Before we start

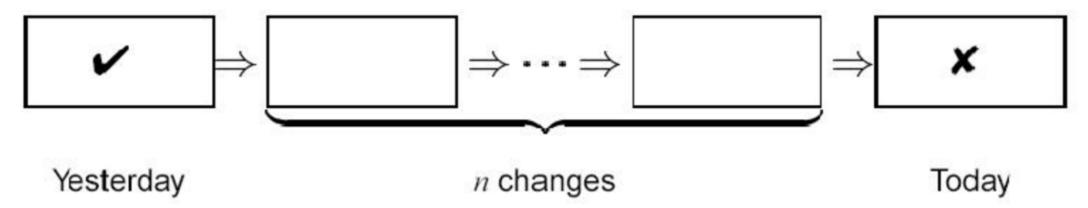
- Exam 1
 - Did you get replies from course staff on regrading?
- HW5
 - A free grace period for everyone
 - No late penalty before March 30
- Thursday lecture relocation (one-off):
 - SC4327
- HW6 Grad
 - Meet with the instructor

Delta Debugging

Given

- a set $C = \{c_1, ..., c_n\}$ (of changes)
- a function *Interesting* : C → {Yes, No}
- Interesting(C) = Yes
- Interesting is monotonic, unambiguous and consistent (more on these later)
- The delta debugging algorithm returns a one-minimal Interesting subset M of C:
 - Interesting(M) = Yes
 - For all m in M, Interesting(M \ {m}) = No

Example Use of Delta Debugging



- C = the set of n changes
- Interesting(X) = Apply the changes in X to Yesterday's version and compile. Run the result on the test.
 - If it fails, return "Yes" (X is an interesting failure-inducing change set),
 - otherwise return "No" (X is too small and does not induce the failure)

Useful Assumptions

- Any subset of changes may be Interesting
 - Not just singleton subsets of size 1 (cf. bsearch)
- Interesting is Monotonic
 - Interesting(X) → Interesting(X ∪ {c})
- Interesting is Unambiguous
 - Interesting(X) & Interesting(Y) \rightarrow Interesting(X \cap Y)
- Interesting is Consistent
 - Interesting(X) = Yes or Interesting(X) = No
 - (Some formulations: Interesting(X) = Unknown)

Delta Debugging Insights

- Basic Binary Search
 - Divide C into P1 and P2
 - If Interesting(P1) = Yes then recurse on P1
 - If Interesting(P2) = Yes then recurse on P2
- At most one case can apply (by Unambiguous)
- By Consistency, the only other possibility is
 - (Interesting(P1) = No) and (Interesting(P2) = No)
 - What happens in such a case?

Interference

- By Monotonicity
 - If Interesting(P1) = No and Interesting(P2) = No
 - Then no subset of P1 alone or subset of P2 alone is Interesting
- So the Interesting subset must use a combination of elements from P1 and P2
- In Delta Debugging, this is called interference
 - Basic binary search does not have to contend with this issue

Interference Insight

(hardest part of this lecture?)

Consider P1

- Find a minimal subset D2 of P2
- Such that Interesting(P1 ∪D2) = Yes

Consider P2

- Find a minimal subset D1 of P1
- Such that Interesting(P2∪D1) = Yes

Then by Unambiguous

- Interesting((P1 \cup D2) \cap (P2 \cup D1)) = Yes
- Interesting(D1_UD2) is also minimal

• 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?

Example: Use DD to find the smallest interesting subset of {1, ..., 8}

```
6
                                               Interesting?
• 1 2 3 4
               First Step:
               Partition C = {1, ..., 8} into
               P1 = \{1, ..., 4\} \text{ and } P2 = \{5, ..., 8\}
```

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?
1 2 3 4 ????
5 6 7 8 ???
```

Second Step: Test P1 and P2

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?
1 2 3 4 No
5 6 7 8 No
```

Interference! Sub-Step: Find minimal subset D1 of P1 such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

•	1_	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Interesting?
•	1	2	3	4					No
•					5	6	7	8	No

Interference! Sub-Step: Find minimal subset D1 of P1 such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

• 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Interesting?
• 1	2	3	4					No
•				5	6	7	8	No
• 1	2			5	6	7	8	???

