

Patterns of Software Development

Report on a Bohnanza Implementation

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1 Design goals

1.1 Criteria

The importance of particular quality criteria depend on in which environment the application is used. This environment also influences the stakeholders; not every categorie stakeholder is affected by the software system. We offer our system open sourced and free of charge online.¹. We assume the application is a highly popular one and is used among many people. We identify the most important quality criteria for this environment as *extensibility* and *reusability*. The most affected stakeholders are the *developers*, *maintainers*, *testers* and *users*.

Extensibility is an external criteria; it is most important for the user. Reusability is more important for developers etc. Both criteria are also covered under the term modularity. A key feature of bohnanza is to add extensions to the std game. Modularity allow the user to easily use one of the many extensions, such as High Bohn or spin-offs, such as Al Cabohne. Also, for developers it allows for easy implementations of these extensions.

There is two major design decisions that contribute to modularity. First we have three modules which can be considered separate projects. One module contains basic objects and method related to bohnanza, such as shuffling the discard pile into the draw deck. Another module implements std bohnanza without extensions. The last module implements the hb extension. All projects can of course be tested and compiled individually. The std and hb extension inherit from the base module. The base module provides an abstract class that resolves dependency resolution between modules. Both the std and the hb module implement this class. Making it possible to hide some information in modules and should result in understandable modules. Second, we had the option to introduce classes in the the model which do have a role in the bohnanza game, such as a player area. A class representing this role would have some proxy methods for

¹<https://github.com/Meijuh/psd>

retrieving (unmodifiable) lists and other methods to perform atomic operations. The class would have bean fields, a draw area etcetera, but not the discard pile. An atomic operation would be to plant a card from the draw area into a bean field. An operation a player area is not capable of is to move a card from the bean field to the discard pile. This is of course an advantage because it prevents incorrect behaviour. However we chose not to implement these kinds of classes because it makes it hard to test and proxy methods like `Player.getPlayerArea().getFarm().getBeanField()` make the source code unreadable. Instead we implemented methods directly in the `Player`, such that `Player.getBeanField()` is available.

1.2 Flexibility

Creating flexible software is not easy. Flexibility may introduce risks in software, but it allows for faster adaptation of software when external changes are desired. The basic bohnanza module should allow for creating an extension easily. However one should not over-engineer software to much. That is, by trying to anticipate what a future release of the software should support. The way we support flexibility in the bohnanza game is only for creating extensions of the std bohnanza game. These extensions can be created by subtyping certain classes in the module. An alternative would be to supply hooks in our base module. But one can only guess if this approach works well with extensions we have not implemented, such as el Cabohne. One can not simply override any method if behaviour needs to be changed, because this is bad practice. As ² suggests a method should either be final or abstract. Therefore if one needs to override a method a final method should be made abstract and (parts of it) should be implemented in a subtype. We find this closely relates to the *open-closed principle* of modularity. The base module is *open* because no classes are final and can thus be extended. But it is *closed* – thus harder to extend – because methods are final. In our base module behaviour is hard to *modify* but behaviour can however be easily *added*, since classes are not final. The trade-off here is that it is harder to modify behaviour of the base module and thus one can not easily break the way we intent bohnanza to work. On the other hand, it is unforseable if for some extension the base module needs to be changed. If this is the case one has to change the keywords like described earlier.

2 Design

Our design is split up in three modules.

bohnanza Mostly an abstract base module that contains logic for both the std and hb game.

²<http://checkstyle.sourceforge.net/>

pattern which could have been applied in this context. We chose to keep things simple and focus more on the extensibility of bohnanza rather than on implementing other views such as a graphical one. We think that the classic MVC pattern suffices here.

2.1 Model

Three important parts of the model involve the hierarchy of cards (Figure 2), the creation of cards (Figure 3) using a *factory method* pattern and the relation between different sets of cards and the players (Figure 4).

