## Coccinelle

User's manual release 1.0.0-rc6

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August 21, 2011

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## **Foreword**

This manual documents the release 1.0.0-rc6 of Coccinelle. It is organized as follows:

- Part I is an introduction to Coccinelle
- Part II is the reference description of Coccinelle, its language and command line tool.

#### **Conventions**

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#### **Availability**

Coccinelle can be freely downloaded from http://coccinelle.lip6.fr.

This website contains also additional information and a wiki website.

# Part I User Manual

### Introduction

Coccinelle is a tool to help automate repetitive source-to-source style-preserving program transformations on C source code, like for instance to perform some refactorings. Coccinelle is presented as a command line tool called spatch that takes as input the name of a file containing the specification of a program transformation, called a *semantic patch*, and a set of C files, and then performs the transformation on all those C files.

To make it easy to express those transformations, Coccinelle proposes a WYSISWYG approach where the C programmer can leverage the things he already knows: the C syntax and the patch syntax. Indeed, with Coccinelle transformations are written in specific language called SmPL, for Semantic Patch Language, which as the name suggests is very close to the syntax of a patch, but which does not work at a line level, than traditional patches do. but a more high level, or semantic level.

Here is an example of a simple program transformation. To replace every calls to foo of any expression x to a call to bar, create a semantic patch file ex1.coci (semantic patches usually ends with the .coci filename extension) containing:

```
@@ expression x; @@
- foo(x)
+ bar(x)
```

Then to "apply" the specified program transformation to a set of C files, simply do:

```
$ spatch -sp_file ex1.cocci *.c
```

Coccinelle primarily targets ANSI C, and supports some GCC extensions. It has only partial support for K&R C. K&R function declarations are only recognized if the parameter declarations are indented. Furthermore, the parameter names are subsequently considered to be type names, due to confusion with function prototypes, in which a name by itself is indeed the name of a type.

# **Installing Coccinelle**

- 2.1 Requirements
- 2.2 Getting Coccinelle
- 2.3 Compiling Coccinelle
- 2.4 Running Coccinelle

## **Tutorial**

## **Examples**

#### 4.1 Examples

This section presents a range of examples. Each example is presented along with some C code to which it is applied. The description explains the rules and the matching process.

#### 4.1.1 Function renaming

One of the primary goals of Coccinelle is to perform software evolution. For instance, Coccinelle could be used to perform function renaming. In the following example, every occurrence of a call to the function foo is replaced by a call to the function bar.

```
Before
                                                                     After
                                     Semantic patch
#DEFINE TEST "foo"
                            1 @@
                                                         1 #DEFINE TEST "foo"
3 printf("foo");
                            3 @@
                                                        3 printf("foo");
5 int main(int i) {
                                                        5 int main(int i) {
6 //Test
                            6 - foo()
                                                        6 //Test
    int k = foo();
                           7 + bar()
                                                            int k = bar();
    if(1) {
                                                            if(1) {
      foo();
                                                              bar();
    } else {
                                                             } else {
11
                                                              bar();
      foo();
13
   foo();
                                                            bar();
15
16 }
                                                        16 }
```

#### 4.1.2 Removing a function argument

Another important kind of evolution is the introduction or deletion of a function argument. In the following example, the rule rule1 looks for definitions of functions having return type irqreturn\_t and two parameters. A second *anonymous* rule then looks for calls to the previously matched functions that have three arguments. The third argument is then removed to correspond to the new function prototype.

```
ı@ rule1 @
2 identifier fn;
3 identifier irq, dev_id;
4 typedef irqreturn_t;
5 @@
7 static irqreturn_t fn (int irq, void *dev_id)
     . . .
10 }
11
12 @@
identifier rule1.fn;
14 expression E1, E2, E3;
15 @@
16
17 fn (E1, E2
_{18} - , E3
19 )
    drivers/atm/firestream.c at line 1653 before transformation
static void fs_poll (unsigned long data)
2 {
          struct fs_dev *dev = (struct fs_dev *) data;
3
          fs_irq (0, dev, NULL);
          dev->timer.expires = jiffies + FS_POLL_FREQ;
          add_timer (&dev->timer);
8 }
     drivers/atm/firestream.c at line 1653 after transformation
static void fs_poll (unsigned long data)
2 {
          struct fs_dev *dev = (struct fs_dev *) data;
          fs_irq (0, dev);
          dev->timer.expires = jiffies + FS_POLL_FREQ;
          add_timer (&dev->timer);
8 }
```

#### 4.1.3 Introduction of a macro

To avoid code duplication or error prone code, the kernel provides macros such as BUG\_ON, DIV\_ROUND\_UP and FIELD\_SIZE. In these cases, the semantic patches look for the old code pattern and replace it by the new code.

A semantic patch to introduce uses of the DIV\_ROUND\_UP macro looks for the corresponding expression, *i.e.*, (n+d-1)/d. When some code is matched, the metavariables n and d are bound to their corresponding expressions. Finally, Coccinelle rewrites the code with the DIV\_ROUND\_UP macro using the values bound to n and d, as illustrated in the patch that follows.

Semantic patch to introduce uses of the DIV\_ROUND\_UP macro

```
1 @ haskernel @
2 @@
3
4 #include <linux/kernel.h>
5
6 @ depends on haskernel @
7 expression n,d;
8 @@
9
10 (
11 - (((n) + (d)) - 1) / (d))
12 + DIV_ROUND_UP(n,d)
13 |
14 - (((n) + ((d) - 1)) / (d))
15 + DIV_ROUND_UP(n,d)
16 )
```

#### Example of a generated patch hunk

The BUG\_ON macro makes a assertion about the value of an expression. However, because some parts of the kernel define BUG\_ON to be the empty statement when debugging is not wanted, care must be taken when the asserted expression may have some side-effects, as is the case of a function call. Thus, we create a rule introducing BUG\_ON only in the case when the asserted expression does not perform a function call.

On particular piece of code that has the form of a function call is a use of unlikely, which informs the compiler that a particular expression is unlikely to be true. In this case, because unlikely does not perform any side effects, it is safe to use BUG\_ON. The second rule takes care of this case. It furthermore disables the isomorphism that allows a call to unlikely be replaced with its argument, as then the second rule would be the same as the first one.

```
2 expression E, f;
3 (0) (0)
5 (
    if (<+... f(...) ...+>) { BUG(); }
8 - if (E) { BUG(); }
9 + BUG_ON(E);
10 )
11
12 @ disable unlikely @
13 expression E, f;
14 @ @
15
 (
16
    if (<+... f(...) ...+>) { BUG(); }
17
18
19 - if (unlikely(E)) { BUG(); }
20 + BUG ON(E);
21 )
```

For instance, using the semantic patch above, Coccinelle generates patches like the following one.

#### 4.1.4 Look for NULL dereference

This SmPL match looks for NULL dereferences. Once an expression has been compared to NULL, a dereference to this expression is prohibited unless the pointer variable is reassigned.

#### Original

```
1 foo = kmalloc(1024);
2 if (!foo) {
3    printk ("Error_%s", foo->here);
4    return;
5 }
6 foo->ok = 1;
7 return;
```

#### Semantic match

#### Matched lines

```
1 foo = kmalloc(1024);
2 if (!foo) {
3    printk ("Error %s", foo->here);
4    return;
5 }
6 foo->ok = 1;
7 return;
```

#### 4.1.5 Reference counter: the of\_xxx API

Coccinelle can embed Python code. Python code is used inside special SmPL rule annotated with script:python. Python rules inherit metavariables, such as identifier or token positions, from other SmPL rules. The inherited metavariables can then be manipulated by Python code.

