

PicoRuby Compiler

Monstarlab

Ruby Association Grant 2020 Report

July 6, 2021

We are

- ⌘ Monstarlab
- ⌘ Established in 2006
- ⌘ 85 Million USD of Capital (Nov. 2020)
- ⌘ 1200+ Members in 25 Cities, 16 Countries
- ⌘ Full-Time Remoties in Japan even before the pandemic
- ⌘ Now Hiring! Reach out to me 

Group Introduction

グローバルに展開する営業・開発拠点



Beyond The Border

16 25 1200⁺

Countries

Cities

Members

I am

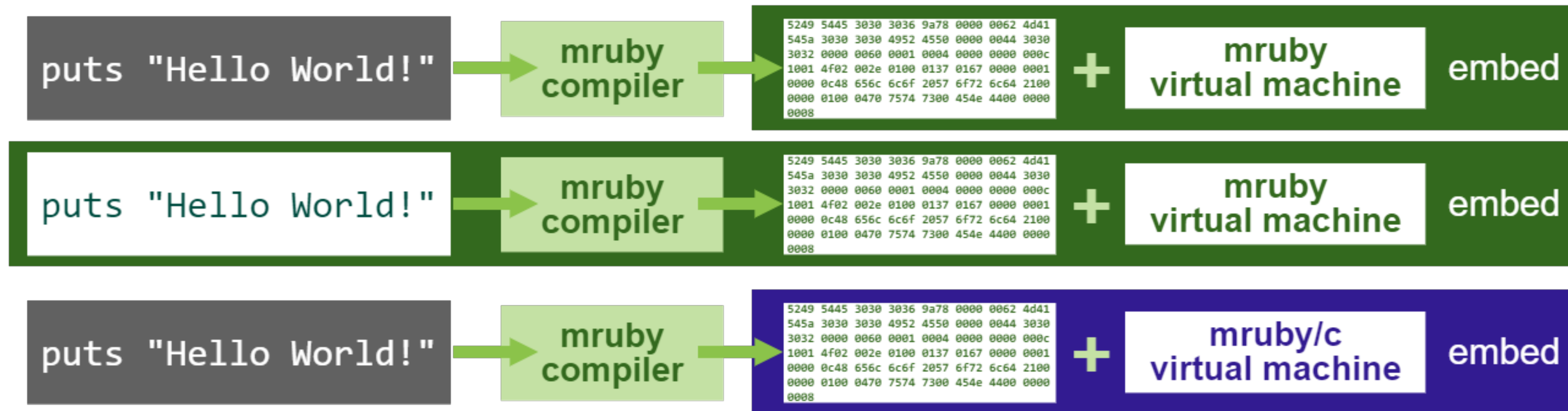
- :: HASUMI Hitoshi
- :: Shimane development branch
- :: hasumikin@GitHub
- :: hasumikin@Twitter
- :: 🙈 hasumin (はすみん)
- :: 🙊 hasumikin (はすみきん)



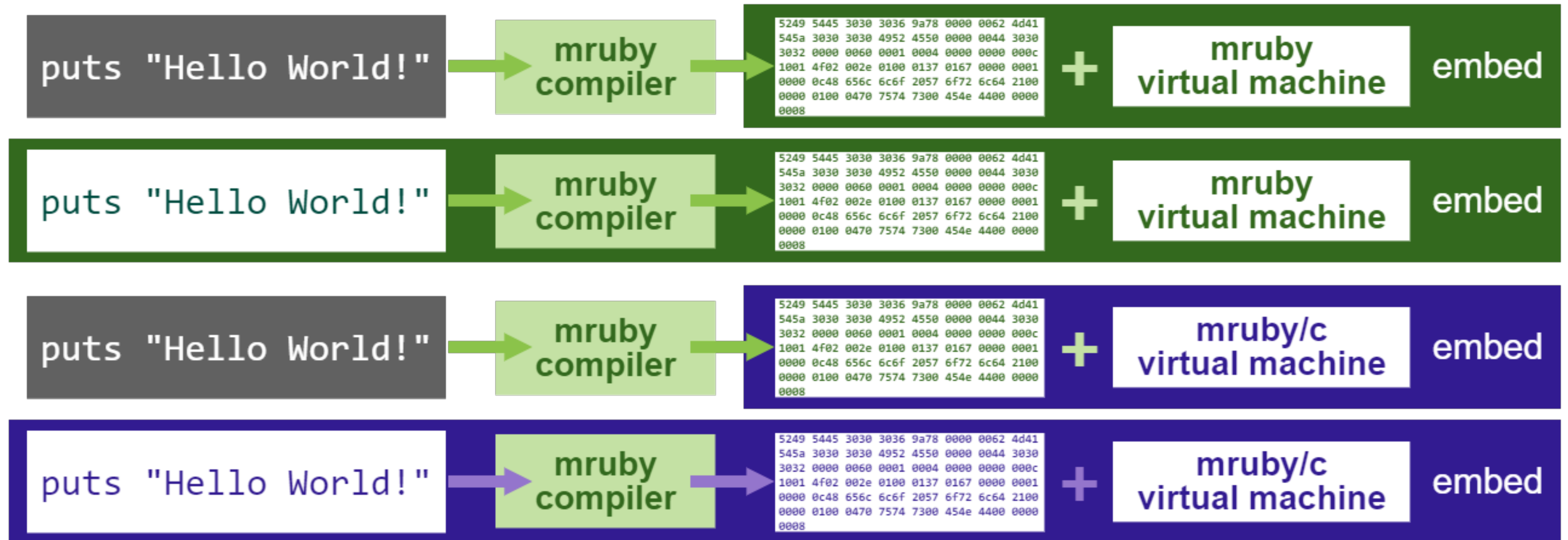
PicoRuby Compiler

Why? What?

Ruby for embedded system



Ruby for embedded system

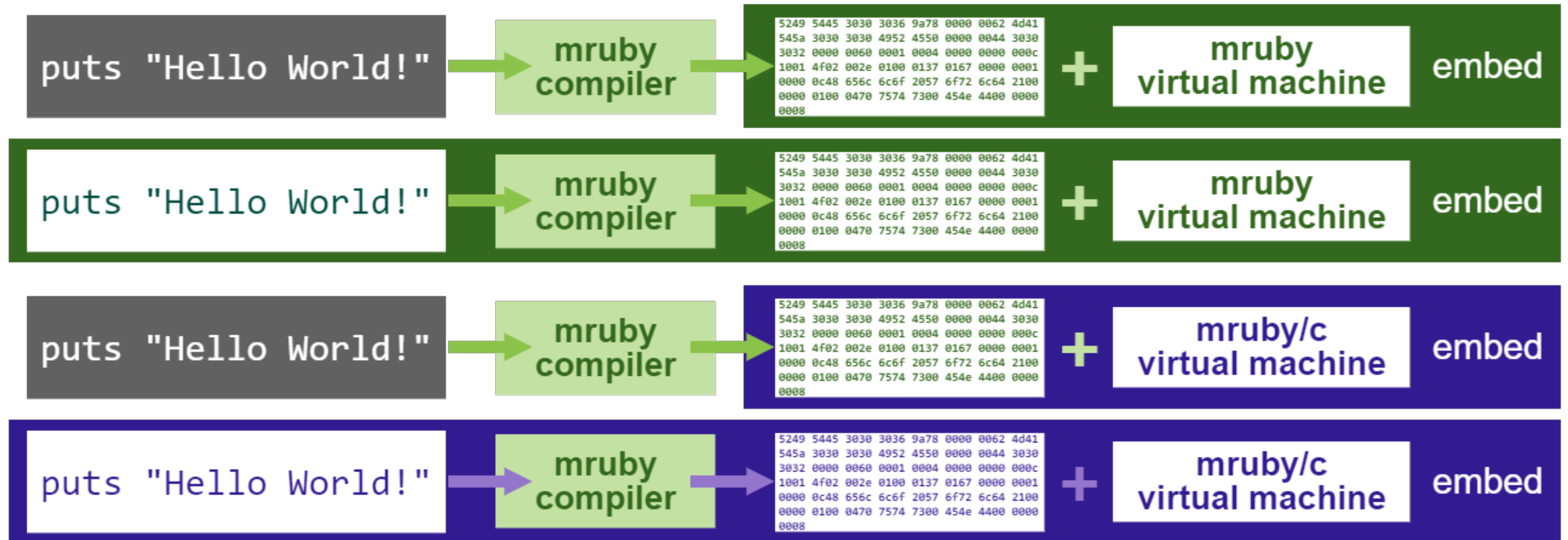


Doesn't make sense 🤔

Why doesn't it make sense?

