Lecture 18: Runtime Verification, Review & Wrapup

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Topic Area Code Quality Assurance: Content

- Introduction and Vocabulary
- Limits of Software Testing
- Glass-Box Testing
  - Statement-, branch-, term-coverage.
- Other Approaches
  - Model-based testing.
  - Runtime verification.
- Software quality assurance in a larger scope.
- Program Verification
  - partial and total correctness,
  - Proof System PD.
- Runtime Verification
- Review
- Code QA: Discussion
Content

- Runtime-Verification
  - Idea
  - Assertions
  - LSC-Observers

- Reviews
  - Roles and artefacts
  - Review procedure
  - Stronger and weaker variants

- Do’s and Don’ts in Code QA

- Code QA Techniques Revisited
  - Test
  - Runtime-Verification
  - Review
  - Static Checking
  - Formal Verification

- Dependability
Recall: Three Basic Directions

all computation paths satisfying the specification

expected outcomes $Soll$

$(\Sigma \times A)^\omega$

defines

$\subseteq ?$

execution of $(In, Soll)$

$\in ?$

Reviewer

review

prove $S \models \mathcal{I}$, conclude $[S] \in [\mathcal{I}]$

Testing

Review

Formal Verification

input $\rightarrow$ output
Run-Time Verification
Run-Time Verification: Idea

- Assume, there is a function \( f \) in software \( S \) with the following specification:
  - **pre-condition**: \( p \),  **post-condition**: \( q \).

- Computation paths of \( S \) may look like this:
  \[
  \sigma_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} \sigma_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \sigma_2 \cdots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} \sigma_n \xrightarrow{\text{call } f} \sigma_{n+1} \cdots \sigma_m \xrightarrow{\text{f returns}} \sigma_{m+1} \cdots
  \]

- Assume there are functions \( \text{check}_p \) and \( \text{check}_q \), which check whether \( p \) and \( q \) hold at the current program state, and which do not modify the program state (except for program counter).

- **Idea**: create software \( S' \) by
  
  (i) extending \( S \) by implementations of \( \text{check}_p \) and \( \text{check}_q \),
  
  (ii) call \( \text{check}_p \) right after entering \( f \),
  
  (iii) call \( \text{check}_q \) right before returning from \( f \).

- For \( S' \), obtain computation paths like:
  \[
  \sigma_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} \sigma_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \sigma_2 \cdots \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} \sigma_n \xrightarrow{\text{call } f} \sigma_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\text{check}_p} \sigma'_{n+1} \cdots \sigma_m \xrightarrow{\text{check}_q} \sigma'_m \xrightarrow{\text{f returns}} \sigma_{m+1} \cdots
  \]

- If \( \text{check}_p \) and \( \text{check}_q \) notify us of violations of \( p \) or \( q \), then we are notified of \( f \) violating its specification when running \( S' \) (= at run-time).


Run-Time Verification: Example

```c
int main() {
    while (true) {
        int x = read_number();
        int y = read_number();
        int sum = add(x, y);
        verify_sum(x, y, sum);
        display(sum);
    }
}

void verify_sum(int x, int y, int sum) {
    if (sum != (x+y) || (x + y > 99999999 && !(sum < 0))) {
        fprintf(stderr, " verify_sum: error
        ");
        abort();
    }
}
```
A Very Useful Special Case: Assertions

- Maybe the simplest instance of runtime verification: **Assertions**.
- Available in standard libraries of many programming languages (C, C++, Java, …).
- For example, the C standard library manual reads:

```
1 ASSERT(3) Linux Programmer's Manual ASSERT(3)
2
3 NAME
4 assert — abort the program if assertion is false
5
6 SYNOPSIS
7 #include <assert.h>
8
9     void assert(scalar expression);
10
11 DESCRIPTION
12     [...] the macro assert() prints an error message to standard error and terminates the program by calling abort(3) if expression is false (i.e., compares equal to zero).
13
14     The purpose of this macro is to help the programmer find bugs in his program. The message "assertion failed in file foo.c, function do_bar(), line 1287" is of no help at all to a user.
```

- In C code, **assert** can be **disabled** in **production code** (`-D NDEBUG`).
The abstract example from run-time verification:

```c
void f(...) {
    assert(p);
    ...
    assert(q);
}
```

Compute the width of a progress bar:

```c
int progress_bar_width(int progress, int window_left, int window_right)
{
    assert(window_left <= window_right); /* precondition */
    ...
    /* treat special cases 0 and 100 */
    ...
    assert(0 < progress && progress < 100); // extremal cases already treated
    ...
    assert(window_left <= r && r <= window_right); /* post-condition */
    return r;
}
```
Recall the **structure model** with Proto-OCL constraint from Exercise Sheet 4.

