Carnegie Mellon University

Static and Dynamic Analysis

17-313, Foundations of Software Engineering, Fall 2022

S3D
Software and Societal Systems Department

Administrivia

- HW4: Ethical Reflection due Thursday (Nov 10)

Learning Goals

- Gain an understanding of the relative strengths and weaknesses of static and dynamic analysis
- Examine several popular analysis tools and understand their use cases
- Understand how analysis tools are used in large open source software

Activity: Analyze the Python program statically

```
def n2s(n: int, b: int):
  if n <= 0: return '0'
  r = ''
  while n > 0:
    u = n % b
    if u >= 10:
      u = chr(ord('A') + u-10)
    n = n // b
    r = str(u) + r
  return r
```

1. What are the set of data types taken by variable `u` at any point in the program?
2. Can the variable `u` be a negative number?
3. Will this function always return a value?
4. Can there ever be a division by zero?
5. Will the returned value ever contain a minus sign '-'?

What static analysis can and cannot do

- Type-checking is well established
  - Set of data types taken by variables at any point
  - Can be used to prevent type errors (e.g. Java) or warn about potential type errors (e.g. Python)

- Checking for problematic patterns in syntax is easy and fast
  - Is there a comparison of two Java strings using `==`?
  - Is there an array access `a[i]` without an enclosing bounds check for `i`?

- Reasoning about termination is impossible in general
  - Halting problem

- Reasoning about exact values is hard, but conservative analysis via abstraction is possible
  - Is the bounds check before `a[i]` guaranteeing that `I` is within bounds?
  - Can the divisor ever take on a zero value?
  - Could the result of a function call be `42`?
  - Will this multi-threaded program give me a deterministic result?
  - Be prepared for “MAYBE”

- Verifying some advanced properties is possible but expensive
  - CI-based static analysis usually over-approximates conservatively

The Bad News: Rice's Theorem

Every static analysis is necessarily incomplete, unsound, undecidable, or a combination thereof

> "Any nontrivial property about the language recognized by a Turing machine is undecidable."

Henry Gordon Rice, 1953

Static Analysis is well suited to detecting certain defects

- **Security:** Buffer overruns, improperly validated input…
- **Memory safety:** Null dereference, uninitialized data…
- **Resource leaks:** Memory, OS resources…
- **API Protocols:** Device drivers; real time libraries; GUI frameworks
- **Exceptions:** Arithmetic/library/user-defined
- **Encapsulation:**
  - Accessing internal data, calling private functions…
- **Data races:**
  - Two threads access the same data without synchronization

Activity: Analyze the Python program dynamically

```
def n2s(n: int, b: int):
  if n <= 0: return '0'
  r = ''
  while n > 0:
    u = n % b
    if u >= 10:
      u = chr(ord('A') + u-10)
    n = n // b
    r = str(u) + r
  return r

print(n2s(12, 10))
```

1. What are the set of data types taken by variable `u` at any point in the program?
2. Did the variable `u` ever contain a negative number?
3. For how many iterations did the while loop execute?
4. Was there ever be a division by zero?
5. Did the returned value ever contain a minus sign '-'?

Dynamic analysis reasons about program executions

- Tells you properties of the program that were definitely observed
  - Code coverage
  - Performance profiling
  - Type profiling
  - Testing

- In practice, implemented by program *instrumentation*
  - Think “Automated logging”
  - Slows down execution speed by a small amount

Static Analysis

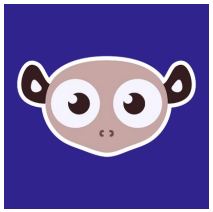
- Requires only source code
- Conservatively reasons about all possible inputs and program paths
- Reported warnings may contain false positives
- Can report all warnings of a particular class of problems
- Advanced techniques like verification can prove certain complex properties, but rarely run in CI due to cost

Dynamic Analysis

- Requires successful build + test inputs
- Observes individual executions
- Reported problems are real, as observed by a witness input
- Can only report problems that are seen. Highly dependent on test inputs. Subject to false negatives
- Advanced techniques like symbolic execution can prove certain complex properties, but rarely run in CI due to cost

Static Analysis Tools

Tools for Static Analysis



Static analysis can be applied to all attributes

- Find bugs
- Refactor code
- Keep your code stylish!
- Identify code smells
- Measure quality
- Find usability and accessibility issues
- Identify bottlenecks and improve performance

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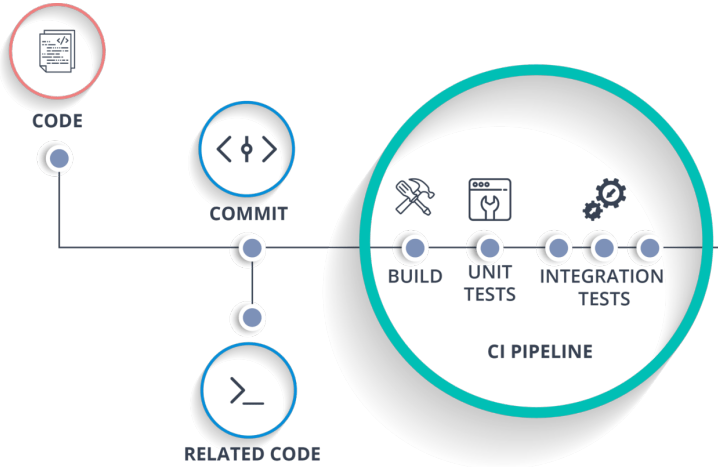
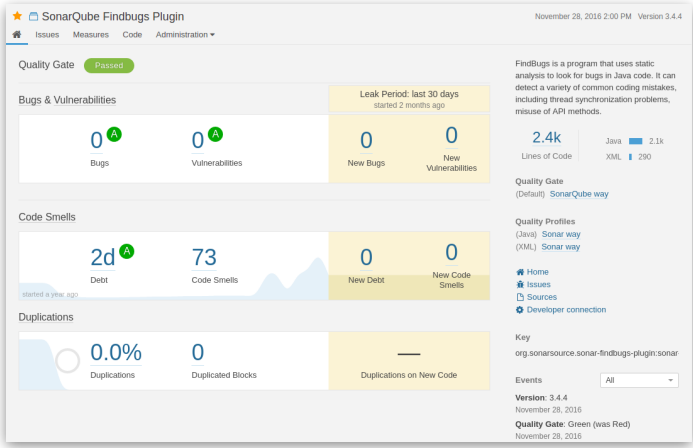
Static analysis is a key part of continuous integration





Travis CI

GitHub Actions

sonarqube

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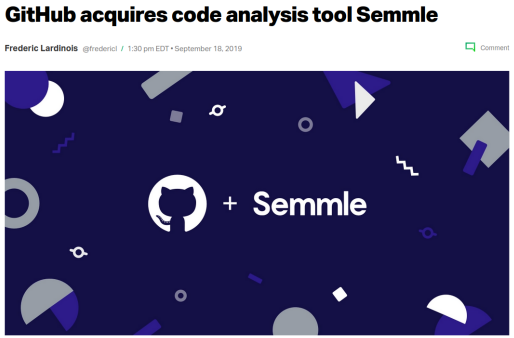
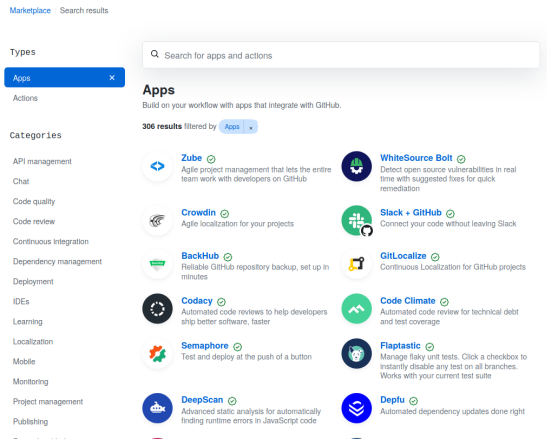
Static analysis is a growing industry





