Testing: Coverage and Structural Coverage

Testing, Quality Assurance, and Maintenance Winter 2019

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based on slides by Prof. Marsha Chechik and Prof. Lin Tan



Introduction to Software Testing





How would you test this program?

floor(x) is the largest integer not greater than x.

```
def Foo (x, y):
    """ requires: x and y are int
    ensures: returns floor(max(x,y)/min(x, y))"""
    if x > y:
        return x / y
    else
        return y / x
```



Testing

Static Testing [at compile time]

- Static Analysis
- Review
 - -Walk-through [informal]
 - -Code inspection [formal]

Dynamic Testing [at run time]

- Black-box testing
- White-box testing

Commonly, testing refers to dynamic testing.



Complete Testing?

Poorly defined terms: "complete testing", "exhaustive testing", "full coverage"

The number of potential inputs are infinite.

Impossible to completely test a nontrivial system

- Practical limitations: Complete testing is prohibitive in time and cost [e.g., 30 branches, 50 branches, ...]
- Theoretical limitations: e.g. Halting problem

Need testing criteria



Test Case

Test Case: [informally]

- What you feed to software; and
- What the software should output in response.

Test Set: A set of test cases

Test Case: input values, expected results, prefix values, and postfix values necessary to evaluate software under test

Expected Results: The result that will be produced when executing the test if and only if the program satisfies its intended behaviour



Test Requirement & Coverage Criterion

Test Requirement: A test requirement is a specific element of a software artifact that a test case must satisfy or cover.

- Ice cream cone flavors: vanilla, chocolate, mint
- One test requirement: test one chocolate cone
- TR denotes a set of test requirements

A coverage criterion is a rule or collection of rules that impose test requirements on a test set.

- Coverage criterion is a recipe for generating TR in a systematic way.
- Flavor criterion [cover all flavors]
- TR = {flavor=chocolate, flavor=vanilla, flavor=mint}



Adequacy criteria

Adequacy criterion = set of test requirements

A test suite satisfies an adequacy criterion if

- all the tests succeed (pass)
- every test requirement in the criterion is satisfied by at least one of the test cases in the test suite.

Example:

the statement coverage adequacy criterion is satisfied by test suite S for program P if each executable statement in P is executed by at least one test case in S, and the outcome of each test execution was "pass"



Adequacy Criteria as Design Rules

Many design disciplines employ design rules

- e.g.: "traces (on a chip, on a circuit board) must be at least _____ wide and separated by at least ____"
- "Interstate highways must not have a grade greater than 6% without special review and approval"

Design rules do not guarantee good designs

 Good design depends on talented, creative, disciplined designers; design rules help them avoid or spot flaws

Test design is no different



Where do test requirements come from?

Functional (black box, specification-based): from software specifications

• Example: If spec requires robust recovery from power failure, test requirements should include simulated power failure

Structural (white or glass box): from code

• Example: Traverse each program loop one or more times.

Model-based: from model of system

- Models used in specification or design, or derived from code
- Example: Exercise all transitions in communication protocol model

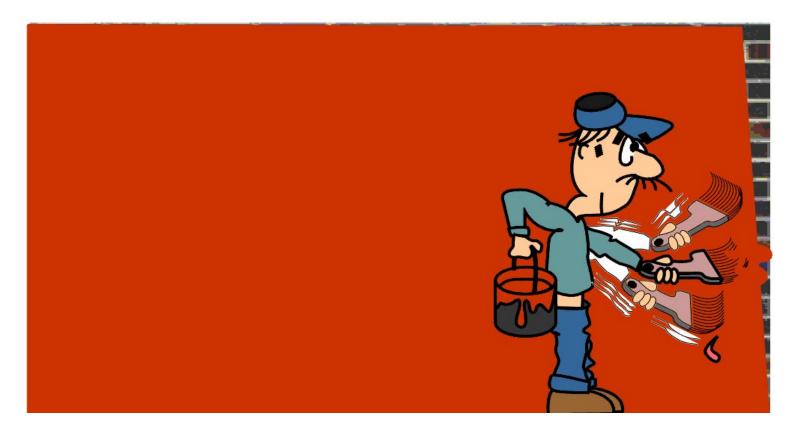
Fault-based: from hypothesized faults (common bugs)

• example: Check for buffer overflow handling (common vulnerability) by testing on very large inputs



Code Coverage

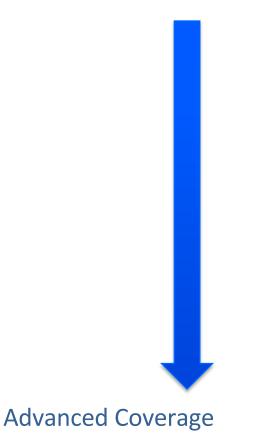
Introduced by Miller and Maloney in 1963





Coverage Criteria

Basic Coverage



·Line coverage

Statement

Function/Method coverage

Branch coverage

Decision coverage

Condition coverage

Condition/decision coverage

Modified condition/decision coverage

·Path coverage

·Loop coverage

•...

Mutation adequacy



Line Coverage

Percentage of source code lines executed by test cases.

- For developer easiest to work with
- Precise percentage depends on layout?
 - -int x = 10; if (z++ < x) y = x+z;
- Requires mapping back from binary?

In practice, coverage not based on lines, but on control flow graph



Control Flow Graph (CFG)

Represents the flow of execution in the program

G = (N, E, S, T) where

- the nodes N represent executable instructions (statement, statement fragments, or basic blocks);
- the edges E represent the potential transfer of control;
- S is a designated start node;
- T is a designated final node
- E = { (n_i, n_j) | syntactically, the execution of n_j follows the execution of n_i }

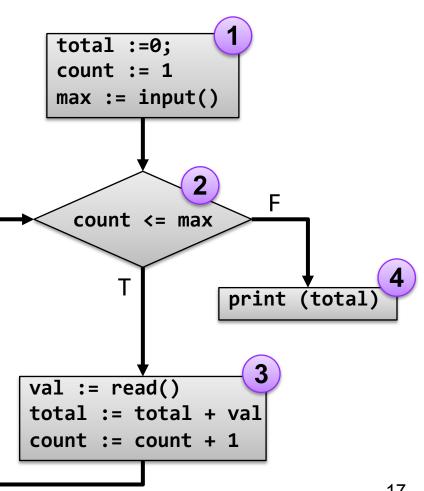
Nodes may correspond to single statements, parts of statements, or several statements (i.e., basic blocks)

Execution of a node means that the instructions associated with a node are executed in order from the first instruction to the last

