

# Fixr: Mining and Understanding Bug Fixes for App-Framework Protocol Defects



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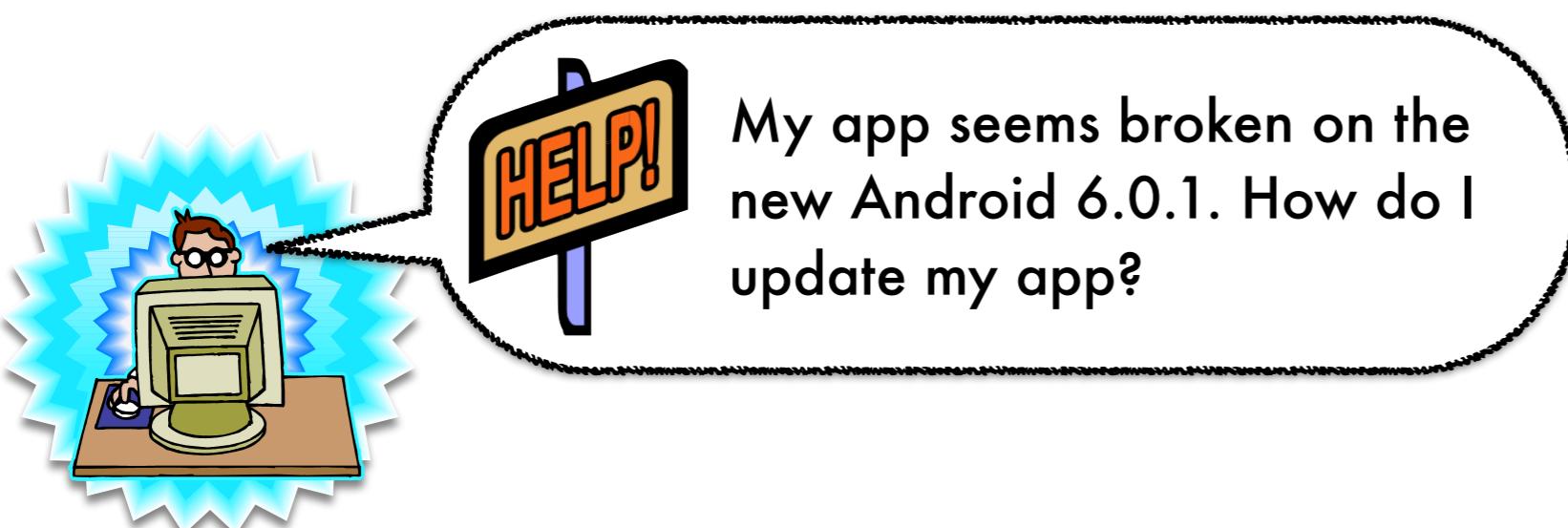
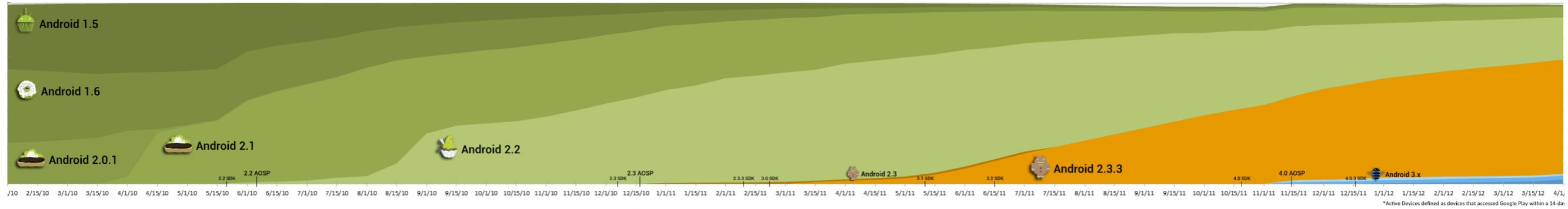
I am not alone



# The Android framework is constantly changing



# The Big Android Chart: Android Platform Version History

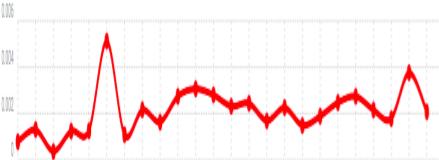


# How do I leverage the “crowd”?

# Fixr Goals and Tools



## API Usage Trend Analysis



Explore the bug-fix artifacts created by the crowd (e.g., commits in Github). Find **trends** in bug-fixing.

## Relevant Commit Search



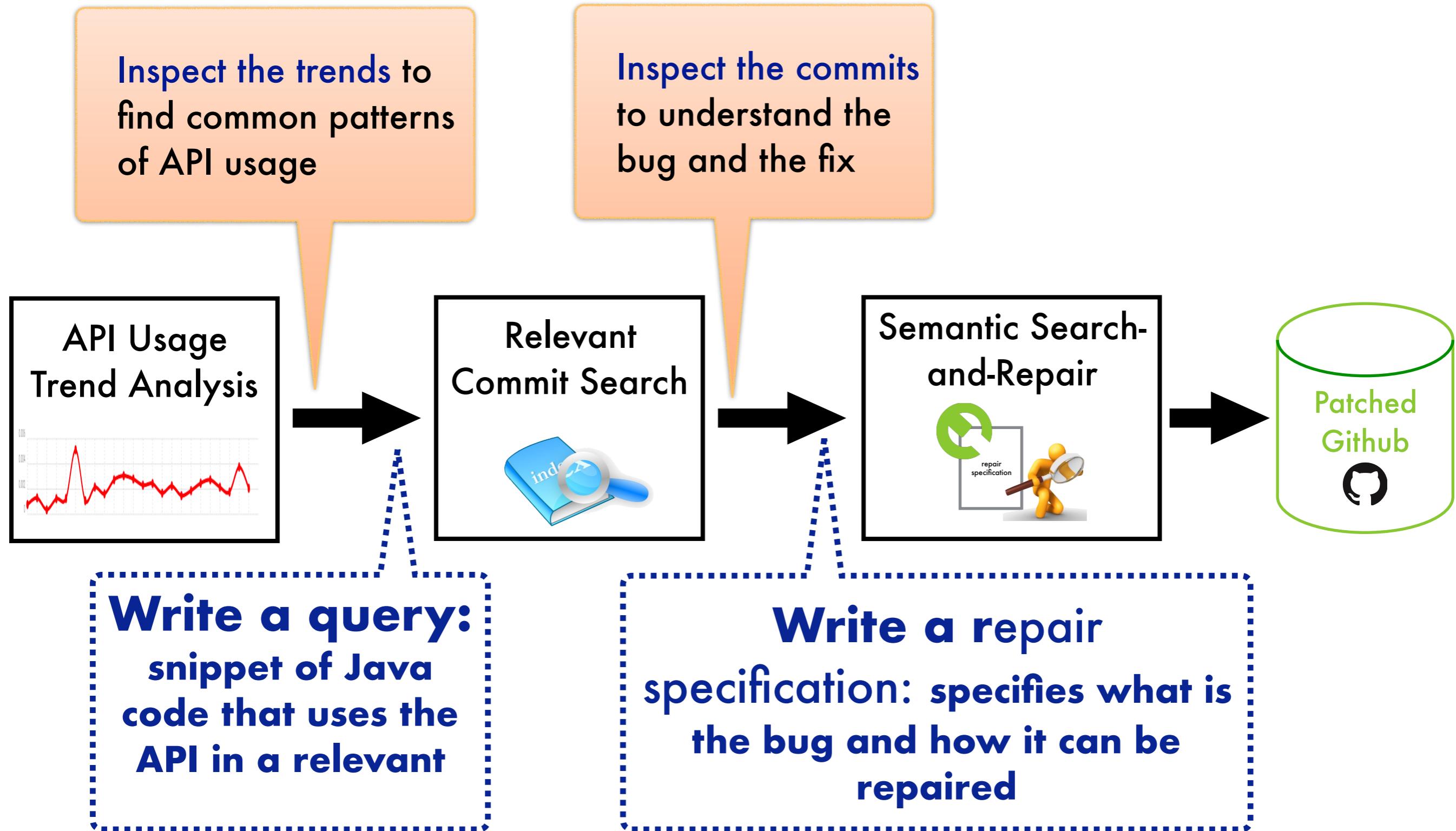
Find bug-fix artifacts. Fixes **relevant** to my code. Fixes that generalize to a “rule” or **repair specification**.

## Semantic Search- and-Repair



**Apply** fixes to my code. Interactively suggest repairs to new code from mined specifications

# Fixr Workflow in Phase 1



# Fixr Approach:

Mine repair specifications from bug-fixes

Prior Hypothesis  
of a  
repair specification

Observe a  
bug-fix commit

Bayesian  
Update

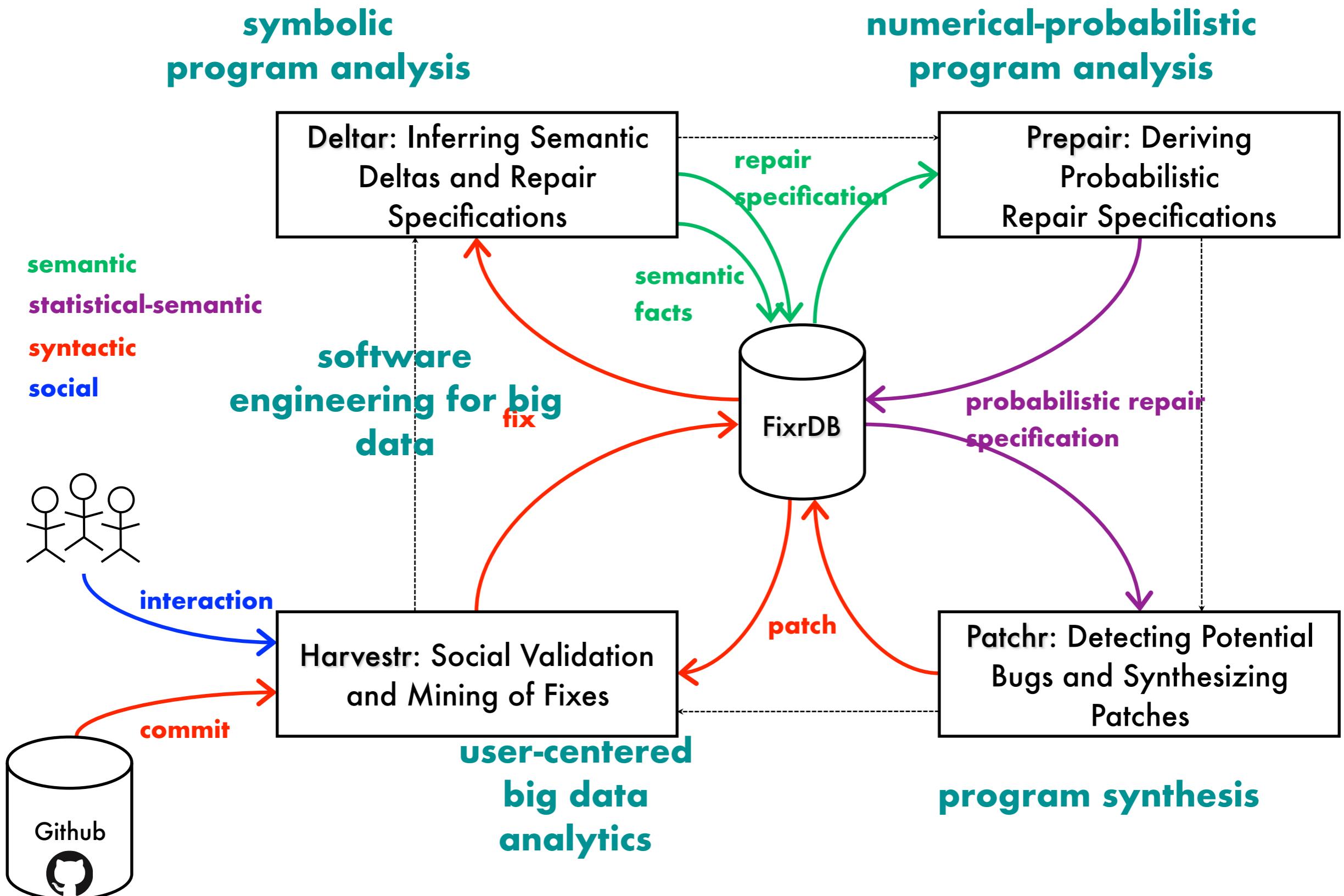
Posterior  
Hypothesis

semantic

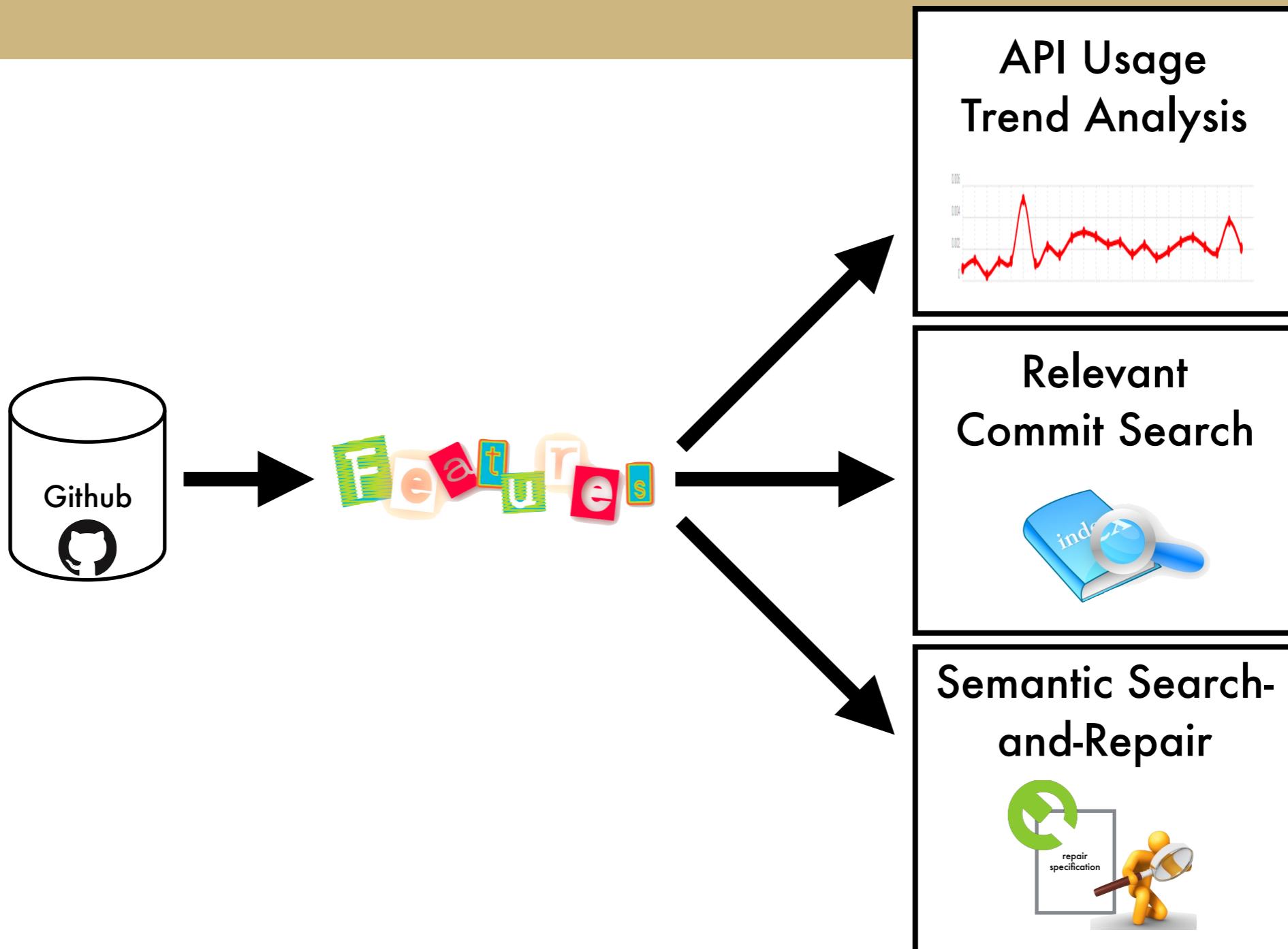
diff

The Fixr Loop:  
Create as many observations as possible

# Overview: The Fixr loop



# Fixr Approach: **Commits** are where it starts



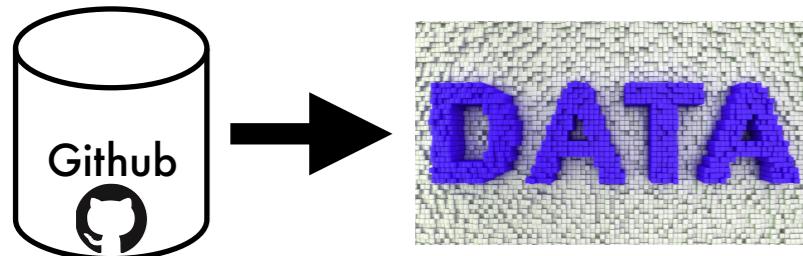
Need: Extract **features** from code **commits**



