Automated Testing of API Mapping Relations

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ABSTRACT

Application Programming Interface (API) mapping describes mapping relations of APIs provided by two languages. With API mapping, migration tools are able to translate client code that uses APIs from one language into another language. However, given the same inputs, two mapped APIs can produce different outputs. The different behaviors introduces defects in translated code silently since translated code may have no complication errors. In this paper, we propose an approach, called TeMaAPI (**Te**sting **Ma**pping relations of **API**s), that detects different behaviors of mapped APIs via testing. To detect different behaviors, the test oracle of TeMaAPI is that two mapped APIs should produce the same outputs given the same inputs. Based on our approach, we implement a tool and conduct evaluations on migration tools such as Java2CSharp and Tangible C# to Java convertor. The results show that TeMaAPI detects ?? different behaviors between mapped APIs of Java2CSharp and ?? different behaviors between mapped APIs of Tangible C# to Java convertor.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the inception of computer science, many programming languages (such as Cobol, Fortran and Java) have been introduced to serve specific requirements[1]. For example, Cobol is introduced specifically for developing business applications. In general, software companies or open source organizations often release their applications in different languages to survive in competing markets and to address various business requirements such as platform independence. For example, to achieve language and platform independence, Spenkelink [18] translated the Compose* [7] project in C# to Compose*/J in Java. A recent study [11] shows that nearly one third applications exist in different languages.

In general, translating applications manually from one programming language, referred to L_1, to another language, referred to as L_2, is a tedious and error-prone task, since real-world applications often include thousands of lines of code. To reduce manual effort, programmers use existing automatic translation tools such as

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[1] http://hopl.murdoch.edu.au

```
01: package java.lang::System{
02:    class java.lang.String :: System:String{
03:    method valueOf(Object)  pattern = @1.ToString();
04:    ...}}
```

Figure 1: An example API Mapping relation in Java2CSharp.

```
Java Code
05:    Object obj = ...
06:    String value = java.lang.String.valueOf(obj);
C# Code translated by Java2CSharp
07:    Object obj = ...
08:    String value = obj.ToString();
```

Figure 2: Original Java and its translated C# code.

JLCA[2] or develop their own translation tools. For example, Salem *et al.* [2] translated the BLUE financial system of the ICT company from Java to C# using the JLCA tool. On the other hand, programmers of db4o[3] developed their own translation tool, called sharpen[4], for translating db4o from java to C#. The primary goal of these tools is to translate an application in one language to another language such that both versions exhibit the same behavior.

Automatic translation tools use mappings among APIs from L_1 to L_2, referred to as *API mapping relations*, as a basis for translating applications. Figure 1 shows an example API mapping relation from the API method String.valueOf() in Java (L_1) to String.ToString() in C# (L_2). Figure 2 shows original Java code and its equivalent C# code translated using an automatic translation tool, called Java2CSharp[5]. These API mapping relations play an important role in preserving the same behavior between the original and translated applications. We hereby use notations App_1 and App_2 to represent applications in languages L_1 and L_2, respectively. Any inconsistencies among these mapping relations could result in different behaviors between App_1 and App_2 applications.

Writing API mapping relations that exhibit the same behavior in both L_1 and L_2 is quite challenging, since existing languages such as Java or C# provide a large number of APIs. Furthermore, APIs with similar names and structures can have different behaviors in different languages. For example, Panesar[6] shows that even common methods such as String.subString(int, int) can have different behaviors between Java and C#. Despite the large number of APIs, El-Ramly *et al.* [5] shows that it is essential to develop new methods for translating applications from Java to C#, although both these languages appears to be similar.

