# Analysis and Visualization of Unit Test Traces With Kieker and ExplorViz

**16th Symposium on Software Performance**

November 05, 2025

Malte Hansen, David Georg Reichelt, and Wilhelm Hasselbring

Kiel University
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

ExplorViz

Lancaster University Leipzig

# Motivation

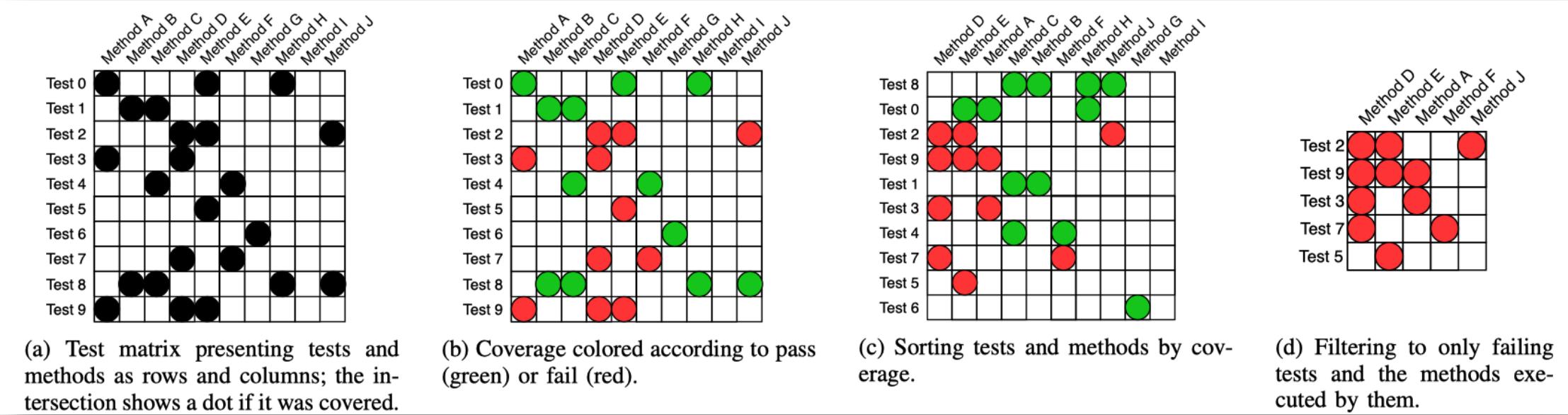
- Software visualization with visual metaphors is a powerful tool to explore different datasets [1]

- Software testing is an integral part of software development

=> Leverage Kieker and ExplorViz to visually explore unit test traces

# Related Work

# Matrix-Based Visualization




(a) Test matrix presenting tests and methods as rows and columns; the intersection shows a dot if it was covered.

(b) Coverage colored according to pass (green) or fail (red).

(c) Sorting tests and methods by coverage.

(d) Filtering to only failing tests and the methods executed by them.

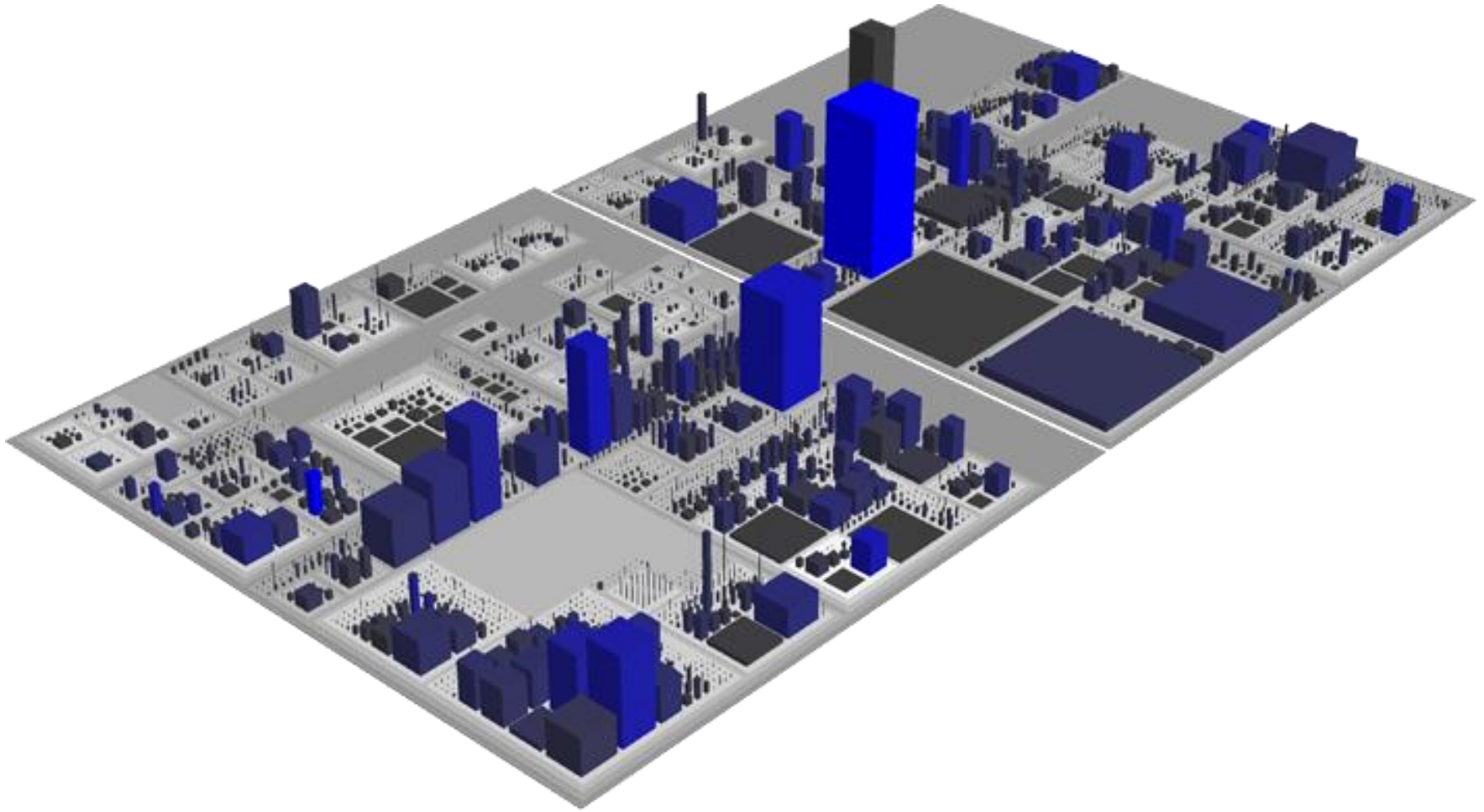
[2]

# Matrix Visualization by Dreef et al.


[2]

