The Many Independent Objective (MIO) Algorithm for Test Suite Generation

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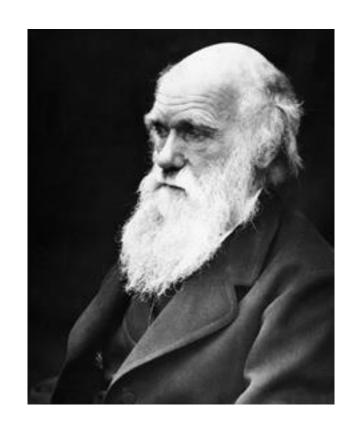
In this talk

- 1. Intro to Search Algorithms
- 2. Many Independent Objective (MIO) Algorithm
- 3. REST Web Services
- 4. EvoMaster tool
- 5. Demo

Intro to Search Algorithms

Search-Based Software Testing (SBST)

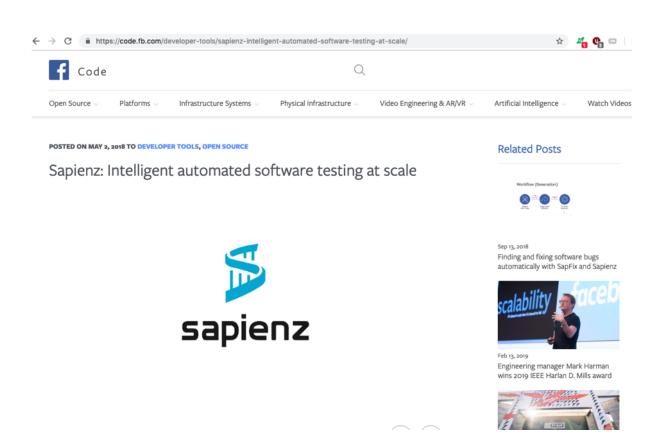
- Biology meets Software Engineering (SE)
- Casting SE problems into *Optimization Problems*
- Genetic Algorithms: one of most famous optimization algorithm, based on theory of evolution
- Evolve test cases



Success Stories: Facebook

Facebook uses SBST for automatically testing their software, especially their mobile apps

• eg, tools like Sapienz and SapFix

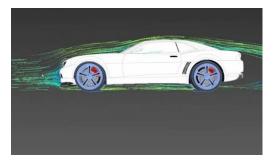


Optimization Problems

- There are a lot of problems in science and engineering for which we do not know any algorithm that can solve them in reasonable (ie *polynomial*) time
 - Such algorithms might exist, but we do not know them yet
- Brute Force: try all possible combinations, until find valid solution... but that is exponential!!!
 - ie, it could take forever to find any solution
- We need some *heuristics* to address these problems
 - But no guarantee that we can find a solution in reasonable time

Vehicle Design

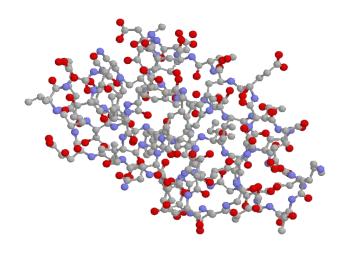


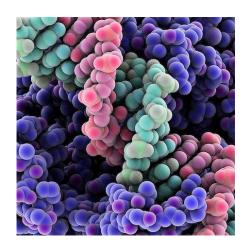


- How to find best shape to reduce air resistance?
- Can have different designs, and then test them in a wind tunnel



Protein Design

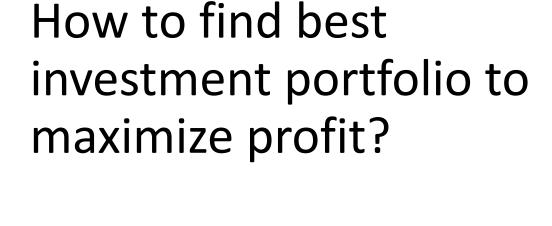




How to find the right sequence of amino acids which will result in a protein with some sought properties?

Stock Market







Class Schedule

My Class Schedule | Fall

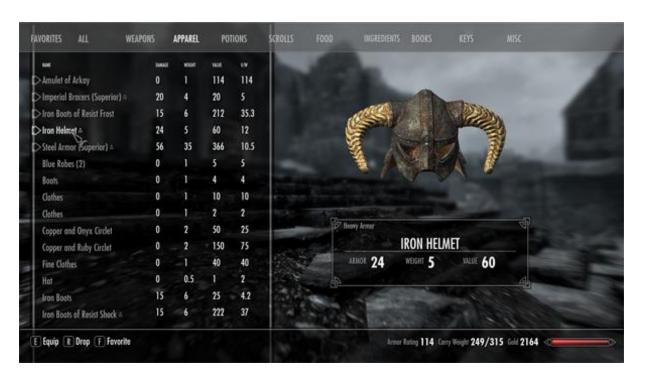
Start Time	8:00 AM	Time Interval:	30	
Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	
8:00 AM	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8:30 AM	Business: Lecture		Business: Lec	
9:00 AM	Bldg B, Rm 256	Physics: Lab Bldg J, Rm 309	Bldg B, Rm 2	
9:30 AM	Applied Math		Applied Ma	
10:00 AM	Bldg H, Rm 100		Bldg H, Rm	
10:30 AM				
11:00 AM				

