

CMPT 473

Software Testing, Reliability and Security

Input Space Partitioning

Nick Sumner

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 - Select an input, look at the output

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 - Select an input, look at the output
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We can take a direct approach:
Focus on the input!

Input Space Partitioning

- **Input Space Partitioning** (AKA Partition Testing)
 - Divide (partition) the set of possible inputs into *equivalence classes*
 - Test one input from each class

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What does this show?
What does it *not* show?

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e.g. $\text{abs}(x)$

Input Domain: $\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

How many tests if done exhaustively?

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Partitions: $\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2,$
 $3, \dots$

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Partitions: ..., -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2,
3, ...

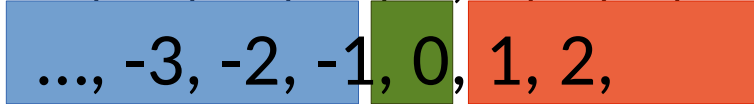
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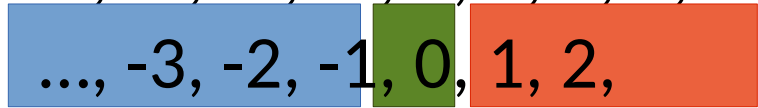
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Partitions: $\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$



What might reasonable partitions be?

How many tests for the partitions?

Input Space Partitioning

1) Identify the component

$\text{abs}(x)$

Input Space Partitioning

1) Identify the component

- Whole program
- Module
- Class
- Function

abs(x)

Input Space Partitioning

- 1) Identify the component
- 2) Identify the inputs / parameters

abs(x)

$$x \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Input Space Partitioning

- 1) Identify the component
- 2) Identify the inputs / parameters
 - Function/method parameters
 - Object state
 - Global variables
 - File contents
 - User provided inputs
 - ...

abs(x)

$$x \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Input Space Partitioning

- 1) Identify the component
- 2) Identify the inputs / parameters
- 3) Develop an *input domain model* for input characteristics*

A way of partitioning the input space

abs(x)

$$\begin{array}{l} x \in \mathbb{Z} \\ \hline x < 0 \\ x = 0 \\ x > 0 \end{array}$$

Input Space Partitioning

- 1) Identify the component
- 2) Identify the inputs / parameters
- 3) Develop an input domain model for input characteristics
- 4) Refine combinations with constraints*

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Input Space Partitioning

- 1) Identify the component
- 2) Identify the inputs / parameters
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- 4) Refine combinations with constraints
- 5) Generate combinations / *test frames**

abs(x)

$$\frac{x \in \mathbb{Z}}{x < 0}$$
$$x = 0$$
$$x > 0$$

frame 1: $x < 0$

frame 2: $x = 0$

frame 3: $x > 0$

Input Space Partitioning

- 1) Identify the component
- 2) Identify the inputs / parameters
- 3) Develop an input domain model for input characteristics
- 4) Refine combinations with constraints
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- 6) Select concrete inputs*

$\text{abs}(x)$	$\frac{x \in \mathbb{Z}}{x < 0}$ $x = 0$ $x > 0$	frame 1: $x < 0$ frame 2: $x = 0$ frame 3: $x > 0$	test 1: $\text{abs}(-3) = 3$ test 2: $\text{abs}(0) = 0$ test 3: $\text{abs}(7) = 7$
-----------------	--	--	--

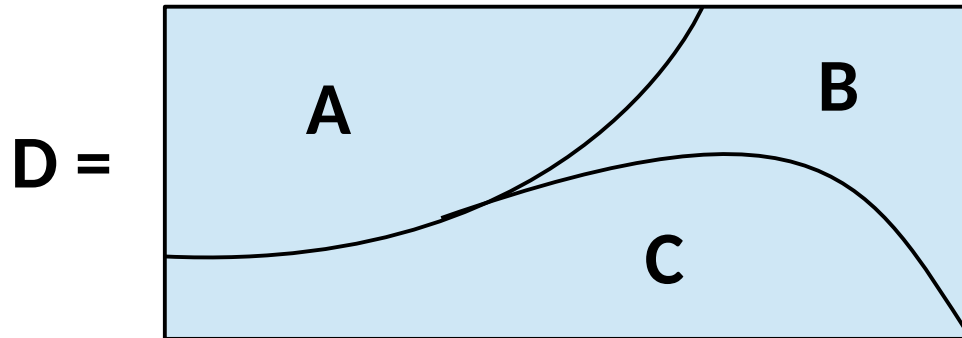
Input Space Partitioning

- 1) Identify the component
- 2) Identify the inputs / parameters
- 3) Develop an input domain model for input characteristics
- 4) Refine c *** some parts are more subtle than they appear**
- 5) Generate combinations / test frames
- 6) Select concrete inputs

abs(x)	$\frac{x \in \mathbb{Z}}{\quad}$		
	x < 0	frame 1: X < 0	test 1: abs(-3) = 3
	x = 0	frame 2: X = 0	test 2: abs(0) = 0
	x > 0	frame 3: X > 0	test 3: abs(7) = 7

