Second Committee Meeting

Updated Progress Report

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McMaster University

Fall 2025

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2. Project
   - Research Questions
   - Methodology
3. Results
4. Next Steps

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Where Were We?

Introduction

- We wanted to generate test cases in **Drasil**, our software artifact generation framework
  - Started writing test cases manually

Where Were We?

Introduction

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Where Were We?

Introduction

- We wanted to generate test cases in **Drasil**, our software artifact generation framework
  - Started writing test cases manually
  - We stopped to understand the domain of software testing to follow its standards
- What happened?
  - The domain of software testing is *much* larger than we expected
  - Software testing terminology and standards are *not* standardized

Existing Taxonomies?

Introduction

- Existing software testing taxonomies:
  - Tebes et al. (2020)
  - Souza et al. (2017)
  - Firesmith (2015)
  - Unterkalmsteiner et al. (2014)

Existing Taxonomies?

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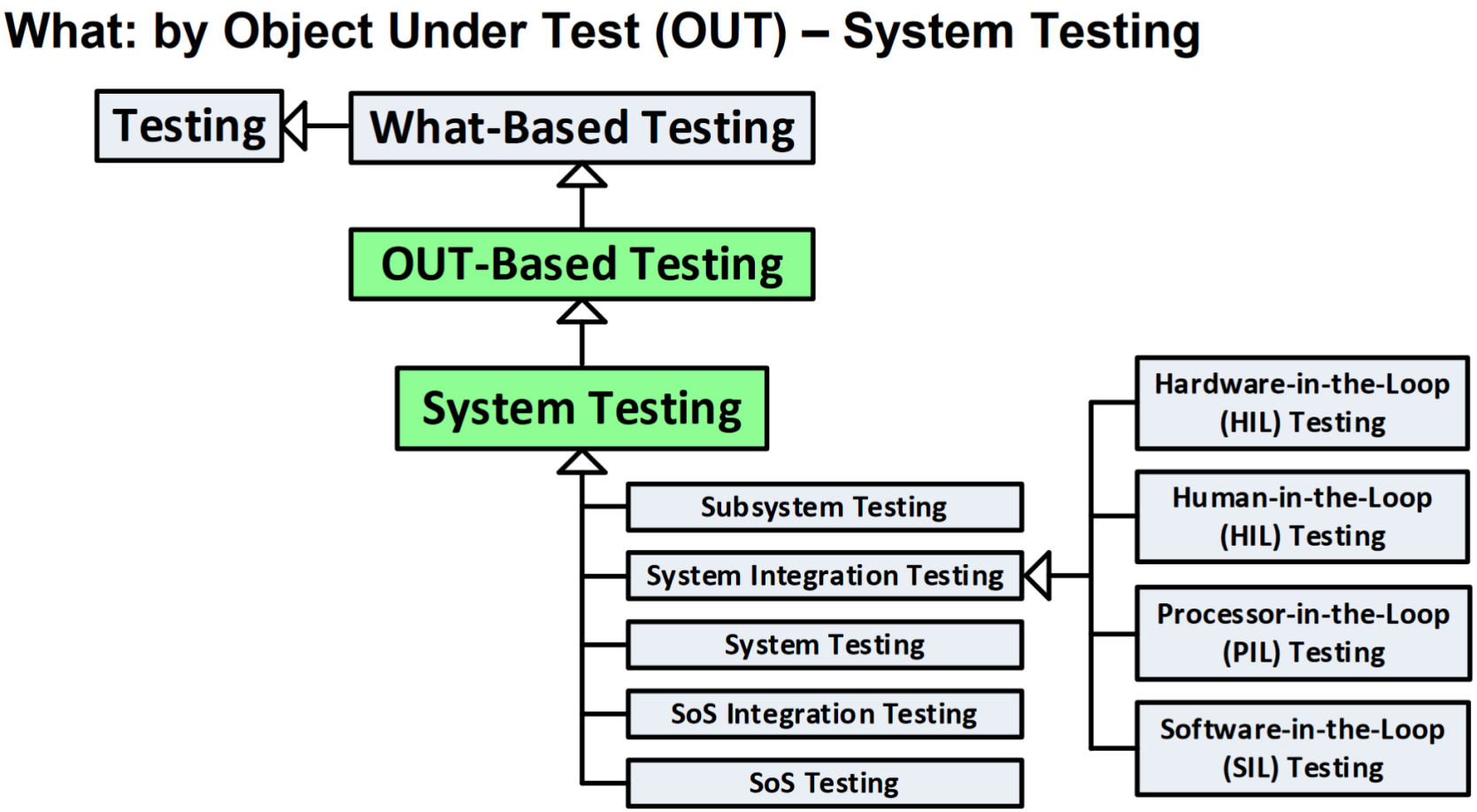
Focus on:

The Testing Process
Organizing Terminology
Relations between Approaches
Traceability between Stages

Existing Taxonomies?

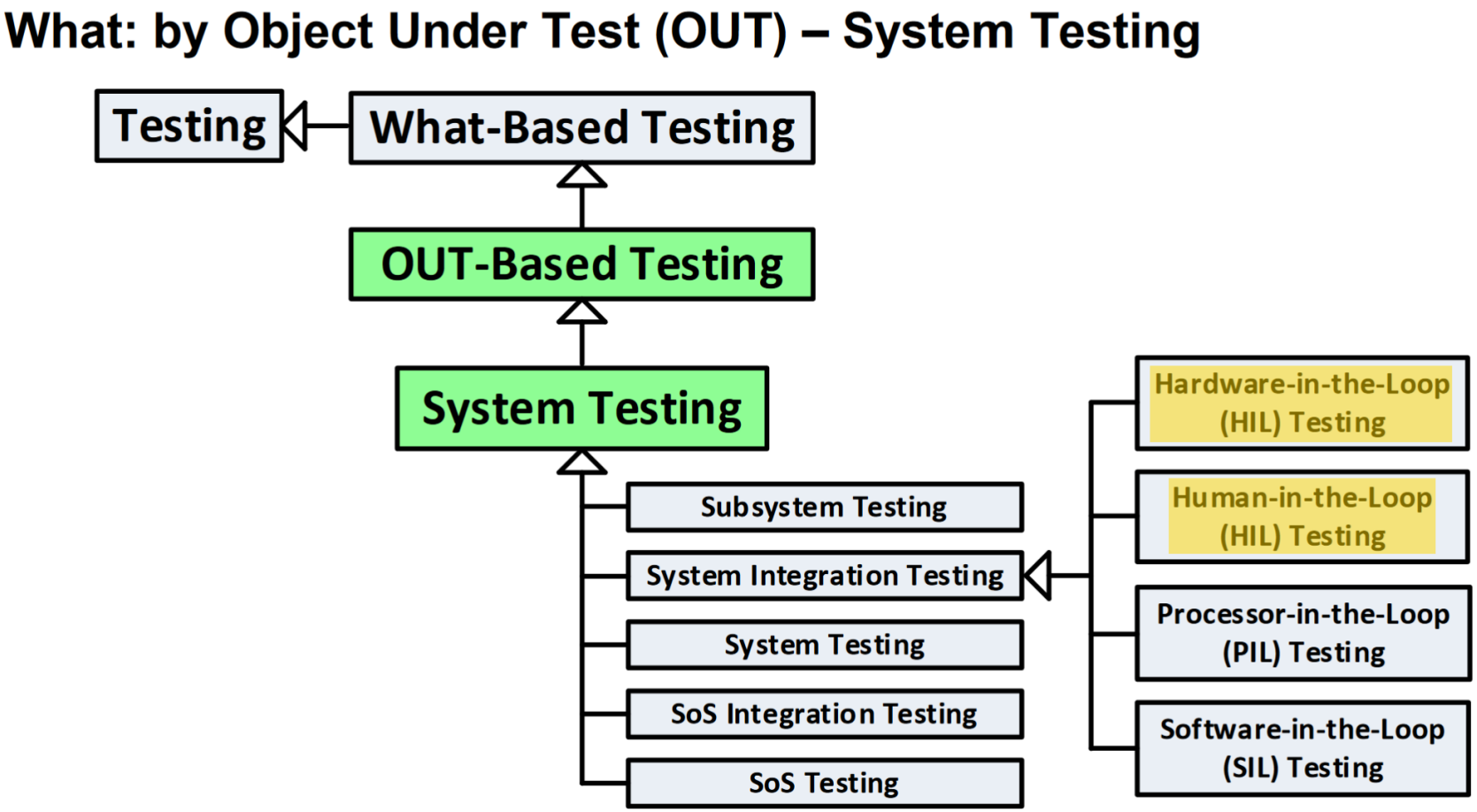
Introduction



(Firesmith, 2015, p. 23)

Existing Taxonomies?

Introduction



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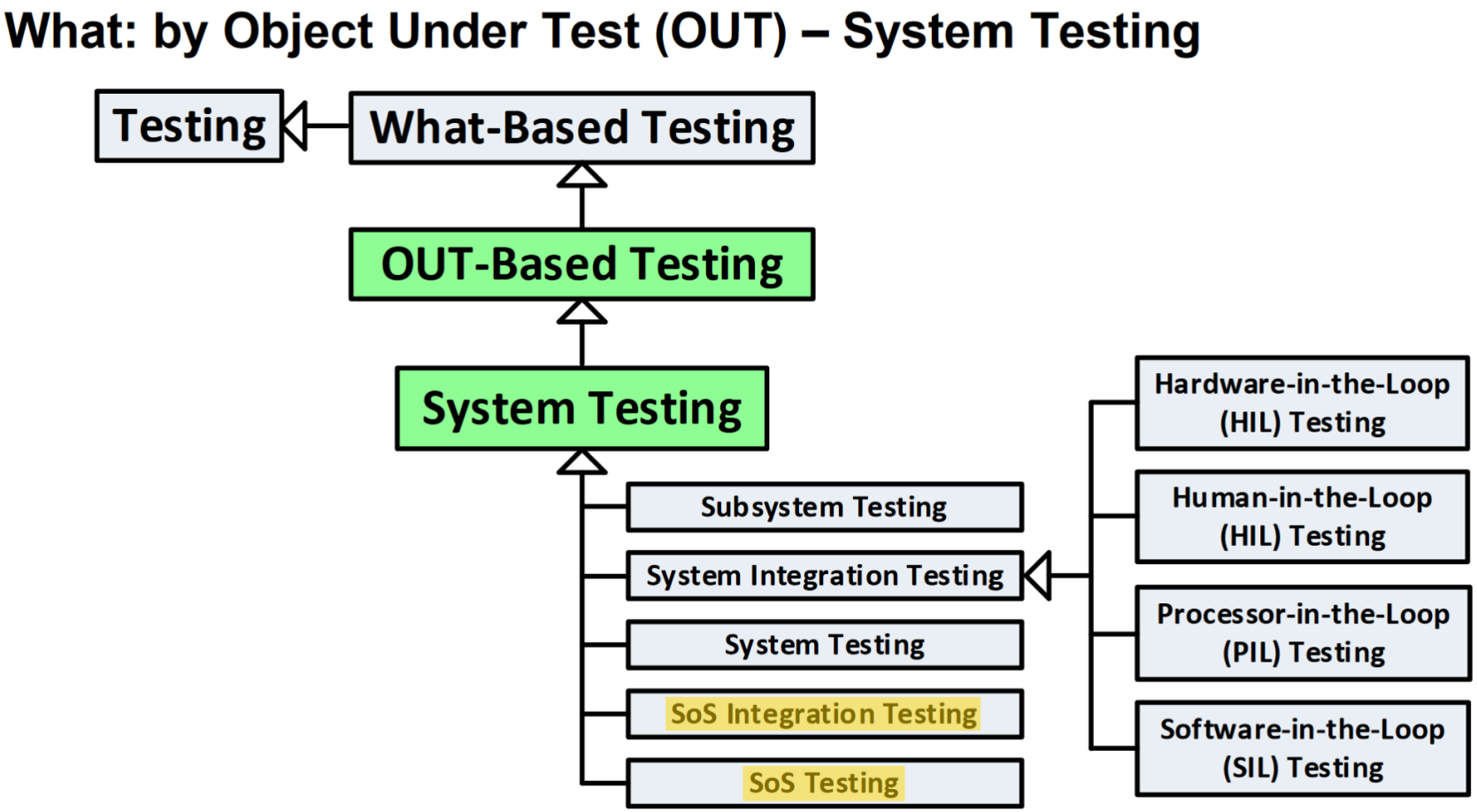

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Existing Taxonomies?

