



Intuitionism and Computer Science

Why Computer Scientists do not Like the Axiom of Choice

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Dr. Thomas Fehlmann



- 1981: Dr. Math. ETHZ
- 1991: Six Sigma for Software Black Belt
- 1999: Euro Project Office AG, Zürich
- 2001: Akao Price 2001 for original contributions to QFD
- 2003: SwissICT Expert for Software Metrics
- 2004: Member of the Board QFD Institute Deutschland – QFD Architect
- 2007: CMMI for Software – Level 4 & 5
- 2011: Net Promoter® Certified Associate
- 2013: Vice-President ISBSG
- 2016: Academic Member of the Athens Institute for Education and Research

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Eberhard Kranich



- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Emphasis on Mathematical Statistics
- Mathematical Optimization
- Theory of Polynomial Complexity of Algorithms
- Six Sigma Black Belt for Software Development
- Software Quality Assurance Manager

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The Judgement of Salomon

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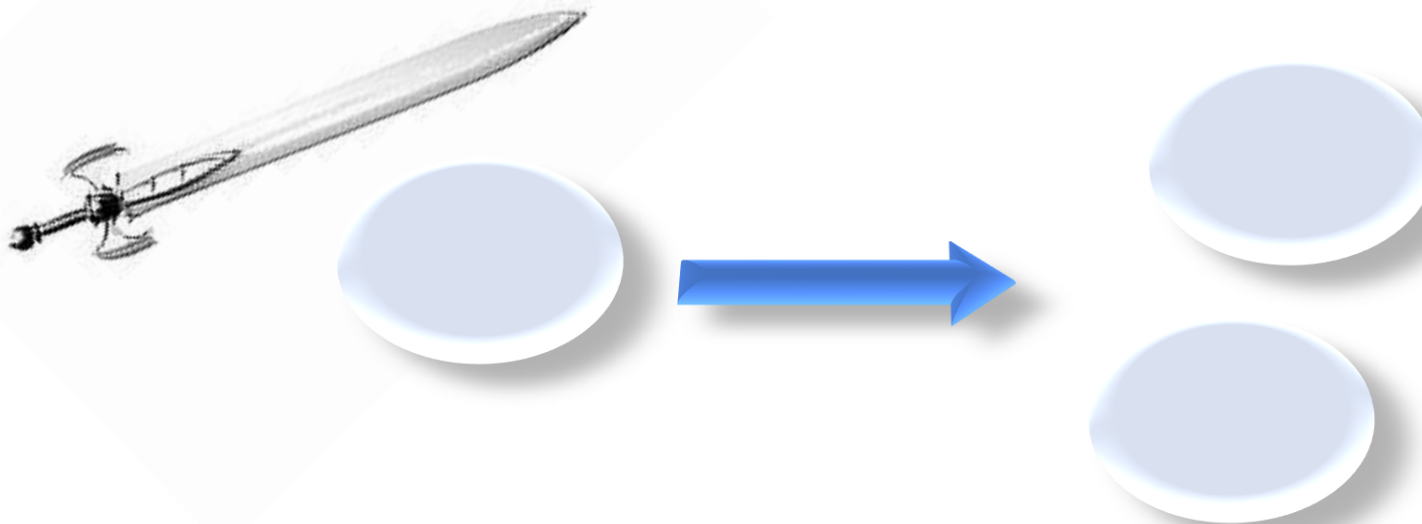
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The Theorem of Banach-Tarski



- According the Theorem of Banach-Tarski, any solid sphere can be divided into pieces such that the pieces can be reassembled into two spheres, with each sphere the same size as the original sphere
- It can be proven using the **Axiom of Choice**
 - ➔ By constructing non-measurable sets that require an uncountable number of choices



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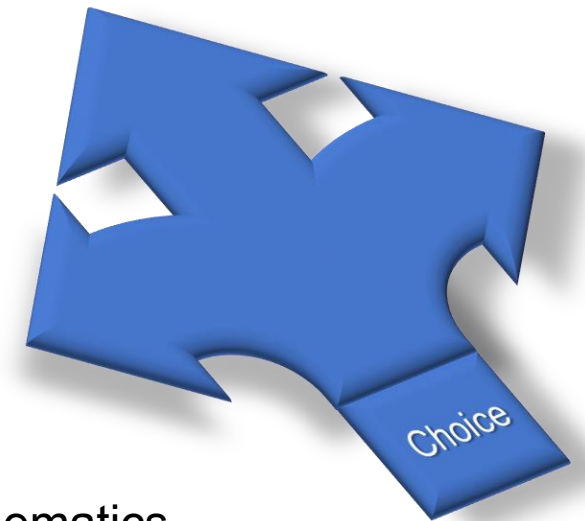
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The Axiom of Choice

