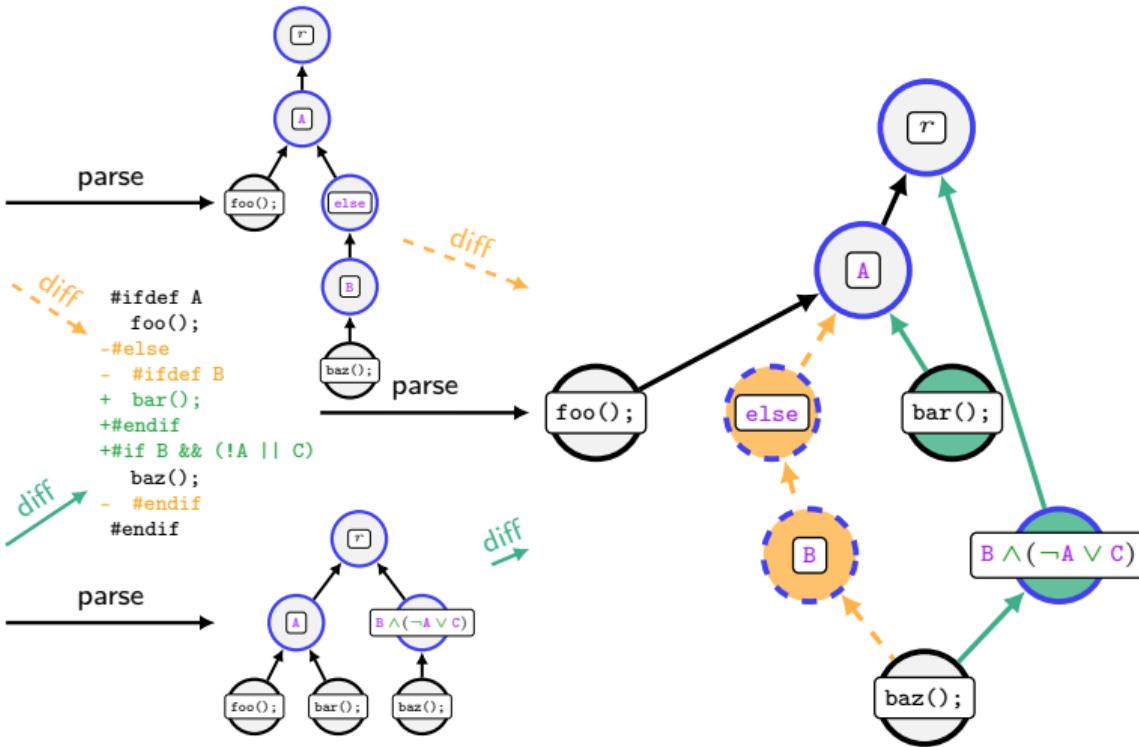


```
#ifdef A  
foo();  
#else  
#ifdef B  
baz();  
#endif  
#endif
```



Analyzing Edits to Static Variability

Paul Bittner | PhD Defense



Commit [ab4cece](#) in 

```
static void
f_foreground(/* params */)
{
#ifndef FEAT_GUI
    if (gui.in_use)
        gui_mch_set_foreground();
#else
#ifndef MSWIN
    win32_set_foreground();
#endif
#endif
}
```



Commit ab4cece in 

```
static void  
f_foreground(/* params */)  
{  
#ifdef FEAT_GUI  
    if (gui.in_use)  
        gui_mch_set_foreground();  
#else  
# ifdef MSWIN  
    win32_set_foreground();  
# endif  
#endif  
}
```

#define FEAT_GUI

```
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{  
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        gui_mch_set_foreground();  
}
```



Commit ab4cece in 

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static void  
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            gui_mch_set_foreground();  
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        # ifdef MSWIN  
            win32_set_foreground();  
        # endif  
    # endif  
}  
}
```

#define FEAT_GUI

#undef FEAT_GUI
#define MSWIN

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Commit ab4cece in 

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# endif  
#endif  
}
```



#define FEAT_GUI

#undef FEAT_GUI
#define MSWIN

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f_foreground(/* params */)  
{  
    win32_set_foreground();  
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static void  
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Commit [ab4cece](#) in 

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            gui_mch_set_foreground();  
    #else  
        #ifdef MSWIN  
            win32_set_foreground();  
        #endif  
    #endif  
}
```

Let's improve code reuse
in case vim.dll is
around!



#define FEAT_GUI

```
static void  
f_foreground(/* params */)  
{  
    if (gui.in_use)  
        gui_mch_set_foreground();  
}
```

```
static void  
f_foreground(/* params */)  
{  
    win32_set_foreground();  
}
```

```
static void  
f_foreground(/* params */)  
{  
}
```



Hey Bob, I just refactored
 to reuse more code!
Can you review my change?



Hey Bob, I just refactored
 to reuse more code!
Can you review my change?

Awesome, of course!



```
#ifdef FEAT_GUI
    if (gui.in_use)
+
{           gui_mch_set_foreground();
-
#else
-
# ifdef MSWIN
+         return;
+
}
+
#endif
+
#if defined(MSWIN) && (!defined(FEAT_GUI) || defined(VIMDLL))
    win32_set_foreground();
-
#endif
#endif
```

Commit [afde13b](#) in 



```
#ifdef FEAT_GUI
    if (gui.in_use)
+ {
    gui_mch_set_foreground();
-#else
-# ifdef MSWIN
+     return;
+ }
+#endif
+#!if defined(MSWIN) && (!defined(FEAT_GUI) || defined(VIMDLL))
    win32_set_foreground();
-# endif
#endif
```

Commit [afde13b](#) in 

How does this change
improve code reuse?



```
#ifdef FEAT_GUI
    if (gui.in_use)
+ {
    gui_mch_set_foreground();
-#else
-# ifdef MSWIN
+     return;
+ }
+#endif
+#!if defined(MSWIN) && (!defined(FEAT_GUI) || defined(VIMDLL))
    win32_set_foreground();
-# endif
#endif
```

Commit [afde13b](#) in 

How does this change
improve code reuse?

I have to reason on the
syntax of three languages
simultaneously!



```
>>> vim --version
VIM - Vi IMproved 9.1 (2024 Jan 02, compiled Jan 01 1980 00:00:00)
Included patches: 1-1122
Compiled by nixbld
Huge version without GUI. Features included (+) or not (-):
+acl          +file_in_path    +mouse_urxvt      -tag_any_white
+arabic       +find_in_path   +mouse_xterm      -tcl
+autocmd      +float          +multi_byte      +termguicolors
+autochdir    +folding         +multi_lang      +terminal
-autoservername -footer        -mzscheme        +terminfo
-balloon_eval  +fork()         +netbeans_intg  +termresponse
+balloon_eval_term +gettext      +num64          +textobjects
-browse        -hangul_input   +packages         +textprop
++builtin_terms +iconv          +path_extra      +timers
+byte_offset   +insert_expand  -perl            +title
+channel       +ipv6           +persistent_undo -toolbar
+cindent        +job             +popupwin        +user_commands
-clientserver  +jumplist        +postscript      +vartabs
-clipboard     +keymap          +printer         +vertsplit
+cmdline_compl +lambda         +profile         +vim9script
+cmdline_hist  +langmap         -python          +viminfo
+cmdline_info  +libcall         -python3         +virtualedit
+comments      +linebreak       +quickfix        +visual
+conceal        +lispindent      +reltime         +visualextra
+cryptv        +listcmds        +rightleft       +vreplace
+cscope         +localmap        +ruby            +wildignore
+cursorbind    -lua             +scrollbind      +wildmenu
+cursorshape   +menu            +signs           +windows
+dialog_con    +mksession       +smartindent     +writebackup
+diff          +modify_fname   -sodium          -X11
+digraphs      +mouse           +sound           +xattr
-dnd           -mouseshape     +spell           -xfontset
-ebcdic        +mouse_dec       +startuptime    -xim
+emacs_tags    -mouse_gpm       +statusline     -xpm
+eval          -mouse_jsbterm   -sun_workshop   -xsmp
+ex_extra      +mouse_netterm  +syntax          -xterm_clipboard
+extra_search  +mouse_sgr       +tag_binary     -xterm_save
-farsi         -mouse_sysmouse -tag_old_static
```

```
>>> vim --version
VIM - Vi IMproved 9.1 (2024 Jan 02, compiled Jan 01 1980 00:00:00)
Included patches: 1-1122
Compiled by nixbld
Huge version without GUI. Features included (+) or not (-):
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-autoservername -footer        -mzscheme        +terminfo
-balloon_eval  +fork()         +netbeans_intg  +termresponse
+balloon_eval_term +gettext     +num64          +textobjects
-browse        -hangul_input   +packages        +textprop
++builtin_terms +iconv          +path_extra      +timers
+byte_offset   +insert_expand  -perl            +title
+channel       +ipv6           +persistent_undo -toolbar
+cindent        +job             +popupwin       +user_commands
-clientserver  +jumplist        +postscript      +vartabs
-clipboard     +keymap          +printer        +vertsplit
+cmdline_compl +lambda         +profile        +vim9script
+cmdline_hist  +langmap         +python         +viminfo
+cmdline_info  +libcall         +python3        +virtualedit
+comments      +linebreak       +quickfix       +visual
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+dialog_con    +mksession       +smartindent    +writebackup
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+ex_extra      +mouse_netterm  +syntax         -xterm_clipboard
+extra_search  +mouse_sgr      +tag_binary    -xterm_save
-farsi         -mouse_sysmouse -tag_old_static
```

≥ 50% of the code is affected
by features [Liebig et al. 2010](v7.1)
≥ 21,000 commits,
multiple commits per day



CC BY-SA, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tux_GIMP_com_-gimp_.org



CC BY-SA, Andrew Galushko, https://github.com/galushko/Icons/blob/master/GODOT_GODOT_Icon.png

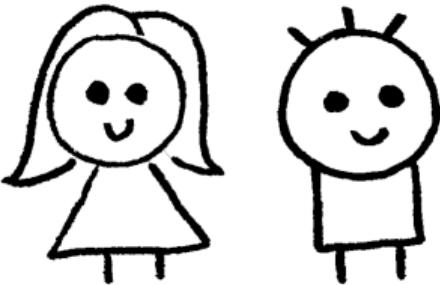


CC BY-SA, Free Software Foundation Inc., <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:FreeSoftwareFoundationLogo.svg>

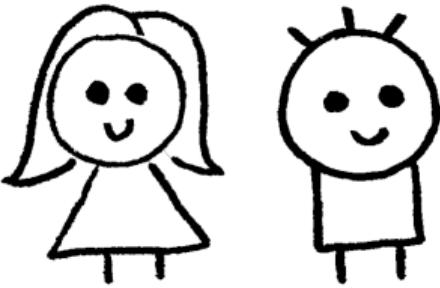


CC BY-SA, Free Software Foundation Inc., https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCC_Dumpfile_Diagnostics_Utilities#GCC_Dumpfile_Diagnostics_Logo

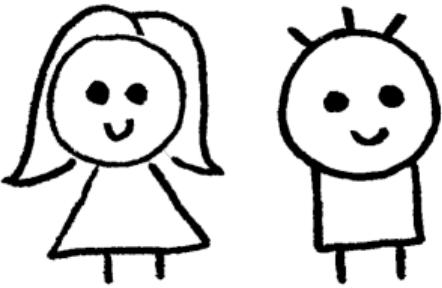
Can you *explain* our
change?

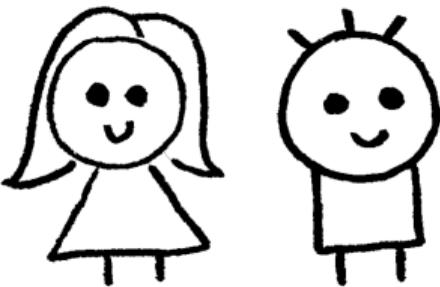


Can you *explain* our
change?



Can you *explain* our
change?





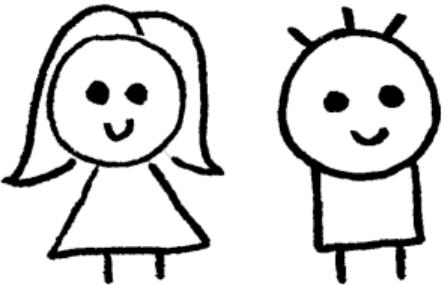
Can you *explain* our
change?

Yes, but you have to apply
our classification by hand.

[Passos et al. 2016; Ji et al.
2015; Borba et al. 2012]

No, you should have asked
before doing a change!
[Seidl et al. 2012]





Can you *explain* our
change?

Maybe. We can explain
some but not all changes.

[Stănciulescu et al. 2016;
Ji et al. 2015; Neves et al.
2015; Schulze et al. 2013;
Borba et al. 2012; Schulze
et al. 2012; Seidl et al. 2012]

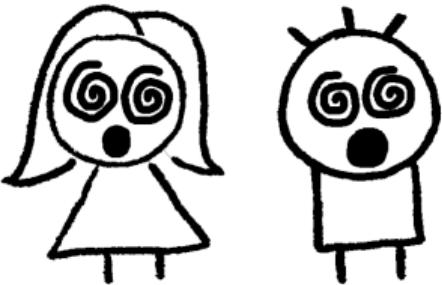
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Yes, but only if you give us
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[Kröher et al. 2023; Dintzner
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Can you explain
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Maybe. We can explain
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[Stănciulescu et al. 2016;
Ji et al. 2015; Neves et al.
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Borba et al. 2012; Schulze

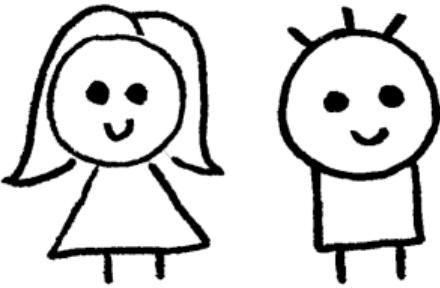
No, you should have asked
before doing a change!
[Seidl et al. 2012]

Research Problem

There are no complete and generic
change impact analyses for static
variability at the granularity of patches
and commits.

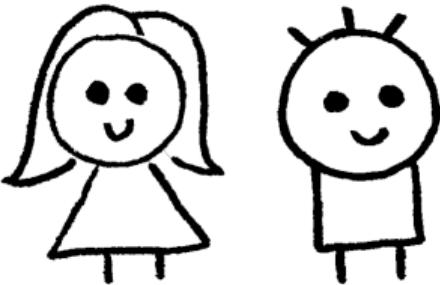
...ly if you give us
version history.
[Bittner et al. 2023; Dintzner
et al. 2003; Fischer et al. 2003]

Do you have a *theory*
for edits to variability
so that we can develop
analyses ourselves?



Do you have a *theory*
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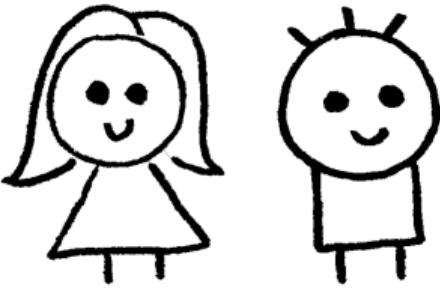
Sorry, but none of our
numerous differencing algo-
rithms is *variability-aware!*
[Erdweg et al. 2021; Nugroho et
al. 2020; Dotzler and Philippse
2016; Falleri et al. 2014;
Asaduzzaman et al. 2013; Canfora
et al. 2009; Fluri et al. 2007;
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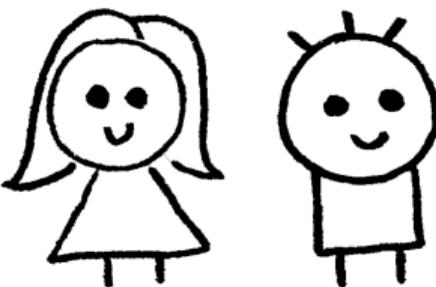


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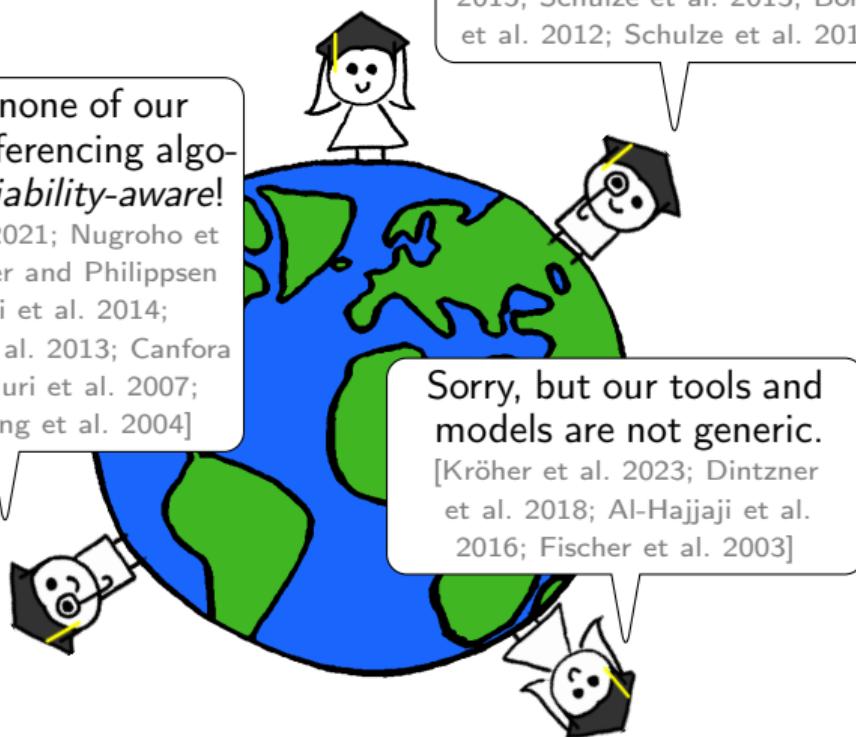
Sorry, but our theories have
no claim on completeness.
[Ananieva et al. 2022; Stănci-
ulescu et al. 2016; Neves et al.
2015; Schulze et al. 2013; Borba
et al. 2012; Schulze et al. 2012]





Do you have a *theory*
for edits to variability
so that we can develop
analyses ourselves?

Sorry, but none of our numerous differencing algorithms is *variability-aware!*
[Erdweg et al. 2021; Nugroho et al. 2020; Dotzler and Philippse 2016; Falleri et al. 2014; Asaduzzaman et al. 2013; Canfora et al. 2009; Fluri et al. 2007; Apiwattanapong et al. 2004]



Sorry, but our theories have no claim on completeness.
[Ananieva et al. 2022; Stănciulescu et al. 2016; Neves et al. 2015; Schulze et al. 2013; Borba et al. 2012; Schulze et al. 2012]



Sorry, but our tools and models are not generic.
[Kröher et al. 2023; Dintzner et al. 2018; Al-Hajjaji et al. 2016; Fischer et al. 2003]

Do you have a *theory*
for edits to variability
so that we can develop
analyses

Sorry, but none of our
numerous differencing algo-

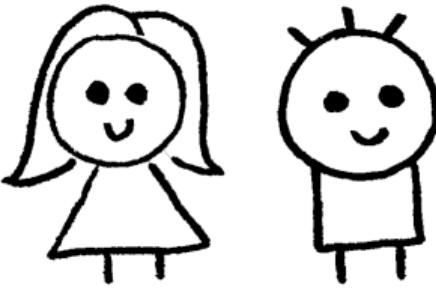
Research Problem

There is no formal and generic theory
for changes to static variability.

Sorry, but our theories have
no claim on completeness.
[Ananieva et al. 2022; Stănculescu et al. 2016; Neves et al. 2015; Schulze et al. 2013; Borba et al. 2012; Schulze et al. 2012]

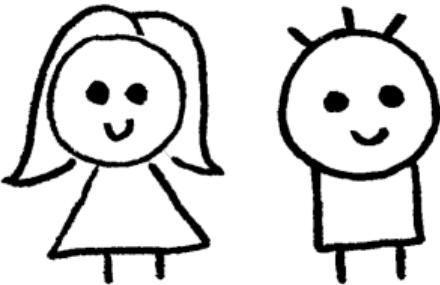
our tools and
are not generic.
[Al. 2023; Dintzner
et al. 2018; Al-Hajjaji et al.
2016; Fischer et al. 2003]

To develop a theory for edits to variability, we need a *theory of variability* first, right?



To develop a theory for edits to variability, we need a *theory of variability* first, right?

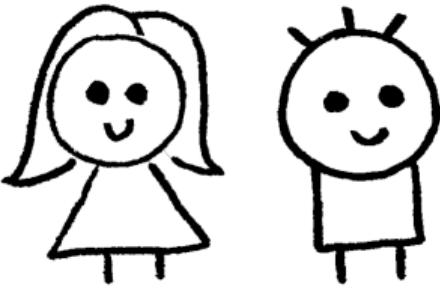
Yes, all you need is the *choice calculus*! After all, it is the λ -calculus of software variability.
[Walkingshaw 2013; Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011]



To develop a theory for edits to variability, we need a *theory of variability* first, right?

Yes, all you need is the *choice calculus*! After all, it is the λ -calculus of software variability.
[Walkingshaw 2013; Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011]

We prefer *algebraic decision diagrams*, much simpler!
[Castro et al. 2021]

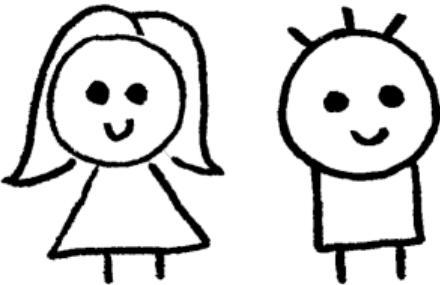


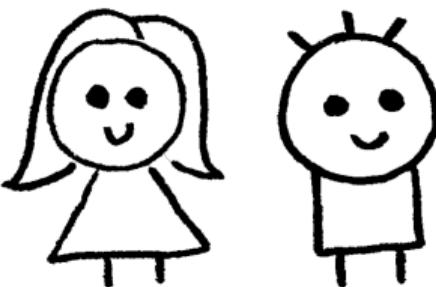
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We prefer *algebraic decision diagrams*, much simpler!
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All you need is my dissertation!
[Gruler 2010]





To develop a theory for edits to variability, we need a *theory of variability* first, right?

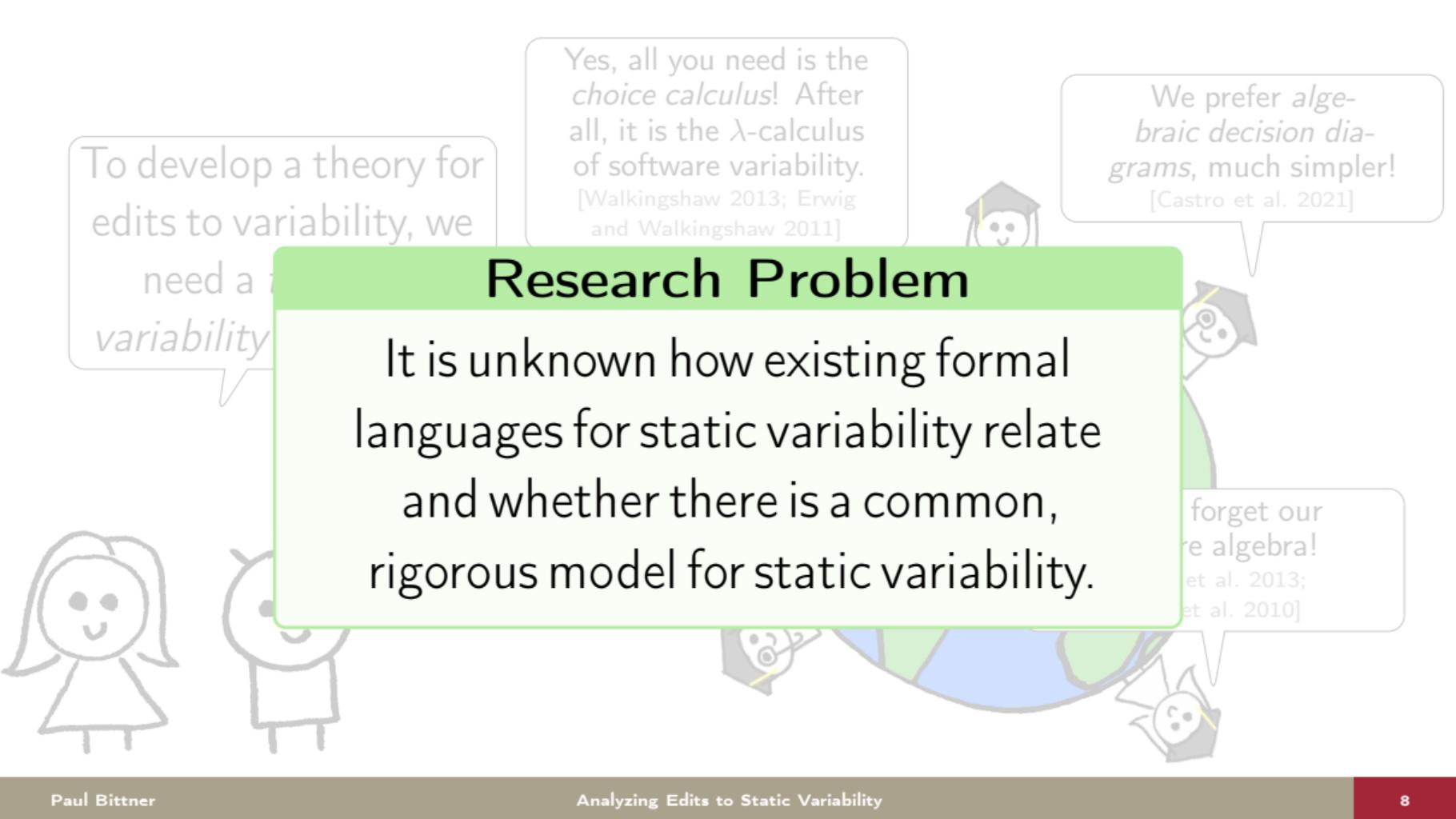
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[Walkingshaw 2013; Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011]

We prefer *algebraic decision diagrams*, much simpler!
[Castro et al. 2021]



All you need is my dissertation!
[Gruler 2010]

Don't forget our feature algebra!
[Apel et al. 2013;
Apel et al. 2010]



To develop a theory for edits to variability, we

need a

variability

Yes, all you need is the *choice calculus*! After all, it is the λ -calculus of software variability. [Walkingshaw 2013; Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011]

We prefer *algebraic decision diagrams*, much simpler!
[Castro et al. 2021]

Research Problem

It is unknown how existing formal languages for static variability relate and whether there is a common, rigorous model for static variability.

forget our
algebra!
et al. 2013;
et al. 2010]

Analyzing Edits to Static Variability

Research Problem 3:

There are no complete and generic change impact analyses for static variability at the granularity of patches and commits.

Research Problem 2:

There is no formal and generic theory for changes to static variability.

Research Problem 1:

It is unknown how existing formal languages for static variability relate and whether there is a common, rigorous model for static variability.

Analyzing Edits to Static Variability

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Analyzing Edits to Static Variability

Research Problem 2:

There is no formal and generic theory for changes to static variability.

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It is unknown how existing formal languages for static variability relate and whether there is a common, rigorous model for static variability.

On the Expressive Power of Languages for Static Variability

Bittner, Schultheiß, Moosberr, Young, Teixeira, Walkingshaw, Ataei, Thüm

OOPSLA'24,  Distinguished Artifact 

Research Problem 1

Static Variability





Does this
relate to our
problems?