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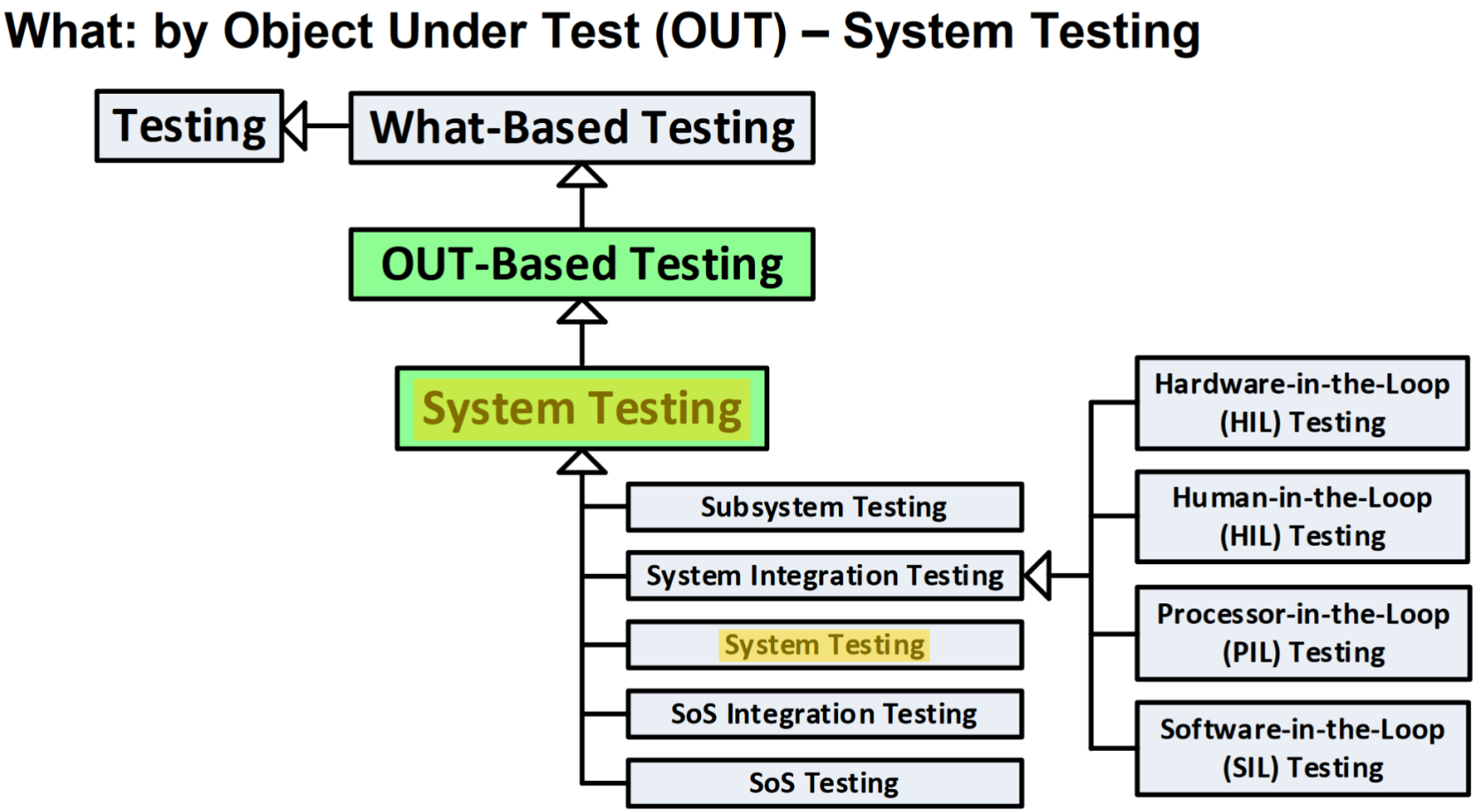

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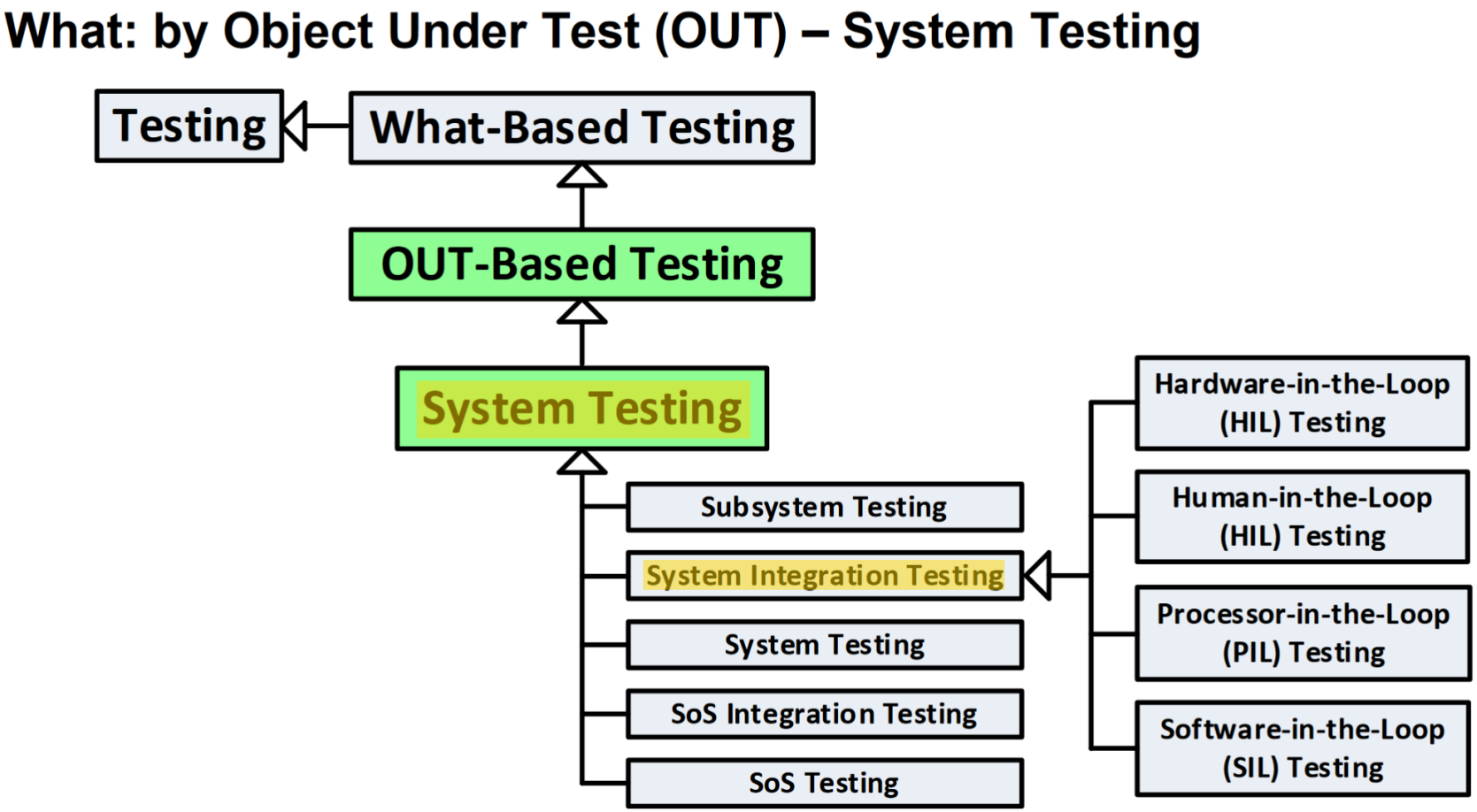

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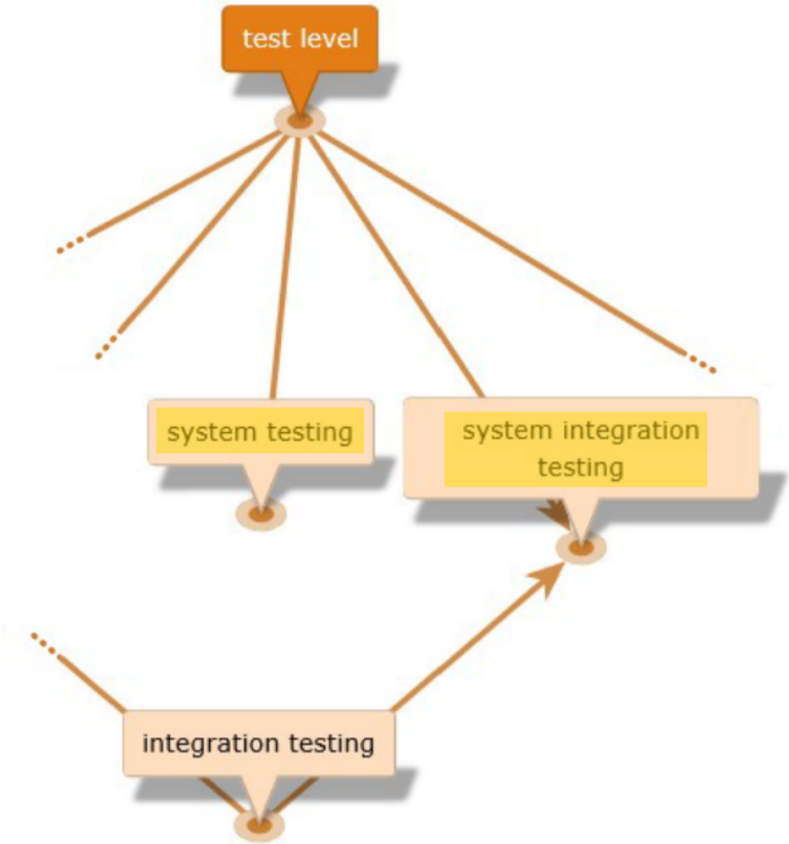
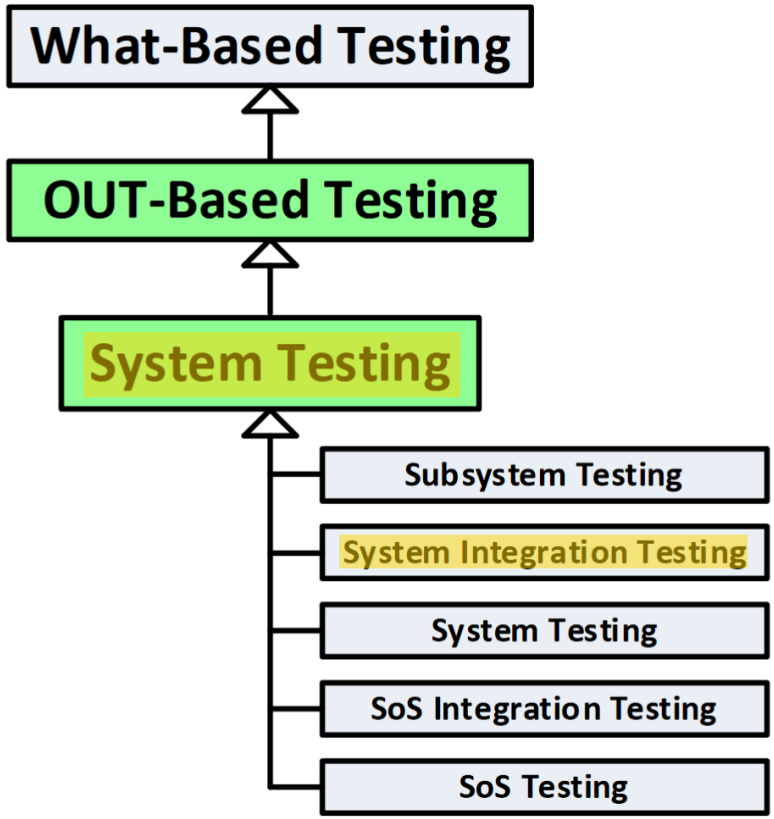
Existing Taxonomies?

