

# Process Extraction from Development Artifacts

Abram Hindle, Michael W. Godfrey, Richard C. Holt

Software Architecture Group

David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science

University of Waterloo

Canada

<http://swag.uwaterloo.ca/>

{ahindle,migod,holt}@cs.uwaterloo.ca

# Process Extraction

- Extract information about:
  - behavior
  - topics / focus
  - requirements
  - Software Development Life Cycle
  - repeating behaviors
- from...

# Development Artifacts

- Wand of dispel demo demons
- Blessed wand of developer motivation (4:3)
- Rusty cursed plate mail named “contract deadline”
- Blessed dagger named “debug”
- Potion of Bad Smell Detection

# Artifacts

- Mailing lists
- Bug tracker events
- Source Control Repositories
- Source Code
- Documentation
- Test
- Build system

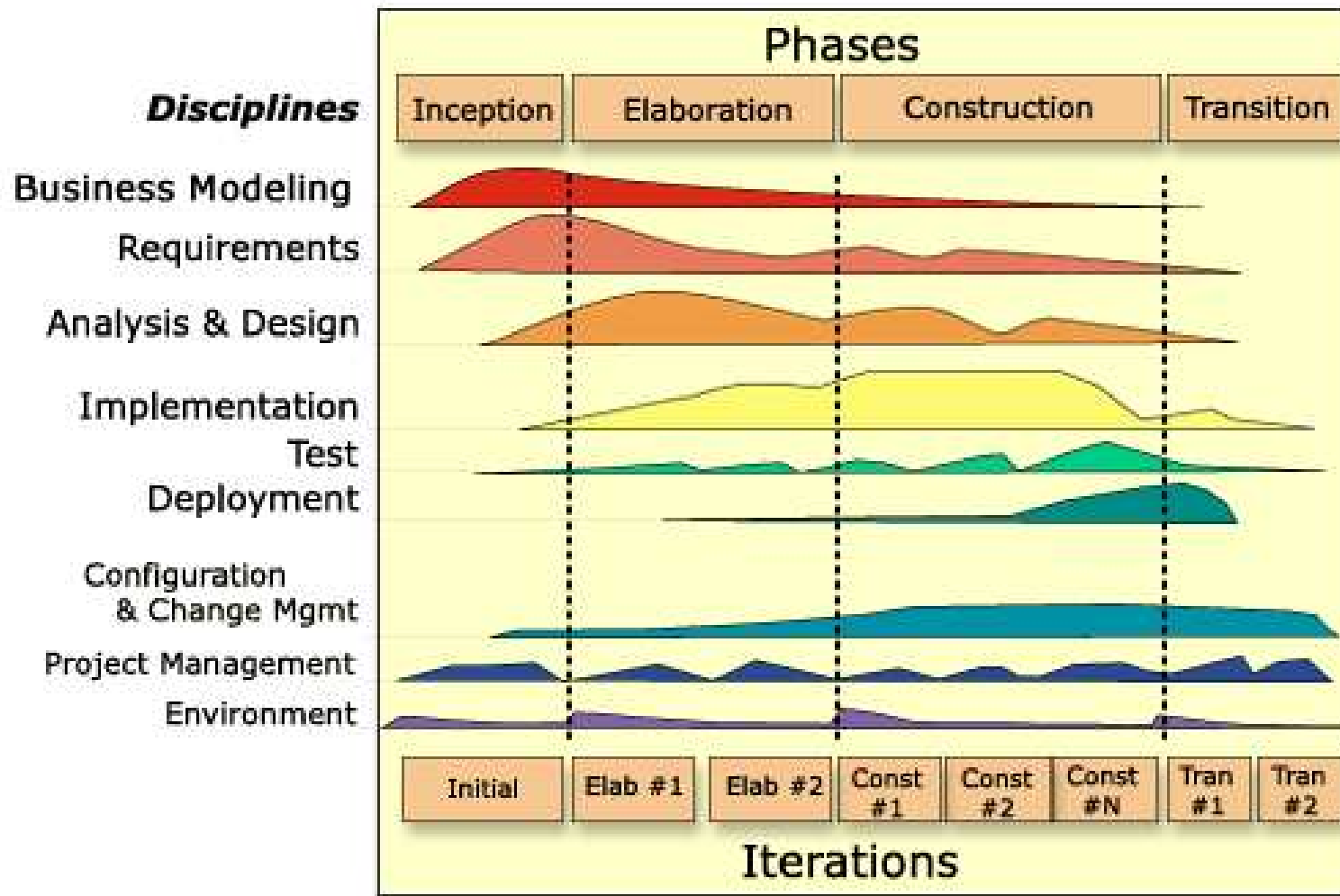


Figure 1: Remember the Rational Unified Process?

