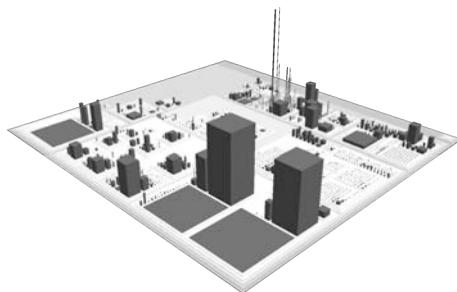


# visualizations for code metrics



NF

NEAL FORD software architect / meme wrangler

## ThoughtWorks

nford@thoughtworks.com  
3003 Summit Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30319  
www.nealford.com  
www.thoughtworks.com  
blog: memeagora.blogspot.com  
twitter: neal4d

nealford.com

# housekeeping

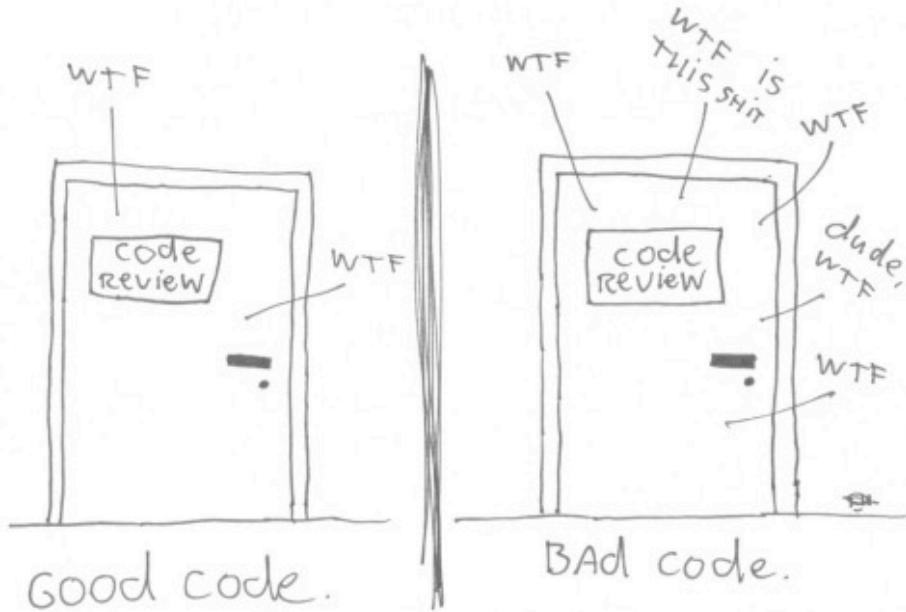
ask questions anytime

download slides from  
nealford.com



download samples from [github.com/nealford](https://github.com/nealford)

# The ONLY VALID MEASUREMENT OF code QUALITY: WTFs/MINUTE



(c) 2008 Focus Shift/OSNews/Thom Holwerda - <http://www.osnews.com/comics>

**external  
perspective**

**is the software valuable to its users?**

# internal perspective

how appropriate is the design?

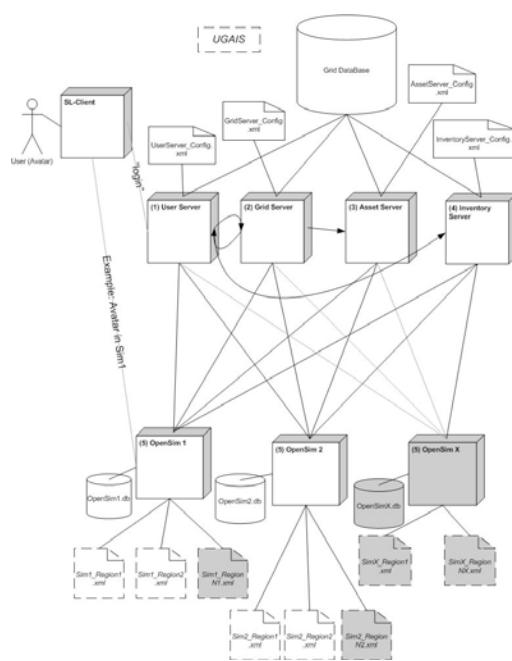
how amenable is emergent design?

how easy is it to understand & extend?

how maintainable is it?

*is it salvageable?*

## 30,000 feet



[http://opensimulator.org/wiki/Grid\\_Architecture\\_Diagram](http://opensimulator.org/wiki/Grid_Architecture_Diagram)

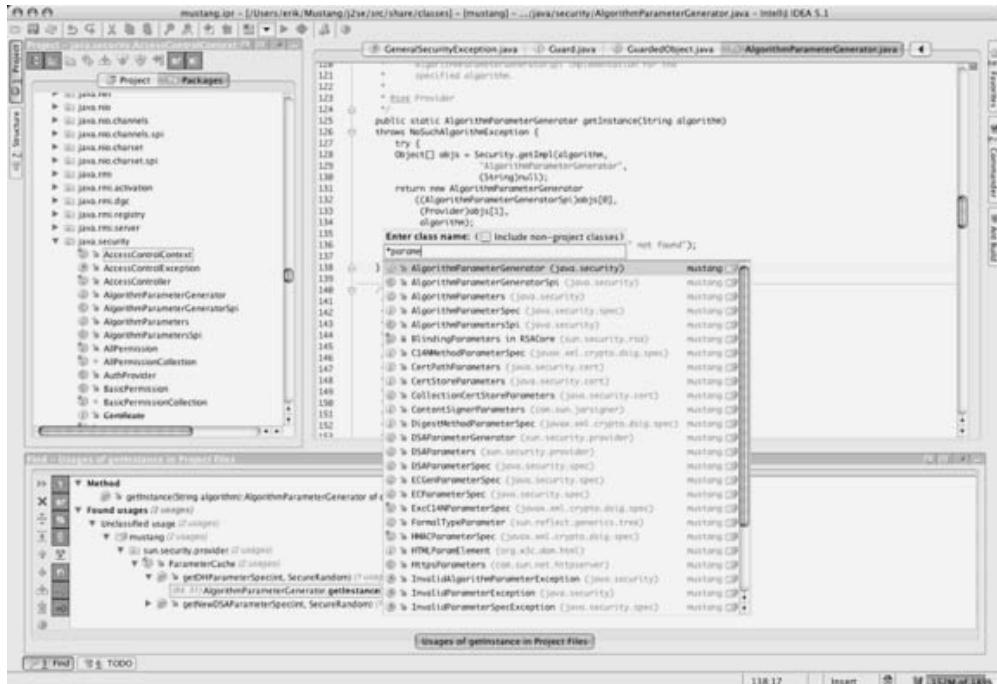
## ground level

```
public void mergePluginOutput(BuildDetail build, Map parameters) {
    Iterator<String> iterator = lines().iterator();
    while (iterator.hasNext()) {
        try {
            assemblePlugin(build, parameters, iterator.next());
        } catch (Exception e) {
            logger.error(e);
            continue;
        }
    }
}

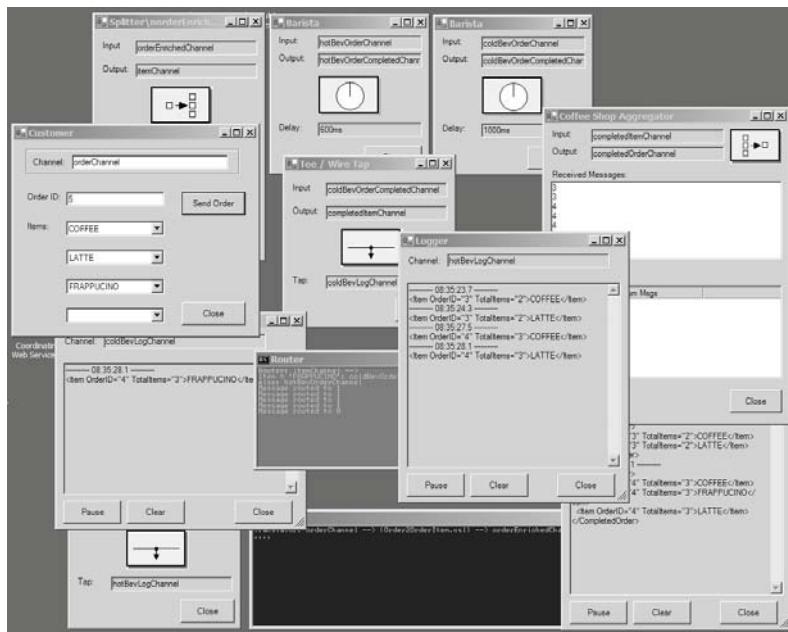
void assemblePlugin(BuildDetail build, Map parameters, String className) {
    String line = iterator.next();
    if (className.startsWith("#") || StringUtil.isEmpty(className))
        return;
    Class clazz = Class.forName(className);
    Widget digesterService = (Widget) clazz.newInstance();
    mergeParameters(build, parameters);
    build.addPluginOutput(digesterService.getDisplayName(), clazz
        .getOutput(parameters));
}

private void mergeParameters(BuildDetail build, Map parameters) {
    parameters.put(PARAM_CC_ROOT, configuration.getCCRoot());
    parameters.put(PARAM_DTT_NAME, build.getPackageName());
}
```

# where are the defects?



# which way do the messages flow?



# where do the pictures come from?

models created upfront convey a vision but usually don't reflect reality

generating a complete model for large systems is nearly impossible

systems evolve locally, often uncontrolled

the best picture very much depends on the question you are trying to answer

need tools to create ad-hoc models more easily

## I. select a meta-model

a model that describes a model

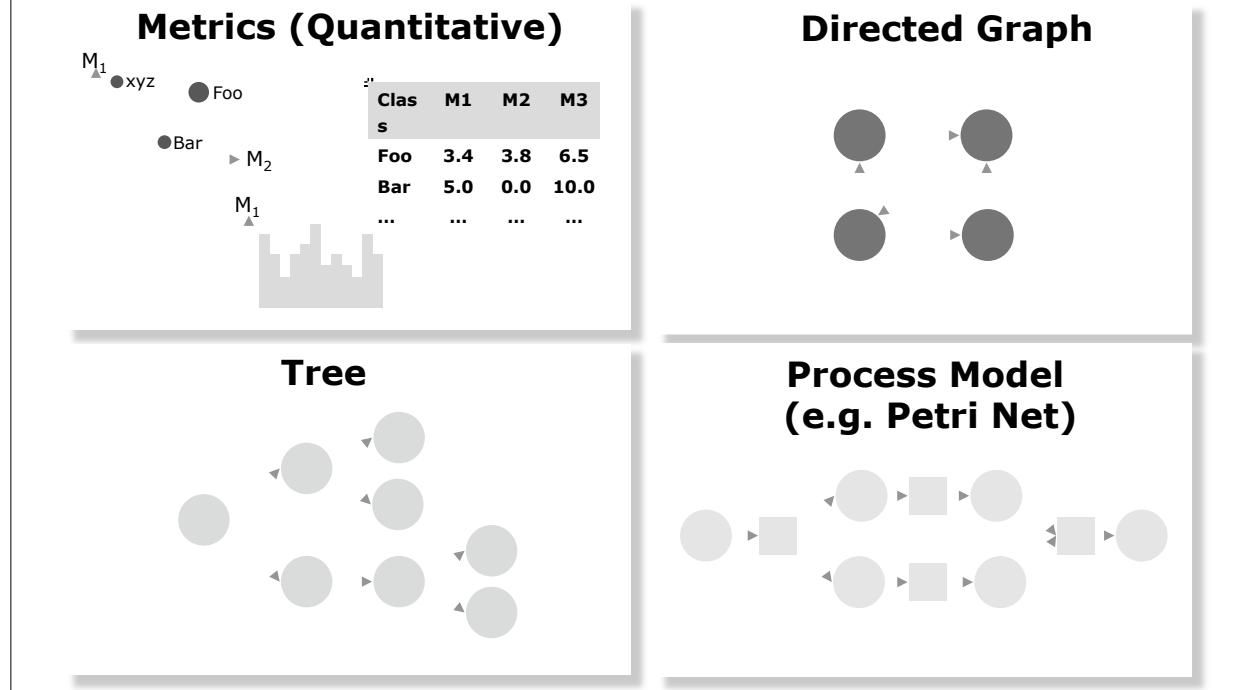
example: meta-model for a class diagram

a class is a box with name, methods, fields,...

available connectors: association, inheritance, aggregation...

rules: no circles in inheritance, etc.

# common meta-models



## 2. inspection / instrumentation

static analysis

source code

byte code

dynamic analysis

profiling, listen to messages, log files,  
network sniffer, etc.

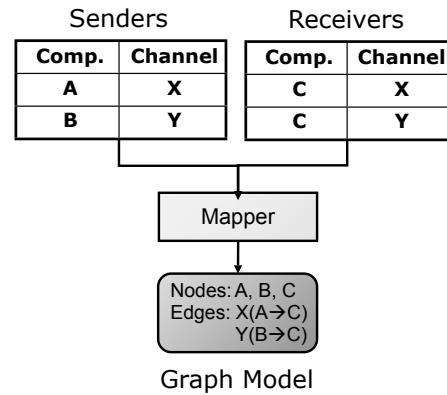


# 3. mapping to the model

example: messaging system

capture send/receive actions

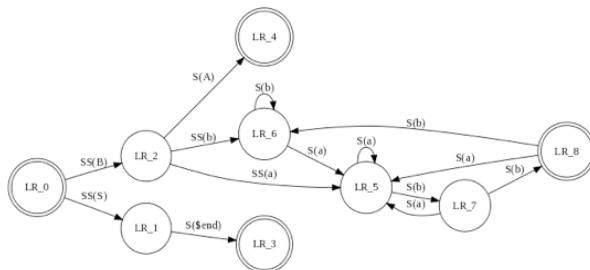
map onto directed graph



# 4. visualization &...



Graphviz



# ...validation

don't simply observe

verify & alert

enforce rules or best practices

detect cycles

islands on a dependency graph



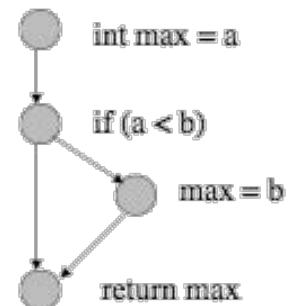
metrics

# cyclomatic complexity

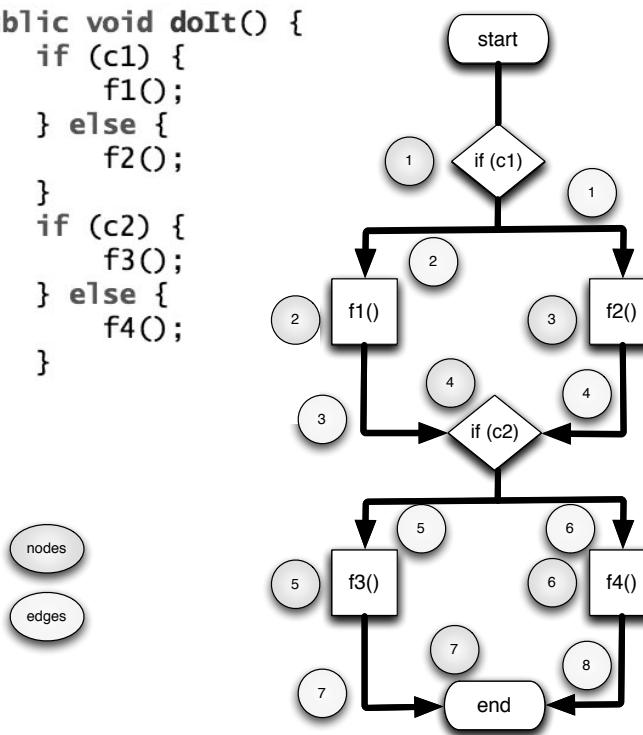
measures complexity of a function

```
V(G) = e - n + 2  
V(G) = cyclomatic complexity of G  
e = # edges  
n = # of nodes
```

```
int max (int a, int b) {  
    int max = a;  
    if (a < b) {  
        max = b;  
    }  
    return max;  
}
```



```
public void doIt() {  
    if (c1) {  
        f1();  
    } else {  
        f2();  
    }  
    if (c2) {  
        f3();  
    } else {  
        f4();  
    }  
}
```



# chidamber & kemerer object-oriented metrics

shyam r chidamber  
chris f kemerer

easy but not terribly useful

very useful

## easy (but trivial)

dit	depth of inheritance tree	# levels of inheritance
noc	number of children	# immediate descendants
npm	number of public methods	# public methods in class

# very useful

wmc	weighted methods/ class	$\Sigma$ of cyclomatic complexity
rfc	response for class	# of methods executed due to method call
lcom	lack of cohesion	$\Sigma$ of sets of methods not shared via sharing fields
cbo/ ce	efferent couplings	$\Sigma$ of other classes this class uses (outgoing calls)
ca	afferent couplings	$\Sigma$ of how many other classes use this class (incoming calls)



# source monitor



freeware tool for gathering metrics

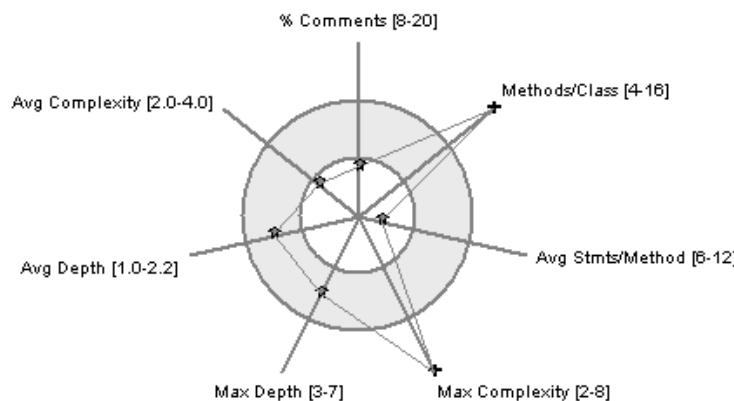
metrics:

lines, statements, % branches, calls, %  
comments, classes, methods/class, avg stmts/  
method, max complexity, max depth, average  
depth, average complexity

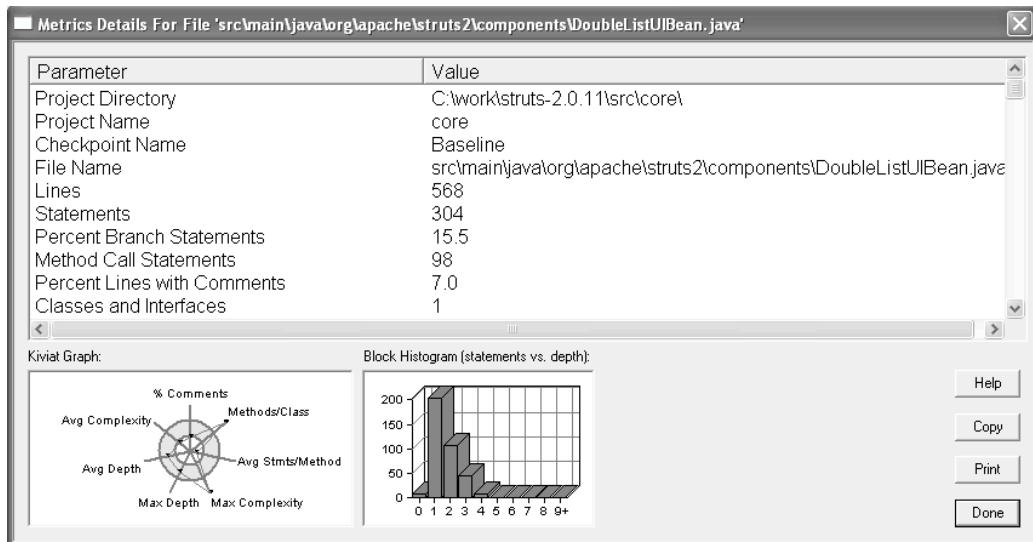
graphical user interface, windows only!

