Zurück in die Zukunft:
Back-in-time-Debugging mit dem TraceDebugger

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Squeak Demos ’22

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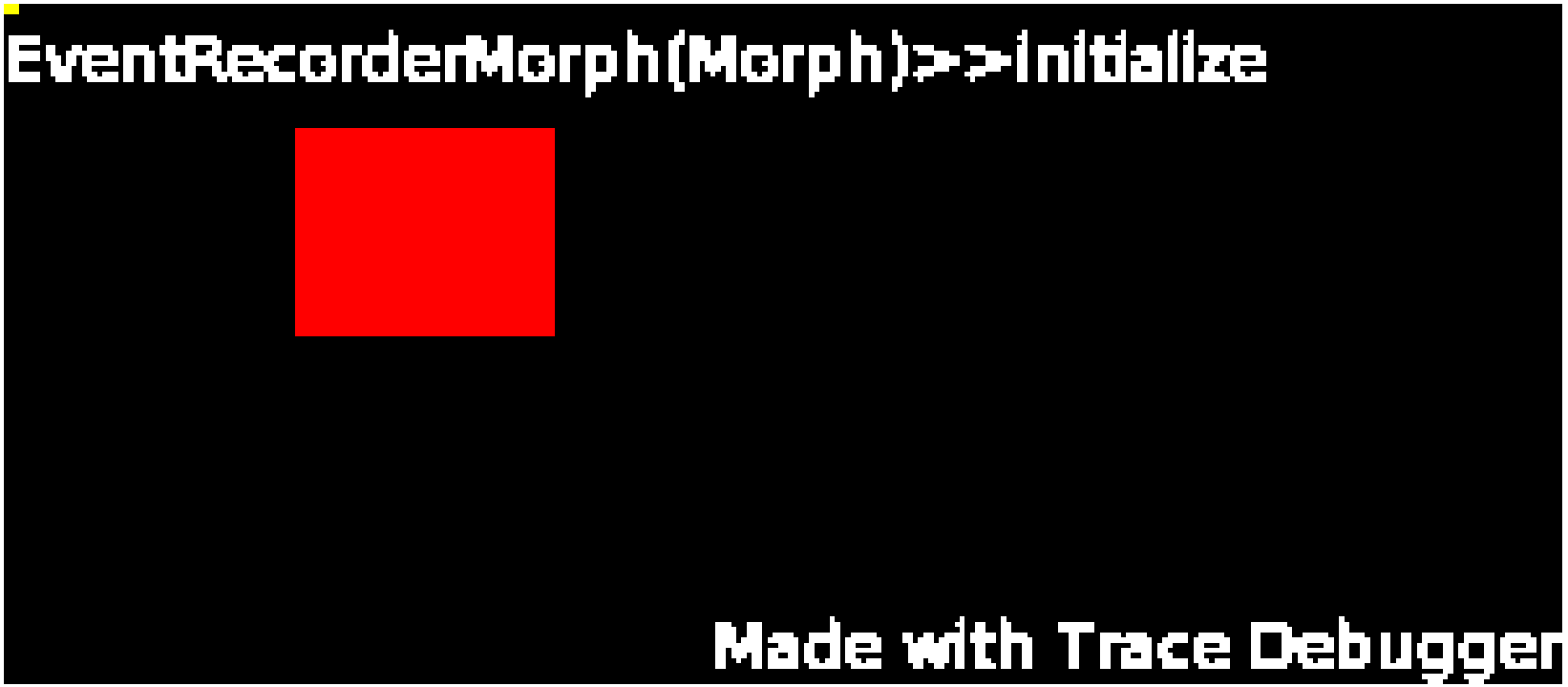
Einige Object Traces …

