

Modular



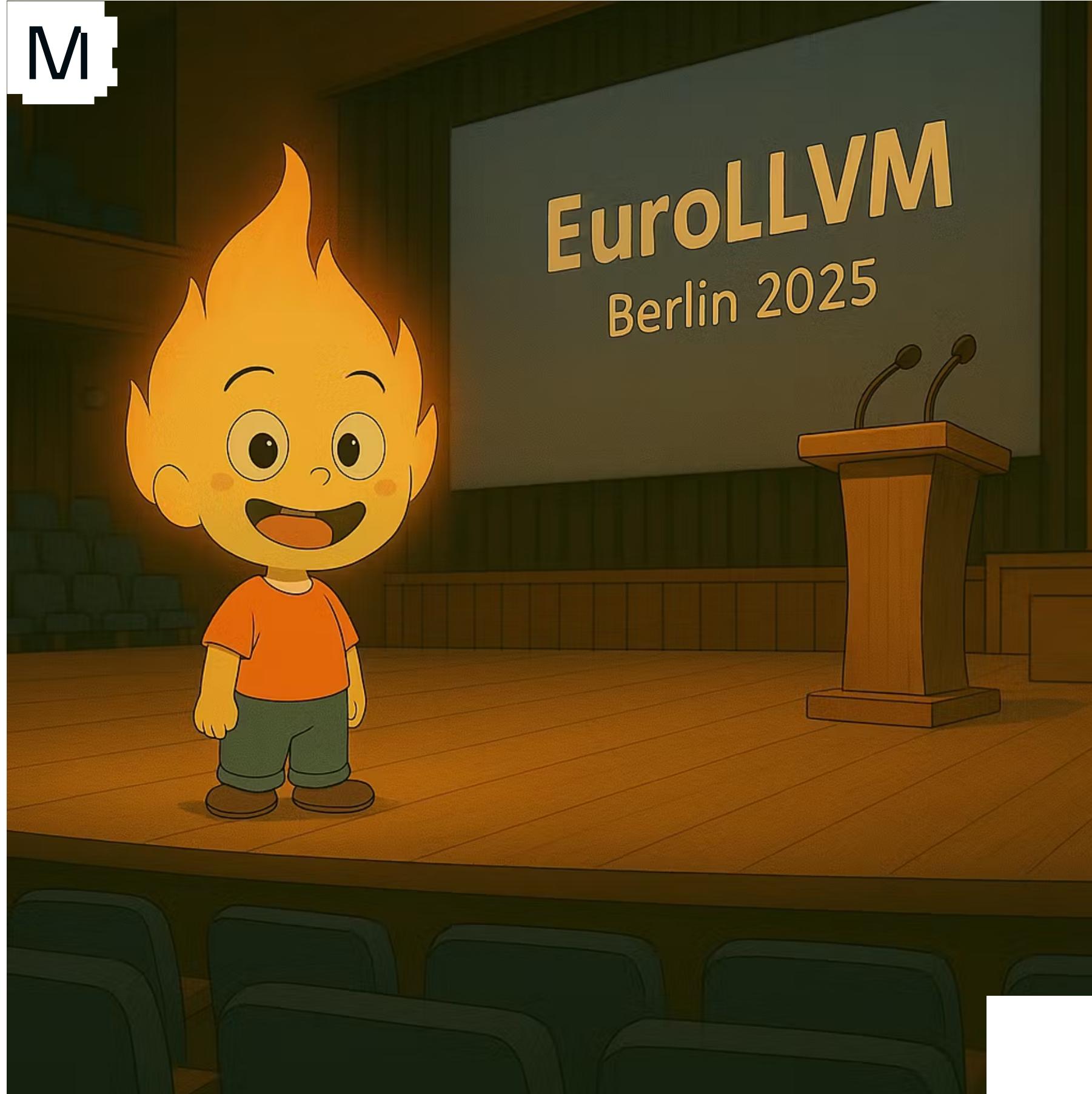
Parallelizing the LLVM Pipeline with MCLink



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EuroLLVM 2025

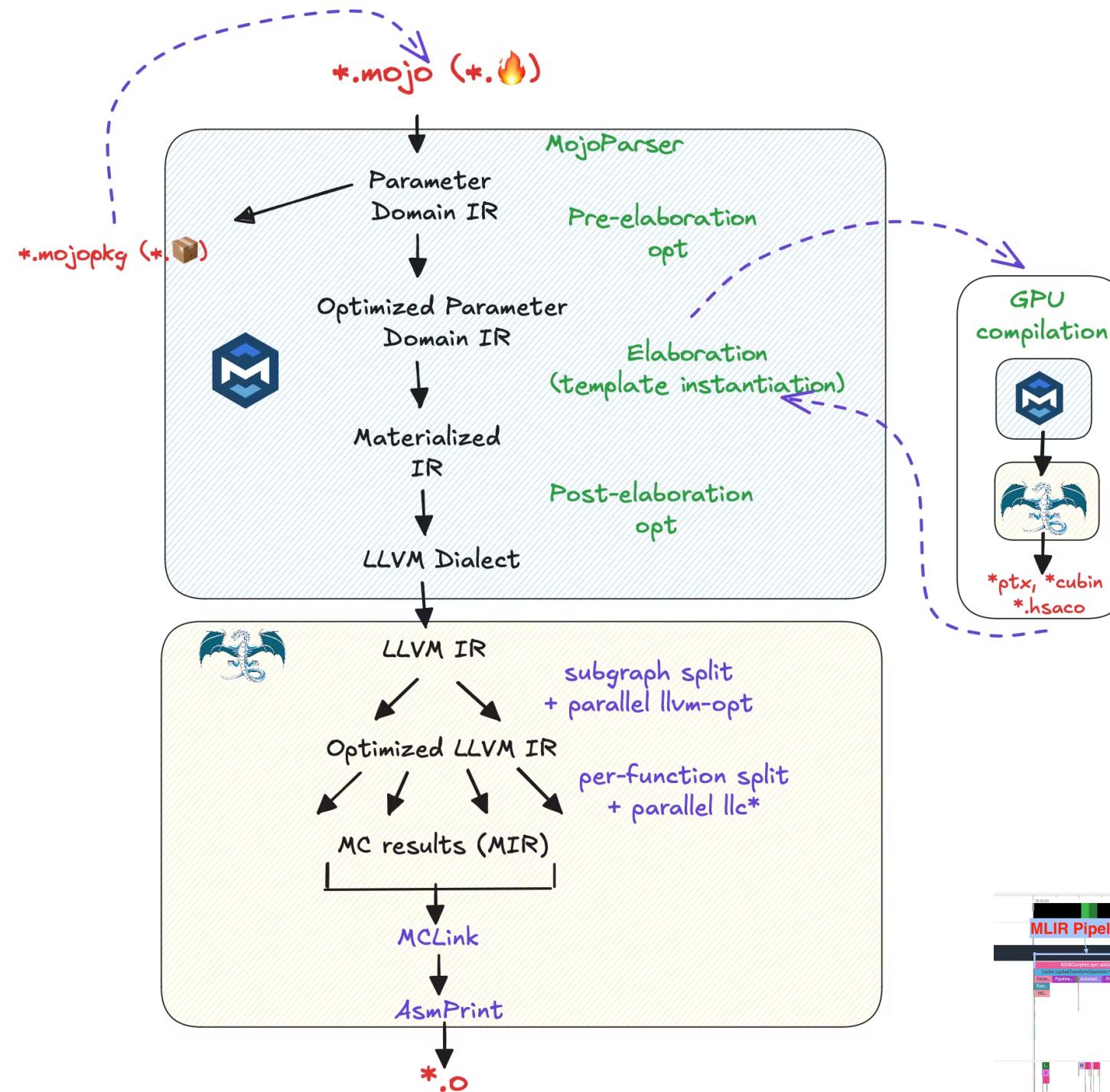
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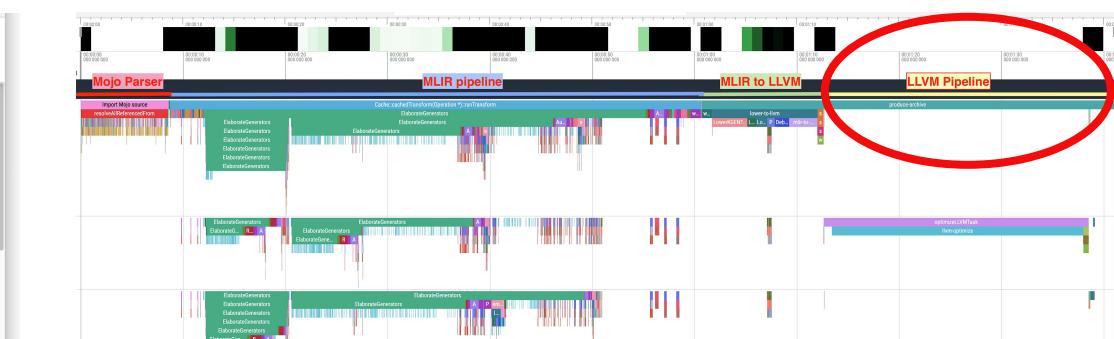
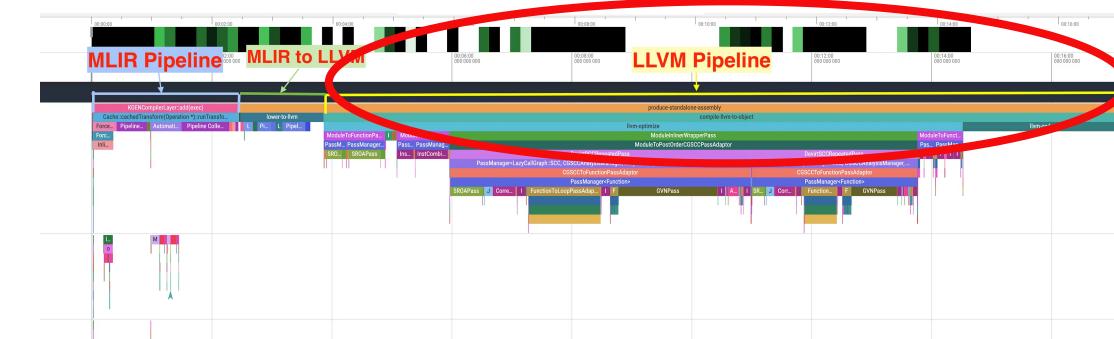
Agenda

