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Java Path finder

01 January, 2023



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What's JPF ?



A VM Supporting Model Checking

Operates on Java bytecode

It handles instructions generated by a standard Java compiler. It can test an **entire system** or small portions of code, through usage of **Java Annotations**

Explores all possible Execution Paths

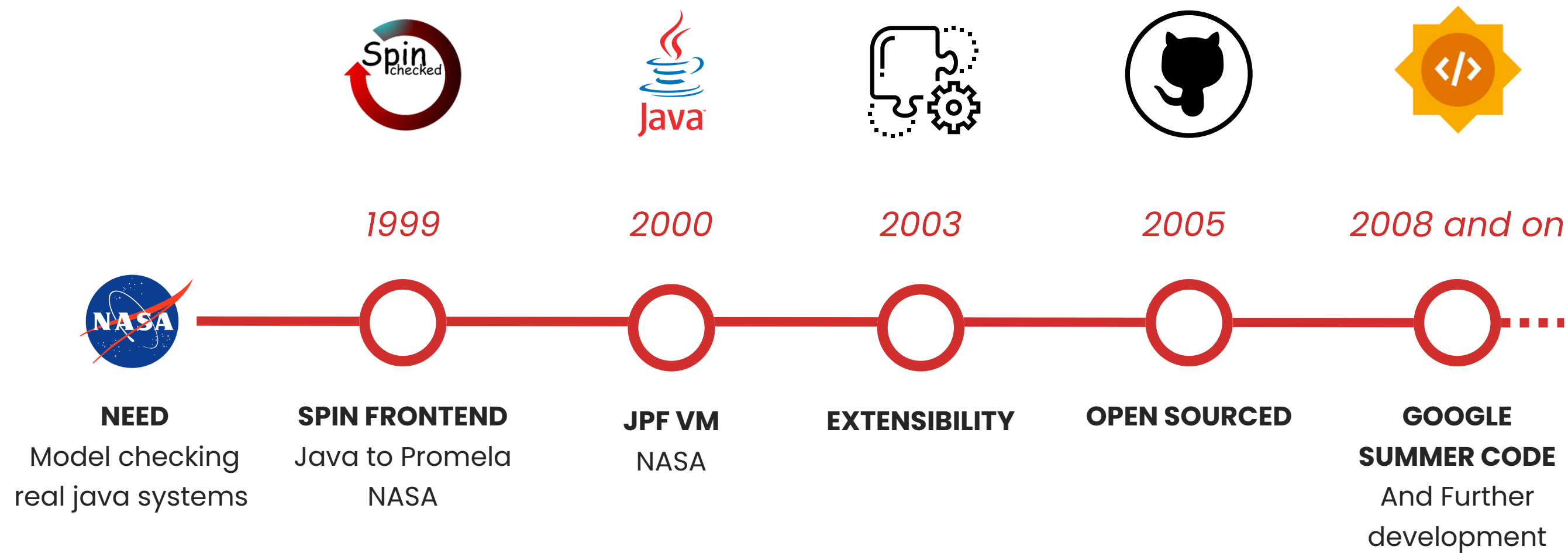
JPF identifies **execution choices**, or points in which the execution of the system under test could diverge

A tool for Mission Critical Applications

In some scenarios, we cannot afford to learn about defects after deployment. As of now, there are defects that can be only identified through JPF.



Timeline





Key Features

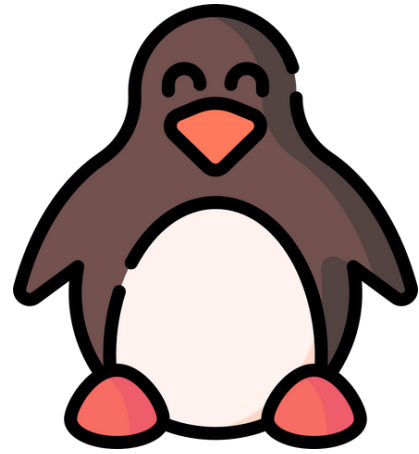
- 🔑 Explicit State Model Checking
- 🔑 Symbolic Execution
- 🔑 State Matching
- 🔑 Backtracking
- 🔑 Partial Order Reduction
- 🔑 Extensibility



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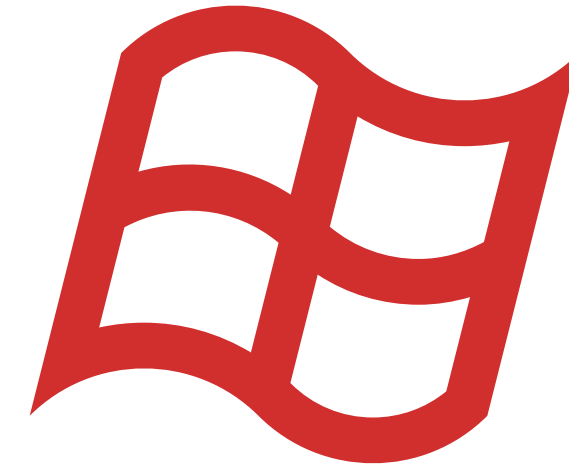
Install & Config





Linux

Fairly **quick and easy** process, the better alternative



Windows

We recommend using **WSL**



Preliminary Steps

Download JDK

Make sure to download the correct version of the Java Development Kit. As of now, **JDK 11** is the right version, but since it is subject to change, refer to the official JPF Github page

Download Git

Verify that **Git** is installed on your machine before proceeding to the installation steps

Set up Environment Variables

Ensure that **JAVA_HOME** has been created as a new environment variable, and that **Git** has been added to the **Path** environment variable



Installation Steps

1. Clone the JPF GitHub Repository

Navigate to the desired folder, and then input the following command:

```
git clone https://github.com/javapathfinder/jpf-core.git
```

2. Run the Gradle script

Navigate to the `jpf-core` subdirectory and run the `gradlew` script in a shell:

```
./gradlew
```

3. Set up the Environment Variables

You must now add a new environment variable, `JPF_HOME`, pointing to the `jpf-core` directory, and adding `jpf` as a system wide command:

- Open `.bashrc` in nano to edit it
- Add `export JPF_HOME=/<path_to_jpf>/jpf`
- Add `export PATH="$PATH:/<path_to_jpf>/jpf-core/bin"`
- Apply changes with `source ~/.bashrc`



Installation Steps

4. Create the site.properties file

- Navigate to user/home and create the hidden directory .jpf
- Within this directory, create a file names site.properties
- Assuming the jpf-core folder is a subdirectory of user/home/jpf, edit the file to include the following content:

```
# JPF site configuration
jpf-core=${user.home}/jpf/jpf-core
extensions=${jpf-core}
```

Notice – RAM Limitations

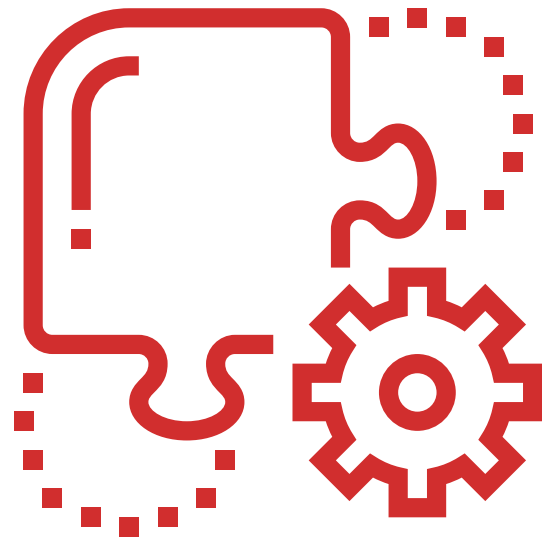
JPF is not a lightweight system. Some machines, especially embedded systems, may struggle to run it. Ensure that your machine has more RAM than that required to host a Java Virtual Machine



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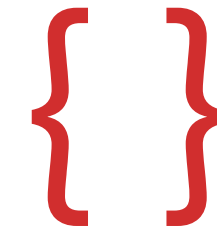


Using JPF



Basic JPF Structure

Model Java Interface



System under testing

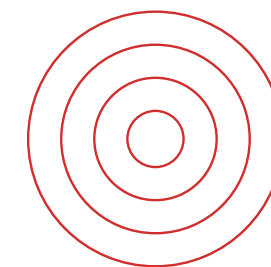


Java Path finder VM



Java virtual Machine

Java Native Interface



Operating System



Program run by JPF

Being JPF itself a VM it runs java code.

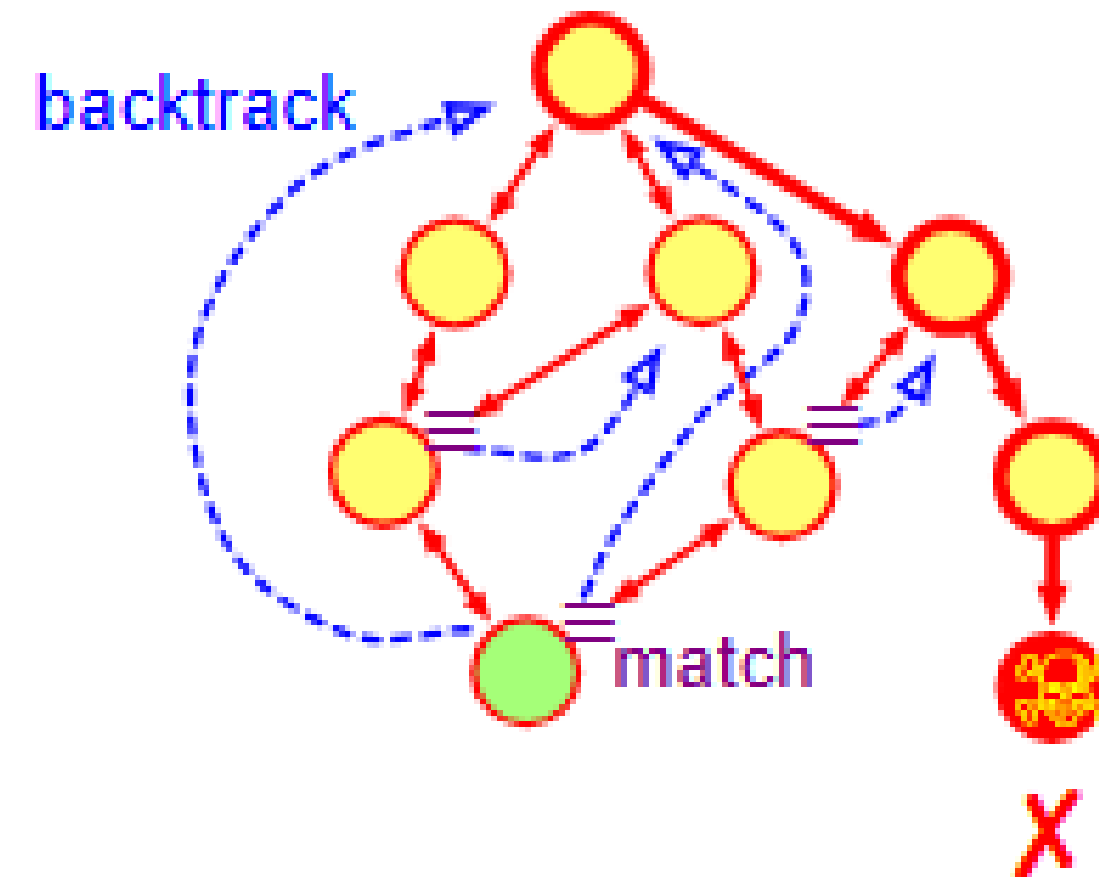
This is crazy because it brings the power of model checking to a real programming language and real software!

```
24 static class Philosopher extends Thread {
25
26     Fork left;
27     Fork right;
28
29     public Philosopher(Fork left, Fork right) {
30         this.left = left;
31         this.right = right;
32         //start();
33     }
34
35     @Override
36     public void run() {
37         // think!
38         synchronized (left) {
39             synchronized (right) {
```



What's the matter?

JPF Performs model checking on the code execution, reaching all possible states.



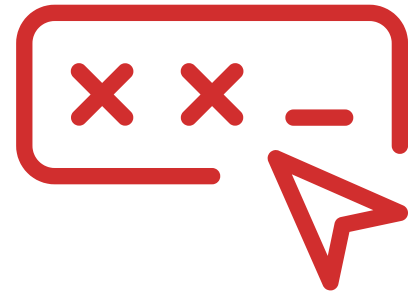


Explored domains



Scheduling Sequences

Concurrent application are testable because we can control the scheduler.



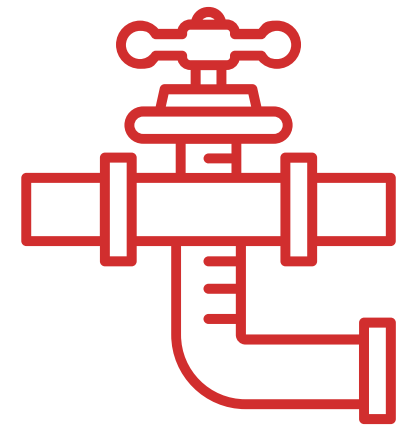
Input Variation

Similar to systematic testing, it allows, through heuristics to test all the significant input spectrum.



Environment Changes

JPF can simulate environment events, enabling model checking for application like IoT or Web

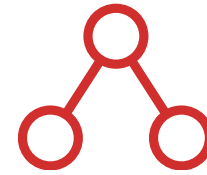


Control Flow

It automatically check all the branches of your code for running hidden parts of it.

