



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

Green Configuration

Energy Consumption of Configurable Software Systems



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Christian Kalten.



Florian Sattler



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Norbert Siegmund

Energy Consumption at ecoCompute



CarbonDB – Real Time carbon emissions mapping to heterogenous IT infrastructure 

Arne Tarara

Green Coding Solutions



Rerouting the Cloud: Cutting 90% CO₂ and Cloud Costs with Smarter Workload Shifting 

Dryden Williams

CarbonRunner



Coding Smarter for a Greener Future | A comparison between Go & Java 

Moritz Bölker

Lufthansa Industry Solutions



Fighting hardware obsolescence with greener frontend code 

Björn Ganslandt

–

Embodied Carbon

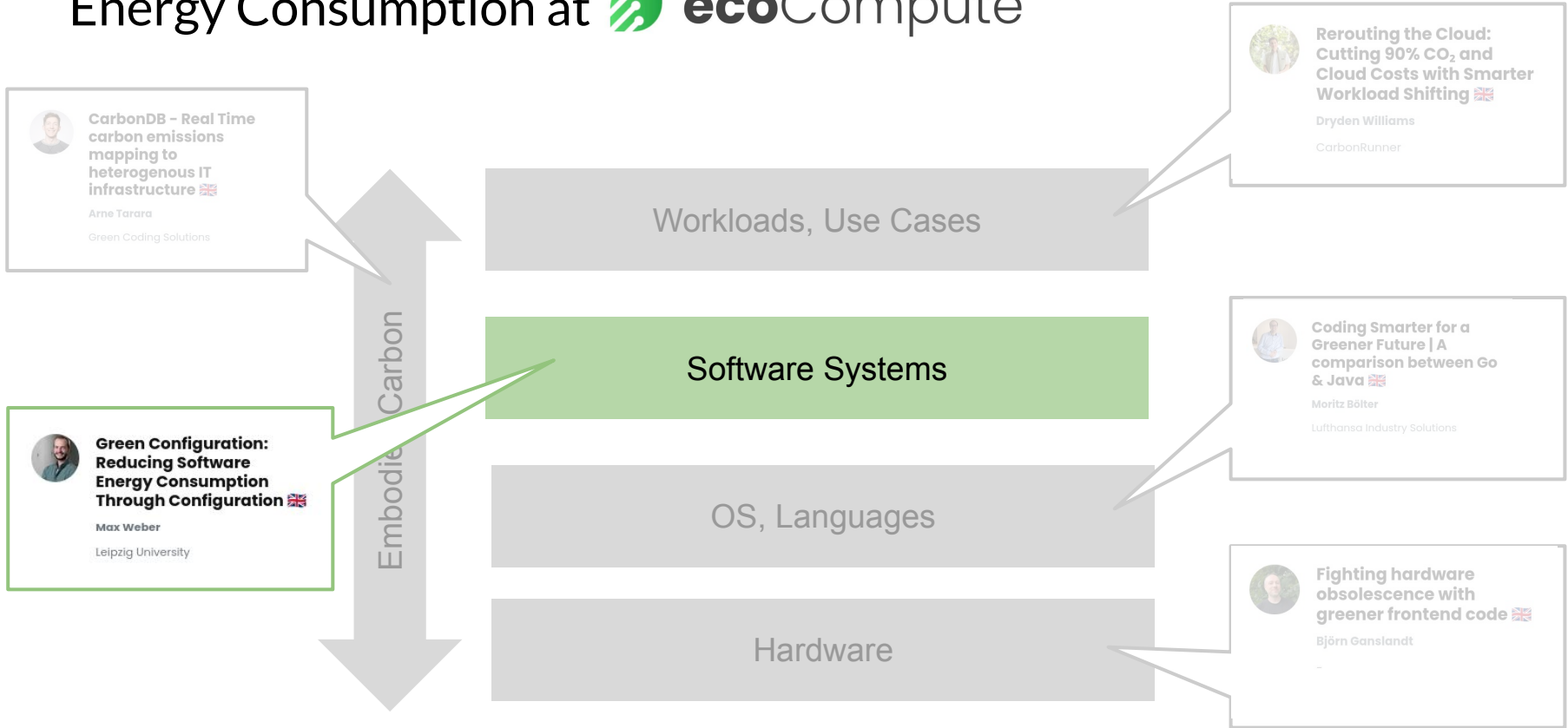
Workloads, Use Cases

Software Systems

OS, Languages

Hardware

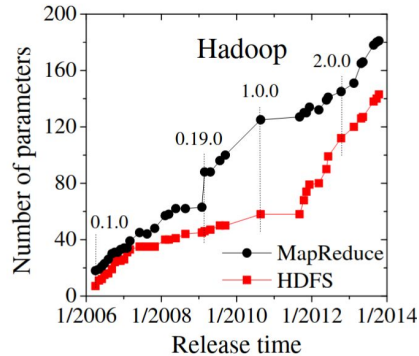
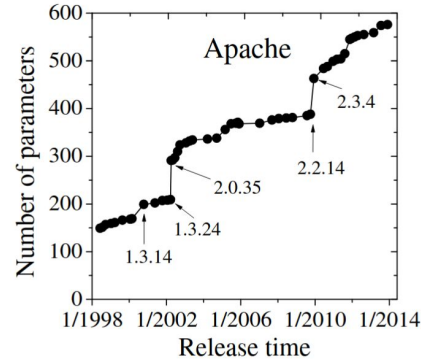
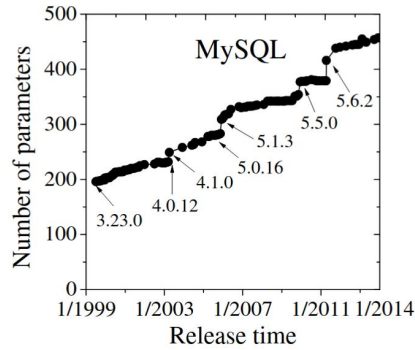
Energy Consumption at ecoCompute



How can we reduce the energy consumption of software systems?

By tailoring software to its workload and usage scenario.

Configuration is everywhere!



Number of parameters today:

MySQL – 700+

Apache – 900+

Hadoop – 400+

Users stick to default configurations,
leaving much potential unused.

1

Assessing Energy Consumption



How can we **measure** software energy consumption?

2

Debugging Energy consumption



Energy Consumption of Configurable Software Systems

3

Practitioners' perspective



Measuring Energy Consumption up to Code Level

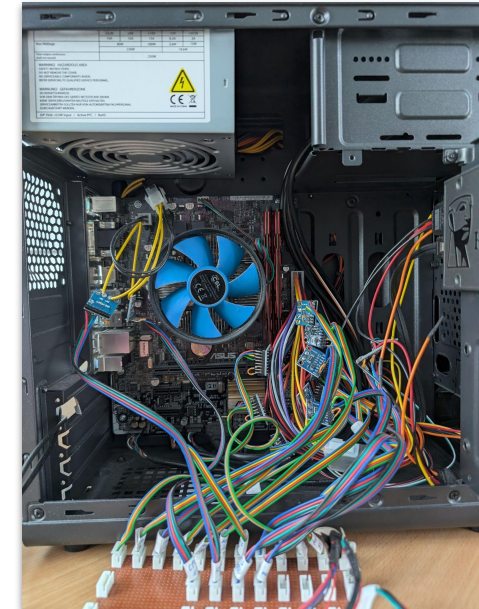
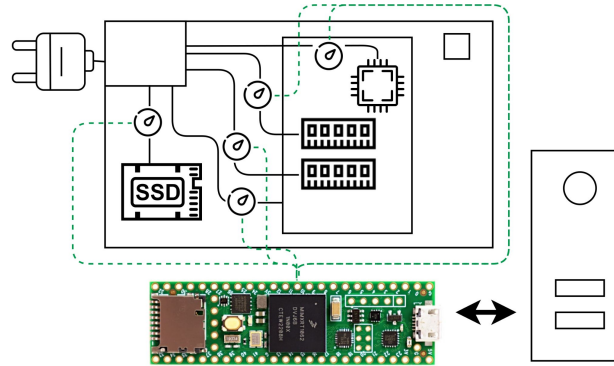


component-wise measurements
(adding up to the whole system)

High sampling rate:
3.5 kHz

no energy measurement bias

Accuracy: < 1.2%
measurement error



Hardware Components

Raspberry Pi 4B



60€

USB



Teensy 4.1



30€

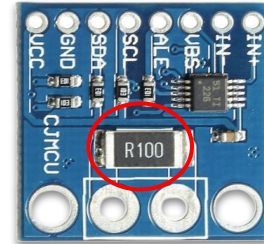
I²C



INA 226

Sample Time 280 us

Sample Rate 3.5 kHz



5€

3,500 measurements per second
 $\cong$ 1 sample every 0.3 ms (for all components)

