Research in Coding and IDEs

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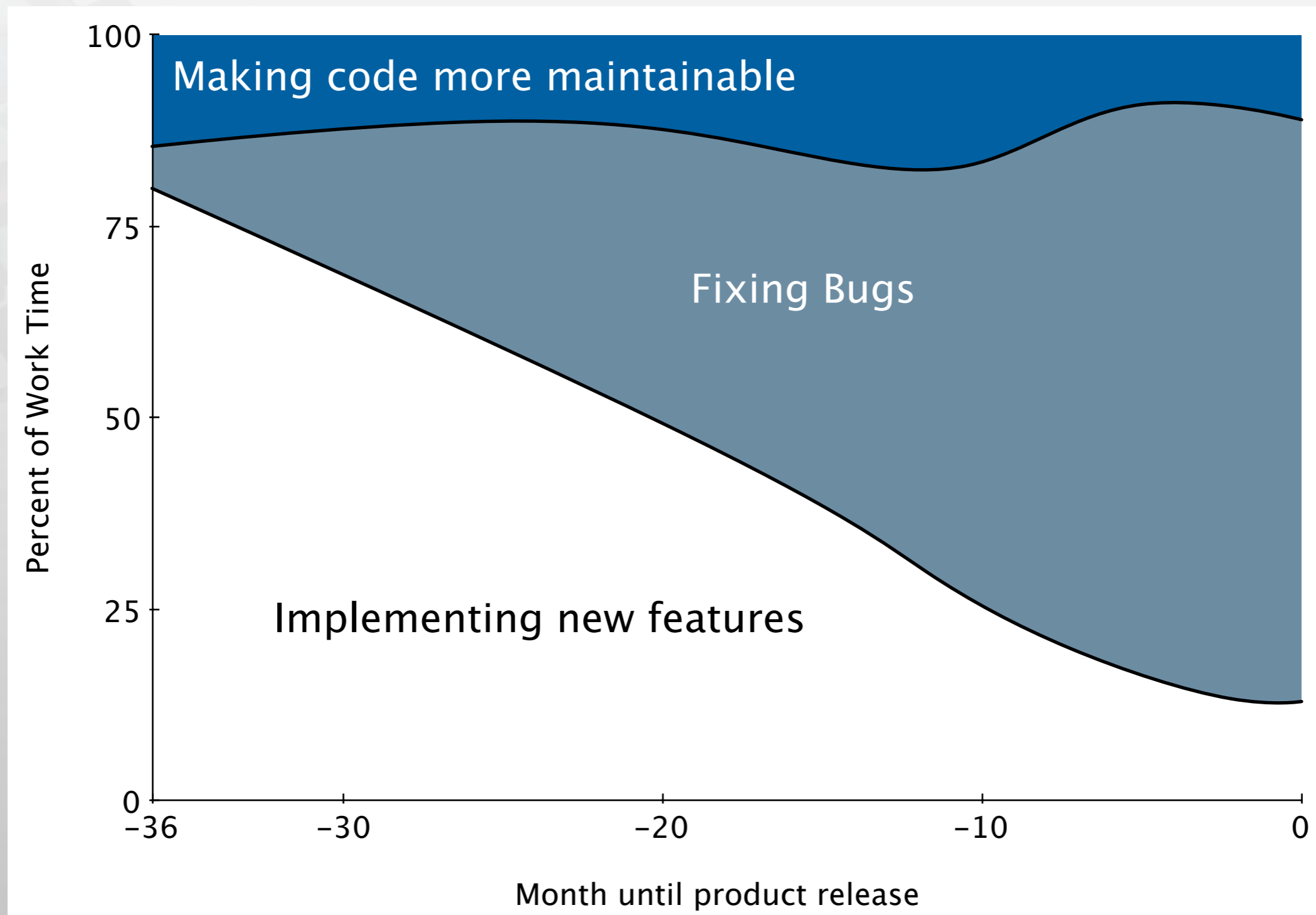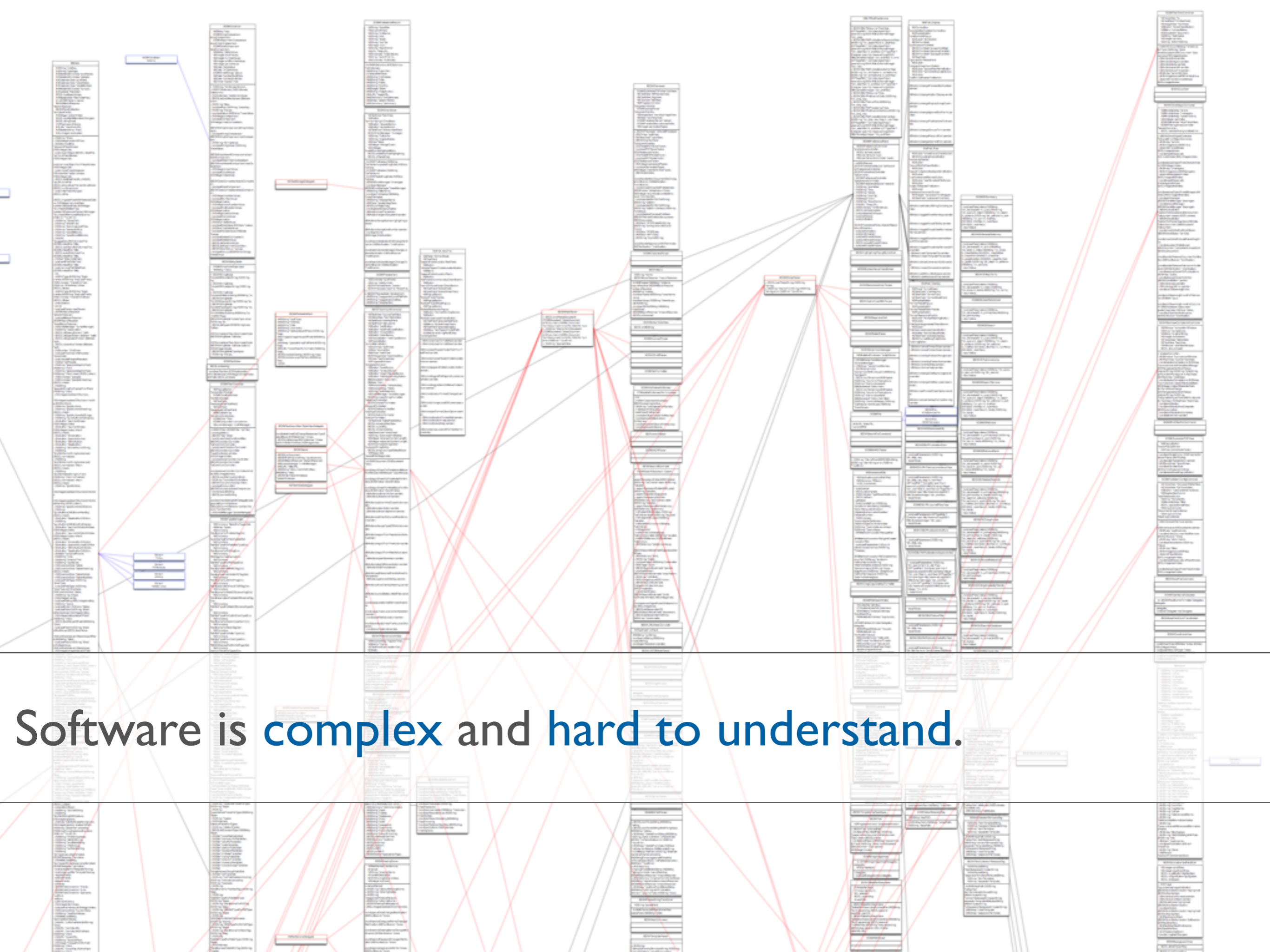
http://hci.rwth-aachen.de/cthci

Status Quo

Design

Analyze

Implement

Time in Software Development

[LaToza2006, Maintaining mental models: a study of developer work habits]

Software is complex and hard to understand.

Task context

- What is relevant information?
- What strategies are applied to find information?

Models for Developer Strategies

[Ko2006, An Exploratory Study of How Developers Seek, Relate, and Collect Relevant Information during Software Maintenance Tasks]

31 Professional Java Developers

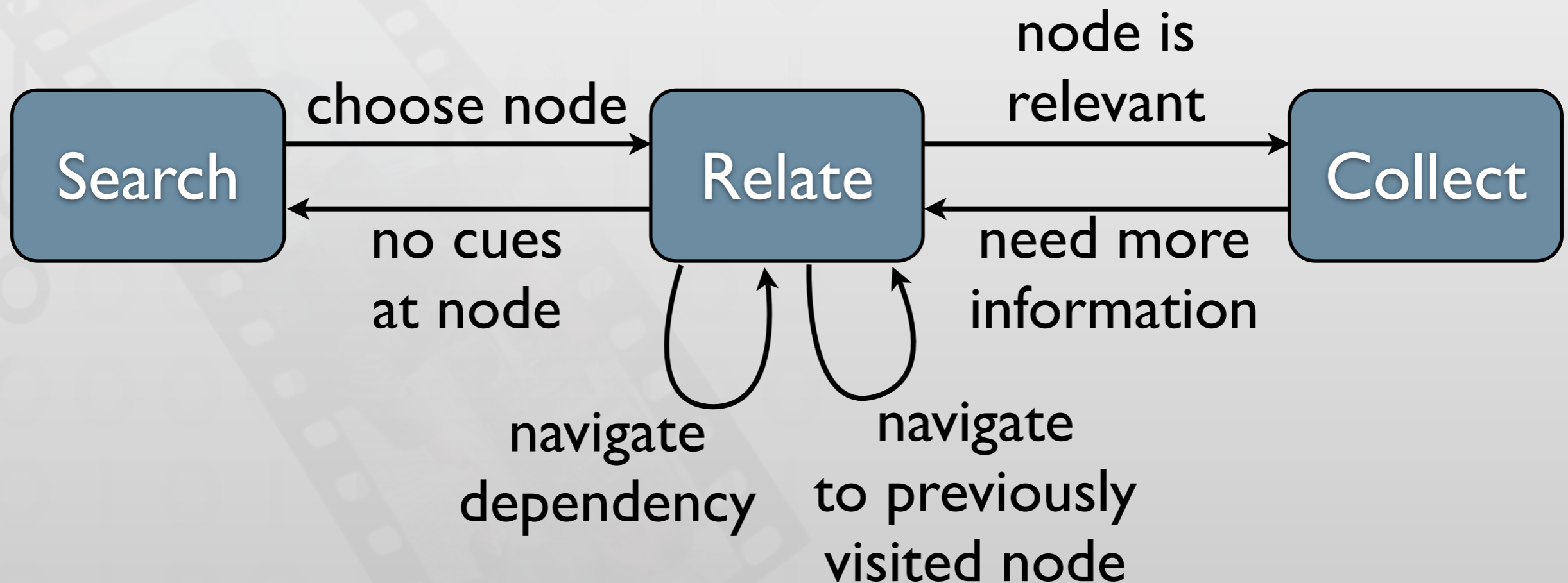5 Maintenance tasks
(3 Bugs, 2 Enhancements)