=> Missing relation to software's architecture and evolution

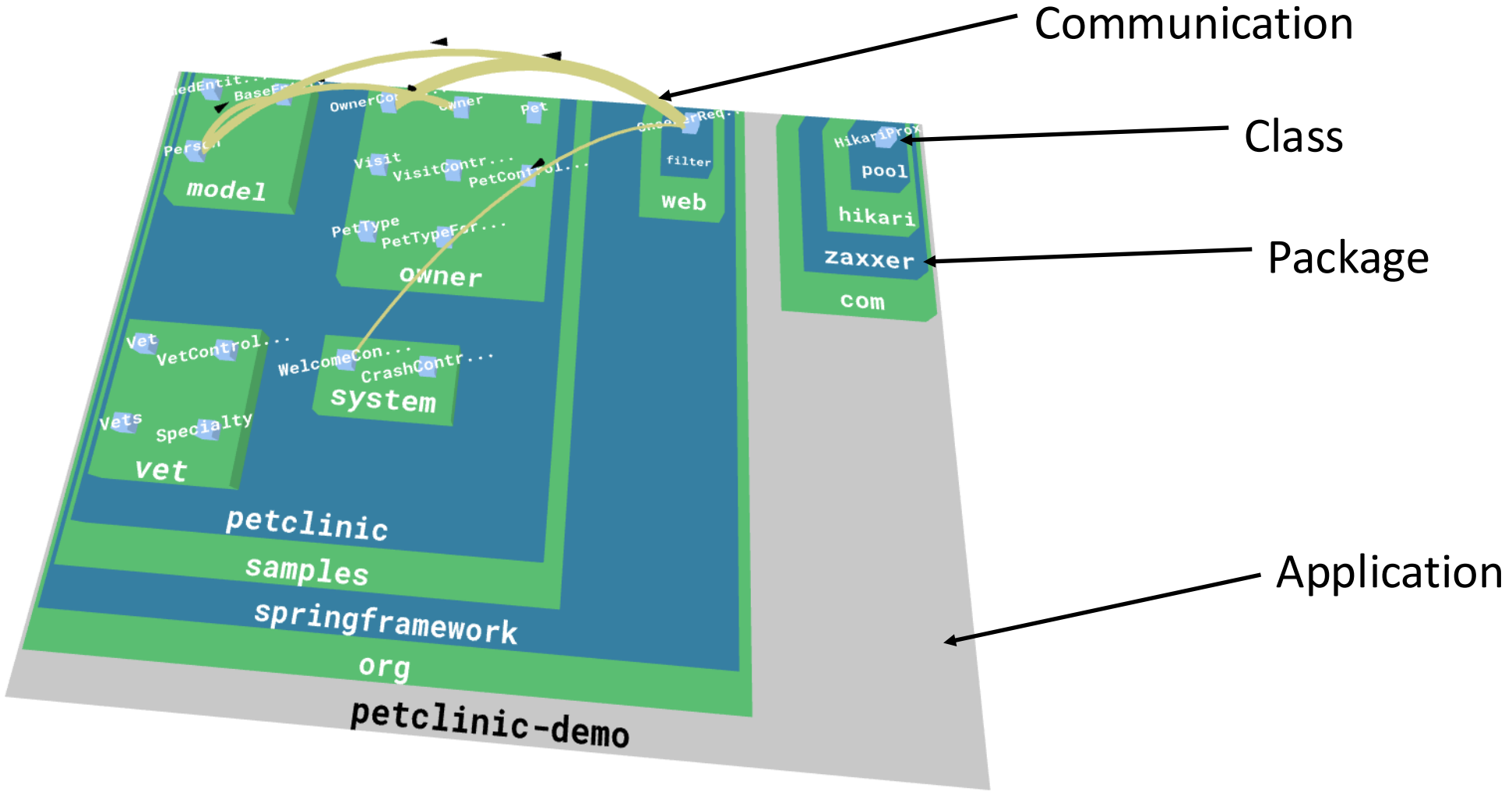
# CodeCity



[3]

