

System Trace in Depth

Explore the deep end of the Instruments pool

Session 411

Chad Wolf Performance Tools Engineer

Joe Grzywacz Performance Tools Engineer

Last Year...

Session 412 - Time Profiling in Depth

Last Year...

Session 412 - Time Profiling in Depth



WWDC 2015

Multi-core

Multi-core

Get more done

Multi-core

Get more done

System load changes performance

Multi-core

Get more done

System load changes performance

High system load increases

- Preemption
- Lock contention
- Virtual memory activity

System Trace in Depth



Agenda

System tracing in depth

Agenda

System tracing in depth

System Trace for Apps

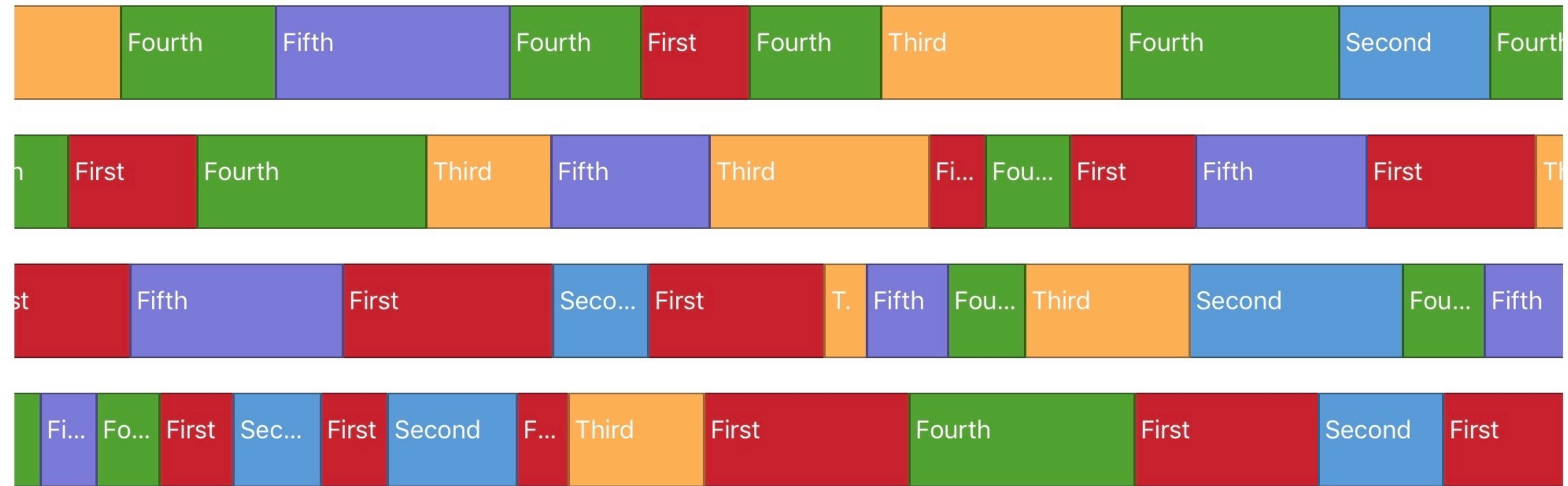
Agenda

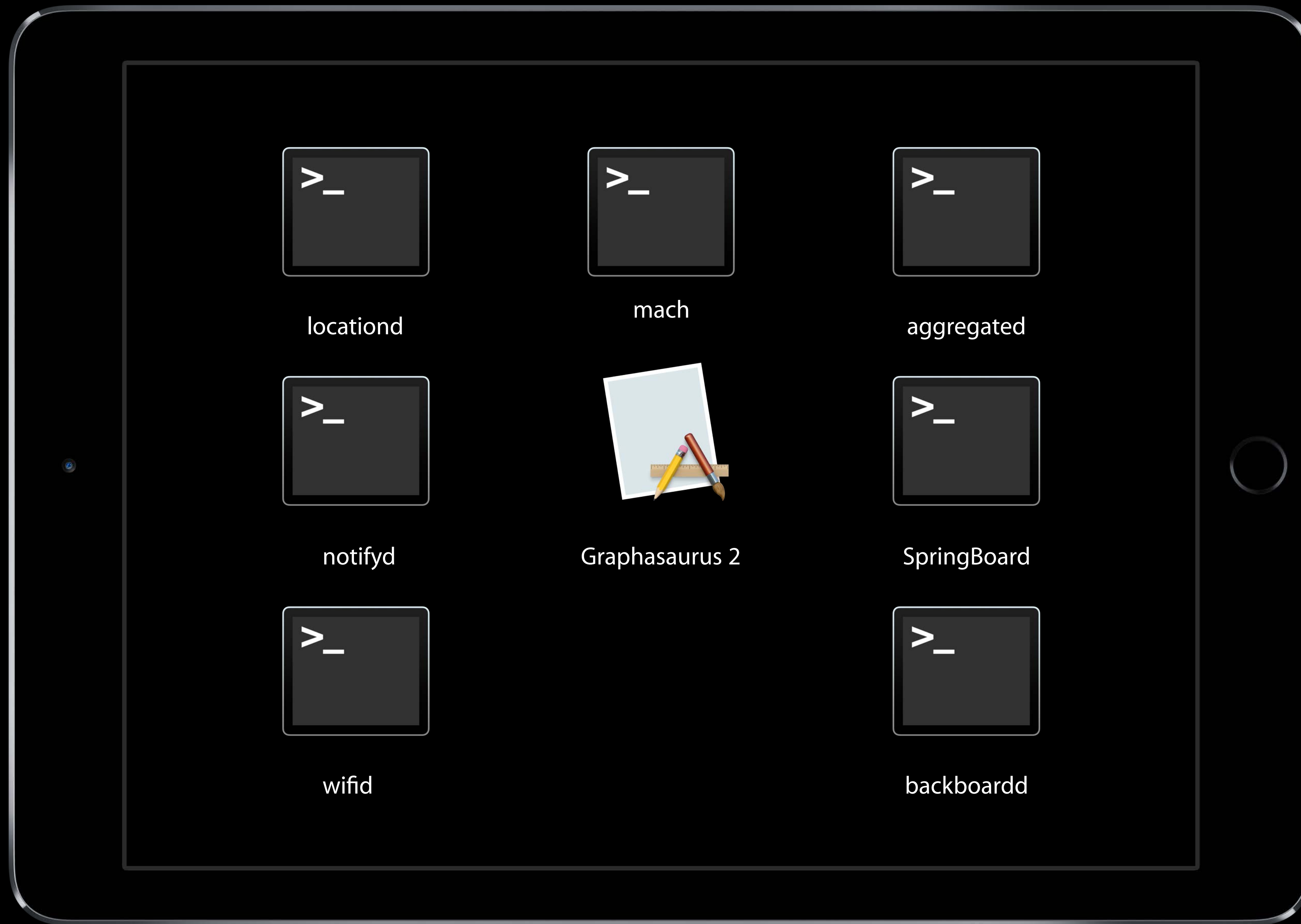
System tracing in depth

System Trace for Apps

Using System Trace

- Threading
- Signposts
- Virtual Memory
- Best Practices





locationd



mach



aggregated



notifyd



Graphasaurus 2



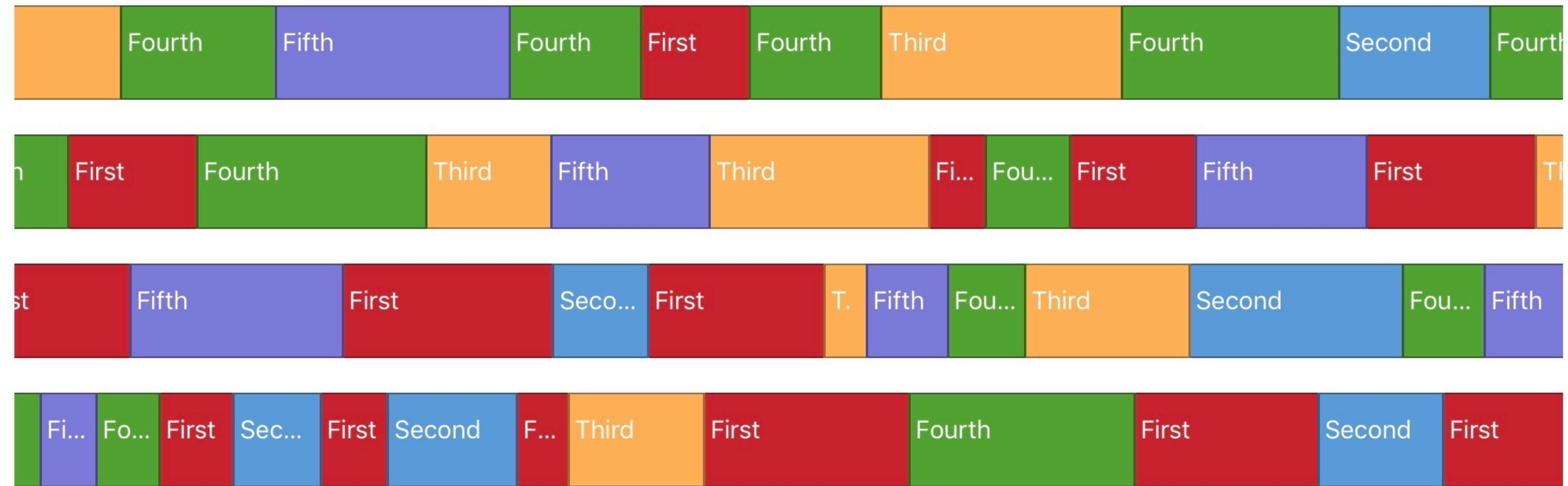
SpringBoard



wifid



backboardd



Choose a profiling template for:  cwoolf3 > All Processes

Standard

Custom

Recent

 Filter



Blank



Activity Monitor



Allocations



Cocoa Layout



Core Animation



Core Data



Counters



Energy Log



File Activity



Leaks



Metal System Trace



Network



OpenGL ES Analysis



System Trace



System Usage



Time Profiler



Zombies



System Trace

Provides comprehensive information about system behavior by showing when threads are scheduled, and showing all their transitions from user into system code via either system calls or memory operations.

Open an Existing File...