The following semantic match looks for a call to the of\_find\_node\_by\_name function. This call increments a counter which must be decremented to release the resource. Then, when there is no call to of\_node\_put, no new assignment to the device\_node variable n and a return statement is reached, a bug is detected and the position p1 and p2 are initialized. As the Python only depends on the positions p1 and p2, it is evaluated. In the following case, some emacs Org mode data are produced. This example illustrates the various fields that can be accessed in the Python code from a position variable.

```
10 r exists 0
2 local idexpression struct device_node *n;
3 position p1, p2;
4 statement S1, S2;
5 expression E,E1;
6 @@
8 (
9 if (!(n@p1 = of_find_node_by_name(...))) S1
n@p1 = of_find_node_by_name(...)
12 )
13 <... when != of_node_put(n)</pre>
      when != if (...) { <+... of_node_put(n) ...+> }
      when != true !n || ...
15
      when != n = E
16
      when != E = n
18 if (!n || ...) S2
19 ...>
20 (
   return <+...n...+>;
21
22
23 return@p2 ...;
24
_{25} n = E1
26
_{27} E1 = n
28 )
30 @ script:python @
31 p1 << r.p1;
32 p2 << r.p2;
33 @@
35 print "* TODO [[view:%s::face=ovl-face1::linb=%s::colb=%s::cole=%s][inc.
     counter:%s::%s]]" % (p1[0].file,p1[0].line,p1[0].column,p1[0].column_end,
     p1[0].file,p1[0].line)
% print "[[view:%s::face=ovl-face2::linb=%s::colb=%s::cole=%s][return]]" % (p2
     [0].file,p2[0].line,p2[0].column,p2[0].column_end)
```

Lines 13 to 17 list a variety of constructs that should not appear between a call to of\_find\_node\_by\_name and a buggy return site. Examples are a call to of\_node\_put (line 13) and a transition into the then branch of a conditional testing whether n is NULL (line 15). Any number of conditionals testing whether n is NULL are allowed as indicated by the use of a nest < . . . . > to describe the path between the call to of\_find\_node\_by\_name, the return and the conditional in the pattern on line 18.

The previously semantic match has been used to generate the following lines. They may be edited using the emacs Org mode to navigate in the code from a site to another.

```
1 * TODO [[view:/linux-next/arch/powerpc/platforms/pseries/setup.c::face=ovl-face1::linb=236::colb=18::cole=20][inc. counter:/linux-next/arch/powerpc/platforms/pseries/setup.c::236]]
2 [[view:/linux-next/arch/powerpc/platforms/pseries/setup.c::face=ovl-face2:: linb=250::colb=3::cole=9][return]]
3 * TODO [[view:/linux-next/arch/powerpc/platforms/pseries/setup.c::face=ovl-face1::linb=236::colb=18::cole=20][inc. counter:/linux-next/arch/powerpc/platforms/pseries/setup.c::236]]
4 [[view:/linux-next/arch/powerpc/platforms/pseries/setup.c::face=ovl-face2:: linb=245::colb=3::cole=9][return]]
```

Note: Coccinelle provides some predefined Python functions, *i.e.*, cocci.print\_main, cocci.print\_sec and cocci.print\_secs. One could alternatively write the following SmPL rule instead of the previously presented one.

```
1 @ script:python @
2 p1 << r.p1;
3 p2 << r.p2;
4 @@
5
6 cocci.print_main(p1)
7 cocci.print_sec(p2,"return")</pre>
```

The function cocci.print\_secs is used when there is several positions which are matched by a single position variable and that every matched position should be printed.

Any metavariable could be inherited in the Python code. However, accessible fields are not currently equally supported among them.

#### 4.1.6 Filtering identifiers, declarers or iterators with regular expression

If you consider the following SmPL file which uses the regexp functionality to filter the identifiers that contain, begin or end by foo,

```
23 @endsby@
1 @anyid@
                                        24 type t;
2 type t;
                                        25 identifier foo ~= ".*foo$";
3 identifier id;
s t id () {...}
                                        28 t foo () {...}
o @script:python@
                                       30 @script:python@
8 x << anyid.id;</pre>
                                        31 x << endsby.foo;
print "Identifier: %s" % x
                                        33 print "Ends by foo: %s" % x
12 @contains@
                                        35 @beginsby@
13 type t;
                                        36 type t;
identifier foo ~= ".*foo";
                                       37 identifier foo ~= "^foo";
                                       38 @@
16 t foo () {...}
                                        39 t foo () {...}
18 @script:python@
                                       41 @script:python@
19 x << contains.foo;</pre>
                                        42 x << beginsby.foo;
20 @@
                                        43 @@
21 print "Contains foo: %s" % x
                                        44 print "Begins by foo: %s" % x
```

and the following C program, on the left, which defines the functions foo, bar, foobar, barfoobar and barfoo, you will get the result on the right.

```
1 Identifier: foo
                                        2 Identifier: bar
                                        3 Identifier: foobar
                                       4 Identifier: barfoobar
int foo () { return 0; }
                                      5 Identifier: barfoo
2 int bar () { return 0; }
                                      6 Contains foo: foo
3 int foobar () { return 0; }
                                      7 Contains foo: foobar
4 int barfoobar () { return 0; }
                                      8 Contains foo: barfoobar
s int barfoo () { return 0; }
                                       9 Contains foo: barfoo
                                       10 Ends by foo: foo
                                       11 Ends by foo: barfoo
                                       12 Begins by foo: foo
                                       13 Begins by foo: foobar
```

#### 4.2 Tips and Tricks

#### 4.2.1 How to remove useless parentheses?

If you want to rewrite any access to a pointer value by a function call, you may use the following semantic patch.

```
a - a = *b

a + a = readb(b)
```

However, if for some reason your code looks like bar =  $\star$  (foo), you will end up with bar = readb ((foo)) as the extra parentheses around foo are capture by the metavariable b.

In order to generate better output code, you can use the following semantic patch instead.

```
a - a = *(b)

a + a = readb(b)
```

And rely on your standard.iso isomorphism file which should contain:

```
1 Expression
2 @ paren @
3 expression E;
4 @@
5
6 (E) => E
```

Coccinelle will then consider bar = \*(foo) as equivalent to bar = \*foo (but not the other way around) and capture both. Finally, it will generate bar = readb(foo) as expected.

Isomorphisms and standard.iso

Parsing C, cpp, and standard.h

# **Developing a Semantic Patch**

## **Advanced Features**

# Part II Reference Manual

## SmPL grammar

This document presents the grammar of the SmPL language used by the Coccinelle tool. For the most part, the grammar is written using standard notation. In some rules, however, the left-hand side is in all uppercase letters. These are macros, which take one or more grammar rule right-hand-sides as arguments. The grammar also uses some unspecified nonterminals, such as id, const, etc. These refer to the sets suggested by the name, *i.e.*, id refers to the set of possible C-language identifiers, while const refers to the set of possible C-language constants. A HTML version of this documentation is available online at http://coccinelle.lip6.fr/docs/main\_grammar.html.

