

COM3529 – WEEK TWO

Software Testing & Analysis

Professor Phil McMinn

Defects, Infections, and Failures

1. The program location containing a defect is reached during execution.



Defect

2. The defect infects the state of the program



Infection

3. The infection propagates to the program's output causing a failure.



Failure

How to Tell Defects, Infections, and Failures Apart

A **defect** is a mistake in the code. You don't need to run it the code for it to exist, but it could be executed. That execution could cause an infection.

An **infection** exists when the program runs and "goes wrong" as a result of executing the defect. However at this point it's all internal. We can't see any difference in behaviour yet, but the infection starts when variables take on the wrong values or statements are executed when they shouldn't be.

An infection turns into a **failure** when the output of the program (or the return values of a method in unit testing) are incorrect. That is, we can now see the program behaving incorrectly. The infection has propagated to the output of the program.







Infection



Failure

Defects, Infections, and Failures.

You can't have a failure without an infection.

You can't have an infection without a defect.

But...

You can have a defect that does not always cause an infection.

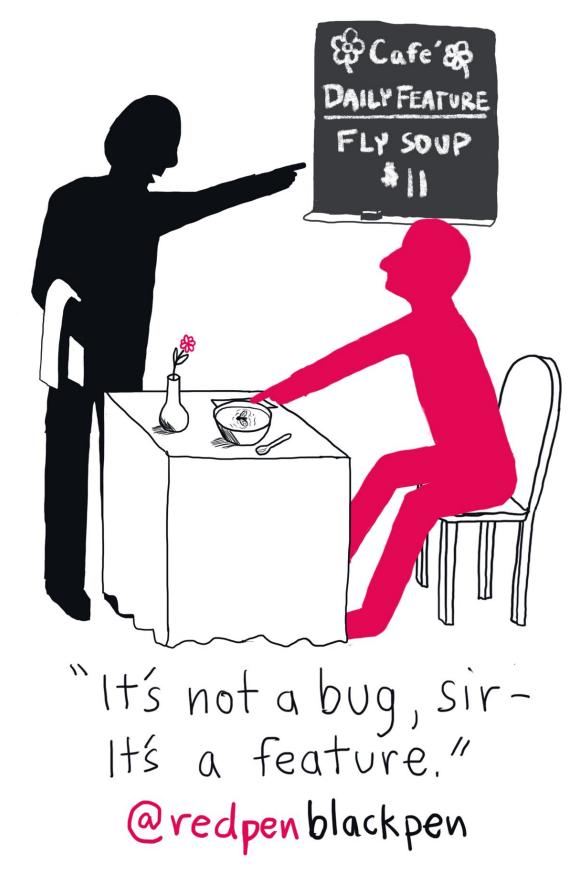
You can have an infection that does not always turn into a failure.

It all depends on the inputs to the program.

Defects, Infections, and Failures.

Defects, Infections, and Failures are more specific terms that testers use for the more generic word "bug".

Programmers also have another word for bug ... "feature"





COM3529 Software Testing and Analysis

Test Automation

Professor Phil McMinn

A Testing Problem

```
To: p.mcminn@sheffield.ac.uk
From: student3529@sheffield.ac.uk
Subject: A Problem with Testing - Please help!!!
Dear Phil
You asked last lecture whether we liked testing. To be honest, no I don't, I find manually
trying out my software with inputs really dull!
Is this the right module for me? Please help!
Yours,
Stu
```

A Testing Solution

Phil

```
To: student3529@sheffield.ac.uk
From: p.mcminn@sheffield.ac.uk
Subject: Re: A Problem with Testing - Please help!!!
Dear Stu,
Have no fear.
I agree, manual testing is really dull! Automated testing however, is much more
interesting, and is more like development. In fact, we should be writing tests while
developing! Finding problems while developing is much more fun than finding them once
the software is deployed. No more late nights spent debugging!
I'm going to be covering writing automated tests in the next lecture. Be sure to be
there!
Best,
```

What do you understand by the phrase automated test?

JUnit example

```
import org.junit.jupiter.api.Test;
import static org.junit.jupiter.api.Assertions.assertEquals;
public class TriangleTest {
    @Test
    public void shouldClassifyEquilateral() {
        Triangle.Type result = Triangle.classify(10, 10, 10);
        assertEquals(Triangle.Type.EQUILATERAL, result);
```

