



# Debugging and Profiling

Karl Kosack  
CEA Paris-Saclay

*ESCAPE School, June 2021*

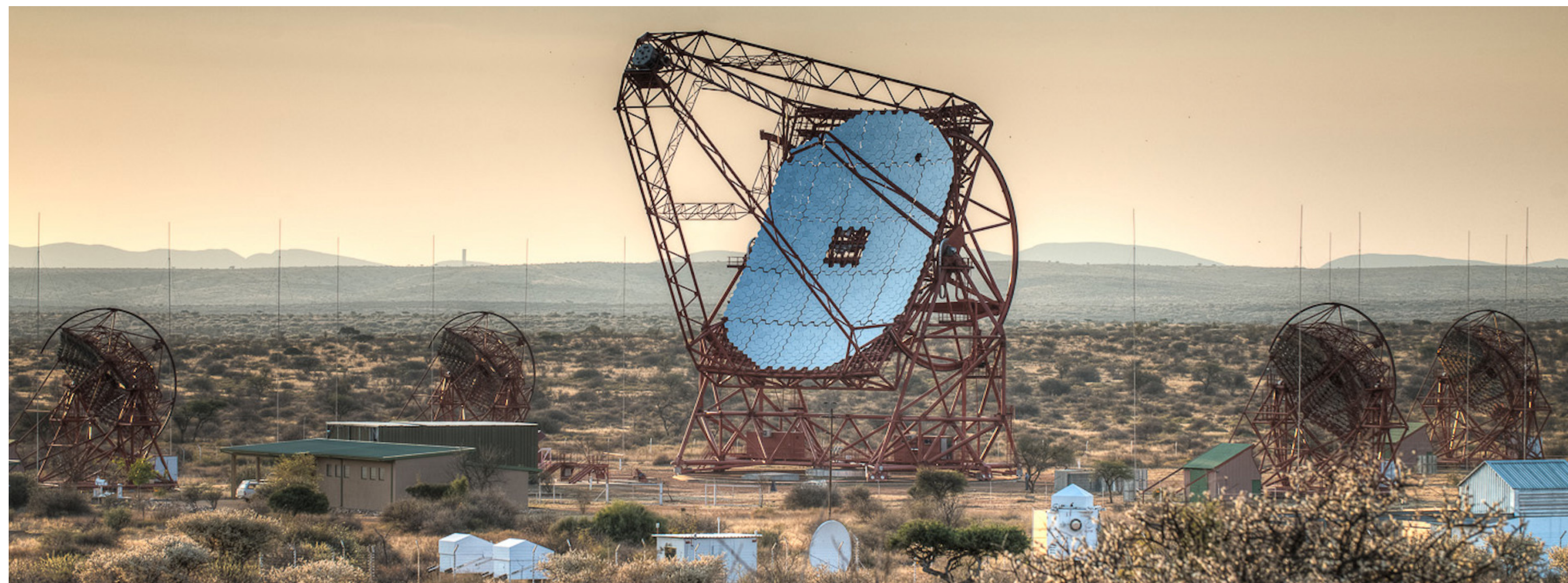
# A bit about me...



<https://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/hfm/HESS/>

<https://www.cta-observatory.org/>

<https://github.com/cta-observatory/ctapipe>



H.E.S.S. (Namibia)

## Astrophysicist at **CEA Paris-Saclay**

- Fundamental science institute (DRF/IRFU)
- Astrophysics Department (*DAP* + *AIM*)
- High-energy Astrophysics group (LEPCHE)

- High energy gamma rays, sources of cosmic ray acceleration
- **HESS** and **CTA** Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescope consortia
- Coordinator of *Data Processing and Preservation* for **CTA Observatory** (50% of time)

## Other Background (*apart from gamma-ray astro*):

- Computational Physics
- Data analysis, processing, statistics
- Lots of scientific software development over the years...
- Was a hard-core C/C++/perl(!) user, now **essentially 100% python for 5+ years!**

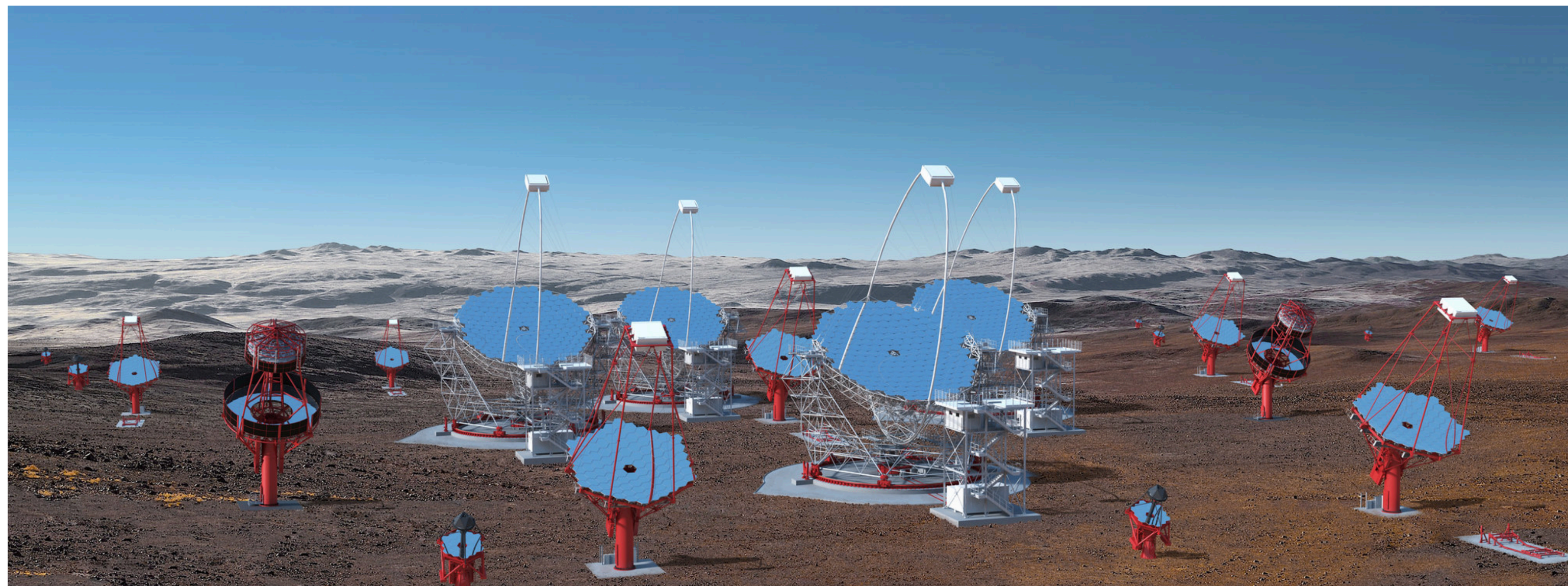
# A bit about me...



<https://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/hfm/HESS/>

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<https://github.com/cta-observatory/ctapipe>



Cherenkov Telescope Array - (Canary Islands + Chile) - artist's conception

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## Debugging:

- What happens when a program runs?
- What is a debugger?
- How do you use a debugger?
  - command-line
  - GUI
  - in a notebook

## Profiling:

- Why profile your code?
- How to profile:
  - Using timing loops
  - Function Call Profiling with cProfile
  - Memory Profiling with memprof
  - Line profiling with lineprof



**Topics we  
will cover  
in this  
lecture**

Now that your code is debugged and you know where the slow parts are....

### Optimizing your code:

- With Memoization
- With NumPy
- With Numba
- [With Cython]

### Parallelizing your code:

- On a single machine with multiple cores
- On multiple machines



**... and in  
the next  
lecture**



**ESCAPE**

European Science Cluster of Astronomy &  
Particle physics ESFRI research Infrastructures

# Debugging

ESCAPE School, June 2021



# What is your current approach?

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**When you run a piece of code and:**

- get an error/crash/exception
- encounter an unexpected result
- want to know what the code is doing "under the hood"



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- encounter an unexpected result
- want to know what the code is doing "under the hood"

What do you usually do?

## Do you:

- Add a bunch of *print* statements and try to track down the issue?
- Use an interactive python interpreter or notebook?
- Write a set of unit tests?
- Run the code in a debugger?

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- Add a bunch of *print* statements and try to track down the issue?
- Use an interactive python interpreter or notebook?
- Write a set of unit tests?
- Run the code in a debugger?

# First: how do programs run?

## Our program

```
def function_b(n):  
    x = 3.3  
    return sin(n * x * RAD_TO_DEG)  
  
def function_a(n):  
    return n * function_b(n) + 1  
  
if __name__ == "__main__":  
    RAD_TO_DEG = 180.0/np.pi  
    for ii in range(10):  
        function_a(ii)
```

## The Call Stack

## Global Memory

## Local Memory

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we are here

## The Call Stack

main program

## Global Memory

RAD\_TO\_DEG = 57.29

## Local Memory

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```

we are here

## The Call Stack

main program

## Global Memory

```
RAD_TO_DEG = 57.29  
ii = 0
```

## Local Memory

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## The Call Stack



## Global Memory

```
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```

## Local Memory

```
n = 0
```



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## The Call Stack

function\_b

function\_a

main program

## Global Memory

```
RAD_TO_DEG = 57.29  
ii = 0
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## Local Memory

```
n = 0  
x = 3.3
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x = 3.3
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## The Call Stack



## Global Memory

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## Local Memory

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```

we are here



## The Call Stack

main program



## Global Memory