500 SLOC Java Paint Application

Models for Developer Strategies

[Ko2006, An Exploratory Study of How Developers Seek, Relate, and Collect Relevant Information during Software Maintenance Tasks]

Models for Developer Strategies

[Sillito2008, Asking and Answering Questions during a Programming Change Task]

9 experienced developers (pair programming)

16 developers from industry

1 of 5 maintenance tasks per session
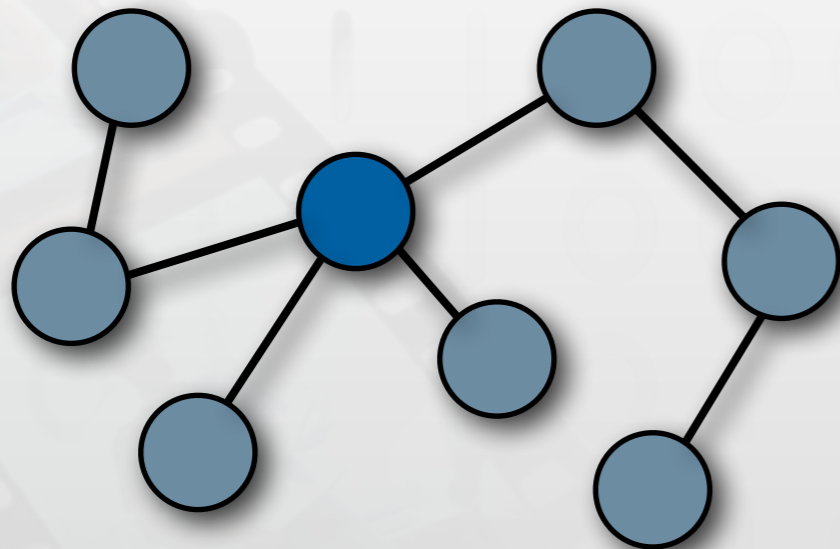
Real world change task

ArgoUML
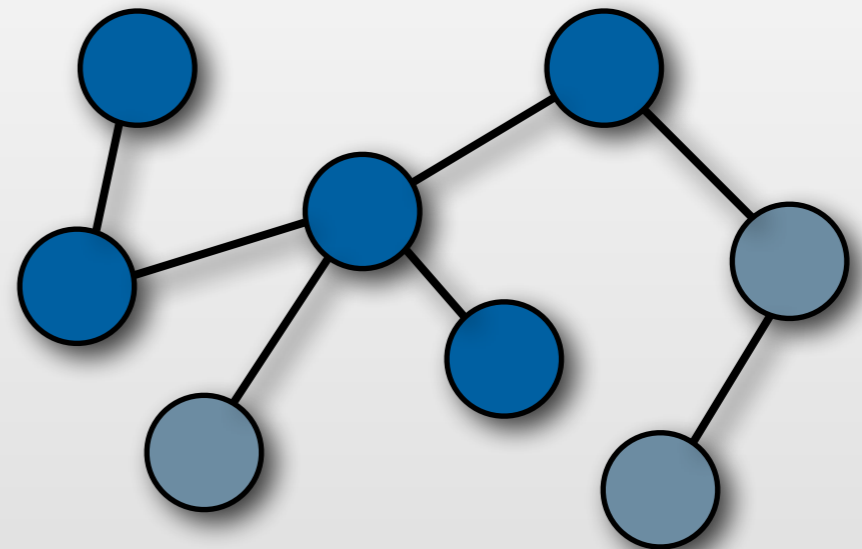60k SLOC

Real world sour code

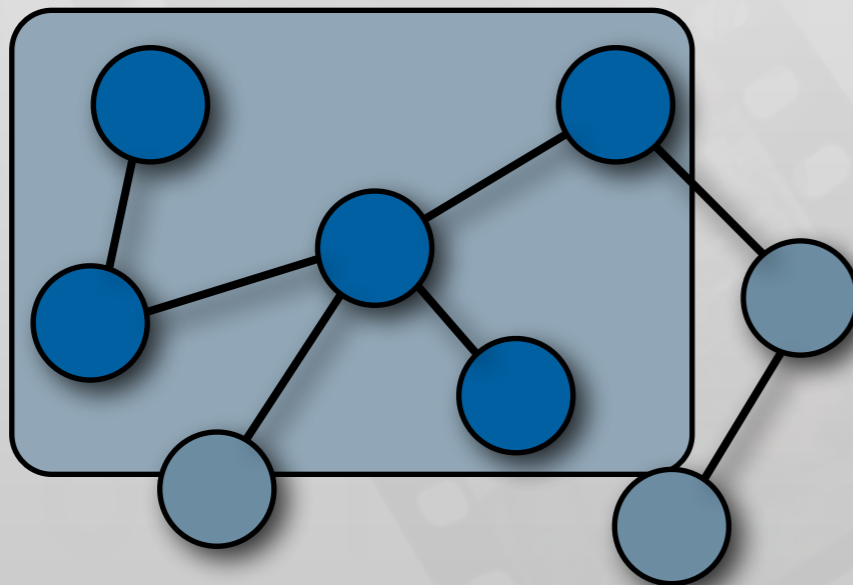# Models for Developer Strategies

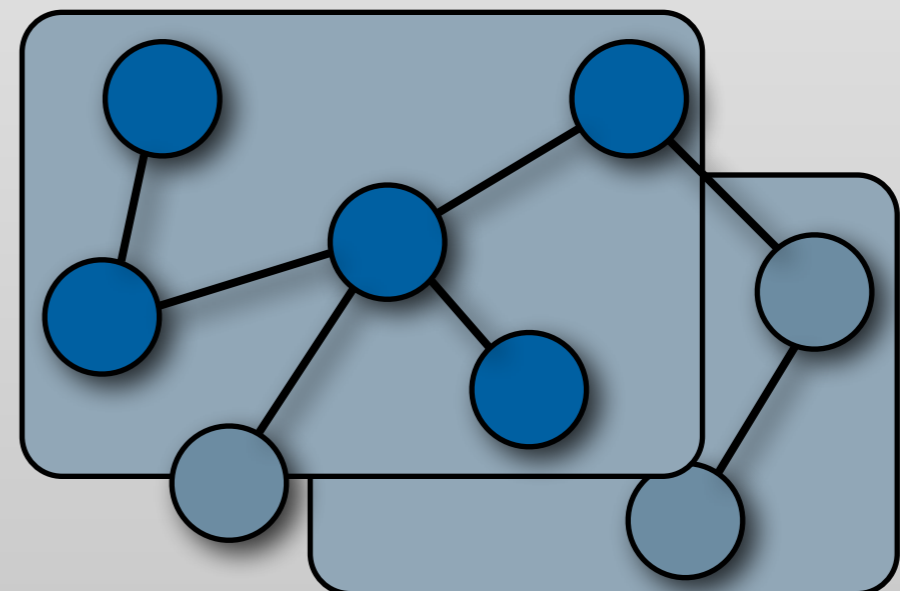[Sillito2008, Asking and Answering Questions during a Programming Change Task]

Finding focus points

Expanding focus points

Understanding a subgraph

Questions over groups of subgraphs

Package E 🔲   Type Hiera

Desktop.java   DesktopEvent.java 🔲   DesktopEventService.java

Outline 🔲

```
 * @(#)DesktopEvent.java

package org.jhotdraw.contrib;

import org.jhotdraw.framework.DrawingView;

/**
 * @author  C.L.Gilbert <dnoyeb@users.sourceforge.net>
 * @version <$CURRENT_VERSION$>
 */
public class DesktopEvent extends EventObject {
    private DrawingView myDrawingView;

    /**
     * Some events require the previous DrawingView (e.g. when a new DrawingView
     * is selected).
     */
    private DrawingView myPreviousDrawingView;

    public DesktopEvent(Desktop newSource, DrawingView newDrawingView) {
        this(newSource, newDrawingView, null);
    }

    public DesktopEvent(Desktop newSource, DrawingView newDrawingView, DrawingView newPreviousDV) {
        super(newSource);
        setDrawingView(newDrawingView);
        setPreviousDrawingView(newPreviousDV);
    }

    private void setDrawingView(DrawingView newDrawingView) {
        myDrawingView = newDrawingView;
    }

    public DrawingView getDrawingView() {
        return myDrawingView;
    }

    private void setPreviousDrawingView(DrawingView newPreviousDrawingView) {
        myPreviousDrawingView = newPreviousDrawingView;
    }

    public DrawingView getPreviousDrawingView() {
        return myPreviousDrawingView;
    }
}
```

Package Explorer:
- jHotDraw
  - src
    - org.jhotdraw
    - org.jhotdraw.applet
    - org.jhotdraw.application
    - org.jhotdraw.contrib
    - org.jhotdraw.contrib.dnd
    - org.jhotdraw.contrib.html
    - org.jhotdraw.contrib.zoom
    - org.jhotdraw.figures
    - org.jhotdraw.framework
    - org.jhotdraw.images
    - org.jhotdraw.samples
    - org.jhotdraw.samples.javadraw
      - AnimationDecorator.java
      - Animator.java
      - BouncingDrawing.java
      - FollowURLTool.java
      - JavaDrawApp.java
      - JavaDrawApplet.java
      - JavaDrawViewer.java
      - MySelectionTool.java
      - PatternPainter.java
      - URLTool.java
      - JavaDrawAppletHelp.html
    - org.jhotdraw.samples.javadraw.sam
    - org.jhotdraw.samples.minimap
    - org.jhotdraw.samples.net
    - org.jhotdraw.samples.nothing
    - org.jhotdraw.samples.pert
    - org.jhotdraw.samples.pert.images
    - org.jhotdraw.standard
    - org.jhotdraw.test
    - org.jhotdraw.test.contrib
    - org.jhotdraw.test.figures
    - org.jhotdraw.test.framework
    - org.jhotdraw.test.samples.javadraw
    - org.jhotdraw.test.samples.minimap
    - org.jhotdraw.test.samples.net
    - org.jhotdraw.test.samples.nothing
    - org.jhotdraw.test.samples.pert
    - org.jhotdraw.test.standard
    - org.jhotdraw.test.util
    - org.jhotdraw.test.util.collections.jd
    - org.jhotdraw.test.util.collections.jd
    - org.jhotdraw.util
    - org.jhotdraw.util.collections.jdk11
    - org.jhotdraw.util.collections.jdk12
  - JRE System Library [JavaSE-1.6]

