



DEEP CODE



PRACTICAL STATIC PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Frank Fischer / @cu_0xff





About me or us...

US

- Found 2016 / Spin off by ETH Zürich / DeepTech Startup
- People – see picture and in the room

ME

- For - like - ever in IT
- Worked for Microsoft, Google, Deutsche Telekom...
- MSc IT & MSc Physics



Agenda

- Intro, some stats, and motivation
- Some theory refresher (semantic vs syntax, ML vs Symbolic AI, representing code in graphs)
- Textual processing – the very basic tools and ML
- Linters and AST
- Event Graphs and Symbolic AI -> Demo
- Dos and Don'ts – how to build your tool stack
- Outlook – what to expect more
- Call to action

Motivator

Politics

F-35's Gun That Can't Shoot Straight Adds to Its Roster of Flaws

By [Anthony Capaccio](#)

January 30, 2020, 10:00 AM GMT+1

- ▶ Annual Pentagon testing report also finds 873 software issues
- ▶ It cites 13 'must-fix' items before \$22 billion upgrade phase



Die neue
IG Trading
Plattform

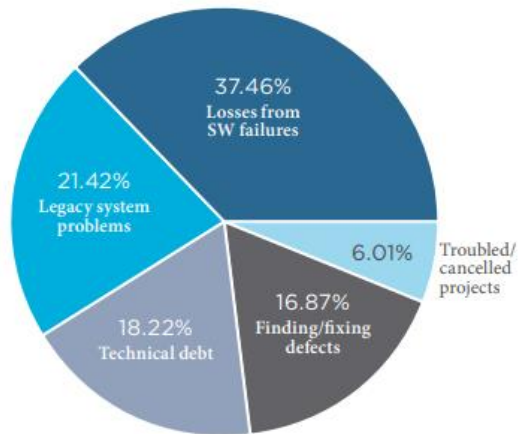
Jetzt entdecken

Verluste können Einlagen über

Just to state the obvious...

CISQ Consortium for IT Software Quality | *The Cost of Poor Software Quality in the US: A 2018 Report*

In summary, the cost of poor quality software in the US in 2018 is approximately **\$2.84 trillion**, the main components of which are seen in the following graph. If we remove the future cost of technical debt, the total becomes \$2.26 trillion. For simplification, the various cost categories are, at this time, assumed to be mutually



GDP USA	US\$ 19,390,000,000,000
GDP Germany	US\$ 3,677,000,000,000
GDP Switzerland	US\$ 678,900,000,000
Damage due to Poor SW Quality in the US/'18	US\$ 2,840,000,000,000





Software Quality – What is it?

The ISO/IEC Standard 25010:2011

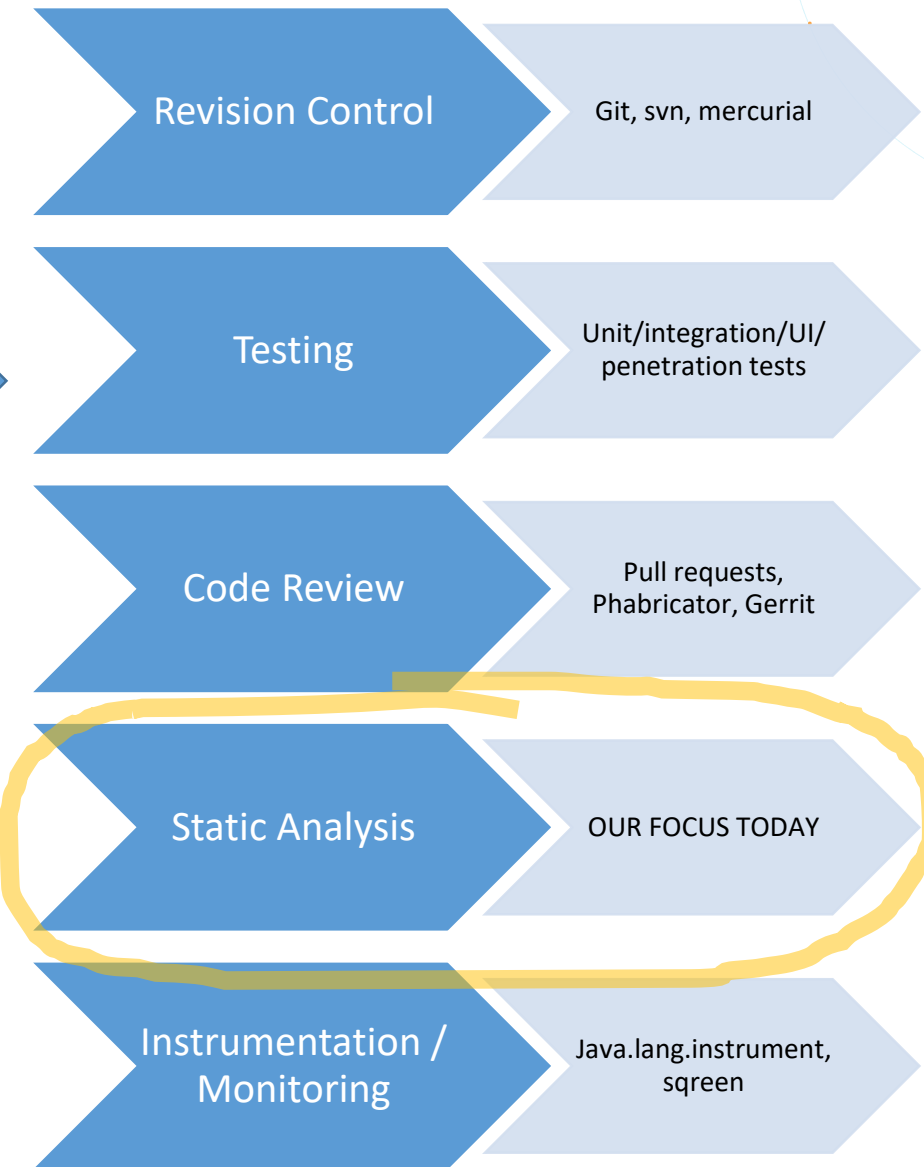
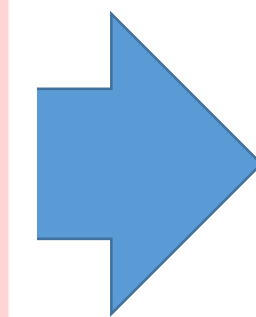
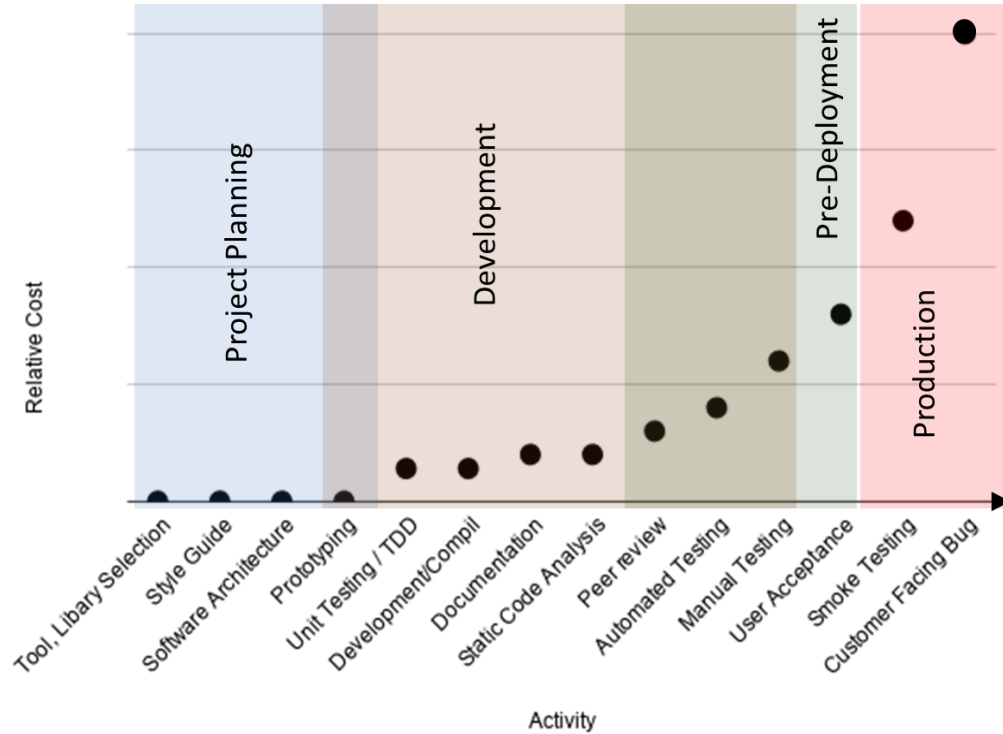


