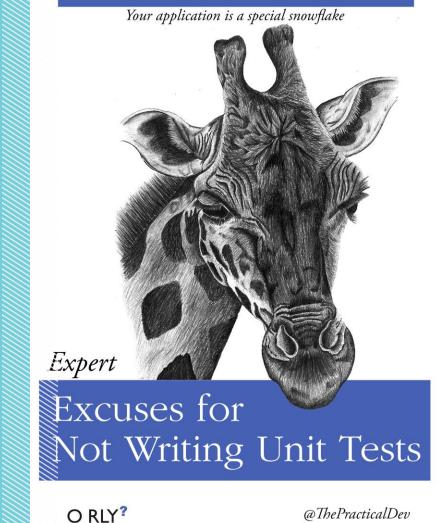


# **Unit Testing**

or how to write <del>good</del> not that bad unit tests



Frontend Junior Program - 2022

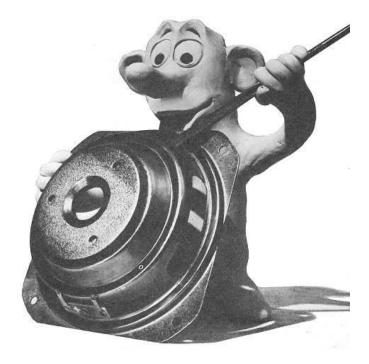
#### How to create a bad unit test speaker?

Recently (1985), a truly excellent article was published in the HIFI Magazine about *how to make bad loudspeakers* (part I, part II — Hungarian, only). You know, back then it was very hard to get loudspeakers in Hungary, and basically, it is a simple device: a box, some speaker units and a little bit of electronics, nothing special really—so, many hobbyist had a go.

Still, creating good loudspeakers is an extremely complex task. Unfortunately, the same is true for unit tests.

Writing good unit tests is very challenging. So, the best we can achieve here is to show you: how the avoid the catastrophe.

Even that will be hard, still, it is worth to try, we promise.



it is really not easy to write bad unit tests – one need years of experience, professional excellence and dedicated, hard work to achieve that



There is a strong belief, that writing unit tests (especially in some ways, such as TDD), could be the ultimate weapon against every problem in software development: there will be less bugs, makes the refactoring a bliss and leads to good architecture.

#### But what is a unit test?

A unit test is simply a code, that evaluates the result of another specific code

#### Definition



uni means "one"

A unit test is concerned about one part only.

A unit can be anything: an application, a component, an object, but usually unit is a function or a method

a unit test validates the output against values

It compares the result of the unit to an expected value. A result can be the return value or a state space (i.e., changes of the state: global variables, object properties, database records) or both at the same time.

#### A unit test must be...

### reproducible

Through time, locations and other external conditions.

#### consistent

Across host environments. While the FE code runs in a browser, the unit tests are invoked from node.js (using a headless browser, or JSDOM).

Test results should not vary depending on the environment.

#### fast

Even a simple application could utilize thousands of test cases. As all tests should run before a commit, or in CI/CD, the running time is critical.

## Unit testing in the Front-end world is a bit more complex task

#### A FE code is not just core JavaScript code

- We use DOM, we use browser API calls, therefore the host environment must be presented or simulated somehow.
   To do this, test runners invoke real browsers or use JSDOM to provide a lookalike host.
- Also, many times the result of a component is a change in a DOM. While there are different techniques to address this (visual diffs and snapshots), the fundamental complexity will be there.



