

Building High-Performance Language Implementations With Low Effort

Stefan Marr

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@smarr
<http://stefan-marr.de>

Why should you care about how Programming Languages work?

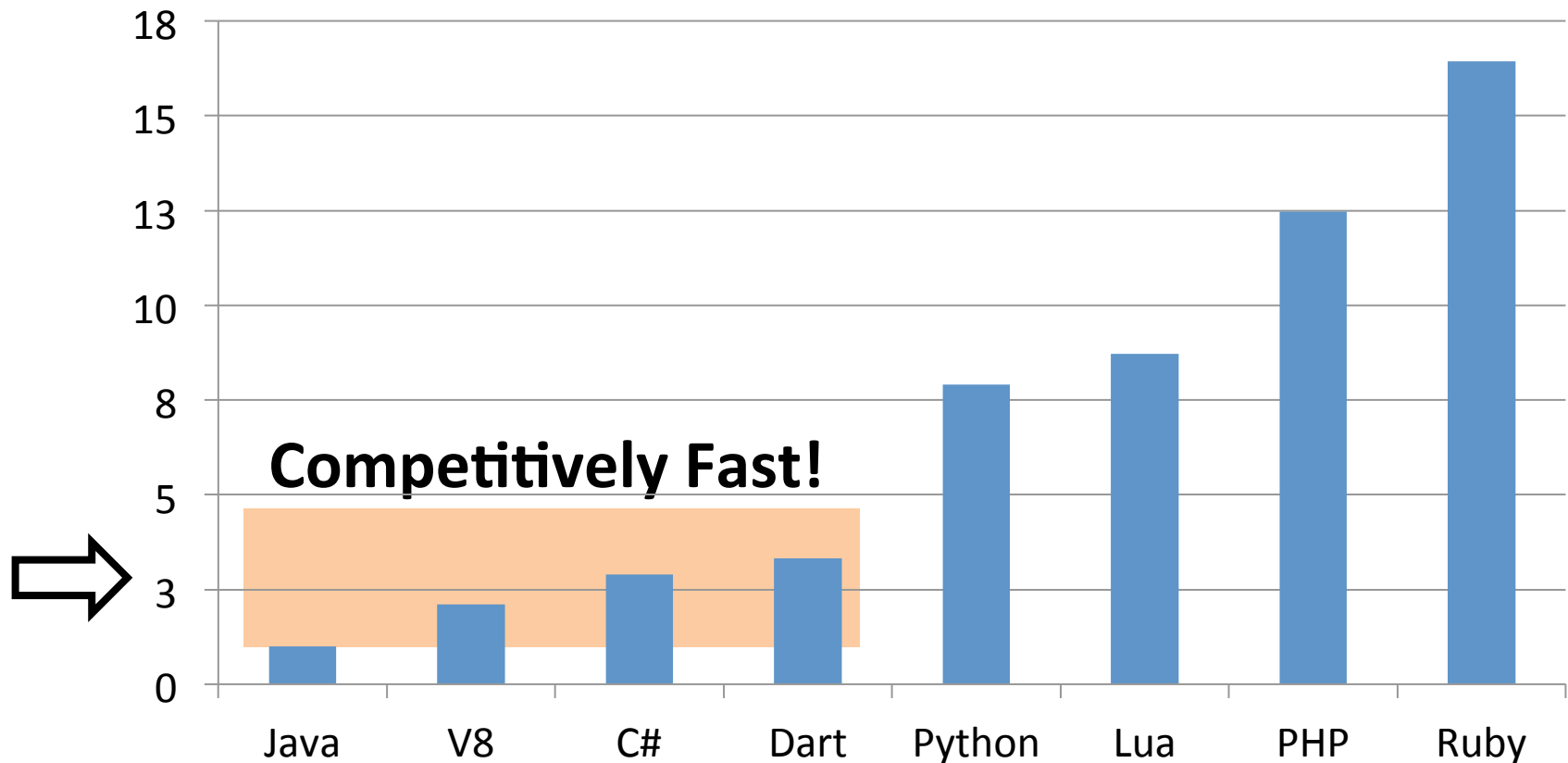


Why should you care about how Programming Languages work?



- Performance isn't magic
- Domain-specific languages
 - More concise
 - More productive
- It's easier than it looks
 - Often open source
 - Contributions welcome

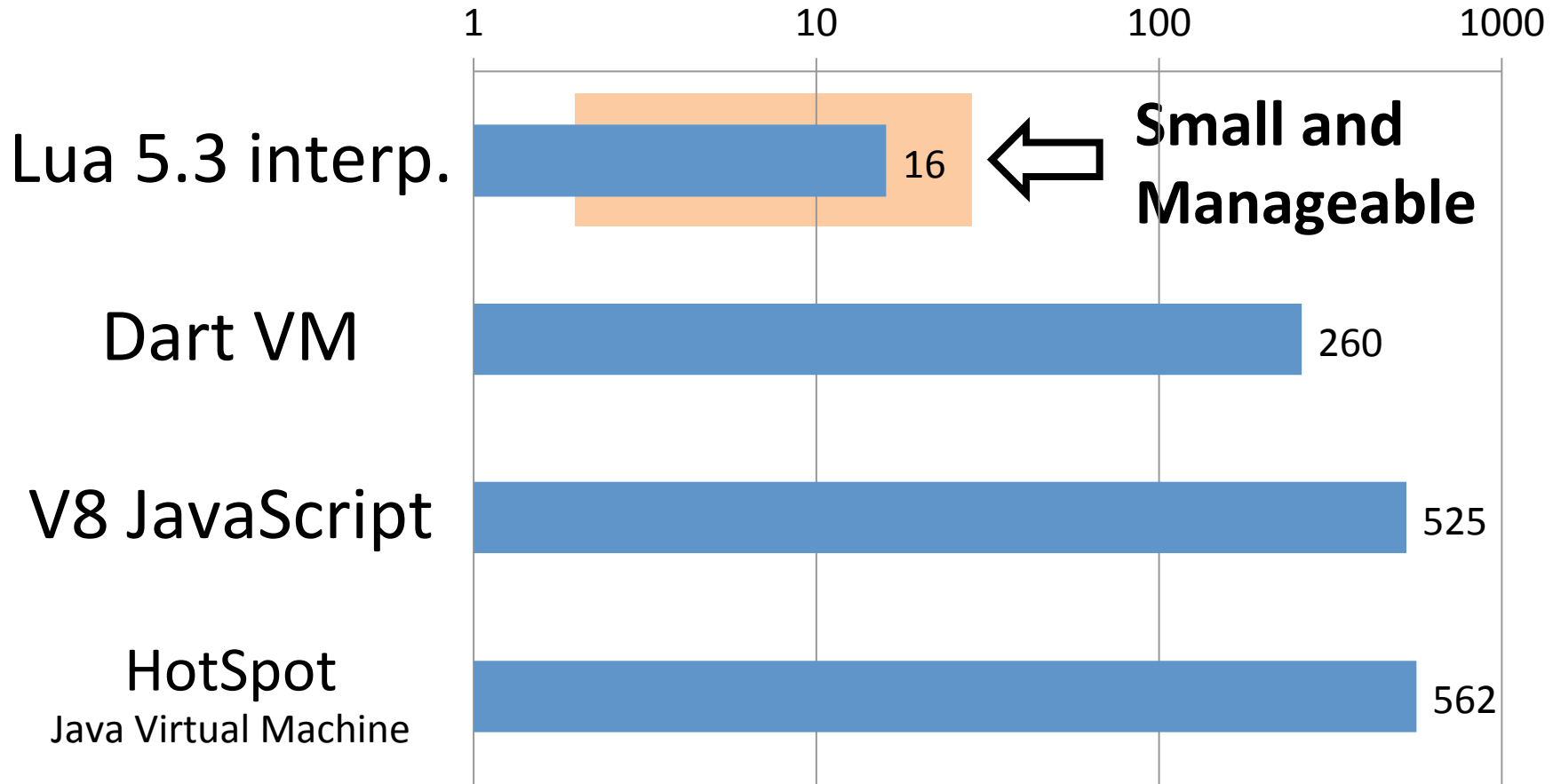
What's “High-Performance”?



Based on latest data from <http://benchmarksgame.alioth.debian.org/>
Geometric mean over available benchmarks.

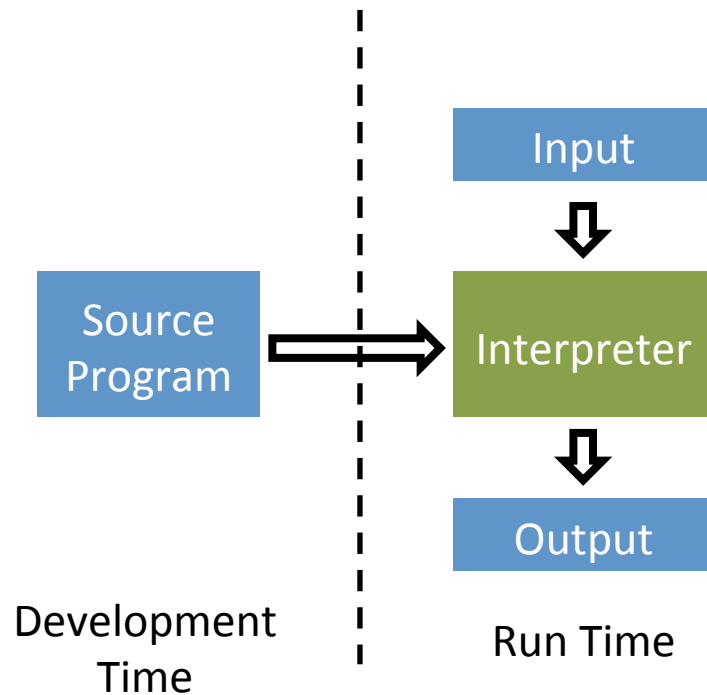
Disclaimer: Not indicate for application performance!

