ISP Coverage Criteria

CS 3250
Software Testing

[Ammann and Offutt, “Introduction to Software Testing,” Ch. 6.2-6.3]
Structures for Criteria-Based Testing

Four structures for modeling software

- **Input space**
  - Applied to: Source, Design, Specs, Use cases
  - R--R

- **Graph**
  - Applied to: Source, Design, Specs, Use cases
  - R--R

- **Logic**
  - Applied to: Source, Specs, FSMs, DNF
  - RI-R

- **Syntax**
  - Applied to: Source, Models, Integration, Inputs
  - RIPR
Today’s Objectives

• How should we consider multiple partitions or IDMs at the same time?

• What combinations of blocks should we choose values from?

• How many tests should we expect?
Applying ISP

Task I: Model input domain

Identify testable functions

Task II: Choose combinations of values

Identify parameters, return types, return values, exceptional behavior

Model the input domain

Identify testable functions

Input Domain Model (IDMs)

Apply a test criterion to choose combinations of blocks

Test requirements (TRs)

Derive test inputs

Test cases
Modeling the Input Domain

- The domain is scoped by the parameters
- **Characteristics** define the structure of the input domain
  - Characteristics should be based on the input domain – not program source

- Two Approaches
  - **Interface-based** (simpler)
    - Develop characteristics from individual parameters
  - **Functionality-based** (harder)
    - Develop characteristics from a behavior view

```
Design characteristics
  ↓
Partition each characteristic into blocks
  ↓
Identify values of each block
```
Using Multiple Partitions or IDMs

- Some programs may have many parameters
- It is typical to create several small IDMs
  - Using a divide-and-conquer approach
- Some parameters may appear in more than one IDM
  - Leading to overlap IDMs
- Some IDMs may include specific constraints (such as invalid values)
- Multiple partitions or IDMs can be combined to create tests

How should we consider multiple partitions or IDMs at the same time?
Applying ISP

Task I: Model input domain

Identify testable functions

Identify parameters, return types, return values, exceptional behavior

Model the input domain

Input Domain Model (IDMs)

Task II: Choose combinations of values

Apply a test criterion to choose combinations of blocks

Test requirements (TRs)

Derive test inputs

Test cases

Today’s focus
Running Example: triang()

- Partition characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>b1</th>
<th>b2</th>
<th>b3</th>
<th>b4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1) = length of Side1</td>
<td>greater than 1</td>
<td>equal to 1</td>
<td>equal to 0</td>
<td>less than 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2) = length of Side2</td>
<td>greater than 1</td>
<td>equal to 1</td>
<td>equal to 0</td>
<td>less than 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3) = length of Side3</td>
<td>greater than 1</td>
<td>equal to 1</td>
<td>equal to 0</td>
<td>less than 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- For convenience, let’s relabel the blocks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>b1</th>
<th>b2</th>
<th>b3</th>
<th>b4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = length of Side1</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = length of Side2</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = length of Side3</td>
<td>C1</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>C4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Possible values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>b1</th>
<th>b2</th>
<th>b3</th>
<th>b4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = length of Side1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = length of Side2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = length of Side3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choosing Combinations of Values

- Once characteristics and partitions are defined, the next step is to choose which combinations of values to test.

- Approaches to choose values
  - Select values randomly
    - Quality of tests depends on experience and expertise
  - Use coverage criteria to choose effective subsets
    - Quality of tests depends on the strength of the criteria

- ISP Coverage criteria
  - All Combinations Coverage (ACoC)
  - Each Choice Coverage (EEC)
  - Pair-Wise Coverage (PWC)
  - T-Wise Coverage (TWC) expensive, unclear benefits
  - Base Choice Coverage (BCC)
  - Multiple Base Choice Coverage (MBCC)
All Combinations (ACoC)

All combinations of blocks from all characteristics must be used

- Number of tests = \( \Pi_{i=1}^{Q} (B_i) \)

  \( Q \) = number partitions (or characteristics), \( B \) = number blocks

- More tests \( \rightarrow \) likely to find more faults
- More tests than necessary
- Impractical when more than two or three partitions are defined
ACoC - Example

- Applying ACoC to derive test requirements
ACoC – Example (cont)

- **Test requirements**: $4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$ tests

This is almost certainly more than we need

Only 8 are valid (all sides greater than zero)
### ACoC – Example (cont)

- **Substituting test values**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substituting values before refining TRs</th>
<th>Useless tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2, 2, 2)</td>
<td>(0, 2, 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 2, 1)</td>
<td>(0, 2, 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 2, 0)</td>
<td>(0, 2, 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 2, -1)</td>
<td>(0, 2, -1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 1, 2)</td>
<td>(0, 1, 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 1, 1)</td>
<td>(0, 1, 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 1, 0)</td>
<td>(0, 1, 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 1, -1)</td>
<td>(0, 1, -1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 0, 2)</td>
<td>(0, 0, 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 0, 1)</td>
<td>(0, 0, 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 0, 0)</td>
<td>(0, 0, 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, 0, -1)</td>
<td>(0, 0, -1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, -1, 2)</td>
<td>(0, -1, 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, -1, 1)</td>
<td>(0, -1, 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, -1, 0)</td>
<td>(0, -1, 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2, -1, -1)</td>
<td>(0, -1, -1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Refining TRs by eliminating redundant and infeasible tests**

