Evolving projects to concurrency with Wrangler

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Tool for refactoring Erlang programs.

Inside Emacs and ErIIDE ...

... and stand-alone.

Usable from the Erlang shell / command line.

An open API for new refactorings ...

... and a DSL for scripting complex changes.

API migration tool (e.g. dict to map, regexp to re).

Clone detection and module "bad smells".

Web services testing support.

Plays with testing tools.

Laboratory: symbolic evaluation, slicing, concurrency, parallelisation.

erlang

rerlang

rangler

Wrangler

wrangler | 'rangle |

noun

- 1 N. Amer.a person in charge of horses or other livestock on a ranch.
 - a person who trains and takes care of animals on a film set. they had three cow wranglers to help with the scene.
- 2 a person engaging in a lengthy and complicated dispute. he was known as the wrangler for the aplomb with which he skewered the professors.
- 3 (at Cambridge University) a person placed in the first class of the mathematical tripos.

Refactoring

"Change how the program works, but not what it does

Part of the programmer's standard toolkit.

Renaming, function extraction, generalisation



Refactoring tools

Avoid the "tedious and error-prone".

Keep it simple.

Cover the bureaucracy.

Whole language ...

... whole projects,

... plus tests, ...



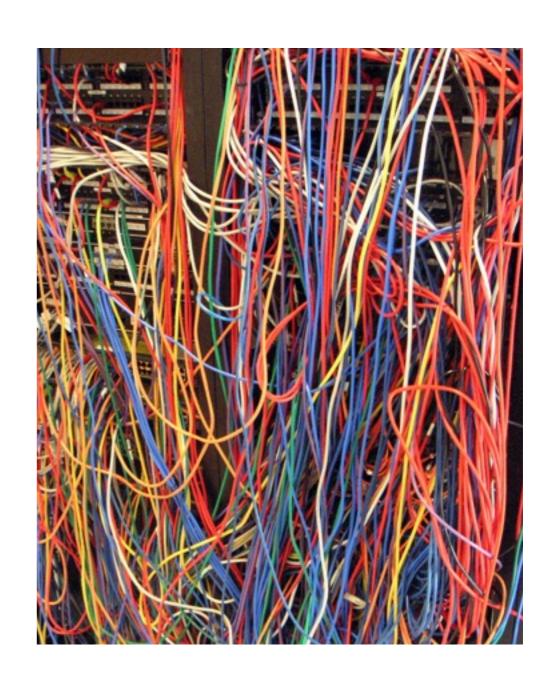
Demo

Rename,
function extraction,
generalisation,
rename again.

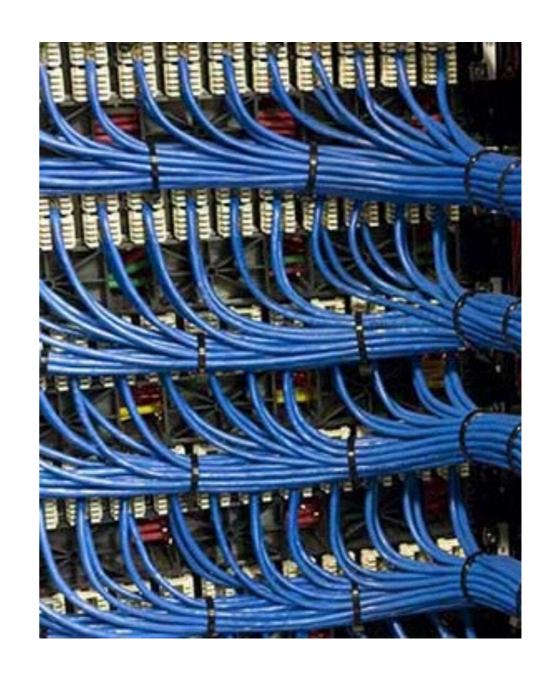
Using Wrangler outside emacs/ErIIDE

Wrangler from the Erlang shell ... use module api_wrangler.erl For example:

Wrangler is written in Erlang, all the way down, so you can extend it yourself ...



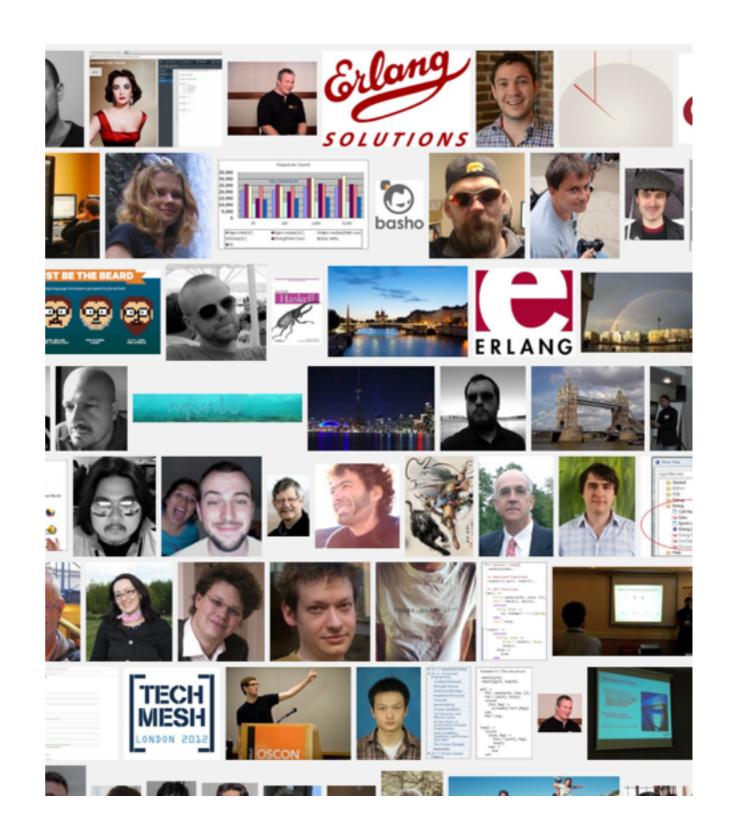
... but we have given you tools to make that extension much easier to deal with.



Key idea

You know Erlang ...

... you don't want to have to learn a whole new language or compiler internals to get the job done.



API and DSL

An API to define a completely new refactorings from scratch

... using Erlang concrete syntax,

... also "code inspection".

DSL for scripting refactorings

... "on steroids"

... embedded in Erlang.

What we've been asked for ...

camelCase to camel_case

Batch module renaming

Removing "bug preconditions" for Quviq.

API migration ... for example, regexp to re.

Introduce s_groups.

Wrangler API

Describe expressions in Erlang ...

```
loop_a() ->
 loop_a() \rightarrow
                                                  receive
      receive
                                                    stop -> ok;
        stop -> ok;
                                                    \{msg, \_Msg, \emptyset\} \rightarrow loop\_a();
        \{msg, \_Msg, \emptyset\} \rightarrow loop\_a();
                                                    \{msg, Msg, N\} \rightarrow
        \{msa. Msa. N\} ->
          body(Msg,N),
                                                      body(Msg, N, "ping!~n"),
          loop_a()
                                                      loop_a()
                                                   end.
       end.
body(Msg,N) ->
                                           body(Msg,N,Str) ->
                                                     io:format(Str),
         io:format("ping!~n"),
                                                     timer:sleep(500),
         timer:sleep(500),
                                                     b! {msg, Msg, N - 1}.
         b! {msg, Msg, N - 1}.
```

... how expressions are transformed ...

```
loop_a() ->
 loop_a() \rightarrow
                                                 receive
      receive
        stop -> ok;
                                                    stop -> ok;
                                                    \{msg, \_Msg, \emptyset\} \rightarrow loop\_a();
        \{msg, \_Msg, \emptyset\} \rightarrow loop\_a();
        \{msg, Msg, N\} \rightarrow
                                                    \{msa, Msa, N\} ->
                                                    body(Msg,N,"ping!~n")
          body(Msg,N);
                                                      loop_a()
          loop_a()
       end.
                                                   end.
                                           body(Msg,N,Str) ->
body(Msg,N) ->
         io:format("ping!~n"),
                                                    10:format(Str),
                                                    timer:sleep(500),
         timer:sleep(500),
                                                    b ! {msg, Msg, N - 1}.
         b! {msg, Msg, N - 1}.
```

... and its context and scope.

```
loop_a() \rightarrow
 loop_a() ->
                                              receive
     receive
                                                 stop -> ok;
        stop -> ok;
        {msg, _Msg, 0} -> loop_a();
                                                 \{msg, \_Msg, \emptyset\} \rightarrow loop\_a();
        \{msg, Msg, N\} \rightarrow
                                                 {msa, Msa, N} ->
                                                 body(Msg,N,"ping!~n"),
         body(Msg,N)
         loop_a()
                                                  loop_a()
      end.
                                               end.
                                         body(Msg,N,Str) ->
body(Msg,N) ->
        io:format("ping!~n"),
                                                 10:format(Str),
                                                 timer:sleep(500),
        timer:sleep(500),
                                                 b! {msg, Msg, N - 1}.
        b! {msg, Msg, N - 1}.
```

Pre-conditions for refactorings

```
loop_a() \rightarrow
      receive
         stop -> ok;
         \{msg, \_Msg, \emptyset\} \rightarrow loop\_a();
         \{msg, Msg, N\} \rightarrow
          body(Msg,N),
          loop_a()
       end.
body(Msg,N) ->
         io:format("ping!~n"),
         timer:sleep(500),
         b! {msg, Msg, N
```

Can't generalise over an expression that contains free variables ...

... or use the same name as an existing variable for the new variable.

Wrangler API

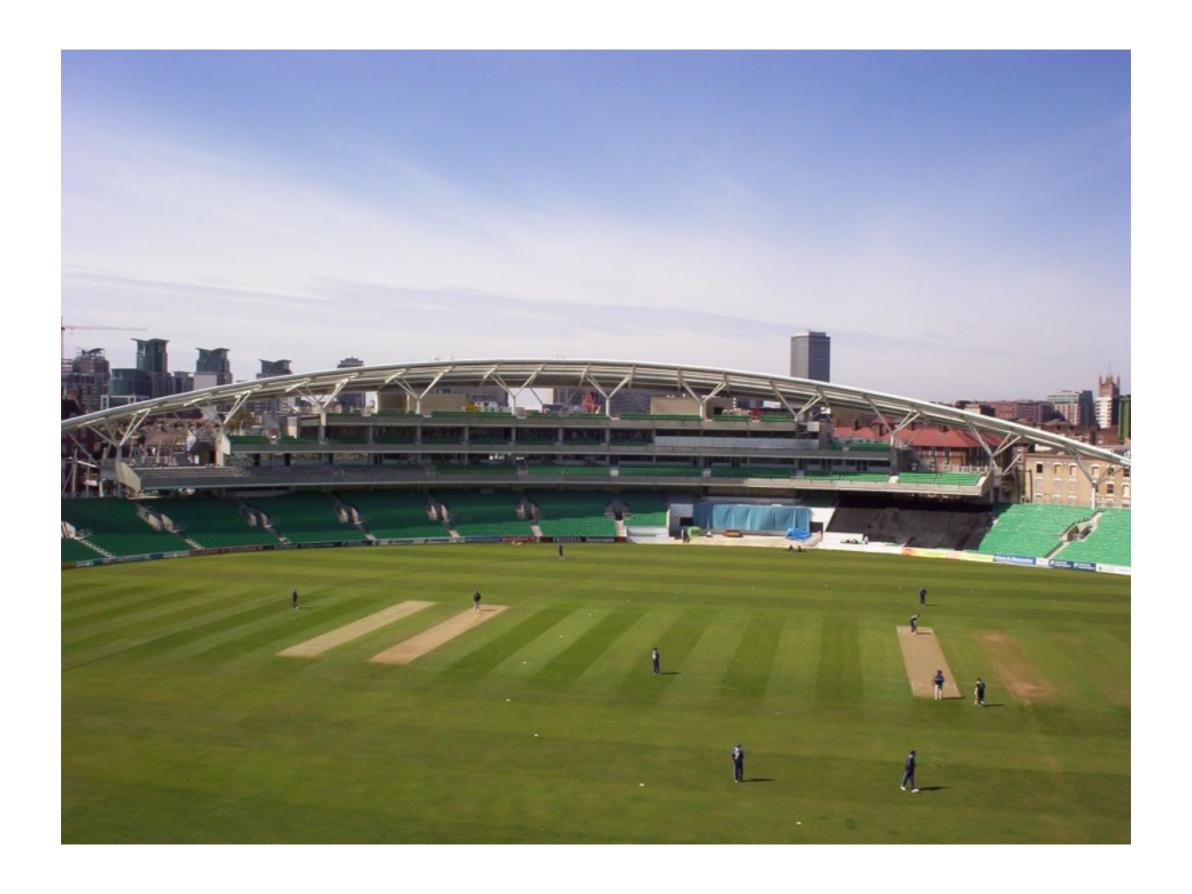
Context is used to define preconditions

Traversals describe how transformations are applied

Rules describe transformations

Templates describe expressions

Introducing concurrency





Key idea

Identify parts of computations that can be performed independently.

Base decisions on intra-function control-flow slicing.

Percept2

Uncovering potential concurrency

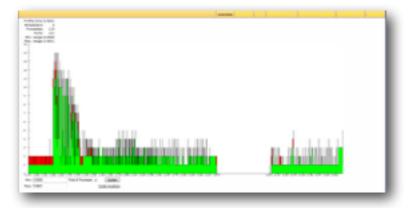
Number of active processes.

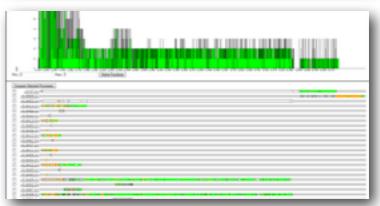
Runnable vs running.

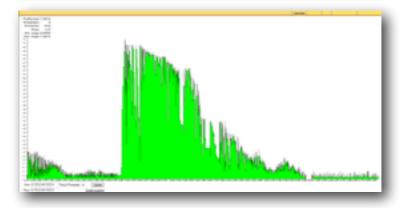
Process id to function definition.

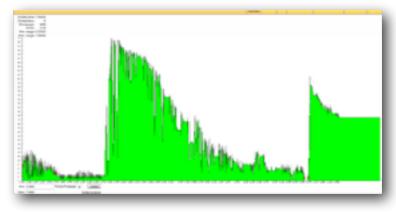
Github: RefactoringTools/Percept2.

Also available: htop, etop, ...









Introducing concurrency in practice

Some examples are easy ...

```
lists:map(\dots, \dots) [f(X) || X <- Xs]
```

... both can be replaced with a parallel map occurrence

But in general need to analyse program structure more carefully.

Pragmatics

Fit with Erlang design philosophy:

- work with OTP behaviours: synchronous to asynchronous calls to a generic server ...
- ... an instance of a general function transformation;
- Deal with tail recursive functions.

Provide automation in Wrangler.

Analysis

Analysis and transformation

```
readImage(FileName, FileName2) ->
 Self = self(),
 Pid = spawn link(
   fun () ->
      {ok, #erl image{format=F1,
                      pixmaps=[PM1]}}
          = erl img:load(FileName),
      Cols1 =PM1#erl pixmap.pixels,
      R1 = [B1| | \{A1, B1\} < -Cols\},
     Self ! {self(), {R1, F1}}
    end),
  {ok, #erl image{format=F2, pixmaps=[PM2]}}
     = erl img:load(FileName2),
 Cols2=PM2#erl pixmap.pixels,
 R2 = [B2||{A2, B2}<-Cols2],
 receive {Pid, {R1, F1}} -> {R1, F1} end,
 {R1, F1, R2, F2}.
```

Working with OTP

Fit with Erlang design philosophy: calculate a reply separately from the new state ...

The Wrangler API – top level

The top level of the transformation

The Wrangler API - rule

match this / replace with this / if this holds

Meta-variables match objects (Res@) and sequences (Body@@).

The Wrangler API - analyse / generate

```
gen new handle call(C, Res, State,
                         {Args, Guard, Body, State}) ->
    {Slice1, _}=wrangler_slice_new:backward_slice(C, Res),
    {Slice2, _}=wrangler_slice_new:backward_slice(C, State),
    ExprLocs = Slice1 -- Slice2,
    Exprs = [B||B < -Body,
               lists:member(
                 api_refac:start_end_loc(B), ExprLocs)],
    NewBody = Body -- Exprs,
    api refac:subst(
        ?T("handle call(Args@@) when Guard@@ ->
                 Body@a,
                 spawn link(
                       fun()->
                            Resp= begin Exprs@@ end,
                          gen server:reply(From, Resp)
                        end),
                 {no reply, State@};"),
            [{'Args@@', Args}, {'Guard@@', Guard},
              {'Body@@', NewBody}, {'State@', State},
              {'Exprs@@', Exprs}]).
```

The Wrangler API - analyse / generate

```
gen new handle call(C, Res, State,
                         {Args, Guard, Body, State}) ->
    {Slice1, _}=wrangler_slice_new:backward_slice(C, Res),
    {Slice2, _}=wrangler_slice new:backward slice(C, State),
    ExprLocs = Slice1 -- Slice2,
    Exprs = [B | B < -Body,
               lists:member(
                 api refac:start end loc(B), ExprLocs)],
    NewBody = Body -- Exprs,
    api refac:subst(
        ?T("handle call(Args@@) when Guard@@ ->
                 Body@a,
                 spawn link(
                       fun()->
                            Resp= begin Exprs@@ end,
                          gen server:reply(From, Resp)
                        end),
                 {no reply, State@};"),
            [{'Args@@', Args}, {'Guard@@', Guard},
              {'Body@@', NewBody}, {'State@', State},
              {'Exprs@@', Exprs}]).
```

Demo

Slicing in Wrangler

Handling tail recursion

```
do_grouping([], _, _, _, Acc) -> {ok, Acc};

do_grouping(Nodes, _Size, 1, Counter, Acc) ->
    {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]};

do_grouping(Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter, Acc) ->
    Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
    Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
    NewGroup = make_group(Group, Counter),
    NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
    do_grouping(Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1, NewAcc).
```

Handling tail recursion

Work thorough a series of analysis and transformation steps.

- is it tail recursive?
- which is the accumulator?
- partition the body
 - float out: computation that can be separated,
 - new values of parameters, and ...
 - ... new value of the accumulator;
- and finally repackage.

Is it tail recursive?

Without loss of generality we assume that it has the form ...

```
fun_name(Arg_11, . . . , Arg_1n) -> Body1;
. . . .
fun_name(Arg_m1, ...., Arg_mn) ->
    BodyExpr1,
    BodyExpr2,
    . . .
fun_name(NewArg_m1, ..., NewArg_mn).
```

... but obviously the same mechanisms will apply in other forms.

Which is the accumulator?

Value depends on itself (and some others)?

No other parameter depends on its value.

Its value is not used in the termination condition of the recursion.

```
do_grouping([], _, _, _, Acc) -> {ok, Acc};
do_grouping(Nodes, _Size, 1, Counter, Acc) ->
    {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]};
do_grouping(Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter, Acc) ->
    Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
    Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
    NewGroup = make_group(Group, Counter),
    NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
    do_grouping(Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1, NewAcc).
```

```
do_grouping([], _, _, _, Acc) -> {ok, Acc};
do_grouping(Nodes, _Size, 1, Counter, Acc) ->
    {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]};
do_grouping(Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter, Acc) ->
    Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
    Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
    NewGroup = make_group(Group, Counter),
    NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
    do_grouping(Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1, NewAcc).
```

```
do_grouping([], _, _, _, Acc) -> {ok, Acc};
do_grouping(Nodes, _Size, 1, Counter, Acc) ->
    {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]};
do_grouping(Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter, Acc) ->
    Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
    Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
    NewGroup = make_group(Group, Counter),
    NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
    do_grouping(Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1, NewAcc)].
```

What can we float out?

From the slice for the accumulator ...

... not depending on the value of the accumulator,

... not overlapping with slices of other parameters.

```
do_grouping([], _, _, _, Acc) -> {ok, Acc};
do_grouping(Nodes, _Size, 1, Counter, Acc) ->
    {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]};
do_grouping(Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter, Acc) ->
    Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
    Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
    NewGroup = make_group(Group, Counter),
    NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
    do_grouping(Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1, NewAcc).
```

```
do_grouping([], _, _, _, Acc) -> {ok, Acc};
do_grouping(Nodes, _Size, 1, Counter, Acc) ->
    {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]};
do_grouping(Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter, Acc) ->
    Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
    Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
    NewGroup = make_group(Group, Counter),
    NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
    do_grouping(Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1, NewAcc).
```

```
do_grouping([], _, _, _, Acc) -> {ok, Acc};
do_grouping(Nodes, _Size, 1, Counter, Acc) ->
    {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]};
do_grouping(Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter, Acc) ->
    Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
    Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
    NewGroup = make_group(Group, Counter),
    NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
    do_grouping(Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1, NewAcc)].
```

Transformed process ... top level

Transformed process ... under the hood

Each of the workers repeatedly calculates make_group on demand.

Ensure that results collected in the correct order, to preserve semantics.

```
do grouping worker loop(Parent) ->
   receive
      {Group, Size, Counter, Index} ->
          NewGroup = make group(Group, Counter),
          Parent ! {{worker, self()}, Index, NewGroup},
          do grouping worker loop(Parent);
      stop ->
          ok
   end.
do grouping dispatch and collect loop(Parent, Acc, Workers, RecvIndex, CurIndex) ->
  receive
     {[], Size, NumGroup, Counter} when RecvIndex == CurIndex ->
         Parent ! {self(), {ok, Acc}};
     {[], Size, NumGroup, Counter} when RecvIndex < CurIndex ->
         self() ! {[], Size, NumGroup, Counter},
         do grouping dispatch and collect loop(
            Parent, Acc, Workers, RecvIndex, CurIndex);
     {Nodes, Size, 1, Counter} when RecvIndex == CurIndex ->
          Parent ! {self(), {ok, [make_group(Nodes, Counter)|Acc]}};
     {Nodes, Size, 1, Counter} when RecvIndex < CurIndex ->
          self() ! {Nodes, Size, 1, Counter},
          do grouping dispatch and collect loop(
            Parent, Acc, Workers, RecvIndex, CurIndex);
     {Nodes, Size, NumGroup, Counter} ->
          Group = lists:sublist(Nodes, Size),
          Remain = lists:subtract(Nodes, Group),
          Pid = oneof(Workers),
          Pid ! {self(), Group, Size, Counter},
          self() ! {Remain, Size, NumGroup-1, Counter+1},
          do grouping dispatch and collect loop(
             Parent, Acc, Workers, RecvIndex, CurIndex+1);
      {{worker, Pid}, RecvIndex, NewGroup} ->
         NewAcc = [NewGroup|Acc],
          do grouping dispatch and collect loop(
             Parent, NewAcc, Workers, RecvIndex+1, CurIndex)
  end.
```

Why are these explicit transformations?

These are complex transformations ... why not just in a compiler?

- So that the step is an explicit part of the development ...
- ... and in particular logged in a repository.
- Compiler-based transformation notoriously fragile.
- 'Hand' intervention is often necessary for optimal results ...
- ... as recognised by others performing loop parallelisation.

API migration: maps in R17

Can we use maps in our project?

Look for uses of dict ... are they map-like?

All the details in my talk at the Erlang User Conference 2014

Wrangler is a toolset

Wrangler as a toolset

Clone detection

Parametrisable

Incremental

Automated support using the DSL

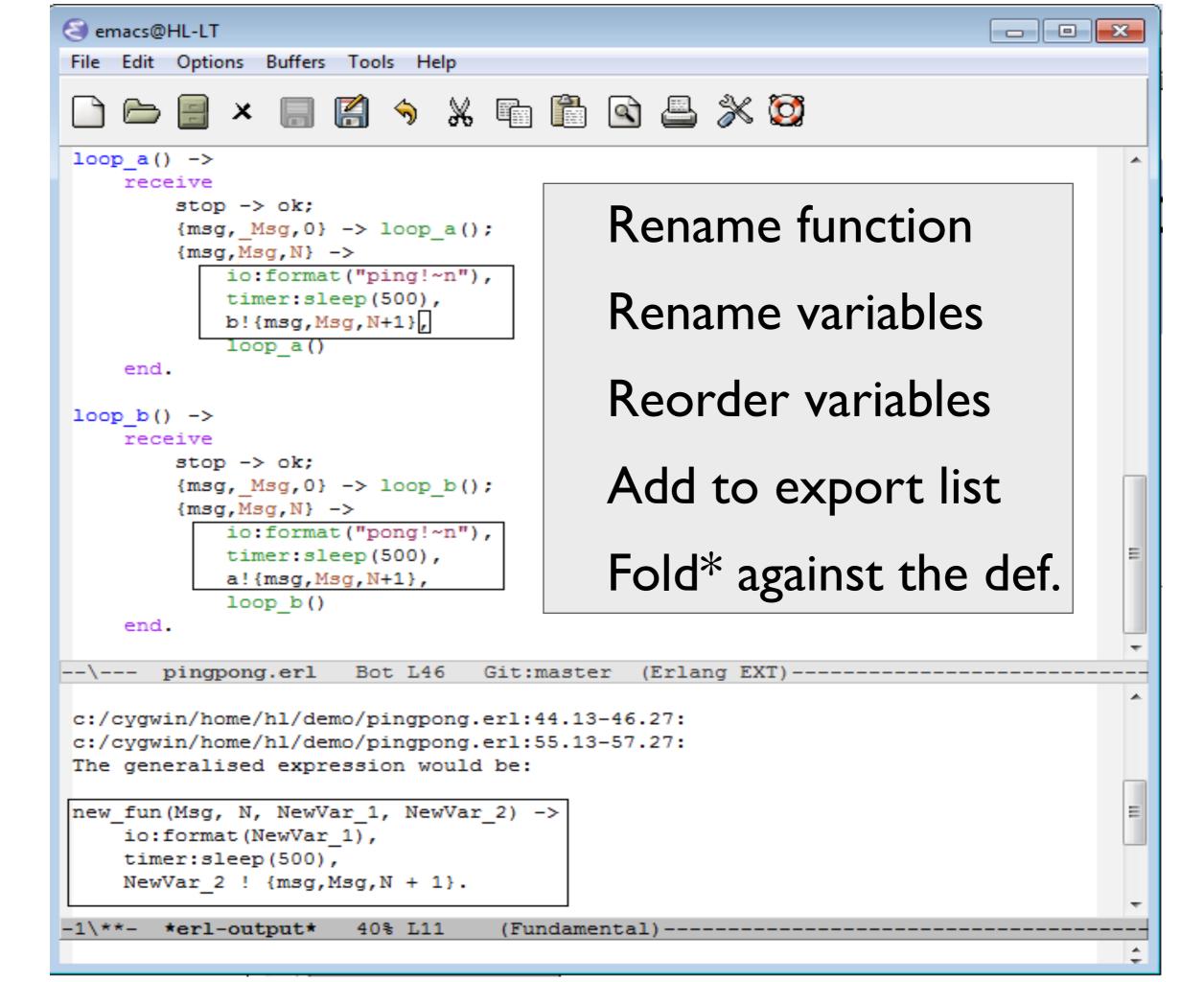
Module "bad smell" detection

Size, cycles, exports

Other inspection and refactoring functions

WSToolkit: PBT for web services

Clone detection and removal



Demo

Clone detection in Wrangler

Not just a script ...

