

Software testing - strategies

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Software tests - definition

Software testing is a **formal** process carried out by a **specialized testing team** in which a software unit, several integrated software units or an entire software package are examined by **running the programs on a computer**. All the associated tests are performed according to **approved test procedures** on **approved test cases**.

Software testing objectives

Direct objectives

- a. To identify and reveal as many errors as possible in the tested software
- b. To bring the tested software, after correction of the identified errors and retesting, to an acceptable level of quality.
- c. To perform the required tests efficiently and effectively, within the limits budgetary and scheduling limitation.

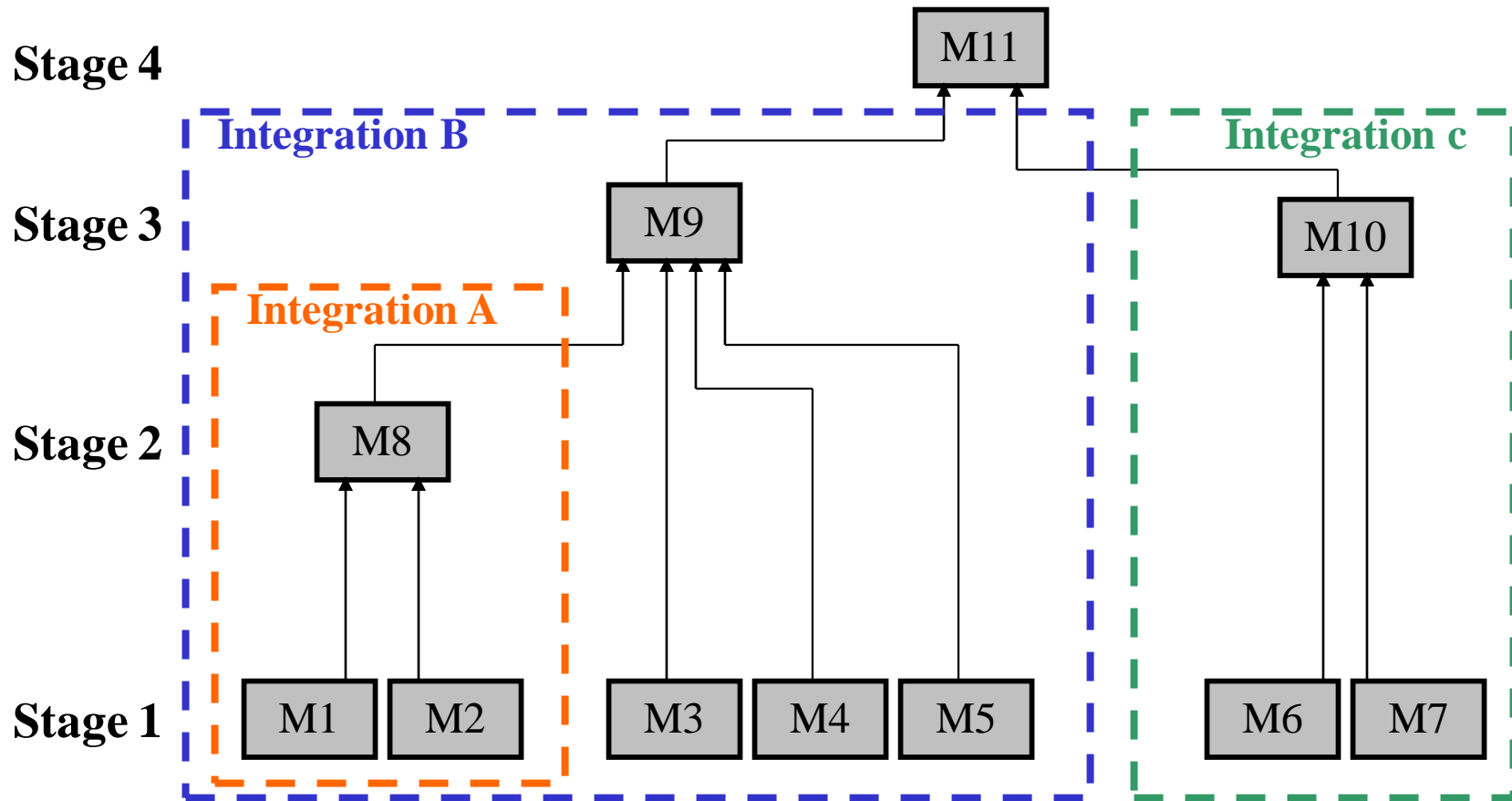
Indirect objectives

- a. To compile a record of software errors for use in error prevention (by corrective and preventive actions)

