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The Living Review on Automated Program Repair

Martin Monperrus

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The Living Review on Automated Program Repair

Martin Monperrus

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Concept This paper is a living review on automatic program repair¹. Compared to a traditional survey, a living review evolves over time. I use a concise bullet-list style meant to be easily accessible by the greatest number of readers, in particular students and practitioners. Within a section, all papers are ordered in a reverse chronological order, so as to easily get the research timeline. The references are sorted chronologically and years are explicitly stated inline to easily grasp the most recent references.

Inclusion criteria The inclusion criteria are that the considered papers 1) must be about automatic repair with some kind of patch generation (runtime repair without patch generation is excluded²); 2) must be a full-length research paper (typically >10 double-column pages); 3) are stored on an durable site (notable publisher, arXiv, Zenodo). There is no restriction about whether the paper has been formally peer-reviewed or not. I will stop the living review once we reach the 500th reference.

Originality Compared to formal surveys [133, 126], this living review contains very recent references and continues to evolve. It uses a bullet-list concise style that is not typical academic writing.

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Feedback Do not hesitate to report a mistake, a confusing statement or a missing paper, martin.monperrus@csc.kth.se.

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¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living_review

²the scope of my previous survey [133] was larger, it also discussed runtime repair

Version history

- Oct 2021, version with 367 references, recent ones identified by ♣
- Dec 2020, version with 315 references, recent ones identified by ♡
- July 2020, version with 296 references, recent ones identified by ☉
- March 2020: version with 279 references, recent ones identified by ⌘
- December 2019: version with 264 references, recent ones identified by ★
- September 2019: version with 253 references, recent ones identified by Ω
- June 2019: version with 229 references, recent ones identified by ☐
- May 2019: version with 209 references
- April 2019: version with 205 references
- March 2019: version with 200 references
- February 2019: version with 193 references
- December 2018: version with 175 references

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1 Program Repair of Dynamic Errors

1.1 Using Tests

- **A Novel Approach For Search-Based Program Repair** (2021, ♣) Trujillo et al. [358] create a variant of GenProg integrating Lehman and Stanley’s ‘novelty search’ to promote exploration and diversity of patches.
- **VarFix: Balancing Edit Expressiveness and Search Effectiveness in Automated Program Repair** (2021, ♣) Wong et al. [359] combine GenProg single edits into a metaprogram to identify those combinations that pass all tests.
- **FlexiRepair: Transparent Program Repair with Generic Patches** (2020, ♣), Koyuncu et al. [305] present a repair pipeline built on top of the Coccinelle engine for semantic patches.
- **Astor: Exploring the Design Space of Generate-and-Validate Program Repair beyond GenProg** (2019, ♣) Martinez et al. [255] identify 12 dimensions in the design space of generate-and-validate program repair and implement them as extension points in the Astor framework.
- **Impact Analysis of Syntactic and Semantic Similarities on Patch Prioritization in Automated Program Repair** (2019, ★) Asad et al. [219] propose an alternative patch ranking technique for CapGen.
- **SOSRepair: Expressive Semantic Search for Real-World Program Repair** (2019, ★) Afzal et al. [218] proposes a better encoding than [86] to repair C programs with SMT-based snippet search.
- **LoopFix: An Approach to Automatic Repair of Buggy Loops** (2019, Ω) Wang et al. [271] describe a system that changes either the loop condition or an assignment in the loop body, using symbolic execution and component-based synthesis.
- **Automatic patch generation with context-based change application** (2019, Ω) Kim and Kim [238] present ConFix, that first searches for past patches with surrounding code similar to the suspicious code locations (based on a hash of the AST) and when a context matches, the past change is ported to the suspicious location.
- **Harnessing evolution for multi-hunk program repair** (2019, Ω) Saha et al. [263] mine repair locations that evolve together in order to search for patches consisting on the same systematic edit done at different locations.
- **TBar: Revisiting Template-based Automated Program Repair** (2019, □) Liu et al. [245] consolidate 35 fix patterns in 15 categories and measure their effectiveness over Defects4J.
- **Ultra-Large Repair Search Space with Automatically Mined Templates: the Cardumen Mode of Astor** (2018) [188] shows that parametrized repair ingredients yields an explosion of the repair search space and finds 8935 Patches for Defects4J.
- **Mining Stackoverflow for Program Repair** (2018) Liu and Zhong [183] clusters AST diffs from code pairs in Stackoverflow to extract 12 repair patterns.
- **Towards practical program repair with on-demand candidate generation** (2018) [174] does repair with metaprograming as [125] in order to explore the search space of variable and literal replacement.
- **CFAAR: Control Flow Alteration to Assist Repair** (2018) [203] uses specific patterns to determine angelic values à la Nopol [148] (eg switch only the first execution of the condition).

- **Context-Aware Patch Generation for Better Automated Program Repair** (2018) [211] considers an ingredient-based, generate-and-validate repair loop à la GenProg, and selects the ingredients that have the most similar context according to three similarity metrics (context of the suspicious statement similar to context of the ingredient). (code)
- **Practical Program Repair via Bytecode Mutation** (2018) [166] revisits Schulte’s work [27] for Java bytecode and Defects4J.
- **Program Repair via Direct State Manipulation** (2018) [172] proposes a variation of the repair problem: find a patch such that some variables at a specific location have certain values.
- **Connecting Program Synthesis and Reachability: Automatic Program Repair Using Test-Input Generation** (2017) [135] creates a meta-program parametrized with parameters, encoding the search space: the symbolic solution to satisfy all test constraints is the patch. The tool is called CETI.
- **Contract-based Program Repair Without the Contracts** (2017) Chen et al. [121] uses 5 repair templates, called schemas, with a focus on modifying the state by adding an assignment. (code, journal version: [289])
- **Precise Condition Synthesis for Program Repair** (2017) Xiong et al. [147] integrate different heuristics (Github) and code analysis techniques (dependency analysis between variables) to create good conditions à la Nopol. (code)
- **Leveraging syntax-related code for automated program repair** (2017) Xin and Reiss [146] use Tf-Idf similarly to select ingredients in a GenProg-like loop, together with variable renaming to adapt repair ingredients. The authors have proposed an improvement of ssFix called sharpFix [273, 272].
- **ARJA: Automated Repair of Java Programs via Multi-Objective Genetic Programming** (2017) [154] combines 3 different techniques (patch representation, multi-objective search, method scope) to improve a GenProg-based repair loop. ARJA-e [279, 322] is an improvement over Arja integrating templates and repair anti-patterns.
- **ELIXIR: Effective Object Oriented Program Repair** (2017) [136] proposes 8 repair patterns à la PAR [51] to be used together with simple enumeration-based synthesis.
- **ASTOR: A Program Repair Library for Java** (2016) [115] presents the Java framework in which jGenProg [132], jKali [132], DeepRepair [145], Cardumen [188] are implemented.
- **Automated Program Repair by Using Similar Code Containing Fix Ingredients** (2016) [107] modifies RSRRepair [73] in order to select the most similar repair ingredients first.
- **DynaMoth: Dynamic Code Synthesis for Automatic Program Repair** (2016) [102] uses dynamic synthesis based on the debug interface of the JVM for repairing conditions.
- **Angelix: Scalable Multiline Program Patch Synthesis via Symbolic Analysis** (2016) [116] optimizes symbolic execution in order to obtain more than one angelic value, being called together called “angelic forest”, in order to synthesize multipoint patches.
- **Qlose: Program Repair with Quantitative Objectives** (2016) [101] tries to minimize the semantic impact of the repair, by minimizing the number of inputs for which there is a behavioral change using the Sketch synthesis system.