Assume, we add a method `set_key()` to class **TreeNode**:

```java
class TreeNode {
    private int key;
    TreeNode parent, leftChild, rightChild;

    public int get_key() { return key; }

    public void set_key(int new_key) {
        key = new_key;
    }
}
```

We can check consistency with the Proto-OCL constraint at runtime by using assertions:

```java
public void set_key(int new_key) {
    assert (parent == null || parent.get_key() <= new_key);
    assert (leftChild == null || new_key <= leftChild.get_key());
    assert (rightChild == null || new_key <= rightChild.get_key());
    key = new_key;
}
```

Use `java -ea ...` to **enable assertion checking** (disabled by default).

(cf. https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/technotes/guides/language/assert.html)
More Complex Run-Time Verification: LSC Observers

ChoicePanel:

- `WATER?` transition leads to `water_selected` node.
- `SOFT?` transition leads to `soft_selected` node.
- `TEA?` transition leads to `tea_selected` node.
- `idle` state.
- `half_idle` state.
- `request_sent` state.

Transition from `water_enabled` to `false`, `soft_enabled` to `false`, `tea_enabled` to `false`.

```
st : { idle, wsel, ssel, tsel, reqs, half ];

take_event( E : { TAU, WATER, SOFT, TEA, ... } ) {
  bool stable = 1;
  switch (st) {
    case idle :
      switch (E) {
        case WATER :
          if (water_enabled) { st := wsel; stable := 0; }
          ;
        case SOFT :
          ;
        ;
        case wsel:
          switch (E) {
            case TAU : send_DWATER(); st := reqs;
            hey Observer I just sent DWATER();
            ;
          }
      }
  }
} 
```
Run-Time Verification: Discussion

- **Experience:**
  During development, assertions for pre/post conditions and intermediate invariants are an extremely powerful tool with a very attractive gain/effort ratio (low effort, high gain).

- Assertions effectively work as safe-guard against unexpected use of functions and regression, e.g. during later maintenance or efficiency improvement.
- Can serve as formal (support of) documentation:
  “Dear reader, at this point in the program, I expect condition expr to hold, because…”

- **Development- vs. Release Versions:**
  - Common practice:
    - development version with run-time verification enabled (cf. assert(3)),
    - release version without run-time verification.

  If run-time verification is enabled in a release version,
  - software should terminate as gracefully as possible (e.g. try to save data),
  - save information from assertion failure if possible for future analysis.

  **Risk:** with bad luck, the software only behaves well because of the run-time verification code…

  Then disabling run-time verification “breaks” the software. Yet very complex run-time verification may significantly slow down the software, so needs to be disabled…
Content

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- Dependability
Review
• **Input to Review Session:**
  
  • **Review item**: can be every closed, human-readable part of software (documentation, module, test data, installation manual, etc.)
  
  **Social aspect**: it is an **artefact** which is examined, not the human (who created it).
  
  • **Reference documents**: need to enable an assessment (requirements specification, guidelines (e.g. coding conventions), catalogue of questions (“all variables initialised?”), etc.)

• **Roles:**
  
  **Moderator**: leads session, responsible for properly conducted procedure.

  **Author**: (representative of the) creator(s) of the artefact under review; is present to listen to the discussions; can answer questions; does not speak up if not asked.

  **Reviewer(s)**: person who is able to judge the artefact under review; maybe different reviewers for different aspects (programming, tool usage, etc.), at best experienced in detecting inconsistencies or incompleteness.

  **Transcript Writer**: keeps minutes of review session, can be assumed by author.

• The **review team** consists of everybody but the author(s).
Review Procedure Over Time

**planning**: reviews need time in the project plan.

- A review is triggered, e.g., by a submission to the revision control system: the moderator invites (include review item in invitation), and states review missions.

**preparation**: reviewers investigate review item.

- Reviewers investigate review item.