## source monitor: kiviat graphs

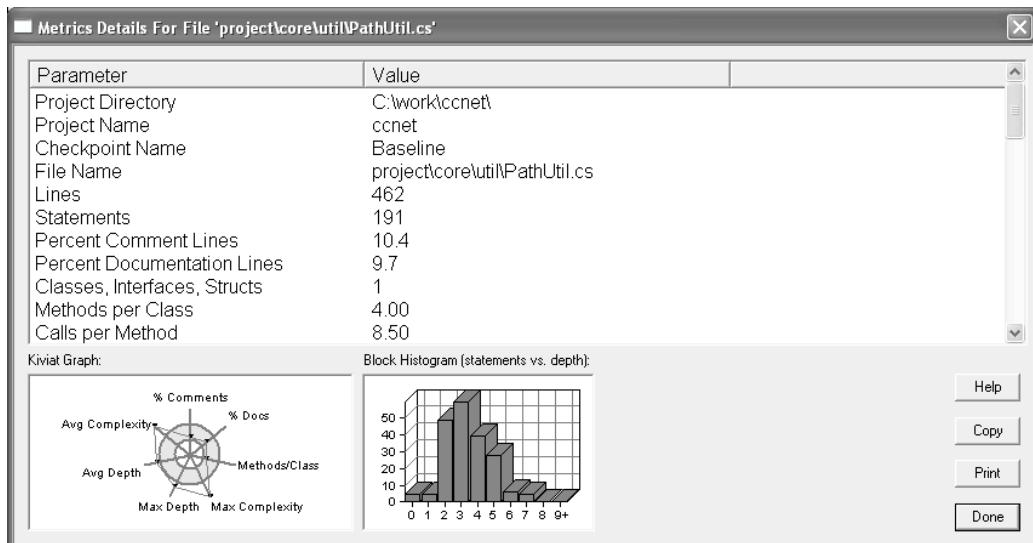
Kiviat Metrics Graph: Project 'core'  
Checkpoint 'Baseline'  
File 'src\main\java\org\apache\struts2\components\DoubleListUIBean.java'



# source monitor: class summary



# source monitor w/ c#

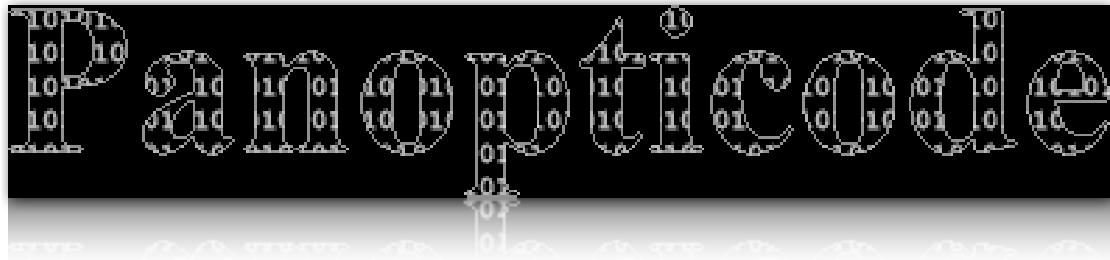




# looking for...

classes that violate several kiviat graph ranges

really odd shapes



*“A project dedicated to making code metrics so widely understood, valuable, and simple that their use becomes ubiquitous, thus raising the quality of software across the industry.”*

# panopticode parts

code coverage with emma

1-line change to switch to cobertura

checkstyle

1-line switch for custom rule sets

jdepend

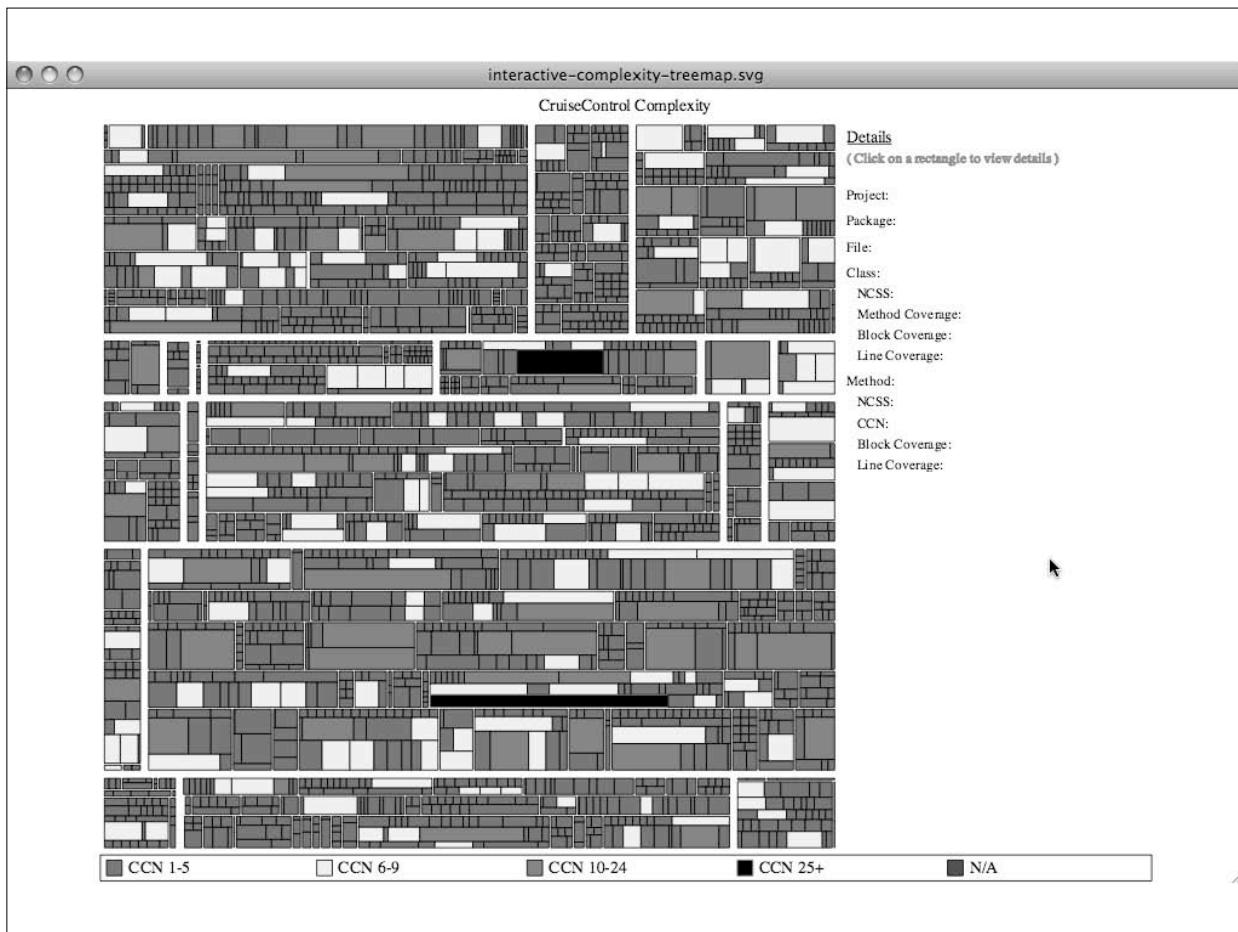
code duplication using simian

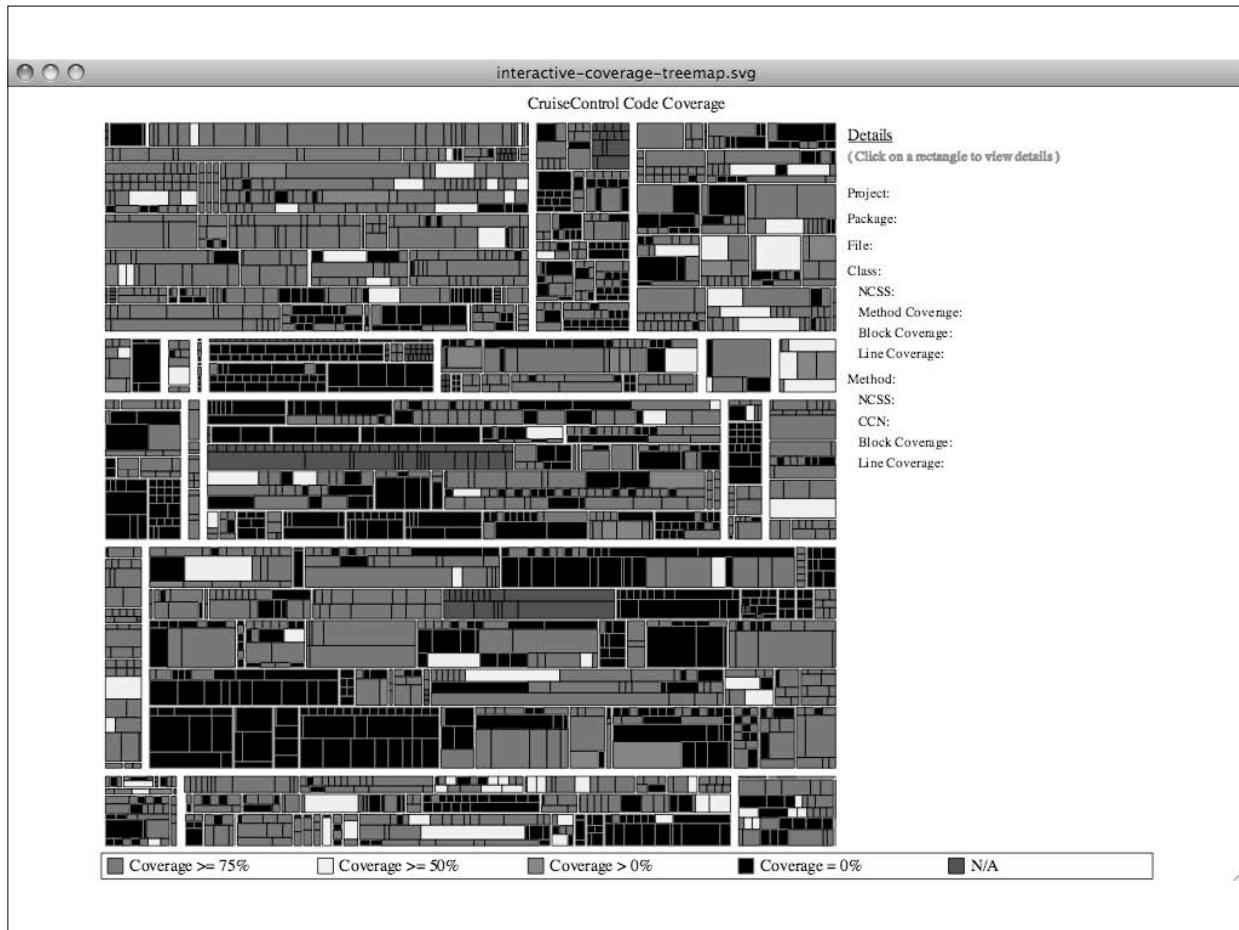
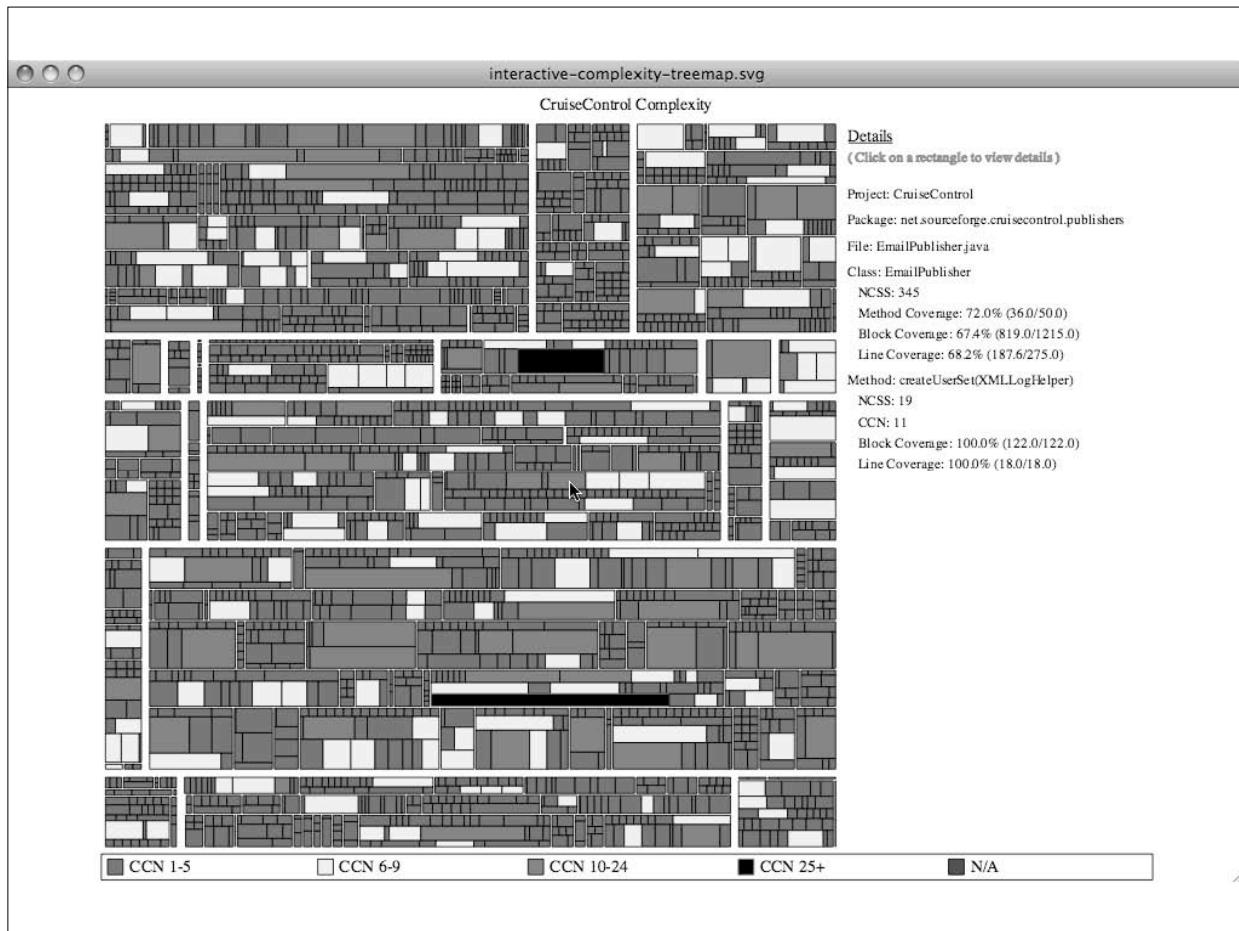
javancss

aggregator & reports

volatility

*treemaps*





# looking for...

20,000 foot view along a single dimension

simple view of one dimension

information radiators



# size & complexity pyramid

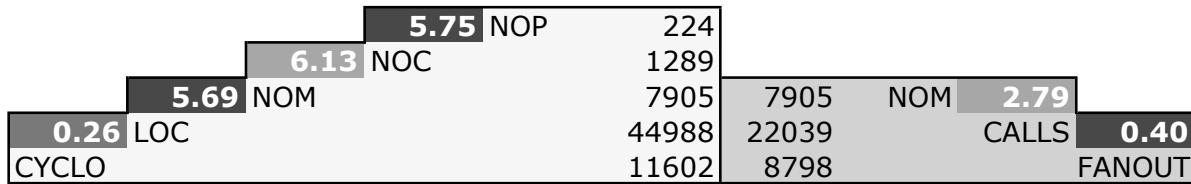
developed at Universities of Berne and Lugano

shows key metrics and their relationships

allows comparison to “industry standards”

