

Performance Profiling

Swift on Linux

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You've ported your Swift code to Linux. 



But you find out it's **slooooooooooooww.** 



A cartoon illustration of two brown bears in a green field. One bear is light brown and the other is dark brown. They are standing in front of a large tree with pink and red blossoms. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds.

But I thought Linux was webscale?!

Why might your Swift code be
slower on Linux?

Reasons why Swift code **might** be slower on Linux

- Platform differences
- Low level library differences (mach ports, libpthread, allocator)
- Different implementations
- Darwin Foundation vs swift-corelibs-foundation
- Lack of Objective-C runtime & optimizations

On macOS, you'd use Instruments.app 🤔



No such thing as

```
$ apt-get install instruments.app
```



CPU Profilers

Tool	OS	Notes
Instruments.app	macOS	Super powerful, accurate, great GUI
DTrace	macOS, Solaris, FreeBSD	Powers part of Instruments.app, very scriptable, not on Linux
Callgrind	macOS, Linux, Solaris	Fickle, slow, single-threaded, can run in VMs & containers
Perf Events	Linux on bare metal	Fast, accurate, CLI only, requires support for hardware counters

VMs vs Containers vs Bare Metal

VMs/Containers

Cheap

Local on macOS

Convenient

Limited Perf Tools

Bare Metal

Expensive

Dedicated Machine or Dual Boot

Not So Much

No Limitations

case

study

SwiftLint

A tool to enforce Swift style and conventions

```
2
! 3 let someForceCast = NSObject() as! Int      ! Force Cast Violation: Force casts should be avoided. (force_cast)
! 4 let colonOnWrongSide :Int = 0    ! Colon Violation: Colons should be next to the identifier when specifying a type. (colon)
5 // SwiftLint is syntax-aware
6 // NSNumber() as! Int => no error
7 "let colonOnWrongSide :Int = 0" // => no error
8
```

- Integrates into Xcode
- Plugins for AppCode, Vim, Sublime Text, Atom, Emacs
- 109 rules and counting, covering lint, idiomatic, style, metrics & performance

→ SwiftLint git:(f074ff7f)

SwiftLint Rule

Recently, a rule was introduced that was particularly slow

Variable Declaration Whitespace

Identifier	Enabled by default	Supports autocorrection	Kind
let_var_whitespace	Disabled	No	style

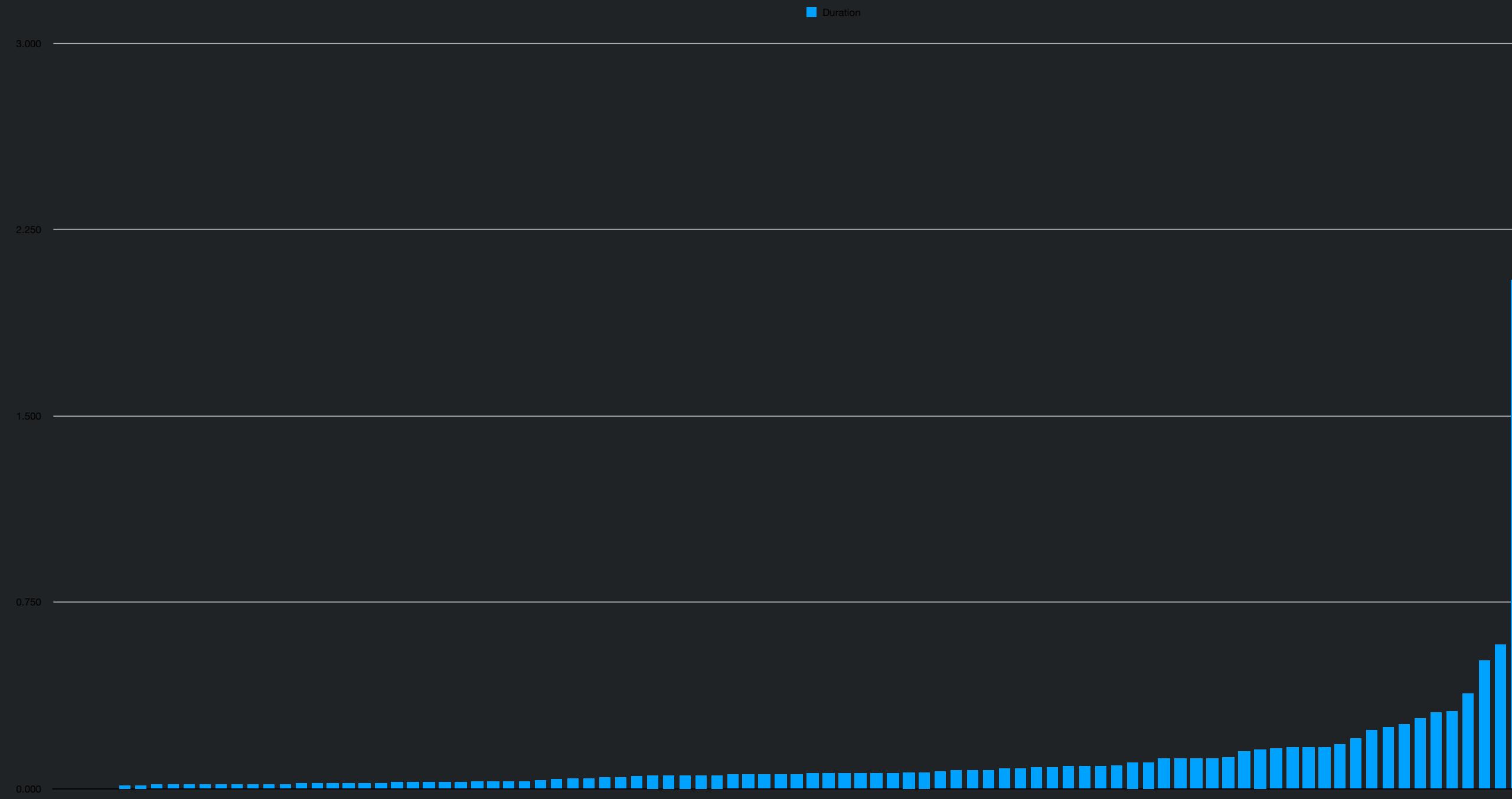
Let and var should be separated from other statements by a blank line.