Functional Suitability	Performance Efficiency	Compatibility	Usability	Reliability	Security	Maintainability	Portability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Functional Completeness•Functional Correctness•Functional Appropriateness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Time Behavior•Resource Use•Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Coexistence•Interoperability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Appropriateness•Recognizability•Learnability•User-error Protection•User-interface Aesthetics•Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Maturity•Availability•Fault Tolerance•Recoverability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Confidentiality•Integrity•Nonrepudiation•Accountability•Authenticity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Modularity•Reusability•Analyzability•Modifiability•Testability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Adaptability•Installability•Replaceability

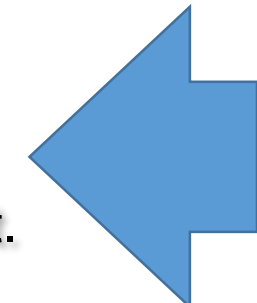


Code Quality Best Practices

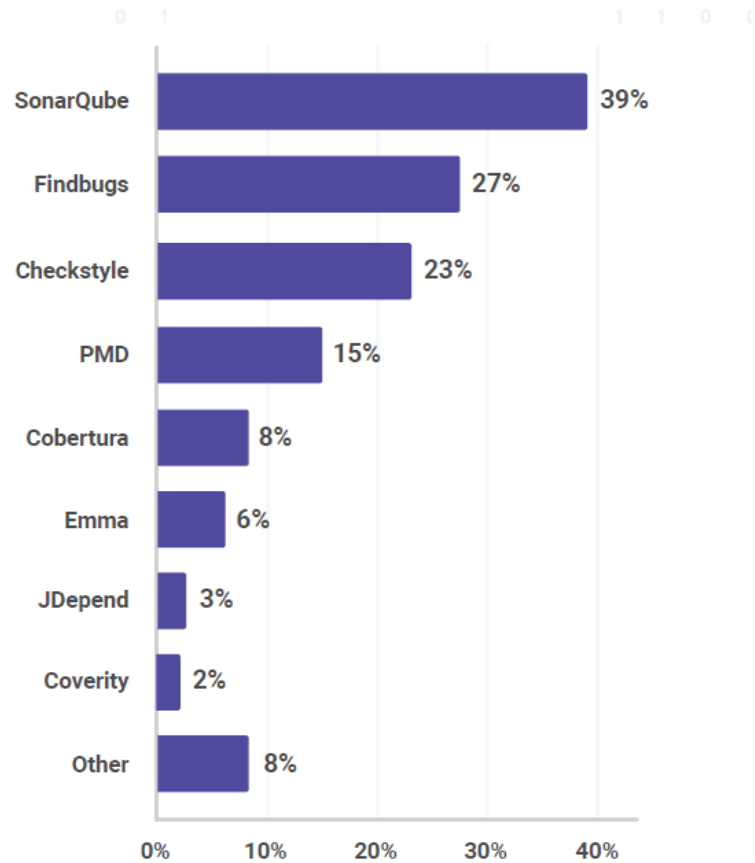
Relative Cost of a Bug



Static Program Analysis:
Analysing software without actually running it.