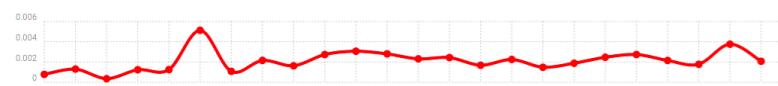
# Key Challenge: Finding the “right” feature extraction

“Semantic enough” to minimize noise  
but “syntactic enough” to be feasible

# Fixr Phase 1 Contributions



**Extract commit features at scale**



Find API usage over time

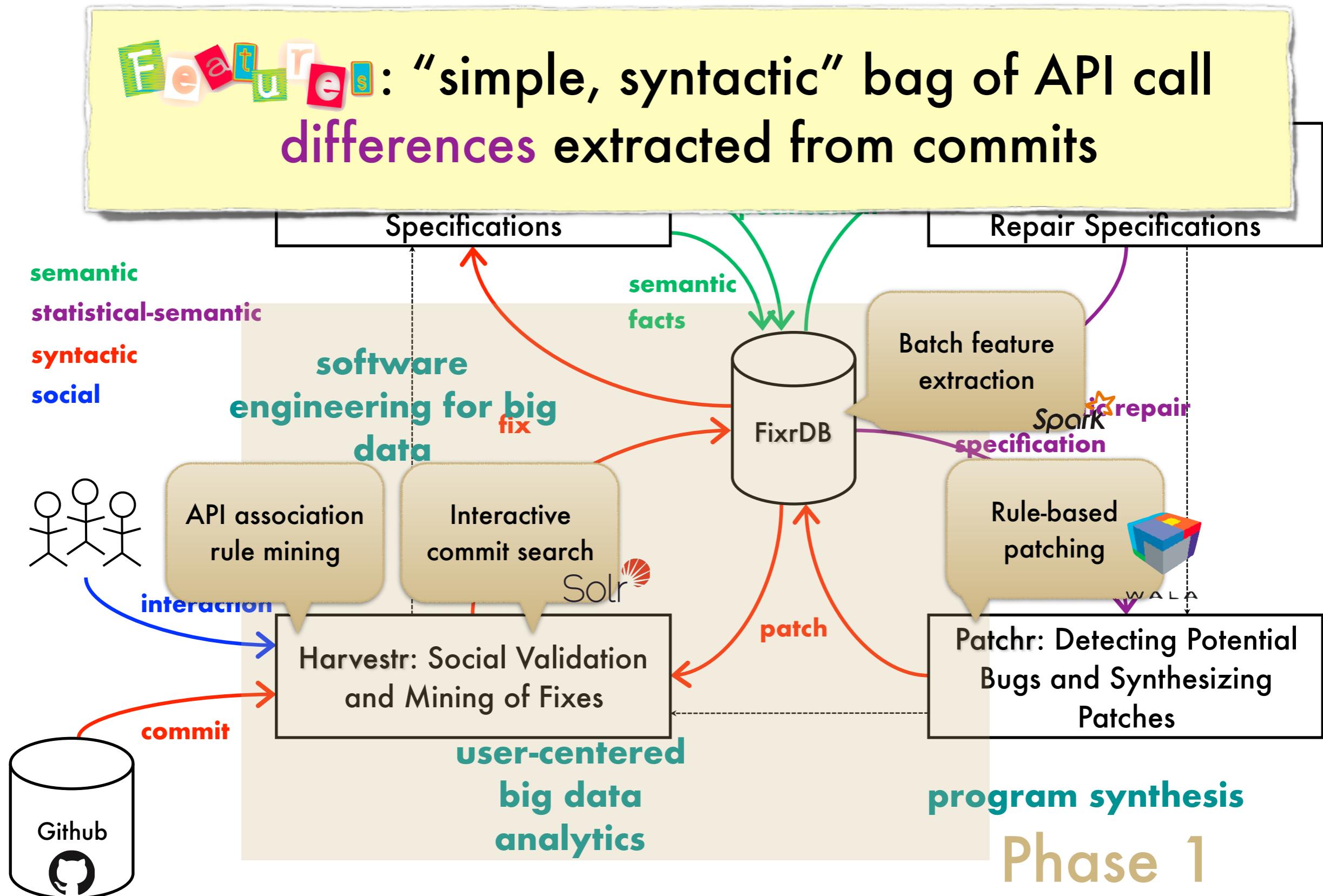


Demonstrated the potential of these tools with "simple" features on commits



Second platform for Android apps

# Fixr: Phase 1





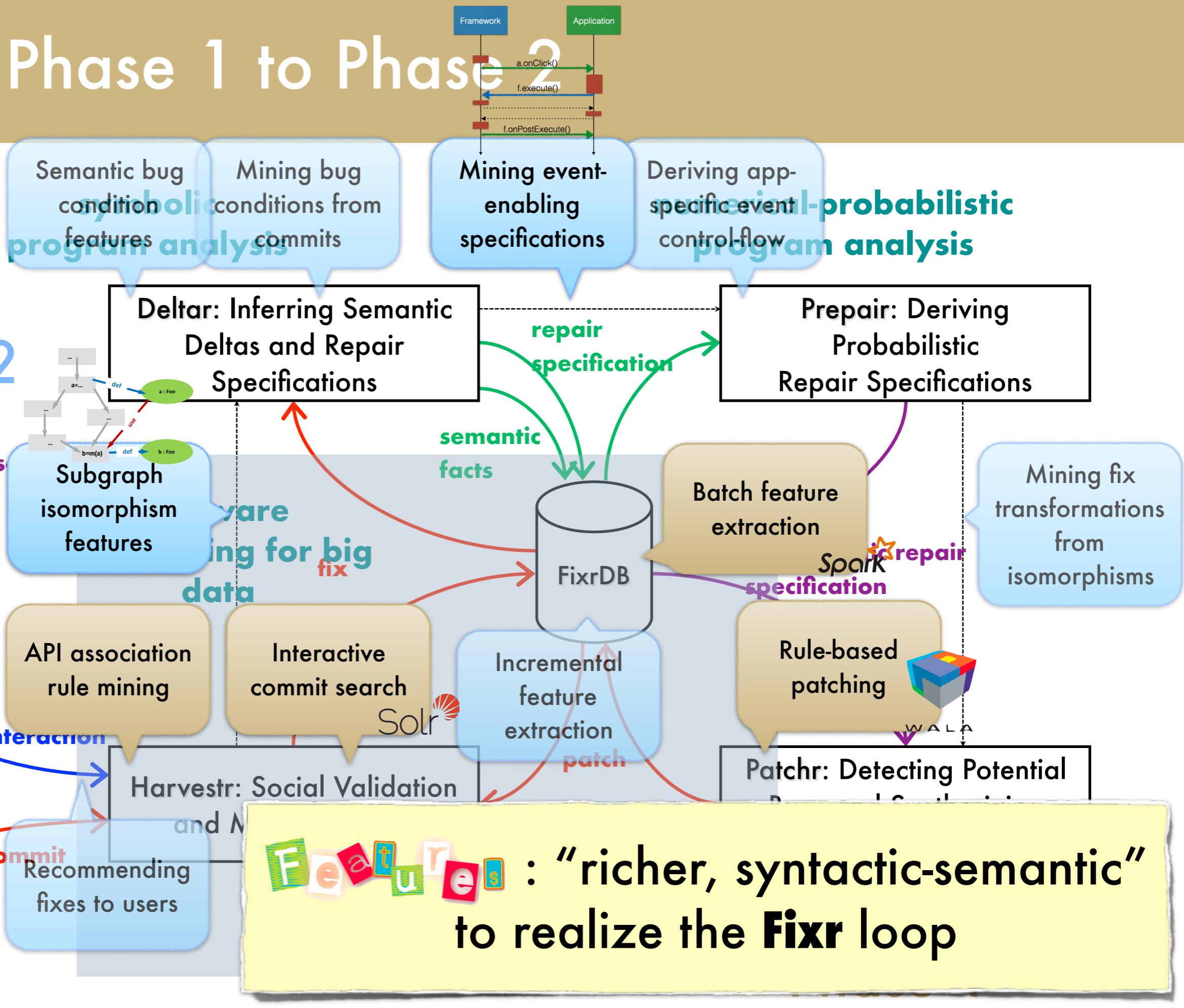
# Phase 2 Plan: Investigate “richer” features

Main topic for today

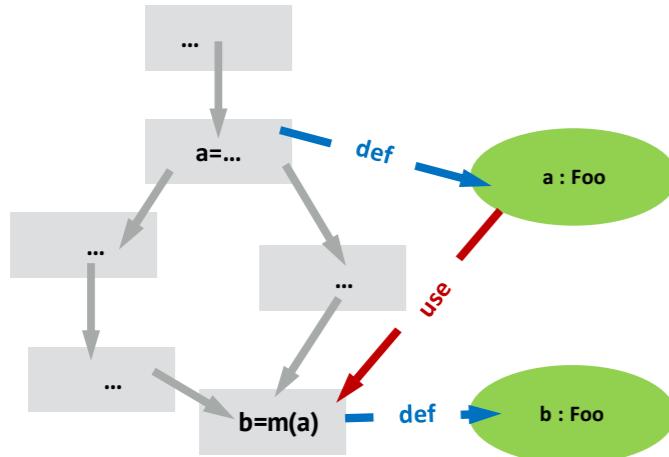
# Fixr: Phase 1 to Phase 2

## Phase 2

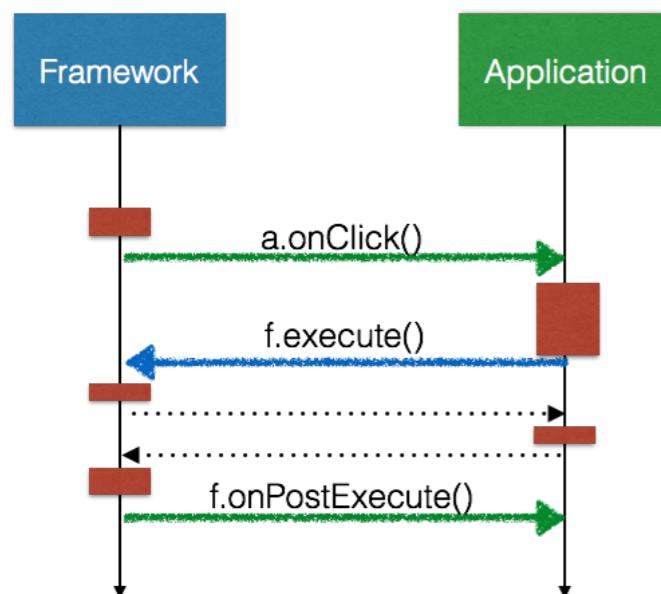
semantic  
statistical-syntactic  
syntactic  
social



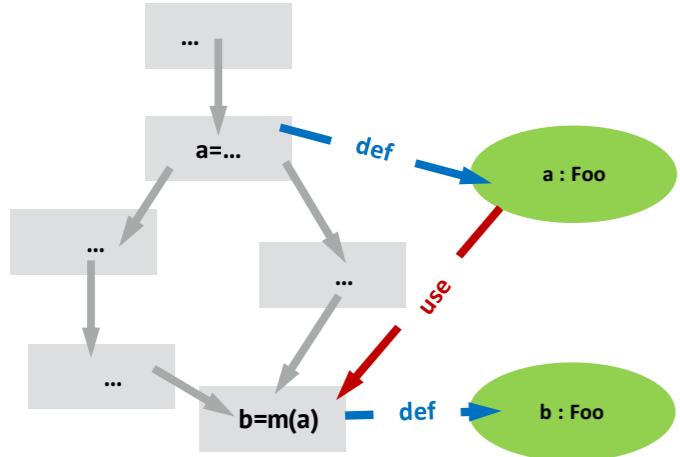
# Progress towards “Richer” Features



**Extract approximate graph  
isomorphism features**



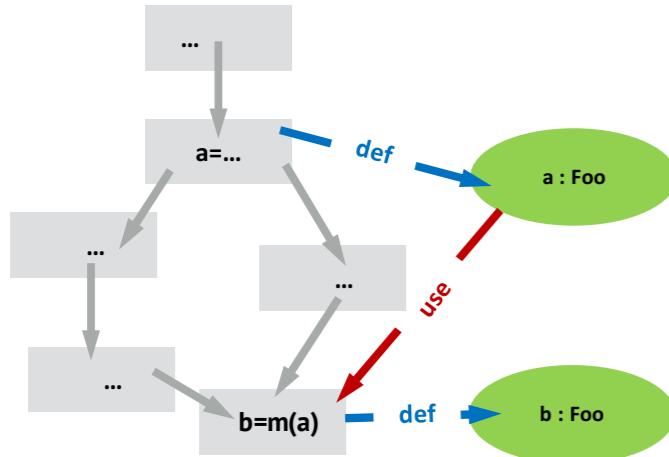
**Abstracting event-driven  
systems with *Lifestate Rules***