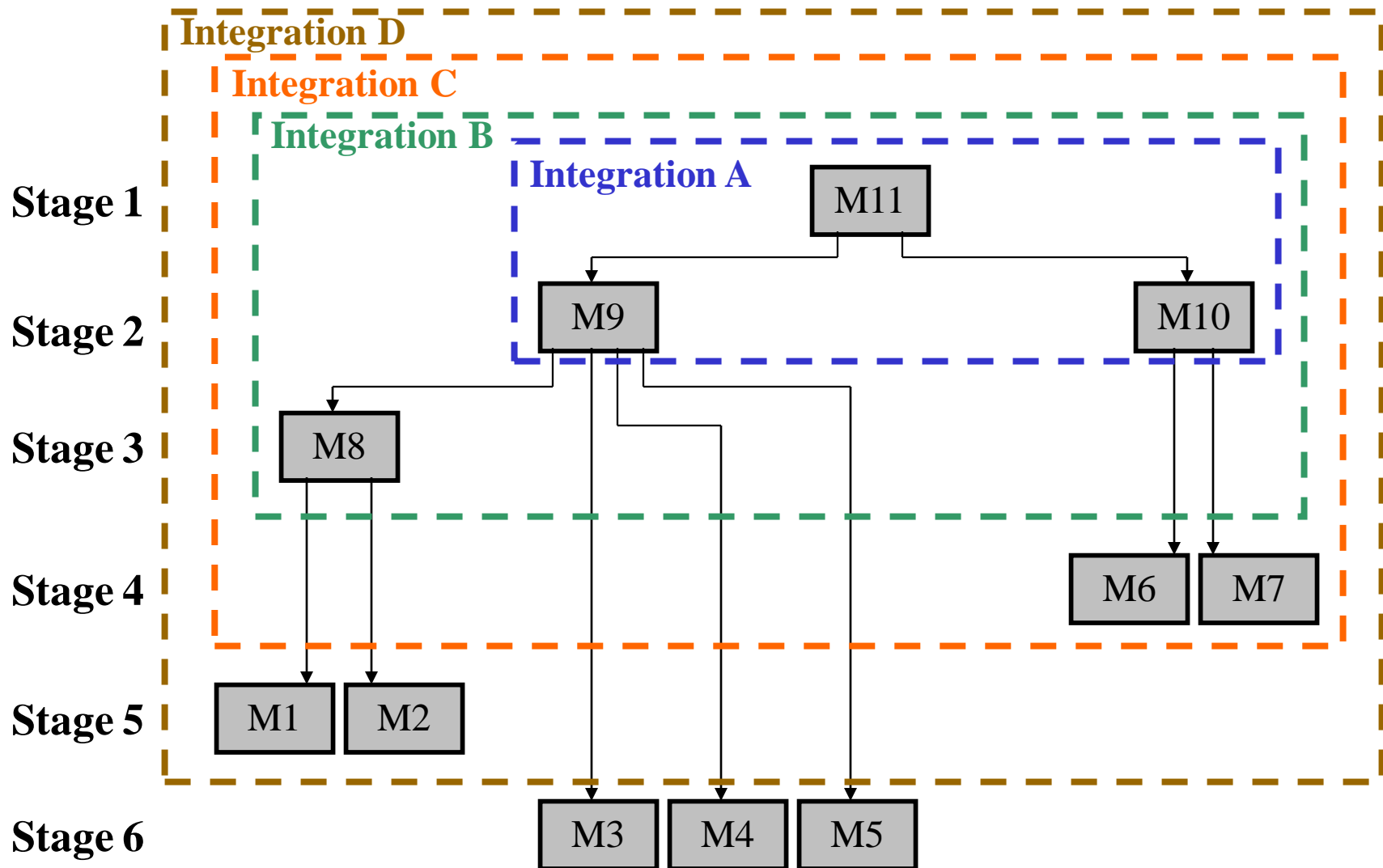
Software testing strategies

- *Incremental testing strategies:*
 - Bottom-up testing
 - Top-down testing
- *Big bang testing*