GitHub

snyk

https://www.sdxcentral.com/articles/news/snyk-secures-150m-snags-1b-valuation/2020/01/
https://techcrunch.com/2019/09/18/github-acquires-code-analysis-tool-semmle/
https://github.com/marketplace

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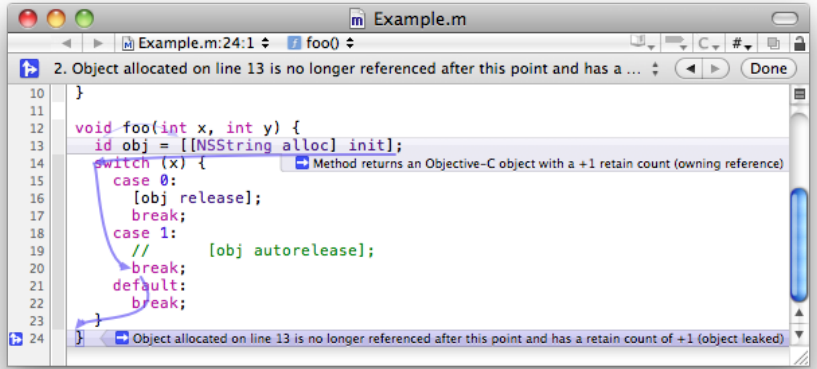
Static analysis is also integrated into IDEs

cppcoreguidelines.cpp

```
1  // To enable only C++ Core Guidelines checks
2  // go to Settings/Preferences | Editor | Inspections | C/C++ | Clang-Tidy
3  // and provide: -*,cppcoreguidelines-* in options
4
5  void fill_pointer(int* arr, const int num) {
6      for(int i = 0; i < num; ++i) {
7          arr[i] = 0;
8      }
9  }
10
11 void fill_array(int ind) {
12     int arr[3] = {1,2,3};
13     arr[ind] = 0;
14 }
15
16 void cast_away_const(const int& magic_num)
17 {
18     const_cast<int&>(magic_num) = 42;
19 }
20
```

Do not use pointer arithmetic



https://clang-analyzer.llvm.org

What makes a good static analysis tool?

- Static analysis should be **fast**
  - Don’t hold up development velocity
  - This becomes more important as code scales
- Static analysis should report **few false positives**
  - Otherwise developers will start to ignore warnings and alerts, and quality will decline
- Static analysis should be **continuous**
  - Should be part of your continuous integration pipeline
  - Diff-based analysis is even better -- don’t analyse the entire codebase; just the changes
- Static analysis should be **informative**
  - Messages that help the developer to quickly locate and address the issue
  - Ideally, it should suggest or automatically apply fixes

https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2010/2/69354-a-few-billion-lines-of-code-later/fulltext

Linters

Cheap, fast, and lightweight static source analysis

https://www.perforce.com/blog/qac/what-lint-code-and-why-linting-important

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Linters for Maintainability

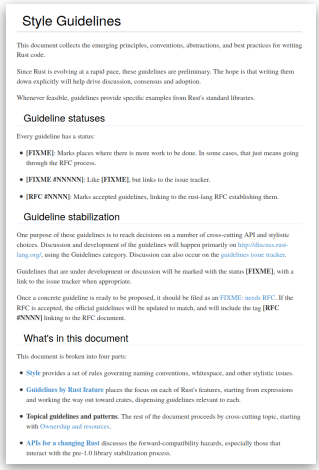
Use linters to improve maintainability

Why? We spend more time reading code than writing it.

- Developers spend most of their time maintaining code
  - Various estimates of the exact %, some as high as 80%
- Code is ownership is usually shared
- The original owner of some code may move on
- Code conventions make it easier for other developers to quickly understand your code

Use Style Guidelines to facilitate communication

- Indentation
- Comments
- Line length
- Naming
- Directory structure
- …



Guidelines are inherently opinionated, but **consistency** is the important point.
Agree to a set of conventions and stick to them.

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/ | https://google.github.io/styleguide/ | https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0008

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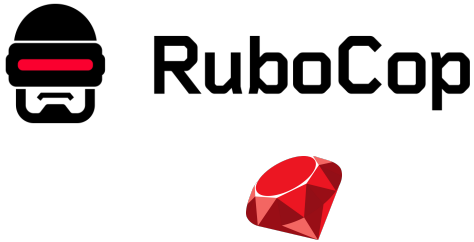
Use linters to enforce style guidelines

Don’t rely on manual inspection during code review!

Java™



python™

https://checkstyle.sourceforge.io/

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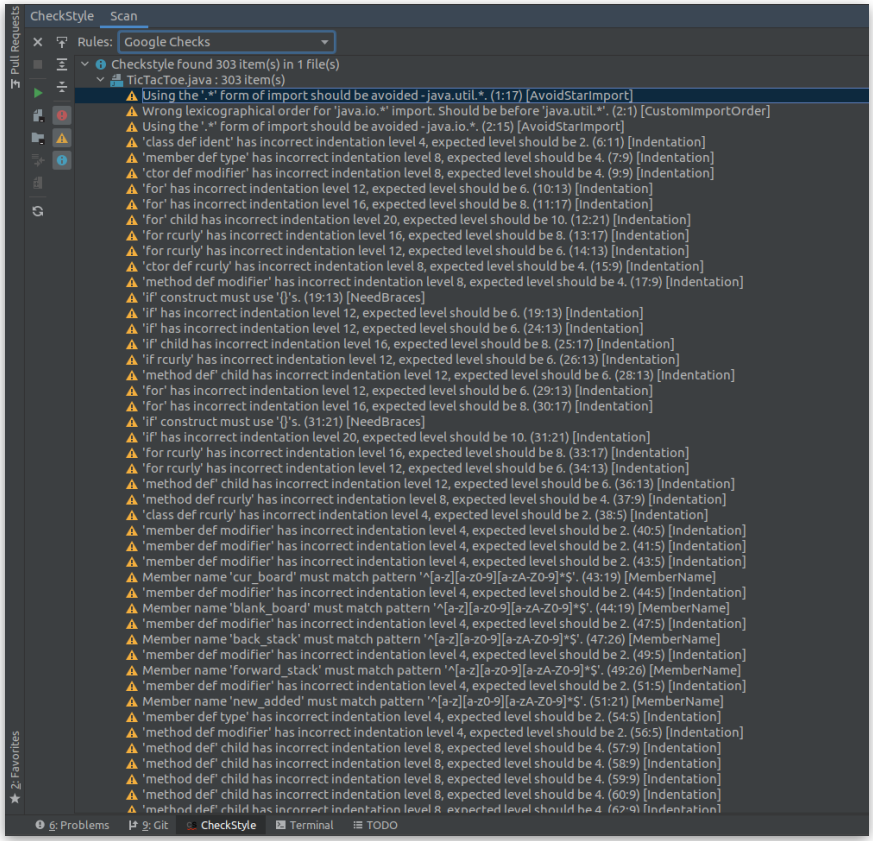
Example: CheckStyle

```
<module name="WhitespaceAround">
  <property name="allowEmptyConstructors" value="true"/>
  <property name="allowEmptyLambdas" value="true"/>
  <property name="allowEmptyMethods" value="true"/>
  <property name="allowEmptyTypes" value="true"/>
  <property name="allowEmptyLoops" value="true"/>
  <property name="ignoreEnhancedForColon" value="false"/>
  <property name="tokens"
            value="ASSIGN, BAND, BAND_ASSIGN, BOR, BOR_ASSIGN, BSR, BSR_ASSIGN, BXOR,
                BXOR_ASSIGN, COLON, DIV, DIV_ASSIGN, DO_WHILE, EQUAL, GE, GT, LAMBDA, LAND,
                LCURLY, LE, LITERAL_CATCH, LITERAL_DO, LITERAL_ELSE, LITERAL_FINALLY,
                LITERAL_FOR, LITERAL_IF, LITERAL_RETURN, LITERAL_SWITCH, LITERAL_SYNCHRONIZED,
                LITERAL_TRY, LITERAL_WHILE, LOR, LT, MINUS, MINUS_ASSIGN, MOD, MOD_ASSIGN,
                NOT_EQUAL, PLUS, PLUS_ASSIGN, QUESTION, RCURLY, SL, SLIST, SL_ASSIGN, SR,
                SR_ASSIGN, STAR, STAR_ASSIGN, LITERAL_ASSERT, TYPE_EXTENSION_AND"/>
  <message key="ws.notFollowed"
           value="WhitespaceAround: ''{0}'' is not followed by whitespace. Empty blocks may only
  <message key="ws.notPreceded"
           value="WhitespaceAround: ''{0}'' is not preceded with whitespace."/>
</module>
```

```
<module name="Indentation">
  <property name="basicOffset" value="2"/>
  <property name="braceAdjustment" value="2"/>
  <property name="caseIndent" value="2"/>
  <property name="throwsIndent" value="4"/>
  <property name="lineWrappingIndentation" value="4"/>
  <property name="arrayInitIndent" value="2"/>
</module>
```

