

## Views on Edits to Variational Software

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SPLC'23 | Tokyo, Japan

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**uulm**

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



This is Bob,  
a software developer.



This is Bob,  
a software developer.

Let me fix  
some bugs!



```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
    #if Ring  
        if (empty())  
            last = newHead;  
    #endif  
    last->suc = newHead;  
    #if DoubleLink  
        head->prev = head;  
        #if Ring  
            newHead->prev = last;  
        #endif  
    #endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```



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void prepend(T e) {  
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        head->prev = head;  
        #if Ring  
            newHead->prev = last;  
        #endif  
    #endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

I just wanted to  
edit  
DoubleLinked  
lists.



```
void pre
Itm* new
newHead
#if Ring
if
]
#er
la
```

Software & Systems Modeling (2018) 18:373–3428  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10270-018-00722-3>

REGULAR PAPER

## Integrated revision and variation control for evolving model-driven software product lines

Felix Schwägerl<sup>1</sup> · Bernhard Westechtel<sup>1</sup>

(February 2019)

## Projectional Editing of Variational Software

Eric Walkingshaw · Klaus Ostermann  
 University of Marburg, Germany  
[walkingshaw@informatik.uni-marburg.de](mailto:walkingshaw@informatik.uni-marburg.de)

### Abstract

Editing the source code of variational software is complicated by the presence of variation annotations, such as `either` statements, and by code that is only included in some configurations. When editing some configurations and not others, it would be easier to edit a simplified version of the source code that includes only the configurations we currently care about. In this paper, we present a projectional editing model for variational software. Using our approach, a programmer can partially configure a variational program, edit this simplified view of the code, and then automatically update the original, fully variational source code. The model is based on an isolation principle where edits affect only the variants that are visible in the view. We show that this principle has several nice properties that are suggested by related work on bidirectional transformations.

**Categories and Subject Descriptors:** D.2.3 [Software Engineering]: Coding Tools and Techniques—Program editors

**General Terms:** Design, Languages, Theory

**Keywords:** variation, projectional editing, software product lines, bidirectional transformations, view-update problem

### 1. Introduction

Editing variational software is complicated by the presence of variation annotations and code that is only conditionally included.

```
#if ISMALL_FEATURE_SNAPFOR_DISCARD 66 %
    ISMALL_FEATURE_SNAPFOR_PRT
    zen = getopt(SCARG, "z");
#else
    #if ISMALL_FEATURE_SNAPFOR_PRT
        IF (getopt_name(1) == "n")
            opt_completionary = "p";
    #endif
    zen = getopt(SCARG, "Applet_name(1) == 'n' ?
    #if ISMALL_FEATURE_SNAPFOR_DISCARD
        "n";
    #endif
    #if ISMALL_FEATURE_SNAPFOR_PRT
        "p";
    #endif
    "n"; "p";
    #if ISMALL_FEATURE_SNAPFOR_DISCARD
        = getopt(SCARG, "z");
    #endif
    #if ISMALL_FEATURE_SNAPFOR_PRT
        = getopt(SCARG, "z");
    #endif
);
#endif
```

Figure 1. Complex variational code from `libglib`.

## Concepts of Variation Control Systems

Lukas Lindbauer\*, Felix Schwägerl<sup>1</sup>, Thorsten Berger<sup>2</sup>, Paul Grimbacher<sup>3</sup>

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 E-Mail: [felix.schwagerl@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:felix.schwagerl@uni-bayreuth.de)  
<sup>2</sup>Chair for AI, University of Göttingen, Göttingen  
 E-Mail: [thorsten.berger@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:thorsten.berger@uni-goettingen.de)

<sup>3</sup>Institute for Software Systems Engineering, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria  
 E-Mail: [paul.grimbacher@jku.at](mailto:paul.grimbacher@jku.at)

## The ECCO Tool: Extraction and Composition for Clone-and-Own

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 Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria  
[{stefan.fischer, lukas.lindbauer, roberto.lopez, alexander.egyed}@jku.at](mailto:{stefan.fischer, lukas.lindbauer, roberto.lopez, alexander.egyed}@jku.at)

**Abstract—**Software reuse has become mandatory for companies to compete, and a wide range of reuse techniques are available today. However, ad hoc practices such as copying existing systems and customizing them to meet customer-specific needs are still pervasive, and are generically called clone-and-own. We have developed a conceptual framework to support the practice named ECCO that stands for Extraction and Composition for Clone-and-Own. In this paper we present an Eclipse-based tool to support this approach. Our tool can automatically locate reusable parts from previously developed modules and subsequently compose a new product from a selection of desired features. The tool demonstration video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/50q9kxzt1ko>

### I. INTRODUCTION

Companies often do not build one-of-a-kind software products, but rather develop a portfolio of similar product vari-

ants. Our approach has the advantage that software engineers do not have to change their development practices. They can continue to develop single product variants the way they are used to but get automated support in doing so. We demonstrated the basic feasibility of our approach by performing an evaluation on five case studies. We found that less than 20% of the existing product variants are input allowed for the near optimal construction of new product variants (the other 80% of available products, that were reconstructed by reusing existing functionality). This paper presents a tool that supports our previous work by integrating the defined operators and providing a user interface for the whole workflow in the form of an Eclipse-plugin.

### II. TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

The conceptual framework behind ECCO has been already

of its main  
 automated  
 and one

composition

## Virtual Separation of Concerns: Preprocessors 2.0

Dissertation  
 zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades  
 Doktoringenieur (Dr.-Ing.)

vorgelegt der Fakultät für Informatik  
 der Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg

von Dipl.-Wirt.-Inform. Christian Kästner  
 geb. am 21. September 1982 in Schwedt/Oder

Magdeburg, den 3. Februar 2010



