CMPT 745 Software Engineering

An Overview of Software Testing

Nick Sumner wsumner@sfu.ca

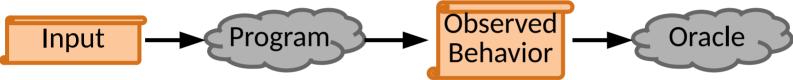
• The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness



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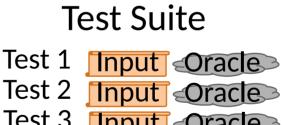


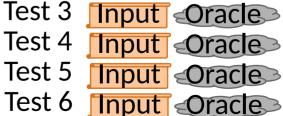
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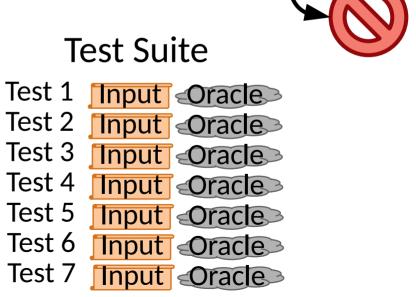
Input Oracle

Test 7

The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness



Key Issues



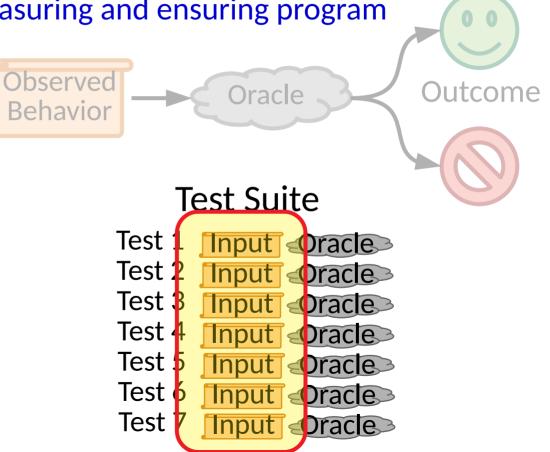
Program

 The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness

Key Issues

Input

• Test suite adequacy



 The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness

Key Issues

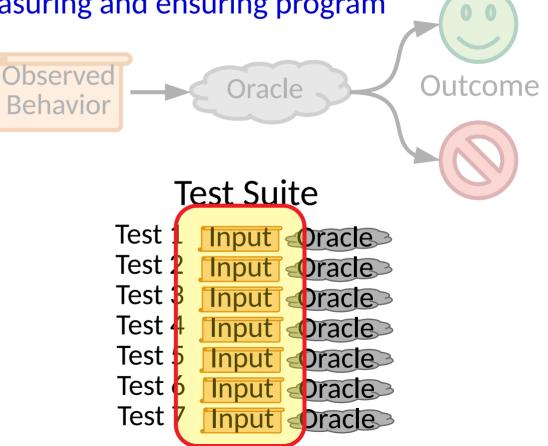
Input

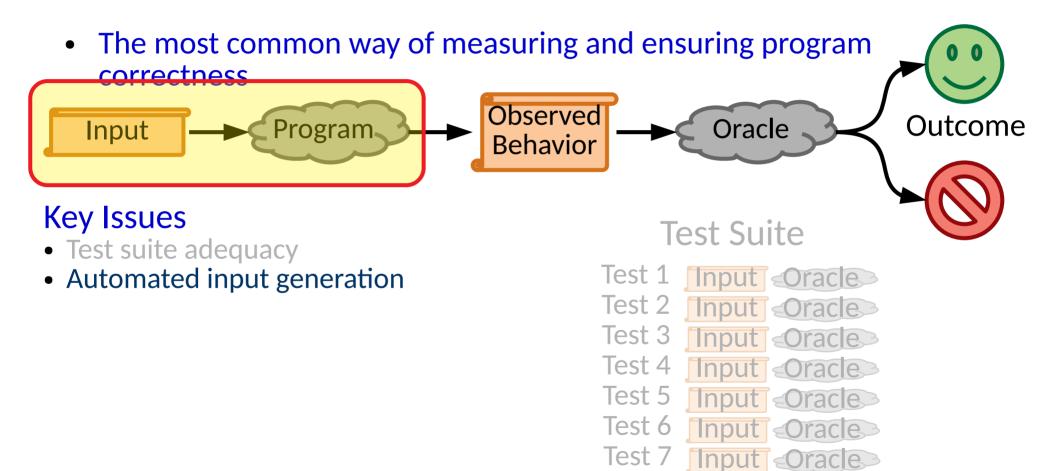
• Test suite adequacy

Testing is sampling.

Program

How do we know whether we are sampling well?





 The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness

Observed

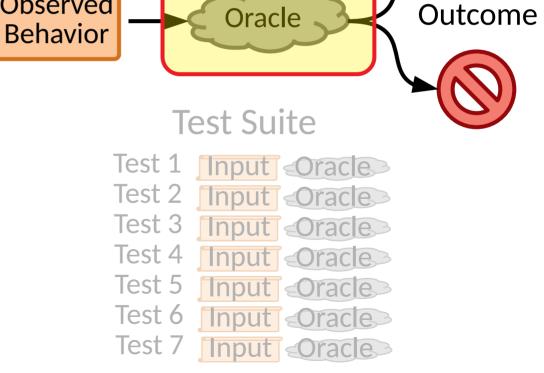
Key Issues

Input

- Test suite adequacy
- Automated input generation

Program

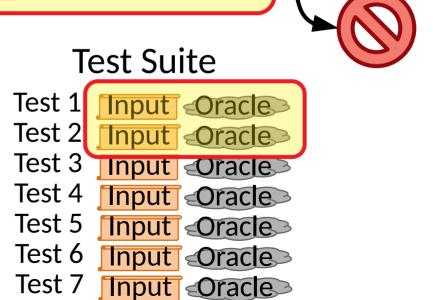
Automated oracle generation



The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness
 Input Program Observed Oracle Outcome

Key Issues

- Test suite adequacy
- Automated input generation
- Automated oracle generation
- Robustness/flakiness/maintainability



 The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness

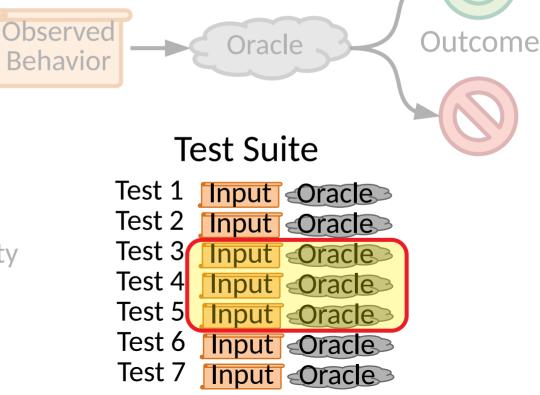
Key Issues

Input

- Test suite adequacy
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Program

• Regression test selection



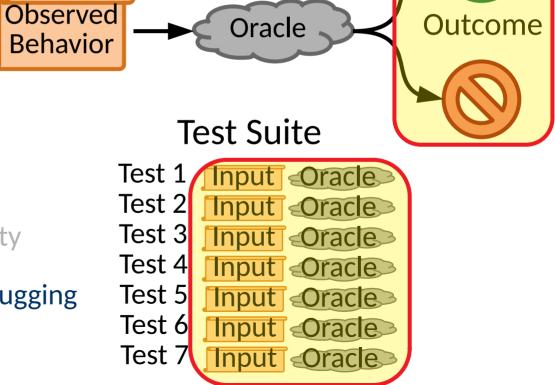
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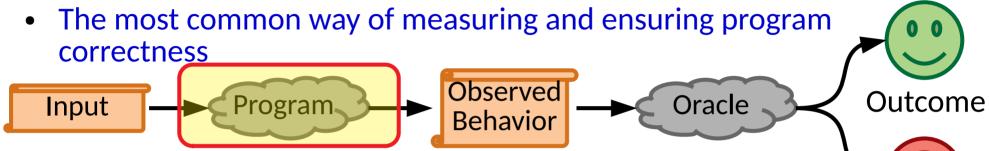
Key Issues

Input

- Test suite adequacy
- Automated input generation
- Automated oracle generation
- Robustness/flakiness/maintainability
- Regression test selection
- Fault localization & automated debugging

Program





Key Issues

- Test suite adequacy
- Automated input generation
- Automated oracle generation
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- Fault localization & automated debugging
- Automated program repair

Test Suite Input Oracle Test 1 Test 2 Input Oracle Test 3 Input Oracle Test 4 Input Oracle Test 5 Input Oracle Test 6 Input Oracle Test 7 Input Oracle

• The most common way of measuring and ensuring program correctness

Key Issue

Input

We will discuss a few basics now and revisit the problem as we learn new techniques

Observed

Behavior

• Test suite

- Automated input generation
- Automated oracle generation
- Robustness/flakiness/maintainability
- Regression test selection
- Fault localization & automated debugging

Program

• Automated program repair

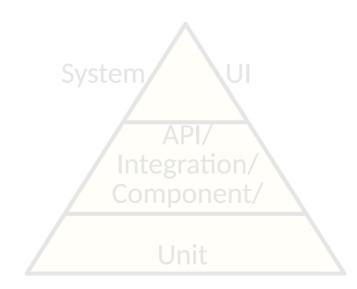
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Oracle

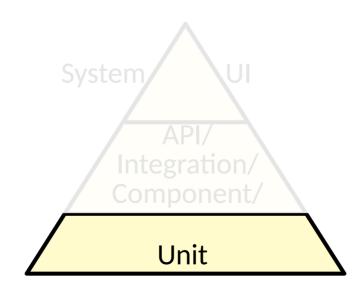
Outcome

- Objectives
 - Functional correctness
 - Nonfunctional attributes (performance, ...)