#### 9.1 Program

script\_code is any code in the chosen scripting language. Parsing of the semantic patch does not check the validity of this code; any errors are first detected when the code is executed. Furthermore, @ should not be use in this code. Spatch scans the script code for the next @ and considers that to be the beginning of the next rule, even if @ occurs within e.g., a comment.

virtual keyword is used to declare virtual rules. Virtual rules may be subsequently used as a dependency for the rules in the SmPL file. Whether a virtual rule is defined or not is controlled by the  $\neg D$  option on the command line.

#### 9.2 Metavariables for transformations

The *rulename* portion of the metavariable declaration can specify properties of a rule such as its name, the names of the rules that it depends on, the isomorphisms to be used in processing the rule, and whether quantification over paths should be universal or existential. The optional annotation expression indicates that the pattern is to be considered as matching an expression, and thus can be used to avoid some parsing problems.

The *metadecl* portion of the metavariable declaration defines various types of metavariables that will be used for matching in the transformation section.

```
metavariables
                       @@ metadecl* @@
                        @ rulename @ metadecl* @@
                       id [extends id] [depends on dep] [iso] [disable-iso] [exists] [expression]
rulename
dep
                    ::= pnrule
                        dep && dep
                        dep || dep
pnrule
                    ::=
                       id
                        ! id
                        ever id
                        never id
                        (dep)
iso
                    ::= using string (, string)^*
disable-iso
                    ::= disable COMMA_LIST(id)
exists
                    ::= exists
                        forall
COMMA\_LIST(elem) ::= elem (, elem)^*
```

The keyword disable is normally used with the names of isomorphisms defined in standard.iso or whatever isomorphism file has been included. There are, however, some other isomorphisms that are built into the implementation of Coccinelle and that can be disabled as well. Their names are given below. In each case, the text describes the standard behavior. Using *disable-iso* with the given name disables this behavior.

- optional\_storage: A SmPL function definition that does not specify any visibility (i.e., static or extern), or a SmPL variable declaration that does not specify any storage (i.e., auto, static, register, or extern), matches a function declaration or variable declaration with any visibility or storage, respectively.
- optional\_qualifier: This is similar to optional\_storage, except that here is it the qualifier (i.e., const or volatile) that does not have to be specified in the SmPL code, but may be present in the C code.
- value\_format: Integers in various formats, e.g., 1 and 0x1, are considered to be equivalent in the matching process.
- optional\_declarer\_semicolon: Some declarers (top-level terms that look like function calls but serve to declare some variable) don't require a semicolon. This isomorphism allows a SmPL declarer with a semicolon to match such a C declarer, if no transformation is specified on the SmPL semicolon.
- comm\_assoc: An expression of the form *exp bin\_op* . . . , where *bin\_op* is commutative and associative, is considered to match any top-level sequence of *bin\_op* operators containing *exp* as the top-level argument.

The possible types of metavariable declarations are defined by the grammar rule below. Metavariables should occur at least once in the transformation immediately following their declaration. Fresh identifier metavariables must only be used in + code. These properties are not expressed in the grammar, but are checked by a subsequent analysis. The metavariables are designated according to the kind of terms they can match, such as a statement, an identifier, or an expression. An expression metavariable can be further constrained by its type. A declaration metavariable matches the declaration of one or more variables, all sharing the same type specification (e.g., int a, b, c=3;). A field metavariable does the same, but for structure fields.

```
metadecl ::= metavariable ids ;
           fresh identifier ids ;
           identifier COMMA LIST(pmid with regexp);
           identifier COMMA LIST(pmid with virt or not eq);
           parameter [list] ids;
           parameter list [ id ] ids;
           parameter list [ const ] ids ;
           type ids;
           statement [list] ids ;
           declaration ids ;
           field [list] ids ;
           typedef ids;
           declarer name ids ;
           declarer COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_regexp) ;
           declarer COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq) ;
           iterator name ids ;
           iterator COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_regexp) ;
           iterator COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq) ;
           [local] idexpression [ctype] COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq);
           [local] idexpression [{ctypes} **] COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq) ;
           [local] idexpression \star^+ COMMA LIST(pmid with not eq);
           expression list ids;
           expression *^+ COMMA LIST(pmid with not eq);
           expression enum ** COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq);
           expression struct ** COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq);
           expression union ** COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq);
           expression COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_ceq) ;
           expression list [ id ] ids;
           expression list [ const ] ids ;
           ctype [ ] COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq) ;
           ctype COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_ceq) ;
           {ctypes} ** COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_ceq) ;
           {ctypes} ** [ ] COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq) ;
           constant [ctype] COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq) ;
           constant [{ctypes} **] COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq) ;
           position [any] COMMA_LIST(pmid_with_not_eq_mid) ;
```

A metavariable declaration local idexpression v means that v is restricted to be a local variable. If it should just be a variable, but not necessarily a local one, then drop local. A more complex description of a location, such as a->b is considered to be an expression, not an ideexpression.

Constant is for constants, such as 27. But it also considers an identifier that is all capital letters (possibly containing numbers) as a constant as well, because the names gives to macros in Linux usually have this form.

An identifier is the name of a structure field, a macro, a function, or a variable. Is is the name of something rather than an expression that has a value. But an identifier can be used in the position of an expression as well, where it represents a variable.

It is possible to specify that an expression list or a parameter list metavariable should match a specific number of expressions or parameters.

It is possible to specify some information about the definition of a fresh identifier. See the wiki.

```
ids
                        ::= COMMA\_LIST(pmid)
pmid
                        ::= id
                            mid
mid
                        ::= rulename id.id
pmid_with_regexp
                        := pmid = regexp
                            pmid !=~ regexp
pmid_with_not_eq
                        ::= pmid [!= id\_or\_meta]
                            pmid [!= {COMMA\_LIST(id\_or\_meta)}]
                           virtual.id
pmid_with_virt_or_not_eq ::=
                            pmid_with_not_eq
                        ::= pmid [!= id\_or\_cst]
pmid_with_not_ceq
                            pmid [!= {COMMA\_LIST(id\_or\_cst)}]
id_or_cst
                        ::=
                            id
                            integer
id_or_meta
                        ::= id
                            rulename id.id
                        ::= pmid [!= mid]
pmid_with_not_eq_mid
                            pmid [!= {COMMA\_LIST(mid)}]
```

Subsequently, we refer to arbitrary metavariables as metaid<sup>ty</sup>, where ty indicates the *metakind* used in the declaration of the variable. For example, metaid<sup>Type</sup> refers to a metavariable that was declared using type and stands for any type.

metavariable declares a metavariable for which the parser tried to figure out the metavariable type based on the usage context. Such a metavariable must be used consistently. These metavariables cannot be used in all contexts; specifically, they cannot be used in context that would make the parsing ambiguous. Some examples are the leftmost term of an expression, such as the left-hand side of an assignment, or the type in a variable declaration. These restrictions may seems somewhat arbitrary from the user's point of view. Thus, it is better to use metavariables with metavariable types. If Coccinelle is given the argument <code>-parse\_cocci</code>, it will print information about the type that is inferred for each metavariable.

The *ctype* and *ctypes* nonterminals are used by both the grammar of metavariable declarations and the grammar of transformations, and are defined on page 28.

An identifier metavariable with virtual as its "rule name" is given a value on the command line. For example, if a semantic patch contains a rule that declares an identifier metavariable with the name virtual.alloc, then the command line could contain -D alloc=kmalloc. There should not be space around the =. An example is in demos/vm.cocci and demos/vm.c.