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- 01 Mojo Compilation Pipeline
 - 02 Parallelize LLVM Compilation
 - 03 MCLink
 - 04 Mojo Compilation with Parallel LLVM
 - 05 Conclusions
-

Mojo Compilation Pipeline



- Mojo compilation leverages the best of **MLIR** and **LLVM**
- Using LLVM unconventionally
 - Parallelizing LLVM pipeline.
 - Fast compilation time with performance generated code.
 - Significantly cut down LLVM pipeline time for overall mojo compilation.



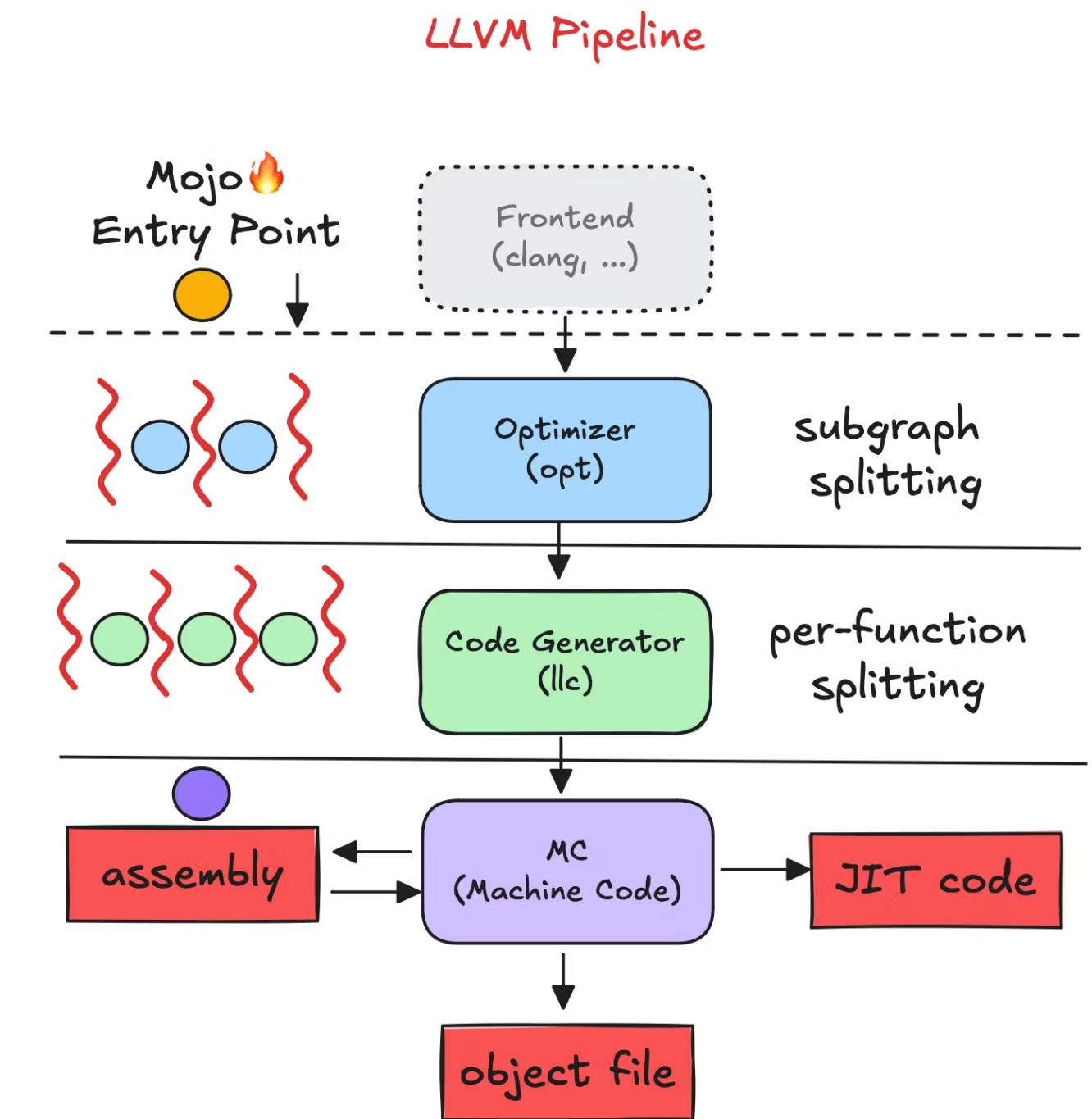
LLVM Pipeline

- LLVM is 😊:
 - Target-specific code generation.
 - GVN, Load/Store Optimization, LSR, scalar optimization, etc.
- LLVM is 😞:
 - No framework-level parallelization support to leverage multi-core machines.
 - Data structures for IR are often mutable and not thread-safe.
 - No pass manager support for running function-level pass(es) in parallel.
 - Module-level passes don't have intra-pass parallelization.
 - Weak and unpredictable loop optimizations.
 - Often bottleneck for compilation time.

