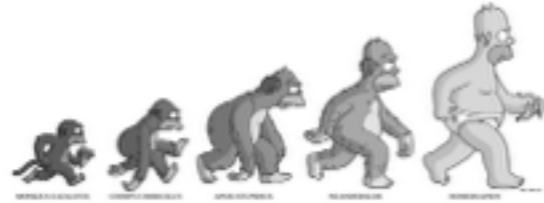




## Introduction to Software Engineering

# 11. Software Evolution

Based on a lecture by Oscar Nierstrasz and the **SDE Course** at the University of Bern.



## Laws of Software Evolution



## Reverse and Reengineering



## Mining Software Evolution



## Laws of Software Evolution



## Reverse and Reengineering



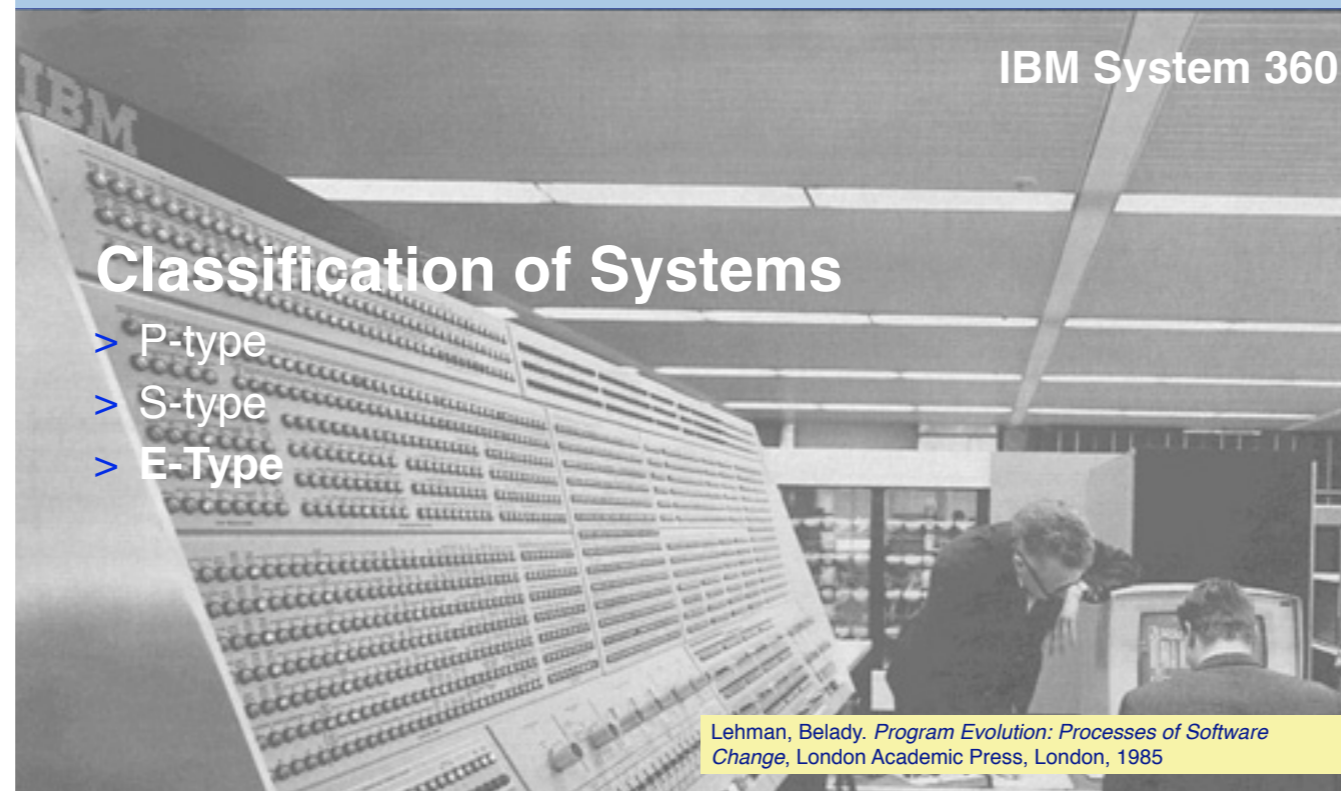
## Mining Software Evolution

## Lehman's Law of Continuing Change

—A program that is used in a real-world environment *must change*, or become progressively less useful in that environment.

Lehman, Belady. *Program Evolution: Processes of Software Change*, London Academic Press, London, 1985

# Lehman's Laws of Software Evolution

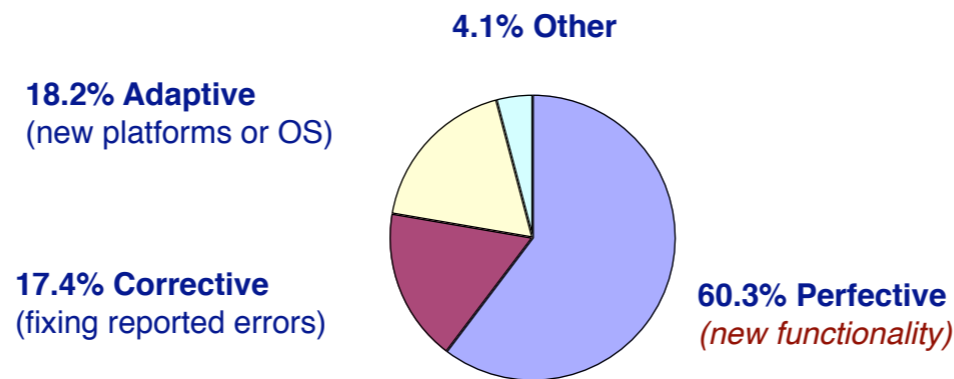


S-type — specification based

P-type — algorithms. chess playing system.

E-type — real world activity. integrated in the environment.

## Continuous Development



The bulk of the maintenance/evolution cost is due to *new functionality*  
⇒ even with better requirements, it is hard to predict new functions

7

*data from [Lien78a]*

Well, better requirements engineering indeed helped to identify stable ground in the muddle of CHANGING REQUIREMENTS.

Unfortunately, an empirical survey done by Lientz and Swanson revealed that the majority of changes requested have to do with EXTRA FUNCTIONALITY.

That's why modern requirements engineering tries to define SCENARIOS FOR FUTURE EXTENSIONS so that the designers can accommodate their designs. That's why we try to define good DOMAIN MODELS, so that most of the changes will fit our design.

Unfortunately, no matter how good our requirements engineering, we will never be able TO PREDICT THE FUTURE. Therefore, there will always be changes that DO NOT FIT OUR ORIGINAL DESIGN, and depending on our problem domain this may be quite a lot.

By the way, that's one of the reasons why AGILE DEVELOPMENT METHODS are so popular nowadays. They observed that for certain problem domains you cannot make good predictions about the 60% perfective maintenance here (POINT TO SLIDE). When that's the case, it's useless to invest in a good design because you don't know which variation points to build into your design. Half of the times, you will guess wrong and then you

## Lehman's Law of Increasing Entropy

—As a program evolves, it becomes *more complex*, and extra resources are needed to preserve and simplify its structure.