...

https://github.com/checkstyle/checkstyle/blob/master/src/main/resources/google_checks.xml




```java
@Override
public boolean equals(Object o) {
    if (o == this)
        return true;
```

```java
private Board cur_board;
private Board blank_board;
```

```java
public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
    TicTacToe tictactoe = new TicTacToe();
```

Integrate style checking into your CI

```
plugins {
    id 'checkstyle'
}

...

checkstyle {
  ignoreFailures = true
  toolVersion = "6.7"
  sourceSets = [sourceSets.main]
}
```

Travis CI

GitHub Actions

```yaml
name: Tox lint checking
on: [pull_request]
jobs:
  build:
    runs-on: ubuntu-20.04
    steps:
    - uses: actions/checkout@v2
    - name: Install Python
      uses: actions/setup-python@v2
      with:
        python-version: 3.9.5
    - name: Install pipenv
      run: pip install pipenv==2021.5.29
    - id: cache-pipenv
      uses: actions/cache@v2
      with:
        path: ~/.local/share/virtualenvs
        key: ${{ runner.os }}-pipenv-${{ hashFiles('**/Pipfile.lock') }}
    - name: Install package
      if: steps.cache-pipenv.outputs.cache-hit != 'true'
      run: |
        pipenv install --dev
    - name: Flake8
      run: pipenv run flake8 src
    - name: MyPy
      run: pipenv run mypy src
```

https://docs.gradle.org/current/userguide/checkstyle_plugin.html

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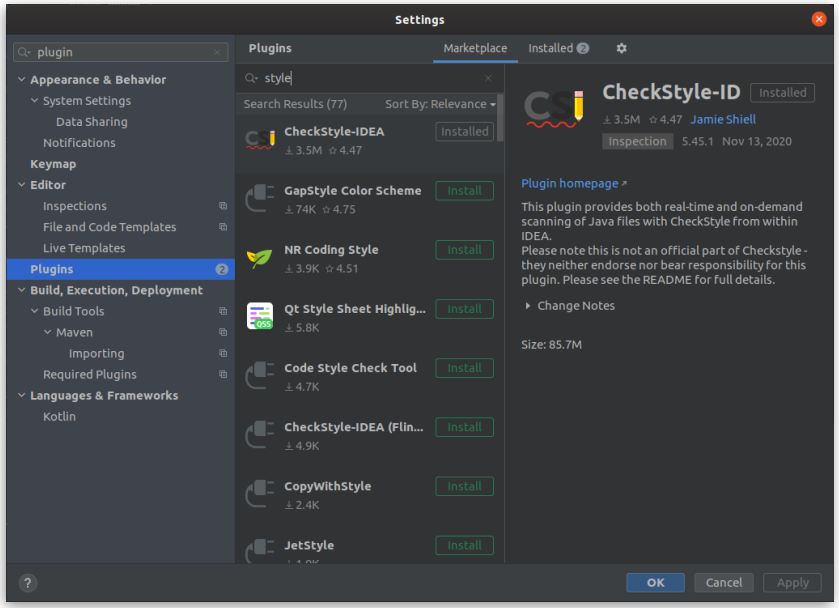
Automatically reformat your existing code
Developer time is valuable!



https://www.jetbrains.com/help/idea/reformat-and-rearrange-code.html

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Take Home Message:
Style is an easy way to improve readability

- Everyone has their own opinion (e.g., tabs vs. spaces)
- Agree to a convention and stick to it
  - Use continuous integration to enforce it
- Use automated tools to fix issues in existing code

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Pattern-Based Static Analyzers

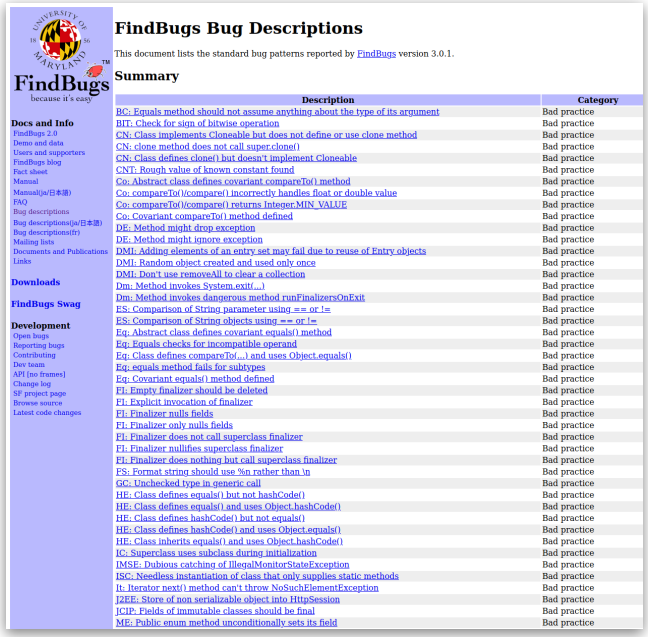
Cheap and fast tools that scan Abstract Syntax Trees for common developer mistakes known as patterns

clang-tidy

https://github.com/analysis-tools-dev/static-analysis

SpotBugs

- Bad Practice
- Correctness
- Performance
- Internationalization
- Malicious Code
- Multithreaded Correctness
- Security
- Dodgy Code



FindBugs
because it's easy

Docs and Info
FindBugs 2.0
Demo and data
Users and supporters
FindBugs blog
Fact sheet
Manual
Manual(ja/日本語)
FAQ
Bug descriptions
Bug descriptions(ja/日本語)
Bug descriptions(fr)
Mailing lists
Documents and Publications
Links

Downloads

FindBugs Swag

Development
Open bugs
Reporting bugs
Contributing
Dev team
API [no frames]
Change log
SF project page
Browse source
Latest code changes

FindBugs Bug Descriptions

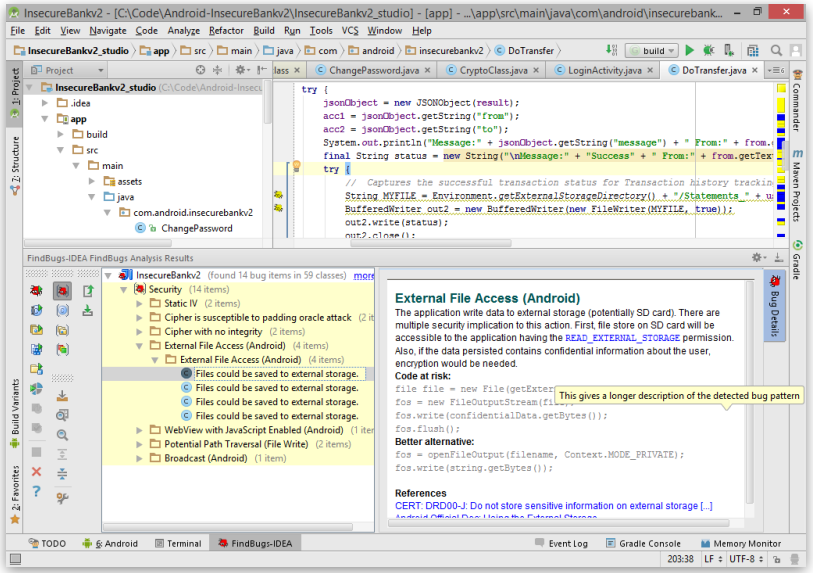
This document lists the standard bug patterns reported by FindBugs version 3.0.1.