Interference! Sub-Step: Find minimal subset D1 of P1 such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

•	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Interesting?
•	1	2	3	4					No
•					5	6	7	8	No
•	1	2			5	6	7	8	No

Interference! Sub-Step: Find minimal subset D1 of P1 such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

• 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Interesting?
• 1	2	3	4					No
•				5	6	7	8	No
• 1	2			5	6	7	8	No
•		3	4	5		7		Yes
			Inter	feren	ice! S	ub-St	en:	

Find minimal subset D1 of P1 such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

•	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Interesting?
•	1	2	3	4					No
•					5	6	7	8	No
•	1	2			5	6	7	8	No
•			3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes
•			3		5	6	7	8	Yes

$$D1 = {3}$$

• <u>1</u>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Intere	esting?
• 1	2	3	4					No	
•				5	6	7	8	No	D1 = {3}
• 1	2			5	6	7	8	No	Now find
•		3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes	D2!
•		3		5	6	7	8	Yes	
• 1	2	3	4	5	6			Yes	
									17

• <u>1</u>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Interesting	<u>:?</u>
• 1	2	3	4					No	
•				5	6	7	8	No	D1 = {3}
• 1	2			5	6	7	8	No	$D2 = \{6\}$
•		3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes	()
•		3		5	6	7	8	Yes	
• 1	2	3	4	5	6			Yes	
• 1	2	3	4	5				No	
• 1	2	3	4		6			Yes	
									18

• <u>1</u>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Intere	esting?
• 1	2	3	4					No	
•				5	6	7	8	No	$D1 = \{3\}$
• 1	2			5	6	7	8	No	$D2 = \{6\}$
•		3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes	F:
•		3		5	6	7	8	Yes	Final Answer:
• 1	2	3	4	5	6			Yes	{3, 6}
• 1	2	3	4	5				No	
• 1	2	3	4		6			Yes	
									19

Delta Debugging Algorithm

DD(P,
$$\{c_1, ..., c_n\}$$
) =

- if n = 1 then return $\{c_1\}$
- let P1 = $\{c_1, ... c_{n/2}\}$
- let P2 = $\{c_{n/2+1}, ..., c_n\}$
- if Interesting(P_∪P1) = Yes then return DD(P,P1)
- if Interesting($P_{\cup}P2$) = Yes then return DD(P,P2)
- else return DD(P_UP2, P1) _U DD(P_UP1, P2)

Algorithmic Complexity

- Best case: a single change induces the failure
 - DD is logarithmic: O(log |C|)
 - Why?
- Worst case: remove the last change in the list in every iteration after testing all previous changes
 - DD is O(|C|^2): |C|+(|C|-1)+(|C|-2)+....
- Otherwise, DD is linear
 - Assuming constant time per Interesting() check

Questioning Assumptions

(assumptions are restated here for convenience)

- All three key assumptions are questionable
- Interesting is Monotonic
 - Interesting(X) → Interesting(X ∪ {c})
- Interesting is Unambiguous
 - Interesting(X) & Interesting(Y) \rightarrow Interesting(X \cap Y)
- Interesting is Consistent
 - Interesting(X) = Yes or Interesting(X) = No
 - (Some formulations: Interesting(X) = Unknown)

Ambiguity

- Unambiguous: the interesting failure is caused by one subset (and not independently by two disjoint subsets)
- What if the world is ambiguous?
- Then DD (as presented here) may not find an Interesting subset
- Hint: trace DD on Interesting({2, 8}) = yes, Interesting({3, 6})
 - = yes, but Interesting($\{2, 8\}$ intersect $\{3, 6\}$) = no.
 - DD returns {2,6} :-(.

Not Monotonic

- Montonic: If X is Interesting, any superset of X is interesting
- What if the world is not monotonic?
 - For example, Interesting({1,2}) = Yes but Interesting({1,2,3,4}) = No
- Then DD will find an Interesting subset
 - Thought questions: Will it be minimal? How long will it take?

Inconsistency

- Consistent: We can evaluate every subset to see if it is Interesting or not
 - What if the world is not consistent?
- If Interesting can return Unknown -> inconsistent
 - DD is quadratic: |C|^2 + 3|C|
 - If all tests are Unknown except last one (unlikely)
- Example: we are minimizing changes to a program to find patches that makes it crash

Some subsets may not build or run!

- Integration Failure: a change may depend on earlier changes
- Construction failure: some subsets may yield programs with parse errors or type checking errors (cf. HW3!)
- Execution failure: program executes strangely or does not terminate, test outcome is unresolved

DD+ Algorithm

Yesterday, my program worked. Today, it does not. Why?