- **Nopol: Automatic Repair of Conditional Statement Bugs in Java Programs** (2016) [148] addresses two classes of bugs: buggy if conditions and missing preconditions. Initial paper: "Automatic Repair of Buggy If Conditions and Missing Preconditions with SMT" [63].
- **Automatic Repair of Infinite Loops** (2015) [88] describes a patch generation system for infinite loops.
- **Relifix: Automated Repair of Software Regressions** (2015) [98] defines 8 repair templates that are specific to regression bugs.
- **Repairing Programs with Semantic Code Search** (2015) [86] repairs programs with snippets that can be semantically indexed and queried in SMT.
- **Staged Program Repair with Condition Synthesis** (2015) [91] combines condition repair à la Nopol and repair templates à la PAR.
- **DirectFix: Looking for Simple Program Repairs** (2015) [93] demonstrates that, under strong assumptions, we can state the repair problem as a Maximum Satisfiability (MaxSAT), where the smallest patch is the one that satisfies the most constraints.
- **Minthint: Automated Synthesis of Repair Hints** (2014) [66] hints to change the RHS of a single assignment statement based on data collected with concolic execution.
- **Diagnosis and Emergency Patch Generation for Integer Overflow Exploits** (2014) [77] does automatic repair of integer overflow with three repair operators: taking an error branch before the overflow happens, taking an error branch after the overflow has happened, and forced program stop.
- **Automatic Patch Generation Learned From Human-Written Patches**(2013) [51] defines 10 repair templates for fixing bugs such as (add null pointer check, etc).
- **SemFix: Program Repair via Semantic Analysis** (2013) [58] combines symbolic execution and component-based synthesis to fix boolean and integer expressions in C programs.
- **Evolving Patches for Software Repair** (2011) [31] describes pyEdb, a mutation based repair approach with two mutation operators (relational operator change and name switch) in Python.
- **On the Automation of Fixing Software Bugs** (2008) [11] defines 7 mutation operators based on abstract syntax tree modification in a prototype implementation called Jaff, that handles a subset of Java. Journal version is "Evolutionary Repair of Faulty Software" [32]. Another version is "A Novel Co-evolutionary Approach to Automatic Software Bug Fixing" [12].
- **Automatically Finding Patches Using Genetic Programming** (2009) [21] is the seminal paper of the field, introducing GenProg, with its sister papers **A Genetic Programming Approach to Automated Software Repair** [18], **GenProg: a Generic Method for Automatic Software Repair** [42], **Automatic Program Repair with Evolutionary Computation** [30].
- **BugFix: a Learning-based Tool to Assist Developers in Fixing Bugs** (2009) [19] suggests a bug fix action using association rules based on features on the suspicious statement.

1.2 Using Crashes

- **Beyond Tests: Program Vulnerability Repair via Crash Constraint Extraction** Gao (2021, 🌟) Gao et al. [336] use sanitizers to obtain clean crashes and fix conditional expressions (if, loops) to avoid the crash. The prototype tool is called ExtractFix, and is available as Docker image on [gaoxiang9430/extractfix](https://github.com/gaoxiang9430/extractfix).
- **Crash-avoiding program repair** (2019, ☐) Gao et al. [229] repair crashes in C code with three operators (assignments, if-condition, precondition) using implicit oracles and fuzzing to discard incorrect patches.
- **Repairing crashes in Android apps** (2018) [201] defines 8 repair operators tailored for Android crashes.
- **Production-Driven Patch Generation** (2016) [124] proposes to use shadow applications and shadow traffic to make regression testing in production.
- **Fixing Recurring Crash Bugs via Analyzing Q&A Sites** (2016) [82] repairs exception bugs based on potential solutions found on Stackoverflow.
- **Automatic Repair of Infinite Loops** (2015) [88] repairs infinite loops with the same repair concept as Nopol.
- **CLOTHO: Saving Programs from Malformed Strings and Incorrect String Handling** (2016) [80] is a system that generates simple catch blocks to handle certain runtime exceptions related to string manipulation in Java.
- **Automatic Error Elimination by Horizontal Code Transfer Across Multiple Applications** (2015) [113] transfers check-exit pairs between two applications to avoid crashes due to out of bounds access, integer overflow, and divide by zero errors.

For null dereferences (null pointer exceptions):

- **VFix: Value-Flow-Guided Precise Program Repair for Null Pointer Dereferences** (2019): VFix [275] ranks patches for null pointers based on congested places: those places in the data-flow graph that maximize the likelihood of fixing many NPEs at once.
- **Automatic Inference of Code Transforms for Patch Generation** (2017): Long et al. [130] infers repair schemas from past commits for Java's NullPointerException and OutOfBoundsException.
- **Dynamic Patch Generation for Null Pointer Exceptions Using Metaprogramming** (2017) [125] introduces the idea of exploring the repair search space with a meta-program and realizes it for crashing null pointer exceptions.

1.3 Using a Reference Implementation / Feedback Generation

In this section, many papers are in the context of automated feedback generation for students, where a reference solution to a programming exercise exists.

- **FAPR: Fast and Accurate Program Repair for Introductory Programming Courses** (2021, 🌟) Lu et al.'s technique [346] consists of generating a meaningful high level feedback based on a low-level token edit script.
- **Re-factoring based Program Repair applied to Programming Assignments** (2019, ★) [234] is a feedback generation technique based on the idea of generating equivalent refactored programs so as to find a correct program which has the same control flow structure as the buggy student Python program under consideration.

- **Dynamic Neural Program Embedding for Program Repair** (2018): Wang et al. [143] compute an embedding on program traces in order to predict the kind of bug in student’s programs from a MOOC.
- **Automated Clustering and Program Repair for Introductory Programming Assignments** (2016): Gulwani et al.’s technique [105] modifies, inserts, and deletes statements in student’s programs while preserving the control-flow.
- **Semantic program repair using a reference implementation** (2018): Mehtaev et al. [190] use a reference implementation and a parameterized test to generate a patch that changes an expression with primitive values.
- **Neuro-symbolic program corrector for introductory programming assignments** (2018): Bhatia et al. [160] combine token sequence learning and Sketch to repair MOOC student submissions in Python. Extension of [100].
- **Automatic Diagnosis and Correction of Logical Errors for Functional Programming Assignments** (2018): Lee et al. [180] present a system for automatically generating feedback on logical errors in functional programming assignments in OCaml.
- **Automated Feedback Generation for Introductory Programming Assignments** (2013): Singh et al. [60] generate feedback for student programs based on a reference implementation, using Sketch as an intermediate languages to search for patches.
- **Automated Error Localization and Correction for Imperative Programs** (2011): Könighofer and Bleam’s algorithm [36] fixes the the right-hand side (RHS) of assignments by using the reference implementation as specification and driving the synthesis with a meta-program and SMT solving. “Repair with On-the-fly Program Analysis” is an extension of this work.

1.4 Using Contracts

The contracts can be invariants or runtime assertions, they can be manually written or mined.

- **Input Test Suites for Program Repair: A Novel Construction Method Based on Metamorphic Relations** (2020, ♣) Jiang et al. [302] define metamorphic relations for the Siemens benchmark and execute Angelix, CETI, and GenProg to fix the Siemens faults accordingly.
- **Program Repair at Arbitrary Fault Depth** (2019, Ⓞ) Khairredine et al. [237] modifies the patch validation step of Astor/jGenProg [256] to use an absolute correctness formula and a strict relative correctness relation.
- **A Metamorphic Testing Approach for Supporting Program Repair without the Need for a Test Oracle** (2016) Jiang et al. [108] have proposed to use metamorphic relations as repair oracle.
- **Generating Fixes From Object Behavior Anomalies** (2009) [16] Dallmeier et al. infer an object usage model from executions, and then generates a fix with two repair operators (addition and removal of method calls) so that failing runs match the inferred correct behavior.
- **Automated Fixing of Programs with Contracts** (2010, journal version in 2014 [78]) [29], uses four repair templates that consist of a snippet and an empty conditional expression to be synthesized, and relies on Eiffel contracts (pre-conditions, post-conditions, invariants) to detect and provide the fix ingredients. “Code-Based Automated Program Fixing” [39] is an extension of this work where patches don’t have to only use argumentless boolean methods in the patch.

- **Constraint-Based Program Debugging Using Data Structure Repair** (2011) [38] translates runtime data structure repair à la Demsky as source code fix suggestion.
- **Specification-based Program Repair Using SAT** (2011) [33] uses Alloy to repairs assignments and conditionals bugs.

1.5 Data-driven repair approaches

1.5.1 Patch Generation

- **A Controlled Experiment of Different Code Representations for Learning-Based Bug Repair** Namavar et al. [348] compare the ability of 10 token-based representations and 4 AST based representations for repairing swapped arguments, wrong binary operator, and wrong binary operands, showing a relative advantage for token-based pre-order pretty-print of original code (AST4).
- **A Syntax-Guided Edit Decoder for Neural Program Repair** (2021, ☆) Zhu et al. [367] propose a decoder architecture for neural program repair that 1) generates edits (and not full sequences) 2) generates placeholders for handling rare identifiers (instead of subtokenization or copy [223]).
- **Grammar-Based Patches Generation for Automated Program Repair** (2021, ☆) Tang et al. [357] proposes a neural architecture combining a token encoder and a grammar encoder, and experiment with the code changes of Tufano’s BFP dataset [204].
- **CURE: Code-Aware Neural Machine Translation for Automatic Program Repair** (2021, ☆) Jiang et al. [339] propose a subword tokenization technique and a specific beam search to improve the compilation rate of patches from NMT-based repair.
- **A Software-Repair Robot Based on Continual Learning** (2021, ☆) Baudry et al [325] uses continual learning on top of the stream of continuous integration builds, refining the patch generation ML model when new builds arrive.
- **Synthesize, Execute and Debug: Learning to Repair for Neural Program** (2020, ♡) Gupta et al. [298] embed execution traces in order for a so-called neural debugger to predict an edit sequence to repair Karel programs.
- **DLFix: Context-based Code Transformation Learning for Automated Program Repair** (2020, ♡) Li et al. [306] use tree-based recurrent neural networks to generate patches.
- **CoCoNuT: Combining Context-Aware Neural Translation Models using Ensemble for Program Repair** (2020, ☽) Lutellier et al. [251, 309] propose a number of design changes to SequenceR [223] (fully convolutional layers, multi-attention, multi-model prediction).
- **Hoppity: Learning Graph Transformations to Detect and Fix Bugs in Programs** (2020, #) Dinella et al. [292] predict the changes to be made to the AST of Javascript bug-fix commits with a graph-based neural network.
- **A Study of Pyramid Structure for Code Correction** (2020, #) Huang et al. [301] propose a better encoder for seq2seq and apply it to two benchmarks of programs with static warnings: Juliet and Java SARD.
- **Learning the Relation between Code Features and Code Transforms with Structured Prediction** (2019, ☽) Yu et al. [278] predict the code transformations that must be applied to fix a bug using structured prediction with conditional random fields.

