

Chapter 2. Degenerate Objects

Design and testing insights

- Translate design objections (e.g., side effects) into failing tests
- Get code to compile with stub implementation
- Make tests pass with seemingly right code
- Improve ability to translate aesthetic judgments into tests
- Focus discussions on system behavior and achieving it during programming

Implementation strategies for getting green quickly

- Fake It**
 - Return a constant initially
 - Gradually replace constants with variables
- Use Obvious Implementation**
 - Type in the real implementation directly
 - Switch between Fake It and Obvious Implementation as needed

Example: Dollar multiplication test

- Initial problem**
 - Multiplying Dollar changes original object
 - Example test fails because five changes after times()
- Solution: Return new object**
 - Modify test to expect new Dollar object from times()
 - Change Dollar.times() to return a new Dollar with multiplied amount
 - Keeps original Dollar unchanged

The general TDD cycle

- Step 1: Write a test**
 - Imagine the operation in your mind
 - Invent the interface you wish you had
 - Include all necessary elements to calculate correct answers
- Step 2: Make it run**
 - Quickly get the test bar green
 - If a clean solution is obvious, type it in
 - If clean solution is obvious but takes time, note it and focus on green bar
 - Quick green bar excuses all sins temporarily
- Step 3: Make it right**
 - Remove duplication introduced
 - Achieve clean code that works

Goal of TDD

- Clean code that works
- Solve "that works" part first
- Then solve "clean code" part
- Opposite of architecture-driven development