Principles of Software Construction: Objects, Design, and Concurrency

Test case design

Bogdan Vasilescu

Jonathan Aldrich





Administrative

- Canvas submissions
 - "Submit all code of your solution to GitHub and submit a link to your final commit here on Canvas in the form https://github.com/CMU-17-214/<reponame>/commit/<commitid>"
- Homework 2 is due next week: testing
 - Lots of useful stuff in recitation on Wednesday

Quiz Time

Under "Quizzes \rightarrow Lecture 5 Quiz" on Canvas.





Last Week

- Exception handling
- Unit testing: small, simple, per-method tests
- Started talking about specifications



Today

- Specifications
- Specification vs. Structural testing
- Testing Strategies
 - Structural Testing: Statement, branch, path coverage; limitations
 - Specification Testing: Boundary value analysis, combinatorial testing, decision tables
- Writing testable code & good tests

Specifications and testing are closely related

Q: What exactly do you test when given a method?

- What it claims to do: specification testing the contract (last week)
- What it does: structural testing coverage



What is a contract?

- Agreement between an object and its user
 - What object provides, and user can count on
- Includes:
 - Method signature (type specifications)
 - Functionality and correctness expectations
 - Sometimes: performance expectations
- What the method does, not how it does it
 - Interface (API), not implementation
- "Focus on concepts rather than operations"



Method contract details

- Defines method's and caller's responsibilities
- Analogy: legal contract
 - If you pay me this amount on this schedule...
 - I will build a room with the following detailed spec
 - Some contracts have remedies for nonperformance
- Method contract structure
 - Preconditions: what method requires for correct operation
 - Postconditions: what method establishes on completion
 - Exceptional behavior: what it does if precondition violated
- Defines correctness of implementation



Formal frameworks exist, to capture pre- and post-conditions

- E.g., 'requires arr != null'
- Useful for formal verification
- But rarely used in general-purpose application software
 - Takes a lot of effort, and doesn't scale well

Most common: prose specification.

```
class Algorithms {
    /**
    * This method finds the
    * shortest distance between two
    * vertices. It returns -1 if
    * the two nodes are not
    * connected. */
    int shortestDistance(...) {...}
}
```

Recall the earlier example? (Probably too unstructured)





Most common: prose specification.

Document:

- Every parameter
- Return value
- Every exception (checked and unchecked)
- What the method does, including
 - Primary purpose
 - Any side effects
 - Any thread safety issues
 - Any performance issues



Most common: prose specification.

Document:

- Every parameter
- Return value
- Every exception (checked and unchecked)
- What the method does, including
 - Primary purpose
 - Any side effects
 - Any thread safety issues
 - Any performance issues

Do **not** document implementation details

• Known as overspecification



class RepeatingCardOrganizer {

• • •

public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card) {
 return card.getResults().stream()
 .filter(isSuccess -> isSuccess)
 .count() >= this.repetitions;



```
class RepeatingCardOrganizer {
    ...
    /**
    * Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required
number of times.
    * @param card The {@link CardStatus} object to check.
    * @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.
    */
    public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card) {
```

```
return card.getResults().stream()
   .filter(isSuccess -> isSuccess)
```

```
.count() >= this.repetitions;
```



```
class RepeatingCardOrganizer {
    ...
    /**
    * Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required
number of times.
    * @param card The {@link CardStatus} object to check.
    * @param card The {@link CardStatus} object to check.
    * @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
    {@code this.repetitions} times.
    */
    while herelese is Carelets (CardStatus and ) {
```

```
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card) {
    // IGNORE THIS WHEN SPECIFICATION TESTING!
```



/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

```
// What is specified?
```



/**

* <u>Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required</u> number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

```
* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.
```

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

```
// What is specified?
// - What the method does (but not how)
```



/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link* <u>*CardStatus*</u>*}* object to check.

* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

```
// What is specified?
// - What the method does (but not how)
// - Parameter type (no constraints)
```



/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

* **@return** {@code true} if this card has been <u>answered correctly at least</u> <u>{@code this.repetitions} times</u>.