FE!== core JavaScript, even a simple FE unit test requires a vast background

## In practice, for running front-end unit tests we use a testing framework



Jest (from Facebook) for React applications



JSDOM emulates the browser for Jest

typically used with React



Jasmine is a battle-hardened testing framework



Karma (from Google) provides the host (via browsers) for unit tests

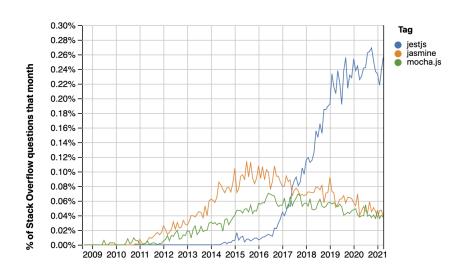
a common Angular setup

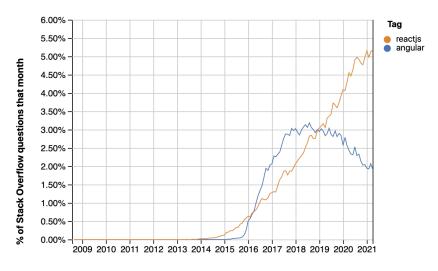


Mocha could be a flexible option

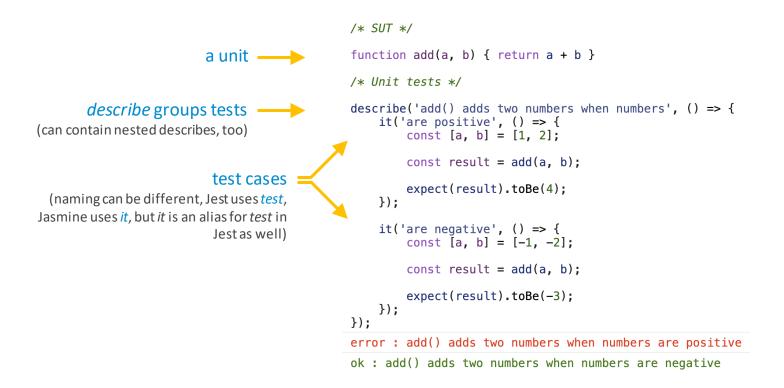
While testing frameworks does have different configuration, from unit testing perspective they are very similar

If you master Jasmine, you can use Jest out of the box.





#### **Basics**



## Demystifying a Testing Framework

#### At first sight, a testing framework does magic

For your convenience, we developed a super-simple testing framework (*of course*), for demonstration purposes. We will analyze it, then we'll have a deep dive in lest.

it works, really! moreover, it is compatible with Jest (describe, it)

```
/* Testing Framework */
function describe(name, fn) {
    suite = { name, tests: [] }
    // registering tests
    fn():
    // running tests
    suite.tests.forEach(test => {
        testName = `: ${ suite.name} ${test.name}`;
        test.fn();
    });
}
function it(name, fn) {
    suite.tests.push({ name, fn });
                                              this argument setup
/* Assertion library */
                                              should not surprise you at this
                                              point. We use a ternary operator
function expect(value) {
                                              and spread syntax here.
    return {
        toBe: function(expected) -
            console.log(...(value === expected
                ? ['%cok ${__testName}', 'color: green']
                : [`%cerror ${ testName}`, 'color: red']
           ));
```

Admittedly, Jest and Jasmine could be a bit more complex

But the under the hood they are similar to this: the test cases provides only a setup, running is a different story.

it does not run a test, only registers it as a consequence, consecutive tests (in test code), can run parallel, and the calling order is not fixed!

an assertion simply compares values and somehow logs the results

```
/* Testing Framework */
function describe(name, fn) {
    __suite = { name, tests: [] }
    // registering tests
    fn();
    // running tests
    __suite.tests.forEach(test => {
        __testName = `: ${__suite.name} ${test.name}`;
        test.fn():
    });
function it(name, fn) {
    __suite.tests.push({ name, fn });
/* Assertion library */
function expect(value) {
    return {
        toBe: function(expected) {
            console.log(...(value === expected
                ? [`%cok ${__testName}`, 'color: green']
                : [`%cerror ${__testName}`, 'color: red']
            ));
       }
```

## Working with Jest



the files we prepared for our testing framework are already Jest compatible:)

```
> mkdir indiana_jones
```

- > cd indiana\_jones
- > npm init -y
- > npm i jest
- > mkdir src

add "test": "jest" to the scripts part of package.json

create add.js and add.spec.js in the src folder

add content to the IS files

run the test suite:

