4. A Testing Framework

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A Testing Framework

Sources
> JUnit documentation (from www.junit.org)
Roadmap

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- Testing an interface
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Roadmap

> Junit — a testing framework
  — Testing practices
  — Frameworks vs. Libraries
  — Junit 3.x vs. Junit 4.x (annotations)

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Interactive testing is tedious and seldom exhaustive. 

**Automated tests** are better, but,

— how to introduce tests interactively?  
— how to organize suites of tests?

“The Problem

“Testing is not closely integrated with development. This prevents you from measuring the progress of development — you can't tell when something starts working or when something stops working.”

— “Test Infected”, Beck & Gamma, 1998
Note that the “Test Infected” article was written in 1998. Since then, the Unit Testing approach promoted by Beck and Gamma has had a huge influence on software development, and testing is much better integrated into model development processes. Tests should be repeatable, deterministic and automated.
Testing Practices

**During Development**

> When you need to add new functionality, *write the tests first.*
> — You will be done when the test runs.

> When you need to redesign your software to add new features, refactor in small steps, and *run the (regression) tests after each step.*
> — Fix what’s broken before proceeding.

**During Debugging**

> When someone discovers a defect in your code, *first write a test* that demonstrates the defect.
> — Then debug until the test succeeds.

“Whenever you are tempted to type something into a print statement or a debugger expression, write it as a test instead.”

— Martin Fowler
Test-Driven Development (TDD) is a practice in which tests are written before any functional code is written. One of the advantages of TDD is that writing the tests first influences the design of the code: it makes clear what functional interfaces are needed, and also ensures that the design supports testing.
JUnit is a simple framework to write repeatable tests. It is an instance of the xUnit architecture for unit testing frameworks written by Kent Beck and Erich Gamma.
The first unit testing framework was SUnit, written for Smalltalk. Beck and Gamma later ported the design to Java, and since then xUnit frameworks have been developed for most mainstream programming languages.

JUnit documentation can be found here:

[junit.sourceforge.net/doc/cookbook/cookbook.htm](http://junit.sourceforge.net/doc/cookbook/cookbook.htm)
Frameworks vs. Libraries

In traditional application architectures, user code makes use of library functionality in the form of procedures or classes.

A framework *reverses* the usual relationship between generic and application code. Frameworks provide both generic functionality and application architecture.

You call the library

The framework contains/uses the library

Your code

The framework calls you

Essentially, a framework says: “Don’t call me — I’ll call you.”
The word “framework” suggests a skeleton that can be filled in with details.

The difference between a library and a framework lies in the fact that a framework represents a complete application, with only certain functional details missing. As a result, the framework is in control: you don't call the framework, the framework calls you.
JUnit is a simple “testing framework” that provides:

> classes for writing *Test Cases and Test Suites*

> methods for *setting up and cleaning up test data* ("fixtures")

> methods for *making assertions*

> textual and graphical tools for *running tests*
JUnit is a framework in the sense that it provides all the infrastructure needed to organize and run tests. The “missing details” to be filled in consist of the concrete tests that you must provide.

JUnit 3.8 is a classical *object-oriented framework* that relies on *inheritance*: JUnit provides a set of interacting classes, and you provide *subclasses* of the framework classes that provide the actual tests to be run.

JUnit 4 and later versions are *component-based frameworks* that instead rely on pluggable interfaces and annotations to tailor the framework. Since a lot of Java unit tests are based on the older framework, it is important to understand both approaches.
Failures and Errors

JUnit distinguishes between failures and errors:

> A failure is a failed assertion, i.e., an anticipated problem that you test.

> An error is a condition you didn’t check for, i.e., a runtime error.
Note the similarity to the terminology that we saw in the lecture on Design by Contract, but also the differences. Both *failures* and *errors* cause *exceptions* to be raised, but here a failure refers specifically to a *failed test* (assertion), i.e., something you explicitly test for. An error, on the other hand, refers to something you didn't test. JUnit keeps track of both kinds of exceptions.