# What is that diagram

- We have work-flows or areas of emphasis
- Plotted across time
  - across phases
- We could provide this to stake-holders

# Self Reflection

- Not in OO terms, analysis of one's self
- Analysis
- Can we reflect on a project's processes, focuses, behaviors?
  - Can we do this automatically?

# Dashboard versus Time-line

- Dashboard: An indicator of state
- Time-line: An indicator of past state correlated with time
- Speedometer versus Odometer



# Who needs a Time-line

- Stake-holders not intimately familiar with development
  - Managers
  - New Developers
  - Developers after 2 weeks vacation
  - Acquisitions

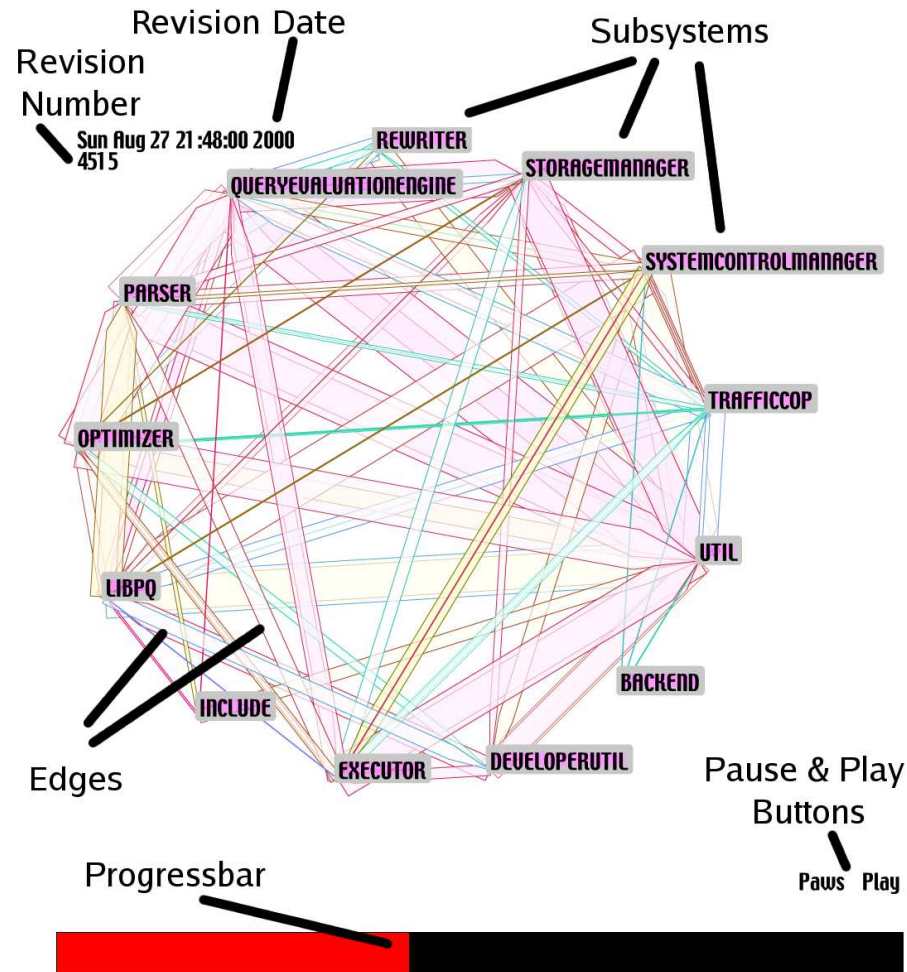
# Proposal

- Automatically generate something like the RUP lumpy diagram
- Provide overviews in a time-line form but allow investigation
  - Allow zooming
  - Allow slicing