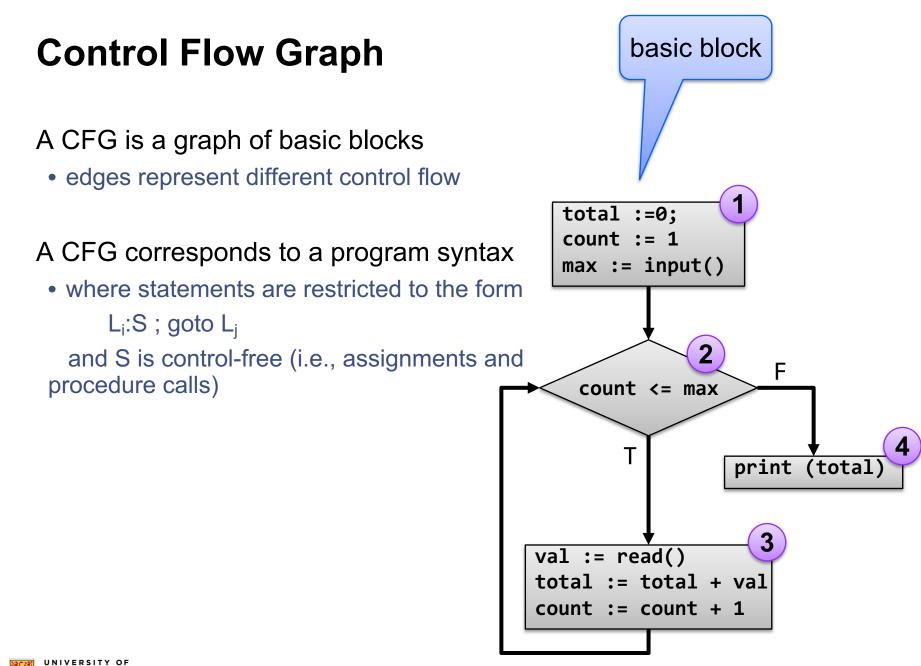


Example of a Control Flow Graph

```
total := 0;
count := 1;
max := input();
while (count <= max)
  do {
   val := input();
   total := total+val;
   count := count+1};
print (total)
```

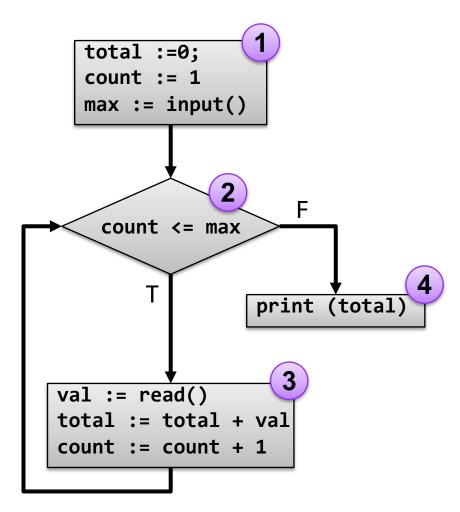






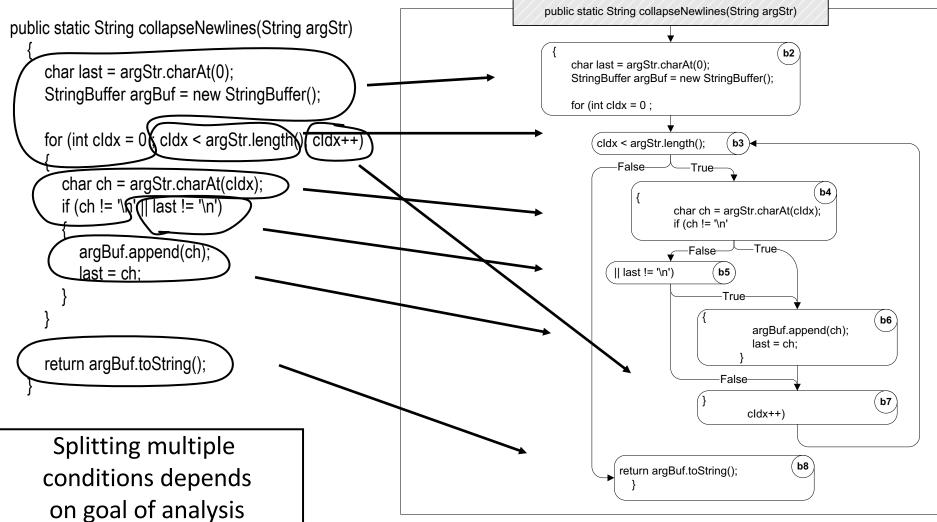
Control Flow Graph as a Goto Program

- 1: total:=0; count := 1; max = input(); goto 2
- 2: if count <= max
 then goto 3 else goto 4</pre>
- 3: val := read();
 total := total + val;
 count := count + 1; goto 2
- 4: print(total)





Deriving a Control Flow Graph





Infeasible Paths

Every executable sequence in the represented component corresponds to a path in G

Not all paths correspond to executable sequences

- requires additional semantic information
- "infeasible paths" are not an indication of a fault

CFG usually overestimates the executable behavior



Adequacy criterion: each statement (or node in the CFG) must be executed at least once

```
void foo (int z) {
    int x = 10;
    if (z++ < x) {
        x=+ z;
    }
}</pre>
```

Coverage:

executed statements



Adequacy criterion: each statement (or node in the CFG) must be executed at least once

```
void foo (int z) {
    int x = 10;
    if (z++ < x) {
        x=+ z;
    }
}</pre>
```

```
@Test
void testFoo() {
  foo(10);
}
```

Coverage:

executed statements



Adequacy criterion: each statement (or node in the CFG) must be executed at least once

```
void foo (int z) {
    int x = 10;
    if (z++ < x) {
        x=+ z;
    }
}</pre>
```

```
@Test
void testFoo() {
  foo(10);
}
```

Coverage:

executed statements



Adequacy criterion: each statement (or node in the CFG) must be executed at least once

```
void foo (int z) {
    int x = 10;
    if (z++ < x) {
        x=+ z;
    }
}</pre>
```

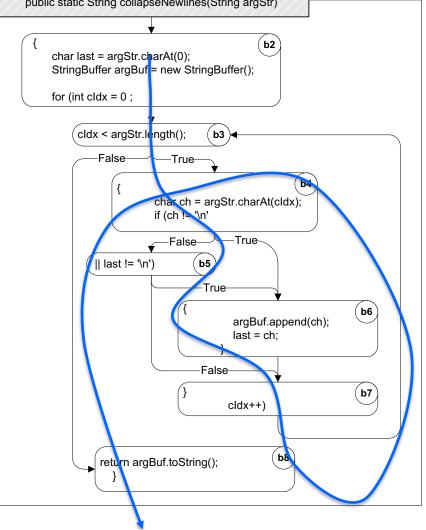
```
@Test
void testFoo() {
  foo(5);
}
// 100% Statement coverage
```

Coverage Level:

executed statements



Control Flow Based Adequacy Criteria public static String collapseNewlines(String argStr) char last = argStr.charAt(0); for (int cldx = 0; cldx < argStr.length(); Every block / False -True Statement? if (ch != '\n' -False || last != '\n') b5 Input: "a" Trace: b2,b3,b4,b5,b6,b7,b3,b8





Branch / Edge Coverage

Every branch going out of node executed at least once

- Decision-, all-edges-, coverage
- Coverage: percentage of edges hit.