> npm run test

```
■ Project ∨
                                 const add = require('./add'):
indiana_jones ~/indiana_jones
> mode_modules library root
                                      describe( blockName: 'add() adds two numbers when numbers'
                                           it( testName: 'are positive', fn: () => {
     us add.js
                                              const [a, b] = [1, 2];
    add.spec.js
   m package.json
                                              const result = add(a, b);
   nackage-lock.json
 I External Libraries
                                              expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
■ Scratches and Consoles
                                              const [a, b] = [-1, -2];
                                              const result = add(a, b);
                                              expect(result).toBe( expected: -3);
                                 add.is ×
                                      function add(a, b) {
                                      module.exports = add;
```



we are in node.js, the export/import from JS Modules are not presented

## Add JS Modules support

Jest recognizes babeljs, and can use it to transpile the JS files before running the tests

We just need to install babel and add a minimal configuration.

install babel

> npm i babel-jest @babel/core @babel/preset-env

create babel.config.js add content

change the require and module.exports in JS files

run the test suite:

> npm run test

or

> npm test

babel.config.js is still processed by node.js directly, therefore it requires the *require* 

```
Js babel.config.js ×
      import add from './add';
     describe( blockName: 'add() adds two numbers when numbers', block
         it( testName: 'are positive', fn: () => {
             const [a, b] = [1, 2];
             const result = add(a, b);
             expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
       callback for describe() > callback for it()
Js add.js ×
     function add(a, b) {
     export default add;
Js babel.config.js ×
     module.exports = {
       presets: [['@babel/preset-env', {targets: {node: 'current'}}]],
```

much better, we have export and import now

## Coverage report

By adding --coverage as a CLI parameter to the jest command, Jest will create a coverage report for us



coverage report in the terminal this looks useful now, however, after having several hundreds of source files, it could be a bit of lot

```
____s add.js × ___s add.spec.js ×

■ package.json ×

Project ~
 indiana_jones ~/indiana_jones
 ✓ ■ lcov-report
         5 add.js.html
         ∃ base.css
         us block-navigation.is
         favicon.png
         5 index.html
         ∃ prettify.css
         Js prettify.js
         sort-arrow-sprite.png
         Js sorter.js
       A lcov.info
 > node_modules library root
    Js babel.config.js
 add() adds two numbers when numbers

√ are positive (1 ms)

√ are negative (1 ms)

               100 l
                          100 I
                                              100
                          100
Test Suites: 1 passed, 1 total
            2 passed, 2 total
           0 total
Ran all test suites.
```

#### But what is coverage?

With coverage, we can have a detailed view on which statements / branches / functions and lines had been covered by our tests.

It is very useful to <del>comply project specific coverage</del> <del>requirements and to</del> understand what was tested specifically.

Let's see a bit more complex example!

Jest uses <u>istanbul</u> for generating the coverage report under the hood



```
\leftarrow \rightarrow C (i) localhost:63342/indiana_jones/coverage/lcov-report/add.js.html
```

#### All files add.js

```
100% Statements 1/1 100% Branches 0/0 100% Functions 1/1 100% Lines 1/1
```

Press *n* or *j* to go to the next uncovered block, *b*, *p* or *k* for the previous block.

```
function add(a, b) {
  return a + b;
}

export default add;
```

#### All files math.js

**50%** Statements 3/6 **50%** Branches 2/4 **50%** Functions 2/4 **50%** Lines 3/6

Press n or j to go to the next uncovered block, b, p or k for the previous block.

```
this function is covered
                                                        function addNumbers(a, b) {
while we did not run it directly, it was
                                                  2 2x
                                                            return a + b;
           called by the add function
     this function is not covered
                                                        function addStrings(a, b) {
                                                            return a + b;
            we added only numbers
                                                        function add(a, b) {
                                                  9
                                                            I if (typeof a === 'string' && typeof b === 'string') {
                                                 10
       this branch is not covered
                                                                return addStrings(a, b);
                                                 12
                                                            } else {
      because this line has never run
                                                 13 2x
                                                                return addNumbers(a, b);
                                                 14
                                                                                             this condition was never evaluated
                                                 15
                                                                                             because typeof a was always 'number'
                                                 16
     this function is not covered
                                                 17
                                                        function subtract(a, b) {
                                                            return a + b;
                                                 18
     we just tested the add function
                                                 19
                                                 20
                                                 21
                                                        export { add, subtract };
                                                 22
```

```
import { add } from './math';
describe( blockName: 'add() adds two', blockFn: () => {
    describe( blockName: 'numbers when numbers'. blockFn: () => {
        it( testName: 'are positive', fn: () => {
            const [a, b] = [1, 2];
           const result = add(a, b);
            expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
           const [a, b] = [-1, -2];
            const result = add(a, b);
            expect(result).toBe( expected: -3);
        const [a, b] = ['Indiana', 'Jones'];
        const result = add(a, b);
        expect(result).toBe( expected: 'Indiana Jones');
```

