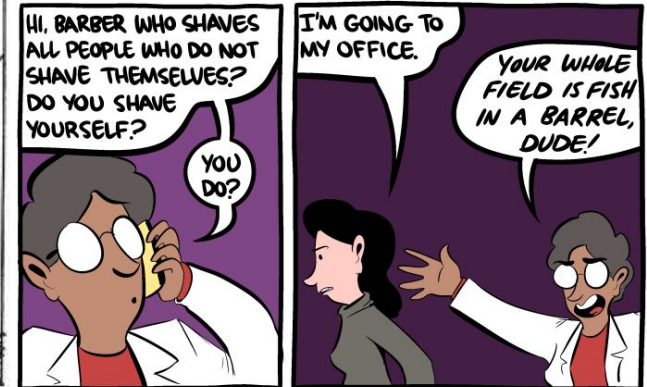
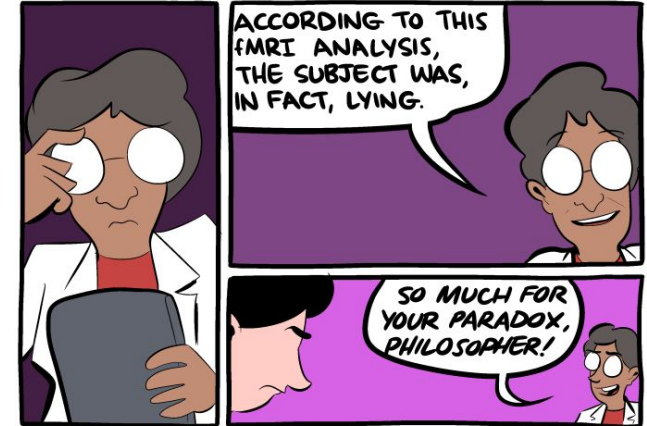


# Debugging as Hypothesis Testing



# The Story So Far ...

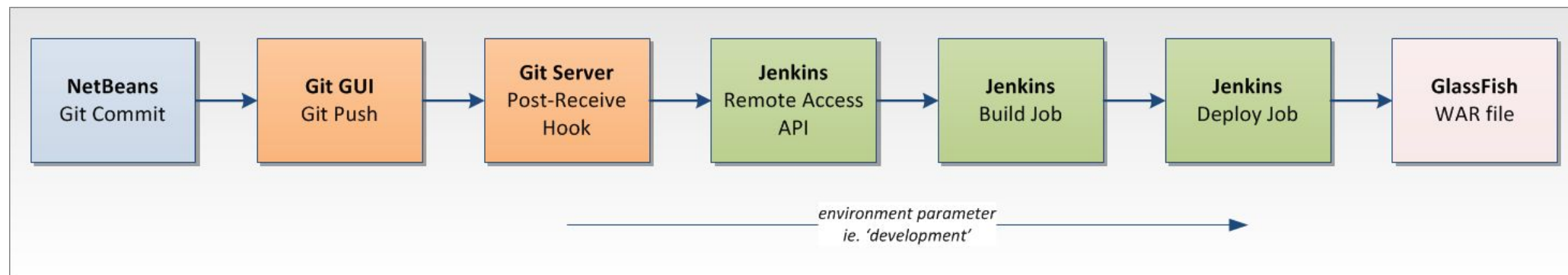
- **Quality assurance** is critical to software engineering.
  - Static and dynamic QA approaches are common
- **Defect reports** are *tracked* and *assigned* to developers for *resolution*
- Modern software is so **huge** that simple debugging approaches *do not work*
- How should we intelligently and scalably approach debugging?

# One-Slide Summary

- **Delta debugging** is an automated debugging approach that finds a **minimal interesting subset** of a given set. It is very efficient.
- Delta debugging is based on **divide-and-conquer** and relies heavily on critical assumptions (**monotonicity**, **unambiguity**, and **consistency**).
- It can be used to find which code changes cause a bug, to *minimize* failure-inducing inputs, and even to find harmful thread schedules.

# Debugging Case Study

- Consider this deployment pipeline: Git Server to Jenkins to GlassFish application server
  - You have a known-valid test input (NetBeans git commit) that leads to an incorrect WAR file
  - What would you do to determine which pipeline stage has the bug?



# Real Life Motivation



- Mozilla developers had a large number of open bug reports in the queue that were not even simplified
- The Mozilla engineers “faced imminent **doom**”
- Netscape product management sent out the Mozilla Bug-A-Thon call for volunteers: people who would help simplify bug reports.
  - Simplify → turn bug reports into minimal test cases, where each part of the input matters

<https://www-archive.mozilla.org/newlayout/bugathon.html>



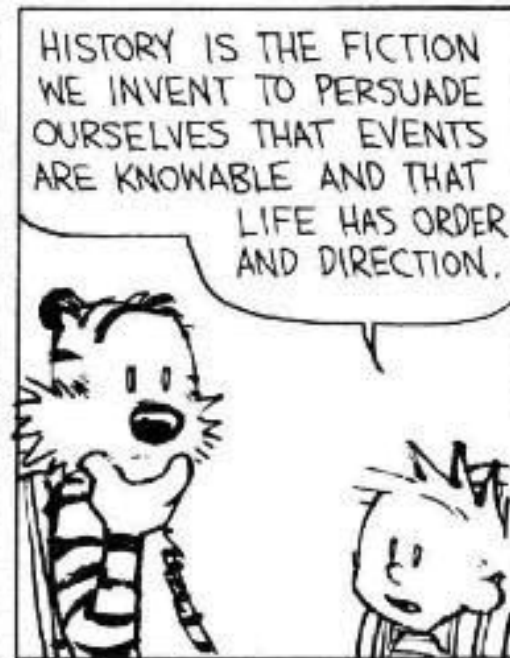
# Minimizing a Mozilla Bug

- We want something that can **simplify** this large HTML input to just “<SELECT>” which causes the crash
- Each character in “SELECT” is relevant (see 20-26)

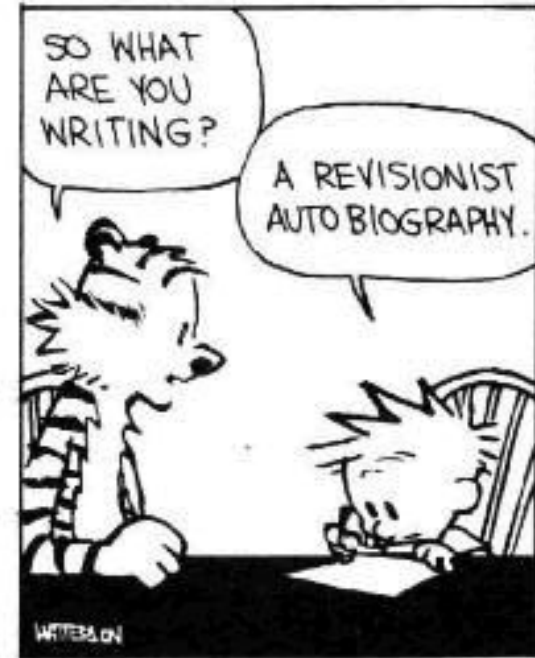
```
1 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
2 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
3 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
4 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
5 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
6 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
7 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
8 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
9 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
10 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
11 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
12 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
13 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
14 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
15 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
16 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
17 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
18 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
19 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
20 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
21 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
22 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
23 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
24 <SELECT_NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
25 <SELECT NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> ✓
26 <SELECT NAME="priority" _MULTIPLE_SIZE=7> X
```