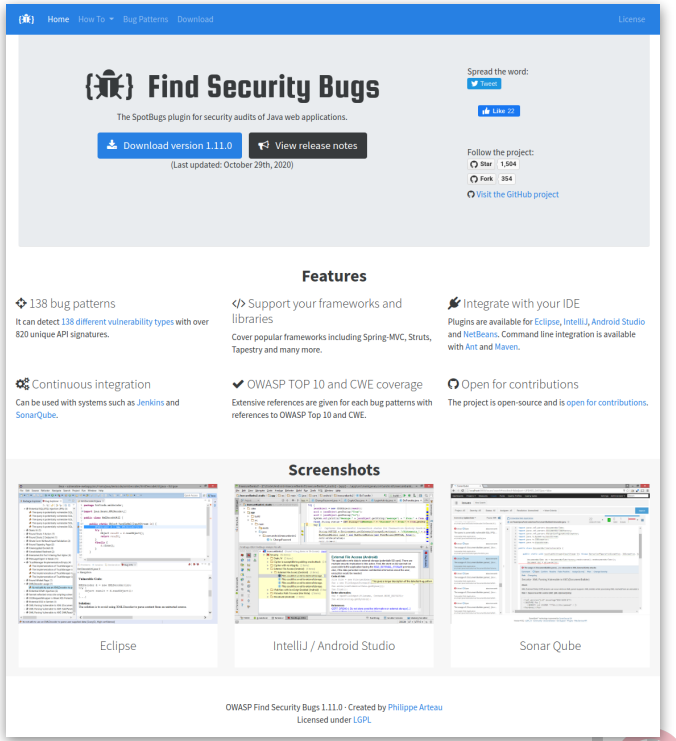
Summary

Description	Category
BC: Equals method should not assume anything about the type of its argument	Bad practice
BIT: Check for sign of bitwise operation	Bad practice
CN: Class implements Cloneable but does not define or use clone method	Bad practice
CN: clone method does not call super.clone()	Bad practice
CN: Class defines clone() but doesn't implement Cloneable	Bad practice
CNT: Rough value of known constant found	Bad practice
Co: Abstract class defines covariant compareTo() method	Bad practice
Co: compareTo()/compare() incorrectly handles float or double value	Bad practice
Co: compareTo()/compare() returns Integer.MIN_VALUE	Bad practice
Co: Covariant compareTo() method defined	Bad practice
DE: Method might drop exception	Bad practice
DE: Method might ignore exception	Bad practice
DMI: Adding elements of an entry set may fail due to reuse of Entry objects	Bad practice
DMI: Random object created and used only once	Bad practice
DMI: Don't use removeAll to clear a collection	Bad practice
Dm: Method invokes System.exit(...)	Bad practice
Dm: Method invokes dangerous method runFinalizersOnExit	Bad practice
ES: Comparison of String parameter using == or !=	Bad practice
ES: Comparison of String objects using == or !=	Bad practice
Eq: Abstract class defines covariant equals() method	Bad practice
Eq: Equals checks for incompatible operand	Bad practice
Eq: Class defines compareTo(...) and uses Object.equals()	Bad practice
Eq: equals method fails for subtypes	Bad practice
Eq: Covariant equals() method defined	Bad practice
FI: Empty finalizer should be deleted	Bad practice
FI: Explicit invocation of finalizer	Bad practice
FI: Finalizer nulls fields	Bad practice
FI: Finalizer only nulls fields	Bad practice
FI: Finalizer does not call superclass finalizer	Bad practice
FI: Finalizer nullifies superclass finalizer	Bad practice
FI: Finalizer does nothing but call superclass finalizer	Bad practice
FS: Format string should use %n rather than \n	Bad practice
GC: Unchecked type in generic call	Bad practice
HE: Class defines equals() but not hashCode()	Bad practice
HE: Class defines equals() and uses Object.hashCode()	Bad practice
HE: Class defines hashCode() but not equals()	Bad practice
HE: Class defines hashCode() and uses Object.equals()	Bad practice
HE: Class inherits equals() and uses Object.hashCode()	Bad practice
IC: Superclass uses subclass during initialization	Bad practice
IMSE: Dubious catching of IllegalMonitorStateException	Bad practice
ISC: Needless instantiation of class that only supplies static methods	Bad practice
It: Iterator next() method can't throw NoSuchElementException	Bad practice
J2EE: Store of non serializable object into HttpSession	Bad practice
JCIP: Fields of immutable classes should be final	Bad practice
ME: Public enum method unconditionally sets its field	Bad practice

http://findbugs.sourceforge.net/bugDescriptions.html
https://spotbugs.readthedocs.io/en/latest/bugDescriptions.html

SpotBugs can be extended with plugins





https://find-sec-bugs.github.io/

Bad Practice:

```
String x = new String("Foo");
String y = new String("Foo");

if (x == y) {
  System.out.println("x and y are the same!");
} else {
  System.out.println("x and y are different!");
}
```

Bad Practice: ES_COMPARING_STRINGS_WITH_EQ

Comparing strings with ==

```
String x = new String("Foo");
String y = new String("Foo");

if (x == y) {
if (x.equals(y)) {
  System.out.println("x and y are the same!");
} else {
  System.out.println("x and y are different!");
}
```

Performance:

```
public static String repeat(String string, int times)
{
  String output = string;
  for (int i = 1; i < times; ++i) {
    output = output + string;
  }
  return output;
}
```

Performance: SBSC_USE_STRINGBUFFER_CONCATENATION

Method concatenates strings using + in a loop

```
public static String repeat(String string, int times)
{
  String output = string;
  for (int i = 1; i < times; ++i) {
    output = output + string;
  }
  return output;
}
```

The method seems to be building a String using concatenation in a loop. In each iteration, the String is converted to a StringBuffer/StringBuilder, appended to, and converted back to a String. **This can lead to a cost quadratic in the number of iterations, as the growing string is recopied in each iteration.**

Performance: `SBSC_USE_STRINGBUFFER_CONCATENATION`

Method concatenates strings using + in a loop

```
public static String repeat(String string, int times)
{
  StringBuffer output = new StringBuffer(string);
  for (int i = 1; i < times; ++i) {
    output.append(string);
  }
  return output.toString();
}
```

Performance: SBSC_USE_STRINGBUFFER_CONCATENATION

Method concatenates strings using + in a loop

```
public static String repeat(String string, int times)
{
  int length = string.length() * times;
  StringBuffer output = new StringBuffer(length);
  for (int i = 0; i < times; ++i) {
    output.append(string);
  }
  return output.toString();
}
```

Correctness: Lots of issues here!

```
public class QwicsXid implements Xid {
  private byte[] globalTransactionId;
  private byte[] branchQualifier;
  private int formatId;
  ...

  @Override
  public byte[] getBranchQualifier() {
    return this.branchQualifier;
  }
  @Override
  public int getFormatId() {
    return this.getFormatId();
  }
  @Override
  public byte[] getGlobalTransactionId() {
    return this.getGlobalTransactionId();
  }
}
```

