

SOEN-6011 PROJECT

Eternity

Akhil Sharma

Implementation of the Power Function.

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0.1 Introduction

The objective of this medium-sized scientific software engineering project is to implement the power function while approaching the problem from first principles. Tasks like **documenting**, **versioning**, and **testing** are considered first class citizens.

This report will first discuss about the power function. This is followed by defining the requirements for the system. Defining the requirements will also impose a restriction on the scope of the project. This is followed by comparing different algorithms for calculating the power function and selecting the most efficient based on the time complexity. Next, the method is implemented from scratch in java along with a simple textual user interface. The report also discusses the use of various tools like the debugger and the type check. Finally, the report will discuss the process of testing the system.

As required by the project description, this report was typeset using L^AT_EX. The L^AT_EXsource was tested online at [Overleaf](#) and offline on MikTeX for windows.

The source code for the project is hosted on [GitHub](#)

The terms Project, System, Software system, Eternity all refer to the same thing.

Chapter 1

Power Function

Definition 1.0.1. The **power function** is defined as the function that takes any numbers x and y as input, raises x to y , and returns x^y as output.

The power function is a transcendental function and cannot be expressed in terms of a finite sequence of the algebraic operations of raising to a power, division, multiplication, addition, subtraction, and root extraction [wikipedia](#).

All the exponentiation rules are applicable here.

1.1 Domain and Co-domain

The domains and co-domains of x and y vary as follows [1]:

- If **base x is a positive real number**, then y belongs to the set of all reals numbers.

The corresponding range is the set of all positive real numbers.

- If **base x is zero**, then y belongs to the set of non-negative real numbers.

This is because a negative y would lead to division by zero.

- If **base x is negative**, then y may only have to certain values:

- y may be any integer.
- y may be a fraction of the form a/b where b is odd.
- y may not be a fraction of the form a/b where b is even.
- y may not be an irrational number.

1.2 Examples

Let's look a few examples:

Any number raised to the power one results in the same number, $2^1 = 2$.

Two to the power three means two times two times two or $2^3 = 8$.

Zero raised to any positive power is 0.

Zero raised to power zero is 1.

For negative powers, $x^{-y} = 1/x^y$. So, $2^{-1} = 1/2^1 = 0.5$

1.3 Context of use Model

The context of use is a description of the conditions under which the software system will be used under the normal working circumstances. A context of use model is a useful tool to explore and understand the details and boundaries of a project. [2]

There is currently no standard for representing the context of use. A context diagram is however a suitable candidate for mind mapping.

Fig 1. is a context diagram for this project built using the [GitMind tool](#). It focuses on the users of the systems and the environments where this system will be operated. The users block is subdivided into

blocks representing the potential users of the system and their requirements for effective and efficient completion of their responsibilities.

The environment block explores the different system environments needed to perform different tasks. In particular, the developers, testers and, maintainer require a Technical environment. The end-user however doesn't require anything more than the general environment.