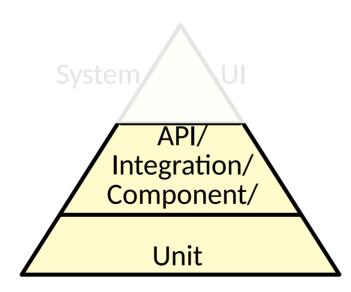
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- Components The Automated Testing Pyramid



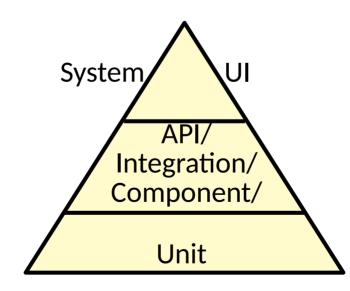
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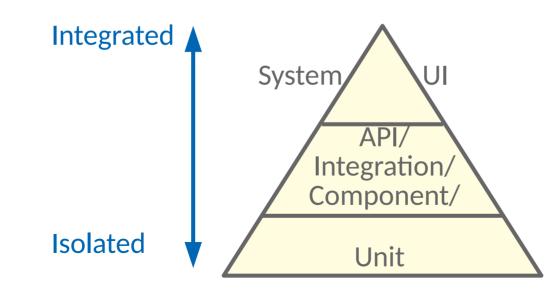
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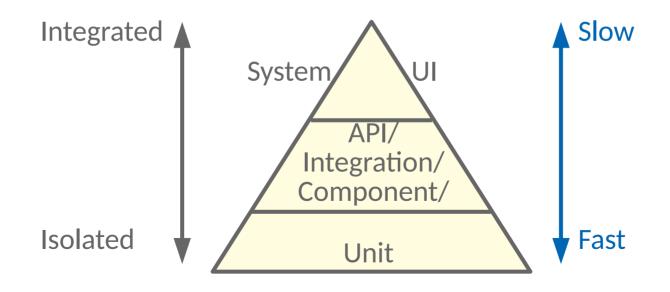
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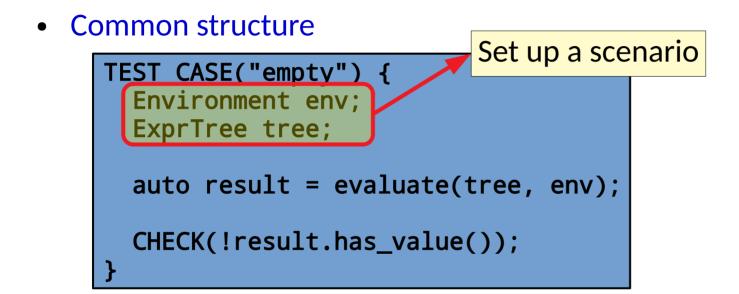
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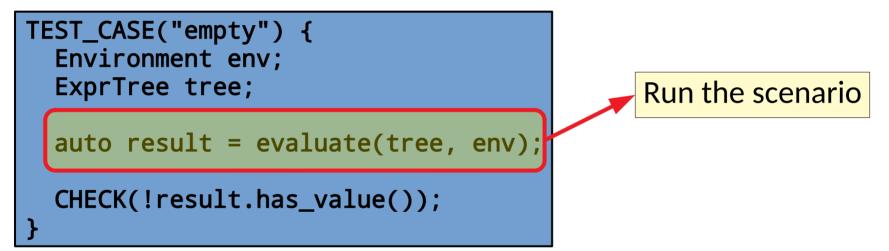
• Common structure

Common structure

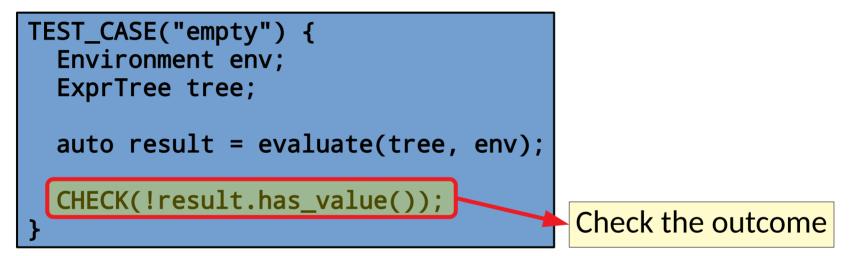
```
TEST_CASE("empty") {
  Environment env;
  ExprTree tree;
  auto result = evaluate(tree, env);
  CHECK(!result.has_value());
}
```



Common structure



Common structure



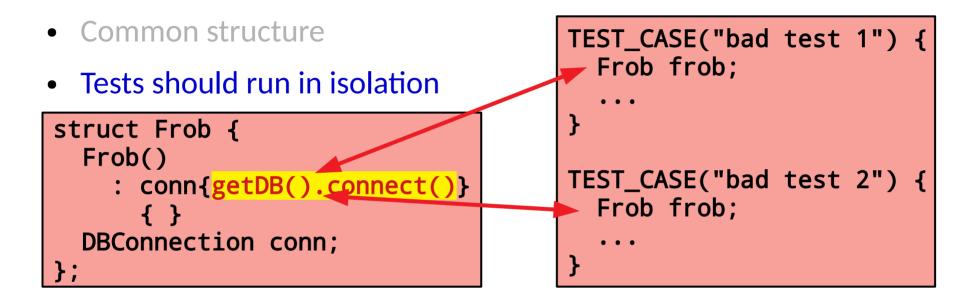
- Common structure
- Tests should run in isolation

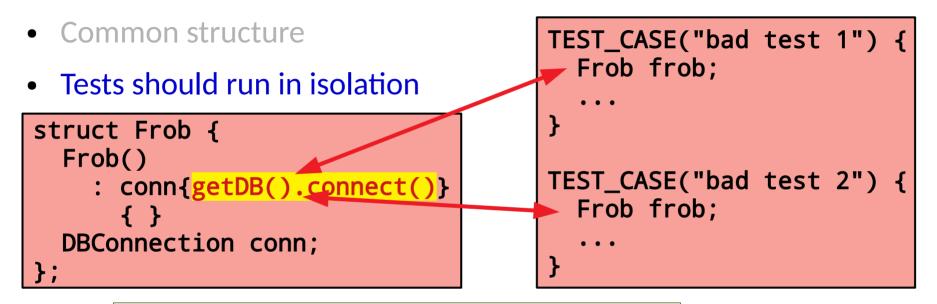
```
struct Frob {
   Frob()
      : conn{getDB().connect()}
      { }
   DBConnection conn;
};
```

