





On Variability Debt in Object-Oriented Implementations

<u>Johann Mortara</u> – Philippe Collet – Anne-Marie Pinna-Dery

Université Côte d'Azur, CNRS, I3S, France

TD4ViS @ SPLC '22 – Graz, Austria September 13, 2022

00 variability implementations

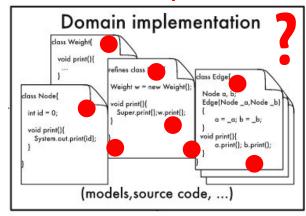
00 codebases use 00 mechanisms to implement variability in a single codebase

- inheritance
- overloading of methods and constructors
- design patterns

Creation of **complex zones** in the system

⇒ **understanding them is crucial** to comprehend the codebase variability

Undocumented OO variability implementations



Variation points and variants

```
1 public abstract class Shape {
2 public abstract double area();
3 public abstract double perimeter(); /*...*/
4 }
```

```
public class Circle extends Shape {
5
      private final double radius;
6
      // Constructor omitted
7
      public double area() {
8
        return Math.PI * Math.pow(radius, 2);
9
       }
10
      public double perimeter() {
11
        return 2 * Math.PI * radius;
12
       }
13
14
    }
```

15	<pre>public class Rectangle extends Shape {</pre>
16	<pre>private final double width, length;</pre>
17	// Constructor omitted
18	<pre>public double area() {</pre>
19	<pre>return width * length;</pre>
20	}
21	<pre>public double perimeter() {</pre>
22	<pre>return 2 * (width + length);</pre>
23	}
24	<pre>public void draw(int x, int y) {</pre>
25	<pre>// rectangle at (x, y, width, length)</pre>
26	}
27	<pre>public void draw(Point p) {</pre>
28	<pre>// rectangle at (p.x, p.y, width, length)</pre>
29	}
30	}

Variation points and variants

```
vp_Shape
    public abstract class Shape {
1
      public abstract double area();
2
      public abstract double perimeter(); /*...*/
3
4
                                              v_Circle
    public class Circle extends Shape
5
      private final double radius;
6
      // Constructor omitted
7
      public double area() {
8
        return Math.PI * Math.pow(radius, 2);
9
       }
10
      public double perimeter() {
11
        return 2 * Math.PI * radius;
12
13
14
    3
```

v_Rectangle

15	<pre>public class Rectangle extends Shape {</pre>
16	<pre>private final double width, length;</pre>
17	// Constructor omitted
18	<pre>public double area() {</pre>
19	<pre>return width * length;</pre>
20	}
21	<pre>public double perimeter() {</pre>
22	<pre>return 2 * (width + length);</pre>
23	}
24	<pre>public void draw(int x, int y) {</pre>
25	<pre>// rectangle at (x, y, width, length)</pre>
26	}
27	<pre>public void draw(Point p) {</pre>
28	<pre>// rectangle at (p.x, p.y, width, length)</pre>
29	}
30	}

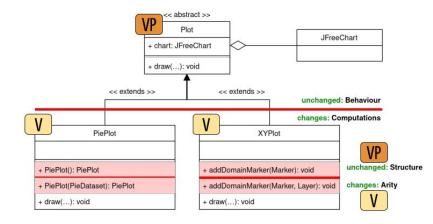
Variation points and variants

```
vp_Shape
    public abstract class Shape {
1
      public abstract double area();
2
      public abstract double perimeter(); /*...*/
3
4
                                              v_Circle
    public class Circle extends Shape
5
      private final double radius;
6
      // Constructor omitted
7
      public double area() {
8
        return Math.PI * Math.pow(radius, 2);
9
       3
10
      public double perimeter() {
11
        return 2 * Math.PI * radius;
12
13
14
```

