



50% SEMINAR

AUTOMATED SOFTWARE DEBLOAT

Speaker: **César Soto Valero**

Supervisor: **Benoit Baudry**

Co-supervisors: **Martin Monperrus, Thomas Durieux**

AGENDA



AGENDA



1. INTRODUCTION AND STATE-OF-THE-ART

AGENDA



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2. CONTRIBUTIONS

- I. Detecting and removing bloated dependencies
- II. Longitudinal analysis of bloated dependencies
- III. Trace-based debloat for Java bytecode

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- 2. CONTRIBUTIONS**
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- 3. SUMMARY AND FUTURE WORK**

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- 4. PHD PROGRESS**

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- 4. PHD PROGRESS**
- 5. Q&A**

“

**Software tends to
grow over time,
whether or not
there's a need
for it.**

Holzmann, G. J. (2015). Code inflation. IEEE Software, 32 (2).

“

Software tends to grow over time, whether or not there's a need for it.

Code Inflation

Gerard J. Holzmann

MOST PEOPLE DON'T get too excited about software. Most home software applications are like cars: inconspicuous when they work, and merely annoying when they don't. Clearly, cars have been getting bigger and safer over the years, but what about software? It sometimes seems as if it has just gotten bigger, not safer. Why?

If you compare the state of today's software development tools with those used in, say, the '60s, you of course see many signs of improvement. Compilers are much more powerful, and so are build systems, program development environments, and there are many effective static-source-code-analysis and logic-model-checking tools that help us catch bugs. This would have made a fair argument for software inflation, but the numbers still looked like they did in the '60s. But they don't.

Many of my NASA colleagues are astrophysicists or cosmologists. They study the evolution of the universe. In software development, I've often been tempted to make an analogy with their field. One of the first things you learn in cosmology is the theory of inflation. The details aren't completely worked out yet, but the basic idea postulates that the universe started expanding exponentially fast in the first few moments after the Big Bang and continues to expand. The parallel with software development is easily made.

The `/bin/false` and `/bin/ttrue` commands first appeared in January 1979 in the seventh edition of the Unix distribution from Bell Labs. They were defined as tiny command scripts:

```
while true  
do /bin/false
```

```
#!/bin/sh  
#www.ee.1 root#0 Jan 10 1979 /bin/false  
#www.ee.1 root#0 Jan 10 1979 /bin/ttrue
```

Yes, `true` was actually defined fully with an empty file. How did it work? Because `false` contained nothing to execute, it always

RELIABLE CODE



Editor: Gerard J. Holzmann
NASA/JPL
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Code Inflation

Gerard J. Holzmann

THE FIRST LAW Software too can grow exponentially fast, especially after an initial prototype is created. For example, each Mars lander that NASA launched in the past four decades used more code than all the missions before it combined. We can see the same effect in just about every other field of software development. Software inflation tends to grow over time, whether or not a rational need for it exists. We can call this the "first law of software development."

The history of the two command in Unix and Linux-like systems provides a remarkable example of this phenomenon. Shell scripts often employ this simple command to enable or disable code fragments or to build unconditional while loops—for instance, to perform a sequence of random tests:

```
while true  
do /bin/false
```

```
#!/bin/sh  
#www.ee.1 root#0 Jan 10 1979 /bin/false  
#www.ee.1 root#0 Jan 10 1979 /bin/ttrue
```

Yes, `true` was actually defined fully with an empty file. How did it work? Because `false` contained nothing to execute, it always

THE HISTORY OF THE true COMMAND



1979

```
$ ls -l /bin/true  
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 0 Jan 10 1979 /bin/true
```

THE HISTORY OF THE true COMMAND



1984

```
$ ls -l /bin/true  
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 276 May 14 1984 /bin/true
```

THE HISTORY OF THE true COMMAND



2010

```
$ ls -l /bin/true  
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 8377 Sep 10 2010 /bin/true
```

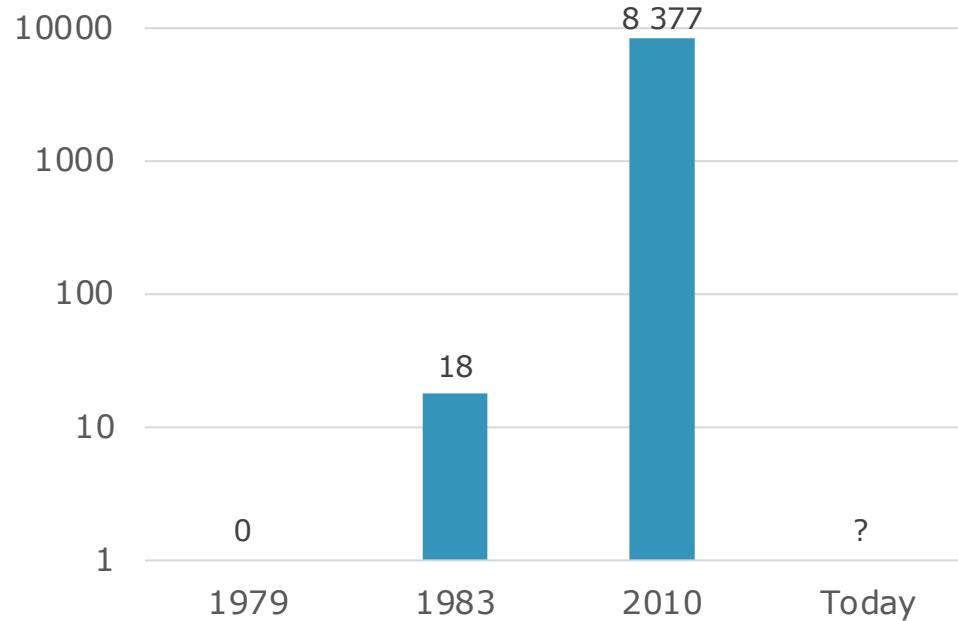
THE HISTORY OF THE true COMMAND



TODAY

```
$ type true  
true is a shell builtin
```

Holzmann, G. J. (2015). Code inflation. IEEE Software, 32 (2).



Size (in bytes) of the `true` command

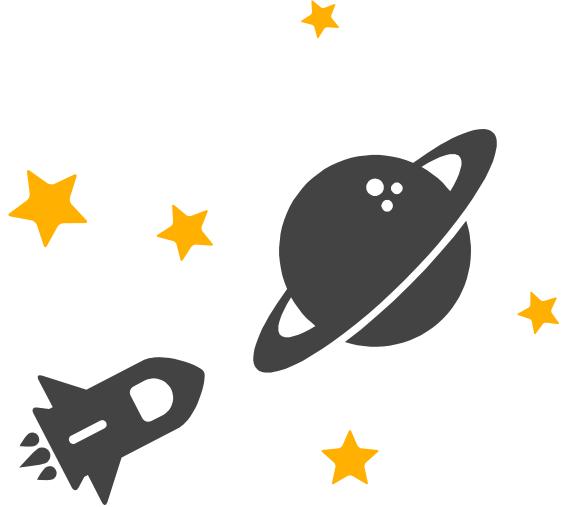


SOFTWARE BLOAT



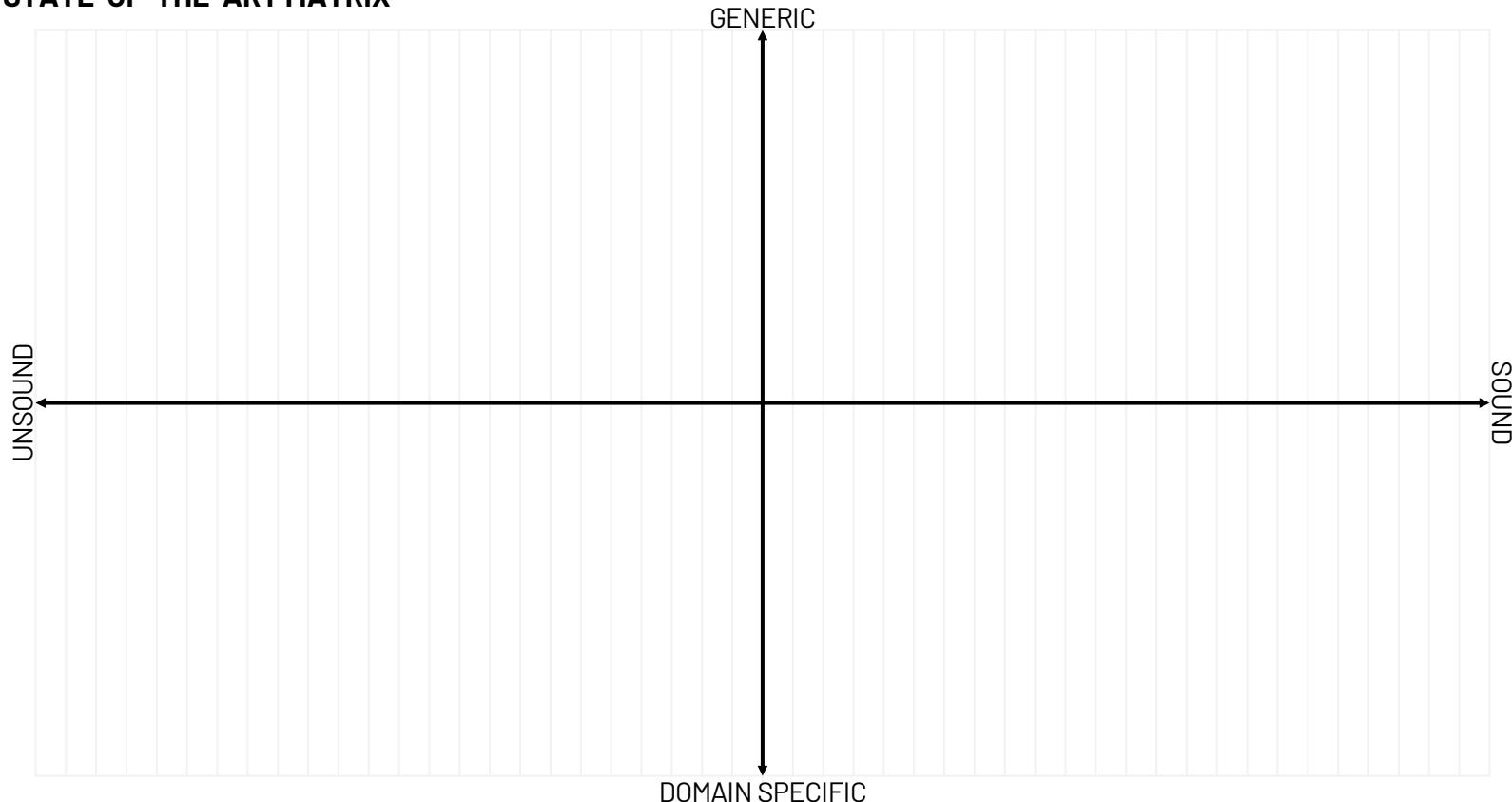
Code that is packaged in an application but that is not necessary for building and running the application.

