

KeYTestGen2: a verification-driven test case generation system

BY CHRISTOPHER SVANEFALK

B.Sc. Thesis.

University of Gothenburg, Chalmers University of Technology
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Responsible supervisor: Gabriele Paganelli, Mr.Sc.
Supervisor: Dr. Wolfgang Ahrendt.

Gothenburg, June 2013

Abstract

Software testing is a common verification technique in software engineering, aiding both the development of the system itself, as well as subsequent quality assurance, maintenance and extension. It suffers, however, from the drawback that writing high quality test cases is an error prone and resource heavy process.

This work describes KeYTestGen2, a verification-driven, automatic test case generation system. It addresses the problem of automatically generating robust test code by relying on symbolic execution of Java source code using the KeY Symbolic Debugger. This process yields sufficiently detailed data about software systems in order to generate tests of high quality. KeYTestGen2 implements a robust processing system which can both control this process, and mold the generated data into executable test suites for modern automated testing frameworks, such as JUnit.

Acknowledgement

This work has been made possible through the tireless support of the KeY community, which has always been available to give me guidance in all things related to the project. I especially thank Dr. Reiner Hähnle, Dr. Richard Bubel, Martin Hentschel and their colleagues at the Darmstadt University of Technology, for letting me stay and work with them leading up to the 2012 KeY Symposium.

My deepest thanks to Dr. Wolfgang Ahrendt, Gabriele Paganelli and the *Software Engineering using Formal Methods* group at Chalmers, for inviting me to join them in their work. This project would never have started without them.

Table of contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Motivation: the pursuit of correctness	1
1.2	Contribution of this work	2
1.2.1	Software testing as a means to correctness	3
1.2.2	Automated test generation and KeYTestGen2	3
1.2.3	Verification-driven test case generation	4
1.3	Background	4
1.3.1	Previous work - KeYTestGen	4
1.3.2	Towards KeYTestGen2	5
1.3.3	Target platforms	5
1.4	Organization of this work	5
2	Fundamental concepts	6
2.1	Specifications - formalizing correctness	6
2.1.1	The Java Modelling Language	7
2.2	Software verification and verification methods	7
2.2.1	The verification ecosystem	8
2.2.2	The formal methods	8
2.2.3	Software testing	9
2.3	Unit testing	10
2.4	Test frameworks	11
2.4.1	xUnit	11
2.5	Coverage criteria - a metric for test quality	12
2.5.1	Graph coverage	13
2.5.2	Logic coverage	14
2.5.3	Code coverage and automatic test case generators	17
2.6	Automating testing	17
2.7	Automating test case generation	17
2.7.1	Black box test generators	17
2.7.2	White box test generators	18
2.7.3	Glass box test generators	18
3	The KeY system	19
3.1	KeY - an overview	19
3.2	Symbolic Execution	19
3.2.1	Symbolic execution as a basis for test generation	21
3.3	Symbolic Debugging	21
3.3.1	Overview	21
3.3.2	KeYTestGen2 and the Symbolic Debugger	22
4	Implementation	23
4.1	Requirements	23
4.1.1	Non-functional requirements	23

4.2 Architectural overview	24
4.2.1 General architecture	24
4.2.2 Data flow	25
4.2.3 Core	26
4.2.4 Backend	26
4.2.5 Frontend	26
4.3 The Core	26
4.3.1 The KeYInterface	27
4.3.2 The Model Generator	28
4.3.3 The CoreInterface	32
4.3.4 The Code Coverage Parser (CCP)	33
4.4 The Backend	33
4.4.1 TestSuiteGenerator	34
4.4.2 Framework converters	35
4.4.3 Generating Java source files	35
4.5 The JUnit Converter	35
4.5.1 General structure	35
4.5.2 Test fixture generation	36
4.5.3 Test oracle generation	37
4.6 The Frontend	37
4.6.1 Provided user interfaces	38
4.7 Tools and Utilities	38
4.7.1 Term Tools	38
4.7.2 Benchmarking	39
5 Evaluation and future work	40
5.1 Evaluation	40
5.1.1 Fulfillment of non-functional requirements	40
5.1.2 Overall assessment	42
5.2 Could we create useful test suites?	42
5.2.1 Code readability	42
5.3 Future work	45
5.3.1 Reducing external dependencies	45
5.3.2 Code coverage	46
5.3.3 Input partitioning coverage	46
5.3.4 Improved user feedback	46
5.3.5 KeY integration	47
5.3.6 Support for more frameworks and test granularities	47
6 Conclusion	48
7 Appendix A - KeYTestGen requirements.	49
7.1 Test Case Inputs	49
7.1.1 User Requirements	49
7.1.2 Technical Requirements	50
7.2 Test Oracle	50
7.2.1 User Requirements	50

7.2.2 Technical Requirements	50
8 Appendix B - Input and output examples	51
Bibliography	58

1 Introduction

June 4th, 1996.

It is early afternoon, and despite the unmistakable advance of summer, a cloud canopy lingers over French Guiana.

The few rays that penetrate the cloud cover proceed to reflect off of the white-metallic hull of Ariane 5. She towers about 52 metres tall on the launch pad, her twin boosters already being prepared for her momentous next 5 minutes. She is the latest marvel in European space exploration, the first of her kind, and has cost over 370 million USD to construct. With her, she carries 4 Cluster II satellites, which she over the next few hours will deploy in low orbit in order to help scientists study the interaction between cosmic rays and the earth's magnetic field. Expectations from resident ESA officials could hardly have been higher. Somewhere in the control room, a napkin dries beads of sweat from the forehead of an operator. Maybe it's the heat.

At 12:33:56 one of the French operators begins to announce the last 10 seconds of Ariane's time on solid ground. The seconds pass by, the liftoff signal is given, her boosters flash and shake, and she ascends towards the skies, carried on a magnificent plume of burning rocket fuel. Her roars can be heard from kilometres away.

37 seconds later, the burning remains of Ariane 5 are falling back to ground she left just moments earlier. She has self-destructed in mid launch. Nobody is injured, but hundreds of millions of invested dollars have been lost in just a few seconds, and one of the ESA's most prominent projects has suffered a catastrophic setback. In the control room, more than a few napkins press against incredulous foreheads. The heat probably has very little to do with it right now.

Ariane 5 is dead, because somebody, in the course of her development, had assumed that it would be safe to round a 64-bit integer to a 16-bit representation.

It wasn't.

1.1 Motivation: the pursuit of correctness

The Ariane 5 disaster [31][19][33] has become a flagship example of the potentially disastrous consequences of *software failure*. Through her demise, she emphasized the prominence of one of the great challenges in software engineering: the pursuit of *correctness* - assuring that a software system functions as intended.

The advent of the Information Age has transformed human civilisation like nothing else in our history, and we now live in a world which is growing ever closer to irreversible dependence on computer technology. In modern countries, computers and the software they run saturate almost every aspect of life, from keeping the institutions of society running, to helping individuals work and stay in touch with their loved ones. Due to our dependence on them, we also deal with the consequences of their failings on an almost daily basis. Smartphones resetting, laptop screens going black, and word processors crashing¹, are all symptoms of software failure.

While these examples may be trivial at best, and their consequences inconvenient at worst², the stakes rapidly scale up when we consider just how many of the more critical elements of our societies depend on software. Software operates life-support systems, medical instruments³, emergency dispatch services, banking systems, military appliances⁴, nuclear reactors, airplanes, and in important research projects such as the Large Hadron Collider. Here, our dependence on software means that its cost of failure runs a high risk of being counted, ultimately, in human lives and property.

With all this in mind, it is clear the pursuit of correctness is one of the most important tasks in any software engineering process. The present work is all about contributing to winning that pursuit.

1.2 Contribution of this work

This work describes the implementation of **KeYTestGen2**, a *verification-driven*, automatic test case generation system, as well as the theoretical concepts behind it. It aims to improve the software engineering process by allowing programmers to easily construct robust and complete *test code* for their programs.

Below, we elaborate a bit on the importance, strengths and weaknesses of software testing, and then briefly outline why the contribution of KeYTestGen2 is important in this regard.

1. Although, as is commonly known, word processors always wait to crash until you manage to somehow disable document recovery.

2. Depending on what was in that document you just lost, of course!

3. In at least 6 incidents between 1985 and 1987, the Therac-25 radiation therapy machine delivered massive radiation overdoses to patients, resulting in the deaths of 5. One of the sources of the malfunction was a race condition in the control software of the machine.

4. In 1991, during the Gulf War, a software failure in a then-deployed Patriot missile battery caused it to fail to intercept an incoming SCUD ballistic missile, leading to the deaths of 28 soldiers. Scores of others suffered injuries.

1.2.1 Software testing as a means to correctness

In contemporary software development, one of the most popular approaches to verification is *software testing*. Simply put, testing means constructing a specific starting state (pre-state) for the system, executing the system (or specific parts of it), and then asserting that the state of the system after such execution (the post-state) satisfies some specific set of constraints⁵.

The wide popularity of testing as a verification approach is based on good grounds. It is intuitive, generally simple to implement, and enjoys rich tool support for practically all major programming languages. Such tools frequently allow the automatic execution of groups of tests, which makes continually verifying the codebase as it grows an easy task. Finally, testing is also a flexible approach, which can be applied to several stages of both software engineering and the system itself.

Testing is no silver bullet in terms of verification, however, and suffers from two principal drawbacks:

1. Testing is not exhaustive. It can verify that certain specific runs of the system behave correctly, but it generally cannot give assurance regarding others which it does not cover. To mitigate this, tests can be constructed in such a way that they together cover a representative set pre-states and execution runs through the source code itself, in order to give greater assurance that cases which are not covered may by implication work correctly as well.
2. While good tool support exists for it, creating tests can still takes considerable time and effort. Further, constructing the kind of high quality tests suggested above is generally even more demanding, as it requires meticulous investigation of the code itself in order to make sure that all relevant inputs and execution paths are covered.

1.2.2 Automated test generation and KeYTestGen2

One possible way of resolving issue #2 in the previous section is to *automate* the test generation process itself. Not only does this take the burden of writing test code off the programmer, but it can potentially provide additional, important benefits as well. One such benefit, for example, would be the possibility to generate test code of a certain *quality level* which would be difficult for humans to construct manually. A prominent such criteria is *code coverage*, which we elaborate on in section 2.

5. This notion is formalized in section 2.1.

1.2.3 Verification-driven test case generation

KeYTestGen2 is a verification-driven test case generator, in the sense that it harvests metadata generated by the proof engine of the KeY system⁶. This allows it to thoroughly explore the possible execution paths through the system under test, select a subset of them, and then construct test cases for these specific execution paths. By doing so, KeYTestGen2 effectively addresses the problem of automatically generating robust test data, as it has the ability to generate tests which satisfy both code coverage criteria, and potentially various input constraints as well⁷.

1.3 Background

While KeYTestGen2 aims to be novel in its implementation, the concepts it is based on have been well understood for a long time. Below, we give a brief overview of *KeYTestGen*, the precursor of KeYTestGen2, and then explain how KeYTestGen2 improves on this previous work.

1.3.1 Previous work - KeYTestGen

As the name implies, KeYTestGen2 is a sequel - although not entirely.

Conceptually, KeYTestGen2 is based on an earlier system called the *Verification-Based Testcase Generator*, which was developed as part of research by Dr. Christoph Gladisch, Dr. Bernhard Beckert, and others [22][20][7][24][25]. This system was subsequently adopted and further developed by researchers at Chalmers University of Technology, where it was also (re-)branded as *KeYTestGen* [23].

The idea behind KeYTestGen was to create a glass box test generation system⁸ based on the state-of-the-art symbolic execution⁹ system used in KeY [22]. The symbolic execution carried out by KeY, due to its rigour¹⁰, explored the source code of Java programs so thoroughly that the resulting metadata could be used to create test cases satisfying such rigorous code coverage criteria as MC/DC¹¹.

KeYTestGen showed itself to be a powerful proof of concept, being used by Chalmers in at least one international research project, and even receiving mention by the ACM. For various reasons, however, the developers behind it abandoned the project, and it is currently no longer being actively maintained¹².

6. See section 3.

7. See section 5.3.3.

8. See section 2.7.3.

9. See section 3.2.

10. A virtue of KeY being a deductive verification tool.

11. See section 2.5.2.

12. While the source code of KeYTestGen is no longer being distributed as part of the mainline KeY system, it still exists on a separate development branch. An executable legacy version of the system itself is still available for download on the KeY homepage.

1.3.2 Towards KeYTestGen2

Despite its name, KeYTestGen2 is not an attempt to resurrect KeYTestGen. Rather, it is an attempt to create, completely from scratch, a novel white box test case generation system based on the same fundamental principles as the original KeYTestGen. It is designed to provide the same basic functionality as its predecessor, while at the same time bringing a host of new features to the table. Ultimately, KeYTestGen2 is aimed to be useful in an actual, industrial context.

1.3.3 Target platforms

KeYTestGen2 is purely implemented in Java, and can hence execute on all platforms capable of running a Java Virtual Machine. As input, it consumes Java source files.

The system produces output in a variety of formats, including XML and JUnit¹³, the latter being our focus of attention in this work.

