Software Visual Analytics for Maintenance

Example Solutions



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Introduction







Data Visualization: Principles and Practice A. K. Peters, 2008

Professor of Computer Science (Multiscale Visual Analytics), University of Groningen, the Netherlands

My PhD students...



Data Visualization

My MSc students...

Avdo Hanjalic, Tijmen Klein, Johan v/d Geest, Mark Ettema, Daniel Kok, Karsten Westra, Yuri Meiburg, Hessel Hoogendorp, Liewe Kwakman, Madalina Florean, Bertjan Broeksema, Mark Stoetzer, Sergio Moreta, Kees van Koten, Frans Boerboom, Arjan Janssen, Freek Nossin, Matthijs van Eede, Martijn van Dortmont, Maurice Termeer, Iwan Vosloo, Gerard Lommerse, Dennie Reniers, Milan Pastrnak, ...

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Software Visualization?



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More examples: visualcomplexity.com

Software Visualization!



source code



code quality



code dependencies



design and metrics



text duplication

How should we deal with scale?

- simplified visualizations?
- continuous simplification?
- what to simplify exactly?
- reinvent wheel for each app?



program dynamics



code repositories



evolution metrics



structure evolution



team analysis



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Software Visual Analytics – Process View



"The science of analytical reasoning facilitated by interactive visual interfaces"

The Sensemaking Loop

- going from raw data to meaning (semantics) to insight to decisions
- data \rightarrow hypothesis \rightarrow (in)validation \rightarrow conclusions \rightarrow presentation
- put simply: combine analysis and visualization

P. Wong, J. Thomas, Visual analytics, IEEE Comp. Graphics & Applications, 24(5), 2004 J. Thomas, K. Cook, Illuminating the Path: The R&D Agenda for Visual Analytics, NVAC, 2005



Software Visualization

Definition:

 "The static or animated 2D or 3D visual representation of information about software systems based on their structure, history, or behavior in order to help software engineering tasks" [Diehl, 2006]

Surveys:

- IT industry: 457 billion \$ (2013), 50% larger than in 2008 [www.infoedge.com]
- comparison: total US health care spending 2.5 trillion \$ (2009) [www.usatoday.com/news/health]
- 80% of development costs spent on maintenance [Standish' 84, Corbi' 99]
- **50% of this** is spent for understanding the software!

Practice:

• 40% engineers find SoftVis indispensable, 42% find it not critical [Koschke '02]

Goals: reduce cost/time, increase quality and productivity!



Visual Analytics in Software Maintenance



Techniques

Software Visual Analytics – Technical View



Many types of **data** and **questions** → many types of **visualizations**



1. Assessing system modularity



- blue = caller, red = called
- all functions in the yellow file call the purple class
- green file has many self-calls



- blue = virtual, green = static functions
- red class has many virtual calls (possible interface class)
- many intra-module calls
- few inter-module calls
- typical for library software





More information: www.cs.rug.nl/svcg/SoftVis/Dependencies

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3. Code duplication

SolidSDD tool (www.solidsourceit.com)



4. Clone evolution

Questions

- how does code duplication change in time?
- which clones are added, removed, merged, or split? And why?



Evolution of clones in Mozilla Firefox (~55K clone relations, 3.5 MLOC C/C++)

5. Program trace and structure

Questions

- where (in the program structure) are the calls executed now?
- when (during execution) are calls to this subsystem done?



Code: Chrome browser (2.7 MLOC C/C++, 8900 files+folders) **Trace:** 9000 calls to 914 functions

More details: www.cs.rug.nl/svcg/SoftVis/ViewFusion Tool implementation: www.softwarediagnostics.com



6. Comparing program traces

Questions

- given 2 traces, where are similar and where are different call-blocks?
- how to spot differences in call moment, duration, and called functions?