Cancel

Choose

Choose a profiling template for:  cwoolf3 > All Processes

Standard

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Activity Monitor



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Choose

System Trace

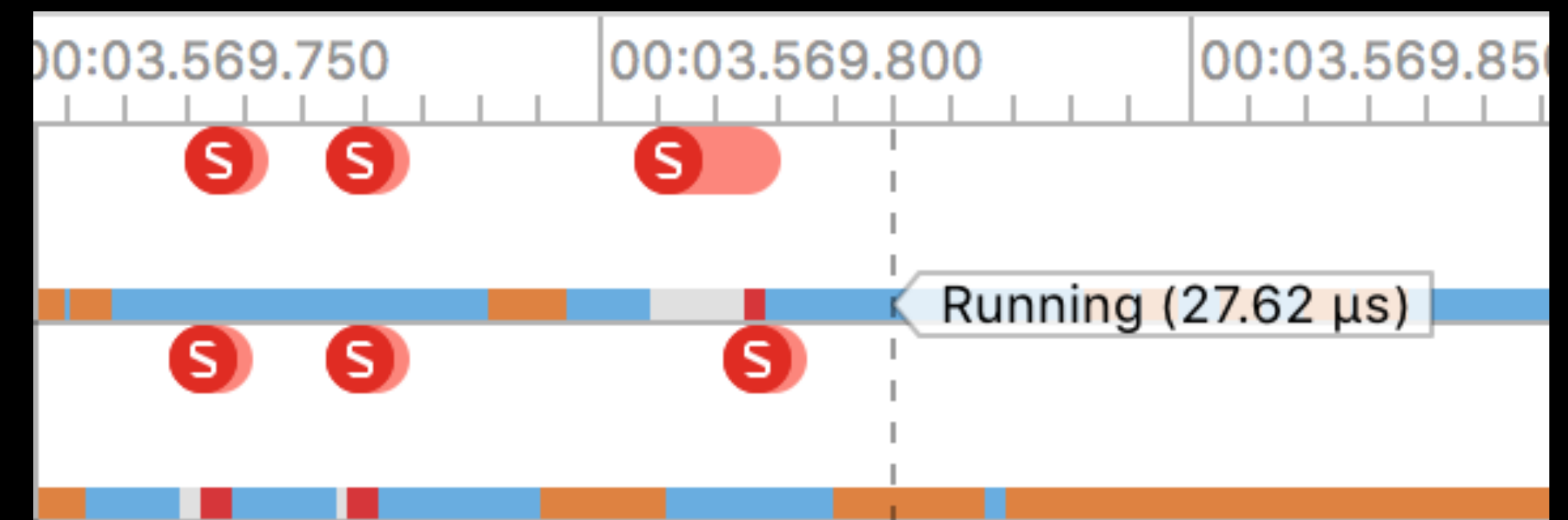
System Trace

Records a kernel trace

System Trace

Records a kernel trace

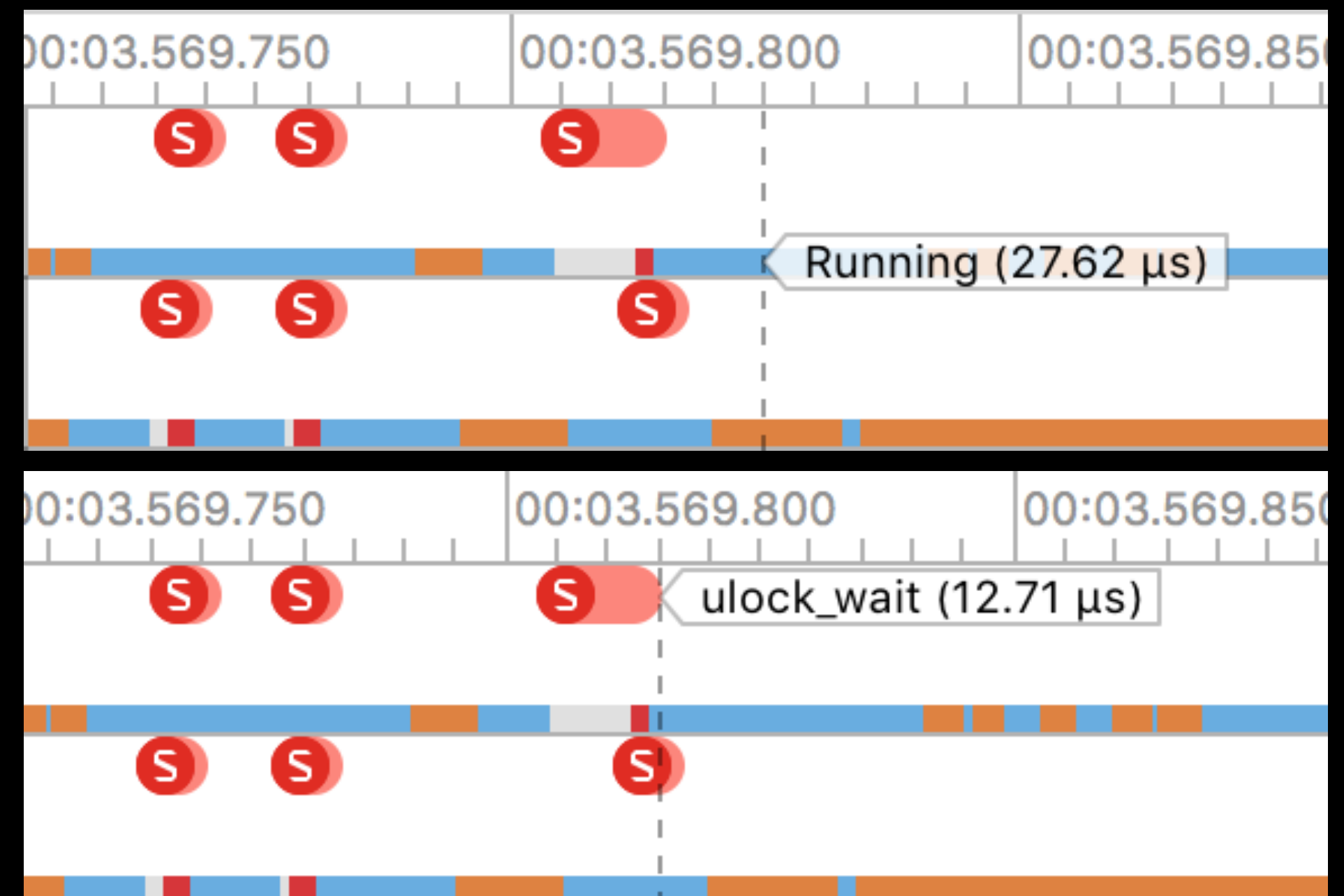
- Scheduling activity



System Trace

Records a kernel trace

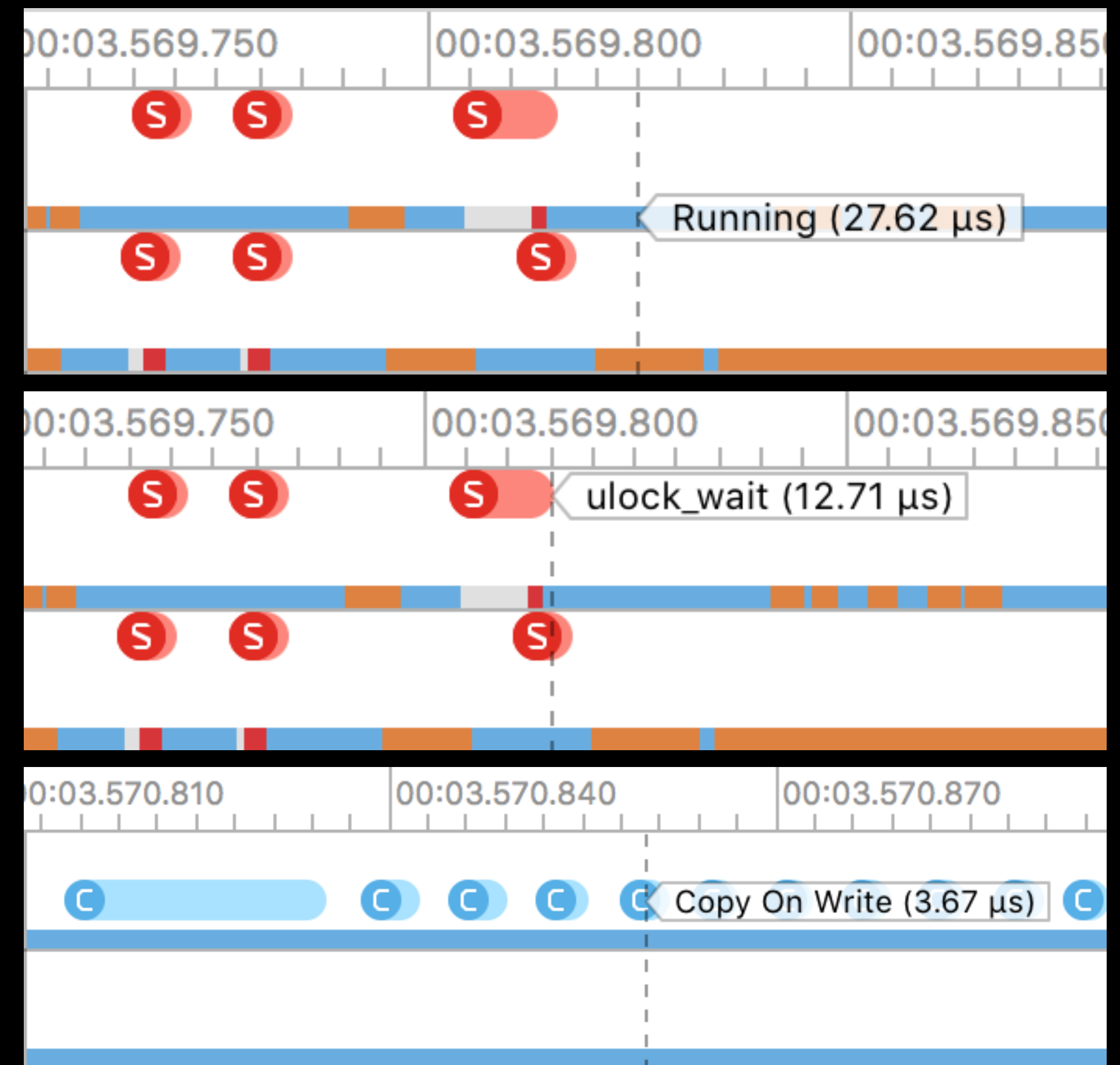
- Scheduling activity
- System calls



System Trace

Records a kernel trace

- Scheduling activity
- System calls
- Virtual memory operations



System Trace

Records a kernel trace

- Scheduling activity
- System calls
- Virtual memory operations

System Trace

NEW

Records a kernel trace

- Scheduling activity
- System calls
- Virtual memory operations

Windowed Mode in Instruments 8

System Trace

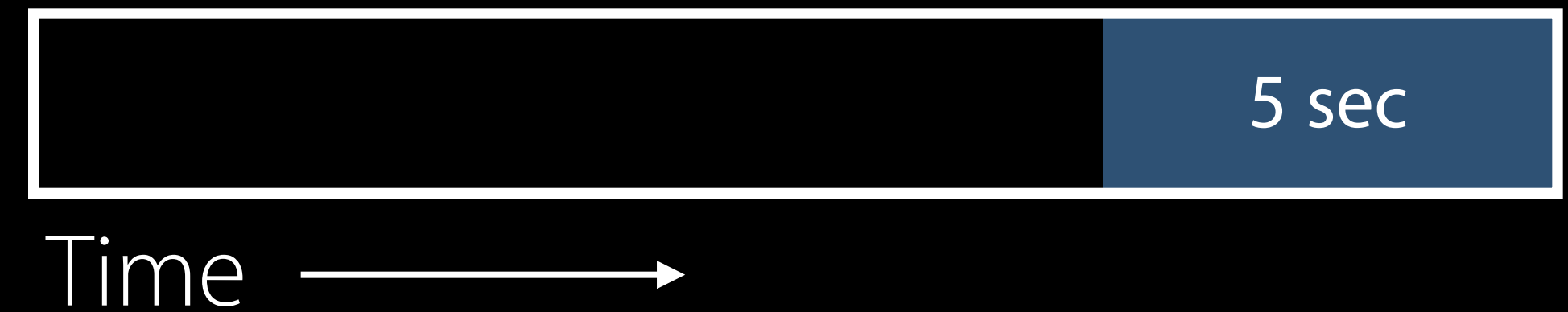
NEW

Records a kernel trace

- Scheduling activity
- System calls
- Virtual memory operations

Windowed Mode in Instruments 8

- Keeps last ~5 sec of data



System Trace

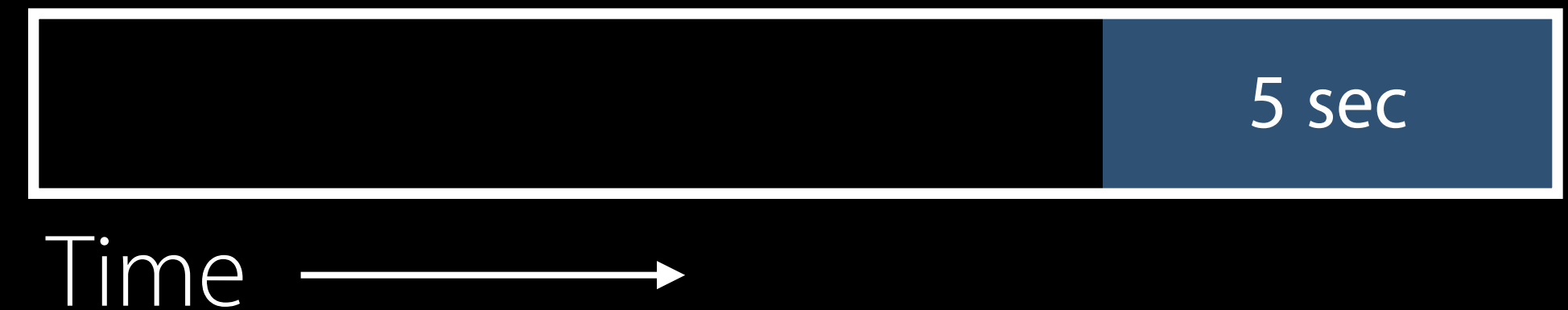
NEW

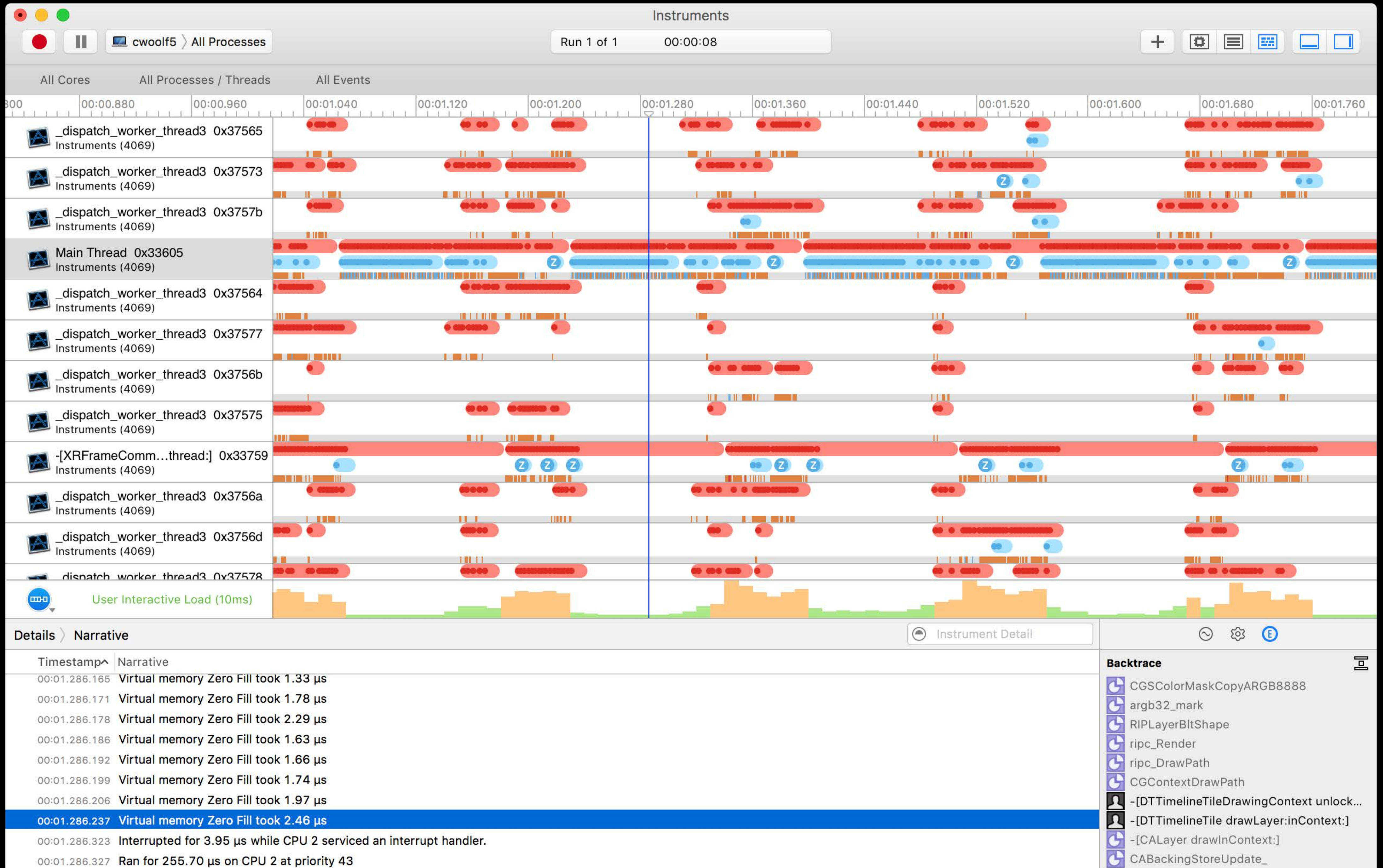
Records a kernel trace

- Scheduling activity
- System calls
- Virtual memory operations

Windowed Mode in Instruments 8

- Keeps last ~5 sec of data
- Gives you more time to reproduce







 cwoolf5 > All Processes

Run 0 of 0

All Cores

All Processes / Threads



00:00.000



00:10.000

00:20.000

00:30.000

  Points of Interest

  System Load

  Thread State Trace

  Virtual Memory Trace

  System Call Trace

 Details > Points of Interest

Start^ | Narrative

Points of Interest

NEW



Points of Interest

NEW

You tell Instruments what's interesting



Points of Interest

NEW

You tell Instruments what's interesting

Signposts



Points of Interest

NEW

You tell Instruments what's interesting

Signposts

Classic:

```
syscall(SYS_kdebug_trace, ...)
```



Points of Interest

NEW

You tell Instruments what's interesting

Signposts

Classic:

```
syscall(SYS_kdebug_trace, ...)
```

iOS 10 / macOS Sierra / tvOS 10 / watchOS 3:

```
kdebug_signpost  
kdebug_signpost_start  
kdebug_signpost_end
```



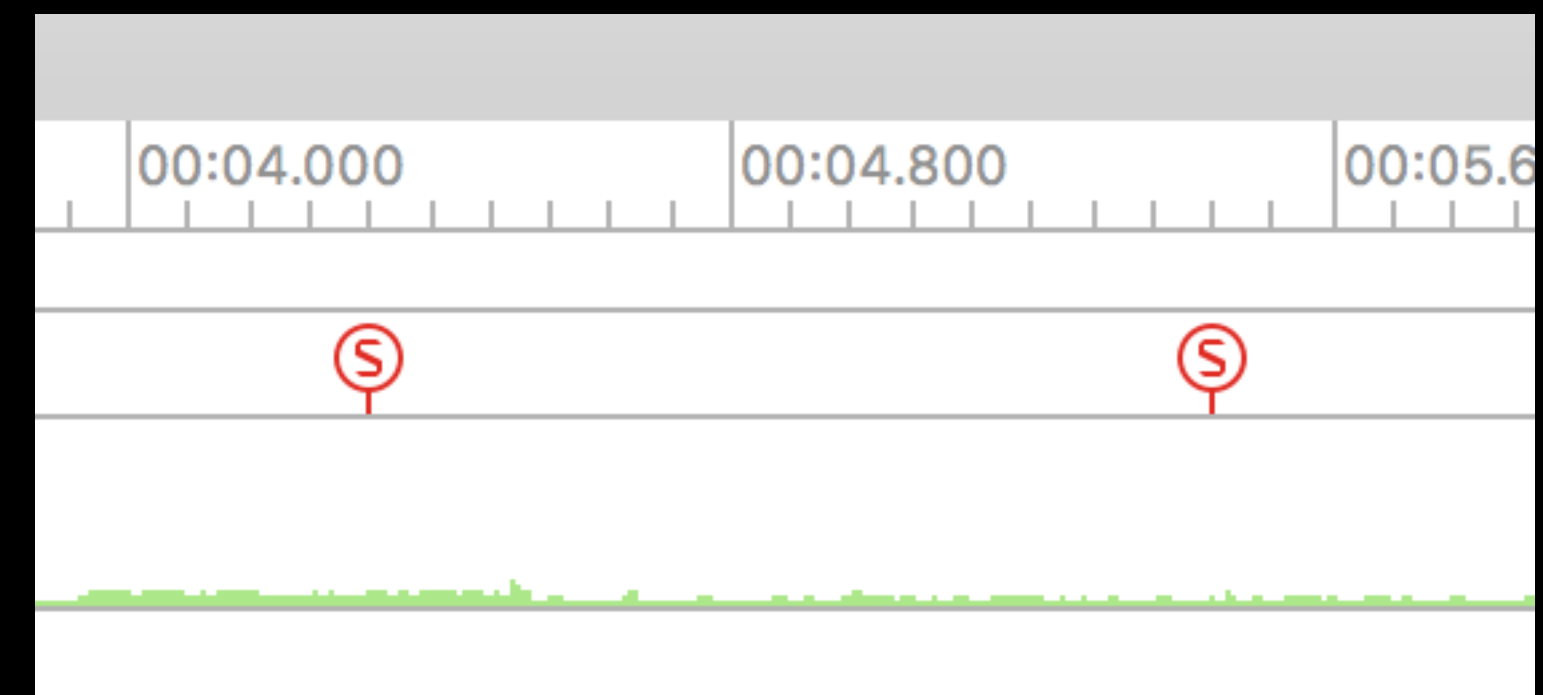
Points of Interest

Events

Indicate an interesting point in time

Arbitrary code (0 - 16383)

4 uintptr_t arguments



```
// Point of Interest
func mouseDown(_ event: NSEvent) {
    // Emit a signpost for Instruments
    kdebug_signpost(5, 0, 0, 0, 0)
}
```

