

CS_313 High Integrity Systems/ CS_M13 Critical Systems

Course Notes

Chapter 7: Verification, Validation, Testing

Anton Setzer

Dept. of Computer Science, Swansea University

<http://www.cs.swan.ac.uk/~csetzer/lectures/critsys/14/index.html>

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7 (a) Basic Notions

7 (b) Dynamic testing

7 (c) Static Analysis

7 (d) Modelling

(a) Basic Notions

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- ▶ Verification is the process of determining whether the output of a life cycle phase fulfils the requirements specified in the previous phase.
 - ▶ So task is
 - ▶ **not** to demonstrate that the **output** of a development phase is **actually correct**,
 - ▶ but that the **output of a phase conforms to its input**.
 - ▶ Therefore mistakes in early phases of a project may **propagate** through later stages without detection.

Validation

- ▶ **Validation** is the process of confirming that the specification of a phase or of the complete system is appropriate and is consistent with the customer requirements.
- ▶ Validation
 - ▶ might be performed on individual phases,
 - ▶ but is usually performed on the complete system.

Testing

- ▶ Testing is performed at various stages during the life cycle of a system.
- ▶ There are three main activities.
 - ▶ **Module testing**.
 - ▶ **System integration testing**.
 - ▶ **System validation testing**.

Testing

- ▶ **Testing** is the process used to verify or validate a system or its components.
 - ▶ Sometimes **testing** is used for testing, in which one executes the software in order to check whether it is performing as required.
 - ▶ We use testing in the wider sense and **dynamic testing** for this more restricted version of testing.

Main Testing Activities

- ▶ **Module testing** is the evaluation of small, simple functions of hardware or software.
 - ▶ Faults detected during module testing are usually easy to locate and to rectify.
- ▶ **System integration testing** investigates the characteristics of a collection of modules.
 - ▶ Usually investigates the correct interaction between modules.
 - ▶ Faults are more difficult to find and more expensive to rectify.

Main Testing Activities

- ▶ **System validation testing** tests whether the complete system satisfies the requirements.
 - ▶ Problems detected at this stage are usually due to weaknesses of customer requirements or the specification.
 - ▶ Problems detected are usually extremely costly to correct, since modifications have to propagate through the entire development process.

Dynamic Testing

- ▶ **Dynamic testing** is the execution of a system or component in order to investigate its characteristics.
- ▶ The tests may be carried out
 - ▶ in the **system's natural working environment**,
 - ▶ or within **simulation of that environment**.
 - ▶ Often more cost effective.

Testing Methods

- ▶ There are three main testing methods:
 - ▶ **Dynamic testing.**
 - ▶ **Static analysis.**
 - ▶ **Modelling.**

Dynamic Testing and Simulation

- ▶ Dynamic testing might as well be carried out on one or a few system components by using **simulation**.
 - ▶ Especially of advantage if one simulates **hardware** which has **not** been **developed yet**.
 - ▶ Then simulation is **cost effective**, since it allows to compare various designs of the hardware involved.
 - ▶ However, simulation **never** provides **complete information** on the system behaviour, e.g.
 - ▶ **real-time operation**,
 - ▶ **problems with timing**.

Static Analysis

- ▶ **Static analysis** is the investigation of the characteristics of a system or component without operating it.
- ▶ **Examples:**
 - ▶ Walkthroughs,
 - ▶ formal proofs,
 - ▶ data flow analysis.
- ▶ Automated software testing packages which carry out static analysis are called **static code analysis tools**.
- ▶ Many engineers mean by testing only dynamic testing, not static analysis.

Use of Testing Methods

- ▶ Typically, a software life cycle involves
 - ▶ dynamic testing,
 - ▶ static analysis,
 - ▶ some form of modelling.

Modelling

- ▶ **Modelling** means the mathematical representation of the behaviour of a system or component.
 - ▶ Usually carried out at an early stage, in order to investigate the basic nature of the proposed system or its environment.
 - ▶ **Animation** of a formal specification is an example of modelling.

Black/White Box Testing

- ▶ Testing methods can be categorised by the information available when performing the work.
 - ▶ **Black box testing** means the test engineer has no knowledge about the implementation of the system.
 - ▶ **White box testing** means that the test engineer has access to the implementation of the system.

Black Box Testing

- ▶ In black box testing, the test engineer relies completely on the specification of the system.
- ▶ Therefore it is sometimes called requirements-based testing.
- ▶ May be applied to individual modules or (more common) to subsystems or the complete system.
- ▶ Is widely used for testing software tools like compilers.