- Morphic Layout

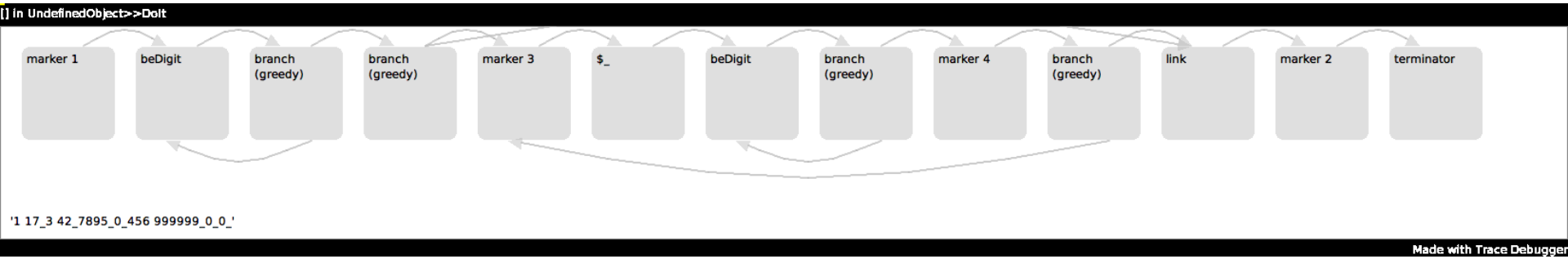


Einige Object Traces …

- Morphic Rendering

Einige Object Traces …

- Matching regulärer Ausdrücke visualisieren



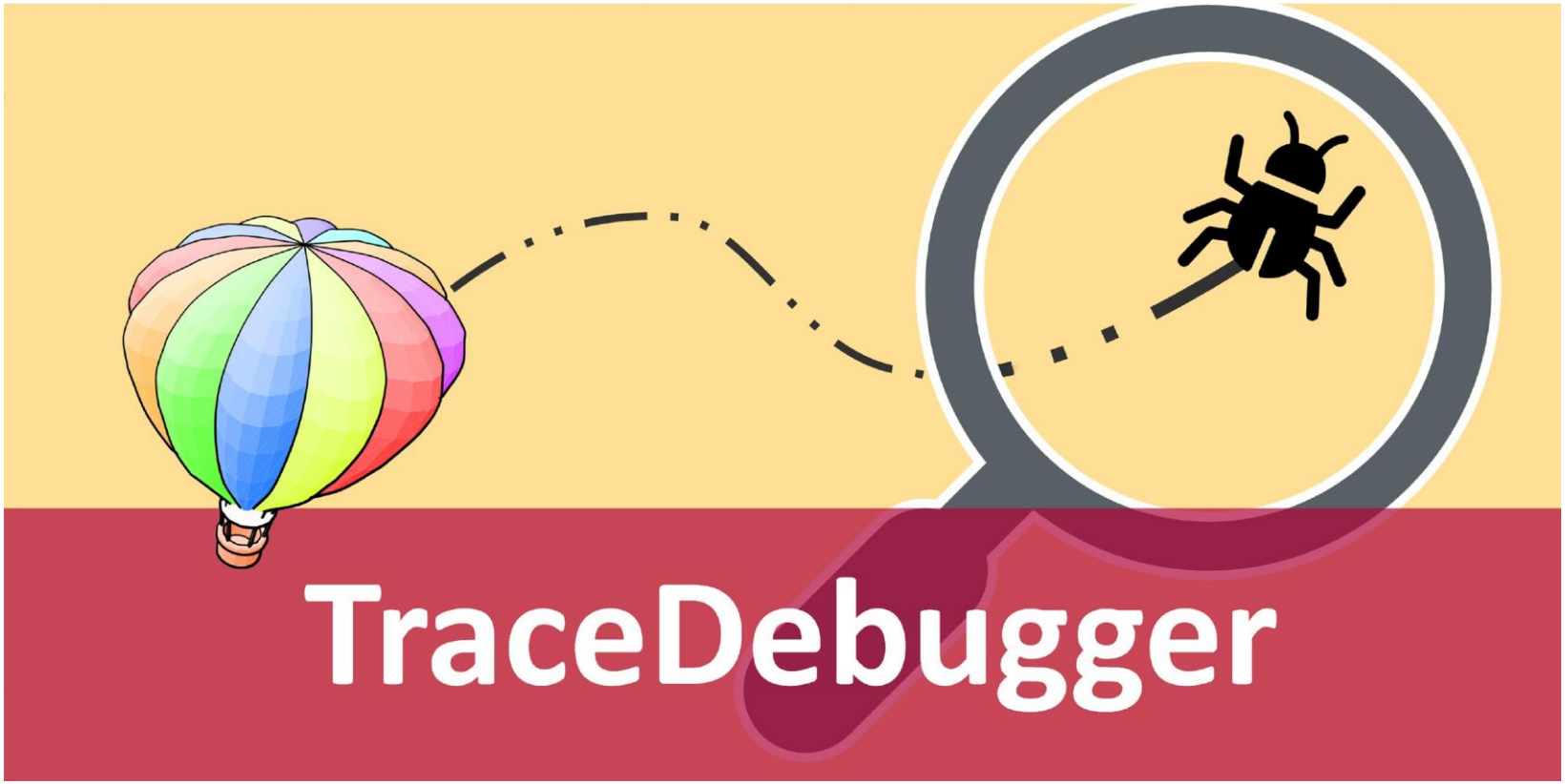
Implementierungsdetails

- Program Tracing mit Code Simulation
  - Methodenaufrufe mitschreiben
  - Seiteneffekte erkennen und alte Werte sichern
- Navigation durch Context Tree mittels Cursor
- Proxies für Zugriff auf historische Objekte
  - Code Simulation zur Emulation früherer Zustände
  - Vektorisierte Code Simulation für Object Traces im History Explorer

Einschränkungen

- Performance
  - Compiler/Decompiler-Aufruf: <1s
  - HTTPS-Anfrage: <10s
  - Toolbuilding: <5m
  - Komplexes Rendering: Minuten bis Stunden
- FFI/VM-Plugins/…
- Retracing von Objektidentitäten und Write Barriers (notYetImplemented)