Lehman, Belady. *Program Evolution: Processes of Software Change*, London Academic Press, London, 1985



*this slide is intentionally left blank.*

## Software Ageing = Increasing Entropy

### Lack of Knowledge

- > *obsolete* or no documentation
- > *departure* of the original developers or users
- > *limited understanding* of entire system (*missing tests?*)



10

How can you ASSESS WHETHER A SYSTEM NEEDS REENGINEERING (i.e., when is it time to take the second path ?)

In fact, there are QUITE A LOT OF SYMPTOMS as you can see on this slide

I won't go into detail for each of them,

RATHER, I will point you to the ones I ASK FOR EACH TIME I FACE A NEW SYSTEM

⇒ missing tests, simple changes take too long. big build times

The reason I looked for those is because they are MEASURABLE.

This is especially important, because during a reengineering project, there will ALWAYS COME A TIME WHEN YOU WILL BE CHALLENGED. Opponents will try to cancel you project and start again from scratch.

Therefore, its is good to have some QUANTIFYABLE GOALS, to show that you are making progress, EVEN IF THE REENGINEERING IS NOT FINISHED

## Common Symptoms of Software Aging (2)

### Process Failures

- > *too long* to turn things over to production
- > *constant bug fixes*
- > *simple changes take too long*

### Code symptoms

- *duplicated code*
- *code smells*



## Common Problems

### Architectural Problems

- > insufficient *documentation*  
= non-existent or out-of-date
- > improper *layering*  
= too few or too many layers
- > lack of *modularity*  
= strong coupling
- > *duplicated code*  
= copy, paste & edit code
- > duplicated *functionality*  
= by separate teams

### Refactoring opportunities

- > *misuse* of inheritance  
= code reuse vs polymorphism
- > *missing* inheritance  
= duplication, case-statements
- > *misplaced* operations  
= operations outside classes

12

We have been facing quite a lot of systems that NEEDED REENGINEERING.  
We learned that all of them have different MOTIVATIONS,  
however there seems to be a COMMON SET OF PROBLEMS THAT REAPPEAR IN ALL projects  
... READ SLIDE ...

# So what to do?

***Before:***

**Design for change. Build a family of solutions**



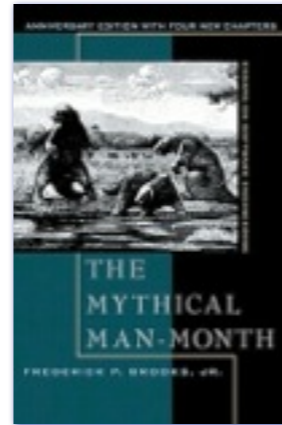
If software is bound to change, plan for change. Don't build a solution, build a family of solutions.  
Open-Closed Principle.

# So what to do?

***After:***  
**Reengineer.**  
**Refactor.**

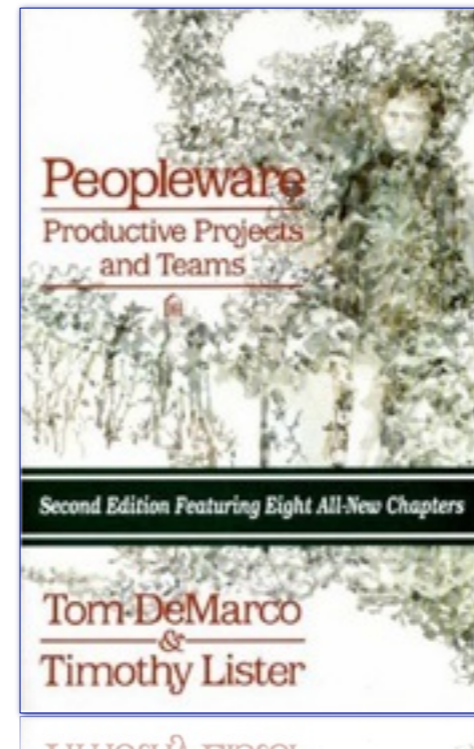


Never try to rewrite the system. There is too much knowledge encoded in the running system.



## People Matter: *Peopleware*

- > Project management
- > Work environment
- > The concept of “flow”





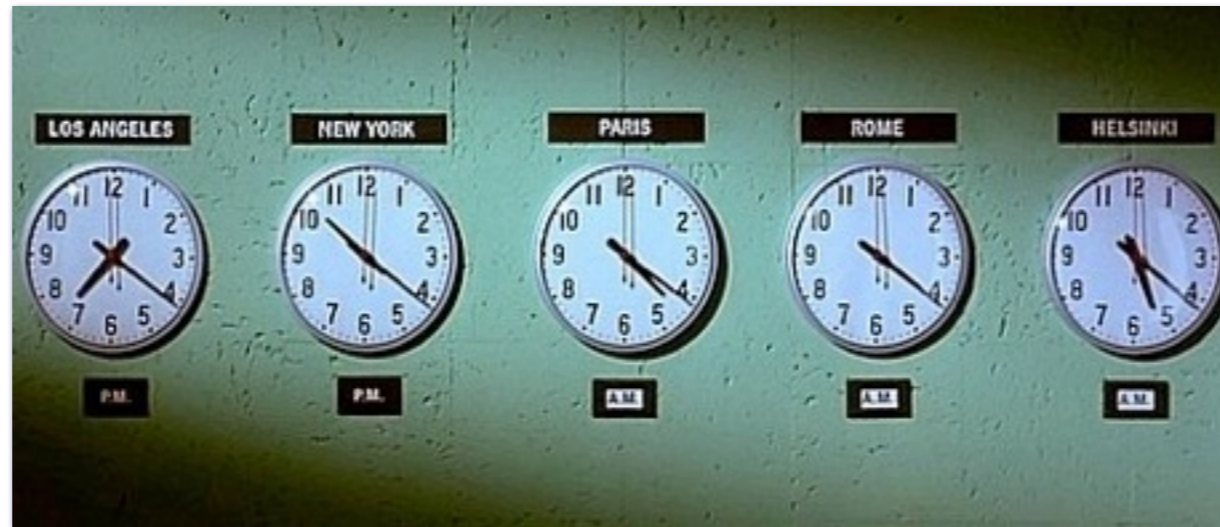
## ***[Bonus Topic] The Concept of Flow***



17

“You know that what you need to do is possible to do, even though difficult, and sense of time disappears. You forget yourself. You feel part of something larger.”

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi on experiencing ‘flow’



*Night on Earth, Jim Jarmush*

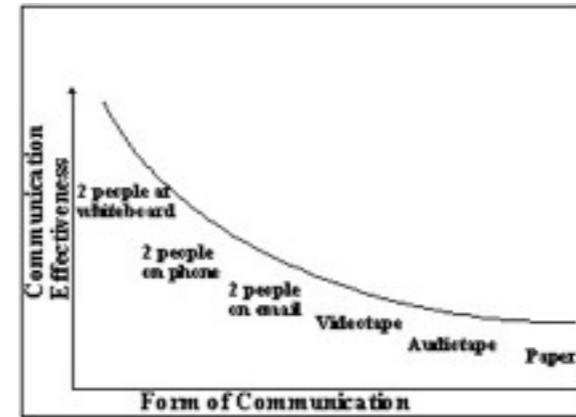
Anecdotal evidence of distance-communication still working.