Examples

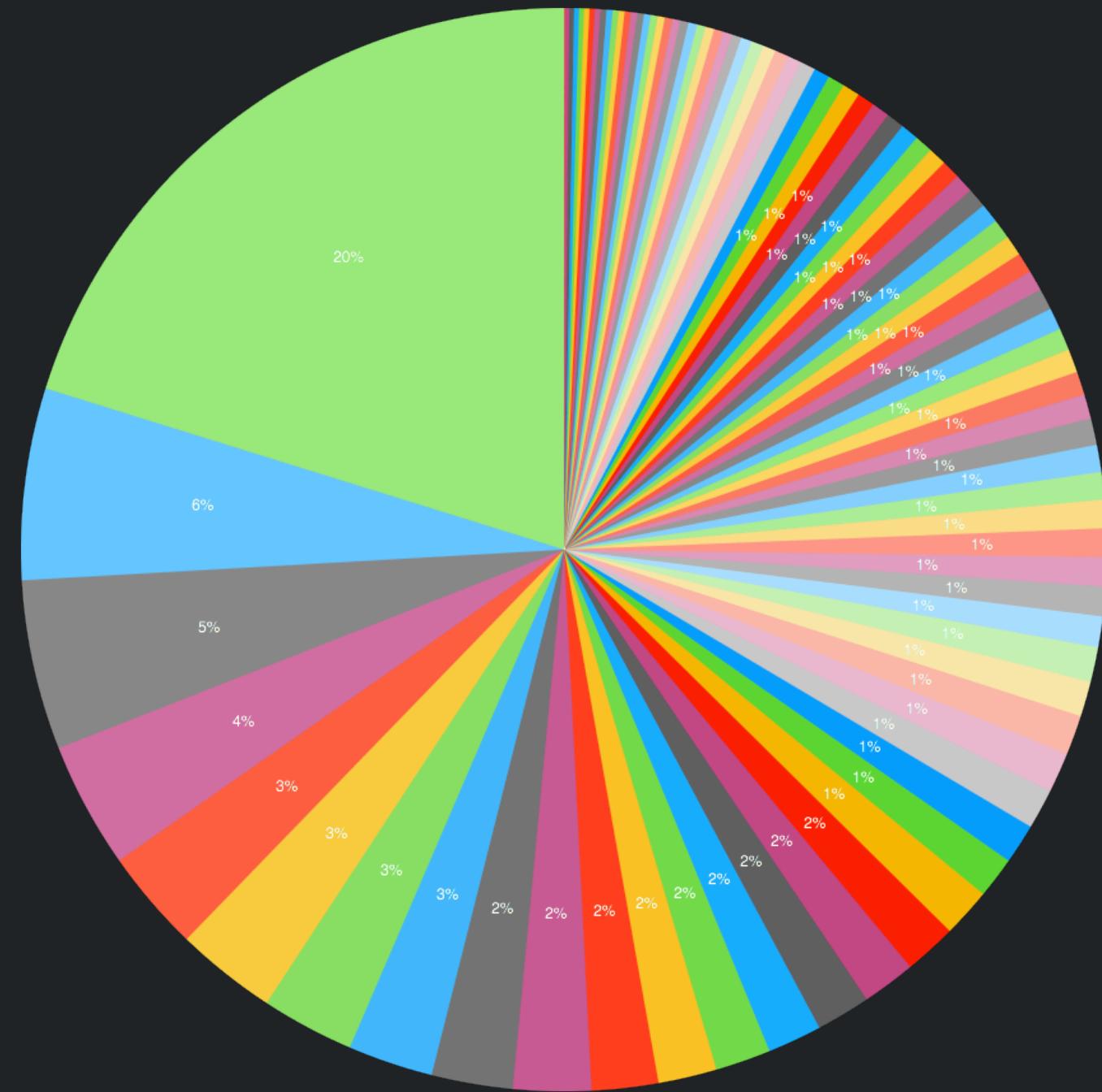
- ▶ Non Triggering Examples
- ▶ Triggering Examples

