



Performance Analysis using Thicket

HPDC Tutorial

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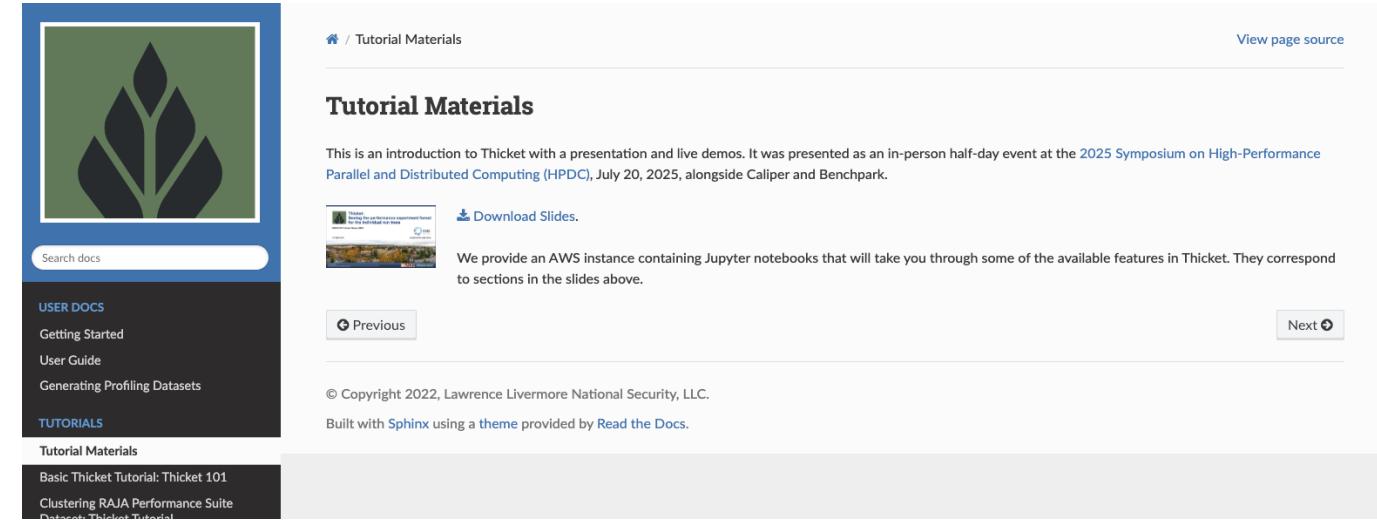


Tutorial Getting Started

Presentation slides: https://thicket.readthedocs.io/en/latest/tutorial_materials.html

Tutorial Agenda

- Welcome and overview
- Presentation (with slides)
- Hands-on session (AWS instance)



The screenshot shows a documentation page for 'Tutorial Materials'. At the top left is a logo of three dark green leaf-like shapes on a blue background. To its right is a search bar with the placeholder 'Search docs'. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with two sections: 'USER DOCS' and 'TUTORIALS'. Under 'USER DOCS', there are links to 'Getting Started', 'User Guide', and 'Generating Profiling Datasets'. Under 'TUTORIALS', there are links to 'Tutorial Materials', 'Basic Thicket Tutorial: Thicket 101', and 'Clustering RAJA Performance Suite Dataset: Thicket Tutorial'. On the right side of the page, the title 'Tutorial Materials' is displayed above a paragraph about the introduction to Thicket at the 2025 Symposium on High-Performance Parallel and Distributed Computing (HPDC). It includes a link to 'Download Slides' and a thumbnail image of a presentation slide showing a visualization. Below this is a note about an AWS instance containing Jupyter notebooks. At the bottom of the page are copyright information ('© Copyright 2022, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC.') and credits ('Built with Sphinx using a theme provided by Read the Docs.'), along with 'Previous' and 'Next' navigation buttons.

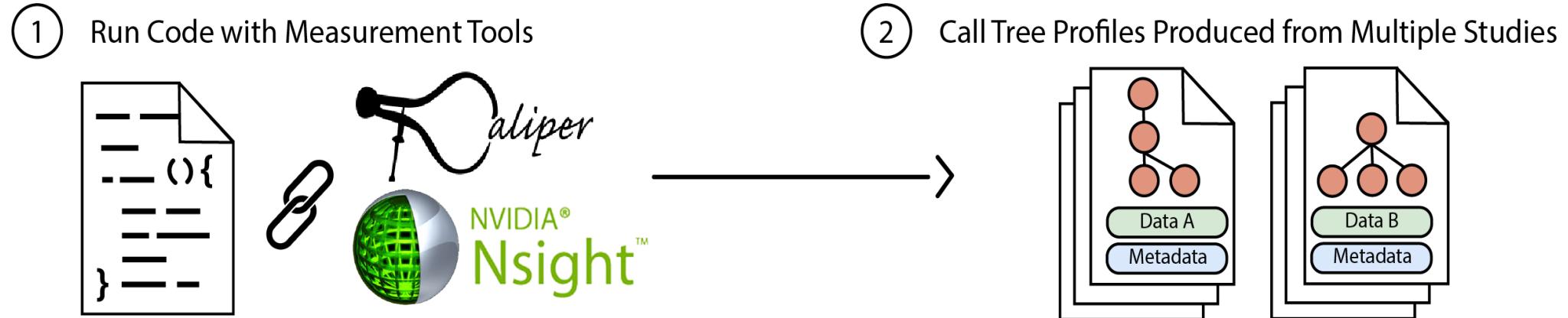
AWS instance included in the tutorial materials provides:

- Pre-installed Thicket and required dependencies
- Jupyter notebooks and associated datasets for analysis



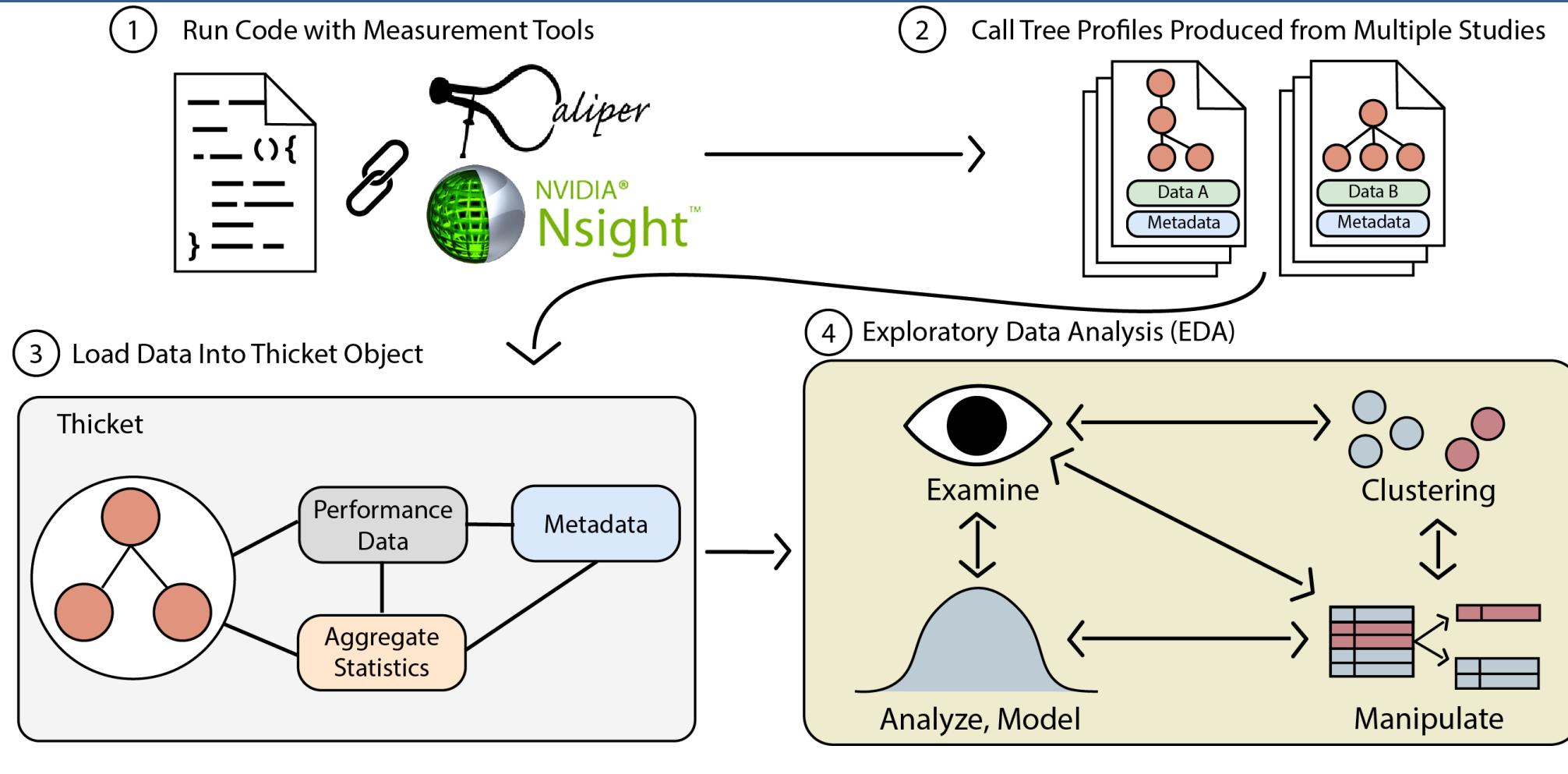
Challenge: Performance analysis in complex HPC ecosystem

- HPC software and hardware are increasingly complex. Need to understand:
 - Strong scaling and weak scaling of applications
 - Impact of application parameters on performance
 - Impact of choice of compilers and optimization levels
 - Performance on different hardware architectures (e.g., CPUs, GPUs)
 - Different tools to measure different aspects of application performance



Goal: Analyze and visualize performance data from different sources and types

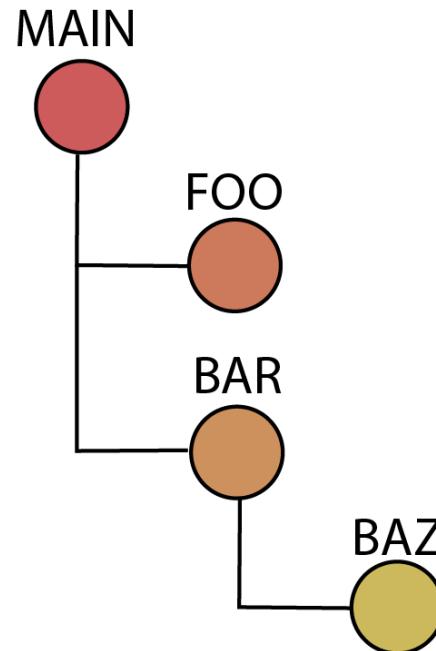
Our big picture solution for analyzing and visualizing performance data from different sources and type



What do profiling tools collect per run?



