Software testing

- Testing programs to establish the presence of system defects

Software testing: Key points (1)

- Component testing preceeds integration testing.
- Equivalence partitions are sets of test cases where the program should behave in an equivalent way
- Black-box testing is based on the system specification
- Structural testing identifies test cases which cause all paths through the program to be executed
- Path testing ensures that all statements have been executed at least once.

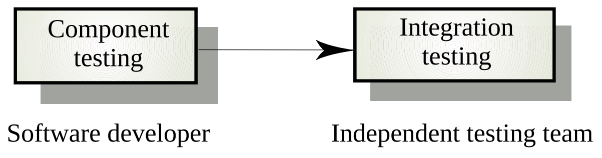
Software testing: Key points (2)

- Integration testing tests complete systems or subsystems composed of integrated components
- Interface defects arise because of specification misreading, misunderstanding, errors or invalid timing assumptions
- To test object classes, test all operations, attributes and states
- Integrate object-oriented systems around clusters of objects

The testing process

- Component testing
  - Testing of individual program components
  - Usually the responsibility of the component developer (except sometimes for critical systems)
  - Tests are derived from the developer's experience
- Integration testing
  - Testing of groups of components integrated to create a system or sub-system
  - The responsibility of an independent testing team
  - Tests are based on a system specification

Testing phases



Defect testing

- The goal of defect testing is to discover defects in programs
- A *successful* defect test is a test which causes a program to behave in an anomalous way
- Tests show the presence not the absence of defects

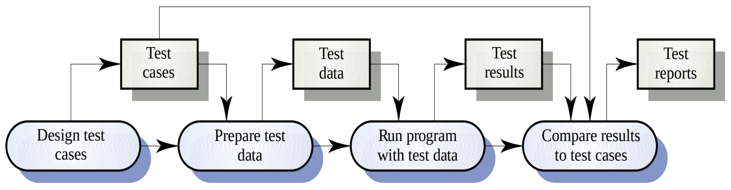
Testing priorities

- Only exhaustive testing can show a program is free from defects. However, exhaustive testing is impossible
- Tests should exercise a system's capabilities rather than its components
- Testing old capabilities is more important than testing new capabilities
- Testing typical situations is more important than boundary value cases

Test data and test cases

- *Test data* Inputs which have been devised to test the system
- *Test cases* Inputs to test the system and the predicted outputs from these inputs if the system operates according to its specification

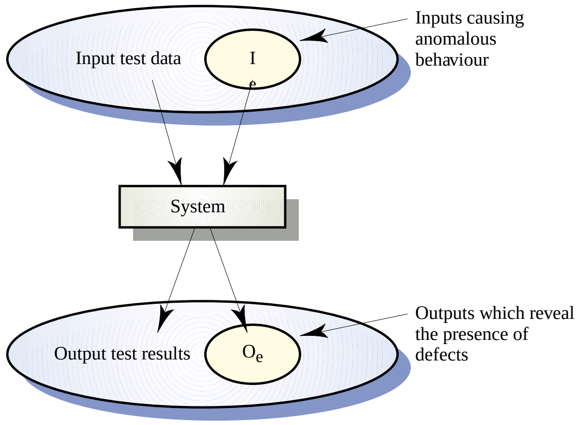
The defect testing process



Black-box testing

- An approach to testing where the program is considered as a 'black-box'
- The program test cases are based on the system specification
- Test planning can begin early in the software process

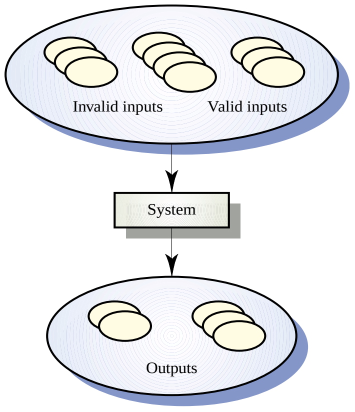
Black-box testing


Input test data
I
e
Inputs causing anomalous behaviour
System
Output test results
O_e
Outputs which reveal the presence of defects

