

JavaScript Engines - how do they even?

JSConfEU
May 2017, Berlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-iiEDtpy6I>

JavaScript Engines - how do they even?

Dr. Franziska Hinkelmann
Google



[@fhinkel](https://twitter.com/fhinkel)

```

    }
  }
  return undefined;
}
ts.forEach = forEach;
/**
 * Iterates through 'array' by index and performs the callback on each element of array until the callback
 * returns a truthy value, then returns that value.
 * If no such value is found, the callback is applied to each element of array and undefined is returned.
 */
function find(array, callback) {
  if (array) {
    for (var i = 0, len = array.length; i < len; i++) {
      var result = callback(array[i], i);
      if (result) {
        return result;
      }
    }
  }
  return undefined;
}
ts.find = find;
/**
 * Returns the first truthy result of 'callback', or else fails.
 * This is like 'forEach', but never returns undefined.
 */
function findMap(array, callback) {
  for (var i = 0, len = array.length; i < len; i++) {
    var result = callback(array[i], i);
    if (result) {
      return result;
    }
  }
  Debug.fail();
}
ts.findMap = findMap;
function contains(array, value) {
  if (array) {
    for (var _i = 0, array_1 = array; _i < array_1.length; _i++) {
      var v = array_1[_i];
      if (v === value) {
        return true;
      }
    }
  }
}

```

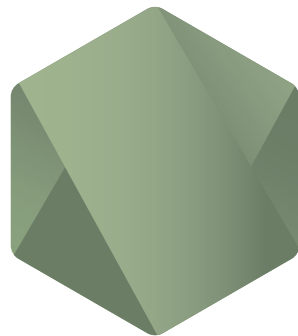
JS Engine

Elements Console Sources Network Timeline

top ▼ ☐ Preserve log

- Move disk 1 from initial stack to temporary stack.
- Move disk 2 from initial stack to final stack.
- Move disk 1 from temporary stack to final stack.
- Move disk 3 from initial stack to temporary stack.
- Move disk 1 from final stack to initial stack.
- Move disk 2 from final stack to temporary stack.
- Move disk 1 from initial stack to temporary stack.
- Move disk 1 from initial stack to final stack.
- Move disk 2 from temporary stack to final stack.
- Move disk 2 from temporary stack to initial stack.
- Move disk 1 from final stack to initial stack.
- Move disk 3 from temporary stack to final stack.
- Move disk 1 from initial stack to temporary stack.
- Move disk 2 from initial stack to final stack.
- Move disk 1 from temporary stack to final stack.

- Browser: Chakra, JavaScriptCore, Spidermonkey, V8
- Node.js: Chakra, V8, SpiderNode
- Electron: V8
- IoT: Duktape, JerryScript



EcmaScript Standard defined by TC39

The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the EcmaScript Standard 2018 Language specification. The browser's address bar shows the URL `https://tc39.github.io/ecma262/#sec-async-functions-abstract-operations-async-function-await`. The page title is "ECMAScript® 2018 Language". The left sidebar contains a table of contents with sections like "ECMAScript Standard Built-in Objects", "Control Abstraction Objects", and "5 AsyncFunction Objects". The main content area shows the "AsyncFunctionAwait" section, which includes a list of steps for the abstract operation. The steps are numbered 6 through 8, followed by a sub-section "25.5.5.3 AsyncFunctionAwait (value)" with steps 1 through 13. A "NOTE" at the bottom states that the return value is unused and that the interesting return is that of *resumptionValue*.

await

AsyncFunctionAwait

25.5.5.3 AsyncFunctionAwait (value)

25.5.5.5 AsyncFunction Awaited Rejected

25.5.5.4 AsyncFunction Awaited Fulfilled

OF CONTENTS

ECMAScript Standard Built-in Objects

the Global Object

fundamental Objects

Numbers and Dates

Text Processing

Indexed Collections

Keyed Collection

Structured Data

Control Abstraction Objects

1 Iteration

2 GeneratorFunction Objects

3 Generator Objects

4 Promise Objects

5 AsyncFunction Objects

25.5.1 The AsyncFunction Constructor

25.5.2 Properties of the AsyncFunction Constructor

25.5.3 Properties of the AsyncFunction Prototype ...

25.5.4 AsyncFunction Instances

25.5.5 Async Functions Abstract Operations

6. Assert: When we return here, *asyncContext* has already been removed from the **execution context stack** and *runningContext* is the currently **running execution context**.