Installation



https://github.com/hpi-swa-lab/squeak-tracedebugger

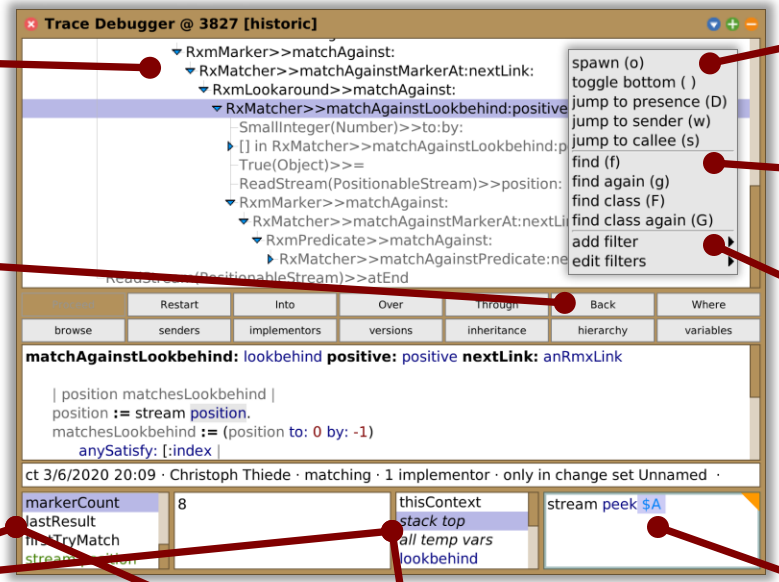
mit fertigem Image zum Download

TraceDebugger

Record prior state and behavior (tracing)

Explore program trace

Replay program trace



Segmentable call tree (direct manipulation)