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

```
// What is specified?
```

- // What the method does (but not how)
- // Parameter type (no constraints)
- // Return constraints: "at least" this.repetitions correct answers



/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

* **@return** {@code true} if this card has been <u>answered correctly at least</u> <u>{@code this.repetitions} times</u>.

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

```
// What is specified?
// - Parameter type (no constraints)
// - Return constraints: "at least" this.repetitions correct answers
// So what do we test?
```



/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

```
* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.
```

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

@Test

<u>___/___</u>

```
public void testIsCompleteSingleSuccess() {
   CardRepeater repeater = new RepeatingCardOrganizer(1); // Single repetition
   CardStatus cs = new CardStatus(new FlashCard("", ""));
   cs.recordResult(true); // Single Success
   assert???(repeater.isComplete(cs));
```

__

Docstring Specification

/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

```
* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.
```

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

@Test

```
public void testIsCompleteSingleSuccess() {
   CardRepeater repeater = new RepeatingCardOrganizer(1); // Single repetition
   CardStatus cs = new CardStatus(new FlashCard("", ""));
   cs.recordResult(true); // Single Success
   assertTrue(repeater.isComplete(cs));
```

/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

```
* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.
```

```
*/
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);
```

```
@Test
```

<u>___/___</u>

```
public void testIsNotCompleteSingleFailure() {
   CardRepeater repeater = new RepeatingCardOrganizer(1); // Single repetition
   CardStatus cs = new CardStatus(new FlashCard("", ""));
   cs.recordResult(false); // Single failure
   assertFalse(repeater.isComplete(cs));
```

/**

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.

*/

public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card);

We've now run this twice. Are we done testing?

47

<u>617/J1</u>

/**

*/

* Checks if the provided card has been answered correctly the required number of times.

* **@param** card The *{@link CardStatus}* object to check.

* @return {@code true} if this card has been answered correctly at least
{@code this.repetitions} times.

```
public boolean isComplete(CardStatus card) {
```

```
return card.getSuccesses.get(0); // <-- Bad, but passes both tests</pre>
```

You can test for different objectives:

- Specification-based testing: test solely the specification
 - Ignores implementation, use inputs/outputs only
 - Cover all specified behavior
 - Do not rely on code; consider corner-cases
 - Think like an attacker
- Structural Testing: consider implementation
 - Optimize for various kinds of code coverage
 - Line, Statement, Data-flow, etc.
 - By some definitions, we are done. Full line coverage, branch coverage.
 - Which is rarely enough



You can test for different objectives:

- Structural Testing: consider implementation
 - Optimize for various kinds of code coverage
 - Line, Statement, Data-flow, etc.
 - By some definitions, we are done. Full line coverage, branch coverage.
 - Which is rarely enough



You can test for different objectives:

- Structural Testing: consider implementation
 - Optimize for various kinds of code coverage
 - Line, Statement, Data-flow, etc.
 - By some definitions, we are done. Full line coverage, branch coverage.

Which is rarely enough

- Specification-based testing: test solely the specification
 - Ignores implementation, use inputs/outputs only
 - Cover all specified behavior
 - Do not rely on code; consider corner-cases
 - Think like an attacker



Outlook

Homework 2 is all about testing

- Specification-testing the FlashCard system
- Some structural testing as well

So is recitation tomorrow!





Summary

- Being explicit about program behavior is ideal
 - Helps you detect bugs
 - Forces handling of special cases -- a key source of bugs
 - Increases transparency of your program's interface
- Specification comes in multiple forms
 - Explicit contracts, formal or informal
 - Compile-time signals, e.g. through exceptions
 - Testing helps clarify, often improve specifications
 - TDD takes this to the extreme
 - You rarely know your code until you test it





Structural Testing: a closer look

Takes into account the internal mechanism of a system (IEEE, 1990).

• Approaches include tracing data and control flow through a program



Case Study

Assume various Wallets

```
public interface Wallet {
    boolean pay(int cost);
    int getValue();
}
```





DebitWallet.pay()

What should we test in this code?