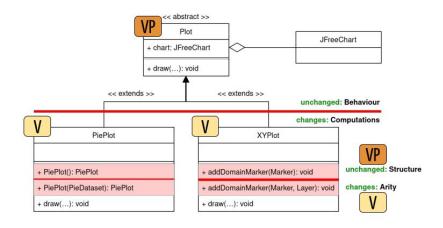
v_Rectangle

15	<pre>public class Rectangle extends Shape {</pre>
16	<pre>private final double width, length;</pre>
17	// Constructor omitted
18	<pre>public double area() {</pre>
19	return width * length;
20	}
21	<pre>public double perimeter() {</pre>
22	<pre>return 2 * (width + length);</pre>
23	yp_draw
24	<pre>public void draw(int x, int y) {</pre>
24 25	<pre>public void draw(int x, int y) { // rectangle at (x, y, width, length)</pre>
25	<pre>// rectangle at (x, y, width, length)</pre>
25 26	<pre>// rectangle at (x, y, width, length) }</pre>
25 26 27	<pre>// rectangle at (x, y, width, length) } public void draw(Point p) {</pre>
25 26 27 28	<pre>// rectangle at (x, y, width, length) } public void draw(Point p) { // rectangle at (p.x, p.y, width, length)</pre>

Variability implemented using mechanisms



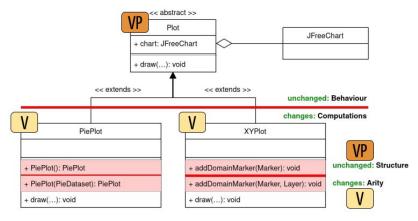
Variability implemented using mechanisms



Variability implemented without using mechanisms

Plot	
drawPiePlot(): void	
drawXYPlot(): void	

Variability implemented using mechanisms



Duplicated blocks: 3

Duplicated blocks: 2

Variability implemented without using mechanisms

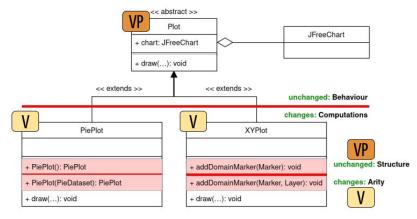
Plot drawPiePlot(): void drawXYPlot(): void

Duplications

drawPiePlot drawXYPlot

Duplicated blocks: 25

Variability implemented using mechanisms



Duplicated blocks: 3 Code coverage: 80%

Duplicated blocks: 2 Code coverage: 75%

Variability implemented without using mechanisms

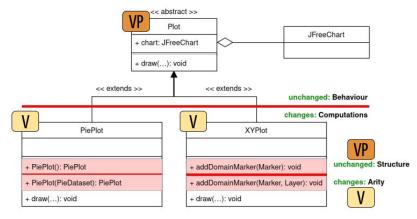
Plot drawPiePlot(): void drawXYPlot(): void

Duplications

drawPiePlot drawXYPlot

Duplicated blocks: 25 Code coverage: 55%

Variability implemented using mechanisms



Duplicated blocks: 3 Code coverage: 80%

Duplicated blocks: 2 Code coverage: 75%

Variability implemented without using mechanisms

Plot drawPiePlot(): void drawXYPlot(): void

Duplications

drawPiePlot drawXYPlot

Duplicated blocks: 25 Code coverage: 55%



Variability debt

"Technical debt **caused by defects and sub-optimal solutions in the implementation of variability** management in software systems. [...] Variability debt **leads to maintenance and evolution difficulties** to manage families of systems or highly configurable systems."

Lack of knowledge of the implemented variability + absence of traceability

Variability model is rarely available Documentations are rarely up to date and exhaustive No mapping in the implementations no known variability implementation mechanisms

 \Rightarrow artifact duplication + \uparrow code complexity

Identical implementation mechanisms for variability and business logic

11

OO variability implementations are prone to variability debt

Daniele Wolfart, Wesley Klewerton Guez Assunção, and Jabier Martinez. 2021. Variability Debt: Characterization, Causes and Consequences. In XX Brazilian Symposium on Software Quality. 1–10.

How to measure 00 variability debt?

Different types of variability debt

- System-level structure quality issues
- Code Duplication
- Lack of tests
- Out-of-date or incomplete documentation
- Architectural antipatterns

- Expensive tests
- Multi-version support
- Old technology in use
- Duplicate documentation
- Poor test of feature interactions

12

Daniele Wolfart, Wesley Klewerton Guez Assunção, and Jabier Martinez. 2021. Variability Debt: Characterization, Causes and Consequences. In XX Brazilian Symposium on Software Quality. 1–10.