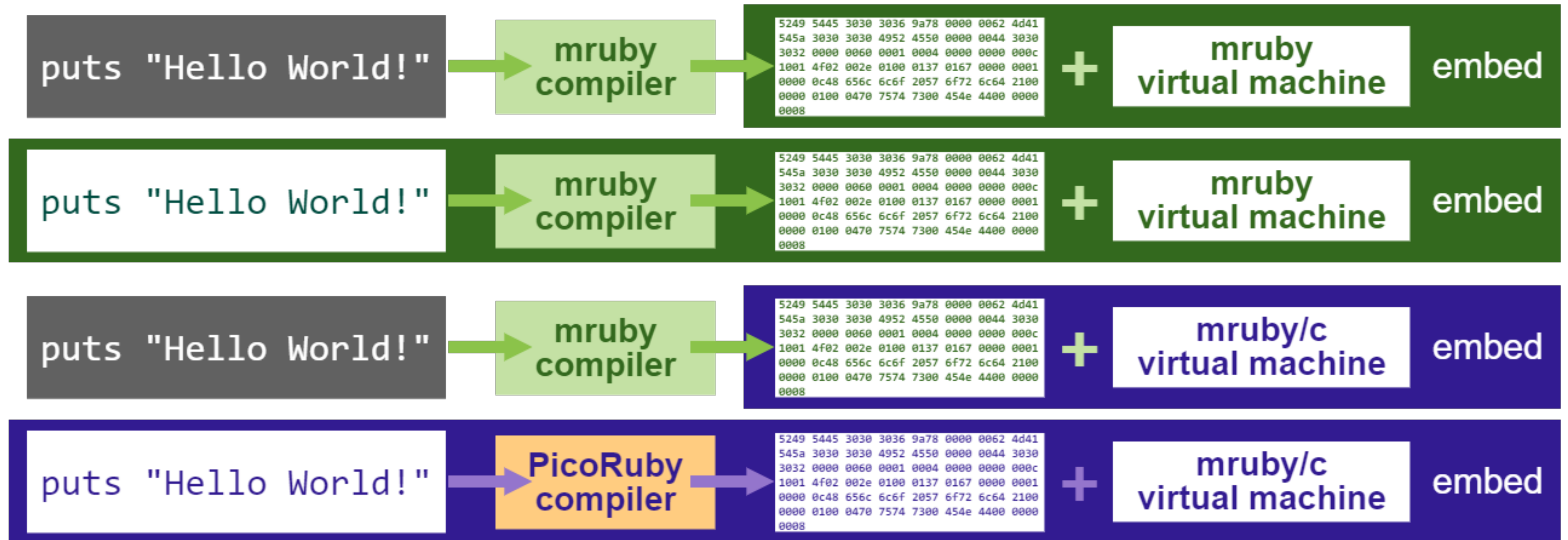
- ⌘ mruby-compiler depends on mruby (mrb_state)
- ⌘ You can use mruby-compiler with mruby/c VM
- ⌘ However, the size of mruby-compiler spoils mruby/c's small footprint
- ⌘ OK

Ruby for embedded system



Doesn't make sense 🤔

Ruby for embedded system



PicoRuby Compiler for one-chip microcontrollers 💪

Possibilities of PicoRuby Compiler

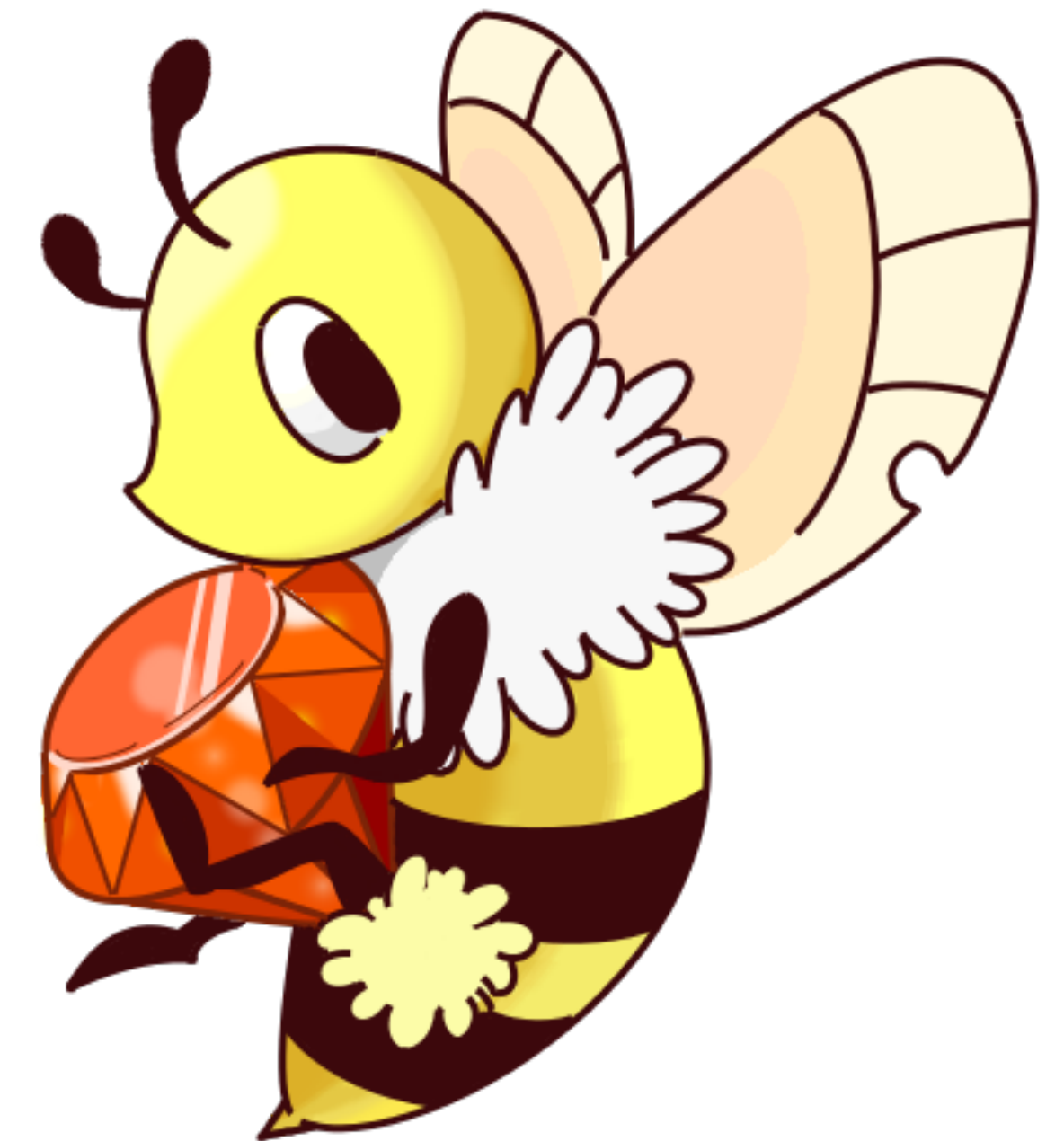
- ⌘ REPL

- ⌘ Debugging on an actual device

- ⌘ Even with mruby VM

- ⌘ One stop solution with mruby/c VM

- ⌘ For newbies, education, Smalruby etc.



PicoRuby Compiler

History

July 2019 -

IoT with mruby/c on the
Asahi-shuzo (Shimane)

HASUMI Hitoshi @hasumikin

Monstar Lab

Rubyビジネス創出展2019

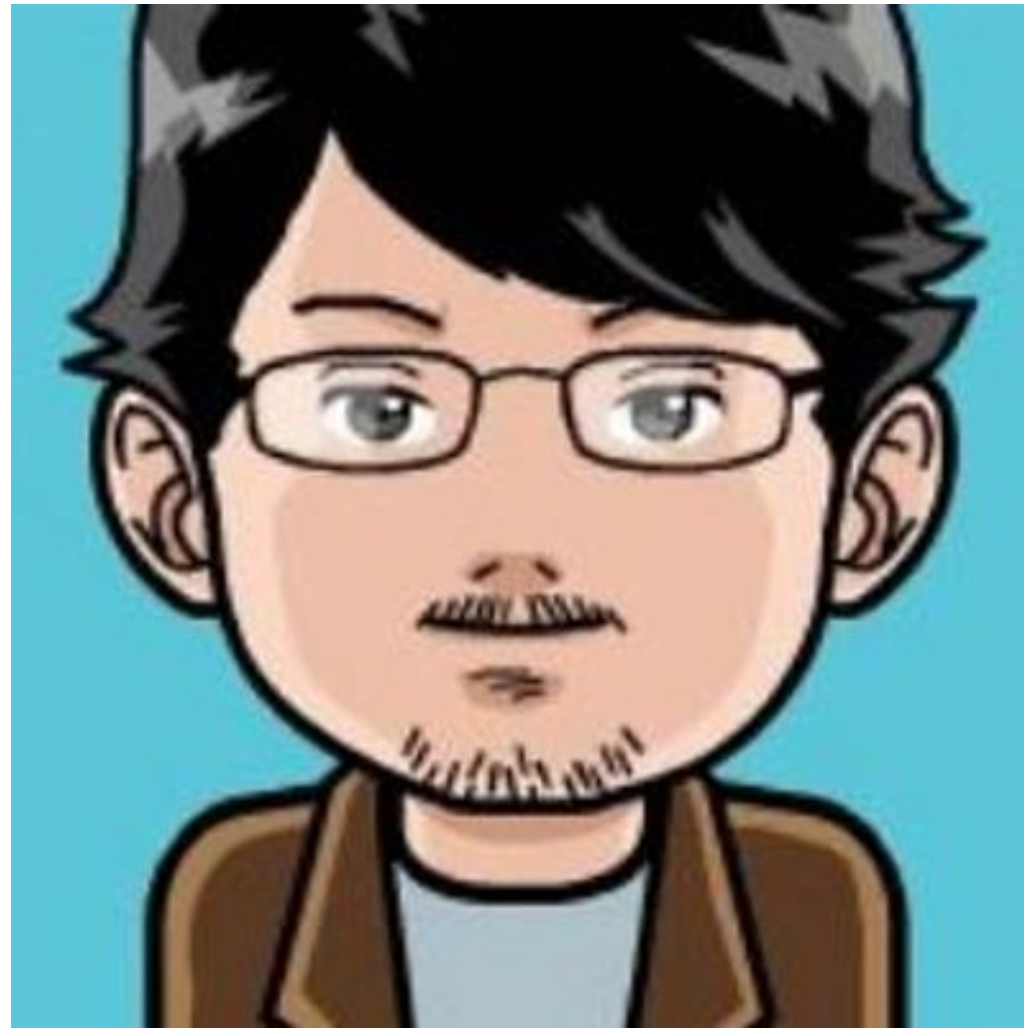
July 19, 2019

9時30分～10時まで観覧はしております

エフエフエフ
マルチメディア 館



"Lemon would generate smaller binary than Bison."





mruby de Hello World!

