Memory management tuning in Ruby

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Summary of this talk

- Introduction of new versions
  - Ruby 2.1 (2.1.1 was released)
  - Ruby 2.2 (currently working on)
- Basic of Ruby's memory management (GC)
- GC tuning parameters
  - **"What"** and **"How"** we can tune by GC parameters

Who am I ?

- Koichi Sasada a.k.a. ko1
- From Japan
- 笹田 (family name) 耕一 (given name) in Kanji character
  - “Ichi” (Kanji character “一”) means “1” or first
  - This naming rule represents I’m the first son of my parents
  - Ko”ichi” → ko1

Who am I ?

- CRuby/MRI committer
  - Virtual machine (YARV) from Ruby 1.9
  - YARV development since 2004/1/1
  - Recently, improving GC performance
- Matz team at Heroku, Inc.
  - Full-time CRuby developer
  - Working in Japan
- Director of Ruby Association

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Ruby Association

- Foundation to encourage Ruby developments and communities
  - Chairman is Matz
  - Located at Matsue-city, Shimane, Japan
- Activities
  - Maintenance of Ruby (Cruby) interpreter
    - Now, it is for Ruby 1.9.3
    - Ruby 2.0.0 in the future?
  - Events, especially RubyWorld Conference
  - Ruby Prize
  - Grant project. We have selected **3 proposals** in 2013
    - Win32Utils Support, Conductor, Smalruby - smalruby-editor
    - We will make this grant 2014!!
  - **Donation** for Ruby developments and communities

Advertisement

- Heroku, Inc. http://www.heroku.com

You should know about Heroku!!

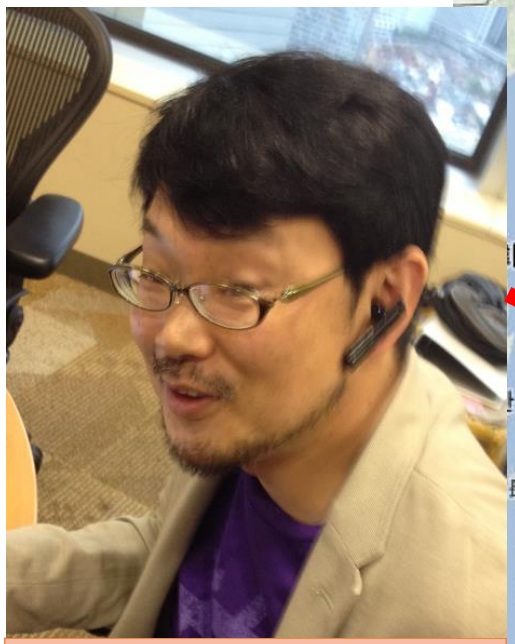
- Heroku supports Ruby development
  - Many talents for Ruby, and also other languages
  - Heroku employs 3 **Ruby interpreter core developers**
    - Matz
    - Nobu
    - Ko1 (me)
  - We name our group “Matz team”

This talk is also sponsored by Heroku!

“Matz team” in Heroku

Matz team in Heroku in Japan

Nobu @ Tochigi
Patch monster



Matz @ Shimane
Title collector

ko1 @ Tokyo
EDD developer

Memory management tuning in Ruby,
RubyConfPH 2014 by K.Sasada
<ko1@heroku.com>

Matz team at Heroku Hierarchy

Matz @ Shimane
Title collector

[Not stupid boss]

Communication
with Skype

ko1 @ Tokyo
EDD developer

Nobu @ Tochigi
Patch monster

Matz
Title collector

- He has so many (job) title
  - Chairman - Ruby Association
  - Fellow - NaCl
  - Chief architect, Ruby - Heroku
  - Research institute fellow – Rakuten
  - Chairman – NPO mruby Forum
  - Senior researcher – Kadokawa Ascii Research Lab
  - Visiting professor – Shimane University
  - Honorable citizen (living) – Matsue city
  - Honorable member – Nihon Ruby no Kai
  - …
- This margin is too narrow to contain

Message from Matz

“I am awfully sorry for not being here.

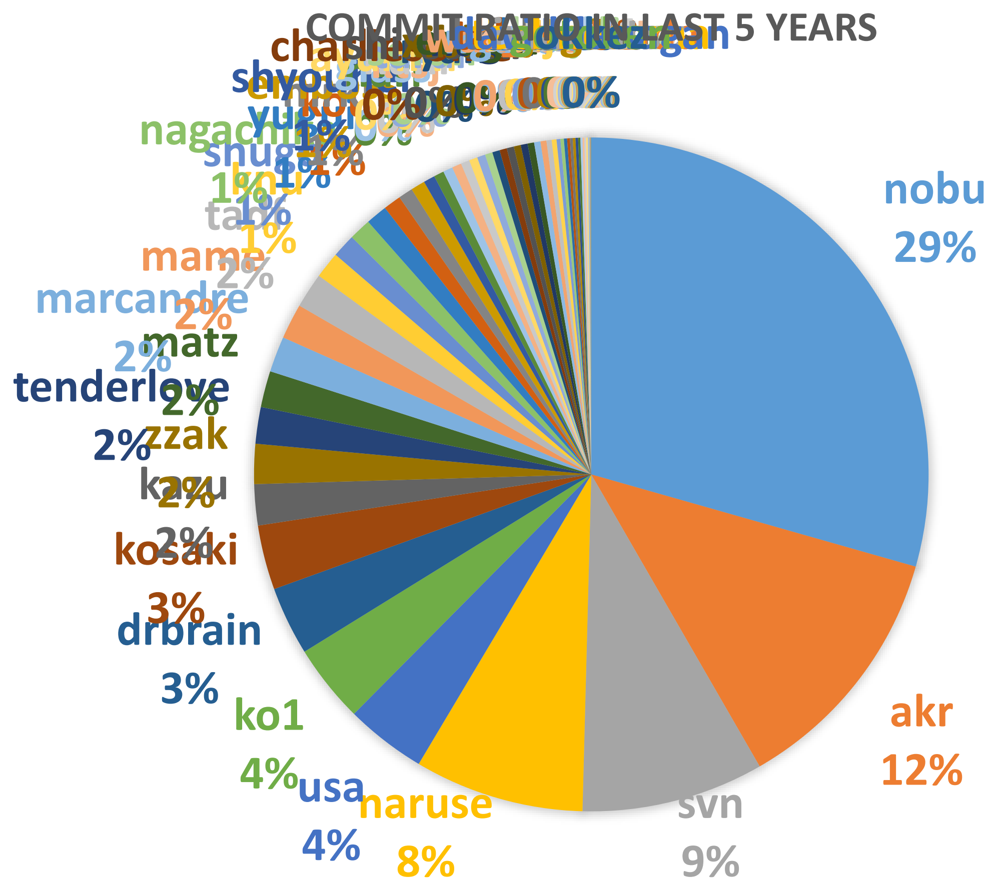
But I love you.

Maybe next time!”

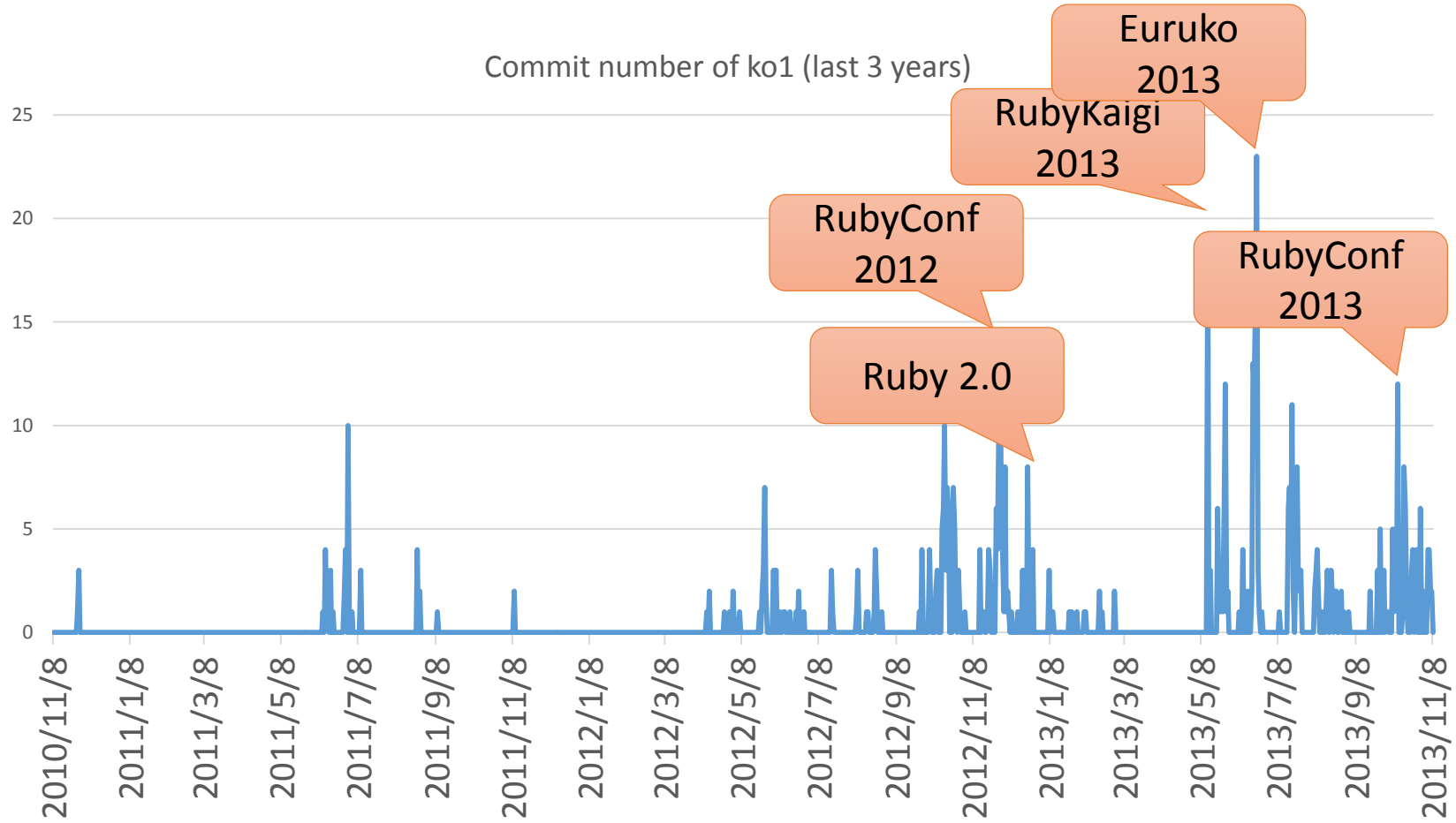
Nobu
Patch monster

- Great patch creator

Nobu
Patch monster



Ko1
EDD developer



EDD: Event Driven Development

<ko1@heroku.com>

Mission of Matz team

- **Improve quality of next version of CRuby**
  - Matz decides a spec finally
  - Nobu fixed huge number of bugs
  - Ko1 improves the performance

Current target is Ruby 2.2!!

Now, Ruby 2.1 is old version for us.

Ruby 2.1
Current stable

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Ruby 2.1

- **Ruby 2.1.0** was released at **2013/12/25**
  - New features
  - Performance improvements
- **Ruby 2.1.1** was released at **2014/02/24**
  - Includes many bug fixes found after 2.1.0 release
  - Introduce a new GC tuning parameter to change generational GC behavior (introduce it later)

Ruby 2.1 the biggest change Version policy

- Change the versioning policy
  - Drop “patch level” in the version
  - Teeny represents patch level
    - Release new teeny versions about every 3 month
    - Teeny upgrades keep compatibility
  - Minor upgrades can break backward compatibility
    - We make an effort to keep compatibility

      (recently. Remember Ruby 1.9 ☺)

Ruby 2.1 New syntax

- New syntaxes
  - Required keyword parameter
  - Rational number literal
  - Complex number literal
  - `def’ returns symbol of method name

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Ruby 2.1 Syntax
Required keyword parameter

- Keyword argument (from Ruby 2.0.0)
  - def foo(a: 1, b: 2); end
  - `a' and `b' are optional parameters
  - OK: foo(); foo(a: 1); foo(a: 1, b: 2); foo(b: 2)
- Required keyword argument from 2.1
  - def foo(a: 1, b:)
  - `a' is optional, but `b' is required parameter
  - OK: foo(a: 1, b: 2); foo(b: 2)
  - NG: foo(); foo(a: 1)

Ruby 2.1 Syntax
Rational number literals

- To represent ½, in Ruby “Rational(1, 2)”

  → Too long!!