**review session**: reviewers report, evaluate, and document issues; resolve open questions.

- Reviewers report, evaluate, and document issues; resolve open questions.

**postparation**: rework review item; responsibility of the author(s).

- Reviewers may state proposals for solutions or improvements.

**analysis**: improve development and review process.

- Analysis: improve development and review process.

- reviewers re-assess reworked review item (until approval is declared).
Review Rules *(Ludewig and Lichter, 2013)*

(i) The **moderator** organises the review, issues invitations, supervises the review session.

(ii) The **moderator** may terminate the review if conduction is not possible, e.g., due to inputs, preparation, or people missing.

(iii) The review session is **limited to 2 hours**. If needed: organise more sessions.

(iv) The **review item** is under review, not the author(s). Reviewers choose their words accordingly. Authors neither defend themselves nor the review item.

(v) Roles are **not mixed up**, e.g., the moderator does not act as reviewer. (Exception: author may write transcript.)

(vi) **Style** issues (outside fixed conventions) are **not discussed**.

(vii) The **review team** is **not** supposed to **develop solutions**. Issues are **not** noted down in form of **tasks** for the **author(s)**.

(viii) Each **reviewer** gets the opportunity to present her/his findings appropriately.

(ix) **Reviewers** need to reach **consensus** on issues, consensus is noted down.

(x) **Issues** are classified as:
- critical (review unusable for purpose),
- major (usability severely affected),
- minor (usability hardly affected),
- good (no problem).

(xi) The **review team** declares:
- accept **without changes**,  
- accept **with changes**,  
- do not accept.

(xii) The **protocol** is signed by all participants.
Stronger and Weaker Review Variants

- **Design and Code Inspection** (Fagan, 1976, 1986)
  - deluxe variant of review,
  - approx. 50% more time, approx. 50% more errors found.

- **Review**
  - **Structured Walkthrough**
    - simple variant of review:
      - developer moderates walkthrough-session,
      - developer presents artefact(s),
      - reviewer poses (prepared or spontaneous) questions,
      - issues are noted down,
    - **Variation point**: do reviewers see the artefact before the session?
      - less effort, less effective.
    - → disadvantages: unclear responsibilities; “salesman”-developer may trick reviewers.

- **Comment** (‘Stellungnahme’)
  - colleague(s) of developer read artefacts,
  - developer considers feedback.
  - → advantage: low organisational effort;
  - → disadvantages: choice of colleagues may be biased; no protocol;
    consideration of comments at discretion of developer.

- **Careful Reading** (‘Durchsicht’)
  - done by developer,
  - recommendation: “away from screen” (use print-out or different device and situation)
Some Final, General Guidelines
**Do’s and Don’ts in Code Quality Assurance**

**Avoid** using special *examination versions* for examination. (Test-harness, stubs, etc. *may have errors* which may cause false positives and (!) negatives.)

**Avoid** to stop examination when the first error is detected.

**Clear**: Examination should be aborted if the examined program is not executable at all.

**Do not modify** the artefact under examination *during* examination.

- otherwise, it is **unclear what exactly** has been examined (“moving target”), (examination results need to be uniquely traceable to one artefact version.)

- fundamental flaws are sometimes **easier to detect** with a *complete picture* of unsuccessful/successful tests,

- changes are particularly **error-prone**, should not happen “en passant” in examination,

- fixing flaws during examination may cause them to **go uncounted** in the statistics (which we need for all kinds of estimation),

- roles developer and examinor are different anyway: an examinor fixing flaws would **violate the role assignment**.

**Do not switch** (fine grained) between examination and debugging.
Code Quality Assurance Techniques Revisited
Techniques Revisited

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Strengths:

- can be fully automatic (yet not easy for GUI programs);
- negative test proves “program not completely broken”, “can run” (or positive scenarios);
- final product is examined, thus toolchain and platform considered;
- one can stop at any time and take partial results;
- few, simple test cases are usually easy to obtain;
- provides reproducible counter-examples (good starting point for repair).

Weaknesses:

- (in most cases) vastly incomplete, thus no proofs of correctness;
- creating test cases for complex functions (or complex conditions) can be difficult;
- maintenance of many, complex test cases be challenging.
- executing many tests may need substantial time (but: can sometimes be run in parallel);
## Techniques Revisited

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### Strengths:

- **fully automatic** (once observers are in place);
- **provides counter-example**;
- (nearly) **final product is examined**, thus toolchain and platform considered;
- one can stop at any time and take **partial results**;
- **assert-statements have a very good effort/effect ratio**.

