

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





Motivation

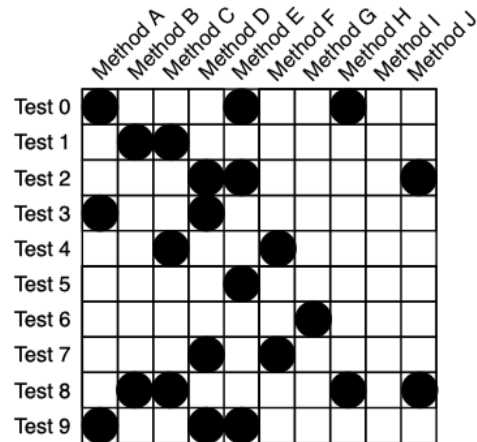
- Software visualization with visual metaphors is a powerful tool to explore different datasets [1]
- Software testing is an integral part of software development

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

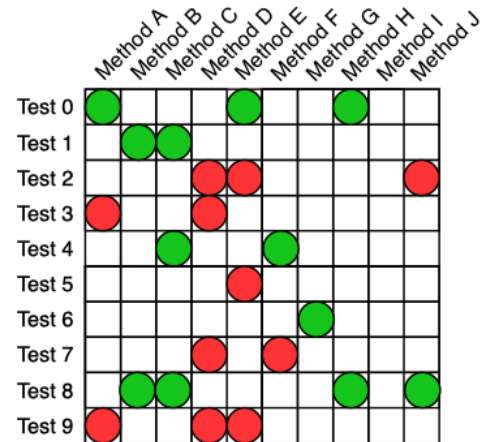


Related Work

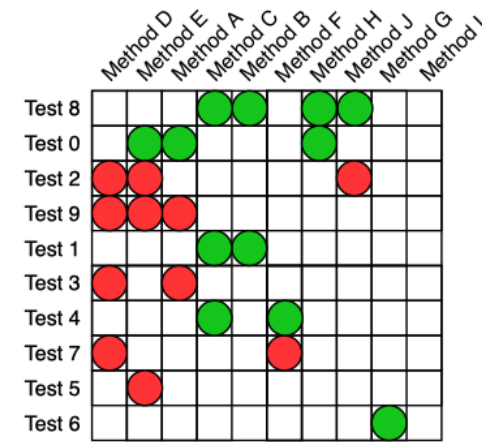
Matrix-Based Visualization



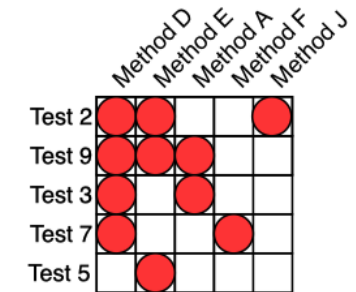
(a) Test matrix presenting tests and methods as rows and columns; the intersection shows a dot if it was covered.



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

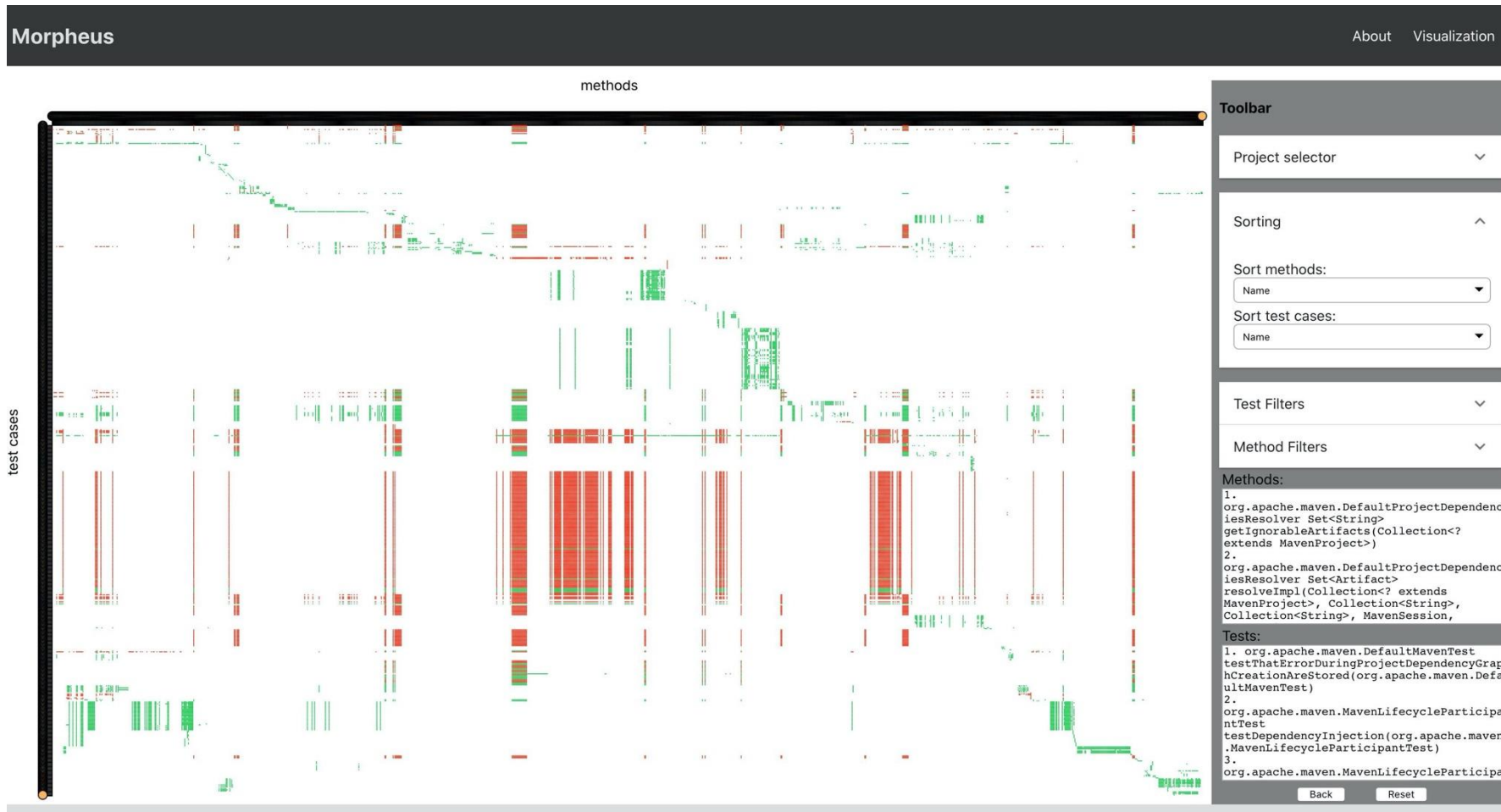


(c) Sorting tests and methods by coverage.



