Functional Testing Review





Functional Testing

- We saw three types of functional testing
 - Boundary Value Testing
 - Equivalence Class Testing
 - Decision Table-Based Testing
- The common thread among these techniques is that they all view a program as a mathematical function that maps its inputs to its outputs.
- We now look at questions related to testing effort, testing efficiency, and testing effectiveness.

Boundary Value Test Cases

Test Case	а	b	С	Expected Output		
1	100	100	1	Isosceles		
2	100	100	2	Isosceles		
3	100	100	100	Equilateral		
4	100	100	199	Isosceles		
5	100	100	200	Not a Triangle		
6	100	1	100	Isosceles		
7	100	2	100	Isosceles		
8	100	100	100	Equilateral		
9	100	199	100	Isosceles		
10	100	200	100	Not a Triangle		
11	1	100	100	Isosceles		
12	2	100	100	Isosceles		
13	100	100	100	Equilateral		
14	199	100	100	Isosceles		
15	200	100	100	Not a Triangle		

Equivalence Class Test Cases

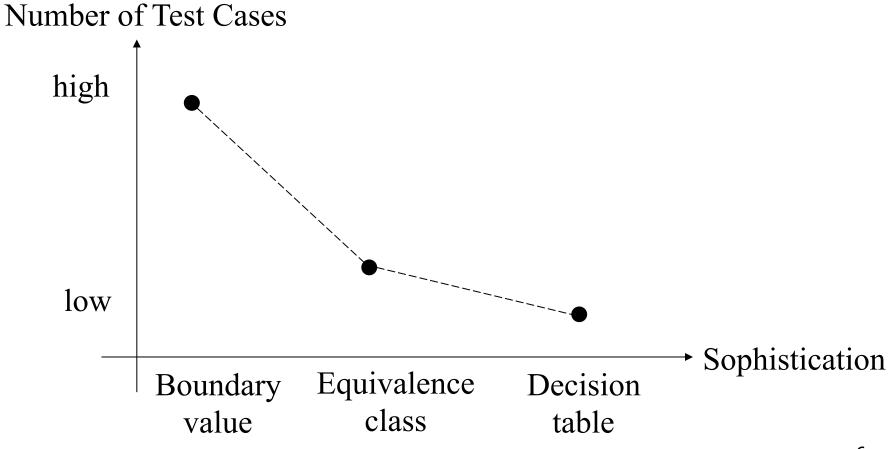
Test Case	а	b	С	Expected Output
WN1	5	5	5	Equilateral
WN2	2	2	3	Isosceles
WN3	3	4	5	Scalene
WN4	4	1	2	Not a Triangle
WR1	-1	5	5	a not in range
WR2	5	-1	5	b not in range
WR3	5	5	-1	c not in range
WR4	201	5	5	a not in range
WR5	5	201	5	b not in range
WR6	5	5	201	c not in range

Decision Table Test Cases

Test Case	а	b	С	Expected Output
DT1	4	1	2	Not a Triangle
DT2	1	4	2	Not a Triangle
DT3	1	2	4	Not a Triangle
DT4	5	5	5	Equilateral
DT5	?	?	?	Impossible
DT6	?	?	?	Impossible
DT7	2	2	3	Isosceles
DT8	?	?	?	Impossible
DT9	2	3	2	Isosceles
DT10	3	2	2	Isosceles
DT11	3	4	5	Scalene

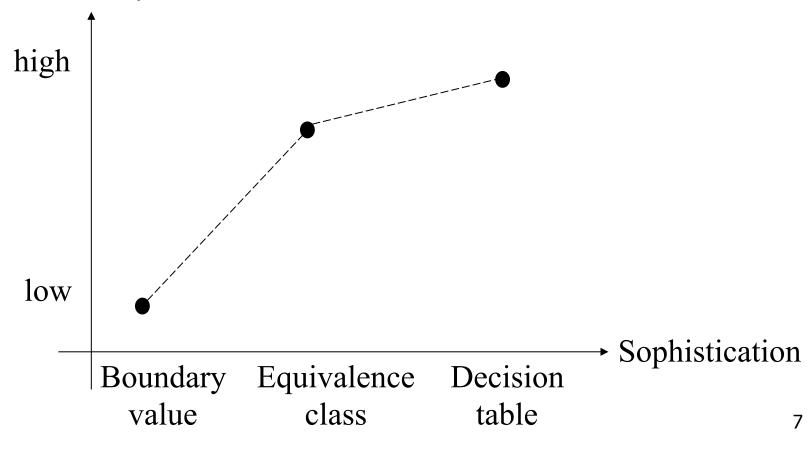
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Testing Effort



