Principles of Software Construction: Objects, Design, and Concurrency

Test case design

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Last Week

- Unit testing: small, simple, per-method tests
- Specification vs. Structural testing

Today

- Structural Testing Strategies
  - Statement, branch, path coverage; limitations
- Specification Testing Strategies
  - Boundary value analysis, combinatorial testing, decision tables
- Bit of both

Structural Testing: a closer look

Takes into account the internal mechanism of a system (IEEE, 1990).

- Approaches include tracing data and control flow through a program

Case Study

Assume various Wallets

```
public interface Wallet {

   boolean pay(int cost);

   int getValue();

}
```

DebitWallet.pay()

What should we test in this code?

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost <= this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}
```

DebitWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost <= this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}

new DebitWallet(100).pay(10);
```

DebitWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost <= this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}

new DebitWallet(0).pay(10);
```

CreditWallet.pay()

How about now?

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
    if (useCredit) {
        if (this.credit + cost <= this.maxCredit) {
            this.credit += cost;
            return true;
        }
    }
    else if (cost <= this.cash) {
        this.cash -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}
```

CreditWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
   if (useCredit) {
       if (enoughCredit) {
           ...
       }
   }
   else if (enoughCash) {
       ...
   }
   return false;
}
```

CreditWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
   if (useCredit) {
       if (enoughCredit) {
           ...
       }
   }
   else if (enoughCash) {
       ...
   }
   return false;
}
```

Test case	useCredit	Enough Credit	Enough Cash	Result	Coverage
1	T	T	-	Pass	??

CreditWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
    if (useCredit) {
        if (enoughCredit) {
            ...
        }
    }
    else if (enoughCash) {
        ...
    }
    return false;
}
```

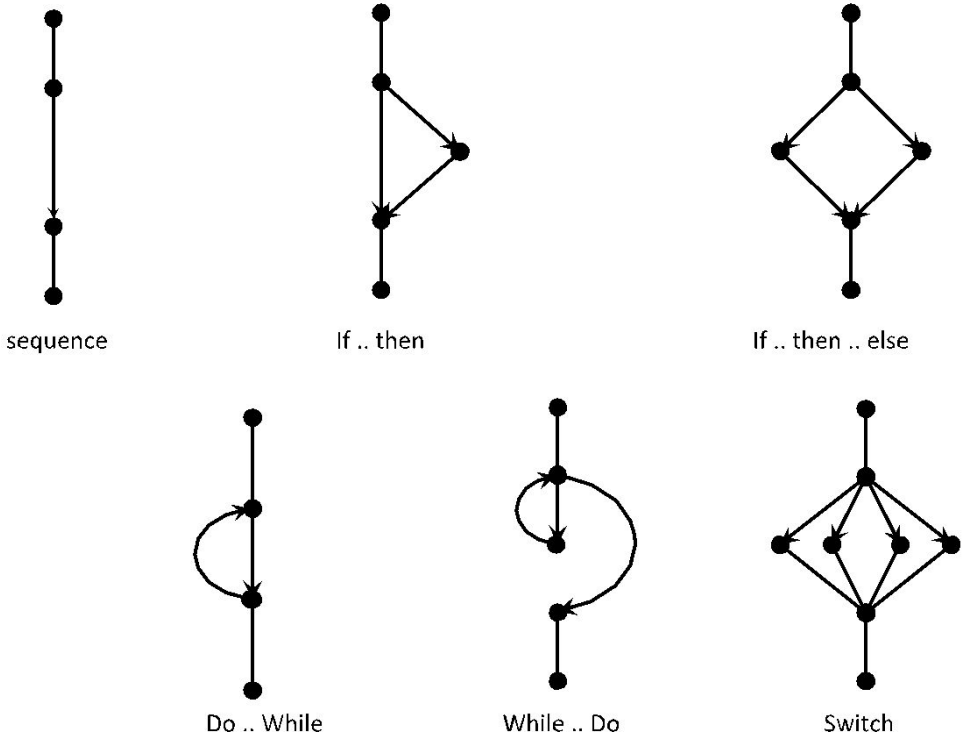
Test case	useCredit	Enough Credit	Enough Cash	Result	Coverage
1	T	T	-	Pass	--
2	F	-	T	Pass	--
3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement

Coverage

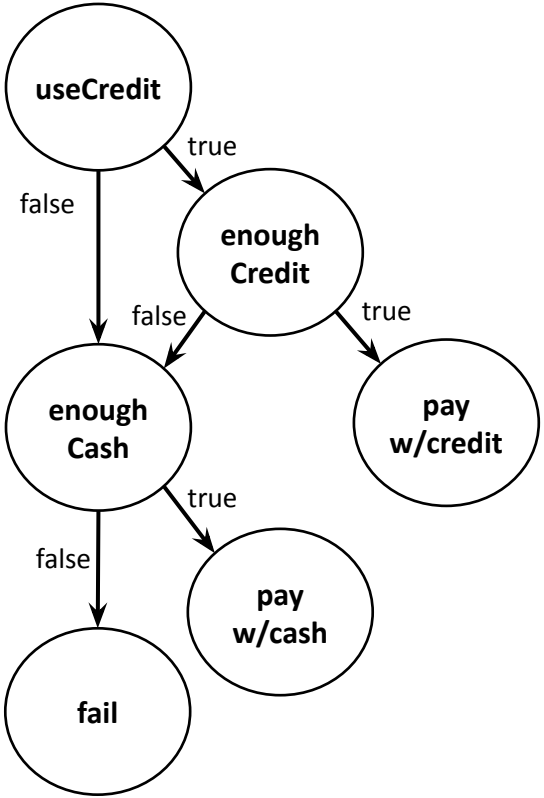
We have tested every statement; are we done?
Depends on desired **coverage**:

- Provide at least one test for distinct types of behavior
- Typically on control flow paths through the program
- Statement, branch, basis paths, MC/DC

Structures in Code



Control-Flow of CreditCard.pay()



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Test case	useCredit	Enough Credit	Enough Cash	Result	Coverage
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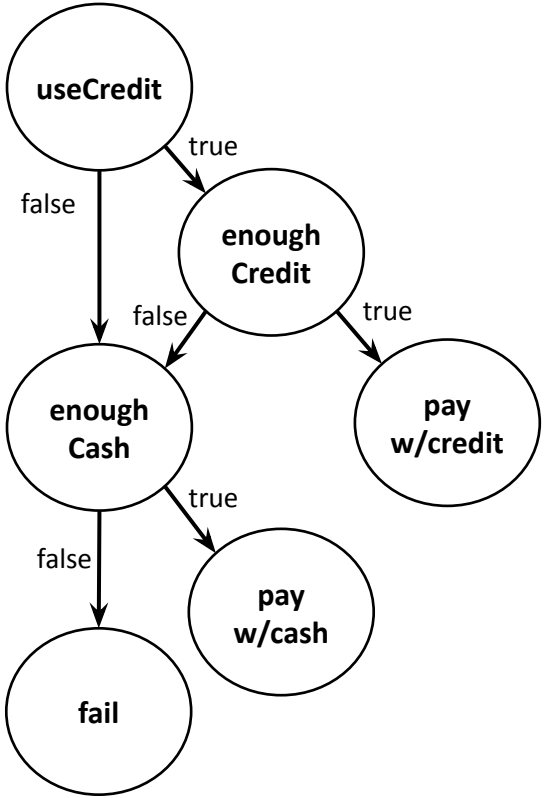

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Test case	useCredit	Enough Credit	Enough Cash	Result	Coverage
1	T	T	-	Pass	--
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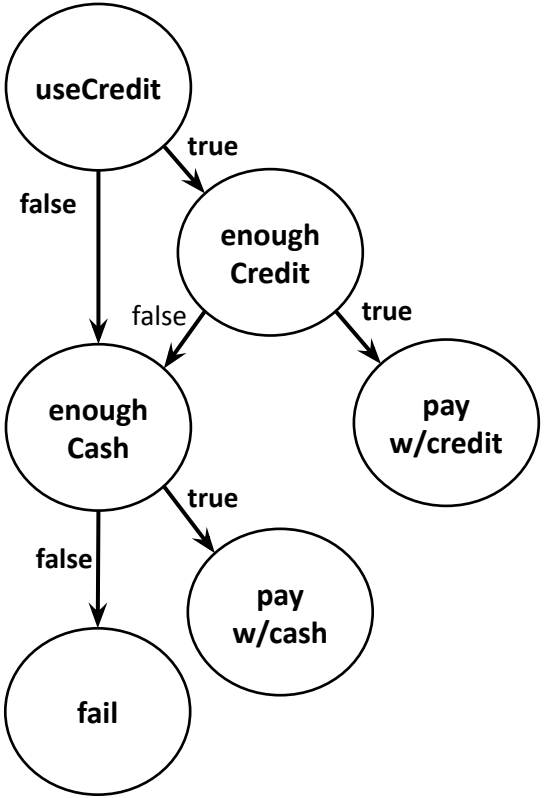


CreditWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
   if (useCredit) {
       if (enoughCredit) {
           ...
       }
   }
   else if (enoughCash) {
       ...
   }
   return false;
}
```

