Ruby trunk - Feature #3917

[proposal] called_from() which is much faster than caller()

10/08/2010 08:45 AM - kwatch (makoto kuwata)

Status:	Closed	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:	ko1 (Koichi Sasada)	
Target version:	2.0.0	

Description

=begin
I propose to introduce Kernel#called_from() which is similar to caller()
but much faster than it.

Background

There are some cases to want to know from where current method is called.
In this case, Kernel#caller() is used.

But Kernel#caller() has performance issues for these cases.

- caller() retrieves entire stack frame. It is too heavy.
- caller() returns an array of "filename:linenum in `method'" string. User must parse it and retrieve filename and linenum by rexp. It is also very heavy weight task.

Therefore I propose Kernel#called_from() which is very light weight
compared to caller(). A certain benchmark shows that called_from()
is more than 20 times faster tan caller().

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Spec

---

call-seq:
called_from(start=1) -> array or nil

Returns file name, line number, and method name of the stack.
The optional start parameter represents the number of stack
entries to skip.

Returns +nil+ if start is greater than the size of
current execution stack.

Raises ArgumentError if start is negative value.

Example code

```
# example.rb
1:  def f1()
2:    f2()
```

```
3:  end
4:  def f2()
5:    f3()
6:  end
7:  def f3()
8:    p called_from()    #=> ["example.rb", 5, "f2"]
9:    p called_from(0)   #=> ["example.rb", 9, "f3"]
10:   p called_from(1)   #=> ["example.rb", 5, "f2"]
11:   p called_from(2)   #=> ["example.rb", 2, "f1"]
12:   p called_from(3)   #=> ["example.rb", 15, ""]
13:   p called_from(4)   #=> nil
14: end
15: f1()
```

Use Case

Case 1: logging method

```
def log_info(message)
filename, linenum, _ = called_from()   # !!!
@logger.info "#{filename}:#{linenum}: #{message}"
end
```

Case 2: debug print

```
def debug(message)
filename, linenum, _ = called_from()   # !!!
$stderr.puts "*** DEBUG: #{filename}:#{linenum}: #{message}"
end
```

Case 3: deprecation message

```
def send(args)
filename, linenum, _ = called_from()   # !!!
msg = "send()' is deprecated. use send()' instead."
msg << " (file: #{filename}, line: #{linenum})"
$stderr.puts "** warning: #{msg}"
send(*args)
end
```

Case 4: ActiveSupport::Testing::Pending

```
module ActiveSupport::Testing::Peding
def pending(description = "", &block)
:
#caller[0] =~ (/(.):(.):in `(.*)'/)             # original
#@@pending_cases << "#{$3} at #{$1}, line #{$2}"  # original
#print "P"                                      # original
filenemae, linenum, method = called_from()    # !!!
@@pending_cases << "#{method} at #{filename}, line #{linenum}"
print "P"
:
end
end
```

Case 5: activesupport/lib/active_support/core_ext/module/delegation.rb

```
class Module
def delegate(*methods)
:
#file, line = caller.first.split(':', 2)  # original
#line = line.to_i                         # original
file, line, _ = called_from()             # !!!
:
module_eval(<<-EOS, file, line - 5)
:
```

```
end
end

Case 6: caching helper for template system

def cache_with(key)
data, created_at = @_cache_store.get(key)
filename, = called_from()   # !!!
## if template file is newer than cached data then clear cache.
## (performance is very important in this case.)
if created_at < File.mtime(filename)
data = nil
@_cache_store.del(key)
end
##
if data.nil?
len = @_buf.length
yield
data = @_buf[len..-1]
@_cache_store.set(key, data)
else
@_buf << data
end
nil
end

## in template file
<% cache_with("orders/#{@order.id}") do %>
Order ID: <%=h @order.id %>
Customer: <%=h @order.customer.name %>
<% end %>
```

Benchmark

Attached benchmark shows that called_from() is much faster than caller().
This is very important for logging or template timestamp check.

```
$ ./ruby -s bench.rb -N=100000
                                    user     system      total        real
caller()[0]                     1.890000   0.010000   1.900000 (  1.941812)
caller()[0] (retrieve)          2.190000   0.010000   2.200000 (  2.225966)
called_from()                   0.100000   0.000000   0.100000 (  0.102810)
called_from() (retrieve)        0.100000   0.000000   0.100000 (  0.102133)
```

Another Solutions

Adding new gobal function may be refused.
The followings are another solutions instead of new global function.