```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
    #if Ring  
        if (empty())  
            last = newHead;  
    #endif  
    last->suc = newHead;  
    #if DoubleLink  
        head->prev = head;  
        #if Ring  
            newHead->prev = last;  
        #endif  
    #endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

I just wanted to  
edit  
DoubleLinked  
lists.





```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
  
    last->suc = newHead;  
#if DoubleLink  
    head->prev = head;  
  
#endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```



One week later...

This is Alice.

She has to do a **code  
review** on recent  
changes to the prepend  
method.



This is Alice.

She has to do a **code review** on recent changes to the prepend method.

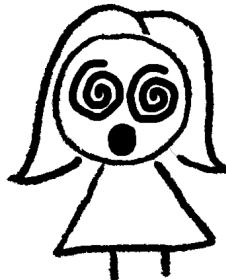
Let's go!



```
void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
    newHead->suc = head;
    #if Ring
        if (empty())
            - last = head;
            + last = newHead;
        -#endif
        last->suc = newHead;
    +#endif
    #if DoubleLink
        + if (head) {
            - head->prev = head;
            + head->prev = newHead;
        + }
        #if Ring
            newHead->prev = last;
        #endif
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    head = newHead;
}
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        if (empty())  
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+    last = newHead;  
-#endif  
        last->suc = newHead;  
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        last->suc = newHead;  
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+    head->prev = newHead;  
+ }  
        #if Ring  
            newHead->prev = last;  
        #endif  
    #endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

I am responsible for only  
the DoubleLink feature,  
  
but there are also other  
tangled changes.



# An Open Problem!



head

}





```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
#if Ring  
    if (empty())  
        last = head;  
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#endif  
    last->suc = newHead;  
#if DoubleLink  
    head->prev = head;  
#if Ring  
    newHead->prev = last;  
#endif  
#endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

view on state before

```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
  
    last->suc = newHead;  
#if DoubleLink  
    head->prev = head;  
  
#endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```





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void prepend(T e) {  
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view on state before

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void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;
```

```
    last->suc = newHead;  
#if DoubleLink  
    head->prev = head;
```

```
#endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

edit

```
void prepend(T e) {  
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```

```
#if DoubleLink  
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    }
```

```
#endif  
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edit

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    newHead->prev = last;  
#endif  
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}
```

commit to variation control

```
void prepend(T e) {  
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    }  
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```
#endif  
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}
```





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#endif  
    last->suc = newHead;  
#if DoubleLink  
    head->prev = head;  
#if Ring  
    newHead->prev = last;  
#endif  
#endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

lifted edit

```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
#if Ring  
    if (empty())  
        last = newHead;  
    last->suc = newHead;  
#endif  
#if DoubleLink  
    if (head) {  
        head->prev = newHead;  
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    newHead->prev = last;  
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view on state before