1.4 Organization of this work

The remainder of this work is broken up into 5 sections:

- **Section 2** is an introduction to the general theoretical concepts behind KeYTestGen2. Here we introduce software verification, testing, symbolic execution, and related concepts. This section is provided for the sake of context, and readers familiar with these concepts can ignore it, or refer to select parts.
- **Section 3** provides an introduction to the KeY system, the parent project of KeYTestGen2, which also forms its technological foundation.
- **Section 4** describes the architecture and implementation of KeYTestGen2 itself.
- **Section 5** gives an evaluation of the work done thus far, outlines ongoing work, and discusses future plans for the project.
- **Section 6** gives a conclusion to the work.

13. See section 2.4.1.

2 Fundamental concepts

In this section, we will lay a theoretical foundation for the rest of the work by outlining the central concepts underpinning its functionality.

We will begin by looking at software verification and verification methods, focusing especially on *software testing* as a verification method. Here, we formally define concepts central to testing itself, as well as the related testing quality metric known as *code coverage*.

Following this, we cover *test automation* - first the automation of the test execution process, and then the central interest of this work: automating the test case generation process itself. Here, we introduce black box and white box test generation systems, focusing on the white box ones, in connection with which we also introduce the concept of *symbolic execution*.

2.1 Specifications - formalizing correctness

Until now we have been content with using a rather loose definition of correctness, simply saying that software should “function as intended”. Here, we will formalize this notion of correctness. To do so, we need to introduce the notion of a *specification*.

Definition 1.

A **specification** for some code segment m in some software system s is a triple

$$(Pre, m, Post)$$

where Pre (or **preconditions**) is a set of constraints on the state of s immediately prior to the execution of m , and $Post$ (**postconditions**) is a set of constraints on the state of s immediately after the execution of m terminates, s.t. $Pre \rightarrow Post$ ($Post$ always holds given that Pre holds).

By “state of s ” we mean both the internal state of s itself, as well as any external factors which s depends on, such as a database, sensor, etc.

Specifications are also commonly called *contracts*, since they specify a contractual relationship between software and the entity invoking it (the *callee* and *caller*). Under this contract, the callee gives certain guarantees (i.e. the postconditions) to the caller, given that the caller satisfies certain criteria (the preconditions) regarding how the call is made.

2.1.1 The Java Modelling Language

In Java, specifications can be expressed informally as part of Javadoc comments¹⁴ or ordinary comments. However, a more rigorous approach is to use a *specification language*. These are languages developed specifically for formulating rigorous and non-ambiguous specifications for software.

For Java, perhaps the most prominent such language is the Java Modelling Language; JML [16][32]. JML is written inside ordinary Java comments for the code it relates to.

Example 2. A formally specified Java method.

The following is a specification for a simple addition function for positive intergers. The specification is expressed in the JML language.

```
/*@ public spec normal_behavior
   @ requires x > 0 & y > 0
   @ ensures \result == x + y & \result > 0
   @*/
public static void addWholePositive(int x, int y){

    if(x < 0 || y < 0) {
        throw new
            IllegalArgumentException(
                "Not a positive whole number");
    }

    return x + y;
}
```

The **requires** clause here contain the preconditions, while the **ensures** clause contains the postconditions. `\result` denotes the value returned by the function. As can be easily seen here, this specification guarantees that the result will equal $x+y$ and be greater than 0, if parameters x and y are both greater than 0 at the time of invocation.

2.2 Software verification and verification methods

In software development, the process of ensuring the correctness of software is called *verification*¹⁵. A given approach to verifying software is called a *verification method*.

14. It should be noted that the Javadoc specification has native tags for expressing specifications, such as `@pre` and `@inv`. These are nowhere near expressive enough to write thorough specifications, however.

15. Verification is a rich field of research and application all by itself, and we will only skim the surface here in order to create context for the rest of this work.

2.2.1 The verification ecosystem

Today, there is a wide array of verification methods available. To get an overview of the ecosystem they make up, we may classify¹⁶ them according to the *degree* of correctness they are intended to provide. We can think of them as spread across a spectrum, ranging from methods that take a rather lightweight and informal approach, to methods which are much more rigorous and approach mathematical precision in the kind of correctness they guarantee.

2.2.2 The formal methods

On the rigorous end of this spectrum we find the *formal methods*, which take a strict approach to correctness, generally requiring a mathematical or otherwise exhaustive demonstration that the software conforms to its specification.

One prominent example of this approach is *deductive verification*, which treats the actual program code and its specification as part of some kind of logic, and uses a calculus for the same logic to deduce whether or not the code is correct with regard to the specification. The KeY system, which we will examine later, follows this approach.

Another widely used approach is *model checking*, which relies on constructing a model of the system, and then verifying properties of this model. If the properties can be shown to hold for the model, it (usually) follow that they hold for the software itself.

The chief strength of formal methods is precisely their more complete approach to correctness: if a logical proof, validated model or equivalent can be obtained for some behavior of the software, we can be reasonably assured¹⁷ that this behavior will always hold during runtime. For safety-critical applications, such as aircraft control systems, formal methods is often the desired approach to verification due to their demand for, practically, totally fail-safe operation.

On the downside, formal verification is usually a resource heavy process, requiring special tool support, specialist training, and planning in order to be effectively deployed, or even feasible at all. Applying it to larger, or even general projects which do not require such a strict degree of correctness may thus not be a viable option.

16. In addition to what is described here, methods are commonly grouped in terms of whether they are *static* or *dynamic*. Static methods verify code without actually executing it, and includes both informal methods such as code inspection and tool-supported introspection, and formal methods such as model checking. Dynamic methods rely on observing the system under execution, and include informal approaches like testing, and more formal ones like runtime monitors. We do not distinguish between these categories here, as there is no need to understand it in order to understand KeYTestGen2 or its concepts.

17. We can never be completely assured of this, as formal methods often only work on the source code level of the software itself. To assure 100% correctness, we would need to formally verify any underlying implementations as well, including compilers, interpreters, VMs and operating systems. Such extensive formal verification is usually infeasible.

2.2.3 Software testing

On the other end, we find the various, informal *testing methods*. The basic idea behind these is executing the system - in whole or in part - with some well-defined input and subsequently analyzing the output of the execution, usually by comparing it to some expected output. Just what such expected output and well-defined input should be, is usually determined (respectively) by analyzing the postconditions and preconditions for the parts being tested.

Testing methods benefit from being (much!) more intuitive and easy to use, as they embody what programmers normally do to check their code: specify some controlled input, execute the code, and determine if the output conforms to expected behavior. Due to this, testing is generally easier to adopt and use, as compared to the formal methods. The fundamental simplicity of testing also makes it a highly flexible process which easily scales to a wide range of applications.

The simplistic and informal nature of testing, however, is also its chief weakness. Since testing is not exhaustive¹⁸, its degree of guaranteed correctness is far less than that of formal methods. As Edsger Dijkstra put it,

“testing can demonstrate the presence of errors, but never their absence”

In other words, testing a system can help us to locate bugs in it, but unlike a formal proof it can never give us any broader guarantees about the system actually being correct with regards to its specification.

In terms of time and resources invested, testing is not always necessarily cheap, either. Writing test cases is an engineering discipline in its own right, and depending on the target extent of testing for a given system, it can in severe cases take more time to write tests for the system than the system itself.

Further, since the quality of a set of tests very much depend on how well it explores interesting execution paths in the system under test, considerable care has to be taken in order to avoid gaps in such coverage. All of this takes time, and in many cases, like with the formal methods, special training of team members responsible for testing. It is also very easy, despite all this, to get it wrong.

Despite its problems, the simplicity and flexibility of testing still makes it one of the most frequently used verification methods in the contemporary industry, enjoying a broad range of tool support and studies. In the present work, this is the manner of verification we will put the brunt of our focus on.

¹⁸. We can of course make testing exhaustive by constructing tests for *all* possible ways a system can perform a given task. However, it is obvious that this does not scale even for trivial programs. Furthermore, if we are looking for verification by exhaustive examination of possible executions, this is exactly what model checking is

2.3 Unit testing

Testing can be done at several levels of granularity, ranging from testing the complete system, to testing interaction between modules, down to testing only atomic *units* of functionality [37]. In most programming languages, such units correspond to a function or routine (or method in an object oriented context). Testing such units is predictably called *unit testing*.

A *test case* represents a single test for some unit in a software system. Formally, we define it like this:

Definition 3.

- Given a unit u , a **test case** T for u is a tuple (In, Or) , where
- *In* (“input”) is a tuple (P, S) , where
 - P is a set of parameter values to be passed to u , and
 - S is the state of the surrounding system as u starts executing.
 - *Or* (“oracle”) is a function $Or(R, F) \rightarrow \{true, false\}$, where
 - R is the return value of u (if any), and
 - F is the state of the system after u terminates.
- Or* returns **true** if R and F match the expected system state after the unit terminates, and **false** otherwise.

The common approach in contemporary practice is to organize test cases into *test suites*, where each such test suite consists only of test cases for a given method. While other such organizations exist, this is the approach followed by KeYTestGen2.

Definition 4.

Given a unit u and a set of test cases Ts for u , the tuple (u, Ts) is referred to as a **test suite** for u .

Unit testing is a desirable level of granularity for many reasons. In particular, it can be used from the very beginning in most software engineering processes, since it requires only that the system contains a single unit to start writing tests for¹⁹. Further, unit testing is useful in debugging, as the cause for a test failing can be tracked down to a single unit and tackled there. This makes it an excellent tool for isolating regressions in the code as it is being developed and extended.

¹⁹. In fact, there are software engineering processes which are completely test-driven, and advocate writing the tests *before* the actual code is even implemented. A prominent example of such a process is *Test-Driven Development*.

The remainder of this work assumes we are working in a unit testing environment, and this is the granularity we will have in mind whenever we mention testing for the remainder of it.

2.4 Test frameworks

A larger system will usually consist of hundreds - if not thousands - of individual units. Assuming we wish to create at least one test case for each of the non-trivial ones²⁰ (which is usually the case), we will swiftly end up with a massive pool of test code to manage. In addition to that, we still need some kind of tool or scripting support for effectively executing the test cases, tracking down failures, and so forth.

The definitive way to make this easy is to use a *test framework* for developing and running our unit tests. Such a framework will usually contain both a toolkit for developing and structuring the test cases themselves, as well as a comprehensive environment to run and study their output in. Today, at least one such framework exists for practically every major programming language in existence.

2.4.1 xUnit

The most popular family of unit testing frameworks in contemporary use is most likely xUnit. Initially described in a landmark paper by Kent Beck [6] on testing SmallTalk code, xUnit is now implemented for a wide range of programming languages²¹.

In an xUnit framework, a set of xUnit tests are created for a subset of the units in the system to be tested. Each such test generally has the following life cycle [34]:

1. *Setup a test fixture*. Here, we set up everything that has to be in place in order for the test to run as intended. This includes instantiating the system as a whole to a desired state, as well as creating any necessary parameter values for the unit.
2. *Exercise* the test code. Here, we execute the unit itself with the parameters generated above, starting in the system state generated above.
3. *Verify* the system state after the unit finishes executing. Here, we use a *test oracle* - a boolean function, to evaluate if the resulting state of the system satisfies our expectations. For example, for a method pushing an object to a stack, the oracle might verify that the stack has been incremented, and that the object on top is the object we expected to be pushed.
4. *Tear down* the test environment. Here, we undo whatever the previous 3 steps did to the system state, restoring it to a mint condition ready to accept another test case.

20. i.e. setters, getters and the like.

21. For Java, the language which we are concerned with here, the most popular such implementation is called JUnit.

2.5 Coverage criteria - a metric for test quality

We have now introduced how to construct and organize test cases, but we still have not said much about how we can determine their *quality* with regard to the code they are testing. Since we are dealing with the correctness of software, having a metric for measuring this is of course desirable.

One metric we can use is to measure the degree to which test cases *cover* various aspects of the unit they are written for. Such coverage can cover several things, for example the range of inputs for the unit, or the execution of the statements in the source code of the unit itself. The former is known as *input space coverage*, the latter as *code coverage* [5]. It is the latter that is our prime concern in this work.

To see why code coverage is important, let's consider an example:

Example 5.

Consider the function:

```
int processBranch(int num) {  
    switch(num) {  
        case 1: return processOne();  
        case 2: return processTwo();  
        case 3: return processThree();  
    }  
}
```

We construct the following test suite with some unspecified oracle:

$T1: (1, \text{oracle})$
 $T2: (3, \text{oracle})$

Under this test suite, the switch-branch triggered when num is 2 will never be taken. To see why this is a serious problem, we need only consider situations where processTwo() throws an exception, has undesirable side effects, or otherwise functions improperly with regard to the input for the unit. This will *not* be uncovered if we rely only on the test cases provided - we hence say that we *lack code coverage* for the execution path(s) leading to processTwo(). For our test suite to be genuinely robust, we would need to introduce at least one more test case which would cause processTwo() to be executed as well.

Code coverage is not a monolithic concept, and there exist a great deal of different *code coverage criteria* defining different degrees of code coverage. We will describe some of the most prominent of these criteria for the purpose of our work here. They can generally be divided into two categories - *logic coverage* and

2.5.1 Graph coverage

Graph coverage criteria are defined based on a *control flow graph* representation of the unit under test. Such a graph is effectively an abstraction showing the different execution paths which may be taken through the code of the unit itself.

Definition 6.

A **control flow graph** is a directed, possibly cyclic graph where:

- nodes are program statements,
- edges are transitions between such statements, and
- each such edge may have a **transition condition**, which is a boolean decision that must hold in the first node of the edge, in order for the transition to the second node to be taken.