*Assertions*, as in DbC, are *predicates that are assumed to hold*. If an assertion fails, this means there is a defect (bug) in the code (or perhaps in the test). JUnit provides a rather richer set of assertion methods than basic Java, so we can produce more informative error messages.
A Test can run a number of concrete test cases

```
+ countTestCases() : int
+ run(TestResult)
```

Test

```
+ assertTrue(boolean)
+ assertEquals(Object, Object)
```

All errors and failures are collected into a TestResult.

```
+ create()
+ addError(Test, Throwable)
+ addFailure(Test, Throwable)
+ errors() : Enumeration
+ failures() : Enumeration
```
There are many more classes in JUnit than are shown here, but these are the essential ones. Based on this design, it is easy to implement a basic xUnit framework for your favourite programming language x.

**TestCase** is the most important class: to tailor the framework, simply define a subclass of **TestCase** that defines a number of methods named “test...”. The framework will automatically collect these into a test suite that can be run. Both test cases and test suites support the **Test** interface.

**NB:** This is a classic example of the **Composite** design pattern; **TestSuite**s are composed of nested **TestCases**, and both can be tested through a common interface.

**Assert** is a utility class (i.e., a library) of useful assert methods. **TestResult** is the class that actually runs the tests within try-catch statements, so it can catch all the failures and errors into a report.
A Testing Scenario

The framework calls the test methods that you define for your test cases.
Here we see clearly how the various classes interact: a TestRunner runs one or more TestSuites. A TestSuite simply runs eachTestCase it contains. The TestRunner instantiates a TestResult object (tr) and passes it along to collect the results. A TestCase asks the TestResult object to run itself and collect any failures or errors. Note that it is the same TestResult object that runs all the tests.

Each individual TestCase object may additional specify a setUp method to prepare the test (e.g., to create needed objects for the test) and a tearDown method to clean up afterwars, if necessary.
JUnit 3.x Example Code

```java
import junit.framework.TestCase;
public class LinkStackTest extends TestCase {
    protected StackInterface<String> stack; // test data
    protected int size;

    protected void setUp() throws Exception {
        super.setUp();
        stack = new LinkStack<String>();
    }

    public void testEmpty() {
        assertTrue(stack.isEmpty());
        assertEquals(0, stack.size());
    }

    ...
Here we see the central idea of object-oriented frameworks. We specialize the JUnit framework by defining \texttt{LinkStackTest} as a subclass of \texttt{TestCase}. Even though JUnit does not and cannot know our specific test classes, we can plug \texttt{LinkStackTest} into JUnit because it is a subclass of a framework class. It therefore satisfies the \texttt{TestCase} interface and also inherits any useful methods from it. 

\texttt{LinkStackTest} defines specific test methods, such as \texttt{testEmpty}, and also a \texttt{setUp} method to prepare the test data. (We don't need a \texttt{tearDown} method here.)
Annotations in J2SE 5

> J2SE 5 introduces the **Metadata** feature (data about data)

> Annotations allow you to add **decorations** to your code (remember javadoc tags: `@author`)

> Annotations are used for code documentation, compiler processing (`@Deprecated`), code generation, runtime processing

http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/java/javaOO/annotations.html
JUnit 4.x

JUnit is a simple “testing framework” that provides:

> Annotations for marking methods as *tests*
> Annotations for marking methods that *setting up and cleaning up test data* (“fixtures”)
> methods for *making assertions*
> textual and graphical tools for *running tests*
JUnit 4 and later provide the same functionality as the earlier object-oriented framework, but it no longer relies on inheritance to plug concrete tests into the framework. Instead, annotations are used to flag test methods.

Note that an alpha release of JUnit 5 was made available in February 2016:

http://www.codeaffine.com/2016/02/18/junit-5-first-look/
JUnit 4.x Example Code

```java
import junit.framework.TestCase;
import static org.junit.Assert.*;
import org.junit.*;

public class LinkStackTest extends TestCase {
    protected StackInterface<String> stack;
    private int size;

    @Before public void setUp() {
        stack = new LinkStack<String>();
    }

    @Test public void testEmpty() {
        assertTrue(stack.isEmpty());
        assertEquals(0, stack.size());
    }

    ...
Test classes no longer need to inherit from a specific class. They just need to contain test methods.

