Looking out for Test-driven Development Gotchas



Jason Olson Staff Software Engineer

@jolson88 www.jolson88.com

Overview



Testing anti-patterns

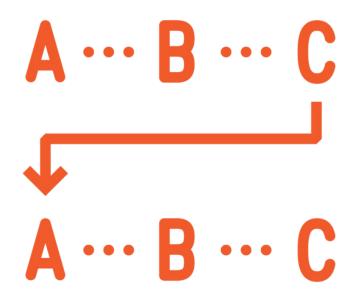
Test-driven development limitations

Common questions



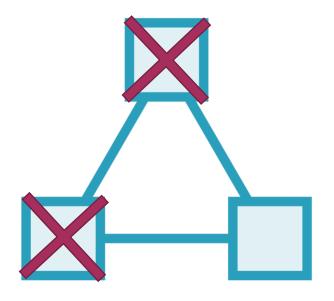
Testing Anti-patterns

Anti-pattern: Dependencies between Tests



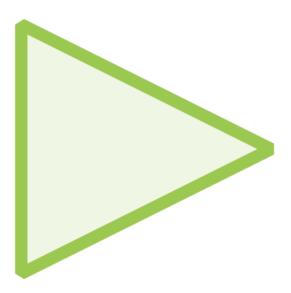
Test Ordering

Order of tests should not matter



Cascading Failures

Cascading failures can be difficult to track down



Execution

Tests should work regardless of serial vs. parallel execution



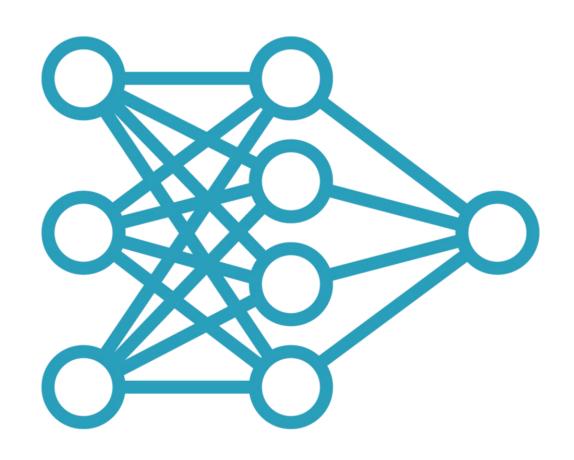
Anti-pattern: Testing Implementation Details

Focus on the "what", not the "how"

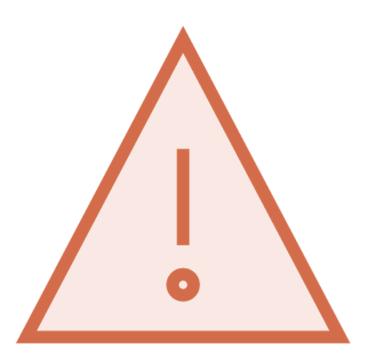
Testing the "how" leads to brittle code when refactoring



Anti-pattern: Long-running Tests



Warning sign that code might be too coupled



Warning sign that code might not be very testable



Anti-pattern: Long-running Tests











Limitations of Test-driven Development

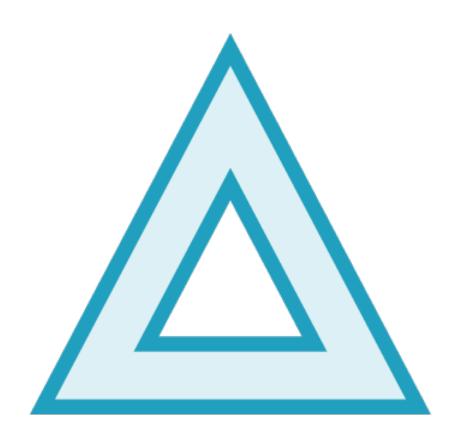


Possible holes in tests

"What does every bug in production have in common?"