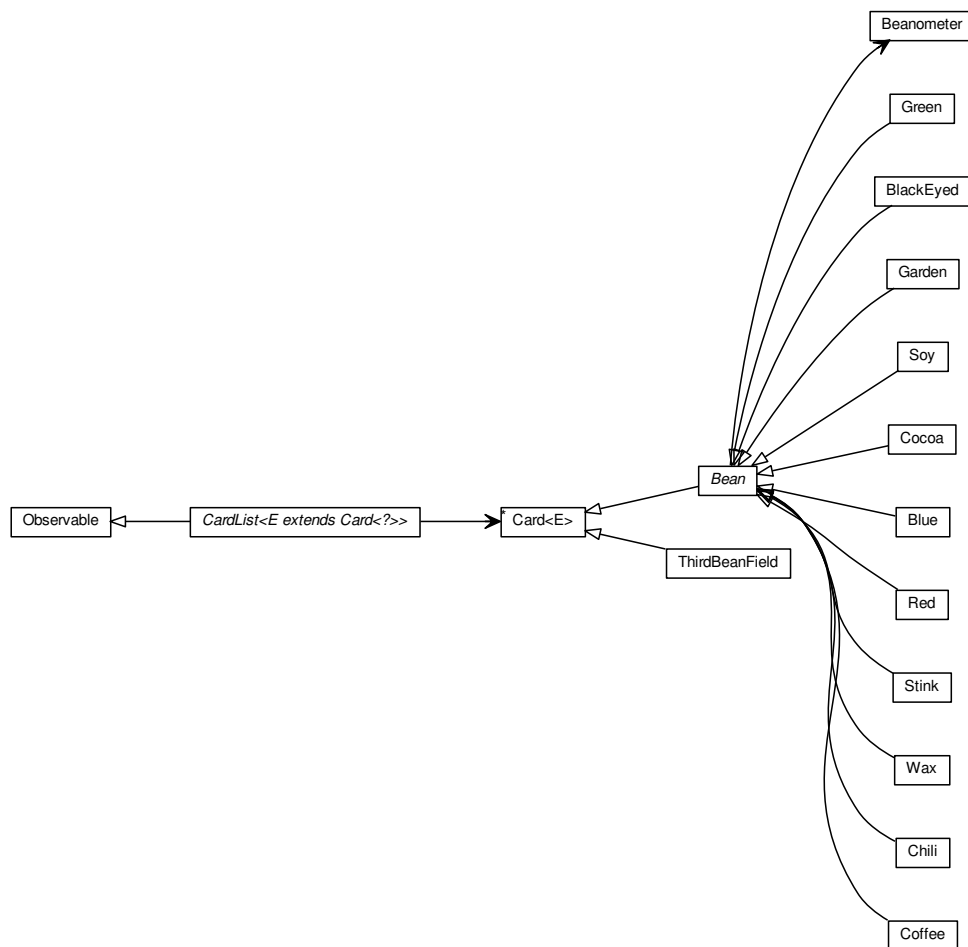


Figure 2: Class diagram of the cards

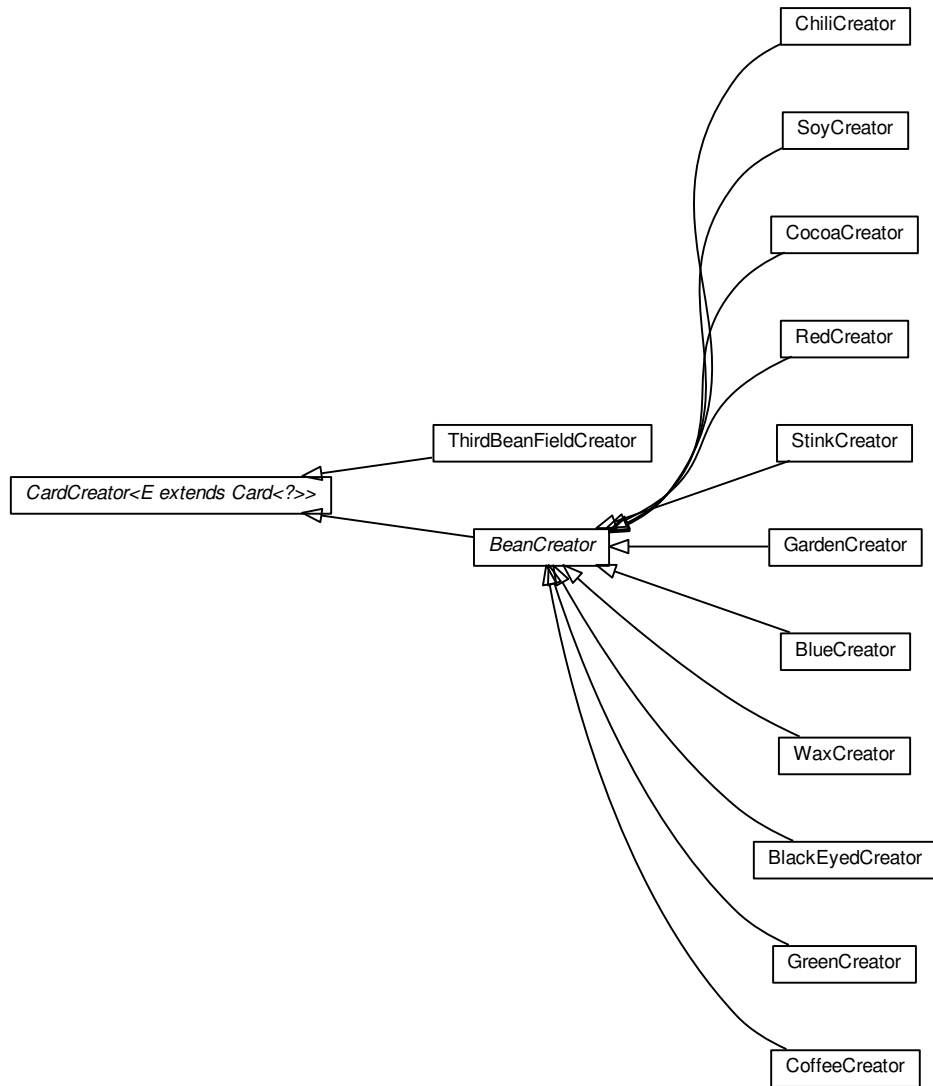


Figure 3: Class diagram for the creation of cards

The hierarchy of the cards here is convenient, namely when creating extensions of bohnanza. When new cards are introduced to the game creating a new factory i.e. subtyping `CardCreator` or `BeanCreator` is easy because those factories expect a subtype of a `Card`. Instead of using a factory method pattern we could have approach this a little different. Guice allows creating multiple instances of a class by means of a

Provider class. Using this alternative would have resulted in cleaner code. The reason why we did not choose this alternative is because we introduced Guice into our project after we used the factory method pattern and did not want to rewrite our code. We did however use the provider method for creating **Players** as shown in Figure 6, because this was the only way to inject these objects into an **Bohnanza** object.