### Weaknesses:

- counter-examples **not necessarily reproducible**;
- may negatively affect **performance**;
- code is changed, program may only run **because of** the observers;
- completeness depends on usage, may also be **vastly incomplete**, so no correctness proofs;
- constructing observers for complex properties may be **difficult**, one needs to learn how to construct observers.
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Strengths:

- human readers can understand the code, may spot point errors;
- reported to be highly effective;
- one can stop at any time and take partial results;
- intermediate entry costs; good effort/effect ratio achievable.

Weaknesses:

- no tool support;
- no results on actual execution, toolchain not reviewed;
- human readers may overlook errors; usually not aiming at proofs.
- does (in general) not provide counter-examples, developers may deny existence of error.
## Techniques Revisited

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### Strengths:
- there are (commercial), **fully automatic** tools (lint, Coverity, Polyspace, etc.);
- some tools are **complete** (relative to assumptions on language semantics, platform, etc.);
- can be **faster than testing**;
- one can stop at any time and take **partial results**.

### Weaknesses:
- no results on actual execution, **toolchain not reviewed**;
- can be very **resource consuming** (if few false positives wanted), e.g., code may need to be “designed for static analysis”.
- many false positives can be very **annoying to developers** (if fast checks wanted);
- distinguish **false from true positives** can be challenging;
- configuring the **tools** (to limit false positives) can be challenging.
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Strengths:

- some **tool support** available (few commercial tools);
- **complete** (relative to assumptions on language semantics, platform, etc.);
- thus can provide **correctness proofs**;
- can prove correctness for **multiple language semantics and platforms** at a time;
- can be **more efficient than other techniques**.

Weaknesses:

- no results on actual execution, **toolchain not reviewed**;
- not many **intermediate results**: “half of a proof” may not allow any useful conclusions;
- **entry cost high**: significant training is useful to know how to deal with tool limitations;
- proving things is challenging; failing to find a proof does not allow any useful conclusion;
- **false negatives** (broken program “proved” correct) hard to detect.
Quality Assurance — Concluding Discussion
Proposal: Dependability Cases (Jackson, 2009)

- A **dependable** system is one you can **depend** on – that is, you can place your trust in it.

  “Developers [should] express the critical properties and make an explicit argument that the system satisfies them.”

**Quality assurance** – (1) A planned and systematic pattern of all actions necessary to provide adequate confidence that an item or product conforms to established technical requirements.

**Proposed Approach:**

- Identify the **critical requirements**, and determine what **level of confidence** is needed. Most systems do also have **non-critical** requirements.

- Construct a **dependability case**:
  - an argument, that the software, in concert with other components, establishes the critical properties.

- The case should be
  - **auditable**: can (easily) be evaluated by third-party certifier.
  - **complete**: no holes in the argument, any assumptions that are not justified should be noted (e.g. assumptions on compiler, on protocol obeyed by users, etc.)
  - **sound**: e.g. should not claim full correctness [...] based on nonexhaustive testing; should not make unwarranted assumptions on independence of component failures; etc.
Still, it seems like computer systems more or less inevitably have errors.

Then why...

- ... do modern planes fly at all?
  
  (i) very careful development,
  
  (ii) very thorough analysis,
  
  (iii) strong regulatory obligations.

  **Plus:** classical engineering wisdom for high reliability, like redundancy.

- ... do modern cars drive at all?

  (i) careful development,
  
  (ii) thorough analysis,
  
  (iii) regulatory obligations.

  **Plus:** classical engineering wisdom for high reliability, like monitoring.
Tell Them What You’ve Told Them...

- **Runtime Verification**
  - (as the name suggests) checks properties at **program run-time**,
  - a good **pinch of assert's** can be a valuable safe-guard against
    - **regressions**,
    - usage **outside specification**,
    - etc.
  
  and serve as **formal documentation** of assumptions.

- **Review** (structured examination of artefacts by humans)
  - (mild variant) advocated in the XP approach,
  - **not uncommon**:
    lead programmer reviews all **commits** from team members,
  - literature reports good effort/effect ratio achievable.

- **All approaches to code quality assurance** have their
  - **advantages** and **drawbacks**.
  - Which to use? It depends!