What's “Low Effort”?

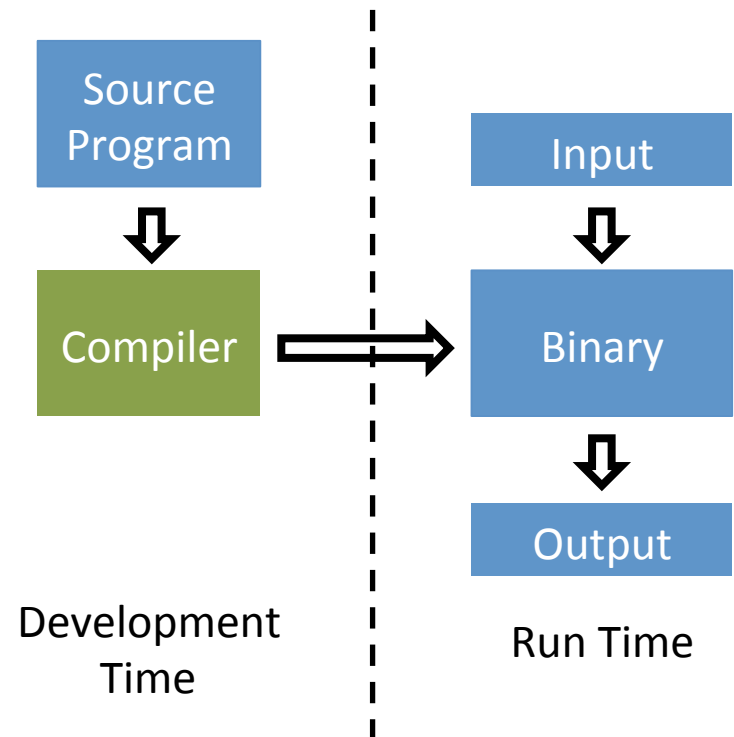


KLOC: 1000 Lines of Code, without blank lines and comments

Language Implementation Approaches

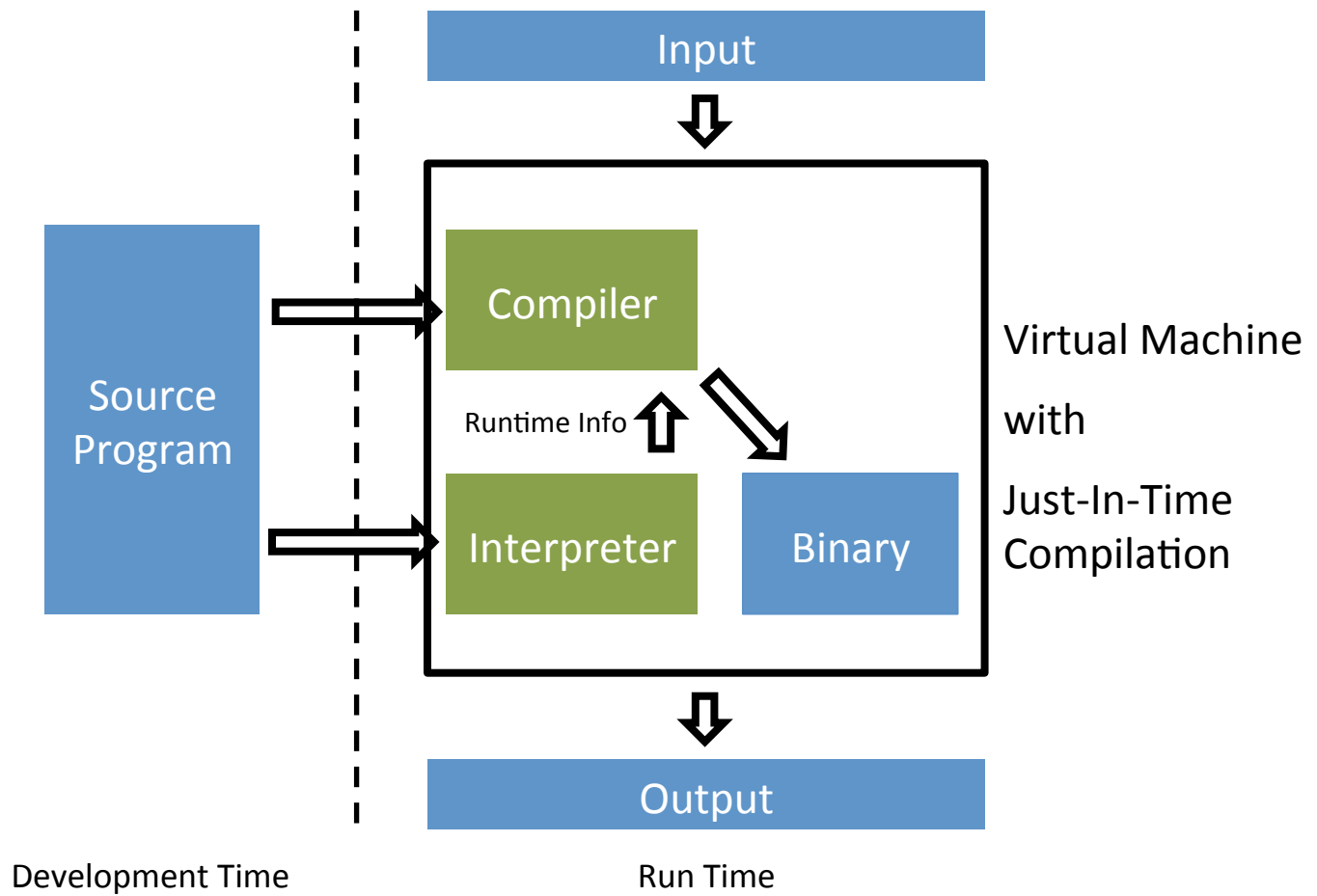


Simple, but often slow

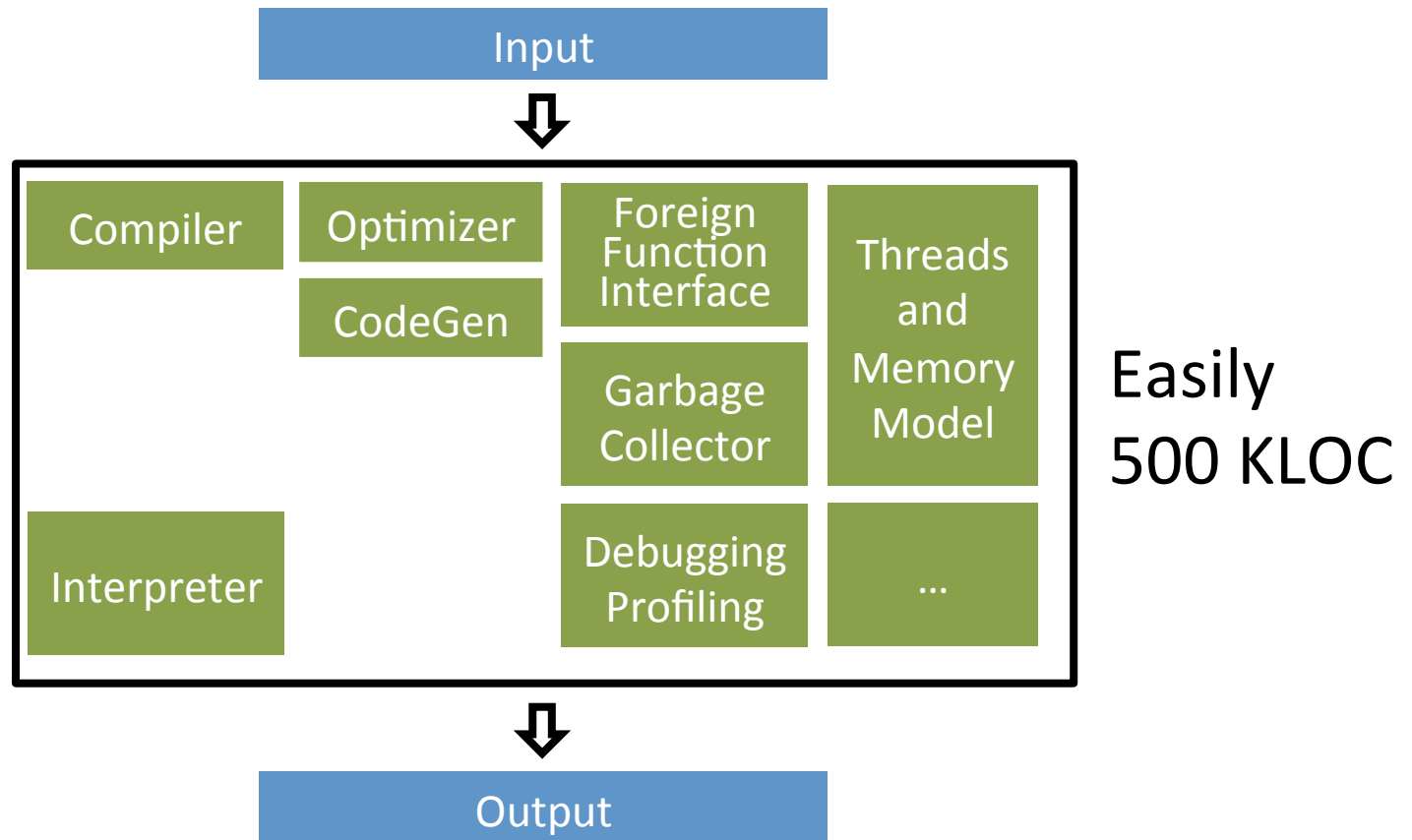


More complex, but often faster
Not ideal for all languages.