Each branch predicate must be both true and false

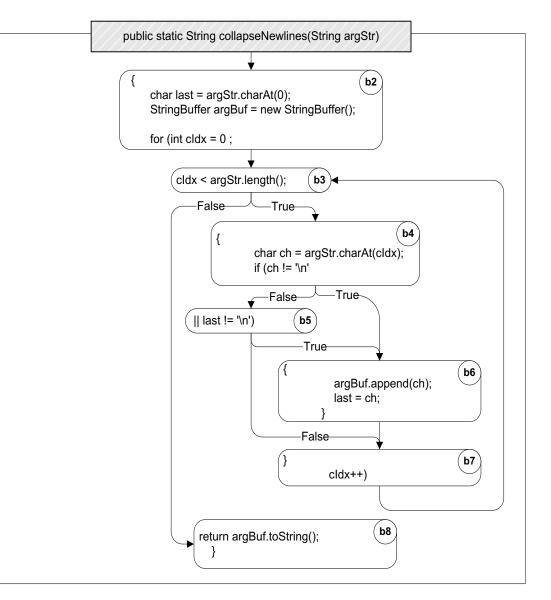


Branch Coverage

One longer input: "a\n\n"

Alternatively:

Block ("a") and "\n" and "\n\n"





Infeasible Test Requirements

```
if (false)
   unreachableCall();
Real code from the Linux kernel:
```

```
while (0)
  {local_irq_disable();}
```

Statement coverage criterion cannot be satisfied for many programs.



Coverage Level

Given a set of test requirements **TR** and a test set **T**, the *coverage level* is the ratio of the number of test requirements satisfied by **T** to the size of **TR**.

TR = {flavor=chocolate, flavor=vanilla, flavor=mint} Test set 1 T1 = {3 chocolate cones, 1 vanilla cone} Coverage Level = 2/3 = 66.7%

Coverage levels helps evaluate the goodness of a test set, especially in the presence of infeasible test requirements.



Unit Testing

A unit test exercises a unit of functionality to test its behavior

A unit test framework provides a standard mechanism for

- specifying a test (setup, execution, expected result, teardown)
- executing a test
- generating test reports

Python includes a Unit Test framework called unittest

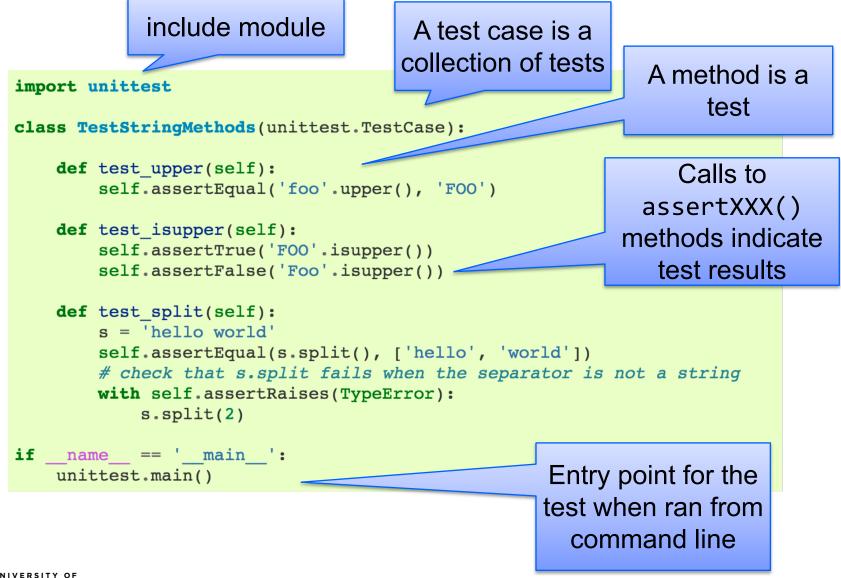
<u>https://docs.python.org/2/library/unittest.html</u>

It is important to design your code with testing in mind

• e.g., a code that simply reads and writes to standard input and output is harder to test than code that provides a more structured interaction



Anatomy of a Unit Test





Designing for Testing

Factor the program into meaningful units / components

• e.g., parser, command processor, components, data structures, etc.

Each unit should have a well defined specification

- what are legal inputs
- what are legal outputs
- how inputs and outputs are passed around

Avoid monolithic design that reads standard input and writes standard output

Good design requires more work

- additional functionality specifically for testing / debugging purposes
- but ultimately will save time of the overall development



Subsumption

Criteria Subsumption: A test criterion C1 *subsumes* C2 if and only if **every** set of test cases that satisfies criterion C1 also satisfies C2

Must be true for every set of test cases



Subsumption is a rough guide for comparing criteria, although it's hard to use in practice.



More powerful coverage criterion helps find more bugs!

int d[2];

Path [N1, N2, N3, N4, N5]: satisfies node coverage but not edge coverage. The corresponding test case passes. No bug found.

Path [N1, N3, N4, N5]: buffer overflow bug!

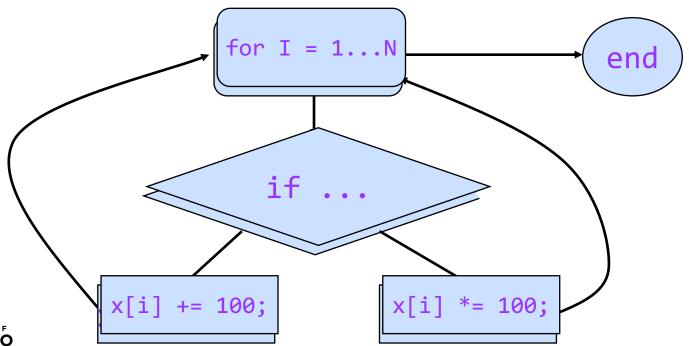


Path Coverage

Adequacy criterion: each path must be executed at least once Coverage:

executed paths

paths

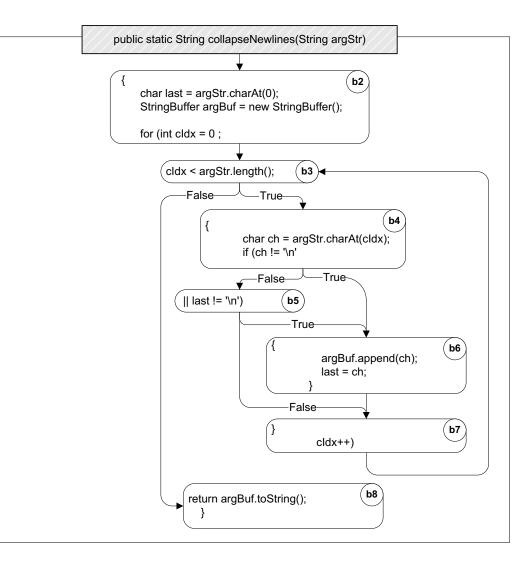




Path-based criteria?

