

Project **EaRing**: A Meta-Literal Machine

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June 9, 2008

A Meta-Literal Machine

- Everyone gets to announce a VM these days

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- **Their VMs are slow, because they're virtual**

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- **Or, anything with "cloud" computing**

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- EaRing is literal, so it is as fast as your CPU
- EaRing sounds like Erlang so it's fast
- Just like anything with memcache is fast
- Or, anything with "cloud" computing
- **So EaRing will be fast, fast, fast!**

What Is A Literal Machine?

- A VM is a big while-loop

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- **Reading bytes**

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- **And then running another language**

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- And then running another language
- Like C, or Ruby, or C-Ruby, or Scheme
- **Or, Assembler**

A Literal Machine...

- **Makes the real byte codes**

A Literal Machine...

- Makes the real byte codes
- **You might call it an "assembler"**

A Literal Machine...

- Makes the real byte codes
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- **They are pretty handy**

A Literal Machine...

- Makes the real byte codes
- You might call it an "assembler"
- They are pretty handy
- **For, you know, making fast code**

EaRing Is Meta

- **Meta is awesome**

EaRing Is Meta

- Meta is awesome
- **It lets people do amazing things**

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- **Where would Rails 50k lines of code be...**

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- Where would Rails 50k lines of code be...
- **Without Meta Meta Meta!**

EaRing Is Meta

- Meta is awesome
- It lets people do amazing things
- Where would Rails 50k lines of code be...
- Without Meta Meta Meta!
- **(Probably 20k still)**

EaRing Took Me Two Weeks!

- I am a god

EaRing Took Me Two Weeks!

- I am a god
- **Just like Avi and Gemstone**

EaRing Took Me Two Weeks!

- I am a god
- Just like Avi and Gemstone
- **I totally didn't cheat either**

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EaRing Is For You

- With EaRing, Even you can announce a new Ruby VM in a few short weeks.

EaRing Is For You

- With EaRing, Even **you** can announce a new Ruby VM in a few short weeks.
- **Just take what I show you here today,**

EaRing Is For You

- With EaRing, Even **you** can announce a new Ruby VM in a few short weeks.
- Just take what I show you here today,
- **add any Ruby parser you can find,**

EaRing Is For You

- With EaRing, Even **you** can announce a new Ruby VM in a few short weeks.
- Just take what I show you here today,
- add any Ruby parser you can find,
- **and PRESTO, you are a player baby.**

EaRing

- **The Perfect Accessory To Every Ruby On Rails Company(tm)**

What Is EaRing Really?

- Simple

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- **A parser for a simple assembly language**

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- **Doing this on multiple CPUs (x86-32, x86-64, PPC, SPARC)**

What Is EaRing Really?

- Simple
- A parser for a simple assembly language
- That generates machine code dynamically
- Giving you dynamic access to functions
- Doing this on multiple CPUs (x86-32, x86-64, PPC, SPARC)
- **From the same source**

Fibonacci Demo

- **The Best Benchmark Ever**

Fibonacci Demo

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- **There's No Way To Make It Faster**

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- **Every new VM announce uses it**

Fibonacci Demo

- The Best Benchmark Ever
- There's No Way To Make It Faster
- Every new VM announce uses it
- **Mine will blow the doors off**

Basic Iterative Fib In EaRing

- **This is so fast!**

Basic Iterative Fib In EaRing

- This is so fast!
- **Only 1 slide of code!**

```
function fibit(in : ulong) : ulong
    getarg.ul(R2, in)
    movi.ul(R1, 1)
    blti.ul(exit:, R2, 2)
    subi.ul(R2, R2, 1)
    movi.ul(R0, 1)
loop:
    subi.ul(R2, R2, 1)
    addr.ul(V0, R0, R1)
    movr.ul(R0, R1)
    addi.ul(R1, V0, 1)
    bnei.ul(loop:, R2, 0)
exit:
    movr.ul(RET, R1)
    ret
end
```

The Main Method

- Notice the import. That's dynamic!

```
%import("includes/fibit.asm", "fibit")

function main() : ulong
    prepare(1)
    movi.ul(R0, 93)

    pusharg.ul(R0)
    finish(fibit.fibit)
    retval.ul(R0)

    movr.ul(RET, R0)
    ret
end
```

Timing To Parse And Run?