Such a graph has:

- exactly one entry point, and
- one or more exit points, corresponding to invocation and return statements in the code being thus represented.

Since such a graph represents an executable piece of code, we also define the concepts of an *execution path* and *path condition* wrt. to it.

Definition 7.

Given a control flow graph **G**, an **execution path EP** is a path through *G*, s.t. *EP* begins at the entry point of *G*, and ends at exactly one of the exit points of *G*.

Definition 8.

Given a control flow graph **G** and an execution path **EP**, a **path condition PC**, is a boolean constraint which, if it holds when the graph is entered, causes *EP* to be taken through the graph.

In this context, given that we have a some unit represented by a control flow graph, a test suite can satisfy the criteria listed below²²:

- **Statement coverage** - all statements in the unit are executed at least once.

- **Branch coverage** - all possible transitions between two adjacent statements are taken at least once.
- **Path coverage** - each possible execution path for the unit is taken at least once.

Definition 9. *Statement coverage*

*Given a control flow graph \mathbf{G} and a test suite \mathbf{TS} , \mathbf{TS} satisfies **statement coverage** wrt. G , iff. for each node \mathbf{n} in G , there exists a test case \mathbf{t} in \mathbf{TS} s.t. t causes an execution path through G via n .*

In terms of quality, each criteria above, in order of definition, effectively subsumes the ones before it and is hence more robust than they are²³.

While graph coverage give good coverage with regard to the *structure* of the code being tested, they tell us relatively little about the more detailed aspects of the code, such as branch conditions. To reach the kind of coverage level commonly employed in actual industry, we need to introduce the class of *logic coverage* criteria.

2.5.2 Logic coverage

Logic coverage criteria are defined with regard to boolean *conditions* and *decisions* present in the code under test.

Definition 10.

*A **condition** is an atomic boolean expression, i.e. it cannot be subdivided into further boolean expressions.*

In many contemporary languages, examples of such include

- *the comparators ($<$, $<=$, $>$, $>=$)*
- *the comparators ($!=$, $==$), iff. the operands of either are non-boolean types.*
- *boolean literals ($true$, $false$)*
- *boolean variables and*
- *boolean functions.*

22. We only provide a formal definition for the first one, as the other two are defined in the same way by exchanging “statement” for “edge” and “execution path”, respectively.

23. In reality, the last criteria, path coverage, is effectively impossible or infeasible to achieve for non-trivial code, since the presence of loop statements will cause a combinatorial explosion in terms of possible execution paths.

Definition 11.

Let x be an arbitrary condition, and let $!$, $\&\&$, $\|\$, $==$, and $!=$ be the boolean operators NOT, AND, OR, EQUALS and NOT-EQUALS (respectively). A boolean **expression** e is then defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} d &::= x \\ d &::= (d) \\ d &::= !d \\ d &::= d \|\ d \\ d &::= d \&\& d \\ d &::= d == d \\ d &::= d != d \end{aligned}$$

A **decision** d in some program p is an expression whose outcome will cause a branching in the execution of p .

Example 12.

Given the following Java code:

```
if(a && b || !a && (x<y)) {
    doSomething();
} else {
    doSomethingElse();
}
```

The following is a decision: $a \&\& b \|\ !a \&\& (x<y)$

Analysing its composition, we identify the following conditions:

- Boolean variables **a** and **b**
- Comparison $x<y$, where x and y are comparable (non-boolean) values.
- The negation $!a$

An important observation to make here, is that a and $!a$ are **separate** conditions, even though they both contain the same boolean variable a .

In this context, we define the following basic logic coverage criteria:

- **Condition coverage** - each condition in the code will evaluate at least once to true, and at least once to false.

- **Decision coverage** - each decision in the code will evaluate at least once to true, and at least to false.

Definition 13. *Condition coverage*

*Given a program P and a test suite TS , TS satisfies **condition coverage** wrt. P , iff. for each non-constant condition c , s.t. c is part of a decision in P , there exists a test case $t1$ and a test case $t2$ in TS s.t. $t1$ causes c to become false, and $t2$ causes it to become true.*

While these are fundamental in terms of logic coverage, we now define a more advanced criteria which is of special interest to us, because it plays a prominent role in industrial software verification²⁴: the *modified condition / decision coverage* criterion, or *MC/DC* [28][15].

Definition 14. *MC/DC*

*Given a program P and a test suite TS , TS satisfies **Modified Condition / Decision Coverage** wrt. P , iff.*

1. *TS satisfies Statement Coverage for P ,*
2. *TS satisfies Condition Coverage for P ,*
3. *TS satisfies Decision Coverage for P ,*
4. *Every point of entrance to the program has been executed at least once,*
5. *Every point point of exit from the program has been executed at least once,*
6. *For each condition c in each decision d in P , c is shown to independently affect the outcome of d .*
 - i. *I.e. given that all other conditions in d are held fixed, changing the value of c alone is shown to affect what d evaluates to.*

While being an extremely robust criteria, MC/DC is also notoriously difficult to satisfy (if it can be satisfied at all), due to the sheer number of demands it puts on the resulting test suite. Depending on how the code under test is structured, a test suite satisfying MC/DC may further be very large in terms of the number of test cases it contains.

²⁴. MC/DC is required by the Avionics Certification Standard DO-178B in order to verify software graded as Level A, i.e. software whose failure is deemed “catastrophic” (such as control software for aircraft).

2.5.3 Code coverage and automatic test case generators

The very nature of code coverage makes it practically impossible for black box test generators to guarantee it. The natural approach to guaranteeing code coverage is the use of a white box or hybrid system.

2.6 Automating testing

One of the great benefits usually offered most test frameworks is the ability to *automate* large amounts of the testing process, especially the setting up of test environments and the execution of the tests themselves. The programmer can thus devote herself entirely to writing test suites, and then simply hand these over to the frameworks execution system for automatic runs, saving a lot of time and effort. It also means that the tests can easily be re-run without much efforts, which makes regression testing when refactoring or extending the system very easy, as the tests can simply be re-run repeatedly to verify that modifications to the system don't cause existing test suites to fail.

2.7 Automating test case generation

While test frameworks can help in automating the *execution* of test cases, they do not readily address the more expensive problem of *creating* them.

One attempt to overcome this hurdle is the use of *test case generation systems*. Such systems will usually consume a portion of source code along with some metadata about it (such as its specification), and attempt to generate a set of tests for it based on this information.

Depending on how they approach test case generation, we can broadly classify such systems into two primary categories: black-box and white-box generators. There is also a hybrid category, referred to as glass box²⁵ generators.

2.7.1 Black box test generators

Black box test generators do their work based on metadata *about* the unit being tested. For example, given some unit with an associated specification, a black box generator can analyze the preconditions for the unit in order to generate a set of test fixtures, and the postconditions in order to generate a corresponding set of oracles. Each such fixture-oracle pair is then encoded as a single test case. A system taking this approach is JMLUnitNG [4].

25. Or “grey box”.

2.7.2 White box test generators

Unlike their black box counterparts, white box test case generators can use the actual implementation code of the unit being tested in order to produce their output. As such, they are able to explore the actual implementation of the unit in order to gather information about it, allowing for the generation of more surgical test cases. For example, a white box generator could determine the exact input needed for a certain exception to be raised, or for a certain set of statements to be executed, and generate a test case accordingly.

2.7.3 Glass box test generators

Glass box systems are hybrid systems, using both metadata about the implementation as well as the implementation itself in order to generate test cases. As such, they subsume the functionality of both. In practice, this means that they are able to generate much more expressive and robust test cases than either of the others.

How the source code is explored can vary widely between implementations. KeYTestGen2, which falls into this category of generators, uses a method known as *symbolic execution*, which we will explore in section 3.

3 The KeY system

In this section, we introduce the technological foundation for KeYTestGen2 itself, which is KeY system and its Symbolic Debugger. The aspect of KeY of greatest interest to us is its *symbolic execution* engine, and we will give an abstract view of how this process works²⁶. After this, we will briefly introduce the Symbolic Debugger, which encapsulates this process on behalf of KeYTestGen2.

3.1 KeY - an overview

KeY [1][13][2][17] is a system for integrated, deductive software design, specification, implementation and verification, jointly developed by several European universities²⁷. It aims to be a novel, powerful formal verification system applicable to a wide range of industrial software engineering contexts.

KeY takes a *deductive* approach to verification, and attempts to construct a logical proof that the preconditions of the verified system imply its postconditions, based on the structure of the code itself. It does so by translating both the code and its specification into a *dynamic logic* called JavaDL [8], creating a *proof obligation* - a logical proposition which will have to be proved in order to conclude that the specification is respected by the code. This proof process is carried out through the use of a semi-automatic theorem prover.

3.2 Symbolic Execution

A core aspect of the proof process of KeY is *symbolic execution*. When KeY attempts to prove a precondition-postcondition implication, it does so by symbolically “executing” each successive Java statement in the code, encoding its effects on the overall program state.

Whenever this process encounters a statement which may have several different outcomes, such as an if-statement, the proof process will have to *branch*, effectively creating several new proof obligations for each branch created. As such, over time, the symbolic execution process constructs a *symbolic execution tree*. An example is given below.

²⁶. For a full treatise of how KeY works, please see [13]. Here, we will merely cover enough to discuss the implementation of KeYTestGen2 in the following section.

²⁷. Currently Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, Darmstadt University of Technology and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany.

Example 15. A basic function with a branching statement.

```

/*@ public normal_behavior
   @ requires Preconditions
   @ ensures Postconditions
   @*/
public static void swapAndDo(int x, int y) {
    x = x + y;
    y = x - y;
    x = x - y;

    if(x < y)
         $\pi 1$  //further code
    else
         $\pi 2$  //further code
}

```

Symbolic execution of the code above would result in the following symbolic execution tree²⁸:

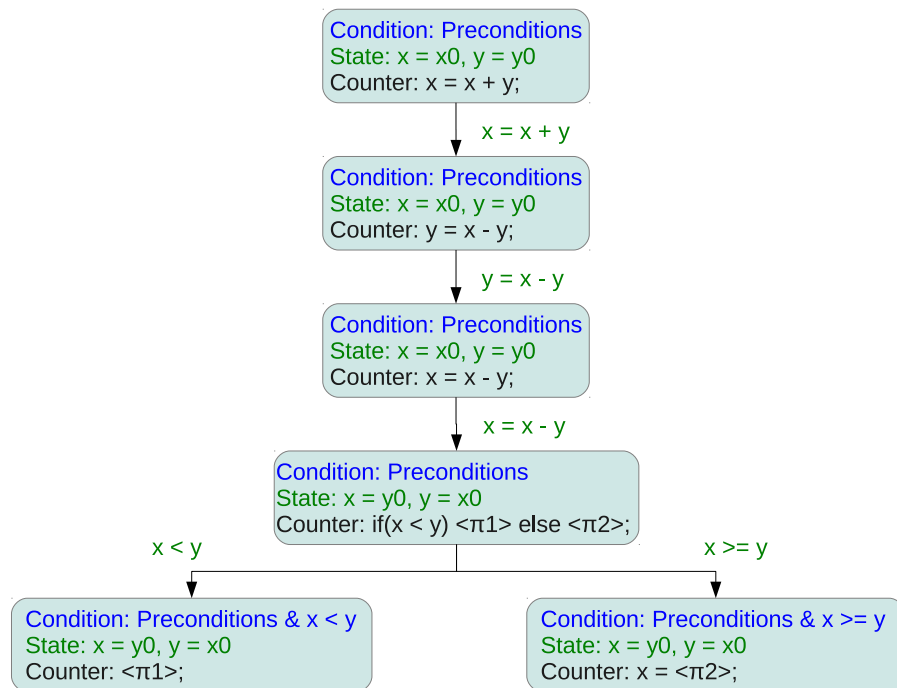


Figure 1. An abstract view of a symbolic execution tree.

28. This is an abstract view, not an exact representation of the corresponding KeY data structure.

Here, as expected²⁹, we branch on the if-statement, resulting in two separate paths of further execution depending on the outcome of the if-condition, ending up with two paths of execution to explore separately.

Apart from the program counter, indicating the next statement to be symbolically executed, notice the other two elements tracked during symbolic execution:

- **State** - or, *symbolic state*, is an abstract representation of the current state of the system, whose variables can be bound either to concrete or *symbolic* values.
- **Condition** - or *path condition*, is a logical formula specifying the *constraints on the starting* state of the system in order to reach the current symbolic execution node. This condition is, for each node, the result of a gradual buildup as the symbolic execution process explores different branches of execution. Note, for example, the difference in the conditions between the two nodes following the branching on the if-statement.

3.2.1 Symbolic execution as a basis for test generation

For us, a vital aspect of the symbolic execution process is that it explores *all* possible execution paths through the Java code - this follows from the completeness of the proof process itself. Furthermore, it gives us, via the path conditions, an exact logical roadmap for reaching any given node in the symbolic execution tree.

This makes for a powerful basis for test generation, as it gives us all the information we need to cause *any* possible execution path through the code to be executed. Accordingly, we can isolate the nodes in the symbolic execution tree we will need to reach in order to reach any of the code coverage criteria defined in section 2, and more.

3.3 Symbolic Debugging

While we have demonstrated that the symbolic execution process of KeY is clearly useful for test case generation, we still have not shown how to tap into this potential.

The earlier KeYTestGen did so by integrating *directly* with the proof process. The approach of KeYTestGen2 is different - rather than interacting directly with the KeY core, we go via an intermediary - the Symbolic Debugger.

