



# Java Path finder

30 April 2025



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

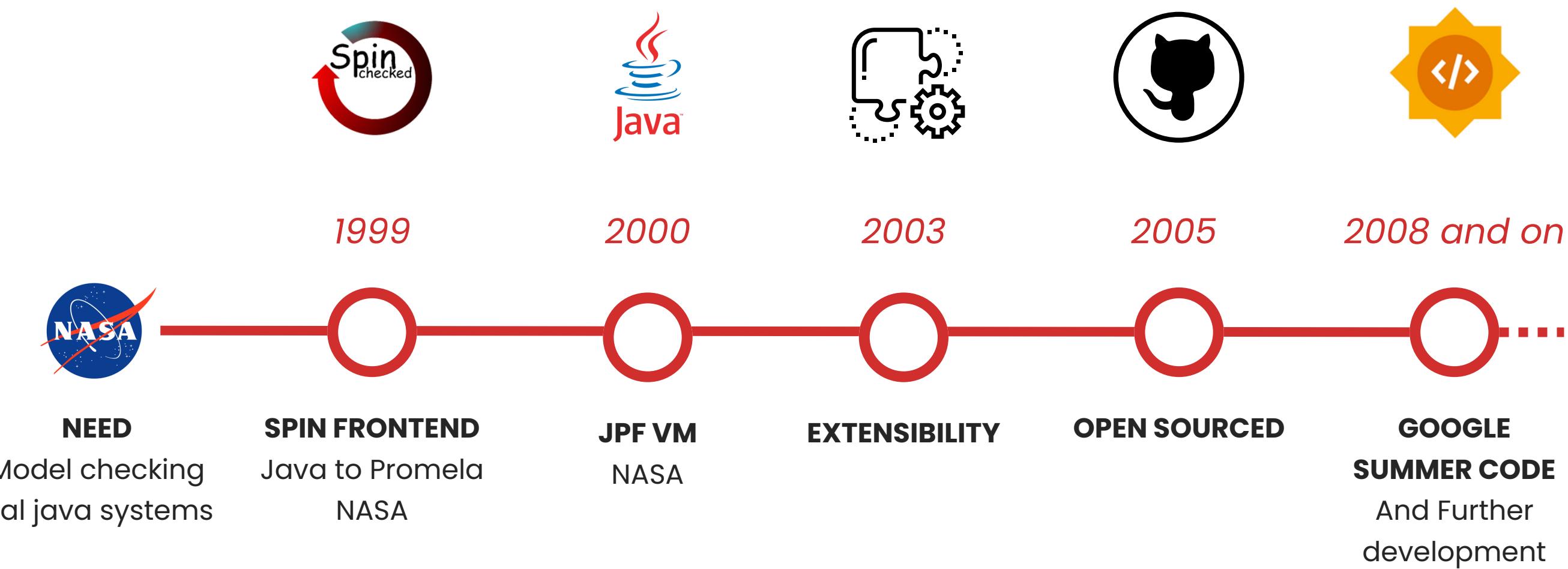
JPF identifies **execution choices**, or points in which the execution of the system under test could diverge

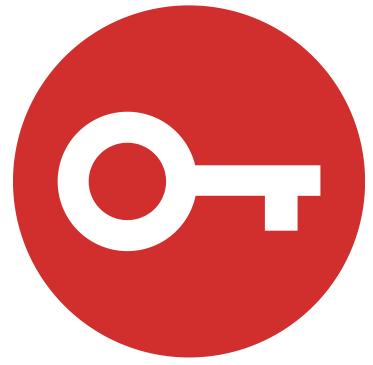
## A tool for Mission Critical Applications

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

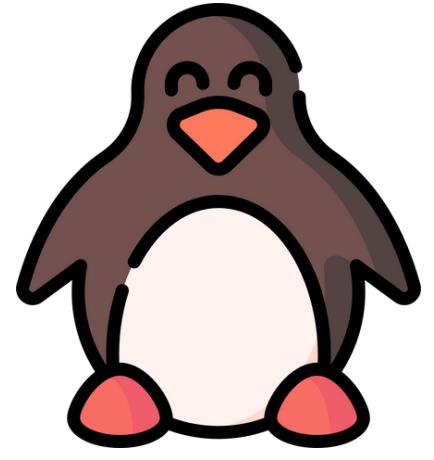
🔑 State Matching

🔑 Backtracking

🔑 Partial Order Reduction

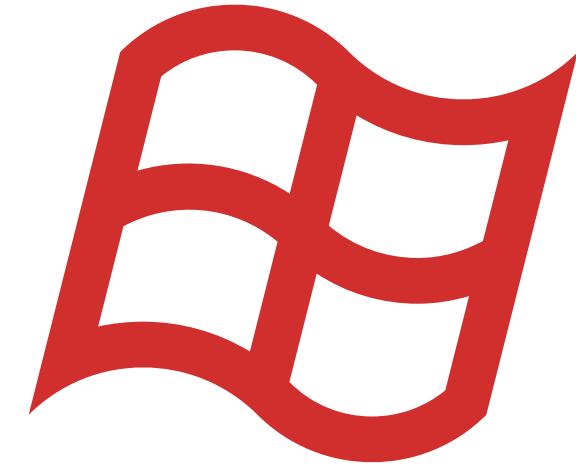
🔑 Extensibility





# 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



# Using JPF



# Program run by JPF

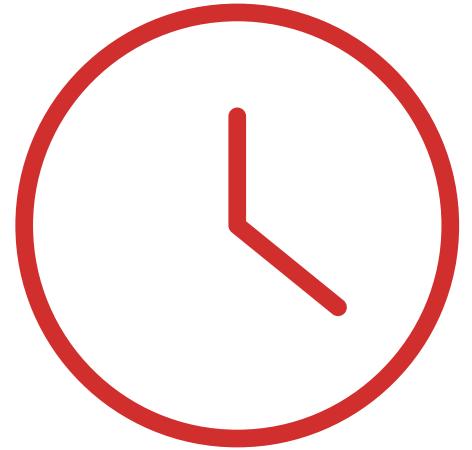
Being JPF itself a VM it runs java code.

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) {
```

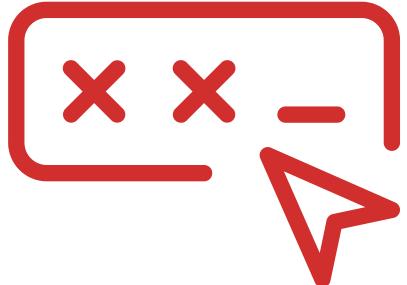


# Explored domains



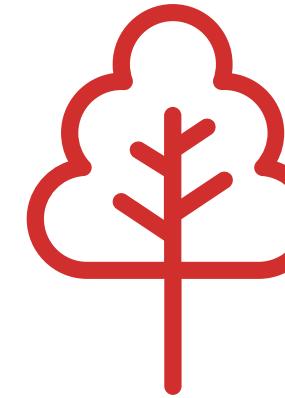
## Scheduling Sequences

Concurrent application are testable because we can control the scheduler.



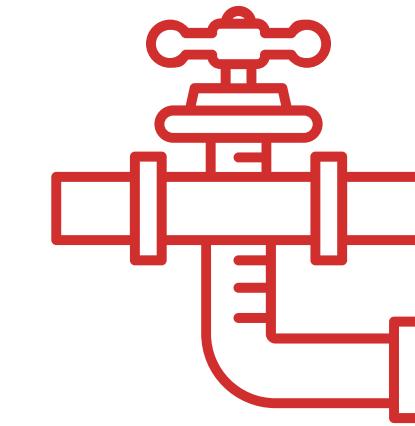
## Input Variation

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



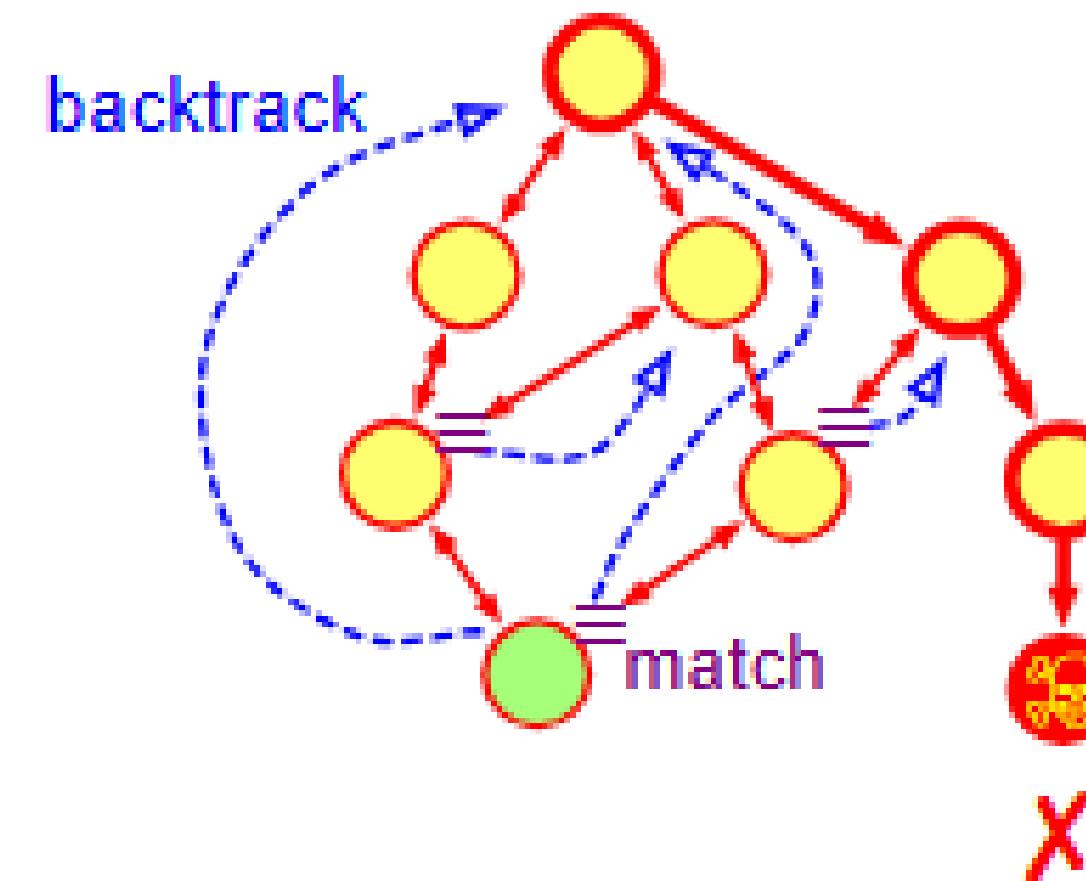
## Control Flow

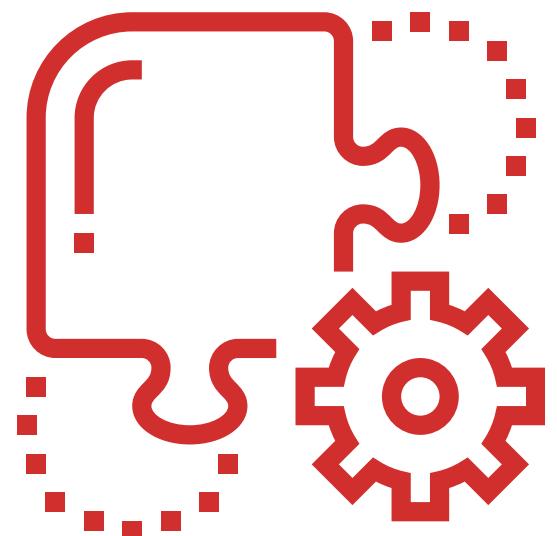
It automatically check all the branches of your code for running hidden parts of it.



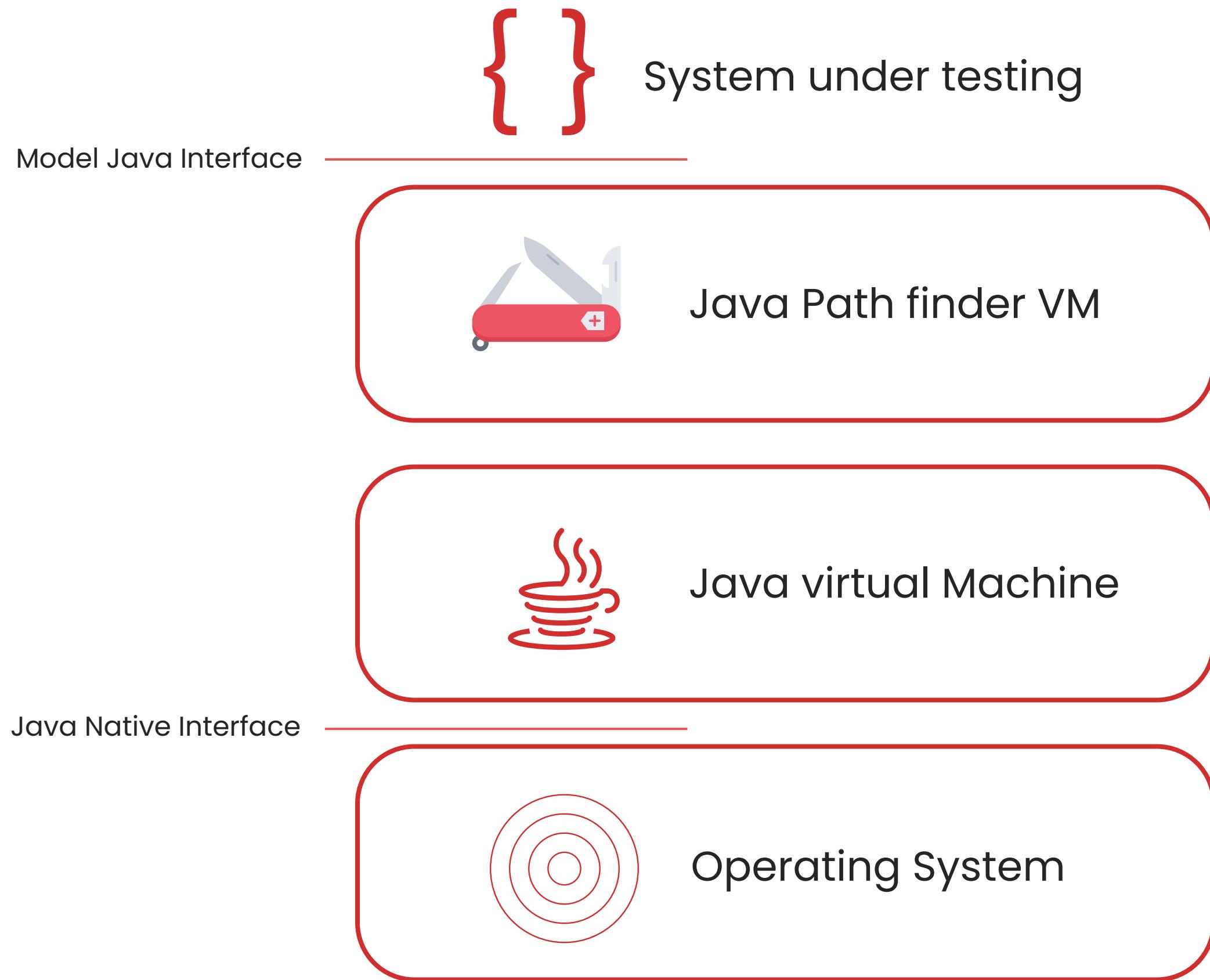
# How JPF does the trick

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



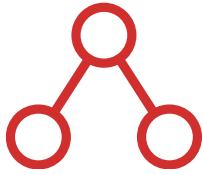


# Basic JPF Structure



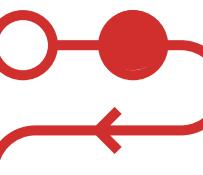
# Program types

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.



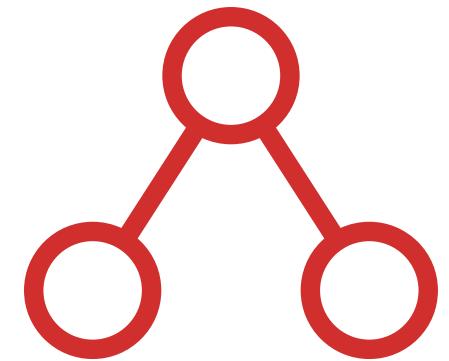
## JPF Enabled programs

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 Unaware

## What

Normal java code, of any type.

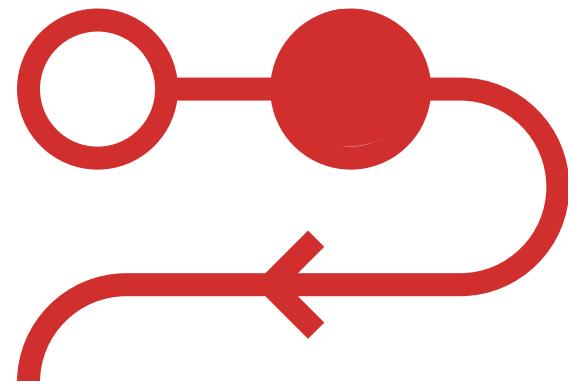
## Why

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.



# 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. @NotNull and many others) which JPF Recognizes and checks.



# 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



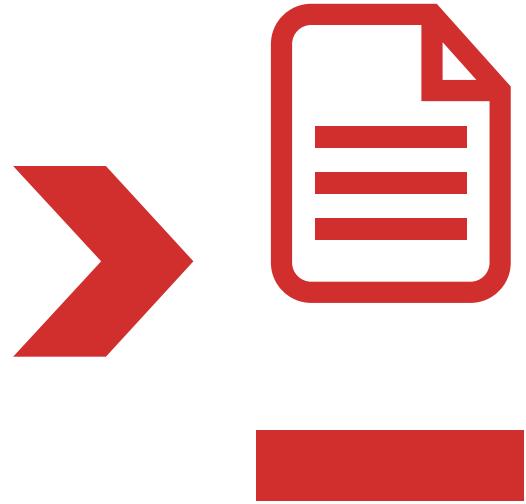
# Running JPF

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

## Example