Modern Virtual Machines

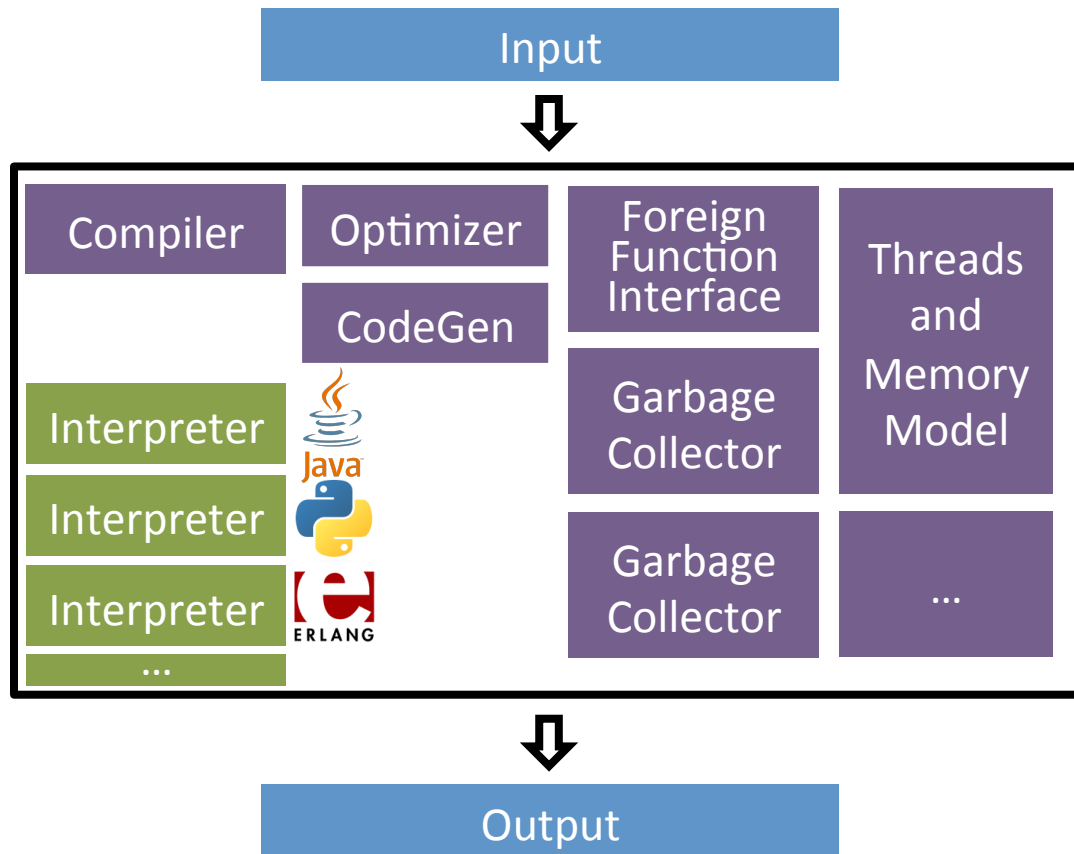


VMs are Highly Complex



How to reuse most parts
for a new language?

How to reuse most parts for a new language?



Make Interpreters Replaceable Components!

Interpreter-based Approaches



RPython
with Meta-Tracing



Truffle + Graal
with Partial Evaluation

Oracle Labs

[2] Bolz et al., Tracing the Meta-level: PyPy's Tracing JIT Compiler, ICIOOLPS Workshop 2009, ACM, pp. 18-25.

[3] Würthinger et al., One VM to Rule Them All, Onward! 2013, ACM, pp. 187-204.

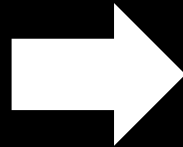


A Simple Technique for Language Implementation and Optimization

SELF-OPTIMIZING TREES

[1] Würthinger, T.; Wöß, A.; Stadler, L.; Duboscq, G.; Simon, D. & Wimmer, C. (2012), Self-Optimizing AST Interpreters, in 'Proc. of the 8th Dynamic Languages Symposium' , pp. 73-82.

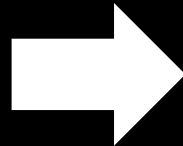
Code Convention



Application Code



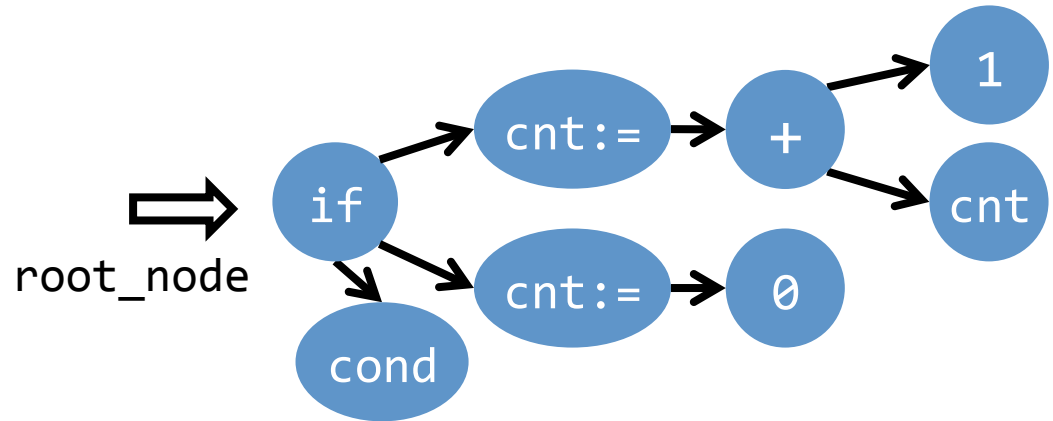
Python-ish



Interpreter Code

A Simple Abstract Syntax Tree Interpreter

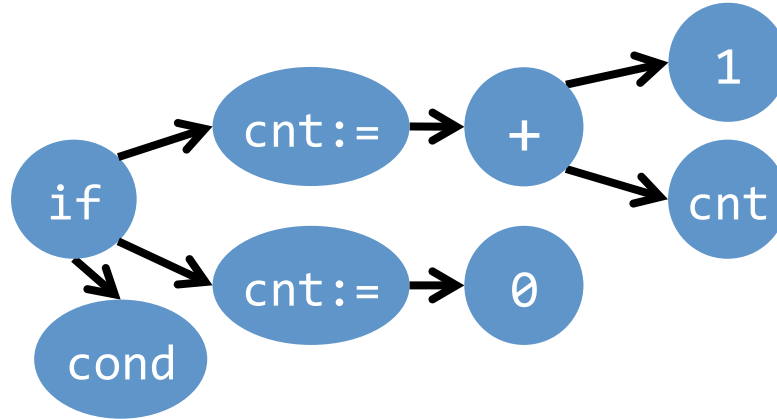
```
if (condition) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
} else {  
    cnt := 0;  
}
```



```
root_node = parse(file)  
root_node.execute(Frame())
```

Implementing AST Nodes

```
if (condition) {  
  cnt := cnt + 1;  
} else {  
  cnt := 0;  
}
```

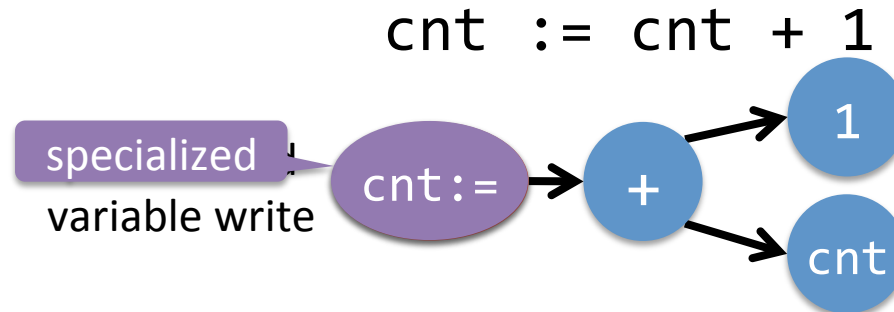


```
class Literal(ASTNode):  
  final value  
  def execute(frame):  
    return value
```

```
class VarRead(ASTNode):  
  final idx  
  def execute(frame):  
    return frame.local_obj[idx]
```

```
class VarWrite(ASTNode):  
  child sub_expr  
  final idx  
  def execute(frame):  
    val := sub_expr.execute(frame)  
    frame.local_obj[idx] := val  
    return val
```

