Introduction to Software Testing
(2nd edition)
Chapter 7.1, 7.2

Overview Graph Coverage Criteria
(*active class version*)

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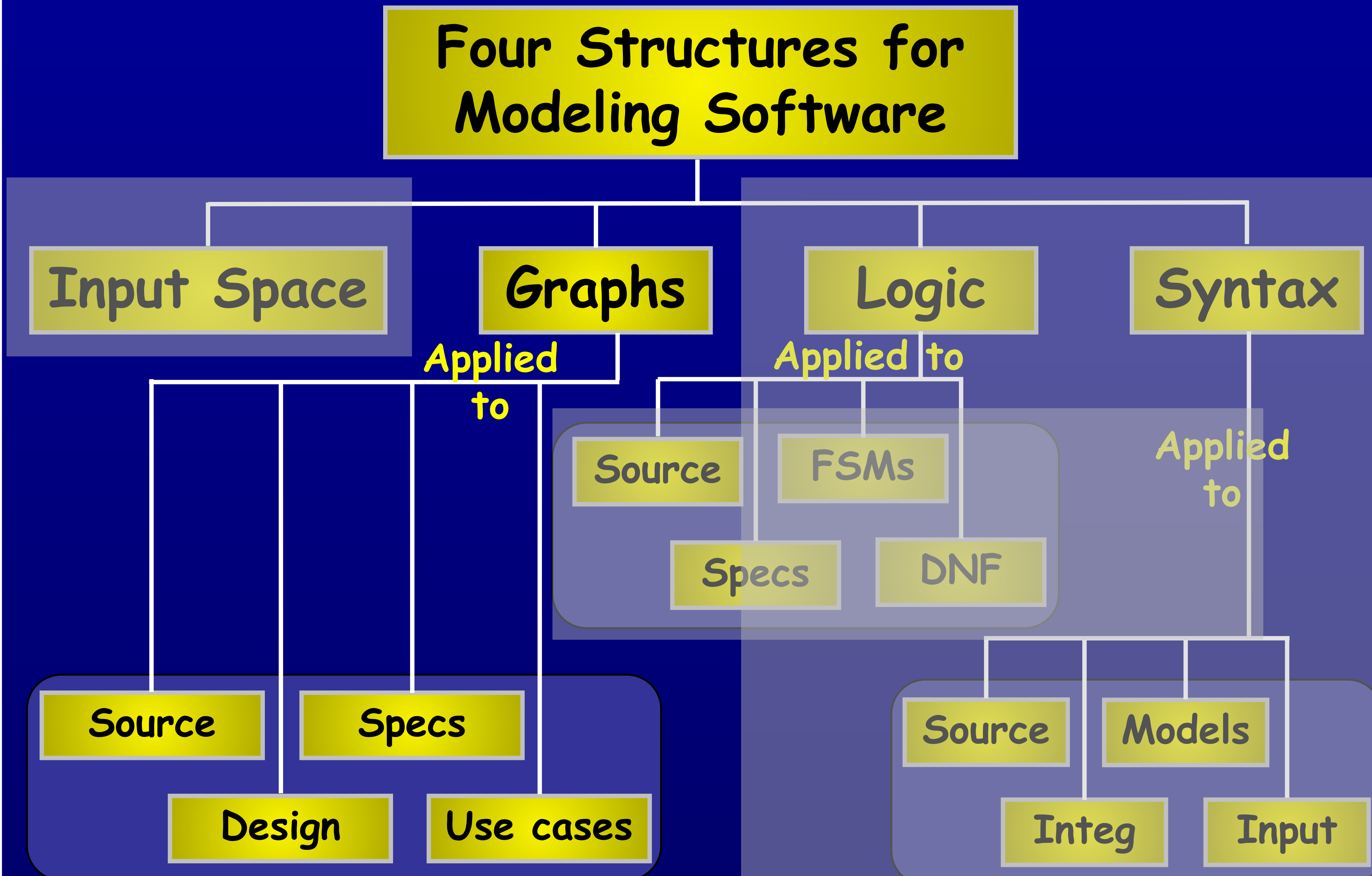
Ch. 7 : Graph Coverage



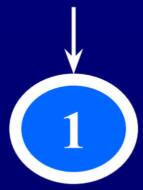
Covering Graphs (7.1)

- Graphs are the most commonly used structure for testing
- Graphs can come from many sources
  - Control flow graphs
  - Design structure
  - FSMs and statecharts
  - Use cases
- Tests usually are intended to "cover" the graph in some way

Definition of a Graph

- A set N of nodes, N is not empty
- A set N_0 of initial nodes, N_0 is not empty
- A set N_f of final nodes, N_f is not empty
- A set E of edges, each edge from one node to another
  - (n_i , n_j), i is predecessor, j is successor

Is this a graph?