7. Assert: *result* is a normal completion with a value of **undefined**. The possible sources of completion values are *AsyncFunctionAwait* or, if the async function doesn't await anything, the step 3.g above.

8. Return.

25.5.5.3 AsyncFunctionAwait (*value*)

1. Let *asyncContext* be the **running execution context**.
2. Let *promiseCapability* be ! **NewPromiseCapability**(%Promise%).
3. Let *resolveResult* be ! **Call**(*promiseCapability*.[[Resolve]], **undefined**, « *value* »).
4. Let *onFulfilled* be a new built-in function object as defined in **AsyncFunction Awaited Fulfilled**.
5. Let *onRejected* be a new built-in function object as defined in **AsyncFunction Awaited Rejected**.
6. Set *onFulfilled*.[[AsyncContext]] to *asyncContext*.
7. Set *onRejected*.[[AsyncContext]] to *asyncContext*.
8. Let *throwawayCapability* be ! **NewPromiseCapability**(%Promise%).
9. Set *throwawayCapability*.[[Promise]].[[PromiseIsHandled]] to **true**.
10. Perform ! **PerformPromiseThen**(*promiseCapability*.[[Promise]], *onFulfilled*, *onRejected*, *throwawayCapability*).
11. Remove *asyncContext* from the **execution context stack** and restore the **execution context** that is at the top of the **execution context stack** as the **running execution context**.
12. Set the code evaluation state of *asyncContext* such that when evaluation is resumed with a **Completion** *resumptionValue* the following steps will be performed:
 - a. Return *resumptionValue*.
13. Return.

NOTE The return value of this abstract operation is unused. The interesting return is that of *resumptionValue*.

JavaScript

```
var x = 17;
```

C++

```
int x = 17;
```

JS is dynamically typed.

C++ is statically typed.

Type of an object

```
var obj = {  
    x: 1,  
    y: 1  
};
```

```
delete obj.x;
```

```
obj.z = 1;
```

```
obj.hasOwnProperty
```