Outline:
- org.jhotdraw.contrib
- import declarations
- DesktopEvent
  - myDrawingView : DrawingView
  - myPreviousDrawingView : Drawi
  - DesktopEvent(Desktop, Drawing
  - DesktopEvent(Desktop, Drawing
  - setDrawingView(DrawingView) :
  - getDrawingView() : DrawingView
  - setPreviousDrawingView(Drawin
  - getPreviousDrawingView() : Dra
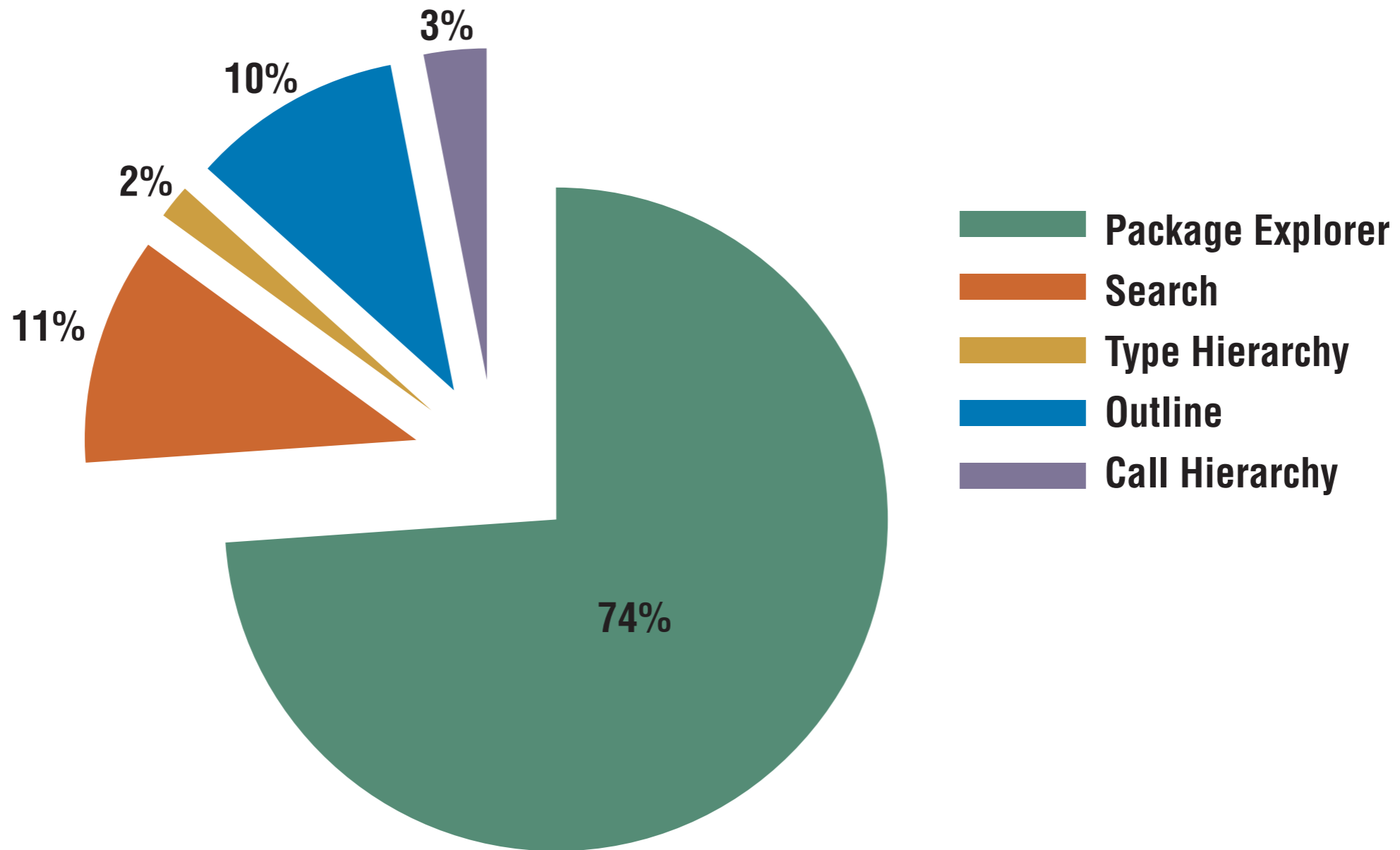
Problems   @ Javadoc   Declaration   Call Hierarchy 🔲

Calls from 'DesktopEvent(Desktop, DrawingView, DrawingView)' – in workspace

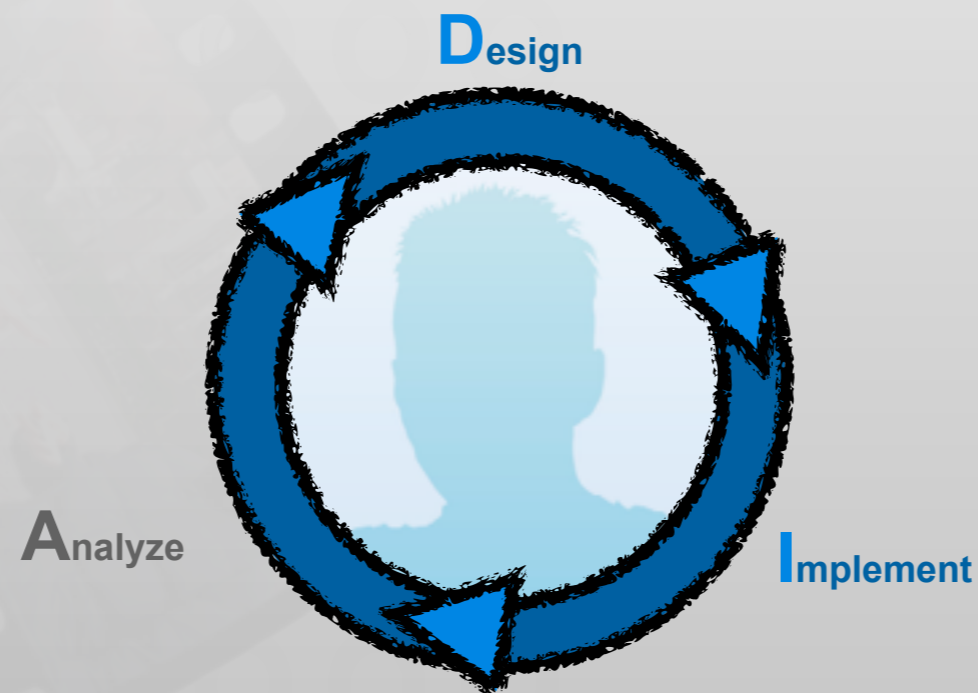|	Line	Call
DesktopEvent(Desktop, DrawingView, DrawingView) – org.jhotdraw.contrib.DesktopEvent		
EventObject(Object) – java.util.EventObject		
setDrawingView(DrawingView) : void – org.jhotdraw.contrib.DesktopEvent		
setPreviousDrawingView(DrawingView) : void – org.jhotdraw.contrib.DesktopEvent		

Tools Used in Eclipse

[Murphy2006, How Are Java Software Developers Using the Eclipse IDE?]

[Kersten2006, Using Task Context to Improve Programmer Productivity]

Recommender Tools

[Singer2005, NavTracks: supporting navigation in software maintenance]
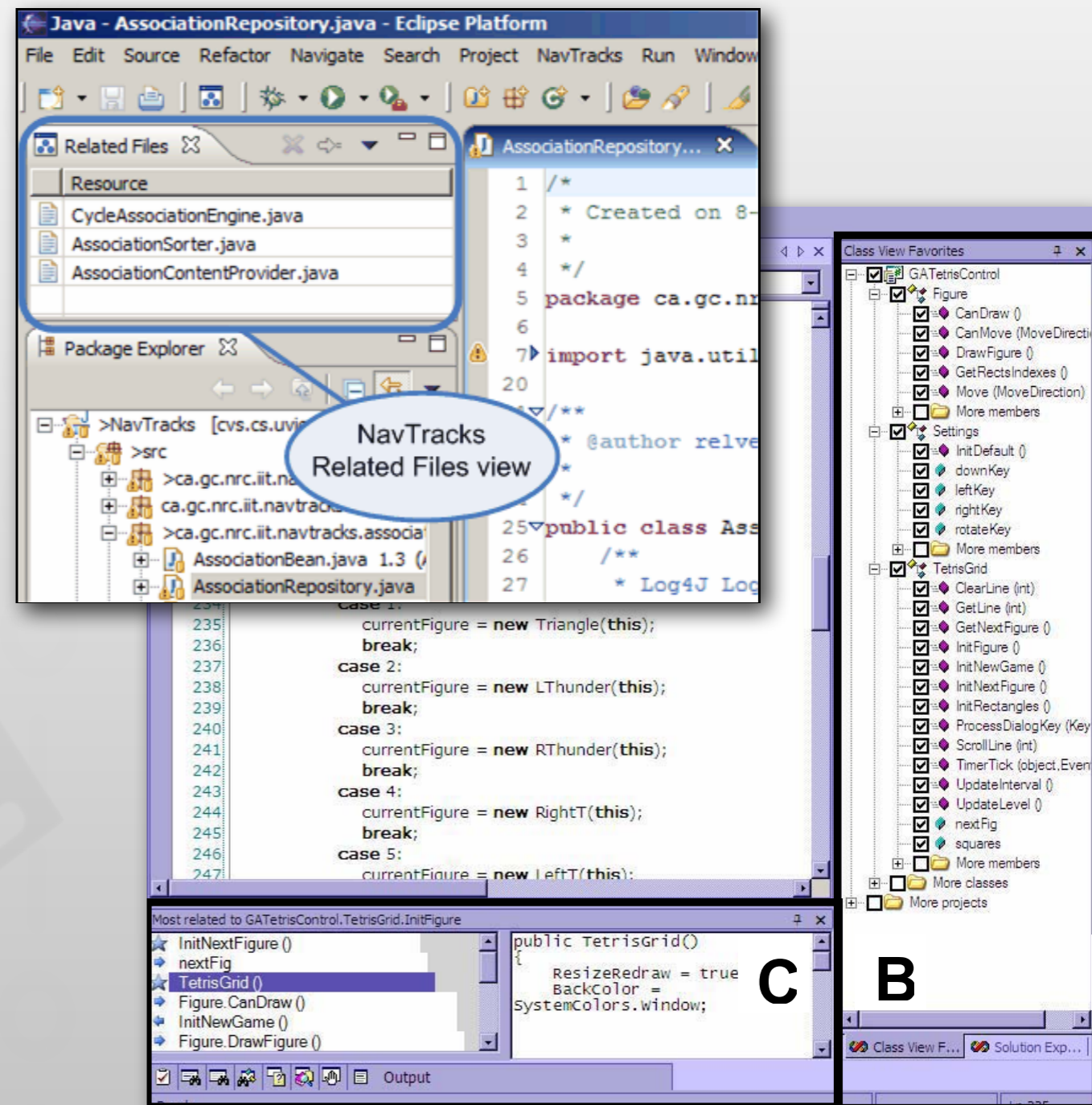[DeLine2005, Easing program comprehension by sharing navigation data]
[Čubranic´2005, Hipikat: recommending pertinent software development artifacts]

- Calculate a Degree of Interest for source code elements based on:
    - reading history
    - editing history
    - history of other team members
    - information from version control systems

- Remaining Problems:
    - Still only text-based visualization
    - Recommendations for irrelevant code are still irrelevant

Changing the Presentation

[DeLine2006, Code Thumbnails: Using Spatial Memory to Navigate Source Code]

[Bragdon2010, Code bubbles: a working set-based interface for code understanding and maintenance]

[Bragdon2010, Code bubbles: a working set-based interface for code understanding and maintenance]

[Bragdon2010, Code bubbles: a working set-based interface for code understanding and maintenance]

[Bragdon2010, Code bubbles: a working set-based interface for code understanding and maintenance]

Canvas Interfaces in the Wild

[DeLine2012, Debugger Canvas: Industrial experience with the code bubbles paradigm]