Image from "Night on Earth". Jim Jarmusch.  
Some software shops work around the clock.  
But is this efficient?

## Laws about people

Characterizing people as non-linear, first-order components in software development,  
Alistair Cockburn

- Communication degradation
- Inconsistency of people
- Good citizenship
- Diversity of people



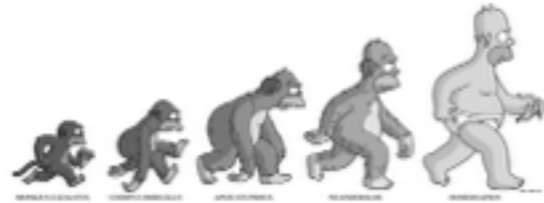
19

Good citizenship. GitHub.  
Inconsistency. People need external factors.  
People like proximity.

## Gamification: “People like to see progress”



On Gamification.



## Laws of Software Evolution



## Reverse and Reengineering



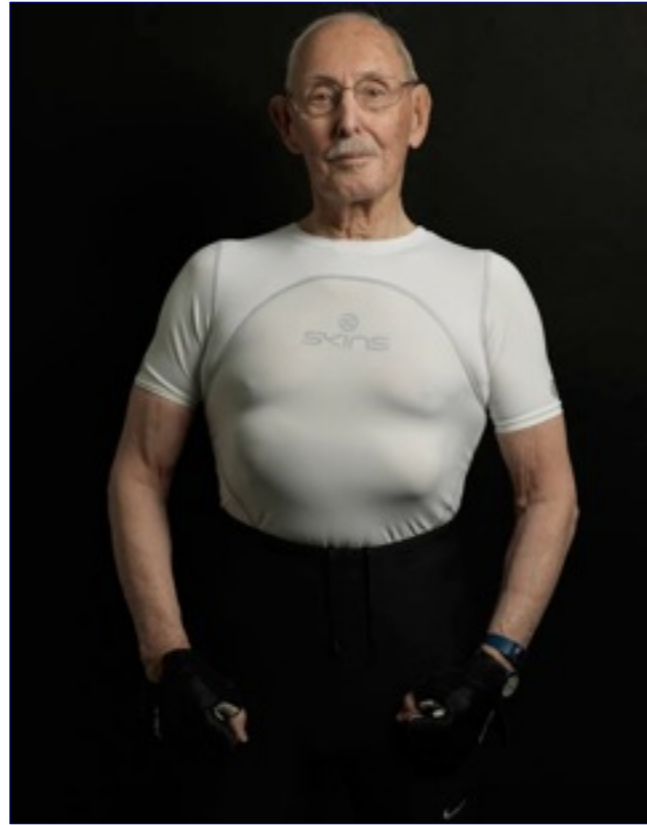
## Mining Software Evolution

***Reengineering*** ... is the examination and alteration of a subject system to reconstitute it in a new form and the subsequent implementation of the new form.

“Forward Engineering is the traditional process of moving from high-level abstractions and logical, implementation-independent designs to the physical implementation of a system.”

“Reverse Engineering is the process of analyzing a subject system to identify the system’s components and their interrelationships and create representations of the system in another form or at a higher level of abstraction.”

— Chikofsky and Cross [in Arnold, 1993]



[Charles Eugster @ TEDxZurich](#)

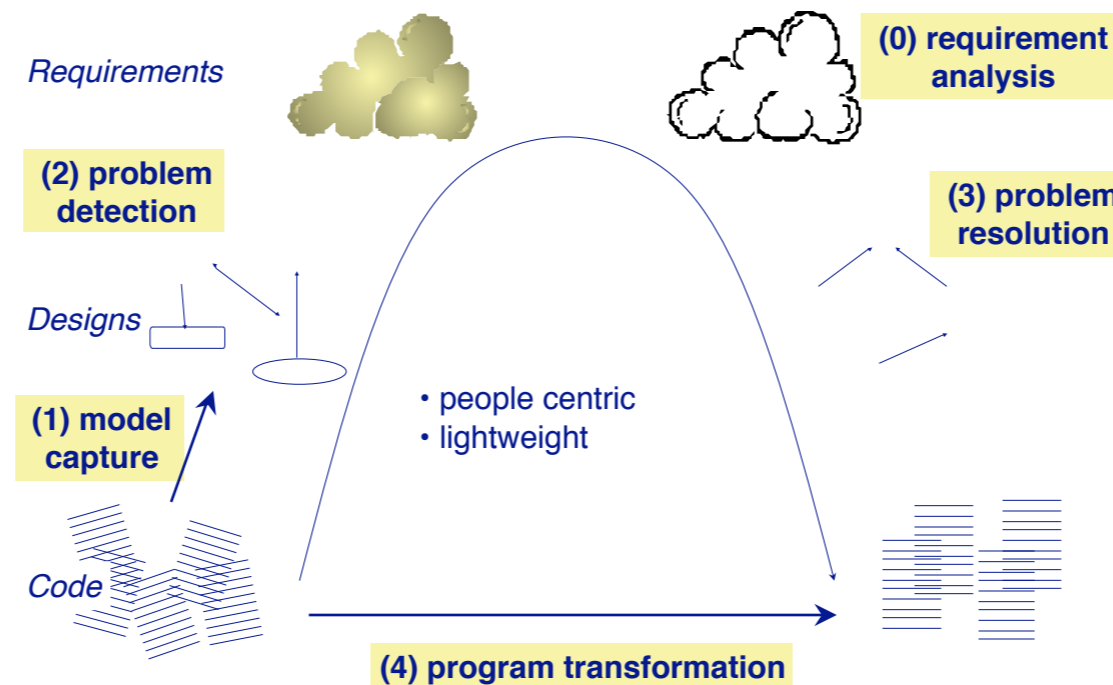
Born in 1919. Still goes to the gym.  
How to get this?  
With explicit effort.

## Goals of Reengineering

- > *Untangling*
  - split a monolithic system into parts that can be separately marketed
  - increase the understandability of the code
- > *Performance*
  - “first do it, then do it right, then do it fast” — experience shows this is the right sequence!
- > *Porting*
  - the architecture must distinguish the platform dependent modules
- > *Design extraction*
  - to improve maintainability, portability, etc.
- > *Exploitation of New Technology*
  - i.e., new language features, standards, libraries, etc.



# The Reengineering Life-Cycle



25

To tackle these problems, you need some kind of **GENERIC REENGINEERING PROCESS**

Here is the one that we propose, **WHICH WE WILL USE TROUGHOUT THIS TALK**

Note that you should see this as a way to describe the various activities that take place during a project, but not necessarily a **STRICT ORDER ON** when these activities must take place.

**(0) Requirement analysis: analyse on WHICH PARTS OF YOUR REQUIREMENTS HAVE CHANGED**

**(1) Model capture: REVERSE ENGINEER** from the source-code into a **MORE ABSTRACT FORM**, typically some form of a design model. How abstract depends on the kind of problem you want to solve

**(2) problem detection: IDENTIFY DESIGN PROBLEMS** in that abstract model

**(3) problem resolution: PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE DESIGN** that will solve the identified problem

**(4) program transformations: MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE CODE**, so that it adheres to the new design **YET PRESERVES ALL THE REQUIED FUNCTIONALITY**

Here **TESTING** will play an important role

In the **REMAINDER OF THE TALK**, we will use this picture to **ILLUSTRATE WHERE** the various techniques and tools **FIT IN**.