All paths?

Which paths?





Branch vs Path Coverage

if(cond1) f1(); else f2(); if(cond2) f3(); else f4();

How many test cases to achieve branch coverage?



if(cond1) f1(); else f2(); if(cond2) f3(); else f4();

How many test cases to achieve branch coverage?

Two, for example:

- 1. cond1: true, cond2: true
- 2. cond1: false, cond2: false



if(cond1) f1(); else f2(); if(cond2) f3(); else f4();

How about path coverage?



if(cond1) f1(); else f2(); if(cond2) f3(); else f4();

How about path coverage?

Four:

- 1. cond1: true, cond2: true
- 2. cond1: false, cond2: true
- 3. cond1: true, cond2: false
- 4. cond1: false, cond2: false



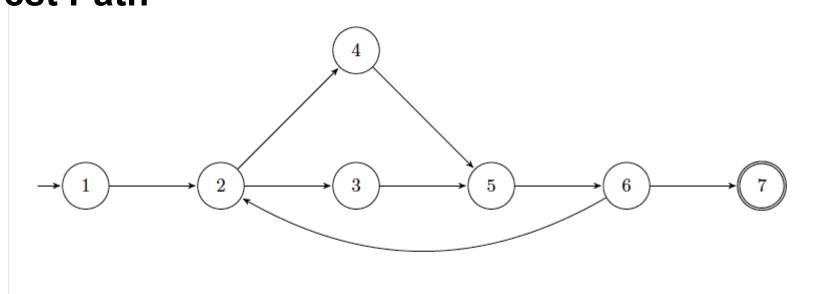
```
if( cond1 )
   f1();
else
   f2();
if( cond2 )
   f3();
else
   f4();
if( cond3 )
   f5();
else
   f6();
if( cond4 )
   f7();
else
   f8();
if( cond5 )
   f9():
else
   f10();
if( cond6 )
   f11();
else
   f12();
if( cond7 )
   f13();
else
   f14();
```

How many test cases for path coverage?

2ⁿ test cases, where n is the number of conditions



Test Path



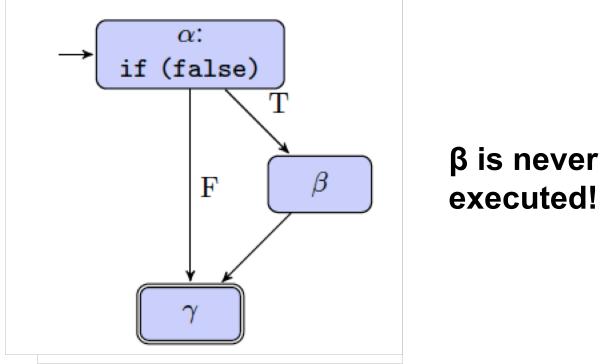
A test path is a path p [possibly of length 0] that starts at some node in N₀ and ends at some node in N_f.

Test path examples:

- [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7]
- [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7]



Paths and Semantics



Some paths in a control flow graph may not correspond to program *semantics*.

In path coverage, we generally only talk about the *syntax* of a graph -- its nodes and edges -- and not its *semantics*.



Syntactical and Semantic Reachability

A node n is syntactically reachable from m if there exists a path from m to n.

A node n is *semantically* reachable if one of the paths from m to n can be reached on some input.

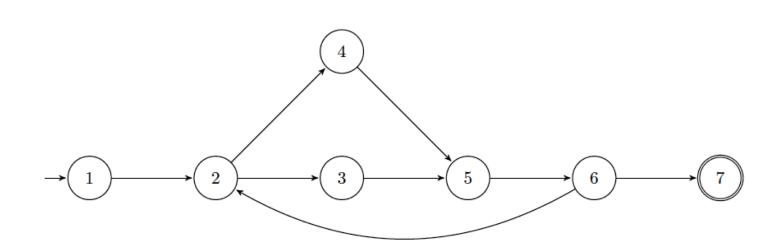
Standard graph algorithms when applied to Control Flow Graph can only compute syntactic reachability.

Semantic reachability is undecidable.



Reachability

Let reach_G(X) denote the sub-graph of G that is (syntactically) reachable from X, where X is either a node, an edge, a set of nodes, or a set of edges.

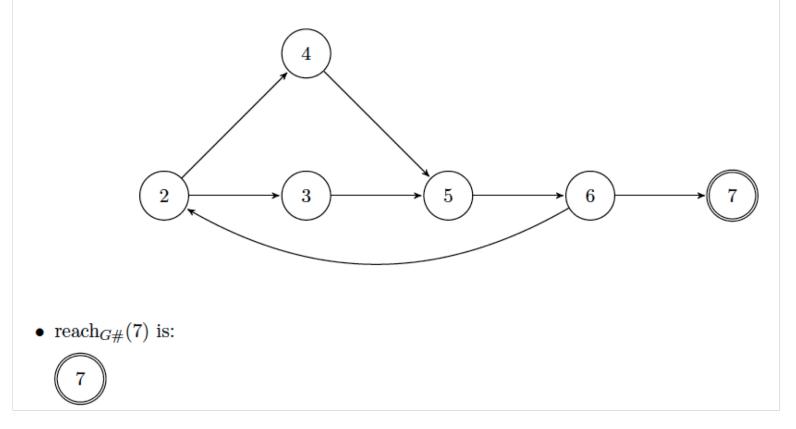


In this example, reach_G(1) is the whole graph G.



Syntactical Reachability

• reach_{G#}(2) is the subgraph that is syntactically reachable from node 2.