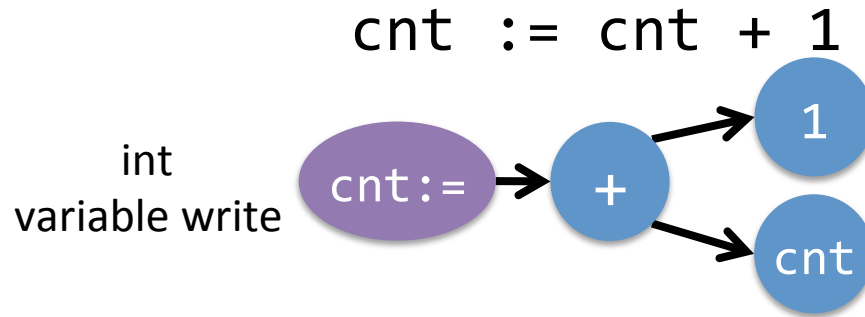
Self-Optimization by Node Specialization



```
def UninitVarWrite.execute(frame):  
    val := sub_expr.execute(frame)  
    return specialize(val).  
        execute_evaluated(frame, val)
```

```
def UninitVarWrite.specialize(val):  
    if val instanceof int:  
        return replace(IntVarWrite(sub_expr))  
    elif ...:  
        ...  
    else:  
        return replace(GenericVarWrite(sub_expr))
```

Self-Optimization by Node Specialization



```
def IntVarWrite.execute(frame):  
    try:  
        val := sub_expr.execute_int(frame)  
        return execute_eval_int(frame, val)  
    except ResultExp, e:  
        return respecialize(e.result).  
            execute_evaluated(frame, e.result)  
  
def IntVarWrite.execute_eval_int(frame, anInt):  
    frame.local_int[idx] := anInt  
    return anInt
```


Some Possible Self-Optimizations

- Type profiling and specialization
- Value caching
- Inline caching
- Operation inlining
- Library Lowering



Library Lowering for Array class

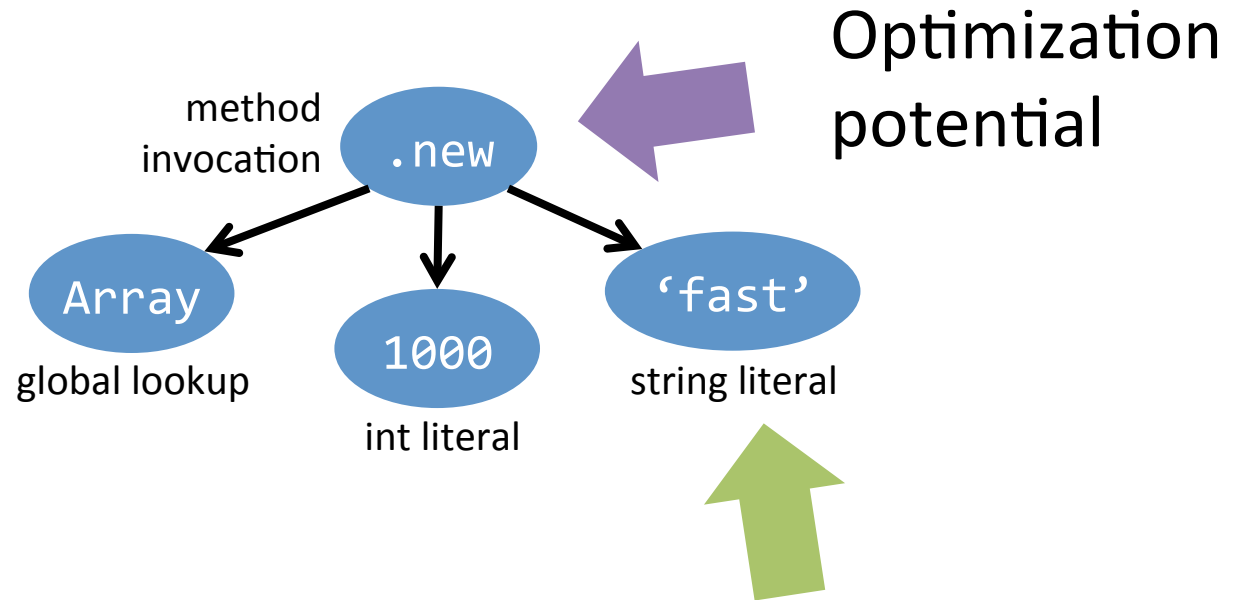
```
createSomeArray() { return Array.new(1000, 'fast fast fast'); }
```

```
class Array {  
  static new(size, lambda) {  
    return new(size).setAll(lambda);  
  }  
  
  setAll(lambda) {  
    forEach((i, v) -> { this[i] = lambda.eval(); });  
  }  
}
```

```
class Object {  
  eval() { return this; }  
}
```

Optimizing for Object Values

```
createSomeArray() { return Array.new(1000, 'fast fast fast'); }
```



Object, but not a lambda

Specialized new(size, lambda)

```
createSomeArray() { return Array.new(1000, 'fast fast fast'); }
```

```
def UninitArrNew.execute(frame):
```

```
    size := size_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
    val  := val_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
    return specialize(size, val).
```

```
        execute_evaluated(frame, size, val)
```

```
def UninitArrNew.specialize(size, val):
```

```
    if val instanceof Lambda:
```

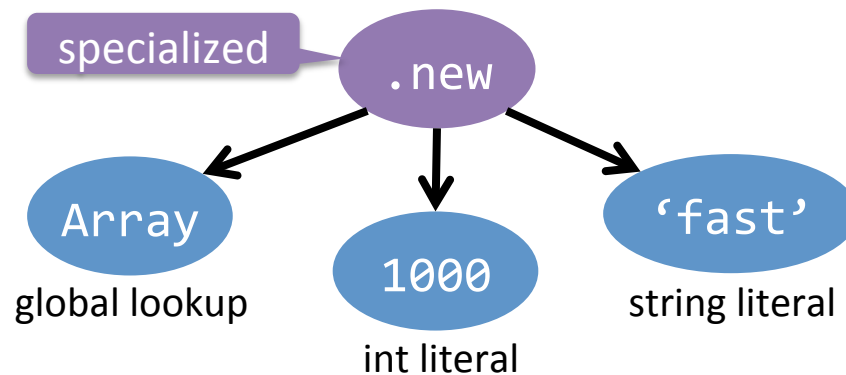
```
        return replace(StdMethodInvocation())
```

```
    else:
```

```
        return replace(ArrNewWithValue())
```

Specialized new(size, lambda)

```
createSomeArray() { return Array.new(1000, 'fast fast fast'); }
```



```
def ArrNewWithValue.execute_evaluated(frame, size, val):  
    return Array([val] * 1000)
```

1 specialized node vs. 1000x `this[i] = lambda.eval()`
 1000x `eval() { return this; }`




Generating Efficient Native Code

JUST-IN-TIME COMPILATION FOR INTERPRETERS

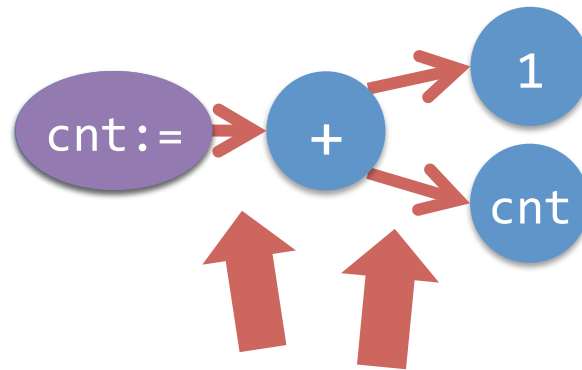
How to Get Fast Program Execution?

Standard Compilation: 1 node at a time

<code>VarWrite.execute(frame)</code>		<code>..VW_execute()</code> # bin
<code>IntVarWrite.execute(frame)</code>		<code>..IVW_execute()</code> # bin
<code>VarRead.execute(frame)</code>		<code>..VR_execute()</code> # bin
<code>Literal.execute(frame)</code>		<code>..L_execute()</code> # bin
<code>ArrayNewWithValue.execute(frame)</code>		<code>..ANWV_execute()</code> # bin

Minimal Optimization Potential

Problems with Node-by-Node Compilation



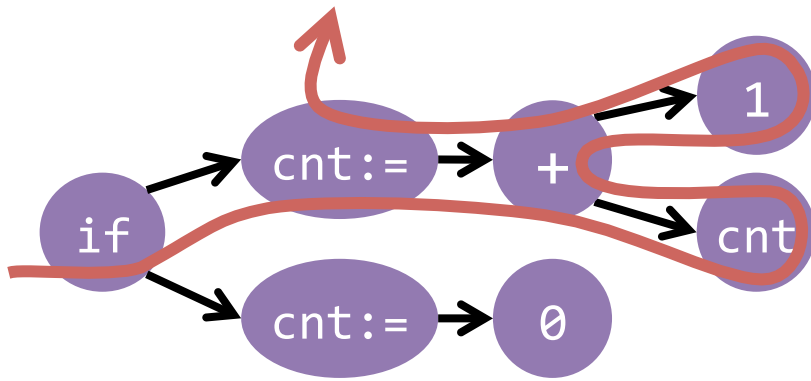
Slow Polymorphic Dispatches

```
def IntVarWrite.execute(frame):  
    try:  
        val := sub_expr.execute_int(frame)  
        return execute_eval_int(frame, val)  
    except ResultExp, e:  
        return respecialize(e.result).  
            execute_evaluated(frame, e.result)
```

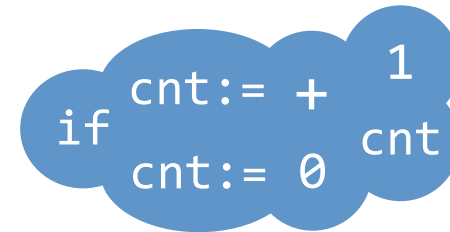
Runtime checks in general

Compilation Unit based on User Program

Meta-Tracing



Partial Evaluation Guided By AST



[2] Bolz et al., Tracing the Meta-level: PyPy's Tracing JIT Compiler, ICIOOLPS Workshop 2009, ACM, pp. 18-25.

