

CONCRETE SYNTAX PATTERNS

Piërre van de Laar | TMC, HTC 96 Eindhoven

AGENDA

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Introduction presenter & institute

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Questionnaire

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Limitations of current tools

4

Concrete Syntax Patterns
Fundamental Concepts

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Concrete Syntax Patterns
Learn By Examples

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Analysis: Find, Filter, and Apply

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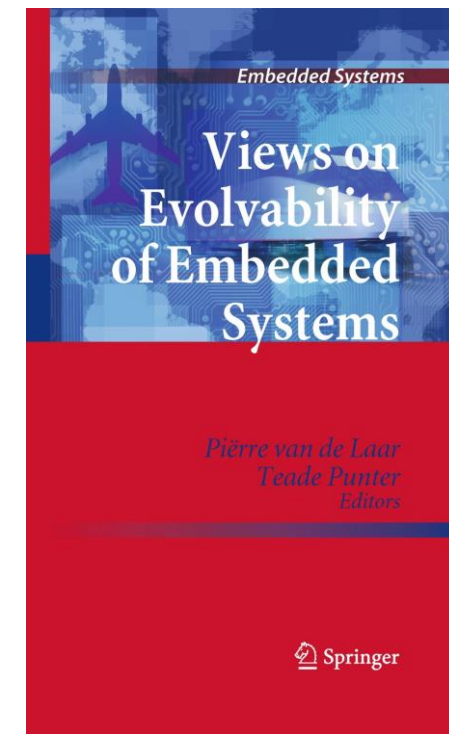
Change: Find, Filter, and Replace

8

Summary

PIËRRE VAN DE LAAR

- Industrial innovator researching evolving product families
- Passionate about architecture, design, and code quality
- Wants to help the young software community to move from green field to brown field development



ESI AT A GLANCE

SYNOPSIS

- Foundation ESI started in 2002
- ESI acquired by TNO per January 2013
- ~60 staff members many with extensive industrial experience
- 8 Part-time professors
- Working at industry locations
- From embedded systems innovation to embedding innovation

