



STQA-Session 9

Black Box Testing (3)

Decision Table

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Black Box Testing Techniques

- Boundary Value Analysis
- Equivalence Partitioning
- Decision Table
- Cause-Effect Graph
- Combinatorial Test



Black Box Testing Techniques

- Review
 - Boundary Value Analysis
 - Equivalence Partitioning



等价类划分法和边界值分析方法的局限性

等价类划分法和边界值分析方法比较适合输入变量或输入条件相互独立的情况，但是当输入变量或输入条件相互依赖、相互制约的时候，采用等价类划分法和边界值分析方法是难以描述的，测试效果也很难保障。



Decision Table

A black-box test design technique in which test cases are designed to execute the **combinations of inputs.**

Decision table is good for representing and analyzing complex logical relationships.

Decision Table Template

Condition Stub	Condition Item	rule
Action Stub	Action Item	



Decision Table

Limited entry decision table: All the conditions are **binary**

Extended entry decision table: Conditions are allowed to have **several values**

Mixed entry decision table

Limited Entry Decision Tables

Don't care: the condition is irrelevant,
or the condition does not apply

Rules	1	2	3-4	5	6	7-8
c1	T	T	T	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	T	T	F
c3	T	F	—	T	F	—
a1	X	X		X		
a2	X				X	
a3		X		X		
a4			X			X

Condition: input/equivalence class of input

Action: output/major functional processing portions
of the item tested

决策表实例——“阅读指南”决策表

完备吗

规则		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
选项									
问题	你觉得疲倦吗？	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
	你对内容感兴趣吗？	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
	书中内容使你胡涂吗？	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
建议	请回到本章开头重读					√			
	继续读下去						√		
	跳到下一章去读							√	√
	停止阅读，请休息	√	√	√	√				

Extended Entry Decision Tables

		Rules	1	2	3
Condition	c1	0-10	0-10	10-100	
	c2	<5	5	>5	
Action	a1	DoX	DoX	DoY	
	a2	DoA	DoB	DoC	

Mixed Entry Decision Tables

Cutting Machines		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8
C1	Turning diameter	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$
C2	Turning length	$L \leq 1000$	$L \leq 1000$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$	$L \leq 1000$	$L \leq 1000$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$
C3	Milling needed	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
A1	Machine 4711	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
A2	Machine 4712	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
A3	Machine 4713	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
A4	Machine 4714	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-



How to Make a Decision Table?

1. List all condition stubs and action stubs
2. Fill the condition items.
3. Fill the action items, make a initial table
4. Decision Table Verification



Decision Table Verification

- Completeness
- Combining
- Redundancy
- Inconsistency

Completeness of decision table

The decision table should contain every combination of Predicate values

For limited entry decision tables, if n conditions exist, there must be 2^n rules.

When *don't care* entries really indicate that the condition is irrelevant, we can develop a rule count as follows:

- rules in which no don't care entries occur count as one rule
- each don't care entry in a rule **doubles** the count of that rule.

What about extended entry decision tables?

Combining rules in Decision table

Consider the following decision table:

Rules	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
c1	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c3	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
a1			X	X			X	X
a2	X	X			X			
a3			X	X			X	X
a4					X			

Multiple rules may be combined when multiple rules with
the same condition and same outcome

similar

Which rule(s) may be combined?



Y	Y
N	N
Y	N
X	X



Y
N
-
X

Rules	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
c1	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c3	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
a1				X	X		X	X
a2	X	X			X			
a3				X	X		X	X
a4						X		

Rules	1	2	3-4	5	6	7-8
c1	T	T	T	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	T	T	F
c3	T	F	-	T	F	-
a1			X			X
a2	X	X		X		
a3			X			X
a4					X	

Rules	1-2	3-4, 7-8	5	6
c1	T	-	F	F
c2	T	F	T	T
c3	-	-	T	F
a1		X		
a2	X			X
a3		X		
a4				X

Check completeness

Other Contracted Decision Table?

Y	Y
—	N
N	N
X	X



Y
—
N
X

Redundant Decision Table

stub	1–4	5	6	7	8	9
c1	T	F	F	F	F	T
c2	—	T	T	F	F	F
c3	—	T	F	T	F	F
a1	X	X	X	—	—	X
a2	—	X	X	X	—	—
a3	X	—	X	X	X	X

What is the redundancy in this decision table?