[3] Würthinger et al., One VM to Rule Them All, Onward! 2013, ACM, pp. 187-204.

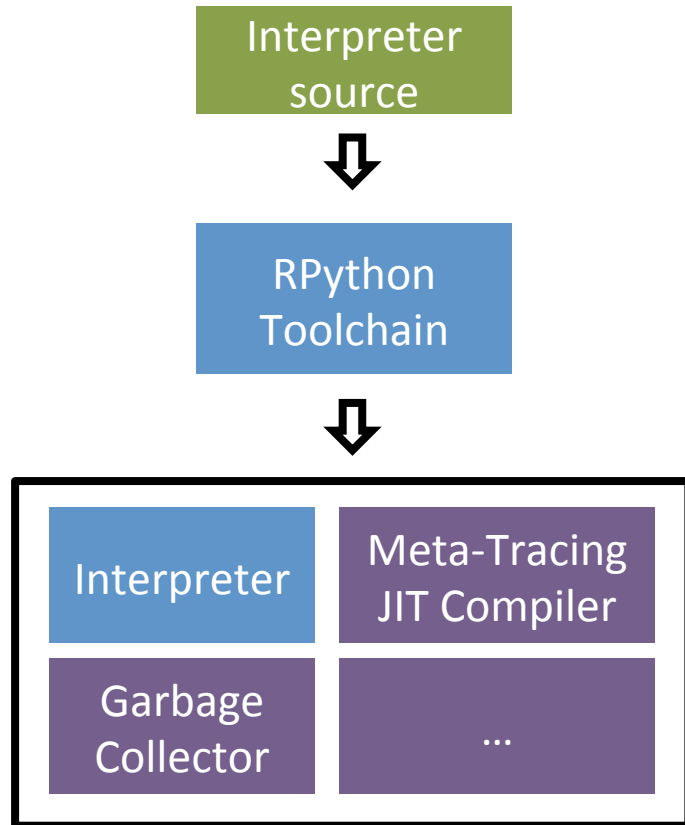
Just-in-Time Compilation with Meta Tracing



RPython

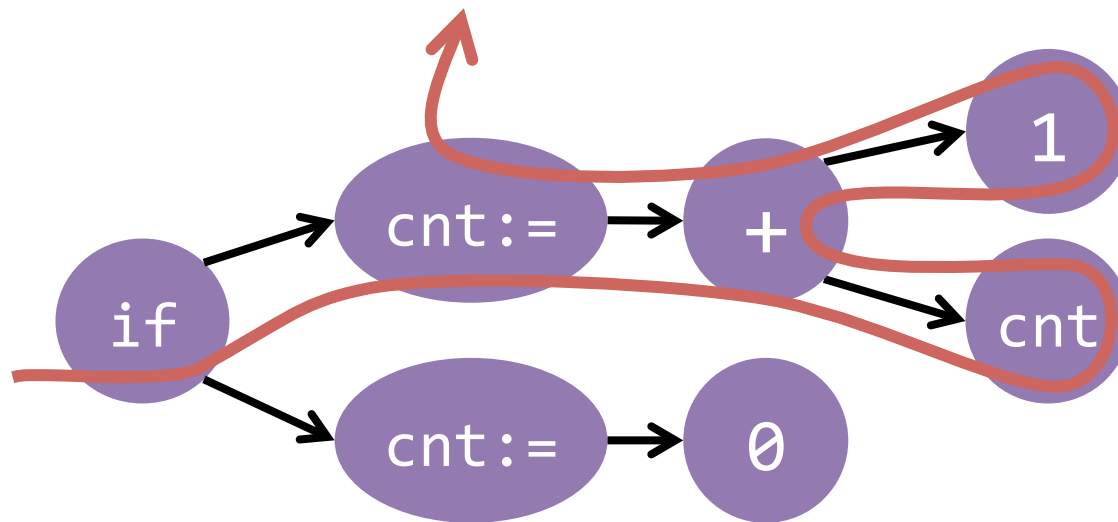


RPython



- Subset of Python
 - Type-inferenced
- Generates VMs

Meta-Tracing of an Interpreter



Meta Tracers need to know the Loops

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
def execute(frame):
```

```
    while True:
```

Trace

```
        jit_merge_point(node=self)
```

```
        guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))
```

```
        cond = cond_expr.execute_bool(frame)
```

```
        if not cond:
```

```
            break
```

```
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```



Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntLessThan(ASTNode):  
    child left_expr  
    child right_expr  
  
    def execute_bool(frame):  
        try:  
            left = left_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        try:  
            right = right_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        return left < right
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntVarRead(ASTNode):  
    final idx
```

```
def execute_int(frame):  
    if frame.is_int(idx):  
        return frame.local_int[idx]  
    else:  
        new_node = respecialize()  
        raise UnexpectedResult(new_node.execute())
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))  
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntVarRead(ASTNode):  
    final idx
```

```
def execute_int(frame):  
    if frame.is_int(idx):  
        return frame.local_int[idx]  
    else:  
        new_node = respecialize()  
        raise UnexpectedResult(new_node.execute())
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))  
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a1 := frame.layout  
i2 := a1[i1]  
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))
```


Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntVarRead(ASTNode):  
    final idx
```

```
def execute_int(frame):  
    if frame.is_int(idx):  
        return frame.local_int[idx]  
    else:  
        new_node = respecialize()  
        raise UnexpectedResult(new_node.execute())
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))  
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a1 := frame.layout  
i2 := a1[i1]  
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))  
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a2 := frame.local_int  
i4 := a2[i3]
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntLessThan(ASTNode):
    child left_expr
    child right_expr

def execute_bool(frame):
    try:
        left = left_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    try:
        right = right_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    return left < right
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {
    cnt := cnt + 1;
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a1 := frame.layout
i2 := a1[i1]
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a2 := frame.local_int
i4 := a2[i3]
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntLessThan(ASTNode):
    child left_expr
    child right_expr

def execute_bool(frame):
    try:
        left = left_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    try:
        right = right_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    return left < right
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {
    cnt := cnt + 1;
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a1 := frame.layout
i2 := a1[i1]
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a2 := frame.local_int
i4 := a2[i3]
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))
guard(right_expr == Const(IntLiteral))
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntLessThan(ASTNode):
    child left_expr
    child right_expr

def execute_bool(frame):
    try:
        left = left_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    try:
        right = right_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    return left < right
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {
    cnt := cnt + 1;
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a1 := frame.layout
i2 := a1[i1]
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a2 := frame.local_int
i4 := a2[i3]
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))
guard(right_expr == Const(IntLiteral))
i5 := right_expr.value # Const(100)
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntLessThan(ASTNode):  
    child left_expr  
    child right_expr  
  
def execute_bool(frame):  
    try:  
        left = left_expr.execute_int()  
    except UnexpectedResult r:  
        ...  
    try:  
        right = right_expr.execute_int()  
    except UnexpectedResult r:  
        ...  
    return left < right
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))  
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a1 := frame.layout  
i2 := a1[i1]  
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))  
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a2 := frame.local_int  
i4 := a2[i3]  
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))  
guard(right_expr == Const(IntLiteral))  
i5 := right_expr.value # Const(100)  
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class IntLessThan(ASTNode):
    child left_expr
    child right_expr

def execute_bool(frame):
    try:
        left = left_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    try:
        right = right_expr.execute_int()
    except UnexpectedResult r:
        ...
    return left < right
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {
    cnt := cnt + 1;
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a1 := frame.layout
i2 := a1[i1]
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)
a2 := frame.local_int
i4 := a2[i3]
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))
guard(right_expr == Const(IntLiteral))
i5 := right_expr.value # Const(100)
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))
b1 := i4 < i5
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        jit_merge_point(node=self)  
  
        cond = cond_expr.execute_bool(frame)  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))  
    i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
    a1 := frame.layout  
    i2 := a1[i1]  
    guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))  
    i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
    a2 := frame.local_int  
    i4 := a2[i3]  
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))  
    guard(right_expr == Const(IntLiteral))  
    i5 := right_expr.value # Const(100)  
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))  
    b1 := i4 < i5  
    guard_true(b1)
```

Tracing Records one Concrete Execution

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        jit_merge_point(node=self)  
  
        cond = cond_expr.execute_bool(frame)  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Trace

```
guard(cond_expr == Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr == Const(IntVarRead))  
    i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
    a1 := frame.layout  
    i2 := a1[i1]  
    guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))  
    i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
    a2 := frame.local_int  
    i4 := a2[i3]  
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))  
guard(right_expr == Const(IntLiteral))  
    i5 := right_expr.value # Const(100)  
guard_no_exception(Const(UnexpectedResult))  
    b1 := i4 < i5  
    guard_true(b1)  
    ...
```


Traces are Ideal for Optimization

```
guard(cond_expr ==  
      Const(IntLessThan))  
guard(left_expr ==  
      Const(IntVarRead))
```

```
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a1 := frame.layout  
i2 := a1[i1]  
guard(i2 == Const(F_INT))
```

```
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a2 := frame.local_int  
i4 := a2[i3]
```

```
guard_no_exception(  
  Const(UnexpectedResult))
```

```
guard(right_expr ==  
      Const(IntLiteral))
```

```
i5 := right_expr.value # Const(100)  
guard_no_exception(  
  Const(UnexpectedResult))
```

```
b1 := i4 < i5  
guard_true(b1)
```