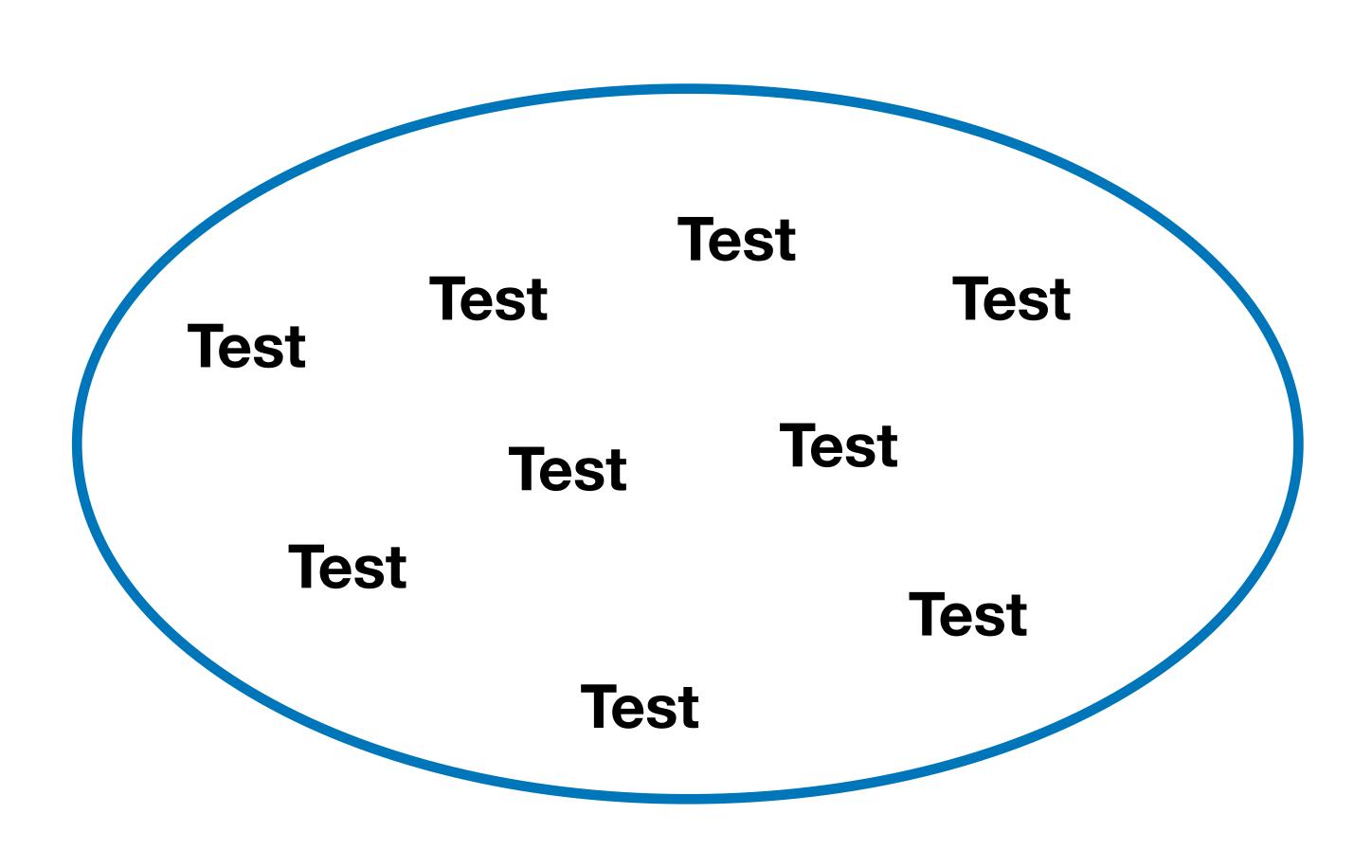
RSpec example

```
require_relative "../spec_helper"
describe "the add page" do
  it "is accessible from the search page" do
   visit "/search"
   click_link "Add a new player to the database"
    expect(page).to have_content "Add Player"
 end
  it "will not add a player with no details" do
    visit "/add"
    click_button "Submit"
    expect(page).to have_content "Please correct the errors below"
 end
  it "adds a player when all details are entered" do
    add_test_player
    expect(page).to have_content "George Test"
   clear_database
 end
end
```

Ingredients of an Automated Test Case

- The inputs needed to put the software into the right state for the test
- The actual test case inputs
- The expected results of the test
- Reset of the system state

A Test Suite – A Set of Tests



Ideally, the tests can be executed in any order

The Dawn of Test Automation

Testing has always been part of programming

... when you wrote your first program, you almost certainly tried it out with some sample data

For a long time, this was the state of the art in industrial practice!

In the early 2000s, software development practices started to change

Software systems got too big and too complex for manual testing to remain an effective and efficient way to ensure they were working and remained working

Testing at the Speed of Modern Software Development

Software systems are growing larger and evermore complex.

A typical application or service at Google, for example, is made up of thousands or millions of lines of code.

The ability for humans to manually validate every behaviour in a system has been unable to keep pace with the explosion of features and platforms in most software.

Testing at the Speed of Modern Software Development

Imagine what it would take to manually test the functionality of Google search – every time the code was changed.

... not just web search, but images, flights, movie times etc.

Then multiply that for every language, country, and device that must be supported.

Then add in factors like accessibility and security.

Manual testing does not scale. We need automation.

Developer-Driven Automated Testing

The idea of coding automated tests (e.g., in JUnit) as a means of improving productivity and velocity may seem antithetical.

After all, the act of writing tests can take just as long (if not longer!) than implementing a feature in the first place ... right?

On the contrary!

In industry, investing in software tests provides several key benefits to developer productivity.

Less Debugging

Tested code has fewer defects when it is submitted.

Crucially, it also has fewer defects throughout its existence – since code tends to be updated during its lifetime.

... it will be changed by other teams and even automated code maintenance systems.

Changes to code, or its dependencies, can be quickly detected by an automated test and rolled back before the problem reaches production.

Increased Confidence in Changes

Projects with good tests can be modified with confidence since all the important behaviours of their projects are continuously being verified.

These projects encourage refactoring.

After a change, we can re-run the automated tests to ensure we didn't break any of the existing functionality.

Improved Documentation

Software documentation is notoriously unreliable!

Clear, focused tests that exercise one behaviour at a time function as executable documentation.

Thoughtful Design

Writing tests for new code is a practical means of exercising the API design of the code itself.

If new code is difficult to test, it is often because the code being tested has too many responsibilities or difficult-to-manage dependencies.

Well-designed code should be modular, avoiding tight coupling and focusing on specific responsibilities.

Fixing design issues early means less rework later.

Fast, High Quality Releases

With a healthy automated test suite, teams can release new versions of their application with confidence.