**Warning:** Each metavariable declaration causes the declared metavariables to be immediately usable, without any inheritance indication. Thus the following are correct:

```
@@
type r.T;
T x;
@@

[...] // some semantic patch code
@@
r.T x;
type r.T;
@@

[...] // some semantic patch code
```

But the following is not correct:

```
@@
type r.T;
r.T x;
@@
[...] // some semantic patch code
```

This applies to position variables, type metavariables, identifier metavariables that may be used in specifying a structure type, and metavariables used in the initialization of a fresh identifier. In the case of a structure type, any identifier metavariable indeed has to be declared as an identifier metavariable in advance. The syntax does not permit  $r \cdot n$  as the name of a structure or union type in such a declaration.

#### 9.3 Metavariables for scripts

Metavariables for scripts can only be inherited from transformation rules. In the spirit of scripting languages such as Python that use dynamic typing, metavariables for scripts do not include type declarations.

Currently, the only scripting languages that are supported are Python and OCaml, indicated using python and ocaml, respectively. The set of available scripting languages may be extended at some point.

Script rules declared with initialize are run before the treatment of any file. Script rules declared with finalize are run when the treatment of all of the files has completed. There can be at most one of each per scripting language (thus currently at most one of each). Initialize and finalize script rules do not have access to SmPL metavariables. Nevertheless, a finalize script rule can access any variables initialized by the other script rules, allowing information to be transmitted from the matching process to the finalize rule.

A script metavariable that does not specify an origin, using x, is newly declared by the script. This metavariable should be assigned to a string and can be inherited by subsequent rules as an identifier. In Python, the assignment of such a metavariable x should refer to the metavariable as coccinelle.x. Examples are in the files demos/pythontococci.cocci and demos/camltococci.cocci.

In an ocaml script, the following extended form of *script\_metadecl* may be used:

In a declaration of the form (id, id) << rulename\_id.id;, the left component of (id, id) receives a string representation of the value of the inherited metavariable while the right component receives its abstract syntax tree. The file parsing\_c/ast\_c.ml in the Coccinelle implementation gives some information about the structure of the abstract syntax tree. Either the left or right component may be replaced by \_, indicating that the string representation or abstract syntax trees representation is not wanted, respectively.

The abstract syntax tree of a metavariable declared using metavariable is not available.

#### 9.4 Transformation

The transformation specification essentially has the form of C code, except that lines to remove are annotated with – in the first column, and lines to add are annotated with +. A transformation specification can also use dots, "...", describing an arbitrary sequence of function arguments or instructions within a control-flow path. Dots may be modified with a when clause, indicating a pattern that should not occur anywhere within the matched sequence. Finally, a transformation can specify a disjunction of patterns, of the form (  $pat_1 \mid \ldots \mid pat_n$  ) where each (, | or ) is in column 0 or preceded by \.

The grammar that we present for the transformation is not actually the grammar of the SmPL code that can be written by the programmer, but is instead the grammar of the slice of this consisting of the – annotated and the unannotated code (the context of the transformed lines), or the + annotated code and the unannotated code. For example, for parsing purposes, the following transformation is split into the two variants shown below and each is parsed separately.

Requiring that both slices parse correctly ensures that the rule matches syntactically valid C code and that it produces syntactically valid C code. The generated parse trees are then merged for use in the subsequent matching and transformation process.

The grammar for the minus or plus slice of a transformation is as follows:

```
transformation ::= include^+
                              OPTDOTSEQ(expr, when)
                              OPTDOTSEQ(decl\_stmt^+, when)
                              OPTDOTSEQ(fundecl, when)
            include
                          ::= #include include_string
            when
                          ::= when != when code
                              when = rule\_elem\_stmt
                              when COMMA_LIST(any_strict)
                              when true != expr
                              when false != expr
                          ::= OPTDOTSEQ(decl\_stmt^+, when)
            when_code
                              OPTDOTSEQ(expr, when)
            rule_elem_stmt ::= one_decl
                              expr;
                              return [expr];
                              break;
                              continue;
                              \ \ (rule\_elem\_stmt\ (\ |\ rule\_elem\_stmt)^+\ )
            any_strict
                          ::= any
                              strict
                              forall
                              exists
OPTDOTSEQ(grammar\_ds, when\_ds) ::=
      [... [when_ds]] grammar_ds (... [when_ds] grammar_ds)* [... [when_ds]]
```

Lines may be annotated with an element of the set  $\{-,+,*\}$  or the singleton?, or one of each set. ? represents at most one match of the given pattern. \* is used for semantic match, *i.e.*, a pattern that highlights the fragments annotated with \*, but does not perform any modification of the matched code. \* cannot be mixed with – and +. There are some constraints on the use of these annotations:

- Dots, *i.e.* . . . , cannot occur on a line marked +.
- Nested dots, i.e., dots enclosed in < and >, cannot occur on a line with any marking.

Each element of a disjunction must be a proper term like an expression, a statement, an identifier or a declaration. Thus, the rule on the left below is not a syntactically correct SmPL rule. One may use the rule on the right instead.

```
1 @@
1 @@
                                               2 type T;
2 type T;
                                               3 T b;
3 T b;
                                               4 @@
4 @@
                                               6 (
6 (
                                               7 read
   writeb(...,
                                               9 write
   readb(...,
                                               10 )
10 )
                                                  (...,
_{11} - (T)
                                                   (T)
12 b)
                                                   b)
```

Some kinds of terms can only appear in + code. These include comments, ifdefs, and attributes (\_\_attribute\_\_((...))).

#### **9.5** Types

```
::= COMMA\_LIST(ctype)
ctypes
ctype
                        ::= [const_vol] generic_ctype **
                             [const_vol] void *+
                             (ctype (| ctype)^*)
const_vol
                        ::= const
                            volatile
                        ::= ctype_qualif
generic_ctype
                             [ctype_qualif] char
                             [ctype_qualif] short
                             [ctype_qualif] short int
                             [ctype qualif]
                                          int
                             [ctype_qualif] long
                             [ctype_qualif] long int
                             [ctype_qualif] long long
                             [ctype_qualif] long long int
                             double
                             long double
                             float
                             size_t
                             ssize_t
                             ptrdiff_t
                             enum id { PARAMSEQ(dot_expr, exp_whencode) [,] }
                             [struct union id [{ struct_decl_list* }]
ctype_qualif
                        ::= unsigned
                         signed
struct_decl_list
                        ::= struct_decl_list_start
struct_decl_list_start
                        ::= struct\_decl
                            struct_decl struct_decl_list_start
                             ... [when ! = struct\_decl]<sup>†</sup> [continue_struct_decl_list]
continue_struct_decl_list ::= struct_decl struct_decl_list_start
                         struct_decl
struct_decl
                        := ctype d\_ident;
                          | fn\_ctype (* d\_ident) (PARAMSEQ(name\_opt\_decl, \varepsilon));)
                             [const_vol] id d_ident;
d_ident
                        := id [[expr]]^*
fn_ctype
                        := generic\_ctype **
                         | void **
name_opt_decl
                        ::= decl
                            ctype
                            fn_ctype
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> The optional when construct ends at the end of the line.

#### 9.6 Function declarations