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

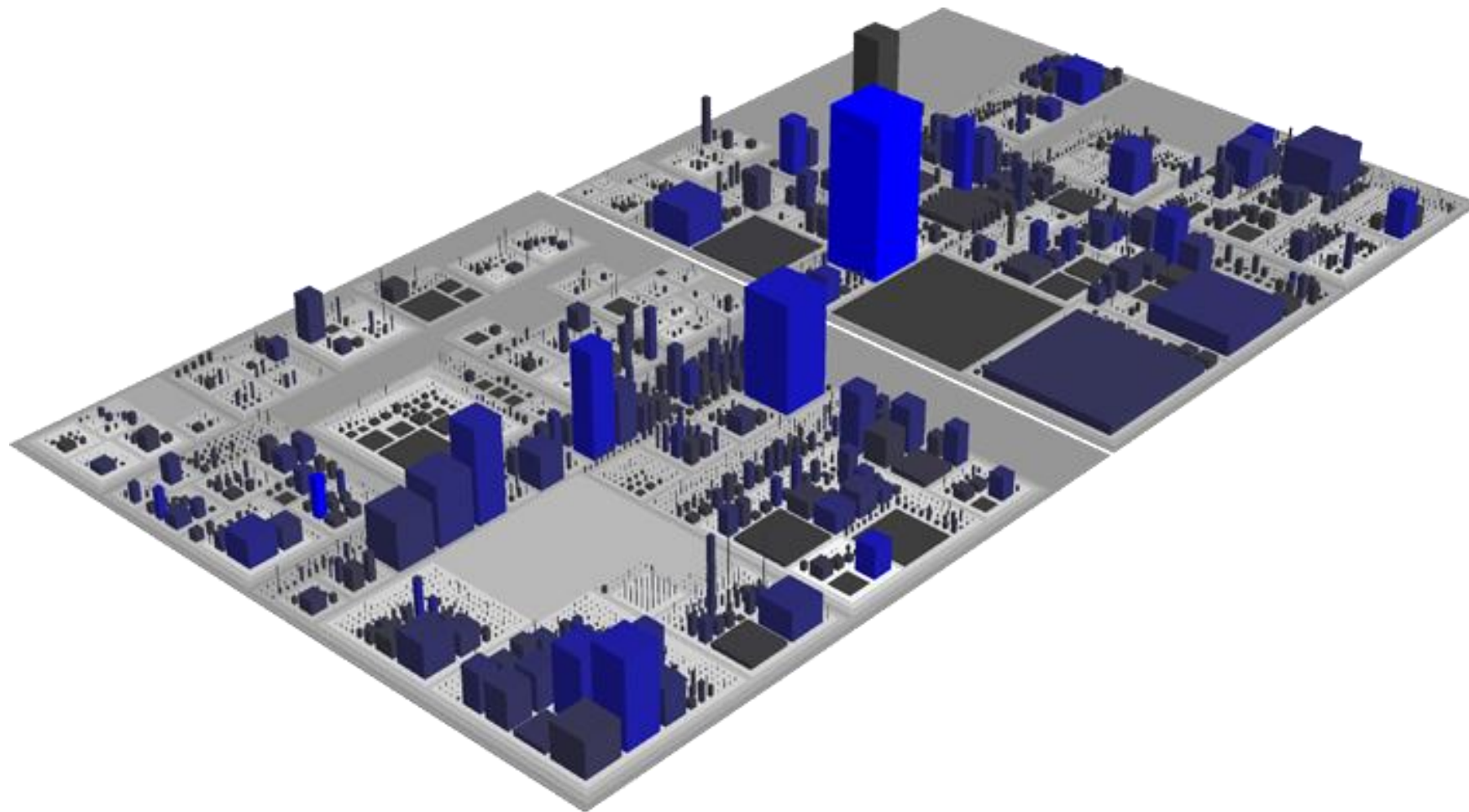
Matrix Visualization by Dreef et al.



=> Missing relation to software's architecture and evolution

[2]