Many large projects, involving hundreds of engineers and thousands of code changes submitted every day, involve very short release cycles – often every day.

This would not be possible without automated testing.

Benefits of an Automated Test Suite

- 1 Less Debugging
- Increased Confidence in Changes
- Improved Documentation
- Thoughtful Design
- Allows for Fast, High Quality Software Releases



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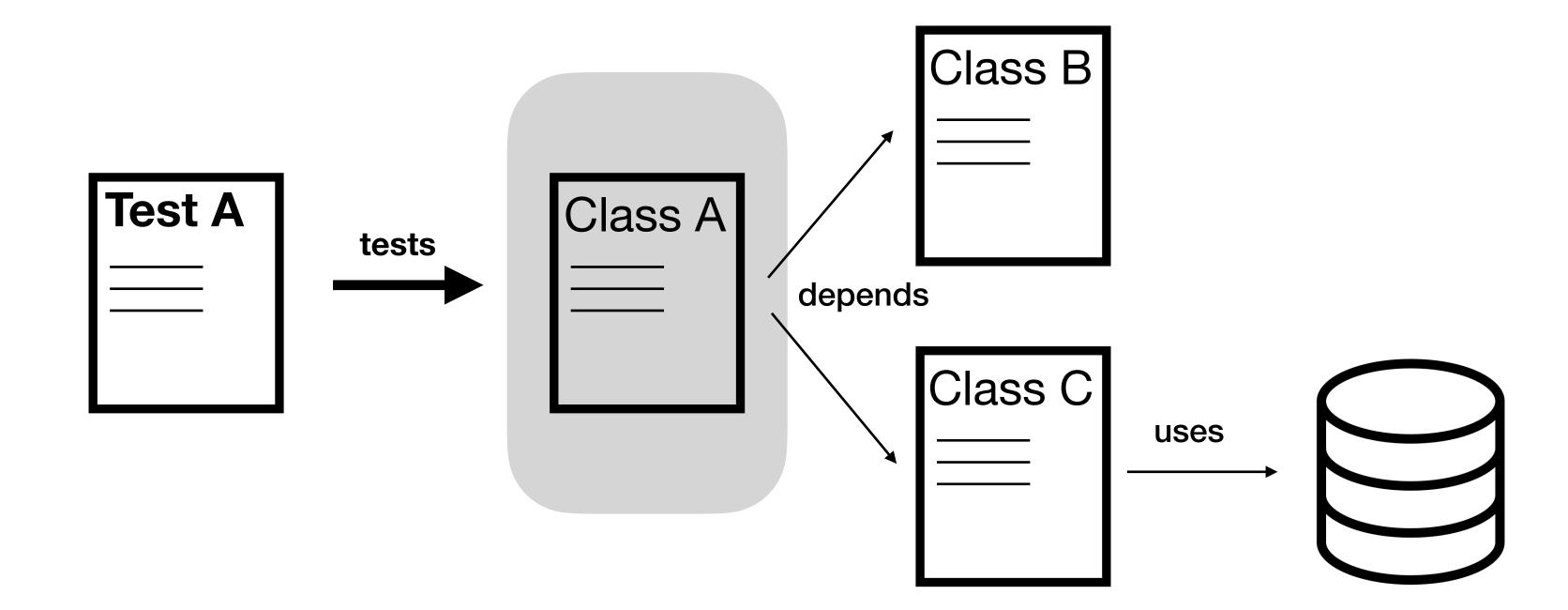
Test Scope

Professor Phil McMinn

Unit Testing

A unit is an individual component of a system, such as a class or an individual method.

Testing units in isolation is called unit testing.



Unit Testing

A unit is an individual component of a system, such as a class or an individual method.

Testing units in isolation is called unit testing.

- Fast
- Easy to control
- Easy to write

- Lack reality
- Cannot catch all bugs

 (e.g. interactions with other components or services)

Unit tests are a very useful type of test but are often insufficient on their own.

Integration Tests

Testing in isolation is not enough. Sometimes code goes "beyond" the system's borders and uses other (often external) components – for example, a database.

Integration tests test the integration between our code and that of external parties.

Example: Testing methods that access a database via SQL queries. Do our methods obtain the right data from the database?

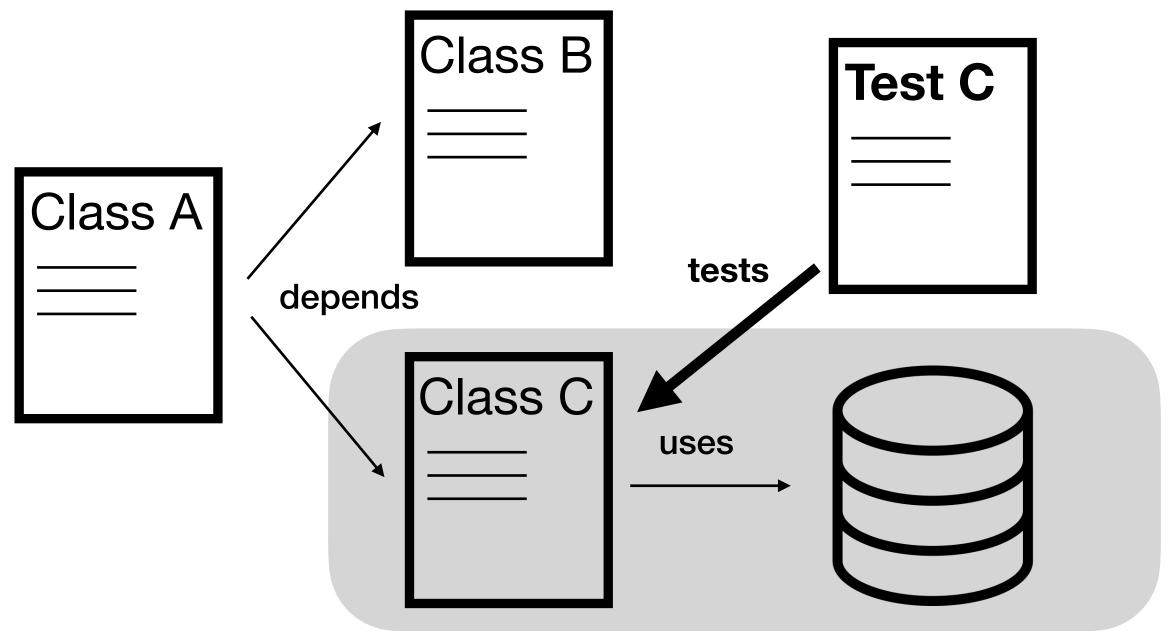
- Can capture integration bugs
- Less complex than writing a system test that goes through the entire system, including components we do not care about
- Hard to write, for example:
 - Need to use an isolated instance of the database
 - Put it into a state expected by the test
 - Reset the state afterwards