3.3.1 Overview

The *Symbolic Debugger* is a project to create, as part of KeY, a sophisticated system for visualizing and working with concepts around the execution of Java code. This is realized in the form of an Eclipse plugging which ties in directly with the Eclipse Debugging infrastructure, but allows users to walk symbolic execution trees in addition to ordinary, fixed execution trees.

²⁹. The symbolic execution engine of KeY is, by its nature, extremely thorough and will also explore symbolic execution paths which are necessarily obvious from the source code itself, such as field access on nullpointers, etc.

The core of the Symbolic Debugger interacts directly with the KeY proof engine, extracting data from generated proofs and encoding it in terms of a type hierarchy based on the **IExecutionNode** interface. The result of this is an actual tree structure representing the various statements and execution paths through a Java program.

3.3.2 KeYTestGen2 and the Symbolic Debugger

The Symbolic Debugger provides KeYTestGen2 with an excellent abstraction of the output of KeYs symbolic execution engine, in that it generates a concrete tree representing the various execution paths available and the nodes involved. It

Further, from a design perspective, the Symbolic Debugger also provides a way to greatly decouple KeYTestGen2 from KeY itself, one of the driving goals behind its design and implementation (see next section).

4 Implementation

In this section, we provide an exposé of the overall design and implementation of KeYTestGen2³⁰, describing the functions and relations between its modules and subsystems. This description is not exhaustive, but is meant to serve as an overview. The source code for the system itself is well documented and can be studied for more detailed understanding than what is provided here.

4.1 Requirements

Since its inception, KeYTestGen2 has evolved more or less organically, with very few formal requirements³¹ (apart from the non-functional requirements discussed below, and the functional ones described in appendix A). The driving thought behind the project was simply to “*do whatever KeYTestGen could do, do it better, do more*”. The implication of this, too, has more or less evolved with the system itself.

We will not discuss the functional requirements for KeYTestGen2 here, as these have not really been formalized, but instead refer to Appendix A for an overview of some of the requirements for the original KeYTestGen.

We will, however, describe the non-functional requirements which have remained more or less constant since the project initially started, as these have played a driving role behind its evolution.

4.1.1 Non-functional requirements

The system attributes driving the evolution of KeYTestGen2 have, since its beginning, been **usability**, **maintainability**, **performance**, and **reliability**.

- **Usability** - following a survey among users of the old KeYTestGen, the brunt of criticism received revolved around lack of features, insufficient documentation and an inadequate user interface. Addressing these issues was one of the core motivations behind the KeYTestGen2 project being started.
- **Maintainability** - KeY is a project under constant evolution, and KeYTestGen2 should be easy to modify with regard to this. Further, as new features of interest are discovered, it should be easy to implement these without significant changes to existing code.
- **Performance** - To be useful in a software engineering context, it is of course desirable that KeYTestGen2 promptly produces results in response to user requests. Moreover, the KeY proof system - which ultimately yields the symbolic execution data KeYTestGen2 relies on - is very complex and computationally demanding. Where applicable, KeYTestGen2 should as far as

30. It is important to note that some of the features discussed below have not been fully implemented in the system itself. They are presented here as if they were for the sake of clarity and context.

31. The main reason behind this was the fact that I knew very little about either the KeY internals or any of the relevant concepts when the project started out. Thus, a large part of the growth of KeYTestGen has been experimentation and exploration, which eventually distilled down into functional components. The existing components, and indeed the system structure as a whole, have undergone major refactorings several times over, and is likely to continue to do so.

possible aim to guide this proof process in order to optimize total processing time.

- **Reliability** - As KeYTestGen2 generates output which ultimately plays a role in the verification of the users own software, it is crucial that this output is correct and in conformance with user expectations. For example, it has to be asserted that a level of code coverage specified by the user has indeed been reached, and the user has to be notified if so is not the case.

4.2 Architectural overview

Here, we provide a brief overview of KeYTestGen2 as a whole, before we move on to describe each module in more detail.

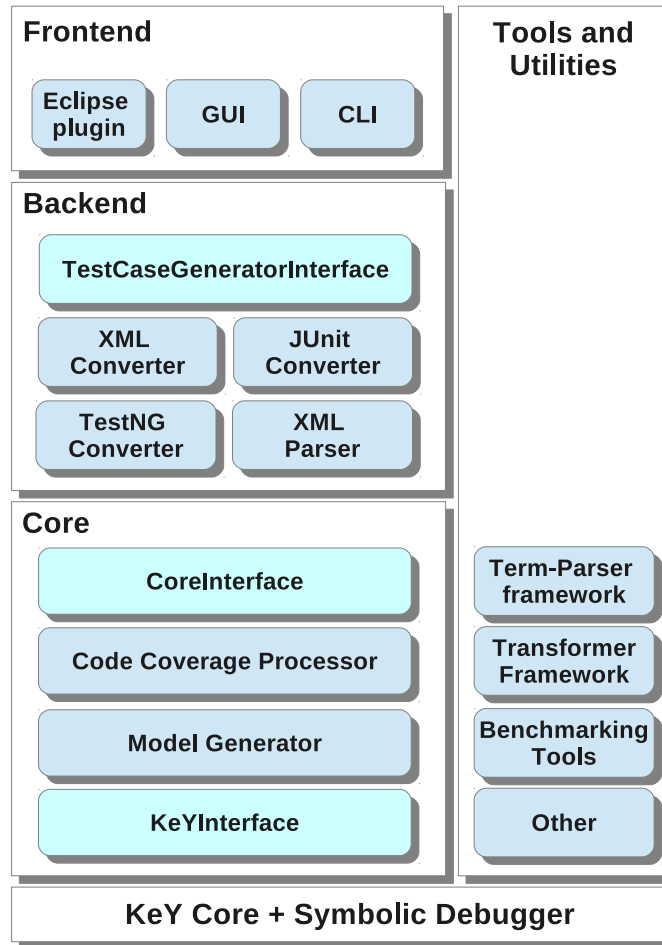


Figure 2. Architectural overview of KeYTestGen2

4.2.1 General architecture

KeYTestGen2 is constructed following a layered, modular approach. Each particular layer (Frontend, Backend, and Core) requests services from the layer directly below it, and provides services for the layer above it (except for the Frontend, which

provides services directly to the user). The exception to this rule is the Tools and Utilities module, which provides services available to all the other layers.

Each of the primary layers provides a service interface for the layer above it, providing a uniform API. Each such layer is implemented as a threadsafe singleton.

To facilitate maintainability and extendability, The subsystems of each module are largely interface based, making it easy to extend them with new implementations. Further, the system has been implemented with concurrency in mind, and each module should be able to operate in a multi-threaded context³².

4.2.2 Data flow

The graph below illustrates, at a high level, the general pattern of dataflow through KeYTestGen2. While the system is targeted to support several test frameworks, we here use JUnit as an example.

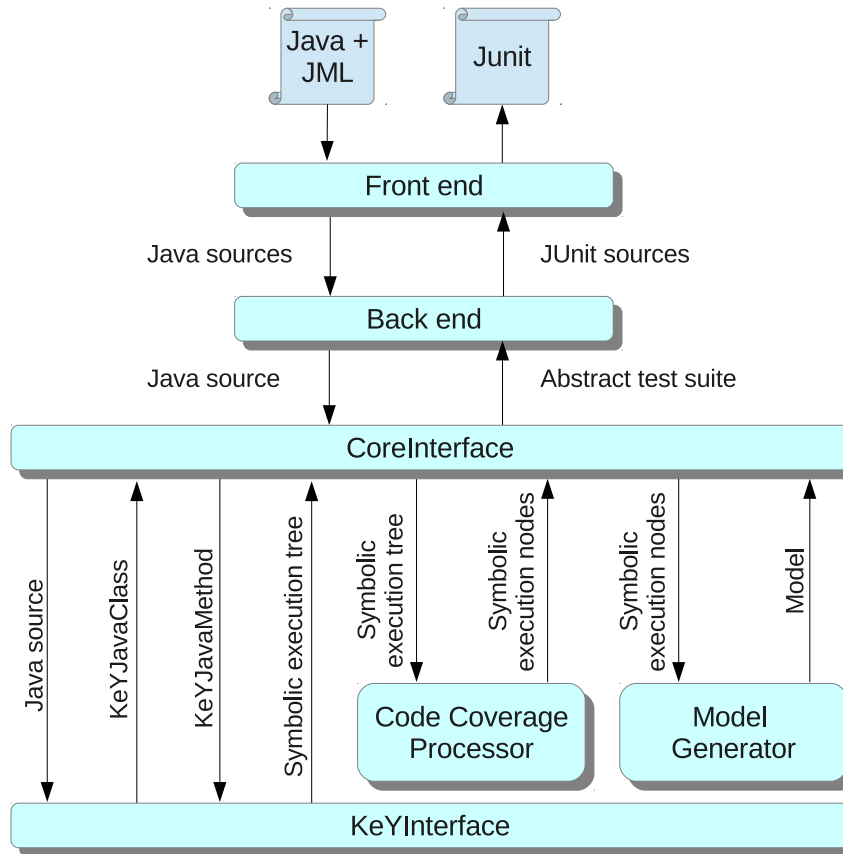


Figure 3. Data flow model for KeYTestGen2.

³². Unfortunately, as will be discussed in the Evaluation, some external dependencies to the system do not perform very well in this setting.

4.2.3 Core

The core system provides central services related to test case generation, including the creation of symbolic execution trees, generating models for the same, and creating abstract test suites for encoding to specific frameworks. Modules in this section are the following:

- **The KeY Interface** - provides a central interface for KeYTestGen2 to interact with a runtime instance of KeY and its Symbolic Debugger. KeYTestGen2 uses this primarily to invoke the Symbolic Debugger in order to retrieve a symbolic execution trees for Java methods.
- **The CoreInterface** - provides a central interface between KeYTestGen2 and its various backend modules. Backend modules can use this interface in order to retrieve abstract test suites for Java methods.
- **The Model Generator** - consumes nodes in a symbolic execution tree, and generates models which satisfy their path conditions.
- **The Code Coverage Processor** - consumes a symbolic execution tree, and extracts from it the symbolic execution nodes needed in order to reach a certain degree of code coverage. Each such node will provide the foundation for a single test case.

4.2.4 Backend

The backend consists of a set of output generators, which consume the abstract test suites produced by KeYTestGen2, and convert them to some final format. As of current, the KeYTestGen2 backend has near-complete support for JUnit and XML outputs, and targeted support for TestNG. Adding additional generators is simple.

4.2.5 Frontend

KeYTestGen2 has projected support both for CLI and GUI usage. The CLI is based on JCommander, whereas the GUI uses standard Java Swing.

4.3 The Core

The role of the core system is to consume Java source files, gather data about them through symbolic execution, and finally create a set of abstract test suites based on this information. These test suites can in turn be passed to the various backend implementations for encoding to specific test frameworks.

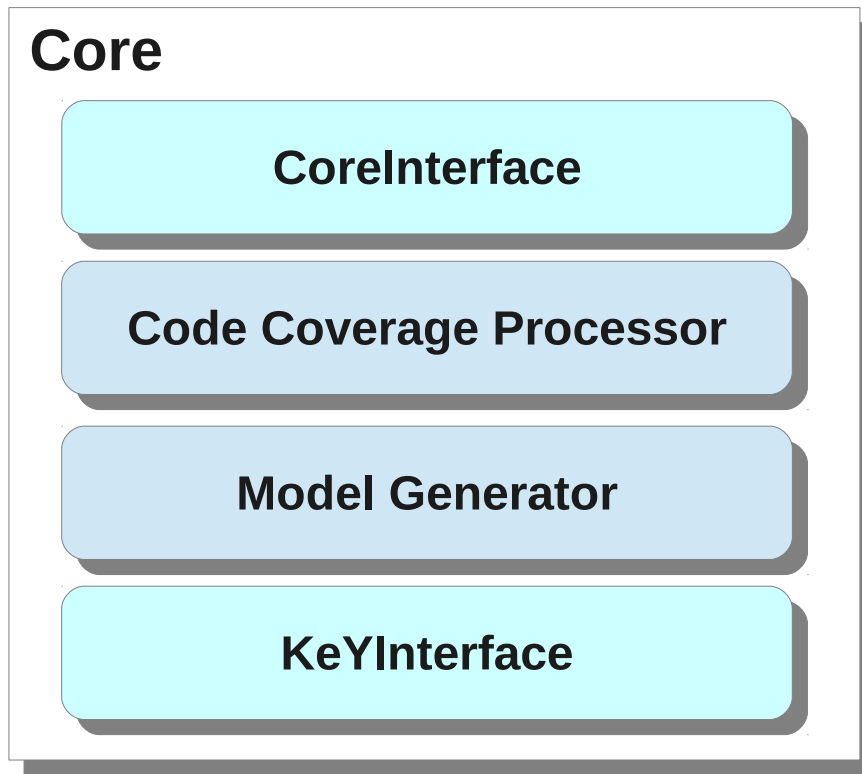


Figure 4. The Core of KeYTestGen2.

This process is realized through the interplay of the three central subsystems of the Core; the KeYInterface, Code Coverage Parser (CCP), and Model Generator. Here, we will study the inner workings of these three subsystems, within the larger context of the functionality of the Core as a whole.

4.3.1 The KeYInterface

The KeYInterface acts as a service bridge between KeYTestGen2 and the rest of KeY, allowing processes and modules in KeYTestGen to request services from the rest of the KeY system.