- **Actually too fast to measure.**

Timing To Parse And Run?

- Actually too fast to measure.
- **About 0.005 seconds on most machines.**


```
$ time ./earring includes/fibit_main.asm main  
EaRing. Copyright 2008 Zed A. Shaw.  
Done compiling includes/fibit_main.asm. Enter ? to get t  
main >> 2587060292317343101
```

```
real          0m0.005s  
user          0m0.000s  
sys           0m0.003s
```

Dynamic REPL

- Yes, EaRing has a REPL

Dynamic REPL

- Yes, EaRing has a REPL
- **It makes learning ASM pretty fun**

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Done compiling simpler.asm. Enter ? to get the function

>>> main

>> -0.839072

>>> ?

data_sharing_test: 57 bytes of code, 0 params defined

fibit_huge_loop: 68 bytes of code, 0 params defined

fibit: 77 bytes of code, 1 params defined

incrementer: 32 bytes of code, 0 params defined

main: 163 bytes of code, 0 params defined

make_test1_test2: 56 bytes of code, 0 params defined

nfibs: 117 bytes of code, 1 params defined

print_fibit10: 52 bytes of code, 0 params defined

print_nfibs10: 52 bytes of code, 0 params defined

print_reflect: 52 bytes of code, 0 params defined

puts_sample: 98 bytes of code, 0 params defined

ram_test: 83 bytes of code, 0 params defined

```
reflect: 18 bytes of code, 1 params defined
test2: 21 bytes of code, 0 params defined
test1: 29 bytes of code, 0 params defined
>>> test1
>> 100
>>> test2
>> 100
>>>
```

How Fast Is It?!

- **Let's do 5 million fib 93 calls!**

```
%import("includes/fibit.asm", "fibit")
```

```
function main() : ulong  
    movi.ui(V1, 5000000)
```

```
again:
```

```
    prepare(1)  
    movi.ul(R0, 93)  
    pusharg.ul(R0)  
    finish(fibit.fibit)  
    retval.ul(R0)
```

```
# decrement and repeat  
subi.ui(V1, V1, 1)  
bgti.ui(again:, V1, 0)
```

```
# grab the last value as a check
```

```
    movr.ul(RET, R0)
    ret
end
```


Timing To Parse And Run?

- Remember, this is 5.000.000 function calls

Timing To Parse And Run?

- Remember, this is 5.000.000 function calls
- **To a Fibonacci sequence up to 93**

Timing To Parse And Run?

- Remember, this is 5.000.000 function calls
- To a Fibonacci sequence up to 93
- **About 1.8 seconds on my laptop**

```
$ time ./earring includes/fibit_huge.asm main  
EaRing. Copyright 2008 Zed A. Shaw.  
Done compiling includes/fibit_huge.asm. Enter ? to get t  
main >> 2587060292317343101
```

```
real          0m1.755s  
user          0m1.747s  
sys           0m0.003s
```

More Features!

- **Fully dynamic functions.**

More Features!

- Fully dynamic functions.
- **Thread safe (hopefully) and library capable.**

More Features!

- Fully dynamic functions.
- Thread safe (hopefully) and library capable.
- **Can even access .so libraries!**

```
%library("/lib/libc.so.6", "libc")
```

```
function puts_sample() : int  
    MY_NAME = "Zed A. Shaw"
```

```
    movi.p(R0, MY_NAME)  
    prepare(1)  
    pusharg.p(R0)  
    finish(libc.puts)
```

```
    ret
```

```
end
```


The Results Of Puts

- **Yep, does what you think.**

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Done compiling includes/puts_sample.asm. Enter ? to get

puts_sample Zed A. Shaw

>> 12

More Features!

- You want more?!

More Features!

- You want more?!
- **Dynamic constants!**

More Features!

- You want more?!
- Dynamic constants!
- **Reference Constants in other functions!**

```
%library("/lib/libc.so.6", "libc")
```

```
SOME_STUFF = "Hello!"
```

```
function i_have_constants() : void  
    A_NAME = "Hi There"  
    ret  
end
```

```
function puts_other() : int  
    movi.p(R0, self.i_have_constants.A_NAME)  
    prepare(1)  
    pusharg.p(R0)  
    finish(libc.puts)  
  
    movi.p(R0, SOME_STUFF)  
    prepare(1)
```

```
    pusharg.p(R0)
    finish(libc.puts)

ret
end
```

MORE FEATURES?!

