



Erste Schritte zu einer Taxonomie von Software Engineering Kontexten

Zwischenpräsentation zur Masterarbeit

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Agenda

Motivation & Ziele

Hintergrund

Recherchefragen

Vorgehen & Zwischenstände

Motivationsbeispiel



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Das ist Thekla.

Thekla arbeitet in der Software Engineering Arbeitsgruppe ihrer Universität und recherchiert für ihre Forschungsfrage.

Sie findet ganz viele verwandte Paper von Konferenzen mit interessanten Ergebnissen und fängt an ein Paper zu schreiben.

Motivationsbeispiel



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Sie ist fast fertig mit ihren Paper.

Doch dann fällt auf, die Paper, auf die sie sich bezieht, haben andere Kontexte und stimmen nicht mit ihren Kontext überein.

Ziele



1. Terminologie zur Beschreibung vom Kontext einer Arbeit

- Verbesserung von Kommunikation
- Vereinfachte Einordnung eines Papers in die SE Welt

2. Förderung der Übertragbarkeit von Ergebnis

- Bessere Einschätzung der Relevanz einer Arbeit



3. Verständnis der ICSE 2020

- Vorgehen: Literaturstudie
- Verständnis zu den aktuellen Beiträge im SE
- Verständnis zu Trends und Lücken

Hintergrund

Qualitätsfaktoren empirischer Arbeiten

- Glaubwürdigkeit, Gründlichkeit – Internal Validity
- Relevanz, Verallgemeinbarkeit – External Validity

In wieweit wird der Kontext einer Arbeit hinsichtlich dessen Anwendbarkeit und Verallgemeinbarkeit beschrieben?

Hintergrund

Was ist überhaupt ein Kontext?

Ein Kontext definiert den Bereich, in dem die Ergebnisse einer Arbeit anwendbar sind.

Annahme: Kontexte kommen an verschiedenen Stellen in einem Paper vor, abhängig von ihrem Zweck

Vorgehen: Systematisches Suchen

Zweck	Vorkommen
Thema	Titel, Einleitung, Recherchefragen
Detail	Beschreibung, Vorgehen, Datenerhebung
Abgrenzung	Diskussion, verwandte Arbeiten
Verallgemeinbarkeit	Schlussfolgerungen, Forschungsbeiträge, Diskussion

Recherchefragen

RQ1

- Kontexte

RQ2

- Diskussionen zur Verallgemeinbarkeit
- Kontexte zum Zweck der Verallgemeinbarkeit

RQ3

- Korrelation: Kontexte <--> Arten der Publikationen bzw. Vorgehensweise der empirischen Studien

Recherchefragen

RQ1

- Welche Kontexte werden in den Publikationen erwähnt? In wie weit beschreiben Autoren und Autorinnen den Kontext ihrer Publikationen?
- In welcher Form kommen Kontexte vor? Sind diese explizit oder implizit erkennbar?
- Sind andere Zwecke als, die bereits genannten, erkennbar?

RQ2

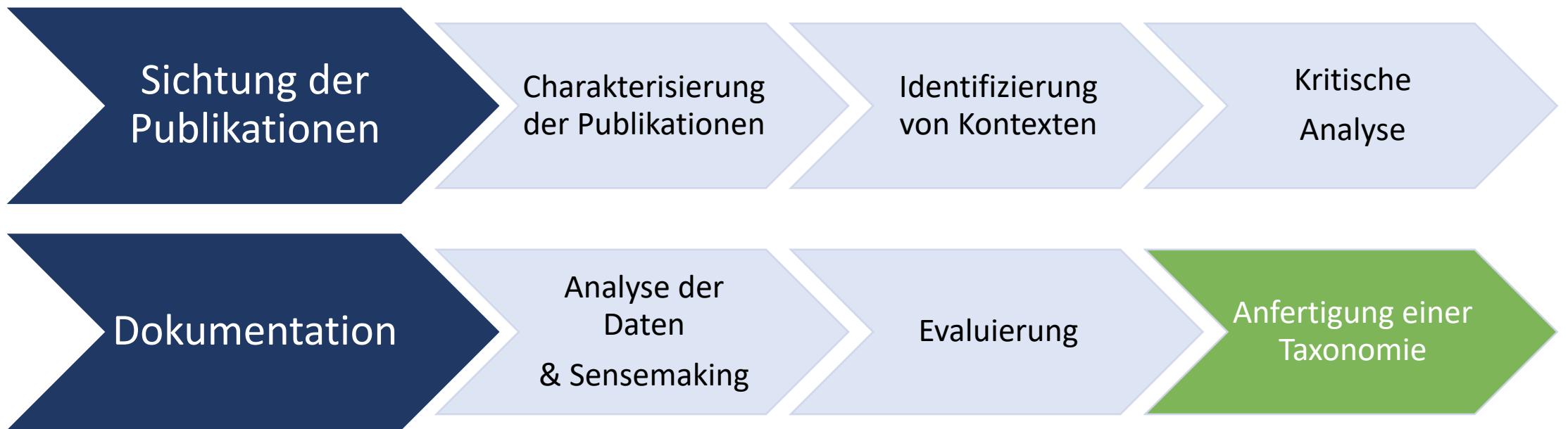
- In wie weit diskutieren Autoren und Autorinnen über die Verallgemeinbarkeit ihrer Publikationen, Ergebnisse und Techniken?
- Bestehen Lücken in den Diskussionen zur Verallgemeinbarkeit?
- Wie unterscheiden sich die Kontexte zum Zweck der Verallgemeinbarkeit zu den Kontexten anderer Zwecke?

RQ3

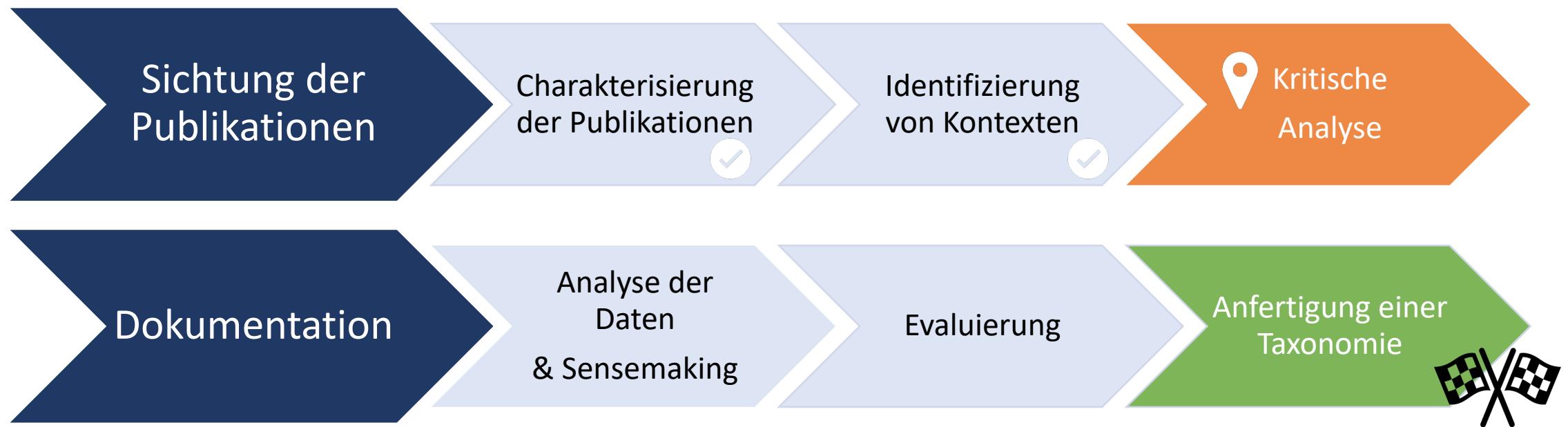
- Unterscheiden sich die Kontexte abhängig von den Arten der Publikationen und von der Vorgehensweise der empirischen Studien?

Vorgehen

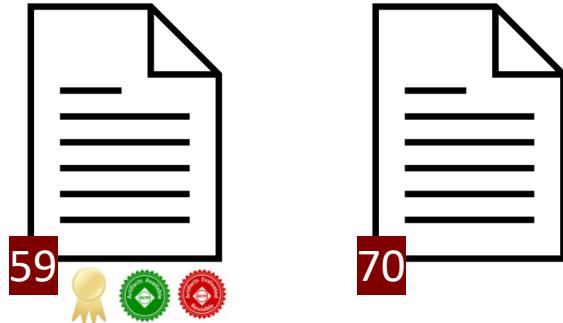
Vorgehen



Zwischenstand



Vorgehen



Sichtung der technischen Paper der ICSE 2020

Fokus: Publikationen mit Auszeichnung oder Badge (59)

Annahme: Publikationen mit Auszeichnungen weisen eine hörere Qualität auf, und sollten ...