TimeEdit* & WESTERDALS OSLO ACT > TIMEPLAN > TIMEPLAN								
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	09:15 - 12:00	Enterpriseprogrammering 2 (PG6100-17)	Programmering 15	Forelesning	Andrea Arcuri	Undervisningsrom F209		
	TI 10.10.2017							
	08:15 - 12:00	Algoritmer og datastrukturer (PG4200-17)	Intelligente systemer 16, Programmering 16, Spillprogrammering 16			Auditorium VU06		
	FR 13.10.2017							
	09:15 - 12:00	Enterpriseprogrammering 2 (PG6100-17)	Programmering 15	Forelesning	Andrea Arcuri	Undervisningsrom F20		
	TI 17.10.2017							
	08:15 - 12:00	Algoritmer og datastrukturer (PG4200-17)	Intelligente systemer 16, Programmering 16, Spillprogrammering 16			Auditorium VU06		

How to find best class schedule for which:

- There is time for all classes
- Classes in same year are not in parallel (ie conflicting)
- Preferences of lectures are taken into account
- Etc.
- 3

RPG Equipment



In RPGs, how to find best combination of wearable items to maximize attack and defense under the constraints of maximum weight and item slots available?

Properties of Optimization Problems

- 2 main components: Search Space and Fitness Function
- **Goal**: find the best solution from the search space such that the fitness function is minimized/maximized

Search Space

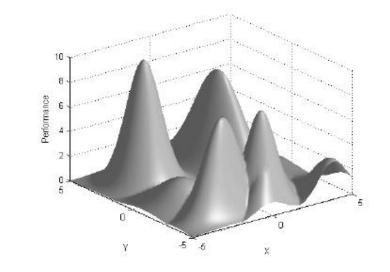
- Set X of all possible solutions for the problem
- If a solution can be represented with 0/1 bit sequence of length N, then search space is all possible bit strings of size N
 - any data on computer can be represented with bitstrings
- Search space is usually huge, eg 2^N
 - Otherwise use brute force, and so would not be a problem

Fitness Function

- f(x)=h
- Given a solution x in X, calculate an heuristic h that specifies how good the solution is
- Problem dependent, to minimize or maximize:
 - Maximize code coverage
 - Maximize fault finding
 - Minimize test suite size
 - etc.

Optimization Algorithms

- Algorithm that explores the search space X
- Only a tiny sample of X can be evaluated
- Use fitness f(x) to guide the exploration to fitter areas of the search space with better solutions
- Stopping criterion: after evaluating K solutions (or K amount of time is passed), return best x among the evaluated solutions
- Many different kinds of optimization algorithms...
 - But as a user, still need to provide the representation and f(x)



Search Operator

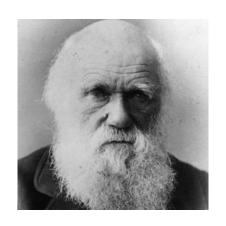
- s(x) = x'
- An operator that, from a solution x, gives a new one x'
- Still need to evaluate its fitness, ie f(x')
- The optimization algorithm will use the search operators to choose which new x' in X to evaluate
- The search operator will depend on the problem representation
- Example: flip a bit in a bit-sequence representation

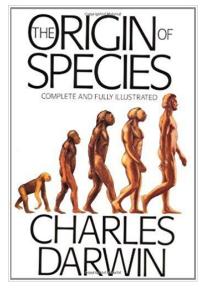
Nature Inspired Algorithms

- Nature is good at solving many different problems
- Idea: get inspiration from natural phenomena to create effective optimization algorithms
- E.g., carbon-to-diamond process: high temperature in Earth's mantle, cooled slowly while raising up to surface
 - Simulated Annealing Algorithm
- E.g., behavior of ants seeking a path between their colony and a source of food, based on pheromone trails
 - Ant Colony Optimization Algorithm

Theory Evolution

- Charles Darwin, "The Origin of Species", 1859
- Theory describing how different species *evolved* from unicellular organisms



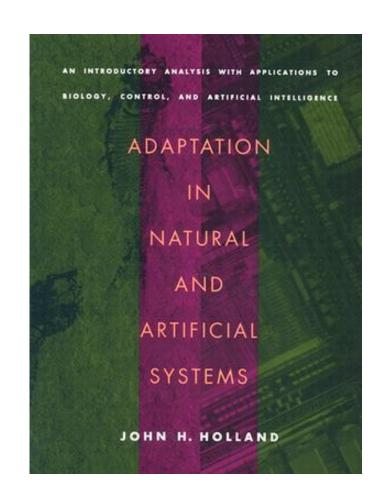


Evolutionary Algorithms (EAs)

- EAs are optimization algorithms based on the theory of evolution
- (1+1) EA: the simplest EA
- Genetic Algorithms: the most popular EA
- But there are more...

Genetic Algorithms (GAs)

- 1950s: *Turing* proposed use of evolution in computer programs
- 1970s: John Holland created GAs to address optimization problems
- Simulate evolution of an entire *population* of individuals, which procreate sexually



GA Components

- Chromosome: the actual representation of the individuals, eg binary string
- Population: keep track of several individuals
- Generation: individuals mate and reproduce
- Selection: how mating is done, based on fitness function
- Mutation: offspring might have some of their "DNA" mutated
- Crossover: offspring inherit genetic material from the parents

Chromosome

1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

- A solution to an optimization problem will be represented with some data
- In a computer, any stored data can be seen as 0/1 bitstring
- Bitstring is a common representation, but there can be customized for any addressed domain
 - eg, test cases as sequences of function calls with their inputs

Population

- Keep track of several individuals which we try to optimize
- At the end of the search, return the best solution in the population



Generations



- The search will be composed of 1 or more *generations*
- At each generation, select individuals for reproduction
- Create a new generation of same size K
- Kill the previous generation
 - Yes, evolution is really cruel...