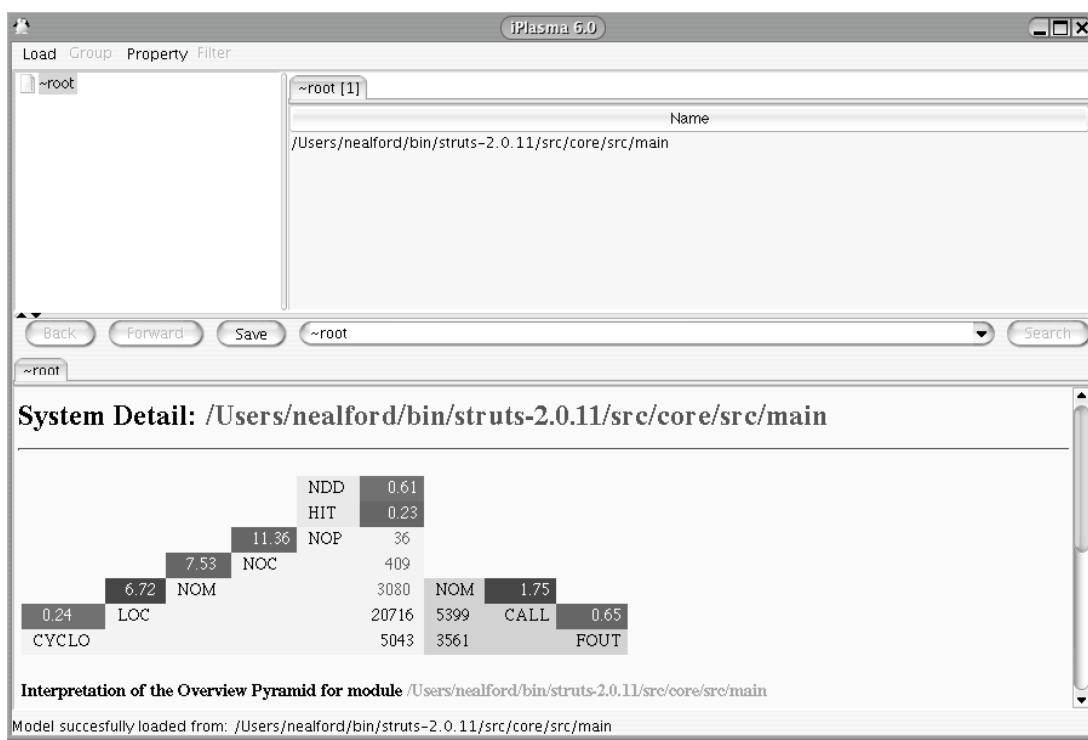
created by iPlasma tool from source code

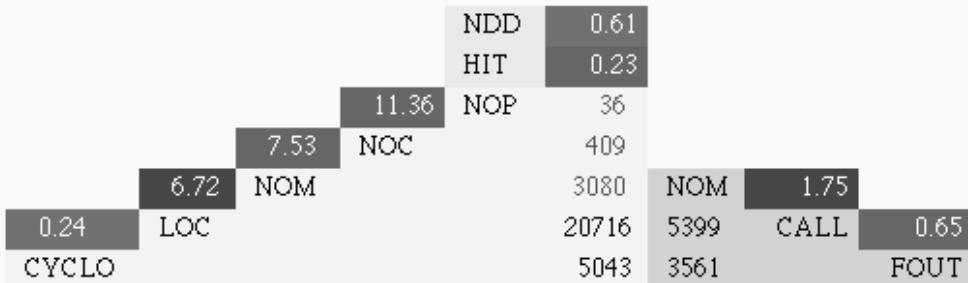
# pyramid



	Low	Medium	High
CYCLO / Line	0.16	0.20	0.24
LOC / method	7	10	13
NOM / class	4	7	10
NOC / package	6	17	26
CALLS / method	2.01	2.62	3.20
FANOUT / call	0.56	0.62	0.68

# iPlasma + Struts





#### Interpretation of the Overview Pyramid for module /Users/nealford/bin/struts-2.0.11/src/core/src/main

**Class Hierarchies** tend to be of **average height** and **wide**  
(i.e. inheritance trees tend to have base-classes with many directly derived sub-classes)

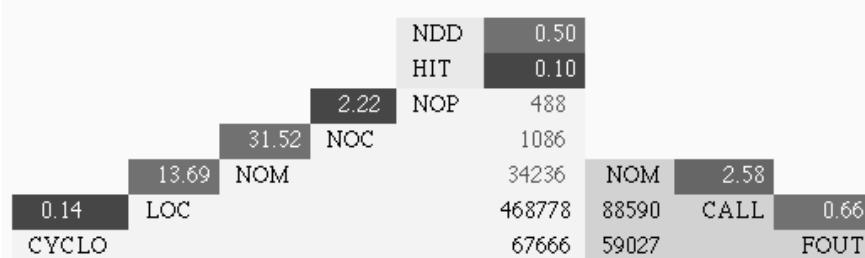
**Classes** tend to:

- contain an average number of methods;
- be organized in average-sized packages ;

**Methods** tend to:

- tend to be rather short yet having a rather complex logic (i.e. many conditional branches);
- tend to call few methods (low coupling intensity) from an several other classes ;

# Vuze



#### Interpretation of the Overview Pyramid for module /Users/nealford/Downloads/Applications/Vuze\_4.2.0.2\_source.zip Folder

**Class Hierarchies** tend to be **shallow** and **wide**  
(i.e. inheritance trees tend to have only few depth-level(s) and base-classes with many directly derived sub-classes)

**Classes** tend to:

- be rather large (i.e. they define many methods);
- be organized in rather fine-grained packages (i.e. few classes per package);

**Methods** tend to:

- tend to be rather long yet having a rather simple logic (i.e. few conditional branches);
- tend to call an several methods from many other classes (high coupling dispersion);

# looking for...

adherence to industry standards

low number of lines / method  
(see composed method pattern)

low cyclomatic complexity / line

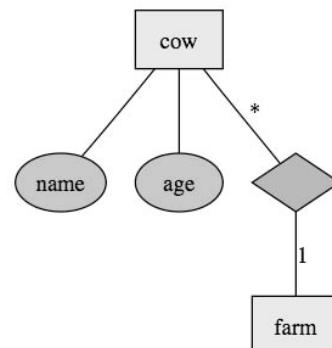


# GraphViz

```
graph ER {
    node [shape=box style=filled fillcolor="#00ff005f"];
    farm;
    cow;
    node [shape=ellipse style=filled fillcolor="#ff00005f"];
    {node [label="name"] cow_name;}
    {node [label="age"] cow_age;}
    node [shape=diamond style=filled fillcolor="#0000ff5f"];
    {node [label=""']}
    cow_farm;

    cow -- cow_name;
    cow -- cow_age;

    cow -- cow_farm [label="*"];
    cow_farm -- farm [label="1"];
}
```

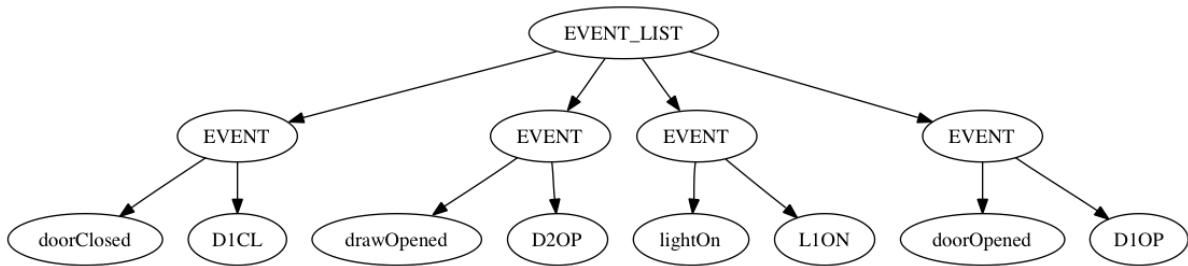


e  
v  
e  
n  
t  
|  
i  
s  
t

d  
o  
t  
f  
i  
|  
e

```
digraph simple {
ordering=out
e1 [label = "EVENT"]
e2 [label = "EVENT"]
e3 [label = "EVENT"]
e4 [label = "EVENT"]
eventList [label = "EVENT_LIST"]
eventList -> e1
eventList -> e2
eventList -> e3
eventList -> e4
c1 [label = "D1CL"]
c2 [label = "D2OP"]
c3 [label = "L1ON"]
c4 [label = "D1OP"]
e1 -> doorClosed
e1 -> c1
e2 -> drawOpened
e2 -> c2
e3 -> lightOn
e3 -> c3
e4 -> doorOpened
e4 -> c4
}
```

## output



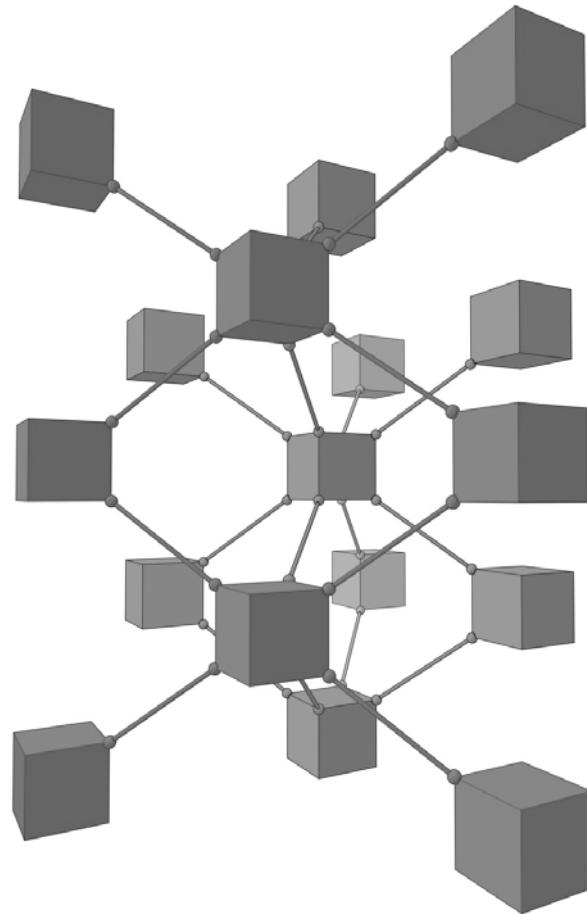
# generating dot files

```
public void toDot(StringBuilder result) {  
    String dotLabel = String.format("{%s", name);  
    if (!commands.isEmpty()) {  
        dotLabel += "|";  
        for(Command c : commands) dotLabel += String.format("%s\\n", c.getName());  
    }  
    dotLabel += "}";  
    result.append(String.format("%s [shape = Mrecord fontsize = 12 label = \"%s\"]\\n", name, dotLabel));  
    for(Map.Entry<Event,State> e : transitions.entrySet()) {  
        result.append(String.format("%s -> %s [ label = \"%s\" fontsize = 10 arrowhead = open];\\n",  
            name, e.getValue().name, e.getKey().getName()));  
    }  
}
```

# untangling jars

## jar analyzer

Kirk Knoernschild  
[www.kirkk.com](http://www.kirkk.com)



# xml output

```

<JarAnalyzer>
- <jars>
  - <jar name="antlr.jar">
    - <Summary>
      - <Statistics>
        <ClassCount>210</ClassCount>
        <AbstractClassCount>48</AbstractClassCount>
        <PackageCount>10</PackageCount>
        <Level>1</Level>
      </Statistics>
    - <Metrics>
      <Abstractness>0.23</Abstractness>
      <Efferent>0</Efferent>
      <Afferent>1</Afferent>
      <Instability>0.00</Instability>
      <Distance>0.77</Distance>
    </Metrics>
  - <Packages>
    <Package>antlr</Package>
    <Package>antlr.build</Package>
    <Package>antlr.collections</Package>
    <Package>antlr.debug</Package>
    <Package>antlr.preprocessor</Package>
    <Package>antlr.actions.cpp</Package>
    <Package>antlr.actions.csharp</Package>
    <Package>antlr.actions.java</Package>
    <Package>antlr.collections.impl</Package>
    <Package>antlr.debug.misc</Package>
  </Packages>
  <OutgoingDependencies> </OutgoingDependencies>
  - <IncomingDependencies>
    <jar>struts.jar</jar>
  </IncomingDependencies>
  <Cycles> </Cycles>
  <UnresolvedDependencies> </UnresolvedDependencies>
</Summary>
</jar>
- <jar name="commons-beanutils.jar">
  - <Summary>
    - <Statistics>
      <ClassCount>66</ClassCount>
      <AbstractClassCount>7</AbstractClassCount>
      <PackageCount>4</PackageCount>
      <Level>2</Level>
    </Statistics>
  - <Metrics>
    <Abstractness>0.11</Abstractness>

```

t  
r  
a  
n  
s  
f  
o  
r  
m  
e  
d

## JarAnalyzer Analysis

Run with [JarAnalyzer](#) on

### Summary

[\[summary\]](#) [\[jars\]](#) [\[cycles\]](#) [\[explanations\]](#)

Jar Name	Total Classes	Abstract Classes	Packages	Level	Abstractness	Efferent	Afferent	Instability	Distance
antlr.jar	210	48	10	1	0.23	0	1	0.00	0.77
commons-beanutils.jar	66	7	4	2	0.11	2	3	0.40	0.49
commons-collections.jar	187	15	3	1	0.08	0	4	0.00	0.92
commons-digester.jar	55	9	3	3	0.16	3	2	0.60	0.24
commons-fileupload.jar	16	4	1	1	0.25	0	1	0.00	0.75
commons-logging.jar	18	2	2	1	0.11	0	4	0.00	0.89
commons-validator.jar	30	1	2	4	0.03	5	1	0.83	0.14
jakarta-oro.jar	62	13	6	1	0.21	0	1	0.00	0.79
struts.jar	289	33	25	5	0.11	7	0	1.00	0.11

### Jars

[\[summary\]](#) [\[jars\]](#) [\[cycles\]](#) [\[explanations\]](#)