175€

Hardware Components

Raspberry Pi 4B



60€

USB



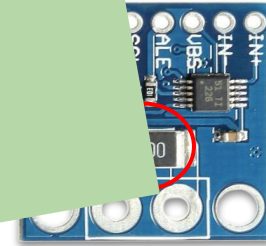
Teensy 4.1



INA 226

Sample Time 280 us

Sample Rate 3.5 kHz



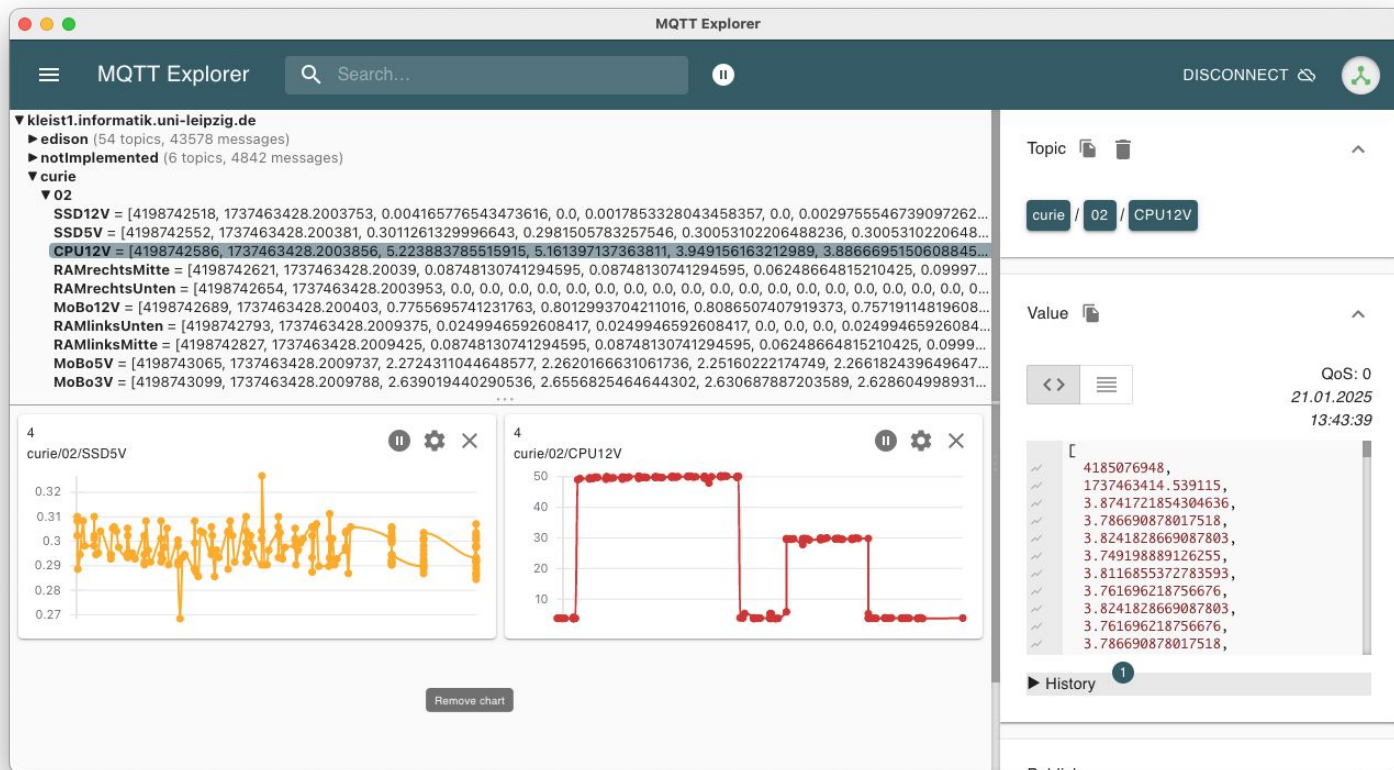
5€

Time spent until it worked reliably:
Priceless.

3,500 measurements per second
 $\hat{=}$ 1 sample every 0.3 ms (for all components)

175€

Power Measurement

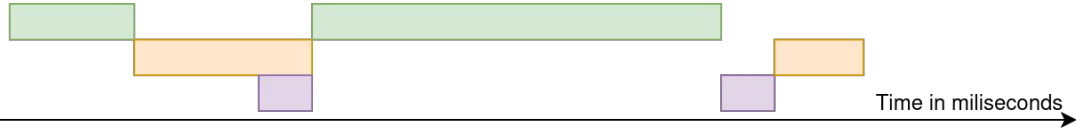


Performance Profiling

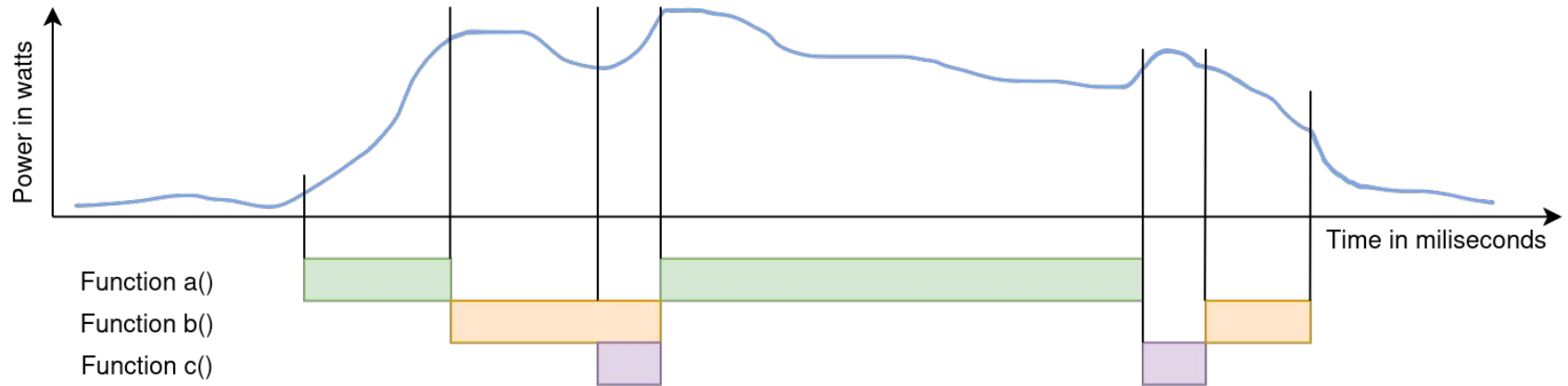
Linux *perf*



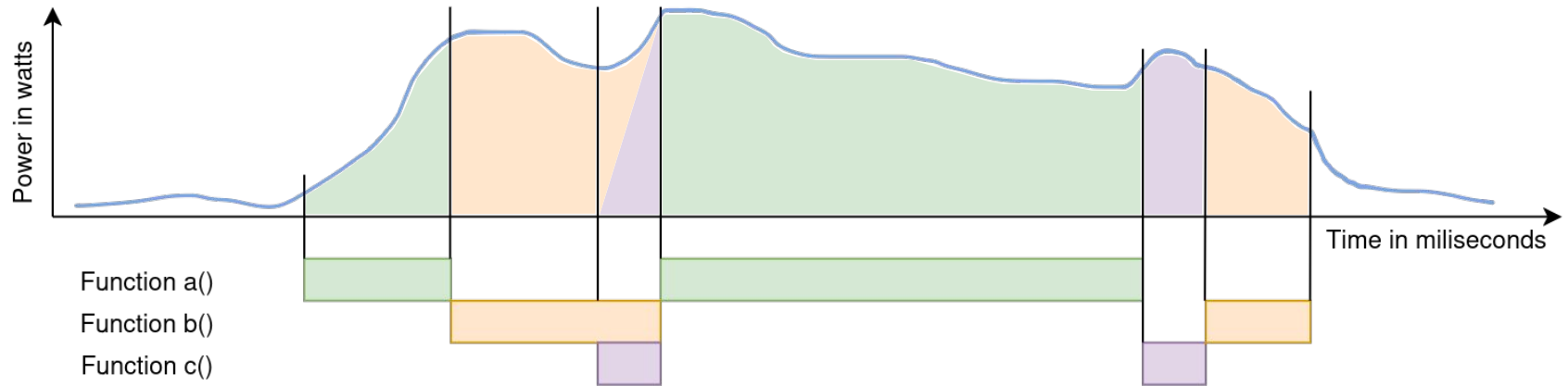
Function a()
Function b()
Function c()



Synchronizing Energy and Performance Measurements



Synchronizing Energy and Performance Measurements



1

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Can we find a **reliable proxy**?

Energy Consumption of Configurable Software Systems

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Practitioners' perspective



Energy Metering is expensive, difficult and tool intensive.



Infeasible in many project settings.

Solution: Using performance as a proxy for energy consumption



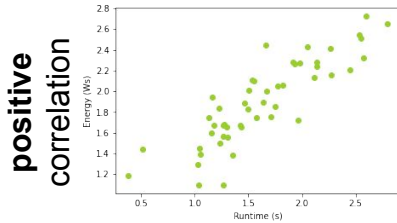
System-Level Correlation



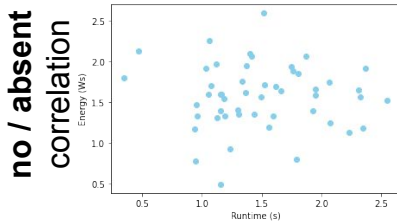
Option-Level Correlation



Literature Study Statements



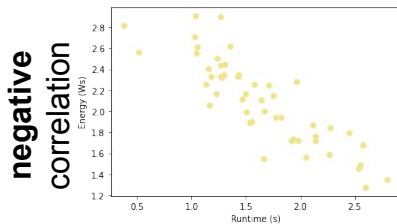
“**perform significantly better** and **consume less energy** with only a small loss in QoS” [1]



“the involved physical components **may not consume energy proportional to time**” [2]

“**caching** has an effect **on performance** but **not on energy consumption**” [2]

“no correlation if some **communication** comes into play” [4]



“computational offloading brings **better performance** but **not always better energy efficiency**” [3]