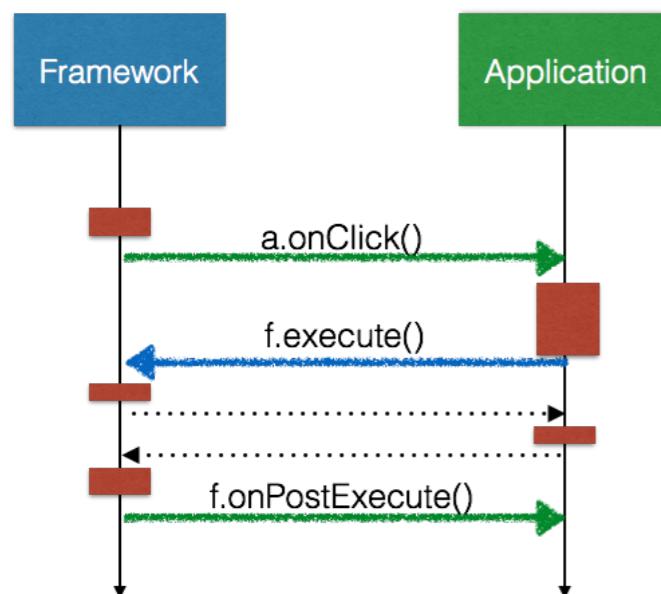
# Extract approximate graph isomorphism features



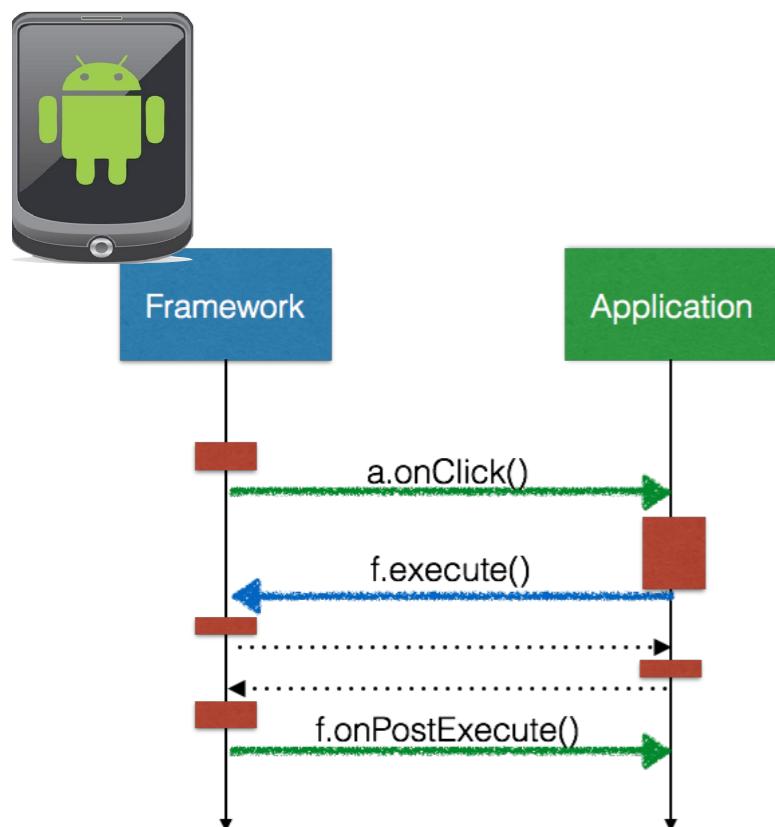
# Progress towards “Richer” Features



**Extract approximate graph  
isomorphism features**



**Abstracting event-driven  
systems with *Lifestate Rules***



## Abstracting event-driven systems with *Lifestate Rules*

# Android is an Event-Driven System



Inter-event **bug fixes** invisible to  
intra-event ACDFGs

triggered on user click.

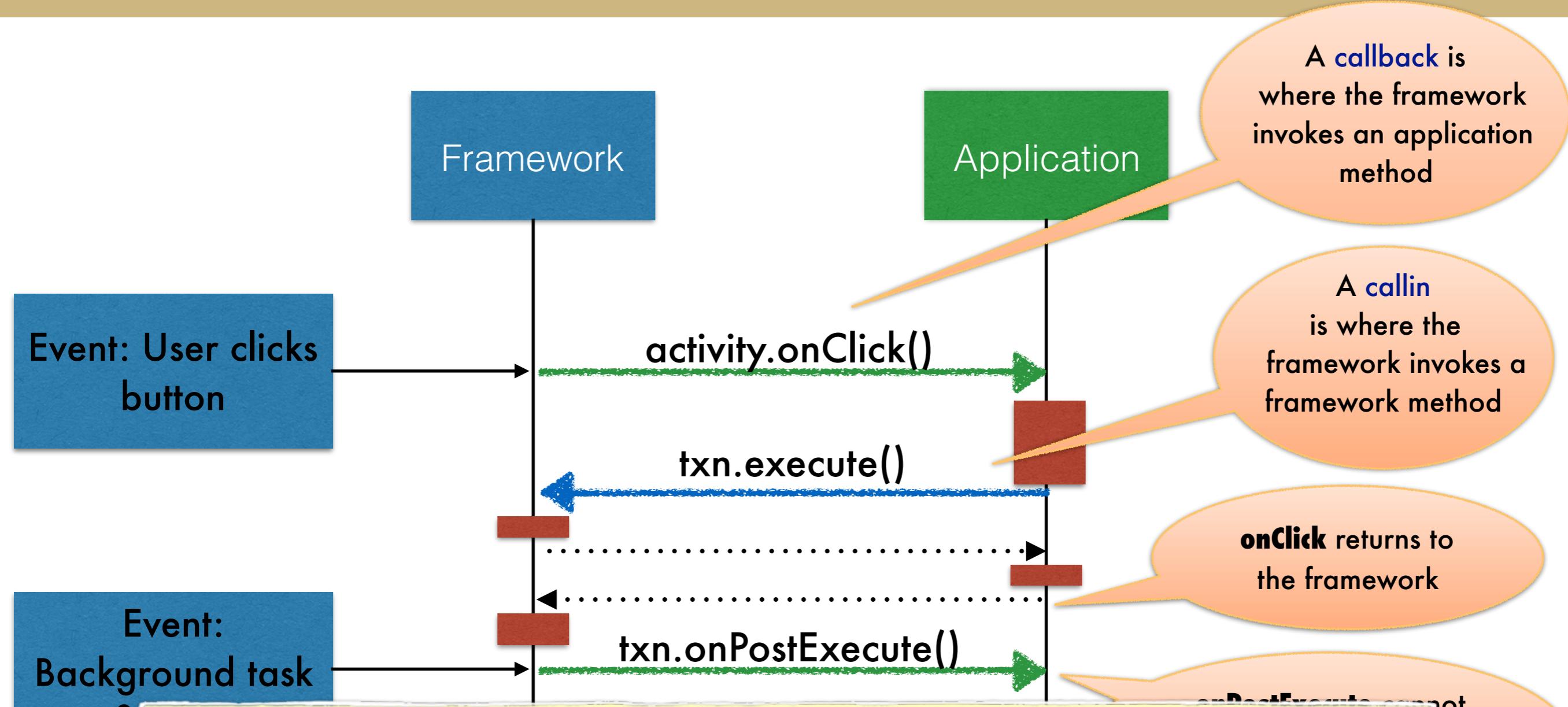
```
try {  
    db.beginTransaction(); ...  
    db.setTransactionSuccessful();  
}  
finally { db.endTransaction(); }
```

**Callback doInBackground:**  
Database operations in the  
background asynchronously.

Add **callback onPostExecute**:  
Bug fix: allocate a new  
MyTxn task for the next  
transaction.



# Android is an Event-Driven System



The event-driven framework uses **callbacks** to notify the application of events and the application uses **callins** to affect how the framework invokes future callbacks.



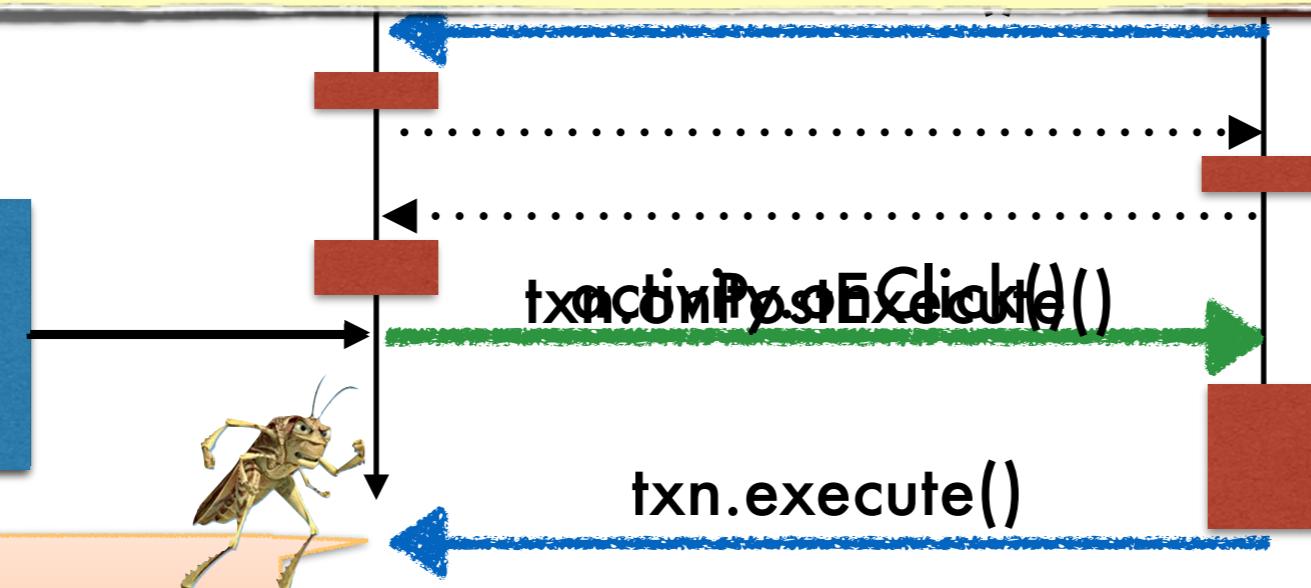
# Android is an Event-Driven System

Need: Modeling and reasoning  
about how **callins** affect **callbacks**  
(and vice versa)

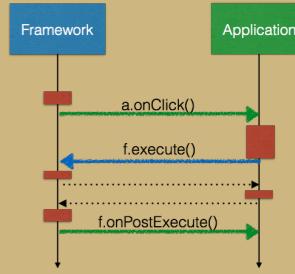
Event: User  
button

Event:  
Background task  
finishes

Exception: Cannot  
call **execute** on same  
**AsyncTask** instance.



# Contributions



**$\lambda$ life:** A (concrete) model of event-driven systems capturing how callins and callbacks affect each other



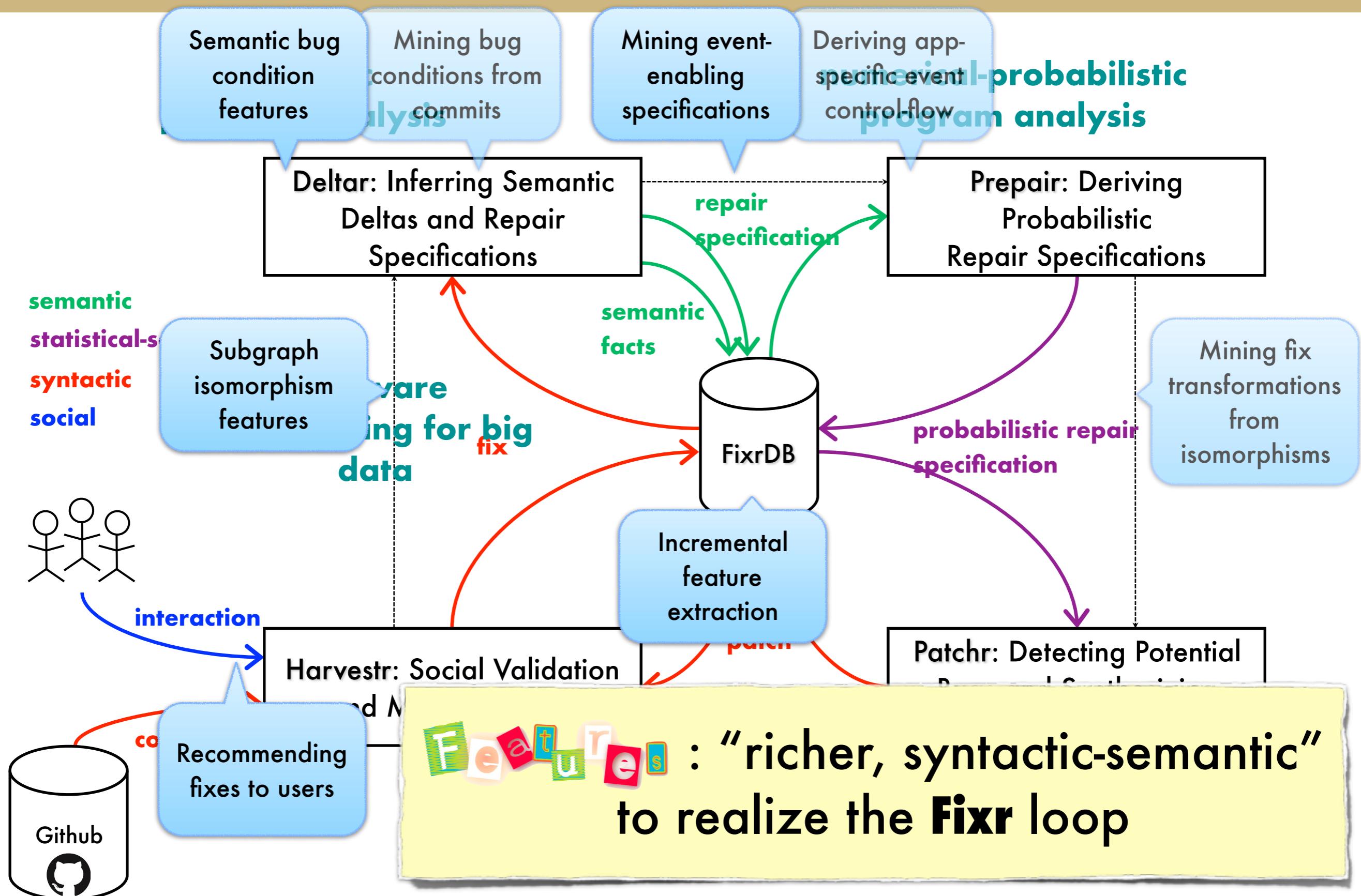
**Lifestate Rules:** A specification language to model the effects of Android callins and callbacks



**DroidLife:** Mining lifestate specifications and verifying the absence of lifestate “races”



# Fixr: Phase 2



# Engagement with the MUSE community

## Leidos

Submitted two challenge problems (Web Service Clients and User Interface Regressions)