While doing that, we will emphasize the role of **THE HUMAN IN THE LOOP**, because we believe that reengineering

## Goals of Reverse Engineering

- > Facilitate *reuse*
    - detect candidate reusable artifacts and components
  - > Generate *alternative views*
    - automatically generate different ways to view systems
  - > Synthesize *higher abstractions*
    - identify latent abstractions in software
  
  - > Cope with *complexity*
    - need techniques to understand large, complex systems
  - > Recover *lost information*
    - extract what changes have been made and why
  - > Detect *side effects*
    - help understand ramifications of changes
- Chikofsky and Cross [in Arnold, 1993]

## Reverse Engineering Techniques

- > *Re-documentation*
  - diagram generators
  - cross-reference listing generators
  
- > *Design recovery*
  - software metrics
  - browsers, visualization tools
  - static analyzers
  - dynamic (trace) analyzers

CS – they pay good money for a decent cross-referencer

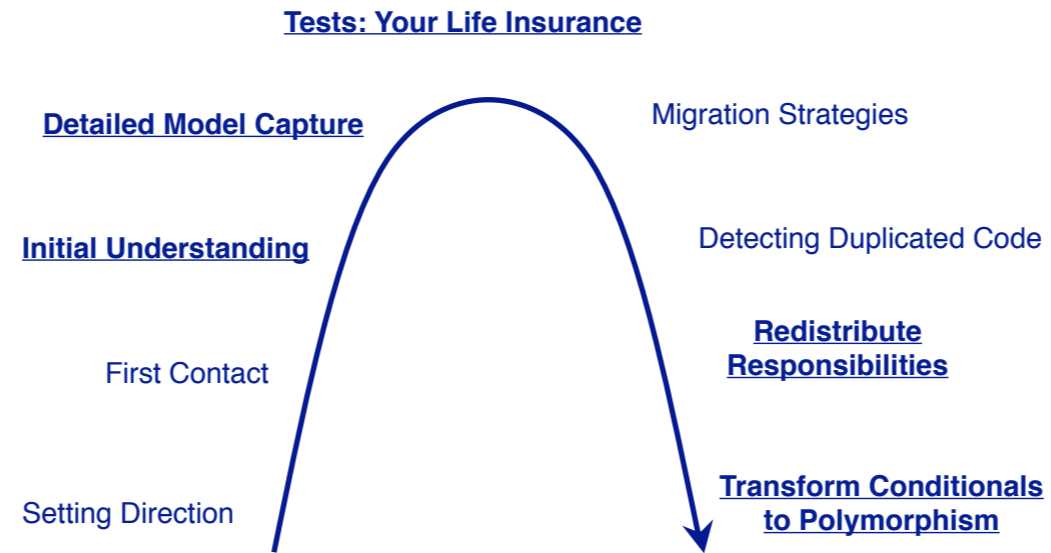
## Reengineering Patterns

Reverse engineering patterns *encode expertise and trade-offs* in

- *extracting design* from source code, running systems and people.
- *transforming legacy code* to resolve problems that have emerged.



# A Map of Reengineering Patterns

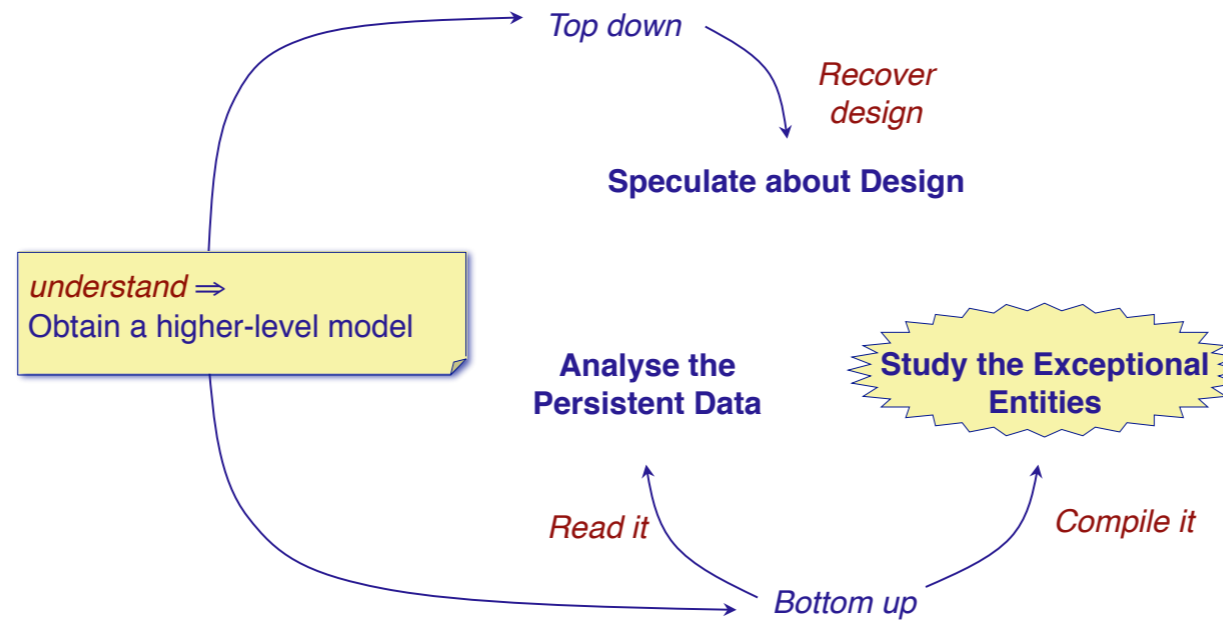
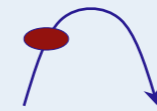


29

We documented most of our techniques in the form of REENGINEERING PATTERNS

Here is a map of these patterns, as they appeared in our book

# Initial Understanding



## Pattern: Study the Exceptional Entities

### ***Problem***

—How can you quickly gain insight into complex software?

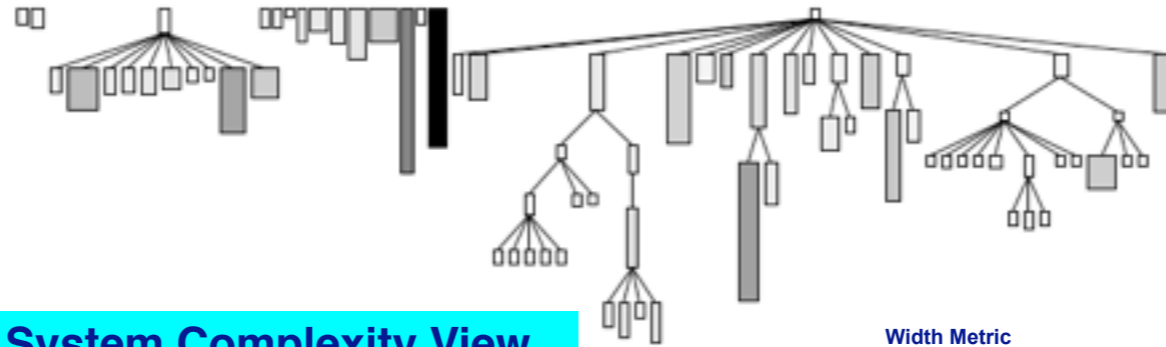
### ***Solution***

—*Measure* software entities and *study the anomalous ones*

### ***Steps***

- Use simple metrics
- Visualize metrics to get an overview
- Browse the code to get insight into the anomalies