... mehr über Kontexte diskutieren

... mehr über die Verallgemeinbarkeit der Ergebnisse diskutieren

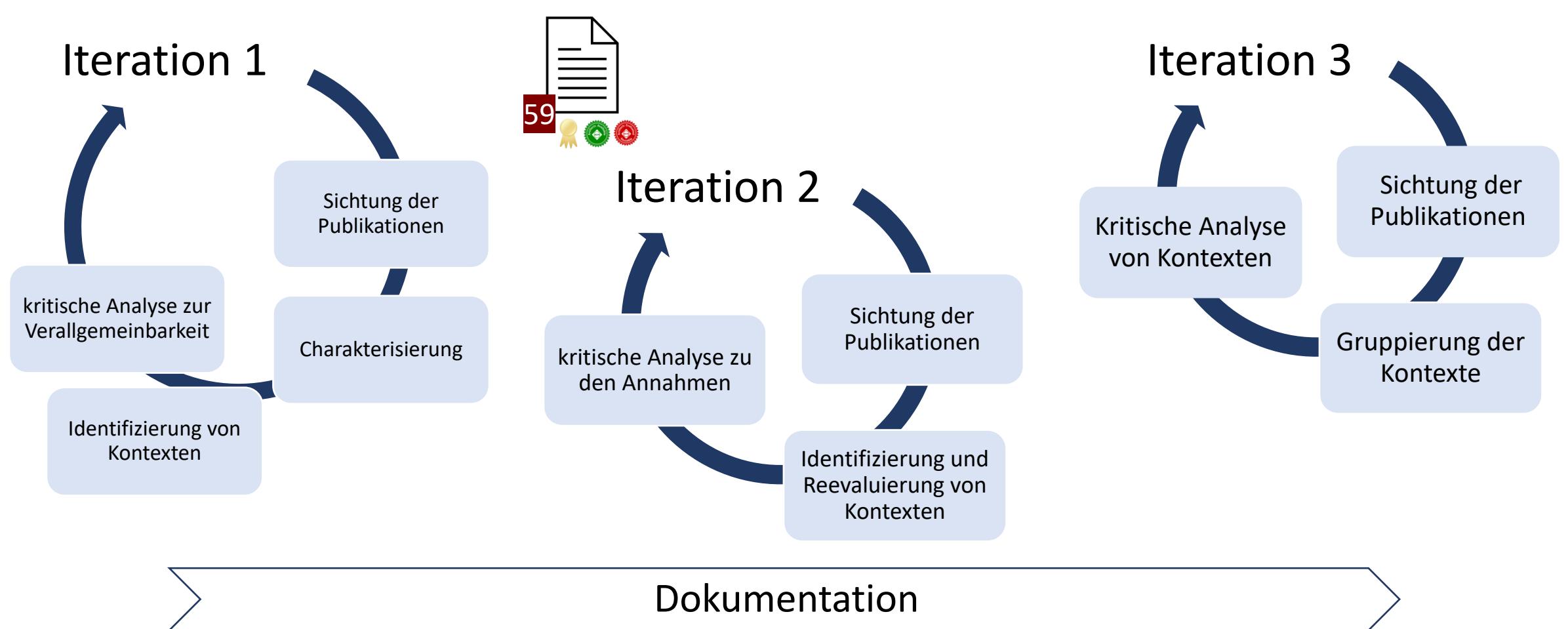
Vorgehen

Sichtung in 3 Iterationen

- mit unterschiedl. Clustering der Paper, unterschiedl. Lesereihenfolge
- mit Fokus auf
 - unterschiedl. Recherchefragen
 - unterschiedl. Stellen/Sektionen in den Paper
 - unterschiedl. Kontexte



Vorgehen



Vorgehen



Unterstützung durch Tools:



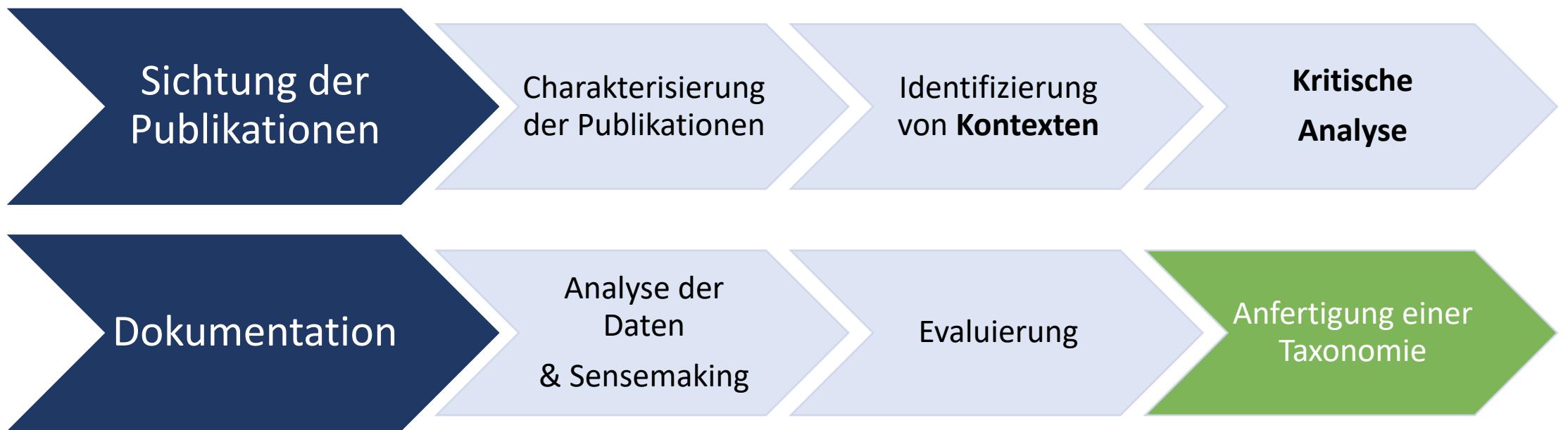
Entwicklung eines eigenen Tools



andere Tools:

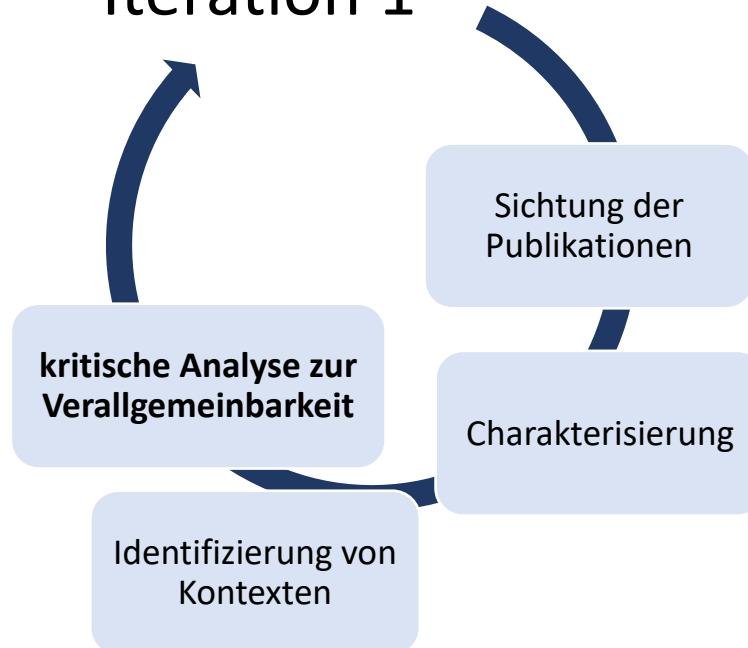


Vorgehen



Vorgehen

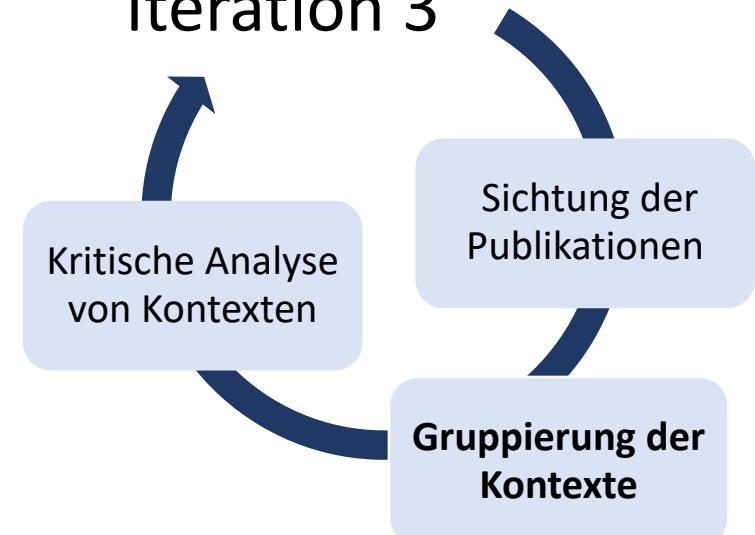
Iteration 1



Iteration 2

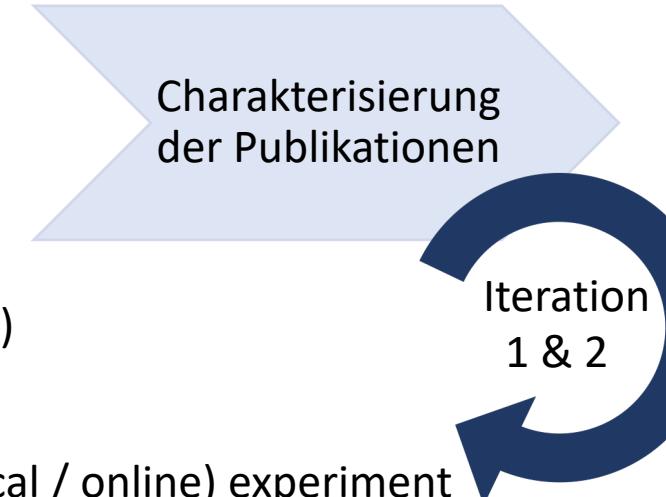


Iteration 3



Dokumentation

Vorgehen – Iteration 1

- 
- Proposal: method / technique / approach (71,1%)
 - Inspection, manuelle Analyse (32,2%)
 - Empirical study (20,3%)
 - Comprehensive study (11,8%)
 - Pilot study (5,08%)
 - Field study (1,6%)
 - Exploratory study (6,7%)
 - Case study (3,3%)
 - User study (5,08%)
 - Qualitative analysis (15,2%)
 - Benchmark (33,8%)
 - (controlled / psychological / online) experiment (38,9%)
 - Simulation (1,6%)
 - (semi-structured / structured) interview (11,8%)
 - Survey (10,1%)
 - Contextual inquiry (1,6%)
 - States-of-arts / comparison (35,5%)

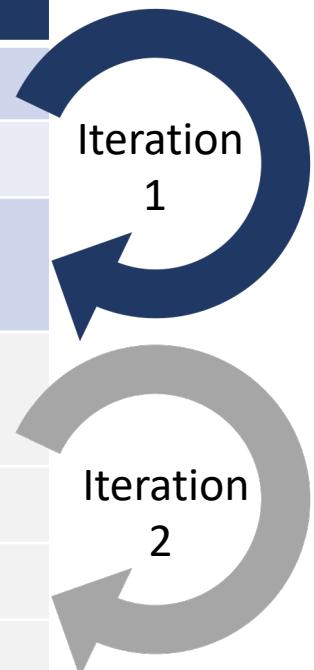
Themengebiete:

DL / NN (27,1%), Testing (35,5%), Data (x %), Human Aspects (13,5%)

Vorgehen

Identifizierung
von Kontexten

Zweck	Vorkommen
Thema	Titel, Abstract, Introduction
Ein-/Abgrenzung	Related Work
Verallgemeinbarkeit	Conclusions, Threats to Validity (extern validity), Discussion, Limitations, Future Work
Mögliche Verallgemeinbarkeit	Conclusion, Threats to Validity (extern validity), Discussion
Anwendung	Introduction, Vorgehen, Interpretation, Datenerhebung, Conclusion
Erweiterbarkeit	Conclusion, Future Work
Details	Introduction, Vorgehen, Interpretation, Datenerhebung



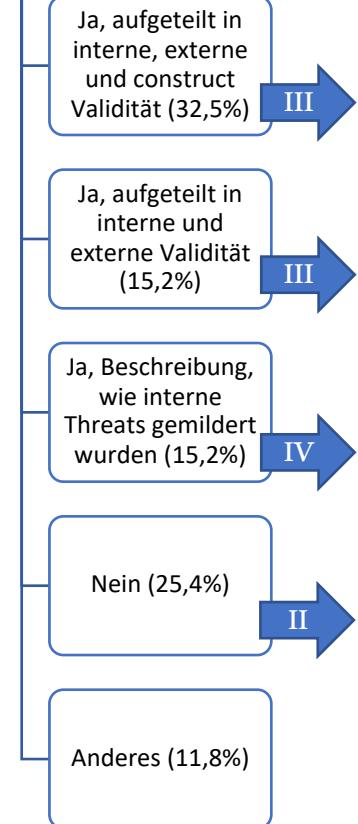
Vorgehen

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Mögliche Verallgemeinbarkeit	Conclusion, Threats to Validity (extern validity), Discussion	
Anwendung	Introduction, Vorgehen, Interpretation, Datenerhebung, Conclusion	Iteration 2
Erweiterbarkeit	Conclusion, Future Work	
Details	Introduction, Vorgehen, Interpretation, Datenerhebung	

Vorgehen

I

Sektion Threats to Validity vorhanden?



II

Welche Sektionen sind denn vorhanden?

Limitations (27,1%)

Future Work (54,2%)

Discussion / Conclusion

III

Analyse zur externen Validität

Kein Fokus auf Verallgemeinbarkeit (5,08%)

Vage Stellungnahmen zur Verallgemeinbarkeit (22,03%)

Kontexte zur Verallgemeinbarkeit gefunden (37,2 %) *

IV

Was wurde stattdessen gemacht?

- Verweis auf Teilnehmende (13,5%)
- Verweis auf Evaluation (28,8%)
- Verweis auf andere Studien (5,08%)
- Verweis auf eigenen Scope / Scale (13,5%)
- Verweis auf Vorgehen / Beschreibung der Studie (13,5%)
- Verweis auf Implementierung (5,08%)
- Aussage, dass es der 1. Ansatz ist (47,4%) **

* Bezieht auf die Ergebnisse der Iteration 1

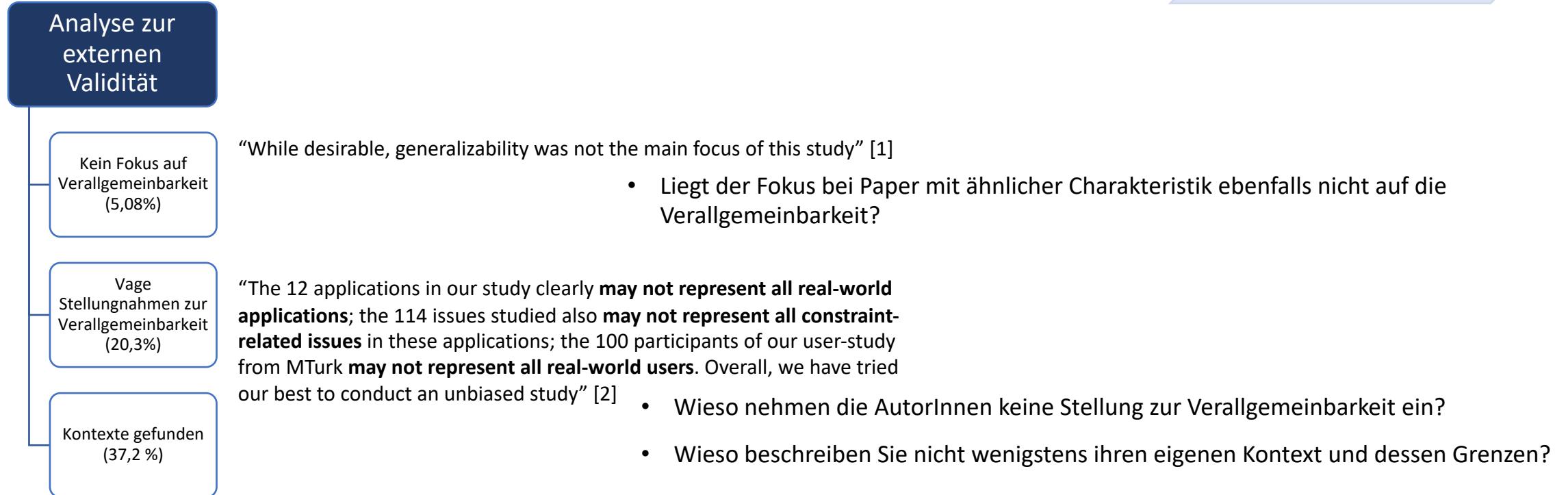
** Bezieht sich auf alle bis dahin gelesenen Stellen (nicht nur die hier erwähnten Sektionen)