#### All files math.js

```
83.33% Statements 5/6 100% Branches 4/4 75% Functions 3/4 83.33% Lines 5/6
```

Press *n* or *j* to go to the next uncovered block, *b*, *p* or *k* for the previous block.

```
function addNumbers(a, b) {
2 2x
           return a + b:
       function addStrings(a, b) {
 5
 6 1x
           return `${a} ${b}`;
 9
       function add(a, b) {
           if (typeof a === 'string' && typeof b === 'string') {
10 3x
11 1x
               return addStrings(a, b);
12
           } else {
13 2x
               return addNumbers(a, b);
14
15
16
17
       function subtract(a, b) {
18
           return a + b;
19
20
       export { add, subtract };
21
22
```

by adding a new test case, we can have a bit more coverage



please do not touch private things, not even with unit tests!

The fact, that the private functions are already covered does have significant importance. It means that we don't need to export private functions to test. These functions can be tested indirectly.

let's see what happens, if we do want to test them as well!

19

## Always test the public API of your module

Private functions and methods are the internals of the module, their inner knowledge should not be exposed. The implementation details could change with the same API – if the tests depend on the internals, they are brittle: any refactoring\* could break the tests.

\*refactoring means no changes in the business functions. If there is a change, then it is a rework, which must be covered by a change request or a user story.

How to write <del>good</del> not that bad unit tests – rule I.

Still, let's see what happens, if we do want to test them!

We exported *addNumbers* and added a test for it as well. What happened? Right now, everything looks fine!



we run this 3 times: 2 times in the add test case, and

once in the addNumbers test case.

```
function addNumbers(a, b) {
           return a + b;
       function addStrings(a, b) {
6 1x
           return `${a} ${b}`;
9
       function add(a, b) {
10 3x
           if (typeof a === 'string' && typeof b === 'string') {
11 1x
              return addStrings(a, b);
           } else {
12
                                                     we called addNumbers
13 2x
              return addNumbers(a, b);
                                                     here only 2 times
```



All tests are green, we can push the code and let's call it a day!

however, let's introduce a small bug!

#### Guess what? We have 3 failed tests now!

1 bug => 3 failed tests. The root cause of this is that we test the same code in different places (redundant coverage).

In engineering, this is called an overdetermined system, and it always can be considered as an issue, because these systems are never stable.

Think about a chair: a chair with 3 legs is always stable, because 3 points determine a plane. The fourth can be out of the plane. In real world is always out of the plane. A chair with 4 legs is always instable (some flexibility in the legs will save us, thankfully)

So, how can we avoid that?

- if this was a private function then don't test it directly!
- 2. if this is a library function, then we need to prevent by calling the *addNumbers*. But how?



22



Indy is just mocking an Arab here, but a mock can do wonders!

How can we prevent from calling the addNumbers, while having a return value?

We can use a <u>test double</u>, instead. A test double is a replacement of the original code, that we can have control over, and we can analyze its activities. There are different types of test doubles (stub, mock, spy, fake, dummy), yet at this point we can simply call them mocks and the process itself is mocking.

let's mock the addNumbers then!

But before mocking out the *addNumbers function*, we have to extract that. The reason behind that we should...

## Never mock parts of the SUT\*

If you feel that there is a temptation for that, then it could be a clear sign of that part is an independent entity, therefore it should be extracted.

\*In other words, it you write unit tests for a module, then its functions should not be mocked in that test suite.