**WHAT IF I TOLD
YOU**

JAVASCRIPT CAN BE FAST

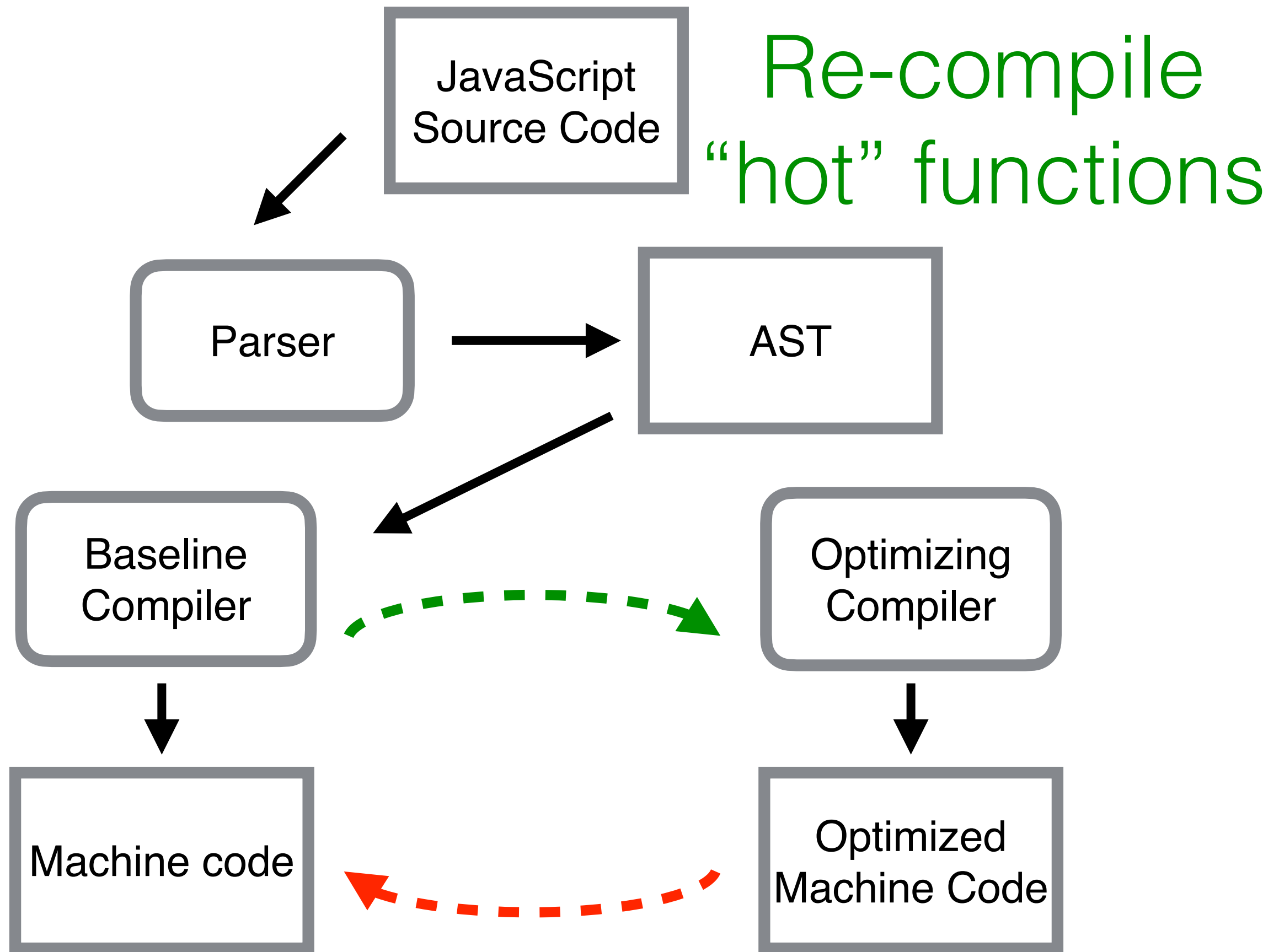
Just In Time (JIT) Compilation