Selection



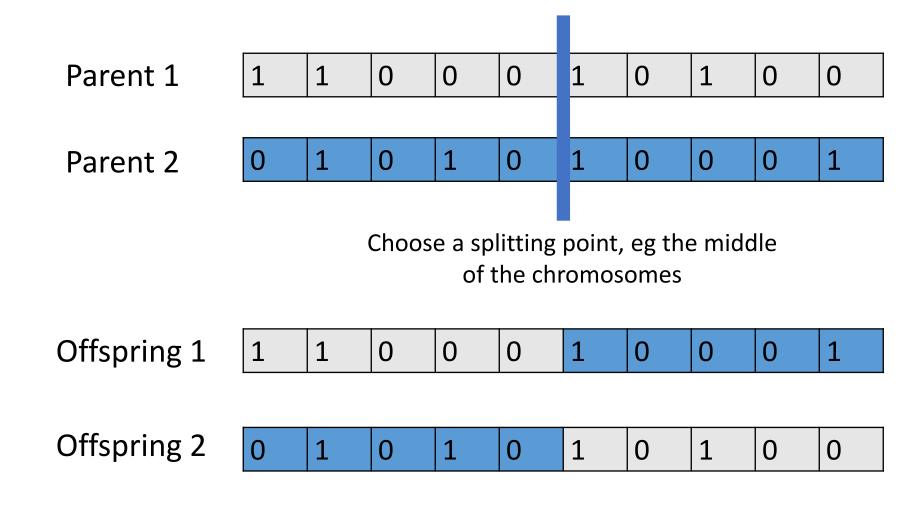
- The fittest individuals will have higher chances of reproduction
- Different strategies for parent selection
- Tournament Selection: sample T individuals randomly from the population, and choose the best among them
- Fitness function is used to determine who is better

Sexual Reproduction

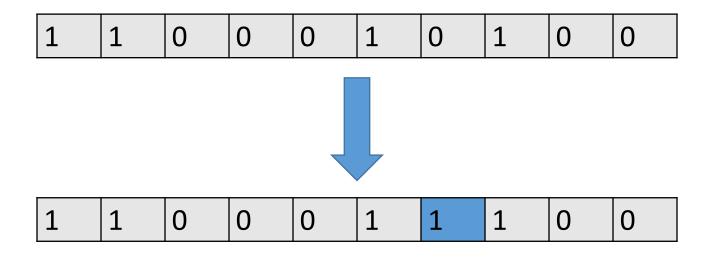


- Select 2 parents, which give birth to 2 offspring
 - Note, ignoring gender here...
- Offspring will share genetic material with their parents, via the *crossover* operation (aka xover)
- After xover, offspring still have chances of getting mutated

Crossover



Mutation in 0/1 Sequence



- Mutation: given N bits, each bit can be flipped with probability 1/N
 - Eg 10% probability in the above example
- On average, only 1 bit is flipped per mutation operation

Many Independent Objective (MIO) Algorithm

Search Algorithms for System Testing

- There are many search algorithms
 - Genetic Algorithms, Simulated Annealing, Ant Colony, etc.
- No Free Lunch Theorem
 - on all possible problems, all algorithms have same average performance, ie, there is no best algorithm
- Customized algorithms that exploit domain knowledge will give better results

Properties of System Testing (eg for Web Services)

- To increase coverage, you can add new tests to existing test suite
 - Testing objectives can be sought *independently*
 - Minimizing the number of tests is still important, but secondary
- System tests are expensive to run (eg compared to unit tests)
 - Less number of fitness evaluations: put more emphasis on *exploitation* vs *exploration* of the search landscape
- Many, many test objectives (e.g., lines and branches)
 - Even in the tens/hundreds of thousands...
- Some test objectives could be *infeasible*
 - Any resource spent in covering them is wasted

Many Independent Objective (MIO) Algorithm

- Multi/Many Objective Optimization (MOO)
- Evolve populations of *test cases*
- Final output: a test suite
- At a high level, it can be considered like a multi-population (1+1)EA

Issues With Existing MOO Algorithms

- Eg, SPEA-2 and NSGA-2
- Usually handle just a small number of objectives, eg 3-5
 - might not scale to hundreds/thousands of objectives
- Difficult to choose a population size when large and variable number of objectives

Dynamic Number of Populations

- One population of tests for each testing target (eg, line or branch)
- Each population has up to N tests
- Initially 0 populations.
- Every time a target is reached but not covered, we create a population for it
 - Eg, a code block inside an *if* statement with complex predicate
- Why? Before running, do not know how many targets there are.

MIO Main Loop

```
override fun search(): Solution<T> {
  time.startSearch()
  while(time.shouldContinueSearch()){
    val randomP = apc.getProbRandomSampling()
    if(archive.isEmpty() || randomness.nextBoolean(randomP)) {
      val ind = sampler.sample()
      ff.calculateCoverage(ind)?.run { archive.addIfNeeded(this) }
      continue
    val ei = archive.sampleIndividual()
    val nMutations = apc.getNumberOfMutations()
    getMutatator().mutateAndSave(nMutations, ei, archive)
  return archive.extractSolution()
```

- Each iteration, sample a test
- Sample either at random, or from one population for noncovered targets, based on probability P
- If from population, apply M mutations
- Might copy to all existing populations in archive

Mutation Operator

- Standard, like in any evolutionary algorithm
- Small modifications
 - +- delta on numbers
 - change some characters in strings
 - etc.