IT IS A PROBLEM

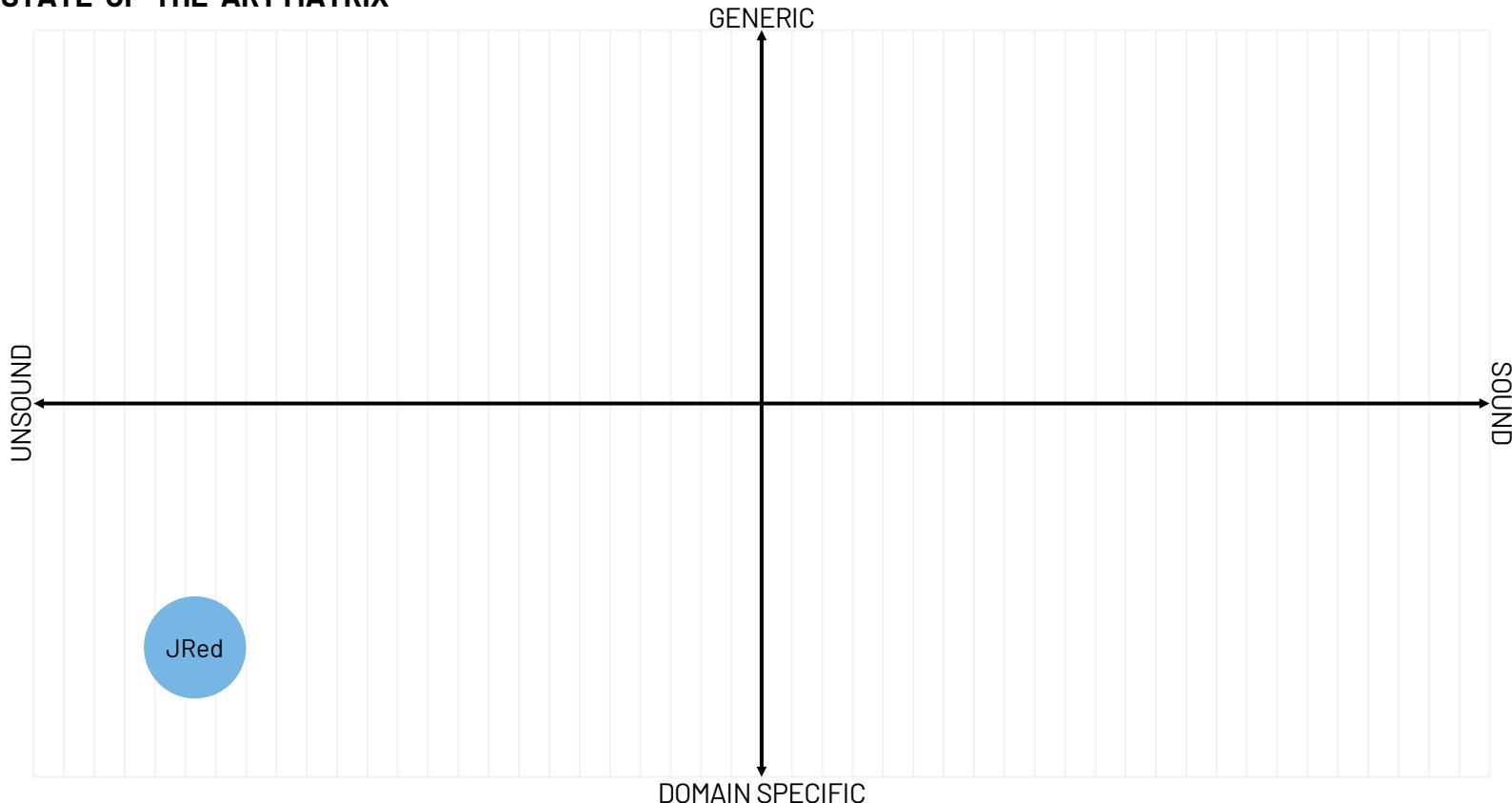


- For size
- For security
- For maintenance
- For performance

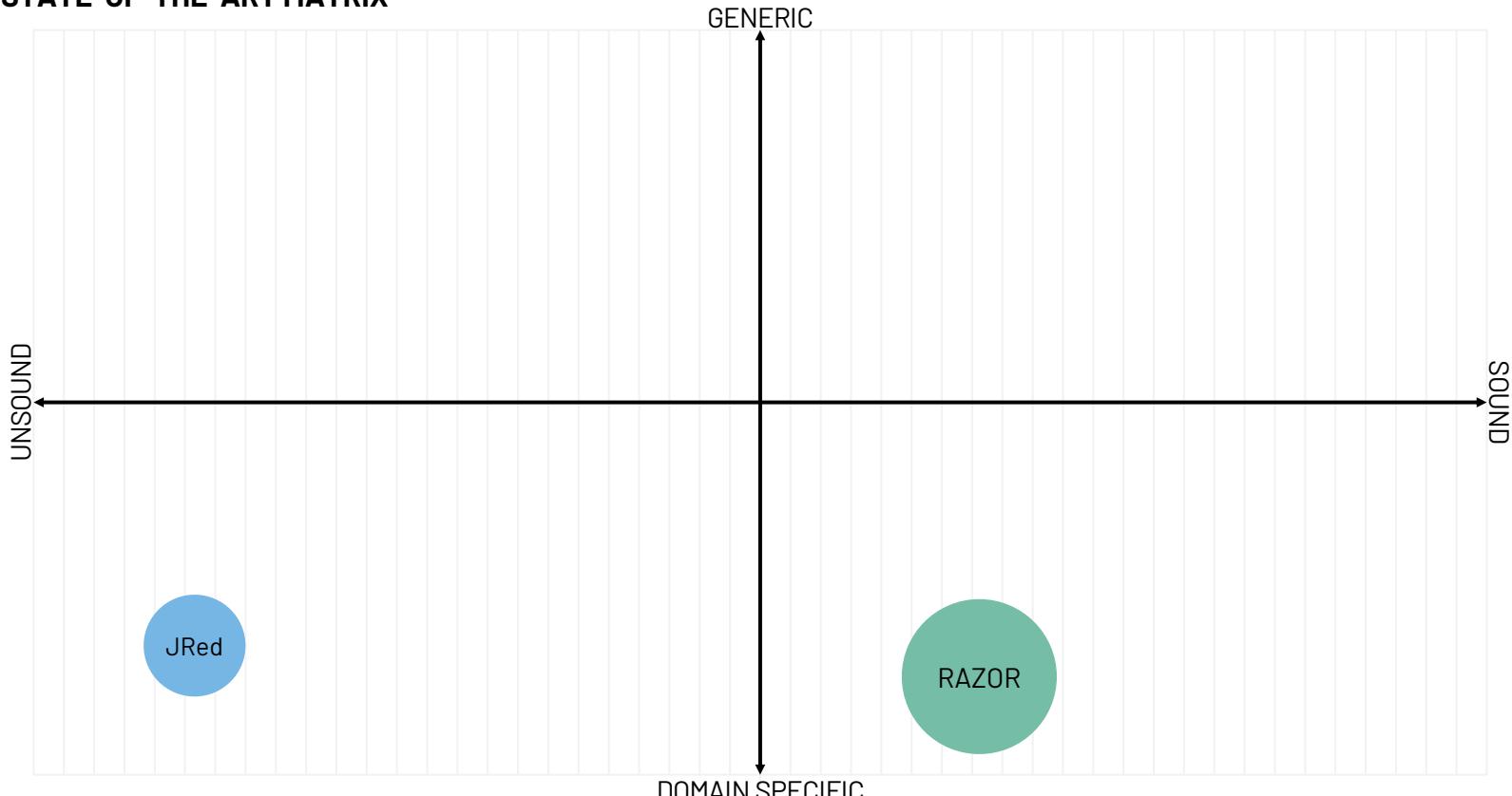
STATE-OF-THE-ART MATRIX



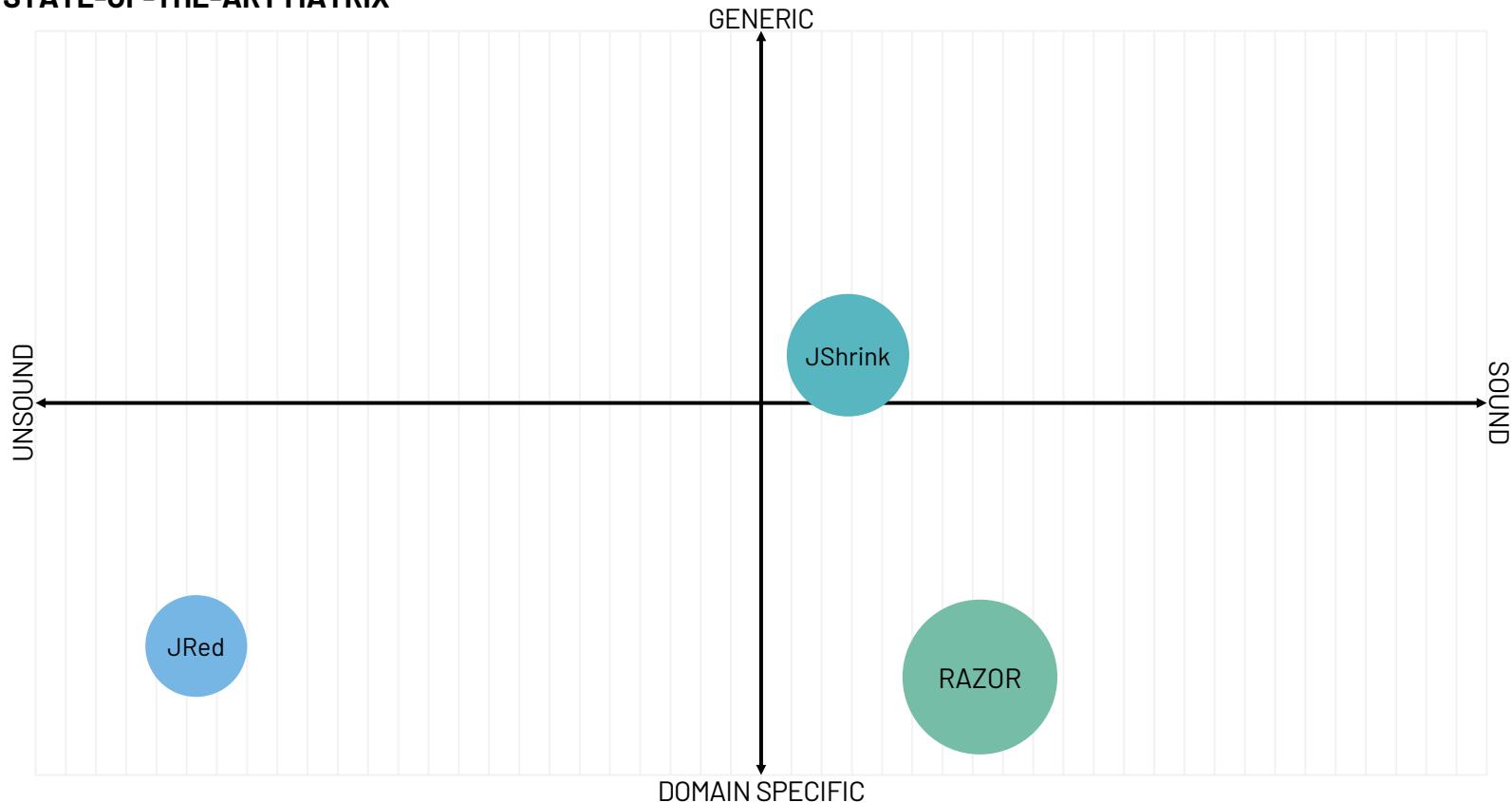
STATE-OF-THE-ART MATRIX



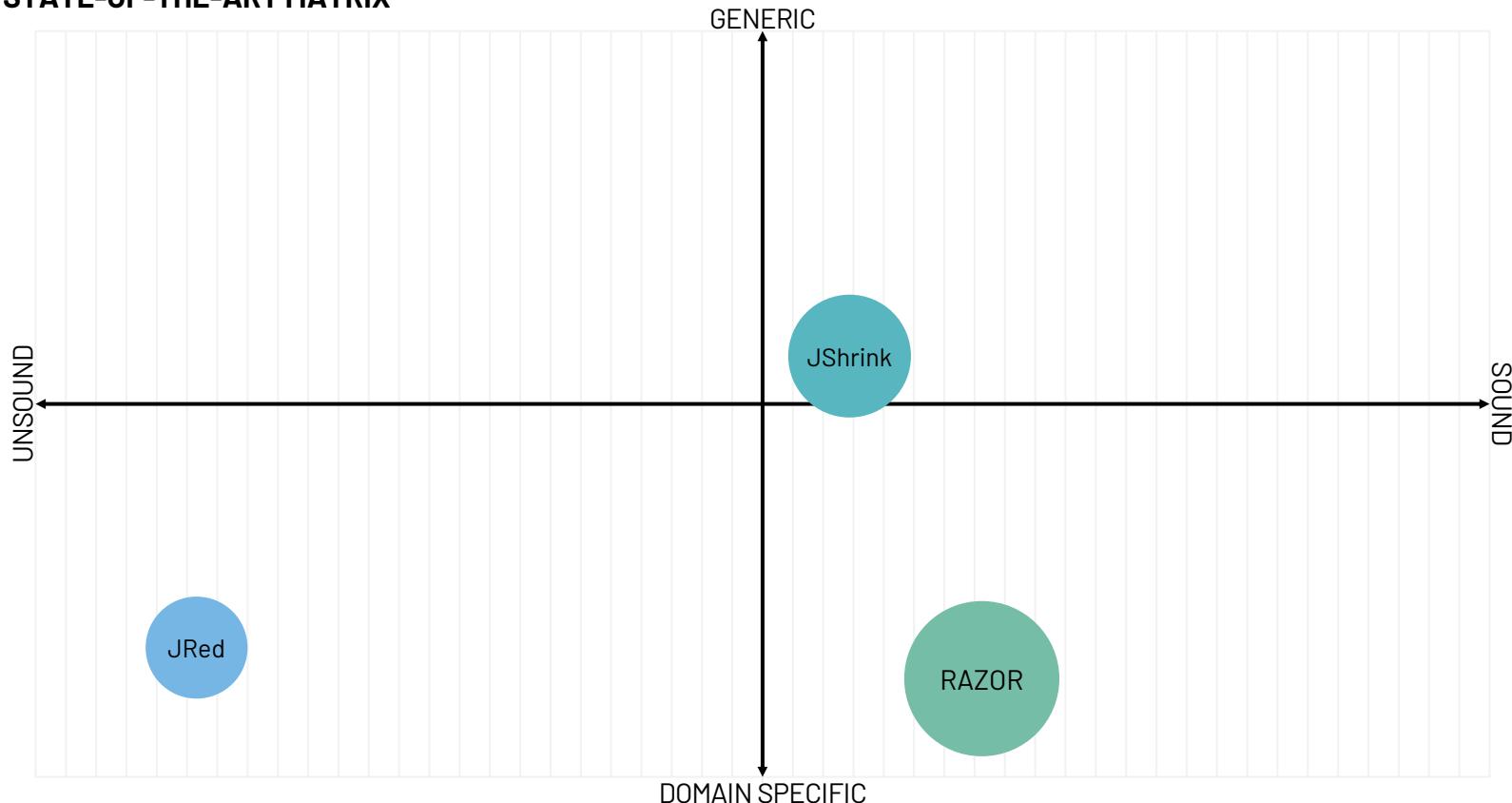
STATE-OF-THE-ART MATRIX



STATE-OF-THE-ART MATRIX



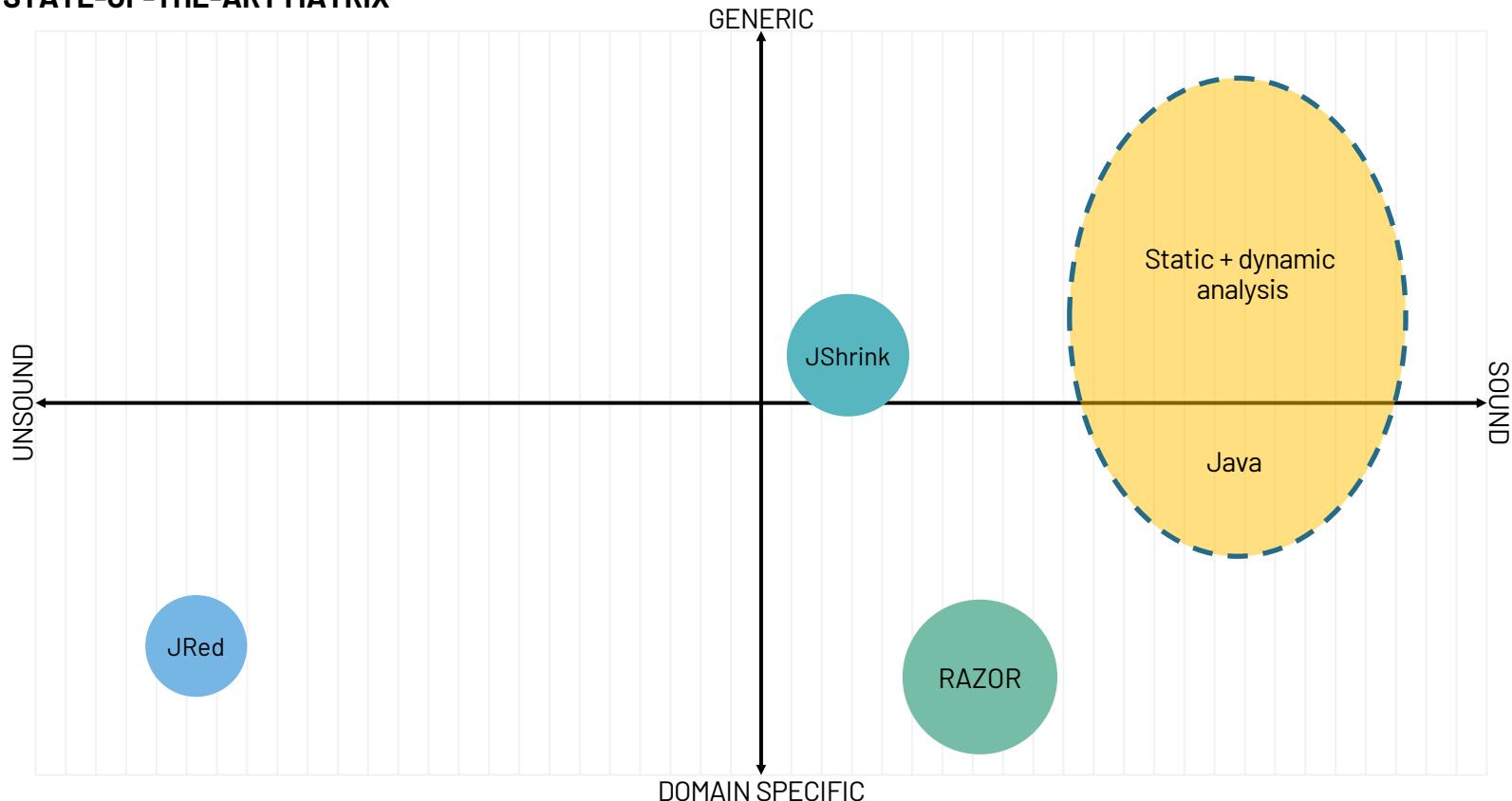
STATE-OF-THE-ART MATRIX



THIS WORK!



STATE-OF-THE-ART MATRIX



THIS WORK!





A comprehensive study of bloated dependencies in the Maven ecosystem

César Soto-Valero¹ · Nicolas Harrand¹ · Martin Monperrus¹ · Benoit Baudry¹

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Abstract

Build automation tools and package managers have a profound influence on software development. They facilitate the reuse of third-party libraries, support a clear separation between the application's code and its external dependencies, and automate several software development tasks. However, the wide adoption of these tools introduces new challenges related to dependency management. In this paper, we propose an original study of one such challenge: the emergence of bloated dependencies. Bloated dependencies are libraries that are packaged with the application's compiled code but that are actually not necessary to build and run the application. They artificially grow the size of the built binary and increase maintenance effort. We propose DepClean, a tool to determine the presence of bloated dependencies in Maven artifacts. We analyze 9,639 Java artifacts hosted on Maven Central, which include a total of 723,444 dependency relationships. Our key result is as follows: 2.7% of the dependencies directly declared are bloated, 15.4% of the inherited dependencies are bloated, and 57% of the transitive dependencies of the studied artifacts are bloated. In other words, it is feasible to reduce the number of dependencies of Maven artifacts to 1/4 of its current count. Our qualitative assessment with 30 notable open-source projects indicates that developers pay attention to their dependencies when they are notified of the problem. They are willing to remove bloated dependencies: 21/26 answered pull requests were accepted and merged by developers, removing 140 dependencies in total: 75 direct and 65 transitive.

Keywords Dependency management · Software reuse · Debloating · Program analysis

1 Introduction

Software reuse, a long time advocated software engineering practice (Naur and Randell 1969; Krueger 1992), has boomed in the last years thanks to the widespread adoption of build automation and package managers (Cox 2019; Soto-Valero et al. 2019). Package managers provide both a large pool of reusable packages, a.k.a. libraries, and systematic ways to

Communicated by Gabriele Bavota

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1st CONTRIBUTION

DepClean: Automatically detecting and removing bloated dependencies in Maven projects



OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW



OVERVIEW

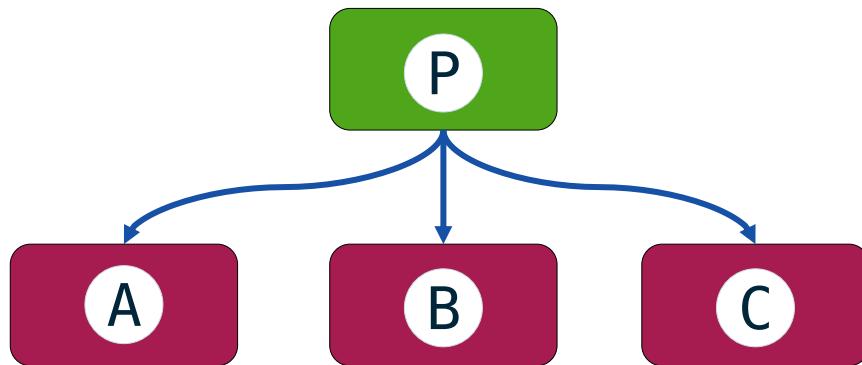
P

```
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.A</groupId>
    <artifactId>A</artifactId>
</dependency>
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.B</groupId>
    <artifactId>B</artifactId>
</dependency>
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.C</groupId>
    <artifactId>C</artifactId>
</dependency>
```