Utilizing the Call Graph

Design

Analyze

Implement

Task 1

successful

10
8
6
4
2
0

time (min)

30
20
10
0

■ whyline
■ control

Task 2

successful

10
8
6
4
2
0

time (min)

30
20
10
0

■ whyline
■ control

of unique source files viewed per minute

range of files

median distance to key function

why did qu (median

why didn't qu (median

median # debugg

median # text s

In practice: Feasible paths most interesting

[LaToza2010, Developers ask reachability questions]

Utilizing Call Graph Information

[LaToza2010, Searching Across Paths]

Legend

+methodName / #methodName / -methodName	public / protected / private method	
+methodName	method visited by developer	
+methodName	method with callers that are not shown	
TypeName	type with type name	

—— method call that is always executed

- - - - - - method call that might execute

mutually exclusive method calls

method call in a loop

recursive method call

paths of calls with hidden methods

data flow

expression that matches search

Static Analysis in the Wild

[Clang Static Analyzer, http://clang-analyzer.llvm.org/]

Call Hierarchy

Stacksplorer

[Karrer2011, Stacksplorer: Call Graph Navigation Helps Increasing Code Maintenance Efficiency]

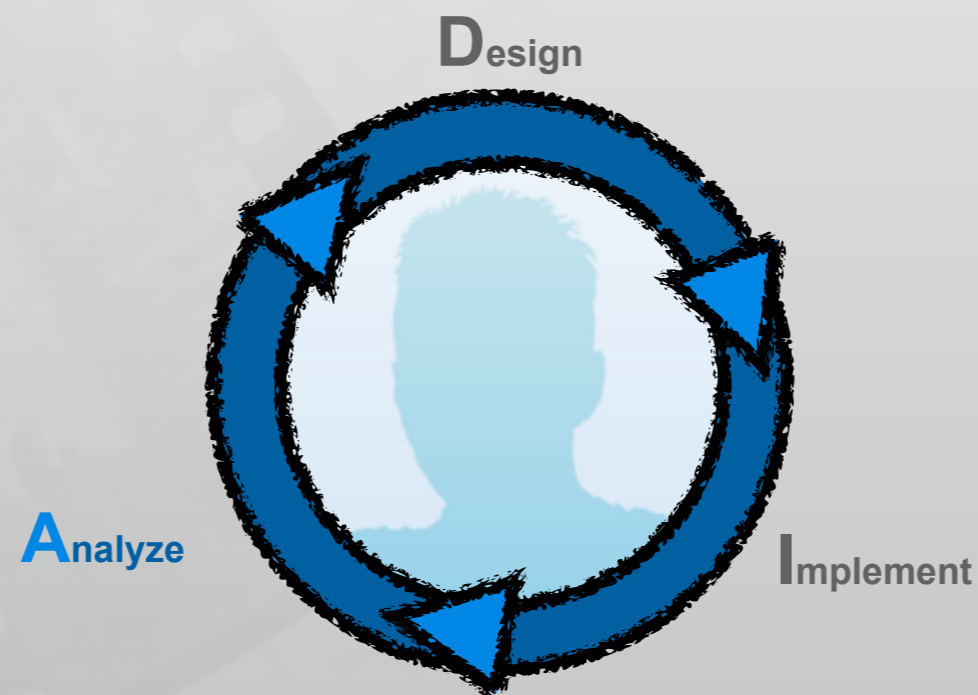# Blaze

[Krämer2012, Blaze: Supporting Two-phased Call Graph Navigation in Source Code]

Analyzing Navigation Behavior

Design

Analyze

Implement

Information Foraging Theory

Predator

Scent

Prey

Information Foraging Theory

[Lawrance2010, Reactive information foraging for evolving goals]

Predator

Scent

Prey

	Xcode	Call Hierarchy	Stacksplorer	Blaze
Find Change Location				
Side Effects of Change				

Task Success
Task Completion Time

33 Developers

80.000 Lines of Code

[Krämer2013, How Tools in IDEs Shape Developers' Navigation Behavior]

Task Success

p = 0.015

Task Completion Time

p=0.022

Effectiveness

Xcode | Call Hierarchy   Stacksplorer   Blaze
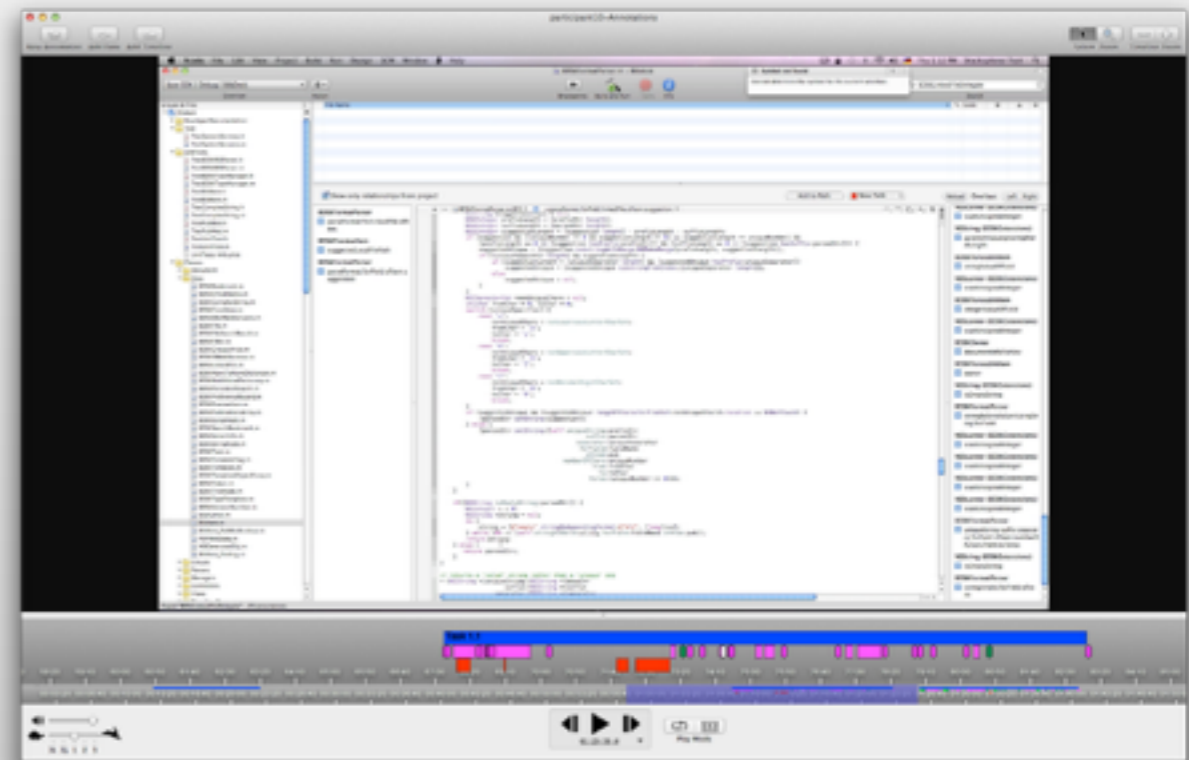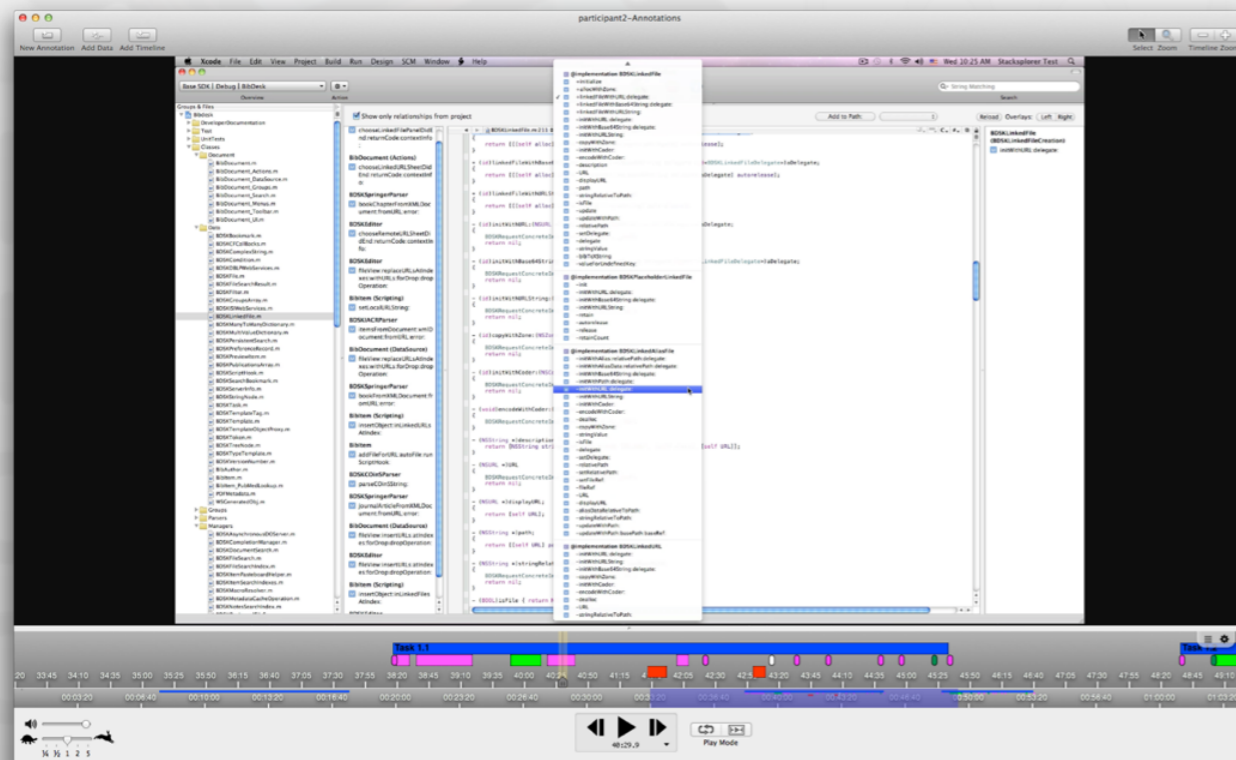
Efficiency

Xcode   Call Hierarchy | Stacksplorer   Blaze
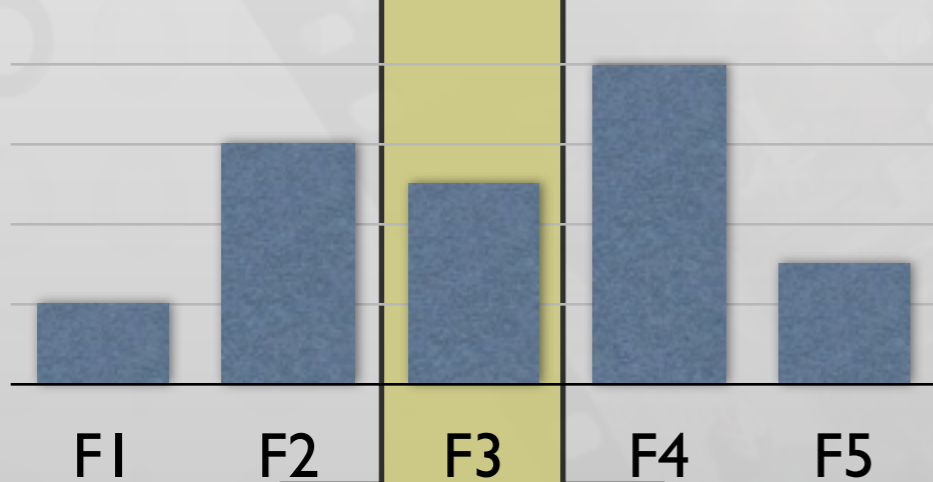
Why?

