

GPLAG: Detection of Software Plagiarism by PDG Analysis

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Primary Objective:

To study how to detect core-part plagiarism both accurately and efficiently.

Problem Statement

Suppose the original program P and the plagiarism suspect P' are represented by PDG: G and G' respectively. Then the problem of plagiarism detection boils down to two sub-problems:

- Given $g \in G$ and $g' \in G'$, how can we decide whether g' is a plagiarized PDG of g ?
- How to efficiently locate real-plagiarized PDG pairs?

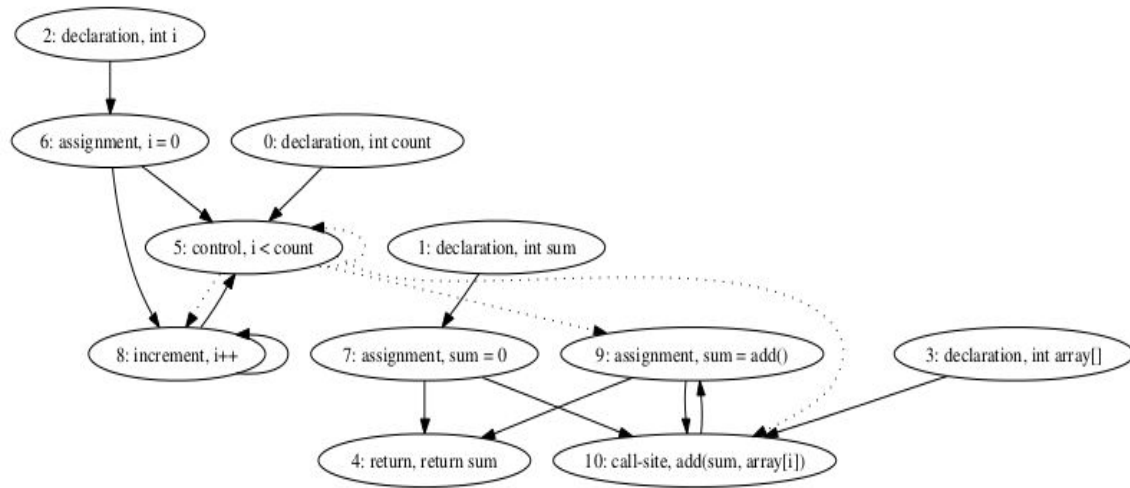
Key Definitions:

1. Program Dependence Graph:

The program dependence graph G for a procedure P is a 4-tuple element

$G = (V, E, \mu, \delta)$, where

- V is the set of program vertices in P
- $E \subseteq V \times V$ is the set of dependency edges, and $|G| = |V|$
- $\mu : V \rightarrow S$ is a function assigning types to program vertices,
- $\delta : E \rightarrow T$ is a function assigning dependency types, either data or control, to edges.



(a) Program Dependence Graph of the Procedure `sum`

```

int sum(int array[], int count)
{
    int i, sum;
    sum = 0;
    for(i = 0; i < count; i++){
        sum = add(sum, array[i]);
    }
    return sum;
}

int add(int a, int b)
{
    return a + b;
}
  
```

(b) Summation over an Array

Key Definitions:

2. Graph Isomorphism:

A bijective function $f : V \rightarrow V$ is a graph isomorphism from a graph $G = (V, E, \mu, \delta)$ to a graph $G' = (V', E', \mu', \delta')$ if

- $\mu(v) = \mu'(f(v))$,
- $\forall e = (v_1, v_2) \in E, \exists e' = (f(v_1), f(v_2)) \in E'$ such that $\delta(e) = \delta(e')$,
- $\forall e' = (v'_1, v'_2) \in E', \exists e = (f^{-1}(v'_1), f^{-1}(v'_2)) \in E$ such that $\delta(e') = \delta(e)$

Key Definitions:

3. Subgraph Isomorphism:

An injective function $f : V \rightarrow V$ is a subgraph isomorphism from G'' to G if there exists a subgraph $G' \subset G$ such that f is a graph isomorphism from G'' to G' .

