

1. Block 4.2: CS6514: Software Architecture Design Portfolio

Merlin++

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2. Abstract

Merlin++ is a C++ charged-particle tracking library developed for the simulation and analysis of complex beam dynamics within high energy particle accelerators. Accurate simulation and analysis of particle dynamics is an essential part of the design of new particle accelerators, and for the optimization of existing ones. Merlin++ is a feature-full library with focus on long-term tracking studies. A user may simulate distributions of protons or electrons in either single particle or sliced macro-particle bunches. The tracking code includes both straight and curvilinear coordinate systems allowing for the simulation of either linear or circular accelerator lattice designs, and uses a fast and accurate explicit symplectic integrator. Physics processes for common design studies have been implemented, including RF cavity acceleration, synchrotron radiation damping, on-line physical aperture checks and collimation, proton scattering, wakefield simulation, and spin-tracking. Merlin++ was written using C++ object orientated design practices and has been optimized for speed using multicore processors. This article presents an account of the program, including its functionality and guidance for use.

3. Table of Contents

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4. Tech Stack

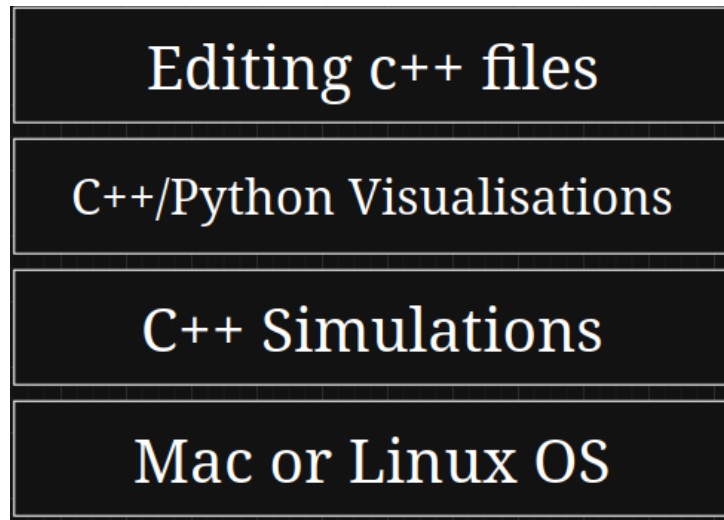
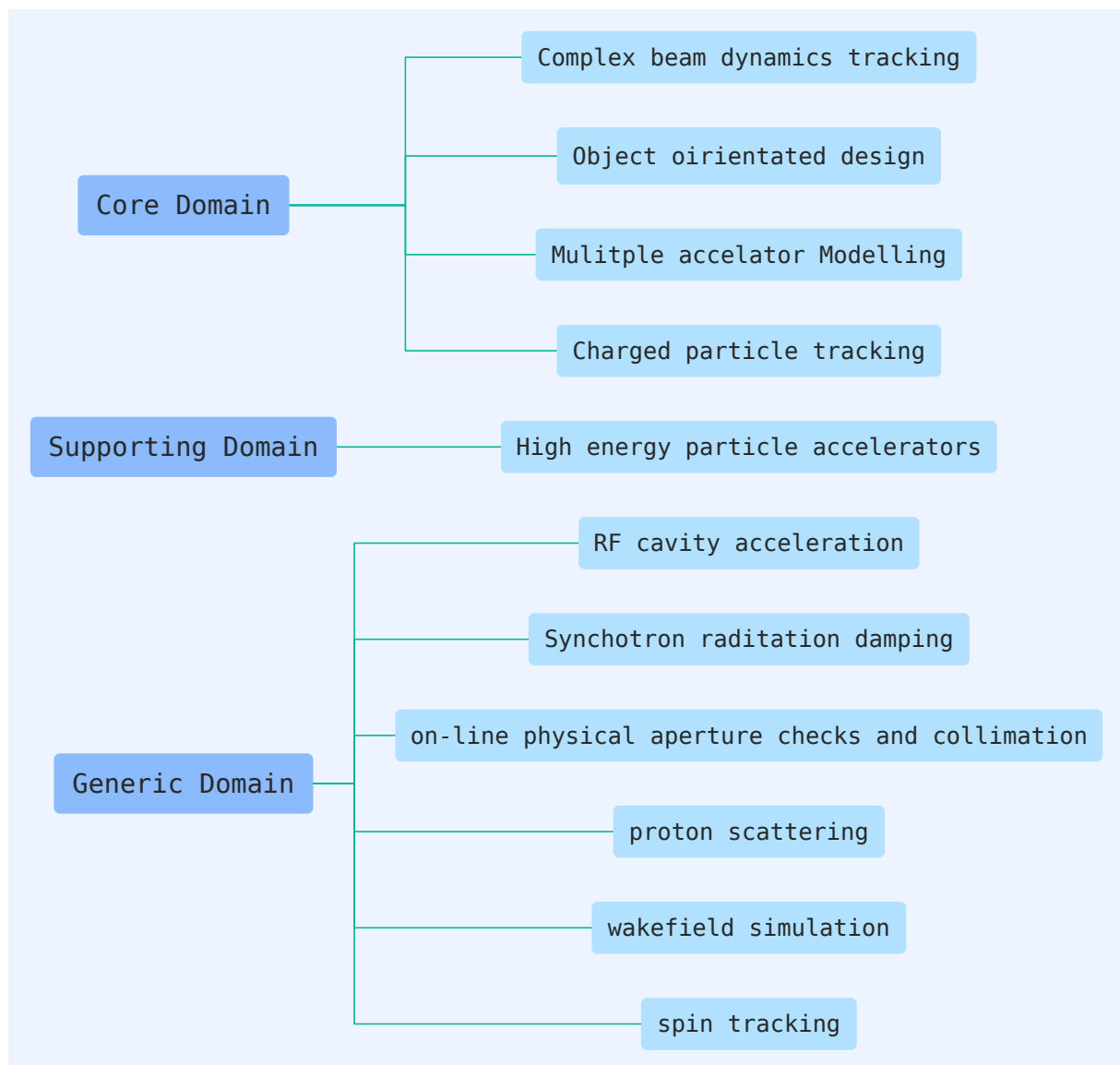