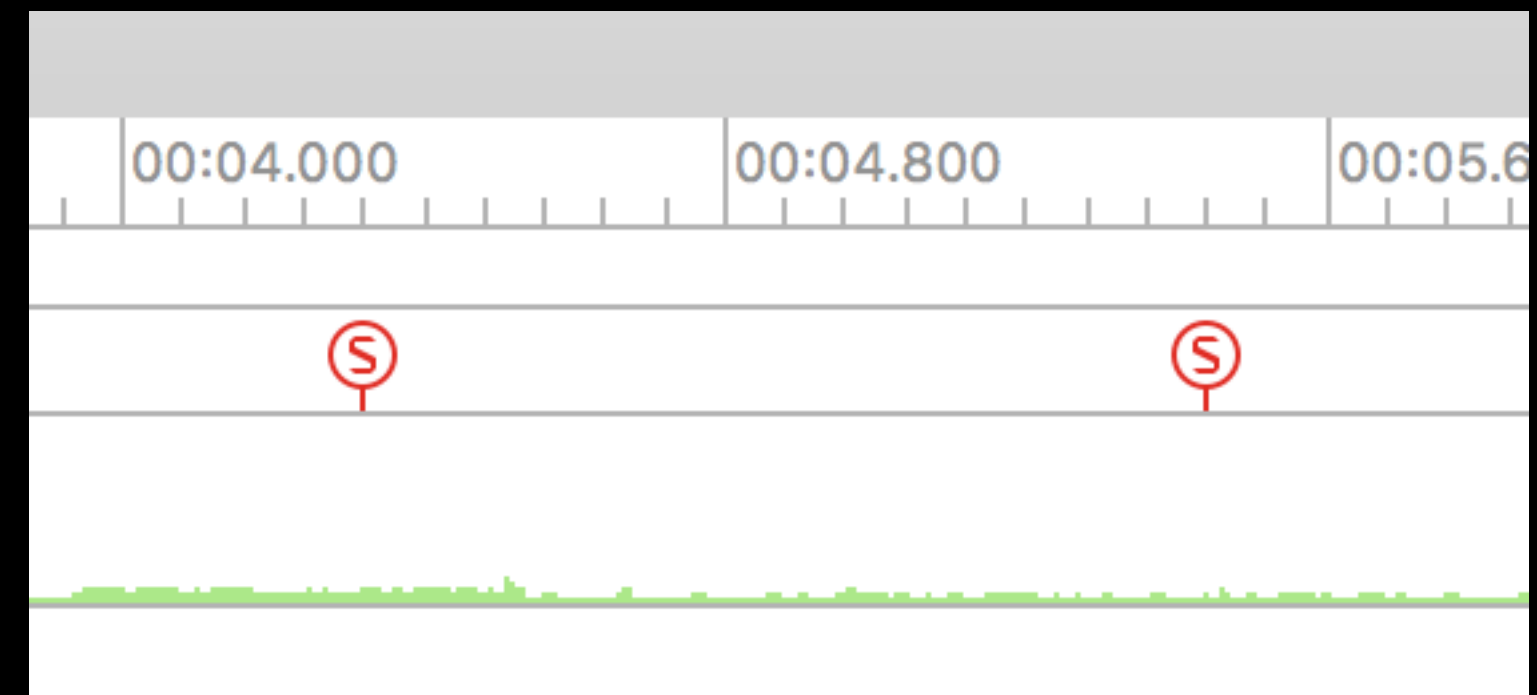
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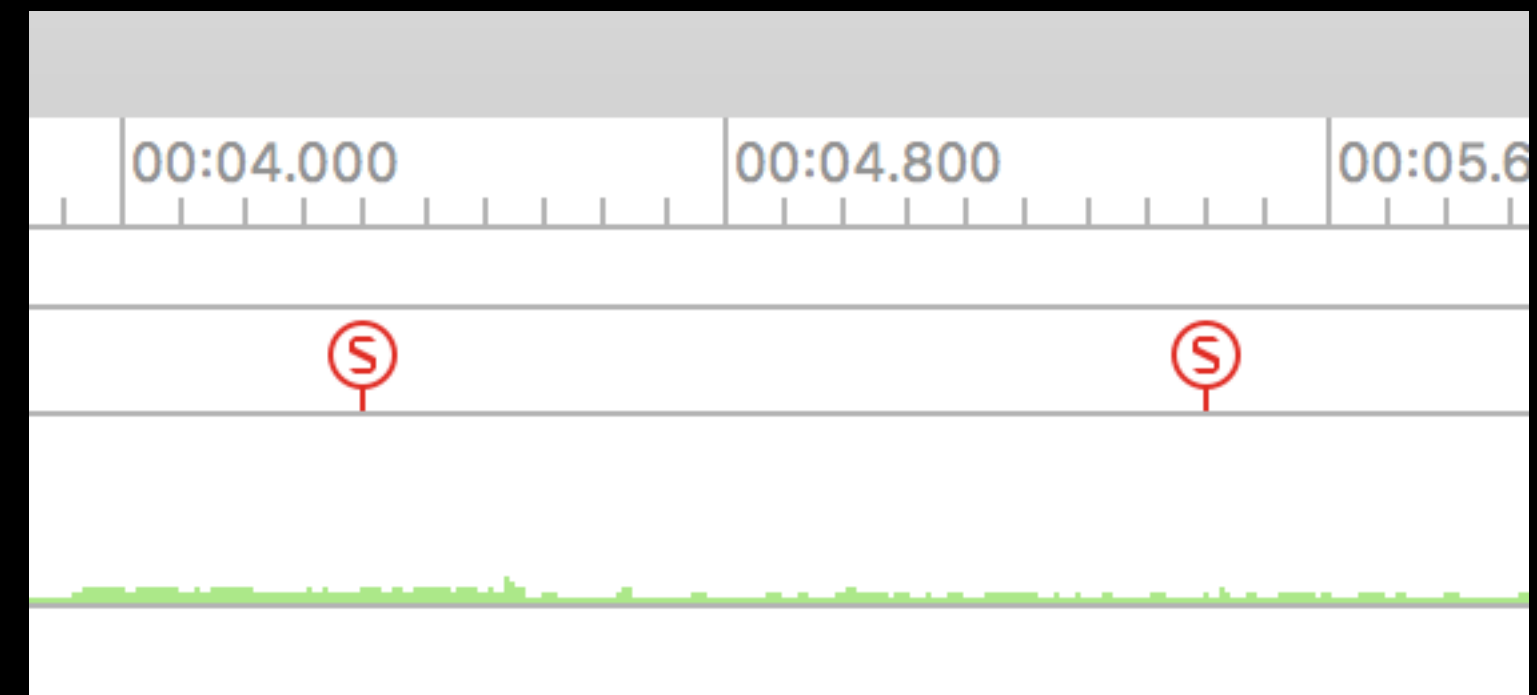
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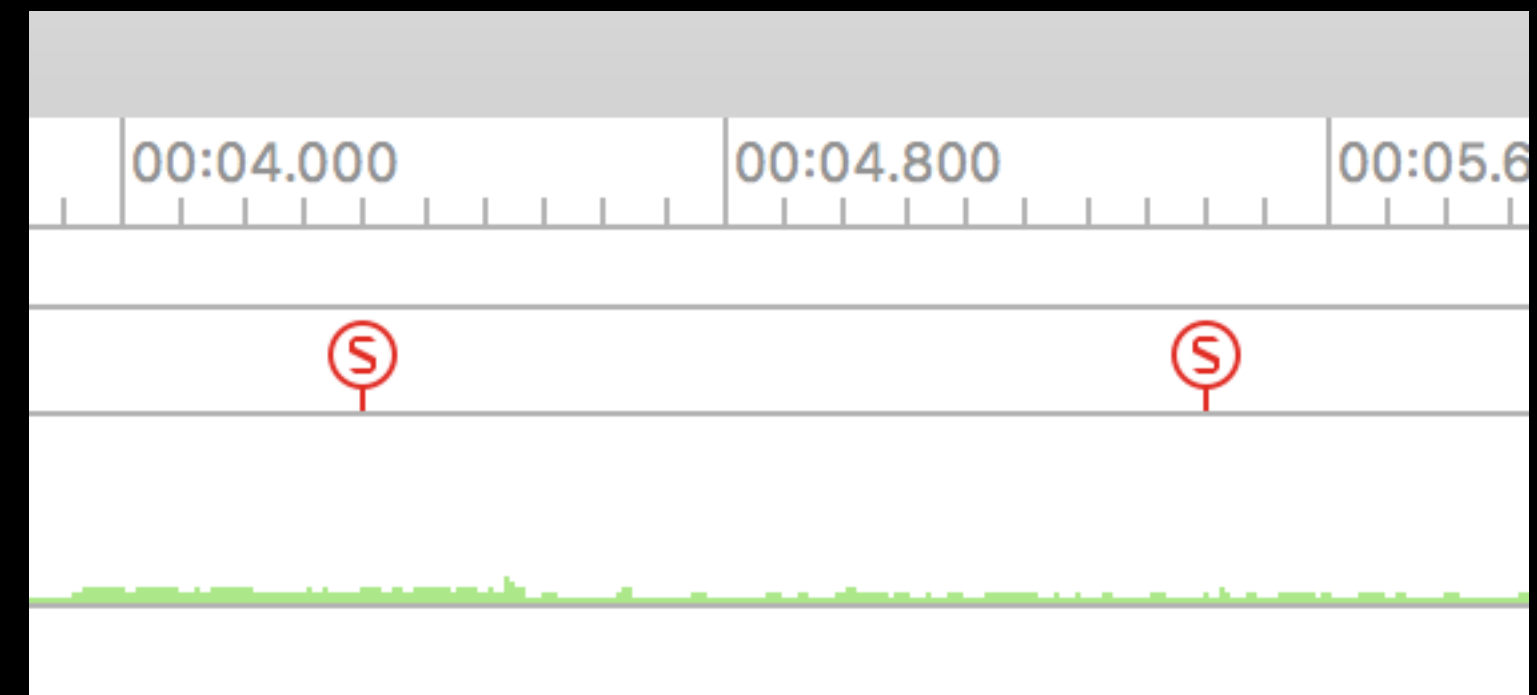
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Points of Interest

Named codes

NEW

Options

Color using last argument

Signpost Code Names

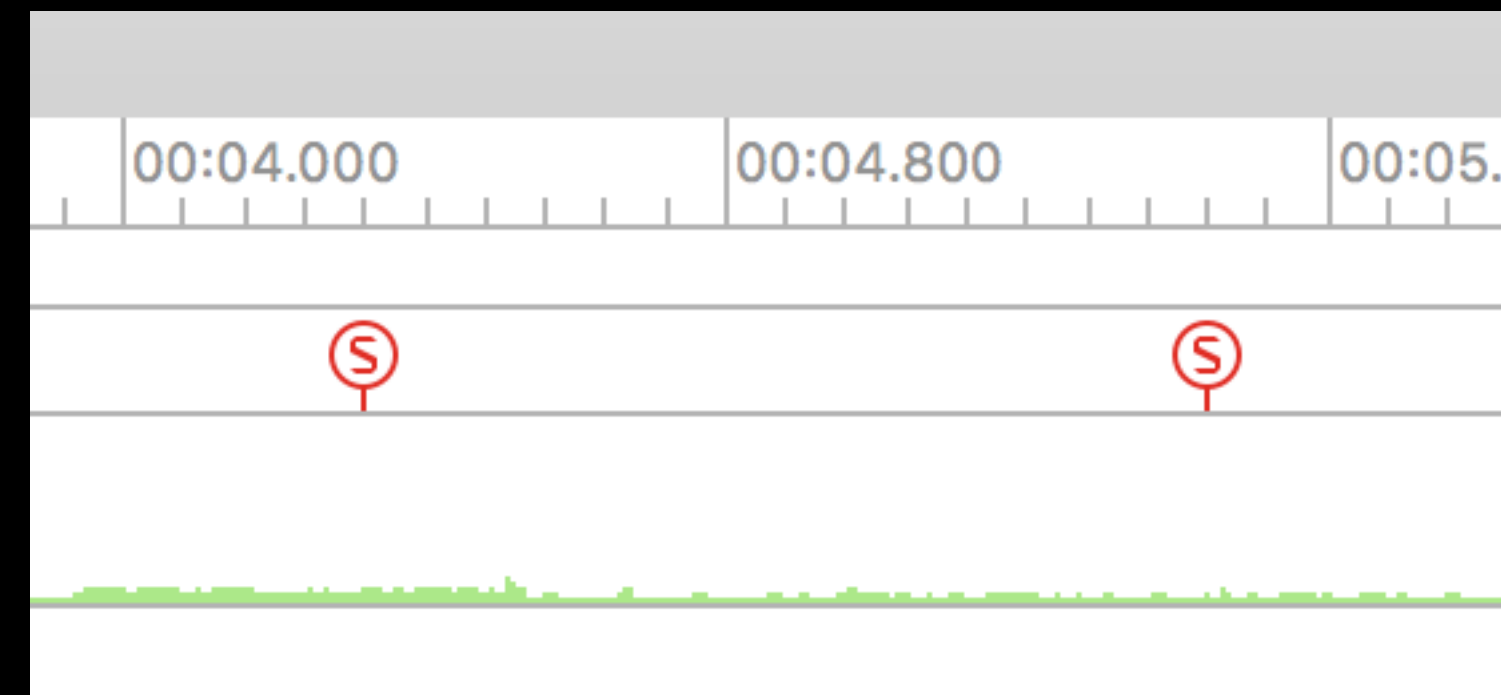
Code	Name

Match Signpost Intervals By:

Code

Code and First Argument

Code and Thread



Points of Interest

Named codes

NEW

Options

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Signpost Code Names

Code	Name
------	------

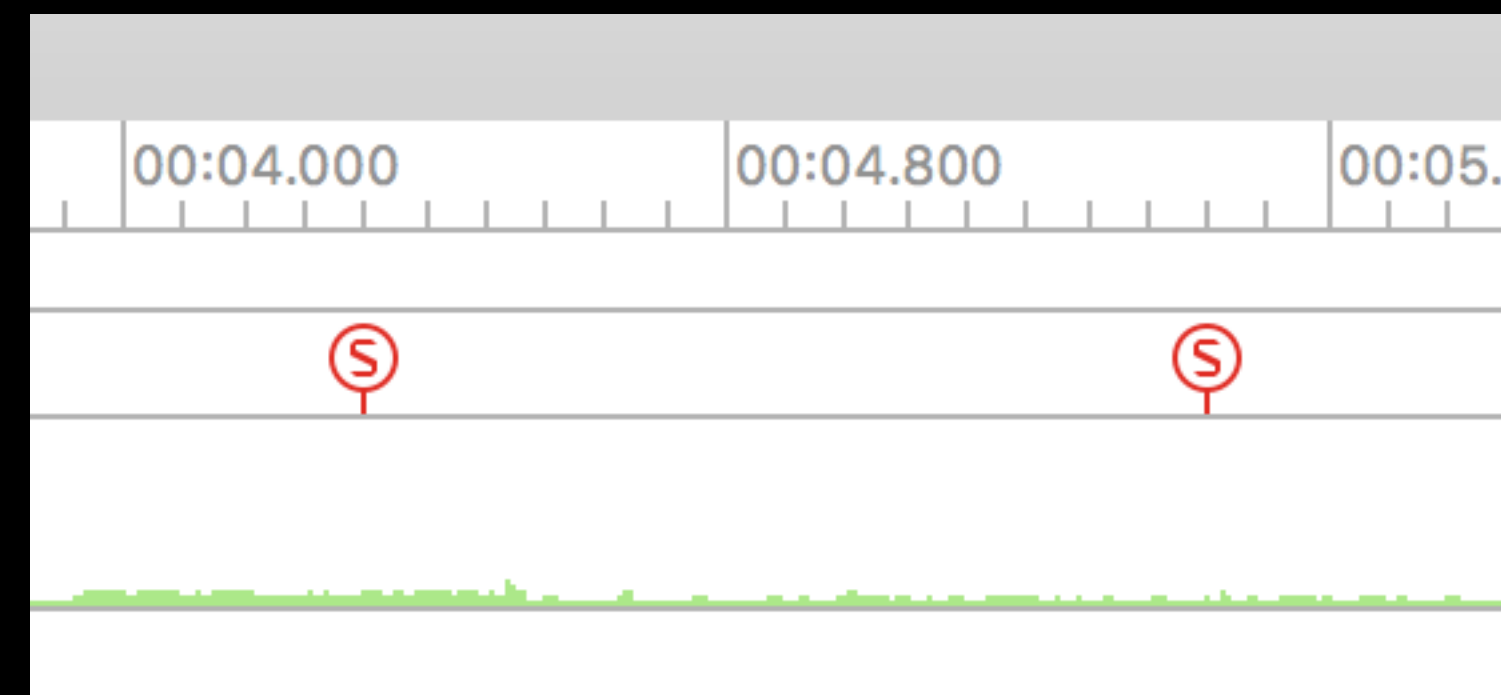
Add Remove

Match Signpost Intervals By:

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Points of Interest

Named codes

NEW

Options

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Signpost Code Names

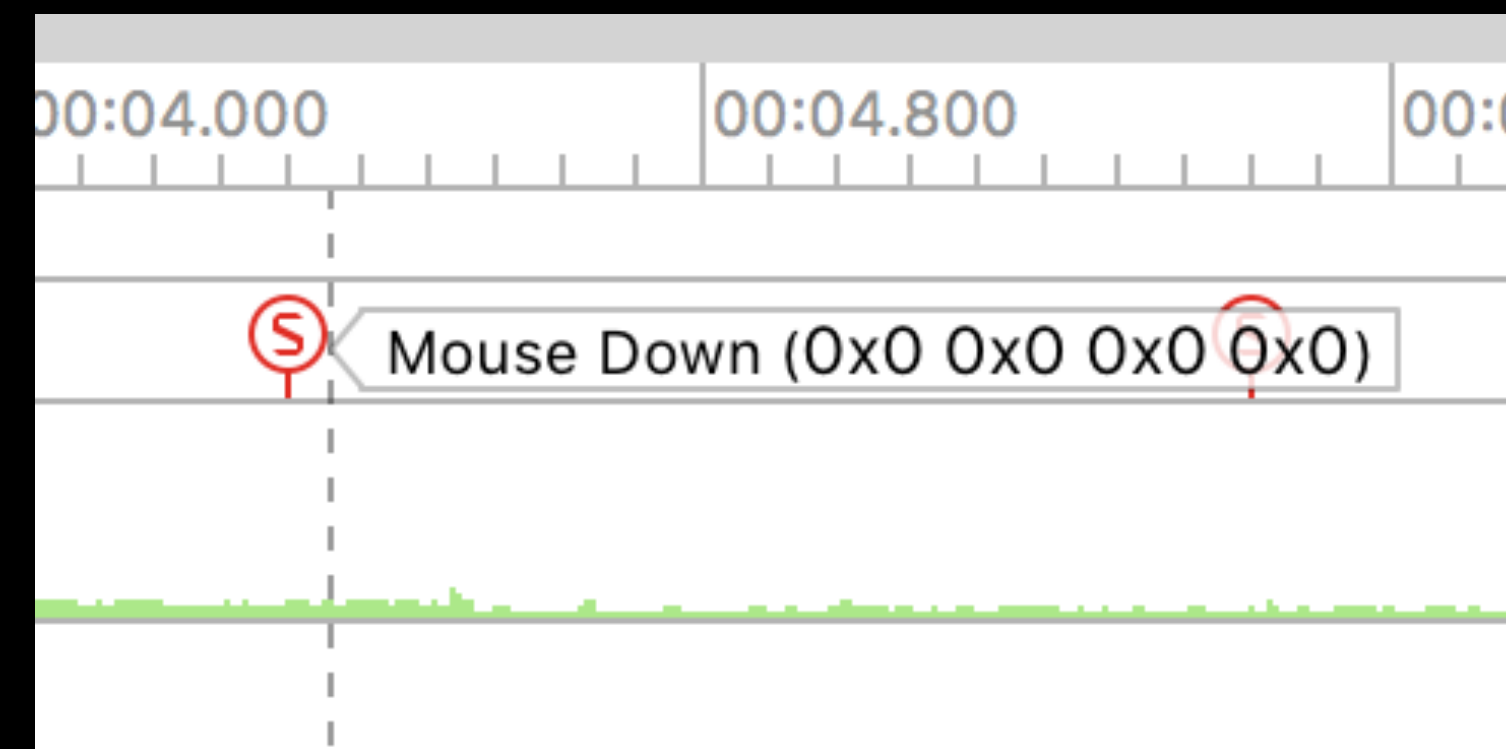
Code	Name
5	Mouse down
10	Loading Assets

Match Signpost Intervals By:

Code

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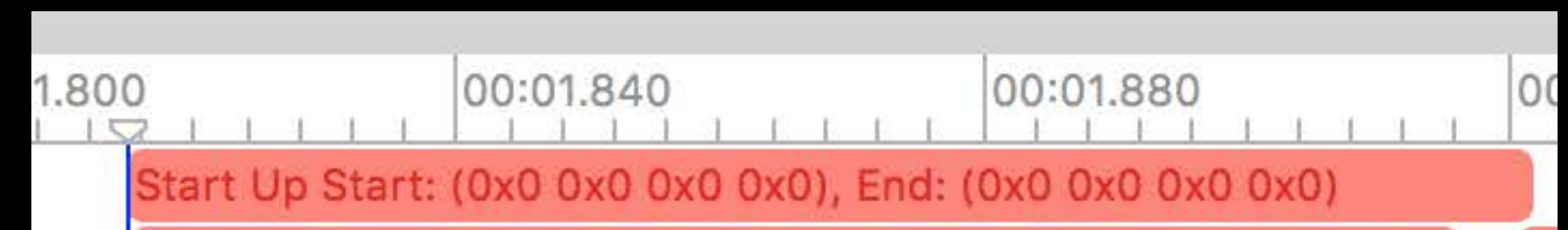
Regions of Interest

States or actions

Indicate an interesting range of time

Arbitrary code

Four integer/pointer arguments at start and end



```
// Timing an activity (code 10 - "Start Up")
- (void)applicationDidFinishLaunching:(NSNotification *)aNotification
{
    kdebug_signpost_start(10, 0, 0, 0, 0);
    [self loadAssets];
    kdebug_signpost_end(10, 0, 0, 0, 0);
}
```