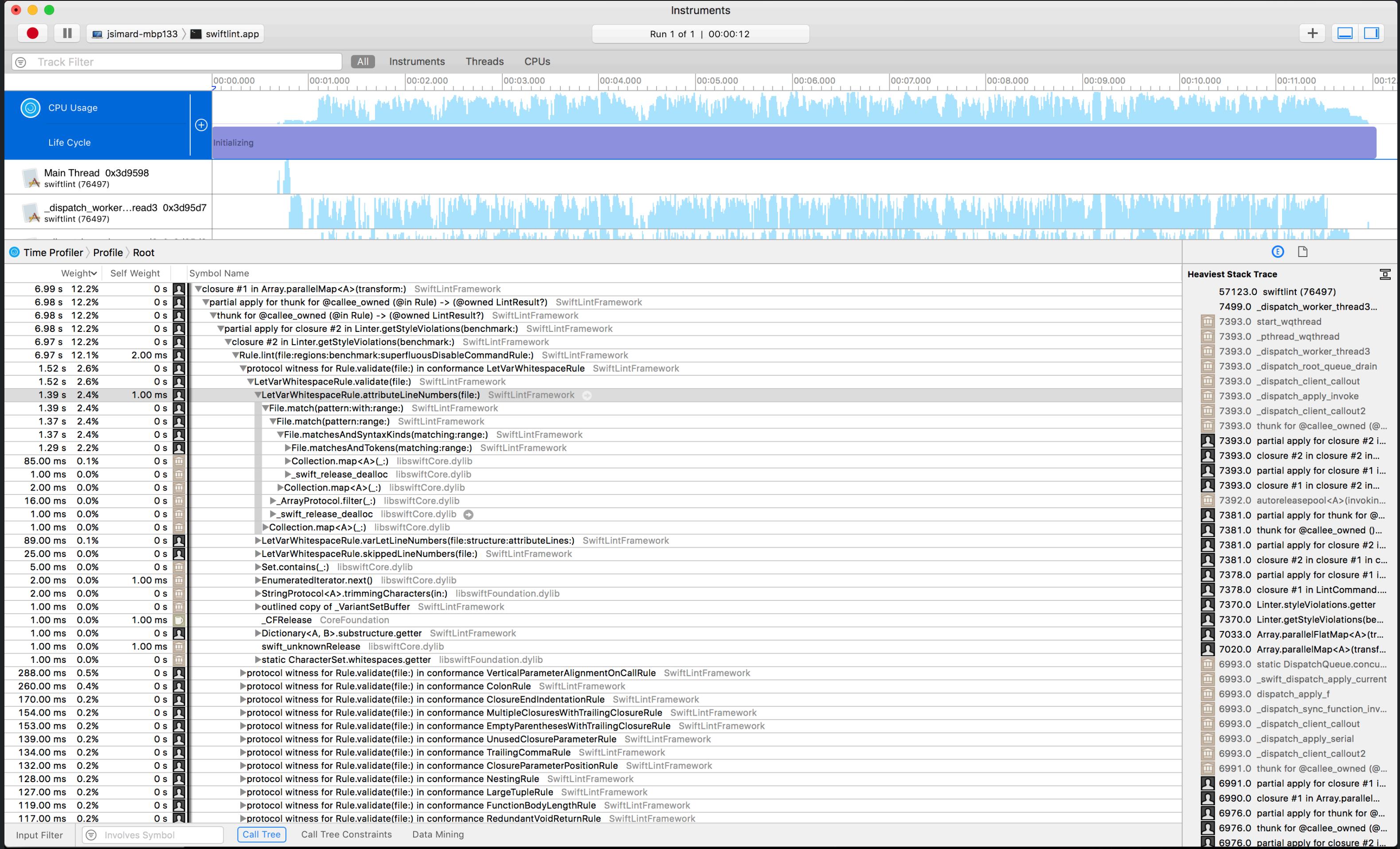
deemo

Rule Duration (Line)



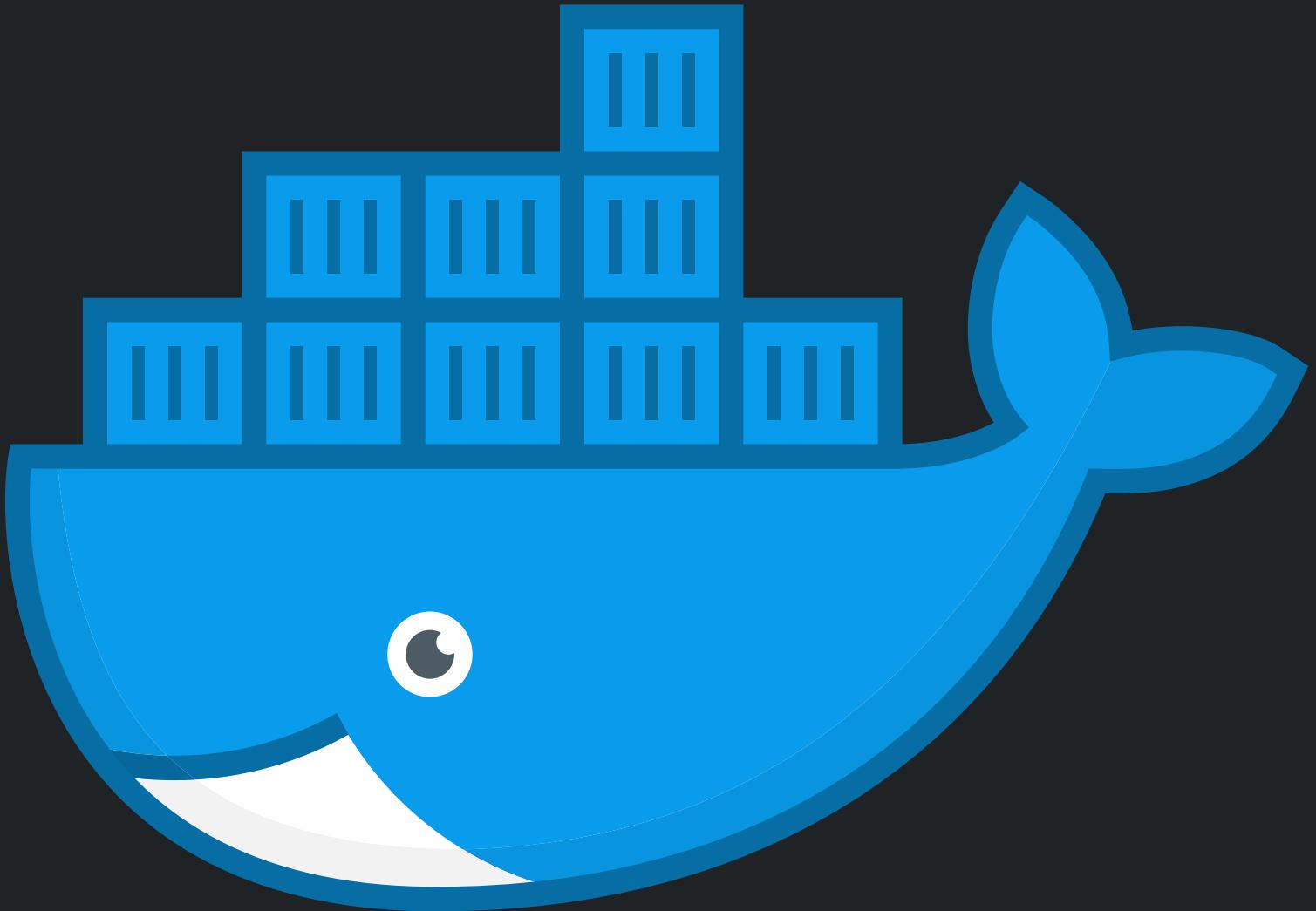
Rule Duration (Pie)