*Often people who encounter a bug spend a lot of time investigating which changes to the input file will make the bug go away and which changes will not affect it.*

— Richard Stallman, *Using and Porting GNU CC*

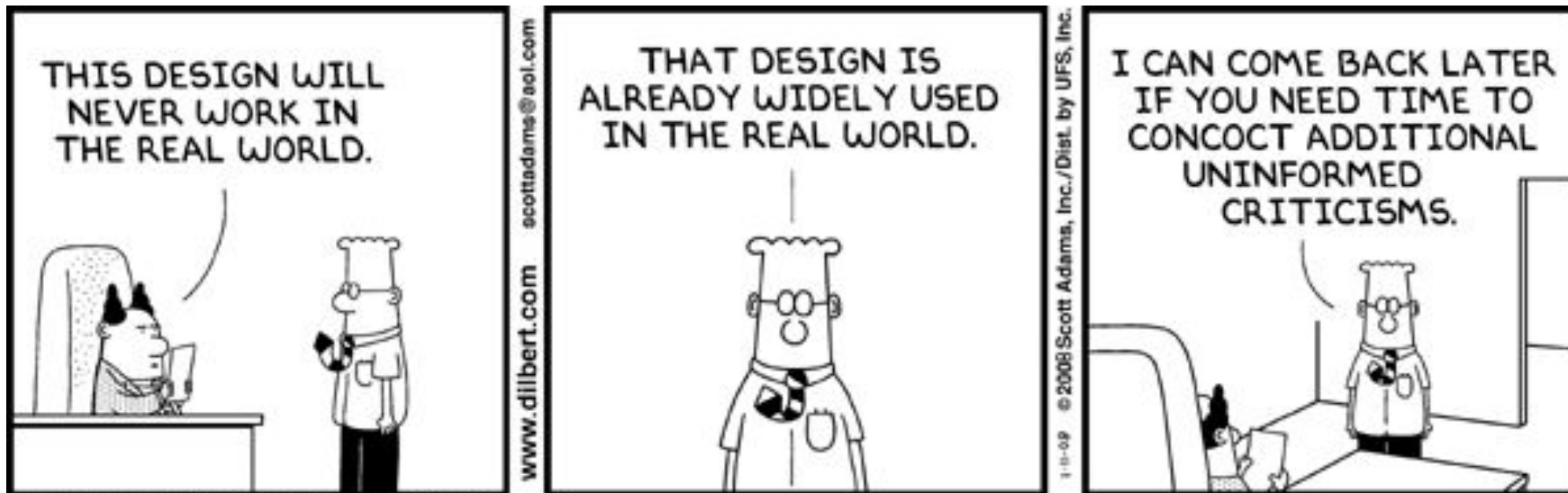


THAT'S WHY EVENTS ARE ALWAYS REINTERPRETED WHEN VALUES CHANGE. WE NEED NEW VERSIONS OF HISTORY TO ALLOW FOR OUR CURRENT PREJUDICES.



# Delta Debugging

- Three Problems: One Common Approach
  - Simplifying Failure-Inducing Input
  - Isolating Failure-Inducing Thread Schedules
  - Identifying Failure-Inducing Code Changes