Andreas Zeller

Universität Passau

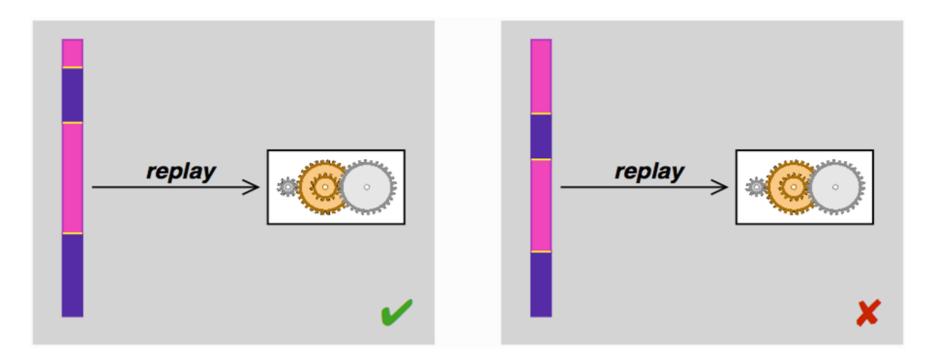
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zeller@acm.org

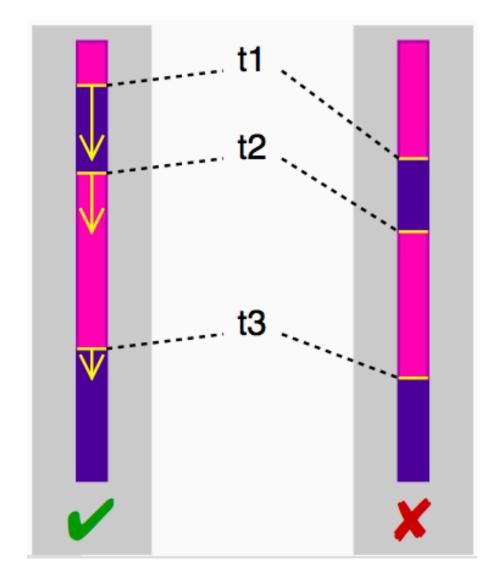
Delta Debugging Thread Schedules

- DejaVu tool by IBM, CHESS by Microsoft, etc.
- The thread schedule becomes part of the input
- We can control when the scheduler preempts one thread



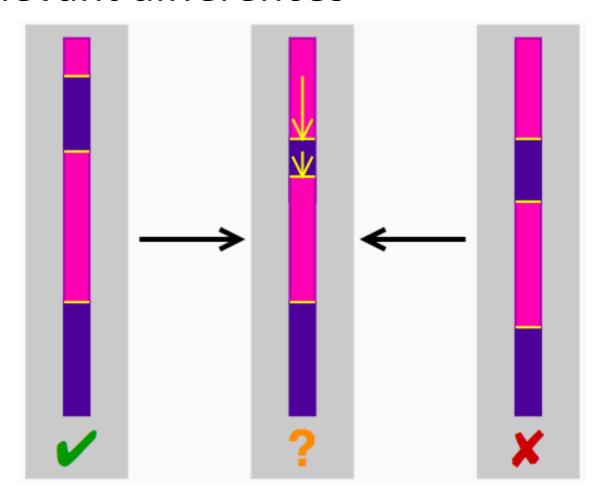
Differences in Thread Scheduling

- Starting point
 - Passing run
 - Failing run
- Differences (for t1)
 - T1 occurs in passing run at time 254
 - T1 occurs in failing run at time 278



Differences in Thread Scheduling

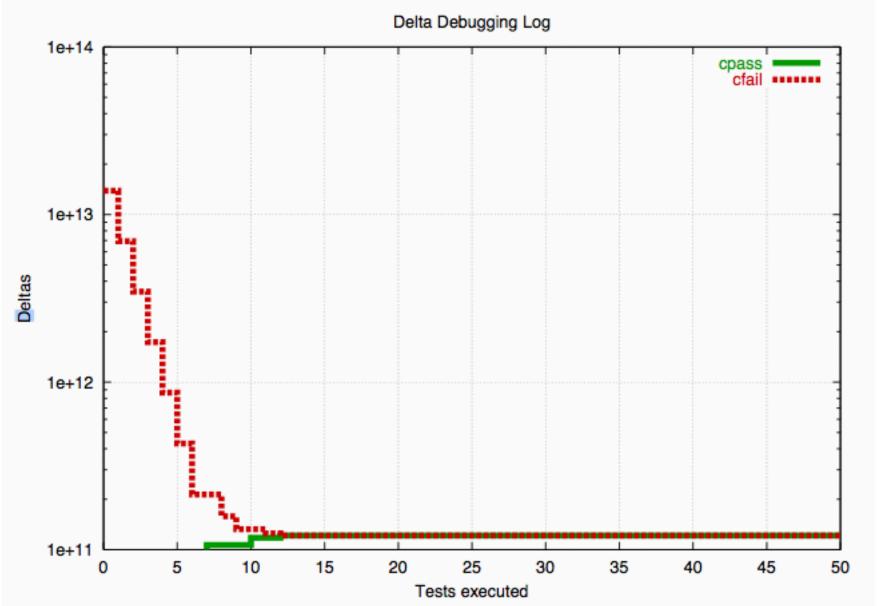
 We can build new test cases by mixing the two schedules to isolate the relevant differences



Does It Work?