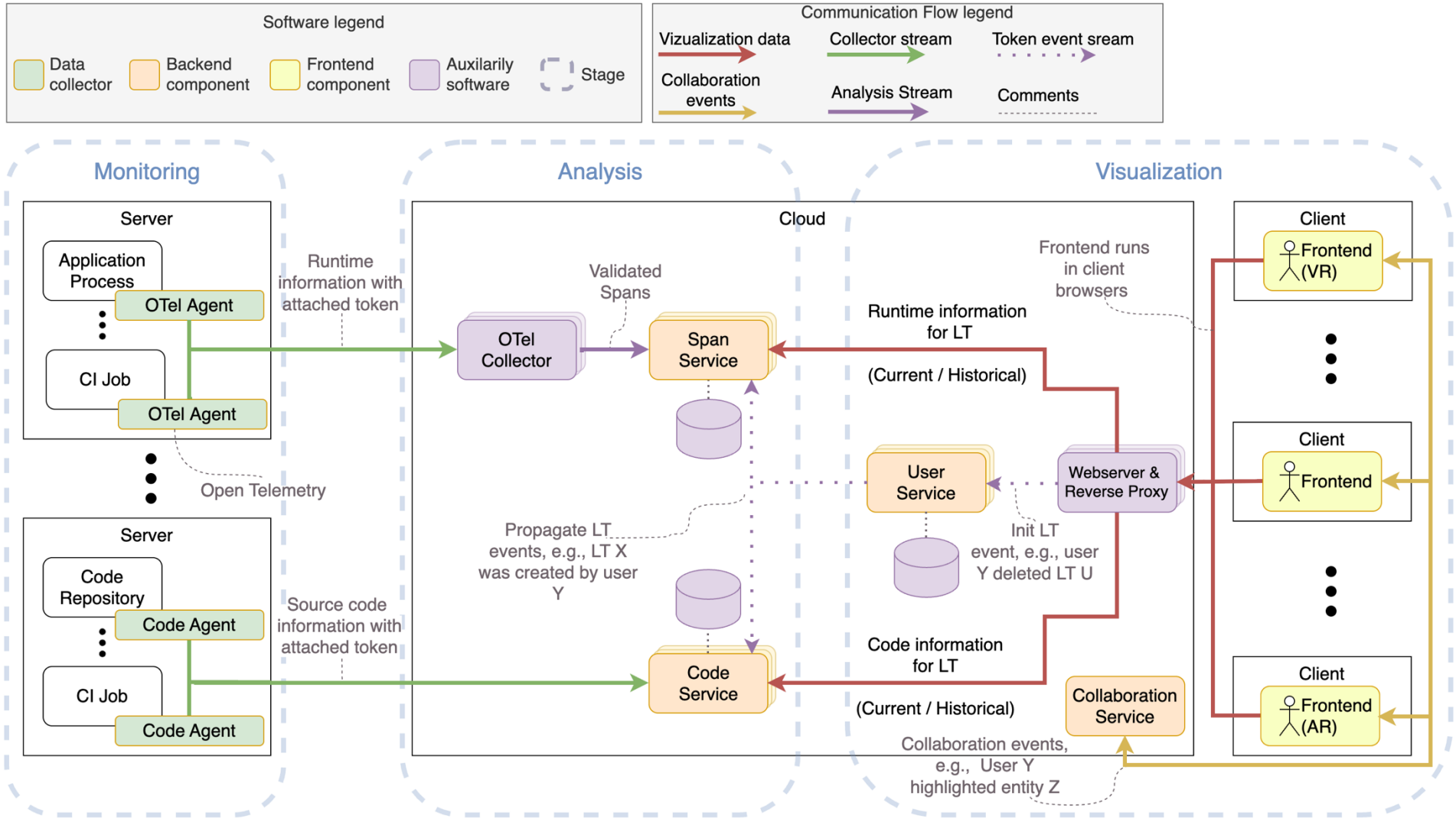
# Background

# ExplorViz Visualization



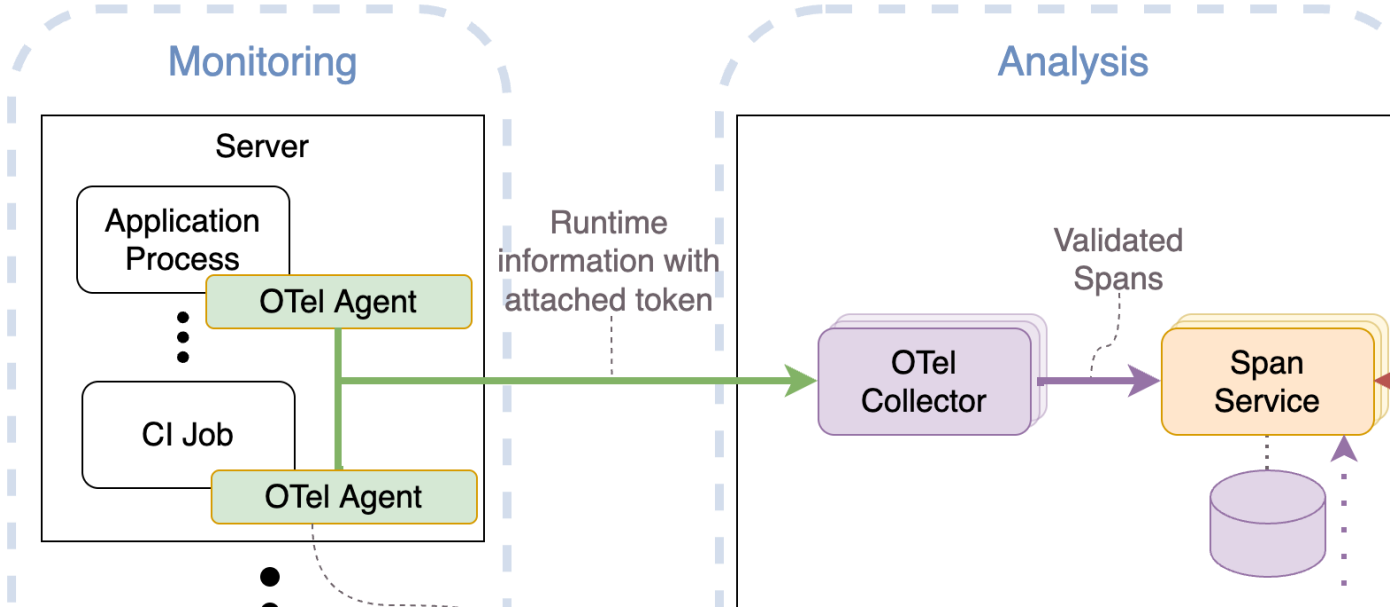

[4]