How to write <del>good</del> not that bad unit tests – rule II.

with xdescribe, we can temporarily disable the test math.primitives. import { add } from "./math"; ddNumbers } from "./math.primitives"; import \* as mathPrimitives from "./math.primitives"; xdescribe( blockName: 'addNumbers() adds two', blockFn: () => { describe( blockName: 'add() adds two', blockFn: () => { describe( blockName: 'numbers when they', blockFn: () => { it( testName: 'are positive', fn: () => { const [a, b] = [1, 2]; const [a, b] = [1, 2]; mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3); const result = addNumbers(a, b); const result = add(a, b); expect(result).toBe( expected: 3); const [a, b] = ['Indiana', 'Jones']; we have extracted the const result = add(a, b); primitive functions expect(result).toBe( expected: 'Indiana Jones'); now we have to <sub>Js</sub> math.js × Js math.primitives.js × import the we still have the bug here import { addNumbers, addStrings } from "./math.primitives"; function addNumbers(a, b) { extracted functions function add(a, b) { return addStrings(a, b); function addStrings(a, b) { return `\${a} \${b}`; return addNumbers(a, b); export { addNumbers, addStrings }; WebStorm is smart, function subtract(a, b) { it is not used export { add, subtract };

here you are the big picture, but let's see mock.spec.js for the details!

If we run the tests now, we'll have only one fail, in the *math.primitives.spec.js*. Nice!

we've changed the import, *mathPrimitives* acts as a namespace now

we simply override the addNumbers with <a href="jest.fn">jest.fn()</a> which returns a mock function

also, we can define the return value with <a href="mockReturnValue">mockReturnValue</a>(), so from now on the <a href="add">add</a> function will use our mock function, instead of the original

```
    math.spec.js ×
        import { add } from "./math";
       import * as mathPrimitives from "./math.primitives";
        describe( blockName: 'add() adds two', blockFn: () => {
            describe( blockName: 'numbers when numbers', blockFn: () => {
 5 >>
                it( testName: 'are positive', fn: () => {
                    const [a, b] = [1, 2];
                    mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3);
                    const result = add(a, b);
                    expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
15
16
            it( testName: 'strings', fn: () => {
                const [a, b] = ['Indiana', 'Jones'];
                const result = add(a, b);
20
21
               expect(result).toBe( expected: 'Indiana Jones');
```

If we mock out the dependencies of a unit, then we test only what is the real job (a single responsibility, optimally) of that unit – and nothing else.

If we don't mock, then we test our unit, plus we test the dependency, plus the dependencies of that dependency (because we do not have a control on that), plus we really don't know what we test – it could be anything: maybe the whole application, maybe the whole internet...

## A test case should only test the unit's responsibility

If you want to test a banana, please don't test <u>a gorilla holding the banana</u> <u>and the entire jungle with it</u> at the same time.

How to write <del>good</del> not that bad unit tests – rule III.

You may have guessed now: we have just run into a serious issue with our new mock



The problem is: now we are aware of the implementation of our unit. We've just exposed the internals of our unit into the test.

28

Now we do know that *add* calls *addNumbers*.

We are aware of the internals. We can see inside. It is a...





What is going on inside the *add*? - we don't know anything about the internals. Does that call another function? What is the implementation? We don't know. We cannot see inside. It is a...





```
    math.spec.js ×

       import { add } from "./math";
      import * as mathPrimitives from "./math.primitives";
      describe( blockName: 'add() adds two'. blockFn: () => {
           describe( blockName: 'numbers when numbers', blockFn: () => {
               it( testName: 'are positive', fn: () => {
                   const [a, b] = [1, 2];
                   mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3);
                   const result = add(a, b);
                  expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
           it( testName: 'strings'. fn: () => {
              const [a, b] = ['Indiana', 'Jones'];
              const result = add(a, b);
              expect(result).toBe( expected: 'Indiana Jones');
```

## Don't expose the internals of the unit into the test

If you do so, the test will be tightly coupled with the implementation of the unit - any changes in the unit could break the test. The refactoring will be very hard now.

One of the major benefits of the unit testing is that we can change the implementation details without breaking the tests – we can <u>refactor</u> the code. Theoretically, if the unit tests covers the business requirements, then we can do anything in the unit, while the tests are a green, we are safe.

Exposing the implementation details into the test clearly defies that goal.

How to write <del>good</del> not that bad unit tests – rule IV.