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost <= this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}</pre>
```



DebitWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost <= this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}
new DebitWallet(100).pay(10);</pre>
```





DebitWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost <= this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}
new DebitWallet(0).pay(10);</pre>
```



CreditWallet.pay()

How about now?

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
   if (useCredit) {
       if (this.credit + cost <= this.maxCredit) {</pre>
           this.credit += cost;
            return true;
   if (cost <= this.cash) {</pre>
       this.cash -= cost;
       return true;
   return false;
```


CreditWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
    if (useCredit) {
        if (enoughCredit) {
            return true;
        }
        if (enoughCash) {
            return true;
        }
        return false;
}
```

Exercise: think about as many test scenarios as you can





CreditWallet.pay() public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) { if (useCredit) { if (enoughCredit) { return true; enough enough Test } useCredit Result Coverage Credit Cash (enoughCash) { case if return true; 1 Т Т Pass } return false; }



CreditWallet.pay() public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) { if (useCredit) { if (enoughCredit) { return true; enough enough Test useCredit **Result** Coverage Credit (enoughCash) { Cash if case return true; Т 1 Т Pass return false; 2 F Т Pass } F F 3 Statement Fails



Coverage

We have tested every statement; are we done? Depends on desired **coverage**:

- Provide at least one test for distinct types of behavior
- Typically on control flow paths through the program
- Statement, branch, basis paths, MC/DC



Structures in Code



17-214/514



```
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) {
  if (useCredit) {
       if (enoughCredit) {
           return true;
   }
   if (enoughCash) {
       return true;
   }
   return false;
}
```







Test case	useCredit	enough Credit	enough Cash	Result	Coverage
1	Т	Т	-	Pass	
2	F	-	Т	Pass	
3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement





Test case	useCredit	enough Credit	enough Cash	Result	Coverage
1	Т	Т	-	Pass	
2	F	-	Т	Pass	
3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement



17-214/514



Test case	useCredit	enough Credit	enough Cash	Result	Coverage
1	Т	Т	-	Pass	
2	F	-	Т	Pass	
3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement







CreditWallet.pay()								
<pre>public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) { if (useCredit) { if (enoughCredit) { return true;</pre>								
} } if (enoughCash) {	Test case	useCredit	enough Credit	enough Cash	Result	Coverage	9	
<pre>return true; }</pre>	1	т	Т	-	Pass			
<pre>return false; }</pre>	2	F	-	Т	Pass			
	3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement		
	4	Т	F	Т	Pass	Branch		





Path Coverage

We have seen every condition ... what else is missing?





Path Coverage

We have seen every condition ... but not every path.

- 3 conditions, each with two values = 8 permutations
- Some permutations are impossible
- Still one *path* left



Paths:

- {true, true}: pay w/credit
- {false, true}: pay w/cash
- {false, false}: fail





Paths:

- {true, true}: pay w/credit
- {false, true}: pay w/cash
- {false, false}: fail
- {true, false, true}: pay w/cash after failing credit



Paths:

- {true, true}: pay w/credit
- {false, true}: pay w/cash
- {false, false}: fail
- {true, false, true}: pay w/cash after failing credit
- {true, false, false}: try credit, but fail, **and** no cash





CreditWallet.pay()								
<pre>public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit) { if (useCredit) { if (enoughCredit) { return true; } } }</pre>								
} } if (enoughCash) {	Test case	useCredit	enough Credit	enough Cash	Result	Coverage		
<pre>return true; }</pre>	1	Т	Т	-	Pass			
return false; }	2	F	-	Т	Pass			
	3	F	-	F	Fails	Statement		
	4	Т	F	Т	Pass	Branch		
	5	Т	F	F	Fails	(Basis) p	paths	5



BitCoinWallet.pay()