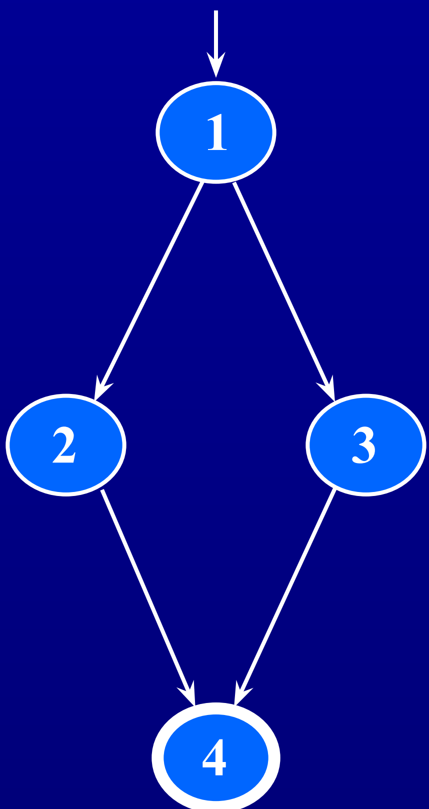


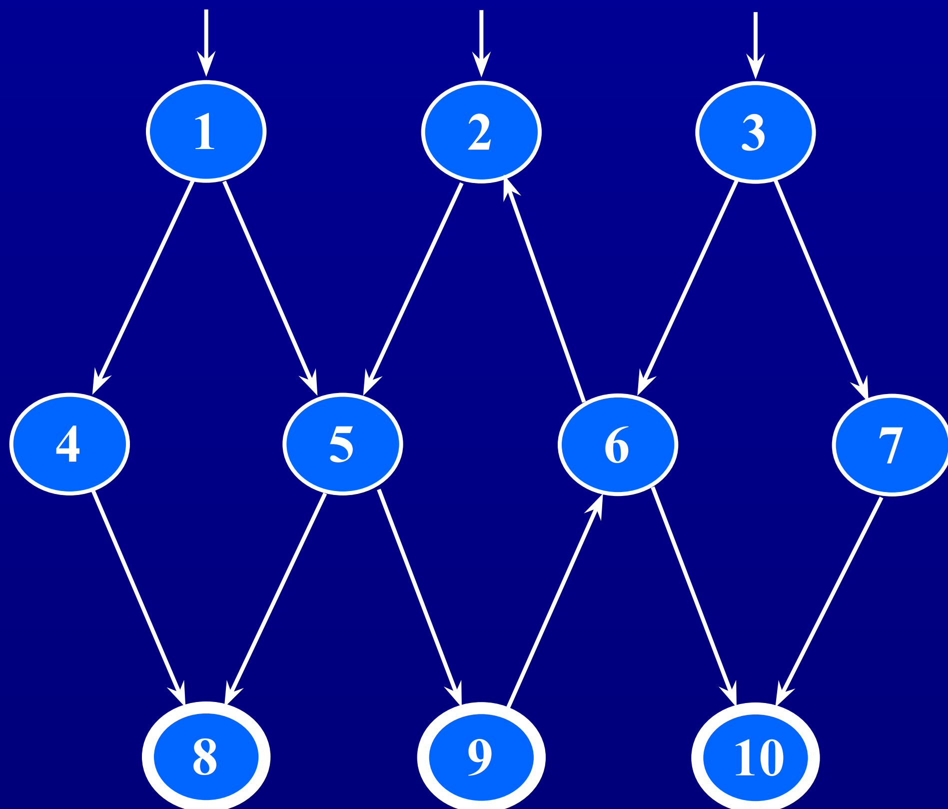
N_0 = { 1 }

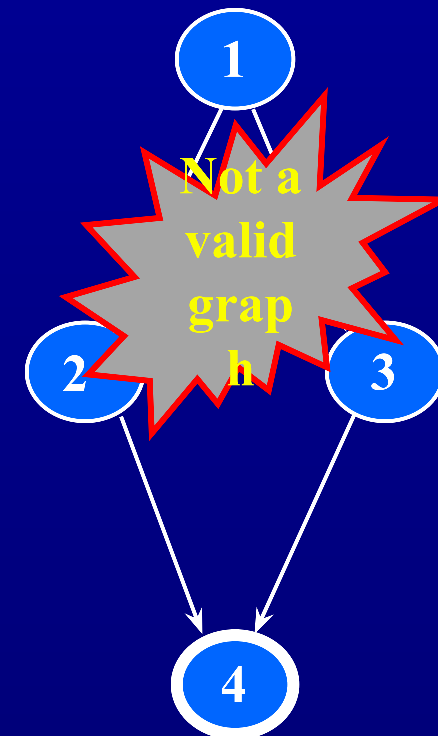
N_f = { 1 }

E = { }

Example Graphs







N_0 = { 1 }

N_f = { 4 }

E = { (1, 2), (1,3), (2,4), (3,4) }

N_0 = { 1, 2, 3 }

N_f = { 8, 9, 10 }

E = { (1,4), (1,5), (2,5), (3,6), (3, 7), (4, 8), (5,8), (5,9), (6,2), (6,10), (7,10) (9,6) }

N_0 = { }

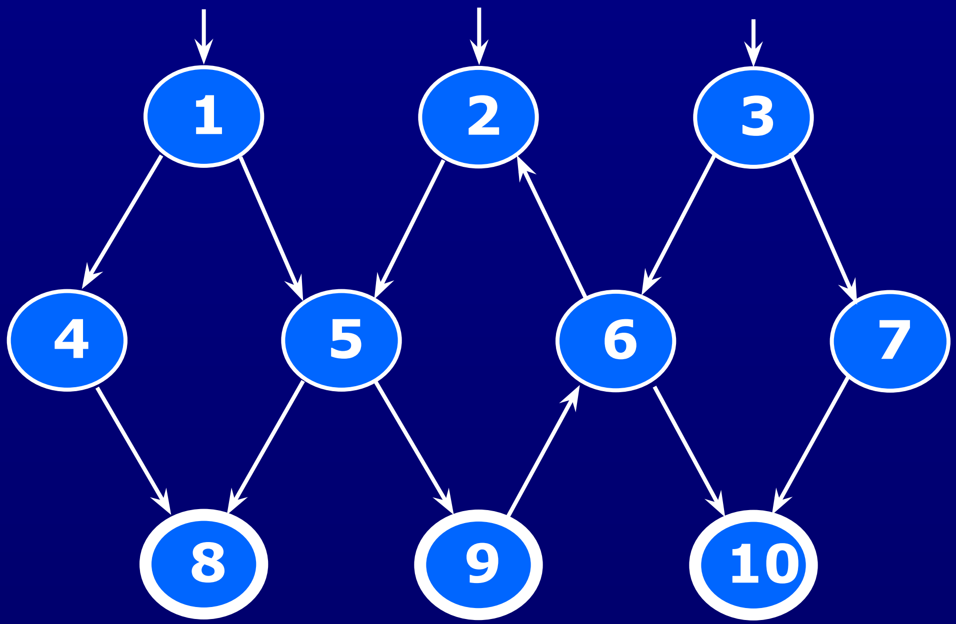
N_f = { 4 }

E = { (1,2), (1,3), (2,4), (3,4) }

Ch

Paths in Graphs

- **Path** : A sequence of nodes – $[n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_M]$
  - Each pair of nodes is an edge
- **Length** : The number of edges
  - A single node is a path of length 0
- **Subpath** : A subsequence of nodes in *p* is a subpath of *p*



A Few Paths

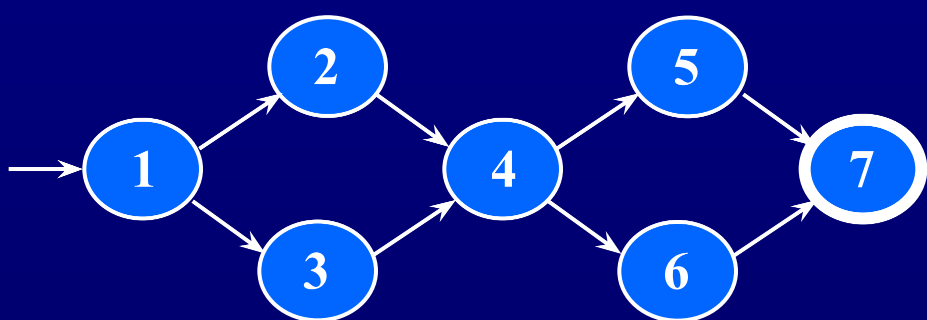
[1, 4, 8]

[2, 5, 9, 6, 2]

[3, 7, 10]

Test Paths and SESEs

- **Test Path** : A path that starts at an initial node and ends at a final node
- Test paths represent execution of test cases
  - Some test paths can be executed by many tests
  - Some test paths cannot be executed by any tests
- **SESE graphs** : All test paths start at a single node and end at another node
  - Single-entry, single-exit
  - N0 and Nf have exactly one node



Double-diamond graph