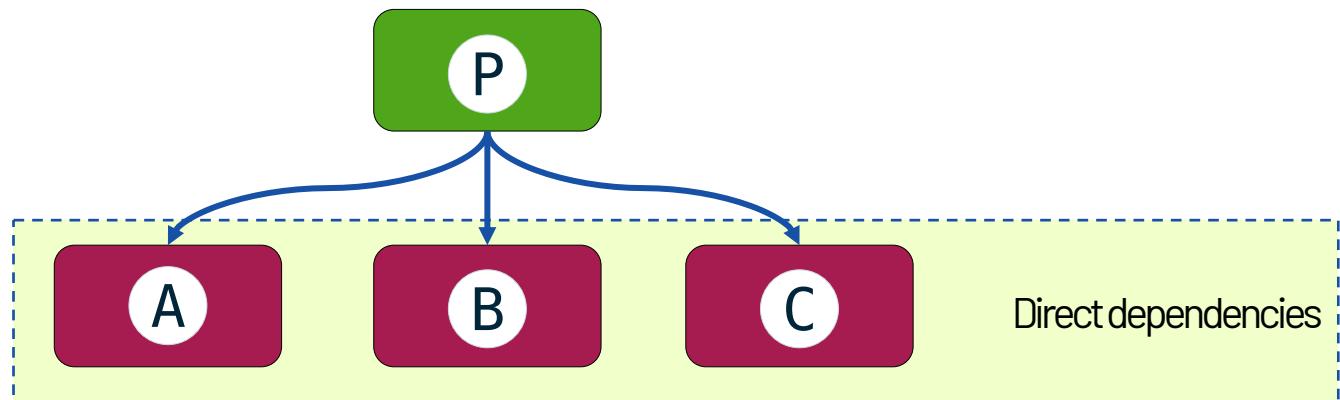
OVERVIEW



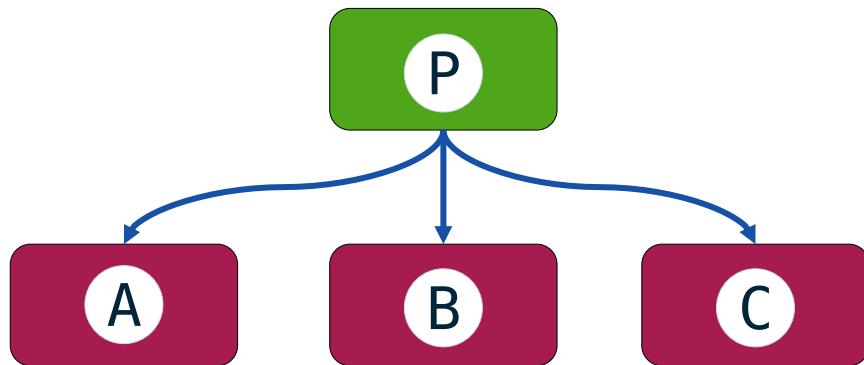
OVERVIEW



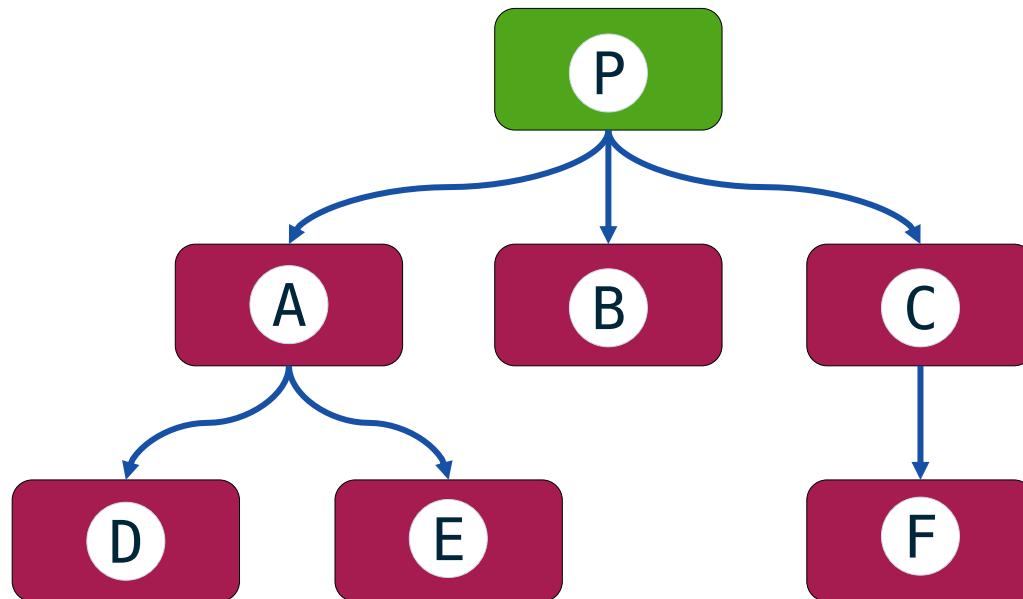
OVERVIEW



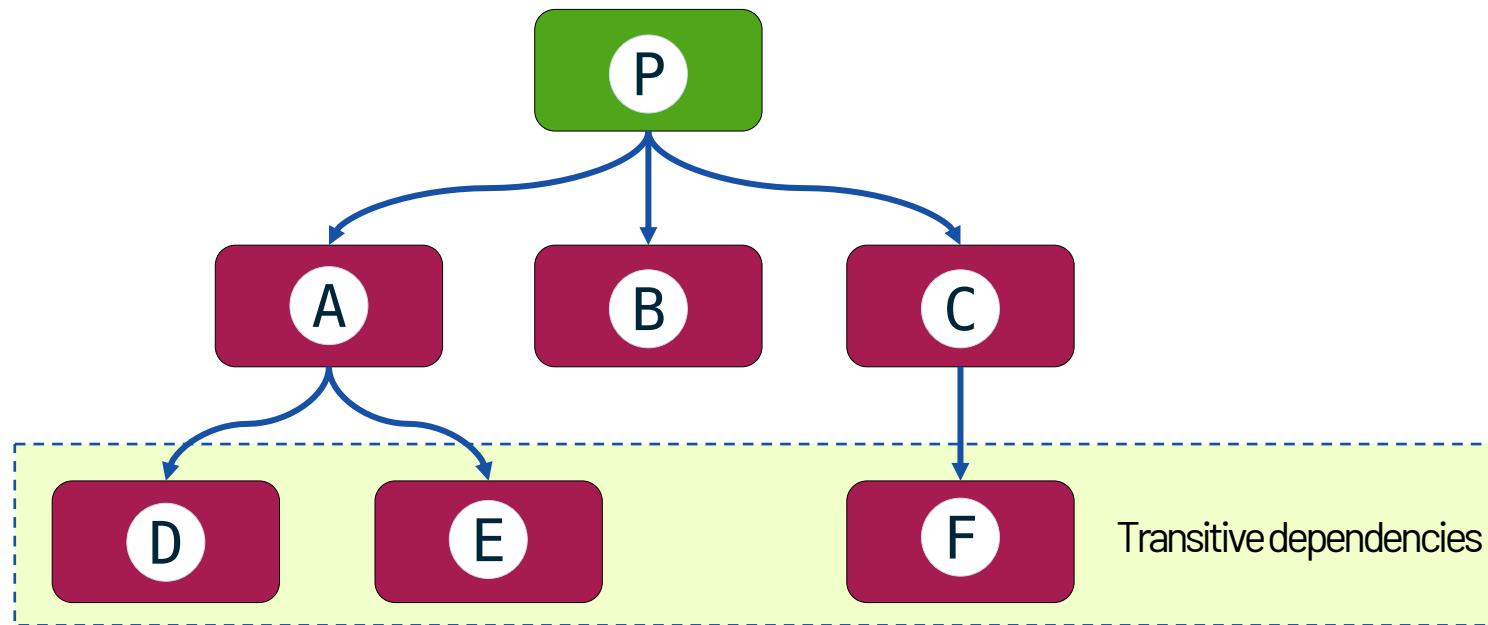
OVERVIEW



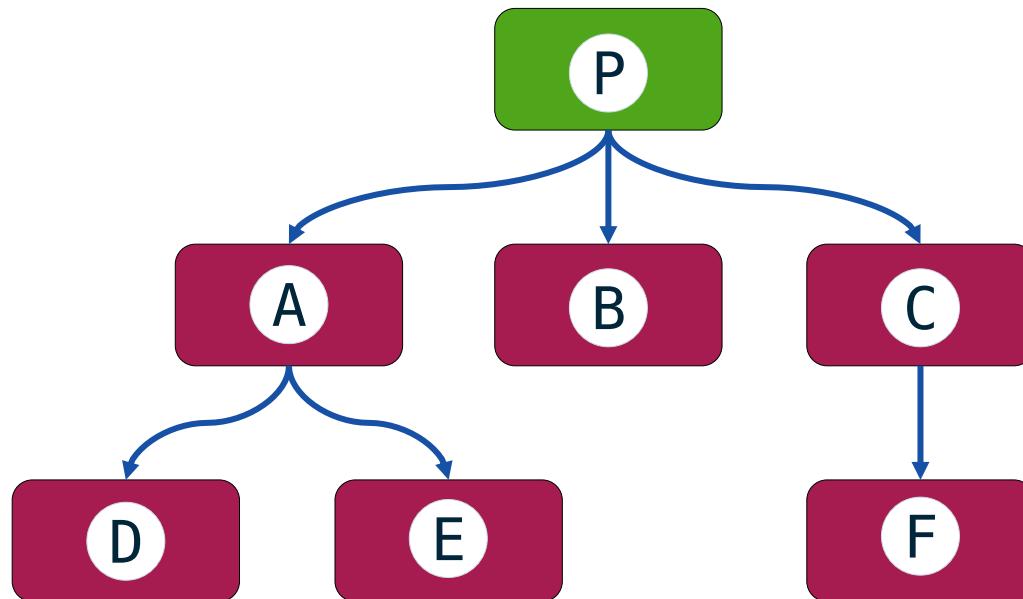
OVERVIEW



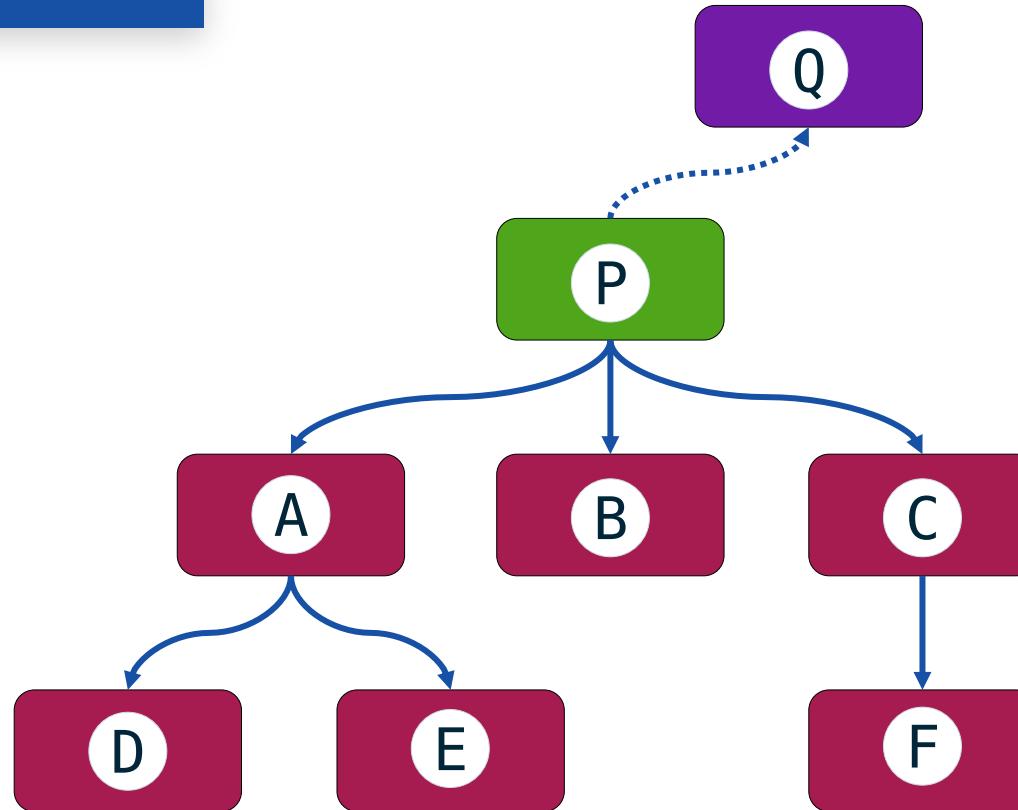
OVERVIEW



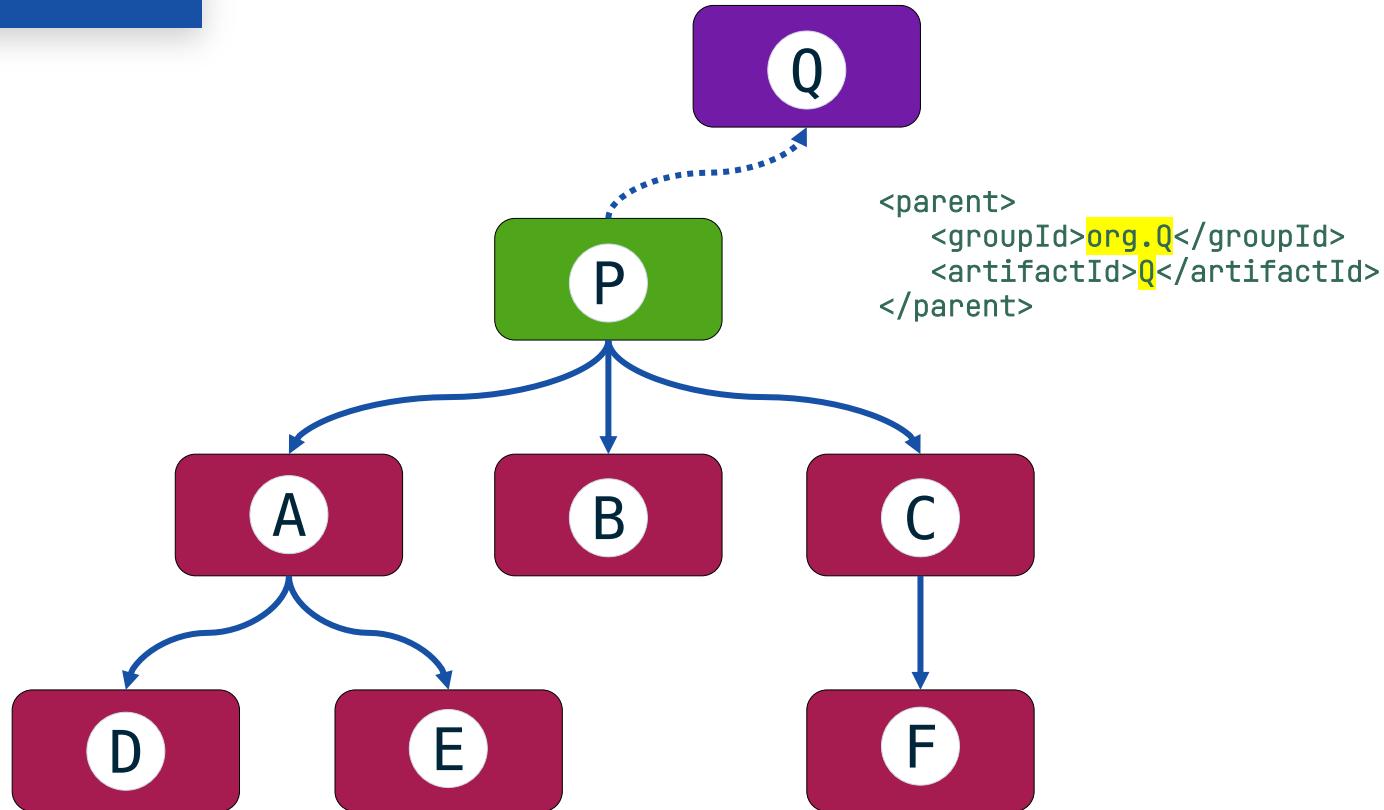
OVERVIEW



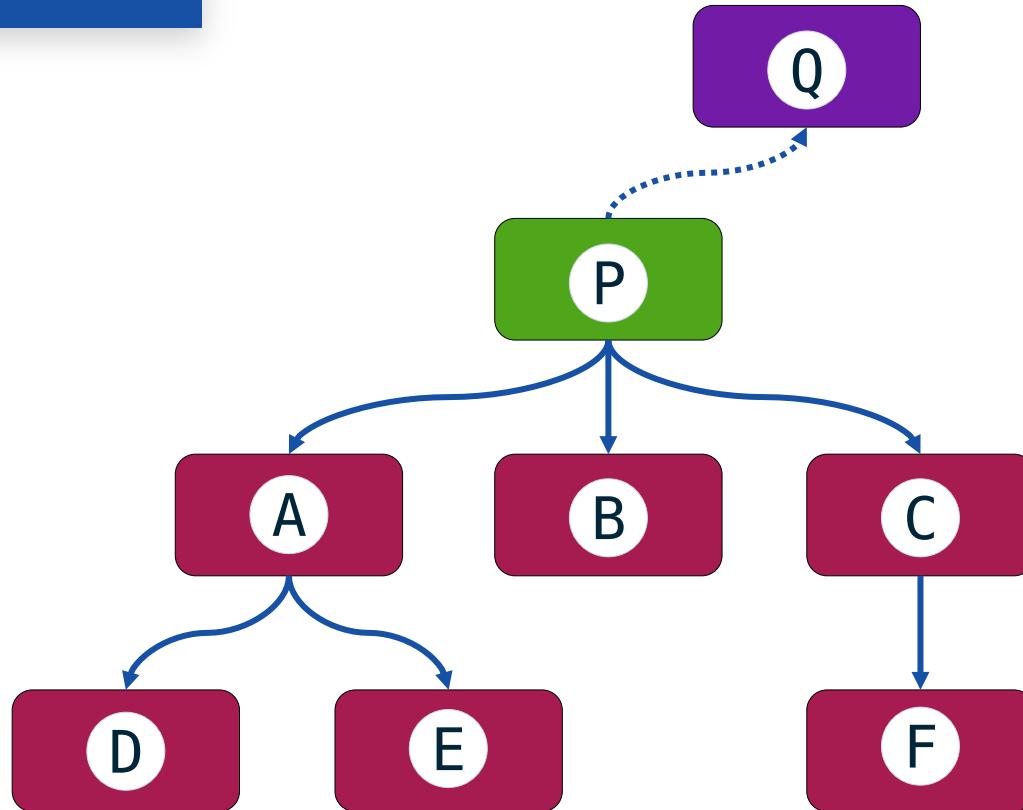
OVERVIEW



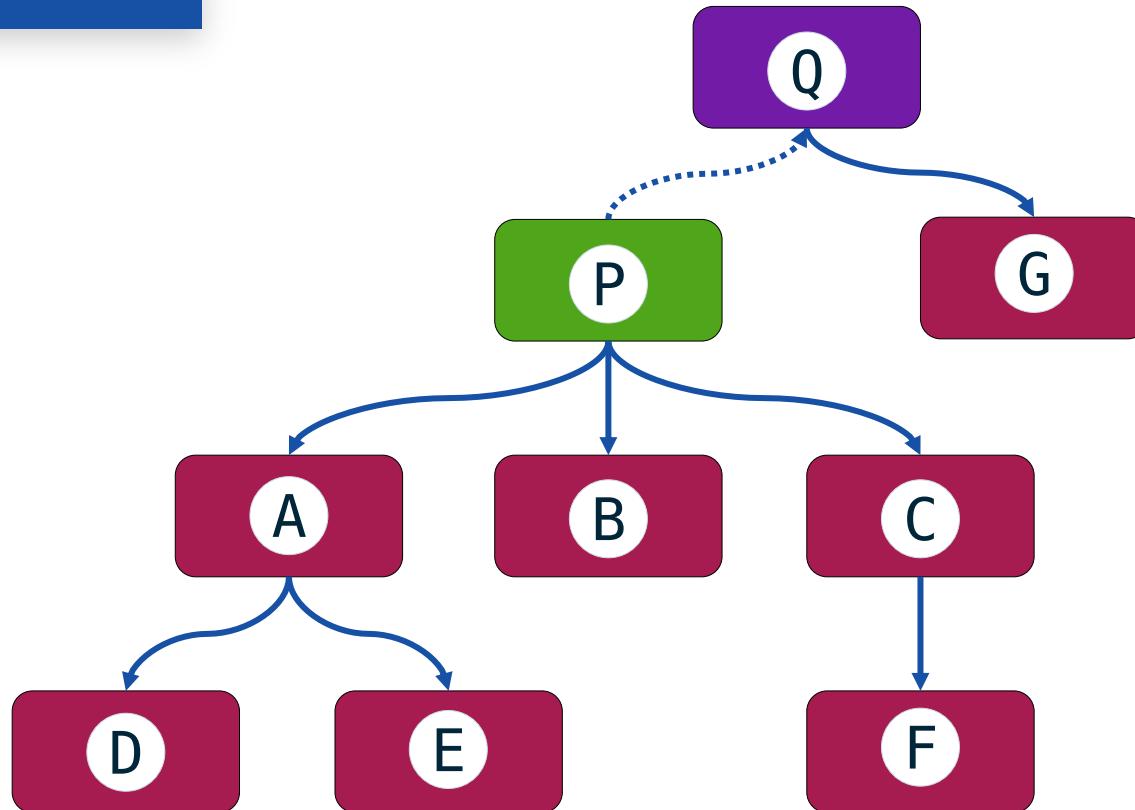
OVERVIEW



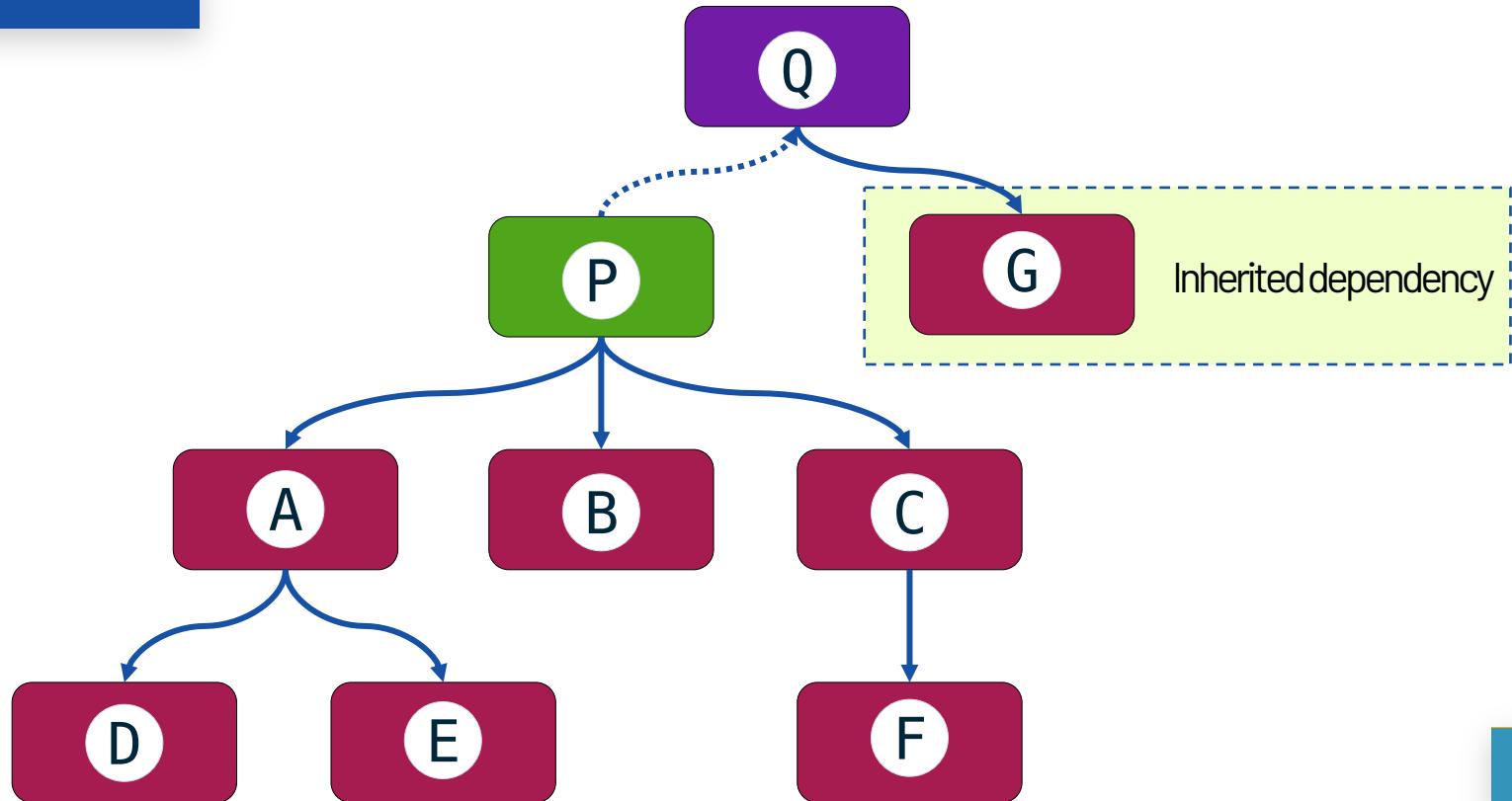
OVERVIEW



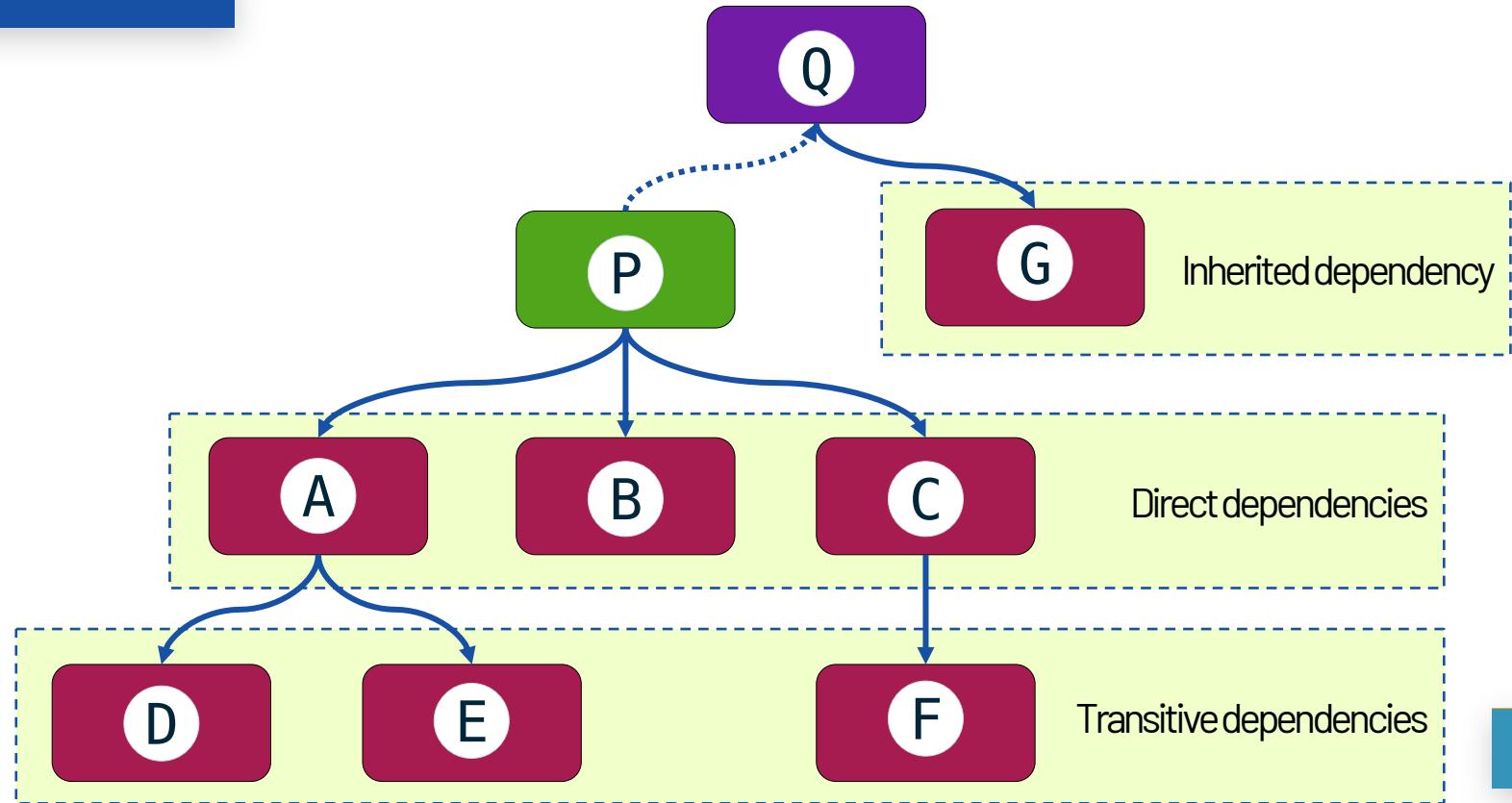
OVERVIEW



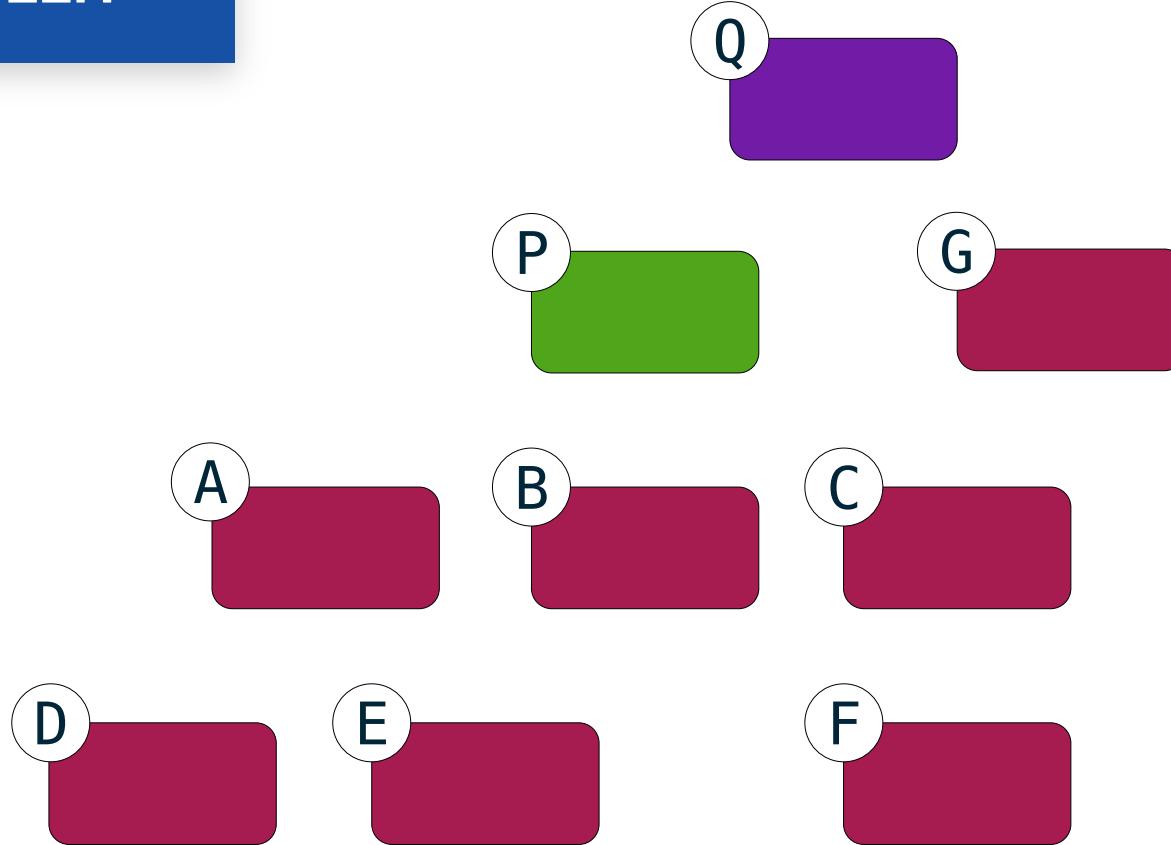
OVERVIEW



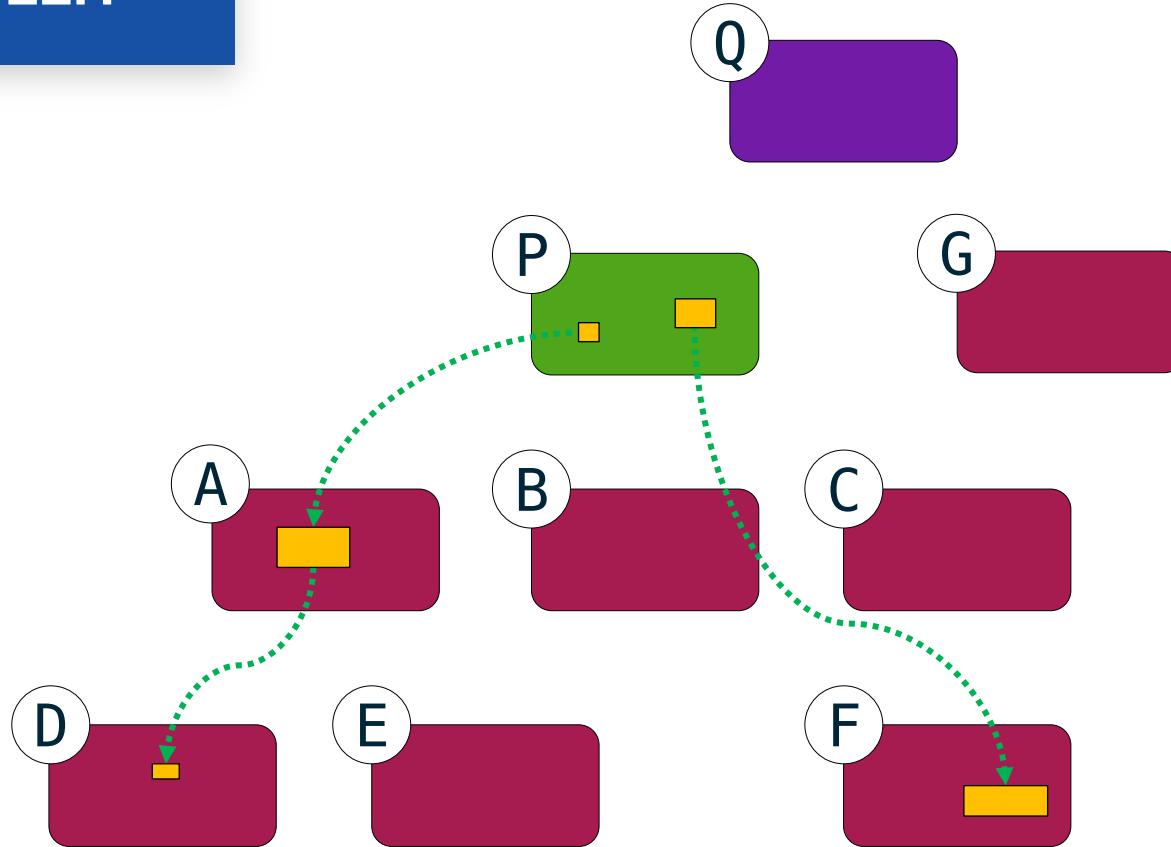
OVERVIEW



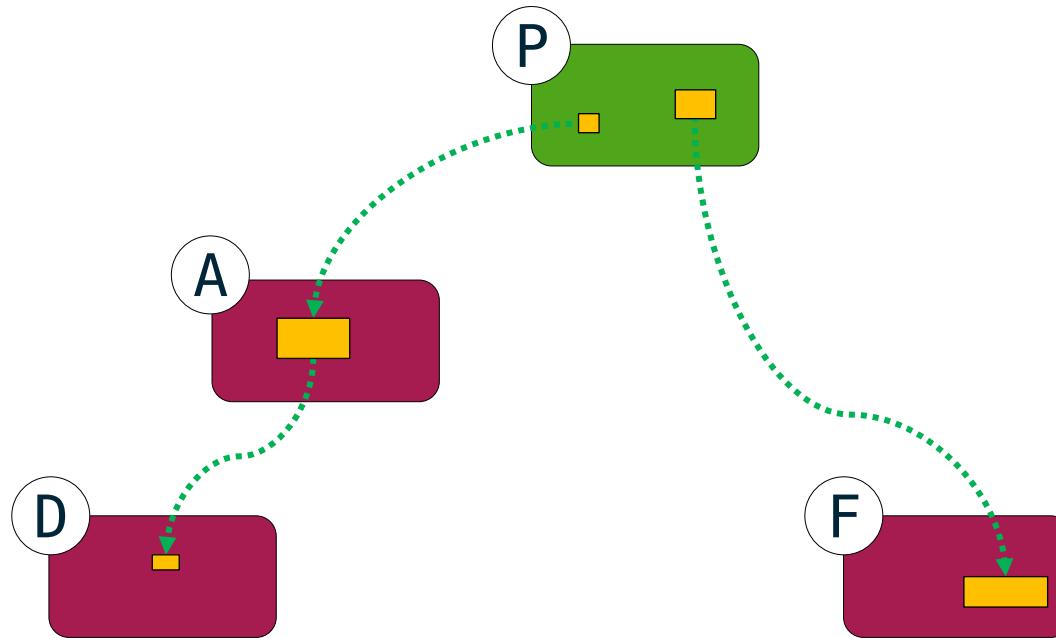
PROBLEM



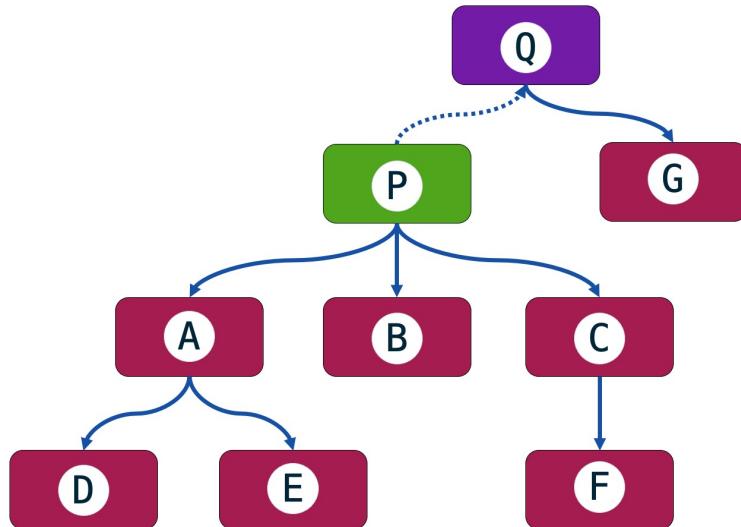
PROBLEM



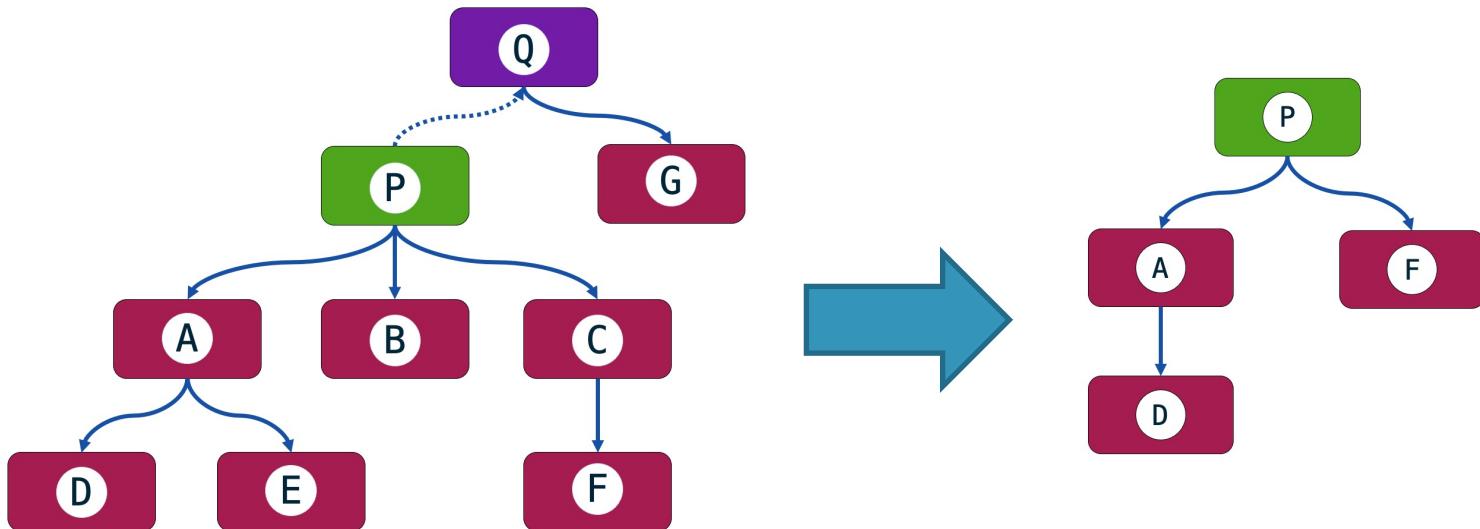
PROBLEM



PROBLEM



PROBLEM



DEPCLEAN TOOL



<https://github.com/castor-software/depclean>

S castor-software / depclean 4 5

Code Issues 7 Pull requests 1 Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

master 4 branches 5 tags

cesarsotvalero Config codecov add2628 3 days ago 255 commits

.github Fix Codecov (#62) 4 days ago

.img Move imgs 5 months ago

depclean-core Refactor ProjectDependencyAnalysis (#60) 3 days ago

depclean-maven-plugin Merge remote-tracking branch 'origin/master' 7 days ago

.gitattributes ref: licence 12 months ago

.gitignore Configure Depclean to run integration tests (#54) 8 days ago

LICENSE.md Update LICENSE.md 12 months ago

README.md Add bibtex reference to the companion paper in the README (...) 3 days ago

checkstyle.xml Allow continuous upper case letters as variable names 15 days ago

codecov.yml Config codecov 3 days ago

pom.xml Replace Travis by GitHub actions 4 days ago

DepClean

build passing quality gate passed maintainability A reliability A security A

maven-central v2.0.1 license MIT vulnerabilities 0 bugs 0 code smells 30

lines of code 2.4k duplicated lines 0% technical debt 6h codecov 5%

Java 100.0%

DepClean automatically detects and removes unused dependencies from Maven projects

java bytecode analysis dependencies bloatware lifecycle

MIT License

Version 2.0.0 Latest 21 days ago

Used by 1

castor @castor-software / depclean

Contributors 9

Environments 1

github-pages Active

DEPCLEAN TOOL



<https://github.com/castor-software/depclean>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for DepClean. The repository has 57 stars and 5 forks. The code tab is selected, showing a list of recent commits:

- cesarsotvalero Config codecov add2628 3 days ago 255 commits
- .github Fix Codcov (#62) 4 days ago
- .img Move imgs 5 months ago
- depclean-core Refactor ProjectDependencyAnalysis (#60) 3 days ago
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- README.md Add bibtex reference to the companion paper in the README (...) 3 days ago
- checkstyle.xml Allow continuous upper case letters as variable names 15 days ago
- codecov.yml Config codecov 3 days ago
- pom.xml Replace Travis by GitHub actions 4 days ago

The DepClean logo is at the bottom left. Below the commits, there's a summary of the analysis results:

- Build: passing
- Quality gate: passed
- Maintainability: A
- Reliability: A
- Security: A
