

Preface

This book is a unique analysis of four seemingly disparate fields of study. Those fields are malware classification, software theft detection, plagiarism detection and code clone detection. These areas of study are all closely intertwined and share much of the same underlying theory. However, this was not always apparent to us. Before writing this book, our research goals were in malware classification. However, this grew outwards as we began to see that those other fields of study gave an applicable theory and analysis techniques that could be useful in our own work. The final result is a merging of these fields and a demonstration that a unified theory can be created and shared equally between them.

The target audiences of this book are researchers looking at performing new investigation who are seeking a summary of the discipline and software engineers who are looking to implement a solution for their own particular application. Researchers will benefit from understanding the base theory that enables new techniques to be critically analysed. Software engineers will benefit from selecting the appropriate components from the whole theory and applying them in their own software.

We hope that the reader will enjoy this book and see it as filling a gap which currently exists in constructing a theory to describe the problems in software similarity and classification.



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Cesare, S.; Xiang, Y.

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