Figure 1: Tech Stack

The design philosophy of OOP that Merlin strives towards is seen by the tech stack. C++ was a pragmatic choice to allow for a high performance language that is grounded in OOP to be the core language. This performance was also pivotal as the simulations need to be performant. An issue in the codebase comes from the loose python integration, this is because its used for the tests even though cmake is being used and python is used lightly for the visualisations. This lack of cohesion adds to the complexity of adding to tests for no good reason. The entrypoint of editing a file with classes makes sense in the sense of ease of use for developers but this entrypoint makes the process much less user friendly and adds to the difficulty of non-technicals using the program.

5. Domain Model



The Merlin project is a tool focused on simulating complex particle collisions and acceleration. It incorporates a wealth of well known and studied formulas which contribute to the generic domain of the application. The feeds into the core use of the application of beam dynamics and particle tracking in differenct accelerator simulations. This flexibility of choice and algorithm application allows for Merlin to be a well suited tool for its use case. Arguably in the core domain, the application of OOP has a place. This is due to the fact that the code base is architected in a better style than other academic projects where architecture has been considered for the future maintainability and continuation of the project.

6. Utility Tree

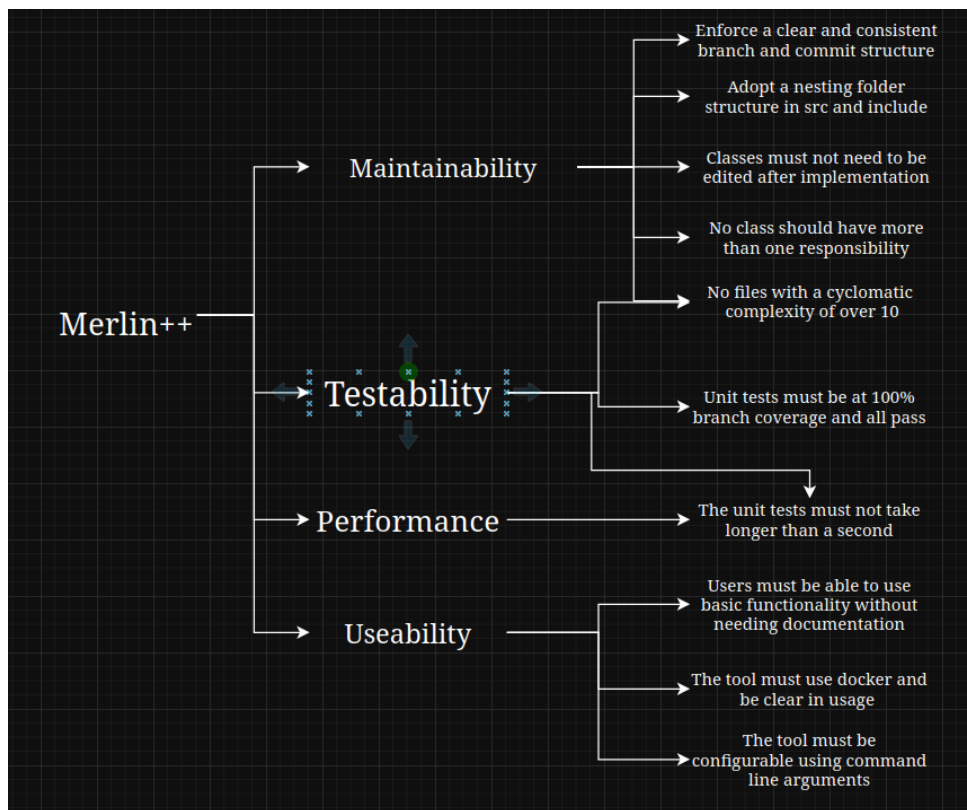


Figure 2: Utility Tree

This utility tree combines both what is present in the codebase and what it should aspire for with concrete quality requirements. These requirements are a baseline for a strong code project, things such as commit and file structure are a must to encourage collaboration and modularisation. Useability is important to allow for a wide range of user testing and user usage. The more useable the project is the better it is on both ends allowing developers to focus on more core problems and allows users to focus on using the tool rather than fighting it. Things like a clear configuration embedded in code as well as containerisation to allow for consistent builds are a must.

7. Use Case Diagram

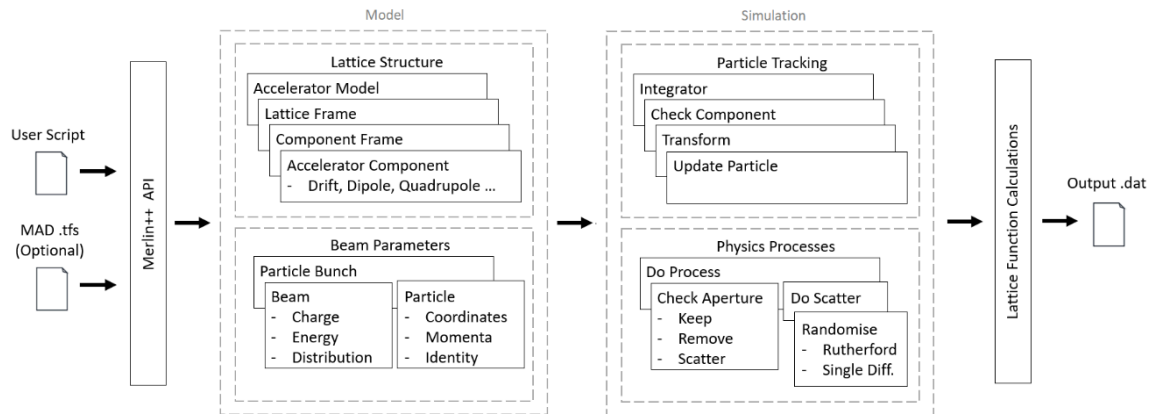


Figure 3: Use Case diagram

This use case diagram shows the flow directly from script creation to the output. This shows how the script once inputted into Merlin first models the structure of the simulations. This is then passed to the simulation section which then simulates according to the parameters outputting an output.dat. This is a well made system but the main gripe I have is with the entry point being a user made script, within my understanding even a config file would be preferable to make the system simpler to understand and remove the need for in depth tutorials for basic use.

