How about using GMP to accelerate Bignum operations?

GMP: The GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic Library
http://gmplib.org/

I wrote a simple patch to use GMP to accelerate Bignum multiplication.

If a user don't want to use GMP, a configure option, --without-gmp, disables this feature.
Since GMP is licensed as LGPL, some people would need it.
However I think most people can accept LGPL as Ruby 1.8's regex engine.
So, my patch uses GMP by default, if it is available.

It converts bignums from RBignum to mpz_t and back for each
large Bignum multiplication.
RBignum structure itself is not changed and ABI compatible.
(So, this is different from ko1's idea mentioned in Feature #6083)

The conversion cost is O(n).
It is negligible for operations slower than O(n) with large inputs.
Multiplication is a kind of such operation.

I measured the performance as follows.

% ./ruby -I.ext/x86_64-linux -r-test:/bignum -e '
methods = %i[big_mul_normal big_mul_karatsuba big_mul_toom3 big_mul_gmp]
m = 1000
n1 = 3**60
100.times {
  n1 = n1 * (n1 >> (n1.size*8/15*14))
  n2 = n1 + 1
  bits = n1.size*8
  methods.dup.each {|meth|
    t1 = Process.clock_gettime(Process::CLOCK_THREAD_CPUTIME_ID, :nanoseconds)
    n1.send(meth, n2) rescue next
    (m-1).times { n1.send(meth, n2) }
    t2 = Process.clock_gettime(Process::CLOCK_THREAD_CPUTIME_ID, :nanoseconds)
    t = (t2 - t1)*1e-9 / m
    puts "#{bits},#{t},#{meth.to_s.sub(/big_mul_/, "")}"
    methods.delete meth if 1.0/m < t
  }
}
STDOUT.flush
'

It seems GMP is faster when multiplication arguments are longer than 1000 bits
on my environment.
See bignum-mul-gmp.png for details.

I guess other operations, division and radix conversion, can also be faster using GMP.

Any comments?
If a user don't want to use GMP, a configure option, --without-gmp, disables this feature. Since GMP is licensed as LGPL, some people would need it. However I think most people can accept LGPL as Ruby 1.8's regex engine. So, my patch uses GMP by default, if it is available. I'm happy with LGPL :) It converts bignums from RBignum to mpz_t and back for each large Bignum multiplication. RBignum structure itself is not changed and ABI compatible. (So, this is different from ko1's idea mentioned in Feature #6083)

The conversion cost is O(n). It is negligible for operations slower than O(n) with large inputs. Multiplication is a kind of such operation.

Is there more performance improvement without the conversion? How about push the conversion cost to legacy C API users to make Bignum faster for pure-Ruby use in a future patch? I'm mainly curious about "smaller" Bignums for users on 32-bit systems, but I suspect much of that cost is object allocation.

It is same as ko1's idea. I don't against it. Feel free to implement and propose it. However it has several difficulties.

- It is a big task. It need to implement all methods, not just slow methods.
- ABI incompatibility. ko1 tackles this in Feature #6083.
- LGPL It is no problem for me but I guess some people don't accept it. So we need to maintain non-GMP implementation anyway. Maintaining two implementations is troublesome.
- We cannot access internal of mpz_t We may be limited to add new feature with optimal performance. (mpz_getlimbn and mpz_size may be enough?)
- It cannot embed small bignums. So it needs more memory allocation. (mpz_array_init may solve this problem?)

Tanaka Akira
This is internal. So go ahead and experiment.

Matz.

#4 - 09/26/2013 10:38 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)
- Status changed from Open to Closed
- Target version set to 2.1.0

Introduced on r42743.

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