- Introduce “r” suffix

  ½ → 1/2r

- “[digits]r” represents “Rational([digits], 1)”
- ½ → 1/2r
  - 1/2r #=> 1/Rational(2, 1)
  - 1/Rational(2, 1) #=> Rational(1/2)

Ruby 2.1 Syntax
Complex number literals

- We already have “Integer#i” method to make imaginary number like “1+2.i”
- We already introduced “r” suffix for Rational

  → No reason to prohibit “i” suffix!!
- [digits]i represents “Complex(0, [digits])”
- 1+2i #=> 1+Complex(0, 2)
- 1+Complex(0, 2) #=> Complex(1, 2)

- You can mix “r” and “i” suffix

Ruby 2.1 Syntax
Return value of `def' syntax

- Return value of method definition
  - Method definition syntax returns symbol of defined method name
  - `def foo; …; end' #=> :foo
- Method modifier methods
  - Example:
    - private def foo; …; end
    - public static void def main(args); …; end

Ruby 2.1 Runtime new features

- String#scrub
- Process.clock_gettime
- Binding#local_variable_get/set
- Bignum now uses GMP (if available)
- Extending ObjectSpace

Ruby 2.1 Runtime new features Object tracing

- ObjectSpace. trace_object_allocations
  - Trace object allocation and record allocation-site
    - Record filename, line number, creator method's id and class
  - Usage:

```
ObjectSpace.trace_object_allocations{ # record only in the block
  o = Object.new
  file = ObjectSpace.allocation_sourcefile(o)   #=> __FILE__
  line = ObjectSpace.allocation_sourceline(o) #=> __LINE__ -2
}
```

Performance improvements

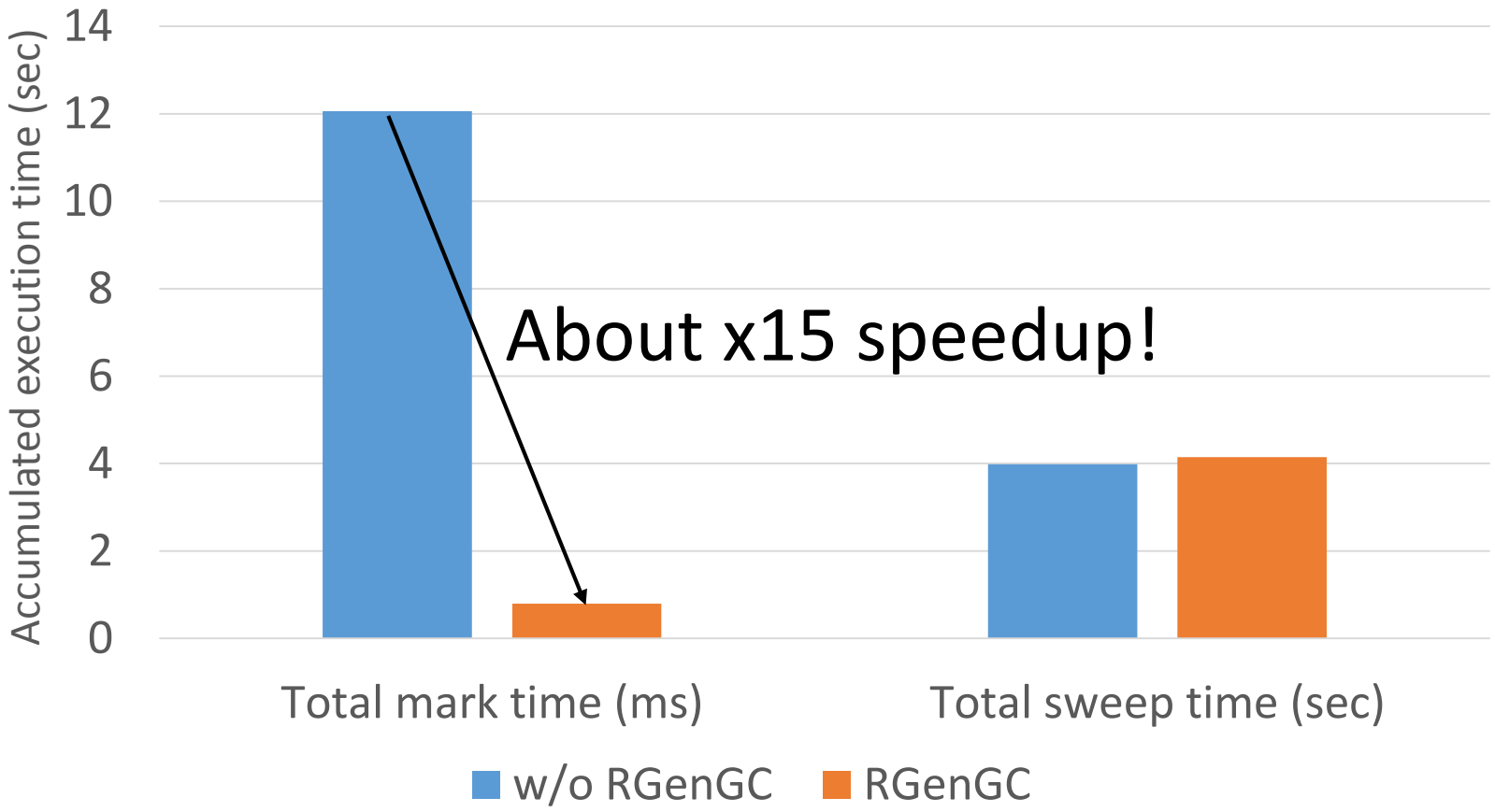
- Optimize “string literal”.freeze
- Sophisticated inline method cache
- Introducing Generational GC: RGenGC

RGenGC: Generational GC for Ruby

- RGenGC: Restricted Generational GC
  - Generational GC (minor/major GC uses M&S)
  - **Dramatically speedup for GC-bottleneck applications**
  - New generational GC algorithm allows mixing "Write-barrier protected objects" and "WB unprotected objects"

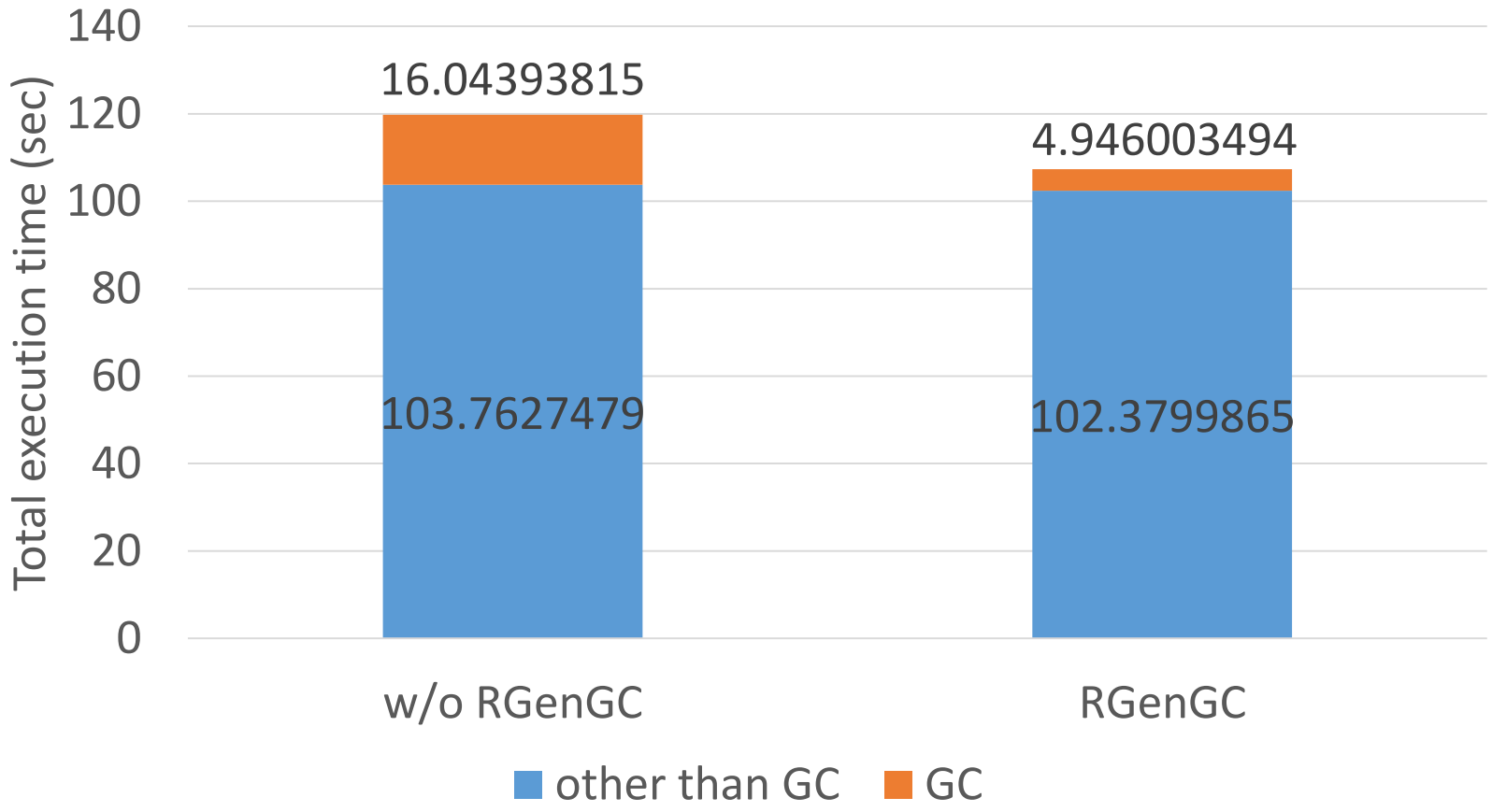
  → **No** (mostly) **compatibility issue** with C-exts
- Inserting WBs gradually
  - We can concentrate WB insertion efforts for major objects and major methods
  - Now, most of objects (such as Array, Hash, String, etc.) are WB protected
    - Array, Hash, Object, String objects are very popular in Ruby
    - Array objects using **RARRAY_PTR() change to WB unprotected** objects (called as Shady objects), so existing codes still works.

RGenGC
Performance evaluation (RDoc)



* Disabled lazy sweep to measure correctly.

RGenGC
Performance evaluation (RDoc)



* 12% improvements compare with w/ and w/o RGenGC
* Disabled lazy sweep to measure correctly.