Connect Test Cases and Test Paths

Connect test cases and test paths with a mapping $path_{G}$ from test cases to test paths

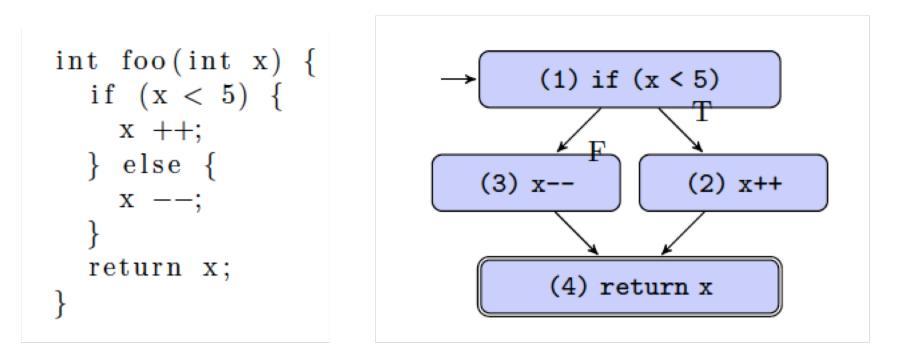
- e.g., $path_G[t]$ is the set of test paths corresponding to test case t.
- Usually just write path, as G is obvious from the context
- Lift the definition of path to test set T by defining path(T)

$$\operatorname{path}(T) = {\operatorname{path}(t) | t \in T}.$$

• Each test case gives at least one test path. If the software is deterministic, then each test case gives exactly one test path; otherwise, multiple test cases may arise from one test path.



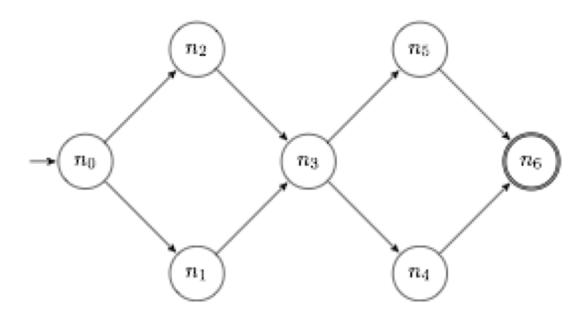
Connecting Test Cases, Test Paths, and CFG



- Test case: x = 5; test path: [(1), (3), (4)].
- Test case: x = 2; test path: [(1), (2), (4)].



Node Coverage



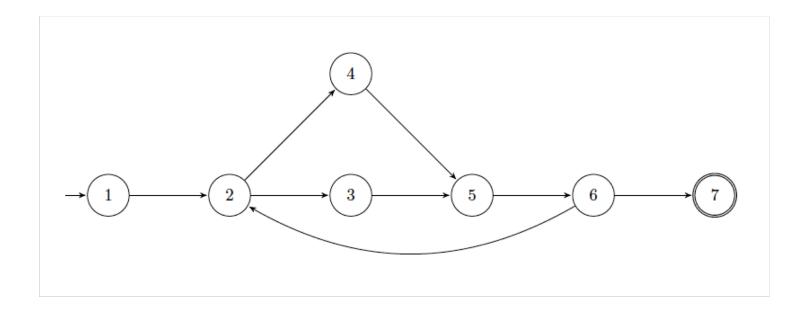
Node coverage: For each node $n \in reachG[N_0]$, TR contains a requirement to visit node n.

Node Coverage [NC]: TR contains each **reachable** node in G. TR = {n0,n1,n2,n3,n4,n5,n6}

a.k.a. statement coverage



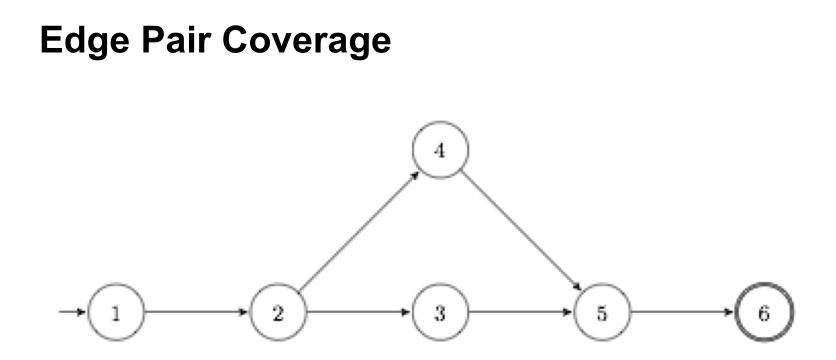
Edge Coverage (a.k.a. Branch Coverage)



Edge Coverage [EC]: TR contains each **reachable** path of length up to 1, inclusive, in G.

 $TR = \{[1,2], [2,4], [2,3], [3,5], [4,5], [5,6] [6,7], [6,2]\}$





Edge-Pair Coverage [EPC]: TR contains each **reachable** path of length up to 2, inclusive, in G. TR= {[1,2,3], [1,2,4], [2,3,5], [2,4,5], [3,5,6], [4,5,6]}



Simple Path

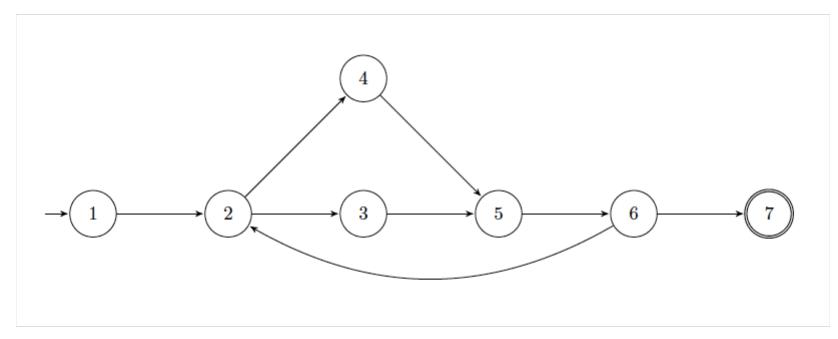
A path is simple if no node appears more than once in the path, except that the first and last nodes may be the same.

Some properties of simple paths:

- no internal loops;
- can bound their length;
- can create any path by composing simple paths; and
- many simple paths exist [too many!]