```
~$ ls  
HelloWorld.java    HelloWorld.class
```

```
~$ 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
```

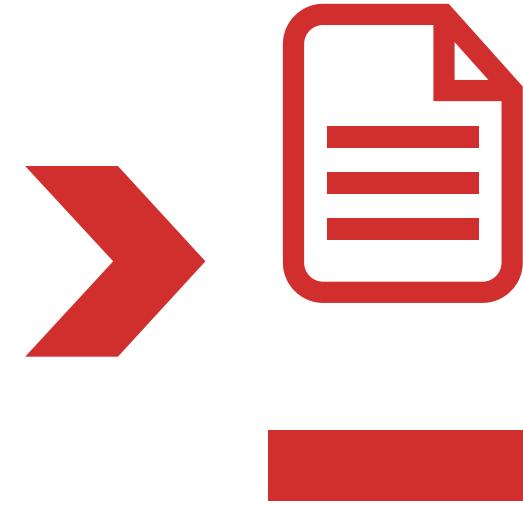
```
target = <main class>
```

```
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
```

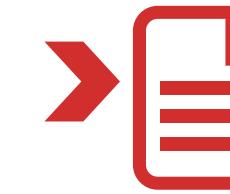
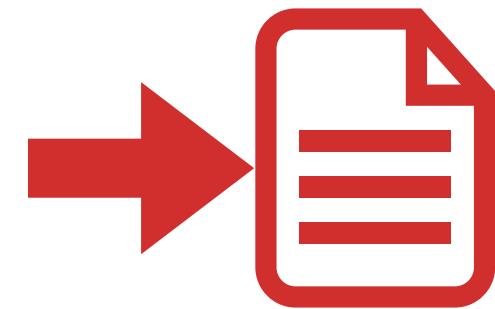
```
target = HelloWorld
```

```
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.



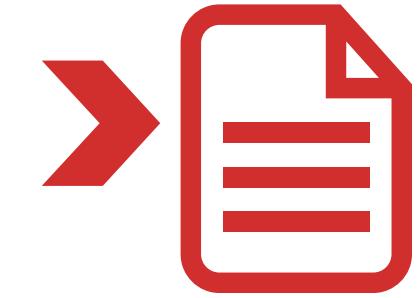
## Reports

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.T. 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

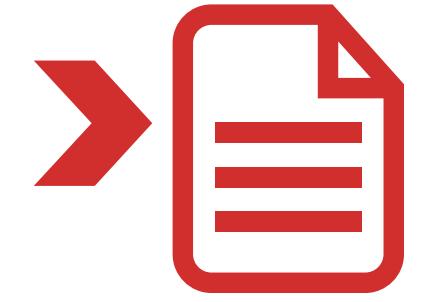
a = 0

b = 1

c = 0

\$ java Rand.java

....



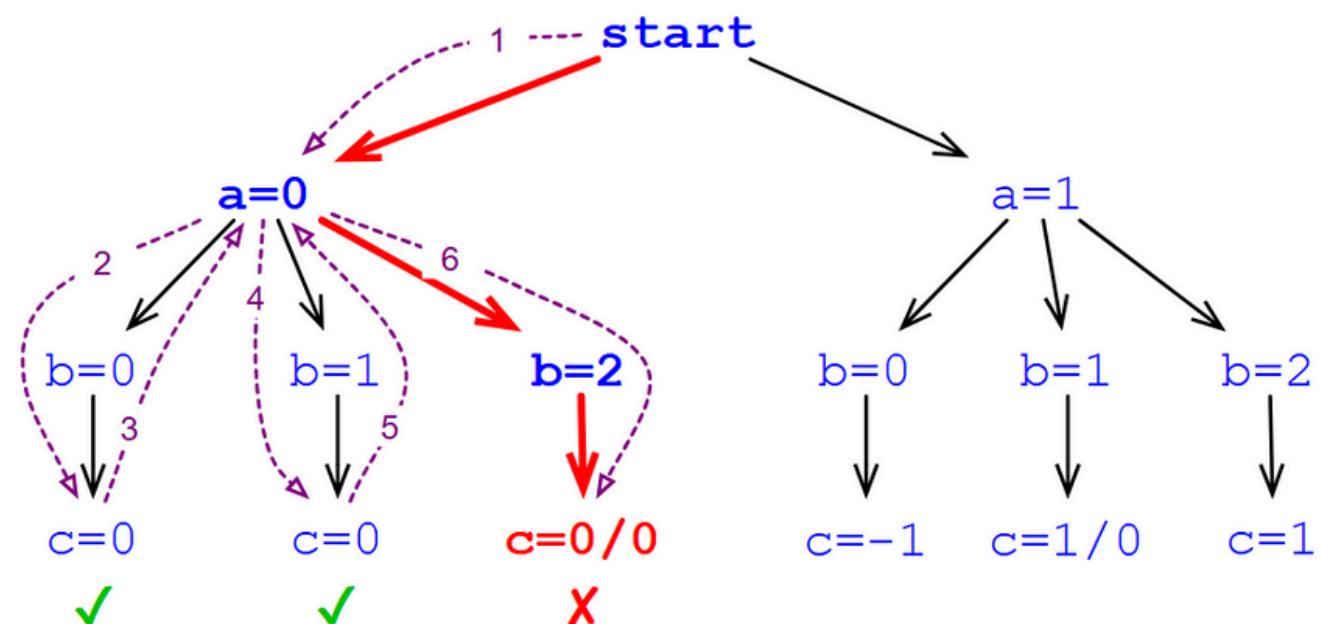
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## Code

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        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