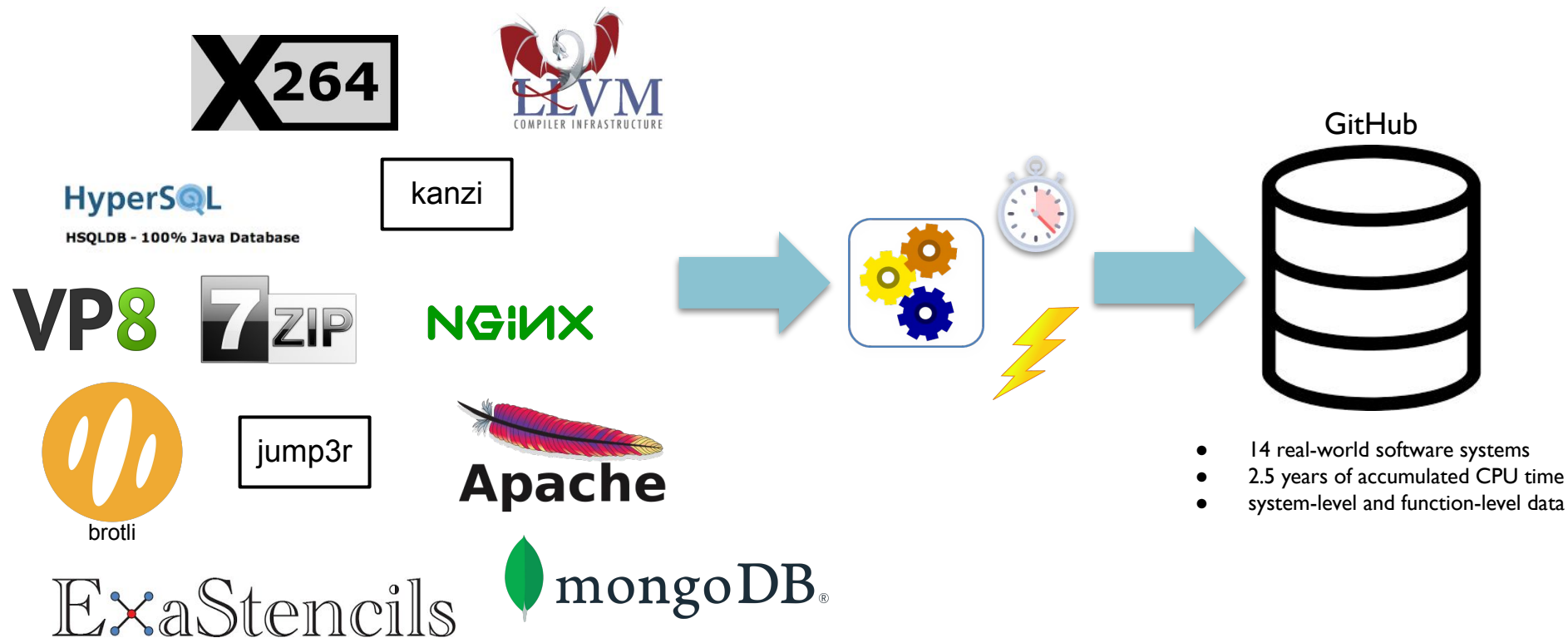
[1] Green: a framework for supporting energy-conscious programming using controlled approximation, 2020

[2] Evaluating the Impact of Caching on the Energy Consumption and Performance of Progressive Web Apps, 2020

[3] Analysis of Performance and Energy Consumption of Wearable Devices and Mobile Gateways in IoT Applications, 2019

[4] Quantifying energy use in dense shared memory HPC node, 2016

Empirical Study to Investigate Performance–Energy Correlation

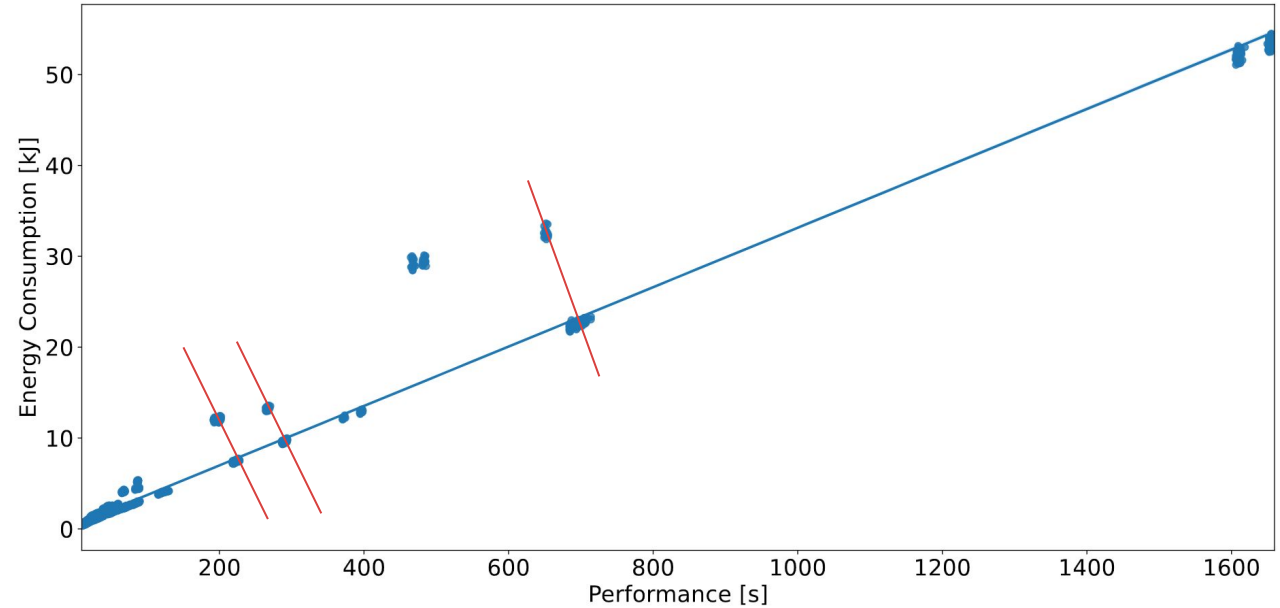


System-Level Correlation

Irzip



Correlation: 0.99



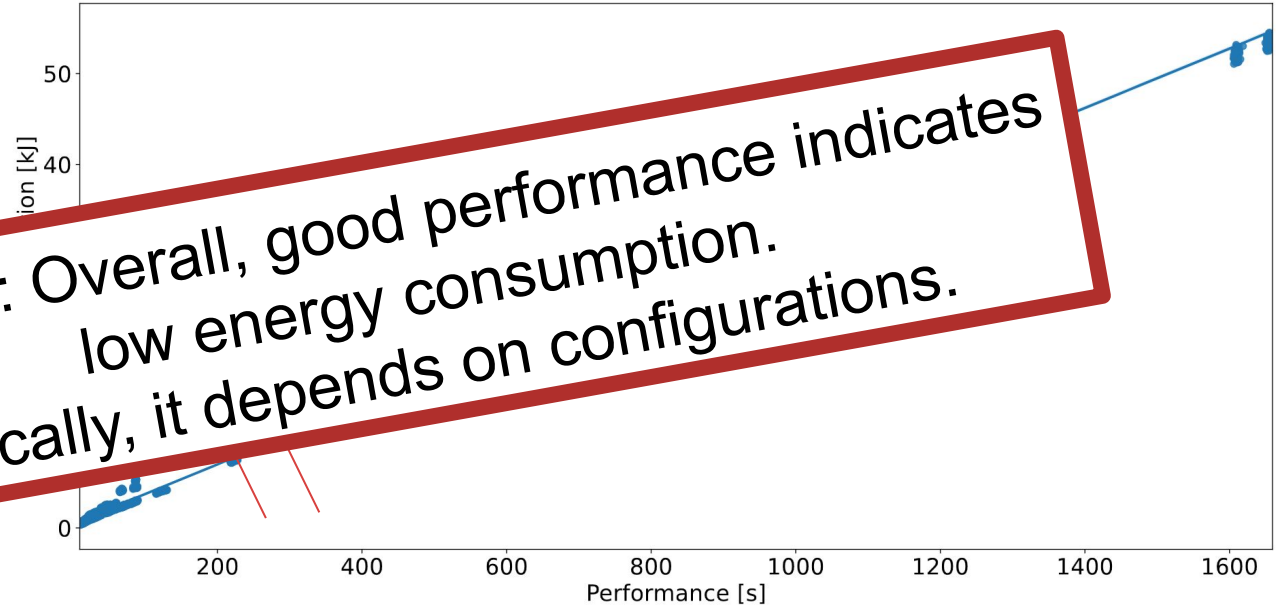
System-Level Correlation



Correlation

Irzip

Finding: Overall, good performance indicates low energy consumption.
Locally, it depends on configurations.