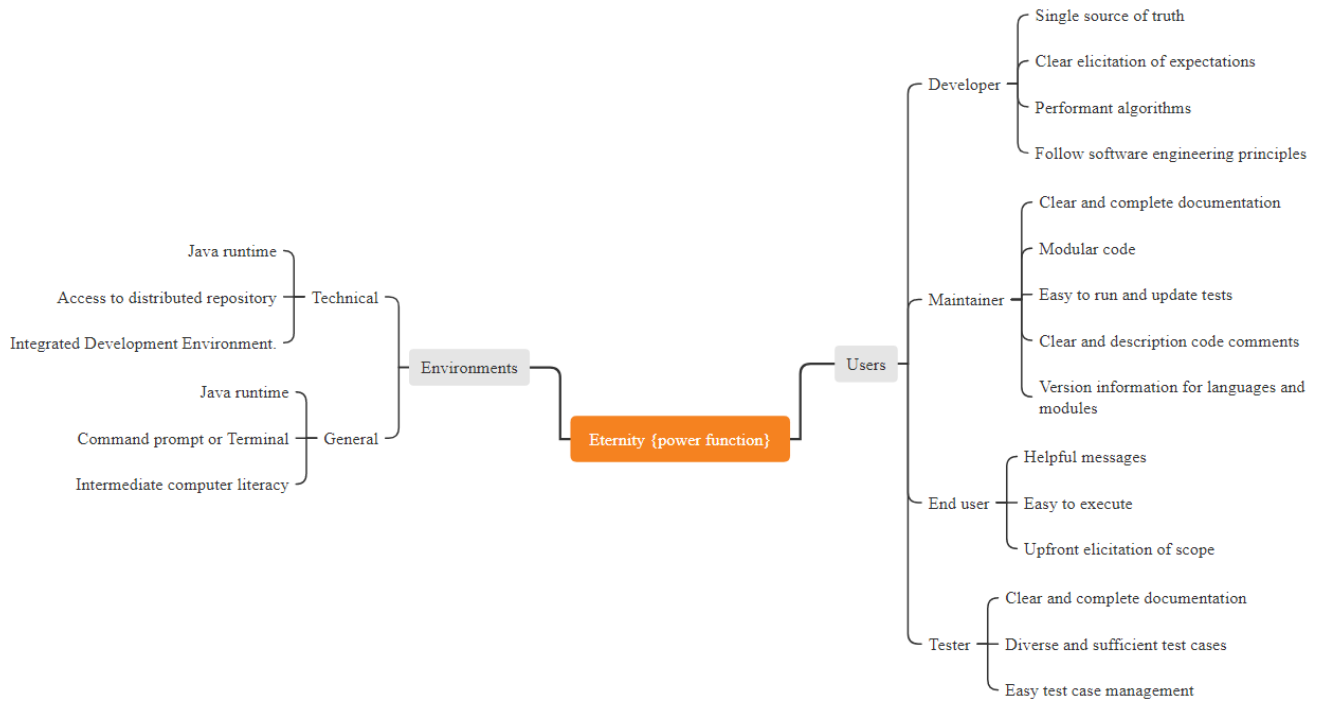


Figure 1.1: Context of use for Eternity.

Chapter 2

Requirements

This chapter lists the software requirements using the format outlined in the ISO/IEC/IEEE 29148 sections 5.2.4 to 5.2.7 (“ISO/IEC/IEEE International Standard - Systems and Software Engineering – Life Cycle Processes – Requirements Engineering,” 2018). The following meta data is associated with each requirement:

ID This string uniquely identifies the requirement.

VERSION This indicates the number of times a requirement has been updated.

PRIORITY This string indicates the importance of implementing this requirement for the minimum viable product. Priority may be one of HIGH, AVERAGE, or LOW.

TYPE This string indicates whether the requirement is functional or non-functional in nature.

The requirements were managed using the Jira dashboard. See figure [4.1](#).

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R1	1	HIGH	NON-FUNCTIONAL
Eternity shall execute on any device with JVM.			

Table 2.1: Requirement 1

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R2	1	HIGH	FUNCTIONAL
Eternity shall allow multiple calculations per session			

Table 2.2: Requirement 2

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R3	1	HIGH	NON-FUNCTIONAL
Eternity shall be developed with maintainability in mind.			

Table 2.3: Requirement 3

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R4	1	HIGH	NON-FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall be modular and testable.

Table 2.4: Requirement 4

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R5	1	HIGH	NON-FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall have a simple user interface to increase usability.

Table 2.5: Requirement 5

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R6	1	HIGH	FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall allow only integer values of y when calculating x^y .

Table 2.6: Requirement 6

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R7	1	HIGH	FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall allow all real values for \mathbf{x} when calculating $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{y}}$.

Table 2.7: Requirement 7

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R8	1	HIGH	NON-FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall provide a help menu for users.

Table 2.8: Requirement 8

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R9	1	HIGH	NON-FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall provide Javadoc documentation.

Table 2.9: Requirement 9

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R10	1	HIGH	FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall use optimal algorithms.

Table 2.10: Requirement 10

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R11	1	HIGH	FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall not allow \mathbf{x} to be 0 when \mathbf{y} is negative.

Table 2.11: Requirement 11

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R12	1	HIGH	FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall return 1 when the power is 0.

Table 2.12: Requirement 12

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R13	1	HIGH	FUNCTIONAL

Eternity shall return \mathbf{x} when $\mathbf{y} = 1$ in $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{y}}$.

Table 2.13: Requirement 13

ID	VERSION	PRIORITY	TYPE
R14	1	LOW	FUNCTIONAL

Eternity will maintain a history of previous operations.

Table 2.14: Requirement 14

Chapter 3

Algorithm

There exist a few algorithms for calculating the power function. However, requirements 2.6 and 2.7 significantly reduce the scope this project. We will consider two algorithms for Eternity, the repeated multiplication or iterative solution and, the divide and conquer solution. When discussing these algorithms we will assume that the power y is positive since the solution for negative y can be derived trivially from this value.

3.1 Iterative Solution (Naive approach)

The iterative solution is the simplest way solve this problem. The calculation of x^y involves multiplying x with itself exactly y times. For example, $2^3 = 2 * 2 * 2 = 8$.