Testing Effort

Effort to Identify Test Cases





- Boundary Value Testing has no recognition of data or logical dependencies
 - Mechanical generation of test cases
- Equivalence Class Testing takes into account data dependencies
 - More thought and care is required to define the equivalence classes
 - Mechanical generation after that



- The decision table technique is the most sophisticated, because it requires that we consider both data and logical dependencies.
 - Iterative process
 - Allows manual identification of redundant test cases
- Tradeoff between test identification effort and test execution effort



- Fundamental limitations of functional testing
 - Gaps of untested functionality
 - Redundant tests
- Testing efficiency question: How can we create a set of test cases that is "just right"?
- Hard to answer. Can only rely on the general knowledge that more sophisticated techniques, such as decision tables, are usually more efficient
- Structural testing methods will allow us to define more interesting metrics for efficiency

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Testing Efficiency Example

- The worst case boundary analysis for the NextDate program generated 125 cases. These are fairly redundant (check January 1 for five different years, only a few February cases but none on February 28, and February 29, and no major testing for leap years)
- The strong equivalence class test cases generated 36 test cases 11 of which are impossible.
- The decision table technique generated 22 test cases (fairly complete)



Testing Effectiveness

- How effective is a method or a set of test cases for finding faults present in a program?
- Hard to answer because
 - It presumes we know all faults in a program
 - It is impossible to prove that a program is free of faults (equivalent to solving the halting problem)



Testing Effectiveness

- The best we can do is to work backward from fault types
- Given a fault type we can choose testing methods that are likely to reveal faults of that type
 - Use knowledge related to the most likely kinds of faults to occur
 - Track kinds and frequencies of faults in the software applications we develop

Guidelines

- Kinds of faults may reveal some pointers as to which testing method to use.
- If we do not know the kinds of faults that are likely to occur in the program then the attributes most helpful in choosing functional testing methods are:
 - Whether the variables represent physical or logical quantities
 - Whether or not there are dependencies among variables
 - Whether single or multiple faults are assumed
 - Whether exception handling is prominent



Guidelines

- 1. If the variables refer to physical quantities and/or are independent, domain testing and equivalence testing can be considered.
- If the variables are dependent, decision table testing can be considered
- If the single-fault assumption is plausible to assume, boundary value analysis and robustness testing can be considered



Guidelines

- 4. If the multiple-fault assumption is plausible to assume, worst case testing, robust worst case testing, and decision table testing can be considered
- If the program contains significant exception handling, robustness testing and decision table testing can be considered
- 6. If the variables refer to logical quantities, equivalence class testing and decision table testing can be considered

Functional Testing Decision Table

C1: Variables (P=Physical, L=Logical)?	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	L	L	L	L	L
C2: Independent Variables?	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N
C3: Single fault assumption?	Υ	Υ	Ζ	Ν	ı	Υ	Υ	Ν	N	-
C4: Exception handling?	Υ	N	Υ	Ν	-	Υ	N	Y	N	-
A1: Boundary value analysis		X								
A2: Robustness testing	Х									
A3: Worst case testing				X						
A4: Robust worst case testing			Χ							
A5: Weak robust equivalence testing	Х		Χ			Χ		Χ		
A6: Weak normal equivalence testing	Х	Χ				Χ	Χ			
A7: Strong normal equivalence testing			Χ	Χ	Χ			X	X	Χ
A8: Decision table					Χ					Χ