

Putting Software Testing Terminology to the Test

M.A.Sc. Seminar

Samuel Crawford, B.Eng.

McMaster University
Department of Computing and Software

Fall 2024

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

- Drasil
- Generating Test Cases

2 Project

- Drasil
- Why Test Generated Code?
- Next Steps

3 References

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

- Drasil
- Generating Test Cases

2 Project

- Drasil
- Why Test Generated Code?
- Next Steps

3 References

Drasil

What is Drasil?

My project was originally focused on Drasil, “a framework for generating all of the software artifacts from a stable knowledge base, focusing currently on scientific software” [Hunt et al., 2021]



Drasil's Logo [Carette et al., 2021]

¹<https://jacquescarette.github.io/Drasil/>

Drasil

What is Drasil?

My project was originally focused on Drasil, “a framework for generating all of the software artifacts from a stable knowledge base, focusing currently on scientific software” [Hunt et al., 2021]

- I worked on Drasil as an Undergraduate Summer Research Assistant during the summers of 2018 and 2019



Drasil's Logo [Carette et al., 2021]

¹<https://jacquescarette.github.io/Drasil/>

Drasil

What is Drasil?

My project was originally focused on Drasil, “a framework for generating all of the software artifacts from a stable knowledge base, focusing currently on scientific software” [Hunt et al., 2021]

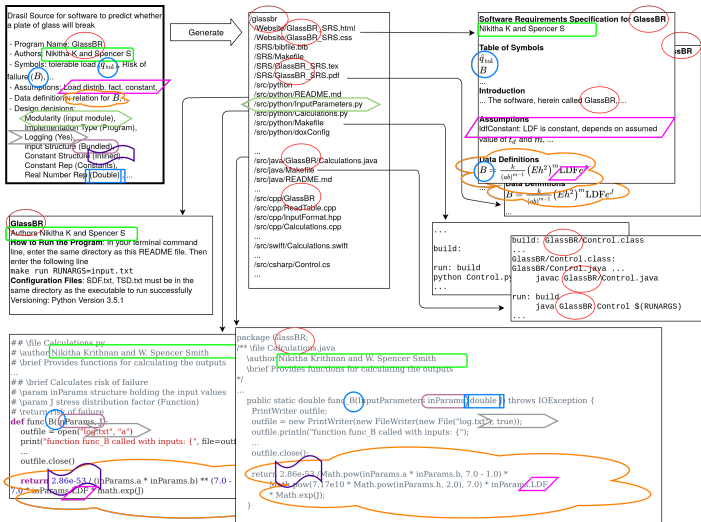
- I worked on Drasil as an Undergraduate Summer Research Assistant during the summers of 2018 and 2019
- “Recipes” specify how information from the knowledge based is used to generate software artifacts, including:
 - SRS (HTML, PDF, Markdown)
 - Code (Python, Java, C#, C++, Swift, Julia)
 - READMEs and Makefiles
 - Drasil’s own website¹!



Drasil’s Logo [Carette et al., 2021]

¹<https://jacquescarette.github.io/Drasil/>

Visualizing Drasil's Traceability



Knowledge flow from knowledge base to artifacts; by Dr. Spencer Smith

Generating Test Cases

RIP to GOOT and TestGen

- My project was originally going to be implementing test case generation in Drasil

Generating Test Cases

RIP to GOOT and TestGen

- My project was originally going to be implementing test case generation in Drasil
- The rough workflow:
 - ① Implement manual testing
 - Manual unit tests (26 **passed**, 18 **failed with known reason**)
 - Manual system tests (3 **passed**, 4 **failed with known reason**)

Generating Test Cases

RIP to GOOT and TestGen

- My project was originally going to be implementing test case generation in Drasil
- The rough workflow:
 - 1 Implement manual testing
 - Manual unit tests (26 passed, 18 failed with known reason)
 - Manual system tests (3 passed, 4 failed with known reason)
 - 2 Understand the stable knowledge base to create new “recipes”

Generating Test Cases

RIP to GOOT and TestGen

- My project was originally going to be implementing test case generation in Drasil
- The rough workflow:
 - 1 Implement manual testing
 - Manual unit tests (26 **passed**, 18 **failed with known reason**)
 - Manual system tests (3 **passed**, 4 **failed with known reason**)
 - 2 Understand the stable knowledge base to create new “recipes”
 - 3 Generate test cases!