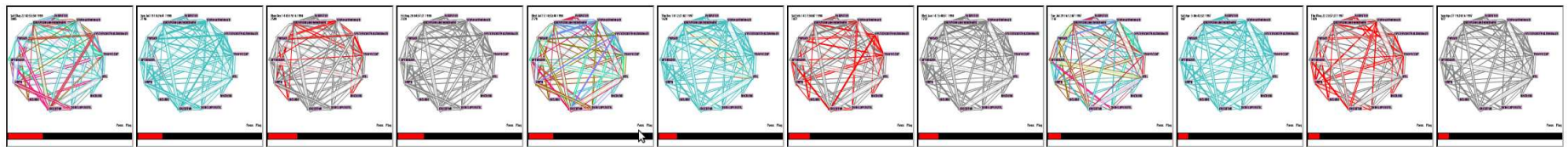
# How does our previous work relate?

- Time-lines
- Metrics
- Evolution

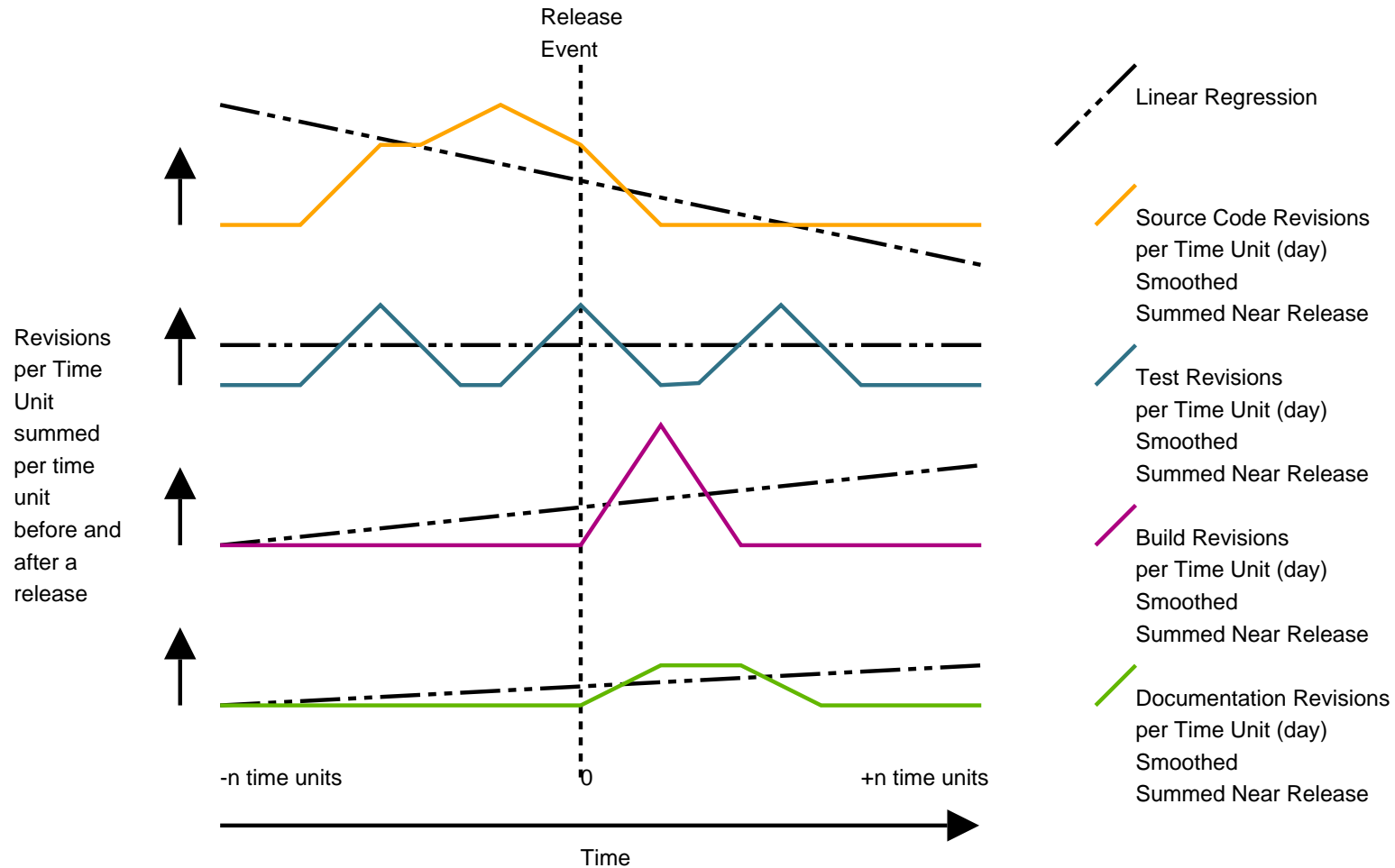
# YARN



# YARN on a Timeline



# Release Patterns



# Indentation Metrics

## Get the Diff

```