1) Call Tree



2) Performance data

Node	Cache Misses
MAIN	
FOO	
BAR	
BAZ	

- Time, FLOPS
- Cache misses
- Memory accesses

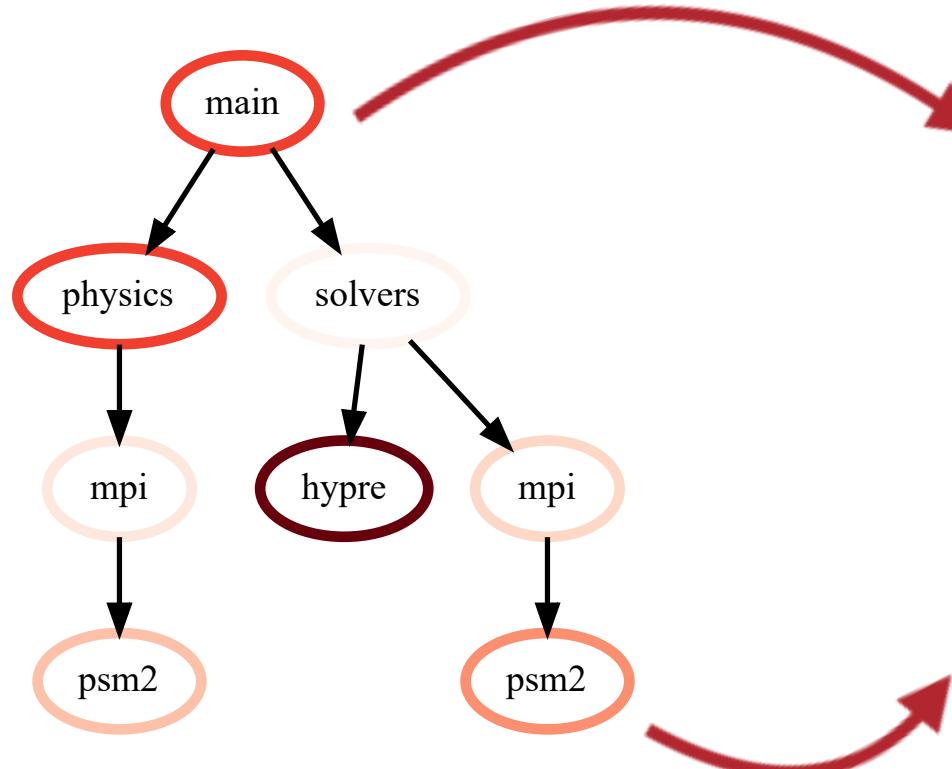
3) Metadata per run

User	Platform

- Batch submission (user, launch date)
- Hardware info (platform)
- Build info (compiler versions/flags)
- Runtime info (problem parameters, number of MPI ranks used)



Thicket builds upon Hatchet's *GraphFrame*: a Graph and a Dataframe



Graph: Stores relationships between parents and children

	name	nid	node	time	time (inc)	
node						
main	main	0	main	40.0	200.0	
physics	physics	1	physics	40.0	60.0	
mpi	mpi	2	mpi	5.0	20.0	
psm2	psm2	3	psm2	15.0	15.0	
solvers	solvers	4	solvers	0.0	100.0	
hypre	hypre	5	hypre	65.0	65.0	
mpi	mpi	6	mpi	10.0	35.0	
psm2	psm2	7	psm2	25.0	25.0	

Pandas Dataframe: 2D table storing numerical data associated with each node (may be unique per rank, per thread)



<https://github.com/LLNL/hatchet>
<https://github.com/LLNL/hatchet-tutorial>



Visualizing Hatchet's GraphFrame components

```
>>> print(gf.tree()) # print graph  
>>> print(gf.dataframe) # print dataframe
```

```
0.000 foo  
└─ 6.000 bar  
    └─ 5.000 baz  
└─ 0.000 qux  
    └─ 5.000 quux  
        └─ 10.000 corge  
        └─ 15.000 garply  
            └─ 1.000 grault  
15.000 waldo  
└─ 3.000 fred  
    └─ 5.000 plugh  
└─ 15.000 garply
```

Legend (Metric: time)
■ 13.50 – 15.00
■ 10.50 – 13.50
■ 7.50 – 10.50
■ 4.50 – 7.50
■ 1.50 – 4.50
■ 0.00 – 1.50

name User code

◀ Only in left graph

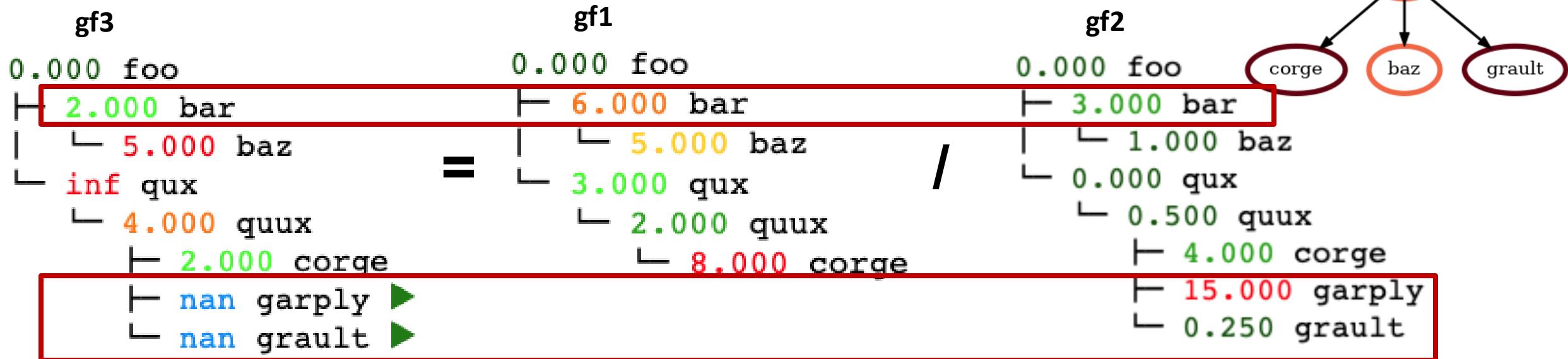
node	name	time	time (inc)
{'name': 'foo'}	foo	0.0	130.0
{'name': 'bar'}	bar	5.0	20.0
{'name': 'baz'}	baz	5.0	5.0
{'name': 'grault'}	grault	10.0	10.0
{'name': 'quux'}	quux	0.0	60.0
{'name': 'quux'}	quux	5.0	60.0
{'name': 'corge'}	corge	10.0	55.0
{'name': 'bar'}	bar	5.0	20.0
{'name': 'baz'}	baz	5.0	5.0
{'name': 'grault'}	grault	10.0	10.0
{'name': 'garply'}	garply	15.0	15.0
{'name': 'grault'}	grault	10.0	10.0

▶ Only in right graph

Compare GraphFrames using division (or add, subtract, multiply)

```
>>> gf3 = gf1 / gf2 # divide graphframes
```

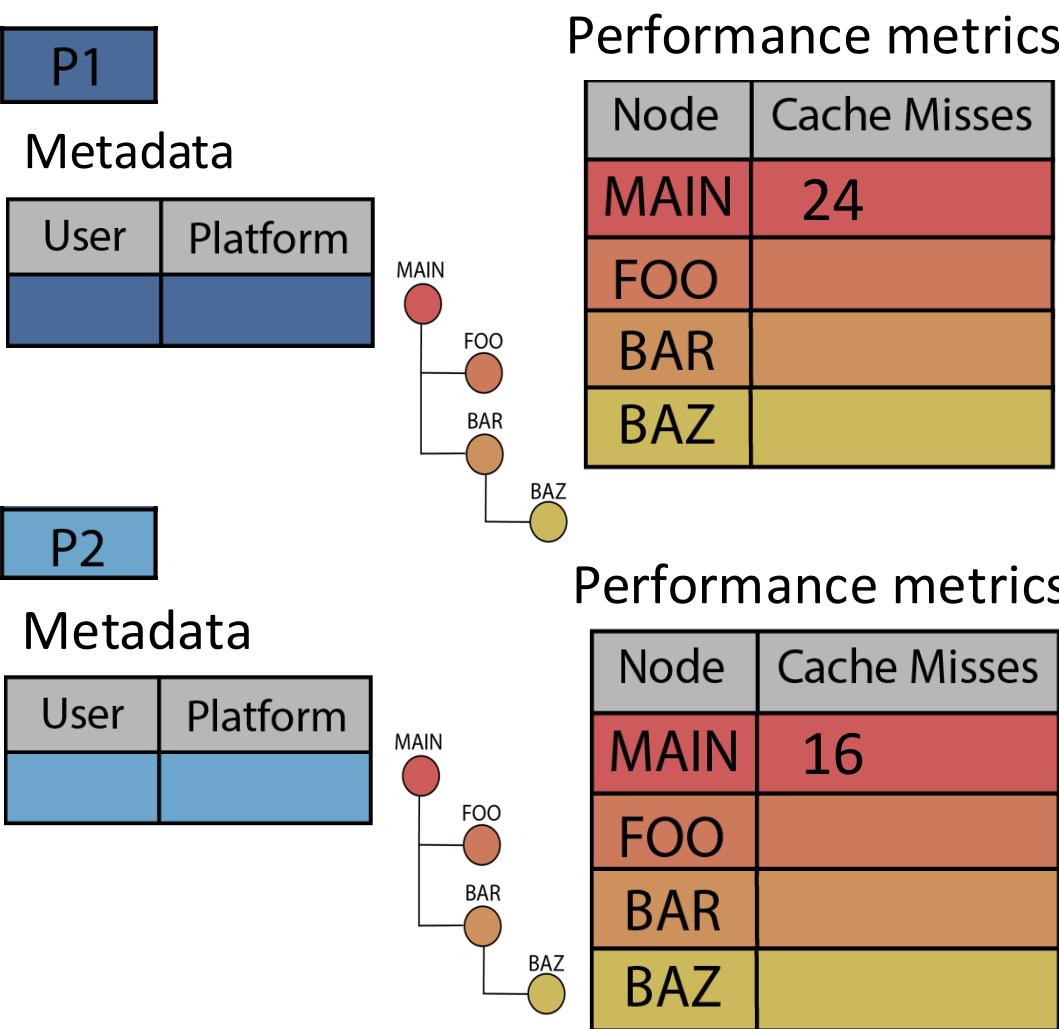
*First, unify two trees since
structure is different



```
>>> gf3 = gf1 + gf2 # add graphframes  
>>> gf3 = gf1 - gf2 # subtract graphframes  
>>> gf3 = gf1 * gf2 # multiply graphframes
```