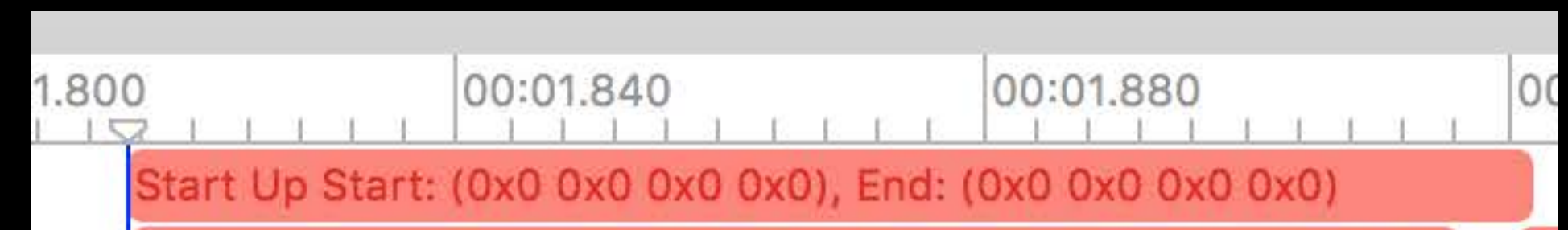

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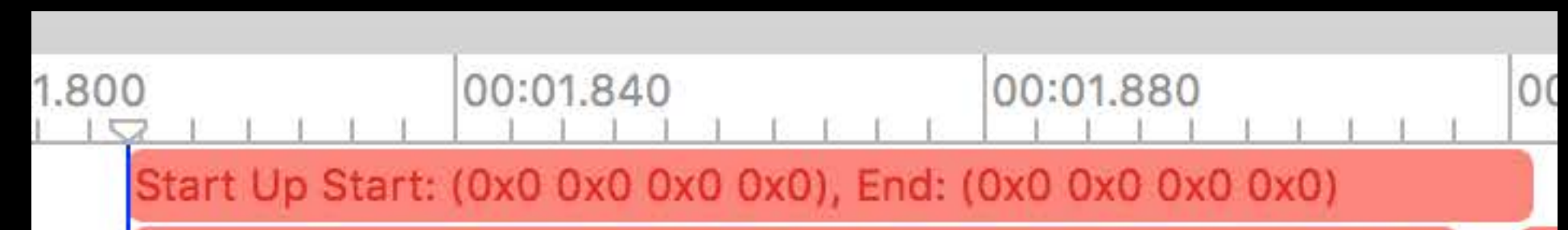
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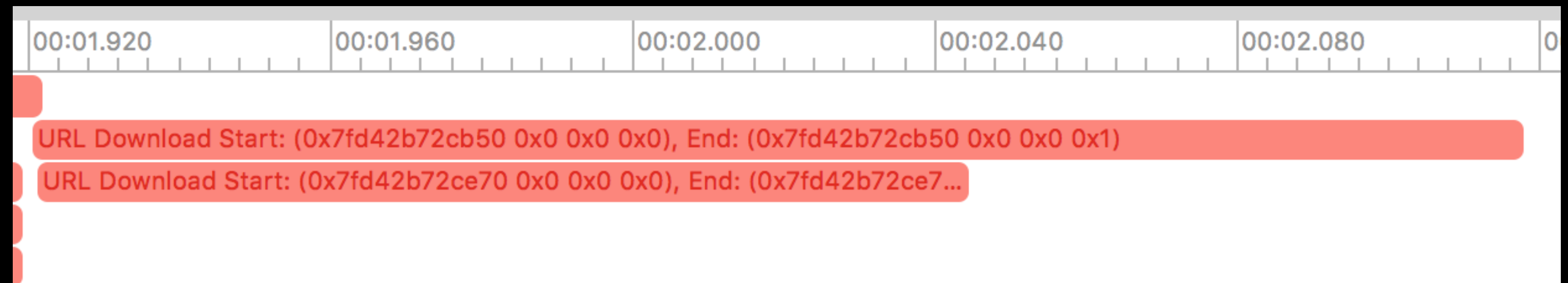
Points of Interest

NEW

Matching rule: Code and First Argument

Concurrent

Asynchronous



```
// Start the download (code 20 - "URL Download")
- (NSURLSessionDownloadTask *)startURLDownload: (NSURL *) url {
    NSURLSessionDownloadTask *dlTask = [_urlSession downloadTaskWithURL:url];
    kdebug_signpost_start(20, (uintptr_t)dlTask, 0, 0, 0);
    [dlTask resume];
    return dlTask;
}
- (void)URLSession:(NSURLSession *)session task:(NSURLSessionTask *)dlTask
    didCompleteWithError:(nullable NSError *)error {
    kdebug_signpost_end(20, (uintptr_t)dlTask, 0, 0, 0);
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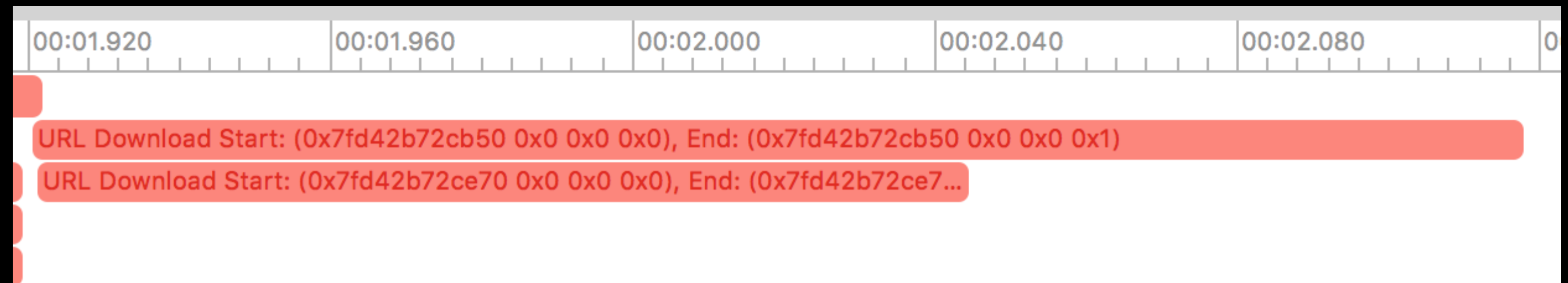
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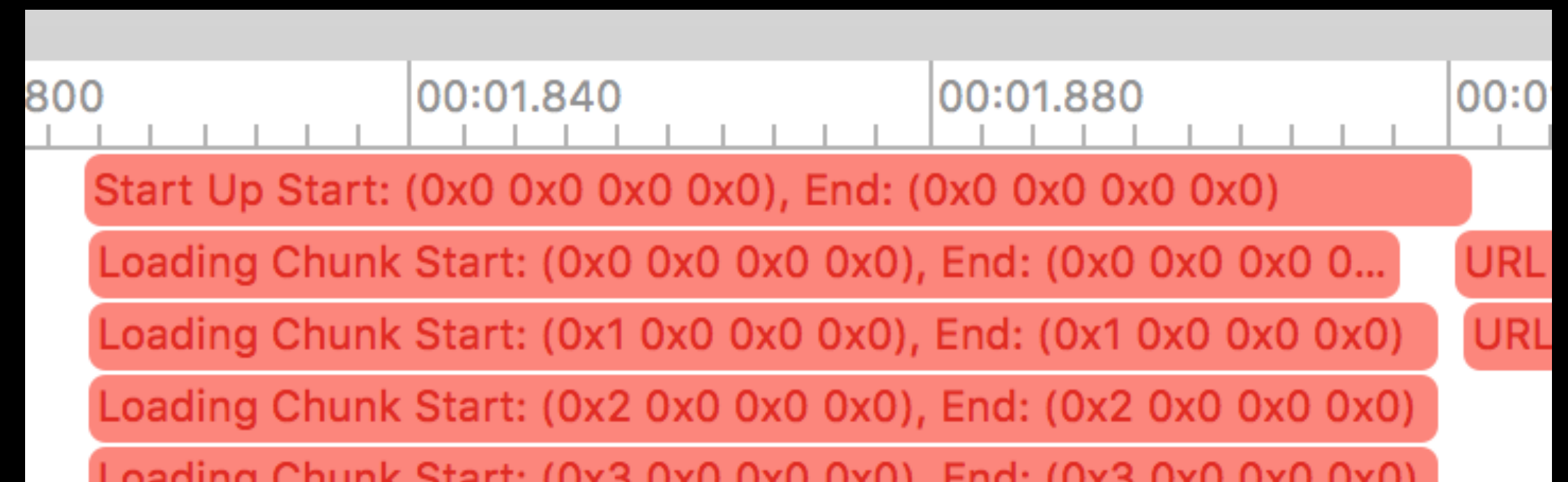

Points of Interest

NEW

Matching rule: Code and Thread

Concurrent

"Loop" timing



```
// Timing concurrent "loops" (code 30 - "Loading Chunk")
- (void)loadAssets {
    dispatch_apply(4, dispatch_get_global_queue(QOS_CLASS_USER_INITIATED, 0), ^(size_t i) {
        kdebug_signpost_start(30, 0, 0, 0, 0);
        _loadAssetChunk(i);
        kdebug_signpost_end(30, 0, 0, 0, 0);
    });
}
```

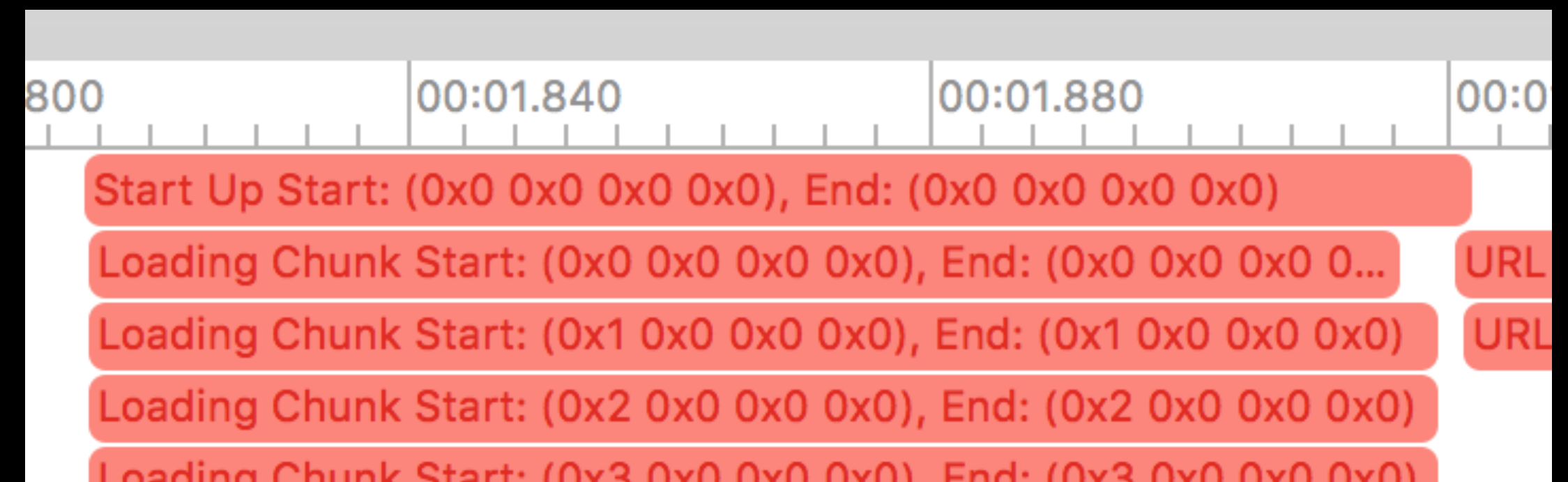
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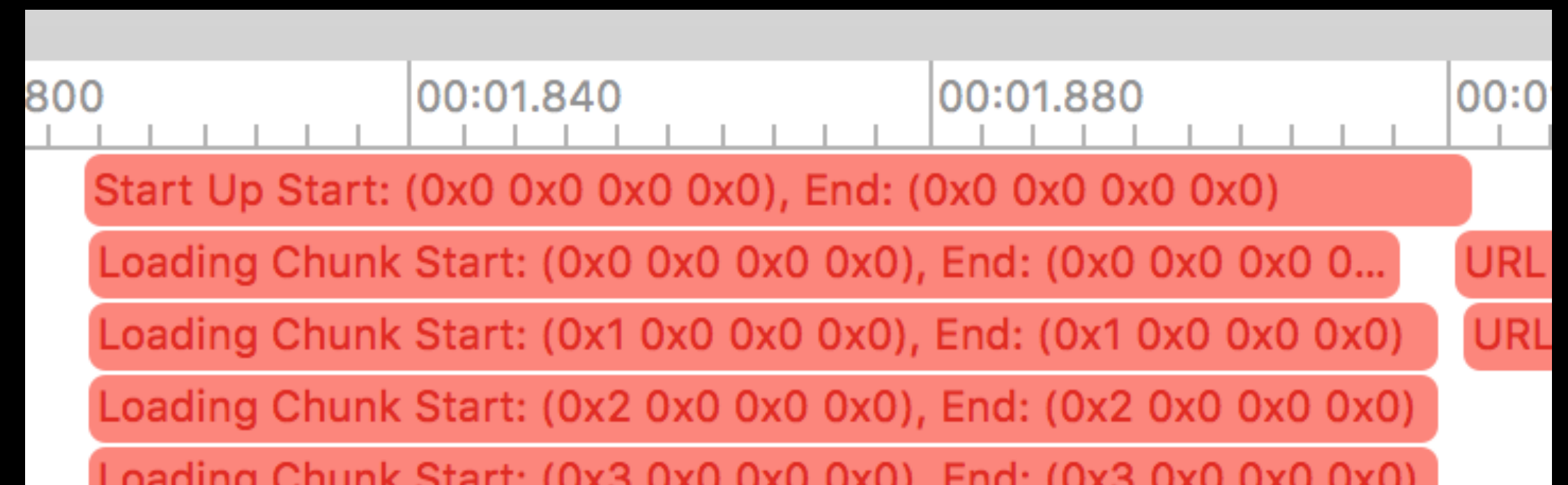

Points of Interest

NEW

Matching rule: Code and Thread

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```



Options

Color using last argument

Signpost Code Names

Code	Name
5	Mouse down
10	Loading Assets

Add

Remove

Match Signpost Intervals By:

- Code
- Code and First Argument
- Code and Thread



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Color using last argument

Signpost Code Names

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Match Signpost Intervals By:

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- Code and Thread

Points of Interest

NEW

Color using last argument

Pass/Fail

Frame overrun

Differentiation



