

Bringing Low-Level Languages to the JVM: Efficient Execution of LLVM IR on Truffle

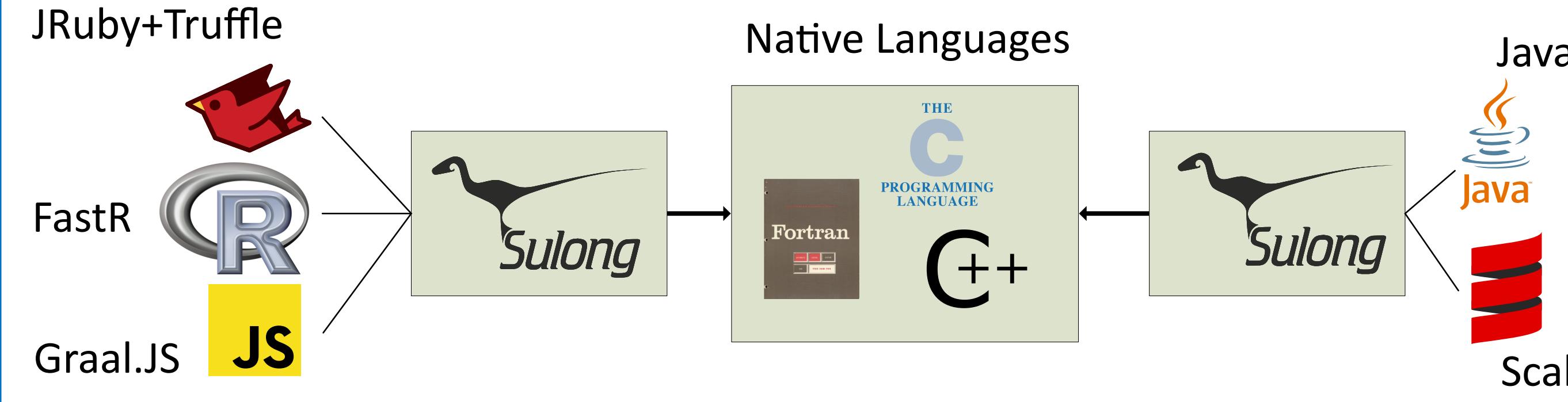
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Motivation

- To execute low-level languages (C, Fortran, C++, ...) from JVM languages, one has to *resort to native interfaces* such as the Java Native Interface (JNI)
- JNI *incurs overhead*, makes *native interoperability complicated*, and *contradicts Java's memory safety guarantees*
- Language boundaries** are an obstacle for optimizations; compilers cannot optimize across language boundaries