Simple Path Examples



Simple path examples:

- [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7]
- [1, 2, 4]
- [2,3,5,6,2]

Not simple Path: [1,2,3,5,6,2,4]



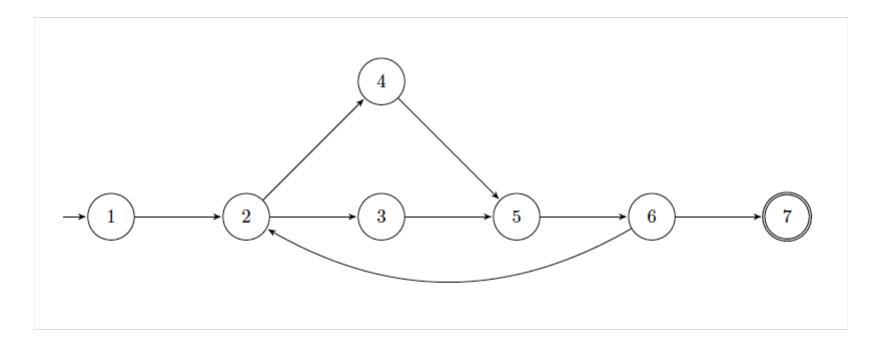
Prime Path

Because there are so many simple paths, let's instead consider prime paths, which are simple paths of maximal length.

A path is prime if it is simple and does not appear as a proper subpath of any other simple path.



Prime Path Examples



Prime path examples:

- [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7]
- [1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7]
- [6, 2, 4, 5, 6]

Not a prime path: [3, 5, 6, 7]



Prime Path Coverage

Prime Path Coverage [PPC]: TR contains each prime path in G.

There is a problem with using PPC as a coverage criterion: a prime path may be infeasible but contains feasible simple paths.

• How to address this issue?

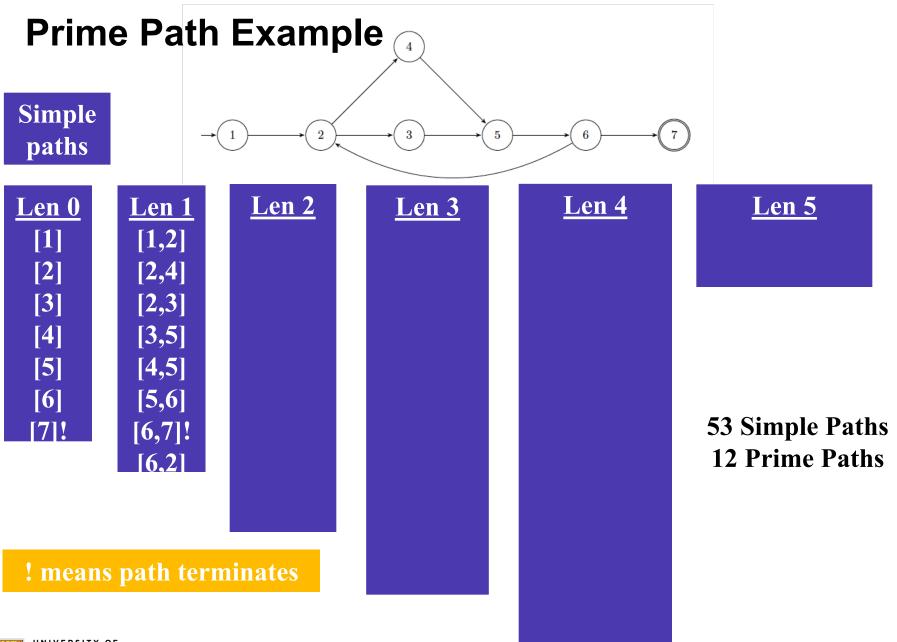


More Path Coverage Criterions

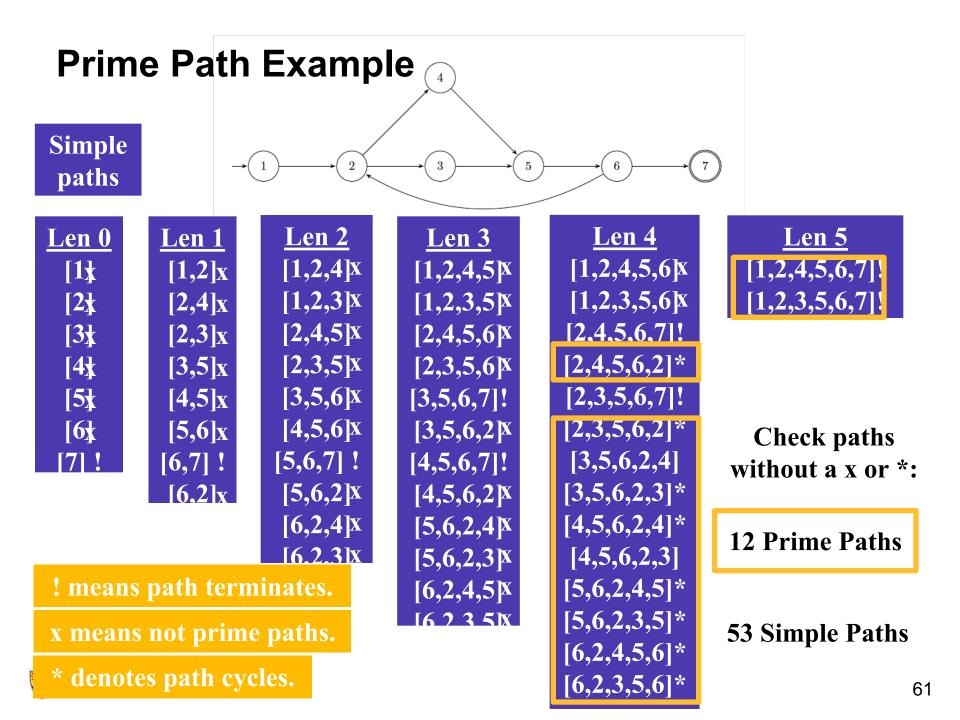
Complete Path Coverage [CPC]: TR contains all paths in G.

Sof paths.



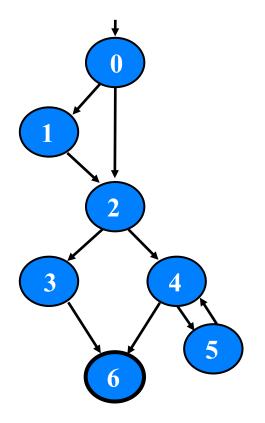






Prime Path Example (2)