Time Profiler > Profile > Root

Weight	Self Weight	Symbol Name
6.99 s 12.2%	0 s	➤closure #1 in Array.parallelMap<A>(transform:) SwiftLintFramework
6.98 s 12.2%	0 s	➤partial apply for thunk for @callee_owned (@in Rule) -> (@owned LintResult?) SwiftLintFramework
6.98 s 12.2%	0 s	➤thunk for @callee_owned (@in Rule) -> (@owned LintResult?) SwiftLintFramework
6.98 s 12.2%	0 s	➤partial apply for closure #2 in Linter.getStyleViolations(benchmark:) SwiftLintFramework
6.97 s 12.2%	0 s	➤closure #2 in Linter.getStyleViolations(benchmark:) SwiftLintFramework
6.97 s 12.1%	2.00 ms	➤Rule.lint(file:regions:benchmark:superfluousDisableCommandRule:) SwiftLintFramework
1.52 s 2.6%	0 s	➤protocol witness for Rule.validate(file:) in conformance LetVarWhitespaceRule SwiftLintFramework
1.52 s 2.6%	0 s	➤LetVarWhitespaceRule.validate(file:) SwiftLintFramework
1.39 s 2.4%	1.00 ms	➤LetVarWhitespaceRule.attributeLineNumbers(file:) SwiftLintFramework ➔
1.39 s 2.4%	0 s	➤File.match(pattern:with:range:) SwiftLintFramework
1.37 s 2.4%	0 s	➤File.match(pattern:range:) SwiftLintFramework
1.37 s 2.4%	0 s	➤File.matchesAndSyntaxKinds(matching:range:) SwiftLintFramework
1.29 s 2.2%	0 s	➤File.matchesAndTokens(matching:range:) SwiftLintFramework
85.00 ms 0.1%	0 s	➤Collection.map<A>(_:) libswiftCore.dylib
1.00 ms 0.0%	0 s	➤_swift_release_dealloc libswiftCore.dylib
2.00 ms 0.0%	0 s	➤Collection.map<A>(_:) libswiftCore.dylib
16.00 ms 0.0%	0 s	➤_ArrayProtocol.filter(_:) libswiftCore.dylib
1.00 ms 0.0%	0 s	➤_swift_release_dealloc libswiftCore.dylib
1.00 ms 0.0%	0 s	➤Collection.map<A>(_:) libswiftCore.dylib
89.00 ms 0.1%	0 s	➤LetVarWhitespaceRule.varLetLineNumbers(file:structure:attributeLines:) SwiftLintFramework
25.00 ms 0.0%	0 s	➤LetVarWhitespaceRule.skippedLineNumbers(file:) SwiftLintFramework
5.00 ms 0.0%	0 s	➤Set.contains(_:) libswiftCore.dylib