Introduction



Adapted from (Hamburg and Mogyorodi, 2024)



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Research Questions

Research Question 1

What test approaches do the literature describe?

Research Question 2

Are these descriptions consistent?

Research Question 3

Can we systematically resolve any of these inconsistencies?

Research Question 1

What test approaches do the literature describe?

1. Identify authoritative sources on software testing and "snowball" from them
2. Identify all test approaches and testing-related terms described in these authoritative sources
3. Record all relevant data, including implicit data, for each term identified in step 2; test approach data are comprised of:
   1. Names
   2. Categories
   3. Definitions
   4. Synonyms
   5. Parents
   6. Flaws
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 for any missing or unclear terms until the stopping criteria is reached

Research Question 2

Are these descriptions consistent?

5. Analyze recorded test approach data for additional flaws
    1. Generate relation graphs
    2. Automatically detect certain classes of flaws
    3. Automatically analyze manually recorded flaws from step 3.6
6. Report results of flaw analysis

Research Question 3

Can we systematically resolve any of these inconsistencies?

7. Provide examples of how to resolve these flaws

- We build a glossary with a row for each test approach

Name	Category	Definition	Parent(s)	Synonym(s)
A/B Testing	Practice (Fig. 2)	Testing "that allows testers to determine which of two systems or components performs better" (pp. 1, 36)	Statistical Testing (pp. 1, 36), ...	Split-Run Testing (pp. 1, 36)

Information from (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2022)

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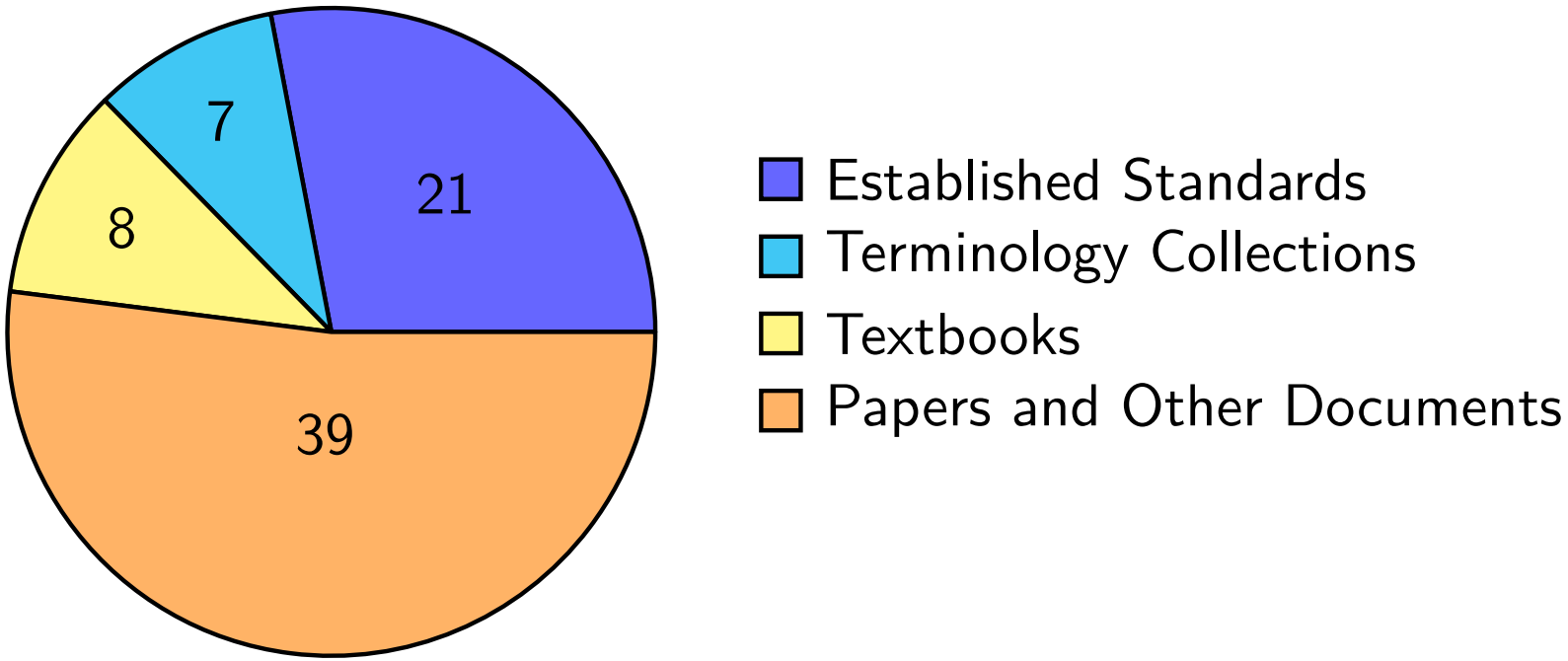
Information from (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2022)

- We gather this information from sources by looking for:
  - Glossaries, taxonomies, hierarchies, etc.
  - Testing-related terms
  - Terms described *by* other approaches
  - Terms that *imply* other approaches

Methodology

Sources

In total, we investigate 75 sources

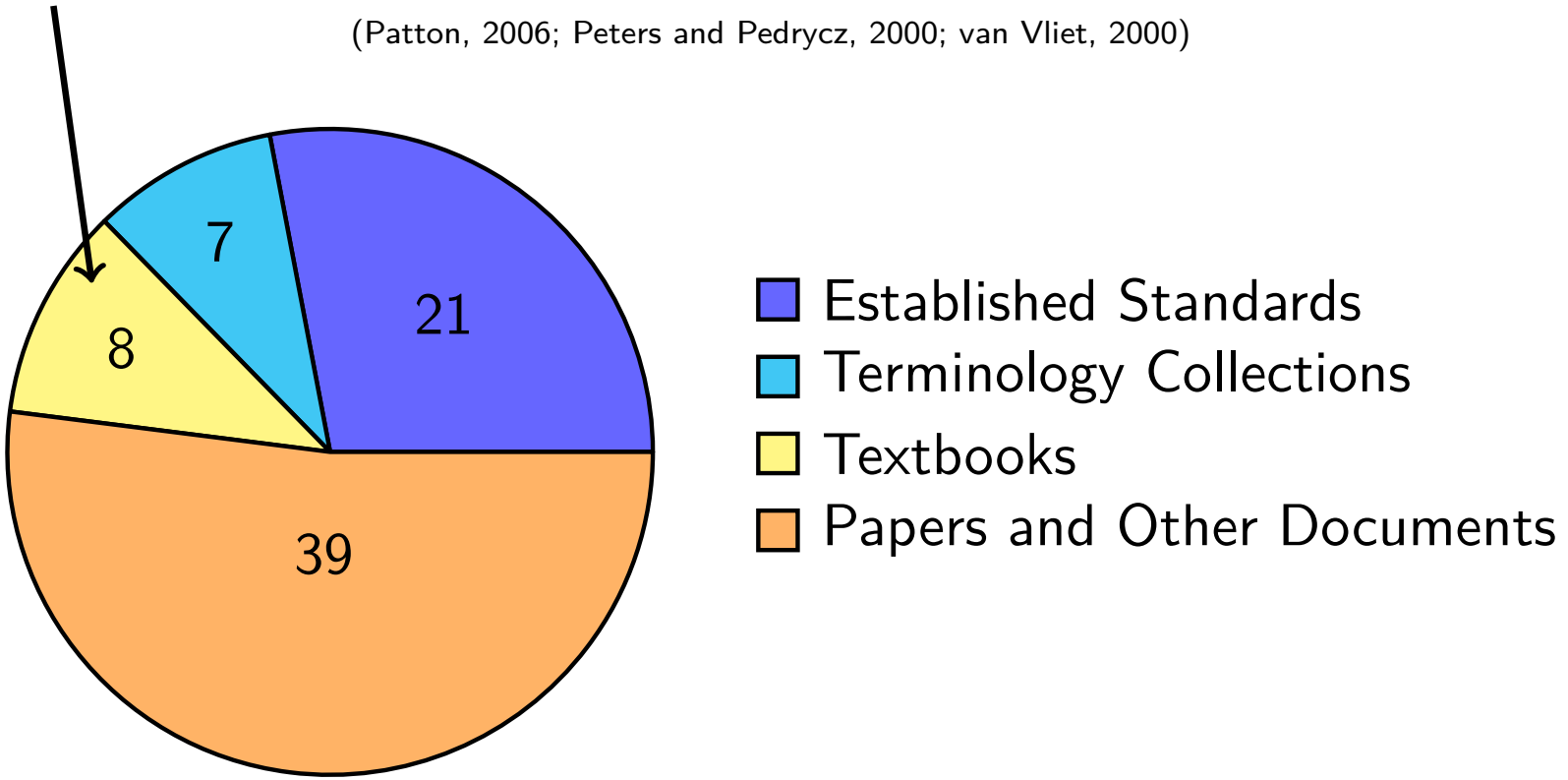


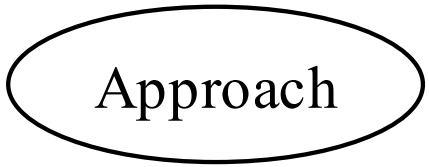
Methodology

Sources

Textbooks used at McMaster were our ad hoc starting points

(Patton, 2006; Peters and Pedrycz, 2000; van Vliet, 2000)

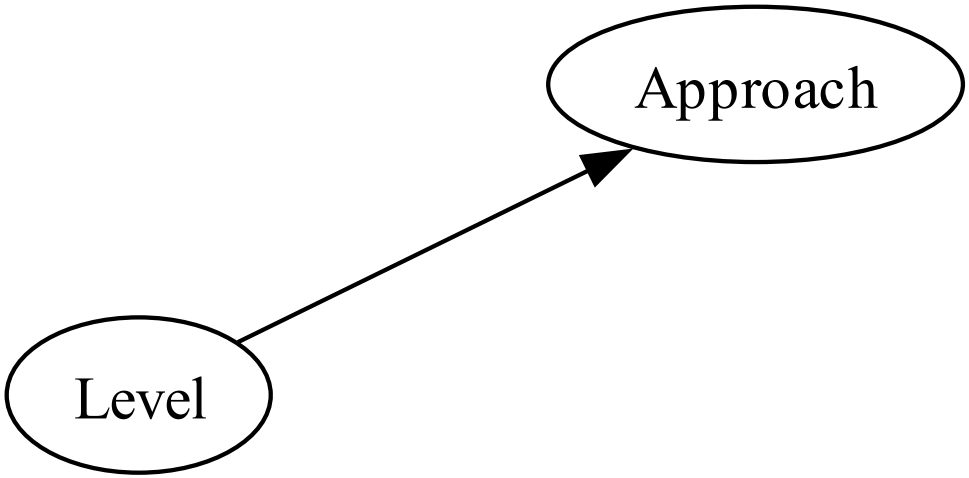




Approach: a "high-level test implementation choice" (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2022, p. 10) used to "pick the particular test case values" (2017, p. 465)