Parallelize LLVM Pipeline



- Split `Ivm::Module` into multiple submodules.
 - Run each module split with separate LLVM pipeline in parallel.
- Two-level splitting:
 - Subgraphs for each anchor function (externally visible) with all function on its call-graph to run LLVM optimization pipeline including IPO passes (inliner).
 - Per-function split to run codegen pipeline in parallel.
- LLVM Pipeline:
 - Optimizer pipeline: `llvm/lib/transforms`
 - Code Generation pipeline: `ISel`, `SelectDAG`, `RegAlloc`, `Machine Code opt`, etc.
 - Machine Code layer: code emission



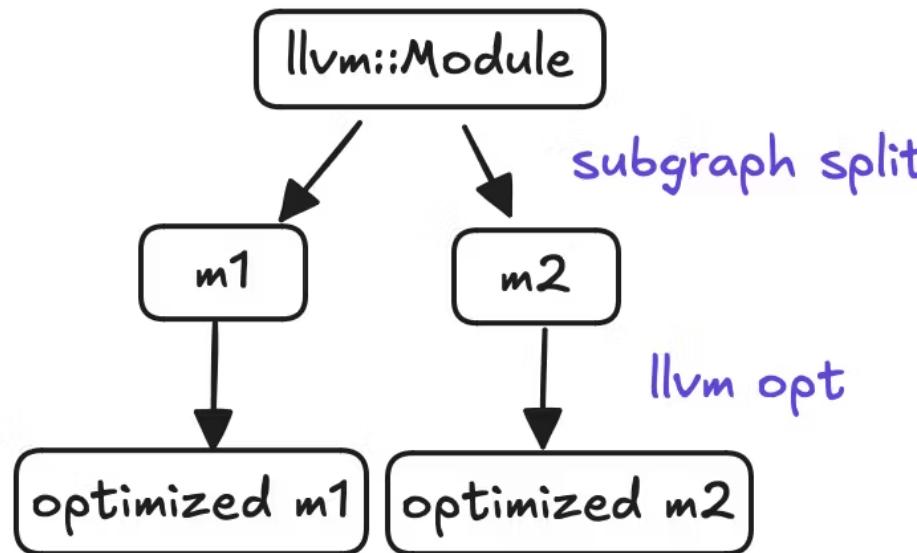
Parallelize LLVM Pipeline



llvm::Module

```
; llvm::Module
define dso_local void @foo() #0 {
    call void @g()
    call void @h()
    ret void
}
define dso_local void @bar() #0 {
    call void @g()
    call void @h()
    ret void
}
define internal void @g() #1 {
    ret void
}
define internal void @h() #1 {
    ret void
}
```

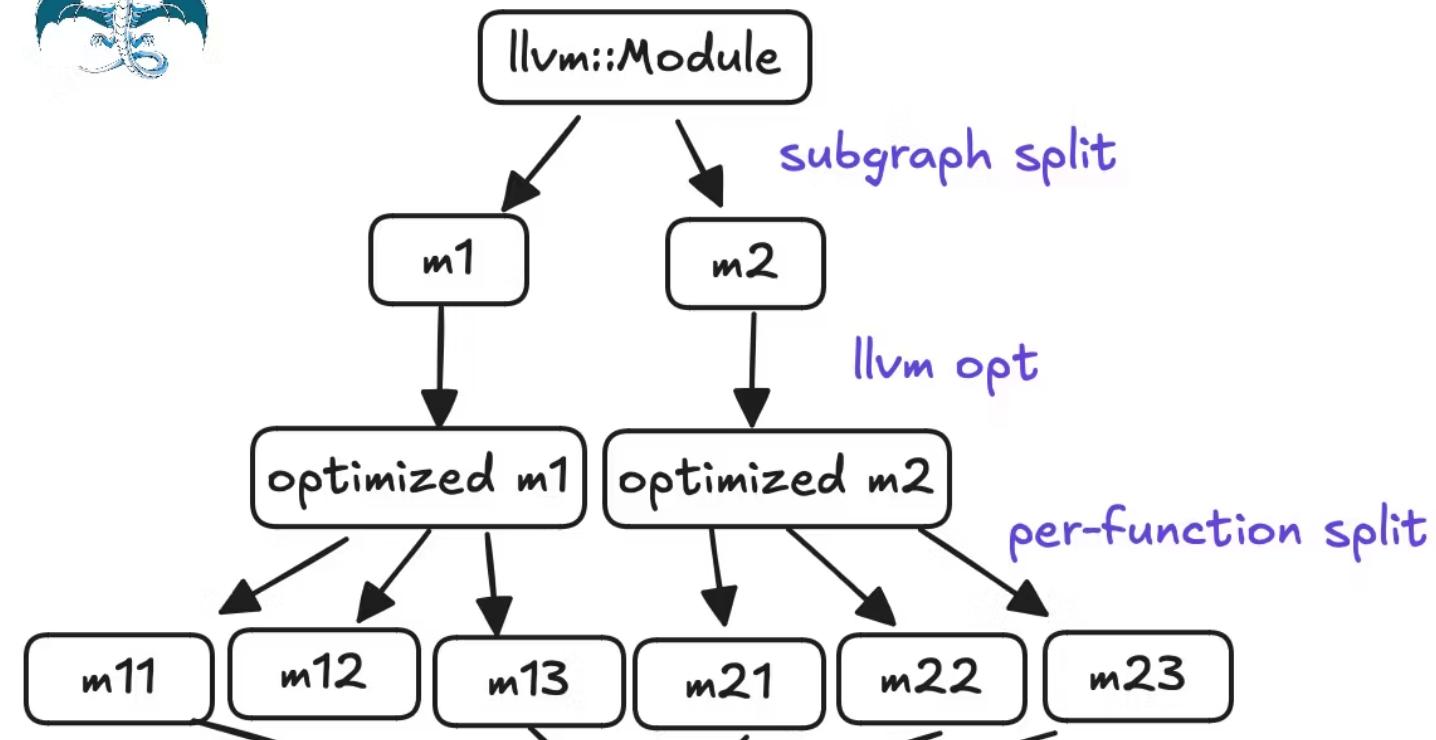
Parallelize LLVM Pipeline



```
; llvm::Module - m1
define dso_local void @foo() #0 {
    call void @g()
    call void @h()
    ret void
}
define internal void @g() #1 {
    ret void
}
define internal void @h() #1 {
    ret void
}
```

```
; llvm::Module - m2
define dso_local void @bar() #0 {
    call void @g()
    call void @h()
    ret void
}
define internal void @g() #1 {
    ret void
}
define internal void @h() #1 {
    ret void
}
```

Parallelize LLVM Pipeline



; **llvm::Module - m11**

```
define dso_local void @foo() #0 {  
    call void @g()  
    call void @h()  
    ret void  
}  
  
declare void @g() #1  
declare void @h() #1
```

; **llvm::Module - m21**

```
define dso_local void @bar() #0 {  
    call void @g()  
    call void @h()  
    ret void  
}  
  
declare void @g() #1  
declare void @h() #1
```