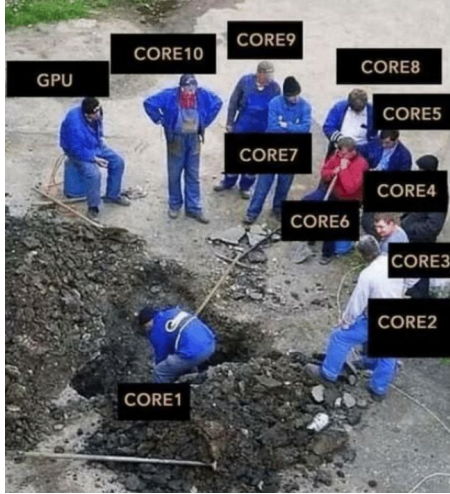


# Failure-Inducing Input

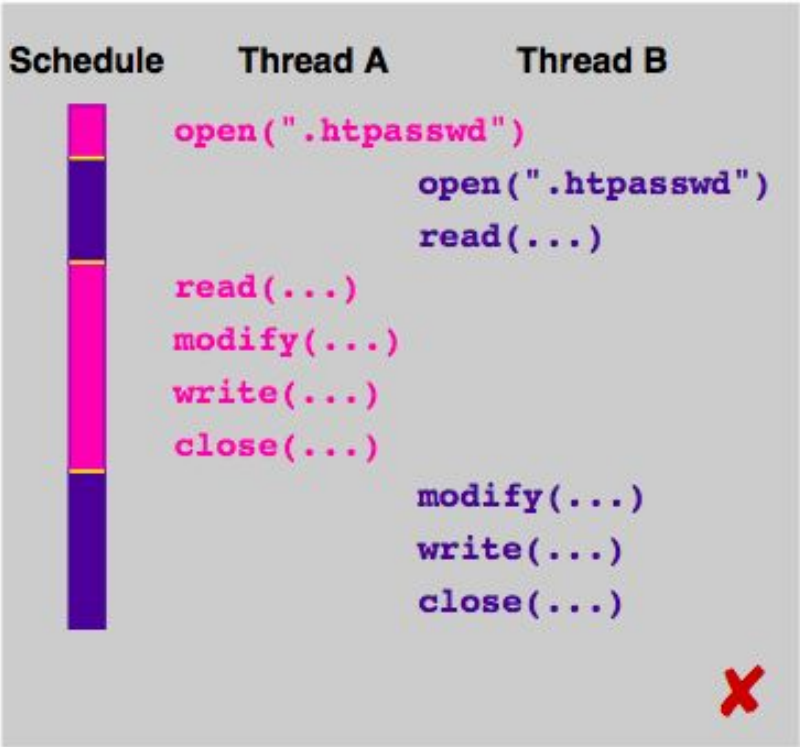
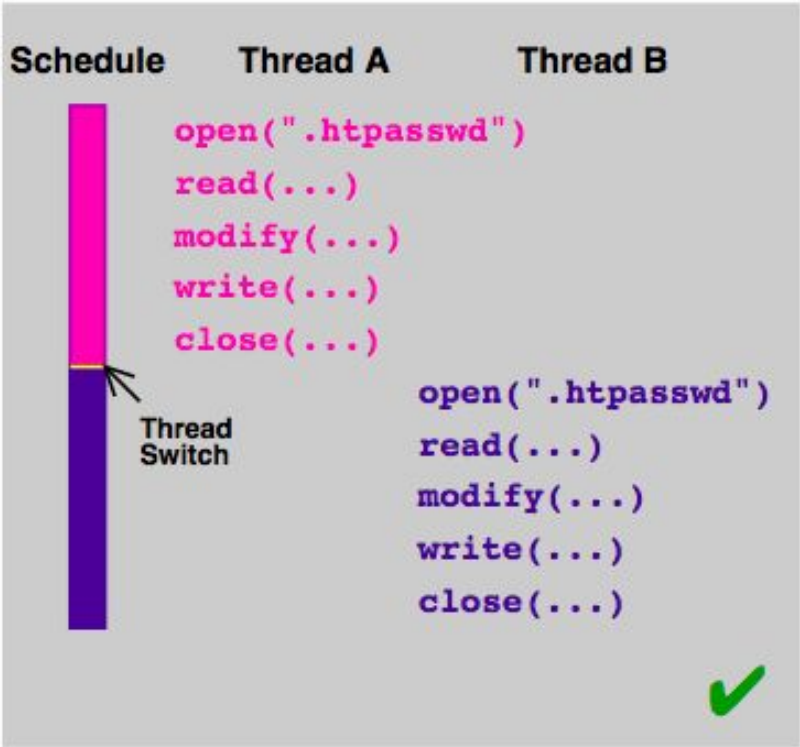
- Having a test **input** may not be enough
  - Even if you know the suspicious code, the input may be too **large** to step through
- This HTML input makes a version of Mozilla crash. Which portion is relevant?

```
<td align=left valign=top>
<SELECT NAME="op_sys" MULTIPLE SIZE=7>
<OPTION VALUE="All">All<OPTION VALUE="Windows 3.1">Windows 3.1<OPTION VALUE="Windows 95">Windows 95<OPTION VALUE="Windows
98">Windows 98<OPTION VALUE="Windows ME">Windows ME<OPTION VALUE="Windows 2000">Windows 2000<OPTION VALUE="Windows
NT">Windows NT<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 7">Mac System 7<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 7.5">Mac System 7.5<OPTION VALUE="Mac
System 7.6.1">Mac System 7.6.1<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 8.0">Mac System 8.0<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 8.5">Mac System
8.5<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 8.6">Mac System 8.6<OPTION VALUE="Mac System 9.x">Mac System 9.x<OPTION VALUE="MacOS X">MacOS
X<OPTION VALUE="Linux">Linux<OPTION VALUE="BSDI">BSDI<OPTION VALUE="FreeBSD">FreeBSD<OPTION VALUE="NetBSD">NetBSD<OPTION
VALUE="OpenBSD">OpenBSD<OPTION VALUE="AIX">AIX<OPTION VALUE="BeOS">BeOS<OPTION VALUE="HP-UX">HP-UX<OPTION
VALUE="IRIX">IRIX<OPTION VALUE="Neutrino">Neutrino<OPTION VALUE="OpenVMS">OpenVMS<OPTION VALUE="OS/2">OS/2<OPTION
VALUE="OSF/1">OSF/1<OPTION VALUE="Solaris">Solaris<OPTION VALUE="SunOS">SunOS<OPTION VALUE="other">other</SELECT>
</td>
<td align=left valign=top>
<SELECT NAME="priority" MULTIPLE SIZE=7>
<OPTION VALUE="--">--<OPTION VALUE="P1">P1<OPTION VALUE="P2">P2<OPTION VALUE="P3">P3<OPTION VALUE="P4">P4<OPTION
VALUE="P5">P5</SELECT>
</td>
<td align=left valign=top>
<SELECT NAME="bug_severity" MULTIPLE SIZE=7>
<OPTION VALUE="blocker">blocker<OPTION VALUE="critical">critical<OPTION VALUE="major">major<OPTION
VALUE="normal">normal<OPTION VALUE="minor">minor<OPTION VALUE="trivial">trivial<OPTION VALUE="enhancement">enhancement</SELECT>
</tr>
</table>
```

# Thread Scheduling



- Multithreaded programs can be non-deterministic
  - Can we find simple, bug-inducing thread schedules?



# Code Changes

- A new version of GDB has a UI bug
  - The old version does not have that bug
- 178,000 lines of code have been modified between the two versions
  - Where is the bug?
  - These days: [continuous integration testing](#) helps
    - ... but does not totally solve this. Why?

```
diff -r gdb-4.16/gdb/infcmd.c gdb-4.17/gdb/infcmd.c
1239c1278
< "Set arguments to give program being debugged when it is started.\n\
---
> "Set argument list to give program being debugged when it is started.\n\
```

# What is a Difference?

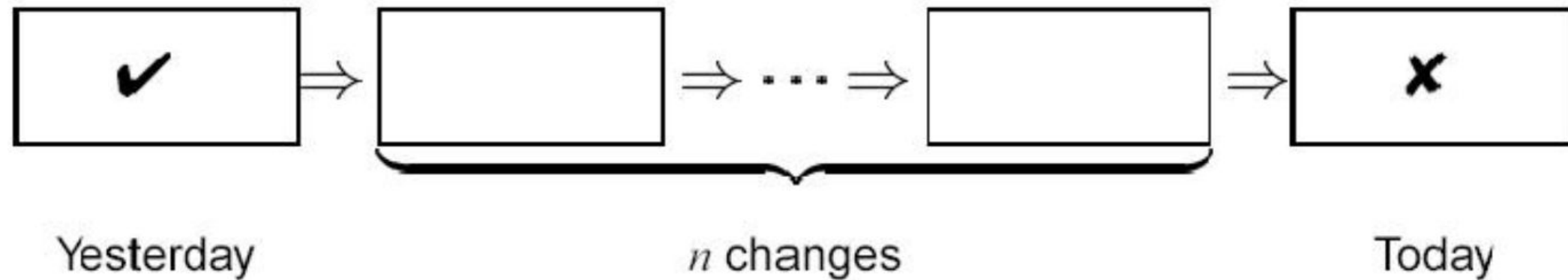
- Debugging deals with “a large number of **different** things”
- With respect to debugging, a **difference** is a **change** (in the program configuration or state) that may lead to alternate observations
  - Difference in the **input**: different character or bit in the input stream
  - Difference in **thread schedule**: difference in the time before a given thread preemption is performed
  - Difference in **code**: different statements or expressions in two versions of a program
  - Difference in program **state**: different values of internal variables



# Unified Solution

- **Abstract Debugging Problem:**
  - Find which part of something (= which input, which change, etc.) determines the failure
  - “Find the smallest subset of a given set that is still interesting”
- **Divide and Conquer**
  - Applied to: working and failing inputs, code versions, thread schedules, program states, etc.

# Yesterday, My Program Worked Today, It Does Not



- We will iteratively
  - **Hypothesize** that a small subset is interesting
    - Example: change set {1,3,8} causes the bug
  - Run tests to falsify that hypothesis – how?