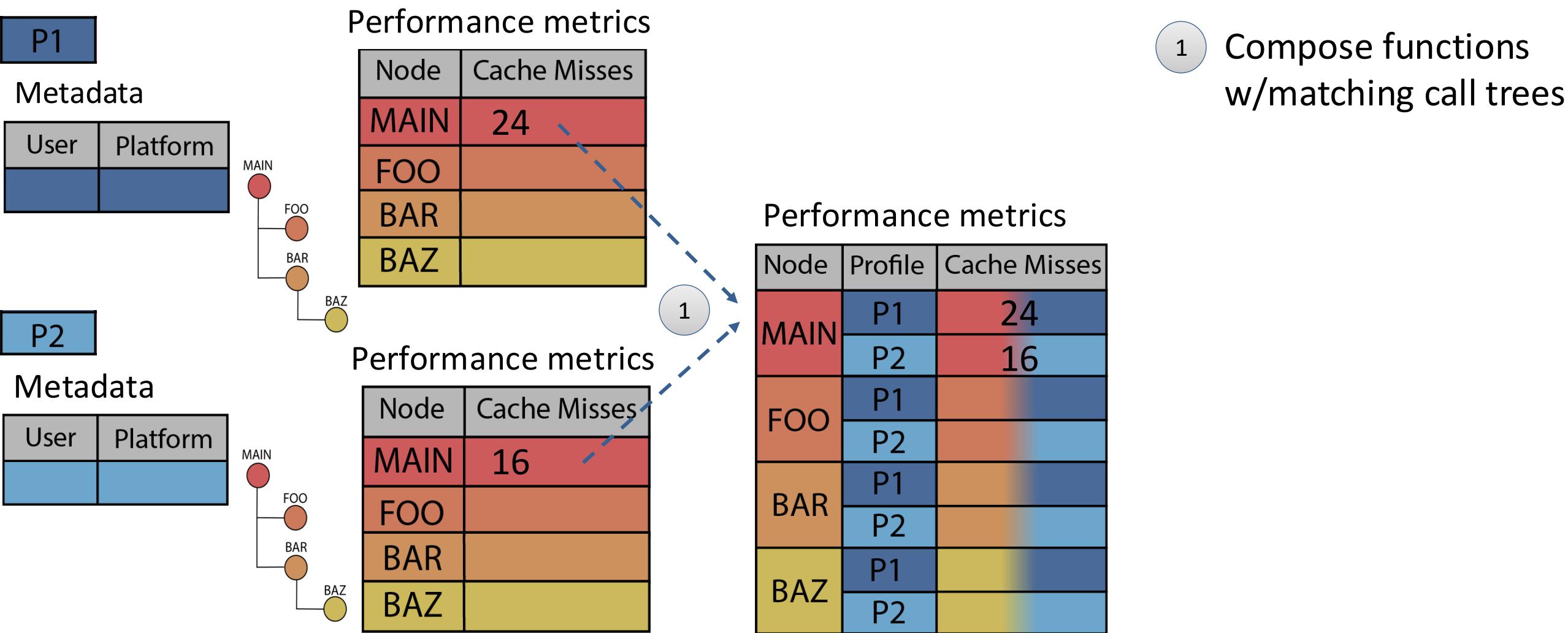


Use Thicket to *compose* performance profiles in Python



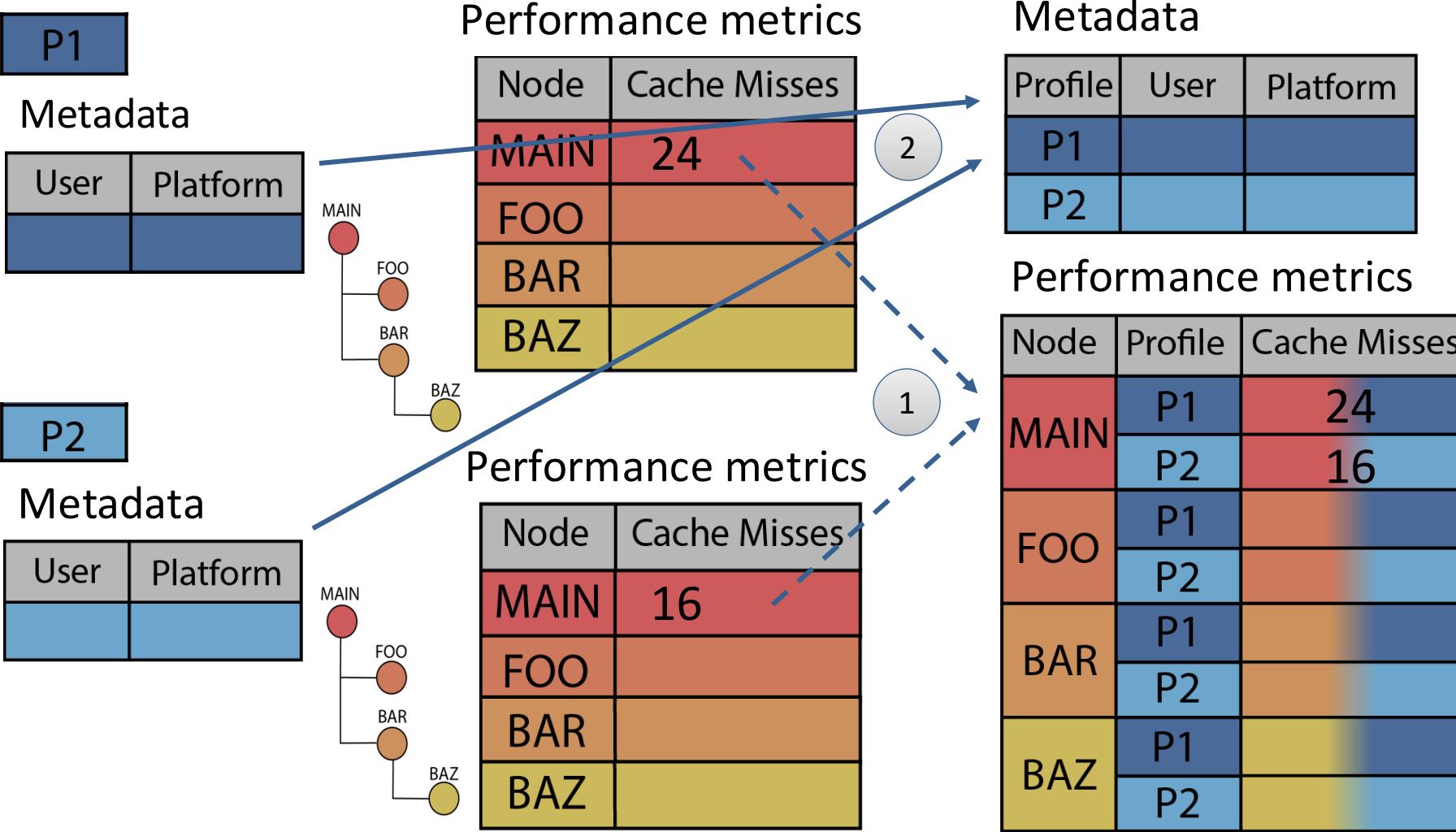


Use Thicket to *compose* performance profiles in Python





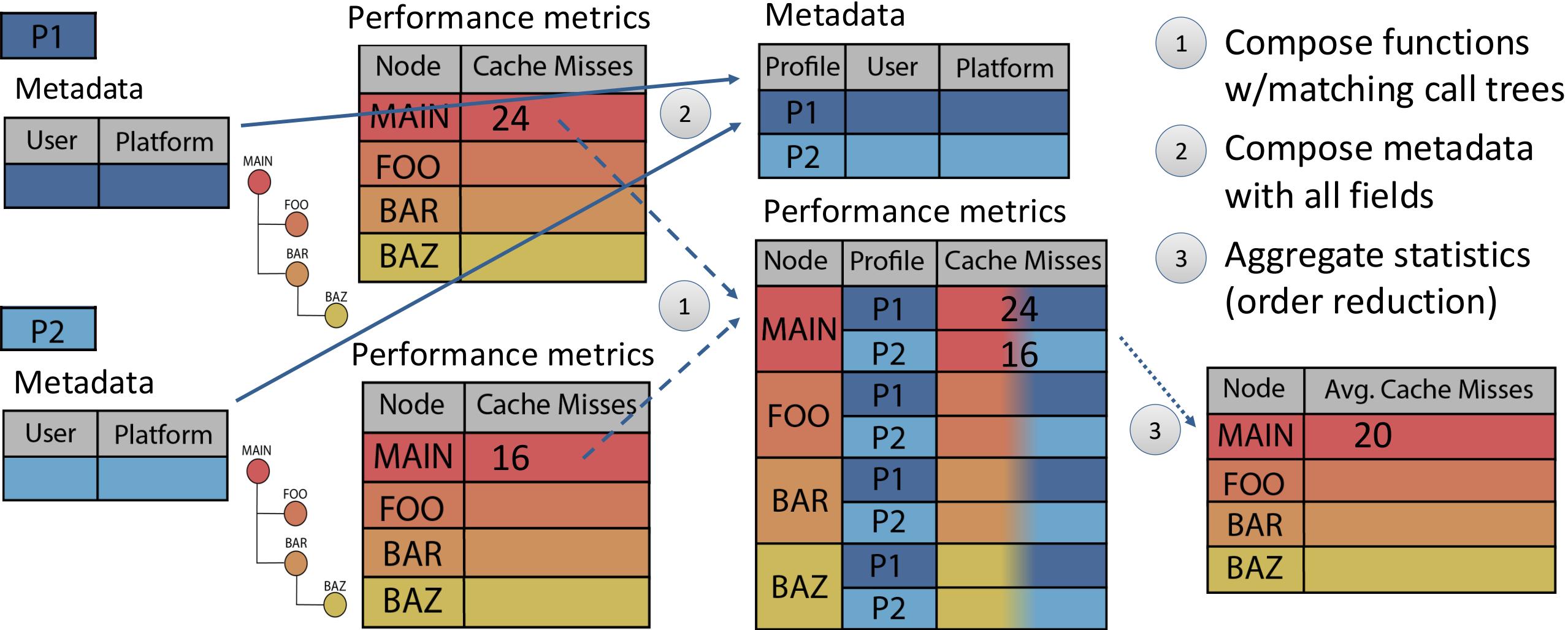
Use Thicket to *compose* performance profiles in Python



- 1 Compose functions w/matching call trees
- 2 Compose metadata with all fields



Use Thicket to *compose* performance profiles in Python



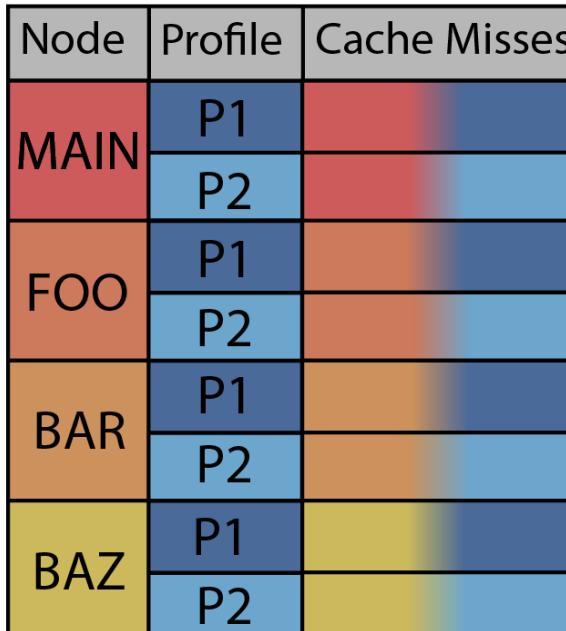


Thicket components are *interconnected*

Metadata

Profile	User	Platform
P1	Jon	lassen
P2	Bob	lassen

Performance metrics



Filter on metadata:
platform=="lassen" &&
user=="Bob"

Filtered Metadata

Profile	User	Platform
P2	Bob	lassen

Filtered Performance metrics

Node	Profile	Cache Misses
MAIN	P2	Medium (Orange)
FOO	P2	Low (Blue)
BAR	P2	Very Low (Yellow)
BAZ	P2	Very Low (Yellow)

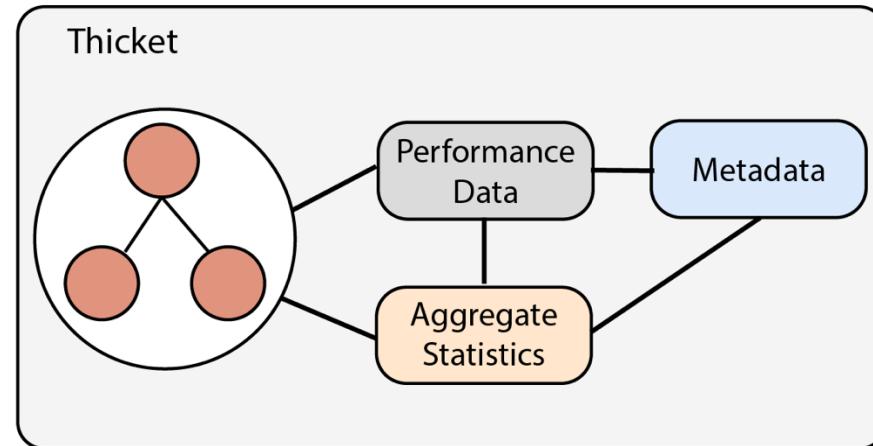
Metadata fields useful for understanding
and manipulating thicket object!





Thicket enables exploratory data analysis of multi-run data

3) Load Data Into Thicket Object

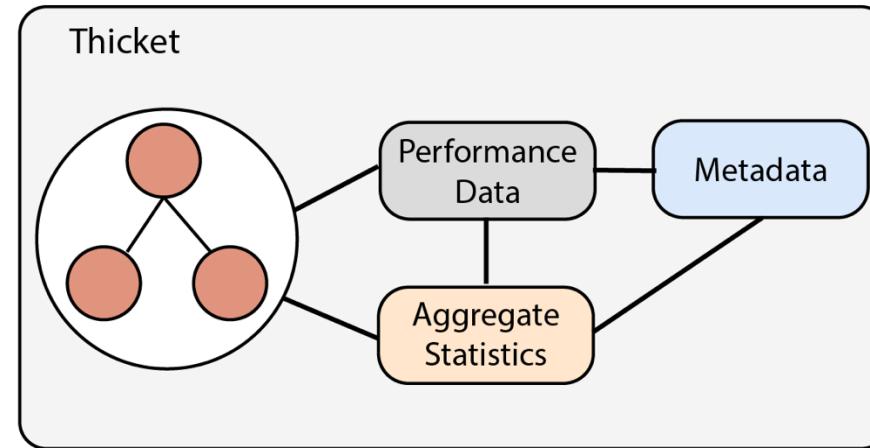


- Compose data from diff. sources and types
 - Different scaling (e.g., strong, weak)
 - Different application parameters
 - Different compilers and optimization levels
 - Different hardware types (e.g., CPUs, GPUs)
 - Different performance tools

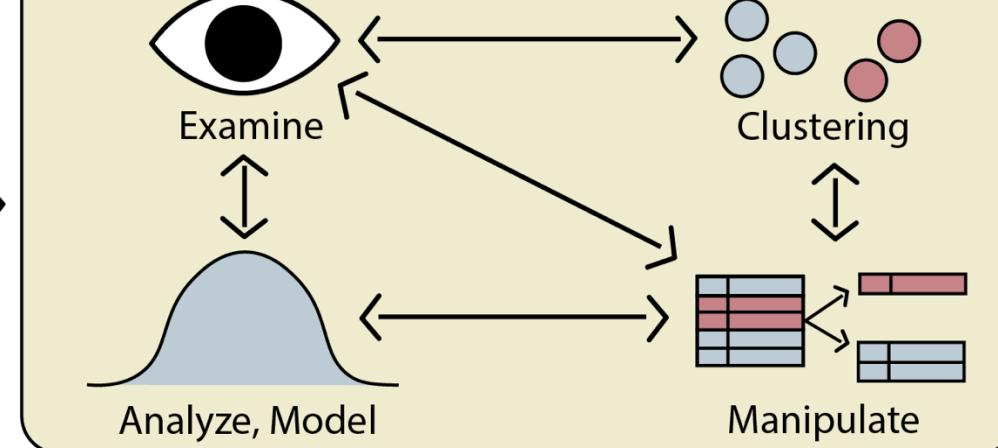


Thicket enables exploratory data analysis of multi-run data

3 Load Data Into Thicket Object