Equivalence partitioning

- Input data and output results often fall into different classes where all members of a class are related
- Each of these classes is an equivalence partition where the program behaves in an equivalent way for each class member
- Test cases should be chosen from each partition

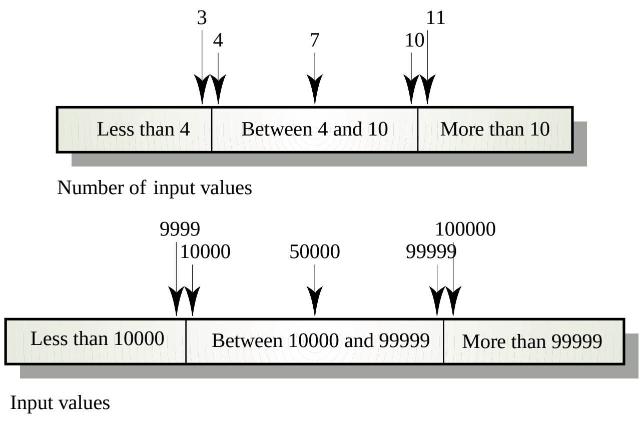
Equivalence partitioning



Equivalence partitioning

- Partition system inputs and outputs into ‘equivalence sets’
  - If input is a 5-digit integer between 10,000 and 99,999, equivalence partitions are <10,000, 10,000-99, 999 and > 10, 000
- Choose test cases at the boundary of these sets
  - 00000, 09999, 10000, 99999, 10001

Equivalence partitions



Search routine specification

```
procedure Search (Key : ELEM ; T: ELEM_ARRAY;
     Found : in out BOOLEAN; L: in out ELEM_INDEX) ;

Pre-condition
          -- the array has at least one element
          T'FIRST <= T'LAST
Post-condition
          -- the element is found and is referenced by L
          ( Found and T (L) = Key)
or
          -- the element is not in the array
          ( not Found and
          not (exists i, T'FIRST >= i <= T'LAST, T (i) = Key ))
```

Search routine - input partitions

- Inputs which conform to the pre-conditions
- Inputs where a pre-condition does not hold
- Inputs where the key element is a member of the array
- Inputs where the key element is not a member of the array

Testing guidelines (sequences)

- Test software with sequences which have only a single value
- Use sequences of different sizes in different tests
- Derive tests so that the first, middle and last elements of the sequence are accessed
- Test with sequences of zero length

Search routine - input partitions

Array	**Element**
Single value	In sequence
Single value	Not in sequence
More than 1 value	First element in sequence
More than 1 value	Last element in sequence
More than 1 value	Middle element in sequence
More than 1 value	Not in sequence

Input sequence (T)	**Key** (Key)	**Output** (Found, L)
17	17	true, 1
17	0	false, ??
17, 29, 21, 23	17	true, 1
41, 18, 9, 31, 30, 16, 45	45	true, 7
17, 18, 21, 23, 29, 41, 38	23	true, 4
21, 23, 29, 33, 38	25	false, ??

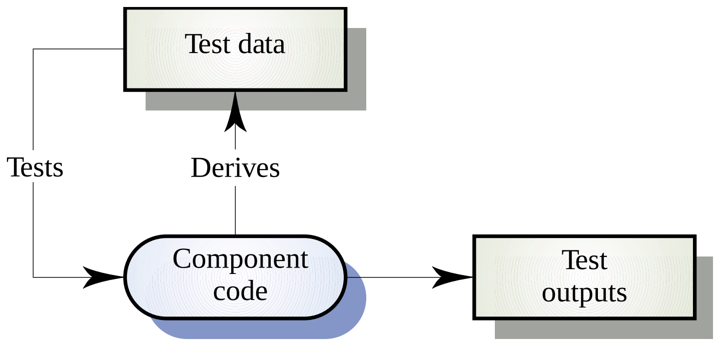
Question

- What are some equivalency classes in each of your projects? What are some boundary conditions that you can test in your projects?