# System Complexity View



## System Complexity View

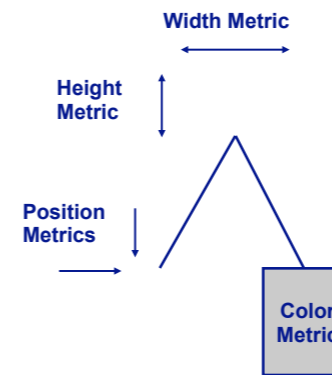
Nodes = Classes

Edges = Inheritance Relationships

Width = Number of Attributes

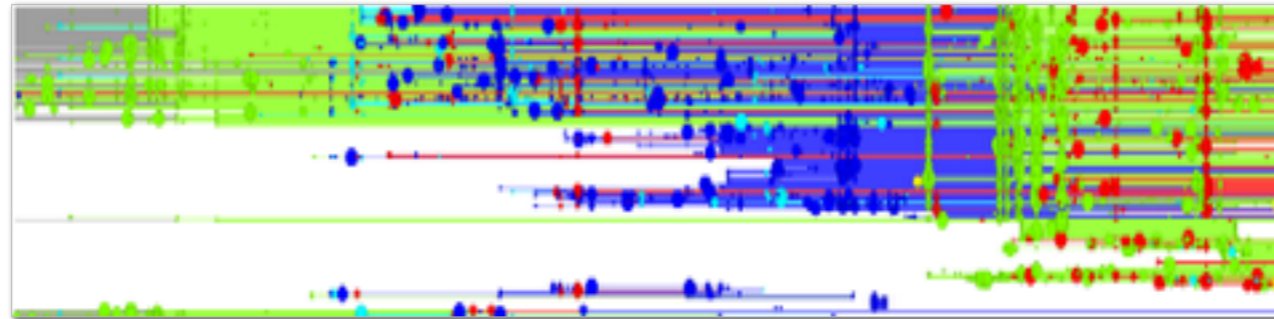
Height = Number of Methods

Color = Number of Lines of Code





## Code Ownership View

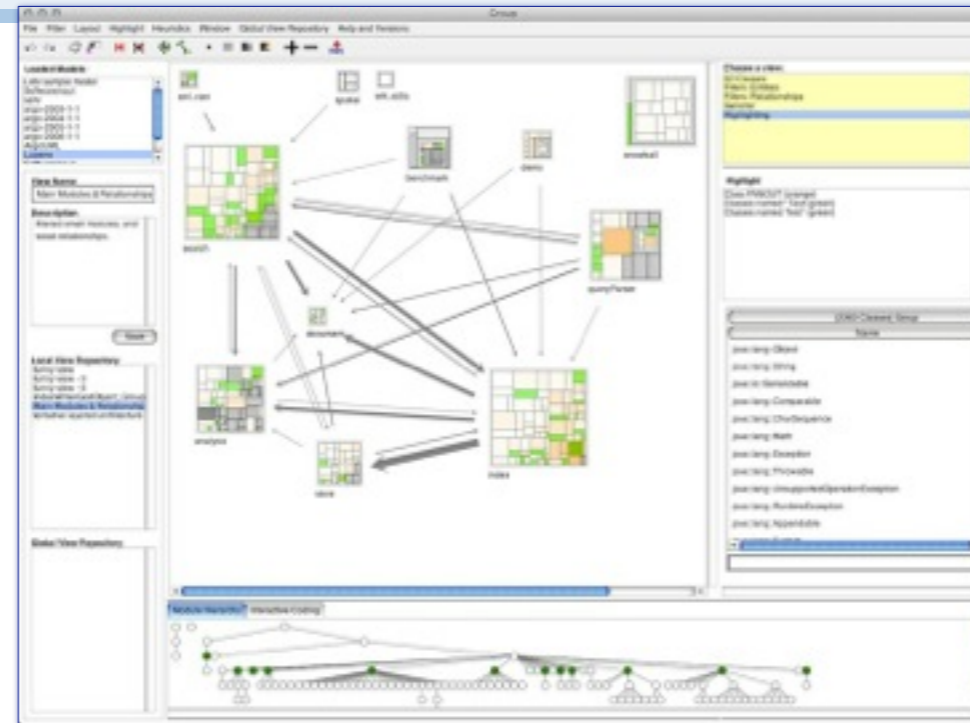


System complexity – Clone evolution view

Class blueprint – Topic Correlation Matrix – Distribution Map for topics spread over classes in packages