```
// Color by last argument
// 0 - Blue, 1 - Green, 2 - Purple, 3 - Orange, 4 - Red
-(void)URLSession:(NSURLSession *)session task:(NSURLSessionTask *)task
    didFinishWithError:(nullable NSError *)error {
    kdebug_signpost_end(20, (uintptr_t)task, 0, 0, (error) ? 4 : 1);
}
```

Points of Interest

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Color using last argument

Pass/Fail

Frame overrun

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Points of Interest

NEW

Color using last argument

Pass/Fail

Frame overrun

Differentiation

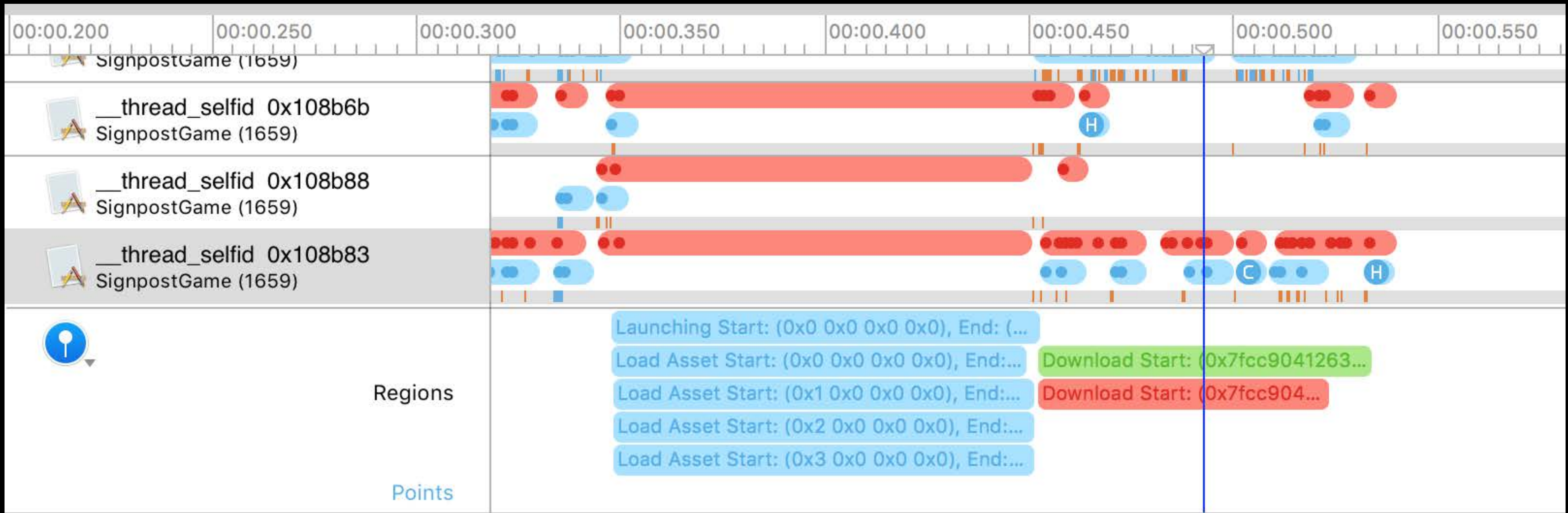


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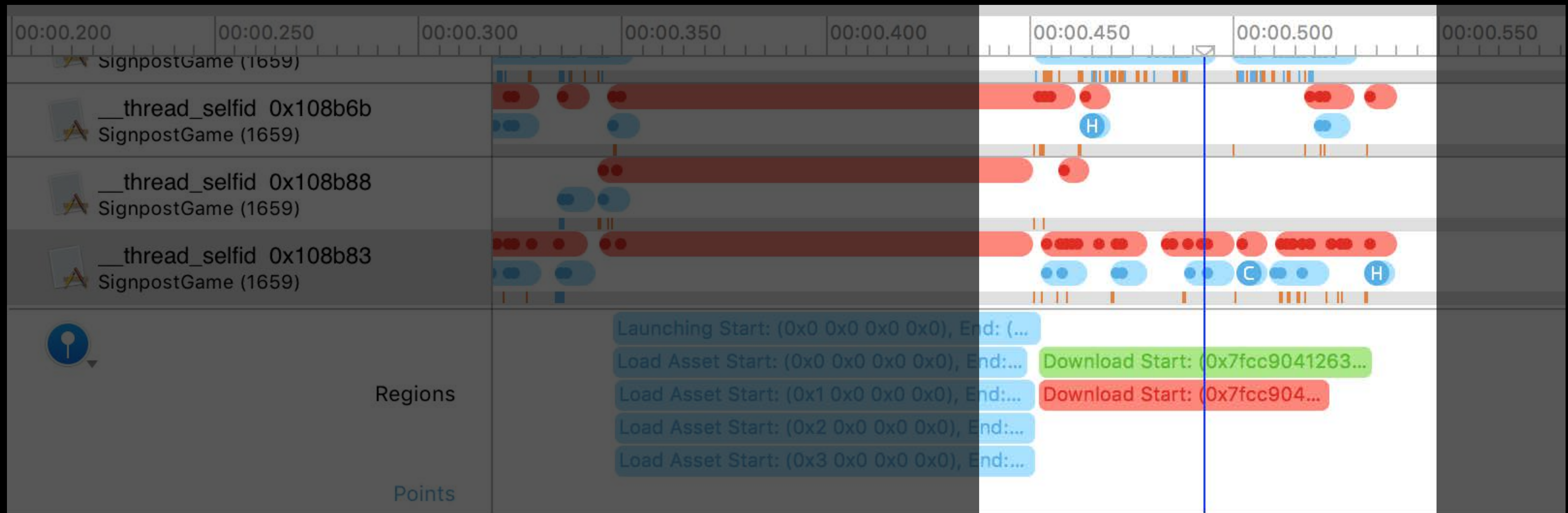
Points of Interest Correlation

NEW



Points of Interest Correlation

NEW



Graphasaurus 2

A legacy, reborn

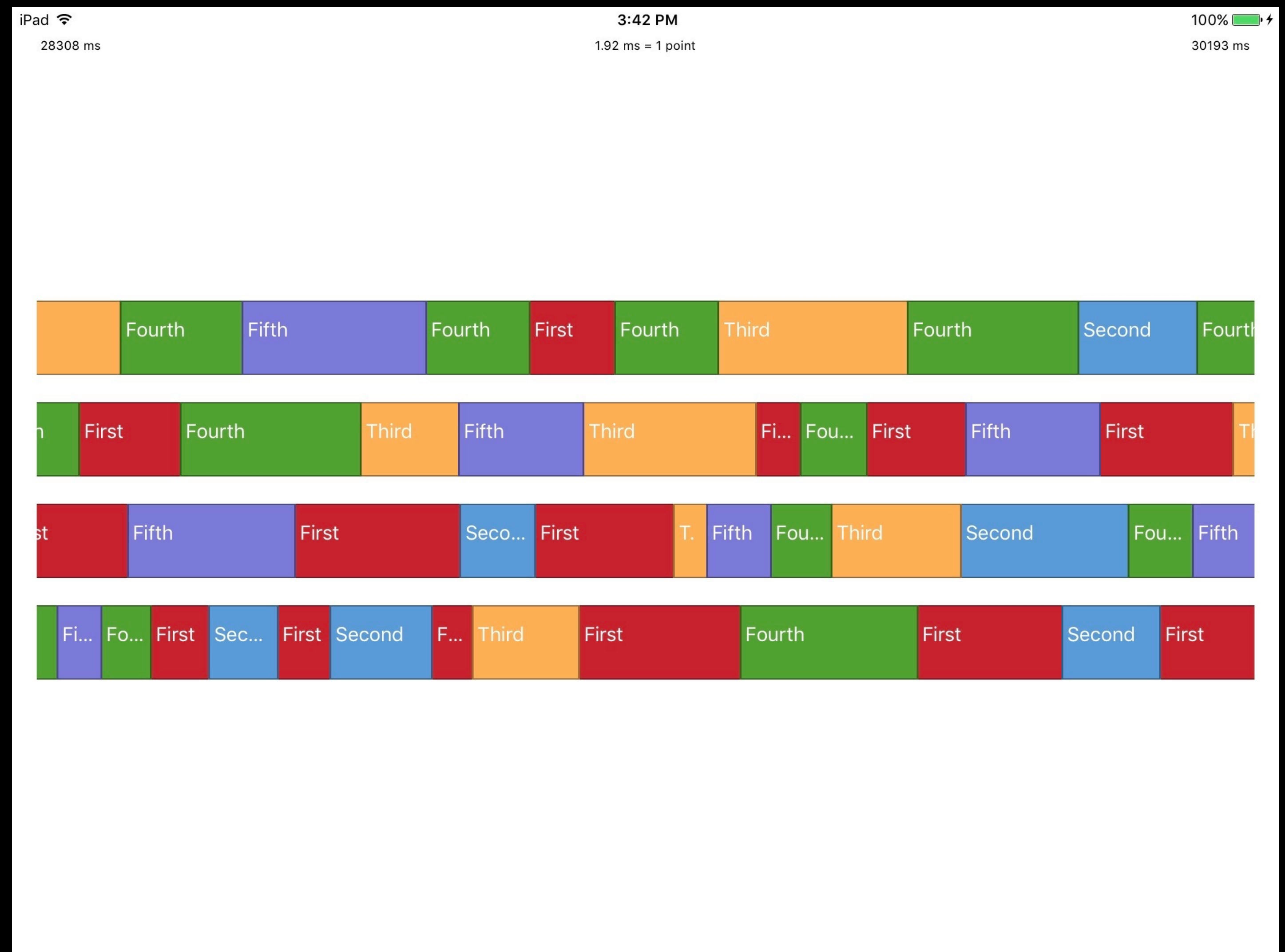
Real world problems

New graphing style

Time profiled

Needs parallelism

- 5 ms per row
- Four rows
- 20 ms > 16 ms (60 fps)



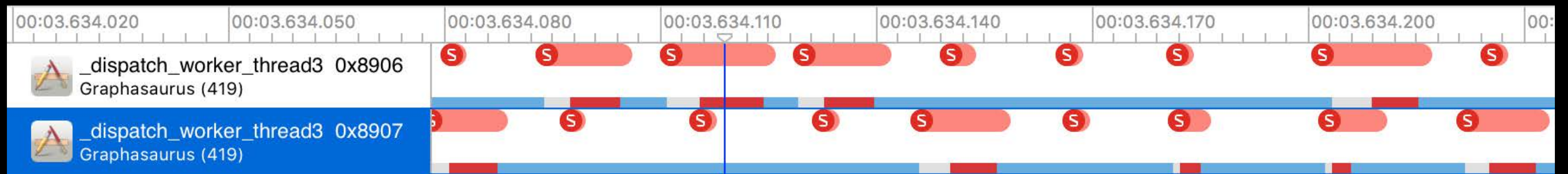
Demo

Graphasaurus 2

Joe Grzywacz

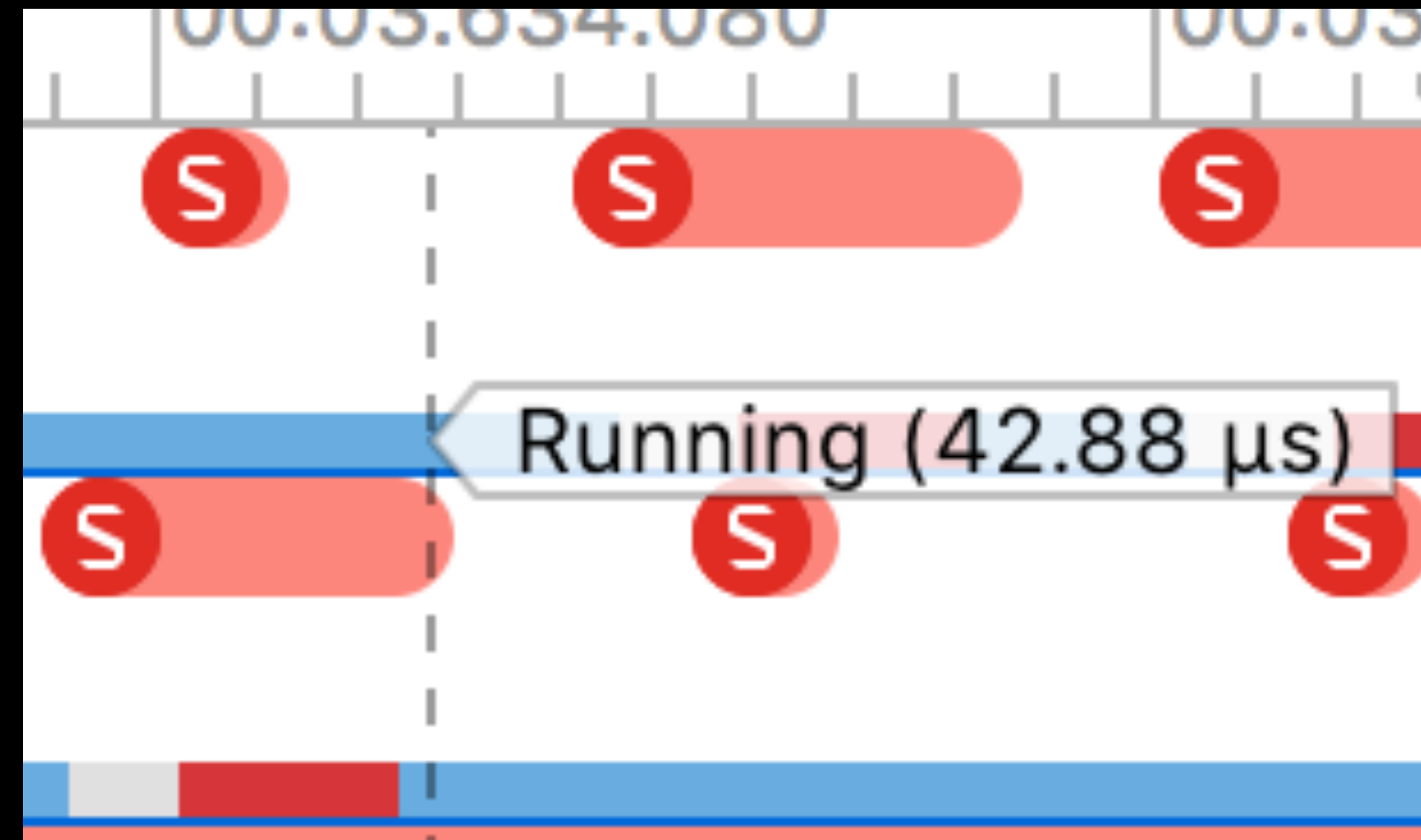
Lock Contention

A side effect of system load



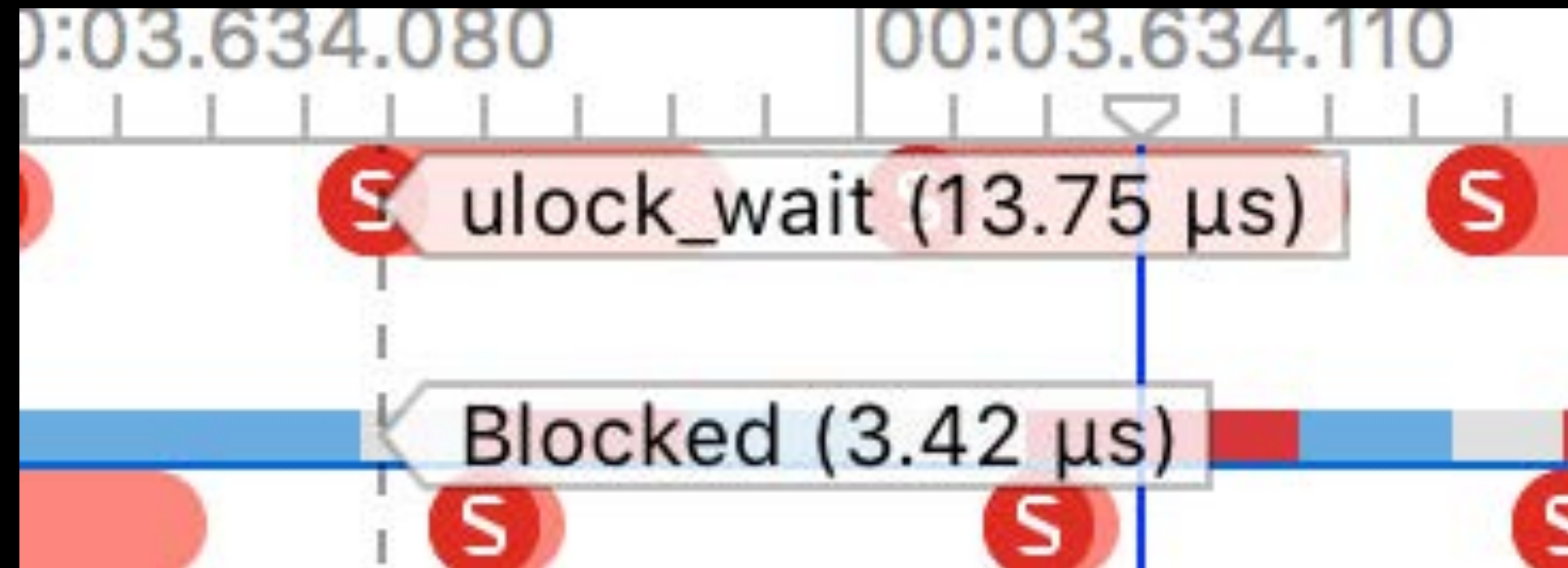
Lock Contention

Running



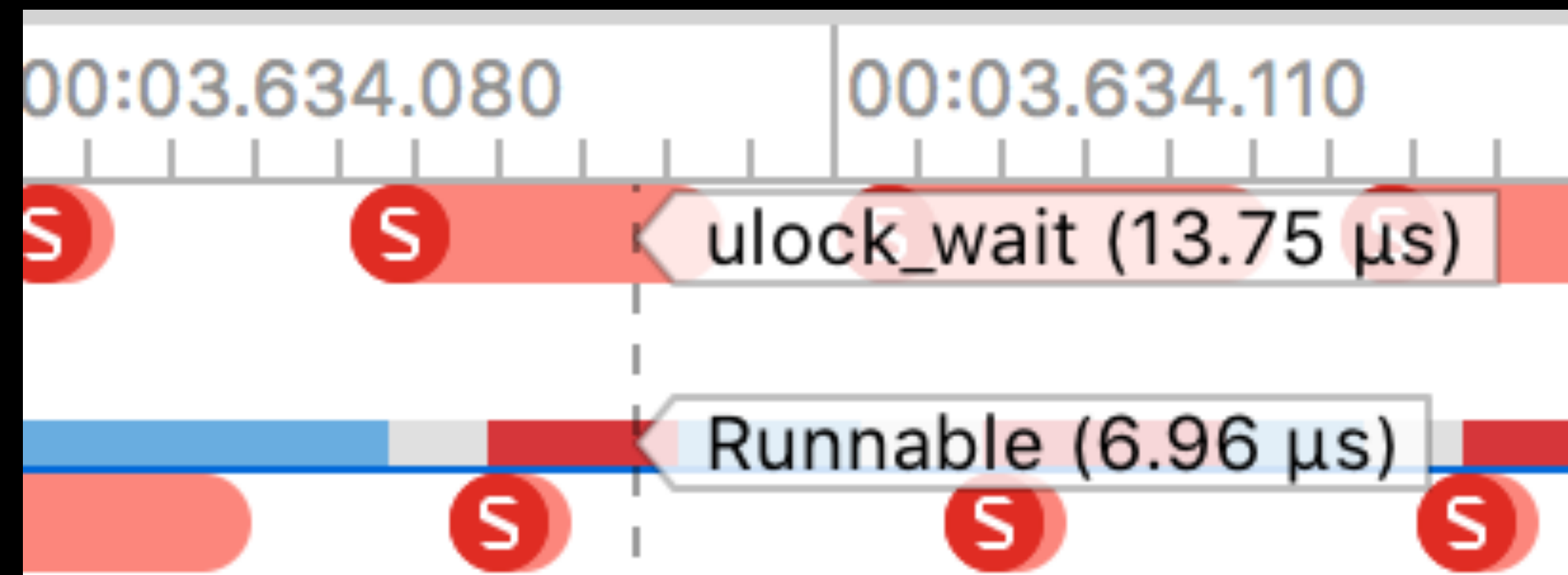
Lock Contention

Blocking



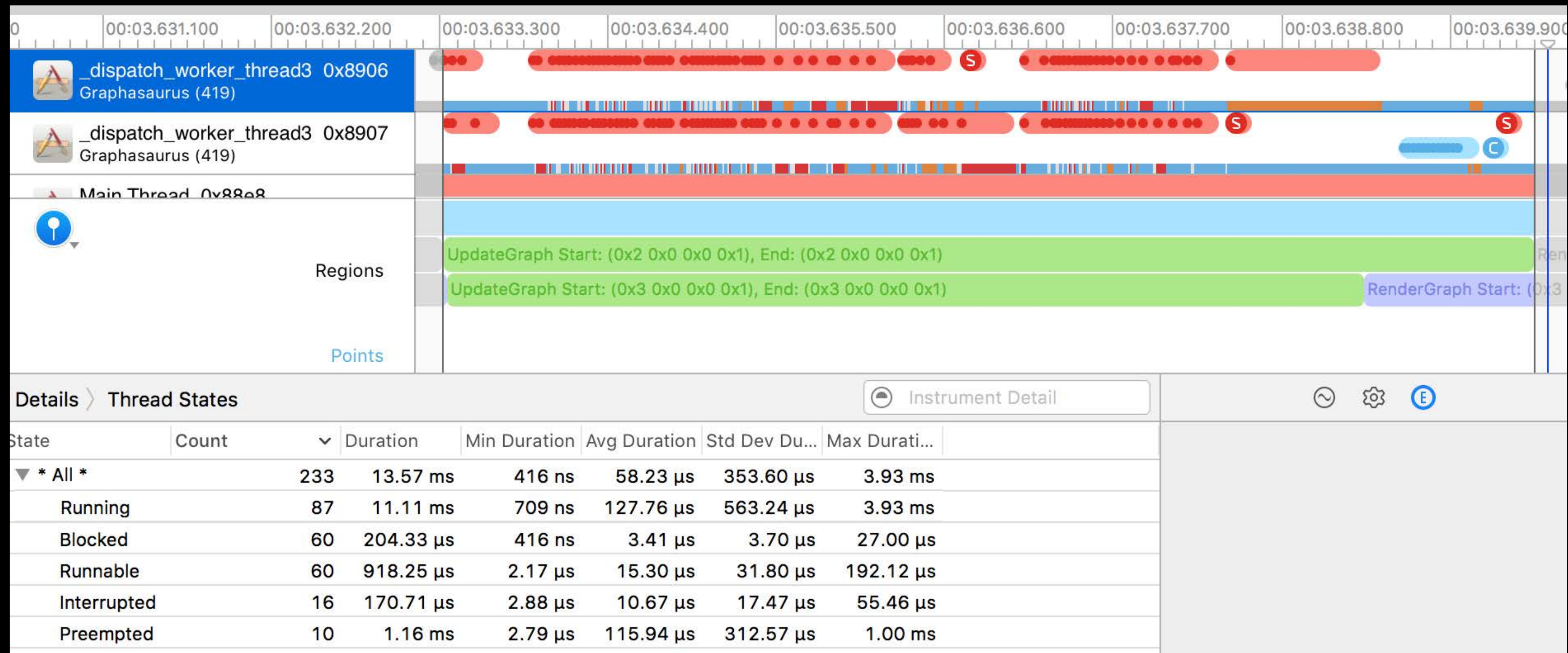
Lock Contention

Runnable

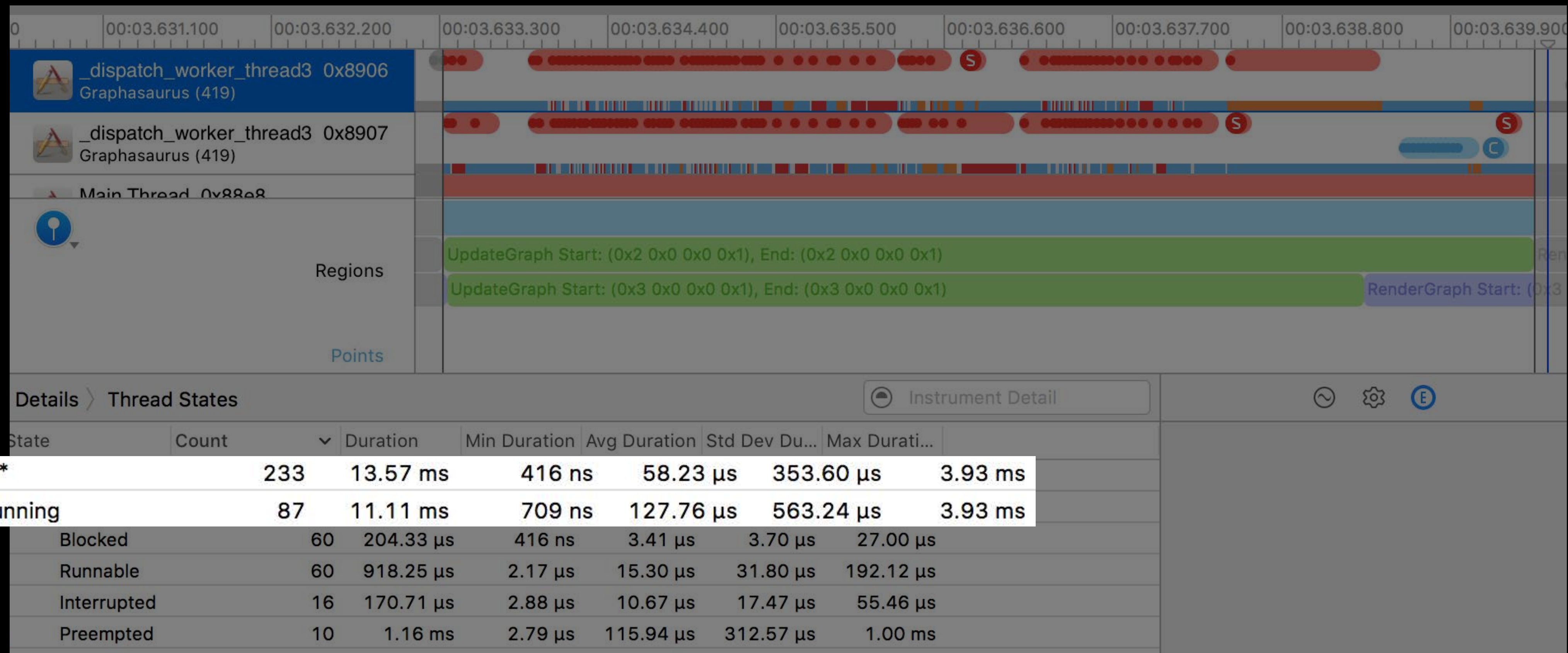


Lock Contention

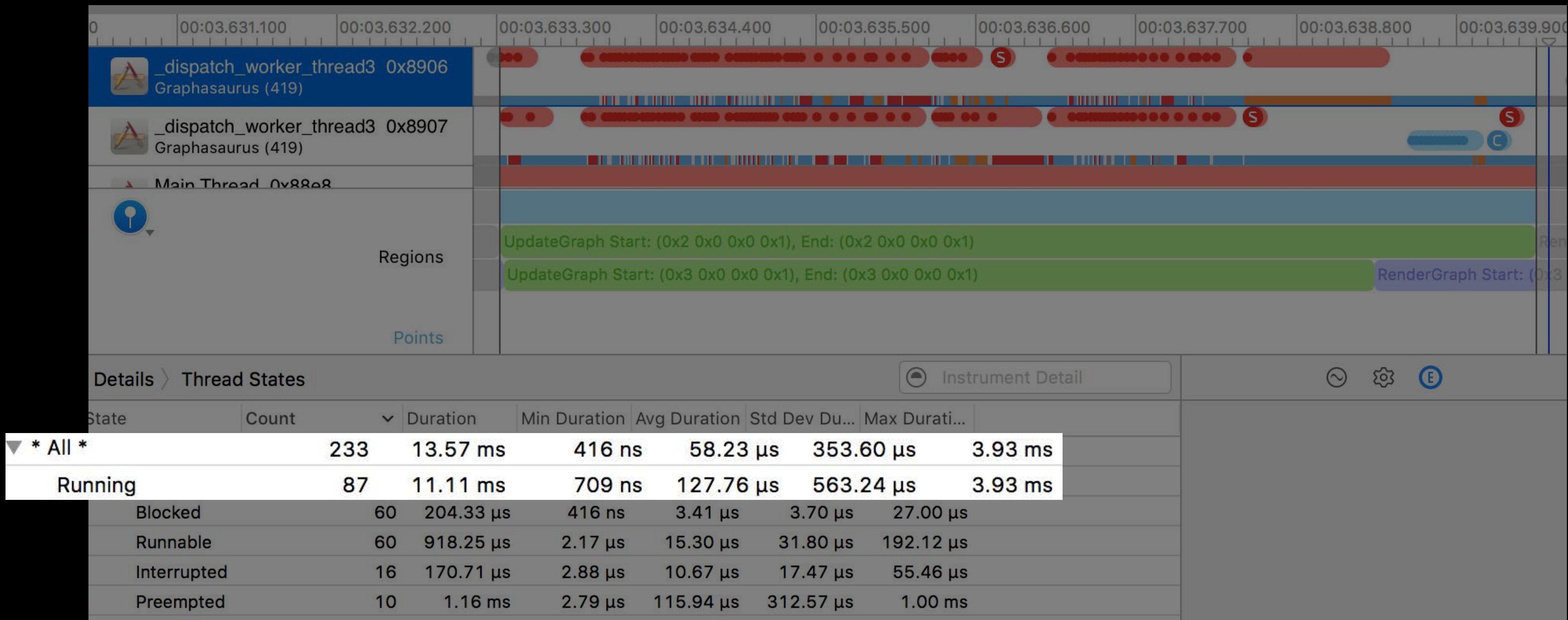
Overhead



Lock Contention Overhead



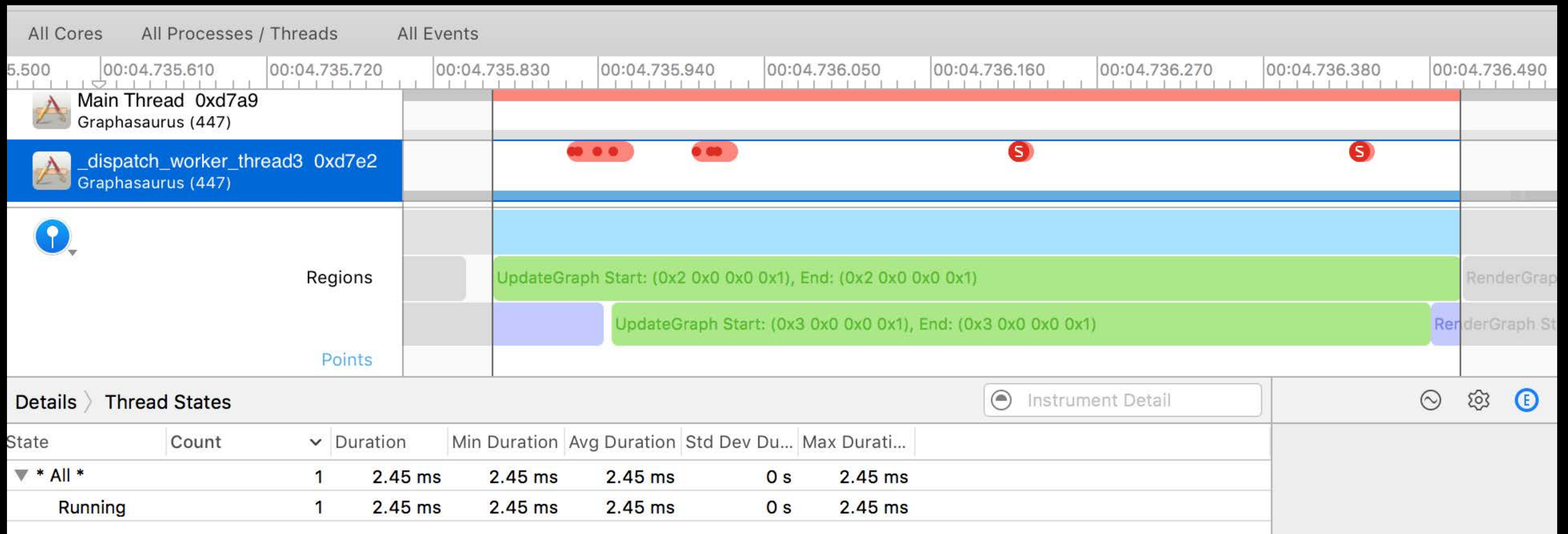
Lock Contention Overhead



Only 82% in Running

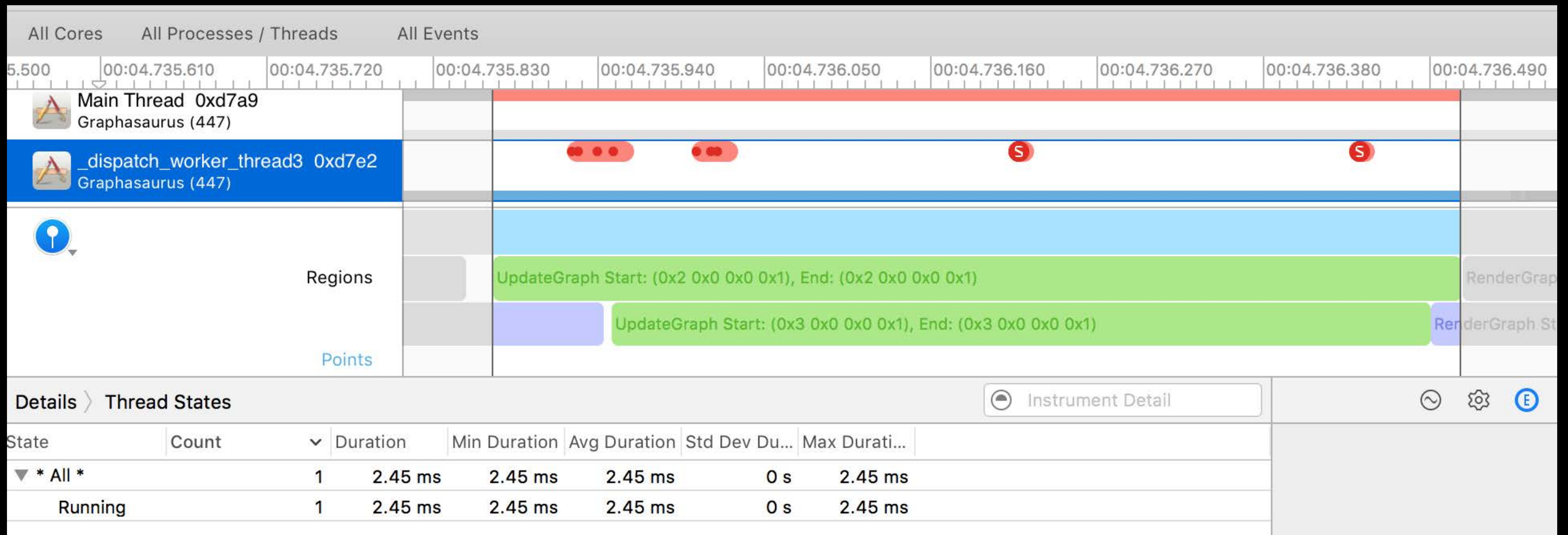
Lock Contention

Fixed



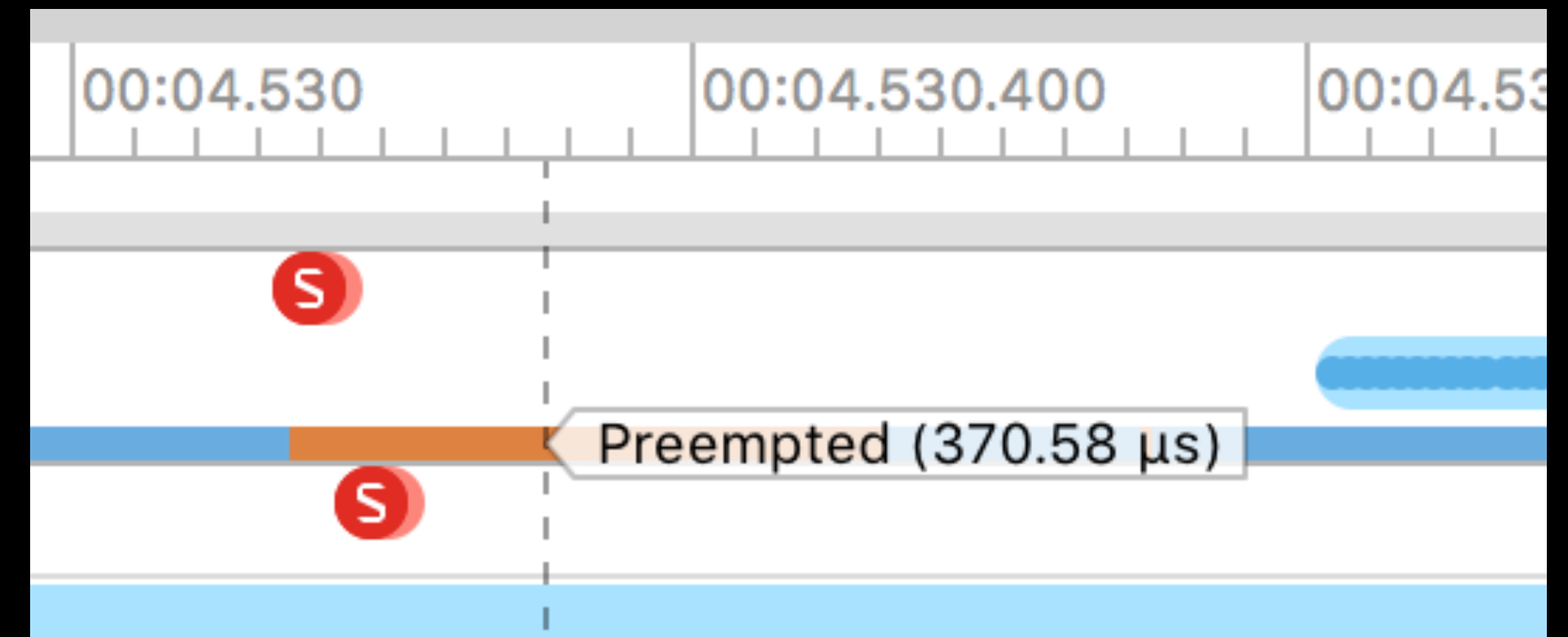
Lock Contention

Fixed



100% in Running

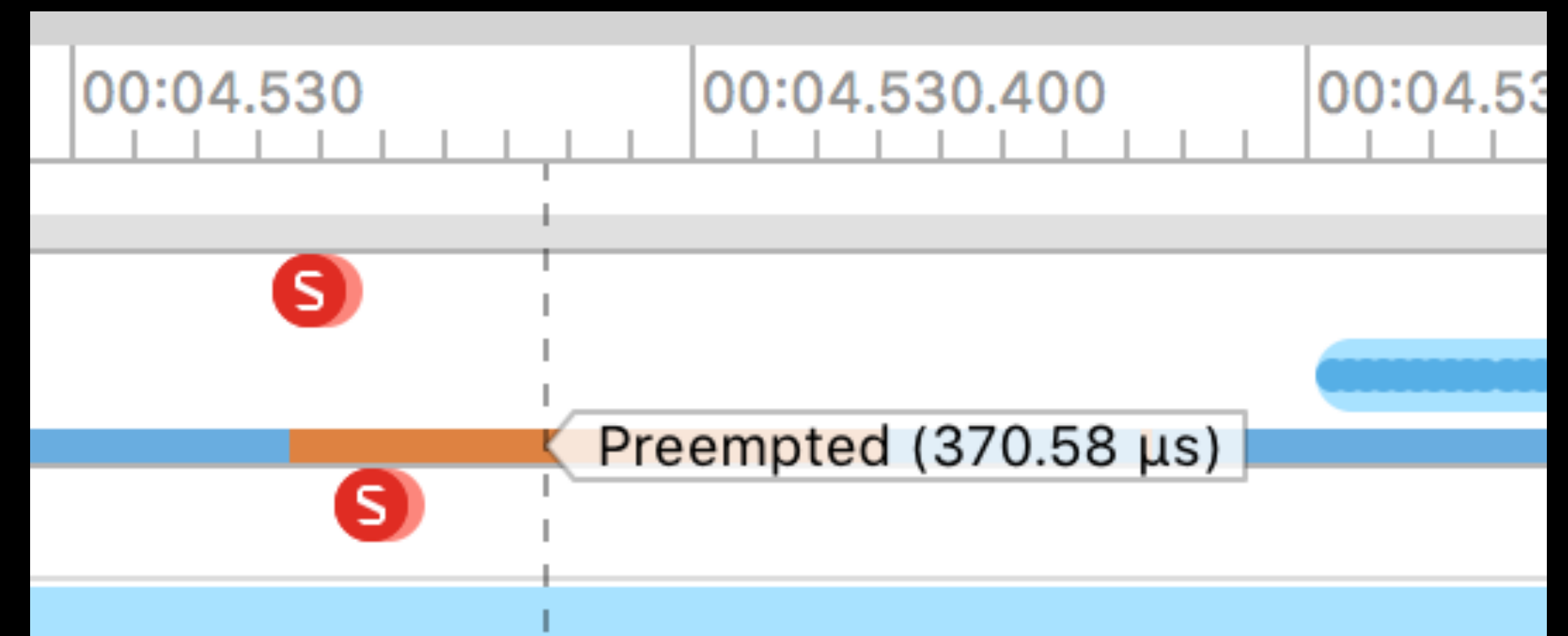
Preempted



Preempted

Involuntary

- Priority decayed
- High priority work runnable



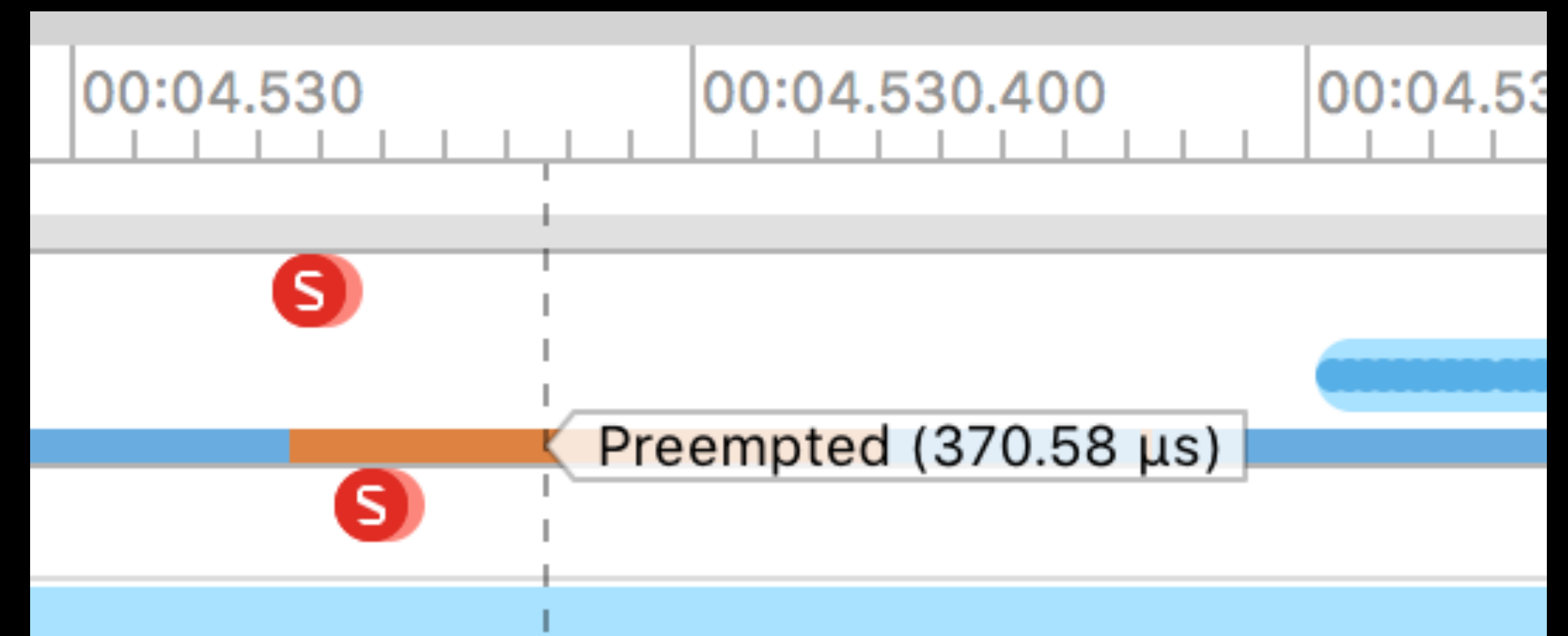
Preempted

Involuntary

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Voluntary

- Spin locks
- `thread_switch`



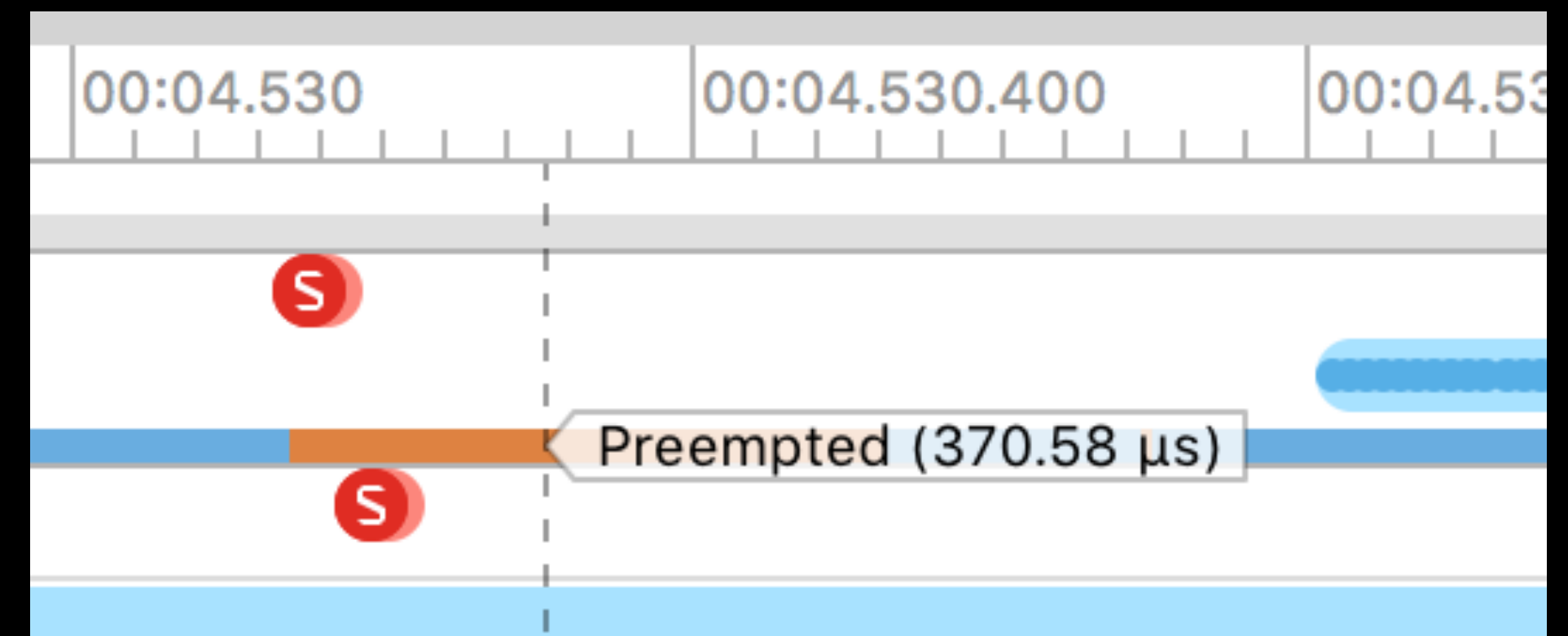
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00:00.521.052 Called "thread_switch()" for 18.08 μs