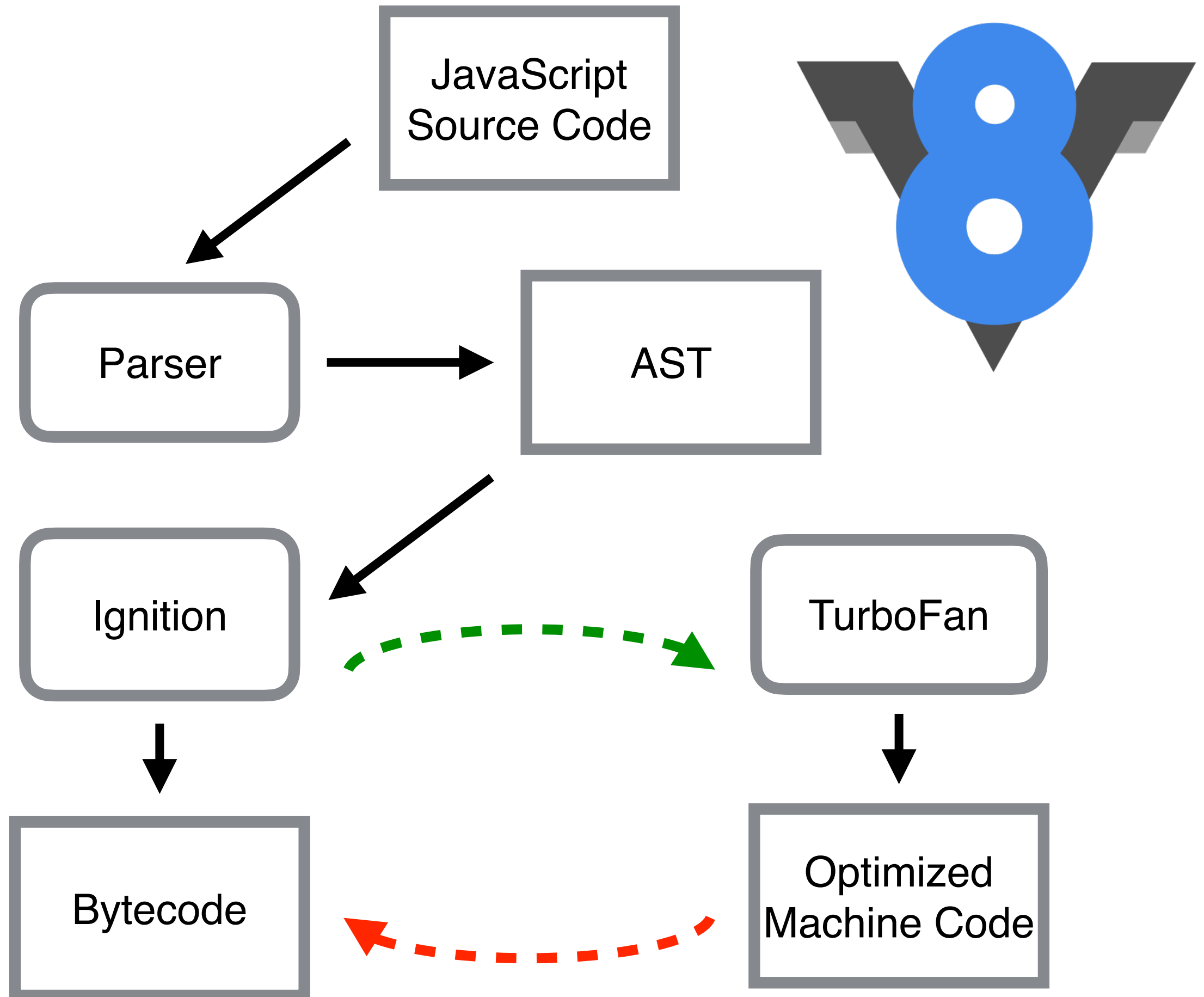
Generate machine code during runtime, not **ahead of time** (AOT).