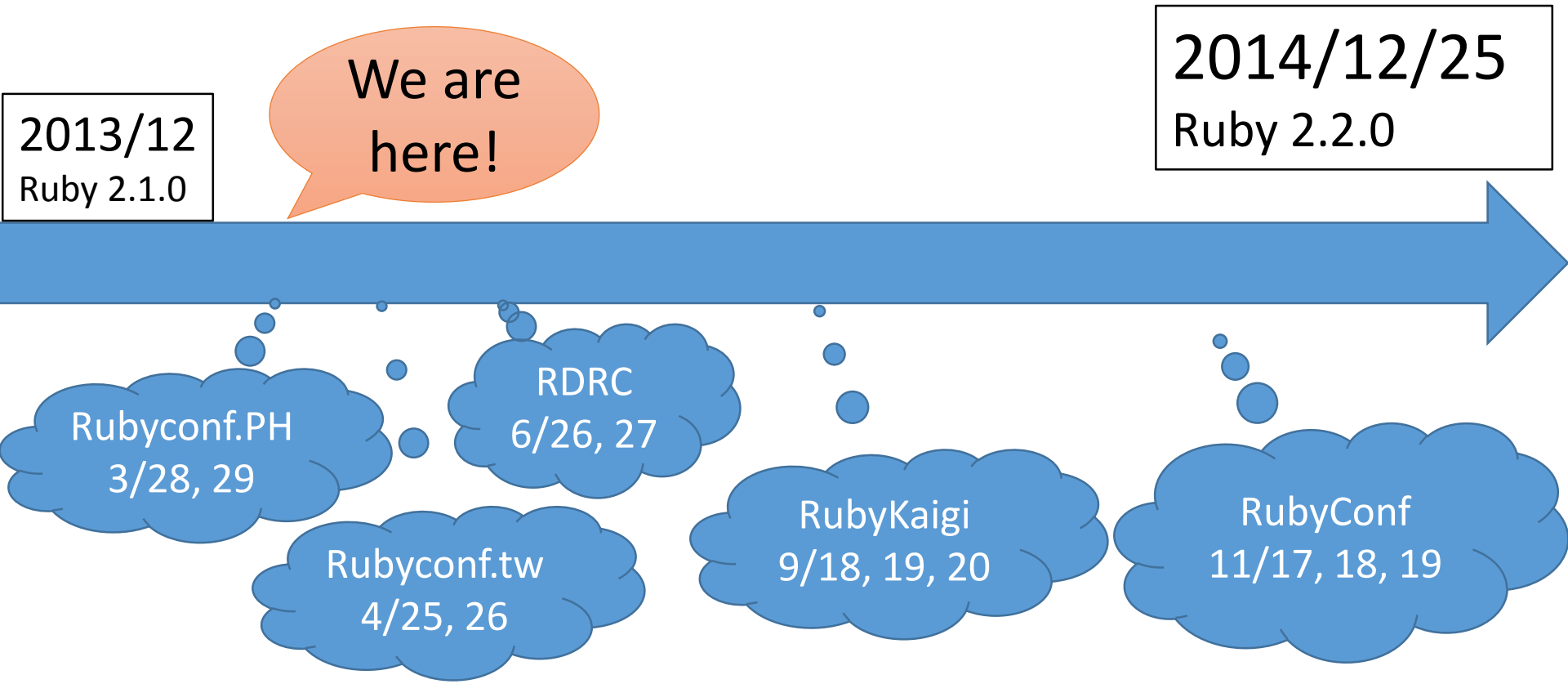
Ruby 2.2
Next version

http://www.flickr.com/photos/adafruit/8483990604

Schedule of Ruby 2.2

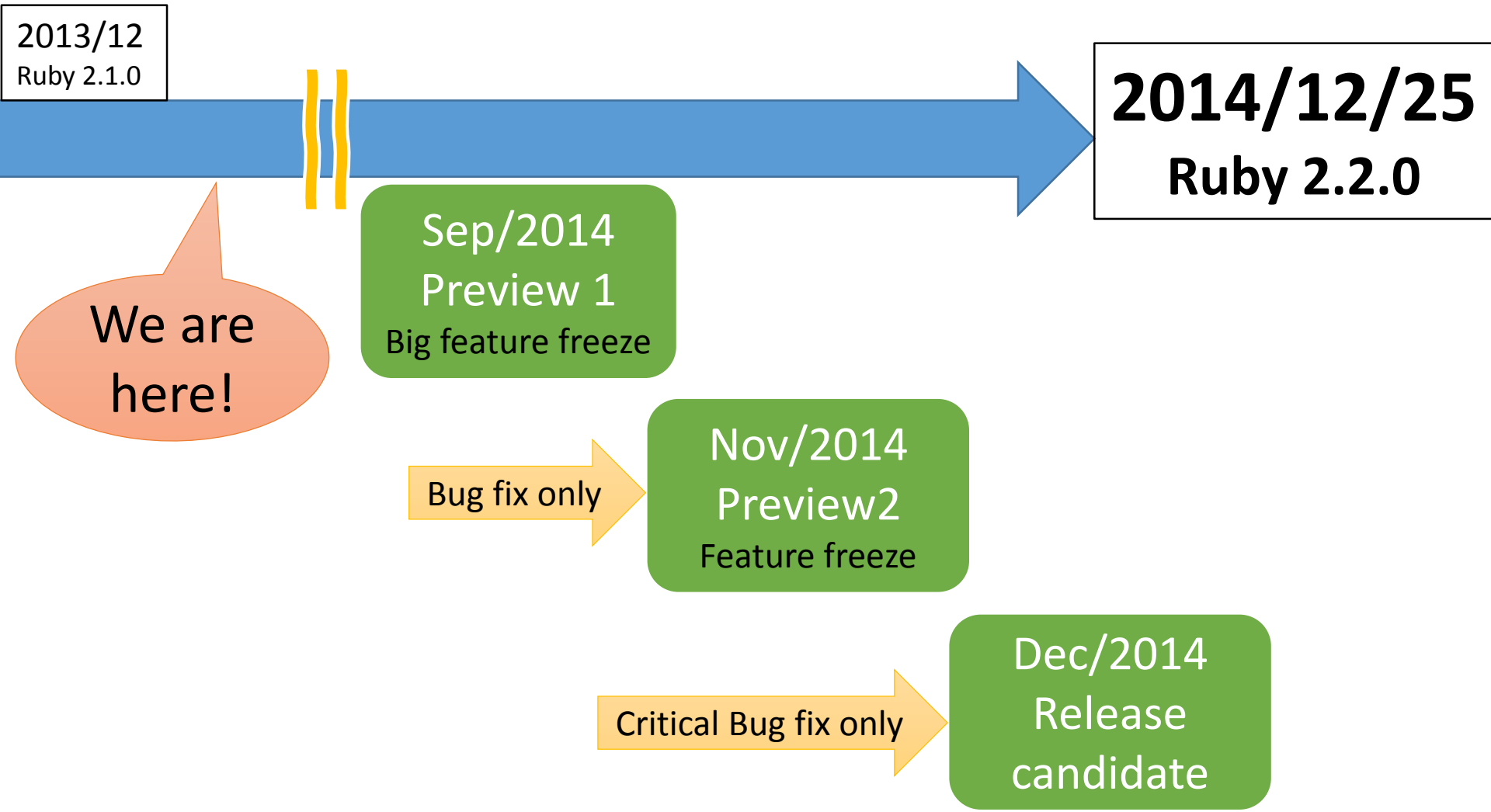
- Not published officially
- Schedule draft is available by Naruse-san
  - https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/projects/ruby-trunk/wiki/ReleaseEngineering22

Ruby 2.2 schedule



Events are important for
EDD (Event Driven Development) Developers

Ruby 2.2 (rough) schedule



2.2 big features (planned)

- New syntax: not available now
- New method: not available now
- Internal
  - GC
    - **Symbol GC (merged recently)**
    - **2age promotion strategy for RGenGC**
    - **Incremental GC** to reduce major GC pause time
  - VM
    - More sophisticated method cache

Symbol GC

- Symbols remain forever → Security issue
  - “n.times{|i| i.to_s.to_sym}”
    creates “n” symbols and they are never collected
- Symbol GC: Collect dynamically created symbols

Garbage collection

The automatic memory management

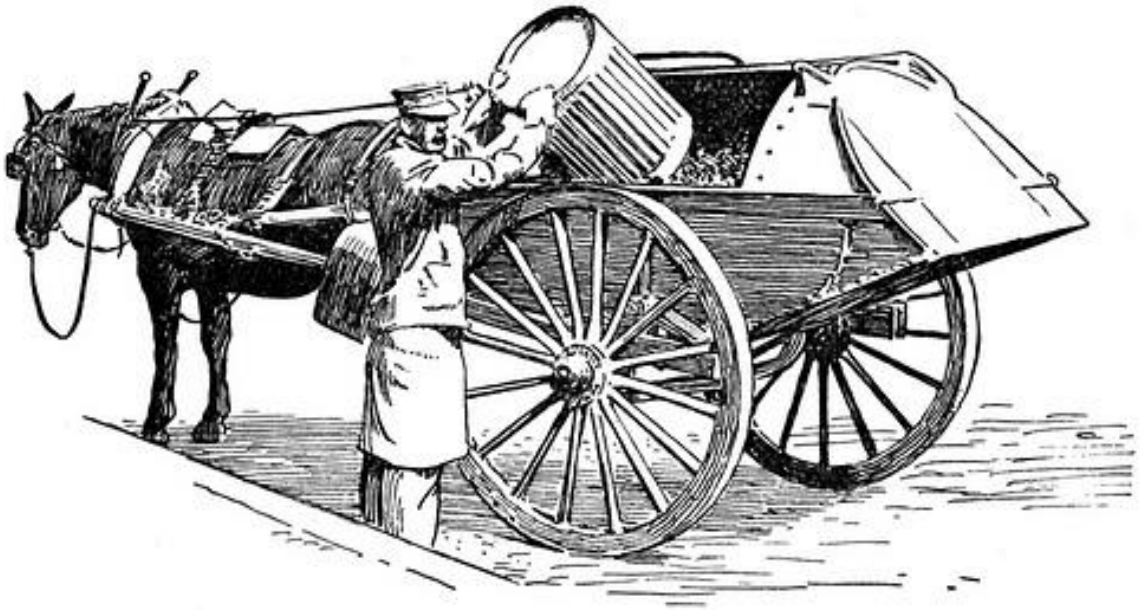


FIG. 109. — A GARBAGE COLLECTOR.

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Today's main subject

From basic to advanced topics

Automatic memory management Basic concept

- “Object.new” allocate a new object
  - “foo” (string literal) also allocate a new object
  - Everything are objects in Ruby!
- We don’t need to **“de-allocate”** objects manually

Automatic memory management Basic concept

- **Garbage collector recycled “unused” objects automatically**

1st question

How to collect "unused" objects?

How to collect “unused” objects?

- Using (well-known) GC algorithm
  - Mark and sweep algorithm (from the first version of Ruby)
  - Generational GC algorithm (from Ruby 2.1)

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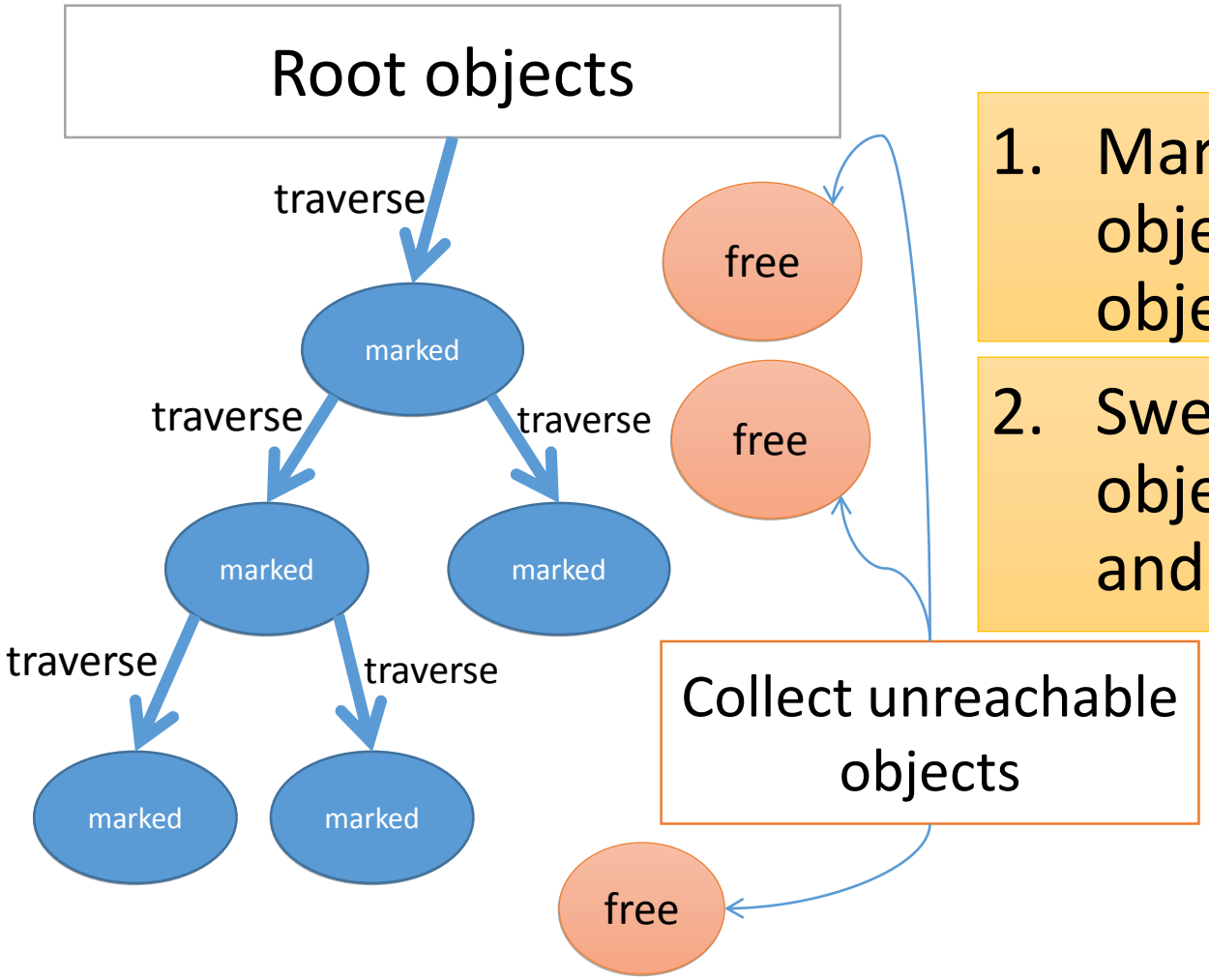
Mark & Sweep algorithm

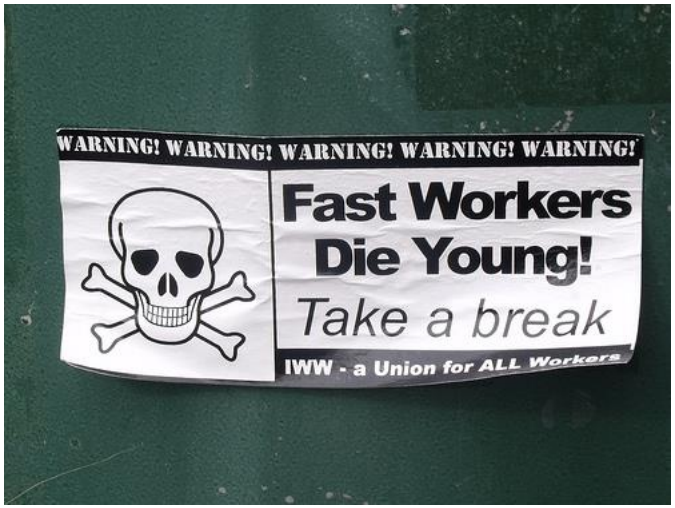


1. Mark reachable objects from root objects
2. Sweep ***unmarked*** objects (collection and de-allocation)

Generational GC (GenGC)

- Weak generational hypothesis:

“Most objects die young”



