



# TYPE FREEZING: EXPLOITING ATTRIBUTE TYPE MONOMORPHISM IN TRACING JIT COMPILERS

Lin Cheng<sup>1</sup>, Berkin Ilbeyi<sup>1</sup>, Carl Friedrich  
Bolz-Tereick<sup>2</sup>, Christopher Batten<sup>1</sup>

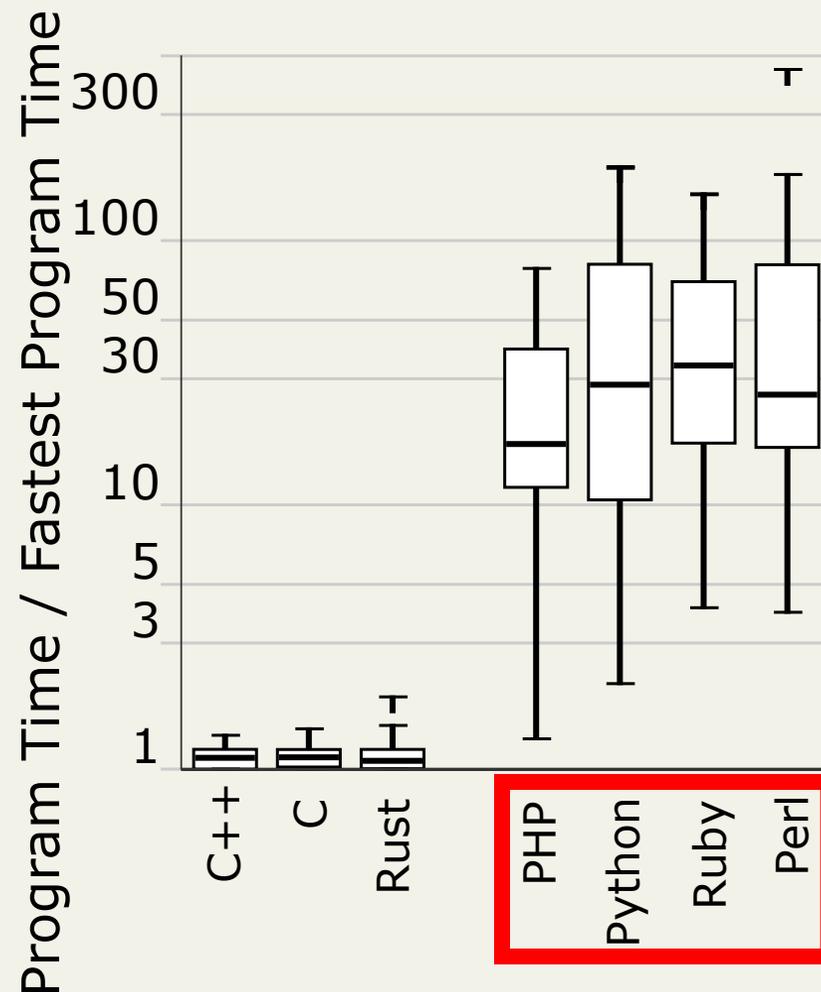
<sup>1</sup>Computer Systems Laboratory  
Cornell University

<sup>2</sup>Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

# DYNAMIC LANGUAGES ARE POPULAR AND SLOW

Rank	Language	Type	Score
1	Python	🌐 🗨️ ⚙️	100.0
2	Java	🌐 📱 🗨️	96.3
3	C	📱 🗨️ ⚙️	94.4
4	C++	📱 🗨️ ⚙️	87.5
5	R	🗨️	81.5
6	JavaScript	🌐	79.4
7	C#	🌐 📱 🗨️ ⚙️	74.5
8	Matlab	🗨️	70.6
9	Swift	📱 🗨️	69.1
10	Go	🌐 🗨️	68.0

S. Cass. "The Top Programming Languages 2019." IEEE Spectrum.



I. Guoy. "The Computer Languages Benchmarks Game."

- An identifier can hold different types of data

```
def foo( pt ):
    x = pt.x
    y = pt.y
    return x + y

>> pt = Point()
>> pt.x = 14
>> pt.y = 28
>> foo( pt )
42

>> pt = Point()
>> pt.x = 14.0
>> pt.y = 28.0
>> foo( pt )
42.0

>> pt = Point()
>> pt.x = "14"
>> pt.y = "28"
>> foo( pt )
"1428"
```

[1] Xia et al, An Empirical Study of Dynamic Types for Python Projects. *Int'l Conf. on Software Analysis, Testing, and Evolution* (Nov 2018)



- An identifier can hold different types of data
- At least 79% of the identifiers in real world Python applications are type monomorphic [1]

```
def foo( pt ):           >> pt = Point() >> pt = Point() >> pt = Point()
    x = pt.x             >> pt.x = 14      >> pt.x = 14.0    >> pt.x = "14"
    y = pt.y             >> pt.y = 28      >> pt.y = 28.0    >> pt.y = "28"
    return x + y         >> foo( pt )     >> foo( pt )     >> foo( pt )
                        42                42.0          "1428"
```



```
assert_type( pt, Point )
_x = load_attr( pt, "x" )
_y = load_attr( pt, "y" )
assert_type( _x, int )
assert_type( _y, int )
r = add_int( _x, _y )
return r
```

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    return x + y         >> foo( pt )    >> foo( pt )    >> foo( pt )
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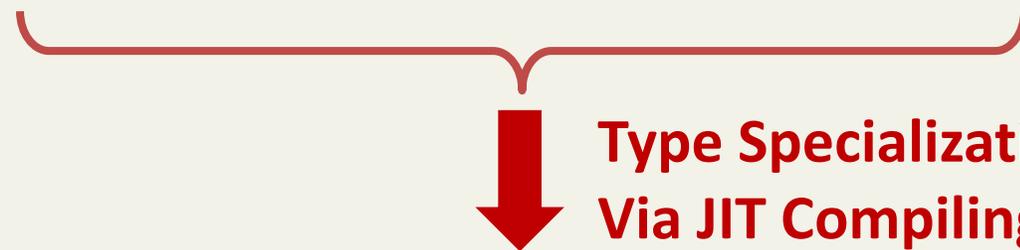
# TYPE POLYMORPHISM → TYPE MONOMORPHISM

- An identifier can hold different types of data
- At least 79% of the identifiers in real world Python applications are type monomorphic [1]
- **Attribute type monomorphism** is a special kind of type monomorphism, in which a certain attribute of a user-defined type only holds a single type of data

```

def foo( pt ):
    x = pt.x
    y = pt.y
    return x + y
    
```

>> pt = Point()	>> pt = Point()	>> pt = Point()
>> pt.x = 14	>> pt.x = 14.0	>> pt.x = "14"
>> pt.y = 28	>> pt.y = 28.0	>> pt.y = "28"
>> foo( pt )	>> foo( pt )	>> foo( pt )
42	42.0	"1428"



**Type Specialization  
Via JIT Compiling**

```

assert_type( pt, Point )
_x = load_attr( pt, "x" )
_y = load_attr( pt, "y" )
assert_type( _x, int )
assert_type( _y, int )
r = add_int( _x, _y )
return r
    
```

Knowing `pt` is a `Point` instance implies `x` and `y` are integers

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# ATTRIBUTE TYPE MONOMORPHISM → 75% OF ALL READS

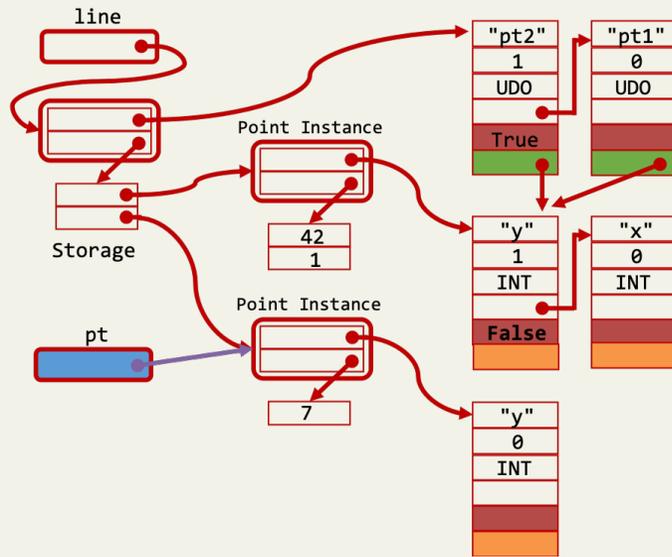
Benchmark	Attribute Reads			
	Total	Monomorphic Primitive (%)	Monomorphic User-Defined (%)	Polymorphic (%)
deltablue	524.10 M	56.6	41.7	1.7
raytrace	5.01 B	2.7	9.6	87.4
richards	808.08 M	64.5	7.5	24.6
eparse	20.34 M	51.6	0.1	48.4
telco	376.50 M	70.9	1.6	27.5
float	150.01 M	100.0	0.0	0.0
html5lib	21.17 M	70.0	5.7	24.4
chaos	538.39 M	86.1	0.0	13.9
pickle	55.93 M	100.0	0.0	0.0
django	32.48 M	71.5	14.2	14.3
sympy	6.20 M	87.3	0.0	12.6
sympy-opt	6.20 M	86.8	0.0	13.1
gcbench	37.14 M	0.0	0.0	100.0
genshi-xml	5.84 M	98.0	1.7	0.3
chameleon	451.46 K	84.0	0.4	15.6
mako	260.12 K	73.7	17.5	8.8
meteor-contest	11.52 K	77.9	0.6	21.5
nbody-modified	7.88 K	68.3	0.8	30.9
fib	7.88 K	68.3	0.8	30.9

