

Genetic Mutation Conditioned Amorphous Parametric Hybrid Slicing

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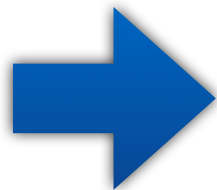


What is it?

Genetic Mutation Conditioned Amorphous Parametric Hybrid Slicing



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What is it?

Genetic Mutation Conditioned Amorphous Parametric Hybrid Slicing

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[Evolving transformation sequences using genetic algorithms](#)

D Fatiregun, M Harman... - Source Code Analysis and ..., 2005 - [ieeexplore.ieee.org](#)

... **Amorphous Slicing** is a further application scenario where the source-to-source transformations ... using single point crossover, a crossover rate of 100% and a **mutation** rate of 7 ... We find that perhaps unsurprisingly, the **genetic** algorithm outperforms both the random search and ...

[Cited by 18](#) - [Related articles](#) - [All 17 versions](#)

[A brief survey of program slicing](#)

B Xu, J Qian, X Zhang, Z Wu... - ACM SIGSOFT Software ..., 2005 - [portal.acm.org](#)

... **Conditioned slicing** allows a better decomposition of the program giving human readers the possibility ... In **hybrid slicing** static information is used to facilitate dynamic **slicing** or dynamic ... Harman introduced **amorphous slicing** which removes the limitation to statement deletion as ...

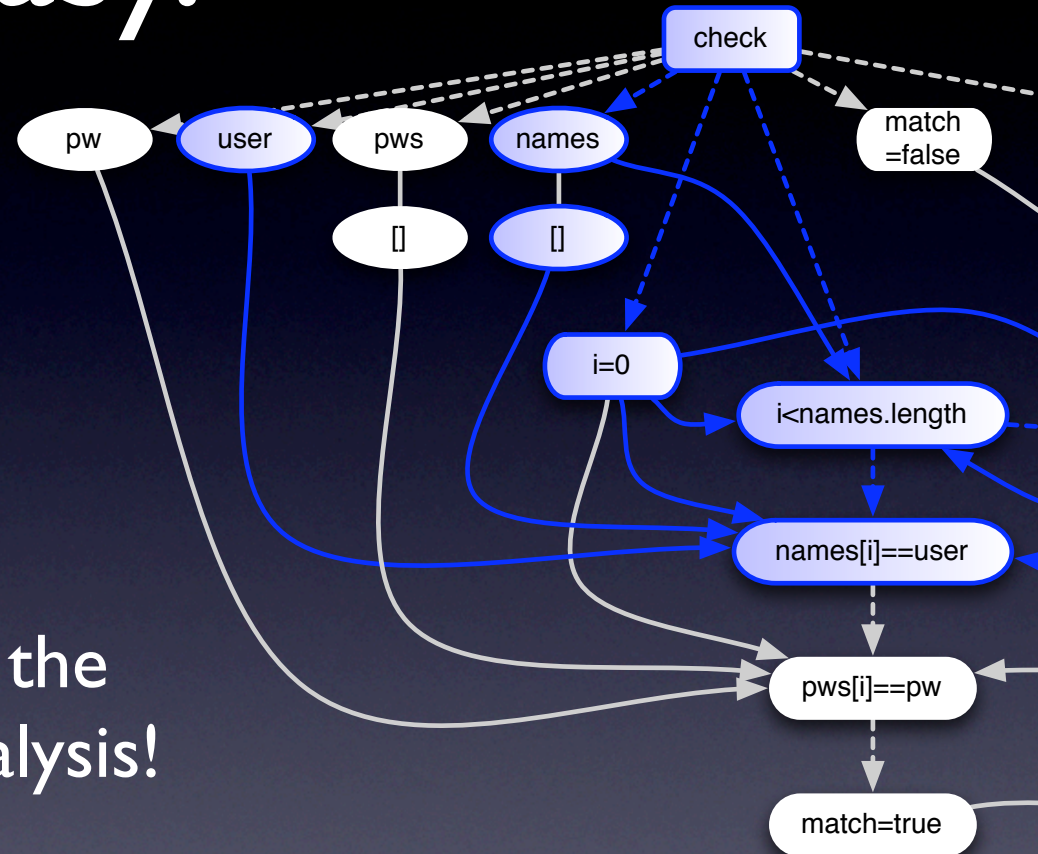
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Where is Slicing used?