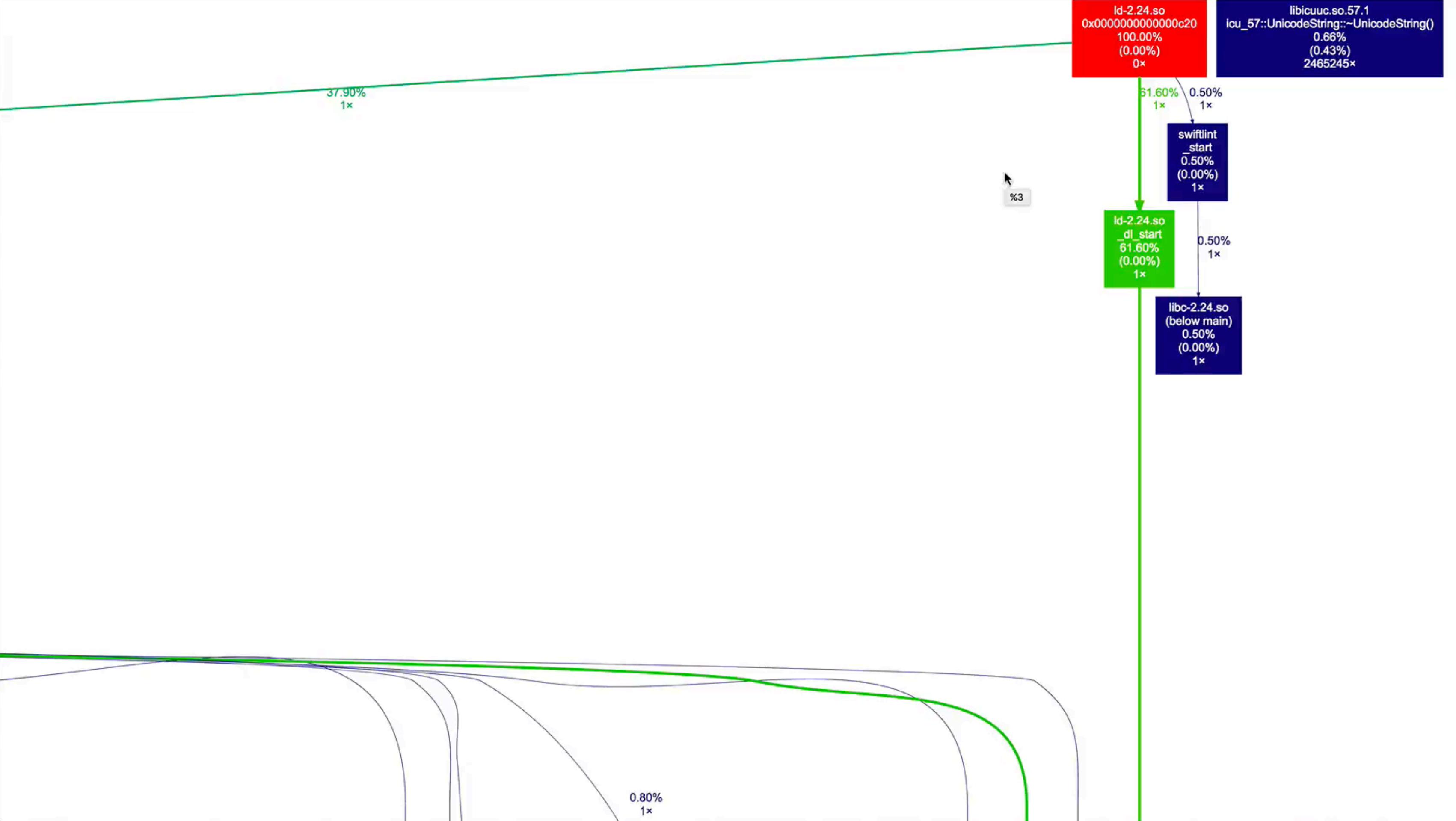


docker

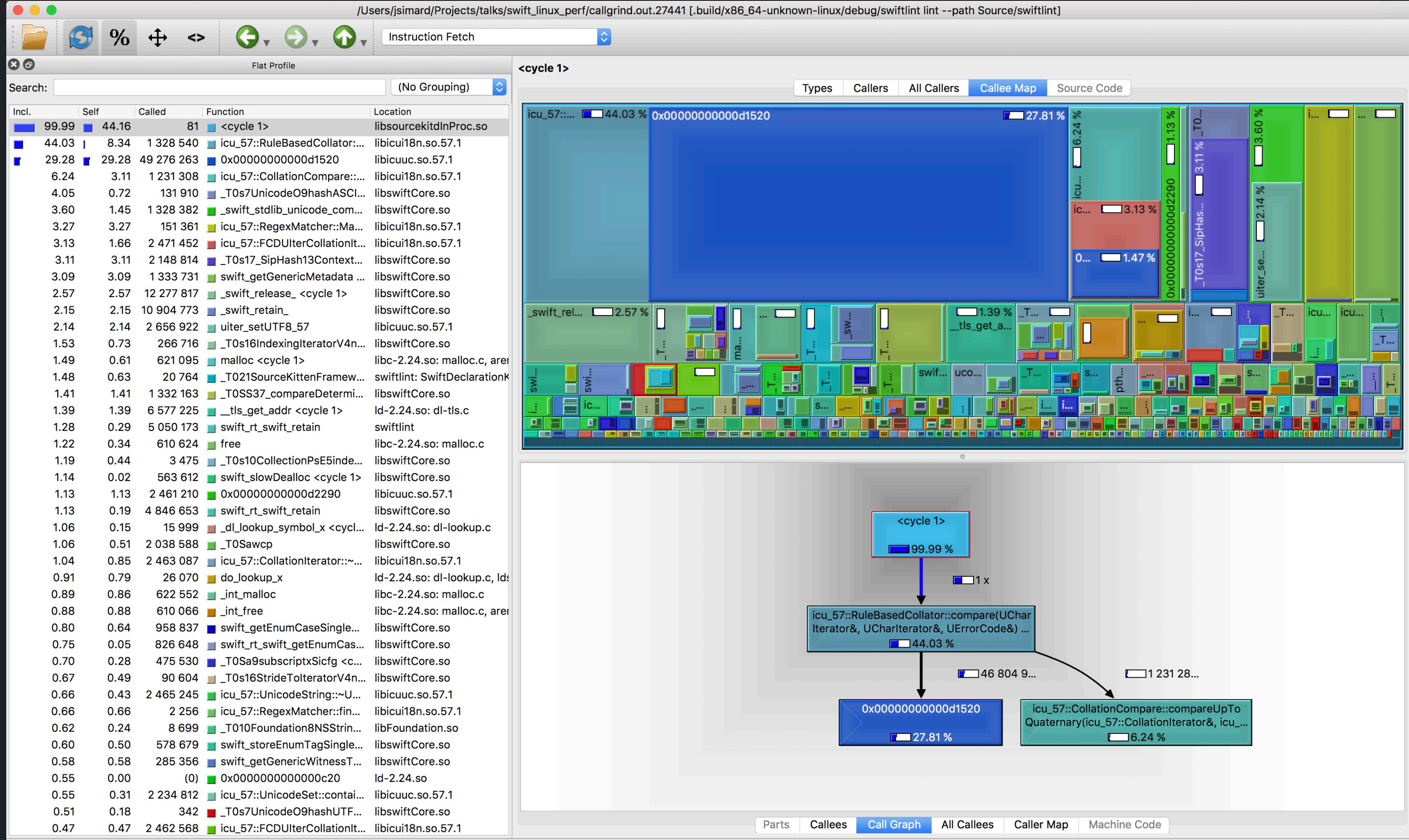
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$ docker run -it --rm swift bash
$ > apt-get update && apt-get install -y valgrind
$ > git clone https://github.com/realm/SwiftLint.git
$ > cd SwiftLint
$ > swift build
$ > valgrind --tool=callgrind .build/debug/swiftlint
$ brew install qcachegrind gprof2dot
$ gprof2dot -f callgrind callgrind.out.*          | dot -Tsvg -o dotgraph.svg
$ open -a Safari dotgraph.svg
$ open -a qcachegrind
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Bare Metal



```
$ doctl compute droplet create perf --size 16gb \
--image ubuntu-16-10-x64 --region sf01
$ > apt-get update && apt-get dist-upgrade
$ > reboot
$ > apt-get install -y clang libblocksruntime0 libcurl4-openssl-dev \
linux-tools-common linux-tools-generic linux-tools-`uname -r`
$ > SWIFT_VERSION=swift-4.0-RELEASE
$ > BASE_URL=https://swift.org/builds/swift-4.0-release/ubuntu1610
$ > URL=$BASE_URL/$SWIFT_VERSION/$SWIFT_VERSION-ubuntu16.10.tar.gz
$ > curl $URL | tar xz --directory $HOME --strip-components=1
$ > export PATH=$HOME/usr/bin:$PATH
$ > export LINUX_SOURCEKIT_LIB_PATH=$HOME/usr/lib
$ > git clone https://github.com/realm/SwiftLint.git
$ > git clone https://github.com/brendangregg/FlameGraph.git
$ > cd SwiftLint
$ > swift build
$ > perf record -g .build/debug/swiftlint
$ > perf script > out.perf
$ > ../../FlameGraph/stackcollapse-perf.pl out.perf > out.folded
$ > ../../FlameGraph/flamegraph.pl out.folded > flamegraph.svg
```