- The **Axiom of Choice** (AC) says that given any family of non-empty sets S_i for $i \in I$, there exists a function f such that $f(i) \in S_i$ for all $i \in I$
 - ➔ f is called a **Choice Function**
 - ➔ A choice function simply selects one element from each set
- A Choice Function is a difficult notion for infinite sets
 - ➔ Which element to choose?
 - ➔ When are we finished with choosing?
 - ➔ When is our choice really representative?
- Assuming **AC**, the Banach-Tarski Paradox can be proven
 - ➔ Thus, difficult to believe the AC seems indispensable in mathematics





Leibniz Formula for π

$$1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{9} - \dots = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{4n+1} - \frac{1}{4n+3} \right)$$

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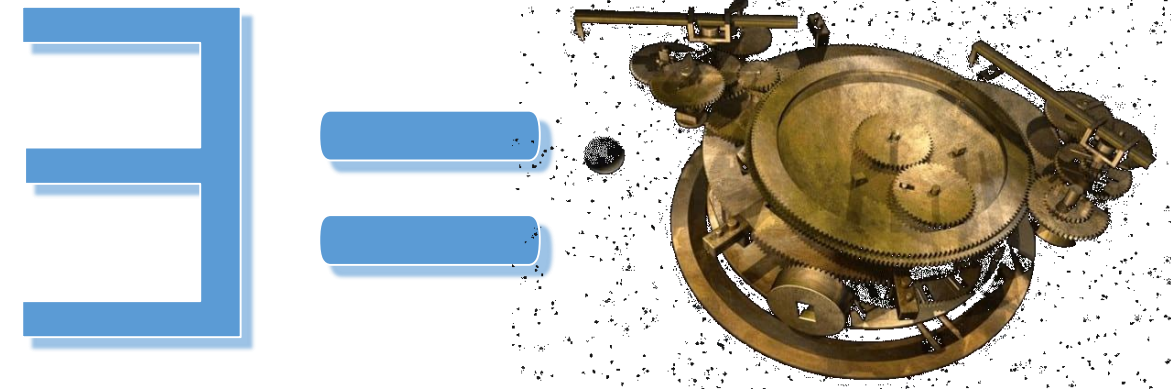
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The Intuitionistic Variant of the Axiom of Choice

- “**There Exists**” means
 - ➔ There exists an **algorithm** that allows to select exactly one representative from each collection of sets
 - ➔ The choice function is **computable**





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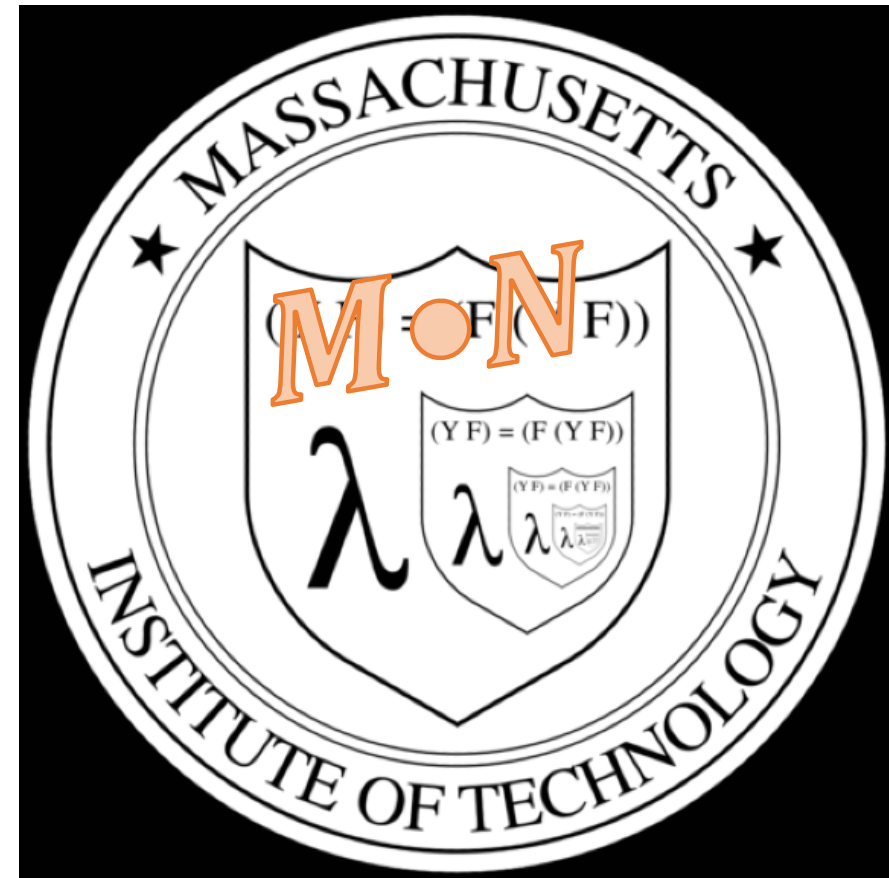