Queryable trace

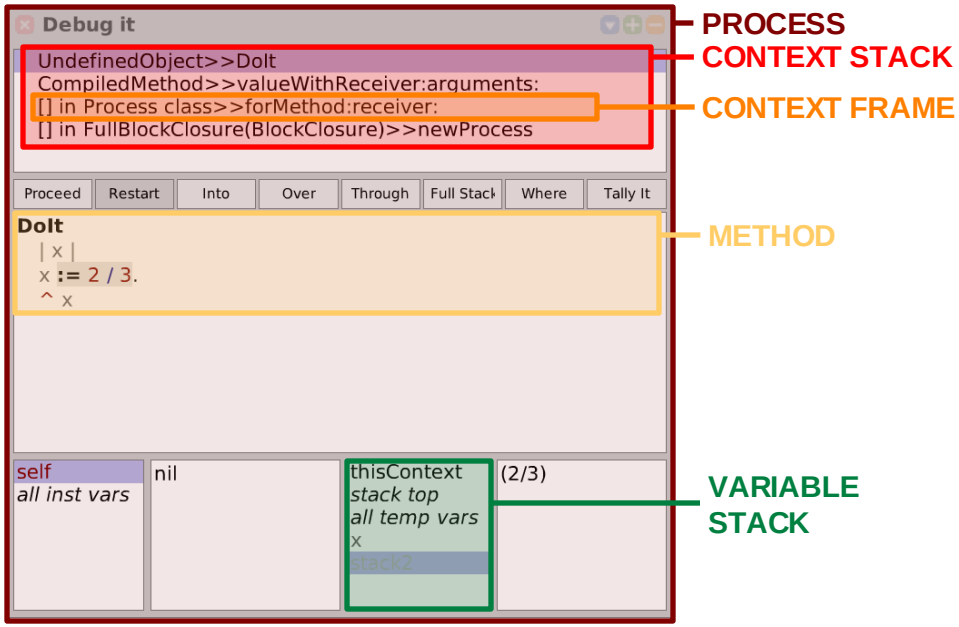
Interactive trace filters

Inspect historic state

Interact with historic state

Explore state changes

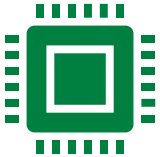
Code Simulation 101



BYTECODE

PC →

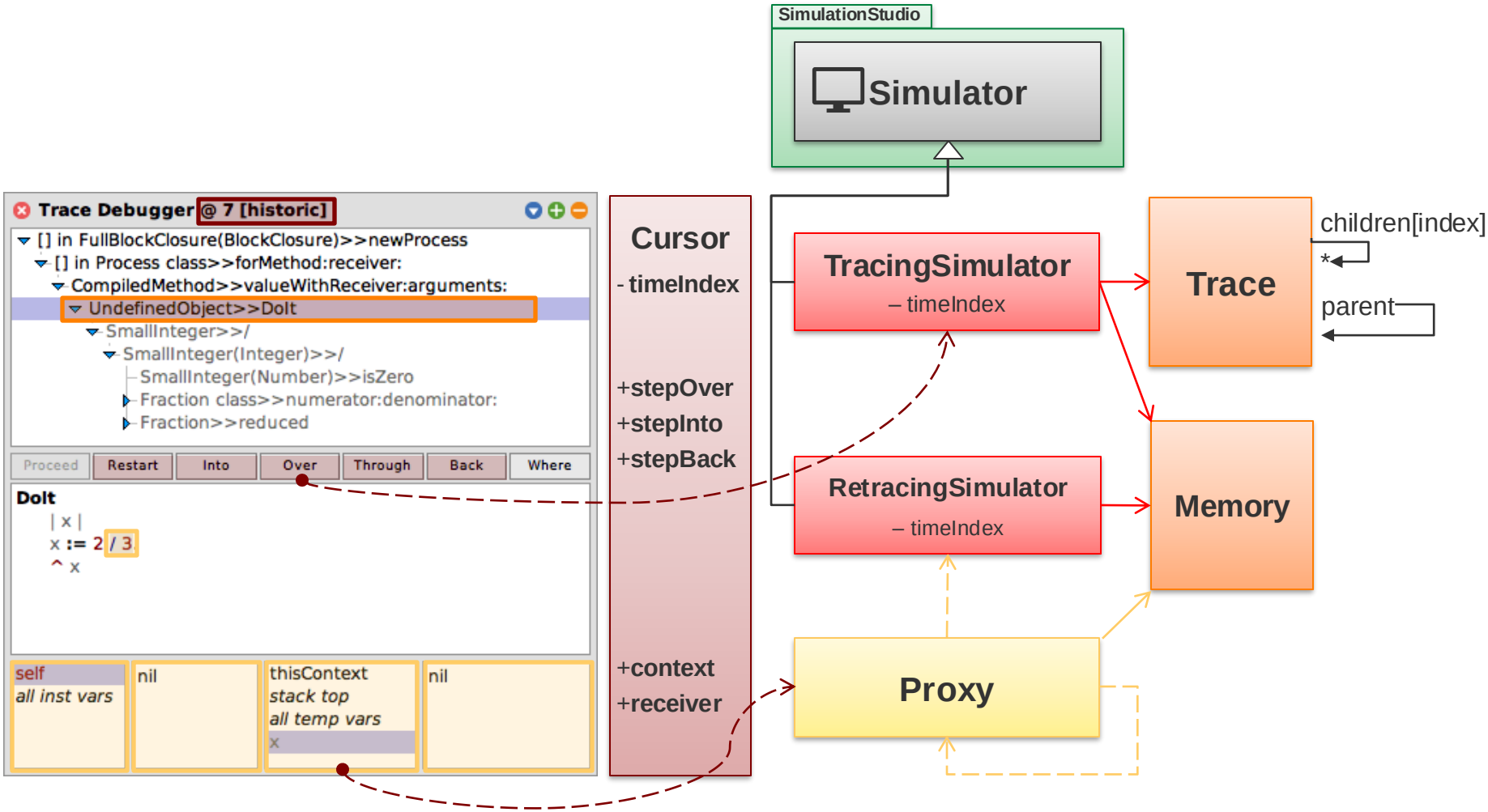
```
33 <E8 02>  pushConstant: 2
35 <E8 03>  pushConstant: 3
37 <60>     send: /
38 <D0>     popIntoTemp: 0
39 <40>     pushTemp: 0
40 <5C>     returnTop
```



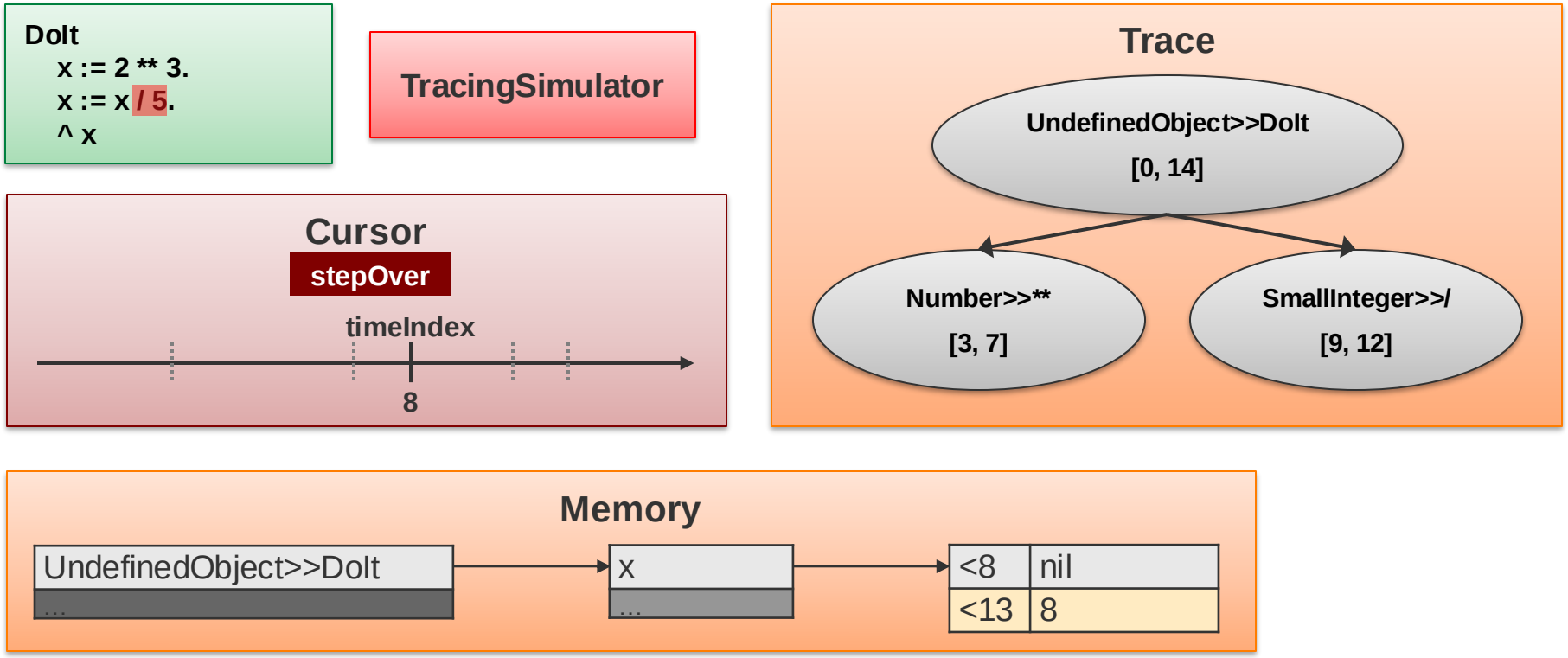
Interpreter (VM-side)