Structural testing

- Sometime called white-box testing
- Derivation of test cases according to program structure. Knowledge of the program is used to identify additional test cases
- Objective is to exercise all program statements (not all path combinations)

White-box testing



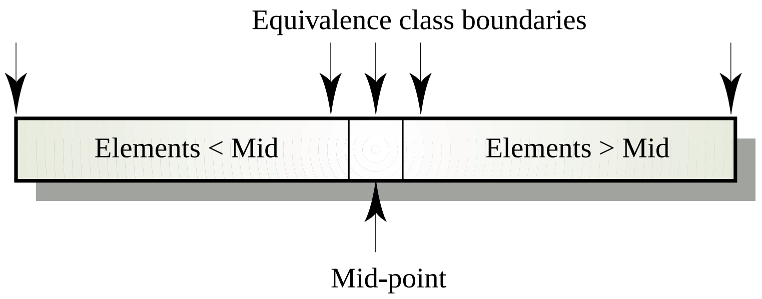
```
class BinSearch {

// This is an encapsulation of a binary search function that takes an array of
// ordered objects and a key and returns an object with 2 attributes namely
// index - the value of the array index
// found - a boolean indicating whether or not the key is in the array
// An object is returned because it is not possible in Java to pass basic types by
// reference to a function and so return two values
// the key is -1 if the element is not found

        public static void search ( int key, int [] elemArray, Result r )
        {
                int bottom = 0 ;
                int top = elemArray.length - 1 ;
                int mid ;
                r.found = false ; r.index = -1 ;
                while ( bottom <= top )
                {
                        mid = (top + bottom) / 2 ;
                        if (elemArray [mid] == key)
                        {
                                r.index = mid ;
                                r.found = true ;
                                return ;
                        } // if part
                        else
                        {
                                if (elemArray [mid] < key)
                                        bottom = mid + 1 ;
                                else
                                        top = mid - 1 ;
                        }
                } //while loop
        } // search
} //BinSearch
```

Binary search (Java)

Binary search - equivalence partitions

- Pre-conditions satisfied, key element in array
- Pre-conditions satisfied, key element not in array
- Pre-conditions unsatisfied, key element in array
- Pre-conditions unsatisfied, key element not in array
- Input array has a single value
- Input array has an even number of values
- Input array has an odd number of values

Binary search equivalence partitions

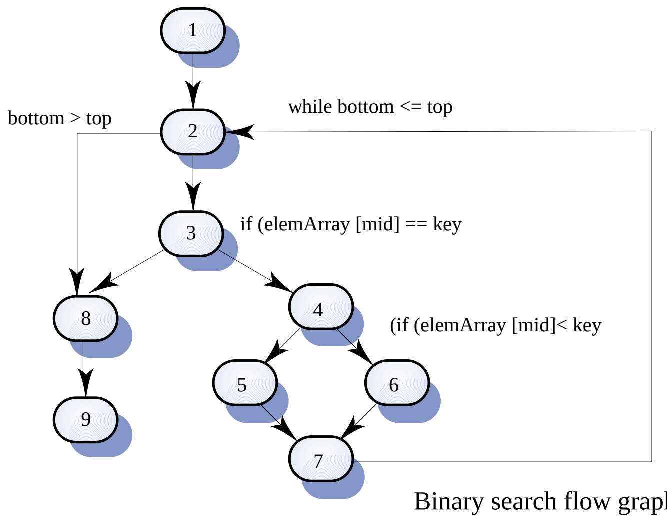


Binary search - test cases

Input array (T)	**Key** (Key)	**Output** (Found, L)
17	17	true, 1
17	0	false, ??
17, 21, 23, 29	17	true, 1
9, 16, 18, 30, 31, 41, 45	45	true, 7
17, 18, 21, 23, 29, 38, 41	23	true, 4
17, 18, 21, 23, 29, 33, 38	21	true, 3
12, 18, 21, 23, 32	23	true, 4
21, 23, 29, 33, 38	25	false, ??