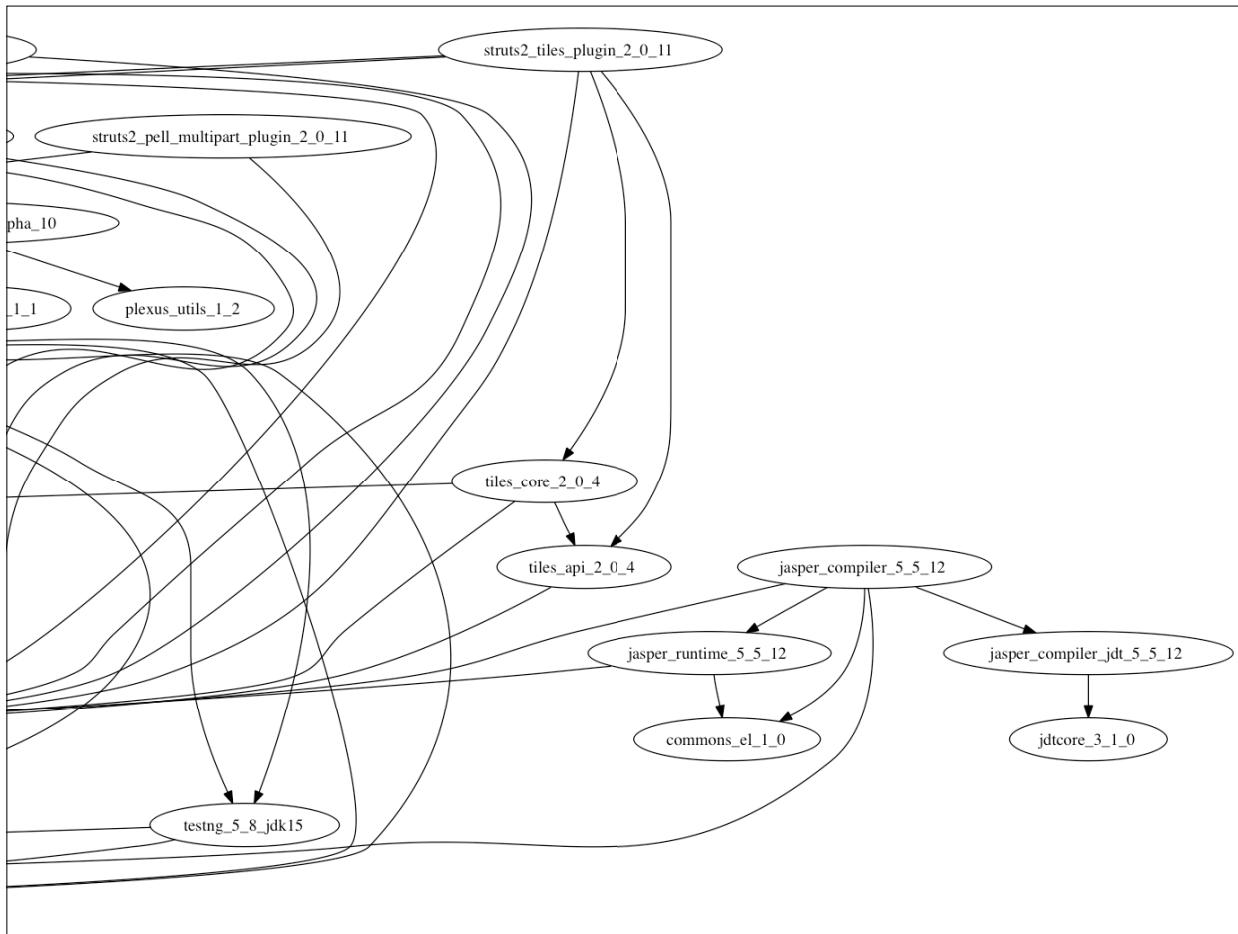
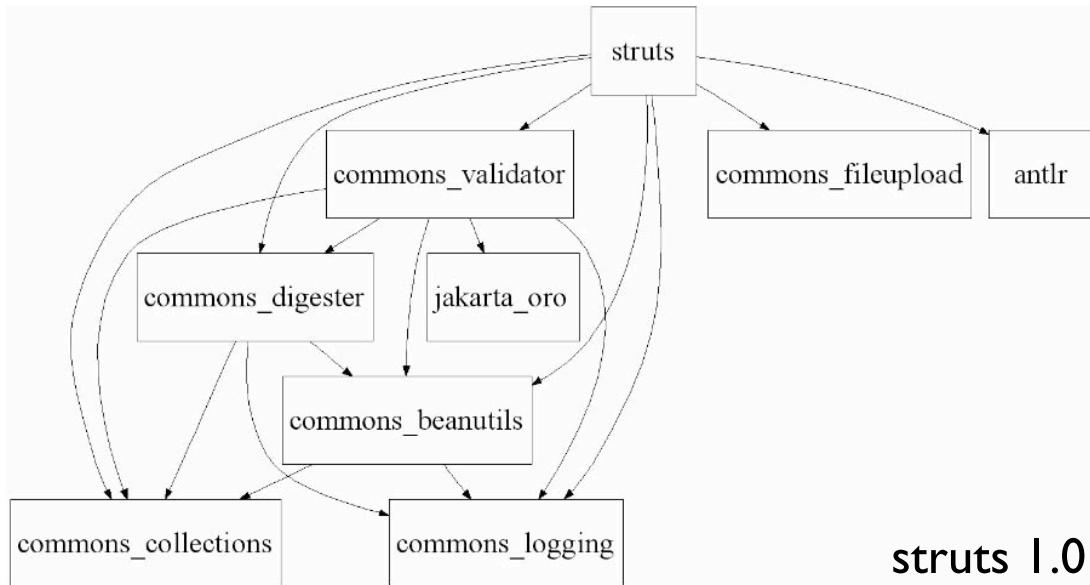
#### antlr.jar

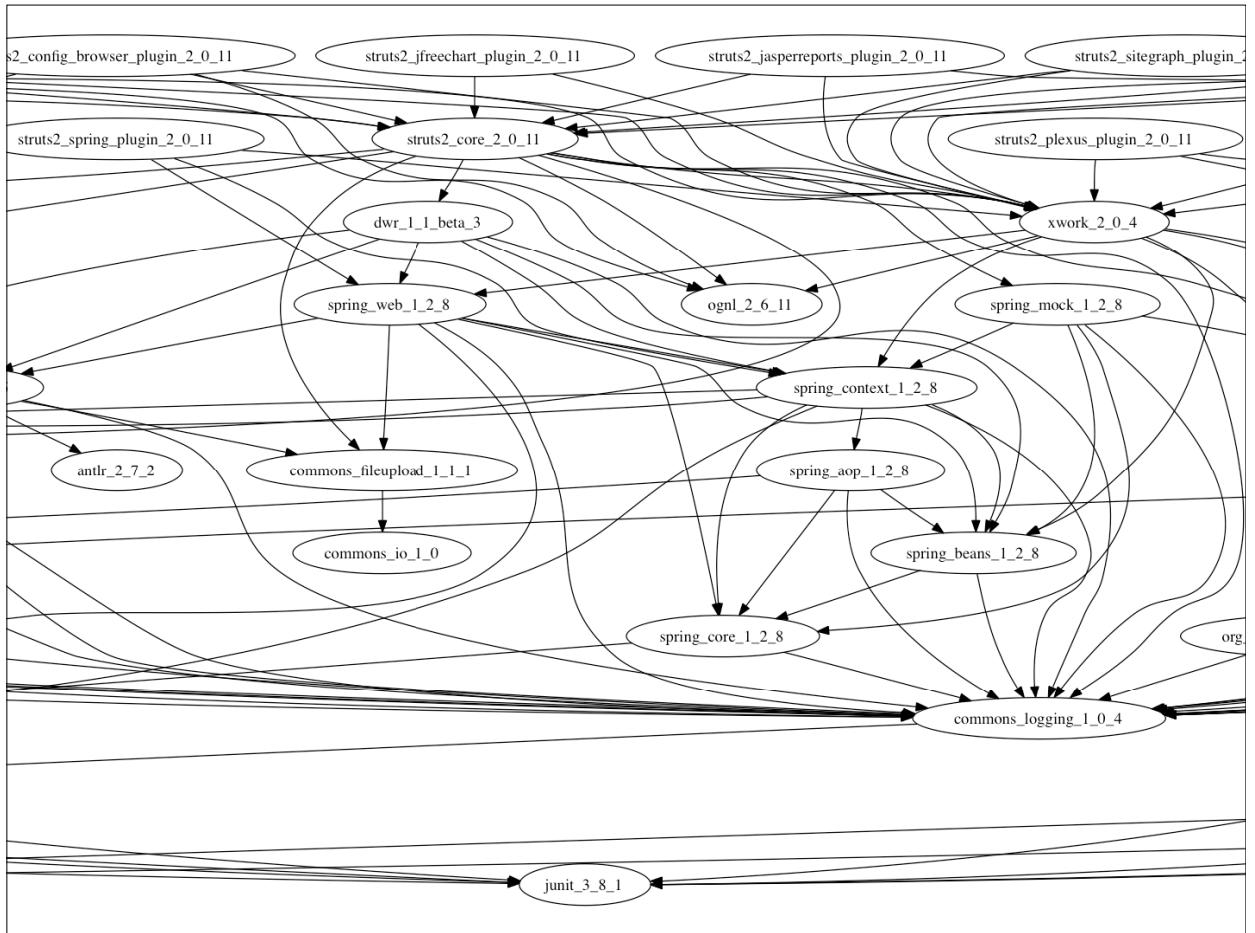
Level: 1 Afferent Couplings: 1	Efferent Couplings: 0	Abstractness: 0.23	Instability: 0.00	Distance: 0.77
<b>Uses Jars</b>	<b>Used by Jars</b>			Cycles With
None	struts.jar			None
<b>Packages within jar</b>		<b>Unresolved Packages</b>		
antlr antlr.build antlr.collections antlr.debug antlr.preprocessor antlr.actions.cpp antlr.actions.csharp antlr.actions.java antlr.collections.impl antlr.debug.misc		None		

#### commons-beanutils.jar

Level: 2 Afferent Couplings: 3	Efferent Couplings: 2	Abstractness: 0.11	Instability: 0.40	Distance: 0.49
<b>Uses Jars</b>	<b>Used by Jars</b>			Cycles With
commons-collections.jar commons-logging.jar	commons-digester.jar commons-validator.jar struts.jar			None
<b>Packages within jar</b>		<b>Unresolved Packages</b>		
org.apache.commons.beanutils.converters org.apache.commons.beanutils org.apache.commons.beanutils.locale.converters org.apache.commons.beanutils.locale		None		

# graphical





# looking for...

not that!

small number of one-way dependencies

no “rats’ nests”

no cycles





Vizant

ant task to create a GraphViz  
DOT file from an ant build file

<http://vizant.sourceforge.net/>

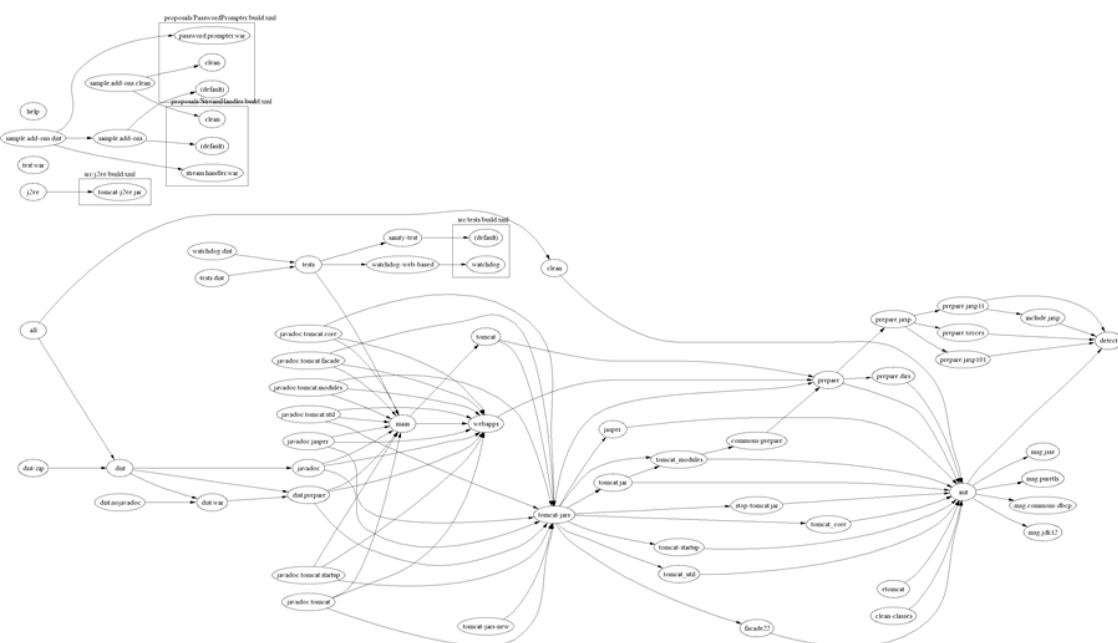
## ant 1.5



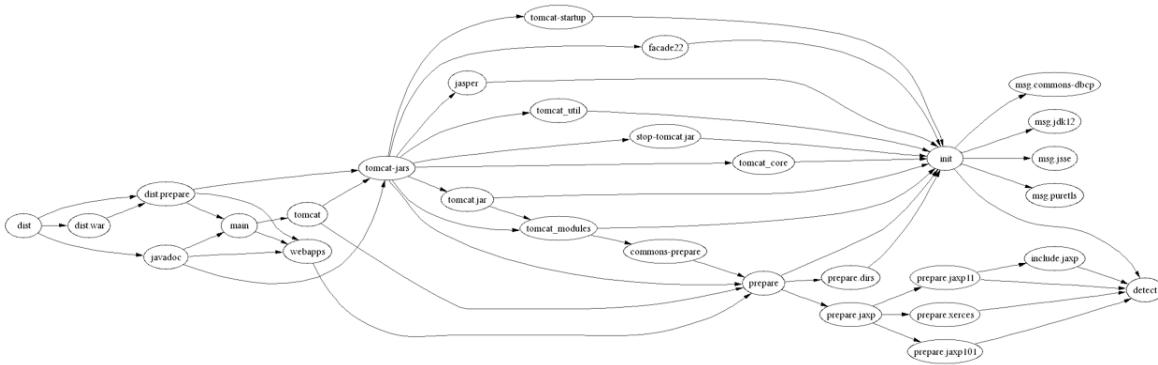
**log4j**



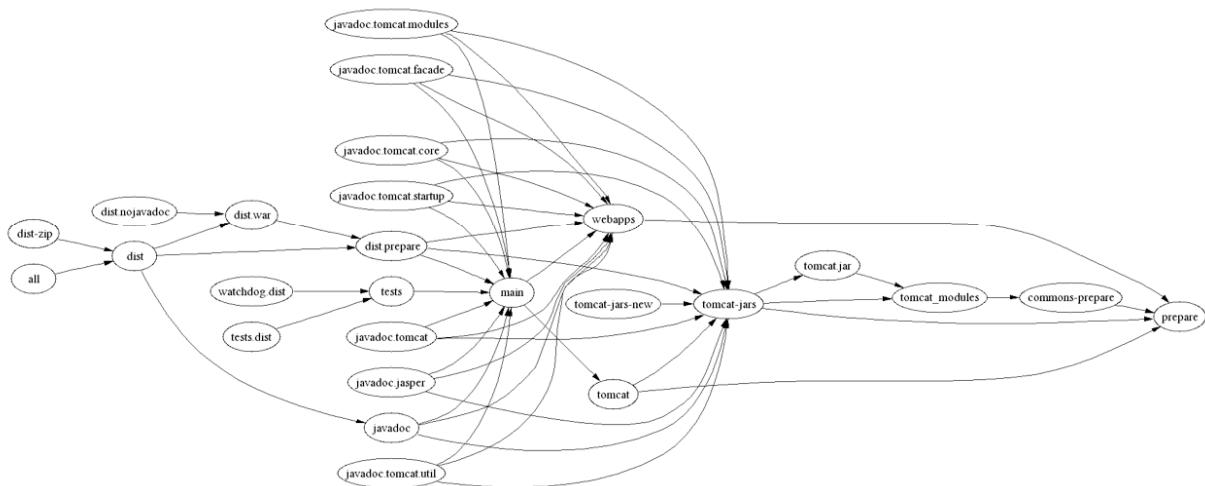
# tomcat 3.3.1



# from=“dist”



# to=“prepare”



# look for...

hot spots

more even distribution

networks around common dependent elements

think about extracting  
via macrodef

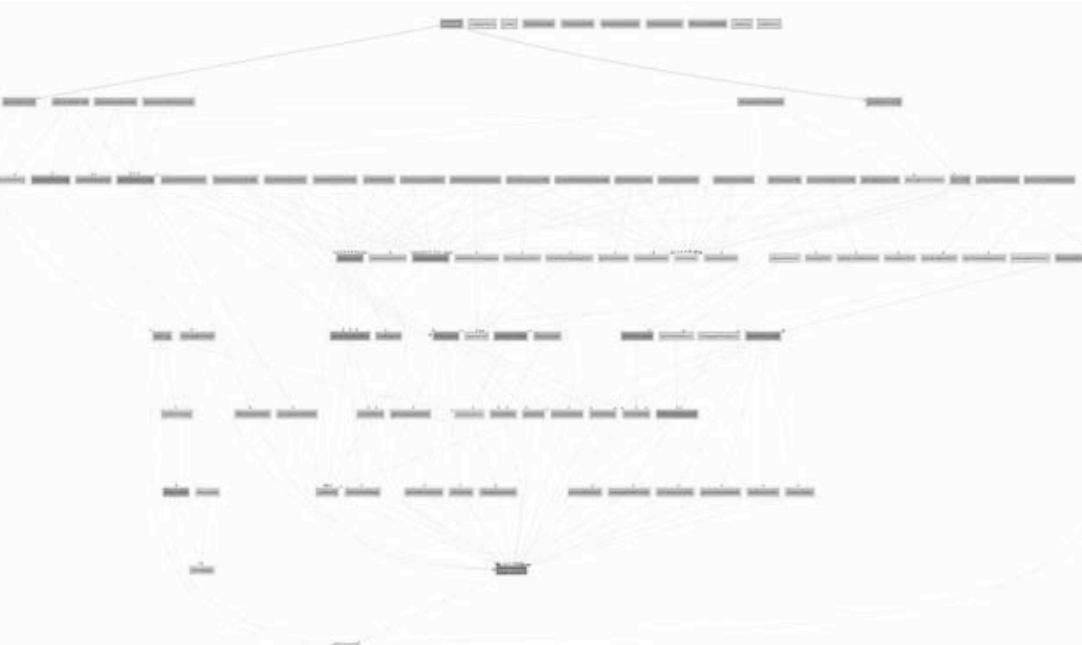
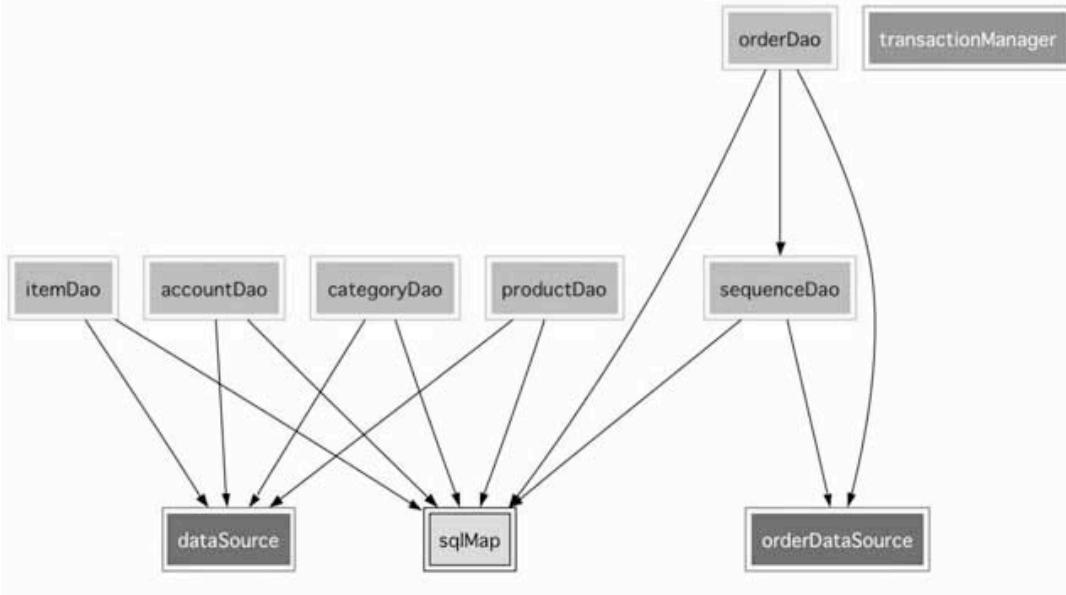