Integration Tests

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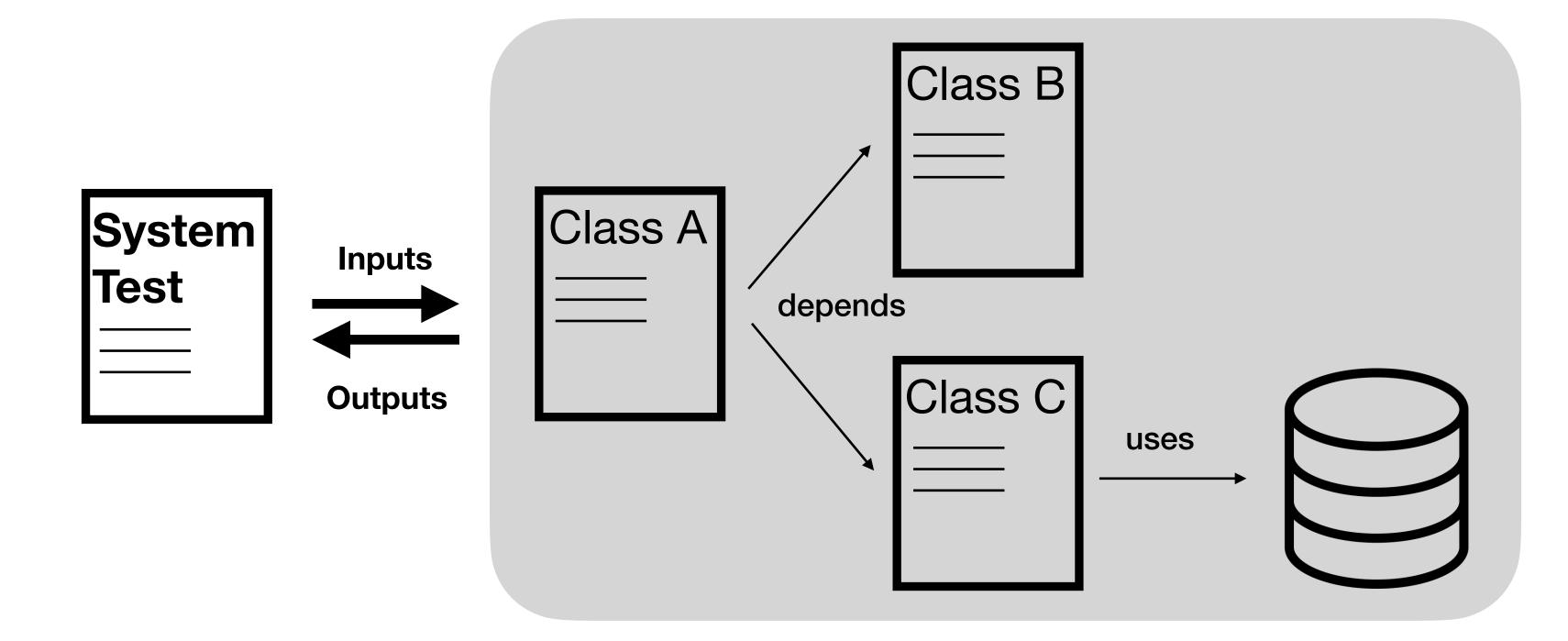


System Tests

To get a more realistic view of the software we should also perform more realistic tests with it – with all its database, front-end, and other components.

We do not care about how the system works from the inside.

We care that given certain inputs, certain outputs are provided by the system.



System Tests

To get a more realistic view of the software we should also perform more realistic tests with it – with all its database, front-end, and other components.

We do not care about how the system works from the inside.

We care that given certain inputs, certain outputs are provided by the system.

Realistic

(when the tests perform similarly to the end user, the more confident we can be that the system will work correctly for all end users)

Slow!