FOCUS

Managing complexity of high-tech systems

through

- system architecting
- system reasoning and
- model-driven engineering

delivering

- methodologies validated in cutting-edge industrial practice

PARTNER BOARD

ASML

Canon

CANON PRODUCTION PRINTING

itec

equipment • automation tech

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

PHILIPS

VANDERLANDE

 UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

TU Delft

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

TU/e EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Radboud University



TNO

Capgemini  engineering

ICT GROUP  **Strypes**

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Summary

ANALYSIS OF CODE

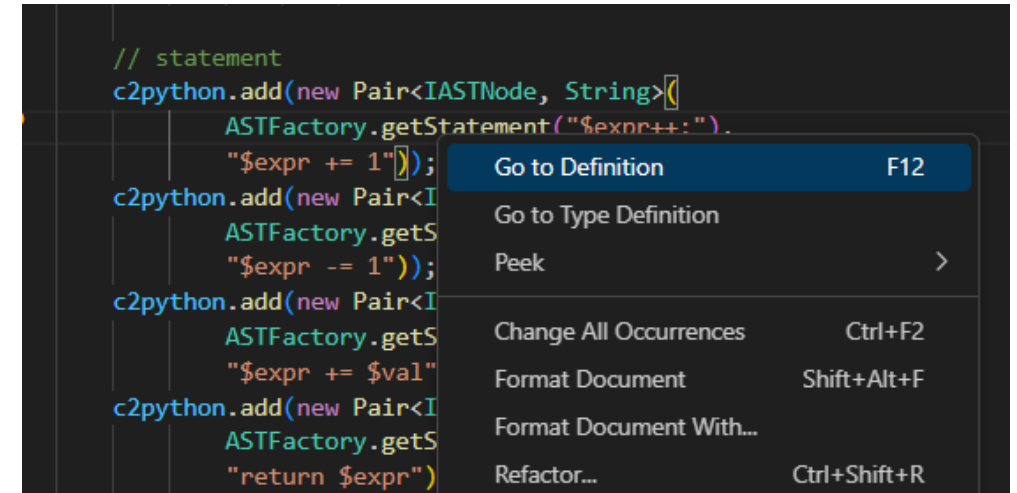
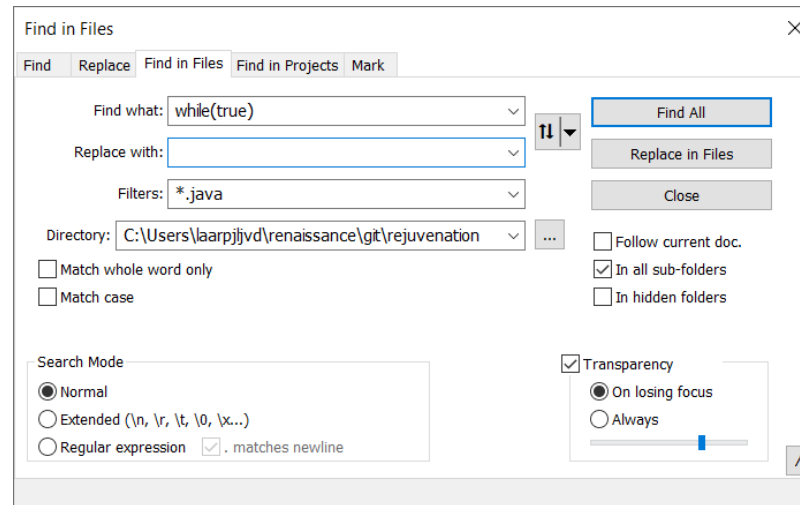
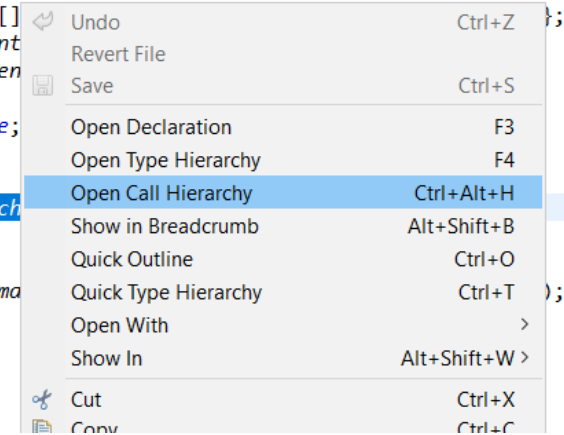
Including

- Read code
- Search for piece of code
- Data flow
- Call graph
- Inheritance tree

```
@Test
void testMatchIgnore() {
    IASTNode[][] ignorePatterns = new IASTNode[
    IASTNode[] pattern = ASTFactory.createStatement
    IASTNode[] instance = ASTFactory.getStatement

    boolean oldDiagnose = MatchPattern.diagnose;
    try {
        MatchPattern.diagnose = false;
        assertEquals(null, MatchPatternCdt.match

        MatchPattern.diagnose = true;
        assertNotEquals(null, MatchPatternCdt.ma
    } finally {
        MatchPattern.diagnose = oldDiagnose;
    }
}
```



1

WHO HAS NEVER ANALYZED CODE?