```
[fn\_ctype] funinfo* funid ([PARAMSEQ(param, \varepsilon)]) { [stmt\_seq] }
           ::=
                [fn_ctype] funinfo* funid ([PARAMSEQ(param, \varepsilon)]);
funproto
          ::=
funinfo
           ::= inline
                storage
           ::= static
storage
                auto
                register
                extern
funid
               id
                metaid<sup>ld</sup>
                OR(stmt)
               type id
param
           ::=
                metaid<sup>Param</sup>
                metaid<sup>ParamList</sup>
decl
           ::= ctype id
                fn\_ctype \ (* id) \ (PARAMSEQ(name\_opt\_decl, \varepsilon))
                void
                metaid^{Param} \\
```

 $\textit{PARAMSEQ}(\textit{gram\_p}, \textit{when\_p}) \; ::= \; \textit{COMMA\_LIST}(\textit{gram\_p} \; | \; \dots [\textit{when\_p}])$ 

To match a function it is not necessary to provide all of the annotations that appear before the function name. For example, the following semantic patch:

```
1 @@
2 @@
3 4 foo() { ... }
  matches a function declared as follows:
1 static int foo() { return 12; }
```

This behavior can be turned off by disabling the <code>optional\_storage</code> isomorphism. If one adds code before a function declaration, then the effect depends on the kind of code that is added. If the added code is a function definition or CPP code, then the new code is placed before all information associated with the function definition, including any comments preceding the function definition. On the other hand, if the new code is associated with the function, such as the addition of the keyword <code>static</code>, the new code is placed exactly where it appears with respect to the rest of the function definition in the semantic patch. For example,

```
1 @@
2 @@
3
4 + static
5 foo() { ... }
```

causes static to be placed just before the function name. The following causes it to be placed just before the type

```
1 @@
2 type T;
3 @@
4
5 + static
6 T foo() { ... }
```

It may be necessary to consider several cases to ensure that the added ode is placed in the right position. For example, one may need one pattern that considers that the function is declared inline and another that considers that it is not.

#### 9.7 Declarations

```
decl var
                  common decl
               ::=
                    [storage] ctype COMMA_LIST(d_ident);
                    [storage] [const_vol] id COMMA_LIST(d_ident) ;
                    [storage] fn\_ctype ( * d\_ident ) ( PARAMSEQ(name\_opt\_decl, \varepsilon) ) = initialize ;
                   typedef ctype typedef_ident ;
                   common decl
one decl
               ::=
                    [storage] ctype id;
                    [storage] [const_vol] id d_ident ;
common_decl ::= ctype;
                   funproto
                    [storage] ctype d_ident = initialize ;
                    [storage] [const\_vol] id d\_ident = initialize;
                    [storage] fn\_ctype ( * d\_ident ) ( PARAMSEQ(name\_opt\_decl, \varepsilon) );
                   decl_ident ( [COMMA_LIST(expr)] ) ;
initialize
               ::= dot\_expr
                   metaid<sup>Initialiser</sup>
                    { [COMMA LIST(init list elem)] }
init_list_elem ::= dot_expr
                   designator = dot \ expr
                   metaid<sup>Initialiser</sup>
                   metaidInitialiserList
                   id: dot expr
                        id
designator
                    [ dot_expr ]
                    [ dot\_expr ...
                                        dot_expr ]
decl ident
                   DeclarerId
                   metaid<sup>Declarer</sup>
```

An initializer for a structure can be ordered or unordered. It is considered to be unordered if there is at least one key-value pair initializer, e.g.,  $\cdot x = e$ .

#### 9.8 Statements

The first rule *statement* describes the various forms of a statement. The remaining rules implement the constraints that are sensitive to the context in which the statement occurs: *single\_statement* for a context in which only one statement is allowed, and *decl\_statement* for a context in which a declaration, statement, or sequence thereof is allowed.

```
::= include
         stmt
                            metaid^{Stmt} \\
                            expr;
                            if (dot_expr) single_stmt [else single_stmt]
                            for ([dot_expr]; [dot_expr]; [dot_expr]) single_stmt
                            while (dot_expr) single_stmt
                            do single_stmt while (dot_expr);
                            iter_ident (dot_expr*) single_stmt
                            switch ([dot_expr]) {case_line*}
                            return [dot_expr];
                            { [stmt_seq] }
                           NEST(decl\_stmt^+, when)
                            NEST(expr, when)
                           break;
                            continue;
                            id:
                            goto id;
                            \{stmt\_seq\}
         single stmt ::=
                           stmt
                            OR(stmt)
                           metaid<sup>StmtList</sup>
          decl_stmt
                            decl_var
                            stmt
                            OR(stmt \ seq)
                                       [DOTSEQ(decl_stmt<sup>+</sup>, when) decl_stmt<sup>*</sup>]
         stmt_seq
                          decl_stmt*
                           decl_stmt* [DOTSEQ(expr, when) decl_stmt*]
          case_line
                       ::= default : stmt_seq
                           case dot_expr : stmt_seq
         iter_ident
                       ::= IteratorId
                           metaid<sup>Iterator</sup>
OR(gram\_o)
                             ::= (gram\_o (|gram\_o)^*)
DOTSEQ(gram\_d, when\_d) ::= \dots [when\_d] (gram\_d \dots [when\_d])^*
                             ::= \langle \dots [when_n] \ gram_n \ (\dots [when_n] \ gram_n)^* \ \dots \rangle
NEST(gram_n, when_n)
                               \langle + \dots [when\_n] \ gram\_n \ (\dots [when\_n] \ gram\_n)^* \dots + \rangle
```

OR is a macro that generates a disjunction of patterns. The three tokens (,  $\mid$ , and ) must appear in the leftmost column, to differentiate them from the parentheses and bit-or tokens that can appear within expressions (and cannot appear in the leftmost column). These token may also be preceded by  $\setminus$  when they are used in an other column. These tokens are furthermore different from (,  $\mid$ , and ), which are part of the grammar metalanguage.

#### 9.9 Expressions

A nest or a single ellipsis is allowed in some expression contexts, and causes ambiguity in others. For example, in a sequence  $\dots expr$   $\dots$ , the nonterminal expr must be instantiated as an explicit C-language expression, while in an array reference,  $expr_1$  [  $expr_2$  ], the nonterminal  $expr_2$ , because it is delimited by brackets, can be also instantiated as  $\dots$ , representing an arbitrary expression. To distinguish between the various possibilities, we define three nonterminals for expressions: expr does not allow either top-level nests or ellipses, expr allows a nest but not an ellipsis, and expr allows both. The EXPR macro is used to express these variants in a concise way.

