Measuring the Performance of an XML-Based Communication Primitive

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A Unique Invocation

The London Times asks

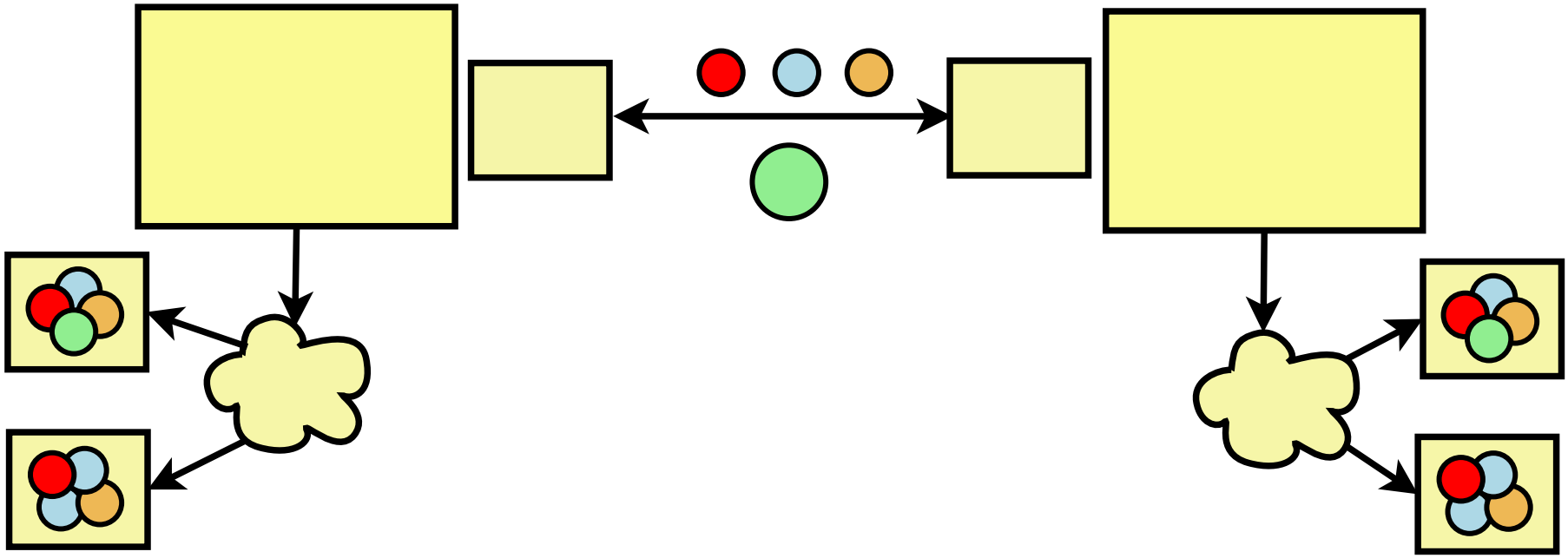
"What's Wrong with the World?"

Dear Sirs,

I am.