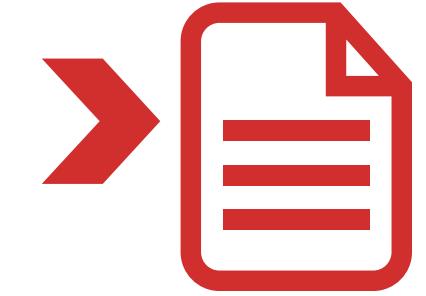
c=0

b=1

c=0

b=2

Error



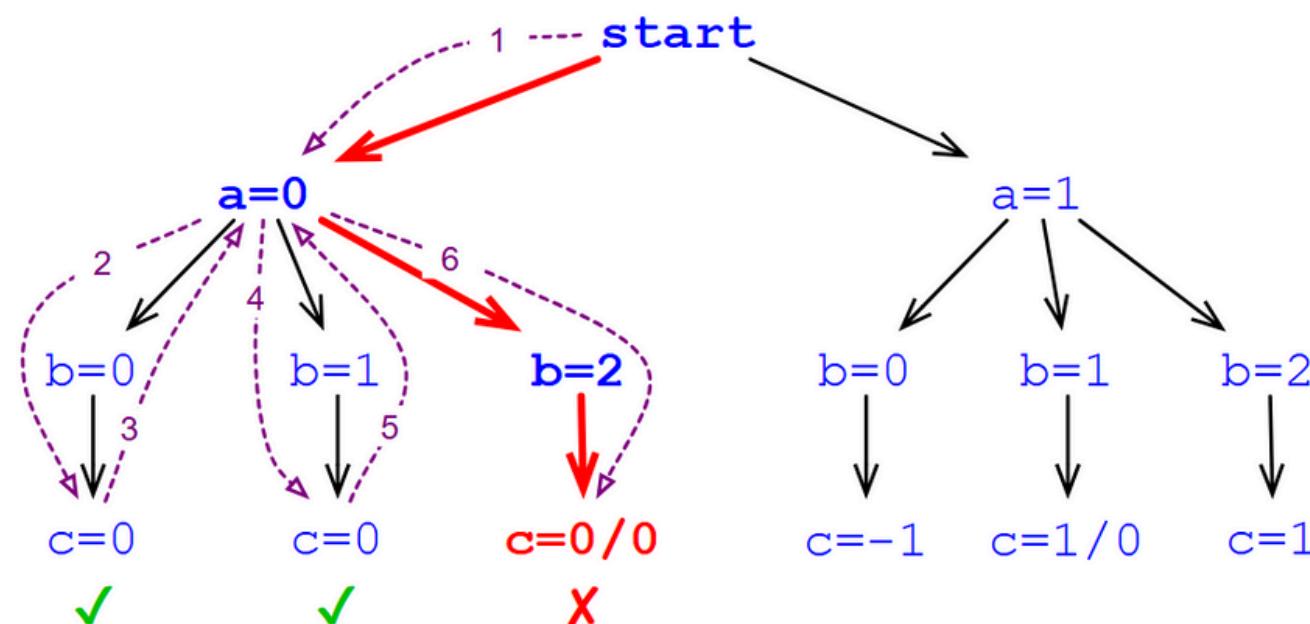
# S.U.T. Output

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

```
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    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 significative.

**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

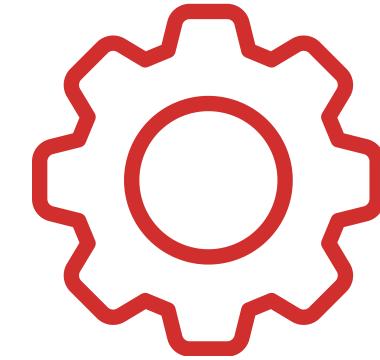
Statistics

## Example report

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

```
JavaPathFinder core system v8.0 ....
===== system under test
HelloWorld.main()
===== 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.ArithmetricException: division by zero
at UncaughtException.main (UncaughtException.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

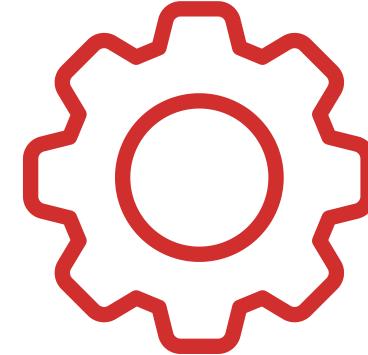
We can run JPF verification directly **inside** a standard **JUnit test class**

## 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))  
        {  
            someFunction();  
        }  
    }  
}
```

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
```



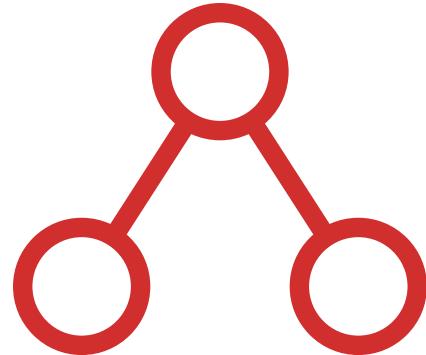
# Launch From within a Program

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 (JPFEException jx){  
                ...  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```

## Annotations

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



# Coding JPF Dependent

## 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();
```

## What are JPF Properties

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

**key = value**

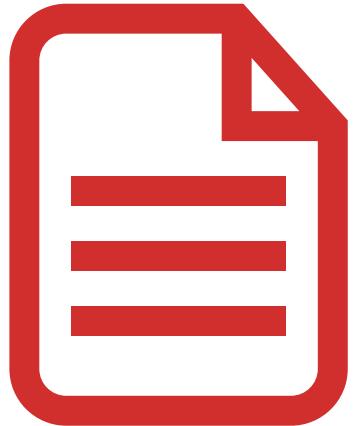
For example, consider the file presented in slide 23, reported here:

```
~$ nano <name>.jpf  
target = <main class>  
classpath = <class-path>
```

These are both JPF properties

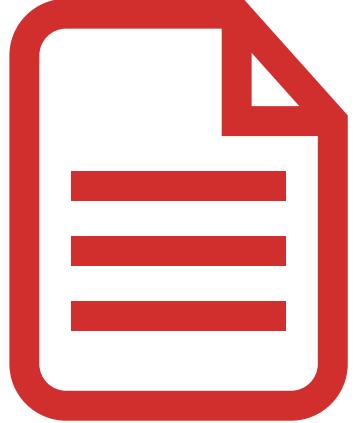
# JPF Properties

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



# 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 example, randomizing the order with which JPF chooses which branch to take

```
cg.enumerate_random = true  
cg.randomize_choices = VAR_SEED
```



# Application Properties

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

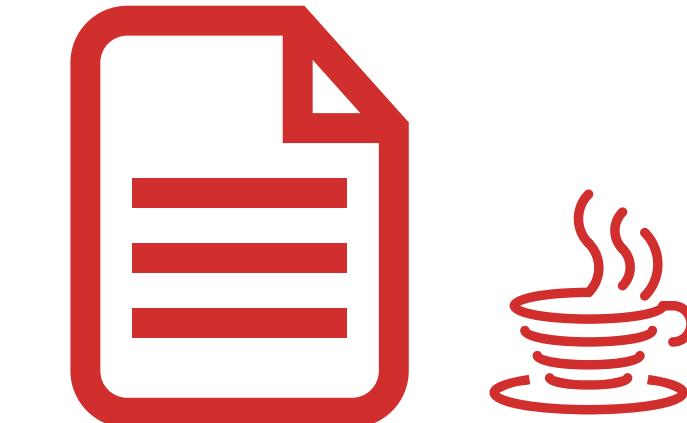
## Uses

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]

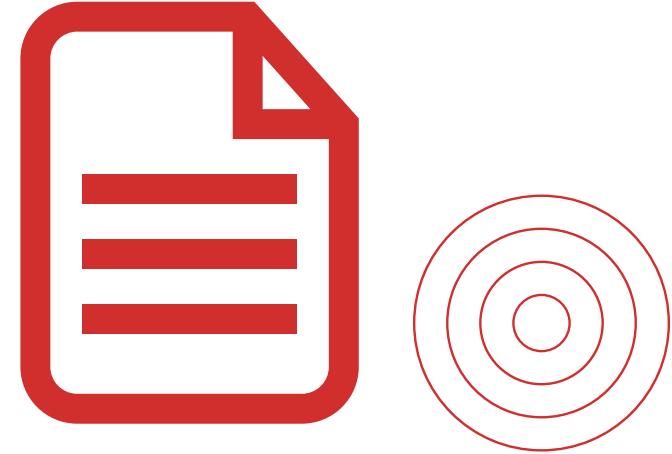
jpf-core.sourcepath = [sources to be model checked]

## 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]
```

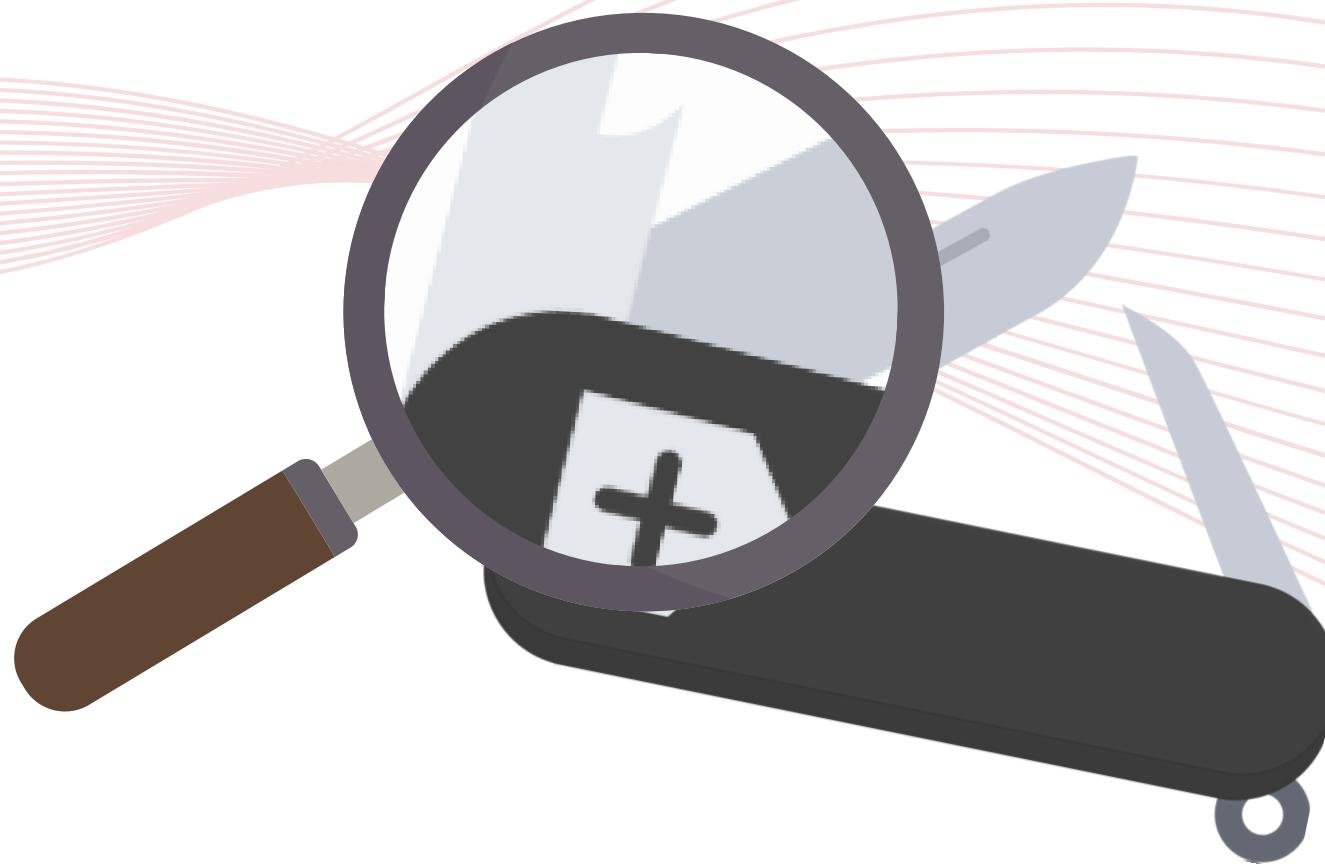
```
jpf-extension-name = [path to another extension]
```

...