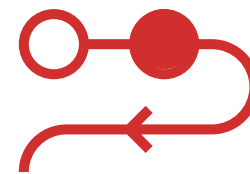
Program types

JPF is a very flexible tool and can be used with different types of program



JPF Dependent program

The basic use is testing specific models and algorithm implemented in Java.



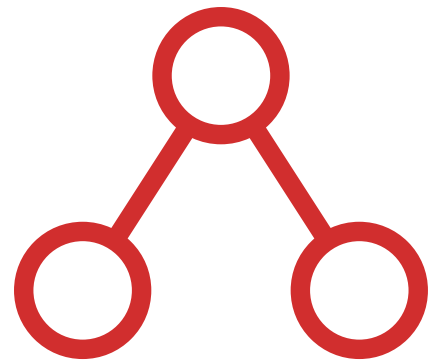
JPF Enabled programs

Programs that have only some parts that must be model checked



JPF Unaware programs

Finally JPF can model check entire java programs that have been separately designed!



JPF Dependent

What

Testing specific models and algorithm implemented in Java, written for being tested with JPF.

Also, it takes less resources than checking real programs

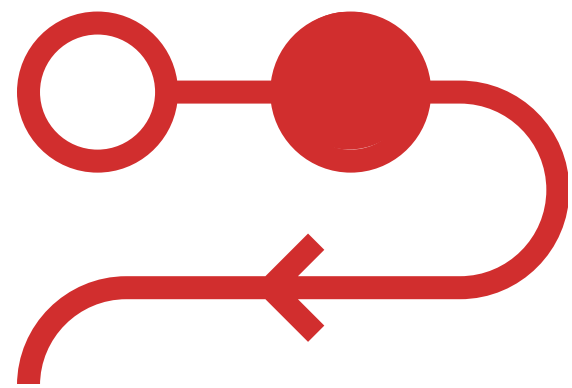
Why

JPF Allow you to have control over scheduling, finding race conditions

How

By being a VM, JPF can check any algorithm.

Moreover there are specific JPF Annotations and methods for implementing specific checks.



JPF Enabled

What

Problem where only a part of the code is going to be model checked

Why

Model checking is resource expensive, testing entire programs may be not ideal.
You can test only part of a program.

How

Through annotation (e.g. @NonNull and many others) which JPF Recognizes and checks.



JPF Unaware

What

Normal java code, of any type.

Why

To test in a deeper way than any other testing system.

How

JPF Being a VM can run any program, and model check them.

Notice that it will be slower than running on JVM, and that big program may lead to state explosion.



Running JPF

JPF run every program similarly to how you run any java program

Invoking JPF

JPF is invoked through the jpf command

```
~$ jpf <...>
```

The alternative syntax, without storing jpf into the path is

```
~$ java -jar <jpf-core-dir>/build/RunJPF.jar <...>
```



Running JPF

JPF run every program similarly to how you run any java program

Command line

The most basic way of running jpf

```
~$ jpf <main class>
```

If the class is outside the configured project class path it can be specified

```
~$ jpf +classpath=<class-path> <main class>
```

Notice that other properties are specifiable, but this is not the correct place to do it



Running JPF

JPF run every program similarly to how you
run any java program

Example

```
~$ ls
```

```
HelloWorld.java
```

```
~$ jpf +classpath=. HelloWorld
```



.jpf Files to run it

Although you can run JPF like this, the correct way is different.

A .jpf file must be created

Create a .JPF File

```
~$ nano <name>.jpf
```

```
target = <main class>
```

```
classpath = <class-path>
```

The classpath can be absolute or relative to the .jpf file location

Execution

```
~$ jpf <JPF file>
```



.jpf Files to run it

Although you can run JPF like this, the correct way is different.

A .jpf file must be created

Example

Only the first time

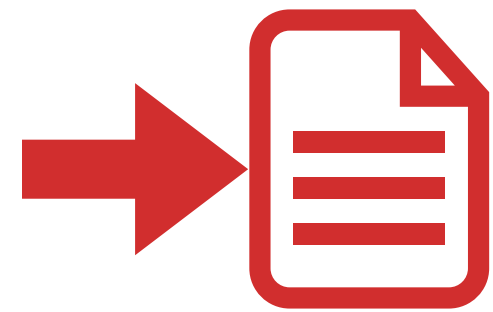
```
~$ nano TestingHelloWorld.jpf
```

```
target = HelloWorld
```

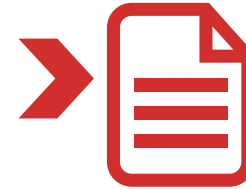
```
classpath = ~/projects/difficulty/hard/
```

Every time

```
~$ jpf TestingHelloWorld.jpf
```

Outputs



System Under Testing

This output come from the system under testing, and depends on what that systems prints out.



Reports

This is the core of JPF output, and practically essential to make the model checking significative.



Logging

Won't go into details: it is possible to log with standard java loggers, the internal mechanism of JPF.
There are various level of details.



S.U.D. Output

This output come from the system under testing, and depends on what that systems prints out.

Notice that it print everything even when backtracking!

Code

```
public class Rand {  
    public static void main (String[] args) {  
        Random random = new Random(42);  
  
        int a = random.nextInt(2);  
        System.out.println("a=" + a);  
  
        int b = random.nextInt(3);  
        System.out.println(" b=" + b);  
  
        int c = a/(b+a -2);  
        System.out.println("  c=" + c);  
    }  
}
```

Java Output

```
$ java Rand.java
```

```
a = 1
```

```
  b = 0
```

```
    c = -1
```

```
$ java Rand.java
```

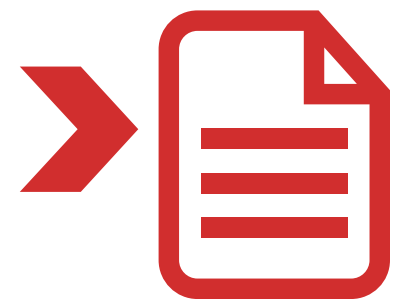
```
a = 0
```

```
  b = 1
```

```
    c = 0
```

```
$ java Rand.java
```

```
....
```



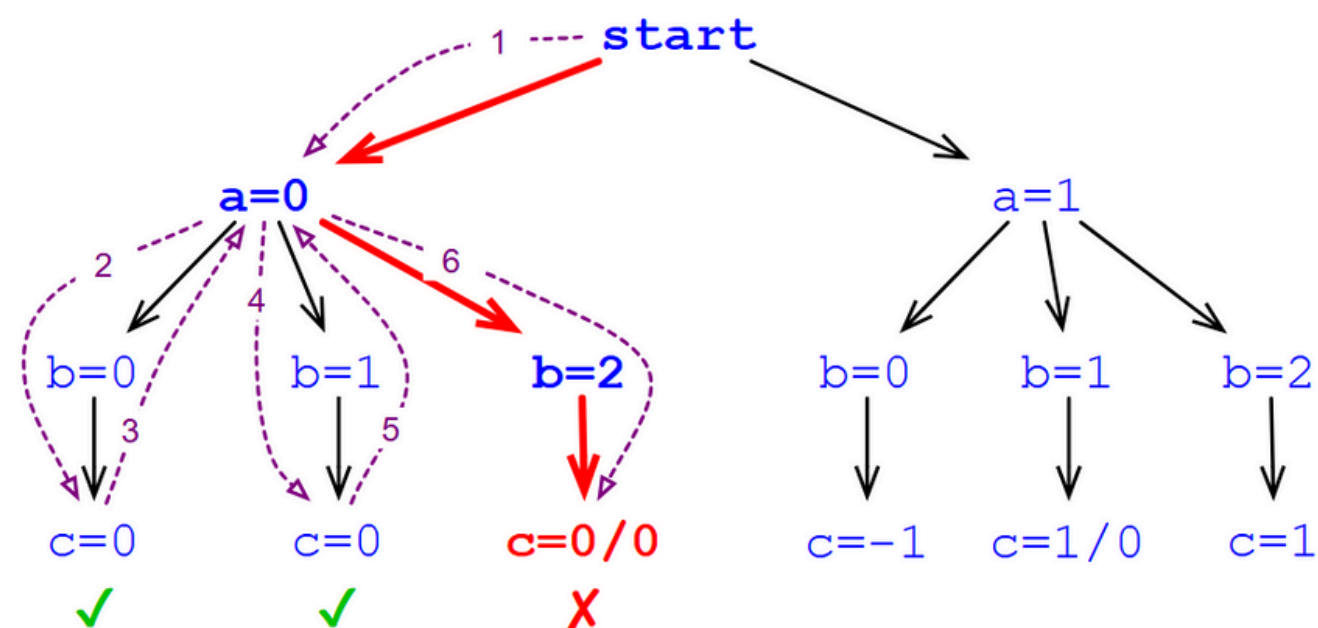
S.U.D. Output

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Code

```
public class Rand {  
    public static void main (String[] args) {  
        Random random = new Random(42);  
  
        int a = random.nextInt(2);  
        System.out.println("a=" + a);  
  
        int b = random.nextInt(3);  
        System.out.println(" b=" + b);  
  
        int c = a/(b+a -2);  
        System.out.println("  c=" + c);  
    }  
}
```



JPF "Tree" Output

```
$ jpf Rand.jpf
```

```
a=0
```

```
  b=0
```

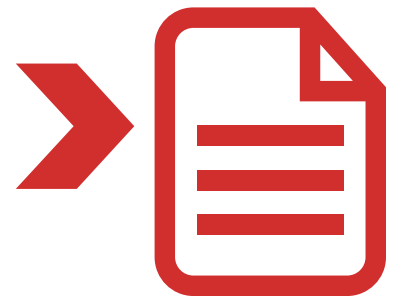
```
    c=0
```

```
  b=1
```

```
    c=0
```

```
  b=2
```

```
Error
```



S.U.D. Output

This output come from the system under testing, and depends on what that systems prints out.

Notice that it print everything even when backtracking!

Code

```
public class Rand {  
    public static void main (String[] args) {  
        Random random = new Random(42);  
  
        int a = random.nextInt(2);  
        System.out.println("a=" + a);  
  
        int b = random.nextInt(3);  
        System.out.println(" b=" + b);  
  
        int c = a/(b+a -2);  
        System.out.println("  c=" + c);  
    }  
}
```

JPF "Path" Output

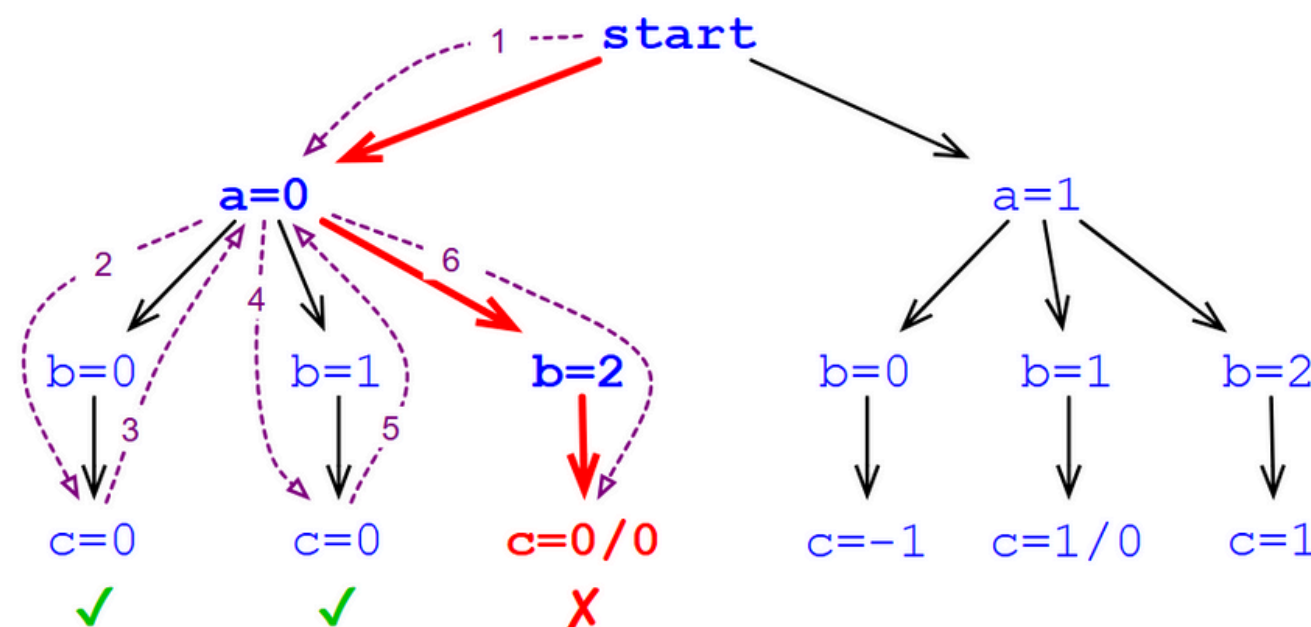
\$ **jpf** Rand.jpf

a=0

b=2

Error

The path output stores the output and print only the output of the path that create the error!





Report Output

This is the core of JPF output, and practically essential to make the model checking significant.