- **Always refine TRs before deriving test values**

- **Different choices of values from the same block are equivalent from a testing perspective. Thus, we need only one value from each block**
Each Choice (ECC)

One value from each block for each characteristic must be used in at least one test case

- Number of tests = \( \max_{i=1}^{Q} (B_i) \)
  
  \( Q = \) number partitions (or characteristics), \( B = \) number blocks

- Flexibility in terms of how to combine the test values
- Fewer tests \( \rightarrow \) cheap but may be ineffective
- Not require values to be combined with other values
  \( \rightarrow \) weak criterion
ECC – Example

• Applying ECC to derive test requirements

Partitions for characteristic $A = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4\}$
Partitions for characteristic $B = \{B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4\}$
Partitions for characteristic $C = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4\}$

Possible combination

- $A_1$ — $B_1$ — $C_1$
- $A_2$ — $B_2$ — $C_2$
- $A_3$ — $B_3$ — $C_3$
- $A_4$ — $B_4$ — $C_4$

Another possible combination

- $A_1$ — $B_4$ — $C_1$
- $A_2$ — $B_3$ — $C_2$
- $A_3$ — $B_2$ — $C_3$
- $A_4$ — $B_1$ — $C_4$
• **Test requirements**: Max number of blocks = 4
  
  (A1, B1, C1)  
  (A2, B2, C2)  
  (A3, B3, C3)  
  (A4, B4, C4)  

• **Substituting values – test cases**
  
  (2, 2, 2)  
  (1, 1, 1)  
  (0, 0, 0)  
  (-1, -1, -1)  

What are missing?

Testers sometimes recognize that certain values are important. To strengthen ECC, domain knowledge of the program must be incorporated.

– *What is the most important block for each partition?*
Pair-Wise (PWC)

A value from each block for each characteristic must be combined with a value from every block for each other characteristic

• Number of tests = \(( \text{Max}_{i=1}^{Q} (B_i)) * (\text{Max}_{j=1, j!=i}^{Q} (B_j))\)

\(Q = \text{number partitions (or characteristics)}, \ B = \text{number blocks}\)

• Allow the same test case to cover more than one unique pair of values
PWC – Example 1: triang()

- **Applying PWC to derive test requirements**
  
  Partitions for characteristic A = \{A1, A2, A3, A4\}
  Partitions for characteristic B = \{B1, B2, B3, B4\}
  Partitions for characteristic C = \{C1, C2, C3, C4\}

- **Number of tests = 4 * 4 = 16**

- **Test requirements**
  
  • It is simpler to list the combinations in a table (see next slide)
### Pair-Wise – Example 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TR</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>C3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>B4</td>
<td>C4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>C3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>C4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>B4</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>C3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>C4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>B4</td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>A4</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>C4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>A4</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>A4</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>A4</td>
<td>B4</td>
<td>C3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Order characteristics in columns, from max number of blocks
- Fill the first column, repeat as many times as the number of the next max blocks
- File the second column
- Ensure each block of A pairs with all possible blocks of B. Swap as needed
- Fill the third column
- Ensure each block of B pairs with all possible blocks of C. Swap as needed
- Ensure each block of A pairs with all possible blocks of C. Swap as needed

TR = Test requirement
## Pair-Wise – Example 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TC</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>-1</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TC = Test case
Pair-Wise – Example 2

- Applying PWC to derive test requirements
  
  Partitions for characteristic C1 = \{A, B\}
  Partitions for characteristic C2 = \{1, 2, 3\}
  Partitions for characteristic C3 = \{x, y\}

- Number of tests = 3 * 2 = 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TR</th>
<th>C2</th>
<th>C1</th>
<th>C3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A base choice block is chosen for each characteristic.

A base test is formed by using the base choice for each characteristic.

Subsequent tests are chosen by holding all but one base choice constant and using each non-base choice in each other characteristic.

- Number of tests = \[ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{Q} (B_i - 1) \]

\( Q = \) number partitions (or characteristics), \( B = \) number blocks

- Use domain knowledge of the program
  - *What is the most important block for each partition?*

- Pick the base choice test, then add additional tests

- Test quality depends on the selection of the base choice
BCC – Example

• Applying BCC to derive test requirements

Partitions for characteristic A = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4\}
Partitions for characteristic B = \{B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4\}
Partitions for characteristic C = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4\}

Suppose base choice blocks are A_1, B_1, and C_1
Then the base choice test is (A_1, B_1, C_1)

Hold all but one base choice constant, use each non-base choice in each other characteristic
BCC – Example (cont)

- **Test requirements**: $1 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 10$
  