Simulator (image-side)

Architektur



Architektur: Cursor-Navigation



Evaluation of Range Queries

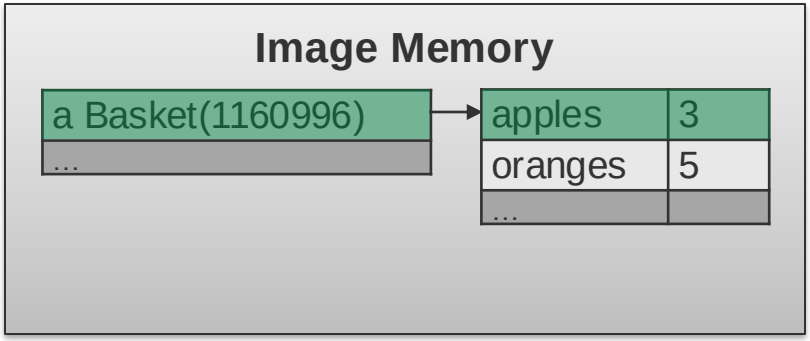
- How can we access historic states?
  - Point retracing: Evaluate a query against a historic state

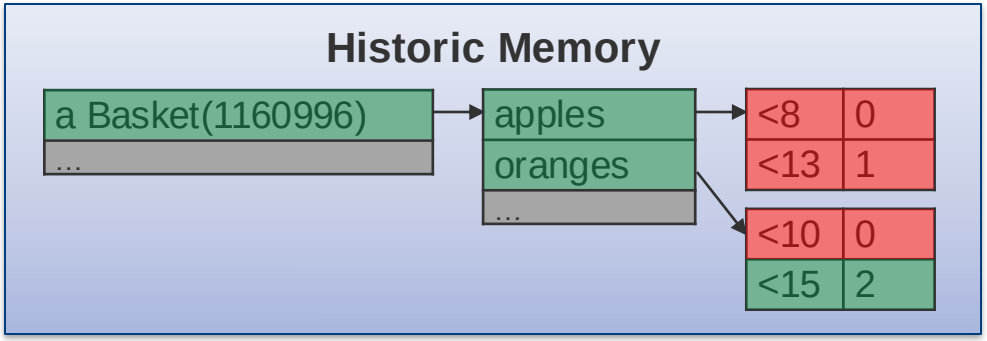
```
(self object: basket atTime: 14)
    numberOfItems
```

```
numberOfItems
| x |
x := oranges.
x := x + apples.
^ x
```