Hierarchy Evolution view – Ownership Map

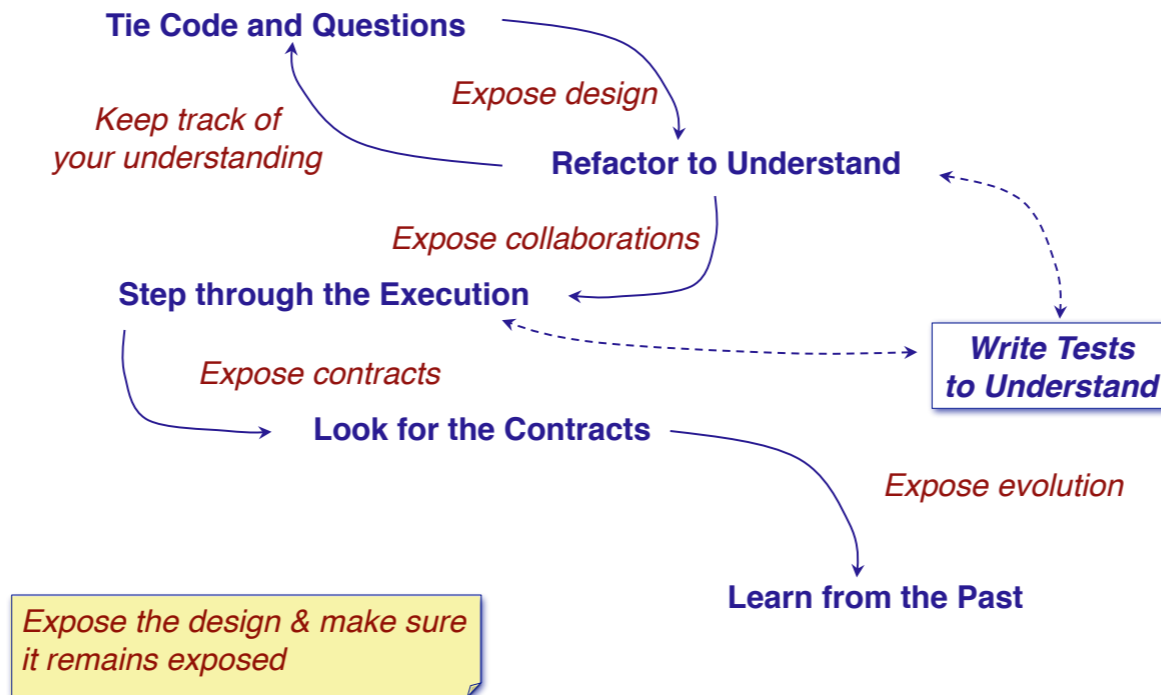
# High-Level Dependency View



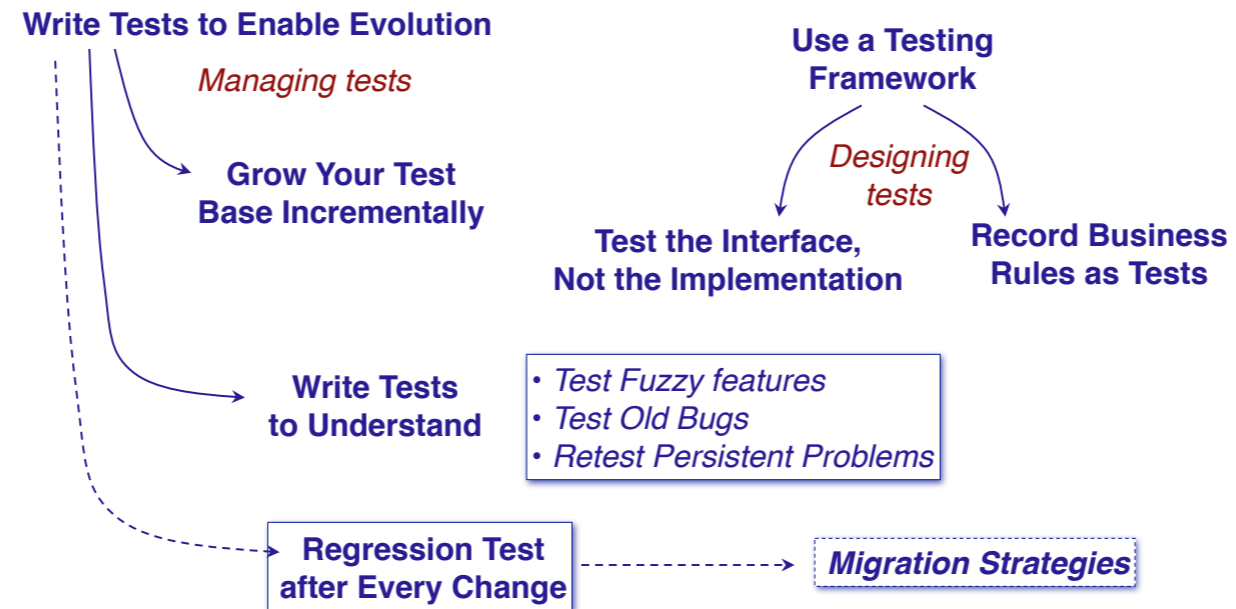
<http://scg.unibe.ch/softwareaut>



# Detailed Model Capture

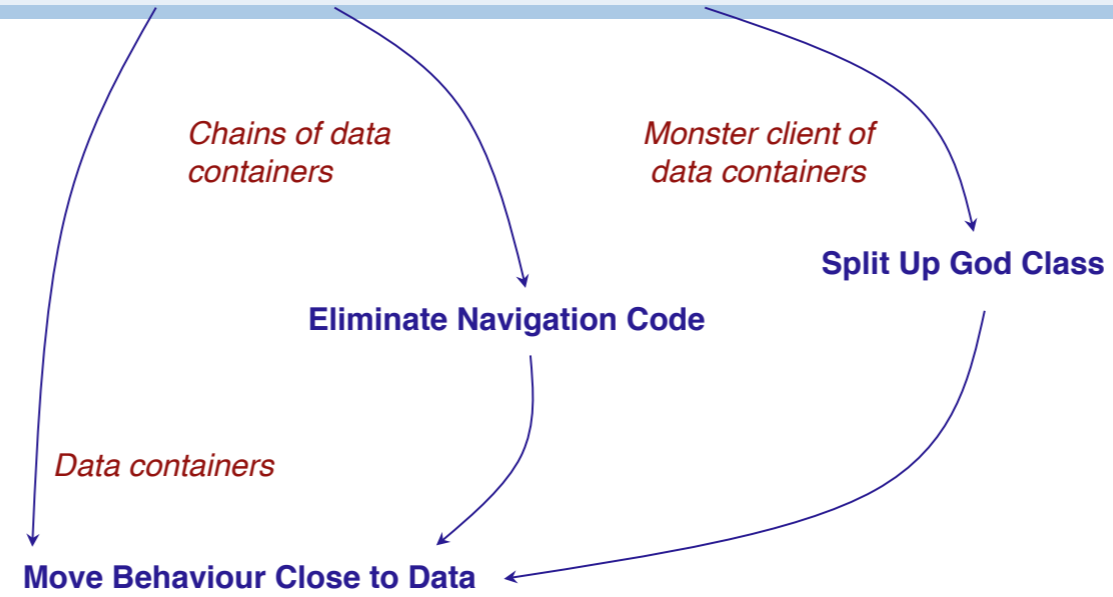
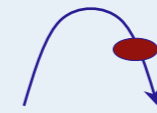