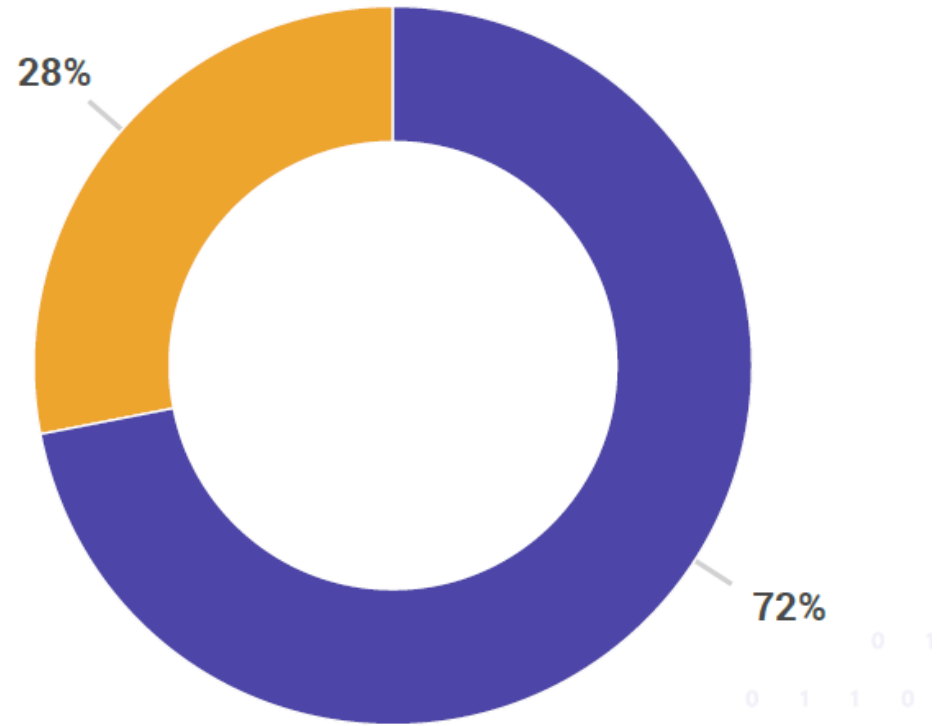


Use of Static Program Analysis



36% said NONE

Do you use static security tools in your testing?



- Do not use a security tool
- Do use a security tool



Today's Limitations

Performance

Inter-procedural or inter-file is extremely resource intense

Quality

Recall versus Precision, types of bugs

Polyglot

Mix of languages, tools need to adapt

Linear Scaling of Rules

Handcrafting rules by experts scales linearly at best

Expressiveness

Found issues need to be explanatory and actionable

API Use

Ever changing libraries (if they would be annotated 😊)

Refreshers



Theory Refresher – Part 1: Semantic, Syntax

```
public class testmain{  
    static Double p(Double x) { return x+x+x; }  
    public static void main(String args[]) {  
        if(p(0.1) == 0.3)  
            System.out.println("Same");  
        else  
            System.out.println("Not the same");  
    }  
}
```

What is a valid program? Syntax and Semantic

Syntax: Correct in the sense of the grammar

Semantic: Reflects the meaning

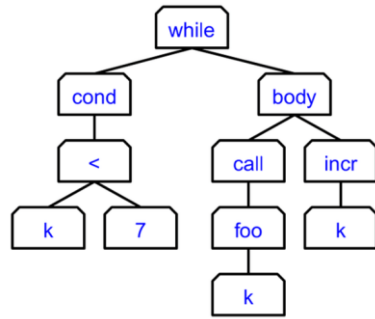
Typical Semantic Issues in Java:

Implicit Type Conversion, Precision, Operator Overloading



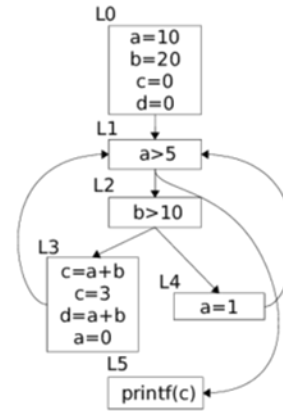
Theory Refresher – Part 2: Code in Graphs

```
while (k<7) {
  foo(k);
  k++;
}
```



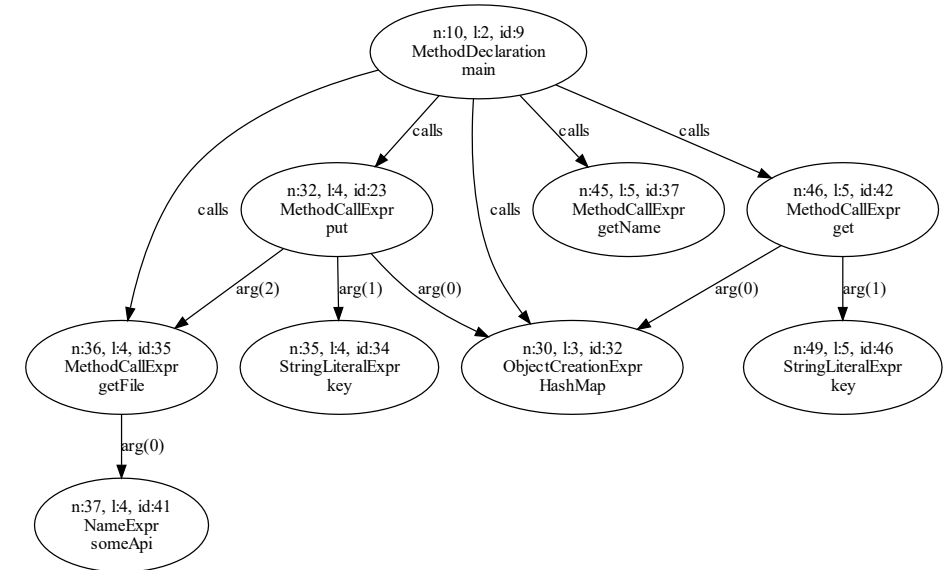
Abstract Syntax Tree

```
a=10;
b=20;
c=0;
d=0;
L1:
if(a>5){
  if(b>10){
    c=a+b;
    c=3;
    d=a+b;
    a=0;
    goto L1;
  }
  else{
    a=1;
    goto L1;
  }
}
else{
  printf("%d\n",c);
}
```



Control Flow Graph

```
class X {
  public void main() {
    Map<String, File> map = new HashMap<>();
    map.put("key", someApi.getFile());
    String name = map.get("key").getName();
  }
}
```