Supports: Text, XML, API Calls
Target: IDE

Output phases

Start

Configurations	Date-Time	<u>Versioning</u>
Platform	<u>SUT Class</u>	User

Transition

Statistics

Probe

<u>Statistics</u>	Probe interval
-------------------	----------------

Property Violation

<u>Error</u>	Snapshot
Output	Statistics
Trace (config, code, location, method, source steps)	

Constraints

<u>Constraint</u>	<u>Snapshot</u>	
Statistics	Output	Trace

Finished

Statistics

Example report

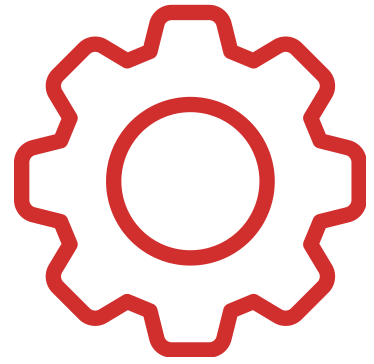
Start (versioning, SUT), Transition (Statistics),
Property Violation (error, trace)

```
JavaPathFinder core system v8.0 ...

===== search started: 30/02/2025
Hello World!
===== statistics
elapsed time: 00:00:00
states:      new=1, visited=1, backtracked=0, end=0
search:      maxDepth=3, constraints=0
choice generators, heap, instructions,
max memory, loaded code

Now I am going to perform 3/0 =
===== error 1
gov.nasa.jpf.vm.NoUncaughtExceptionProperty
java.lang.ArithmeticException: division by zero
    at UncaughtException.main (UncaughtEception.java:3)

=====trace #1
----- transition #0 thread: 0
HelloWorld.java:4
System.out.println("Hello World!");
HelloWorld.java:5
if(true) {
----- transition #1 thread: 0
HelloWorld.java:5
if(true) {
HelloWorld.java:6
    System.out.print(3/0);
```



JPF and JUnit Tests

We can run JPF verification directly **inside** a standard **JUnit test class**

The Test Class

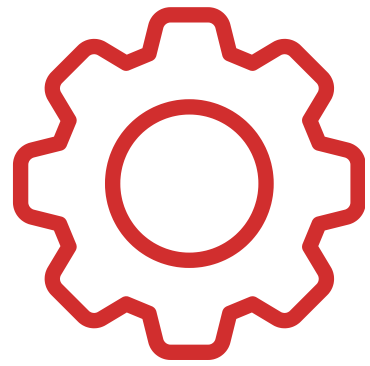
JPF already uses JUnit as internal testing infrastructure. We can exploit this to write our own custom test classes

```
import gov.nasa.jpf.util.test.JPFTestSuite;
import org.junit.Test;

public class MyTest extends TestJPF {

    @Test
    public void testSomeFunction() {
        if (verifyNoPropertyViolation(jpfOptions))
        {
            someFuntction();
        }
    }
}
```

The function within the class will be **tested by JPF**



JPF and JUnit Tests

We can run these test classes simply by **command line**

```
bin/test <test-class> [<test-method>]
```

Which in turn call the executable **java -jar tools/RunTest.jar**

We can also specify temporary JPF properties, for example, using a specific listener

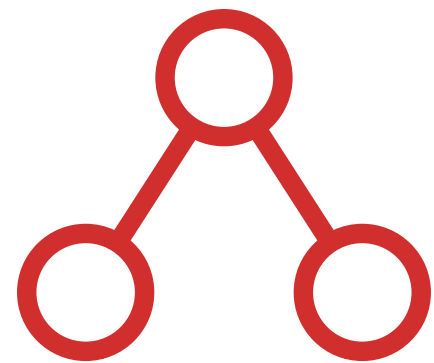
```
bin/test+test.listener=.listener.ExecTracker gov.nasa.jpf.test.mc.basic.AttrsTest
```



Launch From Within a Program

JPF can be **launched** directly inside a JAVA program, and its output can be used **in the program flow itself**

```
public class MyJPFLauncher {  
    ...  
    public static void main(String[] args){  
        ..  
        try {  
            Config conf = JPF.createConfig(args);  
            conf.setProperty("my.property", "whatever");  
            MyListener myListener = ...  
            JPF jpf = new JPF(conf);  
            jpf.addListener(myListener);  
            jpf.run();  
            if (jpf.foundErrors()){  
                }  
        } catch (JPFConfigException cx){  
            }  
        } catch (JPFException jx){  
            }  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Coding JPF Dependent

Annotations

@JPFConfig(...) allow to add per-method configurations
@FilteredField allow to specify variable as non relevant for states
@Nonnull @NonShared @Immutable @Requires

Verify API

Enable to verify explicit behavior

Data Choice Generators

```
boolean cond = Verify.getBoolean()  
int d = Verify.getInt(0, 100); ....
```

Search Pruning

```
Verify.ignoreIf(condition );
```

State Annotation

```
Verify.interesting(condition)  
if(condition) { Verify.setAnnotation("label"); }
```

Atomicity Control

```
Verify.beingAtomic() ---- 1 transition only -----> Verify.endAtomic();
```



JPF Properties

JPF is not a monolithic solution, and should be configured to better fit our needs. Its properties are the **main configuration mechanism**

What are JPF Properties

Each property is a **key - value** statement, presented in the following format:

key = value

For example, consider the file presented in slide 23, reported here:

```
~$ nano <name>.jpf
```

```
target = <main class>
```

```
classpath = <class-path>
```

These are both JPF properties



Property Types

There are **three** different property **files**, each containing properties of the corresponding type. These files are referenced into a single dictionary object, the **Config file** (jpf-core/gov/nasa/jpf)

Site Properties

Comprised of properties in the form of **<name> = <directory>**.

A peculiar key is **extensions**, which can have as values a comma separated series of jpf-core modules and user made extensions.

It is **mandatory** to have `{jpf-core}` listed in the extension key

Project Properties

Each JPF module, either core or extension, contains a jpf.properties file. The project property file defines the **JPF specific paths** that need to be set for the module to **work properly**. The relevant keys are:

1. **native_classpath**
2. **classpath**
3. **test_classpath**
4. **sourcepath**

Application Properties

Identify the path of the **system to be tested** and specific properties on **how to run the test**



Application Properties

First Level of properties. Used to identify the system under test and to define how to run the test itself

Location

User Defined

Uses

Identification of the SUT path

Personalizing testing options

Mandatory Properties

```
target = MyClass
```

```
classpath = <MyClass_path>
```

Other Properties

For examples, randomizing the order with which JPF chooses which branch to take

```
cg.enumerate_random = true
```

```
cg.randomize_choices = true
```



Application Properties

Application properties can also be set by command line directly as properties of the jpf executable

Uses

Overriding properties in the application properties file
Convenient for quickly switching between useful property values

Syntax

```
cg.enumerate_random += true
```



Application Properties

Note

To gain access to JPF application properties that regard randomization, JPF requires access to the `java.util.Random` library.

However, this seems to be a problem if using the version of JPF currently featured on the official GitHub page.

Solution

Go to the `jpf-core/bin` directory, and open the `jpf` script with `nano`. Paste this command at the end of the script

```
java \  
  --add-exports java.base/jdk.internal.misc=ALL-UNNAMED \  
  --add-opens java.base/jdk.internal.misc=ALL-UNNAMED \  
  -jar $JPF_HOME/build/RunJPF.jar "$@"
```



Project Properties

Third level of properties.
Used to configure but also build any project

Location

jpf-core root directory

Uses

Configuration of a project run by a specific jpf version

Building a specific jpf version

Properties

```
jpf-core.native_classpath = [jpf path]
```

```
jpf-core.classpath = [bytecode to be model checked]
```

```
jpf-core.sourcepath = [sources to be model checked]
```

Others

Other default setting for lower levels



Site Properties

Fourth level of properties,
basically at O.S. Level

Location

User home/.jpf/site.properties

```
System.out.println(System.getProperty("user.home"));
```

Uses

Configuration valid for the user executing jpf in the os

Extensions

Properties

