SWE 265P Reverse Engineering and Modeling

Lecture 10

Duplication of course material for any purpose without the explicit written permission of the professor is prohibited.

"Who the f*** wrote this" – Jonathan Boccara [Author "The Legacy Programmer's Toolbox"]

"Before you rewrite a piece of code, make sure you understand how it got to its current state. Understanding the history is important for avoiding repeating the same mistakes." – Owen O'Malley [Founder and technical fellow, Cloudera]

"I look for the original developer if I have access to that person." – Leyna Cotran [Staff systems engineer, Lyft]

Today

- Last week's material
- Key expert practices
- Miscellaneous
 - advanced important topics
 - attitude
 - enduring principles
- Final
- Wrap-up

Last week's material

- Key expert practices
 - play the fool
 - are alert to evidence that challenges their theory
 - adjust to the degree of uncertainty present
- Testing as a mechanism for code understanding
 - reading
 - running
 - writing
- Any questions?



Last week's homework – pull request

- What change does your pull request contain?
- How difficult is it to implement the pull request?
- Did you submit it yet and, if so, did you get a response from the maintainers?
- What did you learn about your system?
- Any questions?



Last week's homework – old test cases

- How difficult was it to find three existing, interesting test cases for your system?
- What approach(es) did you use to do so?
- What did you learn about your system?
- Any questions?

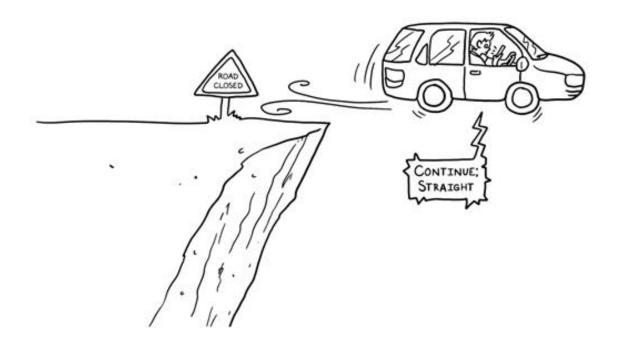


Last week's homework – new test cases

- How difficult was it to develop three new test cases for your system?
- What approach(es) did you use to do so?
- What did you learn about your system?
- Any questions?