```
static void  
f_foreground(/* params */)  
{  
#ifdef FEAT_GUI  
    if (gui.in_use)  
        gui_mch_set_foreground();  
    #else  
#ifdef MSWIN  
    win32_set_foreground();  
#endif  
#endif  
}
```



```

static void
f_foreground(/* params */
{
    #ifdef FEAT_GUI
        if (gui.in_use)
            gui_mch_set_foreground();
    #else
        #ifdef MSWIN
            win32_set_foreground();
        #endif
        #endif
    }
}

```



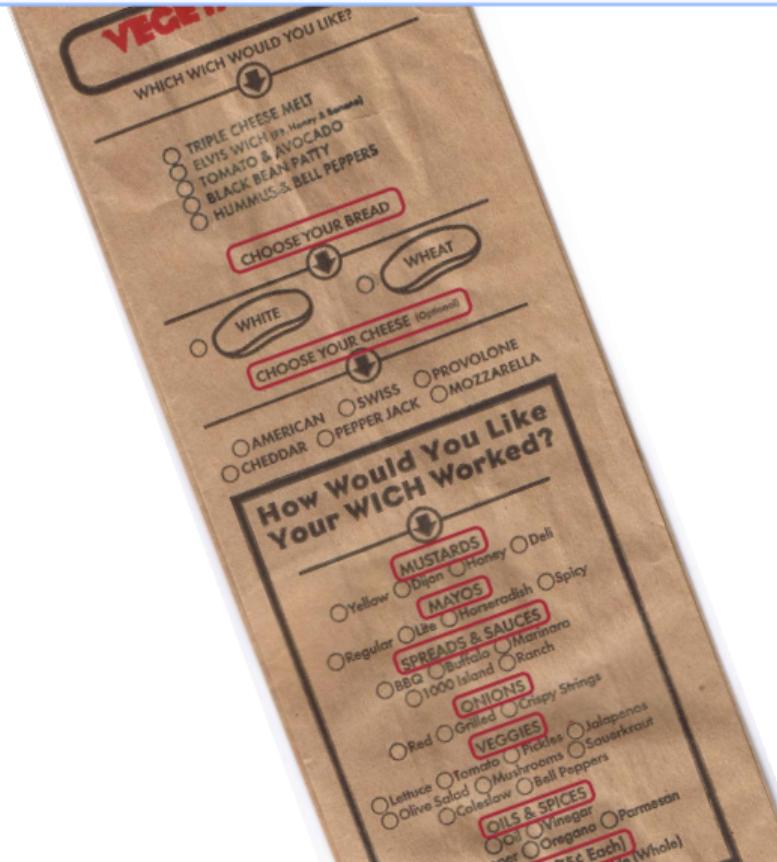
The Choice Calculus

[Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011]

[Walkingshaw 2013]

– A Lambda Calculus of Variability?

```
foreground(</> params </>)
{
    #ifdef FEAT_GUI
        if (gui.in_use)
            gui_mch_set_foreground();
    #else
        # ifdef MSWIN
            win32_set_foreground();
        # endif
        # endif
    }
}
```



The Choice Calculus

[Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011]
[Walkingshaw 2013]

– A Lambda Calculus of Variability?

```
foreground /* params */  
{  
  
block<  
    "static void",  
    "f_foreground(/* params */)",  
    "{",  
    FEAT_GUI<  
        block<  
            "if (gui.in_use)",  
            "gui_mch_set_foreground();"  
        >,  
        MSWIN<  
            block<"win32_set_foreground();">,  
            block<"">  
        >  
    >  
}
```



Salad , ε ,
,
Patty , ,
Ketchup Mayo , Mayo , ε)
➤

The Choice Calculus [Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011] – A Lambda Calculus of Variability?

```
  _foreground /* params */  
 {  
  
block<  
  "static void",  
  "f_foreground/* params */",  
  "{",  
  FEAT_GUI<  
    block<  
      "if (gui.in_use)"  
      "gui_mch_set_foreground();"  
    >,  
    MSWIN<  
      block<"win32_set_foreground();"  
      block<"">  
    >  
  >  
}
```



The Choice Calculus

[Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011]

Variability-Aware ASTs

[Kästner et al. 2008]

Calculus of Variability?