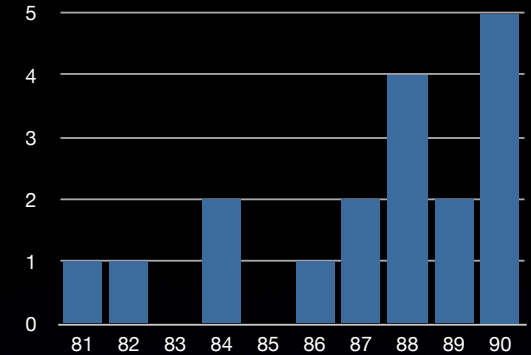
- Debugging:
Which statements may have caused a fault?
- Evolution:
What is a change's impact?
- Testing:
Which tests have to be rerun?

Slicing is easy.

- Slicing is just a traversal of dependences.
- The hard part is the Dependence Analysis!



First 10 years



79, 81, 82, 84 - Mark Weiser's articles

84 - Slicing in Dependence Graphs

86 - Dicing

87 - Fault Localisation

88 - Dynamic Slicing

88 - Applications: Maintenance, Differencing

88 - Semantics

Busy 10 years

91 - Quasi-static slicing

92 - Testing

93 - Pointers

93 - Concurrency

93 - Specifications

93 - Functional Languages

93 - Function Extraction

94 - Chopping

94 - OOP

95 - Parametric Slicing

95 - Frank Tip's Survey

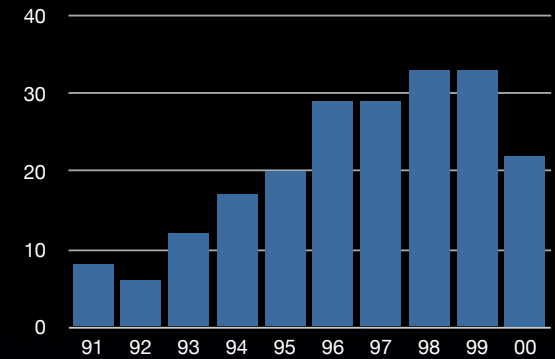
96 - Prolog

96 - VHDL

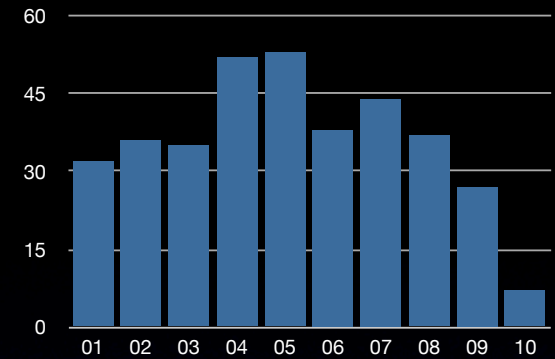
97 - Amorphous Slicing

98 - Conditioned Slicing

98 - State Machines

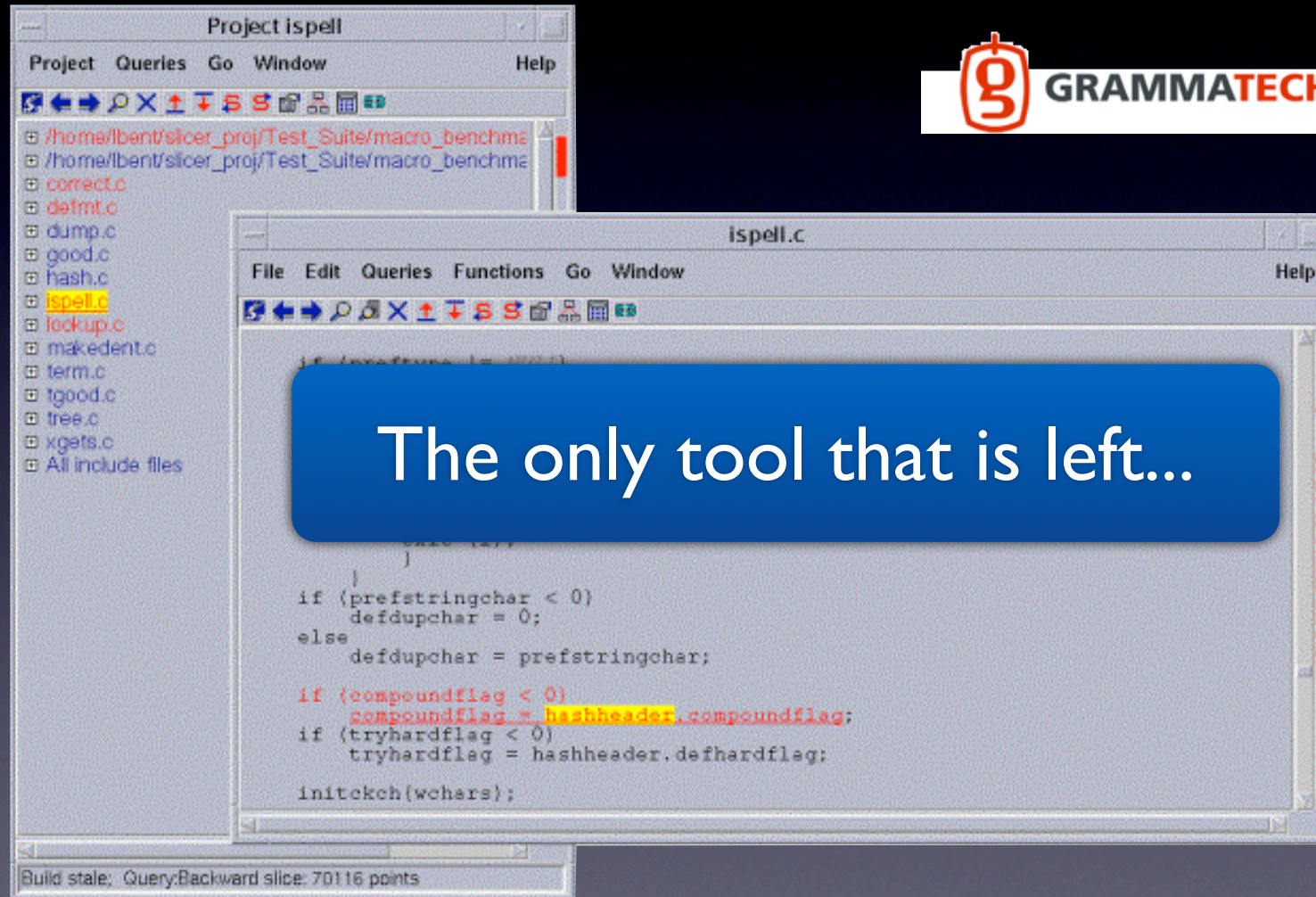


Stable 10 years



- Improvements in precision, efficiency, applications, usability, applicability, ...
- Empirical studies
- Tool(s): CodeSurfer and some prototypes (Kaveri, JSlice, Sprite, Unravel)

CodeSurfer



The only tool that is left...



Two Events

2001:

William Griswold's Keynote at PASTE:
"Making Slicing Practical: The Final Mile"



2005:

Dagstuhl Seminar
"Beyond
Program Slicing"



Good News!

Most technical problems on Griswold's list
have been solved!

But...

Where are the Slicers?

- Program Slicers are *still* not widely used.
- Program Slicers are not matching the needs of software engineers.
- Slicers are too general and too complex.
- CodeSurfer's use in research: not the tool itself is used, but its infrastructure and its scripting API.

A Tool User