Corresponding on Phase 2 Infrastructure

## Build-ability

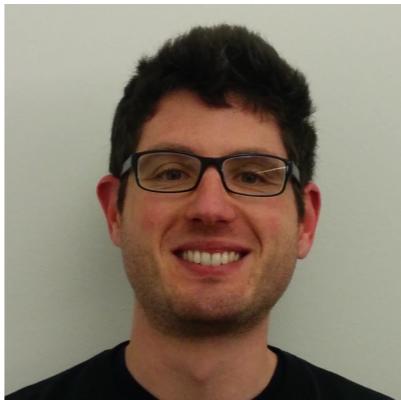
Discussion with Leidos, SRI/UCLA, UCI

## Collaboration with Rice

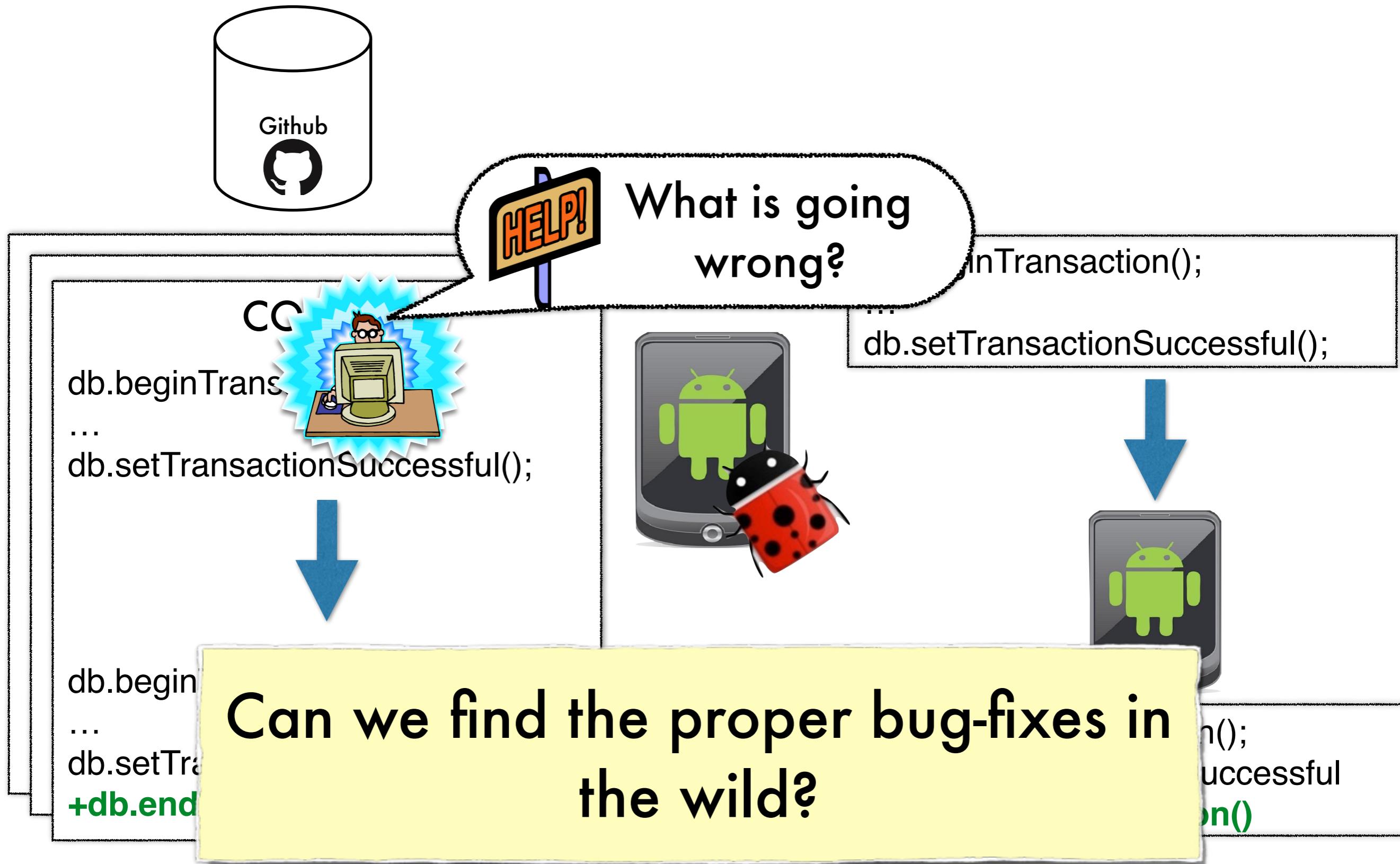
Sergio Mover visited in February. On-going discussions.

# Fixr Phase 1 Review

Sergio Mover

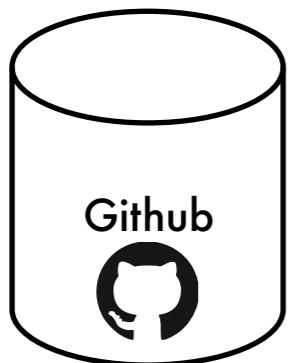


# Fixr problem



# Fixr - Main hypotheses

API-specific bug-fixes can be transferred to other Apps



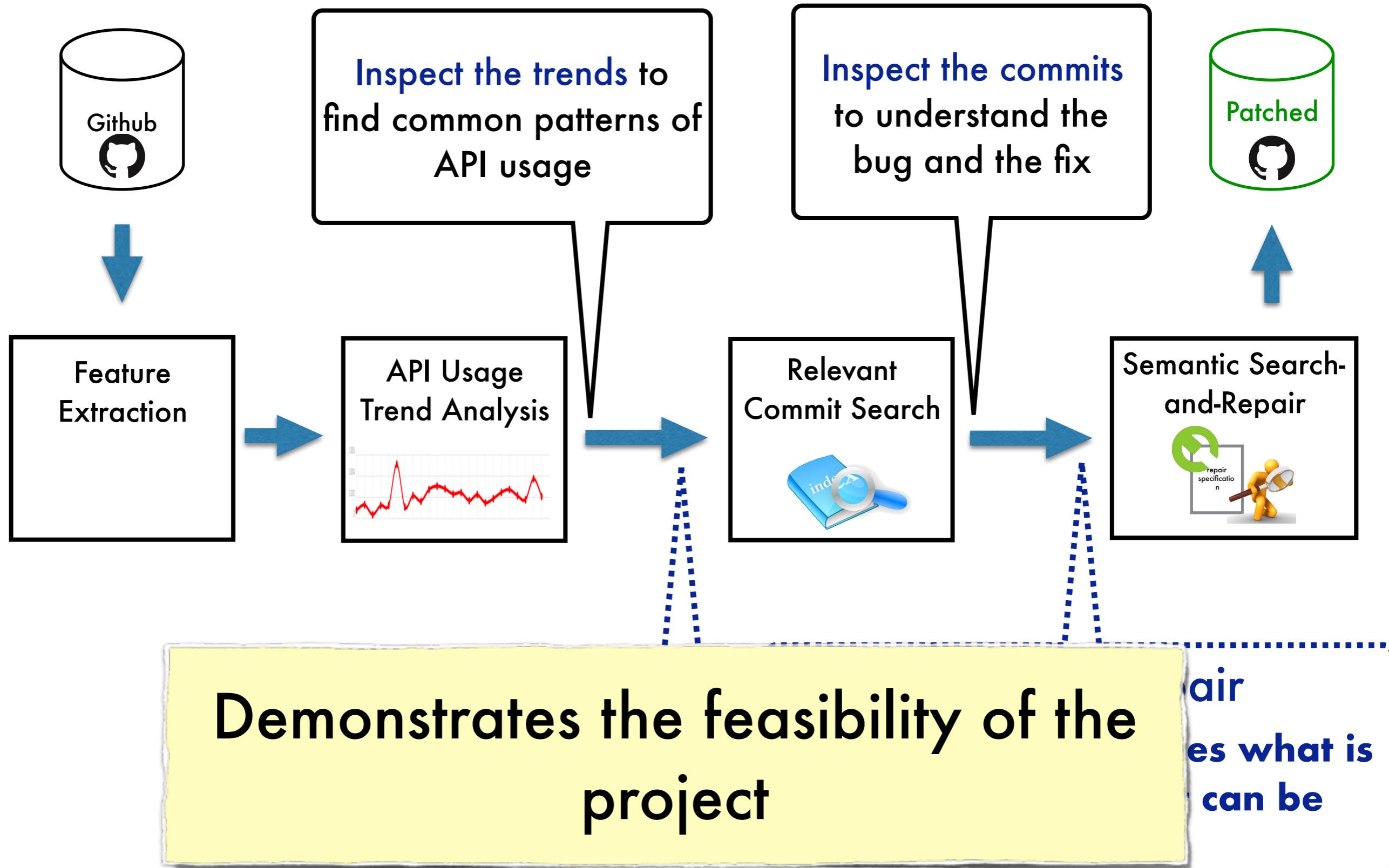
COMMIT

```
-db.endTransaction();  
db.beginTransaction();  
+db.endTransaction()
```

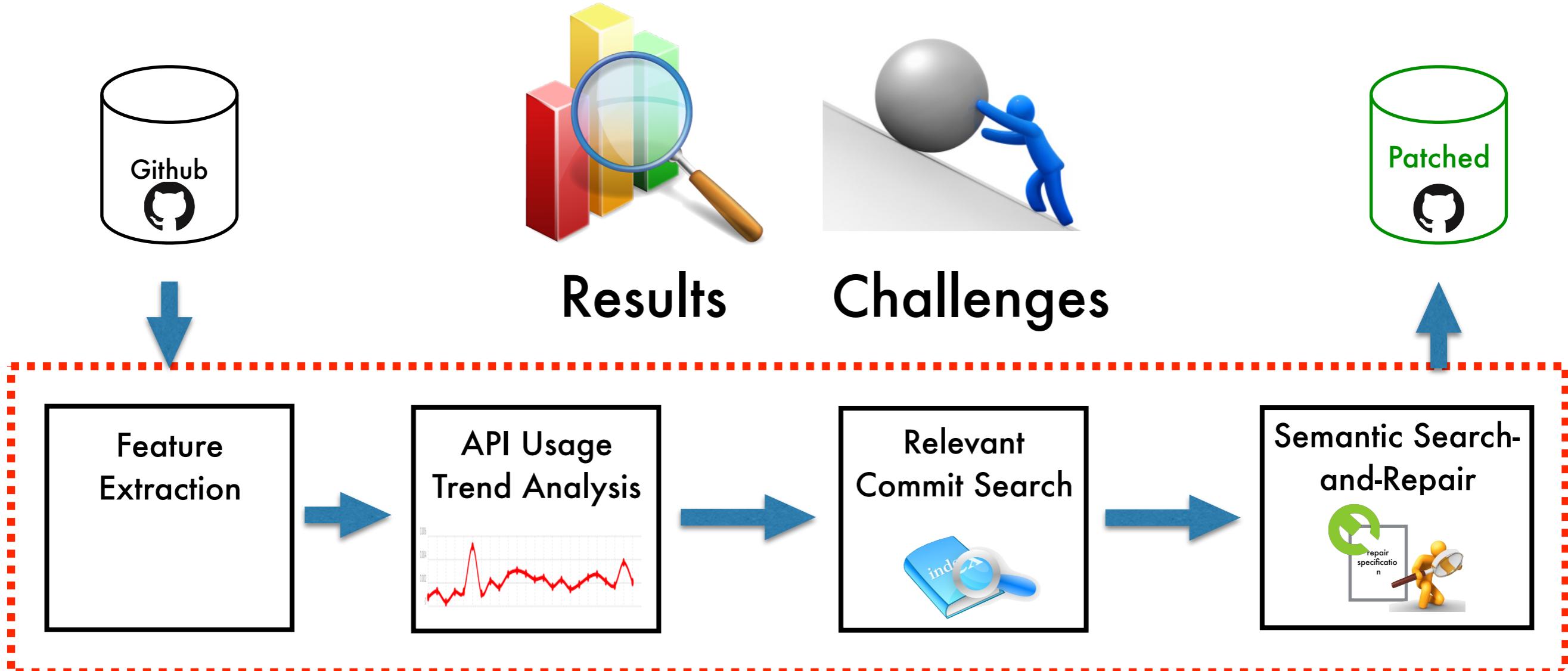
We have to reason about commits

Do these hypotheses hold?

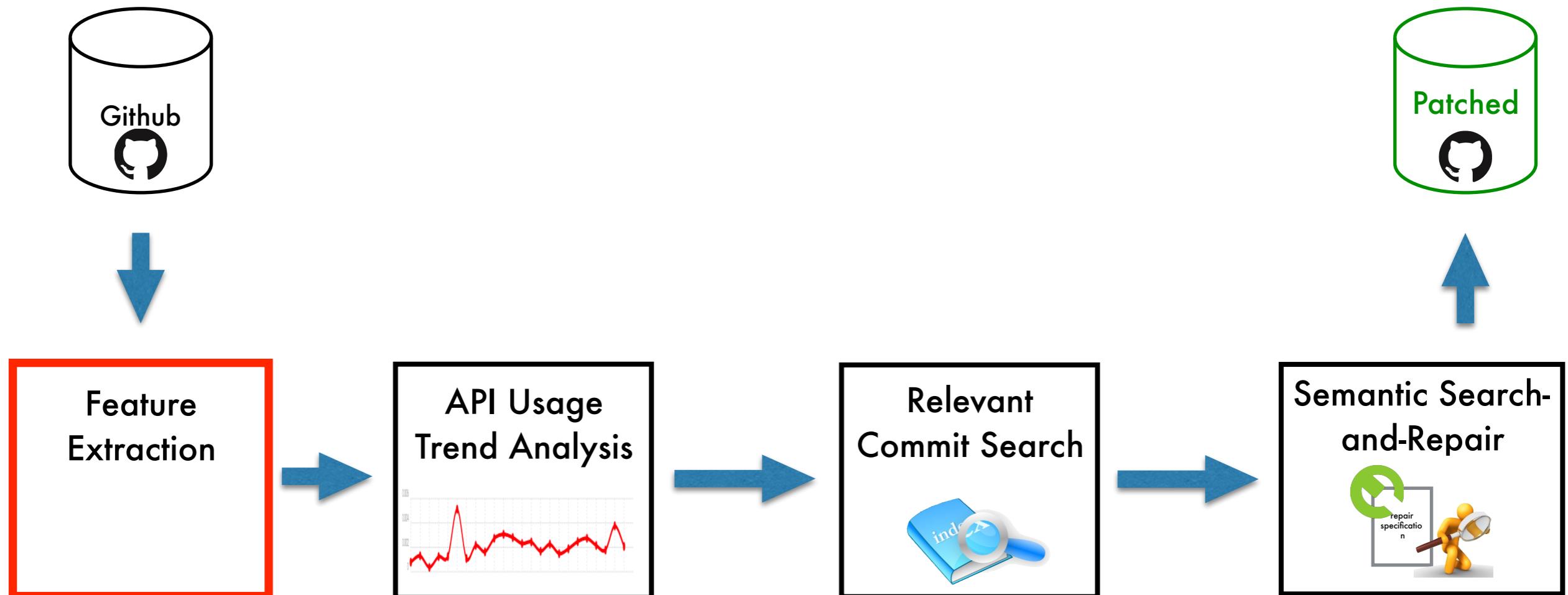
# Outcome of Phase 1 - Proof of concept



# Overview of the results and challenges from Phase 1



# Fixr: Feature Extraction



# “API-specific” features from commits

## COMMIT

```
-import android.Button  
import android.Database  
import android.View  
+import android.Dialog;  
...  
db.beginTransaction();  
+myapp.myMethod();  
+db.endTransaction();  
+view.setTag(this,id);  
-view.setTag(this);
```