```
block<  
  "static void".  
  "f_foreground() {  
    params <...>  
    block<  
      "if (gui.in_use)"  
      "gui_mch_set_foreground();  
    >  
    MSW  
    block<">  
      >  
    >  
  }>
```

Artifact Trees

[Linsbauer et al. 2017]

Algebraic Decision Trees

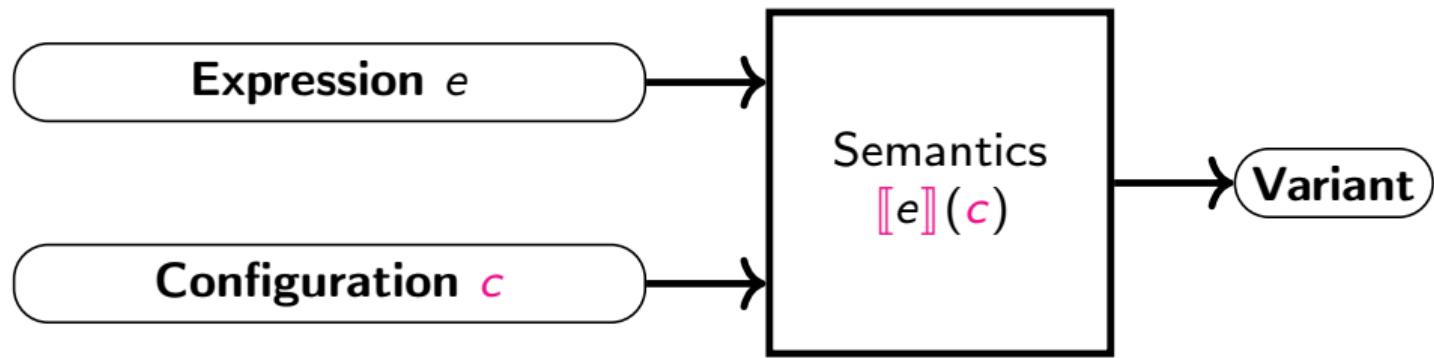
[Castro et al. 2021;
 Bahar et al. 1993]

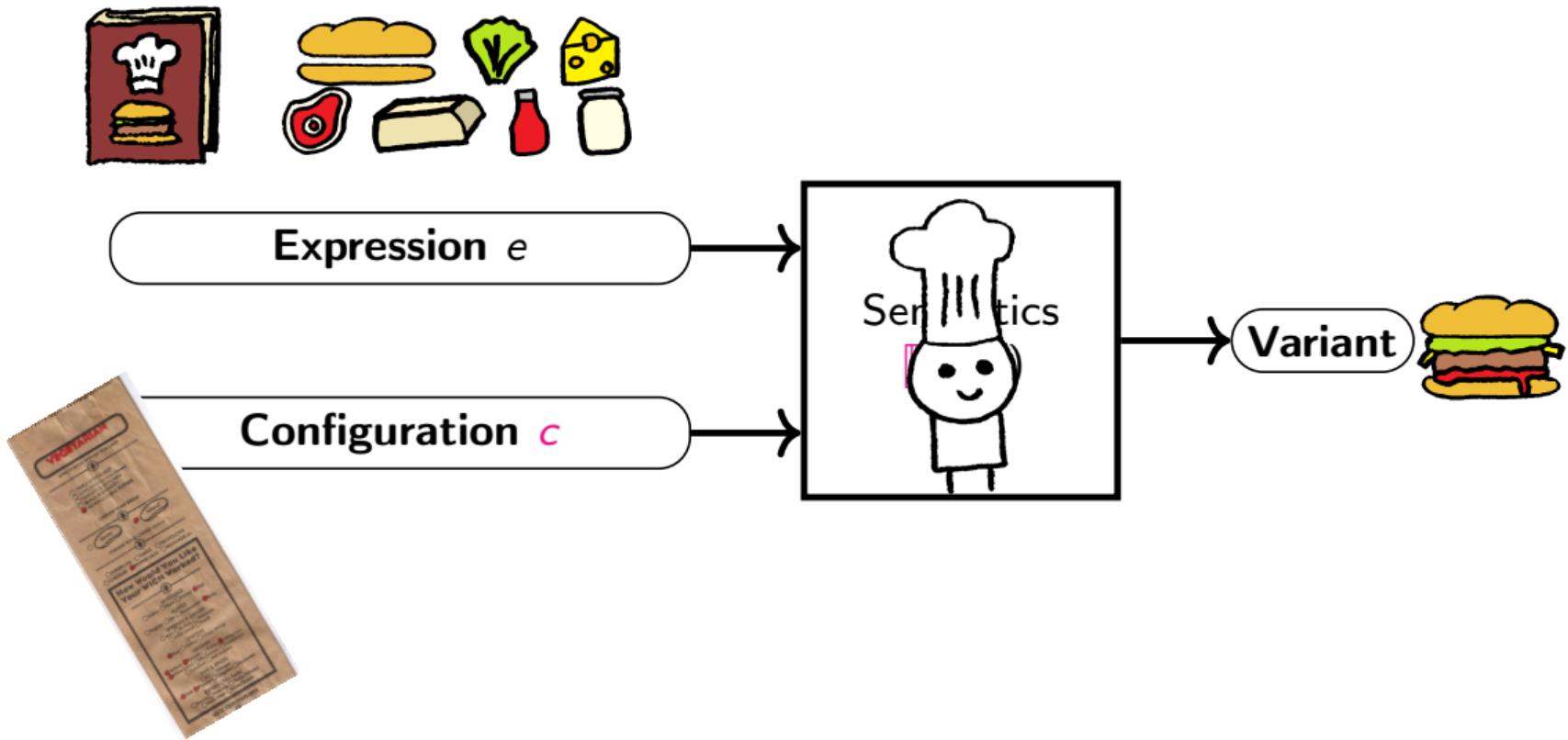
Feature Structure Trees

[Apel et al. 2013;
 Apel et al. 2010]



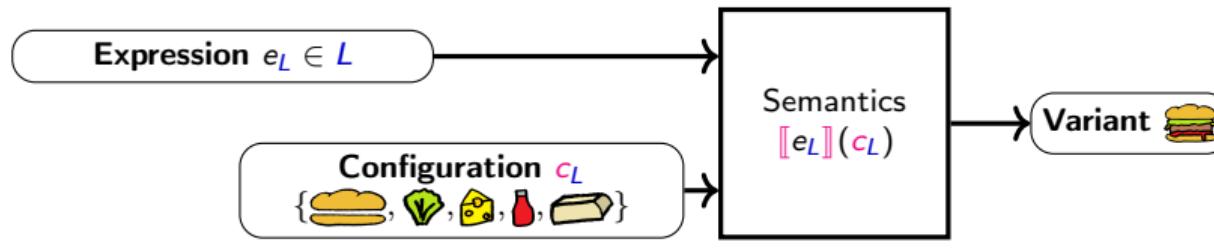
Language and Origin	Syntax e	Configuration Language C	Variant Language V	Semantics $\llbracket _ \rrbracket : e \rightarrow C \rightarrow V$
Core Choice Calculus (CC) [Erwig and Walkingshaw 2011] [Walkingshaw 2013]	$e ::= a < e^* >$ $ $ $D(e^+)$	$F \rightarrow N$	Trees T	$\llbracket a < I > \rrbracket(c) := a < \text{map}(\llbracket _ \rrbracket(c), I) >$ $\llbracket D(I) \rrbracket(c) := [I] \downarrow_{\epsilon(D)}(c)$
Binary Choice Calculus (2CC) [many]	$e ::= a < e^* >$ $ $ $D(e, e)$	$F \rightarrow B$	Trees T	$\llbracket a < I > \rrbracket(c) := a < \text{map}(\llbracket _ \rrbracket(c), I) >$ $\llbracket D(I, r) \rrbracket(c) := \begin{cases} [I](c) & c(D) = \text{true} \\ [r](c) & \text{else} \end{cases}$
Algebraic Decision Trees (ADT) [Bahar et al. 1993] [Castro et al. 2021]	$e ::= \text{leaf } a$ $ $ $D(e, e)$	$F \rightarrow B$	Atoms A	$\llbracket \text{leaf } v \rrbracket(c) := v$ $\llbracket D(I, r) \rrbracket(c) := \begin{cases} [I](c) & c(D) = \text{true} \\ [r](c) & \text{else} \end{cases}$
Gruler's Language (GL) [Gruler 2010]	$e ::= \text{ntrl}$ $ $ $\text{asset } a$ $ $ $e \parallel e$ $ $ $e \oplus_{n \in N} e$	$N \rightarrow B$	Lists L	$\llbracket \text{ntrl} \rrbracket(c) := []$ $\llbracket \text{asset } a \rrbracket(c) := a :: []$ $\llbracket I \parallel r \rrbracket(c) := \text{append}(\llbracket I \rrbracket(c), \llbracket r \rrbracket(c))$ $\llbracket I \oplus_n r \rrbracket(c) := \begin{cases} [I](c) & c(n) = \text{true} \\ [r](c) & \text{else} \end{cases}$
Option Calculus (OC) [new]	$e ::= a < t^* >$ $t ::= e$ $ $ $O(t)$	$F \rightarrow B$	Trees T with a fixed root	$\llbracket a < I > \rrbracket(c) := a < \kappa(\text{map}(\llbracket _ \rrbracket(c), I)) >$ $\llbracket O(e) \rrbracket(c) := \begin{cases} [e](c) & c(O) = \text{true} \\ \epsilon & \text{else} \end{cases}$
Feature Structure Trees (FST) [Apel et al. 2010] [Apel et al. 2013]	$e ::= a < f^* >$ $f ::= F : \underline{e^*}$	$F \rightarrow B$	Trees T with a fixed root but without duplicate neighbors	$\text{select}(c) := \text{map}(\lambda(F : I) \rightarrow I) \circ \text{filter}(\lambda(F : I) \rightarrow c(F))$ $\llbracket a < I > \rrbracket(c) := a < \text{fold}^r(\underline{_} \oplus \underline{_}, [], \text{select}(c)(I)) >$



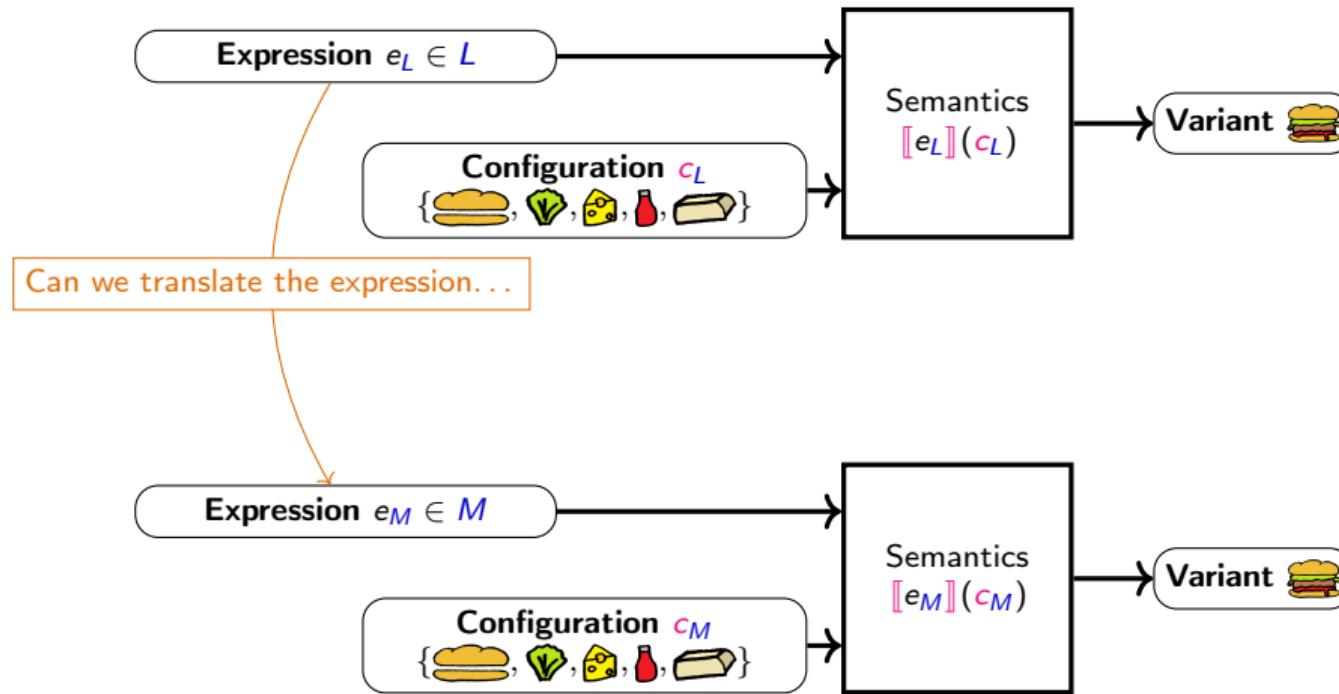


How to Compare Variability Languages L and M semantically?

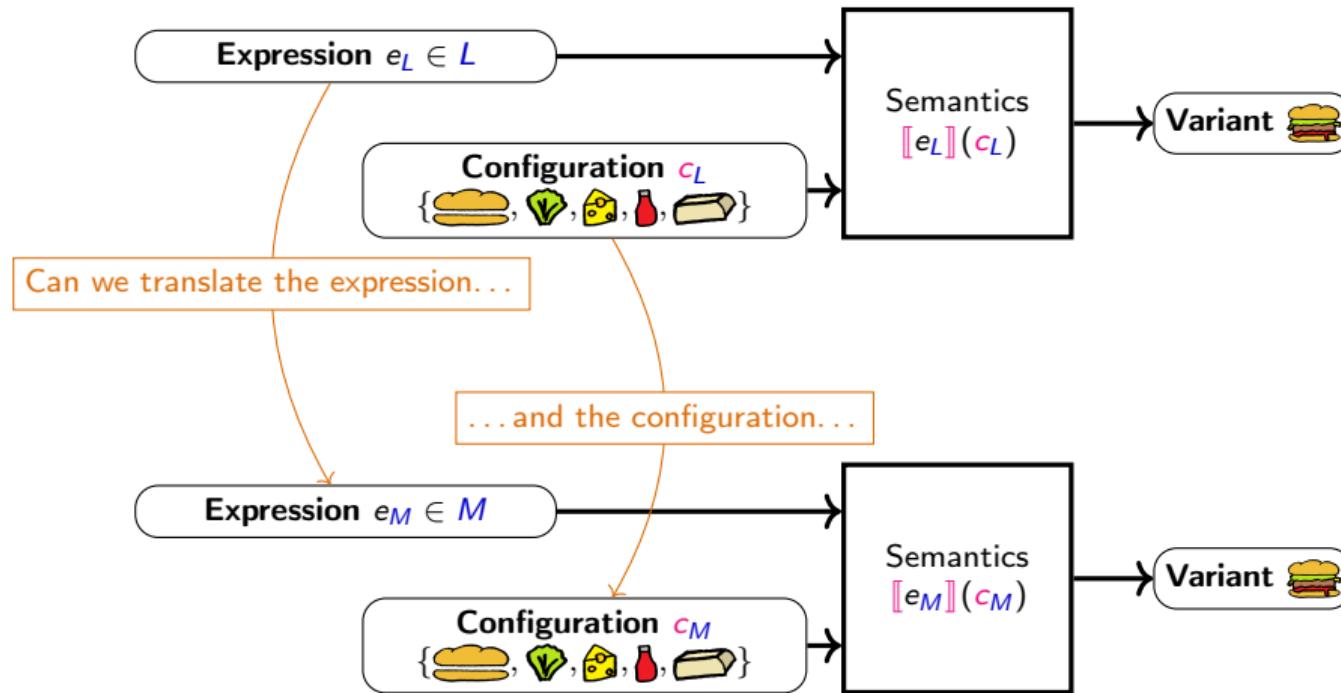
How to Compare Variability Languages L and M semantically?



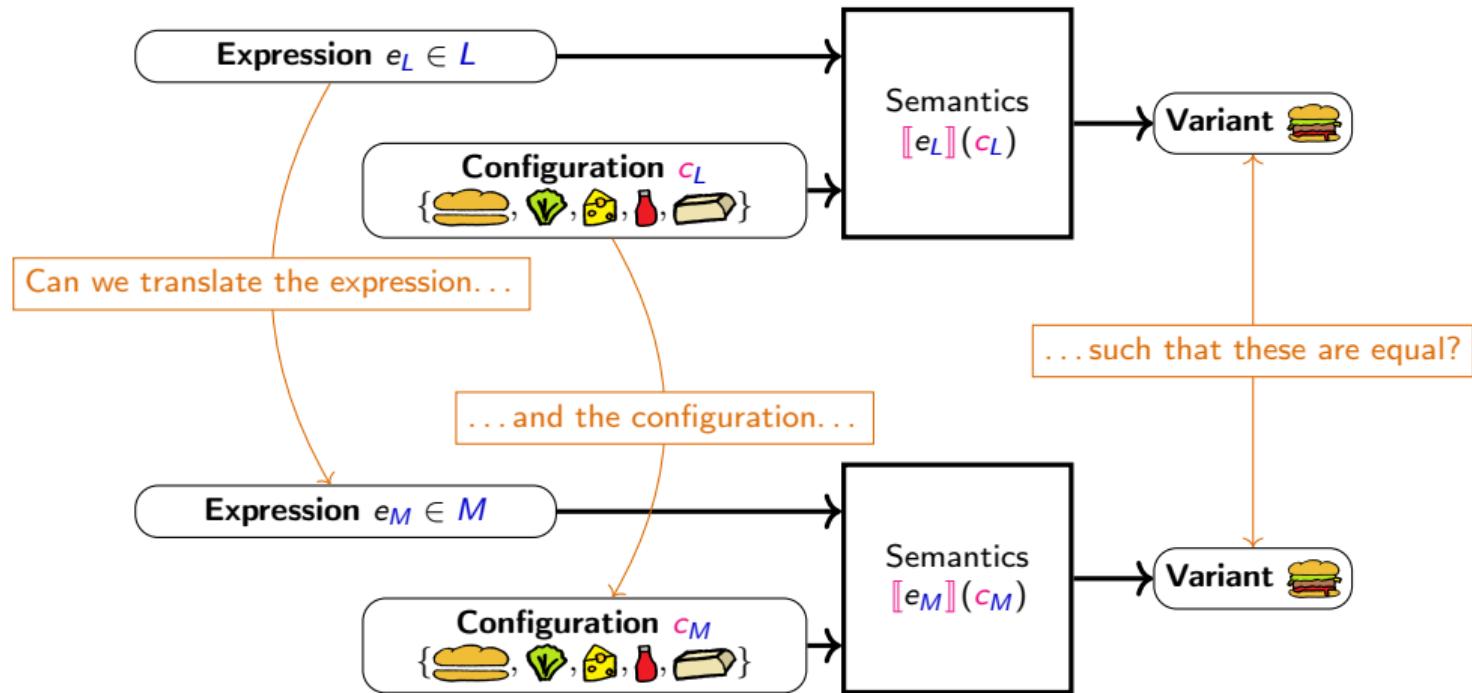
How to Compare Variability Languages L and M semantically?



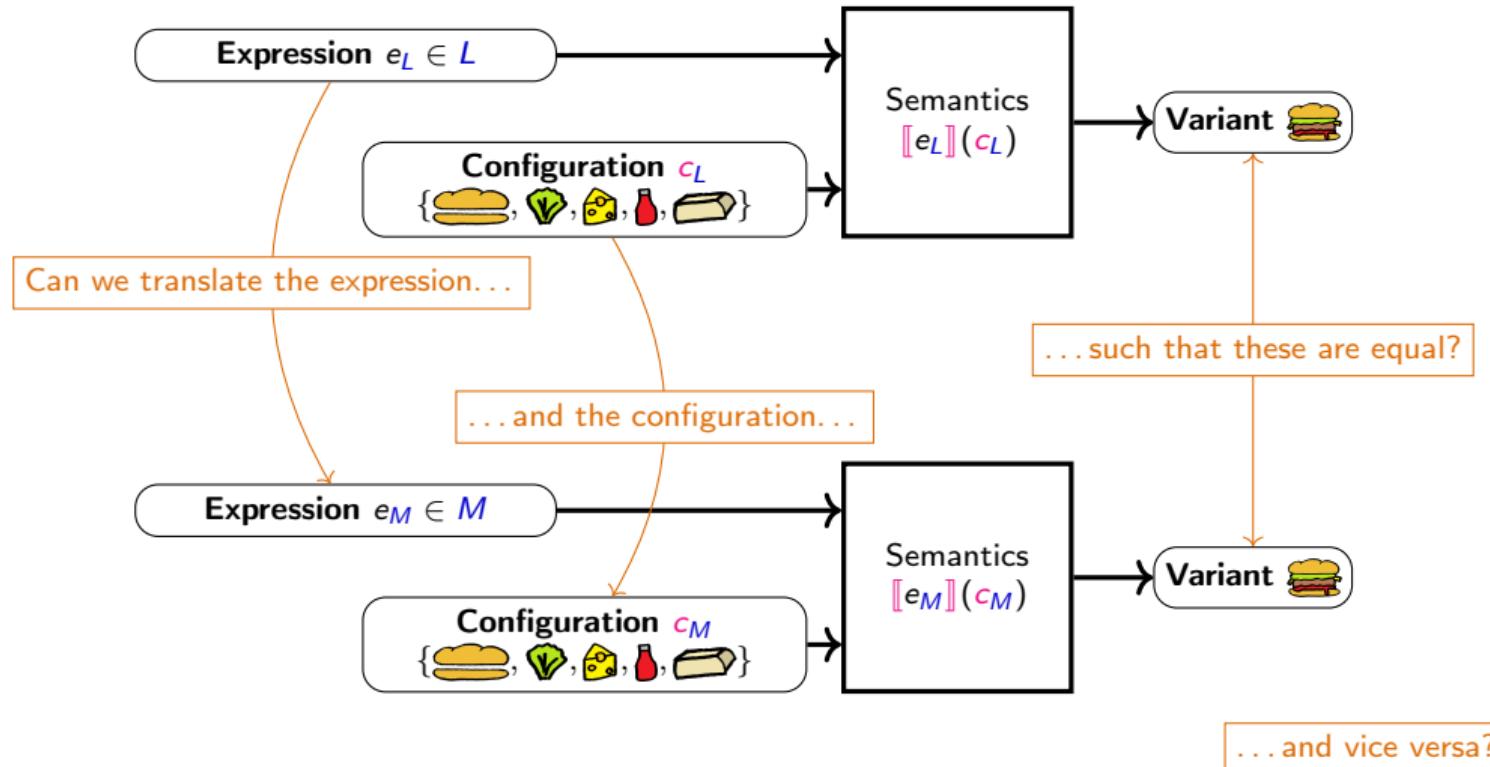
How to Compare Variability Languages L and M semantically?



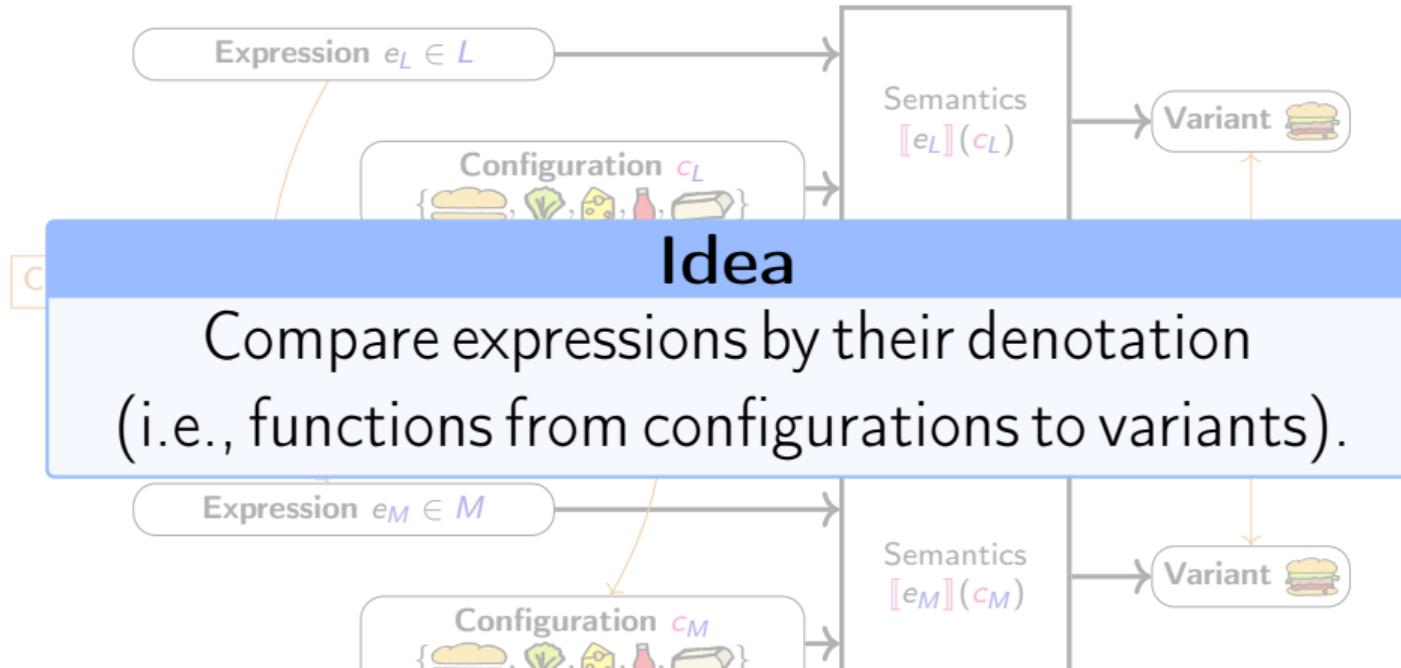
How to Compare Variability Languages L and M semantically?



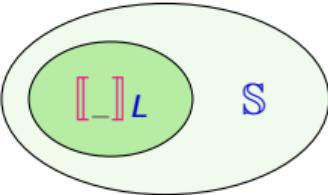
How to Compare Variability Languages L and M semantically?

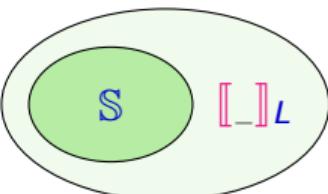


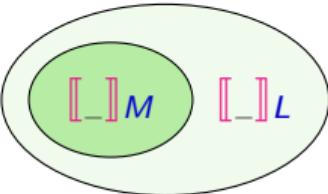
How to Compare Variability Languages L and M semantically?



... and vice versa?

$\text{Sound}(\mathbb{S}, \mathcal{L}) :=$  (Upper bound for expressiveness)

$\text{Complete}(\mathbb{S}, \mathcal{L}) :=$  (Lower bound for expressiveness)

$\mathcal{L} \succeq \mathcal{M} :=$  (Relative expressiveness)

Core Choice
Calculus ([CCC](#))

Binary Choice
Calculus ([2CC](#))

Algebraic Decision
Trees ([ADT](#))

Feature Structure
Trees ([FST](#))

New language to cover essence of optional variability
(i.e., "Pick  or don't").

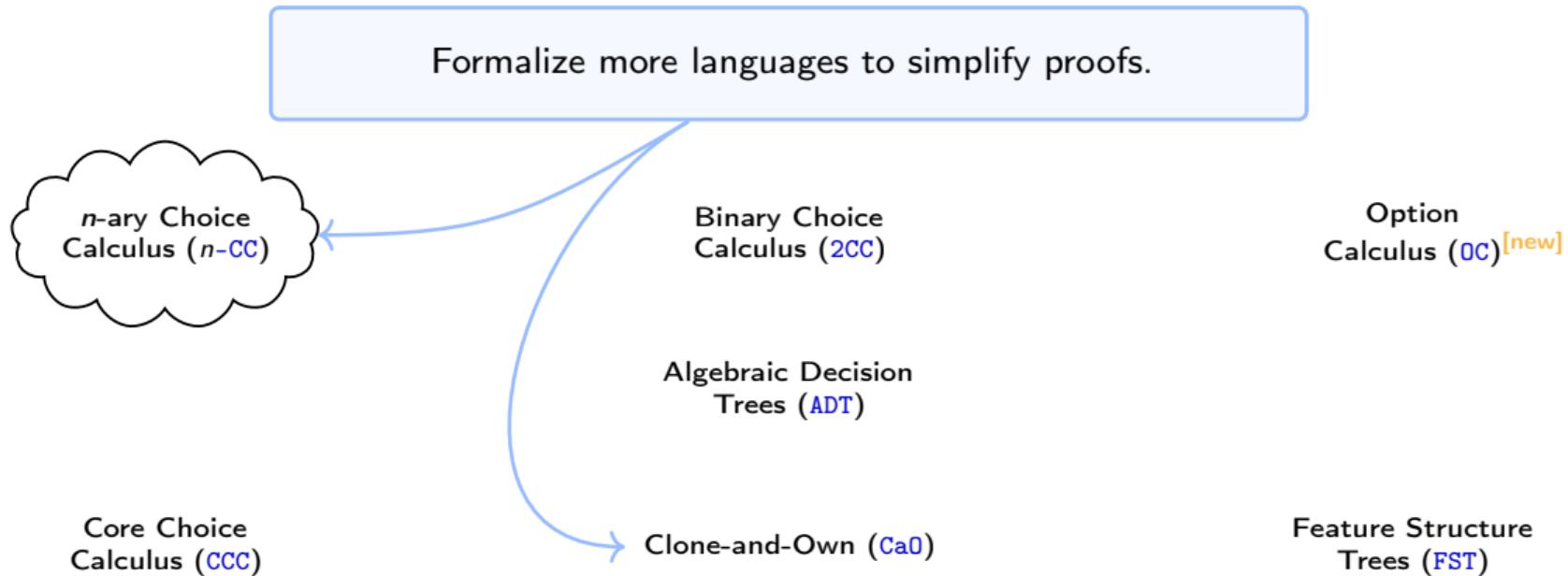
Binary Choice
Calculus ([2CC](#))

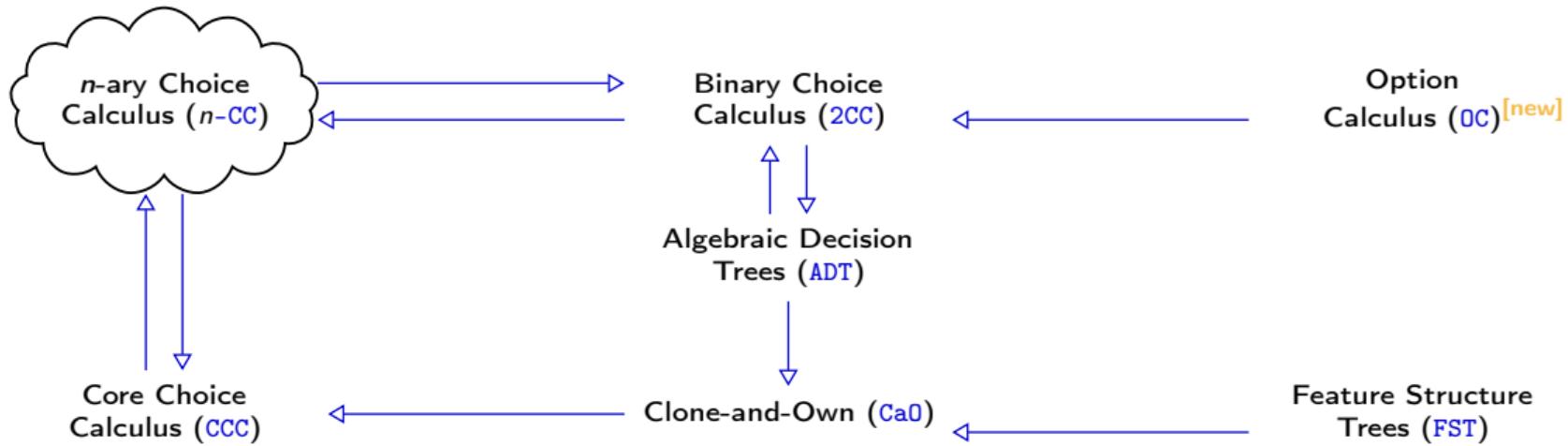
Option
Calculus ([OC](#))^[new]

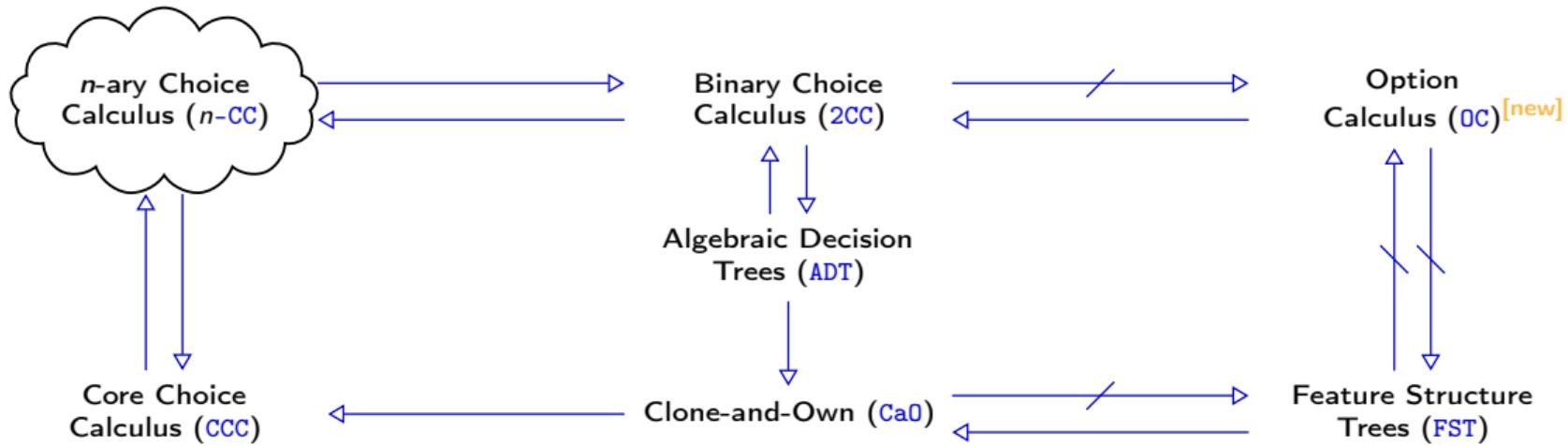
Algebraic Decision
Trees ([ADT](#))

Core Choice
Calculus ([CCC](#))

Feature Structure
Trees ([FST](#))

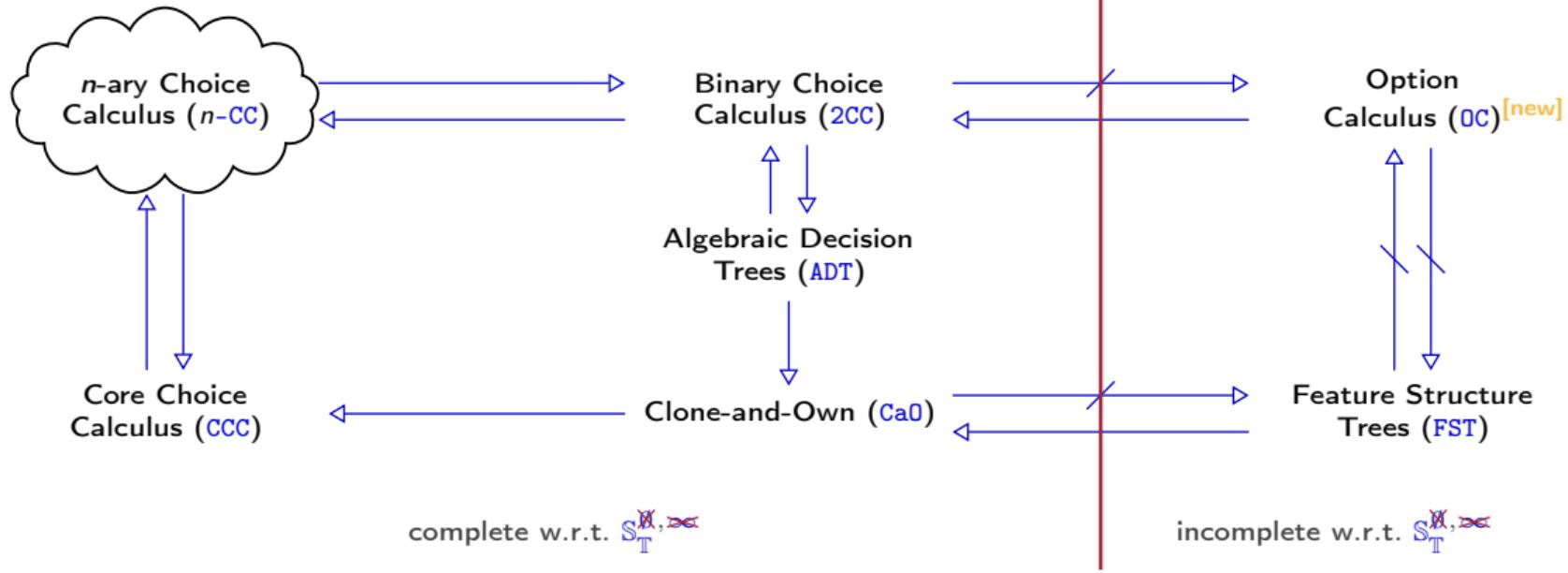






$S_T^{\times, \bowtie}$:= non-empty, finite sets of variants

all languages are sound w.r.t. $S_T^{\times, \bowtie}$



src
 > MAlonzo
 > Vatras
 > Data
 > Framework
 > Annota
 > Compos
 > Proof
 M1 ForF
 > Proper
 > Relati
 > Compil
 > Definit
 > Variab
 > Variant
 > Variant
 > Lang
 > ADT
 > OC
 M1 2CC.la
 > ADT.agda
 > All.agda
 M1 CCC.lagda.md
 M1 FST.lagda.md
 > Gruler.agda
 > NADT.agda
 M1 NCC.lagda.md
 M1 OC.lagda.md
 M1 VariantList.lagda
 > Show
 2CC.lagda.md x LanguageMap.lagda.md x Expressiveness.lagda.md x ForF...
 25 The intuition is that `M` can express everything `L` can express which in
 26 Thus also `M` is complete.
Everything is formalized in Agda
 scribes V.
 V}

