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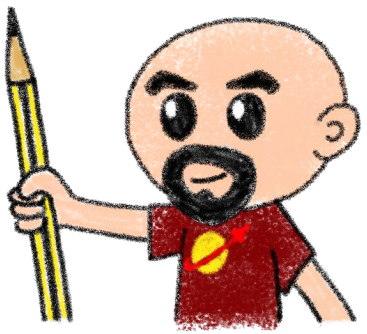
100% OPEN SOURCE - Conférences et Workshops

Hands-on WebAssembly

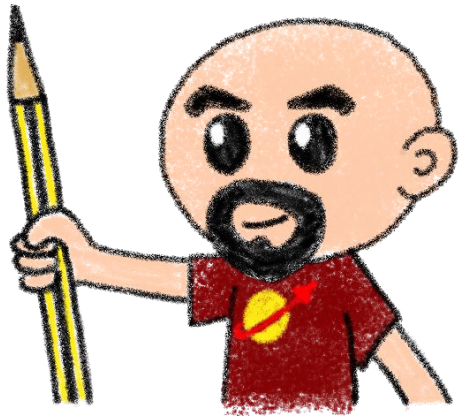
Horacio Gonzalez

2021-06-24



Who are we?

Introducing myself and introducing ~~OVH~~ OVHcloud



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@LostInBrittany

Spaniard lost in Brittany, developer, dreamer and all-around geek

OVHcloud

Head of DevRel

LES BRIQUES DU WEB

Finist Devs

DevFest du Bout du Monde

Google Developers Experts 2019

Web Technologies GDE

Flutter

OVHcloud: A global leader

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- **Web Cloud & Telcom**
- **Private Cloud**
- **Public Cloud**
- **Storage**
- **Network & Security**

- **30 Data Centers** in 12 locations
- **34 Points of Presence** on a 20 TBPS Bandwidth Network
- **2200 Employees** worldwide
- **115K Private Cloud** VMS running
- **300K Public Cloud** instances running
- **380K Physical Servers** running in our data centers
- **1 Million+ Servers** produced since 1999
- **1.5 Million Customers** across 132 countries
- **3.8 Million Websites** hosting
- **1.5 Billion Euros Invested** since 2016
- **P.U.E. 1.09** Energy efficiency indicator
- **20+ Years in Business** Disrupting since 1999

How is the codelab structured?

What are we coding today?

A GitHub repository

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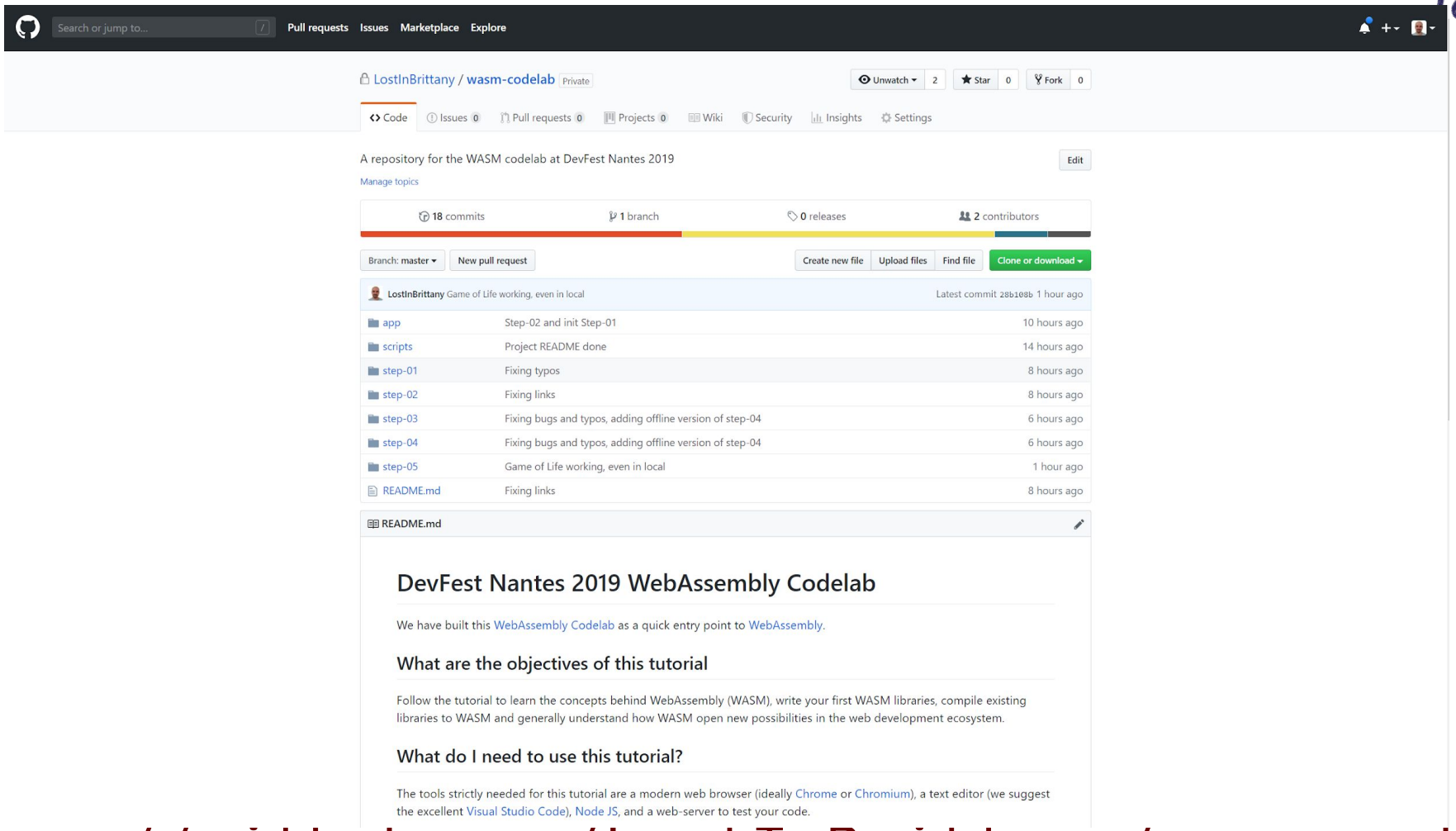

https://github.com/LostInBrittany/wasm-codelab

Nothing to install

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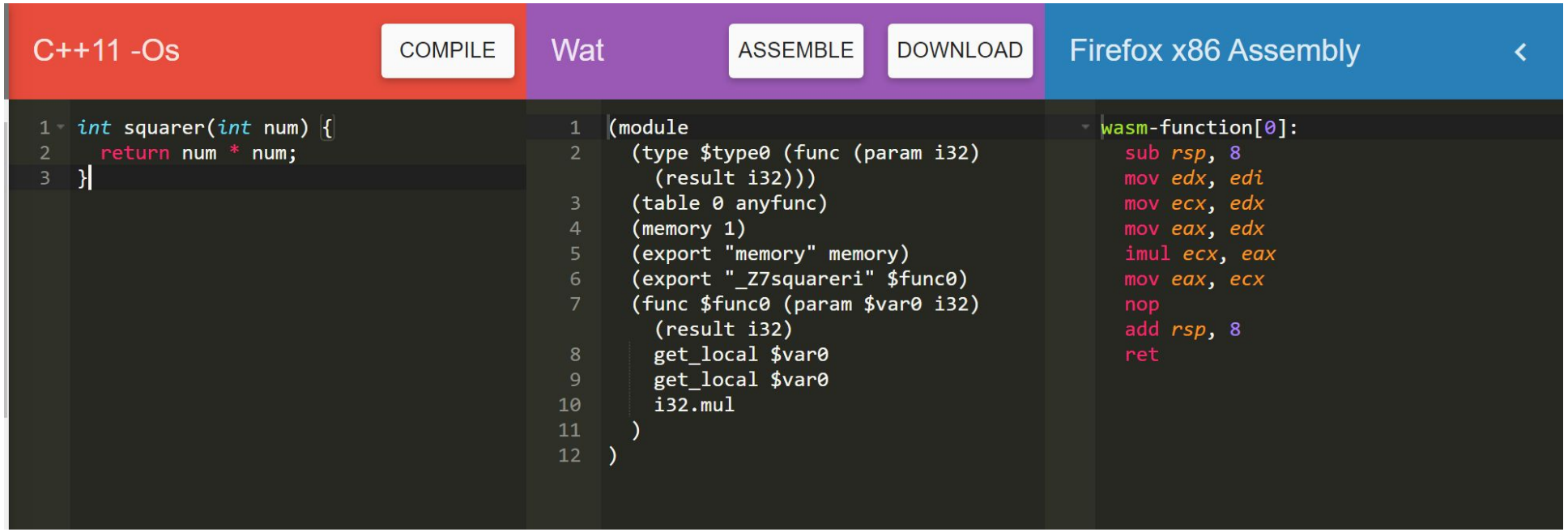

Using WebAssembly Explorer
and WebAssembly Studio

Only additional tool: a web server

Because of the browser security model

Procedure: follow the steps

Step by step

But before coding, let's speak

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What's this WebAssembly thing?

Did I say WebAssembly?

Wasm for friends...

WebAssembly, what's that?

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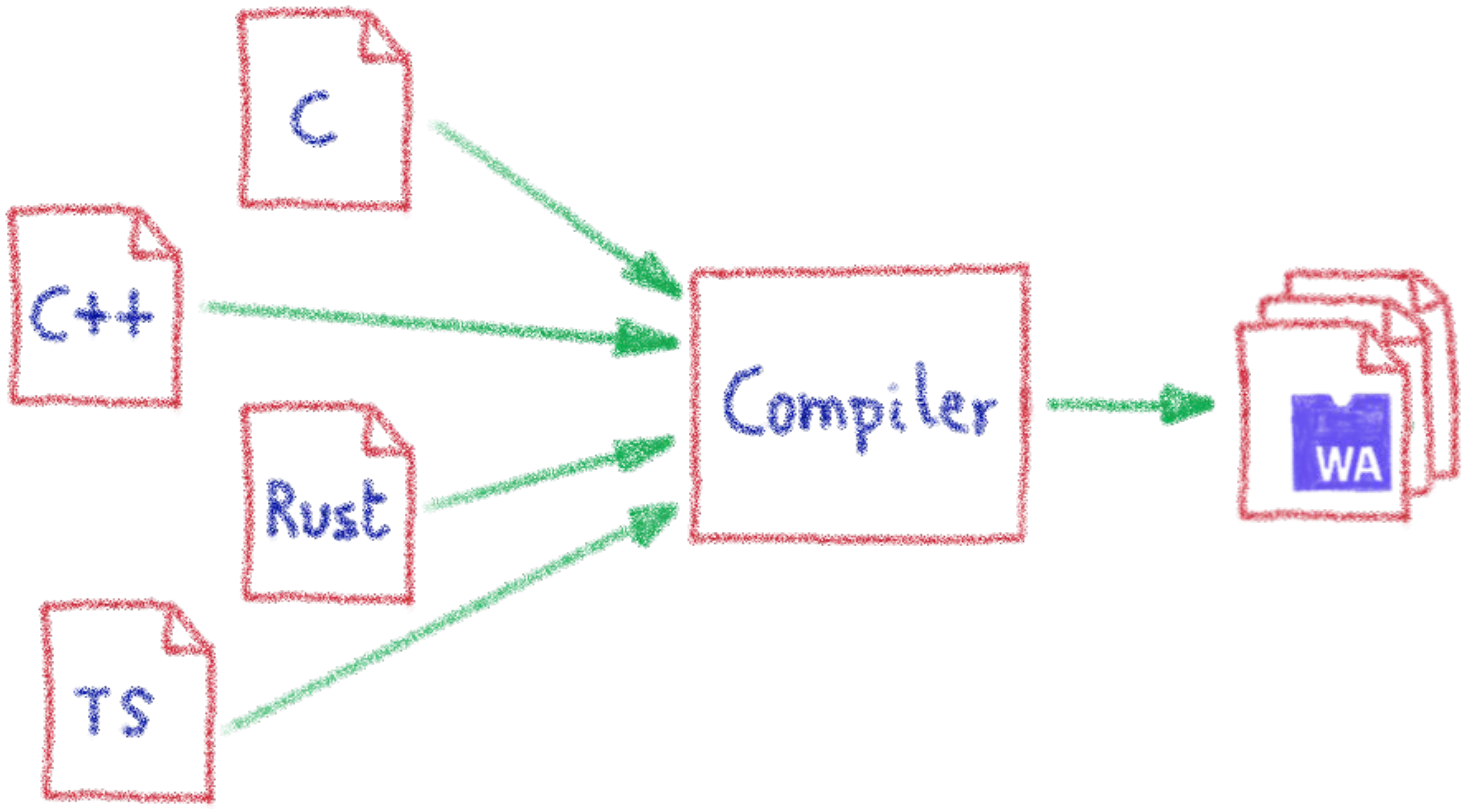
What's WASM ?