```
jpf-core = [path to jpf-core]
```

```
jpf-extension-name = [path to another extension]
```

```
...
```

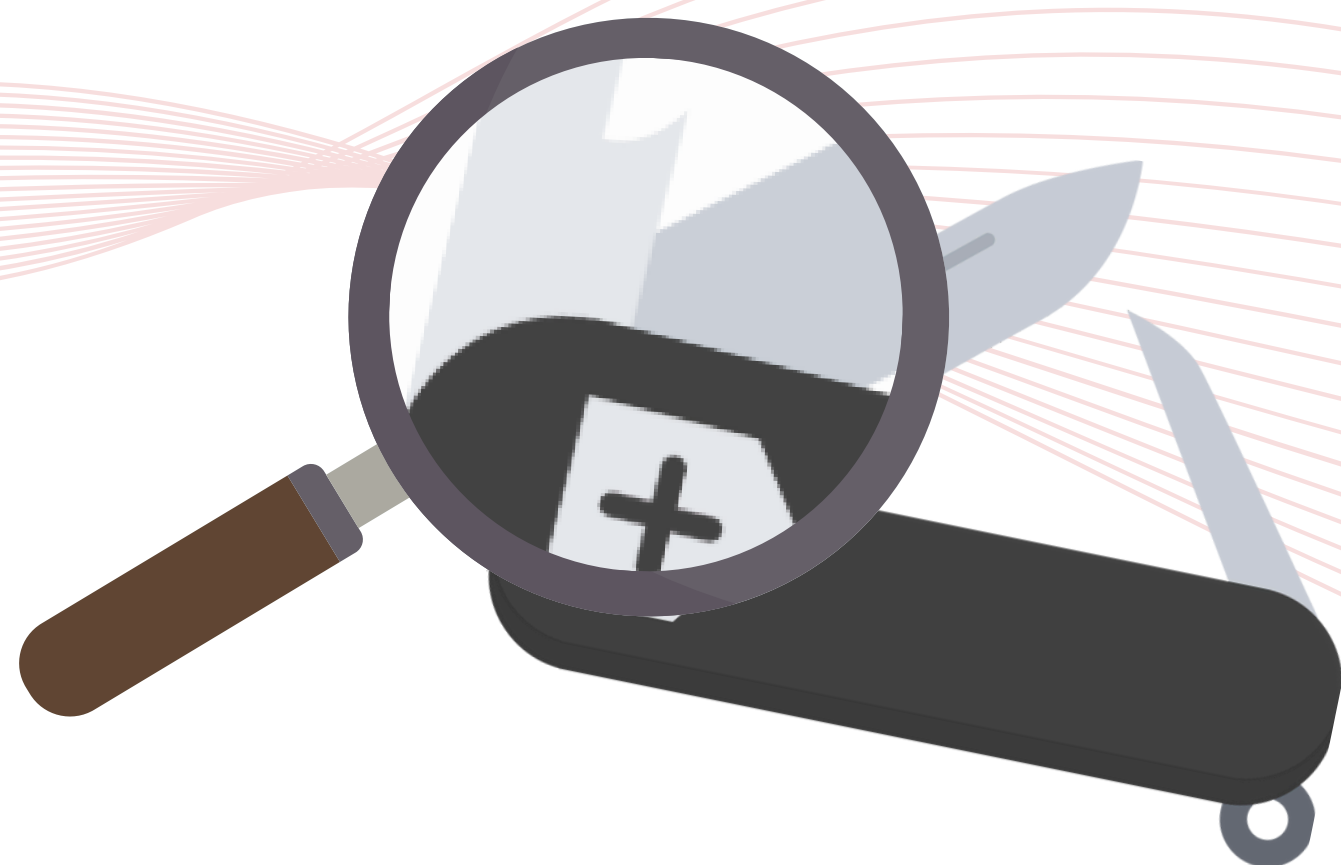
```
extensions = ${jpf-core}, ${jpf-extension-name}, ...
```

Others

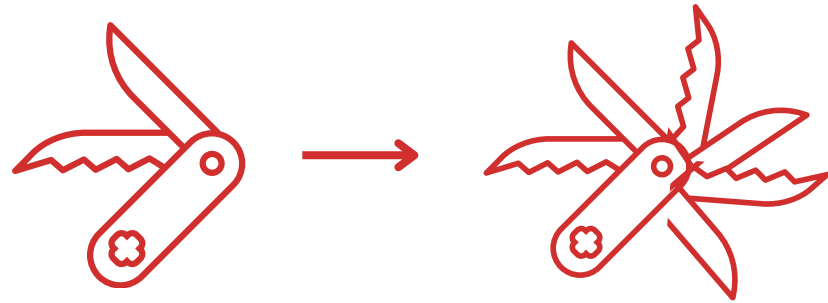
Other default setting for lower levels



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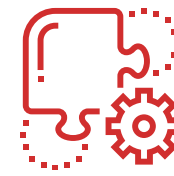
JPF Exposed



Unlocking Full Power

JPF is Open Source and highly **extensible**.

To extend it we need to have a look under the hood.



Off-the-shell extensions

There are lot of extensions that fits wide range of needs



JPF Under the hood

Checking what's under the hood enable us to unlock the full potential



(Custom) Properties verification

JPF become **not only for java errors!**
We might check specific (custom?) properties!



Some extensions

Virtually infinite, here there are a few that might be interesting, even if they are out of the scope of understanding jpf itself.

jpf-core

Standard jpf

jpf-probabilistic

Jpf that consider the markov process underneath randomized algorithms.

jpf-symbc

Jpf for symbolic execution

jpf-aprop

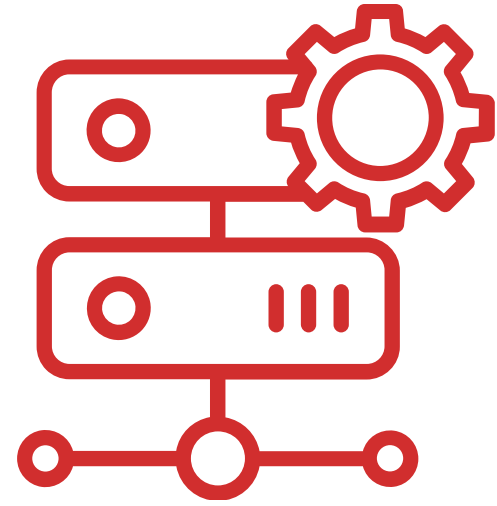
Jpf with annotation based program properties

jpf-nhandler

Support running part of the code on the native JVM

BenchExec

Execute benchmark and resource management



Understanding JPF Design

JPF is designed with **two principal components** in mind

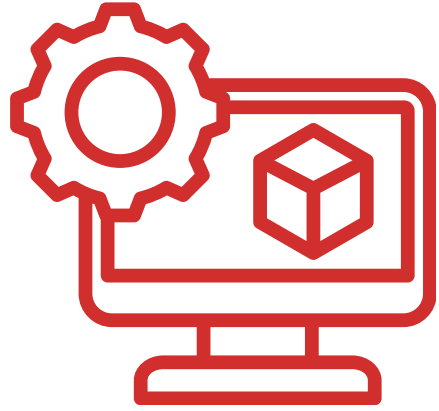
The Virtual Machine

Holds classes and methods responsible for **generating** the **state representations**, which can be:

- **Checked for Equality**
- **Queried**
- **Stored**
- **Restored**

The Search Component

Decides **which state to visit next**, based on different properties to be checked and/or heuristics



The VM Package

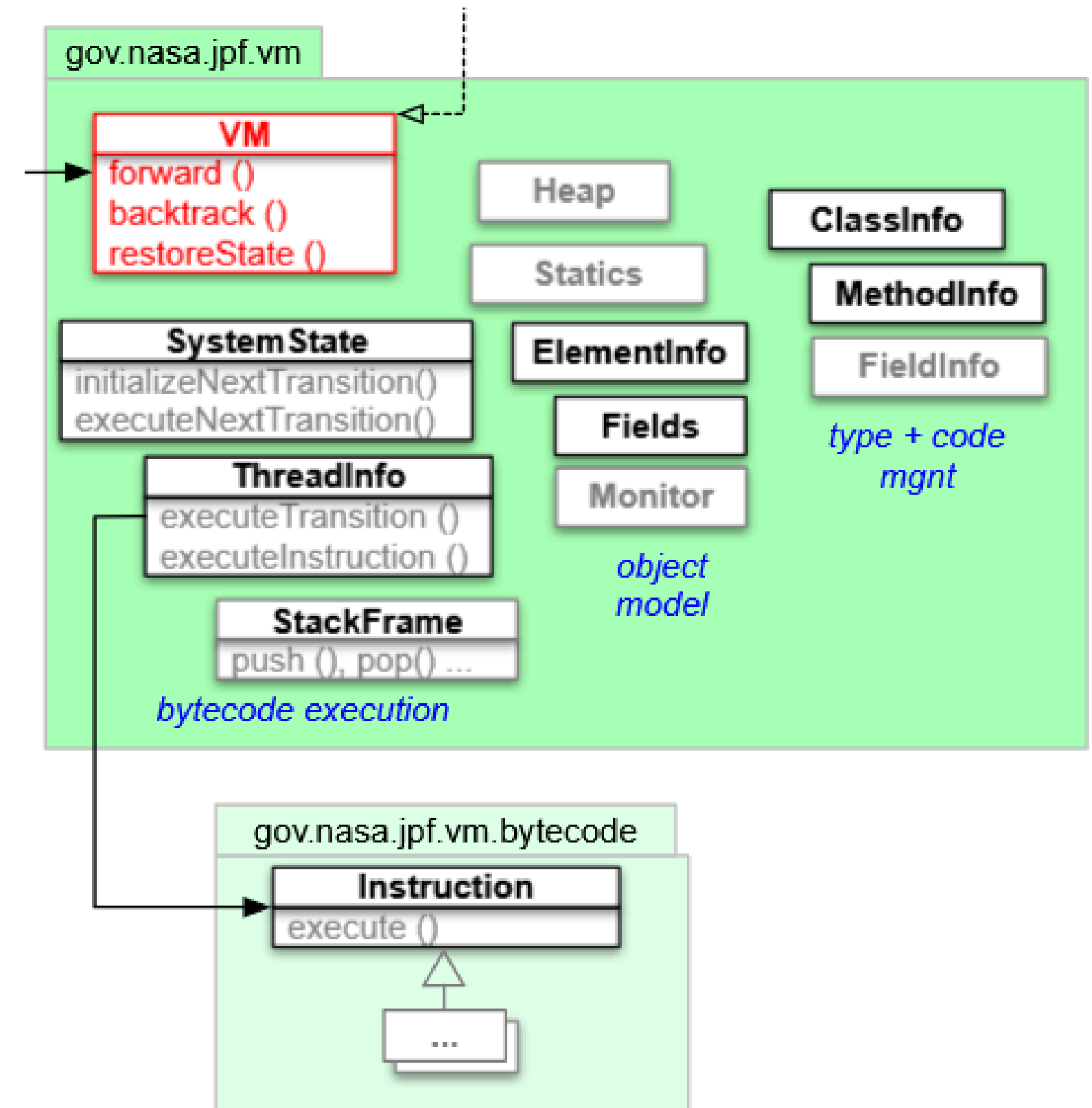
Functionalities

ClassInfo encapsulates and manages classes under test

Fields objects store into integer arrays all of the object data

SystemState and **ThreadInfo** handle the bytecode execution

forward(), **backward()** and **restoreState()** are methods invoked by the Search Component to either, respectively, progress to the next state, restore the state on top of the backtrack stack, or restore an arbitrary state of choice





The Search Package

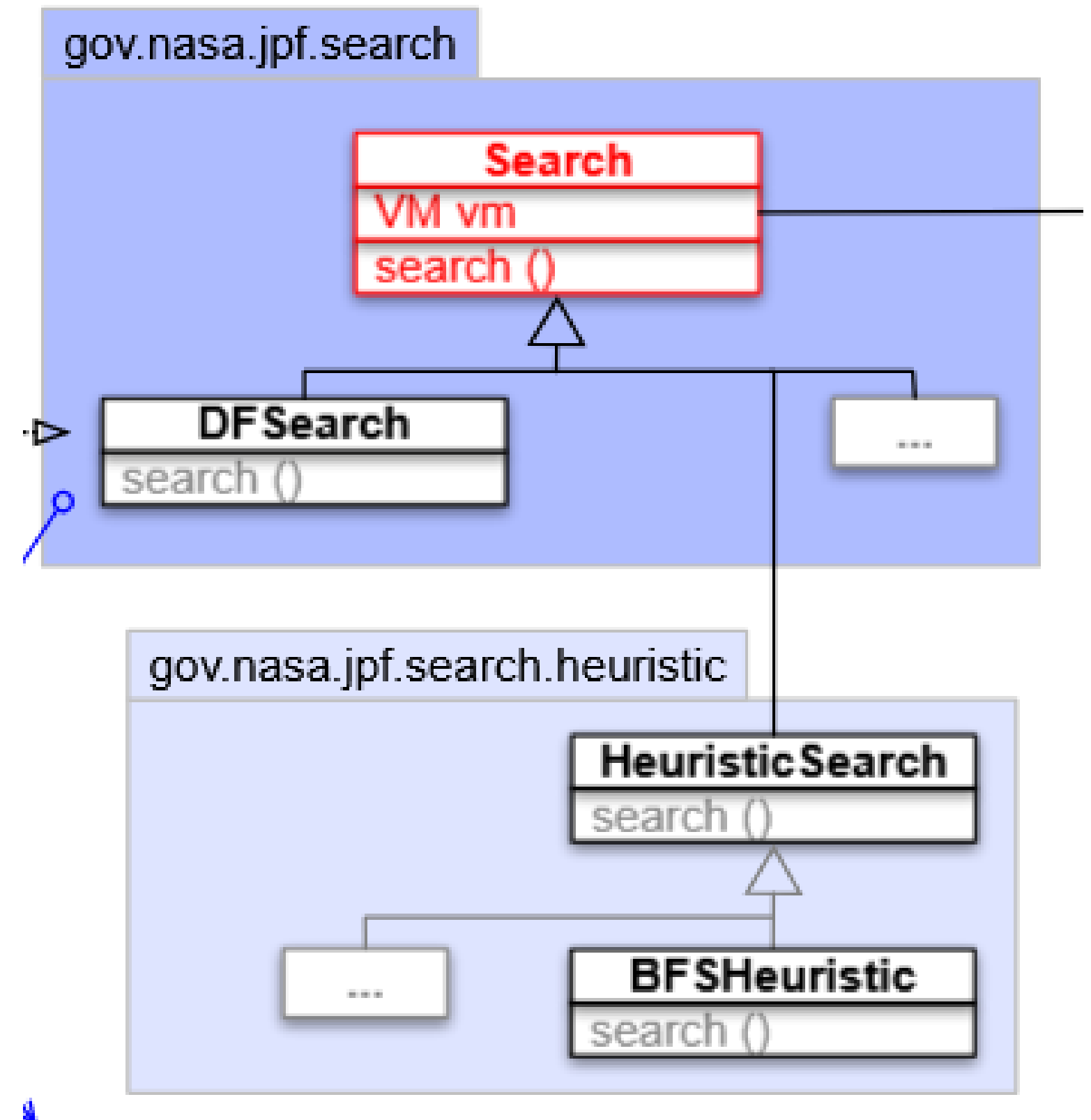
Functionalities