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```
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edit

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```
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commit to variation control



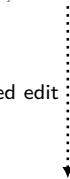


```
void prepend(T e) {
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    #if Ring
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        last = head;
    + last = newHead;
    -#endif
    last->suc = newHead;
    +#endif
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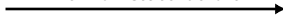
lifted edit

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view on state before



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```

```
    last->suc = newHead;
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    head->prev = head;
```

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    #endif
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edit



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    #endif
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```

commit to variation control





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    + if (head) {
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        + head->prev = newHead;
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view on state before

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void prepend(T e) {
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    newHead->suc = head;

    last->suc = newHead;
    #if DoubleLink
    head->prev = head;

    #endif
    head = newHead;
}
```



```
void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
    newHead->suc = head;
```

# Open Problem

lifted edit

edit

```
void prepend(T e) {
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commit to variation control

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```
- last->suc = newHead;

    #if DoubleLink
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        + head->prev = newHead;
    + }

    #endif
    head = newHead;
}
```

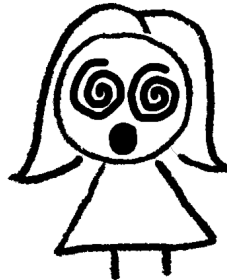






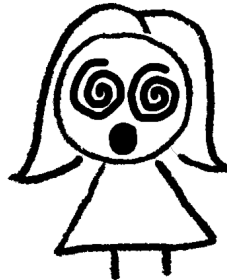
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    newHead->suc = head;  
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+    last = newHead;  
-#endif  
        last->suc = newHead;  
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    #if DoubleLink  
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-    head->prev = head;  
+    head->prev = newHead;  
+ }  
        #if Ring  
            newHead->prev = last;  
        #endif  
    #endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

I am responsible for only  
the DoubleLink feature,  
  
but there are also other  
tangled changes.



```
void prepend(T e) {  
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```
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+ }
```

```
#endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```



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    newHead->suc = head;  
#if Ring
```

```
-#endif
```

```
    last->suc = newHead;
```

```
+#endif
```

```
#if DoubleLink
```

```
+ if (head) {
```

```
- head->prev = head;
```

```
+ head->prev = newHead;
```

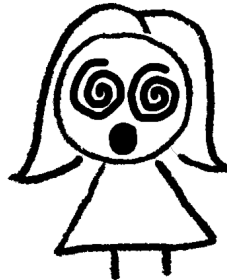
```
+ }
```

```
#endif
```

```
    head = newHead;
```

```
}
```

feature annotation  
changed from  
true to Ring



```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;
```

```
- last->suc = newHead;
```

```
#if DoubleLink  
+ if (head) {  
- head->prev = head;  
+ head->prev = newHead;  
+ }
```

```
#endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```



# How does it work?

## What is a view (on state / a single revision)?

*A view is a **self-contained** subset of a system*

## What is a view (on state / a single revision)?

*A view is a **self-contained** subset of a system  
that consists exactly of all **relevant** parts of the system*



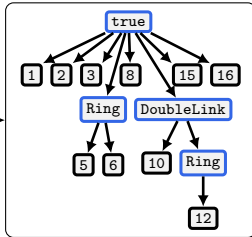
## What is a view (on state / a single revision)?

*A view is a **self-contained** subset of a system  
that consists exactly of all **relevant** parts of the system  
where relevance is decided by an oracle  
(e.g., a developer or analysis tool).*

```

void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
    newHead->suc = head;
    #if Ring
    if (empty())
        last = newHead;
    #endif
    last->suc = newHead;
    #if DoubleLink
    head->prev = head;
    #if Ring
    newHead->prev = last;
    #endif
    #endif
    head = newHead;
}

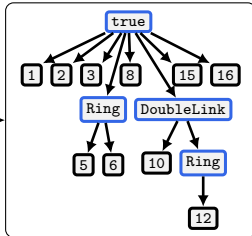
```



```

void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
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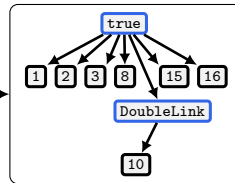
```



Predicate over  
nodes

Remove all  
nodes that do  
not satisfy the  
predicate.

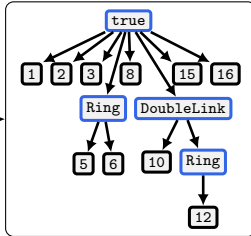
(Keep ancestors of  
selected nodes for  
self-containedness.)



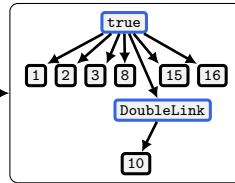


Predicate over  
nodes

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  newHead->prev = last;  
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```



Remove all  
nodes that do  
not satisfy the  
predicate.



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  head->prev = head;  
  
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  head = newHead;  
}
```

(Keep ancestors of  
selected nodes for  
self-containedness.)

