2IS55 Software Evolution

Code duplication

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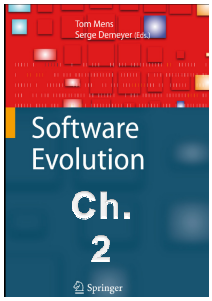
Where innovation starts

Assignments

- Assignment 2: Graded!
  - Average 7, standard deviation 1.3
- Assignment 3: March 15, midnight
- Assignment 4 will be published on March 15
  - Code duplication

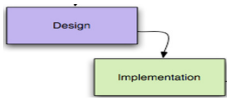
Sources

"Clone detection" slides
Rainer Koschke (in German)
http://www.informatik.uni-bremen.de/st/lehre/re09/softwareklone.pdf



Where are we now?

- Last week: architecture
  - Behaviour
    - static/dynamic,
    - sequence diagrams/state machines,
    - focusing/visualization



- This week: code duplication
  - Occurs in the code
  - Can reflect suboptimal architecture

Duplication?

- Beck and Fowler, "Stink Parade of Bad Smells": 1
- Common?

Author	System	Min. length (lines)	%
Baker (1995)	X Windows	30	19
Baker *et alii* (1998)	Process control	?	29
Ducasse *et alii* (1999)	Payroll	10	59

- Frequent and problematic!

A rose by any other name

- Popular terms
  - Software redundancy
    - Not every type of redundancy is harmful
  - Code cloning = Code duplication
    - Clone is identical to the original form
- Questions
  1. When are two fragments to be considered as clones?
  2. When is cloning harmful/useful?
  3. How do the clones evolve?
  4. What can one do about clones: ignore, prevent, eliminate?
  5. How to detect and present the clones?

Clones Award

Clones?

```
1586 {
1587     if( GlobalConfig.DEBUG_LEVEL & DEBUG_WARNINGS ) {
1588             printf( __STR_WARNING__MEM_ALLOC_FAILED,
1589             acModuleName, pMsg->ServerName );
1590     }
1591     if( rcv_id != 0 )     {
1592             pMsg->type = TYPE_MSGUNKNOWN;
1593             MsgReply ( rcv_id, 0, pMsg, MSG_LENGTH_ACK );
1594     }
1595     return( MIRPA_ERROR_MEM_ALLOC_FAILED );
1596 }
```

Type 1

```
1173 {
1174     if( GlobalConfig.DEBUG_LEVEL & DEBUG_WARNINGS ) {
1175             printf( __STR_WARNING__MEM_ALLOC_FAILED,
1176             acModuleName, pMsg->ServerName );
1177     }
1178     if( rcv_id != 0 )     {
1179             pMsg->type = TYPE_MSGUNKNOWN;
1180             MsgReply ( rcv_id, 0, pMsg, MSG_LENGTH_ACK );
1181     }
1182     return( MIRPA_ERROR_MEM_ALLOC_FAILED );
1183 }
```


Clones?

```
4278 case TYPE_SHMEM:
4279     if( GlobalConfig.DEBUG_LEVEL & DEBUG_WARNINGS ) {
4280             printf( "%s: WARNING : SHMEM msg received after
4281                     sending ANSWER \"%s\"\n",
4282             acModuleName,
4283             sMsgList.asTxMsg[ uiMsgHandle ].name );
4284     }
4285 return( MIRPA_ERROR_RX_UNEXPECTED_TYPE );
```

Type 2

```
4270 case TYPE_MSGOK:
4271     if( GlobalConfig.DEBUG_LEVEL & DEBUG_INFO ) {
4272             printf("%s: INFO : MSG_OK received after
4273                     sending ANSWER \"%s\"\n",
4279             acModuleName,
4280             sMsgList.asTxMsg[ uiMsgHandle ].name );
4281     }
4282 return( MIRPA_OK );
```


Clones?

```
if ( ! parse( ) ) {
        print_error(stdout , 0) ;
        return FALSE ;
}

fclose( fp ) ;

if ( debug_flag ) {
        printf(" result of parser ") ;
        if ( ! print_tree( FALSE ) ) {
                print_error(stdout , 0) ;
                return FALSE ;
        }
}
```

Type 3

```
if ( ! type_check( ) ) {
        print_error(stdout , 0) ;
        return FALSE ;
}
if ( debug_flag ) {
        printf(" result of type check") ;
        if ( ! print_tree( TRUE ) ) {
                print_error(stdout , 0) ;
                return FALSE ;
        }
}
```


