Trace-based JIT Compilation

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Trace JIT vs. Method JIT

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tracing JITとmethod JITのどちらを採用すべきかという話をする。動的言語ではmethod JITの方が有効？

https://twitter.com/yukihiro_matz/status/533775624486133762
Background: Trace-based Compilation

- Using a Trace, a hot path identified at runtime, as a basic unit of compilation

```java
if (x != 0)
    if (x != 0)
        frequently executed
    else
        rarely executed
while (!end)
    do something
return
```
Using a Trace, a hot path identified at runtime, as a basic unit of compilation

- Trace selection: how to form good compilation scope
A Brief History of Trace-based Compilation (1)

- Trace-based compilation was first introduced by binary translators and optimizers
  - because method structures are not available in binaries
  - e.g. Dynamo (PLDI’00), BOA/DAISY (MICRO’99 etc.)

- Dynamo demonstrated optimization potentials
  - average 10% speedup over binaries compiled at -O level
  - improvements came mostly from better code layout and simple folding

- Trace-based compilation is still commonly used in binary instrumentation tools, translators today
  - e.g. DynamoRIO, Strata, Intel Pin
A Brief History of Trace-based Compilation (2)

- Recently, trace-based compilation has gained popularity in dynamic scripting languages
  - because it can potentially provide more opportunities for type specialization
    - e.g. TraceMonkey (PLDI’08), PyPy (ICOOOLPS’09), LuaJIT, SPUR (OOPSLA’10)

- TraceMonkey (used in Firefox 3.5 - 10) is the first trace-JIT for JavaScript
  - demonstrated 2x to 20x speedups on loop-intensive scripts

- PyPy is the first Python trace-JIT
  - use trace compilation for aggressive specialization of generic operations/data
A Brief History of Trace-based Compilation (3)

- HotpathVM (VEE’06), YETI (VEE’07), Maxpath (PPPJ’10), HotSpot-based trace-JIT (PPPJ’11), Dalvik JIT of Android 2.2+ are trace-JITs targeting Java and variants

- HotpathVM emphasizes its efficiency in resource constrained systems where full-blown JIT compilation is not practical

- YETI showed that the trace-based compilation eased the development of a JIT compiler by allowing incremental implementation of JIT compiler

- HotSpot-based trace-JIT showed performance improvement over (method-based) HotSpot client compiler (closer to region-based compilation approach)
Outline

- Back ground
- Overview of our trace-JIT
- Trace Selection and Performance
- Summary
Our Trace-based Java JIT

- Problem statement
  - How to optimize large-scale Java applications with deep (>100) call chains and a flat execution profile?

- Why trace compilation?
  - Tracing may create larger compilation scopes than conventional inlining, especially across method boundaries
  - Tracing may provide context-sensitive profiling information

- Our approach
  - Develop a trace-JIT based on existing method-based Java JIT

- 2-year effort by 3 members
  - Hiroshi Inoue, Hiroshige Hayashizaki (IBM Research – Tokyo)
  - Peng Wu (IBM Research – Watson)
Motivating Example

- A trace can span multiple methods
  - Free from method boundaries
  - In large server workloads, there are deep (>100) layers of methods
Our Questions

1. Can trace-JIT break method boundaries more effectively?
2. Can trace-JIT produce better codes?
3. Can trace-JIT compile more efficiently (i.e., compile time & code size)?
4. Can a Java trace-JIT beat a Java method-JIT?
Trace Selection vs. Method Inlining

**ASSUMPTION:** when a call graph is too big to be fully inlined into the root node

Method inlining forms **hierarchical** regions

Trace selection forms **contiguous** regions
- blue, brown, green
Baseline Method-JIT Components

Java VM

- interpreter
- compiled method dispatcher
- garbage collector
- class libraries

compilation request for frequently executed methods

Method-JIT

- IR generator
- code generator
- optimizers

compiled method

code cache

compiled code
Our Trace-JIT Architecture

Java VM
- interpreter
- trace dispatcher
- garbage collector
- class libraries
- execution events

Tracing runtime
- trace selection engine
- hash map
- code cache
- compiled code
- (e.g. compiled code address)

Trace-JIT
- trace side exit elimination
- code generator
- new component
- modified component
- unmodified component
- IR generator
- optimizers
Our Trace-JIT Architecture

- **Java VM**
  - interpreter
  - execution events

- **Tracing runtime**
  - trace selection engine
  - trace (Java bytecode)
  - (e.g. compiled code address)

- **Trace-JIT**
  - trace side exit elimination
  - IR generator
  - optimizers
  - code generator

- **Code Cache**
  - compiled code
  - new component
  - modified component
  - unmodified component

- **Modified to call a hook at control-flow events**
  - branch
  - method invoke
  - method return
  - exception
Our Trace-JIT Architecture

- **Java VM**
  - interpreter
    - execution events

- **Tracing runtime**
  - trace selection engine
    - trace (Java bytecode)

- **Trace-JIT**
  - trace side exit elimination
  - IR generator
  - optimizers

**Identify two types of hot paths**

- **Linear trace**
  - A
  - B
  - exit
  - stub
  - exit

- **Cyclic trace**
  - A
  - B
  - exit
  - stub
  - exit

- **Modified component**
- **Unmodified component**

**Identify two types of hot paths**

- **Linear trace**
  - A
  - B
  - exit
  - stub
  - exit

- **Cyclic trace**
  - A
  - B
  - exit
  - stub
  - exit
Trace Selection

1. Identify a hot trace head
   - a taken target of a backward branch
   - a bytecode that follows a exit point of an existing trace

2. Record next execution path starting from the trace head

3. Stop recording when the trace being recorded:
   - forms a cycle (loop)
   - reaches pre-defined maximum length
   - calls or returns to a JNI (native) method
   - throws an exception
Our Trace-JIT Architecture

Java VM
- interpreter
- trace dispatcher
- garbage collector
- class libraries

Tracing runtime
- trace selection engine
- trace (Java bytecode)
  (e.g. compiled code)

Trace-JIT
- trace side exit elimination
- IR generator
- optimizers

Apply simple one-pass value propagation to exploit simple topologies of traces

It removes potential side exits to reduce IR tree size and compilation time
Peak Performance (DaCapo-9.12)

- Trace-JIT was almost comparable to the method-JIT on average
- 21% slower to 19% faster
Outline

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Block duplication is inherent to any trace selection algorithm — e.g., most blocks following any join-node are duplicated on traces.