## **View on a Variant (Set)** by (partial) configuration

[Walkingshaw and Ostermann, 2014]  
[Kästner, 2010]  
variation control systems

## **View on Features** i.e., feature traces

[Kästner, 2010]

## **View on Artifacts** search in code

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[Kästner, 2010]

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$\text{SAT}(FM \wedge \neg \text{Ring} \wedge \text{PC}(v))$

## View on Features i.e., feature traces

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$\text{DoubleLink} \in \text{vars}(\text{PC}(v))$

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            newHead->prev = last;  
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    head = newHead;  
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```

$\text{label}(v) = \text{"last = newHead;"}$

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[Walkingshaw and Ostermann, 2014]  
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void prepend(T e) {  
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    #if DoubleLink  
        head->prev = head;  
        #if Ring  
            newHead->prev = last;  
        #endif  
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    head = newHead;  
}
```

$\text{label}(v) = \text{"last = newHead;"}$

## ... but what is a view on an edit ...

```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
    #if Ring  
    if (empty())  
        - last = head;  
    + last = newHead;  
    -#endif  
    last->suc = newHead;  
    +#endif  
    #if DoubleLink  
    + if (head) {  
        - head->prev = head;  
        + head->prev = newHead;  
    + }  
    #if Ring  
    newHead->prev = last;  
    #endif  
    #endif  
    head = newHead;  
}
```

... and how can we compute it?



```
void prepend(T e) {  
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);  
    newHead->suc = head;  
  
    - last->suc = newHead;  
  
    #if DoubleLink  
    + if (head) {  
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        + head->prev = newHead;  
    + }  
  
    #endif  
    head = newHead;  
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```



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void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
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    - head->prev = head;
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    #if Ring
    newHead->prev = last;
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void prepend(T e) {
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    newHead->prev = last;
    #endif
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    head = newHead;
}
```

view on state before

```
void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
    newHead->suc = head;

    last->suc = newHead;
    #if DoubleLink
    head->prev = head;

    #endif
    head = newHead;
}
```



```
void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
    newHead->suc = head;
```

complex edit ... and how can we compute it? edit

```
void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
    newHead->suc = head;
    #if Ring
    if (empty())
        last = newHead;
    last->suc = newHead;
    #endif
    #if DoubleLink
    if (head) {
        head->prev = newHead;
    }
    #if Ring
    newHead->prev = last;
    #endif
    #endif
    head = newHead;
}
```

commit to variation control

```
void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
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    #if DoubleLink
    if (head) {
        head->prev = newHead;
    }

    #endif
    head = newHead;
}
```

```
- last->suc = newHead;

    #if DoubleLink
    + if (head) {
    - head->prev = head;
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```





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void prepend(T e) {
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```

view on state before

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```
last->suc = newHead;
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```



```
void prepend(T e) {
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    newHead->suc = head;
```

```
- last->suc = newHead;
```

```
#if DoubleLink
+ if (head) {
- head->prev = head;
+ head->prev = newHead;
+ }
```

```
#endif
head = newHead;
}
```



complex  
edit

*Viewing an edit to the SPL  
should be equivalent to  
editing a view on the SPL.*

