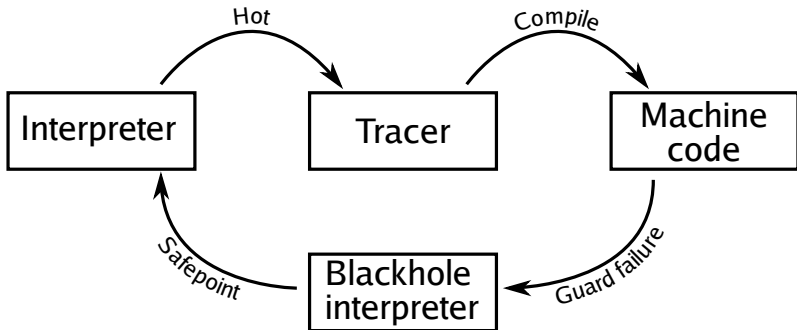
Meta-tracer states



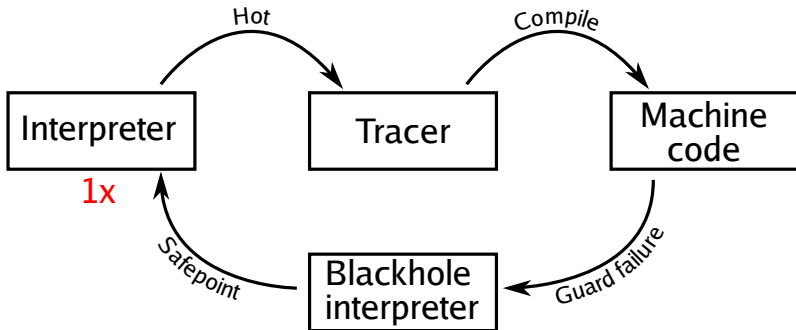
Meta-tracer states



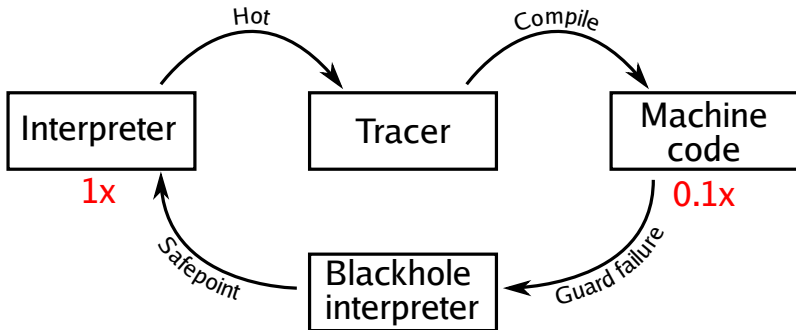
Meta-tracer states



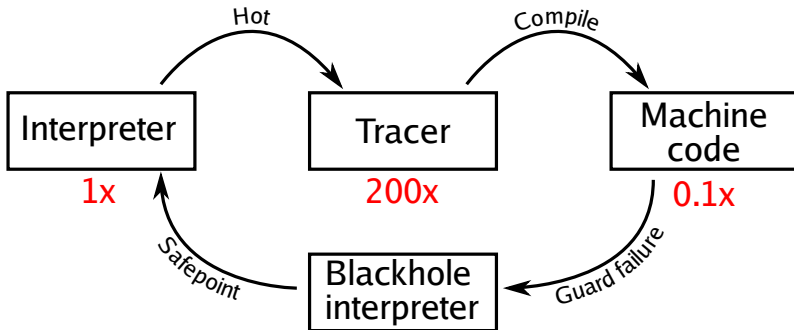
Meta-tracer performance (now)



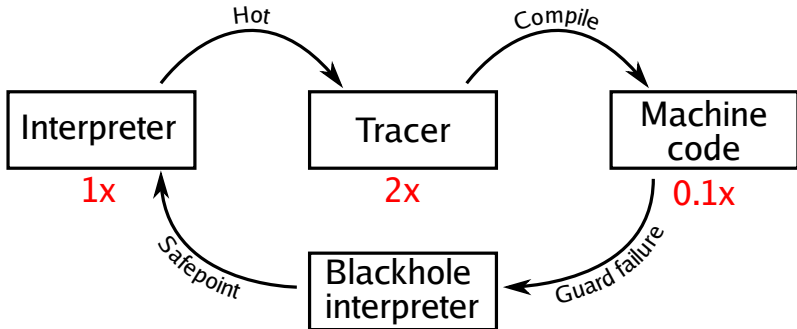
Meta-tracer performance (now)



Meta-tracer performance (now)



Meta-tracer performance (our aim)



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)

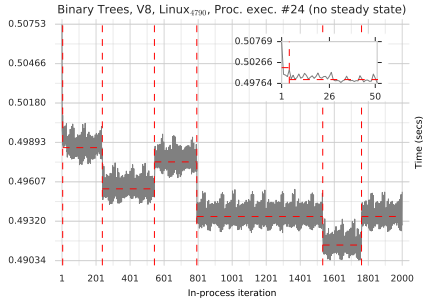
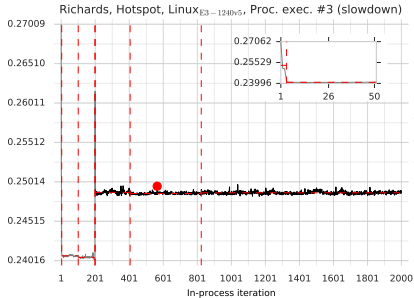
Quantifying performance changes with effect size confidence intervals

T. Kalibera and R. Jones

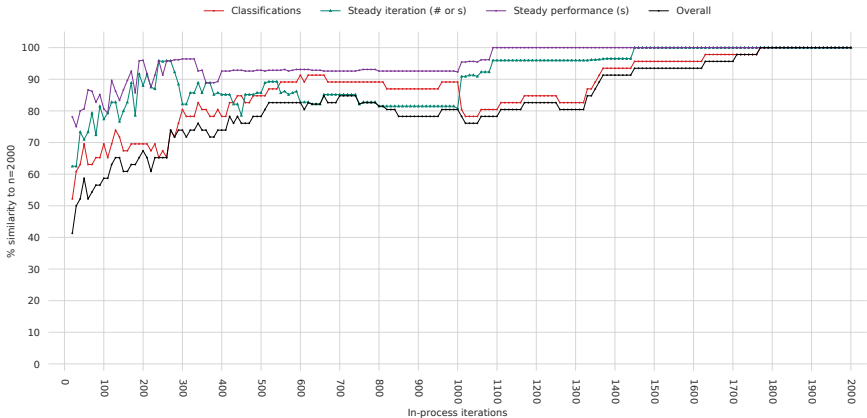
Thanks

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

Thanks for listening



How long to run things for



How long to run things for