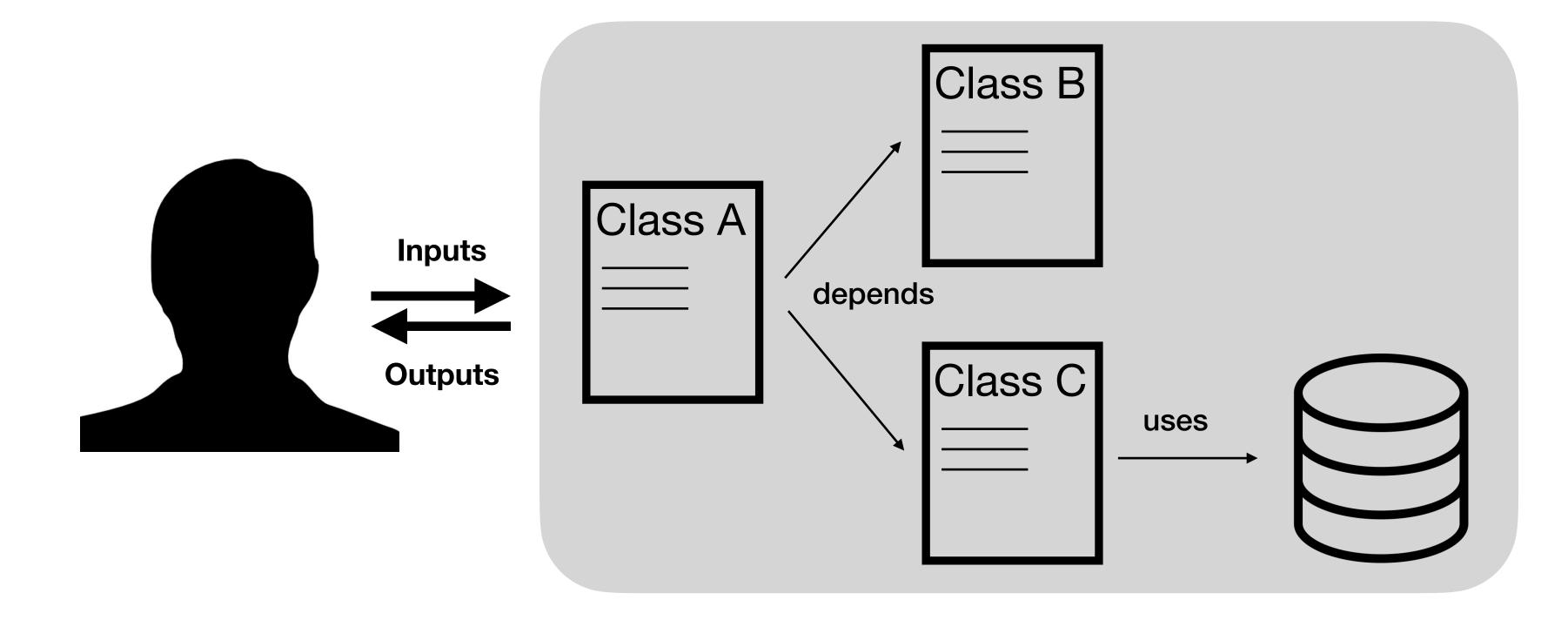
- Hard to write
 (lots of external services to account for)
- Prone to Flakiness

Manual Tests

Not everything can be tested easily in an automated fashion, particularly where there are qualitative judgements (e.g., the quality of a search engine's results).

Furthermore, we may need to explore real system behaviour to know what automated tests to write.

Manual tests are system tests performed manually by a human.



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Furthermore, we may need to explore real system behaviour to know what automated tests to write.

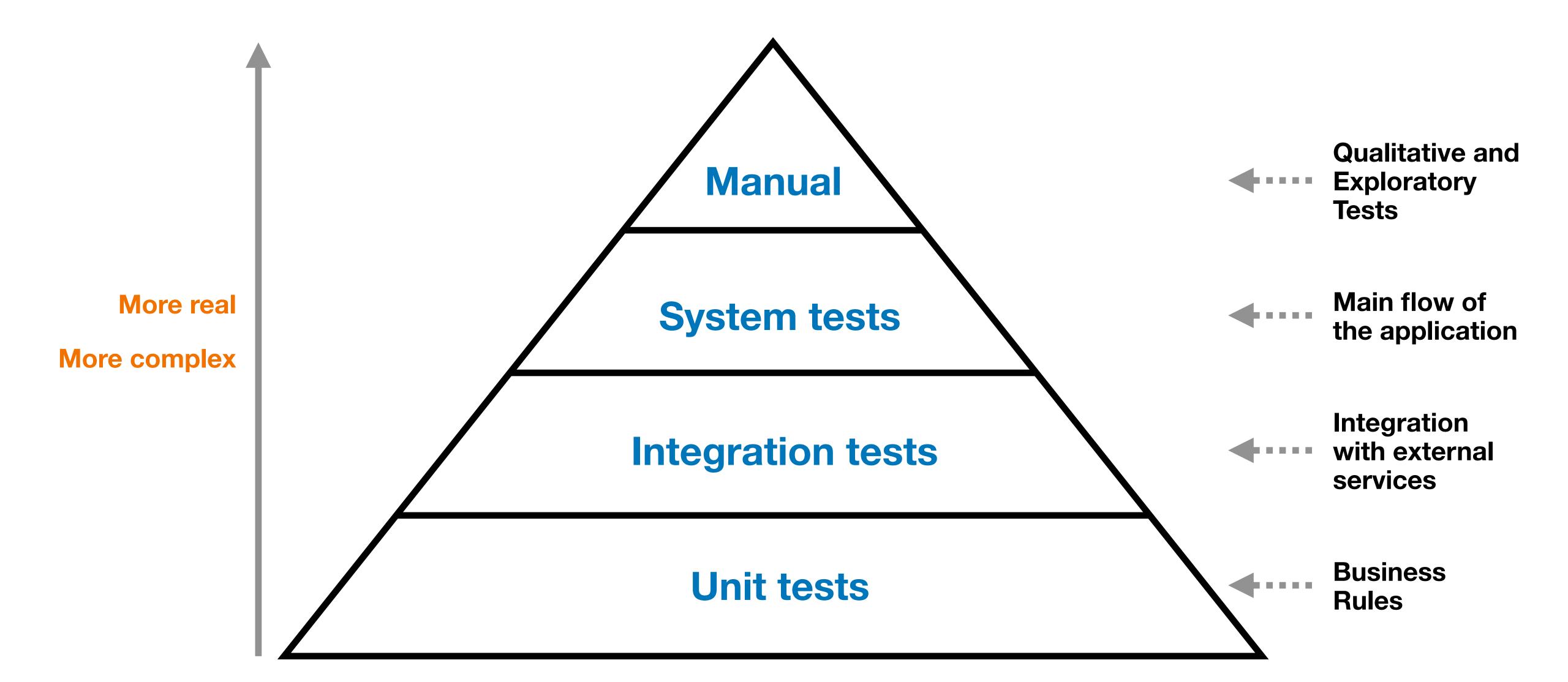
Manual tests are system tests performed manually by a human.