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struct Frob {
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```
TEST_CASE("bad test 1") {
   Frob frob;
   ....
}
TEST_CASE("bad test 2") {
   Frob frob;
   ....
}
```





The order of the test can affect the results!

- Common structure
- Tests should run in isolation

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The order of the test can affect the results!

A flaky DB can affect results!

- Common structure
- Tests should run in isolation!

- Common structure
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```
struct Frob {
   Frob(Connection& inConn)
      : conn{inConn}
      { }
   Connection& conn;
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```

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struct Frob {
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 Connection& conn; De
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Dependency injection allows the user of a class to control its behavior

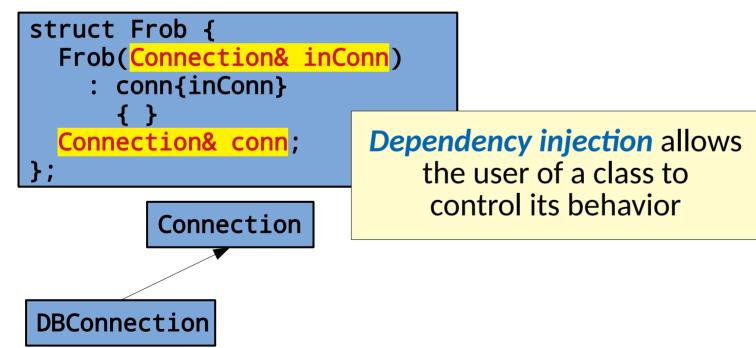
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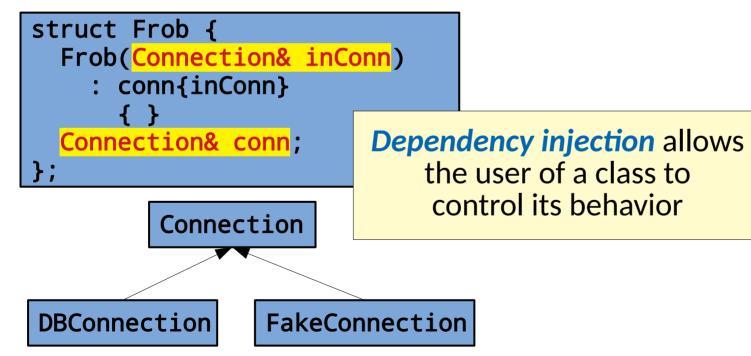
Connection

Dependency injection allows the user of a class to control its behavior

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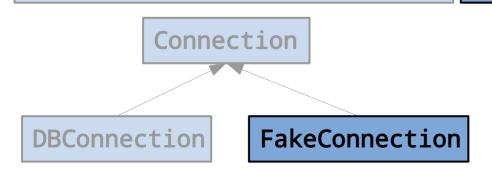
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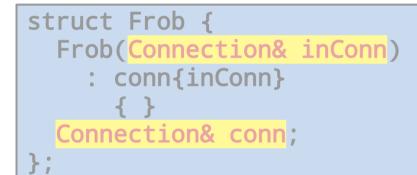
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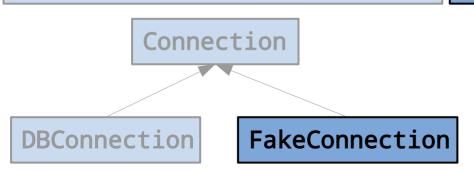
```
TEST_CASE("better test 1") {
   FakeDB db;
   FakeConnection conn = db.connect();
   Frob frob{conn};
   ...
```



- Common structure
- Tests should run in isolation

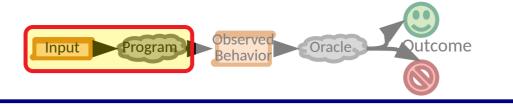


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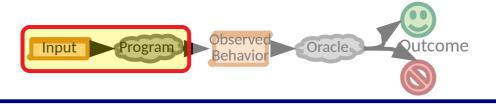
Mocks & stubs isolate and examine how a component interacts with dependencies

- Common structure
- Tests should run in isolation
- Key problem to resolve:
 - How do you define your inputs & oracles?



• Two broad categories

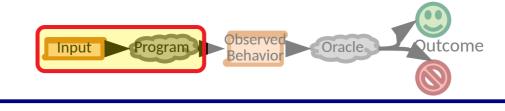
Selecting Inputs



• Two broad categories

Selecting Inputs

- Black box testing - treat the program as opaque/unknown

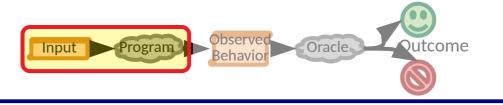


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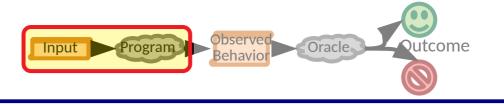
Selecting Inputs

- Black box testing - treat the program as opaque/unknown

specification based (BDD?) model driven naive fuzzing boundary value analysis

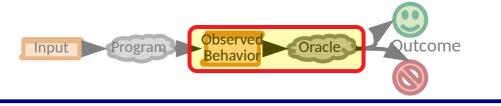


- Two broad categories
 - Black box testing treat the program as opaque/unknown
 - White box testing program structure & semantics can be used

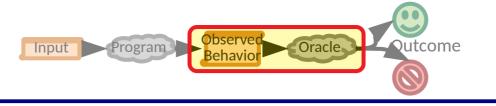


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symbolic execution call chain synthesis grey/whitebox fuzzing



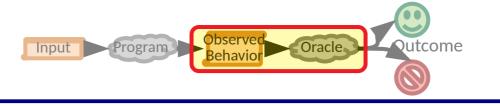
- Sometimes it is simple
 - For a known scenario, a specific output is expected



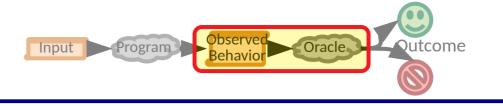
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What about tasks like: machine learning simulation

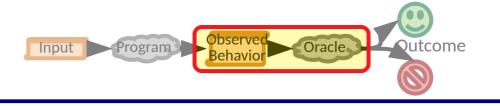
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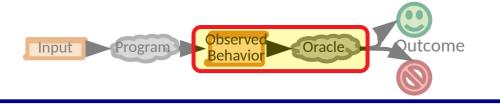
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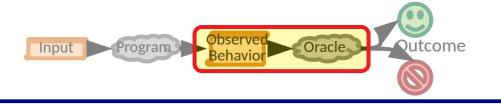
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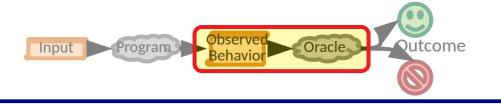
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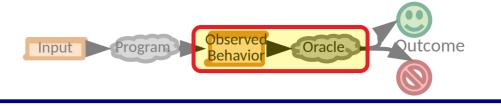


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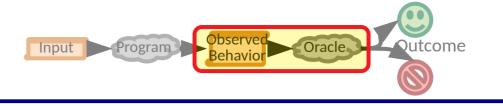
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General invariants can be exploited in (semi)automated test generation (e.g. property based)



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 - program1(x) == program2(x)
- Fully automated tests benefit from fully automated oracles
 - But the problem is hard

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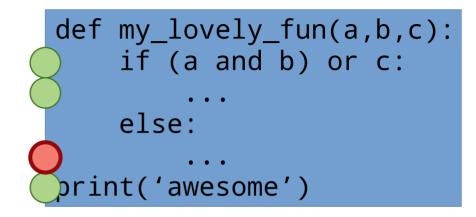
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- High level decision making
 - Is a test suite good enough? (Will a higher score mean fewer defects?)

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 - Can we measure how likely a test suite is to measure what we want?
- High level decision making
 - Is a test suite good enough? (Will a higher score mean fewer defects?)
 - What parts of a program should be tested better?

• Metrics

Remember: A higher score *should* mean fewer defects

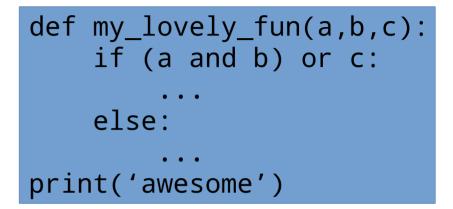
- Metrics
 - Statement coverage



Is each statement covered by at least one test in the test suite?

score = $\frac{\text{# covered}}{\text{# statements}}$

- Metrics
 - Statement coverage
 - Branch coverage



C

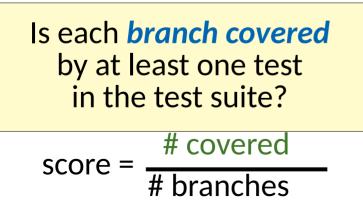
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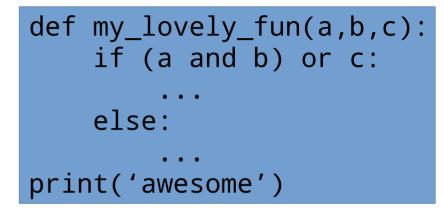
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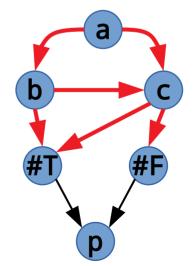
We will discuss control flow graphs again soon

score = $\frac{\# \text{ covered}}{\# \text{ branches}}$

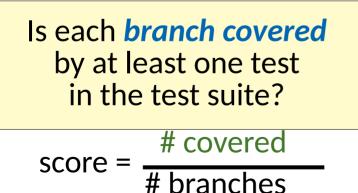
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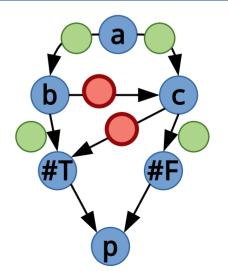




- Metrics
 - Statement coverage
 - Branch coverage



def my_lovely_fun(a,b,c):
 if (a and b) or c:
 ...
 else:
 ...
print('awesome')



- Metrics
 - Statement coverage
 - Branch coverage

It is widely agreed that statement/edge coverage are not good *measures*.

def my_lovely_fun(a,b,c):
 if (a and b) or c:
 ...
 else:
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print('awesome')

But they are *sanity checks*.

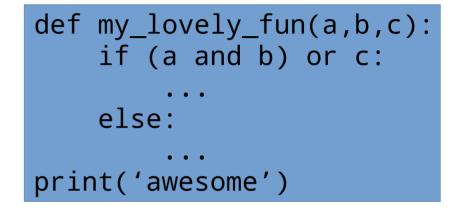
Test suite adequacy is complex. [Groce 2014]

score = $\frac{\text{# covered}}{\text{# branches}}$

• Metrics

- Statement coverage
- Branch coverage
- MC/DC coverage*

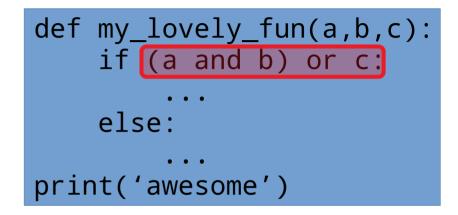
Does each **term determine** the outcome of at least one condition in the test suite?



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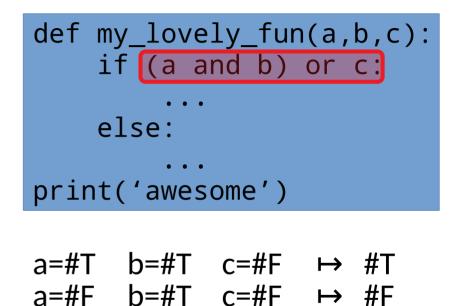
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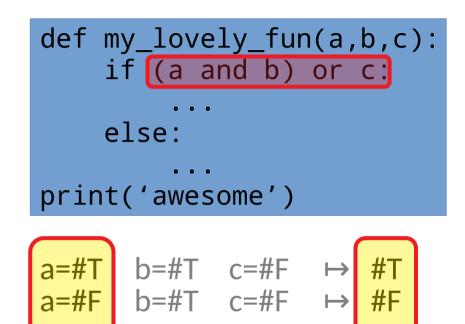
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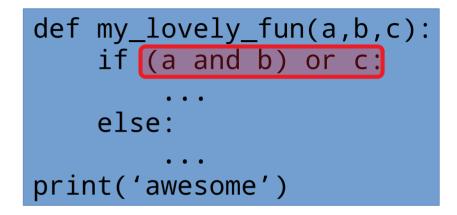


a in this condition is covered by the test suite

• Metrics

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Does each *term determine* the outcome of at least one condition in the test suite?



Required by regulation in (e.g.) avionics, safety critical systems, automotive software

• Metrics

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- Mutation coverage*

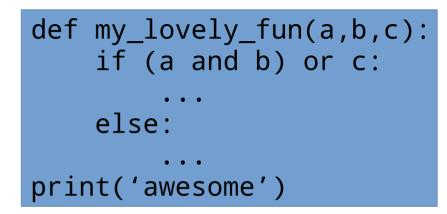