HASUMI Hitoshi @hasumikin

Monstar Lab, Shimane office

富山Ruby会議01

2019-11-03

github.com/hasumikin/mmrbc.gem

- ⌘ mini mruby compiler
- ⌘ Tokenizer and Generator
 - ⌘ CRuby
- ⌘ Parser
 - ⌘ C (Lemon) + ffi gem
- ⌘ Able to compile only `puts "Hello World!"`
 - ⌘ `[Identifier] "[String literal]"`

Jan 2020 -

Writing `mmruby` in C

then, `mv mmruby picoruby`

RA Grant

Outcome

Goals

- ⌘ Sufficient portion of the Ruby syntax to write IoT firmware
- ⌘ Reduce RAM usage to execute on microcontrollers

Syntax - before RA Grant

```
# larger_script.rb
ary = Array.new(3)
ary[0] = {a: 123e2}
ary[0][:key] = "string"
ary[1] = %w(abc ABC Hello)
ary[2] = 0x1f
ary[3] = !true
puts "my name is #{self.class}, result is #{ary[2] * ary[0][:a]}"
p ary

=> my name is Object, result is 381300
    [{:a=>12300, :key=>"string"}, ["abc", "ABC", "Hello"], 31, false]
```

class, def, return, block, if/unless, case-when,
while/until, break, etc were unimplemented yet

Syntax - after RA Grant

```

class Mutex.new
  $mutex.lock

class Float
  def modulo(right)
    left = self.to_f
    while left > right
      left -= right
    end
  end
  def ceil_to_i
    n = self.to_i
    (self > n) ? (n + 1) : n
  end
end

class Keyboard
  GPIO_OUT = 1
  GPIO_IN = 0

  HI = 1
  LO = 0

  MOD_KEYCODE = {
    KC_LCTL: 0b00000001,
    KC_LSFT: 0b00000010,
    KC_LALT: 0b00000100,
    KC_LGUI: 0b00001000,
    KC_RCTL: 0b00010000,
    KC_RSFT: 0b00100000,
    KC_RALT: 0b01000000,
    KC_RGUI: 0b10000000
  }

  # Due to PicoRuby's limitation,
  # a big array can't be created at once
  KEYCODE = [
    :KC_NO, # 0x00
    :KC_ROLL_OVER,
    :KC_POST_FAIL,
    :KC_UNDEFINED,
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```

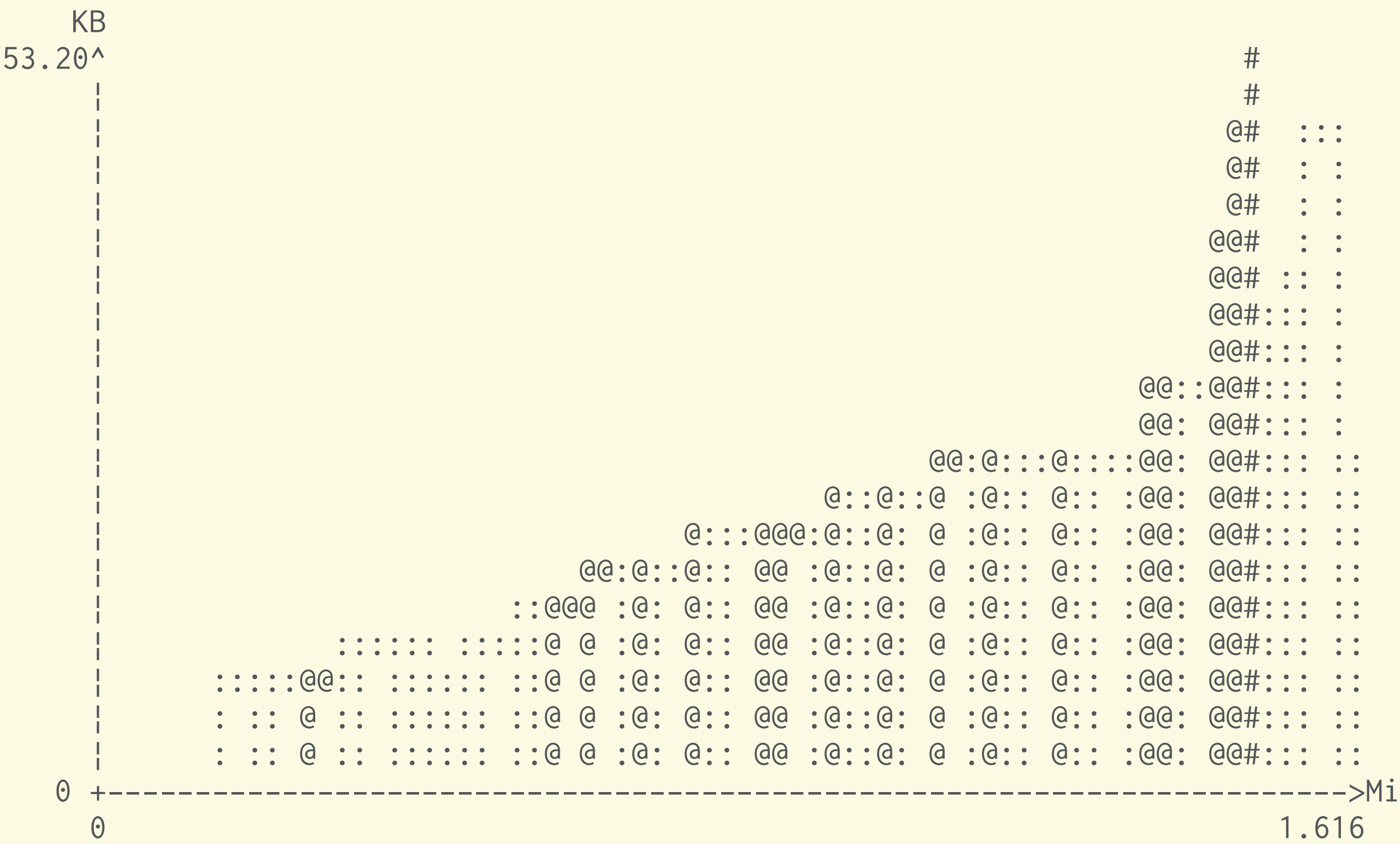
RAM consumption

```
$ valgrind \
  --tool=massif \
  --stacks=yes \
  path/to/(mrbc|picorbc) \
  source.rb

$ ms_print massif.out.xxx | less
```


RAM consumption

Command: ../picoruby/build/host-production/bin/picorbc larger_script.rb
Massif arguments: --stacks=yes
ms_print arguments: massif.out.13414



RAM consumption

#	before Grant		after Grant	
	mrbc	picorbc	mrbc(3.0.0)	picorbc
=====				
puts "Hello World!"	157.8 KB	11.17 KB	133.6 KB	15.43 KB

larger_script.rb	162.9 KB	53.20 KB	135.2 KB	24.21 KB

⚠ Note:

- ⚠ using glibc and Linux file system

- ⚠ on 64-bit architecture

- ⚠ All figures should possibly be about 35% smaller on 32-bit

RAM consumption

#	before Grant		after Grant	
	mrbc	picorbc	mrbc(3.0.0)	picorbc
puts "Hello World!"	157.8 KB	11.17 KB	133.6 KB	15.43 KB
larger_script.rb	162.9 KB	53.20 KB	135.2 KB	24.21 KB

👉 picorbc made a great progress on larger_script.rb 🎉

👉 53.20 KB -> 24.21 KB

👉 but got worse on `puts "Hello World!"`

👉 11.17 KB -> 15.43 KB ...🤔What happened?

PicoRuby Compiler

What happened?

What happened?

- ⋮ 1. Reusing literal data as much as possible
- ⋮ 2. Considering paddings & Pooled allocation
- ⋮ 3. Freeing in loop instead of recursion

Reusing literal data as much as possible

- ⌘ There were many wasteful, duplicated memory allocations of literal data
 - ⌘ eg) Reallocates memory when Tokenizer gives data to Parser
- ⌘ Refactored the code to keep data common in a compilation cycle as much as possible
- ⌘ eg) Token data puts on memory should be reused as it is until exactly before generating VM code

Reusing literal data as much as possible

```
array[0] = :data
```

⚡ Tokens

⚡ `array`, `[`, `0`, `]`, `=`, `:`, `data`

⚡ Method name should be `[]=`, but where? how?

⚡ Thus, some literal data should be exceptional

⚡ Kind of a strategic decision

⚡ Beware of memory leaks

Padding in a struct