Real

(The tester is acting as an end-user, actually using the system)

- Time-consuming
- Difficult to reproduce
- Tedious

The Test Triangle



What Test am I?



I test a web application. I load up the web page, automatically fill out forms, click buttons, and check the resulting web page.

Am I a ...

unit, integration, system or a manual test?

I am an automated test that checks the results of a method

Am I a ...

unit, integration, system or a manual test?

I am essentially a series of inputs that a human inputs into a terminal. I don't check the answers, I leave that to my human. I don't really "exist" in any tangible form, but some humans write me into documents so that they know how to reproduce me.

Am I a ... unit, integration, system or a manual test?

I am an automated test that interacts directly with code that uses a database.

Amla...

unit, integration, system or a manual test?



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Unit Testing

Professor Phil McMinn

Unit Tests – Recap

- 1 Narrow in scope
- Limited to a single class or method
- Small in size

Why Write Unit Tests?

To prevent bugs (obviously!)

But also to improve developer productivity since unit tests:

- Help with implementation writing tests while coding gives quick feedback on code being written.
- Should be easy to understand when they fail each test should be conceptually simple and focussed on a particular part of the system.
- Serve as documentation and examples to engineers on how to use the part of the system being tested (since written document gets hopelessly out of date very quickly).

At Google, 80% of tests are unit tests. The ease of writing tests and the speed of running them mean that engineers run several thousand unit tests a day.

How to Write Good Unit Tests

The board is a 2D array of the Piece enum type

```
public enum Piece { RED, YELLOW; }
public class Connect4 {
    private static final int WINNING_SEQUENCE = 4;
    final Piece[][] board;
    final int cols, rows;
    Piece turn;
    boolean gameOver;
    Piece winner;
    public Connect4(int cols, int rows) {
        this.cols = cols;
        this.rows = rows;
        board = new Piece[cols][rows];
        turn = Piece.RED;
        gameOver = false;
        winner = null;
```

"package private" members

public methods

```
"package private" methods
```

```
public boolean isGameOver();
public Piece winner();
public Piece whoseTurn();
public Piece getPieceAt(int col, int row);
public void makeMove(int col);
int firstAvailableRow(int col);
boolean isValidCol(int col);
boolean isValidRow(int row);
boolean isBoardFull();
boolean isGameWon();
boolean isGameWon(int col, int row, int dCol, int dRow);
```

A Testing Problem

To: p.mcminn@sheffield.ac.uk

From: student3529@sheffield.ac.uk

Subject: A Problem with Testing - Please help!!!

Dear Phil

I'm writing some unit tests to the code of my third year dissertation project. It's not written Java, but as you said in the last lecture, all the principles still apply, and equivalent tools exist, so I can follow all of your advice!

But then I added a new feature to my project, many of my tests broke. There wasn't a bug, but all the tests needed to be updated. Also since many of my tests were written yesterday, I couldn't actually remember what most of them were for or did. So I ended up throwing a lot of them away.

You said that automated tests help speed up development, but this took ages to sort out. I'm not sure I want to go through all that again.

What should I do?

Yours, Stu

A Testing Solution

```
To: student3529@sheffield.ac.uk
From: p.mcminn@sheffield.ac.uk
Subject: Re: A Problem with Testing - Please help!!!
Dear Stu,
Have no fear.
Likely your tests made too many assumptions about the internal structure of your code,
and how it works. This means you have to update the tests every time the code changes.
I'm going to be covering how tests should focus on behaviour rather than implementation
in the next lecture, and how to write clear tests. Be sure to be there!
Best,
Phil
```

The Importance of Maintainability

There are two key issues with this scenario:

- The unit tests were brittle. They broke in response to a harmless and unrelated change that introduced no real bugs.
- The unit tests were unclear. It was difficult to understand how to fix the tests because it was not clear what the tests were doing in the first place.

This easily happens when there are multiple contributors to the code and its tests (with real life software projects tending to have many people working on them at once).

How to Not Write Brittle Unit Tests

Connect4

To demonstrate examples of good and bad unit testing, we're going to be looking at tests written for the Connect4 class in the uk.ac.shef.ac.uk.connect4 package of the COM3529 GitHub repository.

Instances of the Connect4 class represent the state of a game of Connect4, including the positions of counters in the grid, whose turn it is etc.

Everyone know how the game works?