Please raise hand



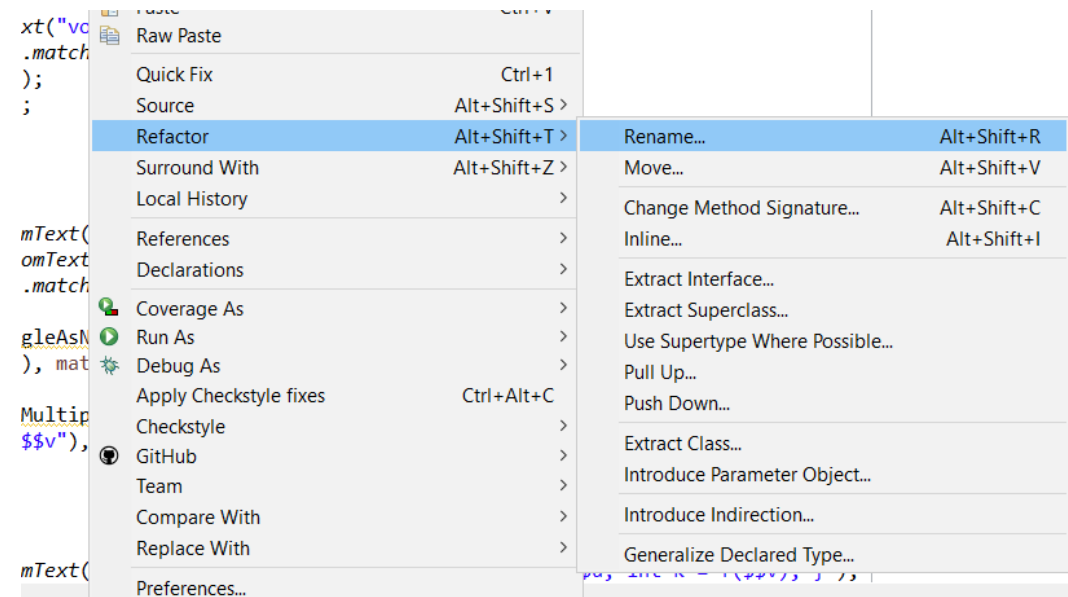
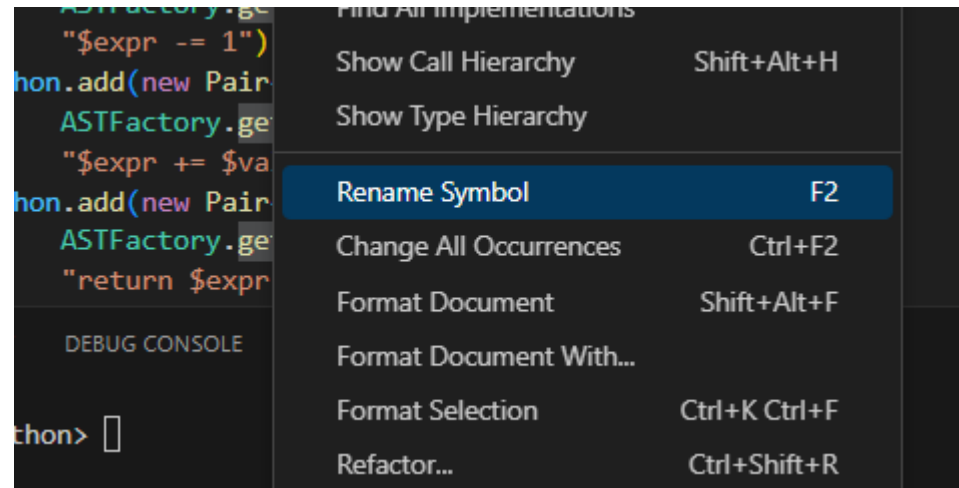
ESI

Powered by industry,
academia and TMO

CHANGE CODE

Including

- Rename variable or function
- Solve a bug
- Handle missed corner case
- Improve structure
- Improve quality
- Prepare for new feature
- Add new feature



2

WHO HAS NEVER CHANGED CODE?

Please raise hand



UNDERSTAND CODE

```
max = x;  
if (y > x)  
    max = y;
```

The variable max is set to maximum value of the variables x and y

```
if (a + b > 10)  
    f(a, 0, b);  
else  
    f(a, 1, b);
```

The function f is called

- The first argument is a
- The third argument is b
- The second argument is
0 when a plus b is larger than 10 and
1 otherwise

3

WHO COULD NOT UNDERSTAND CODE?

Please raise hand



FIND

Find ×

Find Replace Find in Files Find in Projects Mark

Find what:

Find Next ☐

☐ In selection

Count

Find All in Current Document

Find All in All Opened Documents

Close

☐ Backward direction

☐ Match whole word only

☐ Match case

☒ Wrap around

Search Mode

☒ Normal

☐ Extended (\n, \r, \t, \0, \x...)

☐ Regular expression ☒ matches newline

☒ Transparency

☒ On losing focus

☐ Always

abc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Identical
def	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ABC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equivalent
DEF	<input type="checkbox"/>	

FIND

Find

Find

Replace

Find in Files

Find in Projects

Mark

Find what:

H.llo.*

Find Next

☐

☐ In selection

Count

Find All in Current Document

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☒ Regular expression

☐ . matches newline

☒ Transparency

☒ On losing focus

☐ Always

^

Hello World!



Hoollo Eindhoven



Hallo 040coders



4

WHO COULD NOT PREDICT FIND RESULTS?

Please raise hand



{040CODERS.nl}

Tech Talks and Videos. Food and Drinks.



Every 3rd Thursday of the Month,
Somewhere in the 040 Area.

Software
developers only. No
recruiters or other
tie-wearing persons
allowed.