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Simple Type Freezing

Nested Type Freezing



# Type Freezing

Motivation

Background

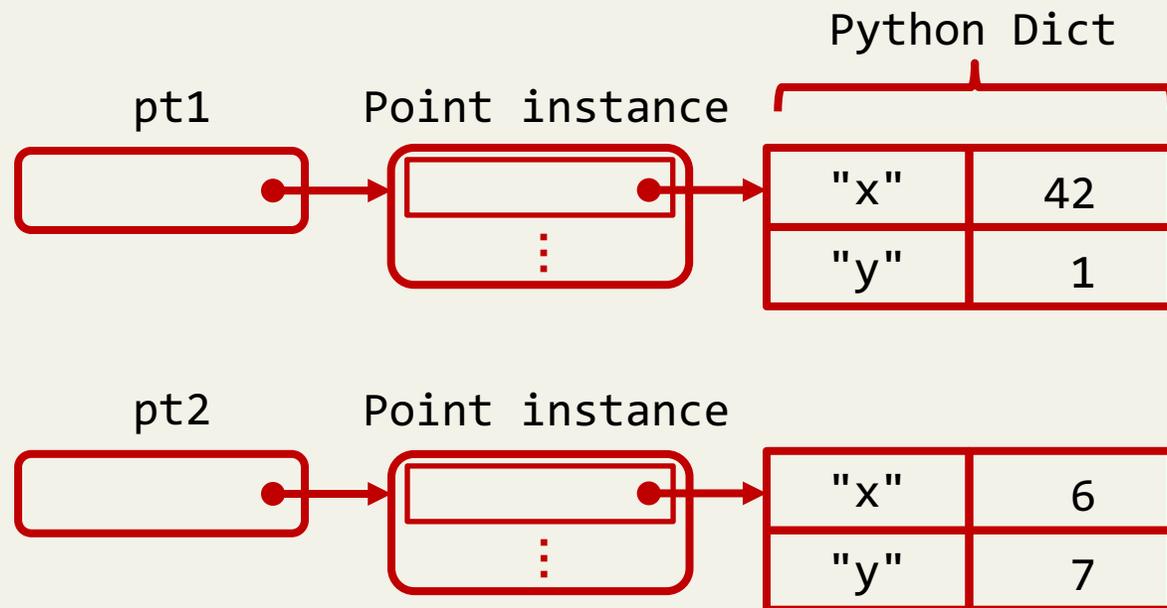
Simple Type Freezing

Nested Type Freezing

Evaluation

```
class Point( object ):  
    def __init__( self, x, y ):  
        self.x = x  
        self.y = y
```

```
pt1 = Point( 42, 1 )  
pt2 = Point( 6, 7 )
```

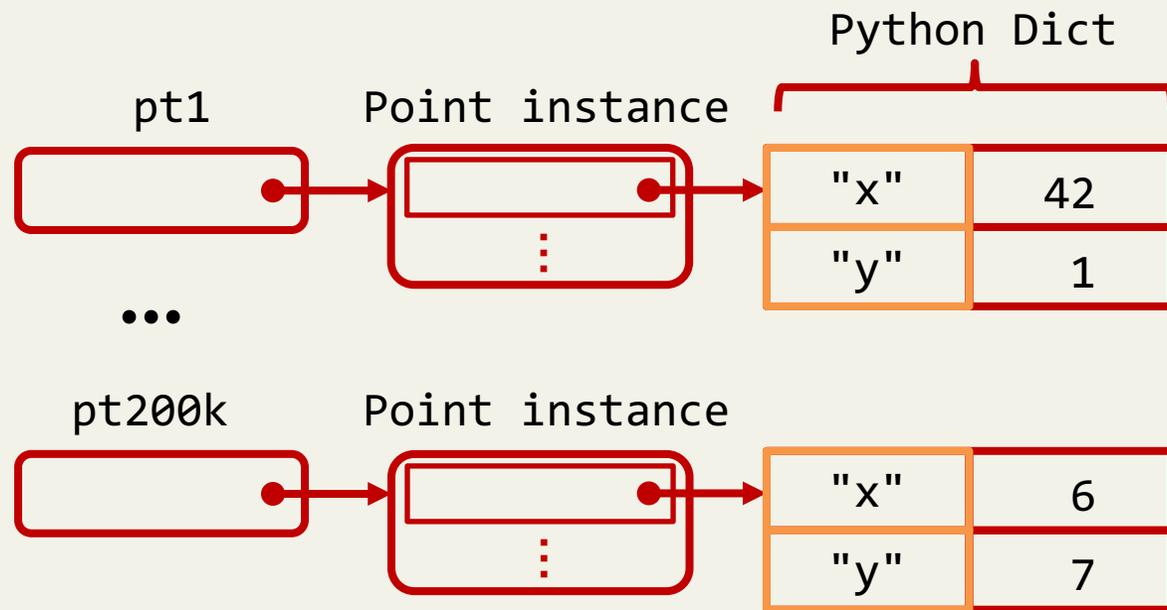


- Attributes can be added to, or removed from, an instance dynamically: It is necessary to keep track of each instance's attribute list
- CPython associates a complex and memory hungry Dict with each instance

```
class Point( object ):  
    def __init__( self, x, y ):  
        self.x = x  
        self.y = y
```

```
pt1    = Point( 42, 1 )
```

```
...  
pt200k = Point( 6, 7 )
```

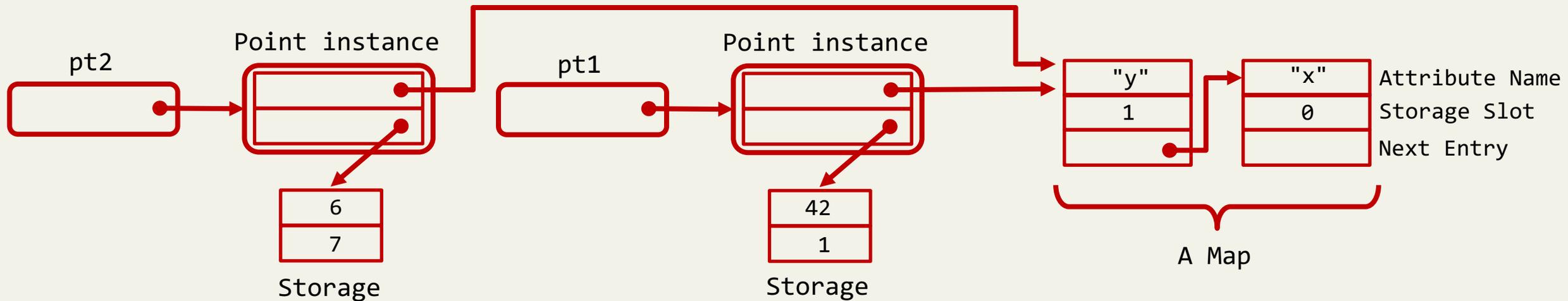


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- CPython associates a complex and memory hungry Dict with each instance

```
class Point( object ):  
    def __init__( self, x, y ):  
        self.x = x  
        self.y = y
```

```
pt1 = Point( 42, 1 )  
pt2 = Point( 6, 7 )
```

- Instances are likely to have the same set of attributes: modern JIT compilers usually implement an optimization called **Maps** (also known as **Hidden Classes** or **Shapes**)
- User-defined types are structural: an instance's map determines its type



```
class Point( object ):
    def __init__( self, x, y ):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y

class Line( object ):
    def __init__( self, pt1, pt2 ):
        self.pt1 = pt1
        self.pt2 = pt2

def create_lines( n ):
    lines = []
    for i in range( n ):
        pt1 = Point( i, n-i )
        pt2 = Point( 2*i-n, i-n )
        lines.append( Line( pt1, pt2 ) )
    return lines
```

```
def total_length( n, lines ):
    length = 0
    i = 0
    while( i < n ):
        line = lines[i]
        pt1 = line.pt1
        pt2 = line.pt2
        a_side = ( pt1.x - pt2.x ) ** 2
        b_side = ( pt1.y - pt2.y ) ** 2
        length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )
    return length
```



```
def total_length( n, lines ):  
    length = 0  
    i = 0  
    while( i < n ):  
        line = lines[i]  
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        length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )  
    return length
```

```
p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )    # line = lines[i]  
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #
```



```
def total_length( n, lines ):  
    length = 0  
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        pt1 = line.pt1  
        pt2 = line.pt2  
        a_side = ( pt1.x - pt2.x ) ** 2  
        b_side = ( pt1.y - pt2.y ) ** 2  
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```

```
p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]  
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #  
  
p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1  
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #  
guard_not_invalidated()           #  
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #  
guard_class( p9, W_ObjectObject ) #
```

```
def total_length( n, lines ):  
    length = 0  
    i = 0  
    while( i < n ):  
        line = lines[i]  
        pt1 = line.pt1  
        pt2 = line.pt2  
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p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1  
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #  
guard_not_invalidated()           #  
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #  
guard_class( p9, W_ObjectObject ) #  
  
p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2  
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #
```



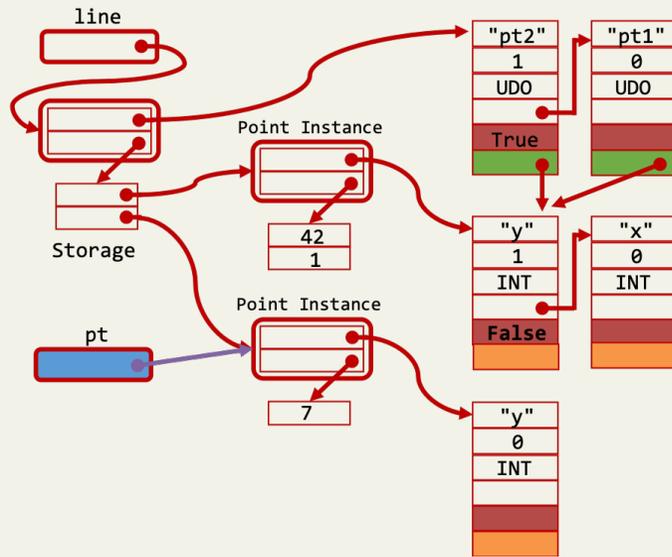
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    return length
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guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #  
guard_not_invalidated()          #  
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #  
guard_class( p9, W_ObjectObject ) #  
  
p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2  
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #  
  
p11 = get( p9, Map )               # pt1.x  
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )  #  
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )            #  
guard_class( p12, W_IntObject )   #  
  
p13 = get( p10, Map )              # pt2.x  
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )  #  
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )           #  
guard_class( p14, W_IntObject )   #
```



```
def total_length( n, lines ):  
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        length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )  
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guard_not_invalidated()           #  
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #  
guard_class( p9, W_ObjectObject ) #  
  
p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2  
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #  
  
p11 = get( p9, Map )               # pt1.x  
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )  #  
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )            #  
guard_class( p12, W_IntObject )   #  
  
p13 = get( p10, Map )              # pt2.x  
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )  #  
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )           #  
guard_class( p14, W_IntObject )   #  
...  
p19 = get( p9, slot1 )             # pt1.y  
guard_class( p19, W_IntObject )   #  
  
p20 = get( p10, slot1 )           # pt2.y  
guard_class( p20, W_IntObject )   #  
...
```