## SpringViz

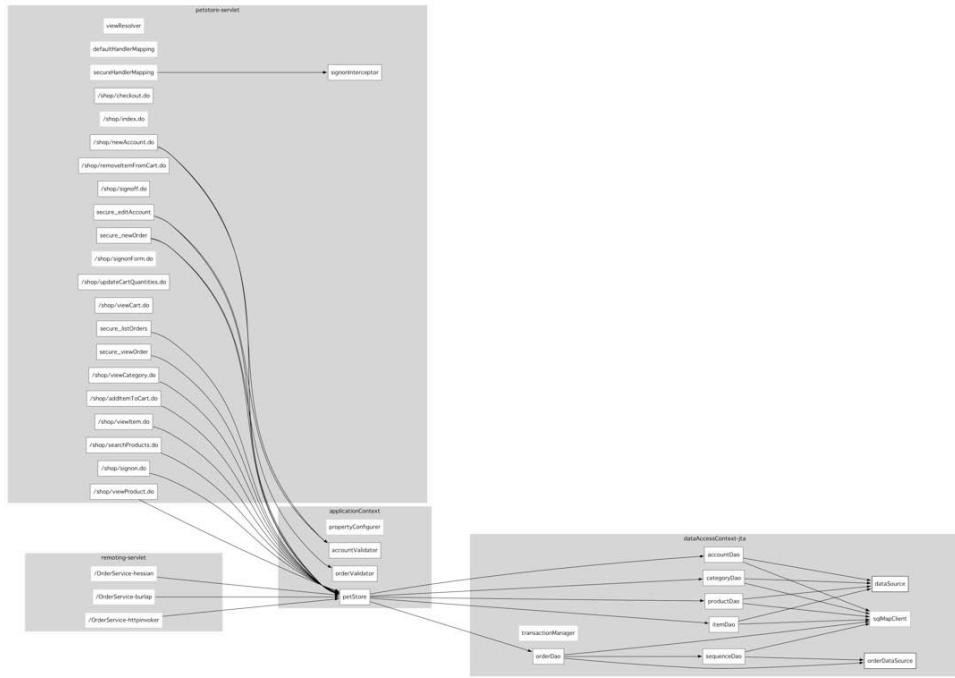
XSLT => DOT for spring  
dependencies

<http://www.samoht.com/wiki/wiki.pl?SpringViz>





# SpringViz



look for...



regularity

symmetry

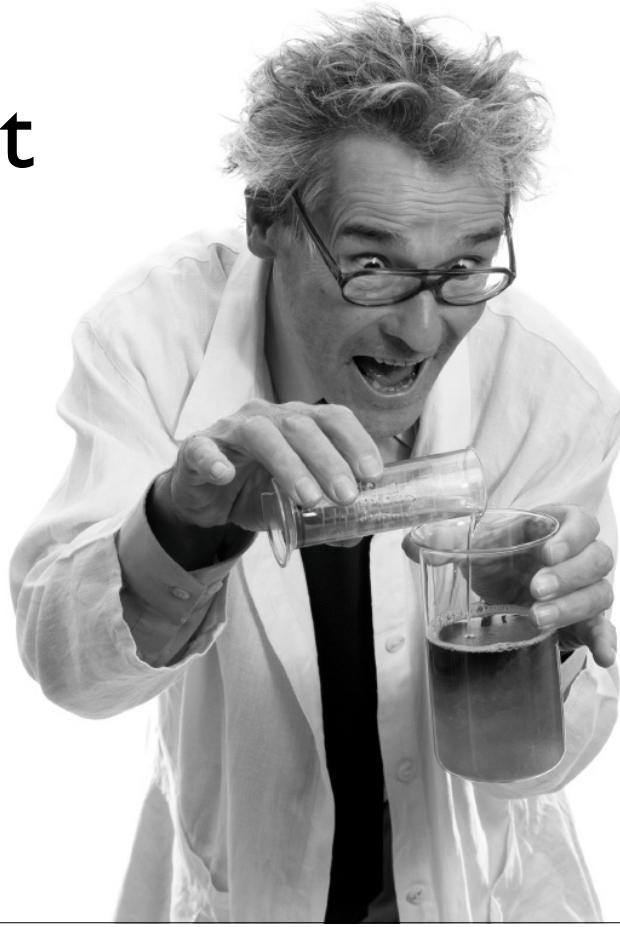
overloaded dependencies

isolated pockets

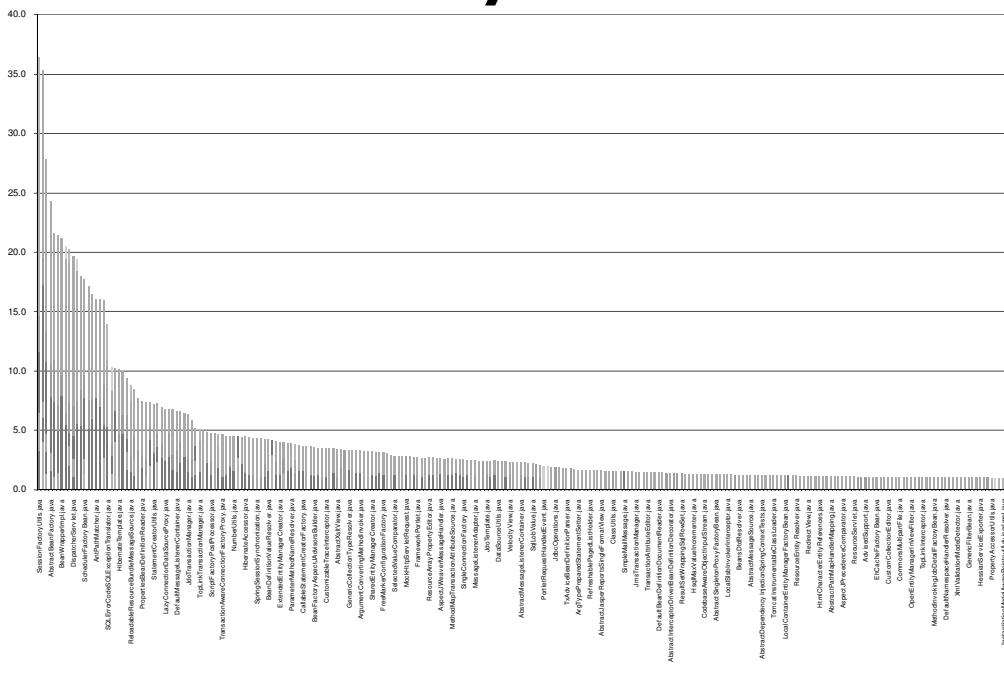
# toxicity chart

provides easy to compare  
overview of quality

created with checkstyle +  
excel

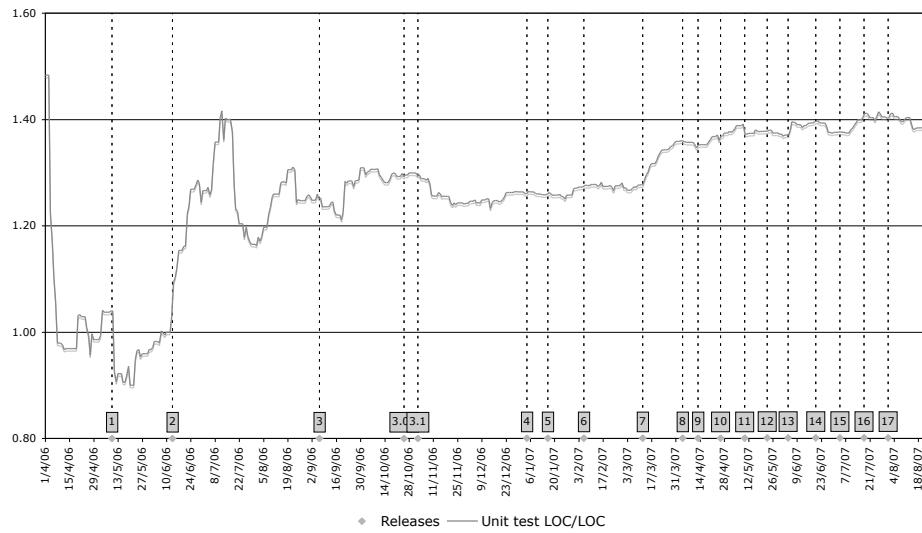


# toxicity chart



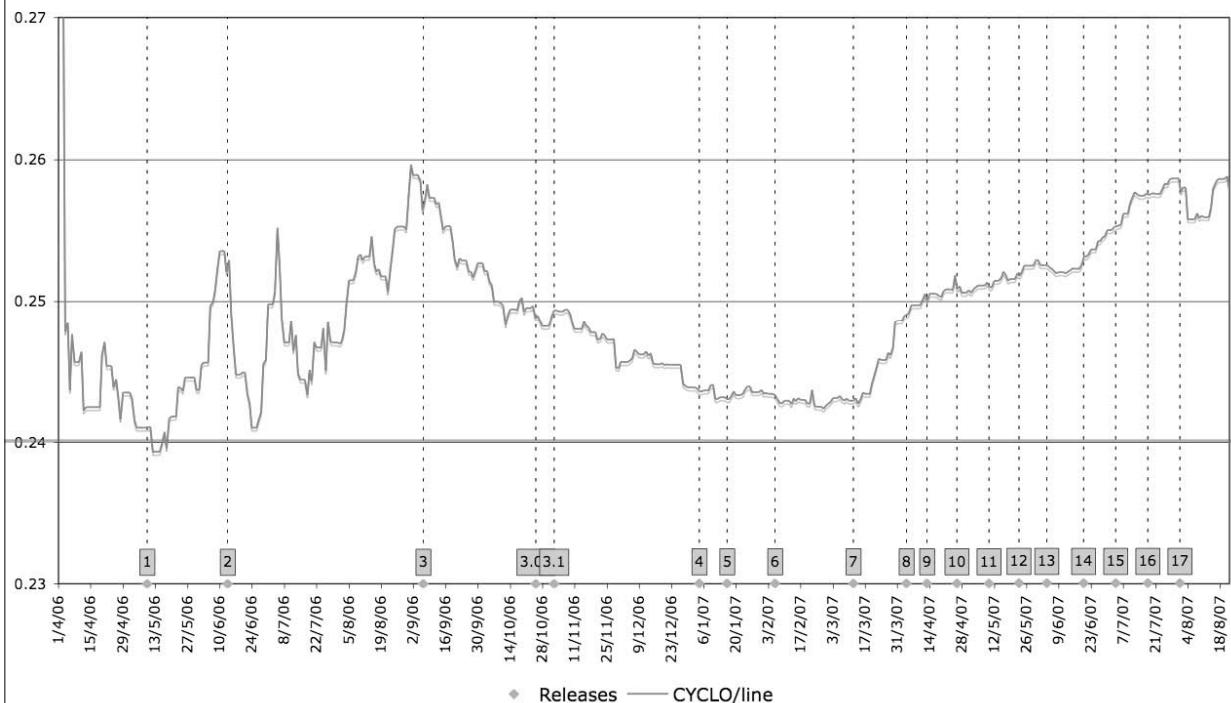
# test to code ratio

Lines of unit test code per line of production code



created using unix tools + excel

Operational Complexity (branching point density)



# look for...

notifications along your key dimension

toxicity: high-spikes

test-to-code ratio: higher is better

complexity / loc: trends

deltas more interesting than  
raw numbers



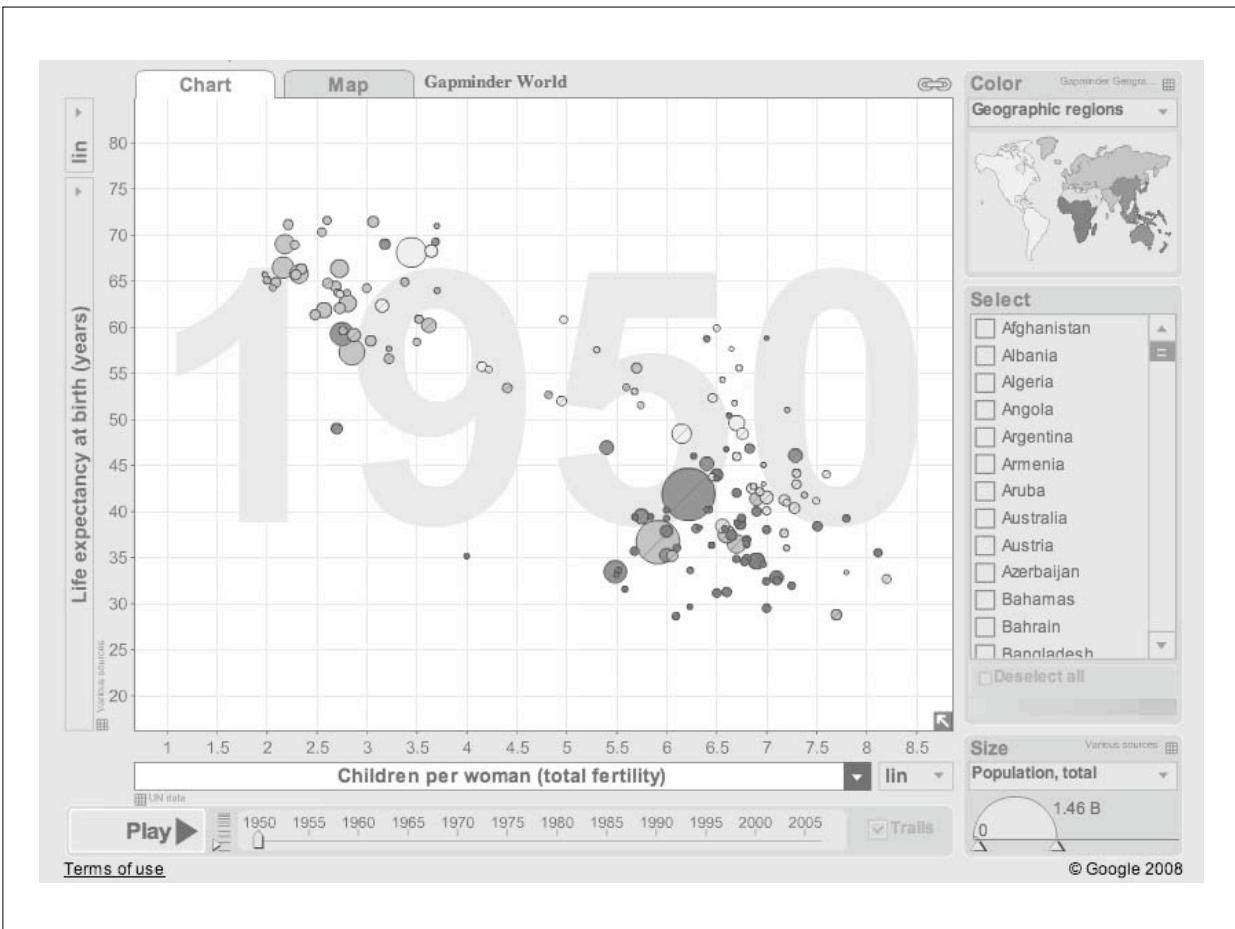
Gapminder

“Unveiling the beauty of statistics for a fact  
based world view.”

time-based statistical view of chart data

founded in Stockholm by Ola Rosling, Anna  
Rosling Rönnlund and Hans Rosling

now realized in the google spreadsheet motion  
gadget



# the data

	Version	loc/cc	LOC	CC
2	v1	1999 6.02941176470588	12915	2142
3	v2	2000 6.17486583184258	13807	2236
4	v3	2001 6.17706949977866	13954	2259
5	v4	2002 6.16593886462882	14120	2290
6	v5	2003 6.29637618636756	14595	2318
7	v6	2004 6.22636327971754	15871	2549
8	v7	2005 6.22466281310212	16153	2595
9	v8	2006 6.20398773006135	16180	2608
10	v9	2007 6.17825921702775	16255	2631
11	v10	2008 6.21148725751236	16330	2629

# motion chart gadget



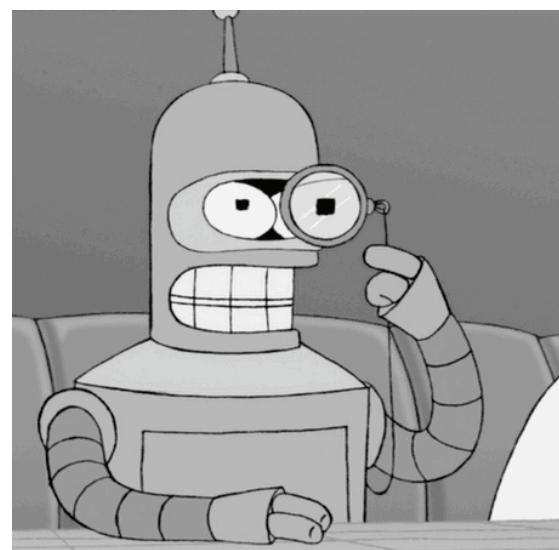
look for...

