Dataflow Testing

Chapter 10

Dataflow Testing

- Testing All-Nodes and All-Edges in a control flow graph may miss significant test cases
- Testing All-Paths in a control flow graph is often too timeconsuming
- Can we select a subset of these paths that will reveal the most faults?
- Dataflow Testing focuses on the points at which variables receive values and the points at which these values are used

Concordances

 Data flow analysis is in part based concordance analysis such as that shown below – the result is a variable crossreference table

```
18beta \leftarrow 225alpha \leftarrow 3 \times \text{gamma} + 151gamma \leftarrow gamma + alpha - beta123beta \leftarrow beta + 2 × alpha124beta \leftarrow gamma + beta + 1
```

	Defined	Used	
alpha	25	51, 123	
beta	18, 123, 124	51, 123, 124	
gamma	51	25, 51, 124	

Dataflow Analysis

- Can reveal interesting bugs
 - A variable that is defined but never used
 - A variable that is used but never defined
 - A variable that is defined twice before it is used
 - Sending a modifier message to an object more than once between accesses
 - Deallocating a variable before it used
 - Container problem deallocating container loses references to items in the container, memory leak



- The bugs can be found from a cross-reference table using static analysis
- Paths from the definition of a variable to its use are more likely to contain bugs

Definitions

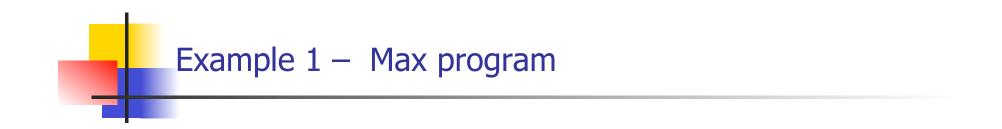
- A node n in the program graph is a defining node for variable v – DEF(v, n) – if the value of v is defined at the statement fragment in that node
 - Input, assignment, procedure calls
- A node in the program graph is a usage node for variable
 v USE(v, n) if the value of v is used at the statement fragment in that node
 - Output, assignment, conditionals

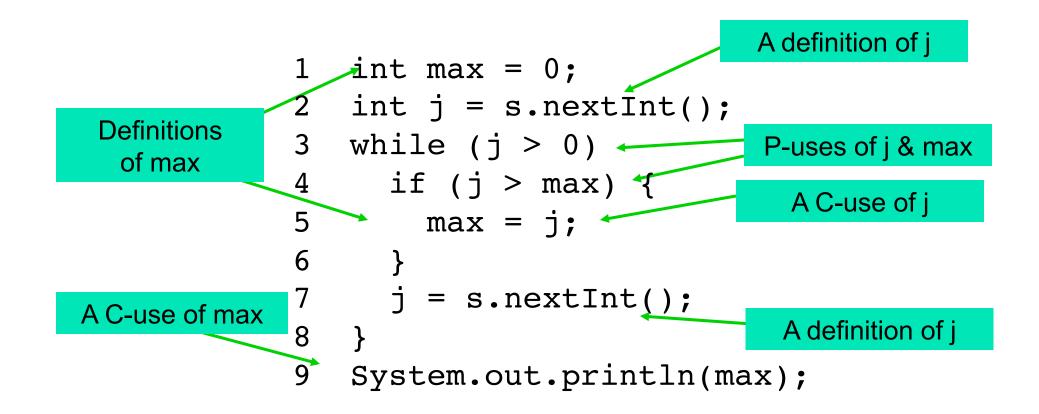
Definitions – 2

- In languages without garbage collection
 - A node in the program is a kill node for a variable v KILL(v, n) – if the variable is deallocated at the statement fragment in that node.
- A usage node is a predicate use, P-use, if variable v appears in a predicate expression
 - Always in nodes with outdegree ≥ 2
- A usage node is a computation use, C-use, if variable v appears in a computation
 - Always in nodes with outdegree ≤ 1