# Type Freezing

Motivation

Background

Simple Type Freezing

Nested Type Freezing

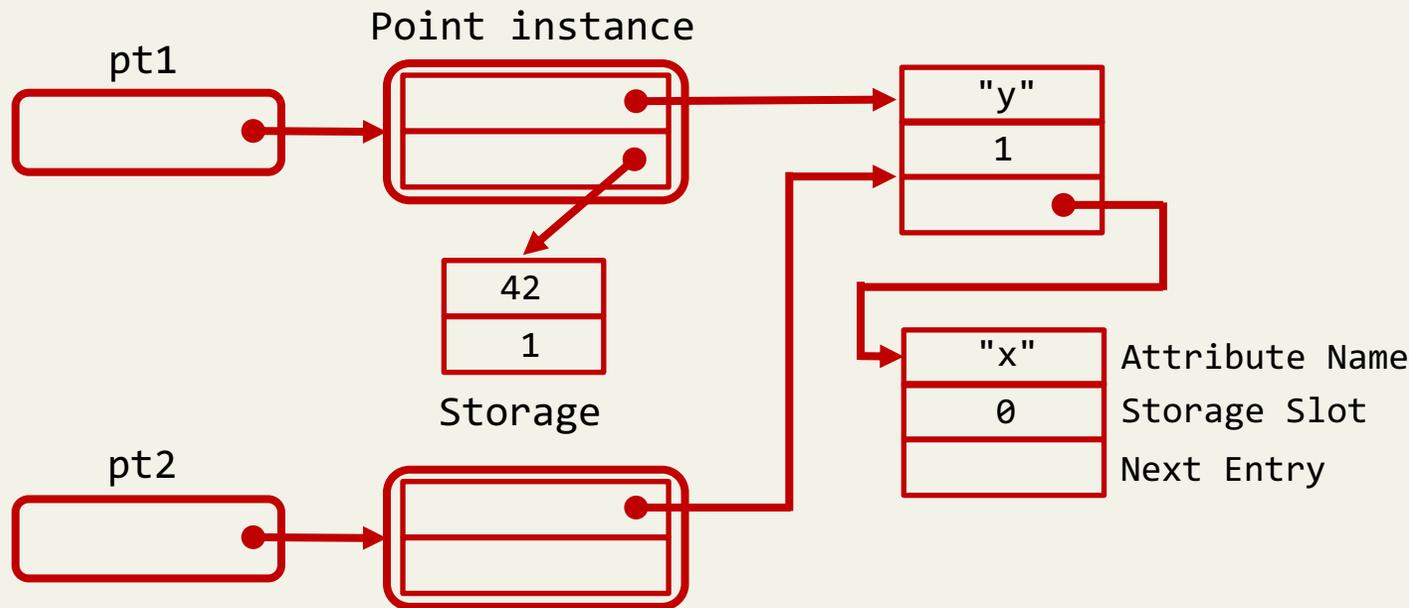
Evaluation

# TECHNIQUE: SIMPLE TYPE FREEZING

```
class Point( object ):
    def __init__( self, x, y ):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
```

```
pt1 = Point( 42, 1 )
pt2 = Point( 6, 7 )
```

- To exploit attribute type monomorphism, we need to keep track of which attributes are type monomorphic

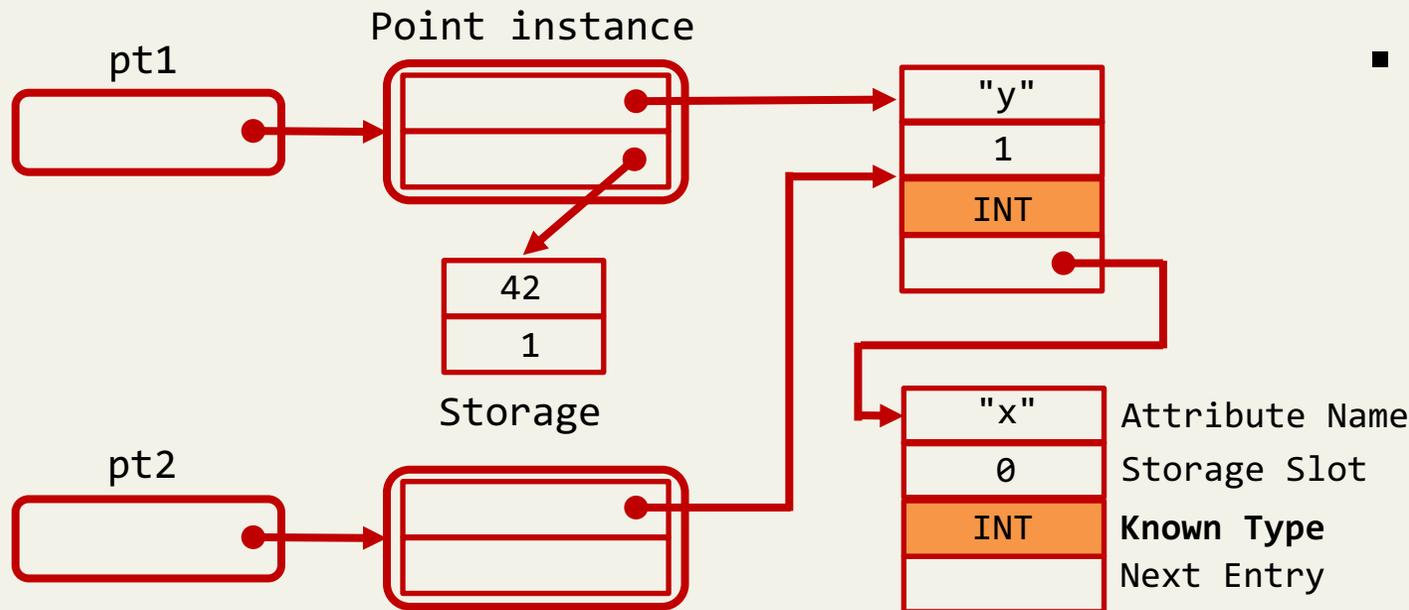


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```
class Point( object ):
    def __init__( self, x, y ):
        self.x = x
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```

```
pt1 = Point( 42, 1 )
pt2 = Point( 6, 7 )
```

- To exploit attribute type monomorphism, we need to keep track of which attributes are type monomorphic
- We "freeze" the type information of attributes into the map with an auxiliary field, **known type**
- With this extra info, **unmodified** PyPy JIT compiler is able to prove the type of these attributes at compiling time and eliminate type guards on them



# BENEFIT: ELIMINATING TYPE GUARDS

```

while( i < n ):
    line = lines[i]
    pt1 = line.pt1
    pt2 = line.pt2
    a_side = ( pt1.x - pt2.x ) ** 2
    b_side = ( pt1.y - pt2.y ) ** 2
    length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )

```

```

p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #
guard_not_invalidated()           #

p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #
guard_class( p9, W_ObjectObject ) #

p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

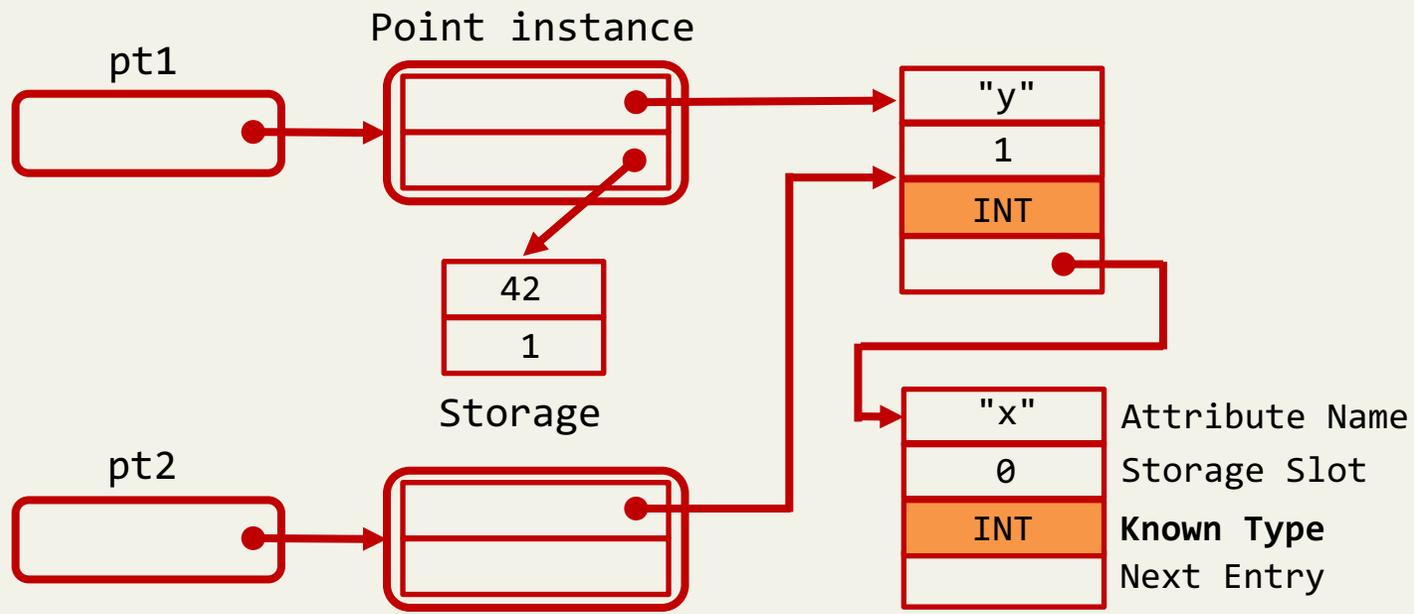
p11 = get( p9, Map )               # pt1.x
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )  #
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )             #
guard_class( p12, W_IntObject )   #

p13 = get( p10, Map )              # pt2.x
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )  #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )            #
guard_class( p14, W_IntObject )   #
. . .

p19 = get( p9, slot1 )             # pt1.y
guard_class( p19, W_IntObject )   #

p20 = get( p10, slot1 )            # pt2.y
guard_class( p20, W_IntObject )   #
. . .