Path testing

- The objective of path testing is to ensure that the set of test cases is such that each path through the program is executed at least once
- The starting point for path testing is a program flow graph that shows nodes representing program decisions and arcs representing the flow of control
- Statements with conditions are therefore nodes in the flow graph



Binary search flow graph

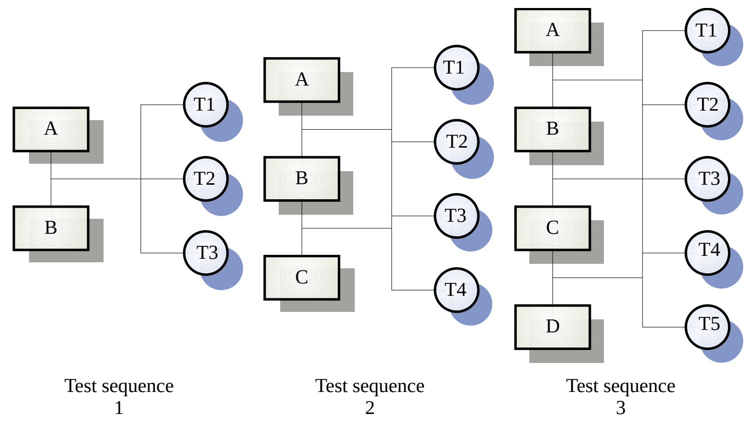
Independent paths

- 1, 2, 3, 8, 9
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 2
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 2
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 2, 8, 9
- Test cases should be derived so that all of these paths are executed
- A dynamic program analyser may be used to check that paths have been executed

Integration testing

- Tests complete systems or subsystems composed of integrated components
- Integration testing should be black-box testing with tests derived from the specification
- Main difficulty is localising errors
- Incremental integration testing reduces this problem

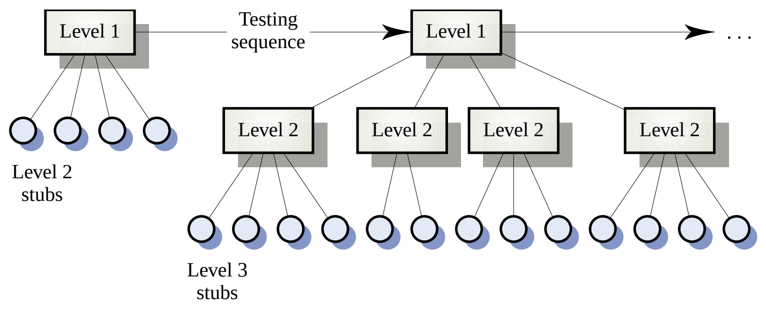
Incremental integration testing



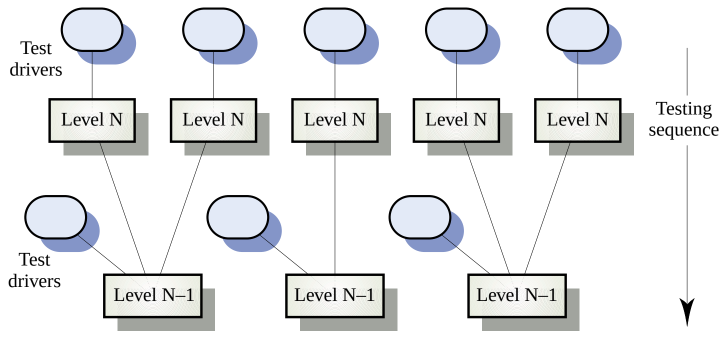
Approaches to integration testing

- Top-down testing
  - Start with high-level system and integrate from the top-down replacing individual components by stubs where appropriate
- Bottom-up testing
  - Integrate individual components in levels until the complete system is created
- In practice, most integration involves a combination of these strategies