- **Dependability Cases**
  - an (auditable, complete, sound) argument, that a software has the **critical properties**.
References
References


Looking Back:
18 Lectures on Software Engineering
Contents of the Course

- **Introduction**
  - L 1: 18.4., Mon
  - L 2: 21.4., Thu
  - L 3: 25.4., Mon
- **Scales, Metrics, Costs**
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- **Development**
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- **Quality Assurance (Testing, Formal Verification)**
  - L16: 11.7., Mon
  - L17: 14.7., Thu
  - L18: 18.7., Mon
- **Wrap-Up**
  - L19: 21.7., Thu
## Expectations

- none, because mandatory course
- **overall**
  - ✓ well-structured lectures
  - ✓ (✓) praxis oriented
  - ✗ practical knowledge about planning, designing and testing software
  - ✓ improve skills in scientific work
  - ✗ (✓) more about scientific methods
- **other courses**
  - ✗ more on how courses are linked together
  - ✗ skills we need to organise SoPra
  - ✓ maybe transfer knowledge in SoPra

### “real world”

- ✓ vocabulary and methods in professional software development
- ✓ learn how things work in a company, to easier integrate into teams, e.g., communication
- **kinds of software**
  - ✓ embedded systems and software
  - ✗ how to combine HW and SW parts

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Expectations Cont’d

- **software development**
  - ✓ understand how software development practically works
  - ✓ developing, maintaining software at bigger scale
  - ✓ aspects of software development

- **software project management**
  - ✓ learn what is important to plan
  - ✓ how to structure the process of a project
  - ✓ how to keep control of project, measure success
  - ✗ which projects need full-time project manager
  - ✗ which kind of documentation is really necessary
  - ✗ want to get better in leading a team; how to lead team of engineers

- **cost estimation**
  - ✓ how to estimate time and effort
  - ✗ formal methods for better planning of projects
  - ✗ tools which help planning

- **quality**
  - ✓ learn ways how to judge quality based on the requirements
  - ✓ avoid mistakes during software development
  - ✓ make better programs, or make programs more efficiently
### Expectations Cont’d

- **requirements**
  - ✔ formal ways to specify requirements
  - ✔ learn techniques to reduce misunderstandings
  - ✔ understand types of requirements
  - ✔ learn how requirements are to be stated
  - ✔ how to create requirements/specification document

- **design**
  - ✔ techniques for design
  - ✔ predict potential risks and crucial design errors
  - ✗ come up with good design, learn how to design
  - ✗ practical knowledge on application of design patterns
  - ✗ how to structure, compose components, how to define interfaces
  - ✗ standards for keeping parts of project compatible
  - ✗ how to guarantee a particular reliability

- **Implementation**
  - ✔ modular programming, better documentation of big projects
  - ✗ more of computers and programming, write faster better programs
  - ✗ strengths and weaknesses of standards, training in their application
  - ✗ improve coding skills
  - ✗ how to increase (software) performance
### Expectations Cont’d

- **code quality assurance**
  - ✓ methods for testing to guarantee high level of quality
  - ✓ formal methods like program verification
  - ✘ learn about practical implementation of these tools

- **extra information**
  - “will work as teacher”
  - “want to work on medical software”
  - “want to work in automotive industry”
  - “worked as software-engineer”

#### Schedule

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That’s Today’s Software Engineering — More or Less...
Coming Soon to Your Local Lecture Hall...
Course Software-Engineering vs. Other Courses

BSc / MSc projects & theses

Software Design/Modelling/Analysis in UML

CPS I: Discrete

CPS II: Hybrid

Real-Time Systems

Seminar: Program Analysis / SW Testing

Programm Verification

Decision Procedures

Seminar: Automata Theory

Quality Assurance


Networks

Tech. Info

Project Management

Requirements Engineering

Design, SW Modelling

Vocabulary

Techniques

informal

Vocabulary

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Techniques

informal

Optimisation

Logic

Graph Theory

Maths I

Maths II

Info I

Info II

Info III

Software Design/Engineering vs. Other Courses

- 18 – 2016-07-18 – Ssoon –


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Maths I

Maths II

Info I

Info II

Info III
Thursday, 2016-07-21, 1200 to 1400:

Plenary Tutorial 6 & Questions Session

in 101-0-026 (right here)