```



# BENEFIT: ELIMINATING TYPE GUARDS

```

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    line = lines[i]
    pt1 = line.pt1
    pt2 = line.pt2
    a_side = ( pt1.x - pt2.x ) ** 2
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    length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )

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guard_class( p9, W_ObjectObject ) #

p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

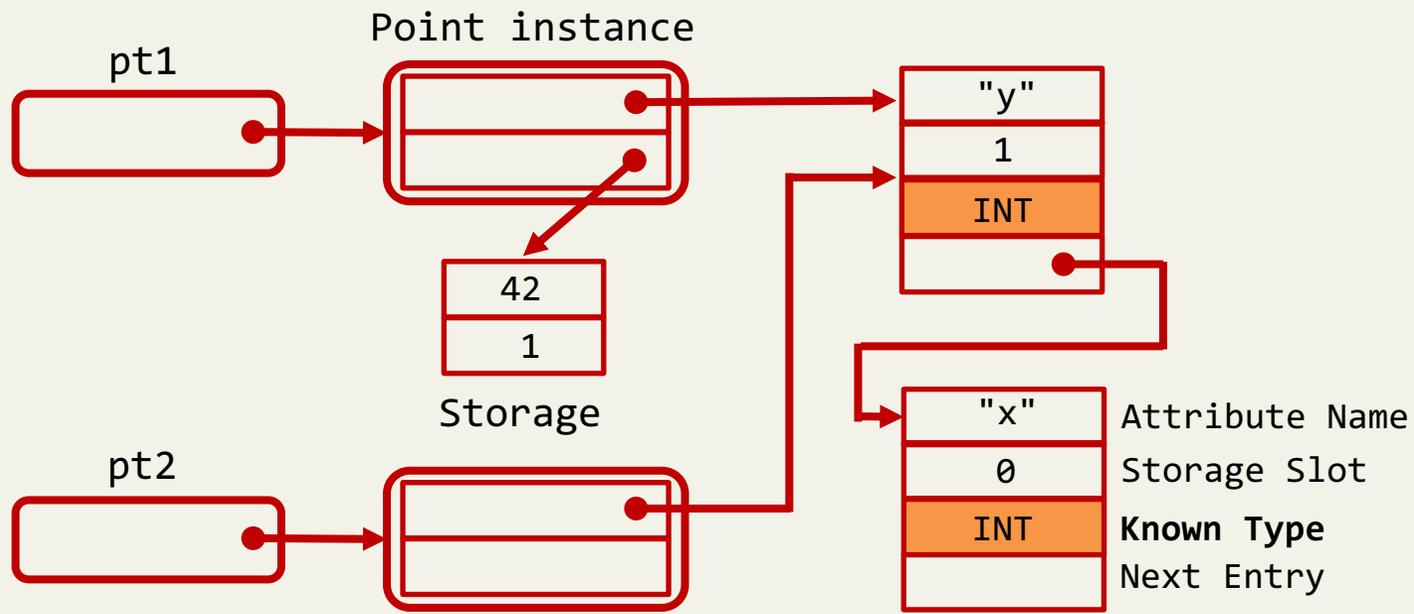
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guard_value( p11, Map of Point )  #
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )             #
guard_class( p12, W_IntObject )   #

p13 = get( p10, Map )              # pt2.x
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )  #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )            #
guard_class( p14, W_IntObject )   #
...

p19 = get( p9, slot1 )             # pt1.y
guard_class( p19, W_IntObject )   #

p20 = get( p10, slot1 )            # pt2.y
guard_class( p20, W_IntObject )   #
...

```



# CHALLENGE: ATTRIBUTES MAY BECOME POLYMORPHIC

```
while( i < n ):
    line = lines[i]
    pt1 = line.pt1
    pt2 = line.pt2
    a_side = ( pt1.x - pt2.x ) ** 2
    b_side = ( pt1.y - pt2.y ) ** 2
    length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )

pt = Point( "42", 1 )
```

```
p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #
guard_not_invalidated()           #
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #

p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2

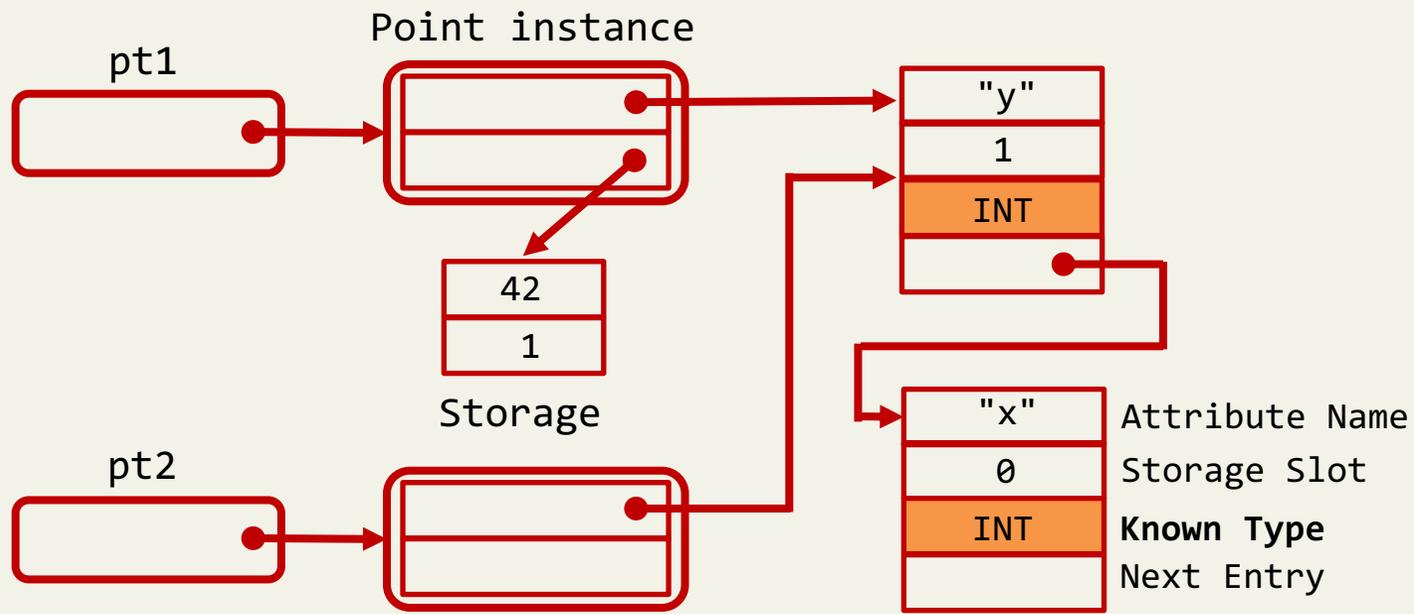
p11 = get( p9, Map )               # pt1.x
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )  #
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )             #

p13 = get( p10, Map )              # pt2.x
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )  #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )            #

...
p19 = get( p9, slot1 )             # pt1.y

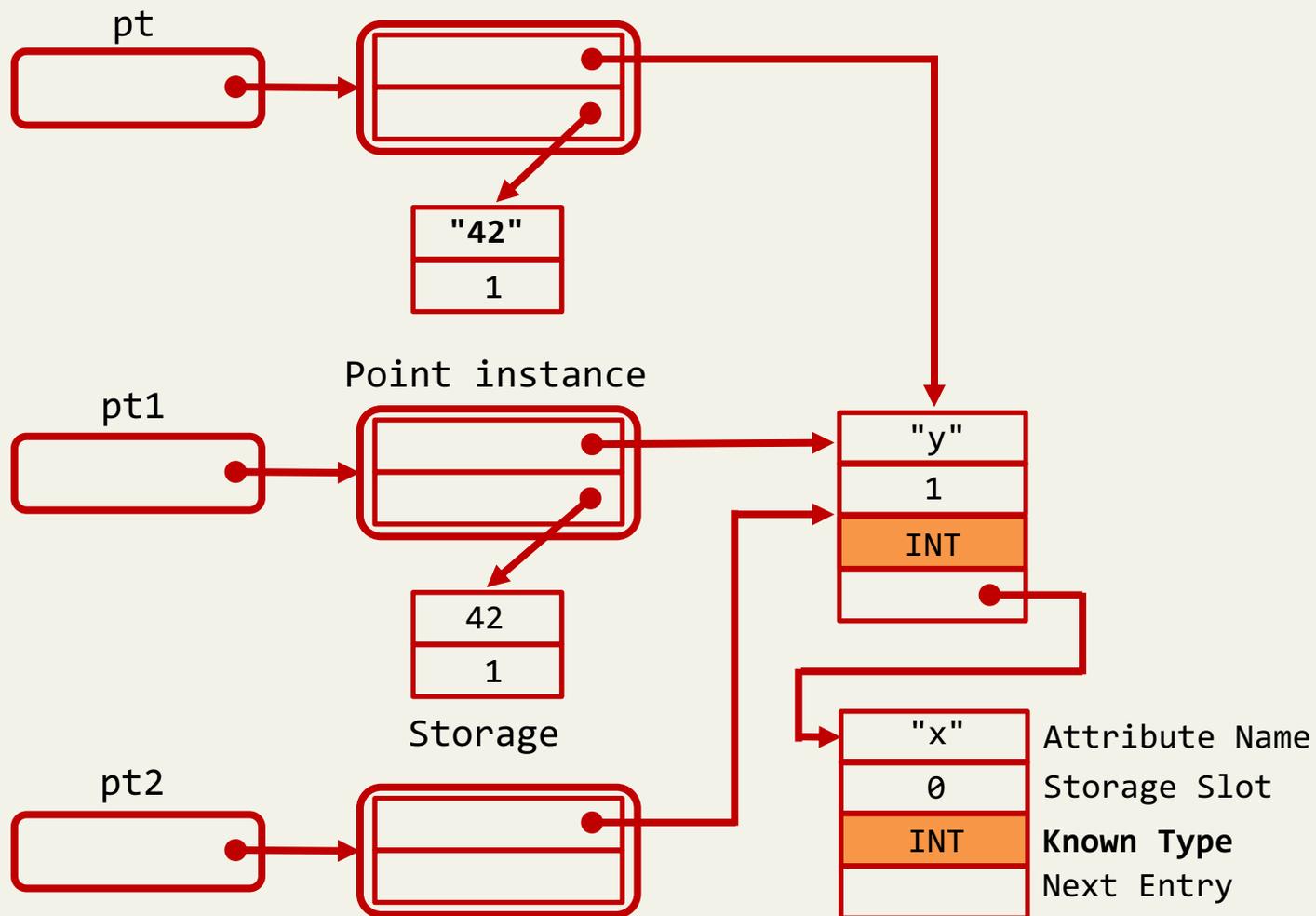
p20 = get( p10, slot1 )            # pt2.y

...
```



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p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )     #
guard_not_invalidated()            #
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )               #

p10 = get( p7, slot1 )              # pt2 = line.pt2

p11 = get( p9, Map )                # pt1.x
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )   #
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )              #

p13 = get( p10, Map )               # pt2.x
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )   #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )             #