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What is Combinatory Logic?

- A **Logic** is a formal structure
 - ➔ Of a set of terms
 - ➔ And a set of operators between terms
- **Combinatory Logic** consists of
 - ➔ An operation $M \bullet N$ defined for each pair of combinatory terms M, N in the combinatory algebra
 - ➔ $M \bullet N$ is again a combinatory term
 - ➔ Two distinguished **Combinators** called S and K





The S-K Combinators

- The two Combinators **S** and **K** are characterized by the two equations

$$\mathbf{K} \bullet M \bullet N = M \text{ (Projection)}$$

$$\mathbf{S} \bullet M \bullet N \bullet L = M \bullet L \bullet (N \bullet L) \text{ (Substitution)}$$

With these two combinators any kind of program can be described. The **S-K** calculus is **Turing-complete**, without variables and quantifiers!

- The identity combinator is defined as

$$\mathbf{I} := \mathbf{S} \bullet \mathbf{K} \bullet \mathbf{K}$$

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{S} \bullet \mathbf{K} \bullet \mathbf{K}$$

- Indeed, $\mathbf{I} \bullet M = \mathbf{S} \bullet \mathbf{K} \bullet \mathbf{K} \bullet M = \mathbf{K} \bullet M \bullet (\mathbf{K} \bullet M) = M$
- Combinatory algebras are the simplest language for describing formal languages



The Lambda Theorem

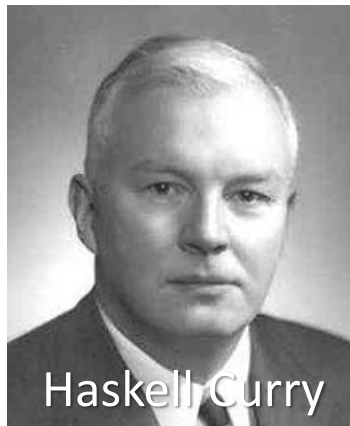
- The Lambda Theorem says that whenever there exists a Combinator $M(x)$ with some subterm x , there exists a combinator $\lambda x. Mx$ that fulfills

$$(\lambda x. Mx) \bullet N = M(N)$$

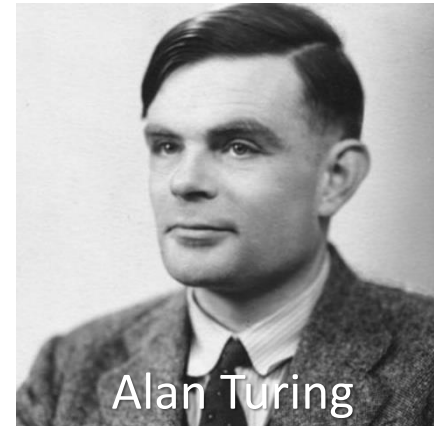
thus, by replacing x by N in M , this yields a Combinator too

- It means we can use the Lambda terms to construct schemata, combinators that take other combinatory terms as arguments, and all algorithms that run on a **Turing** machine

- **Foundation of Computer Science**



Haskell Curry



Alan Turing

$\lambda x. Mx$



Models of Combinatory Logic

- A logic is only useful as there are **Models**
 - ➔ A model is an algebraic structure that fulfils the definitions given for the logic
 - ➔ Thus, it requires
 - A set providing the model elements, and
 - **S** and **K** Combinators
 - ➔ A method to combine two model elements
- Such a model is capable to describe the behavior of computers