Top-down testing



Bottom-up testing



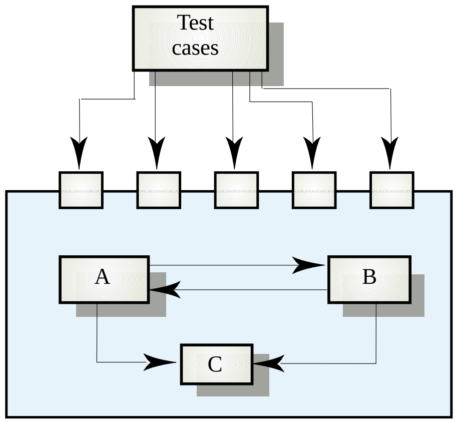
Testing approaches

- Architectural validation
  - Top-down integration testing is better at discovering errors in the system architecture
- System demonstration
  - Top-down integration testing allows a limited demonstration at an early stage in the development
- Test implementation
  - Often easier with bottom-up integration testing
- Test observation
  - Problems with both approaches. Extra code may be required to observe tests

Interface testing

- Takes place when modules or sub-systems are integrated to create larger systems
- Objectives are to detect faults due to interface errors or invalid assumptions about interfaces
- Particularly important for object-oriented development as objects are defined by their interfaces

Interface testing



Interfaces types

- Parameter interfaces
  - Data passed from one procedure to another
- Shared memory interfaces
  - Block of memory is shared between procedures
- Procedural interfaces
  - Sub-system encapsulates a set of procedures to be called by other sub-systems
- Message passing interfaces
  - Sub-systems request services from other sub-systems

Interface errors

- Interface misuse
  - A calling component calls another component and makes an error in its use of its interface e.g. parameters in the wrong order
- Interface misunderstanding
  - A calling component embeds assumptions about the behaviour of the called component which are incorrect
- Timing errors
  - The called and the calling component operate at different speeds and out-of-date information is accessed

Interface testing guidelines

- Design tests so that parameters to a called procedure are at the extreme ends of their ranges
- Always test pointer parameters with null pointers
- Design tests which cause the component to fail
- In shared memory systems, vary the order in which components are activated
- Use stress testing in message passing systems

Stress testing

- Exercises the system beyond its maximum design load. Stressing the system often causes defects to come to light
- Stressing the system test failure behaviour.. Systems should not fail catastrophically. Stress testing checks for unacceptable loss of service or data
- Particularly relevant to distributed systems which can exhibit severe degradation as a network becomes overloaded

Object-oriented testing

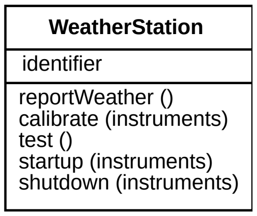
- The components to be tested are object classes that are instantiated as objects
- Larger grain than individual functions so approaches to white-box testing have to be extended
- No obvious ‘top’ to the system for top-down integration and testing

Test OO systems at these levels

- Testing individual operations associated with objects
- Testing individual object classes
- Testing clusters of cooperating objects
- Testing the complete OO system

- Inheritance makes it more difficult to design object class tests as the information to be tested is not localised

Weather station object interface



- Test cases are needed for all operations
- Use a state model to identify state transitions for testing
- Examples of testing sequences
    - Shutdown →Waiting →Shutdown
    - Waiting → Calibrating → Testing → Transmitting →Waiting
    - Waiting → Collecting → Waiting → Summarising →Transmitting →Waiting

Object integration

- Levels of integration are less distinct in object-oriented systems
- Cluster testing is concerned with integrating and testing clusters of cooperating objects
- Identify clusters using knowledge of the operation of objects and the system features that are implemented by these clusters

Approaches to cluster testing

- Use-case or scenario testing
    - Testing is based on user interactions with the system
    - Has the advantage that it tests system features as experienced by users
- Thread testing
    - Tests the systems response to events as processing threads through the system
- Object interaction testing
    - Tests sequences of object interactions that stop when an object operation does not call on services from another object

Key points

- Component testing preceeds integration testing.
- Equivalence partitions are sets of test cases where the program should behave in an equivalent way
- Black-box testing is based on the system specification
- Structural testing identifies test cases which cause all paths through the program to be executed
- Path testing ensures that all statements have been executed at least once.

Key points

- Integration testing tests complete systems or subsystems composed of integrated components
- Interface defects arise because of specification misreading, misunderstanding, errors or invalid timing assumptions
- To test object classes, test all operations, attributes and states
- Integrate object-oriented systems around clusters of objects