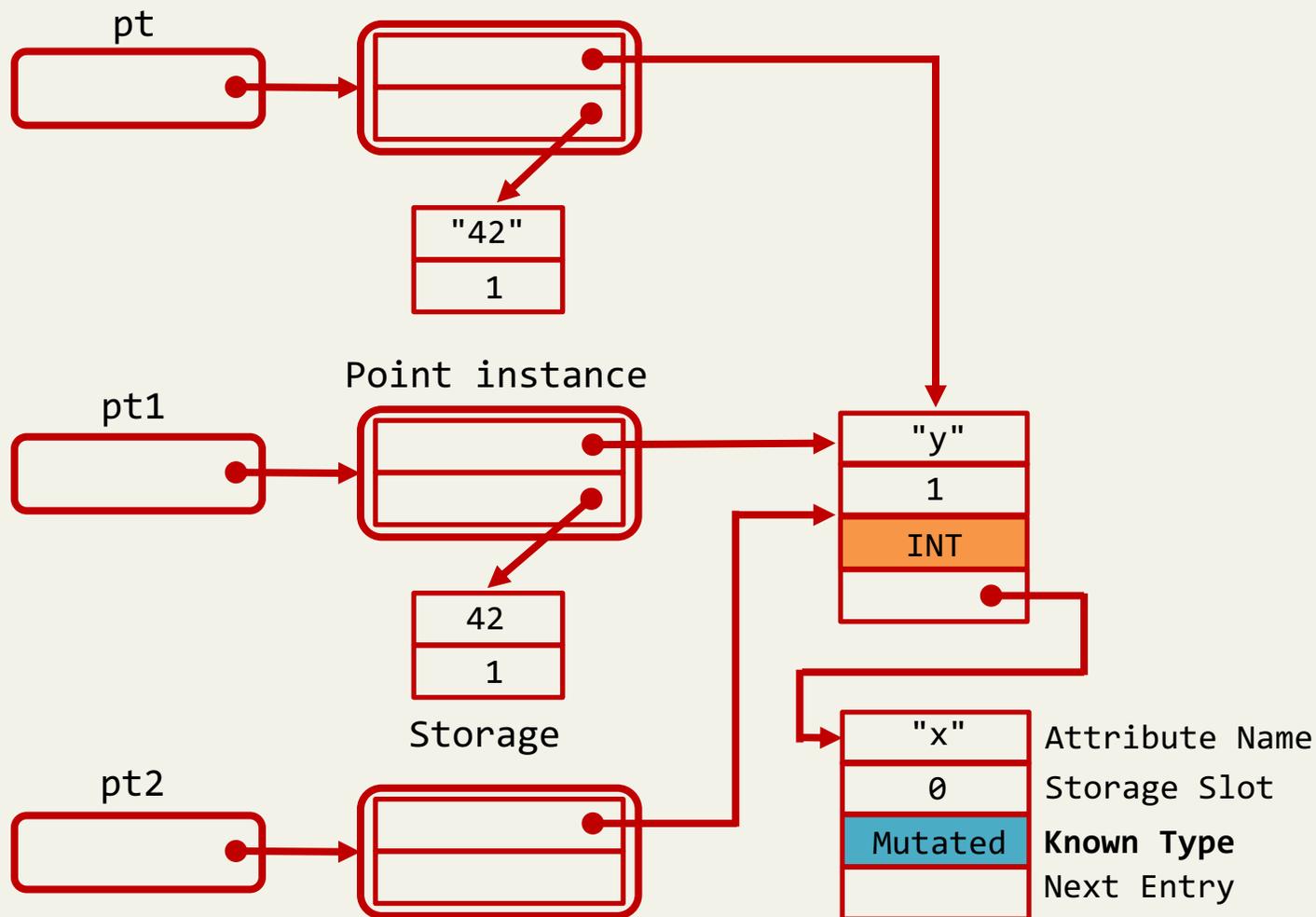
...
p19 = get( p9, slot1 )              # pt1.y

p20 = get( p10, slot1 )             # pt2.y

...
```

# SOLUTION: INVALID TRACES THROUGH QUASI-IMMUTABLE

pt = Point( "42", 1 )



```

p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #
guard_not_invalidated()           #
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #

p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2

p11 = get( p9, Map )               # pt1.x
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )  #
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )             #

p13 = get( p10, Map )              # pt2.x
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )  #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )           #

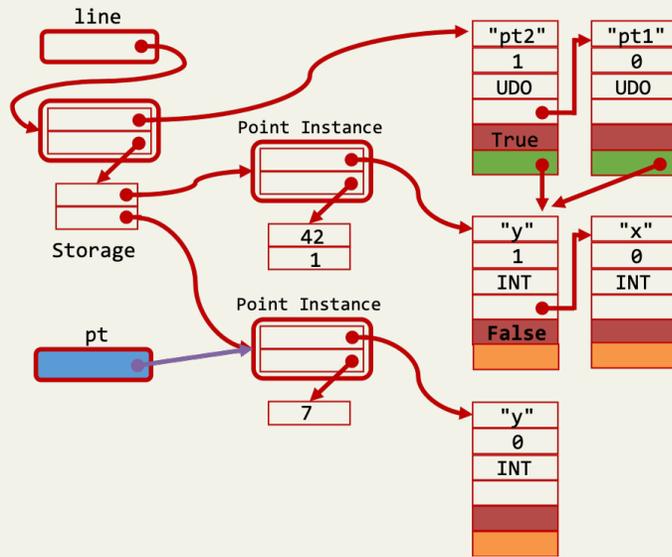
...
p19 = get( p9, slot1 )             # pt1.y

p20 = get( p10, slot1 )           # pt2.y

...

```





# Type Freezing

Motivation

Background

Simple Type Freezing

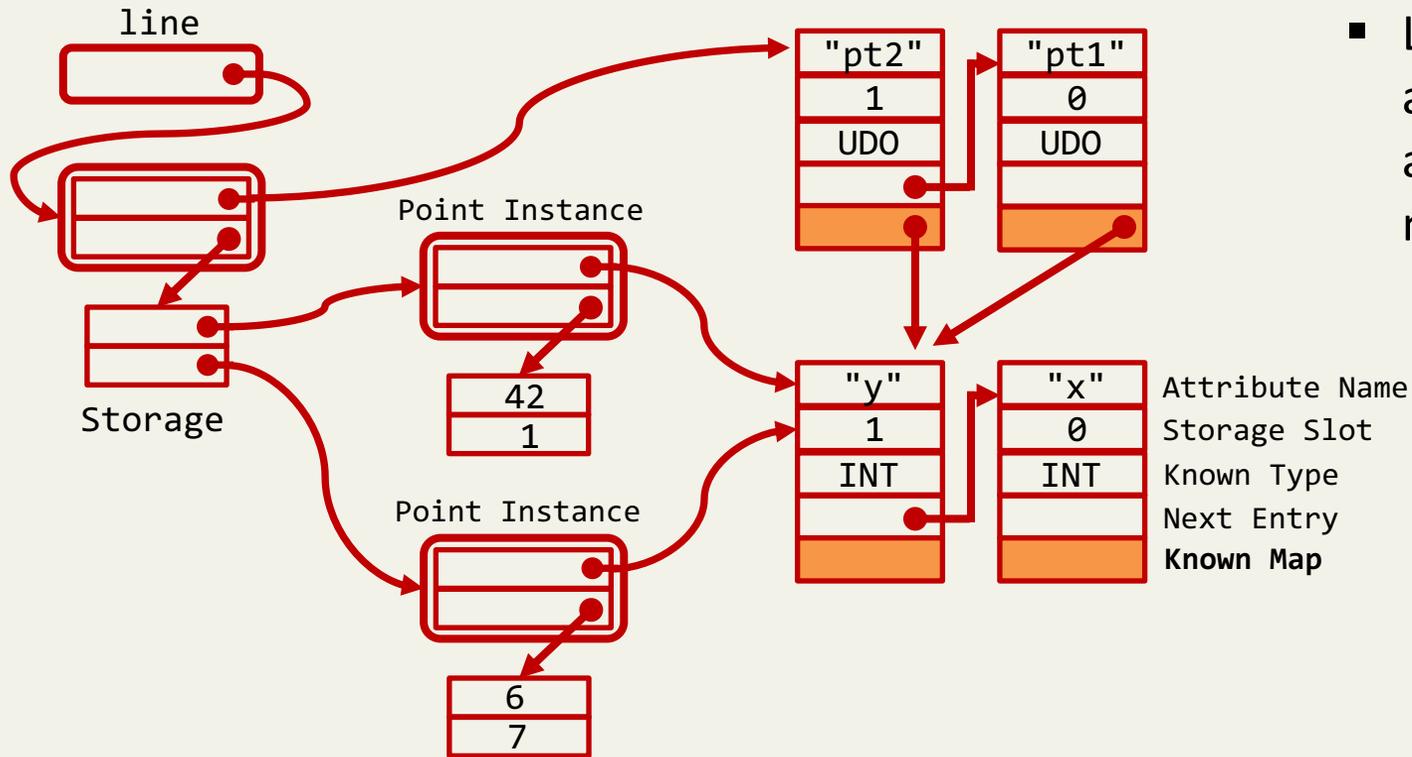
**Nested Type Freezing**

Evaluation

# TECHNIQUE: NESTED TYPE FREEZING

```
class Line( object ):
    def __init__( self, pt1, pt2 ):
        self.pt1 = pt1
        self.pt2 = pt2
```

```
line = Line( Point(42, 1), Point(6, 7) )
```



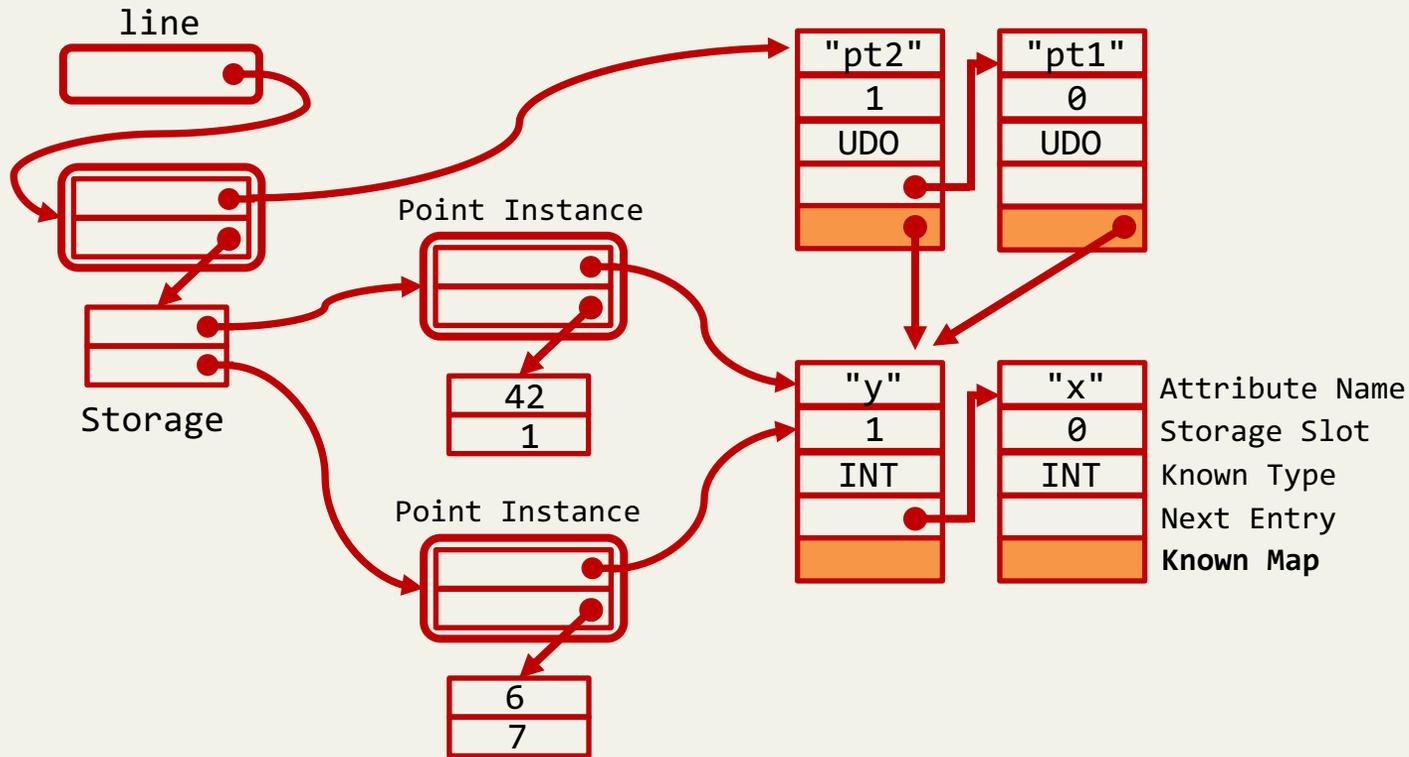
- If a type monomorphic attribute stores another kind of user-defined objects, knowing the type of top-level object implicitly tells the layout of nested objects
- Like the case in simple type freezing, we associate another quasi-immutable auxiliary field, **known map**, with each map entry.

# BENEFIT: REMOVING GUARDS ON MAPS

```

while( i < n ):
    line = lines[i]
    pt1 = line.pt1
    pt2 = line.pt2
    a_side = ( pt1.x - pt2.x ) ** 2
    b_side = ( pt1.y - pt2.y ) ** 2
    length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )

```



```

p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )     #
guard_not_invalidated()            #
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #

p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2

p11 = get( p9, Map )               # pt1.x
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )   #
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )             #

p13 = get( p10, Map )              # pt2.x
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )   #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )            #

...

p19 = get( p9, slot1 )             # pt1.y

p20 = get( p10, slot1 )            # pt2.y

...