Kritische Analyse
zur
Verallgemeinbarkeit

Iteration 1

Beispiele

Kritische Analyse
zur
Verallgemeinbarkeit



Iteration 2

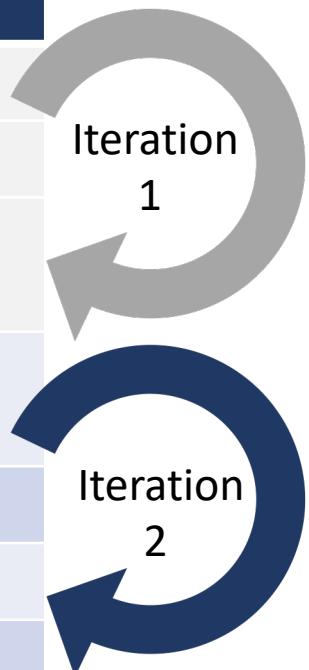
> Einführung des Zwecks: mögliche Verallgemeinbarkeit

> Vermutungen zur Verallgemeinbarkeit, Evaluierung der Annahmen

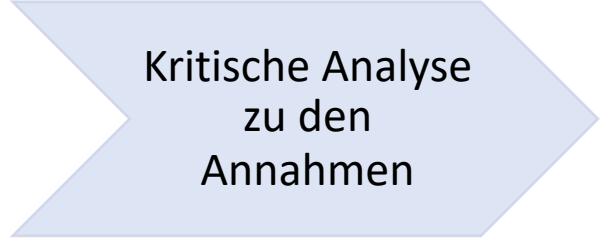
Vorgehen – Iteration 2

Identifizierung von Kontexten

Zweck	Vorkommen
Thema	Titel, Abstract, Introduction
Ein-/Abgrenzung	Related Work
Verallgemeinbarkeit	Conclusions, Threats to Validity (extern validity), Discussion, Limitations, Future Work
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Erweitbarkeit	Conclusion, Future Work
Details	Introduction, Vorgehen, Interpretation, Datenerhebung



Vorgehen



Kritische Analyse
zu den
Annahmen

Stellen:

Vorgehen, Interpretation, Datenerhebung, Conclusion, Threats to Validity, Discussion, Limitations, Future Work

Welche Annahmen machen die AutorInnen? Sind diese stimmig oder eher vage?
Beeinflussen diese Annahmen den Kontext der Arbeit oder dessen Relevanz?
+ tiefere Analyse / sensemaking zur Verallgemeinbarkeit

Clustering der Befunde bzgl in Annahmen in 6 Gruppen
bzgl eigene Einsichten in 6 Gruppen

Beispiele

Kritische Analyse
zu den
Annahmen

A641: Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network [3]

Lin Shi, Mingzhe Xing, Mingyang Li, Yawen Wang, Shoubin Li, Qing Wang

PROPOSAL: approach

EVALUATION

STATES_OF_ARTS

DL_NN: Deep Siamase Network, bilSTM

- Vorstellung eines Ansatz zur Aufdeckung von Feature Request in Dialogen mittels eines Deep Siames Network
- Annotation von mehr als 1000 Dialogen von 3 OS Projekten zur Erstellung eines NN
- Effektivität und Verallgemeinbarkeit wird evaluiert

The image shows a research paper abstract and two examples of developer chat transcripts. The abstract is titled "Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network". It lists authors: Lin Shi^{1,8}, Mingzhe Xing^{1,2,8}, Mingyang Li^{1,2}, Yawen Wang^{1,2}, Shoubin Li^{1,2}, Qing Wang^{1,2,3*}. Affiliations: ¹Laboratory for Internet Software Technologies, Institute of Software Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China; ²University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China; ³State Key Laboratory of Computer Science, Institute of Software Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. The abstract discusses the challenge of detecting feature requests in dialogues and proposes a Deep Siamese Network approach. It includes a figure showing a neural network architecture and tables with F1 scores of 88.52% and 88.51%.

ABSTRACT
Online chatting is gaining popularity and plays an increasingly significant role in software development. When discussing functional requirements, developers often use online chatting to interact with their developers. Automated mining techniques towards retrieving feature requests from massive chat messages can benefit the requirements gathering process. But it is quite challenging to perform such techniques because detecting feature requests from dialogues requires a thorough understanding of the contextual information, and it is also extremely difficult on annotating feature request dialogues. In this paper, we propose a Deep Siamese Network based on bilSTM to detect feature requests from massive chat messages. We design a bilSTM-based dialog model that can learn the semantic features of a dialogue through multi-turn interaction. Evaluation on three real-world projects shows that our approach achieves average precision, recall and F1-score of 88.52%, 88.50% and 88.51%, which confirms that our approach could effectively detect hidden feature requests from chat messages, thus can facilitate gathering comprehensive requirements from the crowd in an automated way.

KEYWORDS
Feature Requests, Requirements Engineering, Deep Learning, Siamese Networks

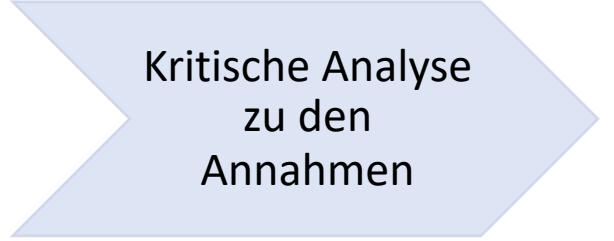
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Lin Shi^{1,8}, Mingzhe Xing^{1,2,8}, Mingyang Li^{1,2}, Yawen Wang^{1,2}, Shoubin Li^{1,2}, Qing Wang^{1,2,3*}. 2020. Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network. In *42nd International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE '20)*, May 23–29, 2020, Seoul, Republic of Korea. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 15 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3377811.3380056>

*Corresponding author.
§ Both authors contributed equally to this research.

Figure 1: Example chat message from AngularJS project, where requests to desired features are buried in the massive chat history.

The figure shows two screenshots of developer chat transcripts. The top screenshot is from the ICSE 2020 conference page, showing the abstract and a snippet of the paper's content. The bottom screenshot shows two examples of developer conversations. One example is from the AngularJS project, showing a developer (P) asking about reactive checkboxes and another developer (S) responding. The other example is from the Slack channel of the project, showing a developer (H) asking about putting services into a services folder and another developer (F) responding.

Beispiele



Kritische Analyse
zu den
Annahmen

A641: Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network [3]

Lin Shi, Mingzhe Xing, Mingyang Li, Yawen Wang, Shoubin Li, Qing Wang

Einordnung: AC1: stimmige Annahmen und Verallgemeinbarkeitsaussagen

„We consider that dialogues expressing feature-requests share common linguistic patterns across domains that are typically not relevant with domain-specific concepts. The results show that FRMiner can learn these common patterns and be generalized to other projects.“

Einordnung: AC2.1 vage/implizite Annahmen bzgl Kontexte zu Details und Anwendung

- Keine Betrachtung von anderen Kommunikationswegen (Telefonate, persönlichen Gesprächen, ...)
- keine Diskussion über mögliche Unterschiede zu industriellen/closed source Systemen
 - CS Projekte und OS Projekte kommunizieren anders

Beispiele

Kritische Analyse
zu den
Annahmen

B171: Primers or Reminders? The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review [4]

Davide Spadini, Gül Çalikli, Alberto Bacchelli

EXPERIMENT

CONTROLLED_EXPERIMENT

PSYCHOLOGICAL_EXPERIMENT

ONLINE_EXPERIMENT

SURVEY: questionnaire after the experiment

HUMAN_ASPECTS

QUALITATIVE_ANALYSIS

- Durchführung von Experimenten zur Untersuchung, ob bestehende Kommentare über Bugs einen Einfluss in der kollaborativen Code Review hat
- Experimente mit Java Programmen und 3 vers Bugtypen

2020 IEEE/ACM 42nd International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE)



Primers or Reminders?