Inconsistent Decision Table

Every combination of predicate truth values results in only one action or set of actions

Stub	1-4	5	6	7	8	9
c1	T	F	F	F	F	T
c2	—	T	T	F	F	F
c3	—	T	F	T	F	F
a1	X	X	X	—	—	—
a2	—	X	X	X	—	X
a3	X	—	X	X	X	—

What is the problem of this decision table?

规则合并实例——“阅读指南”决策表

规则		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
选项	问题	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
问题	你觉得疲倦吗？	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
	你对内容感兴趣吗？	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
	书中内容使你胡涂吗？	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
建议	请回到本章开头重读					✓			
	继续读下去						✓		
	跳到下一章去读							✓	✓
	停止阅读，请休息	✓	✓	✓	✓				

规则合并实例——“阅读指南”决策表

the order of
conditions

规则 选项		1	3	5	6	7
问题	你觉得疲倦吗?	Y	Y	N	N	N
	你对内容感兴趣吗?	Y	N	Y	Y	N
	书中内容使你胡涂吗?	—	—	Y	N	—
建议	请回到本章开头重读			✓		
	继续读下去				✓	
	跳到下一章去读					✓
	停止阅读, 请休息	✓	✓			

the order of
actions

规则合并实例——“阅读指南”决策表

规则 选项		1	5	6	7
问题	你觉得疲倦吗？	Y	N	N	N
	你对内容感兴趣吗？	—	Y	Y	N
	书中内容使你胡涂吗？	—	Y	N	—
建议	请回到本章开头重读		✓		
	继续读下去			✓	
	跳到下一章去读				✓
	停止阅读，请休息	✓			



How to Make a Decision Table?

1. List all condition stubs and action stubs
2. Fill the condition items.
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4. Decision Table Verification
 - Completeness
 - Combining
 - Redundancy
 - Inconsistence



Examples

- Triangle problem
- NextDate problem

Decision Table for the Triangle Problem

How many rules?

Based on EP results

Stub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
c1: a, b, c form a triangle?	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c2: a = b?	—	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c3: a = c?	—	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c4: b = c?	—	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
a1: Not a Triangle	X								
a2: Scalene									X
a3: Isosceles					X		X	X	
a4: Equilateral		X							
a5: Impossible			X	X		X			

Don't care entries

Impossible rule

Infeasible equivalence class

Decision Table for the Triangle Problem (Refined version with rule count)

Stub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
c1: $a < b + c?$	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c2: $b < a + c?$	—	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c3: $c < a + b?$	—	—	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c4: $a = b?$	—	—	—	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c5: $a = c?$	—	—	—	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c6: $b = c?$	—	—	—	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
Rule Count	32	16	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
a1: Not a Triangle	X	X	X								
a2: Scalene											X
a3: Isosceles							X	X	X		
a4: Equilateral				X							
a5: Impossible					X	X		X			

Test Cases for the triangle problem

Case ID	a	b	c	Expected Output
DT1	4	1	2	Not a Triangle
DT2	1	4	2	Not a Triangle
DT3	1	2	4	Not a Triangle
DT4	5	5	5	Equilateral
DT5	?	?	?	Impossible
DT6	?	?	?	Impossible
DT7	2	2	3	Isosceles
DT8	?	?	?	Impossible
DT9	2	3	2	Isosceles
DT10	3	2	2	Isosceles
DT11	3	4	5	Scalene

DT5, DT6, DT8 are infeasible ECs

一个简单的练习

- 某公司的对客户分类标准如下：
 - 顾客每次订货额在 1000 元以上（含 1000 元），信誉好的，订单设“优先”标志；信誉不好，但是老客户的，订单设“优先”标志；信誉不好，但是新客户的，订单设“正常”标志；
 - 每次订货额在 1000 元以下，订单设“正常”标志。
- 请绘制相应的决策表。

一个简单的练习

	1	2	3	4
C1:订货额 ≥ 1000 ?	T	T	T	F
C2: 信誉好?	T	F	F	-
C3: 老客户?	-	T	F	-
# rules	2	1	1	4
A1: 订单设“优先”标志	X	X		
A2: 订单设“正常”标志			X	X

NextDate Input Equivalence Classes

- M1 = { month: month has 30 days}
- M2 = { month: month has 31 days}
- M3 = { month: month is February}
- D1 = {day: $1 \leq \text{day} \leq 28$ }
- D2={day: day=29}
- D3={day: day=30}
- D4={day: day=31}
- Y1={year: leap year};
- Y2={year: not leap year}.