Clones?

```
/*
By Bob Jenkins, 1996. hashtab.h Public Domain
…
htab *hcreate(/*_ word logsize _*/);

void hdestroy(/*_ htab *t _*/); */
…
```

Type 4

```
/* Copyright (C) 2002 Christopher Clark
<firstname.lastname@cl.cam.ac.uk> */
…
 struct hashtable
*create_hashtable(unsigned int minsize,
                  unsigned int (*hashfunction) (void*),
                  int (*key_eq_fn) (void*,void*));
…
void
hashtable_destroy(struct hashtable *h, int free_values);
```


Types are too rough!

If we want to eliminate the duplicates we need to understand the differences between them!

Method clones [Balazinska et al. 1999]

3-9 – one token only

10-12 – aggregated changes

- **Interface: 3-6**
- **Implementation: 7-9**
- **Interface and implem.: mix**

Category number	Type of clones
1	Identical
2	Superficial changes
3	Called methods
4	Global variables
5	Return type
6	Parameters types
7	Local variables
8	Comments
9	Type usage
10	Interface changes
11	Implementation changes
12	Interface and implementation changes
13	One long difference
14	Two long differences
15	Several long differences
16	One long difference, interface and implementation
17	Two long differences, interface and implementation
18	Several long differences, interface and implementation

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Structural classification [Kapser *et alii* 2003]

- Alternative based on the locations of the clones.

- Intra-file or inter-file cloning
- Type of location:
  - function, declaration, macro, hybrid, other (typedef)
- Type of the code sequence
  - initialization, finalization, loo, switch

Q1: Two fragments are clones if…

- Type 1: They are identical up to whitespace/comments
- Type 2: They are structurally identical (rename variables, types or method calls)
- Type 3: They are similar but statements/expressions could have been added, removed or modified
- Type 4: They implement the same concepts

- Alternative classifications have been proposed:
  - [Balazinska et al. 1999] based on the differences
  - [Kapser et al. 2003] based on the location

Q2: Is cloning bad? Good reasons for cloning

- Improves reliability
  - *n*-version programming, IEC 61508
- Reduces development time
  - "Copy and modify" is faster than "generalize"
- Avoids breaking the existing code
  - Re-testing effort might be prohibitive
- Clarifies structure
  - E.g., disentangles dependencies (but do not overdo!)
- By lack of choice
  - Programming language does not provide appropriate flexibility mechanisms

However (bad news)…

- More code
  - More effort required to comprehend, test and modify
  - Higher resource usage

- Interrelated code
  - Bug duplication
  - Incomplete or inconsistent updates

- Indicative of
  - Poor or decaying architecture
  - Lack of appropriate knowledge sharing between the developers

Even more: duplication and bugs

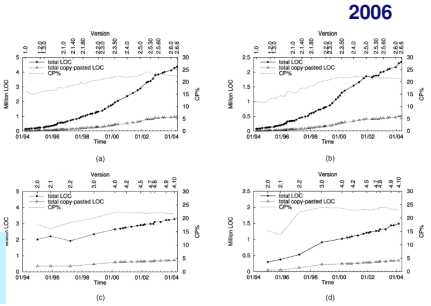
- [Monden et al. 2002]
  - 2000 modules, 1MLOC Cobol
  - Most errors in modules with ≥ 200 LOC cloned
  - Many errors in modules with ≤ 50 LOC cloned
  - Least errors in modules with 50-100 LOC clones
  - No explanation of this phenomenon

- [Chou et al. 2001]
  - Linux and Open BSD kernels
  - In presence of clones: one error ⇒ many errors

Q3. How do the clones evolve?

a) Linux
b) Linux "drivers"
c) Free BSD
d) Free BSD "sys"

Li et al. 2006



Increase followed by stabilization

Q4. What can we do about clones?

- Ignore: the simplest way
- Correct (eliminate):
  - Manual: design patterns
  - Automated:
    - Type 1 or 2 (variable names): function abstraction
    - Type 2 (types) or 3: macros, conditional compilation
      - The programming language should support it
      - Can make the code more complex
    - Develop code generators
    - Challenges:
      - how to invent meaningful names?
      - how to determine the appropriate level of abstraction?

Q4. What can we do about clones?