Only Android specific features

Imports that changed

## API-specific Features

Bag of imports  
**android.Button**  
**android.Dialog**

Feature Extraction

Method calls that changed

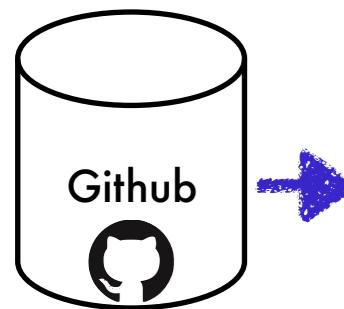
Bag of methods

**Database.endTransaction(void)**  
**View.setTag(Object)**  
**View.setTag(Object, int)**

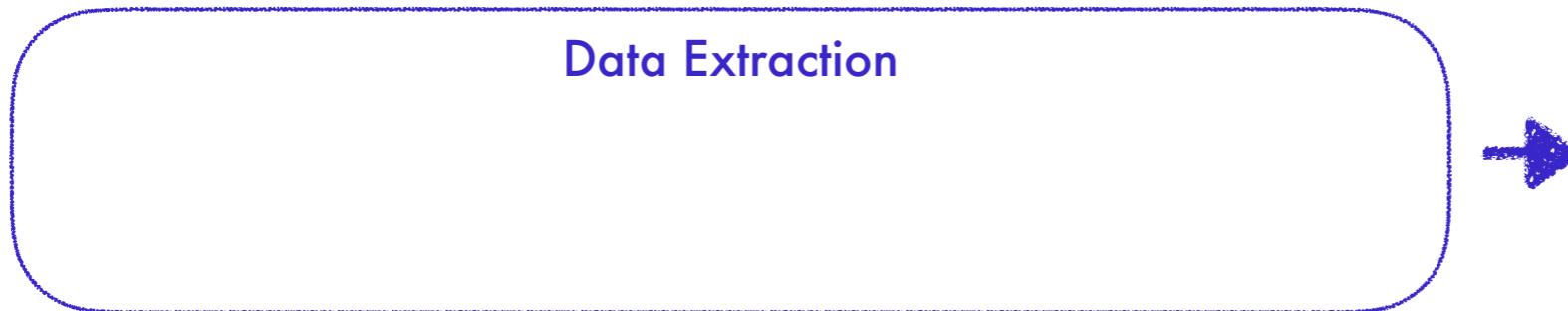
-RED LINES: lines removed  
+GREEN LINES: lines added

The features describe a change narrowed to the Android APIs

# Does the feature extraction scale?



16K repos with 510K code commits

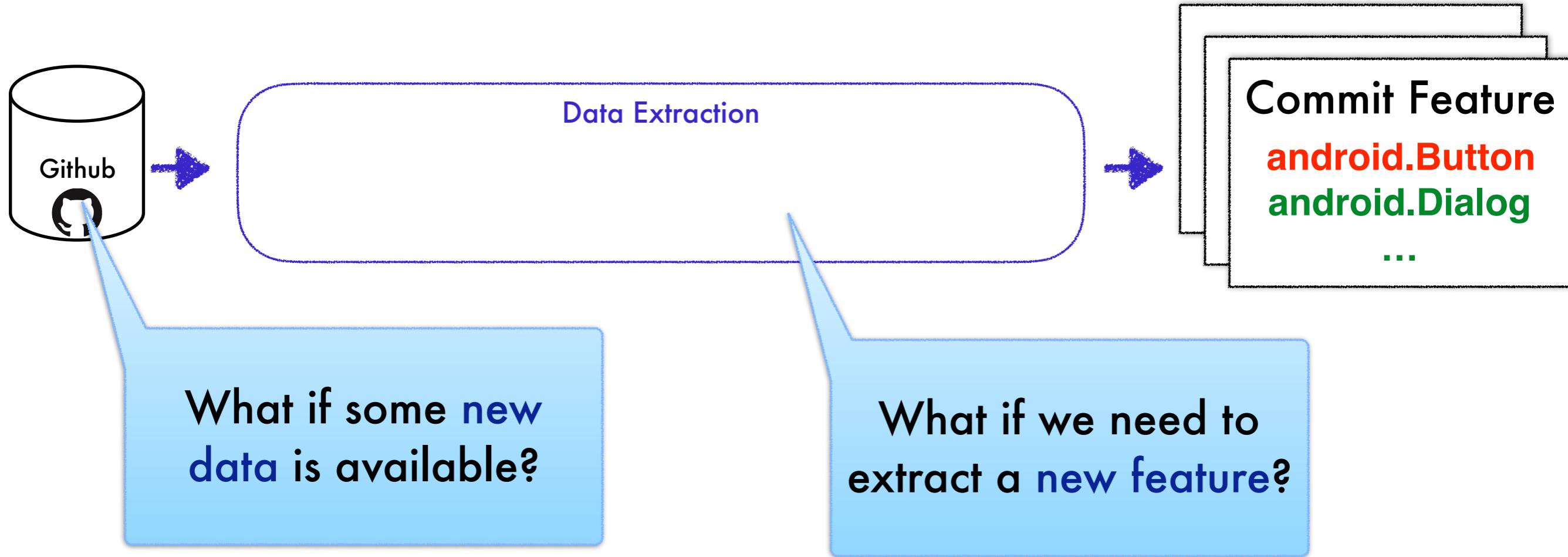


2.83M changed files in 3 hours

125M code features in 28 hours

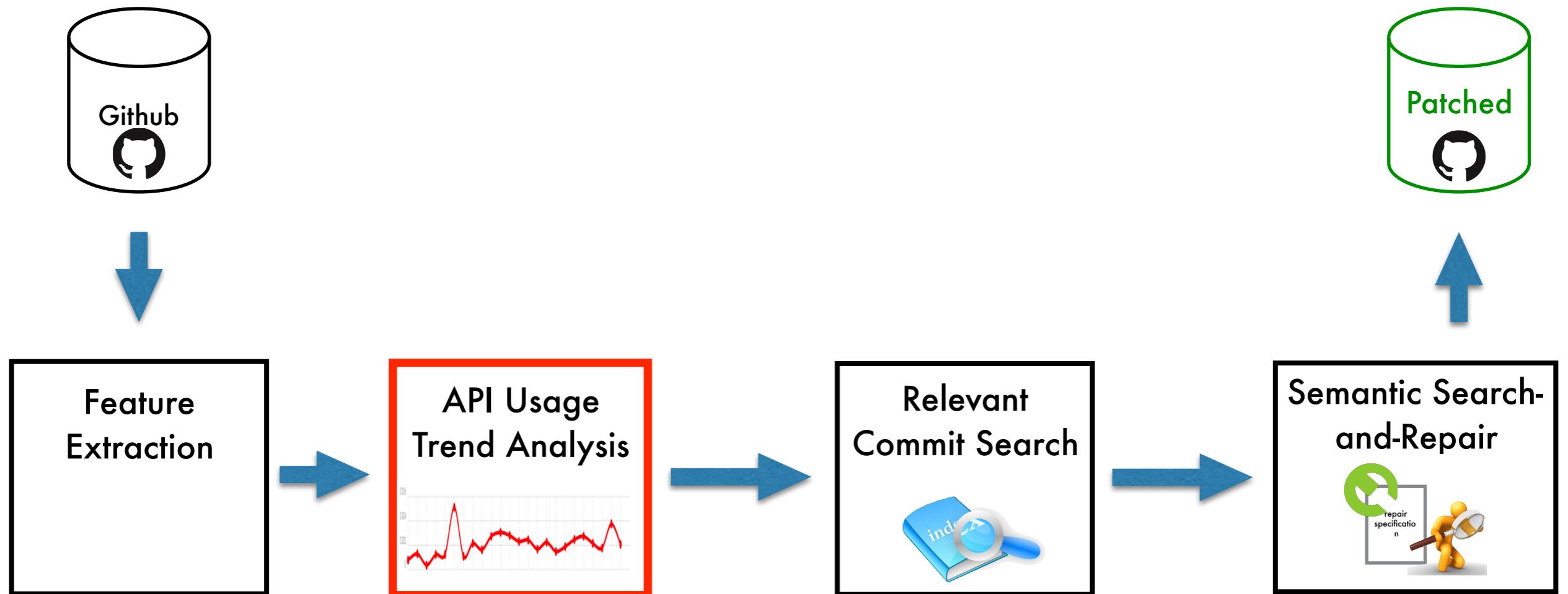
1.39M commit-relations in 4 hours

# Phase 2 challenges



Need a flexible pipeline: incremental and robust to add new types of features

# Fixr: API Usage Trend Analysis



# What is the correct usage of the API?

Code examples of Android SQLite transactions that I've seen appear to automatically call `db.setTransactionSuccessful()` right before `db.endTransaction()`.

3

I am wondering if that is actually best practice or whether there should be some conditional check before calling `db.setTransactionSuccessful()`.

How should I  
use thee API?

“Recipe” exchanged by  
discussion on forums

The canonical pattern for transactions:

```
beginTransaction();
try {
    //db operations ...
    setTransactionSuccessful();
} finally {
    endTransaction();
}
```

Find patterns of usage for the Android APIs

# Frequent Association Rule Mining

Frequent rule

Strength: **0.950519**

Matches/Violating: **1556 / 81**

Antecedents

setTransactionSuccessful

Consequent

endTransaction

When the antecedents **change in a commit**, the consequent also changes

Frequent association rules describe common patterns of API usage

# When does a commit violate a rule?

Matches/Violating: 1556 / 81

The consequent does not change in the commit

Antecedents

setTransactionSuccessful

Consequent

endTransaction

A violation may indicate the presence of a bug

Real bug found mining  
our corpus

from the GitHub project fanvoudroid/

```
1107     void syncUsers(List<com.ch_linghu.fanfoudroid.data.User> users){  
1108         SQLiteDatabase mDb = mOpenHelper.getWritableDatabase();  
1109         beginTransaction();  
1110         for(com.ch_linghu.fanfoudroid.data.User u:users){  
1111             if(existsUser(u.id)){  
1112                 updateUser(u);  
1113             }  
1114         }  
1115     }  
1116     mDb.setTransactionSuccessful();
```

Missing call to endTransaction

# Does a rule capture a bug-fix?

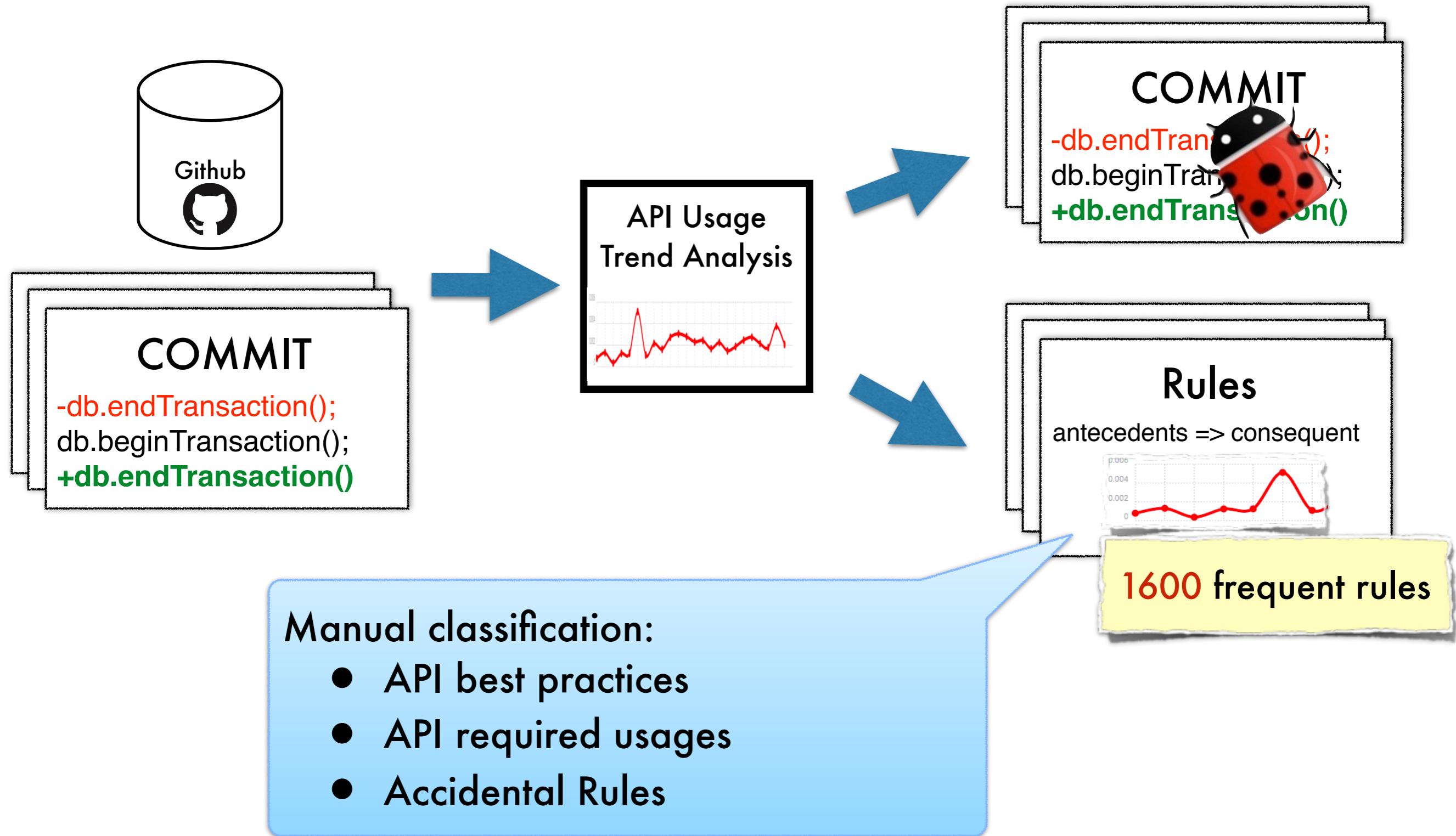
The same bug-fix is applied in a short period of time

Idea: Analyze the “time-signature” of

about 5000  
commits



# Can we mine API patterns?



# Most frequent rules



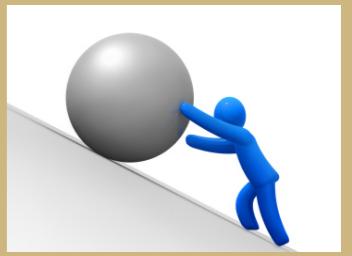
Rule Antecedents => Consequent	Matching Commits	Violating Commits	Potential Bugs
<b>API best practices</b>			
hasNext, iterator => next	9024	225	0
getString, makeText => show	3727	154	0
commit, getSupportFragmentManager => beginTransaction	3526	43	0
getContentResolver, moveToFirst => query	2302	76	0
<b>API required usages</b>			
beginTransaction, setTransactionSuccessful => endTransaction	1544	78	4
obtainStyleAttributes => recycle	1208	30	7
setContextText, setSmallIcon => setContentTitle	1337	13	6
setContentIntent, setContentTitle => setSmallIcon	1024	27	6
<b>Accidental Rules</b>			
setTitle,setMessage,setNegativeButton => setPositiveButton	1340	70	0
getMeasuredHeight,layout => getMeasuredWidth	1525	42	0
getMeasuredWidth,layout => getMeasuredHeight	1525	42	0
getBottom,getLeft => getRight	1115	54	0