4 Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)



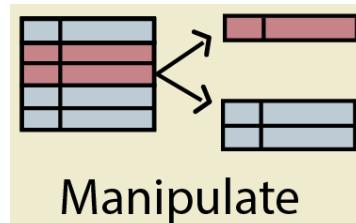
- Compose data from diff. sources and types
 - Different scaling (e.g., strong, weak)
 - Different application parameters
 - Different compilers and optimization levels
 - Different hardware types (e.g., CPUs, GPUs)
 - Different performance tools
- Perform analysis on the thicket of runs
 - Manipulate the set of data
 - Visualize the dataset
 - Perform analysis on the data
 - Model data
 - Leverage third-party tools in the Python ecosystem



- Open-source suite of loop-based kernels commonly found in HPC applications showcasing performance of different programming models on different hardware
- 560 runs/profiles:
 - 2 clusters (CPU, CPU+GPU)
 - 4 problem sizes
 - 3 compilers, 4 optimizations
 - 3 programming models (sequential, OpenMP, CUDA)
 - 3 performance tools (Caliper, PAPI, Nsight Compute)

<http://github.com/llnl/rajaperf>

cluster	systype build	problem size	compiler	compiler optimizations	omp num threads	cuda compiler	block sizes	RAJA variant	#profiles
0	quartz	toss_3_x86_64_ib	[1M, 2M, 4M, 8M]	clang++-9.0.0	[-O0, -O1, -O2, -O3]	1	N/A	N/A	Sequential 160
1	quartz	toss_3_x86_64_ib	[1M, 2M, 4M, 8M]	g++-8.3.1	[-O0, -O1, -O2, -O3]	1	N/A	N/A	Sequential 160
2	quartz	toss_3_x86_64_ib	[1M, 2M, 4M, 8M]	clang++-9.0.0	-O0	72	N/A	N/A	OpenMP 40
3	quartz	toss_3_x86_64_ib	[1M, 2M, 4M, 8M]	g++-8.3.1	-O0	72	N/A	N/A	OpenMP 40
4	lassen	blueos_3_ppc64le_ib_p9	[1M, 2M, 4M, 8M]	xlc++_r-16.1.1.12	-O0	1 nvcc-11.2.152	[128, 256, 512, 1024]	CUDA	160