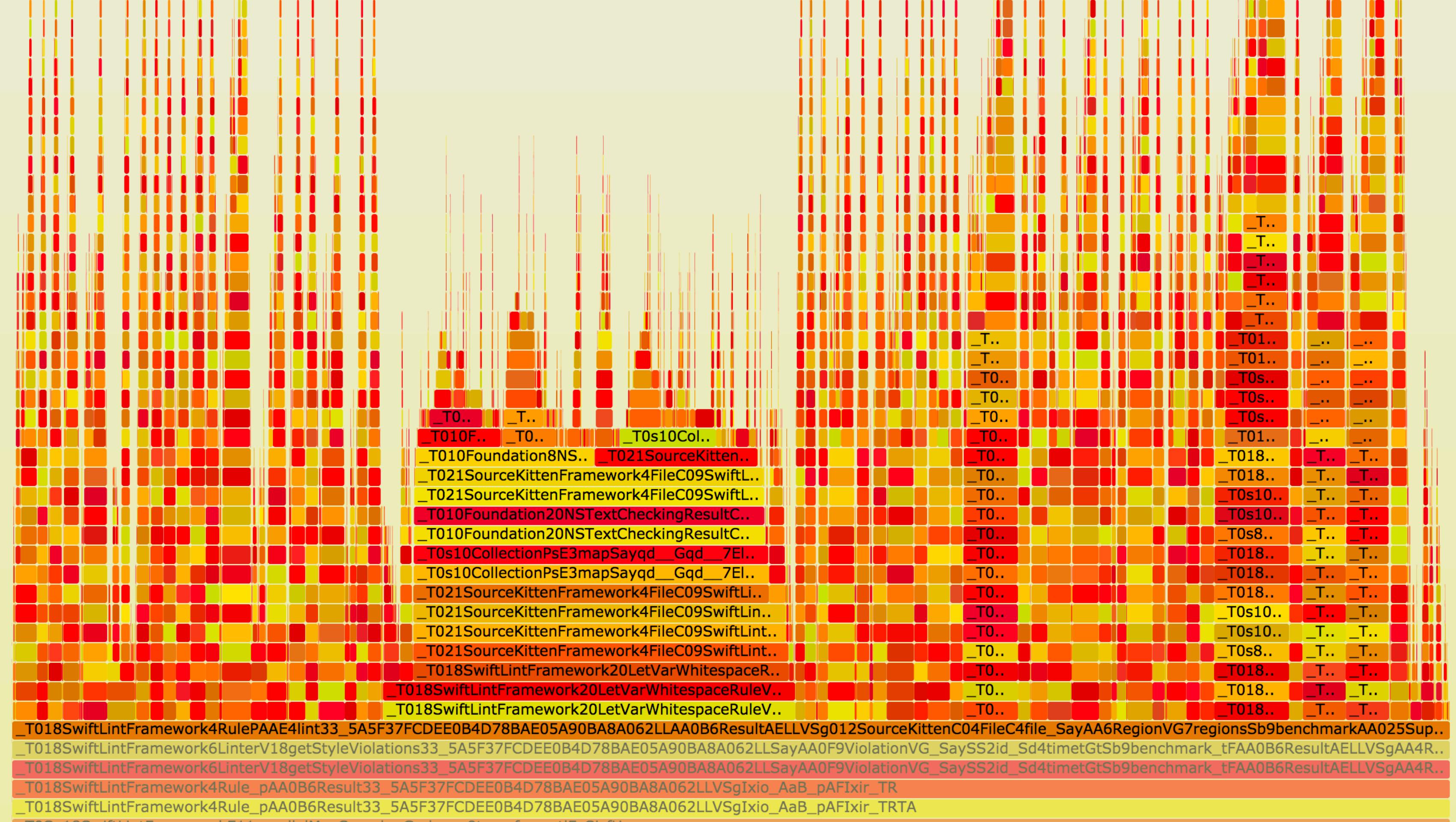
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```

deemo



```
$ xcrun swift-demangle  
_T018SwiftLintFramework20LetVarWhitespaceRuleV20att  
ributeLineNumbers33_013BAF1EF367799B68F2E028EAD9  
BE9DLLs3SetVySiG012SourceKittenC04FileC4file_tF
```

```
//  
SwiftLintFramework.  
//  
LetVarWhitespaceRule.  
//  
(attributeLineNumbers in \_013BAF1EF367799B68F2E028EAD9BE9D)  
//  
(file : SourceKittenFramework.File)  
//  
-> Swift.Set<Swift.Int>
```

```
$ xcrun swift-demangle  
_T018SwiftLintFramework20LetVarWhitespaceRuleV20att  
ributeLineNumbers33_013BAF1EF367799B68F2E028EAD9  
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```