```
RAD_TO_DEG = 57.29  
ii = 1
```

## Local Memory

# Program flow and memory in e.g. C(++)

## Heap:

- all global variables, dynamic memory

## Stack:

- All **functions** currently being executed and their **local variables**
- Single function's data is stored in a "**Stack Frame**",
- Frames are *stacked* on top of each other to represent hierarchy (bottom of stack = outermost)

python's memory scoping and stack is at a higher level of abstraction than this, but conceptually is pretty similar

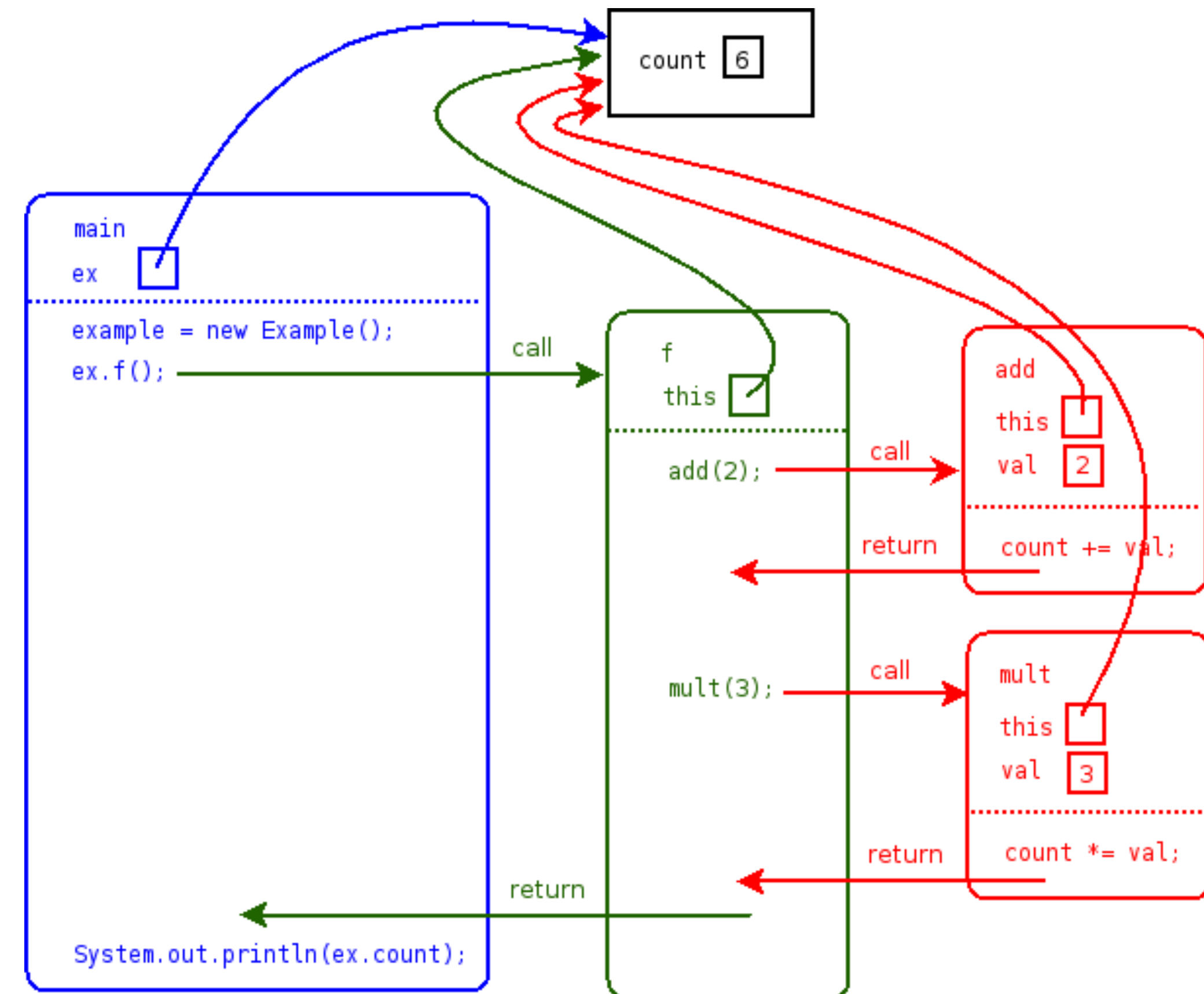


diagram from: <http://faculty.ycp.edu/~dhovemey/spring2007/cs201/info/exceptionsFileIO.html>

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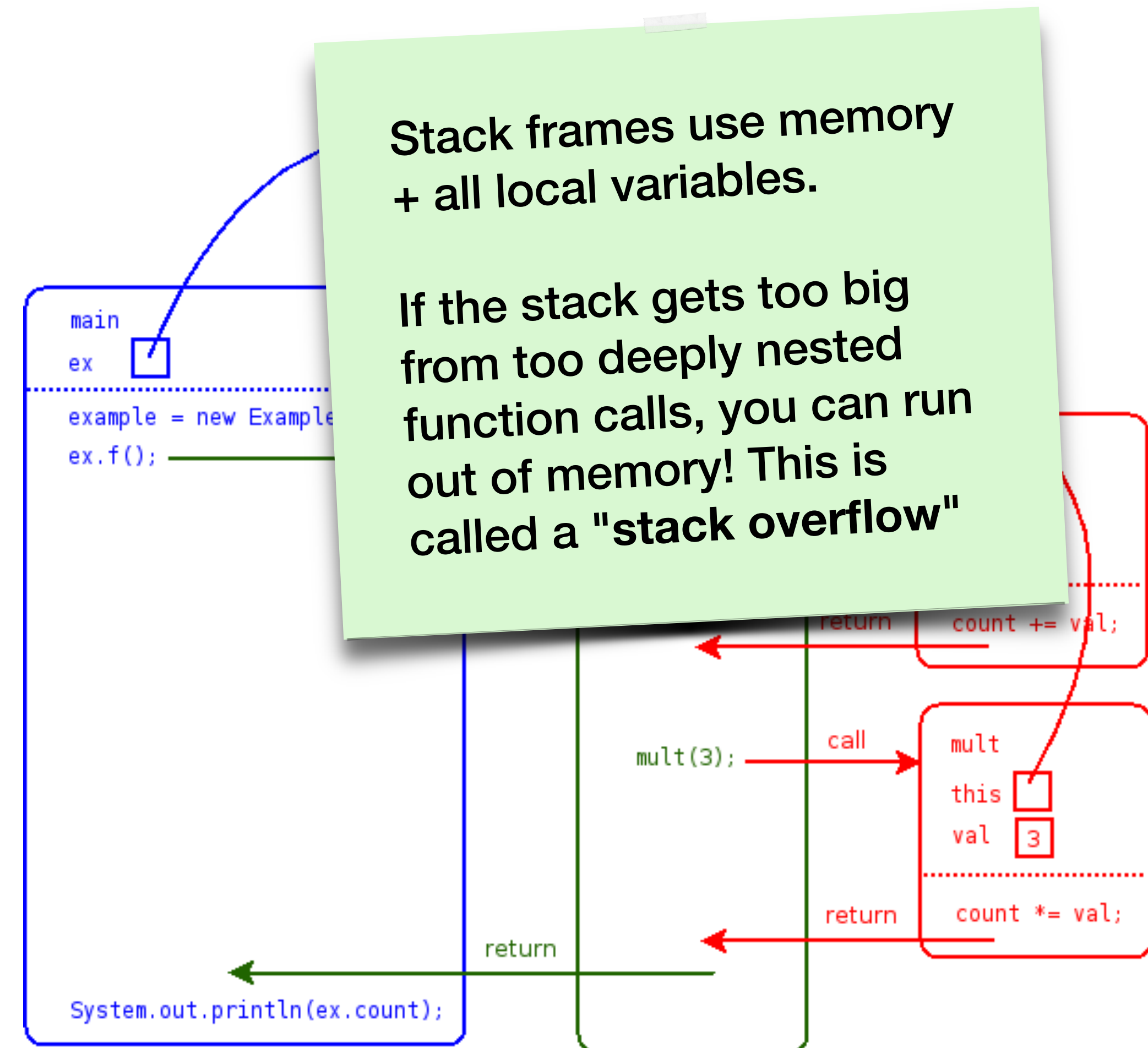


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# Program flow and memory in e.g. C(++)

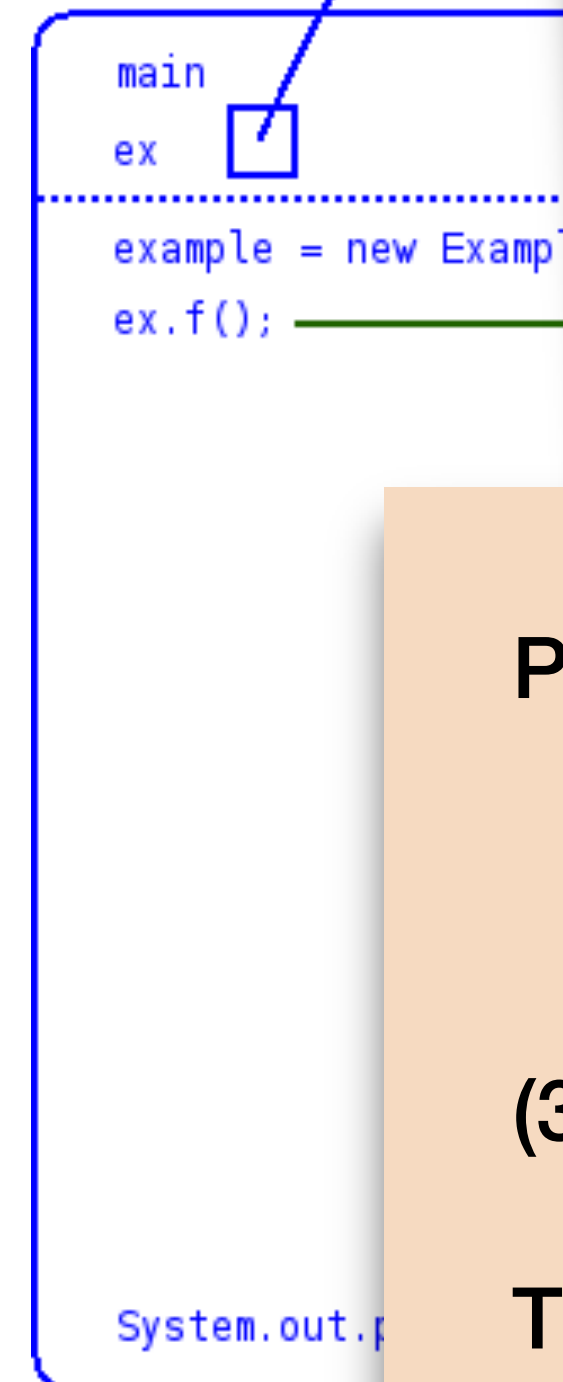
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Stack frames use memory + all local variables.

If the stack gets too big from too deeply nested function calls, you can run out of memory! This is called a "stack overflow"

Python has a default stack size limit of

```
sys.getrecursionlimit()
```

(3000 on my machine)

That means that if you write a recursive function that goes too deep, you will hit this limit. It throws a **RecursionError** in that case

diagram from: <http://facult>



# What is a debugger?

## A debugger:

- **runs or attaches** to a *running* piece of code or a program or one that has just crashed or had an exception
- allows you to **view the value** of any variable
- allows you to **move through the execution** of the code and **inspect data!**
  - go to next line
  - step into function
  - go up or down one level of function calls (*up and down the call stack*)
  - watch a variable for change
  - keep running until a condition occurs

**The basic use/concepts of debuggers is independent of language (a C++ debugger works the same as a python debugger)**

# Two levels of debugging interface

## Text-mode debuggers:

- examples: **gdb** (c/c++), **pdb** (python)
- simple command-line interface, with text commands
- good for quick debugging

*pdb*