KEP #19: know when to stop



KEP #20: reassess the landscape

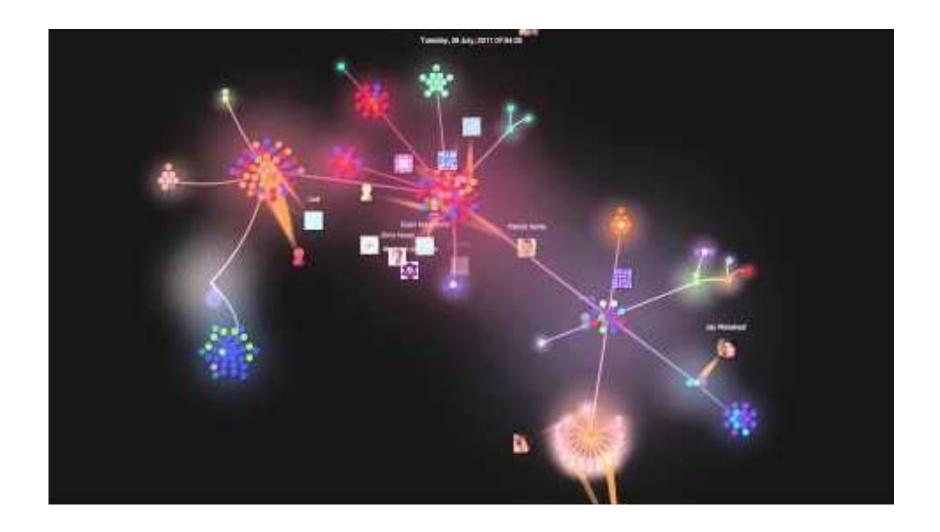


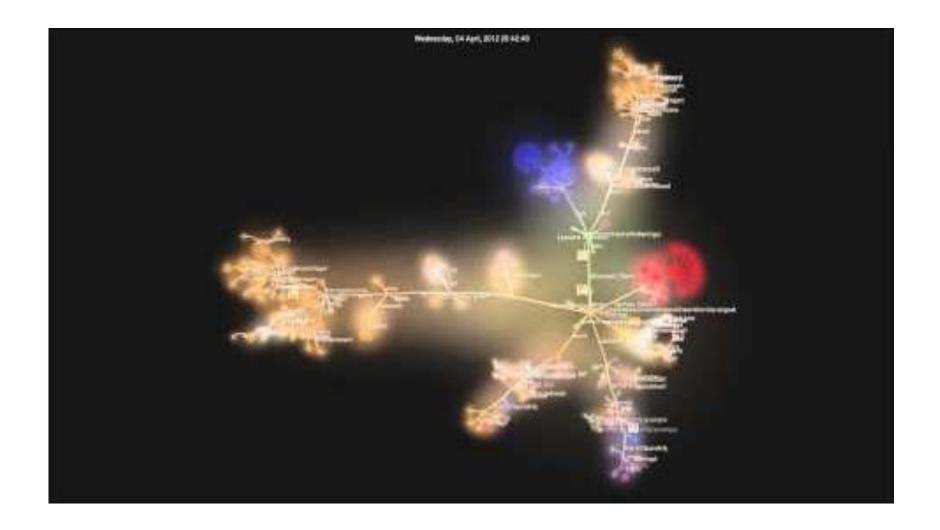
KEP #21: keep learning

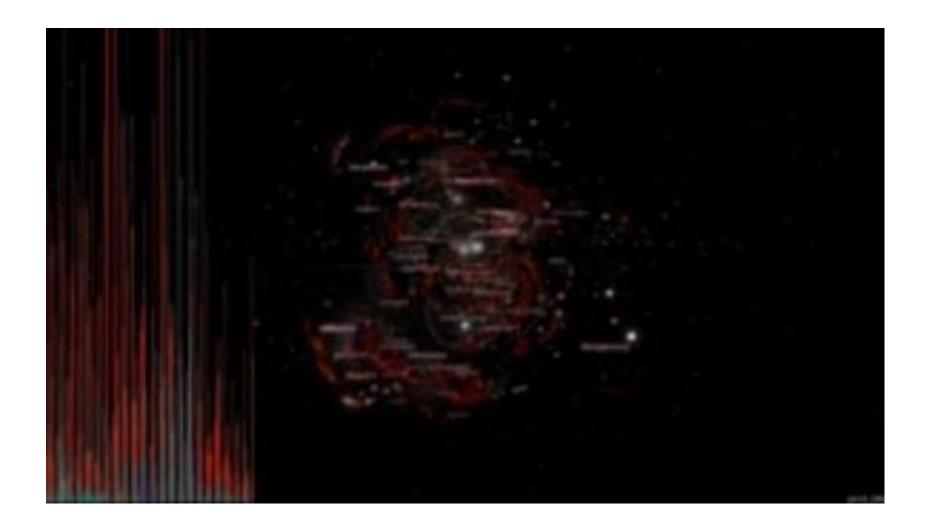


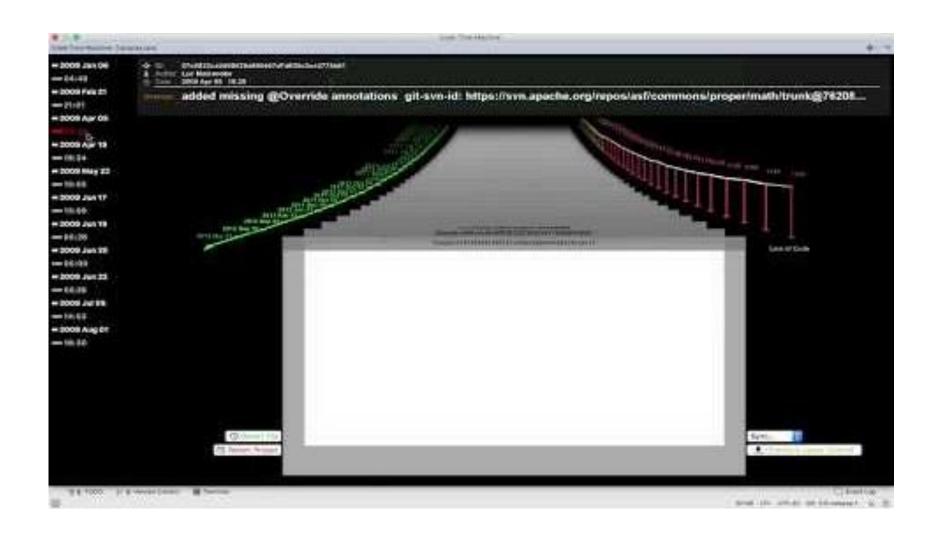
Miscellaneous

- Advanced topics
- Attitude
- Enduring principles









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 * 7a4feb1 - Fix http generated images path when using Compass sprites (9 weeks ago) diathan Broadbent>
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 * bd2caad - Deprecate 1.9.2, add 2.0.0 :) (9 weeks ago) <a href="#">Parker Moore></a>
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* | 7b52209 - Use HTTPS for Rubygems (2 months ago) <Steven Harmon>
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* | 1bcfe84 - Merge pull request #1286 from SamWhited/master (3 months ago) <Parker Moore>