- Prevent:
  - Check on-the-fly while the code is being edited
  - Check during the check-in
- Manage
  - Link the clones (automatically or manually)
  - Once one of the clones is being modified the user is notified that other clones might require modification as well.

Questions and answers so far…

1. When are two fragments to be considered as clones?
   - Type 1, 2, 3, 4
   - More refined classification possible
2. When is cloning harmful/useful?
   - reliability, reduced time, structure?, code preservation
   - more interrelated code, more bugs
3. How do the clones evolve?
   - Increase followed by stabilization
4. What can one do about clones?
   - ignore, eliminate, prevent (check on the fly), manage (link and notify the user upon change)

Q5. How to detect clones?

- Granularity
  - Classes, functions, statements
- Objects of comparison
  - Text, identifiers, tokens, AST, control and data dependencies
- Related techniques
  - textual diff, dot plot, data mining, suffix tree, tree and graph matching, latent semantic indexing, metric vector comparison, hashing

Basic challenges in clone detection

- Pairwise comparison of classes, functions, lines
  - Naïve w
  - Might
- Type 2:
  - Renar
  - We st
  - appea

ypes, …?

able

We are going to see how these challenges are addressed by different clone detection approaches.

- Type 3: Clones can be combined into larger clones
  - Clones can have "gaps"
  - Identity vs. Similarity – similarity measures?

Clone detection techniques

- Text-based
  - [Ducasse et al. 1999, Marcus and Maletic 2001]
- Metrics-based
  - [Mayrand et al. 1996]
- Token-based
  - [Baker 1995, Kamiya et al. 2002]
- AST-based
  - [Baxer 1996]
  - AST+Tokens combined [Koschke et al. 2006]
- Program Dependence Graph
  - [Krinke 2001]

Textual comparison

- **Programs are just text!**
- **"Programming language independent"**
- **[Ducasse et al, 1999]**
  - **Remove whitespaces and comments**

This is the house that Jack built.

This is the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

Textual comparison

- **Programs are just text!**
- **"Programming language independent"**
- **[Ducasse et al, 1999]**
  - **Remove whitespaces and comments**
  - **Calculate hashes for code lines**

ThisisthehousethatJackbuilt.

Thisistherat
Thatatethemalt
ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt.

Thisisthecat,
Thatkilledtherat,
Thatatethemalt
ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt.

Textual comparison

- **Programs are just text!**
- **"Programming language independent"**
- **[Ducasse et al, 1999]**
  - **Remove whitespaces and comments**
  - **Calculate hashes for code lines**
  - **Partition lines into classes based on hashes**

ThisisthehousethatJackbuilt. **1**

Thisistherat **1**
Thatatethemalt **f**
ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt. **b**

Thisisthecat, **b**
Thatkilledtherat, **6**
Thatatethemalt **f**
ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt. **b**

Textual comparison

- **Programs are just text!**
- **"Programming language independent"**
- **[Ducasse et al, 1999]**
  - **Remove whitespaces and comments**
  - **Calculate hashes for code lines**
  - **Partition lines into classes based on hashes**
  - **Compare lines in the same partition**

ThisisthehousethatJackbuilt. **1**
Thisistherat

Thatkilledtherat, **6**

Thisisthecat, **b**
ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt.
ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt.

Thatatethemalt **f**
Thatatethemalt

Textual comparison

- **Programs are just text!**
- **"Programming language independent"**
- **[Ducasse et al, 1999]**
  - **Remove whitespaces and comments**
  - **Calculate hashes for code lines**
  - **Partition lines into classes based on hashes**
  - **Compare lines in the same partition**
  - **Visualize using dot plot**

ThisisthehousethatJackbuilt.

Thisistherat

Thatkilledtherat,

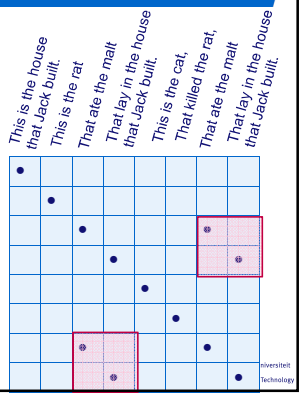
Thisisthecat,

ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt.
ThatlayinthehousethatJackbuilt.