```
public boolean pay(int cost) {
   int currValue;
   while ((currValue = getValue()) < cost) {</pre>
       // Just wait.
   this.btc -= cost / currValue;
   return true;
public int getValue() {
   return (int)
     (this.btc * Math.pow(2, 20*Math.random()));
```



Control-flow of BitCoinWallet.pay()

What are all the paths?





Control-flow of BitCoinWallet.pay()

What are all the paths?

• {true}

. . .

- {false, true}
- {false, false, true}
- {false, false, false, true}





Control-flow of BitCoinWallet.pay()

Perfect "general" path coverage is elusive

But "adequate" coverage criteria exist:

- Basis paths: each path must cover one new *edge*
 - {true} and {false, true} are sufficient
 - As is just {false, true}
- Loop adequacy: iterate each loop zero, one, and 2+ times





More Coverage

Many more criteria exist:

- For branches with multiple conditions
 - Modified Condition/Decision Coverage is quite popular
- For loops
 - Boundary Interior Testing
- Branch coverage is by far the most common



Coverage and Quality



Question 1: Is there a defect?

17-214/514



Coverage and Quality



Question 2: Can we achieve 100% statement coverage and miss the defect?





Coverage and Quality



Question 3: Can we achieve 100% **branch** coverage and miss the defect?





Outline

- Structural Testing Strategies
- Writing testable code & good tests
- Specification Testing Strategies



What is the problem with this?

```
public boolean hasHeader(String path) throws IOException {
   List<String> lines = Files.readAllLines(Path.of(path));
   return !lines.get(0).isEmpty()
}
// complete control-flow coverage!
hasHeader("cards.csv") // true
```



What is the problem with this?

```
public boolean hasHeader(String path) throws IOException {
   List<String> lines = Files.readAllLines(Path.of(path));
   return !lines.get(0).isEmpty()
// to achieve a 'false' output without having a test input file:
try {
   Path tempFile = Files.createTempFile(null, null);
   Files.write(tempFile, "\n".getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8));
   hasHeader(tempFile.toFile().getAbsolutePath()); // false
} catch (IOException e) {
   e.printStackTrace();
```



Exercise: rewrite to make this easier

• And: what would you test?

public boolean hasHeader(String path) throws IOException {
 List<String> lines = Files.readAllLines(Path.of(path));
 return !lines.get(0).isEmpty()
}



Aim to write easily testable code

Which is almost by definition more modular

```
public List<String> getLines(String path) throws IOException {
   return Files.readAllLines(Path.of(path));
}
public boolean hasHeader(List<String> lines) {
   return !lines.get(0).isEmpty()
}
// Test:
// - hasHeader with empty, non-empty first line
// - getLines (if you must) with null, real path
```



What is the problem with this?

```
public String[] getHeaderParts(List<String> lines) {
   if (!lines.isEmpty()) {
       String header = lines.get(0);
       if (header.contains(",")) {
           return header.split(",");
       } else {
           return new String[0];
   } else {
       return null;
```





17-214/5

Split functionality into easily testable units

```
public String getFirstLine(List<String> lines) {
   if (!lines.isEmpty()) {
       return lines.get(0);
   } else {
       return null;
}
public String[] getHeaderParts(String header) {
   if (header.contains(",")) {
       return header.split(",");
   } else {
       return new String[0];
```



Clean Testing

17-214/5

What is the problem with this?

```
public String[] getHeaderParts(String header) {
   if (header.contains(",")) {
       return header.split(",");
   } else {
       return null;
@Test
public void testGetHeaderParts() {
   for (String header : List.of("line", "", "one.two")) {
      String[] parts = getHeaderParts(line);
      if (header.contains(",")) assertNull(parts);
      else assertEqual(header.split(","), parts.length);
```

53D

Clean Testing

17-214/51

Keep tests simple, small

```
public String[] getHeaderParts(String header) {
   if (header.contains(",")) {
       return header.split(",");
   } else {
       return null;
}
@Test
public void testGetHeaderPartsNoComma() {
   String[] parts = getHeaderParts("line");
   assertNull(parts);
}
@Test
```

53D

Testing Best Practices

Coverage is useful, but no substitute for your insight

- Cannot capture all paths
 - Especially beyond "unit"
 - Write testable code
- You may be testing buggy code
 - (add regression tests)
- Aim for at least branch coverage
 - And think through scenarios that demand more



Bonus: Coding like the tour the france



https://thedailywtf.com/articles/coding-like-the-tour-de-france



Outline

- Structural Testing Strategies
- Writing testable code & good tests
- Specification Testing Strategies


Back to Specification Testing

What would you test differently in this situation?

- Previously identified five paths through the code.
 - Are there still five given only specification?
- Should we test anything new?

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
 * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
 * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
 */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```



Back to Specification Testing

What would you test differently in this situation?

- "if useCredit is set and enough credit is available":
 - Test both true, either/both false
- "pays with cash if enough cash is available; otherwise":
 - Test true, false
- Could to this with as few as three test cases

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
 * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
 * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
 */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```



Specification Testing



Specification Testing

- Random: avoids bias, but inefficient
 - Yet potentially *very* valuable, because automatable
 - Not for today





Boundary Value Testing

- Boundary Value Testing: errors often occur at boundary conditions
 - E.g.:

```
/** Returns true and subtracts cost if enough
 * money is available, false otherwise.
 */
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost < this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}</pre>
```



Boundary Value Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Boundary Value Testing: errors often occur at boundary conditions
 - Identify equivalence partitions: regions where behavior should be the same
 - cost <= money: true, cost > money: false
 - Boundary value: cost == money

```
/** Returns true and subtracts cost if enough
 * money is available, false otherwise.
 */
public boolean pay(int cost) {
    if (cost < this.money) {
        this.money -= cost;
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}</pre>
```

78

17-214/514

Boundary Value Testing

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Boundary Value Testing: errors often occur at boundary conditions
 - Select: a nominal/normal case, a boundary value, and an abnormal case
 - Useful for few *categories* of behavior (e.g., null/not-null) per value
- Test: cost < credit, cost == credit, cost > credit,

cost < cash, cost == cash, cost > cash

/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false. */ public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);



Combinatorial Testing

- Combinatorial Testing: focus on tuples of boundary values
 - Captures bugs in **interactions** between risky inputs
 - Rarely need to test pairs of "invalid" values (cost too high for credit & cash)

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
 * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
 * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
 */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```



Combinatorial Testing

- Combinatorial Testing: focus on tuples of boundary values
 - Captures bugs in **interactions** between risky inputs
 - Rarely need to test pairs of "invalid" values (cost too high for credit & cash)
- Include: {cost > credit && cost == cash}
- Maybe: {cost < credit && cost == cash}

```
/** Pays with credit if useCredit is set and enough
 * credit is available; otherwise, pays with cash if
 * enough cash is available; otherwise, returns false.
 */
public boolean pay(int cost, boolean useCredit);
```



Decision Tables

We need a *strategy* to identify plausible mistakes

- Decision Tables
 - You've seen one already
 - Enumerate condition options
 - Leave out impossibles
 - Identify "don't-matter" values
 - Useful for redundant input domains

Test case	useCredit	enough Credit	enough Cash	Result
1	Т	Т	-	Pass
2	F	-	Т	Pass
3	F	-	F	Fails
4	Т	F	Т	Pass
5	т	F	F	Fails



17-214/514

Specification Tests

So what is the right granularity?

- It depends
- We are still aiming for coverage
 - Just of specifications, and their innumerable implementations
 - BVA (& its cousins), decision tables tend to provide good coverage



Structural Testing vs. Specification Testing

You will *typically have both* code & (prose) specification

- Test specification, but know that it can be underspecified
- Test implementation, but not to the point that it cannot change
- Use testing strategies that leverage both
 - There is a fair bit of overlap; e.g., BVA yields <u>useful</u> branch coverage



Further Testing Strategies

Many more aspects, some later in this course:

- Stubbing/Mocking, to avoid testing dependencies
 - We'll loop back to this
- Integration testing: scenarios that span units
 - With unit testing one should not test for an expected <u>usage</u> scenario
 - e.g., in HW2: that everything gets called from Main
 - This lets one make some simplifying assumptions
 - e.g., that every card is seen equally often
- Beyond correctness: performance, security



Summary

Testing comprehensively is hard

- Tailor to your task: specification vs. structural testing
 - Do not assume unstated specifications for HW 2; spend your energy wisely
- Pick a strategy, or a few
 - Be systematic; defend your decisions
- Tomorrow's recitation covers:
 - Unit test best practices
 - Test organization
 - Running tests, coverage