; **llvm::Module - m12**

```
define weak void @g() #1 {  
    ret void  
}
```

; **llvm::Module - m22**

```
define weak void @g() #1 {  
    ret void  
}
```

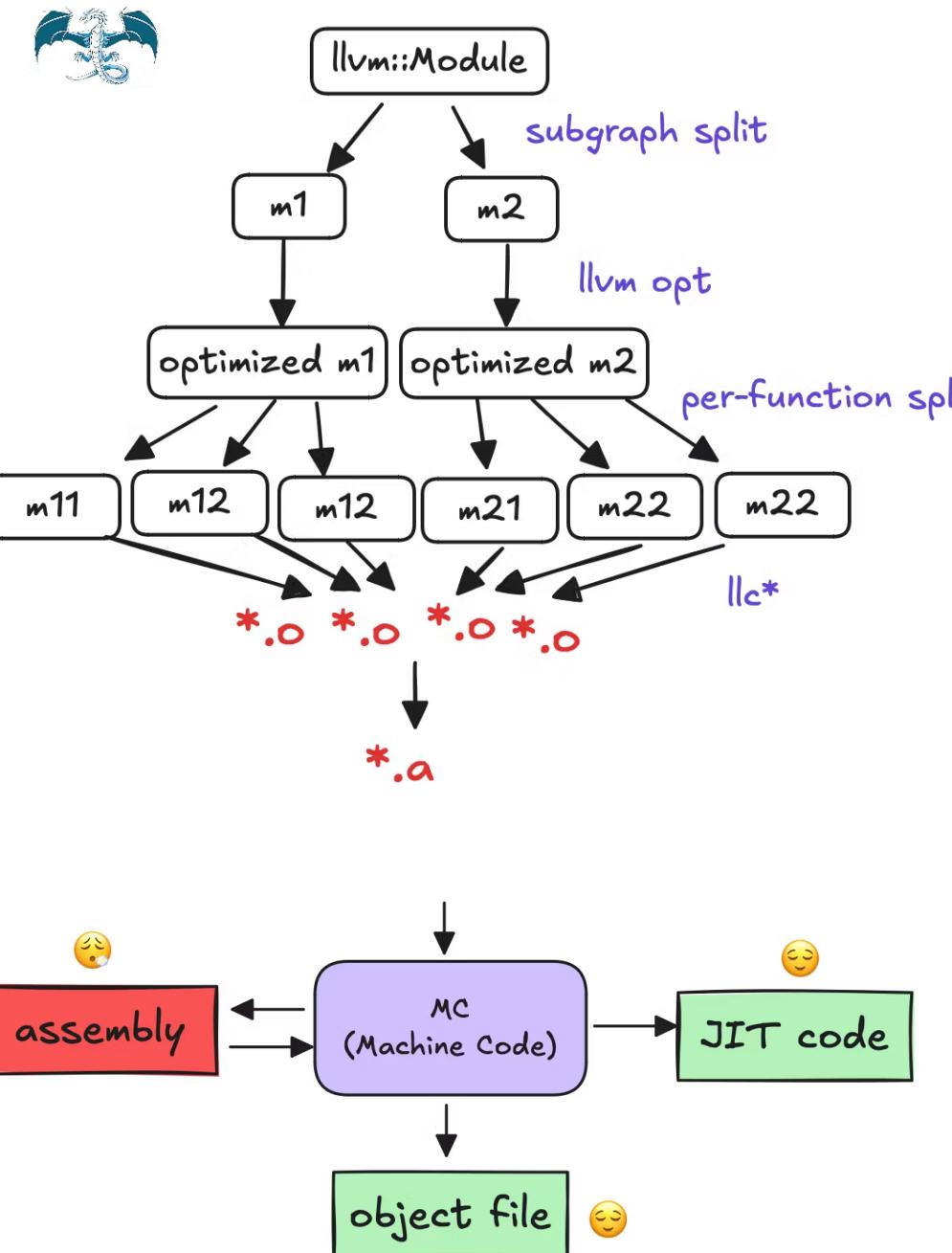
; **llvm::Module - m13**

```
define weak void @h() #1 {  
    ret void  
}
```

; **llvm::Module - m23**

```
define weak void @h() #1 {  
    ret void  
}
```

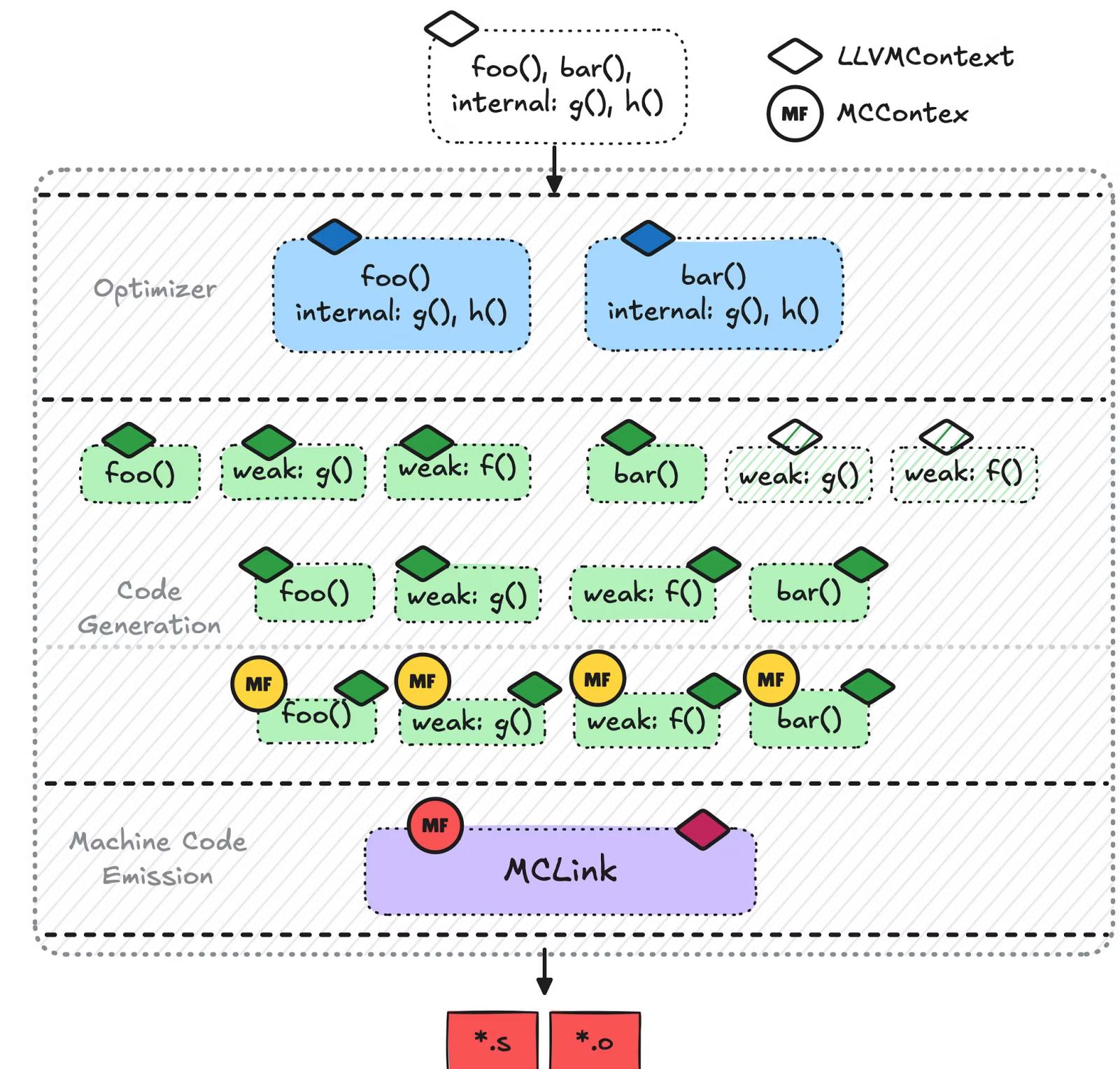
Parallelize LLVM Pipeline Code Emission



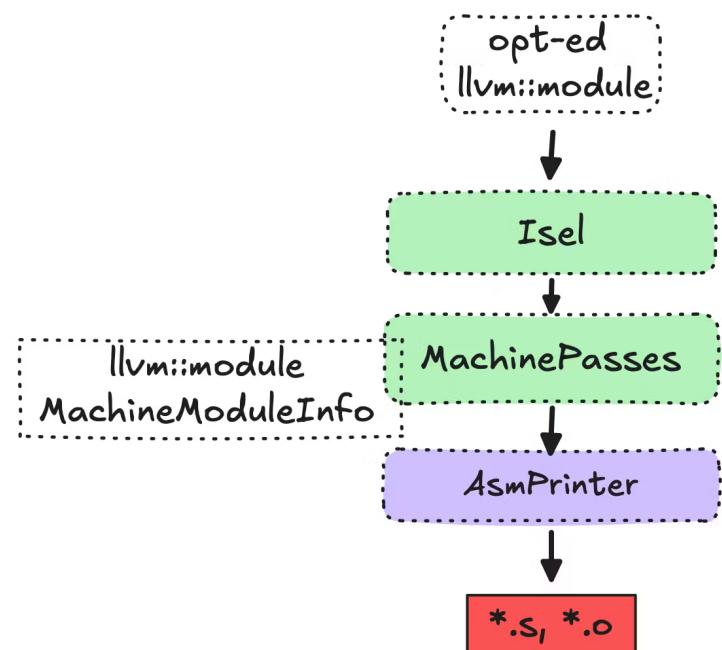
- Combine each split's codegen + code emission output
- .a archive file for binary object output (but bigger)
- .a archive in buffer for JIT
- Assembly output (debugging, PTX)
- Can't fix symbol linkage type changes due to splitting (expose internal data structure and/or functions)
- Duplicated functions