Four test paths

[1, 2, 4, 5, 7]

[1, 2, 4, 6, 7]

[1, 3, 4, 5, 7]

[1, 3, 4, 6, 7]

Visiting and Touring

- Visit : A test path *p* *visits* node *n* if *n* is in *p*
  A test path *p* *visits* edge *e* if *e* is in *p*
- Tour : A test path *p* *tours* subpath *q* if *q* is a subpath of *p*

Test path [1, 2, 4, 5, 7]

Visits nodes ? 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

Visits edges ? (1,2), (2,4), (4, 5), (5, 7)

Tours subpaths ? [1,2,4], [2,4,5], [4,5,7], [1,2,4,5], [2,4,5,7], [1,2,4,5,7]

(Also, each edge is technically a subpath)

Tests and Test Paths

- path (*t*) : The test path executed by test *t*
- path (*T*) : The set of test paths executed by the set of tests *T*
- Each test executes one and only one test path
  - Complete execution from a start node to an final node
- A location in a graph (node or edge) can be reached from another location if there is a sequence of edges from the first location to the second
  - *Syntactic reach* : A subpath exists in the graph
  - *Semantic reach* : A test exists that can execute that subpath
  - This distinction becomes important in section 7.3

```
if (x >7 and y> 5)
   {
      if (x <0)
         print "Hi there";
      else
         print "Bye there";
   }
```

Testing and Covering Graphs (7.2)