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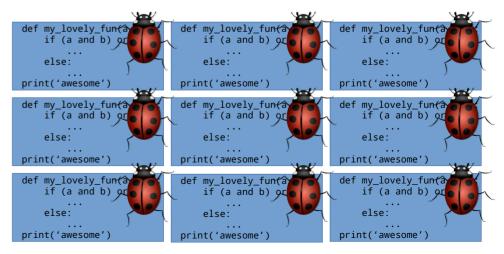
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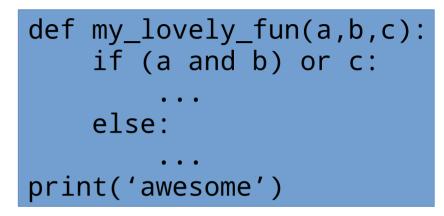


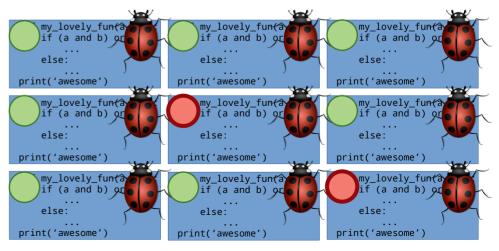


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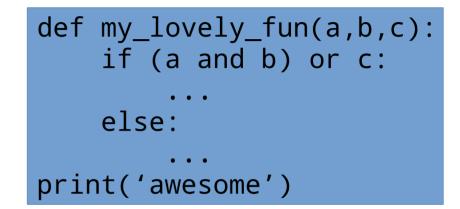
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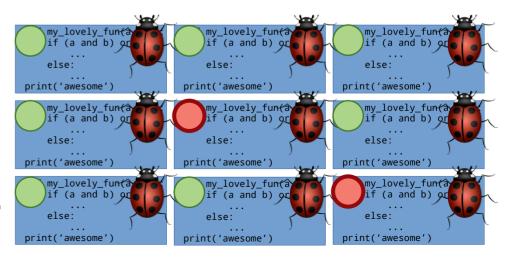
• Metrics

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- Branch coverage
- MC/DC coverage*
- Mutation coverage*



How many *injected bugs* can be detected by the test suite?

score = # covered/killed # non-equivalent mutants

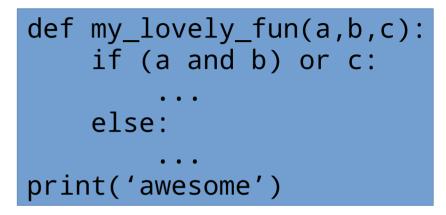


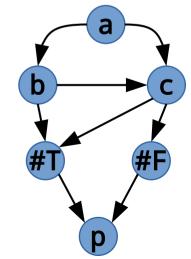
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. . .

Is each *path covered* by at least one test in the test suite?



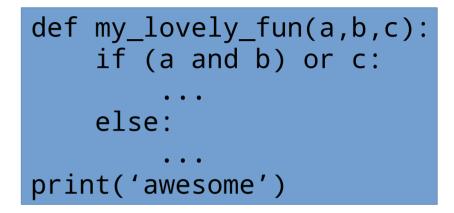


• Metrics

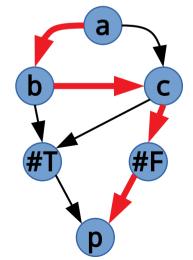
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. . .

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abT abcT **abcF** acT acF

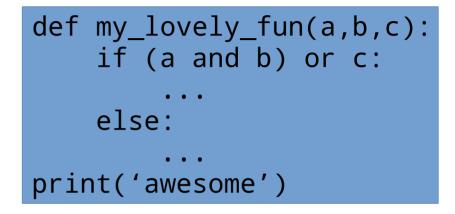


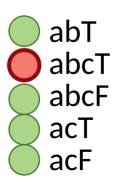
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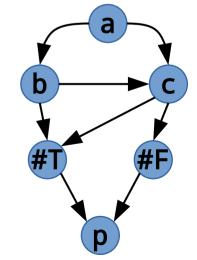
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- Metrics
 - Statement coverage
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 - ...

But shrinking test suites while maintaining St, Br, MC/DC decreases defect detection.

There is more going on here. [Rothermel 1998, Yoo 2012, Shi 2018] MC/DC Testing

• Logic & conditional behaviors are pervasive

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- if statements are the most frequently fixed statements in bug fixes [Pan, ESE 2008]

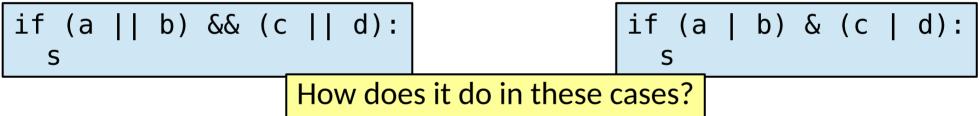
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- if statements are the most frequently fixed statements in bug fixes [Pan, ESE 2008]
- Safety critical systems often involve many complex conditions (avionics, medical, automotive, ...)
- We should place more effort/burden on ensuring correctness of conditions

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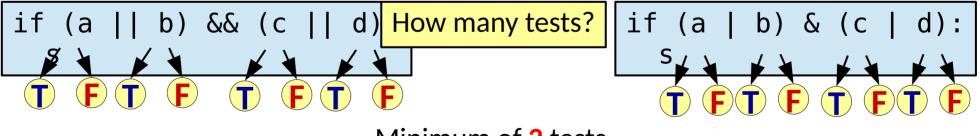
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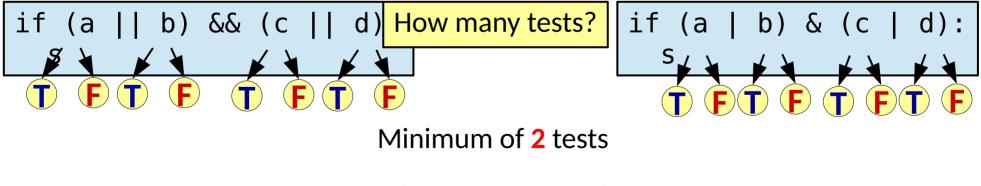
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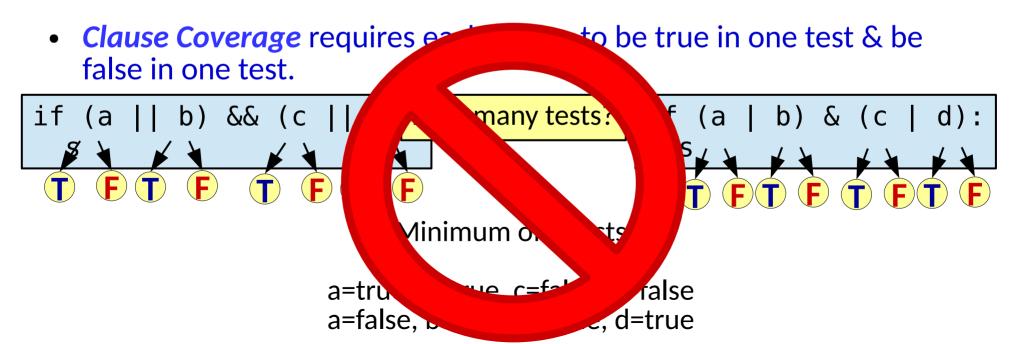
Minimum of **2** tests

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- *Clause Coverage* requires each clause to be true in one test & be false in one test.



a=true, b=true, c=false, d=false a=false, b=false, c=true, d=true

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• Modified Condition/Decision Coverage

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So far, this is clause coverage w/o that pathological case

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a=true, b=true, c=true, d=true a=false, b=false, c=false, d=false

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Is this good?

Minimum of 2 tests

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Intuition: Make sure that the tests for one clause are not *hidden* by *other* clauses

Modified Condition/Decision Coverage

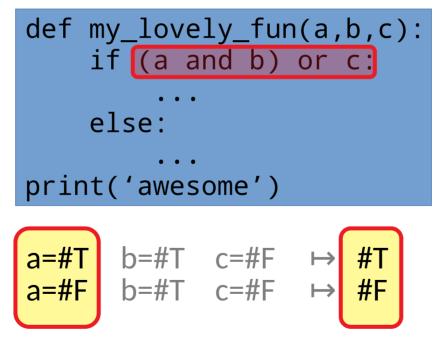
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Modified Condition/Decision Coverage

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- 3) Each clause takes every possible outcome
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- Use in safety critical systems: avionics, spacecraft, ...
- Not only ensures that clauses are tested, but that each *has an impact*

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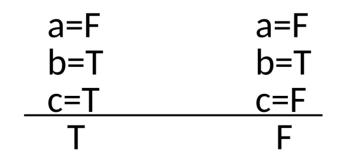
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b=T <u>c=T</u> T

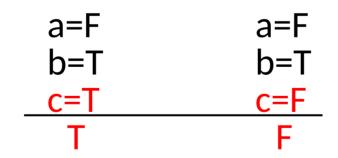
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This pair of tests shows the impact of C.

- A clause *determines* the outcome of a predicate when changing only the value of that clause changes the outcome of the predicate
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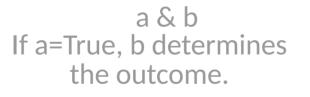
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a & b If a=True, b determines the outcome. a | b If a=False, b determines the outcome.

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a | b If a=False, b determines the outcome.

• By definition, solve φ c=true $\oplus \varphi$ c=false

• Given **a** | (**b** & **c**), generate tests for a

a has impact \leftrightarrow

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 - a has impact \leftrightarrow #T | (b & c) \neq #F | (b & c)

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a has impact \leftrightarrow #T | (b & c) \neq #F | (b & c)

- #T ≠ b&c \leftrightarrow
- #T = ¬b | ¬c \leftrightarrow
- b is false or c is false \leftrightarrow

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defines two different ways to test a

Have b be #F a=#T, b=#F, c=#T a=#F, b=#F, c=#T

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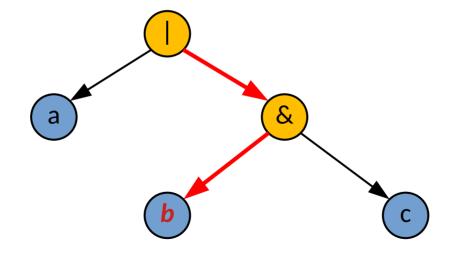
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Have b be #F	Have c be #F
a=#T, b=#F, c=#T	a=#T, b=#T, c=#F
a=#F, b=#F, c=#T	a=#F, b=#T, c=#F

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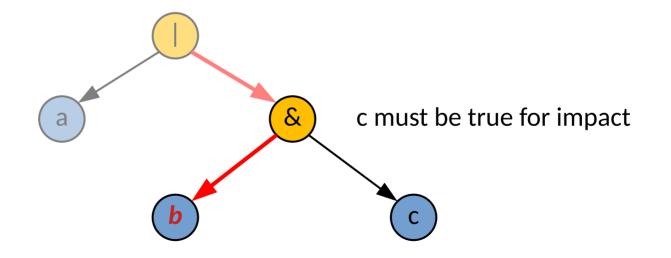
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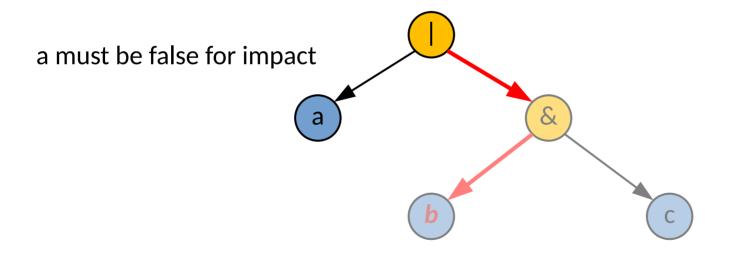
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b has impact \leftrightarrow a = #F & c = #T

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Lack of MC/DC coverage can also identify bugs.

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 - How do you deal with short-circuiting operators?
 - . . .

Mutation Testing

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 - A test *t* kills a mutant *m* if *t* produces a different outcome on *m* than *the original program* What does this mean?

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Depending on the source, these may swap...

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int foo(int x, int y) {
    if (x > 5) {return x + y;}
    else {return x;}
}
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• What are possible mutants?

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• Once we have a test case that *kills* a mutant, the mutant itself is no longer useful.

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 - (*Redundant*) Indistinguishable from other mutants

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 - (Still Born) Not compilable
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 - Equivalent
 - Redundant 🚄

Filtering these out is *theoretically* impossible, yet it is an important & active area of research.