# Delta Debugging (Interface)

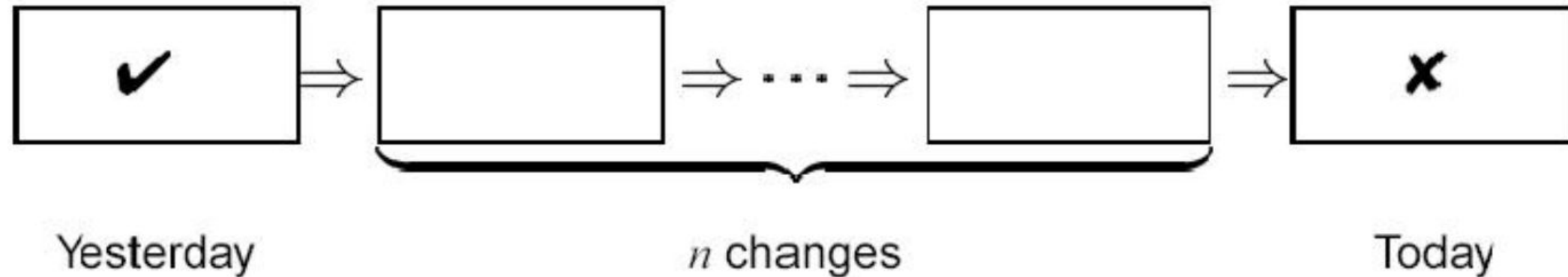
- Given

- a set  $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$  (of changes)
- a function **Interesting** : a set of changes  $\rightarrow$  Yes or No
- Interesting(C) = Yes, Interesting(  $\{\}$  ) = No
- Interesting is monotonic, unambiguous and consistent (more on these later)

- The **delta debugging** algorithm returns a **minimal “Interesting” subset M** of C:

- Interesting(M) = Yes
- For all m in M, Interesting(M  $\setminus$  {m}) = No

# Example Use of Delta Debugging

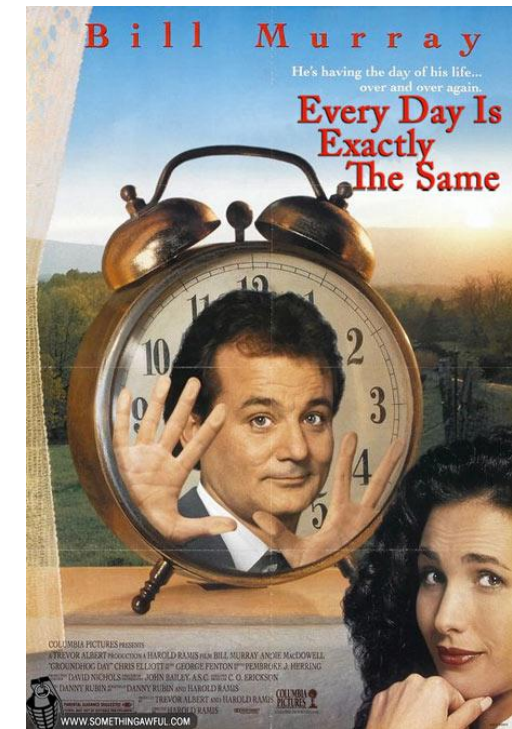


- $C$  = the set of  $n$  changes
- $\text{Interesting}(X)$  = Apply the changes in  $X$  to Yesterday's version and compile. Run the result on the test.
  - If it fails, return "Yes" ( $X$  is an interesting failure-inducing change set),
  - otherwise return "No" ( $X$  is too small and does not induce the failure)



# Naïve Approach

- We could just try all subsets of  $C$  to find the smallest one that is Interesting
  - Problem: if  $|C| = N$ , this takes  $2^N$  time
  - Recall: real-world software is huge
- We want a polynomial-time solution
  - Ideally one that is more like  $\log(N)$
  - Or we'll loop “forever”



# Algorithm Candidate

/\* Precondition: Interesting( $\{c_1 \dots c_n\}$ ) = Yes \*/

**DD**( $\{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$ ) =

if  $n = 1$  then return  $\{c_1\}$

let  $P1 = \{c_1, \dots, c_{n/2}\}$

let  $P2 = \{c_{n/2+1}, \dots, c_n\}$

if **Interesting**(P1) = Yes

then return DD(P1)

else return DD(P2)

So far, this is just binary search!

It won't work if you need a big subset  
(with  $>1$  elements) to be Interesting.

# Useful Assumptions

- Any subset of changes may be Interesting
  - Not just singleton subsets of size 1 (cf. bsearch)
- Interesting is **Monotonic**
  - $\text{Interesting}(X) \rightarrow \text{Interesting}(X \cup \{c\})$
- Interesting is **Unambiguous**
  - $\text{Interesting}(X) \ \& \ \text{Interesting}(Y) \rightarrow \text{Interesting}(X \cap Y)$
- Interesting is **Consistent**
  - $\text{Interesting}(X) = \text{Yes}$  or  $\text{Interesting}(X) = \text{No}$
  - (Some formulations:  $\text{Interesting}(X) = \text{Unknown}$ )

# Delta Debugging Insights

- Basic Binary Search
  - Divide C into P1 and P2
  - If Interesting(P1) = Yes then recurse on P1
  - If Interesting(P2) = Yes then recurse on P2
- **At most one case** can apply (by **Unambiguous**)
- By **Consistency**, the only other possibility is
  - (Interesting(P1) = No) *and* (Interesting(P2) = No)
  - What happens in such a case?

		Interesting(P2)	
		Yes	No
Interesting(P1)	Yes	This	Here
	No	Here	That



# Interference:

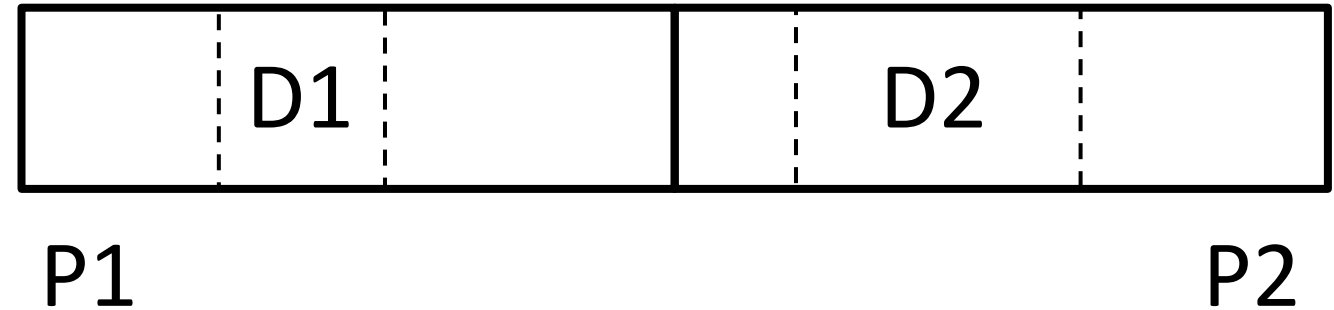
Interesting(P1) = No *and* Interesting(P2) = No

- By **Monotonicity**
  - If Interesting(P1) = No and Interesting(P2) = No
  - Then no subset of P1 alone or subset of P2 alone is Interesting
- So the Interesting subset must use a **combination** of elements from P1 and P2
- In Delta Debugging, this is called **interference**
  - Basic binary search does *not* have to contend with this issue

# Interference Insight

(hardest part of this lecture?)

- Consider P1
  - Find a minimal subset D2 of P2
  - Such that  $\text{Interesting}(P1 \cup D2) = \text{Yes}$
- Consider P2
  - Find a minimal subset D1 of P1
  - Such that  $\text{Interesting}(P2 \cup D1) = \text{Yes}$
- Then by **Unambiguous**
  - $\text{Interesting}((P1 \cup D2) \cap (P2 \cup D1)) = \text{Interesting}(D1 \cup D2)$  is also minimal



Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset  
of {1, ..., 8}

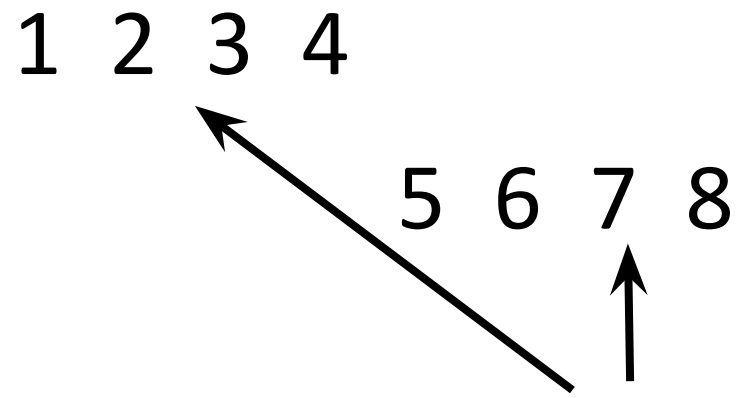
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?

Example: Use DD to find the smallest  
interesting subset of {1, ..., 8}

What do you think DD will do here?  
List the first three steps.

# Example: $\{3,6\}$ Is Smallest Interesting Subset of $\{1, \dots, 8\}$

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?



First Step:

Partition  $C = \{1, \dots, 8\}$  into

$P1 = \{1, \dots, 4\}$  and  $P2 = \{5, \dots, 8\}$



# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	---------------------

1	2	3	4					???
---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	-----

				5	6	7	8	???
--	--	--	--	---	---	---	---	-----



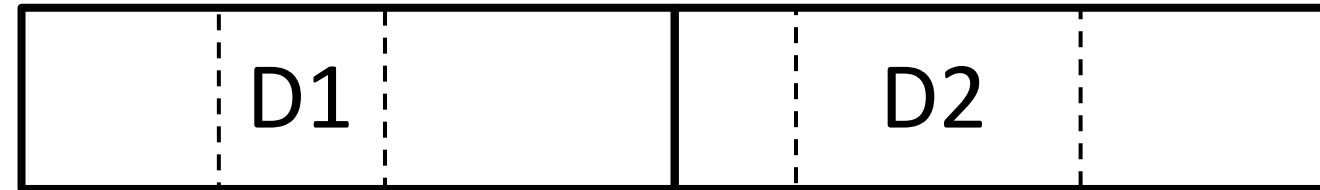
Second Step:  
Test P1 and  
P2

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?

1 2 3 4 **No**

5 6 7 8 **No**



P1

P2

Interference! Sub-Step:  
Find minimal subset D1 of P1  
such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No

Interference! Sub-Step:  
Find minimal subset D1 of P1  
such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No
1	2			5	6	7	8	???

Interference! Sub-Step:  
Find minimal subset D1 of P1  
such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No
1	2			5	6	7	8	No

Interference! Sub-Step:  
Find minimal subset D1 of P1  
such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No
1	2			5	6	7	8	No
		3	4	5	6	7	8	??

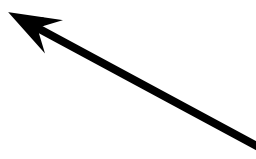
Interference! Sub-Step:  
Find minimal subset D1 of P1  
such that Interesting(D1 + P2)



# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

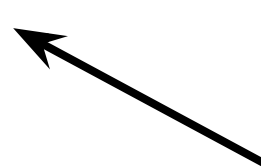
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No
1	2			5	6	7	8	No
		3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes

Interference! Sub-Step:  
Find minimal subset D1 of P1  
such that Interesting(D1 + P2)



# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No
1	2			5	6	7	8	No
		3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes



Interference! Sub-Step:

Find minimal subset D1 of P1 such that Interesting(D1 + P2)

**Are we done?**

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No
1	2			5	6	7	8	No
		3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes
		3		5	6	7	8	??

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No
1	2			5	6	7	8	No
		3	4	5	6	7	8	Yes
		3		5	6	7	8	Yes

$$D1 = \{3\}$$

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No



		3		5	6	7	8	Yes
--	--	---	--	---	---	---	---	-----

$$D1 = \{3\}$$

**Just one half.  
Need second half!**

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No



D1 = {3}

Now find D2!

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No



1	2	3	4	5	6		??
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	----

D1 = {3}

Now find D2!



# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No



1	2	3	4	5	6			Yes
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	-----

D1 = {3}

Now find D2!

What's next?

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Interesting?</u>
1	2	3	4					No
				5	6	7	8	No

$$D1 = \{3\}$$

$$D2 = \{6\}$$



1	2	3	4	5	6			Yes
1	2	3	4	5				No
1	2	3	4		6			Yes

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?

1 2 3 4 No

5 6 7 8 No



3 5 6 7 8 Yes



1 2 3 4 6 Yes

$D1 = \{3\}$

$D2 = \{6\}$

Final Answer:

How to combine  $D1$ ,  $D2$ ?

# Example: {3,6} Is Smallest Interesting Subset of {1, ..., 8}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Interesting?

1 2 3 4 No

5 6 7 8 No

1 2 5 6 7 8 No

3 4 5 6 7 8 Yes

**3** 5 6 7 8 Yes

1 2 3 4 5 6 Yes

1 2 3 4 5 No

1 2 3 4 **6** Yes

D1 = {3}

D2 = {6}

Final Answer:

{3, 6}

# Delta Debugging Algorithm

Initially, empty set; but during run, not empty

Initially, entire set; but during run, a subset

**DD**(P, {c<sub>1</sub>, ..., c<sub>n</sub>}) =

*Precondition:* P is not interesting, but P ∪ {c<sub>1</sub>, ..., c<sub>n</sub>} is

if n = 1 then return {c<sub>1</sub>}

*Postcondition:* minimal subset of {c<sub>1</sub>, ..., c<sub>n</sub>} such that  
“P ∪ this subset” is interesting

let P1 = {c<sub>1</sub>, ..., c<sub>n/2</sub>}

let P2 = {c<sub>n/2+1</sub>, ..., c<sub>n</sub>}

if **Interesting**(P ∪ P1) = Yes then return DD(P, P1)

if **Interesting**(P ∪ P2) = Yes then return DD(P, P2)

else return DD(P ∪ P2, P1) ∪ DD(P ∪ P1, P2)

# Algorithmic Complexity

- If a single change induces the failure
  - DD is **logarithmic**:  $2 * \log |C|$
  - Why?
- Otherwise, DD is **linear**
  - Assuming constant time per “Interesting” check
  - Is this realistic? (cf. “AOTBE”)
- If Interesting can return Unknown
  - DD is **quadratic**:  $|C|^2 + 3|C|$
  - If all tests are Unknown except last one (unlikely)

# Questioning Assumptions

(assumptions are restated here for convenience)

- All three key assumptions are questionable
- Interesting is **Monotonic**
  - $\text{Interesting}(X) \rightarrow \text{Interesting}(X \cup \{c\})$
- Interesting is **Unambiguous**
  - $\text{Interesting}(X) \ \& \ \text{Interesting}(Y) \rightarrow \text{Interesting}(X \cap Y)$
- Interesting is **Consistent**
  - $\text{Interesting}(X) = \text{Yes}$  or  $\text{Interesting}(X) = \text{No}$
  - (Some formulations:  $\text{Interesting}(X) = \text{Unknown}$ )



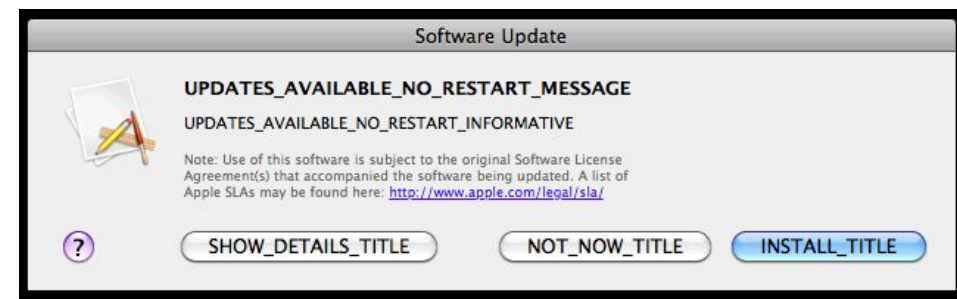
# Not Monotonic

- ~~Monotonic: If  $X$  is interesting, any superset of  $X$  is interesting~~
- What if the world is not monotonic?
  - For example, Interesting( $\{1,2\}$ ) = Yes but Interesting( $\{1,2,3,4\}$ ) = No
- Then DD may still find *an* Interesting subset
  - Thought questions: Will it be minimal? How long will it take?

# Ambiguity

(a 481 student found this counterexample!)

- ~~Unambiguous: the interesting failure is caused by one subset (and not independently by two disjoint subsets)~~
- What if the world is ambiguous?
- Then DD (as presented here) may *not* find an Interesting subset
- Hint: trace DD on Interesting( $\{2, 8\}$ ) = yes, Interesting( $\{3, 6\}$ ) = yes, but Interesting( $\{2, 8\} \cap \{3, 6\}$ ) = no.
  - DD returns  $\{2,6\}$  :-).



# Inconsistency

- ~~Consistent: We can evaluate every subset to see if it is interesting or not~~

- What if the world is not consistent?

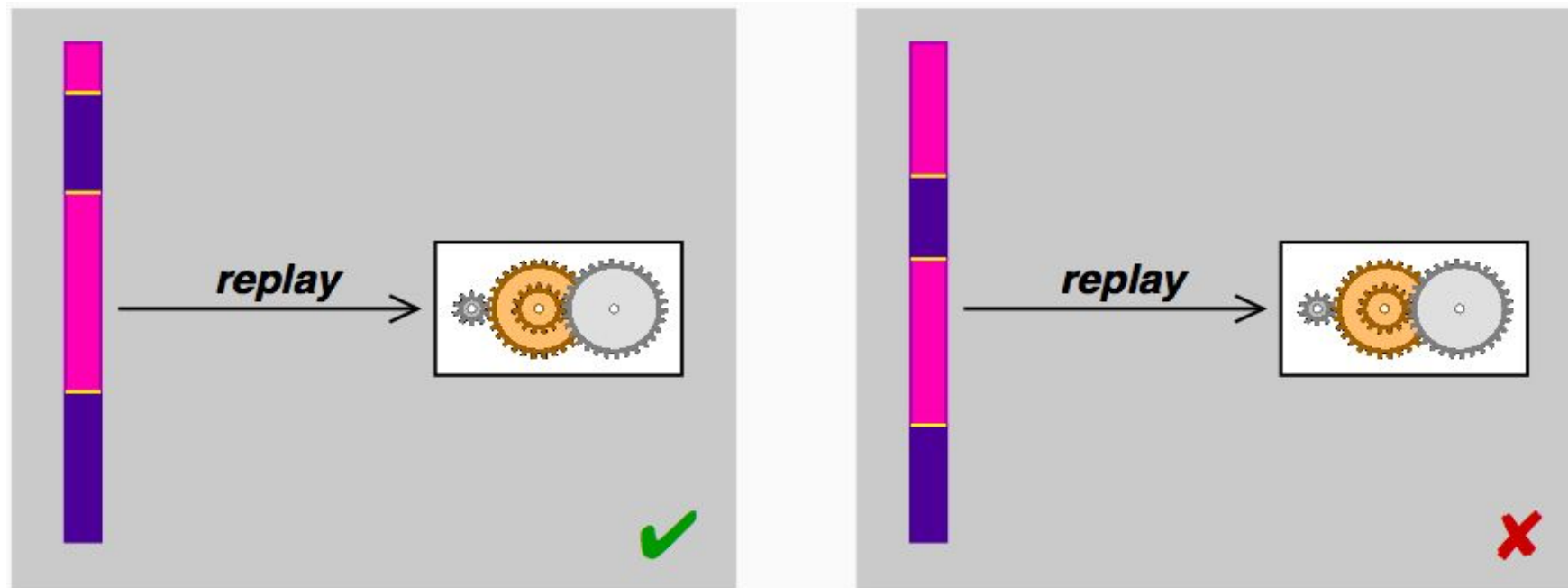
- Example: we are minimizing changes to a program to find patches that make it crash

Some subsets may not build or run!

- Integration Failure: a change may depend on earlier changes
- **Construction** failure: some subsets may yield programs with parse errors or type checking errors (cf. HW3!)
- Execution failure: program executes strangely or does not terminate, test outcome is unresolved

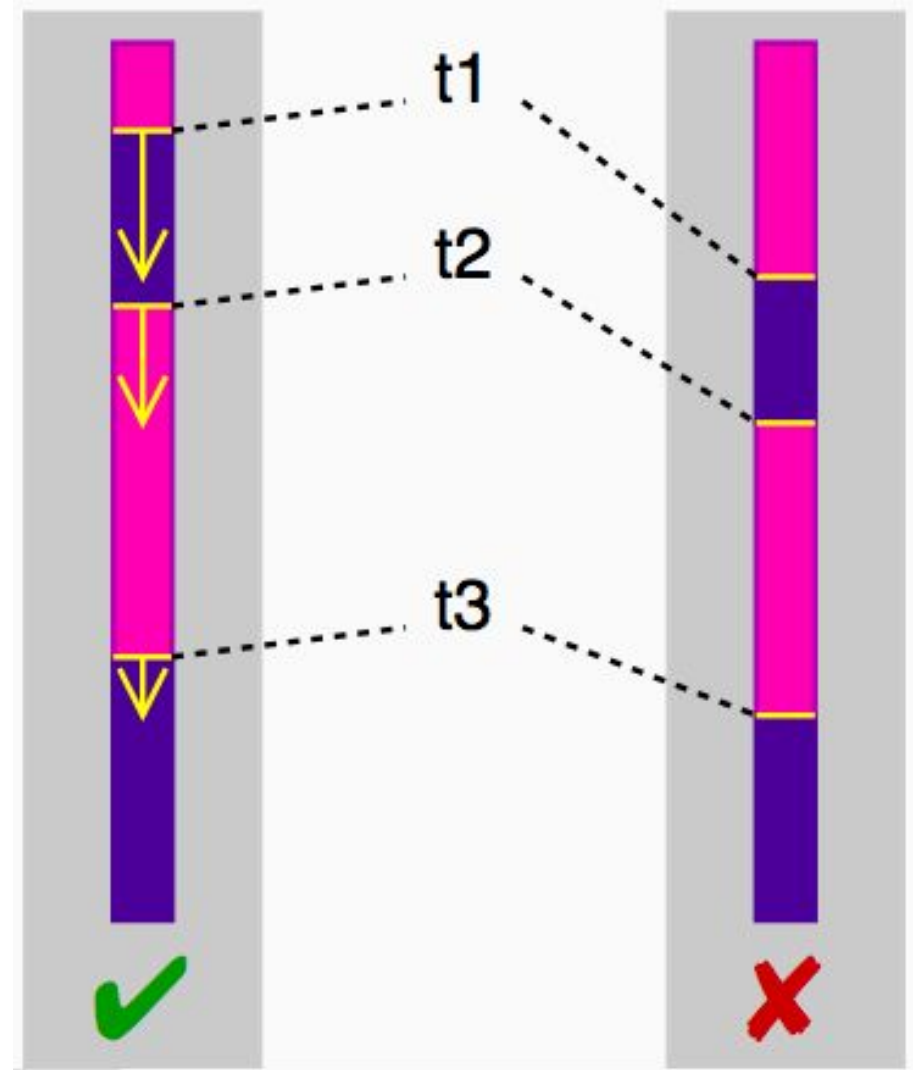
# Delta Debugging Thread Schedules

- DejaVu tool by IBM, CHESSE by Microsoft, etc.
- The thread schedule becomes part of the input
- We can control when the scheduler preempts one thread



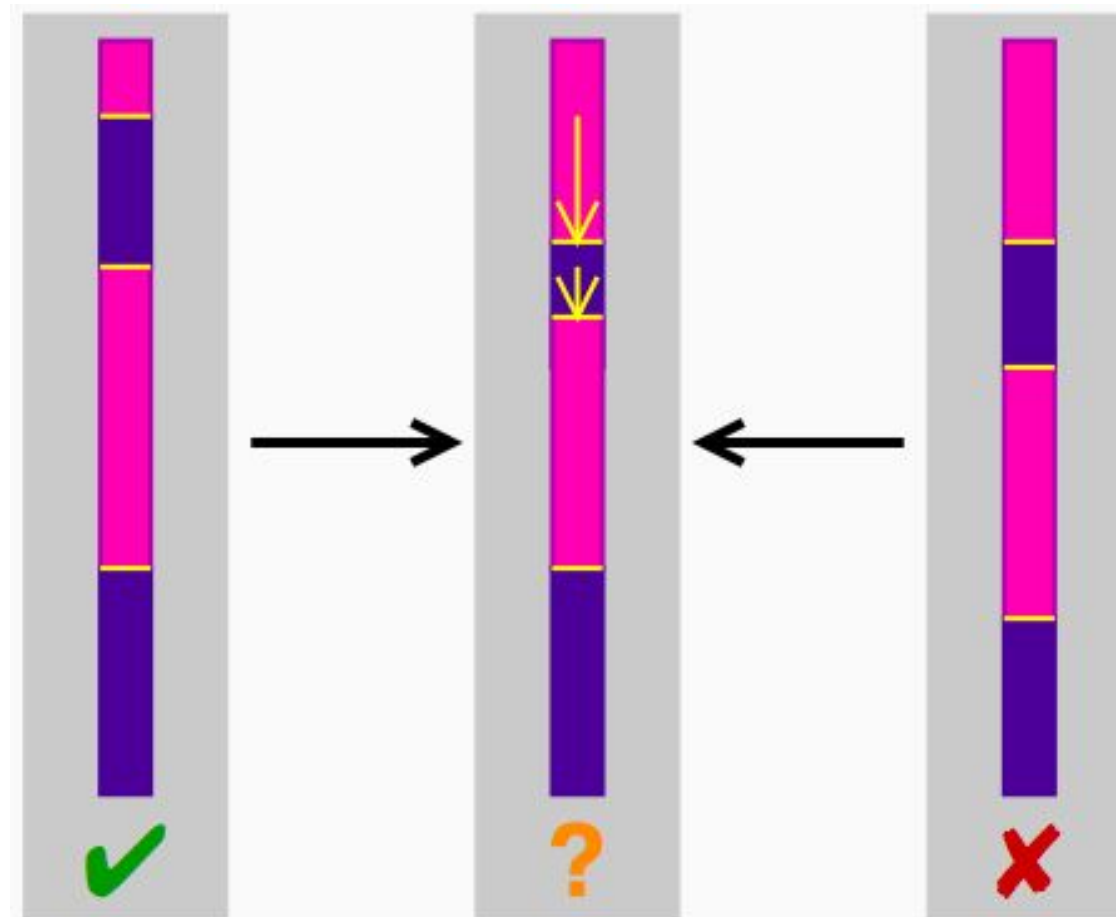
# Differences in Thread Scheduling

- Starting point
  - Passing run
  - Failing run
- Differences (for t1)
  - T1 occurs in passing run at time 254
  - T1 occurs in failing run at time 278



# Differences in Thread Scheduling

- We can build new test cases by mixing the two schedules to isolate the relevant differences

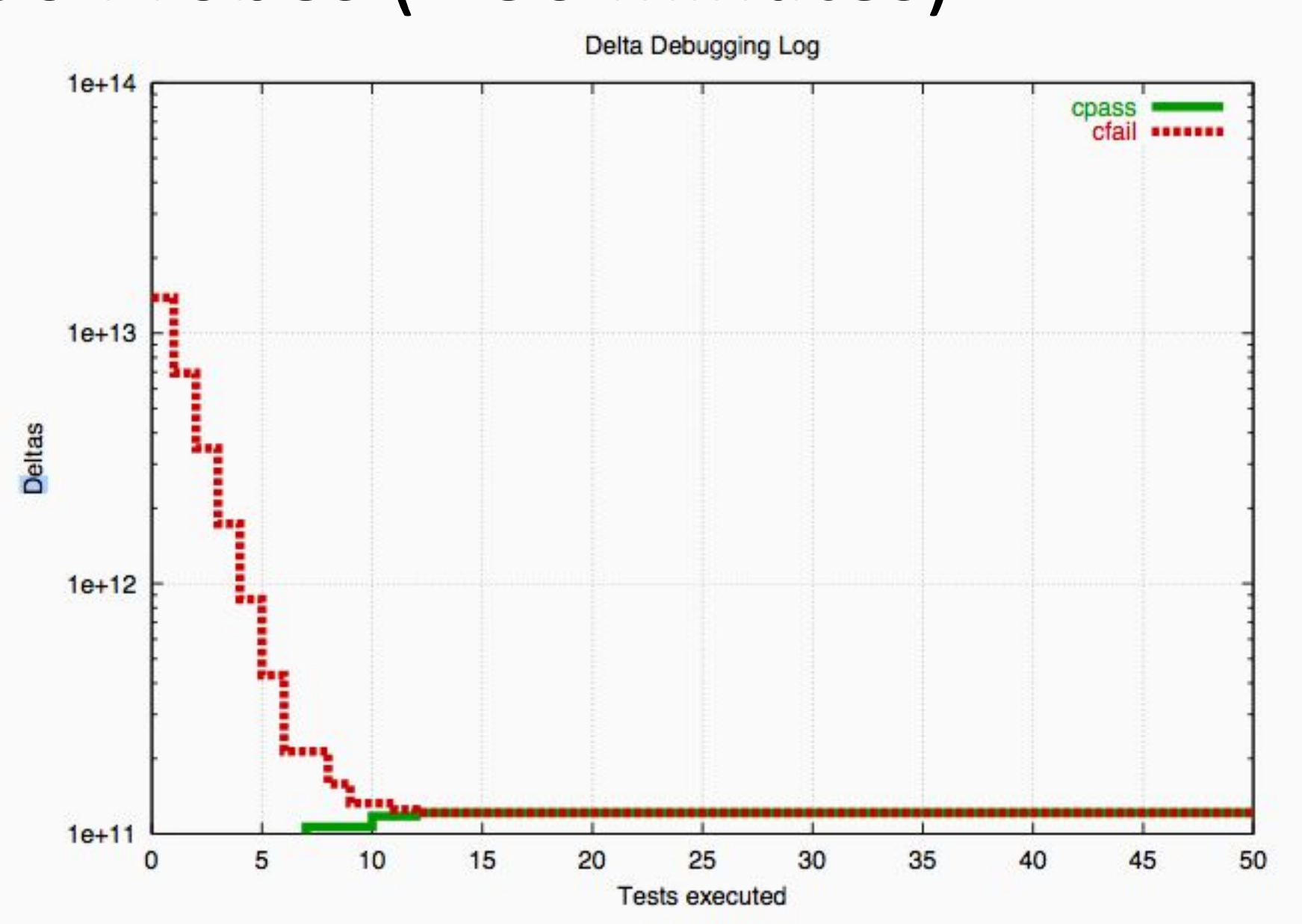


# Does It Work?

- Test #205 of SPEC JVM98 Java Test Suite
  - Multi-threaded raytracer program
  - Simple race condition
  - Generate random schedules to find a passing schedule and a failing schedule (to get started)
- Differences between passing and failing
  - 3,842,577,240 differences (!)
  - Each difference moves a thread switch time by +1 or -1



# DD Isolates One Difference After 50 Probes (< 30 minutes)



# Pin-Pointing The Failure

- The failure occurs iff thread switch #33 occurs at yield point 59,772,127 (line 91) instead of 59,772,126 (line 82) → race on *which variable?*

```
25 public class Scene { ...
44     private static int ScenesLoaded = 0;
45     (more methods...)
81     private
82     int LoadScene(String filename) {
84         int OldScenesLoaded = ScenesLoaded;
85         (more initializations...)
91         infile = new DataInputStream(...);
92         (more code...)
130         ScenesLoaded = OldScenesLoaded + 1;
131         System.out.println("" +
                             ScenesLoaded + " scenes loaded.");
132     ...
134     }
135     ...
733 }
```

should be  
"Critical  
Section"  
but is not

# Minimizing Input

- GCC version 2.95.2 on x86/Linux with certain optimizations crashed on a legitimate C program
  - Note: GCC crashes, not the program!

```
double mult( double z[], int n )
{
    int i;
    int j;
    for (j= 0; j< n; j++) {
        i= i+j+1;
        z[i]=z[i]*(z[0]+0);
    }
    return z[n];
}

int copy(double to[], double from[], int count)
{
    int n= (count+7)/8;
    switch (count%8) do {
        case 0: *to++ = *from++;
        case 7: *to++ = *from++;
        case 6: *to++ = *from++;
        case 5: *to++ = *from++;
        case 4: *to++ = *from++;
        case 3: *to++ = *from++;
        case 2: *to++ = *from++;
        case 1: *to++ = *from++;
    } while (--n > 0);
    return (int)mult(to,2);
}

int main( int argc, char *argv[] )
{
    double x[20], y[20];
    double *px= x;

    while (px < x + 20)
        *px++ = (px-x)*(20+1.0);

    return copy(y,x,20);
}
```

Figure 4: A program that crashes GCC-2.95.2.

# Delta Debugging to the Rescue

- With 731 probes (< 60 seconds), minimized to:

```
t(double z[], int n) {  
    int i, j;  
    for (;;) { i=i+j+1; z[i]=z[i]*(z[0]+0); }  
    return z[n]; }
```

- GCC has many options

- Run DD again to find which are relevant

<i>-ffloat-store</i>	<i>-fno-default-inline</i>	<i>-fno-defer-pop</i>
<i>-fforce-mem</i>	<i>-fforce-addr</i>	<i>-fomit-frame-pointer</i>
<i>-fno-inline</i>	<i>-finline-functions</i>	<i>-fkeep-inline-functions</i>
<i>-fkeep-static-consts</i>	<i>-fno-function-cse</i>	<i>-ffast-math</i>
<i>-fstrength-reduce</i>	<i>-fthread-jumps</i>	<i>-fcse-follow-jumps</i>
<i>-fcse-skip-blocks</i>	<i>-frerun-cse-after-loop</i>	<i>-frerun-loop-opt</i>
<i>-fgcse</i>	<i>-fexpensive-optimizations</i>	<i>-fschedule-insns</i>
<i>-fschedule-insns2</i>	<i>-ffunction-sections</i>	<i>-fdata-sections</i>
<i>-fcaller-saves</i>	<i>-funroll-loops</i>	<i>-funroll-all-loops</i>
<i>-fmove-all-movables</i>	<i>-freduce-all-givs</i>	<i>-fno-peephole</i>
<i>-fstrict-aliasing</i>		



# Go Try It Out: Eclipse Integration

## Automated Debugging in Eclipse

We realized two [Eclipse](#) plug-ins that automatically determine why your program fails:

- in the [input](#) and
- in the [program history](#).

These plug-ins integrate with [JUnit](#) tests: As soon as a test fails, they automatically determine the failure cause. You don't even have to press a button—just wait for the diagnosis.

### **DDinput: Failure-Inducing Input**

Find out which part of the input causes your program to fail:

*The program fails when the input contains <SELECT>.*

This plug-in applies [Delta Debugging](#) to program inputs, as described in [Simplifying and Isolating Failure-Inducing Input](#).

**Available for [download](#).**

### **DDchange: Failure-Inducing Changes**

Find out which change causes your program to fail:

*The change in Line 45 makes the program fail.*

This plug-in applies [Delta Debugging](#) to program changes, as described in [Yesterday, my program worked. Today, it does not. Why?](#).

**Available for [download](#).**

# Questions?

- HW4 is due Wed
- .. and consider starting to work on HW5 (DD)!