Generating Test Cases

RIP to GOOT and TestGen

- My project was originally going to be implementing test case generation in Drasil
- The rough workflow:
 - 1 Implement manual testing
 - Manual unit tests (26 passed, 18 failed with known reason)
 - Manual system tests (3 passed, 4 failed with known reason)
 - 2 Understand the stable knowledge base to create new “recipes”
 - 3 Generate test cases!
- There was a big assumption in this plan that drastically changed my project

The Need for a Knowledge Base

- Drasil is built for “(well understood) research software” [Carette et al., 2021] based on knowledge of:

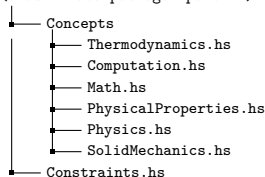
² READMEs excluded for brevity; see

<https://github.com/JacquesCarette/Drasil/tree/main/code/drasil-data/lib/Data/Drasil>

The Need for a Knowledge Base

- Drasil is built for “(well understood) research software” [Carette et al., 2021] based on knowledge of:
 - 1 Concepts used by the software,

(drasil-data package² part #1)



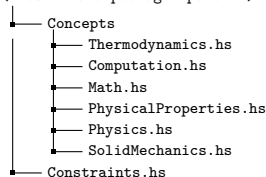
² READMEs excluded for brevity; see

<https://github.com/JacquesCarette/Drasil/tree/main/code/drasil-data/lib/Data/Drasil>

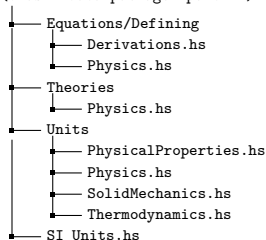
The Need for a Knowledge Base

- Drasil is built for “(well understood) research software” [Carette et al., 2021] based on knowledge of:
 - 1 Concepts used by the software,
 - 2 Math used by the software or its derivation, and

(drasil-data package² part #1)



(drasil-data package² part #2)



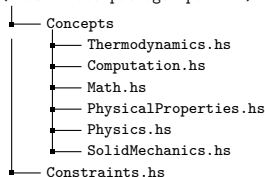
² READMEs excluded for brevity; see

<https://github.com/JacquesCarette/Drasil/tree/main/code/drasil-data/lib/Data/Drasil>

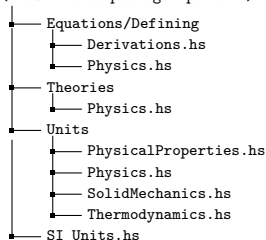
The Need for a Knowledge Base

- Drasil is built for “(well understood) research software” [Carette et al., 2021] based on knowledge of:
 - 1 Concepts used by the software,
 - 2 Math used by the software or its derivation, and
 - 3 Information used by Drasil used for generating artifacts

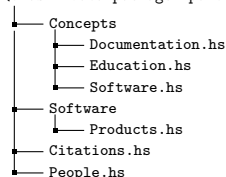
(drasil-data package² part #1)



(drasil-data package² part #2)



(drasil-data package² part #3)



² READMEs excluded for brevity; see

<https://github.com/JacquesCarette/Drasil/tree/main/code/drasil-data/lib/Data/Drasil>

The Problem with Testing Literature

Unstandardized Standards

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

- Drasil
- Generating Test Cases

2 Project

- Drasil
- Why Test Generated Code?
- Next Steps

3 References

Problem Statement

- Currently, there is no way to verify Drasil's output

Problem Statement

- Currently, there is no way to verify Drasil's output
- Drasil is "tested" by comparing generated artifacts to stable

Problem Statement

- Currently, there is no way to verify Drasil's output
- Drasil is "tested" by comparing generated artifacts to stable
- This does not actually say anything about Drasil's output!

Purpose Statement

- The purpose of this research is to implement test case generation to verify generated code
- These test cases will be generated from information within Drasil

Purpose Statement

- The purpose of this research is to implement test case generation to verify generated code
- These test cases will be generated from information within Drasil
- Why use test cases for verification as opposed to, say, consistency/correctness checks?

Purpose Statement

- The purpose of this research is to implement test case generation to verify generated code
- These test cases will be generated from information within Drasil
- Why use test cases for verification as opposed to, say, consistency/correctness checks?
 - 1 A more well-defined, Master's level scope

Purpose Statement

- The purpose of this research is to implement test case generation to verify generated code
- These test cases will be generated from information within Drasil
- Why use test cases for verification as opposed to, say, consistency/correctness checks?
 - 1 A more well-defined, Master's level scope
 - 2 Targets a more complex artifact that is harder to verify

Purpose Statement

- The purpose of this research is to implement test case generation to verify generated code
- These test cases will be generated from information within Drasil
- Why use test cases for verification as opposed to, say, consistency/correctness checks?
 - 1 A more well-defined, Master's level scope
 - 2 Targets a more complex artifact that is harder to verify
 - 3 Gives Drasil another "bragging point"!

Why Test Generated Code?

If the code is being generated from a stable knowledge base, then it should be correct. Why waste effort testing it?

Why Test Generated Code?

If the code is being generated from a stable knowledge base, then it should be correct. Why waste effort testing it?

- 1 The knowledge base is not actually "stable" yet

Why Test Generated Code?

If the code is being generated from a stable knowledge base, then it should be correct. Why waste effort testing it?

- 1 The knowledge base is not actually "stable" yet
- 2 There are plenty of places for a mistake to be introduced

Why Test Generated Code?

If the code is being generated from a stable knowledge base, then it should be correct. Why waste effort testing it?