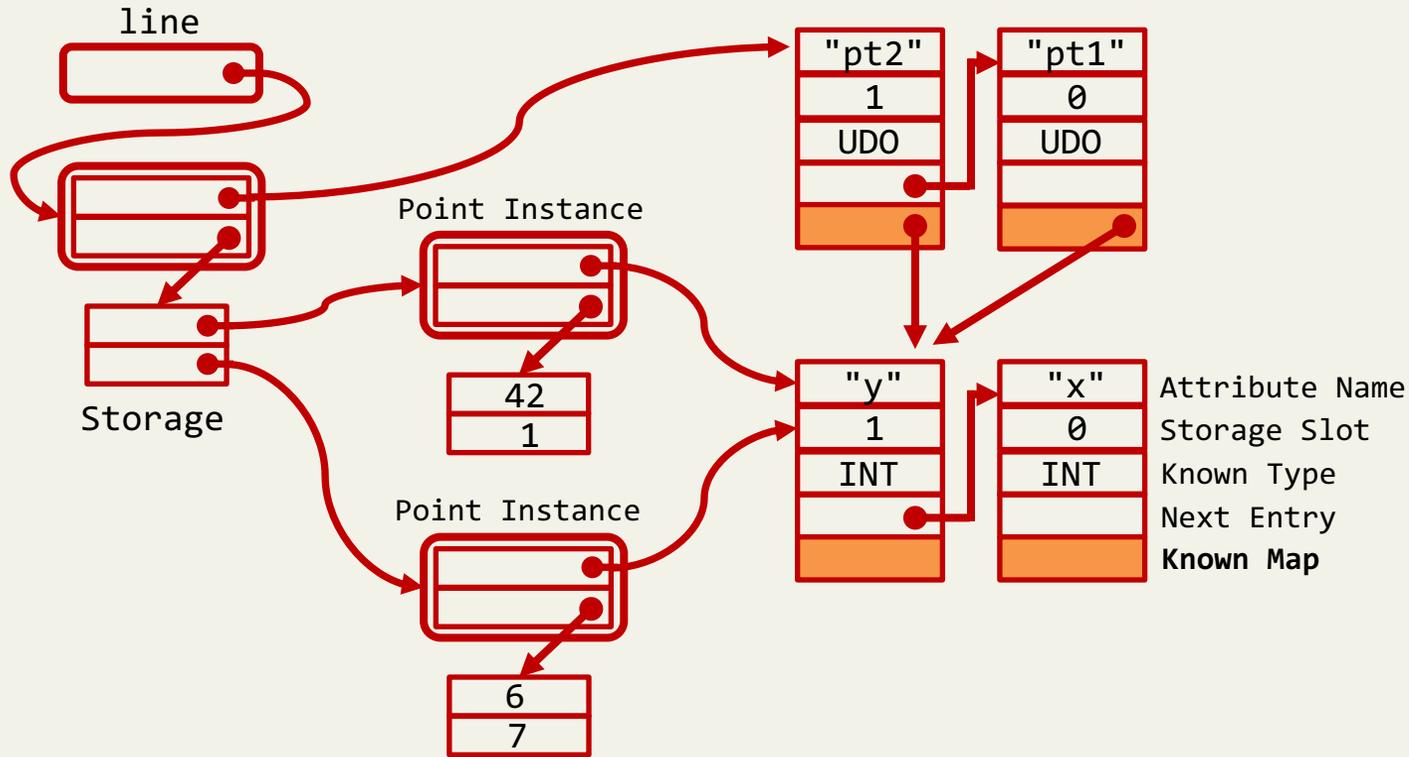
```

# BENEFIT: REMOVING GUARDS ON MAPS

```

while( i < n ):
  line = lines[i]
  pt1 = line.pt1
  pt2 = line.pt2
  a_side = ( pt1.x - pt2.x ) ** 2
  b_side = ( pt1.y - pt2.y ) ** 2
  length += math.sqrt( a_side + b_side )

```



```

p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #
guard_not_invalidated()           #
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #

p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2

p11 = get( p9, Map )               # pt1.x
guard_value( p11, Map of Point )  #
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )             #

p13 = get( p10, Map )             # pt2.x
guard_value( p13, Map of Point )  #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )           #

...

p19 = get( p9, slot1 )            # pt1.y

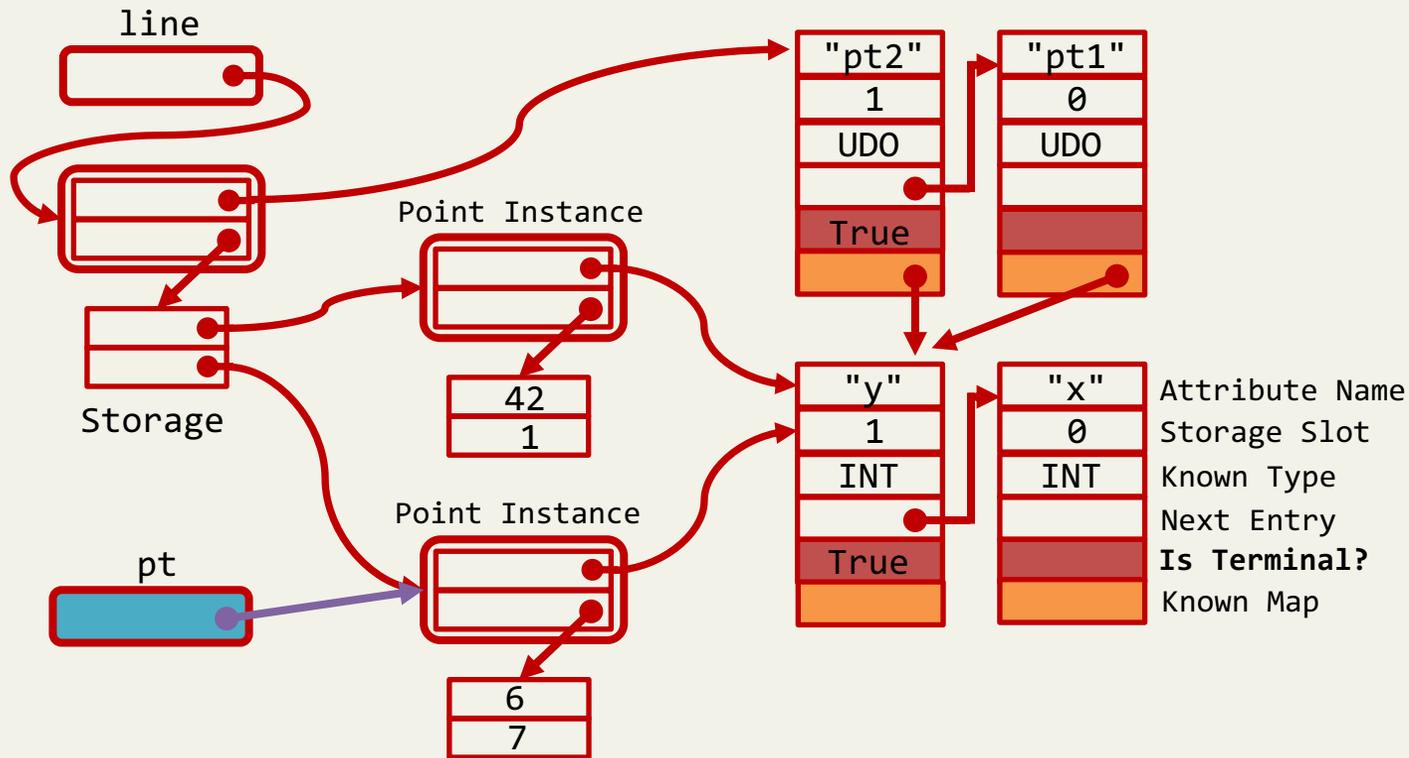
p20 = get( p10, slot1 )           # pt2.y