Parallelize LLVM Pipeline Code Emission

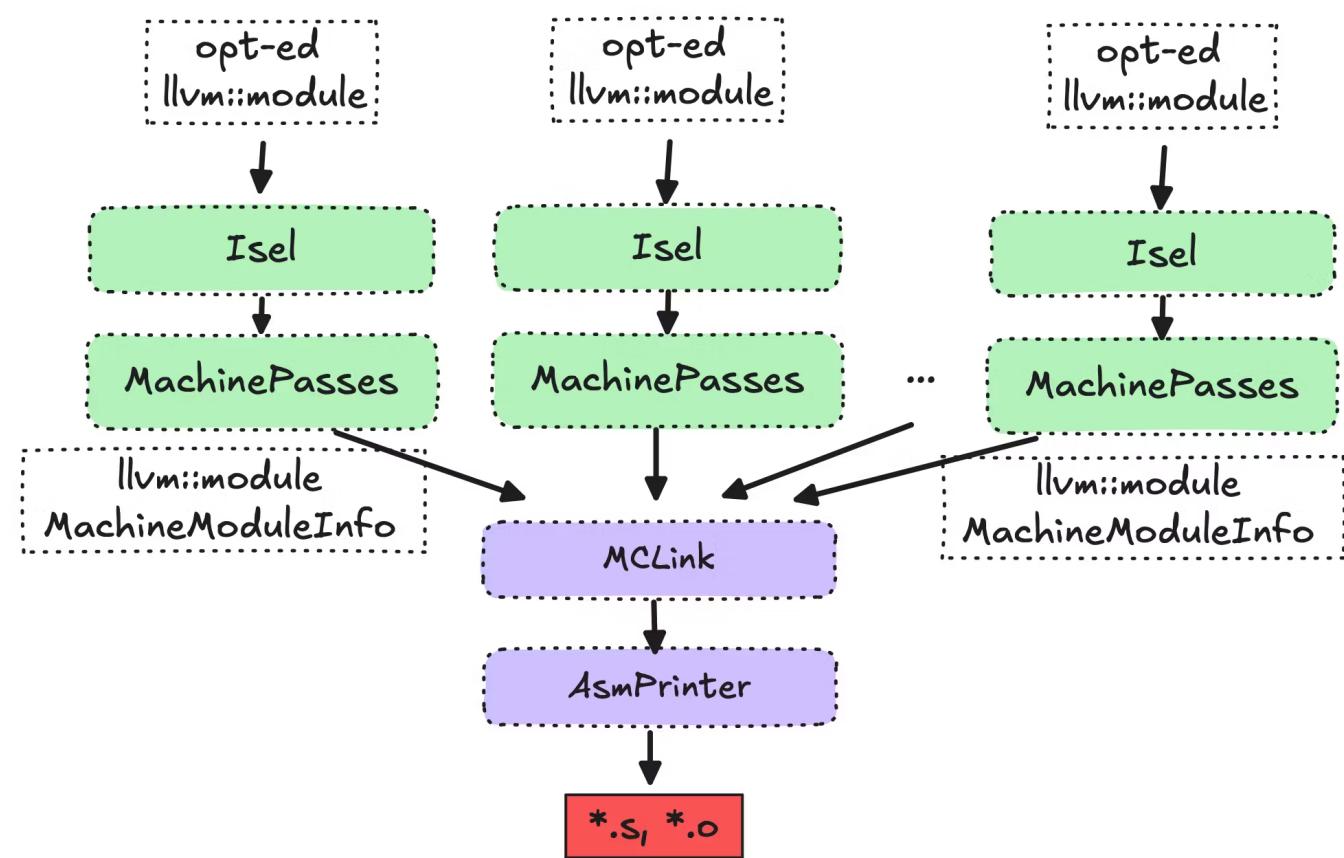
- 1 `llvm::Module` => 1 `.o` (`.s`)
 - Parallelization is implementation detail
 - No side-effect (symbol linkage change)
- Parallelization **maps** to multiple contexts
- MCLink **reduces** to one output



Linking at the MC level



LLVM CodeGen Pipeline

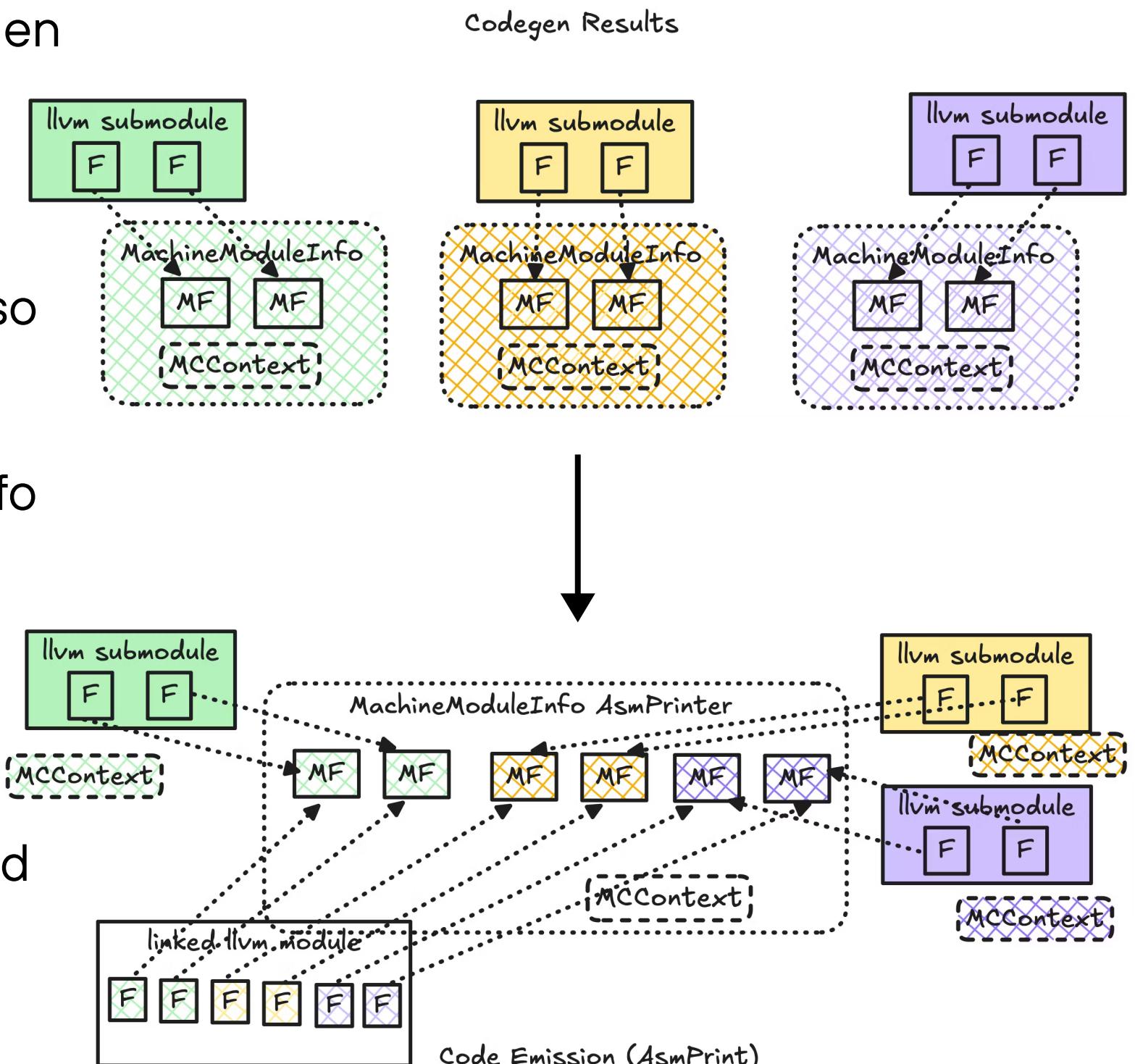


Parallel LLVM CodeGen Pipeline with MCLink

- Generate and Link MIR using `llvm::Linker` 😒
 - not quite stable?
 - YAML-based
- **MCLink** - Linker at the MC level 😊
 - Manage MC data structure for reduction
 - ConstantPool ID unquoting
 - X86:
 - PICBaseSymbol unquoting
 - MO_ExternalSymbol unquoting
 - Link `llvm::Module` from each split using `llvm::Linker`
 - Fix symbol linkage type
 - Reduces both LLVMContext and MCContext
 - Guide AsmPrinter