```
int min(int a, int b) {
    int minVal;
    minVal = a;
    if (b < a) {
        minVal = b;
    }
    return minVal;
}</pre>
```

- Mimic mistakes
- Encode knowledge from other techniques

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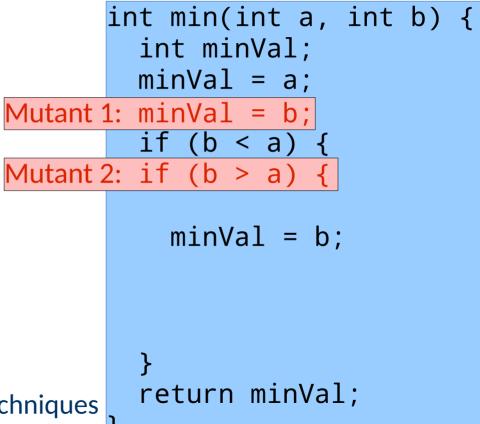
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int min(int a, int b) {
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Mutant 1: minVal = b;
        if (b < a) {
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        return minVal;
```

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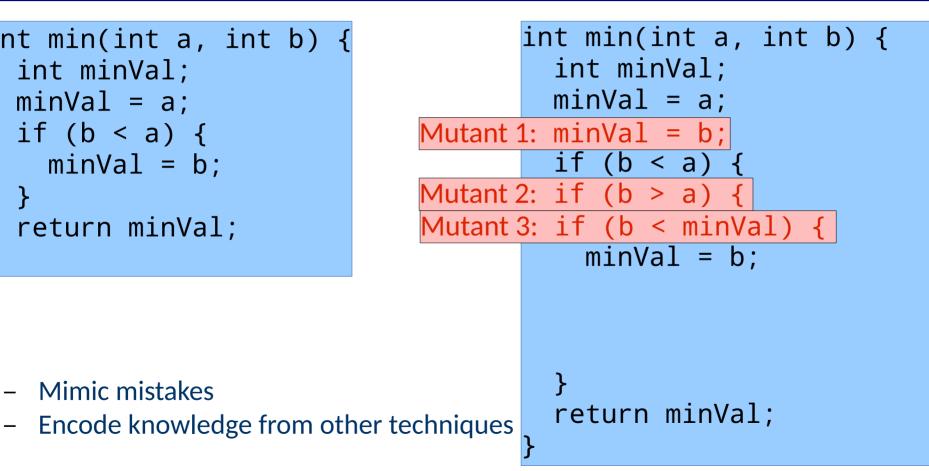
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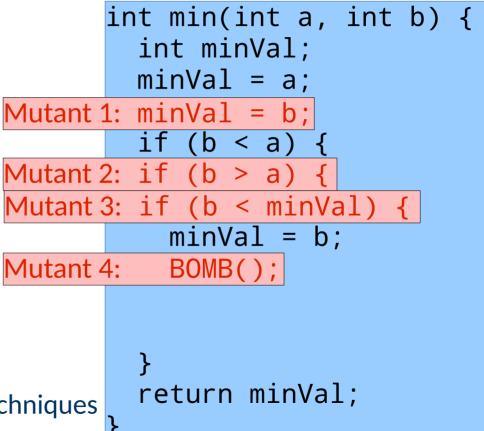
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Mimic mistakes

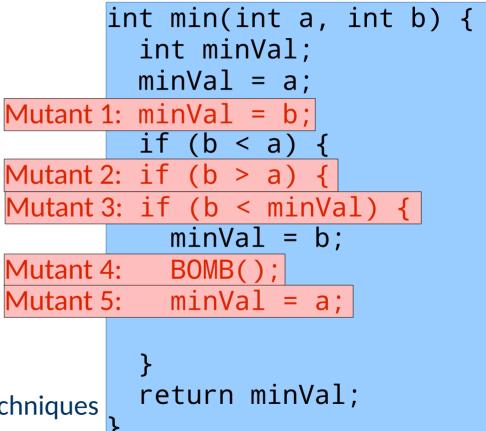


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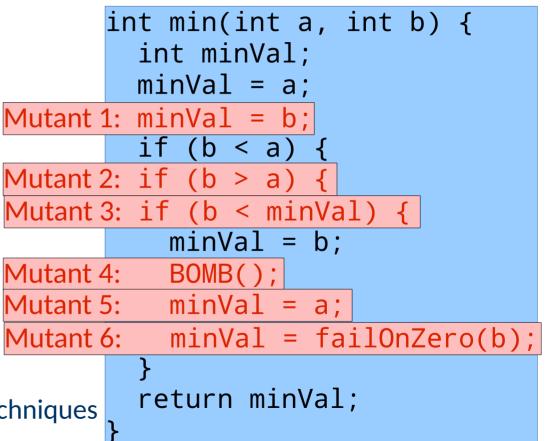
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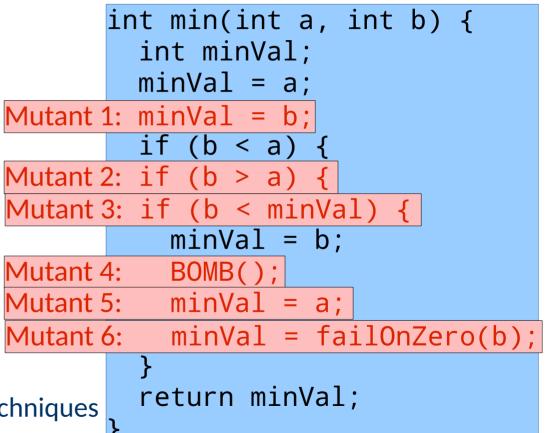