- **Functions Are Also Dynamic Constants!**

MORE FEATURES?!

- Functions Are Also Dynamic Constants!
- **ONE FUNCTION CAN ALTER ANOTHER!**

```
function test1() : int
    movi.i(R1, 10000)
    movi.i(R0, 20)

    mulr.i(RET, R1, R0)
    ret
end
```

```
function test2(): int
    movi.i(RET, 100)
    ret
end
```

```
function make_test1_test2() : int
    movi.ui(R1, 0)

next:
```

```
ldxi.c(R0, R1, self.test2)
stxi.c(self.test1, R1, R0)
addi.ui(R1, R1, 1)
blti.ui(next:, R1, 21)

calli(self.test1)

ret

end
```

Oh That's Evil

- But does it work?

Oh That's Evil

- But does it work?
- **Of course!**

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Done compiling includes/func_swap.asm. Enter ? to get th

>>> ?

make_test1_test2: 56 bytes of code, 0 params defined

test2: 21 bytes of code, 0 params defined

test1: 29 bytes of code, 0 params defined

>>> test1

>> 200000

>>> test2

>> 100

>>> make_test1_test2

>> 100

>>>

What About Garbage Collection?

- Collection? Garbage?

What About Garbage Collection?

- Collection? Garbage?
- **This is assembler baby.**

What About Garbage Collection?

- Collection? Garbage?
- This is assembler baby.
- **You do your own GC.**

```
%library("/lib/libc.so.6", "libc")

function ram_test() : void
    movi.ui(R0, 1024)
    prepare(1)
    pusharg.ui(R0)
    finish(libc.malloc)
    movr.ui(R0, RET)

    prepare(1)
    pusharg.ui(R0)
    finish(libc.free)

    ret
end
```

Any Dynamic Library Dynamically

- You want GC? You got GC.

Any Dynamic Library Dynamically

- You want GC? You got GC.
- **You want threads? You got threads.**

Any Dynamic Library Dynamically

- You want GC? You got GC.
- You want threads? You got threads.
- **You want printf?**

Any Dynamic Library Dynamically

- You want GC? You got GC.
- You want threads? You got threads.
- You want printf?
- **Sorry, uh, printf is weird.**

MORE FEATURES?!

- **Actual Real Very Nice Error Messages**

MORE FEATURES?!

- Actual Real Very Nice Error Messages
- **With, Line numbers even!**

MORE FEATURES?!

- Actual Real Very Nice Error Messages
- With, Line numbers even!
- **Already Better Than MRI**

```
function badoptype : v
    movi.blah(R0,R1)
end
```

```
function badfunctype : not
    movi.ui(R0,1)
end
```

```
function unterminated : v
```

```
function recovers : v
end
```

```
function badtokens : i
    movi.ui($$, $$)
end
```

Error Reporting Is Sweet

- When I run that, it will make you cry.

```
error.asm:1: error at COLON token in  
[ FUNCTION IDENT | COLON ] unexpected ':'  
error.asm:1: error at TYPE token in  
[ | TYPE ] unexpected 'v'  
error.asm:2: error at OP token in  
[ statements | OP ] unexpected 'movi'  
error.asm:5: error at COLON token in  
[ statements FUNCTION IDENT | COLON ] unexpected ':'  
error.asm:9: error at COLON token in  
[ statements FUNCTION IDENT | COLON ] unexpected ':'  
error.asm:12: error at COLON token in  
[ statements FUNCTION IDENT | COLON ] unexpected ':'  
error.asm:16: error at COLON token in  
[ statements FUNCTION IDENT | COLON ] unexpected ':'  
error.asm:17: invalid character '$'
```

It Wasn't That Hard

- When I say, "two weeks", I'm not bragging.