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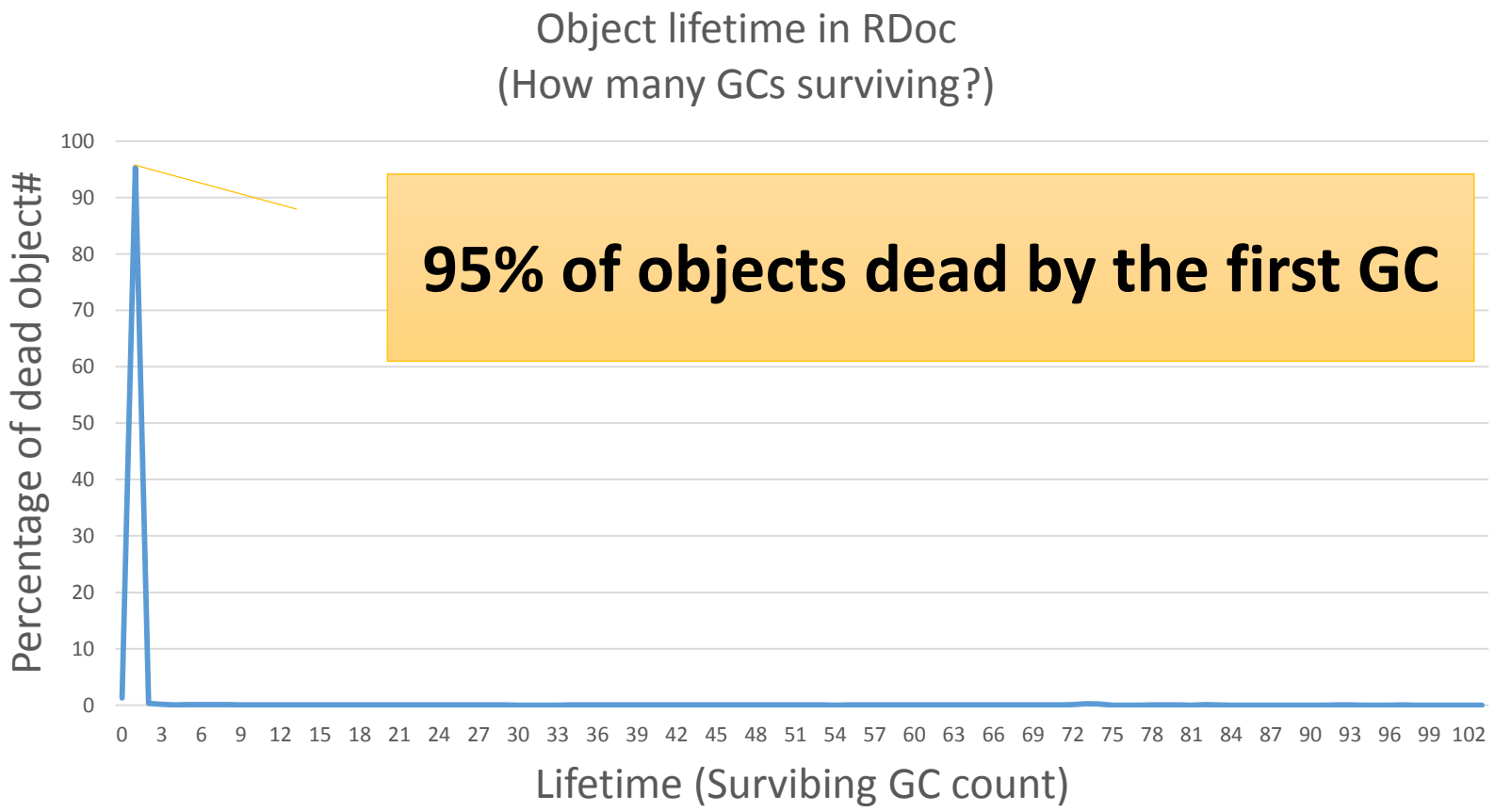
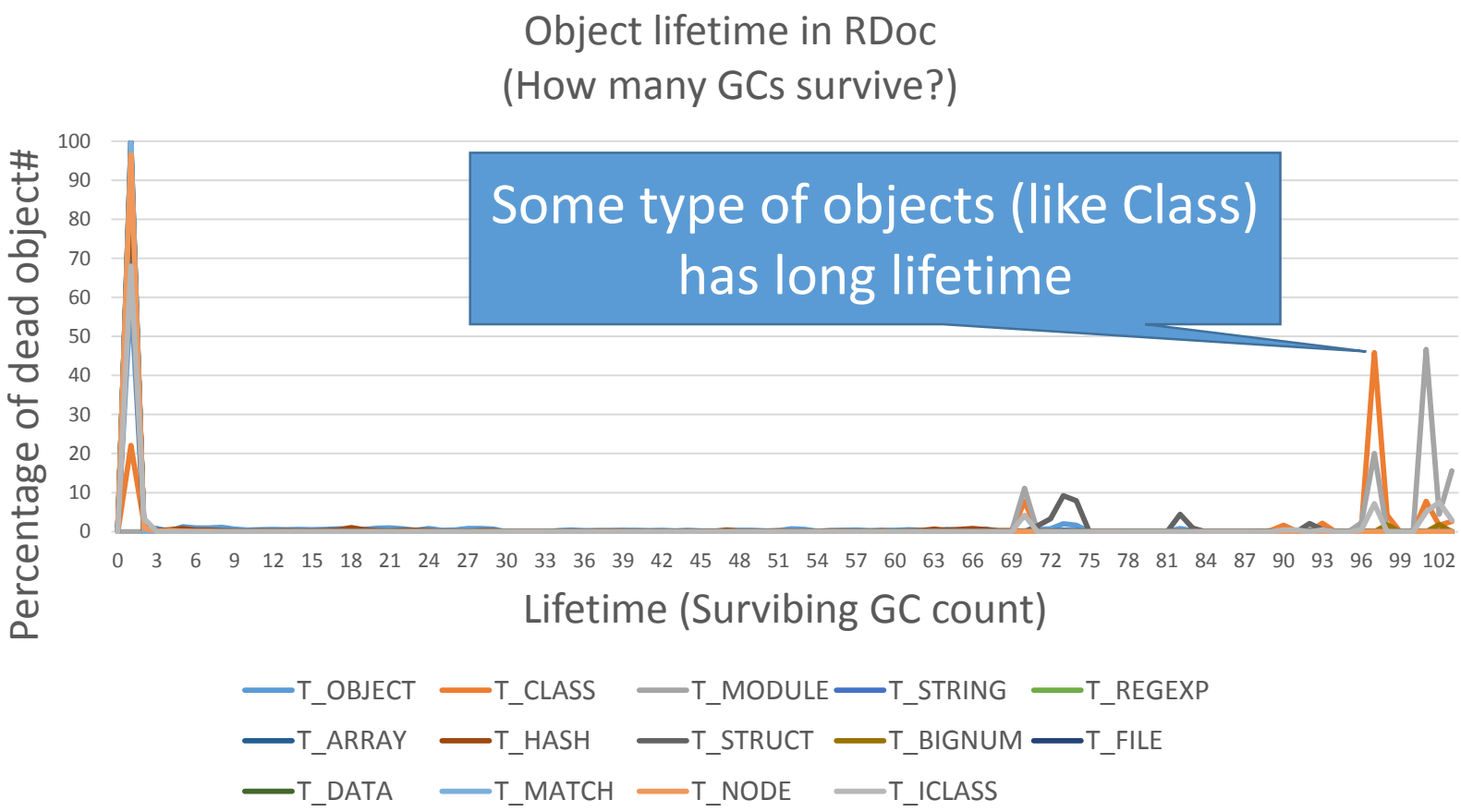
→ Concentrate reclamation effort only on the young objects

Generational hypothesis



Generational hypothesis



Generational GC (GenGC)

- Separate young generation and old generation
  - Create objects as young generation
  - Promote to old generation after surviving *n-th* GC
  - In CRuby, *n == 1* (after 1 GC, objects become old)
- Usually, GC on young space (minor GC)
- GC on both spaces if no memory (major/full GC)

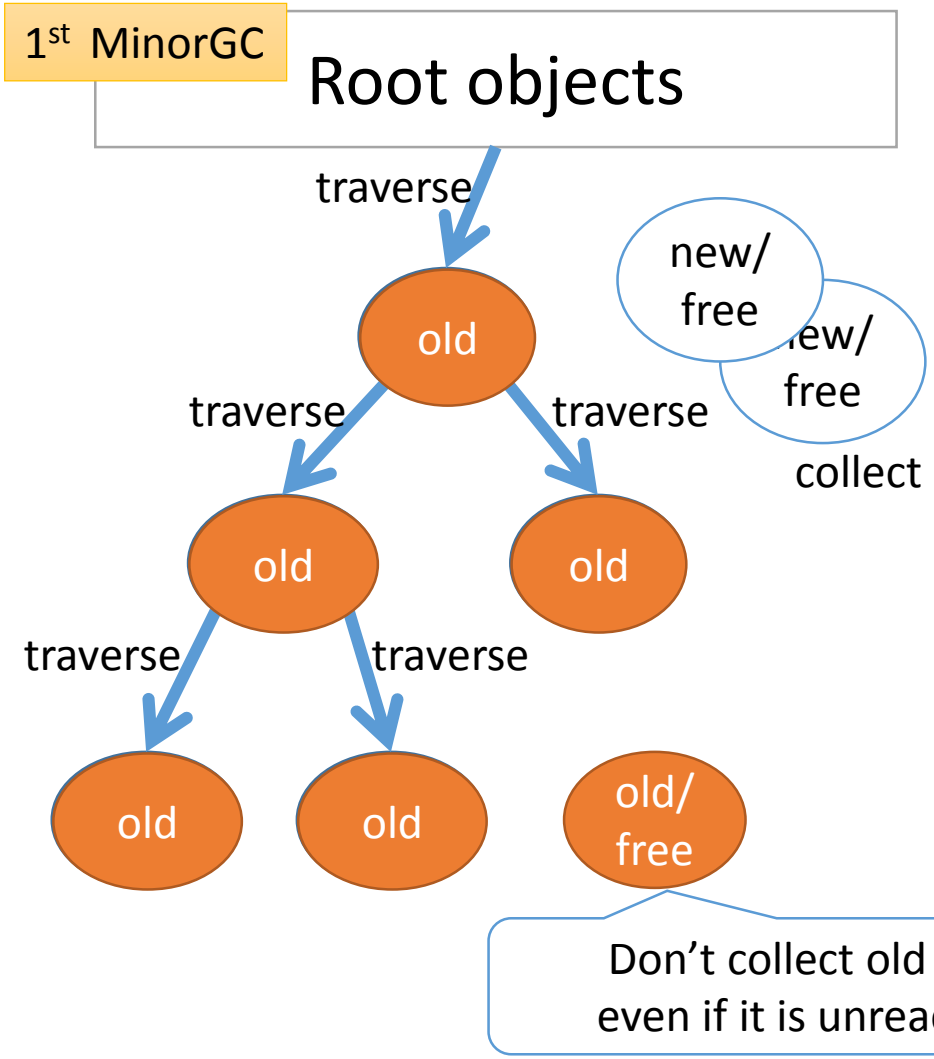
Generational GC (GenGC)

- Minor GC and Major GC can use different GC algorithm
  - Popular combination is:

    Minor GC: Copy GC, Major GC: M&S
  - **On the CRuby, we choose:**

    Minor GC: M&S, Major GC: M&S
  - Because of CRuby's restriction (we can't use moving algorithm)

GenGC [Minor M&S GC] (1/2)

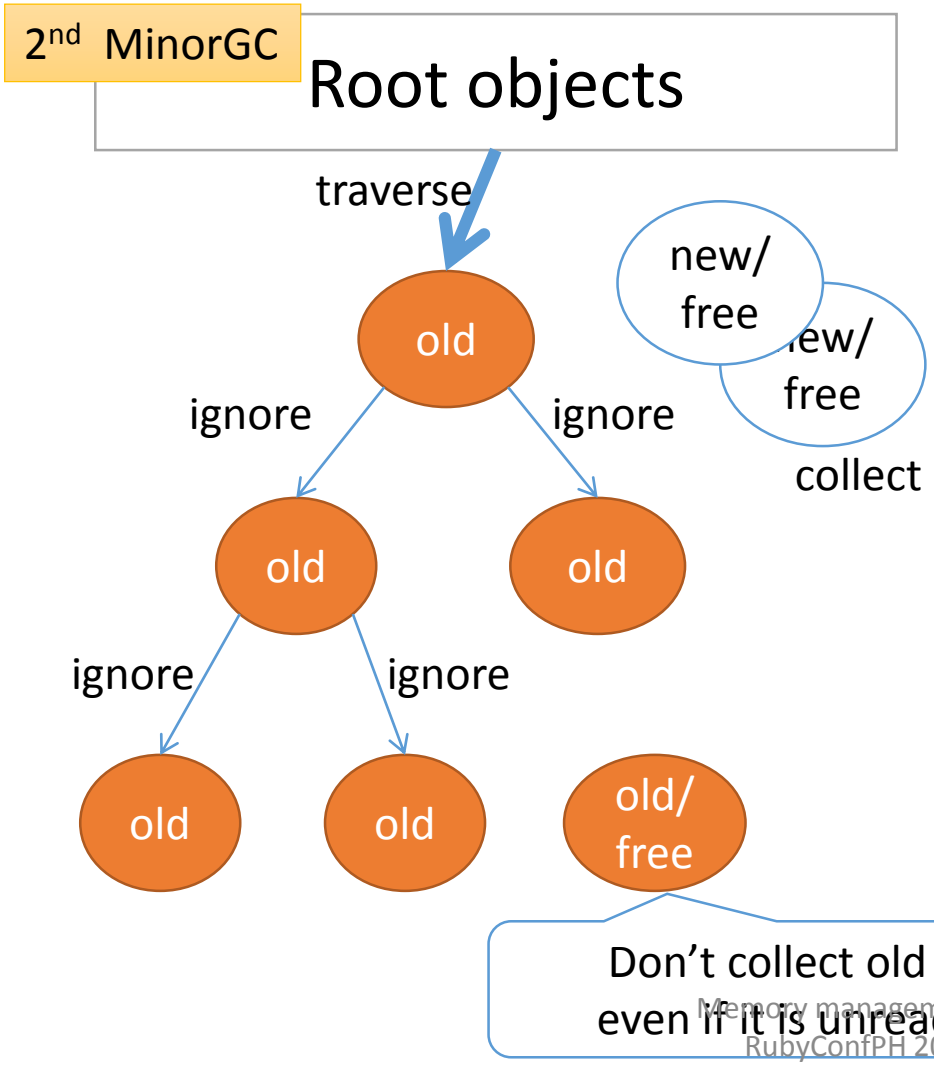


- Mark reachable objects from root objects.
  - Mark and **promote to old generation**
  - Stop traversing after old objects

→ Reduce mark overhead

- Sweep not (marked or old) objects
- Can't collect Some unreachable objects

GenGC [Minor M&S GC] (2/2)