```

40 → L ≧ M
41 -----
42 → Complete L
43 completeness-by-expressiveness encode-in-M M-to-L vs with encode-in-M vs
44 ... | m , vs≈m with M-to-L m
45 ... | l , m≈l = l , ≈-trans vs≈m m≈l
46
  
```

2CC.lagda.md x LanguageMap.lagda.md x Expressiveness.lagda.md x ForEach.lagda.md
25 The intuition is that `M` can express everything `L` can express which in
26 Thus also `M` is complete.

Everything is formalized in Agda

Proofs are programs:

- > src
- > MAlonzo
- > Vatras
- > Data
- > Framework
 - > Annotations
 - > Compos
 - > Proof
 - M1 ForF
 - > Proper
 - > Relation
 - Compile
 - Definition
 - Variable
 - Variant
 - Variant
 - > Lang
 - > ADT
 - > OC
 - M1 2CC.la
 - ADT.agda
 - All.agda
 - CCC.lagda.md
 - FST.lagda.md
 - Gruler.agda
 - NADT.agda
 - NCC.lagda.md
 - OC.lagda.md
 - VariantList.lagda
 - > Show

```
40 → L ≥ M
41 -----
42 → Complete L
43 completeness-by-expressiveness encode-in-M M-to-L vs with encode-in-M vs
44 ... | m , vs ≈ m with M-to-L m
45 ... | l , m ≈ l = l , ≈-trans vs ≈ m m ≈ l
46
```

>	src
>	MAlonzo
>	Vatras
>	Data
>	Framework
>	Annotations
>	Compos.
>	Proof
>	ForF
>	Proper
>	Relati
>	Compile
>	Definiti
>	Variab
>	Variant
>	Variant
>	Lang
>	ADT
>	OC
>	2CC.la
>	ADT.agda
>	All.agda
>	CCC.lagda.md
>	FST.lagda.md
>	Gruler.agda
>	NADT.agda
>	NCC.lagda.md
>	OC.lagda.md
>	VariantList.lagda
>	Show

2CC.lagda.md x LanguageMap.lagda.md x Expressiveness.lagda.md x ForEachBoundedLagda.lagda.md
 25 The intuition is that `M` can express everything `L` can express which in
 26 Thus also `M` is complete.

Everything is formalized in Agda

Proofs are programs:

A soundness proof enumerates all variants:



```

40 → L ≥ M
41 -----
42 → Complete L
43 completeness-by-expressiveness encode-in-M M-to-L vs with encode-in-M vs
44 ... | m , vs ≈ m with M-to-L m
45 ... | l , m ≈ l = l , ≈-trans vs ≈ m m ≈ l
46
    
```

scribes V.

V}

src
MAlonzo
Vatras
Data
Framework
Annotations
Compos
Proof
ForF
Proper
Relati
Compile
Definiti
Variab
Variant
Variant
Lang
ADT
OC
2CC.la
ADT.agda
All.agda
CCC.lagda.md
FST.lagda.md
Gruler.agda
NADT.agda
NCC.lagda.md
OC.lagda.md
VariantList.lagda\$
Show

25 The intuition is that `M` can express everything `L` can express which in
26 Thus also `M` is complete.

Everything is formalized in Agda

Proofs are programs:

A soundness proof enumerates all variants:



A completeness proof creates an expression from variants:



```
40  → L ≥ M
41  -----
42  → Complete L
43 completeness-by-expressiveness encode-in-M M-to-L vs with encode-in-M vs
44 ... | m , vs ≈ m with M-to-L m
45 ... | l , m ≈ l = l , ≈-trans vs ≈ m m ≈ l
46
```

scribes V.

V}

```

src
> MAlonzo
> Vatras
> Data
> Framework
> Annota
> Compos
> Proof
> ForF
> Proper
> Relati
> Compil
> Defini
> Variab
> Variant
> Variant
Lang
> ADT
> OC
> 2CC.la
> ADT.aqua
> All.agda
> CCC.lagda.md
> FST.lagda.md
> Gruler.agda
> NADT.agda
> NCC.lagda.md
> OC.lagda.md
> VariantList.lagda
> Show

```

25 The intuition is that `M` can express everything `L` can express which in
 26 Thus also `M` is complete.

Everything is formalized in Agda

Proofs are programs:

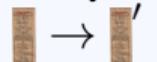
A **soundness** proof enumerates all variants:



A **completeness** proof creates an expression from variants:



An **expressiveness** proof is a compiler:



```

40   → L ≥ M
41   -----
42   → Complete L
43 completeness-by-expressiveness encode-in-M M-to-L vs with encode-in-M vs
44 ... | m , vs ≈ m with M-to-L m
45 ... | l , m ≈ l = l , ≈-trans vs ≈ m m ≈ l
46

```

Research Problem 3: Analyzing Edits to Variability

Research Problem 2: Edits to Static Variability

Research Problem 1: Static Variability

Research Problem 3: Analyzing Edits to Variability

Research Problem 2: Edits to Static Variability

Research Problem 1: Static Variability

Foundations and meta-theory

Unified syntax and semantics of languages

Landscape of languages:

- choice calculus is a λ -calculus of variability
- multiple levels of expressiveness

Bittner et al., OOPSLA'24, 

Distinguished Artifact

 Vatras – Agda Formalization

Now we understand
the foundations of
static variability.



Now we understand
the foundations of
static variability.

So now we can start
thinking about a
theory for edits to
variability.



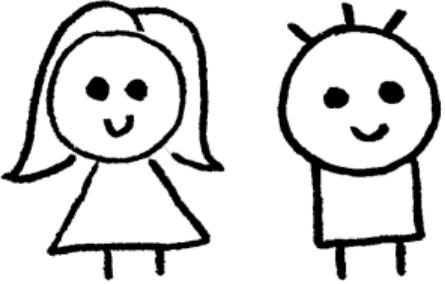
Classifying Edits to Variability in Source Code
Bittner, Tinnes, Schultheiß, Viegener, Kehrer, Thüm
ESEC/FSE'22,  

Views on Edits to Variational Software
Bittner, Schultheiß, Greiner, Moosherr, Krieter, Tinnes, Kehrer, Thüm
SPLC'23,  

Variability-Aware Differencing with DiffDetective
Bittner, Schultheiß, Moosherr, Kehrer, Thüm
FSE Demonstrations'24,  , Best Demonstrations Paper 

Research Problem 2

Edits to Static Variability



Do you have a *theory*
for edits to variability
so that we can develop
change impact
analyses?

Sorry, but none of our
numerous differencing algo-
rithms is *variability-aware*!
[Erdweg et al. 2021; Nugroho et
al. 2020; Dotzler and Philippse
2016; Falleri et al. 2014;
Asaduzzaman et al. 2013; Canfora
et al. 2009; Fluri et al. 2007;
Apiwattanapong et al. 2004]



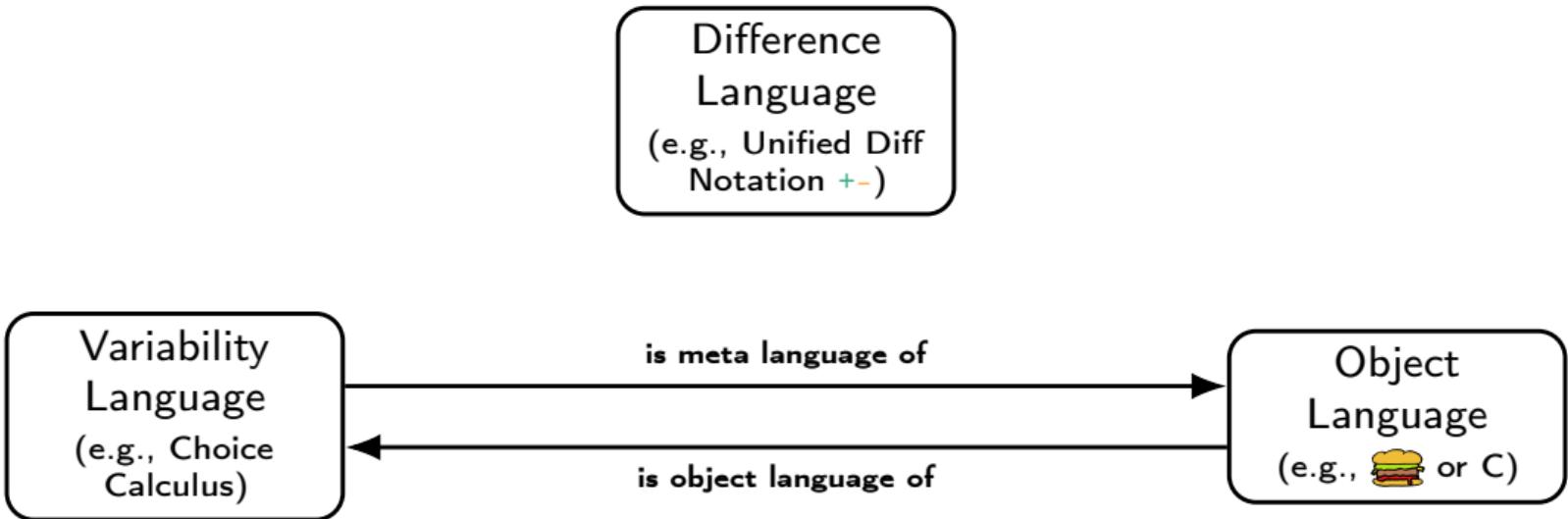
Sorry, but our theories have
no claim on completeness.
[Ananieva et al. 2022; Stănci-
ulescu et al. 2016; Neves et al.
2015; Schulze et al. 2013; Borba
et al. 2012; Schulze et al. 2012]

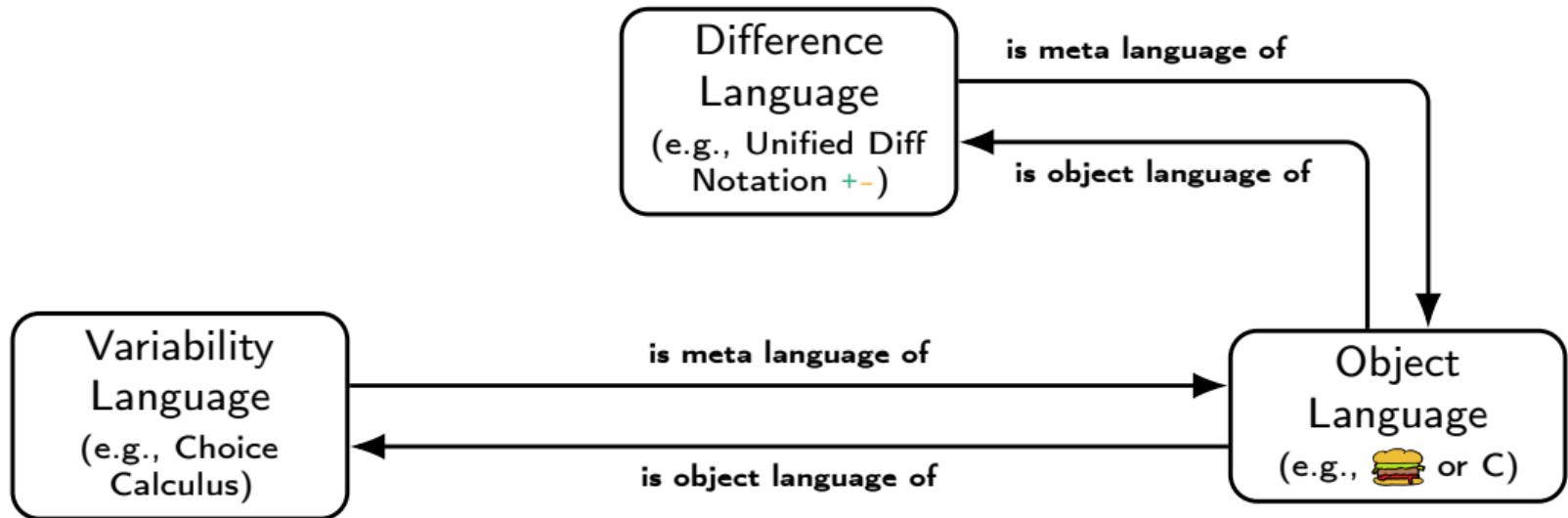
Sorry, but our tools and
models are not generic.
[Kröher et al. 2023; Dintzner
et al. 2018; Al-Hajjaji et al.
2016; Fischer et al. 2003]

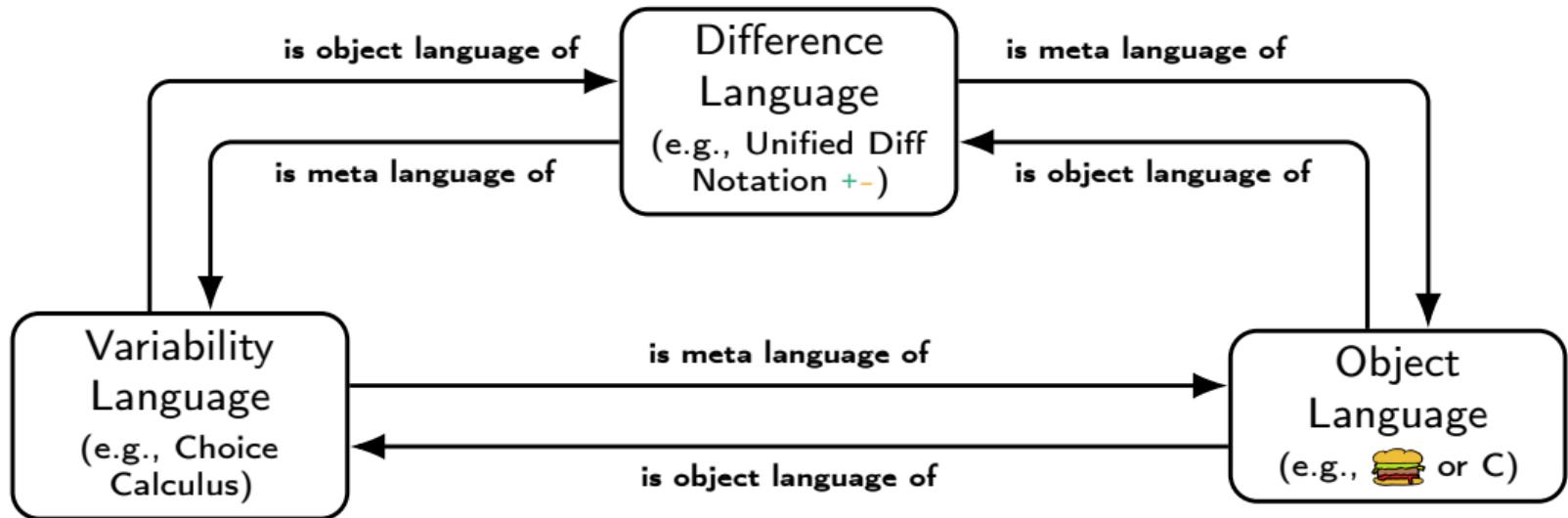
Variability
Language
(e.g., Choice
Calculus)

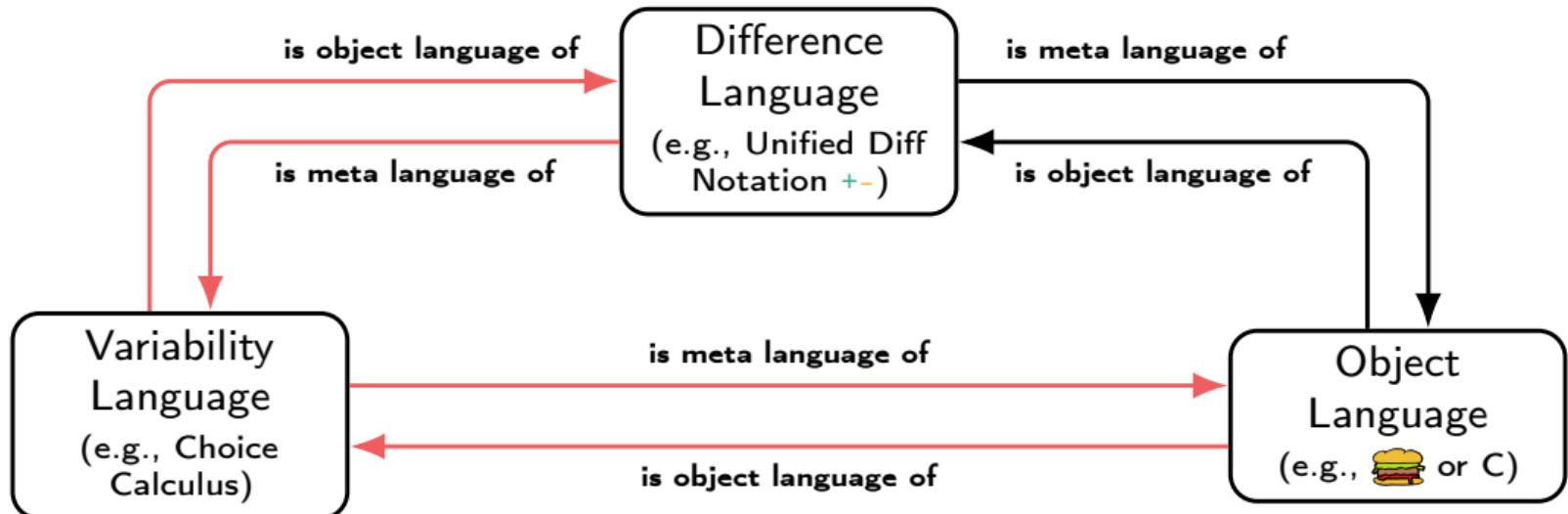
Difference
Language
(e.g., Unified Diff
Notation )

Object
Language
(e.g.,  or C)









Goal: Make the variability language explicit.