CodeCity

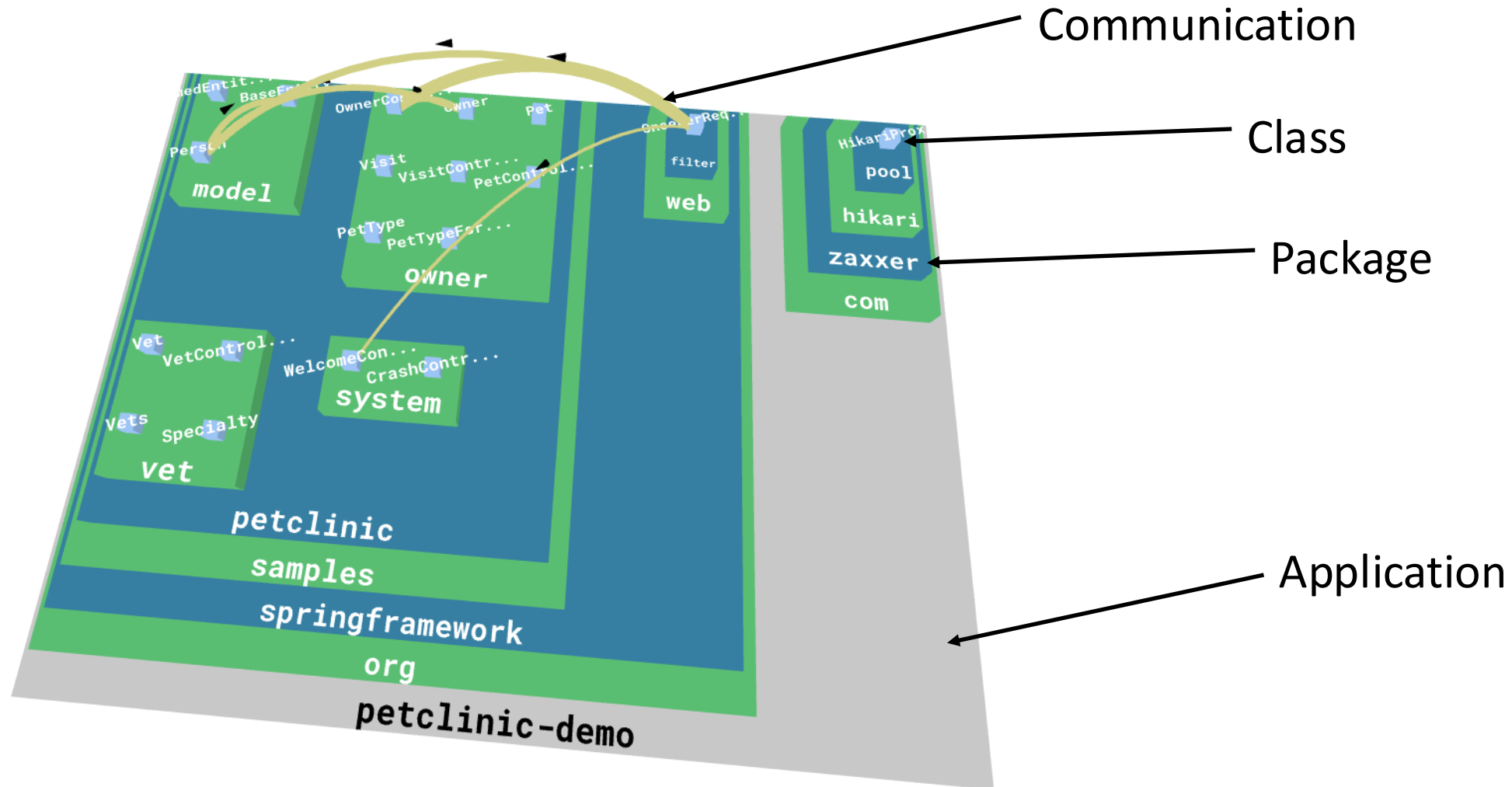


[3]