Thatatethemalt
Thatatethemalt

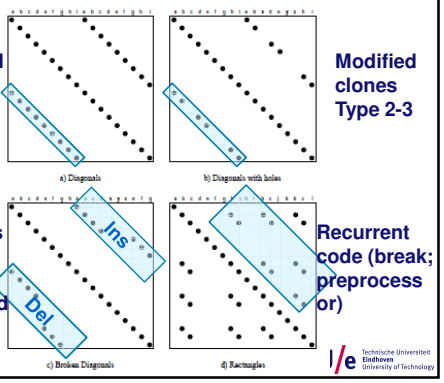
Textual comparison

- **Programs are just text!**
- **"Programming language independent"**
- **[Ducasse et al, 1999]**
  - **Remove whitespaces and comments**
  - **Calculate hashes for code lines**
  - **Partition lines into classes based on hashes**
  - **Compare lines in the same partition**
  - **Visualize using dot plot**
  - **Recognize larger clones by dot plot patterns**



Dot plot patterns

[Ducasse et al., 1999]



Advantages and disadvantages

- Good news
  - Language independent
  - Can detect Type 1,2,3 clones
- Bad news
  - Granularity: line of code, cannot detect duplication between parts of lines
  - Almost no distinction between "important" and "not important" code parts
    - Variable names
    - Syntactic sugar: if (a==0) {b}

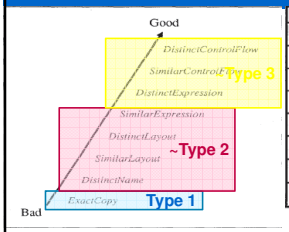
Alternative textual comparison approach

- [Marcus and Maletic 2001]: Clones discuss the same concepts
  - Higher-level clones: Type 4!
  - Identifier names should be the same!
    - If/while/… can be neglected
  - Latent semantic analysis (Information retrieval)
  - Mosaic 2.7, C, 269 files

Extending the text-based approach

- Program structure instead of text
- Metrics instead of hash-functions [Mayrand et al. 1996]
  - Name: identical or not
  - Layout (5 metrics):
    - avg variable name length, num of blank lines…
  - Expression (5 metrics):
    - num of calls, num of executable statements, …
  - Control flow (11 metrics):
    - num of loops, num of decisions, …
- Many metrics ⇒ lower chance of occasional collisions

Metrics-based clone detection



Scale	Nam	Lay	Exp	Con
1-ExactCopy	=	=	=	=
2-DistinctName	!=	=	=	=
3-SimilarLayout	X	~	=	=
4-DistinctLayout	X	!=	=	=
5-SimilarExpression	X	X	~	=
6-DistinctExpression	X	X	!=	=
7-SimilarControlFlow	X	X	X	~
8-DistinctControlFlow	X	X	X	!=

- = all metrics are equal
- ~ some metrics not equal but all differences are within the allowed range (per metrics)
- != outside the range
- X not considered

Metrics-based approaches: Discussion

- Problems:
  - Metrics are not independent (num uni calls ≤ num calls)
  - "Allowed range" is arbitrarily chosen
  - Precision?
    - $Code_1 = Code_2 \Rightarrow Metrics(Code_1) = Metrics(Code_2)$
    - $Code_1 \sim Code_2 \Rightarrow Metrics(Code_1) \sim Metrics(Code_2)$
    - $Metrics(Code_1) = Metrics(Code_2) \Rightarrow Code_1 = Code_2$?
    - $Metrics(Code_1) \sim Metrics(Code_2) \Rightarrow Code_1 \sim Code_2$???
  - Precision can be improved if metrics are combined with textual comparison
    - Still $O(n^2)$
    - But n is small for the "good choice" of metrics

More fine-grained approaches: Tokens!

- [Baker 1995]
- We want to recognize x=x+y and u=u+v as clones

- Identify tokens in the code
  - Ignore the keywords.
- Split structure and parameters

```
j = length(list);
if (j < 3) { x = x + y; }
```


More fine-grained approaches: Tokens!

- [Baker 1995]
- We want to recognize x=x+y and u=u+v as clones

- Identify tokens in the code
  - Ignore the keywords.
- Split structure and parameters
- For every structure invent an identifier

```
α  =      (  )
β  if (  <  ) {  =  +  }
```

j length list

j 3 x x y

More fine-grained approaches: Tokens!