edit

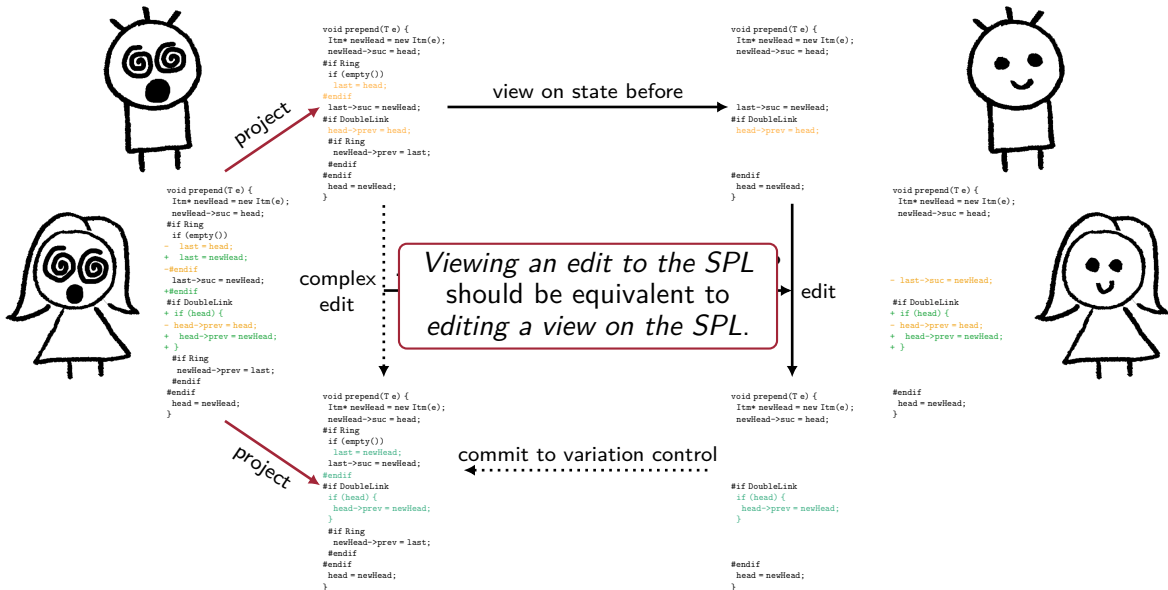
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```

commit to variation control

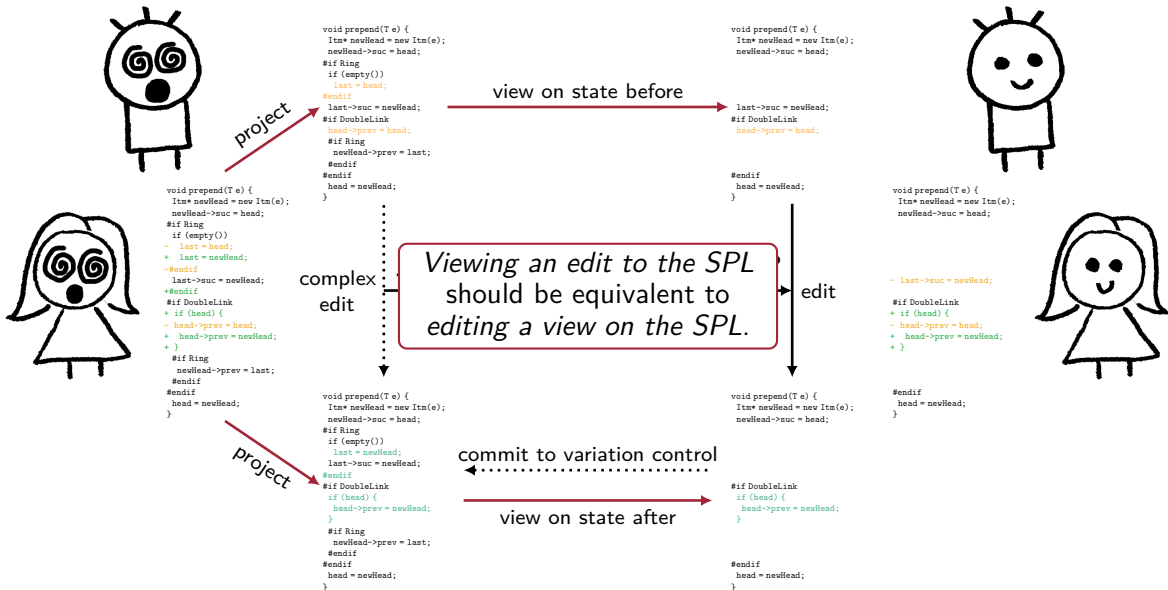
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void prepend(T e) {
    Itm* newHead = new Itm(e);
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```