time-based trends

odd outliers along dimensions

symmetry

fluidity

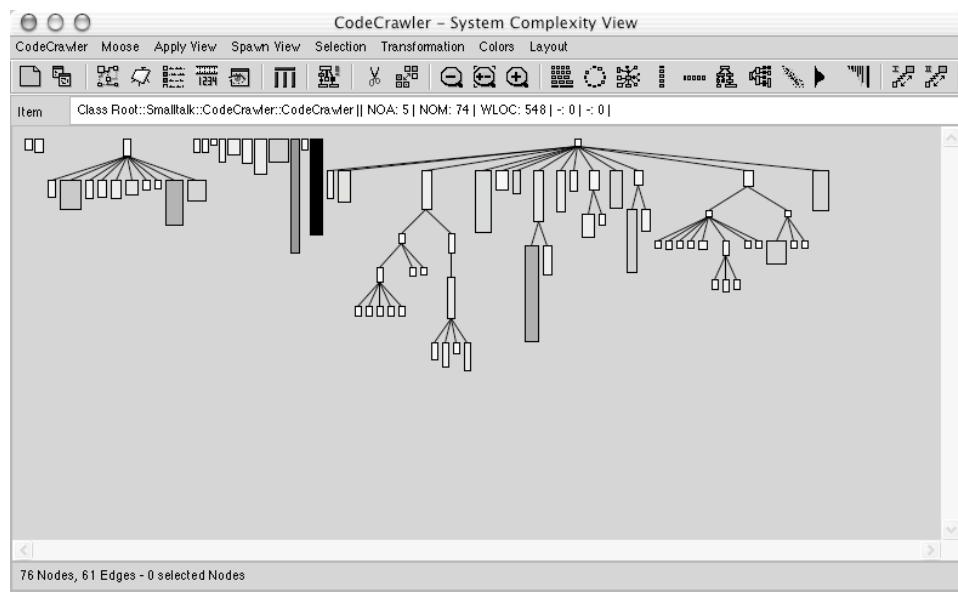


# CodeCrawler

[www.inf.unisi.ch/faculty/lanza/codecrawler.html](http://www.inf.unisi.ch/faculty/lanza/codecrawler.html)



# CodeCrawler



# CodeCrawler

academic graphical metrics tool

language independent

written in VisualAge Smalltalk

based on the Moose platform

quirky but powerful

# x-ray

graduate student project written by Jacopo  
Malnati (<http://atelier.inf.unisi.ch/~malnatij/xray.php>)

open-source software visualization plug-in for  
eclipse

provides system complexity view, class &  
package dependency view

model of the underlying Java project can be  
triggered and used by other plug-ins

```
private Composite parent = null;
private ScrollPane panel = null;
// Tree
private LightweightSystem tree = null;

// constants
public static final String SYSTEM_COMPLEXITY = "system complexity";
public static final String CLASS_DEPENDENCY = "class dependency";
public static final String PACKAGE_DEPENDENCY = "package dependency";
public static final String CURRENT_VISUALIZATION = SYSTEM_COMPLEXITY;

// Handlers
private SystemComplexityHandler systemComplexityHandler = null;
private ClassDependencyHandler classDependencyHandler = null;
```

x-ray visualizing itself through via system complexity view

## using x-ray

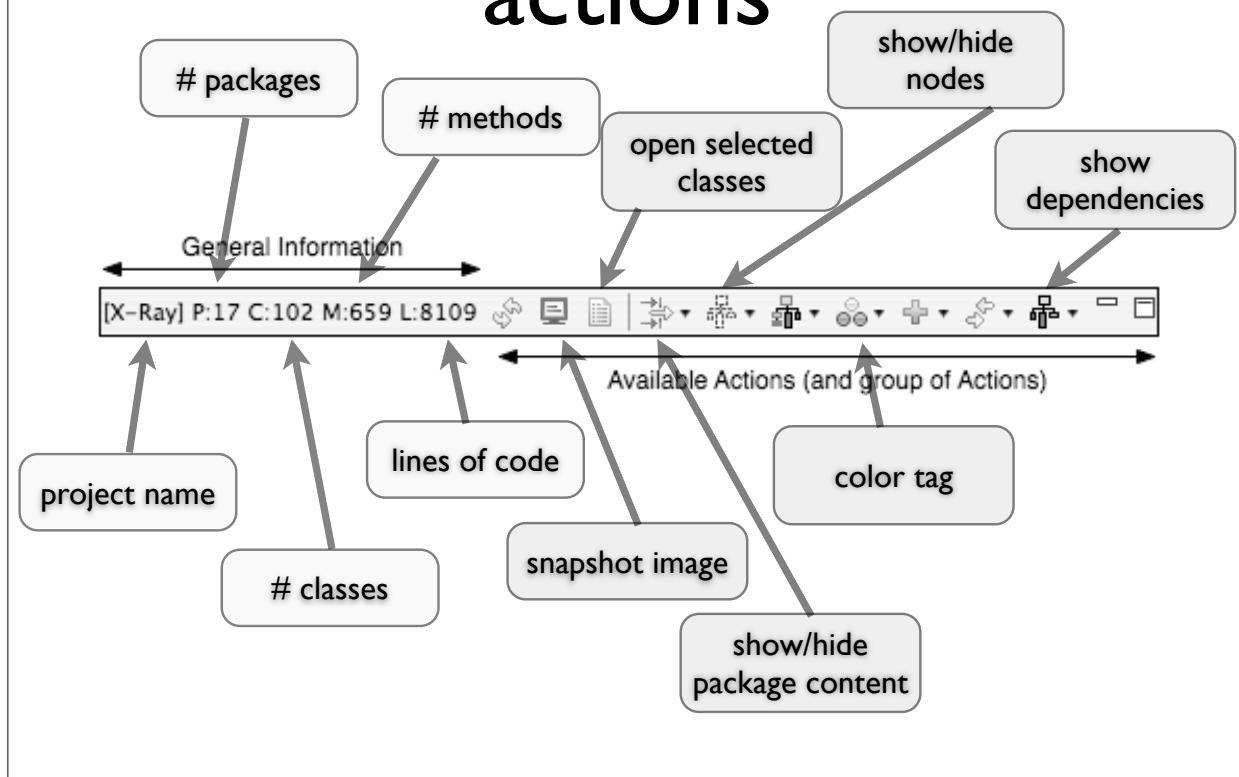
install the plug-in

choose the Analyze Current Project action  
from the package explorer

x-ray creates *textual information* and *actions*

visualizations characterized by entities  
positioned according to layouts and criterions

# actions



# polymetric views

 system complexity view

 class dependency view

 package dependency view

# system complexity view



# system complexity view

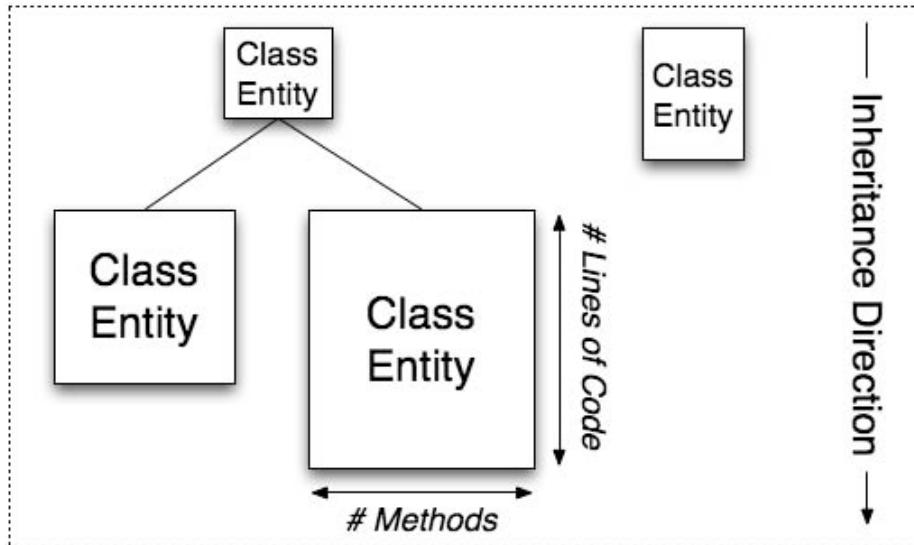
tries to illustrate disharmonies in the design  
and implementation of a system.

identify big nodes (compared to the others)

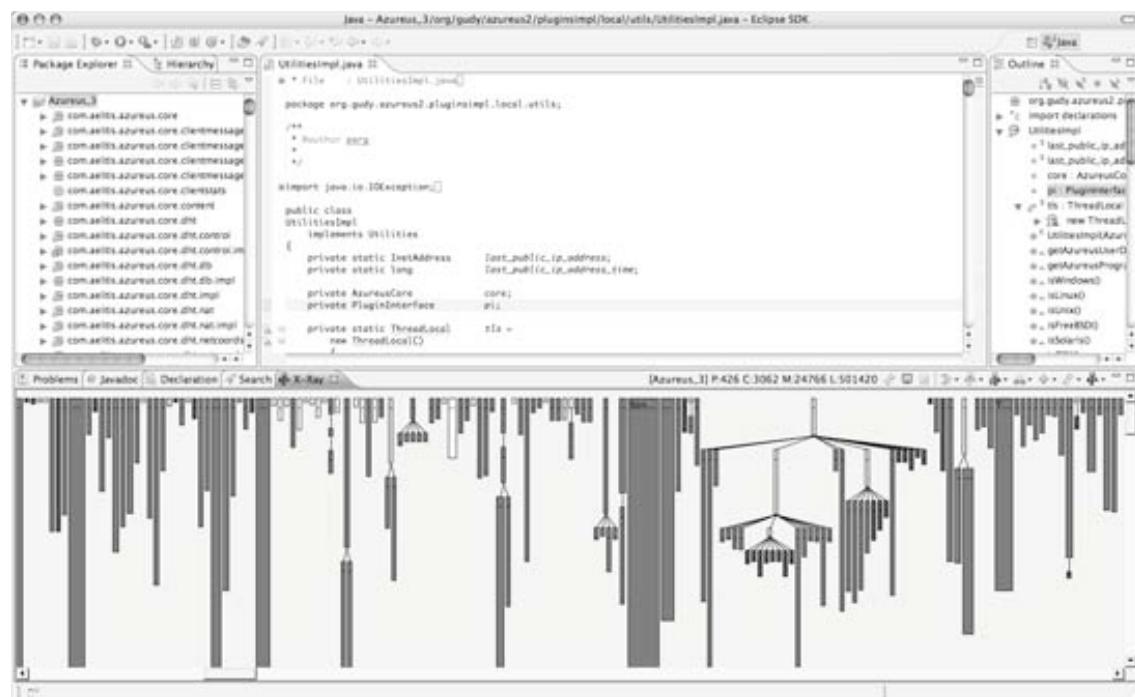
anomalies of shape (provided by the inheritance  
tree)

view provides several different dimensions of  
metrics

# positional metrics



# system complexity view



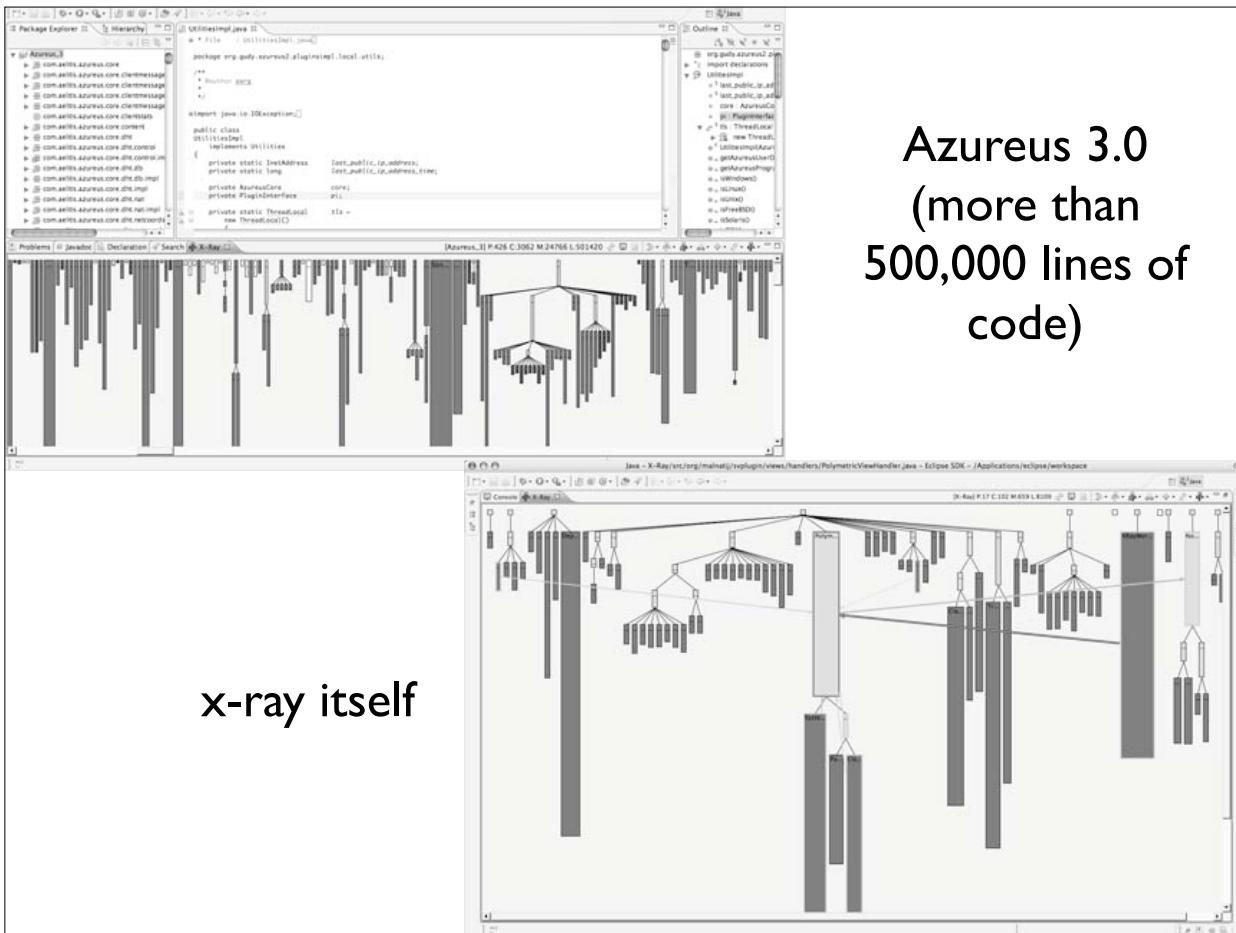
# color metrics

- **Dark Blue** implies a concrete class.
- **Light Blue** implies an abstract class.
- **White** implies an interface.
- **Green** implies an external class. By external class we mean a class that is external to the project, while some internal classes are inheriting from it.
- **Light Gray** implies an abstract inner class.
- **Dark Gray** implies a concrete inner class.