3.1.1 Pseudocode

Input : Numbers x and y where x is a real number and y is a positive integer.

Output : Return the value power function x^y .

Function: *power_incremental*(x, y)

power $\leftarrow 1$;

while $y > 0$ do

power \leftarrow *power* * x ;

$y = y - 1$;

end

return *power*;

Algorithm 1: Power function using repeated multiplication (Naive).

3.1.2 Complexity

This is a relatively straightforward algorithm and runs in linear time. This results to a time complexity of $O(n)$ where n is the magnitude of power y .

3.2 Divide and Conquer

In the **Divide and Conquer** approach the problem is defined recursively as follows:

$power(x, y) = power(x, y/2) * power(x, y/2)$, if y is even

$power(x, y) = x * power(x, y/2) * power(x, y/2)$, if y is odd

Here, the problem is being divided into a sub-problem which is half the size of the original problem until the base case is reached where $y = 1$.

3.2.1 Pseudocode

Input : Numbers x and y where x is a real number and y is a positive integer.

Output : Return the value power function x^y .

```
Function: power_divide_and_conquer(x, y)
if y = 0 then
    | return 1;
end
pow ← power_divide_and_conquer(x, y/2);
if y is odd then
    | return x * pow * pow;
end
return pow * pow;
```

Algorithm 2: Power function using divide and conquer.

3.2.2 Complexity

Since this algorithm continuously divides the problem in half we get the time complexity of $O(\log n)$ where n is the magnitude of y .

3.3 Final Selection

By comparing the above algorithms, it is clear that the algorithm 2 **divide and conquer** performs better than algorithm 1 **direct approach**. As a result, Eternity will implement the second algorithm or algorithm 2.

3.4 Pseudocode Style Selection

There exist a number of styles for writing pseudocodes. Mind mapping was used to determine the style that suits our purpose. See figure 3.1.

The pseudocode style provided by the algorithm2e L^AT_EX package was determined to be best suited since it provides a format which is very similar to the c-style or java-style and capable of representing much detail.

This style was preferred over the python style since it is **closer in distance** to the java code in the repository.

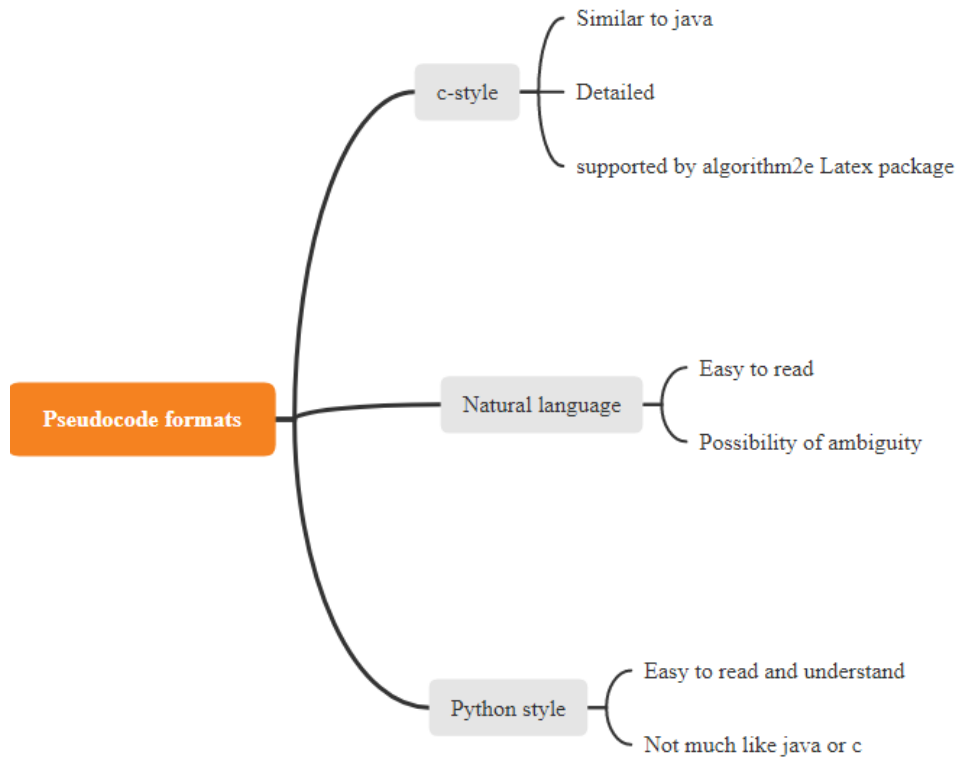


Figure 3.1: Mind Mapping to determine the pseudocode style.