- **SequenceR: Sequence-to-Sequence Learning for End-to-End Program Repair** (2018) Chen et al. [223] deploy sequence-to-sequence learning over 35578 diffs from the CodRep dataset [161] and show that the system, called Sequencer, is able to perfectly predict the fixed line for 950/4711 testing cases and 14 bugs in Defects4J.
- **Learning to Repair Software Vulnerabilities with Generative Adversarial Networks** (2018, ★) [169] generates noisy data by removing source code tokens, this data being used to train a sequence to sequence model.
- **Learning to Generate Corrective Patches using Neural Machine Translation** (2019) [171] trains a neural sequence-to-sequence model over 35,137 single statement diffs from 5 open-source Java projects and applies it to 233 testing tasks.
- **Search, Align, and Repair: Data-Driven Feedback Generation for Introductory Programming Exercises** (2018): Wang et al. [209] use advanced AST matching and differencing to provide a small diff to MOOC students based on a pool of correct solutions.
- **Semantic Code Repair using Neuro-Symbolic Transformation Networks** (2017) Delvin et al. [123] synthesize errors in Python programs according to 4 mutation operators and show that an LSTM-based architecture can fix the synthetic errors.
- **History Driven Program Repair** (2016) [109] uses the commit history to select the most likely patch from classical mutation-based repair (incl. Genprog and Par): the mutations that appear the most frequently in the history are ranked first.
- **Prophet: Automatic Patch Generation via Learning From Successful Patches** (2016) [113] selects the SPR generated patch that resembles the most to past human patches.
- **sk_p: a neural program corrector for MOOCs** (2016) Pu et al. [118] use a recurrent neural network to predict corrections in small student programs written in Python.

1.5.2 Inference of Fix Patterns / Templates

- **Type error feedback via analytic program repair** (2020, ☞) Sakkas et al. [314] infer fix templates in OCaml for repairing type system errors in programs from students in an introductory programming course.
- **DevReplay: Automatic Repair with Editable Fix Pattern** (2020, ☞) Ueda et al.; [316] abstracts over commits by extracting matching and replacement regular expressions, in order to be able to apply the same code change again later.
- **FixMiner: Mining Relevant Fix Patterns for Automated Program Repair** (2020, ☞) Koyuncu et al. [304] define a novel data structure for representing and clustering edit scripts, finding 14 full patterns automatically in a dataset of 11,416 patches.
- **Phoenix: Automated Data-driven Synthesis of Repairs for Static Analysis Violations** (2019, Ω) Bavishi et al. [220] represent warning-fixing changes in a DSL representing the AST edit script, then cluster those changes into patterns.
- **Getafix: Learning to Fix Bugs Automatically** (2019) [264] infers repair templates for null pointer bugs detected with the static analysis tool Infer.
- **Shaping Program Repair Space with Existing Patches and Similar Code** (2018) [175] selects the most similar repair ingredients that are also instances of bug fix patterns mined over past commits.
- **VuRLE - Automatic Vulnerability Detection and Repair by Learning from Examples** (2017) Ma et al. [131] learns systematic edits from examples and apply them to fix vulnerabilities in Android applications.

2 Program Repair of Static Errors

2.1 Static Warnings

- **TFix: Learning to Fix Coding Errors with a Text-to-Text Transformer** (2021, 🏆) Berabi et al. [327] train and evaluate a T5 transformer to repair ESLint errors in Javascript.
- **Sorald: Automatic Patch Suggestions for SonarQube Static Analysis Violations** (2021, 🏆) Etemadi et al. [334] present a system to repair SonarJava static analysis warnings based on AST level metaprogramming with Spoon [95].
- **Automatic Integer Error Repair by Proper-Type Inference** (2021, 🏆) Cheng et al. [224] write a static analysis for C integer errors based on type inference, and use four fix patterns to repair the violations.
- **Automated Code Repair to Ensure Spatial Memory Safety** (2021, 🏆) Klieber et al. [342] add checks to repair warning by the verification tool Symbiotic, using an ad hoc intermediate representation that can be transformed from and back to the AST.
- **C-3PR: A Bot for Fixing Static Analysis Violations via Pull Requests** (2020, #) C-3PR [287] integrates ESLint, TSLint and Sonar-WalkMod into a bot that makes pull-requests on Github for style issues and static analysis warnings.
- **SAVER: Scalable, Precise, and Safe Memory-Error Repair** (2020, #) Hong et al. [300] propose a novel technique to patch statically found memory leak, double-free, and use-after-free errors in C programs based on so-called object flow graphs.
- **Automated Repair of Resource Leaks in Android Applications** (2020, #) Bhatt et al. [284] repair Android-specific static analysis warnings with a fix template.
- **IntRepair: Informed Repairing of Integer Overflows** (2019, ☺) Muntean et al. [262] use 4 repair patterns to statically repair integer overflows found with static analysis.
- **Automatically Generating Fix Suggestions in Response to Static Code Analysis Warnings** (2019, Ω) Marcilio et al. [253] fix 11 Sonarqube warnings with fixing rules implemented in the Rascal metaprogramming system.
- **Avatar: Fixing Semantic Bugs with Fix Patterns of Static Analysis Violations** (2019) Liu et al. [244] fixe 7 FindBugs warnings with carefully selected fix patterns.
- **Neural Program Repair by Jointly Learning to Localize and Repair** (2019) Vasic et al.'s [207] does joint detection and repair of variable-misuse bugs instead of Allamanis et al's technique of detection followed by enumeration.
- **Static Automated Program Repair for Heap Properties** (2018) [202] repairs static warnings for potential null dereferences found by the static analysis tool Infer.
- **MemFix: static analysis-based repair of memory deallocation errors for C** (2018) [179] quantitatively improves over [83] and is able to handle real open-source programs.
- **Automatically Diagnosing and Repairing Error Handling Bugs in C** (2017) Tian et al. [140] repair three static warnings related to error handling with the corresponding template ("Incorrect/Missing Error Propagation", "Incorrect/Missing Error Checks", "Incorrect/Missing Resource Release")
- **IntPTI: Automatic Integer Error Repair With Proper-Type Inference** (2017) [122] statically detect integer overflows, applies 3 transformations (sanity check, explicit type casting and declared type change) before proposing the change to the developer.