```
//  
SwiftLintFramework.  
//  
LetVarWhitespaceRule.  
//  
(attributeLineNumbers in \_013BAF1EF367799B68F2E028EAD9BE9D)  
//  
(file : SourceKittenFramework.File)  
//  
-> Swift.Set<Swift.Int>
```

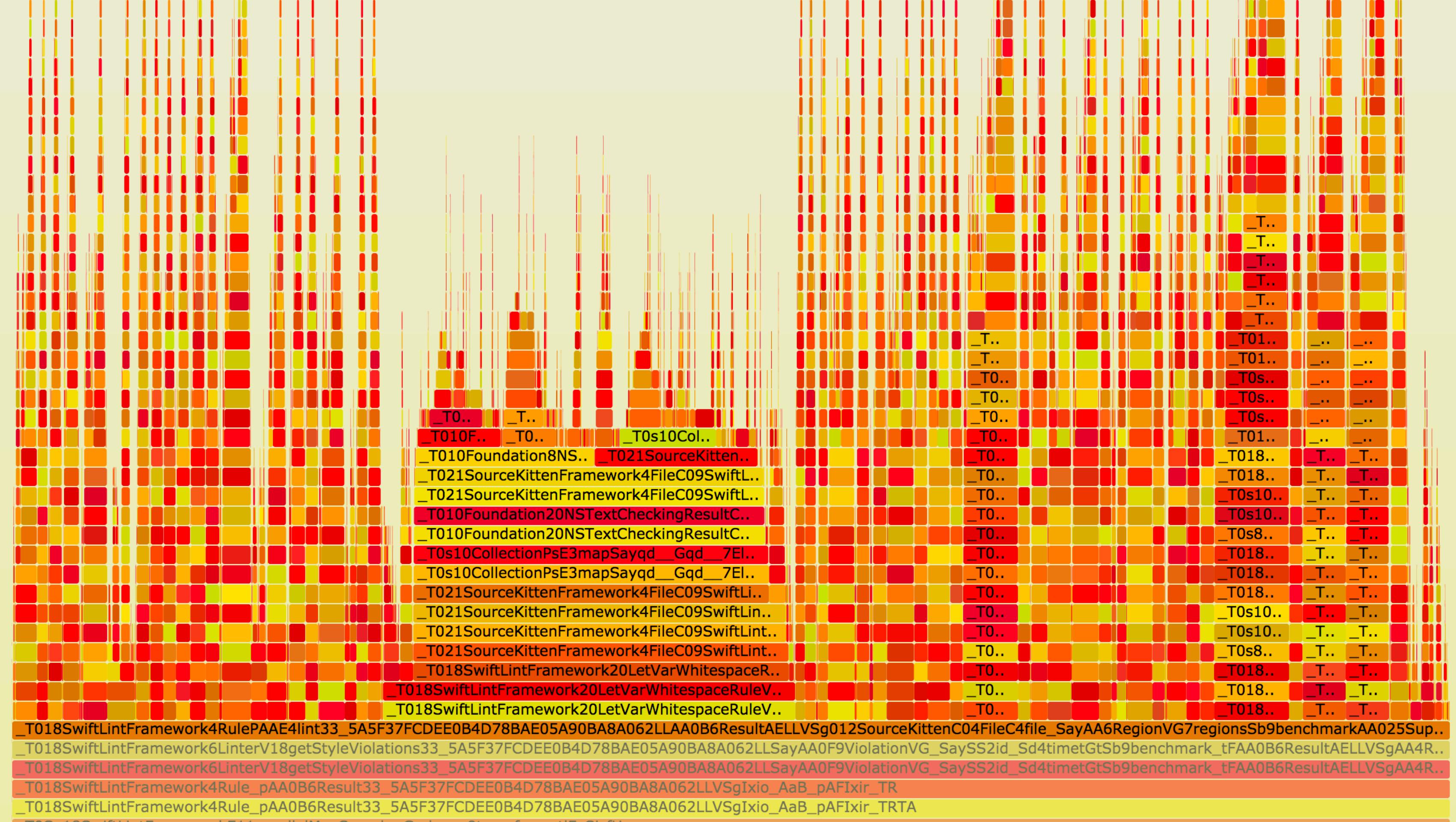
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BE9DLLs3SetVySiG012SourceKittenC04FileC4file_tF
```