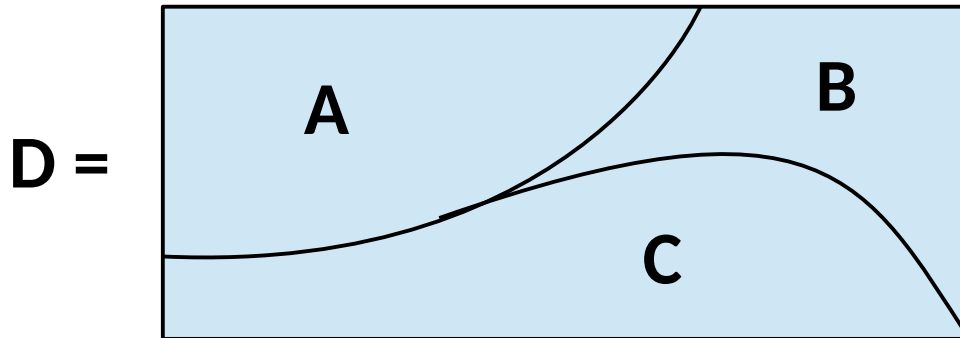
Input Domain Modeling

- *Partition* a domain D on *characteristics*



Input Domain Modeling

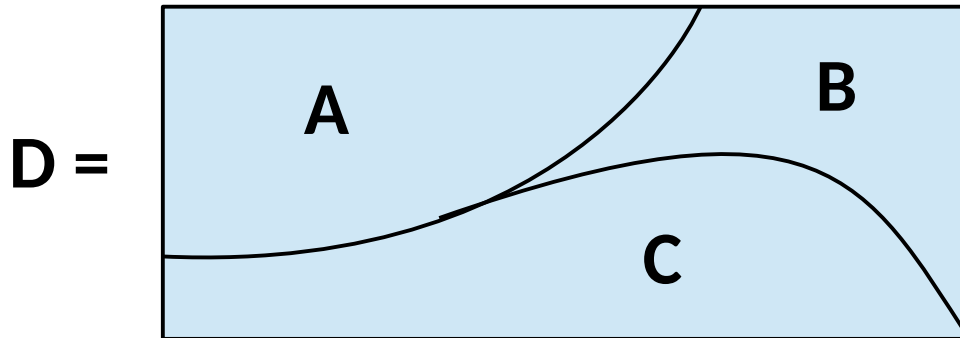
- **Partition** a domain D on **characteristics**
- Must satisfy 2 criteria:
 - Disjoint: $P_i \cap P_j = \emptyset$
 - Cover: $A \cup B \cup C = D$



Input Domain Modeling

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What do these criteria intuitively provide?



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Sortedness of s (non-boolean)

- sorted ascending
- sorted descending ?
- unsorted

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List s is sorted ascending (boolean)

Sortedness of s (non-boolean)

- $|s| < 2$
- $\exists k. \forall x \in s, x = k$ ($|s| \geq 2$)
- sorted ascending ($|s| \geq 2, \nexists k...$)
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Reference x is null (boolean)

Size of string s (non-boolean)

- 0
- 1
- 2
- $2 < |s| < 1024$
- $|s| \geq 1024$

Input Domain Modeling: Partitioning Practice

- Suppose we have

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classifyParallelogram(p1: Parallelogram) -> Kind
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characteristic: “The kind/subtype of parallelogram”

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- What problems might arise?

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 - What problems might arise?
- In class exercise:
Suppose we have