Bottom-up testing

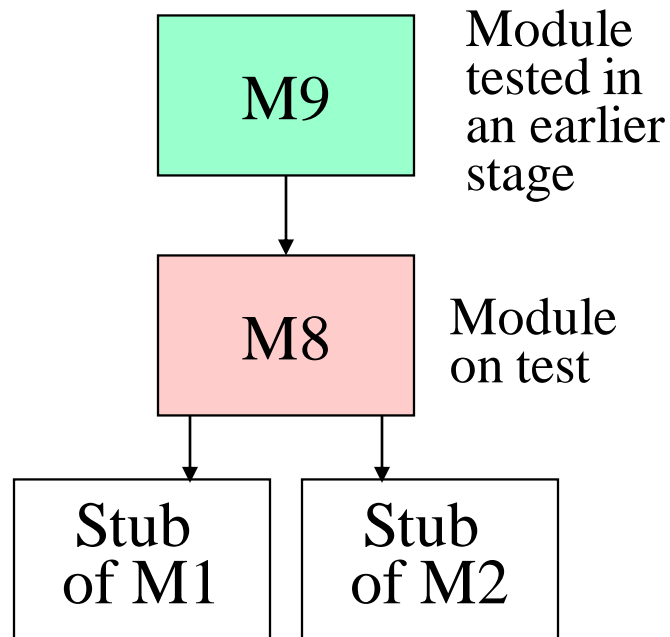


Top-down testing

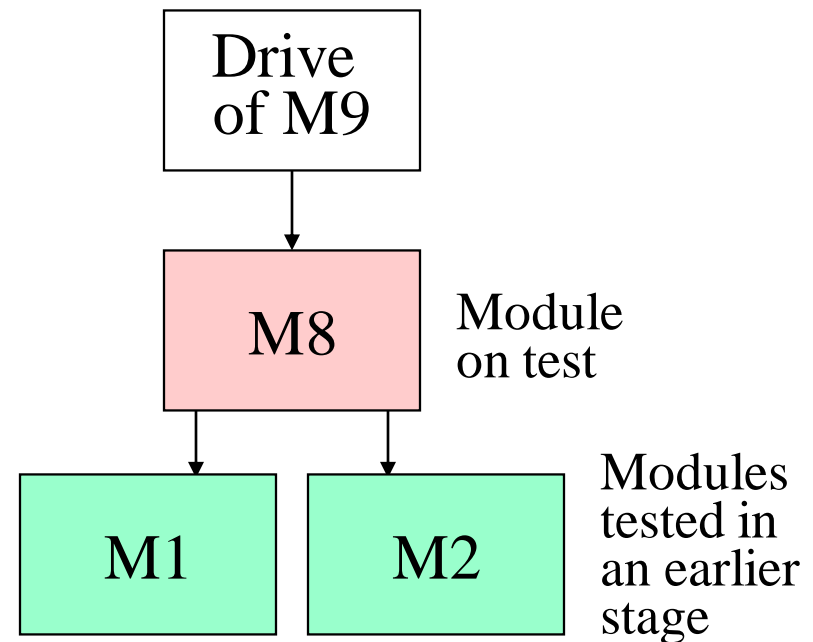


Use of stubs and drivers for incremental testing

Top-down testing of module M8



Bottom-up testing of module M8



Black box and white box - IEEE definitions

Black box testing

- 1. Testing that ignores the internal mechanism of the system or component and focuses solely on the outputs in response to selected inputs and execution conditions**
- 2. Testing conducted to evaluate the compliance of a system or component with specified functional requirements**

White box testing

Testing that takes into account the internal mechanism of a system or component

White box testing

"Path" vs "line" coverage

Path coverage

- Path coverage of a test is measured by the percentage of all possible program paths included in planned testing.