```
::= EXPR(expr)
expr
nest expr
              ::= EXPR(nest\ expr)
                  NEST(nest_expr, exp_whencode)
              ::= EXPR(dot \ expr)
dot_expr
                  NEST(dot_expr, exp_whencode)
                   ... [exp_whencode]
EXPR(exp)
              ::= exp assign_op exp
                   exp++
                   exp-
                  unary_op exp
                  exp bin_op exp
                   exp ? dot_expr : exp
                   (type) exp
                   exp [dot_expr]
                  exp . id
                   exp -> id
                   exp ([PARAMSEQ(arg, exp_whencode)])
                  id
                   \mathsf{metaid}^{\mathsf{Exp}}
                  metaid<sup>Const</sup>
                  const
                   (dot\_expr)
                  OR(exp)
              ::= nest\_expr
arg
                  metaid<sup>ExpList</sup>
exp\_whencode ::= when != expr
assign_op
              ::= = | -= | += | *= | /= | %=
               | &= | |= | ^= | <<= | >>=
              ::= * | / | % | + | -
bin op
                  <<| >>| ^ | & | |
                  < | > | <= | >= | != | && | | |
              ::= ++ | - | & | * | + | - | !
unary_op
```

#### 9.10 Constants, Identifiers and Types for Transformations

#### 9.11 Comments

A // or /\* \*/ comment that is annotated with + in the leftmost column is considered to be added code. A // or /\* \*/ comment whout such an annotation is considered to be a comment about the SmPL code, and thus is not matched in the C code.

#### 9.12 Command-line semantic match

It is possible to specify a semantic match on the spatch command line, using the argument -sp. In such a semantic match, any token beginning with a capital letter is assumed to be a metavariable of type metavariable. In this case, the parser must be able to figure out what kind of metavariable it is. It is also possible to specify the type of a metavariable by enclosing the type in :'s, concatenated directly to the metavariable name.

Some examples of semantic matches that can be given as an argument to -sp are as follows:

- f (e): This only matches the expression f (e).
- f (E): This matches a call to f with any argument.
- F (E): This gives a parse error; the semantic patch parser cannot figure out what kind of metavariable F is.
- F:identifier: (E): This matches any one argument function call.
- f:identifier: (e:struct foo \*:): This matches any one argument function call where the argument has type struct foo \*. Since the types of the metavariables are specified, it is not necessary for the metavariable names to begin with a capital letter.
- F:identifier: (F): This matches any one argument function call where the argument is the name of the function itself. This example shows that it is not necessary to repeat the metavariable type name.
- F:identifier: (F:identifier:): This matches any one argument function call where the argument is the name of the function itself. This example shows that it is possible to repeat the metavariable type name.

When constraints, e.g. when != e, are allowed but the expression e must be represented as a single token. The generated semantic match behaves as though there were a \* in front of every token.

## spatch command line options

#### 10.1 Introduction

This document describes the options provided by Coccinelle. The options have an impact on various phases of the semantic patch application process. These are:

- 1. Selecting and parsing the semantic patch.
- 2. Selecting and parsing the C code.
- 3. Application of the semantic patch to the C code.
- 4. Transformation.
- 5. Generation of the result.

One can either initiate the complete process from step 1, or to perform step 1 or step 2 individually.

Coccinelle has quite a lot of options. The most common usages are as follows, for a semantic match foo.cocci, a C file foo.c, and a directory foodir:

- spatch -parse\_cocci foo.cocci: Check that the semantic patch is syntactically correct.
- spatch -parse\_c foo.c: Check that the C file is syntactically correct. The Coccinelle C parser tries to recover during the parsing process, so if one function does not parse, it will start up again with the next one. Thus, a parse error is often not a cause for concern, unless it occurs in a function that is relevant to the semantic patch.
- spatch -sp\_file foo.cocci foo.c: Apply the semantic patch foo.cocci to the file foo.c and print out any transformations as a diff.
- spatch -sp\_file foo.cocci foo.c -debug: The same as the previous case, but print out some information about the matching process.
- ullet spatch  $-\text{sp\_file}$  foo.cocci -dir foodir: Apply the semantic patch foo.cocci to all of the C files in the directory foodir.
- spatch -sp\_file foo.cocci -dir foodir -include\_headers: Apply the semantic patch foo.cocci to all of the C files and header files in the directory foodir.

In the rest of this document, the options are annotated as follows:

• • : a basic option, that is most likely of interest to all users.

- $\Rightarrow$ : an option that is frequently used, often for better understanding the effect of a semantic patch.
- $\diamond$ : an option that is likely to be rarely used, but whose effect is still comprehensible to a user.
- An option with no annotation is likely of interest only to developers.

# 10.2 Selecting and parsing the semantic patch

# 10.2.1 Standalone options

• -parse\_cocci (file) Parse a semantic patch file and print out some information about it.

# 10.2.2 The semantic patch

- -sp\_file \( \)file \\ , -c \( \)file \\ , -cocci\_file \( \)file \\ Specify the name of the file containing the semantic patch. The file name should end in .cocci. All three options do the same thing. These options are optional. If they are not used, the single file whose name ends in .cocci is assoumed to be the name of the file containing the semantic patch.
- -sp "semantic patch string" Specify a semantic match as a command-line argument. See the section "Command-line semantic match" in the manual.

# 10.2.3 Isomorphisms

- -iso, -iso\_file Specify a file containing isomorphisms to be used in place of the standard one. Normally one should use the using construct within a semantic patch to specify isomorphisms to be used *in addition to* the standard ones.
- -iso\_limit (int) Limit the depth of application of isomorphisms to the specified integer.
- -no iso limit Put no limit on the number of times that isomorphisms can be applied. This is the default.
- -disable\_iso Disable a specific isomorphism from the command line. This option can be specified multiple times.
  - **-track iso** Gather information about isomorphism usage.
  - **-profile iso** Gather information about the time required for isomorphism expansion.

# 10.2.4 Display options

- show\_cocci Show the semantic patch that is being processed before expanding isomorphisms.
- ♦ -show\_SP Show the semantic patch that is being processed after expanding isomorphisms.
- ♦ -show ctl text Show the representation of the semantic patch in CTL.
- -ctl\_inline\_let Sometimes let is used to name intermediate terms CTL representation. This option causes the let-bound terms to be inlined at the point of their reference. This option implicitly sets -show\_ctl\_text.
- ♦ -ctl\_show\_mcodekind Show transformation information within the CTL representation of the semantic patch. This option implicitly sets -show\_ctl\_text.

♦ -show\_ctl\_tex Create a LaTeX files showing the representation of the semantic patch in CTL.

# 10.3 Selecting and parsing the C files

# 10.3.1 Standalone options

- -parse\_c \( \frac{\text{file/dir}}{\text{ rors encountered.}} \) Parse a .c file or all of the .c files in a directory. This generates information about any parse
- -parse\_h \( \file/\dir \) Parse a . h file or all of the . h files in a directory. This generates information about any parse errors encountered.
- ◆ -parse\_ch ⟨file/dir⟩ Parse a .c or .h file or all of the .c or .h files in a directory. This generates information about any parse errors encountered.
- -control\_flow \( \file \), -control\_flow \( \file \): \( \function \) Print a control-flow graph for all of the functions in a file or for a specific function in a file. This requires dot (http://www.graphviz.org/) and gv.
- -control\_flow\_to\_file \( \)file \( \), -control\_flow\_to\_file \( \)file \( \): \( \)function \( \) Like -control\_flow but just puts the dot output in a file in the *current* directory. For PATH/file.c, this produces file:xxx.dot for each (selected) function xxx in PATH/file.c.
- type\_c (file) Parse a C file and pretty-print a version including type information.
  - **-tokens\_c**  $\langle$  **file** $\rangle$  Prints the tokens in a C file.
  - **-parse\_unparse**  $\langle$  **file** $\rangle$  Parse and then reconstruct a C file.
  - **-compare\_c**  $\langle$  **file** $\rangle$   $\langle$  **file** $\rangle$ , **-compare\_c\_hardcoded** Compares one C file to another, or compare the file tests/compare 1.c to the file tests/compare 2.c.