```
#ifdef A
    foo();
#else
    #ifdef B
        baz();
    #endif
#endif
```

diff ↘

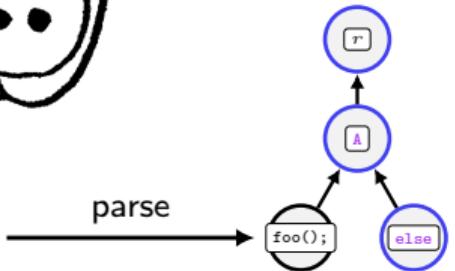
```
#ifdef A
    foo();
#ifndef B
    + bar();
#endif
+if B && (!A || C)
    baz();
- endif
#endif
```

diff ↗

```
#ifdef A
    foo();
    bar();
#endif
#if B && (!A || C)
    baz();
#endif
```



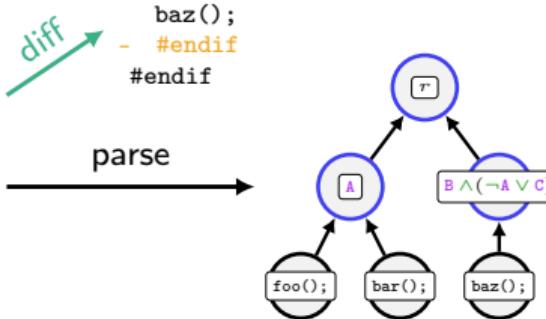
```
#ifdef A  
foo();  
#else  
#ifdef B  
baz();  
#endif  
#endif
```



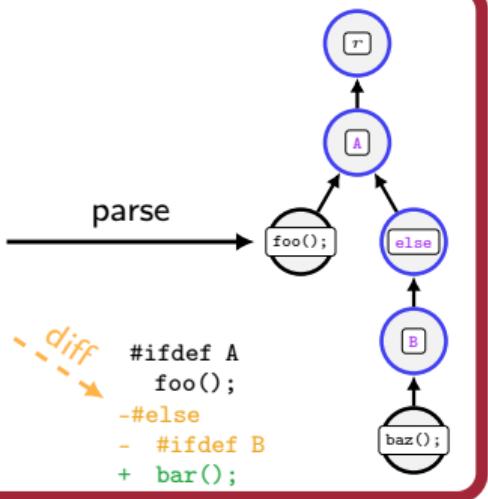
diff

```
#ifdef A  
foo();  
-#else  
- #ifdef B  
+ bar();  
+#endif  
+#if B && (!A || C)  
baz();  
- #endif  
#endif
```

```
#ifdef A  
foo();  
bar();  
#endif  
#if B && (!A || C)  
baz();  
#endif
```



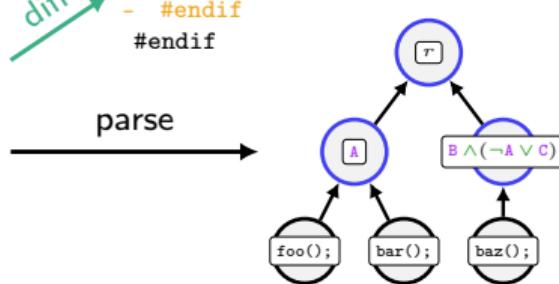
```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
#define B
baz();
#endif
#endif
```



diff

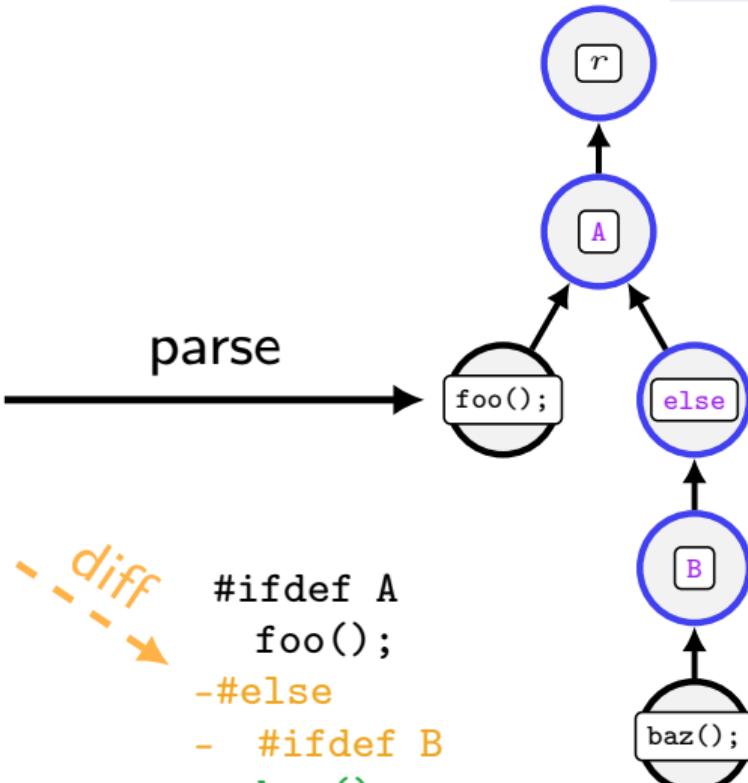
```
#ifdef A
foo();
-#else
- #ifdef B
+ bar();
#endif
#endif
```

```
#ifdef A
foo();
bar();
#endif
#if B && (!A || C)
baz();
#endif
```



```
#ifdef A
    foo();
#else
    #ifdef B
        baz();
    #endif
#endif
```

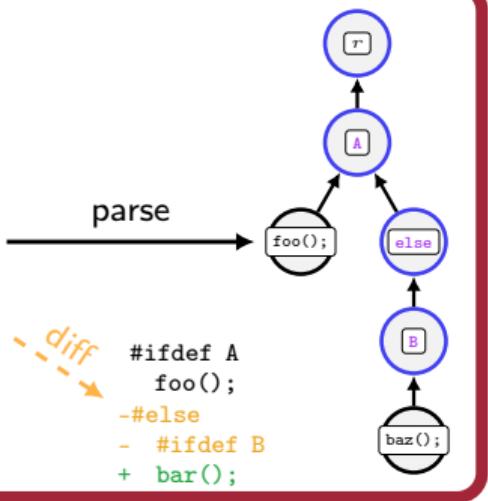
parse



diff

```
#ifdef A
    foo();
-#else
- #ifdef B
+ bar();
+/#endif
+/#if B && (!A || C)
```

```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
#define B
baz();
#endif
#endif
```



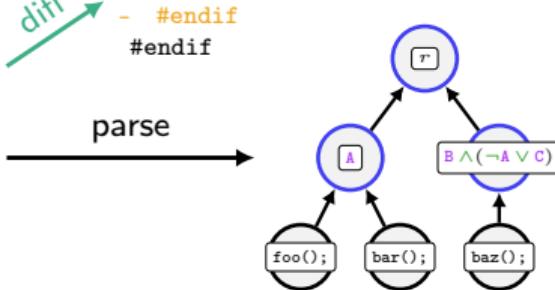
diff

```

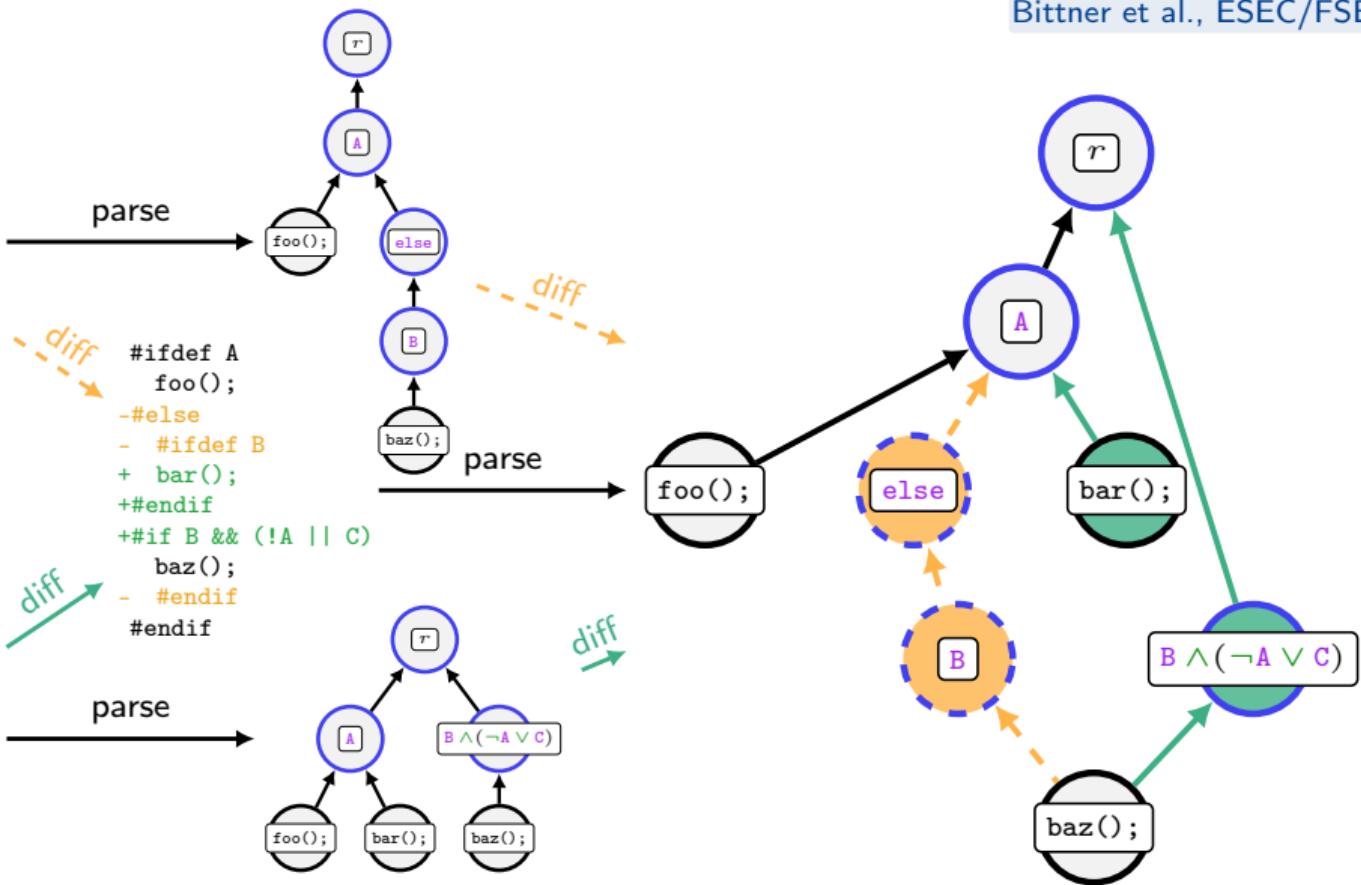
# ifdef A
foo();
-#else
- #define B
+ bar();
/*endif
+ #if B && (!A || C)
baz();
- #endif
#endif

```

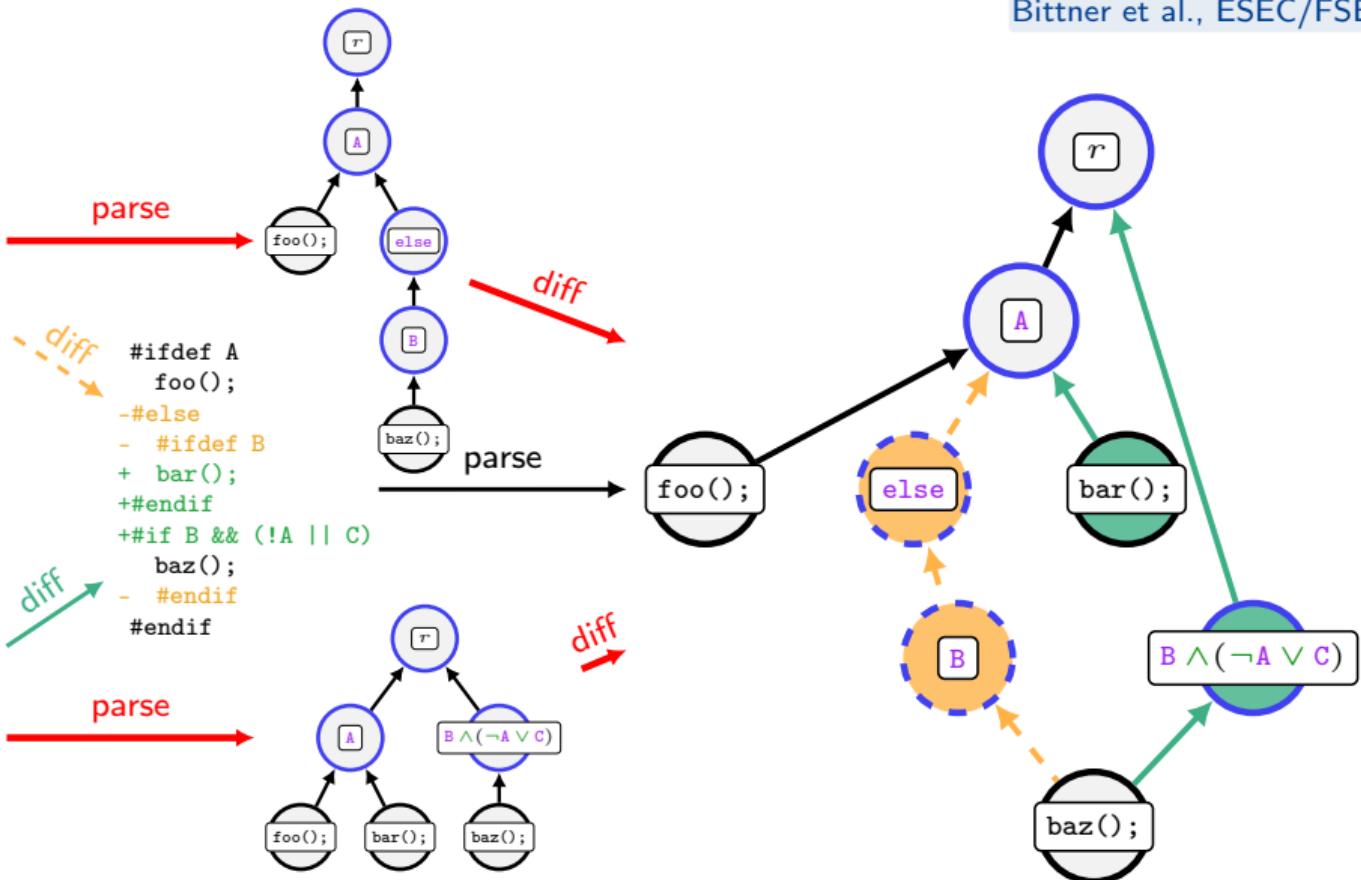
```
#ifdef A
foo();
bar();
#endif
#if B && (!A || C)
baz();
#endif
```



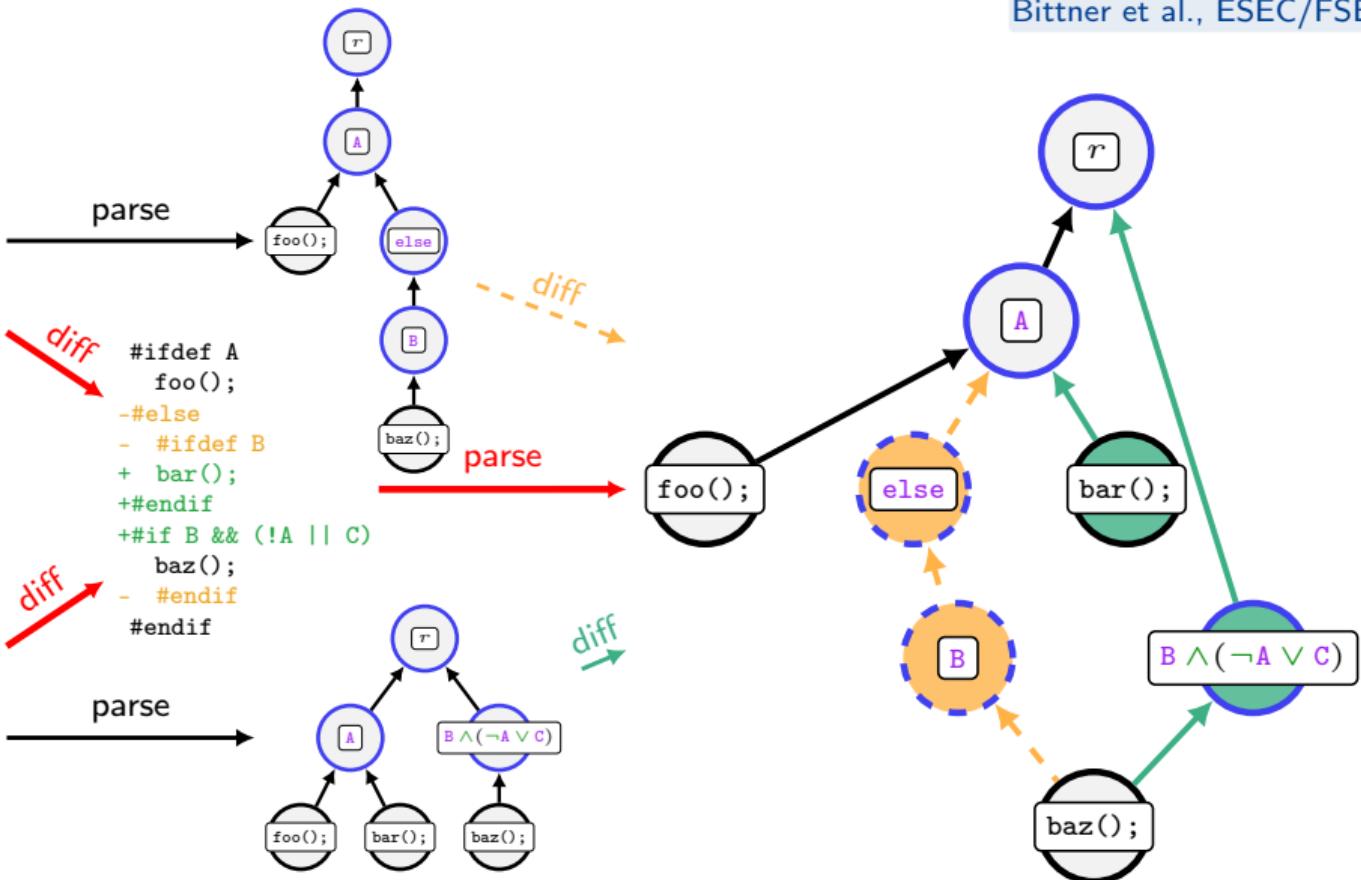
```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
#define B
baz();
#endif
#endif
```



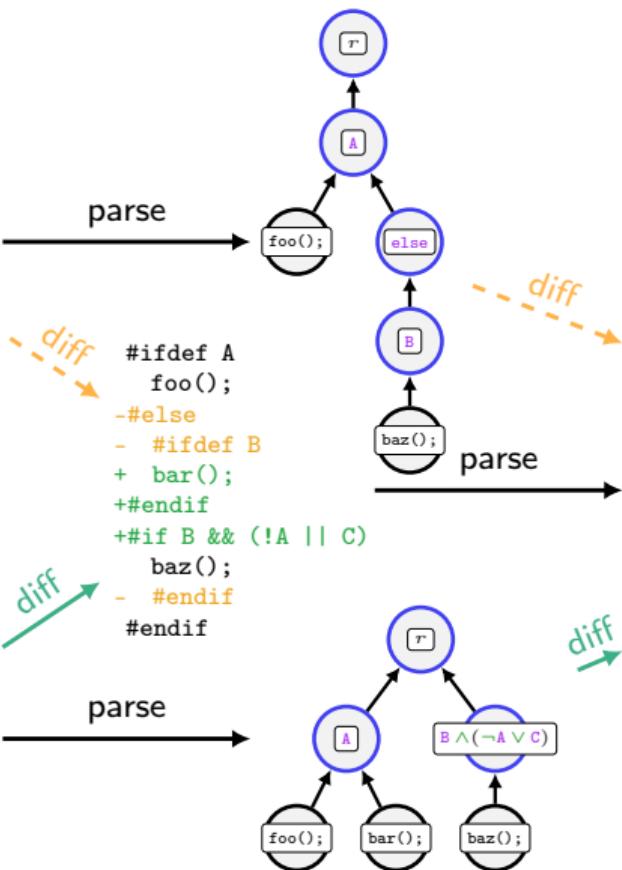
```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
#define B
baz();
#endif
#endif
```