# ExplorViz Architecture

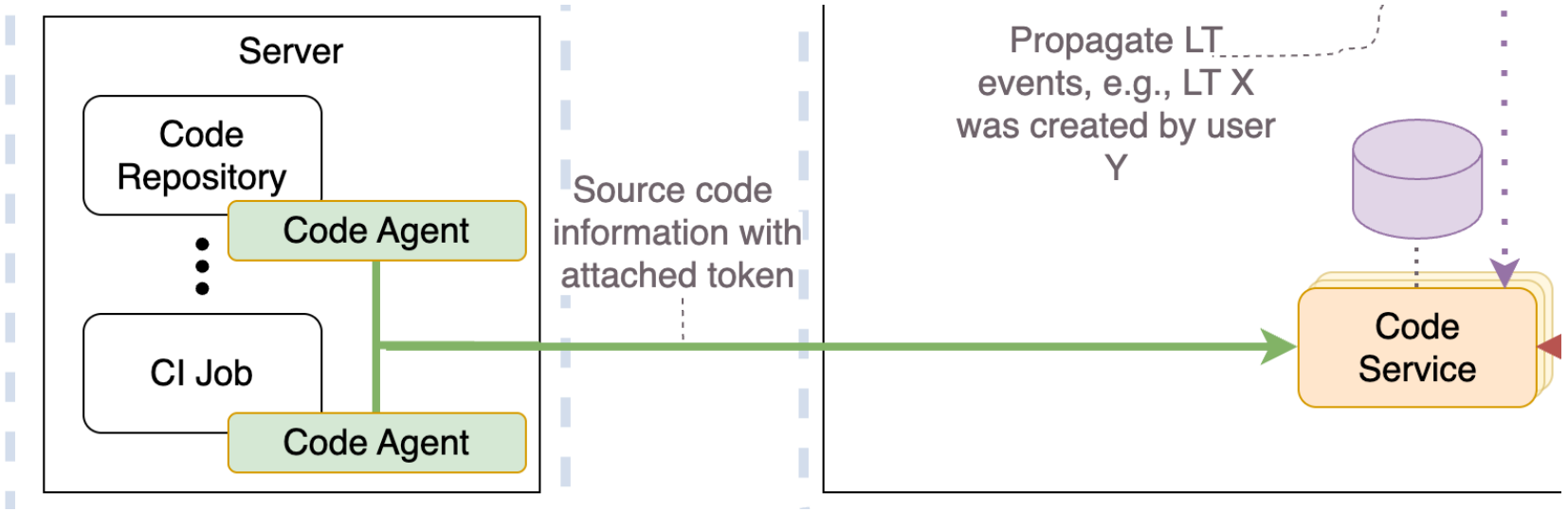



https://explorviz.uni-kiel.de

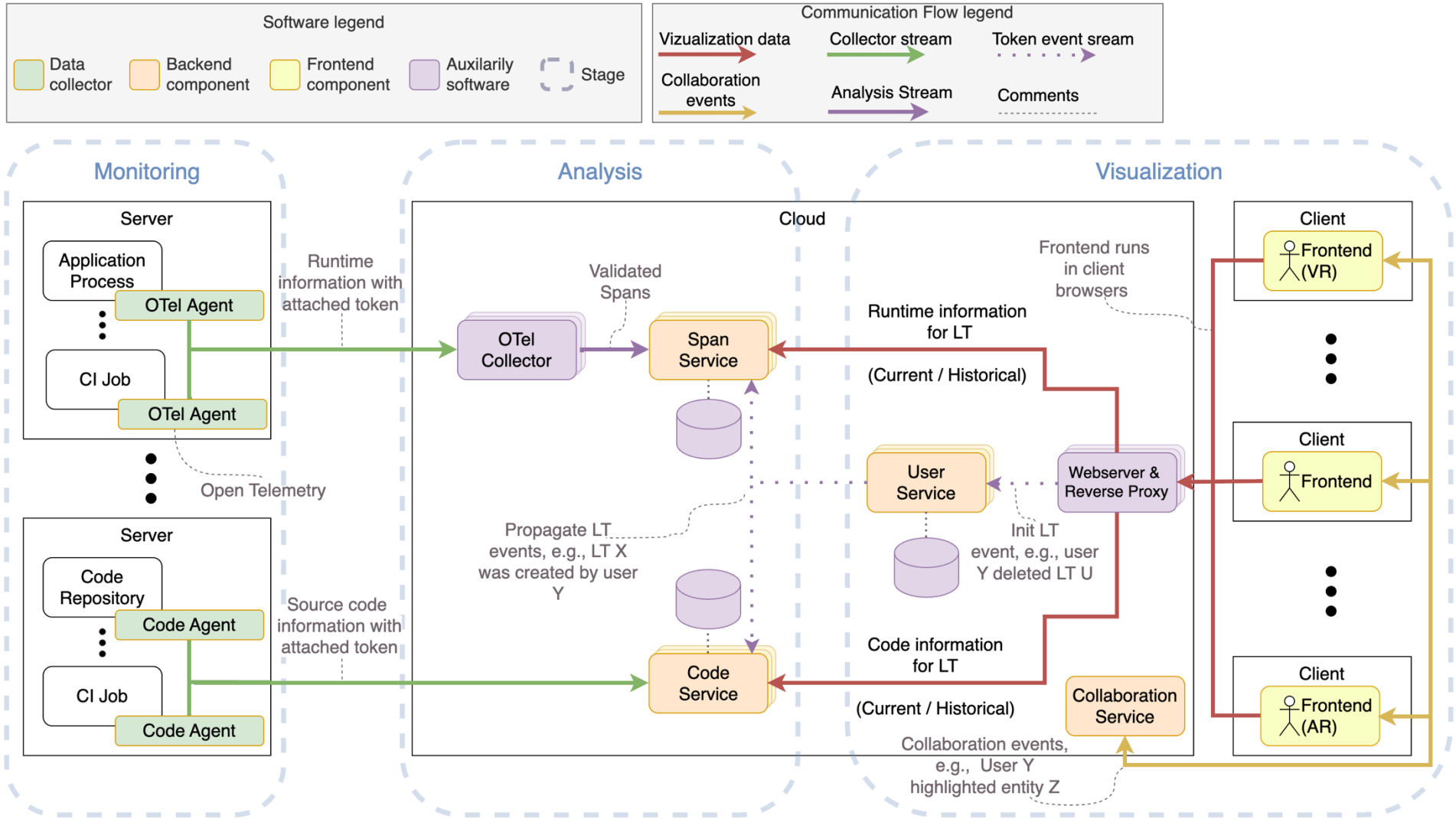
# ExplorViz Architecture



# ExplorViz Architecture

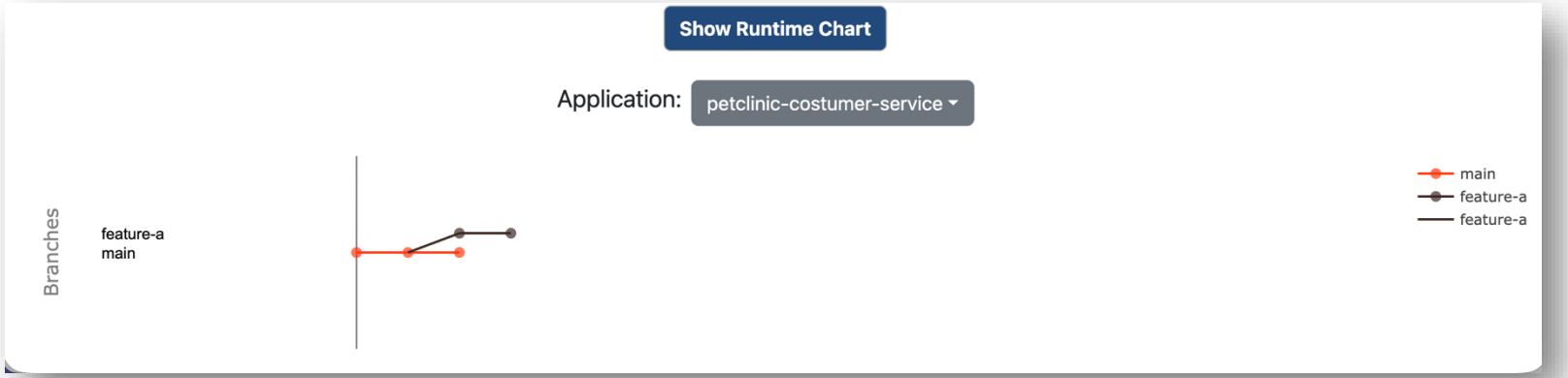


# ExplorViz Architecture

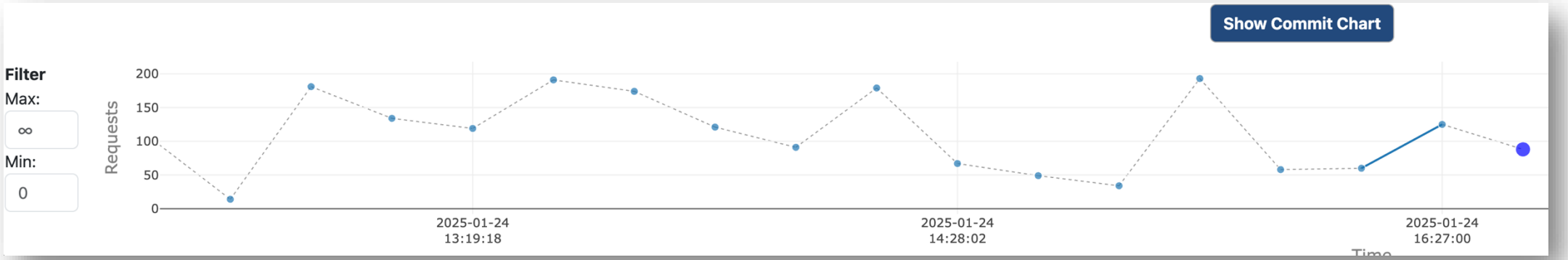


# ExplorViz

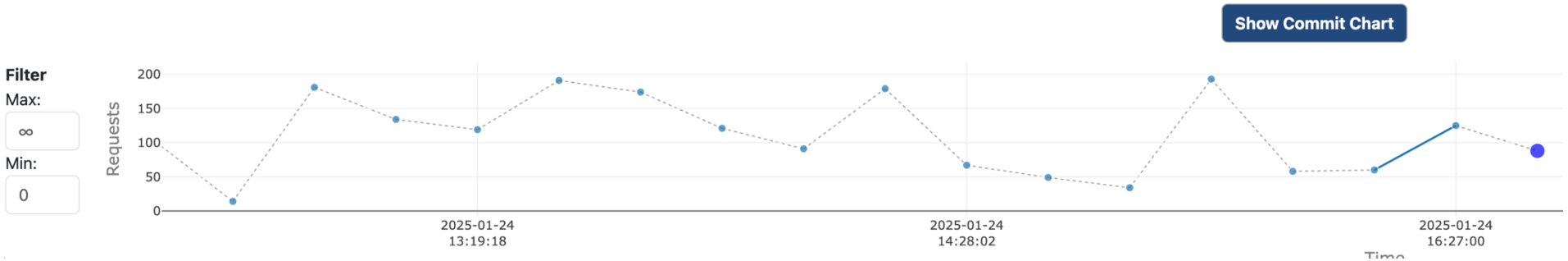
## Commit Tree:



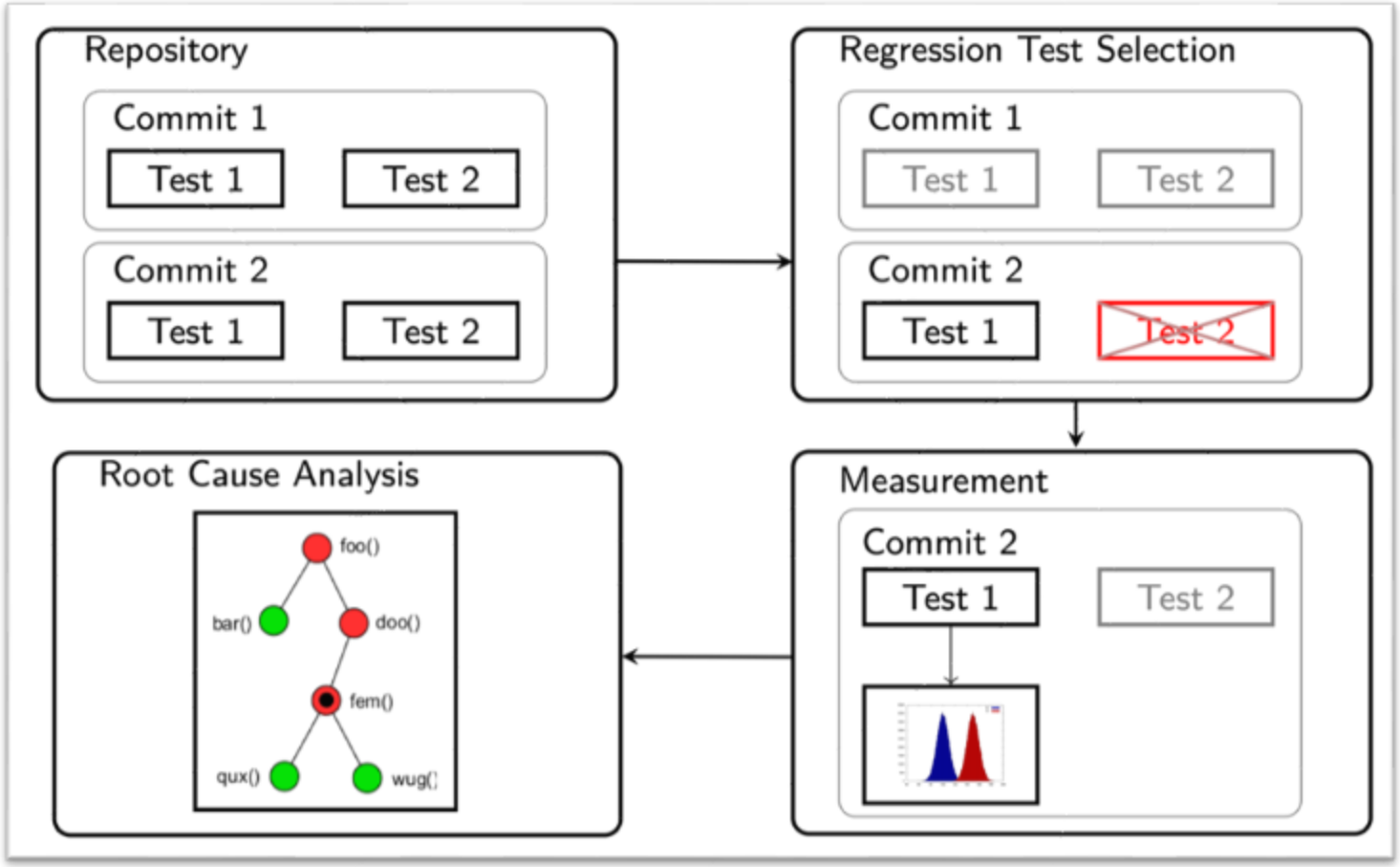

## Timeline:



# ExplorViz Timeline for Trace Data



# Peass (Performance analysis of software systems)




=> Used to automatically instrument unit tests with Kieker [5]

# Approach

# Trace Gathering Process

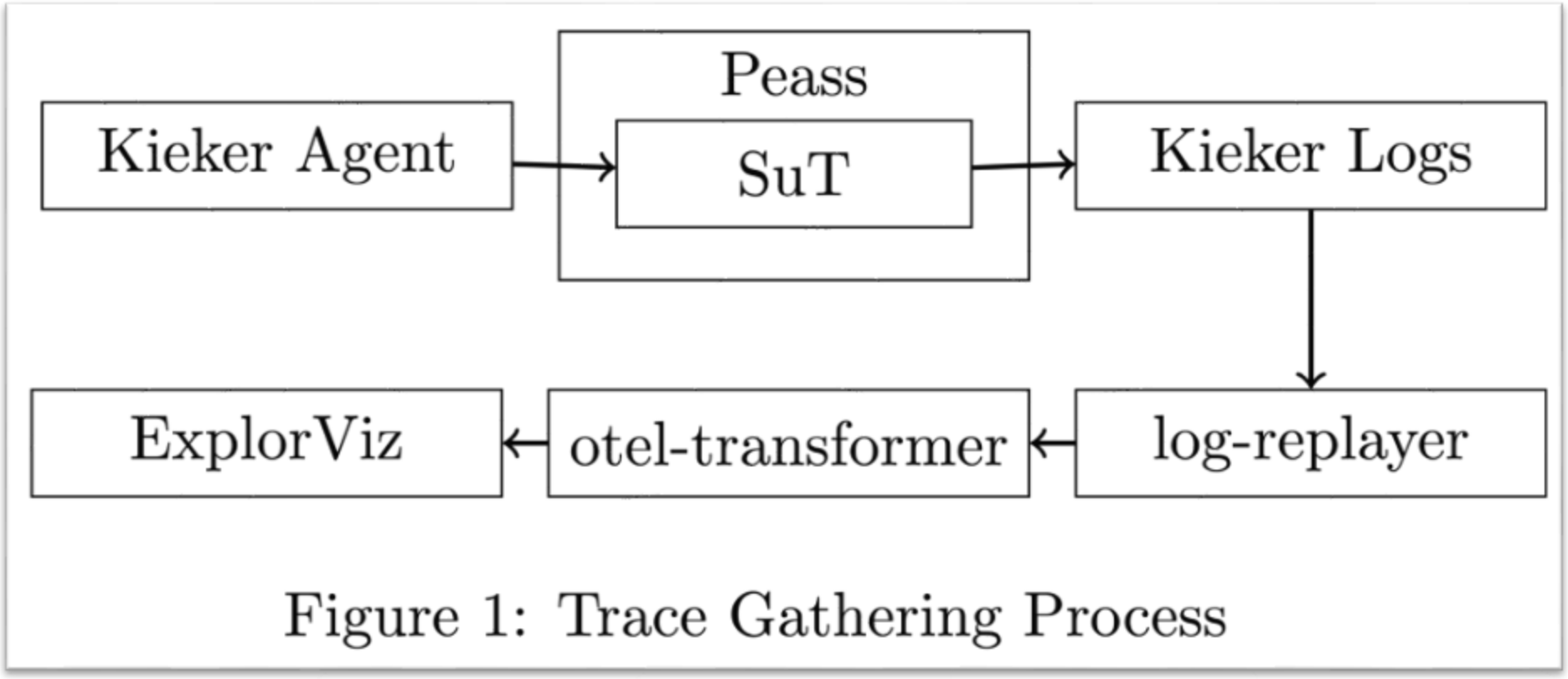



Figure 1: Trace Gathering Process

# Kieker and OpenTelemetry

## Interoperability From Kieker to OpenTelemetry: Demonstrated as Export to ExplorViz

David Georg Reichelt
Lancaster University Leipzig &
Universität Leipzig

Malte Hansen
Kiel University

Shinhyung Yang
Kiel University

Wilhelm Hasselbring
Kiel University

**Abstract**

While the observability framework Kieker has a low overhead for tracing, its results currently cannot be used in most analysis tools due to lack of interoperability of the data formats. The OpenTelemetry standard aims for standardizing observability data.

In this work, we describe how to export Kieker distributed tracing data to OpenTelemetry. This is done using the pipe-and-filter framework TeeTime. For TeeTime, a stage was defined that uses Kieker execution data, which can be created from most record types. We demonstrate the usability of our approach by visualizing trace data of TeaStore in the ExplorViz visualization tool.

lows: First, we describe a concept for interoperability between Kieker and OpenTelemetry. Afterwards, we describe how the export of Kieker traces into OpenTelemetry traces can be accomplished. Subsequently, we describe how the export from Kieker to OpenTelemetry is implemented. This is demonstrated by using Kieker data for an ExplorViz visualization. Afterwards, we compare this approach to related work. Finally, we give a summary of our work.

