

Lecture 17

ECE 1145: Software Construction and Evolution

Systematic Testing

(CH 34)

Announcements

- Iteration 6: Compositional Design due Nov. 7
 - Bonus: EtaCiv due Dec. 12
- Relevant Exercises: 34.3 (Equivalence Classes on Breakthrough game described in exercise 5.4)
- Midterm grades posted (see Gradescope)

Questions for Today

How do we write tests efficiently?

Review: TDD

Tests can only demonstrate the presence of defects, **not the absence of defects.**

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→ How can we increase the chance of finding defects?

Systematic Testing

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It is a **complement** to TDD, not an alternative

Testing Approaches

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 - Costly, best for highly complex methods or systems where reliability is very important (e.g., for safety)

→ Balance the **effort** of testing with expected increase in **reliability** (e.g., focus on testing default configurations)

Systematic Testing

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→ Actual code can be inspected to generate test cases

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We will focus on black-box testing → Implementation-independent

- Equivalence Class Partitioning
- Boundary Value Analysis

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example: **Math.abs(int x)** in the Java system libraries

- Calculates the absolute value of an integer
- If the argument is not negative, return the argument
- If the argument is negative, return the negation of the argument

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Test case table:

Unit under test: Math.abs	
Input	Expected output
x = 37	37
x = 38	38
x = 39	39
x = 40	40
x = 41	41

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Do these tests ensure that the function is reliably implemented?

Are these test the best test cases to check?

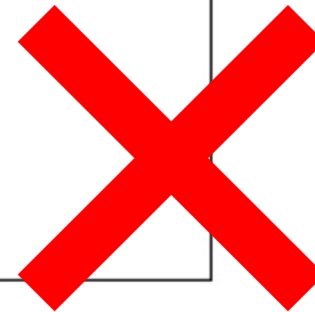
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Nope!

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→ We only need to choose one representative element from each EC

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Partition the input space into **equivalence classes**, choose a **representative** input value from each EC

We can have **valid** or **invalid** ECs

- Example: `Math.sqrt(double x)`, positive vs. negative values of `x`
- Invalid ECs will typically define special processing, e.g., throwing an exception

Equivalence Class Partitioning

When partitioning, aim for **coverage** and **representation**

Coverage: Every possible input element belongs to at least one of the equivalence classes

Representation: If a defect is demonstrated by one member of an equivalence class, the same defect is assumed to be demonstrated by any other member of the class

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Equivalence class table

Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
absolute value of x	–	$x > 0$ [1] $x \leq 0$ [2]

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Often it is not easy to find equivalence classes!

- Apply heuristics, iterate, refine the ECs and test cases as you gain insight into the problem
- Take small steps

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- Take small steps

Look for conditions in the **specifications** of the UUT indicating expected input and output values

- **Set** : define an EC for each value in the set and one EC containing all elements outside the set
- **Boolean** : define one EC for the true condition and one for the false condition
- **Range** : select one valid EC that covers the allowed range and two invalid ECs, one above and one below

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example: Pay station must accept 5, 10, and 25 cent coins

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Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
Allowed coins	$\notin \{5, 10, 25\}[1]$	$\{5\}[2]; \{10\}[3]; \{25\}[4]$

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example: A method to recognize a properly formatted programming language identifier that is required to start with a letter

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Boolean : define one EC for the true condition and one for the false condition

Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
Initial character of identifier	non-letter [1]	letter [2]

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example: A method to test if a position on a chess board is valid (columns a-h, rows 1-8)

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Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
Column	< 'a' [1]; > 'h' [2]	'a'-'h' [3]
Row	< 1 [4]; > 8 [5]	1-8 [6]

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Heuristics are based on how the value conditions would typically be handled (because this is what they are designed to test)

Ranges:

```
if ( row < 1 || row > 8 ) { ... }
```

Sets:

```
if ( coin == 5 || coin == 10 || coin == 25 ) { ... }  
// alternative  
switch ( coin ) { case 5: case 10: case 25: { ... } }
```

Equivalence Class Partitioning

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Arithmetic computations:

Addition/subtraction: select one valid EC for 0, one valid EC for all other elements

Multiplication/division: select one valid EC for 1, and one valid EC for all other elements

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example: HotCiv attacks

- Implementation 1: $\text{Value} = \text{attackStrength}$;
- Implementation 2: $\text{Value} = \text{attackStrength} * \text{dieValue}$;

What happens if you choose 1 as die value in all your test cases?