```
struct LinkedList {  
    struct LinkedList *next;    // 4 bytes (in 32-bit architecture)  
    uint8_t value;              // 1 byte  
}
```

```
sizeof(LinkedList);
```

=> 5



=> 8



✓ Data structure alignment (at least in C99)
pointer[4] + uint8_t[1] + **padding[3]** = sum[8]

👉 You need to pack them well

Pooled allocation

```
LinkedList *top;  
(...)  
top->next->next->next->next; // 5 items in the list
```

- ⚡ Consumes 40 bytes to store 5 values of uint8_t
- ⚡ Total size of pointers will be 1 KB if there are 250 items in a list

Pooled allocation 💡

Pooled allocation

```
typedef struct node_pool {  
    NodePool *next;  
    uint16_t size;  
    uint16_t index;  
    Node *nodes;  
} NodePool;
```

```
NodePool *newNodePool() {  
    size_t size = sizeof(NodePool) + sizeof(Node) * POOL_SIZE;  
    NodePool *node_pool = (NodePool *)alloc(size);  
    memset(node_pool, 0, size);  
    node_pool->next = NULL;  
    node_pool->size = POOL_SIZE;  
    node_pool->index = 0;  
    return node_pool;  
}
```

```
/* node_pool.nodes[index] */  
(Node *)((Node *)&node_pool->nodes) + node_pool->index);
```

Pooled allocation

[n]: bytes

<code>*next[4]</code>	<code>-----></code>	<code>*next[4]</code>	<code>-----></code>	<code>*next[4]</code>	<code>-----></code>
<code>size[2]</code>		<code>size[2]</code>		<code>size[2]</code>	
<code>index[2]</code>		<code>index[2]</code>		<code>index[2]</code>	
<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>		<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>		<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>	
<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>		<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>		<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>	
<code>...</code>		<code>...</code>		<code>...</code>	
<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>		<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>		<code>node[sizeof(Node)]</code>	

- ⚡ Reduces paddings of data structure alignment
- ⚡ Reduces the number of pointers
- ⚡ Reduces fragmentation

Stack spike

Before RA Grant

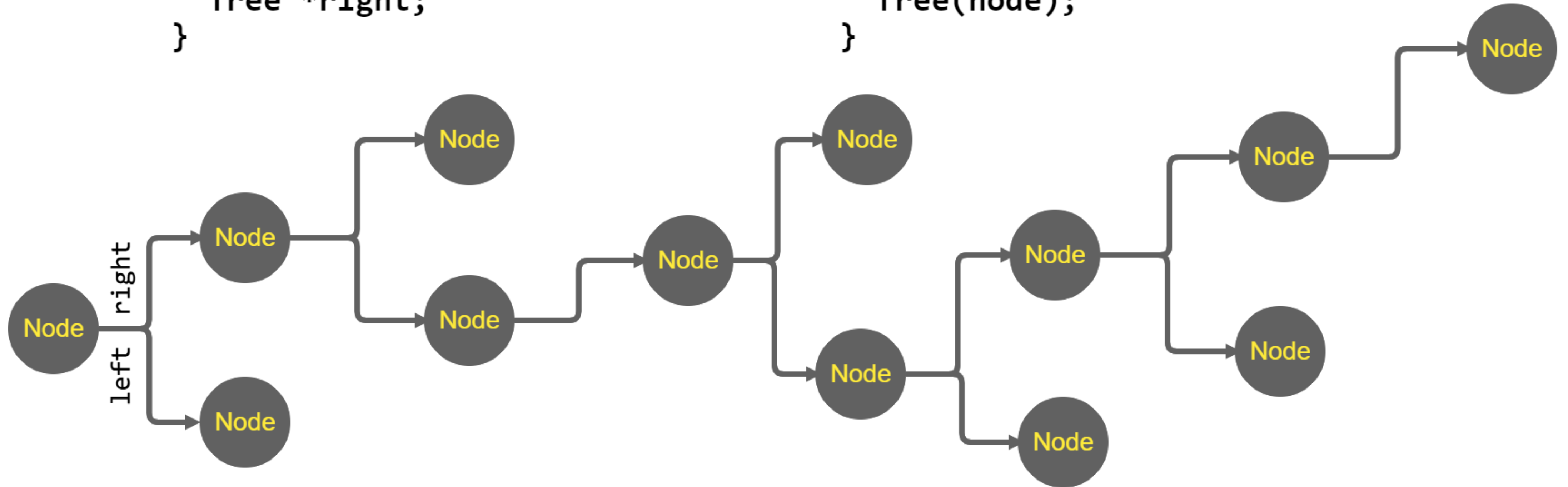


Stack spike

```
typedef struct _tree Tree;