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Summary

CODE IS NOT TEXT

- Find

```
ready(); set(); go();
```

- Match

```
ready(); set(); go();
```



```
ready( ); set( ); go( );
```



```
ready();  
set();  
go();
```



```
ready();    // first signal - prepare action  
set();      /* second signal - acquire resources */  
go();       // final signal - take action
```



- Text-based search is sensitive to white spaces and comments



REGULAR EXPRESSIONS CANNOT HANDLE CODE

- Code is data with clear syntax and semantics
- Find size function with exactly two arguments

```
size(true, 10);  
size(boolVar, intVar);  
size(!boolVar, ((digit3 * 10 + digit2) * 10 + digit1) * 10 + digit0);  
size(!f(false, 11), g(12,true));  
size(true);  
size(true, 10, 2.0);
```

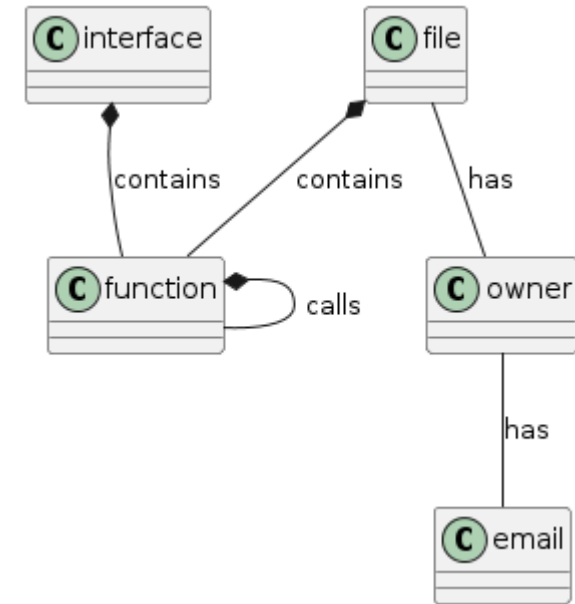


- Regular Expressions cannot handle arbitrary levels of nested brackets and expressions

TOOLS CANNOT BE INTEGRATED OR EXTENDED

Contact all stakeholders by email before changing an interface

- Software developers can develop software tools
- Database contains relation between code owners and files
- IDE offers call graph of a single function



Call Hierarchy ×

Members calling 'matchFull(IASTNode[], IASTNode[])' - in workspace

- matchFull(IASTNode[], IASTNode[]) : MatchPatternCdt - nl.esi.rejuvenation.cdt.MatchPatternCdt
 - checkFailure(IASTNode[], IASTNode[]) : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.primitives.TestMatchPatternCdt
 - checkPlaceholderClassNames(IASTNode[], IASTNode[], String...) : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.primitives.TestMatchPatternCdt
 - checkPlaceholderValues(IASTNode[], IASTNode[], String...) : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.primitives.TestMatchPatternCdt
 - checkSuccess(IASTNode[], IASTNode[]) : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.primitives.TestMatchPatternCdt
 - testMatchDoubleDouble() : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.cases.matchpattern.TestMatchPatternCdtIdentical
 - testMatchIgnore() : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.cases.matchpattern.TestMatchPatternCdtIdentical
 - testMultiPlaceholderFirstInstance() : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.cases.matchpattern.TestPlaceholderInstance
 - testMultiPlaceholderSecondInstance() : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.cases.matchpattern.TestPlaceholderInstance
 - testMultiplePlaceholderInIsolation(String, String) : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.cases.matchpattern.TestPlaceholderMatchASTNodes
 - testMultiplePlaceholderInPattern(String) : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.cases.matchpattern.TestPlaceholderMatchASTNodes
 - testSinglePlaceholder(String) : void - nl.esi.rejuvenation.tests.cases.matchpattern.TestPlaceholderInstance

Line	Call
171	matchFull(pattern, instance)

TestMatchPatternCdt.java ×

```
165
166
167 checkPlaceholderClassNames(IASTNode[] pattern, IASTNode[] instance) : void {
168     se = MatchPattern.diagnose;
169
170     diagnose = true;
171     dt match = MatchPatternCdt.matchFull(pattern, instance);
172     derClassNames(match, keyClasses);
173
174     diagnose = oldDiagnose;
175
176
177
178 checkPlaceholderValues(MatchPatternCdt match, String... placeholders) : void {
179     ch, "Match not successful (expected to be successful)";
180     placeholderValues.length % 2, "Odd number of placeholder values";
181 }
```

LEARNING CURVE FOR TOOLS

- Powerful tools, like linter and compiler, parse code
- Development and maintenance of a parser is huge effort
 - Industrial quality C++ compiler at least 2 years
 - CDT parser of Eclipse will not support C++ 20 and beyond
- Parser represents code as Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)
- Abstract Syntax Tree not developed for analysis and change but for high performance

ABSTRACT SYNTAX TREE

Hello World

in Python (ANTLR grammar)

in C++ (CDT)

Complicated!