- Joe Armstrong, Erlang Co-Creator

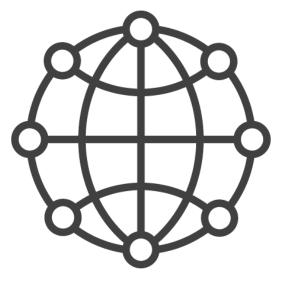




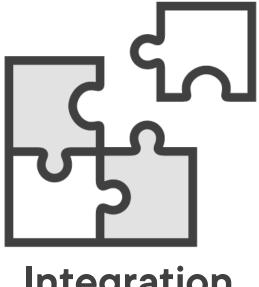
TDD is not sufficient by itself



Deployment Verification



Network Changes



Integration Testing





Management support is vital

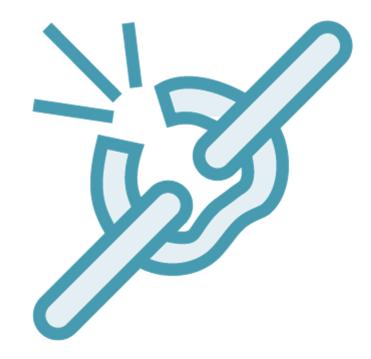


Common Questions

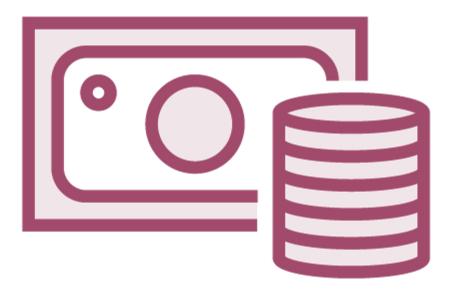
Is Agile Required for TDD?



Requirements verification



Regression catching



Lower maintenance costss



Test-driven Development Shines within an Agile Process



Do I Need to Write Tests First?



Avoid over-engineering



Momentum

Not Always...



Confidence

Test-driven Development Is About Delivering Value



Summary

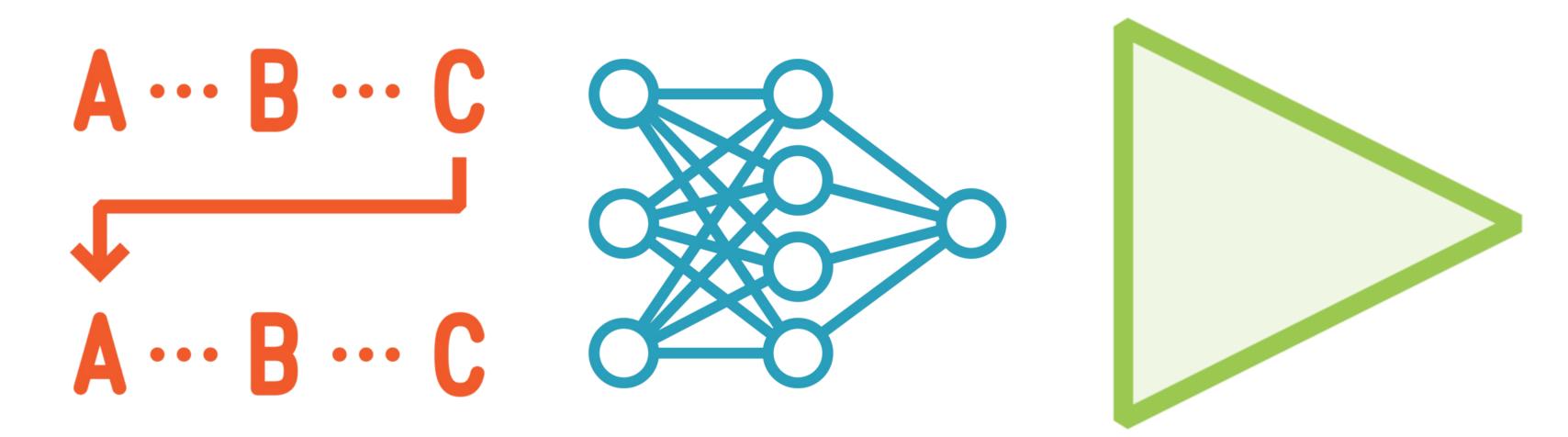


Testing anti-patterns

Test-driven development limitations

Common questions

Testing Anti-patterns



Dependencies between tests

Testing implementation details

Long-running tests



Test-driven Development Limitations



Possible holes in tests

Test-driven development won't solve all your problems by itself...



TDD is not sufficient by itself



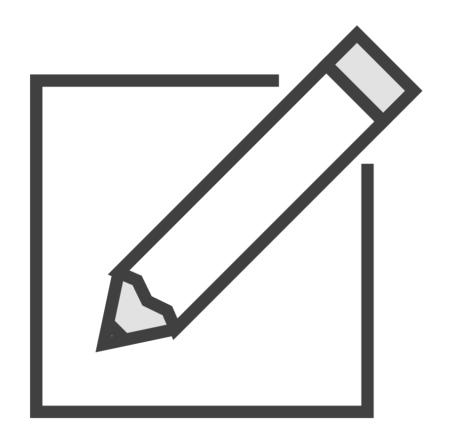
Management support is vital



Common Questions







Do I need to write my tests first?



Test-driven Development Is About Delivering Value