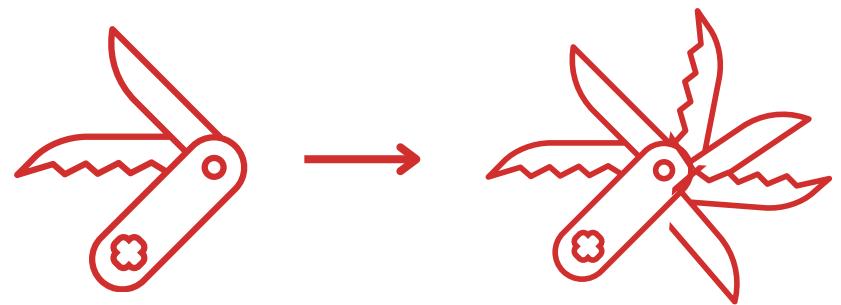
```
extensions = ${jpf-core}, ${jpf-extension-name}, ...
```

## Others

Other default setting for lower levels



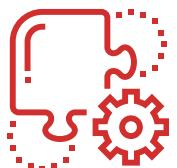
# JPF Exposed



# 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



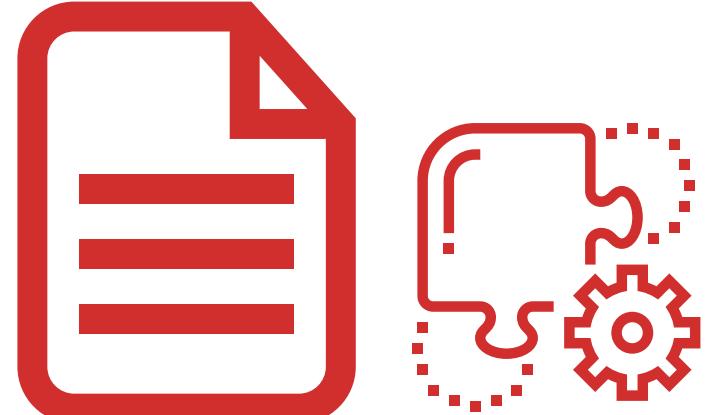
## (Custom) Properties verification

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

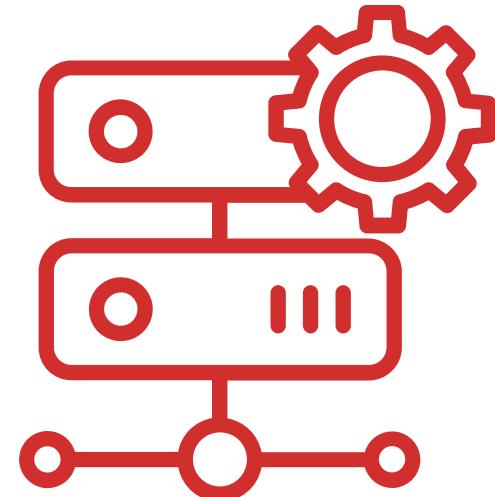
Jpf with annotation based program properties

## 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

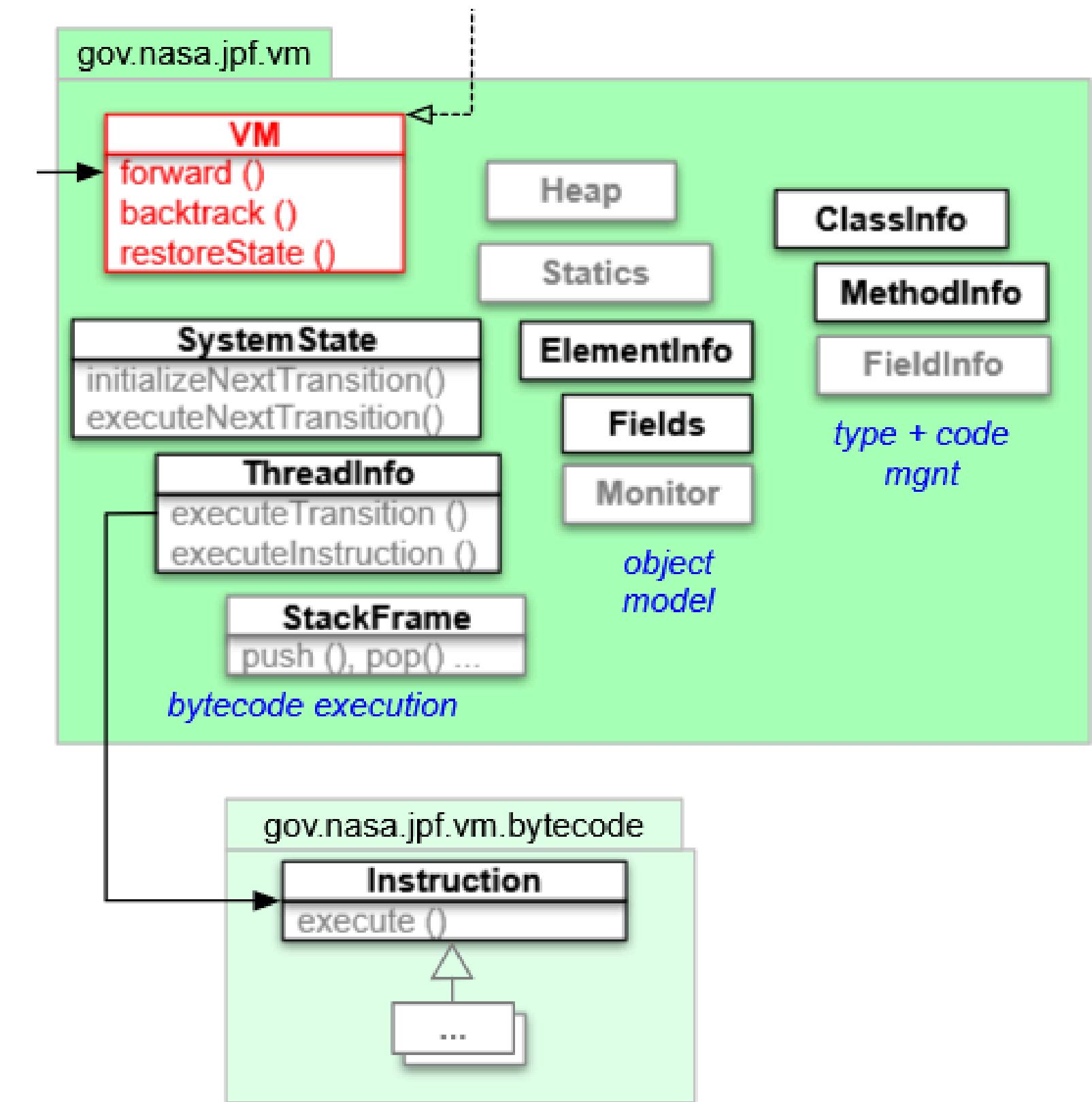
## Functionalities

**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

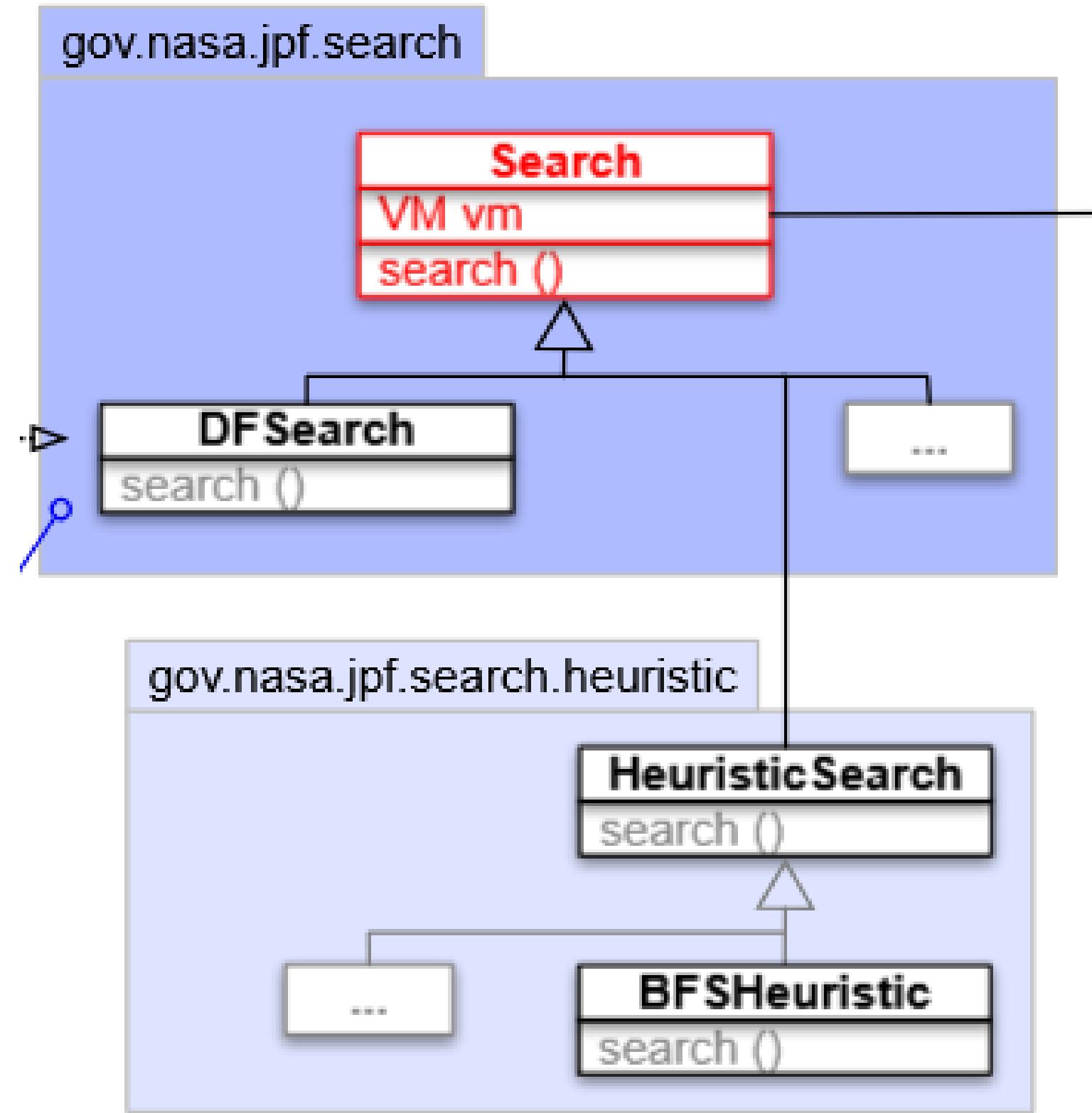
## Functionalities

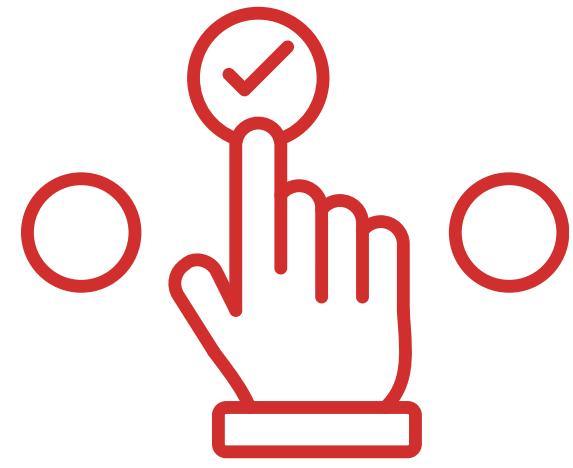
**search()** is the VM driver, selecting either forward(), backtrack() or restoreState()

**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

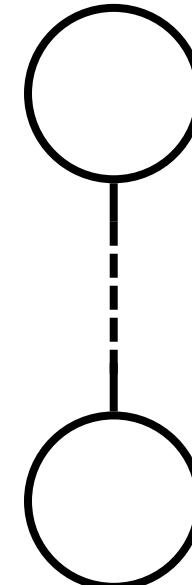
This component **can be extended** with new search strategies and heuristics





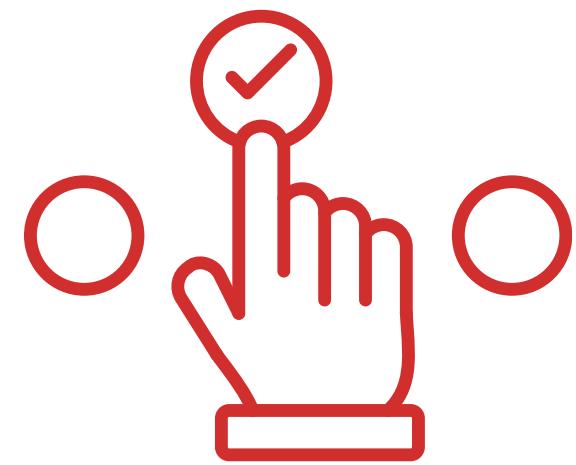
# Choice Generator

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



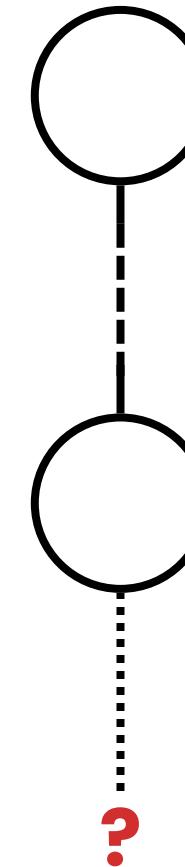
## State

Memory status.  
Path that lead to it.



# Choice Generator

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Choice Generators Handle them.