Optimizing compiler

Re-compile “hot” functions with type information from previous execution 🔥

De-optimize if the type has changed



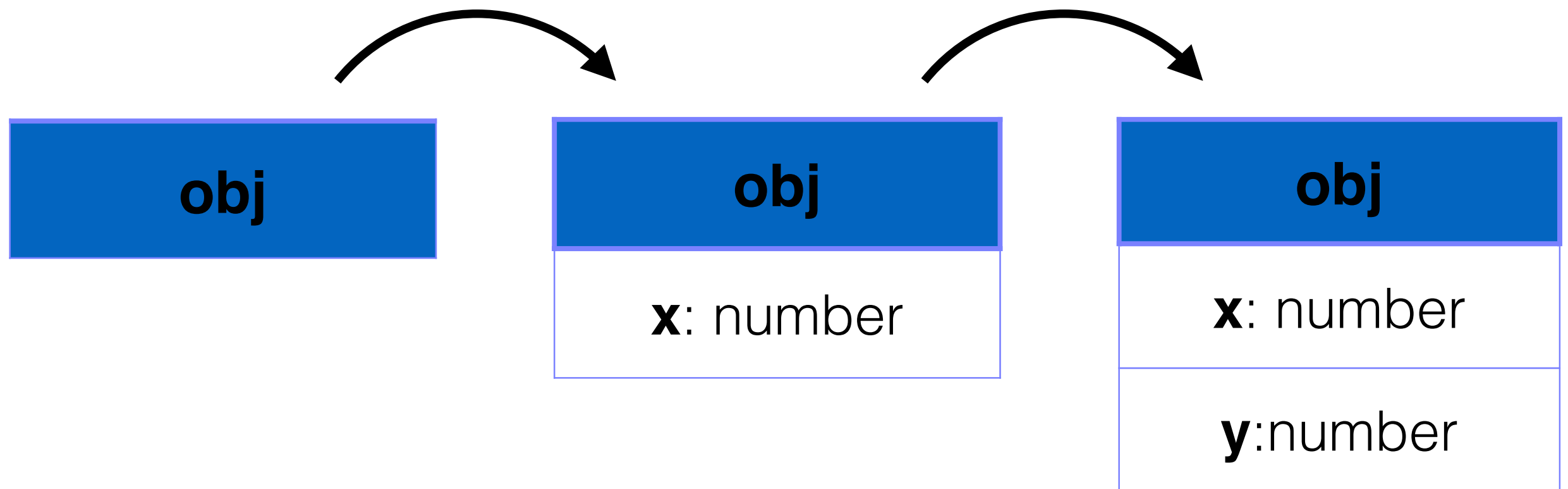


Optimizing compiler
uses previously seen
type information - don't
change types!


```
function load(obj) {  
    return obj.x  
}
```

Object types internally

```
var obj = {  
  x: 1,  
  y: 4  
};
```



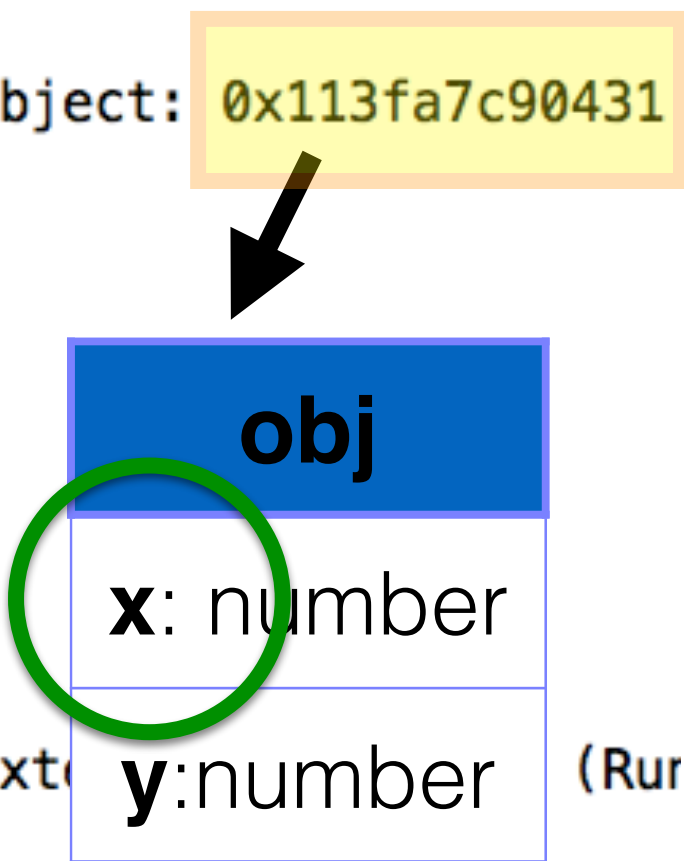
```
function load(obj) {  
    return obj.x;  
}
```

```
load({x:4, y:7});  
load({x:2, y:9});  
load({x:1, y:3});  
load({x:6, y:1});  
load({x:3, y:8});
```