8. Codescene

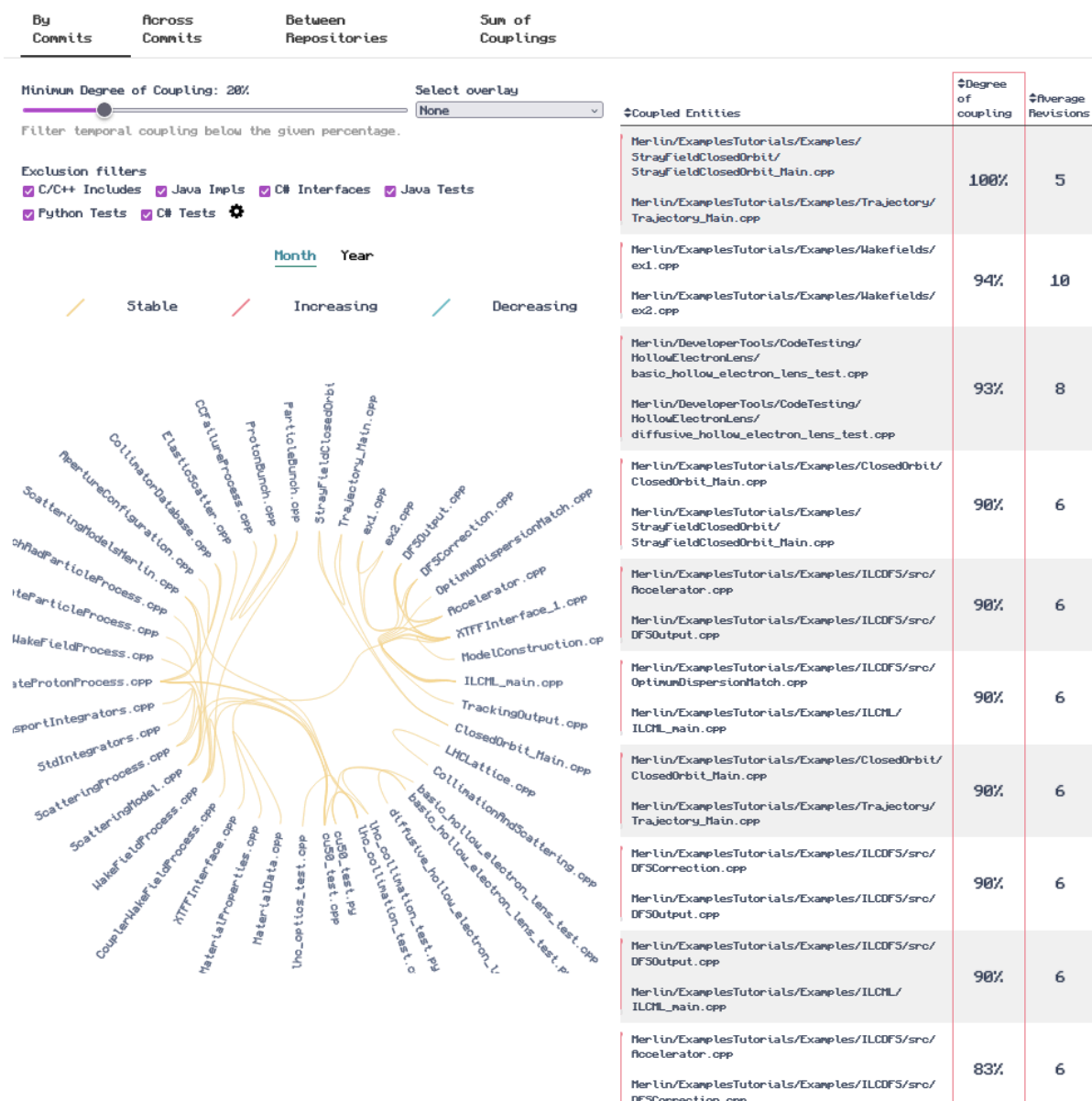


Figure 4: Codescene coupling graph

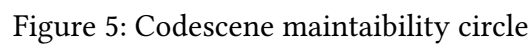