Methodology

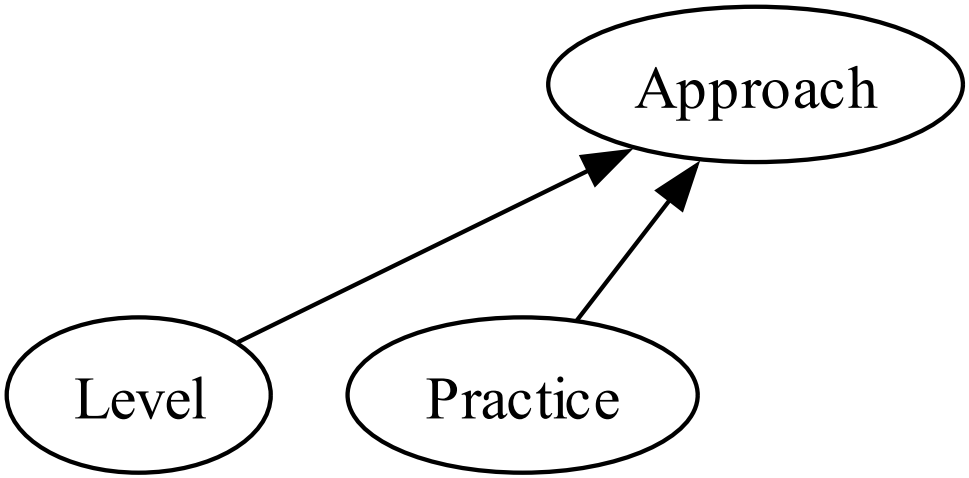
Categories



Level: a stage of testing with "particular objectives and . . . risks", each performed in sequence (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2022, p. 12; 2021a, p. 6; 2021c, p. 6)

Methodology

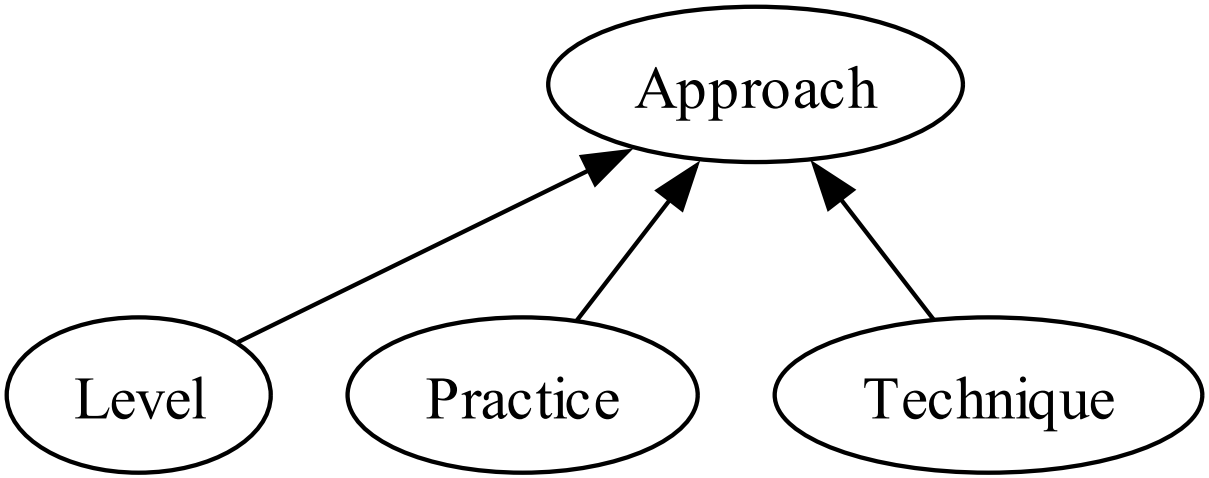
Categories



Practice: a "conceptual framework that can be applied to . . . [a] test process to facilitate testing" (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2022, p. 14; 2017, p. 471)

Methodology

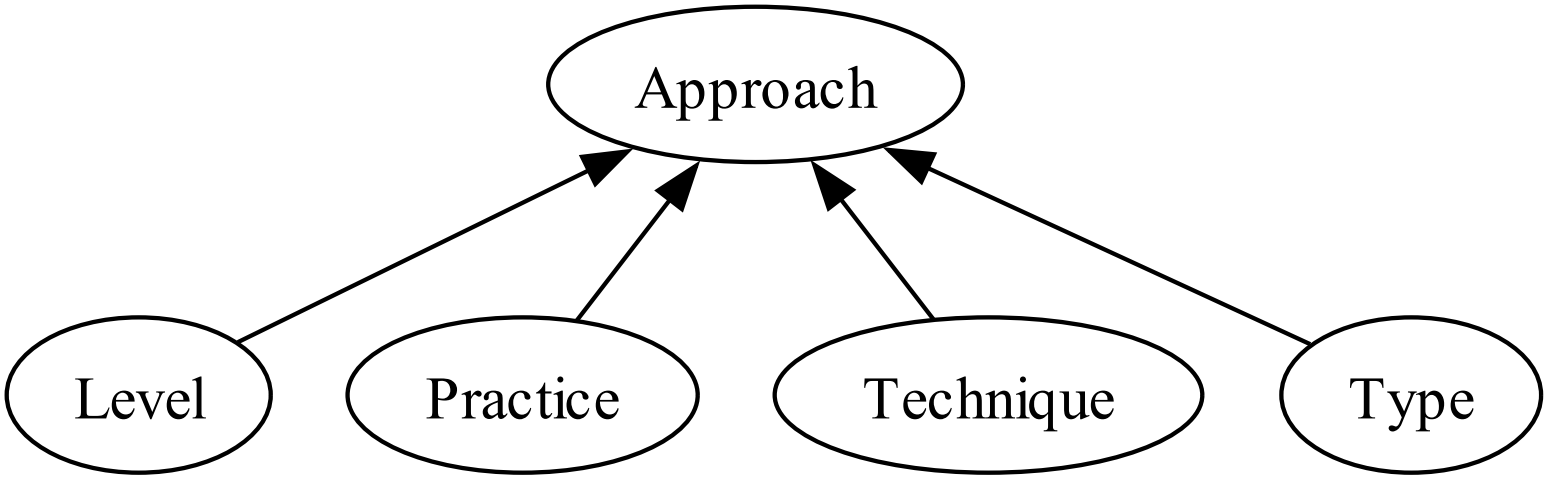
Categories



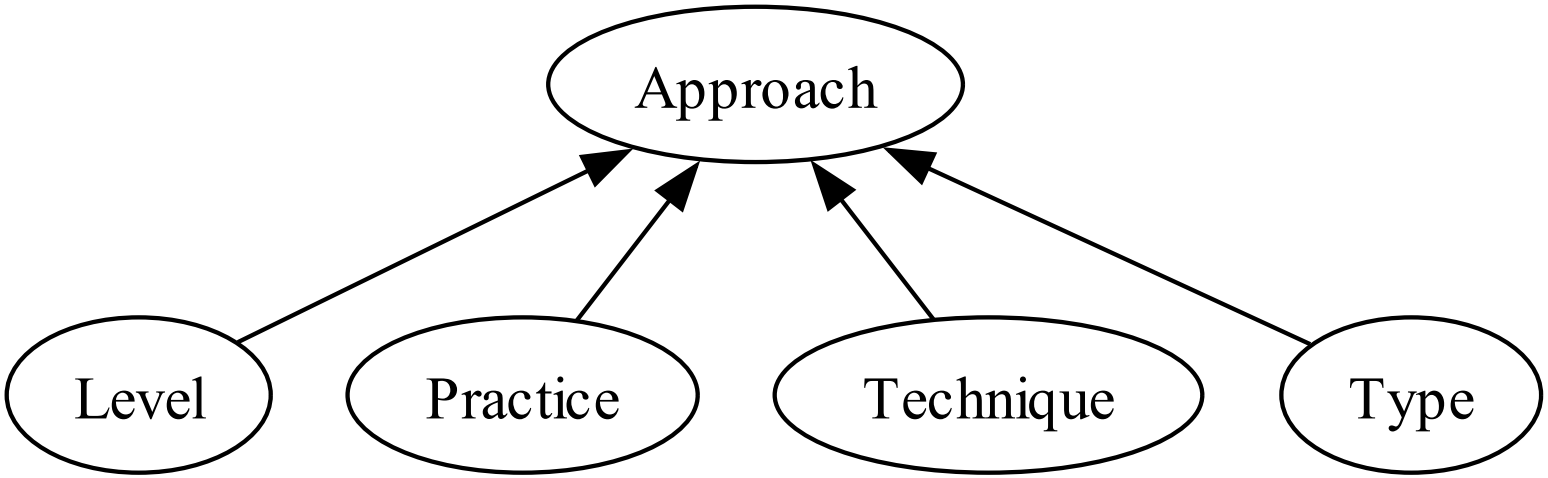
Technique: a "procedure used to create or select a test model, identify test coverage items, and derive corresponding test cases" (2022, p. 11; 2021a, p. 5; similar in 2017, p. 467)

Methodology

Categories



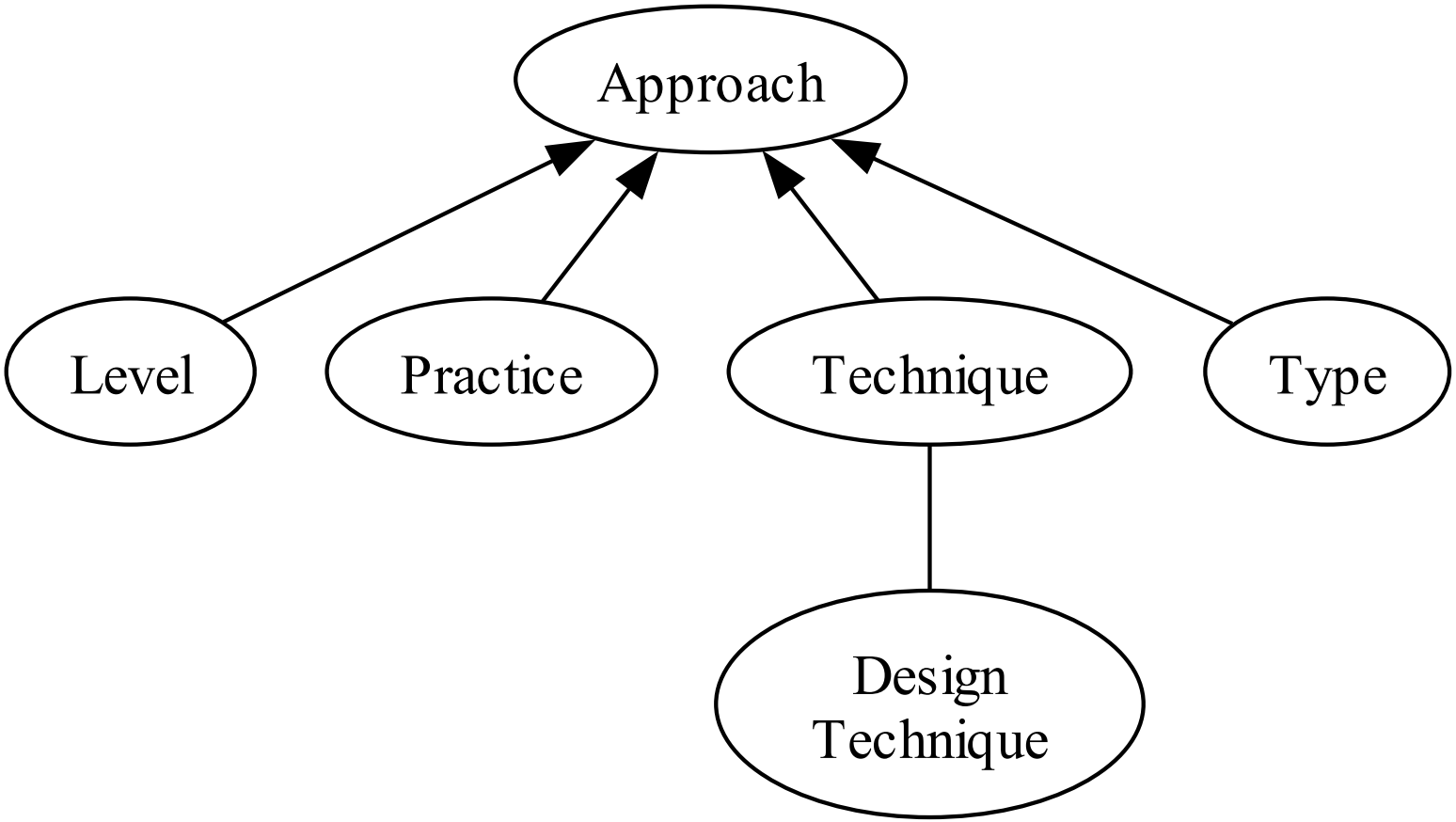
Type: "Testing that is focused on specific quality characteristics" (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2022, p. 15; 2021c, p. 7; 2017, p. 473)