```
[ 0.86932713, 0.74726936, 0.77972359, 0.88279606, 0.76825295,
0.39924089, 0.26050213, 0.82032474, 0.18800458, 0.43211861]],
'adc_sums': array([ 0.80428043, 0.8199334 , 0.16511381, 0.93497246, 0.81474172,
0.32322294, 0.51430672, 0.24404024, 0.95566716, 0.52979194,
0.656204 , 0.13846386, 0.38674983, 0.80887851, 0.21542999,
0.17744908, 0.19187673, 0.7651854 , 0.66272061, 0.97808223,
0.09301636, 0.85309485, 0.38484974, 0.96316492, 0.75049923,
0.16777729, 0.75347307, 0.00606986, 0.36143674, 0.67134474,
0.32212175, 0.29453887, 0.02970078, 0.95121449, 0.63413519,
0.49721334, 0.72331239, 0.22943813, 0.61962722, 0.83813364,
0.55013944, 0.18937513, 0.85568434, 0.55420725, 0.08771667,
0.55564573, 0.8569015 , 0.24182574, 0.35381984, 0.00141777]),
'num_samples': 10)
(Pdb) bt
/Users/kosack/anaconda/lib/python3.6/bdb.py(431)run()
-> exec(cmd, globals, locals)
<string>(1)<module>()
/Users/kosack/Projects/CTA/Working/ctapipe/ctapipe/io/tests/test_hdf5.py(77)<module>()
-> test_write_container("test.h5")
/Users/kosack/Projects/CTA/Working/ctapipe/ctapipe/io/tests/test_hdf5.py(23)test_write_container()
-> r0tel.meta['test_attribute'] = 3.14159
(Pdb) 4=
```

## GUI Debuggers:

- often integrated with nice interactive development environments (IDEs)
- Allow point-and-click inspection of code and variables
- Examples:
  - GNU ddd [Data Display Debugger] (c/c++)
  - PyCharm's debugger (python)
  - VSCode's debugger (multiple languages)
  - Emacs dap-mode (multiple languages)

*GNU ddd*

# Debugging python code

*There are many ways to enter the text-mode debugger PDB:*

## DEBUGGING AFTER AN EXCEPTION (my most common use case)

- 1) run a python program in *ipython*
- 2) it crashes with an exception
- 3) type **%debug** to enter PDB and jump to where the exception occurred!
- (alternately run "ipython --pdb <script.py>")

common PDB commands  
(and the same for gdb!):

- **u(p)**, **d(own)** (move in the stack)
- **bt** (backtrace) == where
- **cont**(inue) running program
- **n(ext)** [next line]
- **s(tep)** into next operation (e.g. into functions)
- **l** and **ll** (list + longlist) of code at point
- **q** (quit debugging)
- **any python expression**
- **?** to show help!

# Debugging python code

**Use Case 2: no exception occurred, but you want to see what is happening inside a function**

- **Brute-force:** place this line where you want to halt the program and start debugging:

```
| breakpoint()      # for python version 3.7 and above
```

then run python as usual (e.g. `python myscript.py`)

- **More work, but more flexible:** run the script inside the debugger:

```
| python -m pdb myscript.py
```

- the script will not run, but rather start at the first statement and then wait for you to type commands
- use *next*, *step*, *cont* to step through program
- set a breakpoint! (*break* <linenumber>) and *continue* to it!

**- DEMO -**

# Debugging python code

**Use Case 2: no exception occurred, but you want to see what is happening inside a function**

- **Brute-force:** place this line where you want to halt the program and start debugging:

```
| breakpoint()      # for python version 3.7+
```

then run python as usual (e.g. python myscript.py)

- **More work, but more flexible:** run the script with the pdb module

```
| python -m pdb myscript.py
```

- the script will not run, but rather enter a debugger for you to type commands
- use *next*, *step*, *cont* to step through the code
- set a breakpoint! (*break* <linenumber>) and *continue* to it!

**TIP:** You can control which debugger is used by setting the environment variable *PYTHONBREAKPOINT* (the default is pdb, the built-in python debugger)

**I prefer IPython's debugger, ipdb:**

```
% mamba install ipdb
```

```
% export PYTHONBREAKPOINT=ipdb.set_trace
```

```
% python my_script_to_debug.py
```

**- DEMO -**

# GUI Debugging

This is all nice and good, but it gets tedious for more than simple debugging...

**Solution: use a GUI debugger!**

*Open the "executable" part of the script and click the "debug" icon in the toolbar*

*(may have to first create a debug config to tell what file to run)*

*Click in margin to set a breakpoint*

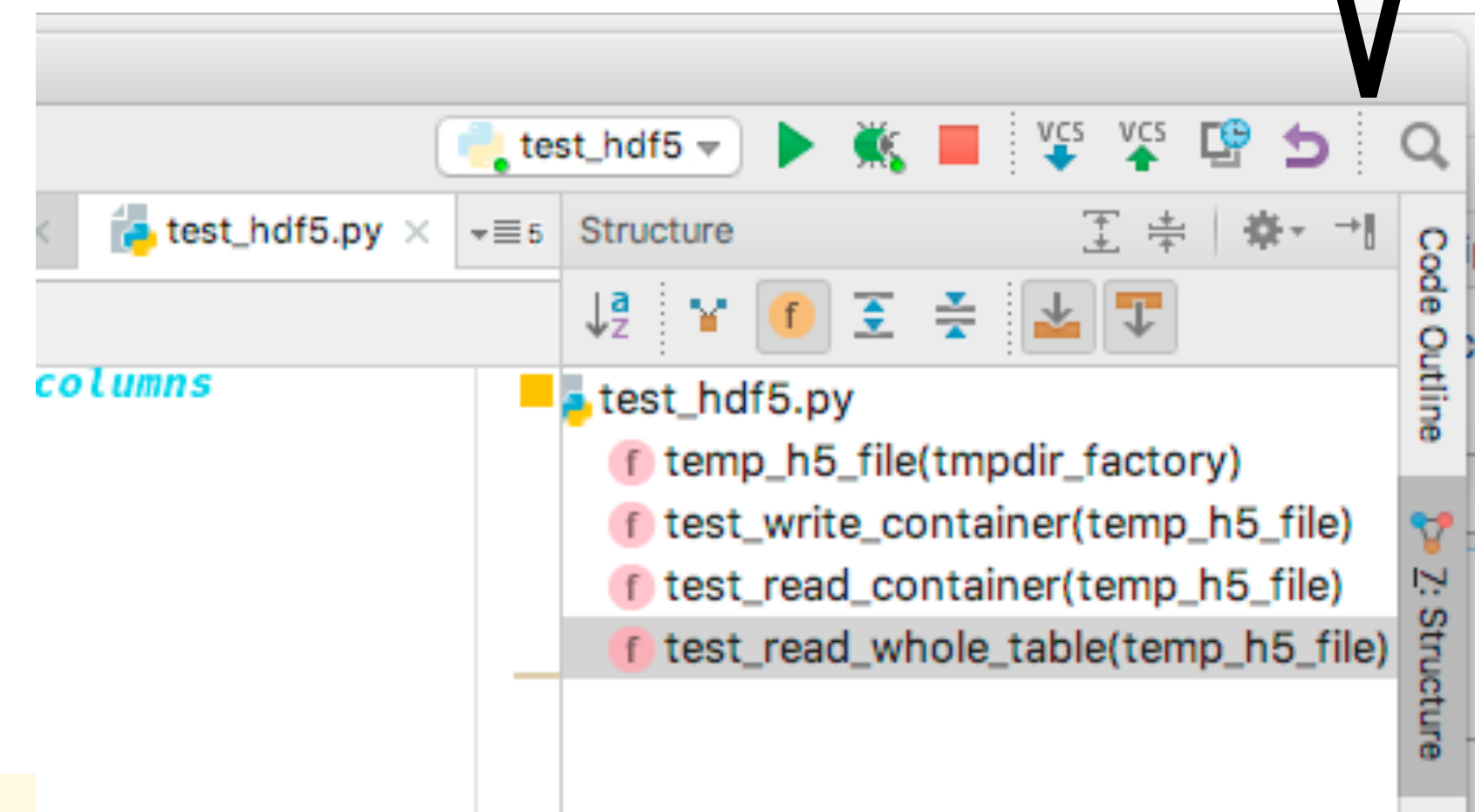
```
der.py
y

# read all 3 tables in sync
for ii in range(3):
    print("MC:", next(mctab))
    print("t0:", next(r0tab1).adc_sums)
    print("t1:", next(r0tab2).adc_sums)
    print("-----")

def test_read_whole_table(temp_h5_file):
    mc = MCEventContainer()
    reader = SimpleHDF5TableReader(str(temp_h5_file))
    for cont in reader.read('/R0/MC', mc):
        print(cont)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    import logging
    logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG)

    test_write_container("test.h5")
    test_read_whole_table("test.h5")
```



# GUI debugging

The image shows a Python IDE interface with a file explorer on the left, a code editor in the center, and a debugger at the bottom. The code editor displays Python code for reading HDF5 tables. A red dot indicates a breakpoint on the line `reader = SimpleHDF5TableReader(str(temp_h5_file))`. A call stack window at the bottom shows the current stack frame with variables `mc` and `temp_h5_file`. Annotations in blue text boxes provide instructions on how to use the debugger.

```
test.h5
test_eventfilereader.py
test_files.py
test_hdf5.py
test_hessio.py
test_serializer.py
#containers.py#
__init__.py
array.py
containers.py
eventfilereader.py
files.py
hdftableio.py
hessio.py
serializer.py
sources.py
toymodel.py
zfits.py
└─ plotting
└─ reco
└─ tests
└─ tools
└─ utils
  └─ tests
    └─ __init__.py
```

```
r0tab1 = reader.read('/R0/tel_001', r0tel1)
r0tab2 = reader.read('/R0/tel_002', r0tel2)

# read all 3 tables in sync
for ii in range(3):
    print("MC:", next(mctab))
    print("t0:", next(r0tab1).adc_sums)
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def test_read_whole_table(temp_h5_file): temp_h5_file: 'test.h5'

    mc = MCEventContainer() mc: {'alt': 0.0,\n 'az': 0.0,\n 'core_x': 0.0,\n 'core_y': 0.0,\n 'energy': 0.0,\n 'h_first_int': 0.0,\n 'tel': {}}
    reader = SimpleHDF5TableReader(str(temp_h5_file))
    for cont in reader.read('/R0/MC', mc):
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if __name__ == '__main__':
    import logging
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    test_write_container("test.h5")
    test_read_container("test.h5")
    test_read_whole_table("test.h5")
```

values also appear right in the code!  
(or on mouse-over)

currently at this line

Move up and down stack or lines

You can see all variables in the current stack frame in this box

# GUI debugging

The image shows a Python IDE with a debugger. The main window displays a code editor with Python code. A debugger window is open, showing the current stack frame and variables. A variable inspection window is also open, showing the details of a variable named 'mc'. The variable 'mc' is a dictionary with several attributes, including 'energy', 'alt', 'az', 'core\_x', 'core\_y', and 'h\_first\_int'. The 'core\_y' attribute is highlighted in green. A callout box points to the 'core\_y' attribute with the text "Drill deep down into any data structure!". Another callout box points to the variable inspection window with the text "You can see all variables in the current stack frame in this box". A third callout box points to the debugger's stack frame list with the text "Move up and down stack or lines". A fourth callout box points to the variable inspection window with the text "Values also appear in the code! (on mouse-over)".

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r0tab1 = reader.read('/R0/tel_001', r0tel1)
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# read all 3 tables in sync
for ii in range(3):
    print("MC:",
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                print("t1:",
                      print("-----"))

def test_read_whole_t...
    mc = MCEventContai...
    reader = SimpleHDF...

    for cont in reader...
        print(...)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    logging.basicConfig...

    test_write_containe...
    test_read_containe...
    test_read_whole_t...
```

mc

alt = {float} 0.0

attributes = {dict} {'energy': Monte-Carlo Energy [TeV], 'alt... View

\_\_len\_\_ = {int} 7

'alt' (4608341976) = {Item} Monte-carlo altitude [deg]

default = {float} 0.0

description = {str} 'Monte-carlo altitude'

unit = {Unit} deg

'az' (4415856064) = {Item} Monte-Carlo azimuth [deg]