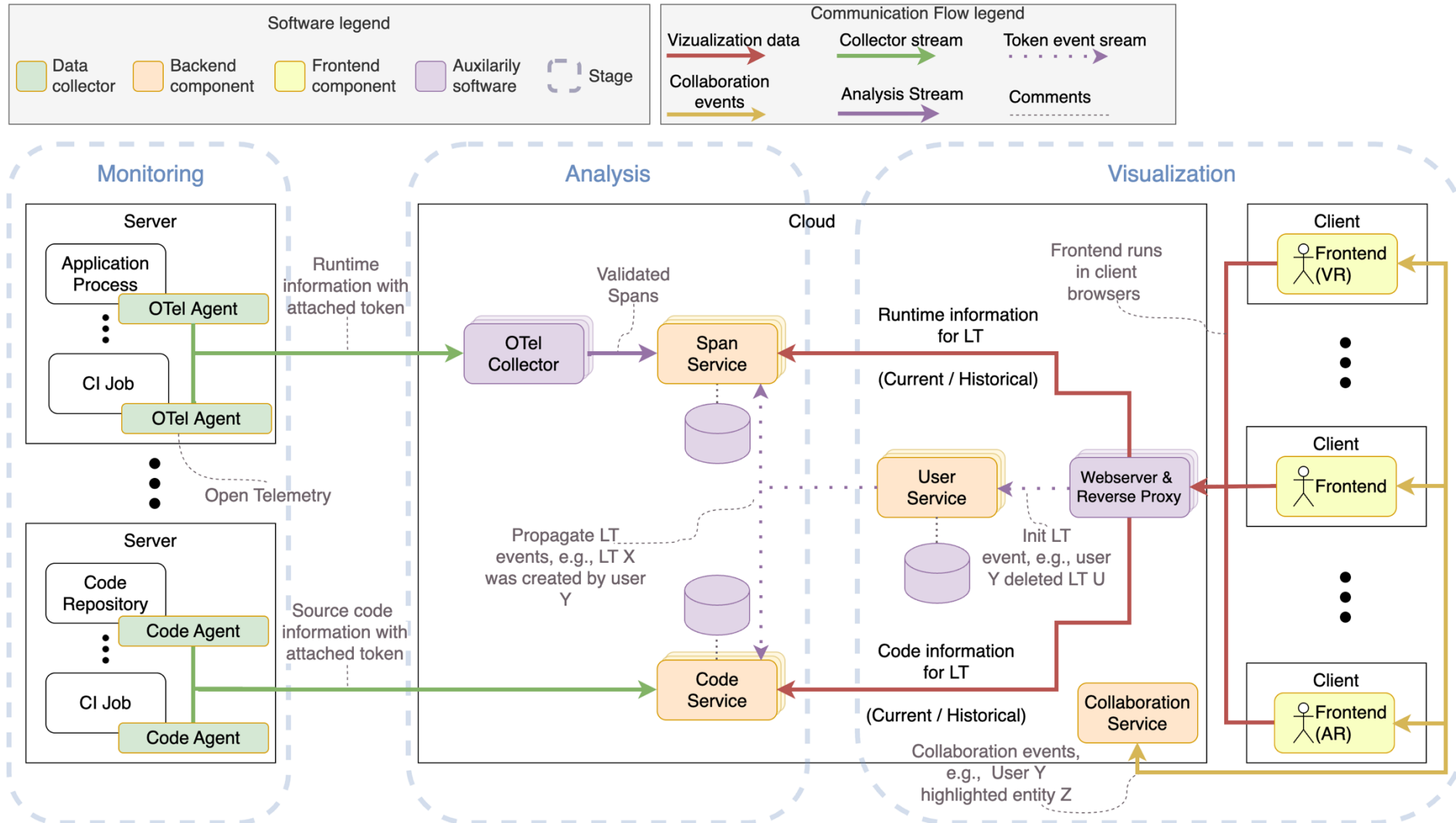


Background

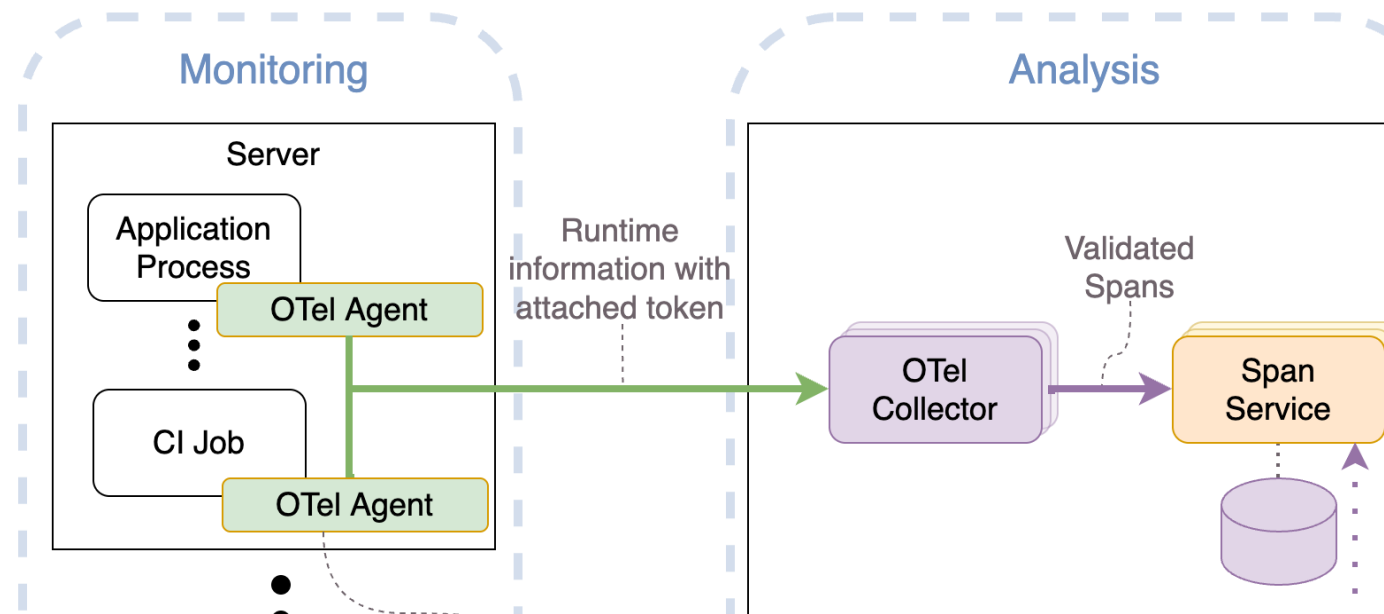
ExplorViz Visualization



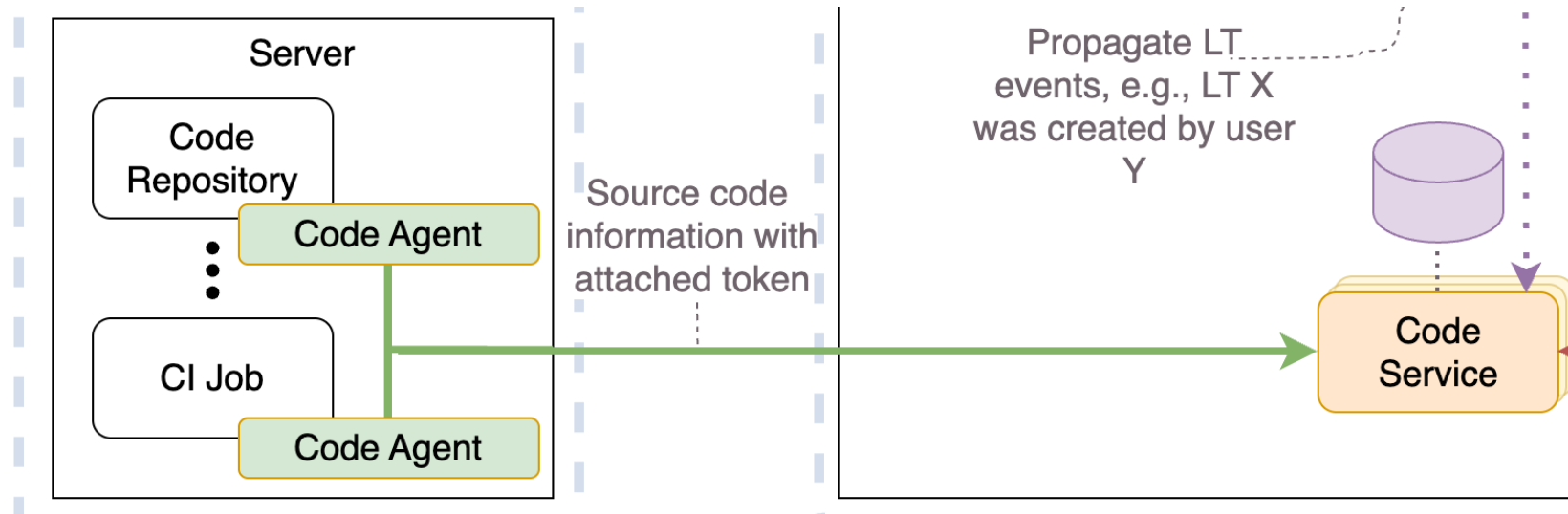
ExplorViz Architecture



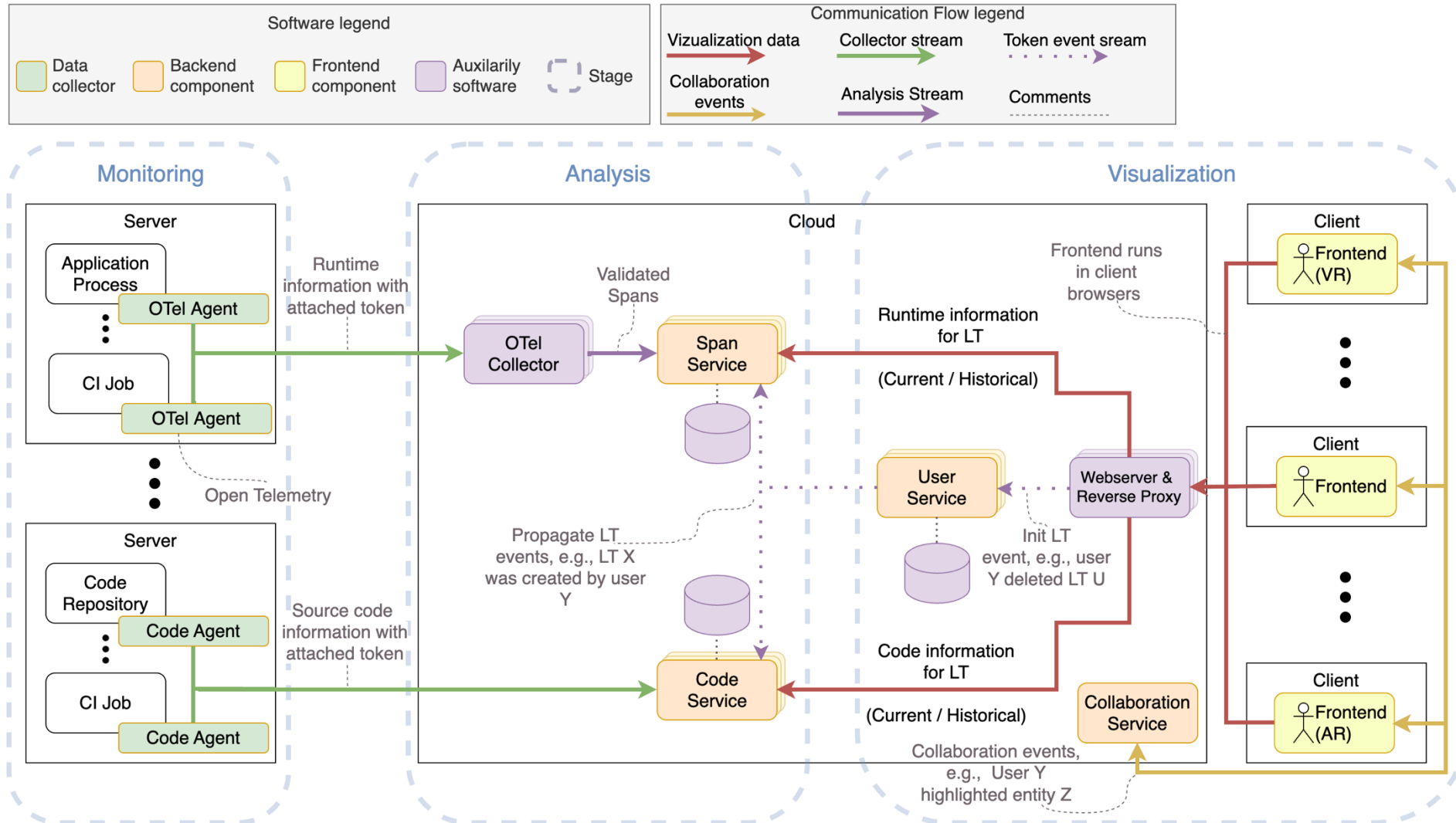