- We use graphs in testing as follows :
  - Develop a model of the software as a graph
  - Require tests to visit or tour specific sets of nodes, edges or subpaths
- Test Requirements (TR) : Describe properties of test paths
- Test Criterion : Rules that define test requirements
- Satisfaction : *Given a set TR of test requirements for a criterion C, a set of tests T satisfies C on a graph if and only if for every test requirement in TR, there is a test path in path(T) that meets the test requirement tr*
- Structural Coverage Criteria : Defined on a graph just in terms of nodes and edges
- Data Flow Coverage Criteria : Requires a graph to be annotated with references to variables

Node and Edge Coverage

- The first (and simplest) two criteria require that each node and edge in a graph be executed

<u>Node Coverage (NC)</u> : Test set *T* satisfies node coverage on graph *G* iff for every syntactically reachable node *n* in *N*, there is some path *p* in *path(T)* such that *p* visits *n*.

- This statement is a bit cumbersome, so we abbreviate it in terms of the set of test requirements

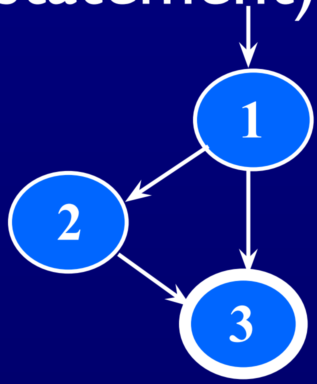
<u>Node Coverage (NC)</u> : TR contains each reachable node in G.

Node and Edge Coverage

- Edge coverage is slightly stronger than node coverage

Edge Coverage (EC) : TR contains each reachable path of length up to 1, inclusive, in G.

- The phrase "*length up to 1*" allows for graphs with one node and no edges
- NC and EC are only different when there is an edge and another subpath between a pair of nodes (as in an "if-else" statement)

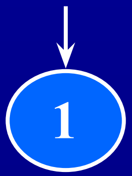


Node Coverage : ? TR = { 1, 2, 3 }
Test Path = [1, 2, 3]

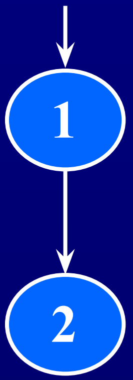
Edge Coverage : ? TR = { (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 3) }
Test Paths = [1, 2, 3]
[1, 3]

Paths of Length 1 and 0

- A graph with only one node will not have any edges



- It may seem trivial, but formally, Edge Coverage needs to require Node Coverage on this graph
- Otherwise, Edge Coverage will not subsume Node Coverage
  - So we define "length up to 1" instead of simply "length 1"
- We have the same issue with graphs that only have one edge – for Edge-Pair Coverage …

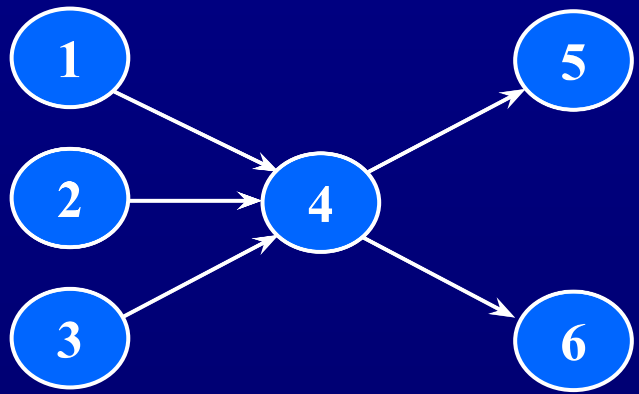


Covering Multiple Edges

- Edge-pair coverage requires pairs of edges, or subpaths of length 2

Edge-Pair Coverage (EPC) : **TR contains each reachable path of length up to 2, inclusive, in G.**

- The phrase "length up to 2" is used to include graphs that have less than 2 edges



Edge-Pair Coverage : ?

TR = { [1,4,5], [1,4,6], [2,4,5], [2,4,6], [3,4,5], [3,4,6] }

- The logical extension is to require all paths …

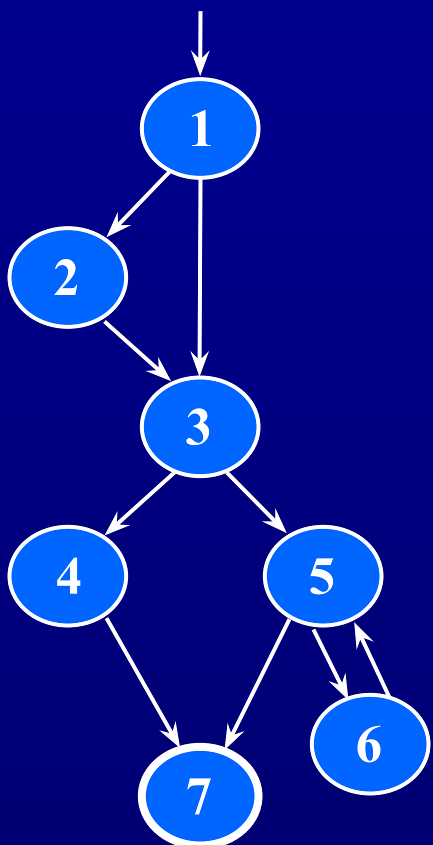
Covering Multiple Edges

Complete Path Coverage (CPC) : TR contains all paths in G.