'core\_x' (4442303656) = {Item} MC core position [m]

'core\_y' (4442303768) = {Item} MC core position [m]

'energy' (4442303544) = {Item} Monte-Carlo Energy [TeV]

'h\_first\_int' (4608895856) = {Item} Height of first interaction

'tel' (4415607728) = {Item} map of tel\_id to MCCameraEventCo

az = {float} 0.0

core\_x = {float} 0.0

core\_y = {float} 0.0

energy = {float} 0.0

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current this

Move up and down stack or lines

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Values also appear in the code! (on mouse-over)



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hdftableio.py
hessio.py
serializer.py
sources.py
toymodel.py
zfits.py
└─ plotting
└─ reco
└─ tests
└─ tools
└─ utils
  └─ tests
    └─ __init__.py
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r0tab1 = reader.read('/R0/tel_001', r0tel1)
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    print("-----")

def test_read_whole_table(temp_h5_file): temp_h5_file: 'test.h5'

    mc = MCEventContainer() mc: {'alt': 0.0,\n 'az': 0.0,\n 'core_x': 0.0,
    reader = SimpleHDF5TableReader(str(temp_h5_file))

    for cont in reader.read('/R0/MC', mc):
        print(cont)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    import logging
    logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG)

    test_write_container("test.h5")
    test_read_container("test.h5")
    test_read_whole_table("test.h5")
```

values also appear right in the code!  
(or on mouse-over)

currently at this line

Move up and down stack or lines

You can see all variables in the current stack frame in this box

# GUI debugging

use the "data view" to see values of large arrays or tables

```
test.h5
test_eventfilereader.py
test_files.py
test_hdf5.py
test_hessio.py
test_serializer.py
#containers.py#
__init__.py
array.py
containers.py
eventfilereader.py
files.py
hdftableio.py
hessio.py
serializer.py
sources.py
toymodel.py
zfits.py
plotting
reco
tests
tools
utils
tests
__init__.py
```

```
r0tab1 = reader.read('/R0/tel_001', r0tel1)
r0tab2 = reader.read('/R0/tel_002', r0tel2)

# read all 3 tables in sync
for ii in range(3):
    print("MC:", next(mctab))
    print("t0:", next(r0tab1).adc_sums)
    print("t1:", next(r0tab2).adc_sums)
    print("-----")

def test_read_whole_table(temp_h5_file):
    temp_h5_file: 'test.h5'

    mc = MCEventContainer()
    mc: {'alt': 0.0, \n 'az': 0.0, \n 'core_x': 0.0, \n 'core_y': 0.0, \n 'energy': 0.0, \n 'h_first_int': 0.0, \n 'tel': {}}

    reader = SimpleHDF5TableReader(str(temp_h5_file))

    for cont in reader.read('/R0/MC', mc):
        print(cont)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    import logging
    logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG)

    test_write_container("test.h5")
    test_read_container("test.h5")
    test_read_whole_table("test.h5")
```

Debug: test\_hdf5 test\_hdf5 test\_hdf5

Debugger Console

Frames

- Main...
- test\_read\_whole\_table
- <module>, test\_hdf5
- execfile, \_pydev\_exec
- run, pydevd.py:1015
- <module>, pydevd.py

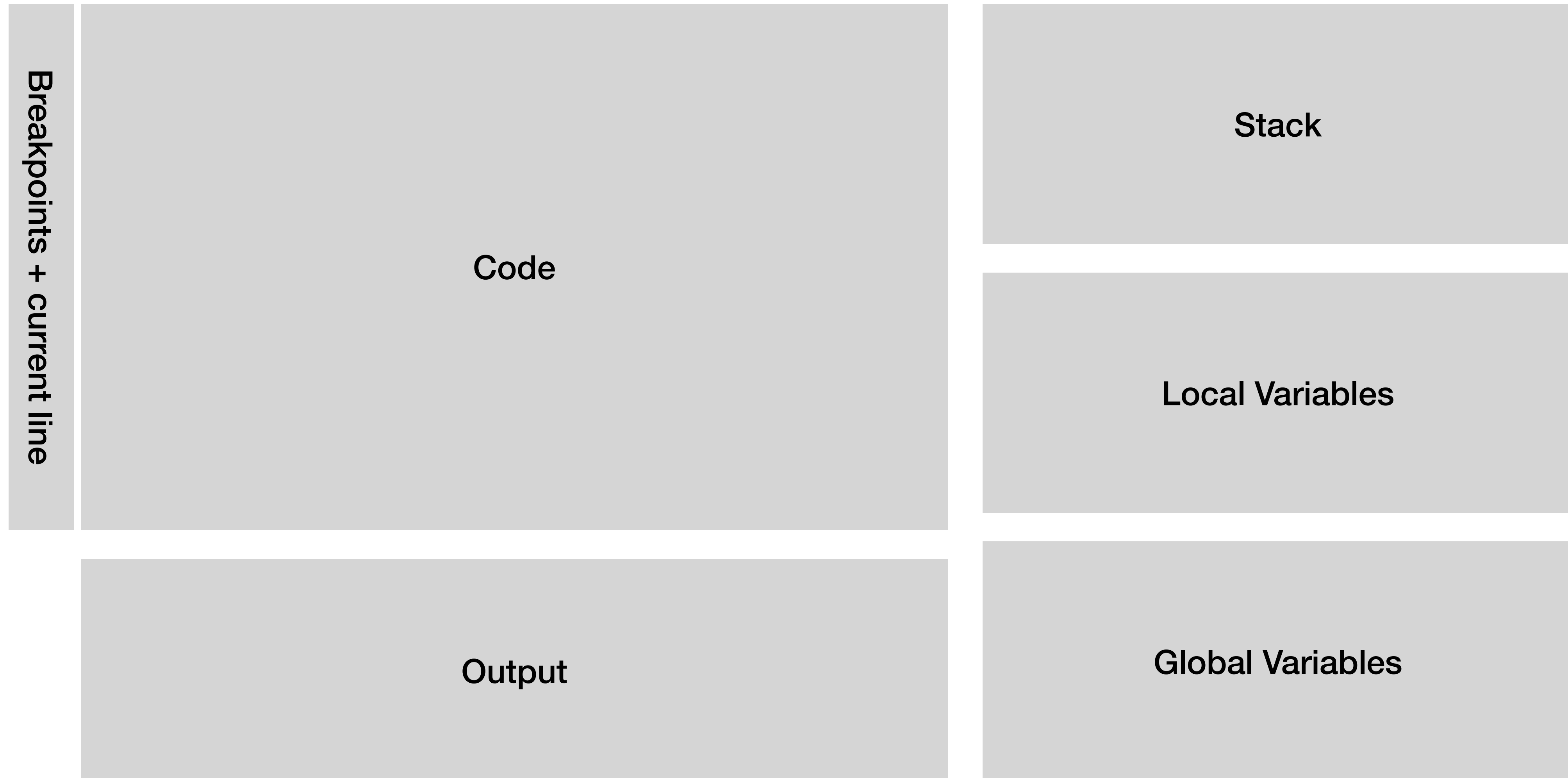
Variables

- mc = {MCEventContainer} {'alt': 0.0, \n 'az': 0.0, \n 'core\_x': 0.0, \n 'core\_y': 0.0, \n 'energy': 0.0, \n 'h\_first\_int': 0.0, \n 'tel': {}}
- temp\_h5\_file = {str} 'test.h5'

0	1	2	3	4
0.95997	0.98010	0.74854	0.60060	0.5954
0.68207	0.45175	0.83775	0.78088	0.6887
0.85410	0.58842	0.51579	0.36246	0.2527
0.87389	0.83798	0.14105	0.93956	0.6563
0.68928	0.53708	0.77192	0.49141	0.6709
0.38935	0.57417	0.94031	0.77080	0.4029
0.66854	0.59730	0.69974	0.93130	0.0659
0.88826	0.97069	0.04254	0.91542	0.2782
0.94109	0.56698	0.51974	0.43029	0.0505
0.90637	0.17494	0.22052	0.13475	0.4355
0.50643	0.57509	0.55480	0.49568	0.7677
0.30948	0.89409	0.15910	0.67037	0.5786
0.49066	0.41402	0.44546	0.39157	0.5963
0.95341	0.73043	0.94395	0.80189	0.2411
0.14115	0.56538	0.22046	0.22565	0.8083
0.10341	0.25694	0.95972	0.46487	0.8901
0.02162	0.65008	0.87262	0.64492	0.4582
0.70528	0.34887	0.34042	0.64684	0.3112
0.92931	0.16970	0.42819	0.47133	0.7995
0.35228	0.76336	0.39992	0.32342	0.4949
0.53163	0.72559	0.12517	0.94481	0.9549
0.20995	0.52962	0.45084	0.01140	0.1925
0.55729	0.30726	0.07956	0.75938	0.2516
0.10078	0.98490	0.34197	0.90848	0.3455
0.76712	0.46013	0.02517	0.73148	0.0315
0.20437	0.46705	0.29971	0.79643	0.8670
0.90153	0.14359	0.22539	0.23854	0.1023
0.91993	0.21435	0.75078	0.77390	0.7973
0.05615	0.96193	0.20847	0.81645	0.9192
0.01301	0.75174	0.94013	0.14905	0.8649
0.88294	0.61006	0.13029	0.88178	0.8632
0.57943	0.18664	0.32796	0.77201	0.9587
0.63643	0.94599	0.09075	0.89204	0.2995
0.07583	0.18816	0.12187	0.15590	0.0479
0.26883	0.63786	0.81847	0.48363	0.2874

r0tel.adc\_samples Format: %.5f

# GUI Debuggers: what they usually look like



So basically like what I showed before, but fully interactive!

Sometimes also a "view" of data structures

The screenshot shows a debugger interface with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Program, Commands, Status, Source, Data, Help) and a toolbar with icons for Lookup, Find, Break, Watch, Print, Display, Plot, Hide, Rotate, Set, and Undisp. Below the toolbar is a command line with '() : dev'. A menu bar contains buttons for Run, Interrupt, Step, Stepi, Next, Nexti, Until, Finish, Cont, Kill, Up, Down, Undo, Redo, Edit, and Make.

The main window displays a graph of data structures:

- Node 3: `device_name` (0x27920) pointing to "fd1".
- Node 4: `dev` (0x27900) pointing to a `disk` structure.
- `disk` structure (0x278d0) with `net = 0x0` pointing to a `fd1` structure.
- `fd1` structure (0x278b0) with fields: `name = 0x278b0 "fd1"`, `dev = 0x11860`, `total_sectors = 2880`, `has_partitions = 0`, `id = 1`, `partition = 0x0`, `read_hook = 0`, `data = 0x27880`.
- `fd1` structure points to a `biosdisk` structure (0x10c65) with fields: `name = 0x10c65 "biosdisk"`, `id = 0`, `iterate = 0xfa30 <grub_biosdisk_iterate>`, `open = 0xfad1 <grub_biosdisk_open>`, `close = 0xfc5f <grub_biosdisk_close>`, `read = 0xfe53 <grub_biosdisk_read>`, `write = 0xff19 <grub_biosdisk_write>`, `next = 0x0`.

A backtrace window is open, showing the following stack frames:

```
Backtrace
#7 0x0009776e in grub_command_execute (
#6 0x00098a15 in grub_script_execute ()
#5 0x000985f0 in grub_script_execute_cm
#4 0x0009890e in grub_script_execute_cm
#3 0x000985f0 in grub_script_execute_cm
#2 0x00098847 in grub_script_execute_cm
#1 0x0009322f in grub_cmd_ls () at ls.c
#0 grub_ls_list_files () at ls.c:145
```

The main window shows the following C code:

```
grub_printf ("%12s", "DIR");
grub_printf ("%s%s\n", filename, dir ? "/"
return 0;
}
device_name = grub_file_get_device_name (dirname);
dev = grub_device_open (device_name);
if (! dev)
goto fail;
fs = grub_fs_probe (dev);
path = grub_strchr (dirname, '/');
if (! path)
path = dirname;
else
path++;
if (! path && ! device_name)
```

The bottom window shows GDB commands:

```
(gdb) graph display *dev dependent on 4
(gdb) graph display *(dev->disk) dependent on 5
(gdb) graph display *(dev->disk->dev) dependent on 6
(gdb) graph display *(dev->disk->data) dependent on 6
(gdb) Attempt to dereference a generic pointer.
Disabling display 8 to avoid infinite recursion.
(gdb) graph undisplay 8
(gdb)
```

The status bar at the bottom reads: `Display 4: dev (enabled, scope grub_ls_list_files, address 0x67cc4)`



# demo

**Debugging with notebooks/ipython**

**Debugging with pdb**

**Debugging with a GUI (PyCharm)**



**ESCAPE**

European Science Cluster of Astronomy &  
Particle physics ESFRI research Infrastructures

# Profiling

ESCAPE School, June 2021

# What is profiling?

A way to identify where resources are used by a program:

- CPU resources (computation time)
- Memory resources

Debug problems in your code like hangs and *memory leaks*

Identify "hotspots" in your code that may be useful to **optimize** (we'll talk about optimization later today!)



# Speed profiling 1: in a *notebook*

## Simplest method: *timeit*

- *no need to calculate start and stop times, python's standard lib has a nice module to help with that...*
- *easiest way is to use interactive **%timeit** magic ipython function*

### **DEMO NOTEBOOK**

- *Usage:*

```
| %timeit <python statement>
```

## *Why not just roll your own?*

```
| start = time.now()  
| [code]  
| stop = time.now()  
| print(stop-start)
```

*this **measures only wall-clock time!***

*You want **CPU time!***

*(not dependent on other stuff you are running)*

*You want **many trials**, for statistics!*

***Note** you can also import the `timeit` module and use it similar to the magic `%timeit` function in non-notebook scripts*

# Speed profiling 2: profiler!

A profiler is better than a simple `%timeit`, in that it checks the time in *all* functions and sub-functions at once and generates a report.

Python provides several profilers, but the most common is *cProfile* (note: `gprof` for `c++`)

**Profile an entire script:**

- Run your script with the additional options:

```
| python -m cProfile -o output.pstats <script>
```

- this generates a **binary data file (*output.pstats*)** that contains statistics on **how often** and **for how long** each function was called
- There is a built-in **pstats** module that displays it using a command-line UI, but it's a bit difficult to use... but there are GUIs!



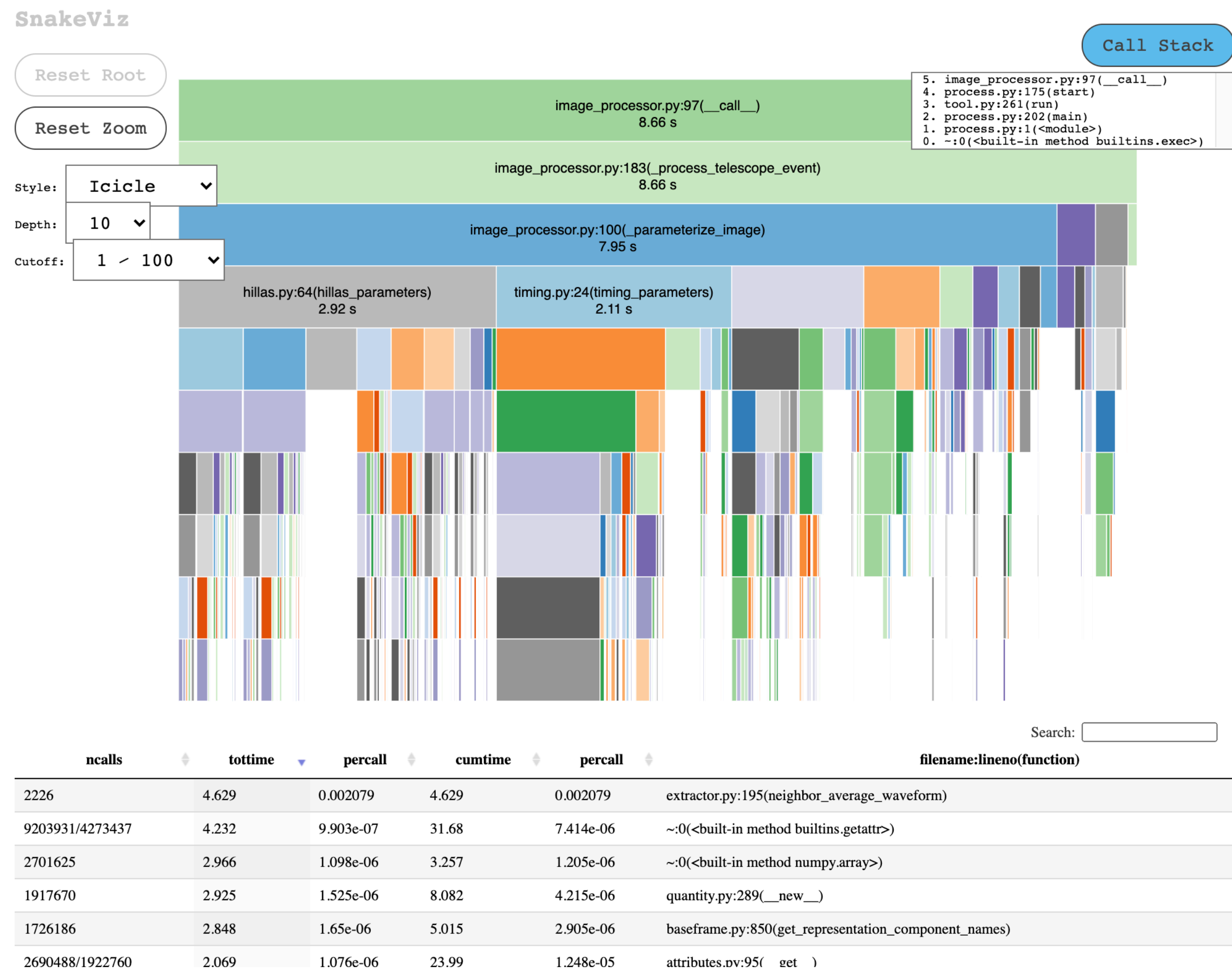
# Tip: use a gui to view stats output

## Viewing with *SnakeViz*

```
% conda install snakeviz  
% snakeviz output.pstats
```

- interactive call statistics viewer
- this is not the only one, but it's nice and simple and runs in your browser.
- Click and zoom to see the results

## Real-world demo!



# Another stats viewer

You can also view pstats output with the *qcachegrind* GUI application, (also for C++ C++ profiling output):

```
% pip install pyprof2calltree
% pyprof2calltree -i output.pstats -k
```

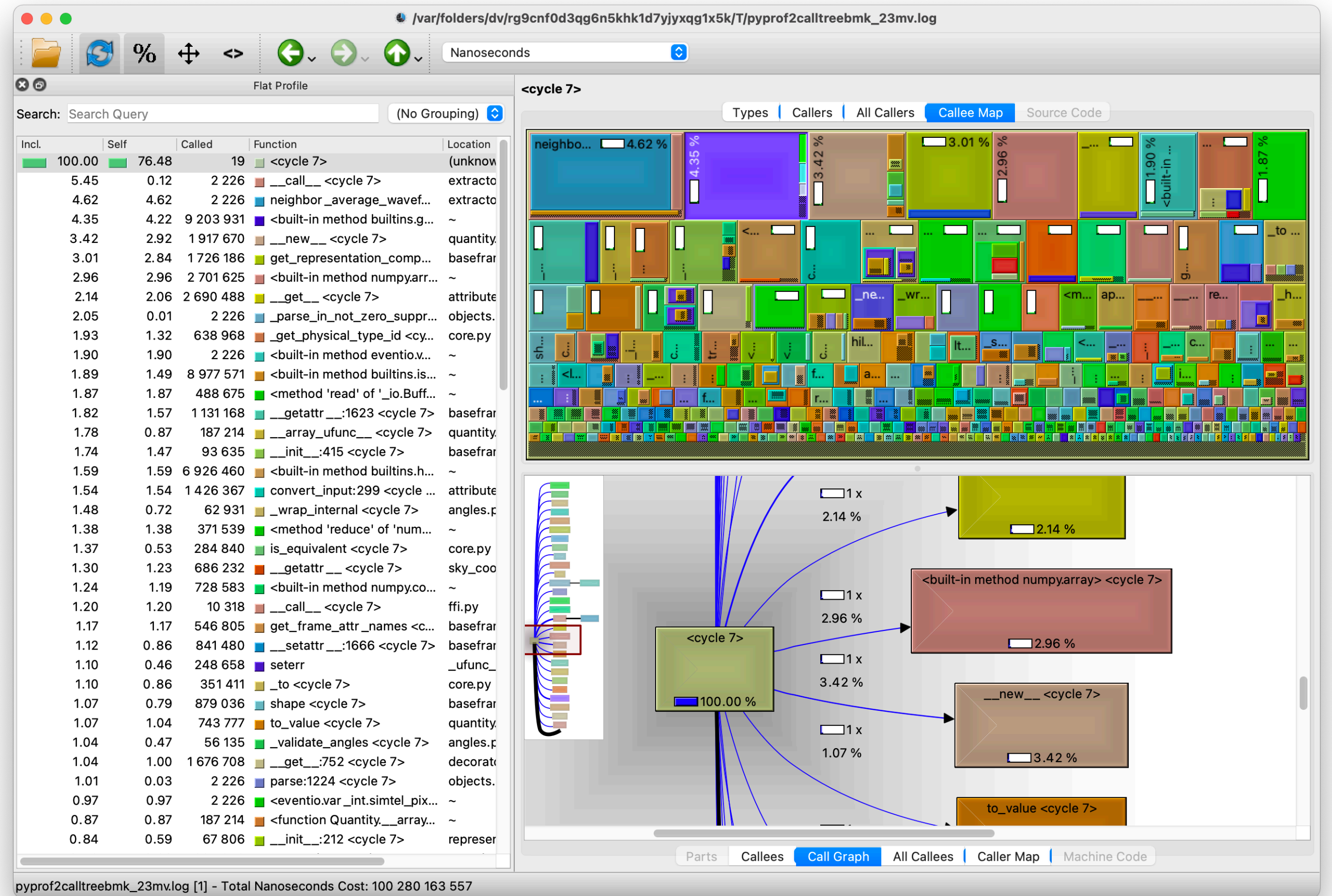
This will open qCacheGrind GUI automatically

you need to first install qCacheGrind using your package manager (it's not in Conda), e.g.

