Test Coverage & Adequacy

- How much testing is enough?
- When to stop testing
- Test data selection criteria
  - Stopping rule
  - Degree of adequacy
- Test coverage criteria
- Objective measurement of test quality

Preliminaries

- Test data selection
  - What test cases
- Test data adequacy criteria
  - When to stop testing
- Examples
  - Statement Coverage
  - Branch coverage
  - Def-use coverage
  - Path coverage

Goodenough & Gerhart ['75]

- What is a software test adequacy criterion
  - Predicate that defines “what properties of a program must be exercised to constitute a thorough test”, i.e., one whose successful execution implies no errors in a tested program

Goodenough & Gerhart ['75]

- Reliability requirement
  - “Test criterion always produces consistent test results”
  - If a program tested successfully on one test set that satisfies the criterion, then the program also tested successfully on all test sets that satisfy the criterion
- Validity requirement
  - “Test always produces a meaningful result”
  - For every error in a program, there exists a test set that satisfies the criterion and is capable of revealing the error
- There is no computable criterion that satisfies the above requirements
Uses of test adequacy

- Objectives of testing
- In terms that can be measured
  - For example branch coverage
- Two levels of testing
  - First as a stopping rule
  - Then as a guideline for additional test cases

Categories of Criteria

- Specification based
  - All-combination criterion
    - choices
  - Each-choice-used criterion
- Program based
  - Statement
  - Branch
- Note that in both the above types, the correctness of the output must be checked against the specifications

Others

- Random testing
- Statistical testing
- Interface based

Classification according to underlying testing approach

- Structural testing
  - Coverage of a particular set of elements in the structure of the program
- Fault-based testing
  - Some measurement of the fault detecting ability of test sets
- Error-based testing
  - Check on some error-prone points
Structural Testing

- Program-based structural testing
  - Control-flow based adequacy criteria
    - Statement coverage
    - Branch coverage
    - Path coverage
      - Length-i path coverage
    - Cyclomatic number criterion
      - Set of v independent paths, where v = e - n + 1
    - Multiple condition coverage
      - All possible combinations of truth values of predicates
  - Data-flow based adequacy criteria

Structural Testing

- Data-flow based adequacy criteria
  - All definitions criterion
    - Each definition to some reachable use
  - All uses criterion
    - Definition to each reachable use
  - All def-use criterion
    - Each definition to each reachable use

Data-flow Testing

- Read(x, y)
  - x := x + 2;
  - y := 2;
  - x := x + 2;
  - x := y + 2;

All Definitions Criterion

- A set P of execution paths satisfies the all-definitions criterion iff
  - for all definition occurrences of a variable x such that
    - there is a use of x, which is feasibly reachable from that definition,
    - there is at least one path p in P such that
      - p includes a subpath through which the definition of x reaches some use occurrence of x
All Uses Criterion

- A set $P$ of execution paths satisfies the all-uses criterion iff
  - for all definition occurrences of a variable $x$ and all use occurrences of $x$,
    - that the definition feasibly reaches,
  - there is at least one path $p$ in $P$ such that
    - $p$ includes a subpath through which that definition reaches the use.

All DU-paths criterion

- A set $P$ of execution paths satisfies the all-DU paths criterion iff
  - for all definitions of a variable $x$ and all paths $q$ through which that definition reaches a use of $x$,
    - there is at least one path $p$ in $P$ such that
      - $q$ is a subpath of $p$ and $q$ is cycle-free.

Fault-based Adequacy

- Error seeding
  - Introducing artificial faults to estimate the actual number of faults

- Program mutation testing
  - Distinguishing between original and mutants
    - Competent programmer assumption
      - Mutants are close to the program
    - Coupling effect assumption
      - Simple and complex errors are coupled
Subsumption

• Criteria $C_1$ subsumes criteria $C_2$, iff
  - For all programs $p$ being tested with specifications $s$
  - All test sets $t$
  - $t$ is adequate according to $C_1$ for testing $p$ with respect to $s$ implies that $t$ is adequate according to $C_2$ for testing $p$ with respect to $s$

• Path subsumes branch
• Path subsumes statement