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classifyTriangle(s1: int, s2: int, s3: int) -> Kind
```

what should partitions be?

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2 main approaches:

- *Interface* based
 - Guided directly by identified parameters & domains
 - Simple
 - Automatable
- *Functionality*/Requirements based
 - Derived from expected input/output relationship by spec.
 - Requires more design & more thought
 - May be better (smaller, goal oriented, ...)

Input Domain Modeling – Interface Based

- Consider parameters individually
 - Examine their types/domains
 - Ignore relationships & dependencies

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We will revisit how this is good / bad

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 - Includes knowledge from the problem domain
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 - Same parameter relationships
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Kind
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Isosceles - Equilateral
Equilateral
Invalid

Input Domain Modeling

Common sources for characteristics:

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Common sources for characteristics:

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 - Preconditions
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- Domain knowledge
 - Relationships to special values
 - Relationships between variables
- **Checklists** [Langr, Hunt, Thomas]
 - Correctness
 - Ordering
 - Range
 - Reference
 - Existence
 - Cardinality
 - Time

Generating Combinations / Test Frames

- We may have multiple ways / dimensions of partitioning.
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We need to choose a value for each side.

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<u>Frame 1</u>	<u>Frame 2</u>	<u>Frame 3</u>	<u>Frame 4</u>	<u>Frame 5</u>	<u>Frame 6</u>	<u>Frame ...</u>
S1: $s1 < 0$	S1: $s1 = 0$	S1: $s1 < 0$	S1: $s1 < 0$	S1: $s1 > 0$	S1: $s1 < 0$	S1: ...
S2: $s2 < 0$	S2: $s2 < 0$	S2: $s2 = 0$	S2: $s2 < 0$	S2: $s2 < 0$	S2: $s2 > 0$	S2: ...
S3: $s3 < 0$	S3: $s3 < 0$	S3: $s3 < 0$	S3: $s3 = 0$	S3: $s3 < 0$	S3: $s3 < 0$	S3: ...

Practical Issues: Interface Based

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How many tests does this create?

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How many tests does this create?

What **will** this test well?
What **won't** this test well?

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{s1 \in \mathbb{Z}}{s1 < 0} & \frac{s2 \in \mathbb{Z}}{s2 < 0} & \frac{s3 \in \mathbb{Z}}{s3 < 0} \\ s1 = 0 & s2 = 0 & s3 = 0 \\ s1 = 1 & s2 = 1 & s3 = 1 \\ s1 > 1 & s2 > 1 & s3 > 1 \\ \{s_n > 0\} \rightarrow \{s_n = 1\}, \{s_n > 1\} \end{array}$$

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How many tests now?

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Is it still disjoint? Complete?

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Is it still disjoint? Complete?

What does it test well? Not well?

Practical Issues: Functionality Based

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```

Kind
Scalene
Isosceles - Equilateral
Equilateral
Invalid

Are there alternatives?

Practical Issues: Functionality Based

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classifyTriangle(s1: int, s2: int, s3: int) -> Kind
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Kind

Scalene

Isosceles - Equilateral

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Invalid

Is equilateral?

True
False

×

Is isosceles?

True
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Is scalene?

True
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Practical Issues: Functionality Based

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Frame 1

Is Eq: False
Is Iso: False
Is Sc: False

Frame 2

Is Eq: True
Is Iso: False
Is Sc: False

Frame ...

Is Eq: ...
Is Iso: ...
Is Sc: ...

Why might you use it?

Another Functionality Based Example

- Suppose we have a simple function:

```
symmetricDifference (s1: list, s2: list) -> list
```

that returns all elements unique to either `s1` or `s2`.

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- Try to construct a functionality based input domain model.
- Keep disjointness and coverage in mind.

Try it out, and we'll discuss

Refining Combinations with Constraints

Is equilateral? × Is isosceles? × Is scalene?
True True True
False False False

Frame 2

Is Eq: **True**
Is Iso: **False**
Is Sc: False

What is wrong with this?

Refining Combinations with Constraints

$$\frac{\text{Is equilateral?}}{\text{True} \\ \text{False}} \times \frac{\text{Is isosceles?}}{\text{True} \\ \text{False}} \times \frac{\text{Is scalene?}}{\text{True} \\ \text{False}}$$

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We can add *properties* and *constraints* to prune impossible or redundant tests

$$\frac{\text{Is equilateral?}}{\text{True [if Iso]} \\ \text{False}} \times \frac{\text{Is isosceles?}}{\text{True [property Iso]} \\ \text{False}} \times \frac{\text{Is scalene?}}{\text{True [if not Iso]} \\ \text{False}}$$

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[Error] annotations can identify cases not benefiting from combinations

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```
void toUppercase(char *str) {  
    for (int i = 0, e = strlen(str) - 1; i < e; ++i) {  
        if (isletter(str[i]) && islower(str[i])) {  
            str[i] = str[i] - 32;  
        }  
    }  
    printf("%s\n", str);  
}
```

Selecting Concrete Inputs

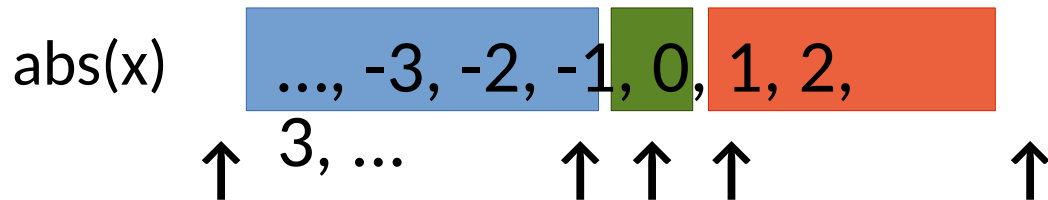
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 - Invalid, valid, and special values
 - Boundary values