- 1 The knowledge base is not actually "stable" yet
- 2 There are plenty of places for a mistake to be introduced
- 3 Testing provides a greater degree of confidence in Drasil's capabilities

Why Test Generated Code?

If the code is being generated from a stable knowledge base, then it should be correct. Why waste effort testing it?

- 1 The knowledge base is not actually "stable" yet
- 2 There are plenty of places for a mistake to be introduced
- 3 Testing provides a greater degree of confidence in Drasil's capabilities
- 4 Generating code for testing allows for it to be done "properly" instead of taking shortcuts commonly taken by humans

Next Steps

2. Understand the manual artifact (and its components) well

Next Steps

2. Understand the manual artifact (and its components) well
 - Understanding the problem domain lets one develop a solution that:
 - Makes use of all areas of the domain
 - Follows domain standards, including quality and terminology

Next Steps

2. Understand the manual artifact (and its components) well
 - Understanding the problem domain lets one develop a solution that:
 - Makes use of all areas of the domain
 - Follows domain standards, including quality and terminology
 - There are specific areas of testing that need to be understood:

Next Steps

2. Understand the manual artifact (and its components) well
 - Understanding the problem domain lets one develop a solution that:
 - Makes use of all areas of the domain
 - Follows domain standards, including quality and terminology
 - There are specific areas of testing that need to be understood:
 - **Research Question #1:** What information is necessary for different types of testing?

2. Understand the manual artifact (and its components) well
 - Understanding the problem domain lets one develop a solution that:
 - Makes use of all areas of the domain
 - Follows domain standards, including quality and terminology
 - There are specific areas of testing that need to be understood:
 - **Research Question #1:** What information is necessary for different types of testing?
 - **Research Question #2:** How can test cases be generated from information that currently exists within Drasil?

2. Understand the manual artifact (and its components) well
 - Understanding the problem domain lets one develop a solution that:
 - Makes use of all areas of the domain
 - Follows domain standards, including quality and terminology
 - There are specific areas of testing that need to be understood:
 - **Research Question #1:** What information is necessary for different types of testing?
 - **Research Question #2:** How can test cases be generated from information that currently exists within Drasil?
 - **Research Question #3:** How can new information be added to facilitate the generation of more types of testing?

Next Steps

2. Understand the manual artifact (and its components) well
 - Understanding the problem domain lets one develop a solution that:
 - Makes use of all areas of the domain
 - Follows domain standards, including quality and terminology
 - There are specific areas of testing that need to be understood:
 - **Research Question #1:** What information is necessary for different types of testing?
 - **Research Question #2:** How can test cases be generated from information that currently exists within Drasil?
 - **Research Question #3:** How can new information be added to facilitate the generation of more types of testing?

"The information you have should be just as useful for generating tests as it should be for manually running them." — Dr. Jacques Carette

Next Steps

3. Generate it!

3. Generate it!

- Test cases will then be written for:
 - Other variabilities of Projectile's Python implementation
 - Projectile's implementation in other languages
 - Other examples where code is generated: GlassBR, NoPCM, DbIPendulum, PD Controller [Hunt et al., 2021]

3. Generate it!

- Test cases will then be written for:
 - Other variabilities of Projectile's Python implementation
 - Projectile's implementation in other languages
 - Other examples where code is generated: GlassBR, NoPCM, DbIPendulum, PD Controller [Hunt et al., 2021]
- These test cases will also be added to Drasil's CI/CD to ensure that future changes preserve the code's functionality

Acknowledgment

- Dr. Smith and Dr. Carette have been great supervisors in the past and have, both then and now, provided me with valuable guidance and feedback
 - They have helped me refine the scope of this project
 - The project itself was originally posed by Dr. Smith back in 2020!

Acknowledgment

- Dr. Smith and Dr. Carette have been great supervisors in the past and have, both then and now, provided me with valuable guidance and feedback
 - They have helped me refine the scope of this project
 - The project itself was originally posed by Dr. Smith back in 2020!
- The format of this presentation was *heavily* based on a previous presentation by Jason Balaci, who also provided a great thesis template

Acknowledgment

- Dr. Smith and Dr. Carette have been great supervisors in the past and have, both then and now, provided me with valuable guidance and feedback
 - They have helped me refine the scope of this project
 - The project itself was originally posed by Dr. Smith back in 2020!
- The format of this presentation was *heavily* based on a previous presentation by Jason Balaci, who also provided a great thesis template
- The past and current Drasil team have created a truly amazing framework!

Thank you!
Questions?

Table of Contents

1 Introduction



- Drasil
- Generating Test Cases

2 Project

- Drasil
- Why Test Generated Code?
- Next Steps

3 References

References

-  Carette, J., Smith, S., Balaci, J., Wu, T.-Y., Crawford, S., Chen, D., Szymczak, D., MacLachlan, B., Scime, D., and Niazi, M. (2021). Drasil.
-  Hunt, A., Michalski, P., Chen, D., Balaci, J., and Smith, S. (2021). Drasil - Generate All the Things!