## White box

# Exposes the internals of the unit into the test.

refactoring could break the tests, even when there is no new bugs;



a bug in any module could be separated and can be detected identified easily;

structural test: branches, edge cases can be identified and covered;

mocking many times is important and unavoidable (API calls);

# Black box

Hides the internals of the unit from the test.

mocking is impossible;

a bug in a module could lead to failed tests in several modules;



refactoring won't break the tests;

tests the external behavior: unit's public API;



The balance is very important. As mocking is expensive (requires a lot effort) it should be used when it makes sense or necessary. On the other hand, mocking does not make the refactoring impossible – it just requires a bit more attention and understanding. Also, the general testing approach and conventions do have impact on what, and when needed to mock.

#### Let's add a new test – now without mocking

But wait a minute, our new test fails! What is going on?

It seems that the mocked return value is leaking into the new test. The mock still in place!



this "3" is very suspicious: maybe it is the defined mockReturnValue?

```
describe( blockName: 'numbers when numbers are', blockFn: () => {
                it( testName: 'positive', fn: () => {
                   const [a, b] = [1, 2];
                   mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3);
                   const result = add(a, b);
                    expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
                it( testName: 'negative', fn: () => {
                   const [a, b] = [-1, -2];
                    const result = add(a, b);
                    expect(result).toBe( expected: -3);
21
        callback for describe()
Terminal: Local \times +
 FAIL src/math/math.spec.js
 • add() adds two > numbers when numbers are > negative
    expect(received).toBe(expected) // Object.is equality
    Expected: -3
    Received: 3
```

#### Mocks should be restored

When creating mocks with *jest.fn()* we have to restore it manually.

saving the original function —

restoring manually —

```
it( name: 'positive', fn: () => {
   const [a, b] = [1, 2];
   const addNumbersOriginal = mathPrimitives.addNumbers;
   mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3);

const result = add(a, b);

mathPrimitives.addNumbers = addNumbersOriginal;
   expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
});
```

however...

Can you spot the difference?

One of these tests is fine, the other does have a catastrophic consequence!

```
it( name: 'positive', fn: () => {
  const [a, b] = [1, 2];
  const addNumbersOriginal = mathPrimitives.addNumbers;
  mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3);

const result = add(a, b);

mathPrimitives.addNumbers = addNumbersOriginal;
  expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
});
```

```
it( testName: 'positive', fn: () => {
   const [a, b] = [1, 2];
   const addNumbersOriginal = mathPrimitives.addNumbers;
   mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3);

const result = add(a, b);

expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
   mathPrimitives.addNumbers = addNumbersOriginal;
});
```

35

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## A failed expect call will stop the code processing

In this case, if the test fails, the mock won't be restored.

```
it( testName: 'positive', fn: () => {
   const [a, b] = [1, 2];
   const addNumbersOriginal = mathPrimitives.addNumbers;
   mathPrimitives.addNumbers = jest.fn().mockReturnValue( value: 3);

const result = add(a, b);

expect(result).toBe( expected: 3);
   mathPrimitives.addNumbers = addNumbersOriginal;
});
```

if the expect fails, this code won't run

let's see if we can do it in a more convenient and safe way!

#### A spy can act as mock

The main goal of a spy to have an assertion about a function (a method) call: whether it has been called, how many times, with what parameters. The name "spy" is very descriptive here, we can spy on a function!

However, spies also useful for mocking functions:

```
function, similarly to jest.fn()

it( name: 'Infinity', fn: () => {
   const [a, b] = [Infinity, Infinity];
   const addNumbersSpy = jest.spyOn(mathPrimitives, method: 'addNumbers').mockReturnValue(Infinity);

const result = add(a, b);

addNumbersSpy.mockRestore();
   expect(result).toBe(Infinity);
});
```

*spyOn* returns a <u>mock</u>

restoring mocks in every test, however, is very cumbersome and error prone...

#### beforeEach() and afterEach()

can be useful when we have tasks (preparation or cleanup), that we need to run after every tests.

```
beforeEach( fn: () => {
    jest.restoreAllMocks();
});

it( name: 'Infinity', fn: () => {
    const [a, b] = [Infinity, Infinity];
    jest.spyOn(mathPrimitives, method: 'addNumbers').mockReturnValue(Infinity);

    const result = add(a, b);

    expect(result).toBe(Infinity);
});
```