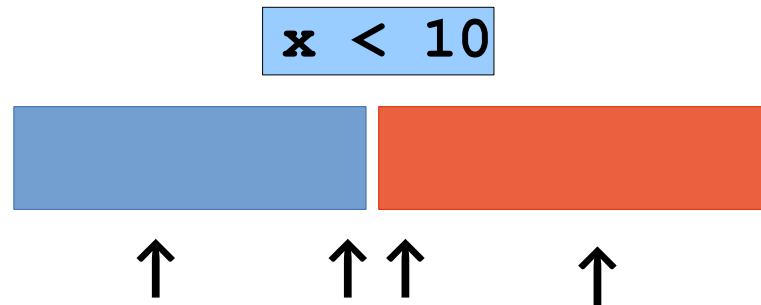
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One last example

Command FIND

Syntax FIND <pattern> <file>

Function

The FIND command is used to **locate one or more instances** of a given **pattern in a text file**. All lines in the file that contain the pattern are written to standard output. A line containing the pattern is **written only once**, regardless of the number of times the pattern occurs on it.

The pattern is any sequence of characters whose **length does not exceed** the maximum length of a line in the file. To include a blank in the pattern, the entire pattern must be **enclosed in quotes ("")**. To include a quotation mark in the pattern, **two quotes in a row ("")** must be used.

Part 1: Analyze the specification

- What is the *component*?
- What are the *parameters*?
- What are the *characteristics*?

One last example

Command

Parameters:

Pattern

Syntax

Input file (& its contents!)

Function

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Part 1: Analyze the specification

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One last example

Command

Parameters:

Pattern

Syntax

Input file (& its contents!)

Function

Characteristics:

Pattern

Input file

Pattern Size

Quoting

Embedded Quotes

File Name

Environment / System Characteristics:

of pattern occurrences in file

of occurrences on a particular line:

Part 1: Analyze

- What is the *component*?
- What are the *parameters*?
- What are the *characteristics*?

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One last example

- Part 2: Partition the Input Space
 - Guided by intelligence and intuition
 - Combine interface and functionality based approaches as necessary

Parameters:

Pattern Size:

Empty

Single character

Many characters

Longer than any line in the file

Quoting:

...

One last example

- Part 3: Refine with constraints

Pattern size : empty

Quoting : pattern is quoted

Embedded blanks : several embedded blanks

Embedded quotes : no embedded quotes

File name : good file name

Number of occurrences of pattern in file : none

Pattern occurrences on target line : one

Problem?

One last example

- Part 3: Refine with constraints

Pattern size : **empty**

Quoting : pattern is quoted

Embedded blanks : **several embedded blanks**

Embedded quotes : no embedded quotes

File name : good file name

Number of occurrences of pattern in file : none

Pattern occurrences on target line : one

Problem?

One last example

- Part 3: Refine with constraints

`Pattern size : empty`

Problem?

Pattern Size:

Empty

[Property Empty]

Single character

[Property NonEmpty]

Many characters

[Property NonEmpty]

Longer than any line in the file

[Property NonEmpty]

Pattern occurrences on target line : one

One last example

- Part 3: Refine with constraints

`Pattern size : empty`

Problem?

Pattern Size:

Empty	[Property Empty]
Single character	[Property NonEmpty]
Many characters	[Property NonEmpty]
Longer than any line in the file	[Property NonEmpty]

Quoting:

Pattern is quoted	[Property Quoted]
Pattern is not quoted	[If NonEmpty]
Pattern is improperly quoted	[If NonEmpty]

One last example

- Part 3: Refine with constraints

`Pattern size : empty`

Problem?

Pattern Size:

Empty	[Property Empty]
Single character	[Property NonEmpty]
Many characters	[Property NonEmpty]
Longer than any line in the file	[Property NonEmpty]

Quoting:

Pattern is quoted	[Property Quoted]
Pattern is not quoted	[If NonEmpty]
Pattern is improperly quoted	[If NonEmpty]

What should this do to the number of tests?
To the quality of tests?

One last example

- Part 4:
 - Generate test frames.
 - Analyze.
 - Select concrete values and tests.
 - Prune redundant tests.

Why might scenarios be redundant?

One last example

- Part 4:
 - Generate test frames.
 - Analyze.
 - Select concrete values and tests.
 - Prune redundant tests.
- Then take your tests and automate them

Summary

- Partition based testing allows for testing software without detailed knowledge of its implementation
- Careful design of an input domain model helps ensure useful tests and avoid less useful tests
- The assumption of equivalence in a partition is a convenience.