### 2 Concept for Interoperability Between Kieker and OpenTelemetry

Kieker includes two parts: monitoring and analysis. The Kieker monitoring part generates various observ-

[6]

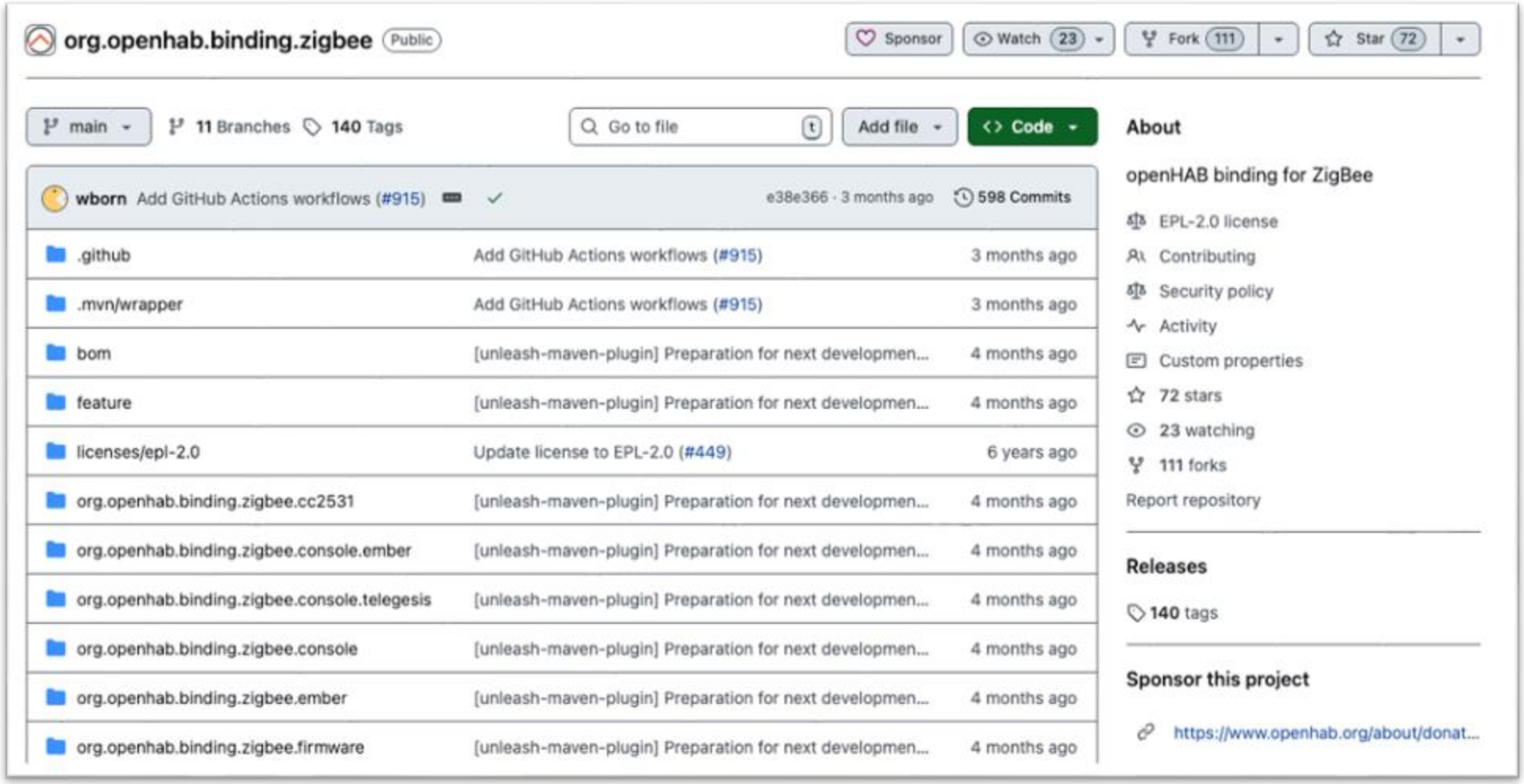
# Demonstration with openHAB Zigbee Binding

# openHAB binding for ZigBee

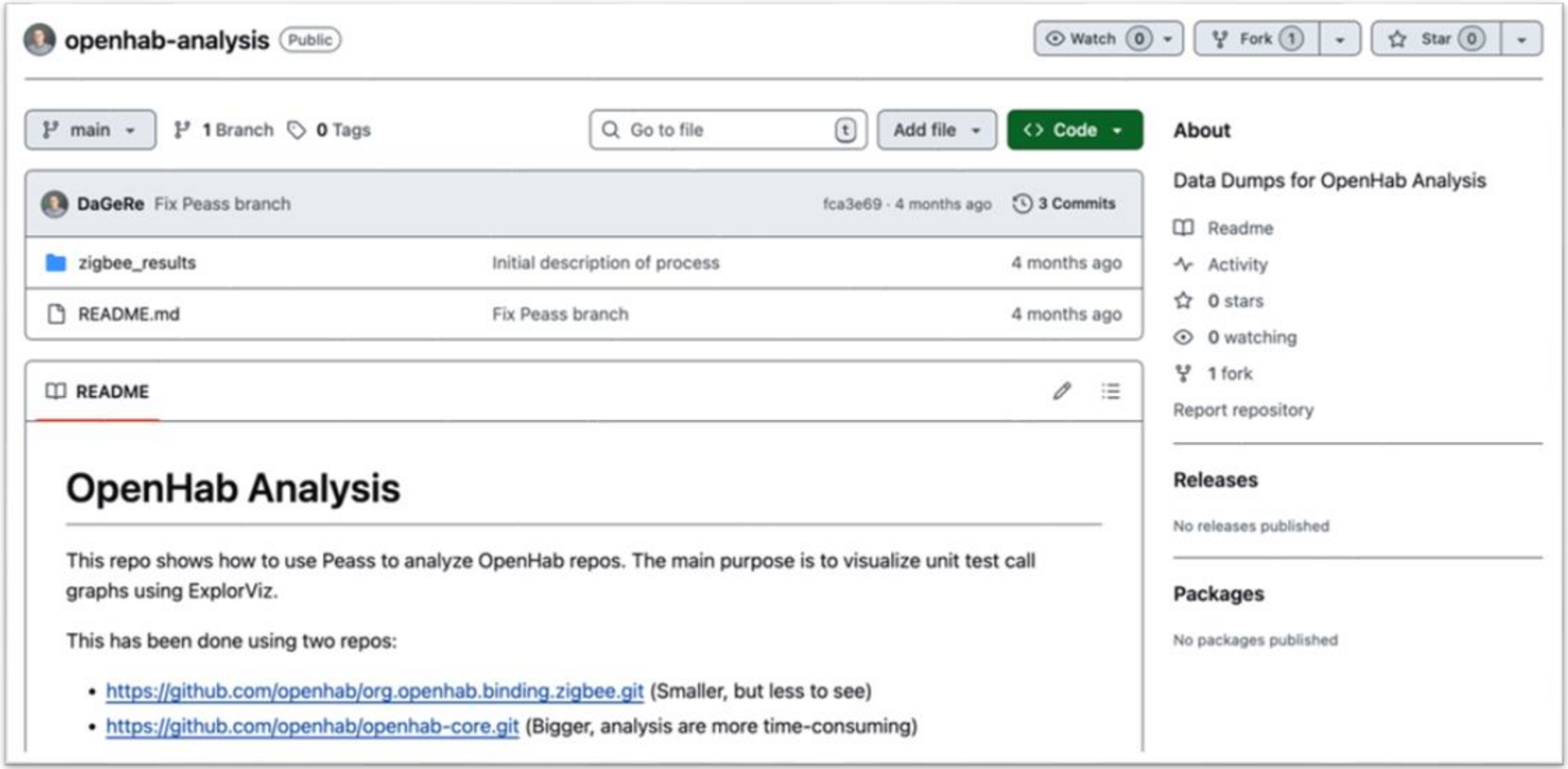
- openHAB (open Home Automation Bus)


