Assignment 3 Final Report - Electricity Discount Calculator Testing

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1 Test strategy

In this section, I will discuss on the Test strategy of the given electricity discount calculator code. Which means that after analyzing the software source code and how it works once launched, the goal is to provide the best strategy to conduct the tests.

I will start by explaining my unit-testing strategy with well-known White Box testing technics. Then I will continue to explain how I conducted the integration tests on the main program by using black box testing technics. This strategy aims to follow the V-cycle model¹.

1.1 White box testing - Unit tests

We would like that every software components and functions work individually by examining each line of codes and its data structure. It will help to optimizing the code and determine the location of any problem. The specification document is given and the implementation of the code don't seem complex.

Therefore, the chosen solution to conduct unit tests is Basic Path Testing method. The flow graphs are already given in the specification document, we can easily generate the flow charts to extract the cyclomatic complexity V(G) and the independent paths to determine how many test cases we need to satisfy a good coverage percentage.

By continue reading this report you will find the result of this method and whether it was effective or not.

1.2 Black box testing - Integration tests

For the integration test, we supose that the source code is unknown and we don't have any knowledge on the internal structure. This approach will be based on the legal inputs and the expected outputs of the program.

The chosen solutions are Decision Table testing and Boundary Value Analysis (BVA). The decision table is a matrix representation of the logic of a decision. This table is already given in the specification table and already simplified.

In addition, BVA complements the Decision table. We will then focus on the bundaries of the input and output values. After analyzing the specifications, we can see that the electricity discount calculation is based on ranges (example: comsuption is included between 0 kWh and 200 kWh). Then it is important to test the bundaries of this ranges.

 $^{^1\}mathrm{A}$ graphical representation of a systems development lifecycle

2 White box testing - Unit tests

In this section let's have a closer look on the design and implementation of the unit tests

2.1 Test design

All the control flow charts have been generated by analyzing the source code and the control flow graphs from the specification document.

2.1.1 calcTax

Control Flow Graph: calcTax

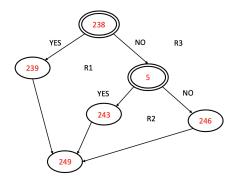


Figure 1: calcTax control flow graph

$$P = 7$$

$$N = 6$$

$$V(G) = P - N + 2 = 3$$

3 regions counted and V(G) = 3 then **3 test cases** generated.

${\bf 2.1.2}\quad calc Disc Bil NR1 \ and \ calc Disc Bil NR2$

Control Flow Graph: calcDiscBilNR2, calcDiscBilNR1

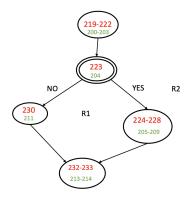


Figure 2: calcDiscBilNR1 and calcDiscBilNR2 control flow graph

$$P = 5$$

$$N = 5$$

$$V(G) = P - N + 2 = 2$$

2 regions counted and V(G) = 2 then **2 test cases** generated.

${\bf 2.1.3}\quad {\bf calcNoDiscBilNR}\ {\bf and}\ {\bf calcNoDiscBilR}$

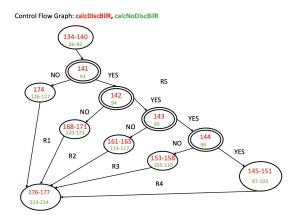


Figure 3: calcNoDiscBilNR and calcNoDiscBilR control flow graph

$$P = 14$$

$$N = 11$$

$$V(G) = P - N + 2 = 5$$

5 regions counted and V(G) = 5 then **5 test cases** generated.

2.2 Test Script

Let's generate the test cases from the control flow charts in the section 2.1.

2.2.1 calcTax function

TC#	INPUTS			OUTPUTS
TC#	consumption	bill	disc	tax
TC1	600	100	1	0
TC2	601	100	0	-7,908
TC3	601	100	1	-4,7058
TC#	Description			
TC1	consumption < 601			

Figure 4: calcTax function test cases

2.2.2 calcDiscBilNR1 function

TC#	INPUTS	OUTPUTS	
TC#	consumption	non-residential discounted bill for most affected sectors i.e.	
TC1	200	73.95	
TC2	201	74,31975	
TCZ	202	74,8153	
TC#	Description		
TC1	consumption < 201		
TC2	consumption >= 201		

Figure 5: calcDiscBilNR1 function test cases

2.2.3 calcDiscBilNR2 function

TC#	INPUTS	OUTPUTS			
TC#	consumption	non-residential discounted bill for less affected sectors i.e.			
TC1	200	85,26			
TC2	201	85,6863			
TCZ	202	86,25764			
TC#	Description				
TC1	consumption < 201				
TC2	consumption >= 201				

Figure 6: calcDiscBilNR2 function test cases

2.2.4 calcDiscBilR function

TC#	INPUTS	OUTPUTS	
10#	consumption	residential discounted bill	
TC1	202	22,301	
TC2	302	47,7272	
TC3	602	179,50016	
TC4	902	340,07316	
	199	21,691	
TC5	200	21,8	
	201	21,909	
TC#	Description		
TC1	consumption > 201		
TC2	consumption > 301		
TC3	TC3		
TC4			

Figure 7: calcDiscBilR function test cases

2.2.5 calcNoDiscBilR function

TC#	INPUTS	OUTPUTS		
10#	consumption	residential no discount bill		
TC1	202	44,268		
TC2	302	78,032		
TC3	602	232,892		
TC4	902	396,742		
	199	43,382		
TC5	200	43,6		
	201	43,818		
	·			
TC#	Description			
TC1	consumption > 201			
TC2	consumption > 301			
TC3	consumption > 601			
TC4	consumption > 901			
TC5	consumption <= 200			

Figure 8: calcNoDiscBilR function test cases

2.2.6 calcNoDiscBilNR function

TC#	INPUTS	OUTPUTS	
10#	consumption	non-residential discounted bill for less affected sectors i.e.	
TC1	200	87	
TC2	201	87,435	
IC2	202	88,018	
TC#	Description consumption < 201		
TC1			
TC2	consumption >= 201		

Figure 9: calcNoDiscBilNR function test cases

For more details, see the $\underline{unit_tests_cfg.pdf}$ document which give you the inputs and outputs of each test cases concerning unit tests only.