2

3





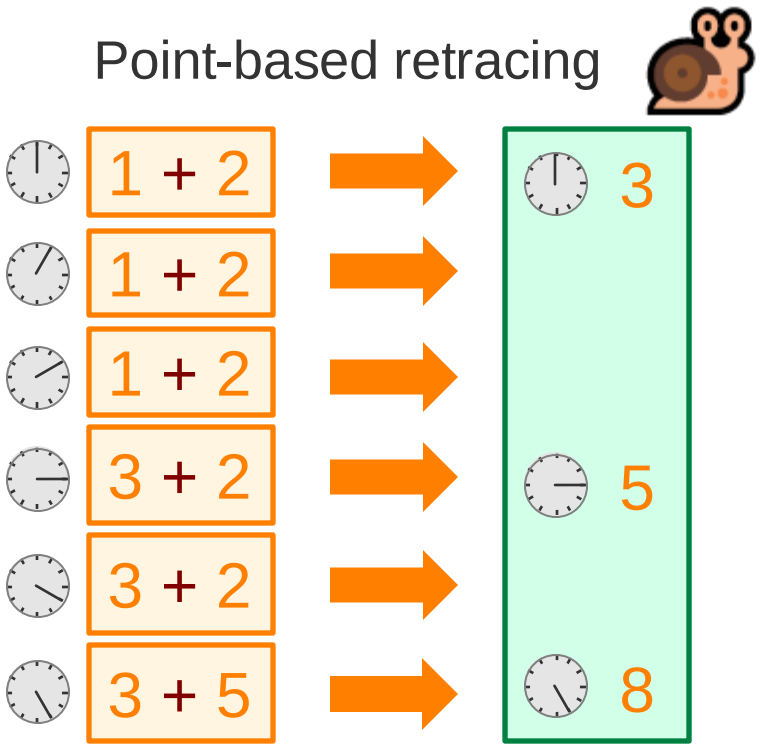
Evaluation of Range Queries

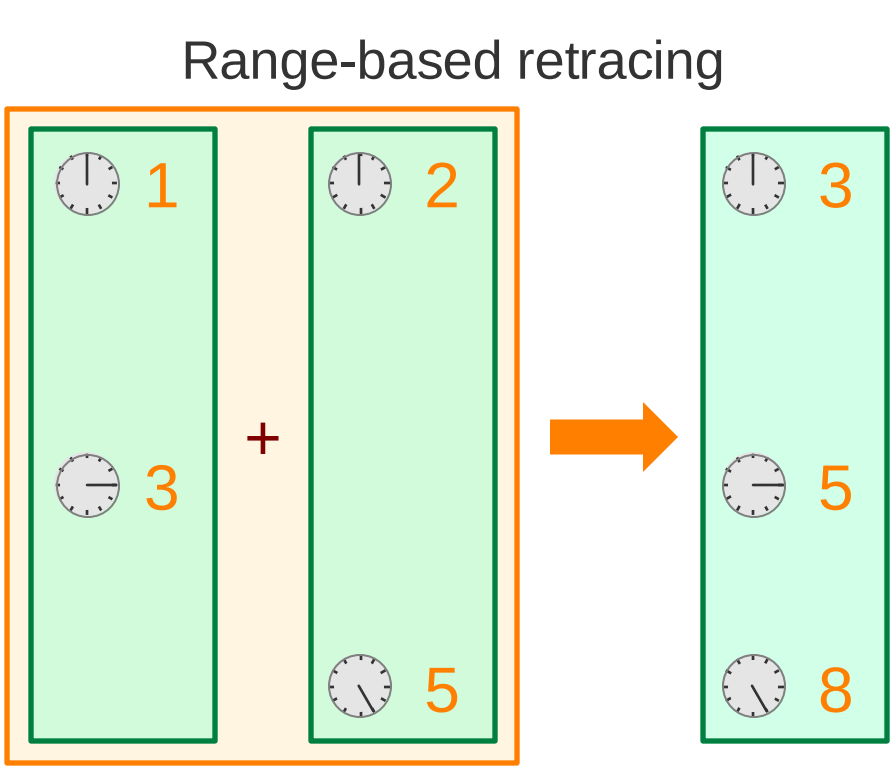
Program

```
basket := Basket new.
basket apples: 1.
basket oranges: 2.
basket apples: 3.
basket oranges: 5.
```

