Lecture 17: Testing Strategies

Structural Coverage Strategies (White box testing):

- Statement Coverage
- Branch Coverage
- Condition Coverage
- Data Path Coverage

Function Coverage Strategies (Black box testing):

- Use Cases as Test Cases
- Testing with good and bad data

Stress Testing

- Quick Test
- Interference Testing

A radical alternative: Exploratory Testing

Developer Testing

Write the test cases first

- minimize the time to defect discovery
- forces you to think carefully about the requirements first
- exposes requirements problems early
- supports a "daily smoke test"

But: Limitations of Developer Testing

- Emphasis on clean tests (vs. dirty tests)
  - immature organisations have 1 dirty : 5 clean
  - mature organisations have 5 dirty : 1 clean
- Developers overestimate test coverage
- Developers tend to focus on statement coverage rather than …

Summary:

- Test-case first strategy is extremely valuable
- Test-case first strategy is not enough

Structured Basis Testing

Source: Adapted from McConnell 2004, p506-508

The minimal set of tests to cover every branch

How many tests?

- start with 1 for the straight path
- add 1 for each of these keywords: if, while, repeat, for, and, or
- add 1 for each branch of a case statement

Example

```
int midval (int x, y, z) {
/* effects: returns median
  value of the three inputs
*/
if (x > y) {
  if (x > z) return x
  else return z }
else {
  if (y > z) return y
  else return z } }
```

Count 1 + 3 'if's = 4 test cases

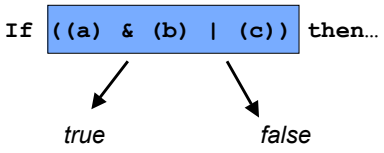
Now choose the cases to exercise the 4 paths:

e.g. x=3, y=2, z=1
x=3, y=2, z=4
x=2, y=3, z=2
x=2, y=3, z=4

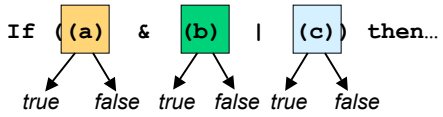
Complex Conditions

Source: Adapted from Christopher Ackermann's slides

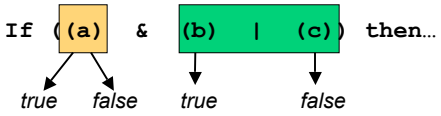
Branch Coverage:



Condition Coverage:



But can you show that each part has an independent effect on the outcome?



MC/DC Coverage

Source: Adapted from Christopher Ackermann's slides

Show that each basic condition can affect the result

```
If ((a)  &  (b)  |  (c)) then…
```

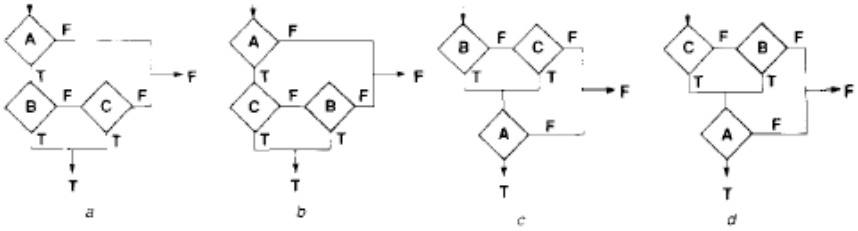
number	ABC	result	A	B	C
1	TTT	T	5		
2	TTF	T	6	4	
3	TFT	T	7		4
4	TFF	F		2	3
5	FTT	F	1		
6	FTF	F	2		
7	FFT	F	3		
8	FFF	F			

Choose a minimal set:
Eg. {2, 3, 4, 6}
or {2, 3, 4, 7}

MC/DC versus Branch Coverage

Source: Adapted from Christopher Ackermann's slides

Compiler can translate conditions in the object code:



Test sets for condition/decision coverage:

{1, 8} or {2, 7} or {3, 6}

Covers all paths in the source code, but not all paths in the object code

Test sets for Modified Condition/Decision Coverage

{2, 3, 4, 6} or {2, 3, 4, 7}

Covers all paths in the object code

About MC/DC

Advantages:

- Linear growth in the number of conditions
- Ensures coverage of the object code
- Discovers dead code (operands that have no effect)