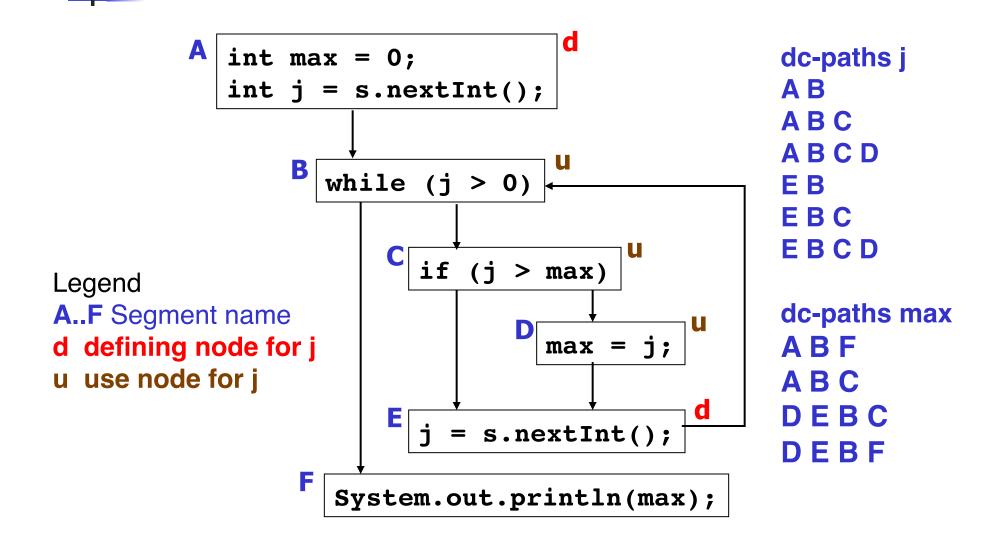
Definitions – 3

- A definition-use path, du-path, with respect to a variable v is a path whose first node is a defining node for v, and its last node is a usage node for v
- A du-path with no other defining node for v is a definitionclear path, dc-path





Max program – analysis



Dataflow Coverage Metrics

- Based on these definitions we can define a set of coverage metrics for a set of test cases
- We have already seen
 - All-Nodes
 - All-Edges
 - All-Paths
- Data flow has additional test metrics for a set T of paths in a program graph
 - All assume that all paths in T are feasible

All-Defs Criterion

- The set T satisfies the All-Def criterion
 - For every variable v, T contains a dc-path from every defining node for v to at least one usage node for v
 - Not all use nodes need to be reached

 $\forall v \in V(P), nd \in prog_graph(P) \mid DEF(v, nd)$ • $\exists nu \in prog_graph(P) \mid USE(v, nu) \bullet dc_path(nd, nu) \in T$

All-Uses Criterion

- The set T satisfies the All-Uses criterion iff
 - For every variable v, T contains dc-paths that start at every defining node for v, and terminate at every usage node for v
 - Not DEF(v, n) × USE(v, n) not possible to have a dc-path from every defining node to every usage node

 $(\forall v \in V(P), nu \in prog_graph(P) | USE(v, nu)$ • $\exists nd \in prog_graph(P) | DEF(v, nd) \bullet dc_path(nd, nu) \in T)$

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all_defs_criterion

All-P-uses / Some-C-uses

- The set T satisfies the All-P-uses/Some-C-uses criterion iff
 - For every variable v in the program P, T contains a dcpath from every defining node of v to every P-use node for v
 - If a definition of v has no P-uses, a dc-path leads to at least one C-use node for v

 $(\forall v \in V(P), nu \in prog_graph(P) | P_use(v, nu)$ • $\exists nd \in prog_graph(P) | DEF(v, nd) \cdot dc_path(nd, nu) \in T)$

all_defs_criterion

All-C-uses / Some-P-uses

- The test set T satisfies the All-C-uses/Some-P-uses criterion iff
 - For every variable v in the program P, T contains a dcpath from every defining node of v to every C-use of v
 - If a definition of v has no C-uses, a dc-path leads to at least one P-use