Test case	useCredit	Enough Credit	Enough Cash	Result	Coverage	
1	T	T	-	Pass	--	
2	F	-	T	Pass	--	
3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement	
4	T	F	T	Pass	Branch	

Path Coverage

We have seen every condition … what else is missing?

Path Coverage

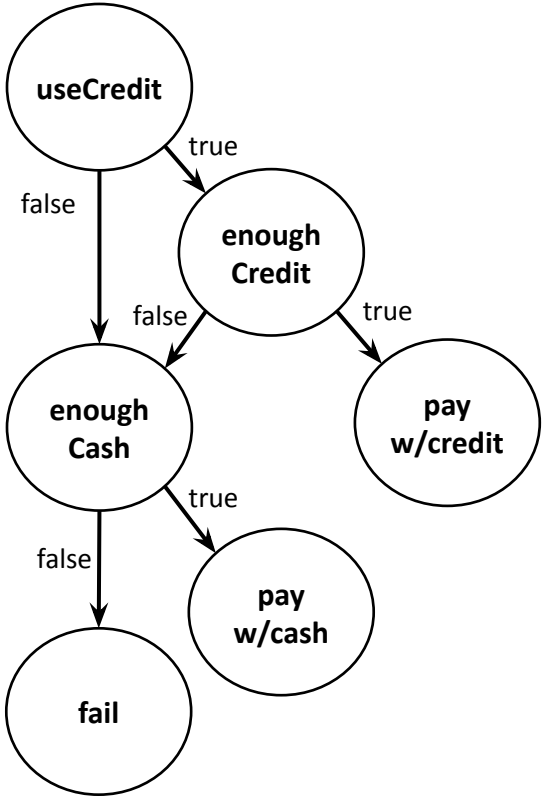
We have seen every condition … but not every path.

- 3 conditions, each with two values = 8 permutations
- Some permutations are impossible
- Still one *path* left

Control-Flow of CreditCard.pay()

Paths:

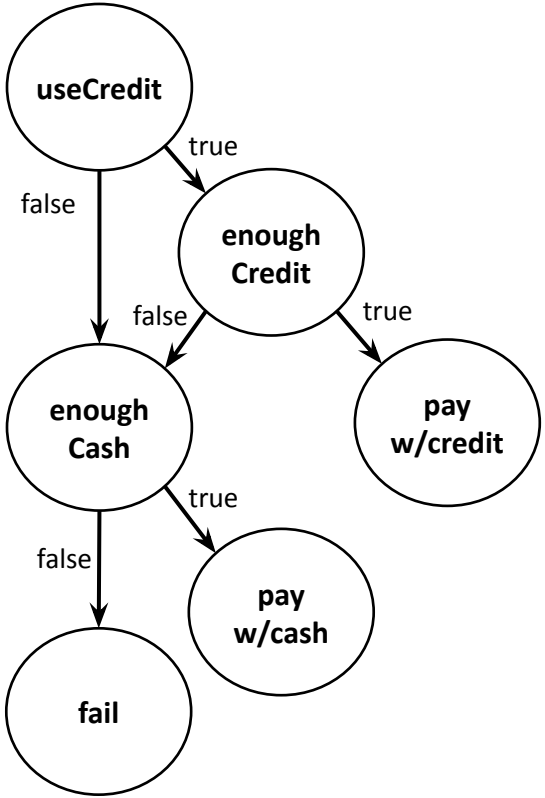
- {true, true}: pay w/credit
- {false, true}: pay w/cash
- {false, false}: fail