Chapter 4

Problem

The project is implemented from scratch in Java. The term “scratch” means that, apart from the functions related to input, output, arithmetic, and user interface design, your implementation does not use any built-in or library functions provided by Java.

The project uses [Google’s java style guide](#) since most of the popular style guides are derived from it.

Eternity uses a textual interface since seemed appropriate for a project of this scope. The developer’s inexperience in building graphical user interface also contributed to this decision.

4.1 Requirements Management

During the development of Eternity the requirements were managed using Jira. Figure 4.1 the Jira dashboard for requirements.

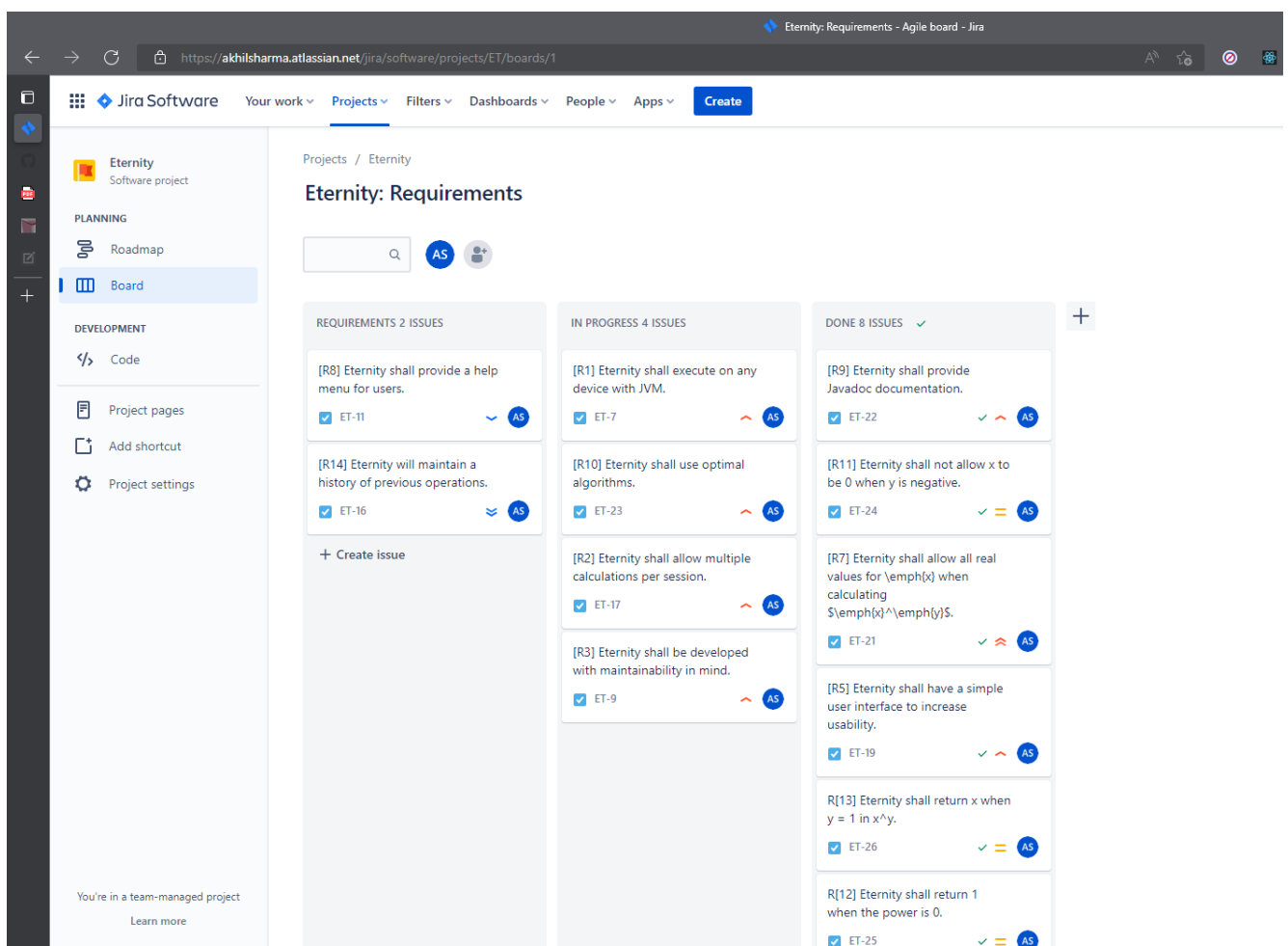


Figure 4.1: Requirements management in jira.