Your tool can solve all sorts of problems for us. But it'll have to analyse our entire 1 MLOC program, which is written in 4 languages and doesn't compile right now. I want the results as fast as compilation, with an intuitive graphical display linked to the source and integrated into our IDE. I want to save the results, and have them automatically updated as I change the program. By the way, I use Windows and some of my colleagues use Unix.

Griswold's Slide in 2001

Challenges

(see Wolfgang's talk)

- Distributed applications
- Exhaustive analyses are impossible, source code is not available or compilable.
- Systems programmed in various languages, including scripting and configurations.

Challenges

Who solves them?

- Almost no advances in the past 10 years!
- Academic research cannot solve these large scale challenges - too expensive.
- Only industrial research can solve them, if a paying client has a specific problem.

Slicing in 2011

- Slicing has been replaced by Dependence Analysis.
- Many new techniques use some kind of dependence traversal adapted to their specific needs.
- Dependence is measured and ranked, binary information is insufficient.

Current Applications

Static

- **Slicing Models**
State Machines, UML, etc.
- **Security and Information Flow**
Taint Analysis, Non-Interference

Current Applications

Dynamic

- **Fault Localization**
Slicing vs. Tracing
- **Impact Analysis**
Slicing vs. Tracing

Current Trends

- Analyses are neither sound nor complete, optimistic instead of conservative.
- Dynamic Analyses (Tracing)
- Abstract Interpretation
- Symbolic Execution
- Transformation instead of just analysis

Conclusions

- Technical problems to slice simple systems are all solved.
- Complex systems are still a challenge!
- Research is (and should be) task driven
- Dynamic analyses like Tracing are used instead of language-based Slicing.
- Dependence Analysis, not Slicing, is established, often used, and successful.