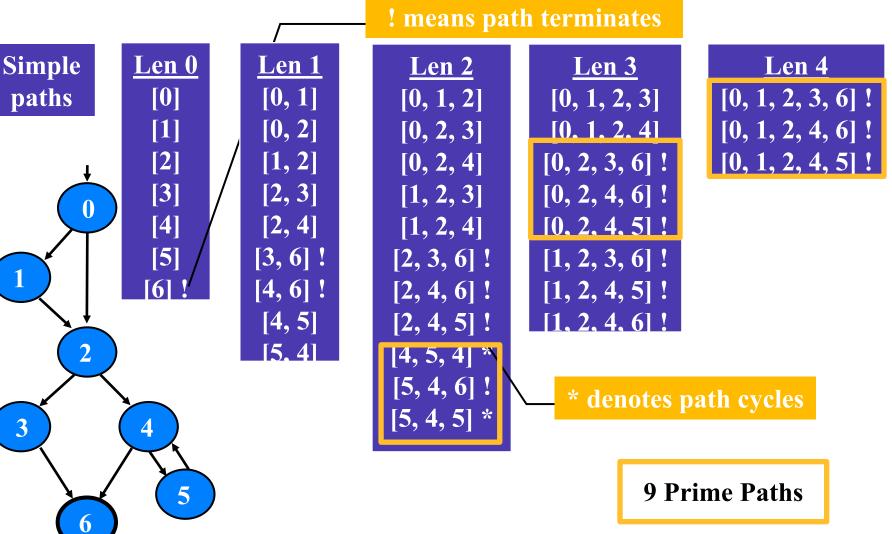
This graph has 38 simple paths Only 9 *prime paths*



Prime Paths	
[0, 1, 2, 3, 6]	
[0,1,2,4,5]	
[0, 1, 2, 4, 6]	
[0, 2, 3, 6]	
[0, 2, 4, 5]	
[0, 2, 4, 6]	
[5,4,6]	
[4,5,4]	
[5, 4, 5]	



Prime Path Example (2)





Examples of NC, EC, EPC, CPC

<u>Node Coverage</u> TR = { 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 } Test Paths: [0, 1, 2, 3, 6] [0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 4, 6]

Edge Coverage TR = { [0,1], [0,2], [1,2], [2,3], [2,4], [3,6], [4,5], [4,6], [5,4] } Test Paths: [0, 1, 2, 3, 6] [0, 2, 4, 5, 4, 6]

 $\frac{Edge-Pair Coverage}{TR = \{ [0,1,2], [0,2,3], [0,2,4], [1,2,3], [1,2,4], [2,3,6], \\ [2,4,5], [2,4,6], [4,5,4], [5,4,5], [5,4,6] \} \}}{Test Paths: [0, 1, 2, 3, 6] [0, 2, 3, 6] [0, 2, 4, 5, 4, 5, 4, 6]}$

Complete Path Coverage

Test Paths: [0, 1, 2, 3, 6] [0, 1, 2, 4, 6] [0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 4, 6] [0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 4, 5, 4, 6] [0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 4, 5, 4, 5, 4, 6] ...



2

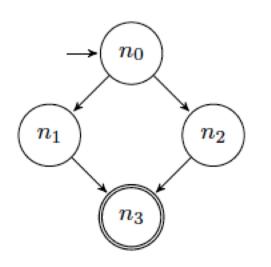
6

4

5

3

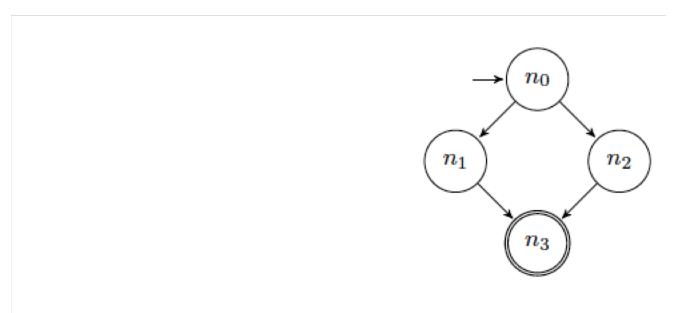
Prime Path Coverage vs. Complete Path Coverage



- Prime paths:
- $\operatorname{path}(t_1) =$
- $\operatorname{path}(t_2) =$
- $T_1 = \{t_1, t_2\}$ satisfies both PPC and CPC.



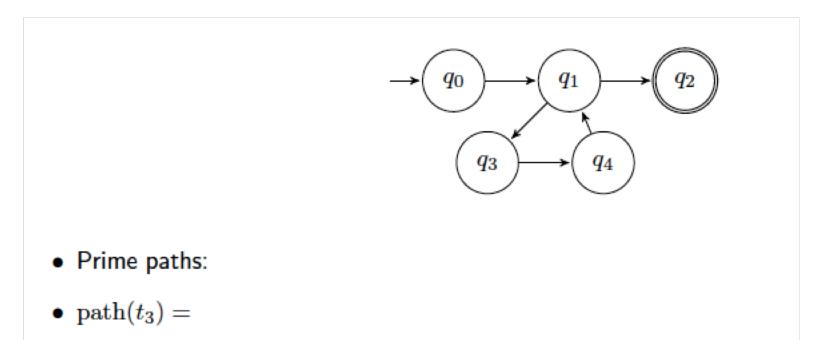
Prime Path Coverage vs. Complete Path Coverage



- Prime paths: [n0, n1, n3], [n0, n2, n3]
- $path(t_1) = [n0, n1, n3]$
- $path(t_2) = [n0, n2, n3]$
- $T_1 = \{t_1, t_2\}$ satisfies both PPC and CPC.



Prime Path Coverage vs. Complete Path Coverage (2)

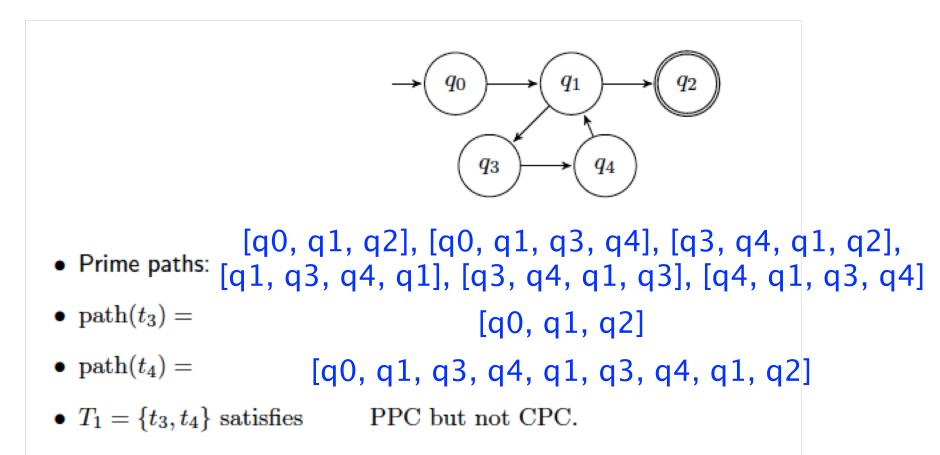


- $path(t_4) =$
- $T_1 = \{t_3, t_4\}$ satisfies

PPC but not CPC.