> void square( int * arr, int n ) {
>     int i = 0;
>     for ( i = 0 ; i < n ; i++ ) {
>         arr[ i ] *= arr[ i ];
>     }
> }
```

## Measure the Indentation

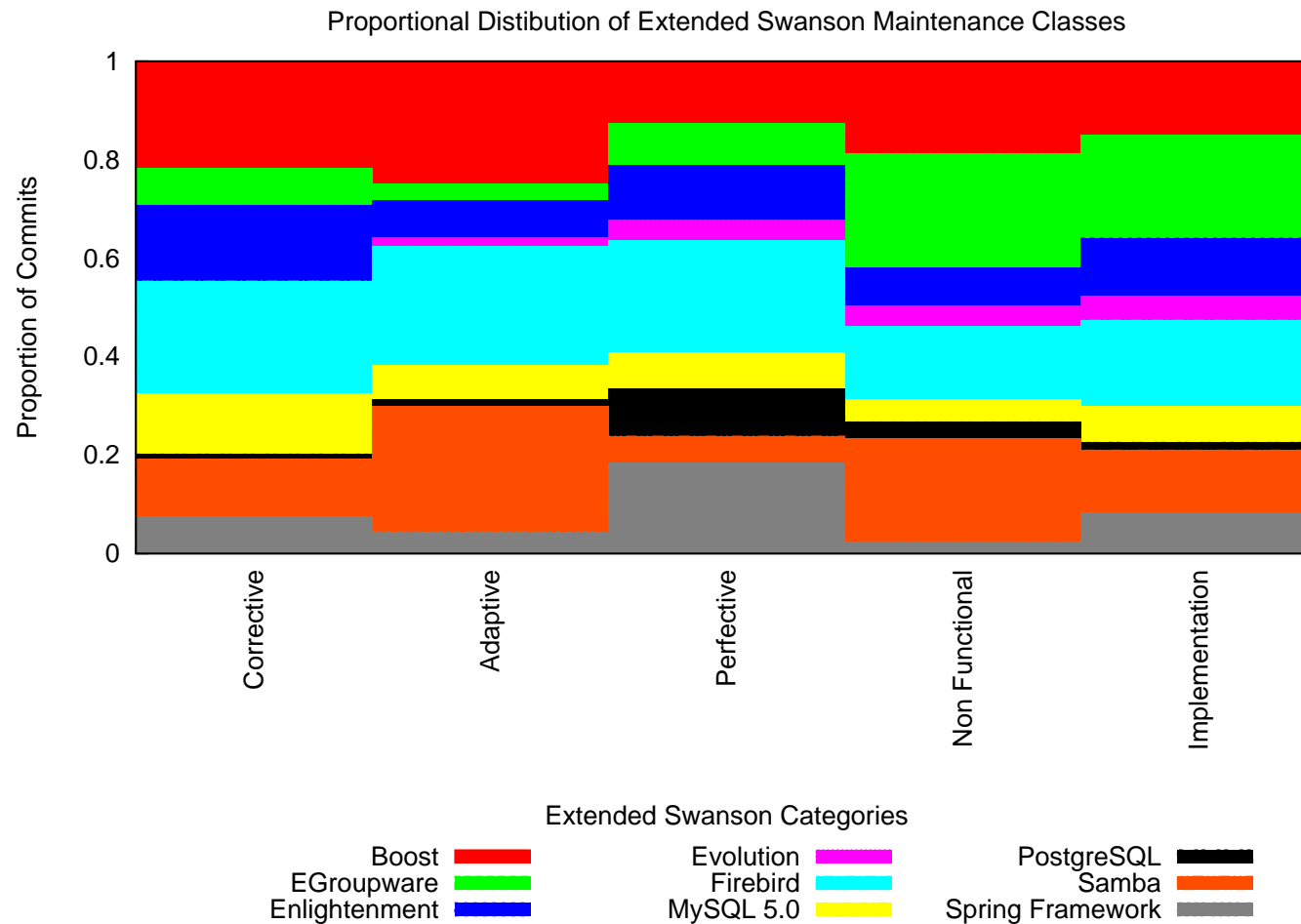
Raw  
Indentation  
Logical  
Indentation