Use Thicket to *compose* multi-platform, multi-tool data

Thicket object composed of 2 profiles run on CPU

		node	problem_size	time (exc)	Reps	Retiring	Backend bound
Apps_NODAL_ACCUMULATION_3D	1M	0.204583	100	0.144928	0.783786		
		0.795511	100	0.139002	0.788017		
	1M	0.067061	100	0.402238	0.510525		
	4M	0.241508	100	0.400775	0.515976		

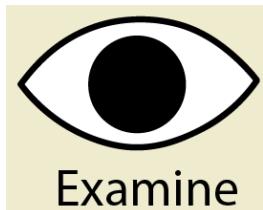
Thicket object composed of 2 profiles run on GPU

		node	problem_size	time (gpu)	gpu_compute_memory_throughput	gpu_dram_throughput	sm_throughput
Apps_NODAL_ACCUMULATION_3D	1M	0.007478			70.689752	46.724767	7.330745
		0.026951			74.275834	51.257993	7.688628
	1M	0.006028			81.012826	67.751194	35.676942
	4M	0.021422			91.929933	70.122011	35.386470

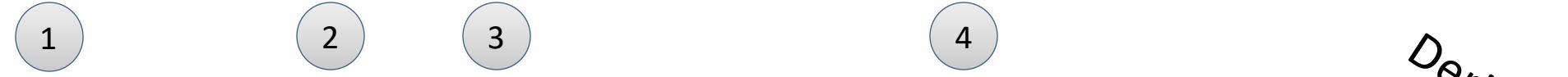
CPU

GPU

		node	problem_size	time (exc)	Reps	Retiring	Backend bound	time (gpu)	gpu_compute_memory_throughput	gpu_dram_throughput	sm__throughput
Apps_NODAL_ACCUMULATION_3D	1M	0.204583	100	0.144928	0.783786	0.007478			70.689752	46.724767	7.330745
		0.795511	100	0.139002	0.788017	0.026951			74.275834	51.257993	7.688628
	1M	0.067061	100	0.402238	0.510525	0.006028			81.012826	67.751194	35.676942
	4M	0.241508	100	0.400775	0.515976	0.021422			91.929933	70.122011	35.386470



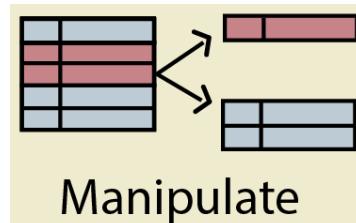
- Dataset: 4 types of profiles side-by-side to compare CPU to GPU performance
 - 1 Basic CPU metrics from Caliper
 - 2 Top-down metrics from Caliper/PAPI
 - 3 GPU runtime from Caliper
 - 4 GPU metrics from Nsight Compute
- Examples of analysis:
 - Compute CPU/GPU speedup
 - Correlate memory and compute usage on the CPU vs. GPU



CPU CPU top-down GPU GPU Nsight Compute

Derived

Node	Problem size	time (exc)	Bytes/Rep	Flops/Rep	Retiring	Backend bound	time (gpu)	gpu_compute_memory_throughput	gpu_dram_throughput	sm_throughput	sm_warps_active	speedup
Apps_VOL3D	8M	0.498815	282109496	632421288	0.377843	0.540604	0.040761	93.742058	72.140428	36.206767	54.459589	12.237556
Lcals_HYDRO_1D	8M	2.077556	201326600	41943040	0.032965	0.909545	0.242928	92.944968	92.944968	6.595714	95.266148	8.552147



Manipulate: Filter using call path query

```
0.001 Base_CUDA
└ 0.000 Algorithm
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_MEMORY
    └ 0.002 Algorithm_MEMORY.block_128
    └ 0.009 Algorithm_MEMORY.block_256
    └ 0.006 Algorithm_MEMORY.library
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_MEMSET
    └ 0.001 Algorithm_MEMSET.block_128
    └ 0.004 Algorithm_MEMSET.block_256
    └ 0.003 Algorithm_MEMSET.library
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM
    └ 0.003 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM.block_128
    └ 0.004 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM.block_256
    └ 0.002 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM.cub
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_SCAN
    └ 0.006 Algorithm_SCAN.default
```

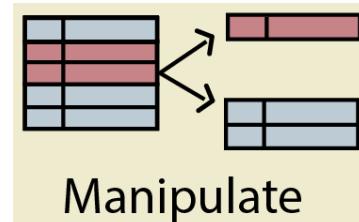
Input call tree

Filter on call path:
(1) Node named
“Base_CUDA”

```
0.001 Base_CUDA
```

Output call tree

I Lumsden et al. “Enabling Call Path Querying in Hatchet to Identify Performance Bottlenecks in Scientific Applications”, e-Science 2022



Manipulate: Filter using call path query

```
0.001 Base_CUDA
└ 0.000 Algorithm
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_MEMCPY
    └ 0.002 Algorithm_MEMCPY.block_128
    └ 0.009 Algorithm_MEMCPY.block_256
    └ 0.006 Algorithm_MEMCPY.library
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_MEMSET
    └ 0.001 Algorithm_MEMSET.block_128
    └ 0.004 Algorithm_MEMSET.block_256
    └ 0.003 Algorithm_MEMSET.library
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM
    └ 0.003 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM.block_128
    └ 0.004 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM.block_256
    └ 0.002 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM.cub
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_SCAN
    └ 0.006 Algorithm_SCAN.default
```

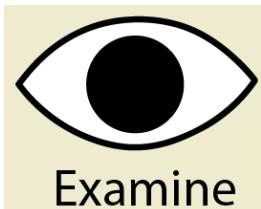
Input call tree

- Filter on call path:
- (1) Node named “Base_CUDA”
 - (2) Node with “block_128” in name (and any nodes in between)

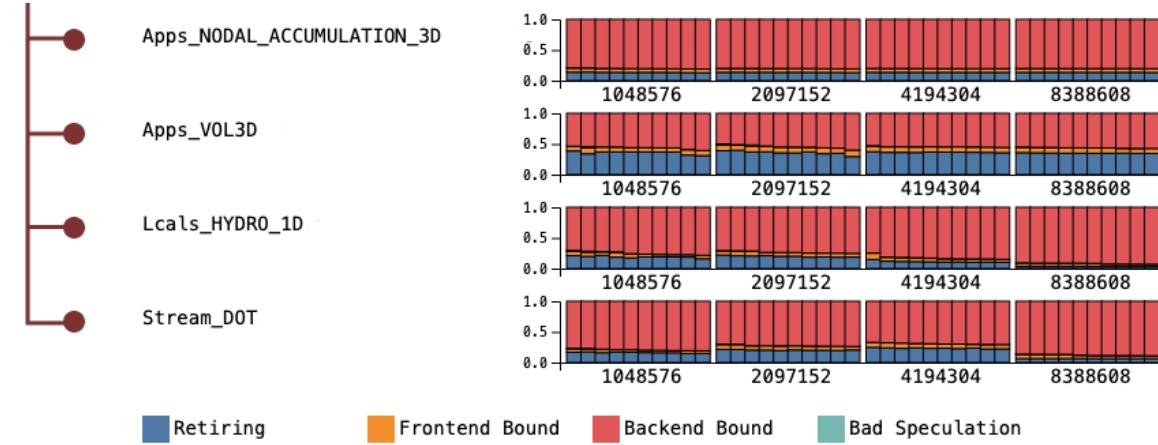
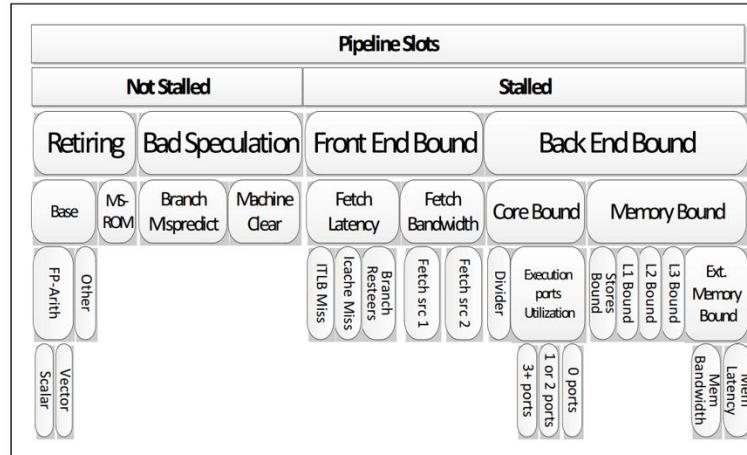
```
0.001 Base_CUDA
└ 0.000 Algorithm
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_MEMCPY
    └ 0.002 Algorithm_MEMCPY.block_128
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_MEMSET
    └ 0.001 Algorithm_MEMSET.block_128
  └ 0.000 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM
    └ 0.003 Algorithm_REDUCE_SUM.block_128
```

Output call tree

I Lumsden et al. “Enabling Call Path Querying in Hatchet to Identify Performance Bottlenecks in Scientific Applications”, e-Science 2022



Visualize: Intel CPU top-down analysis

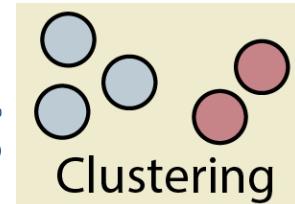


- *Top-down analysis* uses HW counters in a hierarchy to identify bottlenecks*
- Use Caliper's top-down module to derive top-down metrics for call-tree regions