```
brew install qcachegrind (macOS with HomeBrew installed)
```

```
apt install qcachegrind (linux with Apt)
```

...



# Profiling in a Notebook

You can also run the profiler directly on a statement in a notebook.

- use the magic `%prun` function
  - | `%prun <python statement>`
- Pops up a sub-window with the results (the same as if you ran `cProfile` and then `pstats` (though you don't get an interactive viewer))

```
In [27]: %prun create_array_loop(1000,1000)
```

```
3001004 function calls in 0.845 seconds
```

```
Ordered by: internal time
```

ncalls	tottime	percall	cumtime	percall	filename:lineno(function)
1	0.477	0.477	0.835	0.835	<ipython-input-12-6d84b414c957>:1(create_array_loop)
1000000	0.136	0.000	0.136	0.000	{built-in method math.cos}
1000000	0.133	0.000	0.133	0.000	{built-in method math.sin}
1001000	0.089	0.000	0.089	0.000	{method 'append' of 'list' objects}
1	0.010	0.010	0.845	0.845	<string>:1(<module>)
1	0.000	0.000	0.845	0.845	{built-in method builtins.exec}

# Line Profiling

Sometimes you need more detail than function-level stats...

What about time spent in **each line of code**?

The `line_profiler` module can help:

```
| % conda install line_profiler
```

- mark code with `@profile`:

```
| from line_profiler import profile  
  
| @profile  
| def slow_function(a, b, c):  
|     ...
```

- Then run:

```
➤ % kernprof -l script_to_profile.py
```

- which generates a `.lprof` file that can be viewed with:

```
➤ % python -m line_profiler script_to_profile.py.lprof
```

```
File: pystone.py
```

```
Function: Proc2 at line 149
```

```
Total time: 0.606656 s
```

Line #	Hits	Time	Per Hit	% Time	Line Contents
149					@profile
150					def Proc2(IntParIO):
151	50000	82003	1.6	13.5	IntLoc = IntParIO + 10
152	50000	63162	1.3	10.4	while 1:
153	50000	69065	1.4	11.4	if Char1Glob == 'A':
154	50000	66354	1.3	10.9	IntLoc = IntLoc - 1
155	50000	67263	1.3	11.1	IntParIO = IntLoc - IntGlob
156	50000	65494	1.3	10.8	EnumLoc = Ident1
157	50000	68001	1.4	11.2	if EnumLoc == Ident1:
158	50000	63739	1.3	10.5	break
159	50000	61575	1.2	10.1	return IntParIO

# Line-profiling in a Notebook

As with *cProfile* and *timeit*, you can do line profiling in a notebook:

- unlike `%timeit`, need to load an extension first:

```
| %load_ext line_profiler
```

- Then, if you have a function defined, you must "mark" it to be profiled by adding `"-f <func>"`

```
| %lprun -f <function name> <python statement that uses function>
```

for example:

```
| %lprun -f myfunc myfunc(100,100)
```

Note you can mark more than one func

```
In [51]: %lprun -f create_array_loop create_array_loop(1000,1000)
```

```
Timer unit: 1e-06 s
```

```
Total time: 1.31799 s
```

```
File: <ipython-input-12-6d84b414c957>
```

```
Function: create_array_loop at line 1
```

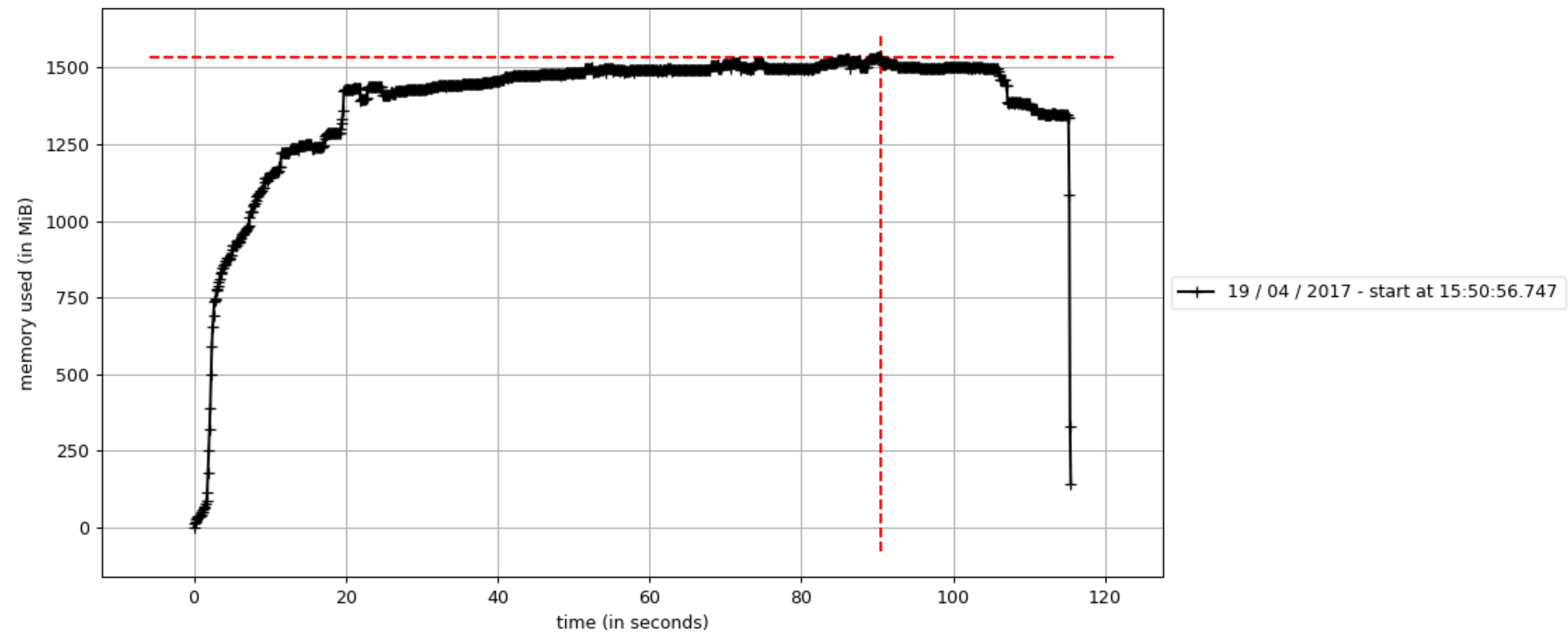
Line #	Hits	Time	Per Hit	% Time	Line Contents
1					def create_array_loop(N,M):
2	1	2	2.0	0.0	arr = []
3	1001	477	0.5	0.0	for y in range(M):
4	1000	5244	5.2	0.4	row = []
5	1001000	463343	0.5	35.2	for x in range(N):
6	1000000	848316	0.8	64.4	row.append(sin(x)*cos(0.1*y))
7	1000	606	0.6	0.0	arr.append(row)
8	1	1	1.0	0.0	return arr

# Memory Profiling

Use of CPU is not the only thing to worry about... what about RAM? Let's first check for memory leaks...

```
| % conda install memory_profiler  
| % mprof run python <script>  
| % mprof plot
```

python simple\_pipeline.py /Users/kosack/Data/CTA/Prod3/gamma.simtel.gz





# Memory Profiling in detail

Cumulative is nice, but we want to see the memory for a particular function or class...

- decorate the function you want to profile (line-wise) with `memory_profiler.profile`

*Decorate what we want to measure (no import needed)*

```
% python -m memory_profiler <script>
```

Line #	Hits	Time	Per Hit	% Time	Line Comments
17					<b>@profile</b>
18					def main():
19	1	3.0	3.0	0.0	if len(sys.argv) ≥ 2:
20					filename = sys.argv[1]
21					else:
22	1	485.0	485.0	0.0	filename = get_dataset_path("gamma_test_large.simt...
24	1	<b>3572651.0</b>	<b>3572651.0</b>	9.8	with EventSource(filename, max_events=500) as source:
26	1	438843.0	438843.0	1.2	calib = CameraCalibrator(subarray=source.subarray)
27	2	249622.0	124811.0	0.7	process_images = ImageProcessor(
28	1	2.0	2.0	0.0	subarray=source.subarray, is_simulation=source.
29					)
30	1	1363.0	1363.0	0.0	process_shower = ShowerProcessor(subarray=source.su
31	2	276938.0	138469.0	0.8	write = DataWriter(
32	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	event_source=source, output_path="events.DL1.h5
33					)
35	111	11506526.0	103662.4	31.5	for event in tqdm(source):
36	110	1313386.0	11939.9	3.6	calib(event)
37	110	2353948.0	21399.5	6.4	process_images(event)
38	110	14044245.0	127675.0	38.4	process_shower(event)
39	110	2814913.0	25590.1	7.7	write(event)

*Output shows the time spent in the line or block (e.g. if, for)*

# Memory Profiling in a Notebook

Again, you can do memory profiling using magic commands in an iPython (Jupyter) notebook

- Enable the memory profiling notebook extension:

```
| %load_ext memory_profiler
```

- Now you have access to several magic functions:

Like %timeit, but for memory usage:

```
| %memit <python statement>
```

or a more full-featured report:

```
| %mprun -f <function name> <statement>
```

```
In [40]: %memit range(100000)
         peak memory: 89.61 MiB, increment: 0.00 MiB

In [41]: %memit np.arange(100000)
         peak memory: 90.12 MiB, increment: 0.52 MiB
```

## Caveats:

- the peak memory usage shown in the notebook may not relate to the function you are testing! It is the sum of all memory already allocated that has not yet been garbage collected. (so look at the "increment" instead).
- %mprun only works if your functions are **defined in a file** (not a notebook) and imported into the notebook

# Memory Profiling: jump to debugger

## Automatic Debugger breakpoints:

- you can automatically start the debugging if the code tries to go above a memory limit, to see where the allocation is happening:

```
| % python -m memory_profiler --pdb-mmem=100 <script>
```

will break and enter debugger after 100 MB is allocated, on the line where the last allocation occurred

## Print out memory usage during program execution:

```
| from memory_profiler import memory_usage  
| mem_usage = memory_usage(-1, interval=.2, timeout=1)  
| print(mem_usage)  
| [7.296875, 7.296875, 7.296875, 7.296875, 7.296875]
```

- see the docs. you can also write it to a log periodically, etc.

**demo**



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# Optimization

ESCAPE School, June 2021

“We should forget about small efficiencies, say about 97% of the time: **premature optimization is the root of all evil**

*- Sir Tony Hoare?  
or Donald Knuth?*

“We should forget about small efficiencies, say about 97% of the time: **premature optimization is the root of all evil**

*- Sir Tony Hoare?  
or Donald Knuth?*

From a 1974 article on why GOTO statements are good



# Why optimize?



# Why optimize?

However... once code is working, you do want it to be efficient!

- want a balance between usability/readability/correctness and speed/memory efficiency
- These are not always both achievable, so err on the side of *usability*

# Why optimize?

However... once code is working, you do want it to be efficient!

- want a balance between usability/readability/correctness and speed/memory efficiency
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**Some things:**

- Python is interpreted (though some compilation happens), and can therefore be *slow*
- For-loops in particular are 100 - 1000x slower than C loops...
- There are some nice ways to speed up code, however, and get close to low-level language speed

# Slowness of Python

## Not an inherent problem with the *language*

- **python  $\neq$  CPython!**
  - but CPython does generally get faster each release
- **other python implementations exist that are trying to solve the general speed problem:**
  - **pypy** - [pypy.org](http://pypy.org) fully JIT-compiled python
  - **pyston** - optimized CPython from Facebook
  - other efforts to remove bottlenecks from CPython (no GIL, etc)

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  - other efforts to remove bottlenecks from CPython (no GIL, etc)

**So one option to optimization is:**

**Do nothing!**

Wait for a faster implementation, or a new version of CPython to be released, or swap in a completely different implementation!

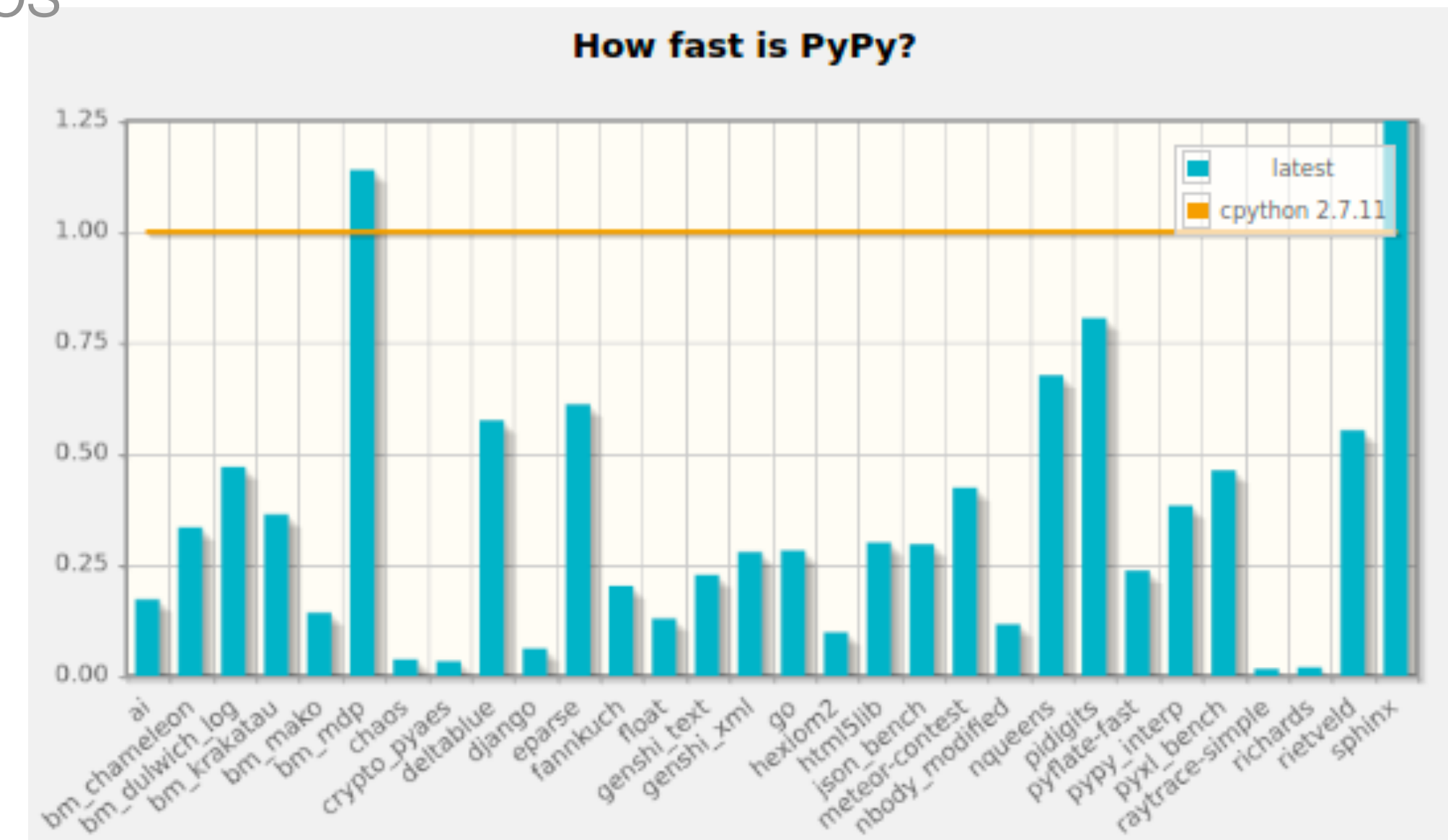
# Some notes on PyPy

## Advantages of PyPy:

Just In time →  
compiled when used,  
not before

A compiler framework  
similar to GCC, the  
default on macOS

- all PyPy code is **JIT-compiled with LLVM**
- support for most (but not all) of NumPy
- some support for C-extensions, but not all c-code can be run yet
- supports (so far) Python language up to version 3.7.9



## Disadvantages:

- Works well speeding-up pure-python code, but scientific code is often a mix of Numpy/scipy/c-code: *it's often slower than CPython!*
- C-extensions not fully supported



**But... there is a lot you can do to  
make your python code faster  
*now.***

# Steps to optimization

## 1) Make sure code *works correctly* first

- DO NOT optimize code you are writing or debugging!

## 2) Identify use cases for optimization:

- how often is a function called? Is it useful to optimize it?
- If it is not called often and finishes with reasonable time/memory, stop!

## 3) **Profile** the code to identify bottlenecks in a more scientific way

- Profile time spent in each function, line, etc
- Profile memory use

## 4) try to re-write as little as possible to achieve improvement

## 5) refactor if it is still problematic...

- some times the *design* is what is making the code slow... can it be improved? (e.g.: **flat better than nested!**)

# Speeding up code 1: Memoization

**Basic principle:** don't recompute things you computed already!

Instead, compute them once, and just return the pre-computed result when asked. (trade memory for speed)

**The hard way:**

- keep a dictionary keyed by the input to a function with the output as the value. If the key exists, return the value:

```
RESULTS_CACHE = {}
```

```
def memoized_compute(x):  
    if x in RESULTS_CACHE:  
        return RESULTS_CACHE[x]  
    result = do_some_large_computation(x)  
    RESULTS_CACHE[x] = result
```

It works, but is ugly and not very *pythonic*...

Also if there are many values of *x*, you will use a lot of memory



# Speeding up code 1: Memoization

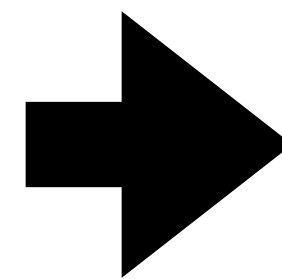
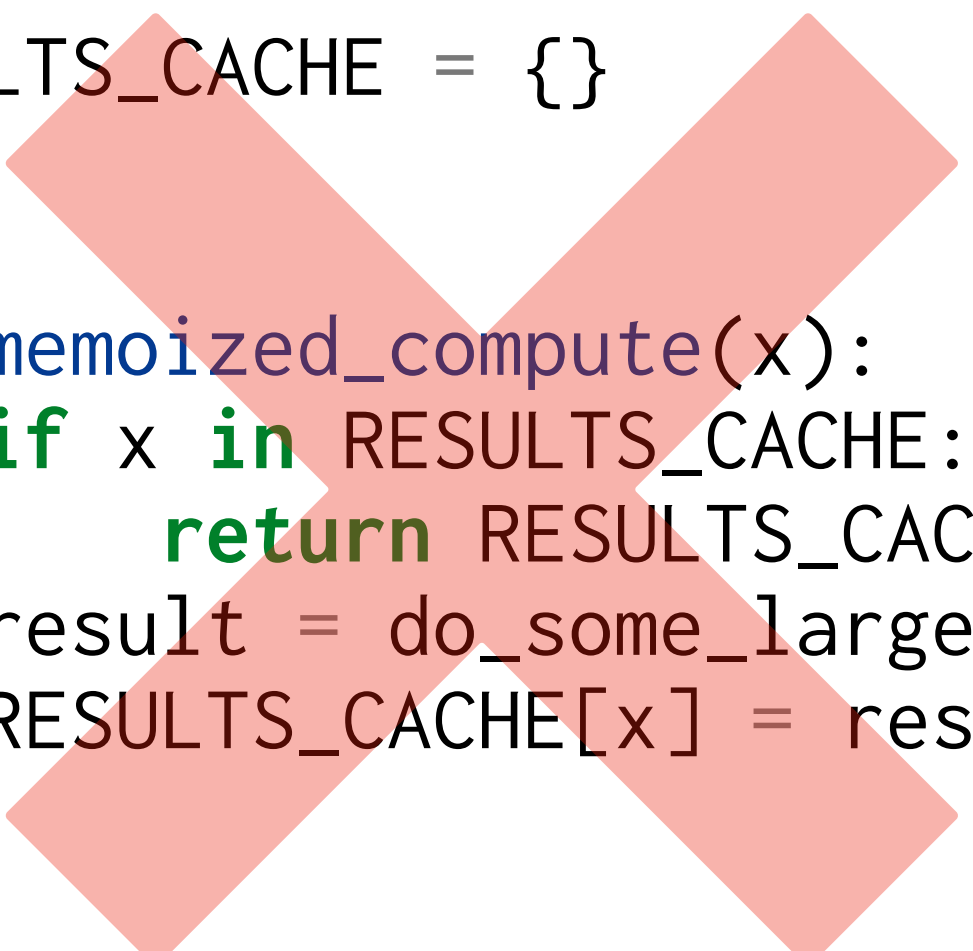
The better way: as usual, python already has you covered!

- use `functools.lru_cache`  
→ built-in memoization as a decorator
- Specify (roughly) the expected maximum size of the cache
  - it will still work if you go over it, but just not be as efficient
- It uses (a hash of) all inputs to the function as the key

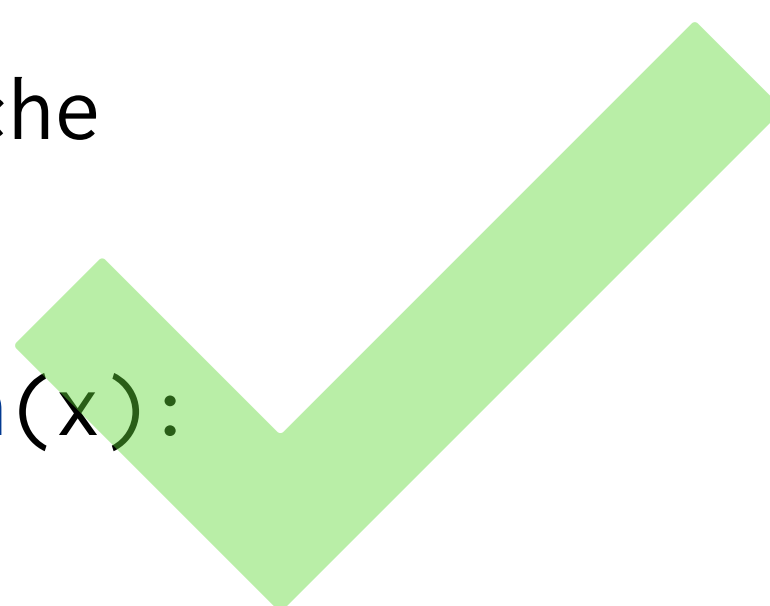
**LRU: Least Recently Used:**  
Throw away cached items that were not accessed recently, if memory gets slim

(one method for caching, there are many others)