ExplorViz Architecture



ExplorViz Architecture

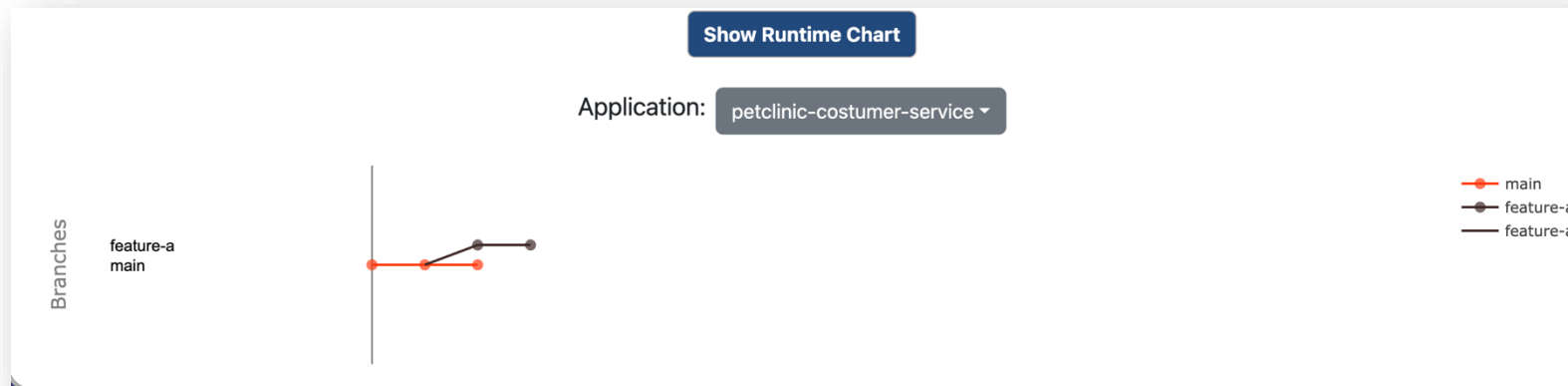


ExplorViz Architecture

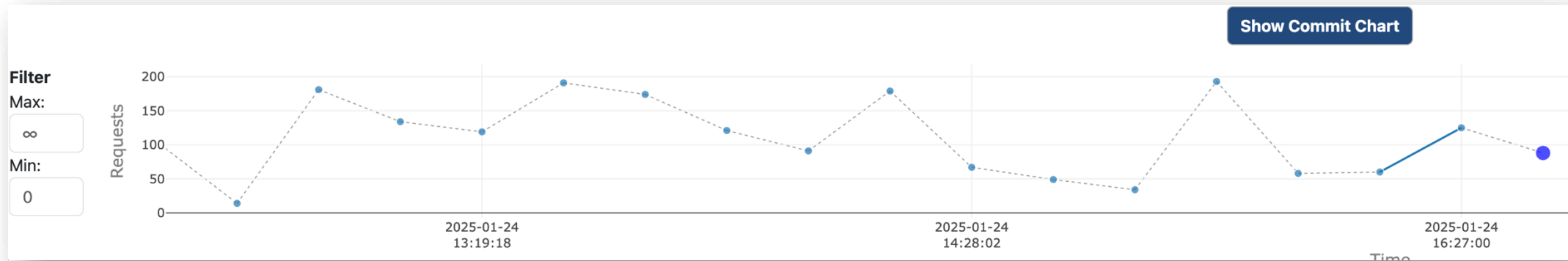


ExplorViz

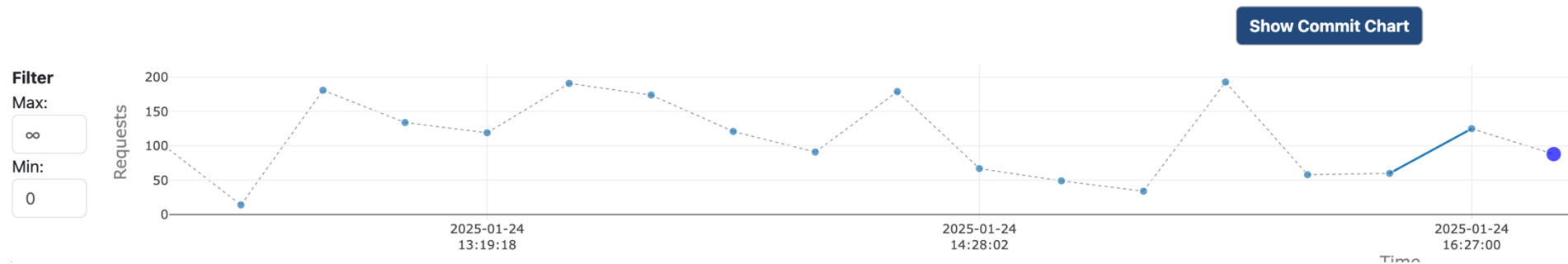
Commit Tree:



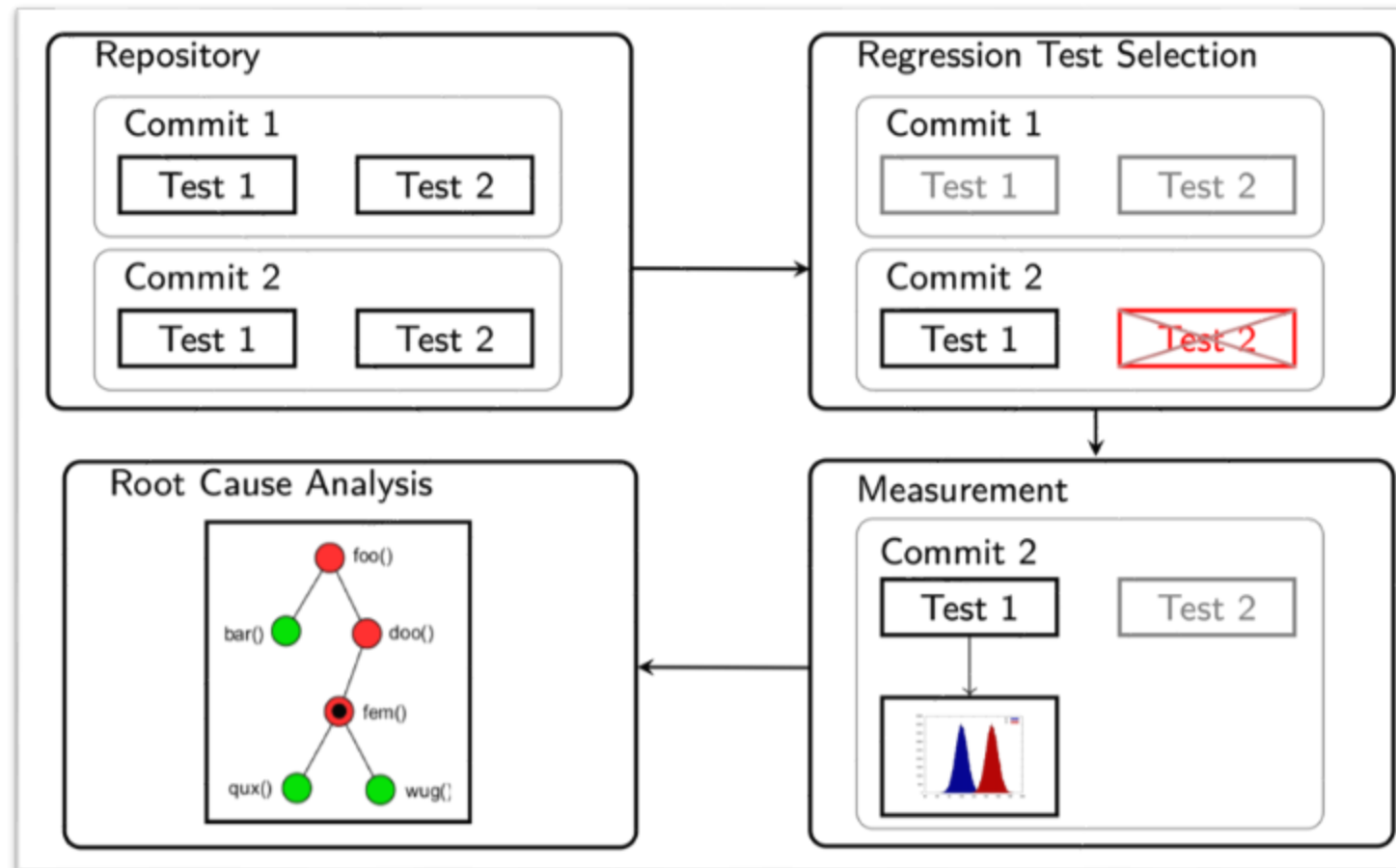
Timeline:



ExplorViz Timeline for Trace Data



Peass (Performance analysis of software systems)



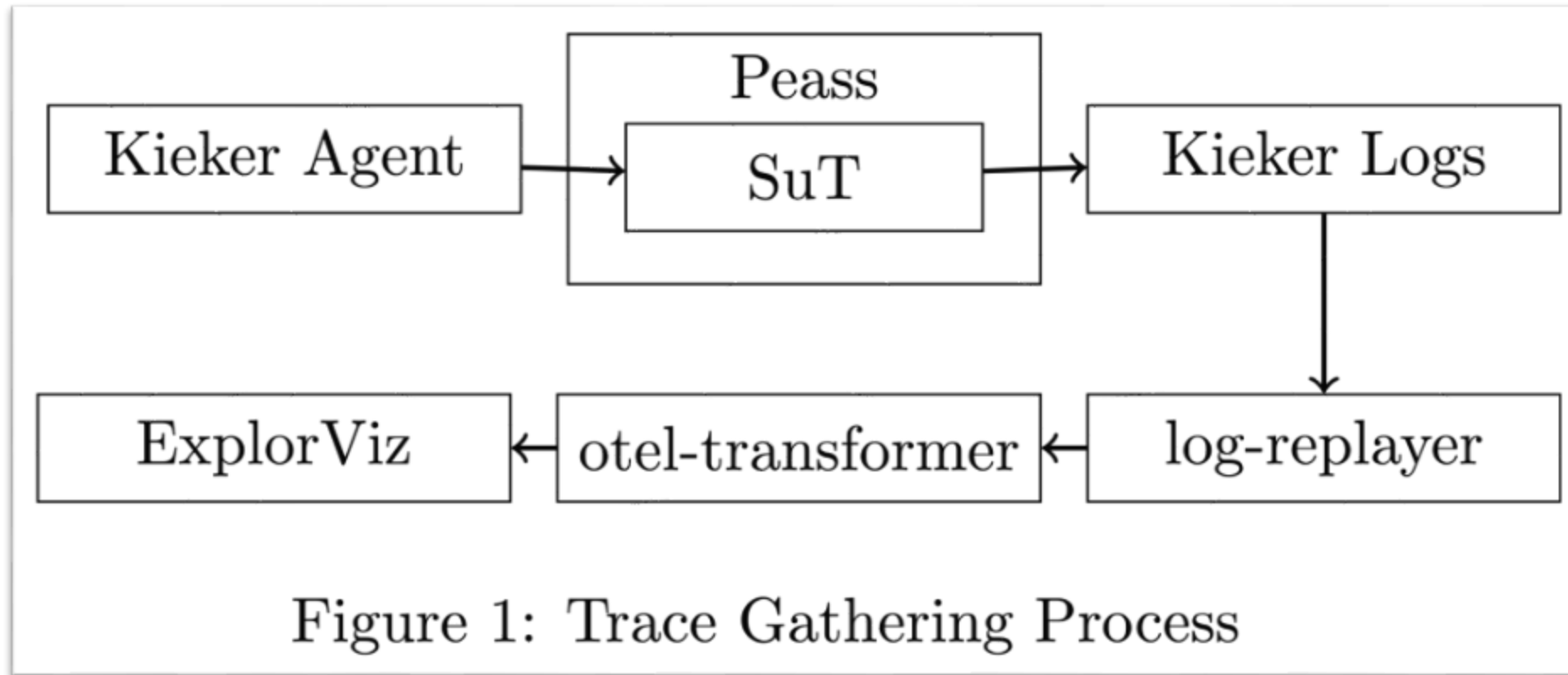
=> Used to automatically instrument unit tests with Kieker

[5]



Approach

Trace Gathering Process



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-



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

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `org.openhab.binding.zigbee`. The repository is public and has 11 branches, 140 tags, 23 watchers, 111 forks, and 72 stars. The repository was created by `wborn` 3 months ago and has 598 commits. The repository description is "openHAB binding for ZigBee" with an EPL-2.0 license. The repository includes a table of files and folders, a list of releases, and a link to the project's website.