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}
    What mimics</pre>
```

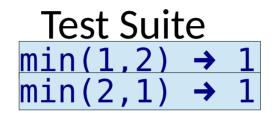
statement coverage?

- Mimic mistakes
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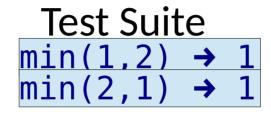


Mutant 1 Mutant 1 Mutant 2 Mutant 3 Mutant 4 Mutant 5 Mutant 6

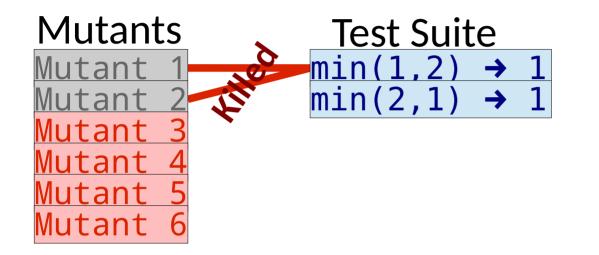
Mutants Mutant 1 Mutant 2 Mutant 3 Mutant 4 Mutant 5 Mutant 6

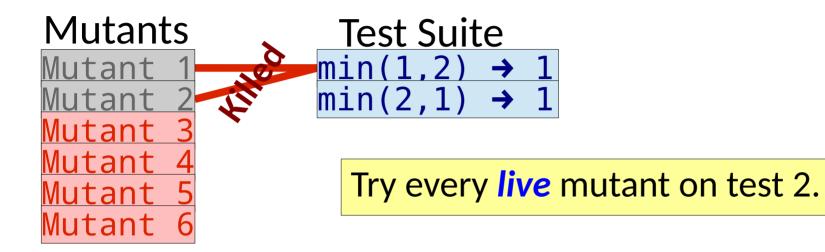


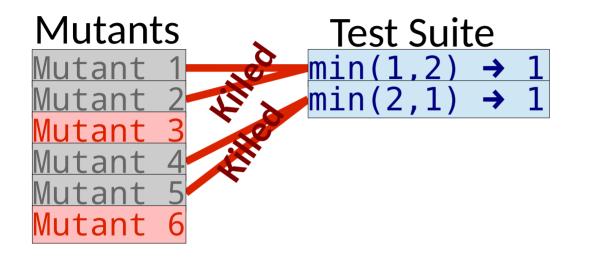
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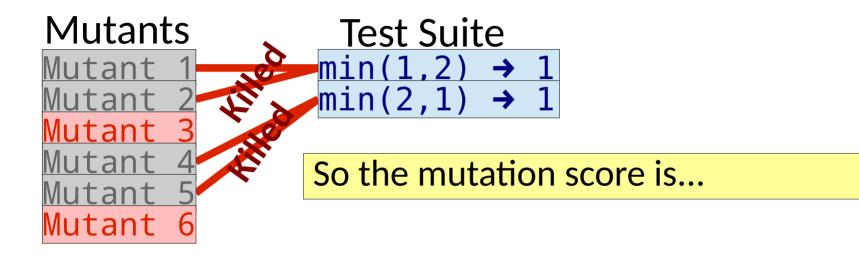


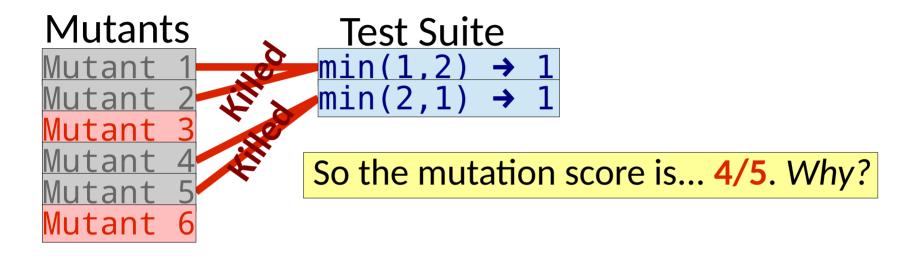
Try every mutant on test 1.

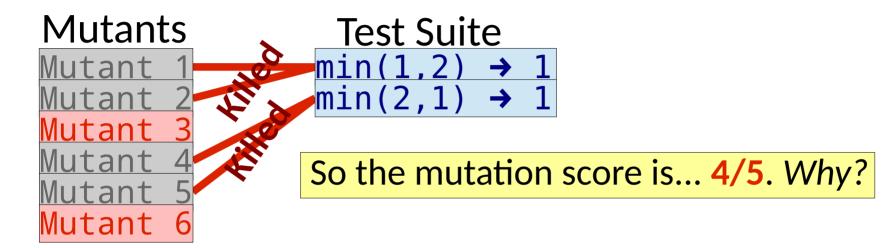












```
min3(int a, int b):
    int minVal;
    minVal = a;
    if (b < minVal)
        minVal = b;
    return minVal;</pre>
```

```
min6(int a, int b):
    int minVal;
    minVal = a;
    if (b < a)
        minVal = failOnZero(b);
    return minVal;</pre>
```



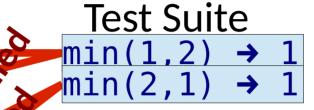
Itant

tant

lutant

Mutant

Mutant



So the mutation score is... 4/5. Why?

min3(int a, int b):
 int minVal;
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Equivalent to the original! There is no injected bug.

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Equivalent Mutants

• Equivalent mutants are not bugs and should not be counted

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#Killed

#Mutants

Start with the simplest score from *fault seeding*

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Killed # Mutants – # Equivalent

Traditional mutation score from literature

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- New Mutation Score:

#Killed — #Killed Duplicates #Mutants — #Equivalent — #Duplicates

Updated for handling of duplicate & equivalent mutants

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- Detecting equivalent mutants is *undecidable* in general
- So why are they equivalent?

• Identifying equivalent mutants is one of the most expensive / burdensome aspects of mutation analysis.

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Requires reasoning about why the result was the same.

Mutation Operators

- Are the mutants representative of all bugs?
- Do we expect the mutation score to be meaningful?

Ideas? Why? Why not?

Mutation Operators

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Ideas? Why? Why not?

2 Key ideas are missing....

Competent Programmer Hypothesis

Programmers tend to write code that is almost correct

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- So most of the time simple mutations should reflect the real bugs.

Tests that cover so much behavior that even simple errors are detected should also be sensitive enough to detect more complex errors Tests that cover so much behavior that even simple errors are detected should also be sensitive enough to detect more complex errors

- By casting a fine enough net, we'll catch the big fish, too (sorry dolphins)

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 - Better execution strategies (distributed, parallel, maximizing 1 run info) ²⁰³ [Tokumoto 2016, Gopinath 2016, Just 2014]

- How is it *currently* used in practice?
 - Google can integrate results into the code review workflow [Petrovic 2018]
 - Facebook can use ML to guide the mutant process but not widely [Beller 2021]
 - Mutant sampling is still prevalent despite shortcomings [Petrovic 2018]
 - Tools are available across languages, but data for smaller firms is challenging

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What if you change |T|?

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So is that it? Can we just do mutation testing & be done?

• Regression Testing

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What is a ratchet?

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Regression Testing

- Regression Testing
 - Retesting software as it evolves to ensure previous functionality
- Useful as a tool for *ratcheting* software quality
- Regression tests further enable making changes

• As software evolves, previously working functionality can fail.

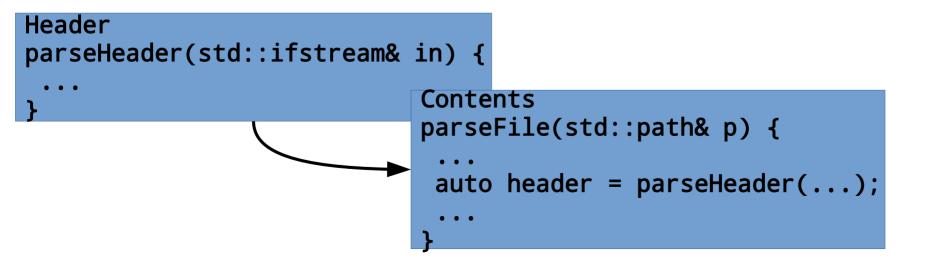
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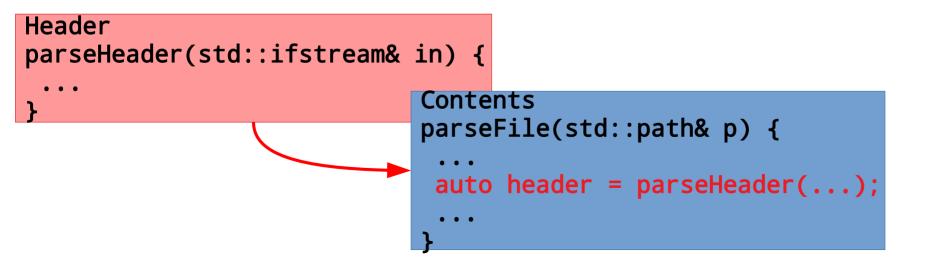
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```
Contents
parseFile(std::path& p) {
    ...
    auto header = parseHeader(...);
    ...
}
```

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- Most testing is regression testing
- Ensuring previous functionality can require large test suites. Are they always realistic?

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But this is more or less where we started...

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These mostly validate the build process & core behaviors.

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- We may further reduce work using information about the change....

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What else could we do?

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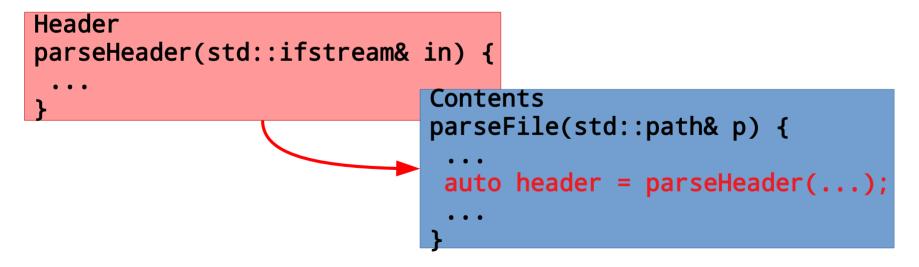
Is the cheap approach *enough*?