Event Graph

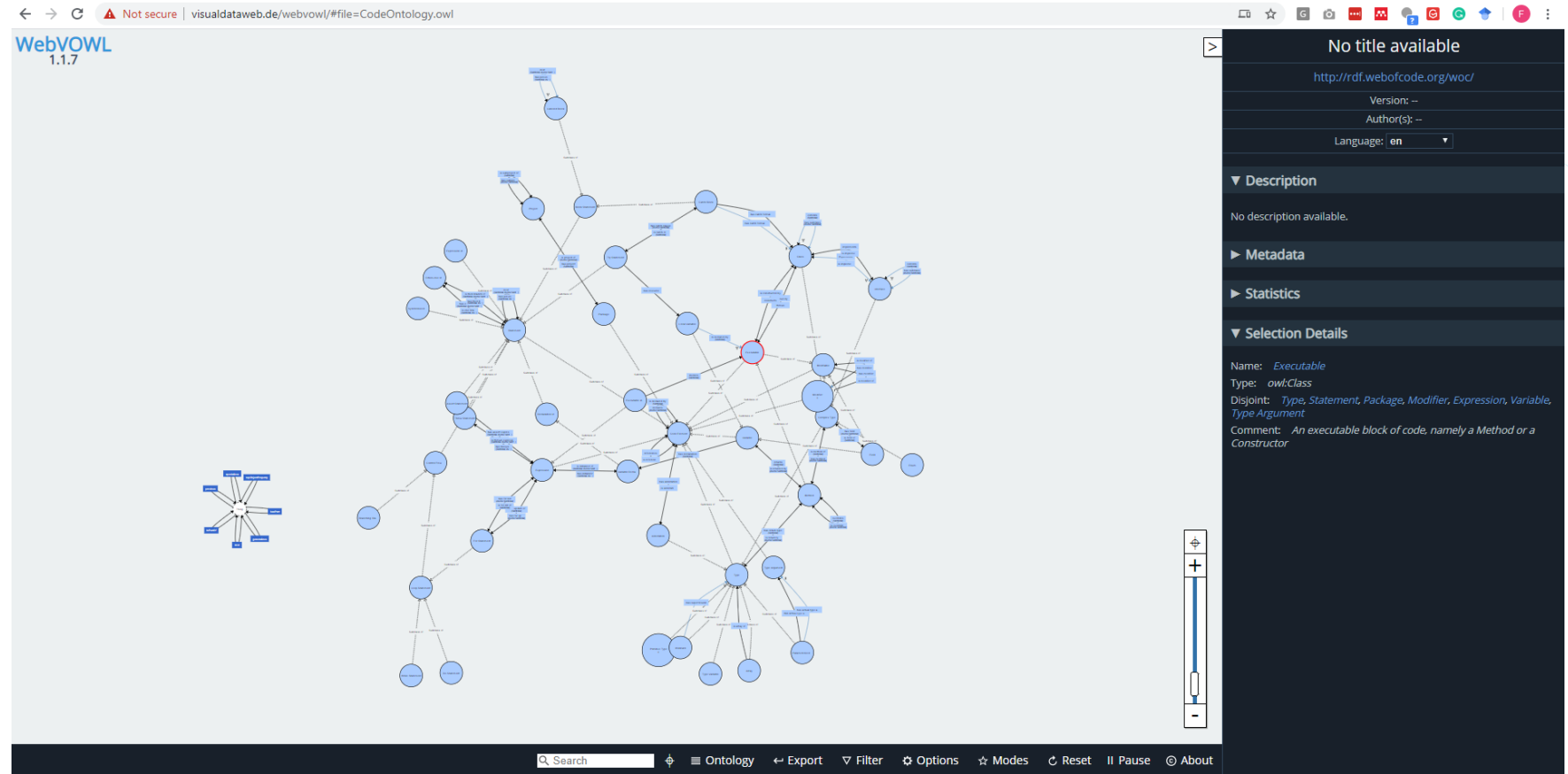
Graphs serve as intermediate representations that expose different aspects (flow-sensitive, context-sensitive, path-sensitive)



Theory Refresher – Part 3: Symbolic vs Sub-symbolic AI

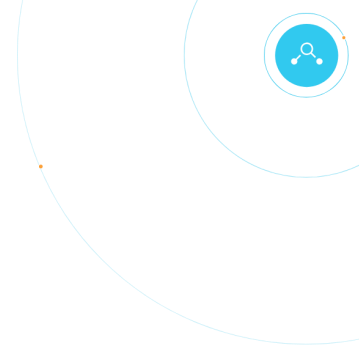
Symbolic AI	Subsymbolic AI
Explicit symbolic programming Inference, search algorithms AI programming languages Rules, Ontologies, Plans, Goals	Bayesian learning Deep learning Connectionism Neural Nets/Backprop LDA, SVM, HMM, PMF, alphabet soup...
Introspection more useful for coding Easier to debug Easier to explain Easier to control Not so Big Data More useful for explaining people's thought Better for abstract problems	More robust against noise Better performance Less knowledge upfront Easier to scale up Big Data More useful for connecting to neuroscience Better for perceptual problems