4.2 Debugger

Eternity uses the open-source Debugger for Java [] built into visual studio code. It is a lightweight java debugger based on Java Debug Server which extends the Language Support for Java by Red Hat. It allows users to debug Java code using Visual Studio Code (VS Code). It has a number of features like:

- Launch/Attach
- Breakpoints/Conditional Breakpoints/Logpoints
- Exceptions
- Pause and Continue
- Step In/Out/Over
- Variables
- Callstacks
- Threads
- Debug console
- Evaluation
- Hot Code Replace

Figure 4.2 shows the debugger in action. It is an open-source project backed by tech giants like Microsoft. It offer a very granular control over the process and can be configured as needed. It comes pre-installed with VS Code and needs little knowledge to get started with. All these factors made it the debugger of choice for me.

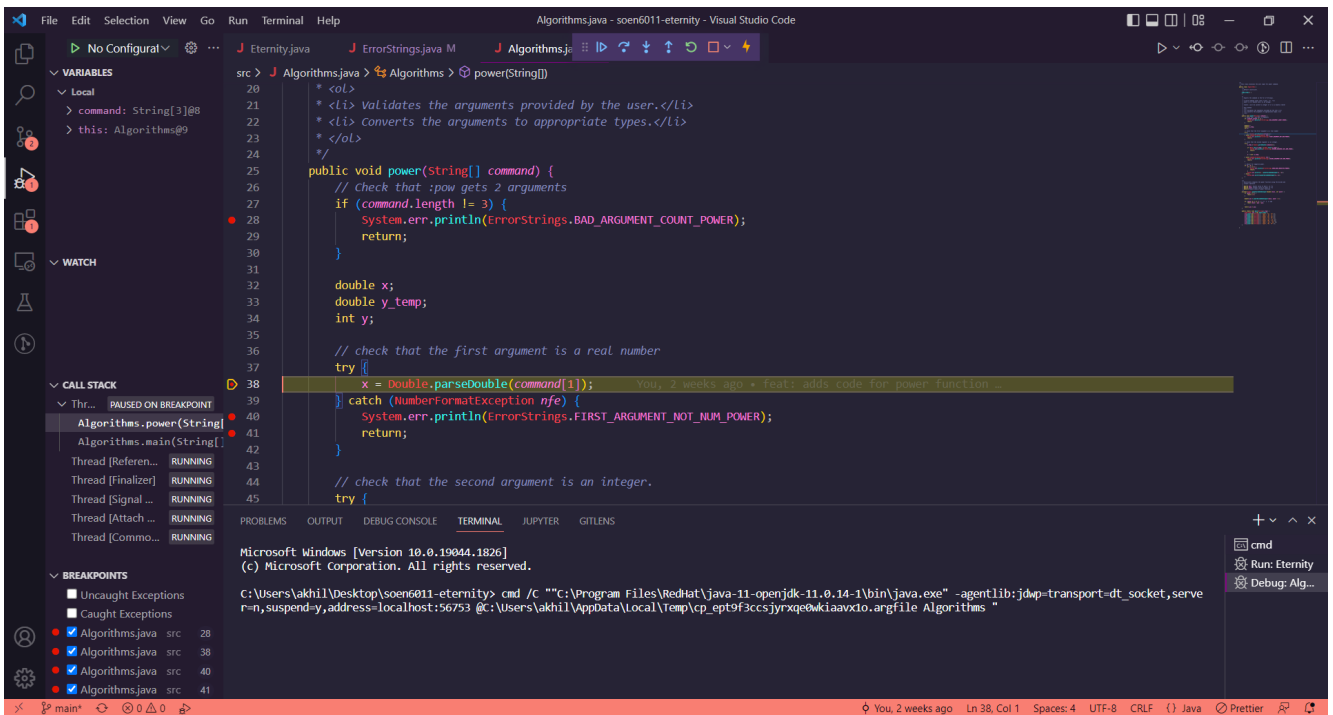


Figure 4.2: VS Code debugger in action.

4.3 Checkstyle

Checkstyle is a convenient tool to apply Checkstyle rules to your Java source code so you can see the style issues and fix them on the fly. It automates the process of checking your Java code so the developer is freed while keeping your format correct. The checkstyle plugin for vs code also includes the Google style guide built-in to it make the whole process very smooth. Figure 4.3 show the checkstyle tool in action.