Equivalence Class Partitioning

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What happens if you choose 1 as die value in all your test cases?

Using the heuristics:

Condition:

Die value

Valid EC:

$\{1\}$ [A], $\{2,3,4,5,6\}$ [B]

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ECs covered	Test case	Expected output
[1]	$x = -37$	+37
[2]	$x = 42$	+42

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(Must provide both row and column)

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(Must provide both row and column)

ECs covered	Test case	Expected output
[1], [4]	(' ',0)	illegal
[2], [4]	('i',-2)	illegal
[3], [4]	('e',0)	illegal
[1], [5]	(' ',9)	illegal
[2], [5]	('j',9)	illegal
[3], [5]	('f',12)	illegal
[1], [6]	(' ',4)	illegal
[2], [6]	('i',5)	illegal
[3], [6]	('b',6)	legal

?

Equivalence Class Partitioning

With many ECs for many independent conditions, avoid combinatorial explosion:

1. Until all **valid** ECs have been covered, define a test case that covers **as many uncovered valid ECs** as possible
2. Until all **invalid** ECs have been covered, define a test case that only involves **one invalid EC**

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[2], [6]	('j',3)	illegal
[3], [4]	('b',0)	illegal
[3], [5]	('c',9)	illegal
[3], [6]	('b',6)	legal

- One valid test case
- Only invalid row or column (not both)
- Test lower and higher than allowed range

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Allowing only one condition to be invalid at a time avoids **masking**

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Example:

columns a-h
rows 1-8

```
/** Demonstration of masking of defects. */  
public class ChessBoard {  
    public boolean valid(char column, int row) {  
        if ( column < 'a' ) { return false; }  
        if ( row < 0 ) { return false; }  
        return true;  
    }  
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```

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Equivalence Class Partitioning

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columns a-h
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Not covered!

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But this test case passes!

Correct column checking **masks** the defect in row checking

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Equivalence Class Partitioning

1. Review the requirements for the UUT, identify **conditions**, and use heuristics to find ECs for each condition
 - Create an **equivalence class table**
2. Review the ECs and consider the **representation** of elements in each EC. Repartition the EC if elements are not representative.
3. Review to verify **coverage**
4. Generate test cases from the ECs. Apply heuristics to generate a minimal set of test cases.
 - Create a **test case table**
5. Review test cases to find what is missing, **iterate!**

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example:

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public interface weekday {  
    /** calculate the weekday of the 1st day of the given month.  
     * @param year the year as integer. 2000 means year 2000 etc. Only  
     * years in the range 1900–3000 are valid. The output is undefined  
     * for years outside this range.  
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     * December. Values outside the range 1–12 are illegal.  
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valid months 1 – 12

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1. Identify conditions: Apply range heuristics

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1. Identify conditions: Apply range heuristics

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2. Evaluate representativeness

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2. Evaluate representativeness : What about leap years?

→ Repartition

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month	< 1 [4]; > 12 [5]	1 – 12 [6]

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example:

a leap year is divisible by 4, and a year that is evenly divisible by 100 is a leap year only if it is also evenly divisible by 400

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Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
month		1 – 2 [6a]; 3 – 12 [6b]

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3. Verify coverage : all possible values of (year, month) belong to one or another EC

Condition	Invalid ECs
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4. Generate test cases : apply heuristics

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Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
month		1 – 2 [6a]; 3 – 12 [6b]

ECs covered	Test case	Expected output
[3a], [6a]	$y = 2000; m = 2$	-
[3b], [6b]	$y = 1900; m = 5$	-
[3c], [6b]	$y = 2004; m = 10$	5
[3d], [6a]	$y = 1985; m = 1$	-
[1]	$y = 1844; m = 4$	[exception]
[2]	$y = 4231; m = 8$	[exception]
[4]	$y = 2004; m = 0$	[exception]
[5]	$y = 2004; m = 13$	[exception]

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example:

```
public interface weekday {
    /** calculate the weekday of the 1st day of the given month.
     * @param year the year as integer. 2000 means year 2000 etc. Only
     * years in the range 1900–3000 are valid. The output is undefined
     * for years outside this range.
     * @param month the month as integer. 1 means January, 12 means
     * December. Values outside the range 1–12 are illegal.
     * @return the weekday of the 1st day of the month. 0 means Sunday
     * 1 means Monday etc. up til 6 meaning Saturday.
     */
    public int weekday(int year, int month)
        throws IllegalArgumentException;
}
```

4. Generate test cases : apply heuristics

Only one invalid parameter at a time

Condition	Invalid ECs
year	< 1900 [1]; > 3000 [2]
month	< 1 [4]; > 12 [5]

Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
year (y)		$\{y y \in [1900; 3000] \wedge y\%400 = 0\}$ [3a] $\{y y \in [1900; 3000] \wedge y\%100 = 0 \wedge y \notin [3a]\}$ [3b] $\{y y \in [1900; 3000] \wedge y\%4 = 0 \wedge y \notin [3a] \cup [3b]\}$ [3c] $\{y y \in [1900; 3000] \wedge y\%4 \neq 0\}$ [3d]

Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
month		1 – 2 [6a]; 3 – 12 [6b]

ECs covered	Test case	Expected output
[3a], [6a]	$y = 2000; m = 2$	-
[3b], [6b]	$y = 1900; m = 5$	-
[3c], [6b]	$y = 2004; m = 10$	5
[3d], [6a]	$y = 1985; m = 1$	-
[1]	$y = 1844; m = 4$	[exception]
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Equivalence Class Partitioning


Example:

```
/** return true iff  $x+y < T$  */  
public boolean isMoreThanSumOf(int x, int y)
```

Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
x		?
y		?

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example:



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Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
$x+y$	-	$< T[1]; \geq T[2]$

Can't just look at input parameters – need the condition on $x + y$

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example:



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public boolean isMoreThanSumOf(int x, int y)
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Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
x		?
y		?

Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
x+y	-	$< T$ [1]; $\geq T$ [2]

ECs covered	Test case	Expected output
[1]	$x = 12; y = 23; T = 100$	true
[2]	$x = -23; y = 15; T = -10$	false

Can't just look at input parameters – need the condition on $x + y$

Equivalence Class Partitioning

Example:

```
/** format a string representing of a double. The string is always  
6 characters wide and in the form ###.##, that is the double is  
rounded to 2 digit precision. Numbers smaller than 100 have '0'  
prefix. Example: 123 -> '123.00'; 2,3476 -> '002.35' etc. If the  
number is larger or equal to 999.995 then '***.**' is output to  
signal overflow. All negative values are signaled with '---.--'  
*/  
public String format(double x);
```

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    signal overflow. All negative values are signaled with '---.--'
    */
public String format(double x);
```

Condition	Invalid ECs	Valid ECs
overflow / underflow	≥ 1000.0 [1]; < 0.0 [2]	(,00x round up) [3];
2 digit rounding		(,00x round down) [4]
prefix		no '0' prefix [5]
		exact '0' prefix [6]
		exact '00' prefix [7]
		exact '000' prefix [8]
output suffix		'yx' suffix ($x \neq 0$) [9]
		'x0' suffix ($x \neq 0$) [10]
		exact '.00' suffix [11]

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output suffix		'yx' suffix ($x \neq 0$) [9] 'x0' suffix ($x \neq 0$) [10] exact '.00' suffix [11]

ECs covered	Test case	Expected output
[1]	1234.456	'***.**'
[2]	-0.1	'---.--'
[3][5][9]	212.738	'212.74'
[4][6][10]	32.503	'032.50'
[3][7][11]	7.995	'008.00'
[4][8][9]	0.933	'000.93'

Boundary Value Analysis

Boundary value: an element that lies right on or next to the edge of an equivalence class

→ Not always applicable, depends on the requirements and implementation

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if ( row <= 1 ) return false; // should have been row < 1
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Set and Boolean conditions generate ECs where boundaries are **part of the ECs themselves**

Systematic Testing: Summary

Key point: Observe unit **preconditions** – don't generate ECs and test cases for conditions that a unit cannot/should not handle

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Example: For a game with a user interface, it is unnecessary to test presence of a game piece at a “from” location if the user must click on a piece to move

→ This is the case for HotCiv!

→ Check/define method preconditions

Systematic Testing: Summary

Key point: Systematic testing assumes **competent programming**

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Example:

```
public int abs(int x) {  
    switch(x) {  
        case 1: return 1;  
        case 2: return 2;  
        case 3: return 3;  
        case 7123: return 8222;  
        case -1: return -1;  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

Tests can't necessarily detect bad code!

Systematic Testing: Summary

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→ Consider use cases

Next time: Code Coverage