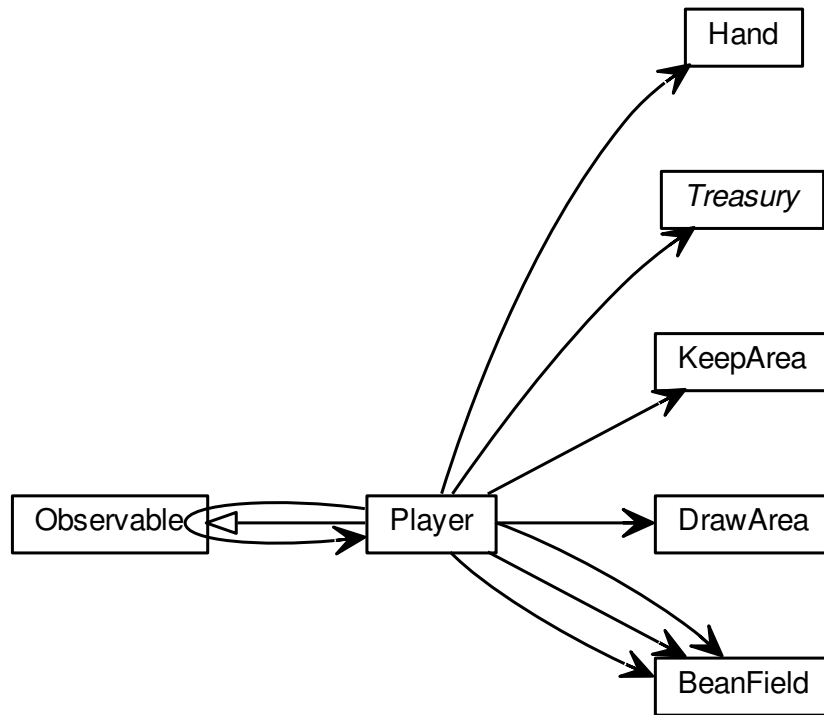


Figure 4: Class diagram for the player and association to particular sets of cards

2.2 Controller

The controller of the game is implemented using a *state* design pattern and is shown in Figure 5. An alternative we could use here is the *strategy* pattern. The strategy pattern is more applicable in situations where strategies are chosen at runtime. But more importantly the strategy pattern is used in situation where the result of different strategies is the same. In bohnanza the order of states is rather fixed the order only varies depending on how often the deck is shuffled or in case of execeptional behaviour. In case execeptional behaviour occurs in our application the next state is always the **Fail** state. In general the order of states that are executed are **Prepare** → **FirstTurn** → **SecondTurn** → **ThirdTurn** → **FourthTurn** → **FirstTurn** → ... → **End**. A typical implementation of the `GameState.execute` method is shown as follows in **FirstTurn**. Note how the next state is set by getting the singleton instance on Line 19. The application continues until a `GameState` sets the next state to `null`, i.e. when `GameContext.getState() == null`.

Listing 1: FirstTurn.execute()

```
1  @Override
2  public void execute(GameContext context) {
3
4      if (context.getCurrentPlayer().getHand().size() > 0) {
5
6          int beanFieldNumber = context.getView().mustPlant(context.getCurrentPlayer());
7
8          try {
9
10             context.getCurrentPlayer().plantHand(beanFieldNumber);
11
12             if (context.getCurrentPlayer().getHand().size() > 0) {
13                 beanFieldNumber = context.getView().mayPlant(context.getCurrentPlayer());
14
15                 context.getCurrentPlayer().plantHand(beanFieldNumber);
16
17             }
18
19             context.changeState(SecondTurn.getInstance());
20
21         } catch (BohnanzaException e) {
22             context.changeState(Fail.getInstance());
23             Fail.getInstance().setException(e);
24         }
25     }
26 }
```

