

CS1632, LECTURE 2: TESTING THEORY AND TERMINOLOGY

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Key () concept to the
course

Expected behavior vs observed behavior

Expected behavior vs observed behavior

You need to know what “should” happen under some circumstances, then check to see if that behavior actually occurred.

For example, assume I have a function `foo`, which accepts an integer, `a`, and returns a float. What should happen if I send in the value `a = 42`?

This is a simple idea, but it’s the “Fundamental Theorem of Testing” (although note that we may violate it later...)

Example

Assume foo is supposed to return the square root of the passed in value a.

When I send in the value $a = 42$, then I expect to be returned the value 6.48074069841.

When I send in the value $a = 9$, then I expect to be returned the value 3.

When I send in the value $a = -1$, then I expect....

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF EXHAUSTIVE TESTING

- Let's say we want to ensure that our square root method will never fail, no matter what we send in. Assume we are using a standard Java int (signed 32-bit integer)
- How many values do we have to test?

4,294,967,296

What if there are a 1000 method calls?

- Assume each method call accepts one 32-bit int argument
- Remember that methods in a Java-like language can have side-effects (in other words, they are not pure functions)
 - Can access / modify global variables, global data structures
 - Means a method call is affected by all previous method calls

4,294,967,296 \wedge 1000

THAT'S EQUAL TO...

91171950785279002509723338967578745479915846704161093266316858586590561893971899669618585741969928523387207745761469132800197981751886314439367551781375622355182494132784122242065904571923125296267977156632231162513245
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39684527043545238966575573403559687951326963892838818040660850711941690965464303296715997735315114393298314639765906325716916902265058485269112748232055283264916137426095401499226015801097484231501236124348080603774582
48309478650101041149164099071980888428421368546177179447495527132137857711089612888118312376663794867678135461880066435240486394452956529788529633837378507602411635143827166518753745556991400676914560717482710875903621
73711860044704084625336091543500691714323919052366981476276437065678838563998878381885773000341053862602758014572499348041757394660676973509282166930632955880631414046371713765667379841266106690291293383395081456948512
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48732740215206929436333628804794981719953369755105959470423321715011000131877547406260799269166421891075050917361068365315450114841224548170357095043100966938379009438490468208206471876118259240141006749939528679101009
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11351195619259805644169191318079341020584815138006601145763705637068546617800187772177796458571189488073490895635270926467285961127822477927853992571747847731132691047698190664829001789320595128841188792506877062579097
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92314576200503423597968367372809336735996907140973667671428226007380695766185164250650016216771668162576408426646905432743090364395271974904731268728621503370319375930779994574095357126317236912267575371995190901805593
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912881977796966473582064518251169886313205953904429976087591322220170572891620268439895914872894506143151573567946051787531220462126654097837015440051944883758261422945593310556603778896664452947773947259798978241129
67443834386341569639844449666759577829376

TEST CASES!

What if the argument is an object reference?

- That object could be a list data structure, a tree, a graph, ...
- How many shapes can a tree take?

Would testing all the combinations of arguments guarantee that there are no problems?

LOL NOPE

- Compiler issues
- Parallel programming issues
- Non-functional issues (performance, usability, etc.)?
- Floating-point issues?
- Integration issues?
- Systems-level issues?
- Ambiguous or misunderstood requirements?

LOL NOPE

- Compiler issues

- Your source code does not run on the computer, the compiled binary does
- Depending on compiler and compile options, many different binaries can be produced! Besides the binary you used for testing.
- What if the compiler has a bug? (Rare)
- What if the compiler *exposes* a bug in your program? (More frequent)

```
int add_up_to (int count) {  
    int sum, i;  /* some C compilers will init sum to 0, some will not */  
    for(i = 0; i <= count; i++) sum = sum + i;  
    return sum;  
}
```

- Big problem for C/C++, less of a problem for Java since all bytecode is run on JVM (In above example, Java Virtual Machine always initializes all variables to 0)

LOL NOPE

- Compiler issues
- Parallel programming issues
 - If there is a data race, the result of your program is undefined
 - Doesn't matter whether you are using C/C++ or Java
 - Worst part: for many data races, result is correct 99% of time, masking the bug
 - Even with no data race, the result of your program is often nondeterministic (Depending upon the respective speed of each thread)
 - To thoroughly test, you have to vary the speed of each thread, even for same input

LOL NOPE

- Compiler issues
- Parallel programming issues
- Non-functional issues (performance, usability, etc.)?
- Floating-point issues?
- Integration issues?
- Systems-level issues?
- Ambiguous or misunderstood requirements?

Testing = ART + SCIENCE

- There are techniques for testing which can reduce the number of tests necessary for sufficient test coverage.
- We will need to define what we mean by “sufficient test coverage”.
- We will also require domain knowledge.