Rules divided by classification

Higher

Manual inspection of 60 violating commits

# Challenges for phase 2



## COMMIT

```
+try {  
    db.beginTransaction();  
    // db operations  
    db.setTransactionSuccessful();  
} finally {  
    db.endTransaction();  
}
```

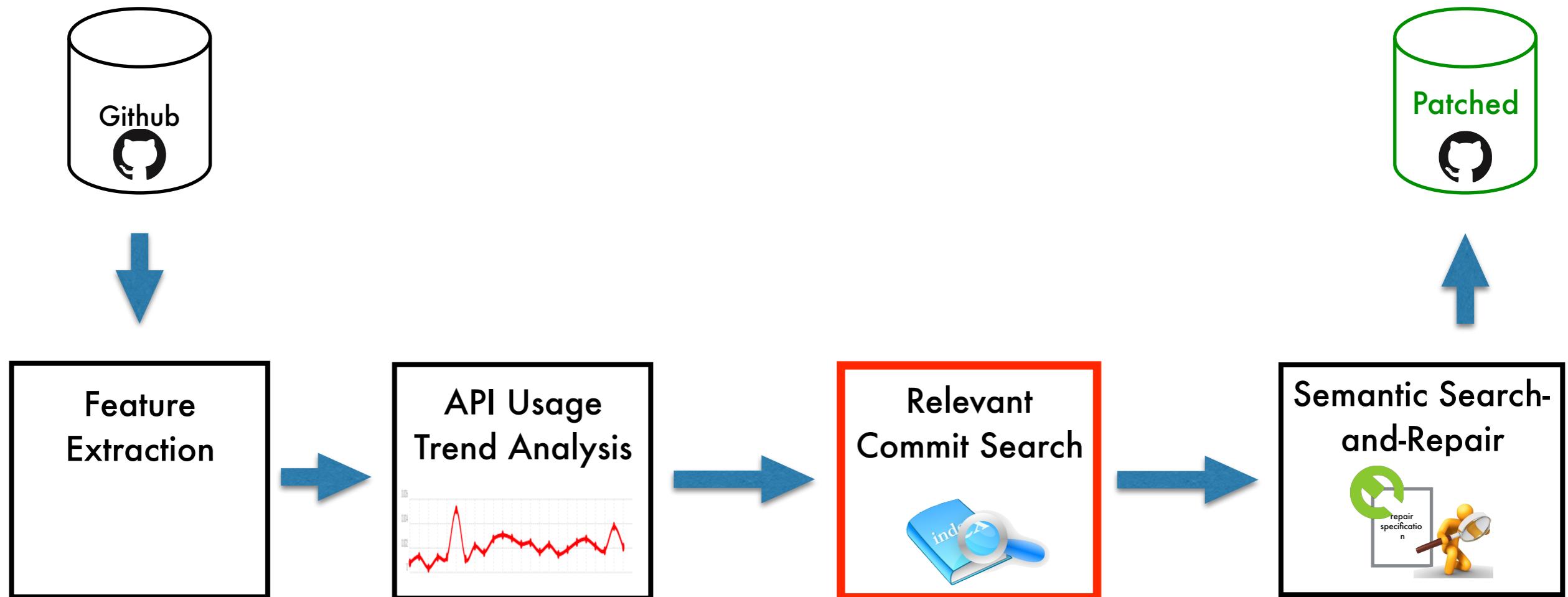
+**GREEN LINES**: lines added  
in the new version

Correct pattern of usage:  
- **order of method calls**

Same method calls in the commit:  
the bag of methods feature for the  
commit is **empty!**

Bags of method calls are control and data  
flow agnostic: need better features

# Fixr: Relevant Commit Search



# How should I change my code?



Oh, I have in my code:

```
MediaScannerConnection.scanFile(context, p, m, l)
```



Query.java — /Users/Admin/Documents/muse/muse\_repos/FixrRelevantCodeSearch/evaluation/queries/MediaScannerConnection

Query.java

```
1 import android.media.MediaScannerConnection;
2
3 public class Query extends AppCompatActivity implements MediaScannerConnection.OnScanCompletedListener {
4
5     private MediaScannerConnection mConnection;
6
7     protected void onCreate() {
8         MediaScannerConnection.scanFile(this,
9             new String[] { "" },
10            null,
11            null);
12    }
13 }
14 }
```

[6] fasteque/rgb-tool  
android-rgb-tool/src/main/java/com/fastebro/androidrgbtool/ui/MainActivity.java  
Commit: @3a93e80 - fixed AOSP binder leak  
Child: @3a93e80, Parent: @7ed5fc8

Diff or Source Code

```
* Tell the media scanner about the new file so that it
* immediately available to the user.
*/
- MediaScannerConnection.scanFile(this,
+ MediaScannerConnection.scanFile(getApplicationContext(),
    new String[]{event.photoPath}, null,
```

Find commits that change a “similar” code

# Can we find relevant bugs and fixes?



Find commits with **similar features** to the queries

## Query

MediaScannerConn.scanFile(this)



## Relevant Commit Search



## List of commits

- MediaScanner...
- + Context.getApp...

Searched for 5 pattern queries

# Results of the RCS evaluation



Bug Pattern	Commits Retrieved (num)	Bugs in First 10 (num)	Fixes in First 10 (num)
<b>View.setTag</b>	19	1	1
<b>MediaScannerConnection.scanFile</b>	11	5	2
<b>getSystemService(CAMERA_SERVICE)</b>	139	1	0
<b>GoogleApiClient.Builder</b>	2	1	0
<b>MediaPlayer.setDataSource</b>	21	0	0

Queries for 5 known bug

out of 1.391 bugs and fixes in commit-relation . . . c . 10

Bugs and fixes can be found in the first 10 results with feature-based document search

# Challenges for phase 2

Commit fix: inverts the order of the operations

## QUERY

```
db.endTransaction();  
db.beginTransaction();
```



## Relevant Commit Search



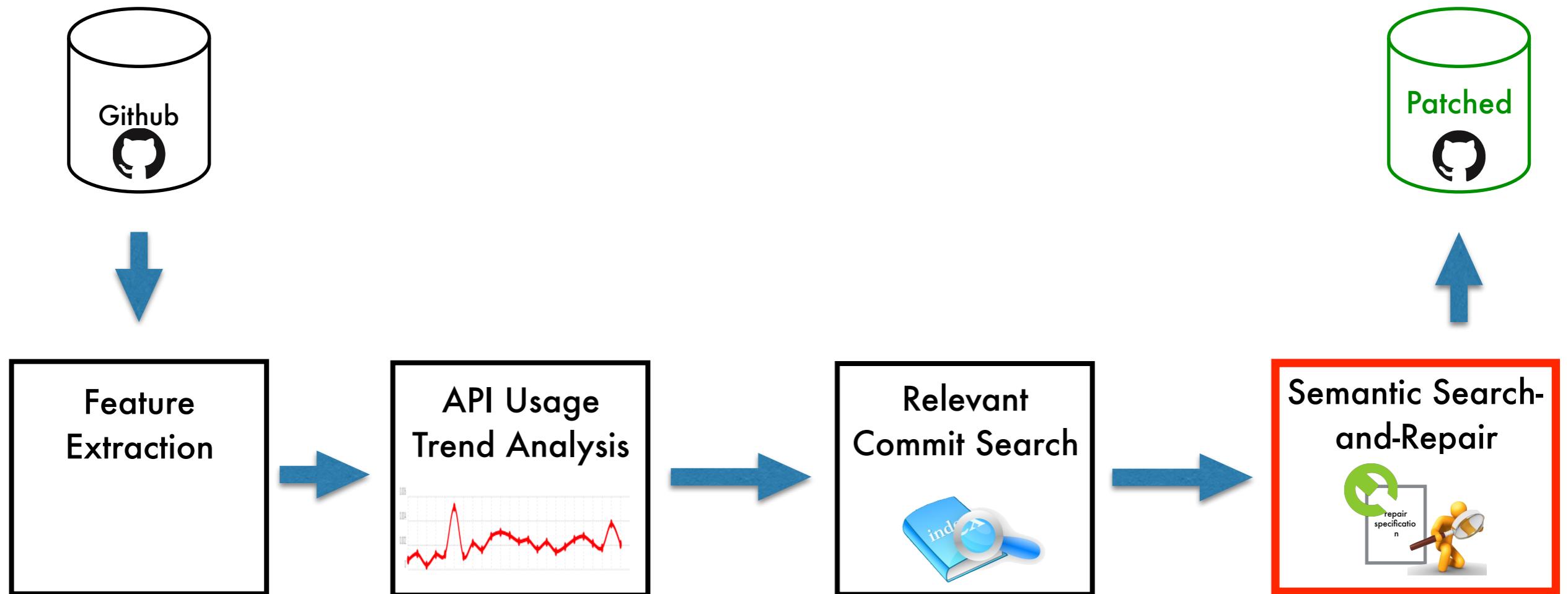
## COMMIT

```
-db.endTransaction();  
db.beginTransaction();  
+db.endTransaction()
```

Same set of method calls in the commit:  
the bag of methods for the commit is  
**empty!**

Bags of method calls are control and data  
flow agnostic: need better features

# Fixr: Semantic Search-and-Repair



# Can we transfer the bug-fix?

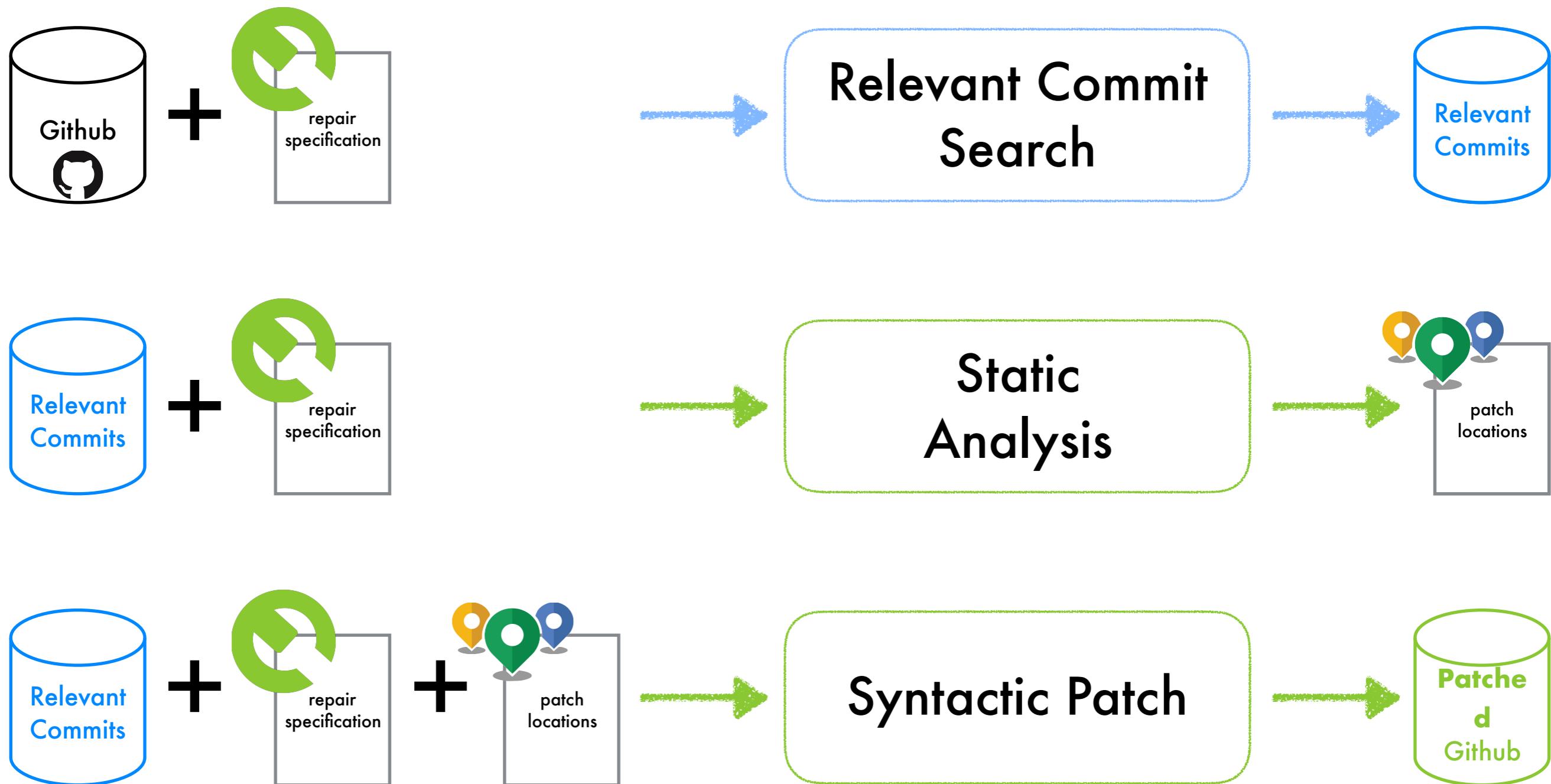


The **Repair Specification** describes:

- a **semantic bug** condition
- a fix transformation of the source code

Given a repair specification, **find** and **repair** the buggy code in the **corpus**

# Search-and-repair platform for Android apps



# Can I repair applicable “in the wild”?



16K repos with 510K code commits

Github



3 repair specifications

## Relevant Commit Search

48 repos with relevant commits

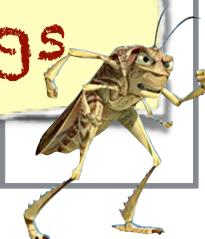
Relevant Commits



22 repos buildable at HEAD

## Static Analysis

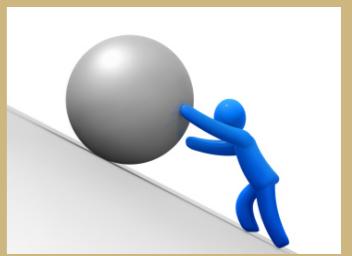
6 alarms in 5 repos with 5 bugs



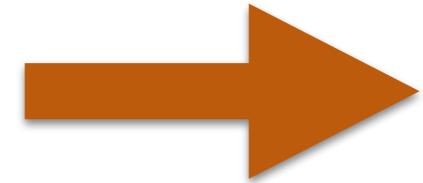
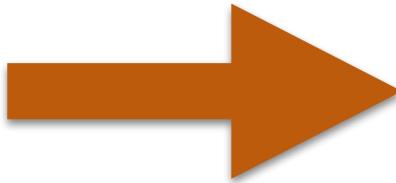
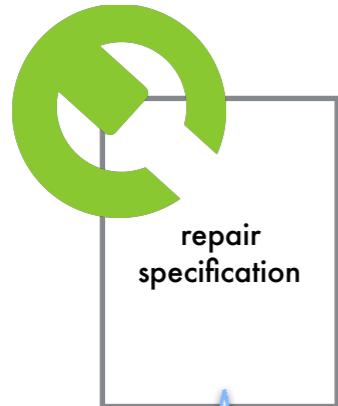
Syn compiles and loads without crash