Too steep learning curve

Especially for occasional usage

[illegible]

LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT TOOLS

- Inappropriate tools
 - Code isn't text, regular expressions cannot handle code
- Tools are hard to integrate and extend
 - Lack of API
- Too steep learning curve
 - AST is complicated

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Summary

ABSTRACT VS CONCRETE SYNTAX

- All coders can read code
- All coders know the concrete syntax
- Not all coders know the abstract syntax

```

59  function Analyze_File_In_Context
60      (Filename : String; Context : Analysis_Context'Class) return Analysis_Unit
61  is
62      Unit : constant Analysis_Unit := Context.Get_From_File (Filename);
63  begin
64      if Unit.Has_Diagnostics then
65          raise Parse_Exception
66          with Diagnostics_To_String (Unit) & "In" & ASCII.LF & Filename;
67      else
68          return Unit;
69      end if;
70  end Analyze_File_In_Context;
71
72  function Analyze_File (Filename : String) return Analysis_Unit is
73      Context : constant Analysis_Context := Create_Context;
74  begin
75      return Analyze_File_In_Context (Filename, Context);
76  end Analyze_File;
77
78  function Analyze_File_In_Project
79      (Filename : String; Project_Filename : String) return Analysis_Unit
80  is
81      Project_File : constant Virtual_File := Create (+Project_Filename);
82      Env          : Project_Environment_Access;
83      Project      : constant Project_Tree_Access := new Project_Tree;
84  begin
85      Initialize (Env);
86      Project.Load (Project_File, Env);
87      declare

```

EQUIVALENT SUBTREES

```
void example()
```

```
{
```

```
    ready();  
    set();  
    go();
```

```
    ready( );  
    set( );  
    go( );
```

```
    ready(); // first signal - prepare action  
    set();  // second signal - acquire resources  
    go();   // final signal - take action
```

```
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [21,29])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [21,28])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [21,26])  
      (CPPASTName, [21,26]): |ready|  
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [34,40])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [34,39])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [34,37])  
      (CPPASTName, [34,37]): |set|  
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [45,50])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [45,49])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [45,47])  
      (CPPASTName, [45,47]): |go|
```

```
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [56,65])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [56,64])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [56,61])  
      (CPPASTName, [56,61]): |ready|  
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [70,77])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [70,76])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [70,73])  
      (CPPASTName, [70,73]): |set|  
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [82,88])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [82,87])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [82,84])  
      (CPPASTName, [82,84]): |go|
```

```
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [94,102])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [94,101])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [94,99])  
      (CPPASTName, [94,99]): |ready|  
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [140,146])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [140,145])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [140,143])  
      (CPPASTName, [140,143]): |set|  
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [190,195])  
  (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [190,194])  
    (CPPASTIdExpression, [190,192])  
      (CPPASTName, [190,192]): |go|
```

EQUIVALENT SUBTREES

```
void example()
```

```
{
    ready();
    set();
    go();
}
```

```
ready( );
set( );
go( );
```

```
ready(); // first signal - prepare action
set();  // second signal - acquire resources
go();   // final signal - take action
```

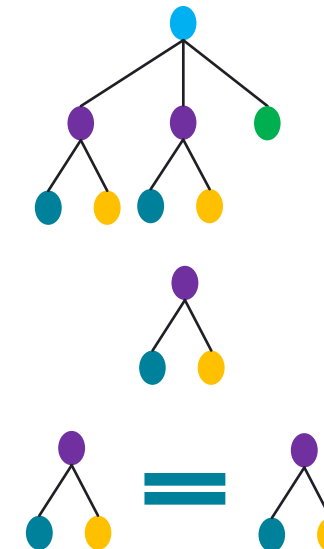
```
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
    (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
        (CPPASTIdExpression, [
            (CPPASTName, [ ]): |ready|
        ])
    ])
    (CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
        (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
            (CPPASTIdExpression, [
                (CPPASTName, [ ]): |set|
            ])
        ])
    ])
    (CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
        (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
            (CPPASTIdExpression, [
                (CPPASTName, [ ]): |go|
            ])
        ])
    ])
])
```

```
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
    (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
        (CPPASTIdExpression, [
            (CPPASTName, [ ]): |ready|
        ])
    ])
    (CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
        (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
            (CPPASTIdExpression, [
                (CPPASTName, [ ]): |set|
            ])
        ])
    ])
    (CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
        (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
            (CPPASTIdExpression, [
                (CPPASTName, [ ]): |go|
            ])
        ])
    ])
])
```

```
(CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
    (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
        (CPPASTIdExpression, [
            (CPPASTName, [ ]): |ready|
        ])
    ])
    (CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
        (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
            (CPPASTIdExpression, [
                (CPPASTName, [ ]): |set|
            ])
        ])
    ])
    (CPPASTExpressionStatement, [
        (CPPASTFunctionCallExpression, [
            (CPPASTIdExpression, [
                (CPPASTName, [ ]): |go|
            ])
        ])
    ])
])
```