Simple Example

- Let's consider just branch coverage
- 3 branches -> 6 targets
 - T1 to T6
- One branch is infeasible
- Note: just an example... not really an efficient function...

```
public boolean equalAndPositive(int x, int y)
  if(x \leq 0) return false; //T1
  if(x==y){
    //infeasible
    if(y \le 0) return false; //T4
    return true;
  return false;
```

1st Step

- Assume sampling <-5,-2>
 - first step will be at random
- Would be created 2 populations, as we only see 2 targets
- Test case copied in both populations
- Target T1 is covered

```
T1 -5, -2
T2 -5, -2
```

```
public boolean equalAndPositive(int x, int y)
  if(x <= 0) return false; //T1
  if(x==y){
    //infeasible
    if(y \le 0) return false; //T4
    return true;
  return false;
```

Population Choice

- After few iterations, might have many populations
- In main loop, sample 1 test from 1 population
- Population is chosen at random among targets not fully covered yet
 - le, concentrate search on targets that still need to be covered

2nd Step

- Sample new individual with probability P, or copy&mutate existing <-5,-2> with probability 1-P
- Assume sampling <-3,7>
- Still only 2 populations
- T1 ignored, as already covered

```
public boolean equalAndPositive(int x, int y)
  if(x \leq 0) return false; //T1
  if(x==y){}
    //infeasible
    if(y \le 0) return false; //T4
    return true;
  return false;
```

3rd Step

- Assume sampling <1,7>
- 2 new populations, as now T3 and T6 are reached
- All covered but T3

```
      T1
      -5, -2

      T2
      -5, -2
      -3, 7
      1, 7

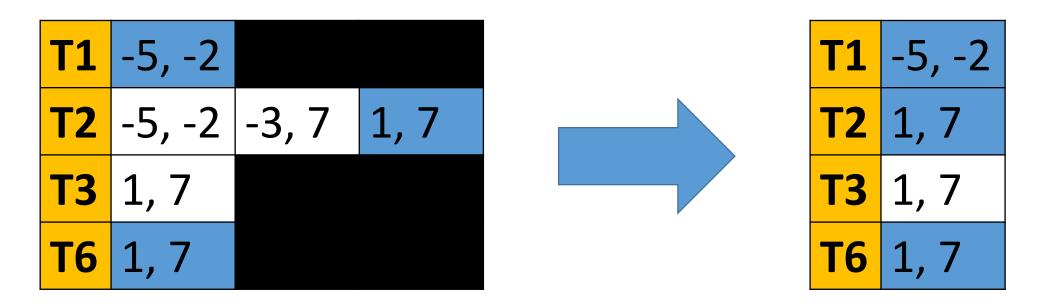
      T3
      1, 7

      T6
      1, 7
```

```
public boolean equalAndPositive(int x, int y)
  if(x \leq 0) return false; //T1
  if(x==y){}
    //infeasible
    if(y \le 0) return false; //T4
    return true;
  return false;
```

Population Management

- A single population hold up to N tests (eg 10)
- Tests in a population X have fitness values based only on target X.
- When adding new test and size become > N, delete worst test
- When sampling from population, done at random
- If target gets covered, population shrinks to 1, keeping best test



4th Step

- Could sample at random with P
- Could copy&mutate from existing population with 1-P
- As all covered but T3, can only use T3 for sampling
- Assume mutating <1,7> with a x+2, giving <3,7>
- Added only to population for T3, as others are covered

T1	-5, -2	T1	-5, -2	
T2	1, 7	T2	1, 7	
T3	1, 7	T3	1, 7	3, 7
T6	1, 7	T6	1, 7	

5th Step

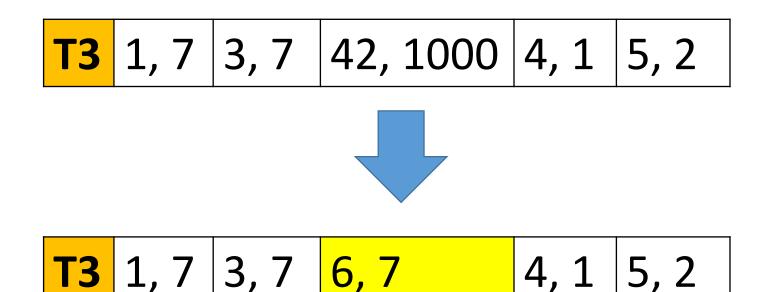
- Assume adding <7,7>, which would cover T3 and T5
- T3 will then be shrunk to single individual

T1	-5, -2		
T2	1, 7		
T3	1, 7	3, 7	
T6	1, 7		

T1	-5, -2		
T2	1, 7		
T3	1, 7	3, 7	7, 7
T6	1, 7		
T4	7, 7		
T5	7, 7		

Population Size Limit

- Assume limit N=5
- When population too large, need to shrink, based on fitness
- Eg, a new <6,7> would replace the very bad <42,1000>



Feedback-directed Sampling

- If target is infeasible, waste of time sampling from its population
- But not possible to determine if target is infeasible
- Solution:
 - Add counter to each population, initialized to 0
 - Each time sampling from population, increase counter by 1
 - New better test added to population? Reset counter to 0
 - When choosing population to sample, instead of random, choose lowest counter
- Effects: concentrate search on targets for which we get fitness improvements
 - After a while, never sample again from populations for infeasible targets