Importantly, the KeYInterface retrieves symbolic execution trees for Java methods. To do so, it uses the Symbolic Debugger of KeY. The configuration of the Debugger itself is handled dynamically by the interface for each invocation,

in an attempt to optimize performance and the quality of the resulting symbolic execution tree.

4.3.2 The Model Generator

The role of the Model Generator is to consume a single symbolic execution node, and create a *model* satisfying the path condition of that node. This model is encoded as an *abstract heap state* (AHS, see below), and can subsequently be turned into a specific test fixture by the backend.

The Model Generator achieves this in two steps:

- The path condition of the node is analyzed in order to map constraints on the program variables involved. These constraints are then encoded as an AHS containing all program variables.
- If the mapping of constraints in stage 1 revealed any constraints on primitive-type variables, these constraints are isolated, encoded to an SMT formula, and passed to an SMT solver³³ to be resolved. The output of the SMT solver is then parsed to extract the value assignments satisfying the constraint, and these values are finally inserted back into their respective variables in the AHS.

An **abstract heap state** is a simple abstraction of a Java heap during runtime. It consists of three principal classes:

- **Model** - corresponds to the model - and hence the abstract heap state itself. A Model encapsulates a set of related ModelVariables and ModelInstances, and provides a set of utility methods for working with them. Instances of this class constitute the principal output of the Model Generator.
- **ModelVariable** - corresponds to a Java variable, and has the following fields:
 - **identifier : String**, corresponding to the source-level name of the variable.
 - **type : String**, corresponding to the name of the variables declared type.

33. The current implementation uses the Microsoft Z3 solver by default. However, support for other solvers exists by virtue of KeY itself supporting them. Experimental support for using internal solvers (i.e. solvers implemented in Java and executing under the control of KeY) exists as well.

- **value : Object**, corresponding to the runtime value referred by the variable. The dynamic type of the value can differ depending on the type of the variable itself:
 - **A wrapper type**³⁴, iff. the `ModelVariable` symbolizes a variable of primitive type, such as an integer or boolean.
 - **A `ModelInstance` or `null`**, iff. the `ModelVariable` symbolizes a reference type.
- **`ModelInstance`** - corresponds to a dynamically created Java object, and has the following defining fields:
 - **identifier : String**, corresponding, loosely, to the memory reference of the object during runtime. In practice, it serves simply as a unique identifier (as a physical memory address must be unique).
 - **type : String**, corresponding to the name of the type of the object.
 - **fields : List<`ModelVariable`>**, corresponding to a subset of the fields of the object. The only fields expressed here are those needed to express a heapstate which satisfies the path condition the model of this `ModelInstance` is associated with.

We illustrate the process of Model Generation by looking at how it is done for an example Java method.

Example 16. A Java method dealing only with primitive values.

```
public class Mid {

    // Returns the middle value of three integers
    public int mid(int x, int y, int z) {
        int mid = z;
        if(y < z) {
            if(x < y) {
                mid = y;
            } else if(x < z) {
                mid = x; // <-- target statement
            }
        } else {
            if(x > y) {
                mid = y;
            } else if(x > z) {
                mid = x;
            }
        }
        return mid;
    }
}
```

34. I.e. Boolean, Integer, Float, Double, Byte or Character.

Say we wish to generate a test case causing the first **mid** = **x**; in the code to be executed. We may assume we already have the symbolic execution node for this statement, and that its path condition is the following:

$$z \geq 1 + y \ \& \ y \leq x \ \& \ z \geq 1 + x$$

The Model Generator will now process this path condition according to step one above. After this is done, we end up with the following abstract heap state:

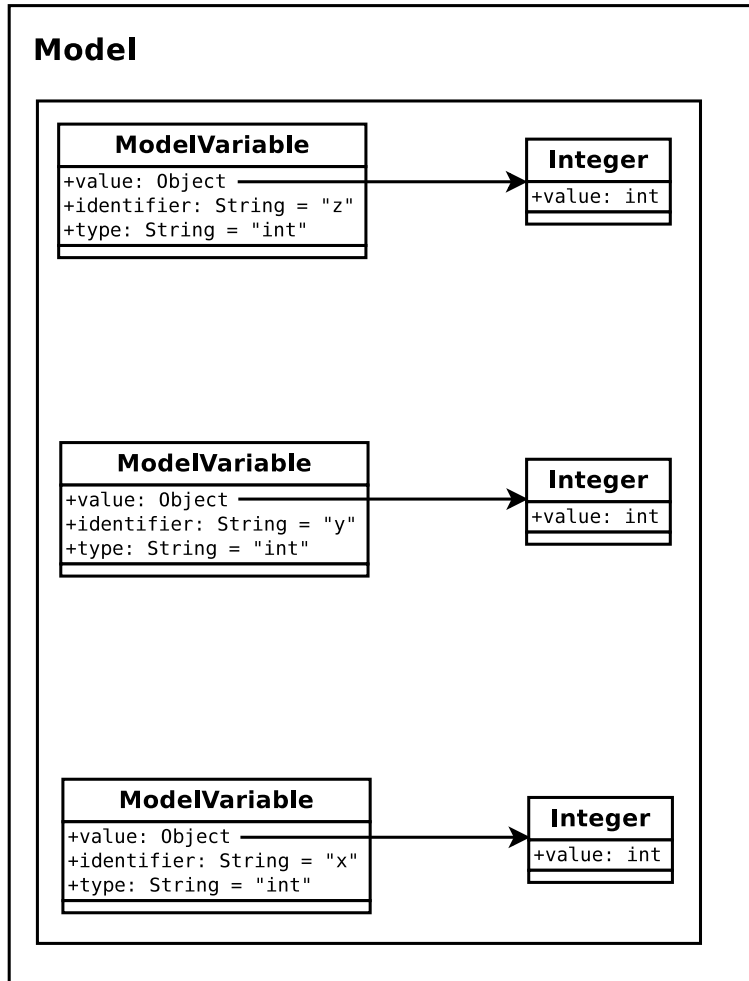


Figure 5. A model, or abstract heap state for the node corresponding to the statement indicated in Example 10. This heap state is the result of the first step in the model generation process, and hence has no concrete values for any of the Integers yet.

Recognizing that there are primitive-typed variables present in this model³⁵, KeYTestGen2 next proceeds to find concrete value assignments for these variables. To do so, it first needs to simplify³⁶ the path condition, as follows:

1. The path condition is transformed into a form which contains nothing but constraints on primitive variables.
2. Further, KeYTestGen2 factors out the occurrences of any nested variable declarations in the path condition, replacing them with single primitive variables with symbolic names (e.g. the nesting hierarchy `MyClass.OtherClass.YetOtherClass.x`, where `x` is an integer and `MyClass` etc are object instances, becomes a single integer variable named “`MyClass_OtherClass_YetOtherClass_x`”).
3. Finally, the entire formula is negated. This is necessary since the value assignments will be produced by asking the SMT solver to provide a *counter example* to the formula we pass to it. Since a counter example to the negation of our formula will be an assignment that satisfies the formula itself, this will give us exactly what we are looking for.

Having been simplified and processed, the path condition is finally translated into an SMT formula, and passed to an external SMT solver. If succesful, the SMT solver will return an assignment of values satisfying our formula³⁷, which in our case could be the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{3} \\ \mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{z} &= \mathbf{4} \end{aligned}$$

Inserting these into the model, we end up with the following, final model:

35. Under the current implementation, this recognition comes as a side-effect of the way the path condition is subsequently transformed for SMT evaluation - a path condition containing no primitive constraints will simply be simplified to **null**, in which case KeYTestGen2 does not proceed with the second step.

36. The reason this simplification is done is to minimize the complexity of the resulting SMT problem. Allowing non-primitive variables and nested declarations proved to cause this complexity to explode exponentially, and I was concerned that this might impact both the performance and reliability of the model generator. As it is now, all needed information about non-primitive types is already found in the abstract heap state, and hence there is no reason to use the SMT solver for resolving anything except primitive values, which it can do in a matter of milliseconds.

37. Since symbolic execution removes all unreachable execution nodes, such a formula must always be satisfiable. Failure to find an assignment is hence considered exceptional, and will cause KeYTestGen2 to raise an exception and terminate.

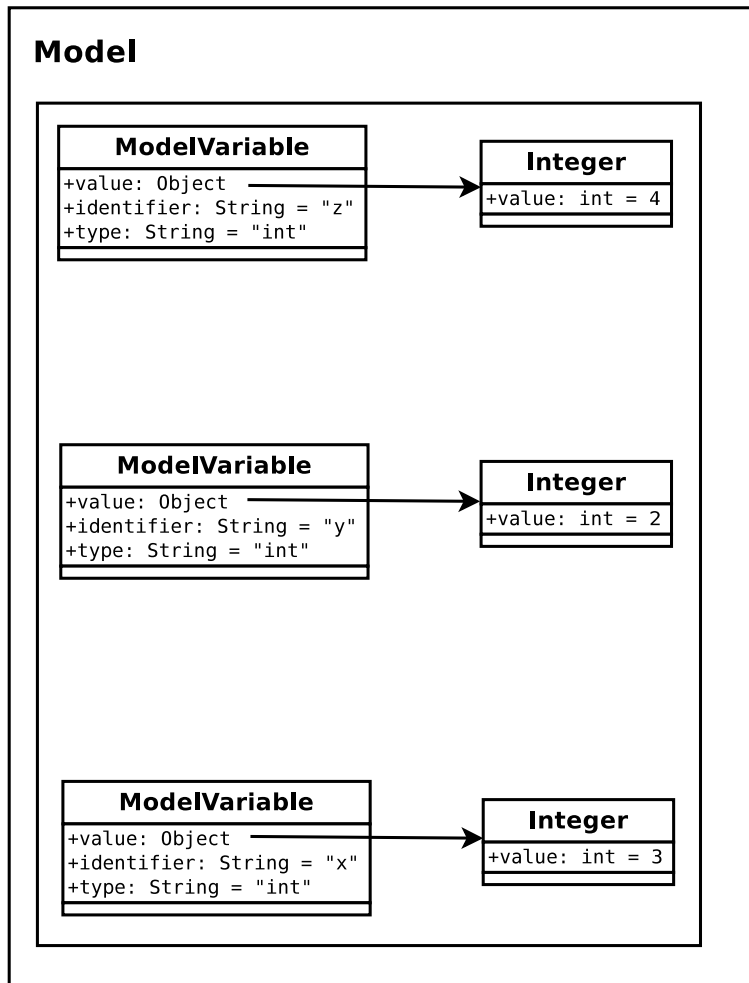


Figure 6. The previous model, with concrete integer values inserted.

Finally, this model is returned as the result of the Model Generator invocation.

4.3.3 The CoreInterface

The CoreInterface provides an API for the Backend modules to request services from the Core itself. It consumes the path to a Java source file, an instance of ICodeCoverageParser to generate the desired level of code coverage (see below), as well as the name of the method to generate a test suite for, and returns an abstract test suite for the same method.

The abstract test suite mentioned above consists of the following classes:

- **TestSuite** - the suite itself, as defined in section 2. It is a simple container class containing a reference to a KeYJavaMethod, as well as a set of TestCase instances.

- **TestCase** - represents a test case, as defined in section 2. It consists of the following essential fields:
 - **method : KeYJavaMethod**, represents the method for which the test case is generated.
 - **model : Model**, represents the model, or test fixture, for the test case.
 - **oracle : Term**, represents the oracle of the test case.

Given the input values specified in the beginning of this section, a test suite is constructed in the following way:

1. The KeYInterface and Core Utils are invoked in order to retrieve a KeYJavaClass instance for the target class.
2. A symbolic execution tree for the target method is retrieved via the KeYInterface.
3. The ICodeCoverageParser instance is applied to the symbolic execution tree in order to extract all nodes needed to generate a test suite fulfilling the level of code coverage targeted by the parser instance.
4. A Thread pool is configured to concurrently generate models for the nodes. The results are pooled and, depending on configuration, the process terminates if any of the model generation threads fail.
5. The results of the model generation are combined with the existing metadata existing for the methods, and encoded into a set of TestCase instances.
6. Finally, the TestCase instances generated in this fashion, along with existing data, are used to create a TestSuite instance.

4.3.4 The Code Coverage Parser (CCP)

In order to provide code coverage for generated test cases, the symbolic execution tree needs to be filtered in order to retrieve the nodes whose execution will guarantee such coverage. This is the task of the CCP, which is provided by the Core Utils.

Rather than being a single parser, the CCP provides a miniature framework for implementing such parsers, consisting of the interface **ICodeCoverageParser**, together with a set of utility classes for working with IExecutionNode instances.

4.4 The Backend

The role of the backend is twofold. On the one hand, it consumes the abstract test suites generated by the Core, converting them to some other format. On the other hand, it also provides a uniform interface for the Frontend modules to service the requests of users with regard to test case generation.