struct _tree {
    Data *data;
    Tree *left;
    Tree *right;
}
```

```
void freeTree(Tree *node) {
    if (node == NULL) return;
    freeTree(node->left);
    freeTree(node->right);
    freeData(node->data);
    free(node);
}
```

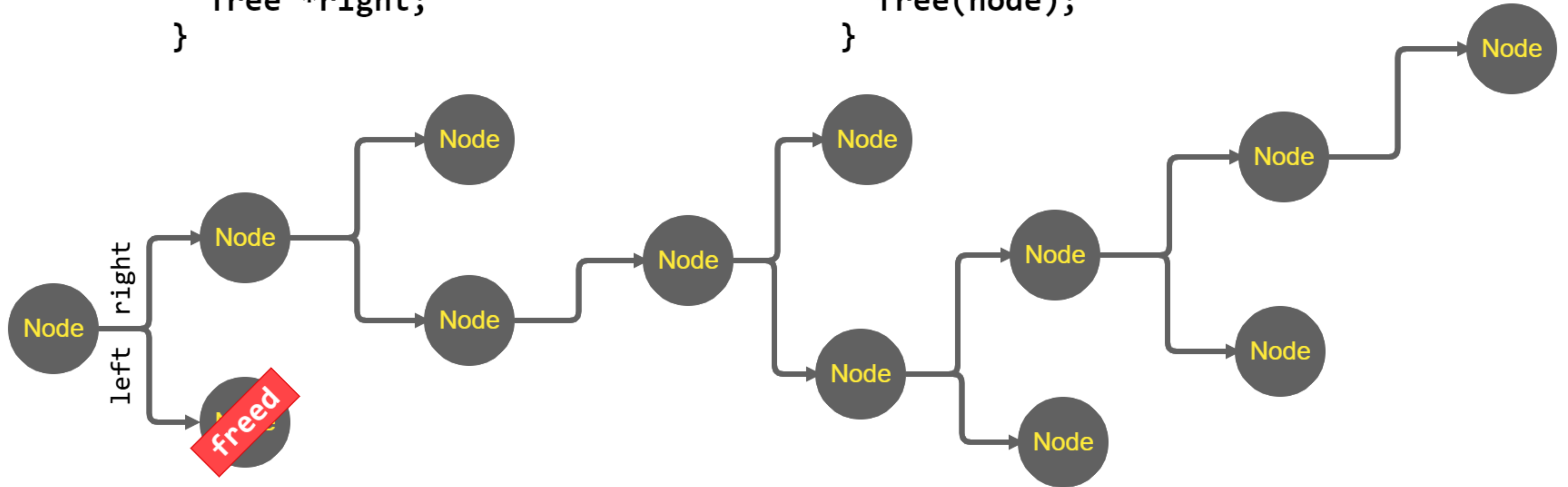


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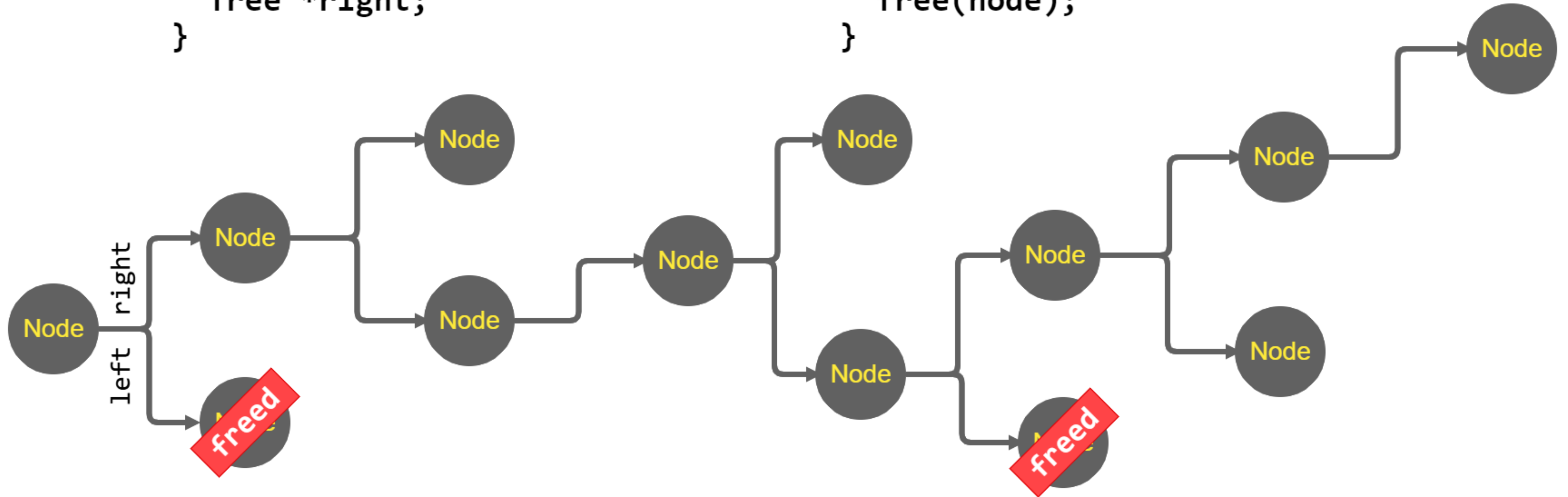


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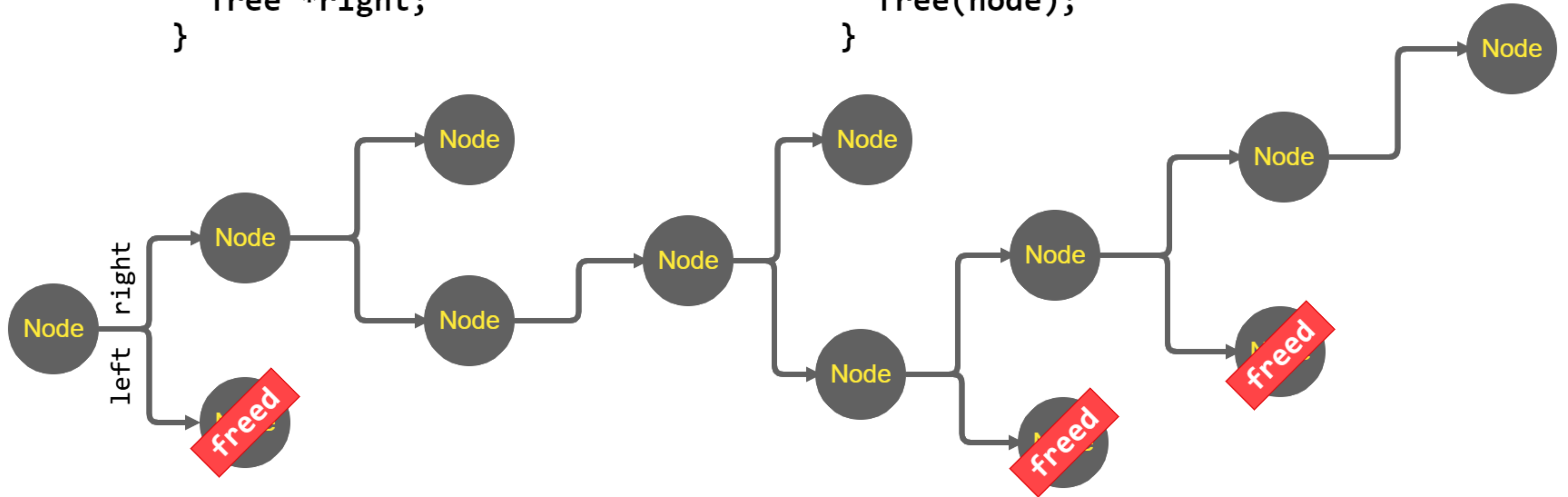


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Stack spike

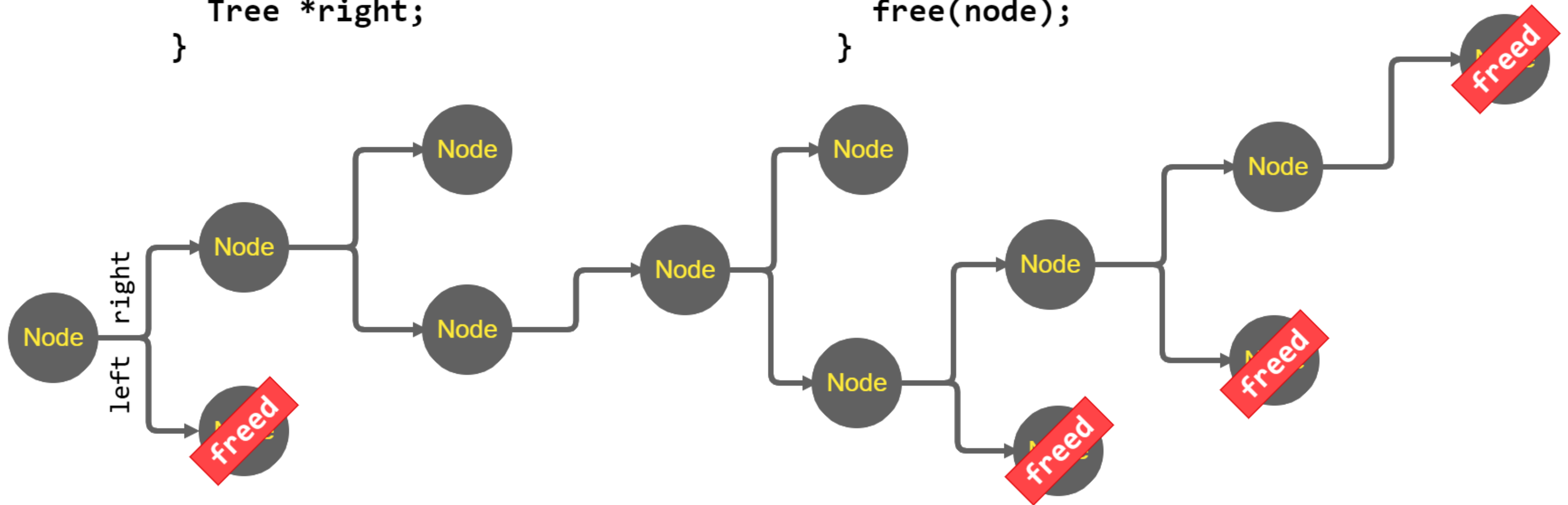
Before RA Grant



Stack spike