Tracking changing names and positions.

Generating refactoring commands.

Dealing with failure.

User control of execution.

... we're dealing with the pragmatics of composition, rather than just the theory.

Automation

Don't have to describe each command explicitly: allow conditions and generators.

Allow lazy generation ... return a refactoring command together with a continuation.

Track names, so that ?current(foo) gives the 'current' name of an entity foo at any point in the refactoring.

Clone removal: top level

Transaction as a whole ... non-"atomic" components OK.

Not just an API: ?atomic etc. modify interpretation of what they enclose ...

Erlang and the embedded DSL

```
?refac_(rename_var,
        [M,
         begin
           \{\_, F1, A1\} = ?current(M, F, A),
           {F1, A1}
         end,
         fun(X) ->
             re:run(atom_to_list(X), "NewVar*")/=nomatch
         end,
         {user_input, fun({_, _, V}) ->
                         lists:flatten(io_lib:format
                                 "Rename variable ~p to: ", [V]))
                       end},
         SearchPaths])
```

WSToolkit

Property-based testing of stateful systems

Build an abstract model: a single state EFSM

- the state data: typically an Erlang record.
- pre- and post-conditions on calls of API functions
- state data transitions for the API functions

Test the system through random call sequences through the model.

Automation of web services testing

From WSDL description, automated creation of Erlang code for

- data type definitions,
- data generators,
- web services connector module, and
- skeleton eqc statem behaviour.

https://github.com/RefactoringTools/WSToolkit

Evolution and refactoring

Automatic inference of web service interface changes.

A set of domain-specific refactorings in Wrangler.

Automatic creation of Wrangler refactoring scripts.

https://github.com/RefactoringTools/wrangler

Automation ... why?

Automation of the boilerplate and the routine ...

... gives time to concentrate on the semantic.

Because it's useful in practice ...

www.interoud.com

363 operations: 160 POST and 203 GET; data returned in XML.

Hand-coded QuickCheck state machine tests 98 operations of this web service (27% of the total).

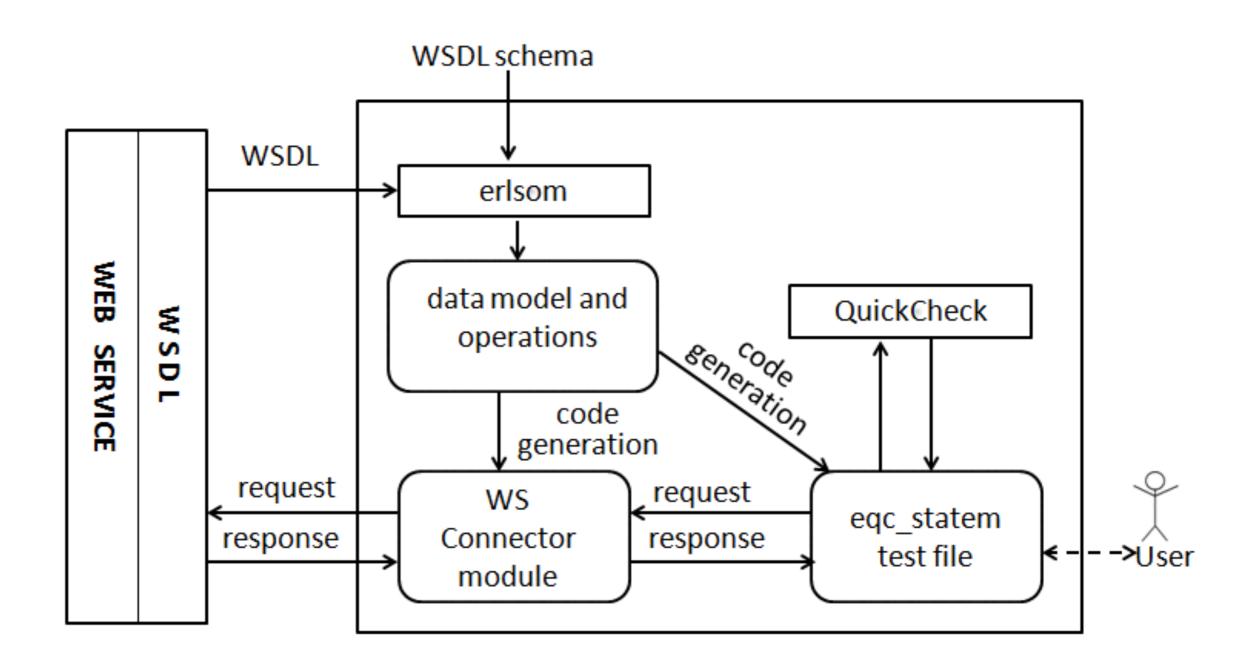
Hand-crafted WS connection module of 1,000 lines of code.