To further illustrate the challenges, we next provide real examples that show the behavioral differences among API mappings defined in Java2CSharp. Consider the API mapping and translated

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[2] http://tinyurl.com/2c4coln
[3] http://www.db4o.com
[4] http://tinyurl.com/22rsnsk
[5] http://j2cstranslator.sourceforge.net/
[6] http://tinyurl.com/3xpsdtx

```
09: public abstract class Configuration {
10: protected void setUpStringMappings() {
11:   mapMethod("java.lang.String.valueOf",
                runtimeMethod("getStringValueOf"));
12: ...} }
```

C# Code translated by sharpen
```
13: Object obj = ...
14: String value = getStringValueOf(obj); ...

15: public static string GetStringValueOf(object value){
16:   return null == value? "null": value.ToString();
17: }
```

Figure 3: An example API mapping relation in sharpen.

code shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. Although the translated code does not include compilation errors, the translated code behaves different from the original code for certain inputs. For example, assigning a `null` value to `obj` in Line 5, assigns the value "null" to `value` in Line 6. In contrast, assigning a `null` value to `obj` in Line 7 results in a `NullReferenceException`. To address this behavioral difference, another automatic translation tool, called sharpen, uses a different API mapping relation shown in Lines 09 to 12 in Figure 3. Lines 13 to 17 show the translated C# code for the Java code shown in Figure 2. In particular, Line 16 ensures that the string "null" is assigned to `value` in Line 14 when a `null` value is assigned to `obj`. Although, sharpen's API mapping relation addresses the issue with `null`, this relation still includes other behavioral differences. For example, assigning a `false` value to `obj` in Line 5 results in "false" value to be assigned to `value` in Line 6. However, assigning a `false` value to `obj` in Line 14 results in "**F**alse" value to be assigned to `value` in Line 14. If the string variable `value` is used in a case-sensitive comparison afterwards, the preceding difference could result in different outputs. These differences are relatively difficult to detect, since a programmer typically does not aware of the internal logic of the API method to construct appropriate test cases. These examples show the existence of behavioral differences among API mapping relations and shows the necessity of detecting such differences among APIs.

There exist regression testing approaches [6, 13] that accept two versions of an application and detect behavioral differences between those versions. Although our current problem of detecting behavioral differences among API mapping relations can be considered as a form of regression testing problem, no existing approach can be used to detect such differences. The primary reason is that existing approaches require both the versions under consideration belong to the same language. However, in our context, both versions belong to different languages, making these existing approaches inapplicable. Therefore, to address these preceding issues, we propose a novel approach, called TeMaAPI (**Te**sting **Ma**pping relations of **API**s), that automatically generates tests that detect behavioral differences among API mapping relations.

In particular, TeMaAPI generates test cases on one version App_1 of the application (in a language) and translates those tests into the other language L_2. TeMaAPI next applies translated test cases on the other version App_2 to detect behavioral differences. TeMaAPI addresses two major technical challenges in effectively detecting behavioral differences. (1) Using a naive technique such as generating test cases with `null` values may not be significant in detecting behavioral differences among API mapping relations. Since we focus on object-oriented languages such as Java or C#, to detect behavioral differences, generated test cases need to exercise various object states, which can be achieved using method-call sequences. To address this issue, TeMaAPI leverages two existing state-of-the-art test generation techniques: random [16] and dynamic-symbolic-execution-based [8, 12, 21]. (2) Generating test cases on App_1 and applying those test cases on App_2 may not exercise many behav-

iors of APIs in App_2, thereby related defects cannot be detected. To address this issue, TeMaAPI uses a round-trip technique that also generates test cases on App_2 and applies them on App_1. We describe more details of our approach and how we address these challenges in subsequent sections.

This paper makes the following major contributions:

- A novel approach, called TeMaAPI, that automatically generates test cases that detect behavioral differences among API mapping relations. Given a translation tool, TeMaAPI detects different behaviors of its all API mapping relations automatically. It is important to detect these different behaviors, since they can introduce defects in translated code silently.

- Test adequacy criteria proposed for generating sufficient test cases to test API mapping. TeMaAPI targets at generating adequate test cases that can reveal all behaviors of APIs to test their mapping relations.

- A tool implemented for TeMaAPI and two evaluations on ?? projects that include ?? mapping relations from Java to C#, and ?? mapping relations from C# to Java. The results show that our tool detects ?? unique defects of mapping relations...

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents our test adequacy criteria. Section 3 illustrates our approach using an example. Section 4 presents our approach. Section 5 presents our evaluation results. Section 6 discusses issues of our approach. Section 7 presents related work. Finally, Section 8 concludes.

2. TEST ADEQUACY CRITERIA

As stated by Andrews *et al.* [3], a test adequacy criterion is a predict, and a test suite is adequate with respect to a criterion only if all defined properties of the criterion are satisfied by the test suite. In this paper, we define four test adequacy criteria for API mapping relations as follows.