- **Sound and complete mutation-based program repair** (2016, \square) [119] Rothenberg and Grumberg apply standard mutation operators not to the program under repair but to a constraint-based, SSA representation of C programs in order to fix statically detected errors. [repo](#)
- **Enhancing automated program repair with deductive verification** (2016, $\#$) Le et al. [111] repair static warnings found with HIP/SLEEK with Genprog-like mutations.
- **Safe Memory-leak Fixing for C Programs** (2015) [83] proposes an approach that consists of statically detecting and fixing memory leaks by inserting a deallocation statement.
- **Automated Generation of Buffer Overflows Quick Fixes Using Symbolic Execution and SMT** (2015) [94] uses parametrized templates to fix buffer overflow, where the actual parameter is found with symbolic execution and SMT.
- **Sound Input Filter Generation for Integer Overflow Errors** (2014) [68] uses a static analysis specific to integer arithmetic that detects integer overflows, and repair them by inferring a filter that simply deny the input.
- **Automatic Repair of Overflowing Expressions with Abstract Interpretation** (2013) [56] statically detects arithmetic overflow and suggest fixes as re-ordering of the arithmetic operations
- **Modular and Verified Automatic Program Repair** (2012) [44] proposes a repair approach for a set of fault class identified statically (e.g. off-by-one errors), with a specific repair operators per fault class (for example adding a precondition).
- **Fix-it: An Extensible Code Auto-Fix Component in Review Bot** [48] (2013) is an approach to automatically fix static warnings with AST transformation based on XQuery (US Patent by the same author [US9146712B2](#)).
- **Combining dynamic slicing and mutation operators for ESL correction** (2012, \square) Repinski et al. [46] revisit the work of [23] with different mutation operators.
- **A Formal Approach to Fixing Bugs** (2011) [35] fixes Findbugs-like bugs with Coccinelle-like templates using a transformation language called Tran. Similar work by the same authors "Towards the Automated Correction of Bugs".
- **Automatic Error Correction of Java Programs** (2010) [25] generates a meta-program that integrates all possible mutations according to a mutation operator, and the successful mutations are identified using symbolic execution.
- **Using Mutation to Automatically Suggest Fixes for Faulty Programs** (2010) Debroy and Wong [23] propose to use standard mutations from the mutation testing literature to fix programs: replacement of an arithmetic, relational, logical, increment/decrement, or assignment operator by another operator from the same class; decision negation in an if or while statement.
- **Proof-directed Debugging and Repair** (2006) [5] uses an Isabel proof-based oracle on ML programs: when the proof fails, the counter-example of the proof drives a repair approach based on repair templates (replacing one method call by another, adding code).
- **Patches As Better Bug Reports** (2006) Weimer [8] uses a safety policy of the form of a typestate property to detect and repair the control-flow graph of a method with a patch.

2.2 Bug reports

- **iFixR: bug report driven program repair** (2019, Ω) Koyuncu et al. [240] show that bug reports can be used for fault localization using information retrieval techniques and combine this with template based repair.
- **R2Fix: Automatically Generating Bug Fixes From Bug Reports** (2013) [55] takes as oracle a manually written bug report, which is used to extract the actual value of a template parameter.

2.3 Compiler Errors - Syntax Errors

- **Break-It-Fix-It: Unsupervised Learning for Program Repair** (2021, \heartsuit) Yasunaga and Liang [362] present a self-supervised training loop based on exercising and improving a 'breaker' and a 'fixer' simultaneously, inspired by backtranslation, in order to fix syntax errors in Python and C.
- **Self-Supervised Bug Detection and Repair** (2021, \heartsuit) Allamanis et al. [324] devise a self-supervised loop to detect and repair four kinds of bugs ("Variable Misuse", "Argument Swapping", "Wrong operator", "Wrong literal"), with experiments in Python.
- **SYNFIX: Automatically Fixing Syntax Errors using Compiler Diagnostics** (2021, \heartsuit) Ahmed et al.'s system [323], Synfix, uses a Roberta-based model to fix syntax errors in Java.
- **GGF: A Graph-based Method for Programming Language Syntax Error Correction** (2020, \heartsuit) Wu et al. [318] uses the AST information in a neural architecture to improve the state-of-the-art on the DeepFix dataset.
- **Graph-based Self-Supervised Program Repair from Diagnostic Feedback** (2020, \heartsuit) Yasunaga and Liang [321] generate training data for compiler error repair, with a self-supervised procedure based on corrupting programs, claim to improve the state-the-art on the Deepfix dataset.
- **Automatic Repair and Type Binding of Undeclared Variables using Neural Networks** (2019, Ω) Mohan et al. [259] train a system based on LSTM to repair 1059 student C programs with undeclared variable errors.
- **DeepDelta Learning to Repair Compilation Errors** (2019, Ω) Mesbah et al. [257] fix Java compilation errors by training a NMT model to predict the AST diff expressed in a textual manner.
- **SampleFix: Learning to Correct Programs by Sampling Diverse Fixes** (2019, Ω) Hajipour et al. [232] repair syntax errors with a conditional variational autoencoder with a technique to sample diverse solutions.
- **Deep Reinforcement Learning for Syntactic Error Repair in Student Programs** (2018) [168] uses reinforcement learning to improve the performance of DeepFix [127] on the same dataset.
- **Reducing Cascading Parsing Errors Through Fast Error Recovery** (2018, \square) [163] Diekmann and Tratt finds repair sequences for syntax errors, with minimum cost and acceptable time, by extending [1].
- **Syntax and sensibility: Using language models to detect and correct syntax errors** (2018): Santos' approach [195] repairs syntax errors (one character edits) with n-gram and LSTM, with an evaluation on 1,715,312 before-and-after pairs of the BlackBox dataset.
- **Compilation error repair: for the student programs, from the student programs** (2018): Ahmed et al. [155] improve over DeepFix [127] on a dataset containing a total of 16985 (source, target) line pairs.

- **DeepFix: Fixing Common C Language Errors by Deep Learning** (2017): Gupta et al. [127] use a language model for repairing syntactic compilation errors
- **Automated correction for syntax errors in programming assignments using recurrent neural networks** (2016): Bhatia [100] set up recurrent neural networks to fix Python syntax errors in 14000 student submissions from a MOOC.

3 Empirical Studies for Program Repair

- **Where were the repair ingredients for Defects4j bugs?** (2021, 🏆) Yang et al. [361] study the origin of repair ingredients for redundancy-based repair and suggest that some repair ingredients may be found in test case code.
- **Evaluating Automatic Program Repair Capabilities to Repair API Misuses** (2020, 🏆) Kechagia et al. [340] compare 14 Java test-suite-based repair tools on 101 API misuse bugs. The repair tools generate patches for 28% of API misuses, 25% of the generated patches are semantically correct, TBAR has the highest number of plausible and correct patches.
- **A Comprehensive Study of Code-removal Patches in Automated Program Repair** (2020, 🏆) Ginelli et al. [297] studies code-removal patches by Astor/jKali and finds that their presence clearly indicates test weaknesses.
- **On the Impact of Flaky Tests in Automated Program Repair** (2021, 🏆) Qin et al. [353] identify environment-dependent tests in Defects4J and show that their presence impact repair results.
- **Understanding the Non-Repairability Factors of Automated Program Repair Techniques** (2020, 🏆) Lin et al. [307] study the experimental logs shared in open science replication packages from program repair research, and find that the research prototypes suffer from important limitations.
- **Longitudinal Analysis of the Applicability of Program Repair on Past Commits** (2020, 🏆) Etemadi et al. [295] use AST analysis to identify past commits that could potentially have been generated by program repair tools, because the corresponding code changes lie in the search space of known repair approaches.
- **Patching as Translation: the Data and the Metaphor** (2020, 🏆) Ding et al. [293] discuss to what extent the usage of neural machine translation is appropriate for program repair.
- **Quality of Automated Program Repair on Real-World Defects** (2020, 🏆) Motwani et al. [310] implement the algorithms of GenProg, Par and TrpAutoRepair for Java in a tool called JarFly, and study its effectiveness on Defects4J.
- **Empirical Analysis of 1-edit Degree Patches in Syntax-Based Automatic Program Repair** (2020, 🏆) Dziurzanski et al. [294] exhaustively explore the search space on 1-edit patches (i.e. one-liners) of Arja for Defects4J, and show that much fewer tests can be executed for one-liners.
- **How Effective is Automated Program Repair for Industrial Software** (2020, 🏆) Noda et al. [312] discusses the repair results (8 patches) of proprietary repair tool Elixir on 20 single-statements bugs from Fujitsu products.
- **On the Efficiency of Test Suite based Program Repair** (2020, 🏆) Liu et al. [308] show that incorrect fault-localization significantly increases the chances of producing overfitting patches.