Ontology



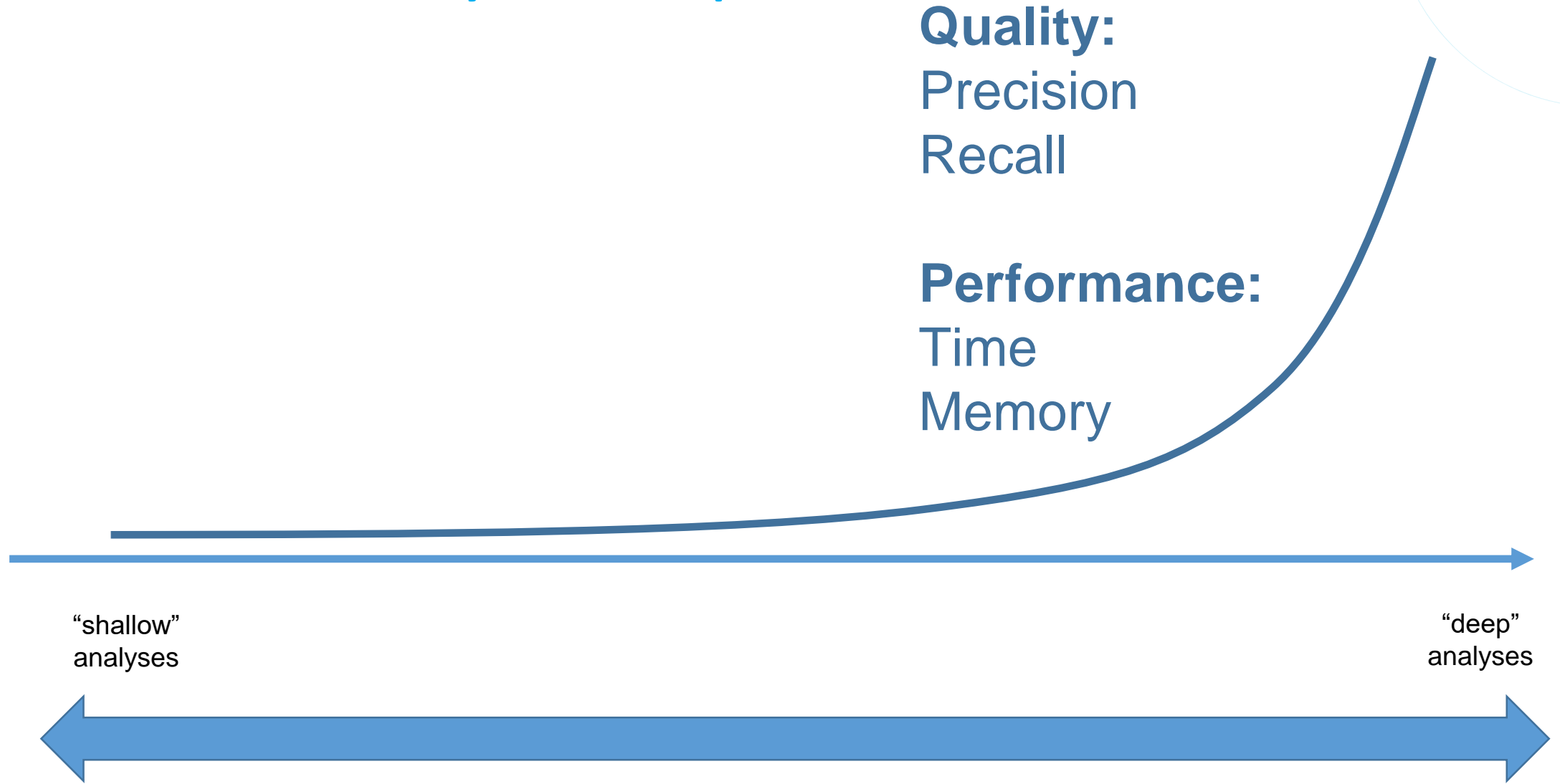
<http://www.visualdataweb.de/webvowl/>

An **ontology** describes a structure for a body of knowledge. With the structure and similarities between ontologies, you can generalize knowledge.

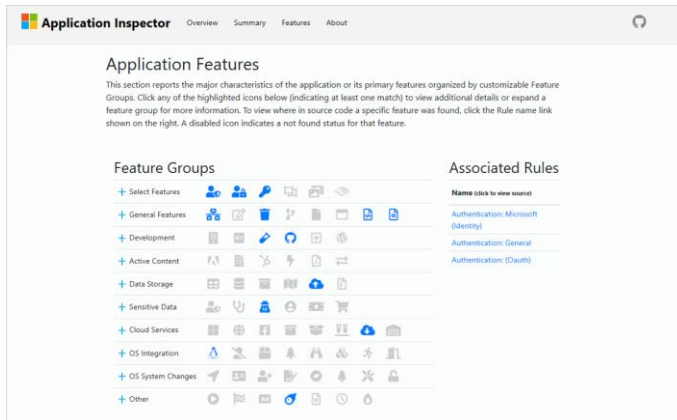


Static Program Analysis

Spectrum of Static Analysis Techniques



Textual processing – the very basic tools and ML



Treats Source Code as Text

- Simple API misuse, deprecated APIs
- Leaked Secrets, Authentication Tokens

Examples

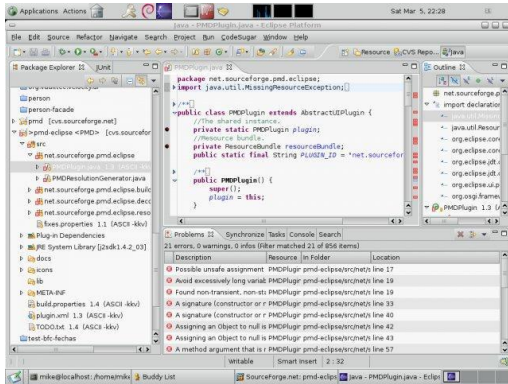
- Simplest grep
- Microsoft Application Inspector

“shallow”
analyses



“deep”
analyses

Linters and AST



Constructs Abstract Syntax Tree and runs Rule Sets

- Style violations
- Local Bug Patterns
- Mostly Language dependent

Examples

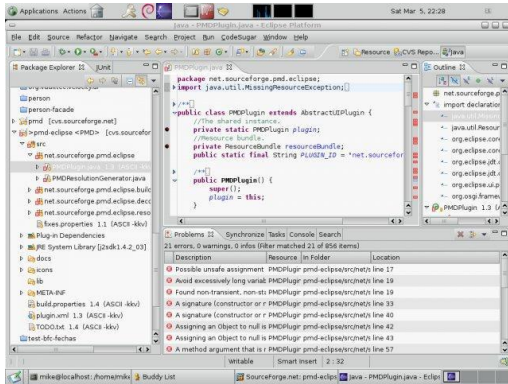
- PMD
- eslint

“shallow”
analyses

“deep”
analyses



Linters and AST



- S
- L
- L
- P

“UseEqualsToCompareStrings” Rule

If(com == “end”)

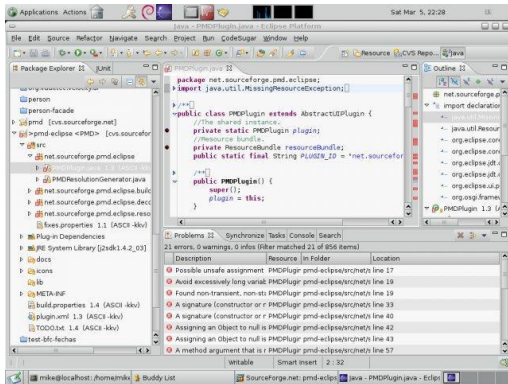
If(“end”.equals(com))

“shallow”
analyses

“deep”
analyses



Linters and AST



- S
- L
- L
- P

“UseEqualsToCompareStrings” Rule

```
void equalsIgnoreCase(String x, String y) {  
    Return x.toLowerCase() == y.toLowerCase();  
}
```

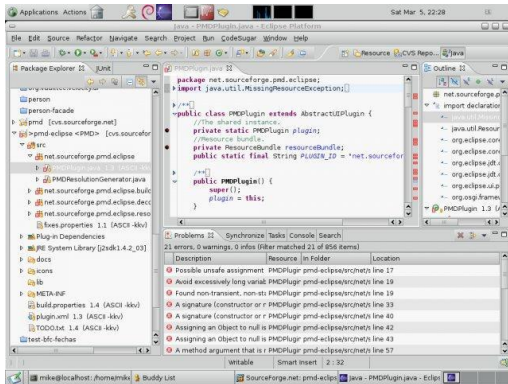
“shallow” analyses

“deep” analyses





Linters and AST -Medium



Constructs Abstract Syntax Tree and runs Rule Sets

- Abstract Syntax Tree
- Symbol Table
- Resolve Names
- Type Propagation
- Dataflow Analysis