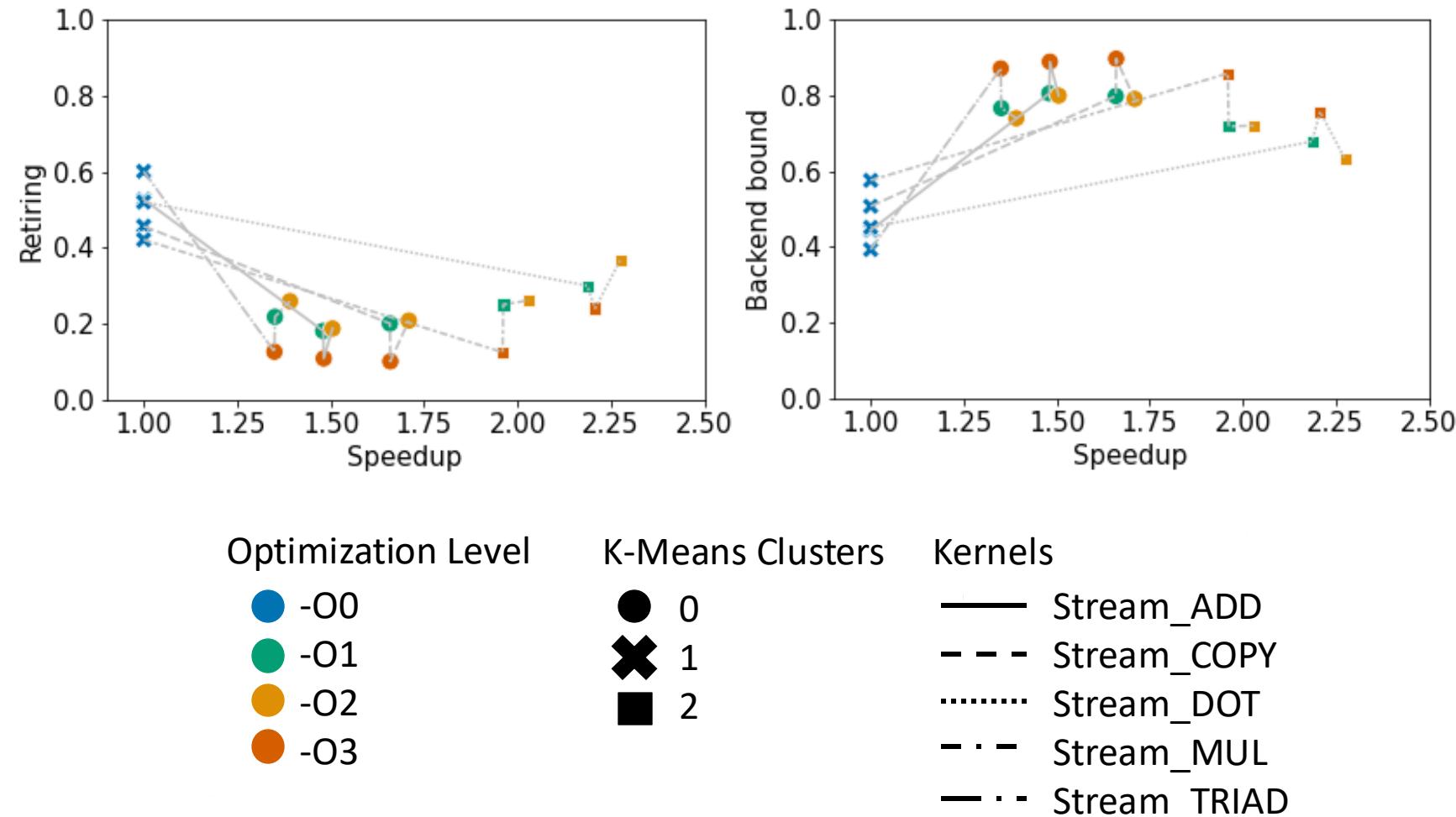
- Thicket's *tree+table* visualization shows top-down metrics as stacked bar charts, each bar is a profile
 - Apps_VOL3D has the highest retiring rates
 - Lcals_HYDRO and Stream_DOT become more backend bound as problem size grows

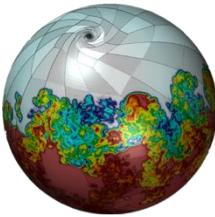
* Yasin, A.: A Top-Down Method for Performance Analysis and Counters Architecture. In: 2014 IEEE International Symposium on Performance Analysis of Systems and Software (ISPASS). pp. 35–44. IEEE, CA, USA (Mar 2014).

Use third-party Python libraries, e.g., Scikit-learn clustering



1. Select data of interest
 - Filter 8M problem size
 - Use query language to extract all implementations of the Stream kernel
2. (optional) Normalize data
3. Apply scikit-learn clustering to top-down analysis metrics of runs with different compiler optimization levels

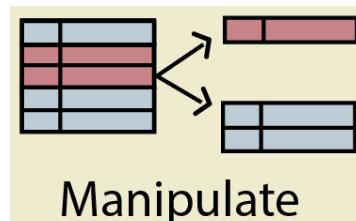




Case Study 2: MARBL multi-physics code

- MARBL is a next-generation multi-physics code developed at LLNL
- 60 runs/profiles:
 - 2 clusters (rztopaz, AWS ParallelCluster)
 - 2 MPI libraries (impi, openmpi)
 - 6 node/rank counts
 - 5 repeat runs per config

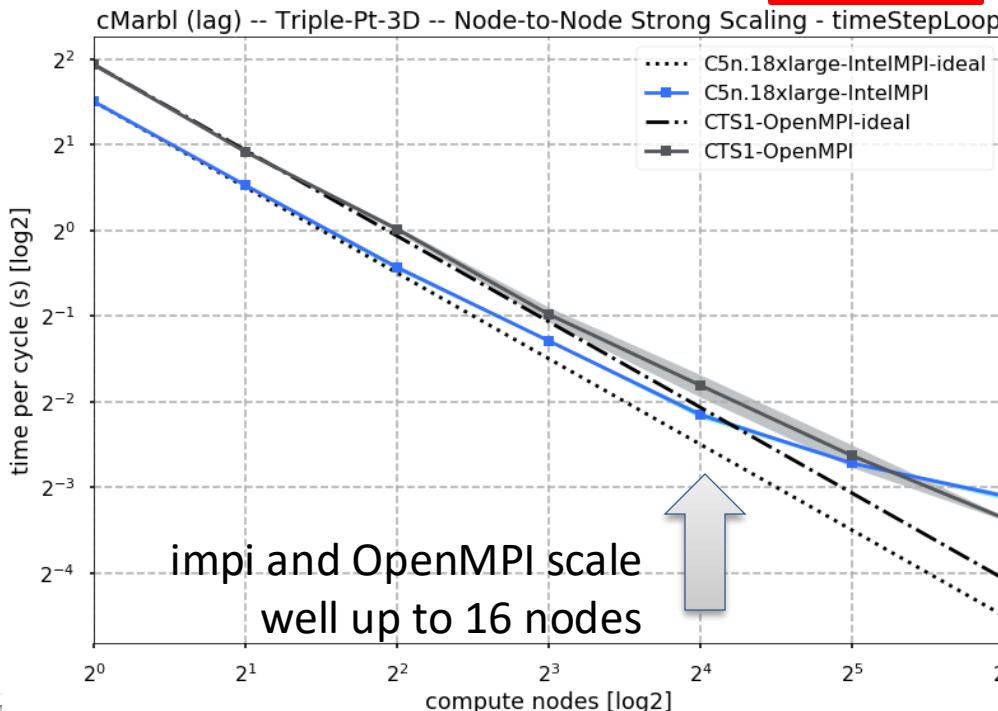
	cluster	ccompiler	mpi	version	numhosts	mpi.world.size	#profiles
0	ip----	/usr/tce/packages/clang/clang-9.0.0	impi	v1.1.0-203-gcb0efb3	[1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32]	[36, 72, 144, 288, 576, 1152]	30
1	rztopaz	/usr/tce/packages/clang/clang-9.0.0	openmpi	v1.1.0-201-g891eaf1	[1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32]	[36, 72, 144, 288, 576, 1152]	30



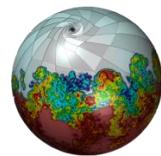
Manipulate: Compute noise and scaling

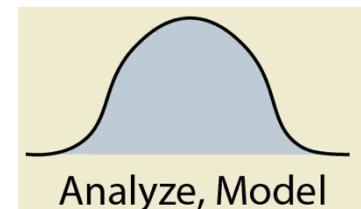
node	profile	Total time	name	mpi.world.size
{'name': 'main', 'type': 'function'}	-8554409769265002864	58036.664552	main	144
	-7335101512240609798	55318.808836	main	36
	-6029692086108825020	156984.246813	main	2304
	-5606382734792961361	64122.371533	main	288
	-4058809097109060732	155040.998627	main	2304
	-3193575964635936033	71010.504038	main	576
	-2978339073585311581	55910.708449	main	72
	-2939704488254773514	157934.204076	main	2304
	-2771797711381234985	56893.512948	main	144
	-2638513839856695106	97432.260966	main	1152

node	profile	Total time	name	mpi.world.size
	-7335101512240609798	55318.808836	main	36
	-843517585394879415	55110.656885	main	36
	7720382918482619866	55155.581578	main	36
	8293335926964337960	55139.134916	main	36
	8335957980556391465	55013.682102	main	36



1. Use groupby(mpi.world.size) to generate unique subsets of data which are repeated runs; compute noise
2. Compose runs on different platforms and at different scales
3. Generate strong scaling plot with matplotlib
 - Deviation shown in shaded region, dots are average of 5 runs