obj
x: number
y: number

Set up stack and enter function

```
-- B3 start (deconstruct frame) --
13 488b4510      REX.W movq rax,[rbp+0x10]
17 a801         test al,0x1
19 0f8436000000  jz 0x2233d07042b5 <+0x55>
1f 48bb3104c9a73f110000 REX.W movq rbx,0x113fa7c90431    ;; object: 0x113fa7c90431
29 483958ff      REX.W cmpq [rax-0x1],rbx
2d 0f8527000000  jnz 0x2233d07042ba <+0x5a>
33 488b4017      REX.W movq rax,[rax+0x17]
37 488be5        REX.W movq rsp,rbp
3a 5d           pop rbp
3b c21000        ret 0x10
-- B4 start (no frame) --
-- B1 start (deferred) --
-- <mono.js:1:14> --
3e 48bb500a2aa4237f0000 REX.W movq rbx,0x7f23a42a0a50    ;; ext
48 33c0         xorl rax,rax
4a 488b75f8      REX.W movq rsi,[rbp-0x8]
4e e84d02d8ff    call 0x2233d0484500    ;; code: STUB, CEntryStub, minor: 8
53 ebbe        jmp 0x2233d0704273 <+0x13>
55 e846fdbfff    call 0x2233d0304000    ;; deoptimization bailout 0
5a e84bfdbfff    call 0x2233d030400a    ;; deoptimization bailout 1
5f 90          non
```



```
function load(obj) {  
    return obj.x;  
}
```

```
load({x:4, a:7});  
load({x:2, b:9});  
load({x:1, c:3});  
load({x:6, d:1});
```

obj1

x: number

a:number

obj2

x: number

b:number

obj3

x: number

c:number

obj4

x: number

d:number


```

-- B3 start --
13 488b4510 REX.W movq rax,[rbp+0x10]
17 a801 test al,0x1
19 0f8472000000 jz 0x3b5172e842f1 <+0x91>
1f 488b58ff REX.W movq rbx,[rax-0x1]
23 48ba310481e20f1c0000 REX.W movq rdx,0x1c0fe2810431
2d 483bd3 REX.W cmpq rdx,rbx
30 0f8439000000 jz 0x3b5172e842cf <+0x6f>
-- B4 start --
36 48ba890481e20f1c0000 REX.W movq rdx,0x1c0fe2810489
40 483bd3 REX.W cmpq rdx,rbx
43 0f8426000000 jz 0x3b5172e842cf <+0x6f>
-- B5 start --
49 48bae10481e20f1c0000 REX.W movq rdx,0x1c0fe28104e1
53 483bd3 REX.W cmpq rdx,rbx
56 0f8413000000 jz 0x3b5172e842cf <+0x6f>
-- B6 start --
5c 48ba390581e20f1c0000 REX.W movq rdx,0x1c0fe2810539
66 483bd3 REX.W cmpq rdx,rbx
69 0f8527000000 jnz 0x3b5172e842f6 <+0x96>
-- B7 start --
-- B8 start --
-- B9 start --
-- B10 start (deconstruct frame) --
6f 488b4017 REX.W movq rax,[rax+0x17]
73 488be5 REX.W movq rsp,rbp
76 5d non rbp

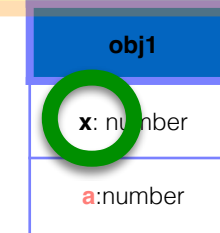
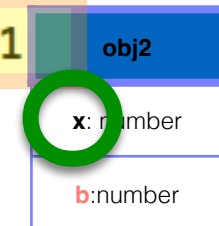
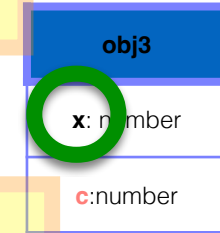
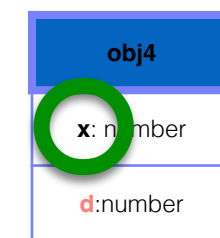
```

```
;; object: 0x1c0fe2810431
```

```
;; object: 0x1c0fe2810489
```

```
;; object: 0x1c0fe28104e1
```

```
;; object: 0x1c0fe2810539
```



```
8f eb82 jmp 0x3b5172e84273 <+0x13>
```

```
91 e80afdbfff call 0x3b5172a84000 ;; deoptimization bailout 0
```

```
96 e80ffdbfff call 0x3b5172a8400a ;; deoptimization bailout 1
```

```
9h 90 non
```