Description	Resource	Path
new java.sql.SQLException(Throwable) not thrown in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsDataSource.getConnection() [Scariest(1), High confidence]	QwicsDataSource.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
new java.sql.SQLException(Throwable) not thrown in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsDataSource.getPooledConnection() [Scariest(1), High confidence]	QwicsDataSource.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
new java.sql.SQLException(Throwable) not thrown in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsXADataSource.getXAConnection() [Scariest(1), High confidence]	QwicsXADataSource.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
Impossible downcast of toArray() result to javax.transaction.xa.Xid[] in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsXAResource.recover(int) [Scary(5), High confidence]	QwicsXAResource.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
Impossible downcast of toArray() result to javax.transaction.xa.Xid[] in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsXAResource.recover(int) [Scary(5), High confidence]	QwicsXAResource.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
Invocation of toString on x in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsMapResultSet.updateBytes(int, byte[]) [Scary(8), High confidence]	QwicsMapResultSet.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
Invocation of toString on x in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsMapResultSet.updateBytes(String, byte[]) [Scary(8), High confidence]	QwicsMapResultSet.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
There is an apparent infinite recursive loop in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsXid.getFormatId() [Scary(9), High confidence]	QwicsXid.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc
There is an apparent infinite recursive loop in org.qwics.jdbc.QwicsXid.getGlobalTransactionId() [Scary(9), High confidence]	QwicsXid.java	/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc

https://github.com/pbrune1973/qwics/blob/3b4ec904468eaed89ea890b5ae97ebaaa8e4a3e6/workspace/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc/QwicsXid.java
https://github.com/pbrune1973/qwics/issues/7

Correctness:

```
@Override
public Connection getConnection() throws SQLException {
  QwicsConnection con = new QwicsConnection(host, port);
  try {
    con.open();
  } catch (Exception e) {
    new SQLException(e);
  }
  return con;
}
```

https://github.com/pbrune1973/qwics/blob/3b4ec904468eaed89ea890b5ae97ebaaa8e4a3e6/workspace/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc/QwicsXid.java
https://github.com/pbrune1973/qwics/issues/7

Correctness:

```
@Override
public Connection getConnection() throws SQLException {
  QwicsConnection con = new QwicsConnection(host, port);
  try {
    con.open();
  } catch (Exception e) {
    throw new SQLException(e);
  }
  return con;
}
```

https://github.com/pbrune1973/qwics/blob/3b4ec904468eaed89ea890b5ae97ebaaa8e4a3e6/workspace/QwicsJDBCDriver/src/org/qwics/jdbc/QwicsXid.java
https://github.com/pbrune1973/qwics/issues/7

What are some of the problems with SpotBugs?

Google: Move static checks to the compiler

Developers can ignore warnings, but they can’t ignore build errors

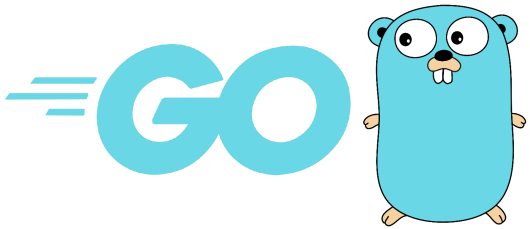
clang-tidy

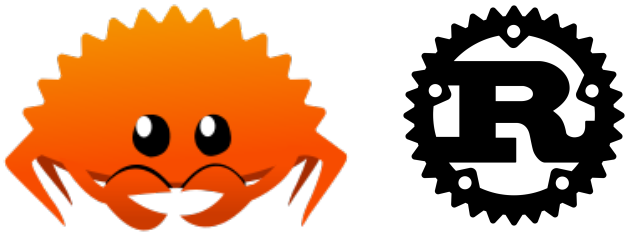
Error Prone

https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2018/4/226371-lessons-from-building-static-analysis-tools-at-google/fulltext

New languages have embraced the same idea

Code smells will cause the build to fail (e.g., dead code)





Challenges

- The analysis must produce zero false positives
  - Otherwise developers won't be able to build the code!
- The analysis needs to be really fast
  - Ideally < 100 ms
  - If it takes longer, developers will become irritated and lose productivity
- You can't just "turn on" a particular check
  - Every instance where that check fails will prevent existing code from building
  - There could be thousands of violations for a single check across large codebases

Challenges

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- You can't just "turn on" a particular check
  - Every instance where that check fails will prevent existing code from building
  - There could be thousands of violations for a single check across large codebases

S3D

Solution: Automatically patch existing bugs

```
public class StringIsEmpty {
  @BeforeTemplate
  boolean equalsEmptyString(String string) {
    return string.equals("");
  }

  @BeforeTemplate
  boolean lengthEquals0(String string) {
    return string.length() == 0;
  }

  @AfterTemplate
  @AlsoNegation
  boolean optimizedMethod(String string) {
    return string.isEmpty();
  }
}
```

@BeforeTemplate finds String expressions that match the body of the method.

@AfterTemplate rewrites matching String expressions to match the body of the method.

https://errorprone.info/docs/refaster

Solution: Automatically patch existing bugs

```
boolean b = someChained().methodCall().returningAString().length() == 0;
```

```
boolean b = someChained().methodCall().returningAString().isEmpty();
```

https://errorprone.info/docs/refaster

S3D

Summary: Linters

- Linters are cheap and fast static analysis tools!
- Style checkers can improve readability of code
- Pattern-based bug detectors catch common developer mistakes
  - Code smells, performance issues, correctness, …
  - They don’t know the intent of the program, leading to occasional false positives
  - They reveal issues that are genuine, but which we don’t sufficiently care about
  - The best tools automatically fix detected issues
  - Each developer mistake needs its own analyzer / AST checker
  - They *complement* but don’t *replace* testing

Java Checker Framework

Uses annotations to detect common errors

- Uses a conservative analysis to prove the absence of certain defects *
  - Null pointer errors, uninitialized fields, certain liveness issues, information leaks, SQL injections, bad regular expressions, incorrect physical units, bad format strings, …
  - C.f. SpotBugs which makes no safety guarantees
  - Assuming that code is annotated and those annotations are correct
- Uses annotations to enhance Java's type system

https://checkerframework.org/

Annotations can be applied to types and declarations

```
// return value
@InternedString intern() { ... }

// parameter
int compareTo(@NonNullString other) { ... }

// receiver ("this" parameter)
String toString(@TaintedMyClass this) { ... }

// generics: non-null list of interned Strings
@NonNullList<@InternedString> messages;

// arrays:  non-null array of interned Strings
@InternedString @NonNull[] messages;

// cast
myDate = (@InitializedDate) beingConstructed;
```

Detecting null pointer exceptions

- **@Nullable** indicates that an expression may be null
- **@NonNull** indicates that an expression must never be null
  - Rarely used because @NonNull is assumed by default
  - See documentation for other nullness annotations
- Guarantees that expressions annotated with @NonNull will **never** evaluate to null, forbids other expressions from being dereferenced

https://checkerframework.org/manual/#nullness-annotations

```java
import org.checkerframework.checker.nullness.qual.*;

public class NullnessExampleWithWarnings {
    public void example() {
        @NonNull String foo = "foo";
        String bar = null;

        foo = bar;
    }
}
```

```java
import org.checkerframework.checker.nullness.qual.*;

public class NullnessExampleWithWarnings {
    public void example() {
        @NonNull String foo = "foo";
        String bar = null;

        foo = bar;
    }
}
```

`@Nullable` is applied by default

```java
import org.checkerframework.checker.nullness.qual.*;

public class NullnessExampleWithWarnings {
    public void example() {
        @NonNull String foo = "foo";
        String bar = null;

        foo = bar;
    }
}
```