Option-Level Correlation

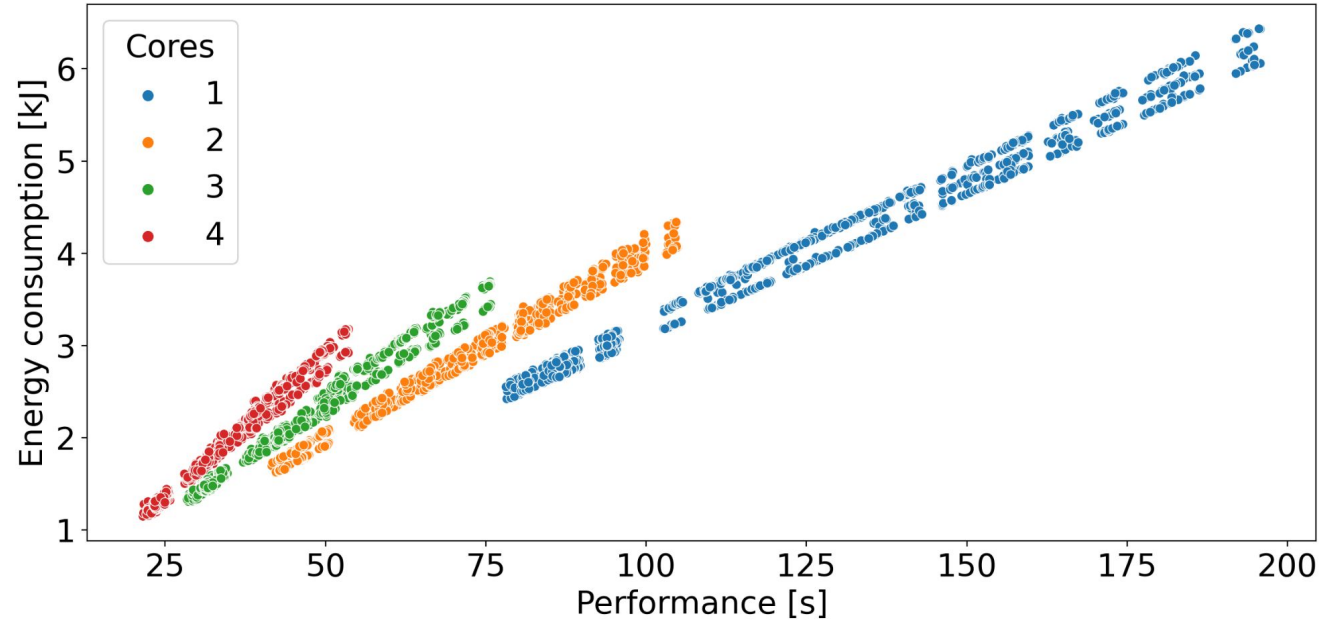
X264



Correlation: 0.99
MAPE: 10.3%



Correlation: 0.99
MAPE: 2.5%



Option-Level Correlation

HyperSQL

HSQldb - 100% Java Database



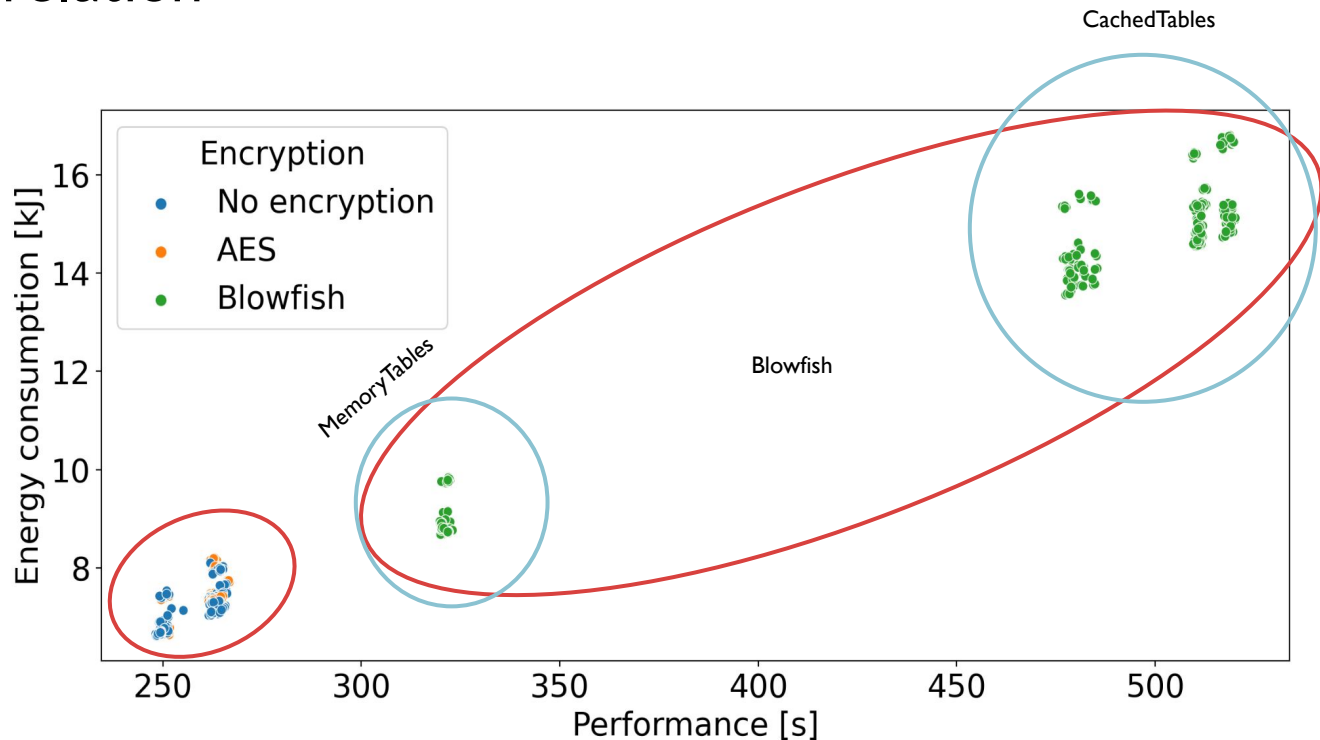
Correlation: 0.99
MAPE: 3.0%



Blowfish & MemoryTables



Correlation: 0.13
MAPE: 213.5% !



Option-Level Correlation

HyperSQL

HSQldb - 100% Java Database



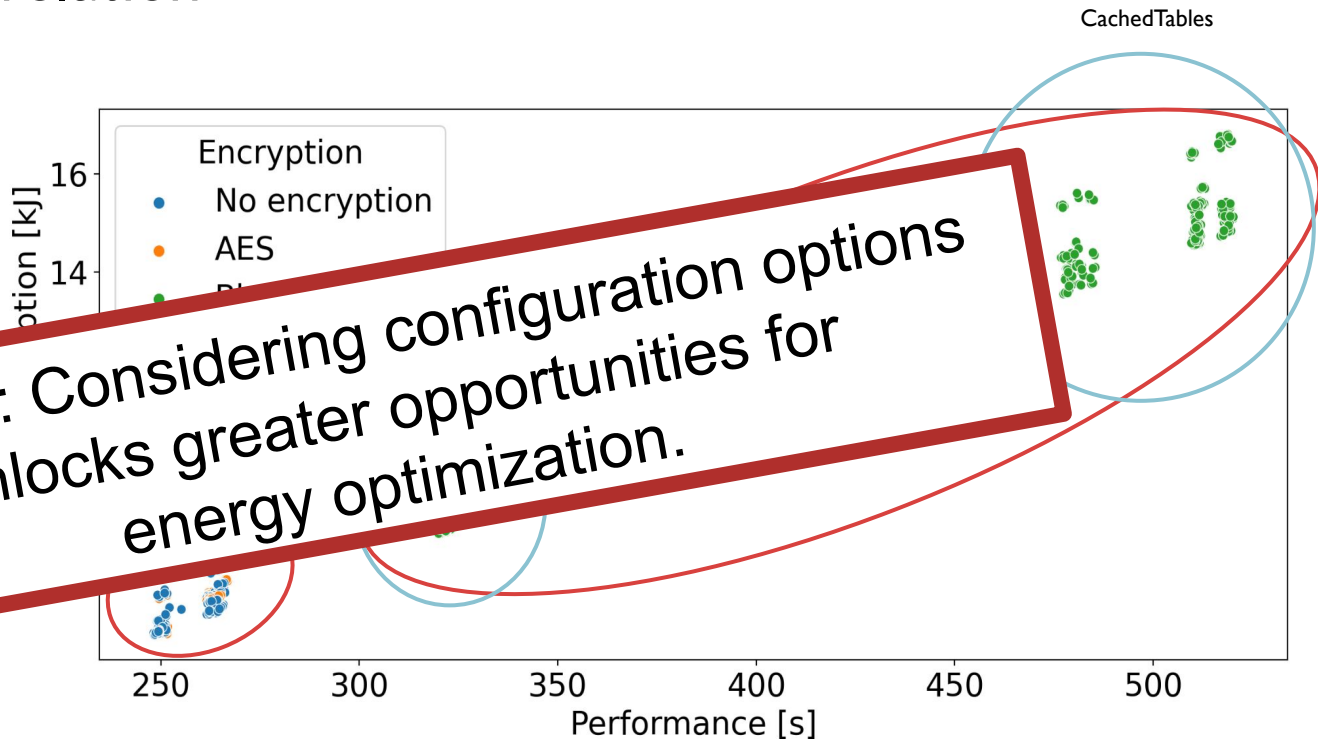
Correlation
MAPE: 13.5%



Blowfish & Memory Tables



Correlation: 0.13
MAPE: 213.5% !



1

Assessing Energy Consumption



How can we **measure** software energy consumption?

Can we find a **reliable proxy**?

How can we get **code-level insights**?

Energy Consumption of Configurable Software Systems

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Debugging Energy consumption

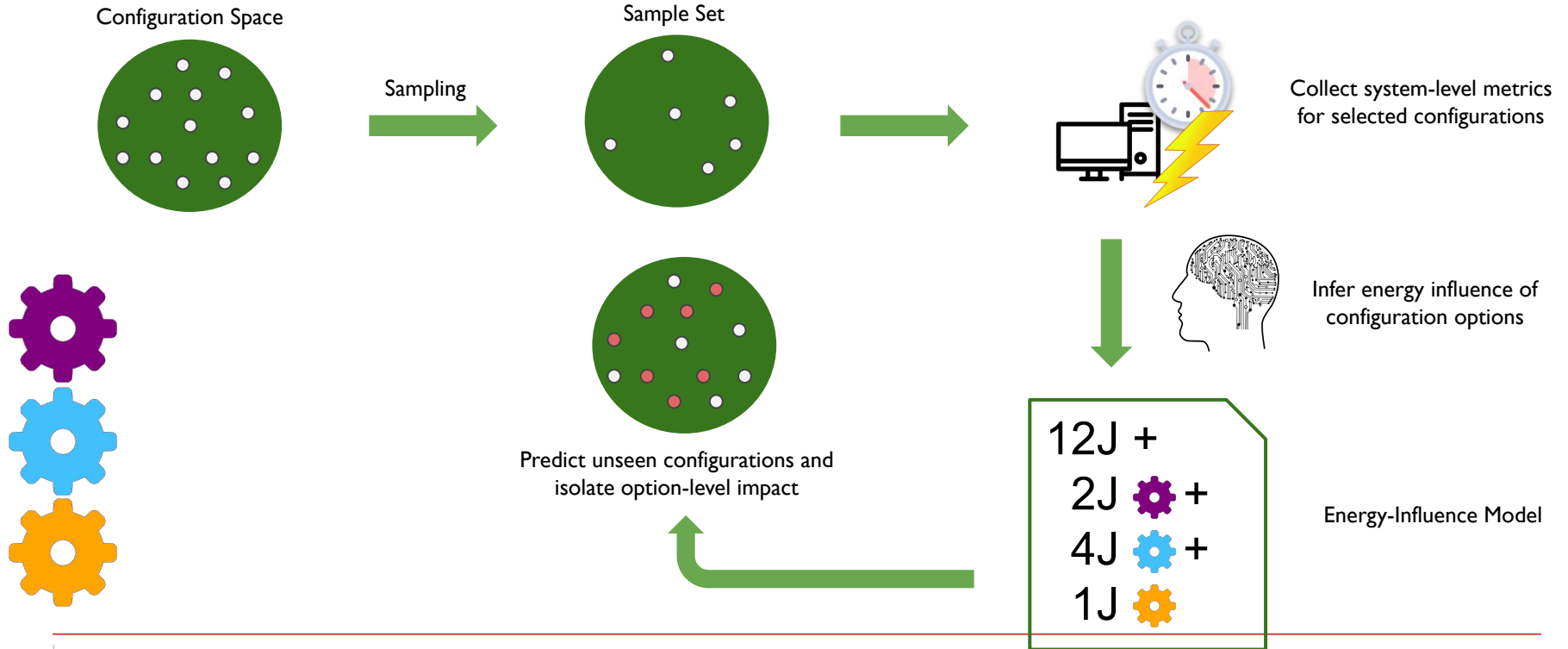


3

Practitioners' perspective



Building Energy-Influence Models for Configurable Systems



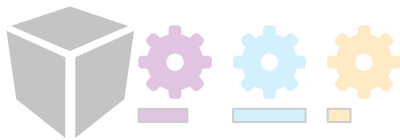


As a **developer**, how do I know which part of my code I need to change?