NextDate Output Equivalence Classes

- A1: impossible day
- A2: incremented day value
- A3: date reset
- A4: incremented month value
- A5: month reset
- A6: incremented year value

Limited Entry Decision Table

Condition				
C1: Is month in M1?	T			
C2: Is month in M2?		T		
C3: Is month in M3?			T	
C4: Is date in D1?				
C5: Is date in D2?				
C6: Is date in D3?				
C7: Is date in D4?				
C8: Is year in Y1?				
C9: Is year in Y2?				
A1: possible				
A2: NextDate				

512 rules

Second trying: extended entry decision table + considering leap year 2000

- Equivalent class set

M1={Month: 30 days}

M2={Month: 31 days}

M3={Month: February}

D1={Date: 1<=Date<=28}

D2={Date: Date=29}

D3={Date: Date=30}

D4={Date: Date=31}

Y1={Year: year=2000}

Y2={Year: is leap year and !=2000}

Y3={Year: is not leap year}

Second trying

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C1: month	M1	M1	M1	M1	M2	M2	M2	M2
C2: date	D1	D2	D3	D4	D1	D2	D3	D4
C3: year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
# rules	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
A1:impossible				X				
A2:date++	X	X			X	X	X	
A3:date reset			X					X
A4:month++			X					?
A5:month reset								?
A6:year++								?

Extended entry decision table

3*4*3=36rules

Second trying (continued)

	9	10	11	12	13	15	15	16
C1: month	M3							
C2: date	D1	D1	D1	D2	D2	D2	D3	D4
C3: year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y1	Y2	Y3	-	-
# rules	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
A1:impossible						X	X	X
A2:date++	X	X						
A3:date reset			X	X	X			
A4:month++			X	X	X			
A5:month reset								
A6:year++								

Third trying: consider date and month

- Equivalent class set

M1={Month: 30 days}

M2={Month: 31 days, except December}

M3={Month: December}

M4={Month: February}

D1={Date: 1<=Date<=27}

D2= {Date: Date=28}

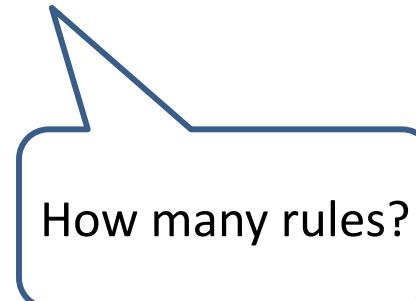
D3={Date: Date=29}

D4={Date: Date=30}

D5={Date: Date=31}

Y1={Year: is leap year}

Y2={Year: is not leap year}



How many rules?

Exercise (consider from another point)

- Equivalent class set

D1={Date: 1<=Date<=27}

D2= {Date: Date=28}

D3={Date: Date=29}

D4={Date: Date=30}

D5={Date: Date=31}

M1={Month: 30 days}

M2={Month: 31 days, except December}

M3={Month: December}

M4={Month: February}

Y1={Year: is leap year}

Y2={Year: is not leap year}

13 Test cases of NextDate

BVA VS. EP VS. DT

- 边界值分析

基于取值域，不识别数据或逻辑关系；

很容易自动化实现，设计工作量小；

生成的测试用例数比较多，测试用例执行时间长。

- 等价类技术

考虑数据依赖关系，标识等价类时需要更多的判断和技巧；

等价类标识出以后的处理也是机械的；

设计工作量和测试用例数属中等。

- 决策表技术

考虑数据的逻辑依赖关系；

所得测试用例可以是完备的，测试数量在一定意义上讲是最少的；

需要通过多次迭代，设计工作量很大。



Black Box Testing Techniques

- Boundary Value Analysis
- Equivalence Partitioning
- Decision Table
- Cause-Effect Graph
- Combinatorial Test