`@Nullable` is applied by default

Error: [assignment.type.incompatible] incompatible types in assignment.
found : @Initialized **@Nullable** String
required: @UnknownInitialization **@NonNull** String

```
import org.checkerframework.checker.nullness.qual.*;

public class NullnessExampleWithWarnings {
  public void example() {
    @NonNull String foo = "foo";
    String bar = null;   // @Nullable

    if (bar != null) {
      foo = bar;
    }
  }
}
```

bar is refined to `@NonNull`

Is there a bug?

```
public String getDay(int dayIndex) {
  String day = null;
  switch (dayIndex) {
    case 0: day = "Monday";
    case 1: day = "Tuesday";
    case 2: day = "Wednesday";
    case 3: day = "Thursday";
  }
  return day;
}

public void example() {
  @NonNull String dayName = getDay(4);
  System.out.println("Today is " + dayName);
}
```

Is there a bug? Yes.

```
public String getDay(int dayIndex) {
  String day = null;
  switch (dayIndex) {
    case 0: day = "Monday";
    case 1: day = "Tuesday";
    case 2: day = "Wednesday";
    case 3: day = "Thursday";
  }
  return day;
}

public void example() {
  @NonNull String dayName = getDay(4);
  System.out.println("Today is " + dayName);
}
```

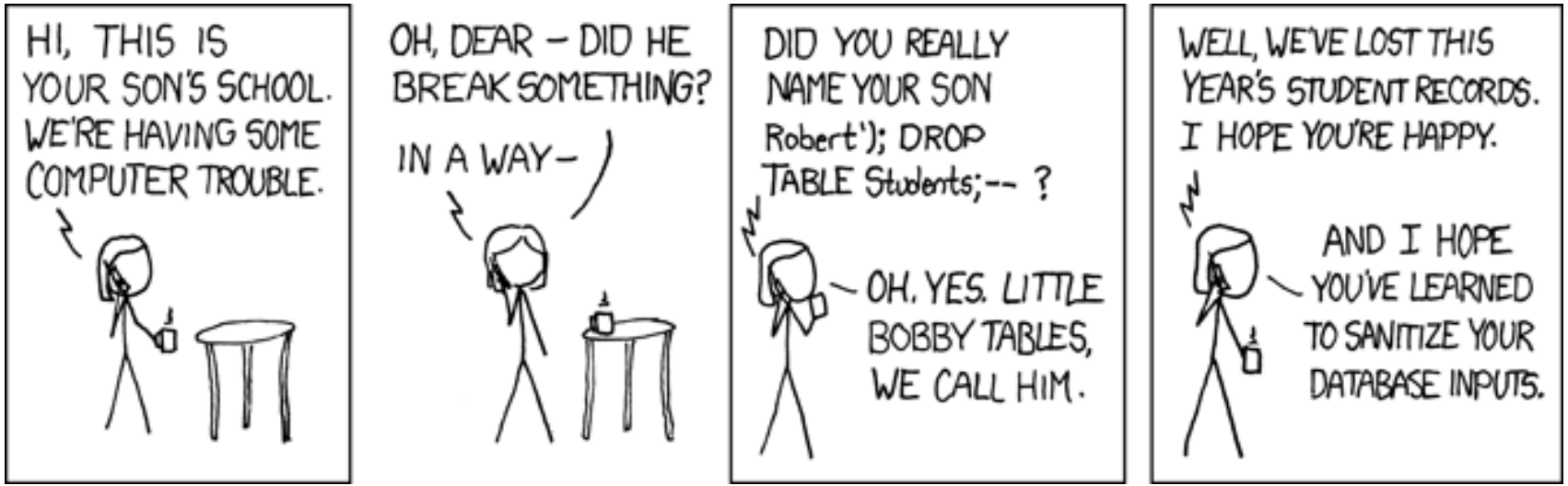
```
Error: [return.type.incompatible] incompatible types in return.
   type of expression: @Initialized @Nullable String
   method return type: @Initialized @NonNull String
```

Taint Analysis

Prevents untrusted (tainted) data from reaching sensitive locations (sinks)

- Tracks flow of sensitive information through the program
- Tainted inputs come from arbitrary, possibly malicious sources
  - User inputs, unvalidated data
- Using tainted inputs may have dangerous consequences
  - Program crash, data corruption, leak private data, etc.
- We need to check that inputs are sanitized before reaching sensitive locations

Classic Example: SQL Injection



https://xkcd.com/327

Classic Example: SQL Injection

```
void processRequest() {
  String input = getUserInput();
  String query = "SELECT ... " + input;
  executeQuery(query);
}
```

Classic Example: SQL Injection

```
void processRequest() {
  String input = getUserInput();
  String query = "SELECT ... " + input;
  executeQuery(query);
}
```

Tainted input arrives from an untrusted source

Tainted input flows to a sensitive sink

Classic Example: SQL Injection

```
void processRequest() {
  String input = getUserInput();
  input = sanitizeInput(input);
  String query = "SELECT ... " + input;
  executeQuery(query);
}
```

Taint is removed by sanitizing the data

We can now safely execute query on untainted data

Taint Checker: `@Tainted` and `@Untainted`

```
void processRequest() {
  @Tainted String input = getUserInput();
  executeQuery(input);
}

public void executeQuery(@Untainted String input) {
  // ...
}

@Untainted public String validate(String userInput) {
  // ...
}
```

Taint Checker: `@Tainted` and `@Untainted`

```
void processRequest() {
  @Tainted String input = getUserInput();
  executeQuery(input);
}

public void executeQuery(@Untainted String input) {
  // ...
}

@Untainted public String validate(String userInput) {
  // ...
}
```

Indicates that data is tainted

Argument ***must*** be untainted

Guarantees that return value is untainted

Taint Checker: `@Tainted` and `@Untainted`

```
void processRequest() {
  @Tainted String input = getUserInput();
  executeQuery(input);
}

public void executeQuery(@Untainted String input) {
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}

@Untainted public String validate(String userInput) {
  // ...
}
```

Indicates that data is tainted

Argument ***must*** be untainted

Guarantees that return value is untainted

Does this compile?

```
void processRequest() {
  @Tainted String input = getUserInput();
  input = validate(input);
  executeQuery(input);
}

public void executeQuery(@Untainted String input) {
  // ...
}

@Untainted public String validate(String userInput) {
  // ...
}
```

Input becomes `@Untainted`

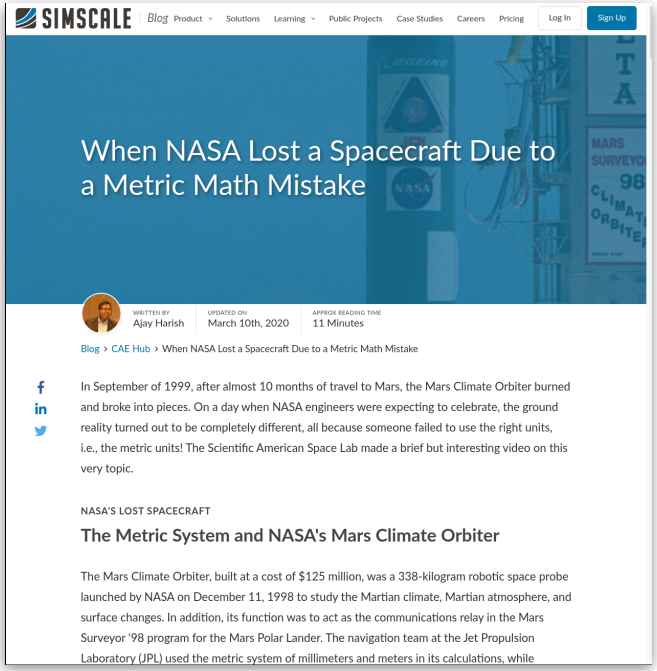
Does this program compile?

```
void processRequest() {
  @Tainted String input = getUserInput();
  if (input.equals("little bobby drop tables")) {
    input = validate(input);
  }
  executeQuery(input);
}
```

Does this program compile? No.

```
void processRequest() {
  @Tainted String input = getUserInput();
  if (input.equals("little bobby drop tables")) {
    input = validate(input); // @Untainted
  }
  executeQuery(input); // @Tainted
}
```

Remember the Mars Climate Orbiter incident from 1999?