- **A manual inspection of Defects4J bugs and its implications for automatic program repair** (2019, ★) Jiang et al. [236] classify 50 Defects4J bugs with respect to the fault localization and repair strategy used.
- **Repairnator patches programs automatically** (2019, Ω) Monperrus et al. [261] report that program repair can be human-competitive: 5 generated patches have been synthesized faster than the human developer, and accepted and merged in the code base.
- **The effectiveness of context-based change application on automatic program repair** (2019, Ω) Kim et al. [239] show that it is valuable to select ingredients with similar AST context in generate-and-validate program repair. Idea related to [211].
- **Characterizing Developer Use of Automatically Generated Patches** (2019, Ω) Cambronero et al. [221] performs a user study consisting of giving 5 patches on 2 bugs to 12 developers, incl. one being correct to see how developers leverage generated patches.
- **How Different Is It Between Machine-Generated and Developer-Provided Patches** (2019, □) [270] Wang et al. asked 27 undergraduate students whether APR patches for Defects4J are correct, are located at the same position and consist of the same modification kind (132/177 patches are at the same location, with the same modification).
- **Empirical Review of Java Program Repair Tools: A Large-Scale Experiment on 2,141 Bugs and 23,551 Repair Attempts** (2019, □) Durieux et al. [228] run the same set of repair tools over different benchmarks and show that research is likely overfitting to Defects4J.
- **Human-competitive Patches in Automatic Program Repair with Repairnator** (2018) [192] shows that the state of the art techniques in 2018 can produce a valuable patch faster than human developers.
- **Attention Please: Consider Mockito when Evaluating Newly Released Automated Program Repair Techniques** (2018) [210] discusses the characteristics of the Mockito bugs in Defects4J and the performance of SimFix, CapGen and Nopol on repairing them.
- **The Remarkable Role of Similarity in Redundancy-based Program Repair** (2018) [162] describes an original experiment showing that the use of similarity can reduce the search space of program repair by 99.35%, under certain assumptions.
- **LSRepair: Live Search of Fix Ingredients for Automated Program Repair** (2018) [182] compares three kinds of similarity (similar method signature, method embedding similarity using CNN, semantic similarity based on code-search) in the context of generate-and-validate program repair.
- **A Novel Fitness Function for Automated Program Repair Based on Source Code Checkpoints** (2018) [198] uses instrumentation in order to have a fitness function that has less plateaus than with only test case outcomes.
- **A Comprehensive Study of Automatic Program Repair on the QuixBugs Benchmark** (2018) [214] is the first report on doing automatic repair on the Quixbugs benchmark, using the Astor and Nopol tools [129].
- **Comparing Line and AST Granularity Level for Program Repair using PyGGI** (2018) [157] claims that AST analysis in a GenProg-like approach is overall faster than line-based analysis.

- **Comparing Developer-Provided to User-Provided Tests for Fault Localization and Automated Program Repair** (2018) [176] studies whether the results of fault localization change if one removes the failing test case provided in the commit (experiments on Defects4J).
- **The Impacts of Techniques, Programs and Tests on Automated Program Repair: An Empirical Study** (2017) Kong et al. [128] compare GenProg, RSRepair, AE and Kali on the Siemens benchmark.
- **Better test cases for better automated program repair** (2017) Yang et al. [150] use fuzz testing to generate new test cases, and employ implicit oracles (absence of crash and memory-safety) to enhance validity checking of automatically-generated patches in C.
- **An empirical analysis of the influence of fault space on search-based automated program repair** (2017) [144] shows that GenProg finds more patches (incl. correct ones) if one assumes better fault localization.
- **A correlation study between automated program repair and test-suite metrics** (2017) [152] sets up a protocol based on held-out tests to show that the better the coverage, the better the repair.
- **Do automated program repair techniques repair hard and important bugs?** (2017) [134] suggests that the considered state-of-the-art repair techniques only repair simple bugs according to collected bug metadata.
- **An Empirical Investigation into Learning Bug-Fixing Patches in the Wild via Neural Machine Translation** (2018) Tufano et al. [204] use machine translation on Java methods that are smaller than 50 tokens with abstracted token sequences (the corresponding journal paper is [205]).
- **Towards reusing hints from past fixes - An exploratory study on thousands of real samples** (2018) [217] confirms the results of [70] regarding redundancy-based repair based on the novel usage delta dependency graphs.
- **Mining Repair Model for Exception-Related Bug** (2018) [216] studies the most common repair actions per exception type.
- **Common Statement Kind Changes to Inform Automatic Program Repair** (2018) Soto et al. [197] replicates the study of [92] on the MSR Challenge dataset.
- **A feasibility study of using automated program repair for introductory programming assignments** (2017) [151] studies the application of GenProg, AE, Angelix, and Prophet to 661 programs written by the students taking an introductory programming course.
- **Empirical Study on Synthesis Engines for Semantics-Based Program Repair** (2016) [110] compares 5 synthesis engines implemented on top of Angelix showing that they do not have the same performance, and that Angelix's Partial MaxSMT-based synthesis engine is the best on the considered benchmark, IntroClass.
- **Sorting and Transforming Program Repair Ingredients via Deep Learning Code Similarities** (2016) [145] uses deep learning to match donor methods that are similar to the buggy method under repair.
- **Automatic Repair of Real Bugs in Java: A Large-Scale Experiment on the Defects4J Dataset** (2016) [132] is the first experiment ever on evaluating automatic repair on the Defects4J dataset (with Nopol, jGenProg and jKali) showing the great problem of overfitting.

- **Improved Crossover Operators for Genetic Programming for Program Repair** (2016) [117] proposes new crossover operators for Genprog, that decouple fix location, repair type, and repair ingredient. The corresponding journal paper is [193].
- **An Analysis of Patch Plausibility and Correctness for Generate-And-Validate Patch Generation Systems** (2015) [96] shows that most Genprog patches simply remove code and consequently that the overfitting problem is huge.
- **The Strength of Random Search on Automated Program Repair** (2014) [73] shows that there the search in Genprog is actually not guided by the fitness function, it's random search.
- **Do the Fix Ingredients Already Exist? An Empirical Inquiry into the Redundancy Assumptions of Program Repair Approaches** (2014) [70] shows that a significant proportion of commits in open-source projects (3%-22%) are composed of existing code.
- **Mining Software Repair Models for Reasoning on the Search Space of Automated Program Fixing** (2013) [92] computes the prevalence of each repair action and explores the imbalance between possible repair actions at the AST level, showing its significant impact on the search.
- **A Human Study of Patch Maintainability** (2012) [40] conducted a study of Genprog patches based on 150 participants and 32 real-world defects, showing that machine-generated patches are slightly less maintainable than human-written ones.
- **A Systematic Study of Automated Program Repair: Fixing 55 Out of 105 Bugs for \$8 Each** (2012) [41] has famously claimed that 52% of bugs (55/105) of bugs can be fixed by Genprog, a ratio being undermined by the benchmark selection biases and by overfitting.
- **Automated Program Repair Through the Evolution of Assembly Code** (2010) [27] shows the feasibility of Genprog-like repair on binary x86 code and Java bytecode.
- **Designing Better Fitness Functions for Automated Program Repair** (2010) [24] explores the design space of fitness functions of Genprog.

3.1 Developer's feedback on APR

- **How to trust auto-generated code patches? A developer survey and empirical assessment of existing program repair tools** (2021, ♠) Noller et al. [351] ask 35 questions to 100 developers about APR and suggest that trust in APR patches would increase by presenting additional artifacts (in particular generated test cases).
- **Would You Fix This Code for Me? Effects of Repair Source and Commenting on Trust in Code Repair** (2020, ☺) Alarcon et al. [280] asked 51 programmers about their opinion on 5 GenProg patches on ManyBugs where the controlled variable is the identity of the patch author (Bill vs GenProg): the subjects trust human-being Bill more than bot GenProg.
- **Trust in Automated Software Repair** (2019, Ω) Tyler et al. [268] ask 24 students and 24 professionals to assess 5 GenProg patches and show novice programmers are more accepting generating.

4 Domain-Specific Repair

4.1 Test Repair

- **GUI-Guided Test Script Repair for Mobile Apps** (2020, ♣) Pan et al. [313] repair Android GUI test scripts by changing test UI locators or UI events, based on image and OCR analysis of GUI screenshots.
- **iFixFlakies: A Framework for Automatically Fixing Order-Dependent Flaky Tests** (2019, Ω) Shi et al. [265] analyze and repair the test bugs related to test execution ordering.
- **Intent-Preserving Test Repair** (2019, ⊖) Li et al. [243] repair Java tests that do not compile after evolution by ranking the candidate solutions according to an intent similarity score computed from path conditions.
- **Visual web test repair** (2018) [199] repairs broken Selenium tests by changing the incorrect locator, the locator being inferred by comparing visual renderings (ie images).
- **Waterfall: An incremental approach for repairing record-replay tests of web applications** (2016) [106] repairs DOM locators in Selenium tests.
- **Repairing Selenium Test Cases: an Industrial Case Study about Web Page Element Localization** (2013) [54] do test repair in the context of Selenium tests, which are tests for web applications with HTML output.
- **ReAssert: Suggesting Repairs for Broken Unit Tests** (2009) [17] addresses the dual problem of test-suite based repair: changing the tests instead of fixing the application.
- **Automatically Repairing Event Sequence-based GUI Test Suites for Regression Testing** (2008) [13] does test repair on GUI test models. "SITAR: GUI Test Script Repair" [84] extends this work by considering manually scripted test cases.