Figure 5: Codescene maintainability circle

9. DV8

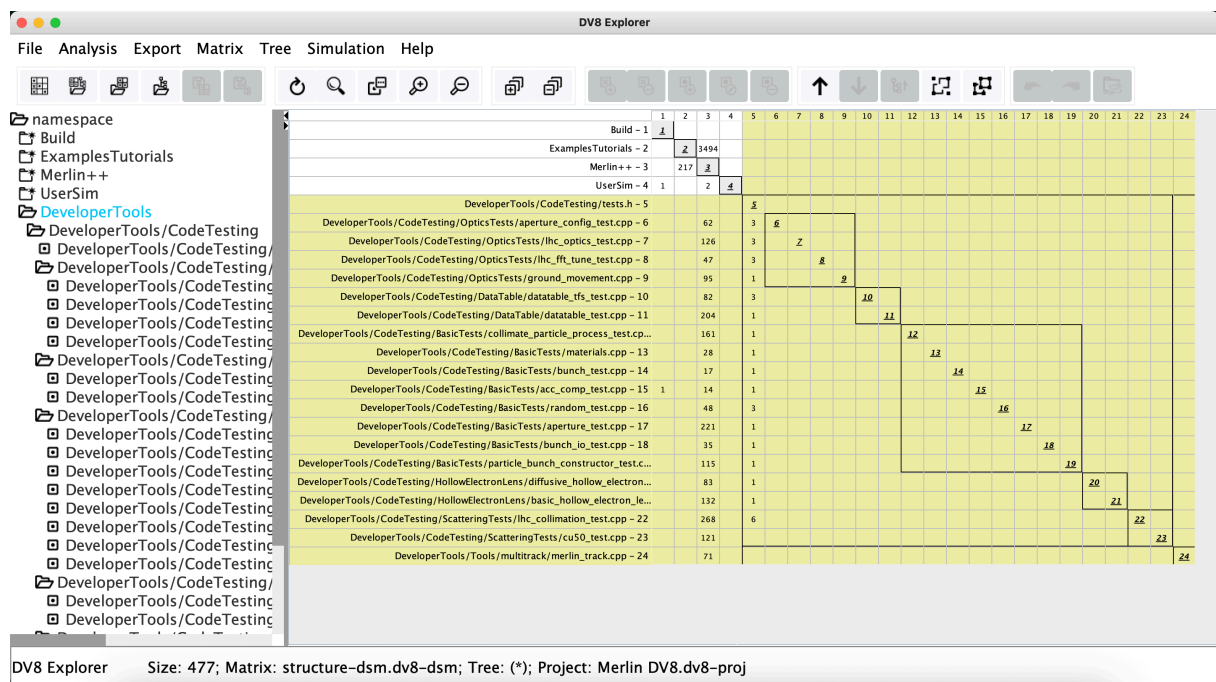