- Extend caller() to take 'count' parameter.
  For example:

  ```
  start = 1
  count = 1
  caller(start, count)  #=> ["filename:linenum in `method'"]
  ```

- Extend caller() to take 'conbine' flag.
  For example:

  ```
  start = 1
  count = nil
  conbine = false
  caller(start, count, conbine)
  #=> [["filename", linenum, "method"],
  #    ["filename", linenum, "method"],
  ```

....]

- Add new standard library 'called_from.so' instead of Kernel#called_from().

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Note

- I tried to implement the above solutions, but failed because
  vm_backtrace_each() seems to search stack frames in the reverse
  order of what called_from() requires.

- I can implement called_from() as user library in Ruby 1.8.
  http://rubygems.org/gems/called_from
  It is allowed to access to stack frame in Ruby 1.8, but no in 1.9.
  This is why I submit this propose.

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  =end

Related issues:		
Related to Ruby trunk - Feature #1906: Kernel#backtrace: Objectifying Kernel#...	**Closed**	**08/07/2009**
Related to Ruby trunk - Feature #5016: Kernel#caller with negative limit shou...	**Closed**	**07/11/2011**

History

#1 - 10/08/2010 12:38 PM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)

=begin
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```
caller(n, m) => n □□□ caller □□□m □□□□□□□□□□□
caller(0, 1) => ['...']
caller(0, 2) => ['...', '...']
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```
caller => [frameinfo1, frameinfo2, ...]

FrameInfo#type     # iseq->type □□□□□□□□□□□
FrameInfo#name     # iseq->name □□□□□□□□□□□
FrameInfo#line_no  # □□□□□□□□□□□
FrameInfo#filename # □□□□□□□□□□□□□
```

FrameInfo#to_str □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
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(2010/10/08 0:46), makoto kuwata wrote:

> Feature #3917: [proposal] called_from() which is much faster than caller()
> http://redmine.ruby-lang.org/issues/3917
>
> □□□: makoto kuwata
> □□□□□□: Open, □□□: Normal
> □□□□: core, Target version: 1.9.x
>
> I propose to introduce Kernel#called_from() which is similar to caller()
> but much faster than it.
>
> ## Background
>
> There are some cases to want to know from where current method is called.
> In this case, Kernel#caller() is used.
>
> But Kernel#caller() has performance issues for these cases.
>
> - caller() retrieves entire stack frame. It is too heavy.
> - caller() returns an array of "filename:linenum in `method'" string. User must parse it and retrieve filename and linenum by rexp. It is also very heavy weight task.
>
> Therefore I propose Kernel#called_from() which is very light weight
> compared to caller(). A certain benchmark shows that called_from()
> is more than 20 times faster tan caller().
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>
> ## Spec
>
> call-seq:
> called_from(start= -> array or nil
>
> Returns file name, line number, and method name of the stack.
> The optional start parameter represents the number of stack
> entries to skip.
>
> Returns +nil+ if start is greater than the size of
> current execution stack.
>
> Raises ArgumentError if start is negative value.
>
> ## Example code

```
# example.rb
1:  def f1()
2:    f2()
3:  end
4:  def f2()
5:    f3()
6:  end
7:  def f3()
8:    p called_from()    #=["example.rb", 5, "f2"]
9:    p called_from(0)   #=["example.rb", 9, "f3"]
10:   p called_from(1)   #=["example.rb", 5, "f2"]
11:   p called_from(2)   #=["example.rb", 2, "f1"]
12:   p called_from(3)   #=["example.rb", 15, ""]
13:   p called_from(4)   #=nil
14:  end
15:  f1()
```

Use Case

Case 1: logging method