MCLink Implementation Details

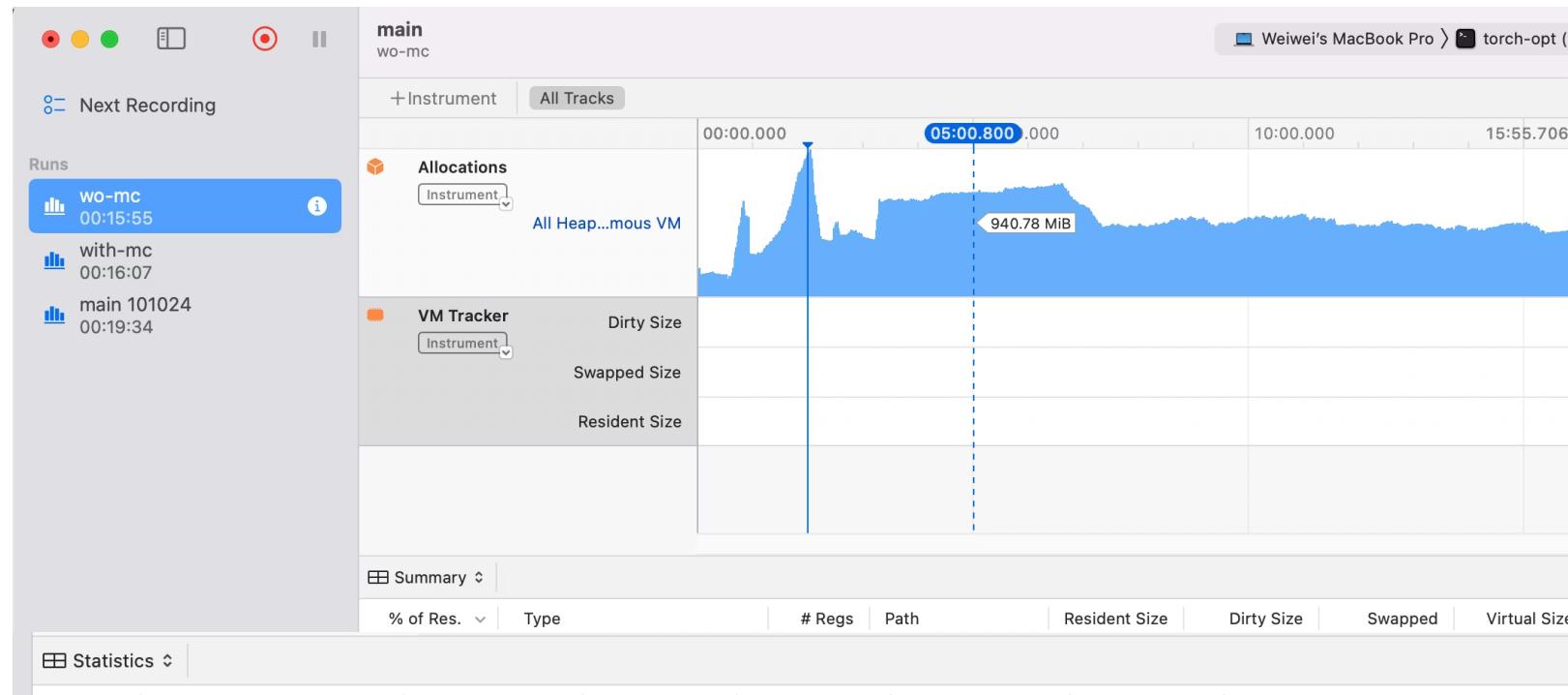
- Add *SetMachineFunctionBasePass* at the beginning of codegen pipeline to give MachineFunctions global numbering.
- Add *SyncX86SymbolTables* in AsmPrint pipeline to populate external MCSymbols to other llvm module split's MCContext so that they can be unique across all splits.
- Move MachineFunctions into AsmPrinter's MachineModuleInfo
 - Move private class member from off tree is hard.
- Workarounds for nameless variables (asan build)
 - *llvm::Linker* rename them but only local to the split.
 - Give these variable explicit name in mojo pipeline to avoid non-unique naming by *llvm::Linker*.