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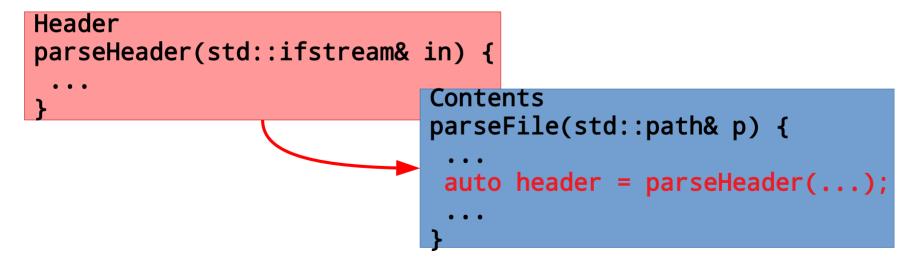
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 - Middle ground: Run those tests affected by how changes propagate through the In practice, tools can assist in finding out which tests need to be run

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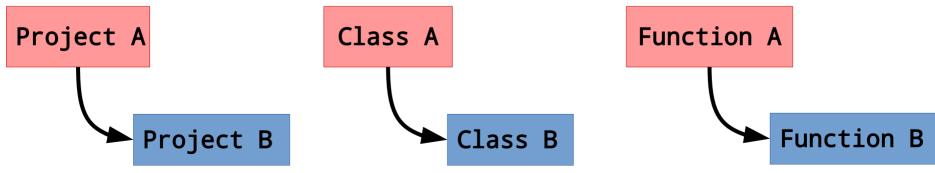
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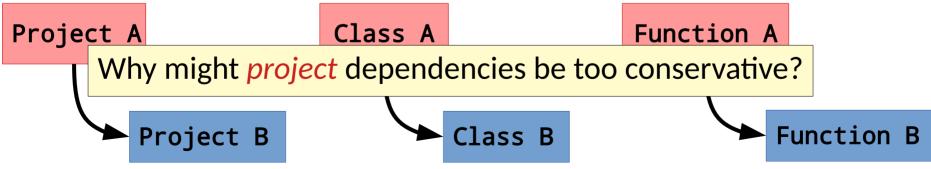
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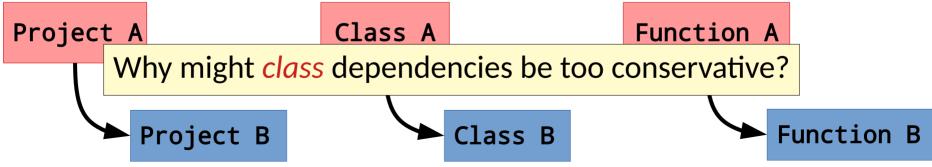
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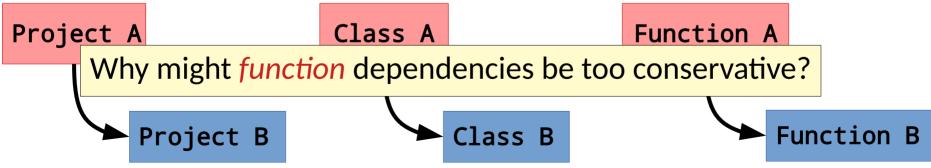


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- We will discuss the techniques underneath this as static & dynamic program analysis

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 [Shi 2018]
- Bug Prediction
 - Can we mine properties of a repository to predict where bugs will likely be?
 - Evidence indicated a mismatch between techniques & outcomes [Lewis 2013]
 - But advances are ongoing [Nam 2017]

Using Test Suites For Other Purposes

- We have considered how to
 - write tests well.
 - measure & assess a test suite.
 - efficiently & effectively add testing into a workflow.

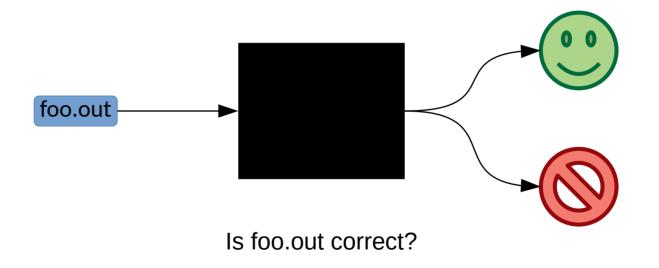
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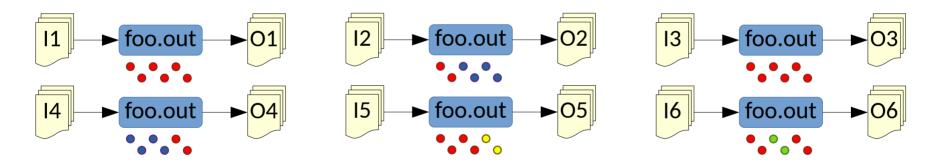
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- All of these can be aided, guided, or automated using test suites

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- Interesting questions:
 - What occurs in tests that pass?
 - What occurs in tests that fail?
 - Can I search for X that is part of a correct program?
 - Can I search for X that is part of a buggy program?

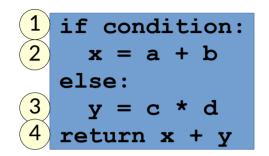
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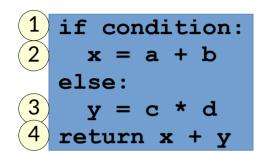
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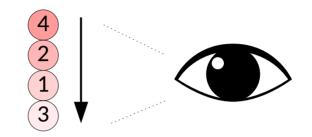
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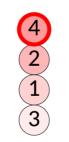




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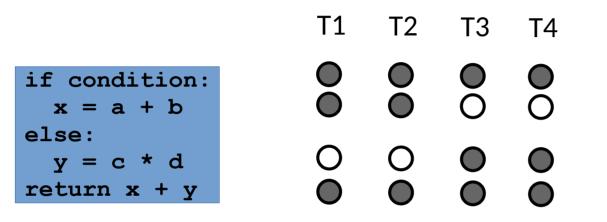
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if condition: x = a + b else: y = c * d return x + y

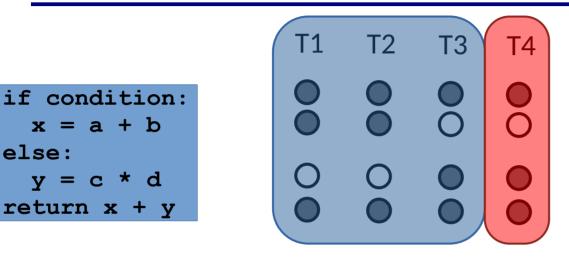


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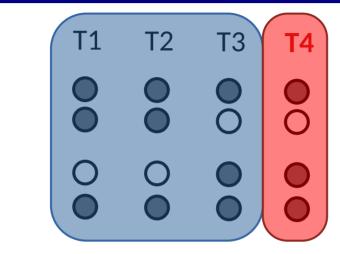
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c * d

else:

v =



• A lot of classic techniques focus on, e.g., statement coverage

What does your intuition tell you about likely causes for the bug?

V

condition:

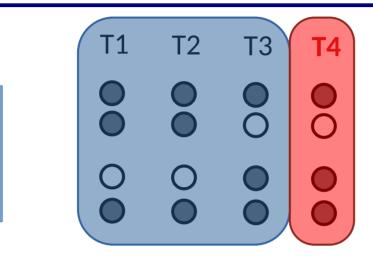
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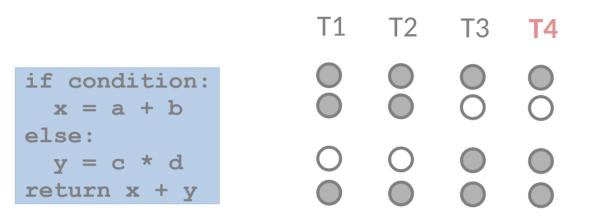
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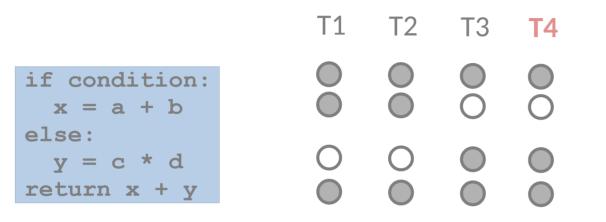


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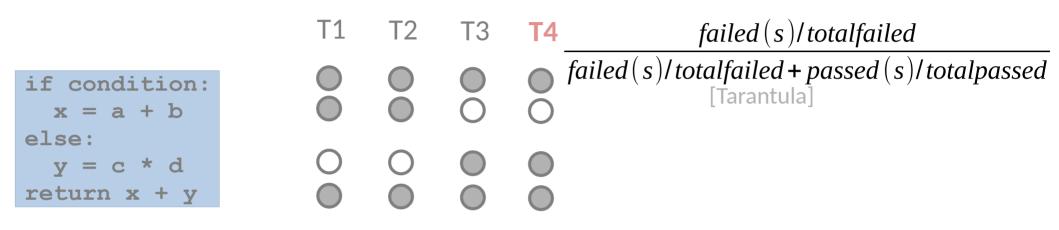
What does your intuition tell you about likely causes for the bug?



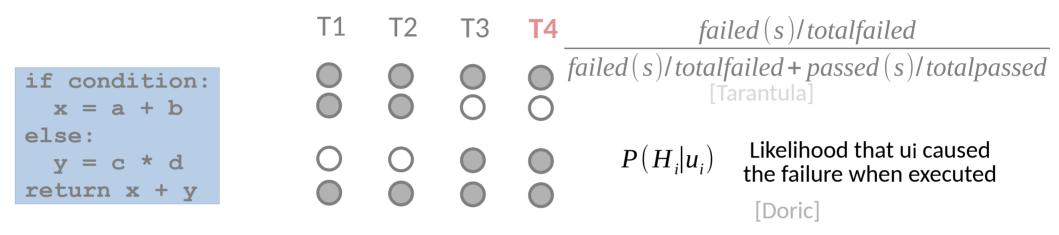
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	T1	T2	Т3	T4	failed(s)/totalfailed
<pre>if condition: x = a + b</pre>					failed(s)/totalfailed + passed(s)/totalpassed [Tarantula]
else: y = c * d return x + y					$P(H_i u_i)$ Likelihood that ui caused the failure when executed [Doric]

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- How should we prioritize?
 - Heuristic [Jones 2005, Jiang 2019]
 - Statistical [Landberg 2018]
 - ML based [Li 2019]
 - Hybrid models [Zou 2019]
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- Perhaps we can push this further....