Examples

- Error Prone

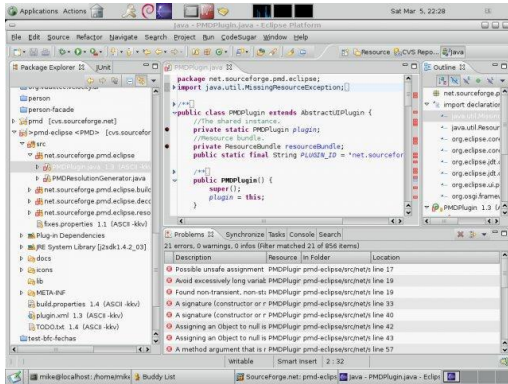
“shallow”
analyses



“deep”
analyses



Linters and AST - Medium



- A
- S
- R
- T
- D
- E

“NullTernary” Rule

```
int x = flag ? foo : null;
```

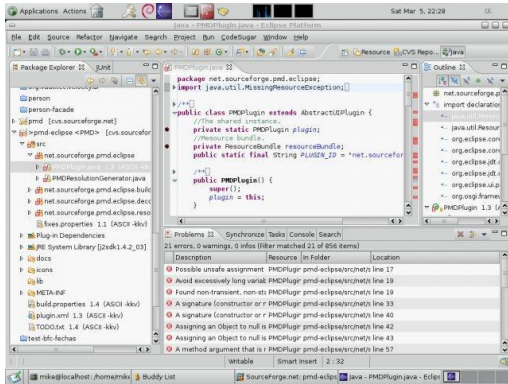
“shallow” analyses

“deep” analyses





Linters and AST - Medium



- A
- S
- R
- T
- D
- E

“NullTernary” Rule

```
Integer y = null;
int x = flag ? foo : y;
```



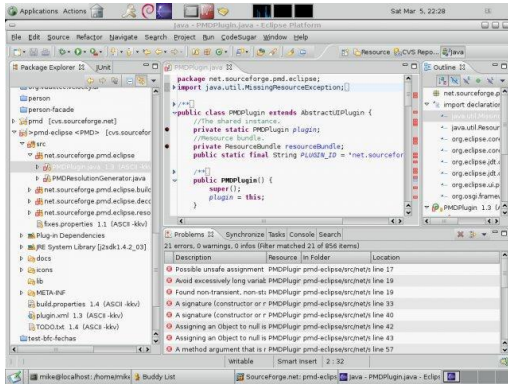
“shallow” analyses

“deep” analyses





Linters and AST - Medium



- A
- S
- R
- T
- D
- E

“NullTernary” Rule

```
Integer y = someAPIFnWithNull();
int x = flag ? foo : y;
```



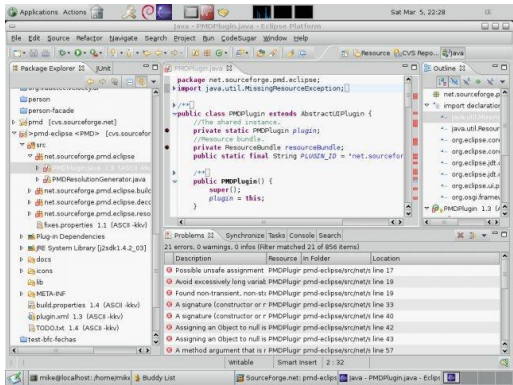
“shallow” analyses

“deep” analyses





Intermediate Representations



Constructs Abstract Syntax Tree and runs Rule Sets

- Interprocedural (generate context for each procedure)

Examples

- fbinfer

“shallow” analyses

“deep” analyses





Infer Example

```
864.  
865. public void feedItemSelected(String feedId) {  
866. FeedObject feedObject = DDGApplication.getDB().selectFeedById(feedId);  
867. feedItemSelected(feedObject);
```

```
482.  
483. public FeedObject selectFeedById(String id){  
484. FeedObject out = null;  
485. Cursor c = null;  
486. try {  
487.   c = this.db.query(FEED_TABLE, null, "_id=?", new String[]{id}, null, null, null);  
488.   if (c.moveToFirst()) {  
489.     out = getFeedObject(c);  
490.   }  
491. } finally {  
492.   if (c!=null) {  
493.     c.close();  
494.   }  
495. }  
496. return out;  
497. }
```

```
841.  
842. public void feedItemSelected(FeedObject feedObject) {  
843. // keep a reference, so that we can reuse details while saving  
844.   DDGControlVar.currentFeedObject = feedObject;  
845.   DDGControlVar.mDuckDuckGoContainer.sessionType = SESSIONTYPE.SESSION_FEED;  
846.  
847.   String url = feedObject.getUrl();
```



Towards Verification – Using Annotations

```
static void log(Object x) {  
    System.out.println(x.toString());  
}
```

```
static void foo() {  
    log(null);  
}
```

```
static void log(@NotNull Object x) {  
    System.out.println(x.toString());  
}
```

```
static void foo() {  
    log(null);  
}
```