...

```



```
pt = line[42].pt2
delattr(pt2, "x")
```



- A map is said to be **terminal**, if and only if none of the instances that point to this map have added or removed any attributes

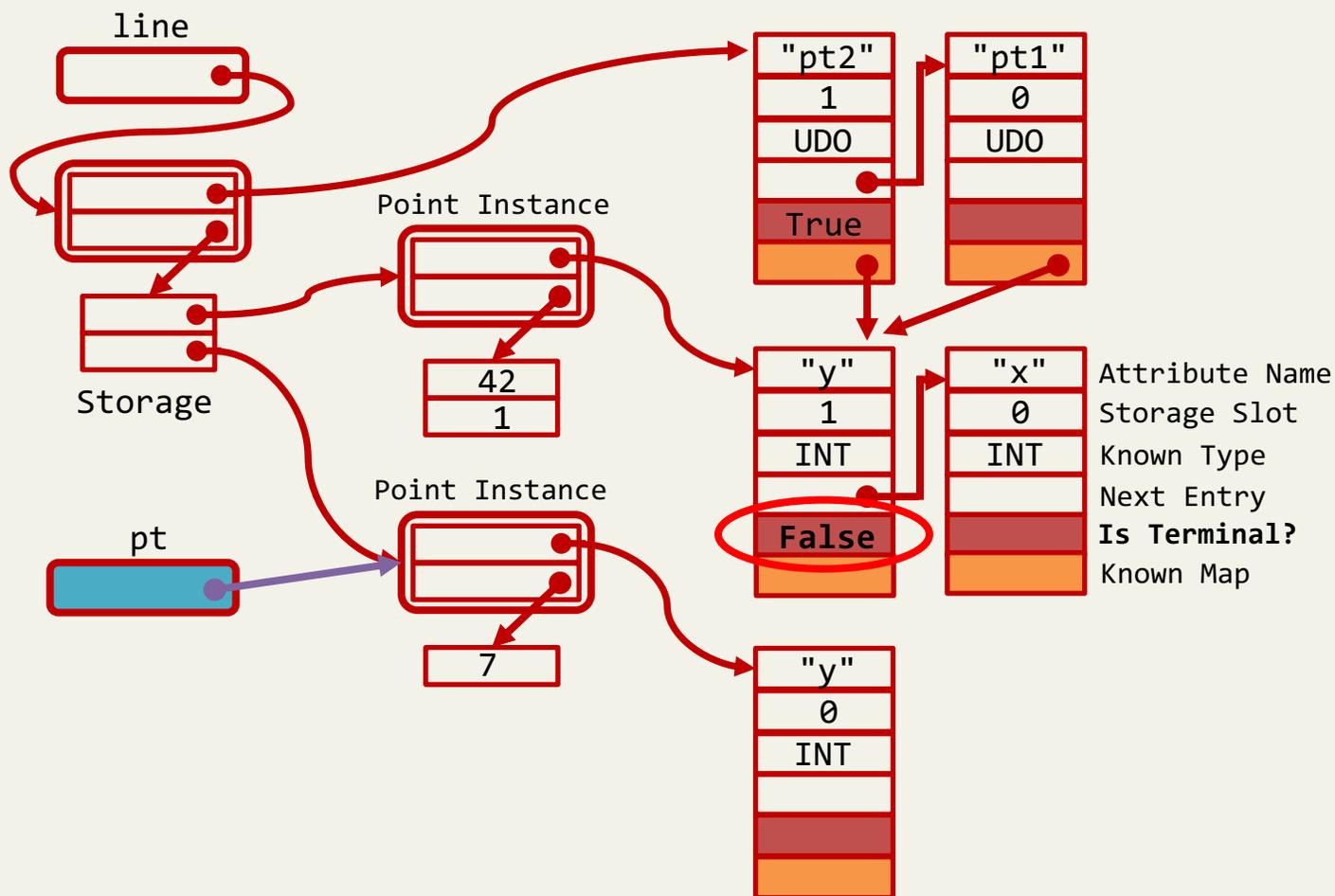
```
p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #

p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #
guard_not_invalidated()           #

p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #

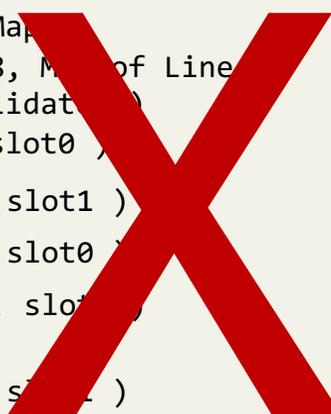
p10 = get( p7, slot1 )              # pt2 = line.pt2
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )              #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )            #
...
p19 = get( p9, slot1 )              # pt1.y
p20 = get( p10, slot1 )            # pt2.y
...
```

```
pt = line[42].pt2
delattr(pt2, "x")
```



- A map is said to be **terminal**, if and only if none of the instances that point to this map have added or removed any attributes

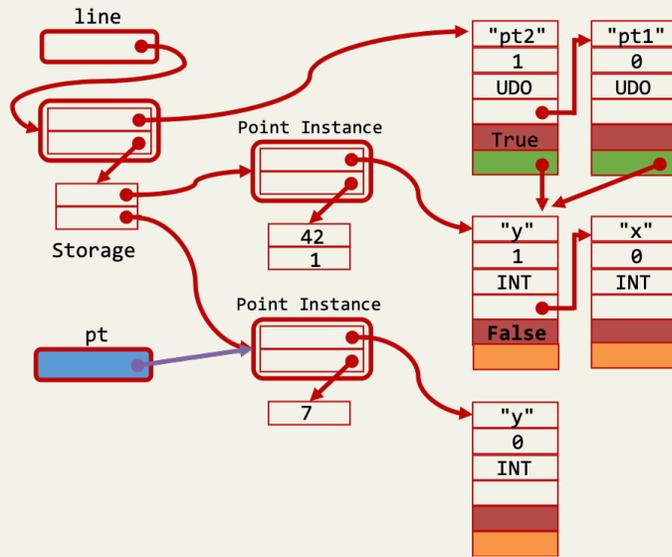
```
p7 = get_array_item( p0, i1 )      # line = lines[i]
guard_class( p7, W_ObjectObject ) #
p8 = get( p7, Map )                # pt1 = line.pt1
guard_value( p8, Map of Line )    #
guard_not_invalidat( )            #
p9 = get( p7, slot0 )              #
p10 = get( p7, slot1 )             # pt2 = line.pt2
p12 = get( p9, slot0 )             #
p14 = get( p10, slot0 )            #
...
p19 = get( p9, slot1 )             # pt1.y
p20 = get( p10, slot1 )           # pt2.y
...
```



- We move runtime type checking from **read time** to **write time** for two reasons
  - There are generally more reads than writes
  - Certain write time type checking can be optimized away, since type of the value to be written is known at JIT compile time
- We used the running example as a micro-benchmark
  - Type Freezing saves up to 30% of dynamic instructions
  - Type Freezing improves performance by up to 6%

Benchmark	Attribute Reads	Attribute Writes	Reads/Writes
deltablue	524.10 M	107.53 M	4.9
raytrace	5.01 B	1.23 B	4.1
richards	808.08 M	297.25 M	2.7
eparse	20.34 M	4.12 M	4.9
telco	376.50 M	103.42 M	3.6
float	150.01 M	90.00 M	1.7
html5lib	21.17 M	4.88 M	4.3
chaos	538.39 M	110.09 M	4.9
pickle	55.93 M	452.44 K	123.6
django	32.48 M	26.67 K	1217.5
sympy	6.20 M	1.44 M	4.3
sympy-opt	6.20 M	1.46 M	4.2
gcbench	37.14 M	190.47 M	0.2
genshi-xml	5.84 M	11.71 K	498.7
chameleon	451.46 K	488.86 K	0.9
mako	260.12 K	109.34 K	2.4
meteor-contest	11.52 K	4.67 K	2.5
nbody-modified	7.88 K	2.27 K	3.5
fib	7.88 K	2.27 K	3.5