```
RESULTS_CACHE = {}  
  
def memoized_compute(x):  
    if x in RESULTS_CACHE:  
        return RESULTS_CACHE[x]  
    result = do_some_large_computation(x)  
    RESULTS_CACHE[x] = result
```



```
from functools import lru_cache  
  
@lru_cache(maxsize=1000)  
def do_some_large_computation(x):  
    # slow code here  
    return result
```



# Speeding up code 2: Numpy

For-loops are slow! (in pure python)

Use NumPy **vector operations** as much as possible → they are optimized already!

- don't call a function on many small pieces of data when you can **call it on an array all at once**
- numpy is implemented in C & Fortran *and* it uses fast numerical libraries, optimized for your CPU (e.g. Intel Math Kernel Library MKL, BLAS, LAPACK etc)
- usually just vectorizing your code to avoid some for-loops, will give you great performance.

➤ bad:

```
| for ii in range(100):  
|     x = ii*0.1  
|     y[ii] = f(x)
```

➤ Good:

```
| x = np.linspace(0,10,100)  
| y = f(x)
```

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```
| x = np.linspace(0,10,100)  
| y = f(x)
```

**This requires practice, and feels very strange at first if you are coming from C programming!**

Take some time to look through the *NumPy* and *SciPy* **API documentation** - there are tons of interesting functions to help you!

# Speeding up code 3: Numba

Takes python code and *directly* uses introspection to compile it with LLVM

- Pretty **automatic**, *but doesn't always help!* Still need code written in a way that can be optimized (for-loops are actually good here, it can't do much with numpy operations since they are already compiled code)
- Can generate **NumPy "ufuncs"** directly (function that works on scalars but is run on all elements of an array), which are too slow to write in python normally.
- Can even compile to **GPU** code for nVidia *CUDA* and AMD *ROC* GPUs!

```
from numba import jit
from numpy import arange
```

```
# jit decorator tells Numba to compile this function.
# The argument types will be inferred by Numba when function is called.
```

```
@jit
def sum2d(arr):
    M, N = arr.shape
    result = 0.0
    for i in range(M):
        for j in range(N):
            result += arr[i,j]
    return result
```

```
a = arange(9).reshape(3,3)
print(sum2d(a))
```

*just add this decorator,  
and it's magic (nearly)*

## Numba operates in two modes:

- **No-Python Mode:**

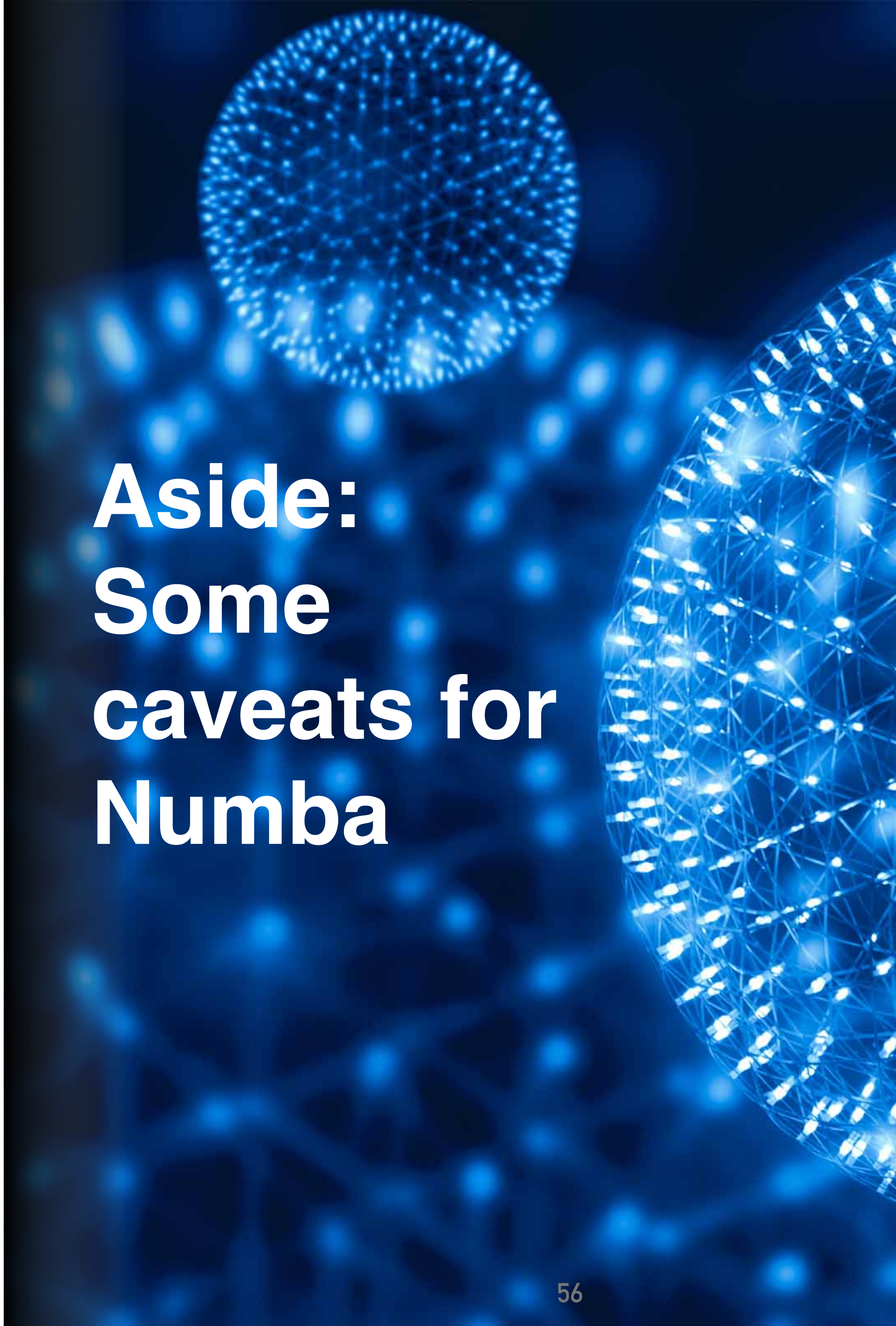
- gives large performance boost
- but only supports basic python types and a subset of numpy/scipy operations

- **Object Mode**

- fall-back if No Python mode fails
- supports any python object
- but gives little or not speed up in most situations

### Tip:

- **To force it to use No-Python mode**
  - set `nopython=True` in the options
  - better: use **@njit**
- **@njit will fail if the code cannot be optimized by numba, and it will tell you why!**
- **There is some discussion that @njit will become the default in the future**



**Aside:  
Some  
caveats for  
Numba**

# More numba caveats:

note that you need to "jit" not only the parent function, but any function that it calls that needs to be sped up. Otherwise, only Object Mode can work!

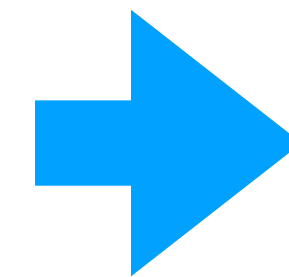
```
from timeit import default_timer as timer
from matplotlib.pyplot import imshow, jet, show, ion
import numpy as np
```

```
from numba import jit
```

```
@jit
def mandel(x, y, max_iters):
    """
    Given the real and imaginary parts of a
    complex number,
    determine if it is a candidate for membership
    in the Mandelbrot
    set given a fixed number of iterations.
    """
```

```
    i = 0
    c = complex(x,y)
    z = 0.0j
    for i in range(max_iters):
        z = z*z + c
        if (z.real*z.real + z.imag*z.imag) >= 4:
            return i
```

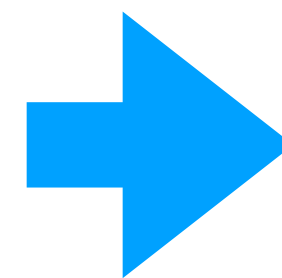
```
    return 255
```



```
@jit
def create_fractal(min_x, max_x, min_y, max_y, image, iters):
    height = image.shape[0]
    width = image.shape[1]
```

```
    pixel_size_x = (max_x - min_x) / width
    pixel_size_y = (max_y - min_y) / height
    for x in range(width):
        real = min_x + x * pixel_size_x
        for y in range(height):
            imag = min_y + y * pixel_size_y
            color = mandel(real, imag, iters)
            image[y, x] = color
```

```
    return image
```



```
image = np.zeros((500 * 2, 750 * 2), dtype=np.uint8)
s = timer()
create_fractal(-2.0, 1.0, -1.0, 1.0, image, 20)
e = timer()
print(e - s)
imshow(image)
```

example from the Numba docs

# Numba with NumPy

Numba supports a large number of NumPy functions (and even some scipy):

- It does not actually call NumPy code!
- it *re-implements* it in a way that is compilable with LLVM.

<https://numba.pydata.org/numba-doc/dev/reference/numpysupported.html>

So what is the point? Isn't NumPy really optimized already?

- Minimize intermediate results!
  - numpy operations often have to allocate memory for data that is not needed in the end:

```
x = np.arange(1000)
result = A * x**2 + B * x + C
```



in C, you might do this all in one loop, with no extra memory needed:

```
for (i=0; i<x.size; i++) {
    result[i] = A*x[i]*x[i] + B*x[i] + C;
}
```

- More control over parallelization (See next lecture)

# Advanced Numba

Numba includes a lot of advanced features and options to *jit* that can help speed things up

- e.g. specify the input and output type mapping, rather than infer it
- Easy NumPy Ufunc generation with `vectorize` and `guvectorize (generalized)`
  - e.g. let you write code that operates on 1D array, and broadcast it to N-dimensional arrays
- Options like `target='GPU'` for producing CUDA code or similar
- Parallelization onto multiple threads with `parallel=True` (see next lecture)

```
import numpy as np
```

```
from numba import guvectorize
```

```
@guvectorize(['void(float64[:], intp[:], float64[:])'], '(n),()->(n)')
```

```
def move_mean(a, window_arr, out):  
    window_width = window_arr[0]  
    asum = 0.0  
    count = 0  
    for i in range(window_width):  
        asum += a[i]  
        count += 1  
        out[i] = asum / count  
    for i in range(window_width, len(a)):  
        asum += a[i] - a[i - window_width]  
        out[i] = asum / count
```

```
arr = np.arange(20, dtype=np.float64).reshape(2, 10)  
print(arr)  
print(move_mean(arr, 3))
```

example from the Numba docs



# Summary

**Write good clean code first!**

**Identify bottlenecks in speed and memory with profiling tools**

- don't worry so much about things that are not called often!
- try to narrow it down to the most critical parts of code

**Use numpy, cython, numba or other technologies to improve the bottleneck**

- try not to obfuscate the code to achieve speed! Readability still counts.

**Demo**