Rapid change: e.g. in September and October 2013, 10 operations added and 15 modified, many by adding new parameters.

Automation leads to

- fewer errors (e.g. in connector module), and
- more robust evolution.

Automation architecture



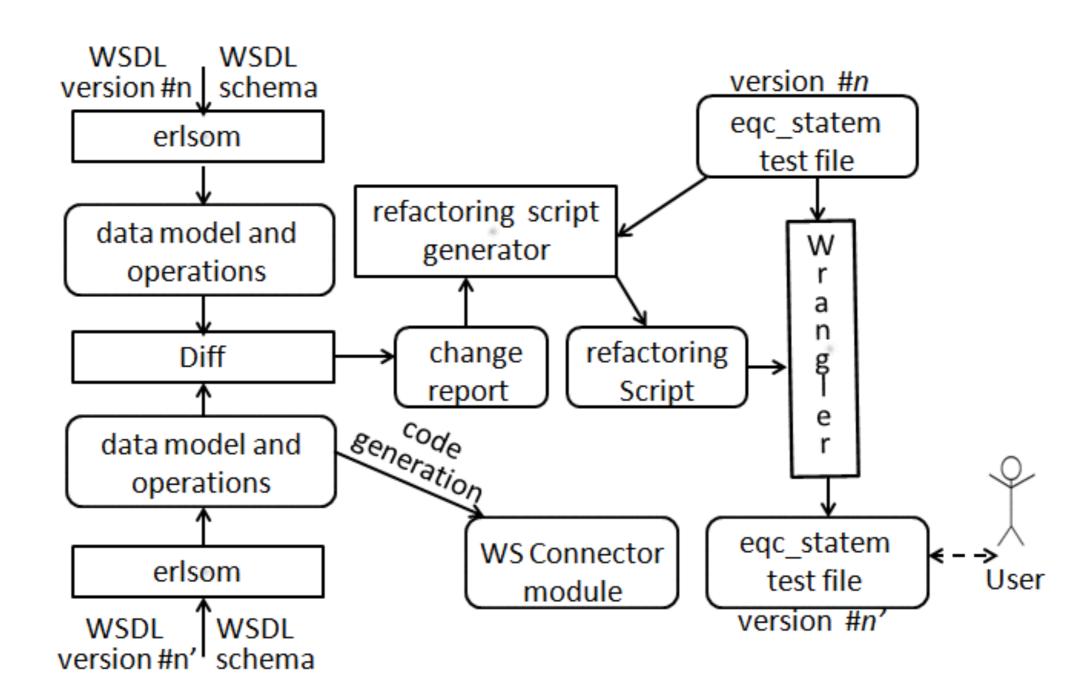
Connector module

From WSDL operation descriptions ...

```
<operation name="GetWeather" pattern="http://www.w3.org/ns/wsdl/in-out">
        <documentation>Get weather report for all major cities around the world.
        </documentation>
        <input element="tns:GetWeather"/>
            <output element="tns:GetWeatherResponse"/>
        </operation>
```

... generate Erlang connector functions, to call the service.

Evolution architecture



Inferring changes in WSDL

Old and new WSDL represented as Erlang data structures.

Infer Levenshtein distance ...

... plus some domain-specific processing e.g. order, rename, merge.

Typical example: two new operations, plus ...

... changes to input and output components and their types.

Domain-specific refactorings

Some refactorings in Wrangler already e.g renaming, but others not.

The PBT use case requires specific extras, e.g. add parameter:

- addition of a field to a tuple, not as another parameter;
- symbolic calls in description of the state machine;
- connector module uses.

These domain-specific refactorings defined using the Wrangler API.

Inferring refactoring scripts

From the changes we infer between WSDL versions we can derive a script for the Wrangler DSL to automate the refactorings.

In the case inferred in the paper (with some ...).

Many thanks to Huiqing Li for her Wrangler work from its inception through to last summer.

Getting involved

https://github.com/RefactoringTools