- Test #205 of SPEC JVM98 Java Test Suite
 - Multi-threaded raytracer program
 - Simple race condition
 - Generate random schedules to find a passing schedule and a failing schedule (to get started)
- Differences between passing and failing
 - 3,842,577,240 differences (!)
 - Each difference moves a thread switch time by +1 or -1

DD Isolates One Difference After 50 Probes (< 30 minutes)



Pin-Pointing The Failure

• The failure occurs iff thread switch #33 occurs at yield point 59,772,127 (line 91) instead of 59,772,126 (line 82) → race on which variable?

```
public class Scene { ...
        private static int ScenesLoaded = 0;
        (more methods...)
        private
         int LoadScene(String filename) {
              int OldScenesLoaded = ScenesLoaded;
             (more initializations...)
infile = new DataInputStream(...);
(more code...)
             (more initializations...)
              ScenesLoaded = OldScenesLoaded + 1;
130
              System.out.println("" +
131
                  ScenesLoaded + " scenes loaded.");
132
134
135
733
```

Minimizing Input

- GCC version 2.95.2 on x86/Linux with certain optimizations crashed on a legitimate C program
 - Note: GCC crashes, not the program!

```
double mult( double z[], int n )
    int i;
    int j;
    for (j=0; j < n; j++) {
        i = i + j + 1;
        z[i]=z[i]*(z[0]+0);
    return z[n];
int copy(double to[], double from[], int count)
    int n = (count + 7)/8;
    switch (count%8) do {
        case 0: *to++ = *from++;
        case 7: *to++ = *from++;
        case 6: *to++ = *from++;
        case 5: *to++ = *from++;
        case 4: *to++ = *from++;
        case 3: *to++ = *from++:
        case 2: *to++ = *from++;
        case 1: *to++ = *from++;
    } while (--n > 0);
    return (int)mult(to,2);
int main( int argc, char *argv[] )
{
    double x[20], y[20];
    double *px= x;
    while (px < x + 20)
        *px++ = (px-x)*(20+1.0);
    return copy(y,x,20);
```

Figure 4: A program that crashes GCC-2.95.2.

Delta Debugging to the Rescue

• With 731 probes (< 60 seconds), minimized to:

```
t(double z[], int n) {
  int i, j;
  for (;;j++) { i=i+j+1; z[i]=z[i]*(z[0]+0); }
  return z[n]; }
```

- GCC has many options
 - Run DD again to find which are relevant

```
-ffloat-store
                      -fno-default-inline
-fforce-mem
                      -fforce-addr
                      -finline-functions
-fno-inline
-fkeep-static-consts
                      -fno-function-cse
-fstrength-reduce
                      -fthread-jumps
-fcse-skip-blocks
                      -frerun-cse-after-loop
                      -fexpensive-optimizations
-fgcse
-fschedule-insns2
                      -ffunction-sections
-fcaller-saves
                      -funroll-loops
-fmove-all-movables
                      -freduce-all-givs
-fstrict-aliasing
```

```
-fno-defer-pop
-fomit-frame-pointer
-fkeep-inline-functions
-ffast-math
-fcse-follow-jumps
-frerun-loop-opt
-fschedule-insns
-fdata-sections
-funroll-all-loops
-fno-peephole
```

WE NEED SOME NEW TARGON, THE PUBLIC ARE STARTING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!



Design for Maintainability



The Story So Far ...

- We want to deliver and support a quality software product
 - We understand the stakeholder requirements
 - We understand process and design
 - We understand quality assurance
- How should we make process and design designs the first time ...
 - ... if software maintenance will be the dominant activity?

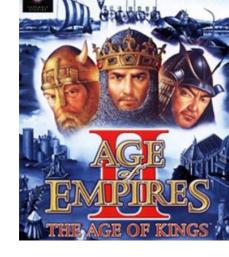
One-Slide Summary

- We can invest up-front effort in designing software to facilitate maintenance activities. This reduces overall lifecycle costs.
- We will consider designing to improve comprehension, documentation, change, reuse, and testability.
 - The metrics used for understandability, the category of information conveyed by documentation, object-oriented principles and design patterns, and coverage are all relevant.

Analogy

- You are playing "Age of Empires 2"
- You want to quickly build a Castle
- Do you just build it now (costs 650 resources)?
- Or do you create villagers first?
 - They cost 50 a piece, but each gathers resources faster (let's say 1.05x faster)







Investment

- "It depends on the state of the world."
- This is just a math problem: is T1 > T2?
 - T1 = 650 / resource gathering rate
 - T2 = (50/ gathering rate) + (650/(gathering rate*1.05))
- "To invest is to allocate money (or sometimes another resource, such as time) in the expectation of some benefit in the future"
- You almost always want to invest time during design to produce maintainable software!