Does it replace JS ?

Can I code webapps in Rust?

Is HTML/CSS/JS stack obsolete?

A low-level binary format



Not a programming language, a compilation target

That runs on a stack-based virtual machine

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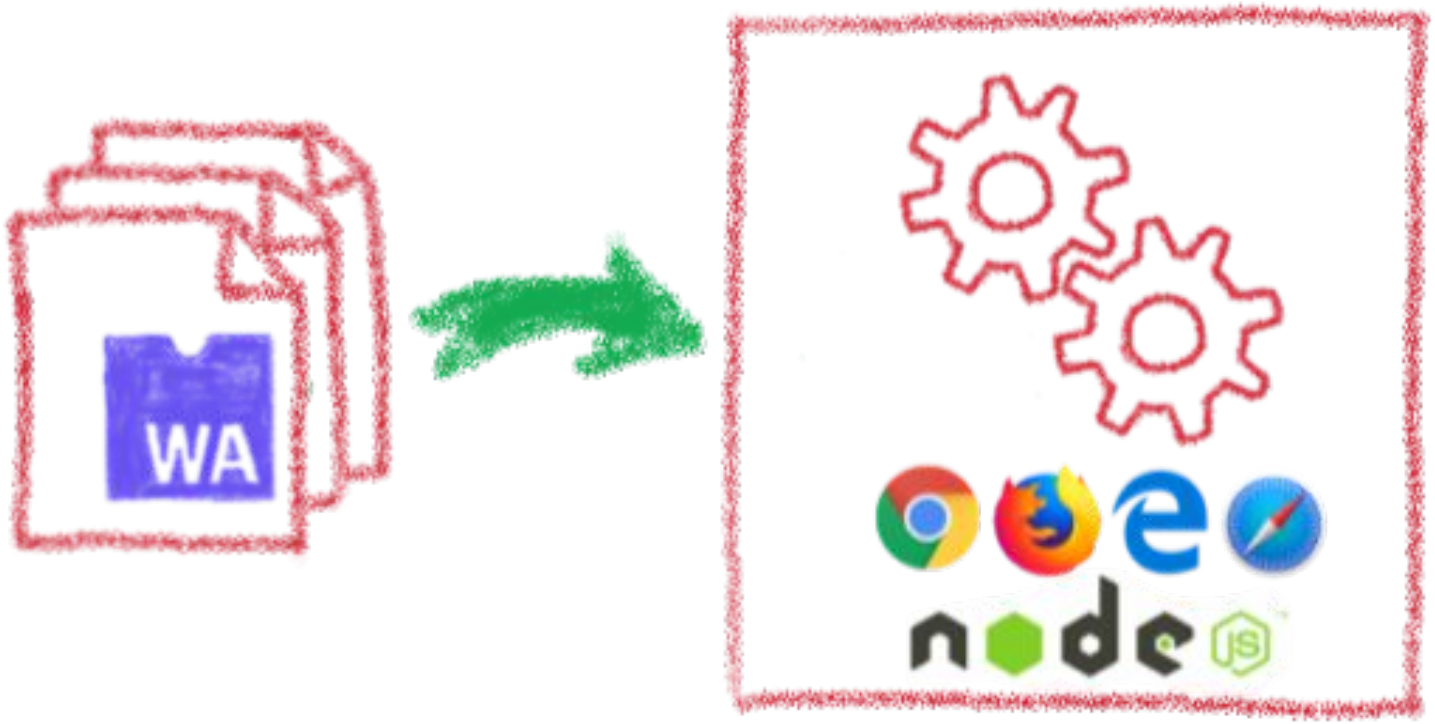

A portable binary format that runs on all modern browsers… but also on NodeJS and elsewhere!!

With several key advantages

Fast & Efficient

Memory-safe & Sandboxed

Open & Deboggable

WWW Part of the Web Platform

But above all...

Wasm is not meant to replace JavaScript

Who is using WebAssembly today?

And many more others...

Macromedia Flash

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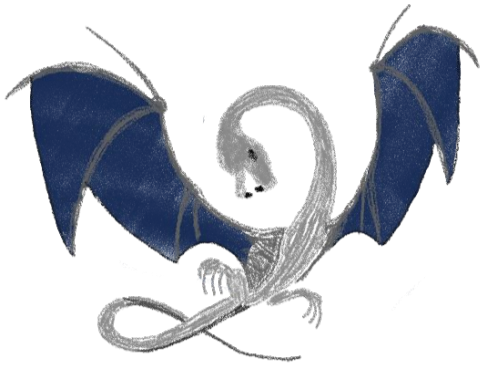
A bit of history

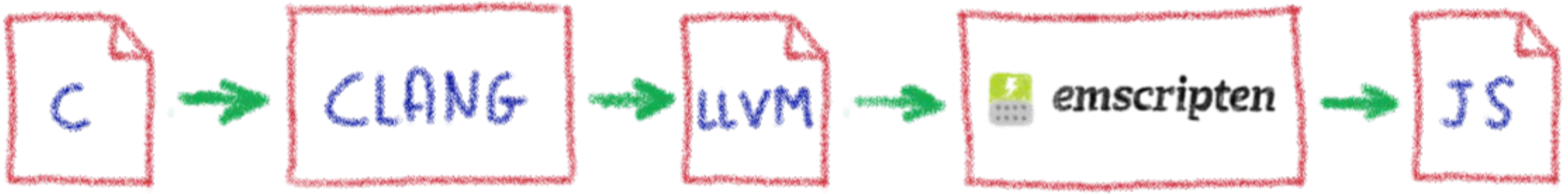
Remembering the past
to better understand the present



Executing other languages in the browser

A long story, with many failures...

2012 - From C to JS: enter emscripten



Passing by LLVM pivot

2013 - Generated JS is slow...

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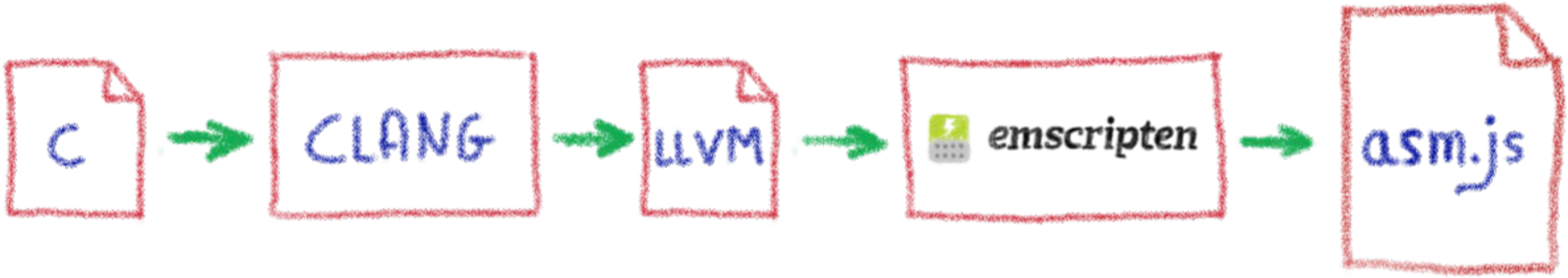

