Time profilers:

Give you a tree of time spent in functions

Can be used to identify hotspots

Xcode Instruments - Time Profiler, VS Profile, Intel VTune

System Tracers:

Show events such as system calls, memory management, thread interruptions etc.

Xcode Instruments - System Trace, DTrace/strace

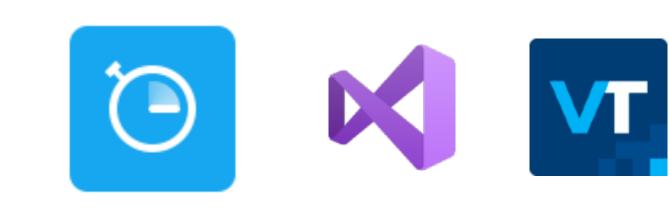
Performance counters:

Reads CPU hardware registers for things like branch mis-predictions, cache misses etc.

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Always profile release builds!

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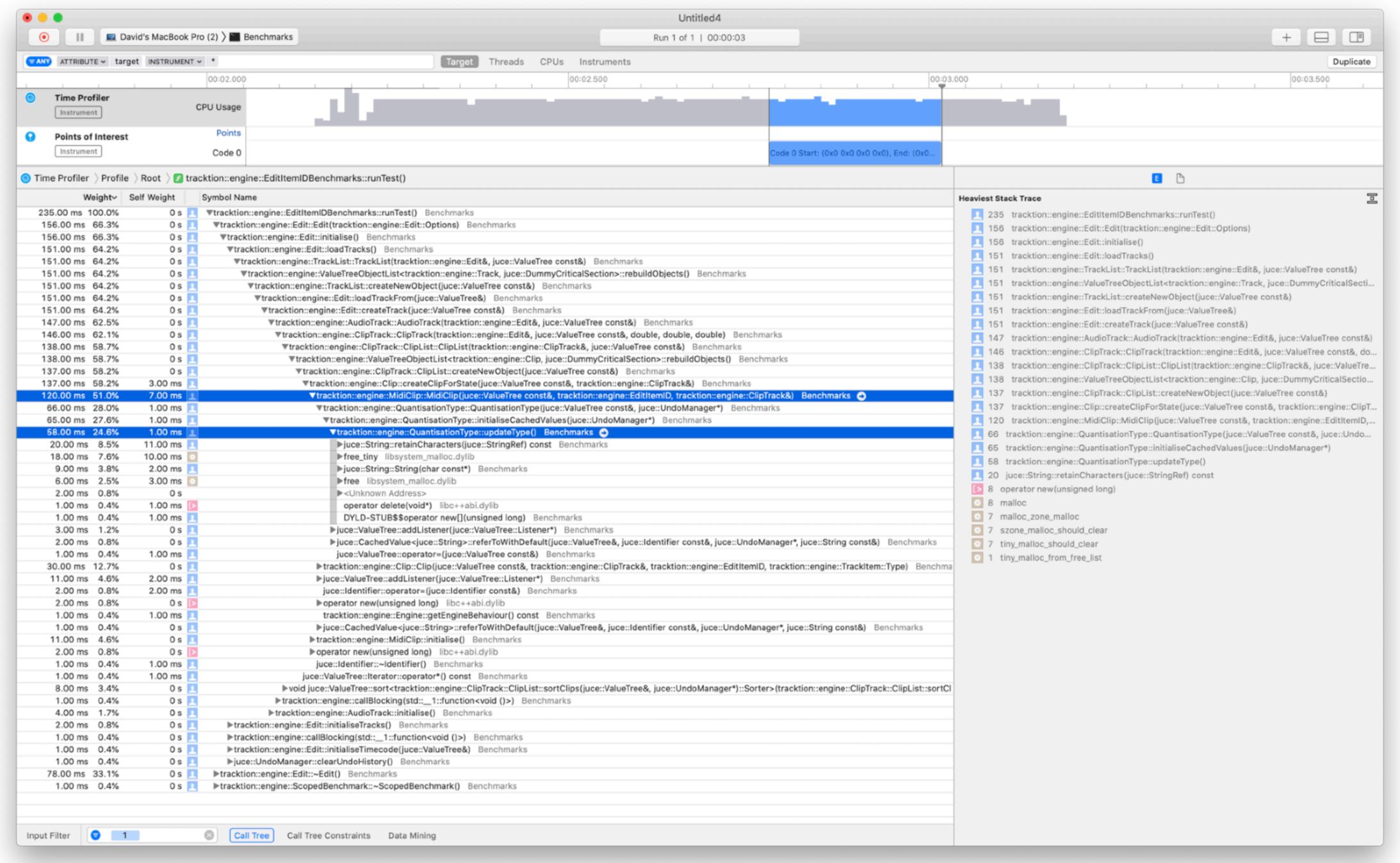












Time Profiler