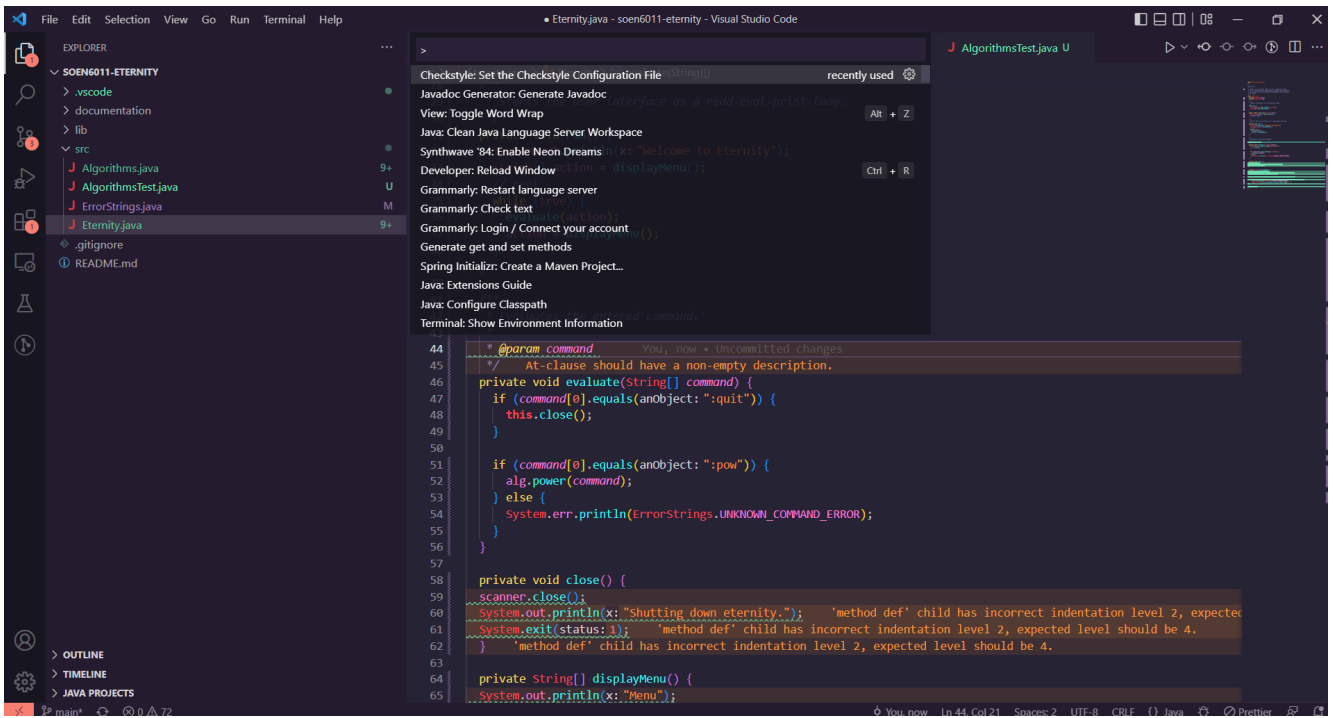


Figure 4.3: Running checkstyle on code using the built-in Google style guide.

4.4 Quality Attributes Management

A significant consideration went into managing the quality attributes of Eternity. Some of these attributes and associated actions mentioned below.

- **Space efficiency:** Eternity evaluates all commands on the fly without saving artifact from the previous executions. Variable creation minimized when possible. Efforts have been made to ensure graceful exiting by closing streams before quitting.
- **Portability:** Eternity uses an unmanaged directory structure with out any build tool written in java from scratch. This results in high portability as the code will compile and execute on any device which has JVM installed. Special care has been taken to prevent dependence on any IDE or operating system as well.
- **Maintainability:** Many actions have been taken to make the project maintainable. Extensive use of javadoc comments, breaking down functionality into separate files, maintaining a commit history using distributed version management are some of these actions. In addition, each command is validated and handled by a separate file making it trivial to add new commands.
- **Correctness:** The correctness has be ensured by adding a sufficient number of test cases for unit testing the commands (here, power).
- **Time efficiency:** The algorithm used by Eternity is based on the ‘divide and conquer approach’ and was selected due to its superior time complexity compare to the naive algorithms. This contributes to improving the time efficiency of the project.
- **Robustness:** Extensive unit testing, **exception handling** help make eternity robust.
- **Usability:** Eternity offers a very simple textual interface which display the available commands to the user. In addition it also displays **helpful messages (errors or otherwise)** to make sure that the user is never in the dark. User is also greeted with a welcome and an exit message to provide the boundary to the user experience. All these efforts contribute to the usability of the product.