- Maven Central: v2.0.1
- License: MIT
- Vulnerabilities: 0
- Bugs: 0
- Code Smells: 30
- Lines of code: 2.4k
- Duplicated lines: 0%
- Technical debt: 6h
- Codecov: 5%

Below the metrics, there's a Java coverage bar at 100.0%.

Uses advanced static
bytecode analysis to
detect and remove
bloated dependencies

DEPCLEAN TOOL



<https://github.com/castor-software/depclean>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'castor-software / depclean'. The repository has 57 stars and 5 forks. The README contains a brief description of DepClean's functionality: 'DepClean automatically detects and removes unused dependencies from Maven projects'. It lists several issues and pull requests, including 'Fix Codcov (#62)', 'Move Imgs', 'Refactor ProjectDependencyAnalysis (#60)', 'Merge remote-tracking branch 'origin/master'', 'ref: licence', 'Configure Depclean to run integration tests (#54)', 'Update LICENSE.md', 'Add bibtex reference to the companion paper in the README (...)', 'Allow continuous upper case letters as variable names', 'Config codecov', and 'Replace Travis by GitHub actions'. The repository also includes files like .github, .img, depclean-core, depclean-maven-plugin, .gitattributes, .gitignore, LICENSE.md, README.md, checkstyle.xml, codecov.yml, and pom.xml. The bottom section of the screenshot displays the DepClean analysis results, including a summary of build status (green), quality gate (passed), maintainability (A), reliability (A), and security (A). It also shows metrics for Maven Central (v2.0.1), license (MIT), vulnerabilities (0), bugs (0), code smells (30), lines of code (2.4k), duplicated lines (0%), technical debt (6h), and codecov (5%). A progress bar indicates Java coverage at 100.0%.

Uses advanced static
bytecode analysis to
detect and remove
bloated dependencies

Automatic generation of
a debloated POM file

DEPCLEAN TOOL



<https://github.com/castor-software/depclean>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for DepClean. The repository has 57 stars and 5 forks. The code tab is selected, showing a list of recent commits from cesarsotvalero:

- Fix Codecov (#62) - 4 days ago
- Move imgs - 5 months ago
- Refactor ProjectDependencyAnalysis (#60) - 3 days ago
- Merge remote-tracking branch 'origin/master' - 7 days ago
- ref: licence - 12 months ago
- Configure Depclean to run integration tests (#54) - 8 days ago
- Update LICENSE.md - 12 months ago
- Add bibtex reference to the companion paper in the README (...) - 3 days ago
- Allow continuous upper case letters as variable names - 15 days ago
- Config codecov - 3 days ago
- Replace Travis by GitHub actions - 4 days ago

The repository features a DepClean badge at the bottom left, indicating build status, quality gate, maintainability, reliability, and security scores. It also shows metrics like lines of code, vulnerabilities, bugs, code smells, and technical debt.

Uses advanced static
bytecode analysis to
detect and remove
bloated dependencies

Automatic generation of
a debloated POM file

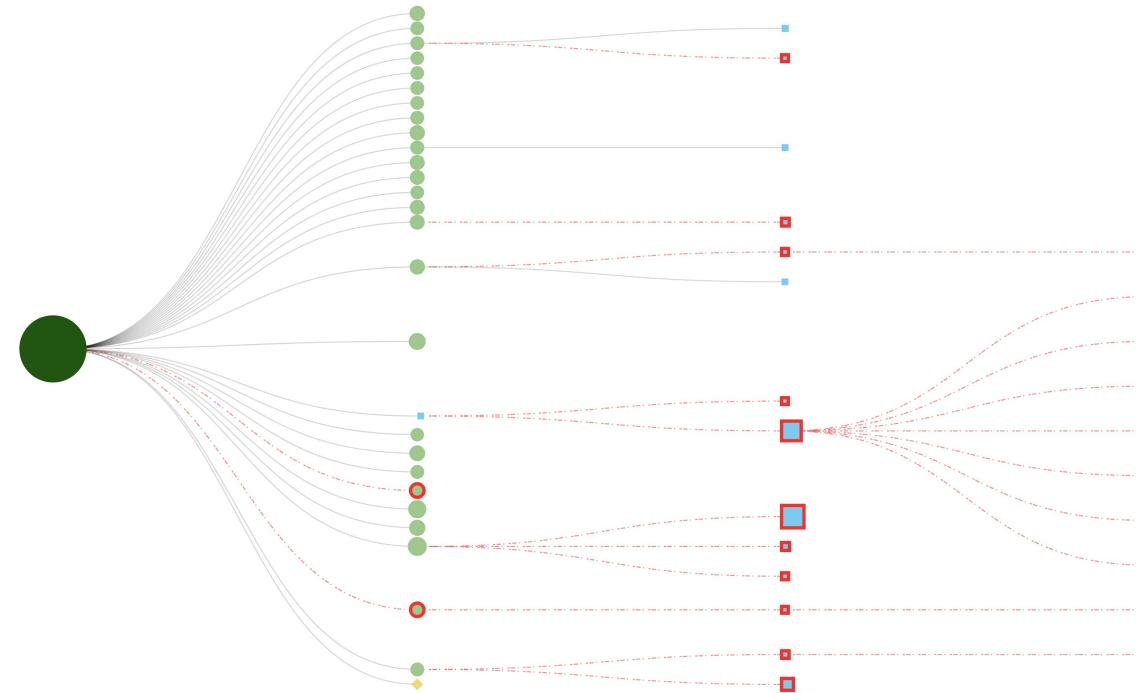
Maven plugin easy to
integrate in a CI pipeline

Dependencies

28
direct
1 inherited
25 transitive

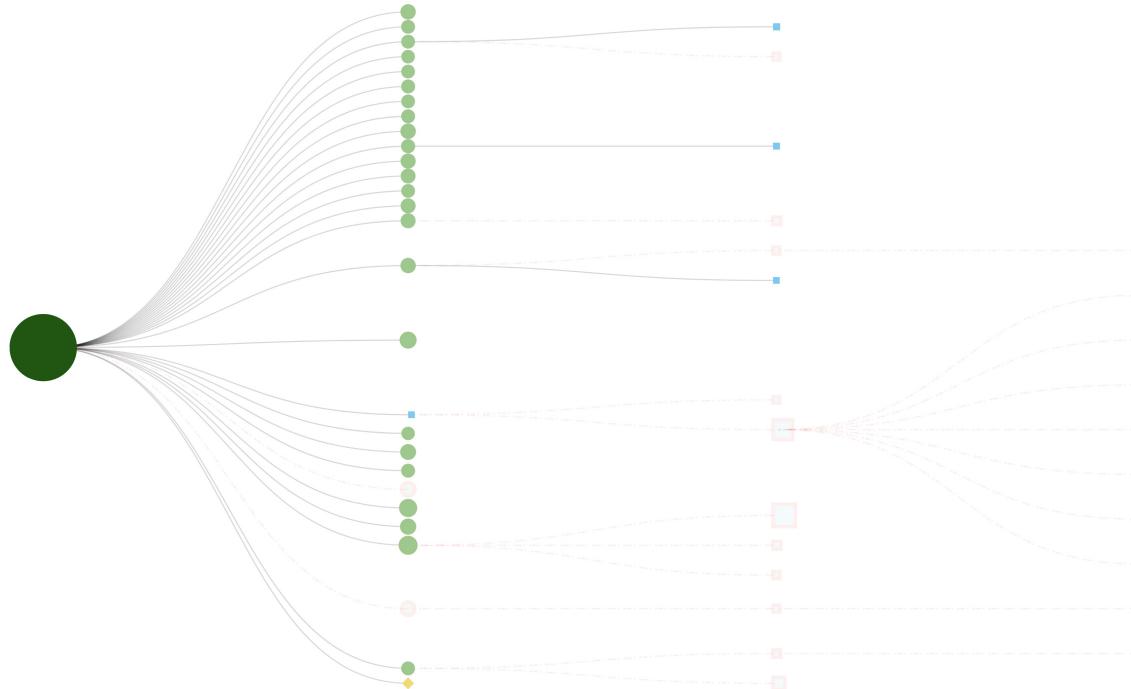
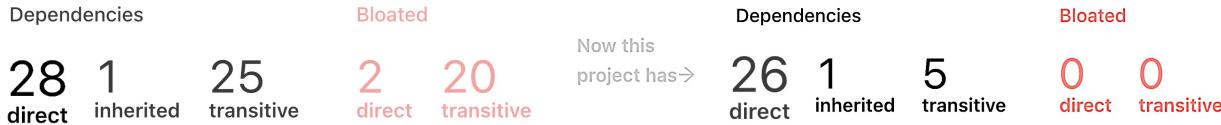
Bloated