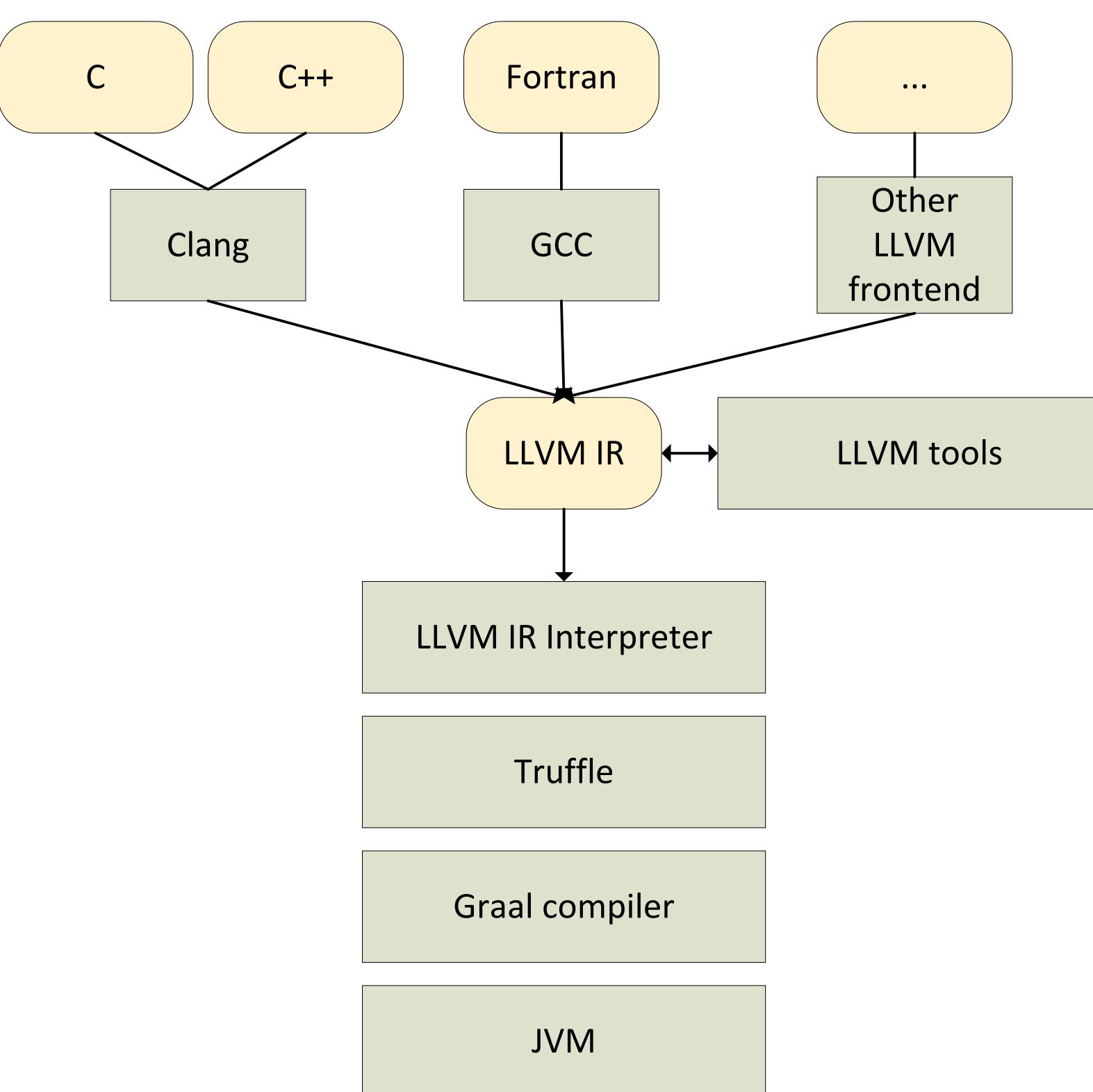
Our Solution: Execute Native Languages on the JVM

- Interpreter for native languages* on top of the JVM
 - to implement *dynamic language's native interfaces*
 - to run *native languages on the JVM*
- Same platform allows *optimizations across language boundaries*

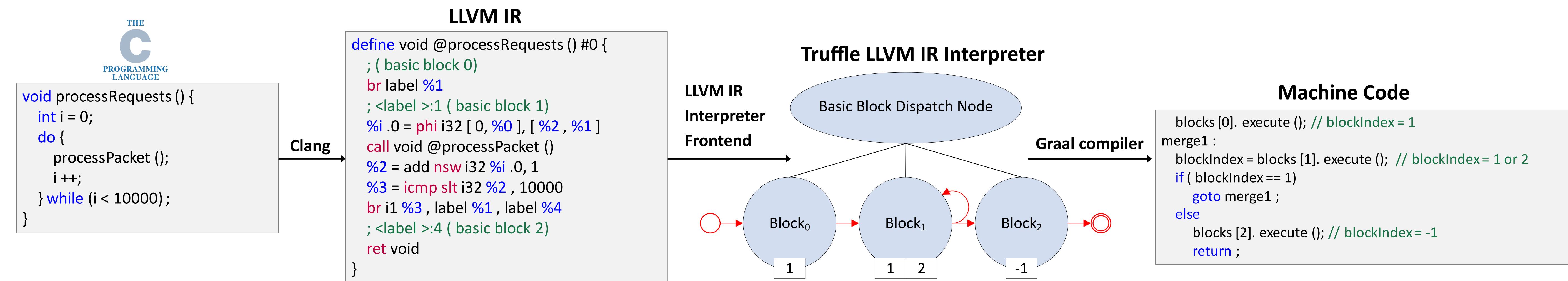


System Overview: Bringing LLVM and the JVM together

- Clang and GCC** compile *native languages to LLVM IR*
- LLVM IR** is a machine-specific, low-level intermediate format
- LLVM IR interpreter** bases on the Truffle language implementation framework
- Truffle interpreters are *Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) interpreters*
- Truffle uses the *Graal JIT compiler* for efficient compilation