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    Tree *right;  
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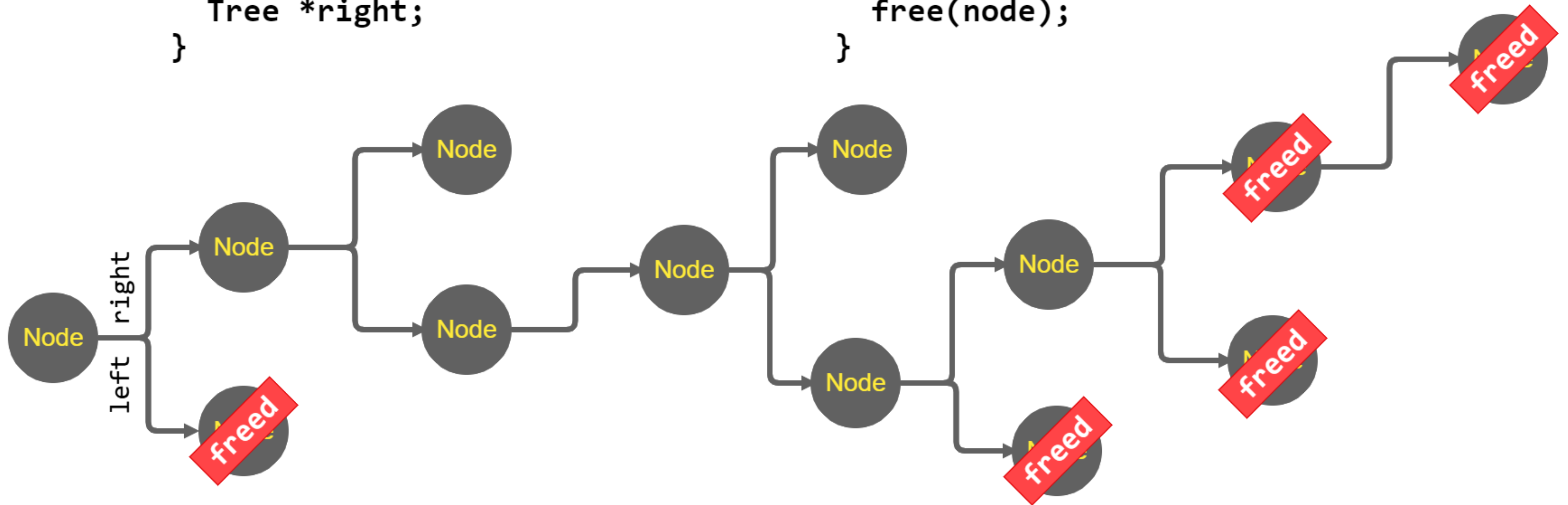
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Stack spike

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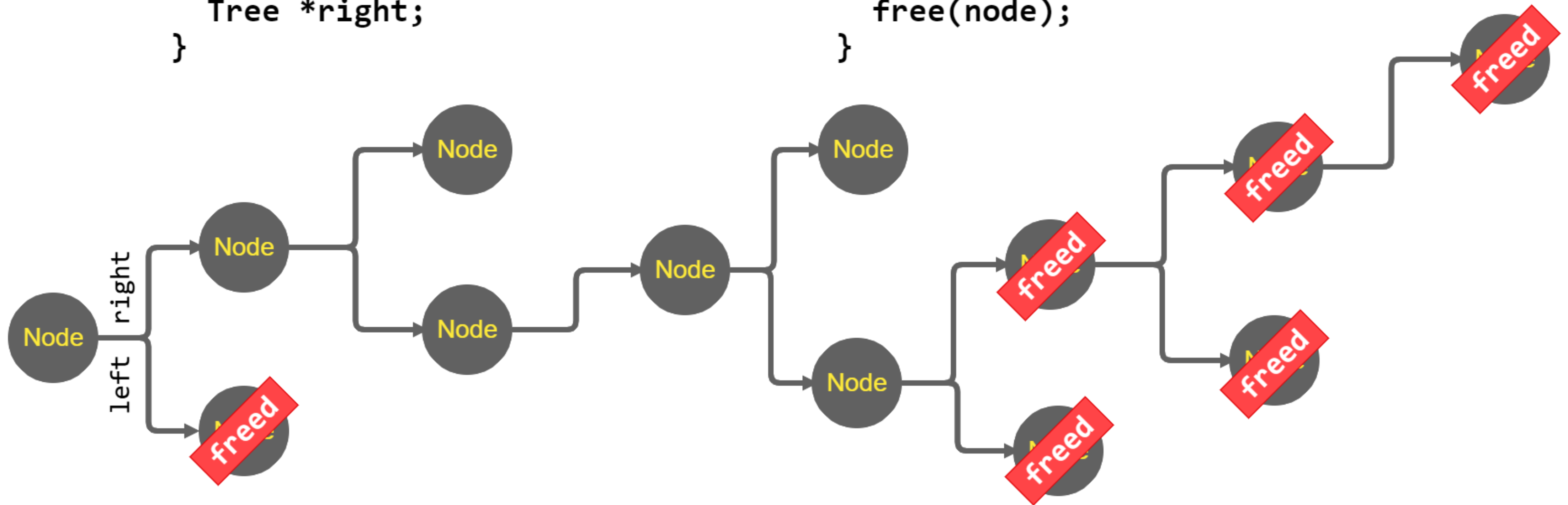
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Stack spike

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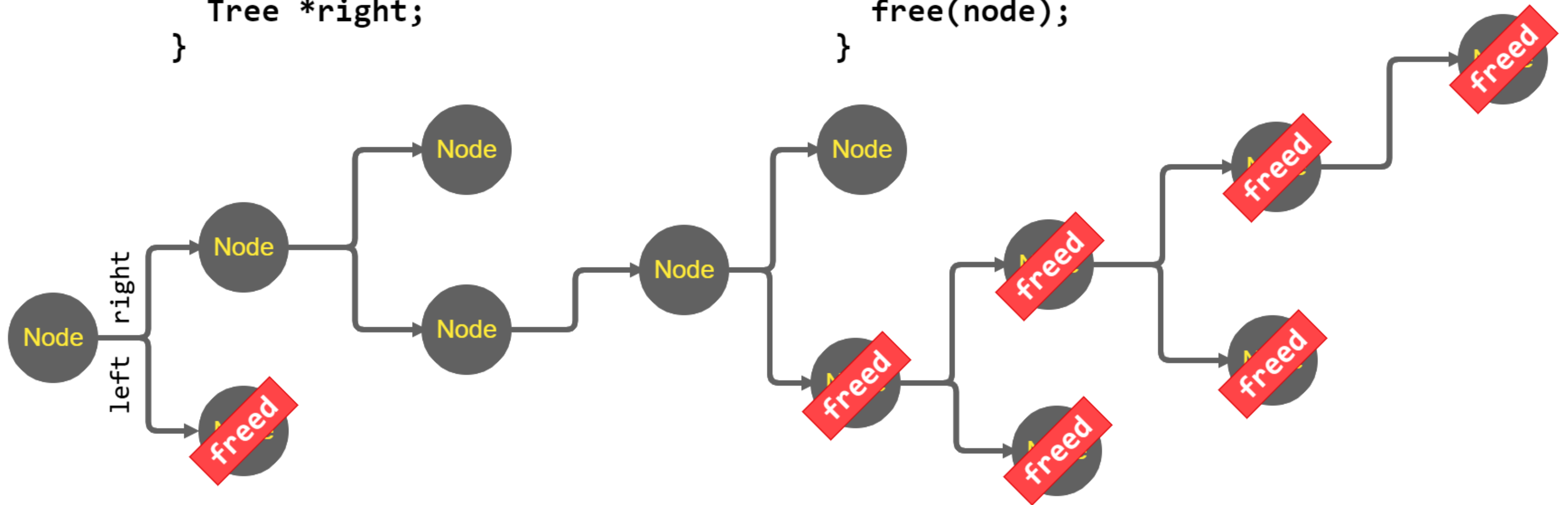
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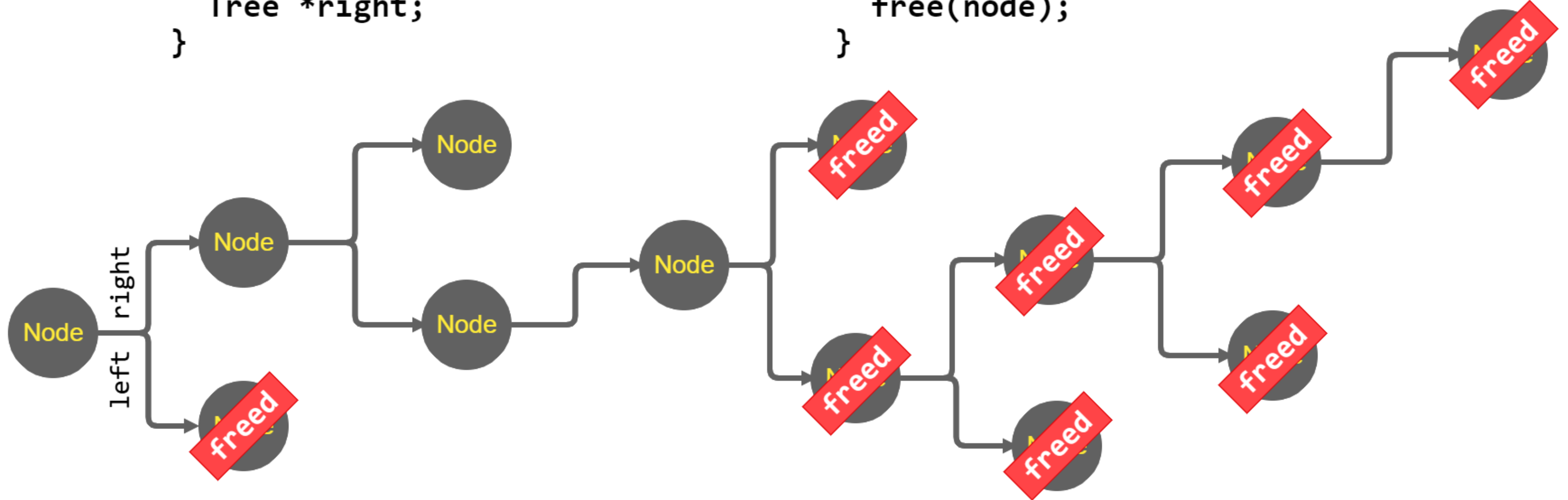