- [Baker 1995]
- We want to recognize x=x+y and u=u+v as clones

- Identify tokens in the code
  - Ignore the keywords.
- Split structure and parameters
- For every structure invent an identifier
- Drop the structures and merge the identifiers with the parameters: P-string
- Concatenate the P-strings

```
α  =      (  )
β  if (  <  ) {  =  +  }
```

j length list

j 3 x x y

More fine-grained approaches: Tokens!

- [Baker 1995]
- We want to recognize x=x+y and u=u+v as clones

- Representation of the program so far:
- Encode the parameters:
  - First time encountered: 0
  - Next time: distance from the previous occurrence (structure identifiers included)

α j length list β j 3 x x y

α 0 0 0 β 4 0 0 1 0

More fine-grained approaches: Tokens!

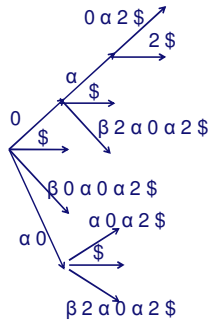
- [Baker 1995]

- Clones – repeated fragments
- Construct a suffix tree
  - Represents all suffixes
  - Can be done in O(n)
  - ~ Every branch represents a clone

α y β y α x α x
α 0 β 2 α 0 α 2 $
y β y α x α x
0 β 2 α 0 α 2 $
β y α x α x
β 0 α 0 α 2 $
0 α 0 α 2 $
α 0 α 2 $
0 α 2 $
α 0 $
0 $
$

More fine-grained approaches: Tokens!

- [Baker 1995]



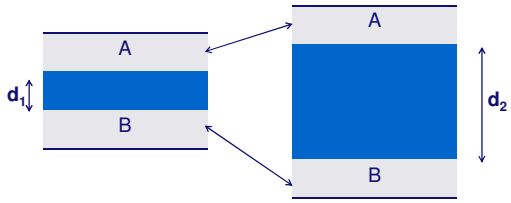
Every branch up to a leaf represents a clone

Size: count the symbols on the branches

α 0 β 2 α 0 α 2 $
0 β 2 α 0 α 2 $
β 0 α 0 α 2 $
0 α 0 α 2 $
α 0 α 2 $
0 α 2 $
α 0 $
0 $
$

So far only Type 1 and Type 2 clones

- Type 3 clones – combination of Type 1/2 clones



- Type 3 clones can be recognized if
  - $d_1 = d_2$
  - $\max(d_1, d_2) \leq$ threshold

Baker's approach

- Very fast:
  - 1.1 MLOC
  - minimal clone size: 30 LOC
  - 7 minutes on SGI IRIX 4.1, 40MHz, 256 MB
- Close to language independence
  - Depends solely on the tokenizer
- Can be improved by code normalization
  - See next slide
- Can identify duplication across function borders
  - Might require pre/post-processing

Code normalization (Kamiya et al. 2002)

- Many ways to express the same intention

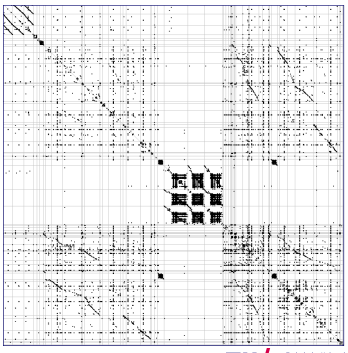
x = y + x	x = x+ y	Sort the operands of commutative operations lexicographically

if (a == 1) x=1;	if (a == 1) {
	x=1;
	}
		Add { } and newlines

static global variables in C		Drop "static"

Case study: Expert system of an insurance company [Kamiya – CCFinder/Gemini]

- Diacritics elimination
- Product line like variants



Clone detection techniques

- Text-based
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- Metrics-based
  - [Mayrand et al. 1996]
- Token-based
  - [Baker 1995, Kamiya et al. 2002] March 8, 2010
- AST-based March 15, 2010
  - [Baxer 1996]
  - AST+Tokens combined [Koschke et al. 2006]
- Program Dependence Graph
  - [Krinke 2001]

Conclusions

- Code cloning, code duplication, redundancy…
  - Type 1, 2, 3, 4 clones (more refined classif. possible)
  - Useful: reliability, reduced time, code preservation
  - Harmful: more interrelated code, more bugs
  - Ignore, eliminate, prevent, manage
  - Detection mechanisms
    - Text-based
    - Metrics-based
    - Token-based
    - To be continued next week…