0	4	4	8	4	0
0	1	1	2	1	0

## Produce Summary Statistics

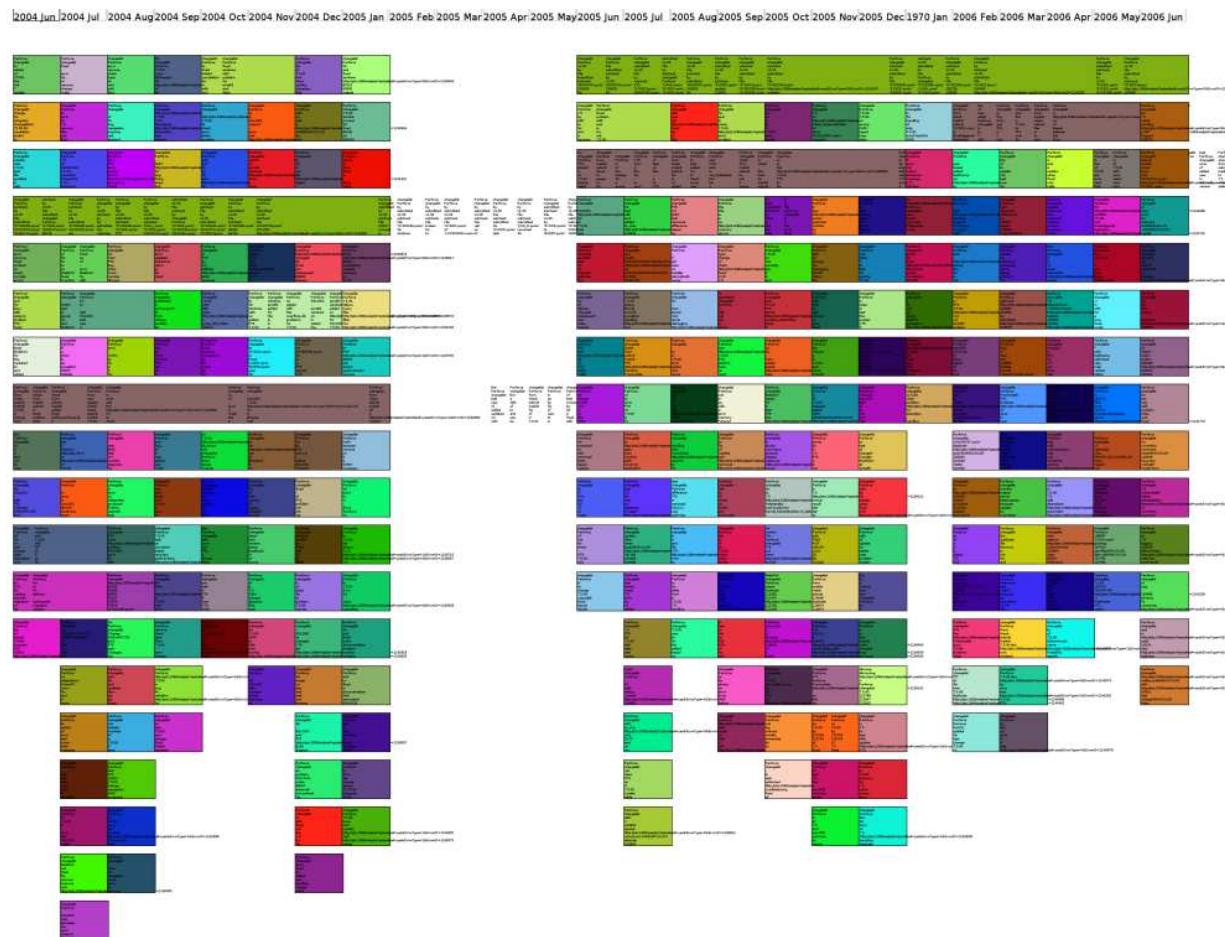
Metric	Raw	Logical
LOC	6.000	6.000
AVG	3.330	0.833
MED	4.000	1.000
STD	2.750	0.687
VAR	9.070	0.567
SUM	20.000	5.000
MCC	2.000	2.000
HVOL	152.000	152.000
HDIFF	15.000	15.000
HEFFORT	2127.000	2127.000