The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review

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ABSTRACT

In contemporary code review, the comments put by reviewers on a specific code change are immediately visible to the other reviewers involved. However, this visibility can lead to the comment's proneness to availability bias when biasing the code review outcome.

In this study, we investigate this topic by conducting a controlled experiment with 85 developers who perform a code review and a psychological experiment. With the psychological experiment, we find that ≈70% of participants are prone to availability bias. However, when it comes to the code review, our experimental results show that participants are primed only when the existing code contains a bug of a type of bug that is normally considered, when this comment is shown. Participants are more likely to find another occurrence of this type of bug. Moreover, this priming effect does not influence reviewers' likelihood of detecting other types of bugs. Our findings suggest that the current code review practice is effective because existing review comments about bugs in code changes are *not negative primers*, rather *positive reminders* for bugs that would otherwise be overlooked during code review.

Data and materials: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3653856>

CCS CONCEPTS

• Software and its engineering → Software verification and validation

KEYWORDS

Code Review, Priming, Availability Heuristic

ACM Reference Format:

Davide Spadini, Gül Çalikli, and Alberto Bacchelli. 2020. Primers or Reminders? The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review. In *42nd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE '20), May 23–29, 2020, Seoul, Republic of Korea*. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 12 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3377811.3380385>

1 INTRODUCTION

Peer code review is a well-established practice that aims at maintaining and promoting source code quality, as well as sustaining

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<https://doi.org/10.1145/3377811.3380385>

development teams by means of improved knowledge transfer, awareness, and solutions to problems [3, 5, 27, 41].

In a code review type that is most common nowadays [7], the code is reviewed by other members of the same development team (also known as *reviewers*), before the change can be integrated in production. Previous research on three popular open-source software projects has found that three to five reviewers are involved in each review [44]. Using a software review tool, the reviewers and the author can use an asynchronous online discussion to share their judgment whether the proposed code change is of sufficiently high quality and adheres to the guidelines of the project. In widespread code review tools, reviewers' comments are immediately visible as they are written by their authors; could this visibility bias the other reviewers' judgment?

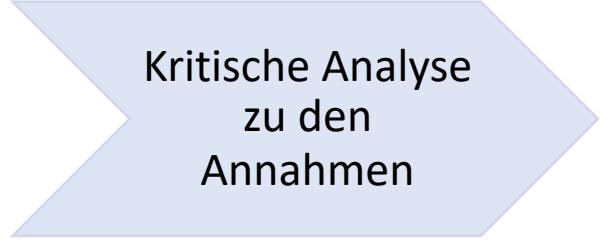
If we consider the peer review setting for scientific articles, reviewers may judge (at least initially) the merit of the submitted work independently from the other reviewers' reviews and their preference is to mitigate group members' influences on each other that might lead to errors in the individual judgments [34]. It is reasonable to think that also in code review, the visibility of existing review comments made by other developers may affect one's individual judgment, leading to an erroneous judgment.

An experiment that explores new reviews on a specific type of bug, due to the availability bias [30]. Availability bias is the tendency to be influenced by information that can easily be retrieved from memory (i.e., easy to recall) [21]. This bias is one of the many cognitive biases identified in psychology, sociology, and management research [30]. Cognitive biases are systematic deviations from optimal reasoning [30, 47, 48]. In the cognitive psychology literature, Kahneman and Tversky showed that humans are prone to availability bias [31]. For example, people avoid watching TV shows after having seen a recent plane accident in the news, or may see conspiracies everywhere as a result of watching too many spy movies [21]. Therefore, it seems fitting to imagine that a reviewer may be biased toward a certain bug type, by readily seeing another reviewer's comment on such a bug type. This bias would likely result in a distorted code review outcome.

In this paper, we present a controlled experiment we devised and conducted to explore the effect of code review settings and reviewers' proneness to availability bias. More specifically, we examine whether priming a reviewer on a bug type (achieved by showing an existing review comment) biases the outcome of code review.

Our experiment was completed by 85 developers, 73% of which reported to have at least three years of professional development experience. We required each developer to conduct a code review in which an existing comment was either shown (treatment group) or

Beispiele



Kritische Analyse
zu den
Annahmen

B171: Primers or Reminders? The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review [4]

Davide Spadini, Gül Çalikli, Alberto Bacchelli

Einordnung: AC2.3 implizite Annahmen, die Relevanz gefährden

- Annahme, dass in der Industrie kollaborativ Code gereviewt
- Annahme, dass jemand mehrere Bugs auf einmal commitet
- Untersuchung von sehr trivialen Bugs (return-of-a-wrong-value Bugs, Null Pointer Exception), die durch Tests abgedeckt werden sollten

Einordnung: AC2.2 Annahmen bzgl Vorgehen, Kritik

- Keine Simulation vom Requirements Engineering (bzgl. Corner Case Bugs)

Vorgehen

Kritische Analyse
zu den
Annahmen

Iteration
2

Annahmen

AC1 stimmige Annahmen und Aussagen zur Verallgemeinbarkeit

AC2.1 vage/implizite Annahmen bzgl Kontexte ohne genügend Begründung

AC2.2 Annahmen bzgl Vorgehen, Kritik

AC2.3 implizite Annahmen, die die Relevanz des Publikation gefährden

AC3 Annahme, Verallgemeinbarkeit abhängig von Trainingsmodell

AC4 keine Annahmen gefunden (vermutlich wegen Charakteristik der Publikation)

Einsichten

IC1 zu wenig Expertenwissen für tiefere Analyse

IC2 unstimmige Argumentation

IC3.1 weniger Verallgemeinbarkeitsaussagen + Verweis auf Future Work / neues Recherchefeld / mehr Forschungsbedarf

IC3.2 weniger Verallgemeinbarkeitsaussagen + first approach / exploratory / qualitative study

IC3.3 weniger Verallgemeinbarkeitsaussagen + Verweis auf prior work

IC4 implizite Kontexte entdeckt

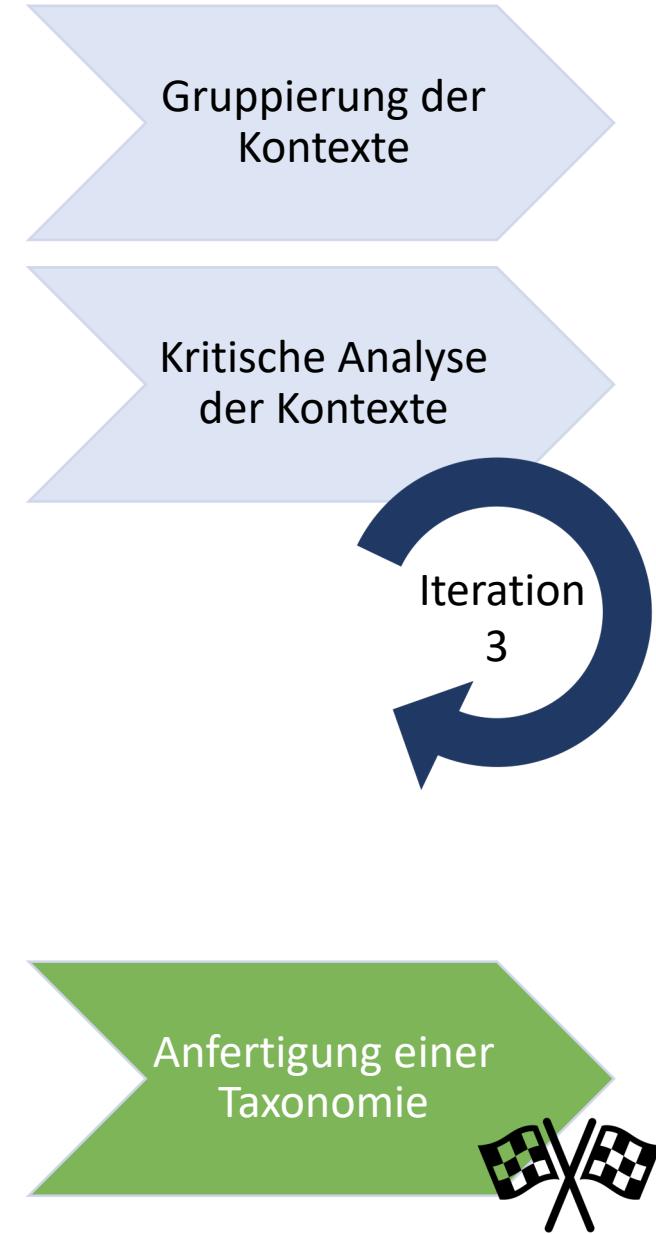
Vorgehen – Iteration 3

Paper übergreifend bezogen auf:

- Anwendung
- Programmiersprache
- Projekt
- Human-related
- SE Aktivität
- Sourcing

Paper bezogen:

Bilden die Kontexte einer Publikation bereits einen Baum, welcher für die Taxonomie verwendet werden kann?