...

```
i1 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a1 := frame.layout  
i1 := a1[Const(1)]  
guard(i1 == Const(F_INT))
```

```
i3 := left_expr.idx # Const(1)  
a2 := frame.local_int  
i4 := a2[i3]
```

```
i5 := right_expr.value # Const(100)
```

```
b1 := i2 < i5  
guard_true(b1)
```

...

```
a1 := frame.layout  
i1 := a1[1]  
guard(i1 == F_INT)
```

```
a2 := frame.local_int  
i2 := a2[1]
```

```
b1 := i2 < 100  
guard_true(b1)
```

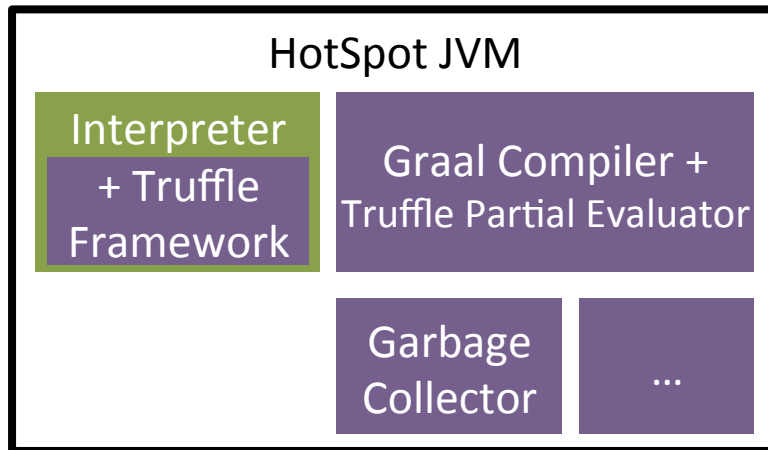
...

Just-in-Time Compilation with Partial Evaluation



Truffle + Graal

Truffle+Graal

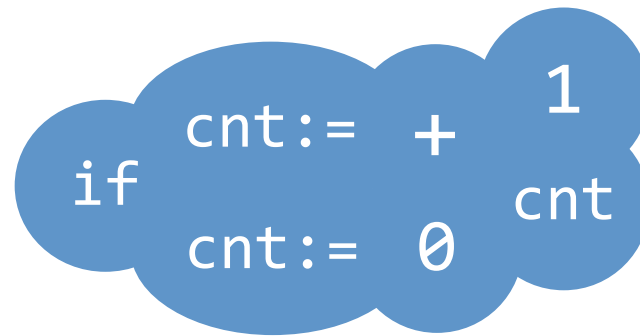


- Java framework
 - AST interpreters
- Based on HotSpot JVM

<http://www.ssw.uni-linz.ac.at/Research/Projects/JVM/Truffle.html>

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/oracle-labs/program-languages/overview/index-2301583.html>

Partial Evaluation Guided By AST



Partial Evaluation inlines based on Runtime Constants

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        cond = cond_expr.execute_bool(frame)  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Partial Evaluation inlines based on Runtime Constants

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        cond = cond_expr.execute_bool(frame)  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```



```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
class IntLessThan(ASTNode):  
    child left_expr  
    child right_expr  
  
def execute_bool(frame):  
    try:  
        left = left_expr.execute_int()  
    except UnexpectedResult r:  
        ...  
    try:  
        right = right_expr.execute_int()  
    except UnexpectedResult r:  
        ...  
    return left < right
```

Partial Evaluation inlines based on Runtime Constants

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```


```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        try:  
            left = cond_expr.left_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        try:  
            right = cond_expr.right_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        cond = left < right  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

Partial Evaluation inlines based on Runtime Constants

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        try:  
            left = cond_expr.left_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:   
            ...  
        try:  
            right = cond_expr.right_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        cond = left < right  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
class IntVarRead(ASTNode):  
    final idx  
  
    def execute_int(frame):  
        if frame.is_int(idx):  
            return frame.local_int[idx]  
        else:  
            new_node = respecialize()  
            raise UnexpectedResult(new_node.ex
```


Partial Evaluation inlines based on Runtime Constants

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        try:  
            if frame.is_int(1):  
                left = frame.local_int[1]  
            else:  
                new_node = respecialize()  
                raise UnexpectedResult(new_node.execute())  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        try:  
            right = cond_expr.right_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        cond = left < right  
        if not cond:  
            break
```

Optimize Optimistically

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:
```

```
        try:
```

```
            if frame.is_int(1):  
                left = frame.local_int[1]
```

```
            else:
```

```
                new_node = respecialize()  
                raise UnexpectedResult(new_node.execute())
```

```
        except UnexpectedResult r:
```

```
            ...
```

```
        try:
```

```
            right = cond_expr.right_expr.execute_int()
```

```
        except UnexpectedResult r:
```

```
            ...
```

```
        cond = left < right
```

```
        if not cond:
```

```
            break
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Optimize Optimistically

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):
```

```
    child cond_expr
```

```
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):
```

```
    while True:
```

```
        if frame.is_int(1):
```

```
            left = frame.local_int[1]
```

```
        else:
```

```
             __deopt_return_to_interp()
```

```
        try:
```

```
            right = cond_expr.right_expr.execute_int()
```

```
        expect UnexpectedResult r:
```

```
            ...
```

```
        cond = left < right
```

```
        if not cond:
```

```
            break
```

```
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Partial Evaluation inlines based on Runtime Constants

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
def execute(frame):
```

```
    while True:  
        if frame.is_int(1):  
            left = frame.local_int[1]  
        else:  
            __deopt_return_to_interp()  
        try:  
            right = cond_expr.right_expr.execute_int()  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        cond = left < right  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```



```
class IntLiteral(ASTNode):  
    final value  
    def execute_int(frame):  
        return value
```

Partial Evaluation inlines based on Runtime Constants

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):  
    child cond_expr  
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):  
    while True:  
        if frame.is_int(1):  
            left = frame.local_int[1]  
        else:  
            __deopt_return_to_interp()  
        try:  
            right = 100  
        except UnexpectedResult r:  
            ...  
        cond = left < right  
        if not cond:  
            break  
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
class IntLiteral(ASTNode):  
    final value  
    def execute_int(frame):  
        return value
```

Classic Optimizations:

Dead Code Elimination

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):
```

```
    child cond_expr
```

```
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):
```

```
    while True:
```

```
        if frame.is_int(1):
```

```
            left = frame.local_int[1]
```

```
        else:
```

```
            __deopt_return_to_interp()
```

```
        try:
```

```
            right = 100
```

```
        expect UnexpectedResult r:
```

```
            ...
```

```
        cond = left < right
```

```
        if not cond:
```

```
            break
```

```
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

```
class IntLiteral(ASTNode):
```

```
    final value
```

```
    def execute_int(frame):
```

```
        return value
```

Classic Optimizations:

Constant Propagation

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):
    child cond_expr
    child body_expr

def execute(frame):
    while True:
        if frame.is_int(1):
            left = frame.local_int[1]
        else:
            __deopt_return_to_interp()
        right = 100
        cond = left < right
        if not cond:
            break
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {
    cnt := cnt + 1;
}
```

```
class IntLiteral(ASTNode):
    final value
    def execute_int(frame):
        return value
```

Classic Optimizations:

Loop Invariant Code Motion

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):
```

```
    child cond_expr
```

```
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):
```

```
    while True:
```

```
        if frame.is_int(1):
```

```
            left = frame.local_int[1]
```

```
        else:
```

```
            __deopt_return_to_interp()
```

```
    if not (left < 100):
```

```
        break
```

```
    body_expr.execute(frame)
```

```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```


Classic Optimizations:

Loop Invariant Code Motion

```
class WhileNode(ASTNode):
```

```
    child cond_expr
```

```
    child body_expr
```

```
def execute(frame):
```

```
    if not frame.is_int(1):
```

```
        __deopt_return_to_interp()
```

```
    while True:
```

```
        if not (frame.local_int[1] < 100):
```

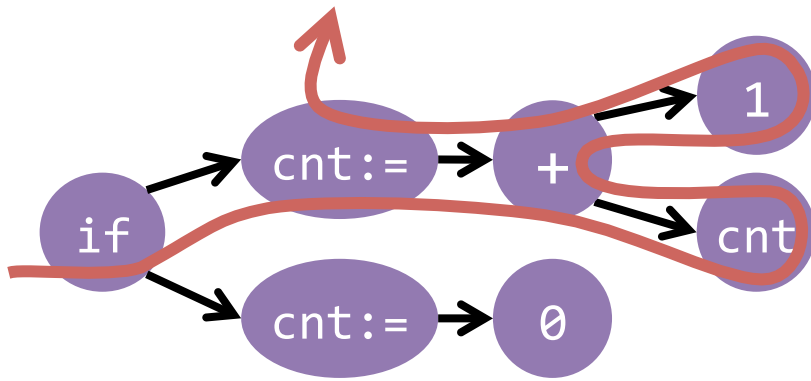
```
            break
```