Unfortunately, this is impossible if the graph has a loop, so a weak compromise makes the tester decide which paths:

Specified Path Coverage (SPC) : TR contains a set S of test paths, where S is supplied as a parameter.

Structural Coverage Example



Node Coverage

TR = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 }

Test Paths: [1, 2, 3, 4, 7] [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 5

Write down the TRs and Test Paths for these criteria

Edge Coverage

TR = { (1,2), (1, 3), (2, 3), (3, 4), (3, 5), (4,), (6, 5) }

Test Paths: [1, 2, 3, 4, 7] [1, 3, 5, 6, 5, 7]

Edge-Pair Coverage

TR = { [1,2,3], [1,3,4], [1,3,5], [2,3,4], [2,3,5], [3,4,7], [3,5,6], [3,5,7], [5,6,5], [6,5,6], [6,5,7] }

Test Paths: [1, 2, 3, 4, 7] [1, 2, 3, 5, 7] [1, 3, 4, 7] [1, 3, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 7]

Complete Path Coverage

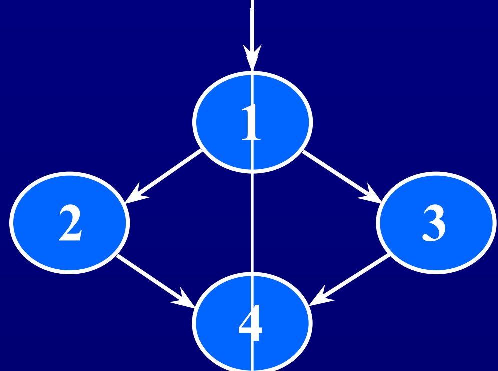
Test Paths: [1, 2, 3, 4, 7] [1, 2, 3, 5, 7] [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 5, 7] [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 7] [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 7] …

Handling Loops in Graphs

- If a graph contains a loop, it has an infinite number of paths
- Thus, CPC is not feasible
- SPC is not satisfactory because the results are subjective and vary with the tester
- Attempts to "deal with" loops:
  - 1970s : Execute cycles once ([4, 5, 4] in previous example, informal)
  - 1980s : Execute each loop, exactly once (formalized)
  - 1990s : Execute loops 0 times, once, more than once (informal description)
  - 2000s : Prime paths (touring, sidetrips, and detours)

Simple Paths and Prime Paths

- Simple Path : *A path from node ni to nj is simple if no node appears more than once, except possibly the first and last nodes are the same*
  - No internal loops
  - A loop is a simple path
- Prime Path : *A simple path that does not appear as a proper subpath of any other simple path*



Simple Paths : [1,2,4,1], [1,3,4,1], [2,4,1,2], [2,4,1,3], [3,4,1,2], [3,4,1,3], [4,1,2,4], [4,1,3,4], [1,2,4], [1,3,4], [2,4,1], [3,4,1], [4,1, [illegible] 1,3], [2,4], [3,4], [4,1], [1], [2], [3], [4 [illegible]

Write down the simple and prime paths for this graph

Prime Paths : [2,4,1,2], [2,4,1,3], [1,3,4,1], [1,2,4,1], [3,4,1,2], [4,1,3,4], [4,1,2,4], [3,4,1,3]

Prime Path Coverage

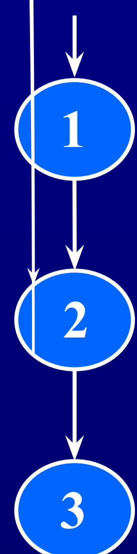
- A simple, elegant and finite criterion that requires loops to be executed as well as skipped

Prime Path Coverage (PPC) : TR contains each prime path in G.

- Will tour all paths of length 0, 1, …
- That is, it subsumes node and edge coverage
- PPC almost, but not quite, subsumes EPC …

PPC Does Not Subsume EPC

- If a node *n* has an edge to itself (*self edge*), EPC requires [*n, n, m*] and [*m, n, n*]
- [*n, n, m*] is not prime
- Neither [*n, n, m*] nor [*m, n, n*] are simple paths (not prime)



EPC Requirements : ?

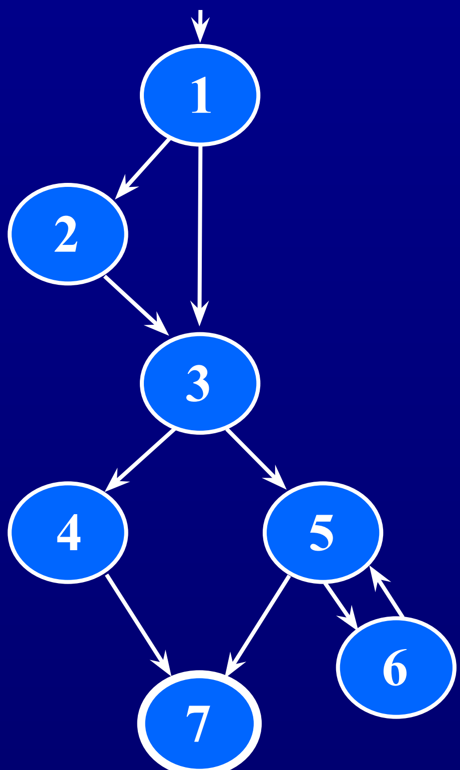
TR = { [1,2,3], [1,2,2], [2,2,3], [2,2,2] }

PPC Requirements : ?