Test methods not longer are required to be named “test…”.
Instead we just need to annotate test methods with @Test. Setup methods do not need to be named “setUp”, but just need to be annotated as @Before methods.
Testing Style

“The style here is to write a few lines of code, then a test that should run, or even better, to write a test that won't run, then write the code that will make it run.”

- write unit tests that thoroughly test a single class
- write tests as you develop (even before you implement)
- write tests for every new piece of functionality

“Developers should spend 25-50% of their time developing tests.”
Roadmap

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  — Testing practices
  — Frameworks vs. Libraries
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What to test?

- Test every *public method* (test the interface)
- Test *boundary conditions*
- Test *key scenarios*
- Test *exceptional scenarios*
- Test every *line of code*
- Test every *path* through the code
There are two very general strategies to writing tests. *Black-box testing* focuses on testing the interface to a class (i.e., without looking inside the code). *White-box testing* instead focuses on exercising all the code. Typically a combination of both approaches is needed.

By testing *every public method* in the interface of a class, we ensure that we test *everything of interest to a client*. Helper methods will be tested indirectly by testing the public methods that use them.

Many *bugs occur at the boundaries* of inputs, for example, at minimum or maximum values of ranges or collections. We therefore should construct tests that explicitly test these boundaries.

A scenario will test multiple methods in combination. With limited resources, *at least the most common scenarios* should be explicitly tested. If possible, unusual or *exceptional scenarios should also be tested*, as this is often where bugs arise.

*Every line of code* should be tested by at least one test. We may need to write *several tests with different data* to ensure that every line of code is reached.

Similarly checking that *every path through the code* is exercised may require multiple tests for a single method. Note that just by testing every line of code is tested we may not necessarily pass through every possible path.
There also exist testing practices that are more specific to JUnit. Here is an interesting discussion on the topic:

http://www.kyleblaney.com/junit-best-practices/
Testing the StackInterface

Recall our stack interface from last lecture

```java
public interface StackInterface<E> {
    public boolean isEmpty();
    public int size();
    public void push(E item);
    public E top();
    public void pop();
}
```

We will develop some tests to exercise all the public methods.
## Testing public methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>isEmpty()</code></td>
<td>True when it’s empty; false otherwise (needs a push)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>size()</code></td>
<td>Zero when empty; non-zero otherwise (needs a push)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>push()</code></td>
<td>Possible any time; affects size and top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>top()</code></td>
<td>Only valid if not empty; needs a push; returns the last element pushed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>pop()</code></td>
<td>Only valid if not empty; needs a push first; affects size and top</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Without looking at the implementation, we can already see that (i) we may need multiple tests for a given method, and (ii) some methods can only be tested in combination with others.
A LinkStackTest class

Start by setting initializing the fixture (stack)

```java
import static org.junit.Assert.*;
import org.junit.*;

public class LinkStackTest {
    protected StackInterface<String> stack;
    private int size;

    @Before public void setUp() {
        stack = new LinkStack<String>();
    }

    ...
}
```
Testing the empty stack

We can test both `isEmpty()` and `size()` with an initial stack:

```java
@Test public void empty() {
    assertTrue(stack.isEmpty());
    assertEquals(0, stack.size());
}
```

Alternatively, we could write two separate tests, one for each condition.
assertTrue, etc. are static imported methods of the Assert class of the JUnit 4.x Framework and raise an AssertionError if they fail.

JUnit 3.x raises a JUnit AssertionFailedError (!)

JUnit offers a wide range of assert methods that provide more informative error messages than the basic assert(boolean) method. For example, assertEquals(x,y) can report: “I expected x but I got y”, whereas assert(p) can only tell us “p was not true”.
Note that we use `assertTrue()` to test `isEmpty()` , but `assertEquals()` to test `size()` . In the first case, `isEmpty()` already returns a Boolean. We would get no advantage from testing:

```java
assertEquals(false, stack.isEmpty()); // useless
```

But in the second case `assertEquals()` provides us with useful additional information.