**Non-Determinism**

**Scheduling choices**

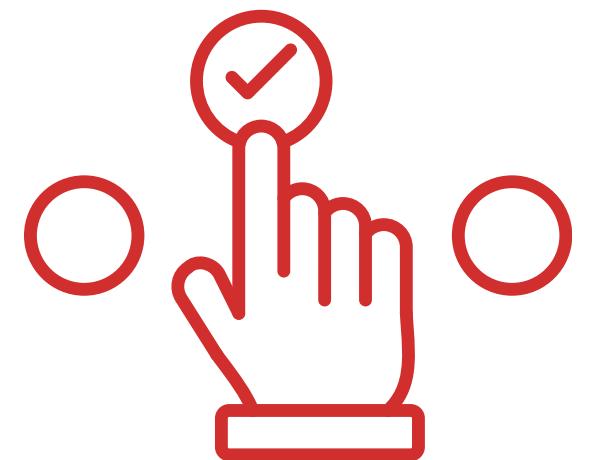
Thread and shared objects

**Data choices**

Testing different variable values

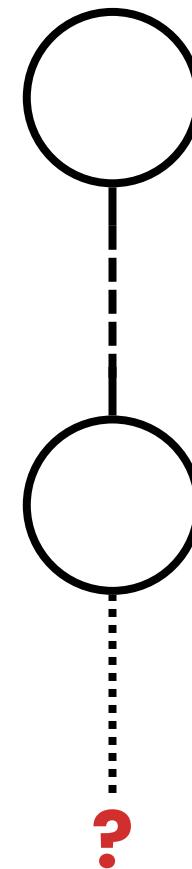
**Control choices**

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...

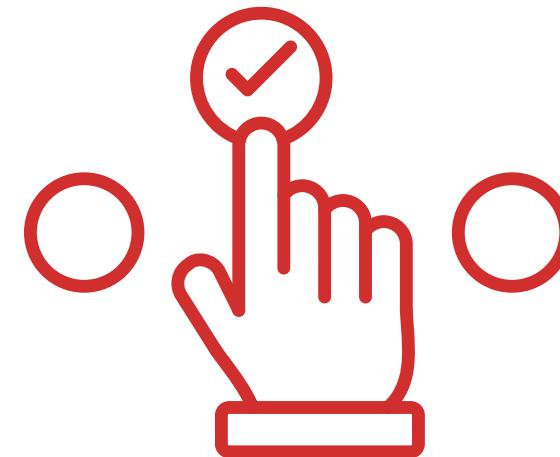


### Non basic cases

### Domain specific cases

### Parametrization

External interface working at runtime (JPF Properties)



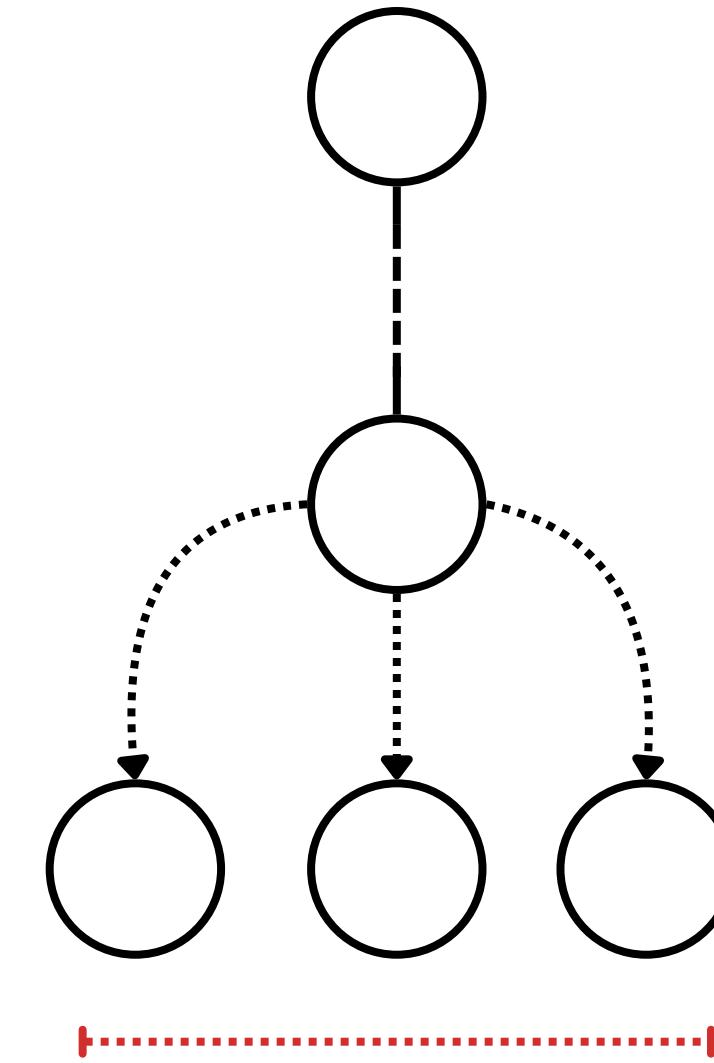
# Choice Generator

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## Possible Choices

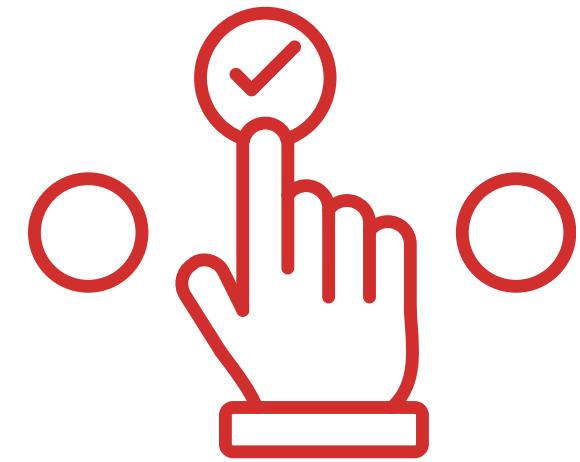
Driven by non-det.  
Are possible new states based  
on how the non determinism is  
solved.



## ChoiceGenerator

Generates possible choices.

This is an extensible  
component (through  
heuristics).



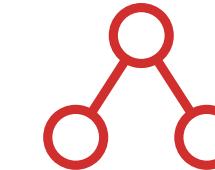
# Choice Generator

Program faces non-determinism problems.  
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## JPF Unaware

Managed automatically by JPF



## JPF Dependant

We can detail choice generation.

### Basic types

E.g. Use the JPF Verify API Basic Types

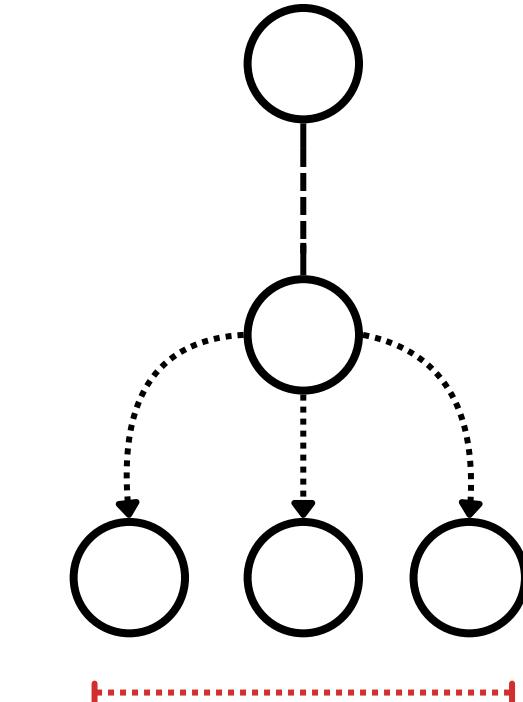
```
boolean managed = Verify.getBoolean();
```

### Threshold values

E.g. Use the JPF Verify API Parametrization

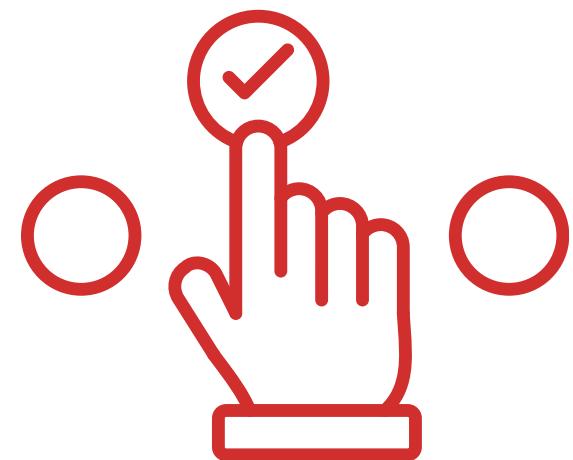
```
double speed = Verify.getDouble("myheur");
```

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



## ChoiceGenerator

Generates possible choices.



# Choice Generator

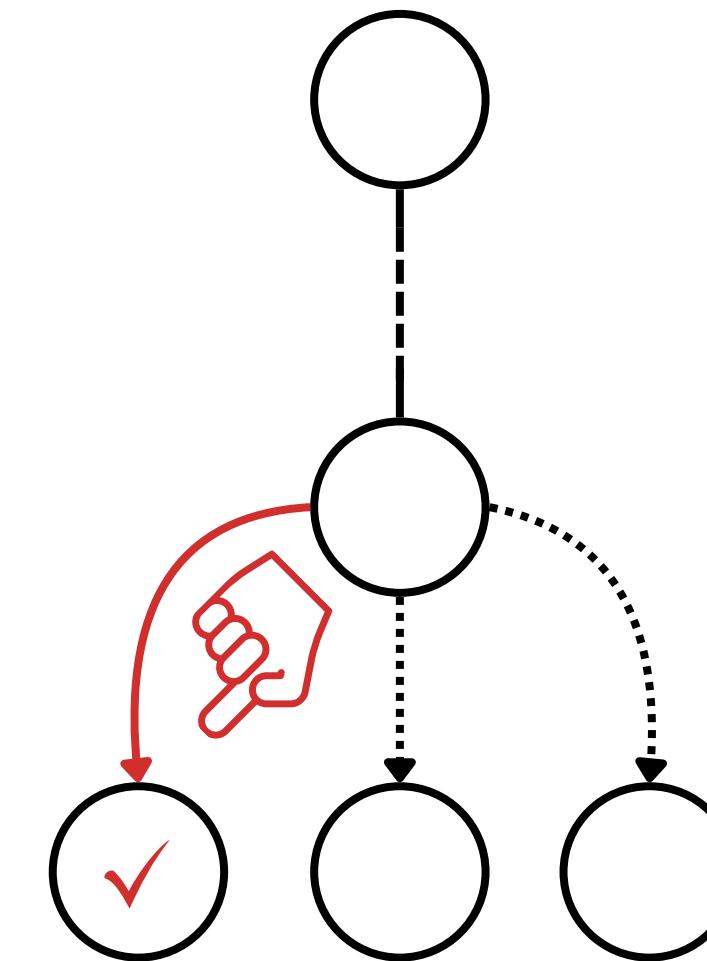
Program faces non-determinism problems.  
Choice Generators Handle them.

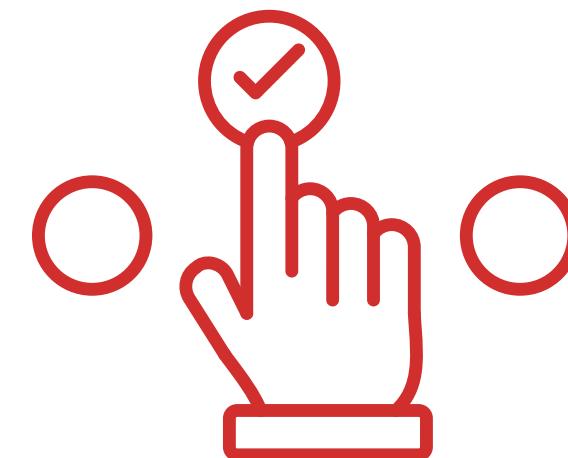
## Choice

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

## Transition

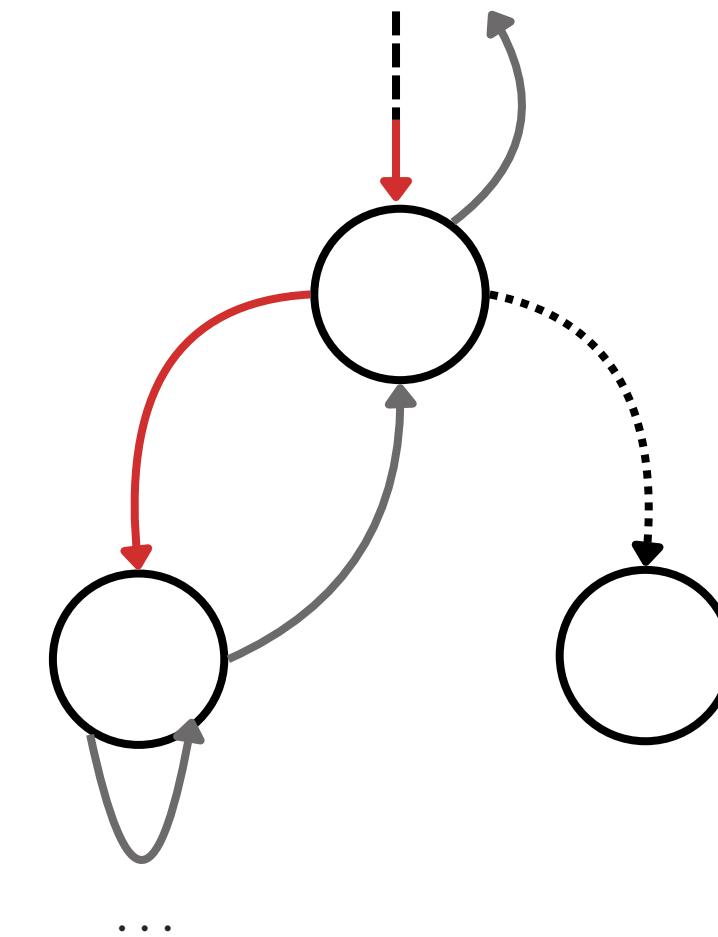
Moving from one state  
to another.