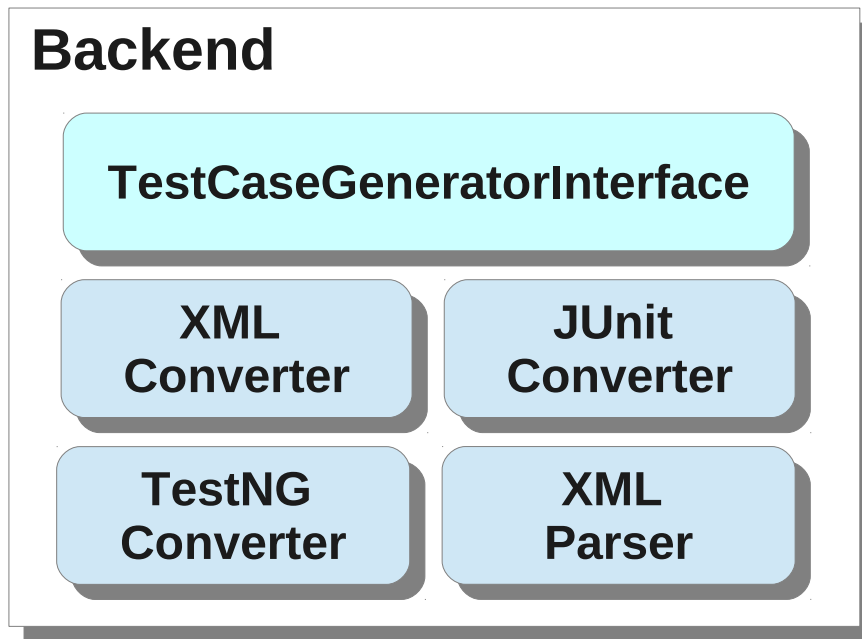


Figure 7. The KeYTestGen2 Backend module, composed of the Test Suite Generator (towards the Frontend), default Converters, and tools for creating additional Converters (XML Parser).

4.4.1 TestSuiteGenerator

The interface seen by the Frontend is represented by the **TestSuiteGenerator** singleton, which offers the following three services to callers.

- **Generate test suites for a Java class** - generates a set of test suites for the methods in a given Java class. Two implementations of this service are provided:
 - Generate a set of test suites covering only a specific **subset** of methods in the class, as specified by the user.
 - Generate a set of test suites covering **all** methods in the class, giving the user the option to specify if such methods should include private methods, protected methods and/or methods inherited from `java.lang.Object`³⁸
- **Generate a test suite for a single symbolic execution node** - this is provided not primarily for use by the Frontend, but as a hook for the Symbolic Debugger to use³⁹ (see section 5).

38. i.e. `toString()`, `hashCode()`, `await()`, `notify()`, `notifyAll()`, `equals(Object other)`.

39. This functionality will be moved to a separate interface.

When invoking any of the services described above, the user can supply implementations of the following interfaces, in order to control the outcome of the test suite generation process:

- **IFrameworkConverter** - to specify what framework/format the resulting test suites should be encoded to. If this is not specified, KeYTestGen2 will default to its native XML format.
- **ICodeCoverageParser** - to specify the level of code coverage to achieve. If left unspecified, KeYTestGen2 will simply generate at least one test case for each return statement in the method.

4.4.2 Framework converters

Support for output to specific test frameworks can be added by implementing the `IFrameworkConverter` interface. These implementations can then simply be passed to the `TestSuitGenerator` as described in the previous section.

Currently, KeYTestGen2 aims to natively provide such implementations for JUnit, TestNG, as well as a native XML format. This XML format is suitable for users who wish to process the generated test suites in some other context than KeYTestGen2 itself.

4.4.3 Generating Java source files

While it is technically deprecated⁴⁰, the Backend provides a utility class which can be overridden in order to write formatted Java source code, called **AbstractJavaSourceWriter**. It contains a relatively intuitive API, although the implementation is rather clumsy and hence set apart for future replacement.

4.5 The JUnit Converter

As an example of how the previously discussed backend works, we will here outline the JUnit Converter, responsible for converting abstract test suites to JUnit ones.

4.5.1 General structure

The main stages in converting an abstract test suite to a JUnit one are the following:

- Create various utility methods within the JUnit test suite for use during testing.

40. Future iterations of KeYTestGen2 will use the template engine `StringTemplate` [35]

- Create a test case for each test case represented in the abstract test suite:
 - Convert the Model of the test case to a JUnit fixture.
 - Convert the Oracle of the test case to a set of JUnit assertions.
 - Set up the execution of the method itself.

Currently, the JUnit Converter uses KeYTestGen2s provided `AbstractJavaSourceWriter` in order to turn the JUnit code generated in the stages described above into an actual, executable test suite.

4.5.2 Test fixture generation

JUnit test fixtures are constructed through converting the Model structures generated by KeYTestGen2 into corresponding Java declarations. This is done in two stages:

- Write the variable declaration,
- Write the variable instantiation, if any.

The first step is trivial, as it is simply a matter of inferring, from the `ModelVariable` instance for the variable, the type, identifier and potential modifiers for the variable. This is subsequently turned into a Java declaration.

The second step is accomplished by recursively analyzing the `Object` instance pointed to by the `ModelVariable`. If it is an instance of some wrapper type (`Integer`, `Boolean` etc), it is written as-is, since its `toString()` method will automatically yield a sufficient `String` representation of the value it contains.

In the event that the value is a `ModelInstance` instead, the variable is pointing to some reference type, which we will need to instantiate accordingly. To do so, the Converter will analyze the general metadata for the instance (type, identifier etc), as well as the fields it declares. These fields will have to be instantiated as well, together with the current instance, and inserted into it.

To do so, KeYTestGen2 sets up a *fixture repository*, which both creates, configures and contains all necessary object instances needed by the test cases in the test suite. The objects set up in this fashion are created by a call to their no-args constructors⁴¹. Subsequently, they are configured by using Java Reflection to directly insert values into object fields. Finally, KeYTestGen provides a generic method for retrieving objects in the repository based on the type of the variable they are being assigned to.

41. The previous KeYTestGen used additional tools, such as `Objenesis` [18] in order to circumvent situations where objects do not provide a no-args constructor. This is not fully implemented in KeYTestGen2 as of yet.

4.5.3 Test oracle generation

JUnit uses *assertions* in order to verify whether or not a JUnit test case produces a desired post-state. These are simply methods which take some kind of boolean expression⁴², and fail the test case immediately if the expression evaluates to false. Hence, in order to construct an oracle, the Converter analyzes the Term corresponding to the postcondition for the method under test, simplifies it, and then translates it into an equivalent set of assertions.

The simplification mentioned above is done in order to produce as short and as readable a set of assertions as possible. This is done by transforming the Term in the following ways:

- All operators, apart from the standard boolean and arithmetic ones, are removed from the Term, and replaced with an equivalent boolean expression using only the standard operators.
- The Term is put into **Negation Normal Form** - i.e. the only negations present in the Term are negations of literals.
- The Term is put into **Conjunctive Normal Form** - this is done in order to get a Term which only consists of conjunctions of logical formulas. Each such conjunction can then be turned into a separate assertion, since they all must hold in order for the test case to pass.
 - A negative side effect of putting the Term into CNF is that it may make the Term more complex, by introducing additional sub-formulas to it. To work around this, KeYTestGen2 will search for and remove duplicate operands from all conjunctions and disjunctions in the Term.
- Finally, the Term is “prettified” by putting all occurring literals into a natural order wrt. the operator they are part of. For example, the conjunction $b \ \&\& \ a \ \&\& \ d \ \&\& \ c$ is sort to become $a \ \&\& \ b \ \&\& \ c \ \&\& \ d$. The same manner of sorting is carried out for other operators.

After it has been simplified, the Term is turned into a String representation, the conjunctions are extracted, and finally written as separate JUnit assertions.

We refer to Appendix B for an example of a test suite generated in the way described above.

4.6 The Frontend

The Frontend is the least constrained module of KeYTestGen2, and mostly just encapsulates the various user interfaces⁴³. Adding additional interfaces is trivial, as the needed connectors are already present in the backend module.

42. Several different implementations are provided for the sake of intuitive structuring of the test oracles. For example, `assertTrue(boolean exp)` checks if `exp` evaluates to true, and `assertEquals(int expected, int givent)` checks that two integer values are indeed equal.

43. It is also, as of the writing of this, the least developed module.



Figure 8. The KeYTestGen2 Frontend module, with the 3 default user interfaces.

4.6.1 Provided user interfaces

Natively, KeYTestGen2 provides the following user interfaces:

- **CLI** - The command line interface is implemented using JCommander [9]. It is aimed at being fully POSIX compliant, and support a wide array of features (see Appendix B).
- **GUI** - The graphical user interface will be implemented using the Java Swing framework. It will support the same basic functionality as the the CLI, while also offering the user visual feedback and the ability to execute third-party tools.
- **Eclipse Plugin** - Several KeY-based plugins for Eclipse exist already⁴⁴. While a separate one could be developed for KeYTestGen2⁴⁵, it is most likely more desirable that it is integrated with existing plugins. The Symbolic Debugger plugin in particular is already under serious consideration (see section 5).

4.7 Tools and Utilities

Tools and Utilities is a more loosely defined module than the others. It has no central service interface, but rather contain a set of utilities which can be used by all the other layers as needed.

4.7.1 Term Tools

Prominently, TaU contains a rich, lightweight tool kit for traversing and transforming KeY Term instances. Such operations are formed extensively in the processes of Model and Oracle Generation, for example.

⁴⁴. <http://www.key-project.org/download/>

⁴⁵. This was actually done for the previous KeYTestGen, although it, like the project, is no longer maintained.

Term transformers are easily implemented by overriding the abstract class `AbstractTermTransformer`, and then simply overriding the methods modifying the Terms one wishes to transform. For example, to modify Terms corresponding to logical negations, one overrides the method **`transformNot(Term term)`**.

While it is intuitive to use, this mini framework suffers from the immutable nature of Terms - the modified nodes in a Term tree will have to be completely replaced. As the kind of Terms `KeYTestGen2` deals with are rather small, and since object allocation in Java generally is not too expensive, this is not such a serious drawback however.

4.7.2 Benchmarking

`KeYTestGen2` features a rudimentary benchmarking tools, which allows following and recording execution times for various parts of the system. This is useful for testing, as well as debugging.

5 Evaluation and future work

Here, we provide reflections on the design and overall contribution of the system, and give an overview of ongoing and future developments.

5.1 Evaluation

Here, we will briefly evaluate the current implementation of KeYTestGen2 with regard to the four non-functional attributes described in section 4. We will first evaluate the implementation in light of the non-functional attributes outlined in section 5. Following that, we will summarize the current state of the project as a whole.

5.1.1 Fulfillment of non-functional requirements

The driving non-functional attributes behind the evolution of KeYTestGen2, as outlined in section 4, have so far been **usability**, **maintainability**, **performance**, and **reliability**. Here, we will evaluate how KeYTestGen2 in its current state meets them.

- **Usability** - As the front end modules currently aren't fully implemented⁴⁶, the actual user interaction at this stage cannot be fully evaluated. What can be looked at, however, is the API and feature support.
 - One of the points of criticism by users of the previous KeYTestGen was the lack of options with regard to code coverage (KeYTestGen offering only MCDC). KeYTestGen2 addresses this by making it easy to specify different levels of coverage by implementing the ICodeCoverageParser interface in the Core.
 - Another concern expressed by previous users was the lack of output options. KeYTestGen2 addresses this by making it easy to implement adapters for specific output formats, by providing basic interfaces and connectors for this task. Currently, KeYTestGen2 has native, preliminary support for JUnit and XML, with TestNG also being targeted for support.
 - The API of the system Core is rather small at the moment (only 3 public methods), but rich in functionality. The current services exported via the API allow for very customizable test generation sessions, where users can specify both code coverage, output format, as well as which methods of the target class to generate test cases for. Until more features are implemented, the API hardly needs to support more.
 - KeYTestGen2 has been designed to be threadsafe, allowing it to be deployed in a multi-process environment. Bottlenecks do exist (primarily in the KeYInterface, which only allows one process at a time to access the KeY runtime), but these are likely to be addressed in future iterations.

46. The CLI being partially implemented, the GUI and Eclipse plugin not at all.

- **Maintainability** - KeYTestGen2 has evolved with an increasing regard for separation of concerns between modules and individual subsystems. In terms of maintainability of the system, the following aspects are important:
 - Where applicable, most components define a clear data exchange format (such as the TestSuite abstraction for the Core, etc) for their output. This makes it easier to understand the dataflow within the system, as well as adding additional components consuming the same data.
 - Many components (such as the Model Generator) are interface based, making it easy to plugin new implementations without extensive changes to the codebase.
 - The code base is well documented, making it easy for newcomers and maintainers to understand, modify and extend it.
 - The codebase is constantly being refactored and simplified, redundant solutions being factored out in favour of more concise and autonomous ones, making future modifications to it easier to decouple from their surrounding contexts.
- **Performance** - currently, this has proven to be the single most difficult attribute to address in KeYTestGen2. Even for trivial methods, execution times can easily run up to 30 seconds and beyond⁴⁷, which borders on being unacceptable. Analysis of the of the KeYTestGen2 execution cycle has showed the following areas to be the largest bottlenecks:
 - **Symbolic execution** - due to the cost of running the KeY proof process, together with the overhead of subsequent symbolic execution tree construction, it is to be expected that this will take time. Furthermore, even *loading* the KeY system can take several seconds when running KeYTestGen2.
 - **Model Generation** - the kind of SMT formulas generated by KeYTestGen2 are very simple⁴⁸, and should in general not take more than a few milliseconds for an SMT solver to complete. The real reason this part of the system runs slow appears to be related to overhead in executing the solvers themselves. KeYTestGen2 currently makes use of the standard KeY SMT interface, which involves creating a fair number of threads, as well setting up external OS processes in order to invoke a solver.