UI Differences

Navigation Behavior

Comparing Navigation Behavior

$$I_1=(p_{1,1}, \ldots, p_{640,480})$$
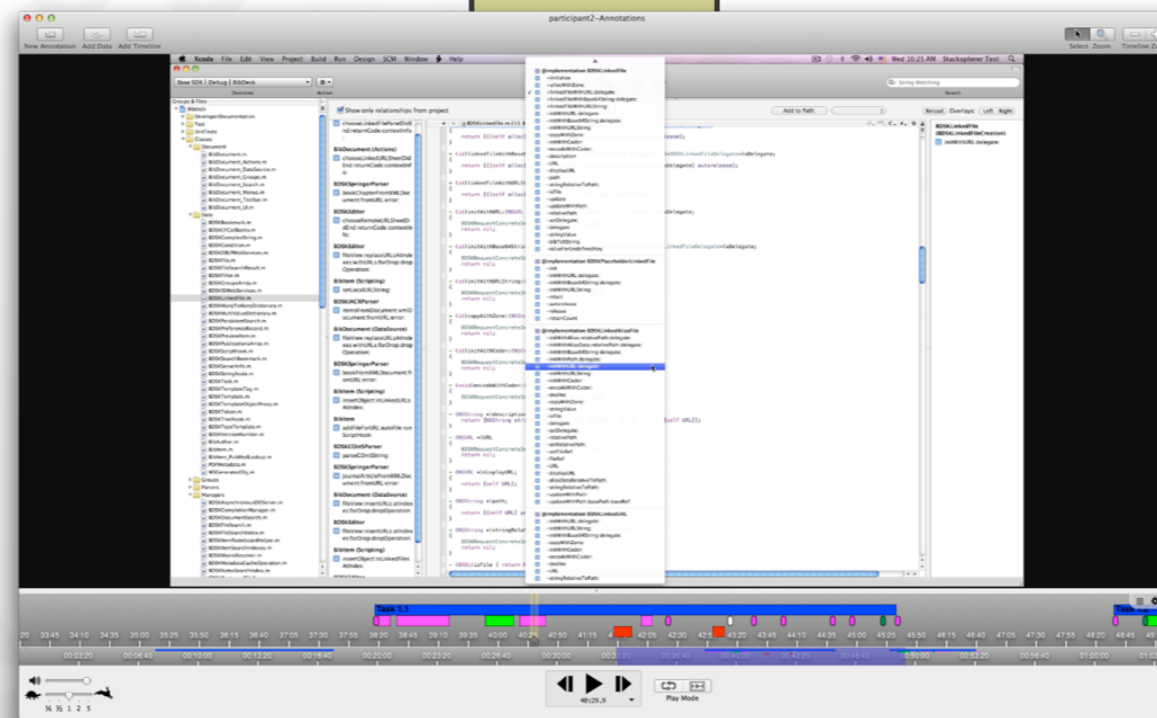
$$I_2=(p_{1,1}, \ldots, p_{1024,768})$$
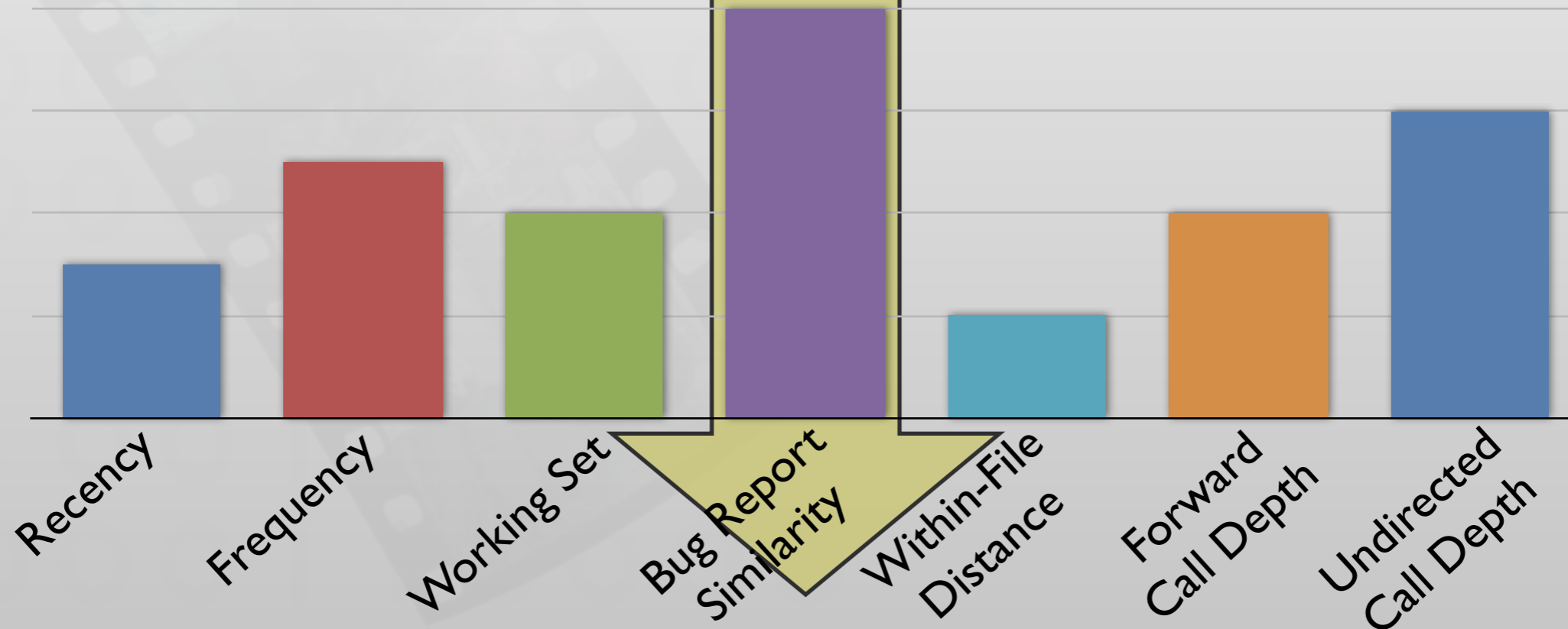
F1 F2 F3 F4 F5 = F1 F2 F3 F4 F5

1. Features
2. Transformations

[Piorkowski2011, Modeling programmer navigation: A head-to-head empirical evaluation of predictive models]

$$H=(m_1, ..., m_i)$$

Prediction Accuracy

Recency | Frequency | Working Set | Bug Report Similarity | Within-File Distance | Forward Call Depth | Undirected Call Depth