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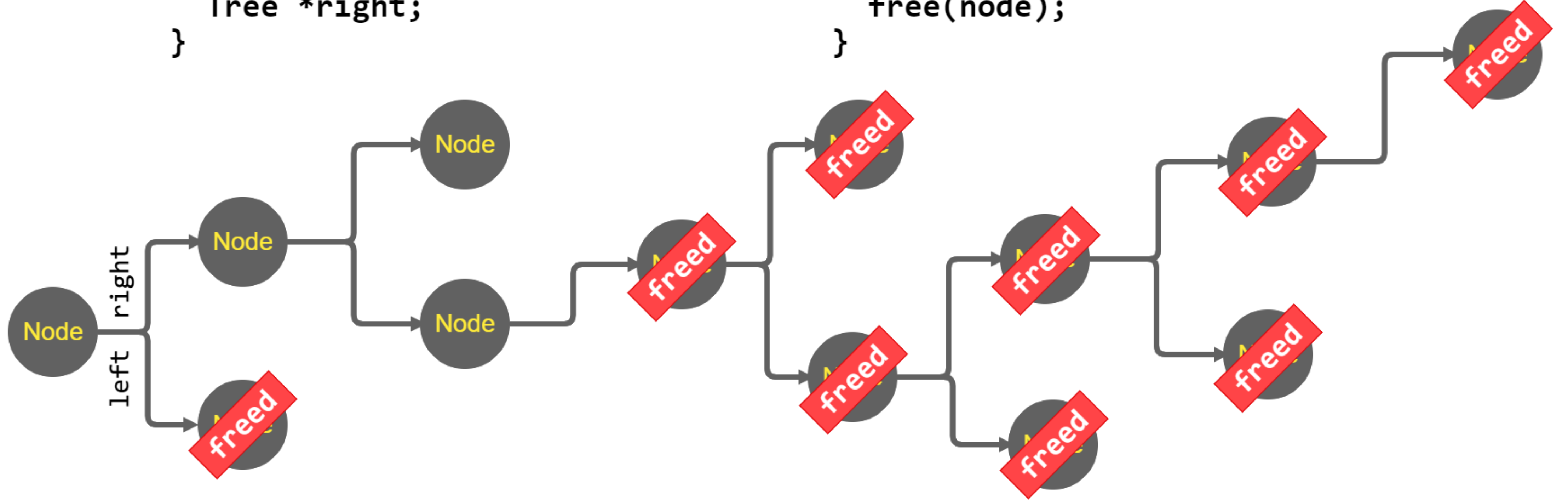


Stack spike

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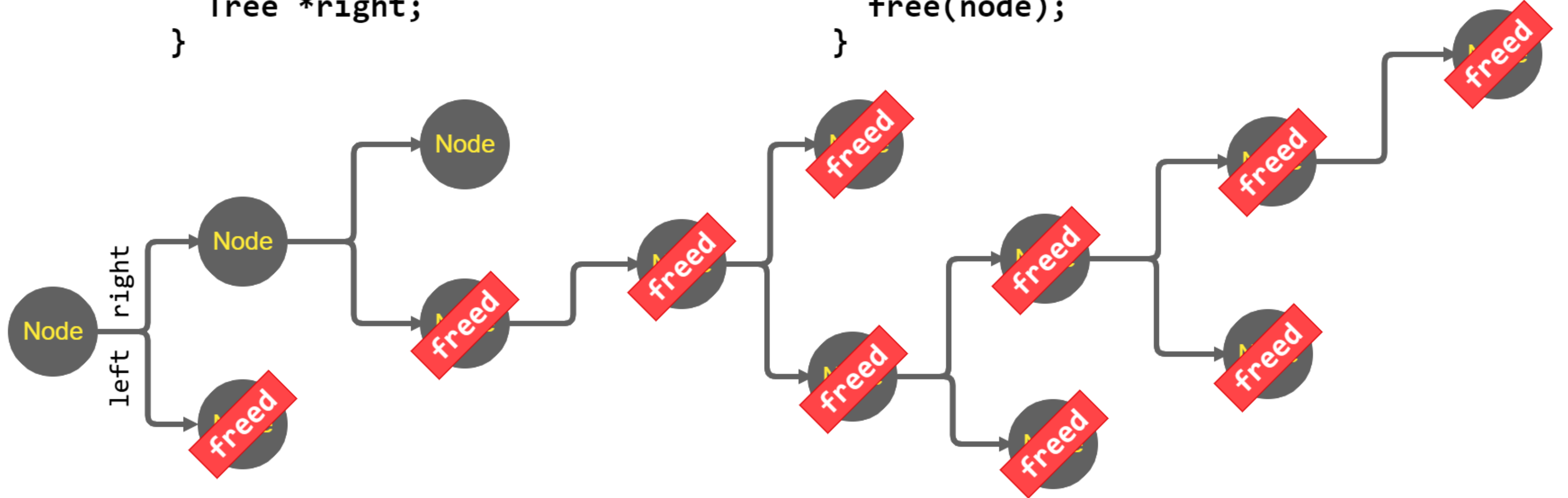


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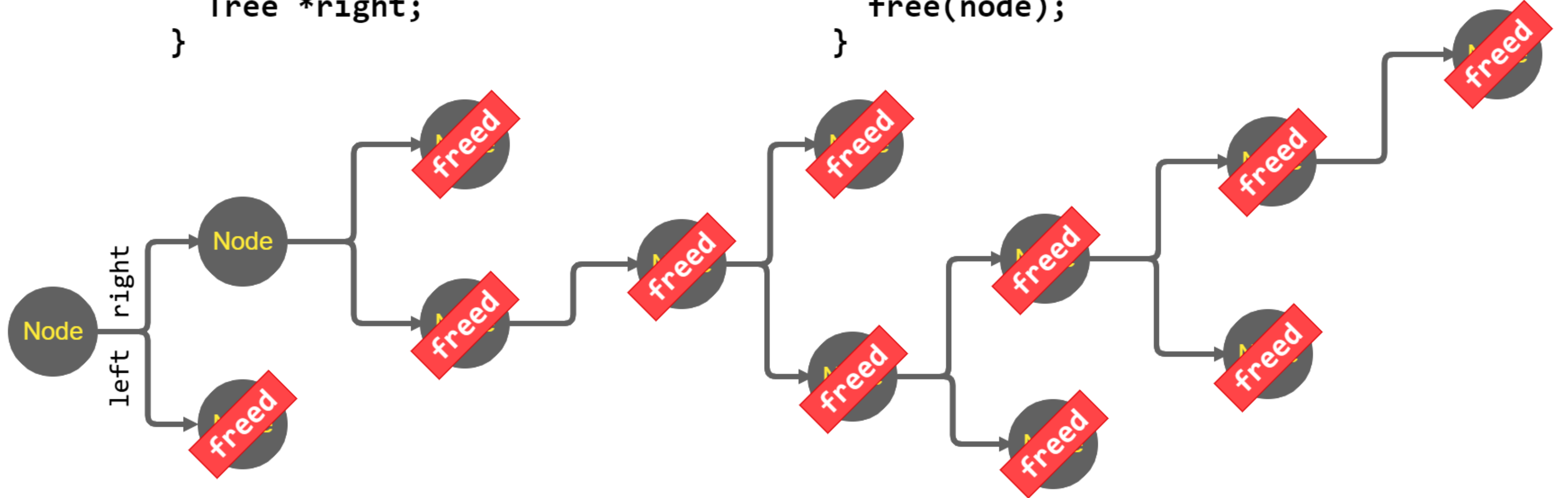


Stack spike

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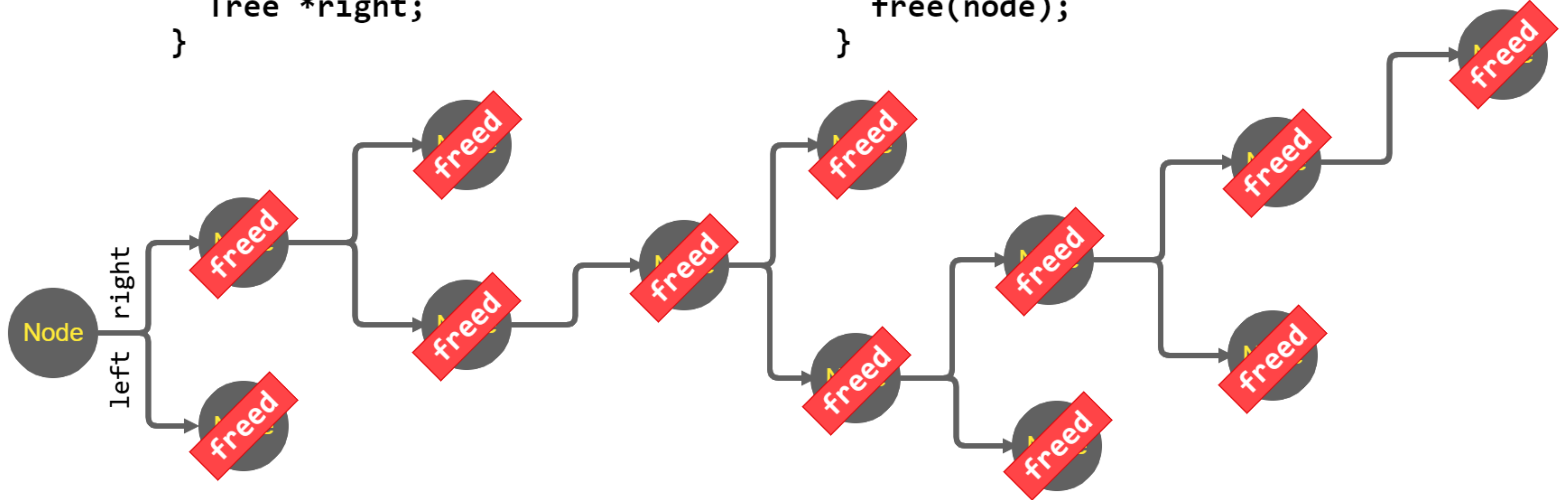
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Stack spike

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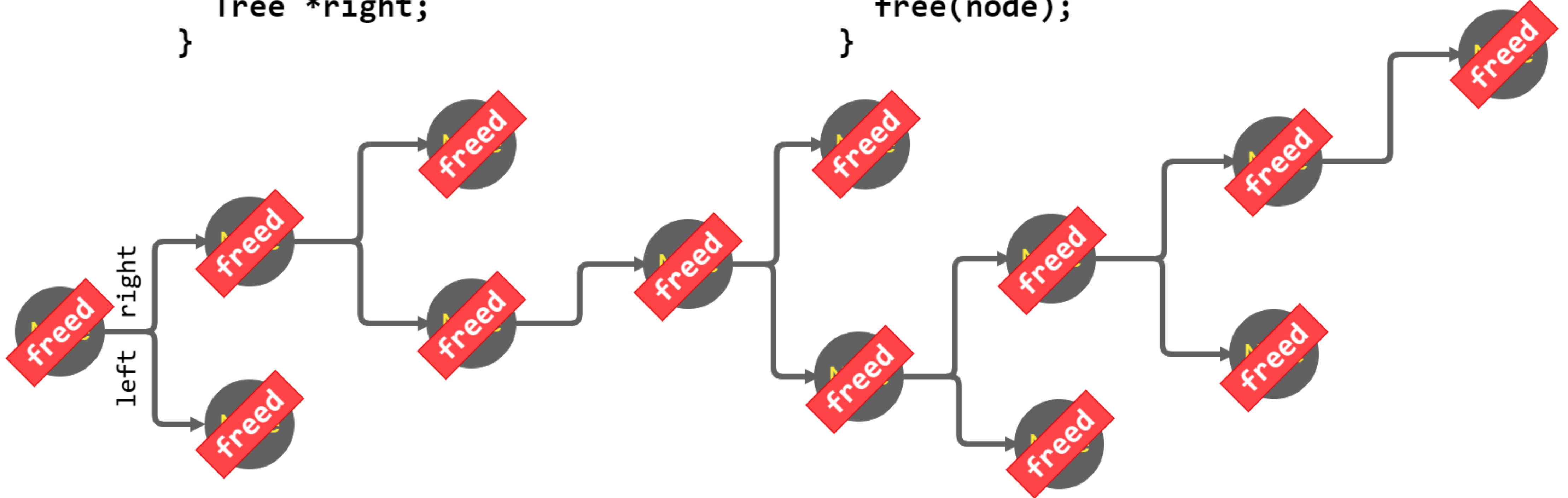
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    free(node);  
}
```