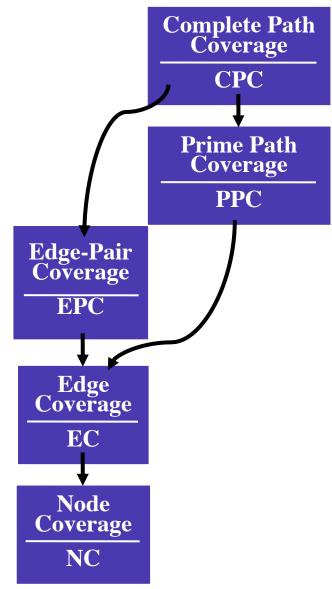


Prime Path Coverage vs. Complete Path Coverage (2)





Graph Coverage Criteria Subsumption

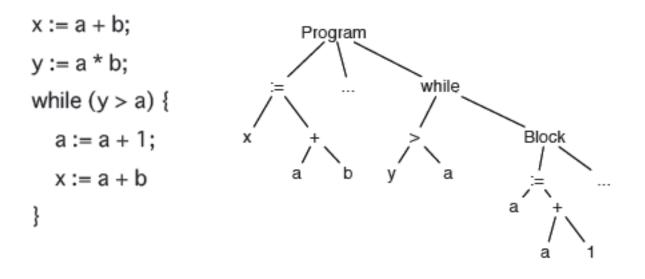




How do we measure coverage?

First:

- 1. Parse the source code to build an Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)
- 2. Analyze the AST to build a Control Flow Graph (CFG)
- 3. Count points of interest
 - (total # of statements, branches, etc.)
- 4. Instrument the AST using the CFG
 - add tracing statements in the code





How do we measure coverage?

Then:

- 1. Transform AST back to instrumented code
- 2. Recompile and run the test suite on the recompiled code
- 3. Collect tracing data
 - (line 1 executed, line 3 executed, etc.)
- 4. Calculate coverage:
 - # traced points / total # points



Coverage May Affect Test Outcomes

Heisenberg effect

• the act of observing a system inevitably alters its state.

Coverage analysis changes the code by adding tracing statements

Instrumentation can change program behaviour



Enabled In-code Assertions Mess Up Branch Coverage Reporting

assert P Turned into:

if assertion-enabled then
 if P then skip()
 else abort()
else skip()

Thus 4 branches!

Reported as such

Assertions shouldn't fail

Resulting branch coverage reports:

- Not useful with assertion checking enabled
- Without it, they miss invariants



Coverage: Useful or Harmful?

Measuring coverage (% of satisfied test obligations) can be a useful indicator ...

- Of progress toward a thorough test suite, of trouble spots requiring more attention
- ... or a dangerous seduction
- Coverage is only a proxy for thoroughness or adequacy
- It's easy to improve coverage without improving a test suite (much easier than designing good test cases)

The only measure that really matters is effectiveness



EXERCISES



Exercise 1: Bridge Coverage

Bridge Coverage (BC): If removing an edge adds unreachable nodes to the graph, then this edge is a bridge. The set of test requirements for BC contains all bridges.

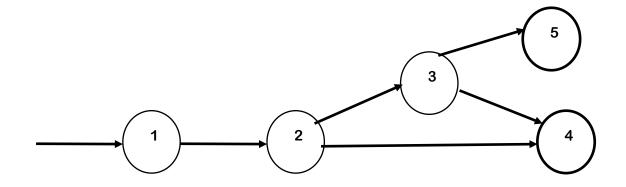
Assume that a graph contains at least two nodes, and all nodes in a graph are reachable from the initial nodes.

- (a) Does BC subsume Node Coverage (NC). If yes, justify your answer. If no, give a counterexample.
- (b) Does NC subsume BC? If yes, justify your answer. If no, give a counterexample



Bridge Coverage: Part (a)

Bridge Coverage does not subsume Node Coverage.



TRBC = {[1,2], [2,3], [3,5]}

 $TRNC = \{[1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}\}$

Test path [1,2,3,5] satisfies BC, but not NC because node 4 is not visited.



Bridge Coverage: Part (b)

NC subsumes BC

Key points for the proof:

- For any bridge [a, b], any test case that visits b must also visit the edge [a, b] (can be proved by contradiction).
- Any test set that satisfies NC must visit node b (TR of NC contains all nodes, including node b). Therefore, for any bridge [a, b], the test set will visit it. Therefore, NC subsumes BC.



Exercise 2 (1/2)

Answer questions [a]-[g] for the graph defined by the following sets:

- N ={1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7}
- N0 = {1}
- Nf = {7}
- E = {[1, 2], [1, 7], [2, 3], [2, 4], [3, 2], [4, 5], [4, 6], [5, 6], [6, 1]}

Also consider the following test paths:

- t0 = [1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 1, 7]
- t1 = [1, 2, 3, 2, 4, 6, 1, 7]



Exercise 2 (2/2)

[a] Draw the graph.

- [b] List the test requirements for EPC. [Hint: You should get 12 requirements of length 2].
- [c] Does the given set of test paths satisfy EPC? If not, identify what is missing.
- [d] List the test requirements for NC, EC and PPC on the graph.
- [e] List a test path that achieve NC but not EC on the graph.
- [f] List a test path that achieve EC but not PPC on the graph.



Exercise 2: Partial Solutions (1/2)

[a] Draw the graph.

[b] List the test requirements for EPC. [Hint: You should get 12 requirements of length 2].

• The edge pairs are: {[1, 2, 3], [1, 2, 4], [2, 3, 2], [2, 4, 5], [2, 4, 6], [3, 2, 3], [3, 2, 4], [4, 5, 6], [4, 6, 1], [5, 6, 1], [6, 1, 2], [6, 1, 7] }

[c] Does the given set of test paths satisfy EPC? If not, identify what is missing.

• No. Neither t0 nor t1 visits the following edge-pairs: {[3, 2, 3], [6, 1, 2]}



Exercise 2: Partial Solutions (2/2)

[d] TR for NC, EC, and PPC.

- TRNC =
- TREC =
- TRPPC = {[3, 2, 4, 6, 1, 7], [3, 2, 4, 5, 6, 1, 7], [4, 6, 1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3], [3, 2, 3], [2, 3, 2], [1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 1], [1, 2, 4, 6, 1], [2, 4, 6, 1, 2], [2, 4, 5, 6, 1, 2], [4, 6, 1, 2, 4], [4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 4], [5, 6, 1, 2, 4, 5], [6, 1, 2, 4, 6], [6, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6]}

[e] A test path that achieve NC but not EC.

• [1, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 6, 1, 7] does not cover edge [4, 6].

[f] A test path that achieve EC but not PPC.

• [1, 2, 3, 2, 4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 4, 6, 1, 7] does not cover prime paths such as [3,2,3].