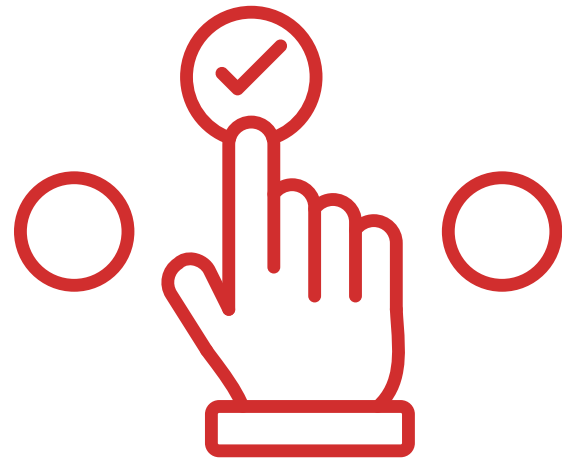
search() is the VM driver, selecting either forward(), backtrack() or restoreState()

DFSearch is the default depth first search strategy for the state space

HeuristicSearch and **BFSHeuristicSearch** configurable heuristics to drive the search towards state that show certain desired characteristics

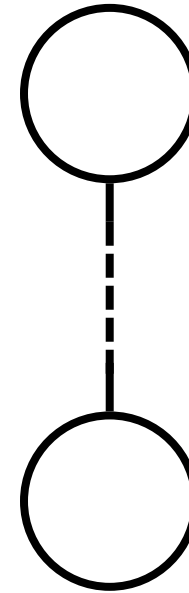
This component **can be extended** with new search strategies and heuristics





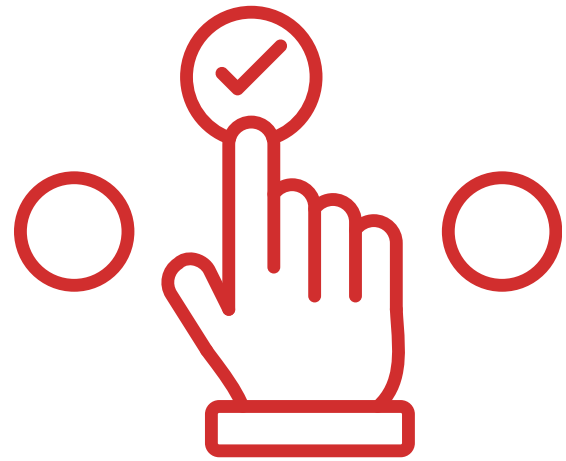
Choice Generator

Program faces non-determinism problems.
Choice Generators Handle them.



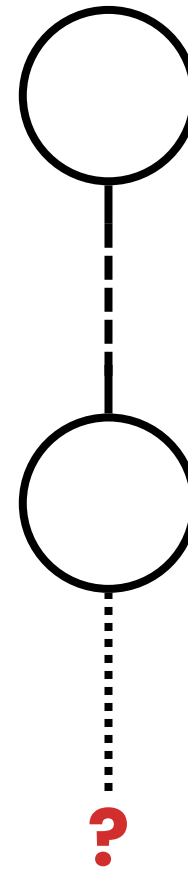
State

Memory status.
Path that lead to it.



Choice Generator

Program faces non-determinism problems.
Choice Generators Handle them.



Non-Determinism

Scheduling choices

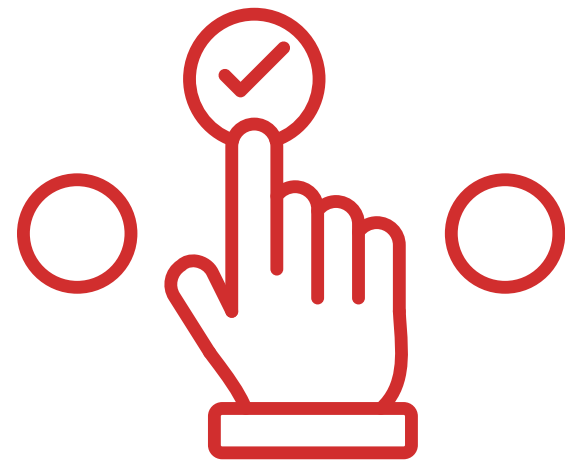
Thread and shared objects

Data choices

Testing different variable values

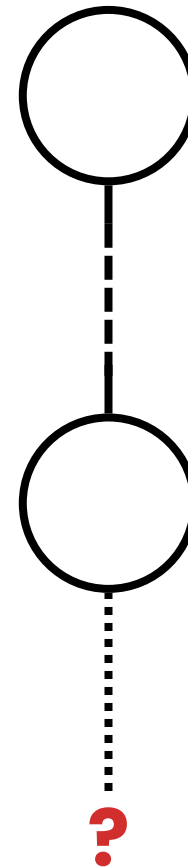
Control choices

Checking multiple branches of conditions



Choice Generator

Program faces non-determinism problems.
Choice Generators Handle them.



Solutions



Decouple the situation.

Different cases of non-determinism solved by different mechanisms.



Pre-Configure solution for basic cases

Scheduling, Boolean, naive control choices...

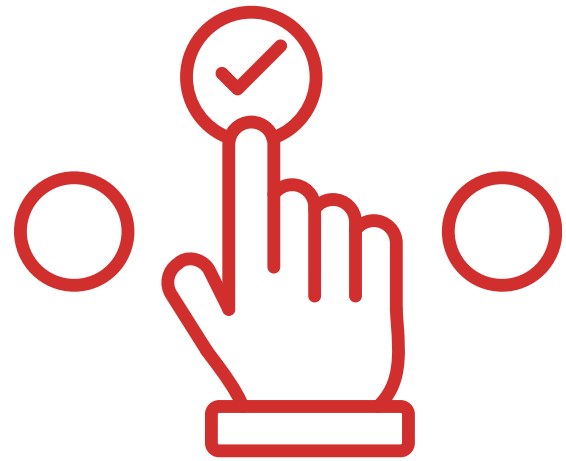


Non basic cases

Domain specific cases

Parametrization

External interface working at runtime (JPF Properties)

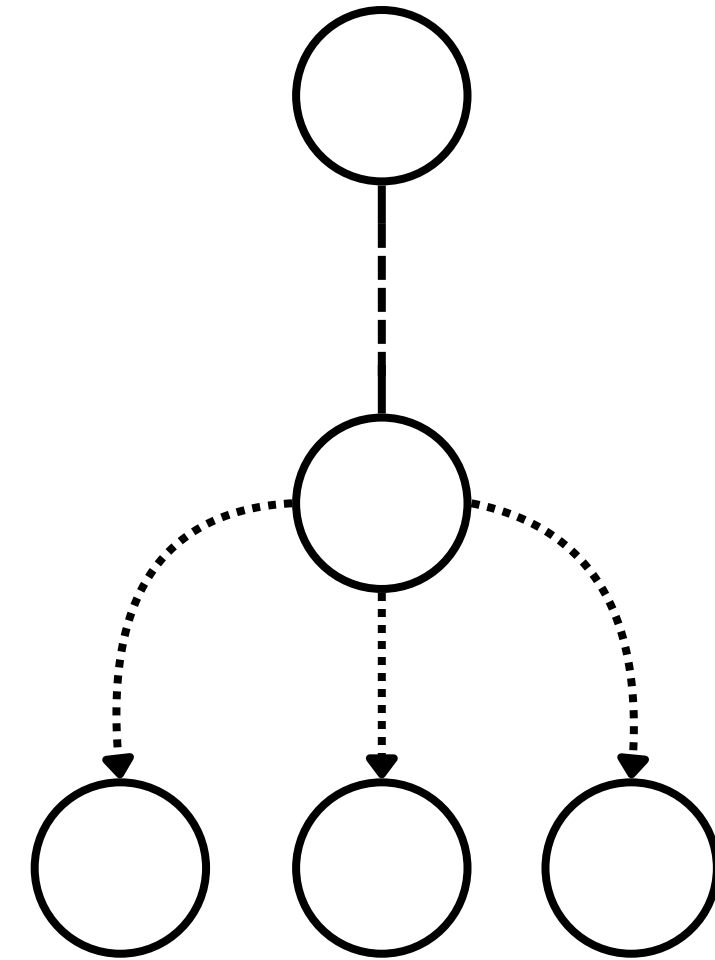


Choice Generator

Program faces non-determinism problems.
Choice Generators Handle them.

Possible Choices

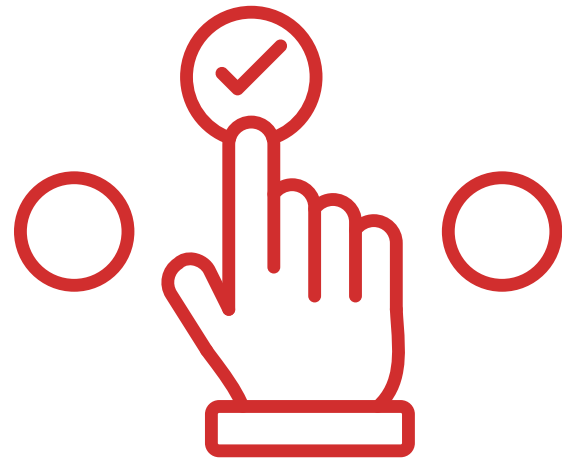
Driven by non-det.
Are possible new states based
on how the non determinism is
solved.



ChoiceGenerator

Generates possible choices.

This is an extensible
component (through
heuristics).



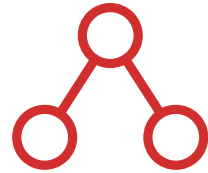
Choice Generator

Program faces non-determinism problems.
Choice Generators Handle them.



JPF Unaware

Managed automatically by JPF



JPF Dependant

We can detail choice generation.

Basic types

E.g. Use the JPF Verify API Basic Types

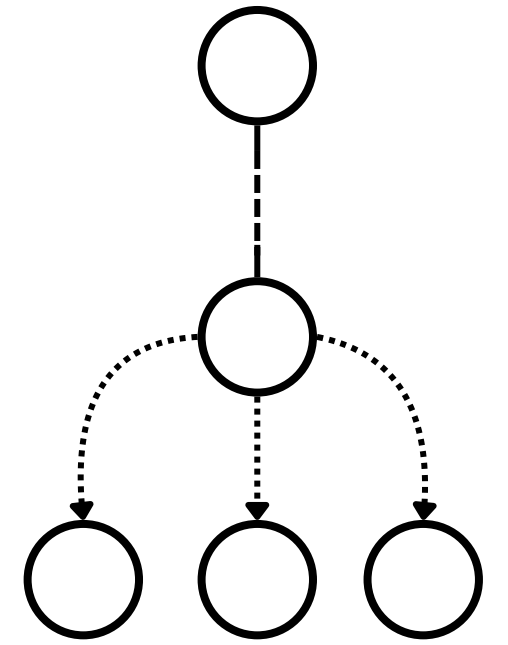
```
boolean managed = Verify.getBoolean();
```

Threshold values

E.g. Use the JPF Verify API Parametrization

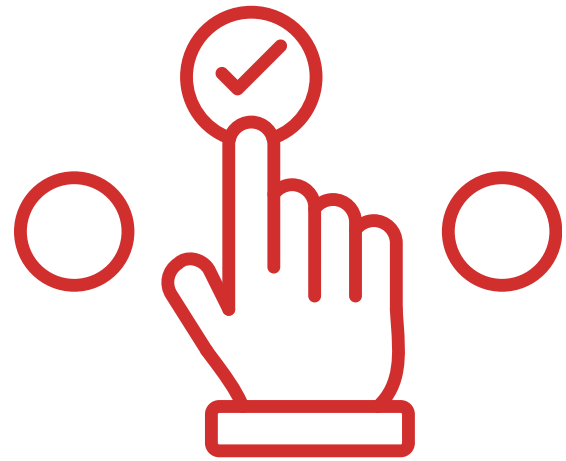
```
double speed = Verify.getDouble("myheur");
```

