

Lecture 2 – Random Testing

AAA705: Software Testing and Quality Assurance

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2024 Spring

- Equivalence Partitioning (EP)
- Boundary Value Analysis (BVA)
- Category Partition Method (CPM)
- Combinatorial Testing (CT)
 - Covering Array (CA)
 - Fault Detection Effectiveness
 - Greedy Algorithm – IPOG Strategy
 - Greedy vs. Meta-heuristic

1. Random Testing (RT)

- Probabilistic Analysis

- Weaknesses of Random Testing

- Examples

2. Adaptive Random Testing (ART)

- Levenshtein (Edit) Distance

- Distance Comparison Target

- Complexity of ART

- Quasi-Random Strategy for ART

3. Fuzz Testing

- Pre-process

- Input Generation – Mutation-Based Fuzzing

- Input Generation – Generation-Based Fuzzing

- Test Oracles (Sanitizers)

- De-duplication

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- What happens if we just sample the input **randomly**?
 - Since developers has their own mental model of the software, they often have a **biased** view of the input space.
 - **Random testing** can help to ignore this bias.

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$$\text{Failure Rate } t = \frac{|F|}{|S|}$$

(The probability that a randomly sampled test input is fail when we sample uniformly at random from S)

```
/* C */
int abs(int x) {
    if (x < 0) return x;    // should be -x
    else return x;
}
```

- Failure Rate $t \approx 0.5$
- Oracle
 - `assertEqual(abs(-5), 5)`
 - `assertEqual(abs(5), 5)`

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- **True-random number generators (TRNGs)** – expensive
 - **Atmospheric noise** – <https://random.org>
 - **Quantum random number generator (QRNG)** – <https://qrng.anu.edu.au>
 - **Lava lamps** – **Cloudflare**

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The new Galaxy Quantum 4 is equipped with the world's smallest (width 2.5mm x length 2.5mm) **Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG)** chipset, enabling trusted authentication and encryption of information.

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- Given n random test inputs, what is the **probability** of finding **at least one failure**?

- The **geometric distribution** models the first occurrence of a success in a sequence of n independent (Bernoulli) trials with the same probability p .

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- The **probability mass function (PMF)** of the geometric distribution:

$$Pr(X = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1}p$$

It is the probability that the first success occurs on the n -th trial.

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- Given a failure rate p , **how many** test inputs do we need to sample to find the **first failure**?
- **Mean** (If $p = 0.01$, the average test inputs = 100)

$$\frac{1}{p}$$

- **Median** (If $p = 0.01$, the median test inputs ≈ 69)

$$\left\lceil \frac{-1}{\log_2(1-p)} \right\rceil$$

- **Variance** (If $p = 0.01$, the variance = 9900)

$$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

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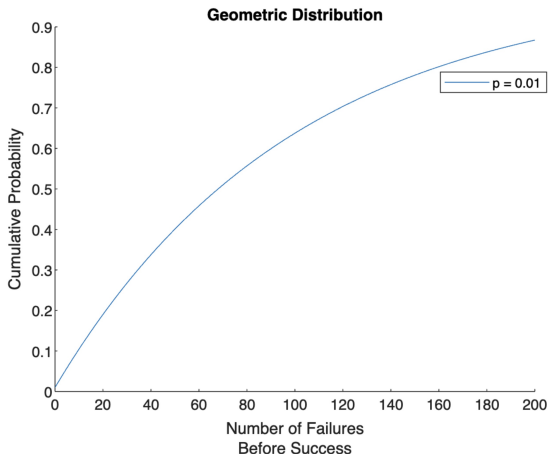
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- If we test $n = 100$ random test inputs, the probability of finding at least one failure is $1 - (1 - 0.01)^{100} = 63.76\%$.
- If we test $n = 200$ random test inputs, the probability of finding at least one failure is $1 - (1 - 0.01)^{200} = 86.74\%$.