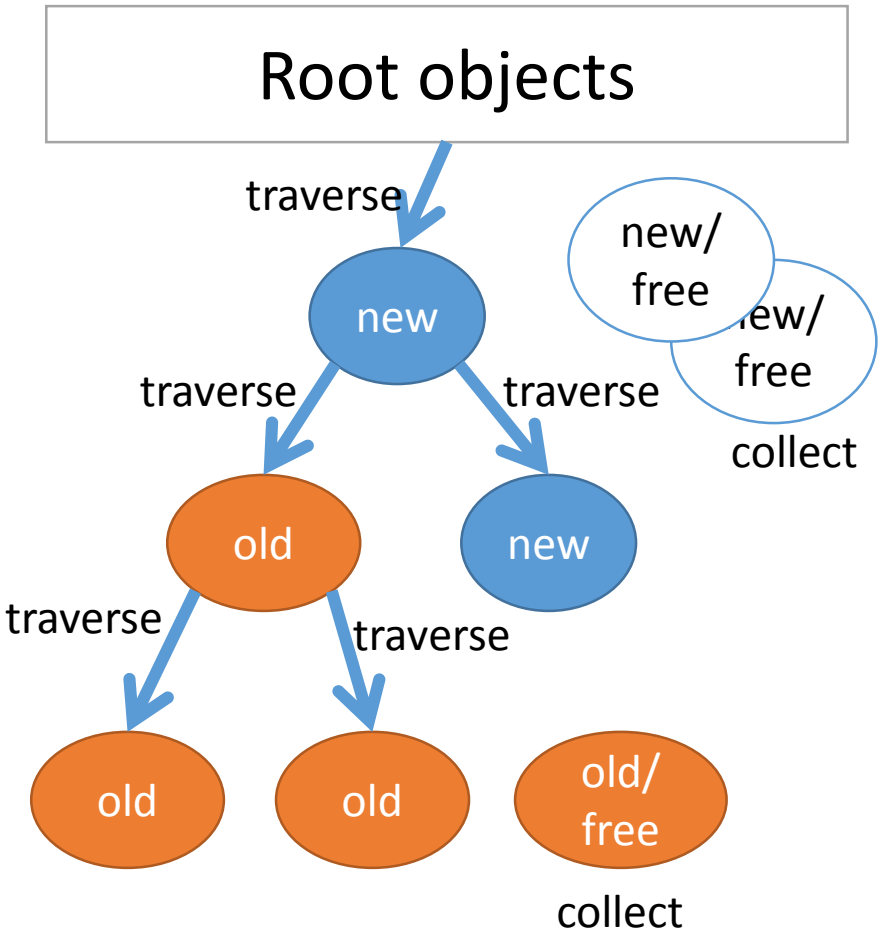
- Mark reachable objects from root objects.
  - Mark and **promote to old generation**
  - Stop traversing after old objects

→ Reduce mark overhead

- Sweep not (marked or old) objects

- Can't collect Some unreachable objects

GenGC [Major M&S GC]



- Normal M&S
- Mark reachable objects from root objects
  - Mark and **promote to old gen**
- Sweep unmarked objects

- *Sweep all unreachable (unused) objects*

NOTE: Generational GC details

- Skip details of generational GC
  - Remember set
  - Write barrier
  - RGenGC techniques

- See my previous slides for details
  - http://www.atdot.net/~ko1/activities/#idx4

2nd question

“When”
should we collect objects?

“When” collect objects?

1. Object space is full
2. Exceed limit of Malloc’ed memory size
3. User specified timing (GC.start, etc)

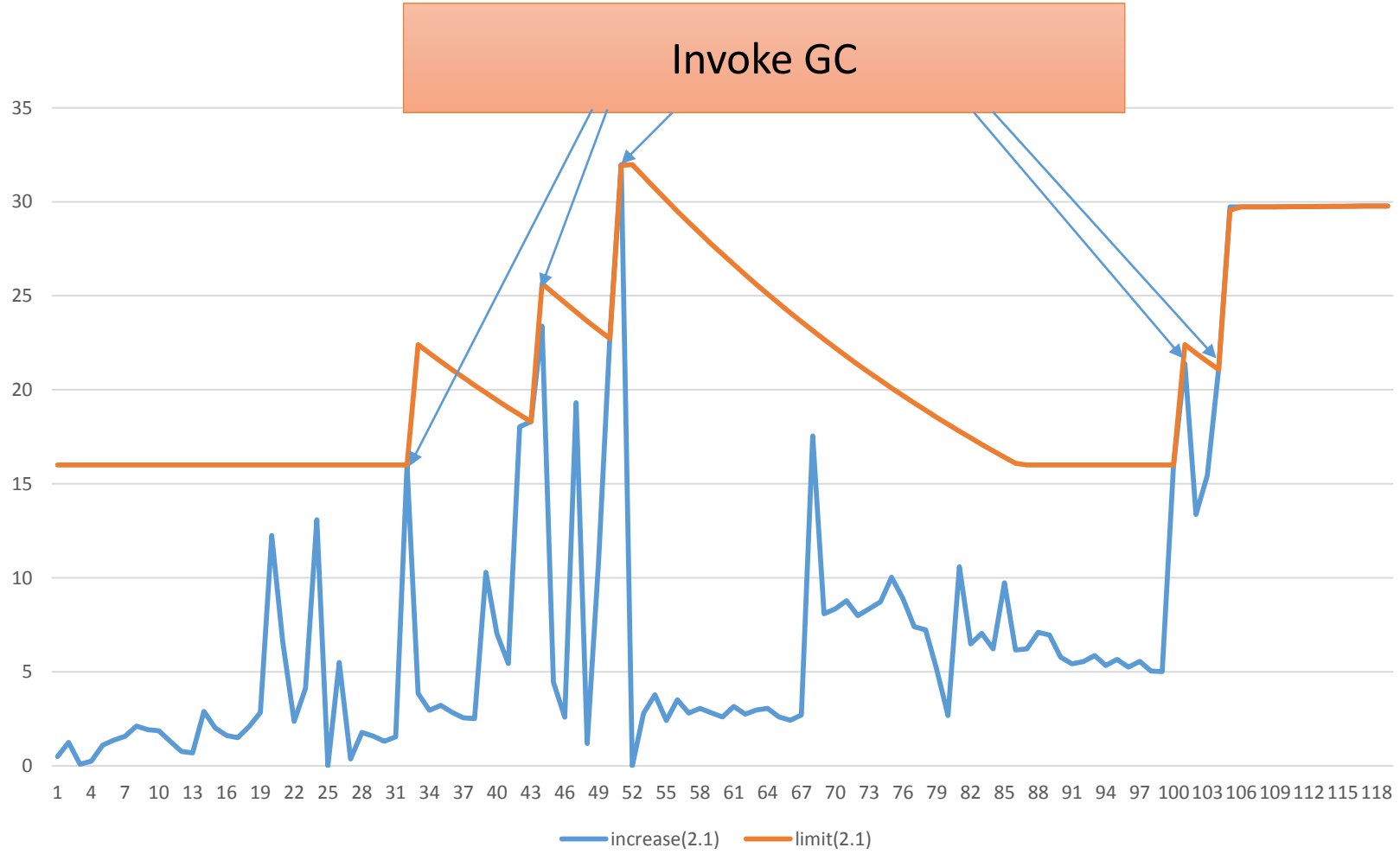
- (1) and (3) is easy to understand
- (2) needs more explanation

Exceed limit of Malloc'ed memory size

- When many memories are allocated by "malloc()"
- Introduce two variables
  - a counter "malloc_increase"
  - a threshold value "malloc_limit" (16MB)
- Rule
  - (1) Increase "malloc_increase" by malloc'ed size
  - (2) "malloc_increase" is reset at every GC time

  → "malloc_increase" represents "how many memory allocated (by malloc()) without GC"
- If "malloc_increase" > "malloc_limit", then invoke GC to recycle malloc'ed objects

Exceed limit of Malloc'ed memory size



3rd question

“What happen” when no space after GC?

What happen when no space after GC?

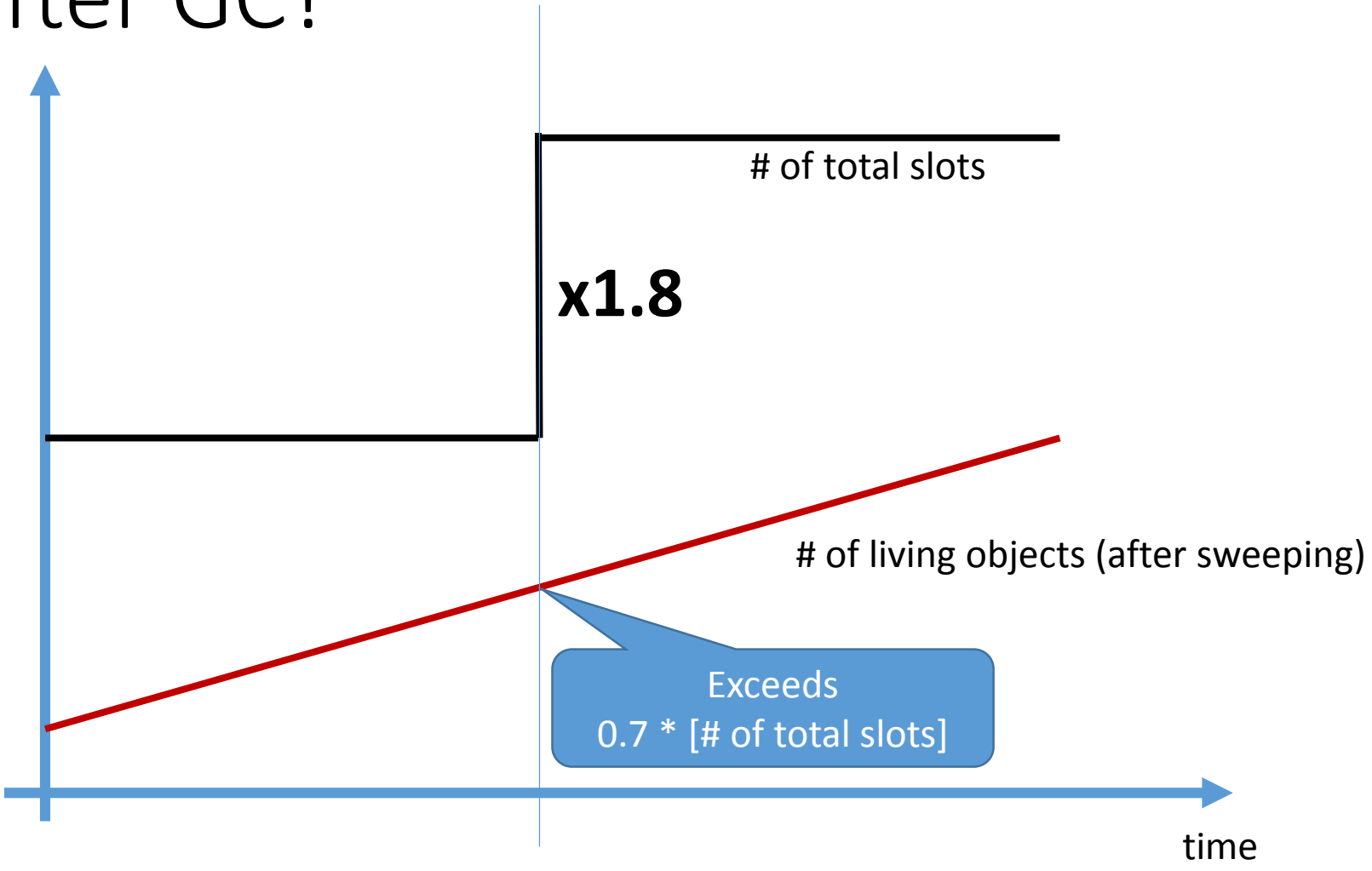
- Terminology
  - Total slots: total prepared object places
  - Living objects: Used objects

- GC detects “No Space” just after sweeping

  if [# of Total slots] * 0.7 < [# of Living objects]

- Allocate new space expand current space x1.8

What happen when no space after GC?



Trade-off

Speed-Memory Trade-off

Performance v.s. **Memory usage**

- Many GCs slow application performance
- Few GC increase memory consumption

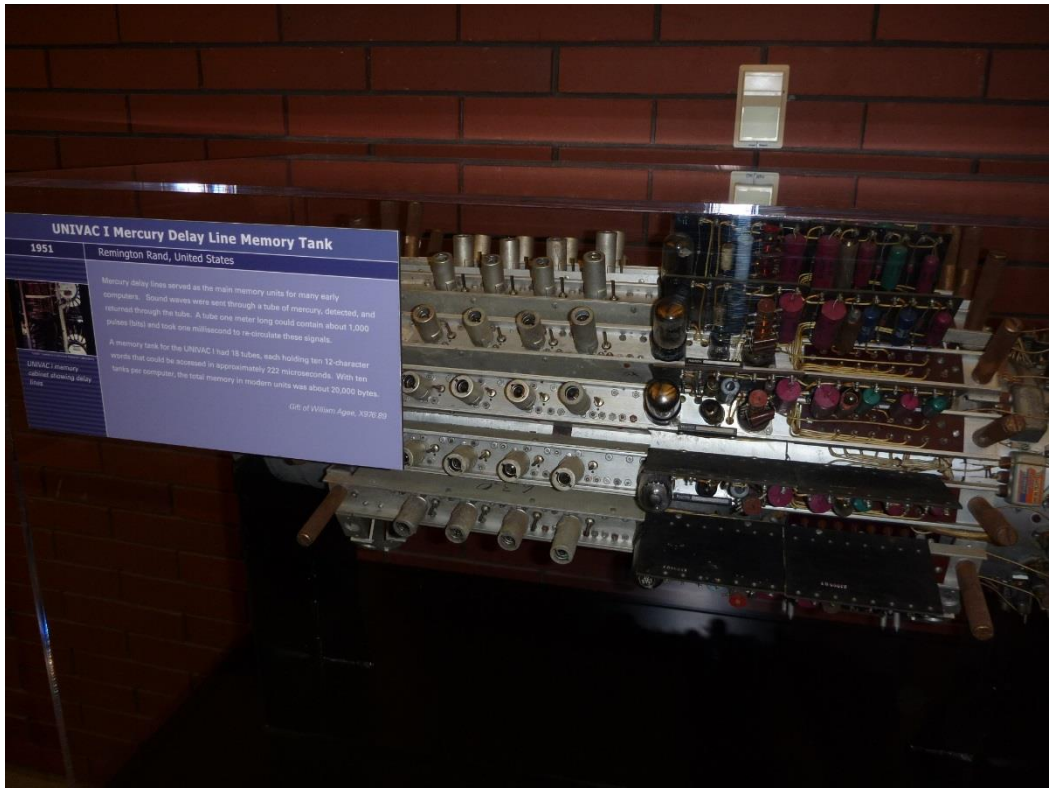
http://www.flickr.com/photos/mcerasoli/6484117955/

Speed-Memory Trade-off

- Usually no problem
- On big production application, this can be an issue

Speed-Memory Trade-off

- Solution 1: Use big memory machine



Speed-Memory Trade-off

- Solution 1: Use big memory machine
  - Recent price of memory is very cheep
  - Heroku provides “PX: Performance dyno” (6GB)

Advertisement

https://blog.heroku.com/archives/2014/2/3/heroku-xl

Speed-Memory Trade-off

- Solution 2: Find out good points
  - Choose good “GC tuning parameters”

GC tuning parameters

GC tuning parameters

- There are several GC tuning parameters
  - Specified by environment variables
    - Use like that: $ RUBY_GC_INIT_SLOTS=10000 ruby script.rb
  - Affect only launched time

GC tuning parameters

- How many GC parameters now?
  - Please raise your hand if you think it is:
    ① 3
    ② 7
    ③ 10
    ④ 11
    ⑤ 13

GC tuning parameters

- How many GC parameters now?
  - Please raise your hand if you think it is:

    ① 3 (ruby 1.9)

    ② 7

    ③ 10 (ruby 2.1.0)

    ④ 11 (ruby 2.1.1) ← Now!!