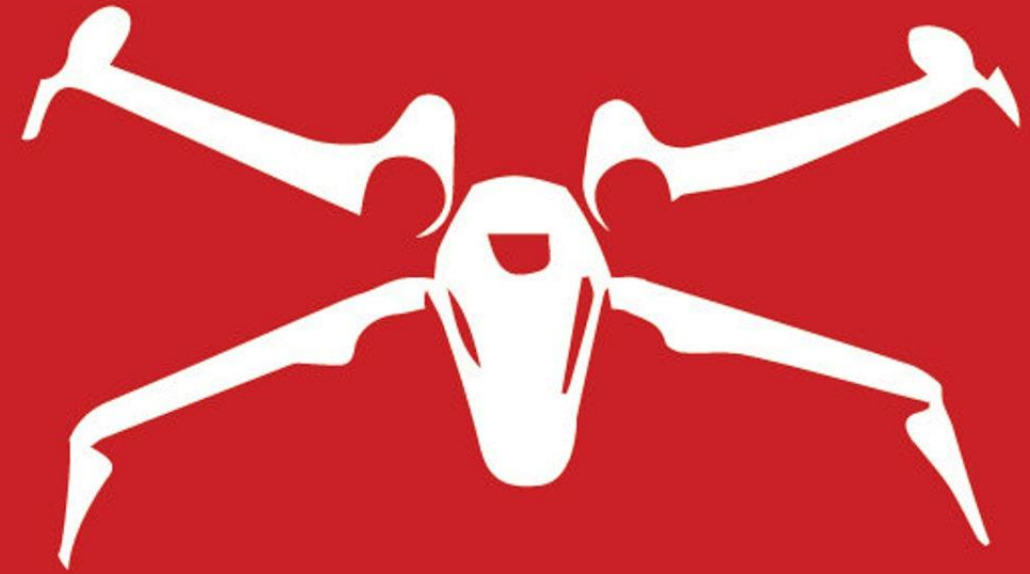
HOW TO ANALYZE AND CHANGE CODE?

- Find instances of a pattern within the code
- Parser represents code as Abstract Syntax Tree
- An instance is a subtree: a piece of that Abstract Syntax Tree
- All instances of a pattern have **equivalent** subtrees
- Use standard tree matching
- Yet, do not expose the AST to the user!



HOW TO GET THE AST OF A PATTERN?

- Without exposing the AST to the user
- Use the parser!
- Limited kinds of patterns
 - Statement(s)
 - Declaration(s)
 - Expression
- Parsers are not designed for concrete syntax patterns, yet!



**USE
THE PARSER,
LUKE**

HOW TO EASILY GET THE SUBTREE OF A PATTERN?

- Make small program around pattern for parser

```
int dummy = (/* add expression here */);
```

```
void main() {
    /* add statements here */
}
```

```
(CPPASTTranslationUnit, [0,18]): |int dummy = (...);|
(CPPASTSimpleDeclaration, [0,18]): |int dummy = (...);|
(CPPASTSimpleDeclSpecifier, [0,3]): |int|
(CPPASTDeclarator, [4,17]): |dummy = (...)|
(CPPASTName, [4,9]): |dummy|
(CPPASTEqualsInitializer, [10,17]): |= (...)|
(CPPASTUnaryExpression, [12,17]): |(...)|

(CPPASTTranslationUnit, [0,22]): |void main() { ... }|
(CPPASTFunctionDefinition, [0,22]): |void main() { ... }|
(CPPASTSimpleDeclSpecifier, [0,4]): |void|
(CPPASTFunctionDeclarator, [5,11]): |main()|
(CPPASTName, [5,9]): |main|
(CPPASTCompoundStatement, [12,22]): |{ ... }|
```

- Extract relevant subtree from AST for pattern

EXTRA INGREDIENT: PLACEHOLDERS

- Match any AST node
 - Single statement, single expression, function name, ...
 - Comparable to `.` the wildcard of regular expressions
 - **\$name** in C++, **\$S_name** in Ada, ...
- Match list of AST Nodes
 - List of arguments, list of parameters, list of initial values, list of enumeration values, list of statements, ...
 - Comparable to `.*` wildcard with Kleene star of regular expressions
 - **\$Sname** in C++, **\$M_name** in Ada, ...