A Predictor

$H=(m$

Navigation History

$H = (a, b, a, d)$

M

All methods known
to developer at time
i

M

A

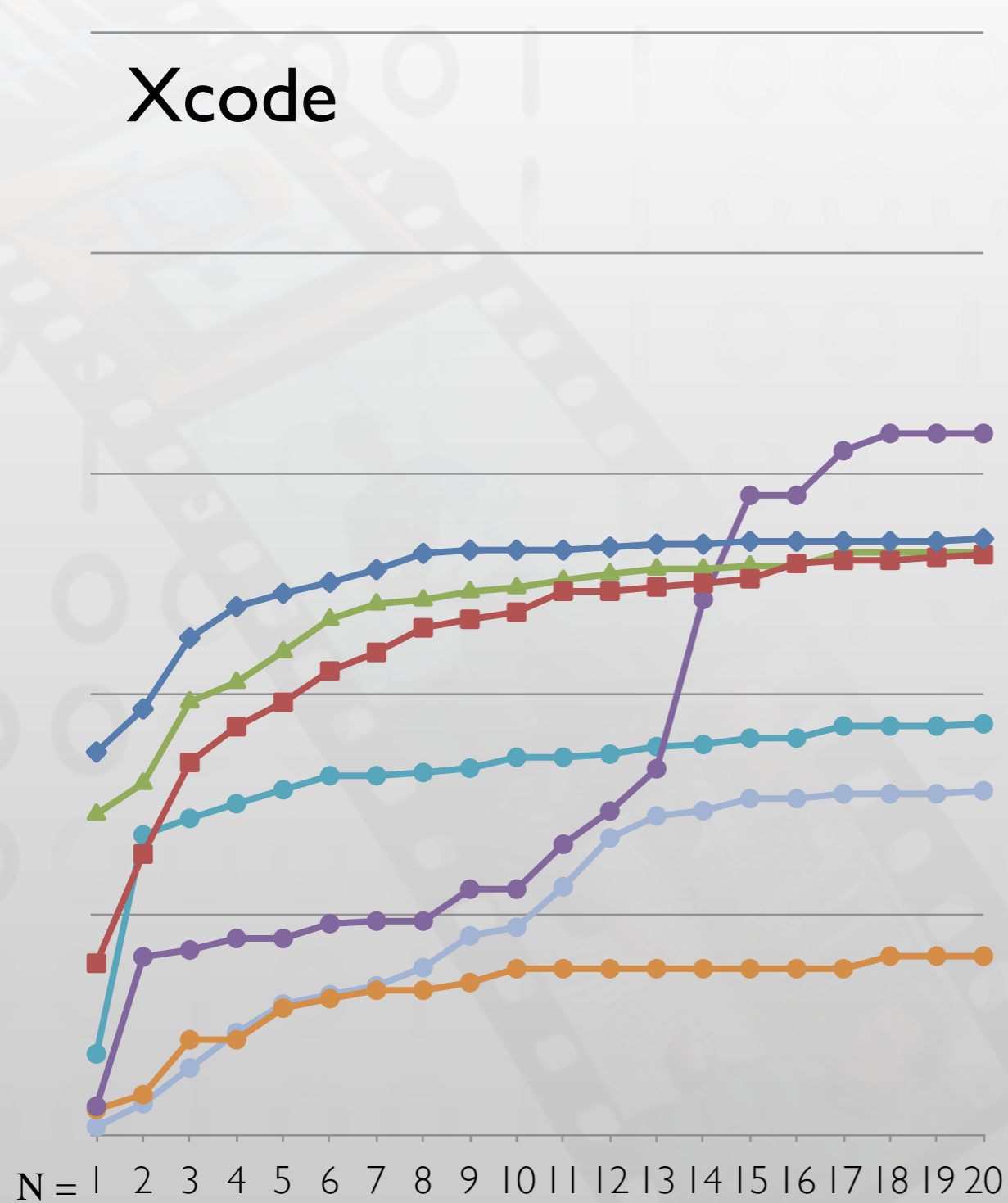Activation value for
each method in

A

A

R

Rank-transformed
version of

R

R

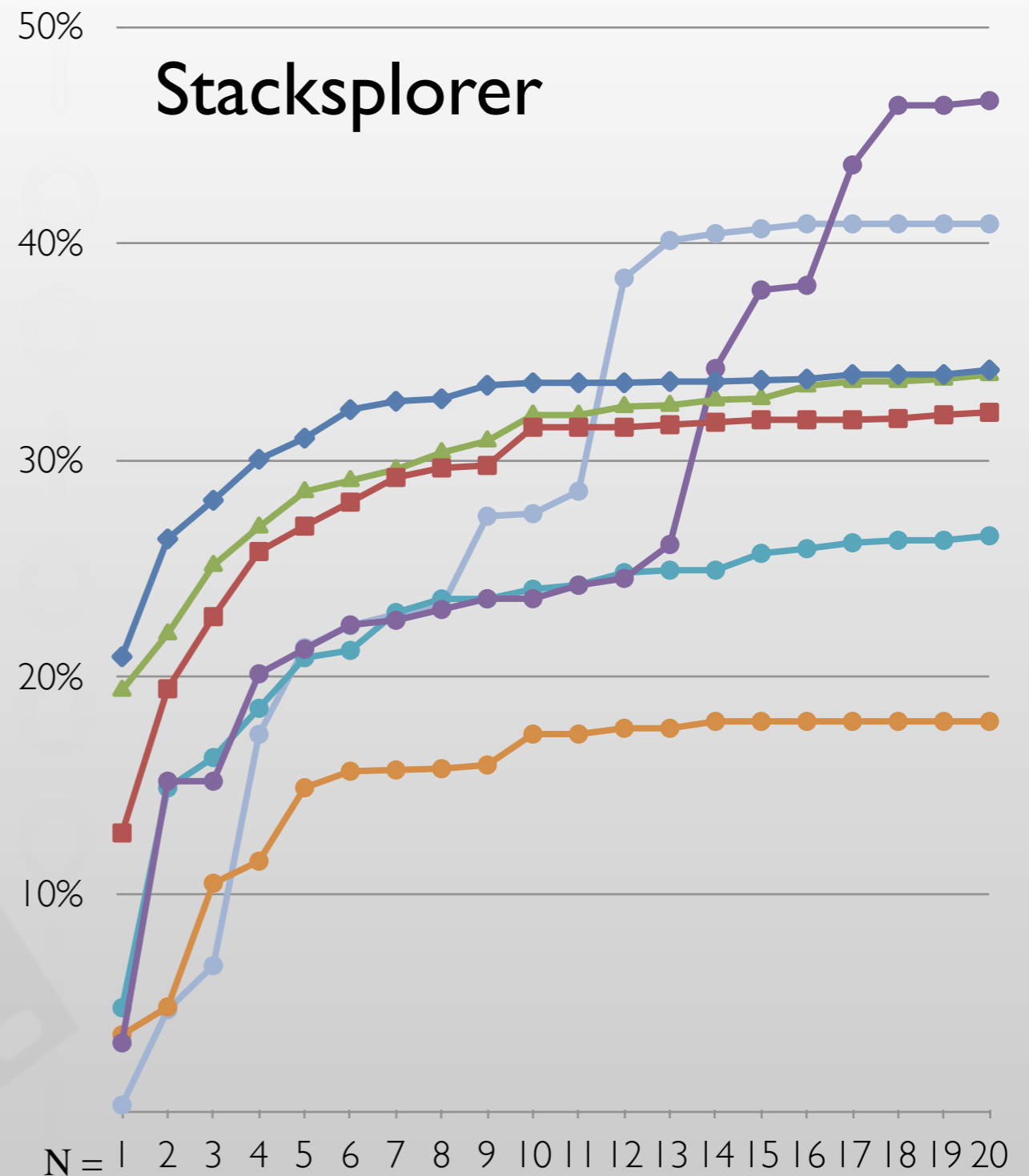Result: N top-ranked methods

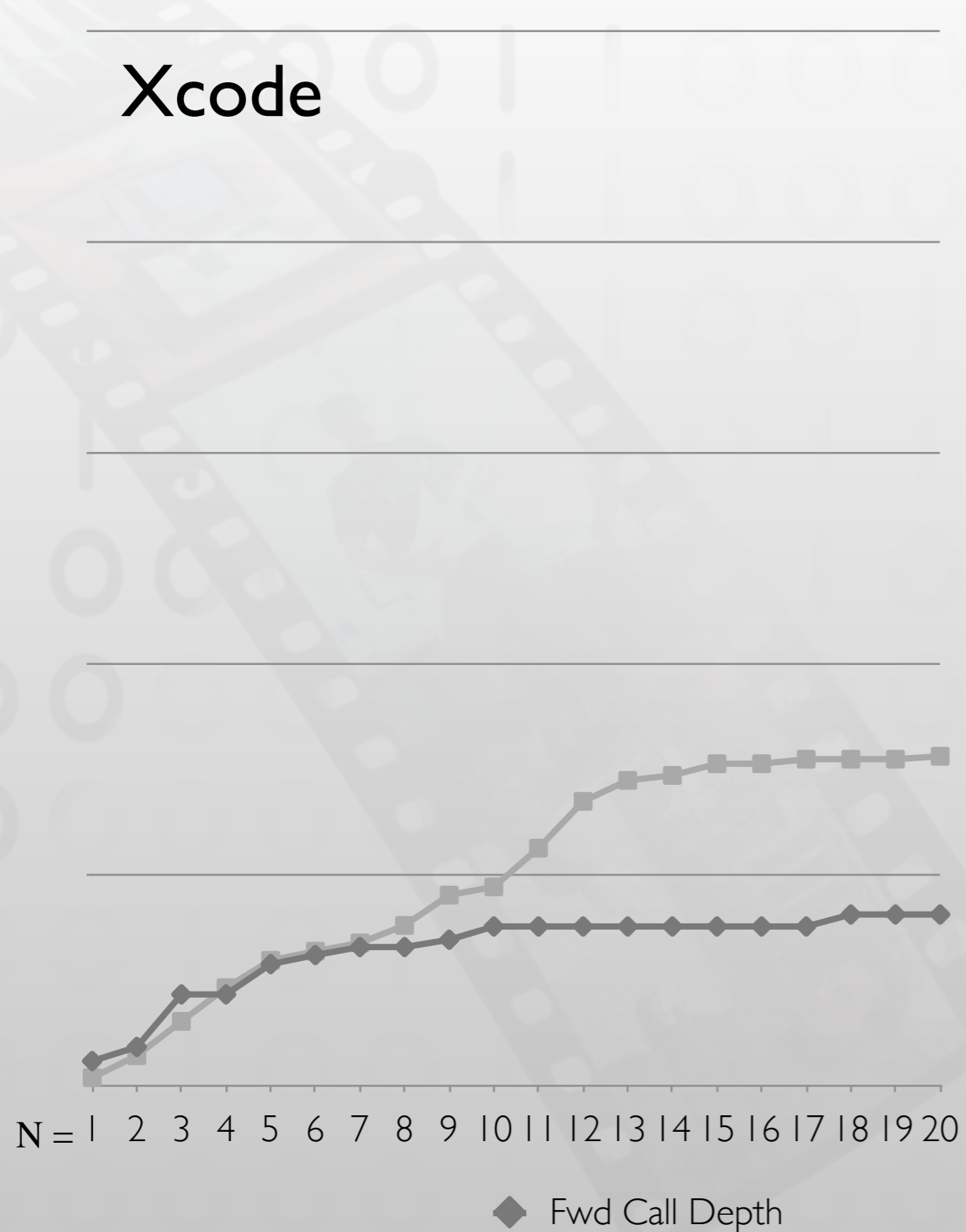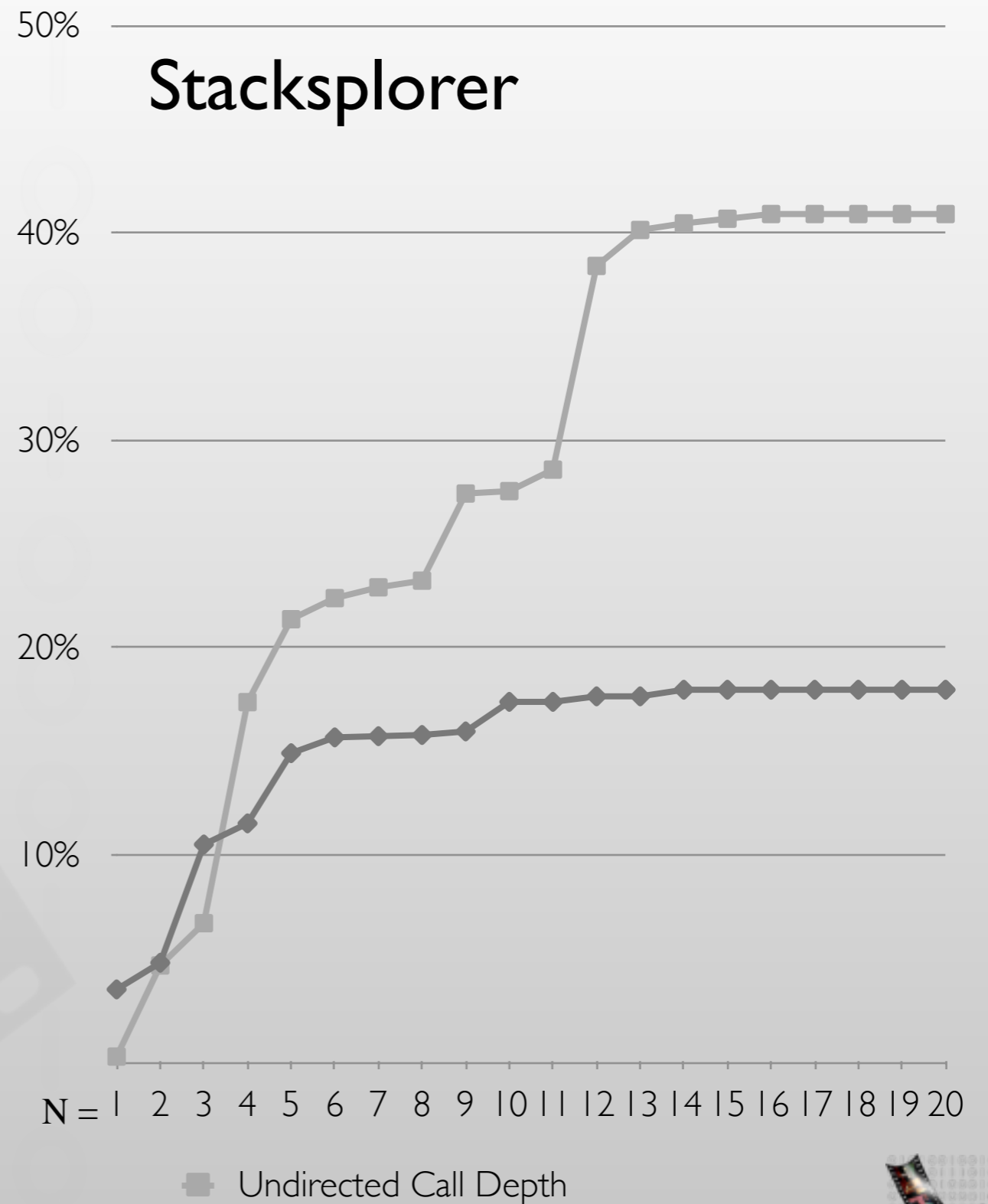# Prediction Accuracy