Line coverage

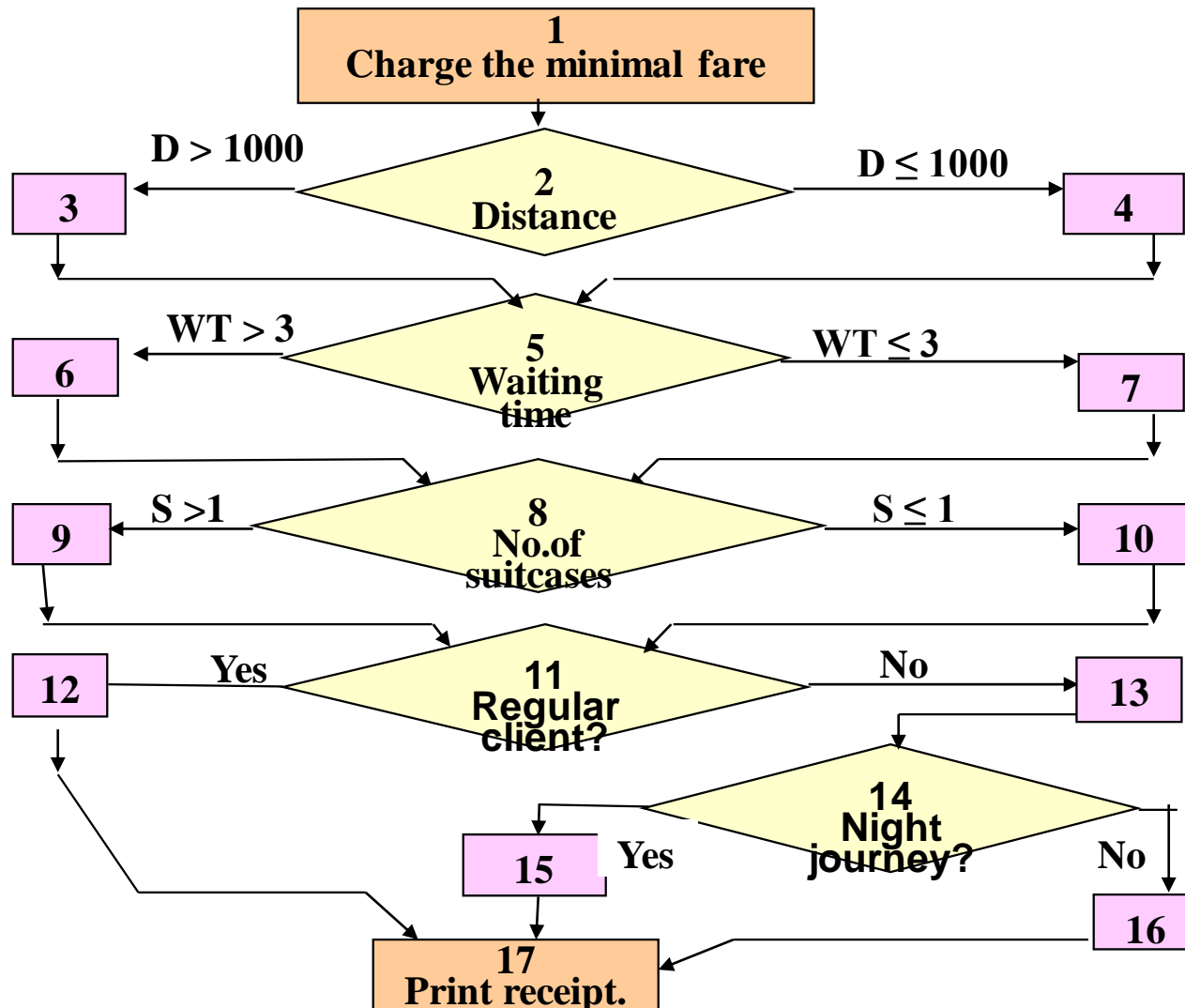
- Line coverage of a test is measured by the percentage of program code lines included in planned testing.