00:00.521.055 Preempted for 13.19 μs (73.0% of thread_switch's duration) because thread was yielding CPU 2 to mach_kernel

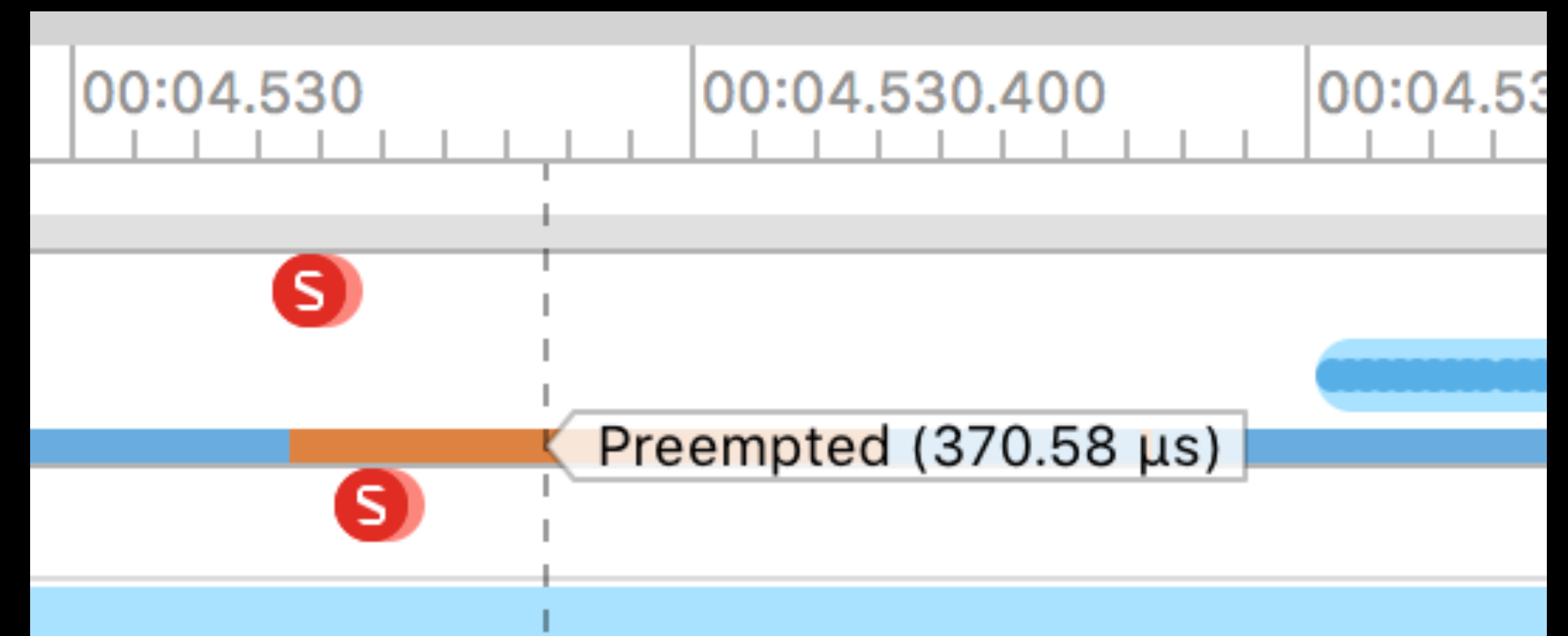
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Interrupted

Interrupt handler




Priority doesn't matter

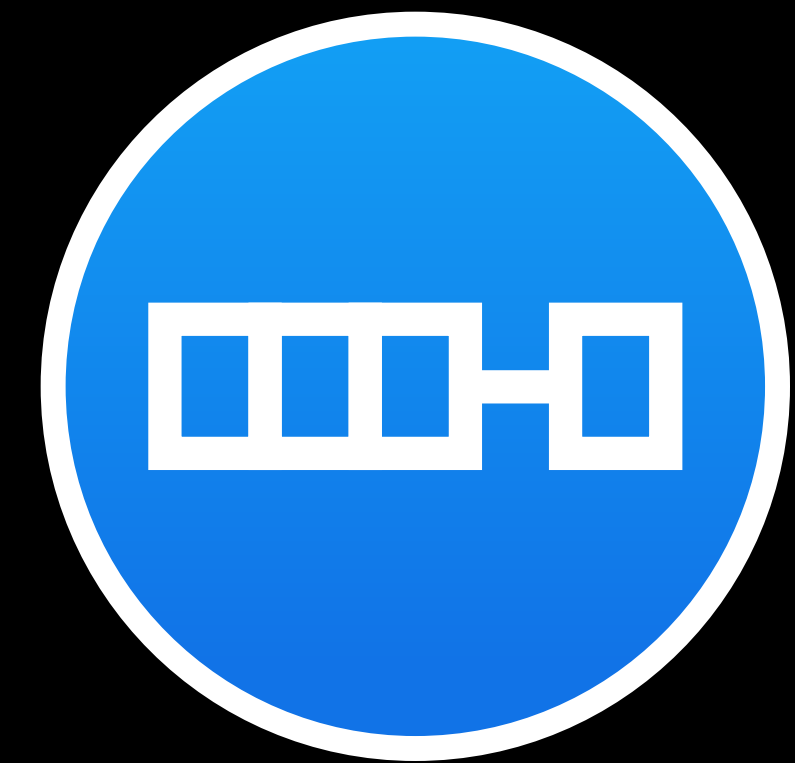
Brief



System Load

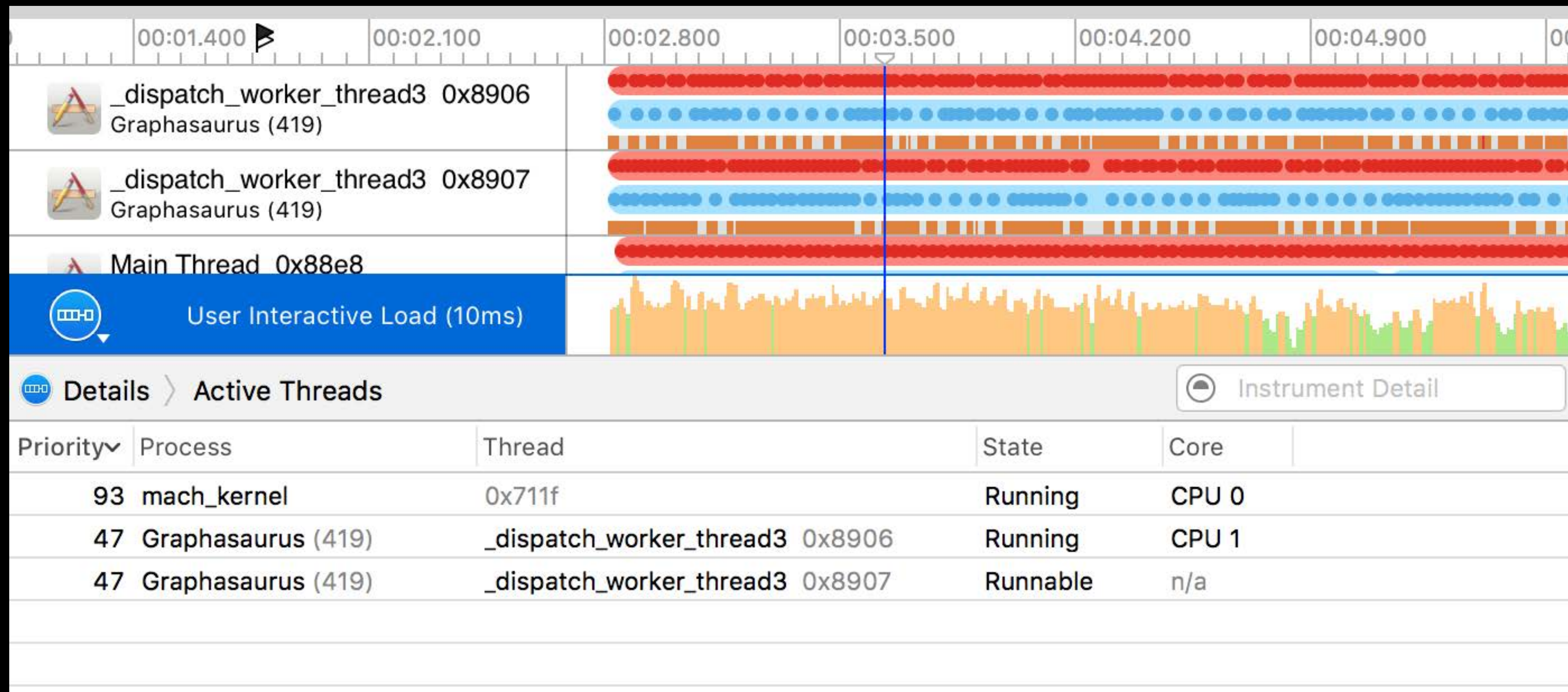
NEW

	00:00.000	00:10.000	00:20.000	00:30.000
▶  Points of Interest				
▶  System Load				
▶  Thread State Trace				
▶  Virtual Memory Trace				
▶  System Call Trace				



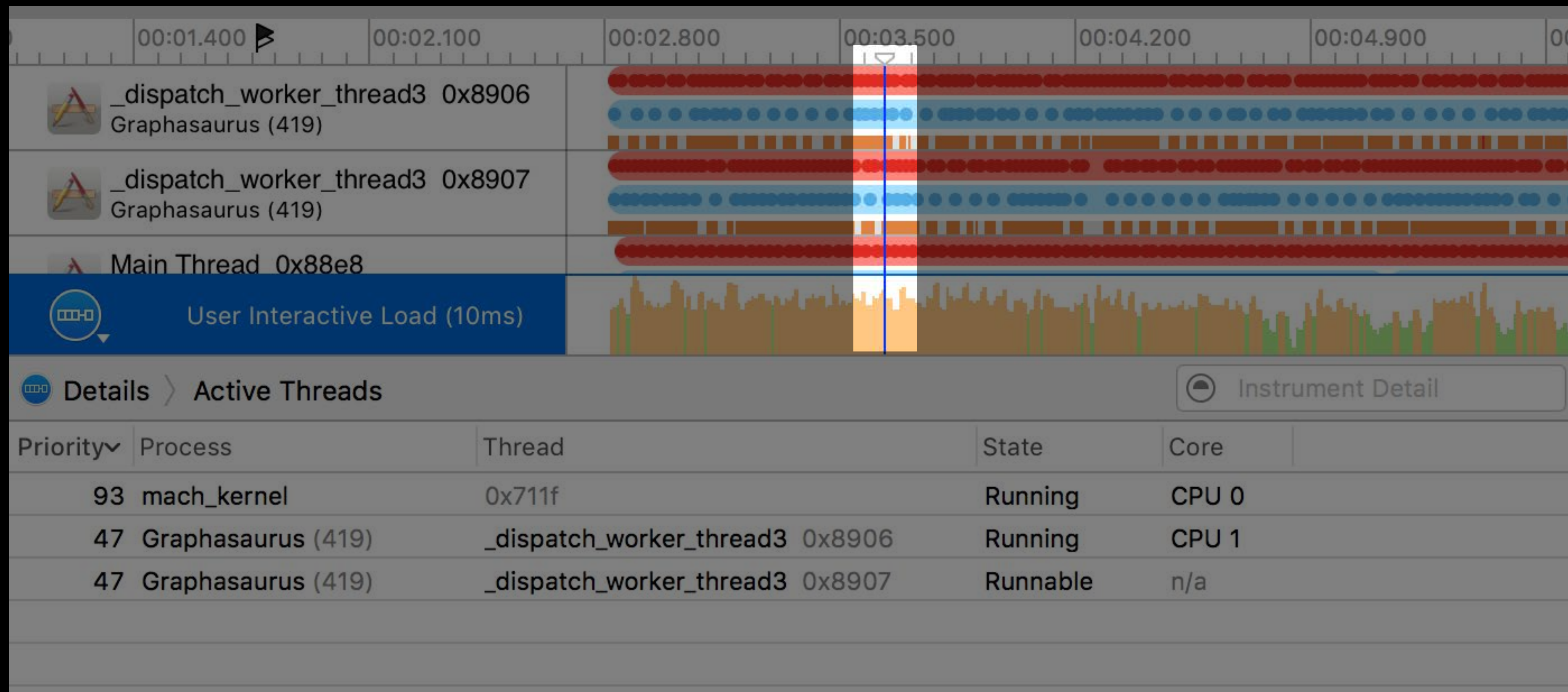
System Load

NEW



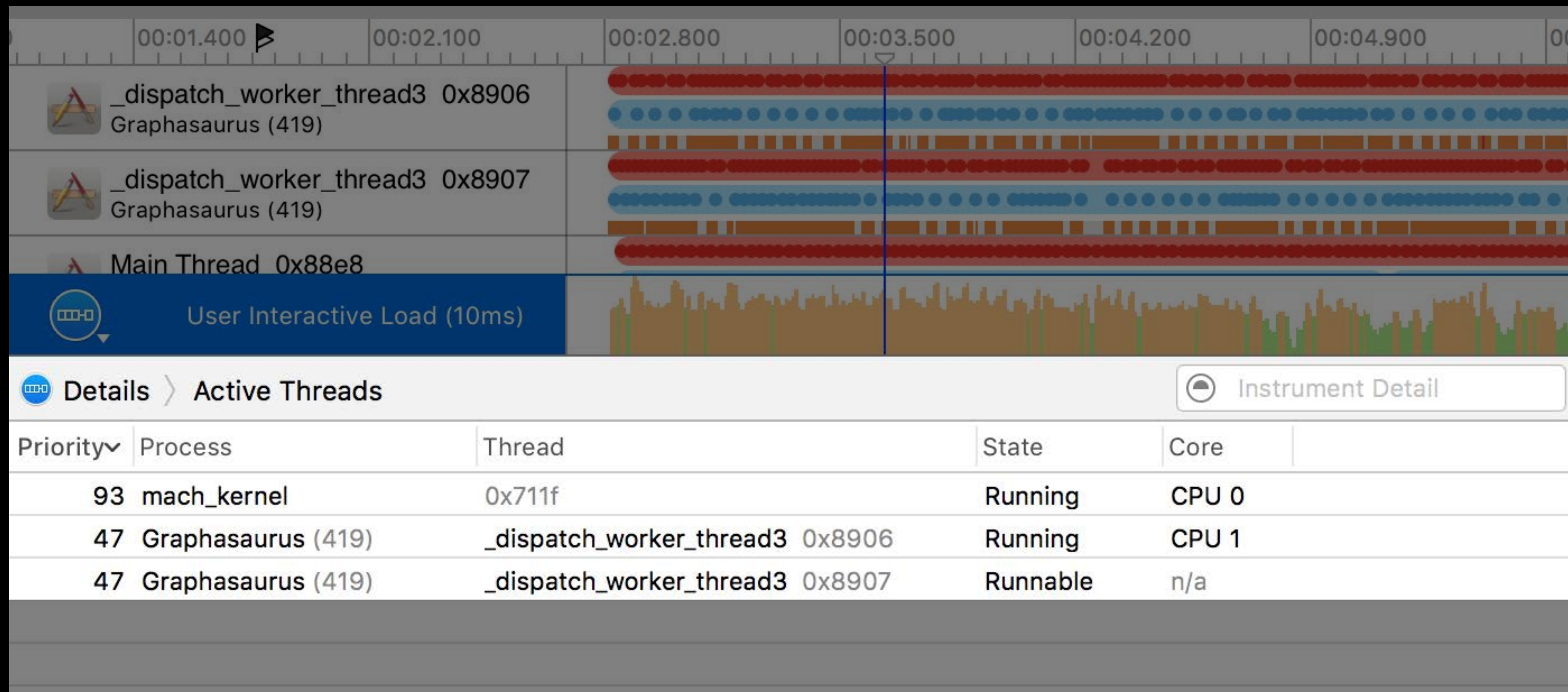
System Load

NEW



System Load

NEW



User Interactive Load Average

NEW

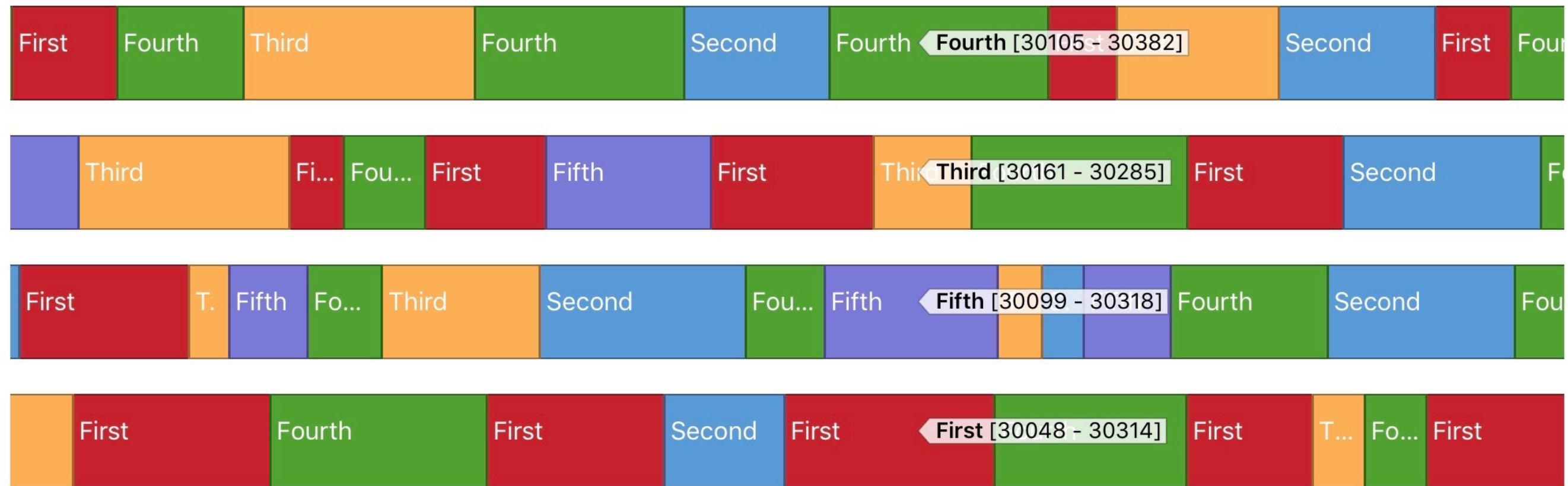
Average active threads over a 10 ms period

Priority ≥ 33

User Interactive Class (QoS)

Orange when load exceeds hardware





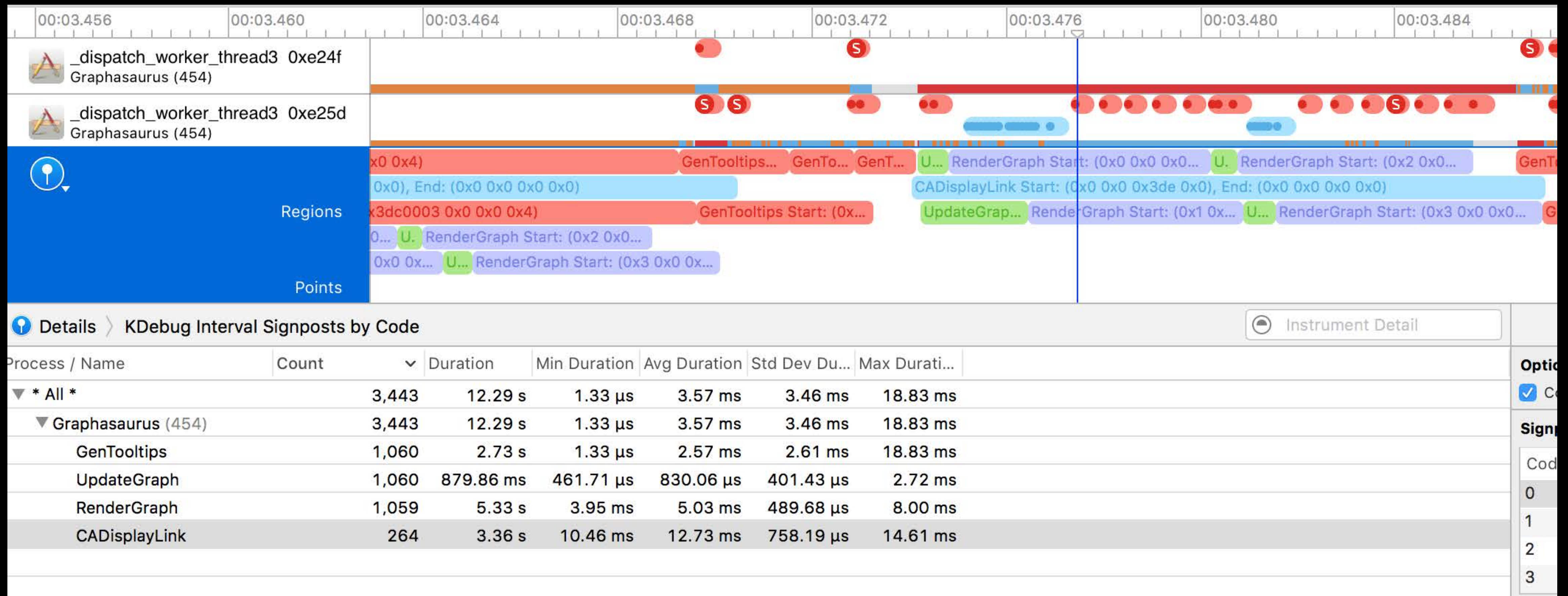
Demo

Priorities

Joe Grzywacz

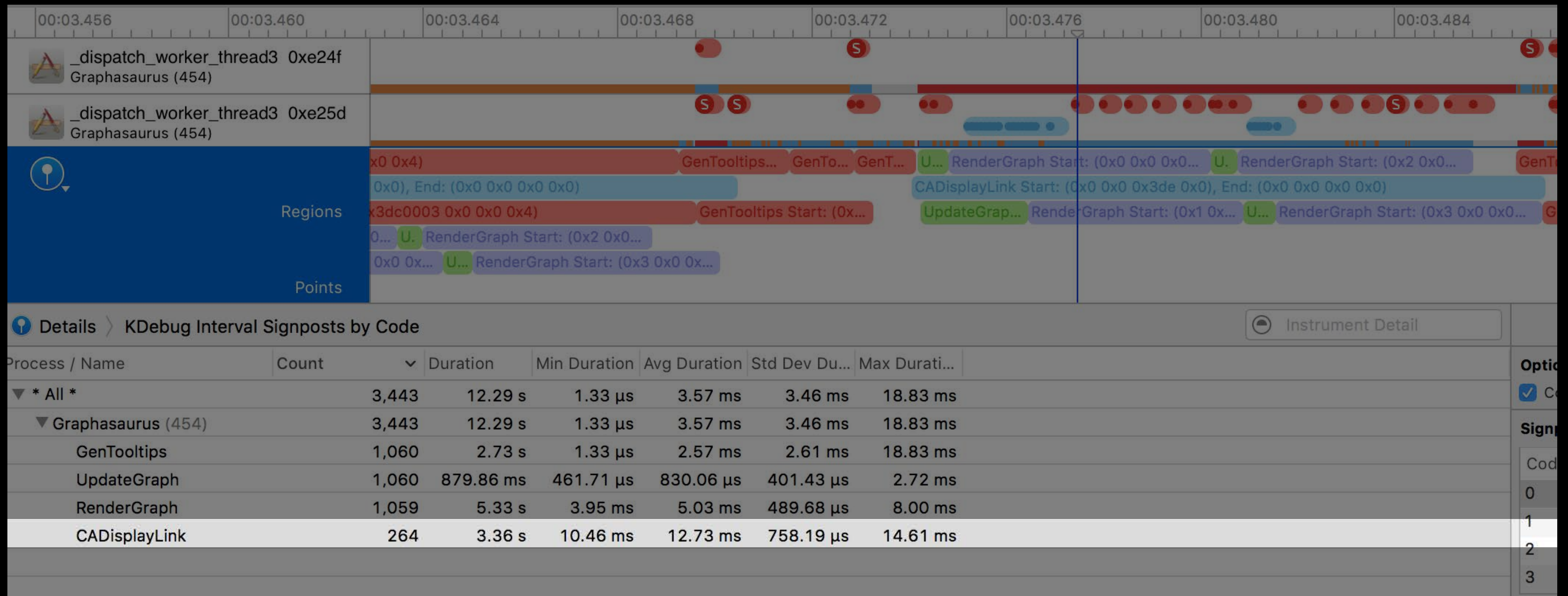
Quality of Service

Prioritizing your threads



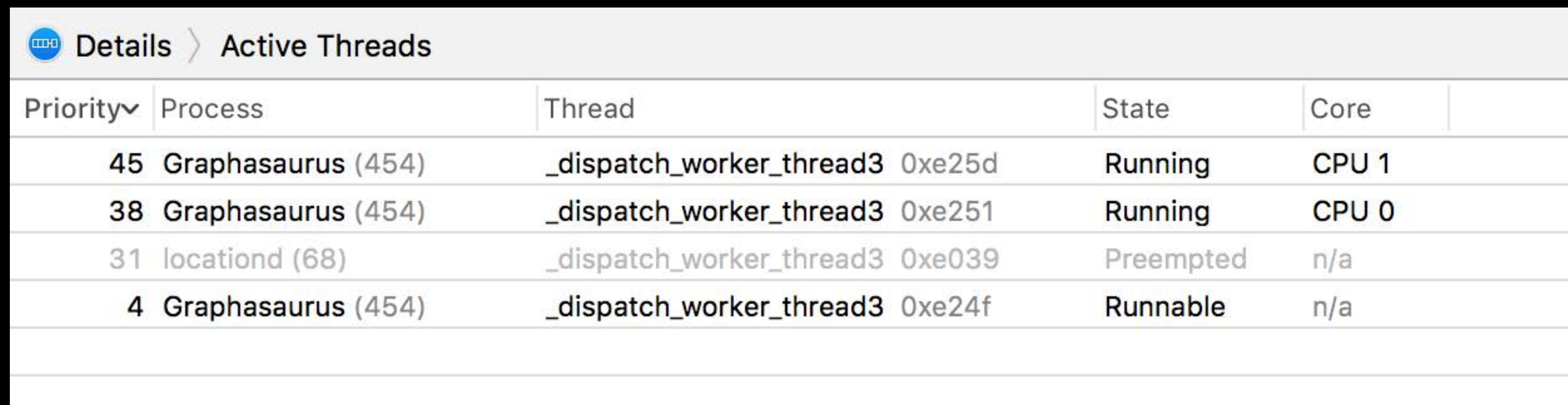
Quality of Service

Prioritizing your threads



Quality of Service

Prioritizing your threads



The screenshot shows the 'Active Threads' section of the Activity Monitor. It displays a table with columns for Priority, Process, Thread, State, and Core. The threads are sorted by priority, with the highest priority thread at the top.

Priority	Process	Thread	State	Core
45	Graphasaurus (454)	_dispatch_worker_thread3 0xe25d	Running	CPU 1
38	Graphasaurus (454)	_dispatch_worker_thread3 0xe251	Running	CPU 0
31	locationd (68)	_dispatch_worker_thread3 0xe039	Preempted	n/a
4	Graphasaurus (454)	_dispatch_worker_thread3 0xe24f	Runnable	n/a

Quality of Service

Prioritizing your threads

Details > Active Threads

Priority	Process	Thread	State	Core
45	Graphasaurus (454)	_dispatch_worker_thread3 0xe25d	Running	CPU 1
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Quality of Service

Prioritizing your threads

Attribute of blocks, queues, threads

Constrains the priority range

Throttles I/O

Throttles CPU frequency

Virtual Memory

Faults

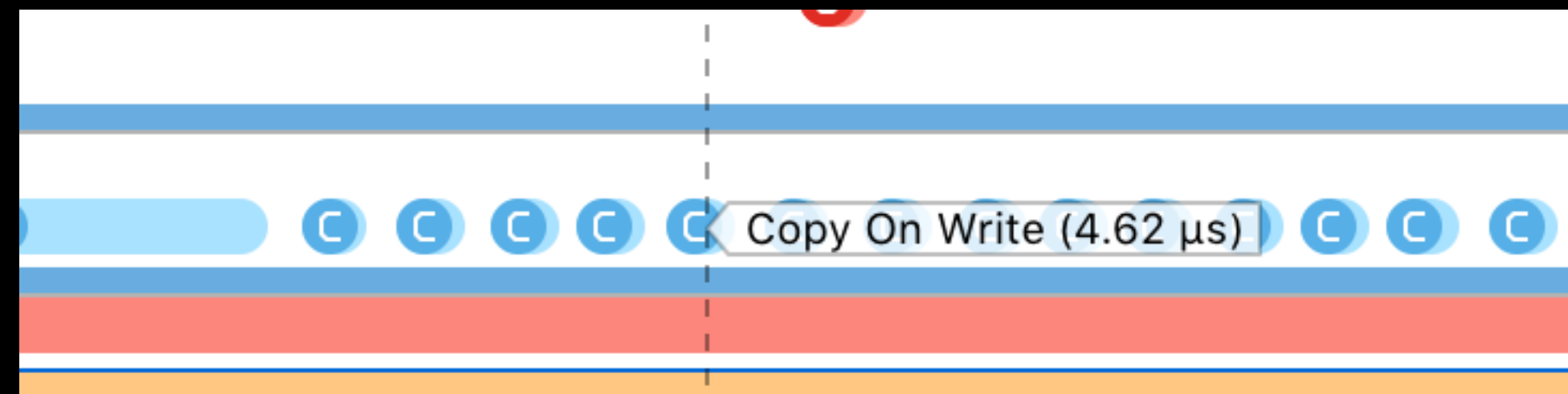
Affect performance