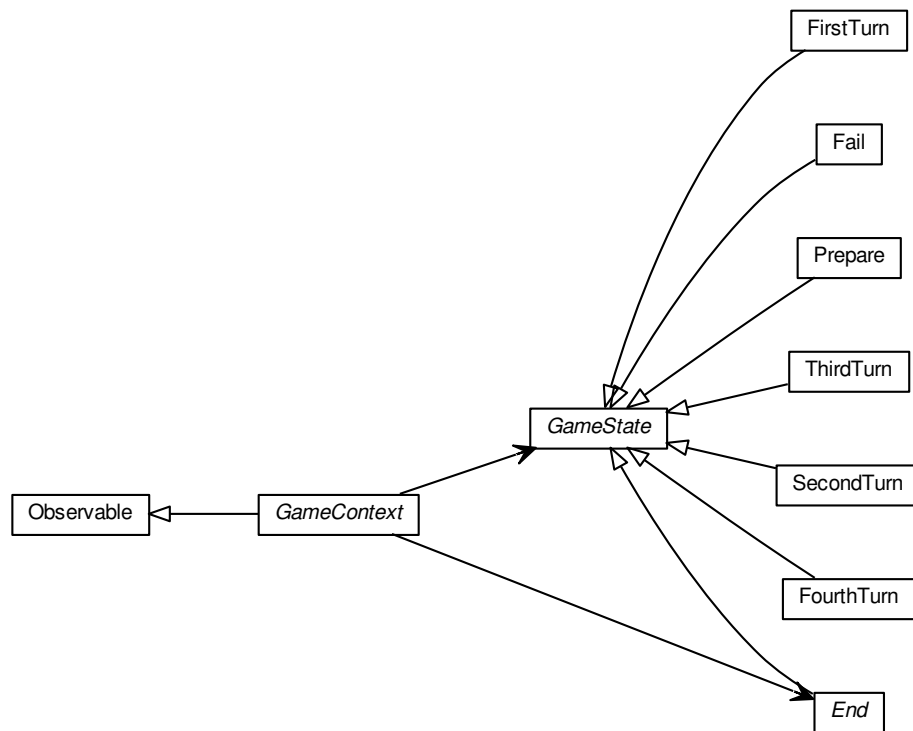


Figure 5: Class diagram for controlling the state of the game

2.3 View

Currently we support only a textual user interface. The `TUIView` class is an implementation of a `View` interface. Creating a new interface like a graphical or a network would involve implementing the `View` interface.

2.4 Packages

Our modules contain the following packages.

bohnanza contains the main class.

bohnanza.game contain some models for bohnanza, such as a `Card`.

bohnanza.game.factory contains classes w.r.t. the creation of cards.

bohnanza.game.player contains model classes w.r.t. the player.

bohnanza.game.shared contains model classes which may be accessed by all players.

bohnanza.game.gameplay contains controller classes w.r.t. the discussed state pattern.

bohnanza.module contains classes w.r.t. dependency injection of Guice.

bohnanza.umlgraph contains classes that model UML graphs used in this report.

bohnanza.view contains the view classes.

The packages are rather self explanatory. It can be argued however that some packages such as **bohnanza.game.player** and **bohnanza.game.shared** may be merged. In an early stage of the development we chose to make some classes *package private* such that for example only a **Player** could construct a **Hand** this would make sure there can only be as many **Hands** in the game as there are **Players**. This design choice was one of the reasons our code was not testable and we had to change the visibility parameters to use dependency injection.

2.5 Variations

2.5.1 User

The user can specify during the startup of the application how many players there are using a commandline option. For example `java bohnanza.BohnanzaStd -p=3` starts the **BohnanzaStd** module with three players. Parsing commandline options is done using the Apache Commons CLI library.

2.5.2 Developer

Variability for the develop depends heavily on notion of *dependency injection*. Dependency injection is a design pattern that basically involves moving dependency resolution from a particular class to a framework dedicated to dependency injection. We use Guice for this. Classes involved with dependency injection are shown in Figure 6. If a developer wants another variation of the application the developer can simply extend the **BohnanzaModule** class and define other classes to inject, note that **BohnanzaModule** extends the **AbstractModule** class from Guice. For example if a **Hand** object needs to behave differently for a particular extension of bohnanza one can extend **Hand** and define the extension in the extension of **BohnanzaModule**. **BohnanzaModule** itself is an abstract class and this class only knows the full list of required dependencies. A concrete class such as **BohnanzaStdModule** implements some methods that return concrete classes as dependencies. This relates closely to the *single choice principle*. Listing 2 shows how one

can change dependencies using an extension of the AbstractModule class. Note how the singleton pattern and the provider incorporate nicely in the configure method.

Listing 2: BohnanzaModule.java

```

1 public abstract class BohnanzaModule extends AbstractModule {
2
3     @Override
4     protected void configure() {
5         bind(View.class).to(getViewClass());
6         bind(DrawDeck.class).in(Singleton.class);
7         bind(Player.class).toProvider(getPlayerProviderClass());
8         ...
9     }
10
11     protected abstract Class<? extends Provider<? extends Player>> getPlayerProviderClass();
12     protected abstract Class<? extends DrawDeck> getDrawDeckClass();
13     protected abstract Class<? extends View> getViewClass();
14     ...
15 }
```

We have not really considered an alternative to dependency injection, because to our knowledge there is no real alternative for it. There is however the service locator pattern, but both these patterns solve a problem which is not that hard, that is injecting instances of some classes in another object instead of constructing these instances in that particular object. We found that Guice was a good enough framework, so we did not consider an alternate framework.