More than 4 types

```
80d0000 REX.W movq rcx,0xda88fb8cea9    ;; object: 0xda88fb8cea9 <String[1]: x>
3000000 REX.W movq rax,0x3000000000
      REX.W movq rdx,[rbp+0x10]
      REX.W movq rsi,[rbp-0x8]
      call 0x3beb682a4ee0 (LoadICTrampoline)    ;; code: LOAD_IC
      REX.W movq rsp,rbp
      pop rbp
      ret 0x10
      \
```

```
function load(obj) {  
  return obj.x  
}
```

```
load({x: 4, a: 7, b: undefined, c: undefined, d: undefined})  
load({x: 4, a: undefined, b: 9, c: undefined, d: undefined})  
load({x: 4, a: undefined, b: undefined, c: 3, d: undefined})  
load({x: 4, a: undefined, b: undefined, c: undefined, d: 1})
```

Always construct
the same type of
objects!

obj
x: number
a: number
b: number
c: number
d: number

```

-- B3 start (deconstruct frame) --
13  488b4510      REX.W movq rax,[rbp+0x10]
17  a801         test al,0x1
19  0f8436000000  jz 0x2c1aa92042b5 <+0x55>
1f  48bba908e94b70020000 REX.W movq rbx,0x2704be908a9    ;; object: 0x2704be908a9
29  483958ff      REX.W cmpq [rax-0x1],rbx
2d  0f8527000000  jnz 0x2c1aa92042ba <+0x5a>
33  488b4017      REX.W movq rax,[rax+0x17]
37  488be5       REX.W movq rsp,rbp
3a  5d           pop rbp
3b  c21000       ret 0x10
-- B4 start (no frame) --
-- B1 start (deferred) --
-- <mono-long.js:1:14> --
3e  48bb503a220c2a7f0000 REX.W movq rbx,0x7f2a0c223a50    ;; external refe
48  33c0         xorl rax,rax
4a  488b75f8      REX.W movq rsi,[rbp-0x8]
4e  e84d02d8ff    call 0x2c1aa8f84500    ;; code: STUB, CEntryStub, minor: 8
53  ebbe        jmp 0x2c1aa9204273 <+0x13>
55  e846fdbfff    call 0x2c1aa8e04000    ;; deoptimization bailout 0
5a  e84bfdbfff    call 0x2c1aa8e0400a    ;; deoptimization bailout 1
5c  cc

```

obj
x: number
a: number
b: number
c: number
d: number

Computed names in object literal definitions

ES5

```
function foo() {  
  let o = {};  
  o[x] = 1;  
  return o;  
}
```

ES6

```
function foo() {  
  return {[x]: 1}  
}
```

Reminder

```
var x = 'foo'
```

```
obj.x = 1;
```

```
obj[x] = 1;    // o.foo
```


Remember the key and use fast path to create the object.

