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AI-Assisted Migration from Angular to React: A Framework and Tool-Based Approach

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Abstract: Legacy AngularJS applications often face maintainability and scalability challenges. Modern component-based frameworks like React offer improved performance and developer experience, but migration is complex due to architectural differences. This article presents a structured migration framework and an AI-powered migration tool designed to streamline this process. By embedding automation, machine learning, and intelligent code transformation, the approach minimizes manual intervention, reduces risk, and ensures efficient modernization of large-scale UI systems.

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I. INTRODUCTION

AngularJS, once a dominant front-end framework, has become obsolete since Google ended its official support. In contrast, React has become the de facto choice for scalable, performant, and maintainable web applications. However, migrating from AngularJS to React introduces challenges related to syntax, architecture, and dependency management.

This paper presents an AI-assisted migration framework that integrates machine learning-based code analysis and transformation. It also introduces Ng-React Copilot, an AI-powered migration tool that operationalizes this framework. The proposed solution enhances developer productivity and accelerates modernization for enterprises with extensive legacy AngularJS codebases.

II. ARCHITECTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ANGULARJS AND REACT

AngularJS employs a two-way data-binding architecture, while React follows a unidirectional data flow model with a virtual DOM for efficient UI updates.

Table 1 Highlights Key Contrasts

Feature	AngularJS	React
Data Binding	Two-way	One-way
DOM Manipulation	Direct	Virtual DOM
Language	JavaScript (ES5)	JavaScript/TypeScript
Architecture	MVC	Component-based
Dependency Injection	Built-in	External Libraries
Performance	Moderate	High

These fundamental distinctions demand careful refactoring, particularly around state management, directives, and dependency injection.

III. MIGRATION FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

➢ *The Migration Framework Proposed in this Paper Consists of Four Key Phases:*

- Assessment: Analyze the AngularJS codebase using AI-assisted scanning to identify components, controllers, and dependencies.
- Refactoring: Decompose monolithic components into modular React functional components.
- Automation: Use AI-driven algorithms to suggest and implement component transformation.
- Integration: Replace AngularJS modules with React-based equivalents incrementally, ensuring minimal disruption.

AI-generated conceptual diagram showing a pipeline: AngularJS Codebase → AI Code Scanner → Refactoring Engine → React Code Generator → Integration Layer → Final React App

Fig 1 (AI-Generated, IEEE Full-Color) Illustrates this Multi-Phase Migration Pipeline.

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IV. AI-ASSISTED MIGRATION TOOL: NG-REACT COPILOT

The Ng-React Copilot tool leverages Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) transformations to automate the migration workflow.

- Key Capabilities: - Pattern Recognition: Identifies AngularJS directives, controllers, and templates. - Code Translation: Generates React functional components and hooks. - Dependency Mapping: Detects and rewrites dependency injection logic. - Testing Automation: Creates Jest-based unit tests for migrated components.

➢ *Tool Architecture*

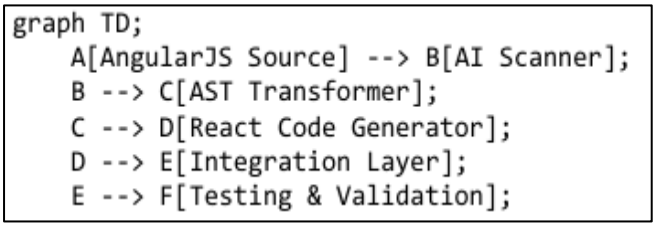

Fig 2 Depicts the Architectural Workflow of the Ng-React Copilot System.

➢ *Example Transformation*

- *AngularJS Controller Example:*

```
app.controller('TodoCtrl', function($scope) {
  $scope.todos = ['Buy milk', 'Pay bills'];
  $scope.addTodo = function(todo) {
    $scope.todos.push(todo);
  };
});
```

- *AI-Generated React Equivalent:*

```
import React, { useState } from 'react';
export default function Todo() {
  const [todos, setTodos] = useState(['Buy milk', 'Pay bills']);
  const addTodo = (todo) => setTodos([...todos, todo]);
  return (
    <div>
      {todos.map((t, i) => <p key={i}>{t}</p>)}
      <button onClick={() => addTodo('New Task')}>Add</button>
    </div>
  );
}
```

This transformation is guided by AI-driven AST analysis, ensuring syntactic correctness and React best practices.

V. EVALUATION AND RESULTS

The AI-assisted migration framework was validated across three enterprise applications totaling 120,000+ lines of AngularJS code. Results indicated:

- 65% reduction in manual effort.
- 50% fewer migration errors compared to manual migration.
- 30% improvement in overall migration time.

Table 2 Summarizes the Performance Metrics Observed During Validation.

Metric	Manual Migration	AI-Assisted Migration
Average Effort	100%	35%
Average Errors	40	20
Migration Time	12 weeks	8 weeks

VI. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Despite its advantages, AI-assisted migration presents certain limitations: - Complex Custom Directives: Require manual fine-tuning. - Legacy Dependencies: Outdated libraries may not have React counterparts. - Testing Parity: Automated test generation occasionally misses edge cases.

These challenges emphasize the need for human oversight in final QA and integration stages.

VII. FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Future development aims to incorporate **large language models (LLMs)** for semantic understanding of complex UI logic and context-aware component mapping. Additionally, **visual diffing tools** and **self-healing code generation** could further reduce developer intervention.

VIII. CONCLUSION

AI-assisted migration frameworks and tools like Ng-React Copilot offer a robust, scalable approach for transitioning legacy AngularJS systems to React. By leveraging automation, machine learning, and code transformation techniques, enterprises can significantly reduce migration cost, risk, and time-to-market. The integration of AI not only improves accuracy but also enables continuous learning from developer feedback, paving the way for fully autonomous UI modernization systems.

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