Let's use only a strict subset of JS: asm.js

Only features adapted to AOT optimization

WebAssembly project

Joint effort

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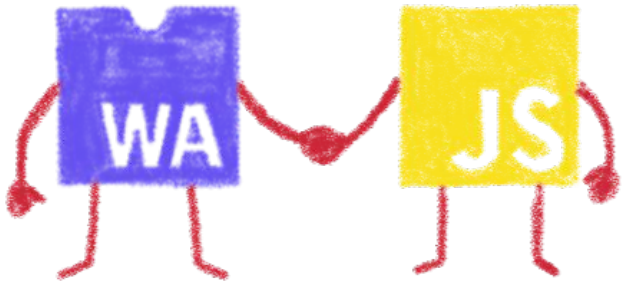
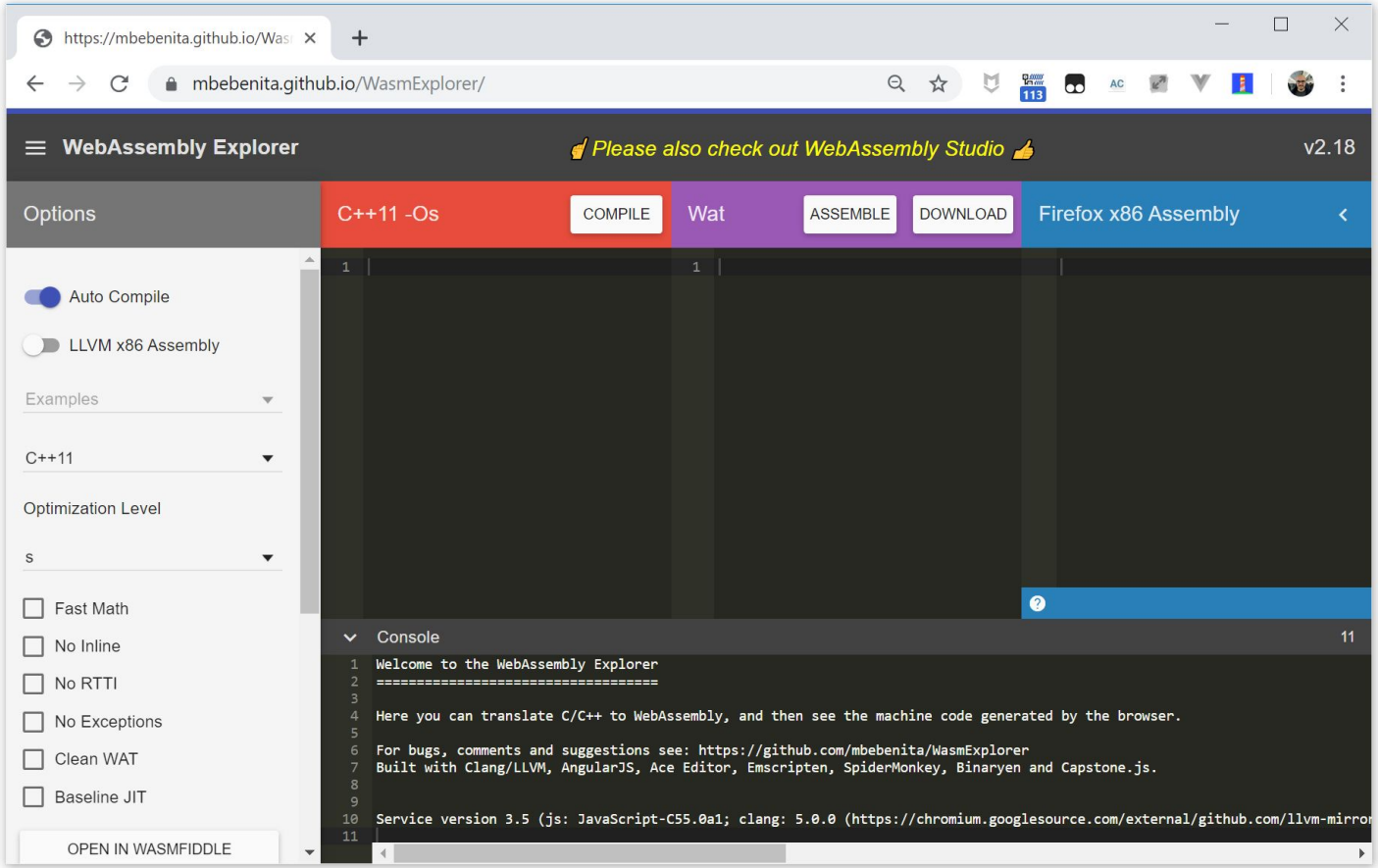
Hello W(asm)orld

My first WebAssembly program



I don't want to install a compiler now...



Let's use Wasm Explorer

https://mbebenita.github.io/WasmExplorer/

Let's begin with the a simple function

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C++11 -Os | COMPILE

```
1  int squarer(int num) {
2    return num * num;
3  }
```

Wat | ASSEMBLE | DOWNLOAD

```
1  (module
2    (type $type0 (func (param i32)
       (result i32)))
3    (table 0 anyfunc)
4    (memory 1)
5    (export "memory" memory)
6    (export "_Z7squareri" $func0)
7    (func $func0 (param $var0 i32)
       (result i32)
8      get_local $var0
9      get_local $var0
10     i32.mul
11   )
12 )
```

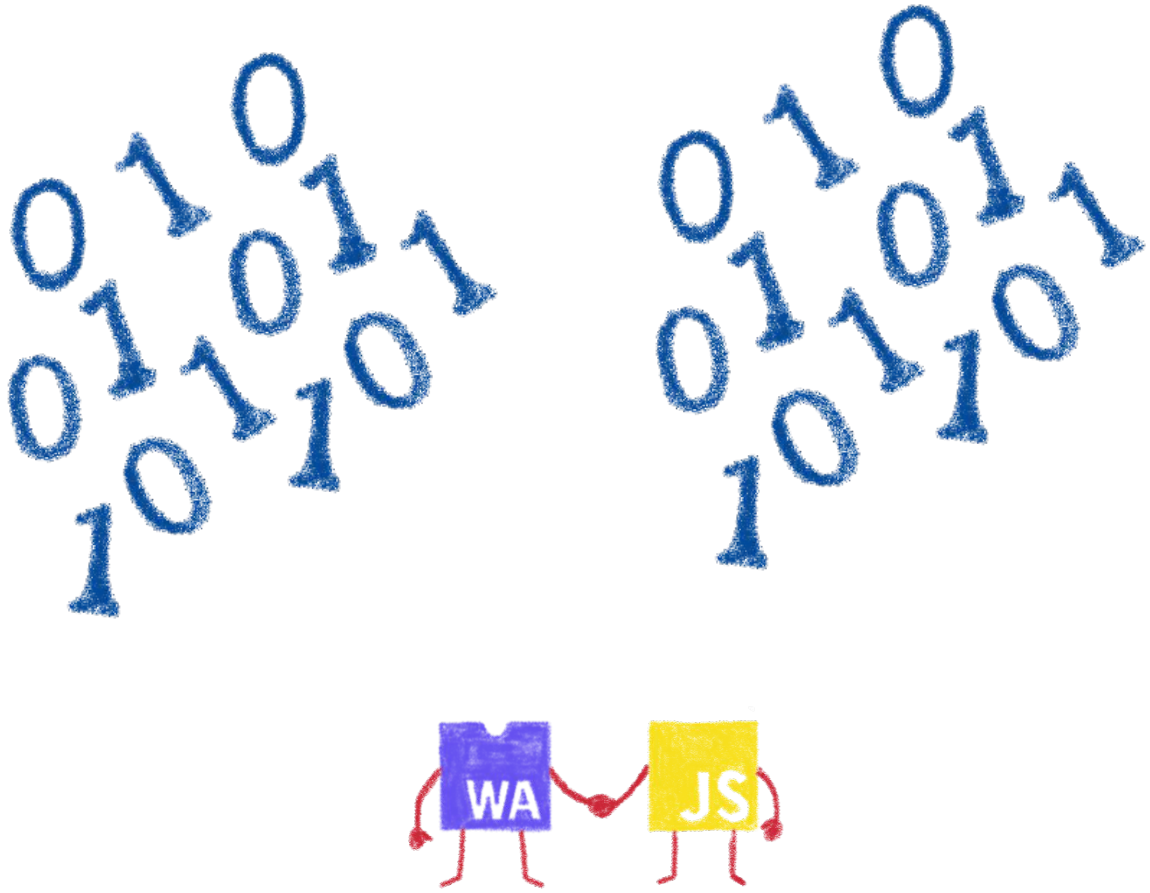
Firefox x86 Assembly

```
wasm-function[0]:
  sub rsp, 8
  mov edx, edi
  mov ecx, edx
  mov eax, edx
  imul ecx, eax
  mov eax, ecx
  nop
  add rsp, 8
  ret
```

WAT: WebAssembly Text Format

Human readable version of the `.wasm` binary

Download the binary `.wasm` file



Now we need to call it from JS...

Instantiating the Wasm

1. Get the `.wasm` binary file into an array buffer
2. Compile the bytes into a WebAssembly module
3. Instantiate the WebAssembly module

Instantiating the WASM

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wasm > squarer > JS squarer.js > ...

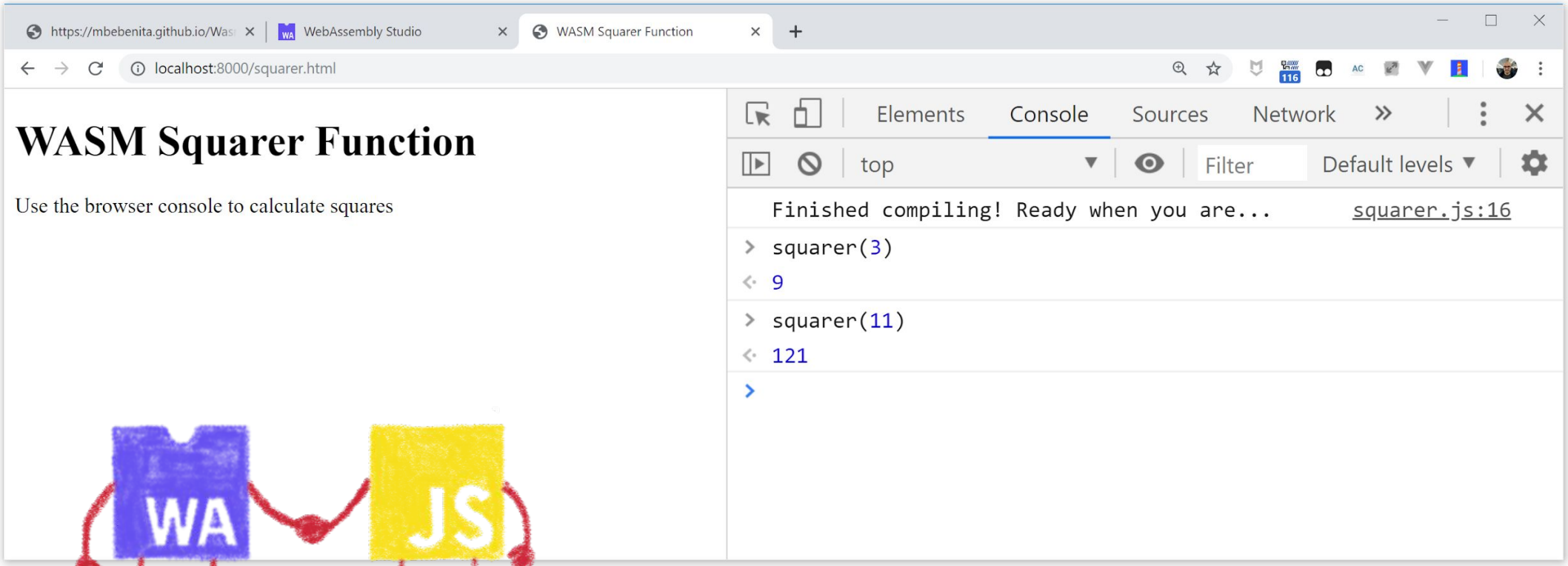
```
3   var importObject = {
4       imports: {
5         imported_func: function(arg) {
6           console.log(arg);
7         }
8       }
9     };
10
11  async function loadWebAssembly() {
12      let response = await fetch('squarer.wasm');
13      let arrayBuffer = await response.arrayBuffer();
14      let wasmModule = await WebAssembly.instantiate(arrayBuffer, importObject);
15      squarer = await wasmModule.instance.exports._Z7squareri;
16      console.log('Finished compiling! Ready when you are...');
17  }
18
19  loadWebAssembly();
```


Loading the `squarer` function

wasm > squarer > squarer.html > ...

```
1   <!DOCTYPE html>
2   <html>
3   <head>
4       <meta charset="utf-8" />
5       <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
6       <title>WASM Squarer Function</title>
7       <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
8   </head>
9   <body>
10
11      <h1>WASM Squarer Function</h1>
12
13      <script src="squarer.js"></script>
14
15      <p>Use the browser console to calculate squares</p>
16  </body>
17  </html>
18
19
```


Using it!



Directly from the browser console
(it's a simple demo…)

You sold us a codelab!