Beispiele

Gruppierung der Kontexte

Paper-übergreifende Kontexte zur Software-Engineering Aktivitäten



Beispiele

Gruppierung der Kontexte

A641: Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network [3]

Lin Shi, Mingzhe Xing, Mingyang Li, Yawen Wang, Shoubin Li, Qing Wang

- **Anwendung:** (issue tracking system)
- **Programmiersprache:** /
- **Projekt:**
 - cross-project settings
 - Projekte mit online chatting
 - englisch sprachige Projekte
- **Human-related:** Kommunikation
- **SE Aktivität:** Requirements Engineering
- **Sourcing:** open, (closed)

28.01.2021

Stephanie Hohenberg
Erste Schritte zu einer Taxonomie von SE Kontexten

2020 IEEE/ACM 42nd International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE) 

Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network

Lin Shi^{1,8}, Mingzhe Xing^{1,2,3}, Mingyang Li^{1,2}, Yawen Wang^{1,2}, Shoubin Li^{1,2}, Qing Wang^{1,2,*}
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ABSTRACT
Online chatting is gaining popularity and plays an increasingly significant role in software development. Feature requests from massive chat messages may reveal their desired features to other developers. Automated mining techniques towards retrieving feature requests from massive chat messages can benefit the requirements gathering process. But it is quite challenging to perform such techniques because detecting feature request from dialogues requires a thorough understanding of the contextual information, and it is also extremely difficult to automatically extract feature-request dialogue from a massive amount of feature-request dialogues. To help that, we propose the feature-request classification task of mapping single dialogue to its class into the task of determining whether two dialogues are similar or not by incorporating few-shot learning. We propose a novel approach, named FRMiner, which can detect feature-request dialogues from chat messages via Deep Siamese network. We design a BiLSTM-based dialog classification model to map a single dialogue to a dialog in both forward and reverse directions. Evaluation on the real world projects shows that our approach achieves average precision, recall and F1-score of 84.52%, 88.50% and 88.51%, which confirms that our approach could effectively detect hidden feature requests from chat messages, thus can facilitate gathering comprehensive requirements from the crowd in an automated way.

KEYWORDS
Feature Requests, Requirements Engineering, Deep Learning, Siamese Network

ACM Reference Format:
Lin Shi^{1,8}, Mingzhe Xing^{1,2,3}, Mingyang Li^{1,2}, Yawen Wang^{1,2}, Shoubin Li^{1,2}, Qing Wang^{1,2,*}. 2020. Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network. In *42nd International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE '20)*, May 23–29, 2020, Seoul, Republic of Korea. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 13 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3377811.3380356>

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All rights reserved.
* Both authors contributed equally to this research.

1 INTRODUCTION
Recent studies reported that the usage of **online chatting** is gaining popularity and plays an increasingly significant role in software development, having replaced emails in some cases [35, 56, 57]. Developers are turning to public workplace chat platforms, such as Slack and GitHub, to facilitate Freemode to share opinions and interesting insights, discuss how to resolve defects as well as what features to implement in future [9]. Although developers reveal their desired features when communicating with other developers, the open and crowding nature of online chatting makes these feature-request dialogues get quickly flooded by newly incoming messages. Typically, the feature requests in the dialogues are scattered and it is hard to find them if they are not documented. Taken the chat messages from AngularJS project as an example (Figure 1), developer P and F posted their questions in online chatting. In the beginning, their intentions are asking for help from other developers to seek feasible solutions to problems. After chatting with other developers, they realized that the existing system could not behave the way they want. Then

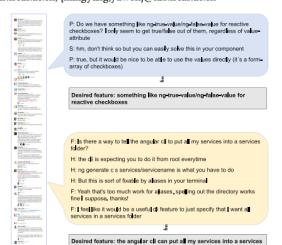


Figure 1: Example chat message from AngularJS project, where requests to desired features are buried in the massive chat history.

Beispiele

Gruppierung der Kontexte

B171: Primers or Reminders? The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review [4]

Davide Spadini, Gül Çalikli, Alberto Bacchelli

- **Anwendung:** Java Programs
- **Programmiersprache:** Java
- **Projekt:**
 - Projekte, die Werkzeuge zur Code Review mit Online Discussion Feature benutzen
 - große Projekte mit einem großen Dev Team
- **Human-related:** Rolle: EntwicklerInnen, Erfahrung der EntwicklerInnen
- **SE Aktivität:** Code Review
- **Sourcing:** closed

28.01.2021

Stephanie Hohenberg
Erste Schritte zu einer Taxonomie von SE Kontexten

2020 IEEE/ACM 42nd International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE)



Primers or Reminders? The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review

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ABSTRACT

In contemporary code review, the comments put by reviewers on a specific code change are immediately visible to the other reviewers involved. Could this situation influence the way developers (also known as reviewers), before the change can be integrated in production. Previous research on three popular open-source software projects has found that three to five reviewers are involved in each review [44]. Using a software review tool, the researchers find that authors of existing review comments are more likely to correctly judge whether the proposed code change is of sufficiently high quality and adheres to the guidelines of the project. In widespread code review tools, reviewers' comments are immediately visible as they are written by their authors; could this visibility bias the other reviewers' judgment?

If we consider the peer review setting for scientific articles, reviewers normally judge (at least initially) the merit of the submitted work independently from each other. The rationale behind such preference is to mitigate potential influences from each other that might lead to errors in the individual judgments [34]. It is reasonable to think that also in code review, the visibility of existing review comments made by other developers may affect one's individual judgment, leading to an erroneous judgment.

An erroneous judgment may prime new reviewers on a specific type of bug, due to the availability bias [36]. Availability bias is the tendency to be influenced by information that can be easily retrieved from memory (i.e., easy to recall) [21]. This bias is one of the many cognitive biases identified in psychology, sociology, and management research [30]. Cognitive biases are systematic deviations from optimal reasoning [30, 47, 48]. In the cognitive psychology literature, the availability bias is often referred to as "the tendency to availability bias" [31]. For example, one may avoid traveling by plane after having seen recent plane accidents on the news, or may see conspiracies everywhere as a result of watching too many spy movies [21]. Therefore, it seems fitting to imagine that a reviewer may be biased toward a certain bug type, by readily seeing another reviewer's comment on such a bug type. This bias would likely result in a distorted code review outcome.

In this paper, we present a controlled experiment we devised and conducted to test the nature of the code review setting and reviewers' proneness to availability bias. More specifically, we examine whether priming a reviewer on a bug type (achieved by showing an existing review comment) biases the outcome of code review.