Path criterion. Given an API invocation inv in a language L_1, and its mapped API invocation $\psi(inv)$ in a language L_2, a adequate test suite should cover all internal paths of inv. This criterion ensures that $\psi(inv)$ in L_2 return the same values with inv in L_1 with respect to all paths of inv.

Sequence criterion. Given API invocations $inv_1, \ldots, inv_m$ in a language L_1 and its mapped API invocations $\psi(inv_1, \ldots, inv_m)$ in a language L_2, a adequate test suite should cover all states of obj with respect to the field criterion. This criterion ensures that $\psi(inv_1, \ldots, inv_m)$ in L_2 return the same values with $inv_1, \ldots, inv_m$ in L_1 with respect to all call sequences of $inv_1, \ldots, inv_m$.

TeMaAPI targets at generating test cases that satisfy both the path criterion and the sequence criterion for testing API mapping relations.

3. EXAMPLE

We next illustrate the basic steps to detect the different behaviors of the API mapping relation as discussed in Section 1.

Translating Generated client code. First, TeMaAPI generates a client code method for each API method an each API field of the `java.lang.String` class. For example, the generate clinet code for the `valueOf(Object)` method is as follows:

```
public java.lang.String testvalueOf64sm0(Object m0){
  return java.lang.String.valueOf(m0);}
```

After that, we use a migration tool such as Java2CSharp to translate generated client code from Java to C#.

Removing translated client-code methods with compilation errors. A migration tool typically cannot cover all API mapping
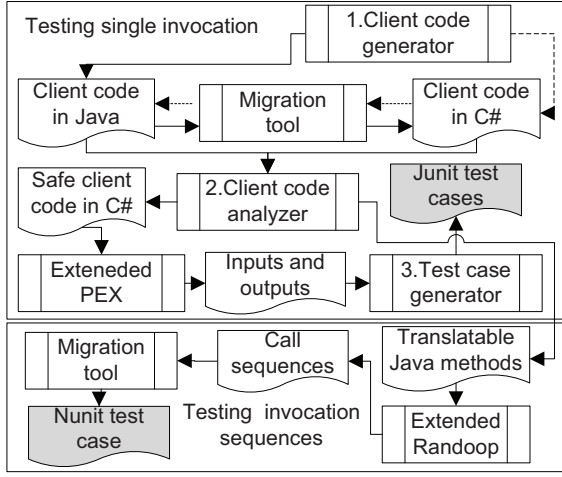
Figure 4: Overview of TeMaAPI

relations, so some translated client-code methods can have compilation errors if their used API methods or API fields are not covered. TeMaAPI parses translated code, and removes all client-code methods with compilation errors. The remaining client-code methods are testable since no compilation errors are left.

In this example, the translated C# `testvalueOf64sm` method is as follows:

```
public System.String TestvalueOf64sm(Object m0) {
    return m0.ToString();}
```

This method contains no compilation errors since Java2CSharp covers the mapping relation of the `valueOf(Object)` method in Java as shown in Figure 1.

Generating and executing test cases to reveal different behaviors. TeMaAPI leverages various techniques to generate test cases for remaining client-code methods. For example, TeMaAPI extends Pex [21], so that it records all inputs and output of each execution. In this example, for the `TestvalueOf64sm` method in C#, one recorded input is a boolean value, and the corresponding output is "False". Based on the input and output, TeMaAPI generates a JUnit test case as follows:

```
@Test
public void testvalueOf64sm0(){
    sketch.Test_java_lang_String obj =
        new sketch.Test_java_lang_String();
    boolean m0 = false;
    Assert.assertEquals("False", obj.testvalueOf64sm(m0));
}
```

This JUnit test case fails since the `testvalueOf64sm` method in Java returns "false" instead of "False". Thus, TeMaAPI detects a different behavior between the `valueOf(Object)` method in Java and its mapped C# API methods in Java2CSharp.

4. APPROACH

Given a migration tool between Java and C#, TeMaAPI generates various test cases to reveal different behaviors of the tool's API mapping relations. Figure 4 shows the overview of TeMaAPI. It is able to test mapping relations of a single API invocation and also mapping relations of multiple API invocations.