```
myheur.class = gov.nasa.jpf.jvm.choice.DoubleThresholdGenerator  
myheur.threshold = 13500  
myheur.delta = 500
```



ChoiceGenerator

Generates possible choices.



Choice Generator

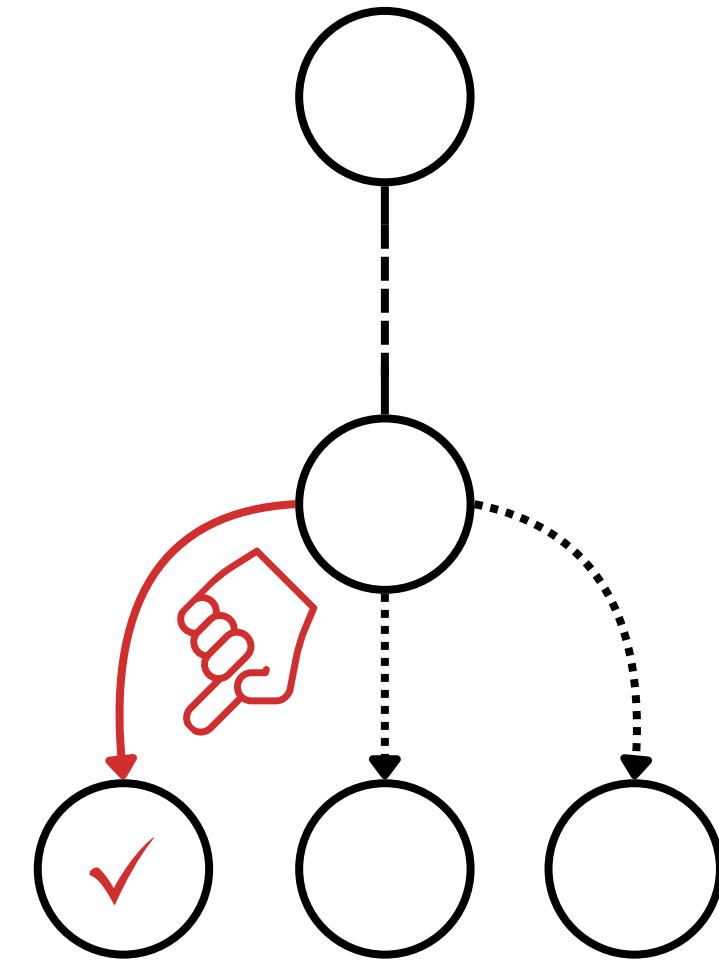
Program faces non-determinism problems.
Choice Generators Handle them.

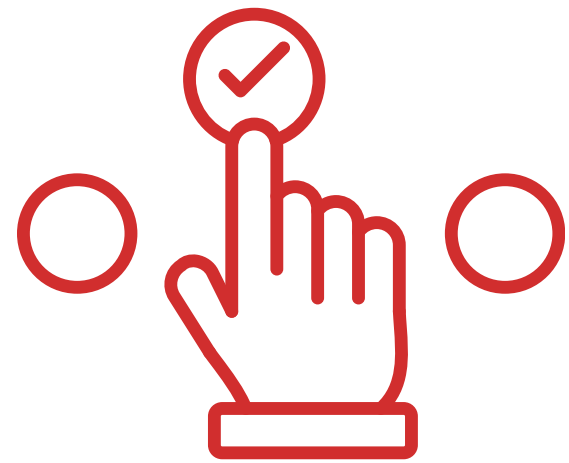
Choice

Driven by non-det.
Starts transition to new state.

Transition

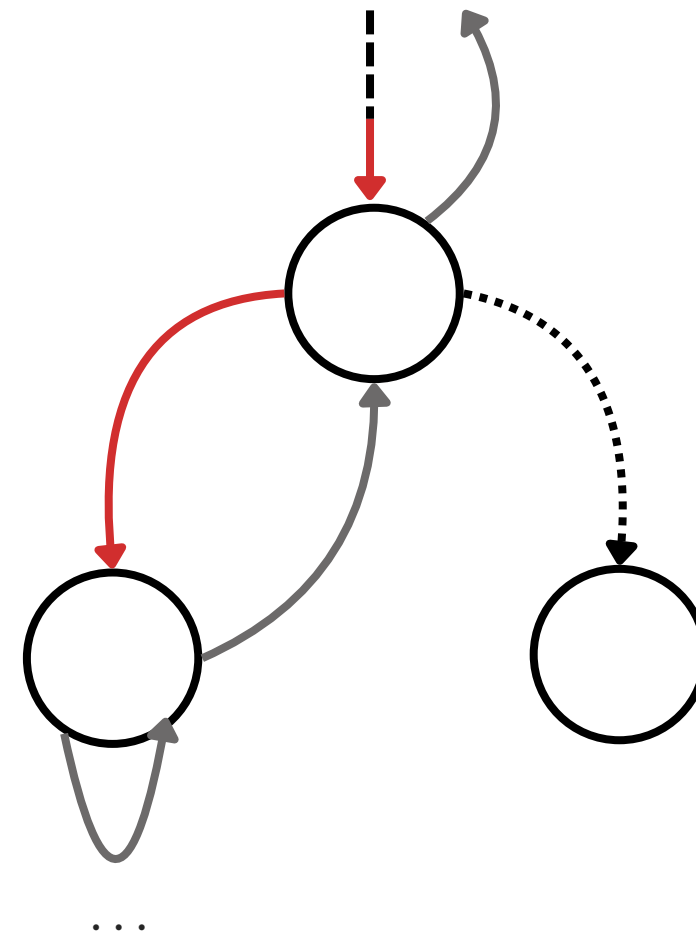
Moving from one state
to another.





Choice Generator

Program faces non-determinism problems.
Choice Generators Handle them.



Internally

Each state store its own choice generator.

System state set with a new choice generator when find non determinism.

Execute the code from the new state.

When finishing all the lower level choices, the systems rollback and try a different choice.

Objects

SystemState
initNextTransition()
setNextChoiceGenerator()

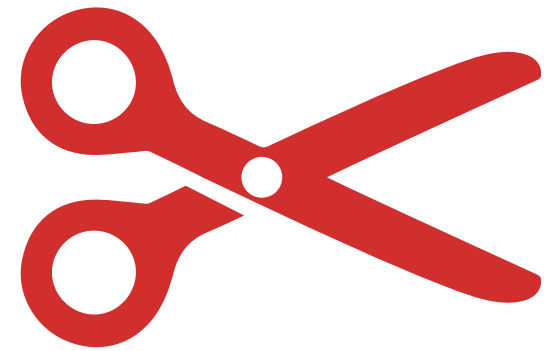
ChoiceGenerator
hasMoreChoices()
advace()



ThreadInfo
ExecuteNextTransition()
ExecuteInstruction()

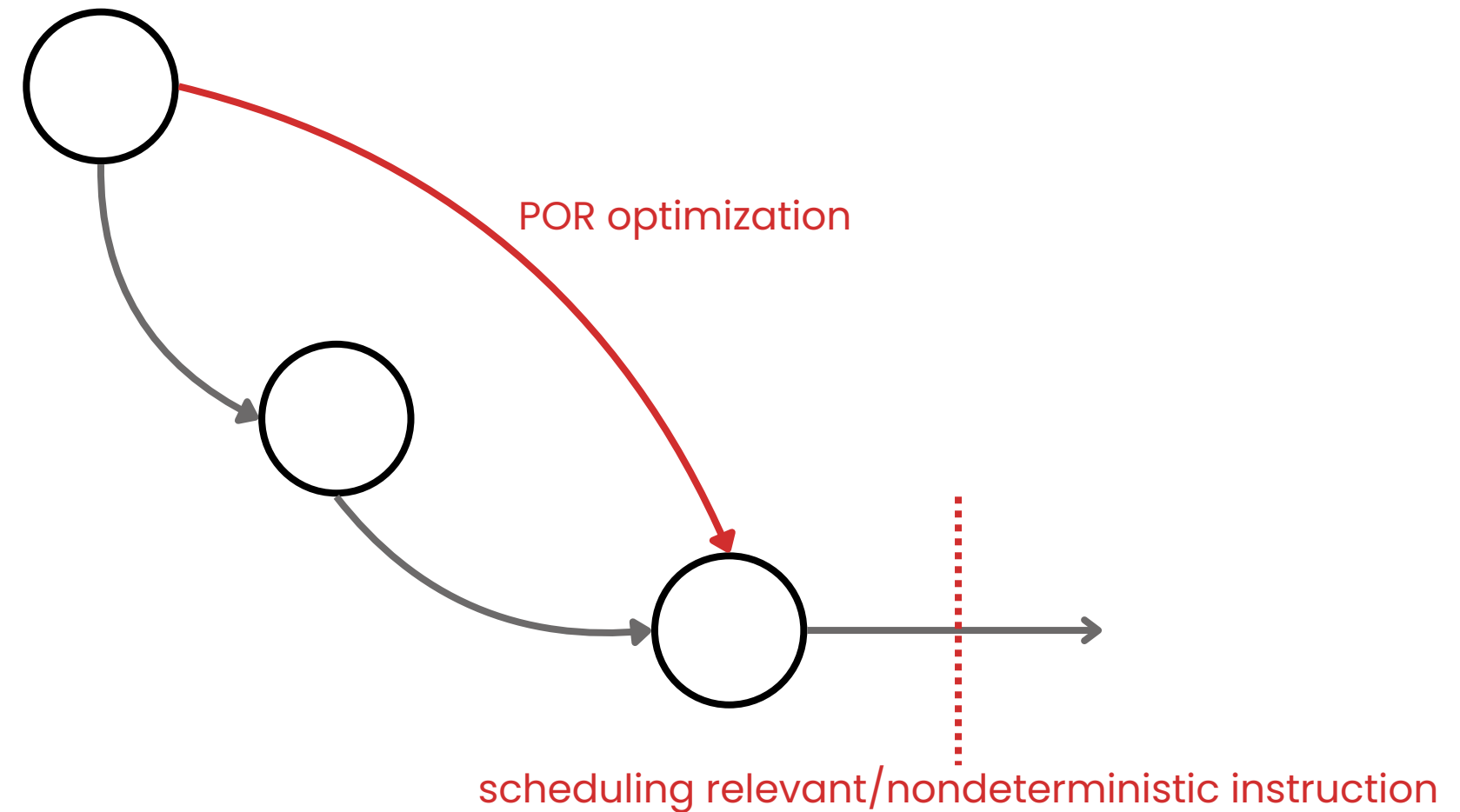


Instruction
execute()



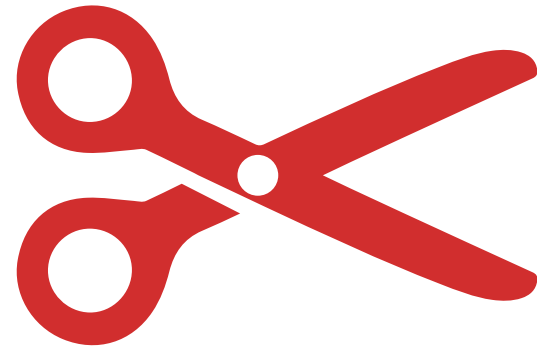
Partial Order Reduction

JPF implements **on the fly** partial order reduction to achieve a **reduction of 70%** or more of **state spaces**



Sequence of instructions within a single thread that are **not** judged as **scheduling relevant** or **nondeterministic** are treated as a **single transition**

Partial Order Reduction can be enabled by setting **vm.por = true** in the application property file



Partial Order Reduction

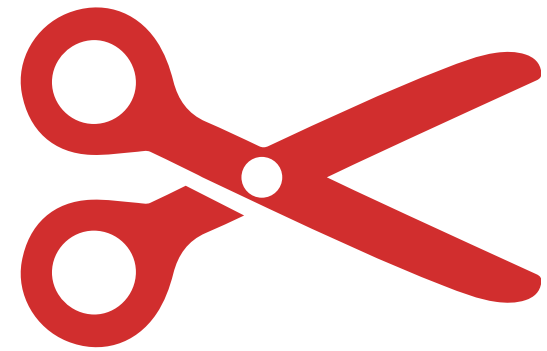
JPF implements **on the fly** partial order reduction to achieve a **reduction of 70%** or more of **state spaces**

Deciding scheduling relevance

An instruction is said to be **scheduling relevant** if it involves **access to shared resources** or **thread synchronization**. These can be instructions like **get** or **set** for shared resources, or **monitorEnter/Exit** for direct synchronization, or certain thread calls, like **wait()**, **sleep()**, **start()**

Deciding non determinism

An instruction is said to be **nondeterministic** if it involves **unpredictable behaviors**, such as reading a value from input, or generating a random number

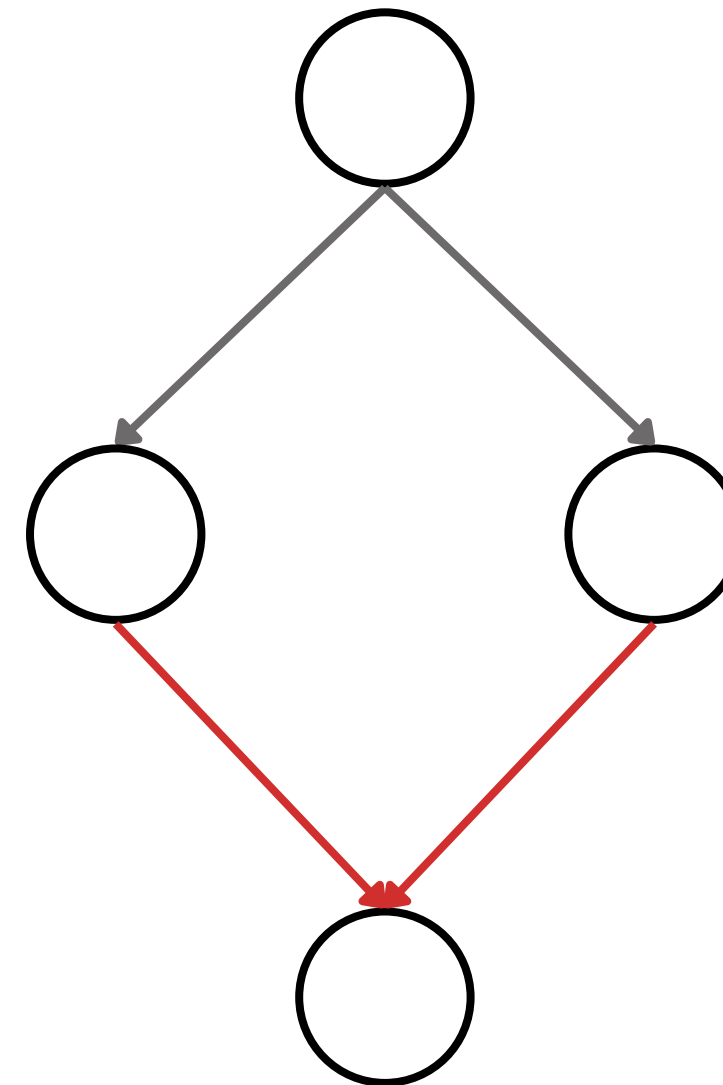


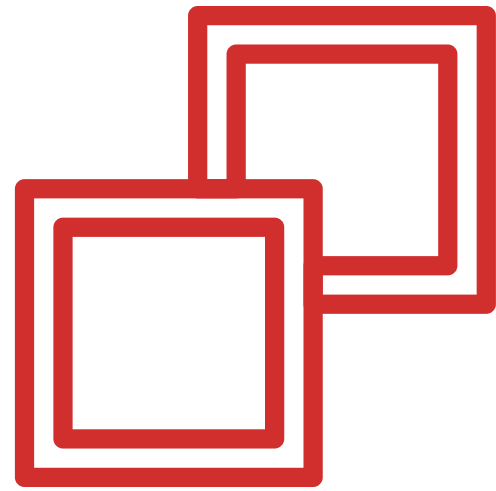
Partial Order Reduction

JPF implements **on the fly** partial order reduction to achieve a **reduction of 70%** or more of **state spaces**

Limitations of Partial Order Reduction

JPF cannot handle **diamond cases** with partial order reduction, that is, when two threads join on a single state, as it doesn't perform lookahead analysis





Attributes

JPF extends the JVM with a **storage mechanism** that links variables, fields and even entire objects to configurable **meta-data objects**, called **attributes**

Association through API

Program elements can be associated to attributes with the APIs given by:

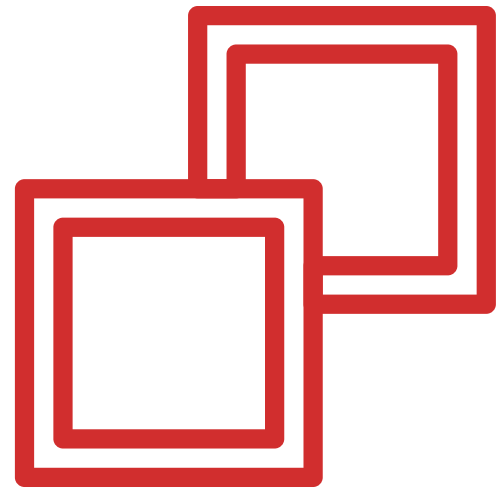
- **gov.nasa.jpf.v.Fields** for instance and static fields
- **gov.nasa.jpf.vm.StackFrame** for stack slots (local operands and variables)

Propagation

Each time a program element **gets updated**, JPF **propagates** the change to the corresponding **attribute**, to keep everything **in sync**

Backtracking Behavior

When backtracking, JPF **only restores the attribute references**, but not the values



Attributes

JPF extends the JVM with a **storage mechanism** that links variables, fields and even entire objects to configurable **meta-data objects**, called **attributes**

Usage

Attributes can be used to assign **symbolic values** to certain variables or objects, enabling **symbolic** and **concolyc** execution.

Limitations

Attribute generation and upkeep leads to a not indifferent **slowdown in execution**

Moreover, it is **not possible** to assign **more than one attribute type** to a single field or slot



Listeners

Observer of the running VM and JPF that enable to check the execution.

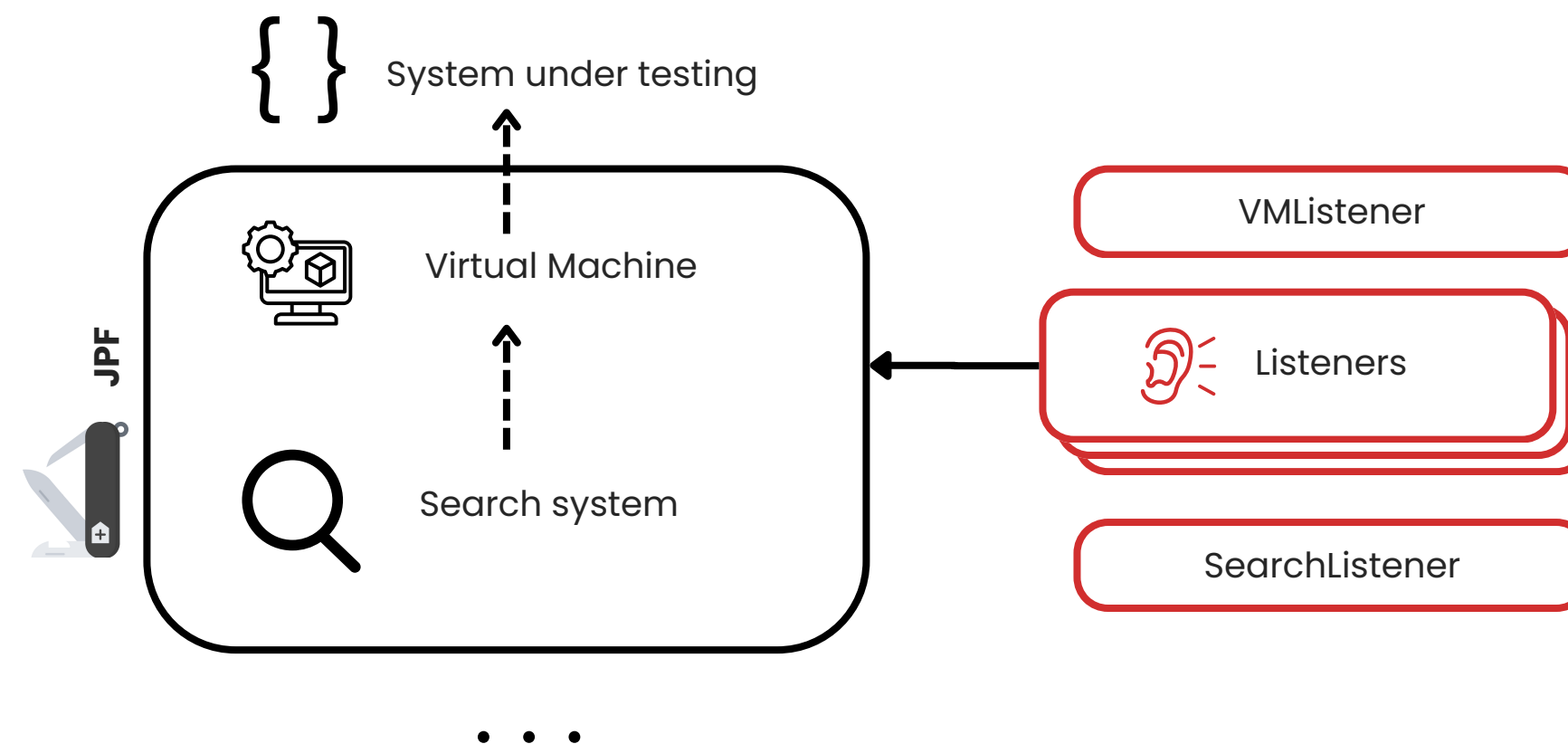
Main extension point of jpf.

Usable through **JPF Properties**

Diagram

External observers.

No need to rebuild JPF every time.



Using listeners

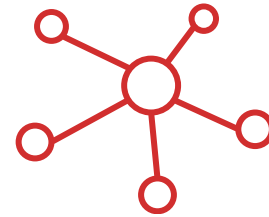
Inside the property