Our experiment was completed by 85 developers, 73% of which reported to have at least three years of professional development experience. We required each developer to conduct a code review in which an existing comment was either shown (treatment group) or

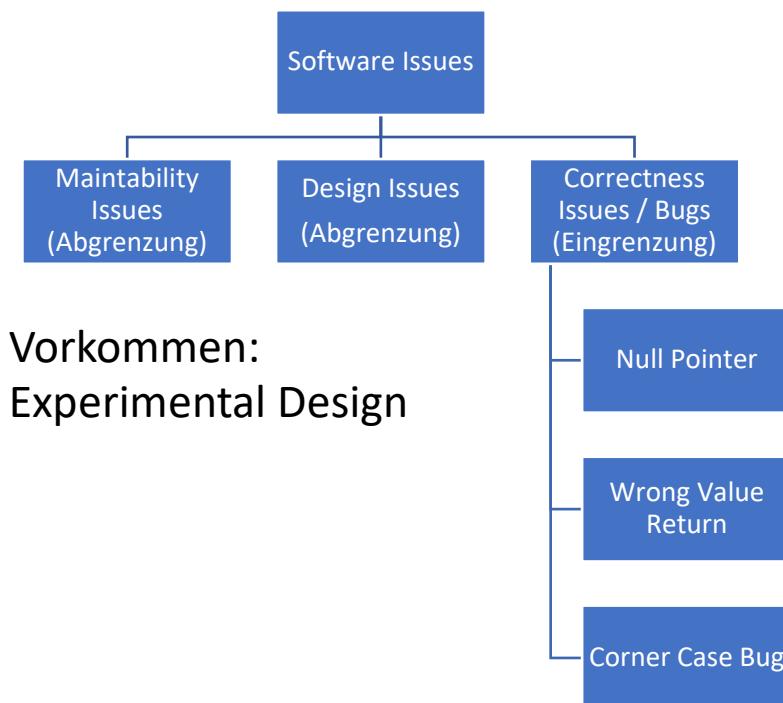
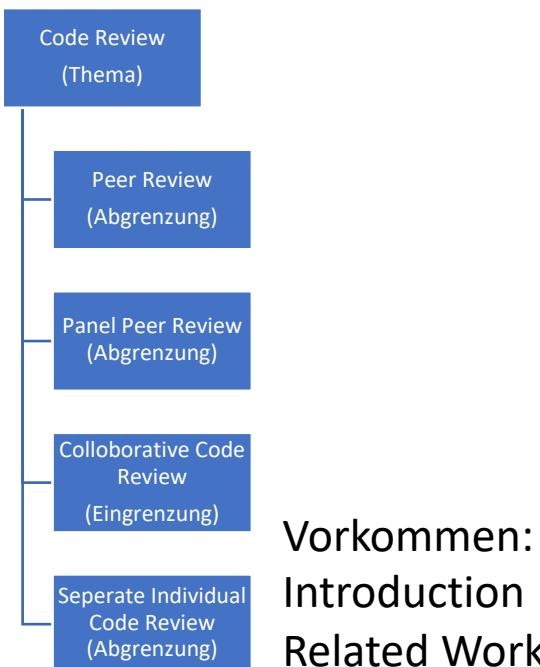
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Beispiele

Gruppierung der Kontexte

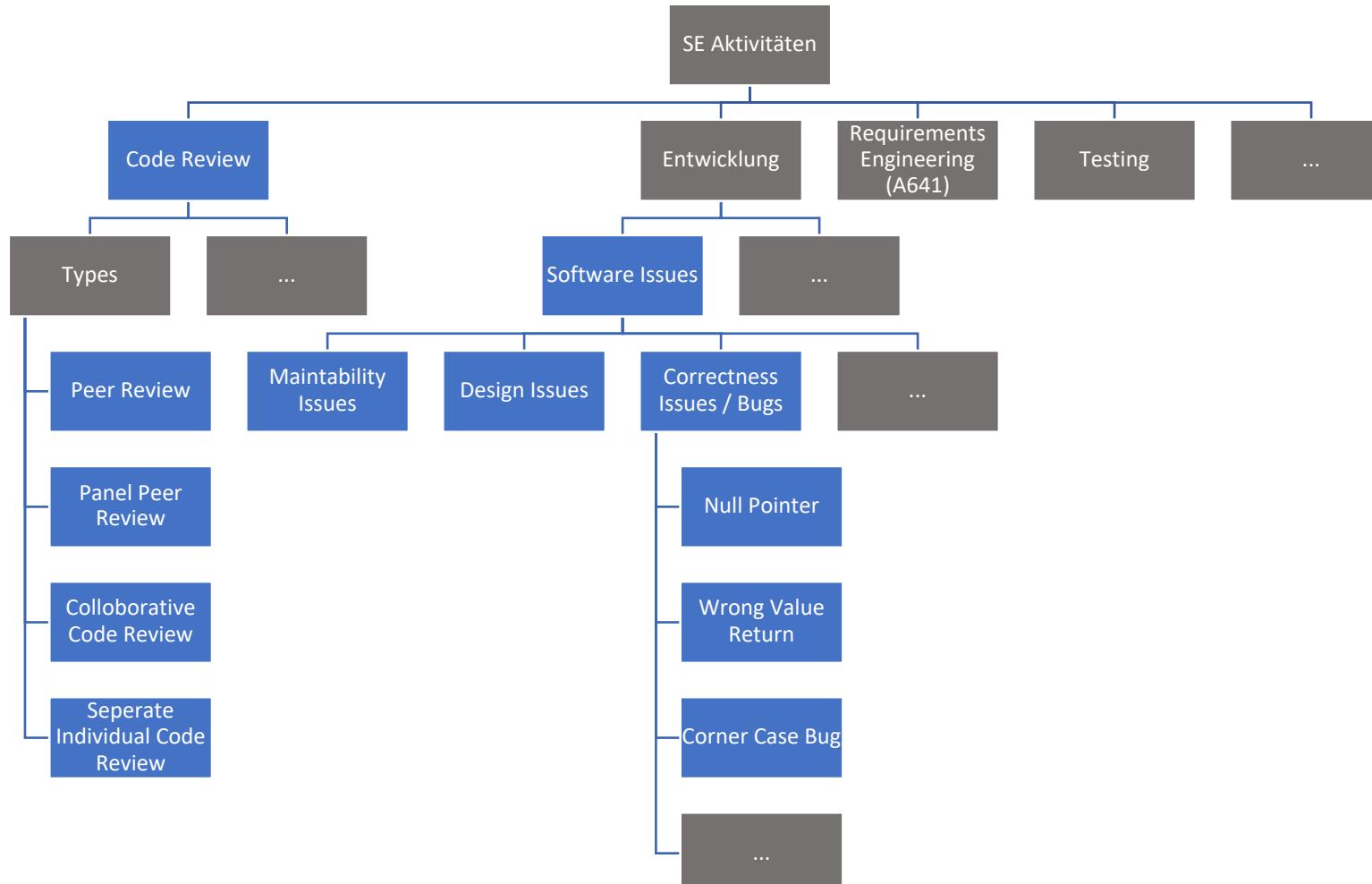
B171: Primers or Reminders? The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review [4]

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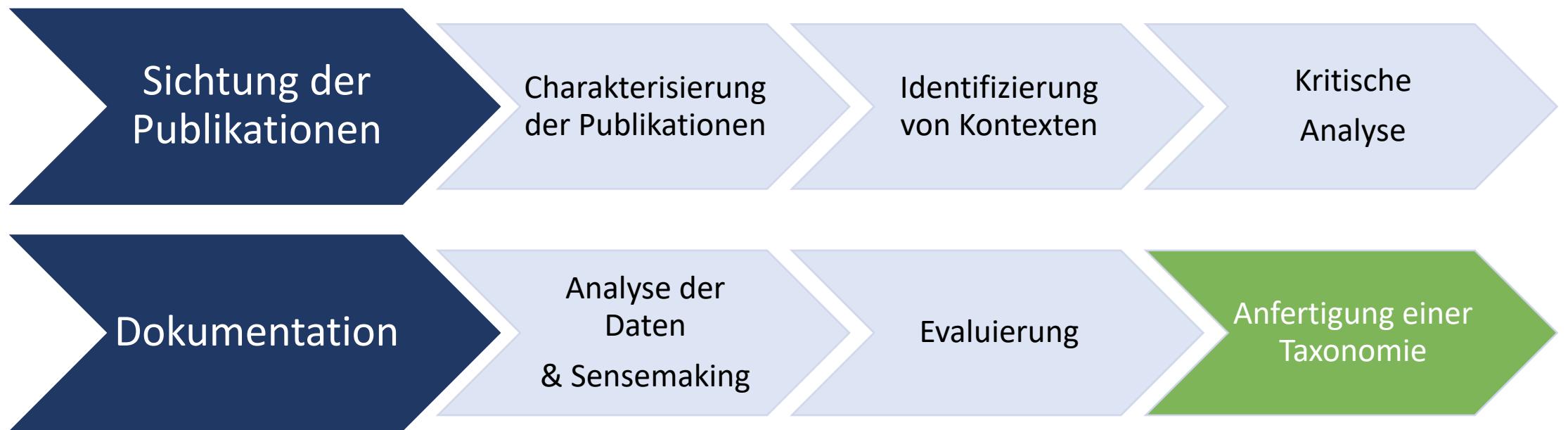