Exploration vs Exploitation

- Beginning of search, want to explore large parts of search landscape
- Later in the search, concentrate to improve current best tests
 - Not much left time to try new different tests
- This is controlled by 2 main parameters: sampling P, population size N
- Parameter Control: during search, decrease P and N
 - Similar to Simulated Annealing
 - When *N* shrink, remove worst test
- Example:
 - 0% search budget: P=1 -> practically random testing
 - 25% search budget: P=0.5, N=10 -> population based search, with still some random sampling
 - 50% search budget: P=0, N=1 -> no random sampling, concentrate on single individual per target

Final Test Suite

- T4 is infeasible... never be covered, but could have gradient to get <1,1>
- Test suite based only on covered targets, with no duplicates
 - this means <1,1> will not be part of final test suites
 - there are duplicates for <1,7> and <7,7>
- Final suite contains 3 tests: <-5,-2> <1,7> <7,7>



Further Optimizations

- Even if a test cover a target X, might not be the best
- There could be "shorter" test cases
- Other test cases could cover X plus other targets as well
- If those tests are generated, those would replace the one stored in the population for X

REST Web Services

Web Services

- Providing APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) over network, remote servers
- Communications over UDP/TCP, with protocols like HTTP
- Different types of data transfer formats
 - JSON, XML, HTML, plain text, etc.
- Permanent storage:
 - eg, SQL/NoSQL databases

RESTful APIs

- Most common type of web services
 - others are SOAP and GraphQL
- Access of set of resources using HTTP
- REST is not a protocol, but just architectural guidelines on how to define HTTP endpoints
 - hierarchical URLs to represent resources
 - HTTP verbs (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE, etc.) as "actions" on resources

Example for a Product Catalog

- Full URLs, eg consider an hypothetical www.foo.com/products
- GET /products
 - (return all available products)
- GET /products?k=v
 - (return all available products filtered by some custom parameters)
- POST /products
 - (create a new product, with data in a JSON payload)
- GET /products/{id}
 - (return the product with the given id)
- GET /products/{id}/price
 - (return the price of a specific product with a given id)
- DELETE /products/{id}
 - (delete the product with the given id)

SAMPLES

Resource Summary

- Files
- About
- Changes
- Children
- Parents
- Permissions
- Revisions
- Apps
- Comments
- Replies
- Properties
- Channels
- Realtime
- Teamdrives
- Standard Features

API Reference



This API reference is organized by resource type. Each resource type has one or more data representations and one or more methods.

Resource types

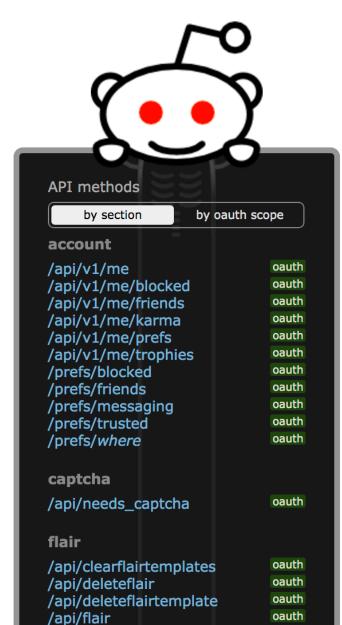
Files

For Files Resource details, see the resource representation page.

Method	HTTP request	Description		
URIs relative to https://www.googleapis.com/drive/v2, unless otherwise noted				
get	GET /files/fileId	Gets a file's metadata by ID.		
insert	POST https://www.googleapis. com/upload/drive/v2/files and POST /files	Insert a new file.		
patch	PATCH /files/fileId	Updates file metadata. This method supports patch semantics.		
update	PUT https://www.googleapis. com/upload/drive/v2/files/fileId and PUT /files/fileId	Updates file metadata and/or content.		
сору	POST /files/fileId/copy	Creates a copy of the specified file.		

The REST API is the heart of all programatic interactions with LinkedIn. All other methods of interacting, such as the JavaScript and Mobile SDKs, are simply wrappers around the REST API to provide an added level of convienence for developers. As a result, even if you are doing mobile or JavaScript development, it's still worth taking the time to familiarize yourself with how the REST API works and what it can do for you.





oauth

/api/flairconfig

This is automatically-generated documentation for the reddit API.

The reddit API and code are open source. Found a mistake or interested in helping us improve? Have a gander at api.py and send us a pull request.

Please take care to respect our API access rules.

overview

listings

Many endpoints on reddit use the same protocol for controlling pagination and filtering. These endpoints are called Listings and share five common parameters: after / before , limit , count , and show .

Listings do not use page numbers because their content changes so frequently. Instead, they allow you to view slices of the underlying data. Listing JSON responses contain after and before fields which are equivalent to the "next" and "prev" buttons on the site and in combination with count can be used to page through the listing.

The common parameters are as follows:

- after / before only one should be specified. these indicate the fullname of an item in the listing to use as the anchor point of the slice.
- limit the maximum number of items to return in this slice of the listing.
- count the number of items already seen in this listing. on the html site, the builder uses this to determine when to give values for before and after in the response.

Twitter Developer Documentation

Docs / REST APIs

Products & Services

Best practices

API overview

Twitter for Websites

Twitter Kit

Cards

OAuth

REST APIs

API Rate Limits

Rate Limits: Chart

The Search API

The Search API: Tweets by

Place

REST APIs

The REST APIs provide programmatic access to read and write Twitter data. Create a new Tweet, read user profile and follower data, and more. The REST API identifies Twitter applications and users using OAuth; responses are in JSON format.