```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
#define B
baz();
#endif
#endif
```



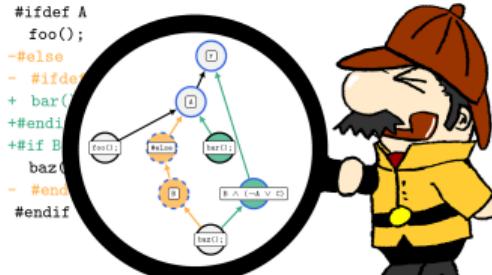
```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
#define B
baz();
#endif
#endif
```



Any generic differencer
can be turned into
a variability-aware differencer!

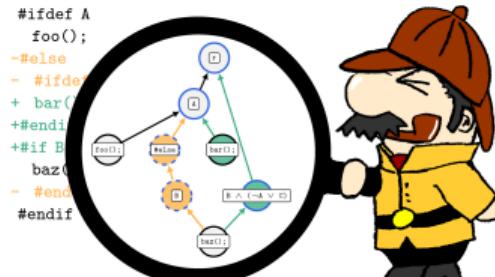
DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing



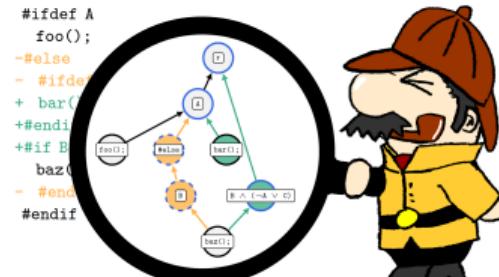
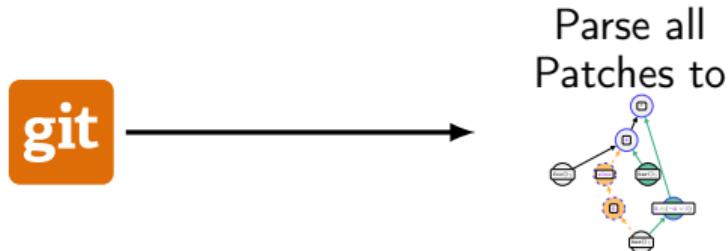
DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing



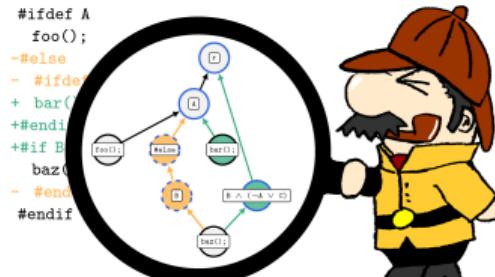
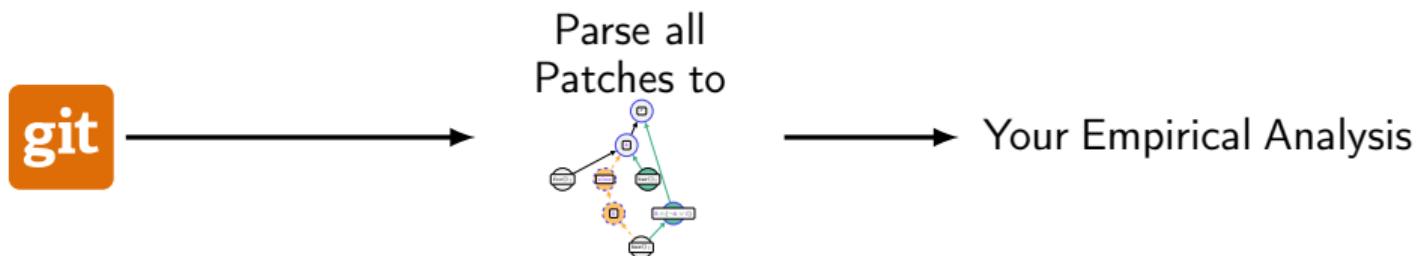
DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing



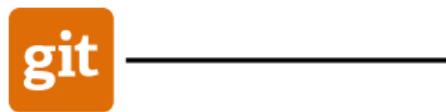
DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing

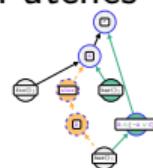


DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing



Parse all
Patches to



→ Your Empirical Analysis

Datasets

44 open-source
system histories
(incl.

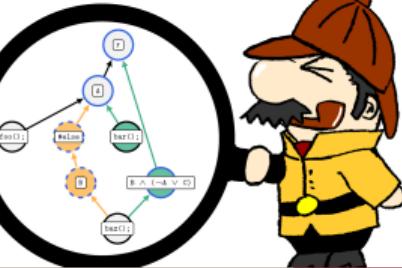


GODOT
Game engine



OPENVPN)

```
#ifdef A
    foo();
#else
- #ifdef B
+ bar()
#endif
+ #if B
baz()
- #endif
#endif
```

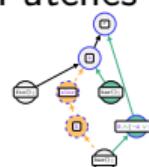


DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing



Parse all
Patches to



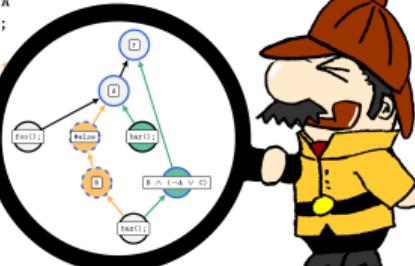
→ Your Empirical Analysis

Datasets

44 open-source
system histories
(incl.)

1.7 million commits
45 million changed blocks

```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
- #ifdef
+ bar()
#endif
+ #if B
baz()
- #endif
#endif
```

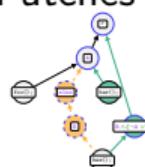


DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing



Parse all
Patches to



→ Your Empirical Analysis

Datasets

44 open-source
system histories
(incl.)

1.7 million commits
45 million changed blocks

Features

integration of generic diff tools:

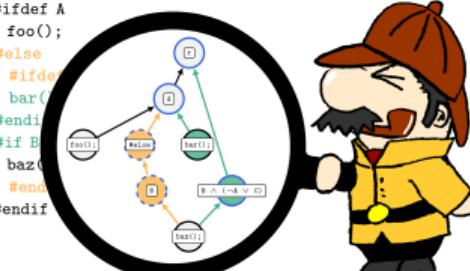
- Git diff (Myers/Histogram),
- GumTree [Falleri et al. 2014],
- truediff [Erdweg et al. 2021]

GUI for variability-aware diffs

transformations + analyses of diffs

[demo](#) + [screencast](#)