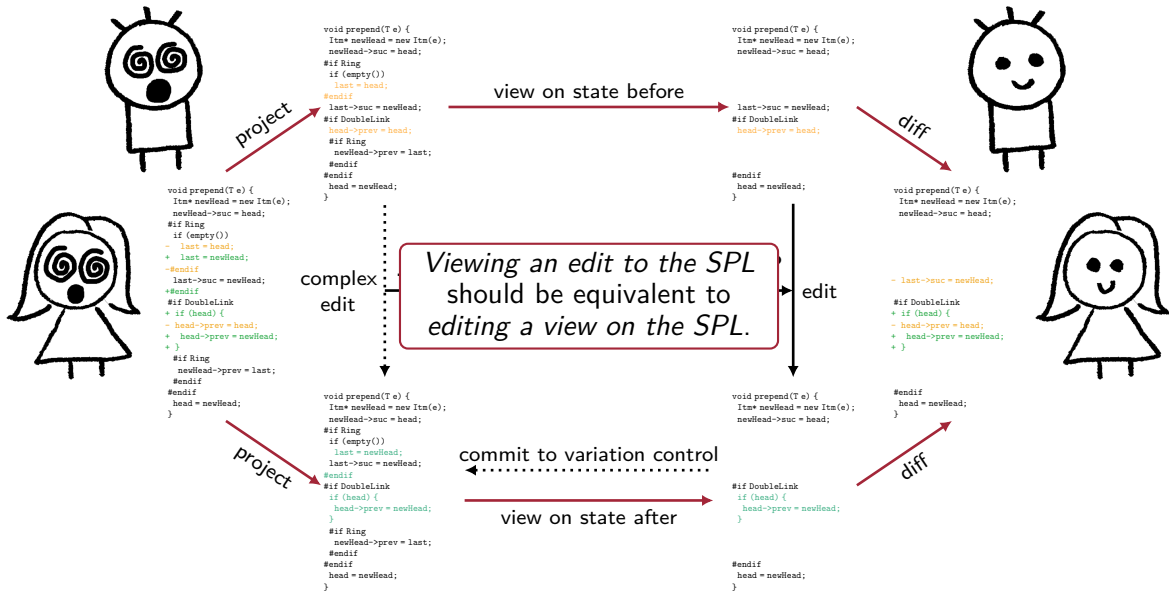
```
#if DoubleLink
if (head) {
    head->prev = newHead;
}
```