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When NASA Lost a Spacecraft Due to a Metric Math Mistake

WRITTEN BY Ajay Harish | UPDATED ON March 10th, 2020 | APPROX READING TIME 11 Minutes

Blog › CAE Hub › When NASA Lost a Spacecraft Due to a Metric Math Mistake

In September of 1999, after almost 10 months of travel to Mars, the Mars Climate Orbiter burned and broke into pieces. On a day when NASA engineers were expecting to celebrate, the ground reality turned out to be completely different, all because someone failed to use the right units, i.e., the metric units! The Scientific American Space Lab made a brief but interesting video on this very topic.

NASA'S LOST SPACECRAFT

The Metric System and NASA's Mars Climate Orbiter

The Mars Climate Orbiter, built at a cost of $125 million, was a 338-kilogram robotic space probe launched by NASA on December 11, 1998 to study the Martian climate, Martian atmosphere, and surface changes. In addition, its function was to act as the communications relay in the Mars Surveyor '98 program for the Mars Polar Lander. The navigation team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) used the metric system of millimeters and meters in its calculations, while

NASA's Mars Climate Orbiter (cost of $327 million) was lost because of a discrepancy between use of metric unit Newtons and imperial measure Pound-force.

https://www.simscale.com/blog/2017/12/nasa-mars-climate-orbiter-metric/

Units Checker identifies physical unit inconsistencies

- Guarantees that operations are performed on the same kinds and units
- Kind annotations
  - `@Acceleration, @Angle, @Area, @Current, @Length, @Luminance, @Mass, @Speed, @Substance, @Temperature, @Time`
- SI unit annotation
  - `@m, @km, @mm, @kg, @mPERs, @mPERs2, @radians, @degrees, @A, ...`

https://www.nist.gov/pml/weights-and-measures/metric-si/si-units

```
import static org.checkerframework.checker.units.UnitsTools.m;
import static org.checkerframework.checker.units.UnitsTools.mPERs;
import static org.checkerframework.checker.units.UnitsTools.s;

void demo() {
  @m int x;
  x = 5 * m;

  @m int meters = 5 * m;
  @s int seconds = 2 * s;

  @mPERs int speed = meters / seconds;
  @m int foo = meters + seconds;
  @s int bar = seconds - meters;
}
```

```
import static org.checkerframework.checker.units.UnitsTools.m;
import static org.checkerframework.checker.units.UnitsTools.mPERs;
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}
```

`@m` indicates that `x` represents meters

To assign a unit, multiply appropriate unit constant from `UnitTools`

Does this program compile?

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import static org.checkerframework.checker.units.UnitsTools.m;
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  @s int seconds = 2 * s;

  @mPERs int speed = meters / seconds;
  @m int foo = meters + seconds;
  @s int bar = seconds - meters;
}
```

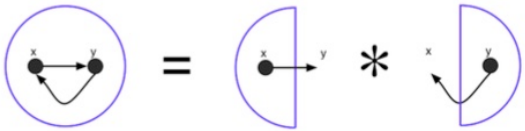
Addition and subtraction between meters and seconds is physically meaningless

Checker Framework: Limitations

- **Can only analyze code that is annotated**
  - Requires that dependent libraries are also annotated
  - Can be tricky, but not impossible, to retrofit annotations into existing codebases
- Only considers the signature and annotations of methods
  - Doesn’t look at the implementation of methods that are being called
- Dynamically generated code
  - Spring Framework
- Can produce false positives!
  - Byproduct of necessary approximations

Infer: What if we didn't need annotations?

- Focused on memory safety bugs
  - Null pointer dereferences, memory leaks, resource leaks, ...
- Compositional interprocedural reasoning
  - Based on separation logic and bi-abduction
- Scalable and fast
  - Can run incremental analysis on changed code
- **Does not require annotations**
- **Supports multiple languages**
  - Java, C, C++, Objective-C
  - Programs are compiled to an intermediate representation



https://fbinfer.com/

https://engineering.fb.com/2017/09/06/android/finding-inter-procedural-bugs-at-scale-with-infer-static-analyzer/

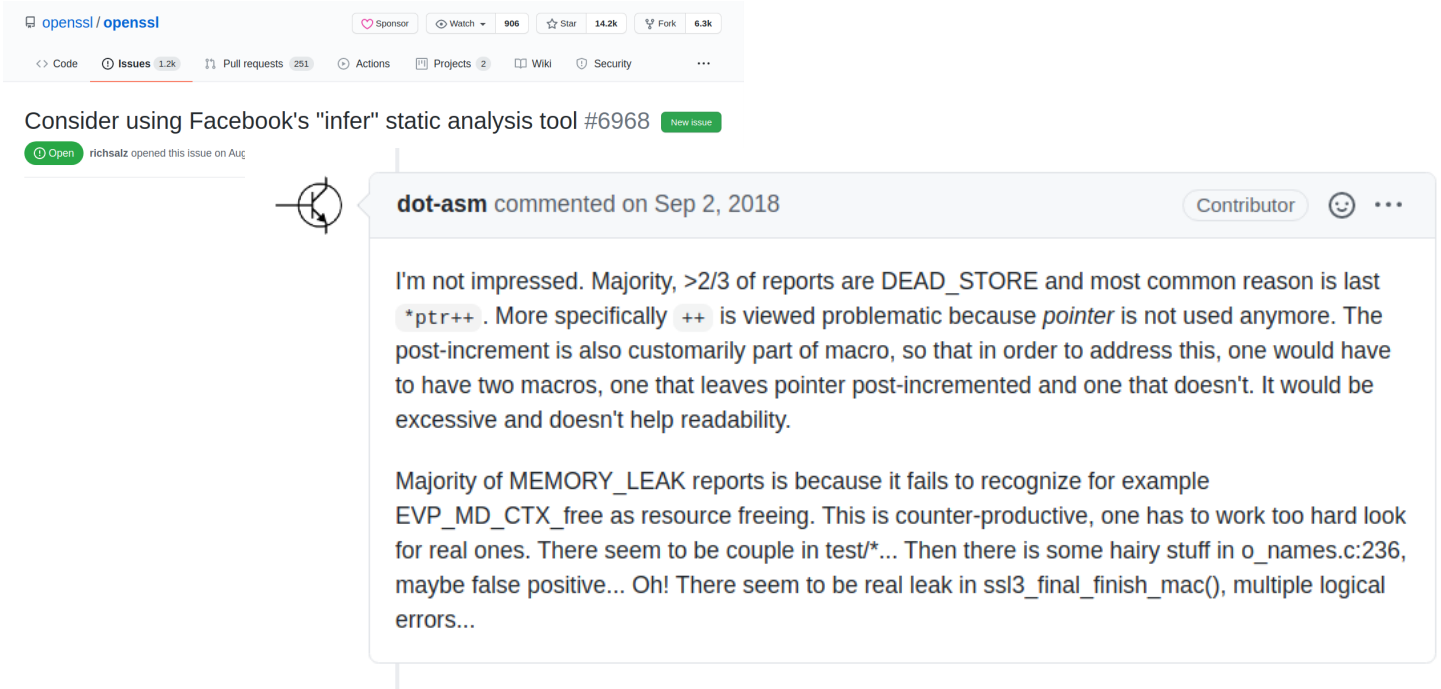
Infer: Hello World!