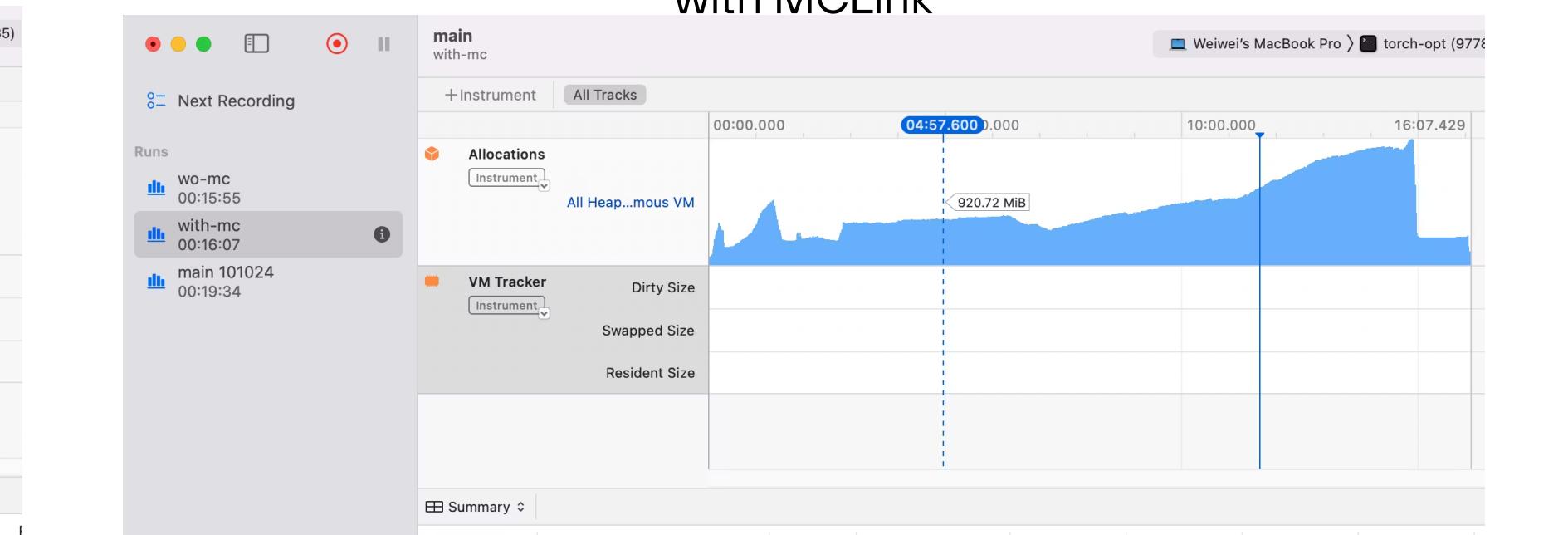
MCLink Implementation Details

Peak Memory Jump for running reset50-pytorch

without MCLink



with MCLink

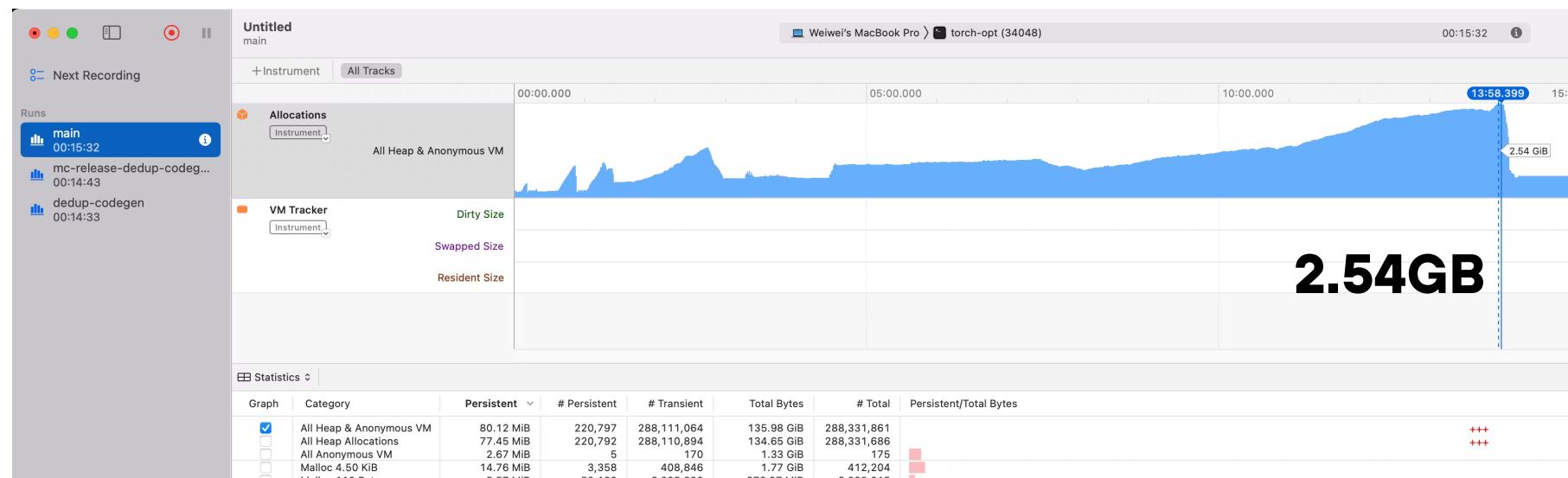


Statistics							
Graph	Category	Persistent	# Persistent	# Transient	Total Bytes	# Total	Persistent/Total Bytes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Heap & Anonymous VM	114.19 MiB	207,242	124,362,379	69.61 GiB	124,569,621	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Heap Allocations	112.58 MiB	207,239	124,362,359	69.57 GiB	124,569,598	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Anonymous VM	1.61 MiB	3	20	40.94 MiB	23	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 5.00 MiB	10.00 MiB	2	8	50.00 MiB	10	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 6.50 MiB	6.50 MiB	1	5	39.00 MiB	6	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 8.00 KiB	5.25 MiB	672	107,876	848.03 MiB	108,548	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 16.00 KiB	5.25 MiB	336	34,807	549.11 MiB	35,143	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 64.00 KiB	5.00 MiB	8	238	153.75 MiB	246	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 12.5 MiB	5.00 MiB	4	130	167.50 MiB	134	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 64.00 KiB	4.56 MiB	73	39,452	2.41 GiB	39,525	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 4.00 KiB	4.55 MiB	1,165	544,316	2.08 GiB	545,481	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 32.00 KiB	4.16 MiB	133	8,914	282.72 MiB	9,047	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 96.00 KiB	3.47 MiB	37	10,931	1.00 GiB	10,968	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ilvm::MCSubtargetInfo	3.25 MiB	16	2,560	523.28 MiB	2,576	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 3.25 MiB	3.25 MiB	1	44	146.25 MiB	45	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 160.00 KiB	3.12 MiB	20	1,746	275.94 MiB	1,766	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 1.00 KiB	2.98 MiB	3,047	23,505,236	22.42 GiB	23,508,283	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 96 Bytes	2.63 MiB	28,703	5,144,573	473.63 MiB	5,173,276	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 320.00 KiB	2.50 MiB	8	481	152.81 MiB	489	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 48 Bytes	2.48 MiB	54,244	6,788,022	313.21 MiB	6,842,266	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 832.00 KiB	2.44 MiB	3	140	116.19 MiB	143	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 144 Bytes	2.11 MiB	15,400	1,942,176	268.83 MiB	1,957,576	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 224 Bytes	2.06 MiB	9,649	286,968	63.36 MiB	296,617	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 80 Bytes	2.00 MiB	26,176	30,512,438	2.28 GiB	30,538,614	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 176 Bytes	1.67 MiB	9,966	478,562	82.00 MiB	488,528	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 1.62 MiB	1.62 MiB	1	72	118.62 MiB	73	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VM: Stack	1.61 MiB	3	4	3.80 MiB	7	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 128.00 KiB	1.50 MiB	12	3,055	383.38 MiB	3,067	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 160 Bytes	1.37 MiB	8,958	926,300	142.71 MiB	935,258	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 23.00 KiB	1.28 MiB	57	46,083	1.01 GiB	46,140	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 256.00 KiB	1.25 MiB	5	2,202	551.75 MiB	2,207	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 1.50 KiB	1.13 MiB	772	11,735,104	16.79 GiB	11,735,876	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 112 Bytes	1.01 MiB	9,446	1,529,130	164.34 MiB	1,538,576	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ilvm::LegalizerInfo	1.00 MiB	8	1,282	161.25 MiB	1,290	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 11.50 KiB	1,000.50 MiB	87	56,722	637.99 MiB	56,809	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ilvm::ScalarEvolution::SC...	972.00 MiB	8	6,580	121.96 MiB	6,588	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 3.00 KiB	885.00 MiB	295	256,985	753.75 MiB	257,280	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 2.00 KiB	864.00 MiB	432	805,567	1.54 GiB	805,999	