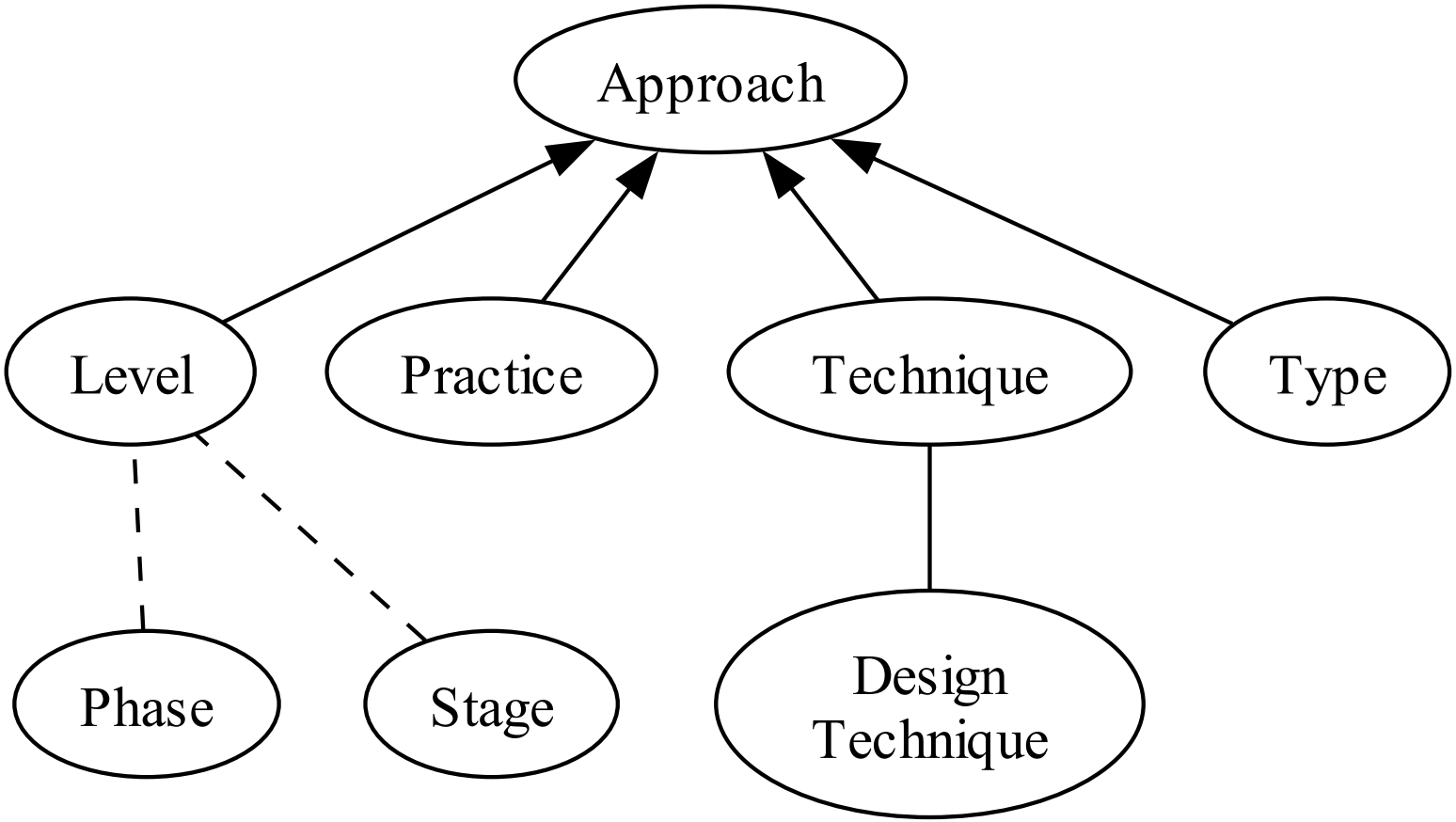
Arrows point from a *child* node to a *parent* node.

Methodology

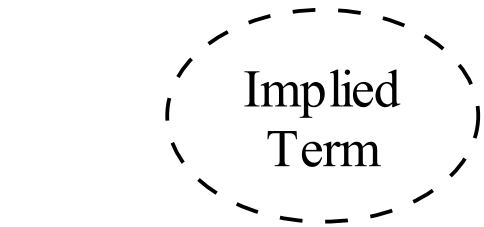
Visualization Notation



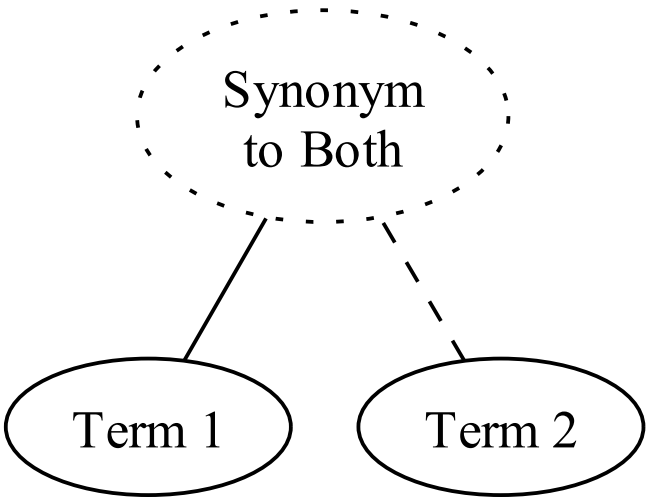
Lines without arrowheads connect *synonyms*.



Dashed lines indicate a relationship is *implicit*.



Dashed outlines indicate a term is *implicit*.



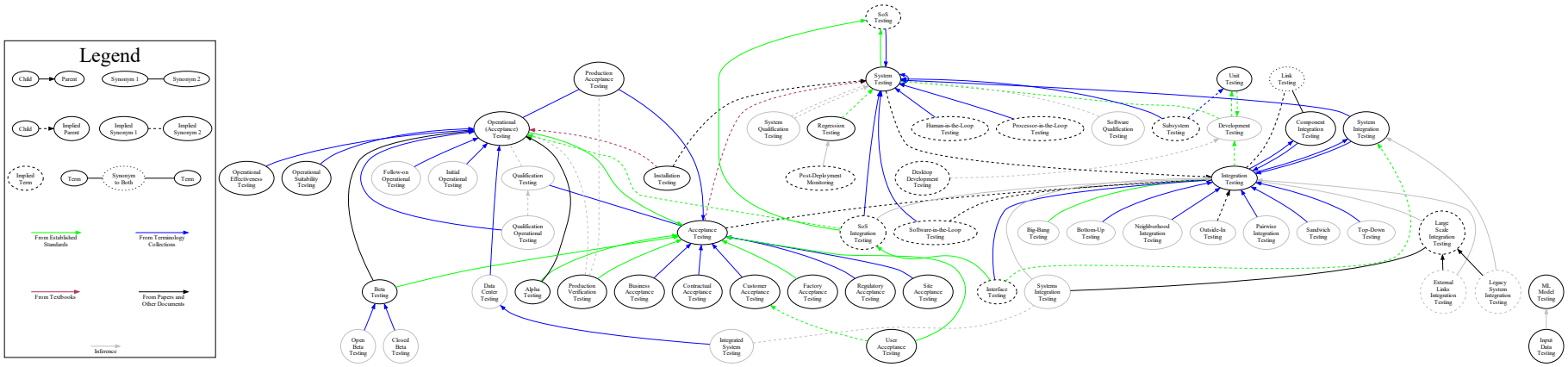
Dotted outlines indicate a term is a *synonym* to more than one term.

Graph of Test Approaches

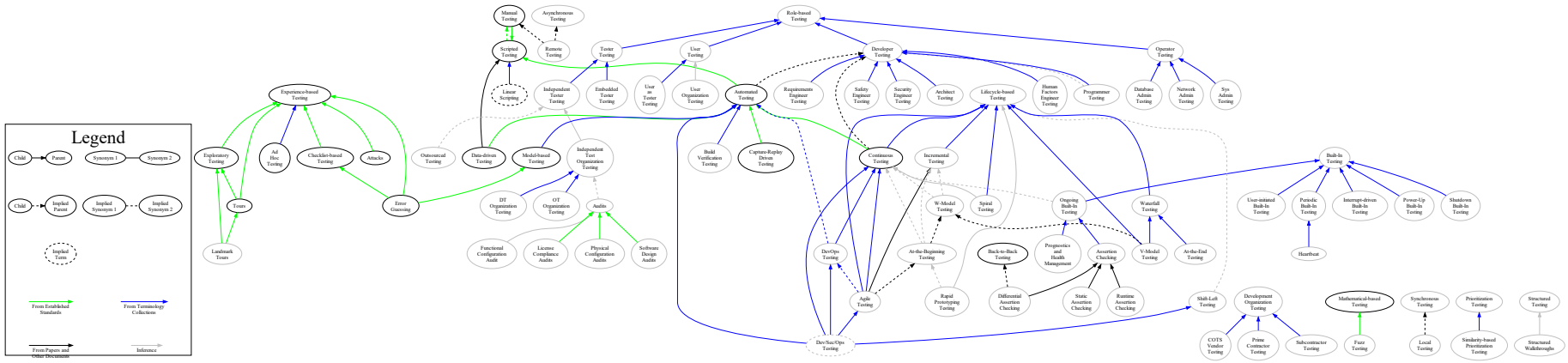
Graph of Test Approaches

```
!  Dimension too large.
```