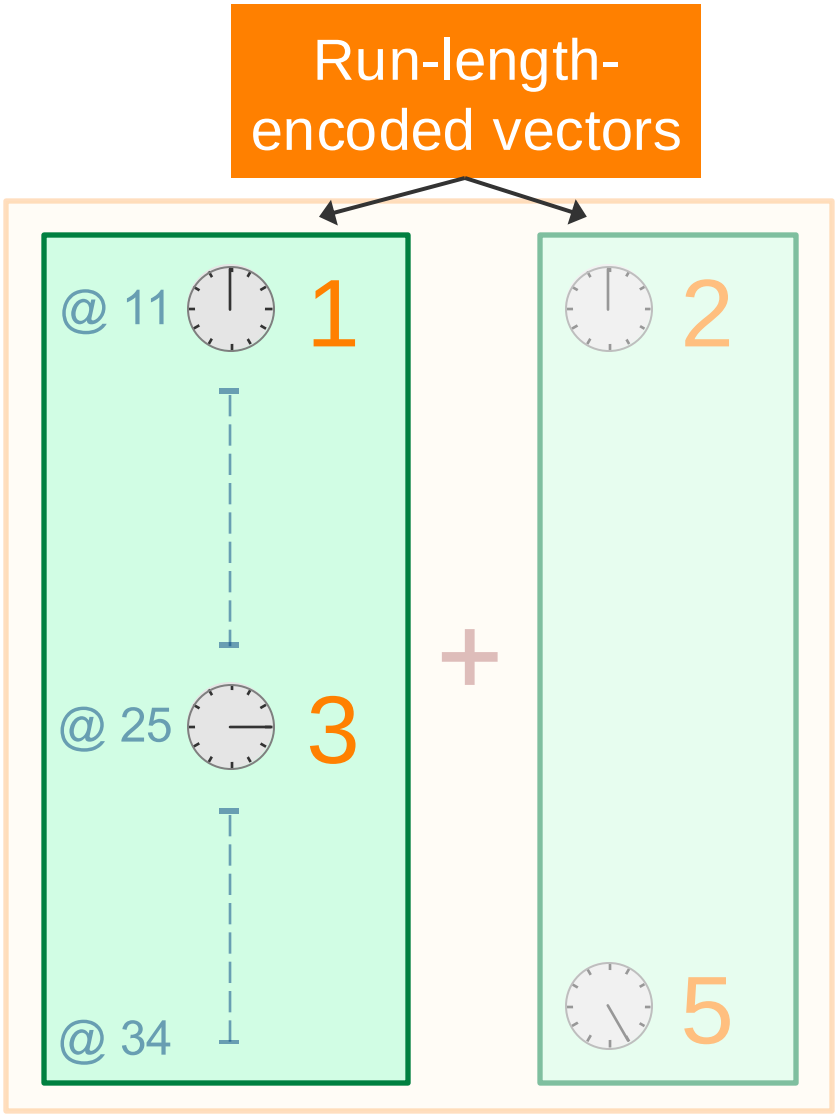
Query

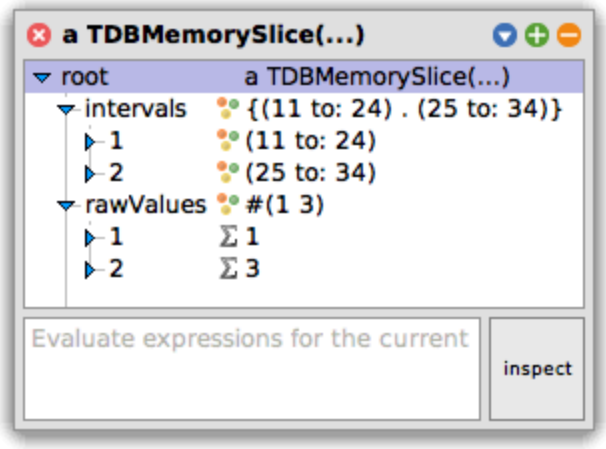
```
basket apples + basket oranges
```





Evaluation of Range Queries





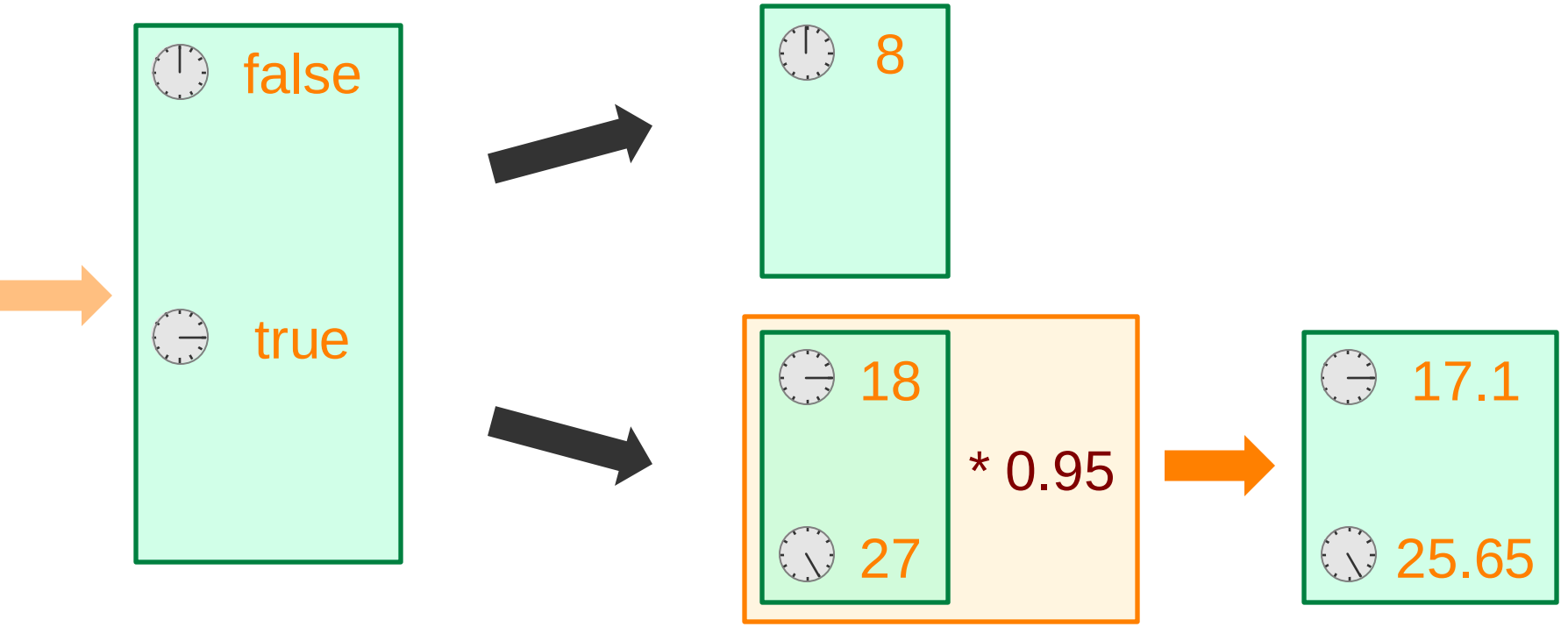
Range Retracing: Divergent Control Flow

Program

```
basket := Basket new.
basket apples: 1.
basket oranges: 2.
basket apples: 6.
basket oranges: 5.
```

Query

```
totalPrice
| price |
price := self apples * 2 + (self oranges * 3).
self apples > 3 ifTrue:
        [price := price * 0.95].
^ price
```



Range Retracing

- The idea:
  - Evaluate a query against a range of historic states simultaneously
  - Use data-parallel[1] execution to operate on sparse memory slices
  - Add vectorization/SIMD semantics to the interpreter of range queries
  - Fork process upon diverged control flow
  - Isolate side effects from different forks (stored in virtual memory per process)

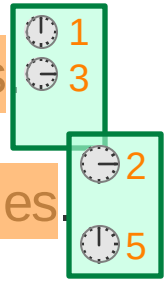
[1]Not parallel on hardware level, just concurrent on interpreter level.