File/Folder	Commit Message	Commit Date
<code>.github</code>	Add GitHub Actions workflows (#915)	3 months ago
<code>.mvn/wrapper</code>	Add GitHub Actions workflows (#915)	3 months ago
<code>bom</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago
<code>feature</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago
<code>licenses/epl-2.0</code>	Update license to EPL-2.0 (#449)	6 years ago
<code>org.openhab.binding.zigbee.cc2531</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago
<code>org.openhab.binding.zigbee.console.ember</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago
<code>org.openhab.binding.zigbee.console.telegesis</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago
<code>org.openhab.binding.zigbee.console</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago
<code>org.openhab.binding.zigbee.ember</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago
<code>org.openhab.binding.zigbee.firmware</code>	[unleash-maven-plugin] Preparation for next developmen...	4 months ago

About

openHAB binding for ZigBee

- EPL-2.0 license
- Contributing
- Security policy
- Activity
- Custom properties

72 stars
23 watching
111 forks

Report repository


Releases

140 tags

Sponsor this project


<https://www.openhab.org/about/donat...>



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

 **openhab-analysis** Public

Watch 0 Fork 1 Star 0

main 1 Branch 0 Tags Add file Code

 **DaGeRe** Fix Peass branch fca3e69 · 4 months ago 3 Commits

 zigbee_results	Initial description of process	4 months ago
 README.md	Fix Peass branch	4 months ago

README Edit More

OpenHab Analysis






This repo shows how to use Peass to analyze OpenHab repos. The main purpose is to visualize unit test call graphs using ExplorViz.

This has been done using two repos:

- <https://github.com/openhab/org.openhab.binding.zigbee.git> (Smaller, but less to see)
- <https://github.com/openhab/openhab-core.git> (Bigger, analysis are more time-consuming)