Generating larger compilation scope by allowing more duplication is

😊 key to achieve higher peak performance
• more optimization opportunities for compilers
• smaller trace transitioning overhead

😡 but it may yield longer compilation time
• costly source code analysis
• more duplicated code among traces

➜ We observed lots of duplication that does not help the performance
Understanding the Causes (I): Short-Lived Traces

**SYMPTOM**
- Trace A is formed first
- Trace B is formed later
- Afterwards, A is no longer entered

**ROOT CAUSE**
1. Trace A is formed before trace B, but node B dominates node A
2. Node A is part of trace B

On average, 40% traces of DaCapo 9-12 are short lived

% traces selected by baseline algorithm with <500 execution frequency
Compiled code size reduced by 70%

DayTrader 2.0 running on WebSphere 7

DaCapo 9.12

shorter is better
Startup time reduced by 45%
Peak performance was also improved in DayTrader!
Trace Selection and Performance for Large-scale Applications

- Generating larger compilation scope by allowing more duplications 😊 is key to achieve higher peak performance
  - more optimization opportunities for compilers
  - smaller trace transitioning overhead

😃 but it may hurt startup performance
  - longer compilation time
  - more duplicated code among traces

😢 also it may hurt the peak performance for large applications
  - Larger application tend to cause more instruction cache misses
  - ~20% of CPU cycles were wasted by I-cache misses in DayTrader
Generating longer trace also does not necessarily work: Supporting a loop in a trace

- **linear trace**

  ![Linear Trace Diagram](image1)

- **extended-form trace**

  ![Extended-Form Trace Diagram](image2)

- **cyclic trace**

  ![Cyclic Trace Diagram](image3)

- **fewer trace transition**
  - L1 I$ miss: -10%
- **potentially more optimization opportunity**
  - but, no improvement observed
- **more code duplication among traces**
  - total code size: +20%
  - L3 Instruction miss: +6%
- **Performance: -1% in DayTrader**
  - +1% on average of DaCapo-9.12 (up to +2.5%)
Outline

- Background
- Overview of our trace-JIT
- Trace Selection and Performance
- A large-scale Java application with trace-JIT
- Summary
Questions and Our Answers

1. **Can trace-JIT break method boundaries more effectively?**
   - Workload dependent, e.g., trace JIT produces 2X larger scope than method-JIT for Jython, but 9% smaller scope for DayTrader
   - But simply enlarge the compilation scope does not help performance

2. **Can trace-JIT produce better codes?**
   - Retrofitting method-JIT optimizers for trace-JIT does not yield significant better codes beyond the benefit of larger scope
   - But opportunities may exist in new trace-specific optimizations
   - How to generate trace exit code is an interesting challenge unique to trace-JIT

3. **Can trace-JIT compile more efficiently (i.e., compile time & code size)?**
   - Yes. The simple topology of linear and cyclic traces can be compiled with much more efficiently

4. **Can a Java trace-JIT beat a Java method-JIT?**
   - It is not easy to beat a mature method-JIT. We feel that a specific type of workloads, such as Jython, respond better to trace-JIT than method-JIT
How about for other languages?

- **TraceMonkey (JavaScript)**
  - “That the approach that we’ve taken with tracing tends to interact poorly with certain styles of code.”
  - “That when we’re able to “stay on trace” (more on this later) TraceMonkey wins against every other engine.”

- **Pyston (Python)**
  - “Whether or not the same performance advantage holds for Python is an open question, but since the two approaches are fundamentally incompatible, the only way to start answering the question is to build a new method-at-a-time JIT.”
Lessons Learned

- Trace selection algorithm has a big impact on performance and code size
  - more flexible than the method inlining and hence is an interesting tool to evaluate the effect of code duplication

- What did not work for us
  - extending trace-scope by allowing non-linear structures (e.g., trace grouping, trace tree) does not yield any performance improvement for DayTrader

- Possible future steps
  - opportunities may exist in new trace-specific optimizations
    - e.g., allocation removal [Bolz ’10], aggressive redundancy elimination
  - improving profile accuracy
    - profile accuracy is more important in trace-JIT than method-JIT
Our Publication on trace-JIT

  – Focus on trace-optimization aspect of the JIT, discussed the scope mismatch problem

- Hiroshige Hayashizaki, Peng Wu, Hiroshi Inoue, Mauricio Serrano and Toshio Nakatani, "Improving the Performance of Trace-based Systems by False Loop Filtering", ASPLOS 2011
  – Focus on trace selection algorithm, fragmentation of traces due to false loop problems

- Peng Wu, Hiroshige Hayashizaki, Hiroshi Inoue, and Toshio Nakatani, "Reducing Trace Selection Footprint for Large-scale Java Applications with no Performance Loss", OOPSLA 2011
  – Focus on trace selection algorithm, the code duplication problem

  – Focus on adaptive compilation of trace-JIT