Worse under a load

Manageable

System Trace

Has the tools



Details > Narrative Instrument Detail

Timestamp	Narrative
00:04.352.664	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 3.79 μs
00:04.352.670	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 3.67 μs
00:04.352.675	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 4.00 μs
00:04.352.681	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 5.04 μs
00:04.352.688	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 4.29 μs
00:04.352.694	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 3.75 μs
00:04.352.700	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 3.83 μs
00:04.352.706	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 4.25 μs
00:04.352.712	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 4.58 μs
00:04.352.718	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 4.21 μs
00:04.352.724	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 3.75 μs
00:04.352.730	Virtual memory Copy On Write took 4.08 μs

Backtrace

- _platform_memset_pattern16
- CGBlit_fillBytes
- CGBlit_fillBytes
- argb32_mark
- RIPLayerBlitShape
- ripc_Render
- ripc_DrawPath
- CGContextDrawPath
- __31-[TGNGraphView _drawInContext:]_...
- __53-[__NSArrayM enumerateObjectsWi...
- [__NSArrayM enumerateObjectsWithO...
- [TGNGraphView _drawInContext:]
- [TGNGraphView _drawInContext:]

System Trace

Has the tools

Duration	Self Durati...	Symbol Name	
178.12 ms	95.4%	0 s	▼Graphasaurus (419)
175.59 ms	94.1%	0 s	▶ Copy On Write
2.45 ms	1.3%	0 s	▶ Zero Fill
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼Page Cache Hit
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼Main Thread 0x88e8
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼start libdyld.dylib
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼main Graphasaurus
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼UIApplicationMain UIKit
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼-[UIApplication _run] UIKit
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼GSEventRunModal GraphicsServices
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼CFRunLoopRunSpecific CoreFoundation