About

Data Dumps for OpenHab Analysis

-  Readme
-  Activity
-  0 stars
-  0 watching
-  1 fork

Report repository

Releases

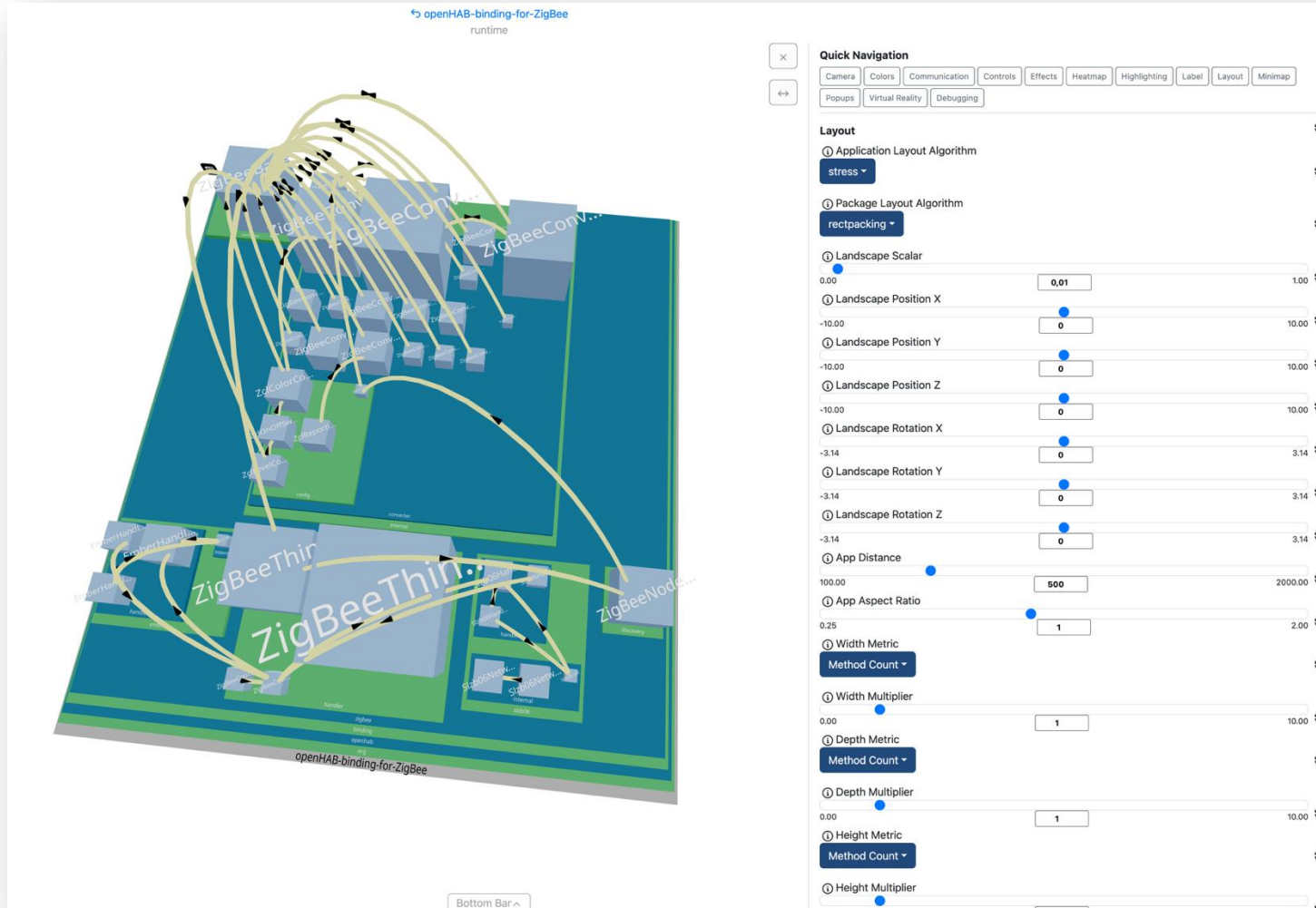
No releases published

Packages

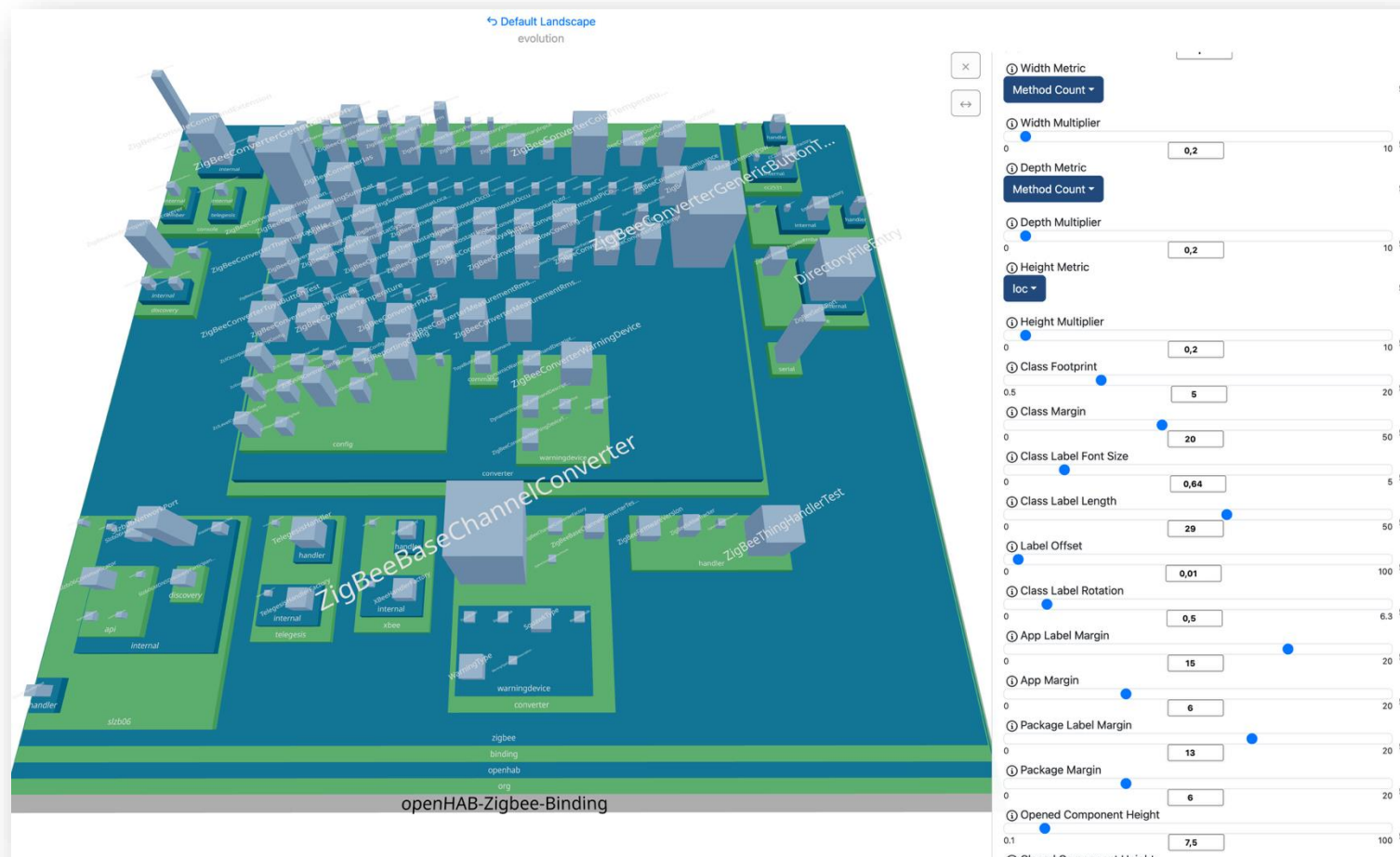
No packages published

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

Visualization: Dynamic Data Only

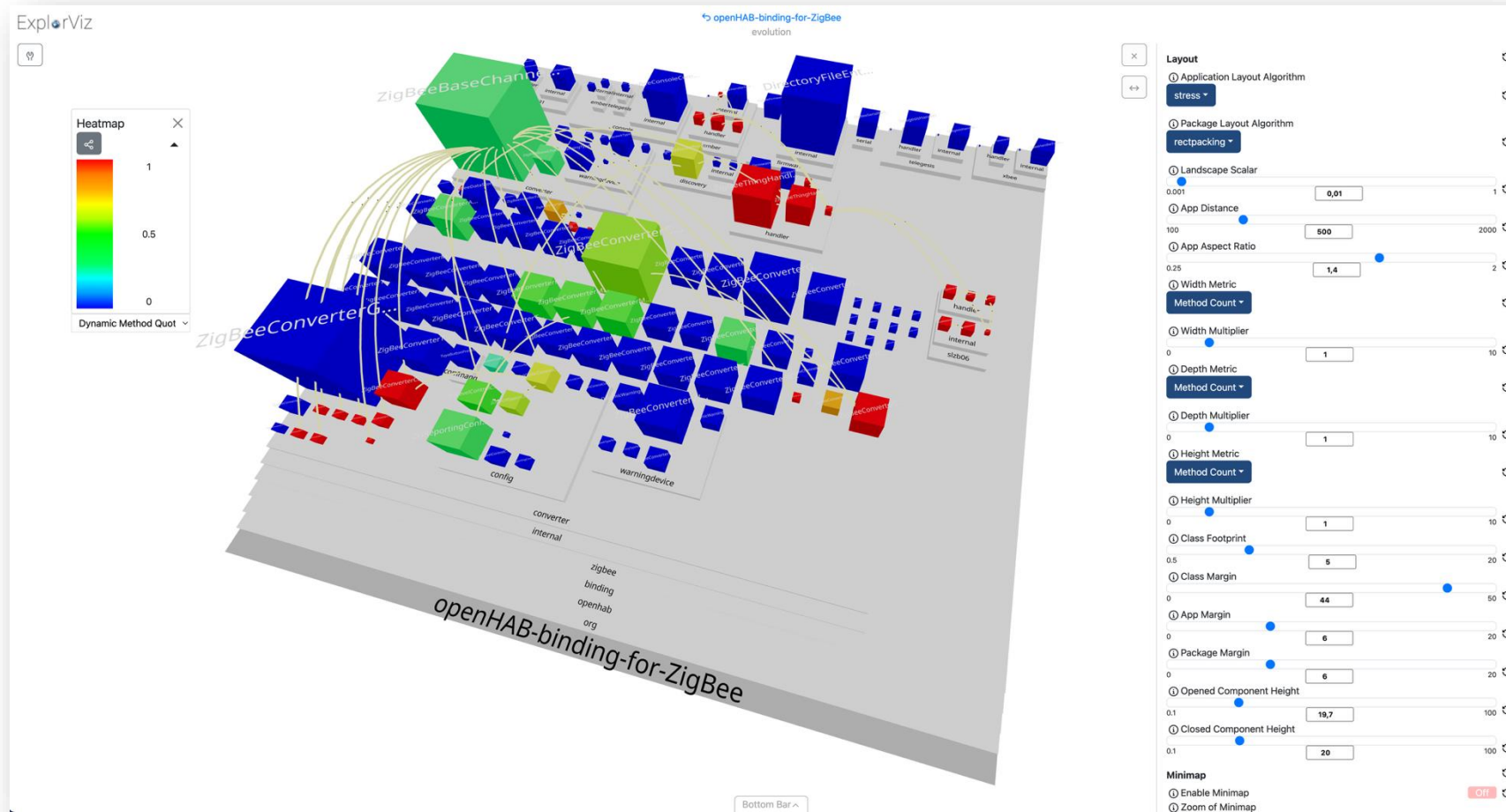


Visualization: Static Data Only





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
mockZigBeeBaseChannelConverterSuccessful	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