# Tests: Your Life Insurance

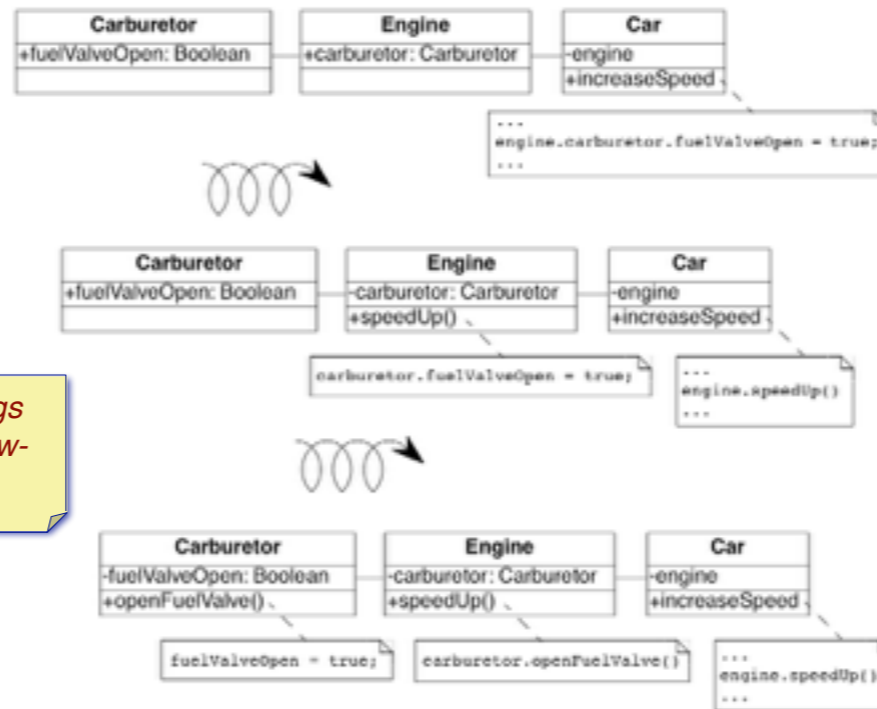


Heads up to Cucumber

# Redistribute Responsibilities

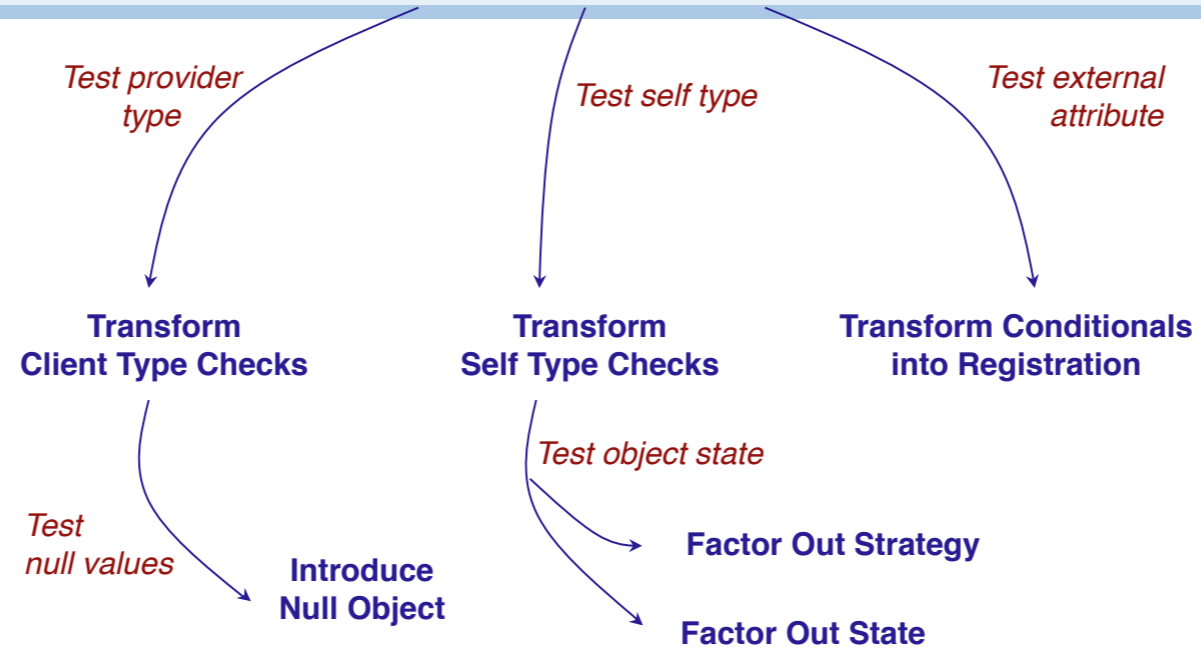
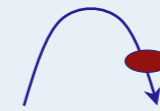


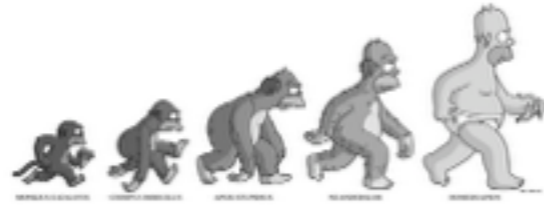
# High-level refactorings



*High-level refactorings  
make use of many low-  
level refactorings*

# Transform Conditionals to Polymorphism





## Laws of Software Evolution



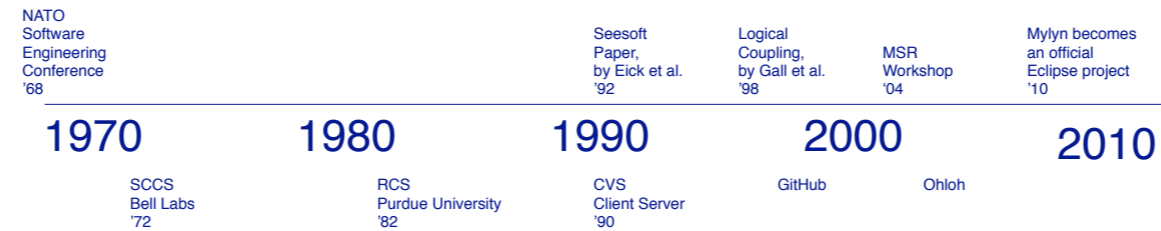
## Reverse and Reengineering



## Mining Software Evolution



# Versioning Systems and Applications



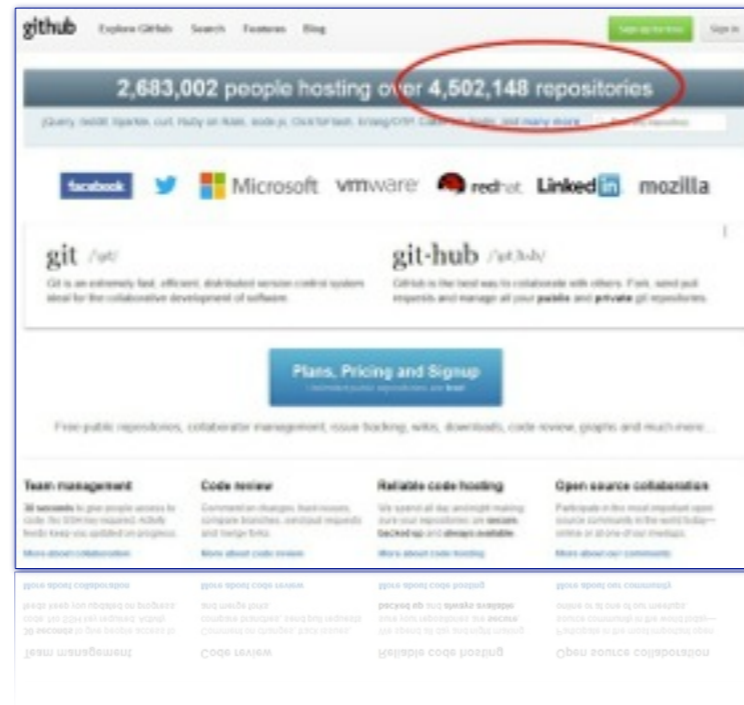
20 years of **VCS** before people start doing research in **analyzing software repositories**.

20 more years until software evolution research results are integrated in the IDE.

WCRE, ICSE – constant research is being generated

No way we can cover everything.

Goal is to present several highlights so you can have a feeling on the general directions of the field.