```
        body_expr.execute(frame)
```

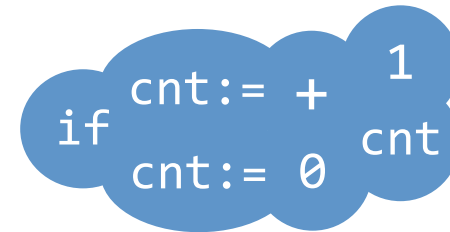
```
while (cnt < 100) {  
    cnt := cnt + 1;  
}
```

Compilation Unit based on User Program

Meta-Tracing



Partial Evaluation Guided by AST



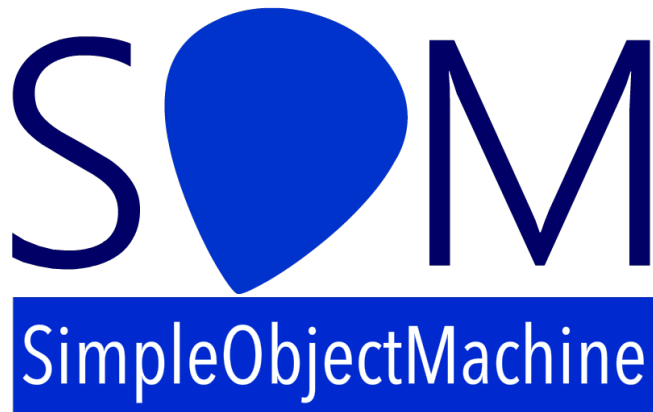
[2] Bolz et al., Tracing the Meta-level: PyPy's Tracing JIT Compiler, ICIOOLPS Workshop 2009, ACM, pp. 18-25.

[3] Würthinger et al., One VM to Rule Them All, Onward! 2013, ACM, pp. 187-204.

Results

WHAT'S POSSIBLE FOR A SIMPLE INTERPRETER?





<http://som-st.github.io>

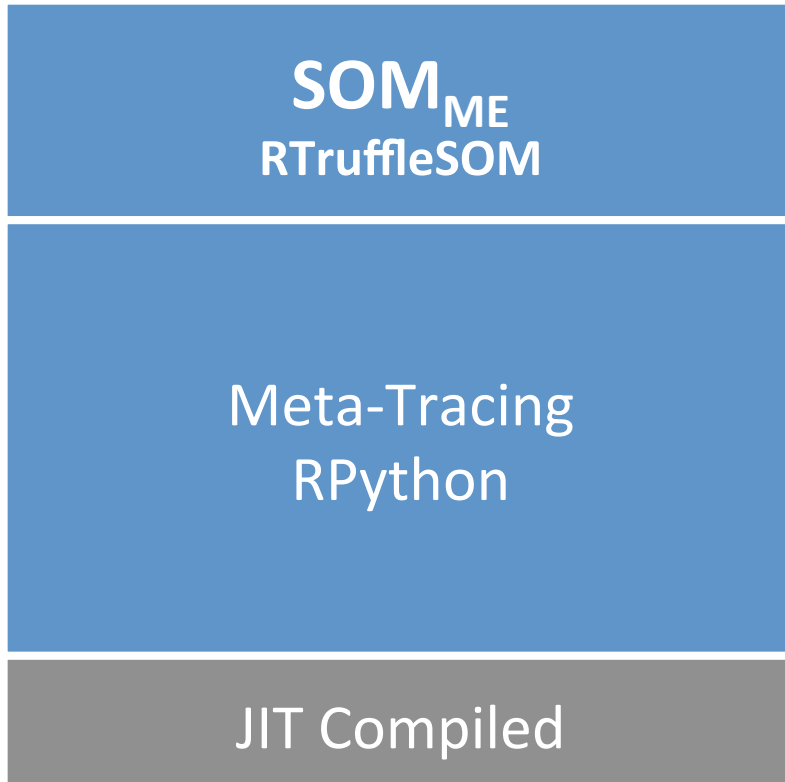
Designed for Teaching:

- Simple
- Conceptual Clarity
- An Interpreter family
 - in C, C++, Java, JavaScript, RPython, Smalltalk

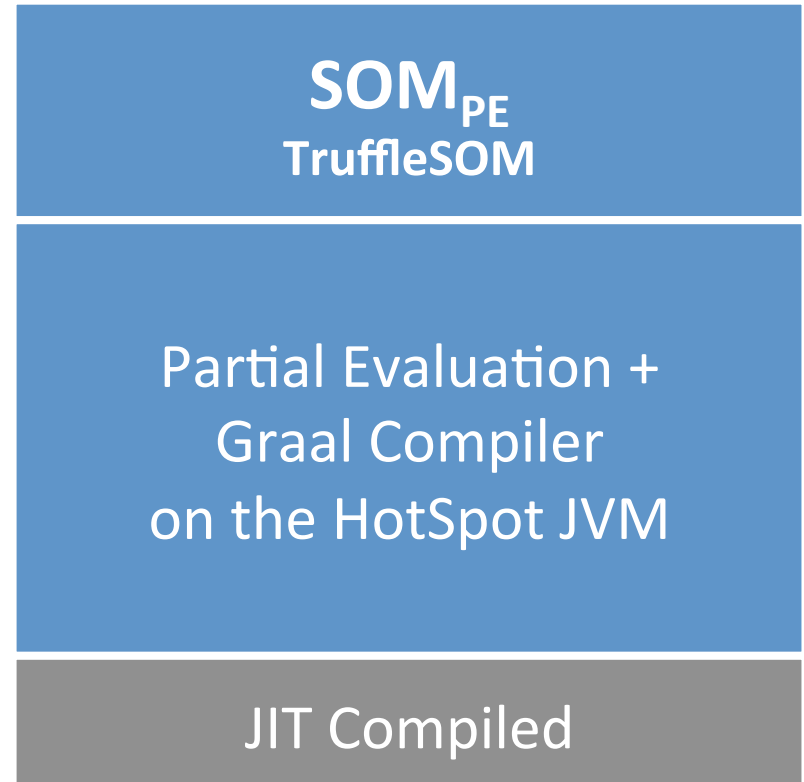
Used in the past by:



Self-Optimizing SOMs



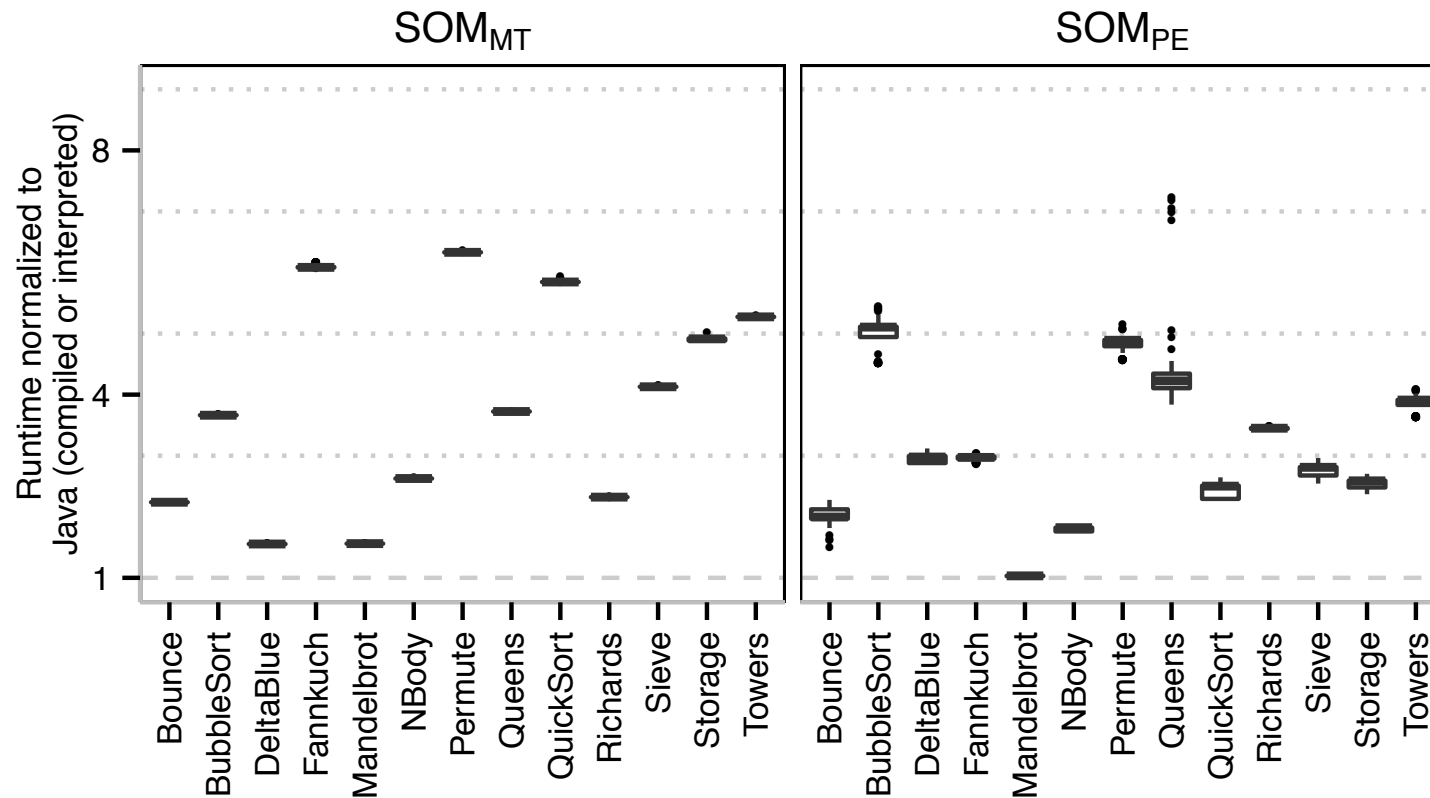
github.com/SOM-st/RTruffleSOM



github.com/SOM-st/TruffleSOM

Java 8 - server vs. SOM+JIT

JIT-compiled Peak Performance



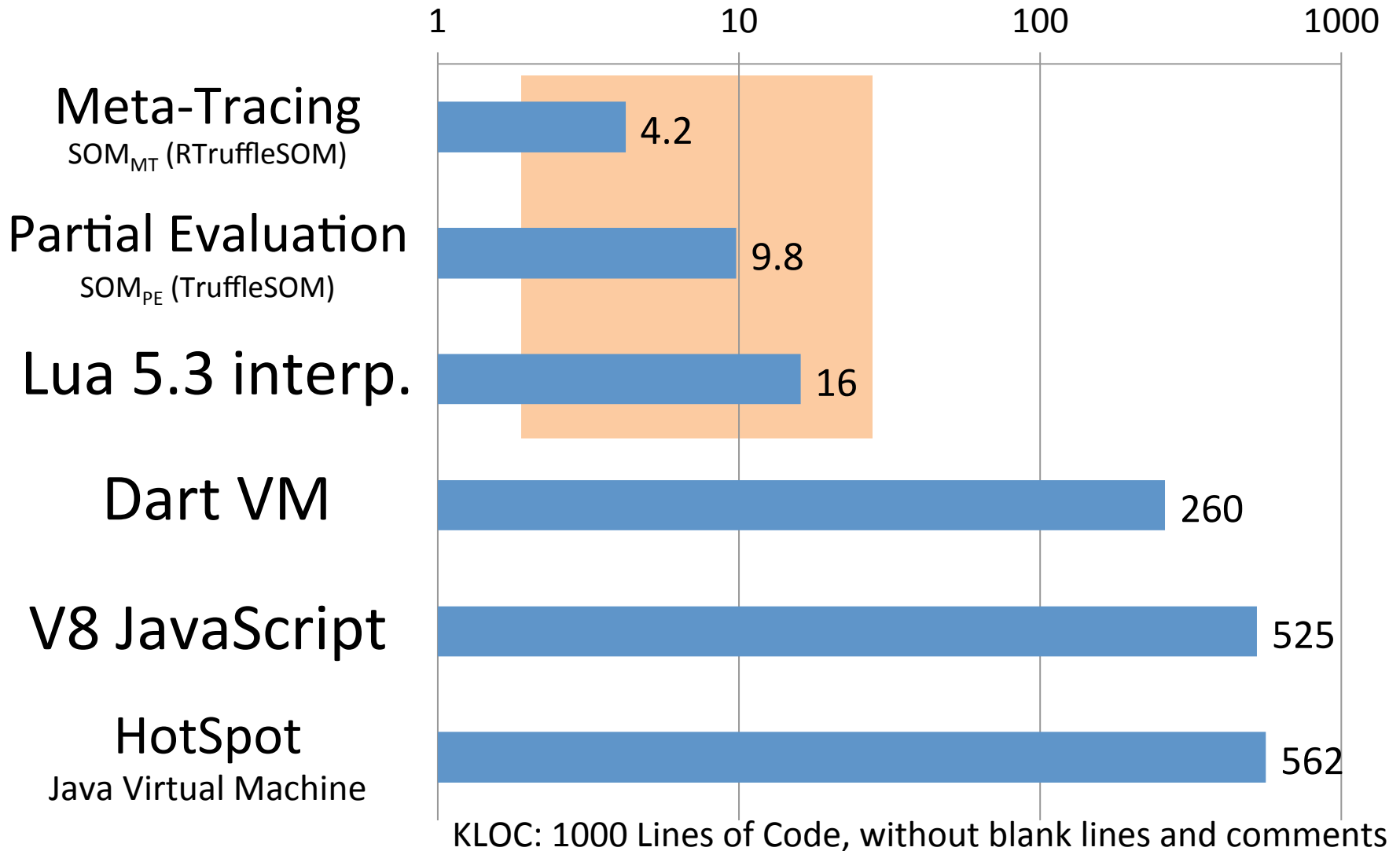
3.5x slower
(min. 1.6x, max. 6.3x)

RPython

2.8x slower
(min. 3%, max. 5x)

Truffle+Graal

Implementation: Smaller Than Lua



CONCLUSION

Simple and Fast Interpreters are Possible!



Self-optimizing AST interpreters



RPython or Truffle for JIT Compilation

Literature on the ideas:

[1] Würthinger et al., Self-Optimizing AST Interpreters, Proc. of the 8th Dynamic Languages Symposium, 2012, pp. 73-82.

[2] Bolz et al., Tracing the Meta-level: PyPy's Tracing JIT Compiler, ICIOOLPS Workshop 2009, ACM, pp. 18-25.