Black-Box Models

As a **user**, I can optimize configurations to reduce energy consumption 💪

... but I can't see **where** in the code the energy goes.

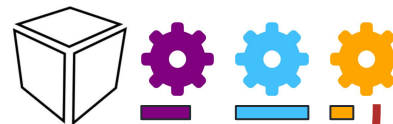


How can we **efficiently** pin point energy hotspots in the code base with minimal measurement effort?

Black-Box Models

As a **user**, I can optimize configurations to reduce energy consumption 🧡

... but I can't see **where** in the code the energy goes.



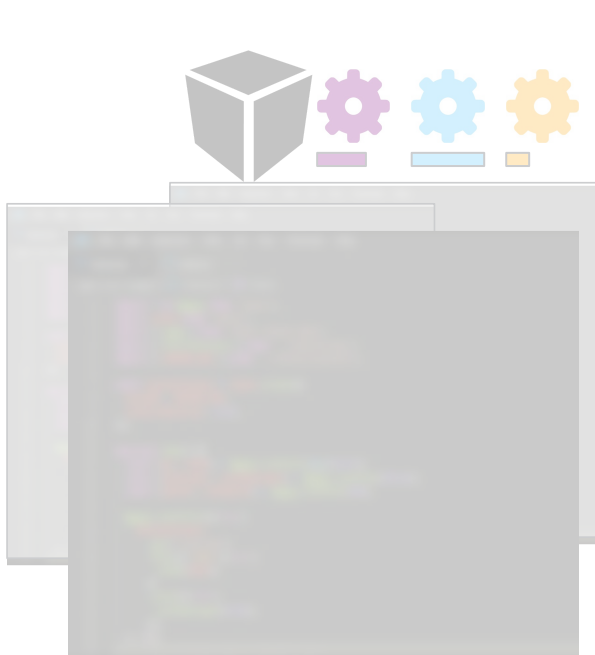
```
File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
home.tsx x TS index.ts
app > src > pages > home.tsx > Home

1 import * as React from 'react';
2 import axios from 'axios';
3 import { Link } from 'react-router-dom';
4 import { startCheckout } from '../lib/stripe';
5 import { SERVER_URL } from '../utils/constants';
6
7 const axiosInstance = axios.create({
8   baseURL: SERVER_URL,
9   withCredentials: true,
10 });
11
12 function Home() {
13   const [me, setMe] = React.useState<any>(null);
14   const [showLogin, setShowLogin] = React.useState(false);
15   const [amount, setAmount] = React.useState(10);
16
17   React.useEffect(() => {
18     axiosInstance
19       .get('/user/me')
20       .then((data) => {
21         setMe(data);
22       })
23       .catch(() => {
24         setShowLogin(true);
25       });
26   }, []);
```

Established White-Box Models

We know exactly **which** code statements consume energy.

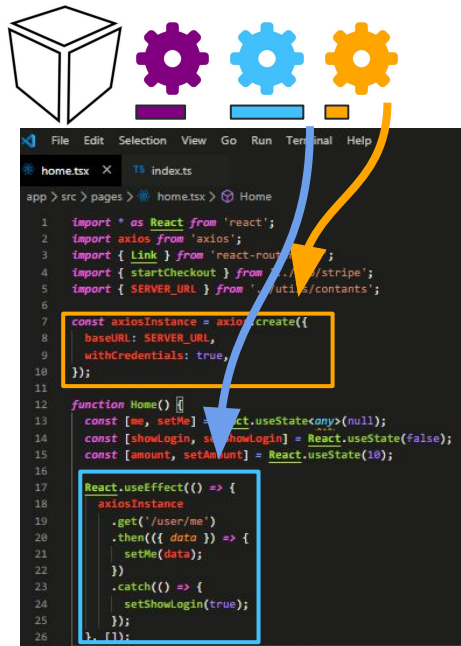
...but measuring this across a full system is often **infeasible** 😞



Black-Box Models

As a **user**, I can optimize configurations to reduce energy consumption 🧡

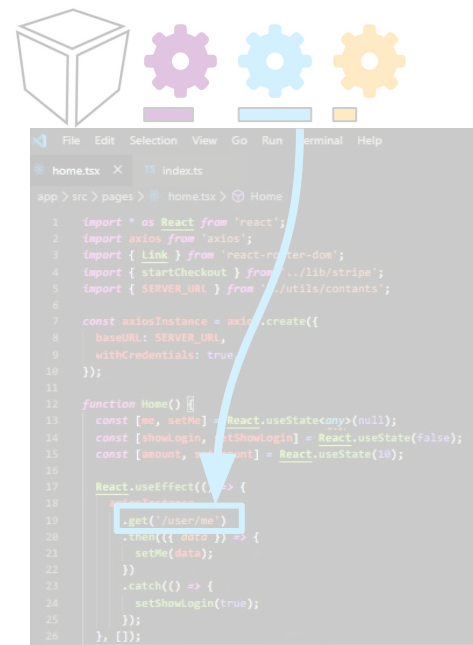
... but I can't see **where** in the code the energy goes. 😞



Method-Level White-Box Models

As a user, I still benefit from efficient configurations that save energy ⚡.

As a developer, I can identify which methods consume energy without measuring every single line of code.

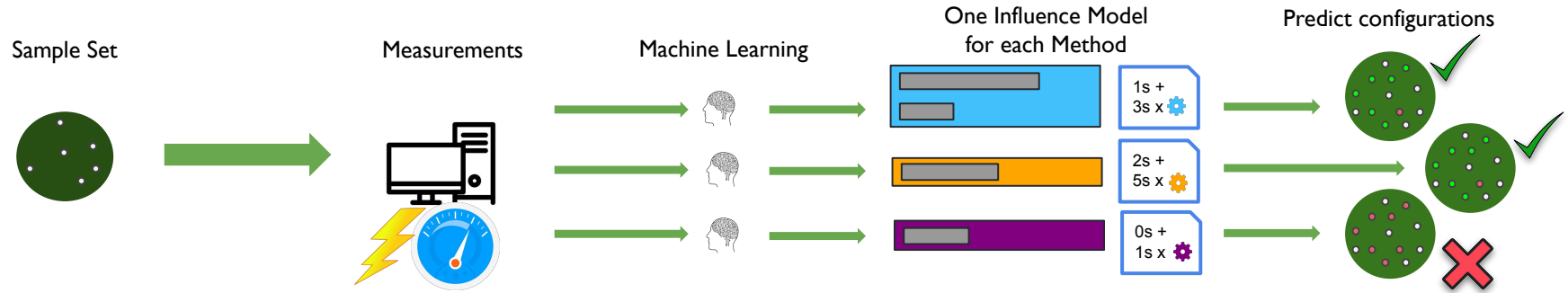


Established White-Box Models

We know exactly **which** code statements consume energy. 🧡

...but measuring this across a full system is often **infeasible**. 😞

White-Box Energy Influence Models via Profiling



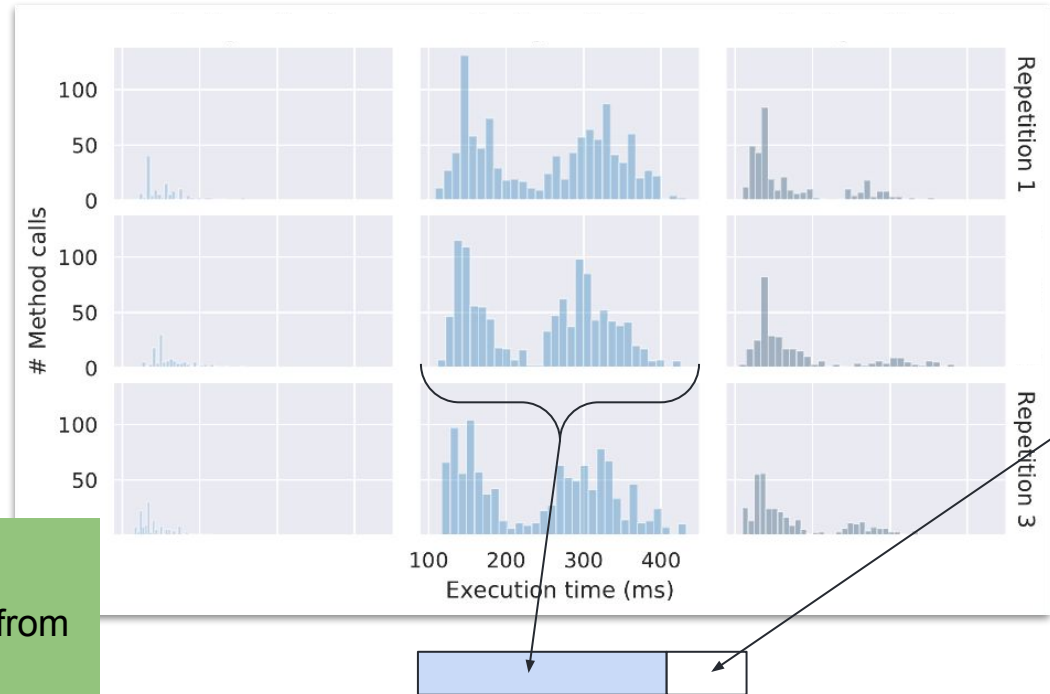
Challenge: Handling Variance in Measurement Data