Code: 1MLOC C#, 45 developers, 8 years **Traces:** 2x150K calls to 1500 functions

More details: www.cs.rug.nl/svcg/SoftVis/TraceDiff Tool implementation: www.softwarediagnostics.com



7. Software Evolution

Questions

- how to correlate **metrics** over large software repositories (>10K files, >100K commits?)
- how to detect trends to predict the future (cost, effort, risk)?



Tool implementation: www.cs.rug.nl/svcg/SoftVis/EvolVis

Analyzing developer effort

Show aggregated developer impact (#files modified by each developer) over time

Project A (open-source)

- software grows in time
- impact: balanced over most developers



Project B (commercial)

- software grows in time at about the same rate
- but one developer owns most of the code
- what if this person leaves the team?!



Tool implementation: www.cs.rug.nl/svcg/SoftVis/EvolVis

Correlating quality metrics

2010 2012 C# code base 4 years, 190 KLOC Permanent quality monitoring dashboard solution linear growt exponential growth b Total code size 190K 0 Complexit 133 Code size 100 а lo †3.5 Code complexity 2 Tool implementation: ь 0

www.cs.rug.nl/svcg/SoftVis/EvolVis

Applications

Application: Post-Mortem Assessment

Questions

- automotive project: 8 years, 3.5 MLOC embedded C, 15 releases, 60 developers
- project failed to deliver. Why?



Analysis 1: Modification Request (MR) Lifetime



Little increase in the file curve – most activity in *old* files suggests too long maintenance & closure of requirements

Requirements: MR Duration



MR ids (1 bar=100 MRs)

Analysis 2: Team Code Ownership





Large part of software affected by long open-standing MRs Most of these are assigned to team A (largest team)...

...and this team was reported to have communication problems!

Analysis 3: Code Dependencies



uses = call, type, variable, macro, ...

Most dependencies occur via the <u>iface</u>, <u>basicfunctions</u> and <u>platform</u> packages

Filter out these allowed dependencies... ...to discover *unwanted* dependencies



is used

These are accesses that bypass established interfaces There are several such accesses (bad)

Analysis 4: Code Call graph



High coupling at package level This image does not tell us very much

Select only modules which are *mutually call dependent*... ...to discover *layering violations*



Not a strict layering in the system (as it should be) Thus, the architecture is violated.

Analysis 5: Code Quality Metrics



Moderate code + dependency growth

does not explain products problems



Average complexity/function > 20 Total complexity: up 20% in R1.3

- testing can be hard!
- possible cause of product's problems

Analysis 6: Code Duplication





duplicated blocks

show modules having similar code blocks

of >25 LOC

External duplication

Internal duplication

• color: #duplicated blocks within a file



Little external/internal duplication Arguably **not a problem** for testing

Analysis 7: Documentation



time

- 30% of files are documentation
- updated regularly
- grow in sync with rest of code base

- time
 - 40% of docs frequently updated
 - rest seem to be stale



Code is **well documented**... ...so refactoring likely doable Start from up-to-date docs

Application: Database reverse engineering

Context

- clients: top-3 Swiss bank
- product: reporting system (2004-2012)
 - Oracle/SQL/MS Access databases
 - ~5000 tables, 60000 fields,
 - mix of TS-SQL, Visual Basic, MS Access
 - code needs 24-hour uptime
- system was unmaintainable, at end

Questions

- how can we understand the **business logic**?
- how can we refactor the database design for better **maintenance**?



Stakeholders







Problem Modeling

Data and control dependencies





Problem Modeling

Data and control dependencies



- one output to many input, one input to many output relations
- hard to find all relations purely statically dependence on control flow (execution paths)



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Problem Dimension

Entity	Measurements (AsDow)
databases processed	39
tables	1'258; 11'235 input fields
reports	66; 1'396 fields; ~21 fields/report; ~8 input/output relations (min.)
queries	3'617
VB code	52 modules; 271 functions; 24 KLOC
macros	22

Entity	Measurements (Reports)
databases processed	58
tables	1'977; 24'474 input fields
reports	351; 5'946 fields; ~17 fields/report; ~4 input/output relations (min.)
queries	2'010
VB code	69 modules; 186 functions; 17 KLOC
macros	110

Input parameters

- 35709 input fields
- 5..10 processing steps per path
- assume input fan-out of 4 very conservative
- total: 4*35709 = 142836 output-to-input field paths

Manual effort needed for impact analysis

- 10 mins/path needed very conservative
- result: 23806 hours ~ 15 person years!