Figure 6: Dv8 Dev tool analysis

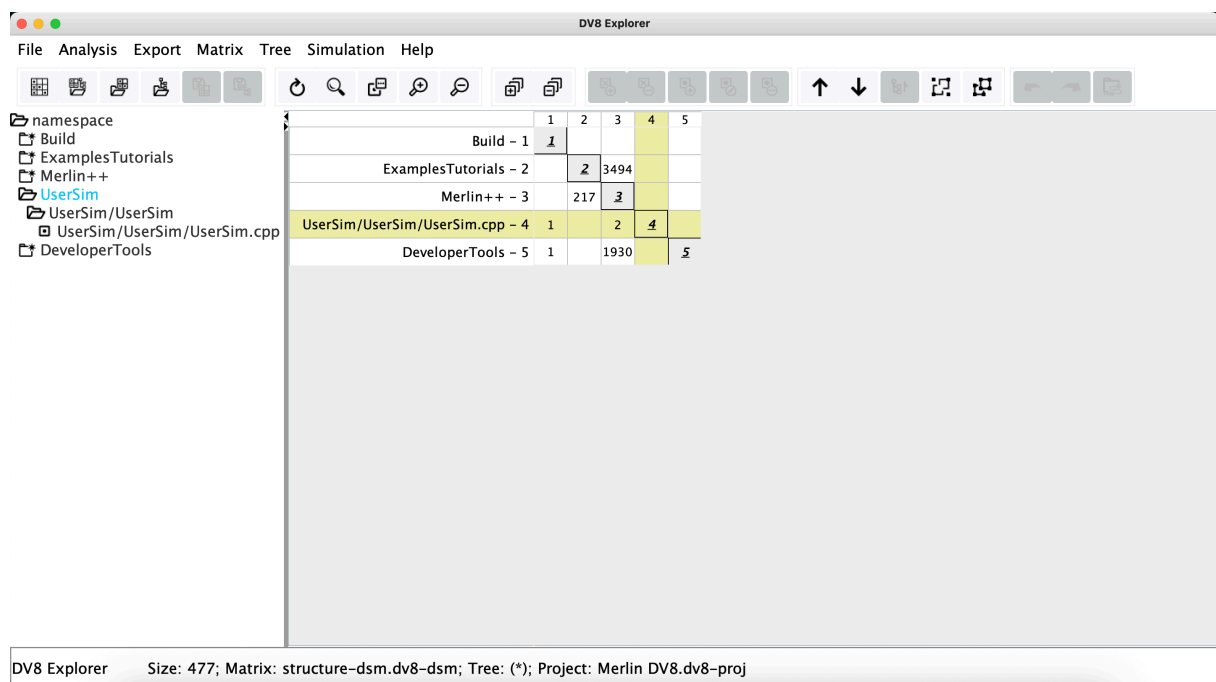
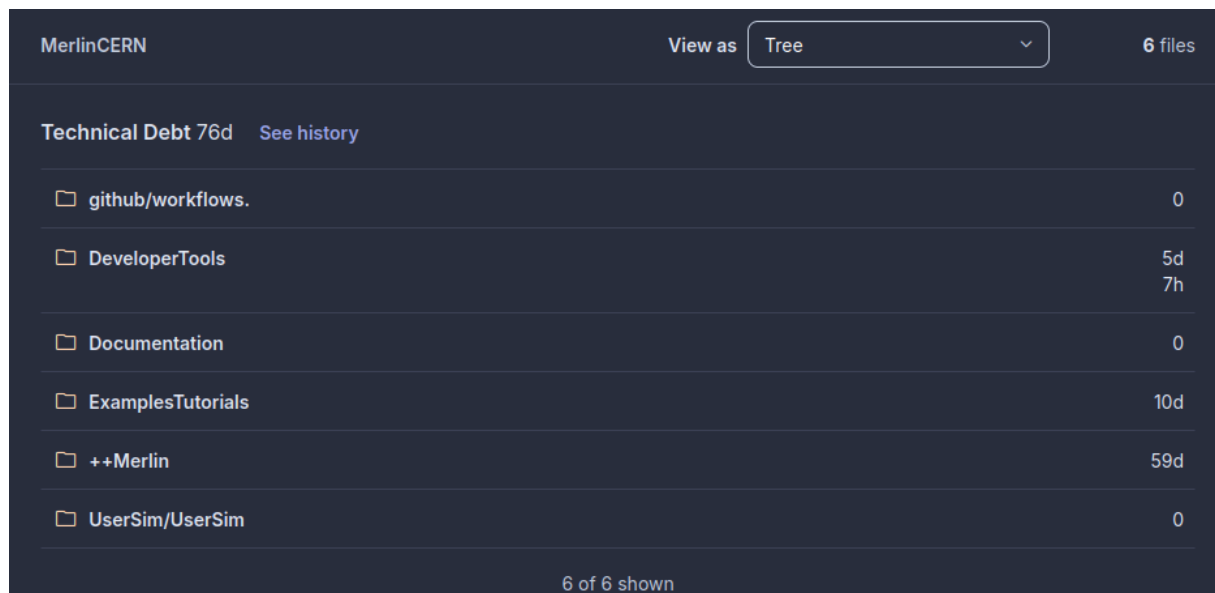