4.2 Automated Repair of Concurrency errors

- **HIPPODROME: Data Race Repair using Static Analysis Summaries** (2021, ♣) Hippodrome [332] repairs data races identified by RacerD, Facebook's static concurrency analyser for Java, by changing mutexes of Java synchronized blocks.
- **HangFix: automatically fixing software hang bugs for production cloud systems** (2020, ♣) He et al. [299] propose four automatic patching strategies that are specific to software hang bugs in cloud systems such as Hadoop.
- **DFix: automatically fixing timing bugs in distributed systems** (2019, ⊖) Li et al. [242] fix atomicity violations, order violations, and fault-timing bugs with rollbacking side-effect operations.
- **Understanding and Generating High Quality Patches for Concurrency bugs** (2016) Liu et al. [112] have proposed a tool called HFix whose repair operator is to add thread-join instructions.
- **Automatic Repair for Multi-threaded Programs with Deadlock/Livelock Using Maximum Satisfiability** (2014) Lin et al. [67] insert locks by encoding the problem as a satisfiability one.
- **Axis: Automatically Fixing Atomicity Violations Through Solving Control Constraints** (2012) [43] addresses the problem of violation fixing as a constraint solving problem using the Petri net model.
- **Automated Atomicity-violation Fixing** (2011) [34] is about AFix, whose repair model consists of putting instructions into critical regions.

4.3 Automated Repair of Build Scripts

- **Shipwright: A Human-in-the-Loop System for Dockerfile Repair** (2021, 🏆) Henkel et al. [338] designs 13 rules for making automated repairs to Dockerfiles which cannot successfully build, in a data-driven manner.
- **Styler: Learning Formatting Conventions to Repair Checkstyle Errors** (2019) Madeiral et al. [248] propose to automatically repair Checkstyle formatting errors that break the build.
- **History-driven build failure fixing: how far are we?** (2019, Ω) You et al. [250] show that a simple approach works better than HireBuild [170] on a new dataset of 102 reproducible Gradle build failures.
- **HireBuild: an automatic approach to history-driven repair of build scripts** (2018) [170] mines and apply build-fix patterns in Gradle, and apply them based on log similarity.

4.4 Repair for the Web

- **Automated Repair of Cross-Site Scripting Vulnerabilities through Unit Testing** (2020, #) Mohammadi et al. [258] automatically add calls to sanitizers to fix statically found XSS vulnerabilities.
- **Fully Automated HTML and Javascript Rewriting for Constructing a Self-healing Web Proxy** (2018) [165] uses a proxy to intercept browser errors and repair them with HTML and Javascript rewriting strategies.
- **Automated repair of mobile friendly problems in web pages** (2018) [186] explores the search space of CSS modifications to fix mobile problems such as font sizing and extraneous spacing.
- **Automated Repair of Internationalization Presentation Failures in Web Pages Using Style Similarity Clustering and Search-Based Techniques** (2018) [187] fixes web rendering by changing the value of CSS properties
- **Vejovis: Suggesting fixes for JavaScript faults** (2014) [72] suggests fixes for DOM errors based on fix patterns
- **Fix Me Up: Repairing Access-Control Bugs in Web Applications.** (2013) [61] repairs access-control policies in web applications, using a static analysis and transformations tailored to this domain.
- **Automated Repair of HTML Generation Errors in PHP Applications Using String Constraint Solving** (2012) [47] fixes incorrect opening/closing HTML tags in PHP application by encoding the problem as string constraints.

4.5 Repair of Software Models

- **Transforming abstract to concrete repairs with a generative approach of repair values** (2021, 🏆) Kretschmer et al. [343] repair inconsistencies in UML models.
- **ARepair: a repair framework for Alloy** (2019, Ⓜ) Wang et al. [269] describe a generate-and-validate repair technique for Alloy models, with a test-based specification based on AUnit.
- **Range Fixes: Interactive Error Resolution for Software Configuration** [99] (2015) focuses on automatically repairing configuration errors in software product lines
- **Towards Automated Inconsistency Handling in Design Models** [28] (2010) uses Prolog to propose a repair plan that fixes inconsistencies in UML models

- **Supporting Automatic Model Inconsistency Fixing** [22] (2009) detects and fixes inconsistencies in MOF and UML models
- **Repairing Unsatisfiable Concepts in OWL Ontologies** [7] (2006) states an automatic repair problem in the context of OWL ontologies.
- **Consistency Management with Repair Actions** [2] (2003) detects inconsistencies in XML documents and proposes repair actions accordingly.

4.6 Repair of Security Vulnerabilities

- **Neural Transfer Learning for Repairing Security Vulnerabilities in C Code** (2021, 🏆) Chen et al. [331] train a transformer on bug-fixing commits and fine-tune it on real CVE vulnerabilities, proving that transfer learning happens between bug fixing and vulnerability fixing (the previous iteration was [222]).
- **Using Safety Properties to Generate Vulnerability Patches** (2019, Ⓞ) Huang et al. [235] generate check-and-error patches for buffer overflows, bad casts and integer overflows triggered by exploits and fuzzing inputs.
- **Cdrep: Automatic repair of cryptographic misuses in android applications** (2016, #) Ma et al. [114] define 7 binary transformations for Dalvik bytecode to repair 7 cryptographic API misuses in Android.
- **AutoPaG: Towards Automated Software Patch Generation with Source Code Root Cause Identification and Repair** (2007) [9] generates a source code patch from an input that triggers an array overflow in C code, with failure-oblivious repair operators (adding a modulo in the read expression and truncating data to be written).
- **Countering Network Worms Through Automatic Patch Generation** (2005 [4] detect buffer overflow vulnerabilities at runtime in production, then produce a source code patch that skip the execution of the overflowing statement.

4.7 Misc Repair Types

- **Automatic repair of timestamp comparisons** (2021, 🏆) Liva et al. [247] statically identify time comparison problems in programs and rewrite time comparison expressions in a safe normal form.
- **CRNRepair: Automated Program Repair of Chemical Reaction Networks** (2021, 🏆) Mesecan et al. [347] bridge the GI framework PyGGI and the Matlab environment SimBiology to do original experiments on automated repair of chemical reaction networks.
- **Repairing serializability bugs in distributed database programs via automated schema refactoring** (2021, 🏆) Rahmani et al. [354] target the problem of repairing transaction serializability bugs in databases.
- **TFix+: Self-configuring Hybrid Timeout Bug Fixing for Cloud Systems** (2021, 🏆) He et al. [337] propose a technique to automatically repair timeout bugs in distributed systems such as Hadoop.
- **Smart Contract Repair** (2019, ★) Yu et al. [277] repair smart contracts in Ethereum to minimize gas consumption.
- **Automatic Software Merging using Automated Program Repair** (2019) [274] fixes merge conflicts with a search-based approach based on kGenProg.

- **Efficient Automated Repair of High Floating-Point Errors in Numerical Libraries** (2019, ☐) Yi et al. [276] for numerical functions (eg from GNU Scientific Library), identify small parts of the input domain that have high floating point instability, and replace the original implementation by a better approximation.
- **Towards Specification-Directed Program Repair** (2018) [196] does program repair for the educational programming language Karel, by training a neural net to predict the edit (keep, delete, insert or replace token).
- **Automated model repair for Alloy** (2018) [208] does repair for the Alloy language with 11 mutation operators,
- **Automated Repair of High Inaccuracies in Numerical Programs** (2017) Yi et al. [153] use mathematically equivalent floating-point expressions that reduce inaccuracies found with random testing.
- **Data-guided Repair of Selection Statements** (2014) [64] repairs database selection statements in a specific data-oriented language (Abap fro SAP).
- **A Framework for the Automatic Correction of Constraint Programs** (2011) [37] repairs constraint programs the repair consisting of declaratively removing or adding new constraints.

4.8 SQL Repair

- **SQLRepair: Identifying and Repairing Mistakes in Student-Authored SQL Queries** (2021, 🎁) Presler et al.'s SQLRepair [352] combine heuristics and a SMT-based repair approach to fix SQL queries (tool at <https://github.com/kpresler/sqlrepair>).
- **Using Automated Fix Generation to Secure SQL Statements** (2007) Thomas et al. [10] describes an automatic transformation in Java for going from plain java SQL to prepared statements.

5 Optimization & Integration

5.1 Driving the Search

- **Multiplicative Weights Algorithms for Parallel Automated Software Repair** (2021, 🎁) Renzullo et al. [355] propose to use online learning based on multiplicative weights update to efficiently find those combinations of mutations which repair a bug.
- **Concolic Program Repair** (2021, 🎁) Shariffdeen et al.'s technique [356] consists of alternating patch enumeration, input synthesis and concolic execution on the synthesized input to generate a small amount of patches.
- **How Does Regression Test Selection Affect Program Repair? An Extensive Study on 2 Million Patches** (2021, 🎁) Lou et al.'s [345] claim that regression test selection is useful for program repair, based on experiments on Defects4J.
- **Self-Boosted Automated Program Repair** (2021, 🎁) Benton et al. [326] constantly re-order the patch candidate list to be verified wrt the test suite in order to speed up the discovery of plausible patches.
- **Leveraging Program Invariants to Promote Population Diversity in Search-Based Automatic Program Repair** (2019) [225] explores the usege of learned invariants to improve the fitness function of generate-and-validate program repair, experimenting with genprog4java.