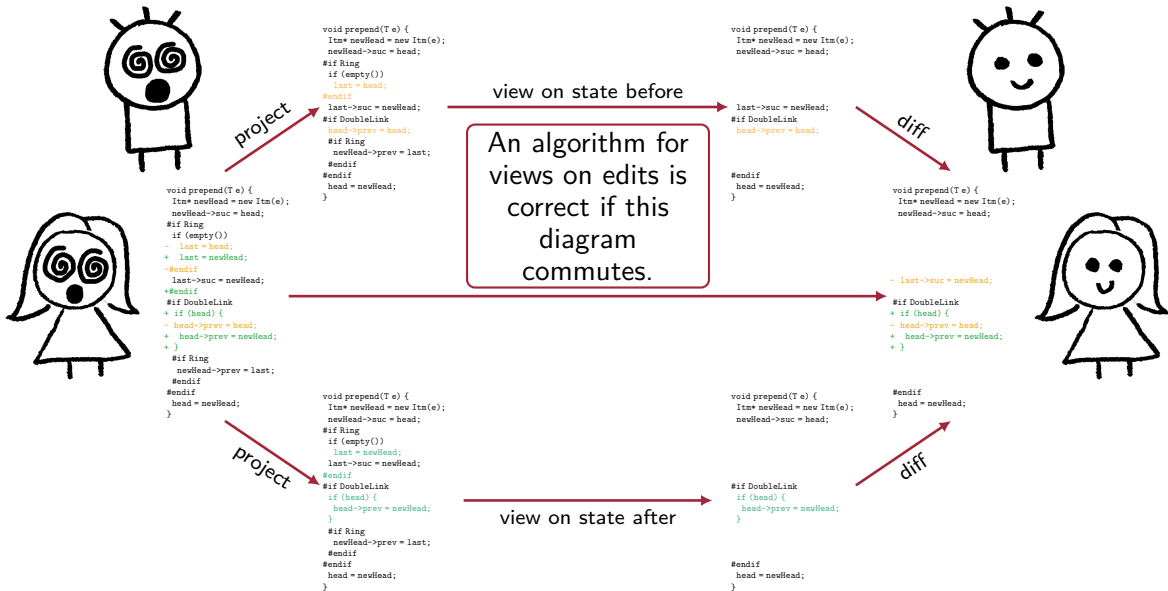
```
#endif
head = newHead;
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```

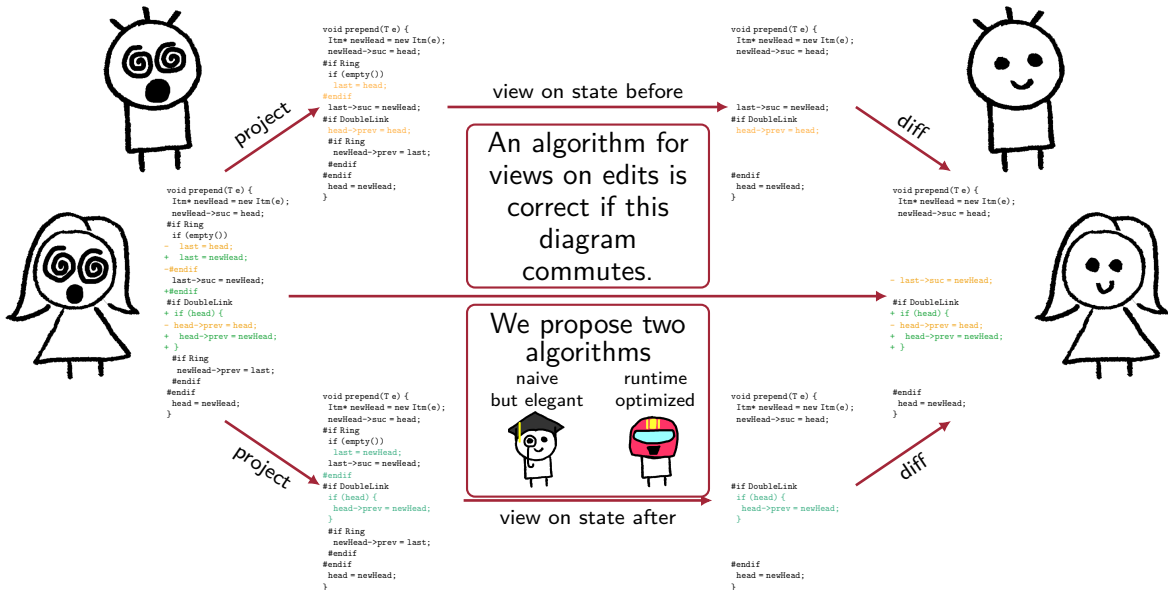














# Feasibility Study – How efficiently can views be computed?

44 open-source  
SPL histories  
(incl. )



# Feasibility Study – How efficiently can views be computed?

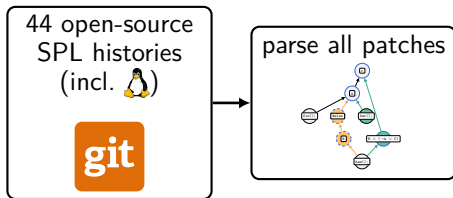
44 open-source  
SPL histories  
(incl. )



1.7 million commits  
5 million patches



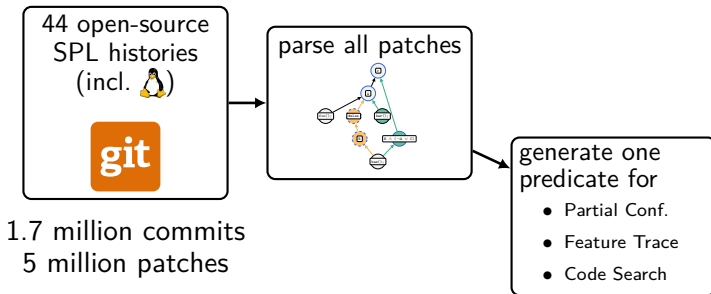
# Feasibility Study – How efficiently can views be computed?



1.7 million commits  
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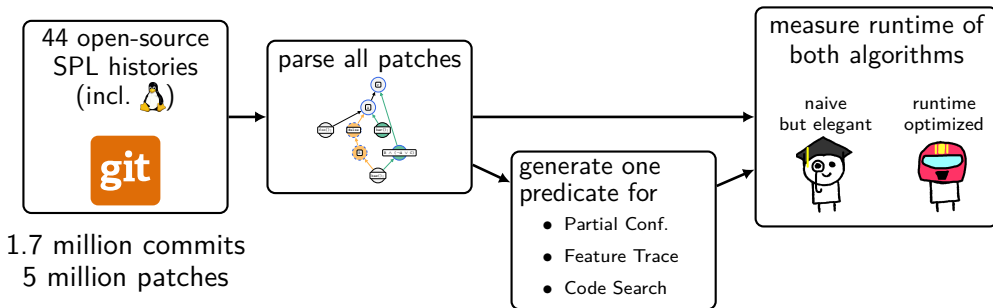