TR = { [1,2,3], [2,2] }

Prime Path Example

- The previous example has 38 simple paths
- Only nine *prime paths*



Prime Paths

[1, 2, 3, 4, 7]

Write down all 9 prime paths

[1, 3, 4, 7]

[1, 3, 5, 7]

[1, 3, 5, 6]

[6, 5, 7]

[6, 5, 6]

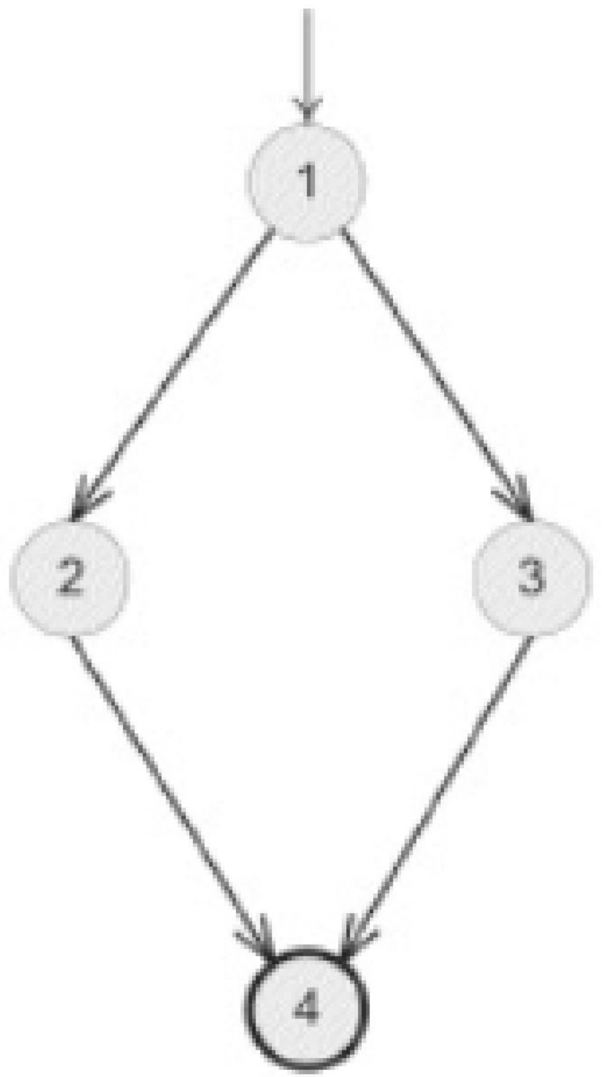
[5, 6, 5]

Execute loop 0 times

Execute loop once

Execute loop more than once

Prime Path Coverage vs Complete Path Coverage



Prime Paths = { [1, 2, 4], [1, 3, 4] }

path (t_1) = [1, 2, 4]

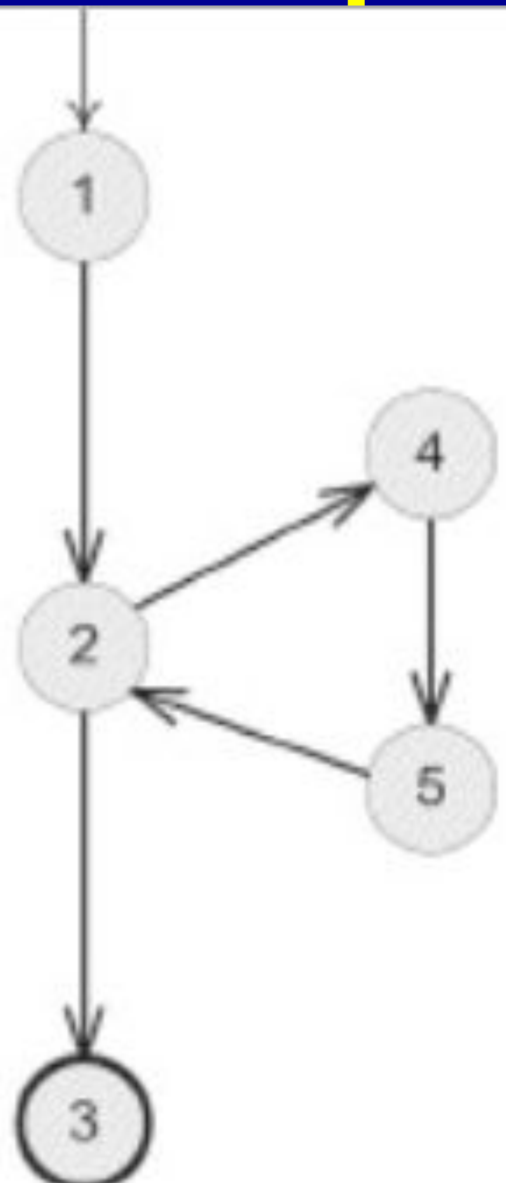
path (t_2) = [1, 3, 4]