We would lose information were we to write:

```java
assertTrue(stack.size() == 0); // bad style
```

since a failed assertion would no longer report that we expected the value 0.
Running tests from eclipse

Right-click on the class (or package) to run the tests
We modify the stack and test the new state:

```java
@Test public void pushOneElement() {
    stack.push("a");
    assertFalse(stack.isEmpty());
    assertEquals(1, stack.size());
    assertEquals("a", stack.top());
}
```
We push and pop and test if the stack is empty.

```java
@Test public void pushPopOneElement() {
    stack.push("a");
    stack.pop();
    assertTrue(stack.isEmpty());
    assertEquals(0, stack.size());
}
```
We still need to test the “stack-like” behavior of top:

```java
@Test public void twoElement() {
    stack.push("a");
    assertEquals("a", stack.top());
    stack.push("b");
    assertEquals("b", stack.top());
    stack.pop();
    assertEquals("a", stack.top());
    stack.pop();
    assertTrue(stack.isEmpty());
}
```

At this point we have minimally tested the entire stack interface.
Without this test, a queue would also pass all the tests we have defined up to now. Here we are testing that \texttt{top} accurately returns the last element pushed, and will return previous elements pushed after a \texttt{pop}. 
Bugs frequently occur at boundaries in the input. These should be carefully tested.
The only boundary value in the stack interface could be if `null` is pushed:

```java
@Test public void pushNull() {
    stack.push(null);
    assertFalse(stack.isEmpty());
    assertEquals(1, stack.size());
    assertEquals(null, stack.top());
}
```
Testing for failure

A special kind of boundary condition is checking whether the class behaves as expected when the preconditions for a method do not hold.

```java
@Test(expected=AssertionError.class)
public void emptyTopFails() {
    stack.top();
}

@Test(expected=AssertionError.class)
public void emptyRemoveFails() {
    stack.pop();
}
```
To accomplish the same in JUnit 3 is far less elegant:

```java
public void testEmptyTopFails() {
    try { 
        stack.top();
        fail("Calling top() on an empty stack should fail");
    } catch (AssertionError e) {
        assertEquals(null, e.getMessage());
    } 
}
```

Here we must explicitly run the faulty code in a try-catch clause, fail if the code passes, and pass if it fails!
We should also test a more complex scenario that exercises the interaction between methods:

```java
public void testFirstInLastOut() {
    stack.push("a");
    stack.push("b");
    stack.push("c");
    assertEquals("c", stack.top());
    stack.pop();
    assertEquals("b", stack.top());
    stack.pop();
    assertEquals("a", stack.top());
    stack.pop();
    assertTrue(stack.isEmpty());
}
```
Testing an exceptional scenario

```java
@Test(expected=AssertionError.class)
public void brokenSequence() {
    stack.push("a");
    stack.pop();
    stack.pop();
    stack.pop();
}
```
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Testing the parenMatch algorithm

To cover every line of code, we must reach all the bold lines:

```java
public boolean parenMatch() {
    for (int i=0; i<line.length(); i++) {
        char c = line.charAt(i);
        if (isLeftParen(c)) {
            stack.push(matchingRightParen(c)); // (1)
        } else {
            if (isRightParen(c)) {
                if (stack.isEmpty()) {
                    return false; // (2)
                } else if (stack.top().equals(c)) {
                    stack.pop(); // (3)
                } else {
                    return false; // (4)
                }
            } else { // else not a paren char (5)
            }
        }
    }
    return stack.isEmpty(); // (6)
}
```
Note that covering every line of code is not necessarily the same as covering every possible path through the code. We can have a path that goes through point (5), but there is no line of code there!
Instantiating paren matchers

We need an easy way to create a new paren matcher for a given test case:

```java
class ParenMatchTest {
    protected ParenMatch pm;

    protected ParenMatch makePm(String input) {
        return new ParenMatch(input, new LinkStack<Character>());
    }

    @Test
    public void empty() {
        pm = makePm(""");
        assertTrue(pm.parenMatch());
    }
}
```

**Which path is tested here?**
If we had started writing tests earlier, we would perhaps have designed the ParenMatch class differently to better support tests. It would be convenient to pass the string to check directly as an argument to the parenMatch method, which should also reset the internal stack to be empty.