```
listener = [list of listener classes]
```



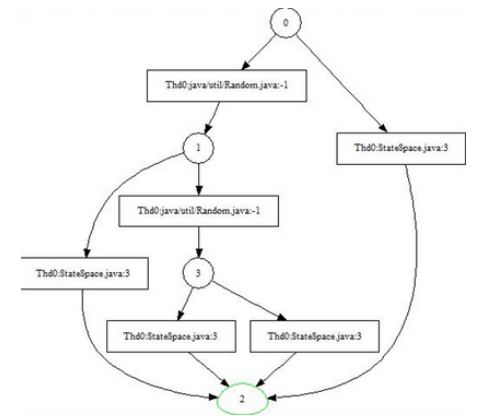
Some Listeners

Standard listeners exists



gov.nasa.jpf.listener.StateSpaceDot

Draw the state space explored by JPF.
Uses .dot (dotty format)
can be opened with GraphViz



gov.nasa.jpf.listener.BudgetChecker

Control resource constraints are not violated.

```
budeget.max_time = ...  
budeget.max_heap = ...  
budeget.max_instn = ...  
budeget.max_state = ...
```



gov.nasa.jpf.listener.EndlessLoopDetector

Control heuristically that there are no infinite loops

```
idle.max_backjumps = ...
```



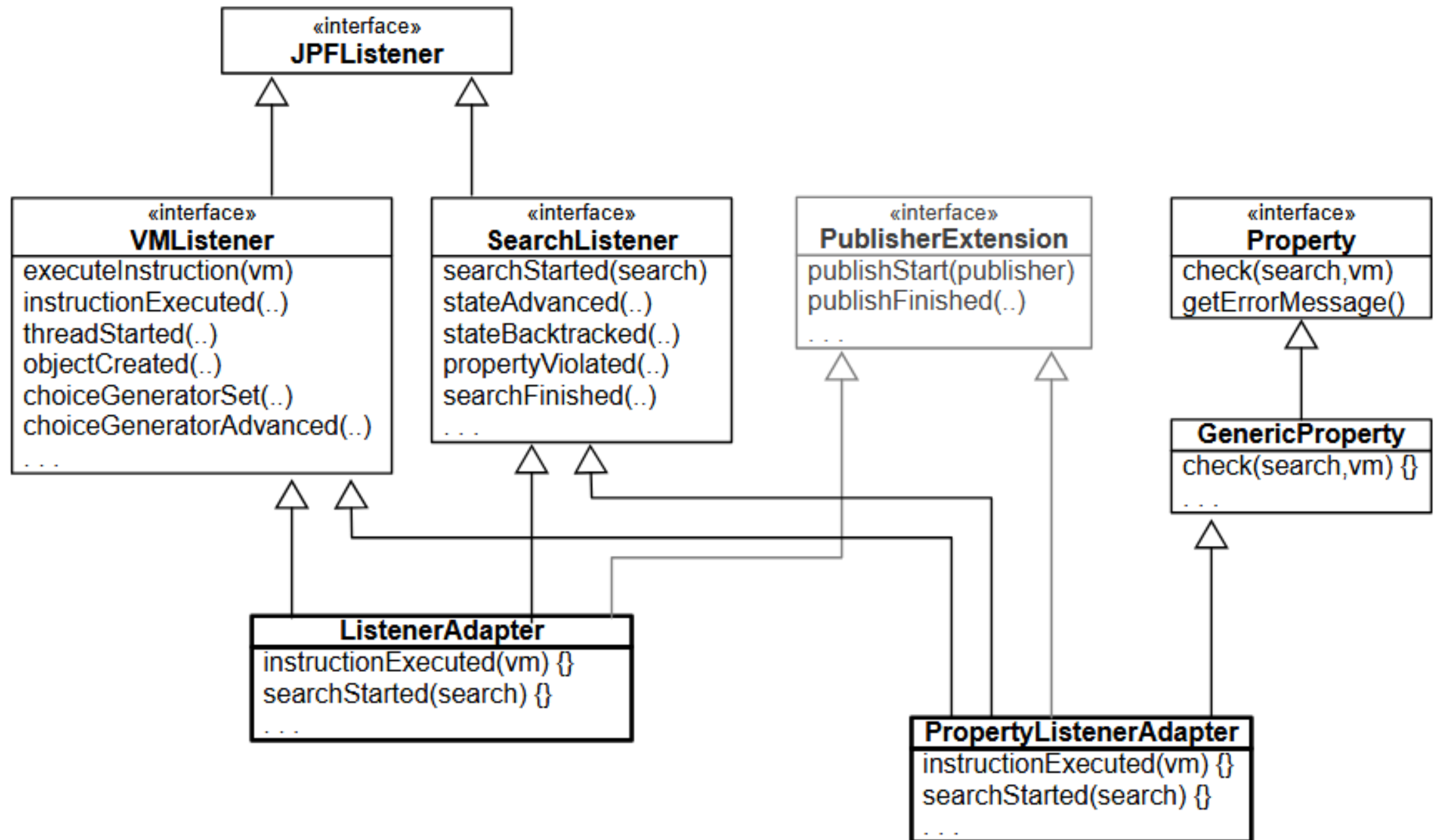
Extending Listeners

It is complex but feasible extending JPF Classes.

You have to implement the interface or the abstract adapter for what you want to listen (JPF VM or JPF Search)

Every listener can also have **properties**.
Properties are set run time

Every listener can check property violations.

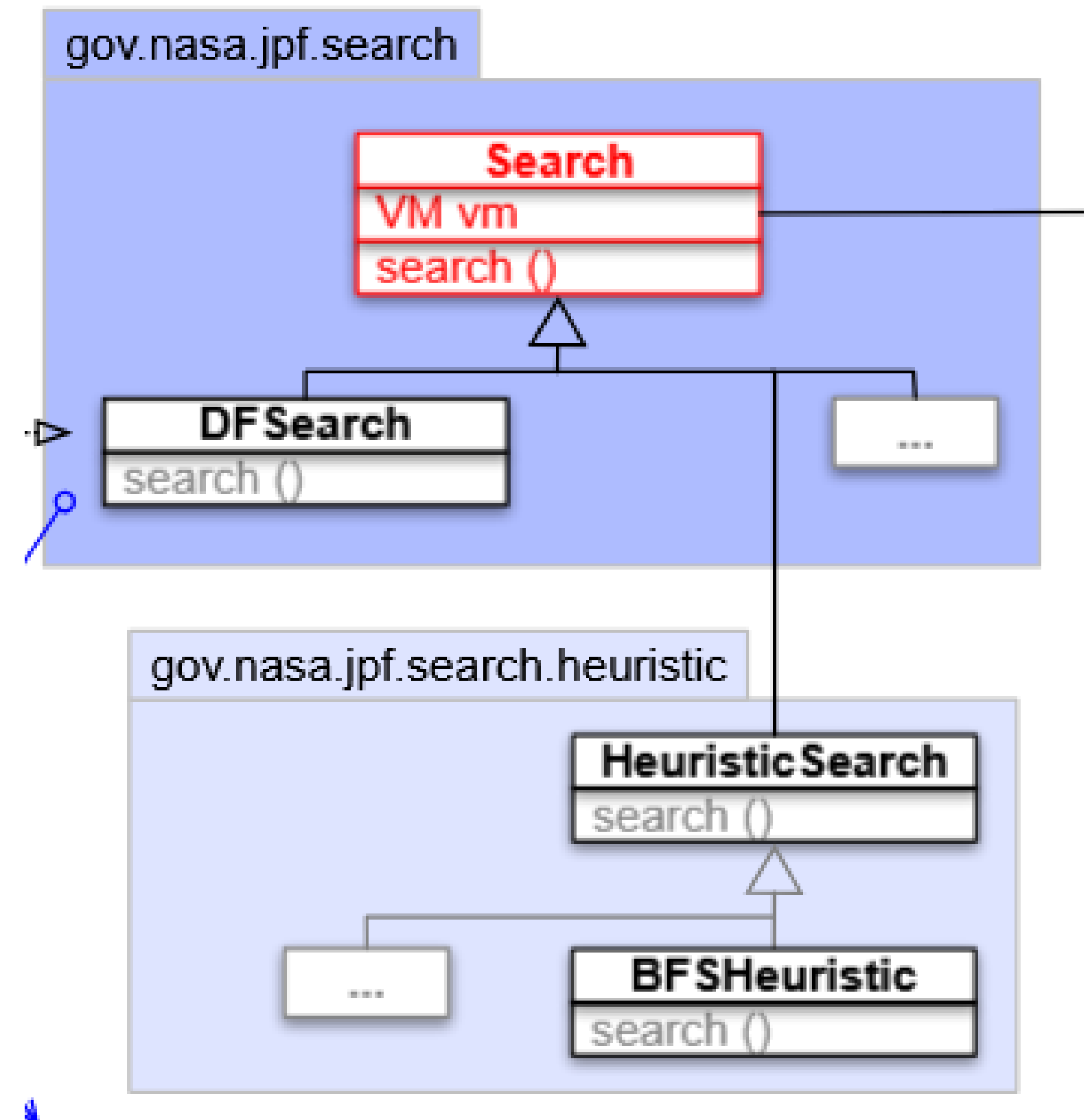




Extending Search

As we've already mentioned, we can **extend the Search package** with our own search strategies.

This is done by **extending the Search abstract class** as we would normally do in java





Extending Search

Let's now see what **characteristics** our **custom class** should have, and which **existing methods** and **attributes** we can leverage from the Search class

Constructor

Our class should have a **public constructor**, receiving the JPF **Config file** and the JPF **Virtual Machine reference** as input

Going Forwards and Backwards

As we have already seen, we can use the methods **forward()** and **backtrack()** to either explore a new state or go back to the previously explored one. We can also leverage these methods of the Search class to understand where we are exactly in our search:

- **isNewState** tells us if we've never seen the current state
- **isEndState** tells us whether the current state is final
- **isIgnoredState** tests whether the current state should be ignored for search purposes



Extending Search

Let's now see what **characteristics** our **custom class** should have, and which **existing methods** and **attributes** we can leverage from the Search class

Interaction with Other Components

Listeners could end a search by manipulating the Search class attribute **done**: this should be considered accordingly in our code

Other components can request a backtrack through the **requestBacktrack()** method of Search class. We can check whether this has happened with the Search method **checkAndResetBacktrackRequest()**

Adapting to Search Related Properties

Let's see some of those and how we can make our search strategy more robust by taking them into account:

- **search.depth_limit** This limits the depth of the search. We can check this limit with the method **getDepthLimit()** and keep track of the depth with attribute **depth**, both provided by the Search class
- **search.min_free** This sets a minimal amount of memory that should always remain free. Search gives us the method **checkStateSpaceLimit()** to see whether that limit has been hit or not
- **search.multiple_errors** Tells JPF whether the search should terminate after the first error or if it should continue on. Since the **forward()** methods puts the **done** attribute to true upon finding a violation if and only if the **search.multiple_errors** property is set to false, we can use the Search method **hasPropertyTermination()**, that returns true is a violation was encountered and done is set to true. In this way we can decide whether or not to end the search



Extending Search

Let's now see what **characteristics** our **custom class** should have, and which **existing methods** and **attributes** we can leverage from the Search class

Notifications

A proper search should notify different listeners of certain events. The interface SearchListener offers us a wide array of notifications:

- `notifyStateAdvanced()`
- `notifyStateBacktracked()`
- `notifyStateProcessed()`
- `notifySearchStarted()`
- `notifySearchFinished()`
- `notifyPropertyViolated()`
- `notifySearchConstraintHit(String)`



Extending the VM

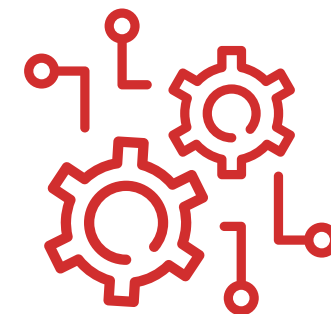
The VM implemented by JPF is itself expandable.

This is out of scope of our explanation but it is interesting!

10110
10110
01100

Bytecode Factory

Enable to implement new and existing bytecodes



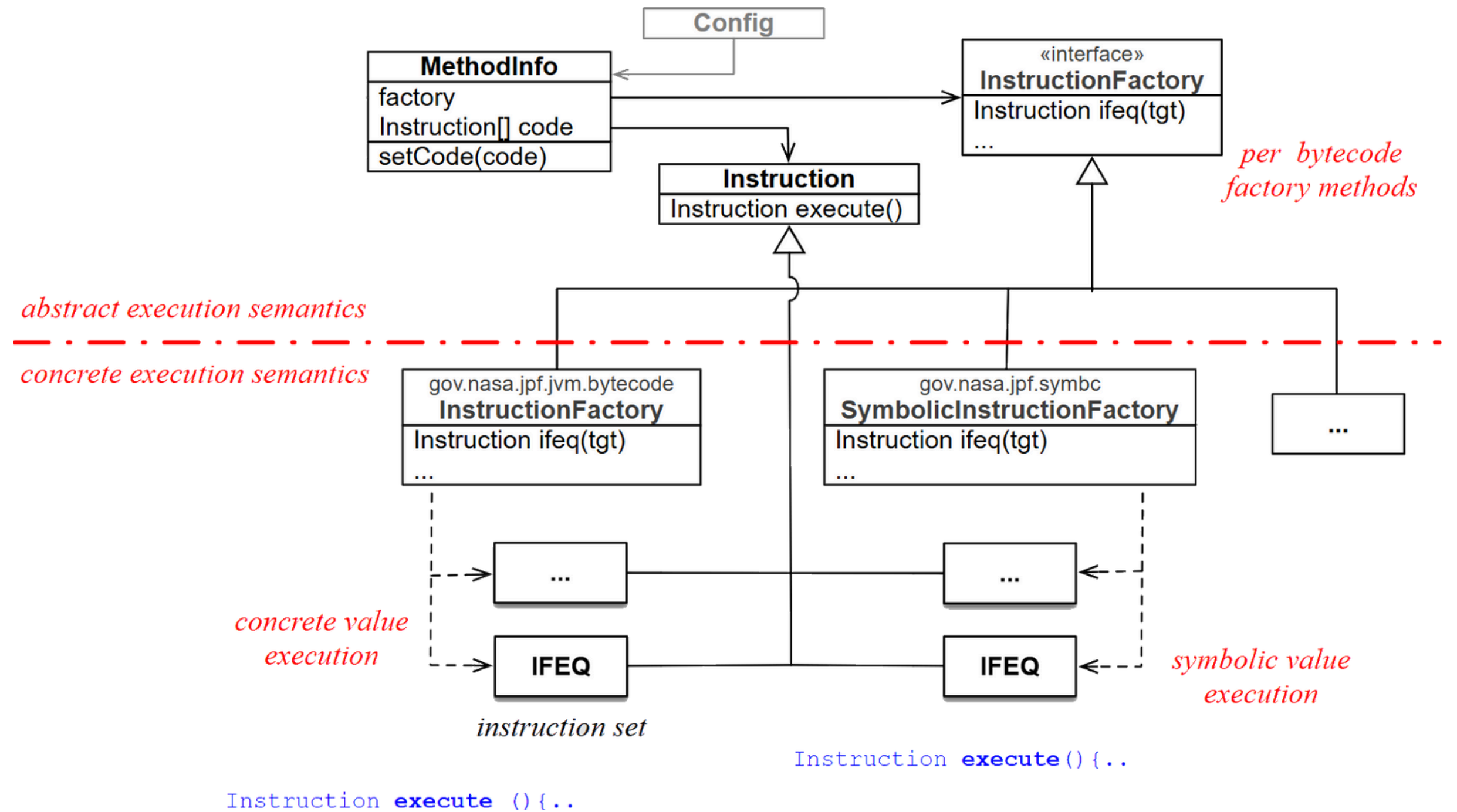
Model Java Interface

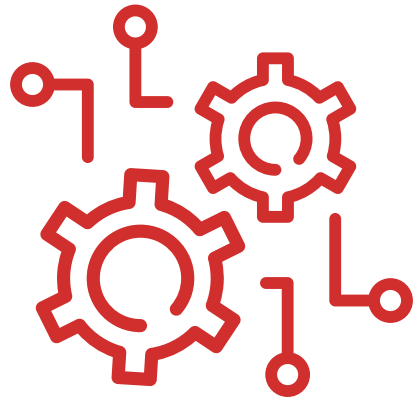
Interface SUT with Native JVM

10110
10110
01100

Bytecode Factory

We can specify new instructions, and give a concrete or symbolic execution method.





Model Java Interface

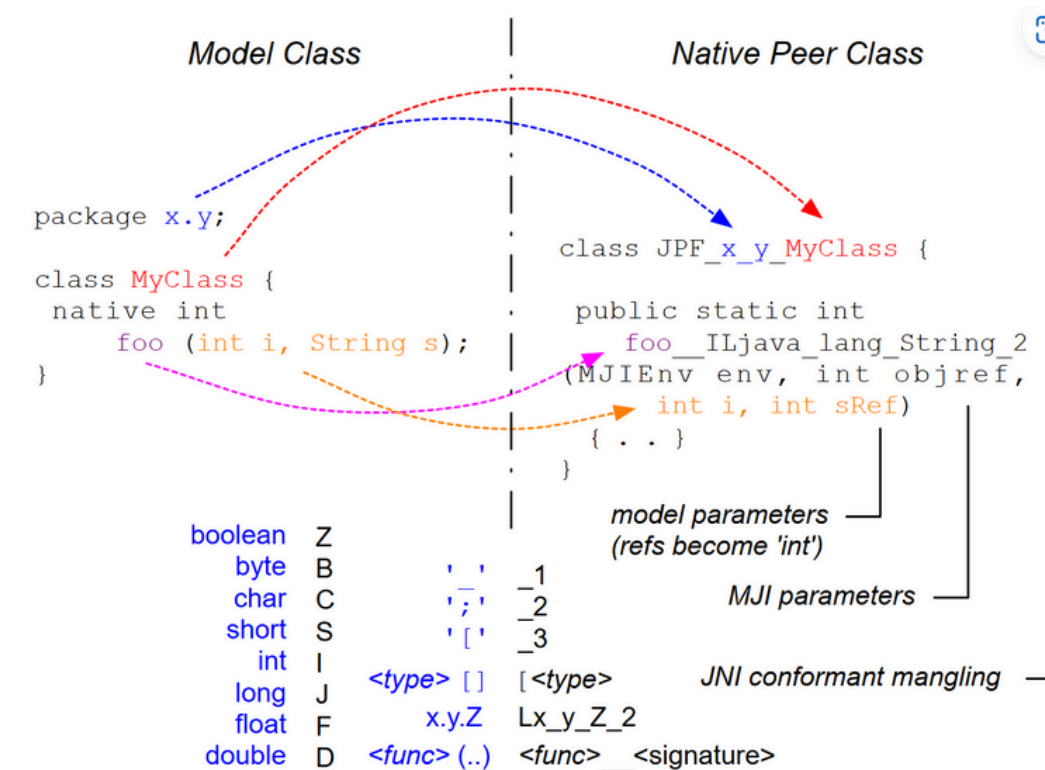
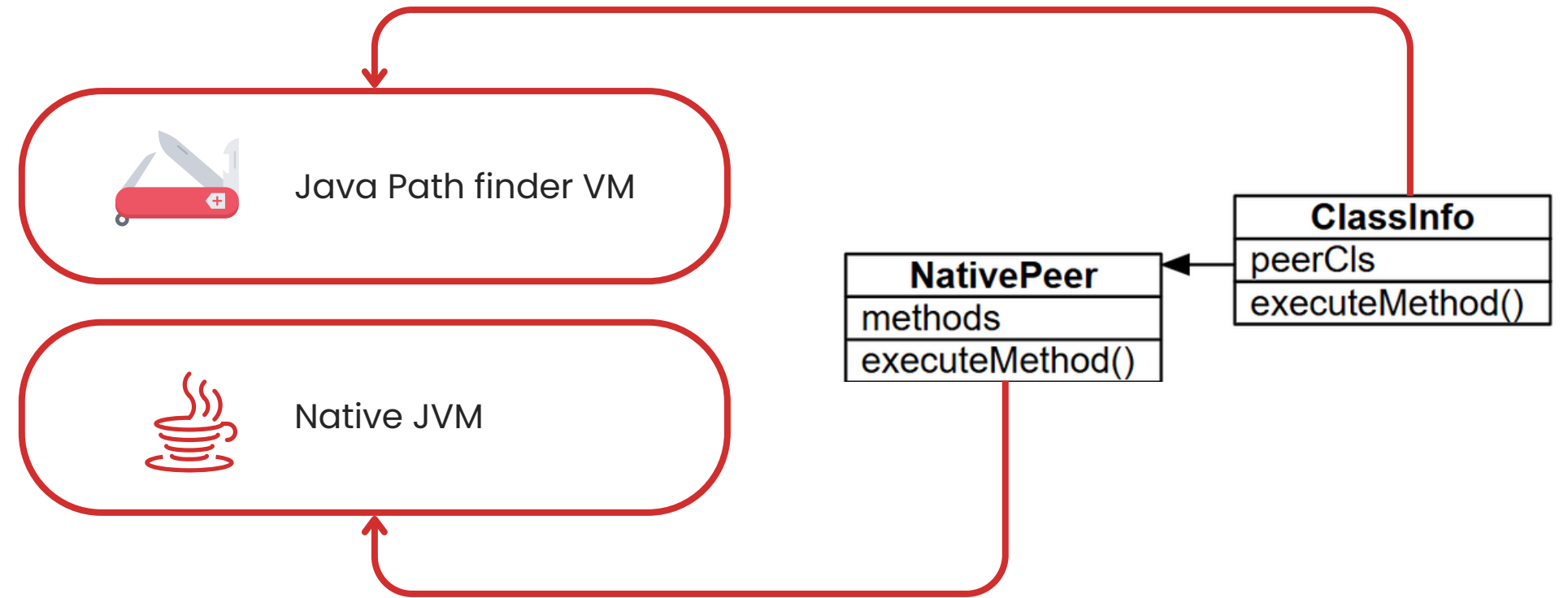
Interface SUT with Native JVM.

A Native Peer is associated to a model class to execute native method (**when loading the model**).

For system specific needs

Enabling state reduction (state are not tracked)

Still permitting some checks (ie. threads management)

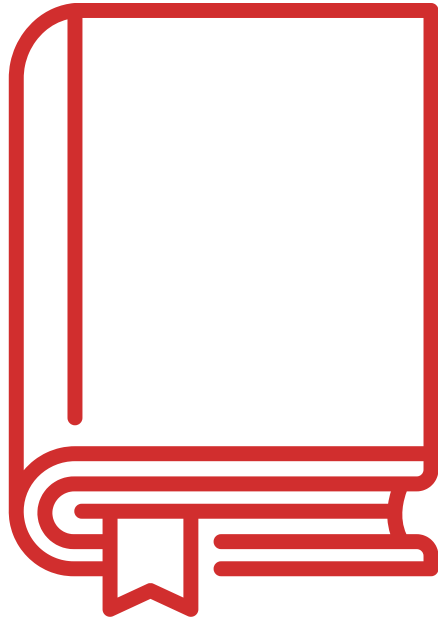




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Our bibliography



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[Visser, Willem & Havelund, Klaus & Brat, Guillaume & Park, Seungjoon. \(2000\). Model Checking Programs. Automated Software Engineering. 10. 3-11. 10.1109/ASE.2000.873645.](#)

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[A. Mannem, D. White, M. Yousaf • University of Texas at Arlington](#)



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Thank You

01 January, 2023