4.1 Translating Generated client code

Given a migration tool, TeMaAPI first extracts its validate mapping relations of APIs. It is challenging to extract such mapping relations directly from a migration tool for two factors: (1) different migration tools may follow different styles to describe API mapping relations. For example, as shown in Section 1, the API mapping relations of Java2CSharp are described in its mapping files, but

the API mapping relations of sharpen are hard-coded in its source files. (2) commercial migration tools typically hide their API mapping relations in binary files. Due to the two factors, TeMaAPI does not extract API mapping relations directly from a migration tool, but chooses to analyze translated code of a migration tool. We choose to use migration tools to translate simple client code instead of existing projects for two considerations: (1) Existing projects typically use quite a small set of APIs, so many API mapping relations may be not covered; (2) a single method of an existing project may use multiple APIs, so it may be difficult to analyze which APIs are not mapped. For the preceding consideration, TeMaAPI chooses to generate client code instead of using existing client code.

TeMaAPI relies on the reflection technique [14] provided by both Java and C# to generate client code for translation.

Static fields. Given a public static field `f` of a class `C` whose type is `T`, TeMaAPI generates a getter as follows:

```
public T TestGet|f.name||no|(){ return C.f; }
```

If `f` is not a constant, TeMaAPI generates a setter as follows:

```
public void TestSet|f.name||no|(T v){ C.f = v; }
```

Non-static fields. Given a public non-static field `f` of a class `C` whose type is `T`, TeMaAPI generates a getter for each constructor `C(T1 p1,..., Tn pn)` of `C` as follows:

```
public T TestGet|f.name||no|(T1 c1,..., Tn cn){
    C obj = new C(c1,..., cn);
    return obj.f; }
```

If `f` is not a constant, TeMaAPI generates a setter as follows:

```
public void TestSet|f.name||no|(T1 c1,..., Tn cn){
    C obj = new C(c1,..., cn);
    obj.f = v; }
```

In the preceding code, "`|f.name|`" denotes the name of `f`, and "`|no|`" denotes the corresponding number of generated client-code method.

Static methods. Given a public static method `m(T1 p1,...,Tn pn)` of a class `C` whose return type is `Tm`, TeMaAPI generates a client-code method as follows:

```
public Tm Test|m.name||no|(T1 m1,..., Tn mn){
    return C.m(m1,..., mn); }
```

Non-static methods. Given a public non-static method `m(T1 p1,...,Tn pn)` of a class `C` whose return type is `Tm`, TeMaAPI generates a client-code method for each constructor `C(Tv pv,..., Tt pt)` of `C` as follows:

```
public Tm Test|m.name||no|(T1 m1,..., Tn mn,
                           Tv cv, ..., Tt ct){
    C obj = new C(cv,..., ct);
    return obj.m(m1,..., mn); }
```

In the preceding code, "`|m.name|`" denotes the name of `m(T1 p1,...,Tn pn)`.

TeMaAPI ignores generic methods for simplicity, and organizes all generated client code methods by the corresponding class C. For a migration tool that translates from Java to C#, TeMaAPI generates client code in Java as shown by the solid line of Figure 4, and for a migration tool that translates from C# to Java, TeMaAPI generates client code in C# as shown by the dotted line of Figure 4. When TeMaAPI generates client code in C#, it ignores `unsafe` and `delegate` methods and methods whose parameters are marked as `out` or `ref`. These methods may produce more than one output, and our generated client code has only one output. In addition, Java does not have corresponding keywords, so there are typically no mapped methods in Java for these C# methods. After TeMaAPI generate client-code methods, we translate them using a migration tool under experiments.

After generated code is translated, TeMaAPI parses translated code and removes translated methods with compilation errors. We refer to the remaining methods as safe client code. Safe client code is testable since it has no compilation errors. Based on these methods, TeMaAPI tests single API invocations (Section 4.2). From remaining methods, TeMaAPI analyzes which API invocations can be translated without introducing compilation errors. Thus, TeMaAPI generates a list of translatable API invocations for a given migration tool. Based on the list, TeMaAPI further tests API invocation sequences (Section 4.3).