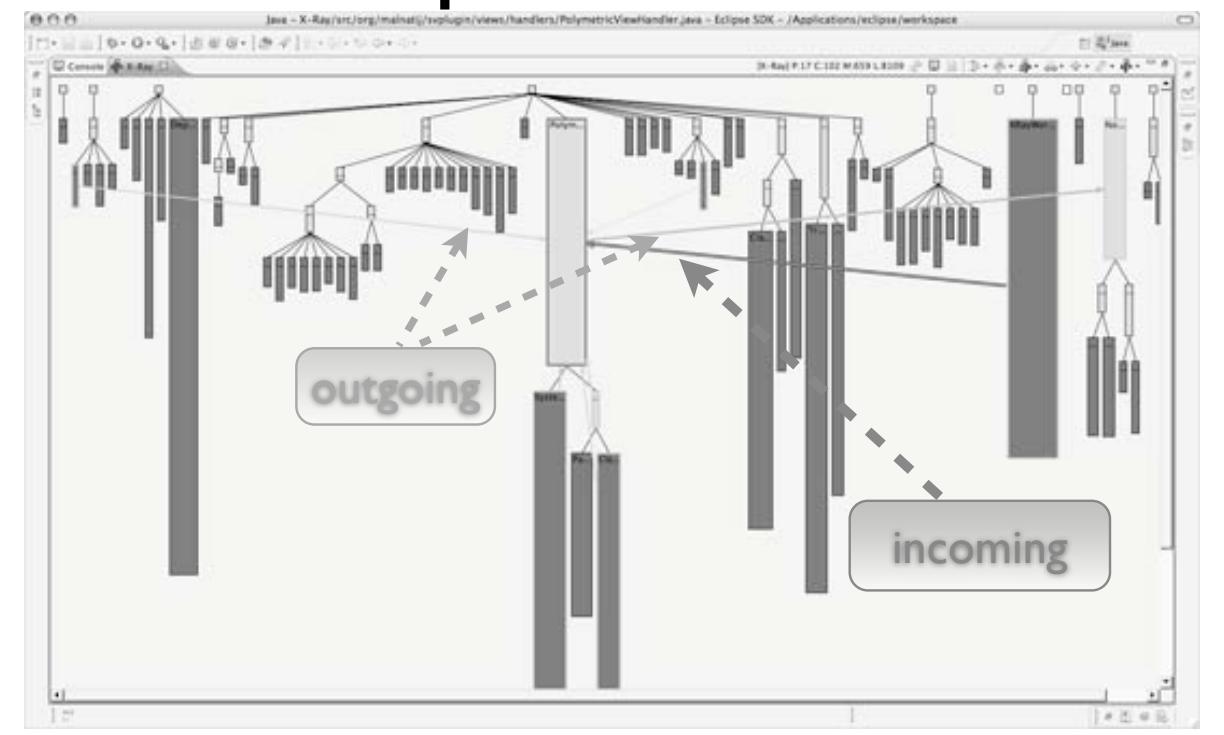
# system complexity view



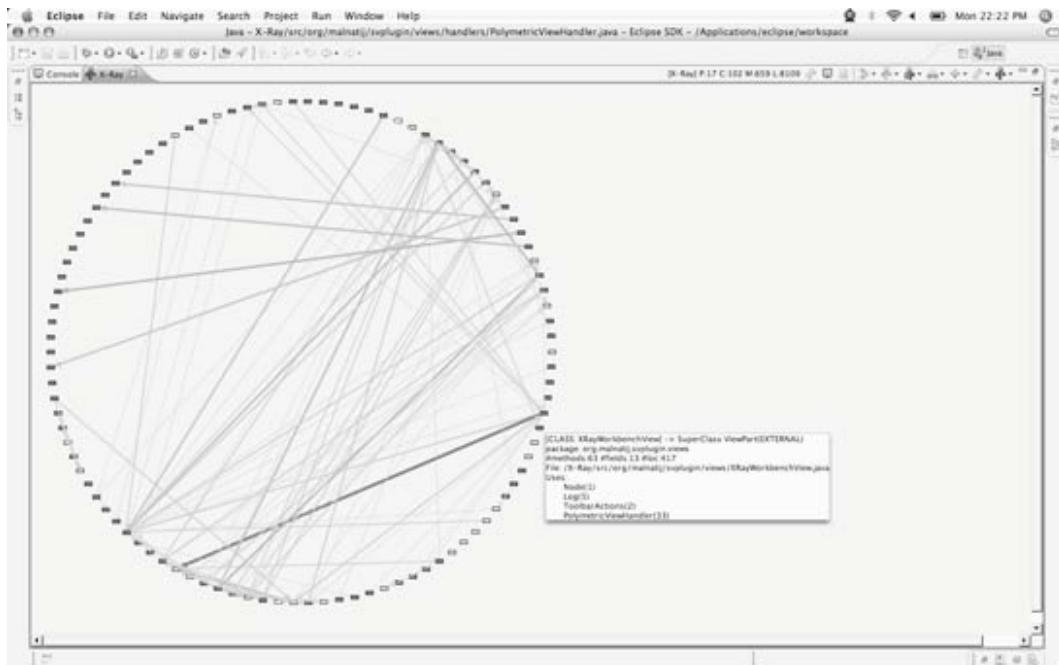
Azureus 3.0  
(more than  
500,000 lines of  
code)



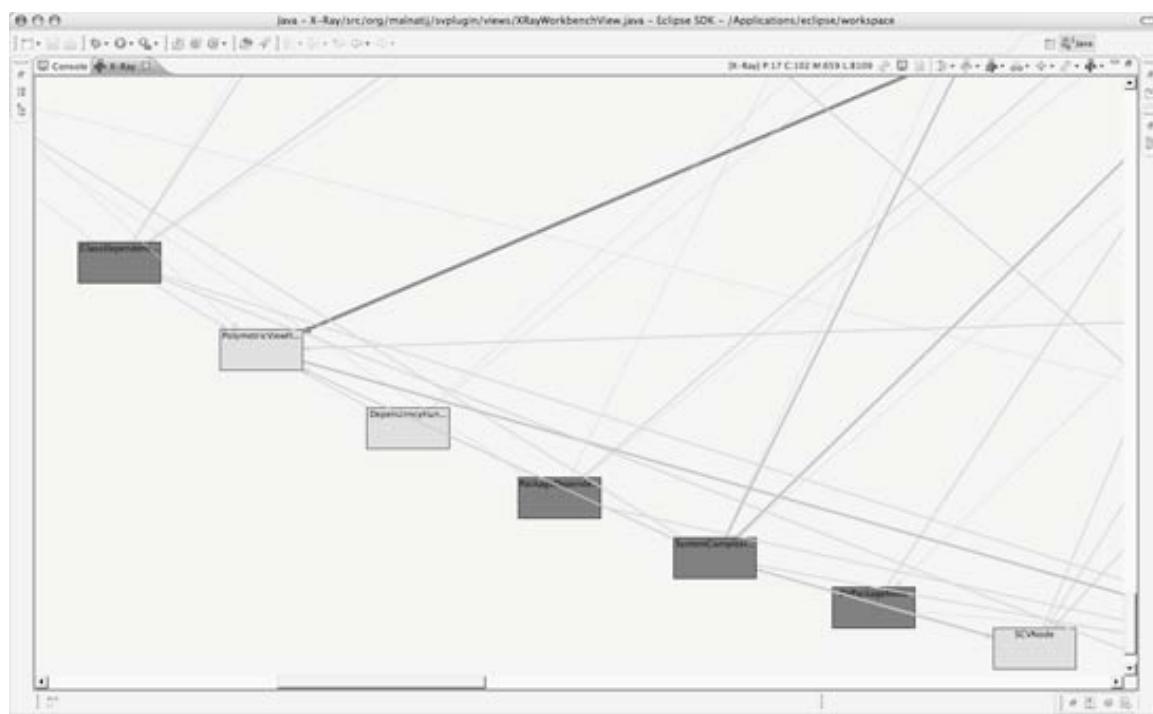
## dependencies



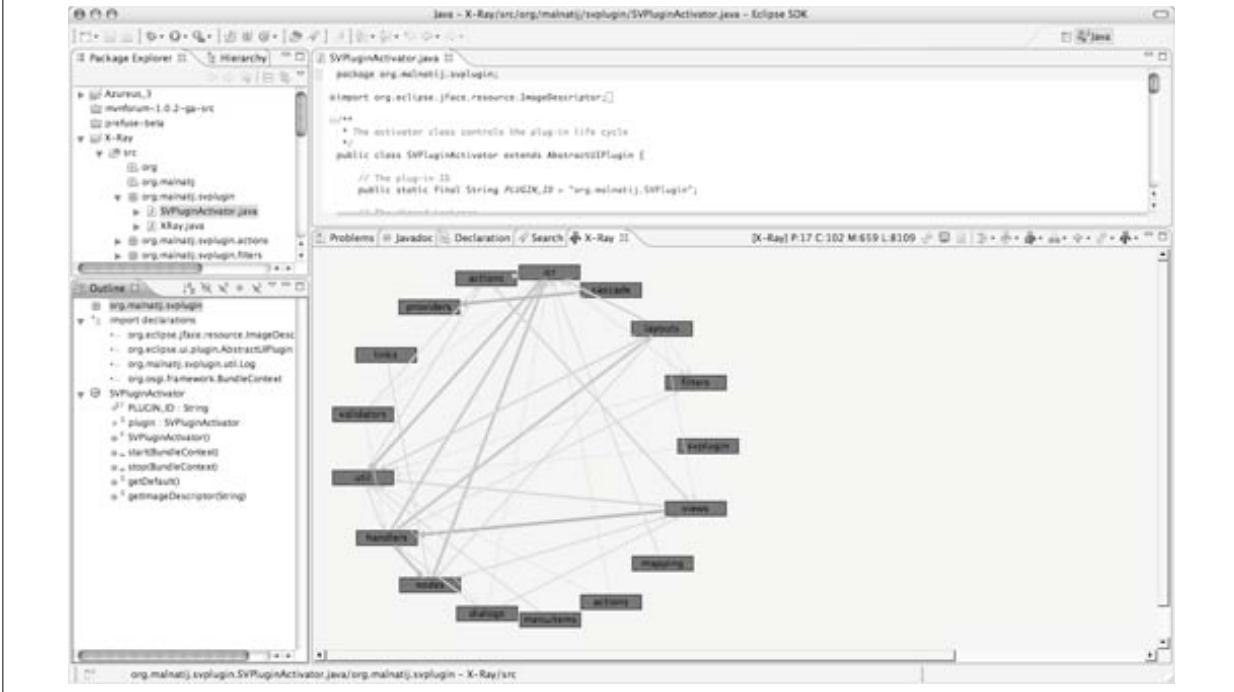
# class & package dependency views



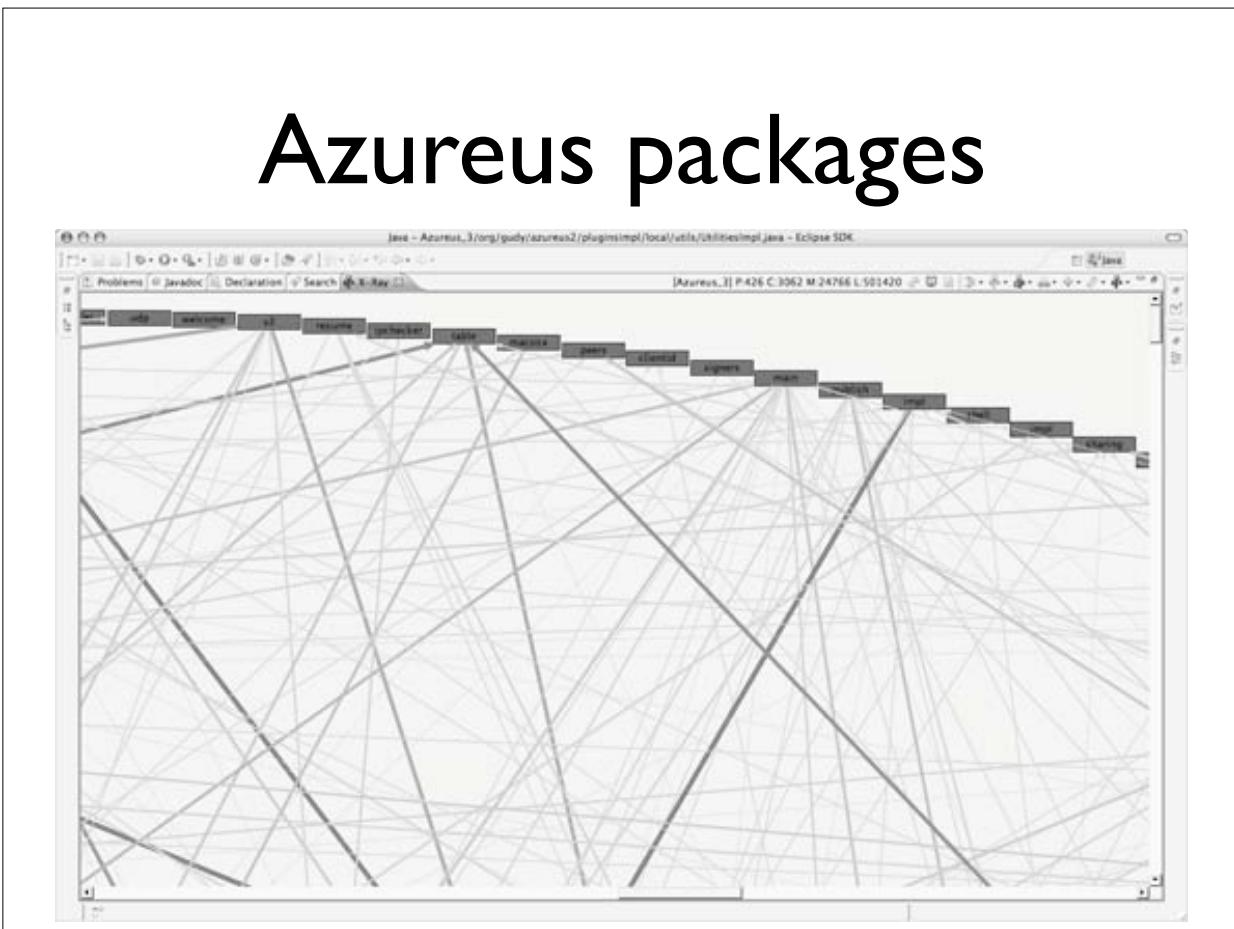
## class dependency view



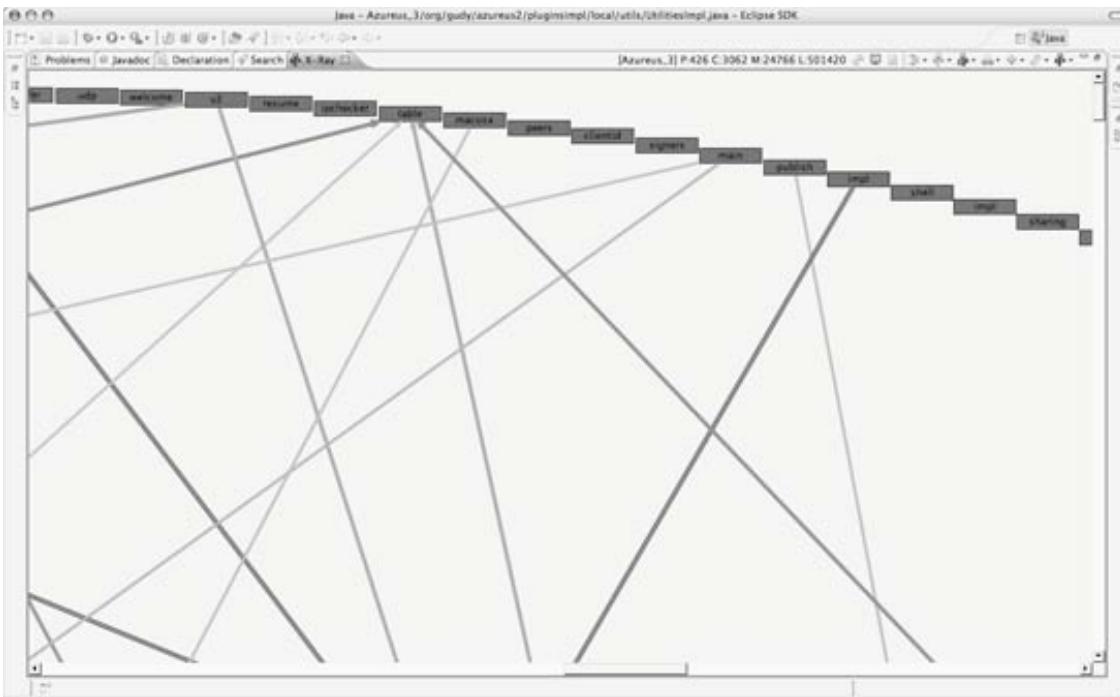
# package dependency



# Azureus packages



# filtering (< 30 weight)



# proximity alert

The screenshot shows the Eclipse IDE interface with the X-Ray plugin installed. The top menu bar has 'File', 'Edit', 'Search', 'Run', 'X-Ray', 'Help' options. The left sidebar has 'Package Explorer' (with X-Ray selected), 'Console', 'Search', 'Error Log', 'X-Ray' (with 'Proximity Alert' selected), and 'Help'. The main area displays Java code for 'ClassRepresentation.java' and a 'Classes Viewer' table.