Range Retracing: Implementation in Squeak

```
(self object: basket atTimes: (10 to: 16))
    numberOfItems
```

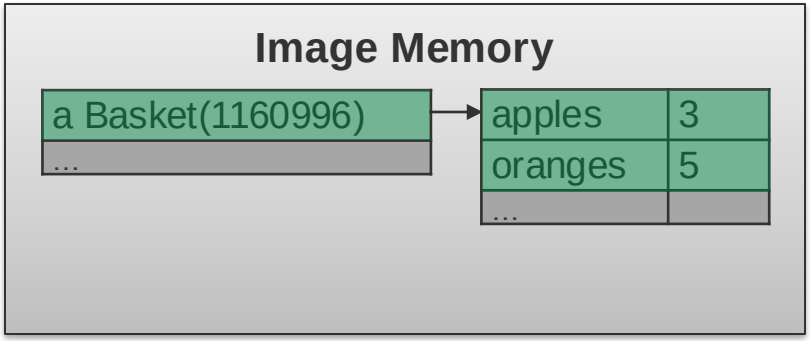
Smalltalk

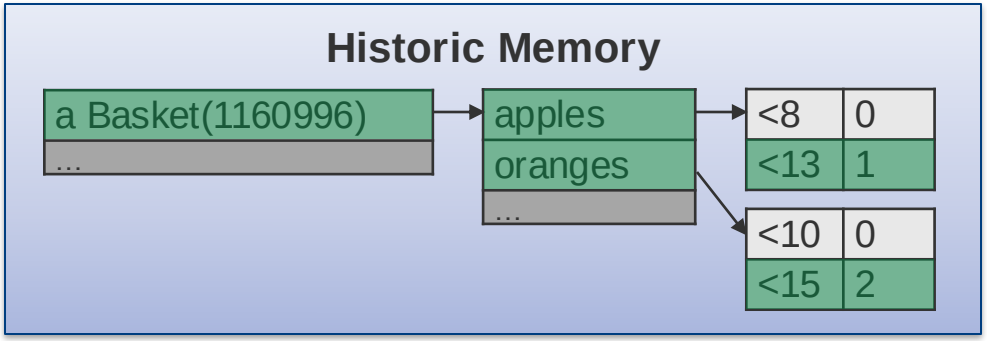
```
numberOfItems
| x |
x := oranges.
x := x + apples.
^ x
```




```
25 <00> pushRcvr: 0
26 <D0> popIntoTemp: 0
27 <40> pushTemp: 0
28 <01> pushRcvr: 1
29 <60> send: +
30 <D1> popIntoTemp: 0
31 <40> pushTemp: 0
32 <5C> returnTop
```

Bytecode





Range Retracing: Implementation in Squeak

- Modified interpreter via code simulation
  - **Read instructions/primitives:** fetch and return vector from memory instead of current value
  - **Arithmetic/subscript/store management primitives:** apply SIMD semantics to transform vector receiver/arguments; if not implemented, fallback to fork for each vector combination
  - **Jump instructions:** fork for condition vector
  - **Message sends:** fork for lookup class vector
- https://github.com/LinqLover/SimulationStudio

Performance

Navigation in TraceDebugger*:

Workload	Steps	Speed [ms/step into] (smaller is better)					RAM [kB] (smaller is better)
		Tracing		Retracing		Baseline	
Small							
^ 2 / 3	147	18.7	(–3.2%)	19.3	(+0%)	19.3	37.5
Medium							
'\w+' asRegex	2205	27.8	(+28.1%)	26.2	(+20.7%)	21.7	509.0
Large							
ActiveWorld doOneCycleNow	63,072	45.4	(+102.7%)	39.1	(+74.6%)	22.4	14,574.8

Simulation in TraceDebugger*:

Workload	Speed [ms] (smaller is better)					
Tracing						
	Tracing		Retracing		Baseline	Cog VM (JIT)
Factorial						
^ 20000 factorial	2,459	(+392%)	654	(+31%)	500	105
Regex						
'\w+' asRegex	283	(+388%)	92	(+59%)	58	0
Word cycles						
ActiveWorld doOneCycleNow	411.52	(+206%)	–		7.47	1.98
Retracing						
	Retracing (proxy)		Retracing (always)		Baseline	Cog VM (JIT)
#bench[Proxy]ImageForm	3651	(+3350%)	22,368	(+38%)	16,229	109

*System: OSVM 202112201228/Win 21H1 | Intel i7-8550U CPU @ 1.80GHz