- Unfortunately, failure rate p is **unknown** in practice.
- But, we can **estimate** p in various ways:
 - Previous versions of the software
 - Similar software
 - Literature

- Random testing provides **no guidance**; it is the **needle in a haystack** problem – the probability of finding a failure is low.

```
/* C */  
void foo(int x) {  
    if (x == 0) {  
        /* faulty code here */  
    }  
}
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```
# Python  
def foo(x):  
    # e.g., x = 2840  
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- We need **biased** random testing with predefined probability:
 - **Special values** (-0, `null`, π , ...)
 - **Extracted values** from code (e.g., constants, literals)
 - **Previously successful values**

- **Apple** (1983) - “Monkey” for random events (e.g., mouse clicks, key presses, etc.) to test the robustness of the MacWrite and MacPaint applications.

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- **Netflix** (2011) – “**Chaos Monkey**” that randomly terminates AWS instances to test the fault tolerance of the Netflix infrastructure.

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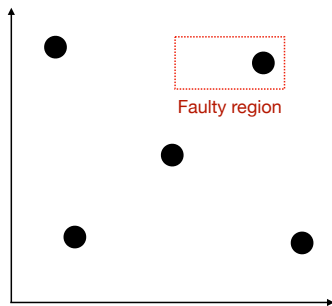
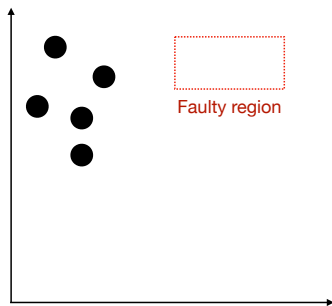
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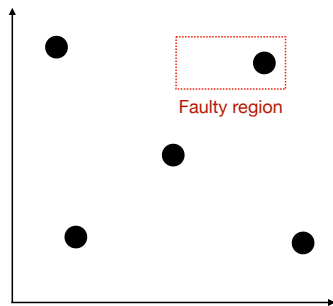
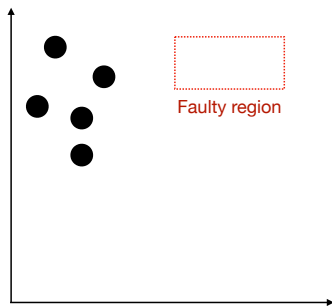
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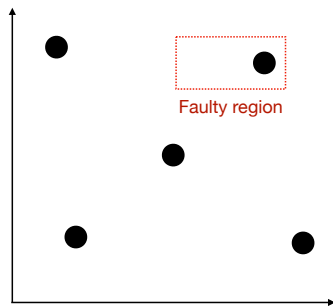
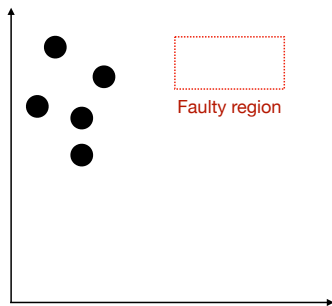
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- **Without knowing** the faulty regions, what is the **best way** to sample the test inputs?



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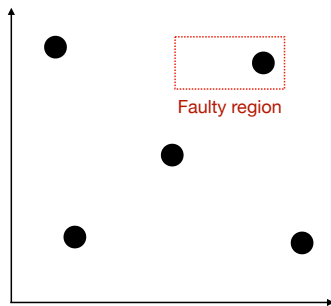
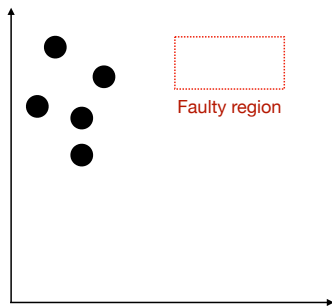


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- Then, how to measure the distance between **complex data types**?

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- and the distance between “uninformed” and “uniform” is 3:

“uninformed” $\xrightarrow[n]{\text{delete}}$ “uniformed” $\xrightarrow[e]{\text{delete}}$ “uniformd” $\xrightarrow[d]{\text{delete}}$ “uniform”

- The formal definition of the **Levenshtein distance** is as follows:

$$\text{lev}(a, b) = \begin{cases} |a| & \text{if } |b| = 0 \\ |b| & \text{if } |a| = 0 \\ \text{lev}(\text{tail}(a), \text{tail}(b)) & \text{if } \text{head}(a) = \text{head}(b) \\ 1 + \min \begin{cases} \text{lev}(\text{tail}(a), b) & \text{(insert)} \\ \text{lev}(a, \text{tail}(b)) & \text{(delete)} \\ \text{lev}(\text{tail}(a), \text{tail}(b)) & \text{(substitute)} \end{cases} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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- It is usually extended into a parameterized version with a set of allowed **edit operations** (e.g., transposition) with different **costs**.
- Wagner-Fischer algorithm** (1967) – $O(mn)$ time complexity
- Indyk and Bačkurs (2015) proved that the problem of finding the edit distance **cannot be solved in less than quadratic time**. (We cannot do better than the Wagner-Fischer algorithm.)

- The **diversity** of a test suite is defined as the **sum of distances** between all pairs of test inputs.

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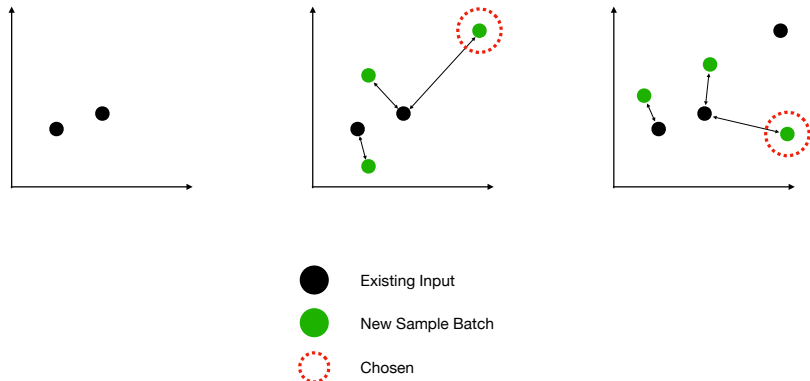
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- Iterate the process until the **stopping criterion** is met.



- It **samples** $Z = 3$ new test inputs and **chooses** the one with the **maximum distance** from the existing test inputs.

- For each **new test case** t , we need to choose the **target for comparison** in the existing test suite T .³

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- Centroid-Distance

$$fitness(t, T) = d(t, 1/|T| \sum t')$$

³[CSUR'19] R. Huang et al. "A survey on adaptive random testing."

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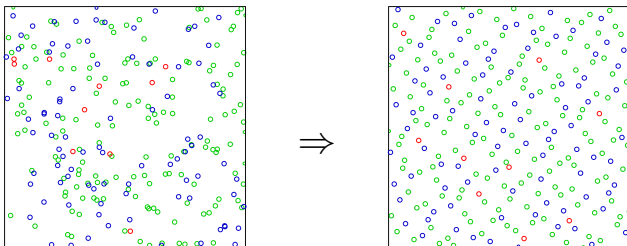
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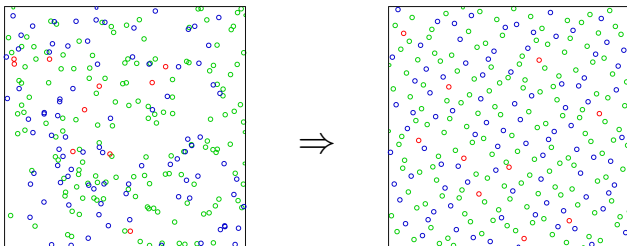
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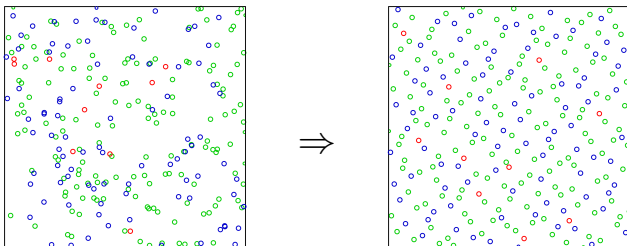
- **$O(k^2Z)$ time complexity** – this could be **expensive**.
- It may be difficult to choose the meaningful **distance metric** for complex data types.



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- What if we can randomly sample the test inputs having **diversity** (i.e., **low discrepancy**)?
- **Quasi-random** sequences could be a good choice.
- Let's learn **Halton sequence**, one of the representative quasi-random sequences.

- The **halton sequence** is constructed in a **deterministic** way using **co-prime numbers**.

Quasi-Random Strategy for ART – Halton Sequence