# Challenges for Phase 2



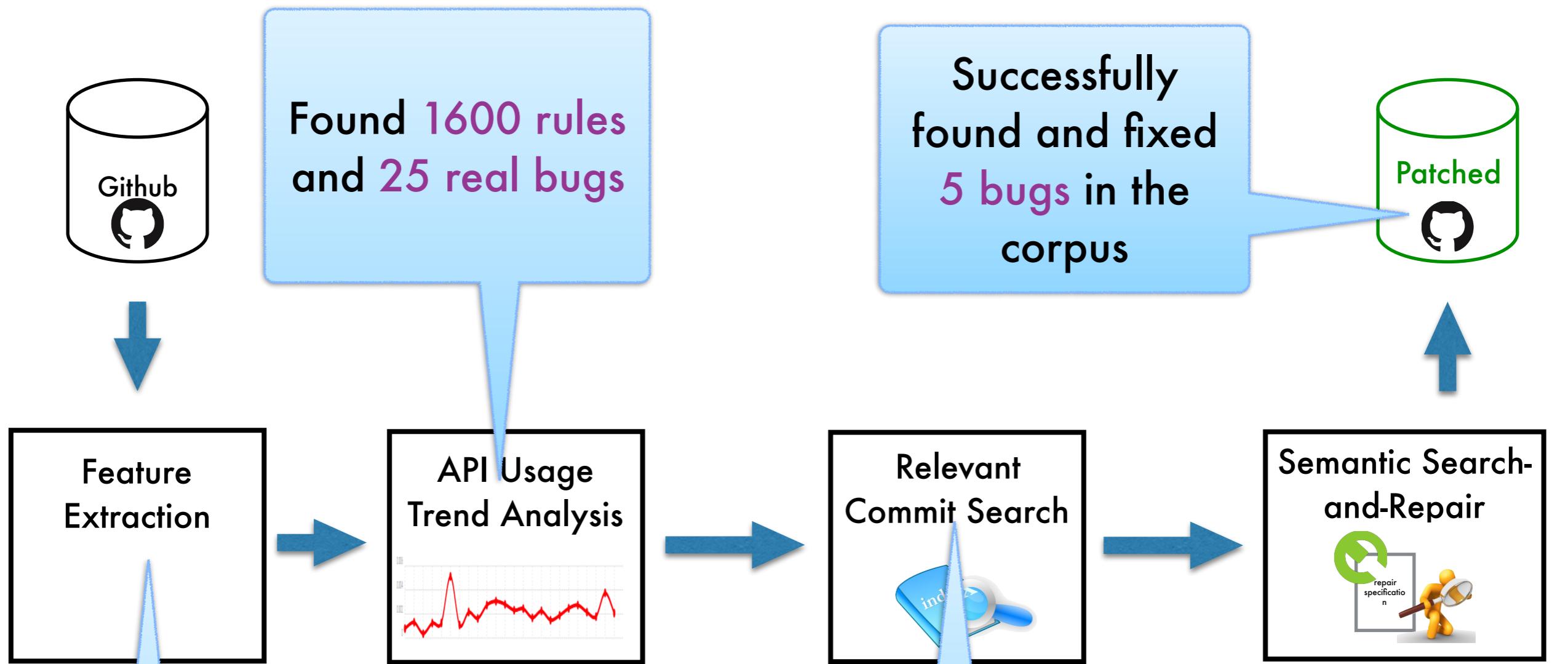
Finding and repairing bugs in the wild is feasible...



...but now we encode the repair specification  
manually

Automatically synthesize bug  
conditions from commits

# Fixr: Summary of Phase 1

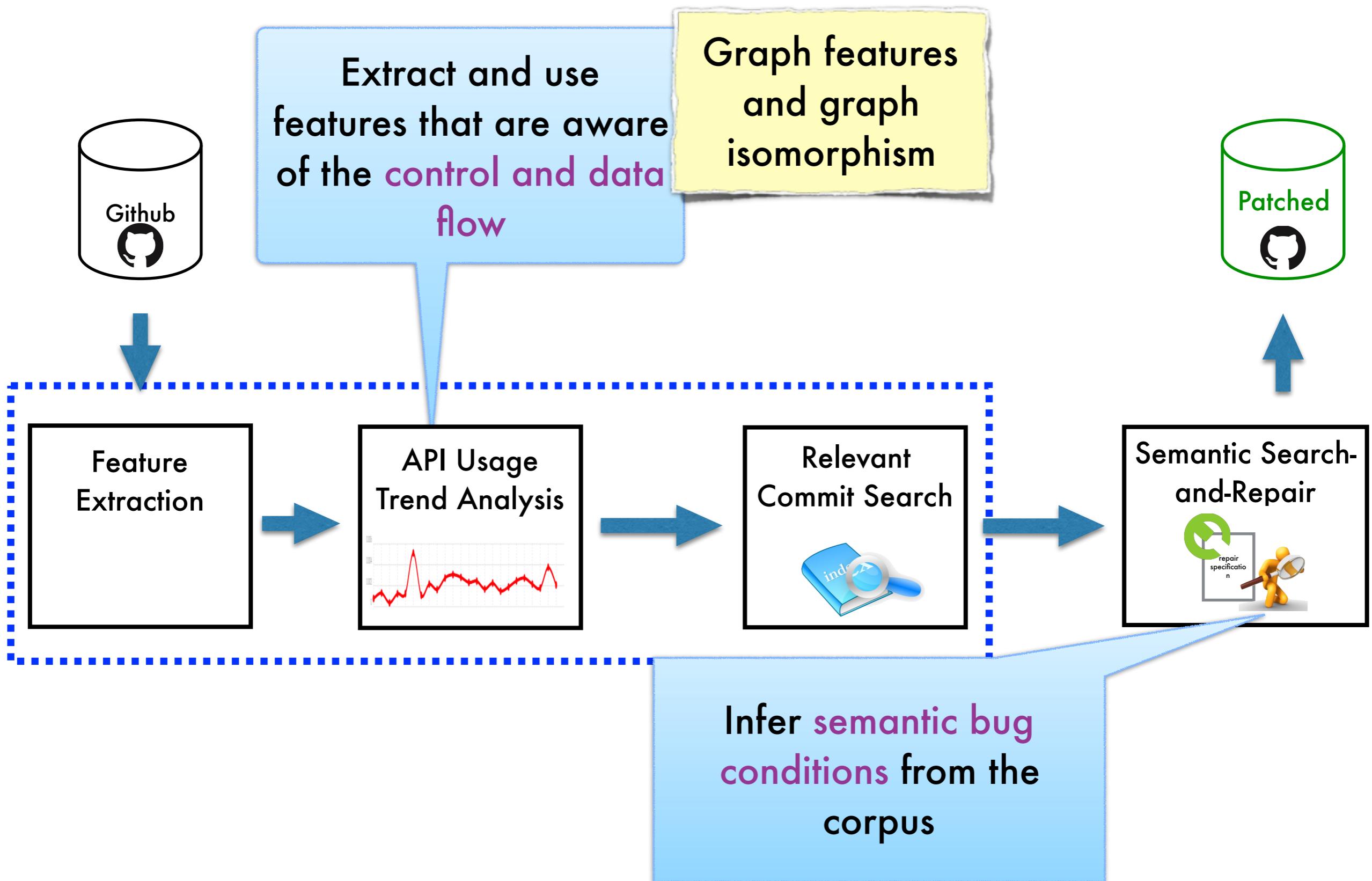


API-specific bug-fixes can be transferred to other repositories

Commits are the right artifact for:

- mining API usage patterns
- finding bug-fixes

# Fixr: Challenges for Phase 2

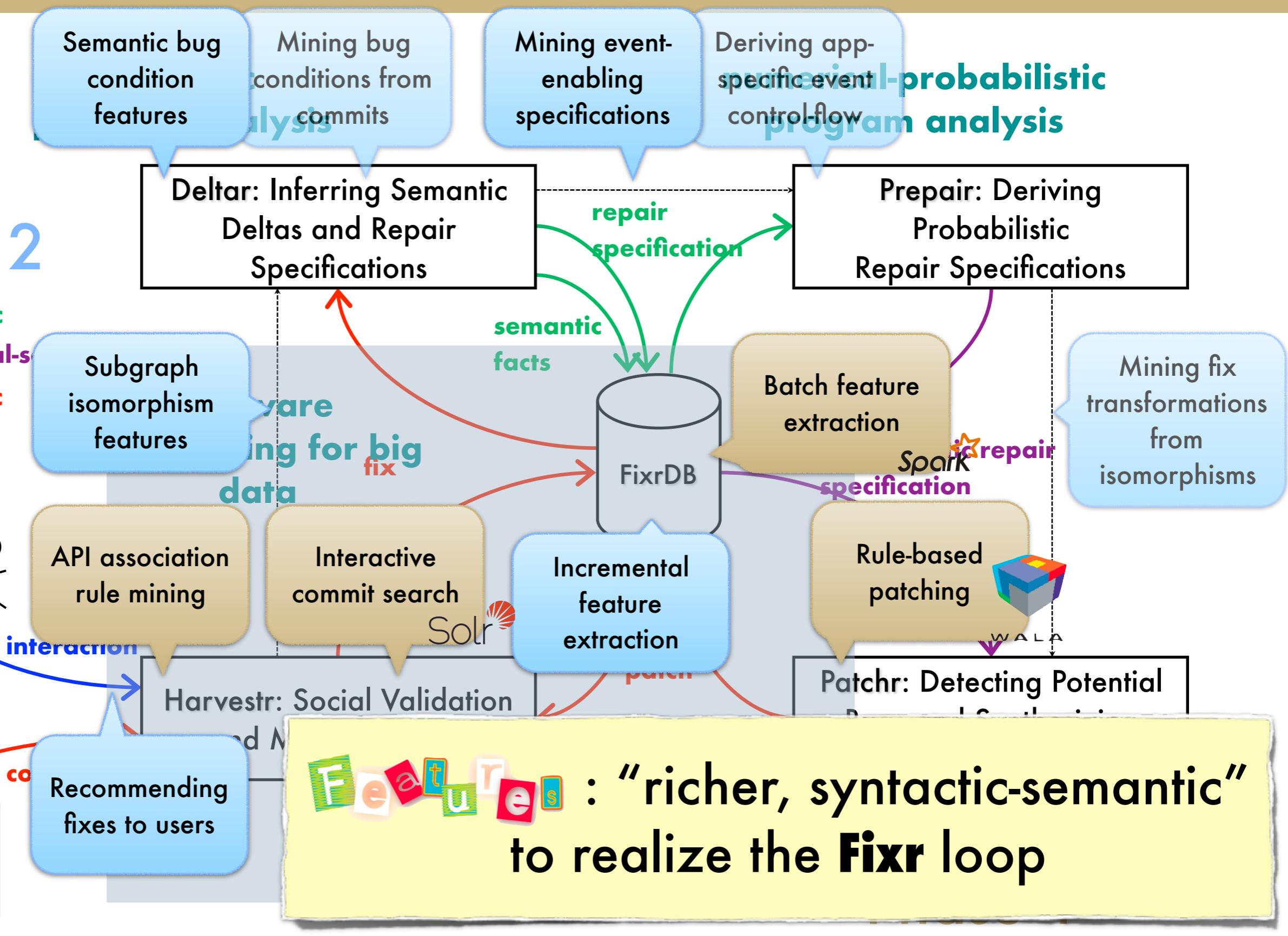
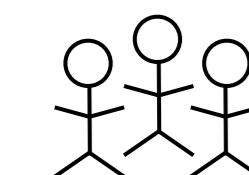


# **Fixr Phase 2 Preview**

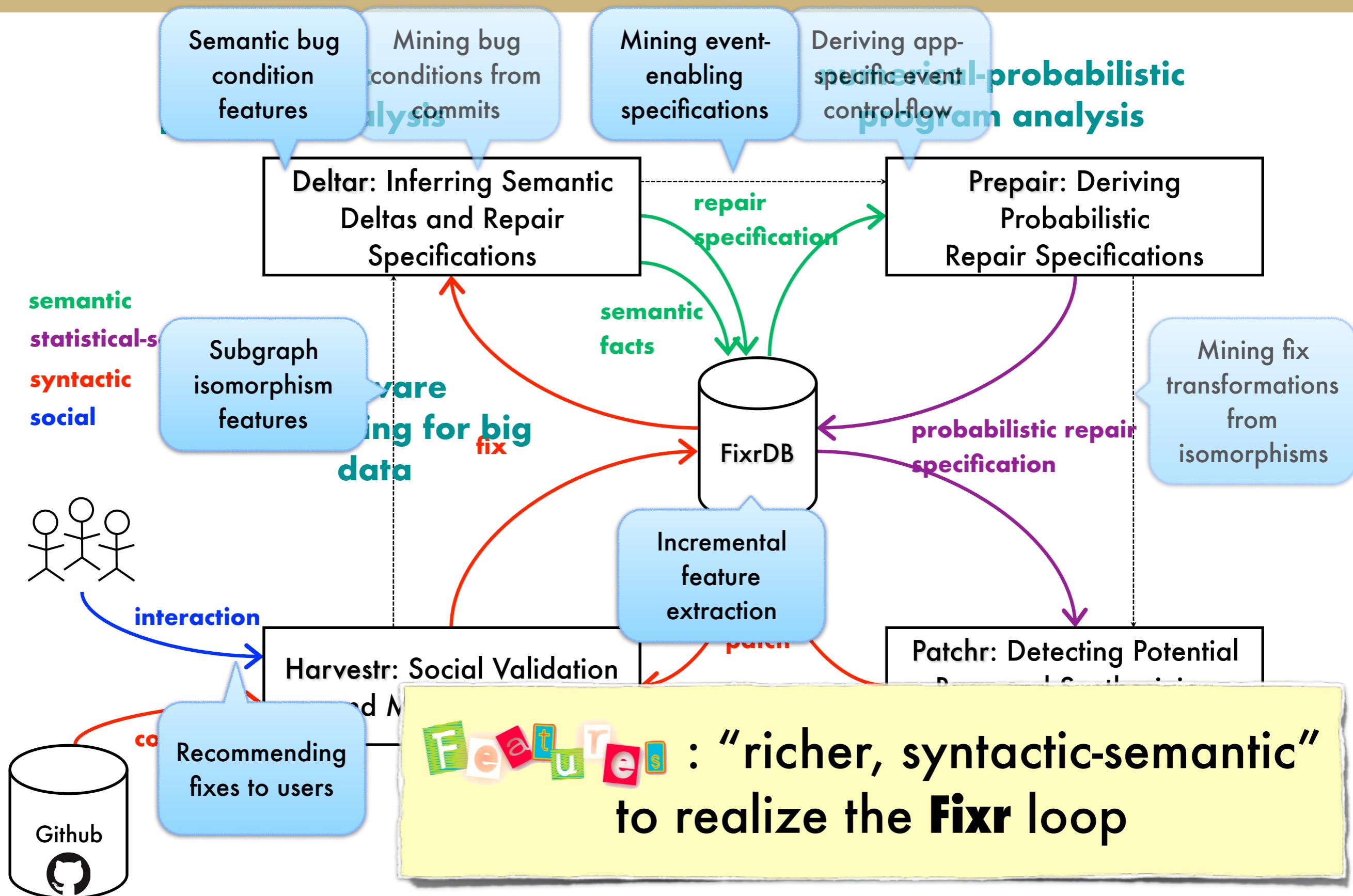
# Fixr: Phase 1 to Phase 2

## Phase 2

semantic  
statistical-syntactic  
syntactic  
social



# Fixr: Phase 2



Extract features that expose relevant syntactic changes

Subgraph isomorphism features



The same set of API calls

```
db.beginTransaction()
```

```
...
```

```
db.
```

```
db.
```

```
db.beginTransaction()  
try {  
    ...  
}
```