Figure 7: Dv8 high level analysis

10. SonarQube

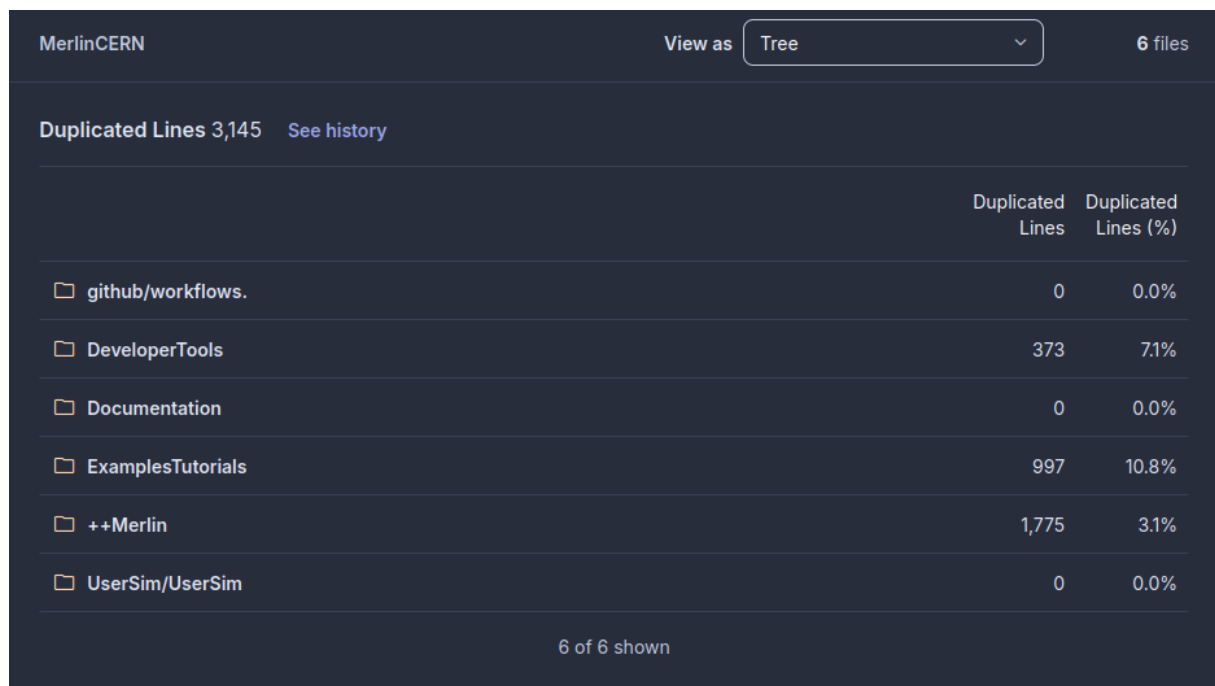


This screenshot shows the 'Technical Debt' section for the 'MerlinCERN' project in SonarQube. The view is set to 'Tree' and shows 6 files. The table lists the following items:

Item	Technical Debt
github/workflows.	0
DeveloperTools	5d 7h
Documentation	0
ExamplesTutorials	10d
++Merlin	59d
UserSim/UserSim	0

6 of 6 shown

Figure 8: Technical debt cost



This screenshot shows the 'Duplicated Lines' section for the 'MerlinCERN' project in SonarQube. The view is set to 'Tree' and shows 6 files. The table lists the following items:

Item	Duplicated Lines	Duplicated Lines (%)
github/workflows.	0	0.0%
DeveloperTools	373	7.1%
Documentation	0	0.0%
ExamplesTutorials	997	10.8%
++Merlin	1,775	3.1%
UserSim/UserSim	0	0.0%

6 of 6 shown

Figure 9: Duplicated code analysis

11. Understand

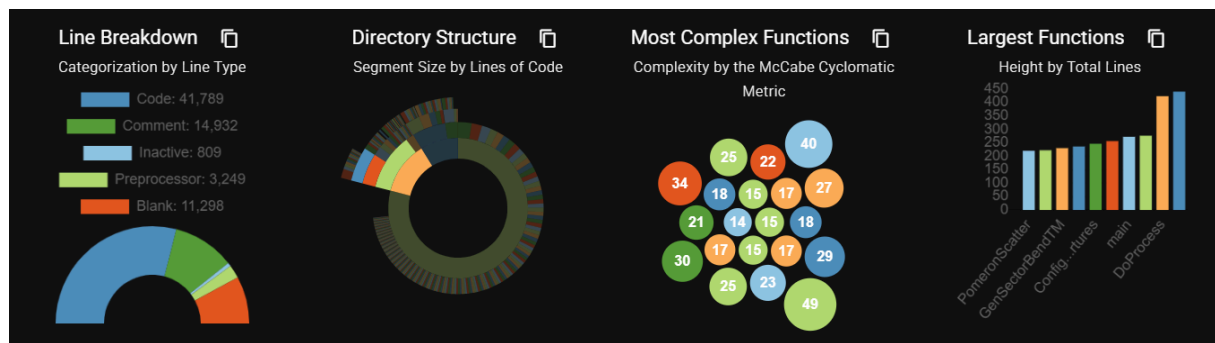