**Code Snippet from ClassRepresentation.java:**

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
```

```
* This class represents a "class entity" found in the project that the
* plugin is analyzing. It holds information about the name and type
* of class
* Author: melenati
```

```
*
```

```
public class ClassRepresentation
extends CoreEntity<IRepresented>
implements IUniqueIdentifiable<IObject>{
    // every class may implement several INTERFACES
    private ArrayList<ClassRepresentations> interfaces =
        new ArrayList<ClassRepresentations>();
    // every class may extend one class, setting that class as SUPERCLASS
    private ClassRepresentation superClass = null;
```

**Classes Viewer Table:**

Class Name	Package	Proximity Alert	Fields	1-Fields	Methods	1-M..-sets	Constr.	1-Constructors	Uses	Implement	Used	Maybes	LoC
ZoomableMenuItemProvider	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.actions.menuitems.providers	21.0	0	21	0	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	38
ZoomAction	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.actions	21.0	0	20	0	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	45
XRayMenuBarItemsView	org.melenati.xvplugin.views	21.0	0	20	0	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	117
XRay	org.melenati.xvplugin	11.0	1	16	0	0..8	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	12
ViewIter	org.melenati.xvplugin.model.viewcommunication	10.0	3	16	1	0..2	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	20
ViewIterList	org.melenati.xvplugin.model	360.0	18	15	0	0..33	0..8	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	22
ViewIterationDelegate	org.melenati.xvplugin.model	21.0	1	15	1	0..3	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	38
UpAnchor	org.melenati.xvplugin.graph.links	21.0	0	15	0	0..2	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	58
UntagMenuItemProvider	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.actions.menuitems.providers	21.0	0	15	2	0..2	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	27
UniquelyIdentifierableObject	org.melenati.xvplugin.model	1.0	0	15	0	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	8
TreemapItem	org.melenati.xvplugin.layouts	268.0	15	7	27	0..8	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	117
TreeActions	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.actions	47.0	3	15	0	0..8	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	66
TaskEditor	org.melenati.xvplugin.model.core	51.0	1	15	0	0..3	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	42
SystemComponentHandler	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.handlers	101.0	0	15	23	0..19	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	143
SystemComplexityHandler	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.handlers	337.0	4	15	42	0..19	0..1	0..1	0..18	0..1	0..1	0..1	547
StringValidator	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.actions	11.0	0	15	1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	22
SnapShotWiring	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.actions.dialogs	18.0	0	15	0	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	0..1	31
SnapShotAction	org.melenati.xvplugin.views.actions	55.0	2	15	0	0..7	0..1	0..1	0..2	0..1	0..1	0..1	91
SaveFileDialog	org.melenati.xvplugin.graph.links	17.0	0	15	8	0..2	0..1	0..1	0..2	0..1	0..1	0..1	21

# look for...

towers (=> lots of code, lots of methods)

tangled dependencies

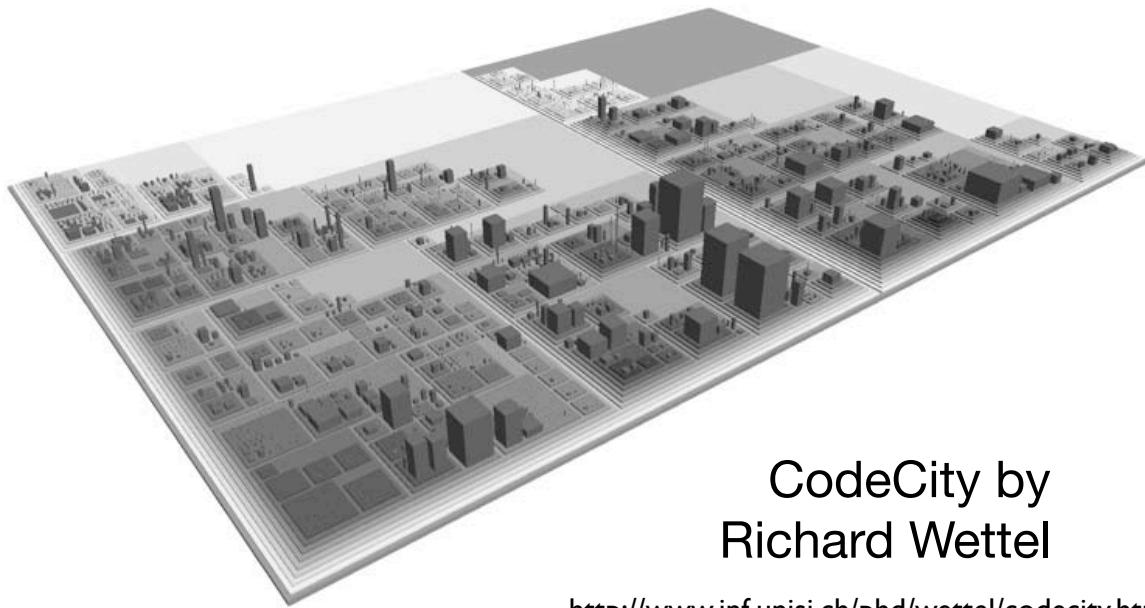
exuberant responsibility

natural partitions

balance



## 10,000 ft view (literally)



# CodeCity

integrated environment for software analysis

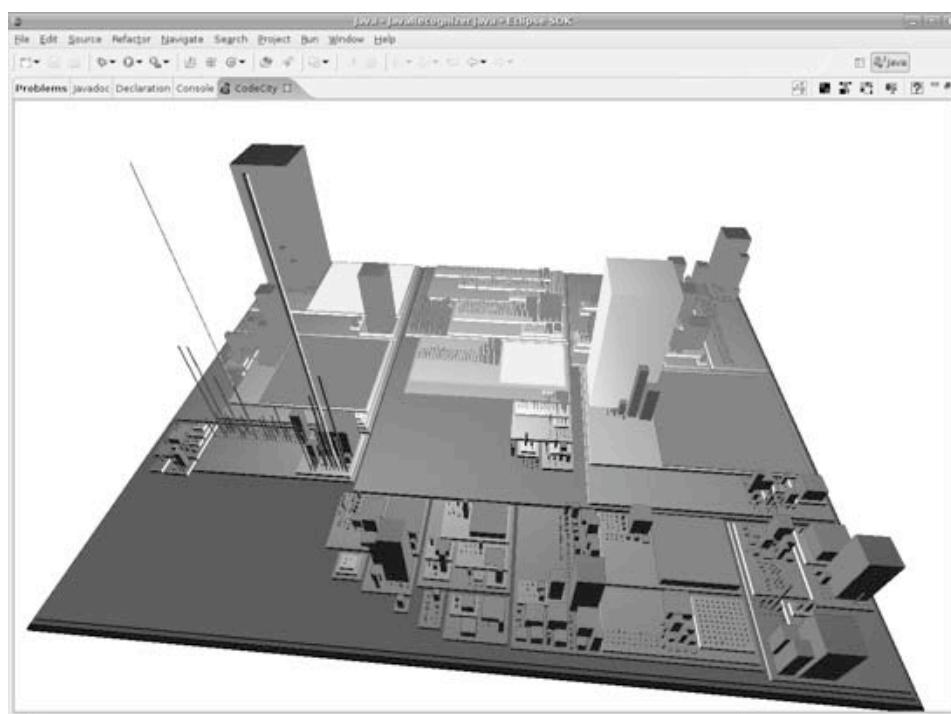
software systems are visualized as interactive,  
navigable 3D cities

written in VisualWorks Smalltalk, atop the  
Moose platform

classes => buildings

packages => districts

## citylyzer



# Citylyzer

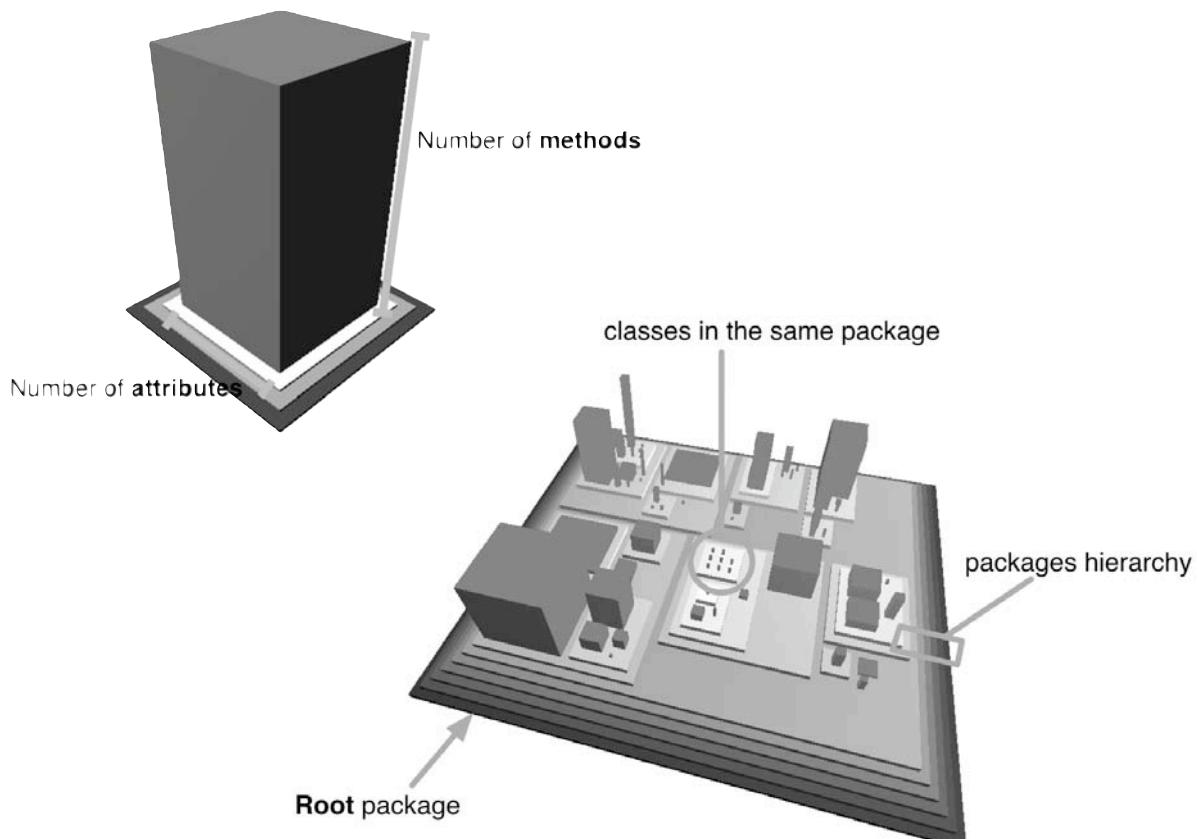
written atop x-ray

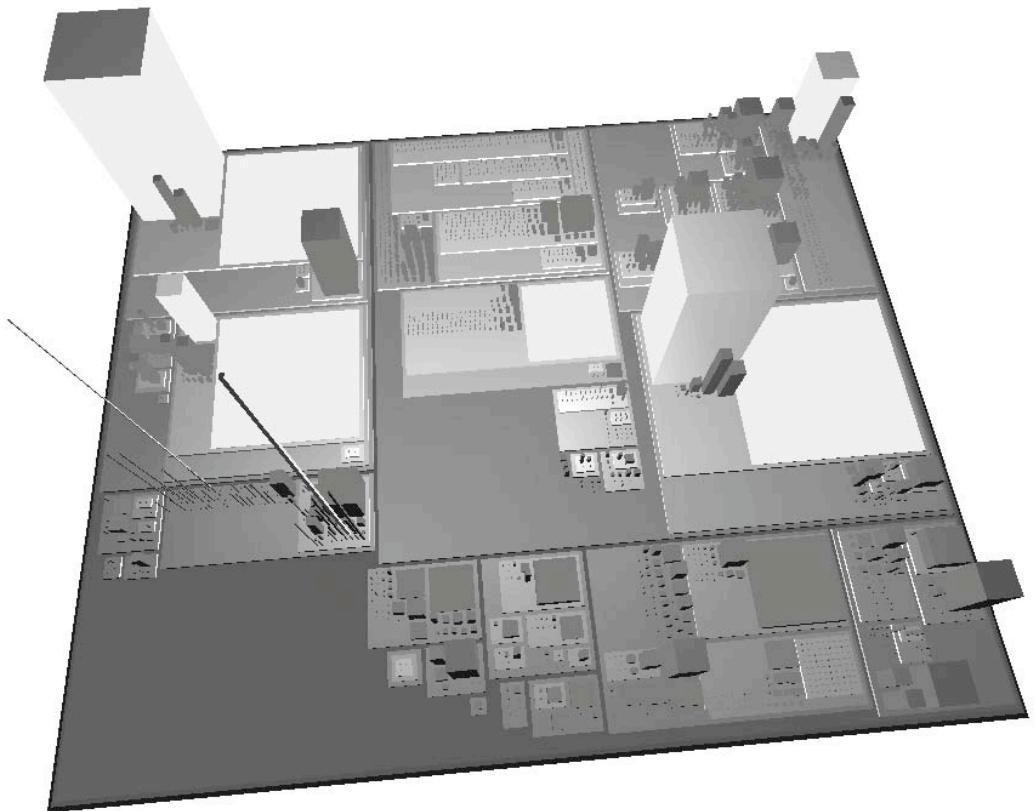
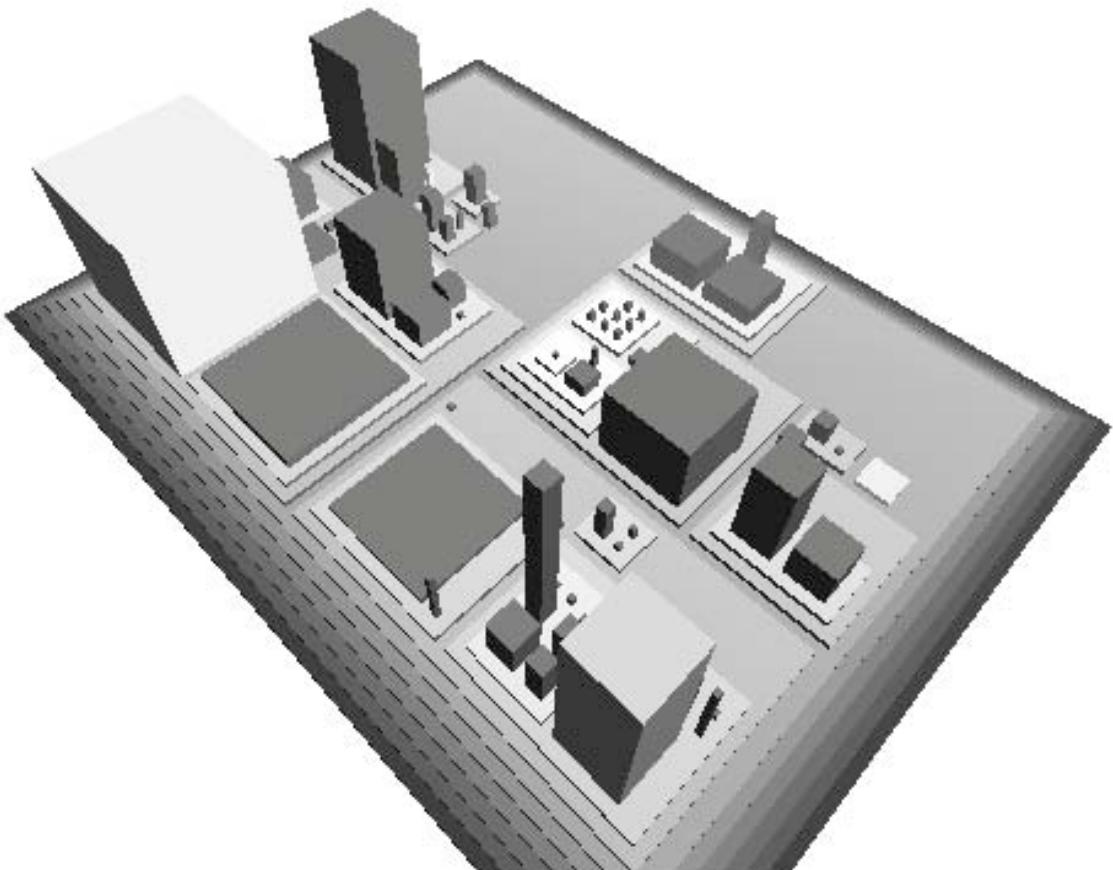
inspired by CodeCity

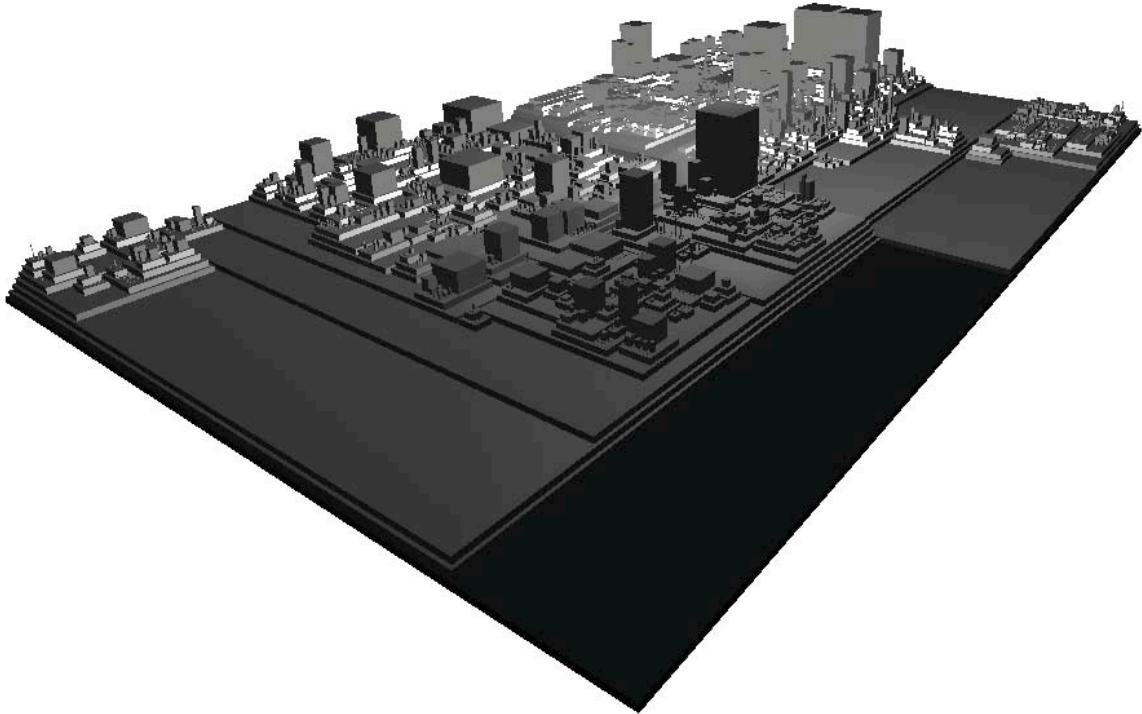
building height => number of methods

width/length => number of attributes

packages => districts







## look for...

“real” cityscape

buildings that wouldn’t  
exist in the real world

overly crowded neighborhoods

abandoned parts of town

would you live there?



# ? ' S

please fill out the session evaluations  
samples at [github.com/nealford](https://github.com/nealford)



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**NEAL FORD** software architect / meme wrangler

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