Solution - step 1



SQL analysis

- extract all SQL code (TS-SQL, Oracle, MS Access scripts)
- perform a syntax analysis on SQL (parsing)
- find all read table names and fields (columns)
 - use control flow analysis of SQL





Solution - step 2



MS Access analysis

- extract all MS Access form (report) definitions
- identify fields of interest
- find SQL or VB code that these fields call (if any)



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Solution - step 3



VB analysis

- extract all VB code from the Access reports
- perform a full syntactic and control-flow analysis
- find VB code that writes to report fields
- find how that code is called (call analysis)
- trace back values of output field names to SQL field names using VB symbolic execution

easy relatively easy very complex!





Solution - putting it all together

Access Analyzer (SolidAA)

- end-to-end dataflow analysis across entire reporting platform
- answers question: "Where does this (report) data come from?"
- fully handles any MS Access / SQL database



- learning cost: days
- solution cost: ~6 months
- client estimated savings: ~920 KEUR





Solution refinements

Level of detail

- show dependencies at form and table level only (overview)
- expand to show dependencies at form-field and table-field level (detail)
- detect "parallel paths" of data processing (desirable w.r.t. architecture)





Overview

Solution refinements (cont.)

Level of detail (cont.)

- show how the data is **transformed** from input to output
- copy, SQL function call, references (e.g. table links), ...





Solution refinements (cont.)

Links to code (cont.)

- show which bits of code (SQL, VB, Access, ...) are responsible for each data link
- useful for fine-grained detail and understanding of the business logic





Application: Build Optimization

1. Context

- major embedded software company (NASDAQ 100)
- industrial 17.5 MLOC code base of C code
- modified daily by >500 developers worldwide

2. Problem

- high build time (>9 hours)
- modifying a header causes very long recompilations
- testing becomes very hard; perfective maintenance (refactoring) nearly impossible

3. Questions

- why is the build time so long?
- what impact has a code change on the build time?
- how is a change impact spread over the entire code base?
- how to refactor the code to improve modularity and build time?

Build Optimization

Three analyses – three tools in a unified toolset



TableVision tool

Build process analysiswhy is the build slow?

INavigator tool

Dependency analysis

 how does a code change affect build time?

IRefactor tool

Refactoring analysis

 how to rewrite code to improve build time?

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Question 1: Why is the build slow?

measure build time using UNIX tools time(x)

build time	CPU time
792.500000	8.200000
767.599976	6.200000
745.900024	39.500000
722.299988	7.300000
719.700012	14.000000
694.500000	4.200000
688.299988	9.300000
673.299988	4.600000
674 F00076	
large	small

• build time = CPU + I/O + network + paging + other processes



Question 1: First Steps





* assume no other CPU-intensive processes besides compilation

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Build Cost Model - First Attempt

Build cost

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"how much it costs to build a file"

- sources: number of source LOC + (in)directly included headers
 - binaries: negligible (linking is cheap)
 - headers: zero (headers don't get compiled)

Build impact:

"how much it costs to rebuild the system when a file is modified"

- sources: build cost of the source itself
- headers: number of sources using that header

Example

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Build Cost Model - Validation

	ZS/com/int/inc/ZSUM_umf_internal.h DM/com/int/tst/DMTP.h MO/com/ext/inc/MOERR.h CN/com/ext/inc/CNDD.h	18380 18380 18380 18380	1273474 1273473 1273473 1273473 1273473	
	CN/com/ext/inc/CN.h MI/MIHP/ext/inc/PCHPIF.h PL/com/ext/inc/PLXA.h MG/MGTAB/ext/inc/MGTAB.h	36760 36760 36760 36760	2546947 2546947 2546947 2546947	
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Ļ	CN/com/ext/inc/CNXA.h TH/com/ext/inc/THXA.h headers	55140 55140 model's impact	3820421 3820421 time build measureme	high-impact headers ints

- model is close to reality but not perfect
- deviations are important!