2
direct
20
transitive



Example: maven-core project (v3.7.0)

<https://github.com/castor-software/depclean-web>

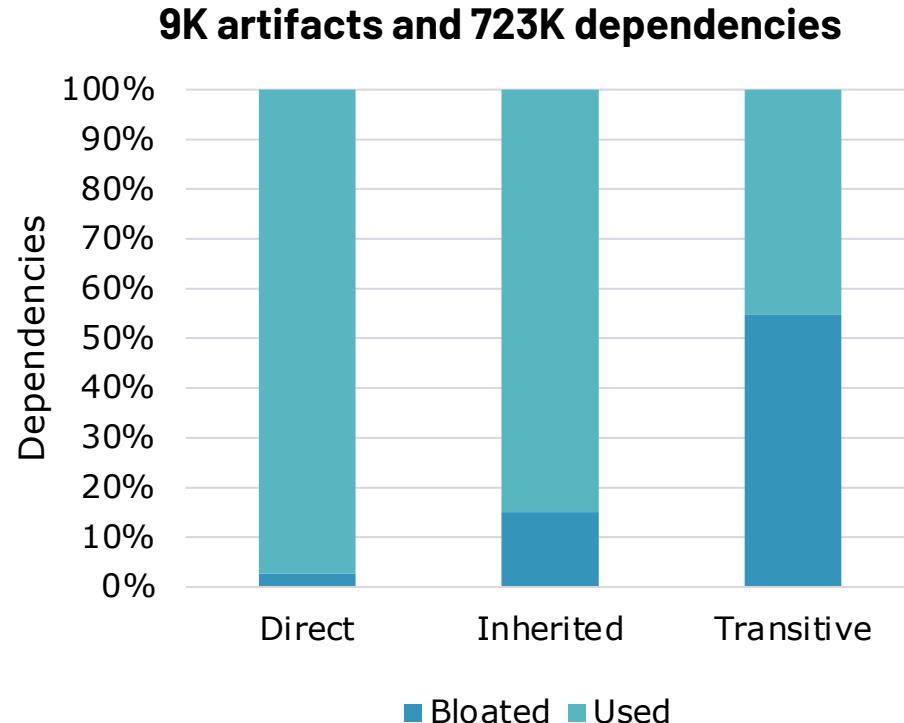


Example: maven-core project (v3.7.0)

HOW MUCH DEPENDENCY BLOAT EXISTS?



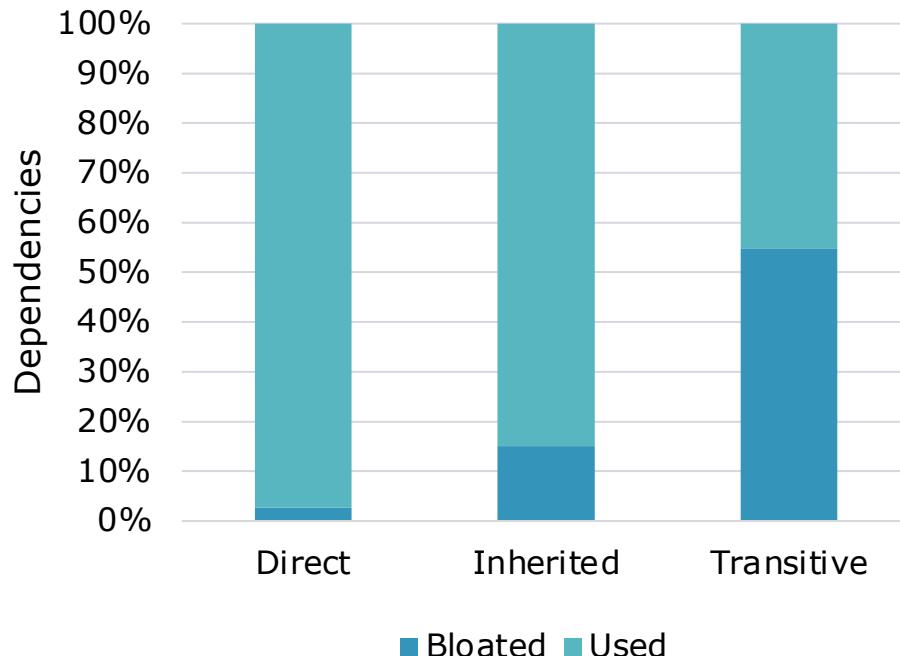
HOW MUCH DEPENDENCY BLOAT EXISTS?



HOW MUCH DEPENDENCY BLOAT EXISTS?



9K artifacts and 723K dependencies



- 2.7% of direct dependencies are bloated
- 15.1% of inherited dependencies are bloated
- 57% of transitive dependencies are bloated

ARE DEVELOPERS WILLING TO REMOVE BLOAT?



ARE DEVELOPERS WILLING TO REMOVE BLOAT?



USER STUDY ON 30 PROJECTS

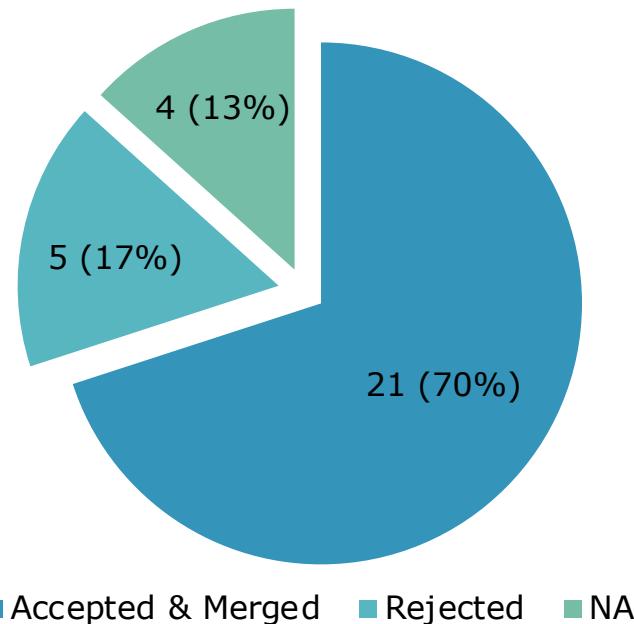
- Jenkins
- Neo4j
- Flink
- Spoon
- Checkstyle
- CoreNLP
- jHiccup
- Alluxio
- TeaVM
- ...

Full list: <https://tinyurl.com/depclean-experiments>

ARE DEVELOPERS WILLING TO REMOVE BLOAT?



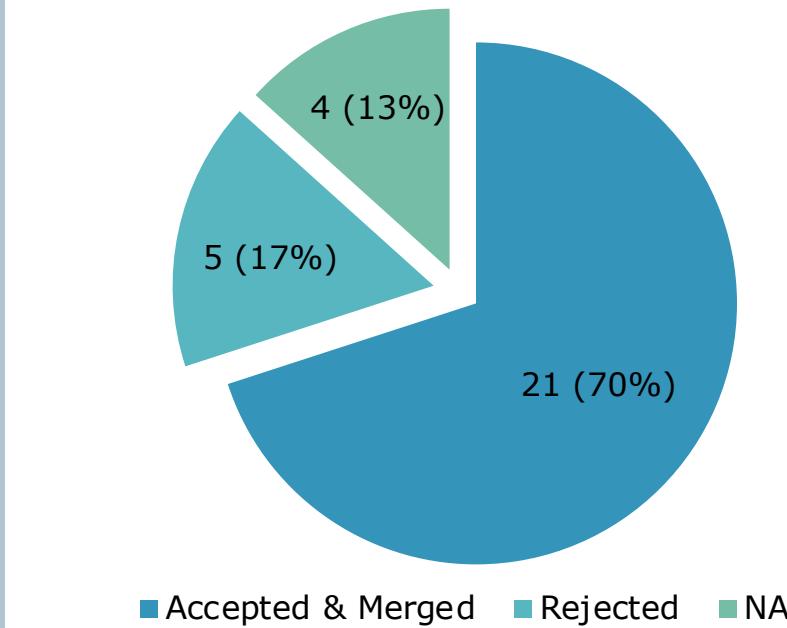
30 pull requests in 30 notable open source projects



ARE DEVELOPERS WILLING TO REMOVE BLOAT?



30 pull requests in 30 notable open source projects



Removed 140 bloated dependencies in 21 projects thanks to DepClean

SUMMARY OF 1st CONTRIBUTION



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- **There is a lot of code bloat in Maven Central**
 - Caused by the induced transitive dependencies
 - Caused by the heritage mechanism of multi-module projects
 - Caused by software development practices

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 - They are willing to remove bloated dependencies

SUMMARY OF 1st CONTRIBUTION



- **There is a lot of code bloat in Maven Central**
 - Caused by the induced transitive dependencies
 - Caused by the heritage mechanism of multi-module projects
 - Caused by software development practices
- **Software developers care**
 - They are willing to remove bloated dependencies
- **DepClean**
 - It is useful to automatically detect and remove bloated dependencies

A Longitudinal Analysis of Bloated Java Dependencies

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ABSTRACT

Motivated by the negative impact of software bloat on security, performance, and maintenance, several works have proposed techniques to remove bloat. However, no work has analyzed how bloat evolves over time or how it triggers in maintained projects. In particular, a key question is whether removing code is a local decision that can be used in subsequent versions of the application. In this work, we study the evolution and emergence of bloated Java dependencies. These are third-party libraries that are packed inside an application binary and do not run in the main application. We analyze the history of 435 Java projects. This historical data includes 48,469 distinct dependencies, which we study across a total of 31,515 versions of Maven dependency trees. Our empirical results show the constant increase of the amount of bloated dependencies over time. A key finding of our analysis is that 89.2 % of the direct dependencies that are bloated remain bloated in all subsequent versions of the studied projects. This empirical evidence suggests that developers can safely remove a bloated dependency. We further report novel insights regarding the unnecessary maintenance efforts induced by bloat: we identify that 22 % of dependency updates are made on bloated dependencies.

ACM Reference Format:
César Soto-Valero, Thomas Durieux, and Benoît Baudry. 2021. A Longitudinal Analysis of Bloated Java Dependencies. In ISCC/FSE'21, ACM, New York, NY, USA, 17 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3469703.3477050>

1 INTRODUCTION

Software is often deployed as a command-line executable [1] or web browser [15], and an application embeds a part of code that is unnecessary to their correct operation. Several debloating tools have emerged in recent years [7, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21] to address the security and maintenance issues caused by evading updates at the system or library levels. While these tools do not analyze the evolution of bloat over time, understanding software bloat in the perspective of software evolution is crucial to promote debloating tools towards software developers. In particular, developers, when preparing to update a dependency, wonder if a specific dependency needs to be updated in coming releases, or what is the actual issue with bloat.

This work proposes the first longitudinal analysis of software bloat. We focus on one specific type of bloat: bloated dependencies [21]. These are software libraries that are unnecessarily packed in

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2nd CONTRIBUTION

Longitudinal Analysis of Bloated Java Dependencies



software projects, i.e., when the dependency is removed from the project, it still builds successfully. Soto-Valero et al. [21] show that the Maven ecosystem is permeated with bloated dependencies, and that they are present in most of the maintained Java projects. They also demonstrate that software developers are not good at removing bloated dependencies, but that removing code is a complex socio-technical decision, which benefits from solid evidence about the actual benefits of debloating.

Motivated by these observations about bloated dependencies, we conduct a large scale empirical study about the evolution of these dependencies in Java projects. We analyze the emergence of bloat, the evolution of the dependency trees, and the impact of Maven dependency trees on the empirical results. We find the constant increase of the amount of bloated dependencies over time. A key finding of our analysis is that 89.2 % of the direct dependencies that are bloated remain bloated in all subsequent versions of the studied projects. This empirical evidence suggests that developers can safely remove a bloated dependency. We further report novel insights regarding the unnecessary maintenance efforts induced by bloat: we identify that 22 % of dependency updates are made on bloated dependencies.

Our longitudinal analysis of bloated Java dependencies investigates both the evolution of bloat, as well as the relation between bloat and regular maintenance activities such as dependency updating. We also empirically quantifies the results of the evolution of bloated dependencies. Next, we investigate how the usage of a dependency management bot influences bloat. This analysis is a key contribution of our work where we demonstrate that a dependency that is bloated is very likely to remain bloated over subsequent versions of a project. We provide the first observations about the impact of dependency management bots to reduce bloat. Besides, we analyze the impact of Dependabot, a popular dependency management bot, on these activities. We show that developers regularly update bloated dependencies, and that many of them consider updates triggered by Dependabot. Finally, we systematically investigate the root of the bloat emergence, and find that 94.3 % of the bloated dependencies are bloated as soon as they are added in the dependency tree of a project.

To summarize, the main contributions of this paper are:

- A longitudinal analysis of software dependencies' usage in 31,515 versions of Maven dependency trees. Our results confirm the generalized presence of bloated dependencies and their evolution over time.
- A quantitative analysis of the stability of bloated dependencies: 89.2 % of direct dependencies remain bloated. This is a concrete insight that motivates debloating dependencies.

¹<https://github.com/castor-software/deplus>

PROBLEM

PROBLEM

SOFTWARE EVOLVES OVER TIME



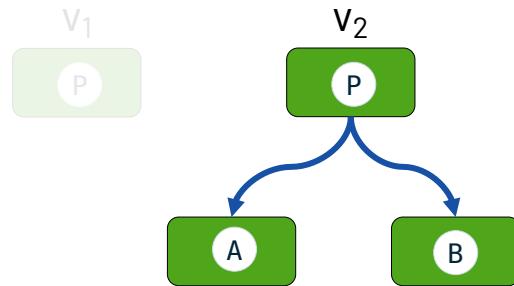
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SOFTWARE EVOLVES OVER TIME



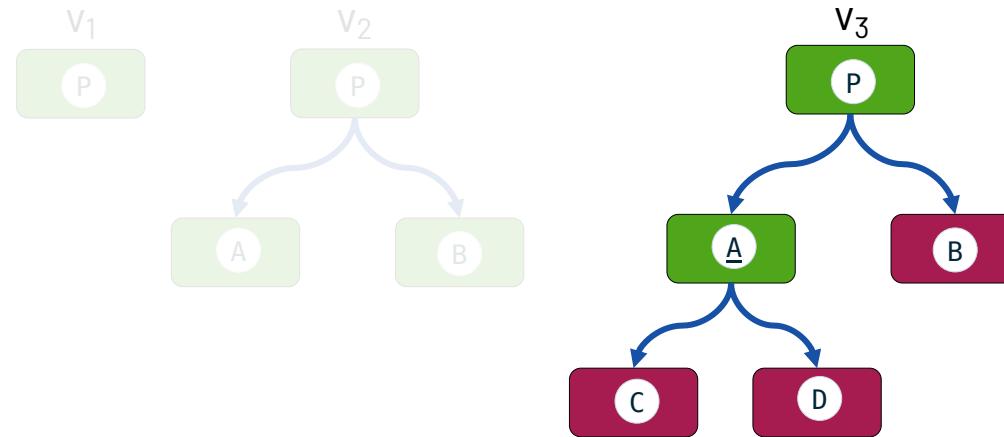
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SOFTWARE EVOLVES OVER TIME

Time →

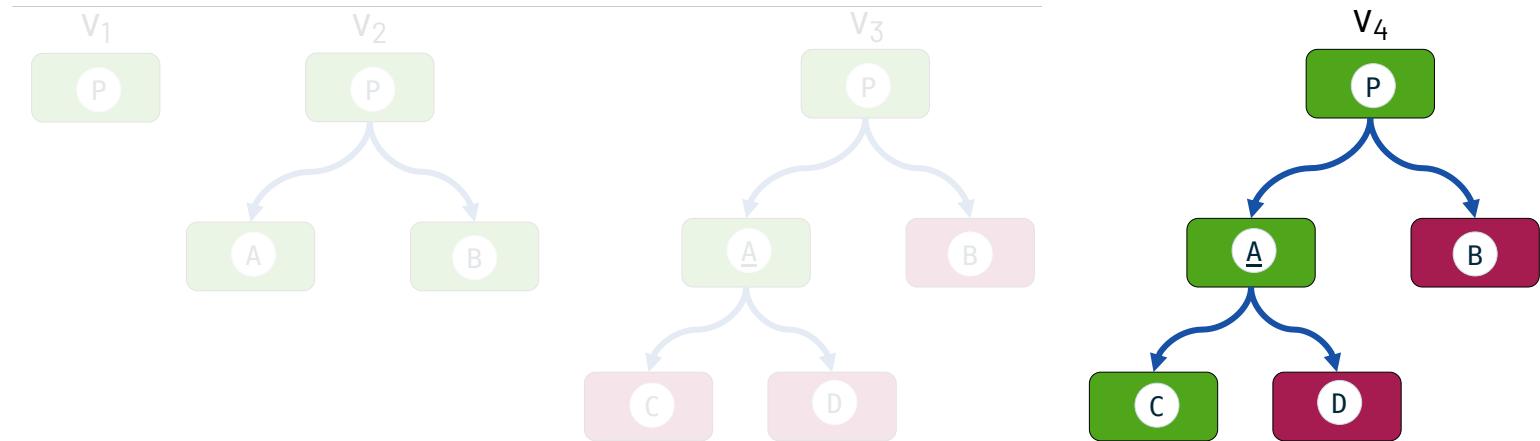
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SOFTWARE EVOLVES OVER TIME

Time →

PROBLEM



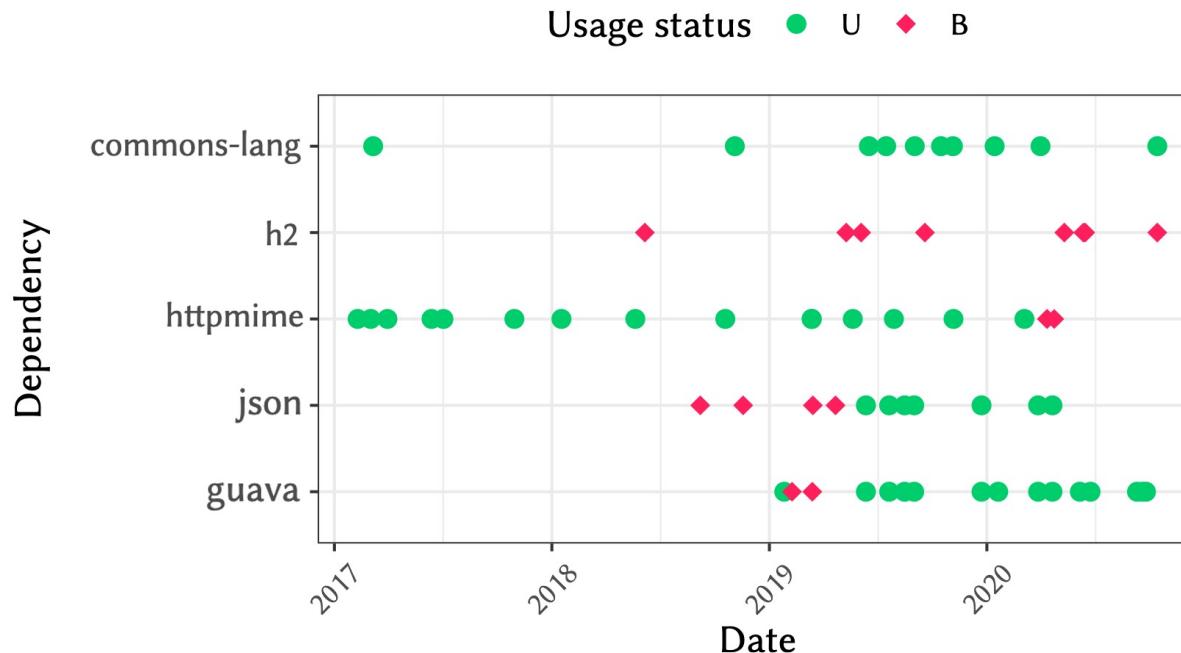
SOFTWARE EVOLVES OVER TIME

Time →

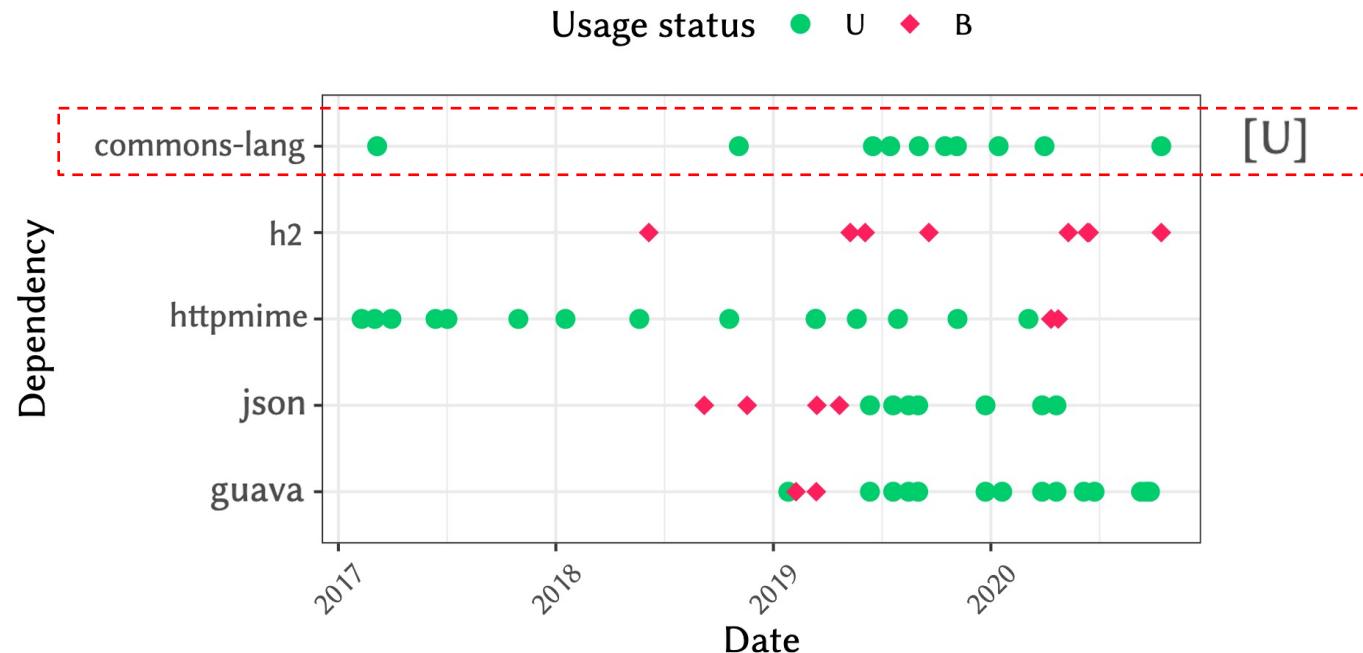
HOW DOES THE USAGE STATUS EVOLVES?