- ZigBee is a wireless protocol commonly used in smart homes

# openHAB binding for ZigBee

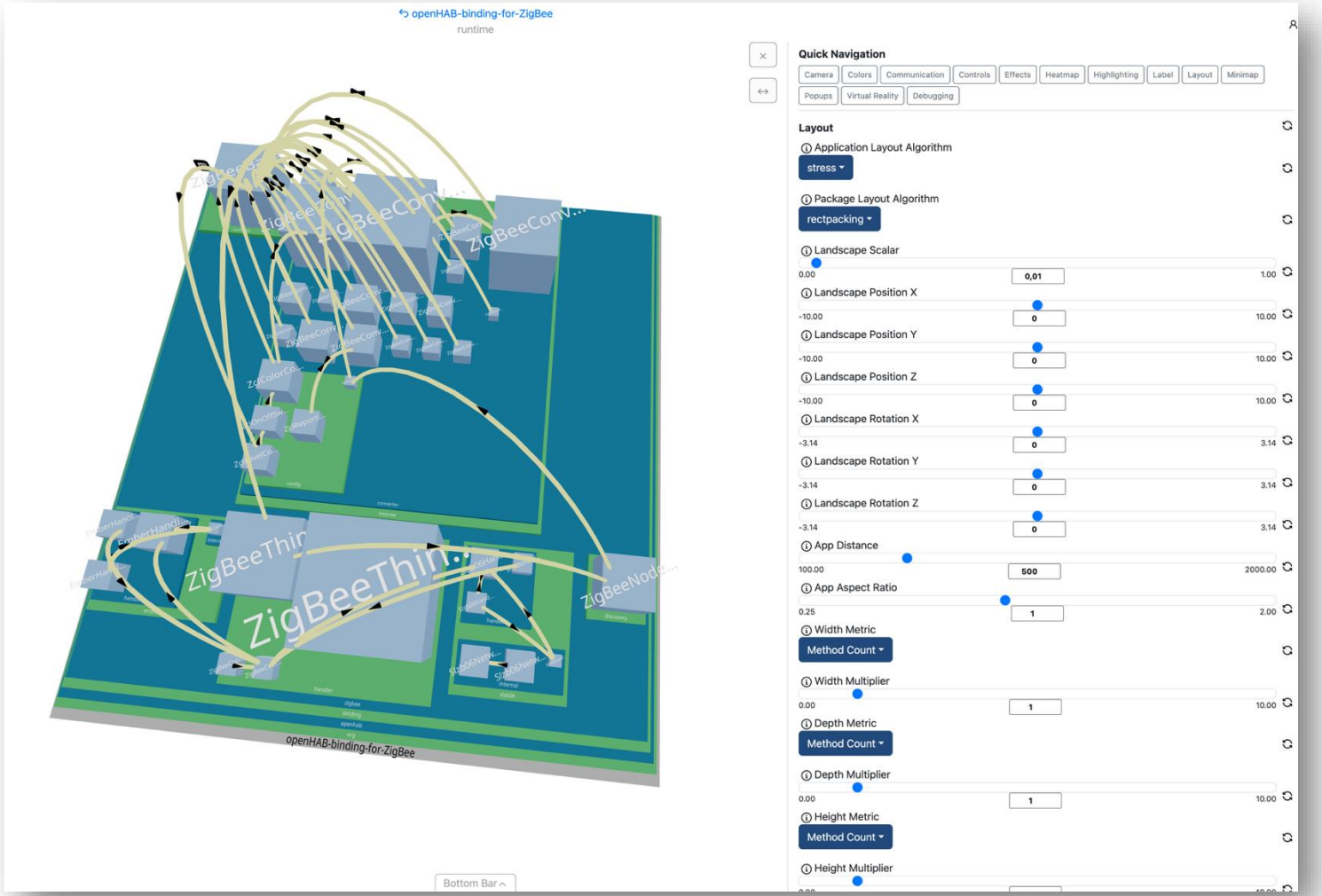



https://github.com/openhab/org.openhab.binding.zigbee



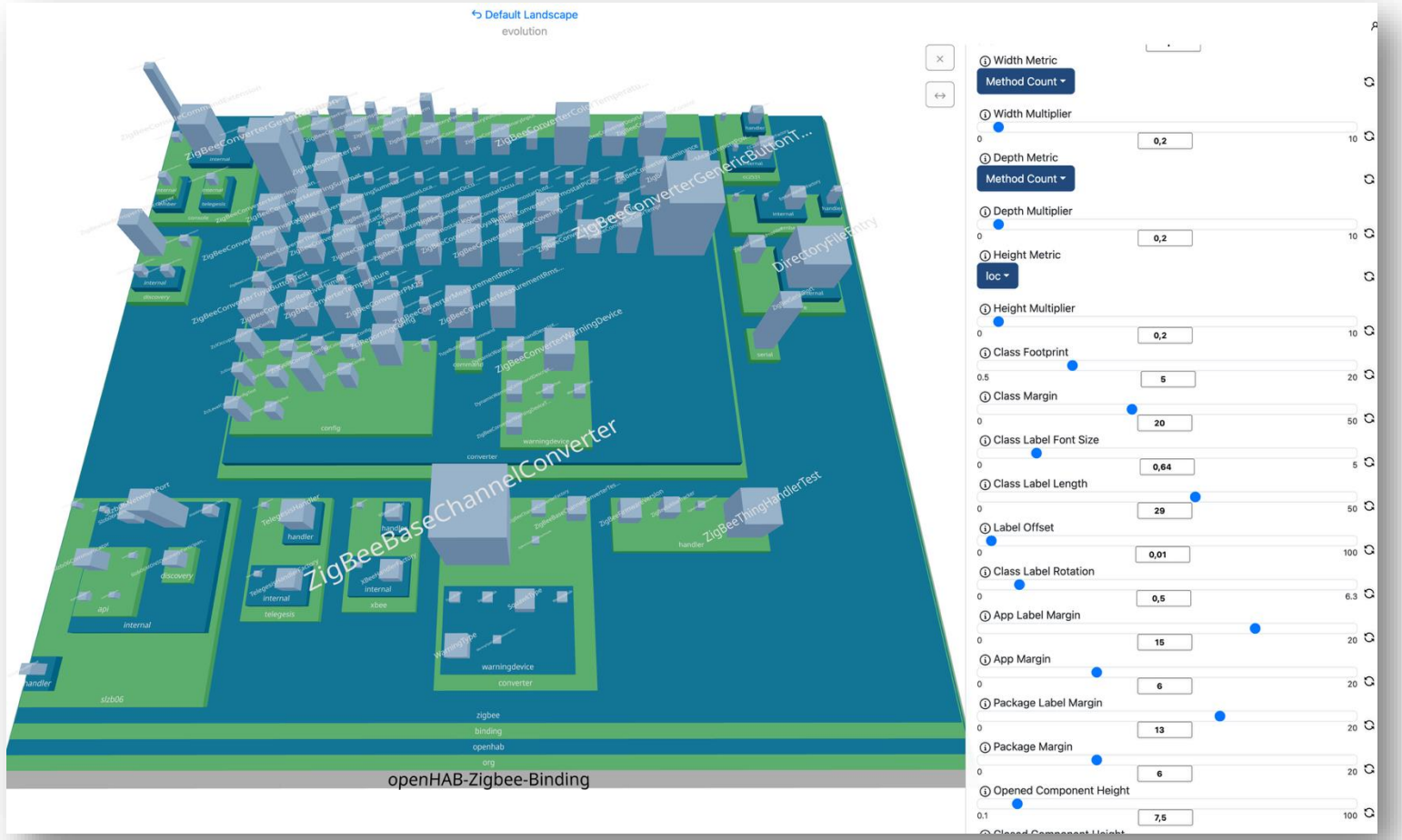

https://github.com/DaGeRe/openhab-analysis

# Visualization: Dynamic Data Only



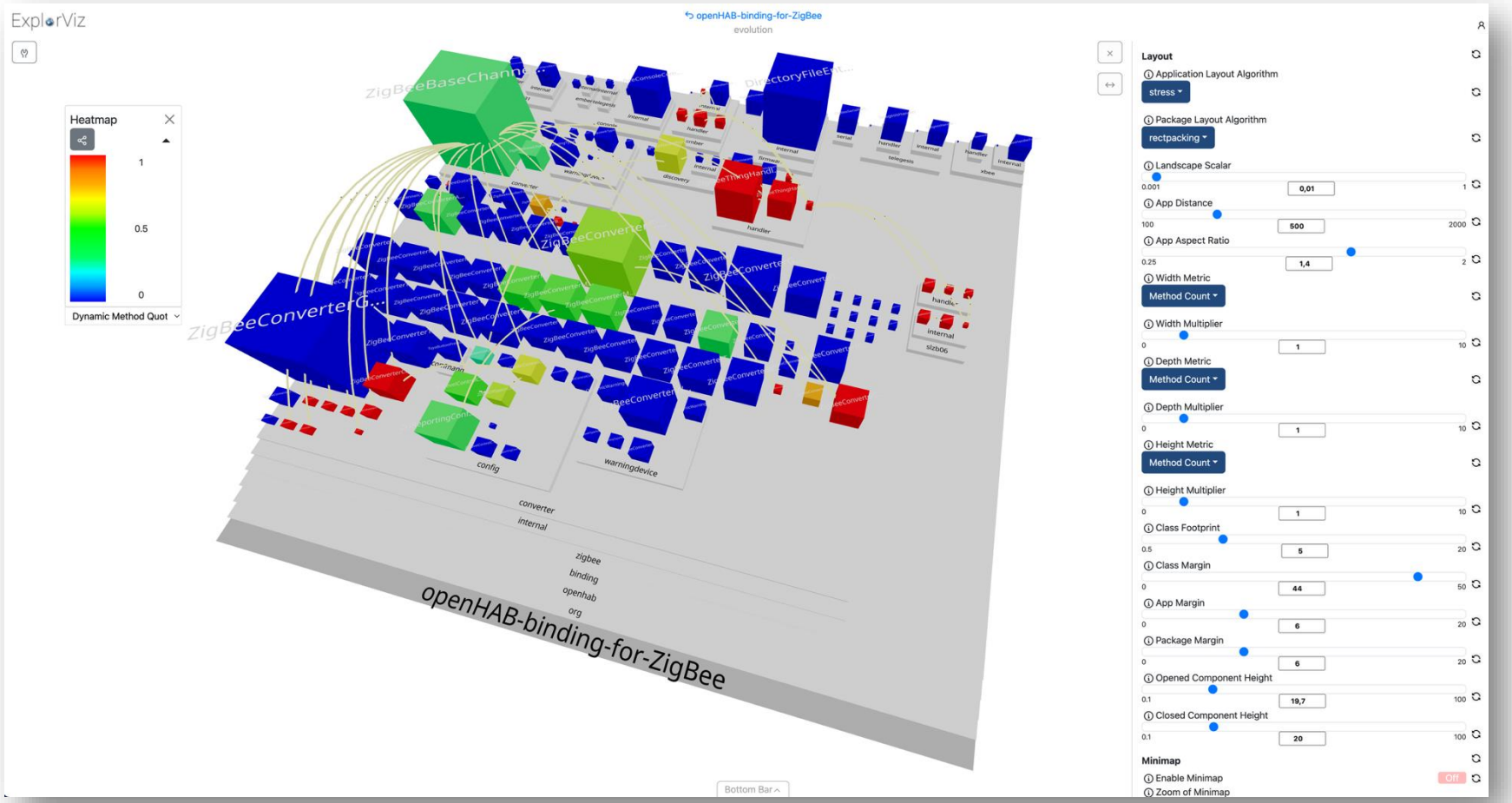

Data for commit: 2f0a43

# Visulization: Static Data Only




Data for commit: 2f0a43

# Test Coverage Visualization




Data for commit: 2f0a43

# Class Information in Popovers

**ZigBeeConverterMeasurementRmsCurrent**

Code

Methods (9)

| Name | Origin |
|---|---|
| attributeUpdated | Static |
| initializeDevice | Static |
| determineDivisorAndMultiplier | Static |
| getImplementedServerClusters | Static |
| getChannel | Static |
| initializeConverter | Static |
| disposeConverter | Static |
| getImplementedClientClusters | Static |
| handleRefresh | Static |

**ZigBeeConverterColorTemperature**

Code

Methods (16)

| Name | Origin |
|---|---|
| initializeDevice | Static |
| determineMinMaxTemperature | Static |
| disposeConverter | Static |
| percentToMired | Static+Dynamic |
| handleRefresh | Static |
| attributeUpdated | Static+Dynamic |
| getImplementedClientClusters | Static |
| miredToKelvin | Static+Dynamic |
| miredToPercent | Static+Dynamic |
| percentToKelvin | Static+Dynamic |
| initializeConverter | Static+Dynamic |
| getImplementedServerClusters | Static |

**ZigBeeThingHandlerTest**

Code

Methods (13)

| Name | Origin |
|---|---|
| testInitializeDeviceWithNoThingProperty | Static+Dynamic |
| mockZigBeeChannelConverterFactory | Static+Dynamic |
| injectIntoPrivateField | Static+Dynamic |
| mockZigBeeCoordinatorHandler | Static+Dynamic |
| mockZigBeeNode | Static+Dynamic |
| processClusterList | Static+Dynamic |
| mockZigBeeBaseChannelConverterSuccessfull | Static+Dynamic |
| testProcessClusterList | Static+Dynamic |
| testInitializeDeviceWithThingPropertyFalse | Static+Dynamic |
| mockChannel | Static+Dynamic |
| mockThing | Static+Dynamic |
| testInitializeDeviceWithThingPropertyTrue | Static+Dynamic |