- The **halton sequence** is constructed in a **deterministic** way using **co-prime numbers**.
- For example, generate the sequence of numbers in the range $[0, 1]$ by recursively splitting the range into **2** or **3** subintervals.

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$$\frac{5}{8}$$

...

$$\frac{3}{8}$$

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- Generate a sequence of pairs of numbers (x, y) by combining above sequences.

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}\right), \left(\frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{3}\right), \left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{9}\right), \left(\frac{1}{8}, \frac{4}{9}\right), \left(\frac{5}{8}, \frac{7}{9}\right), \left(\frac{3}{8}, \frac{2}{9}\right), \left(\frac{7}{8}, \frac{5}{9}\right), \left(\frac{1}{16}, \frac{8}{9}\right), \dots$$

We can utilize other quasi-random sequences for ART:⁴

- Halton Sequence

$$\phi_b(i) = \sum_{j=0}^{\omega} i_j b^{-j-1}$$

- Sobol Sequence

$$\text{Sobol}(i) = \text{XOR}_{j=1,2,\dots,\omega} (i_j \delta_j)$$

where

$$\delta_j = \text{XOR}_{k=1,2,\dots,r} \left(\frac{\beta_k \delta_{j-k}}{2^j} \right) \oplus \frac{\delta_{j-k}}{2^{j+r}}$$

- Niederreiter Sequence

⁴[CSUR'19] R. Huang et al. "A survey on adaptive random testing."

- **Application Domains**

- Numeric Programs
- Object-Oriented Programs
- Configurable Systems
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- **ART** is still mostly an academic idea, with debates going on:

- **[ISSTA'11]** A. Arcuri et al. *“Adaptive random testing: an illusion of effectiveness?”*
- **[CSUR'19]** R. Huang et al. *“A survey on adaptive random testing.”*

1. Random Testing (RT)

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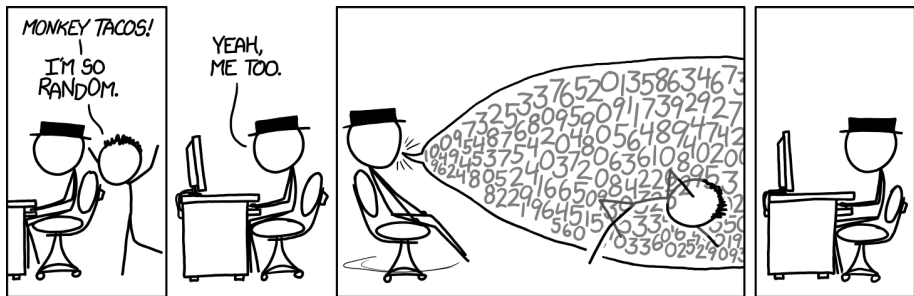
Pre-process

Input Generation – Mutation-Based Fuzzing

Input Generation – Generation-Based Fuzzing

Test Oracles (Sanitizers)

De-duplication



<https://xkcd.com/1210/>

- **[CACM'90]** B. P. Miller et al. *“An empirical study of the reliability of UNIX utilities.”*⁵

*“On a dark and stormy night one of the authors was logged on to his workstation on a dial-up line from home and the **rain** had affected the phone lines; there were **frequent spurious characters** on the line. The author had to race to see if he could type a sensible sequence of characters before the noise scrambled the command. This line noise was not surprising; but we were surprised that these **spurious characters were causing programs to crash.**”*