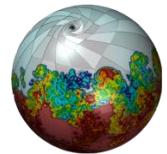
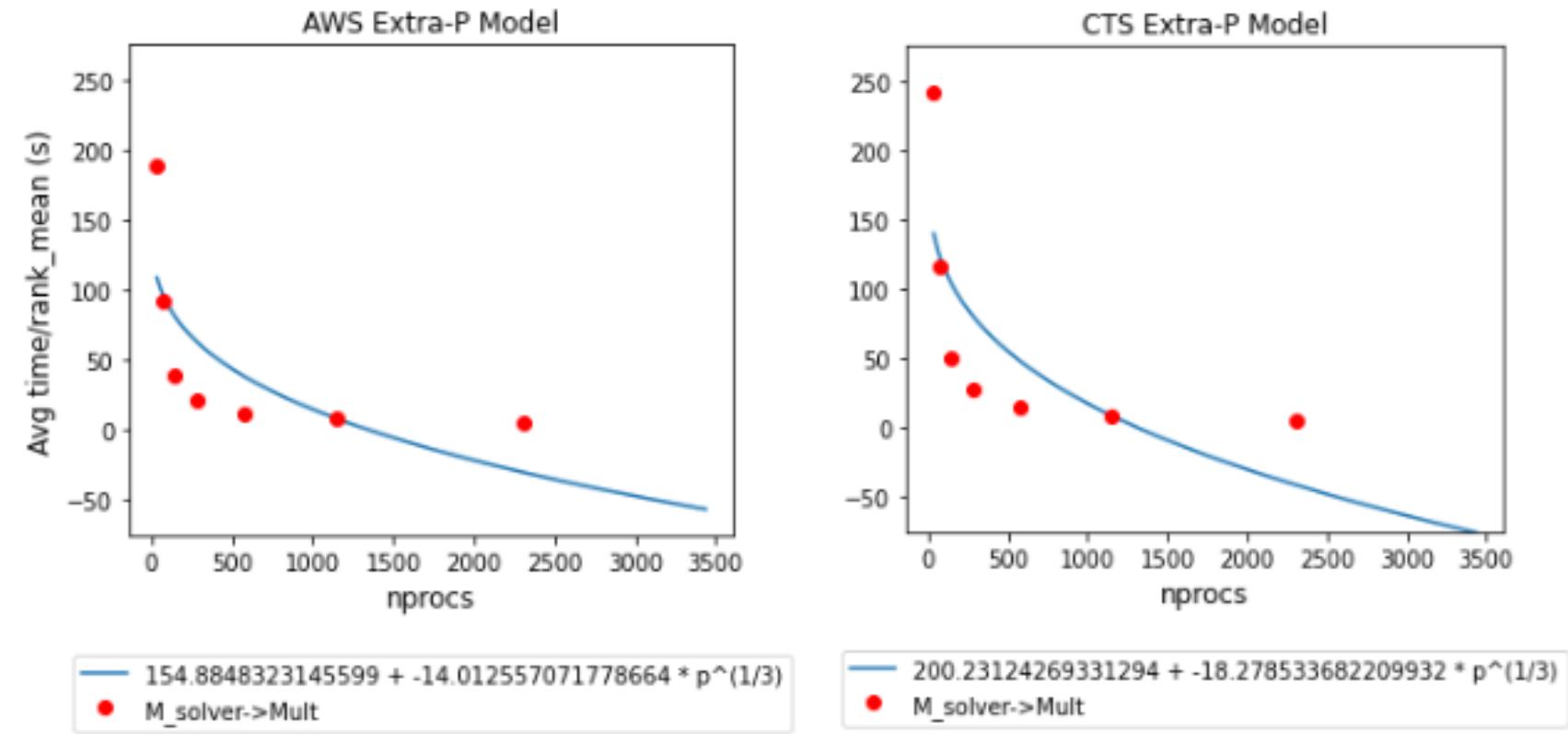


Model: Use third-party Python library, Extra-P

Extra-P derives an analytical performance model from an ensemble of profiles covering one or more modeling parameters

<http://github.com/extra-p/extrap>

- Select functions of interest
- Call Extra-P to model scaling on different hardware types

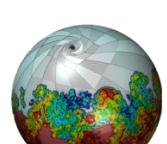
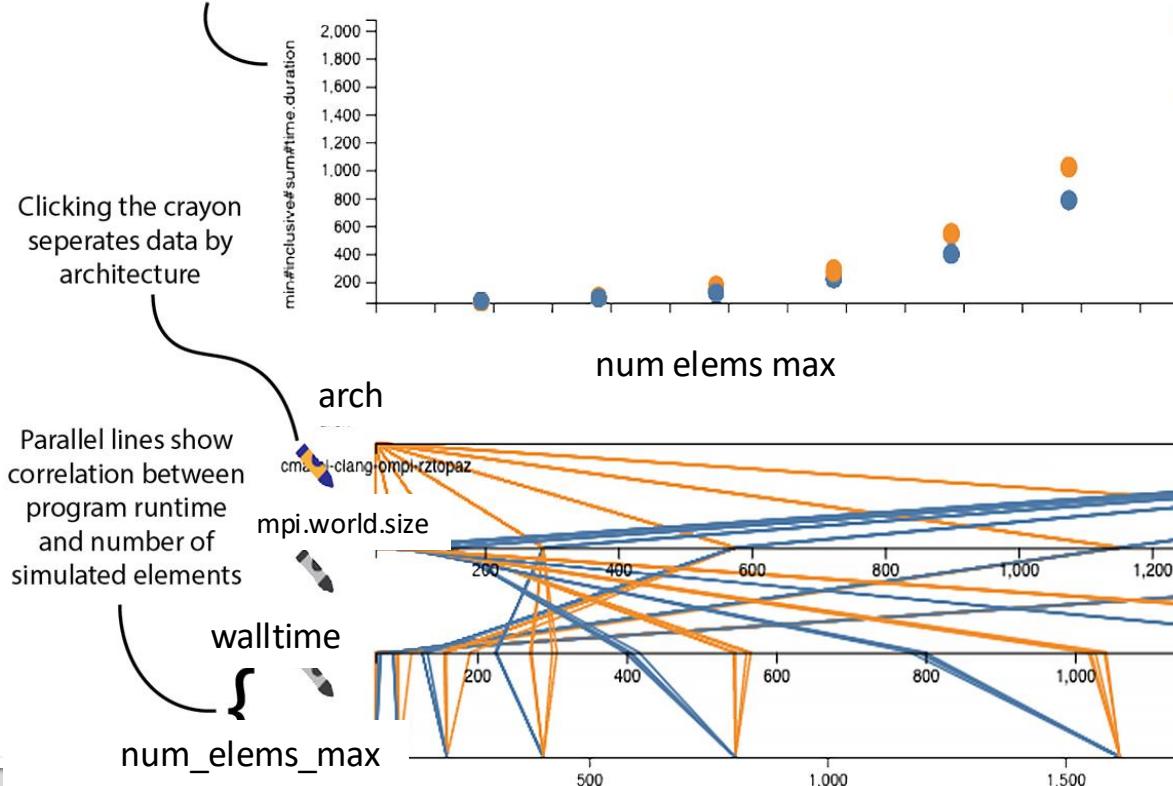




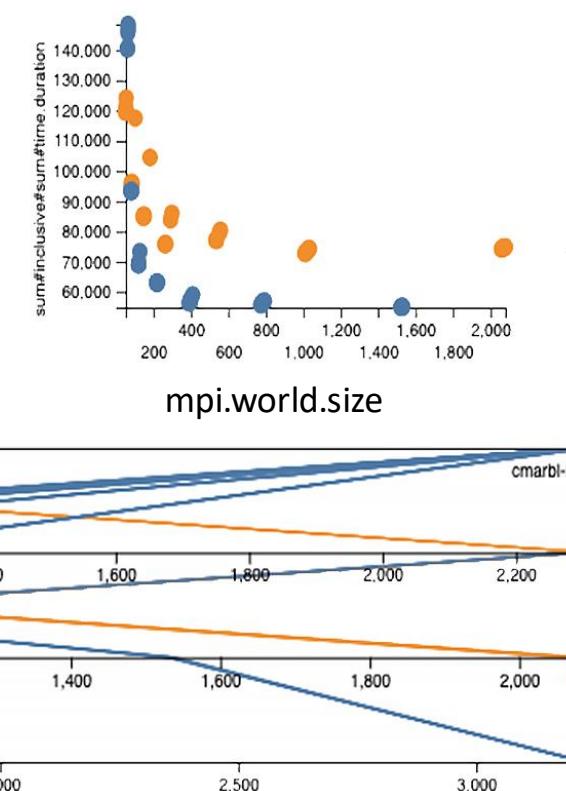
Visualize metadata with parallel coordinates plot

- Thicket's interactive parallel coordinates plot shows relationships between metadata variables, and between metadata and performance data

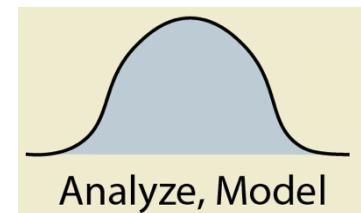
The metric values are associated with one node in the call tree.



LLNL-PRES-850268

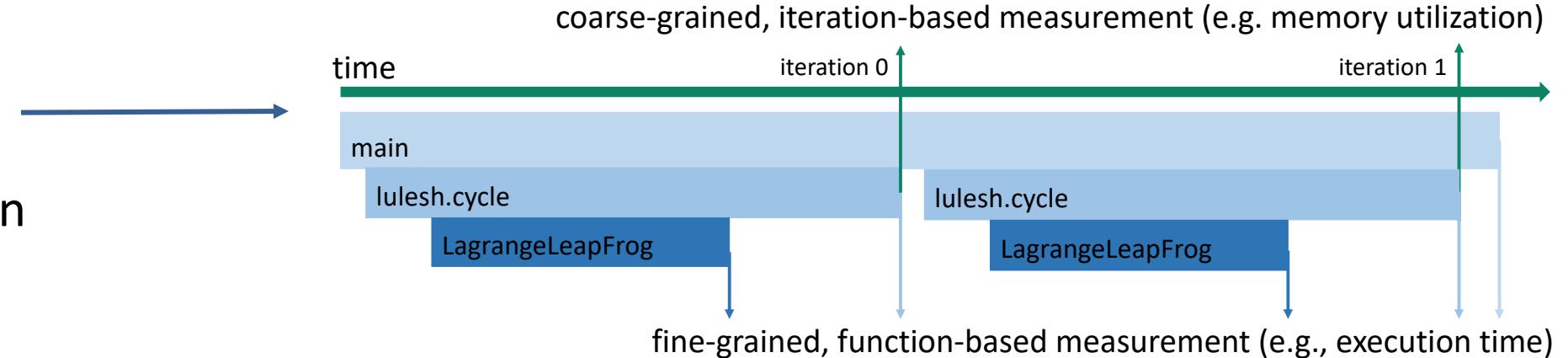


Can we observe performance fluctuations over time?