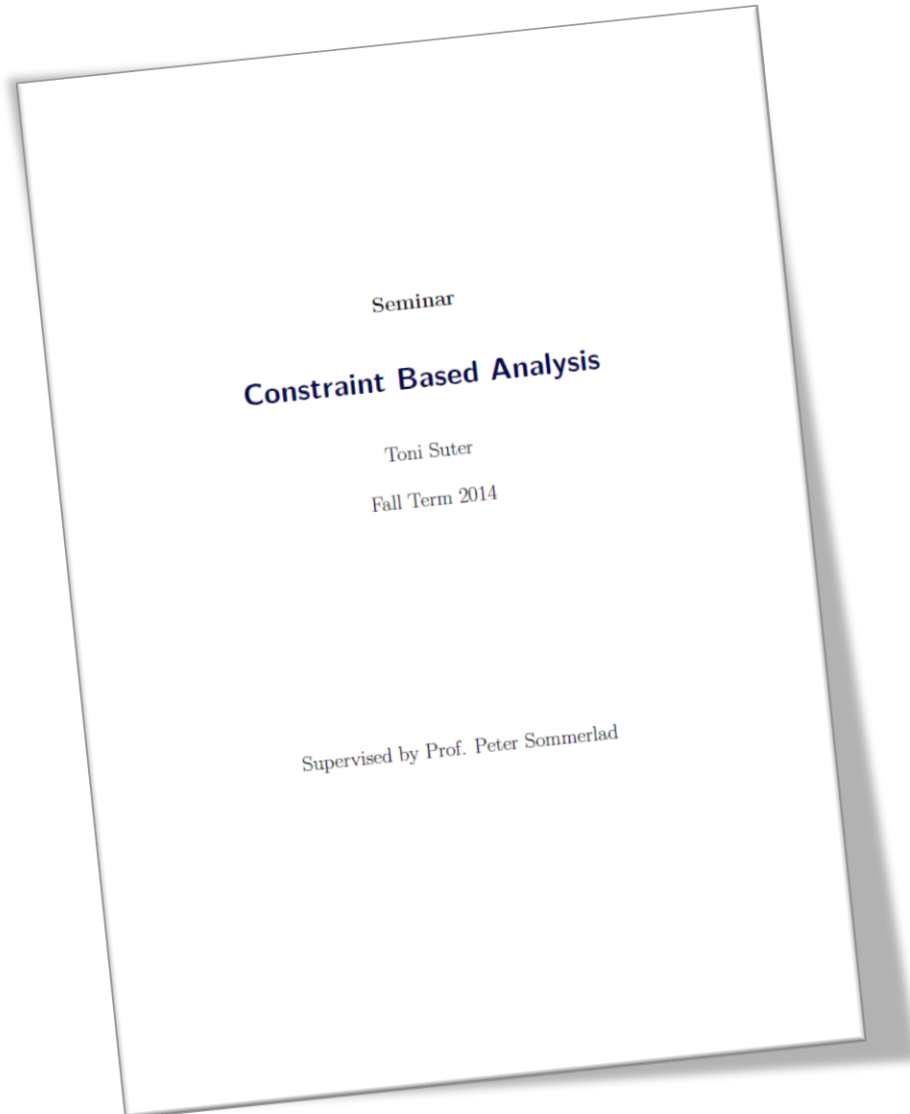
- Uber's NullAway
(Data Flow Analysis / Checker Framework)

- > Annotations unlock the Semantic
- > Annotations are expensive 😞

Overview Offerings

- Sonarqube
 - Covertly
 - Cobertura
 - Snyk (Security)
 - Checkmarx (Security)
 - IntelliJ
 - DiffBlue
 - ...
- Findbugs
 - PMD
 - Checkstyle
 - Infer
 - NullAway
 - Semmle
 - EMMA (Code coverage)
 - ...

How do these tools work? Constraint Based Analysis



- Build an intermediate representation (e.g., a graph)
- Use logic programming to build knowledge about the graph
- Use constraints („rules“) on the knowledge (e.g. types need to match)
- See: <https://wiki.ifs.hsr.ch/SemProgAnTr/files/ConstraintBasedAnalysis.pdf>



Today's Limitations

Performance

Inter-procedural or inter-file is extremely resource intense

Quality

Recall versus Precision, types of bugs

Polyglot

Mix of languages, tools need to adapt

Linear Scaling of Rules

Handcrafting rules by experts scales linearly at best

Expressiveness

Found issues need to be explanatory and actionable

API Use

Ever changing libraries (if they would be annotated 😊)

DeepCode's Approach

Performance

Inter-procedural or inter-file is extremely resource intense

Inhouse build constraint solver using Datalog
Advanced Data Structures



DeepCode's Approach

Semi-Supervised Learning
using Big Code

Quality

Recall versus

Polyglot

Mix of languages, tools need to adapt

Learning of Rules

Learning rules by experts scales

best

ness

es need to be explanatory

and actionable

API Use

Ever changing libraries (if they would be annotated 😊)