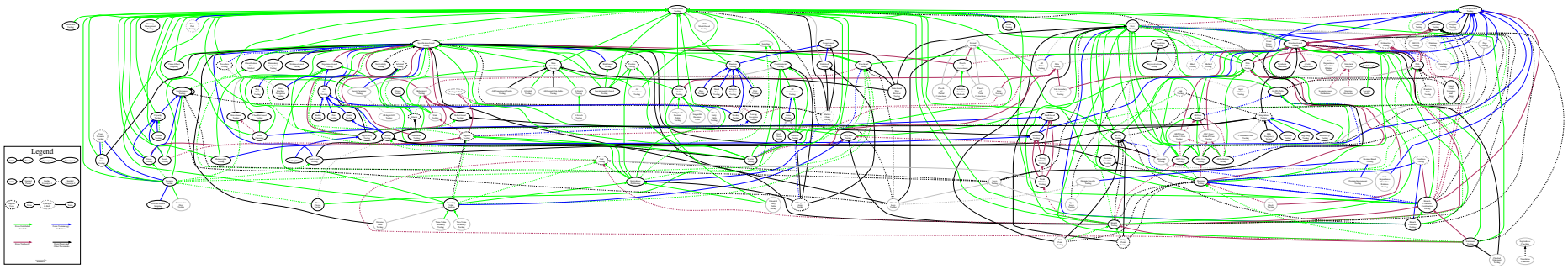
Graph of Test Levels



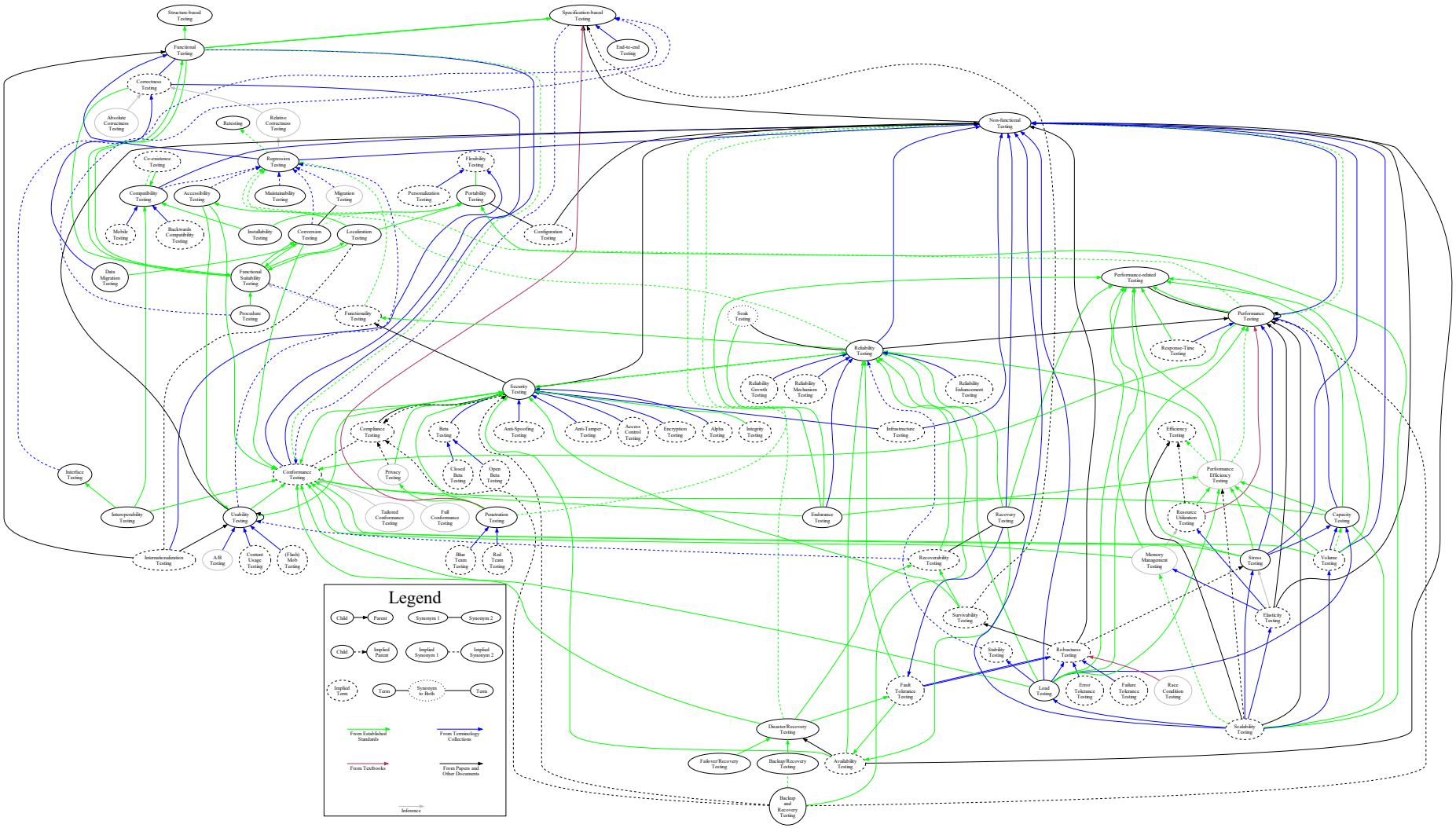
Graph of Test Practices



Graph of Test Techniques



Graph of Test Types



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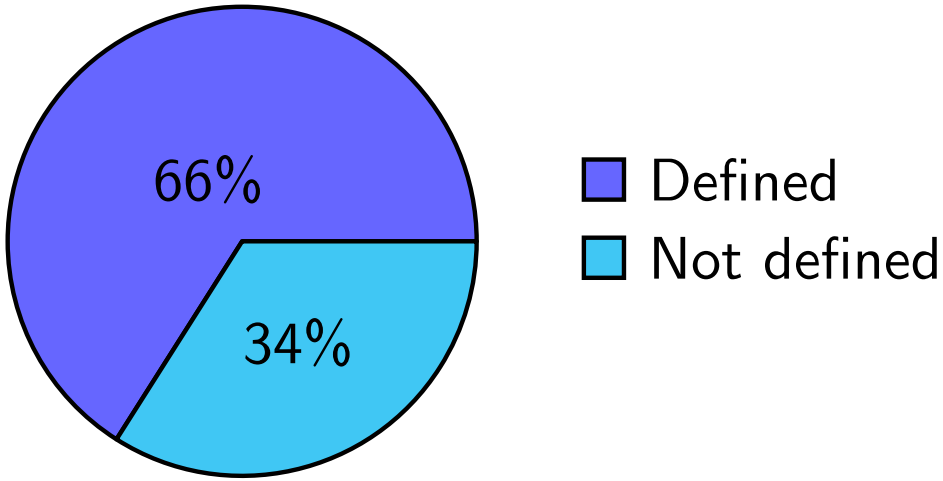
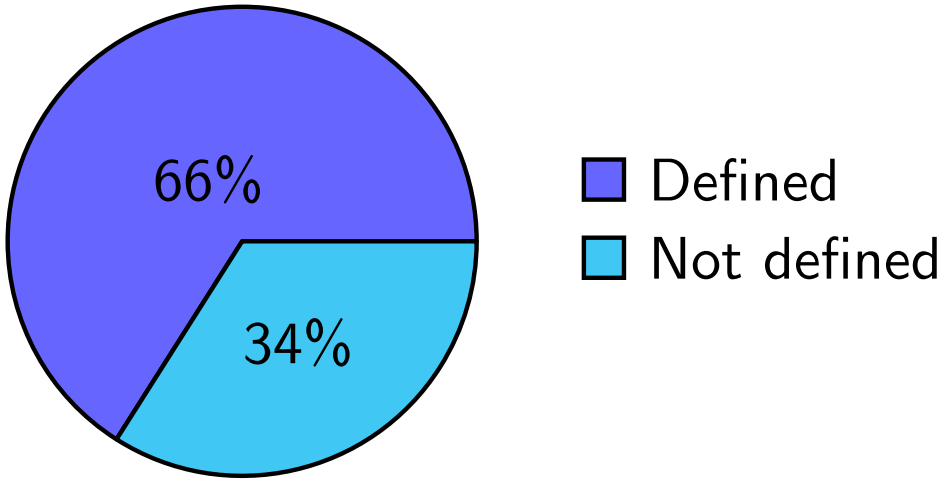
Overview

- 563 test approaches $\rightarrow$



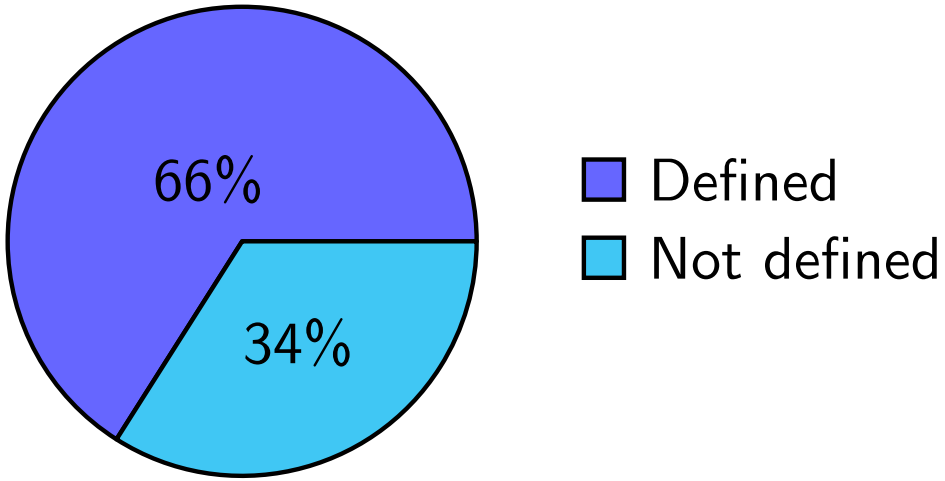
Overview

- 563 test approaches $\rightarrow$
- 77 software qualities
  (may imply test approaches)

