

Graph-based analysis of JavaScript repositories

Adam Lippai

Web team lead of **Tresorit**, the encrypted cloud storage company

ingraph

Graph database engine for incremental evaluation of **openCypher** queries https://github.com/szarnyasg

Similar to Neo4j + incremental evaluation





openCypher – pattern matching

(user)-[:KNOWS]-(friend)-[:KNOWS]-(foaf)



user	friend	foaf
А	В	С
А	В	D



Incremental evaluation

A v B v C
 A v B v C v D

(In reality it's more complex, the actual algorithm is called RETE and it's based on radix trees)















Why is static analysis important?

- QA is expensive
 - Money: Get the bugs fixed in the earliest stage, cut the administration and release overhead
 - Developer experience: less round-trips -> better focus on one task
- Learning by example
- Insights for project and code health
- It scales across companies
 - Patterns that lead to bugs can be shared
 - Find bugs in your code already found by Microsoft, Facebook, Google



What does the new database enable?

- Granularity & scope
- Developer empowerment
- Maintainability



Granularity – now

- Linters work within files
- TypeScript Compiler and other IDE tools create "interfaces of the imported files" for specific usecases (e.g. type inference)



Granularity – future

- Complete project
 - Every JS file, together
- Multiple projects
 - Every project think npm install or npm update
- Over time, over Git branches
 - A project doesn't have 10000 states, but 1 initial state and 9999 changes



Developer empowerment – now

- CTRL + F
- Find class/method/function in IDE
- Class maps for OOP
- Scaffolded Babylon, Acorn or TS compiler script
- Generated + searchable docs based on JSDoc



Developer empowerment – future

- Where is this code used?
- What parts of the code can modify this variable?
- What side effects can this call or assignment have?
- Did I change my libs API? Is it a breaking change?
- How to structure my code?
- Where to cut modules and bundles?
- -> ingraph enables such queries



Maintainability – now

- We have unified data structures (similar AST formats)
- De facto standard language: XPath
- Unique visitor patterns
- Hard testability of plugin system
 - Plugins mutate state
 - Problem of "multi-pass" analysis



Maintainability – future

- Adding abstraction without losing information
- Common declarative query language openCypher

```
MATCH (bi:BindingIdentifier)
    <-[:binding]-()-->
    (be:BinaryExpression)
    -[:right]->(right:Expression)
WHERE be.operator = 'Div'
AND right.value = 0.0
```

RETURN bi



var foo = 1 / 0;



MATCH (bi:BindingIdentifier)
 <-[:binding]-()-->
 (be:BinaryExpression)
 -[:right]->(right:Expression)

WHERE be.operator = 'Div' AND right.value = 0.0

RETURN bi



Graphs are powerful

- Existing optimal algorithms and good heuristics instead of "not that bad code"
- Incremental query caching is possible eg. RETE or TREAT



Use cases for incremental pattern matching

- Type propagation and checking (type inference)
- Dead code elimination
- (Asynchronous) code flow checks can the program reach a specified state, can a value be undefined etc.
- Fuzzing like behavior, e.g. integration test generation
- Code vectorization -> AI



The right tool is

- Declarative
 - what instead of how
- Stateful and incremental
 - cache the existing knowledge
- Instant
 - inside your IDE



Codemodel-rifle



- 1. Parsing JS using Shift Java
- 2. Transforming
- 3. Loading the model into Neo4j or ingraph
- 4. Executing queries on top of it
 - https://github.com/steindani
 - https://github.com/luczsoma



Thank you!