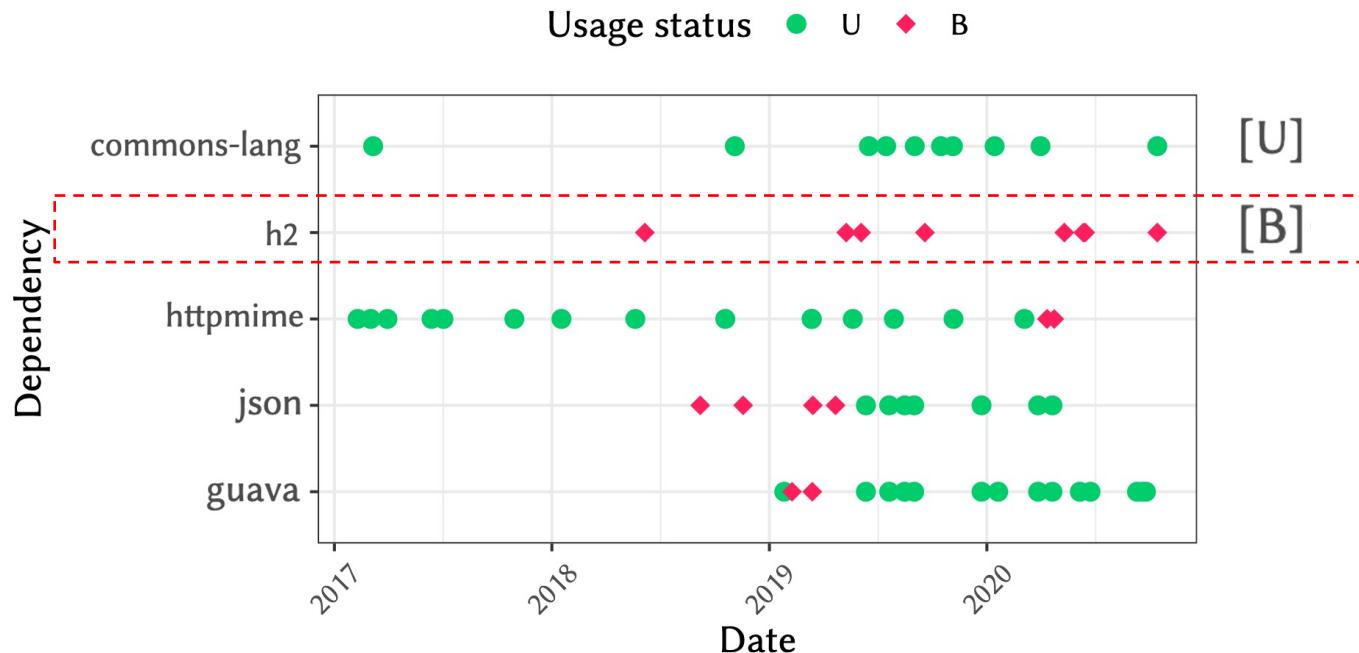
HOW DOES THE USAGE STATUS EVOLVES?



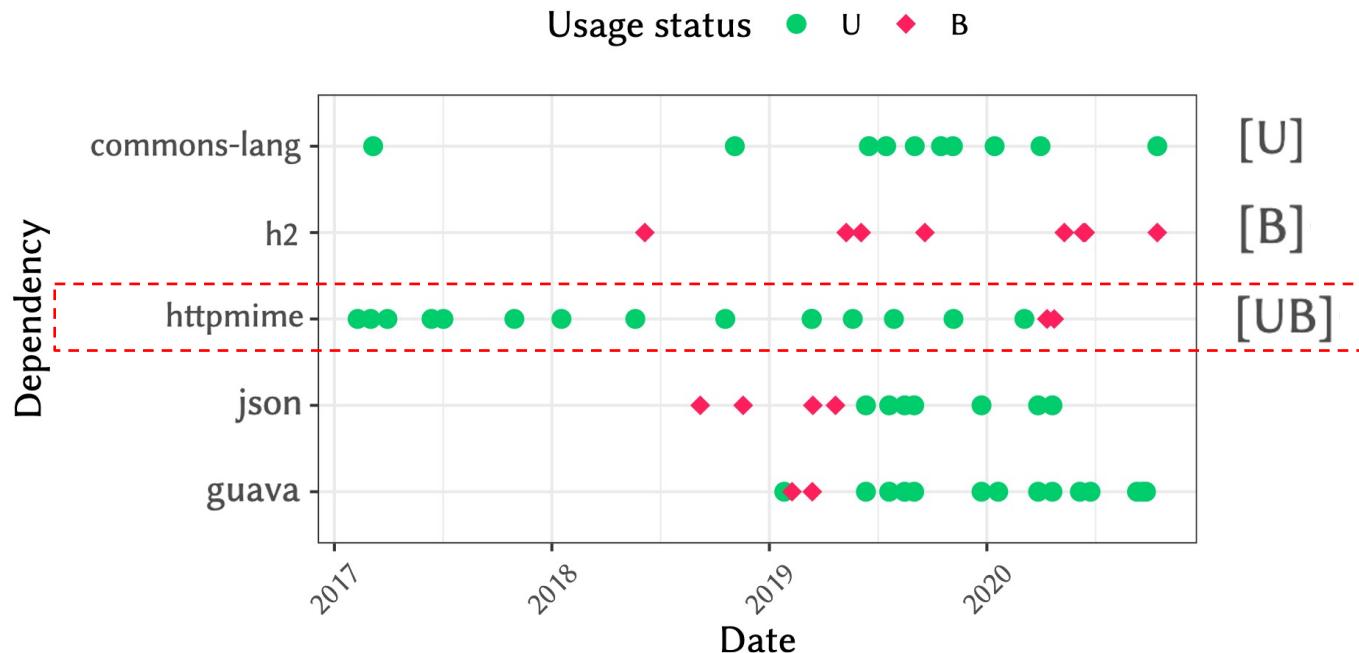
HOW DOES THE USAGE STATUS EVOLVES?



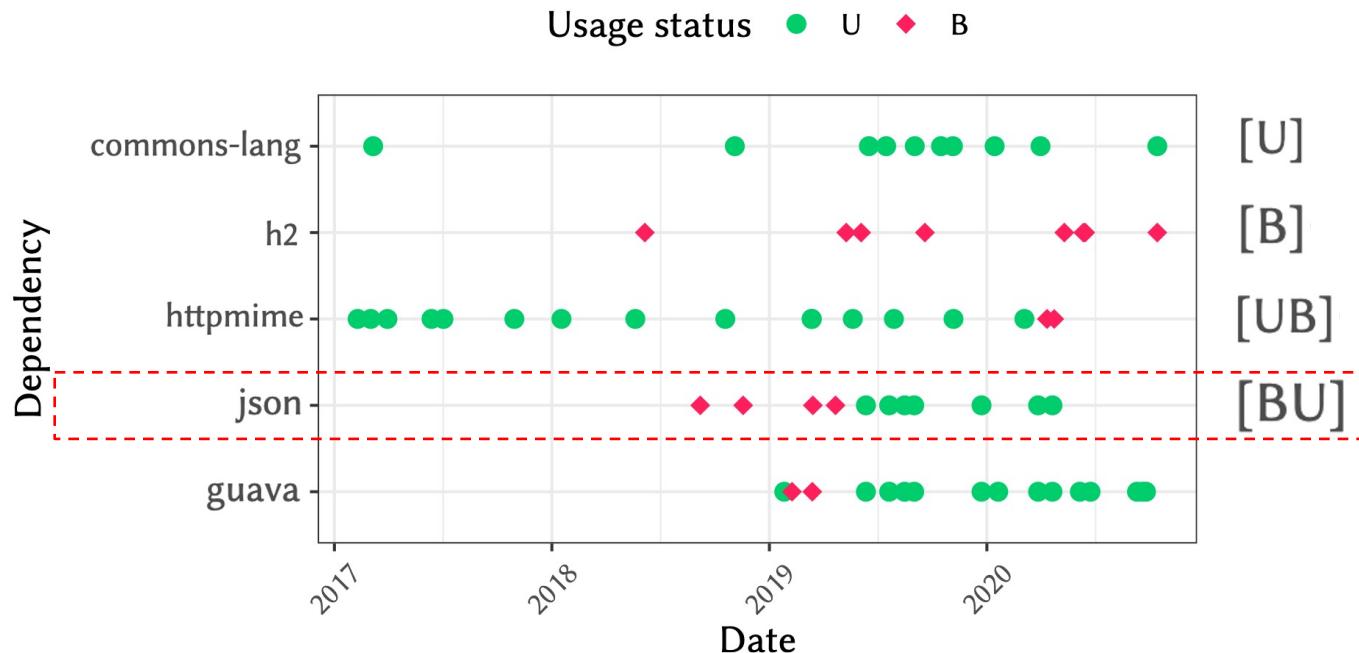
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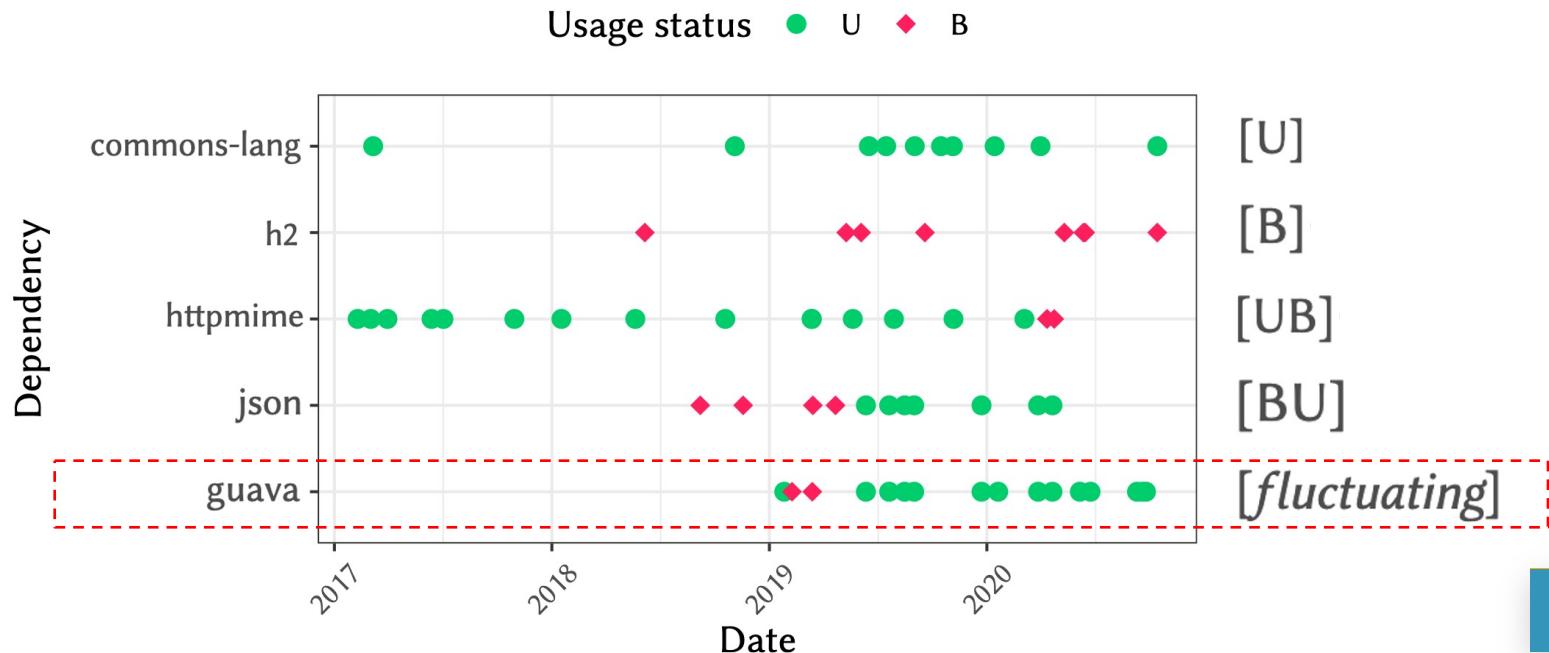
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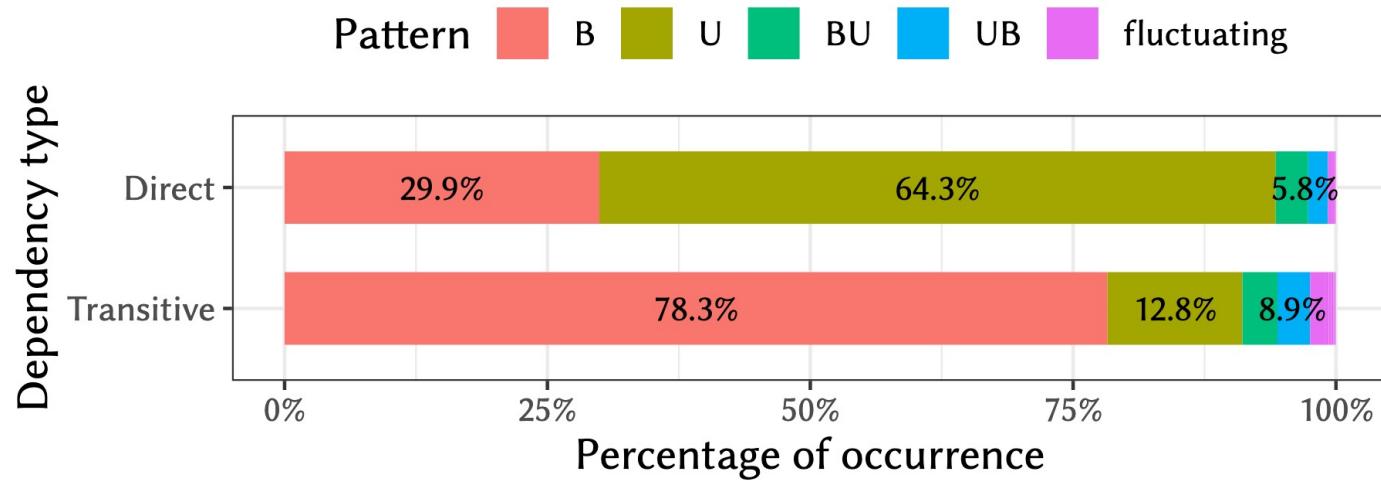
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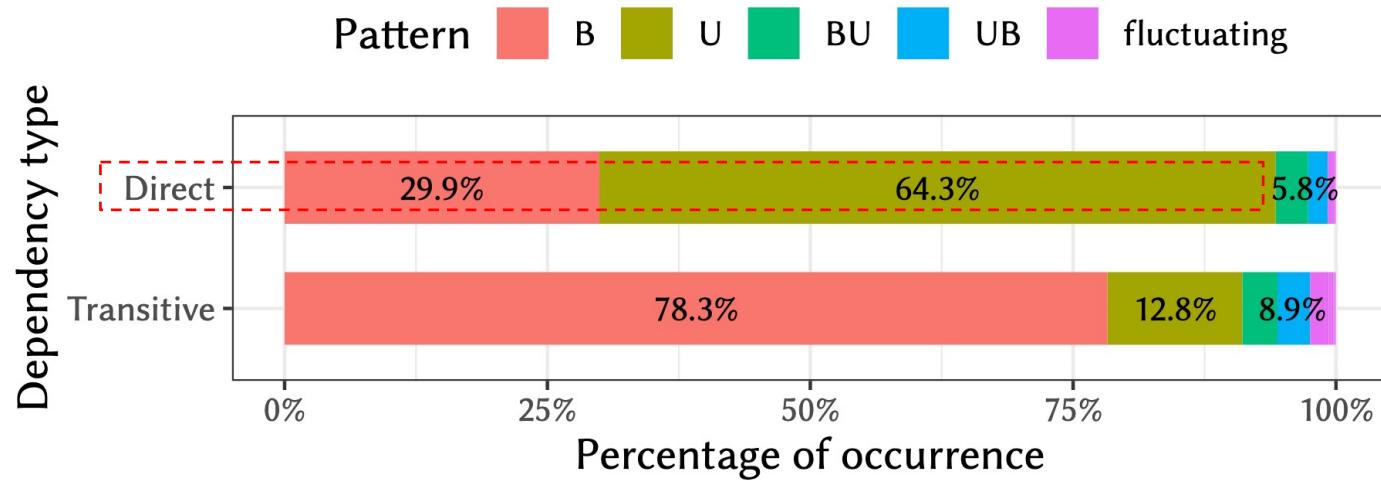
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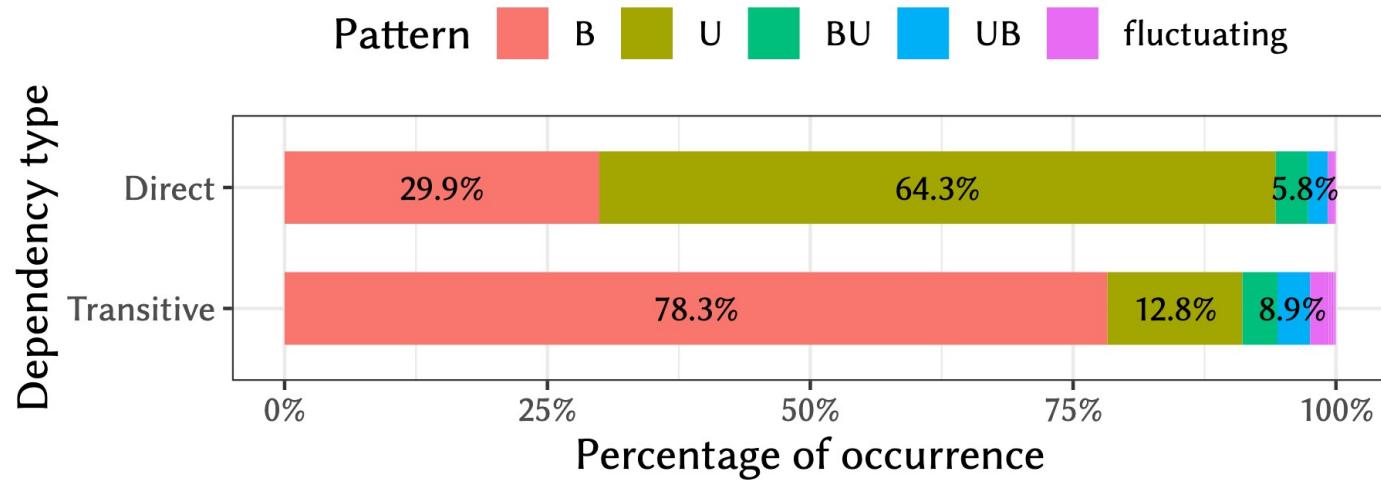
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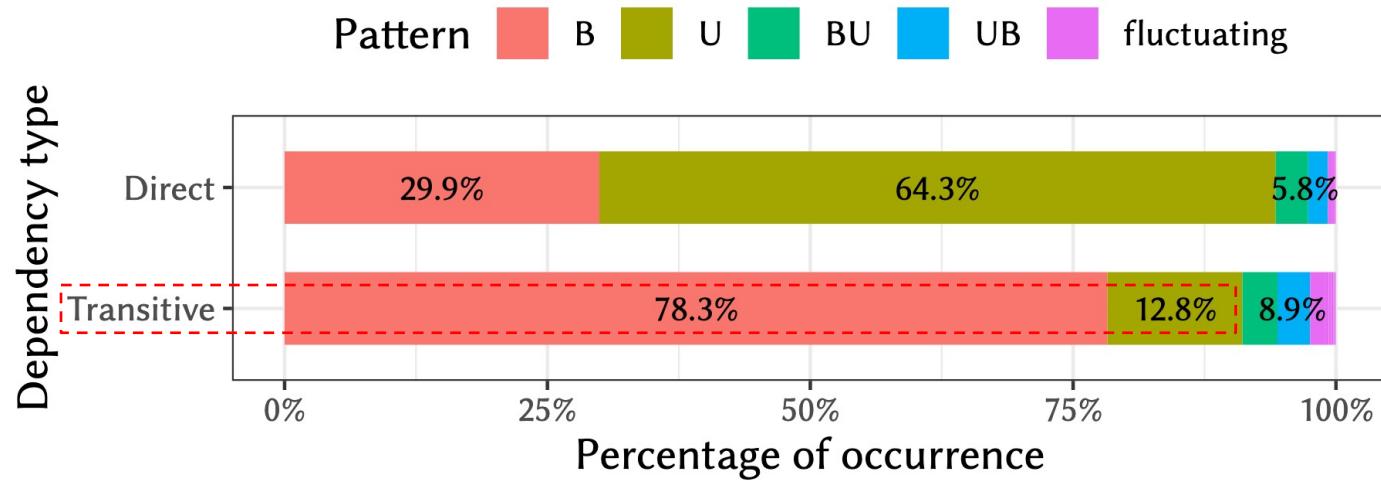
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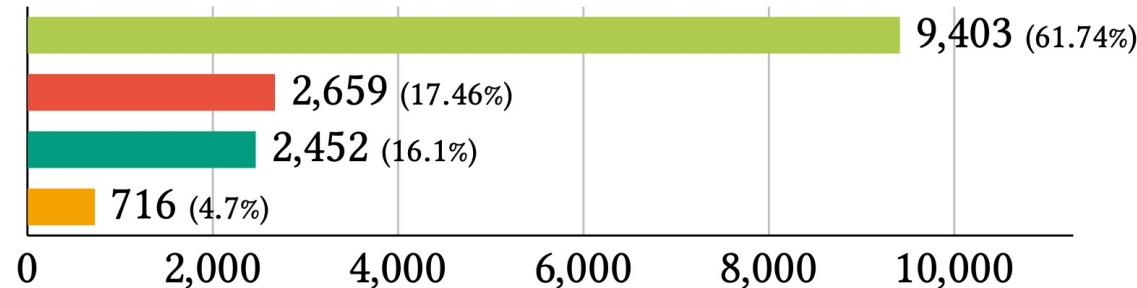
DO DEVELOPERS UPDATE BLOATED DEPENDENCIES?