Stop speaking and let us code

You can do steps 01 and 02 now

Let's code, mates!

Some use cases

What can I do with it?

Tapping into other languages ecosystems

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SQUOOSH.APP

OptiPNG (C)

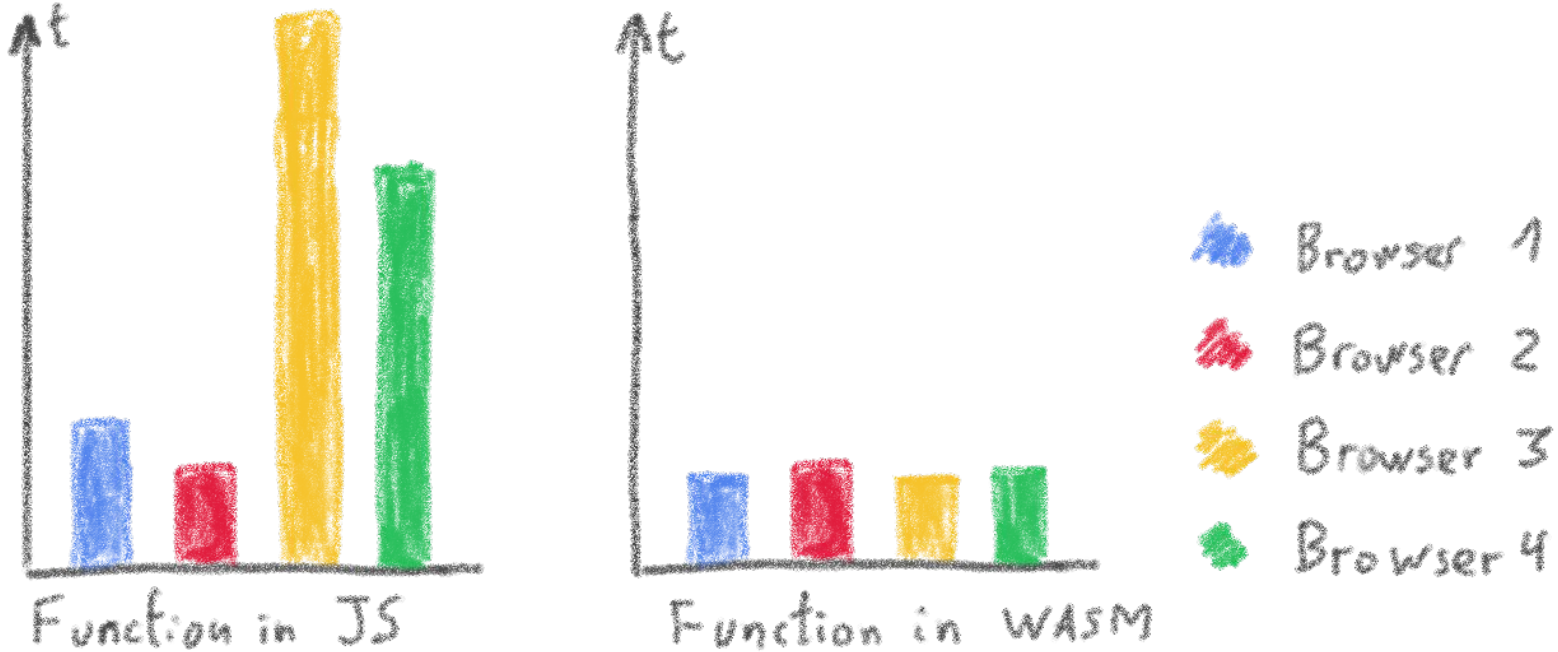
Resize (Rust)

MozJPEG (C++)

webp (C)

Don't rewrite libs anymore

Replacing problematic JS bits

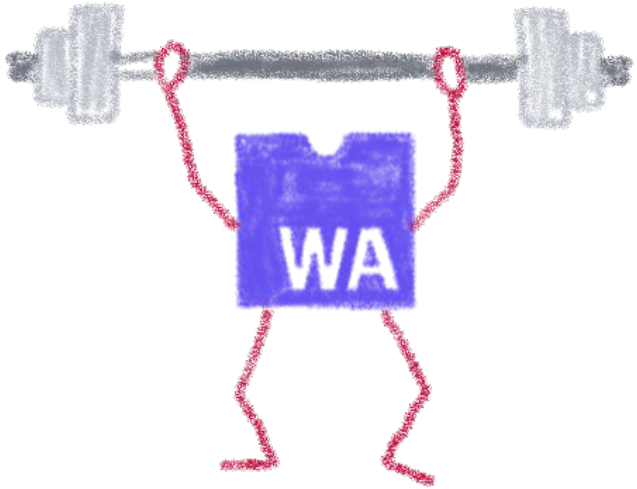


Predictable performance

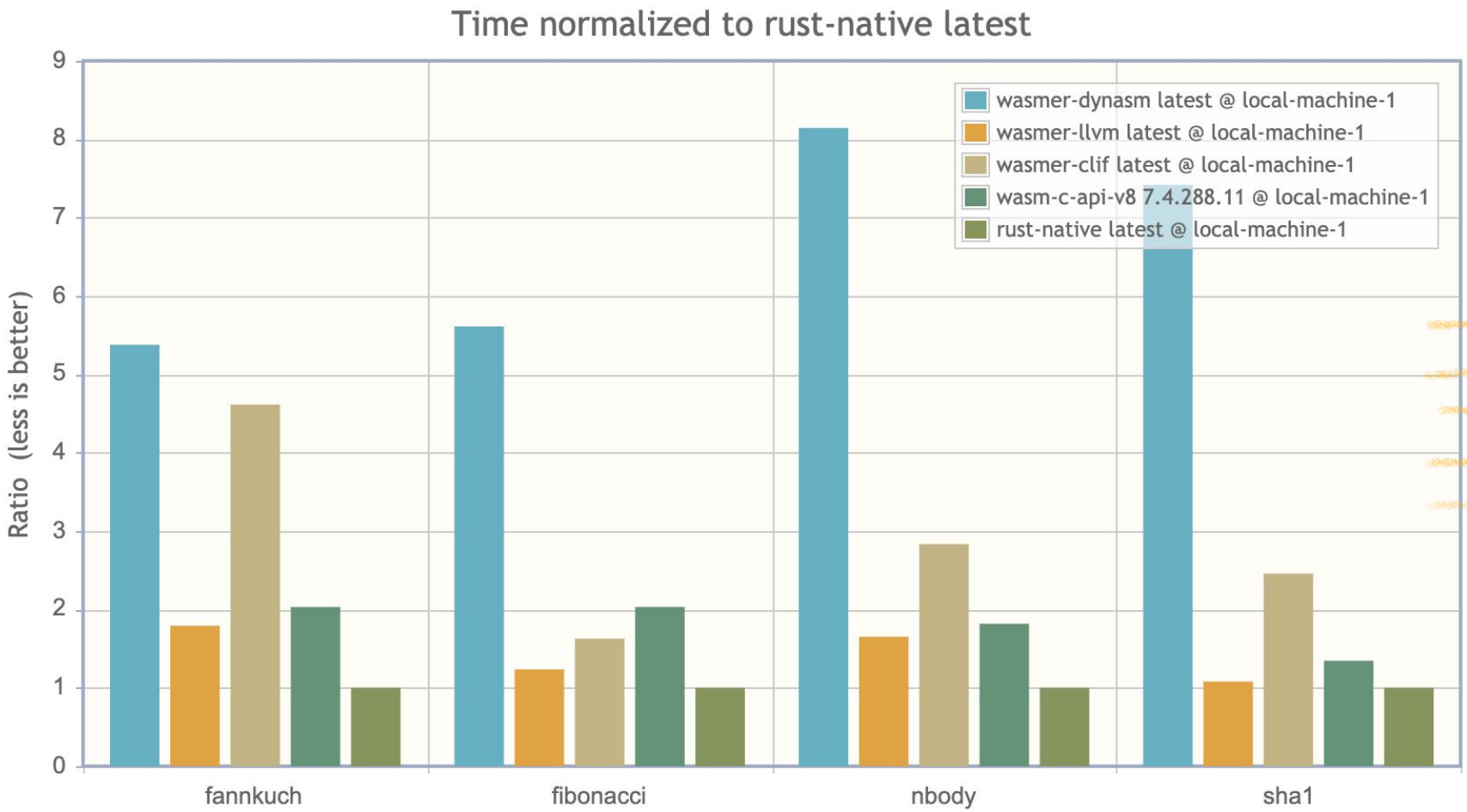
Same peak performance, but less variation

Features of Wasm

Why is everybody looking at it?