Context variance

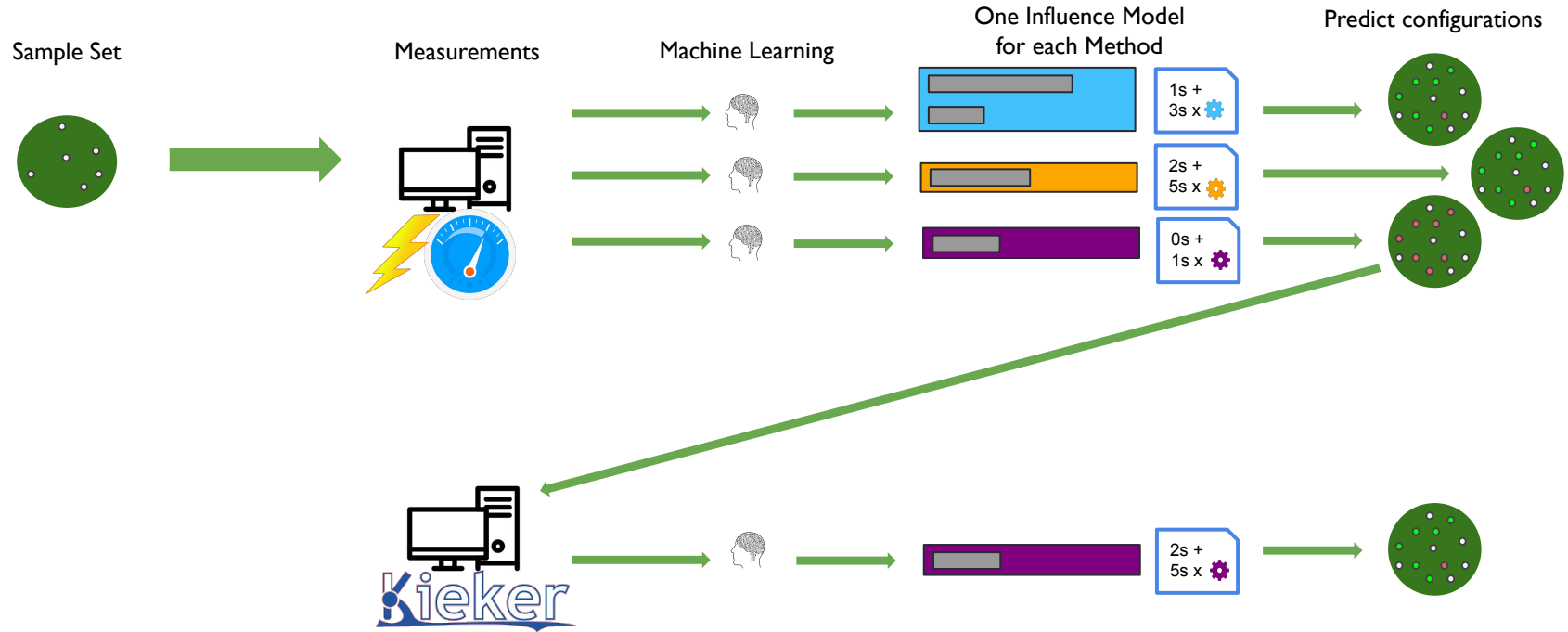
Configuration variance

Measurement variance

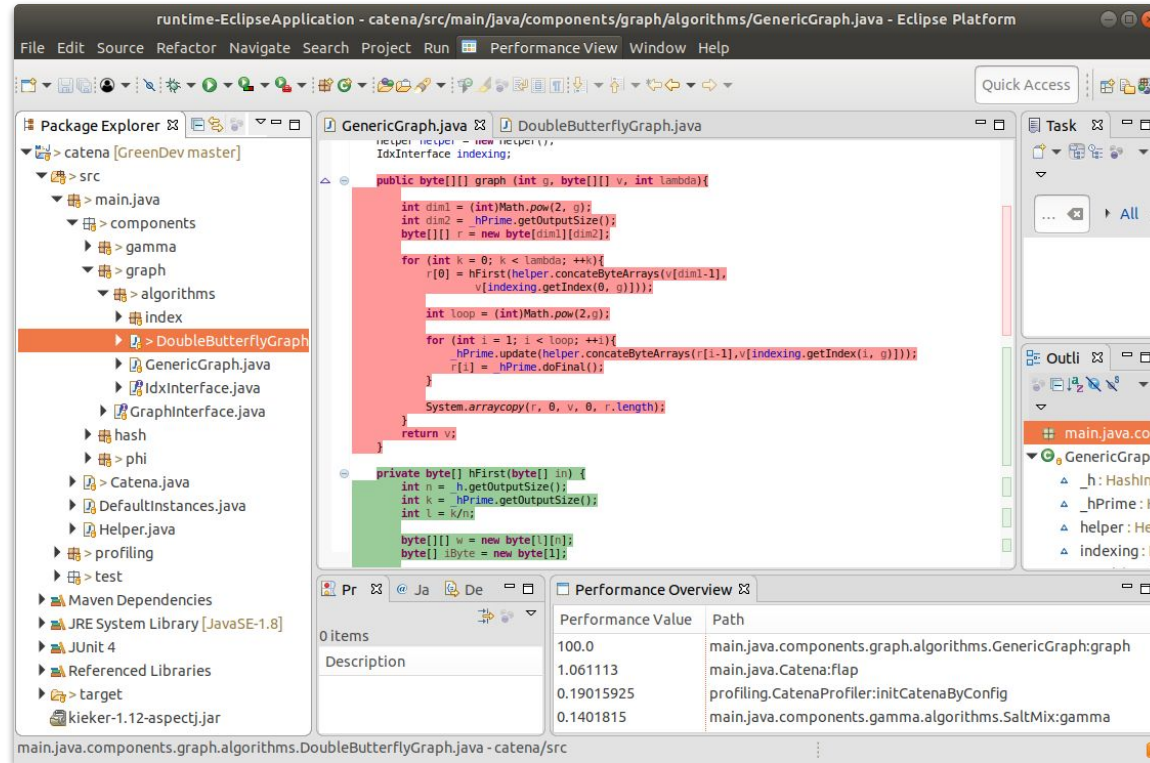
Solution: Filter large, non-deterministic outliers from context variance.



White-Box Energy Influence Models via Profiling



IDE Integration



1

Assessing Energy Consumption



How can we **measure** software energy consumption?

Can we find a **reliable proxy**?

How can we get **code-level insights**?

2

Debugging Energy consumption



How do developers identify **energy bugs**?



3

Practitioners' perspective



Energy Consumption of Configurable Software Systems

Energy Bugs in Configurable Systems

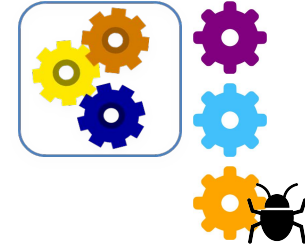
Functional bug



Energy bugs

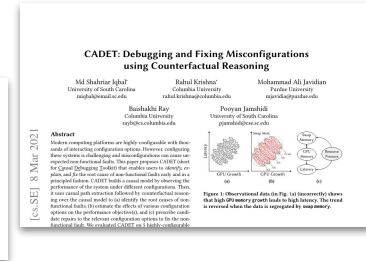
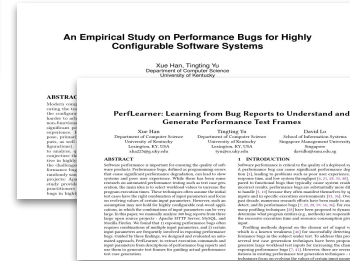


Configuration-dependent bugs

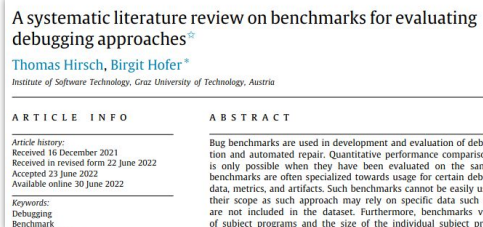


Requires fixing code

Fixes are time consuming



What Does Debugging Literature Tell Us?



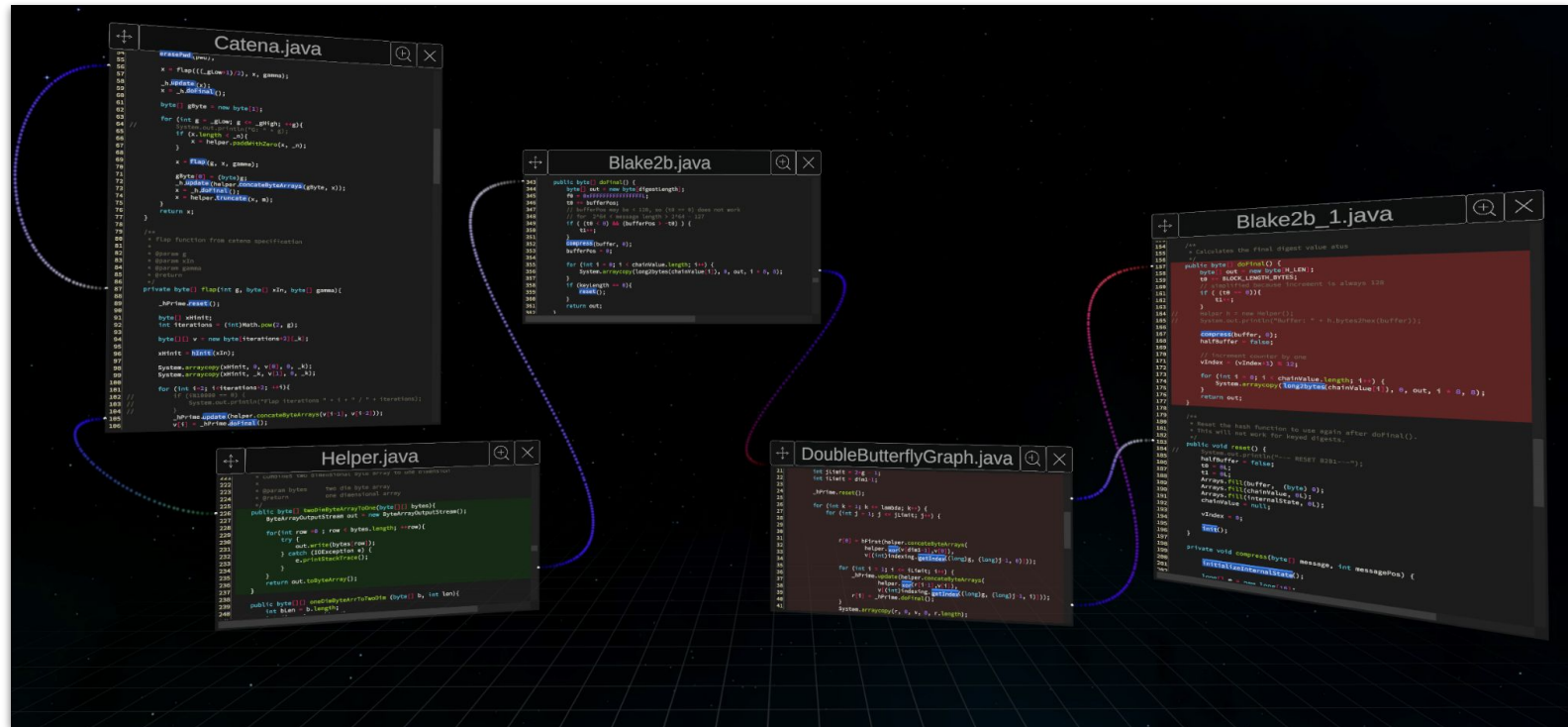
- ❖ reviewing 74 publications
- ❖ revealed 12 debugging strategies



No clear consensus -
literature shows fragmented
perspectives on debugging.