Mandated by the US Federal Aviation Administration

- In avionics, complex boolean expressions are common
- Has been shown to uncover important errors not detected by other test approaches

It's expensive

- E.g. Boeing 777
- approx 4 million lines of code, 2.5 million newly developed
- approx 70% of this is Ada (rest is C or assembler)
- Total cost of aircraft development: $5.5 billion
- Cost of testing to MC/DC criteria: approx $1.5 billion

Dataflow testing

Source: *Adapted from McConnell 2004, p506-508*

Things that happen to data:

- Defined - data is initialized but not yet used
- Used - data is used in a computation
- Killed - space is released
- Entered - working copy created on entry to a method
- Exited - working copy removed on exit from a method

Normal life:

- Defined once, Used a number of times, then Killed

Potential Defects:

- D-D: variable is defined twice
- D-Ex, D-K: variable defined but not used
- En-K: destroying a local variable that wasn't defined?
- En-U: for local variable, used before it's initialized
- K-K: unnecessary killing - can hang the machine!
- K-U: using data after it has been destroyed
- U-D: redefining a variable after is has been used

Testing all D-U paths

Source: Adapted from McConnell 2004, p506-508

The minimal set of tests to cover every D-U path

How many tests?

1 test for each path from each definition to each use of the variable

Example

```
D:  if (Cond1) {
      x = a;
    }
    else {
D:    x = b;
    }
    if (Cond2) {
U:    y = x + 1
    }
    else {
U:    y = x - 1;
    }
```

Structured Basis Testing:

2 test cases is sufficient

Case 1: Cond1=true, Cond2=true

Case 2: Cond1=false, Cond2=false

All DU testing:

Need 4 test cases

Boundary Checking

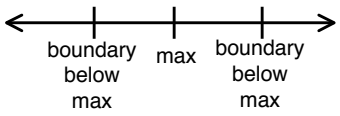
Source: Adapted from McConnell 2004, p506-508

Boundary Analysis

Every boundary needs 3 tests:

Example:

```
if (x < MAX) {
  … }
```



test for MAX+1, MAX-1 and MAX

Compound Boundaries

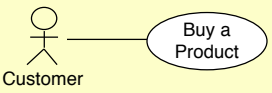
When several variables have combined boundaries

```
for (i=0; i<Num; i++) {
  if (a[i] < LIMIT) {
    y = y+a[i];
  }
}
```

Test when lots of array entries are close to the max?

Test when lots of entries are close to zero?

Generating Tests from Use Cases



Buy a Product

Precondition: Customer has successfully logged in

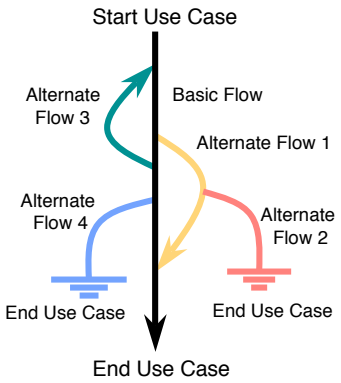
Main Success Scenario:
Customer browses catalog and selects items to buy
Customer goes to check out
Customer fills in shipping information (address, next-day or 3-day delivery)
System presents full pricing information
Customer fills in credit card information
System authorizes purchase
System confirms sale immediately
System sends confirming email to customer

Postcondition: Payment was received in full, customer has received confirmation

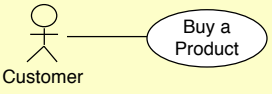
Extensions:
3a: Customer is Regular Customer
.1 System displays current shipping, pricing and billing information
.2 Customer may accept or override these defaults, returns to MSS at step 6
6a: System fails to authorize credit card
.1 Customer may reenter credit card information or may cancel

1 Test the Basic Flow

2 Test the Alternate Flows



Generating Tests from Use Cases



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3 Test the Postconditions

Are they met on all paths through the use case?

Are all postconditions met?

4 Break the Preconditions

What happens if this is not met?

In what ways might it not be met?