Equivalence class partitioning

- We can partition the testing parameters into “equivalence classes”
 - Equivalence class = a natural grouping of values with similar behavior
- For example, in our square root method:
 - Negative numbers (input) -> Imaginary numbers (output)
 - 0 -> 0
 - Positive numbers -> Positive numbers

Equivalence classes are strictly partitioned

- For any given input value, it must belong to one and ONLY one equivalence class (strictly partitioned)
 - If there are values that seem like they belong in multiple equivalence classes, you either need:
 - Multiple partitionings
 - Another equivalence class

Example

- Assume you have a program which will return the square root of an int, and if the number is whole (e.g., 1 or 2, but not 1.342), it should print it out in **red**, otherwise it will print it out in black.
- You can have two partitionings:
 - (the positive/0/negative partitioning on the previous slide)
 - Another partitioning:
 - Number is whole -> output printed in **red**
 - Number is not whole -> output printed in black
- Therefore, for every value, there are multiple partitionings to check

They do not have to be numeric

- On Twitter, if you follow somebody, you see all of their tweets, unless they are writing directly to somebody you do not follow.
- Equivalence classes:
 - You do not follow person A -> DO NOT see the tweet
 - You do follow person A, they are not writing directly to somebody -> see the tweet
 - You do follow person A, they are writing directly to person B, whom you also follow -> see the tweet
 - You do follow person A, they are writing directly to person B, whom do you not follow -> DO NOT see tweet

They do not have to be numeric

- Suppose Twitter only allows alphanumeric [A-Za-z0-9] characters, and tweets must contain at least one character. Tweets that contain any invalid characters are not posted.
- Equivalence classes (NV = number of valid characters, NI = number of invalid characters):
 - $(NV \geq 1, NI == 0) \rightarrow$ Post the tweet
 - $(NV == 0, NI == 0) \rightarrow$ DO NOT post the tweet
 - $(NI \geq 1) \rightarrow$ DO NOT post the tweet (note NV is irrelevant here)

Test Each Equivalence Class

- Pick at least one value from each equivalence class
- This will ensure you capture behavior from each “class” of possible behavior
- Will find a good percentage of defects without exhaustive testing!
- We reduced the problem something a human can do! Woo-hoo!
- How to pick the input? Well, that is part of the art.
 - However, there are some good guidelines!

Interior and boundary values

- Theory: Problems are more prevalent on the boundaries of equivalence classes than in the middle.

Why?

```
public boolean canBePresidentOfUnitedStates(int  
age) {  
    return age > 35;  
}
```


Equivalence class partitioning

Cannot_be_president =

[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,
26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34]

CAN_BE_PRESIDENT =

[35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,
57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64....INFINITY]

Where are problems likely?

Cannot_be_president =

[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,
26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34]

CAN_BE_PRESIDENT =

[35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,
57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64....INFINITY]

Try to ensure that you test boundary and interior values

Cannot_be_president =

[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,
26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34]

CAN_BE_PRESIDENT =

[35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,
57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64....INFINITY]

- Are we missing anything?

“Hidden” (IMPLICIT) boundary values

- The boundary values we have gone over already are explicit – that is, they are defined, or at least able to be deduced from, the requirements of the problem itself.
- Some boundaries are implicit – they are generated from the domain, architecture, hardware, or other elements:
 - MAXINT, MININT
 - Maximum precision of a floating point value
 - Allocation limitation (memory, hard drive space, network bandwidth, etc.)
 - Undefined values

Base, edge, and corner cases

- **Base case** – An element in an equivalence class that is not around a boundary (interior value), OR an expected use case.
- **Edge case** – An element in an equivalence class that is next to a boundary (boundary value), OR an unexpected use case.
- **Corner case (or pathological case)** – A case which can only occur outside of normal operating parameters, or a combination of multiple edge cases.

Black-, white, and grey-box testing

- **Black-box testing:** Testing with no knowledge of the interior structure or code of the application. Tests are often performed from the user's perspective, looking at the system as a whole.
- **White-box testing:** Testing with explicit knowledge of the interior structure and codebase, and directly testing that code. Tests are often at a lower level (e.g., testing individual methods or classes)
- **Grey-box testing:** Testing with knowledge of the interior structure and codebase of the system under test, but not directly testing the code. Tests are similar to black-box tests, but are informed by the tester's knowledge of the codebase.

Black-box testing examples

- Accessing a website, using a browser, to look for flaws
- Running a script against an API endpoint
- Checking to see that changing fonts in a word processor shows the correct font

White-box testing examples

- Testing that a function returns the correct result
- Testing that instantiating an object creates a valid object
- Checking that there are no unused variables in a method

Grey-box testing examples

- Reviewing code, and noticing that bubble sort is used. Then write a user-facing test involving a large input size.
- Reviewing code and noticing an off-by-one error. Then write a user-facing test which checks that boundary value.

STATic vs dynamic testing

- Dynamic testing = code is executed (at least some of it)
- Static testing = code is not executed

Dynamic testing

- If you're thinking about testing, this is probably what you are thinking about.
 - Code is executed under certain circumstances (e.g. input values, environment variables, etc.)
 - **Observed results** are then compared with **expected results**
- The majority of the class will consists of dynamic testing
- Much more commonly used in industry

Static testing

- The code is reviewed by a person or external program, without being executed
- Examples:
 - Code walkthroughs and reviews
 - Requirements analysis
 - Source Code Analysis
 - Linting
 - Model checking
 - Complexity analysis
 - Code coverage
 - Finite state analysis
 - ... COMPILING!