Suggestions for how to address these can be found under “future work” below. On the positive side of things, the following aspects of KeYTestGen2 have a positive impact on performance:

47. These numbers were obtained on a very powerful benchmark system (Intel i7 3939K, 16GB DDR3 RAM), which raise concerns they might probably be much worse on more standard systems.

48. Exclusively constraints on primitive types.

- The system is designed with simplicity in mind. While it makes heavy use of abstractions, it also aims to create as few objects as possible during runtime, minimizing overhead and memory usage.
 - Wherever tasks can be performed in parallel, this is being taken advantage of. Model generation for several execution nodes, for example, is done in a completely concurrent manner.
- **Reliability** - apart from testing, there is so far no rigorous checking that the output of KeYTestGen2 corresponds to what is expected by the user. This will need to be addressed. Being part of KeY, it is reasonable that this should be done through formal verification of KeYTestGen2 via KeY, at least for methods which could be considered critical.

5.1.2 Overall assessment

KeYTestGen is under continuous development. The version presented as a part of this thesis at best represents a primitive proof of concept for what the project could (and, all things going well, will) potentially grow into.

That said, much of the essential aspects of the system are at least partially implemented. It is possible, for example, to generate both JUnit and XML test suites for many simple methods⁴⁹.

5.2 Could we create useful test suites?

Before we go on to discuss other upcoming work, there is one particular issue deserving of special attention. It is the question of whether or not we can really generate *useful* test suites in an automatic fashion - an important factor in estimating just how appropriate KeYTestGen2 might be for an industrial context.

As can be seen in this work, while the current⁵⁰ output of KeYTestGen satisfies many *technical* quality measures (such as code coverage), it leaves very much to be desired in terms *non-technical* qualities. An example of the latter would be *code readability*, which we consider below

5.2.1 Code readability

One of the great benefits of unit testing is that test cases can serve as a form of documentation for the system under test. Each test case demonstrates the (correct) operation of a given aspect of the system as a whole (i.e. a unit), and can thus be very helpful both for existing and new developers⁵¹ to learn about how it works.

49. I.e. methods not calling other methods, not containing any loop structures, and using only primitive and/or user-defined object types with no-param constructors.

50. Here, we mean the output of the resident test suite converters, in particular the JUnit one.

Ideally, just as for normal code, the code of test cases should richly documented⁵² in order to make such understanding even easier.

KeYTestGen2 is currently *not* able generate such test cases, and this is rooted in the fact that it does not really “understand” the way states are formed in the Java code it generates.

This is most visible in the way which KeYTestGen2 translates abstract heap states to concrete ones. As we have shown in section 4, this process is strictly mechanical, and KeYTestGen2 will make use of direct-access tools such as reflection and Objenesis in order to *directly* create and manipulate fields of objects on the heap. The problem here is that KeYTestGen2 completely *misses* the *natural patterns* involved in bringing the system from one state to another. The best it can do is to create an artificial state *in situ*.

The result of this process is code that a human being most likely would *never* write, and hence, code which a human being most likely might not find all too useful to read either.

To illustrate, consider the simple class below, representing a piece in some board game:

Example 17. A simple game board piece.

```
public class BoardPiece {
    // ...
    private int moves;
    private int xCord;
    private int yCord;

    public BoardPiece() {
        xCord = yCord = moves = 0;
    }

    public moveUp {
        ++moves;
        ++yCord;
    }

    public moveRight {
        ++moves;
        ++xCord
    }
    // ...
}
```

51. Or customers, for that matter.

52. In terms of comments and JavaDoc.

Imagine that we want to set up a heap state where this piece has been moved, say, twice right, twice up, and the twice right again. The “natural” way of reaching this state is illustrated below, followed by the same state generated by KeYTestGen2.

Example 18. A “naturally” created test fixture

```
@Test
public void TestBoardPieceMove() {

    // ...
    BoardPiece piece = new BoardPiece();

    piece.moveRight();
    piece.moveRight();

    piece.moveUp();
    piece.moveUp();

    piece.moveRight();
    piece.moveRight();
    // ...
}
```

Example 19. The same fixture generated by KeYTestGen2.

```
@Test
public void TestBoardPieceMove() {
    // ...

    BoardPiece piece = getObjectInstance(41);

    // ...
}

// ...

objectInstances.put(41, new BoardPiece());

// ...

{
    Boardpiece instance = getObjectInstance(41);
    setFieldValue(instance, "xCord", 4);
    setFieldValue(instance, "yCord", 2);
}
```

That the “natural” code is more expressive hardly needs justification. It gets worse, however. Notice that the fixture directly generated by KeYTestGen2 does *not even set the `moves` field*, while the natural code does so as a part of invoking the `moveLeft()` and `moveRight()` methods. In other words, we end up with two states which are *not even equivalent*.

This need not be as bad as it seems at first - if KeYTestGen2 had *needed* the `moves` field to be set, then it would have discovered this while analysing the path condition during model generation. However, this necessity is only based on the execution run specified by the path condition - and we are in either case still left with `piece` in a state which at least informally violates its functional contract with regard to its implementation.

To overcome these difficulties, we will need to make KeYTestGen “understand” how to put a program in a given state, using nothing but the methods the program itself provides in order to do so. While we do not have a clear idea for how this could be done, it will certainly involve deep introspection with regard to the Java code of the system under test, and possibly aspects of machine learning. The potential complexity of enabling this makes it a worthy project on its own, separate from any other developments related to KeYTestGen2 itself⁵³.

5.3 Future work

Below, we outline some of the more interesting aspects of current and future work on KeYTestGen2.

5.3.1 Reducing external dependencies

The current implementation of KeYTestGen2 depends on SMT solvers in order to perform model generation. It is desirable to get rid of this dependency, since it occurs an unreasonable overhead⁵⁴ (translation to SMT formulas, launching of OS processes for external solvers, etc) for solving what are relatively simple problems, consisting almost exclusively of integer constraints.

The natural way to solve this would be to provide a native solution⁵⁵. Several constraint programming solvers implemented in Java already exist - two prominent ones being JaCoP and Choco. Investigations are ongoing to see how these could be integrated into KeYTestGen2.

53. Yes, I am more or less certain what I will be doing for my master thesis as this is being jotted down.

54. The model generation process is currently the most time consuming aspect of the execution cycle of KeYTestGen2, the largest bottleneck being launching, waiting for, and gathering results from external solvers.

55. One attempt to circumvent this problem was to extend KeY to support *embedded* SMT solvers as part of KeY:s SMT interface. Together with this, the SMTInterpol solver was embedded into KeY as a separate project (KeYnterpol) in order to provide a basis for benchmarking. Sadly, this setup turned out to function almost as poorly as its external counterparts in concurrent runs, while being only slightly better in single-threaded performance.

5.3.2 Code coverage

In its current state, KeYTestGen2 only generates test suites providing a primitive kind of statement coverage. To make it useful in actual development, it is desirable to provide at the very least the common forms⁵⁶, as well as at least one industrial-grade coverage criteria, such as MC/DC.

To facilitate this, algorithms need to be developed which can isolate the execution needed for satisfying such criteria. I am not aware of any such algorithms at this stage (and if they exist, they are most likely language specific). If they need to be developed from scratch, it seems we are essentially faced with two possibilities:

- we work *directly* with the symbolic execution tree as-is. The downside of this is that execution trees can be enormously large, and algorithms based on tree-traversal may perform very poorly in this context.
- We construct an intermediate abstraction, and operate on this one. For example, we could condense the symbolic execution tree into an “actual” execution graph (i.e. a standard graph representation of the statements in the code, and the transitions between them). The good thing about this is that it would most likely make the task of writing an algorithm simpler, since the underlying datastructure will be much simpler. On the downside, this still does not save us from the potential performance penalty of having to traverse the symbolic execution tree itself. Regardless, such traversal may be simpler in this case (since it only involves transformation), and overall performance may as such be better.

5.3.3 Input partitioning coverage

To qualify as a complete glass box test case generator, KeYTestGen2 will need to have facilities for generating test cases based on possible input partitionings for the unit under test. There are several, state-of-the-art black box test case generators which do so already, notably JMLUnitNG. Investigations will be done to see how these two test case generation systems could be unified into forming a single, glass box system.

5.3.4 Improved user feedback

Since KeYTestGen2 performs an extensive analysis of the source code it consumes (due to symbolic execution), we see the possibility of the tool providing extensive feedback to the user about the quality of the code, in addition to generating test cases for it.

For example, the tool could potentially detect more subtle runtime errors which are otherwise caught neither by the compiler nor signaled by exceptions at runtime. One such case would be statements which are unreachable due to their path conditions being unsatisfiable. Example 10 demonstrates one such case.

⁵⁶. i.e. statement, branch, condition and decision coverage.

Example 20.

An unreachable statement: **return x;**

```
int a = 5;
int b = 4;
if(a > b) {
    if(b > a) {
        return x;
    }
}
```

Since $a > b$ and $a < b$ are mutually exclusive expressions, the statement `return x;` can never be executed under normal conditions. Such anomalies are certainly results of a mistake in the development process, and thus something the developer would want to get notified about.

5.3.5 KeY integration

Integration of KeYTestGen with the main KeY system has been an objective from the beginning. In particular, close integration between the Symbolic Debugger of KeY and KeYTestGen has been targeted. From the perspective of the debugger, KeYTestGen could be invoked in order to generate individual test cases for specific execution nodes. From the perspective of KeYTestGen, the debugger could, for example, be invoked dynamically in order to assist the user in resolving situations where certain degrees of code coverage cannot be satisfied due to errors in the design of the code itself.

5.3.6 Support for more frameworks and test granularities

Currently, KeYTestGen has partial support for generating test suites for the JUnit framework. In the long term, we aim to implement support for other test frameworks as well, with TestNG [10] being the current target.

It is noteworthy that both JUnit and TestNG are primarily designed for unit testing. As far as possible, it would be interesting to explore the possibilities of generating test cases of higher granularity, such as integration tests. Doing so would of course require much more indepth analysis of the code itself, along with possible manual input from the user (such as specifications on class integration, etc).

6 Conclusion

Automated test case generation tools can provide a significant productivity boost to modern software engineering processes, since they allow the otherwise time consuming verification and validation phases to be automated. More advanced such systems can confer even greater benefits, such as producing test suites which guarantee certain levels of code coverage.

KeYTestGen2 is one such tool, being an extensible test case generation system based on the symbolic execution technology of the KeY system. Using this technology, KeYTestGen2 is capable of deriving a rich set of metadata about possible execution paths through a software system. This data can then be processed into a set of test suites, which may finally be encoded as test suites for specific test frameworks such as JUnit or TestNG.

This work has described the the concepts behind KeYTestGen2, as well as the precursor to it, KeYTestGen1. It has further explored the requirements and implementation of the system, provided an evaluation of its current state, and provided a summary of ongoing and future work on the system.

There is not yet a silver bullet for verification of software, but it is my hope that KeYTestGen2 may eventually play a significant role in making that process much more convenient. In the end, may it allow programmers to focus on the one thing that has driven software development throughout the ages - solving problems.

7 Appendix A - KeYTestGen requirements.

The following requirements have been adapted from an internal Chalmers document⁵⁷, outlining a formal set of requirements on KeYTestGen with regard to a project Chalmers was participating in at the time.

The requirements have been edited so as to exclude certain cases which were relevant only for the project in question, but not general use.

These requirements are an interesting reference as they specify conditions for KeYTestGen being applicable in an industrial context, which is also something we target for KeYTestGen2. To the best of my knowledge, they are the only extant formal requirements ever written for the system.

7.1 Test Case Inputs

This section analyses the problem of finding inputs for the test suite to generate.

7.1.1 User Requirements

Requirement 6.1: Generation of input values

- a) The system **shall** generate test case inputs automatically.

Rationale: Test generation provides the user with test inputs for a test suite automatically. Certain coverage criteria are met by construction, see (10.3).

Requirement 6.2: Coverage criteria

- a) The inputs of the generated test cases **shall** achieve a strong hybrid coverage.
- b) The inputs of the generated test cases **shall** achieve the strong Modified Condition/Decision Coverage (MC/CD) coverage criterion.

Rationale:

- Hybrid coverage means that the tests are covering w.r.t. different definitions of test adequacy criteria. The ones we consider are program-based, specification-based, and error-based.
 - In **program-based** criteria the code is analysed (here by symbolical execution. Representing the set of possible executions as a directed graph with one entry point and one exit point, any path from the entry node and the exit node is a representation of an execution (which can also be unfeasible). Coverage is then defined by means of the relationship between the test set (that is a set of paths) and the graph defined.

⁵⁷. Not cited or reproduced in its entirety for confidentiality reasons. The project is not run by Chalmers.

- In **specification-based criteria** tests are extracted from the (formal) specification which provides inputs and desired outputs by means of pre- and post-condition. The coverage is defined by means of identification of categories in the domain of the input parameters and their relationship with the test set.
- In **error-based criteria** an input-space analysis is required, and can be done either by inspecting the code or speculating on the specification; the result is the partitioning of the input space. That partitioning helps to test the program on the more error-prone inputs; e.g. corner cases in floats. Thus the input space is partitioned, and the coverage is defined on the way test inputs are taken from this partition. The aim is to guarantee strong criterion in the different paradigms at once.
- MC/CD criterion is one of the strongest program-based testing criteria. It is mentioned in the DO-178B standard as the criterion which ensures that Level A (Catastrophic) software is tested adequately.