Build Cost Model - Refinement

Build cost

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"how much it costs to build a file"

- sources: number of (in)directly included headers
- binaries: negligible (linking is cheap)
- headers: zero (headers don' t get compiled)

Build impact:

sources:

- "how much it costs to rebuild the system when a file is modified"
- the build cost of the source itself
- headers: sum of build costs of all sources including header (in)directly

Example

Build Cost Model 2 - Validation

sorted o first model's impa

v	headers	refined model' s impact	first model' s impact	time build measurements	S
Ļ	ITH/com/ext/inc/THXA.h	14523135	55140	3820421	high-impact headers
	CN/com/ext/inc/CNXA.h	14523135	55140	3820421	
	MG/com/ext/inc/MG.h	14523135	55140	3820421	
	00/com/ext/inc/00XA.h	14523135	55140	3820421	
	MI/MIHP/ext/inc/PCHP.h	9682090	36760	2546947	
	MI/com/ext/inc/MI.h	9682090	36760	2546947	
	ER/ERLO/ext/inc/ERXA.h	9682090	36760	2546948	
	MG/MGTAB/ext/inc/MGTAB.h	9682090	36760	2546947	
	PL/com/ext/inc/PLXA.h	9682090	36760	2546947	
	MI/MIHP/ext/inc/PCHPIF.h	9682090	36760	2546947	
	CN/com/ext/inc/CN.h	9682090	36760	2546947	
	CN/com/ext/inc/CNDD.h	4841045	18380	1273473	
	MO/com/ext/inc/MOERR.h	4841045	18380	1273473	
	DM/com/int/tst/DMTP.h	4841045	18380	1273473	
	ZS/com/int/inc/ZSUM_umf_internal.h	4841045	18380	1273474	
	MO/MPPC/int/inc/MO.h	4841045	18380	1273473	
	GW/com/ext/inc/GWXA.h	4841045	18380	1273473	
	ER/com/ext/inc/ERXAerror_types.h	4841045	18380	1273473	
	DD/com/ext/inc/DDXA_types.h	4841045	18380	1273474	-
	MI/MITE/int/inc/MIEREV.h	4841045	18380	1273473	outlier correctly
	LU/com/ext/inc/LU.h	5913384	17864	1682591	
	SW/com/ext/inc/SW/b	3433500	0048	008233	refined model classifies
	SM/com/ext/inc/SMXA.h	2603546	9449	976110	
	HW/com/ext/inc/HW/b	2471980	7376	645346	
	UL/com/ext/inc/ULXAerr.b	2067954	7084	780792	
	LU/com/ext/inc/LUGB.b	2217519	6699	630971	
	IM/com/ext/inc/IM.b	2240332	6432	595957	
ct	DD/com/evt/inc/DDXA b	1717253	6300	516282	
Л	DNDM/com/int/inc/DNDMyADMIN b	2221400	6002 6006	509510	
n	AM/com/ext/inc/AM b	1141036	3302	304316	low-impact headers

refined model delivers same header-order (in terms of impact) as actual measurements ٠

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Build Cost Model 2 - Validation

Let's look at the whole picture

- refined model nicely matches reality, including subtle 'outliers'
- why is this so? (see next slide)

Build Cost Model 2 - Validation

Analyze deeper:

- compilation cost dominated by I/O (preprocessing headers)
- I/O cost dominated by file opening/closing on this platform
- hence the justification of impact = # totally opened headers

Conclusions

To reduce build time, we should:

- either massively accelerate network
- reduce per-header build impact
- reduce impact of change on build time
- → highly costly / complex
- ➡ header impact analysis
 - header refactoring

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Question 2: System-wide impact analysis