REJUVENATION LIBRARY

- Enable developer to focus on analysis and change
 - Steps on complete code base
 - Gather information, combine knowledge, simplify, ...
 - Actions within step
 - Find, apply, replace, filter, ...



- Fluent interface supports developer
 - Works on code, yet hides AST representation
 - Uses Concrete Syntax Patterns
 - Extendable
 - Integrates in any program
 - Ensures the same code is analyzed as is built
 - Same include paths, same defines
 - Ensures changes are formatted
 - Same pretty printer, same configuration settings
 - Ensures high performance
 - Parallelizes analysis and change

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Summary

C++ CODE EXAMPLE

- What C++ code matches this C++ pattern `Pattern.statements("ready(); set(); go();")` ?

```
ready(); set(); go();
```



```
ready( ); set( ); go( );
```



```
ready();  
set();  
go();
```



```
ready();    // first signal - prepare action  
set();      /* second signal - acquire resources */  
go();       // final signal - take action
```



PLACEHOLDER FOR SINGLE NODE

- What code matches this pattern `Pattern.declaration("int $name;")` ?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<code>int a;</code>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<code>int anotherValue = 0;</code>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<code>bool value;</code>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<code>int b_c;</code>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<code>int mySpecialVariable;</code>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- What code matches this pattern `Pattern.declaration("$type $name;")` ?

PLACEHOLDER FOR SINGLE NODE

- What code matches this pattern `Pattern.statement("size($arg1, $arg2);")`?

```
size(true, 10);
size(boolVar, intVar);
size(!boolVar, ((digit3 * 10 + digit2) * 10 + digit1) * 10 + digit0);
size(!f(false, 11), g(12,true));
size(true);
size(true, 10, 2.0);
```



PLACEHOLDER FOR LIST OF NODES

- What code matches this pattern `Pattern.statement("size($$args);")` ?

- ☒ `size(true, 10);`
- ☒ `size(boolVar, intVar);`
- ☒ `size(!boolVar, ((digit3 * 10 + digit2) * 10 + digit1) * 10 + digit0);`
- ☒ `size(!f(false, 11), g(12, true));`
- ☒ `size();`
- ☒ `size(true);`
- ☒ `size(true, 10, 2.0);`

MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES OF PLACEHOLDERS

- What code matches this pattern `Pattern.statement("if($cond) $stmt; else $stmt;")` ?
- Reoccurrence of a placeholder adds a constraint
 - All occurrences of a placeholder must be equivalent.

```
if (cond) return 0; else return 0;
```



```
if (cond) return false; else return 0;
```



```
if (x > 3) {
    x++; // increment x
} else {
    x++; /* increase x */
}
```



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FIND & APPLY

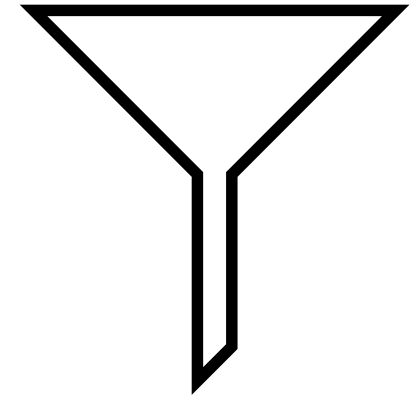
- Find `Pattern.expression("$x.size() == 0")`
- Apply `match -> count++`
- Apply `match -> System.out.println(match.getNodes()[0].getFileLocation())`
- Apply `match -> ASTShower.showNode(match.getSingleAsNode("$x"))`



FILTER

- Find, filter, and apply
- Use filter for additional checks
 - Anything is possible
 - Typically, check on placeholders

```
match -> match.getSingleAsString("$f").startsWith("PackagePrefix")
```



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Summary

FIND & REPLACE

- Find `Pattern.statements("ready(); set(); go();")` and replace with `"start();"`

```
ready(); set(); go();
```

```
start();
```

```
ready( ); set( ); go( );
```

```
start();
```

```
ready();  
set();  
go();
```

```
start();
```

```
ready();    // first signal - prepare action  
set();      /* second signal - acquire resources */  
go();       // final signal - take action
```

```
start();
```