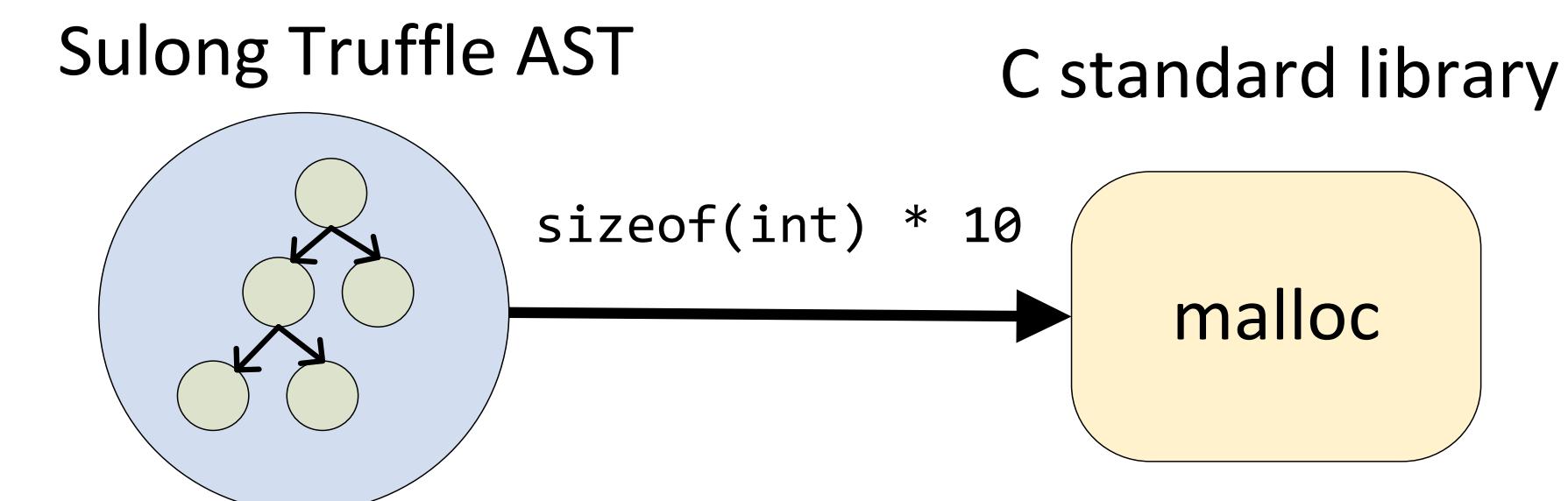


Interpretation and Dynamic Compilation of LLVM IR



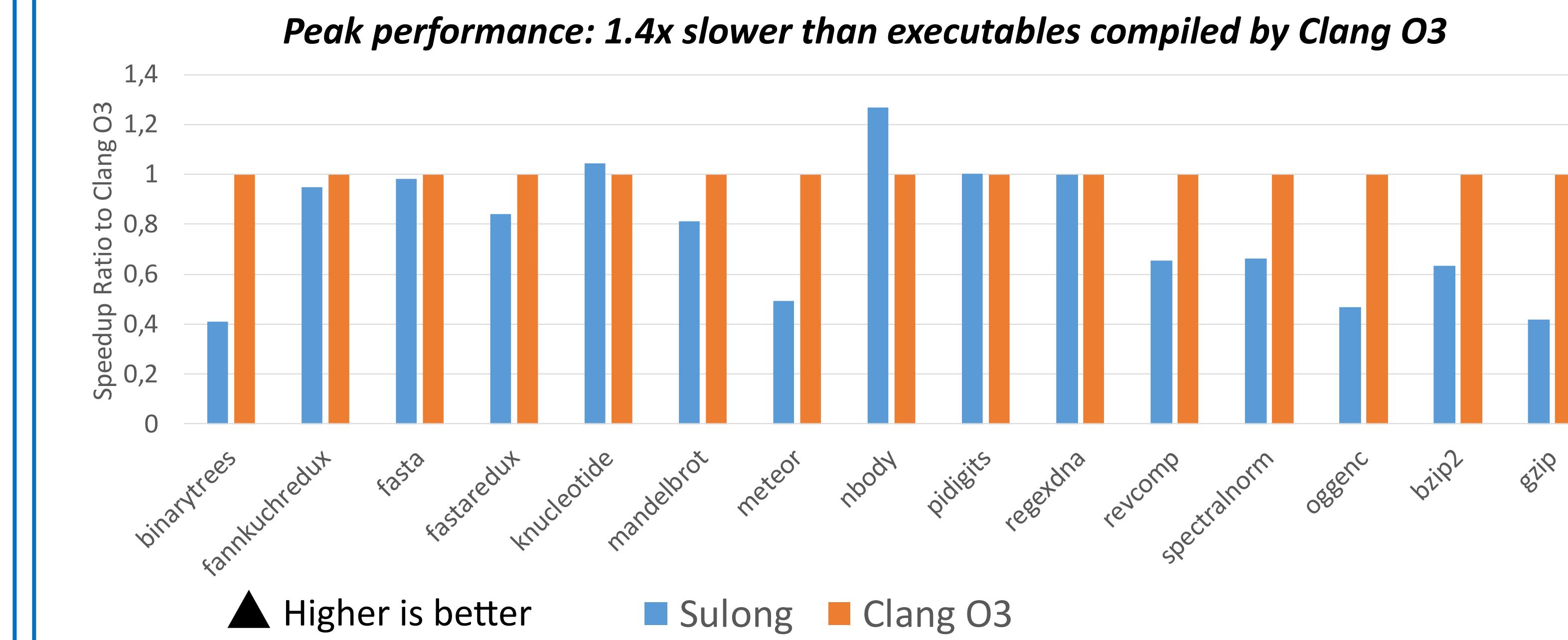
Native Calls

- Interoperability with *native libraries*
- Sulong allocates and accesses *unmanaged memory to avoid conversion* and marshalling of data



Grimmer, M., et al. "An efficient native function interface for Java." Proceedings of PPPI'13.

Performance Evaluation: C Benchmarks

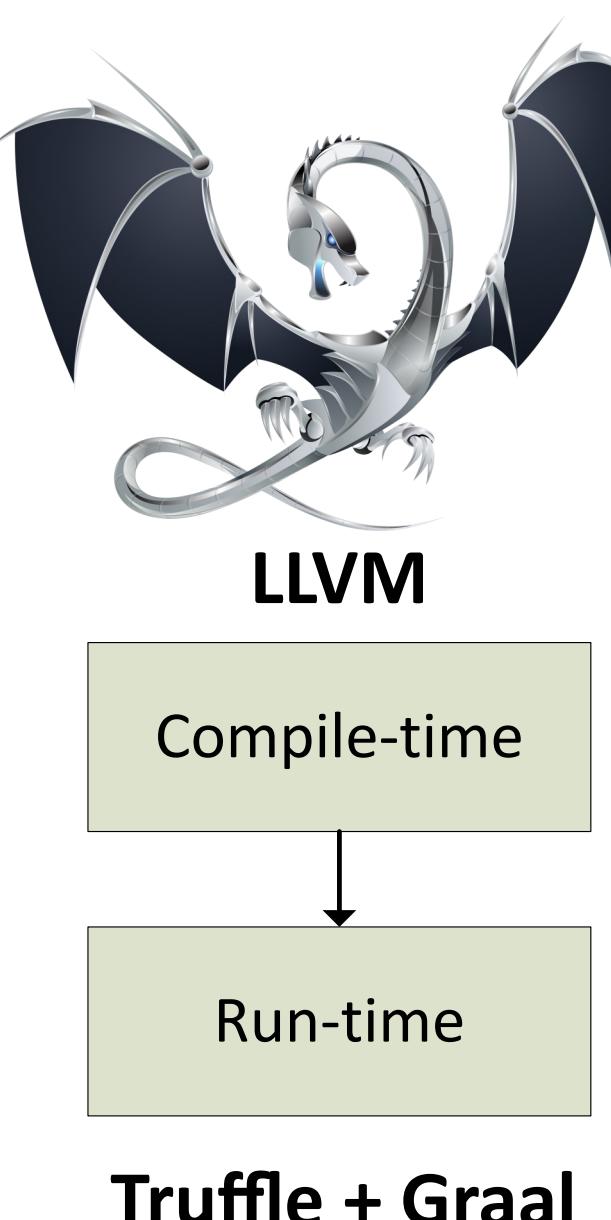


Static Optimizations

- Problem:** Java compilers do not optimize accesses to unmanaged memory
- Solution:** Use *LLVM's static optimization* tool to promote memory accesses to local variables

Dynamic Optimizations

- Problem:** Static compilers cannot react to changes in program behavior
- Solution:** Profile in the interpreter and exploit profiling data during compilation through *speculative optimizations*



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