**EmberHandlerTest$EmberHandlerForTest**

Runtime

Methods (3)

| Name | Origin |
|---|---|
| <init> | Dynamic |
| editConfiguration | Dynamic |
| getConfigAs | Dynamic |

=> Did not catch inner class with static analysis

# Summary & Outlook

**Summary**

- Combined Kieker, Peass, and ExplorViz to visualize unit test traces and test coverage
- Result: 3D visualization that makes test results explorable in the context of software architecture and evolution

**Outlook**

- Focus on the performance analysis and visualization of executed unit tests

# References


- [1]L. Merino, M. Ghafari, C. Anslow, and O. Nierstrasz, “A systematic literature review of software visualization evaluation,” J Syst Software, vol. 144, pp. 165–180, 2018, doi: 10.1016/j.jss.2018.06.027.
- [2] K. Dreef, V. K. Palepu, and J. A. Jones. “Global Overviews of Granular Test Coverage with Matrix Visualizations”. In: 2021 Work-ing Conference on Software Visualization (VIS-SOFT) 00 (2021), pp. 44–54. doi: 10 . 1109 /vissoft52517.2021.00014.
- [3] Richard Wettel and Michele Lanza. 2008. CodeCity: 3D visualization of large-scale software. In Companion of the 30th international conference on Software engineering (ICSE Companion '08). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 921–922. https://doi.org/10.1145/1370175.1370188
- [4] Wilhelm Hasselbring, Alexander Krause, Christian Zirkelbach (2020): ExplorViz: Research on software visualization, comprehension and collaboration. Software Impacts, Volume 6. DOI https://doi.org/10.1016/j.simpa.2020.100034
- [5] D. G. Reichelt, S. Kühne and W. Hasselbring, "PeASS: A Tool for Identifying Performance Changes at Code Level," 2019 34th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE), San Diego, CA, USA, 2019, pp. 1146-1149, doi: 10.1109/ASE.2019.00123.
- [6] Reichelt, David Georg; Hansen, Malte; Yang, Shinhyung; Hasselbring, Wilhelm (2025): Interoperability From Kieker to OpenTelemetry: Demonstrated as Export to ExplorViz. Softwaretechnik-Trends Band 45, Heft 1. Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V.. ISSN: 0720-8928