Investment in Maintenance

- Suppose maintenance is 70% of the lifetime cost of software and the other 30% is coding and design
- Would you spend 50% more on design if that reduced the cost of maintenance by 50%?



Investment in Maintenance

- Suppose maintenance is 70% of the lifetime cost of software and the other 30% is coding and design
- Would you spend 50% more on design if that reduced the cost of maintenance by 50%?
 - Cost 1 = 30 + 70
 - Cost 2 = 30*1.5 + 70*0.5
- We know the 70% number (indeed, 70-90%)
- But can we spend more on design to reduce maintenance costs? Yes.

Design for Maintainability

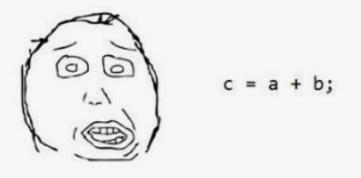
- High level plan:
- We now understand key maintenance tasks (e.g., testing, code review, etc.)
- So we should design our software to make those activities easier or more efficient
- Even if that means that coding will take longer

Pride



- The first thing to change is you
 - Because you likely still think of yourself as a coder
- Student coder goals: quickly produce throwaway software that runs efficiently and solves a well-specified, set-in-stone task
 - You feel good if it doesn't take you long, etc.
- You have to change your internal notion of a "good job"
 - You feel good for readable, elegant code, etc.

Programming alone



Programming while someone watches

```
/// <summary>
/// A function, that adds two numbers
/// </summary>
/// <param name="a">First number</param>
/// <param name="b">Second number</param>
/// <returns>Sum of a and b</returns>
```



```
private int Add(int a, int b)
{
   // This line adds two ints
   return a + b;
}
```

(a)

Design for Code Comprehension

- Code Inspection and Code Review are critical maintenance activities
- We consider improving readability and documentation to aid code comprehension
- We distinguish between essential complexity, which follows from the problem statement
 - e.g., sorting requires N log(N) time
- and accidental readability, which can be more directly controlled by software engineers

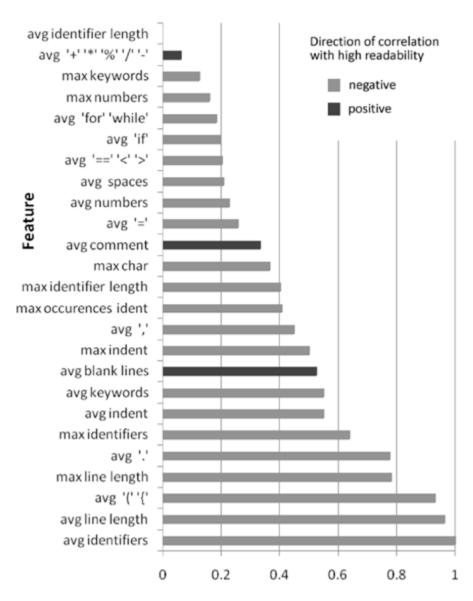
Readability

- Readability is a human judgment of how easy a text is to understand
- Commonly desired and mandated in software
 - DOD MIL-M-38784B requires "10th grade reading level or easier"
- •So how can we improve code readability?
 - It seems subjective
- Plan: ask many humans, model their average notion of readability, relate to code features
 - Use measurement plus machine learning

Learning a Metric for Code Readability

- Avoid long lines
- Avoid having many different identifiers (variables) in the same region of code
- Do include comments
- Fully blank lines may matter more than indention





Relative predictive power

Revenge of Perverse Incentive

- We can apply readability metrics automatically to code
- But because they are descriptive, this can lead to perverse incentives
- It may be true that existing code with a few more blank lines is more readable
- So what if we just insert a blank line between every line of code?
 - That would maximize the metric, but ...
- So use them, but not blindly

Comments and Documentation

- Appeal from a developer on a mailing list:
 - "Going forward, could I ask you to be more descriptive in your commit messages? Ideally should state what you've changed and also why (unless it's obvious) ... I know you're busy and this takes more time, but it will help anyone who looks through the log ..."



"WHY DID I STOP DOCUMENTING MY CODE?