Strive for Unchanging Tests

The key strategy for preventing brittle tests is to strive to write tests that will not need to change unless the project's requirements change:

- Internal refactorings should not change the tests.
- New features should leave existing ones unaffected.
- Bug fixes shouldn't require updates to tests.
- Behaviour changes: these may require changes to tests.

```
The
               public enum Piece { RED, YELLOW; }
board is
   a 2D
array of
    the
               public class Connect4 {
 Piece
                    private static final int WINNING_SEQUENCE = 4;
  enum
   type
                    Piece[][] board;
                    int cols, rows;
                    Piece turn;
                    boolean gameOver;
                    Piece winner;
                    public Connect4(int cols, int rows) {
                       this.cols = cols;
                        this.rows = rows;
                        board = new Piece[cols][rows];
                        turn = Piece.RED;
                        gameOver = false;
                       winner = null;
```

"package private" members

```
public
methods
```

"package private" methods

```
public boolean isGameOver();
public Piece winner();
public Piece whoseTurn();
public Piece getPieceAt(int col, int row);
public void makeMove(int col);
int firstAvailableRow(int col);
boolean isValidCol(int col);
boolean isValidRow(int row);
boolean isBoardFull();
boolean isGameWon();
boolean isGameWon(int col, int row, int dCol, int dRow);
```

Two Different Tests

Our implementation of Connect4 needs to obey gravity. If a player drops a piece into a column, we need to ensure it ends up on the right row.

The first piece will drop to the first row. The second piece in the same column will drop to the second row, etc.

I'm now going to test this. I'm going to show you two different tests.

One tests the implementation, one tests behaviour.

Which one is more likely to have to change in future (i.e., be brittle)?

Testing Implementation

Verifies implementation using package-private method

Testing Behaviour

```
@Test
public void shouldPlaceCounterAboveLast() {
    Connect4 c4 = new Connect4(7, 6);
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(0, 0), equalTo(Piece.RED));
    c4.makeMove(0); // YELLOW
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(0, 1), equalTo(Piece.YELLOW));
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(0, 2), equalTo(Piece.RED));
    c4.makeMove(0);
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(0, 3), equalTo(Piece.YELLOW));
```

This test is using the public API, to the extent of almost playing a game of Connect4.

The resulting behaviour (a change to the board) is checked using a public method

Testing Implementation

Verifies implementation using package-private method

What happens to this test if we decide to implement the board differently? (E.g., swap rows and columns in array, refactor the board out into a separate class entirely, etc.)

Preventing Brittle Tests

Strive for unchanging tests by:

- Test calling **public** methods only.
- Verify what results are, not how they are achieved.

If you concentrate on testing implementation as opposed to behaviour you will get brittle tests.

So always prefer to test against behaviour.

How to Write Clear Unit Tests

JUnit v. Hamcrest Assertions

The default supplied JUnit assertions have some deficiencies:

- It's easy with the assertion method parameters to get expected and actual the wrong way round. (I do it all the time!) It's not terribly consequential, which is why it's easy to do, but the wrong ordering will confuse other programmers.
- A different style is required for differing expected-actual relationships i.e. a different assertion method
- The different assertion methods available are somewhat limited
- It's difficult to customise error messages

For these reasons, some programmers prefer the Hamcrest style of assertion.

Did You Notice We'd Already Been Using a Different Style of Assertion This Lecture?

Hamcrest Assertions

```
@Test
public void isocelesTest() {
    Triangle.Type result = Triangle.classify(5, 10, 10);
    assertThat(result, equalTo(Triangle.Type.ISOSCELES));
}
```

Every assertion uses the generic assertThat method

The general assertion format maps more closely to natural language, making it more obvious that it's the **actual result** of the unit under test that goes first in the parameter order.

The relationship between actual and expected results is specified by a **matcher**, in this case, equalTo.

Hamcrest Matchers

Hamcrest has a plethora of "matchers", like equalTo.

They can help write assertions involving a variety of types, including:

- Strings e.g., can check if a string contains a substring, ignore case etc.
- Collections whether an element is in a collection; what a collection contains, ignoring order etc.
- See http://hamcrest.org/JavaHamcrest/javadoc/2.2/org/hamcrest/Matchers.html

If the appropriate matcher is not available it's very easy to write your own.

See https://www.baeldung.com/java-junit-hamcrest-guide

Make Your Tests Complete and Concise

Ensure the test contains all the information needed for a reader to understand how it arrived at its result.

Ensure it contains no other irrelevant and distracting information.

A test case is complete when its body contains all of the information a reader needs to understand how it arrives at its result.

```
@Test
// An incomplete test!
public void shouldEndGameWithWinnerWhenFourInARowVertically() {
    Connect4 c4 = new Connect4(7, 6);
    makeMoves(c4);
    assertThat(c4.isGameOver(), equalTo(true));
    assertThat(c4.winner(), equalTo(Piece.RED));
}

What's going on in
this helper method?

Why RED? Where
does that come from?
```

Make Your Tests Complete

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What's going on in
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Why RED? Where
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Make Your Tests Complete

A test case is complete when its body contains all of the information a reader needs to understand how it arrives at its result.

```
@Test
public void shouldEndGameWithWinnerWhenFourInARowVertically() {
    Connect4 c4 = new Connect4(7, 6);
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    c4.makeMove(1); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    c4.makeMove(1); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    c4.makeMove(1); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    assertThat(c4.isGameOver(), equalTo(true));
    assertThat(c4.winner(), equalTo(Piece.RED)); __
```

Enumerating all the moves makes the method longer and prevents re-using the move sequence as a helper method, BUT makes it clearer what's going. Two rows of vertical pieces are being added to the board, and **RED** wins in column 0

Don't DRY Tests

DRY - Don't Repeat Yourself: engineer needs to update one piece of code rather than tracking down all instances.