7.1.2 Technical Requirements

Requirement 6.3: *Generate test cases in JUNIT*

- a) Test generation **shall** result in test cases following the JUNIT standard.

Rationale: The tests should be executed automatically, using a well established technology.

7.2 Test Oracle

This section analyses the problem of generating oracles (see section 2) based on formally specified Java code.

7.2.1 User Requirements

Requirement 6.5: *Generation of oracles from specifications*

- The system **shall** generate oracles from the postcondition of the provided method specifications.

Rationale: to fully automate test result evaluation.

7.2.2 Technical Requirements

Requirement 6.6: *JUnit test suite output*

- The system **shall** output a test suite for the Implementation Under Test (IUT).

Rationale: JUnit is a broadly used testing framework (www.junit.org) for Java development.

8 Appendix B - Input and output examples

Here, we illustrate the operation of KeYTestGen2 with examples of generated JUnit test suites for select Java methods.

Example 21.

Given the Java method below, KeYTestGen2 will generate the test suite following it.

```

/*@ public normal_behavior
  @ ensures
    (\result == x) ||
    (\result == y) ||
    (\result == z );
  @ ensures
    ((\result <= y) && (\result <= z )) ||
    ((\result <= y) && (\result <= x )) ||
    ((\result <= x) && (\result <= z ));
  @ ensures
    ((\result >= y) && (\result >= z )) ||
    ((\result >= y) && (\result >= x )) ||
    ((\result >= x) && (\result >= z ));
  @*/ensures
    ((\result >= y) && (\result >= z )) ||
    ((\result >= y) && (\result >= x )) ||
    ((\result >= x) && (\result >= z ));*/
public static int mid(int x, int y, int z) {
  int mid = z;
  if (y < z) {
    if (x < y) {
      mid = y;
    } else if (x < z) {
      mid = x;
    }
  } else {
    if (x > y) {
      mid = y;
    } else if (x > z) {
      mid = x;
    }
  }
  return mid;
}

```

Example 22. JUnit test suite generated for the example above.

```
import org.junit.*;
import java.lang.reflect.*;
import java.util.*;
import
de.uka.ilkd.key.testgeneration.targetmodels.PrimitiveIntegerOperations;

public class Test_PrimitiveIntegerOperations_mid {

    @Test
    public void testmid0 () {
        PrimitiveIntegerOperations self = getObjectInstance(2);
        int x = -1;
        int y = 0;
        int z = 1;
        int result = self.mid(x,y,z);
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result == x) ||
            (result == y) ||
            (result == z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result >= x) ||
            (result >= y)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result >= x) ||
            (result >= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result >= x) ||
            (result >= y) ||
            (result >= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result >= y) ||
            (result >= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= x) ||
            (result <= y)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= x) ||
            (result <= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= x) ||
            (result <= y) ||
            (result <= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= y) ||
            (result <= z)
        );
    }
}
```

```
@Test
public void testmid1 () {
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations self = getObjectInstance(6);
    int x = -1;
    int y = -1;
    int z = 0;
    int result = self.mid(x,y,z);
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result == x) ||
        (result == y) ||
        (result == z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
};
}
```

```
@Test
public void testmid2 () {
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations self = getObjectInstance(4);
    int x = 0;
    int y = -1;
    int z = 0;
    int result = self.mid(x,y,z);
    Assert.assertTrue(
```

```

        (result == x) ||
        (result == y) ||
        (result == z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
}

```

```

@Test
public void testmid3 () {
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations self = getObjectInstance(1);
    int x = 1;
    int y = 0;
    int z = 0;
    int result = self.mid(x,y,z);
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result == x) ||
        (result == y) ||
        (result == z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y)
    );
}

```

```

        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result >= x) ||
            (result >= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result >= x) ||
            (result >= y) ||
            (result >= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result >= y) ||
            (result >= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= x) ||
            (result <= y)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= x) ||
            (result <= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= x) ||
            (result <= y) ||
            (result <= z)
        );
        Assert.assertTrue(
            (result <= y) ||
            (result <= z)
        );
    }

@Test
public void testmid4 () {
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations self = getObjectInstance(3);
    int x = 1;
    int y = 1;
    int z = 0;
    int result = self.mid(x,y,z);
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result == x) ||
        (result == y) ||
        (result == z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
}

```

```

    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
}

@Test
public void testmid5 () {
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations self = getObjectInstance(5);
    int x = 0;
    int y = 0;
    int z = 0;
    int result = self.mid(x,y,z);
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result == x) ||
        (result == y) ||
        (result == z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= x) ||
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result >= y) ||
        (result >= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y)
    );
}

```

```

    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= x) ||
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
    Assert.assertTrue(
        (result <= y) ||
        (result <= z)
    );
}

private static HashMap<Integer, Object> objectInstances =
    new HashMap<Integer, Object>();

/**
 * This method will retrieve an object instance corresponding
 * to its reference ID.
 */
private static <T> T getObjectInstance (int reference) {
    return (T)objectInstances.get(reference);
}

/**
 * Sets a field of some object to a given value
 */
private static void setFieldValue (Object instance,
    String fieldName, Object value)
    throws NoSuchFieldException, SecurityException,
        IllegalArgumentException, IllegalAccessException {

    Field field =
        instance.getClass().getDeclaredField(fieldName);
    field.setAccessible(true);
    field.set(instance, value );
}

/**
 * This method will set up the entire repository of object
 * instances needed to execute the test cases declared above.
 */
@BeforeClass
public static void createFixtureRepository ()
    throws NoSuchFieldException, SecurityException,
        IllegalArgumentException, IllegalAccessException {

    /**
     * Instantiate and insert the raw object instances into
     * the repository. After this, finalize the repository
     * setup by setting up the relevant fields of each object
     * instance as necessary
     */
}

```

```
objectInstances.put(2, new PrimitiveIntegerOperations());
objectInstances.put(6, new PrimitiveIntegerOperations());
objectInstances.put(4, new PrimitiveIntegerOperations());
objectInstances.put(1, new PrimitiveIntegerOperations());
objectInstances.put(3, new PrimitiveIntegerOperations());
objectInstances.put(5, new PrimitiveIntegerOperations());
{
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations instance =
        getObjectInstance(2);
}

{
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations instance =
        getObjectInstance(6);
}

{
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations instance =
        getObjectInstance(4);
}

{
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations instance =
        getObjectInstance(1);
}

{
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations instance =
        getObjectInstance(3);
}

{
    PrimitiveIntegerOperations instance =
        getObjectInstance(5);
}
}
```


Bibliography

- [1] Wolfgang Ahrendt, Thomas Baar, Bernhard Beckert, Richard Bubel, Martin Giese, Reiner Hähnle, Wolfram Menzel, Wojciech Mostowski, Andreas Roth, Steffen Schlager and Peter H. Schmitt. The KeY tool. *Software and System Modeling*, 4:32–54, 2005.
- [2] Wolfgang Ahrendt, Bernhard Beckert, Reiner Hähnle, Philipp Rümmer and Peter H. Schmitt. Verifying object-oriented programs with KeY: a tutorial. In *5th International Symposium on Formal Methods for Components and Objects, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*, volume 4709 of *LNCS*, pages 70–101. Springer, 2007.
- [3] Wolfgang Ahrendt, Richard Bubel and Reiner Hähnle. Integrated and tool-supported teaching of testing, debugging, and verification. In J. Gibbons and J. N. Oliveira, editors, *Proc. Second International Conference on Teaching Formal Methods*, volume 5846 of *LNCS*, pages 125–143. Springer, 2009.
- [4] Institute of Technology Applied Formal Methods Group, University of Washington Tacoma. The jmlunitng project. <http://formalmethods.insttech.washington.edu/software/jmlunitng/>.
- [5] Paul Ammann and Jeff Offutt. *Introduction to software testing*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- [6] Kent Beck. Simple smalltalk testing: with patterns. <http://www.xprogramming.com/testfram.htm>, 1989.
- [7] Bernhard Beckert and Christoph Gladisch. White-box testing by combining deduction-based specification extraction and black-box testing. In Bertrand Meyer and Yuri Gurevich, editors, *Proc. Tests and Proofs, Zürich, Switzerland*, LNCS. Springer-Verlag, to appear, 2007.
- [8] Bernhard Beckert and Vladimir Klebanov. A dynamic logic for deductive verification of concurrent programs. In Mike Hinchey and Tiziana Margaria, editors, *Proceedings, 5th IEEE International Conference on Software Engineering and Formal Methods (SEFM), London, UK*. IEEE Press, 2007.
- [9] Cédric Beust. Jcommander home page. <http://jcommander.org/>.
- [10] Cédric Beust. TestNG home page. <http://testng.org/doc/index.html>.
- [11] Richard Bubel, Reiner Hähnle and Benjamin Weiss. Abstract interpretation of symbolic execution with explicit state updates. In Frank de Boer, Marcello M. Bonsangue and Eric Madelaine, editors, *Post Conf. Proc. 6th International Symposium on Formal Methods for Components and Objects (FMCO)*, volume 5751 of *LNCS*, pages 247–277. Springer-Verlag, 2009.
- [12] Len Bass, Paul Clements and Rick Kazman. *Software architecture in practice*. Addison-Wesley Professional, 2003.
- [13] Bernhard Beckert, Reiner Hähnle and Peter H. Schmitt, editors. *Verification of Object-Oriented Software: The KeY Approach*. LNCS 4334. Springer, 2007.
- [14] Special issue on tests and proofs. *Journal of Automated Reasoning*, , 2008. To appear.
- [15] John J Chilenski. An investigation of three forms of the modified condition decision coverage (mcdc) criterion. Technical Report, DTIC Document, 2001.
- [16] The JML community. JML home page. <http://www.eecs.ucf.edu/leavens/JML/index.shtml>.
- [17] The KeY community. The KeY project - integrated deductive software design. <http://www.key-project.org>.

- [18] The Objenesis community. Objenesis - a library for instantiating java objects. <https://code.google.com/p/objenesis/>.
- [19] M. Dowson. The ariane 5 software failure. *ACM SIGSOFT Software Engineering Notes*, 22(2):84, 1997.
- [20] Christian Engel. Verification based test case generation. Master's thesis, Universität Karlsruhe, aug 2006.
- [21] Christian Engel, Christoph Gladisch, Vladimir Klebanov and Philipp Rümmer. Integrating Verification and Testing of Object-Oriented Software. In Bernhard Beckert and Reiner Hähnle, editors, *Tests and Proofs. Second International Conference, TAP 2008, Prato, Italy*, LNCS 4966. Springer, 2008.
- [22] Christian Engel and Reiner Hähnle. Generating unit tests from formal proofs. In Bertrand Meyer and Yuri Gurevich, editors, *Proc. Tests and Proofs (TAP), Zürich, Switzerland*, LNCS. Springer, to appear, 2007.
- [23] Wolfgang Ahrendt Gabriele Paganelli. Verification driven test generator. In *Publications of the CHARTER project*. 2010.
- [24] Christoph Gladisch. Verification-based test case generation with loop invariants and method specifications. Technical Report, University of Koblenz-Landau, 2008.
- [25] Christoph Gladisch. Verification-based testing for full feasible branch coverage. In Antonio Cerone, editor, *Proc. 6th IEEE Int. Conf. Software Engineering and Formal Methods (SEFM'08)*. IEEE Computer Society Press, 2008.
- [26] Christoph Gladisch. Test data generation for programs with quantified first-order logic specifications. In [36], pages 158–173.
- [27] Christoph Gladisch. Model generation for quantified formulas with application to test data generation. *International Journal on Software Tools for Technology Transfer (STTT)*, :1–21, feb 2012. 10.1007/s10009-012-0227-0.
- [28] Kelly Jeanne Hayhurst, Dan S Veerhusen, John J Chilenski and Leanna K Rierison. *A practical tutorial on modified condition/decision coverage*. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Research Center, 2001.
- [29] Michael Huth and Mark Ryan. *Logic in Computer Science: Modelling and reasoning about systems*, volume 2. Cambridge University Press Cambridge,, UK, 2004.
- [30] R. Hähnle, M. Baum, R. Bubel and M. Rothe. A visual interactive debugger based on symbolic execution. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/ACM international conference on Automated software engineering*, pages 143–146. ACM, 2010.
- [31] J.M. Jazequel and B. Meyer. Design by contract: the lessons of ariane. *Computer*, 30(1):129–130, 1997.
- [32] Gary T. Leavens, Erik Poll, Curtis Clifton, Yoonsik Cheon, Clyde Ruby, David Cok, Peter Müller, Joseph Kiniry and Patrice Chalin. *JML Reference Manual. Draft Revision 1.200*. Feb 2007.
- [33] J.L. Lions et al. Ariane 5 flight 501 failure. 1996.
- [34] Gerard Meszaros. *XUnit Test Patterns*. Addison-Wesley Signature Series. Addison-Wesley, 2007.
- [35] Terence Parr. Stringtemplate - a java template engine. <http://www.stringtemplate.org/>.
- [36] Alexandre Petrenko, Adenilso da Silva Simão and José Carlos Maldonado, editors. *Testing Software and Systems - 22nd IFIP WG 6.1 International Conference, ICTSS 2010, Natal, Brazil, November 8-10, 2010. Proceedings*, volume 6435 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*. Springer, 2010.
- [37] Ian Sommerville. *Software Engineering*. Pearson International, 9th edition, 2011.