    ⑤ 13

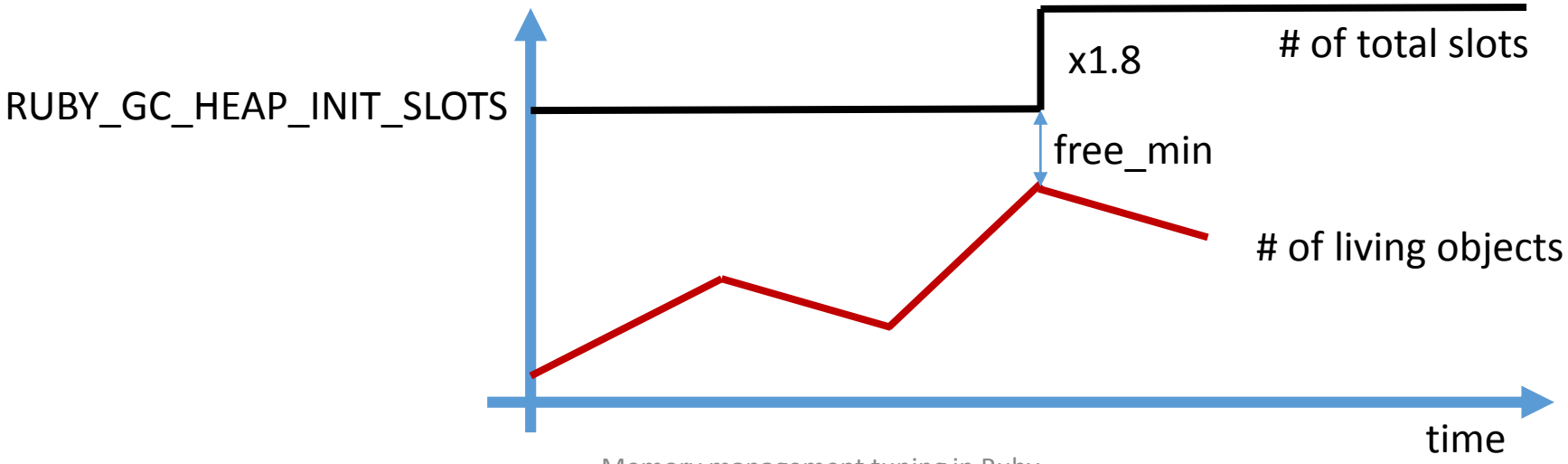
GC tuning parameters (Ruby 2.1.1)

1. RUBY_GC_HEAP_INIT_SLOTS
2. RUBY_GC_HEAP_FREE_SLOTS
3. **RUBY_GC_HEAP_GROWTH_FACTOR (new from 2.1)**
4. **RUBY_GC_HEAP_GROWTH_MAX_SLOTS (new from 2.1)**
5. **RUBY_GC_HEAP_OLDOBJECT_LIMIT_FACTOR (new from 2.1.1)**
6. RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT
7. **RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT_MAX (new from 2.1)**
8. **RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT_GROWTH_FACTOR (new from 2.1)**
9. **RUBY_GC_OLDMALLOC_LIMIT (new from 2.1)**
10. **RUBY_GC_OLDMALLOC_LIMIT_MAX (new from 2.1)**
11. **RUBY_GC_OLDMALLOC_LIMIT_GROWTH_FACTOR (new from 2.1)**

- Obsolete
  - RUBY_FREE_MIN -> RUBY_GC_HEAP_FREE_SLOTS (from 2.1)
  - RUBY_HEAP_MIN_SLOTS -> RUBY_GC_HEAP_INIT_SLOTS (from 2.1)

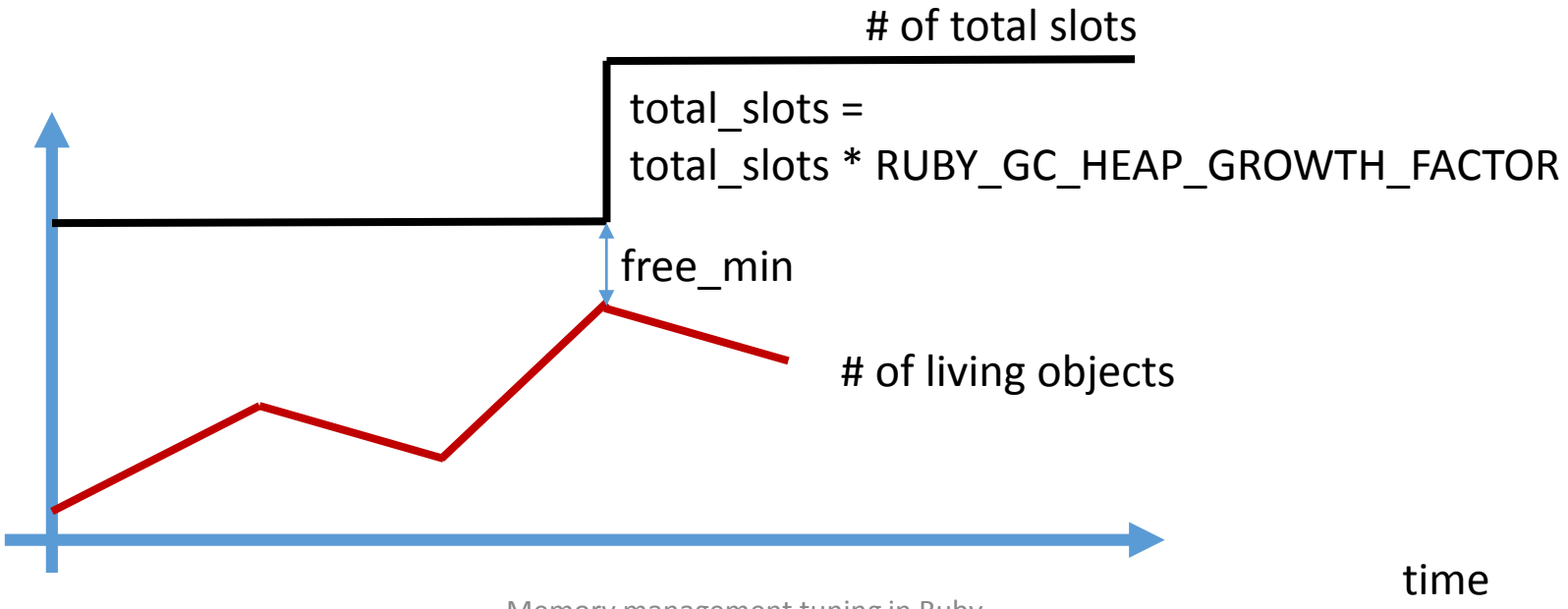
GC_HEAP_INIT/FREE_SLOTS

- RUBY_GC_HEAP_INIT_SLOTS (default: 10000)
  - How many slots prepared at initialize
- RUBY_GC_HEAP_FREE_SLOTS (default: 4096)
  - At least how many slots are available after GC
  - free_min = max(RUBY_GC_HEAP_FREE_SLOTS , total_slots * 0.3)



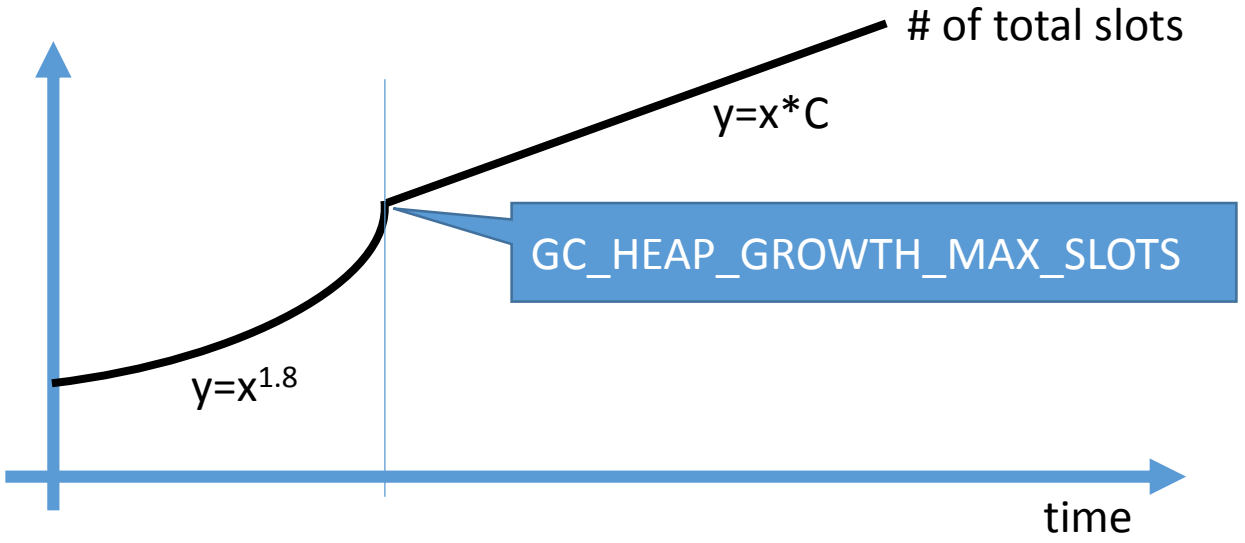
RUBY_GC_HEAP_GROWTH_FACTOR (new from 2.1)

- RUBY_GC_HEAP_GROWTH_FACTOR (default: 1.8)
  - Growth factor of expanding object space
  - Grow object space exponentially to reduce GC time



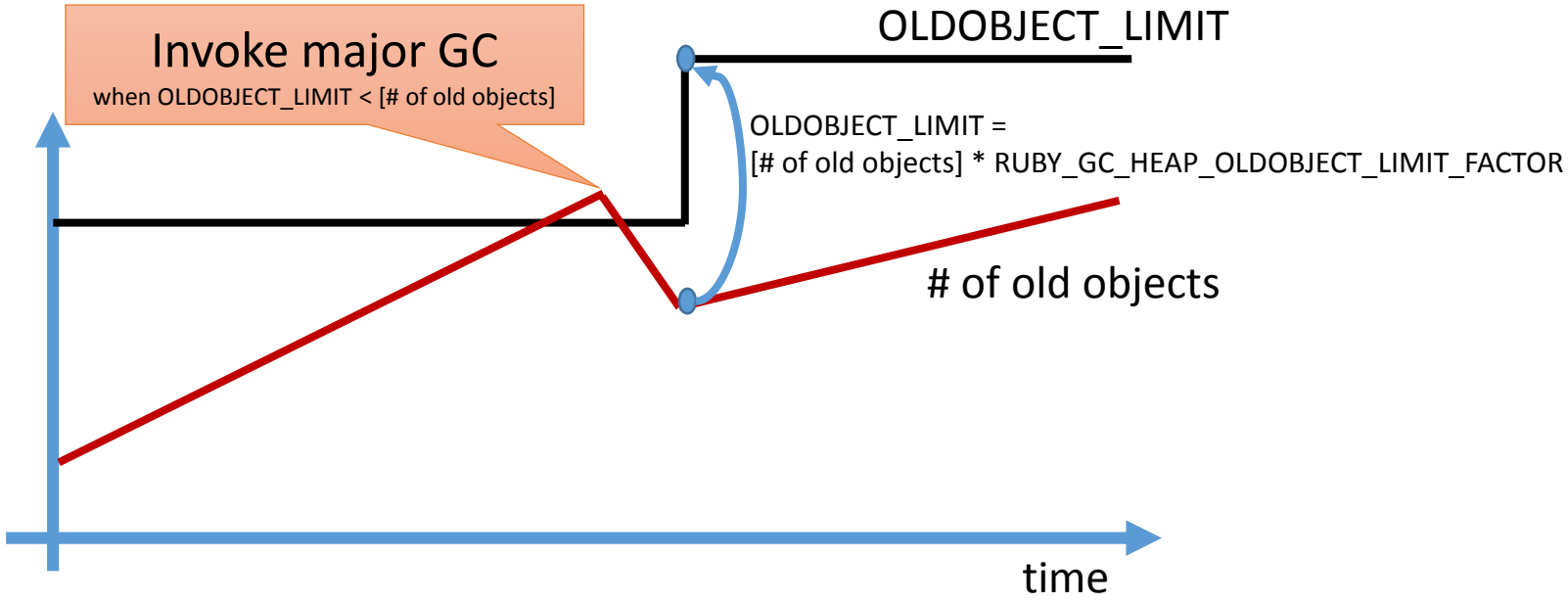
GC_HEAP_GROWTH_MAX_SLOTS (new from Ruby 2.1)

- GC_HEAP_GROWTH_MAX_SLOTS (default: 0)
  - Stop exponential expanding, start linear expanding
  - The value “0” remove this cap



RUBY_GC_HEAP_OLDOBJECT_LIMIT_FACTOR (from Ruby 2.1.1)