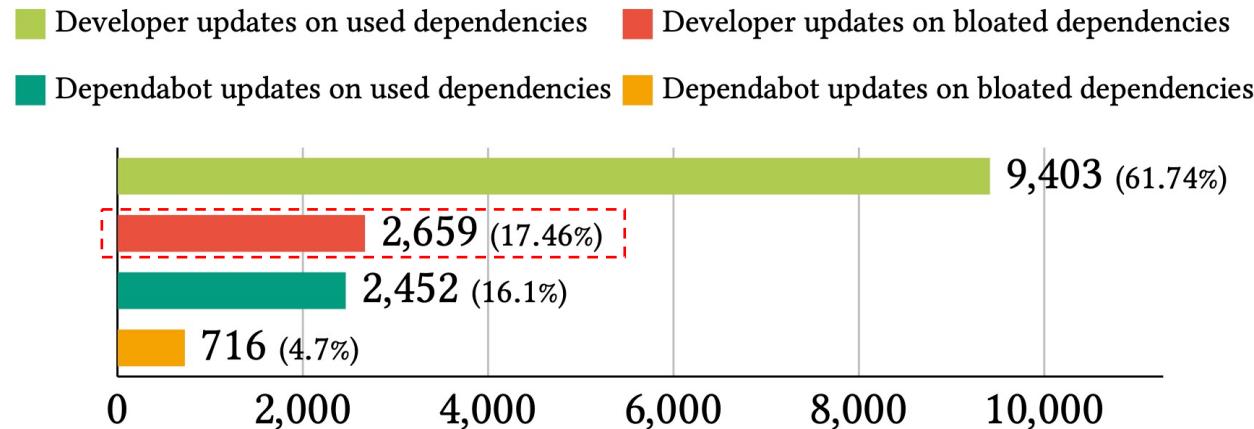
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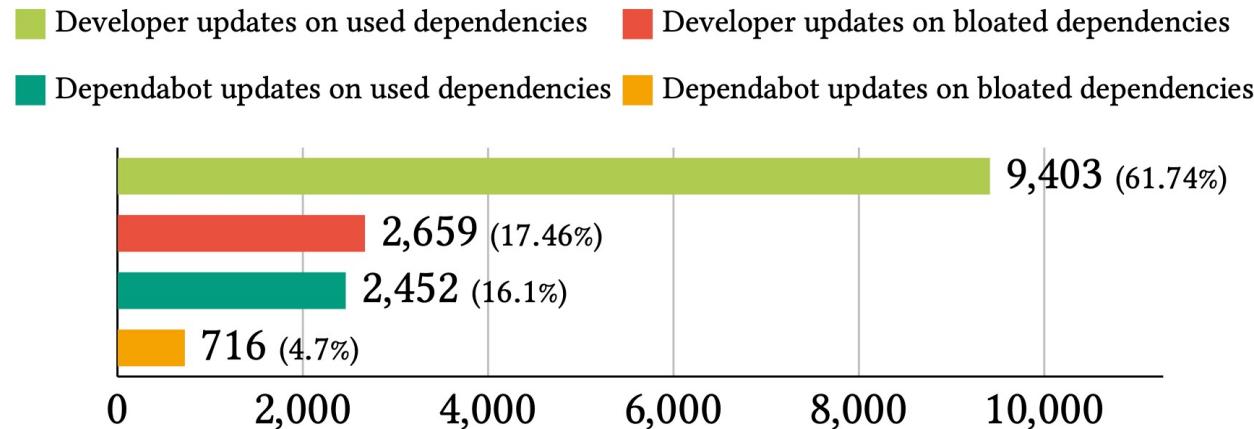
■ Developer updates on used dependencies ■ Developer updates on bloated dependencies
■ Dependabot updates on used dependencies ■ Dependabot updates on bloated dependencies



DO DEVELOPERS UPDATE BLOATED DEPENDENCIES?



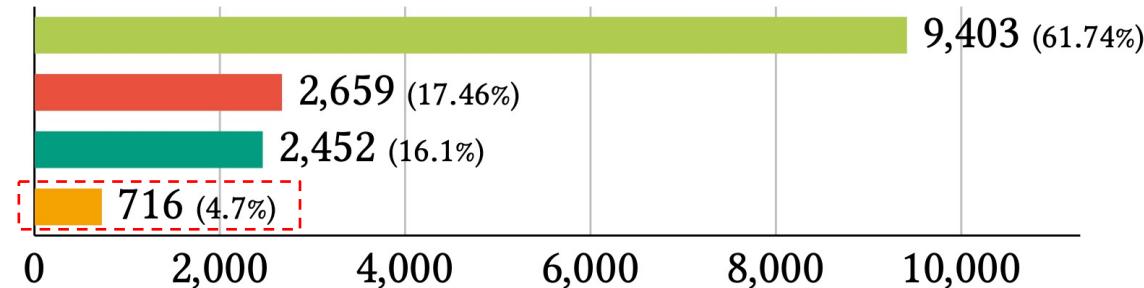
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DO DEVELOPERS UPDATE BLOATED DEPENDENCIES?



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SUMMARY OF 2nd CONTRIBUTION



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- **The usage status of dependencies is mostly constant over time**
 - It is safe to debloat dependencies (> 90% of dependencies do not change)

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SUMMARY OF 2nd CONTRIBUTION



- **The usage status of dependencies is mostly constant over time**
 - It is safe to debloat dependencies (> 90% of dependencies do not change)
- **Developers often update bloated dependencies**
 - An unnecessary maintenance effort due to the lack of tools
- **Some dependency updates are suggested by Dependabot**
 - First empirical evidence of false alarms related to dependency management caused by bots

Trace-based Debloat for Java Bytecode

César Soto-Valero  Thomas Durieux  Nicolas Harrand  and Benoit Baudry 

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
Email: {cesar, tdurieux, harrand, baudry}@kth.se

Abstract—Software bloat is code that is packaged in an application but is actually not used and necessary to run the application. The presence of bloat is an issue for software security for performance, and for maintenance. In recent years, several works have proposed approaches to remove unused code. In this paper, we propose a novel approach to debloat Java projects by collecting accurate execution traces, which we call trace-based debloat. We have developed JDBL, a tool that automates the collection of accurate execution traces and the debloating process. Given a Java project and a workload, JDBL generates a debloated version of the project that preserves the functionality of the original project. We evaluate the effectiveness of JDBL on 395 open-source Java libraries and the effectiveness of trace-based debloat with 395 open-source Java libraries for a total 10M+ lines of code. We demonstrate that our approach significantly reduces the size of these libraries while preserving the functionalities needed by their clients.

Index Terms—Software Bloat, Dynamic Analysis, Program Specialization, Build Automation, Software Maintenance

1 INTRODUCTION

SOFTWARE systems have a natural tendency to grow over time, both in size and complexity. A significant part of this growth comes with the addition of new features and different types of patches. Another part is due to the potentially useless code that accumulates over time. This phenomenon, known as software bloat, has been studied in the past [1], [2], [3], and the emergence of large software frameworks [4], [5], [6], and the widespread practice of code reuse [7], [8]. Software debloat poses several challenges for code analysis and transformation: determine the bloated parts of the software system [10], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], [18], [19], [20], [21], [22], produce a debloated version of the system that can still run and provide useful features. In this context, the problem of effectively debloating Java projects and libraries remains a long-standing software engineering endeavor.

Precious works on software debloat have provided different solutions for Java projects and specific languages. Significant efforts have been devoted to software debloat for statically [13], [14], [12]. Debloat approaches for Java are scarce in the literature, and rely on static analysis to detect unreachable code [15], [16], [17], [18], [19], [20], [21], [22]. They also leverage dynamic features of the language, such as type-induced dependencies [17], dynamic class loading [18], and reflection [19]. In addition, some approaches have been proposed to remove code that cannot be reached statically but are not executed at runtime without being explicitly loaded [20], [16].

In this paper, we propose a novel software debloat technique to remove unused Java bytecode: trace-based debloat. The core idea is to collect execution traces and use this information obtained from the collection of execution traces. This technique allows to capture bytecode usage information by monitoring the dynamic behavior of the application. This nature allows us to scale the debloat technique to large and diverse software projects, without any additional configuration. We implement this approach in a tool called JDBL, the Java

Debloat tool designed to debloat Java projects configured to build with Maven.

JDBL is the first software tool to debloat Java bytecode that combines trace collection, bytecode removal, and build support. JDBL is designed around three debloat phases. First, JDBL collects the usage of each piece of unused code while keeping the program cohesive. It leverages diverse code coverage tools to collect a set of accurate execution traces for the emergence of software artifacts. Second, JDBL removes the bytecode to remove unnecessary code, i.e., code that was not traced in the first phase. Bytecode removal is performed on the project as a whole, and not on individual classes, since many classes share the same code. Third, JDBL validates the debloat by executing the workload and verifying that the debloated project preserves the required functionality.

We ran JDBL on a curated benchmark of 395 open-source Java libraries, to evaluate its correctness and effectiveness. Our experiments show that JDBL is able to effectively debloating 311 (87.7%) real-world Java libraries, and preserving the correctness of 220 (70.7%) of these libraries. We provide evidence that JDBL preserves the correctness of the unnecessary code in software artifacts: 62.2% of classes in the libraries are debloated. The removal of this debloated code significantly reduces the size of the Java bytecode. JDBL reduces the Java bytecode space, which represents a mean reduction of 25.8% per library.

In order to further validate the relevance of trace-based debloat, we conducted two experiments. First, we evaluated the libraries that use the libraries that we debloated with JDBL. This is the first time that the debloat results are not only evaluated w.r.t. respect to the debloat results of the original library.

The second experiment is to evaluate the client applications. The goal is to demonstrate that JDBL produces debloated artifacts that still provide relevant functionalities. Our experiment shows that JDBL preserves the functionality of the debloated code that was not affected by the debloat of the library. Secondly, that the behavior of the test suite of 229/283 (80.9%) clients is preserved.

In summary, the main contributions of this work are:

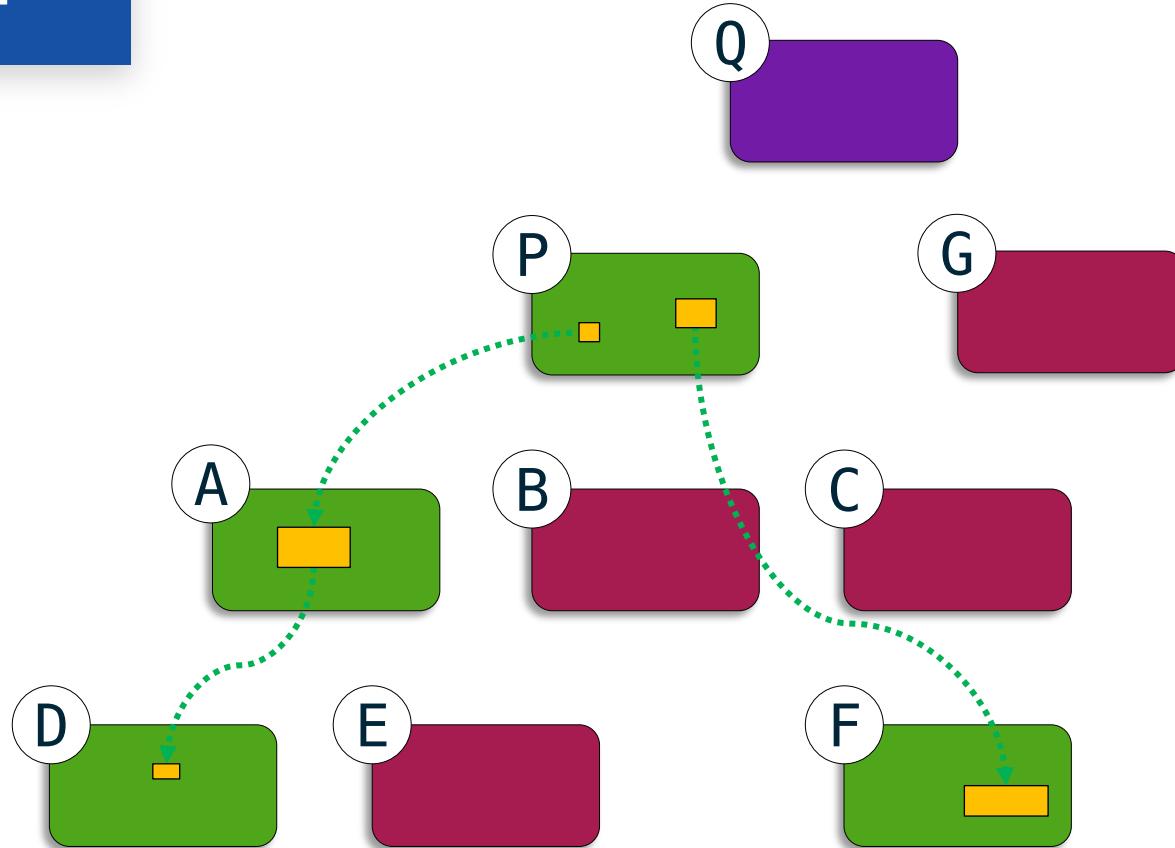
- The conceptual foundation of trace-based debloat for Java: a practical approach to debloat software through the collection of execution traces.

3rd CONTRIBUTION

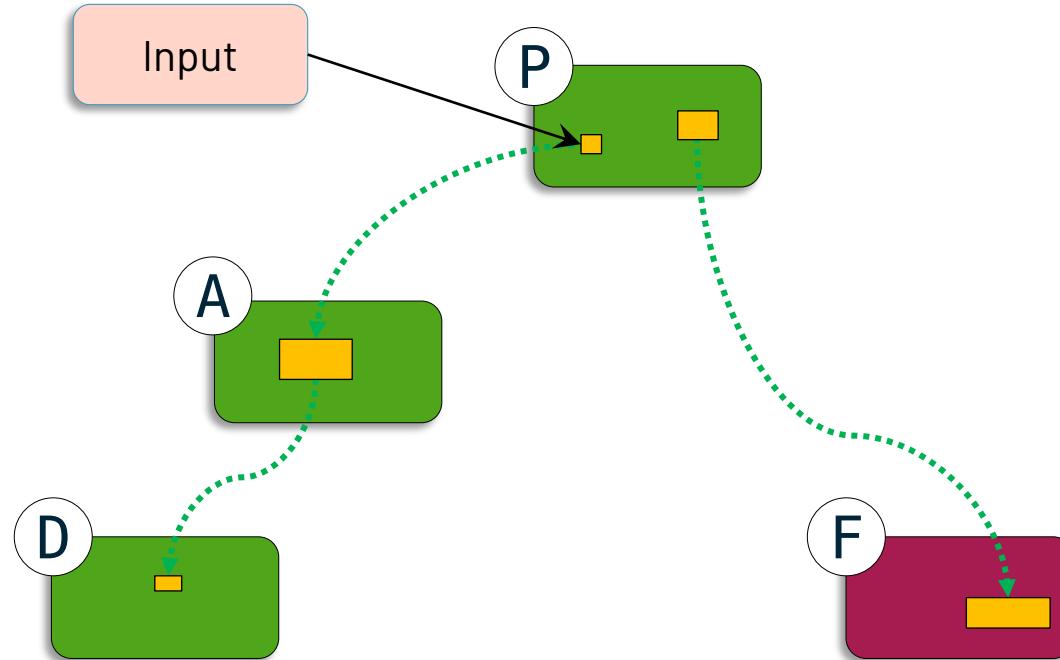
JDBL: Trace-based Debloat for Java Bytecode



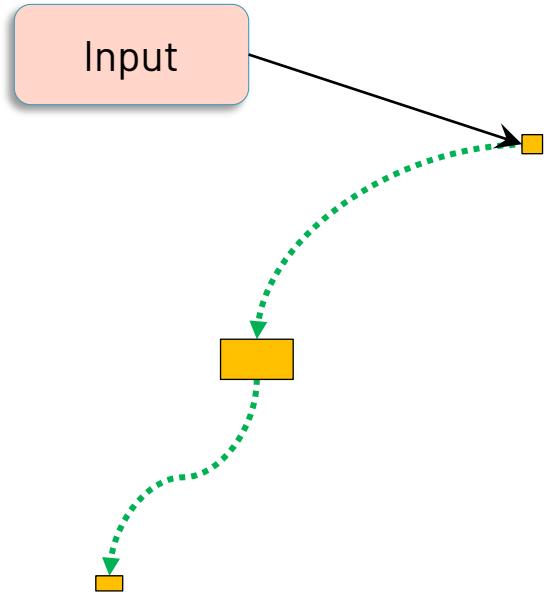
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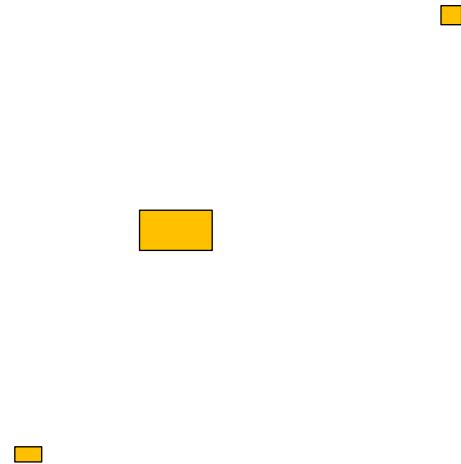
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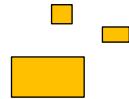
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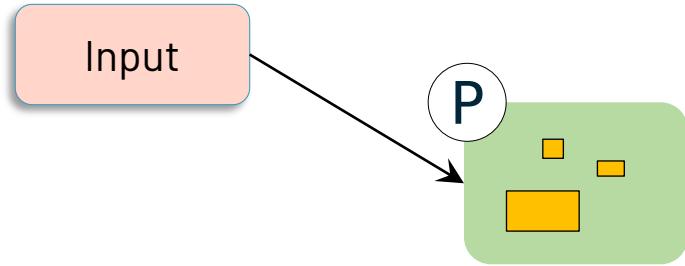
PROBLEM



PROBLEM



PROBLEM



JDBL TOOL



<https://github.com/castor-software/jdbl>

S castor-software / jdbl

Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

master · 3 branches · 1 tag

cesarsotovalero Set up GitHub actions 48acef · 10 hours ago 215 commits

github Remove windows os from the pipeline 10 hours ago

jdbl-agent Fix Travis build 17 hours ago

jdbl-app Fix Travis build 17 hours ago

jdbl-core Fix Travis build 17 hours ago

jdbl-maven-plugin Roll back jar-with-dependencies manipulation 8 months ago

.gitignore Show debloating jars 8 months ago

Opdd.xml feat: add PDD 14 months ago

LICENSE Update LICENSE 12 months ago

README.md Add Codecov badge in the README.md 10 hours ago

logo.svg doc: add gh contrib templates 12 months ago

pom.xml Update to Java 11 17 hours ago

wasp.svg Update README.md 9 months ago

Octocat > Contributors 1 cesarsotovalero César Soto Valero

tdurieux Thomas Durieux

dependabot[bot]

Environments 1

github-pages Active

Build status

- build passed
- maven-central v1.0.0
- quality gate passed
- maintainability A
- reliability E
- security
- vulnerabilities
- pugs 4
- code smells 151
- lines of code 4.9k
- duplicated lines 0.5%
- technical debt 3d
- codecov 12%

Java 89.2% HTML 8.3%
JavaScript 2.5% CSS 1.9%
Shell 0.1%

JDBL

JDBL TOOL



<https://github.com/castor-software/jdbl>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'castor-software/jdbl'. The repository has 3 branches and 1 tag. The master branch has 215 commits from cesarsotovalero. Recent commits include removing windows os from the pipeline, fixing Travis build, and rolling back a jar-with-dependencies manipulation. Contributors listed are cesarsotovalero, tdurieux, and dependabot[bot]. The repository uses GitHub Actions. A badge at the bottom indicates build status: build passed, maven-central v1.0.0 passed, quality gate passed, maintainability A, reliability E, security 0 vulnerabilities, 0 bugs, 0 code smells, 151 lines of code, 4.9k duplicated lines, 0.5% technical debt, and codecov 12%. A pie chart shows the distribution of code by language: Java 89.2%, HTML 8.3%, JavaScript 2.5%, CSS 1.9%, and Shell 0.1%.