It Wasn't That Hard

- When I say, "two weeks", I'm not bragging.
- **I'm saying you could do it too.**

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- **If you take the code I wrote (not generated)**

It Wasn't That Hard

- When I say, "two weeks", I'm not bragging.
- I'm saying you could do it too.
- If you take the code I wrote (not generated)
- **2001 lines of text.**


```
329 src/data.c
164 src/directives.c
111 src/easing.c
 36 src/error.c
216 src/module.c
 79 src/naming.c
184 src/ops.c
 14 src/repl.c
 75 src/util.c

166 src/data.h
 10 src/directives.h
  9 src/error.h
 20 src/grammar.h
 10 src/lexer.h
 20 src/naming.h
145 src/ops.h
```

```
9  src/repl.h
14 src/tokenize.h
9  src/util.h

150 src/grammar.y
231 src/lexer.rl
Total: 2001
```

Now Leverage Existing Libraries

- **sglib for data structures I needed.**

Now Leverage Existing Libraries

- sglib for data structures I needed.
- **GNU lightning for generating the machine code.**

Now Leverage Existing Libraries

- sglib for data structures I needed.
- GNU lightning for generating the machine code.
- **Lemon Parser for making the parser. Here's a sample.**

```
module ::= statements.
parameters ::= LPAREN args RPAREN.
    parameters ::= .
args ::= args COMMA expr.
    args ::= expr.
    args ::= .
operation ::= OP DOT TYPE parameters.
    operation ::= OP parameters.
expr ::= HEX.
    expr ::= FLOAT.    expr ::= INT.
    expr ::= STR.    expr ::= CHR.
    expr ::= REG.    expr ::= LABEL.
function ::= FUNCTION function_decl block END.
function_decl ::= IDENT LPAREN function_params
    RPAREN COLON TYPE.
```

Ragel For Lexer

- Ragel is an awesome tool making this pretty easy.

Ragel For Lexer

- Ragel is an awesome tool making this pretty easy.
- **Does a lot more work than most lexers.**

Then A Bit Of Magic

- Ternary Search Trees

Then A Bit Of Magic

- Ternary Search Trees
- **My Favorite Data Structure**

Then A Bit Of Magic

- Ternary Search Trees
- My Favorite Data Structure
- **Nearly impossible to explain**

Then A Bit Of Magic

- Ternary Search Trees
- My Favorite Data Structure
- Nearly impossible to explain
- **Fast as hell for looking up strings**

```
void *Naming_search(tnode *root, const char *s, int len)
{
    tnode *p = root;
    int i = 0;

    while(i < len && p) {
        if (s[i] < p->splitchar) {
            p = p->low;
        } else if (s[i] == p->splitchar) {
            i++;
            if(i < len) p = p->equal;
        } else {
            p = p->high;
        }
    }

    if(p) {
```

```
        return p->value;
    } else {
        return NULL;
    }
}
```

```
tnode *Naming_insert(tnode *p, const char *s, int len, void  
{  
    if (p == NULL) {  
        p = (tnode *) calloc(1, sizeof(tnode));  
        p->splitchar = *s;  
    }  
  
    if (*s < p->splitchar) {  
        p->low = Naming_insert(p->low, s, len, value);  
    } else if (*s == p->splitchar) {  
        if (len > 1) {
```

// not done yet, keep going but one less

```
p->equal = Naming_insert(p->equal, s+1, len -
```

```
} else {
```

```
    p->value = value;
```

```
}
```

```
} else {
```

```
    p->high = Naming_insert(p->high, s, len, value);
```

```
}
```

```
return p;
```

```
}
```

```
void Naming_traverse(tnode *p, Naming_traverse_cb cb, void
```

```
{
```

```
    if (!p) return;
```

```
    if(p->low) Naming_traverse(p->low, cb, data);
```

```
if (p->equal) {  
    Naming_traverse(p->equal, cb, data);  
}  
  
if(p->high) Naming_traverse(p->high, cb, data);  
  
if(p->value) cb(p->value, data);  
}
```


Naming And TSTs

- Trading space for speed

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- **Don't scale up to giant strings**

Naming And TSTs

- Trading space for speed
- Don't scale up to giant strings
- **But super fast for small strings**

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- **Especially language identifiers**

Naming And TSTs

- Trading space for speed
- Don't scale up to giant strings
- But super fast for small strings
- Especially language identifiers
- **Works like a Hashmap with extra features**

TST Extra Features

- Can do a partial match (like begins with, ends with)

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- **Can do most Regex over it**

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- **Faster to not find a member**

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- Faster to **not** find a member
- **Can do probable matches.**

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- Can do most Regex over it
- Faster to **not** find a member
- Can do probable matches.
- **Can't find 'idint' but there is 'ident'.**

TST Extra Features

- Can do a partial match (like begins with, ends with)
- Can do most Regex over it
- Faster to **not** find a member
- Can do probable matches.
- Can't find 'idint' but there is 'ident'.
- **All great things when writing a parser**