Black/White-Box vs. Static/Dynamic

- ▶ **Dynamic testing** can be white-box and black-box testing.
- ▶ **Static analysis** is necessarily white-box testing.
- ▶ **Mathematical modelling** doesn't use the system software and hardware, so categories white/black-box testing don't apply to it.

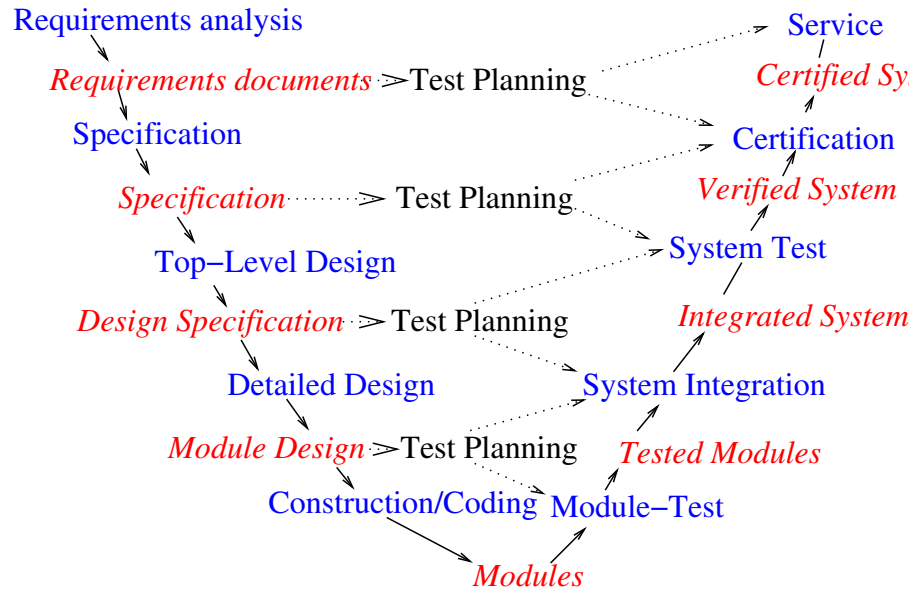
Comparison

- ▶ **Advantage of Black Box Testing:**
 - ▶ Greatest level of independence between developer and evaluator.
- ▶ **Advantage of White Box Testing**
 - ▶ The test engineer can use information about the implementation in order to develop better tests.

Planning for Verification and Validation

- ▶ **Test planning** is an essential part of the software life cycle.
- ▶ The next slide shows test planning within the V-model.

V-Model and Test Planning



Testing for Safety

- ▶ Testing for safety requires that tests are performed which show that **each identified hazard is effectively countered**.
 - ▶ **Dynamic testing** might be **sufficient**.
 - ▶ Since **exhaustive dynamic testing** is impossible, usually **static analysis** and **mathematical modelling** is **required**.
 - ▶ Properties like **reliability** and **failure rates** can usually **not** be **tested dynamically**, therefore static analysis is required.

Testing for Safety

- ▶ **Overall safety validation** is the test that a system is in accordance with the safety requirements.
 - ▶ The results of it are documented in an **overall safety validation report**.
- ▶ Some standards require **traceability**, i.e. that the key safety requirements are traceable throughout all stages of the software life cycle.

The Roles of Testing

- ▶ Testing has three purposes in a safety-critical project:
 - ▶ **Development testing.**
 - ▶ **Validation testing.**
 - ▶ **Production testing.**

Development/Validation Testing

- ▶ **Development testing** is aimed at **locating** faults within the system, so that they may be removed.
 - ▶ Uses dynamic, static and modelling techniques.
- ▶ **Validation testing** aims at demonstrating the absence of faults and to demonstrate other positive features.
 - ▶ Uses again dynamic, static and modelling techniques.

Production Testing

- ▶ **Production testing** aims at testing whether a individual unit has defects as a result of manufacturing or component fault.
 - ▶ Tests the accuracy of the replication of the appropriate design.
 - ▶ Production tests of software are easy and use usually techniques like checksums.
 - ▶ Production tests of hardware are very complicated,
 - ▶ since the number of possible faults is extremely big.
 - ▶ Production testing is always **dynamic**.

Material Moved to Additional Material

The material for this subsection has been moved to the additional material, which is available from the website.

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