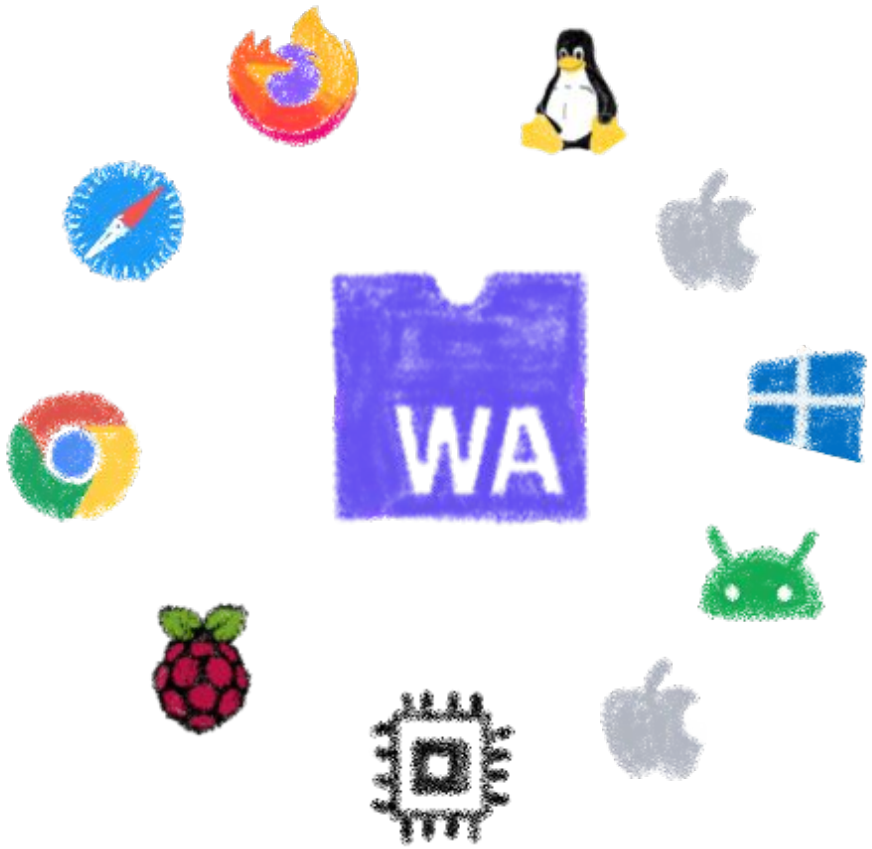


Near native speed



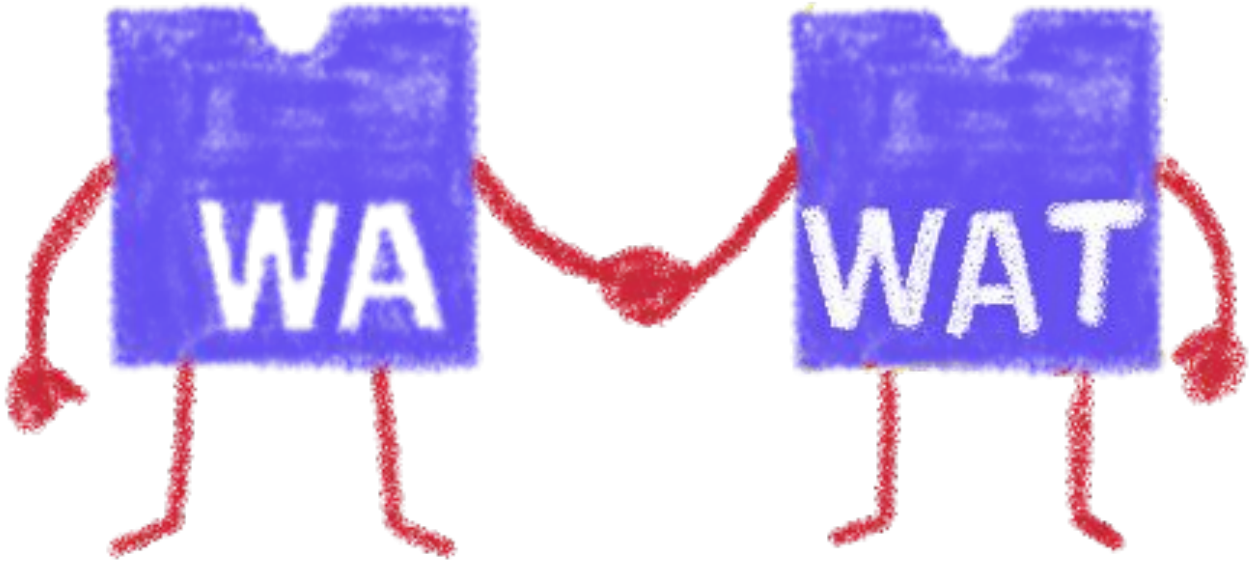
https://medium.com/wasmer/benchmarking-webassembly-runtimes-18497ce0d76e

Highly portable



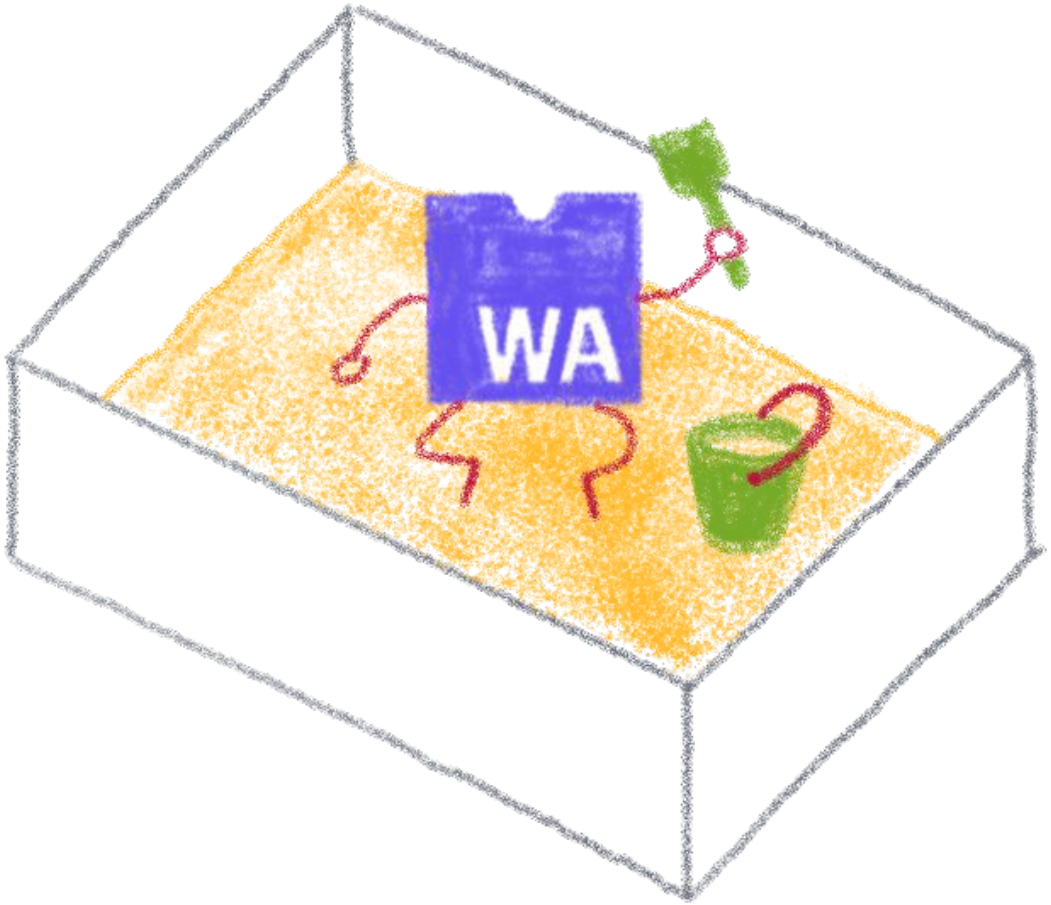
It can be run almost everywhere...

Readable and debuggable



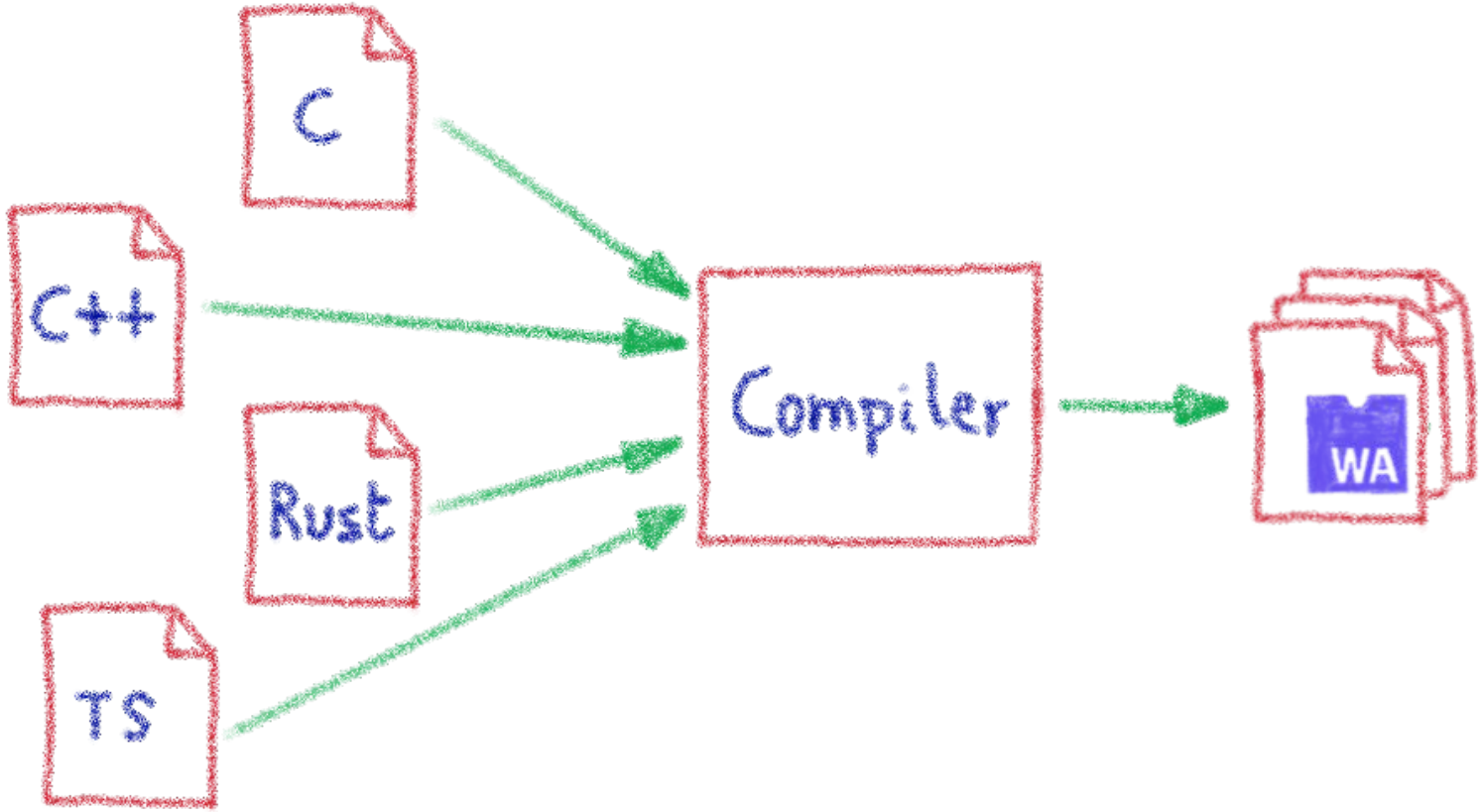
Each `.wasm` file with it `.wat` companion file

Memory safe & secure



Running in a fully sandboxed environment

Accepting many source languages



And more and more...

Some constraints

Still a young platform…

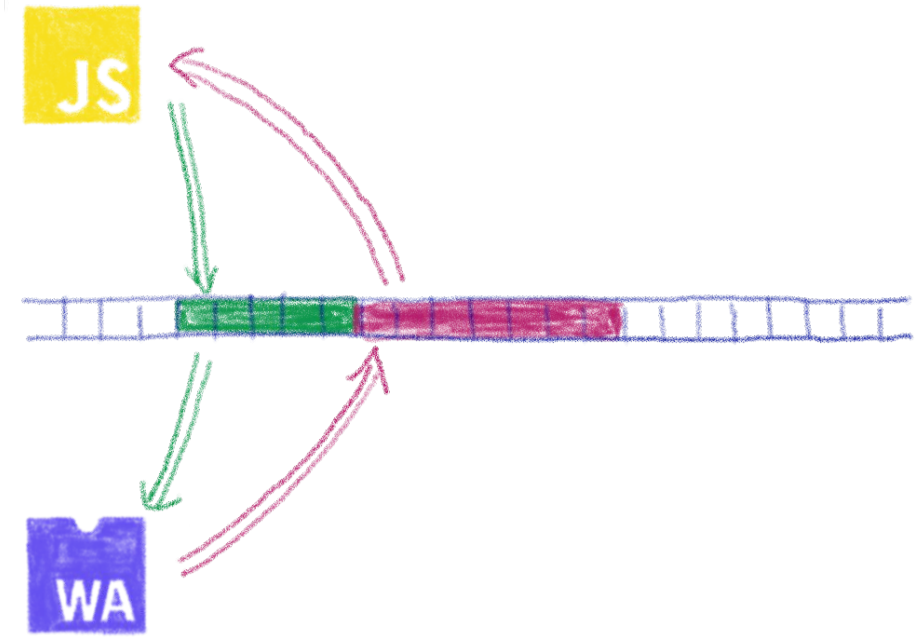
Native WASM types are limited

WASM currently has four available types:

- `i32`: 32-bit integer
- `i64`: 64-bit integer
- `f32`: 32-bit float
- `f64`: 64-bit float

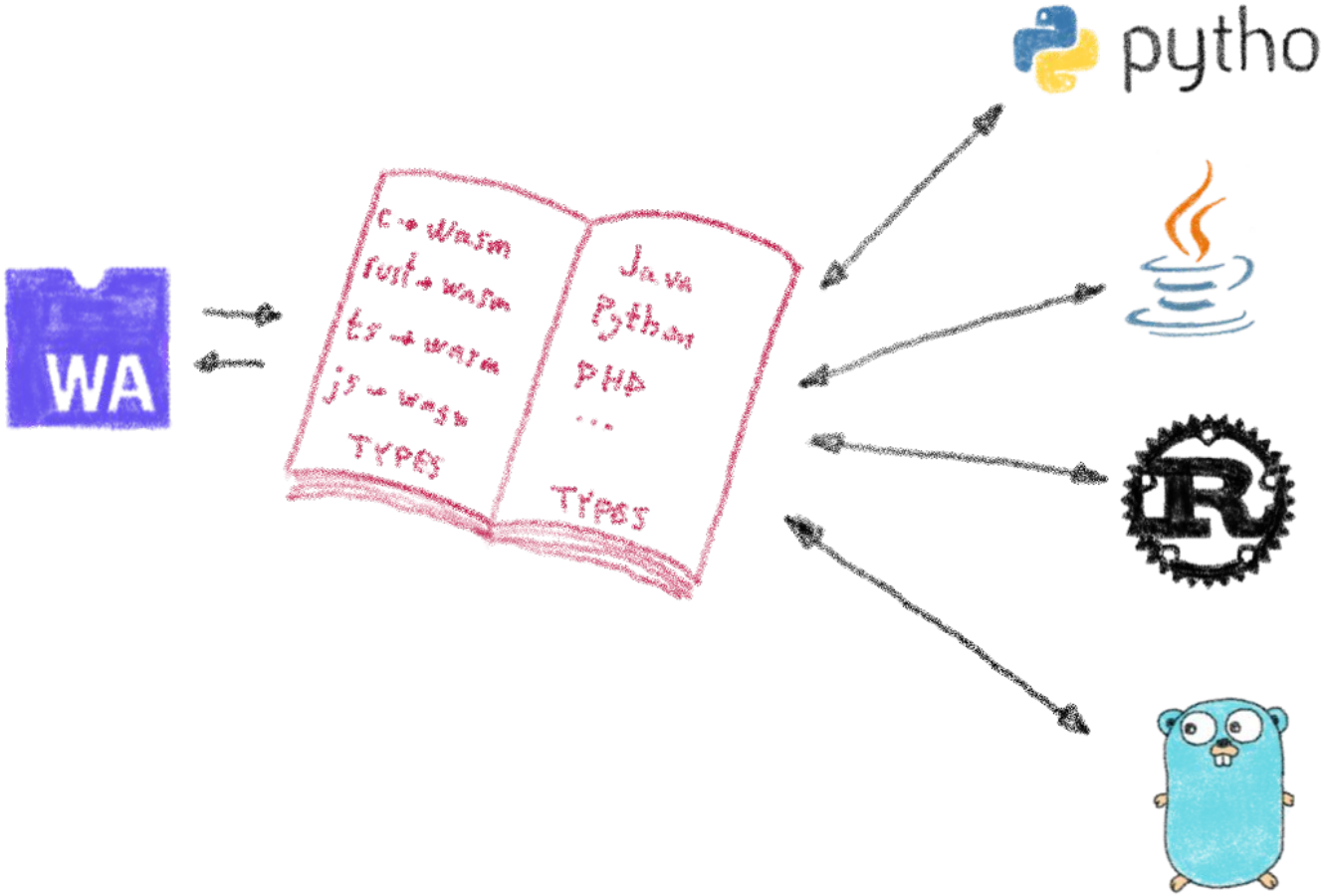
Types from languages compiled to WASM are mapped to these types

How can we share data?



Using the same data in WASM and JS?
Shared linear memory between them,
and serializing the data to one Wasm types

Solution is coming: Interface types



Beautiful description at:

https://hacks.mozilla.org/2019/08/webassembly-interface-types

No outside access

By design, communication is done
using the shared linear memory only

Solution exists: WASI

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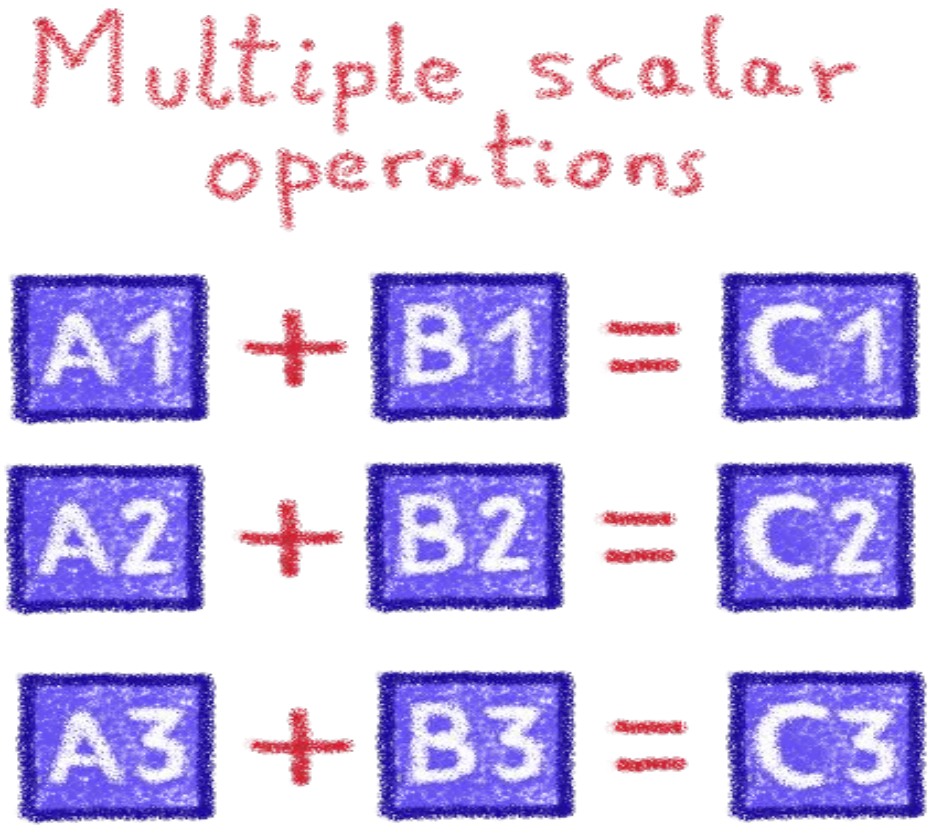
Already available in Wasmer

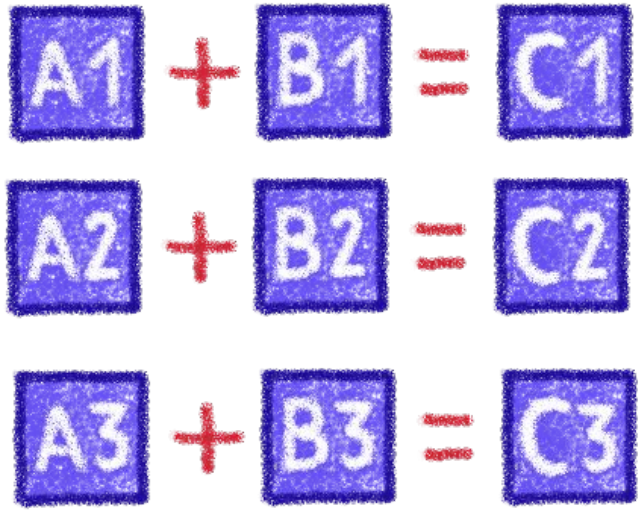
Mono-thread and scalar operations only



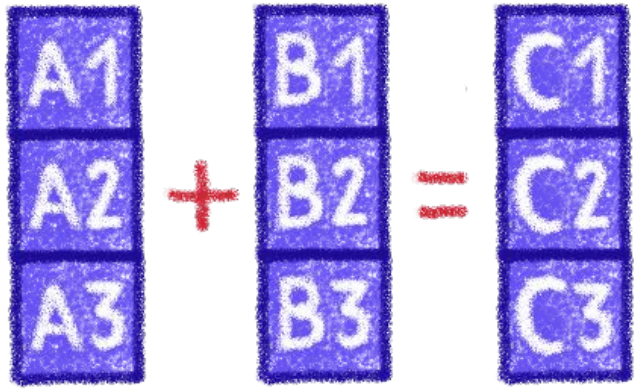
Not the most efficient way...

Solution exists: SIMD

Multiple scalar operations



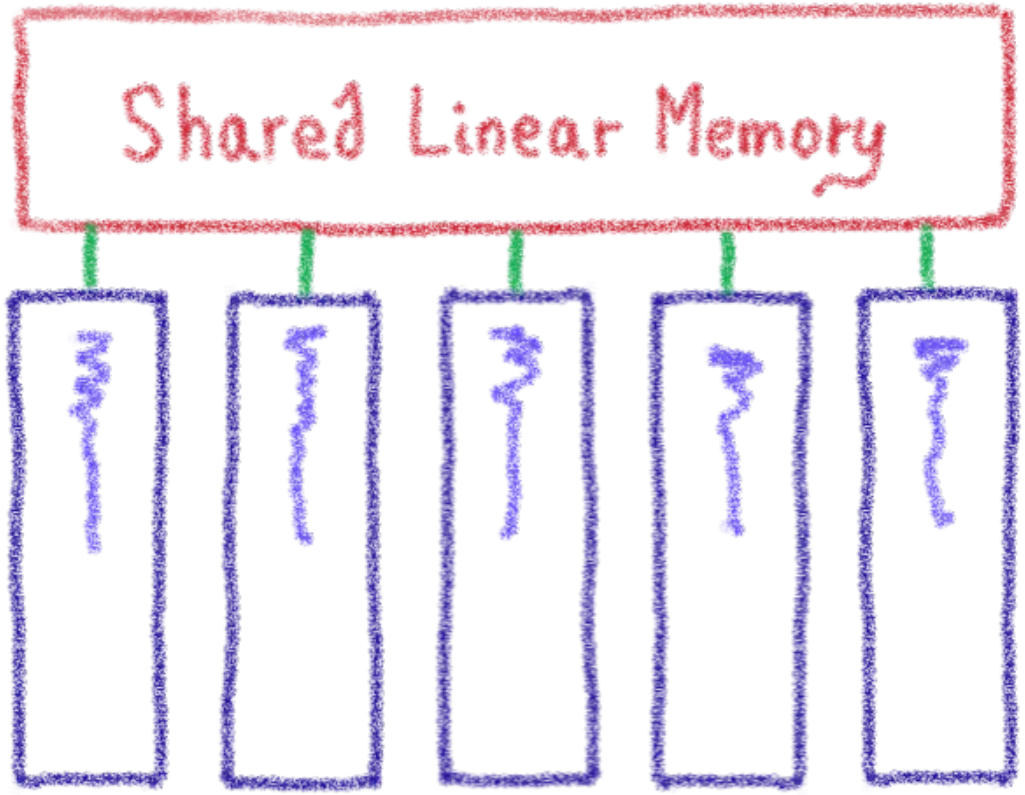
Single vectorial operation



Already available in Wasmer

Single Instruction, Multiple Data

Solutions are coming too: Wasm Threads



Threads on Web Workers
with shared linear memory

Incoming proposals: Garbage collector

And exception handling

You can do steps 03 and 04 now

Let's code, mates!