 $(\forall v \in V(P), nu \in prog_graph(P) | C_use(v, nu)$ • $\exists nd \in prog_graph(P) | DEF(v, nd) \bullet dc_path(nd, nu) \in T)$

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all_defs_criterion

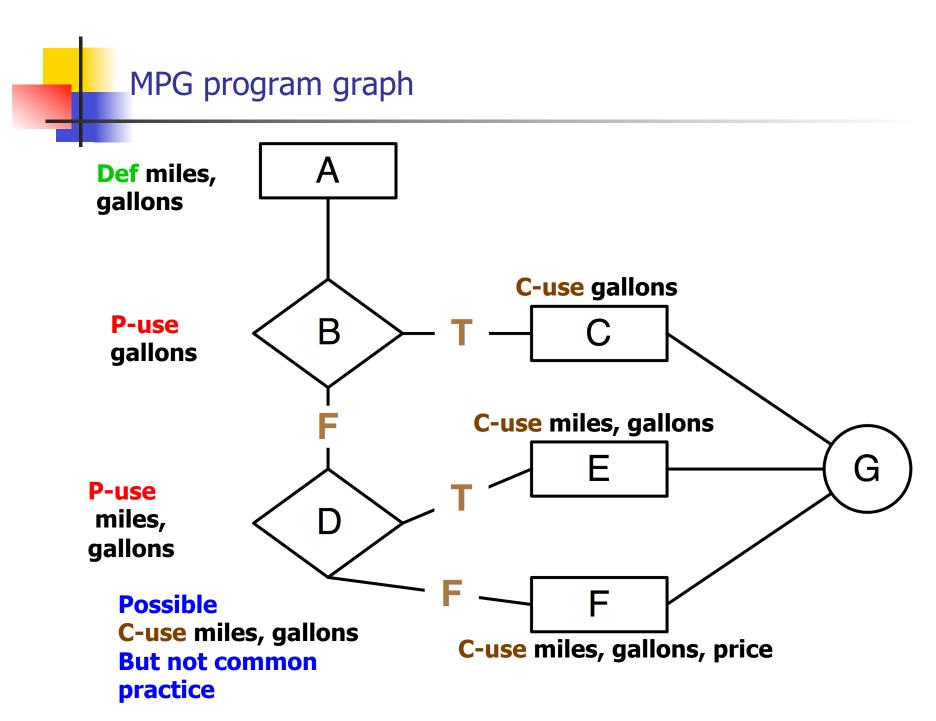
```
miles_per_gallon (miles, gallons, price : INTEGER)
if gallons = 0 then
  // Watch for division by zero!!
  Print("You have " + gallons + "gallons of gas")
else if miles/gallons > 25
  then print( "Excellent car. Your mpg is "
            + miles/gallon)
  else print( "You must be going broke. Your mpg is "
           + miles/gallon + " cost " + gallons * price)
fi
end
```

Example du-paths

- For each variable in the miles_per_gallon program see the test paths for the following dataflow path sets
 - All-Defs (AD)
 - All-C-uses (ACU)
 - All-P-uses (APU)
 - All-C-uses/Some-P-uses (ACU+P)
 - All-P-uses/Some-C-uses (APU+C)
 - All-uses

Mile-per-gallon Program – Segmented

gasguzzler (miles, gallons, price : INTEGER)		
if gallons = 0 then		
// Watch for division by zero!!		
Print("You have " + gallons + "gallons of gas")		
else if miles/gallons > 25		
then print("Excellent car. Your mpg is " + miles/gallon)		
else print("You must be going broke. Your mpg is " + miles/gallon + " cost " + gallons * price)		
fi end	G	