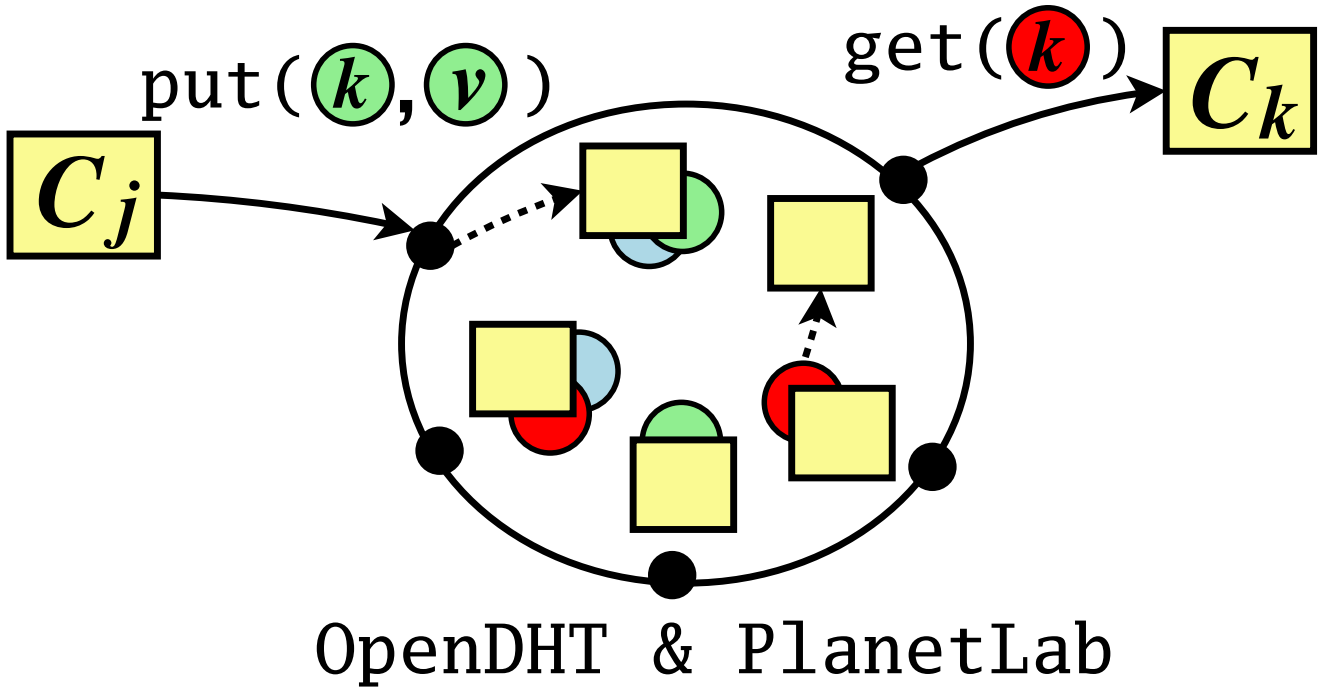
Sincerely yours,
G. K. Chesterton

Storage and Communication Primitives



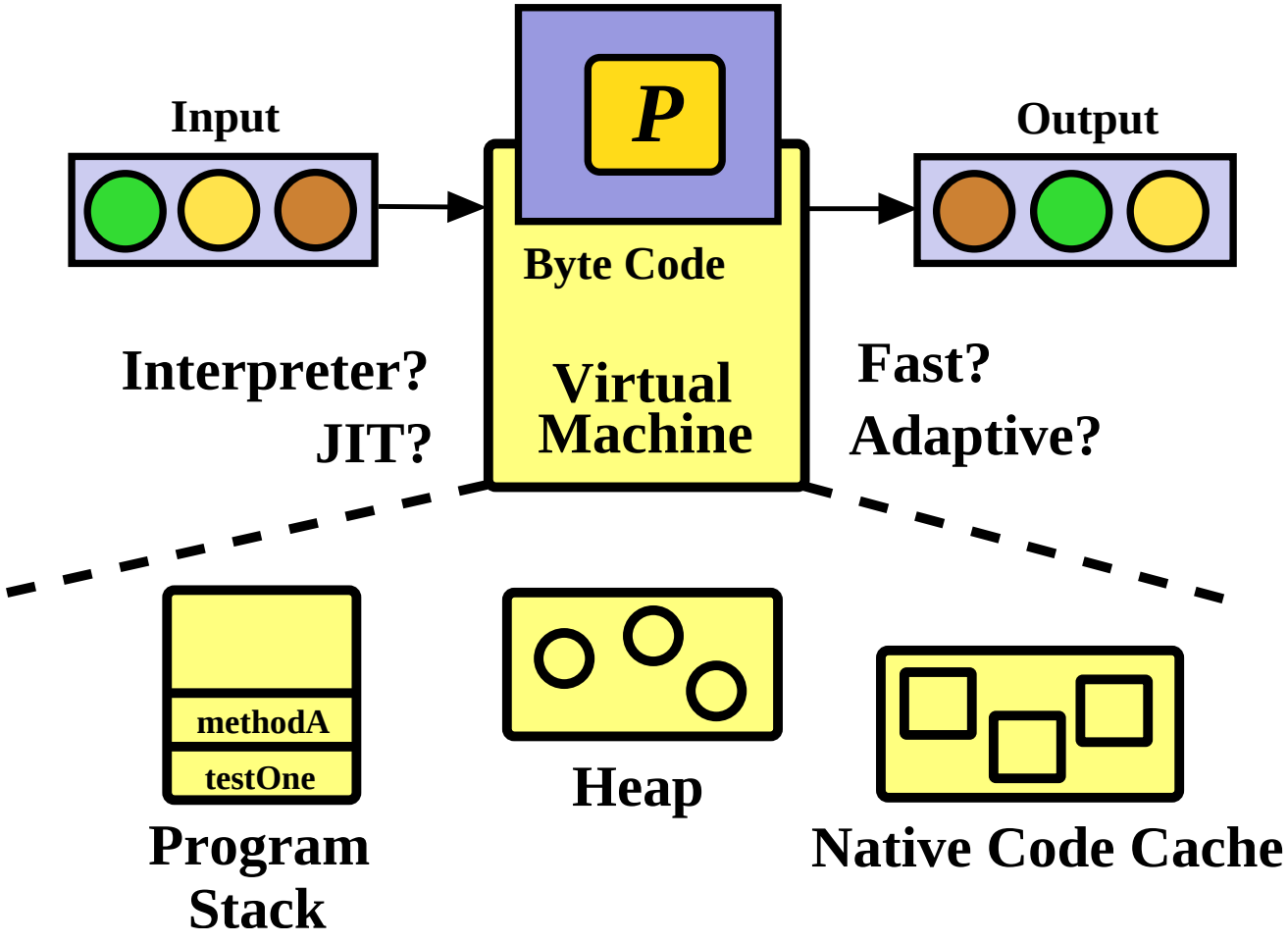
- How does object encoding impact performance?
- **Contribution**: A benchmarking framework to compare the performance of sockets and XML-RPC