If your intention is to monitor or process Tweets in real-time, consider using the Streaming API instead.

Overview

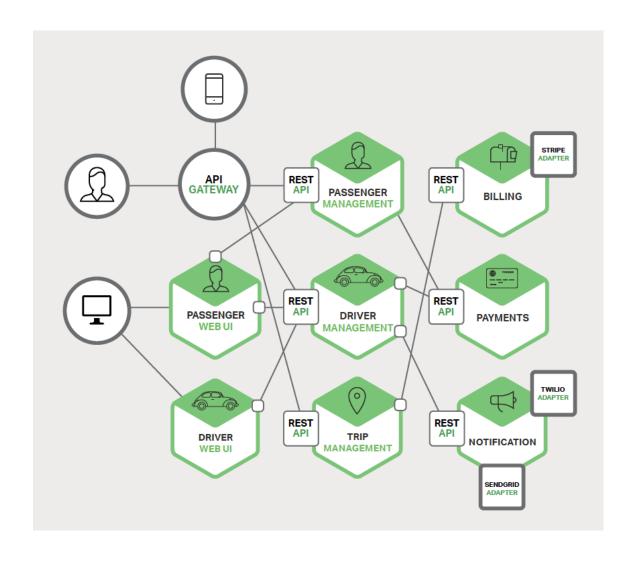
Below are some documents that will help you get going with the REST APIs as quickly as possible

- API Rate Limiting
- API Rate Limits
- · Working with Timelines
- · Using the Twitter Search API
- · Finding Tweets about Places
- Uploading Media
- · Reference Documentation

Default entities and retweets

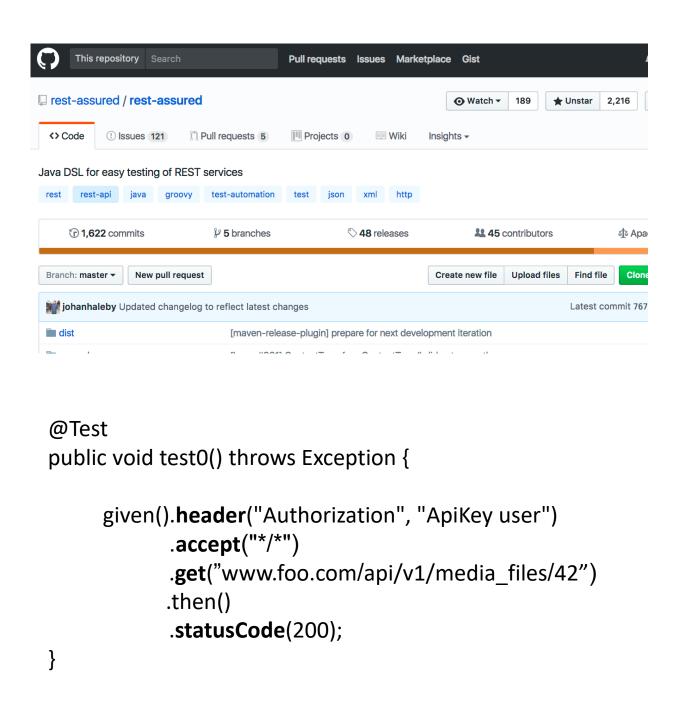
REST in Microservices

- Common trend in enterprises
 - Amazon, Netflix, etc.
- Split application in many small web services, typically REST
- Easier to scale and maintain
- User (browser/app) has no idea on how backed is architectured, only see one entry point, eg "API Gateway"



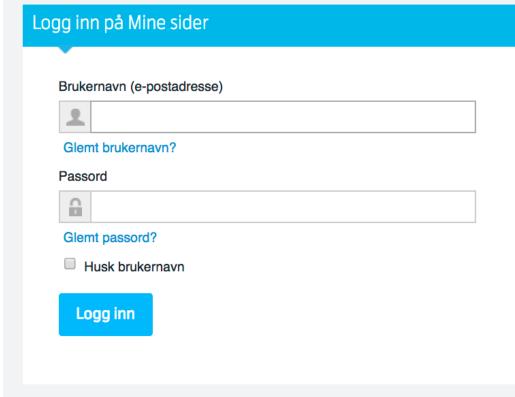
Testing of REST APIs

- Do HTTP calls, read responses
- Setup database states
- Specialized libraries, eg in Java the popular RestAssured

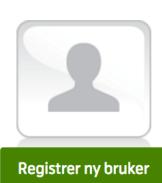




Logg inn hos Telenor



Ny bruker på Mine sider



Administrer bedriftens abonnement på Min Bedrift.

Med Mitt Telenor-appen får du full oversikt over forbruket ditt, både i Norge og utlandet. Last ned Mitt Telenor