- 1. Find subsystems are expensive to build
- 2. For a subsystem, find headers have high build impact
- 3. Zoom in to highest impact headers
- 4,5. For a high-impact header, see how its impact spreads over sources
- 6. For a header, see its cost breakdown over its include-set

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More details on SolidBA: www.soursourceit.com

Subsystem-level impact analysis

					_	
File						
Physical Logical Interface	Fa Ę	1				
Modules	Sources				-	
⊞ nactory_integration	Name	Build impact	Compile dep	Indirect .h	Change freq.	
<u> </u>					=	
<u> machine_control_and_lo</u>						
metro metro frame						
operating_system_and_netwo					-	
reticle_handling						
stages_positioning					_	
subsystem_facilities					-	
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				aroets	0	
	I.,			uild impact	0	
Load selected	*					
stages_positioning: but	ild cost	33% ove	r 2839 file	2S		

Method

- color system tree by cost (blue=low, red=high)
- select desired subsystem
- right panel shows build impact for each header / source in that subsystem

Findings

- most headers have a low build impact
- however, a few have a very high impact
- touching those incurs a high build cost!
- → because they are used in many sources

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→ because they include many headers

Question 3: How to reduce the build cost?

- OK, we have a high-impact header h: how easy it to reduce that impact?
- visualize the build cost distribution of h over the sources which use it

Case 1: easy refactoring

• build cost spread unevenly over the targets including selected header h

• to decrease cost due to h, we only need to change a few targets

iner, eev/pin	571905	1763	222	0					
WSSUPtyp.h	586690	1830	221	Ō					
STIOtyp.h	618630	1962	220	0					
WSXAtyp.h	657773	2094	2 21	0					
MOXAtyp.h	670105	2177	219	0					
WSXAxCHUCKtyp.h	761159	2488	1	0					
PCHP.h	2318254	9058	1	3					
MIXAtypi.h	2318254	9058	218	0					
MI.h	2318254	9058	218	3					
MIXA.h	2318254	9058	218	0	huild impa	act of	h is locate	nd mai	nlv
PCHPIF.h	2318254	9058	218	3					i ii y
MIXAtyp.h	2318254	9058	218		in and ain		0001		
	2318254	9058	218			igie pi	ace!		
Murmw.n	2310254	9058	1	p j		• ·			
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Targets Target graph Source graph In Target	dudes Log	odule	Componen	t ibcompone 🔺	Turnet CHMAin CC.c TSDM.c WS error.c TSPEXAP sp.c TSDAAP analyse.c TDXTxWH.c TSDAAP main.c TSDAAP main.c TSSM exec.c SWXBXAP Measure.c TSREXAP tt callb.c TSDAAP exec.c	ild imp 907 419 409 398 394 391 388 386 383 383 383 383 383	Module software facilities stages positioning stages positioning	Component TH TS WS TS TS TS TS TS SW TS SW TS SW	THMA TSDM COM TSPE TSDA COM TSDA COM SWXB TSRE TSDA SMA E

Refactoring analysis

Case 1: difficult refactoring

- build cost spread evenly over the targets including selected header h
- to decrease cost due to h, we need to change almost all targets

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Refactoring analysis - Refinement

- not all headers change equally often (e.g. system headers)
- new metrics:
 - build impact * change frequency
 - impact distribution: impact (%) of a header contained in the 10% most expensive of its targets
- easy & quick to use

Refactoring support

- OK, we found a high-impact header; how to decide a refactoring plan?
- show dependencies header \rightarrow clients using hierarchical DAG layout

Example 1: MIXTmet.h, used by 38 sources, high impact

Example 2: WS_support.h, used by 48 sources, high impact

- build impact channeled via one intermediate header: WS sim1 support.h (*)
- simpler refactoring may be possible

Refactoring support (2)

- say we want to include a header: is this potentially expensive?
- show header's own include graph colored by build impact

Example: TDMD_types.h, used by 30 sources

- not a high-impact header itself
- but it includes high-impact headers!
- hence using this header introduces potentially expensive changes

Refactoring support (3)

How much costlier becomes the system build if we add an #include?