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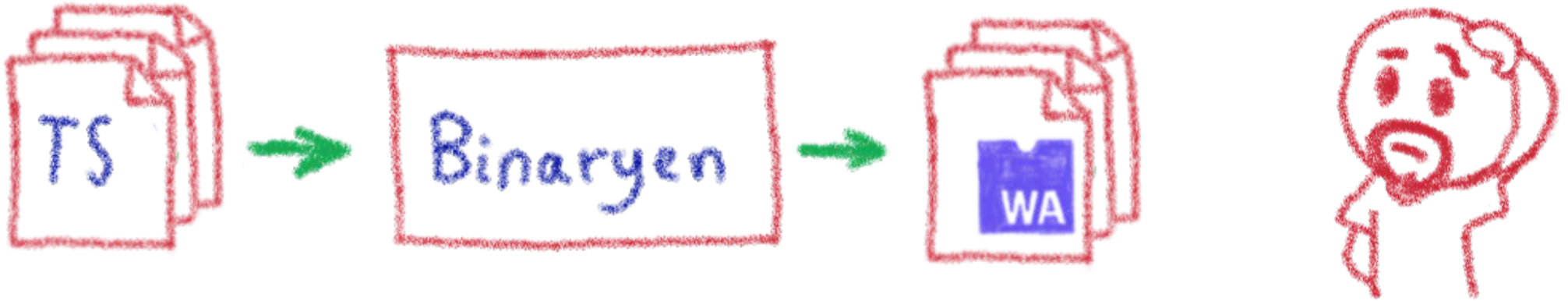
AssemblyScript

Writing WASM without learning a new language

TypeScript subset compiled to WASM



Why would I want to compile TypeScript to WASM?

Ahead of Time compiled TypeScript

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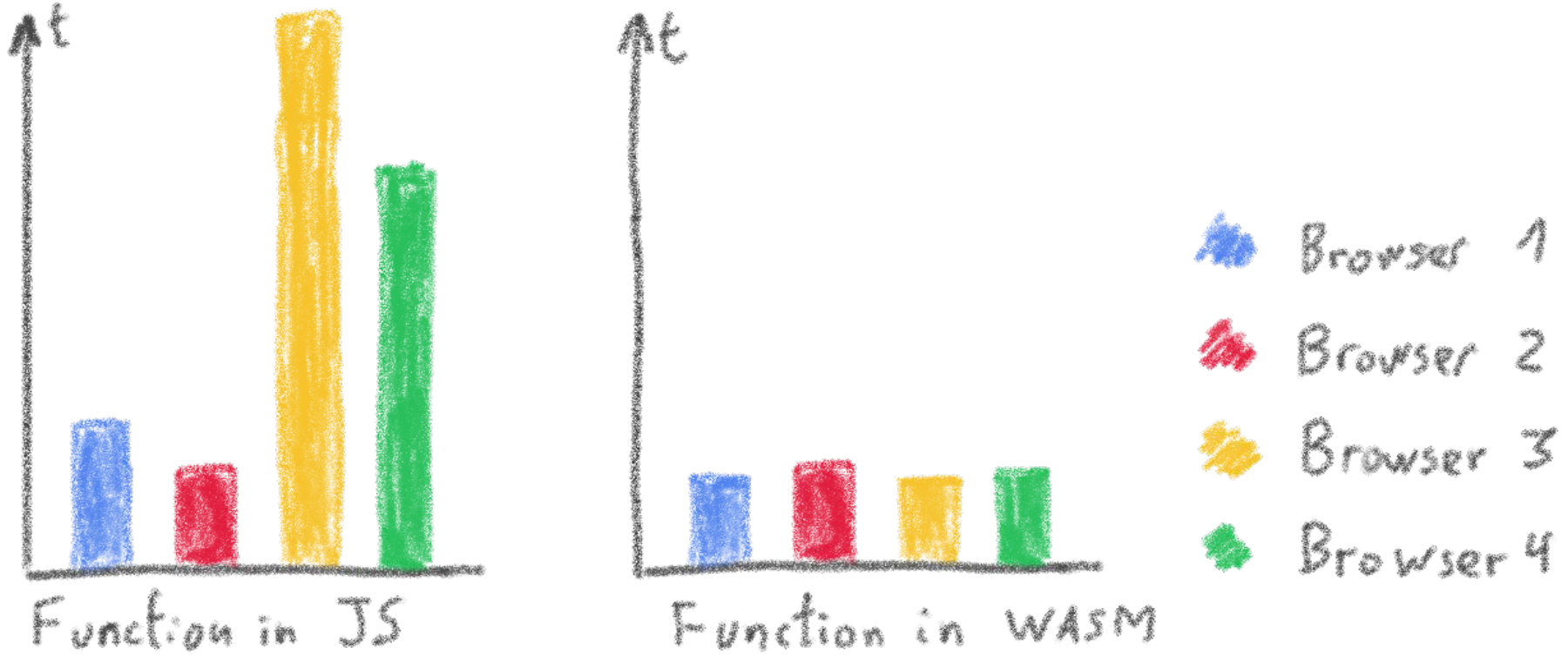
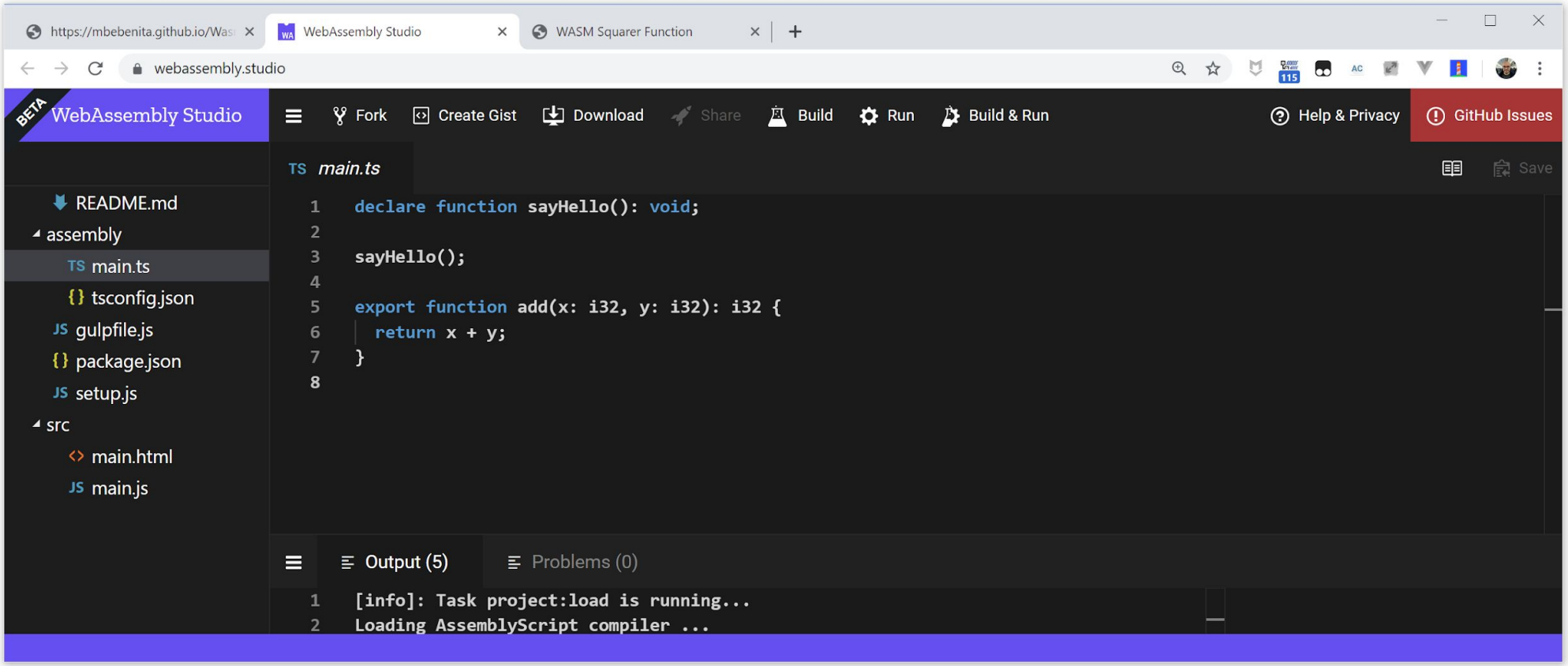