How to measure 00 variability debt?

Different types of variability debt applicable to our experimented OO codebases

- System-level structure quality issues

in the implementation

- Code Duplication

Expensive tests

no information on architecture

13

- Lack of tests

- Old technology in use no information on versions

Out of date or incomplete documentation no documentation

Architectural antipatterns

no information on architecture

Duplicate documentation no documentation

Poor test of feature interactions no list of features with mapping

Daniele Wolfart, Wesley Klewerton Guez Assunção, and Jabier Martinez. 2021. Variability Debt: Characterization, Causes and Consequences. In XX Brazilian Symposium on Software Quality. 1–10.

How to measure 00 variability debt?

Different types of variability debt

System-level structure quality issues Cognitive complexity
 Code Duplication Duplicated code blocks
 Lack of tests Unit tests coverage

Chosen 00 metrics

14

Example of code duplication

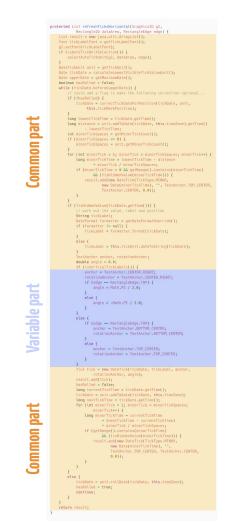
Duplications can be pure technical debt in classes concentrating variability implementations, but can also be **improperly managed variability implementations**

if (isVerticalTickLabels()) { anchor = TextAnchor.CENTER RIGHT: rotationAnchor = TextAnchor.CENTER RIGHT: if (edge == RectangleEdge.TOP) { angle = Math.PI / 2.0; } else { angle = -Math.PI / 2.0; } else { if (edge == RectangleEdge.TOP) { anchor = TextAnchor.BOTTOM_CENTER; rotationAnchor = TextAnchor.BOTTOM CENTER: } else { anchor = TextAnchor.TOP_CENTER; rotationAnchor = TextAnchor.TOP_CENTER;

refreshTicksHorizontal

```
if (isVerticalTickLabels()) {
    anchor = TextAnchor.BOTTOM CENTER:
    rotationAnchor = TextAnchor.BOTTOM CENTER;
    if (edge == RectangleEdge.LEFT) {
        angle = -Math.PI / 2.0;
    }
    else {
        angle = Math.PI / 2.0;
}
else {
    if (edge == RectangleEdge.LEFT) {
        anchor = TextAnchor.CENTER_RIGHT;
        rotationAnchor = TextAnchor.CENTER_RIGHT;
    else {
        anchor = TextAnchor.CENTER LEFT;
        rotationAnchor = TextAnchor.CENTER LEFT:
}
```