  - **-test\_cfg\_ifdef**  $\langle$  **file** $\rangle$  Do some special processing of #ifdef and display the resulting control-flow graph. This requires dot and gv.
  - -test\_attributes \( \file \), -test\_cpp \( \file \) Test the parsing of cpp code and attributes, respectively.

# 10.3.2 Selecting C files

An argument that ends in .c is assumed to be a C file to process. Normally, only one C file or one directory is specified. If multiple C files are specified, they are treated in parallel, *i.e.*, the first semantic patch rule is applied to all functions in all files, then the second semantic patch rule is applied to all functions in all files, etc. If a directory is specified then no files may be specified and only the rightmost directory specified is used.

-include\_headers This option causes header files to be processed independently. This option only makes sense if a directory is specified using -dir.

- -use\_glimpse Use a glimpse index to select the files to which a semantic patch may be relevant. This option requires that a directory is specified. The index may be created using the script coccinelle/scripts/ glimpseindex\_cocci.sh. Glimpse is available at http://webglimpse.net/. In conjunction with the option -patch\_cocci this option prints the regular expression that will be passed to glimpse.
- -use\_idutils Use an id-utils index created using lid to select the files to which a semantic patch may be relevant. This option requires that a directory is specified. The index may be created using the script coccinelle/scripts/idindex\_cocci.sh. In conjunction with the option -patch\_cocci this option prints the regular expression that will be passed to glimpse.
- → -dir Specify a directory containing C files to process. A trailing / is permitted on the directory name and has no impact on the result. By default, the include path will be set to the "include" subdirectory of this directory. A different include path can be specified using the option -I. -dir only considers the rightmost directory in the argument list. This behavior is convenient for creating a script that always works on a single directory, but allows the user of the script to override the provided directory with another one. Spatch collects the files in the directory using find and does not follow symbolic links.
  - **-kbuild\_info** (**file**) The specified file contains information about which sets of files should be considered in parallel.
  - **-disable\_worth\_trying\_opt** Normally, a C file is only processed if it contains some keywords that have been determined to be essential for the semantic patch to match somewhere in the file. This option disables this optimization and tries the semantic patch on all files.
  - -test (file) A shortcut for running Coccinelle on the semantic patch "file.cocci" and the C file "file.c".
  - **-testall** A shortcut for running Coccinelle on all files in a subdirectory tests such that there are all of a .cocci file, a .c file, and a .res file, where the .res contains the expected result.
  - **-test\_okfailed, -test\_regression\_okfailed** Other options for keeping track of tests that have succeeded and failed.
  - **-compare\_with\_expected** Compare the result of applying Coccinelle to file.c to the file file.res representing the expected result.
  - **-expected score file** (**file**) which score file to compare with in the testall run

# 10.3.3 Parsing C files

- ♦ -show c Show the C code that is being processed.
- ♦ -parse error msg Show parsing errors in the C file.
- ♦ -verbose\_parsing Show parsing errors in the C file, as well as information about attempts to accommodate such errors. This implicitly sets -parse\_error\_msg.
- ♦ -type\_error\_msg Show information about where the C type checker was not able to determine the type of an expression.

- → -int\_bits ⟨n⟩, -long\_bits ⟨n⟩ Provide integer size information. n is the number of bits in an unsigned integer or unsigned long, respectively. If only the option -int\_bits is used, unsigned longs will be assumed to have twice as many bits as unsigned integers. If only the option -long\_bits is used, unsigned ints will be assumed to have half as many bits as unsigned integers. This information is only used in determining the types of integer constants, according to the ANSI C standard (C89). If neither is provided, the type of an integer constant is determined by the sequence of "u" and "l" annotations following the constant. If there is none, the constant is assumed to be a signed integer. If there is only "u", the constant is assumed to be an unsigned integer, etc.
- ♦ -no\_loops Drop back edges for loops. This may make a semantic patch/match run faster, at the cost of not finding matches that wrap around loops.
  - **-use\_cache** Use preparsed versions of the C files that are stored in a cache.
  - -cache\_prefix Specify the directory in which to store preparsed versions of the C files. This sets -use\_cache
  - **-cache\_limit** Specify the maximum number of preparsed C files to store. The cache is cleared of all files with names ending in .ast\_raw and .depend\_raw on reaching this limit. Only effective if -cache\_prefix is used as well. This is most useful when iteration is used to process a file multiple times within a single run of Coccinelle.
  - -debug\_cpp, -debug\_lexer, -debug\_etdt, -debug\_typedef Various options for debugging the C parser.
  - -filter\_msg, -filter\_define\_error, -filter\_passed\_level Various options for debugging the C parser.
  - **-only\_return\_is\_error\_exit** In matching "..." in a semantic patch or when forall is specified, a rule must match all control-flow paths starting from a node matching the beginning of the rule. This is relaxed, however, for error handling code. Normally, error handling code is considered to be a conditional with only a then branch that ends in goto, break, continue, or return. If this option is set, then only a then branch ending in a return is considered to be error handling code. Usually a better strategy is to use when strict in the semantic patch, and then match explicitly the case where there is a conditional whose then branch ends in a return.

### Macros and other preprocessor code

- -macro\_file \langle file \rangle Extra macro definitions to be taken into account when parsing the C files. This uses the provided macro definitions in addition to those in the default macro file.
- ◆ -macro\_file\_builtins ⟨file⟩ Builtin macro definitions to be taken into account when parsing the C files. This causes the macro definitions provided in the default macro file to be ignored and the ones in the specified file to be used instead.
- ♦ -ifdef\_to\_if,-no\_ifdef\_to\_if The option -ifdef\_to\_if represents an #ifdef in the source code as a conditional in the control-flow graph when doing so represents valid code. -no\_ifdef\_to\_if disables this feature. -ifdef\_to\_if is the default.
- -use\_if0\_code Normally code under #if 0 is ignored. If this option is set then the code is considered, just like the code under any other #ifdef.
  - **-noadd typedef root** This seems to reduce the scope of a typedef declaration found in the C code.

### **Include files**

- -recursive\_includes, -all\_includes, -local\_includes, -no\_includes
  These options control which include files mentioned in a C file are taken into account. -recursive\_includes indicates that all included files mentioned in the .c file(s) or any included files will be processed. -all\_includes indicates that all included files mentioned in the .c file(s) will be processed. -local\_includes indicates that only included files in the current directory will be processed. -no\_includes indicates that no included files will be processed. If the semantic patch contains type specifications on expression metavariables, then the default is -local\_includes. Otherwise the default is -no\_includes. At most one of these options can be specified.
- ◆ -I ⟨path⟩ This option specifies a directory in which to find non-local include files. This option can be used several times.
- ❖ -relax\_include\_path This option when combined with -all\_includes causes the search for local include files to consider the current directory, even if the include patch specifies a subdirectory. This is really only useful for testing, eg with the option -testall
- ♦ -c++ Make an extremely minimal effort to parse C++ code. Currently, this is limited to allowing identifiers to contain "::", tilde, and template invocations. Consider testing your code first with spatch -type\_c to see if there are any type annotations in the code you are interested in processing. If not, then it was probably not parsed.

# 10.4 Application of the semantic patch to the C code

# 10.4.1 Feedback at the rule level during the application of the semantic patch

- -show\_bindings Show the environments with respect to which each rule is applied and the bindings that result from each such application.