Remote Communication and OpenDHT



- Clients can `put` and `get` with Sun RPC or XML-RPC
- Does the communication primitive impact performance?
- How do we measure performance and/or correctness?

Program Execution with a JVM



- JVM implementation and configuration impacts performance

Micro Benchmarks

Experiment	Sent by client	Received by client
SS	Single primitive	Single primitive
SV	Single primitive	Vector
VS	Vector	Single primitive
VV	Vector	Vector

- Use benchmarks similar to those proposed by Allman et al.
- Implement the benchmarks in the Java language
- *ExperimentCampaign* framework uses Perl and Mathematica

Micro Benchmarks II

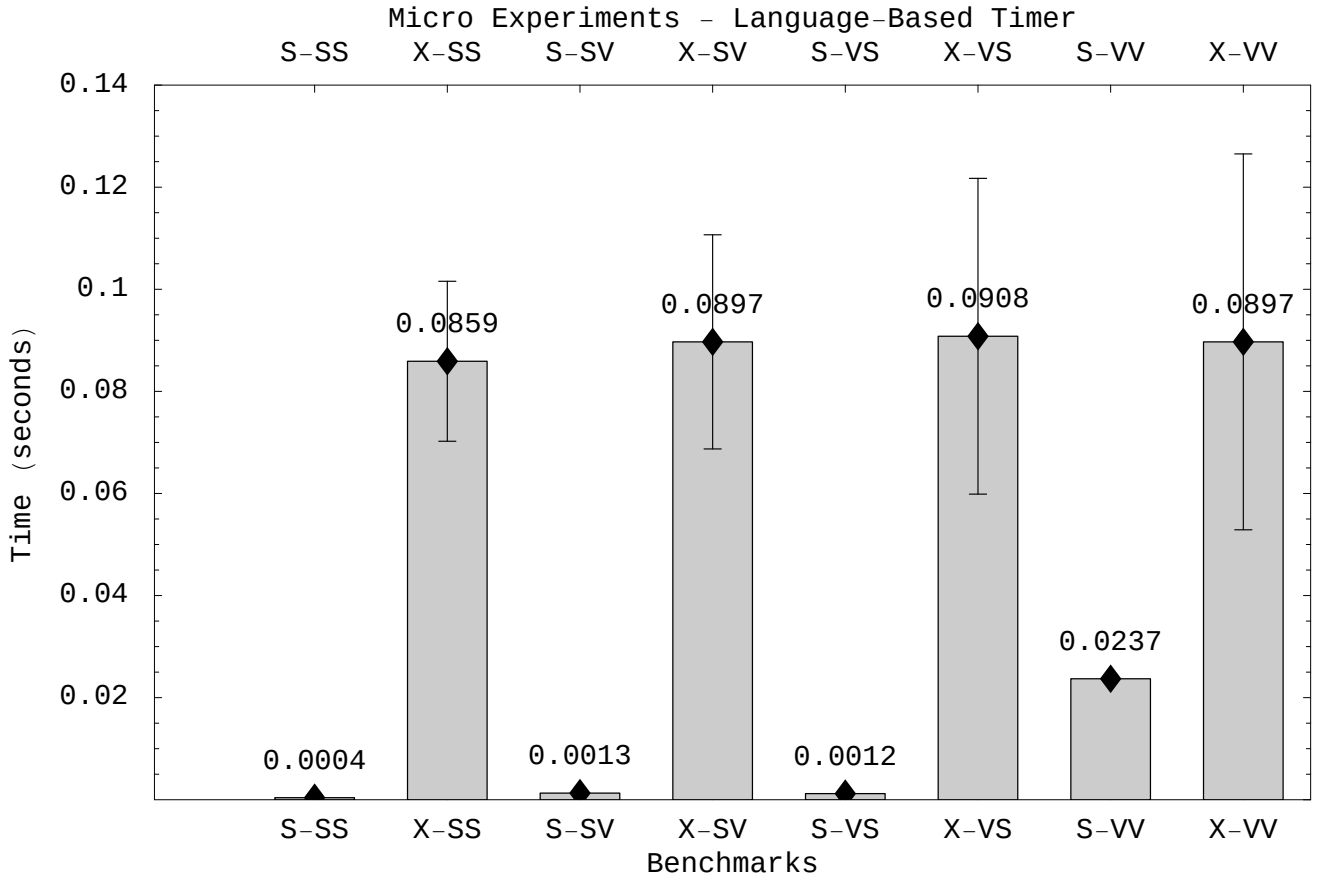
Experiment	Sent by client	Received by client
FIND (SS)	Single primitive	Single primitive
FACT (SV)	Single primitive	Vector
GCD (VS)	Vector	Single primitive
REV (VV)	Vector	Vector

- Benchmarks use sockets and Apache XML-RPC
- Benchmarks perform a simple computation on the server
- Configure the client and server to execute on same node