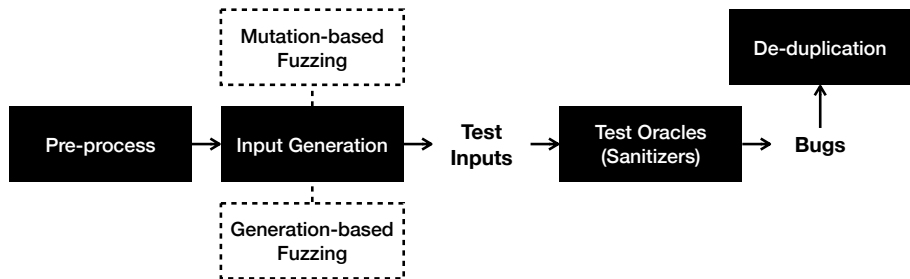
⁵<https://alastairreid.github.io/RelatedWork/papers/miller:cacm:1990/>



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- 1990 study found crashes in: adb, as, bc, cb, col, diction, emacs, eqn, ftp, indent, lex, look, m4, make, nroff, plot, prolog, ptx, refer!, spell, style, tsort, uniq, vgrind, vi



- **Pre-process** – prepare the SUT for fuzz testing
- **Input Generation** – generate test inputs
 - **Mutation-Based Fuzzing** – modify existing test inputs
 - **Generation-Based Fuzzing** – generate new test inputs
- **Test Oracles (Sanitizers)** – detect exceptional outcomes
- **De-duplication** – remove duplicate test inputs

- **Instrumentation** – **source-level** or **binary-level** modification of the SUT to collect information about the execution in compile time (**static**) or runtime (**dynamic**).

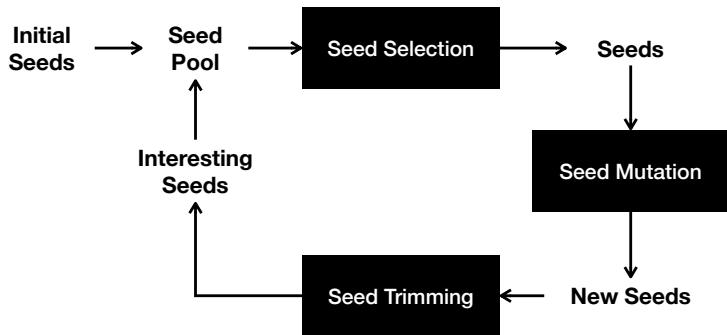
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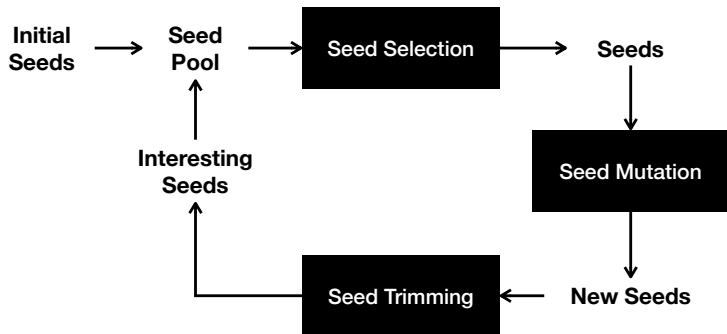
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 - **Libraries** – a driver program that calls functions in the library
 - **Kernels** – may fuzz user-land applications to test kernels
 - **IoT devices** – a driver communicate with the corresponding smartphone application.



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- **Mutation-Based Fuzzing** first initializes **seed pool** with the initial seeds, and then **mutates** them to generate new test inputs and **updates** the seed pool when a new test input is interesting.

- **Initial Seeds** – from the **existing test suite**, **manually crafted**, **inferred** from the SUT or specification.

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- **Seed Trimming** – filter out the **uninteresting** test inputs (e.g., **no coverage** increase).

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- **Encoder Model** – generates test inputs for **decoder programs** (e.g., image decoders, audio decoders, etc.) using the corresponding **encoder programs**.

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- They are usually **instrumented** into the SUT to collect information about the execution in compile time (**static**) or runtime (**dynamic**) with **runtime overhead**.

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