4.2 Testing Single API Invocations

Pex [21] is a white-box test generation tool for .Net based on dynamic symbolic execution. Basically, Pex repeatedly executes a method under test, so that it explores all feasible paths of the method. To reduce the efforts to explore paths, Pex leverage various search strategies. For example, Xie *et al.* [24] propose a search strategy called Fitnex that uses state-dependent fitness values to guide path exploration of Pex.

TeMaAPI extends Pex, so that it generates test cases that satisfy the path criterion defined in Section 2. In particular, for each translated C# client code method, TeMaAPI records the inputs and the corresponding out of each searched path of Pex to local files. Based on recorded inputs and outputs, TeMaAPI generates JUnit test cases to ensure each mapped API invocations produce the same output give the same inputs. For example, TeMaAPI records that given a integer whose value is 0, the output of the `TestvalueOf57sm` method in C# is "0". Based on the preceding input and output, TeMaAPI generates a JUnit test case for the `testvalueOf57sm` method in Java as follows:

```
@Test
public void testvalueOf57sm7(){
  sketch.Test_java_lang_String obj =
      new sketch.Test_java_lang_String();
  int m0 = 0;
  Assert.assertEquals("0", obj.testvalueOf57sm7(m0));
}
```

This JUnit test case runs successfully, and the result ensures that the `testvalueOf57sm` method in Java has the same output with the `TestvalueOf57sm` method in C# given the same input.

We find that when Pex searches a path with some specific inputs, the method under test throws exceptions. For example, TeMaAPI records that if the input of the `TestvalueOf61sm` method in C# is null, the method throws `NullReferenceException`. TeMaAPI also generates a JUnit test case to ensure the `testvalueOf61sm` method in Java also throws a mapped exception. To generate the JUnit test case, TeMaAPI first finds the corresponding exceptions in Java by analyzing translated client code with generated code. For example, TeMaAPI finds that the `NullReferenceException` class in C# is mapped to the `NullPointerException` class in Java with respect to the API mapping relations of Java2CSharp, so it generates a JUnit test case as follows:

```
@Test
public void testvalueOf61sm3(){
  try{
    sketch.Test_java_lang_String obj =
        new sketch.Test_java_lang_String();
    java.lang.Object m0 = null;
    obj.testvalueOf61sm(m0);
  }catch(java.lang.NullPointerException e){
    Assert.assertTrue(true);
    return;
  }
  Assert.assertTrue(false);
}
```

Name	Version	Source	Description
Java2CSharp	1.3.4	IBM (ILOG)	Java to C#
JLCA	3.0	Microsoft	Java to C#
sharpen	1.4.6	db4o	Java to C#
Net2Java	1.0	NetBean	C# to Java
VB & C# to Java Converter	1.6	Tangible	C# to Java

Table 1: Subject tools

This JUnit test case fails since the `testvalueOf61sm` method does not throw any exceptions given a null input. From this failed JUnit test case, TeMaAPI detects the different behavior between the `testvalueOf61sm` method in Java and the `TestvalueOf61sm` method in C#. Since the two methods call only one API method, TeMaAPI thus detects the different behavior between the `valueOf(Object)` in Java and its mapped C# method.

4.3 Testing Invocation Sequences

Randoop [16] is a test generation tool for Java. It randomly generates test cases based on already generated test cases in a feedback-directed manner. As stated by Tillmann and Halleux [21], the key difference between Pex and Randoop lies in that Pex generates test cases for a single method whereas Randoop generates test cases that involve multiple methods.

TeMaAPI extends Randoop, so that it generates test cases that satisfy the sequence criterion defined in Section 2. As described in Section 4.1, TeMaAPI is able to extract translatable API invocations of a given migration tool. TeMaAPI restricts the search scope of Randoop, so that it generates JUnit test cases use translatable API invocations. Since generated JUnit test cases use only translatable API invocations of a given migration tool, the migration tool can translate these JUnit test cases in Java into NUnit test cases automatically. We find that some JUnit test cases generated by Randoop fail or produce errors. Before translating, TeMaAPI removes all such JUnit test cases, so all JUnit test cases run successfully. If a translated NUnit test case fails or produces errors, the test case may indicate different behaviors of API invocation sequences.