↑ 1 0978977 - Fix second Twitter URL to be protocol relative (3 months ago) <a href="mailto:sm">Sam Whited></a>
| * | 27dcfa1 - Use protocol relative URL for Twitter (3 months ago) ≪ whited>
* | bc67475 - Github Pages deployment is now using `git add -A` for compatability with Git 1.8.2+ (3 months ago) <Brandon Mathis>
* | @e2bff1 - Merge pull request #1282 from myoung34/gist-fix (3 months ago) <a href="#arker-Moore">Parker Moore</a>
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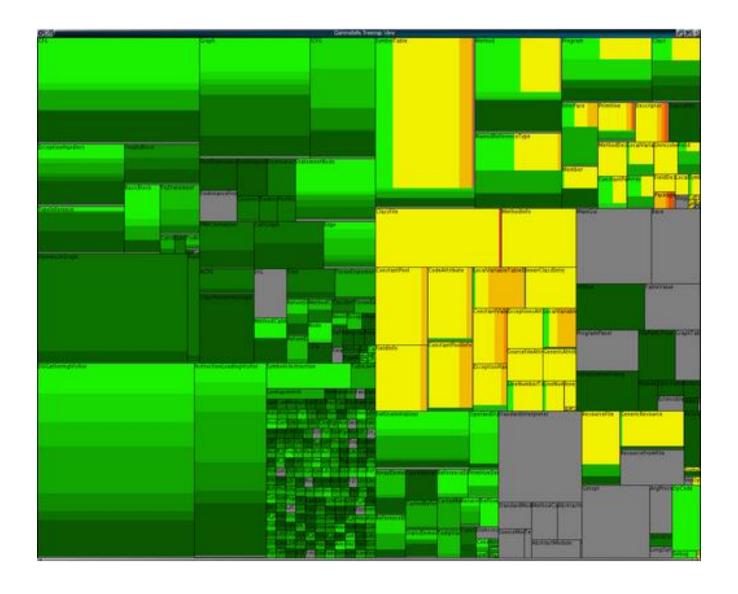
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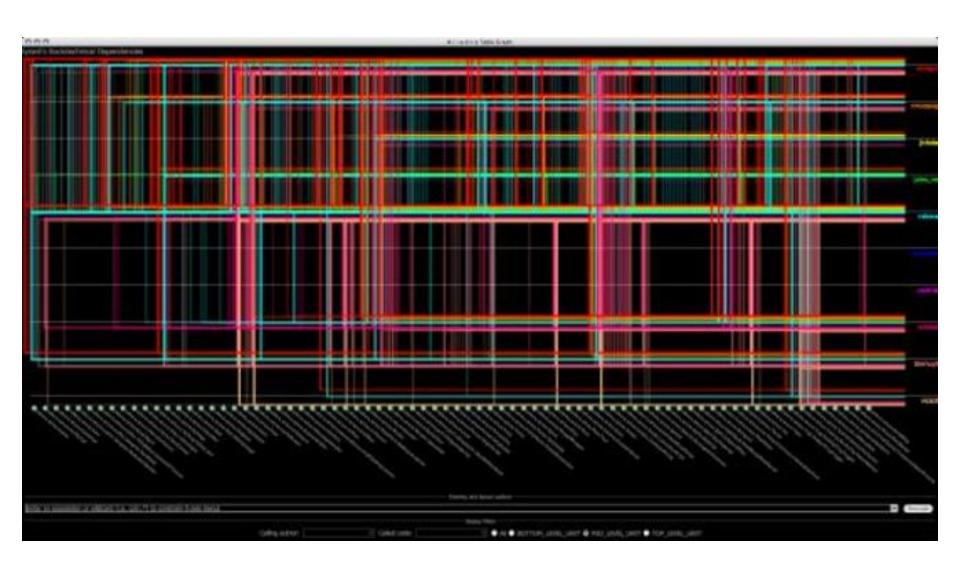
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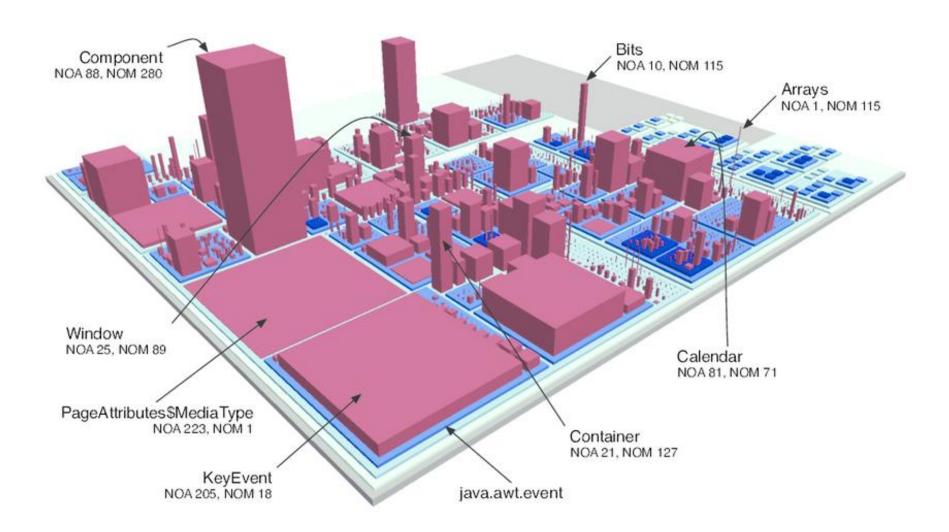
Advanced topic #2: visualization