```
#ifdef A
foo();
#else
- #ifdef B
+ bar()
#endif
+ if B
baz();
- #endif
#endif
```

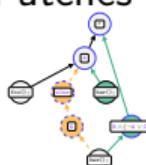


DiffDetective

A Framework for Variability-Aware Differencing



Parse all
Patches to



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- truediff [Erdweg et al. 2021]

GUI for variability-aware diffs

transformations + analyses of diffs

[demo](#) + [screencast](#)

Usages

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22,
Bittner et al., SPLC'23,
Greiner et al., SPLC'24,
Güthing et al., VaMoS'24,

+ 6 bachelor/master theses

Research Problem 3: Analyzing Edits to Variability

Research Problem 2: Edits to Static Variability

Research Problem 1: Static Variability

Foundations and meta-theory

Unified syntax and semantics of languages

Landscape of languages:

- choice calculus is a λ -calculus of variability
- multiple levels of expressiveness

Bittner et al., OOPSLA'24, 

Distinguished Artifact

 Vatras – Agda Formalization

Research Problem 3: Analyzing Edits to Variability

Research Problem 2: Edits to Static Variability

Variability-aware differencing:

- Denotational semantics
- Language for diffs of annotative variability
- Make any generic differ variability-aware
- Differencing in milliseconds

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22,  

Bittner et al., SPLC'23,  

Bittner et al., FSE Demonstrations'24,   

Best Demonstrations Paper

 DiffDetective – Empirical Evaluation Framework

Research Problem 1: Static Variability

Foundations and meta-theory

Unified syntax and semantics of languages

Landscape of languages:

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Bittner et al., OOPSLA'24,   

Distinguished Artifact

 Vatras – Agda Formalization

Classifying Edits to Variability in Source Code
Bittner, Tinnes, Schultheiß, Viegener, Kehrer, Thüm
ESEC/FSE'22,  

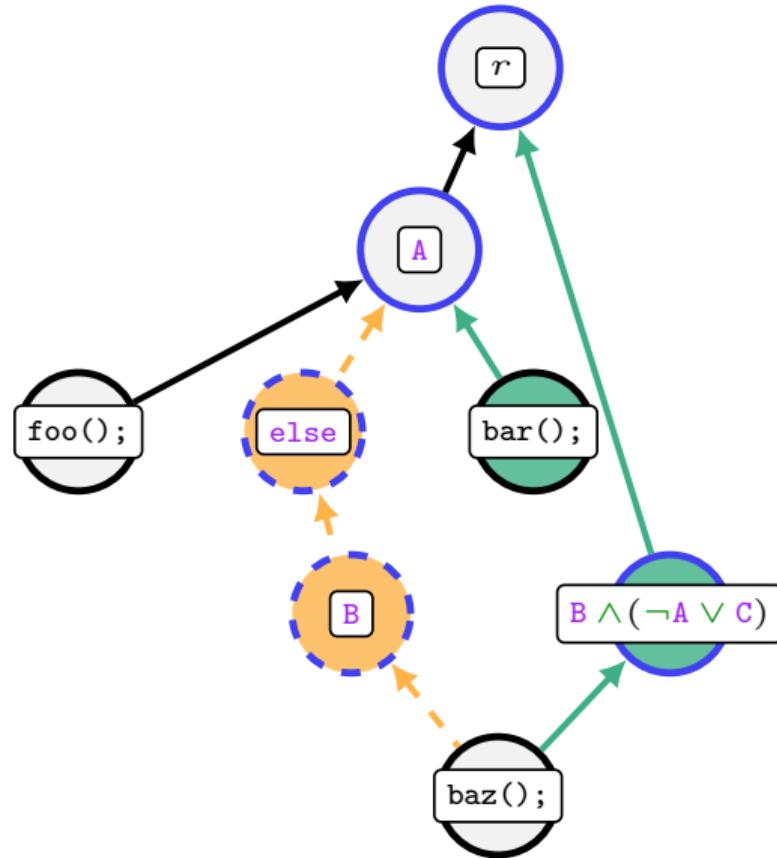
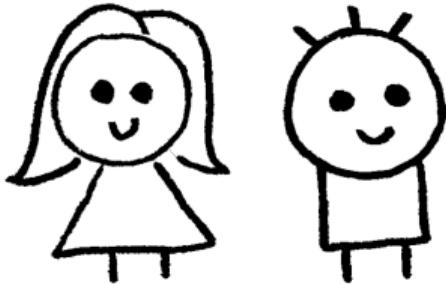
Views on Edits to Variational Software
Bittner, Schultheiß, Greiner, Moosherr, Krieter, Tinnes, Kehrer, Thüm
SPLC'23,  

Feature Trace Recording
Bittner, Schultheiß, Thüm, Kehrer, Young, Linsbauer
ESEC/FSE'21,  , Best Artifact 

Research Problem 3

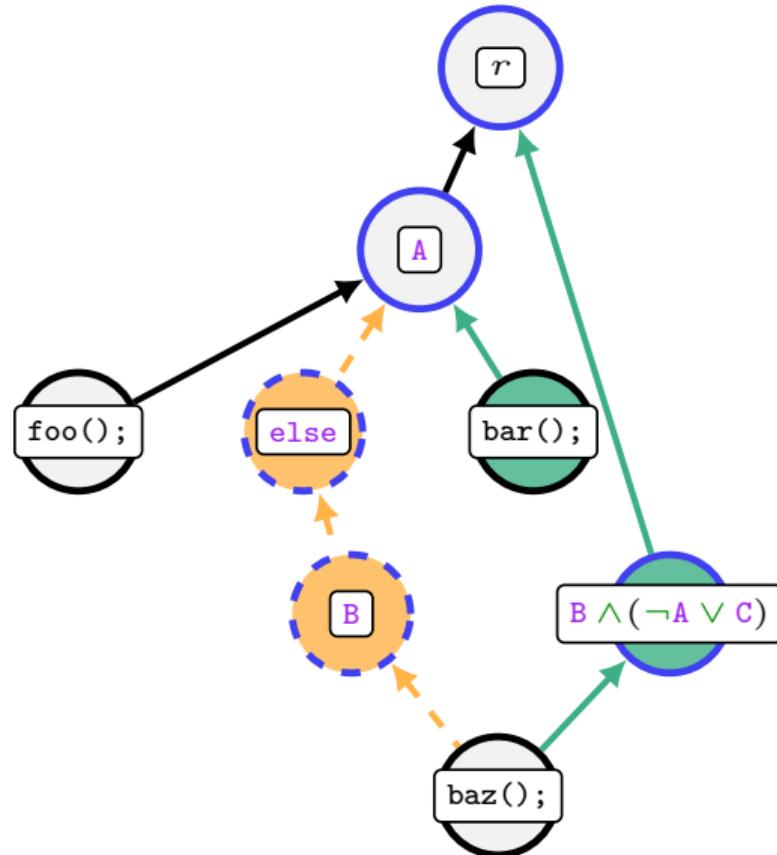
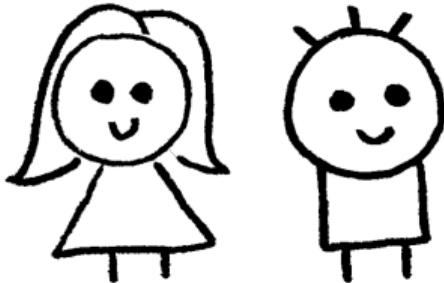
Analyzing Edits to Variability

Ok, so now we have a variability-aware diff of our change.



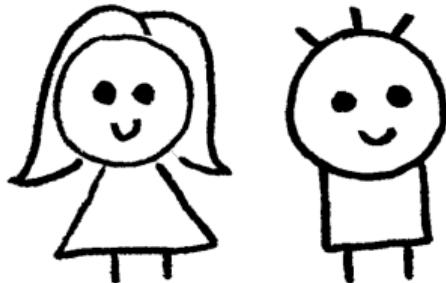
Ok, so now we have a variability-aware diff of our change.

How does it help us though?



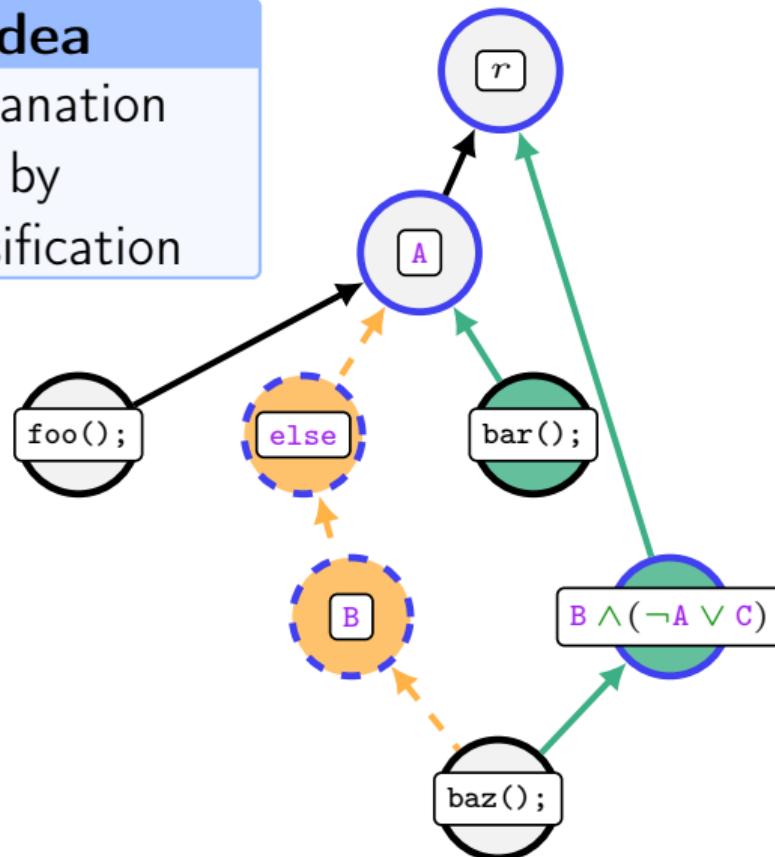
Ok, so now we have a variability-aware diff of our change.

How does it help us though?



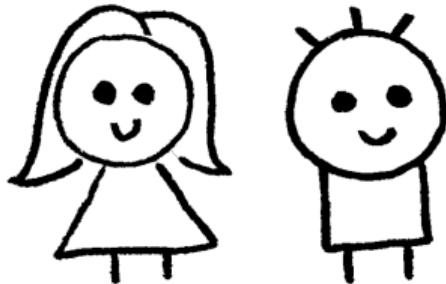
Idea

Explanation by Classification



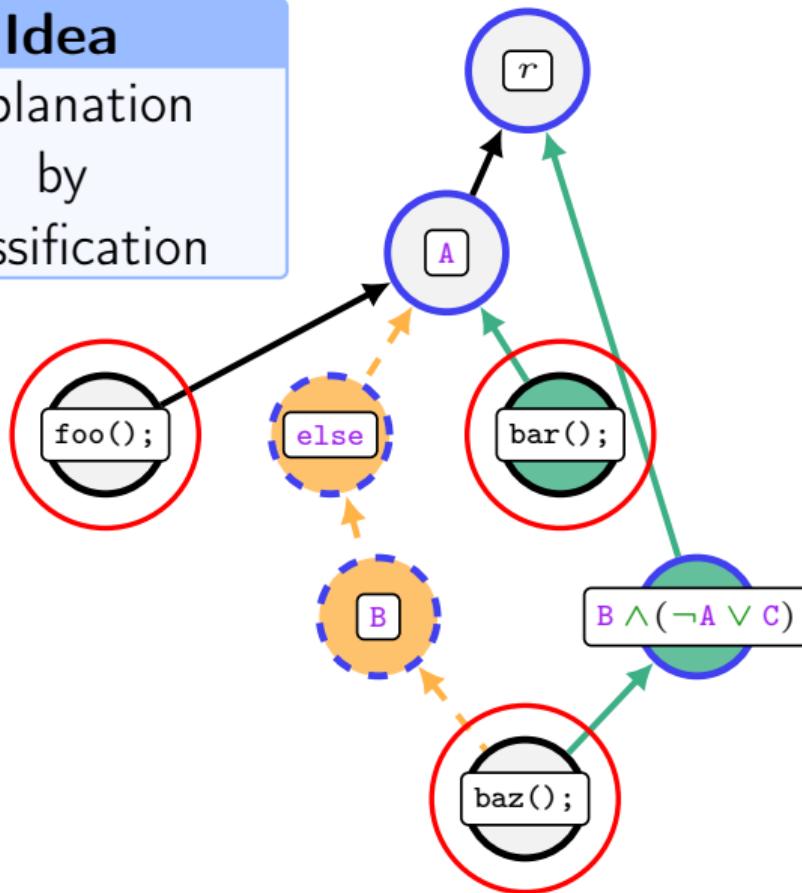
Ok, so now we have a variability-aware diff of our change.

How does it help us though?



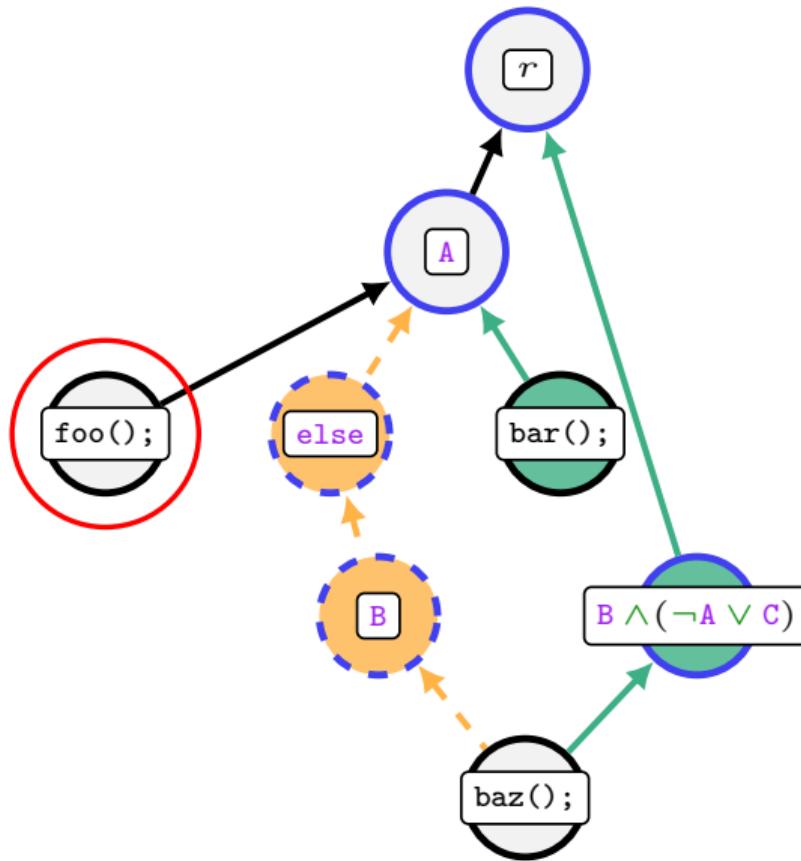
Idea

Explanation by Classification

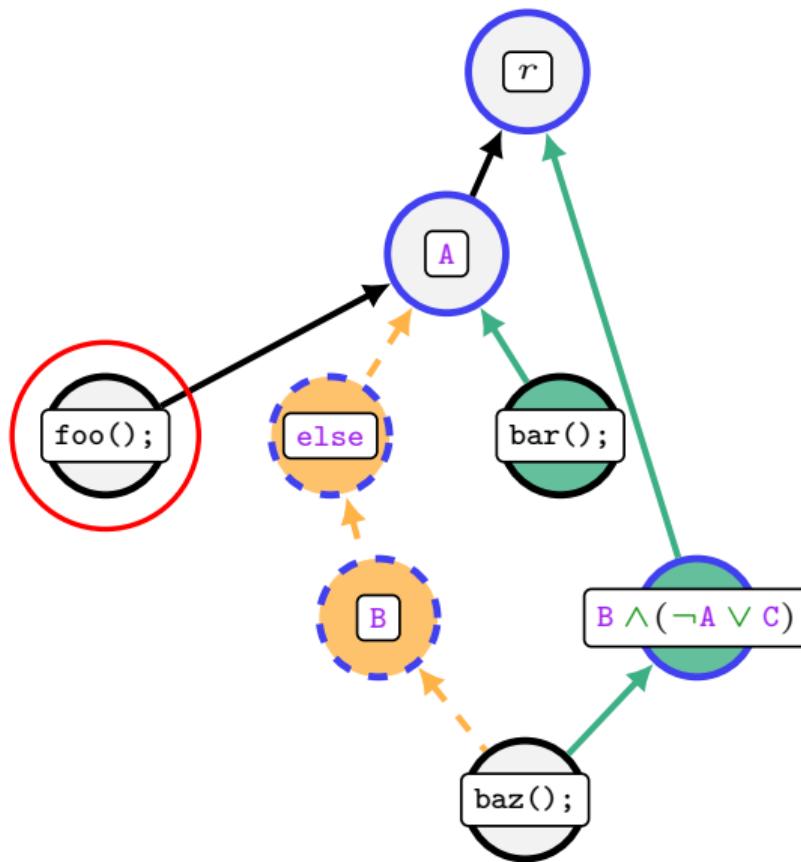


$AddWithMapping(c) :=$ $\text{added}(c) \wedge \text{added}(M_a(c))$	$+ \#if m$ $+ c$ $+ \#endif f$	
$RemWithMapping(c) :=$ $\text{removed}(c) \wedge \text{removed}(M_b(c))$	$- \#if m$ $- c$ $- \#endif f$	
$Reconfiguration(c) :=$ $\text{unchanged}(c)$ $\wedge \neg(\text{PC}_b(c) \models \text{PC}_a(c))$ $\wedge \neg(\text{PC}_a(c) \models \text{PC}_b(c))$	$- \#if m$ $+ \#if m'$ c $\#endif f$	
$AddToPC(c) :=$ $\text{added}(c) \wedge \neg \text{added}(M_a(c))$	$+ \#if m$ $+ c$ $\#endif f$	
$RemFromPC(c) :=$ $\text{removed}(c) \wedge \neg \text{removed}(M_b(c))$	$- \#if m$ $- c$ $\#endif f$	
$Refactoring(c) :=$ $\text{unchanged}(c)$ $\wedge (\text{PC}_b(c) \models \text{PC}_a(c))$ $\wedge (\text{PC}_a(c) \models \text{PC}_b(c))$ $\wedge (\text{path}_b(c) \neq \text{path}_a(c))$	$- \#if A \mid\mid (B \ \&\& \ !A)$ $+ \#if A \mid\mid B$ c $\#endif f$	
$Specialization(c) :=$ $\text{unchanged}(c)$ $\wedge \neg(\text{PC}_b(c) \models \text{PC}_a(c))$ $\wedge (\text{PC}_a(c) \models \text{PC}_b(c))$	$+ \#if m$ c $+ \#endif f$	
$Generalization(c) :=$ $\text{unchanged}(c)$ $\wedge (\text{PC}_b(c) \models \text{PC}_a(c))$ $\wedge \neg(\text{PC}_a(c) \models \text{PC}_b(c))$	$- \#if m$ $- c$ $- \#endif f$	
$Untouched(c) :=$ $\text{unchanged}(c)$ $\wedge (\text{PC}_b(c) \models \text{PC}_a(c))$ $\wedge (\text{PC}_a(c) \models \text{PC}_b(c))$ $\wedge (\text{path}_b(c) = \text{path}_a(c))$		

 `foo();` is unchanged

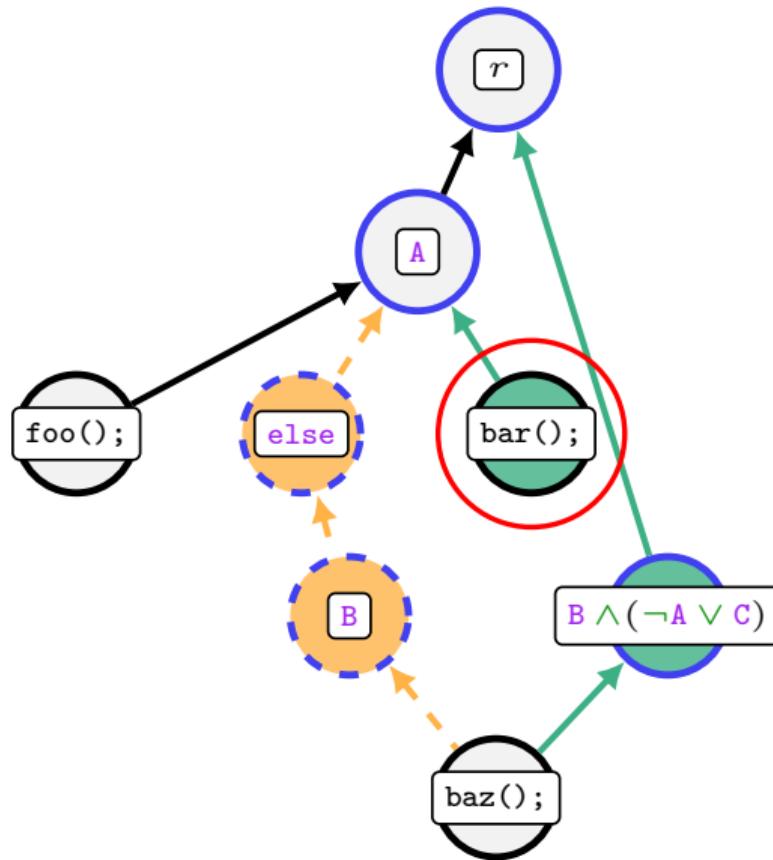


Untouched($\text{foo}();$) = *true*



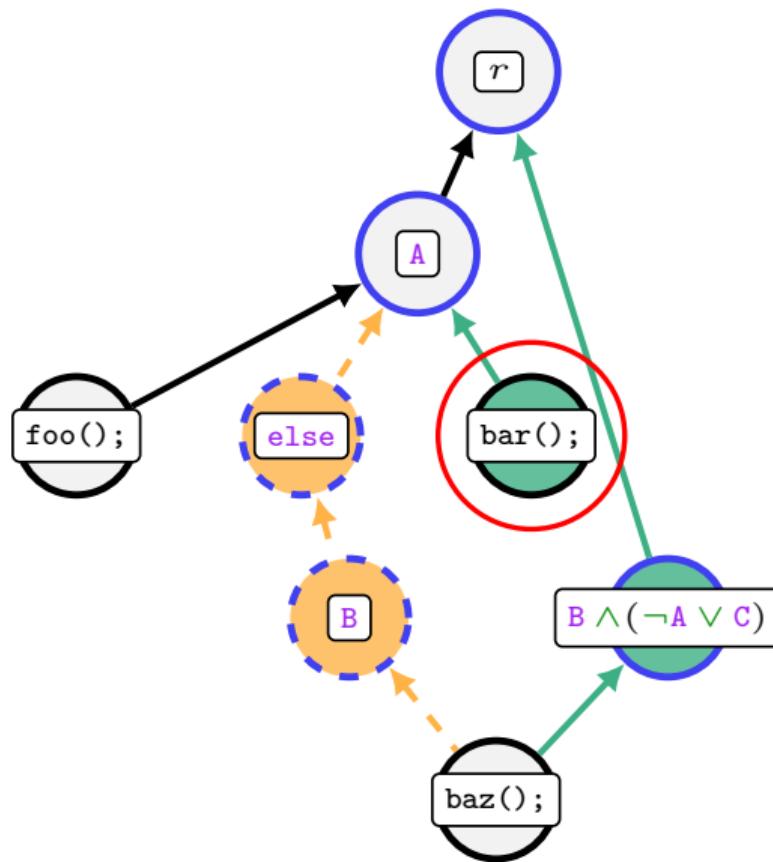
Untouched($\text{foo}();$) = *true*

$\text{bar}();$ is added to feature A



Untouched() = *true*

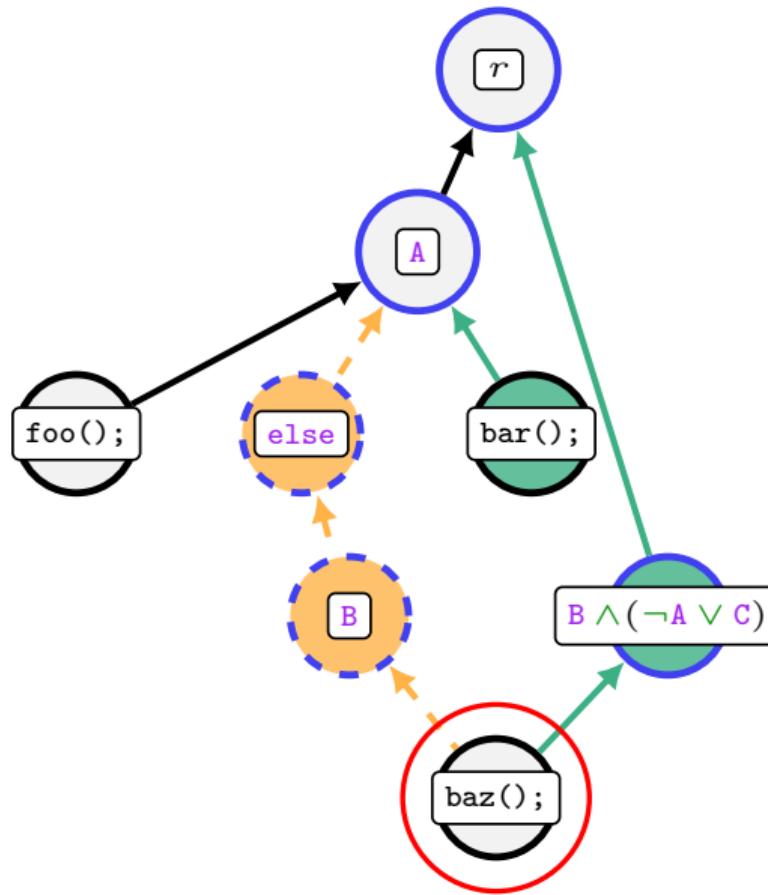
AddToPC() = *true*



$\text{Untouched}(\text{foo}();)$ = *true*

$\text{AddToPC}(\text{bar}();)$ = *true*

$\text{baz}();$ is moved
from $B \wedge \neg A$
to $B \wedge (\neg A \vee C)$

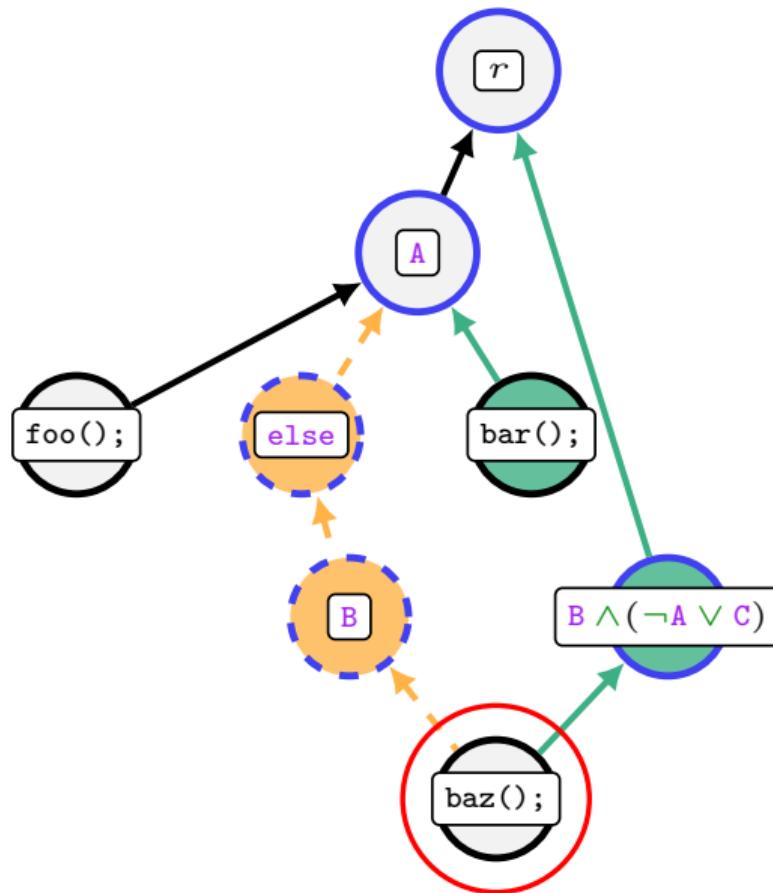


Untouched() = *true*

AddToPC() = *true*

Generalization() = *true*

because $(B \wedge \neg A) \models (B \wedge (\neg A \vee C))$



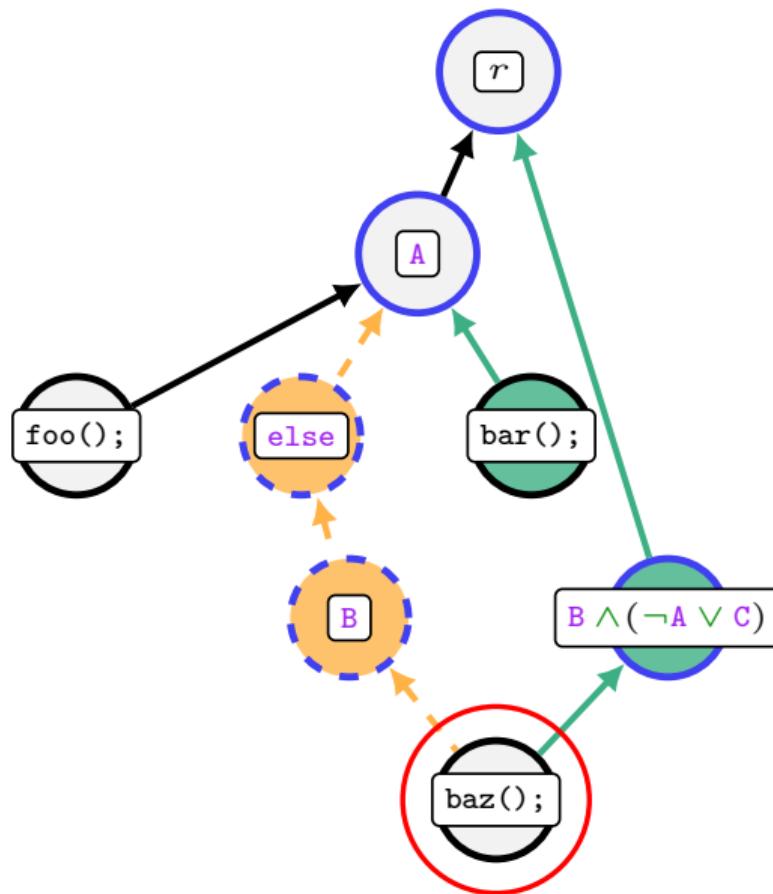
Untouched() = *true*

AddToPC() = *true*

Generalization() = *true*

because $(B \wedge \neg A) \models (B \wedge (\neg A \vee C))$

\Rightarrow is used in more variants now



Untouched() = *true*

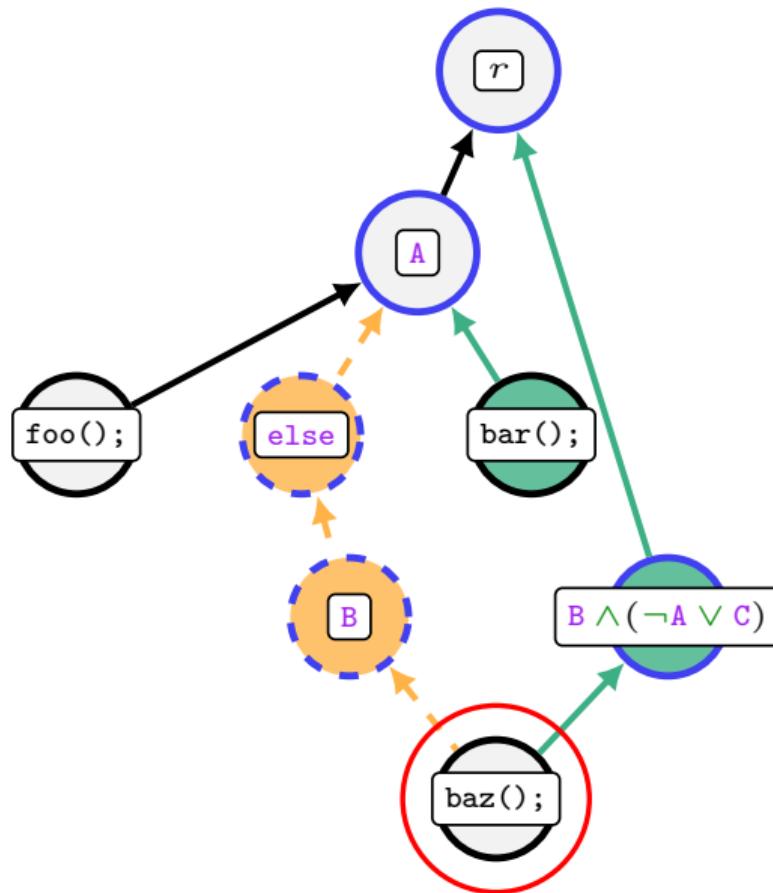
AddToPC() = *true*

Generalization() = *true*

because $(B \wedge \neg A) \models (B \wedge (\neg A \vee C))$

\Rightarrow is used in more variants now

\Rightarrow is reused



Untouched() = *true*

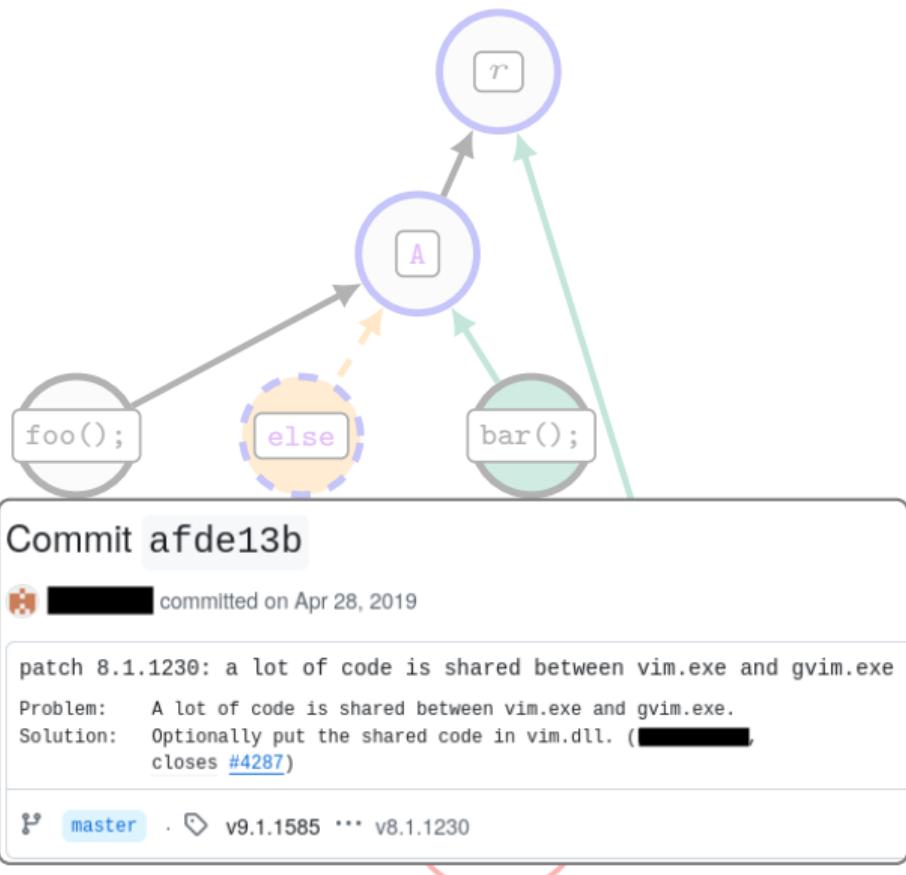
AddToPC() = *true*

Generalization() = *true*

because $(B \wedge \neg A) \models (B \wedge (\neg A \vee C))$

\Rightarrow is used in more variants now

\Rightarrow is reused



Untouched( `foo();`) = *true*

AddToPC( `bar();`) = *true*

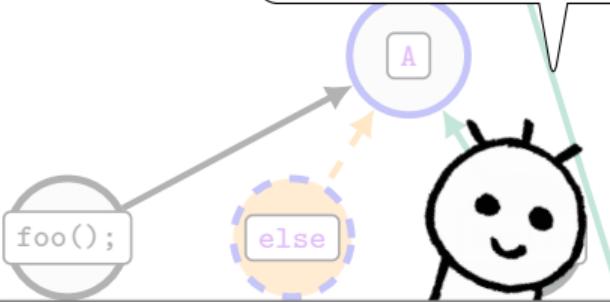
Generalization( `baz();`) = *true*

because $(B \wedge \neg A) \models (B \wedge (\neg A \vee C))$

\Rightarrow  `baz();` is used in more variants now

\Rightarrow  `baz();` is reused

Now I understand
Alice's intention!



Commit afde13b

 [REDACTED] committed on Apr 28, 2019

patch 8.1.1230: a lot of code is shared between vim.exe and gvim.exe

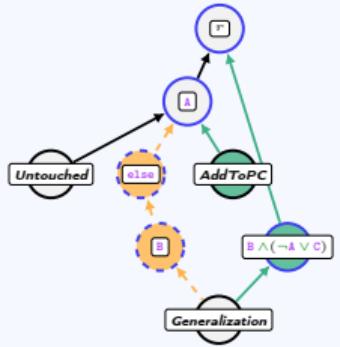
Problem: A lot of code is shared between vim.exe and gvim.exe.

Solution: Optionally put the shared code in vim.dll. ([REDACTED]
closes #4287)

 master ·  v9.1.1585 *** v8.1.1230

Reactive Analysis Classifying Edits

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22



How did the variability of this line of code change?

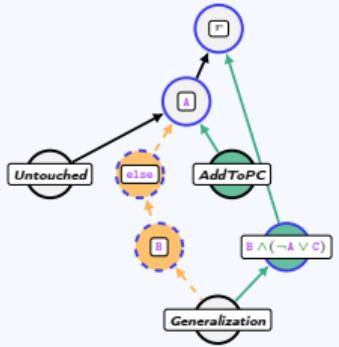
Does this code appear in more or less variants after the change?

Proactive Analysis Slicing Edits

Interactive Analysis Recording Edits

Reactive Analysis Classifying Edits

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22

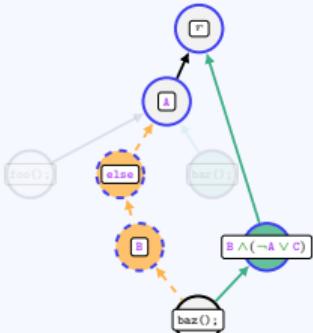


How did the variability of this line of code change?

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Proactive Analysis Slicing Edits

Bittner et al., SPLC'23



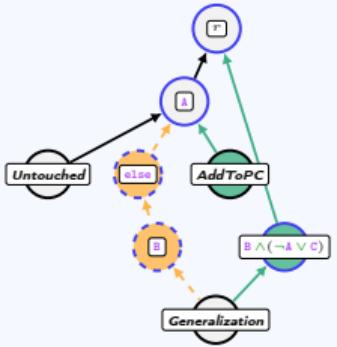
What is the effect to

- *a particular feature?*
- *a particular variant?*
- *a subset of variants?*

Interactive Analysis Recording Edits

Reactive Analysis Classifying Edits

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22

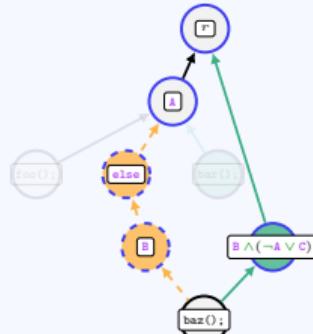


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Proactive Analysis Slicing Edits

Bittner et al., SPLC'23

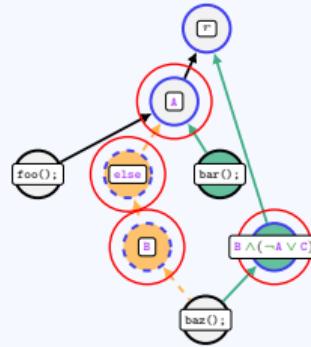


What is the effect to

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Interactive Analysis Recording Edits

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'21



When editing a particular feature, how should the code be annotated afterwards?

Research Problem 3: Analyzing Edits to Variability

Research Problem 2: Edits to Static Variability

Variability-aware differencing:

- Denotational semantics
- Language for diffs of annotative variability
- Make any generic differ variability-aware
- Differencing in milliseconds

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22,  

Bittner et al., SPLC'23,  

Bittner et al., FSE Demonstrations'24,   

Best Demonstrations Paper

 DiffDetective – Empirical Evaluation Framework

Research Problem 1: Static Variability

Foundations and meta-theory

Unified syntax and semantics of languages

Landscape of languages:

- choice calculus is a λ -calculus of variability
- multiple levels of expressiveness

Bittner et al., OOPSLA'24,   

Distinguished Artifact

 Vatras – Agda Formalization

Research Problem 3: Analyzing Edits to Variability

Change Impact Analyses:

- Classifying Edits
- Slicing Edits
- Recording Edits

Results in milliseconds

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'21,

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22,

Bittner et al., SPLC'23,

Best Artifact

DiffDetective

Feature Trace Recording in Haskell

Research Problem 2: Edits to Static Variability

Variability-aware differencing:

- Denotational semantics
- Language for diffs of annotative variability
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Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22,

Bittner et al., SPLC'23,

Bittner et al., FSE Demonstrations'24,

Best Demonstrations Paper

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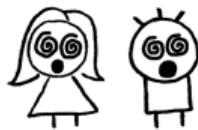
Bittner et al., OOPSLA'24,

Distinguished Artifact

Vatras – Agda Formalization



Can you explain our change?



Yes, but we cannot explain all your changes.
[Borba et al. 2012; Ji et al. 2015;
Neves et al. 2015; Schulze et al.
2013; Schulze et al. 2012; Seidl et
al. 2012; Stănculescu et al. 2016]

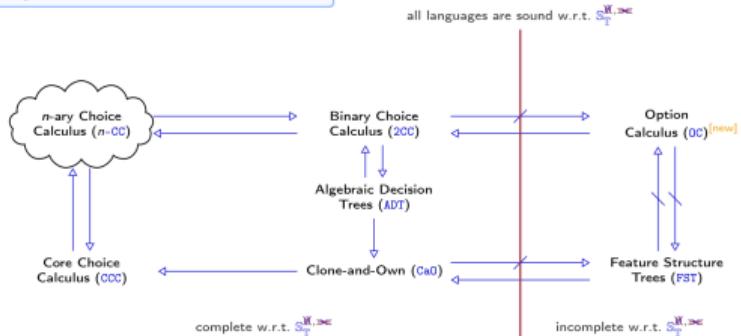


Yes, but you have to apply our classification by hand.
[Borba et al. 2012; Ji et al.
2015; Passos et al. 2016]

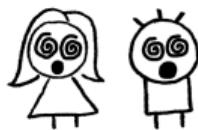
Yes, but only if you would have asked before doing a change!
[Seidl et al. 2012]

Yes, but only if you give us your entire version history.
[Dintzner et al. 2018; Fischer et al. 2003; Kröher et al. 2023]

$\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}^{\text{var}}$:= non-empty, finite sets of variants



Can you explain our change?



Yes, but we cannot explain all your changes.
[Borba et al. 2012; Ji et al. 2015;
Neves et al. 2015; Schulze et al.
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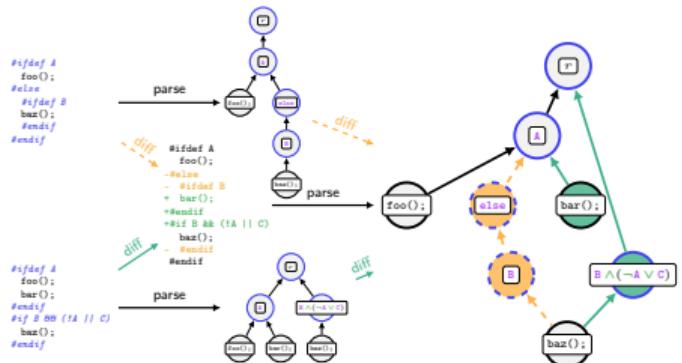
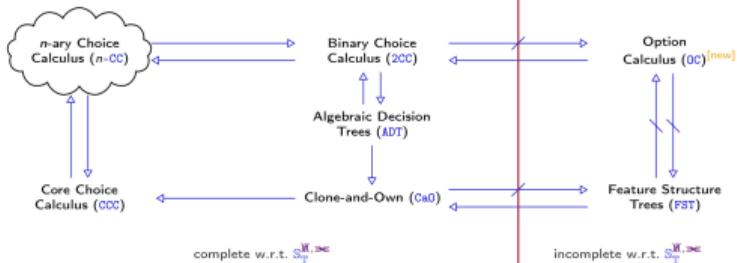
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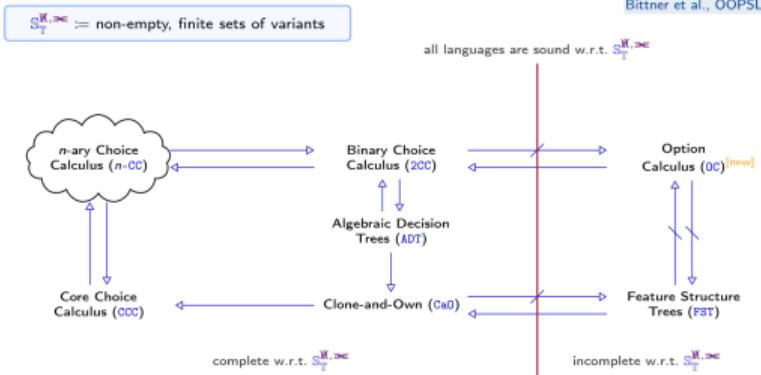
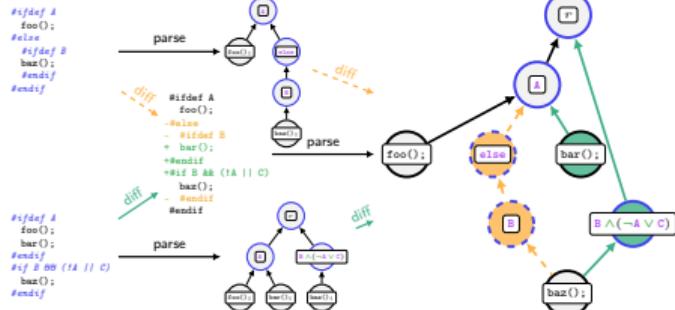
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2015; Passos et al. 2016]

Yes, but only if you give us your entire version history.
[Dintzner et al. 2018; Fischer et al. 2003; Kröher et al. 2023]

S_{Σ}^{NE} := non-empty, finite sets of variants

all languages are sound w.r.t. S_{Σ}^{NE}





Reactive Analysis Classifying Edits

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22

How did the variability of this line of code change?
Does this code appear in more or less variants after the change?

Proactive Analysis Slicing Edits

Bittner et al., SPLC'23

What is the effect to

- a particular feature?
- a particular variant?
- a subset of variants?

Interactive Analysis Recording Edits

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'21

When editing a particular feature, how should the code be annotated afterwards?

Publications

Primary Publications I

On the Expressive Power of Languages for Static Variability

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Alexander Schultheiß and Benjamin Moosherr and Jeffrey M. Young and Leopoldo Teixeira and Eric Walkingshaw and Parisa Ataei and Thomas Thüm,

Proceedings of the ACM on Programming Languages (PACMPL), Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages & Applications (OOPSLA), October 2024, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3689747, , Distinguished Artifact

Variability-Aware Differencing with DiffDetective

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Alexander Schultheiß and Benjamin Moosherr and Timo Kehrer and Thomas Thüm,

Companion Proc. Int'l Conference on the Foundations of Software Engineering (FSE Companion), pages 632–636, Porto de Galinhas, Brazil, July 2024, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3663529.3663813, , Best Demonstrations Paper

Views on Edits to Variational Software

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Alexander Schultheiß and Sandra Greiner and Benjamin Moosherr and Sebastian Krieter and Christof Tinnes and Timo Kehrer and Thomas Thüm,

Proc. Int'l Systems and Software Product Line Conf. (SPLC), pages 141–152, Tokyo, Japan, August 2023, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3579027.3608985, 

Primary Publications II

Classifying Edits to Variability in Source Code

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Christof Tinnes and Alexander Schultheiß and Sören Viegener and Timo Kehrer and Thomas Thüm,

Proc. Europ. Software Engineering Conf./Foundations of Software Engineering (ESEC/FSE), pages 196–208, Singapore, November 2022, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3540250.3549108,  

Feature Trace Recording