```
def log_info(message)
filename, linenum, _ =alled_from()   # !!!
@logger.info "#{filename}:#{linenum}: #{message}"
end
```

Case 2: debug print

```
def debug(message)
filename, linenum, _ =alled_from()   # !!!
$stderr.puts "*** DEBUG: #{filename}:#{linenum}: #{message}"
end
```

Case 3: deprecation message

```
def send(args)
filename, linenum, _ =alled_from()   # !!!
msg =send()' is deprecated. use send()' instead."
msg << " (file: #{filename}, line: #{linenum})"
$stderr.puts "** warning: #{msg}"
send(*args)
end
```

Case 4: ActiveSupport::Testing::Pending

```
module ActiveSupport::Testing::Peding
def pending(description ='', &block)
:
#caller[0] =(/(.):(.):in `(.*)'/)              # original
#@@pending_cases << "#{$3} at #{$1}, line #{$2}"  # original
#print "P"                                      # original
filenemae, linenum, method =alled_from()    # !!!
@@pending_cases << "#{method} at #{filename}, line #{linenum}"
print "P"
:
end
end
```

Case 5: activesupport/lib/active_support/core_ext/module/delegation.rb

```
class Module
def delegate(*methods)
:
#file, line =aller.first.split(':', 2)  # original
#line =ine.to_i                         # original
file, line, _ =alled_from()             # !!!
:
module_eval(<<-EOS, file, line - 5)
:
end
end
```

Case 6: caching helper for template system

```
def cache_with(key)
```

```
data, created_at =_cache_store.get(key)
filename, =alled_from()   # !!!
## if template file is newer than cached data then clear cache.
## (performance is very important in this case.)
if created_at < File.mtime(filename)
data =il
@_cache_store.del(key)
end
##
if data.nil?
len =_buf.length
yield
data =_buf[len..-1]
@_cache_store.set(key, data)
else
@_buf << data
end
nil
end

## in template file
<% cache_with("orders/#{@order.id}") do %>
Order ID: <%=@order.id %>
Customer: <%=@order.customer.name %>
<% end %>
```

Benchmark

Attached benchmark shows that called_from() is much faster than caller().
This is very important for logging or template timestamp check.

```
$ ./ruby -s bench.rb -N0000
                                    user     system      total        real
caller()[0]                     1.890000   0.010000   1.900000 (  1.941812)
caller()[0] (retrieve)          2.190000   0.010000   2.200000 (  2.225966)
called_from()                   0.100000   0.000000   0.100000 (  0.102810)
called_from() (retrieve)        0.100000   0.000000   0.100000 (  0.102133)
```

Another Solutions

Adding new gobal function may be refused.
The followings are another solutions instead of new global function.

- Extend caller() to take 'count' parameter.
  For example:

  ```
  start =
  count =
  caller(start, count)  #=["filename:linenum in `method'"]
  ```

- Extend caller() to take 'conbine' flag.
  For example:

  ```
  start =
  count =il
  conbine =alse
  caller(start, count, conbine)
  #=[["filename", linenum, "method"],
  #    ["filename", linenum, "method"],
  #    .... ]
  ```

- Add new standard library 'called_from.so' instead of Kernel#called_from().

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Note

- I tried to implement the above solutions, but failed because
  vm_backtrace_each() seems to search stack frames in the reverse

order of what called_from() requires.

- I can implement called_from() as user library in Ruby 1.8.
  http://rubygems.org/gems/called_from
  It is allowed to access to stack frame in Ruby 1.8, but no in 1.9.
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http://redmine.ruby-lang.org

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// SASADA Koichi at atdot dot net
=end

#2 - 10/10/2010 01:25 AM - kwatch (makoto kuwata)

=begin
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2010/10/8 SASADA Koichi ko1@atdot.net:

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caller(n, m) => n □□□ caller □□□m □□□□□□□□□□□□
caller(0, 1) => ['...']
caller(0, 2) => ['...', '...']

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(b) □□□□□□□FrameInfo □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

caller => [frameinfo1, frameinfo2, ...]

FrameInfo#type   # iseq->type □□□□□□□□□□□□
FrameInfo#name   # iseq->name □□□□□□□□□□□□
FrameInfo#line_no # □□□□□□□□□□□□
FrameInfo#filename # □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

FrameInfo#to_str □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

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> iseq □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
>
> FrameInfo#binding □□□□□□caller_binding □□□□□□□□□□□
> □□□□□□□□□□
>
> □CallerEntry □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
>
> (2) called_from □□□□ FrameInfo □□□□□□□□
>
> FrameInfo □□□□□□□□□□

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>
> vm_backtrace_each □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ iseq □□□□□□□
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--
makoto kuwata

=end

#3 - 10/29/2010 03:56 AM - runpaint (Run Paint Run Run)

=begin
I can't follow this discussion, but I'll note proposal #1906 that also aims to provide an alternative to #caller. (Oddly, I, too, hacked on vm_backtrace_each(), and related functions, to try to implement the aforementioned). I'd prefer a Hash/Struct to be returned, rather than an Array, and favour #backtrace or #caller taking a count argument rather than defining a new top-level method for such a narrow use.
=end

#4 - 10/29/2010 11:21 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

- Status changed from Open to Assigned

- Assignee set to ko1 (Koichi Sasada)

=begin
ko1 changes implementation around iseq and may change the order of vm_backtrace_each,
so he want us to wait for completion those changes.
=end

#5 - 11/06/2010 02:21 PM - kwatch (makoto kuwata)

=begin
Hi Run Run, thank you for your comment about Kernel#caller.

2010/10/29 Run Paint Run Run redmine@ruby-lang.org:

> I can't follow this discussion, but I'll note proposal #1906 that
> also aims to provide an alternative to #caller. (Oddly, I, too,
> hacked on vm_backtrace_each(), and related functions, to try to
> implement the aforementioned). I'd prefer a Hash/Struct to be
> returned, rather than an Array, and favour #backtrace or #caller
> taking a count argument rather than defining a new top-level method
> for such a narrow use.

Ko1 has the same idea as what you proposed on #1906.
He want to change return value from "filename:linenum: in `name'"
to structured data type which is very similar to what you proposed.

And I already proposed to add new argument to Kernel#caller() in order to
specify backtrace depth, instead of adding new top-level function.
Please check out 'Another Solutions' section on this ticket.

Ko1, could you read #1906 if you change return value of caller()?

--

regards,
makoto kuwata

=end

#6 - 07/12/2011 05:13 PM - ddebernardy (Denis de Bernardy)

I'm not making much sense of the japanese in this ticket. Is this (or #1906, which also looks neat) anything that might make it into ruby 1.9.3? I was wondering how to get the calling file's name earlier today without resorting to caller() -- which yields an unnecessarily large string array.

As an aside, there's this sender gem written in C here, in the meanwhile:

https://github.com/Asher-/sender

#7 - 07/13/2011 11:23 AM - Anonymous

> Feature #3917: [proposal] called_from() which is much faster than caller()
> http://redmine.ruby-lang.org/issues/3917

+1 for this one--I was wishing for this the other day (or for caller
to give you depth starting from the current method...)
-roger-

#8 - 06/26/2012 04:46 AM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)

- Description updated

- Status changed from Assigned to Feedback

I made caller_locations() (see [ruby-core:45253] [RFC] RubyVM::FrameInfo.caller method).

Maybe the last problem is naming of this method.

#9 - 06/26/2012 05:56 AM - trans (Thomas Sawyer)

#caller_locations, is this what I just (re)proposed in #6646? Sorry if so, I can't read Japanese :(

Maybe better name: #callstack ?

#10 - 10/27/2012 06:02 AM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)

- Status changed from Feedback to Closed

I close this ticket.
Let's discuss naming issue with
https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/issues/7051

Files

0001-add-Kernel-called_from-which-is-similar-to-caller.patch	3.7 KB	10/08/2010	kwatch (makoto kuwata)
0002-add-test-script-for-Kernel-called_from.patch	2.21 KB	10/08/2010	kwatch (makoto kuwata)
bench.rb	1.14 KB	10/08/2010	kwatch (makoto kuwata)