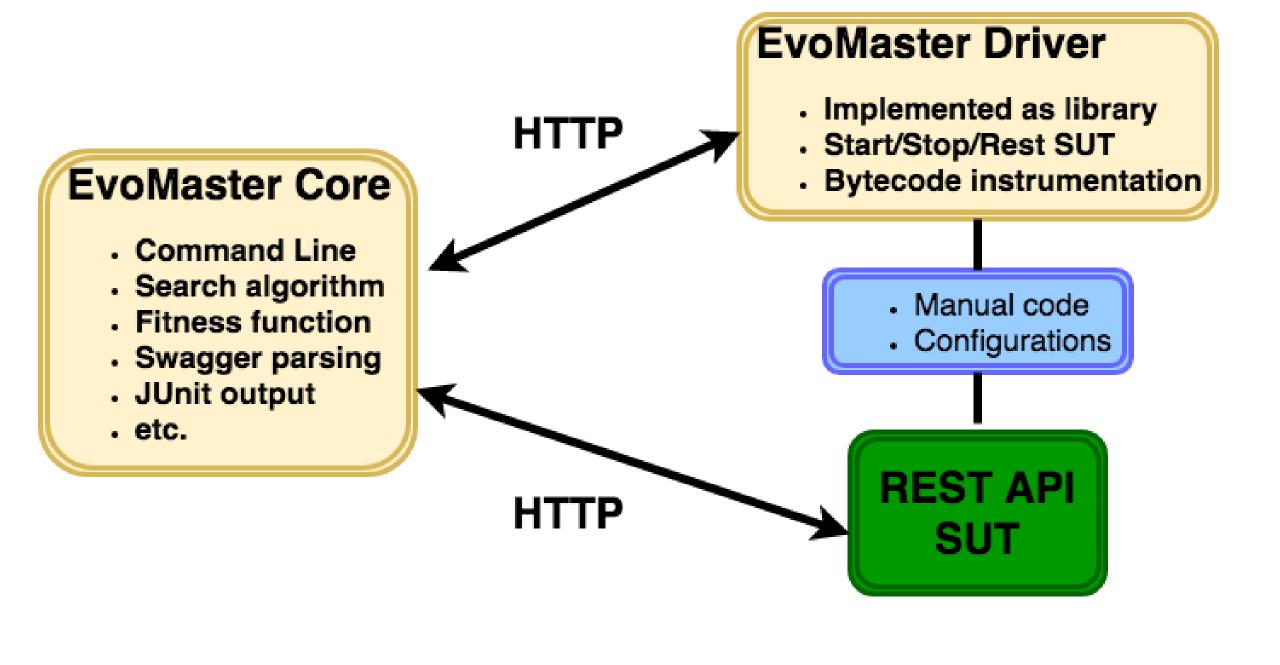
What about **Automated Test Generation** for RESTful APIs?

- Would be very useful for enterprises
- No tool available (AFAIK)
 - (that I could use when I worked as a test engineer)
- In the past, quite a lot of work on **SOAP** web services
 - (which are not so common any more)
- Very few papers on testing REST
- Most techniques are black box

EvoMaster

EvoMaster

- Tool to automatically generate tests for REST APIs
- White box
 - can exploit structural and runtime information of the SUT
- Search-based testing technique (SBST)
 - Using the MIO Algorithm
- Fully automated
- Open-source prototype: www.evomaster.org
- Currently targeting JVM languages (eg Java and Kotlin)



OpenAPI/Swagger

- REST is not a protocol
- Need to know what endpoints are available, and their parameters
- Schema defining the APIs
- Swagger is the most popular one
- Defined as JSON file, or YAML
- Many REST frameworks can automatically generate Swagger schemas from code

EvoMaster Core

- From Swagger schema, defines set of endpoints that can be called
- Test case structure:
 - 1. setup initializing data in DB with SQL INSERTs
 - 2. sequence of HTTP calls toward such endpoints
- HTTP call has many components:
 - Verb (GET, POST, DELETE, etc.)
 - Headers
 - Query parameters
 - Body payload (JSON, XML, etc.)
- Evolutionary algorithm to evolve such sequences and their inputs
- Output: self-contained JUnit tests
- Code language of SUT is irrelevant, as we use HTTP to communicate with it

Fitness Function

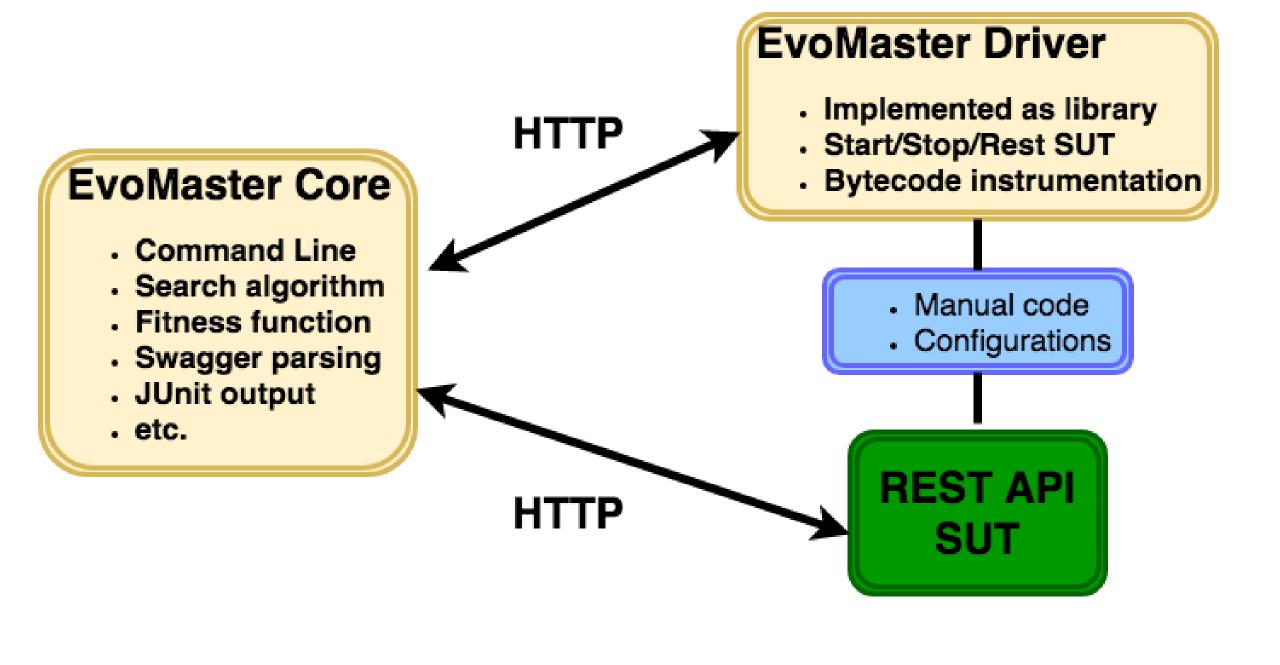
- Needed to drive the evolution
- Reward code coverage and fault detection
- HTTP return statuses as automated oracles:
 - Eg 2xx if OK, 4xx are user errors, but 5xx are server errors (often due to bugs)
- Need guidance to be able to solve constraints in code predicates
 - "if(x == 123456 && complexPredicate(y))"
- Unlikely to achieve high code coverage with just random inputs