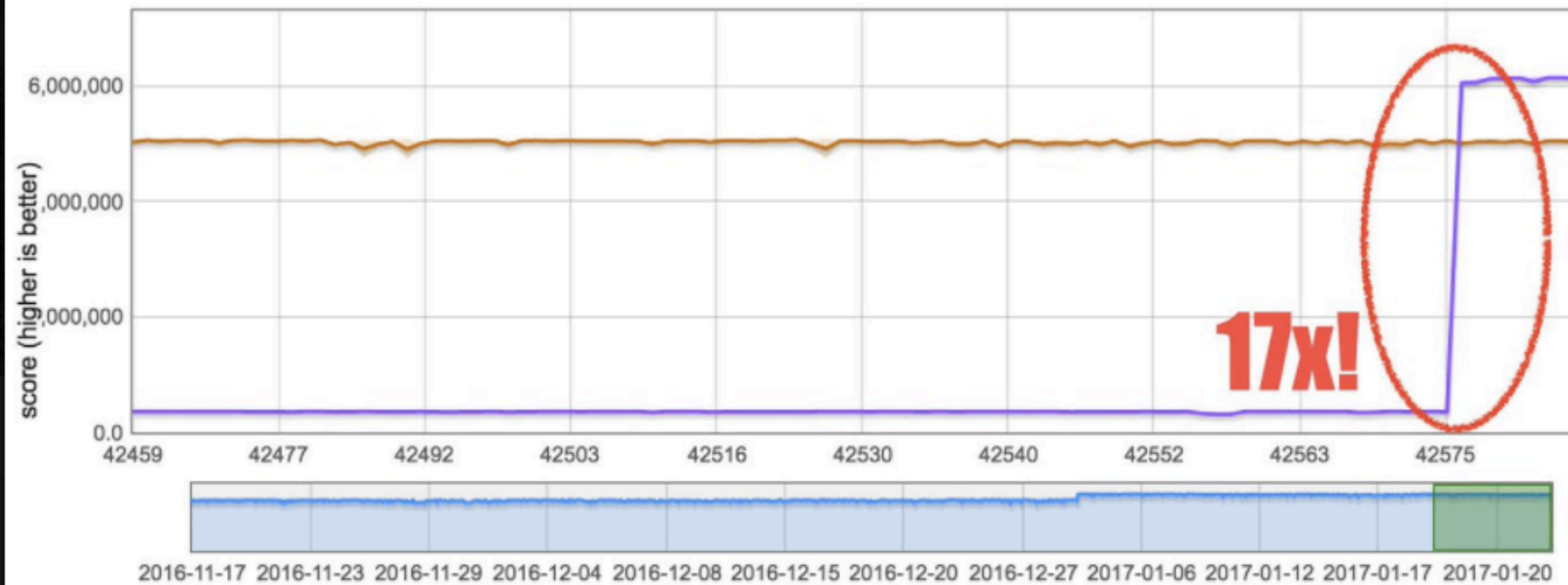
```
function foo() {  
    return {[x]: 1}  
}
```



Benedikt Meurer
@bmeurer

Following

internal.client.v8/x64/v8 / SixSpeed / Computed property names in object literals /



Click and drag graph to measure or zoom.

Traces: [select all](#) | [deselect all](#) | [core only](#)

- ☐ ObjectLiterals-ES5 [i](#)
 - ☒ ObjectLiterals-ES6 [i](#)
- [less](#)



Benedikt Meurer @bmeurer · Jan 22

Another great ES2015 improvement: [@fhinkel](#) just boosted performance of computed property names by 17x! Now faster than naive ES5! 🚀🔥 pic.twitter.com/DesB9kzA4q

2

135

286

Munich

[benediktmeurer.de](#)

Joined May 2011

17x!

2

135

286

Try with Node.js or Chrome

- `-print-opt-code`: code generated by optimizing compiler
- `-print-bytecode`: bytecode generated by interpreter
- `-trace-ic`: different object types a call sites encounters
- `-trace-opt` and `-trace-deopt`: which functions are (de)optimized

Write code that looks like statically typed.



@fhinkel



franzih@google.com

More resources

- v8project.blogspot.com
- benediktmeurer.de
- <http://ripsawridge.github.io/>
- <https://medium.com/@tverwaes>