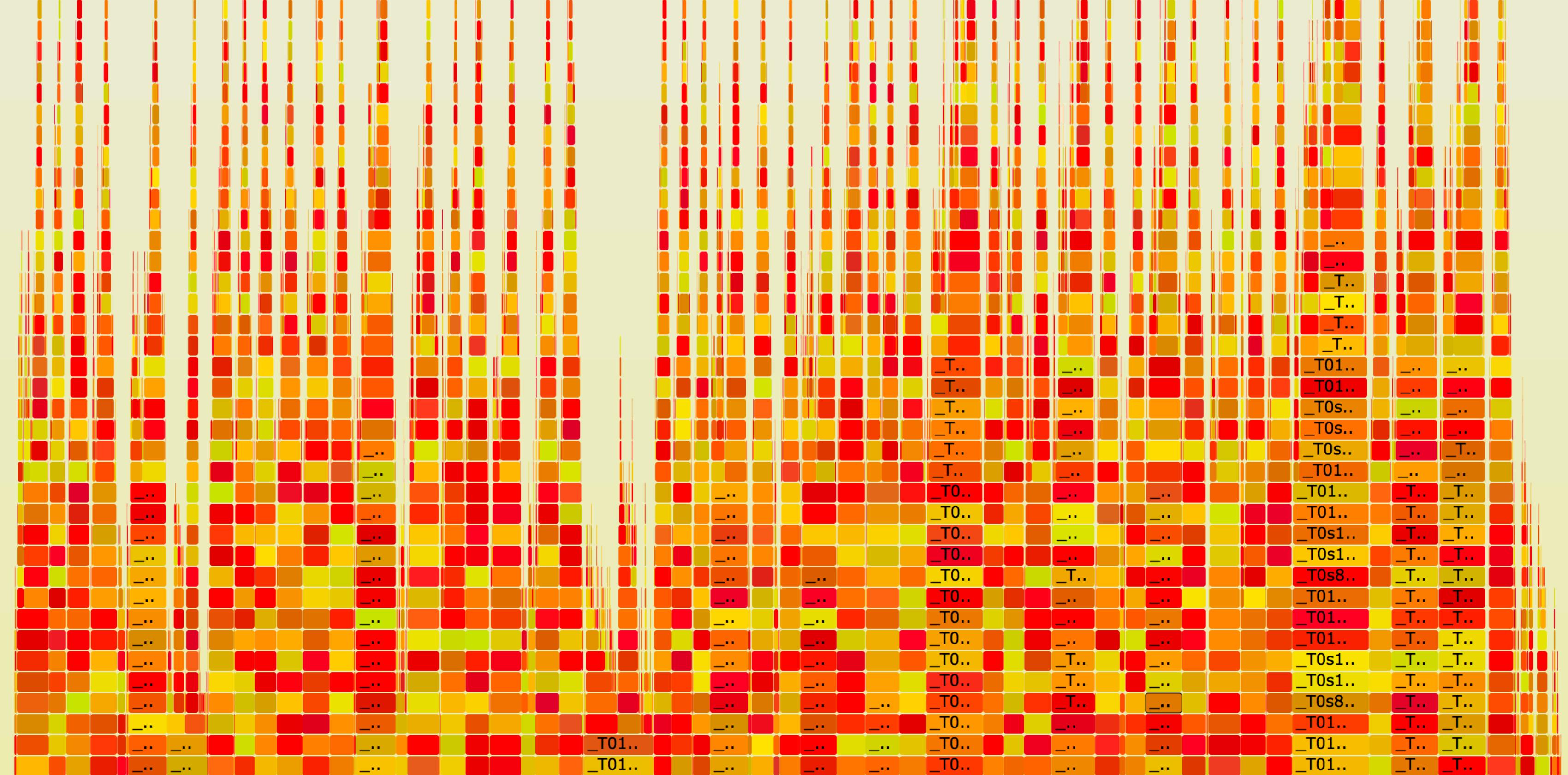
```
// Module  
SwiftLintFramework.  
// Type (struct)  
LetVarWhitespaceRule.  
// Function  
(attributeLineNumbers in \_013BAF1EF367799B68F2E028EAD9BE9D)  
// Parameter  
(file : SourceKittenFramework.File)  
// Return type  
-> Swift.Set<Swift.Int>
```

```
public struct LetVarWhitespaceRule: ConfigurationProviderRule, OptInRule {  
  
    /* ... */  
  
    // Collects all the line numbers containing attributes but not declarations  
    // other than let/var  
    private func attributeLineNumbers(file: File) -> Set<Int> {  
        let matches = file.match(pattern: "[@_a-z]+", with: [.attributeBuiltin])  
        let matchLines = matches.map { file.line(offset: $0.location) }  
  
        return Set<Int>(matchLines)  
    }  
  
    /* ... */  
}
```

```
$ git diff
```

```
// Collects all the line numbers containing attributes but not declarations
// other than let/var
private func attributeLineNumbers(file: File) -> Set<Int> {
-    let matches = file.match(pattern: "[@_a-z]+", with: [.attributeBuiltin])
-    let matchLines = matches.map { file.line(offset: $0.location) }
-
-
-    return Set<Int>(matchLines)
+    return Set(file.syntaxMap.tokens.flatMap({ token in
+        if token.type == SyntaxKind.attributeBuiltin.rawValue {
+            return file.line(byteOffset: token.offset)
+
+        }
+
+        return nil
+
+    }))
}
```





_T018SwiftLintFramework4RulePAAE4lint33_5A5F37FCDEE0B4D78BAE05A90BA8A062LLAA0B6ResultAELLVSg012SourceKittenC04FileC4file_SayAA6RegionVG7regionsSb9benchmarkAA025Sup..

_T018SwiftLintFramework6LinterV18getStyleViolations33_5A5F37FCDEE0B4D78BAE05A90BA8A062LLSayAA0F9ViolationVG_SaySS2id_Sd4timetGtSb9benchmark_tFAA0B6ResultAELLVSgAA4R..

_T018SwiftLintFramework4Rule_pAA0B6Result33_5A5F37FCDEE0B4D78BAE05A90BA8A062LLVSgIxio_AaB_pAFIxir_TR

_T018SwiftLintFramework4Rule_pAA0B6Result33_5A5F37FCDEE0B4D78BAE05A90BA8A062LLVSgIxio_AaB_pAFIxir_TRTA

Tools

- Perf
- Valgrind
- Callgrind
- GNU gprof
- KCacheGrind
- FlameGraph
- gprof2dot

Closing Thoughts

- Consider writing an app-specific benchmark mode
- Prefer measuring with Instruments.app if possible
- Prefer measuring on: bare metal > container > VM
- Prefer measuring your code: release > debug
- Callgrind is extremely slow, try to avoid it
- There's a tooling opportunity to convert perf/callgrind data to something Instruments compatible

Thank You!
Questions?

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