The Imperial Taxi Services (ITS) taximeter

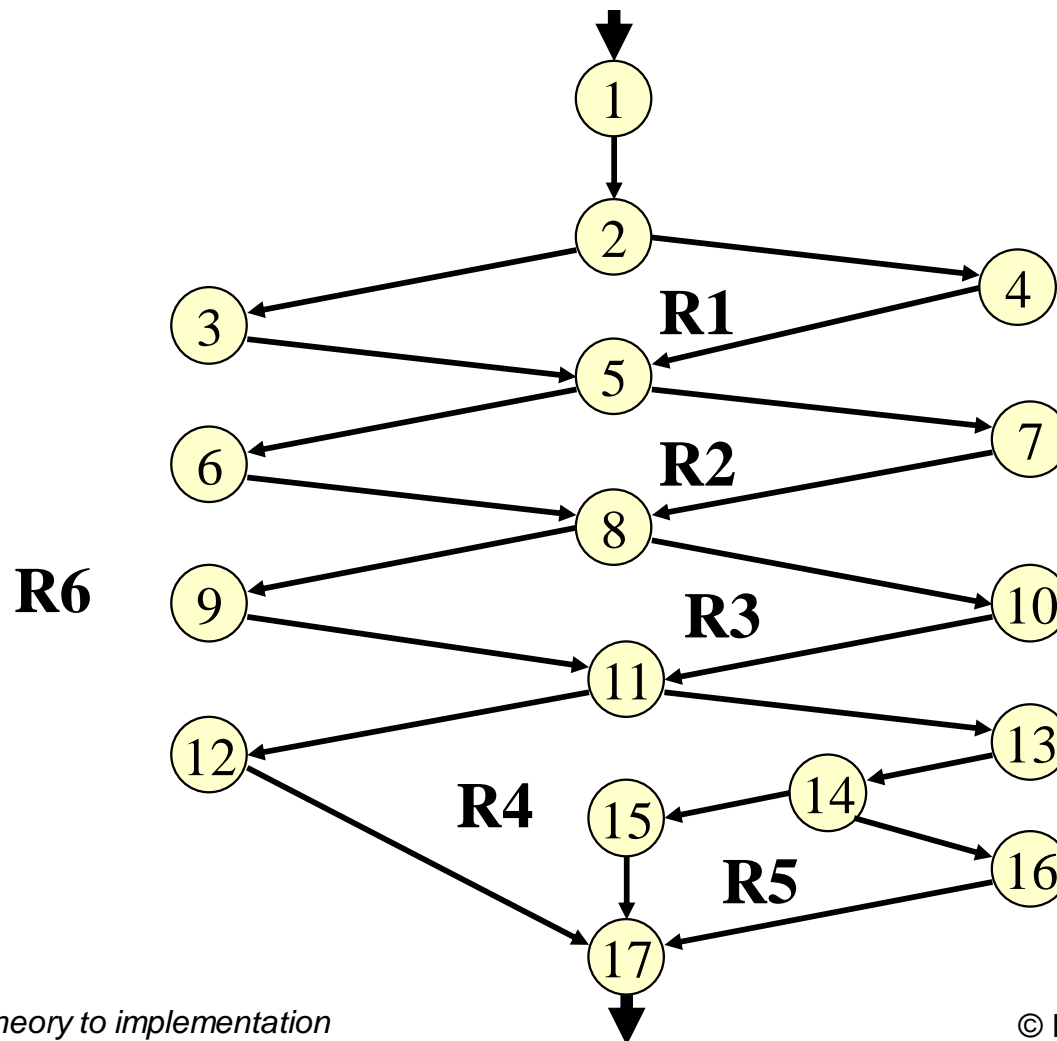
Example ITS taxi fares for one-time passengers are calculated as follows:

1. Minimal fare: \$2. This fare covers the distance traveled up to 1000 yards and waiting time (stopping for traffic lights or traffic jams, etc.) of up to 3 minutes.
2. For every additional 250 yards or part of it: 25 cents.
3. For every additional 2 minutes of stopping or waiting or part thereof: 20 cents.
4. One suitcase: 0 change; each additional suitcase: \$1.
5. Night supplement: 25%, effective for journeys between 21.00 and 06.00.
Regular clients are entitled to a 10% discount and are not charged the night supplement.