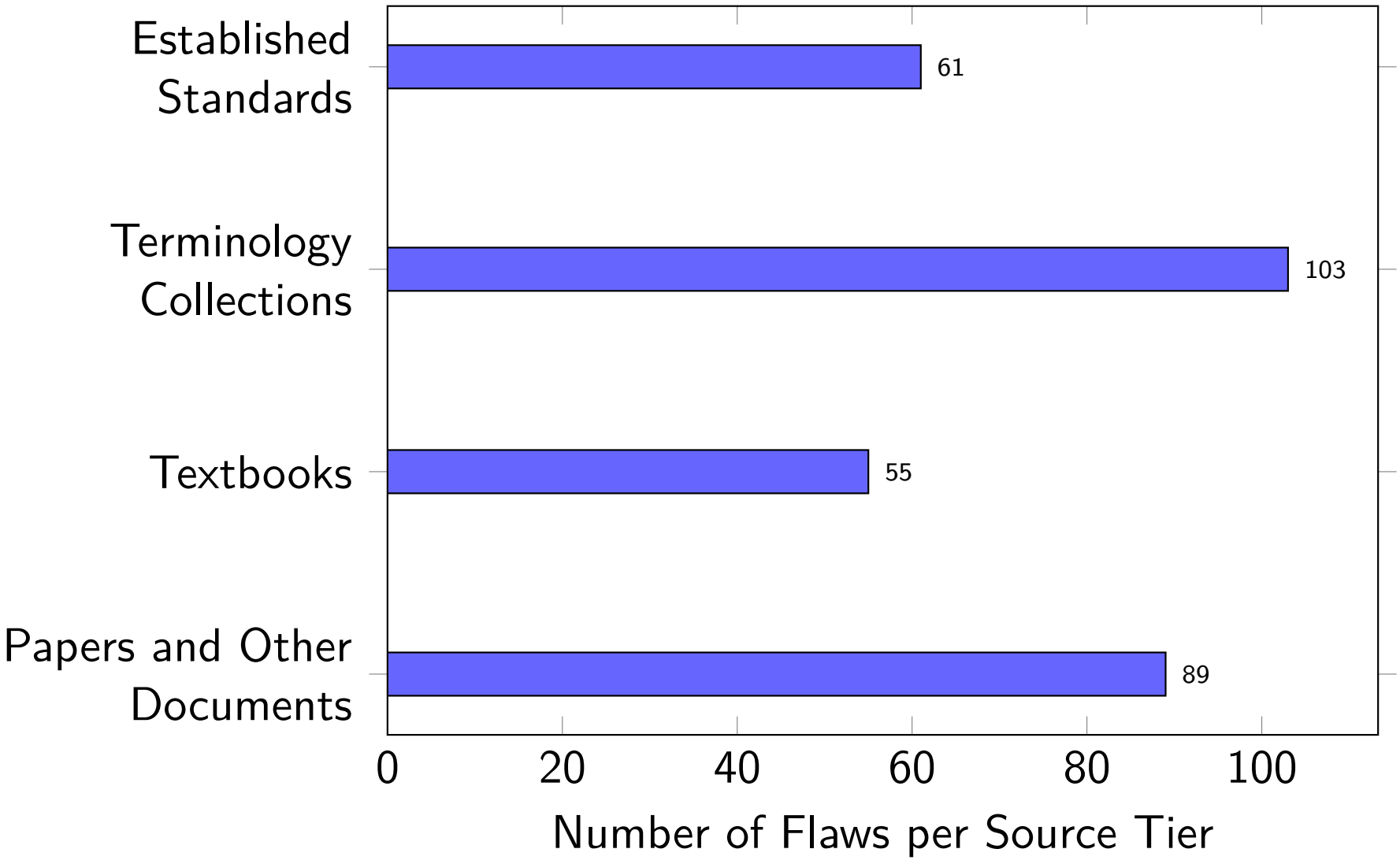


Overview

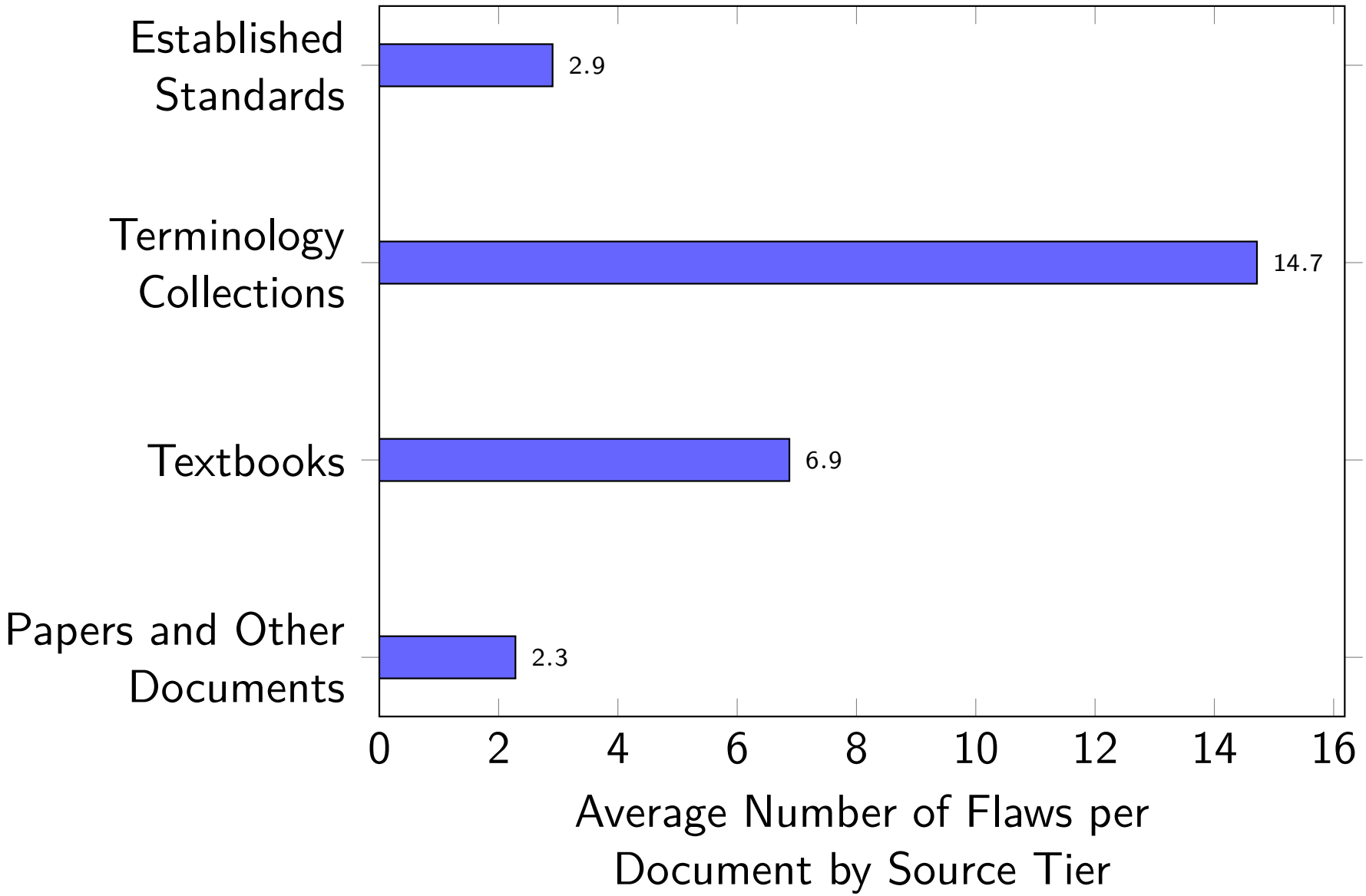
- 563 test approaches $\rightarrow$
- 77 software qualities (may imply test approaches)
- 308 flaws in the software testing literature