4. γ -Isomorphic:

A graph G is γ -isomorphic to G' if there exists a subgraph $S \subseteq G$ such that S is subgraph isomorphic to G' , and $|S| \geq \gamma|G'|$, $\gamma \in (0, 1]$

Plagiarism Disguises:

1. **Format Alteration:** Inserting and removing blank statements/ comments.
2. **Identifier Renaming:** Identifier names are changed without violating program correctness.
3. **Statement Reordering:** Program statements are reordered without causing errors and affecting sequential dependencies.
4. **Control Replacement:** Replacing while with for, changing if conditions to their negations.
5. **Code Insertion:** Immaterial code insertion which doesn't affect original program logic.

```

01 static void
02 make_blank (struct line *blank, int count)
03 {
04     int i;
05     unsigned char *buffer;
06     struct field *fields;
07     blank->nfields = count;
08     blank->buf.size = blank->buf.length = count + 1;
09     blank->buf.buffer = (char*) xmalloc (blank->buf.size);
10     buffer = (unsigned char *) blank->buf.buffer;
11     blank->fields = fields =
        (struct field *) xmalloc (sizeof (struct field) * count);
12     for (i = 0; i < count; i++){
13         ...
14     }
15 }

```

Original Code

```

01 static void
02 fill_content(int num, struct line* fill)
03 {
04     (*fill).store.size = fill->store.length = num + 1;
05     struct field *tabs;
06     (*fill).fields = tabs = (struct field *)
        xmalloc (sizeof (struct field) * num);
07     (*fill).store.buffer = (char*) xmalloc (fill->store.size)
08     (*fill).ntabs = num;
09     unsigned char *pb;
10     pb = (unsigned char *) (*fill).store.buffer;
11     int idx = 0;
12     while(idx < num){ // fill in the storage
13         ...
14         for(int j = 0; j < idx; j++)
15             ...
16         idx++;
17     }
18 }

```

Plagiarized Code

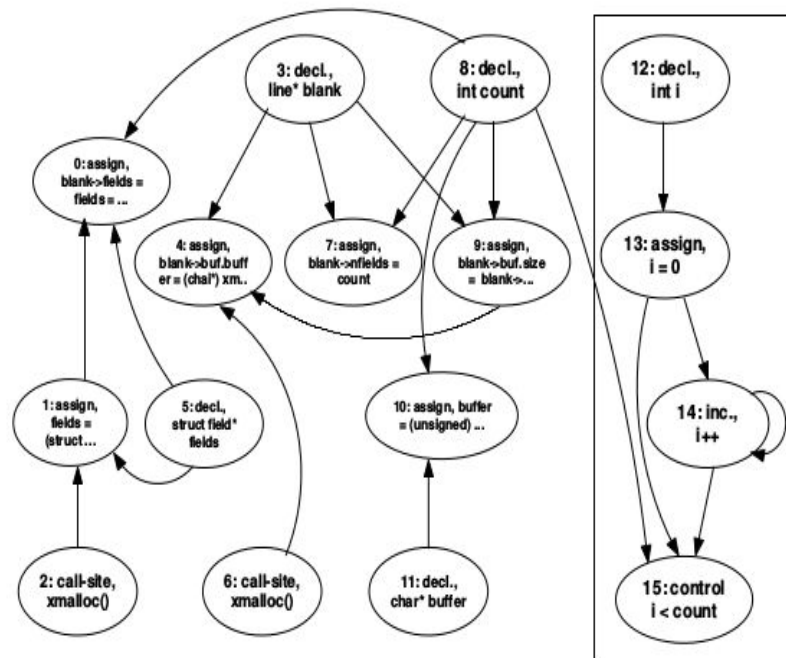
Why PDG based plagiarism detection works?