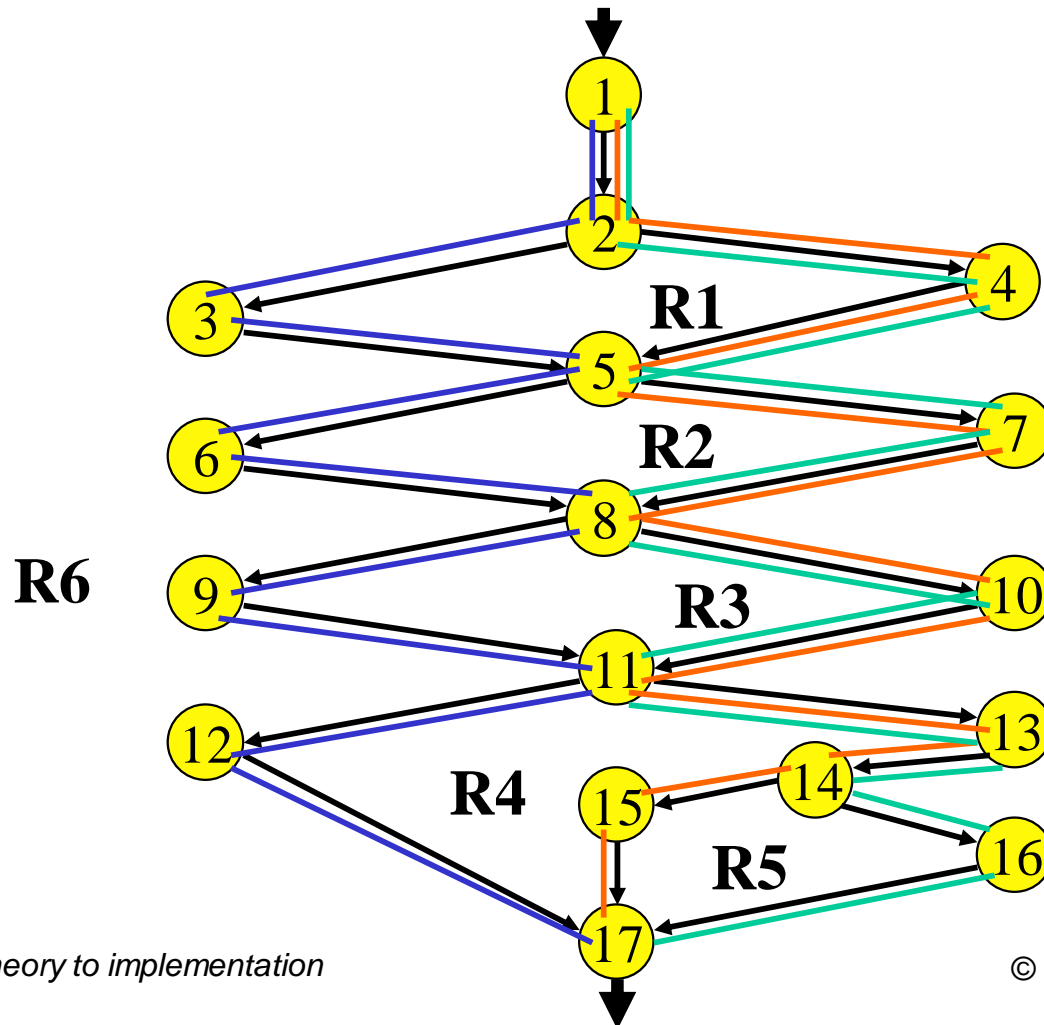
ITS - Flow chart



ITS - Program flow graph



ITS - The minimum number of paths for full line coverage



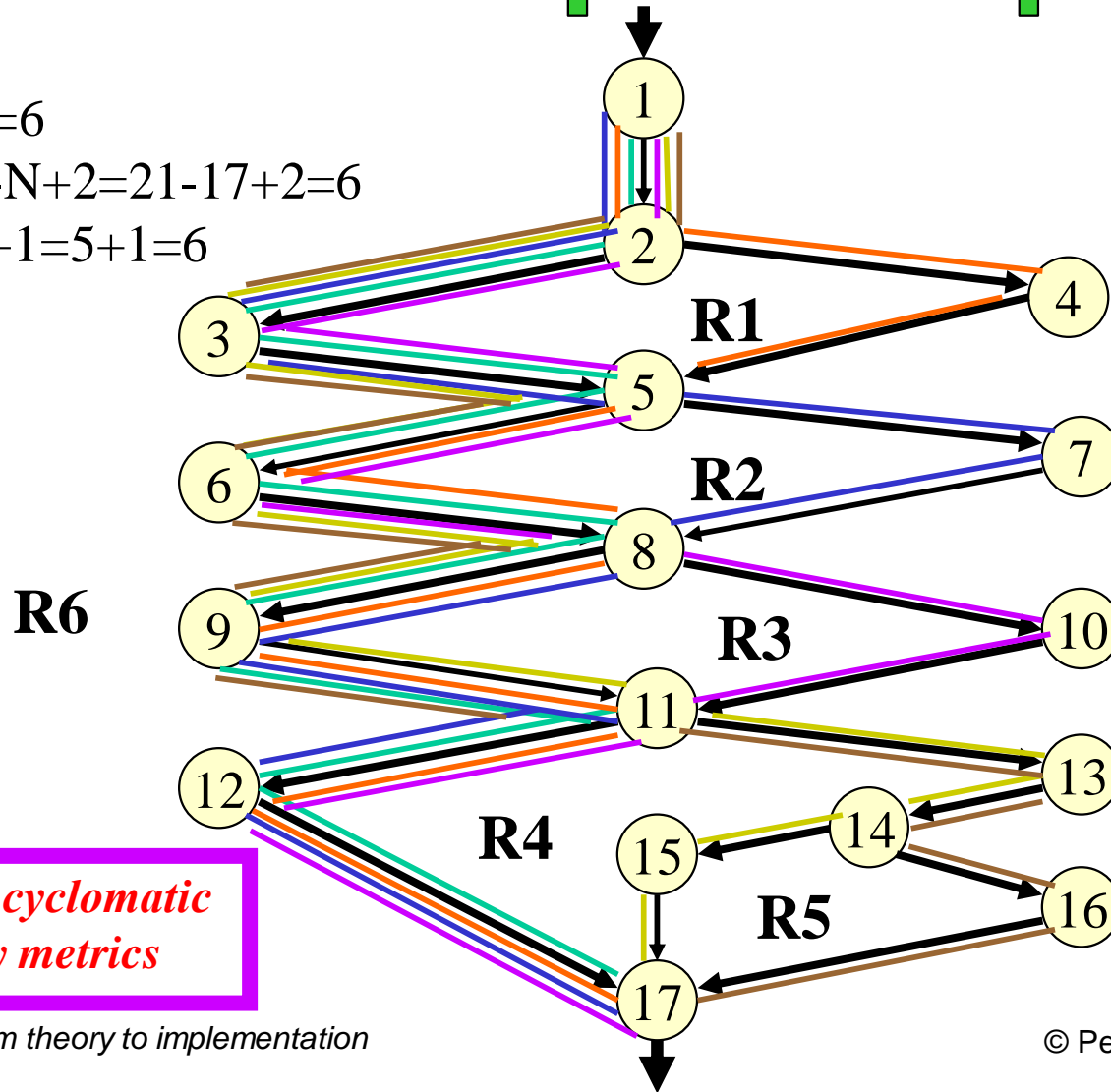
ITS - The maximum set of independent paths

$$V(G)=R=6$$

$$V(G)=E-N+2=21-17+2=6$$

$$V(G)=P+1=5+1=6$$

R=Regions
N=Nodes
E=Edges
P=Decisions



McCabe's cyclomatic complexity metrics

Advantages and disadvantages of white box testing

Advantages:

- * Direct determination of software correctness as expressed in the processing paths, including algorithms.
- * Allows performance of line coverage follow up.
- * Ascertains quality of coding work and its adherence to coding standards.