Now, Put It All Together

- **An assembler,**

Now, Put It All Together

- An assembler,
- **That parses a real-ish language,**

Now, Put It All Together

- An assembler,
- That parses a real-ish language,
- **With error messages and fast parsing,**

Now, Put It All Together

- An assembler,
- That parses a real-ish language,
- With error messages and fast parsing,
- **Which can generate actual machine code,**

Now, Put It All Together

- An assembler,
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- Which can generate actual machine code,
- **With introspection, dynamic libraries, imports,**

Now, Put It All Together

- An assembler,
- That parses a real-ish language,
- With error messages and fast parsing,
- Which can generate actual machine code,
- With introspection, dynamic libraries, imports,
- **Yet you can modify and manipulate the results,**

Now, Put It All Together

- An assembler,
- That parses a real-ish language,
- With error messages and fast parsing,
- Which can generate actual machine code,
- With introspection, dynamic libraries, imports,
- Yet you can modify and manipulate the results,
- **And, on multiple CPUs from one source.**

100 Days For MagLev?!

- **Two Weeks! I win!**

100 Days For MagLev?!

- Two Weeks! I win!
- **Yeah yeah, they got an Object Database.**

100 Days For MagLev?!

- Two Weeks! I win!
- Yeah yeah, they got an Object Database.
- **Those have been real successful.**

Why You Should Buy EaRing

- **Buy?! What The FUCK I DEMAND OPEN SOURCE.**

Fine, It's Open Source Then

- **Sales Job Done!**

Disclaimer

- Zed A. Shaw and the EaRing project are not responsible for any limitations, effects, or implications of using said software not limited to but including hair loss, nuclear reactor failures, performance limitations, difficult debugging, infection of the right eye, deterioration of small intestines, or sudden rapid blindness.

The Bonus To You

- **EaRing will be the perfect accessory to any Ruby company.**

The Bonus To You

- EaRing will be the perfect accessory to any Ruby company.
- **To be top in the Ruby world, you need a VM.**

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- EaRing will be the perfect accessory to any Ruby company.
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- **Without one, you're just a "Rails Shop". That's lame.**

The Bonus To You

- EaRing will be the perfect accessory to any Ruby company.
- To be top in the Ruby world, you need a VM.
- Without one, you're just a "Rails Shop". That's lame.
- **With EaRing, you have 50% of what you need to make a Ruby VM good enough to present.**

Imagine The Press Releases!

- The Blogosphere will be blowing you harder than a 2 dollar whore with a bag of cash and no teeth.

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- **Imagine, all those Ruby programmers who blog so much, all the time, rather than, you know, writing good code.**

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- **How influential will their pretty 5 paragraph posts about your VM be to the world?**

Imagine The Press Releases!

- The Blogosphere will be blowing you harder than a 2 dollar whore with a bag of cash and no teeth.
- Imagine, all those Ruby programmers who blog so much, all the time, rather than, you know, writing good code.
- How influential will their pretty 5 paragraph posts about **your** VM be to the world?
- **They're Ruby blogs! Your grandma will know! Senators will know! The WORLD will know!**

Resurrect Failing Platforms

- Got a VM that only 10 companies pay for like Gemstone?

Resurrect Failing Platforms

- Got a VM that only 10 companies pay for like Gemstone?
- **Got a platform that is dying faster than Darfur like Sun?**

Resurrect Failing Platforms

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- **Got a reputation for raping children like Microsoft?**

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- **EaRing will let you resurrect your failing platform, to the applause of millions!**

Resurrect Failing Platforms

- Got a VM that only 10 companies pay for like Gemstone?
- Got a platform that is dying faster than Darfur like Sun?
- Got a reputation for raping children like Microsoft?
- EaRing will let you resurrect your failing platform, to the applause of millions!
- **No, billions!**

Be A Good Guy

- You're helping open source!