```
def create_lines( n ):
    lines = []
    for i in range( n ):
        pt1 = Point( i, n-i )
        pt2 = Point( 2*i-n, i-n )
        lines.append( Line( pt1, pt2 ) )
    return lines
```



# Type Freezing

Motivation

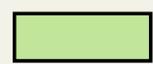
Background

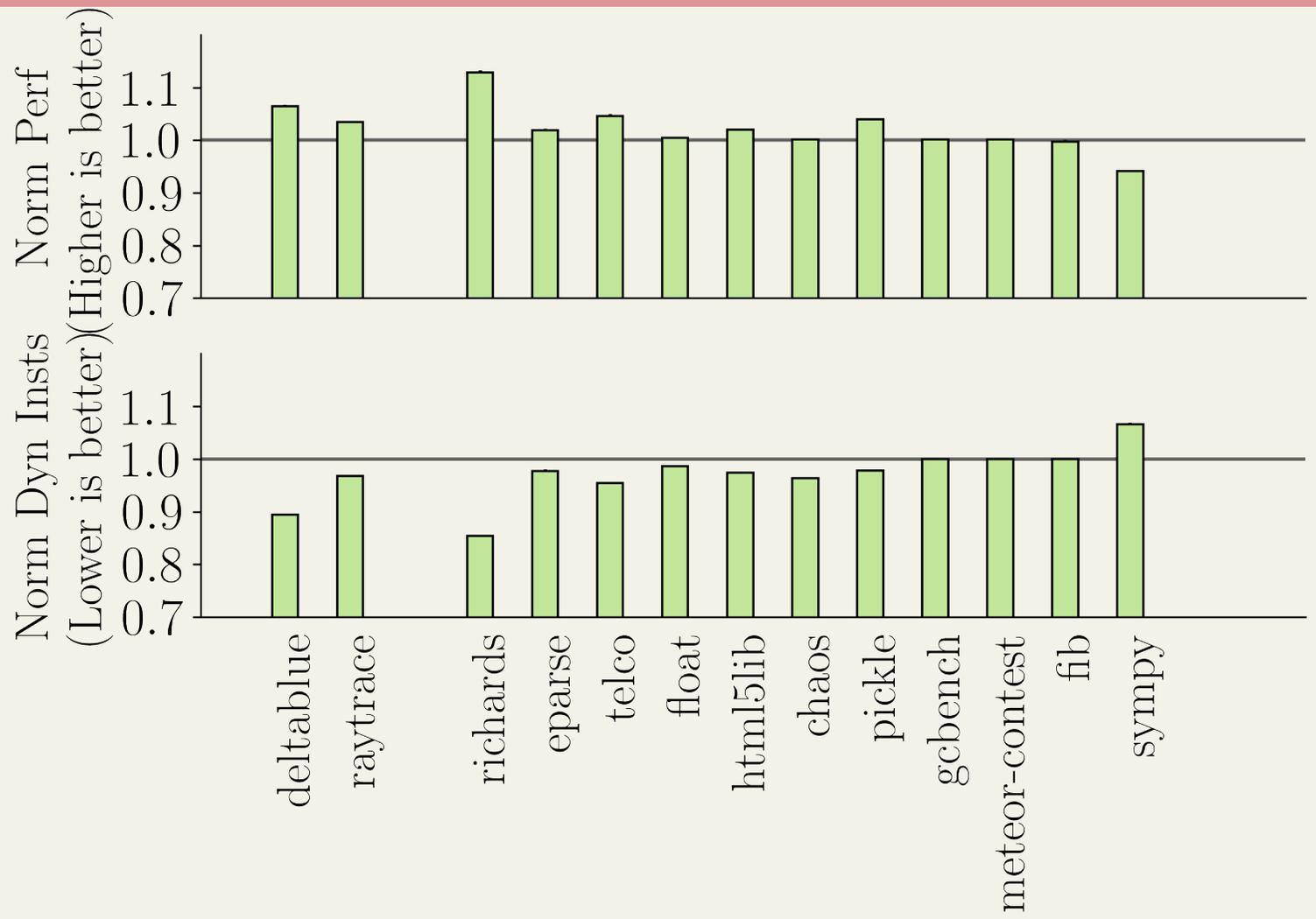
Simple Type Freezing

Nested Type Freezing

Evaluation

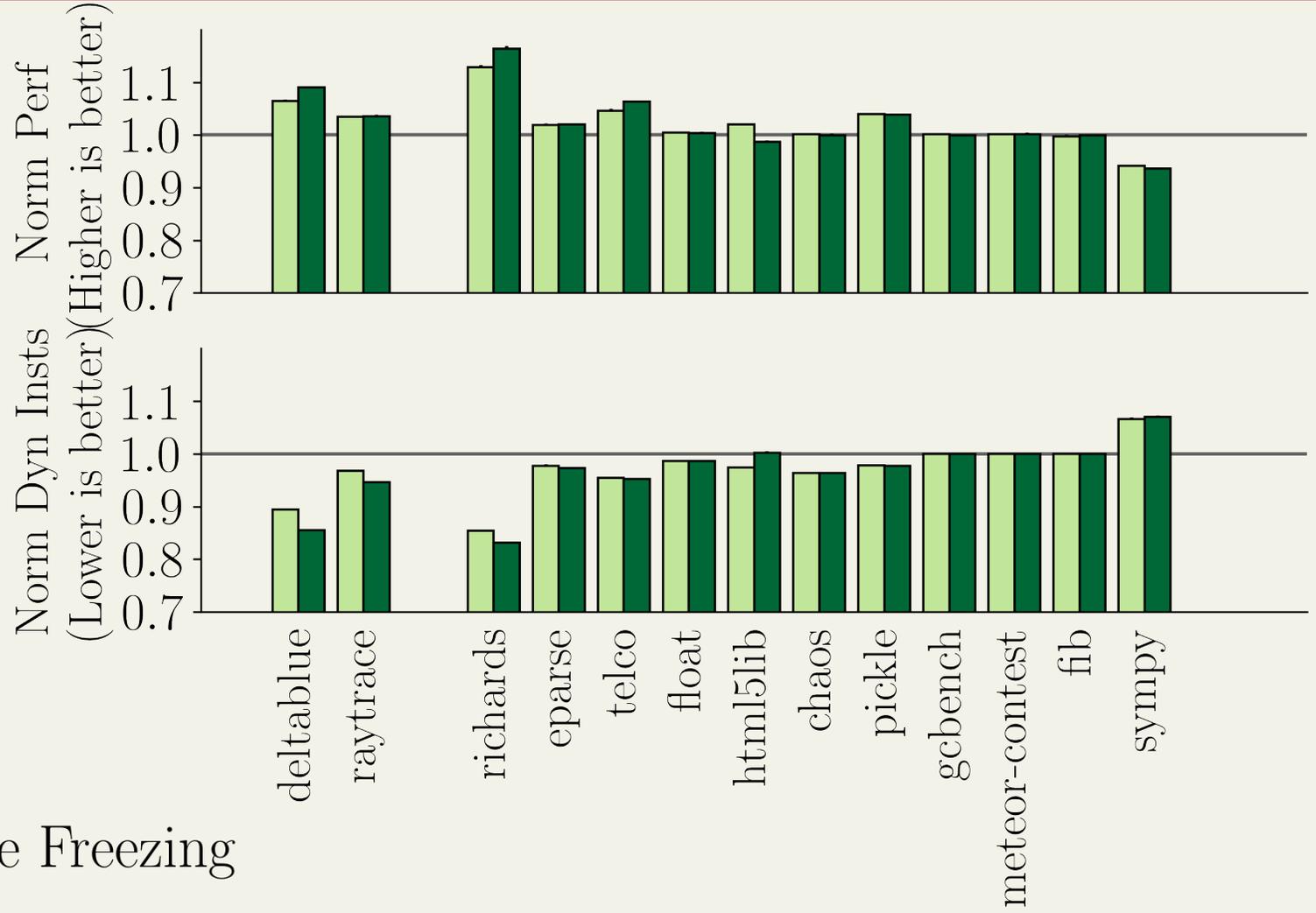
Evaluation Environment Setup	
Processor	Xeon E5620
Base Frequency	2.40GHz
Turbo Frequency	2.66GHz
Memory	48GB
GC Nursery	6MB
OS	CentOS 7
Kernel Version	3.10.0-957.21.2.el7.x86_64
Baseline PyPy	PyPy 7.2.0

 Simple Type Freezing



Evaluation Environment Setup	
Processor	Xeon E5620
Base Frequency	2.40GHz
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Memory	48GB
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OS	CentOS 7
Kernel Version	3.10.0-957.21.2.el7.x86_64
Baseline PyPy	PyPy 7.2.0

- Simple Type Freezing
- Simple and Nested Type Freezing



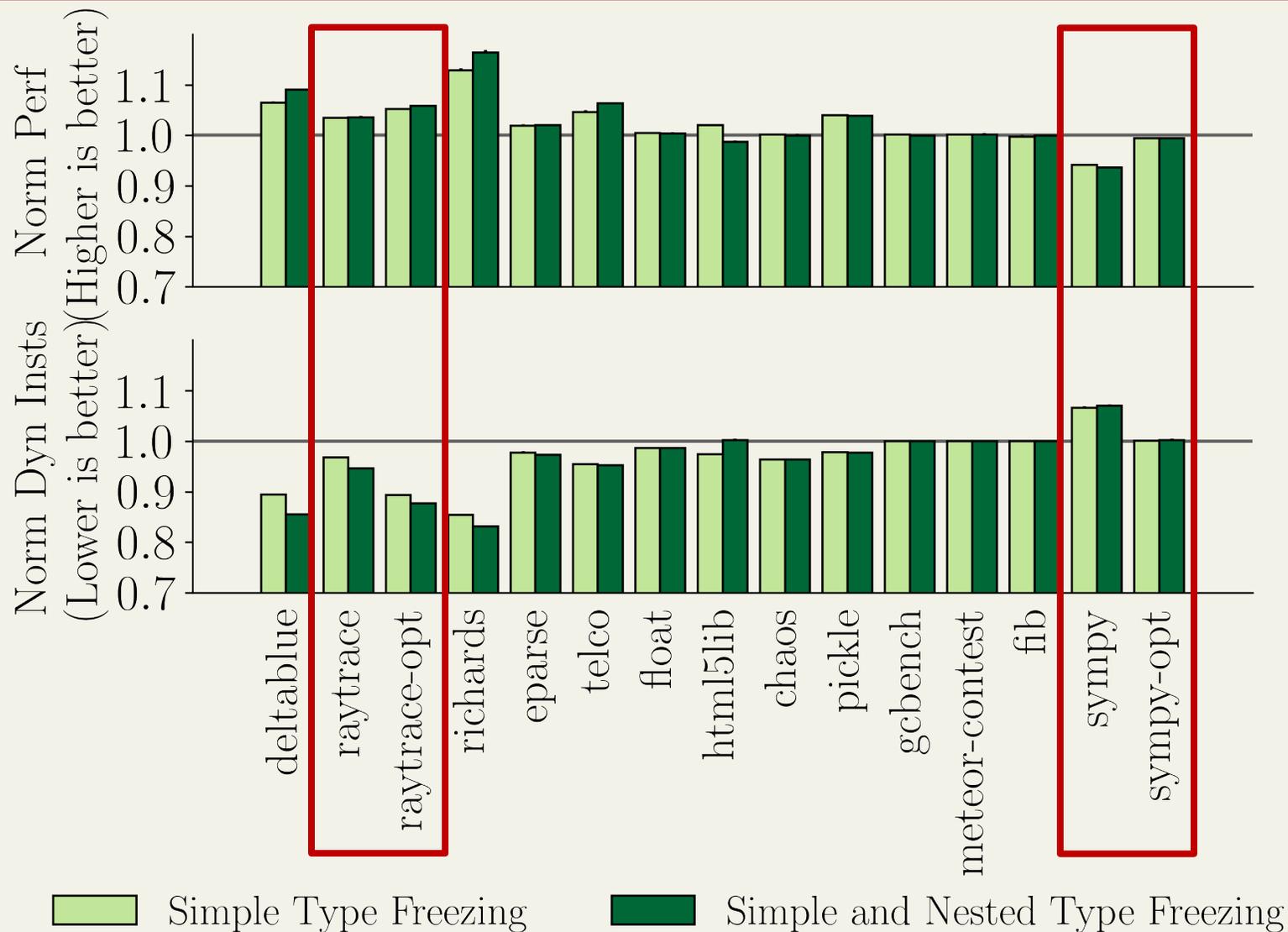
- sympy is the only case where type freezing constantly performs worse than baseline
  - We took a deep dive and found the performance cliff is related to class `Rational`
  - Create attribute type polymorphism on purpose
- Many type mutation is due to straight forward casting [1]. This is also the case in `Raytrace`
  - Classes like `Point` usually hold `Floats`, but they are initialized to `Integers`
  - Convert init values to floats so they don't introduce attribute type polymorphism

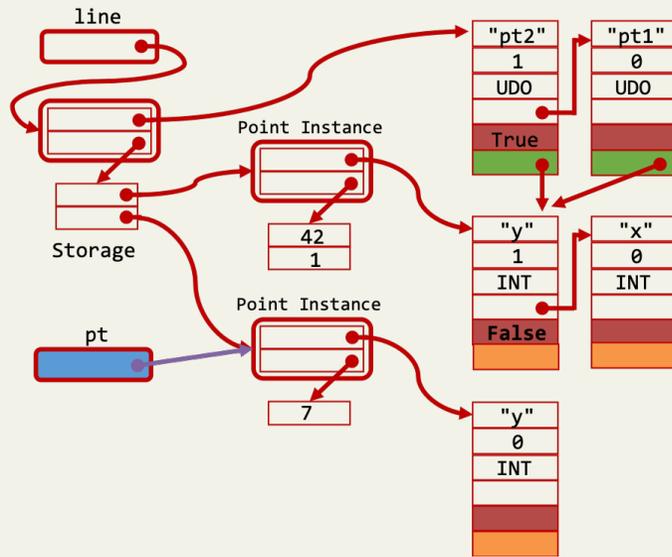
```
class Rational( Number ):
    def __new__( cls, p, q ):
        . . .
        obj.p = p
        obj.q = q } Small Int → Long Int
        . . .
dummy = Rational(None, None)
```

```
class Point( object ):
    def __init__( cls, x, y, z ):
        self.x = x
        self.y = y
        self.z = z
        . . .
s.addLight( Point(30,0,30,10) 10.0 )
```

[1] Alex Holkner and James Harland. 2009. Evaluating The Dynamic Behaviour of Python Applications. *Australasian Conference on Computer Science* (Jan 2009)

# MAKE APPS TYPE FREEZING FRIENDLY





- Attribute type monomorphism exists in real world applications
- We propose simple and nested type freezing to exploit attribute type monomorphism
- As a pure software technique, type freezing achieves most of the performance benefit of a prior SW/HW co-design work[1]

[1] Dot et al, Removing Checks in Dynamically Typed Languages Through Efficient Profiling. *Int'l Conf. on Code Generation and Optimization (CGO)* (Feb 2017)