- **A new word embedding approach to evaluate potential fixes for automated program repair** (2018) [156] computes source code line embeddings from word2vec embeddings in order to calculate distances between patches.

5.2 Addressing the patch overfitting problem

- **Exploring Plausible Patches Using Source Code Embeddings in JavaScript** (2021, 🏆) Csuvik et al. [333] present experiments suggesting that the Doc2Vec embedding of code is not useful for discarding overfitting patches.
- **Exploring True Test Overfitting in Dynamic Automated Program Repair using Formal Methods** (2021, 🏆) Nilizadeh et al. [350] assess overfitting in APR patches using ground truth reference programs equipped with formal specifications in OpenJML, with an experiment on 30 small programs.
- **Neural Program Repair with Execution-based Backpropagation** (2021, 🏆) Ye et al. [364] design and optimize a loss function that embeds the results of test execution in order to avoid overfitting.
- **Adversarial Patch Generation for Automatic Program Repair** (2020, 🏆) Alhefdhi et al. [282] present preliminary results on using a patch discriminator to encourage a data-driven system to generate patches that look like human patches.
- **Automated Patch Correctness Assessment: How Far are We?** (2020, ☹) Wang et al. [317] compare different overfitting detection techniques from the literature and find that dynamic techniques do not perform better than static techniques.
- **Evaluating representation learning of code changes for predicting patch correctness in program repair** (2020, ☹) Tien et al. [315] show that a purely syntactic approach based on BERT-based embeddings associated with logistic regression does not improve overfitting detection.
- **Exploring the Differences between Plausible and Correct Patches at Fine-Grained Level** (2020, ☹) Yang et al. [320] present a preliminary experiment on using Daikon invariants to detect overfitting patches.
- **Utilizing Source Code Embeddings to Identify Correct Patches** (2020, ☹) Csuvik et al. [291] propose to order likely patches by their distance to the buggy program in an embedding space, and compare three such spaces.
- **Automated Classification of Overfitting Patches with Statically Extracted Code Features** (2019, ★) Ye et al. [365] define features on code and train a machine learning model to detect overfitting patches.
- **Validation of Automatically Generated Patches: An Appetizer** (2019, ★) Ghanbari [230] proposes to use Daikon invariants to generate property-based tests that can rank generated patches by likelihood.
- **Automated Patch Assessment for Program Repair at Scale** (2019, ★) Ye et al. [363] studies the usage of test generation based on a ground truth patch to better evaluate program repair research.
- **Alleviating Patch Overfitting with Automatic Test Generation: A Study of Feasibility and Effectiveness for the Nopol Repair System** (2018) [215] shows that using tests that are generated against the buggy version of the program under repair poses a serious oracle problem.
- **Identifying Patch Correctness in Test-Based Program Repair** (2018) Xiong et al. [213] analyze test execution traces to filter out incorrect overfitting patches.

- **Overfitting in semantics-based automated program repair** (2018) [178] compares Angelix and variants of it on the IntroClass and CodeFlaws benchmarks showing that 50-75% of patches are overfitting.
- **Is the Cure Worse Than the Disease? Overfitting in Automated Program Repair** (2015) [97] is the first paper to name the overfitting problem.

5.3 Improvement of the Fault Localization Step

- **Revisiting Test Cases to Boost Generate-and-Validate Program Repair** Zhang et al. [366] study how stacktraces can be used to improve fault localization in APR.
- **On the effectiveness of unified debugging: An extensive study on 16 program repair systems** (2020, 🏆) Benton et al. [283] study the performance of a new fault localization technique called UniDebug++, on 16 repair tools. On Defects4J, UniDebug++ can localize over 20% more bugs at the Top-1 position.
- **Automatically Repairing Programs Using Both Tests and Bug Reports** (2020, 🏆), Motwani and Brun [311] improve on the fault localization component of SimFix with a new technique that combines spectrum-based and bug-report based fault localization.
- **Can Automated Program Repair Refine Fault Localization** (2019, ★) Lou et al. [249] proposes a variant of mutation-based fault localization based on the PraPR program repair tool.
- **Restore: Retrospective fault localization enhancing automated program repair** (2020, 🏆), Xu et al. [319] design a two-phase fault-localization process for repair and apply it to Jaid and SimFix.
- **You Cannot Fix What You Cannot Find! An Investigation of Fault Localization Bias in Benchmarking Automated Program Repair Systems** (2019) [246] shows that one third of bugs in the Defects4J benchmark cannot be localized, hence cannot be repair with approach based on spectrum-based fault localization.
- **An Empirical Study on the Effect of Dynamic Slicing on Automated Program Repair Efficiency** (2018) [167] replaces Ochiai in Nopol [148] by a dynamic slicing approach based on Javaslicer.
- **An Empirical Study on the Usage of Fault Localization in Automated Program Repair**[149] (2017) compares two variations of spectrum based fault localization in Nopol [148].

5.4 Interactive Program Repair

“Interactive Program Repair” means asking questions to the developer about the expected output of some expressions, in order to drive the search towards correct patches.

- **Automatic Program Repair as Semantic Suggestions - An Empirical Study** (2021, 🏆) Campos et al. [329] implement and evaluate mutation-based repair for Javascript inside Visual Studio.
- **Interactive Patch Filtering as Debugging Aid** (2020, 🏆) Liang et al. develop an IDE plugin to present APR patches to developers in a debugging session and shows how it helps fixing the bug at hand, in an experiment over 30 students and 85 Defects4J bugs.

- **Human-In-The-Loop Automatic Program Repair** (2020, #) Böhme et al. [285] propose to ask a fixed number of yes/no questions to the user/developer about the expected behavior of the program under repair in order to reduce the risk of incorrect patches.
- **Interactive Testing and Repairing of Regular Expressions** (2018) [158] proposes an interactive technique to repair regular expressions, the developer being asked for validation.
- **At the End of Synthesis: Narrowing Program Candidates** (2017) Shriver et al. [138] identify inputs on which the behavior of two candidate patches differ, and show them to the developers to ask about the preferred behavior.
- **Automatically Generated Patches As Debugging Aids: a Human Study** (2014) [76] asks to 95 participants to fix bugs with either fault localization or machine-generated patches from PAR.

5.5 Repair Speed

- **Speedup automatic program repair using dynamic software updating: an empirical study** (2019) Guo et al. [231] apply generated patches using hotswapping / class reload in the JVM and report the presence of a speed-up.
- **Fast and Precise On-the-fly Patch Validation for All** (2020, ♡) Chen and Zhang [288] propose to only load the tentatively patched binary Java classes through hot-swapping technology, in order to speed up validation with the test suite.
- **Test-equivalence Analysis for Automatic Patch Generation** [191] (2018) reduces the number of test executions in the repair loop by clustering candidate patches according to their test behaviors.
- **Improving performance of automatic program repair using learned heuristics** (2017) [137] uses 24 code features to identify line/expression pairs that are likely to work together, i.e. to select good candidate ingredients in redundancy based approaches.
- **Leveraging program equivalence for adaptive program repair: Models and first results** [62] (2013) discards some repair candidates using program equivalent checks typical from compilers.
- **Efficient Automated Program Repair Through Fault-Recorded Testing Prioritization** [59] (2013) blends test suite prioritization and classical Genprog.
- **More Efficient Automatic Repair of Large-scale Programs Using Weak Re-compilation** [45] (2012) creates an incremental compilation system that is dedicated to program repair.

5.6 Integration / UI / Tooling

- **On the introduction of automatic program repair in Bloomberg** (2021, ♠) Kirbas et al. [341] describe the integration of APR at Bloomberg, with a system based on mining repair templates with anti-unification.
- **E-APR: Mapping the Effectiveness of Automated Program Repair** (2020, #) Aleti and Martinez [281] present a meta-tool to predict the right repair tool to use based on features of the buggy program.
- **Visualizing Code Genealogy: How Code is Evolutionarily Fixed in Program Repair** (2019, ★) Tomida et al. [266] proposes a user-interface to visualize the search happening in a generate-and-validate repair loop implemented in kGenProg.