SBST Heuristics: Branch Distance

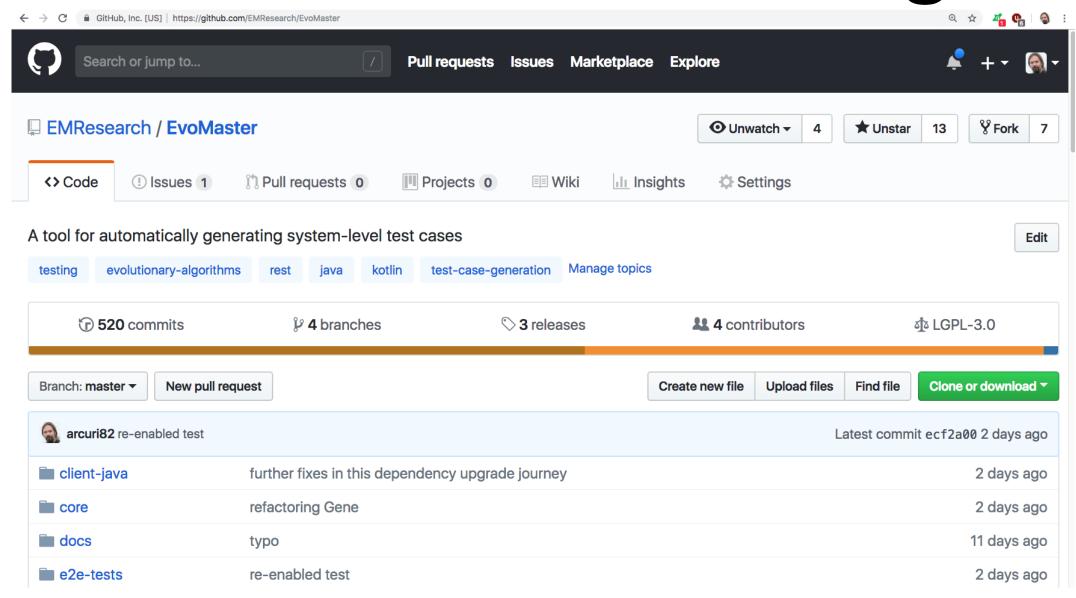
- Standard technique in the SBST literature, usually for unit testing
- Example: if(x==100)
- Both 5 and 90 do not solve the constraint, but 90 is *heuristically* closer
- Not just for integers, but also all other types, eg strings
- Need to *instrument* the code to calculate those branch distances
- Bytecode manipulation: EvoMaster does it fully automatically with class loaders and Java Agents
- Lot of technical details on how to achieve it efficiently

EM Driver: SBST Heuristics as a Service

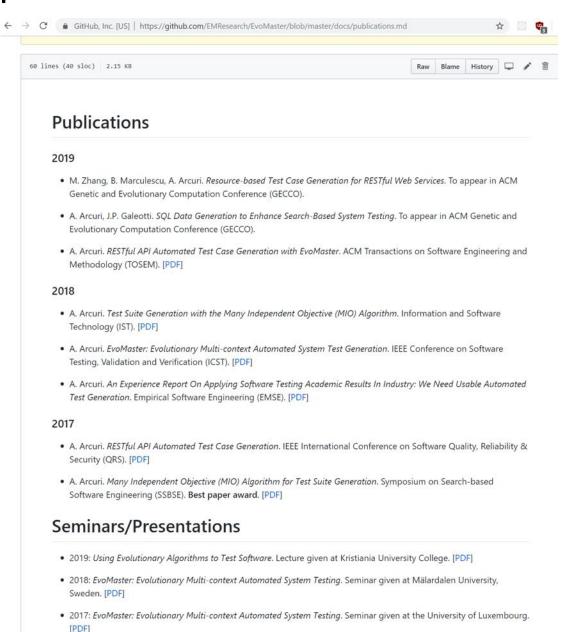
- Core and Driver are running on different processes
- Code coverage and branch distances sent over the net, in JSON format
- Cannot send all data: too inefficient if per test execution
 - different techniques to determine only what is necessary
- EM Driver is itself a RESTful API
- Why? Because so we can use Driver for other languages (eg C# and JS)
 without the need to touch EM Core



www.evomaster.org



Slides and Paper PDFs all online



Demo