- -show\_dependencies Show the status (matched or unmatched) of the rules on which a given rule depends. -show\_dependencies implicitly sets -show\_bindings, as the values of the dependencies are environment-specific.
- ◆ -show\_trying Show the name of each program element to which each rule is applied.
- → -show\_transinfo Show information about each transformation that is performed. The node numbers that are referenced are the number of the nodes in the control-flow graph, which can be seen using the option -control\_flow (the initial control-flow graph only) or the option -show\_flow (the control-flow graph before and after each rule application).
- show misc Show some miscellaneous information.
- show\_flow \( \file \), -show\_flow \( \file \):\( \function \) Show the control-flow graph before and after the application of each rule.
  - -show before fixed flow This is similar to -show flow, but shows a preliminary version of the control-flow graph.

# 10.4.2 Feedback at the CTL level during the application of the semantic patch

◆ -verbose\_engine Show a trace of the matching of atomic terms to C code.

- ♦ -verbose\_ctl\_engine Show a trace of the CTL matching process. This is unfortunately rather voluminous and not so helpful for someone who is not familiar with CTL in general and the translation of SmPL into CTL specifically. This option implicitly sets the option -show ctl text.
- **-graphical\_trace** Create a pdf file containing the control flow graph annotated with the various nodes matched during the CTL matching process. Unfortunately, except for the most simple examples, the output is voluminous, and so the option is not really practical for most examples. This requires dot (http://www.graphviz.org/) and pdftk.
- ♦ -gt\_without\_label The same as -graphical\_trace, but the PDF file does not contain the CTL code.
- -partial\_match Report partial matches of the semantic patch on the C file. This can be substantially slower than normal matching.
- ♦ -verbose\_match Report on when CTL matching is not applied to a function or other program unit because it does not contain some required atomic pattern. This can be viewed as a simpler, more efficient, but less informative version of -partial\_match.

# 10.4.3 Actions during the application of the semantic patch

- ◆ -D rulename Run the patch considering that the virtual rule "rulename" is satisfied. Virtual rules should be declared at the beginning of the semantic patch in a comma separated list following the keyword virtual. Other rules can depend on the satisfaction or non satifaction of these rules using the keyword depends on in the usual way.
- ◆ -D variable=value Run the patch considering that the virtual identifier metavariable "variable" is bound to "value". Any identifier metavariable can be designated as being virtual by giving it the rule name virtual. An example is in demos/vm.coci
- ◆ -allow\_inconsistent\_paths Normally, a term that is transformed should only be accessible from other terms that are matched by the semantic patch. This option removes this constraint. Doing so, is unsafe, however, because the properties that hold along the matched path might not hold at all along the unmatched path.
- **disallow\_nested\_exps** In an expression that contains repeated nested subterms, *e.g.* of the form f(f(x)), a pattern can match a single expression in multiple ways, some nested inside others. This option causes the matching process to stop immediately at the outermost match. Thus, in the example f(f(x)), the possibility that the pattern f(E), with metavariable E, matches with E as x will not be considered.
- ♦ -no\_safe\_expressions normally, we check that an expression does not match something earlier in the disjunction. But for large disjunctions, this can result in a very big CTL formula. So this option give the user the option to say he doesn't want this feature, if that is the case.
- → -pyoutput coccilib.output.Gtk, -pyoutput coccilib.output.Console This controls whether Python output is sent to Gtk or to the console. -pyoutput coccilib.output.Console is the default. The Gtk option is currently not well supported.
  - **-loop** When there is "..." in the semantic patch, the CTL operator AU is used if the current function does not contain a loop, and AW may be used if it does. This option causes AW always to be used.
- -ocaml\_regexps Use the regular expressions provided by the OCaml Str library. This is the default if the PCRE library is not available. Otherwise PCRE regular expressions are used by default.

- **-steps**  $\langle \text{int} \rangle$  This limits the number of steps performed by the CTL engine to the specified number. This option is unsafe as it might cause a rule to fail due to running out of steps rather than due to not matching.
- **-bench** (int) This collects various information about the operations performed during the CTL matching process.
- -popl, -popl\_mark\_all, -popl\_keep\_all\_wits These options use a simplified version of the SmPL language. -popl\_mark\_all and -popl\_keep\_all\_wits implicitly set -popl.

# 10.5 Generation of the result

Normally, the only output is a diff printed to standard output, containing the differences between the original code and the transformed code. If stars are used in column 0 rather than – and +, then the – lines in the diff are the lines that matched the stars.

- -keep comments Don't remove comments adjacent to removed code.
- → -linux\_spacing, -smpl\_spacing Control the spacing within the code added by the semantic patch. The option linux\_spacing causes spatch to follow the conventions of Linux, regardless of the spacing in the semantic patch. This is the default. The option -smpl\_spacing causes spatch to follow the spacing given in the semantic patch, within individual lines.
- ♦ -in\_place Modify the input file to contain the transformed code. A diff is still printed to the standard output. By default, the input file is overwritten when using this option, with no backup. This option only makes sense when and + are used.
- ♦ -backup\_suffix The suffix of the file to use in making a backup of the original file(s). This suffix should include the leading ".", if one is desired. This option only has an effect when the option -in\_place is also used.
- -out\_place Store the result of modifying the code in a .cocci\_res file. A diff is still printed to the standard output. This option only makes sense when and + are used.
- ♦ -no\_show\_diff Normally, a diff between the original and transformed code is printed on the standard output. This option causes this not to be done.
- **♦ -U** Set number of diff context lines.
- ◆ -patch ⟨path⟩ The prefix of the pathname of the directory or file name that should dropped from the diff line in the generated patch. This is useful if you want to apply a patch only to a subdirectory of a source code tree but want to create a patch that can be applied at the root of the source code tree. An example could be spatch -sp\_file foo.cocci -dir /var/linuxes/linux-next/drivers -patch /var/linuxes/linux-next. A trailing / is permitted on the directory name and has no impact on the result.
- ♦ -save\_tmp\_files Coccinelle creates some temporary files in /tmp that it deletes after use. This option causes these files to be saved.

**-debug\_unparsing** Show some debugging information about the generation of the transformed code. This has the side-effect of deleting the transformed code.

# 10.6 Other options

# **10.6.1** Version information

- -version The version of Coccinelle. No other options are allowed.
- -date The date of the current version of Coccinelle. No other options are allowed.

# 10.6.2 Help

- -h, -shorthelp The most useful commands.
- -help, -help, -longhelp A complete listing of the available commands.

# 10.6.3 Controlling the execution of Coccinelle

- $\bullet$  -timeout (int) The maximum time in seconds for processing a single file.
- -max (int) This option informs Coccinelle of the number of instances of Coccinelle that will be run concurrently. This option requires -index. It is usually used with -dir.
- -index (int) This option informs Coccinelle of which of the concurrent instances is the current one. This option requires -max.
- igodown -mod\_distrib When multiple instances of Coccinelle are run in parallel, normally the first instance processes the first n files, the second instance the second n files, etc. With this option, the files are distributed among the instances in a round-robin fashion.
  - **-debugger** Option for running Coccinelle from within the OCaml debugger.
  - **-profile** Gather timing information about the main Coccinelle functions.
  - -disable\_once Print various warning messages every time some condition occurs, rather than only once.

# 10.6.4 Miscellaneous

• -quiet Suppress most output. This is the default.

-pad, -hrule  $\langle dir \rangle$ , -xxx, -l1

# Part III **Appendix**

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