$T_1 = \{t_1, t_2\}$

T_1 satisfies prime path coverage on the graph

(a) Prime Path Coverage on a Graph With No Loops

Prime Path Coverage vs Complete Path Coverage



Prime Paths = { [1, 2, 3], [1, 2, 4, 5], [2, 4, 5, 2], [4, 5, 2, 4], [5, 2, 4, 5], [4, 5, 2, 3] }

path (t_3) = [1, 2, 3]

path (t_4) = [1, 2, 4, 5, 2, 4, 5, 2, 3]

$T_2 = \{t_3, t_4\}$

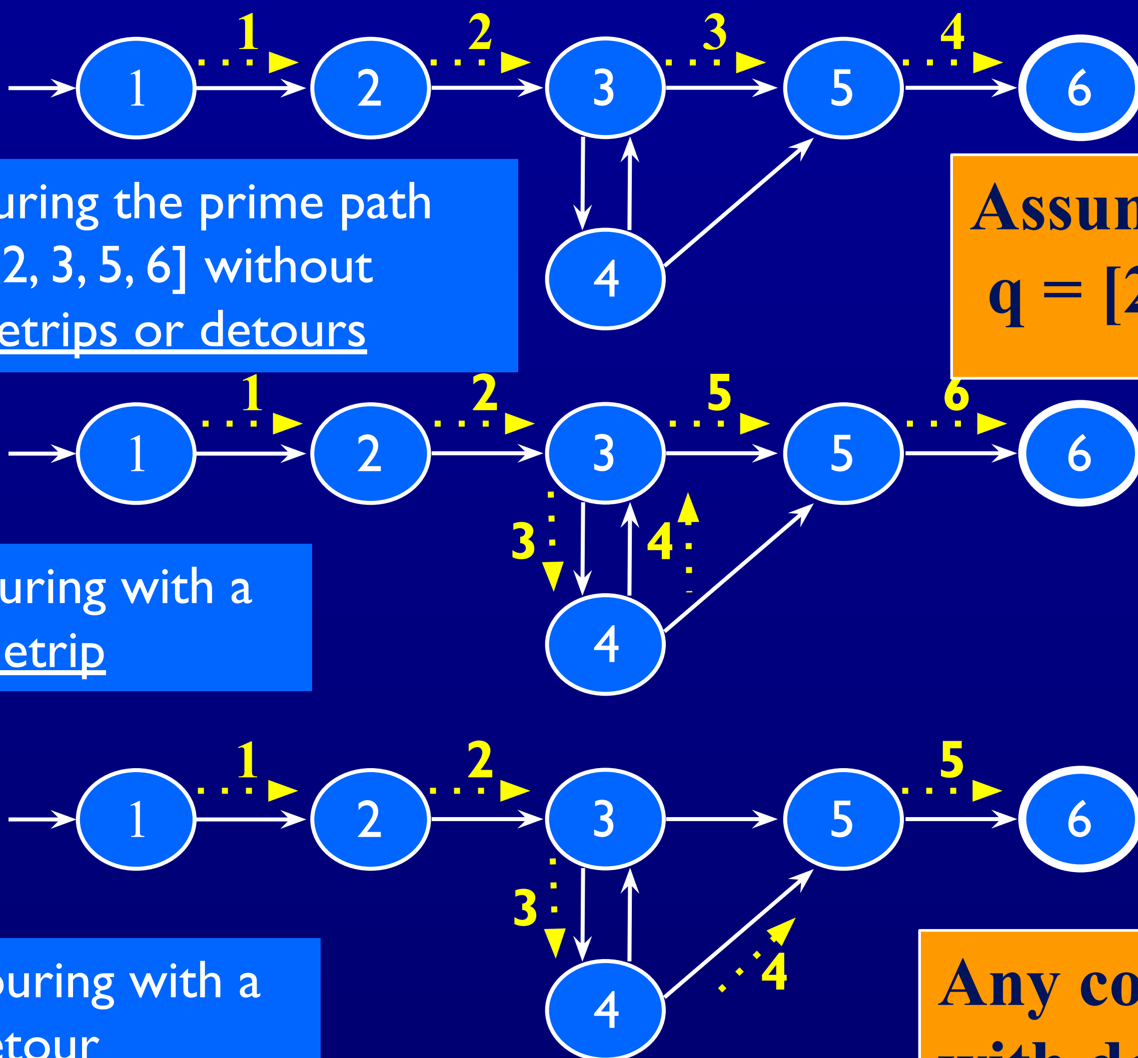
T_2 satisfies prime path coverage on the graph

(b) Prime Path Coverage on a Graph With Loops

Touring, Sidetrips, and Detours

- Prime paths do not have internal loops
- Assume that q is a simple path. Test paths might
- Tour (directly) : *A test path p tours subpath q if q is a subpath of p*
- Tour With Sidetrips : *A test path p tours subpath q with sidetrips iff every* ***edge*** *in q is also in p in the same order*
- Tour With Detours : *A test path p tours subpath q with detours iff every* ***node*** *in q is also in p in the same order*

Sidetrips and Detours Example



Touring the prime path [1, 2, 3, 5, 6] without sidetrips or detours

Assume
q = [2, 3, 5]

Touring with a sidetrip

Touring with a detour

Any concern with detours?

