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Topic Analysis of Spoken Dialogue in Pair Programming

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Pair programming is style of programming in which two programmers work side by side at one computer, continually collaborating on the same design, algorithm, code, or test. One of pair, called the driver, is typing at the computer. As widely known, there is a difference of levels of abstraction in pair's thinking between the driver and the navigator.

Recently, some studies which observes actual pair-programmers reports the mismatch between the dominant conceptualization of pair programming interactions between actual pair-programmers. They said that the deference of levels of abstraction in pair's thought could't be observed between the driver and the navigator.

This study presents the result of a protocol analysis of ten pair programming sessions of graduate students. The analysis focuses on the deference of levels of abstraction of issues raised by pairs. If the deference of pair thought is exist, it is expected that the driver raise issues in more low level of abstraction and the navigator raise issues in more high level of abstraction.

In the result, such deference couldn't be observed. We suggest that pair in pair programming thinks in same level of abstraction.