CS 521/621
Course Overview:
Static and Dynamic Analyses

Last time
What did we talk about?

Why is it important to study software engineering?

Just like cars

- US automobile industry used to be very complacent about quality
  - lost a significant amount of market share
  - complacency about software quality could lead to the same result

- There are many recalls for automobiles
  - some fixed for free

- There are many defects in software
  - some fixed for free
  - some fixed in the next release
  - customer paying for the upgrade

Why is analysis important?
Trends in Software Expansion (Bernstein, 1997)

Expansion Factor

The ratio of machine lines of code to a source line of code

1
10
100
1000
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
Order of Magnitude Increase Every Twenty Years

Significant increase in software control

- 1960
- 8% of F-4 Fighter capability was provided by software

- 2000
- 85% of F-22 Fighter capability is provided by software

Accidents

- USS Yorktown
  http://www.slothmud.org/~hayward/misc_humor/nt_navy.html
  Suffered a systems failure when bad data was fed into its computers during maneuvers off the coast of Cape Charles, VA
  Ship towed into the Naval base at Norfolk, VA, because a database overflow caused its propulsion system to fail
  Took two days of pier-side maintenance to fix the problem

- Ariane Five
  http://www.ima.umn.edu/~arnold/disasters/ariane5rep.html
  Reused a module developed for Ariane 4, which assumed that the horizontal velocity component would not overflow a 16-bit variable
  Not true for Ariane 5, leading to self-destruction roughly 40 seconds after launch

Some logistics

- 521 vs. 621
  - 621 is graduate students only
  - 521 is undergraduate or graduate
  - the material is the same, the midterm is the same, the assignments are the same
  - only three differences:
    - 621 students must do a project + 1 paper presentation
    - 521 students must do 2 paper presentations
    - Grading (scaling) is separate

I want to sign up for 521/621

- The class is full
- If you are not registered for the class, it is unlikely that you can register at this point.
Any questions?

Today’s (and not only today’s) plan

- Static analysis
- Dynamic analysis
- Model checking
- Mutation testing
- Bug localization
- Symbolic execution

Areas we will cover in this course

- Static analysis
- Dynamic analysis
- Model checking
- Mutation testing
- Bug localization
- Symbolic execution

As we go over each topic...

- Think whether this sounds interesting
- Think about what kind of a tool you could make that uses this
- You are all programmers: think about things you’ve done while programming that were hard, and how these kinds of analysis might make it easier

Static Analysis

- Two kinds we’ll consider:
  - Manual
  - Automatic

Manual Reviews

- Manual static analysis methods
  - Reviews, walkthroughs, inspections
- Most can be applied at any step in the lifecycle
- Have been shown to improve reliability, but
  - often the first thing dropped when time is tight
  - labor intensive
  - often done informally, no data/history, not repeatable
Reviews and walkthroughs

- **Reviews**
  - author or one reviewer leads a presentation of the artifact
  - review is driven by presentation, issues raised

- **Walkthroughs**
  - usually informal reviews of source code
  - step-by-step, line-by-line review

Inspections

- **Software inspections**
  - formal, multi-stage process
  - significant background & preparation
  - led by moderator
  - many variations of this approach

Experimental results

- software inspections have repeatedly been shown to be cost effective
- increases front-end costs
  - ~15% increase to pre-code cost
- decreases overall cost

IBM study

- Doubled number of lines of code produced per person
  - some of this due to inspection process
- Reduced faults by 2/3
- Found 60-90% of the faults
- Found faults close to when they were introduced

The sooner a fault is found the less costly it is to fix

Why are inspections effective?

- Knowing the product will be scrutinized causes developers to produce a better product (Hawthorne effect)
- Having others scrutinize a product increases the probability that faults will be found
- Walkthroughs and reviews are not as formal as inspections, but appear to also be effective
  - hard to get empirical results

What are the deficiencies?

- Tend to focus on error detection
  - what about other “ilities” — maintainability, portability, etc?
- Not applied consistently/rigorously
  - inspection shows statistical improvement
- Human-intensive and often makes ineffective use of human resources
  - skilled software engineer reviewing coding standards, spelling, etc.
- Lucent study: 3M LoCS added to 5M LoCS required ~1500 inspections, ~5 people/inspection
  - no automated support
Automatic static analysis

What can you tell me about this code:

```java
public int square(int x) {
    return x * x;
}
```

Automatic static analysis

What about this code:

```java
public double weird_sqrt(int x) {
    if (x > 0)
        return sqrt(x);
    else
        return 0;
}
```

Computing Control Flow Graphs (CFGs)

```
Procedure AVG
S1  count = 0
S2  fread(fptr, n)
S3  if (n >= 0) goto S7
S4  return (error)
S5  goto S9
S6  num[count] = n
S7  count ++
S8  goto S9
S9  avg = mean(nums.count)
S10 return(avg)
```

CFG with Maximal Basic Blocks

```
Procedure AVG
S1  count = 0
S2  fread(fptr, n)
S3  while (not EOF) do
S4      if (n < 0)
S5        return (error)
S6      else
S7          num[count] = n
S8          count ++
S9          endif
S10       fread(fptr, n)
S11      endwhile
S12     avg = mean(nums.count)
S13    return(avg)
```

What about data flow?

We can do the same thing as with control flow
Uses of Data-Flow Analyses

• Compiler Optimization
  • E.g., Constant propagation

\[ a = c + 10 \]

suppose every assignment to \( c \) that reaches this statement assigns 5
then \( a \) can be replaced by 15

- need to know reaching definitions: which definitions of variable \( c \) reach a statement

Uses of Data-Flow Analyses

• Software Engineering Tasks
  • E.g., Debugging
  
  suppose that \( a \) has the incorrect value in the statement

\[ a = c + y \]

- need data dependence information: statements that can affect the incorrect value at a given program point

Static analysis summary

• Manual or automatic
  - very different
  - manual removes bugs
• Analyze the source code to determine
  - control flow
  - data flow
• Build reachability graphs, data dependence graphs, etc.

Dynamic analysis

• Assertions
• Detecting invariants

Assertions

```java
public double area(int length, int width) {
    assert(length >= 0);
    assert(width >= 0);
    return length * width;
}
```

Detecting invariants

```java
public int square(int x) { 
    return x * x;
}
```

Let’s run the code and watch it. What can we tell about it?
Why dynamic detection?

• Is it sound?
  – If you learn a property about a program, must it be true?
• Is it complete?
  – Do you learn all properties that are true about a program?

So why dynamic detection?

• Code can be complex
  – Static analysis may not scale to large programs.
• Sometimes, logs is all you have access to
  – Not all code is open source. If you use libraries, others’ code, you may only be able to observe executions.
• Fast
  • Detects properties of actual usage, rather than all possible usage

What can we do with static and dynamic analyses?

• You have:
  – a program
  – some tests that pass
  – some tests that fail

What can we do statically?

• Think about the code long and hard, and fix it.
• Can we step through a failing test case?
  See where the code goes wrong?
  – but to automate this, we have to know where the code is “supposed” to go
• Can we reverse-engineer the conditions necessary to get to the desired result?

What can we do dynamically?

• You have:
  – a program
  – some tests that pass
  – some tests that fail

What can we do dynamically?
Dynamically, we can...

- Run the code and observe which lines execute when
  - lines that execute on failing tests only are more likely buggy
- We can detect code invariants and reason about the code
- We can muck with the code and see if it does any better on the tests