# Large Changes

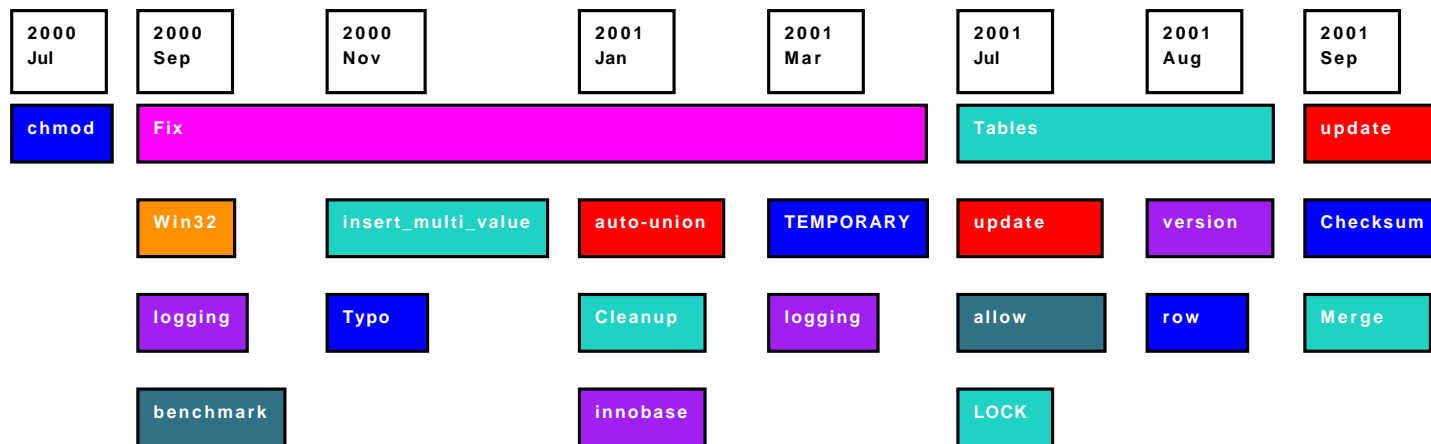




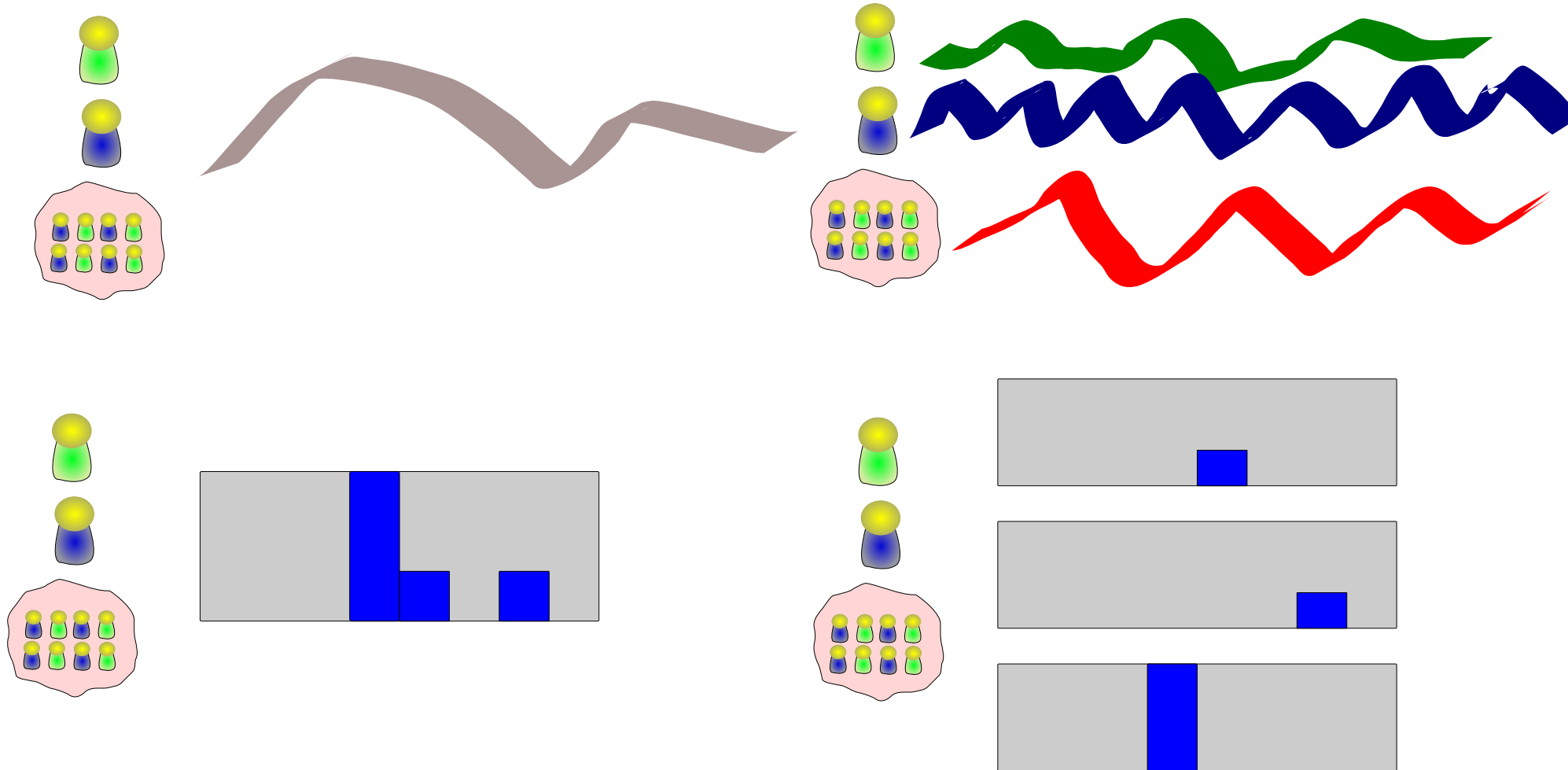
# Topic Trends



# Topic Trends Proposed



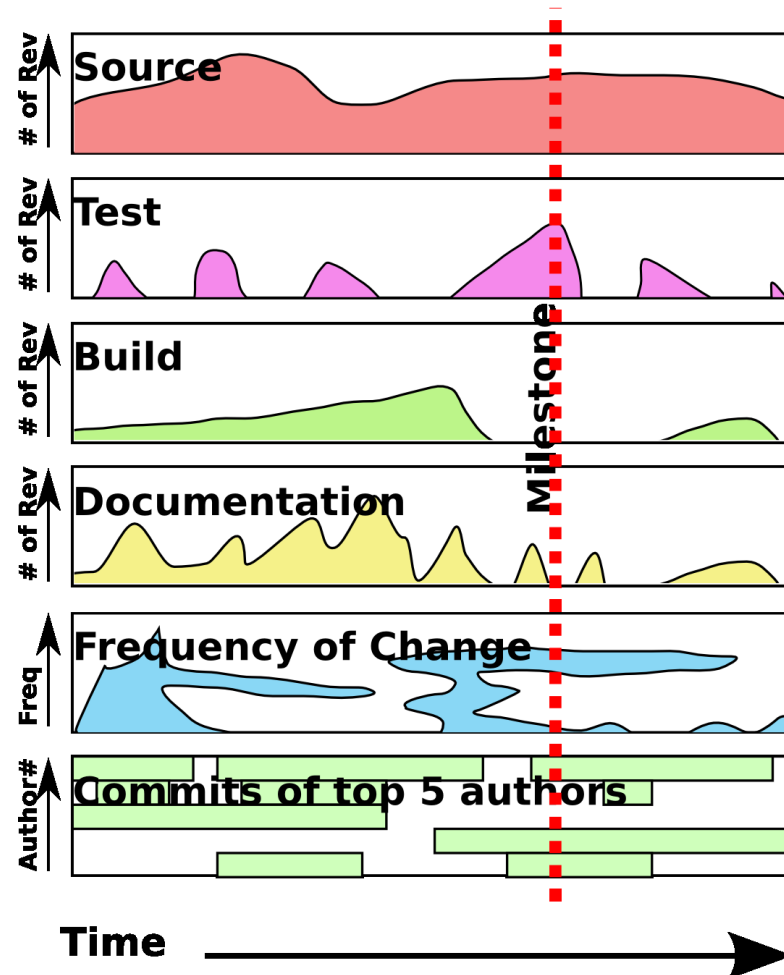
# Frequency Analysis



# How do we combine these?

- Luckily we have local time correlations of events
- We can slice up data sources

# Time-line Example



# Time-line Topics



# Time-line Topics Select



# Time-line Topics Sliced

## Changes Per Day



## Development Topic A



## Development Topic B



## Development Topic C





# What are work-flows we can look for

- STBD
- Communication measurements
  - Design & Implementation
  - Bugs, fixing, debugging
  - “Nonfunctional”

# What to do with the data

- Visualization
  - Dashboard / Time-line
- Analysis
  - Event analysis
  - Windowed Analysis
  - Correlation
  - Tagging

# Further Analysis

- Can we spot patterns of phases
  - Identify phases
  - Find repeating sequences of phases?

# Conclusions

- Aim to visualize and analyze data about a project with respect to entities and time
- Produce a tool to act as dashboard but also a time-line of the topics and behaviors of a project
- Produce a methodology and tool communicate project activities to stake-holders
- Tool should help automate parts of project retrospectives