Testing early can have a positive influence on the design process.
Path testing

@Test public void balancedWithOtherChars() {
    pm = makePm("public void main() { return true; }");
    assertTrue(pm.parenMatch()); // (1) (3) (5) (6)
}

How would you construct tests to pass through points (2) or (4)?

public boolean parenMatch() {
    for (int i=0; i<line.length(); i++) {
        char c = line.charAt(i);
        if (isLeftParen(c)) { // 1
            stack.push(matchingRightParen(c)); // (1)
        } else {
            if (isRightParen(c)) { // 2
                if (stack.isEmpty()) { return false; }
                if (stack.top().equals(c)) {
                    stack.pop(); // (3)
                } else { return false; }
            } else { // 4
                return false;
            }
        } else not a paren char (5)
    }
    return stack.isEmpty(); // (6)
}
To reach point (2), we must have just read a right parenthesis, but the stack must be empty.

To reach point (4), we must have read a right parenthesis, but it does not match the top of the stack.

*What test inputs could lead to these results?*
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> JExample
JExample introduces *producer-consumer relationships* between tests

— Tests may *depend on* other tests that *produce examples* for them

http://scg.unibe.ch/Research/JExample/
Normal JUnit tests produce no results (type is `void`), and may not depend on each other. Conventional testing wisdom says that tests should be independent. However analysis shows that tests in real projects actually do exhibit dependencies: very often one test explore a more refined test than another one. This may lead to lots of cascading tests failing due to the same bug.

JExample exploits this implicit dependency by allowing a test to produce an *example object* (i.e., a fixture) that can be used as input to further tests. This has the following advantages:

(i) when a test fails, its dependent tests do not have to be run, thus easing debugging;

(ii) testing code and test results can be shared amongst dependent tests.
Stack example — imports

```java
import java.util.Stack;
import java.util.EmptyStackException;
import static org.junit.Assert.*;
import org.junit.Test;
import org.junit.runner.RunWith;
import ch.unibe.jexample.JExample;
import ch.unibe.jexample.Given;

@RunWith(JExample.class)
public class StackTest {
    ...
}
```
public class StackTest {

    @Test
    public Stack<String> empty() {
        Stack<String> stack = new Stack<String>();
        assertTrue(stack.empty());
        return stack;
    }

    @Test(expected=EmptyStackException.class)
    @Given("#empty")
    public void emptyPopFails(Stack<String> stack) {
        stack.pop();
    }

    ...
}
Stack example — chained dependencies

```java
class StackTest {
...
    @Test
    @Given("#empty")
    public Stack<String> pushOnEmpty(Stack<String> stack) {
        stack.push("foo");
        assertFalse(stack.empty());
        assertTrue(stack.size() == 1);
        return stack;
    }
    @Test
    @Given("#pushOnEmpty")
    public Stack<String> pushPop(Stack<String> stack) {
        stack.pop();
        assertTrue(stack.empty());
        return stack;
    }
    ...
```

Dependencies may be chained
public class StackTest {
    ...
    @Test
    @Given("#pushPop; #empty")
    public void equality(Stack<String> used, Stack<String> fresh) {
        assertEquals(used, fresh);
    }
}
What you should know!

- How does a framework differ from a library?
- What is a unit test?
- What is an annotation?
- How does JUnit 3.x differ from JUnit 4.x?
- What is a test “fixture”?
- What should you test in a test case?
- How can testing drive design?
Can you answer these questions?

- How does the TestRunner invoke the right suite() method?
- How do you know when you have written enough tests?
- How many assertions should a test contain?
- Is it better to write long test scenarios or short, independent tests?
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