- **Towards s/engineer/bot: principles for program repair bots** (2019, \square) van Tonder and Le Goues [267] discuss six principles for engineering repair bots related to syntax, semantics and integration.
- **SapFix: Automated End-to-End Repair at Scale** (2019) [254] describes the FaceBook implementation of automatic repair of null pointer exceptions found by the fuzzing tool Sapienz.
- **How to Design a Program Repair Bot? Insights from the Repairnator Project** (2018) [206] is the first ever blueprint architecture on using program repair in continuous integration.
- **Synergistic Debug-Repair of Heap Manipulations** (2017, \star) Verma and Roy [142] add advanced concepts in a proof-of-concept debugger on top of GDB, which supports specifying desired states and patch generation via SMT-based repair constraints.
- **Should fixing these failures be delegated to automated program repair?** (2015) Le et al. [89] perform automatic classification of successful and unsuccessful cases in Genprog based on features from the Genprog search.

6 Position Papers

- **Explainable Software Bot Contributions: Case Study of Automated Bug Fixes** (2019) Monperrus [260] claims that patches generated with automatic program repair should come with a textual explanation.
- **Beyond testing configurable systems: applying variational execution to automatic program repair and higher order mutation testing** (2018) [212] suggests using variational execution to find multi-location repair out of a meta-program with all possible changes.
- **Trusted software repair for system resiliency** (2016) Weimer et al. [120]’s position paper is about detecting behavioral differences between patches using targeted differential testing.
- **When App Stores Listen to the Crowd to Fight Bugs in the Wild** (2015) [85] sets the vision of an App store that monitors and fixes bugs in production by orchestrating the search over thousands of devices.
- **A Critical Review of ”Automatic Patch Generation Learned from Human-Written Patches”: Essay on the Problem Statement and the Evaluation of Automatic Software Repair** (2014) [71] states that program repair goes beyond mimicking human patches, and that scientific evaluation in this research field must be designed accordingly.
- **Two Flavors in Automated Software Repair: Rigid Repair and Plastic Repair** (2013) [57] is an early categorization of the field, later called as generate-and-validate approaches versus semantic-based or synthesis-based approaches.
- **Current Challenges in Automatic Software Repair** (2013) [53] shows the vision of C. Le Goues at the end of her seminal PhD thesis on GenProg.

7 Formal Approaches to Program Repair

- **Automated Repair of Heap-Manipulating Programs using Deductive Synthesis** (2020, Ψ), Nguyen et al. [349] fix static warnings found with HIP/SLEEK (as [111]) using constraint solving on top of the Songbird prover and deductive synthesis.

- **Deductive Program Repair** (2015) Kneuss et al. [87] do program repair for a “purely functional subset of Scala”, evaluated on seeded bugs on small programs.
- **Cost-Aware Automatic Program Repair** (2014) [74] repairs boolean programs with assertions, by using the method of inductive assertions.
- **Program Repair As Sound Optimization of Broken Programs** (2009) [20] theoretically defines repair for an ad hoc formal language.
- **Program Repair Suggestions From Graphical State-Transition Specifications** (2008) [14] does theoretical repair using edit sequences on state machines.
- **Repair of Boolean Programs with An Application to C** (2006) [6] repairs a specific class of programs called boolean programs: those that only contain boolean variables.
- **Program Repair As a Game** (2005) [3] repair programs that are expressed in linear temporal logics

8 Miscellaneous

8.1 Datasets & Benchmarks

- **Is the Ground Truth Really Accurate? Dataset Purification for Automated Program Repair** (2021, 🏠) Yang et al. [360] use coverage and delta-debugging to perform change minimization of benchmark bugs (minimized D4J patches are at [DehengYang/dataset_purification](https://github.com/DehengYang/dataset_purification)).
- **Towards a Benchmark Set for Program Repair Based on Partial Fixes** (2021, 🏠) Beyer et al. [328] curated 2204 benchmark tasks where the input is a partial fix (data at <https://gitlab.com/sosy-lab/software/partial-fix-benchmarks/>).
- **A critical review on the evaluation of automated program repair systems** (2020, ♣) Liu et al. [344] discuss and consolidate 8 evaluation metrics for program repair research, which cover different aspects of the problem space.
- **Critical Review of BugSwarm for Fault Localization and Program Repair** (2019, □) Durieux et al. [227] state desirable properties applying to benchmarks for program repair and assess BugSwarm according to them, showing that a minority of bugs are usable in this context.
- **BugSwarm: Mining and Continuously Growing a Dataset of Reproducible Failures and Fixes** (2019) [226] uses Travis CI as [252] to collect 3,091 bugs and encapsulates them in a reproducible Docker image.
- **Bears: An Extensible Java Bug Benchmark for Automatic Program Repair Studies** (2018) Madeiral et al. [252] propose a new benchmark whose novelty is to be based on continuous integration analysis (and not on past commits).
- **DroidBugs: An Android Benchmark for Automated Program Repair** (2018) Azevedo et al. [159] gathers 13 bugs in Android apps. ([code](#))
- **Bugs.jar: a large-scale, diverse dataset of real-world Java bugs** (2018) [194] describes a dataset of 1,158 bugs and patches, over 8 open-source projects.
- **Codeflaws: a programming competition benchmark for evaluating automated program repair tools** (2017) Tan et al. [139] present a benchmark of 3902 defects in C, crawled from the Codeforces programming competition website.

- **QuixBugs: a multi-lingual program repair benchmark set based on the quixey challenge** (2017) [129] is a benchmark of in simple programs bugs where each bug is available in both Java and Python.
- **The ManyBugs and IntroClass Benchmarks for Automated Repair of C Programs** (2015) ManyBugs [90] is the classical GenProg benchmark and has 185 bugs in 9 C open-source programs. IntroClass is composed of small (10-20 LOC) student programs, it has been translated to Java (IntroClassJava [103]).
- **Defects4J: A Database of Existing Faults to Enable Controlled Testing Studies for Java Programs** (2014) Just et al. [65] presents the Defects4J benchmark, extensively used in program repair research since the initial experiment by Durieux et al. [81, 132].

8.2 Automatic Hardening

- **Automatically Fixing C Buffer Overflows Using Program Transformations** (2014) [75] uses three program transformations dedicated to integer operations, and shows that the approach scales to real programs.
- **Program Transformations to Fix C Integers** (2013) [49] proposes three program transformations to fix common overflow problems with integer arithmetics in C code.
- **A Source-to-source Transformation Tool for Error Fixing.** (2013) [50] automatically adds a condition checks after all method calls with a source-to-source transformation in C code.

8.3 Surveys

- **A Survey on Automatic Bug Fixing** (2020, ♡), Cao et al. [286] summarize the recent advances made since the previous surveys (113 references).
- **Automated Program Repair** (2019) Le Goues et al. [241] give a high-level view of the field in Communications of the ACM (40 references).
- **A Survey of Test Based Automatic Program Repair**(2018) Liu et al. [184] present 81 references, with the last ones from 2017.
- **Automatic software repair: a Survey**(2017) Gazzola et al.’s survey [126] at IEEE TSE with 176 references.
- **Automatic software repair: a Bibliography** Monperrus [133] (first online, 2015, journal version 2017) is the first ever survey of the field, with 197 references.

8.4 Doctoral Theses

- Chen et al., “Effective automatic program repair based on state abstraction”, 2021 [330]
- Gao, “Overfitting in Program Repair and Synthesis”, 2021 [335]
- Ginelli, “Understanding and Improving Automatic Program Repair: A Study of Code-removal Patches and a New Exception-driven Fault Localization Approach”, 2020 [296]
- Koyuncu, “Boosting Automated Program Repair for Adoption By Practitioners”, 2020 [303]
- Coker, “Automatic Repair of Framework Applications”, 2020 [290]
- Harer, “Improved neural machine translation systems for low resource correction tasks”, 2019 [233]

- Liu, “Deep Pattern Mining for Program Repair”, 2018 [181]
- Durieux, “From Runtime Failures to Patches: Study of Patch Generation in Production”, 2018 [164]
- Le, “Overfitting in Automated Program Repair: Challenges and Solutions”, 2018 [177]
- Long, “Automatic patch generation via learning from successful human patches”, 2018 [185]
- Hua, “Unifying Program Repair and Program Synthesis”, 2018 [173]
- Mechtaev, “Semantic Program Repair”, 2018 [189]
- Tan, “Design of repair operators for automated program repair”, 2018 [200]
- Timperley, “Advanced Techniques for Search-Based Program Repair”, 2017 [141]
- Gopinath, “Systematic techniques for more effective fault localization and program repair”, 2016 [104]
- Cornu, “Automatic Analysis and Repair of Exception Bugs for Java Programs”, 2015 [79]
- Martinez, “Extraction and Analysis of Knowledge for Automatic Software Repair”, 2014 [69]
- Le Goues, “Automatic Program Repair Using Genetic Programming”, 2013 [52]
- Nguyen, “Automating Program Verification and Repair Using Invariant Analysis and Test Input Generation”, 2010 [26]
- Arcuri, “Automatic Software Generation and Improvement Through Search Based Techniques”, 2009 [15]

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