```
// Hello.java
class Hello {
  int test() {
    String s = null;
    return s.length();
  }
}
```

```
$ infer run -- javac Hello.java
…
Hello.java:5: error: NULL_DEREFERENCE
 object s last assigned on line 4 could be null and is dereferenced at line 5
```

https://fbinfer.com/docs/hello-world

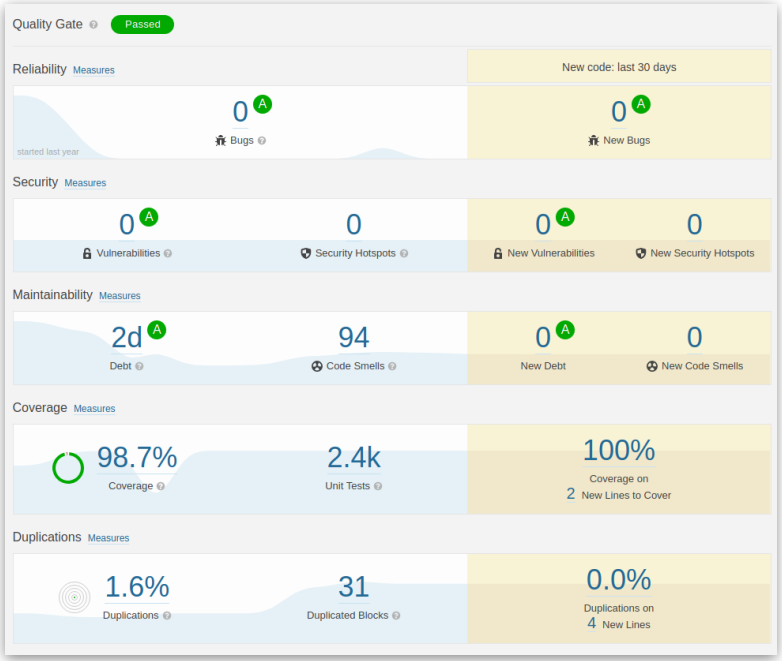
Beware of the inevitable false positives!

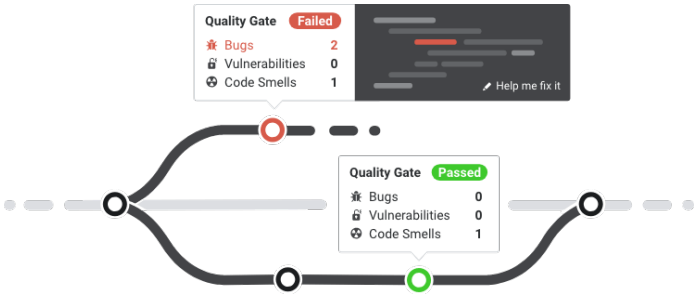


https://github.com/openssl/openssl/issues/6968

Analysis Dashboards

A holistic approach to quality: SonarQube



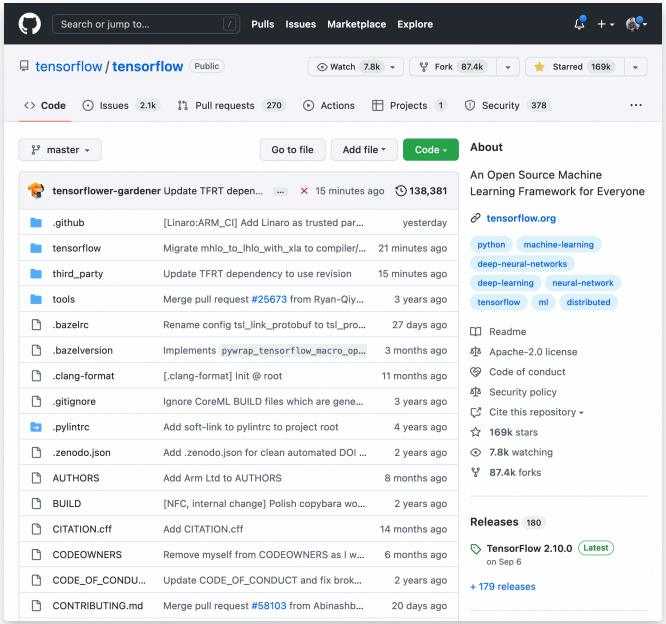


sonarcloud

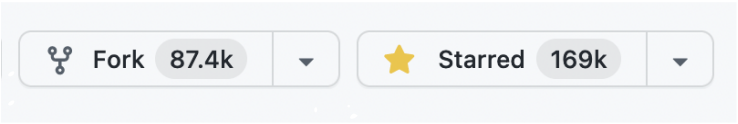
sonarqube

https://sonarcloud.io

Let’s look at a real project using **SonarQube:** TensorFlow



TensorFlow



https://sonarcloud.io/summary/overall?id=htefera_Tensorflow

What analysis tools should I use?

The best QA strategies employ a combination of tools

How Many of All Bugs Do We Find? A Study of Static Bug Detectors

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Germany

ABSTRACT

Static bug detectors are becoming increasingly popular and are widely used by professional software developers. While most work on bug detectors focuses on whether they find bugs at all, and on how many false positives they report in addition to legitimate warnings, the inverse question is often neglected: How many of all real-world bugs do static bug detectors find? This paper addresses this question by studying the results of applying three widely used static bug detectors to an extended version of the Defects4J dataset that consists of 15 Java projects with 594 known bugs. To decide which of these bugs the tools detect, we use a novel methodology that combines an automatic analysis of warnings and bugs with a manual validation of each candidate of a detected bug. The results of the study show that: (i) static bug detectors find a non-negligible amount of all bugs, (ii) different tools are mostly complementary to each other, and (iii) current bug detectors miss the large majority of the studied bugs. A detailed analysis of bugs missed by the static detectors shows that some bugs could have been found by variants of the existing detectors, while others are domain-specific problems that do not match any existing bug pattern. These findings help potential users of such tools to assess their utility, motivate and outline directions for future work on static bug detection, and provide a basis for future comparisons of static bug detection with other bug finding techniques, such as manual and automated testing.

International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE '18), September 3–7, 2018, Montpellier, France. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 12 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3238147.3238213

1 INTRODUCTION

Finding software bugs is an important but difficult task. For average industry code, the number of bugs per 1,000 lines of code has been estimated to range between 0.5 and 25 [21]. Even after years of deployment, software still contains unnoticed bugs. For example, studies of the Linux kernel show that the average bug remains in the kernel for a surprisingly long period of 1.5 to 1.8 years [8, 24]. Unfortunately, a single bug can cause serious harm, even if it has been subsisting for a long time without doing so, as evidenced by examples of software bugs that have caused huge economic loses and even killed people [17, 28, 46].

Given the importance of finding software bugs, developers rely on several approaches to reveal programming mistakes. One approach is to identify bugs during the development process, e.g., through pair programming or code review. Another direction is testing, ranging from purely manual testing over semi-automated testing, e.g., via manually written but automatically executed unit tests, to fully automated testing, e.g., with UI-level testing tools. Once the software is deployed, runtime monitoring can reveal so far missed bugs, e.g., collect information about abnormal runtime

Tool	Bugs
Error Prone	8
Infer	5
SpotBugs	18
Total:	**31**
Total of 27 unique bugs	

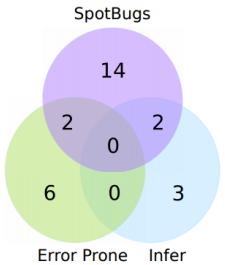

Figure 4: Total number of bugs found by all three static checkers and their overlap.

https://software-lab.org/publications/ase2018_static_bug_detectors_study.pdf

Summary

- Linters are cheap, fast, but imprecise analysis tools
  - Can be used for purposes other than bug detection (e.g., style)
- Conservative analyzers can demonstrate the absence of particular defects
  - At the cost of false positives due to necessary approximations
  - Inevitable trade-off between false positives and false negatives
- The best QA strategy involves multiple analysis and testing techniques
  - The exact set of tools and techniques depends on context