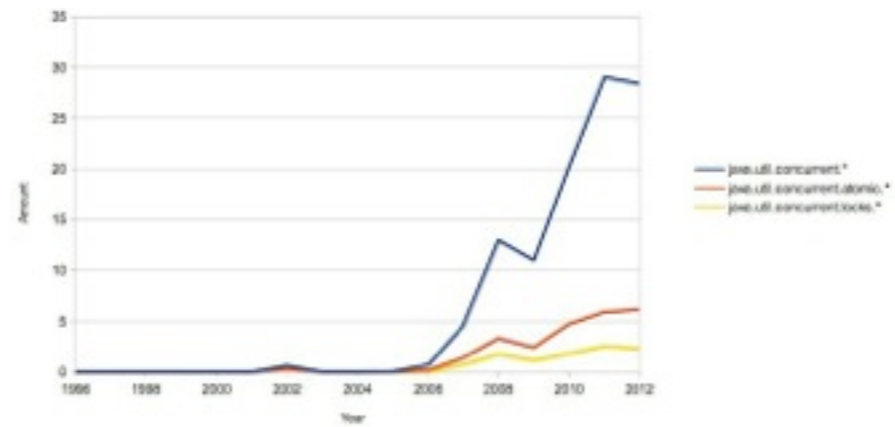
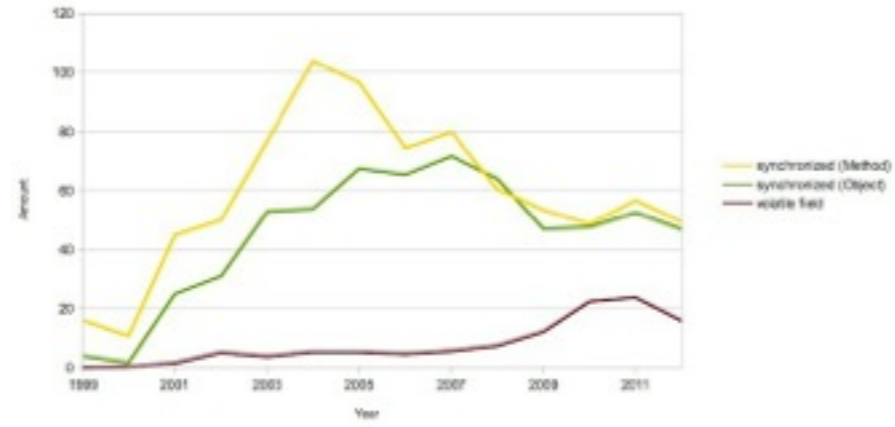
# Learn about how people build software

- detecting the source of a given piece of software
- validate hypotheses: are people using metaprogramming?
-

SC Seminar Project  
by Julian S. & Roger K.

## Are people migrating to the **new** concurrency libraries of **Java?**

Source: GitHub  
Projects: 880  
Size: 16,5 GB



## Can we learn from developer behavior?

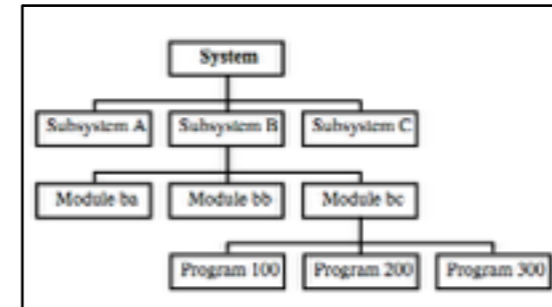
**Inspired by Your Browsing History**

You viewed	Customers who viewed this also viewed	
 <p>A Fire Upon The Deep (Zones of Thought) › Vernor Vinge Paperback ★★★★☆ (293) <del>\$14.99</del> <b>\$10.19</b></p>	 <p>A Deepness in the Sky › Vernor Vinge Mass Market Paperback ★★★★☆ (245) <b>\$8.99</b></p>	 <p>The Forever War › Joe Haldeman Paperback ★★★★☆ (545) <del>\$14.95</del> <b>\$8.59</b></p>

# Invisible Dependencies

## > Logical Coupling

- by Gall et al.
- things that changed together might change again together
- advantages over static analysis
  - *can detect IO-based dependencies*
  - *works beyond source code*



Piatra Craiului  
Mountains, Romania



“You can always make another step”

**“You can  
always make  
another step”**



**“You can always **take** another step”**



**( wins in googlefight against “make” )**

We are not that original.

Challenge: can we use this lack of originality when writing source code to learn from others?



**Clone analysis  
for querying**

**14% - 17% of  
methods in  
SqueakSource  
are clones**

[On how often is code cloned across repositories](#)

Schwarz et al.



**Build  
better  
development  
tools**



# API Specification Mining

- > Data mining reveals frequent patterns
  - Matching Method Pairs
  - State Machines

## Principles

1. Mines from history
2. API specific errors
3. Co-addition is a pattern
4. Small commits are fixes

File	Revision	Added method calls
Foo.java	1.12	o1.addListener o1.removeListener
Bar.java	1.47	o2.addListener o2.removeListener System.out.println
Baz.java	1.23	o3.addListener o3.removeListener list.iterator iter.hasNext iter.next
Qux.java	1.41	o4.addListener
	1.42	o4.removeListener



some patterns are incomplete, sometimes mistakes, sometimes fixes  
– furthermore – you can mine Framework changes. The JUnit example.

## Recording IDE Interactions

- > Kersten & Murphy '05
  - Mylin
  - Task-Focused Interface
  - Degree of Interest ranking



How to filter the large amount of information available in the IDE?

# What if we recorded and **REPLAYED** our development sessions?

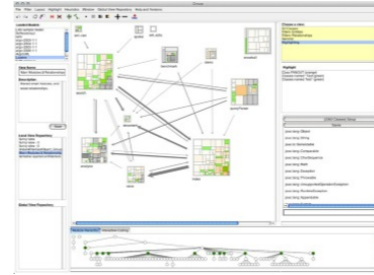
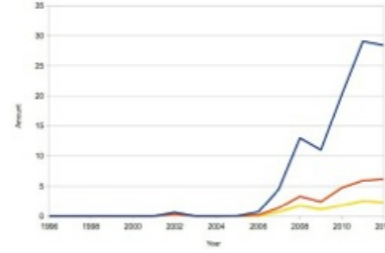
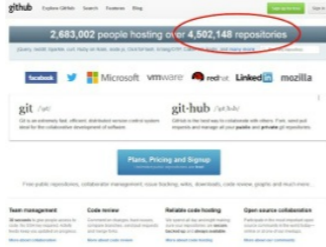
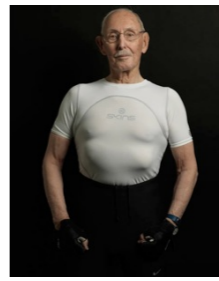
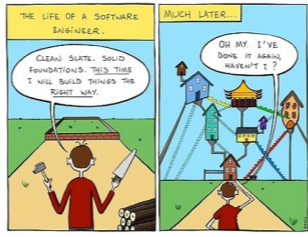


- + Correctness (10%)
- + Completion time (6%)

[Replaying past changes in multi-developer projects](#)

Lile Hattori et al.

# Summary



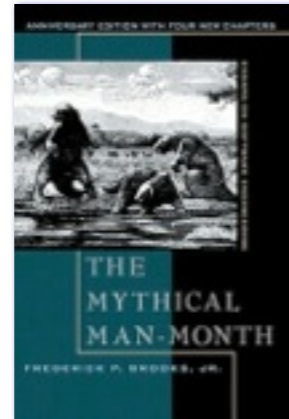
## What you should know!

- > Three of Lehman & Belady's Laws of Software Evolution
- > Why do software systems become more complex over time
- > When should one keep an older version of a system rather than rewrite?
- > What is meant by "reverse engineering"?
- > How to approach a new software system for reengineering it

## Can you answer the following questions?

- > How would you ensure that documentation stays in sync with implementation?
- > How can you use the history of a system to improve development tools?
- > What approach would you take to reengineer a large legacy Java system?

## References



<http://scg.unibe.ch/download/oorp/>



<http://www.joelonsoftware.com/>





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