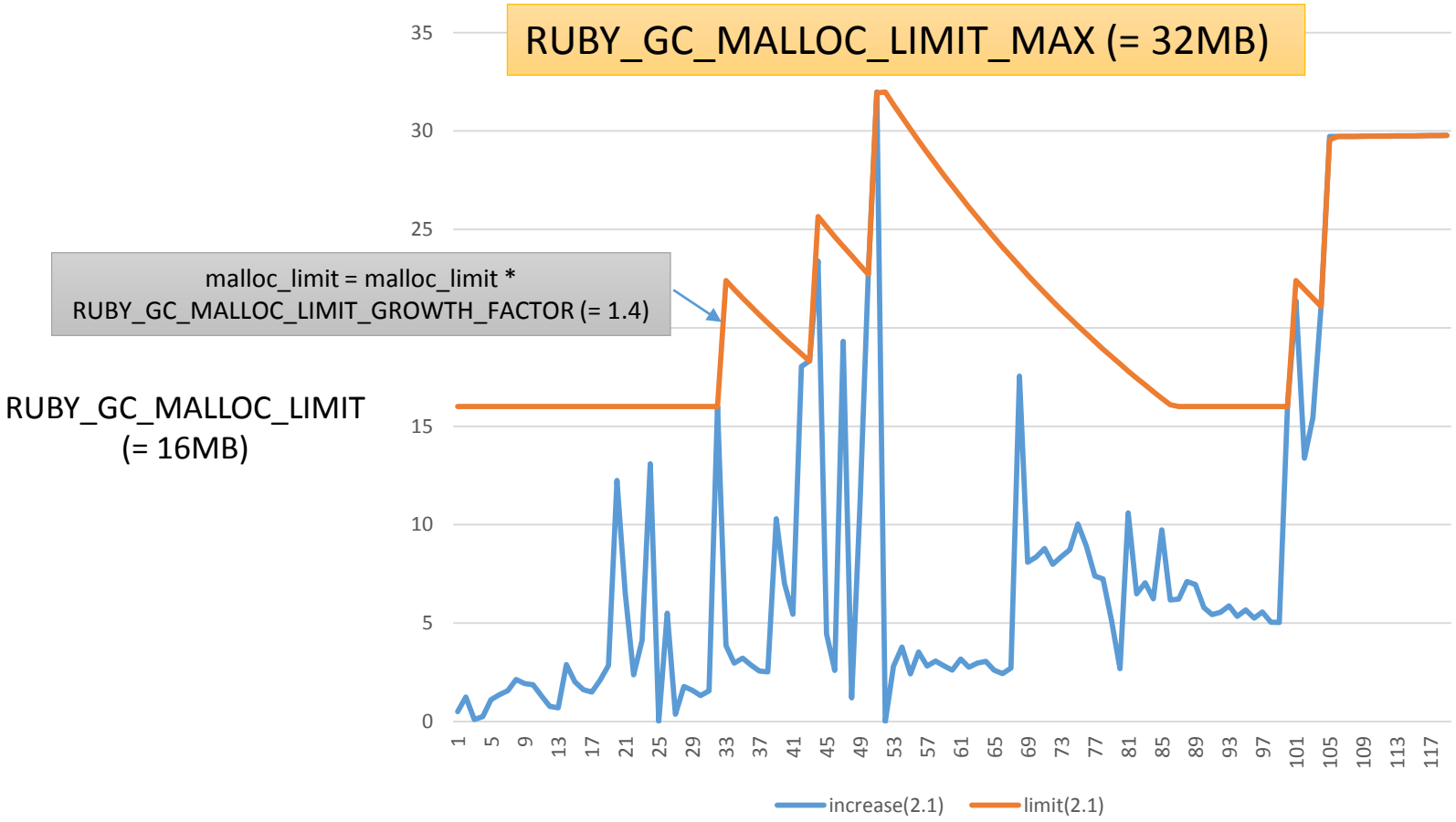
- RUBY_GC_HEAP_OLDOBJECT_LIMIT_FACTOR
  - Default value: 2.0
  - Tuning major (full) GC frequency
    - Bigger value: rare, Smaller value: frequent
    - < 1.0: Every GC will be major (full) GC



RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT(…)

- RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT (default: 16MB)
  - Initial value of “malloc_limt”
  - Tuning GC frequency
    - Bigger: rare → High throughput, but consumes memory
    - Smaller: frequent → Low throughput, small memory
- RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT_MAX (default: 32MB)
  - Maximum value of “malloc_limit”
- RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT_GROWTH_FACTOR (default: 1.4)
  - Growth ratio of “malloc_limit”

RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT(...)



RUBY_GC_OLDMALLOC_LIMIT(…)

- RUBY_GC_OLDMALLOC_LIMIT (default: 16MB)
- RUBY_GC_OLDMALLOC_LIMIT_MAX (default: 128MB)
- RUBY_GC_OLDMALLOC_LIMIT_GROWTH_FACTOR (default: 1.2)

- Similar to RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT(…), but parameter for major (full) GC timing

4th question

How to use tuning parameters?

How to use tuning parameters?

1. Profile your application
2. Try GC parameters (environment variables)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/nasa_goddard/5188180370

Profile memory management GC.stat (MRI specific)

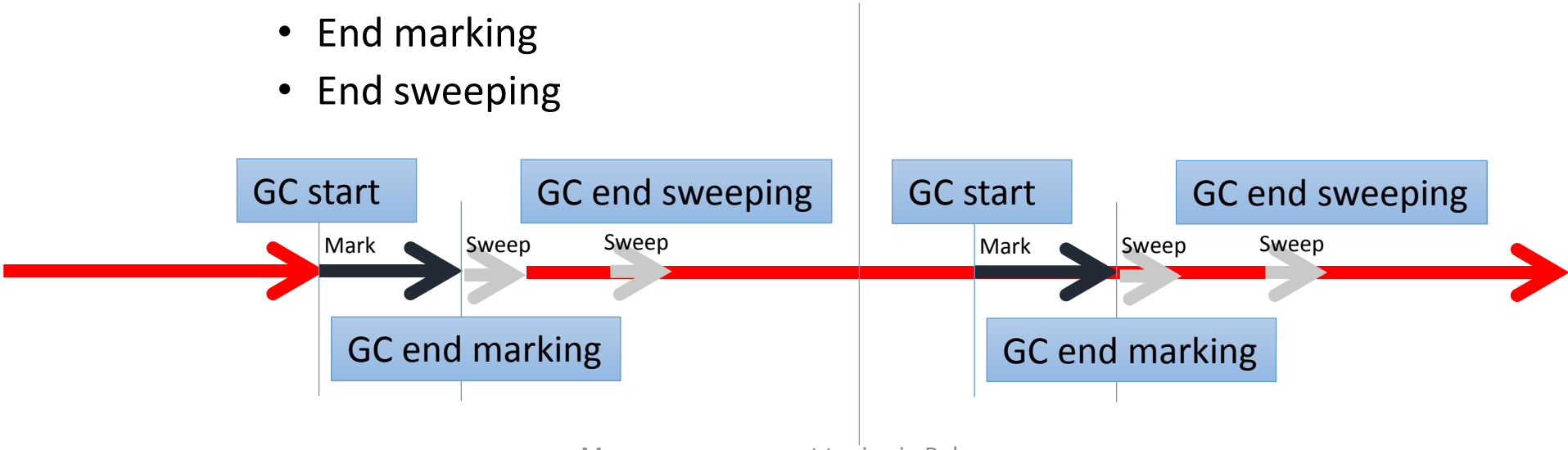
- “GC.stat” returns statistics information about GC
  - Counts
    - :count=>2, # GC count
    - :minor_gc_count=>2, # minor GC count
    - :major_gc_count=>0, # major GC count
  - Current slot information
    - :heap_live_slot=>6836, #=> # of live objects
    - :heap_free_slot=>519, #=> # of freed objects
    - :heap_final_slot=>0, #=> # of waiting finalizer objects
    - total_slots = heap_live_slot + heap_free_slot + heap_final_slot
  - Statistics
    - :total_allocated_object=>7674, # total allocated objects
    - :total_freed_object=>838, # total freed objects
    - Current living objects = total_allocated_object - total_freed_object

Profile memory management GC.latest_gc_info (MRI specific)

- “GC.latest_gc_info” returns details of latest GC
  - **:gc_by=>:newobj** **# why GC invoked?**
    - newobj: no slots available
    - malloc: malloc_increase > malloc_limit
  - :major_by=>nil # why major GC invoked?
  - :have_finalizer=>false # have finalizer?
  - :immediate_sweep=>false # immediate sweep?

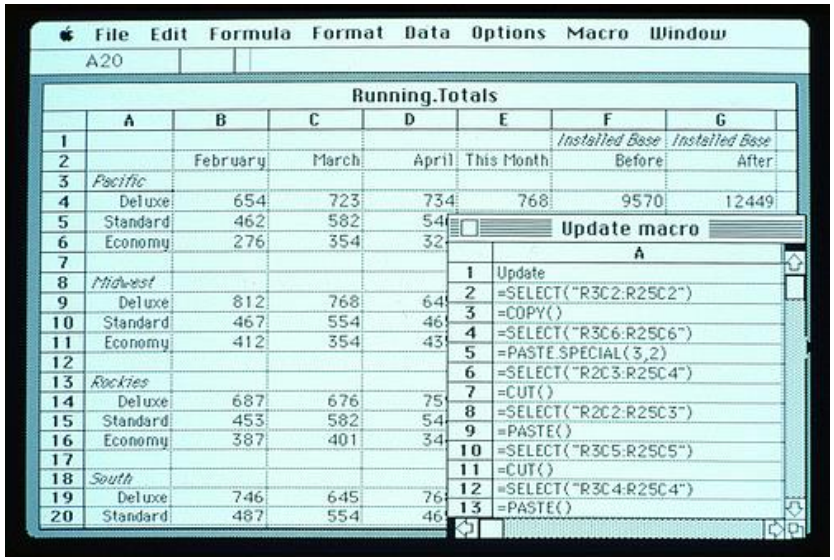
Profile memory management “gc_tracer” gem (MRI 2.1.0 later!!)

- GC::Tracer.start_logging(filename)
  - Save all GC.stat/GC.latest_gc_info results at every GC events into specified file
  - GC events:
    - Start
    - End marking
    - End sweeping



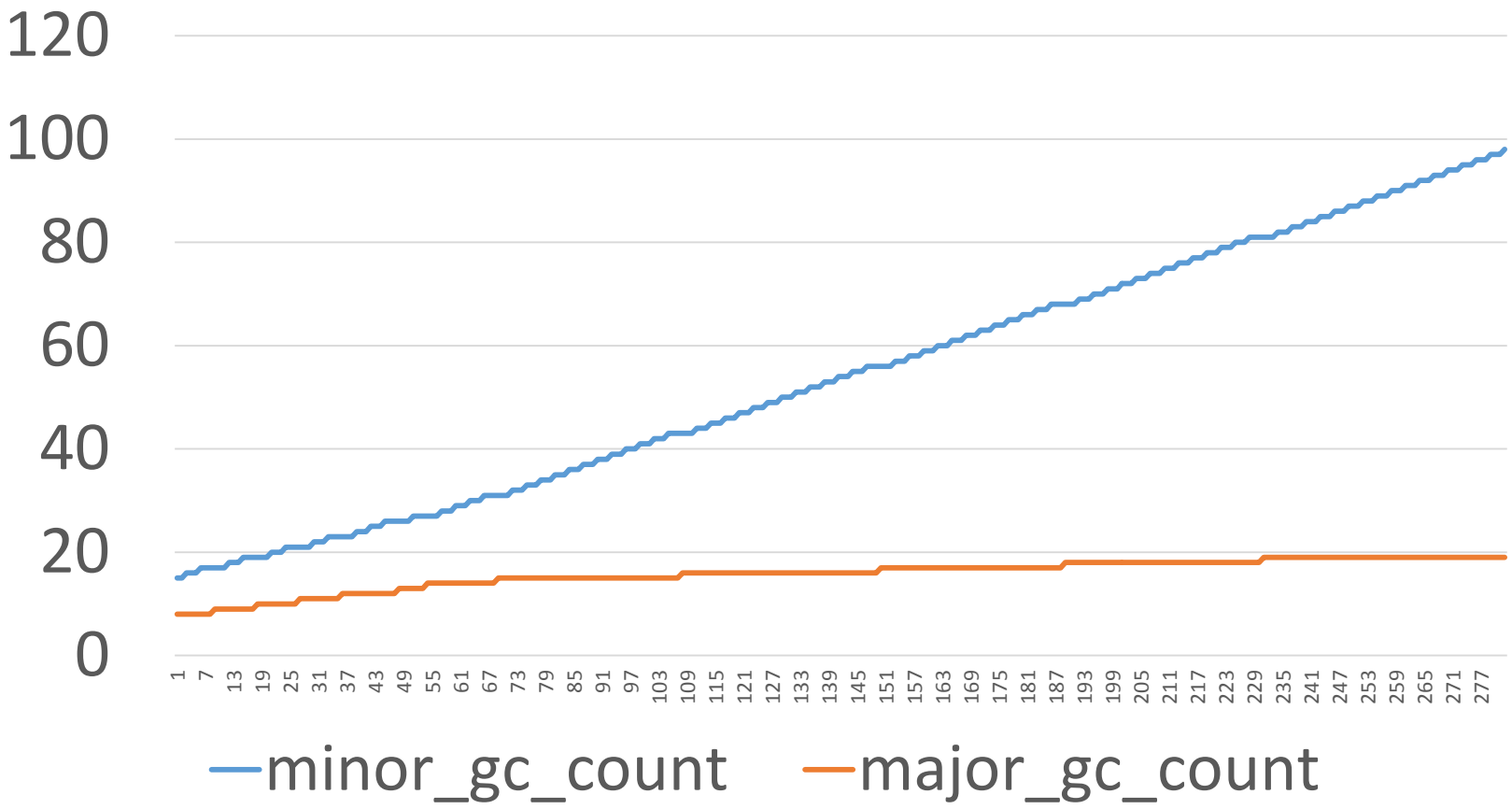
Profile memory management “gc_tracer” gem

- Run your application with gc_tracer
- Plot with Excel!