- select a "source" header the one in which we want to #include
- select a "destination" header the one to be #included
- show the build cost increase

Example: What if we #include DNCHUI_chset.h in TDMD_types.h?

Name	Build impact	Compile dep	Indirect .h	Change freq.	
IMADexception.n	8483	Z6	3	1	1
WSSUP NVtyp.h	8643	27	1	0	
WSIOCO.h	8770	27	2 32	2	
TSXTxPERFtvp.h	8866	25	1	0	
MIXAxSCmet.h	8912	28	219	0	
WSAPIM ER.h	8927	27	2 23	0	
libWSPESS.so	9255	0	9255	0	
SWSMAP.h	9354	27	245	2	
libWSactuator.so	9357	0	9357	0	
SWSMexception.h	9462	27	3	3	
libTDXT×MD, so	9633	0	9633	0	
TDMD_types.h	9633	30	312	1	source
SWSMxTCtyp.h	9713	28	220	0	
SWSM.h	9713	28	55	0	

Name	Build impac	t Compile de	p Indirect .h	Change freq.	
DNCHUI chset.c	2 32	1	232	1	
DNCHUI chset.h	492	2	223	1	
DNCHUItyp.h	721	3	220	0	
DNCHexception.h	2560	11	2	0	
DNCHxAPmet.h	716	3	221	0	
DNCH×APtyp.h	1865	8	219	0	
DNCHxDPtyp.h	1853	8	110	0	
DNCHUI main.c	2 29	1	229	1	
DNCHUI mnwin.h	489	2	219	1	T
•					·
Current	Client	Include	Build impact	Indirect .h	
YES	TDMD types.h	-	9633	312	
	TDMD types.h	DNCHUI chset.h	9783	317	

build impact increases from 9633 to 9783, i.e. **1.5%**

Refactoring support (4)

• previous methods OK for manual header-by-header refactoring only

How to refactor a large system?

- system $S = \{f_i\}_i$, $S = Headers \cup Sources$
- header $h_i \in Headers = \{s_j\}_j$, $s_j \in Symbols$ (function declarations, variables, types, macros, ...)
- include relations

inc : $S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Headers)$, *inc*(f) = { h_i } $\Leftrightarrow f$ includes h_i

symbol use relations

 $use : Symbols \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Headers), use(s) = \{h_i\} \iff s \text{ is used by } h_i$

• in typical systems, not all symbols $s_i \in h$ in a header are used together

Automatic refactoring idea

- find high-impact header h (see last slides)
- split h into h_1 , h_2 ; $h_1 U h_2 = h$ by putting symbols used together in same h_i
- recursively split h_1 , h_2
- replace inc(h) by $inc(h_1)$ and/or $inc(h_2)$

Refactoring support (4)

- intuitively: put symbols often used together in same header
- include newly created headers instead of original 'monolithic' ones
- why is this good
 - decrease build costs (by decreasing the included code size)
 - decrease build impact (by decreasing the number of included headers)

suggests refactoring possibilities and shows gained build impact

Best refactoring candidates:

- low refactoring cost
- high build impact parents
- low build impact children

Refactoring cost

Refactoring visualization

Refactoring visualization

Example of bad candidate for header refactoring

As we gain benefits, we also increase costs

Collaborations & Customers

The Industry...

Research/Academia...

...Open Source

Ontinental ⊕ PER√ASIVE

Laboratoire Bordelais de Recherche en Informatique CopenCV

Conclusions - Software Visual Analytics

Provide insight in multidimensional correlations

- Program architecture, dependencies, metrics, development/testing effort, requirements, documentation, databases
- Evolution of all these aspects in time

Added value

- Make the entire chain requirements..design..code visible and accountable
- Assess software quality
- Pinpoint hot-spots (where to invest effort)
- Make sense of all that 'big data'

Thank you for your interest!

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