Control-Flow of CreditCard.pay()

Paths:

- {true, true}: pay w/credit
- {false, true}: pay w/cash
- {false, false}: fail
- {true, false, true}: pay w/cash after failing credit
- {true, false, false}: no cash or credit



CreditWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
    if (useCredit) {
        if (enoughCredit) {
            ...
        }
    }
    else if (enoughCash) {
        ...
    }
    return false;
}
```

Test case	useCredit	Enough Credit	Enough Cash	Result	Coverage
1	T	T	-	Pass	--
2	F	-	T	Pass	--
3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement
4	T	F	T	Pass	Branch
5	T	F	F	Fails	(Basis) paths

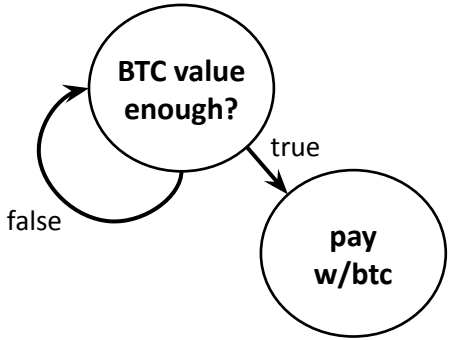
BitCoinWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    int currValue;
    while ((currValue = getValue()) < cost) {
        // Just wait.
    }
    this.btc -= cost / currValue;
    return true;
}

public int getValue() {
    return (int)
      (this.btc * Math.pow(2, 20*Math.random()));
}
```

Control-flow of BitCoinWallet.pay()

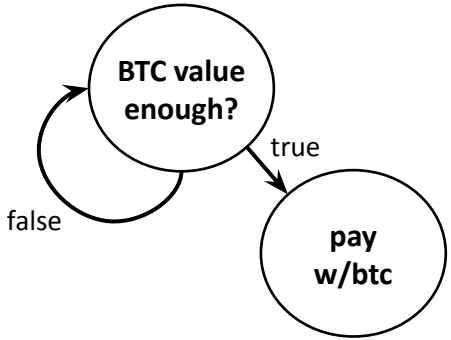
What are all the paths?



Control-flow of BitCoinWallet.pay()

What are all the paths?

- {true}
- {false, true}
- {false, false, true}
- {false, false, false, true}
- ...

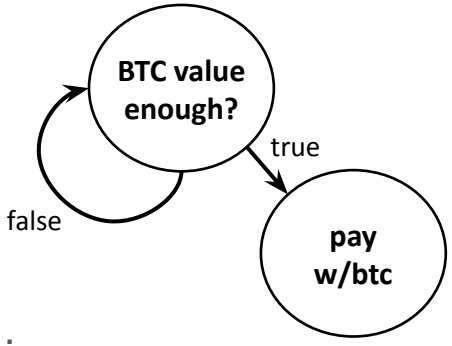


Control-flow of BitCoinWallet.pay()

Perfect “general” path coverage is elusive

But “adequate” coverage criteria exist:

- Basis paths: each path must cover one new *edge*
  - {true} and {false, true} are sufficient
  - As is just {false, true}
- Loop adequacy: iterate each loop zero, one, and 2+ times