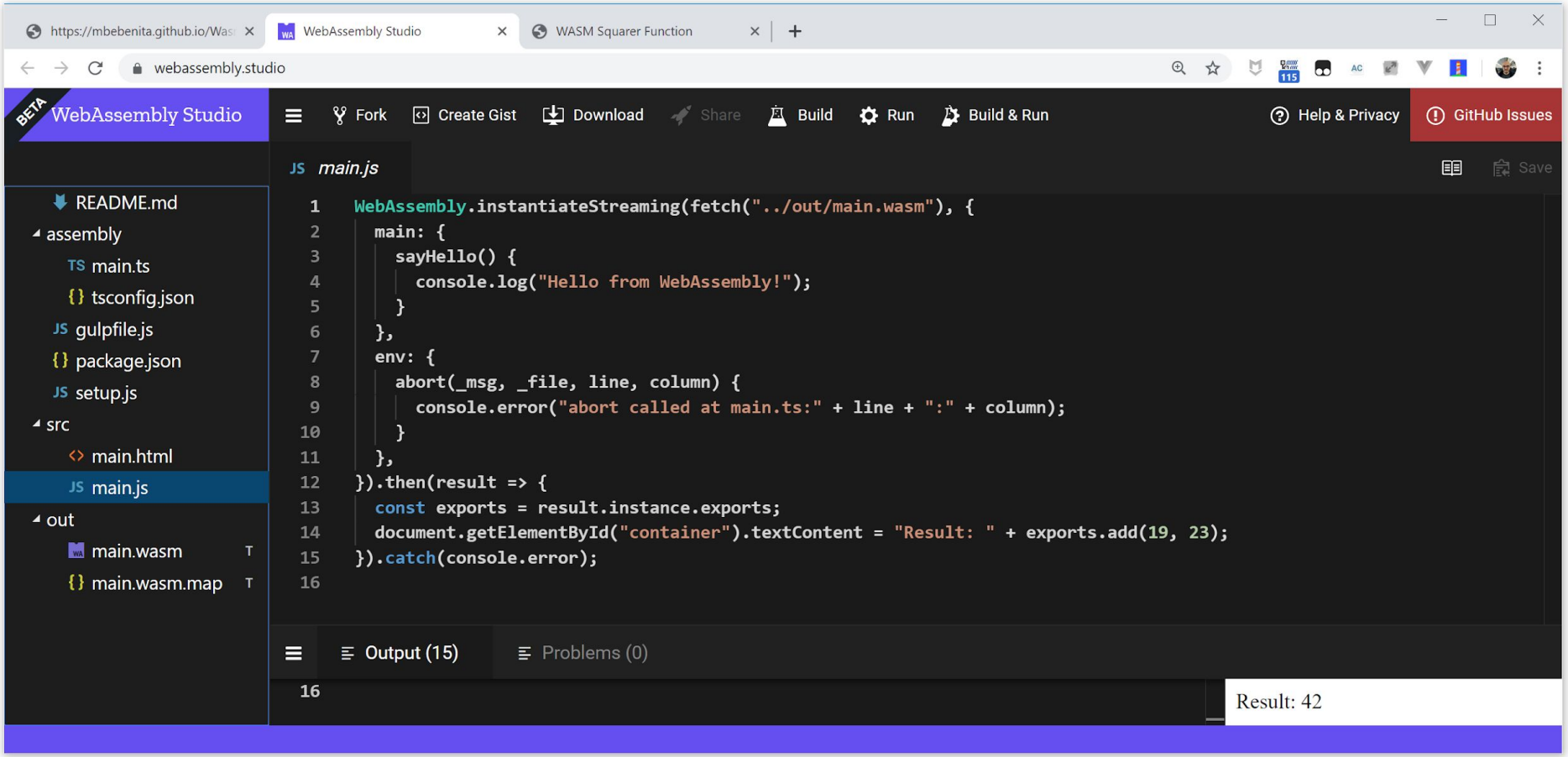
More predictable performance

Avoiding the dynamicness of JavaScript



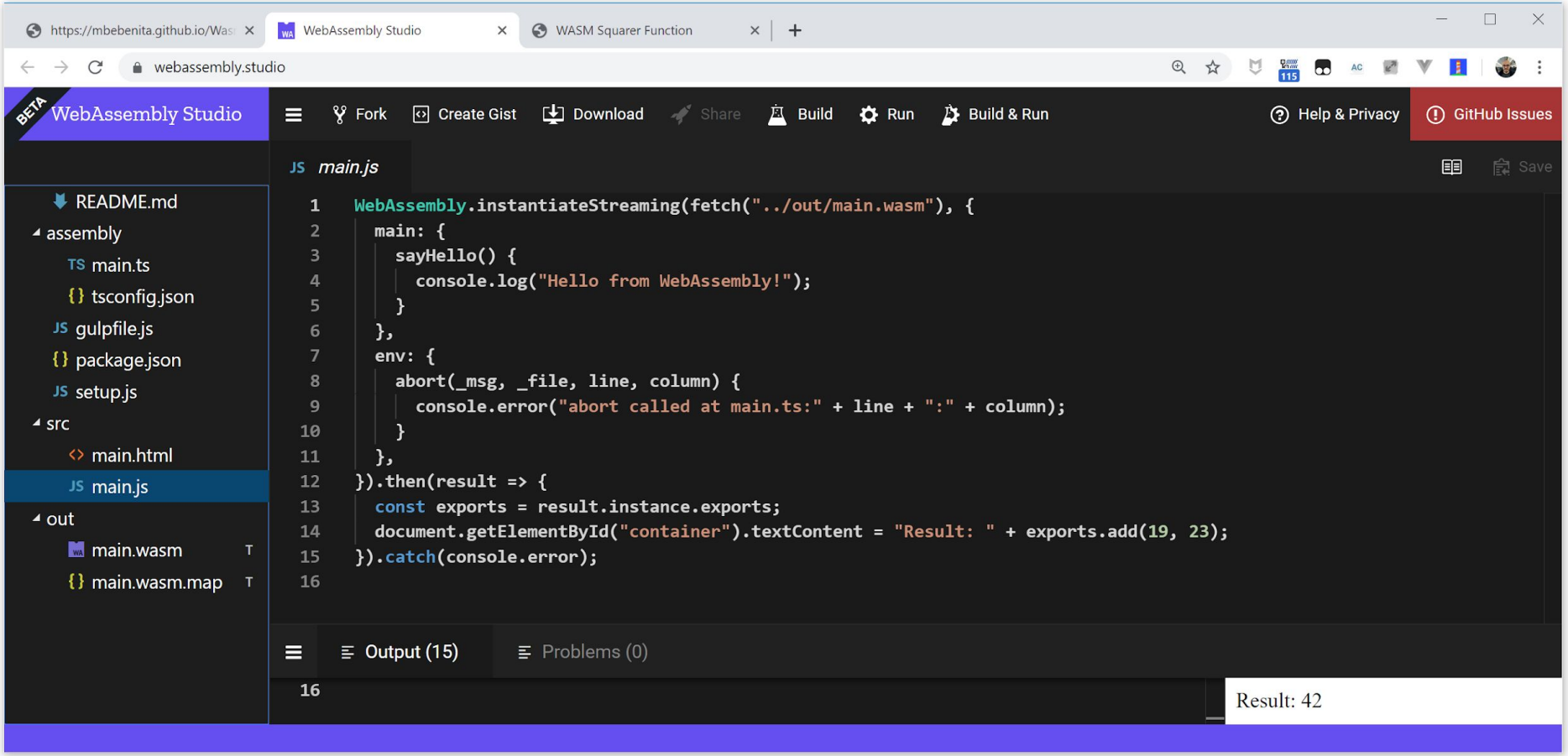
More specific integer and floating point types

Objects cannot flow in and out of WASM yet



Using a loader to write/read them to/from memory

No direct access to DOM



Glue code using exports/imports to/from JavaScript

You can do step 05 now

Let's code, mates!

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WebAssembly ❤️ Web Components

How to hide the complexity and remove friction

The 3 minutes context

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What the heck are web component?

Web Components

Web standard W3C

Web Components

Available in all modern browsers:

Firefox, Safari, Chrome

Web Components

Create your own HTML tags

Encapsulating look and behavior

Web Components

Fully interoperable

With other web components, with any framework

Web Components

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</>

CUSTOM ELEMENTS

SHADOW DOM

TEMPLATES

Custom Element

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</> To define your own HTML tag

```
<body>
  ...
  <script>
    window.customElements.define('my-element',
      class extends HTMLElement {...});
  </script>
  <my-element></my-element>
</body>
```


Shadow DOM

To encapsulate subtree and style in an element


```
<button>Hello, world!</button>
<script>
var host = document.querySelector('button');
const shadowRoot = host.attachShadow({mode:'open'});
shadowRoot.textContent = 'こんにちは、影の世界!';
</script>
```


Template

To have clonable document template

```
<template id="mytemplate">
  <img src="" alt="great image">
  <div class="comment"></div>
</template>

var t = document.querySelector('#mytemplate');
// Populate the src at runtime.
t.content.querySelector('img').src = 'logo.png';
var clone = document.importNode(t.content, true);
document.body.appendChild(clone);
```

But in fact, it's just an element…

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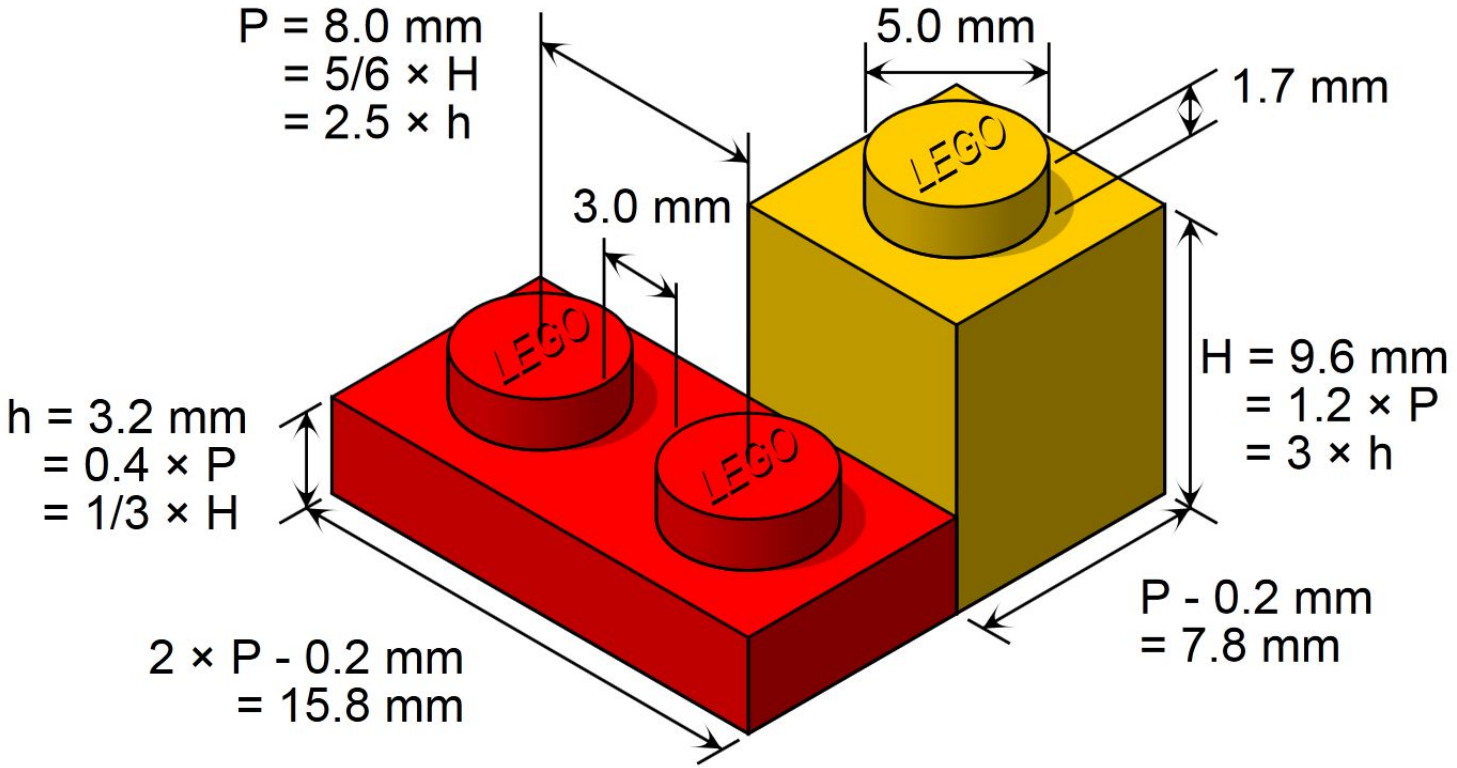
- Attributes
- Properties
- Methods
- Events



You can do step 06 and 07 now

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That's all, folks!

Thank you all!