Beispiele

Anfertigung einer
Taxonomie



Vorgehen



Vorgehen

Analyse der
Daten &
Sensemaking



Entwicklung eines Tools

- Use Cases:
 - Datenvisualisierung
 - Analyse
- Andere potentielle Use Cases:
 - Dokumentation
 - Versionierung der Daten



Zwischenstand: Tool



Bereits implementiert:

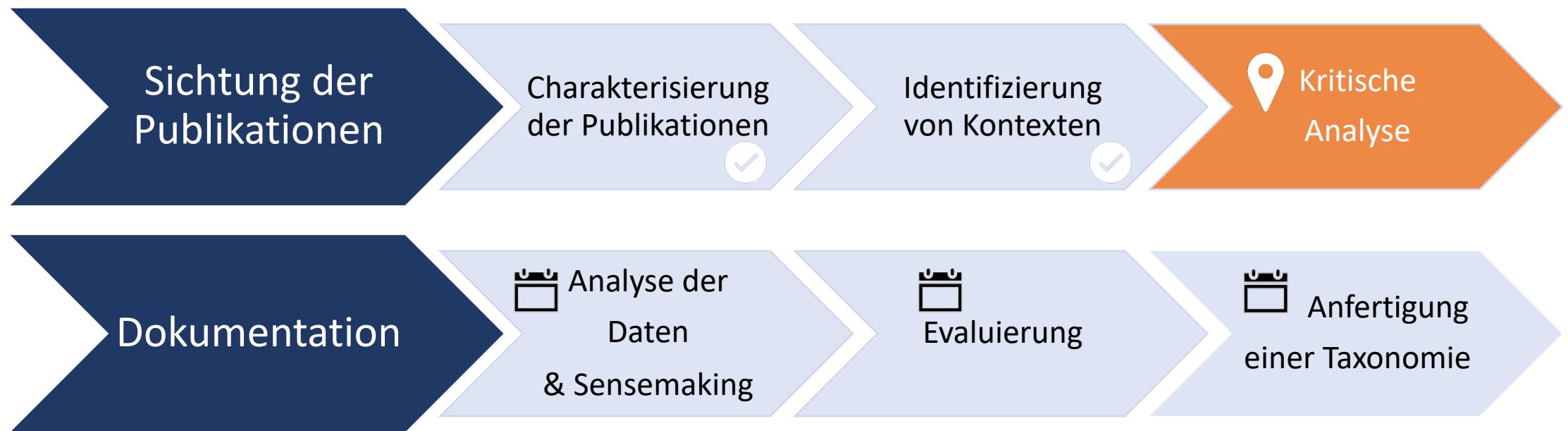
- Übersicht über die Publikationen und Daten
- Filterfunktion

Restliche TODOs:

- Befüllung aller Daten
- Graphvisualisierung der Kontexte und der Taxonomie
- Diagramme zur Analyse der Daten
- Negativfilter



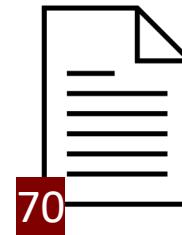
Zwischenstand



Weiteres Vorgehen



- Analyse der Daten & Sensemaking
- Beantwortung aller Recherchefragen
- Anfertigung der finalen Taxonomie
- Evaluation meines Vorgehens
- Sichtung der restlichen Publikationen
- Anfertigung der Masterarbeit



Weiteres Vorgehen

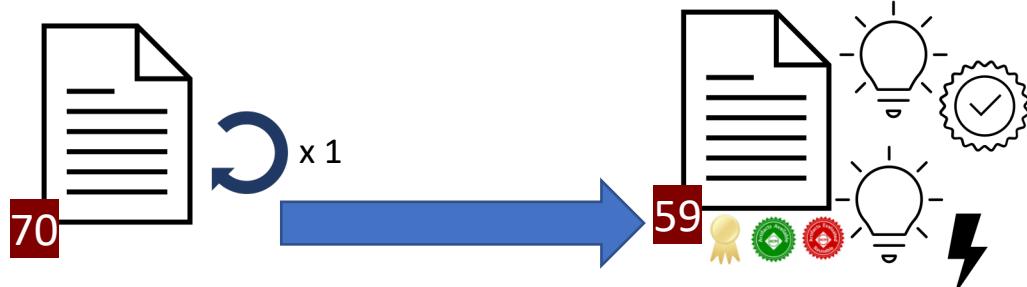
Sichtung der Publikationen



Sichtung der restlichen Paper ohne Auszeichnung oder Badge

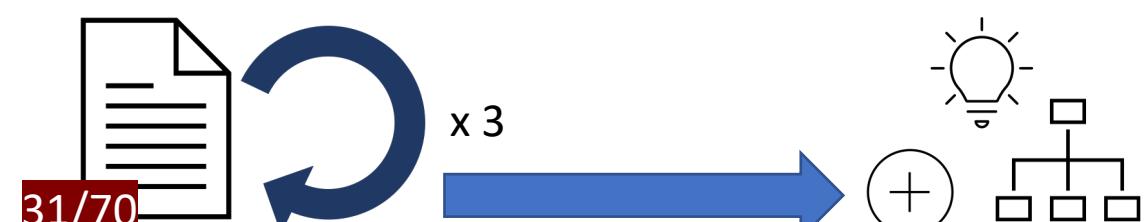
Option 1:

- Charakterisierung
- Analyse zur Verallgemeinbarkeit
- Einordnung in die Taxonomie ohne neue Kontexte
- Evaluierung der Einsichten von der Sichtung der Paper mit Auszeichnung
- Mehr Sensemaking



Option 2:

- Auswahl der Paper und Clustering
- Iteration 1-3 wiederholen
- Erweiterung der Taxonomie
- Mehr Einsichten





Erste Schritte zu einer Taxonomie von Software Engineering Kontexten

Zwischenpräsentation zur Masterarbeit

Diskussion:
Wir würden Sie weiter vorgehen?
Option 1 vs Option 2

Threats

1. Keine Forschungserfahrung, kein Expertenwissen
2. Keine Vorkenntnisse vom Material
3. Biase, beim Sichten der Publikationen (nach Interesse)
4. Übersehen von Kontexten durch Entwickeln einer Routine / Trotts
5. Englisch nicht als Muttersprache
6. Mehreres Wechseln der Tools zur Dokumentation
7. Konsistenzhaltung der Daten im Excel und im eigenen Tool



Erste Schritte zu einer Taxonomie von Software Engineering Kontexten

Zwischenpräsentation zur Masterarbeit

Diskussionsfragen?
Anregungen?
Feedback?

Anhang

Referenzierte Publikationen

[1] A Tale from the Trenches: Cognitive Biases and Software Development

A654 - Souti Chattopadhyay, Nicholas Nelson, Audrey Au, Natalia Morales, Christopher Sanchez, Rahul Pandita, Anita Sarma

- Zwei-teilige Field Study mit 10 Teilnehmenden zur Untersuchung wie kognitive Biase die Softwareentwicklung beeinflusst
- Kontrollierte Experimente und Interviews

[2] Managing data constraints in database-backed web applications

B098 - Junwen Yang, Utsav Sethi, Cong , Alvin Cheung, Shan Lu

- Comprehensive Study zur Untersuchung von Data Constraints mittels einer manuellen Analyse von Source Code, Commit History und Issues Tracking System von 12 Anwendungen
- Vorstellung eines Tools zum Aufdecken von Data Violations und zur Erhöhen der Qualität von Anwendungen

Referenzierte Publikationen

[3] Detection of Hidden Feature Requests from Massive Chat Messages via Deep Siamese Network A641 - Lin Shi, Mingzhe Xing, Mingyang Li, Yawen Wang, Shoubin Li, Qing Wang

- Vorstellung eines Ansatz zur Aufdeckung von Feature Request in Dialogen mittels eines Deep Siamese Network
- Annotation von mehr als 1000 Dialogen von 3 OS Projekten zur Erstellung eines NN
- Die Effektivität und die Verallgemeinbarkeit wird evaluiert.

[4] Primers or Reminders? The Effects of Existing Review Comments on Code Review B171 - Davide Spadini, Gül Çalikli, Alberto Bacchelli

- Durchführung von Experimenten zur Untersuchung, ob bestehende Kommentare über Bugs einen Einfluss in der kollaborativen Code Review hat
- Experimente mit Java Programmen und 3 vers Bugtypen