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼_CFRunLoopRun CoreFoundation
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼_CFRunLoopDoSource1 CoreFoundation
78.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼_CFRUNLOOP_IS_CALLING_OUT_TO_A_SOURCE1_PERFORM_FUN
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼migHelperRecievePortCallout AppSupport
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼_XReceivedStatusBarDataAndActions UIKit
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼_UIStatusBarReceivedStatusBarDataAndActions UIKit
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼-[UIStatusBar statusBarServer:didReceiveStatusBarData:with
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼-[UIStatusBarForegroundView setStatusbarData:actions:a
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼-[UIStatusBarForegroundView _setStatusbarData:actions:
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼-[UIStatusBarLayoutManager updateItemsWithData:ac
72.96 μs	0.0%	0 s	▼-[UIStatusBarLayoutManager _updateItemView:withD

Fault on Access

Allocations are quick

First access causes fault

Resolved Inline

No explicit call

Access any byte in the page

Just-in-time mapping to physical memory

Mitigation

Mitigation

Absorb them

- Leave room for faulting in your budget
- More resilient under a load

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Fault pages on a background thread

- `dispatch_async`
- Avoids stutters when showing new content

Summary

Companion to the Time Profiler

Applications that scale well under heavy loads

Try it out on your app

Many new features in Instruments 8

More Information

<https://developer.apple.com/wwdc16/411>

Related Sessions

Optimizing App Startup Time

Mission

Wednesday 10:00AM

Using Time Profiler in Instruments

Nob Hill

Friday 3:00PM

Concurrent Programming with GCD in Swift 3

Pacific Heights

Friday 4:00PM

Labs

System Trace Q&A Lab

Fort Mason

Thursday 10:00PM

Xcode Open Hours

Developer Tools Lab C

Thursday 12:00PM

Profiling and Debugging Lab

Developer Tools Lab C

Friday 3:00PM

Xcode Open Hours

Developer Tools Lab B

Friday 3:00PM



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