Freeing in loop instead of recursion

```
// Recursion is elegant but a big eater  
void freeList_in_recursion(List *list) {  
    if (!list) return;  
    freeList_in_recursion(list->next);  
    free(list);  
}
```

```
// Loop is somehow clumsy but thrifty  
void freeList_in_loop(List *list) {  
    List *next;  
    while (list) {  
        next = list->next;  
        free(list);  
        list = next;  
    }  
}
```

Freeing in loop instead of recursion

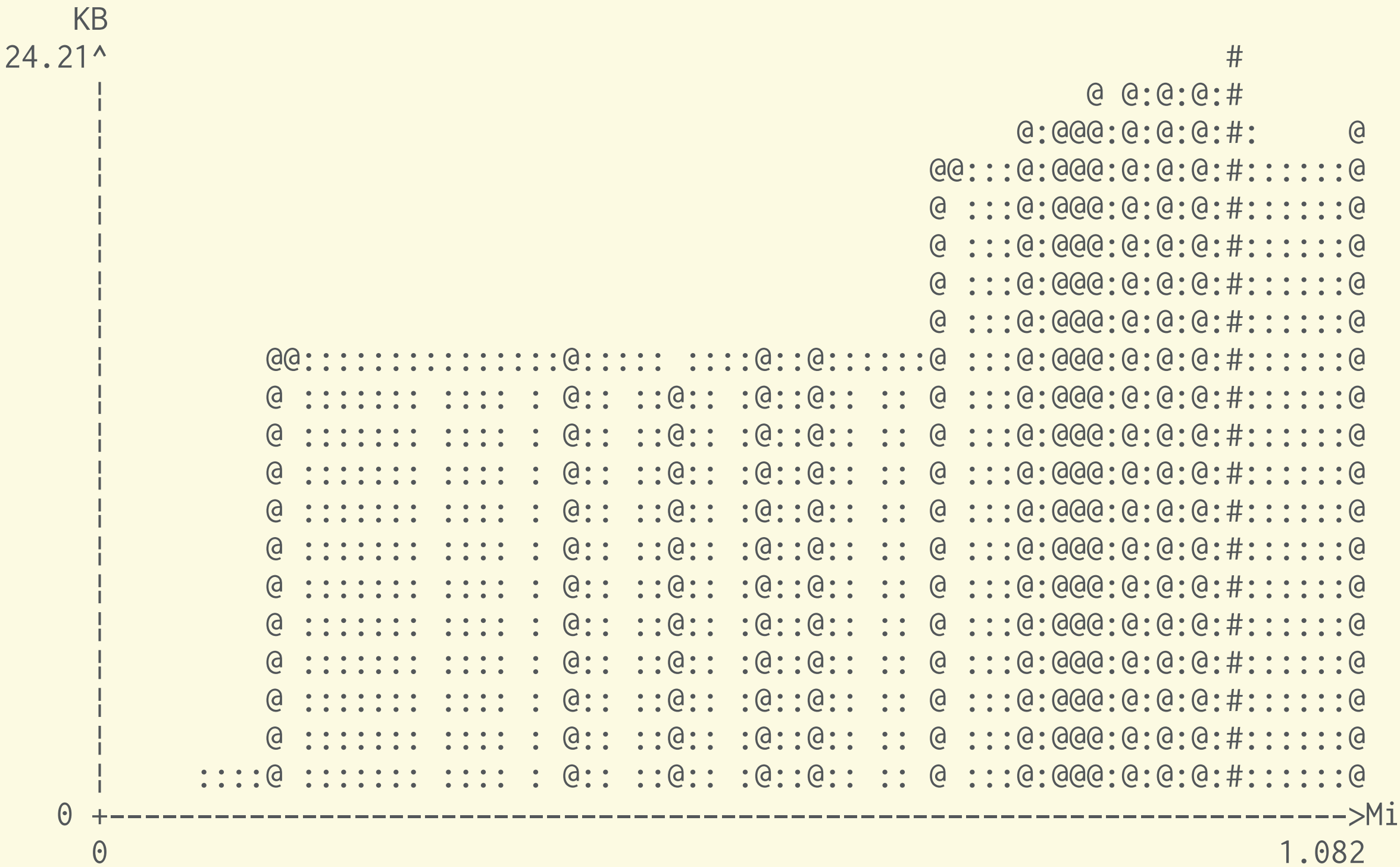
before Grant



Freeing in loop instead of recursion

after Grant

```
-----  
Command:      ./build/host-production/bin/picorbc test/fixtures/larger_script.rb  
Massif arguments:  --stacks=yes  
ms_print arguments: massif.out.3082  
-----
```



What happened?

- ⌘ RAM usage when compiling a very small statement like ``puts "Hello World!"`` became bigger than before due to Pooled allocation
- ⌘ Because Pooled allocation allocates a fixed size of array of struct in advance
- ⌘ However, when a Ruby script becomes larger, measures of reducing RAM consumption including Pooled allocation work effectively

PicoRuby Compiler

Future work

Killer Application

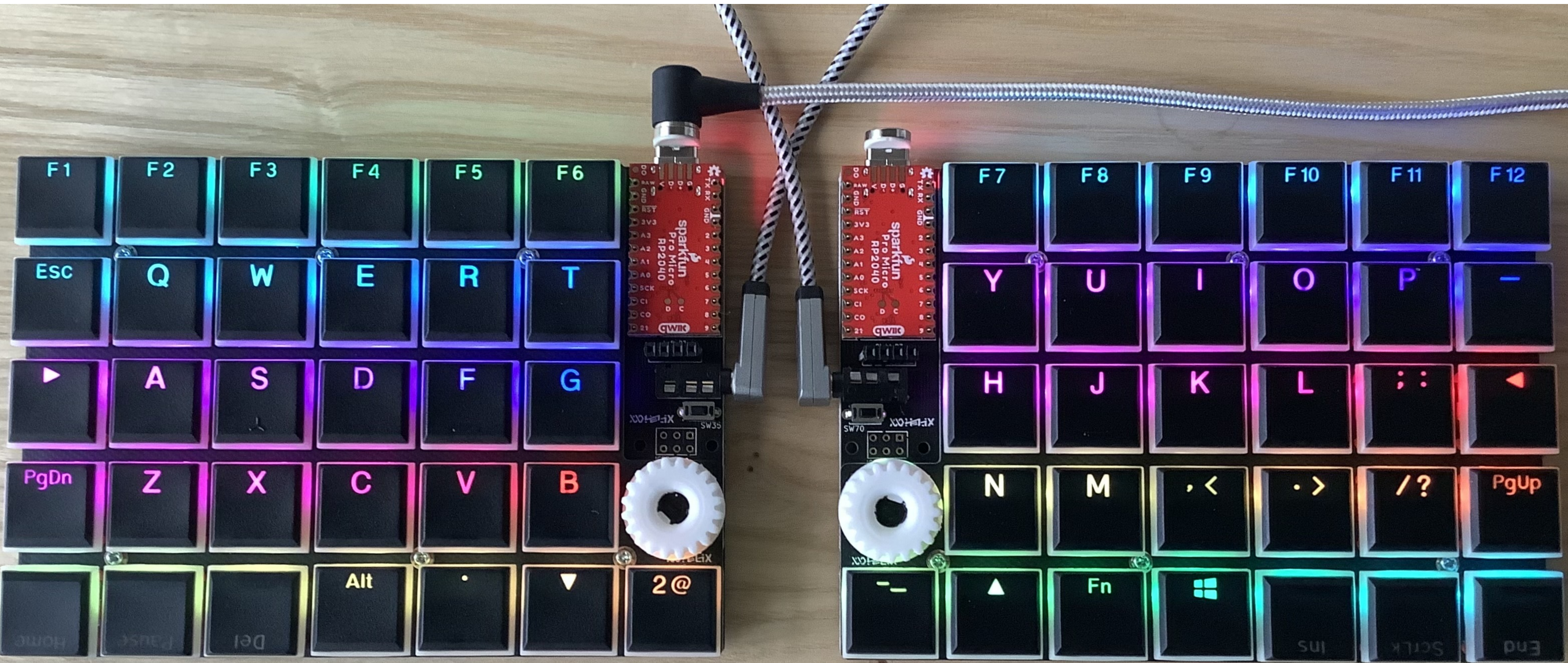
Programming languages need
a killer application

C ... UNIX

PHP ... WordPress

CRuby ... Rails

How about PicoRuby?



To be continued on
RubyKaigi Takeout 2021
or RubyConf 2021

👉 if proposals.any?(&:accepted?) 👉

Thank you!

Monstarlab ::