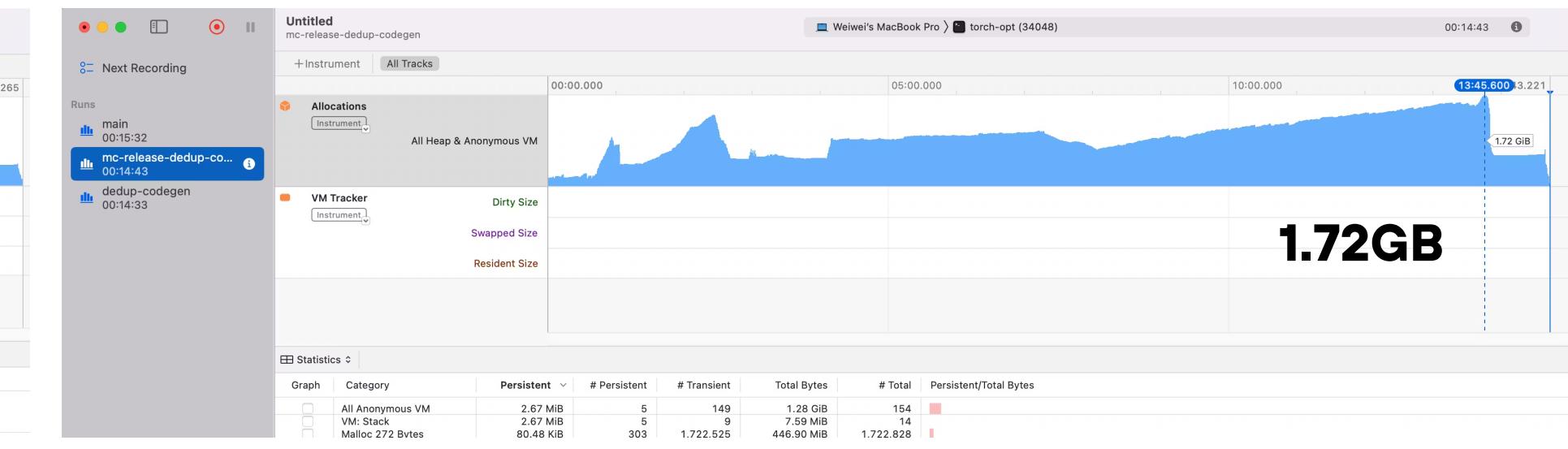
Graph	Category	Persistent	# Persistent	# Transient	Total Bytes	# Total	Persistent/Total Bytes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Heap & Anonymous VM	1.91 GiB	4,793,741	113,312,312	70.59 GiB	118,106,053	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Heap Allocations	1.91 GiB	4,793,738	113,312,292	70.55 GiB	118,106,030	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Anonymous VM	1.61 MiB	3	20	40.94 MiB	23	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ilvm::MCSubtargetInfo	485.76 MiB	2,392	0	485.76 MiB	2,392	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 4.00 KiB	176.20 MiB	45,107	348,039	1.50 GiB	393,146	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ilvm::LegalizerInfo	149.38 MiB	1,195	0	149.38 MiB	1,195	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 16.00 KiB	132.39 MiB	8,473	25,885	536.84 MiB	34,358	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 144 Bytes	96.66 MiB	703,860	643,224	184.99 MiB	1,347,084	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 8.00 KiB	78.34 MiB	10,027	107,825	920.72 MiB	117,852	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 160 Bytes	52.26 MiB	342,489	301,461	98.26 MiB	643,950	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 176 Bytes	47.77 MiB	284,623	73,623	60.13 MiB	358,246	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 16.50 KiB	40.96 MiB	2,542	2,599	82.84 MiB	5,141	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 224 Bytes	39.35 MiB	184,211	85,055	57.52 MiB	269,266	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 32.00 KiB	38.41 MiB	1,229	7,694	278.84 MiB	8,923	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 2.00 KiB	37.08 MiB	18,987	722,931	1.42 GiB	741,918	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 80 Bytes	36.99 MiB	484,809	33,819,903	2.56 GiB	34,304,712	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 112 Bytes	32.82 MiB	307,303	848,520	123.46 MiB	1,155,823	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 96 Bytes	30.57 MiB	333,951	5,145,734	501.68 MiB	5,479,685	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 128.00 KiB	27.00 MiB	216	2,089	288.12 MiB	2,305	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 64.00 KiB	25.50 MiB	408	36,589	2.26 GiB	36,997	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 512 Bytes	23.91 MiB	48,971	1,204,969	612.28 MiB	1,253,940	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 48 Bytes	22.55 MiB	492,625	5,659,413	281.62 MiB	6,152,038	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 800 Bytes	21.88 MiB	28,681	27,078	42.54 MiB	55,759	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 1.00 MiB	21.00 MiB	21	20	41.00 MiB	41	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 1.00 KiB	19.44 MiB	19,904	25,078,088	23.94 GiB	25,097,992	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 32 Bytes	19.33 MiB	633,282	1,964,411	79.28 MiB	2,597,693	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 256.00 KiB	17.75 MiB	71	1,919	497.50 MiB	1,990	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 288.00 KiB	16.59 MiB	59	285	96.75 MiB	344	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 16.00 MiB	16.00 MiB	1	0	16.00 MiB	1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 832.00 KiB	15.44 MiB	19	94	91.81 MiB	113	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ilvm::MCSectionMachO	14.02 MiB	3,588	0	14.02 MiB	3,588	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 1.50 KiB	13.70 MiB	9,353	13,253,583	18.97 GiB	13,262,936	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malloc 0.00 KiB	12.00 MiB	121	5721	5.50 MiB	5,622	

MCLink Implementation Details

- Each split has its own `llvm::TargetMachine` due to mutable memory variables.
- `SubtargetMap` `StringMap` has many copies for each split, they are all identical and only one is needed for `AsmPrint`.
- Release memory early before `AsmPrint` to reduce peak memory footprint ASAP.
- Avoid codegen duplicated functions.



without early memory release



with early memory release

Mojo Compilation with Parallel LLVM

- Measured on c5n.metal
 - Turbo boost and hyper-threading disabled
 - CPU freq pinned at 2.9GHz.

* Changes symbol linkage type at subgraph

level impacts optimization pipeline codegen quality + compilation time (LLVM can be unpredictable 😞).

** LLVM pipeline workload is smaller due to efforts on grinding down IR size.

test_matmul.mojo				
par subgraph	par codegen	compilation time(s)	speedup	exe time (s)
no	no	36.35	1	26.78
yes*	no	34.37	1.06	38.95*
yes	yes	31.61	1.15**	26.72

test_conv_epilogue.mojo				
par subgraph	par codegen	compilation time(s)	speedup	exe time (s)
no	no	47.21	1	0.29
yes*	no	31.82	1.48	0.29*
yes	yes	37.61	1.28**	0.29

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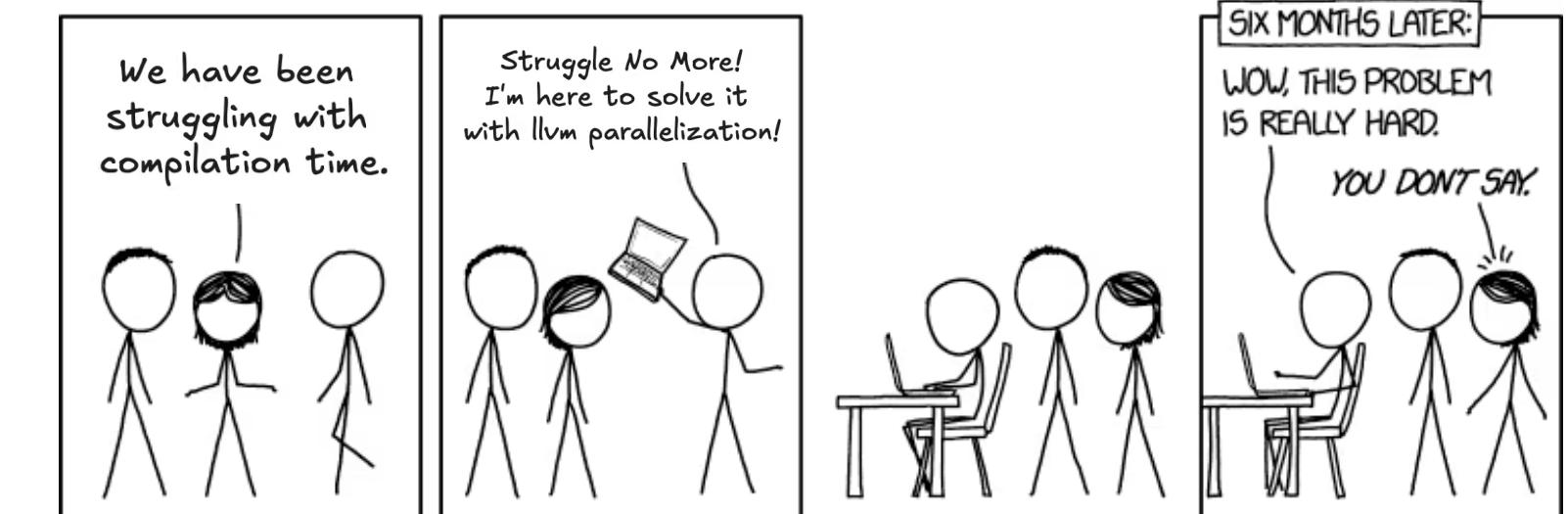
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Conclusions



- Parallelizing LLVM compilation helps improve overall mojo compilation time.
 - Mojo program is in one compilation unit.
 - MCLink helps to keep parallel llvm compilation with minimum side-effect.
 - Asynchronous Runtime for threading and dispatch parallel compilation tasks.
 - Build system (Bazel) be aware of mojo compilation threading, compiler server?
- Limitations
 - Only tested for X86 and AArch64.
 - Not applicable if codegen pipeline passes are inter-procedural, e.g. NVPTX backend.
 - Have to use some C++ tricks to work off-tree.
- We'd like to upstream this
 - llvm-module-splitter [#121543](#)
 - MCLinker [#132989](#)
- This works, but is this a good idea?
- Friend classes? Bytecode support for MIR? Make LLVM thread-safe? ThinLTO?



PC: [xkcd - Here to Help](#)

Questions

Acknowledgement:

The Mojo Language Team at Modular