[Miguel Velez, Pooyan Jamshidi, Norbert Siegmund, Sven Apel, and Christian Kästner. On debugging the performance of configurable software systems: Developer needs and tailored tool support]

Let's observe developers debugging energy bugs in VR!



Case Study: Density Converter

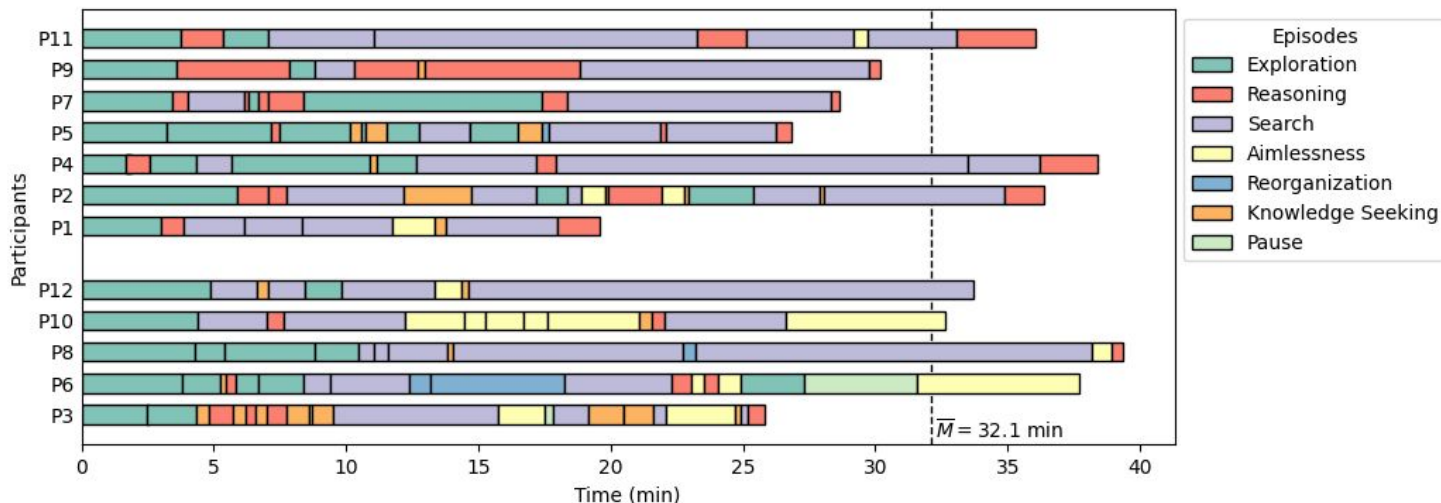
(multi platform image density conversion)

```
public final class Convert {  
    public static void main(String[] rawArgs) {  
        float fraction = 0.5f;  
    }  
}
```

```
private static <T extends DensityDescriptor> Map<T, Dimension> getDensityBucketsWithFractionScale  
    java.util.List<T> densities, Dimension srcDimension, Arguments args, float fraction) {  
    double baseWidth = (double) srcDimension.width / fraction;  
    double baseHeight = (double) srcDimension.height / fraction;  
}
```

```
private void verticalFromWorkToDst(byte[][] workPixels, byte[] outPixels, int start, int delta) {  
    // ...  
    for (int x = start; x < dstWidth; x += delta) {  
        final int xLocation = x * nrChannels;  
        for (int y = dstHeight - 1; y >= 0; y--) {  
            final int max = verticalSubsamplingData.arrN[y];  
            for (int j = max - 1; j >= 0; j--) {  
                int valueLocation = verticalSubsamplingData.arrPixel[index];  
                float arrWeight = verticalSubsamplingData.arrWeight[index];  
            }  
            // ...  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Debugging as Episodes



Reasoning appears substantially more often in successful debugging.

Aimlessness seem to be a possible predictor for failure.

P11, reasoning:

"I need to understand what is going on in order to be able to formulate hypotheses".

P4, (problem-specific) exploration:

"Usually I try to get a fairly complete picture of something first."

P9, aimlessness:

"[...] there is no point in staying in such a frustrating moment."

Debugging as Episodes



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How can we identify **energy bugs**?



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Practitioners' perspective



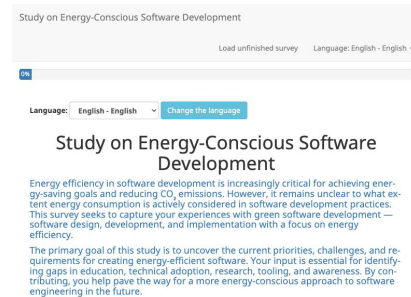
What is the **current state** of green software engineering?

Optimizing Software Energy Consumption in Practice



What is the **current state** of software energy consumption in practice?

How do practitioners **relate software energy consumption to other metrics** such as runtime performance?



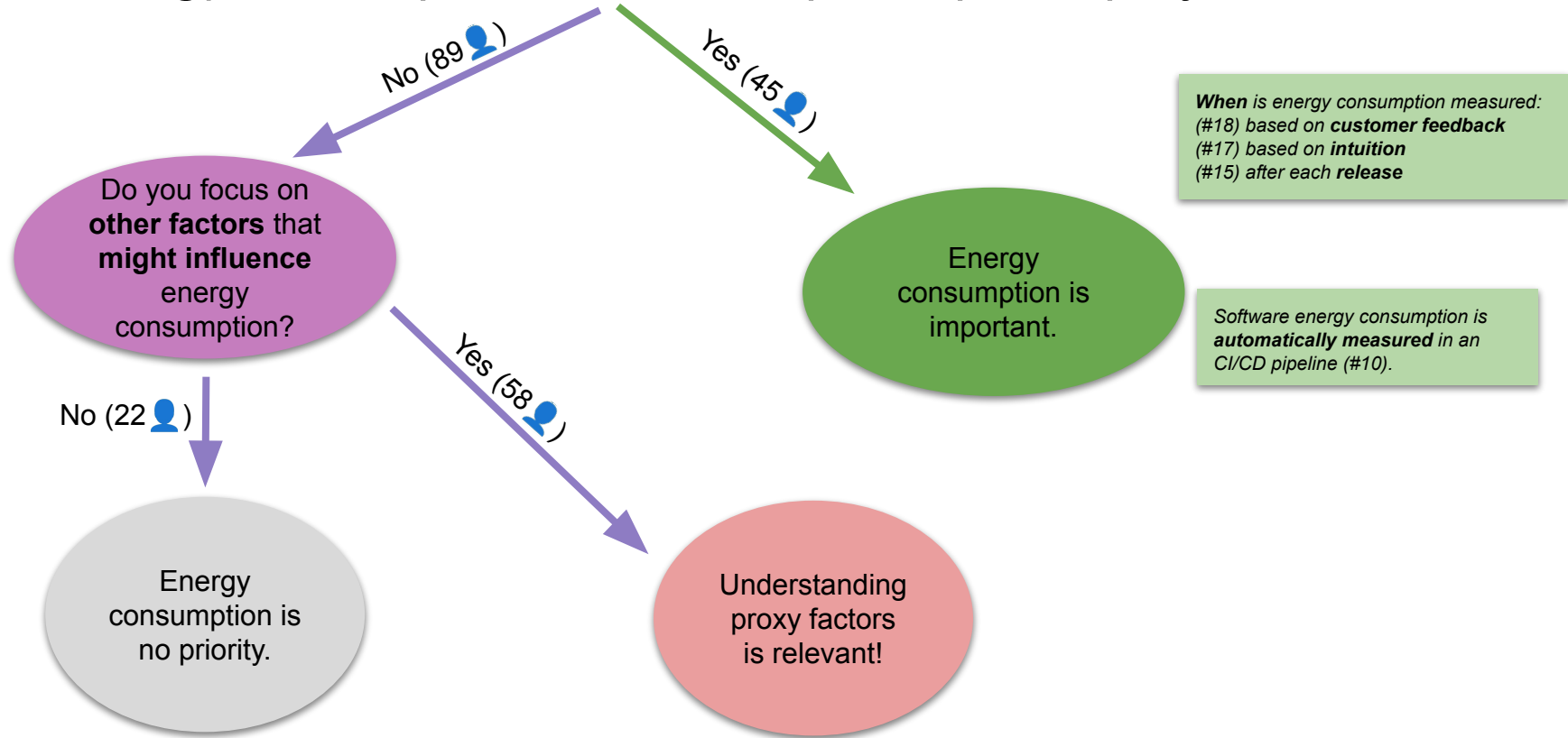
online survey

> 480 open text answers

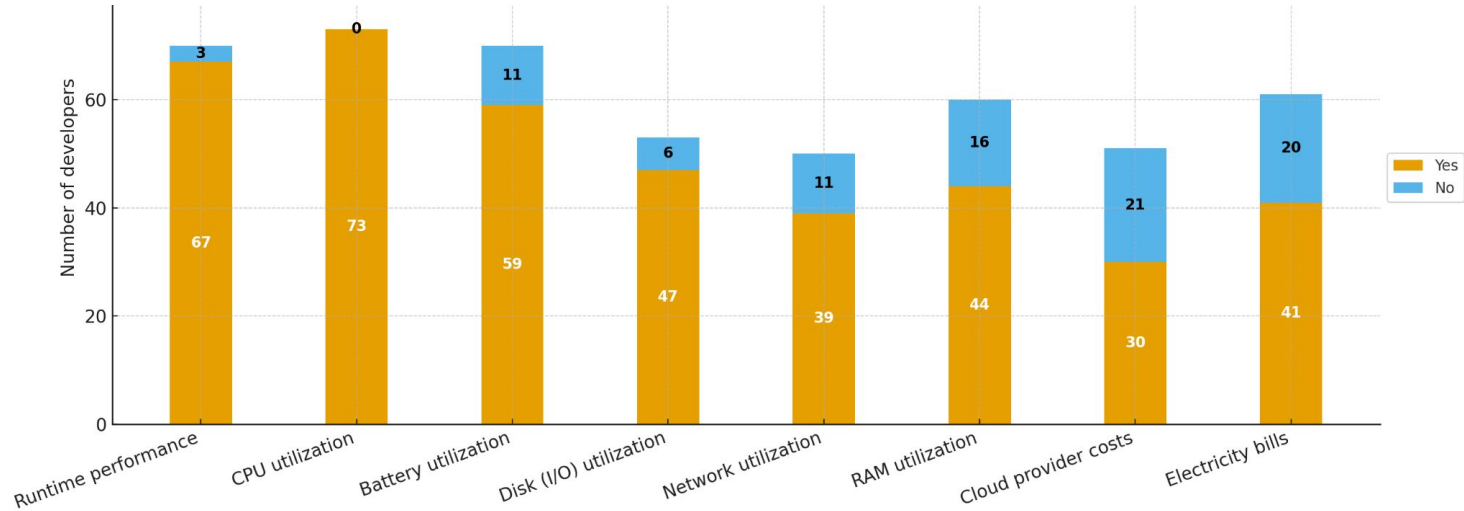


> 20 hours manual analysis

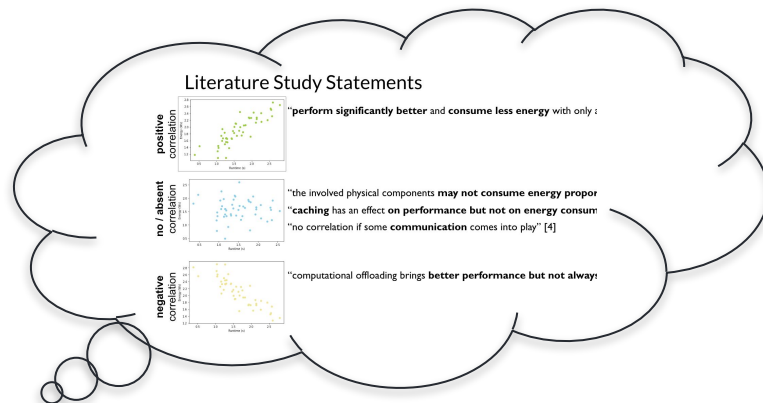
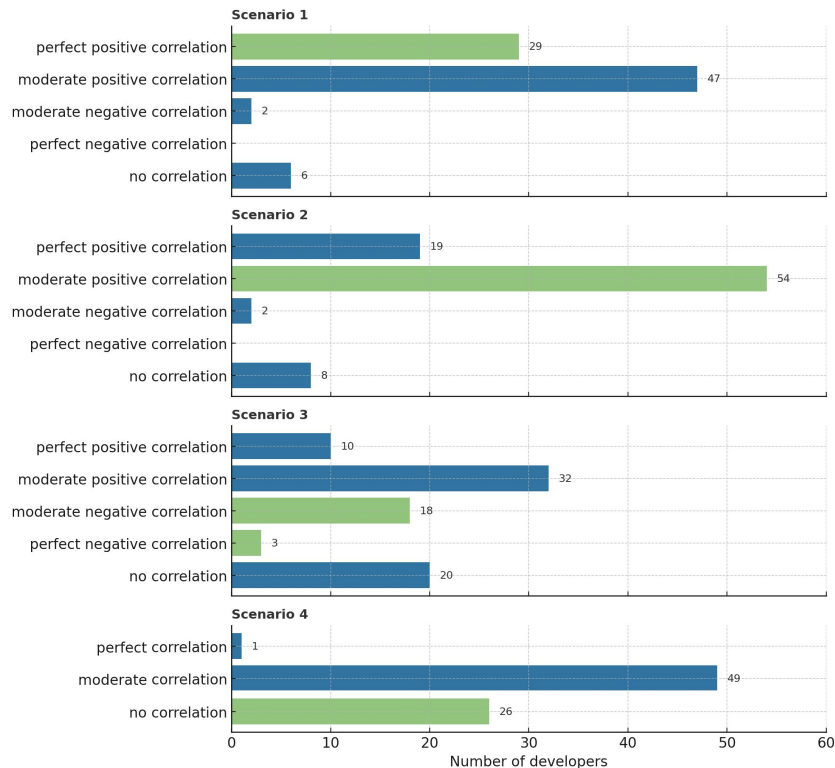
Is energy consumption relevant in participants' projects?



What metrics are considered good proxies for energy?



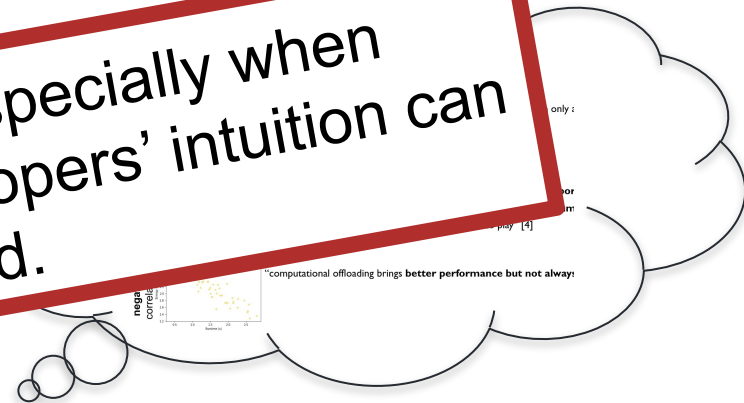
Do Developers Intuitively Know when Performance is a good Proxy for Energy?



Do Developers Intuitively Know when Performance is a good Proxy for Energy?



Finding: It depends! Especially when positively correlated developers' intuition can be trusted.



How to Support Practitioners

Barriers to Overcome

Barriers preventing energy measurement:

- (55 👤) Management is not interested
- (46 👤) Customers are not interested
- (36 👤) Not applicable in our use case

Persistent obstacles:

- (14 👤) Lack of energy measurement tooling
- (10 👤) Energy efficiency is perceived as complex
- (06 👤) Lack of education and training

Contra there are problems:

- (11 👤) Energy consumption is not important
- (06 👤) No perceived challenges
- (05 👤) Energy is not considered a cost driver

Actions

(13 👤) Increasing awareness

(08 👤) Educate developers and stakeholders

(06 👤) Introduce public regulations

(05 👤) Adopt efficient algorithms and implementations

(17 👤) Provide better energy measurement tools

(06 👤) 'just' use efficient languages (C, C++, Rust)

(04 👤) Enforce transparency, especially for cloud providers

1



Assessing Energy Consumption

FAMLEM, the Fast Modular Energy Meter at Code Level

Max Weber, Sven Apel, Norbert Siegmund
Saarland Informatics Campus, Saarland University, Germany