Be A Good Guy

- You're helping open source!
- **How could that possibly go wrong?**

Be A Good Guy

- You're helping open source!
- How could that possibly go wrong?
- **Sun and Microsoft have great histories with open source.**

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- **That's been so successful for me in the past.**

Amdahl's Law

- $1/((1-f)+(f/p))$

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- **Anyone know what this is?**

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- It's mathematics for, "You're Fucked".
- $f ==$ Fraction of a program you can parallelize.
- **$p ==$ Number of CPUs you can run it on in parallel.**

Amdahl's Law And Programmers

- **Imagine that programmers aren't very good.**

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- **Now, imagine that there's a range of values for f depending on how good they can parallelize.**

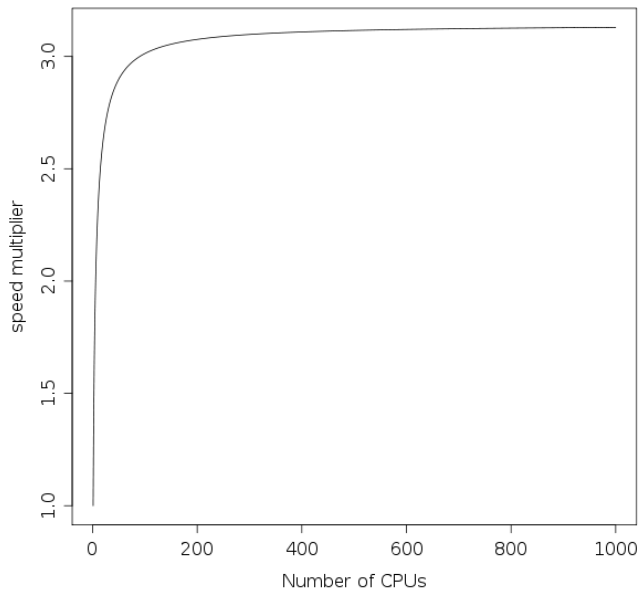
Amdahl's Law And Programmers

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- Now, imagine that there's a range of values for f depending on how good they can parallelize.
- **f now becomes a normal curve with a mean and standard deviations determining the quality of parallel processing implementation.**

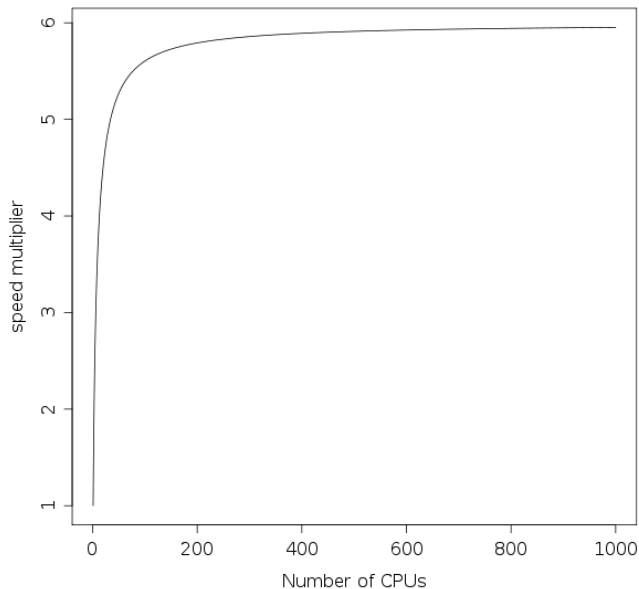
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- **p becomes a fixed input of CPUs.**

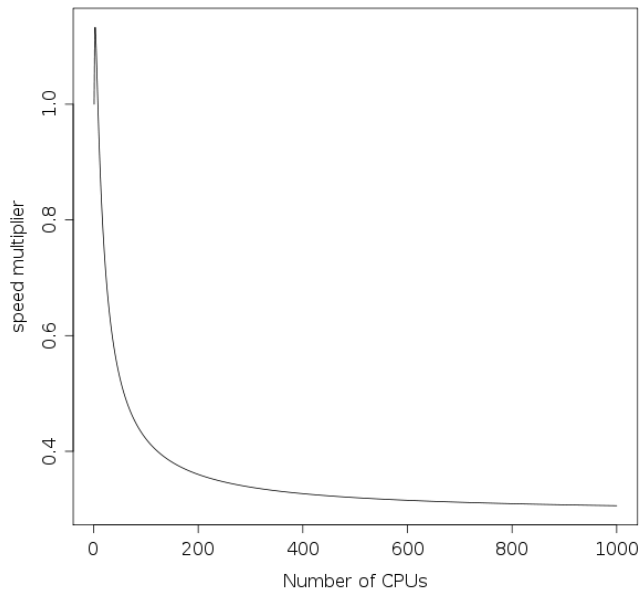
Mean Programmer Talent



High Programmer Talent



Low Programmer Talent



Last Graph Was Bullshit

- It is weirdly true, but that graph doesn't mean anything.