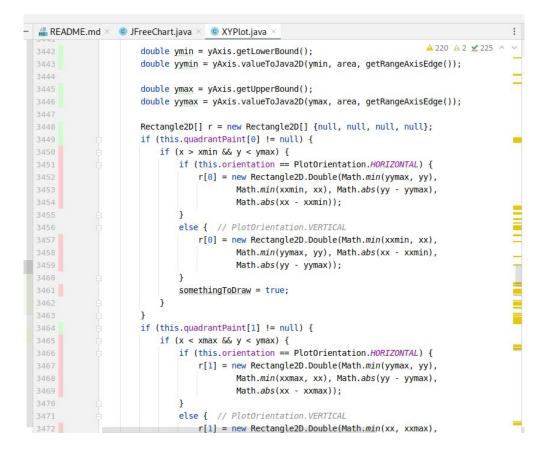
refreshTicksVertical

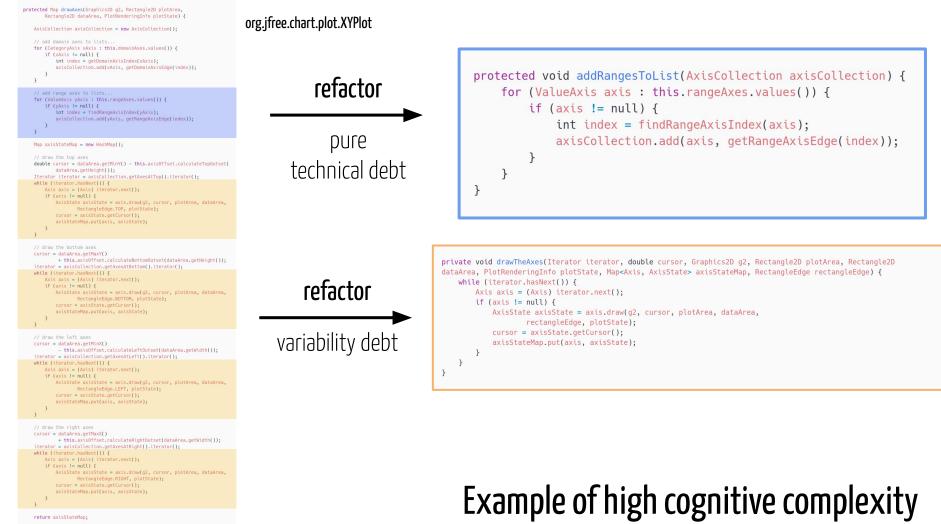


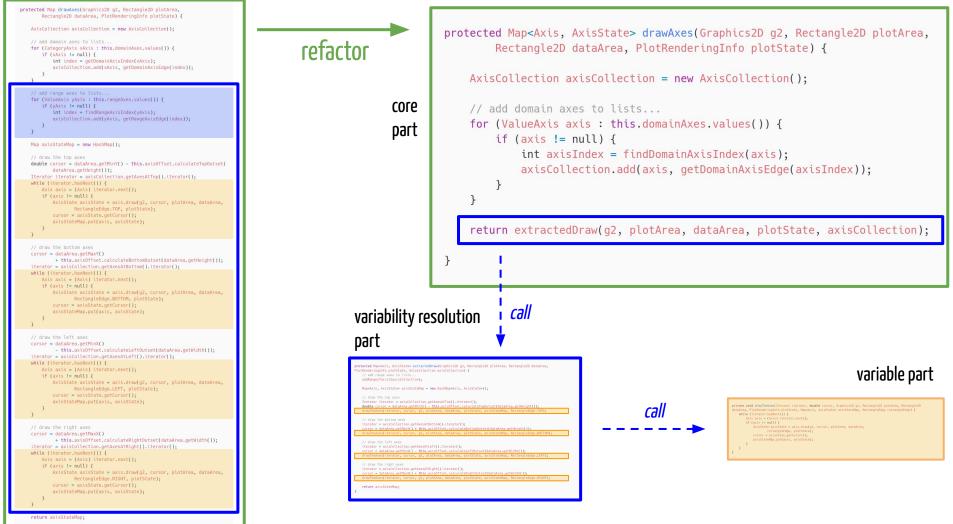
org.jfree.chart.axis.DateAxis

```
protected List refreshTicksVertical(Graphics2D g2,
       Rectangle2D dataArea, RectangleEdge edge) {
   List result = new java.util.ArrayList()
   boolean hasRolled = false:
   while (tickDate,before(upperDate)) {
              this.tickMarkPosition);
       long lowestTickTime = tickDate.getTime();
       long distance = unit.addToDate(tickDate, this.timeZone).getTime()
       int minorTickSpaces - getMinorTickC
          long minorTickTime = lowestTickTime - distance
               String tickLabel;
DateFormat formatter = getDateFormatOverride();
           if (formatter != null) {
           double angle = 0.0;
              anchor = TextAnchor.BOTTOM_CENTER;
                 angle = -Math.PI / 2.0:
              else {
           hasRolled - false;
           long currentTickTime = tickDate.getTime();
           long nextTickTime = tickDate.getTime();
           for (int minorTick = 1: minorTick < minorTickSpaces
              minorTick++) {
long minorTickTime = currentTickTime
                     && (lisHiddenValue(minorTickTime))) {
                  result.add(new DateTick(TickType,MINOR,
                        new Date(minorTickTine), **.
          tickDate = unit.rollDate(tickDate, this.timeZone);
           hasRolled = true:
                                                                 15
```

(Obvious) Example of low coverage







Limitations

- Variable parts in the code are visible but not the variability resolution
- Pure technical and variability debt have the same shape

Thanks for your attention!

Time for questions!