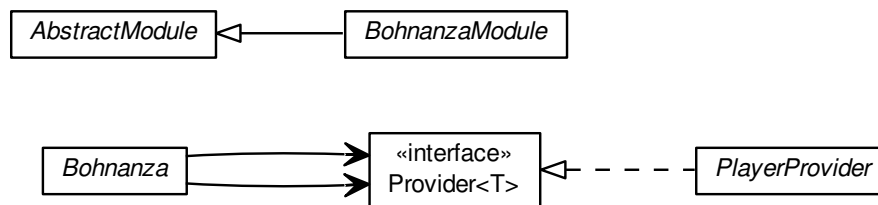


Figure 6: Class diagram of classes involving dependency injection

3 testing

The main goal of our testing approach is to test the more complex parts of game such as trading. One of our goals is not to achieve 100 percent statement coverage, but to test the complex parts in a nice way. Our design is well suited for testing. Since our design adheres to the dependency injection pattern injecting mocked objects of classes is easy. For mocking we used the Mockito⁴ framework. Since we made our design work with Guice making our design work with Mockito is easy. Mocking namely requires dependency injection to inject mocks into the object under test. Interesting to see is that both Guice and Mockito use annotations to inject objects, these annotations are *@Inject* and *@InjectMocks* respectively. Eclipse does not generate unit tests well from existing classes. So we installed an Eclipse plugin named moreunit, which is able to generate unit tests including necessary mocks. Up until installing moreunit we were not aware of any mocking frameworks. Moreunit suggested to use Mockito and we found that this framework is the most mature one and beats mocking by hand.

For testing complicated algorithms one can use methods like *equivalence partitioning* and *boundary value analysis*. We have not used these methods due to timing constraints, but they would have been well suited for testing algorithms such as the trading part in bohnanza. Using these methods would result in far better coverage and even more likely increase multi condition coverage.

Each of the three modules can be compiled and tested separately. However the *bohnanza* module is rather abstract and thus testing some abstract classes do not really make sense. We test more concrete classes in either the std module or the hb module. In the bohnanza module we mainly tested whether the *Beanometer* and *CardList* works correctly. This is shown in the coverage report in the package *bohnanza.game*. Since a game can not really be played in the bohnanza module the gameplay is tested in a concrete implementation of bohnanza, namely bohnanza-std. This is shown in the package *bohnanza.gameplay*.

4 development process

First we drew a class diagram using Software Ideas Modeler⁵ including methods and attributes. Using this diagram we generated Java class skeletons. Soon we came to the conclusion that many parts of our application could not be tested well, because we tried to protect it from incorrect behaviour too much. This involved creating specific instances of classes in constructors and hiding away too much by creating wrapper classes. One example of such a wrapper class is a *PlayerArea* which contains the beanfields, hand, etc, but not the discard pile. The idea is that we could use such a wrapper class to