**Subgraph isomorphisms better characterize essential syntactic changes**

```
db.beginTransaction()
```



```
...
```



```
db.setTransactionSuccessful()
```



```
db.endTransaction()
```

```
db.beginTransaction()
```



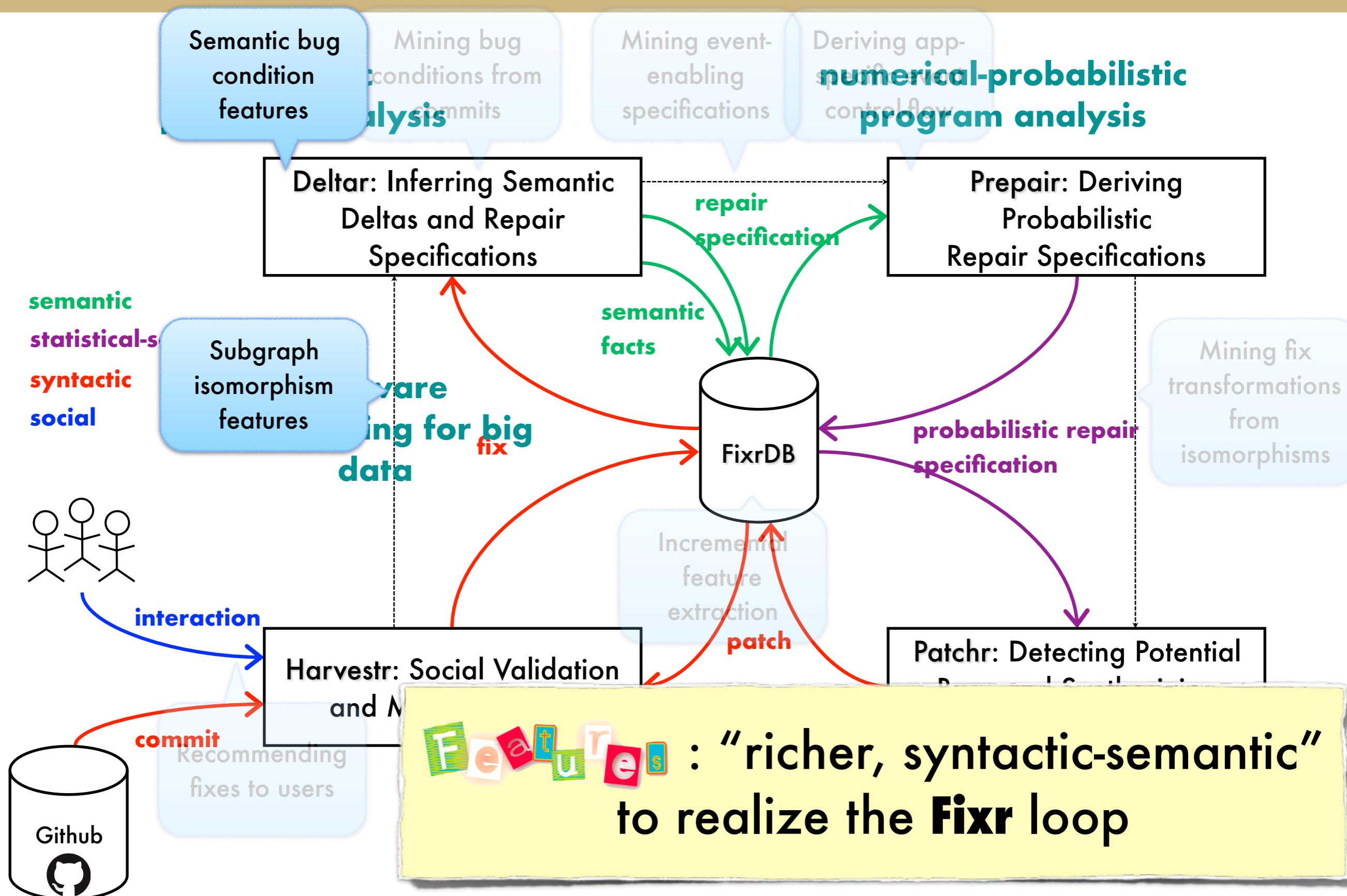
```
...
```

```
db.setTransactionSuccessful()
```



```
db.endTransaction()
```

# Fixr: Phase 2



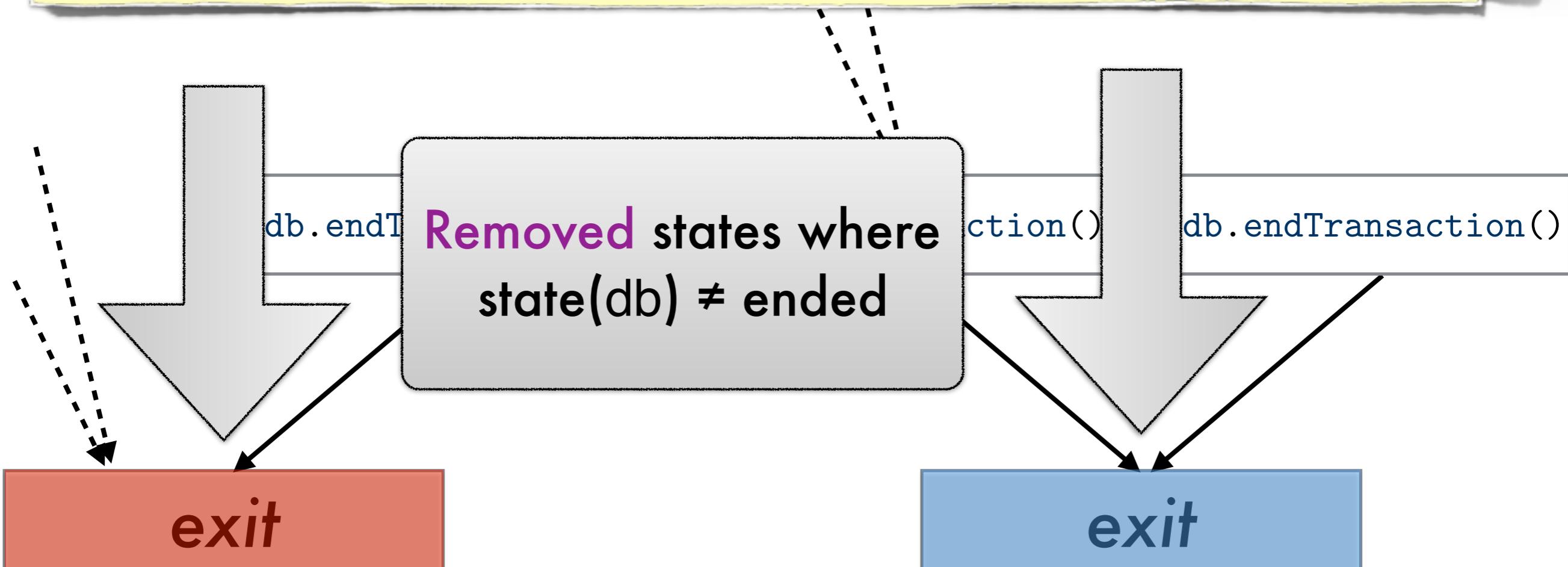
Extract features that expose relevant semantic changes

Semantic bug condition features

db.beginTransaction()

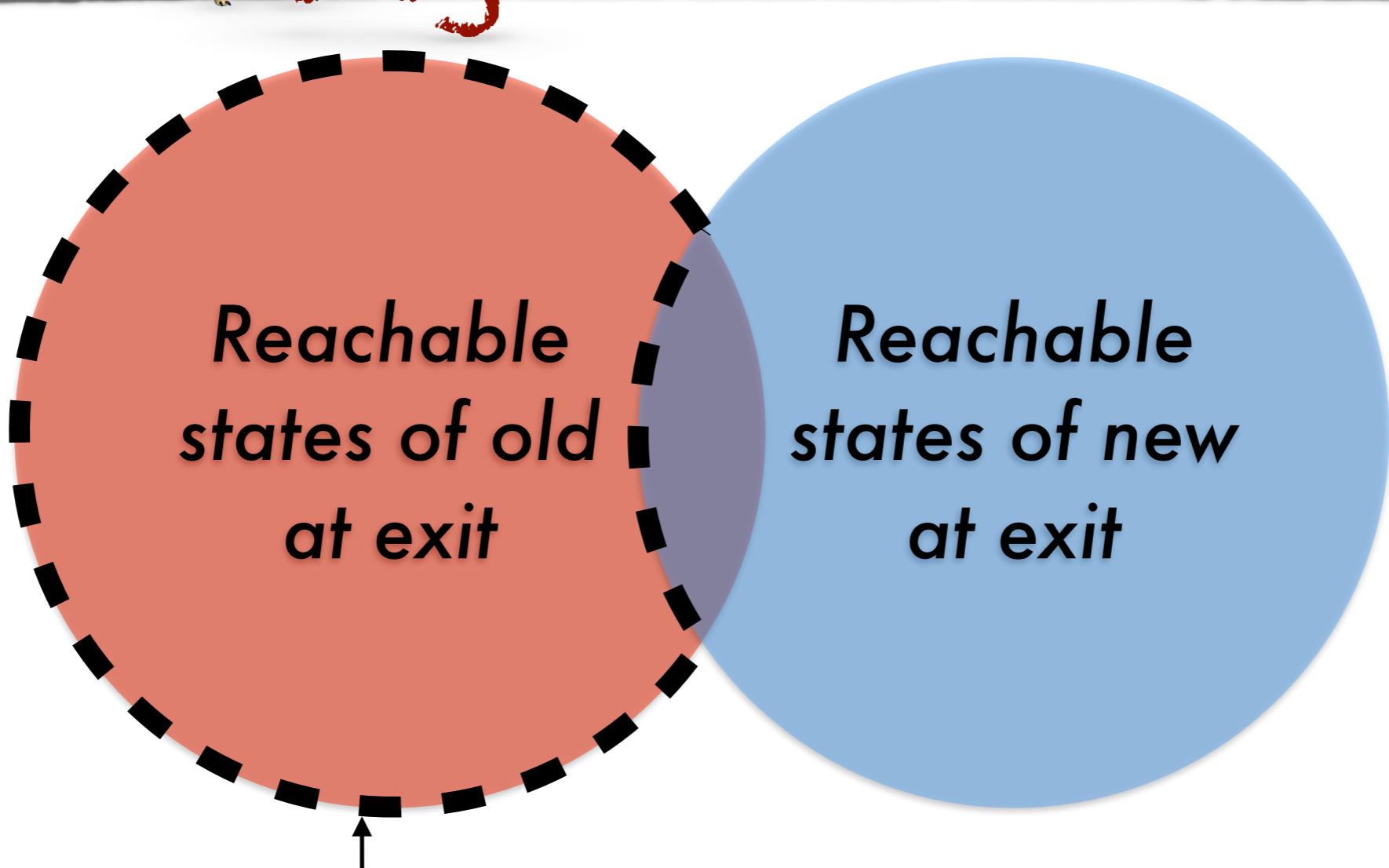
Need: Infer a **bug condition** characterizing reachable states derived from the change

Removed states where  
state(db) ≠ ended



# Diff in terms of reachable states

Challenge: Approximate removed states and the relationship to the “underlying” bug condition



Removed States

# Fixr: Phase 2

2016				2017					
Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep			
<b>Richer Feature Extraction</b>									
Graph Isomorphism Algorithms		API Usage Understanding with Graphs Isomorphisms		Graph Isomorphisms for Fix Transformations					
Defining and Inferring Semantic Bug Conditions			Generalizing Bug Conditions on Multiple Commits						
<b>Supporting Richer Feature Extraction</b>									
Enabling Rule Mining	Deriving App-Specific Control-Flow			Android App-Specific Semantic Feature Extraction					
Active Learning of Lifestate Automata									
<b>Interacting with Fixr Users</b>									
Decision Support for Bug-Fix Commits			Decision Support for Bug-Fix Specifications						
<b>Infrastructure Support for Big Code</b>									
Incremental Extraction of Features				Android App-Specific Semantic Feature Extraction in the Large					

# Today's Agenda

12:30-12:45 **Introduction** (Bor-Yuh Evan Chang)

12:45-1:15 **Phase 1 Review** (Sergio Mover)

1:15-1:30 **Phase 2 Preview** (Bor-Yuh Evan Chang)

## **Richer Feature Extraction**

1:30-2:10 Understanding Bug Fixes with Approximate Graph Isomorphisms (Sriram Sankaranarayanan)

2:10-2:30 **Break**

## **Supporting Richer Feature Extraction**

2:30-3:10 Abstracting Event-Driven Systems with Lifestate Rules (Shawn Meier, PhD Student)

3:10-3:30 Active Learning for Lifestate Automata (Krishna Chaitanya Sripada, MS Student)

## **Interacting with Fixr Users**

3:30-3:50 Interactive Decision Support for Transferring Bug-Fixes (Ryo Suzuki, PhD Student)

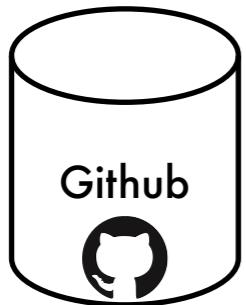
## **Infrastructure Support for Big Code**

3:50-4:10 Incremental Commit/Feature Extraction (Kenneth M. Anderson)

4:10-4:30 **Discussion**

# Fixr Highlights

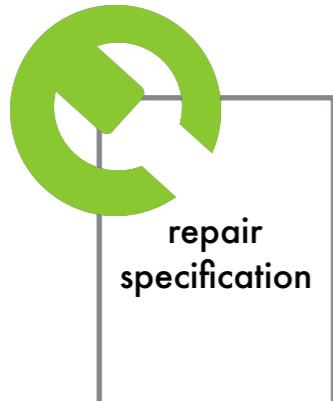
**Commits + Time Series = Trends**



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**Semantic Repair Specification**



**Android API Evolution**