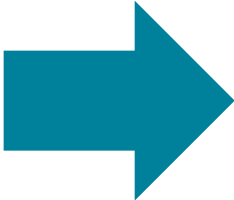
★ depends on
configuration

FIND & REPLACE

Back reference



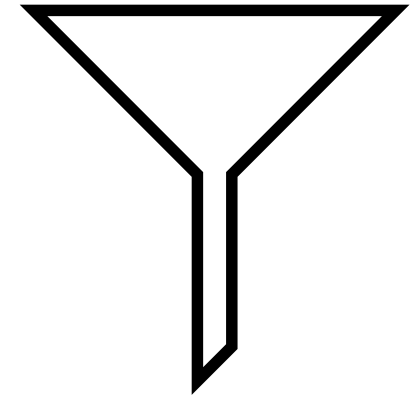
- Find `Pattern.expression("$x * $x")` and replace with `"power($x, 2) "`

<code>var * var</code>		<code>power(var, 2)</code>
<code>(x+y) * (x+y)</code>		<code>power((x+y), 2)</code>

★ Need for post-processing

FILTER (1/2)

- Find, filter, and replace
- Use filter to prevent incorrect changes from happening



TEST YOUR CHANGES! (1/3)

- Is finding the pattern

```
Pattern.statement("if ($cond) { $f($$before, $tValue, $$after); } else { $f($$before, $fValue, $$after); }")
```

and replacing by

```
"$f($$before, $cond ? $tValue : $fValue, $$after);"
```

correct?

- No – One reason

Execution order is changed

`$cond` is no longer executed first

and this might result in different behavior

```
if (i++ == 3) {  
    f(i, 0, i);  
} else {  
    f(i, 1, i);  
}
```



```
f(i, i++ == 3 ? 0 : 1, i);
```

same variable

TEST YOUR CHANGES! (2/3)

- Is finding the pattern

```
Pattern.statement("if ($cond) { $f($$before, $tValue, $$after); } else { $f($$before, $fValue, $$after); }")
```

and replacing by

```
"bool condValue = $cond; $f($$before, condValue ? $tValue : $fValue, $$after);"
```

correct?

- No – One reason

Introduction of variable shadows

variable with same name when present

- Compiler will warn for hiding names by shadowing variables

```
if (i == 3) {
    g (condValue, 0);
} else {
    g (condValue, 1);
}
```



```
bool condValue = i == 3;
g (condValue, condValue ? 0 : 1);
```

TEST YOUR CHANGES! (3/3)

- Both replacements are wrong for overloaded functions

```
if (cond) {  
    f("hello");  
} else {  
    f(1);  
}
```



```
f(cond ? "hello" : 1);
```

- Compiler will not warn when the relevant conversion functions exist!

FILTER (2/2)

- Find, filter, and replace
- Use filter to prevent incorrect changes from happening
- Library of standard filter functions
 - Side effect of placeholder?
 - Interaction between placeholders?
 - Hide variable?
 - Same definition?

```
function Has_Side_Effect
  (Match : Match_Pattern; Placeholder_Name : String) return Boolean;
  -- Has Execution of Expression a side effect?
  -- Side effects include:
  --   variables are changed, write to file, write to screen, ...
```

```
function Has_Effect_On
  (Match : Match_Pattern; Placeholder_A, Placeholder_B : String)
  return Boolean;
  -- Does place_holder effect place_holder B?
  -- Effects include
  --   * output parameter of a function
  --   used in the other placeholder
  --   * side effect of a function (i.e. state change)
  --   used in the other placeholder
```

```
function Are_Independent
  (Match : Match_Pattern; Placeholder_1, Placeholder_2 : String)
  return Boolean;
  -- Are the placeholders independent?
  -- In other words, can the order of execution of these placeholders
  -- be changed without changing the behaviour of the program?
```

AGENDA

1

Introduction presenter & institute

2

Questionnaire

3

Limitations of current tools

4

Concrete Syntax Patterns
Fundamental Concepts

5

Concrete Syntax Patterns
Learn By Examples

6

Analysis: Find, Filter, and Apply

7

Change: Find, Filter, and Replace

8

Summary

SUMMARY

- 040coders analyze and change software
- Existing tooling is limited
 - Tools are inappropriate for code, tools cannot be integrated, tools have steep learning curve
- Rejuvenation library overcomes limitations
 - Concrete Syntax Patterns

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