Xcode

Stacksplorer

Legend:
- Recency
- Frequency
- Working Set
- Bug Report Similarity
- Within File Distance
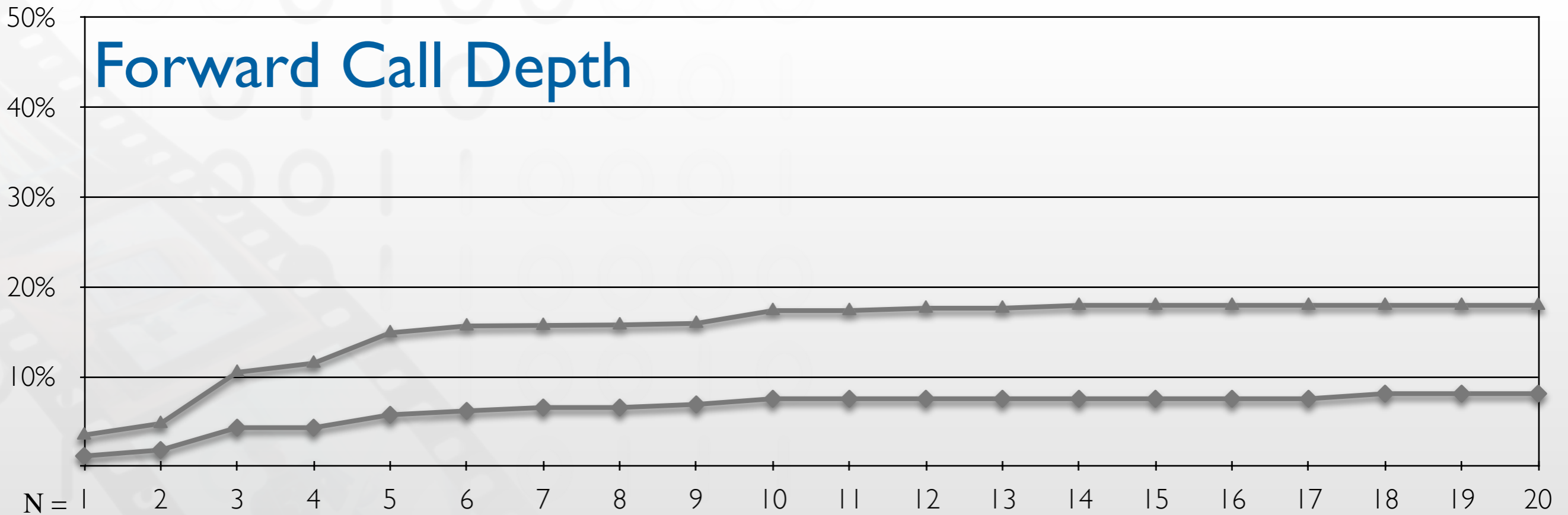- Fwd Call Depth
- Undirected Call Depth
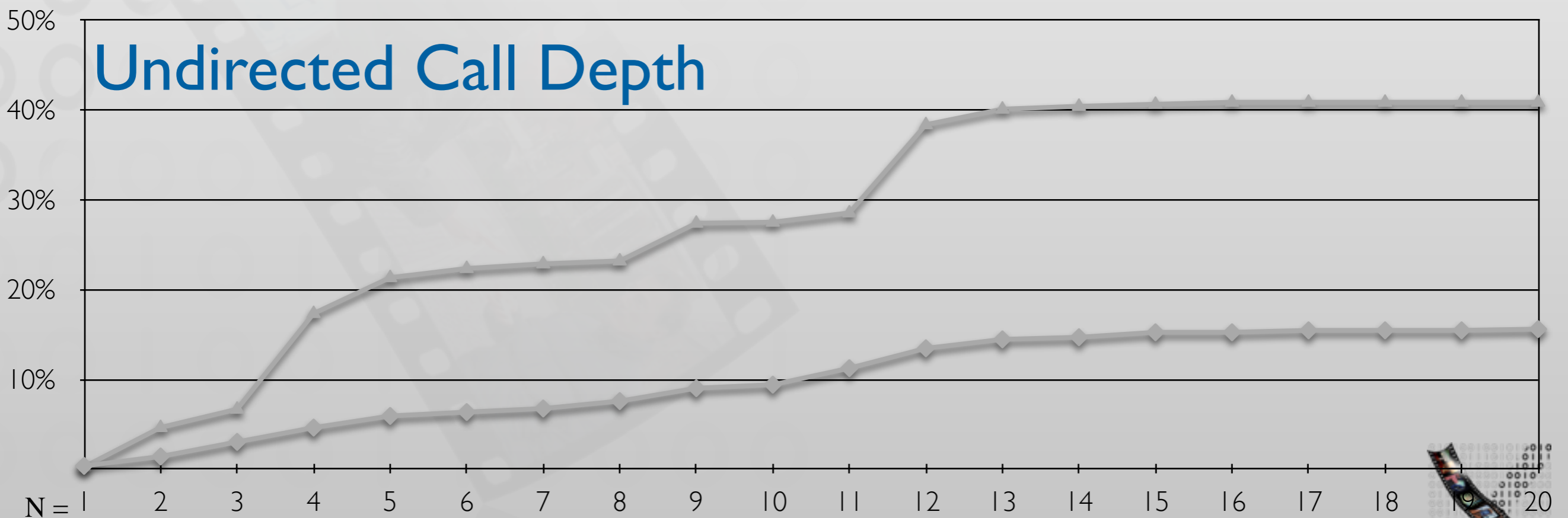
Prediction Accuracy

Xcode

Stacksplorer

N = 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

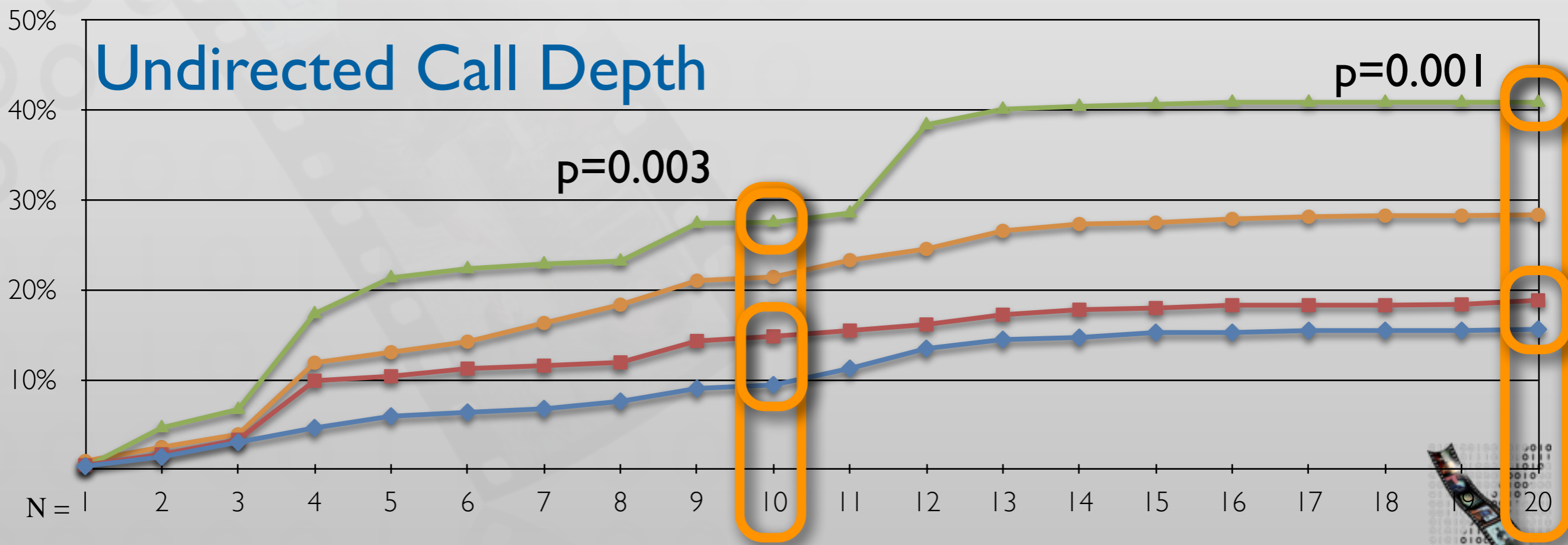N = 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

◆ Fwd Call Depth

■ Undirected Call Depth

Forward Call Depth

Undirected Call Depth

Forward Call Depth

p=0.002   p=0.001

Xcode ◆   Call Hierarchy ■   Stacksplorer ▲   Blaze ●

Undirected Call Depth

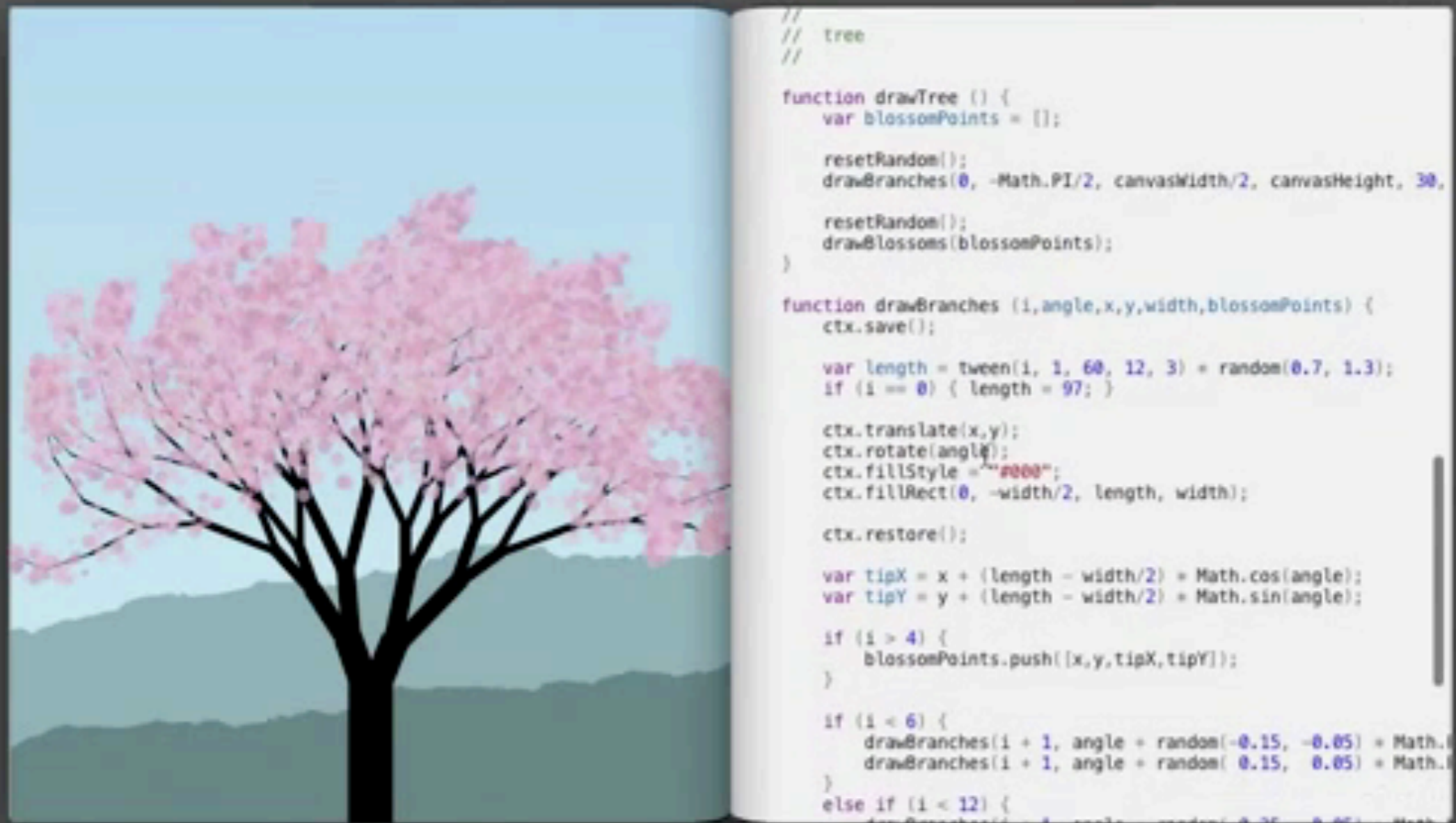p=0.003   p=0.001

Away from static analysis only

Design

Analyze

Implement

[Brandt2010, Example-centric programming: integrating web search into the development environment]

// Introducing Codelets...