CLAIM 1

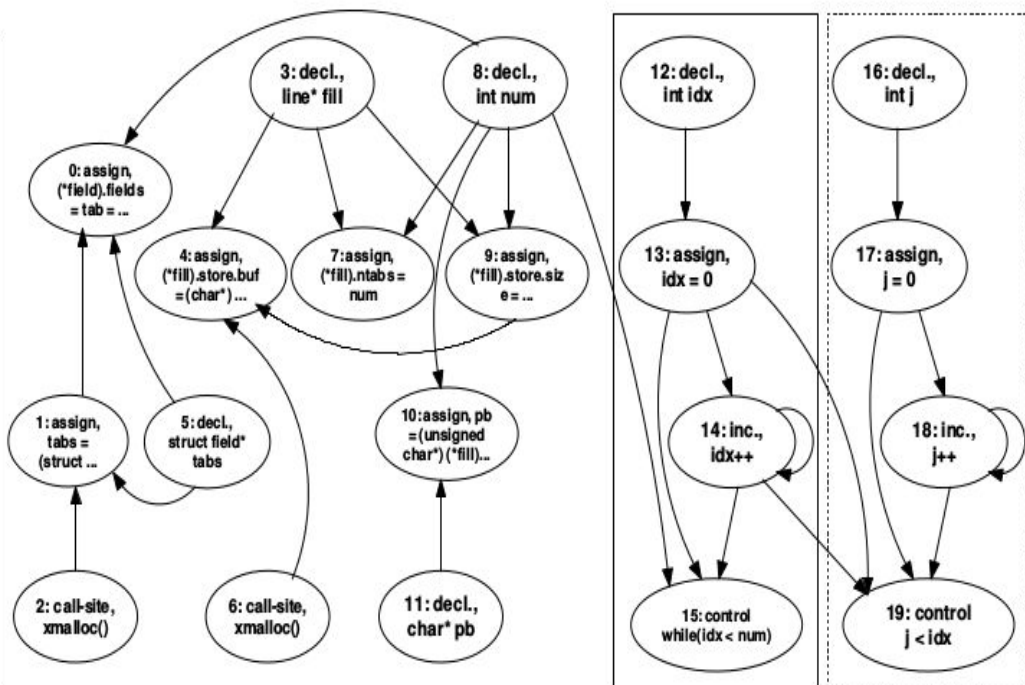
Restricted to the five kinds of disguises, if g ($g \in G$) is subgraph isomorphic to g' ($g' \in G'$), the corresponding procedure of g' is regarded plagiarized from that of g .

CLAIM 2

If g ($g \in G$) is γ -isomorphic ($0 < \gamma \leq 1$) to g' ($g' \in G'$), the corresponding procedure of g is regarded plagiarized from that of g' , where γ is the mature rate for plagiarism detection.



(a) PDG of the Original Code



(b) PDG of the Plagiarized Code

Proposed Solution:

1. Pruning the plagiarism search space by using filters
2. Applying γ -isomorphism for a PDG pair (g, g') , $g \in G$ and $g' \in G'$

Pruning Plagiarism space

1. Lossless filter:

- PDGs smaller than an interesting size K are excluded from both G and G'
- Based on the definition of γ -isomorphism, a PDG pair (g, g') , $g \in G$ and $g' \in G'$, can be excluded if $|g'| < \gamma|g|$.

2. Lossy filter:

- Take vertex histogram as a summarized representation of each PDG
- PDG g is represented by $h(g) = (n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k)$, where n_i is the frequency of the i th kind of vertices
- Similarity between g and g' in terms of their vertex histograms

Proposed Algorithm

Algorithm 1 GPLAG($\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}', K, \gamma, \alpha$)

Input: \mathcal{P} : The original program

\mathcal{P}' : A plagiarism suspect

K : Minimum size of nontrivial PDGs, default 10

γ : Mature rate in isomorphism testing, default 0.9

α : Significance level in lossy filter, default 0.05

Output: \mathcal{F} : PDG pairs regarded to involve plagiarism

1: \mathcal{G} = The set of PDGs from \mathcal{P}

2: \mathcal{G}' = The set of PDGs from \mathcal{P}'

3: $\mathcal{G}_K = \{g | g \in \mathcal{G} \text{ and } |g| > K\}$

4: $\mathcal{G}'_K = \{g' | g' \in \mathcal{G}' \text{ and } |g'| > K\}$

5: **for each** $g \in \mathcal{G}_K$

6: **let** $\mathcal{G}'_{K,g} = \{g' | g' \in \mathcal{G}'_K, |g'| \geq \gamma|g|, (g, g') \text{ passes filter}\}$

7: **for each** $g' \in \mathcal{G}'_{K,g}$

8: **if** g is γ -isomorphic to g'

9: $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F} \cup (g, g')$

10: **return** \mathcal{F} ;

THANK YOU