Chapter 5

Testing

Testing is necessary to ensure the correctness and robustness of the software system. Unit testing for Eternity was done using the JUnit 4 library. Expiration of Jira trial period motivated the use of Microsoft Excel for the purpose of Test case management. Figure 5.1 shows a snapshot of the test case management workbook.

The association between Test cases and the requirements were also recorded.

D27				Passing						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1						TEST CASE MANAGEMENT				
2										
3		<i>Algorithms:power(Double x, int y)</i>								
4										
5	ID	Test Case	Requirement ID	Status						
6										
7		<i>Test the user inputs with different lengths.</i>								
8	TC:1	{ ":pow", "2" }	NA	Passing						
9	TC:2	{ ":pow" }		Passing						
10	TC:3	{ ":pow", "3", "4", "5" }		Passing						
11	TC:4	{ ":pow", "2", "3" }		Passing						
12										
13		<i>Test the user inputs with bad first argument or base.</i>								
14	TC:5	{ ":pow", "2", "3" }	R7	Passing						
15	TC:6	{ ":pow", "a", "3" }		Passing						
16	TC:7	{ ":pow", "a long string", "5" }		Passing						
17	TC:8	{ ":pow", "f", "4" }		Passing						
18										
19		<i>Test the user inputs with bad second argument or power.</i>								
20	TC:9	{ ":pow", "2", "3" }	R6	Passing						
21	TC:10	{ ":pow", "4", "a" }		Passing						
22	TC:11	{ ":pow", "6", "p" }		Passing						
23	TC:12	{ ":pow", "40", "wt" }		Passing						
24										
25		<i>Test the user inputs where power is not integer.</i>								
26	TC:13			Passing						

Figure 5.1: Test case management using excel.

Figure 5.2 demonstrates the execution of the JUnit-4 test cases in VS Code. All the tests are available in [this](#) file on github.