Abstract

The growing energy demands of modern software systems call for precise energy assessment tools to enable developers understand the energy and performance characteristics of their code. We present FAMLEM (Fast Modular Energy Meter), a platform independent system for integrated hardware and software performance profiling and analysis across the entire system. We extend traditional hardware performance monitoring with the ability to monitor software energy consumption and vice versa.

CCS Concepts

Hardware → Power estimation and optimization.

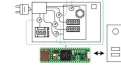


Figure 1: FAMLEM hardware setup with the system under measurement (Fig. 1(a)), the externalizing main controller (JTAG), and the host machine for storage (right).

Twins or False Friends? A Study on Energy Consumption and Performance of Configurable Software

Max Weber¹, Christian Kubischke², Florian Sattler¹, Sven Apel¹, Norbert Siegmund¹
¹ Saarland University, Saarland Informatics Campus, Germany

Abstract—Reducing energy consumption of software is an increasingly important objective, and there has been considerable interest in code analysis, transformation, and validation approaches to reduce energy consumption. However, we can only reduce energy consumption if we can measure it. This paper presents a study on the relationship between energy consumption and performance of configurable software. We compare the energy consumption of different configurations of a configurable software system and analyze the influence of configuration options on individual methods.

We propose a white-box approach that models configuration-dependent performance behavior at the method level. This allows us to predict the influence of configuration changes on individual methods.

White-Box Approach

Max Weber, Sven Apel, Norbert Siegmund
Saarland Informatics Campus, Saarland University, Germany

Abstract—Many modern software systems are highly configurable, allowing the user to tune them for performance and power. Current performance modeling approaches do not address performance-related configurations by modeling performance-related configurations. This paper presents a white-box approach to model the influence of configuration options on individual methods.

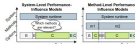


Fig. 1: Comparison of the black-box performance influence modeling at system level (left) and white-box performance influence modeling at method level (right), explaining how the white-box approach allows for more detailed analysis.

2

Debugging Energy consumption



Understanding Debugging Energy Consumption

Abstract—Debugging energy consumption is a critical aspect of software development. This paper presents a study on the energy consumption of debugging activities. We analyze the energy consumption of different debugging techniques and compare them to the energy consumption of the application code. We find that debugging activities can consume a significant amount of energy, and that the energy consumption of debugging activities is highly dependent on the debugging technique used. We propose a white-box approach to model the energy consumption of debugging activities. This allows us to predict the energy consumption of debugging activities and to optimize the debugging process.

Thank you for your attention!

3

Practitioners' perspective



Attitudes and Practices Towards Optimizing Software Energy Consumption

MAX WEBER, Leipzig University, Germany
ALINA MAILACH, SaarAI Dresden/Leipzig, Leipzig University, Germany
FLORIAN SATTLER, Saarland Informatics Campus, Saarland University, Germany
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A clear and well-documented survey document is presented in an article formatted for publication by ACM in a conference proceedings on general publications based on the "Survey" document class. This article presents and explains many of the common variations, as well as many of the interesting details in order to use in the preparation of the documentation of your work.

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