DFT-20

MPG – DU-Paths for Miles

All-Defs

 Each definition of each variable for at least one use of the definition

• A B D

- All-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable to each c-use of the definition
 - ABDE ABDF ABD
- All-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse of the definition
 - A B D

MPG – DU-Paths for Miles – 2

- All-C-uses/Some-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each cuse of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use p-use
 - ABDE ABDF ABD
- All-P-uses/Some-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use c-use
 - A B D
- All-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse and each c-use of the definition
 - ABD ABDE ABDF

MPG – DU-Paths for Gallons

All-Defs

 Each definition of each variable for at least one use of the definition

• A B

- All-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable to each c-use of the definition
 - ABC ABDE ABDF ABD
- All-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse of the definition
 - A B A B D

MPG – DU-Paths for Gallons – 2

- All-C-uses/Some-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each cuse of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use p-use
 - ABC ABDE ABDF ABD
- All-P-uses/Some-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use c-use
 - A B A B D
- All-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse and each c-use of the definition
 - AB ABC ABD ABDE ABDF

DFT-24

MPG – DU-Paths for Price

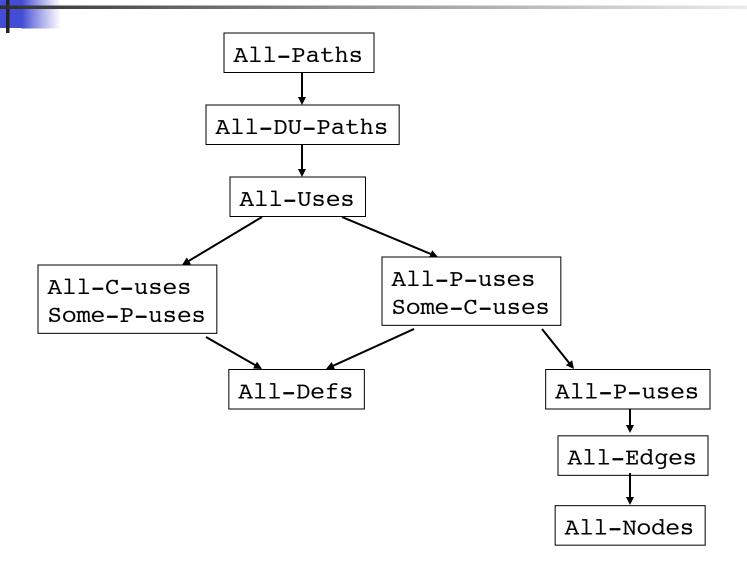
All-Defs

- Each definition of each variable for at least one use of the definition
 - A B D F
- All-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable to each c-use of the definition
 - A B D F
- All-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse of the definition
 - none

MPG – DU-Paths for Price – 2

- All-C-uses/Some-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each cuse of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use p-use
 - A B D F
- All-P-uses/Some-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use c-use
 - A B D F
- All-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each puse and each c-use of the definition
 - A B D F

Rapps-Weyuker data flow hierarchy





Data flow node combinations for a variable

Anomalies		Explanation
~ d	first define	Allowed
du	define-use	Allowed - normal case
dk	define-kill	Potential bug
~ u	first use	Potential bug
ud	use-define	Allowed - redefined
uk	use-kill	Allowed
~ k	first kill	Potential bug
ku	kill-use	Serious defect



Anomalies		Explanation
kd	kill-define	Allowed - redefined
dd	define-define	Potential bug
uu	use-use	Allowed - normal case
kk	kill-kill	Potential bug
d ~	define last	Potential bug
u ~	use last	Allowed
k ~	kill last	Allowed - normal case



- Data flow testing is good for computationally/control intensive programs
 - If P-use of variables are computed, then P-use data flow testing is good
- Define/use testing provides a rigorous, systematic way to examine points at which faults may occur.



- Aliasing of variables causes serious problems!
- Working things out by hand for anything but small methods is hopeless
- Compiler-based tools help in determining coverage values