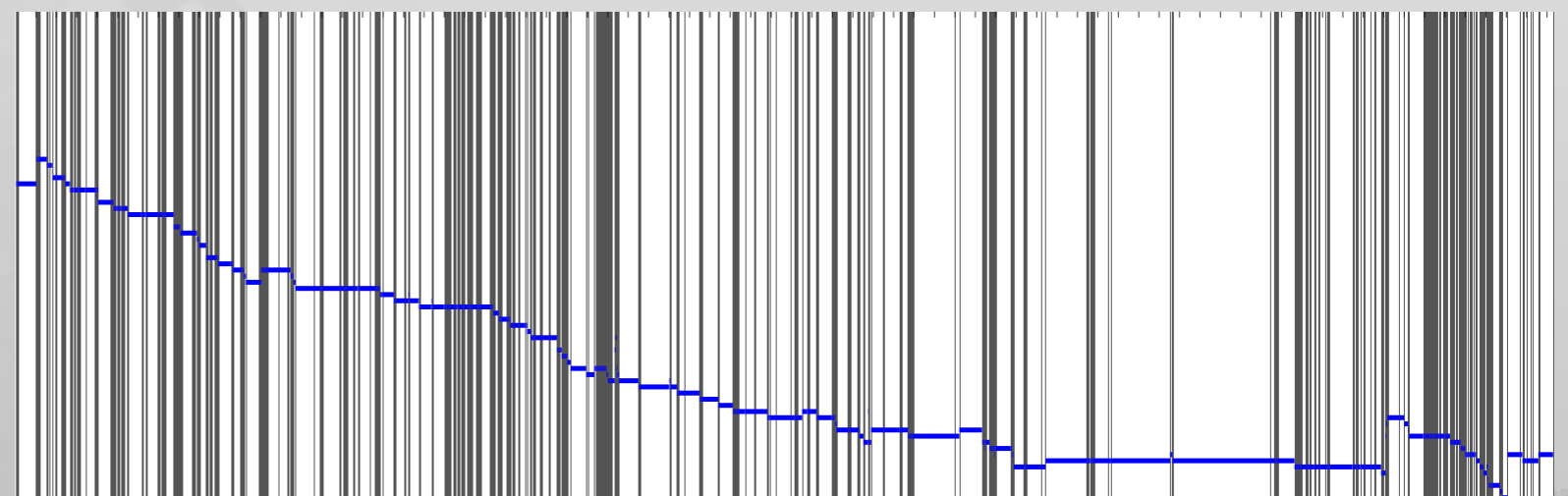[Oney2012, Codelets: Linking Interactive Documentation and Example Code in the Editor]
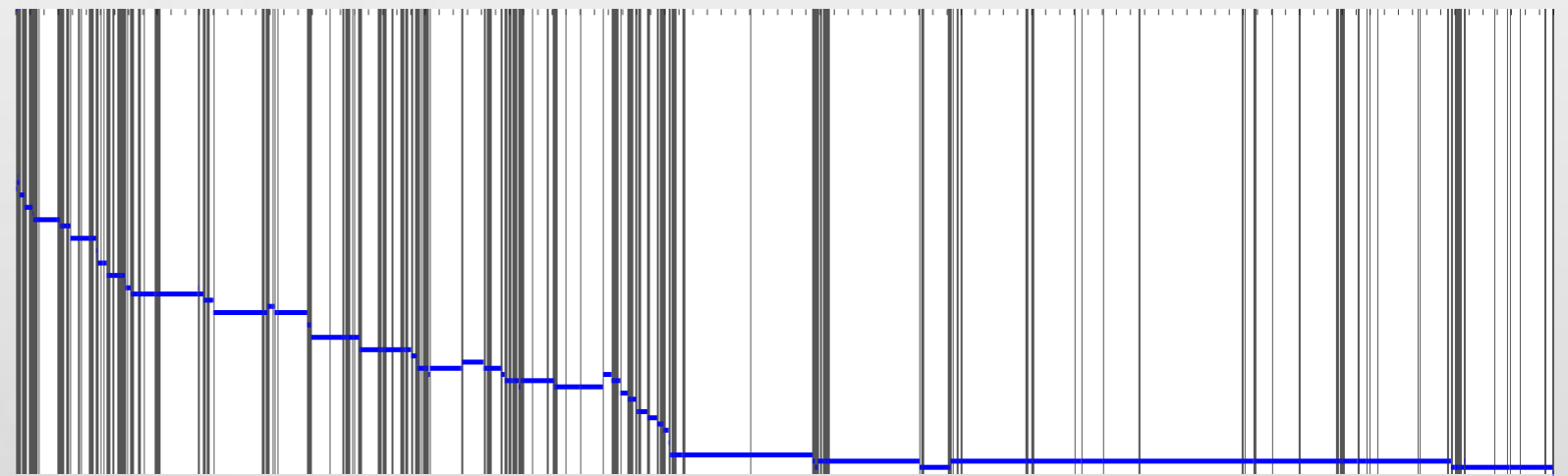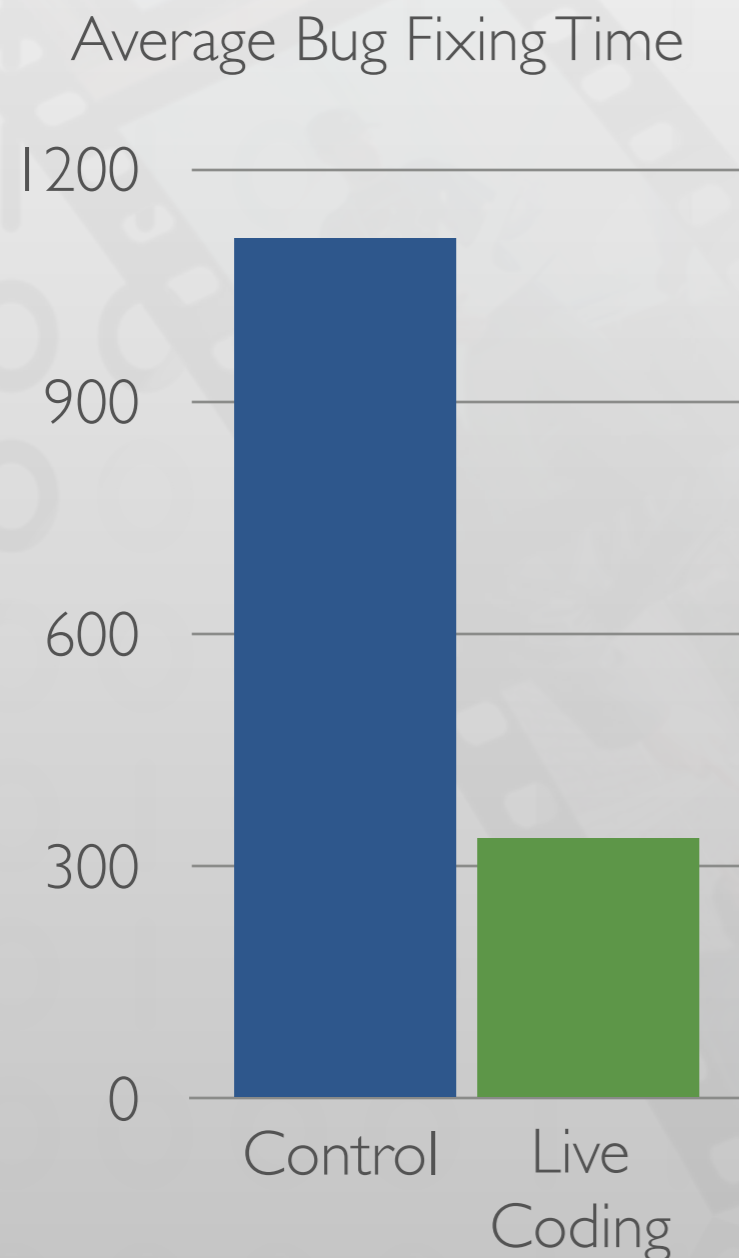
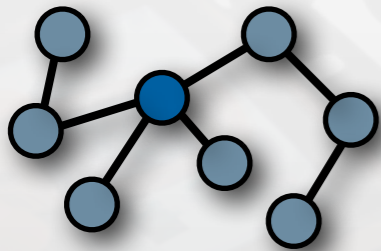[Victor2012, Inventing on Principle]

Demo

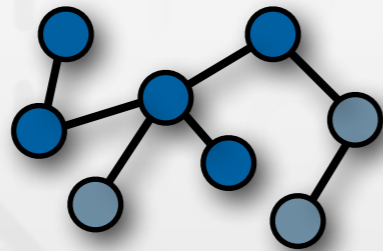# Live Coding Affects Coding Behavior

[Krämer2014, to appear, How Live Coding Affects Developers' Coding Behavior]
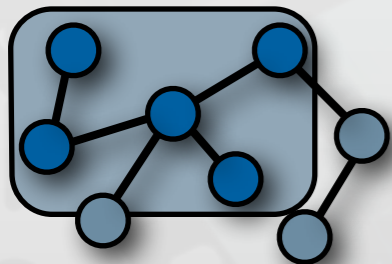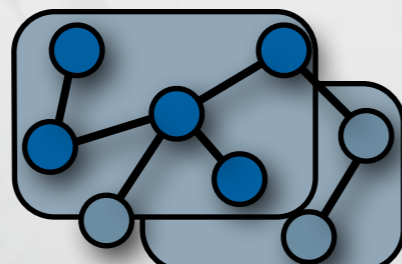
Summary

Finding focus points

Expanding focus points

Understanding a subgraph

Questions over groups of subgraphs