What vs. Why

- We can make a distinction between documentation that summarizes what the code does (or what happened in a commit)
 - e.g., "Replaced a warning with an IllegalArgumentException", "this loop sorts by task priority", "added an array bounds check"
- And documentation that summarizes why the code does that (or the change was made)
 - e.g., "Fixed Bug #14235" or "management is worried about buffer overruns"

High-Quality Comments

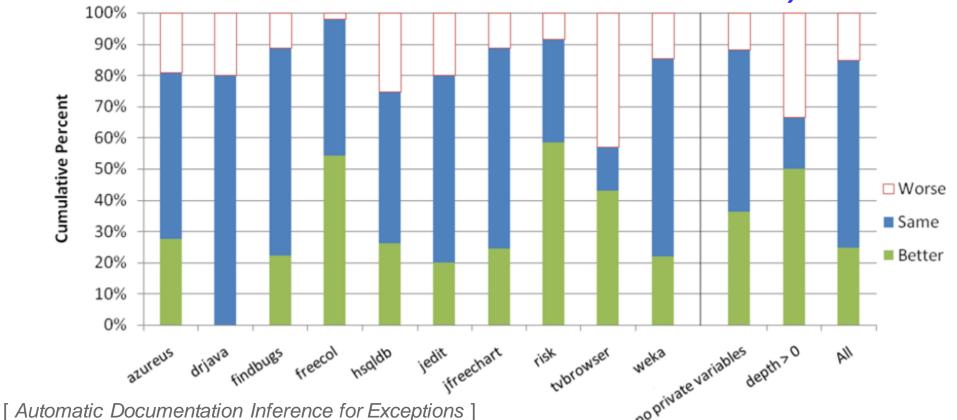
- You should focus on adding why information to your documentation, comments and commit messages
- Because there is tool and process support for adding or recovering what information
 - For example, code inspection may reveal that a loop sorts by task priority but will not reveal that this was done because a customer required it

Documenting Exceptions

- Documentation for @throws information, such as @exception IllegalArgument if id is null or id.equals("") can be automatically inferred via tools
 - Same approach as test input generation
 - Gather constraints to reach the "throw" line
 - Then rewrite them in English
 - Instead of solving them
 - Explains What the code does

"Why" for Exceptions

- Tools are at least as accurate as humans 85% of the time,
 and are better 25% of the time
 - Tools can do What so have humans focus on Why

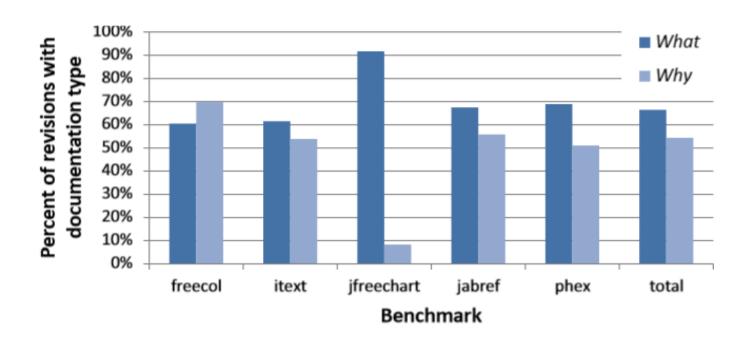


Documenting Commit Messages

- Appeal from a developer:
 - "Sorry to be a pain in the neck about this, but could we please use more descriptive commit messages? I do try to read the commit emails, but... I can't really tell what's going on"
- Example: revision 3909 of **iText**'s complete commit message is "Changing the producer info"

Commit Messages in the Wild

- Average size of a non-empty human written log message:
 1.1 lines
- Average size of a textual diff: 37.8 lines



"Why" for Commit Messages

- Tools and algorithms have been shown to replace or provide 89% of the What information in log messages
- It is definitely good to describe what a change is doing
- But you should focus on documenting Why
- Get in the habit of providing two categories of information for every pull request
 - (And method summary, and ...)

Trivia: SCOTUS

 This associate justice of the Supreme Court was born in the Bronx, went to Princeton and Yale, and was appointed by Obama. She has been associated with concern for the rights of defendants, calls for reform of the criminal justice system, and dissents on issues of race, gender and ethnic identity. For example, in Schuette vs. CDAA (a case about a state ban on race- and sex-based discrimination in public university admissions), she dissented that "[a] majority of the Michigan electorate changed the basic rules of the political process in that State in a manner that uniquely disadvantaged racial minorities."

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Trivia: Filmmakers





•This Japanese artist was called "the best animation filmmaker in history" by Roger Ebert. He co-founded Studio Ghibli, received international acclaim, and directed films such as *Princess Mononoke* (highest-grossing film in Japan) and *Spirited Away* (also the highest-grossing film in Japan, and an Academy Award winner). He just might like airships.