Disadvantages :

- * The vast resources utilized, much above those required for black box testing of the same software package.
- * The inability to test software performance in terms of availability (response time), reliability, load durability, etc.

Equivalence class partitioning (EC)

A black box method aimed at increasing the efficiency of testing and, at the same time, improving coverage of potential error conditions.

Equivalence class partitioning (EC)

- **A**n equivalence class (EC) is a set of input variable values that produce the same output results or that are processed identically.
- **EC** boundaries are defined by a single numeric or alphabetic value, a group of numeric or alphabetic values, a range of values, and so on.
- **A**n EC that contains only valid states is defined as a "valid EC," whereas an EC that contains only invalid states is defined as the "invalid EC."
- **I**n cases where a program's input is provided by several variables, valid and invalid ECs should be defined for each variable.

Equivalence class partitioning (EC)

According to the equivalence class partitioning method:

- **E**ach valid EC and each invalid EC are included in at least one test case.
- **D**efinition of test cases is done separately for the valid and invalid ECs.
- **I**n defining a test case for the valid ECs, we try to cover as many as possible “new” ECs in that same test case.
- **I**n defining invalid ECs, we must assign one test case to each “new” invalid EC, as a test case that includes more than one invalid EC may not allow the tester to distinguish between the program’s separate reactions to each of the invalid ECs.
- **T**est cases are added as long as there are uncovered ECs.

Entrance ticket price table - The Pool

Day	Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu, Fri.				Sat., Sun.			
Visitor's status	Ot	Ot	Mem	Mem	Ot	Ot	Mem	Mem
Entry hour	6.00-19.00	19.01-24.00	6.00-19.00	19.01-24.00	6.00-19.00	19.01-24.00	6.00-19.00	19.01-24.00
Age: 0.00-16.00	\$5	\$6	\$2.50	\$3	\$7.50	\$9	\$3.50	\$4
Age 16.01-60.00	\$10	\$17	\$5	\$6	\$15	\$18	\$7	\$8
Age: 60.01-120.00	\$8	\$8	\$4	\$4	\$12	\$12	\$5.50	\$5.50

Test cases - The ticket price module

Test case type	Test case no.	Day of week	Visitor's status	Entry hour	Visitor's age	Test case result
Valid ECs	1	Mon.	Ot	7.55	8.4	\$5
	2	Sat.	Mem	20.44	42.7	\$8
	3	Sat.	Mem	22.44	65.0	\$5.50
	4	Sat.	Mem	6.00	0.0	\$3.50
	5	Sat.	Mem	19.00	16.0	\$3.50
	6	Sat.	Mem	19.01	16.01	\$8
	7	Sat.	Mem	19.01	60.0	\$8
	8	Sat.	Mem	24.00	60.01	\$5.50
	9	Sat.	Mem	24.00	120.0	\$5.50
Invalid ECs	10	Mox.	Ot	7.55	8.4	Invalid day
	11	Mon.	88	7.55	8.4	Invalid visitor's status
	12	Mon.	Ot	4.40	8.4	Invalid entry hour
	13	Mon.	Ot	8@	8.4	Invalid entry hour
	14	Mon.	Ot	7.55	TTR	Invalid visitor's age
	15	Mon.	Ot	7.55	150.1	Invalid visitor's age

Advantages and disadvantages of black box testing

Advantages:

- * **A**llows us to carry out the majority of testing classes, most of which can be implemented solely by black box tests, i.e. load tests and availability tests.
- * **F**or testing classes that can be carried out by both white and black box tests, black box testing requires fewer resources.

Disadvantages:

- * **P**ossibility that coincidental aggregation of several errors will produce the correct response for a test case, and prevent error detection.
- * **A**bsence of control of line coverage. There is no easy way to specify the parameters of the test cases required to improve coverage.
- * **I**mpossibility of testing the quality of coding and its strict adherence to the coding standards.