5. EVALUATIONS

We implemented a tool for TeMaAPI and conducted evaluations using our tool to address the following research questions:

1. How effectively can existing migration tool translate API invocations (Section 5.1)?
2. How effectively can our approach detect different behaviors of single API invocations (Section 5.2)?
3. How effectively can our approach detect different behaviors of API invocation sequences (Section 5.3)?

Table 1 shows the subject tools in our evaluation. Column "Name" lists the names of subject tools. Column "Source" lists their companies. Although all these tools are developed by commercial companies, Java2CSharp, sharpen, and Net2Java are all open source. Column "Description" lists the main functionalities of subject tools. We choose these tools as subjects since we find that many programmer recommend these tools in various forums.

All evaluations were conducted on a PC with Intel Qual CPU @ 2.83GHz and 1.98M memory running Windows XP.

5.1 Translating Generated Client Code

5.2 Different Behaviors of Single API Invocations

5.2.1 Translating client code

Type	Number	Java2CSharp		JLCA		sharpen	
		M	%	M	%	M	%
sfg	16962	237	1.4%	3744	22.1%	47	0.3%
sfs	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
nfg	832	0	0.0%	121	14.5%	26	2.2%
nfs	823	0	0.0%C	79	9.6%	0	0.0%
sm	1175	97	8.3%	198	16.9%	26	2.2%
nm	175400	3589	2.0%	39536	22.5%	1113	0.6%
Total	195192	3923	2.0%	43678	22.4%	1186	0.6%

Table 2: Translated results of Java to C# tools

Type	Number	Java2CSharp		JLCA		sharpen	
		M	%	M	%	M	%
sfg	16962	237	1.4%	3744	22.1%	47	0.3%
sfs	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
nfg	832	0	0.0%	121	14.5%	26	2.2%
nfs	823	0	0.0%C	79	9.6%	0	0.0%
sm	1175	97	8.3%	198	16.9%	26	2.2%
nm	175400	3589	2.0%	39536	22.5%	1113	0.6%
Total	195192	3923	2.0%	43678	22.4%	1186	0.6%

Table 3: Translated results of C# to Java tools

5.2.2 *Generating test cases*

5.2.3 *Detecting difference behaviors*

5.3 Different Behaviors of API Invocation Sequences

6. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE WORK

We next discuss issues in our approach and describe how we address these issues in our future work.

Aligning client code.

7. RELATED WORK

Our approach is related to previous work on two areas: language migration and library migration.

Language migration. To reduce manual efforts of language migration [17], researchers proposed various approaches [9,15,22,23, 26] to automate the process. However, all these approaches focus on the syntax or structural differences between languages. Deursen *et al.* [22] proposed an approach to identify objects in legacy code. Their approach uses these objects to deal with the differences between object-oriented and procedural languages. As shown in El-Ramly *et al.* [5]'s experience report, existing approaches support only a subset of APIs for language migration, making the task of language migration a challenging problem. In contrast to previous approaches, our approach automatically mines API mapping between languages to aid language migration, addressing a significant problem not addressed by the previous approaches and complementing these approaches.

Library migration. With evolution of libraries, some APIs may become incompatible across library versions. To address this problem, Henkel and Diwan [10] proposed an approach that captures and replays API refactoring actions to update the client code. Xing and Stroulia [25] proposed an approach that recognizes the changes of APIs by comparing the differences between two versions of libraries. Balaban *et al.* [4] proposed an approach to migrate client code when mapping relations of libraries are available. In contrast to these approaches, our approach focuses on mapping relations of APIs across different languages. In addition, since our approach uses ATGs to mine API mapping relations, our approach can also mine mapping relations between API methods with different parameters or between API methods whose functionalities are split among several API methods in the other language.

Mining specifications. Some of our previous approaches [1, 19, 20, 27, 28] focus on mining specifications. MAM mines API mapping relations across different languages for language migration, whereas the previous approaches mine API properties of a single language to detect defects or to assist programming.

8. CONCLUSION

Mapping relations of APIs are quite useful for the migration of projects from one language to another language, and it is difficult to mine these mapping relations due to various challenges. In this paper, we propose a novel approach that mines mapping relations of APIs from existing projects with multiple versions in different languages. We conducted two evaluations to show the effectiveness of our approach. The results show that our approach mines many API mapping relations between Java and C#, and these relations improve existing language migration tools such as Java2CSharp.

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