[3] Würthinger et al., One VM to Rule Them All, Onward! 2013, ACM, pp. 187-204.

[4] Marr et al., Are We There Yet? Simple Language Implementation Techniques for the 21st Century. IEEE Software 31(5):60—67, 2014

Big Thank You!

to both communities,

for help, answering questions, debugging support, etc...!!!

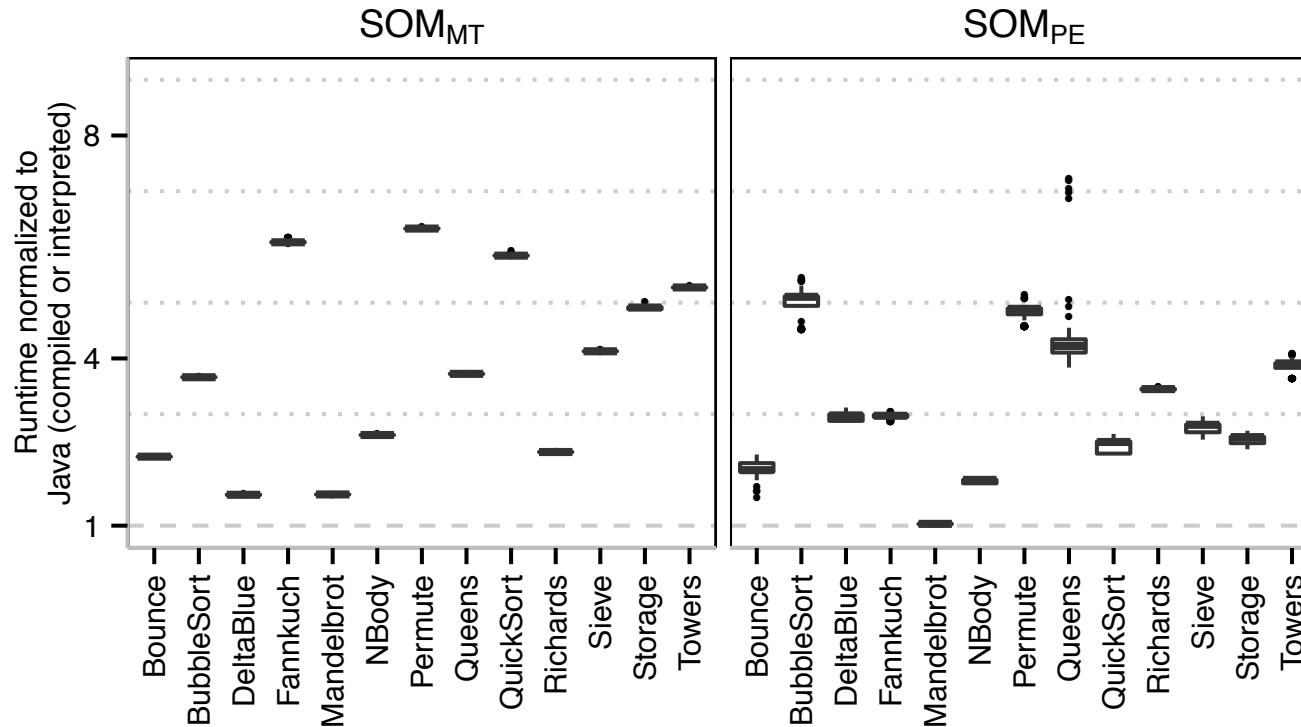
RPython

- [#pypy on irc.freenode.net](#)
- [rpython.readthedocs.org](#)
- **Kermit Example interpreter**
<https://bitbucket.org/pypy/example-interpreter>
- **A Tutorial**
<http://morepypy.blogspot.be/2011/04/tutorial-writing-interpreter-with-pypy.html>
- **Language implementations**
<https://www.evernote.com/shard/s130/sh/4d42a591-c540-4516-9911-c5684334bd45/d391564875442656a514f7ece5602210>

Truffle

- <http://mail.openjdk.java.net/mailman/listinfo/graal-dev>
- **SimpleLanguage interpreter**
<https://github.com/OracleLabs/GraalVM/tree/master/graal/com.oracle.truffle.sl/src/com/oracle/truffle/sl>
- **A Tutorial**
<http://cesquivias.github.io/blog/2014/10/13/writing-a-language-in-truffle-part-1-a-simple-slow-interpreter/>
- **Project**
 - <http://www.ssw.uni-linz.ac.at/Research/Projects/JVM/Truffle.html>
 - <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/oracle-labs/program-languages/overview/index-2301583.html>

Languages: Small, Elegant, and Fast!



3.5x slower
(min. 1.6x, max. 6.3x)

4.2 KLOC

RPython

2.8x slower
(min. 3%, max. 5x)

9.8 KLOC

Truffle+Graal