Figure 10: Function complexity understand

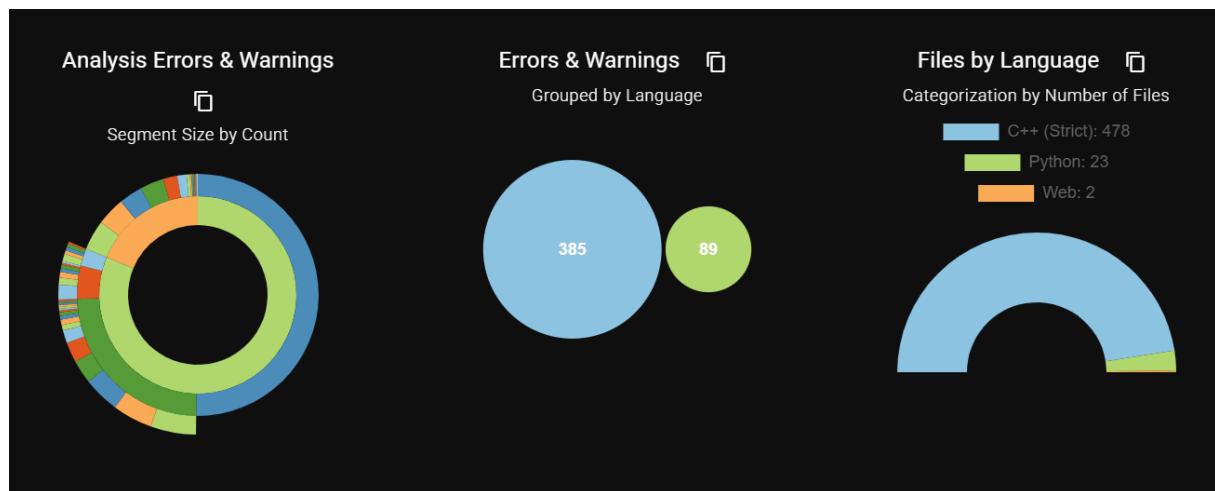


Figure 11: Coding language breakdown

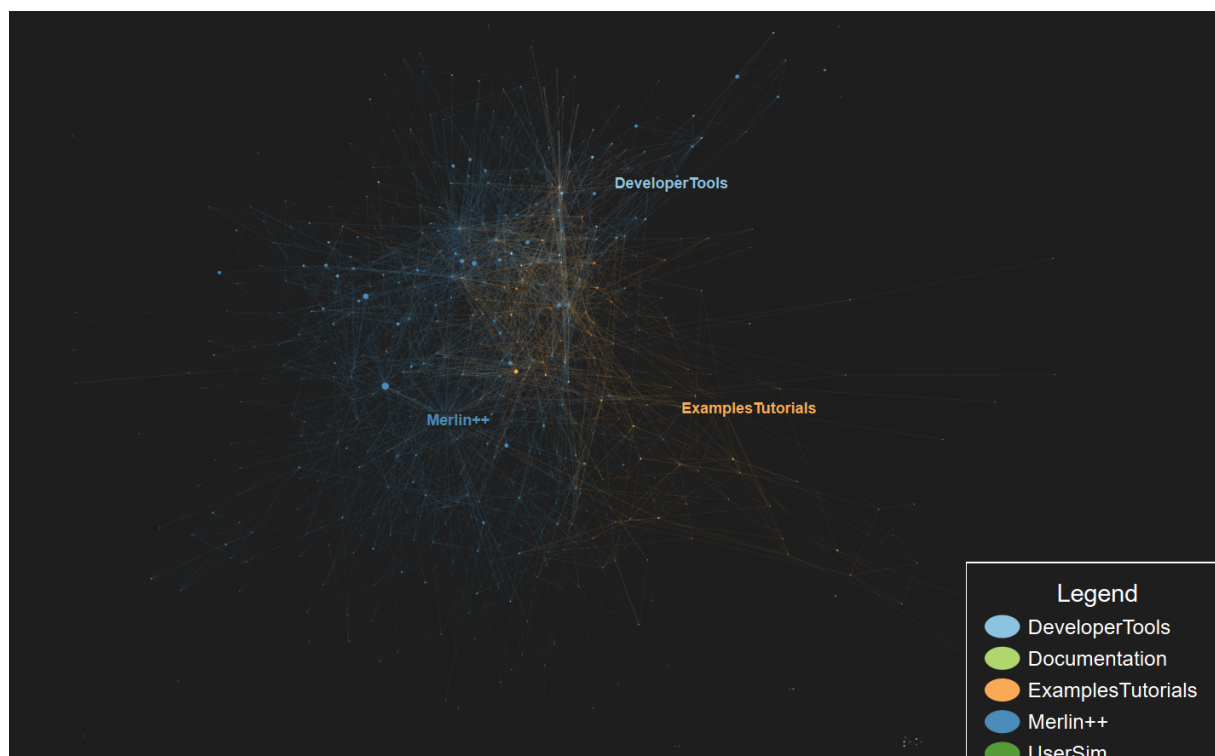


Figure 12: Understand code dependency graph

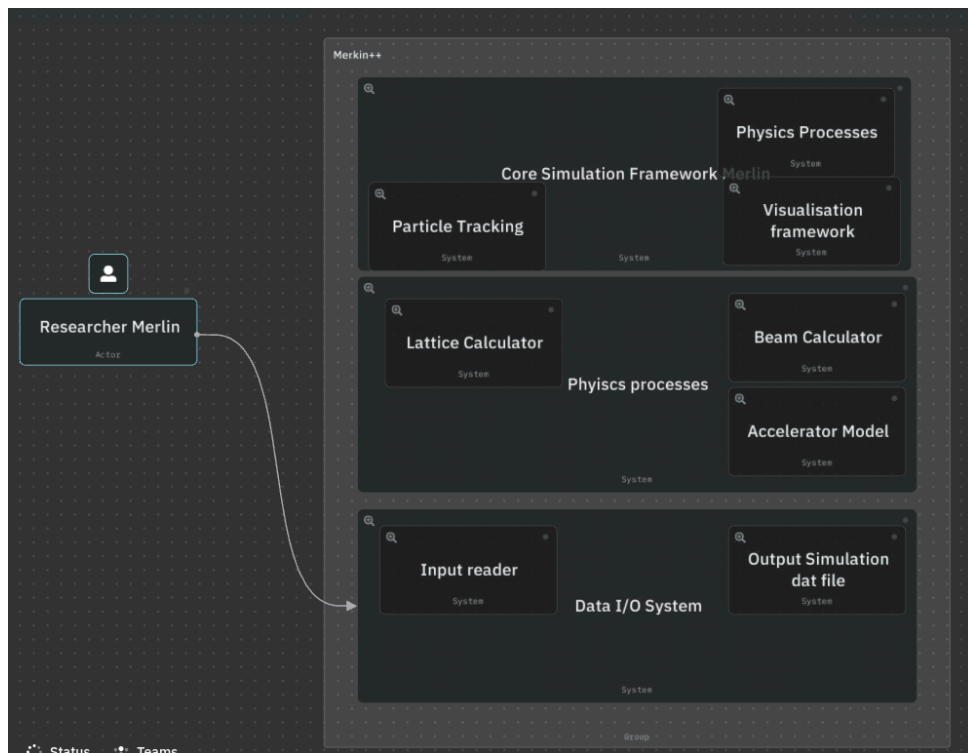


Figure 13: