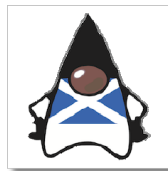


Making Mutants work for you

Henry Coles



Hello



Hello



Questions

**How do I *safely* refactor my
tests?**

**How do I know if I can trust a
test suite I inherited?**

**How do I ensure the tests I'm
writing are effective?**

**How do I know if my team is
writing effective tests?**

Really just one question

How do I assess the **quality of a test suite?**

Common developer answers

That's QA's problem

**I'm a Ninja Rockstar, I know my
tests are good**

Better answers

**I do TDD, I know my tests are
good.**

I do TDD, I know my tests are good.

- **Are you sure?**

I do TDD, I know my tests are good.

- **Are you sure?**
- **What about the tests you didn't write?**

I do TDD, I know my tests are good.

- **Are you sure?**
- **What about the tests you didn't write?**
- **How do you test drive changes to your tests?**

I do TDD, I know my tests are good.

- **Are you sure?**
- **What about the tests you didn't write?**
- **How do you test drive changes to your tests?**
- **Do you write tests for your tests?**

I do TDD, I know my tests are good.

- **Are you sure?**
- **What about the tests you didn't write?**
- **How do you test drive changes to your tests?**
- **Do you write tests for your tests?**
- **Do you write tests for the tests for your tests??**

Peer review

Peer review

Good but ...

Peer review

Good but ...

- **Catches problems inconsistently**

Peer review

Good but ...

- **Catches problems inconsistently**
- **Labour intensive**

Peer review

Good but ...

- **Catches problems inconsistently**
- **Labour intensive**
- **Slow form of feedback**

Code coverage

Code coverage

Most Commonly one of :-

Code coverage

Most Commonly one of :-

- **Line**

Code coverage

Most Commonly one of :-

- **Line**
- **Branch**

Code coverage

Most Commonly one of :-

- **Line**
- **Branch**
- **Statement**

But there are many others

But there are *many* others

- **Data**

But there are *many* others

- **Data**
- **Path**

But there are many others

- **Data**
- **Path**
- **Modified condition / decision**

But there are many others

- **Data**
- **Path**
- **Modified condition / decision**
- **more ...**

None of these of these coverage
measures tell you which parts of
your code have been **tested**

What code coverage **does** tell you

```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) {  
            count++;  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
}
```

What code coverage **does** tell you

```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) { // This line has been executed  
            count++;  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
}
```

What code coverage **does** tell you

```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) { // This line has been executed  
            count++; // This line has been executed  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
}
```

What code coverage **does** tell you

```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) { // This line has been executed  
            count++; // This line has been executed  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0; // This line has not been executed  
    }  
}
```


**Executing code and testing code
are not the same thing**

```
@Test
public void bossSaysMustHaveCodeCoverage() {
    AClass a = new AClass();
    a.count(0);
    a.count(9);
    a.count(11);
}
```

**But most tests are written in
good faith**

```
@Test
public void shouldFailWhenGivenFalse() {
    assertEquals("FAIL", foo(false));
}

@Test
public void shouldBeOkWhenGivenTrue() {
    assertEquals("OK", foo(true));
}

public static String foo(boolean b) {
    if (b) {
        performVitalyImportantBusinessFunction();
        return "OK";
    }
    return "FAIL";
}
```

**Code coverage tells you only
what has **not** been tested**

So our answers aren't that great

**Back in 1971 Richard Lipton
provided a good answer to our
questions**

**Back in 1971 Richard Lipton
provided a good answer to our
questions**

decades before most people were writing unit tests.

**He wrote a paper entitled “Fault
diagnosis of computer programs”**

**If you want to know if a test
suite has properly checked some
code - introduce a **bug****

**Then see if your test suite can
find it**

Here's a bug

```
public void count(int i) {  
    if ( i > 10 ) {  
        count++;  
    }  
}
```

Here's a bug

```
public void count(int i) {  
    if ( i > 10 ) { // changed >= to >  
        count++;  
    }  
}
```

```
@Test
public void shouldStartWithEmptyCount() {
    assertEquals(0, testee.currentCount());
}
```

```
@Test
public void shouldCountIntegersAboveTen() {
    testee.count(11);
    assertEquals(1, testee.currentCount());
}
```

```
@Test
public void shouldNotCountIntegersBelowTen() {
    testee.count(9);
    assertEquals(0, testee.currentCount());
}
```

Our tests still pass

Our test suite is deficient

A test case is missing

```
@Test
public void shouldCountIntegersOfExactlyTen() {
    testee.count(10);
    assertEquals(1, testee.currentCount());
}
```

Some terminology

Some terminology

A change such as `>=` to `>` is a **mutation operator**

Some terminology

A change such as \geq to $>$ is a **mutation operator**

Lots are possible

- \geq to \leq

Some terminology

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A change such as `>=` to `>` is a **mutation operator**

Lots are possible

- `>=` to `<=`
- `>=` to `>`
- `>=` to `=`
- `foo.aMethod();` to `//foo.aMethod();`

Some terminology

A change such as `>=` to `>` is a **mutation operator**

Lots are possible

- `>=` to `<=`
- `>=` to `>`
- `>=` to `=`
- `foo.aMethod();` to `//foo.aMethod();`
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Some terminology

A change such as `>=` to `>` is a **mutation operator**

Lots are possible

- `>=` to `<=`
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- `>=` to `=`
- `foo.aMethod();` to `//foo.aMethod();`
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- `0` to `1`

Some terminology

A change such as `>=` to `>` is a **mutation operator**

Lots are possible

- `>=` to `<=`
- `>=` to `>`
- `>=` to `=`
- `foo.aMethod();` to `//foo.aMethod();`
- `foo.aMethod();` to `foo.anotherMethod();`
- `0` to `1`
- etc etc

**Applying a mutation operator to
some code creates a mutant**

**Applying a mutation operator to
some code creates a mutant**

We can create lots of mutants and we can do it automatically

**If a mutant does not cause a test
to fail it survived**

**If a mutant does cause a test to
fail it was killed**

**If a mutant does cause a test to
fail it was **killed****

So killing is **good**

But what about this?

```
class Foo {  
    int min;  
    public void bar(int i) {  
        if (i < min) {  
            min = i;  
        }  
        System.out.println("" + min);  
    }  
}
```


We can mutate it

```
class Foo {  
    int min;  
    public void bar(int i) {  
        if (i <= min) { // changed < to <=  
            min = i;  
        }  
        System.out.println("" + min);  
    }  
}
```

We can mutate it

```
class Foo {  
    int min;  
    public void bar(int i) {  
        if (i <= min) { // changed < to <=  
            min = i;  
        }  
        System.out.println("" + min);  
    }  
}
```

But it still behaves the same

**It is not possible to write a test
that kills this mutant**

**The mutant is said to be
equivalent**

**Equivalent mutants are
considered to be a **problem****

**Equivalent mutants are
considered to be a **problem****

They need a **human to examine them**

**Equivalent mutants are
considered to be a **problem****

They need a **human to examine them
We'll talk more about them later**

**Mutation testing highlights code
that definitely **is** tested**

It gives a **very high degree of
confidence in a test suite**

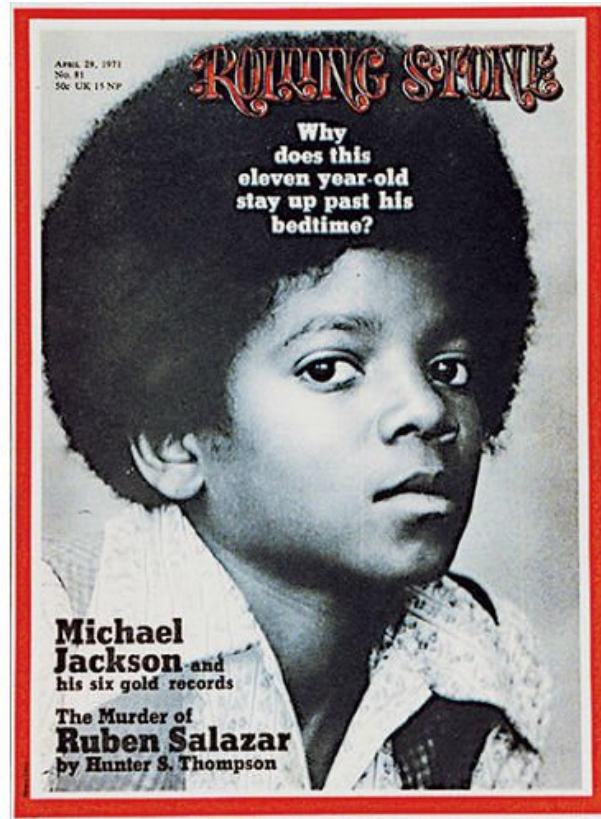
It effectively tests your tests

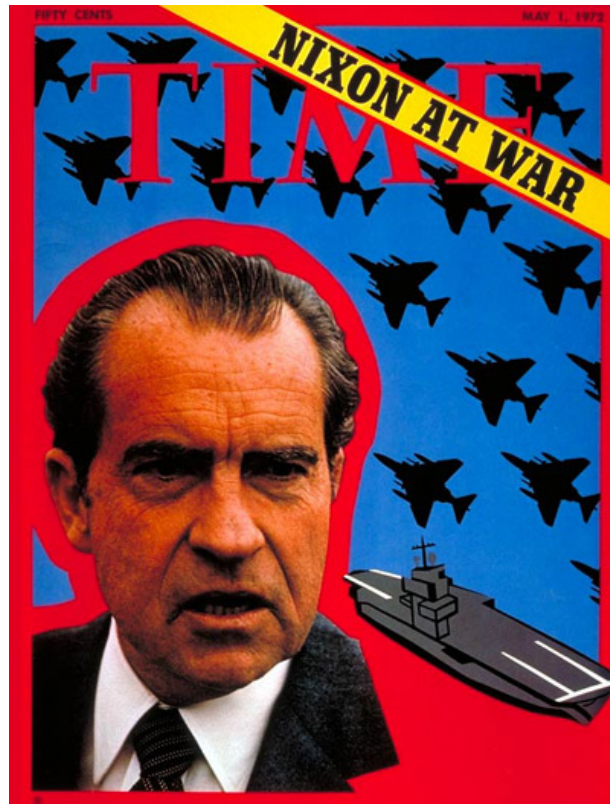
It effectively tests your tests

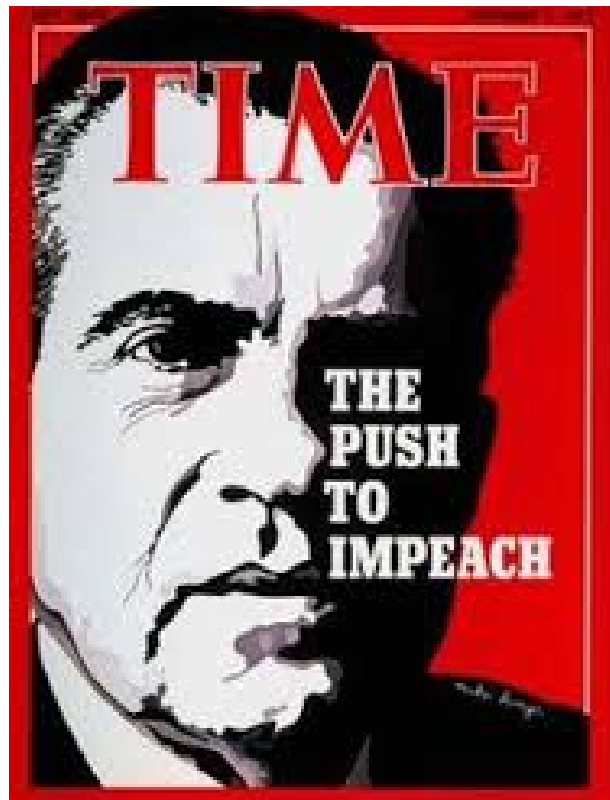
So you can refactor your tests without fear

So what happened to this idea?

1971 - Lipton's paper

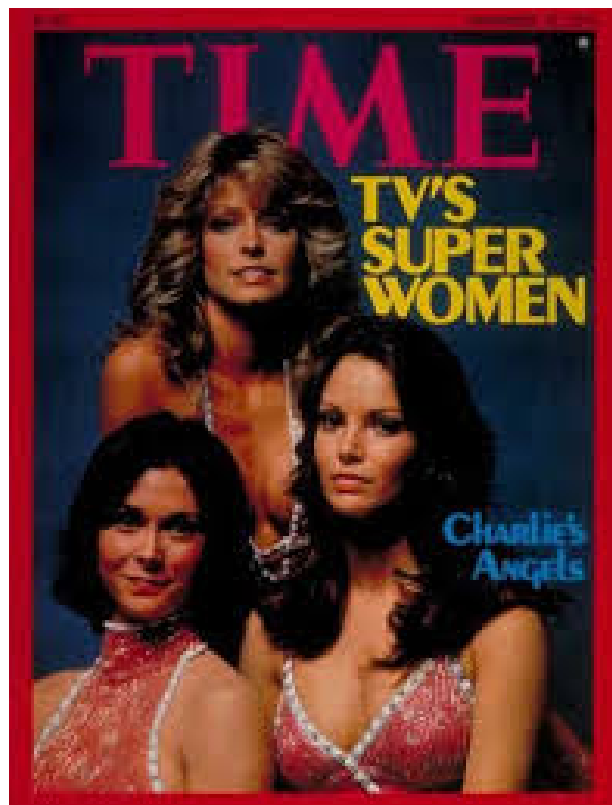


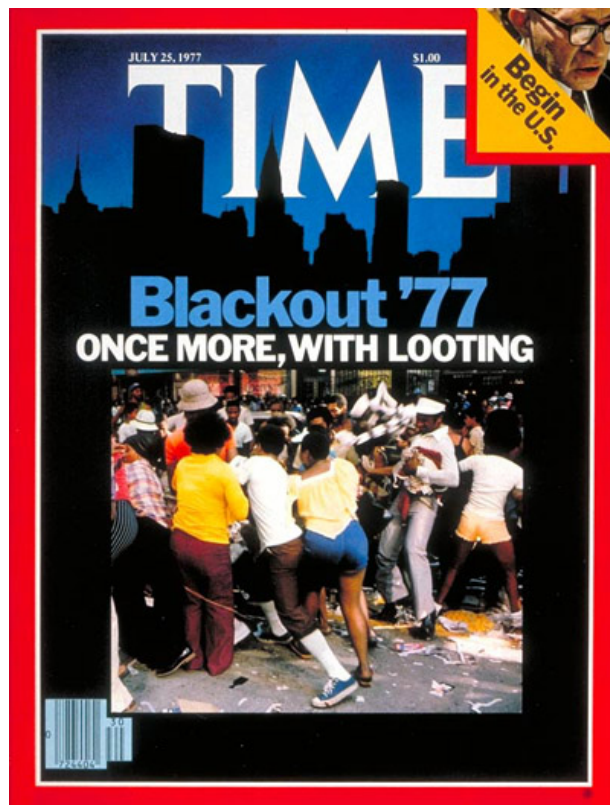




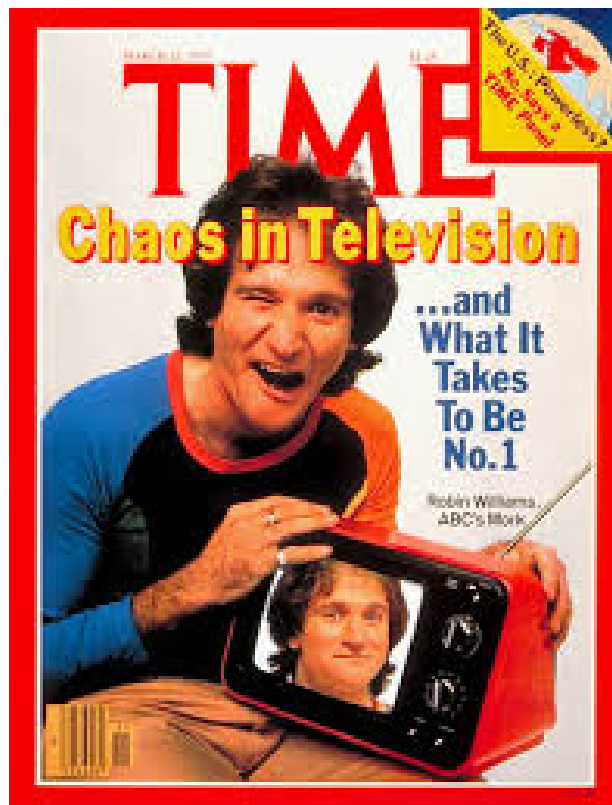


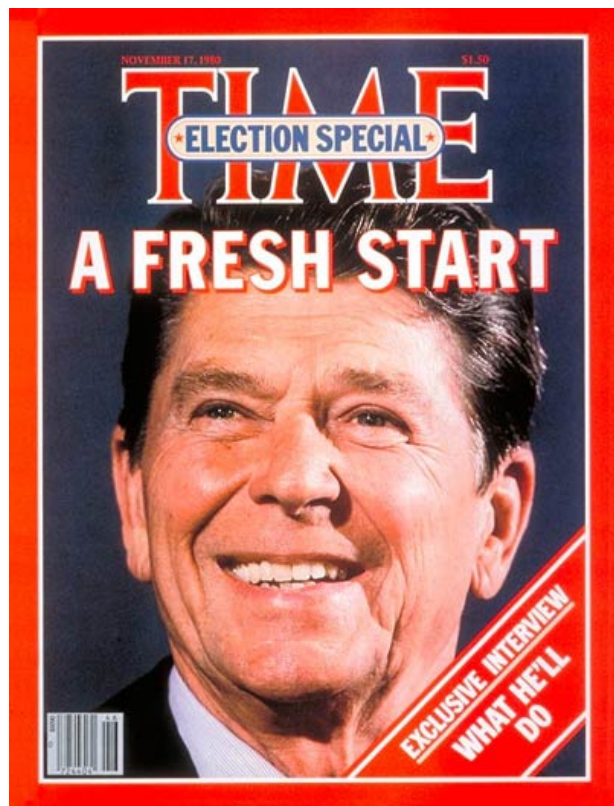










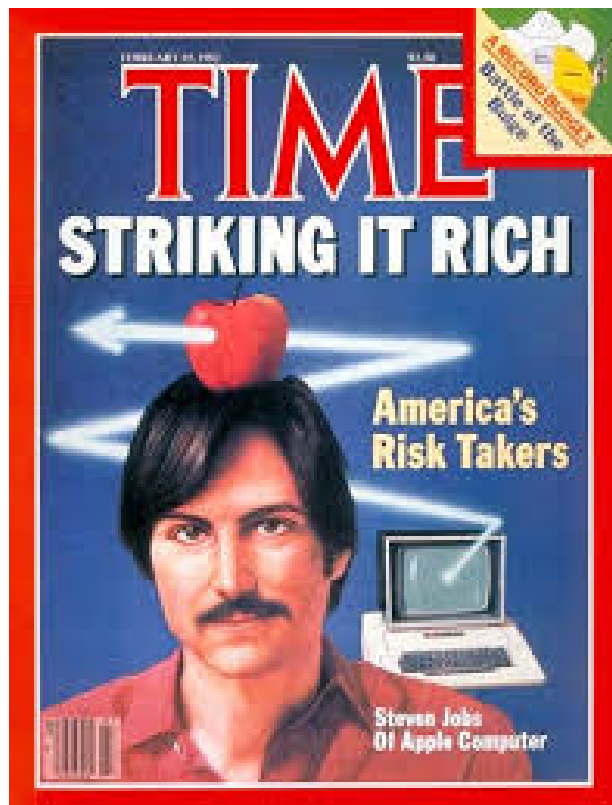


Just 9 short years later

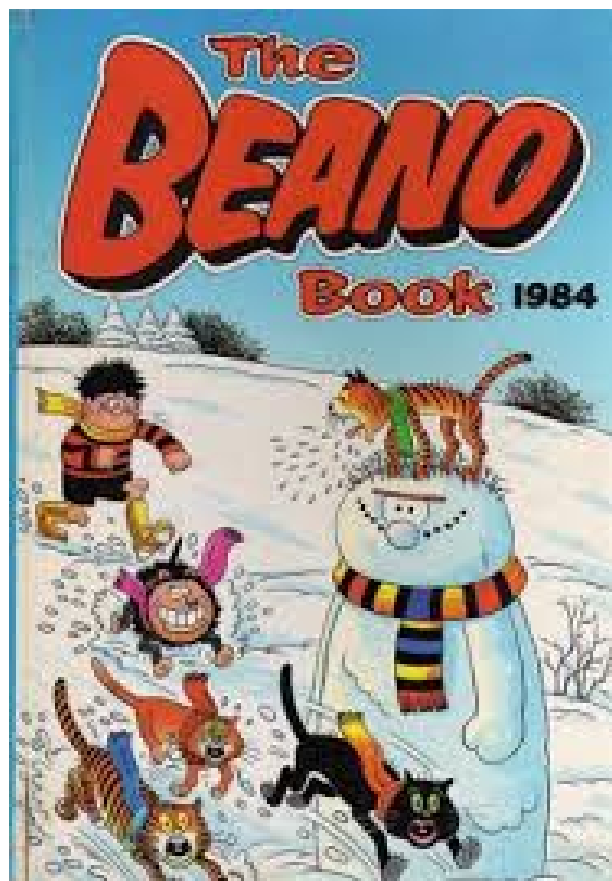
Just 9 short years later

The first automated tool!









Lots of research papers

**If your test suite can find
artificial bugs, can it find **real**
ones?**

The competent programmer hypothesis

The competent programmer hypothesis

**“Programmers are generally competent enough to produce code that
is at least almost right”**

The competent programmer hypothesis

**“Programmers are generally competent enough to produce code that
is at least almost right”**

**Mutation testing introduces
small changes to the code**

Mutation testing introduces
small changes to the code

So the mutants look like bugs from our “competent” programmer

Some real bugs do look like this

Some real bugs do look like this

But others are more complex

The **coupling** effect

The coupling effect

“Tests that can distinguish a program differing from a correct one by only simple errors can also implicitly distinguish more complex errors”

**There is strong empirical
support**

¹A. Offutt. 1989. The coupling effect: fact or fiction. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGSOFT '89 third symposium on Software testing, analysis, and verification*

There is **strong** empirical support

“The major conclusion from this investigation is that by explicitly testing for simple faults, we are also implicitly testing for more complicated faults” ¹

¹A. Offutt. 1989. The coupling effect: fact or fiction. In Proceedings of the ACM SIGSOFT '89 third symposium on Software testing, analysis, and verification

**But this is just a probabilistic
statement**

**But this is just a probabilistic
statement**

You will find counter examples

**So if your tests find mutants,
they will probably find real bugs**



Gorbachev's Darkest Hour (So Far)

TIME

THE
BEST
OF
'90

Yes, Bart,
even you
made the list



ISSN 0020-7179

A few more academic tools



AFGHANISTAN: DEADLY HUNT ■ INDIA & PAKISTAN: WAR DANCE

TIME

FLAT-OUT COOL!

Steve Jobs thinks he has seen the future—again. Apple's new **iMac** is an all-in-one hub for music, pictures and movies. It's elegant and affordable. But will millions of PC users get it?



JANUARY 1, 2000

TIME

YELTSIN GOES

January 1, 2000
Welcome to a New Century

The Eiffel Tower,
Paris



Jester

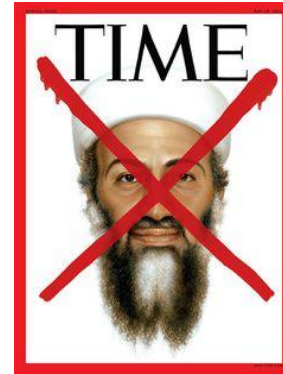
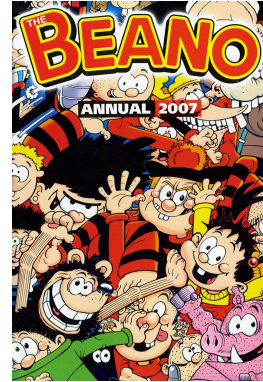


**“Why just think your tests are good when you can know for sure?
Sometimes Jester tells me my tests are airtight, but sometimes the
changes it finds come as a bolt out of the blue. Highly
recommended.”**

Kent Beck

No-body used it

Lots more research papers



2019



2019

In **daily** use all over the world



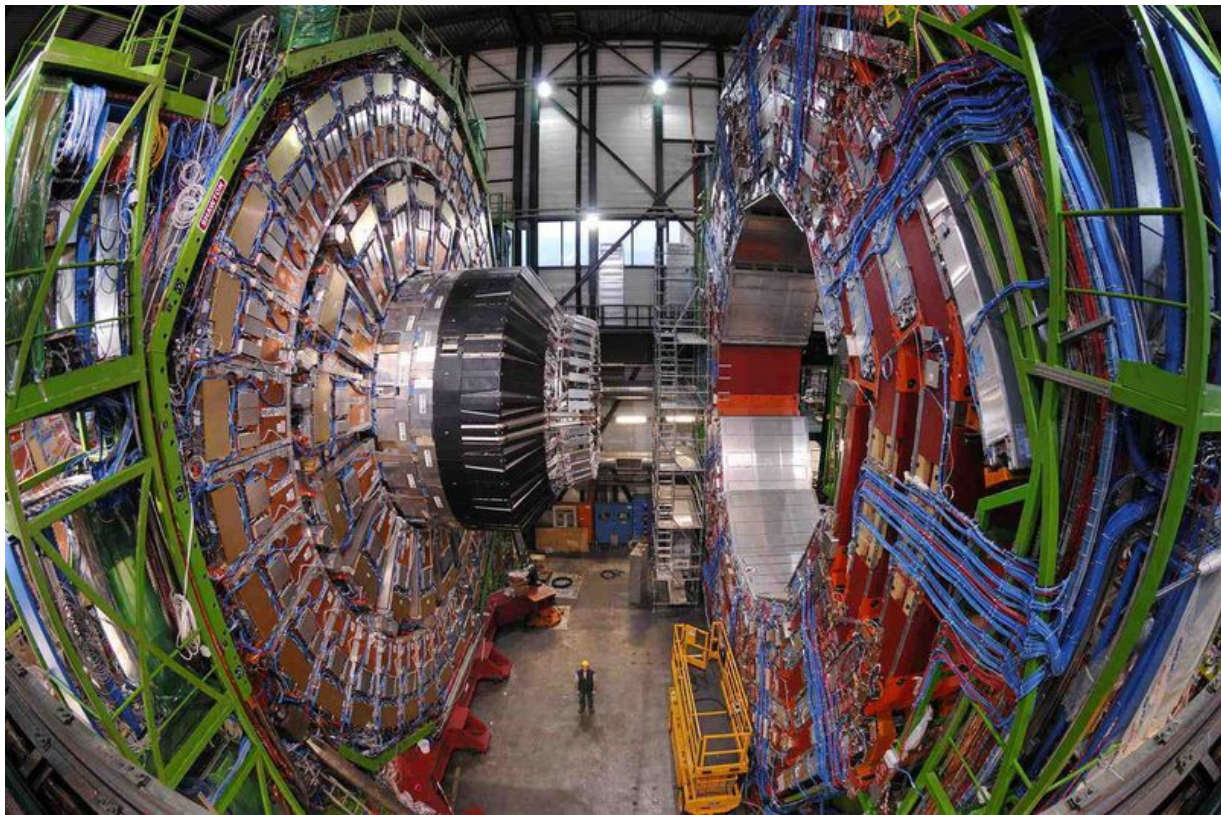
2019

In **daily** use all over the world

Folk keep **talking** about it at **conferences**



High profile projects





But mainly “normal” code

But mainly “normal” code

- **Recruitment websites**
- **Tractor sales**
- **Insurance**
- **Banking**
- **Biotech**
- **Media**

So what happened?

**40 years of research suggested
there were two fundamental
problems**

1. Too slow

2. Equivalent mutants

Too slow

Too slow

- **Need to compile the code thousands of times**

Too slow

- **Need to compile the code thousands of times**
- **Need to run the test suite thousands of times**

Joda Time

Joda Time

A **small** library for dealing with dates and times.

Joda Time

A **small** library for dealing with dates and times.

- 68k lines of code

Joda Time

A **small** library for dealing with dates and times.

- 68k lines of code
- 70k lines of test code

Joda Time

A **small** library for dealing with dates and times.

- 68k lines of code
- 70k lines of test code
- Takes about 10 seconds to compile

Joda Time

A **small** library for dealing with dates and times.

- 68k lines of code
- 70k lines of test code
- Takes about 10 seconds to compile
- Takes about 16 seconds to run the unit tests

Lets say we have 10k mutants

(100000)
compile

+

(160000)
test

260000
seconds

72 hours

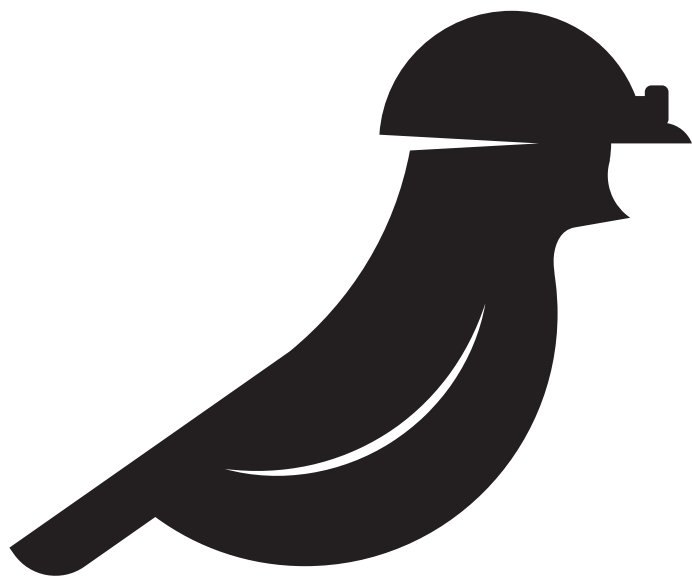
3 days!

**So *in theory* mutation testing is
wildly impractical**

I didn't understand this

I didn't understand this

So I tried to build a mutation testing tool



pitest.org

Live demo time

Truth

**A tiny assertion library from
Google**

About 3000 lines of code

Takes about 3 seconds to compile

Takes about 7 seconds to run the tests

Has about 90% line coverage

**If we generated a modest 700
mutants**

Would take about 2 hours

Lets try it

```
mvn -Ppitest test
```

So why didn't that take 2 hours?

Lots of reasons

It runs in parallel

It runs in parallel

Mutation testing is embarrassingly parallelisable

It runs in parallel

Mutation testing is embarrassingly parallelisable

Most machines these days have at least 2 cores

It runs in parallel

Mutation testing is embarrassingly parallelisable

Most machines these days have at least 2 cores

2 cores = half the time

No compilation cycles

No compilation cycles

Mutants created by bytecode manipulation

No compilation cycles

Mutants created by bytecode manipulation

Can generate hundreds of thousands in <1 second

Test prioritisation

Test prioritisation

Run the cheap tests first, the expensive ones later

Test prioritisation

Run the cheap tests first, the expensive ones later
stop when one fails

Test selection

Pitest gathers per test line coverage data

Test selection

Pitest gathers **per test** line coverage data

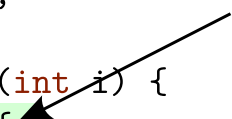
Tests are **only** run against a mutant if they exercise the mutated line of code

This makes a huge difference

```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) {  
            count++;  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
}
```

```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) {  
            count++;  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
}
```

shouldNotCountIntegersBelowTen



```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) {  
            count++;  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
}
```

shouldNotCountIntegersBelowTen

shouldCountIntegersAboveTen

```
public class AClass {  
    private int count;  
  
    public void count(int i) {  
        if ( i >= 10 ) {  
            count++;  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void reset() {  
        count = 0;  
    }  
}
```

shouldNotCountIntegersBelowTen

shouldCountIntegersAboveTen

shouldStartWithEmptyCount


```
1  public class AClass {
2      private int count;
3
4      public void count(int i) {
5          if ( i > 10 ) {
6              count++;
7          }
8      }
9
10     public void reset() {
11         count = 0;
12     }
13 }
```

```
1  public class AClass {  
2      private int count;  
3  
4      public void count(int i) {  
5          if ( i > 10 ) {  
6              count++;  
7          }  
8      }  
9  
10     public void reset() {  
11         count = 0;  
12     }  
13 }
```

- We will only run 2 tests for the mutation on line 5

```
1  public class AClass {
2      private int count;
3
4      public void count(int i) {
5          if ( i > 10 ) {
6              count++;
7          }
8      }
9
10     public void reset() {
11         count = 0;
12     }
13 }
```

- We will only run 2 tests for the mutation on line 5
- The mutation will **survive** as we're missing an effective test case

```
1  public class AClass {
2      private int count;
3
4      public void count(int i) {
5          if ( i >= 10 ) {
6              //count++;
7          }
8      }
9
10     public void reset() {
11         count = 0;
12     }
13 }
```

```
1  public class AClass {  
2      private int count;  
3  
4      public void count(int i) {  
5          if ( i >= 10 ) {  
6              //count++;  
7          }  
8      }  
9  
10     public void reset() {  
11         count = 0;  
12     }  
13 }
```

- We will run only 1 test for the mutation on line 6

```
1  public class AClass {
2      private int count;
3
4      public void count(int i) {
5          if ( i >= 10 ) {
6              //count++;
7          }
8      }
9
10     public void reset() {
11         count = 0;
12     }
13 }
```

- We will run only 1 test for the mutation on line 6
- The mutation will be **killed**

```
1  public class AClass {  
2      private int count;  
3  
4      public void count(int i) {  
5          if ( i >= 10 ) {  
6              count++;  
7          }  
8      }  
9  
10     public void reset() {  
11         count = 1;  
12     }  
13 }
```

```
1  public class AClass {  
2      private int count;  
3  
4      public void count(int i) {  
5          if ( i >= 10 ) {  
6              count++;  
7          }  
8      }  
9  
10     public void reset() {  
11         count = 1;  
12     }  
13 }
```

- We will run **no tests** for the mutation on line 11


```
1  public class AClass {
2      private int count;
3
4      public void count(int i) {
5          if ( i >= 10 ) {
6              count++;
7          }
8      }
9
10     public void reset() {
11         count = 1;
12     }
13 }
```

- We will run **no tests** for the mutation on line 11
- The mutation will be instantly marked as **survived**

```
1  public class AClass {
2      private int count;
3
4      public void count(int i) {
5          if ( i >= 10 ) {
6              count++;
7          }
8      }
9
10     public void reset() {
11         count = 1;
12     }
13 }
```

- We will run **no tests** for the mutation on line 11
- The mutation will be instantly marked as **survived**
- This is makes a **huge** different

To analyse JodaTime

To analyse JodaTime

- 8 minutes on cheap dual core laptop

To analyse JodaTime

- 8 minutes on cheap dual core laptop
- 3 minutes on a quad core

To analyse JodaTime

- 8 minutes on cheap dual core laptop
- 3 minutes on a quad core

To analyse JodaTime

- 8 minutes on cheap dual core laptop
- 3 minutes on a quad core

That's over 1000 times faster than early systems

But what about **big codebases?**

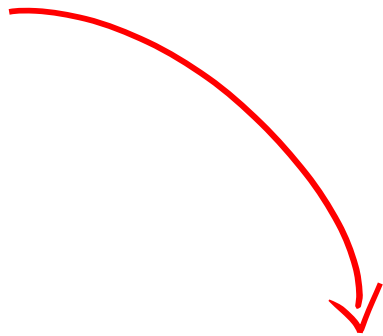
Turns out size **doesn't matter**

**To understand *why* we need to
talk about what mutation testing
is *useful* for**

To understand **why we need to
talk about what mutation testing
is **useful** for
and **how** to use it**

**A lot of the research assumed it
had to work like this**

Write a
bunch of code
and tests

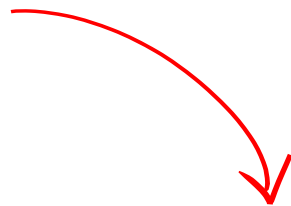


Pass it to a QA
team to mutation test

Many developers **assume you
use it like this**

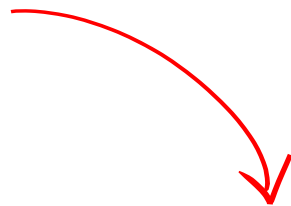
Write a
bunch of code
and tests

Write a
bunch of code
and tests



Mutation test
overnight on a server

Write a
bunch of code
and tests

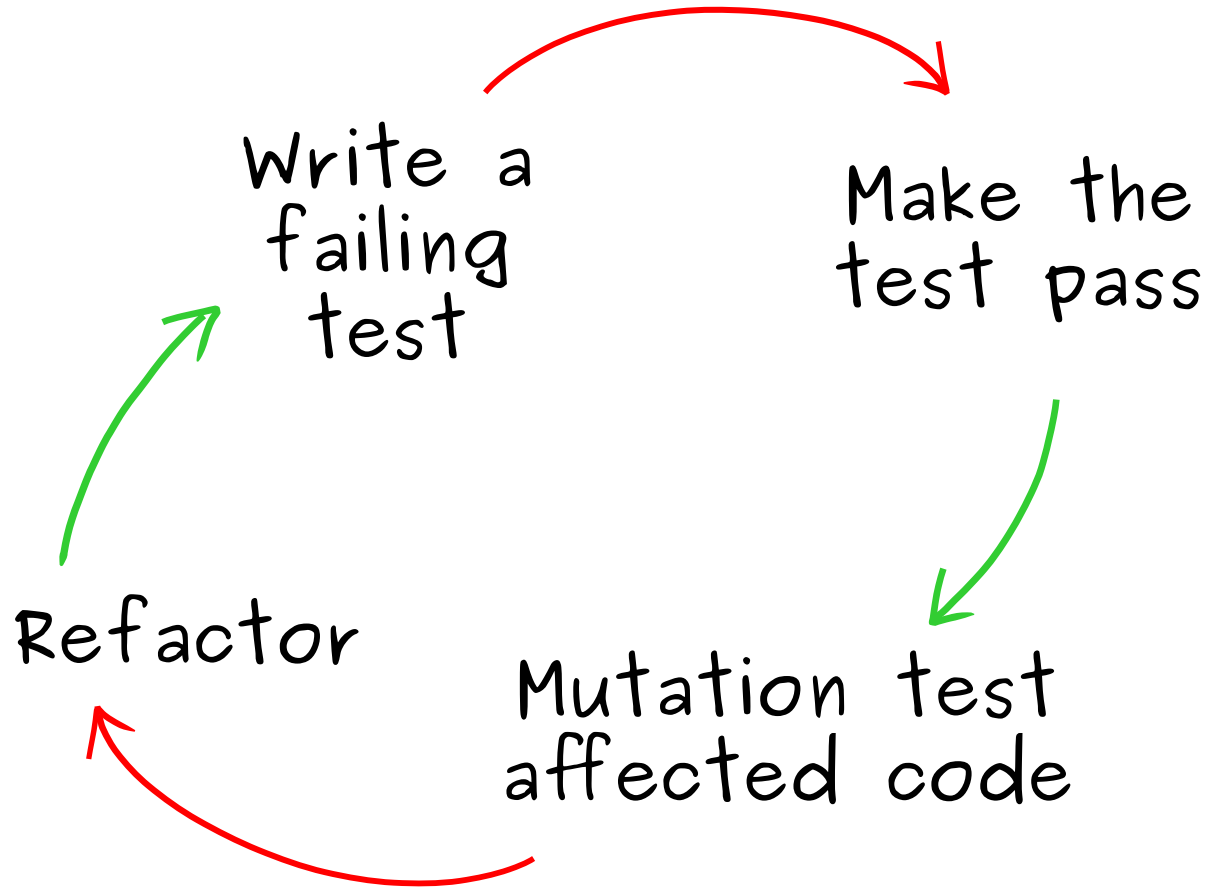


Mutation test
overnight on a server

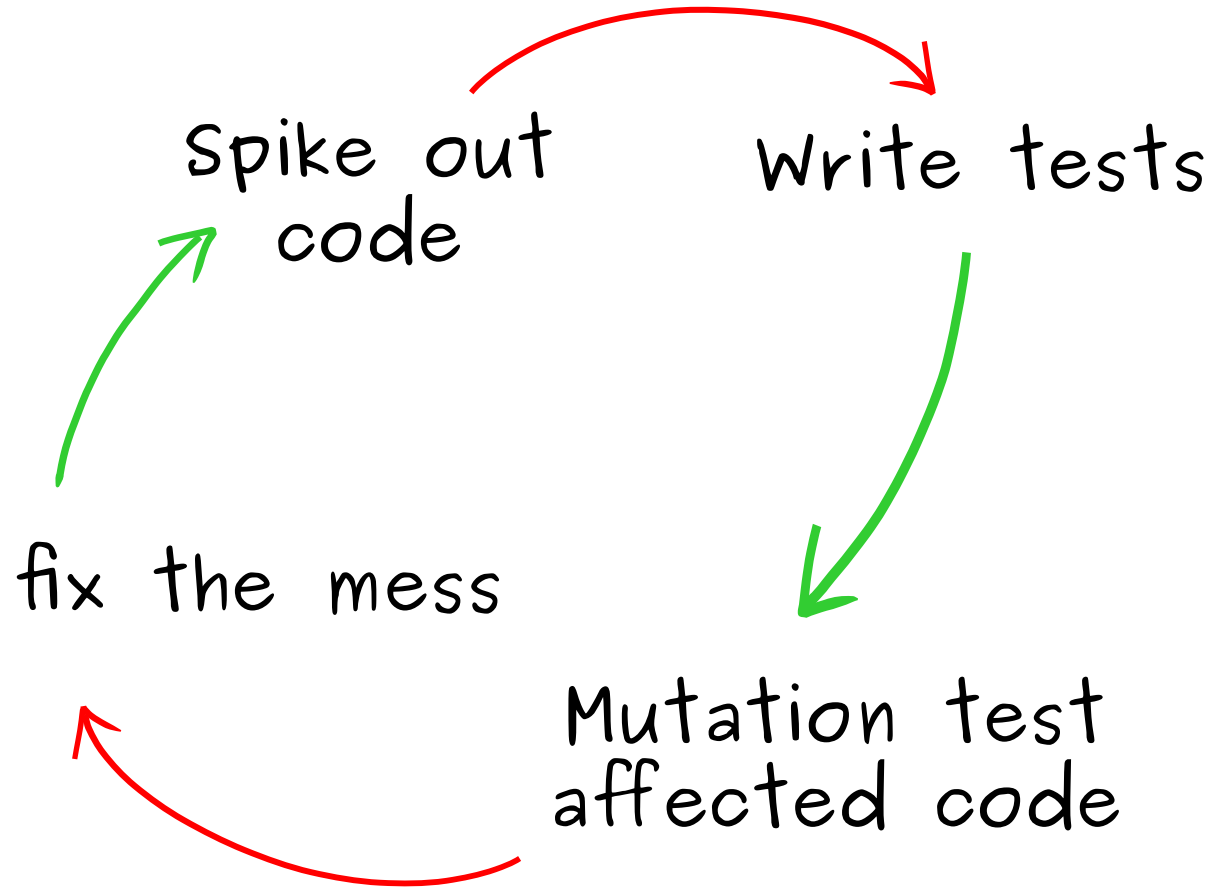


Brag about the
size of your metric

But I only ever use it like this



Or sometimes



**I'd be too scared to do this
without mutation testing**

**I only have to analyse a small
slice of the code**

It **doesn't matter how big the
codebase is**

The slice is always small

**Pitest integrates with version
control**

Pitest integrates with version control

But often I just target it at a certain package

**Mutation testing is a powerful
tool**

I don't use it as a metric

**I don't care what the code
coverage of a project is**

**I don't care what the mutation
score for a project is**

**I care about the feedback it gives
me**

**And the actions it prompts me to
take**

Equivalent mutants

**Research suggests it takes 15
minutes to assess if a mutant is
equivalent**

**But this assumes that the person
assessing **hasn't** just written the
code**

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assessing **hasn't** just written the
code**

It's **much less effort as part of a development feedback loop**

**But they can provide useful
information for a developer**

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information for a developer**

They're a side benefit

**If a mutant survives I do one of
three things**

Add a test

Add a test

Or sometimes fix a buggy test

Delete some code

Re-express some code

Some examples

```
public void someLogic(int i) {  
    if (i <= 100) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException();  
    }  
  
    if (i > 100) {  
        doSomething();  
    }  
}
```

```
public void someLogic(int i) {  
    if (i <= 100) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException();  
    }  
  
    if (i >= 100) { // mutated > to >=  
        doSomething();  
    }  
}
```

```
public void someLogic(int i) {  
    if (i <= 100) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException();  
    }  
  
    if (i >= 100) { // mutated > to >=  
        doSomething();  
    }  
}
```

i can never be 100 at this point


```
public void someLogic(int i) {  
    if (i <= 100) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException();  
    }  
  
    if (i >= 100) { // mutated > to >=  
        doSomething();  
    }  
}
```

i can never be 100 at this point

So the mutant is equivalent

The code is redundant

```
public void someLogic(int i) {  
    if (i <= 100) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException();  
    }  
  
    doSomething();  
}
```

```
public void someLogic(int i) {  
    if (i <= 100) {  
        throw new IllegalArgumentException();  
    }  
  
    doSomething();  
}
```

Functionally equivalent but there's *less* of it

**Mutation testing is really good at
highlighting redundant code**

```
class Foo {  
    int min;  
    public void bar(int i) {  
        if (i < min) {  
            min = i;  
        }  
        System.out.println("" + min);  
    }  
}
```

```
class Foo {  
    int min;  
    public void bar(int i) {  
        if (i <= min) { // mutate < to <=  
            min = i;  
        }  
        System.out.println("" + min);  
    }  
}
```

**A classic logically equivalent
mutant**

**A classic *logically* equivalent
mutant**

We can make it *go away*

```
class Foo {  
    int min;  
    public void bar(int i) {  
        min = Math.min(i, min);  
        System.out.println("" + min);  
    }  
}
```

```
class Foo {  
    int min;  
    public void bar(int i) {  
        min = Math.min(i, min);  
        System.out.println("" + min);  
    }  
}
```

The code now expresses its *intent*

So **sometimes** equivalent mutants
prompt us to **improve** the code

**Mutation testing creates pressure
to**

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to**

- **Reduce the amount of code**

Mutation testing creates pressure
to

- **Reduce the amount of code**
- **Reduce the amount of duplication**

**Many equivalent mutants affect
only performance**

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only performance**

(performance is not a concern of **unit** testing)

Is it a premature optimisation?

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- Yes - delete the code

Is it a premature optimisation?

- **Yes - delete the code**
- **No - ignore the mutant**

**What did pitest find in Google
Truth?**

Some classic test errors

PrimitiveIntSubjectArray

```
public void isNotEqualTo(Object expected) {  
    int[] actual = getSubject();  
    try {  
        int[] expectedArray = (int[]) expected;  
        if (actual == expected || Arrays.equals(actual, expectedArray)) {  
            failWithRawMessage("%s unexpectedly equal to %s."  
                                , getDisplaySubject()  
                                , Ints.asList(expectedArray));  
        }  
    } catch (ClassCastException ignored) {  
    }  
}
```

PrimitiveIntSubjectArray

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    try {  
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        if (actual == expected || Arrays.equals(actual, expectedArray)) {  
            //failWithRawMessage("%s unexpectedly equal to %s."  
            //                    , getDisplaySubject()  
            //                    , Ints.asList(expectedArray));  
        }  
    } catch (ClassCastException ignored) {  
    }  
}
```


Mutant is covered by at least one test

```
@Test
public void isNotEqualTo_FailEquals() {
    try {
        assertThat(array(2, 3)).isNotEqualTo(array(2, 3));
    } catch (AssertionError e) {
        assertThat(e).hasMessage(
            "<(int[]) [2, 3]> unexpectedly equal to [2, 3].");
    }
}
```

Mutant is covered by at least one test

```
@Test
public void isNotEqualTo_FailEquals() {
    try {
        assertThat(array(2, 3)).isNotEqualTo(array(2, 3));
        throw new Error("Expected to throw"); // <--- missing
    } catch (AssertionError e) {
        assertThat(e).hasMessage(
            "<(int[]) [2, 3]> unexpectedly equal to [2, 3].");
    }
}
```

An equivalent mutation

PrimitiveDoubleArraySubject

```
public void isEqualTo(Object expectedArray, double tolerance) {
    double[] actual = getSubject();
    try {
        double[] expected = (double[]) expectedArray;
        if (actual == expected) {
            failWithRawMessage(
                "%s unexpectedly equal to %s.", getDisplaySubject(), Doubles.asList(expected));
        }
        if (expected.length != actual.length) {
            return; // Unequal-lengthed arrays are not equal.
        }
        List<Integer> unequalIndices = new ArrayList<Integer>();
        for (int i = 0; i < expected.length; i++) {
            if (!MathUtil.equals(actual[i], expected[i], tolerance)) {
                unequalIndices.add(i);
            }
        }
        if (unequalIndices.isEmpty()) {
            failWithRawMessage(
                "%s unexpectedly equal to %s.", getDisplaySubject(), Doubles.asList(expected));
        }
    } catch (ClassCastException ignored) {
        // Unequal since they are of different types.
    }
}
```

PrimitiveDoubleArraySubject

```
public void isNotEqualTo(Object expectedArray, double tolerance) {
    double[] actual = getSubject();
    try {
        double[] expected = (double[]) expectedArray;
        if (actual == expected) {
            // failWithRawMessage(
            //     "%s unexpectedly equal to %s.", getDisplaySubject(), Doubles.asList(expected));
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PrimitiveDoubleArraySubject

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    } catch (ClassCastException ignored) {
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    }
}
```

Performance isn't unit testable

Performance isn't unit testable

Optimisation makes sense in this case


```

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    double[] actual = getSubject();
    try {
        double[] expected = (double[]) expectedArray;
        if (actual == expected) {
            failWithRawMessage(
                "%s unexpectedly equal to %s.", getDisplaySubject(), Doubles.asList(expected));
        }
        if (expected.length != actual.length) {
            return; // Unequal-lengthed arrays are not equal.
        }
        List<Integer> unequalIndices = new ArrayList<Integer>();
        for (int i = 0; i < expected.length; i++) {
            if (!MathUtil.equals(actual[i], expected[i], tolerance)) {
                unequalIndices.add(i);
            }
        }
        if (unequalIndices.isEmpty()) {
            failWithRawMessage(
                "%s unexpectedly equal to %s.", getDisplaySubject(), Doubles.asList(expected));
        }
    } catch (ClassCastException ignored) {
        // Unequal since they are of different types.
    }
}

```

```

public void isNotEqualTo(Object expectedArray, double tolerance) {
    double[] actual = getSubject();
    try {
        double[] expected = (double[]) expectedArray;
        if (areEqual(actual, expected, tolerance)) {
            failWithRawMessage(
                "%s unexpectedly equal to %s.", getDisplaySubject(), Doubles.asList(expected));
        }
    } catch (ClassCastException ignored) {
        // Unequal since they are of different types.
    }
}

private boolean areEqual(double[] actual, double[] expected, double tolerance) {
    if (actual == expected) return true;

    if (expected.length != actual.length) return false;

    return compareArrayContents(actual, expected, tolerance);
}

private boolean compareArrayContents(double[] actual, double[] expected,
    double tolerance) {
    List<Integer> unequalIndices = new ArrayList<Integer>();
    for (int i = 0; i < expected.length; i++) {
        if (!MathUtil.equals(actual[i], expected[i], tolerance)) {
            unequalIndices.add(i);
        }
    }
    return unequalIndices.isEmpty();
}

```

**In many code bases you will
encounter **no** equivalent mutants**

**Seems to depend on the domain
and code style**

Conclusions

Mutation testing is a powerful technique

It finds missing test cases

It finds buggy tests

It provides a **safety net while
refactoring your tests**

It highlights **redundant code**

It can highlight code smells

Run it as you develop

Run it as you develop

Not some time later

Remember it's a tool

Remember it's a tool

Not a number you need to make go up

Remember it's a tool

Not a number you need to make go up

Or a stick to beat people with

Other languages

- **Ruby - Mutant**
- **PHP - Humbug (now Infection)**
- **Java - Pitest (could also try Major)**
- **Kotlin - Pitest (with caveats)**
- **Python - Cosmic Ray**
- **LLVM (C, C++, Swift) - Mull**
- **Javascript - Stryker**
- **C# - Fettle**



 @_pitest

<http://pitest.org>

turns out
it's me that guards the guards



Please

**Remember to
rate this session**

Thank you!