  (A1, B1, C1)   (A1, B1, C2)   (A1, B2, C1)   (A2, B1, C1)
  Base          Base
  (A1, B1, C3)   (A1, B3, C1)   (A3, B1, C1)
  (A1, B1, C4)   (A1, B4, C1)   (A4, B1, C1)

- **Substituting test values**
  
  (2, 2, 2)        (2, 2, 1)        (2, 1, 2)        (1, 2, 2)
  Base            Base            Base            Base
  (2, 2, 0)        (2, 0, 2)        (0, 2, 2)        (-1, 2, 2)
  (2, 2, -1)      (2, -1, 2)      (-1, 2, 2)
BCC – Notes

- The base test must be **feasible**

- Base choices can be
  - From an end-user point of view
  - Simplest
  - Smallest
  - First in some order
  - **Happy path** test

- The base choice is a crucial design decision as it affects the quality of testing
  - Test designers should always document why the choices were made

**Testers sometimes have multiple logical base choices**
Multiple Base Choice (MBCC)

At least one, and possible more, base choice blocks are chosen from each characteristic.

Base tests are formed by using each base choice for each characteristic at least once.

Subsequent tests are chosen by holding all but one base choice constant for each base test and using each non-base choice in each other characteristic.

• Number of tests = \( M + \sum_{i=1}^{Q} (M \times (B_i - m_i)) \)

\( M = \) number base tests
\( m_i = \) number base choices for each characteristic
\( Q = \) number partitions (or characteristics)
\( B = \) number blocks
**MBCC – Example**

- **Applying MBCC to derive test requirements**

  Partitions for characteristic $A = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4\}$
  Partitions for characteristic $B = \{B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4\}$
  Partitions for characteristic $C = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4\}$

  Suppose **base choice blocks** are $A_1, B_1, C_1$ and $A_2, B_2, C_2$
  Then the **base choice tests** are $(A_1, B_1, C_1)$ and $(A_2, B_2, C_2)$

  Hold all but one base choice constant for each base test, use each non-base choice in each other characteristic
**MBCC – Example (cont)**

- **Test requirements:** 
  \[2 + (2\times(4-2)) + (2\times(4-2)) + (2\times(4-2)) = 14\]

  \[
  \begin{align*}
  (A1, B1, C1) & \quad (A1, B1, C3) & \quad (A1, B3, C1) & \quad (A3, B1, C1) \\
  \text{Base} & \quad (A1, B1, C4) & \quad (A1, B4, C1) & \quad (A4, B1, C1) \\
  (A2, B2, C2) & \quad (A2, B2, C3) & \quad (A2, B3, C2) & \quad (A3, B2, C2) \\
  \text{Base} & \quad (A2, B2, C4) & \quad (A2, B4, C2) & \quad (A4, B2, C2)
  \end{align*}
  \]

- **Substituting test values**

  \[
  \begin{align*}
  (2, 2, 2) & \quad (2, 2, 0) & \quad (2, 0, 2) & \quad (0, 2, 2) \\
  \text{Base} & \quad (2, 2, -1) & \quad (2, -1, 2) & \quad (-1, 2, 2) \\
  (1, 1, 1) & \quad (1, 1, 0) & \quad (1, 0, 1) & \quad (0, 1, 1) \\
  \text{Base} & \quad (1, 1, -1) & \quad (1, -1, 1) & \quad (-1, 1, 1)
  \end{align*}
  \]
ISP Coverage Criteria Subsumption

- All Combinations Coverage (ACoC)
  - T-Wise Coverage (TWC)
    - Pair-Wise Coverage (PWC)
  - Multiple Base Choice Coverage (MBCC)
    - Base Choice Coverage (BCC)
  - Each Choice Coverage (ECC)
  - T-Wise Coverage (TWC)

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Constraints Among Characteristics

- Some combinations of blocks are **infeasible**
  - A triangle cannot be “less than 0” and “scalene” at the same time
- These are represented as **constraints** among blocks
- Two kinds of constraints
  - A block from one characteristic **cannot be** combined with a block from another characteristic
  - A block from one characteristic must be combined with a **specific** block from another characteristic
- Handling constraints depends on the criterion used
  - **ACoC** – drop the infeasible pairs
  - **ECC** – change a value to find a feasible combination
  - **BCC, MBCC** – change a value to another non-base choice to find a feasible combination
# Handling Constraints - Example

```python
# Return index of the first occurrence of a letter in string, 
# Otherwise, return -1

def get_index_of(string, letter):
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>b1</th>
<th>b2</th>
<th>b3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1 = number of occurrence of letter in string</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&gt; 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 = letter occurs first in string</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invalid combination: (C1b1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a letter cannot be found in string, it cannot appear first in string.
Summary

• Sometimes testers decide to use more than one IDM

• Once characteristics and partitions are defined, criteria are used to choose the combinations of test values

• Different criteria provide different coverage and result in different number of test requirements (and hence testing effort)

• ACoC may not be practical

• ECC may be too simplistic and ineffective

• BCC and MBCC pick meaningful blocks → "do smarter"

ISP testing is simple, straightforward, effective, and widely used