Experiment Design

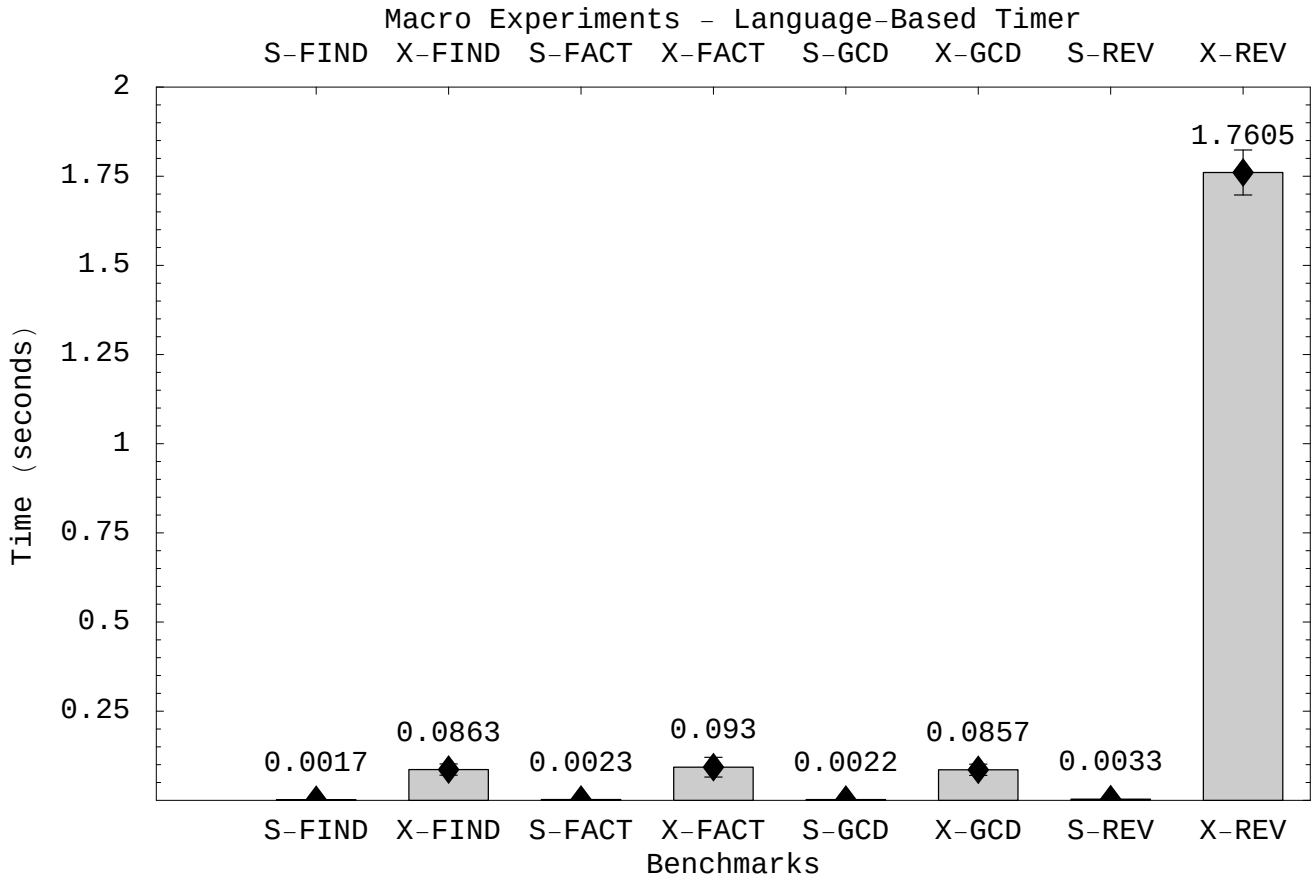
- Select Java 1.5.0, GNU/Linux with kernel 2.6.12, 3 GHz P4, 1 GB main memory, 1 MB L1 Cache, CPU hyperthreading
- Use operating system and language-based timers to calculate $R(B, P)$, $R_\Delta(B, P, P')$, and $R^{\%}_\Delta(B, P, P')$
- Replace the socket communication primitive with XML-RPC
- Execute ten trials and calculate arithmetic means, standard deviations, and confidence intervals
- Formulate the null hypothesis as $H_0 : \mu_{R(B,P)} = \mu_{R(B,P')}$
- Use the Welch's approximate t-test with $\alpha = .01$

Micro Benchmark I



- XML-RPC shows greater response time with more dispersion

Micro Benchmark II



- X-REV exhibits high response time due to string parsing

Using Very Large Vectors

$size(V)$	$size(V)$ (bytes)	$R(\mathsf{VV}, S)$ (sec)	$R(\mathsf{VV}, X)$ (sec)
5000	80,520	0.298	0.347
10000	161,000	0.598	0.523
50000	927,720	18.784	1.697

- At smaller vector sizes sockets demonstrate slightly better response times
- XML-RPC shows better response time when $size(V) = 50000$: *why?*

Explanatory Power of GC

$size(V)$	YGC (count)	YGC (sec)	FGC (count)	FGC (sec)
5000	16	.008	0	0
10000	63	.023	4	.050
50000	1645	.697	663	10.375

$size(V)$	YGC (count)	YGC (sec)	FGC (count)	FGC (sec)
5000	14	.016	0	0
10000	27	.022	1	.020
50000	123	.695	5	.143

- Varying the heap size of socket configuration yields similar results

GC Allocation Rate

- S-VV allocates $710,374,184$ bytes and X-VV only allocates $54,101,312$ bytes
- At benchmark termination, S-VV has $4,773,224$ bytes and X-VV has $7,234,520$ bytes of live objects
- Sockets use char[] and XML-RPC uses java.nio.CharBuffer
- Can we use past GC behavior to predict future program performance?

Conclusions

- A suite of micro benchmarks to measure the performance of communication primitives
- A comparison of sockets and XML-RPC that we can extend to other primitives
- Experiments reveal a trade-off in the performance of the two primitives
- Extend the study to new primitives and JVMs
- Focus on remote communication, long running benchmarks, and the measurement of throughput
- What are your suggestions?

An Invitation to Participate

- I value your comments, suggestions, and participation!

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