⁴<https://code.google.com/p/mockito/>

⁵<http://www.softwareideas.net/>

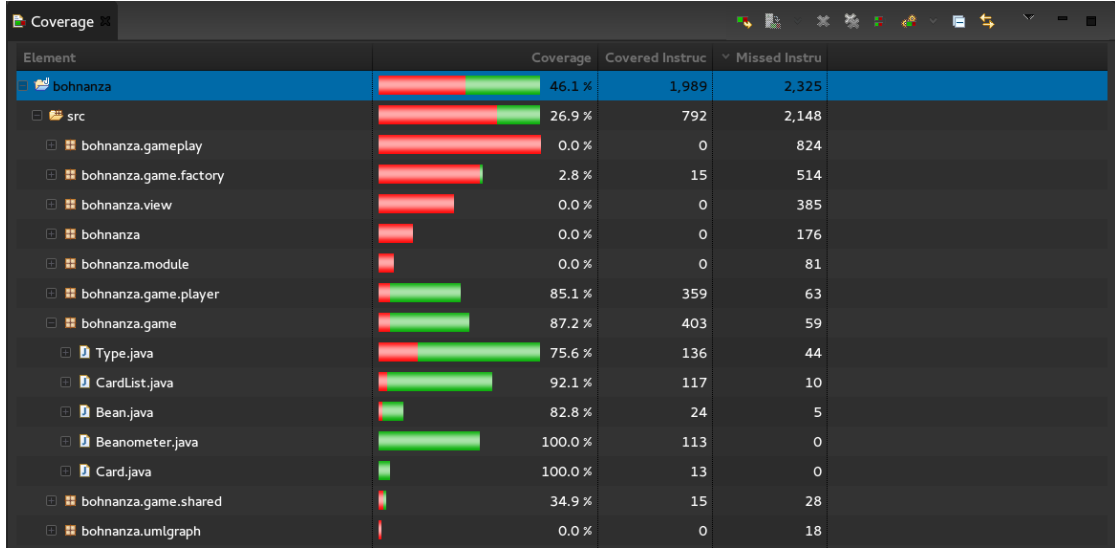


Figure 7: Coverage of the *bohnanza* module

make sure some operations could not be done, such as moving a card from a hand to the discard pile. We did not use this approach because it was not testable. We removed the wrapper classes and used a dependency injection framework instead.

After standard bohnanza was implemented we began working on high bohn. We decided we could use the dependency injection framework to create the three modules. At this moment in time we saw that in order to have both the std and hb implementation we needed three instead of two modules. The main reason is that you should design for extension as suggested by Checkstyle. This means one should explicitly make some methods abstract which should be implemented by a more concrete class. Our first intention was to just override some methods which needed different behaviour in high bohn than that in standard bohnanza. After we were done with the implementations we used UmlGraph ⁶ to generate necessary class diagrams and write this report.

Our design phase was rather short; we drew only a class diagram. In a bachelor course we learned proper software design with several phases such as domain analysis, domain models, high level designs, detailed designs and more. The class diagram we drew for bohnanza is most reasably a detailed design. We find that the method learned during the bachelor course is well suited for creating complex software systems, but since this approach does not fit well in the required report we decided to focus more on explaining design decisions and techniques.