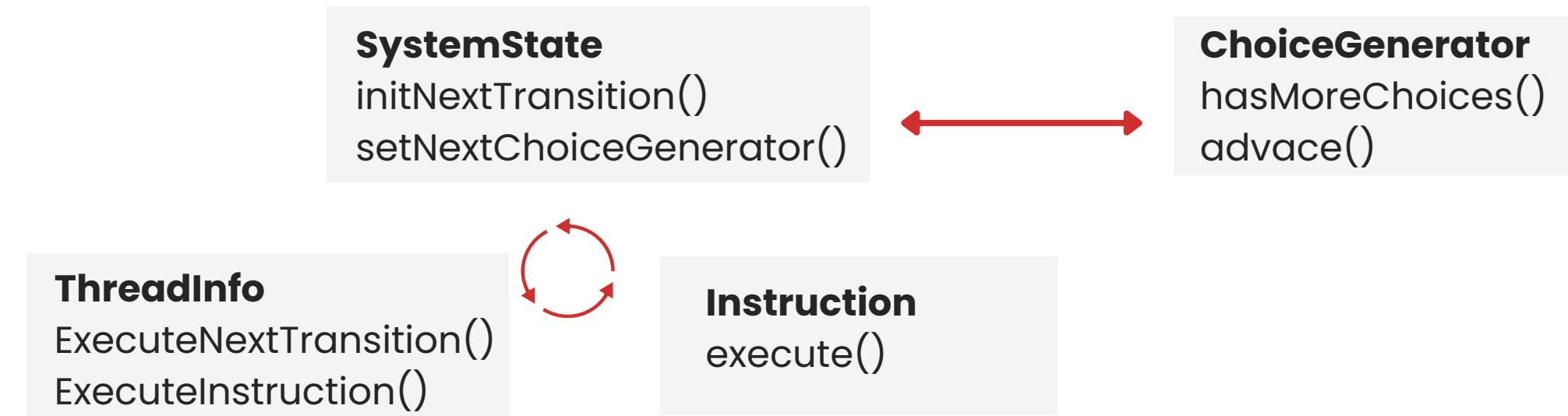


# Choice Generator

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



## Objects



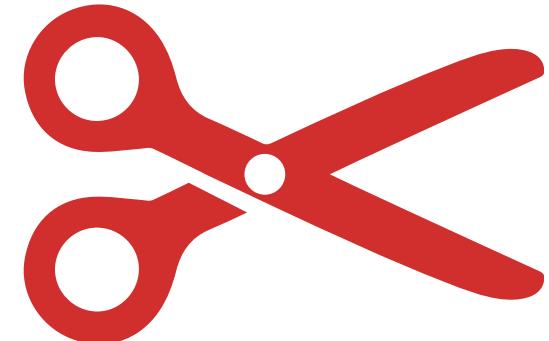
## Internally

Each state store its own choice generator.

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

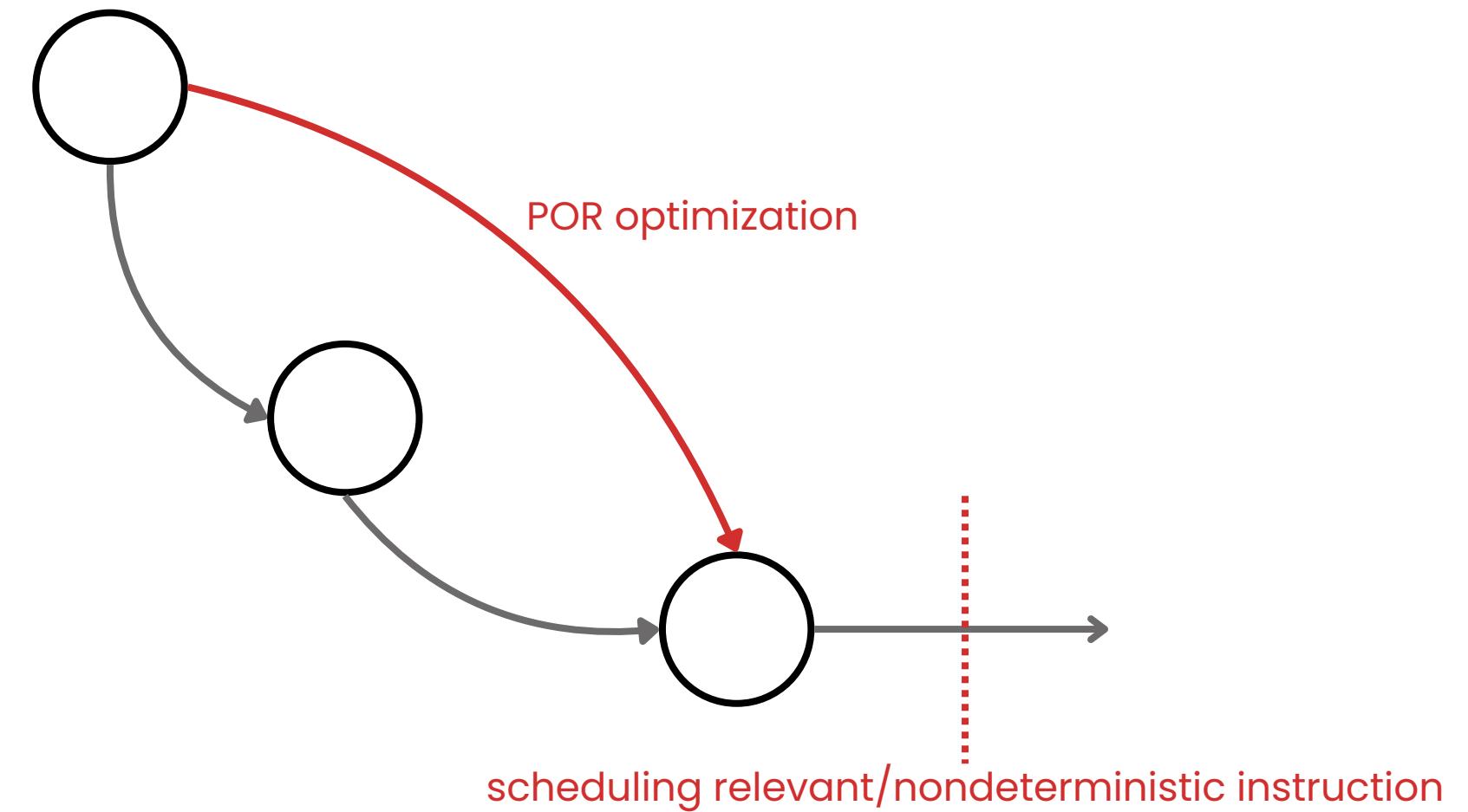
Execute the code from the new state.

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



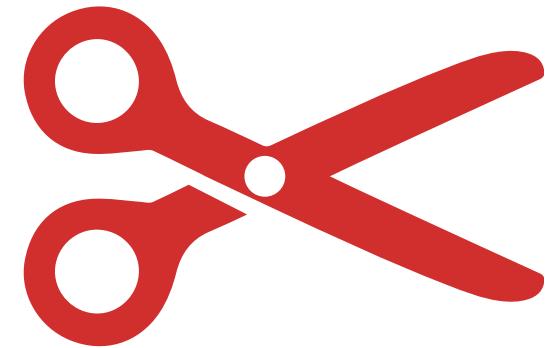
# Partial Order Reduction

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

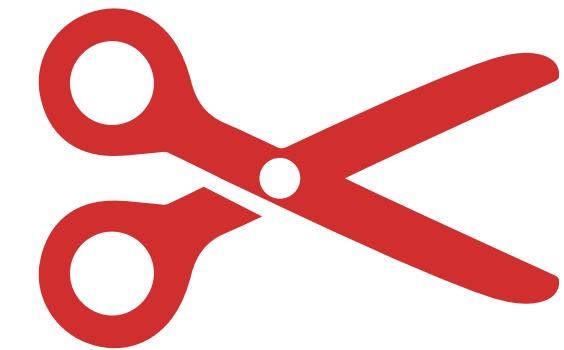
JPF implements **on the fly** partial order reduction to achieve a **reduction of 70%** or more of **state spaces**

## 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

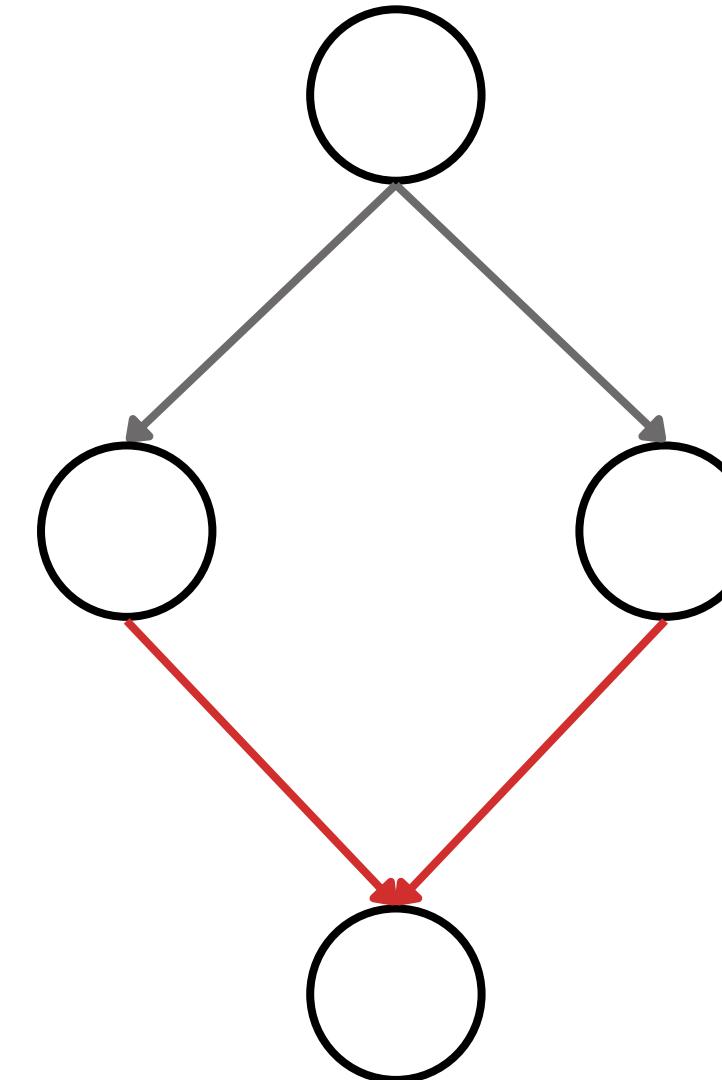


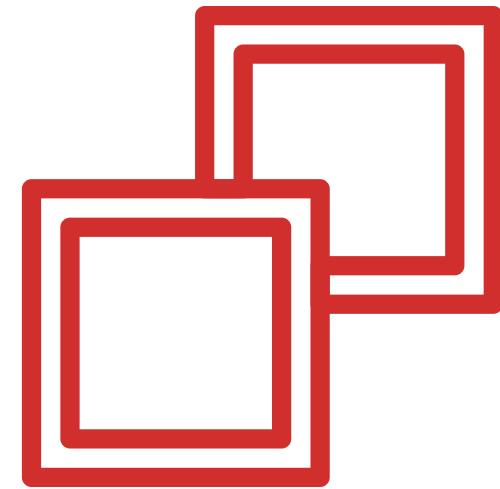
# Partial Order Reduction

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 thread 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:

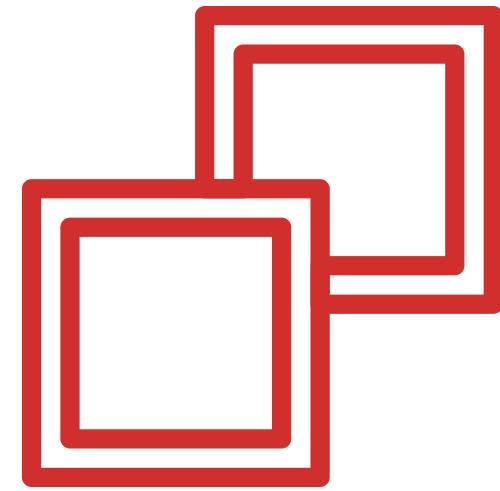
- `gov.nasa.jpf.v.Fields` for instance and static fields
- `gov.nasa.jpf.vm.StackFrame` for stack slots (local operands and variables)

## 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.

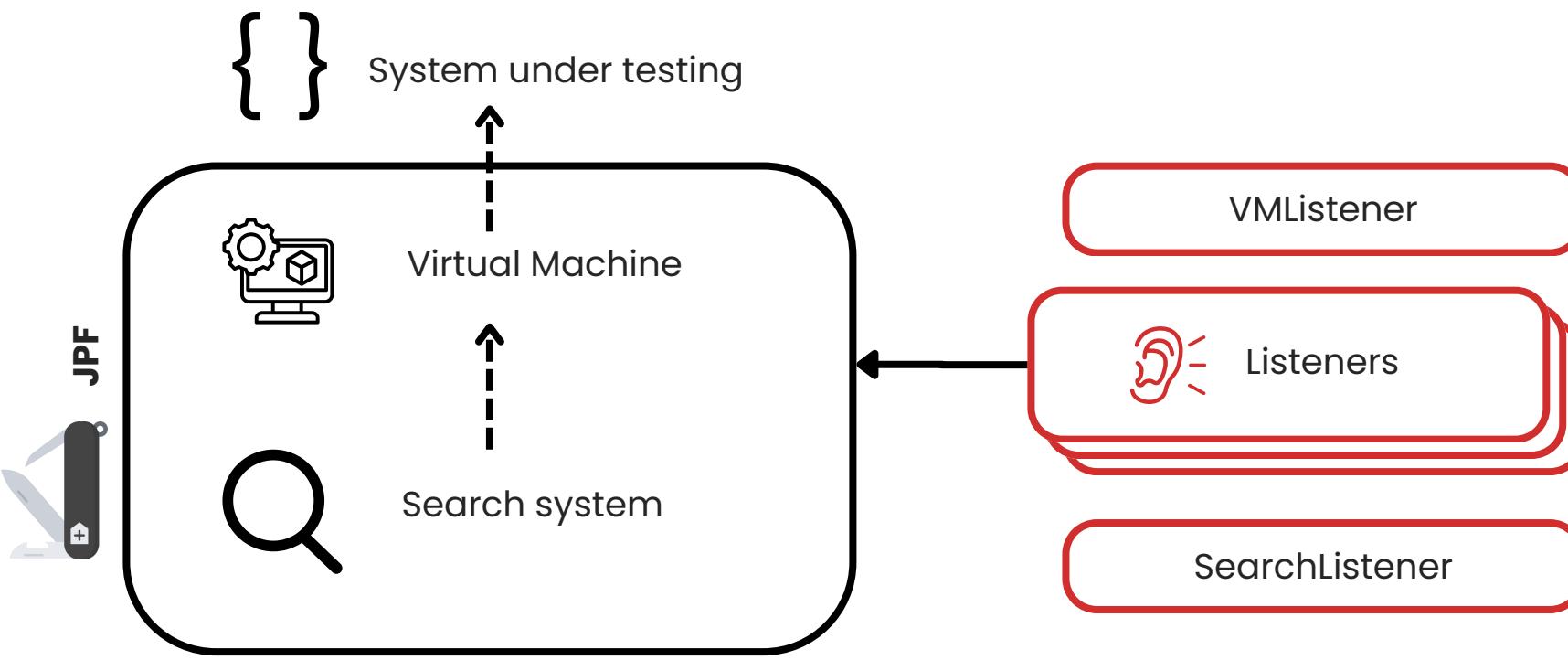
Main extension point of jpf.

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

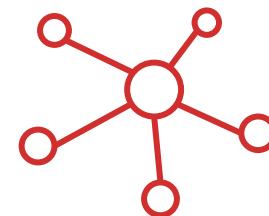
Standard listeners exists



## gov.nasa.jpf.listener.EndlessLoopDetector

Control heuristically that there are no infinite loops

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



## gov.nasa.jpf.listener.StateSpaceDot

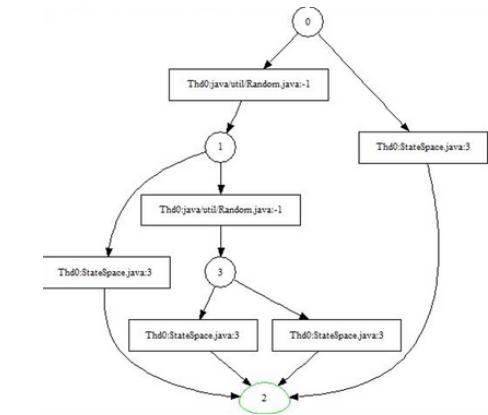
Draw the state space explored by JPF.  
Uses .dot (dotty format)  
can be opened with GraphViz



## gov.nasa.jpf.listener.BudgetChecker

Control resource contraints are not violated.

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





# Extending Listeners

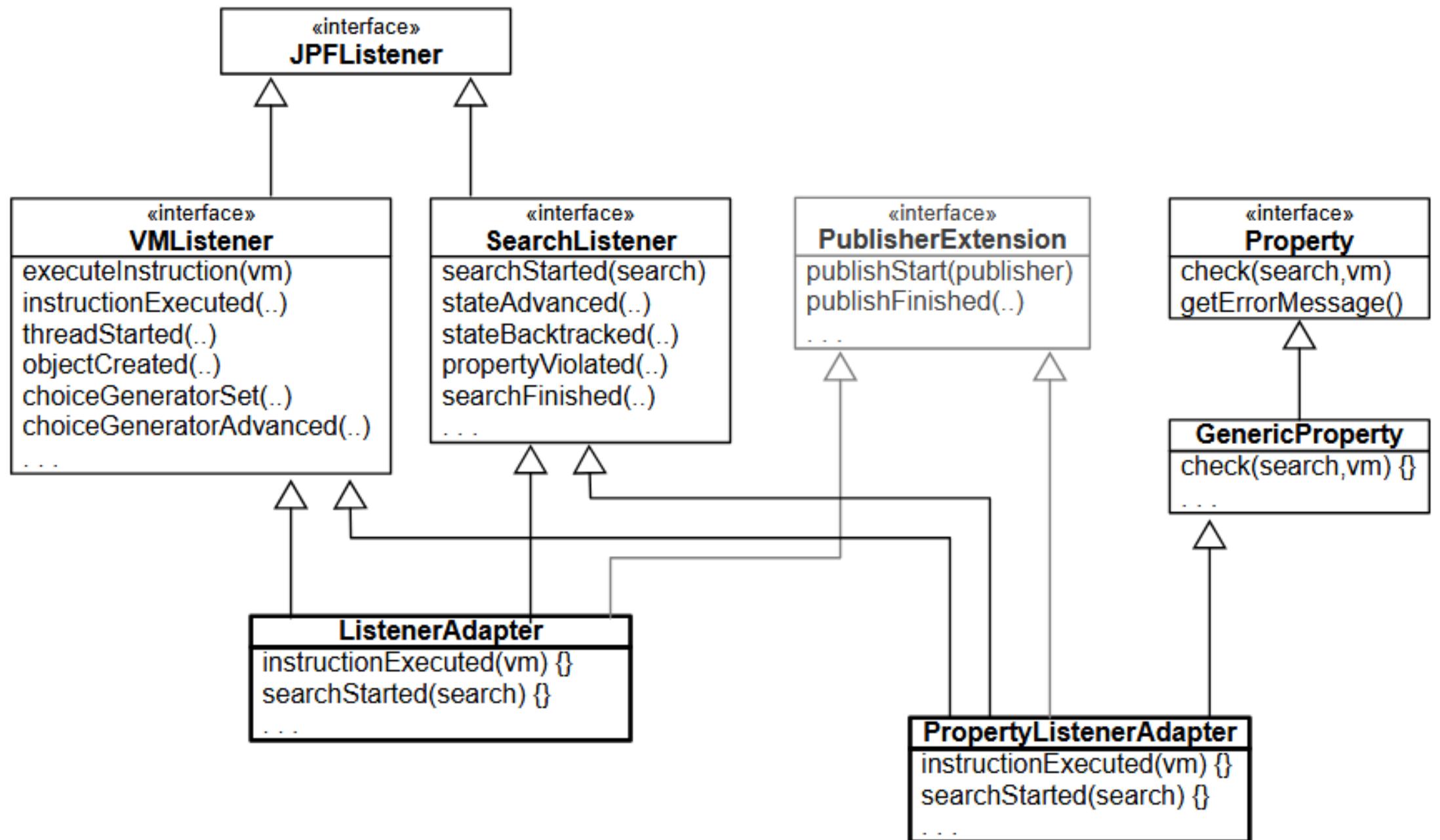
It is complex but feasible extending JPF Classes.

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.

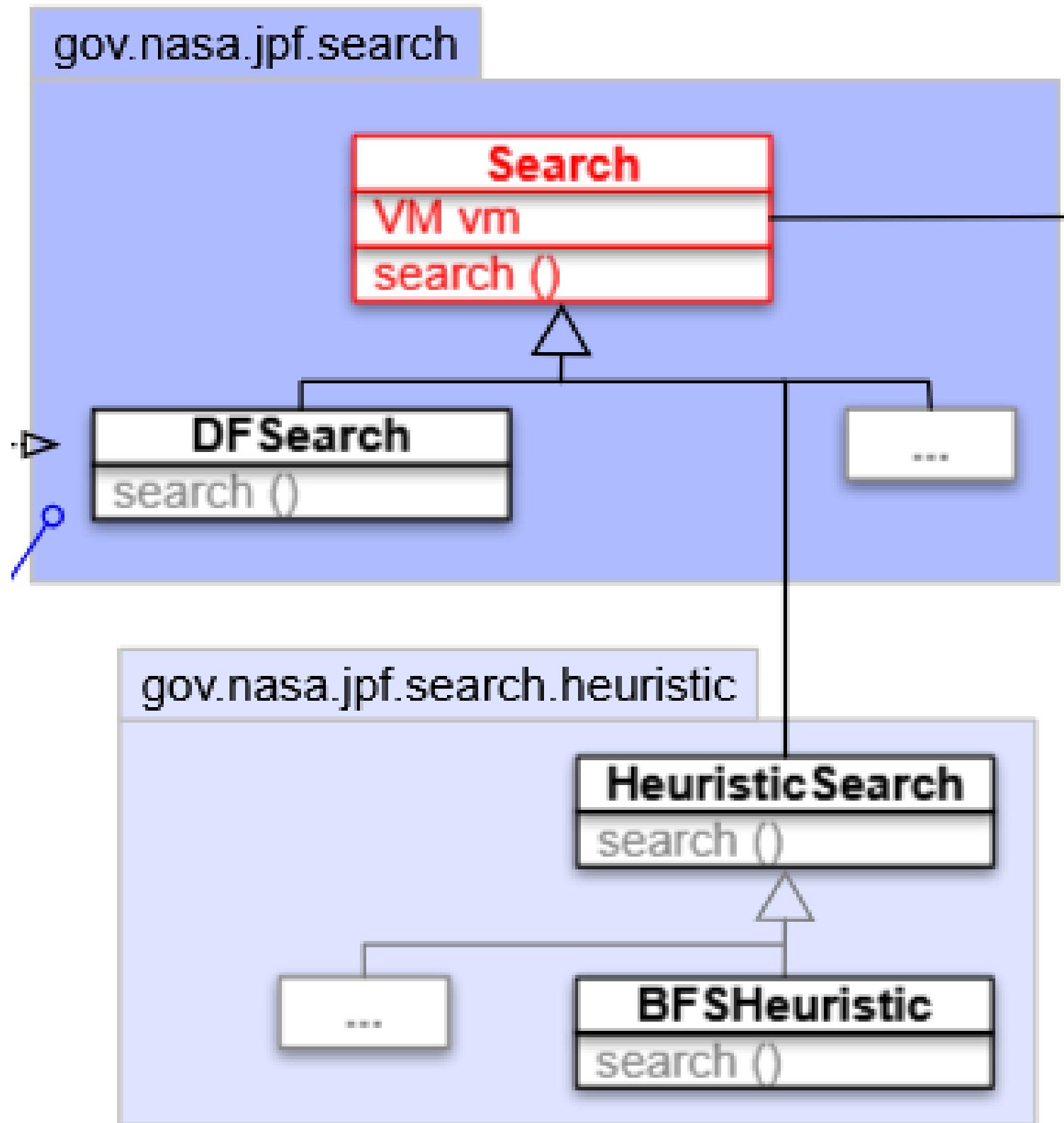




# Extending Search

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 how to take into account some of these properties:

- **search.depth\_limit** → use **getDepthLimit()**
- **search.min\_free** → use **checkStateSpaceLimit()**
- **search.multiple\_errors** → use **hasPropertyTermination()**, in combination with the **done** attribute



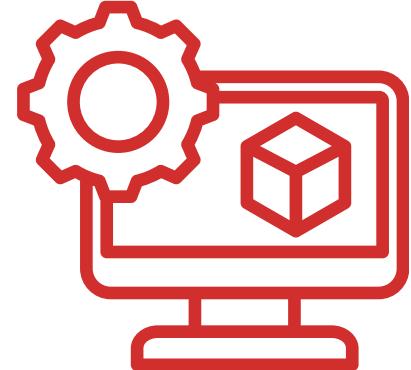
# Extending Search

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

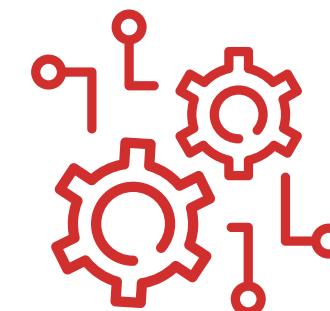
The VM implemented by JPF is itself expandable.