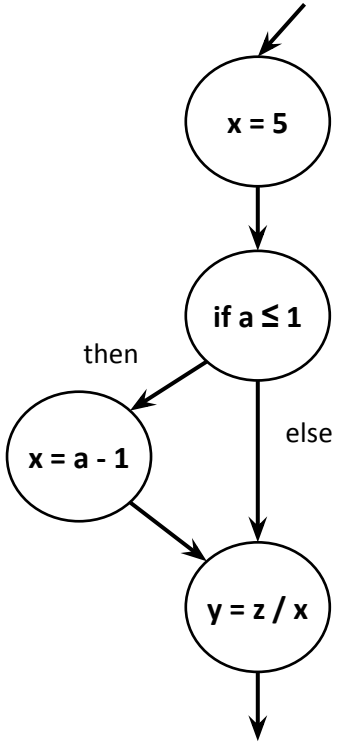


More Coverage

Many more criteria exist:

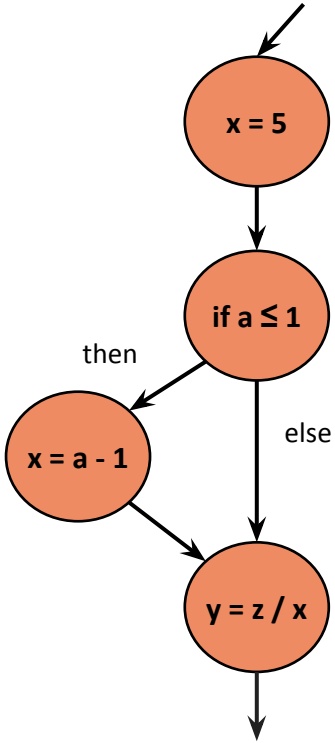
- For branches with multiple conditions
  - Modified Condition/Decision Coverage is quite popular
- For loops
  - Boundary Interior Testing
- Branch coverage is by far the most common

Coverage and Quality



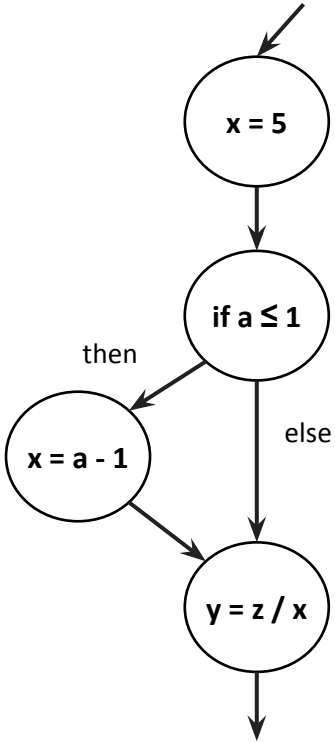
Question 1: Is there a defect?

Coverage and Quality



Question 2: Can we achieve 100% **statement** coverage and miss the defect?

Coverage and Quality



Question 3: Can we achieve 100% **branch** coverage and miss the defect?

Writing Testable Code

What is the problem with this?

```
public boolean hasHeader(String path) throws IOException {
   List<String> lines = Files.readAllLines(Path.of(path));
   return !lines.get(0).isEmpty()
}

// complete control-flow coverage!
hasHeader("cards.csv") // true
```

Writing Testable Code

What is the problem with this?

```
public boolean hasHeader(String path) throws IOException {
   List<String> lines = Files.readAllLines(Path.of(path));
   return !lines.get(0).isEmpty()
}

// to achieve a 'false' output:
try {
   Path tempFile = Files.createTempFile(null, null);
   Files.write(tempFile,"\n".getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8));
   hasHeader(tempFile.toFile().getAbsolutePath()); // false
} catch (IOException e) {
   e.printStackTrace();
}
```

Writing Testable Code

Exercise: rewrite to make this easier

- And: what would you test?

```
public boolean hasHeader(String path) throws IOException {
   List<String> lines = Files.readAllLines(Path.of(path));
   return !lines.get(0).isEmpty()
}
```

Structural Testing

Coverage is useful, but no substitute for your insight

- You may be testing buggy code
  - (add regression tests)
- Cannot capture all paths
  - Especially beyond “unit”
  - Write testable code
- Aim for at least branch coverage
  - And think through scenarios that demand more

Outline

- Structural Testing Strategies
- **Specification Testing Strategies**

Back to Specification Testing

What would you test differently in this situation?

