# Test-driven development in R

#### Richèl Bilderbeek

http://github.com/richelbilderbeek/PresentationsAboutR





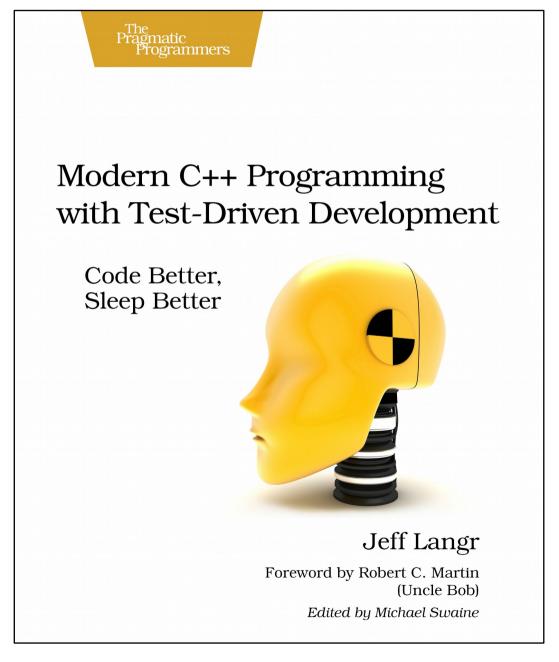


www.dilbert.com

# What is test-driven development?

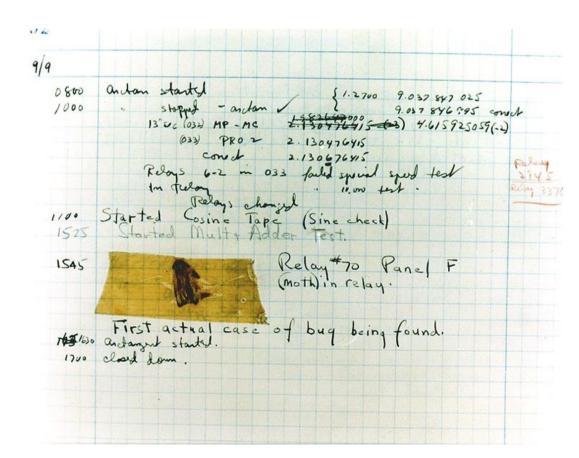
 Letting tests being the guide in developing new code

 A workflow for growing high-quality code



# Why tests?

- High-quality code
- Increase productivity
- Improves software architecture
- Documentation
- Collaboration



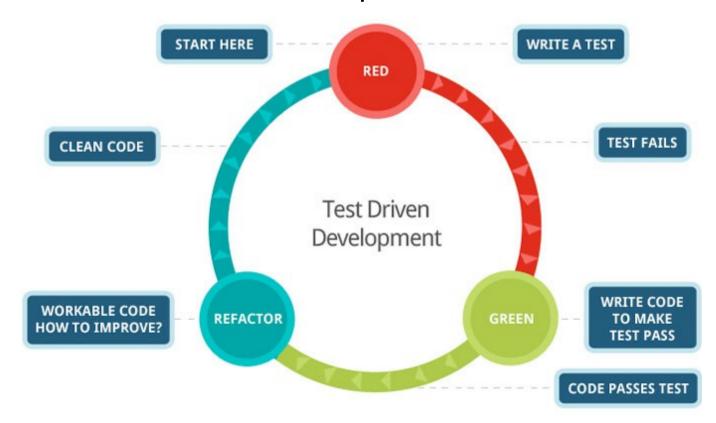
## Example

```
is_prime <- function(x) {
    # check input arguments
    # calculation
    # return TRUE or FALSE
}</pre>
```



# Developing is\_prime

- Cycle test-driven development:
  - Red: write a test that fails
  - Green: pass the test
  - Refactor: improve the new code, clean up mess, check in code



# Development is\_prime

- As small steps as possible
- One step at a time





## Red: write a test that fails

Create the testing architecture, in console:

```
devtools::use_test("is_prime")
```

Create a test that fails, in file 'test-is\_prime.R':

```
context("is_prime")

test_that("is_prime works", {
  expect_equal(is_prime(2), TRUE)
})
```

## Green: pass the test

```
#' Determines if the input is prime
#' @param x input
#' @return TRUE or FALSE
#' @export
is_prime <- function(x) {</pre>
  return (TRUE)
```

## Refactor

Checking in

```
git add --all :/
git commit -m
    "is_prime: 2 is prime"
```



## Red: write a test that fails

```
test_that("is_prime works", {
    # Previous code
   expect_equal(is_prime(4), FALSE)
})
```