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

10110  
10110  
01100

## Bytecode Factory

Enable to implement new and existing bytecodes



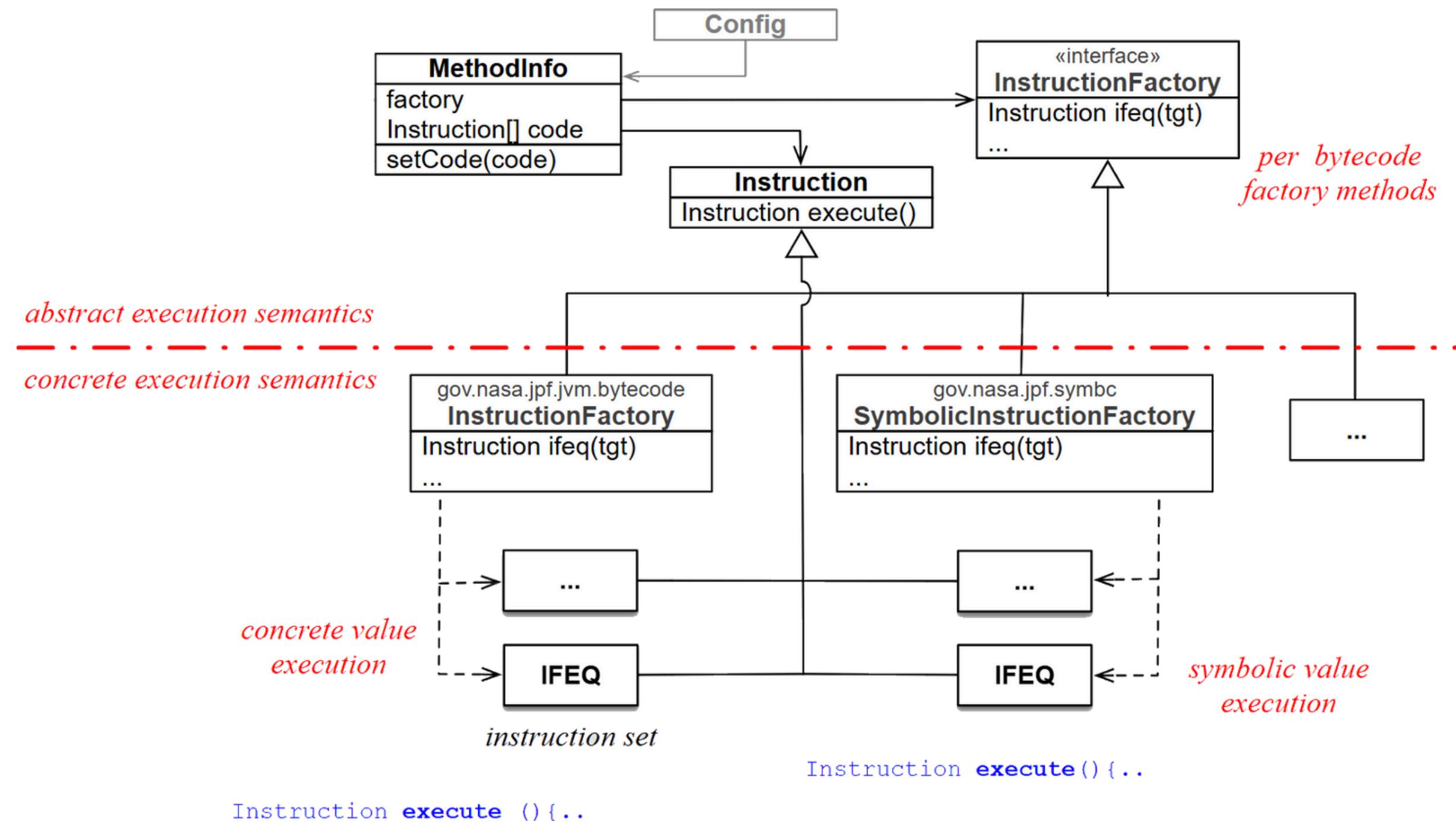
## Model Java Interface

Interface SUT with Native JVM

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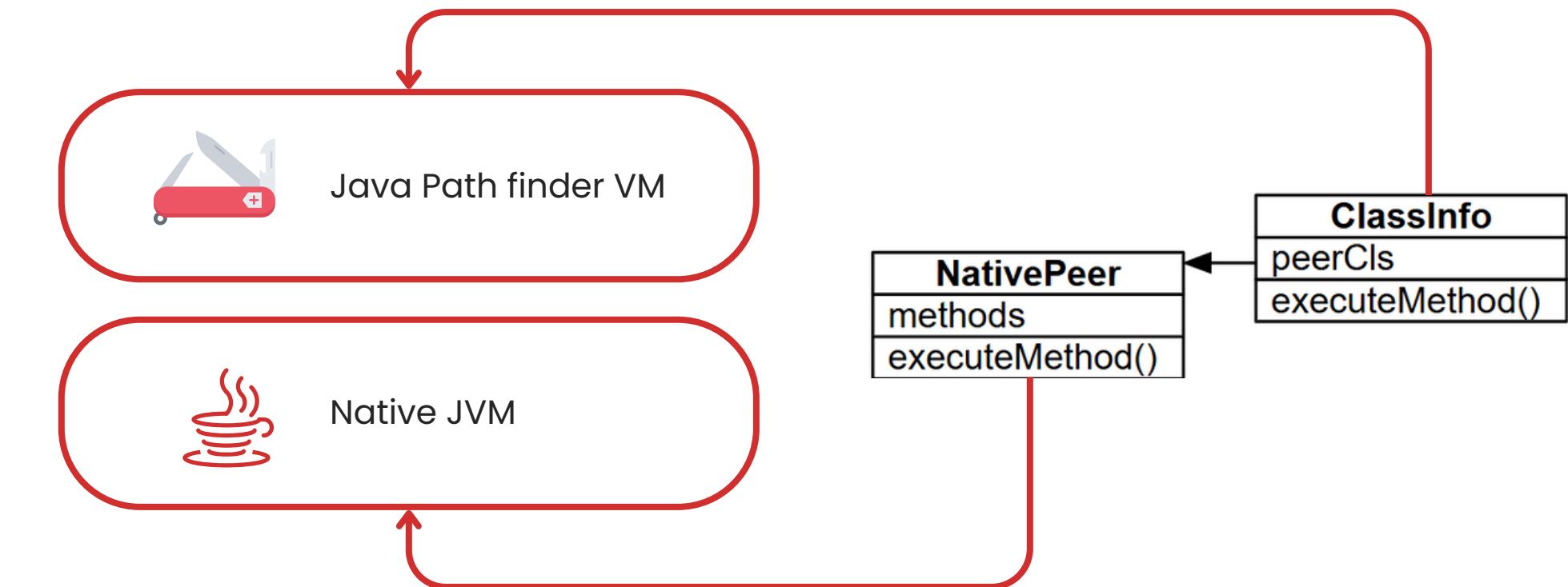
# Bytecode Factory

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





# Model Java Interface



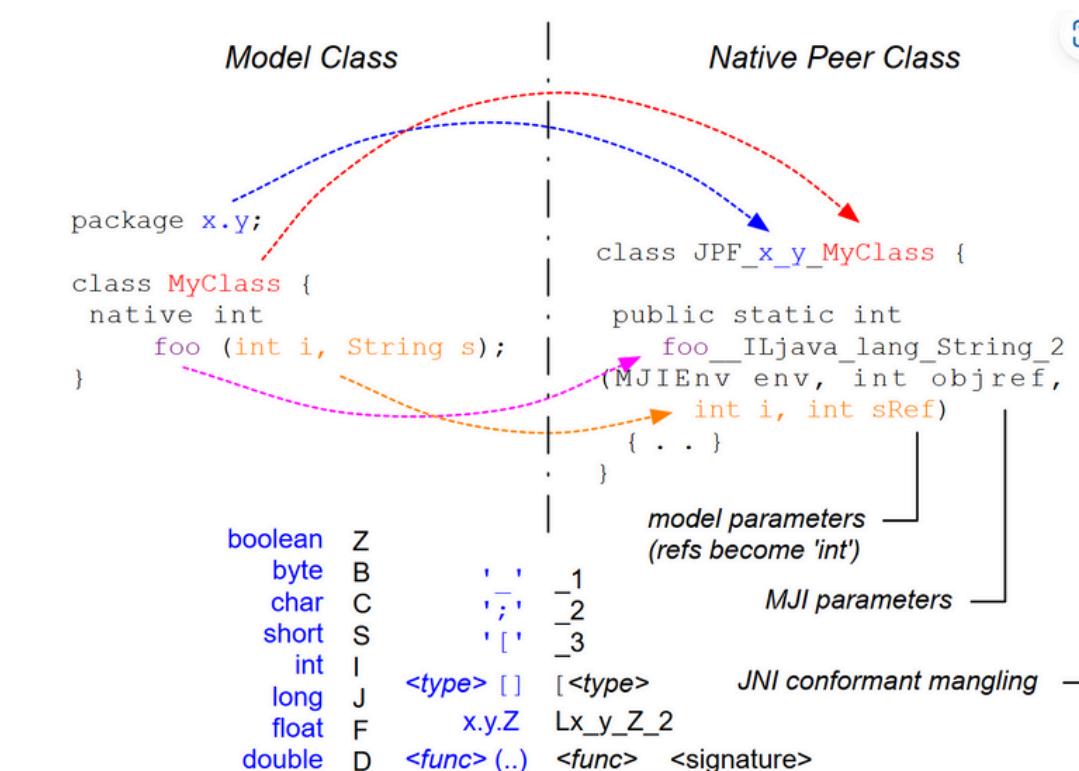
## Interface SUT with Native JVM.

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)



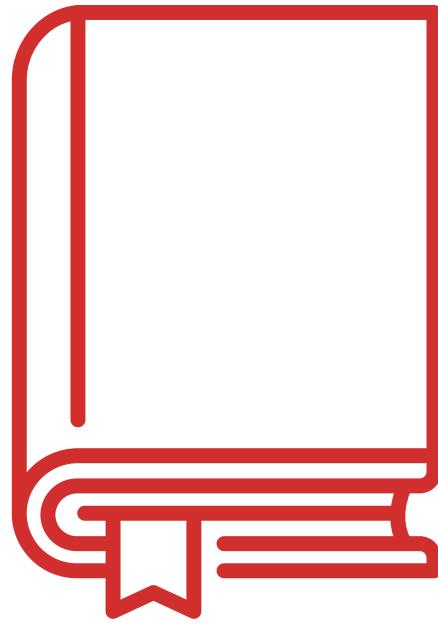


# Our bibliography

## JPF Documentation

<https://github.com/javapathfinder/jpf-core/wiki/>

As of 04/2025, by JavaPathFinder



# Bibliography

## Java PathFinder: a tool to detect bugs in Java code

[F. van Breugel • 2020 • York University](#)

## Model checking programs

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

## Java PathFinder

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



# Thank You

30 April 2025