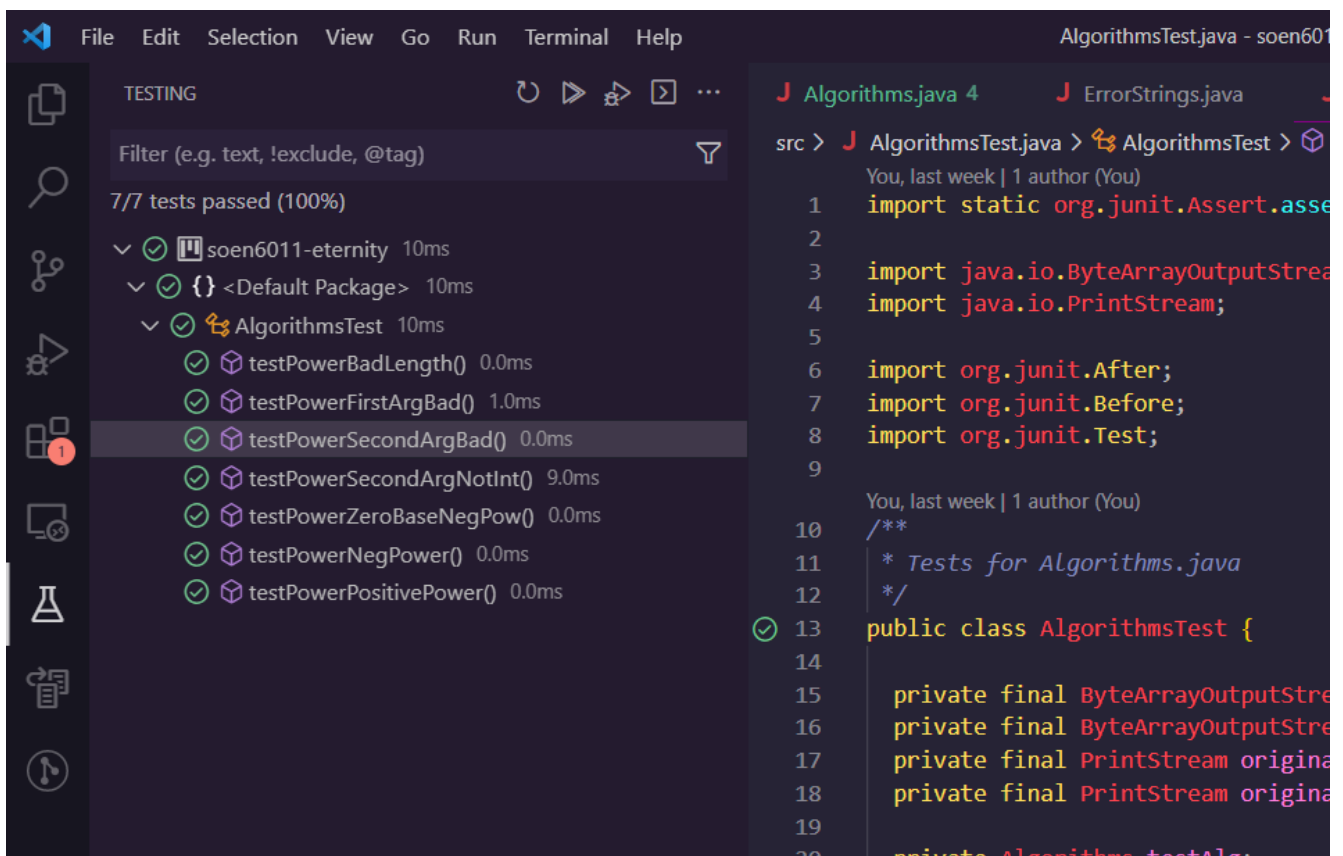


Figure 5.2: Execution of test cases on vs code.

Appendix A

Proof of compilation

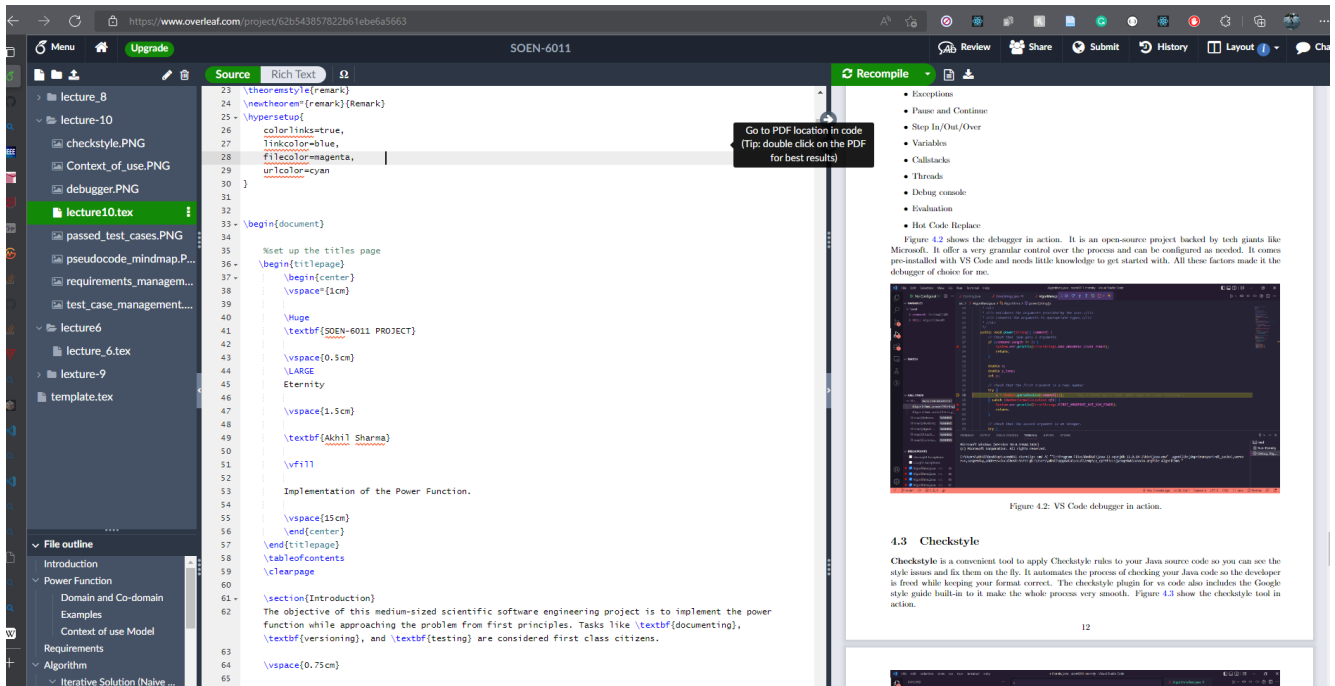


Figure A.1: Proof of compilation online at overleaf.com

Bibliography

- [1] The Algebra Help e-book https://mathonweb.com/help_ebook/html/functions_5.htm#power
- [2] What is a Context Diagram – Explain with Examples <https://www.edrawmax.com/context-diagram/>