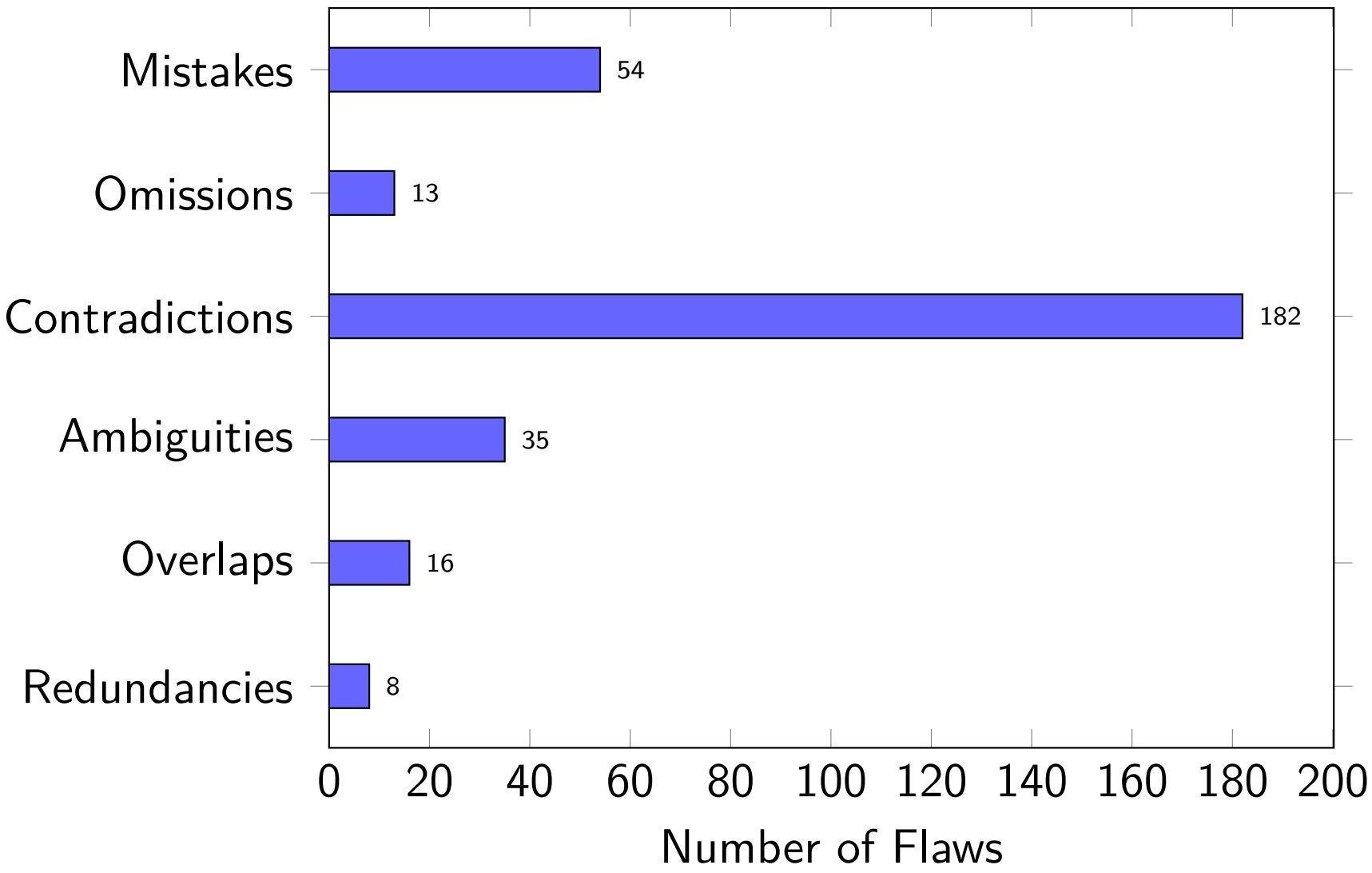
Flaw Summary by Source Tier



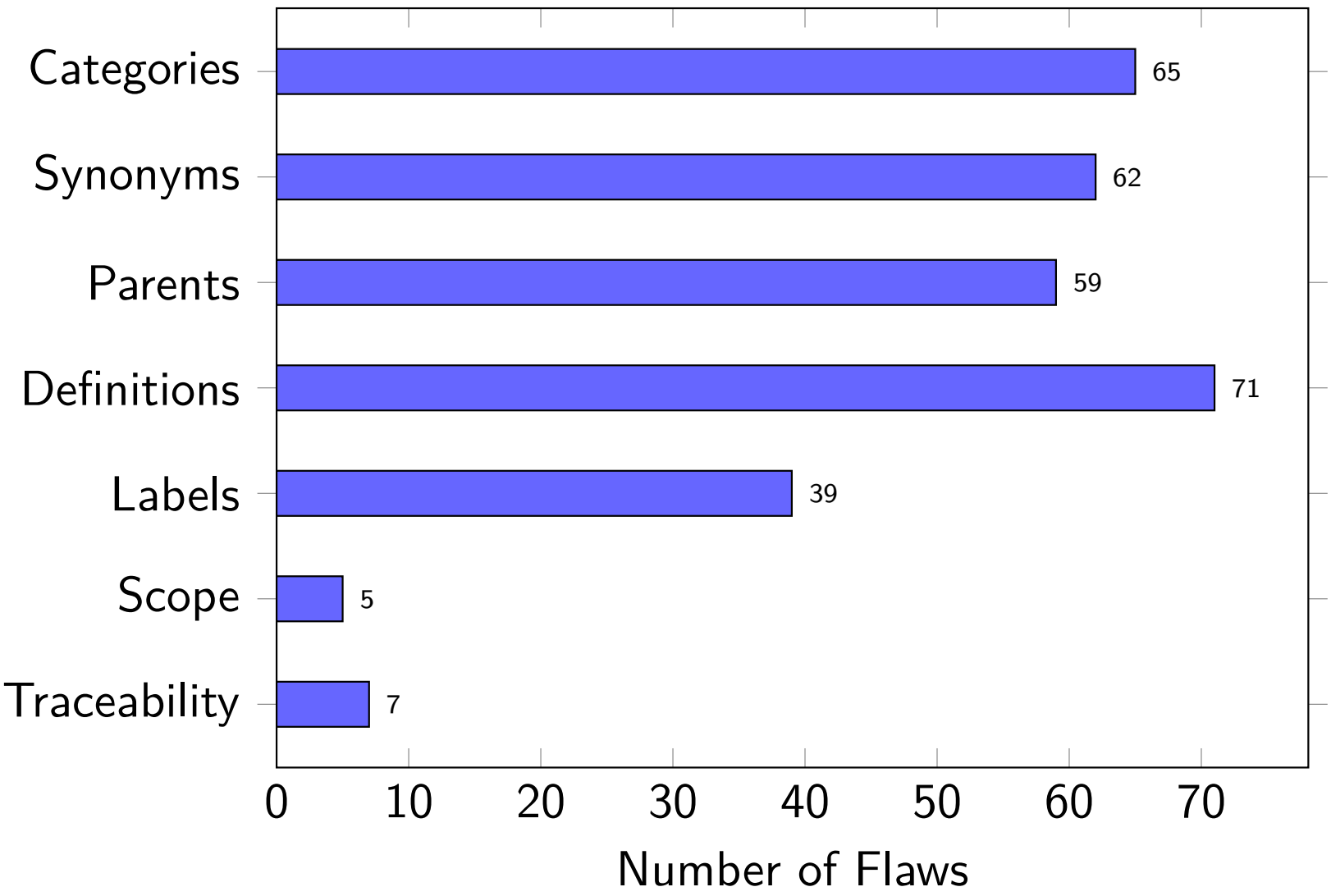
Normalized Flaw Summary



Flaw Summary by Manifestation



Flaw Summary by Domain



Automated Flaws

Intransitive Synonyms

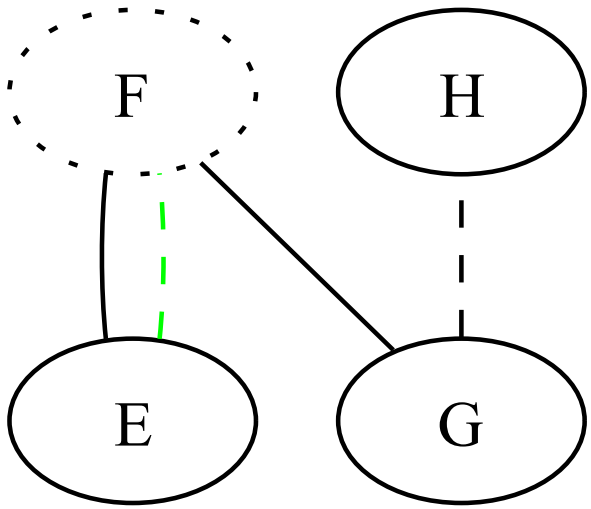
- The literature gives some terms as a synonym to two (or more) disjoint, unrelated terms, making their synonym relations ambiguous

Automated Flaws

Intransitive Synonyms

- The literature gives some terms as a synonym to two (or more) disjoint, unrelated terms, making their synonym relations ambiguous
- We include these in our generated visualizations

Name	Synonym(s)
E	F (Author, 2022; implied by StdAuthor, 2021)
G	F (Author, 2017), H (implied by 2022)
H	X (StdAuthor, 2021)



Automated Flaws

Intransitive Synonyms

Some prominent examples:

	Source(s)
1. **Functional Testing:**	
• *Conformance Testing*	(Washizaki, 2025a, p. 5-7)
• *Correctness Testing*	(Washizaki, 2025a, p. 5-7)
• Specification-based Testing	(ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2017, p. 196; . . .)

Automated Flaws

Intransitive Synonyms

Some prominent examples:

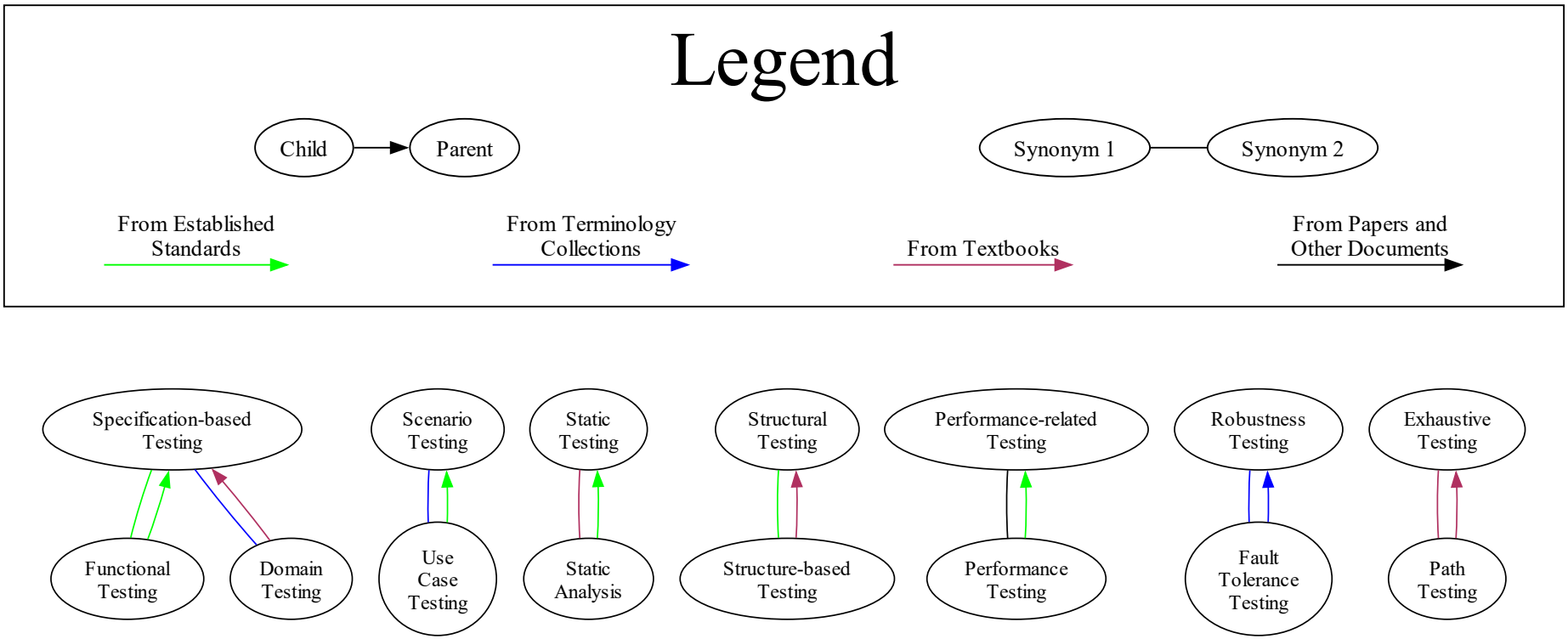
	Source(s)
1 Functional Testing:	
• *Conformance Testing*	(Washizaki, 2025a, p. 5-7)
• *Correctness Testing*	(Washizaki, 2025a, p. 5-7)
• Specification-based Testing	(ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2017, p. 196; . . .)
2 Portability Testing:	
• Configuration Testing	(Kam, 2008, p. 43)
• Flexibility Testing	(ISO/IEC, 2023)
3 Soak Testing:	
• Endurance Testing	(ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2021c, p. 39)
• Reliability Testing	(Gerrard, 2000a, Tab. 2; 2000b, Tab. 1, p. 26)

We also find some test approaches that are given as parents of themselves:

1. Performance Testing (Gerrard, 2000a, Tab. 2; 2000b, Tab. 1)
2. System Testing (Firesmith, 2015, p. 23)
3. Usability Testing (Gerrard, 2000a, Tab. 2; 2000b, Tab. 1)

Automated Flaws

Synonym and Parent-Child Overlaps



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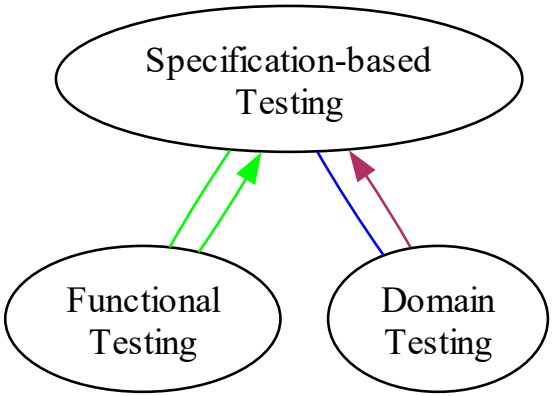

Automated Flaws

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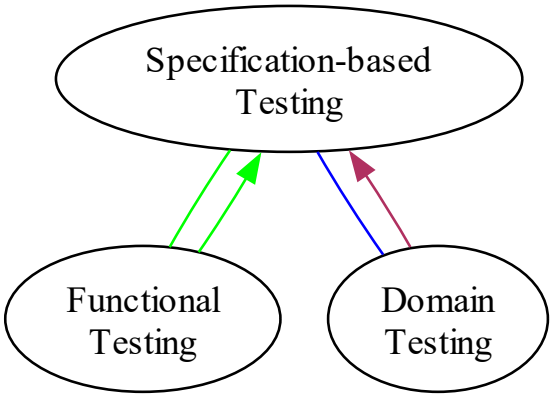
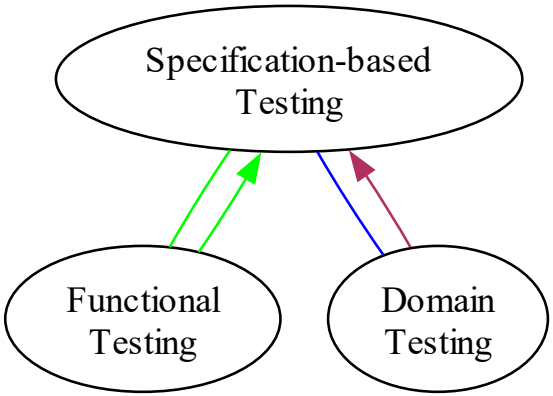


- Functional testing is a:
  - Synonym (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2017, p. 196; van Vliet, 2000, p. 399; Kam, 2008, pp. 44–45, 48; . . .)
  - Child (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2021c, p. 38; Kam, 2008, p. 42)

Automated Flaws

Synonym and Parent-Child Overlaps



- Functional testing is a:
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  - Child (ISO/IEC and IEEE, 2021c, p. 38; Kam, 2008, p. 42)
- Domain testing is a:
  - Synonym (Washizaki, 2024, p. 5-10)
  - Child (Peters and Pedrycz, 2000, Tab. 12.1)

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Thesis Chapters

0. Abstract
1. Introduction
2. Terminology (including relevant appendices)
3. Methodology
4. Tools
5. Observed Flaws (including relevant appendix)
6. Recommendations
7. Threats to Validity
8. Future Work
9. Conclusion

Thesis Chapters

Complete

0. Abstract
1. Introduction
2. Terminology (including relevant appendices)
3. Methodology

Under Review

4. Tools
5. Observed Flaws (including relevant appendix)

In Progress

6. Recommendations
7. Threats to Validity
8. Future Work

To Do Later

9. Conclusion

Acknowledgment

- Dr. Spencer Smith and Dr. Jacques Carette have been great supervisors and valuable sources of guidance and feedback
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- The past and current Drasil team have created a truly amazing framework!

Thank you!

Questions?

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