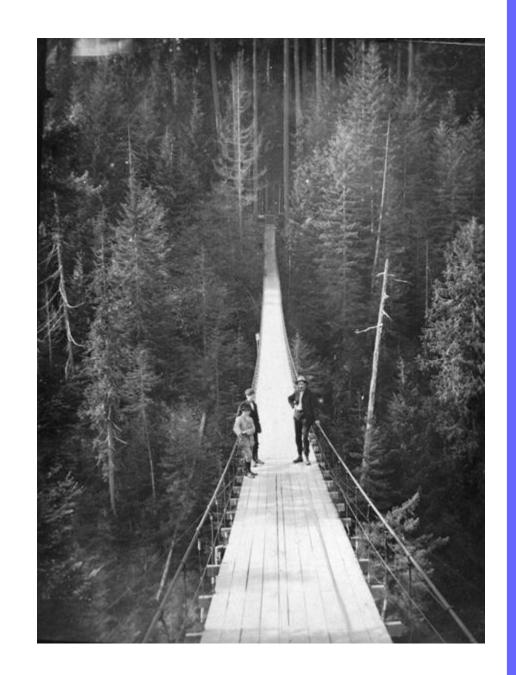






Psychology: Bridges?

- 85 single males, aged 18-35, walked over either a 450-long, 5-foot wide suspension bridge made of wooden boards and wire cables over the Capilano Canyon, or a solid wood bridge upriver.
 - Similar males rated the bridge a 79 out of 100 on "How fearful ..."



Psychology: Bridges

- After crossing either the control or experimental bridge, subjects were approached by a male or female interviewer
 - "She explained that she was doing a project for her psychology class on the effects of exposure to scenic attractions on creative expression. She then asked potential subjects if they would fill out a short questionnaire".
- Upon completion she thanked them and then tore off a corner of a sheet of paper and wrote down her name and phone number, inviting each subject to call if he wanted to talk further.
 - The control group was told her name was Donna and the experimental group was told her name was Gloria ...

Psychology: Misattribution of Arousal



- 23/33 filled out the questionnaire on the experimental bridge, 22/33 on the control bridge
- The questionnaire contains TAT (Thematic Apperception Test) pictures, subjects were also asked to write a story based on a neutral picture
 - Experimental group: 2.47 for sexual content/imagery vs. 1.41 in the control group (p < 0.01)
- In the experiment group, 50% of them called her, while in the control group, only 12.5% did so (p < 0.02)
- No significant differences between bridges were obtained on either measure for Ss contacted by a male interviewer.

Psychology: Misattribution of Arousal

- The misattribution of arousal is a process whereby people unconsciously mistake physiological symptoms (e.g., blood pressure, shortness of breath: symptoms of fear) with arousal. This includes perceiving a partner as more attractive because of a heightened state of stress.
- Later studies found that confidence can also be affected by misattribution of arousal. Participants were asked to complete a task with a noise in the background; some were told the noise might make them nervous, others were told it would have no effect or that there was a deadline.
 - Participants who attributed their arousal to external noise felt more confident than those who attributed their arousal to performance anxiety of the task
- SE: Crunch time stress may coincidentally cause you to like processes used during crunch time

Design for Change and Reuse

- In class, many programs are written once, to a fixed specification, and thrown away
- In industry, many programs are written once and then modified as requirements, customers, and developers change
- Many fundamental tenets of object-oriented design facilitate subsequent change
 - You've seen these before, but now you are in a position to really appreciate the motivation!

Design Desiderata

- Classes are open for extension and modification without invasive changes
- Subtype polymorphism enables changes behind interfaces
- Classes encapsulate details likely to change behind (small) stable interfaces
- Internal parts can be developed independently
- Internal details of other classes do not need to be understood, contract is sufficient
- Class implementations and their contracts can be tested separately (unit testing)

Design for Reuse: Delegation

- Delegation is when one object relies on another object for some subset of its functionality
 - e.g., in Java, Sort delegates functionality to some Comparator
- Judicious delegation enables code reuse
 - Sort can be reused with arbitrary sort orders
 - Comparators can be reused with arbitrary client code that needs to compare integers
 - Reduce "cut and paste" code and defects



Design for Change: Motivation

- Amazon.com processes millions of orders each year, selling in 75 countries, all 50 states, and thousands of cities worldwide. These countries, states, and cities have hundreds of distinct sales tax policies and, for any order and destination, Amazon.com must be able to compute the correct sales tax for the order and destination. Over time:
 - Amazon moves into new markets
 - Laws and taxes in existing markets change



Software Design Patterns

- A software design pattern is a general, reusable solution to a commonly-occurring problem within a given context in software design.
 - (Next lecture discusses more)