5 Identify options for each variable

select combinations of options for each test case

Data Classes

Source: Adapted from McConnell 2004, p506-508

Classes of Bad Data

- Too little data (or no data)
- Too much data
- The wrong kind of data (invalid data)
- The wrong size of data
- Uninitialized data

Classes of Good Data

- Nominal cases - middle of the road, expected values
- Minimum normal configuration
- Maximum normal configuration
- Compatibility with old data

Classes of input variables

values that trigger alternative flows
- e.g. invalid credit card
- e.g. regular customer

trigger different error messages
- e.g. text too long for field
- e.g. email address with no "@"

inputs that cause changes in the appearance of the UI
- e.g. a prompt for additional information

inputs that causes different options in dropdown menus
- e.g. US/Canada triggers menu of states/provinces

cases in a business rule
- e.g. No next day delivery after 6pm

border conditions
- if password must be min 6 characters, test password of 5,6,7 characters

Check the default values
- e.g. when cardholder's name is filled automatically

Override the default values
- e.g. when the user enters different name

Enter data in different formats
- e.g. phone numbers:
- (416) 555 1234
- 416-555-1234
- 416 555 1234

Test country-specific assumptions
- e.g. date order: 5/25/08 vs. 25/5/08

Limits of Use Cases as Test Cases

Use Case Tests good for:

- User acceptance testing
- "Business as usual" functional testing
- Manual black-box tests
- Recording automated scripts for common scenarios

Limitations of Use Cases

- Likely to be incomplete
- Use cases don't describe enough detail of use
- Gaps and inconsistencies between use cases
- Use cases might be out of date
- Use cases might be ambiguous

Defects you won't discover:

- System errors (e.g. memory leaks)
- Things that corrupt persistent data
- Performance problems
- Software compatibility problems
- Hardware compatibility problems

Quick Tests

A quick, cheap test

- e.g. Whittaker "How to Break Software"

Examples:

- The Shoe Test (key repeats in any input field)
- Variable boundary testing
- Variability Tour: find anything that varies, and vary it as far as possible in every dimension

Whittaker's QuickTests

Explore the input domain

1. Inputs that force all the error messages to appear
2. Inputs that force the software to establish default values
3. Explore allowable character sets and data types
4. Overflow the input buffers
5. Find inputs that may interact, and test combinations of their values
6. Repeat the same input numerous times

Explore the outputs

7. Force different outputs to be generated for each input
8. Force invalid outputs to be generated
9. Force properties of an output to change
10. Force the screen to refresh

Explore stored data constraints

11. Force a data structure to store too many or too few values
12. Find ways to violate internal data constraints

Explore feature interactions

13. Experiment with invalid operator/operand combinations
14. Make a function call itself recursively
15. Force computation results to be too big or too small
16. Find features that share data

Vary file system conditions

17. File system full to capacity
18. Disk is busy or unavailable
19. Disk is damaged
20. invalid file name
21. vary file permissions
22. vary or corrupt file contents

Interference Testing

Generate Interrupts

- From a device related to the task
- From a device unrelated to the task
- From a software event

Change the context

- Swap out the CD
- Change contents of a file while program is reading it
- Change the selected printer
- Change the video resolution

Cancel a task

- Cancel at different points of completion
- Cancel a related task

Pause the task

- Pause for short or long time

Swap out the task

- e.g. change focus to another application
- e.g. load processor with other tasks
- e.g. put the machine to sleep
- e.g. swap out a related task

Compete for resources

- e.g. get the software to use a resource that is already being used
- e.g. run the software while another task is doing intensive disk access

Exploratory Testing

Start with idea of quality:

- Quality is value to some person

So a defect is:

- something that reduces the value of the software to a favoured stakeholder
- or increases its value to a disfavoured stakeholder

Testing is always done on behalf of stakeholders

- Which stakeholder this time?
- e.g. programmer, project manager, customer, marketing manager, attorney…
- What risks are they trying to mitigate?

You cannot follow a script

- It's like a crime scene investigation
- Follow the clues…
- Learn as you go…

Kaner's definition:

Exploratory testing is

…a style of software testing

…that emphasizes personal freedom and responsibility

…of the tester

…to continually optimize the value of their work

…by treating test-related learning, test design, and test execution

…as mutually supportive activities

…that run in parallel throughout the project

Things to Explore

Function Testing: Test what it can do.

Domain Testing: Divide and conquer the data.

Stress Testing: Overwhelm the product.

Flow Testing: Do one thing after another.

Scenario Testing: Test to a compelling story.

Claims Testing: Verify every claim.

User Testing: Involve the users.

Risk Testing: Imagine a problem, then find it.

Automatic Testing: Write a program to generate and run a zillion tests.