Relies on dynamic analysis to collect execution traces at runtime

JDBL TOOL



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The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `castor-software/jdbl`. The repository has 3 branches and 1 tag. Recent commits include setting up GitHub actions, fixing Travis builds, and rolling back a jar-with-dependencies manipulation. Contributors listed are `cesarsotovalero`, `tdurieux`, and `dependabot[bot]`. Environments show a single entry for `github-pages`. The SonarQube analysis at the bottom indicates a build status of `passed`, Maven Central version `v1.0.0`, and quality gate `passed`. It also shows code metrics like 4.9k lines of code, 4.9k duplicated lines, 0.5% bugs, 3d technical debt, and 12% codecov.

Relies on dynamic analysis to collect execution traces at runtime

Automatically remove unused classes and methods

JDBL TOOL



<https://github.com/castor-software/jdbl>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `castor-software/jdbl`. The repository has 3 branches and 1 tag. The master branch has 215 commits from `cesarsotovalero`, with the latest commit being a GitHub action to remove Windows from the pipeline. Other commits include fixing Travis builds and manipulating dependencies. The repository also includes files like `Opdd.xml`, `LICENSE`, `README.md`, and `pom.xml`. The analysis section at the bottom shows various metrics: build passing (green), maven-central v1.0.0 (green), quality gate passed (green), maintainability A (green), reliability E (red), security (red), vulnerabilities (red), bugs 4 (orange), technical debt 3d (orange), and codecov 12% (orange). It also shows code statistics: 4.9k lines of code, 0.5% duplicated lines, and 0.5% technical debt.

Relies on dynamic analysis to collect execution traces at runtime

Automatically remove unused classes and methods

Package the debloated application

APPROACH



JDBL

APPROACH



Input

Project

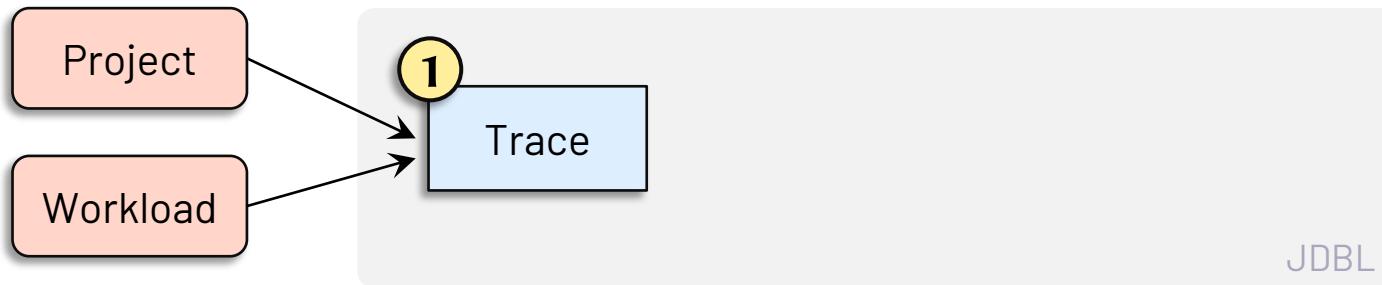
Workload

JDBL

APPROACH



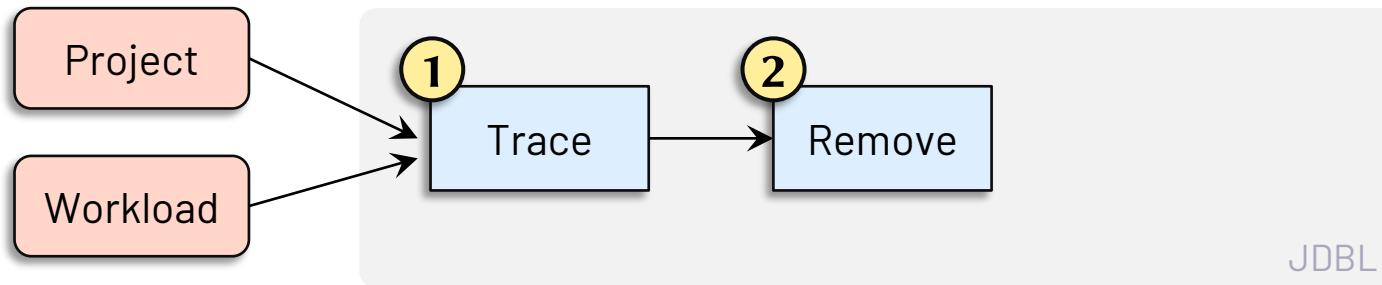
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APPROACH



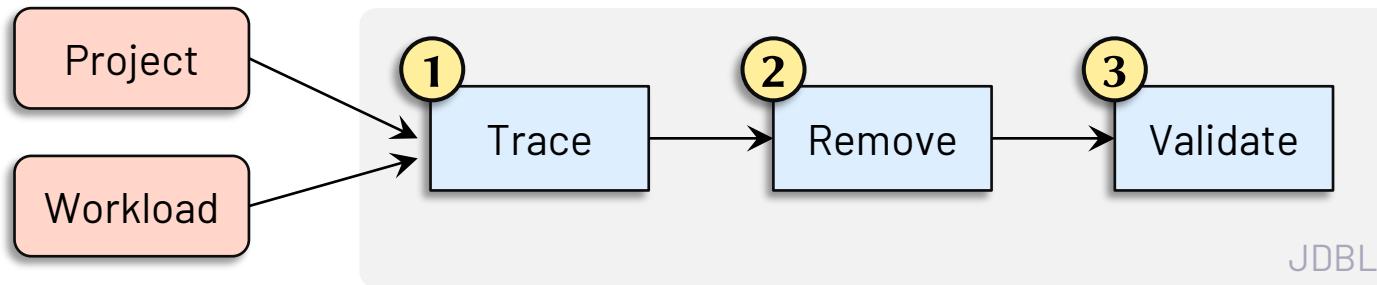
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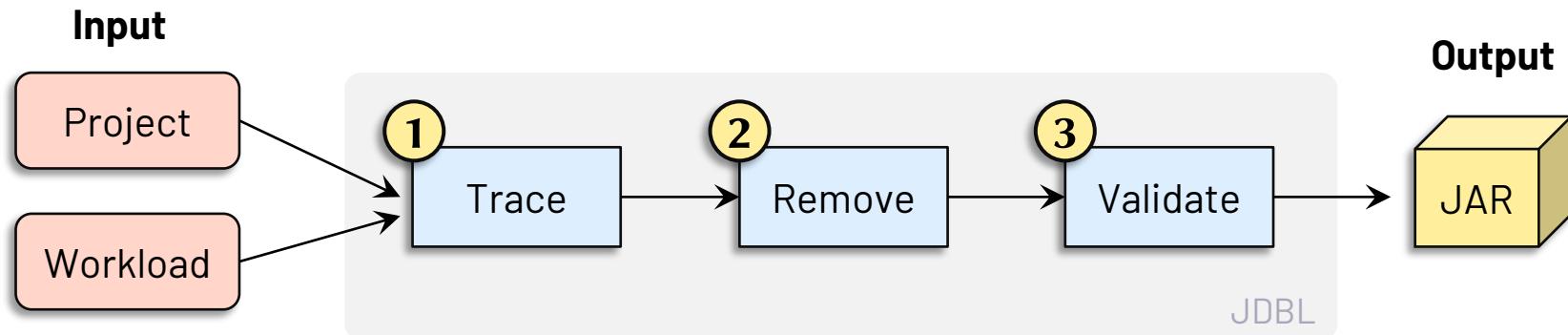
APPROACH



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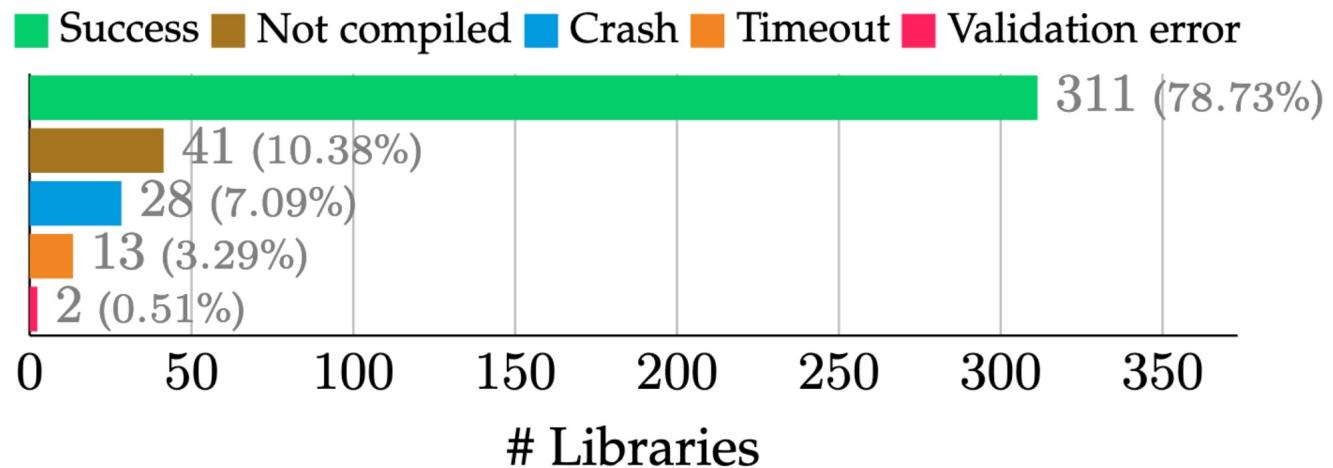
APPROACH



CAN JDBL DEBLOAT AUTOMATICALLY?



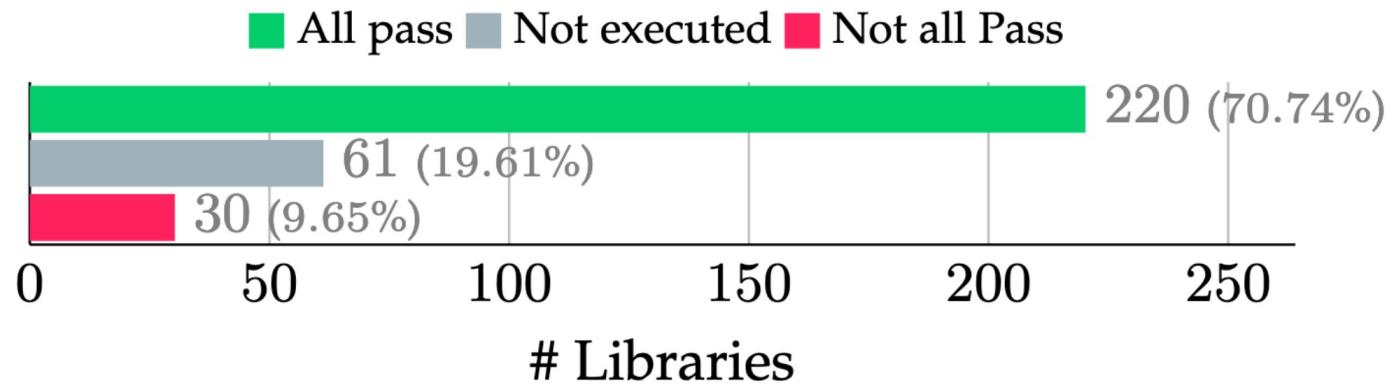
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IS THE BEHAVIOUR PRESERVED?



IS THE BEHAVIOUR PRESERVED?



WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?



WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

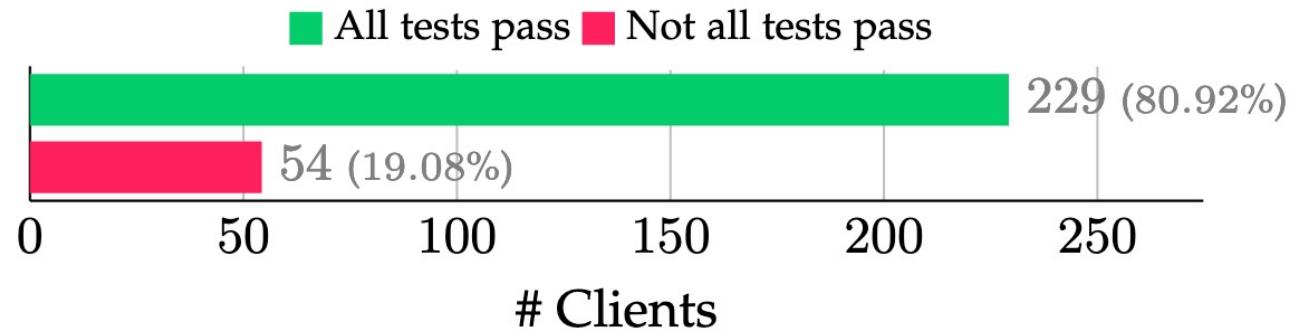


	Bloated (%)
Dependencies	52/254 (20.5 %) 
Classes	75,273/121,055 (62.2 %) 
Methods	505,268/829,015 (60.9 %) 

ARE THE CLIENTS AFFECTED?



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SUMMARY OF 3rd CONTRIBUTION



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- **Debloating makes libraries smaller**
 - > 50% smaller than the original

SUMMARY OF 3rd CONTRIBUTION



- **Trace-based debloat is doable**
 - > 78% successfully debloated libraries
- **Debloated libraries preserve the original behaviour**
 - > 70% libraries are not affected
- **Debloated libraries are**
 - > 50% smaller than the original
- **Library clients preserve the original behaviour**
 - > 80% clients are not affected



LESSONS LEARNED

LESSONS LEARNED



LESSONS LEARNED



- **Debloat is hard in practice**

- Determining what is actually used is not trivial
- Static + Dynamic analysis may help

LESSONS LEARNED



- **Debloat is hard in practice**
 - Determining what is actually used is not trivial
 - Static + Dynamic analysis may help
- **Debloat is relevant**
 - Package ecosystems are bloated
 - Developers are willing to debloat software
 - More tools are needed for this purpose

FUTURE WORK



FUTURE WORK



- End-to-end software debloat

FUTURE WORK



- End-to-end software debloat
- Debloat containers

FUTURE WORK



- End-to-end software debloat
- Debloat containers
- Debloat specific features

FUTURE WORK



- End-to-end software debloat
- Debloat containers
- Debloat specific features
- Debloat test suites



PHD PROGRESS

PAPERS DIRECTLY RELATED



1. César Soto-Valero, Thomas Durieux, Nicolas Harrand, Benoit Baudry. **Trace-based Debloat for Java Bytecode** [Submitted to TSE]
2. César Soto-Valero, Thomas Durieux, Benoit Baudry. **A Longitudinal Analysis of Bloated Java Dependencies** [Submitted to FSE]
3. Thomas Durieux, César Soto-Valero, Benoit Baudry. **DUETS: A Dataset of Reproducible Pairs of Java Library-Clients** [MSR'21]
4. César Soto-Valero, Nicolas Harrand, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry. **A Comprehensive Study of Bloated Dependencies in the Maven Ecosystem** [EMSE'20]
5. César Soto-Valero, Amine Benelallam, Nicolas Harrand, Olivier Barais, Benoit Baudry. **The Emergence of Software Diversity in Maven Central** [MSR'19]

OTHER PAPERS



1. Nicolas Harrand, Amine Benelallam, César Soto-Valero, Olivier Barais, Benoit Baudry. **Analyzing 2.3 Million Maven Dependencies to Reveal an Essential Core in APIs** [Submitted to JSS]
2. Gustaf Halvardsson, Johanna Peterson, César Soto-Valero, Benoit Baudry. **Interpretation of Swedish Sign Language using Convolutional Neural Networks and Transfer Learning** [SNCS'21]
3. Nicolas Harrand, César Soto-Valero, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry. **Java Decompiler Diversity and its Application to Meta-decompilation** [JSS'20]
4. Raúl Reina, David Barbado, César Soto-Valero, José M. Sarabia and Alba Roldán. **Evaluation of the Bilateral Function in Para-athletes with Spastic Hemiplegia: a Model-based Clustering Approach** [JSAMS'20]
5. Amine Benelallam, Nicolas Harrand, César Soto-Valero, Benoit Baudry, Olivier Barais. **The Maven Dependency Graph: a Temporal Graph-based Representation of Maven Central** [MSR'19]
6. Nicolas Harrand, César Soto-Valero, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry. **The Strengths and Behavioral Quirks of Java Bytecode Decompilers** [SCAM'19]
7. César Soto-Valero, Miguel Pic. **Assessing the Causal Impact of the 3-point Per Victory Scoring System in the Competitive Balance of LaLiga** [IJCSS'19]
8. César Soto-Valero, Yohan Bourcier, Benoit Baudry. **Detection and Analysis of Behavioral T-patterns in Debugging Activities** [MSR'18]

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TEACHER ASSISTANT



1. **DD2482 Automated Software Testing and DevOps**, worked with Martin Monperrus & Benoit Baudry at KTH, Spring 2021
2. **WASP Software Engineering and Cloud Computing**, worked with Martin Monperrus & Benoit Baudry at KTH, Spring 2021
3. **DD2480 Software Engineering Fundamentals**, worked with Cyrille Artho at KTH, Spring 2021
4. **DD1369 Software Engineering in Project Form**, worked with Dena Hussain at KTH, Fall 2020
5. **DD2460 Software Safety and Security**, worked with Cyrille Artho at KTH, Spring 2020
6. **DD2482 Automated Software Testing and DevOps**, worked with Martin Monperrus & Benoit Baudry at KTH, Spring 2020
7. **DM1590 Machine Learning for Media Technology**, worked with Bob Sturm at KTH, Spring 2020
8. **DA2210 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science and Research Methodology for Computer Scientists**, worked with Linda Kann at KTH, Fall 2019
9. **WASP Software Engineering and Cloud Computing**, worked with Martin Monperrus & Benoit Baudry at KTH, Spring 2019
10. **ID2211 Data Mining, Basic Course**, worked with Sarunas Girdzijauskas at KTH, Spring 2019

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10 courses completed



57 CREDITS

10 courses completed

3 SUPERVISIONS

2 BSc + 1 MSc



57 CREDITS

10 courses completed

3 SUPERVISIONS

2 BSc + 1 MSc

8 PAPERS REVIEWED

3 as primary reviewer + 5 as sub-reviewer



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99 CITATIONS

Slow and steady wins the race





3 PROJECTS

DepAnalyzer + DepClean + JDBL



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10+ TRIPS

4 Countries



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50+ MERGED PRs

Still low, more to come!





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Still low, more to come!

12 PRESENTATIONS

e.g., SL, FOSDEM'21





1 BABY

The greatest challenge!



THANKS!

Any questions?

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