The Message Is There

- **Throw as many cores as you want at the problem.**

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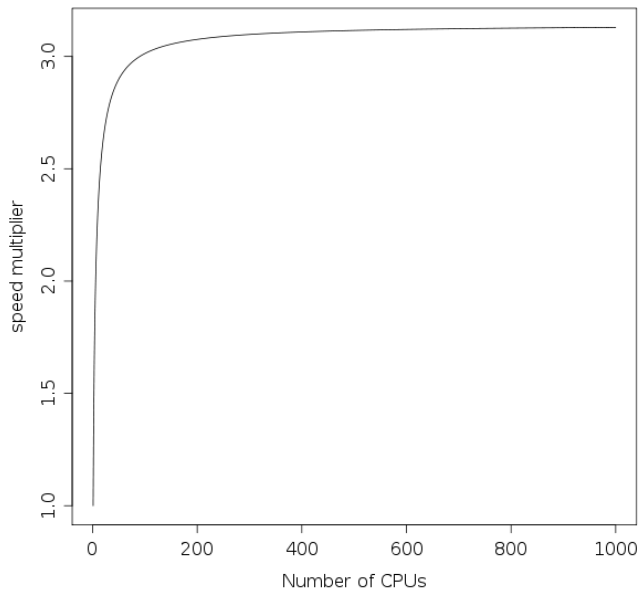
The Message Is There

- Throw as many cores as you want at the problem.
- The real limiter is programmer ability
- And a more complex Prolog like Erlang isn't helping.
- **Instead, the platform should make this easier.**

It's A Multiplier

- Let's look at that graph again though.

Mean Programmer Talent



It's A Multiplier

- One thing the pimps of parallel don't tell you

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- One thing the pimps of parallel don't tell you
- **You can also make your code faster**

It's A Multiplier

- One thing the pimps of parallel don't tell you
- You can also make your code faster
- **By...**

It's A Multiplier

- One thing the pimps of parallel don't tell you
- You can also make your code faster
- By...
- **Just making it fucking faster.**

Imagine A World

- Where you aren't working with a Virtual Machine

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- Where you aren't working with a Virtual Machine
- Instead, the OS and CPU supports dynamic languages easily
- Where you can use something like EaRing to sort-of-compile, sort-of-interpret
- I'm not saying EaRing is the answer.
- **But Amdahl's law says putting slow languages on more CPUs is only so helpful.**

Fibonacci

- Notice I wrote a fast Fibonacci sequence.

Fibonacci

- Notice I wrote a fast Fibonacci sequence.
- **It wasn't too hard, here it is again.**

```
function fibit(in : ulong) : ulong
    getarg.ul(R2, in)
    movi.ul(R1, 1)
    blti.ul(exit:, R2, 2)
    subi.ul(R2, R2, 1)
    movi.ul(R0, 1)
loop:
    subi.ul(R2, R2, 1)
    addr.ul(V0, R0, R1)
    movr.ul(R0, R1)
    addi.ul(R1, V0, 1)
    bnei.ul(loop:, R2, 0)
exit:
    movr.ul(RET, R1)
    ret
end
```

Fibonacci Should Be Banished

- It is too easy to game a measurement like this.

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Fibonacci Should Be Banished

- It is too easy to game a measurement like this.
- I just used a fast goto loop.
- You can even do tricks like static calculation and tables.
- **It shows only a minor type of computation, one that's not particularly useful.**

In Conclusion – You're Screwed

- **Amdahl's Law Says So.**

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- And blaming you for it
- **But who built things this way in the first place?**

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- We need CPUs that run modern languages
- Operating systems that run modern CPUs
- And languages that aren't fucking interpreted
- **The way Ruby is.**

And...

- **EaRing Is Going To Change The World.**

And...

- EaRing Is Going To Change The World.
- **One insult at a time.**

Tools Used

- **GNU Lightning**

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- **Ragel Super Lexer**

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- **Lemon Parser Generator**

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- **Vim**

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- **EaRing: `bzr pull http://zedshaw.com/repository/earing`**

Questions?

- **About Anything**