Downside: Can make code less clear, requires following chains of references. This might be a small price to pay for making the code easier to work with...

- ... but the cost/benefit analysis plays out differently with tests:
 - We want tests to break when software changes
 - Production code has the benefit of a test suite to ensure it keeps working when things get complex. Tests should stand on their own!
 (Something has gone wrong when tests need tests)

DAIMP not DRY

DAMP: Descriptive And Meaningful Phrases

DAMP is not a *replacement* for DRY – it is complementary.

"Helper" methods can help make tests clearer by making them more concise – factoring out repetitive steps whose details aren't relevant to the behaviour being tested.

But the refactoring should be done with an eye for make the tests more readable and descriptive, not solely to reduce repetition.

Don't comprise clarity and conciseness.

Make Your Tests Concise

A test case is concise when it contains no other distracting or irrelevant information.

```
@Test
public void shouldEndGameWithWinnerWhenFourInARowVertically() {
    Connect4 c4 = new Connect4(7, 6);
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    c4.makeMove(1); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(2); // RED
    c4.makeMove(2); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(3); // RED
    c4.makeMove(3); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    c4.makeMove(1); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    c4.makeMove(1); // YELLOW
    c4.makeMove(0); // RED
    assertThat(c4.isGameOver(), equalTo(true));
    assertThat(c4.winner(), equalTo(Piece.RED));
```

Our test now includes a lot of moves that are not needed for the test scenario and make the board even harder to visualise and what the test outcome should be.

Don't Test Methods – Test Behaviours

The first instinct of many engineers is to try to match the structure of their tests to the structure of the code.

```
@Test
                                                                   public void testConstructor() {
public Connect4(int cols, int rows) {
                                                                   public void testIsGameOver() {
public boolean isGameOver() {
                                                                   @Test
public Piece whoseTurn() {
                                                                   public void testWhoseTurn() {
public Piece getPieceAt(int col, int row) {
                                                                   @Test
    // ...
                                                                   public void testGetPieceAt() {
public void makeMove(int col) {
   // ...
                                                                   @lest
                                                                   public void testMakeMove() {
                                                                       // ...
```

Don't Test Methods – Test Behaviours

But a single method may have more than one behaviour and/or some tricky corner cases that require more tests.

For example, makeMove can have several behaviours, depending on the state of the board.

One test for that method makes no sense, and is likely to not be very clear nor concise.

Better way: Write tests for each behaviour.

Testing Behaviour

A behaviour is a guarantee that a system makes about how it will respond to a series of inputs while in a particular state.

A behaviour can be expressed with "given X when Y, then Z"

For example:

Given a Connect4 board, with RED starting first

When RED has played a piece

Then it's YELLOW's turn next.

Writing Behaviour-Driven Tests

Behaviour-Driven tests tend to read more like natural language, so structure them accordingly.

```
@Test
public void shouldChangePieceAfterTurn() {
    // Given a Connect 4 Board, with RED starting first
    Connect4 c4 = new Connect4(7, 6);

    // When RED makes a move
    c4.makeMove(0);

    // Then it's YELLOW's turn next
    assertThat(c4.whoseTurn(), equalTo(Piece.YELLOW));
}
```

Name Tests after the Behaviour Being Tested

A good name describes the actions (the "when") that are being tested and the expected outcome (the "then"), and sometimes the state to (the "given").

A good trick is to start the name with "should", e.g.

shouldInitializeCorrectly shouldChangePieceAfterTurn shouldEndGameWithWinnerWhenFourInARowHorizontally etc.

Don't Put Logic in Tests

Don't put conditionals or loops in tests, or logical operations.

Tests should read as simple statements of truth, not chunks of code that also require tests!

Here the test is trying to check every position of the board and ensure it is not set to a piece (i.e., it is null)

```
@Test
public void shouldInitializeCorrectly() {
    // Given a new Connect 4 Board
    Connect4 c4 = new Connect4(7, 6);
    // Then it's RED's turn
    assertThat(c4.whoseTurn(), equalTo(Piece.RED));
    // Then the board has no piece in every position
    for (int i=0; i < 7; i++) {
        for (int j=0; j < 6; j++) {
          assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(j, j), nullValue()); =
    // Then the game is not over
    assertThat(c4.isGameOver(), equalTo(false));
    // Then there is no winner
    assertThat(c4.winner, equalTo(null));
```

But oops, the developer made a mistake, checking (j, j) instead of (i, j). The test won't fail, so the mistake is hard to spot.

Don't Put Logic in Tests

Don't put conditionals or loops in tests, or logical operations.

Tests should read as simple statements of truth, not chunks of code that also require tests!

Better just to initialise a smaller 2x2 board and explicitly check each position

```
@Test
public void shouldInitializeCorrectly() {
    // Given a new Connect 4 Board
    Connect4 c4 = new Connect4(2, 2);
    // Then it's RED's turn
    assertThat(c4.whoseTurn(), equalTo(Piece.RED));
    // Then the board has no piece in every position
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(0, 0), nullValue());
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(0, 1), nullValue());
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(1, 0), nullValue());
    assertThat(c4.getPieceAt(1, 1), nullValue());
    // Then the game is not over
    assertThat(c4.isGameOver(), equalTo(false));
    // Then there is no winner
    assertThat(c4.winner, equalTo(null));
```

Making Your Unit Tests Clear

- Make your tests concise and complete (DAMP and not too DRY!)
- Don't structure tests around methods instead structure around behaviours
- Use the Given-When-Then pattern for testing behaviour
- Name Tests after the Behaviour Being Tested
- Don't put logic in tests