- Previously identified five paths through the code. Are there still?
- Should we test anything new?

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
  * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
  * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
  */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```

Back to Specification Testing

What would you test differently in this situation?

- “if useCredit is set and enough credit is available”:
  - Test both true, either/both false
- “pays with cash if enough cash is available; otherwise”:
  - Test true, false
- Could to this with three test cases

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
  * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
  * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
  */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```

Specification Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

Specification Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Random: avoids bias, but inefficient
  - Yet potentially *very* valuable, because automatable
  - Not for today

Boundary Value Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Boundary Value Testing: errors often occur at boundary conditions
  - E.g.:

```
/** Returns true and subtracts cost if enough
  * money is available, false otherwise.
  */
public boolean pay(int cost) {
   if (cost < this.money) {
       this.money -= cost;
       return true;
   }
   return false;
}
```

Boundary Value Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Boundary Value Testing: errors often occur at boundary conditions
  - Identify equivalence partitions: regions where behavior should be the same
    - `cost <= money: true, cost > money: false`
    - Boundary value: `cost == money`

```
/** Returns true and subtracts cost if enough
  * money is available, false otherwise.
  */
public boolean pay(int cost) {
   if (cost < this.money) {
       this.money -= cost;
       return true;
   }
   return false;
}
```

Boundary Value Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Boundary Value Testing: errors often occur at boundary conditions
  - Select: a nominal/normal case, a boundary value, and an abnormal case
  - Useful for few *categories* of behavior (e.g., null/not-null) per value
- Test: `cost < credit`, `cost == credit`, `cost > credit`, `cost < cash`, `cost == cash`, `cost > cash`

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
  * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
  * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
  */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```

Combinatorial Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Combinatorial Testing: focus on tuples of boundary values
  - Captures bugs in **interactions** between risky inputs
  - Rarely need to test pairs of “invalid” values (cost too high for credit & cash)

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
  * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
  * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
  */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```

Combinatorial Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Combinatorial Testing: focus on tuples of boundary values
  - Captures bugs in **interactions** between risky inputs
  - Rarely need to test pairs of “invalid” values (cost too high for credit & cash)
- Include: {cost > credit && cost == cash}
- Maybe: {cost < credit && cost == cash}

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
  * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
  * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
  */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```

Decision Tables

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Decision Tables
  - You've seen one already
  - Enumerate condition options
    - Leave out impossibles
    - Identify "don't-matter" values
  - Useful for redundant input domains

Test case	useCredit	Enough Credit	Enough Cash	Result
1	T	T	-	Pass
2	F	-	T	Pass
3	F	-	F	Fails
4	T	F	T	Pass
5	T	F	F	Fails

Specification Tests

So what is the right granularity?

- It depends
- We are still aiming for coverage
  - Just of specifications, and their innumerable implementations
  - BVA (& its cousins), decision tables tend to provide good coverage

Structural Testing vs. Specification Testing

You will ***typically have both*** code & (prose) specification

- Test specification, but know that it can be underspecified
- Test implementation, but not to the point that it cannot change
- Use testing strategies that leverage both
  - There is a fair bit of overlap; e.g., BVA yields useful branch coverage

Further Testing Strategies

Many more aspects, some later in this course:

- Stubbing/Mocking, to avoid testing dependencies
- Integration testing: scenarios that span units
- Beyond correctness: performance, security

Summary

Testing comprehensively is hard

- Tailor to your task: specification vs. structural testing
  - Do not assume unstated specifications for part 2; spend your energy wisely in part 3
- Pick a strategy, or a few
  - Be systematic; defend your decisions
- Tomorrow's recitation covers:
  - Unit test best practices
  - Test organization
  - Running tests, coverage; Travis setup