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```
loop:
   patch = generatePatch()
   if apply(patch,P) passes T:
      return patch
```

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 - A ranked list of patches/diffs [δi] that make T pass
- If we can define a way to *explore* the space of patches, we can use the test suite to *check* the patches!
- For a given possibly buggy location
 - Enumerative search
 - Constraint guided search
 - ML (e.g. sequence-to-sequence)

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- Incorporating ML has improved advancements over the last few years, but more advances are needed for broad usability & adoption
- But... it is now a part of the possible workflow at big companies
 - Google
 - Microsoft
 - Facebook
 - Bloomberg
 - Samsung

- ...

Testing Challenging Software

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How would you test software for modeling Covid-19?

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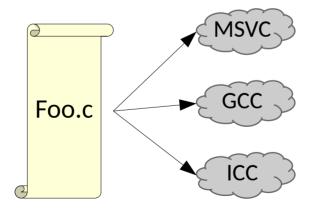
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- We again need additional leverage
 - Additional implementations?
 - Knowledge about the domain

- Many compiler bugs come from "middle end" optimizations
 - Complex interactions from multiple rules make testing challenging

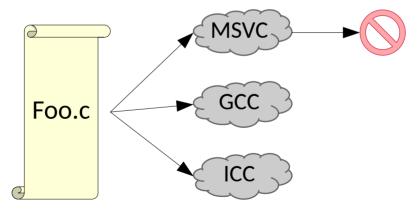
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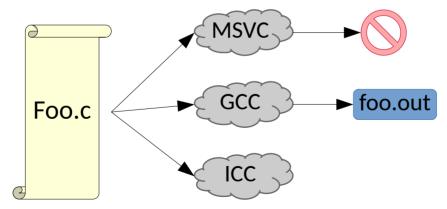
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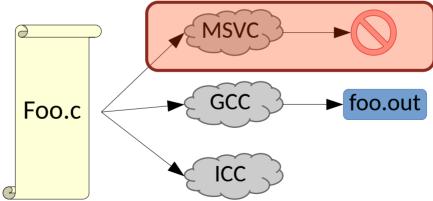
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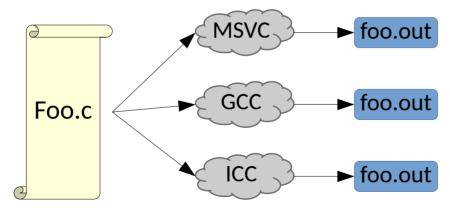
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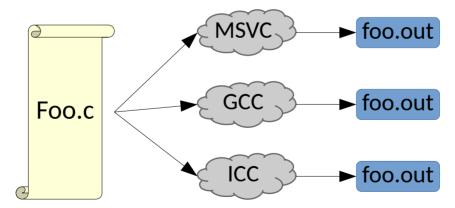
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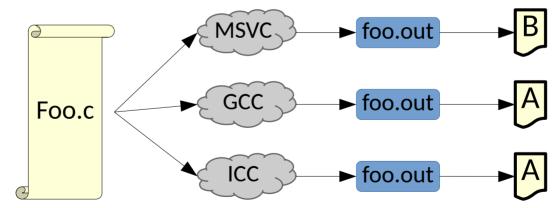


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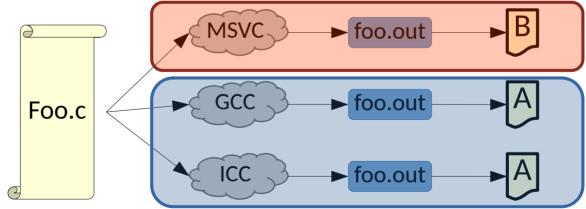


How might we test them here?

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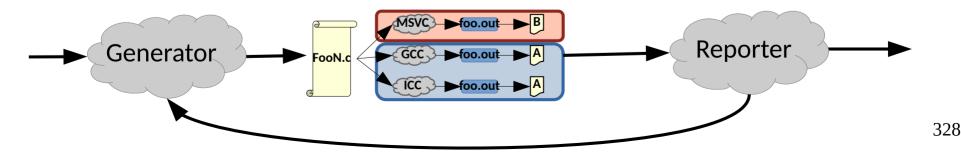
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int x = 5; while (x) { if (x%2) { x = x + 1; } else { x = x - 1; } printf("%d", x);

• Is there a way to get more value out of each generated test?

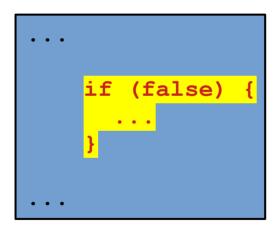
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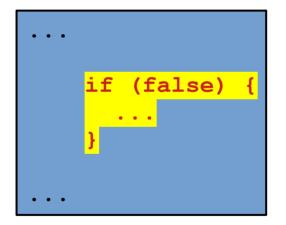
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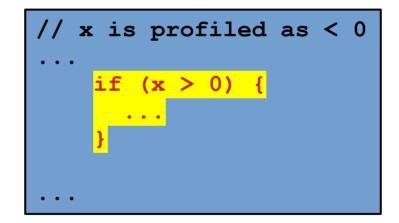
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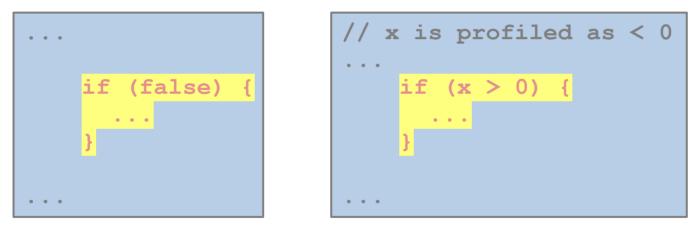
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- How might this fit into the compiler test cases?





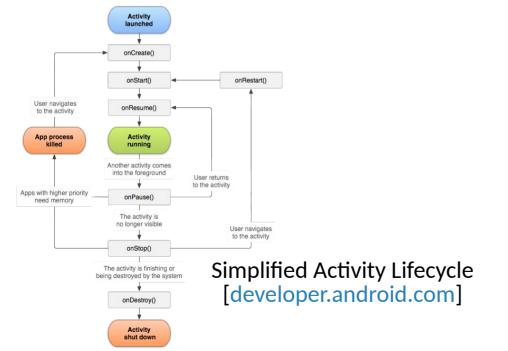




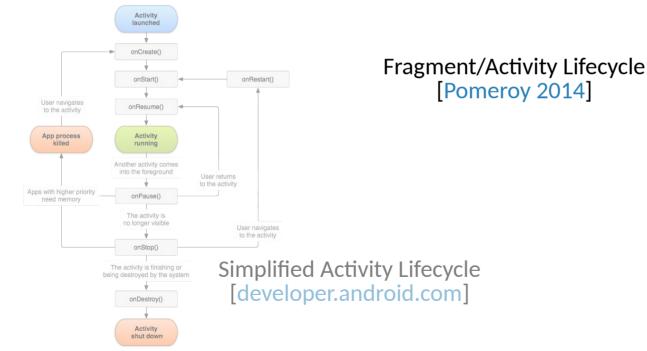
- This may seem simple, but it provides a great deal of value today
 - GCC, Clang, MSVC, ICC
 - Vulcan & OpenGL shaders

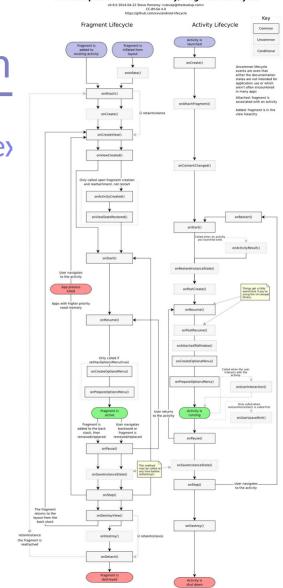
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The Complete Android Activity/Fragment Lifecycle

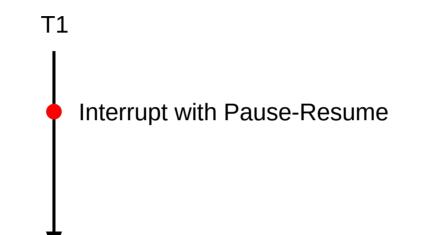
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Again, metamorphic testing makes this simpler. Ideas?

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 - Robust behavior is the same with or without these additions [Quist 2015]

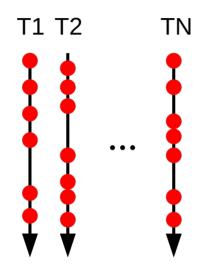
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Τ1

- Interrupt with Rotate-Unrotate
- Interrupt with Pause-Stop-Restart
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Why isn't Santa Claus in jail? Why isn't the Tooth Fairy in jail? really <liked> the flight enjoyed liked loved regret 363

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Basic metamorphic testing tripled the bug discovery rate of ML testers. • [Ribeiro 2020]

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 - Measuring whether you are testing well
 - Managing testing over software evolution
- We have seen how to address challenging to test systems
 - Differential & metamorphic testing provide some guidance
- We have seen how test suites can be leveraged for further value
 - Localization
 - Repair
 - There are many more opportunities, too!