# Feasibility Study – How efficiently can views be computed?

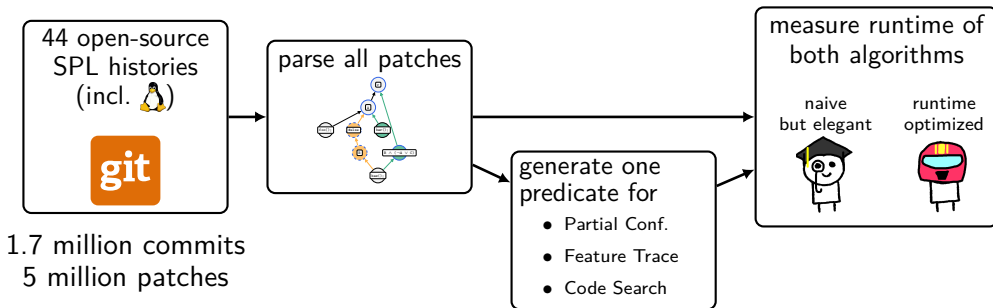






# Feasibility Study – How efficiently can views be computed?



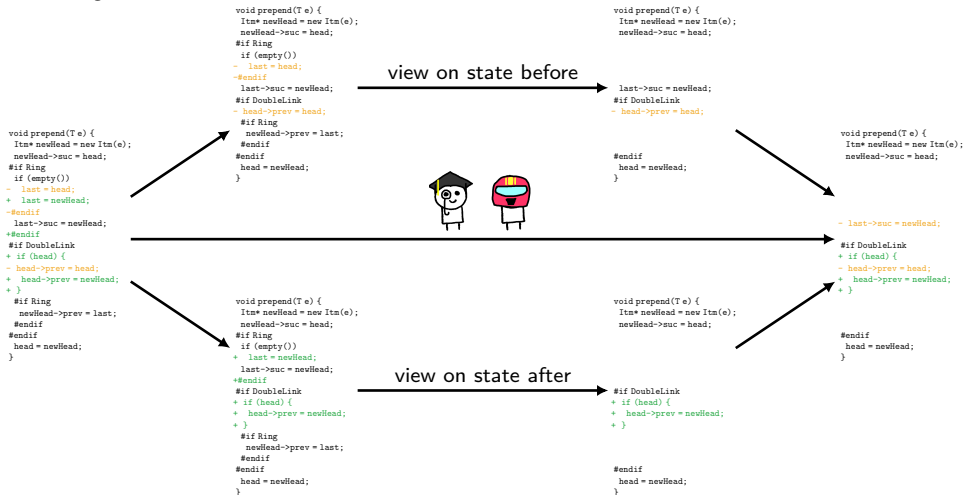
# Feasibility Study – How efficiently can views be computed?



99.9% of views can be generated in  $\leq 1s$  (median 1ms).  
 is  $\geq 37x$  faster for instances where  takes  $\geq 1s$ .



# Summary





Kästner, C. (2010).

*Virtual Separation of Concerns: Toward Preprocessors 2.0.*

PhD thesis, University of Magdeburg.



Walkingshaw, E. and Ostermann, K. (2014).

Projectional Editing of Variational Software.

In *Proc. Int'l Conf. on Generative Programming: Concepts & Experiences (GPCE)*, pages 29–38. ACM.