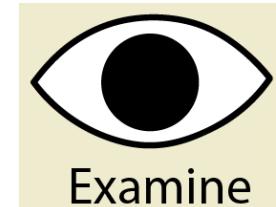
- Caliper collects metrics at set intervals
- Thicket can then categorize temporal patterns [1]:

$$P_{temporal}(t) = 1 - \frac{\sum_{t=0}^T M_t}{\sum_{t=0}^T \max_{0 < t < T} M_t}$$



Pattern	Constant	Phased	Dynamic	Sporadic
Score	0.0-0.2	0.2-0.4	0.4-0.6	0.6-1.0
Symbol	→	~	↔	↗

[1] I.B. Peng, I. Karlin, M. B. Gokhale, K. Shoga, M. P. LeGendre, and T. Gamblin. A holistic view of memory utilization on hpc systems: Current and future trends. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Memory Systems, 2021.

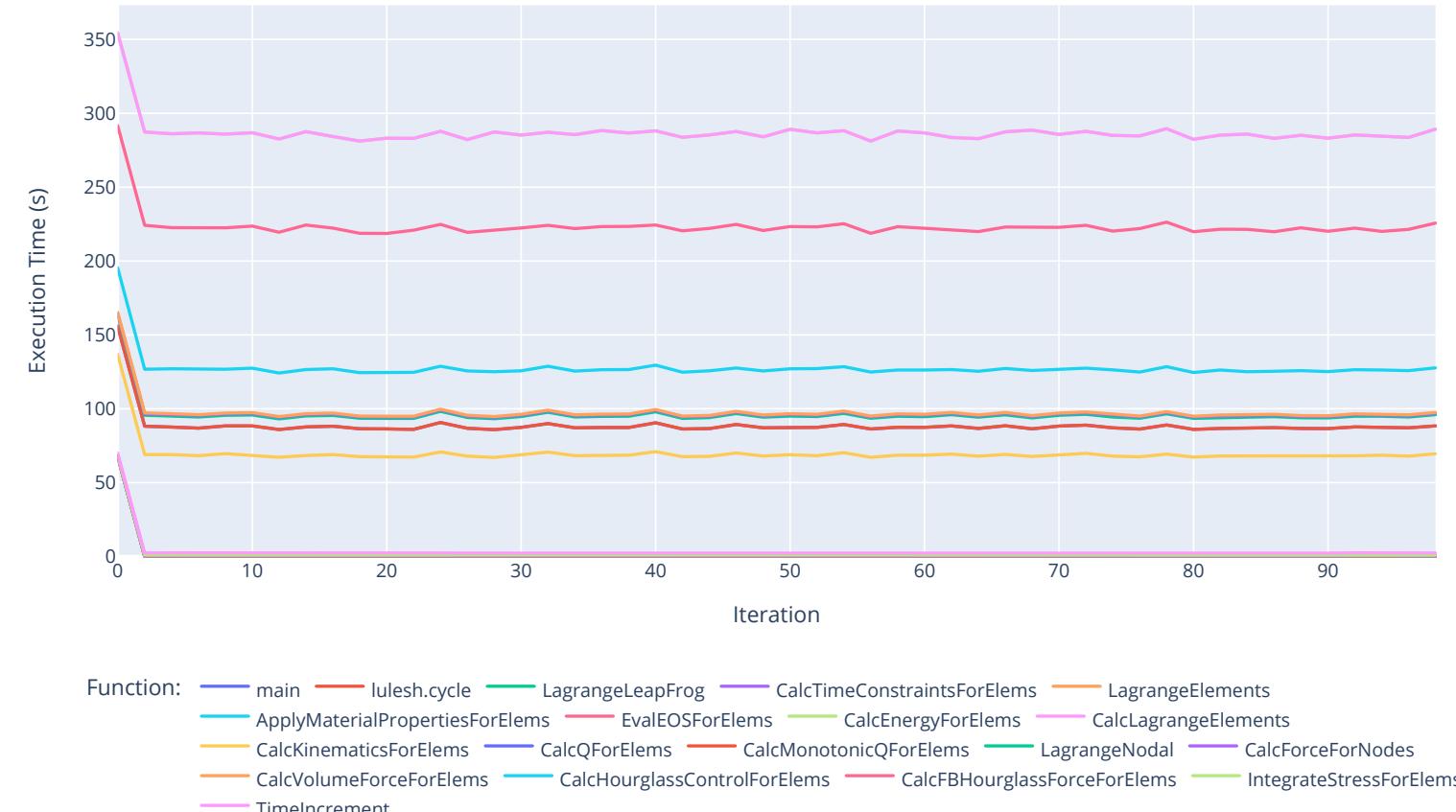


Timeseries metrics visualizations

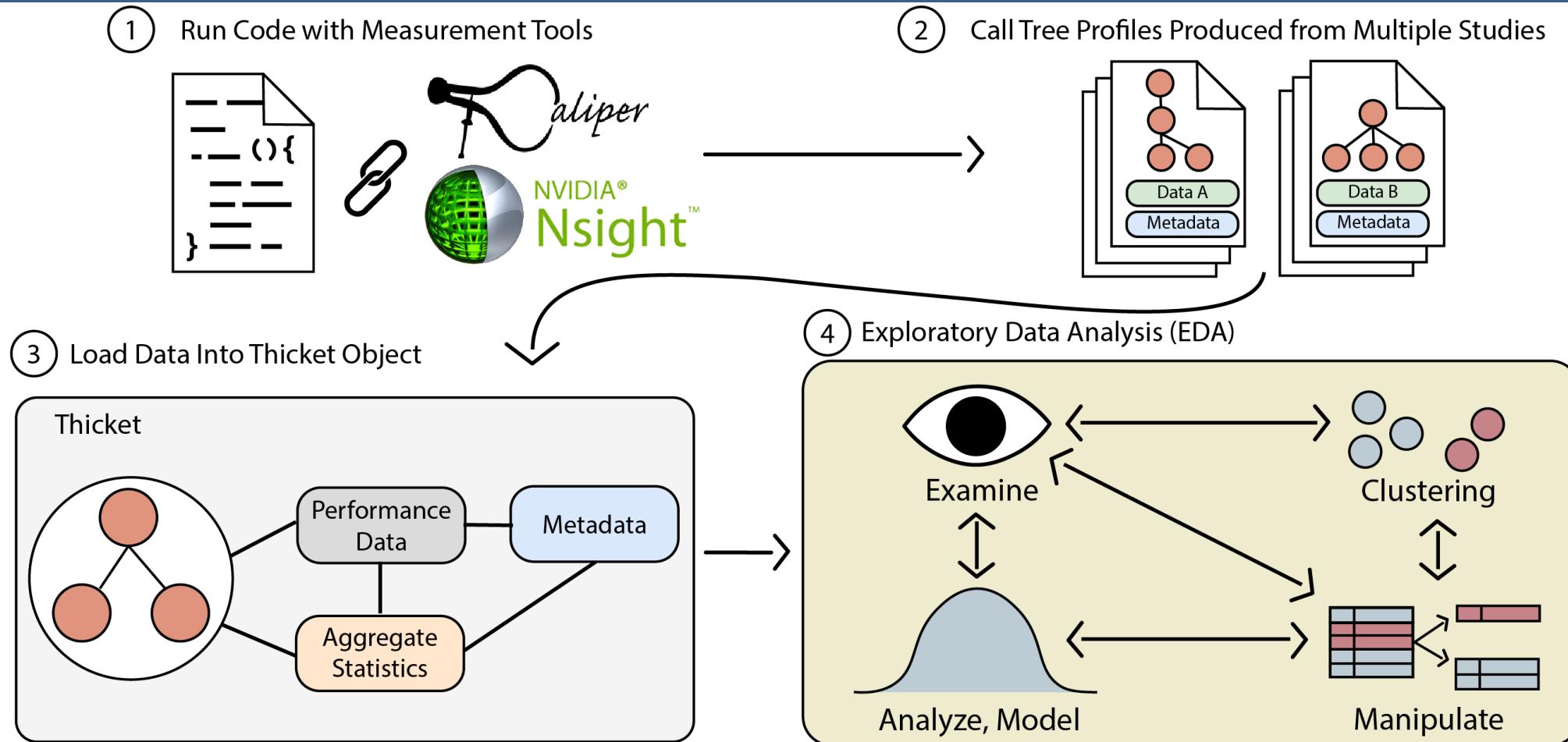
- Display pattern symbol and temporal score as part of the call tree
- Use python plotting libraries to create a more granular visualization

0.488 ↗ lulesh.cycle
└ 0.280 ↗ LagrangeLeapFrog
 └ 0.242 ↗ CalcTimeConstraintsForElems
 └ 0.151 ↗ LagrangeElements

67788.343 → lulesh.cycle
└ 8168.648 LagrangeLeapFrog
 └ 8783.894 CalcTimeConstraintsForElem
 └ 398433.500 LagrangeElements



Thicket is a toolkit for exploratory data analysis of multi-run data



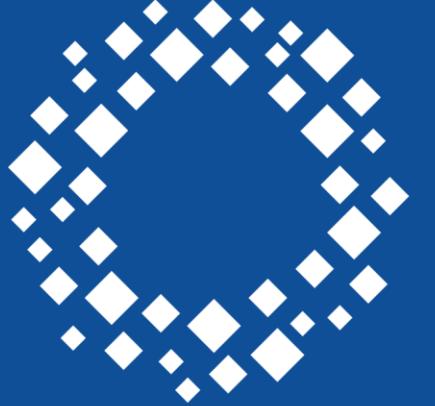
Tutorial Instances: <http://bit.ly/4kGQDlc>

- We have an AWS instance for the hands-on component of this tutorial
- The instance provides:
 - Pre-installed Thicket, Caliper, and Benchpark and required dependencies
 - Caliper source code demos
 - Thicket Jupyter notebooks and datasets for performance analysis



When logging in to the instance:

- Please use a unique username to avoid resource allocation conflicts
 - First initial followed by last name (e.g., jdoe)
- PW: hpctutorial25



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