Infeasible Test Requirements

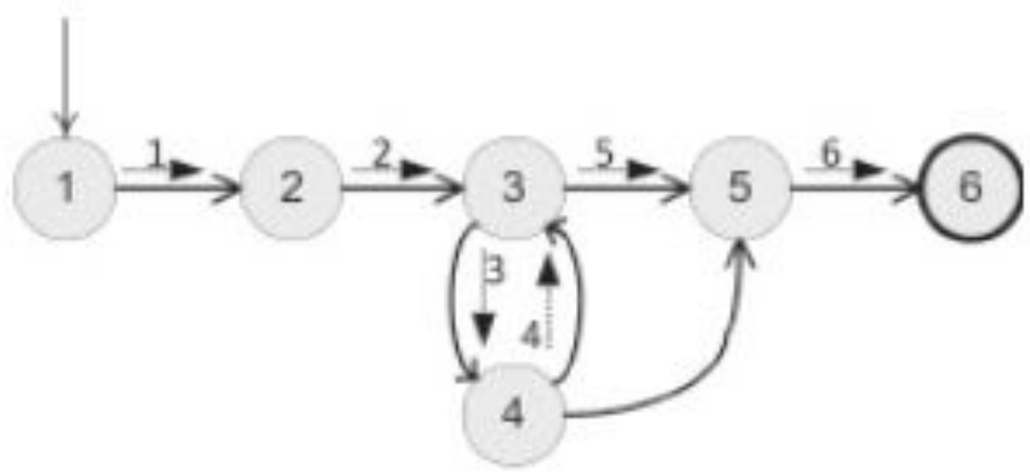
- An infeasible test requirement cannot be satisfied
  - Unreachable statement (dead code)
  - Subpath that can only be executed with a contradiction ($X > 0$ and $X < 0$)
- Most test criteria have some infeasible test requirements

```
If (false)
    unreachableCall();
```

```
If (x>0)
    if(x < 0)
        unreachableCall();
```

Infeasible Test Requirements

- When sidetrips are not allowed, many structural criteria have more infeasible test requirements



(a) Graph being toured with a sidetrip

- When do you need to tour this graph with side trips?
- When would side trips be a bad idea?

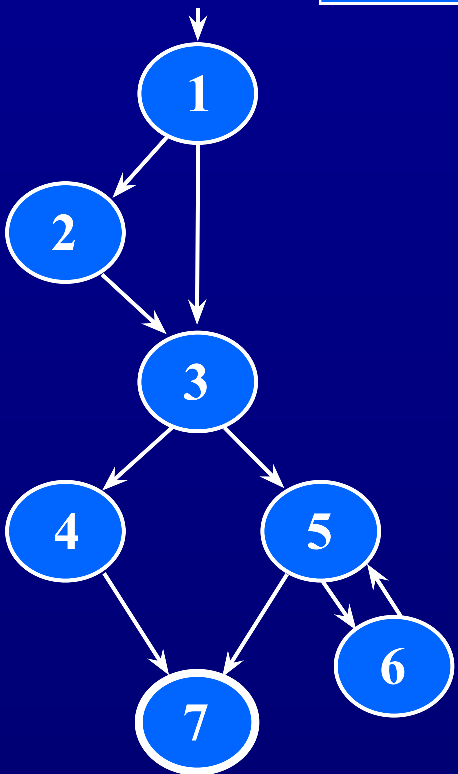
Refining Coverage Criteria

- We could define each graph coverage criterion and explicitly include the kinds of tours allowed, e.g.
  - prime paths, with direct tours;
  - prime paths, side-trips allowed;
  - prime paths, detours allowed.
- Detours seem less practical, so we do not include detours further.
- However, always allowing sidetrips weakens the test criteria

Practical recommendation—Best Effort Touring

- **Satisfy as many test requirements as possible without sidetrips**
- **Allow sidetrips to try to satisfy remaining test requirements**

Finding Prime Test Paths



Simple paths

Len 0
[1]
Write paths of length 0
[5]
[6]
[7] !

Len 1
[1, 2]
[1, 3]
Write paths of length 1
[4, 7] !
[5, 7] !
[5, 6]
[6, 5]

'!' means path ... es

Len 2
[1, 2, 3]
[1, 3, 4]
[1, 3, 5]
Write paths of length 2
[3, 5, 7] !
[3, 5, 6] !
[5, 6, 5] *
[6, 5, 7] !
[6, 5, 6] *

Len 3
[1, 2, 3, 4]
[1, 2, 3, 5]
Write paths of length 3
[2, 3, 4, 7] !
[2, 3, 5, 6] !
[2, 3, 5, 7] !

...ns path ...les

Len 4
[1 ...] !
[1 ...] !
[1 ...] !
Write paths of length 4

Prime Paths ?

Test paths?
Test paths need not be prime!

Required Reading

- Sections 7.1 and 7.2 from the text book: An Introduction to Software Testing, 2nd edition.