Advanced topic #2: visualization



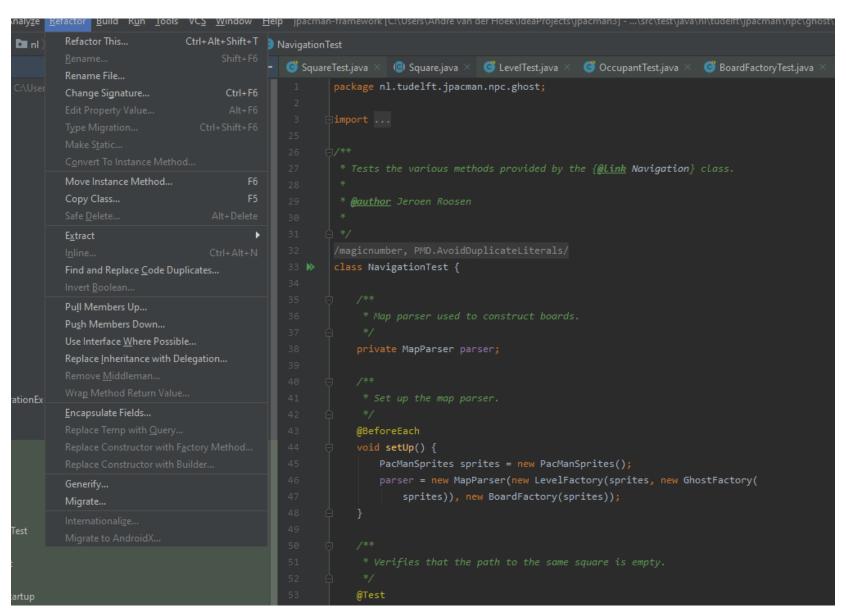
Advanced topic #2: visualization



Advanced topic #3: refactoring

 Refactoring is the process of changing a software system in such a way that it does not alter the external behavior of the code yet improves its internal structure.

Advanced topic #3: refactoring



All-too-frequent attitude

- This code is a pile of crap
- The person who wrote it had no idea what they were doing
- I would have done such a better job
- I am way better than this, maybe I should find another place [organization] that deserves my skills



More fruitful attitude

- Legacy code made the application grow
- Legacy code has time on its side
- Seeing legacy code for who it really is
- I will not complain if I do not intend to improve the code

Enduring principles

- 1. Respect old code and the wisdom it contains
- 2. Accept you cannot understand it all
- 3. Realize every situation is unique
- 4. Check the details
- 5. Verify assumptions
- 6. Proceed with change carefully
- 7. Leave the code in a better place than you found it



Homework (team)

Make sure to finish last week's homework

• (Due date: 17th at noon)

Homework (individual)

 Make sure to regularly update your personal diary, including an entry for today's lecture

• (Due date: 17th at noon)

Final

• Similar to the midterm (format tbd)



Parting quote #1

"This is one of the most difficult tasks in programming because you are not really reading code, but the intentions and mind set of the person who wrote it. Sometimes you seem to understand the code itself, but you may ask yourself, why he/she did that? At some point you may ask yourself, did the programmer understand what they were doing or is it me?

How do you decide?" – Mario Burges
[https://www.quora.com/How-do-I-learn-to-read-code]

Parting quote #3

"Any fool can write code that a computer can understand.

Good programmers write code that humans can understand" –

Martin Fowler [ThoughtWorks]

"Read with an objective. Read by being selectively ignorant.

Read bravely and patiently. Read with an understanding of the domain." – Lee Martie [Research staff engineer, MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab]

The end

Thank you.

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