CISC327 - Software Quality Assurance

Lecture 16
White Box Testing
White Box Testing

• Today we continue our look at white box testing with another code coverage method, and some data coverage methods

• We'll look at:
  – Code coverage testing:
    • Path coverage
  – Data coverage testing
    • Data value coverage
    • Data flow coverage
    • Data interface coverage
Execution Paths

• An execution path is a sequence of executed statements starting at the entry to the unit (usually the first statement) and ending at the exit from the unit (usually the last statement)

• Two paths are independent if there is at least one statement on one path which is not executed on the other

• Path analysis (also known as cyclomatic complexity* analysis) identifies all the independent paths through a unit

* a code metric we will look at later in the course
Execution Path Analysis

• **Flow Graphs**
  – It is easiest to do path analysis if we look at the execution flow graph of the program or unit
  – The flow graph shows program control flow between basic blocks.

![if-then-else flow graph](image1)
![while flow graph](image2)
![switch flow graph](image3)

if-then-else

while

switch
Example: Path Analysis

```java
static int find (int list[], int n, int key) {
    // binary search of ordered list
    int lo = 0;
    int hi = n - 1;
    int result = -1;

    while (hi >= lo) {
        if (result != -1)
            break;
        else {
            final int mid = (lo + hi) / 2;
            if (list[mid] == key)
                result = mid;
            else if (list[mid] > key)
                hi = mid - 1;
            else // list[mid] < key
                lo = mid + 1;
        }
    }

    return result;
}
```
Example: Path Analysis

while (hi >= lo)

if (result != -1)

  if (list[mid] == key)

  if (list[mid] > key)

Flow graph between nodes
Example: Path Analysis

• **Independent Paths**
  
  – This program has only **five** independent paths (CC = 5)

  P1: 1, 2, 12, 13
  
P2: 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13
  
P3: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 2, 12, 13
  
P4: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 2, 12, 13
  
P5: 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 2, 12, 13
Independent Paths

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{ } & x < 0 & x \geq 0 \\
1 & \text{if (x < 0)} & \text{if (x } \geq 0) \\
2 & y -= 1; & \text{yes} & \text{no} \\
3 & \text{else} & \text{no} & \text{yes} \\
4 & y += 2; & \text{no} & \text{yes} \\
5 & \text{if (x < 0)} & \text{yes} & \text{no} \\
6 & y -= 3; & \text{no} & \text{yes} \\
7 & \text{else} & \text{no} & \text{yes} \\
8 & y += 5; & \text{yes} & \text{no}
\end{array}
\]
Path Coverage Testing

- **System**: Make one test case for each independent path analyzing which inputs are needed to exercise the path
- **Completion criterion**: A test for each path
- Test creation is easy once paths have been identified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Path</th>
<th>list[]</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>(empty)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Path Coverage Testing

• **Advantages**
  
  – Covers all **basic blocks**: does all of basic block testing
  
  – Covers all **conditions**: does all of decision/condition testing
  
  – Does all of both, but with **fewer tests**!
  
  – Automatable

• **Disadvantages**
  
  – Does not take **data** complexity into account at all (also a disadvantage of basic block coverage and condition coverage)
Path Coverage Testing

• Disadvantage Example
  – These fragments have the same outcome and should be tested the same way, but the one on the left gets five tests whereas the one on the right gets only one

```java
// control-centric solution
switch (n) {
    case 1:
        s = "One"; break;
    case 2:
        s = "Two"; break;
    case 3:
        s = "Three"; break;
    case 4:
        s = "Four"; break;
    case 5:
        s = "Five"; break;
}
```

```java
// data-centric solution
String numbers[] = {
    "One", "Two",
    "Three", "Four",
    "Five"};

s = numbers[n];
```
White Box Data Coverage

• **Data coverage methods** explicitly try to cover the **data** aspects of the program code, rather than the **control** aspects

• Three kinds: data **value** coverage, data **flow** coverage, data **interface** coverage
White Box Data Coverage

• **System**: Identify critical variables, analyze code to find the different values or sets of values each can take on, partition and design tests to cover

• **Completion criterion**: Test for each value partition
Data Path Coverage

- **System**: Identify output variables, analyze code to find data flow paths that affect their value (technically called slices)
- **Completion criterion**: Test for each data flow path to output
- Much like control path testing, but additionally identifies data-centric paths
Data Path Coverage

• For example, if we look at a program slice for the variable `sum`, we can eliminate portions of the source that do not affect the value of `sum`.

```c
int i;
int sum = 0;
int product = 1;
for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    sum = sum + i;
    product = product * i;
}
```

```c
int i;
int sum = 0;
// line not in slice
for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    sum = sum + i;
    // line not in slice
}
```
Data Interface Coverage

• **System**: Identify unit's interface *input variables*, analyze code to find classes of values that cause different code behaviours, partition and test

• **Completion criterion**: Test for each input value partition

• Really just like black box *input partitioning* again, but with added advantages of ability to analyze code when creating partitions
Summary

• **White Box Testing**
  – Code coverage methods:
    • Decision analysis methods: **path** coverage
  – Data coverage methods:
    • Data **value** coverage, **flow** coverage, **interface** coverage

• **Next Time**
  – Mutation testing

• **Remember:**
  – Assignment #2 due **Thursday**
  – Mini-exam #2 Friday next week