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Alexander Schultheiß and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer and Jeffrey M. Young and Lukas Linsbauer,

Proc. Europ. Software Engineering Conf./Foundations of Software Engineering (ESEC/FSE), pages 1007–1020, Athens, Greece, August 2021, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3468264.3468531,  , Best Artifact

Other Publications Partly Contributing to This Thesis I

Decades of GNU Patch and Git Cherry-Pick: Can We Do Better?

Alexander Schultheiß and Alexander Boll and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Sandra Greiner and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,

Proc. Int'l Conf. on Software Engineering (ICSE), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2026

Give an Inch and Take a Mile? Effects of Adding Reliable Knowledge to Heuristic Feature Tracing

Sandra Greiner and Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,

Proc. Int'l Systems and Software Product Line Conf. (SPLC), pages 84–95, Dommeldange, Luxembourg, September 2024, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3646548.3672593,  Best Research Paper

RaQuN: A Generic and Scalable N-Way Model Matching Algorithm

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Alexander Boll and Lars Grunske and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,

Software and Systems Modeling (SoSyM), pages 1495–1517, October 2023, Springer

DOI: 10.1007/s10270-022-01062-5

Scalable N-Way Model Matching Using Multi-Dimensional Search Trees

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Lars Grunske and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,

Proc. Int'l Conf. on Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems (MODELS), pages 1–12, Virtual Event, Fukuoka, Japan, October 2021, IEEE, Washington, DC, USA

DOI: 10.1109/MODELS50736.2021.00010, 

Other Publications Partly Contributing to This Thesis II

Explaining Edits to Variability Annotations in Evolving Software Product Lines

Lukas Güthing and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Ina Schaefer and Thomas Thüm,

Proc. Int'l Working Conf. on Variability Modelling of Software-Intensive Systems (VaMoS), pages 93–102, Bern, Switzerland, February 2024, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3634713.3634725,  

Benchmark Generation With VEVOS: A Coverage Analysis of Evolution Scenarios in Variant-Rich Systems

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Sandra Greiner and Timo Kehrer,

Proc. Int'l Working Conf. on Variability Modelling of Software-Intensive Systems (VaMoS), pages 13–22, Odense, Denmark, January 2023, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3571788.3571793

Evaluating State-of-the-Art #SAT Solvers on Industrial Configuration Spaces

Chico Sundermann and Tobias Heß and Michael Nieke and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Jeffrey M. Young and Thomas Thüm and Ina Schaefer,

Empirical Software Engineering (EMSE), 29, pages 38, January 2023, Springer

DOI: 10.1007/s10664-022-10265-9

Simulating the Evolution of Clone-and-Own Projects With VEVOS

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Sascha El-Sharkawy and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,

Proc. Int'l Conf. on Evaluation Assessment in Software Engineering (EASE), pages 231–236, Gothenburg, Sweden, June 2022, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3530019.3534084

Other Publications Partly Contributing to This Thesis III

Variational Satisfiability Solving: Efficiently Solving Lots of Related SAT Problems

Jeffrey M. Young and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Eric Walkingshaw and Thomas Thüm,
Empirical Software Engineering (EMSE), pages 53, November 2022, Springer
DOI: 10.1007/s10664-022-10217-3

Quantifying the Potential to Automate the Synchronization of Variants in Clone-and-Own

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,
Proc. Int'l Conf. on Software Maintenance and Evolution (ICSME), pages 269–280, Limassol, Cyprus, October 2022,
IEEE, Piscataway, NJ, USA
DOI: 10.1109/ICSME55016.2022.00032, 

Derivation of Subset Product Lines in FeatureIDE

Lukas Linsbauer and Paul Westphal and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Sebastian Krieter and Thomas Thüm and Ina Schaefer,
Proc. Int'l Systems and Software Product Line Conf. (SPLC), pages 38–41, Graz, Austria, September 2022, ACM, New York, NY, USA
DOI: 10.1145/3503229.3547033, **Best Demo/Tools Paper**

Bridging the Gap Between Clone-and-Own and Software Product Lines

Timo Kehrer and Thomas Thüm and Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner,
Proc. Int'l Conf. on Software Engineering (ICSE), pages 21–25, May 2021, IEEE, Piscataway, NJ, USA
DOI: 10.1109/ICSE-NIER52604.2021.00013

Other Publications Partly Contributing to This Thesis IV

Applications of #SAT Solvers on Feature Models

Chico Sundermann and Michael Nieke and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Tobias Heß and Thomas Thüm and Ina Schaefer,
Proc. Int'l Working Conf. on Variability Modelling of Software-Intensive Systems (VaMoS), Krems, Austria, February 2021, ACM, New York, NY, USA
DOI: 10.1145/3442391.3442404

On the Use of Product-Line Variants as Experimental Subjects for Clone-and-Own Research: A Case Study

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Timo Kehrer and Thomas Thüm,
Proc. Int'l Systems and Software Product Line Conf. (SPLC), Montreal, QC, Canada, October 2020, ACM, New York, NY, USA
DOI: 10.1145/3382025.3414972, 

SAT Encodings of the At-Most-k Constraint – A Case Study on Configuring University Courses

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Thomas Thüm and Ina Schaefer,
Proc. Int'l Conf. on Software Engineering and Formal Methods (SEFM), pages 127–144, Oslo, Norway, September 2019, Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg
DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-30446-1_7

Other Publications Partly Contributing to This Thesis V

Extended Abstracts:

Evaluating State-of-the-Art #SAT Solvers on Industrial Configuration Spaces

Chico Sundermann and Tobias Heß and Michael Nieke and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Jeffrey M. Young and Thomas Thüm and Ina Schaefer,

Proc. Software Engineering (SE), pages 67–68, February 2024, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn, Germany

DOI: 10.18420/sw2024_18

Classifying Edits to Variability in Source Code – Summary

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Christof Tinnes and Alexander Schultheiß and Sören Viegener and Timo Kehrer and Thomas Thüm,

Proc. Software Engineering (SE), pages 39–40, Paderborn, Germany, February 2023, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn, Germany

Quantifying the Potential to Automate the Synchronization of Variants in Clone-and-Own – Summary

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,

Proc. Software Engineering (SE), pages 109–110, Paderborn, Germany, February 2023, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn, Germany

Variational Satisfiability Solving: Efficiently Solving Lots of Related SAT Problems – Summary

Jeffrey M. Young and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Eric Walkingshaw and Thomas Thüm,

Proc. Software Engineering (SE), pages 129–130, Paderborn, Germany, February 2023, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn, Germany

Other Publications Partly Contributing to This Thesis VI

Feature Trace Recording – Summary

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Alexander Schultheiß and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer and Jeffrey M. Young and Lukas Linsbauer,

Proc. Software Engineering (SE), pages 19–20, Berlin, Germany, February 2022, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn, Germany

DOI: [10.18420/se2022-ws-002](https://doi.org/10.18420/se2022-ws-002)

Scalable N-Way Model Matching Using Multi-Dimensional Search Trees – Summary

Alexander Schultheiß and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Thomas Thüm and Timo Kehrer,

Proc. Software Engineering (SE), pages 83–84, Berlin, Germany, February 2022, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn, Germany

DOI: [10.18420/se2022-ws-028](https://doi.org/10.18420/se2022-ws-028)

Moreover, the contributions of our ESEC/FSE'21 publication [Bittner et al. 2021], which is one of the main publications of this thesis, are partially based on the results of my master's thesis:

Semi-Automated Inference of Feature Traceability During Software Development

Paul Maximilian Bittner, Master's Thesis, TU Braunschweig, February 2020

DOI: [10.24355/dbbs.084-202002271120-0](https://doi.org/10.24355/dbbs.084-202002271120-0)

Supervised Theses Relevant to This Thesis I

Variability-Aware Patching of Software Product-Line Variants

Pia Meier, Master's Thesis, TU Braunschweig, 2025

In progress

On the Succinctness of Languages for Static Variability

Benjamin Moosher, Master's Thesis, University of Ulm, 2025

In progress

Understanding Variant Drift via Cherry-Picking

Manfred Küppers, Bachelor's Thesis, TU Braunschweig, 2025

In progress

Unparsing von Datenstrukturen zur Analyse von C-Präprozessor-Variabilität

Eugen Shulimov, Bachelor's Thesis, University of Paderborn, January 2025

DOI: 10.17619/UNIPB/1-2306

Constructing Variation Diffs Using Tree Differing Algorithms

Benjamin Moosher, Bachelor's Thesis, University of Ulm, April 2023

DOI: 10.18725/OPARU-50108

Inspecting the Evolution of Feature Annotations in Configurable Software

Lukas Gütting, Master's Thesis, University of Ulm, January 2023

Supervised Theses Relevant to This Thesis II

Reverse Engineering Feature-Aware Commits From Software Product-Line Repositories

Lukas Bormann, Bachelor's Thesis, University of Ulm, October 2022

DOI: [10.18725/OPARU-47892](https://doi.org/10.18725/OPARU-47892)

Type-Checking Variability in Clone-and-Own Variants With Product-Line Tooling

Kevin Jedelhauser, Master's Thesis, University of Ulm, September 2022

Empirical Evaluation of Feature Trace Recording on the Edit History of Marlin

Sören Viegener, Bachelor's Thesis, University of Ulm, April 2021

DOI: [10.18725/OPARU-38603](https://doi.org/10.18725/OPARU-38603)

Additional Publications I

Temporal Consistent Motion Parallax for Omnidirectional Stereo Panorama Video

Moritz Mühlhausen and Moritz Kappel and Marc Kassubeck and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Susana Castillo and Marcus Magnor,

Proc. ACM Symposium on Virtual Reality Software and Technology (VRST), November 2020, ACM, New York, NY, USA

DOI: 10.1145/3385956.3418965

Depth Augmented Omnidirectional Stereo for 6-DoF VR Photography

Tobias Bertel and Moritz Mühlhausen and Moritz Kappel and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Christian Richardt and Marcus Magnor,

Proc. IEEE Virtual Reality Workshop (VR), pages 660–661, May 2020, IEEE, Piscataway, NJ, USA

DOI: 10.1109/VRW50115.2020.00181

Gaze and Motion-Aware Real-Time Dome Projection System

Steve Grogorick and Matthias Überheide and Jan-Philipp Tauscher and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Marcus Magnor,

Proc. IEEE Virtual Reality Workshop (VR), pages 1780–1783, Osaka, Japan, March 2019, IEEE, Piscataway, NJ, USA

DOI: 10.1109/VR.2019.8797902

Immersive EEG: Evaluating Electroencephalography in Virtual Reality

Jan-Philipp Tauscher and Fabian Wolf Schottky and Steve Grogorick and Paul Maximilian Bittner and Maryam Mustafa and Marcus Magnor,

Proc. IEEE Virtual Reality Workshop (VR), pages 1794–1800, Osaka, Japan, March 2019, IEEE, Piscataway, NJ, USA

DOI: 10.1109/VR.2019.8797858

Additional Publications II

Evaluation of Optimised Centres of Rotation Skinning

Paul Maximilian Bittner and Jan-Philipp Tauscher and Steve Grogorick and Marcus Magnor, *Poster at International Conference on Computational Visual Media*, April 2019

URL: <https://graphics.tu-bs.de/publications/bittner2019evaluation>

Research Artifacts and Tools I

⌚ **Vatras** – Agda library of verified compilers for variability languages.

Related Publications

Bittner et al., OOPSLA'24,    

Related Theses

Moosherr, Master's Thesis'25

⌚ **DiffDetective** – Java library and framework for variability-aware differencing and empirical evaluations on Git histories.

Related Publications

Bittner et al., FSE Demonstrations'24,   
Bittner et al., SPLC'23,  
Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'22,  
Greiner et al., SPLC'24,   
Güthing et al., VaMoS'24,  

Related Theses

Meier, Master's Thesis'25
Shulimov, Bachelor's Thesis'25
Moosherr, Bachelor's Thesis'23
Güthing, Master's Thesis'23
Bormann, Bachelor's Thesis'22
Viegener, Bachelor's Thesis'21

Research Artifacts and Tools II

Feature Trace Recording – Haskell Formalization

Related Publications

Bittner et al., ESEC/FSE'21,   

Related Theses

Bittner, Master's Thesis'20

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-  Moosherr, Benjamin (2025). "On the Succinctness of Languages for Static Variability". Supervised by Paul Maximilian Bittner, Matthias Tichy, and Thomas Thüm. Master's Thesis. Germany: University of Ulm (cit. on p. 139).
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