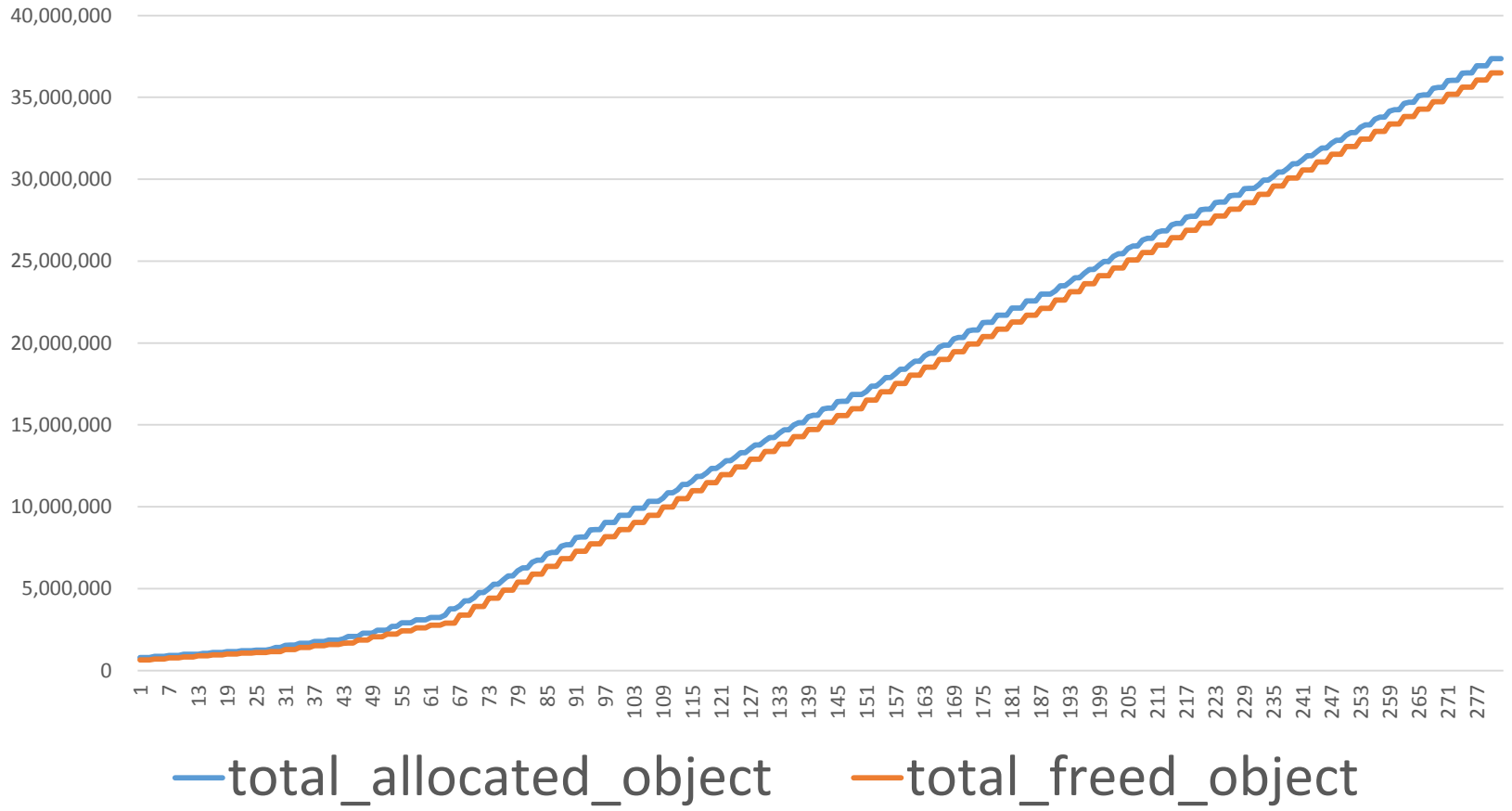


http://www.flickr.com/photos/microsoftsweden/5394685465

Profile memory management “gc_tracer” gem

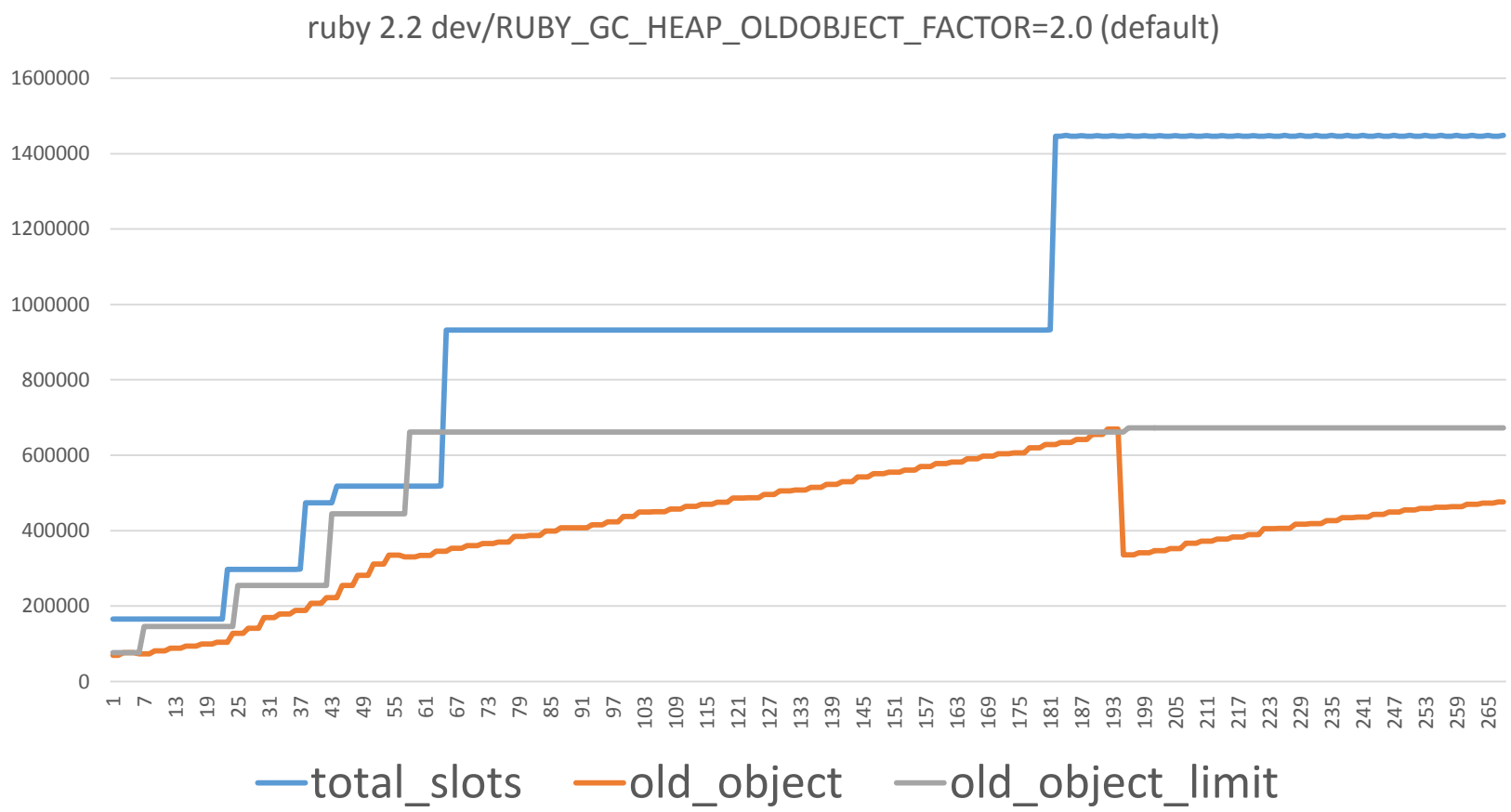


Profile memory management “gc_tracer” gem

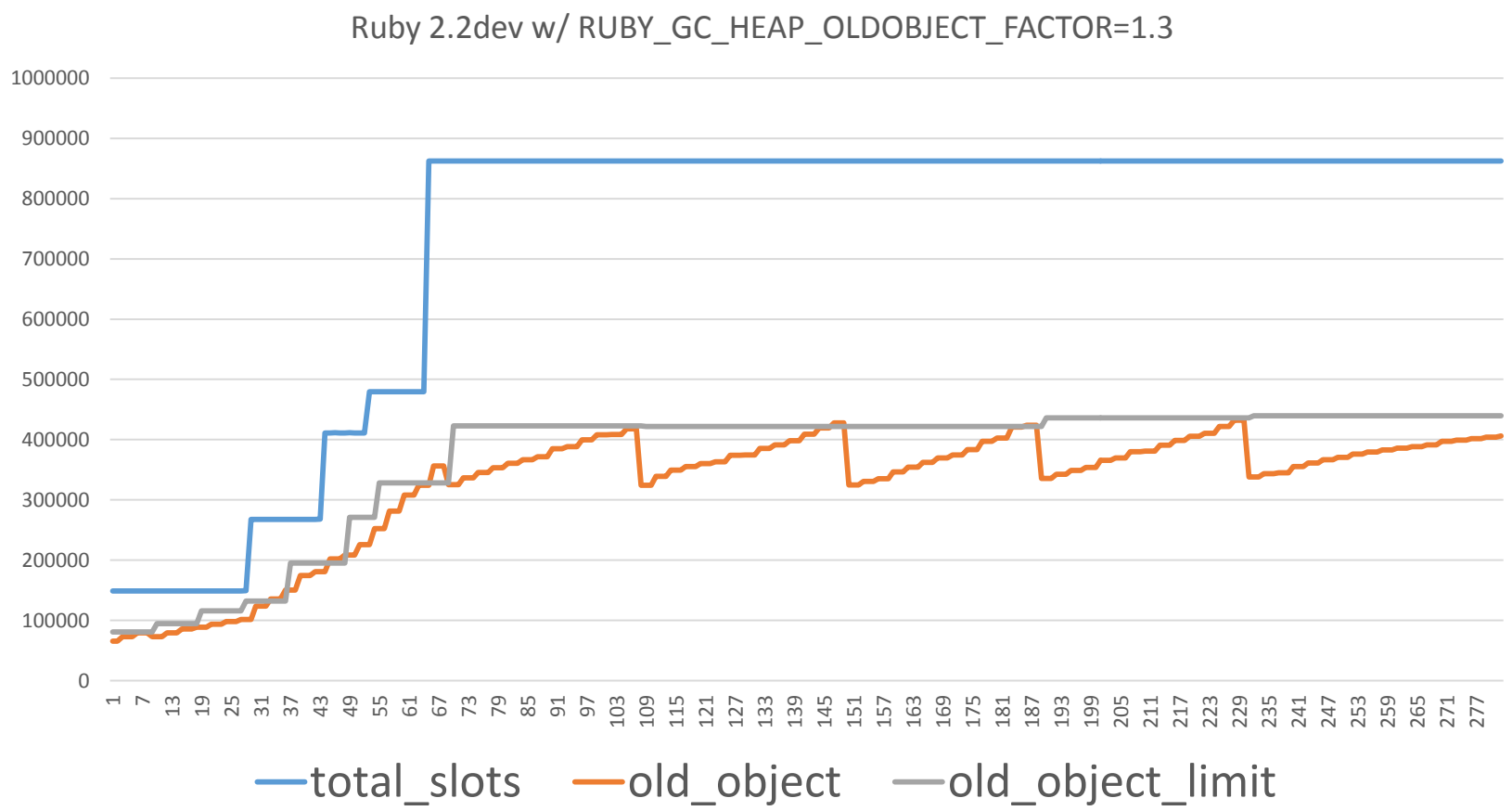


Profile memory management “gc_tracer” gem

Profile memory management “gc_tracer” gem



Profile memory management “gc_tracer” gem



Try GC parameters

- General concept

  Speed <-> Memory trade-off

- You have huge memory

  → Increase parameters to improve performance

  - RUBY_GC_HEAP_INIT_SLOTS (initial slots)
  - RUBY_GC_HEAP_FREE_SLOTS (prepared free slots after GC)
  - RUBY_GC_MALLOC_LIMIT (reduce GC frequency)

Try GC parameters

- You have small memory

  Reduce parameters to reduce memory usage

  - IaaS, PaaS environments (ex: Heroku 1X dyno (512MB))
  - RUBY_GC_HEAP_GROWTH_FACTOR (heap expanding factor)
  - **RUBY_GC_HEAP_OLDOBJECT_LIMIT_FACTOR (for more full GC)**
    - If you have memory usage trouble when migrating from 2.0 to 2.1, please try to reduce this variable

Try GC parameters

- There is no silver bullet
  - No one answer for all applications
  - You should not believe other applications settings easily
- Try and try and try!

http://www.flickr.com/photos/rowanbank/8483526808

See also

- Excellent blog articles by @tmm1
  - http://tmm1.net/
- Demystifying the Ruby GC by Sam Saffron
  - http://samsaffron.com/archive/2013/11/22/demystifying-the-ruby-gc
- Why I am excited about Ruby 2.1? by Sam Saffron
  - https://speakerdeck.com/samsaffron/why-ruby-2-dot-1-excites-me
  - http://vimeo.com/89491942

Summary of this talk

- New versions
  - Ruby 2.1 (released)
  - Ruby 2.2 (currently working on)
- Basic of Ruby's memory management (GC)
- GC tuning parameters
  - **"What"** and **"How"** we can tune by GC parameters

Thank you for your attention
Q&A?

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