⁶<http://www.umlgraph.org/doc/indexw.html>

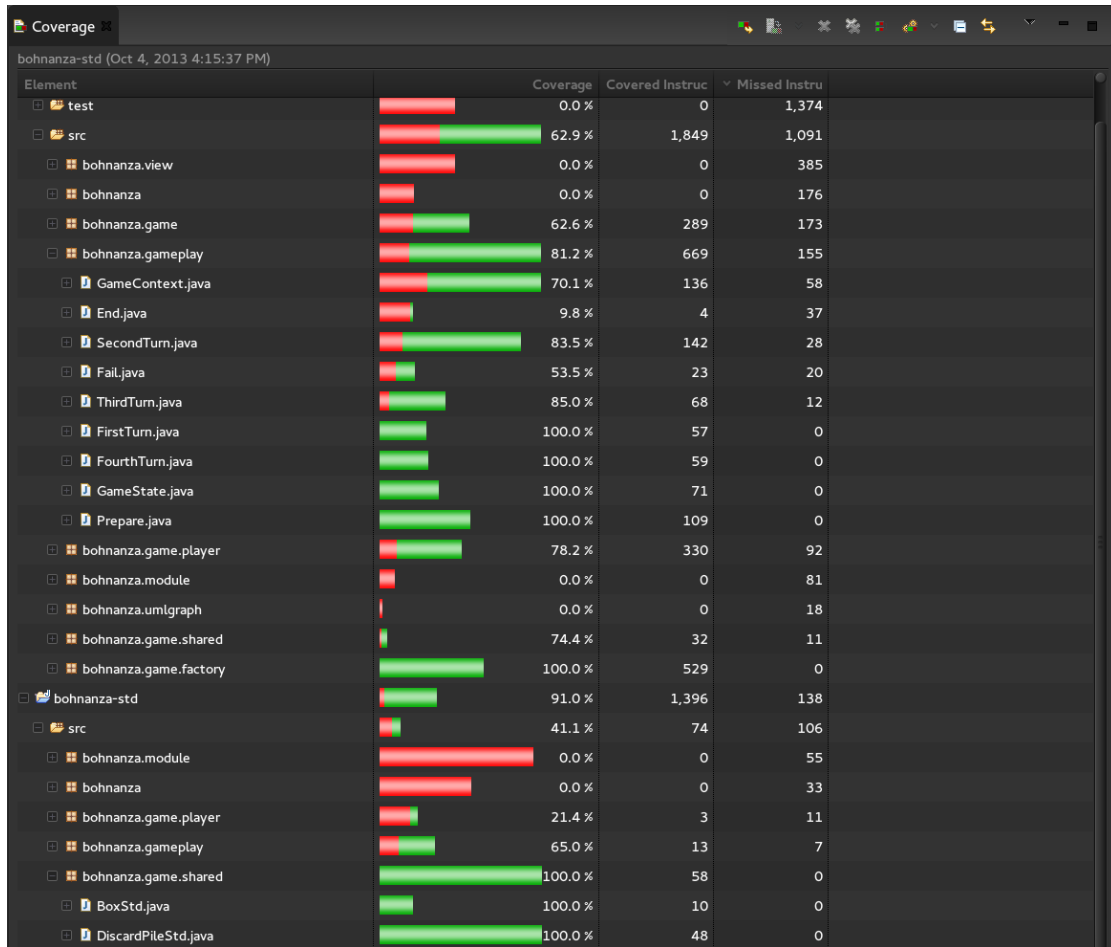


Figure 8: Coverage of the *bohanza-std* module

5 lessons learned

Only rather late in the development process we came to the conclusion that our implementation was hard to test. Should we have used a Test Driven Development we would have come to the conclusion to use dependency injection much earlier. So on the principle of making testable code we might have failed, but we learned. Now we know that dependency injection is key to making testable code we do not think TDD is key we find that sometimes implementing first and then generate a unit test to some degree can be just as convenient.

Some good principle we have learned came from using tools. After we installed moreunit it suggested to use the Mockito framework. This allowed us to easily mock classes such as the view. Instead of subtyping a view class we could simply invoke `View view = mock(View.class);` and `when(view.getOptionsFromHand())`

`.thenReturn(new ArrayList<Bean>());`; But more importantly what we learned is that one should not do partial mocking. That is either one should mock everything of a class or nothing. Partial mocking is done by mocking one method and invoke the real implementation of an other method. Mockito warns the developer when he/she uses partial mocking. Since mocking does not allow assigning values to private fields of mocked objects one has to *verify* behaviour. In Mockito this can be done with the `verify` method, e.g. `verify(discardPile, atLeastOnce()).add(new BlackEyed());`. For verifying advanced argument captors can be used and asserting that such a captor contains a certain value.

Another good principle we have learned came from using Checkstyle. Checkstyle warned us about the fact that a method should either be final or abstract, which we discussed earlier.

Furthermore we have learned there is only one good free and open source tool for generating class diagrams. This tool is called UMLGraph and uses Java classes for specifying – with visibility parameters – certain *views* on your design. To generate these diagrams one has to pass a custom doclet to the javadoc command. Visual Paradigm ⁷ is a closed source and costly alternative which also supports round-tripping which is very convenient for larger projects.

6 Glossary

Notation	Description
hb	Reference to the High Bohn extension for bohnanza.
std	Reference to the standard bohnanza implementation.

⁷<http://www.visual-paradigm.com/>