## Green: pass the test

```
is_prime <- function(x) {</pre>
  if (x == 2) return(TRUE)
  for (i in seq(2, x - 1)) {
    if (x %% i == 0) {
      return(FALSE)
  return(TRUE)
```

## Refactor

Check in

```
git add --all :/
git commit -m

"is_prime: 4 is not prime"
```

## Red: write a test that fails

```
test_that("is_prime works", {
    # Previous code
   expect_equal(is_prime(1), FALSE)
})
```

## Green: pass the test

```
is_prime <- function(x)</pre>
  if (x <= 1) return(FALSE)</pre>
  if (x == 2) return(TRUE)
  for (i in seq(2, x - 1)) {
    if (x \%\% i == 0) \{ return(FALSE) \}
  return(TRUE)
```

## Refactor

Check in

```
git add --all :/
git commit -m

"is_prime: <-,1] is not prime"
```

### Red: write a test that fails

```
test_that("is_prime works", {
  # Other test
  expect_error(
    is_prime("Hello"),
    "testit: input must be numeric"
```

## Green: pass the test

```
is_prime <- function(x)
{
   if (!is.numeric(x)) {
     stop("is_prime: input should be numeric")
   }
   # Other code
}</pre>
```

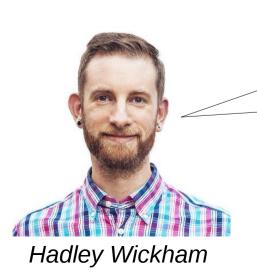
## Refactor

Check in

```
git add --all :/
git commit -m

"is_prime: input must be numeric"
```

# Run-time speed



He who sacrifices correctness for speed, deserves neither

## Red: write a test that fails

```
test_that("is_prime works", {
    # Other tests
    expect_error(
        is_prime(c(1,2,3)),
        "is_prime: input should be one number"
    )
})
```

## Green: pass the test

```
is_prime <- function(x)</pre>
  if (!is.numeric(x)) {
    stop("is_prime: input should be numeric")
  if (length(x) != 1) {
    stop("is_prime: input should be one number")
  # Other code
```

## Refactor

Check in

```
git add --all :/
git commit -m

"is_prime: input one number"
```

# Final is\_prime

```
#' Determines if the input is prime
#' @param x input
#' @return TRUE or FALSE
#' @export
is_prime <- function(x)</pre>
  if (!is.numeric(x)) {
    stop("is_prime: input should be numeric")
  if (length(x) != 1) {
    stop("is_prime: input should be one number")
  if (x <= 1) return(FALSE)</pre>
  if (x == 2) return(TRUE)
 for (i in seq(2, x - 1)) {
    if (x \% i == 0) \{ return(FALSE) \}
  return(TRUE)
}
```

# Complete test suite

```
context("is_prime")

test_that("is_prime works", {
   expect_equal(is_prime(2), TRUE)
   expect_equal(is_prime(4), FALSE)
   expect_equal(is_prime(1), FALSE)
   expect_error(is_prime("Hello"), "is_prime: input should be numeric")
   expect_error(is_prime(c(1,2,3)), "is_prime: input should be one number")
})
```

# Too complex to write a test for?

- Do test simple cases as usual
- Use vignettes to convince the reader it works for more complex input

```
devtools::use_vignette("demo")
```

# Vignette

```
title: "is prime demonstration"
author: "Richel Bilderbeek"
date: "`r Sys.Date()`"
output: rmarkdown::html_vignette
vignette: >
  %\VignetteIndexEntry{Richel Bilderbeek}
  %\VignetteEngine{knitr::rmarkdown}
  %\VignetteEncoding{UTF-8}
Density of primes should decrease:
```{r}
library(my_is_prime)
xs < - seq(1, 100)
ys <- xs
for (i in seq(1, length(ys))) { ys[i] <- is_prime(ys[i]) }
plot(xs, ys)
. . .
```

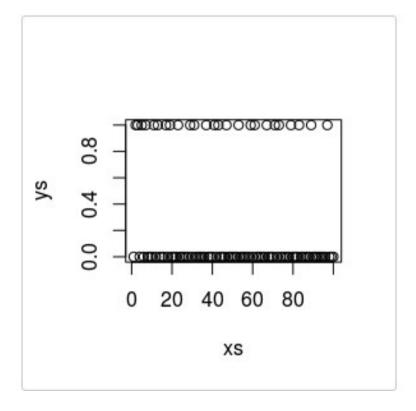
## is\_prime demonstration

#### Richel Bilderbeek

#### 2016-04-17

#### Density of primes should decrease:

```
library(testr)
xs <- seq(1,100)
ys <- xs
for (i in seq(1,length(ys))) { ys[i] <- is_prime(ys[i]) }
plot(xs, ys)</pre>
```



# Run-time speed

- Measure which function is the true speed bottleneck
- Test if the 'improved' function is faster and gives the same correct results



Donald Knuth



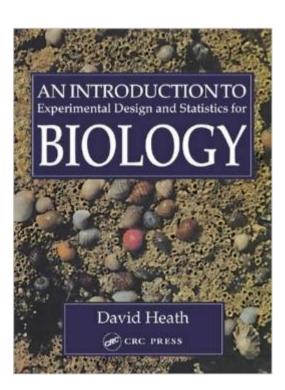
Herb Sutter

Premature optimization is the root of all evil

It is far easier to make correct code fast than to make fast code correct

## Collaboration

- Tests can be used as a mean to let others contribute
- Example:
  - I implemented a Wilcoxon's signed rank test, especially a function to get the rank of each value, following Heath
  - Later, Senbong G contacted me and helped us fix my function
- In this example, syntax is not important



#### C++ tests

```
values = { 10.0, 20.0, 30.0 };
expected = { 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 };
results = GetRanks(values);
assert(expected == results);
```

```
values = { 30.0, 10.0, 20.0 };
expected = { 3.0, 1.0, 2.0 };
results = GetRanks(values);
assert(expected == results);
```

### C++ tests

```
//From Heath, page 263

values = { 0.6, 1.4, 4.0, 13.0, 14.5, 9.4, 11.4, 12.6, 4.0 };

expected = { 1.0, 2.0, 3.5, 8.0, 9.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 3.5 };

results = GetRanks(values);

// Heath, page 263, no zero value

assert(expected == results);
```

```
//From Heath, page 263, now with zero added

values = { 0.6, 1.4, 0.0, 4.0, 13.0, 14.5, 9.4, 11.4, 12.6, 4.0 };

expected = { 1.0, 2.0, 0.0, 3.5, 8.0, 9.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 3.5 };

results = GetRanks(values);

// Heath, page 263, with zero value

assert(expected == results);
```

# Email from Senbong G

I think I found a bug

How can that be? Can you convince me with a test?



Sure, the tests on the next slide all fail

### C++ tests

```
values = { 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 2.0, 2.0, 3.0, 3.0, 3.0};
expected = { 2.0, 2.0, 2.0, 4.5, 4.5, 7.0, 7.0, 7.0};
results = GetRanks(values);
assert(expected == results);
```

# Email from Senbong G

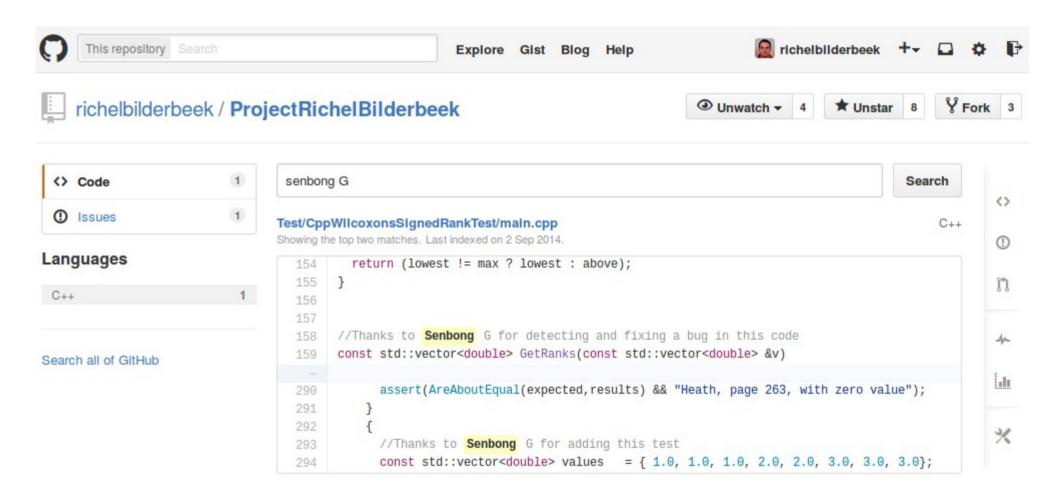
Blimey, you're right!
I'll fix it within a week

No need to,
I already did,
here is the code





# Eternal glory



## Conclusion

- Test-driven development
  - uses a systematic approach
  - has guidelines for a lower and upper limit of tests
  - facilitates collaboration