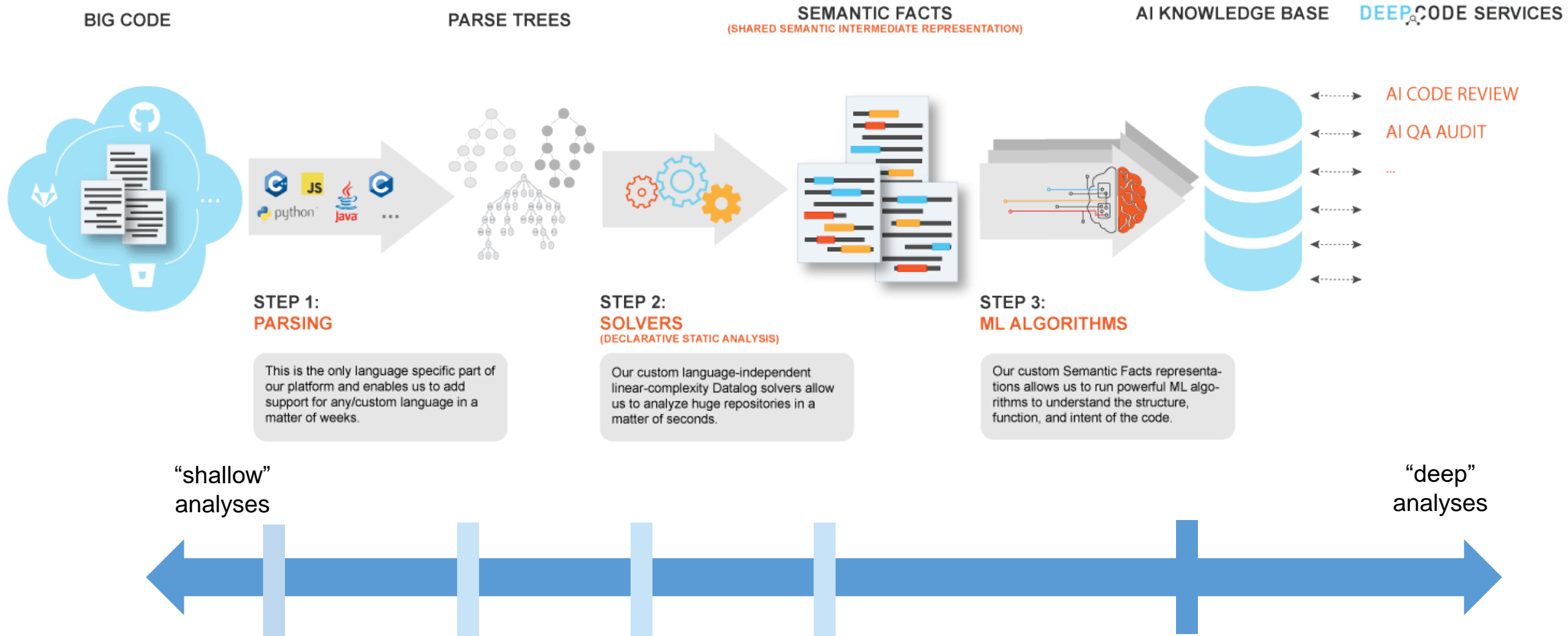
DeepCode's Approach

Ontologies

Expressiveness

Found issues need to be explanatory and actionable

Event Graphs and Symbolic AI and Ontologies



Demo

- OWASP/Benchmark (<https://github.com/OWASP/Benchmark>)
- JFX (<https://github.com/openjdk/jfx>)
- JDK14 (<https://github.com/openjdk/jdk14>)

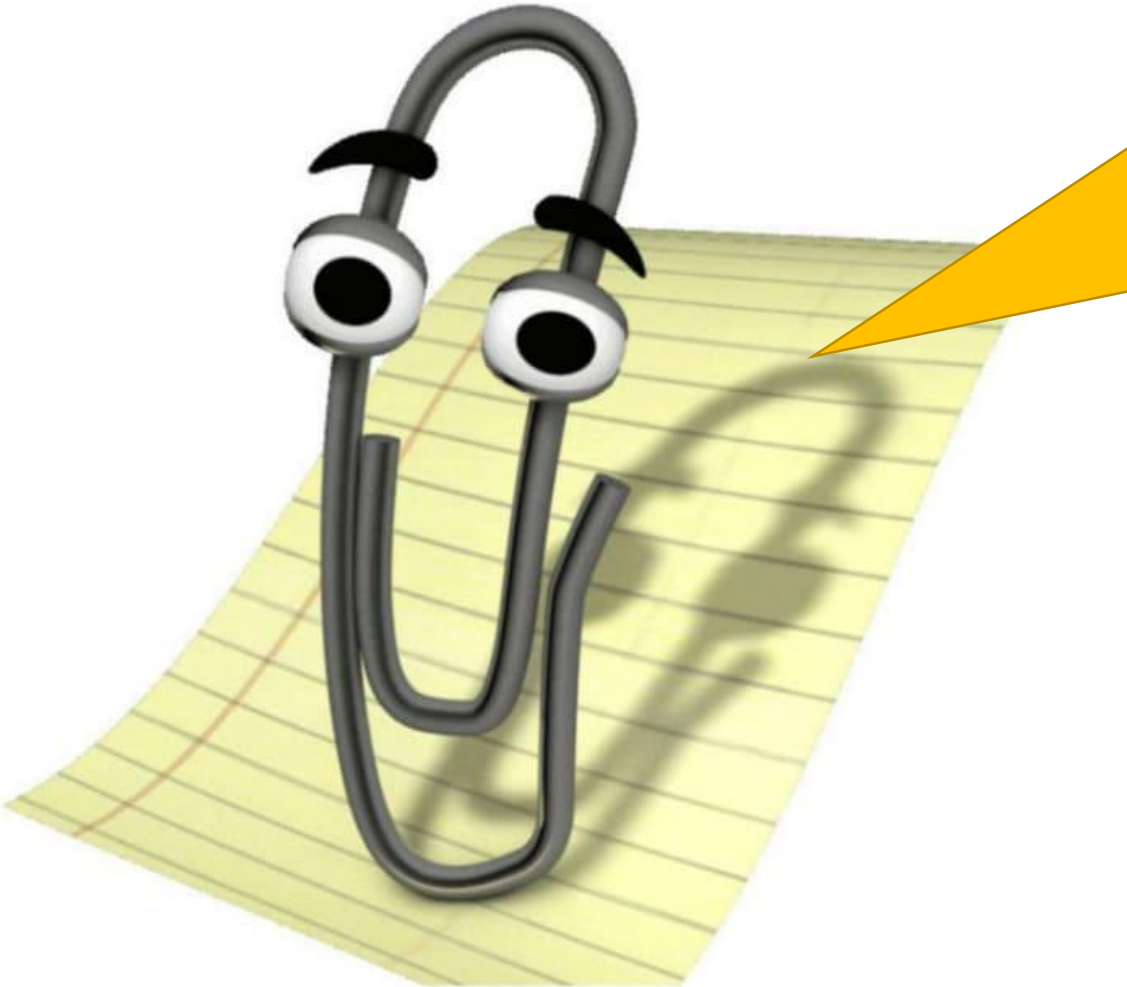


Dos and Don'ts – how to build your tool stack

- Success measure should be: Bug fixed not issues identified
- Shift left is good – but too much left hurts*
 - Tools can break the development process (compiler errors)
 - But developers are more likely to fix bugs when presented early
- The sieve gets finer to the right
 - Apply Cheese Slice Model
- Integration into development process and developer workflow is key*
 - IDE (Style+Tool Integration)
 - Compiler
 - Continuous Integration
- Use tools on legacy code bases
 - Revisit legacy code (like 6 months, update libraries, run CI, maybe CD)

* According to Google ☺ <https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2018/4/226371-lessons-from-building-static-analysis-tools-at-google/fulltext>

Outlook – what to expect more



It seems you want to develop 3D First Person Shooter for Arduino. Shall I help you with that?



Outlook – what to expect more

- Generalization drives Polyglot
- DevOps
- Helpful
 - Semantic: Reasoning of likely meaning/intention
 - Expressiveness:
 - Explain the reasons
 - Find alternatives to current construction
 - Find examples for unit tests, generate unit tests
- Rules scale exponential by using ML
- Combination of Static and Dynamic
- Combination of Static and Dynamic and Runtime

It looks like you are bashing furiously on your keyboard. Do you want me to enable caps lock?

- Yes
- Die in a fire, Mr Clippy



Call to Action

- If you use Static Program Analysis...
 - Bravo!
 - Revisit your toolstack and optimize
- If you are not using Static Program Analysis...
 - It is ok, you are amongst friends
 - Look into your projects, try some tools and see what fits you the most
 - IntelliJ is a good start

Give us a try 😊 -> **deepcode.ai** <-

Thank you...