2.3 Test class (Java implementation)

You can see the code in the file ${\it Electricity Discount Calc Test.java}$

3 Black box testing - Integration tests

3.1 Test design

The test script has been generated from the given decision table and simplified. The first idea was to generate all the test cases from the given decision table. But I realized the output of the program was not the same. In the final test script we want to test the 7 outputs displayed in the terminal from the 4 inputs provided by the user.

We consider that the input *continue* is always 0 to perform only one time the program for each test case. Then in the final test script, I simplified the last cases for *Hotel*, *Travel*, *Commercial*, *Industrial*. We will see later that this optimisation have an effect on the coverage (Figure 15).

3.2 Test Script

For more details, see the *integration_tests_script.pdf* document which give you the inputs and outputs of each test cases concerning unit tests only.

3.3 Test class (Java implementation)

You can see the code in the file $\underline{ElectricityDiscountCalcIT.java}$ which is nested in $\underline{ElectricityDiscountCalcTest.java}$.

4 Coverage information

4.1 Coverage report

This section present you the results (Figure 10) of the tests known as coverage that give the percentages. Figure 11 illustrate why certain coverage percentages are not at 100%. This coverage report has been made on the test script with simplifications mentioned in Section 3.1

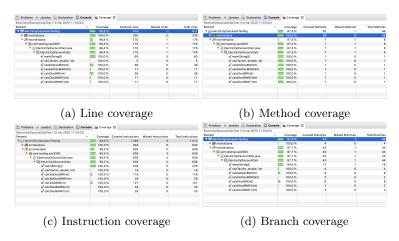


Figure 10: Test coverage report from Jacoco Eclipse

On Figure 10 - (c), we can see that the tests provide a 100% coverage on every functions. Which means our tests are efficient in term of Instruction coverage (all instructions has been tested).

For line coverage (Figure 10 - (a)) as well: The tests successfully cover all the lines of code.

However we can see that the Method coverage (Figure 10- (b) and Branch coverage (Figure 10- (d)) are not completely done. Note that even if we said that line coverage provide a 100% coverage we can notice that the total coverage is 99.4%. On the Figure 11 we can have a look on what is really happening and try to find a suitable solution.

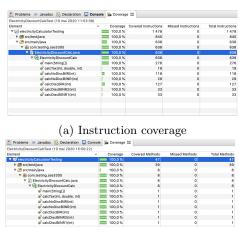
Figure 11: The coverage of the ElectricityDiscountCalc java class

On Figure 11 at line 6 of the program, The instanciation of the class is not really tested. This impact the coverage percentage. We could not have predict this case in our test design. So let's write a test that test the instanciation in java (Figure 12).

```
@Test
public void classShouldInstantiateMainClass() {
    assertTrue((new ElectricityDiscountCalc()) instanceof ElectricityDiscountCalc);
}
```

Figure 12: Verify the instance of ElectricityDiscountCalc java class

Now we can launch again the coverage on eclipse and observe the results.



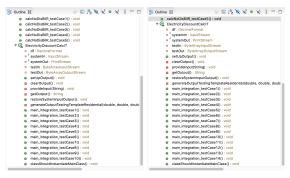
(b) Method coverage

There is still one line (line 19 on Figure 11) that is underline in yellow by Eclipse. This branch is not 100% covered by our tests. In fact some path are not tested by our tests concerning this branch. The solution might be to use Control Structure Testing which is a white-box testing technique where test cases are generated based on the coverage of instructions of code. Of course we should avoid duplicating test cases by adding this technic.

4.2 Coverage optimisation

Like mentioned in Section 3.1 we would like to know if the optimisation made in the decision table can have any impact on the coverage percentage. At first we could say yes. We expect the coverage to be higher.

Let's now implement the new test cases



- (a) Original test script
- (b) Modified test script

Now we can do a coverage report on eclipse

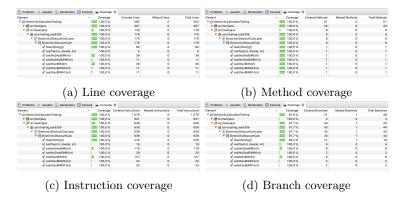


Figure 15: Test coverage report with optimisation from Jacoco Eclipse

As you can see on Figure $\,15$, except for the branch coverage, we succesfully increased the coverage percentage to $\,100\%$.

Note: see *integration_test_script_full.pdf* for more information

5 Conclusion

We saw in this report my strategy to test an electricity discount calculator software.

First of all, in terms of strategy and techniques, I can justify that the suggested solution is the most effective in testing: Basic Path Testing has been really efficient in term of coverage to perform the unit tests. Therefore, we are sure that any functions in the software can be used individually.

Then, thanks to the decision table and the Bundary Value Analysis, the integration tests has covered the main part of the program. Even if there is still one branch that has not been covered by the tests, we can still guarranty the effectiveness of the software.

In addition, the coverage report justify and support the testing solution: we can consider a coverage very successfull hover 99% which is the case here.

Finally, Concerning the readiness of the system for deployment, we can assure that the software is ready to use and can be deployed to the users without having doubts on it performances.

The bottom line is that for further improvements, we are sure that the current code will not be affected by the new changes with this testing solution.