Design for Extensibility: Contracts and Subtyping

- Design by contract prescribes that software designers should define formal, precise and verifiable interface specifications for components, which extend the ordinary definition of abstract data types with preconditions, postconditions and invariants
- A subclass can only have weaker preconditions
 - My super only works on positive numbers, but I work on all numbers
- A subclass can only have stronger postconditions
 - My super returns any shape, but I return squares
- This is just the Liskov Substitution Principle!
 - Liskov substitution is a way to prove that system invariants, previously proven, are still valid when one functionally equivalent component is substituted for another

Design for Testability

- If the majority cost of software engineering is maintenance, and the majority cost of maintenance is QA, and the majority cost of QA is testing
- It behooves us to design our software so that testing is effective
 - Design to admit testing
 - Design to admit fault injection
 - Design to admit coverage
 - Recognize "free test" opportunities

Design to Admit Testing

- Consider a library oriented architecture, a variation of modular programming or service-oriented architecture with a focus on separation of concerns and interface design
 - "Package logical components of your application independently literally as separate gems, eggs, RPMs, or whatever - and maintain them as internal open-source projects ... This approach combats the tightly-coupled spaghetti so often lurking in big codebases by giving everything the Right Place in which to exist."

Unit Testing

- Recall: it is hard to generate test inputs with high coverage for areas "deep inside" the code
 - Must solve the constraints for main(), then for foo(), then for bar(), etc., all at the same time!
- The farther code is from an entry point, the harder it is to test
 - This is one of the motivations behind Unit Testing
- Solution: design with more entry points for self-contained functionality (cf. AVL tree, priority queue, etc.)

Example: Model View Controller

- Suppose you are designing Pokémon Go
- It's a game, and also a simulation, so MVC is a reasonable choice
- Design so that it can be tested without someone actually playing the game!
 - e.g., have an interface where abstract commands can be queued up: one way to get them is from the UI, but another is programmatic
 - If we throw a pokeball at angle X and time Y, what is the likelihood that it will be captured successfully?



Fault Injection

- Microsoft's Driver Verifier sat between a driver and the operating system and "pretended to fail (some of the time)" to expose poor driver code
- The CHESS project sat between a program and the scheduler and "forced strange schedules" to expose poor concurrency code
- Hardware, OS and Networking errors can occur infrequently, but you still want to test them
 - Must design for it!

Level Of Indirection

- Old adage: the solution to everything in computer science is either to add a level of indirection or to add a cache
- Don't have your code call fopen() or cout or whatever directly
- Instead, add a very thin level of indirection where you call my_fopen which then calls fopen
- Later add "if coin_flip() then fail else ..." to that indirection layer to inject faults

Designing for Coverage-Based Testing

- Code coverage has many flaws
 - At a high level, simple coverage metrics do not align with covering requirements (cf. traceability)

Solutions

- Better test suite adequacy metrics (mutation, etc.)
- Design and write the code so that high code coverage correlates with high requirements coverage!



Recall: Implicit Control Flow

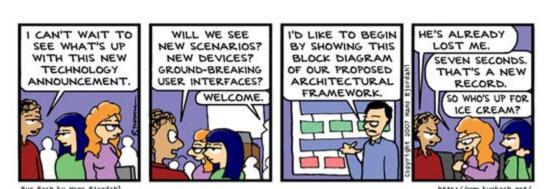
- Line coverage was often inadequate because "visit line 5 when ptr==null" could be very different from "visit line 5 when ptr !=null"
 - Because "*ptr = 9" is really "if (ptr == null) abort(); else *ptr = 9;"
- Consider explicit conditionals that check requirements adherence
 - To get coverage points for reaching the true branch, the test will have to satisfy the requirement

Requirement Coverage

- Quality requirement: "finish X within Y time"
 - Add in "get the time", "do X", "get the time", "subtract", "if t2 t1 < Y then ..."
- You could also encode these in test oracles
- Explicit Conditional Pros
 - Testing tools can help you reason about partial progress
 - Testing tools can try to falsify claims
- Explicit Conditional Cons
 - Muddies meaning of coverage (100% not desired)

Tests for Free

- Many programs transform data from one format to another (cf. adapter pattern)
- If the program is implementing a function with similar domain and range, you can often get high-coverage tests "for free" by composing the program with itself
 - If possible, design your program so that this is possible (cf. as a library)



Examples

Inversion

- Forall X. unzip(zip(x)) = x
- Forall X. deserialize(serialize(x)) = x
- Forall X. decrypt(encrypt(x)) = x

Convergence

- Forall X. indent(indent(x)) = indent(x)
 Note: you may need a non-exact comparator!
- Forall X. stable_sort(stable_sort(x)) = stable_sort(x)
- Forall P1. Forall I. If P2 = compile(decompile(compile(P1))) then P1(I)=P2(I)
 - mp3enc/mp3dec, jpg2png/png2jpg,

Questions?