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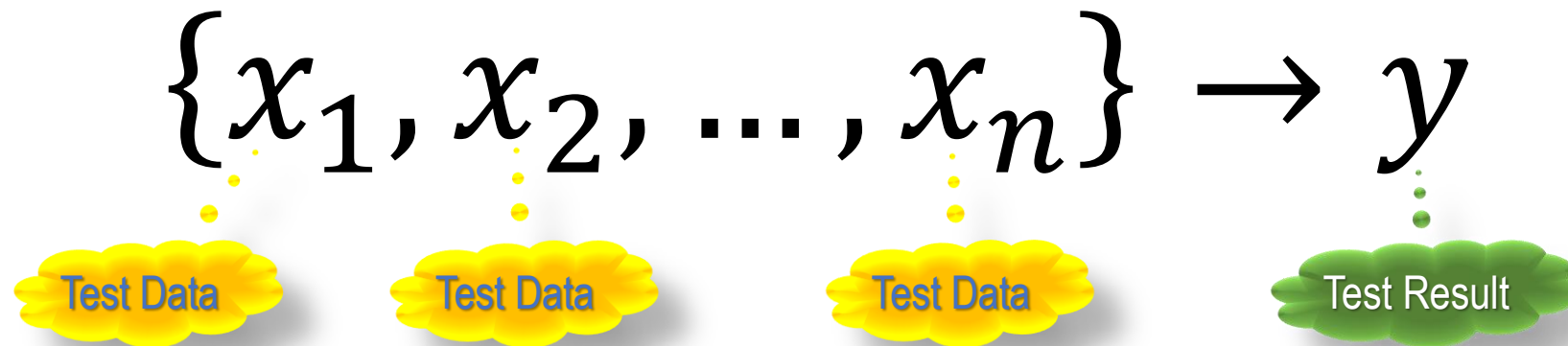
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Arrow Terms are a Combinatory Algebra for Software Testing



- The powerset of all **Arrow Terms** is a **Combinatory Algebra**
 - ➔ Powerset means including tests of tests
 - ➔ Algebraic combination of tests is a powerful method for enlarging test coverage
- ➔ **Test Data** refer to specific **Data Groups**
 - ➔ Data Groups are needed for test automation
- **Test Stories** are represented by finite sets of **Arrow Terms** with coherent scope



What Happens with Infinitely many Test Data as Controls?

- In set-theoretical notation, the formal definition is

$$\mathcal{G}_0(\mathcal{L}) = \mathcal{L}$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{n+1}(\mathcal{L}) = \mathcal{G}_n(\mathcal{L}) \cup \{\{a_1, \dots, a_m\} \rightarrow b \mid a_1, \dots, a_m, b \in \mathcal{G}_n(\mathcal{L})\}, m = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$$

- $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{L})$ is the set of all (finite and infinite) subsets of the union of all $\mathcal{G}_n(\mathcal{L})$:

$$\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{L}) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{G}_n(\mathcal{L})$$

Short:

- Write an explicit choice function as an index:

- ➔ Denote a **Test Case** by $x_i \rightarrow y = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \rightarrow y$
- ➔ **Test Stories** are finite sets of test cases $(x_i \rightarrow y)_j$
- ➔ **Rule Sets** are any set of test stories $(x_i \rightarrow y)$
- ➔ Every arrow term has a recursively defined size

$$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \rightarrow y$$

Arrow Term: $x_i \rightarrow y$

Test Story: $(x_i \rightarrow y)_j$

Test Size: $\|x_i \rightarrow y\|$



Combining Tests

- Let M, N be two test stories, consisting of test cases. N is a set of test cases consisting of arrow terms of the form $b_i \subset \mathcal{G}(\mathcal{L})$. Then application of M to N is defined by

$$M \bullet N = ((b_i \rightarrow a) \bullet (b_i)) = \{a \mid \exists b_i \rightarrow a \in M, b_i \subset N\}$$

$M \bullet N$

- If N is a test story, i.e., a finite, coherent set of arrow terms, the application $M \bullet N$ represents the selection operation that chooses those rules $(b_i \rightarrow a)$ from rule set M that are applicable to the test story N .
- Combining tests is a strong means to extend test stories as needed
 - ➔ The combination remembers which $b_i \rightarrow a \in M$ to select, because this was a constructive selection operation executed by a select function
 - ➔ This allows re-executing the selected tests in M
- Other combinators exist as well, such as projection, and many more



Arrow Terms – A Model of Combinatory Logic

- The following definitions demonstrate how arrow terms implement the combinators S and K

➔ $I = (a_1 \rightarrow a)$ is the **Identification**; i.e. $(a_1 \rightarrow a) \bullet (b) = (b)$

➔ $K = (a_1 \rightarrow \emptyset \rightarrow a)$ selects the **1st Projection**:

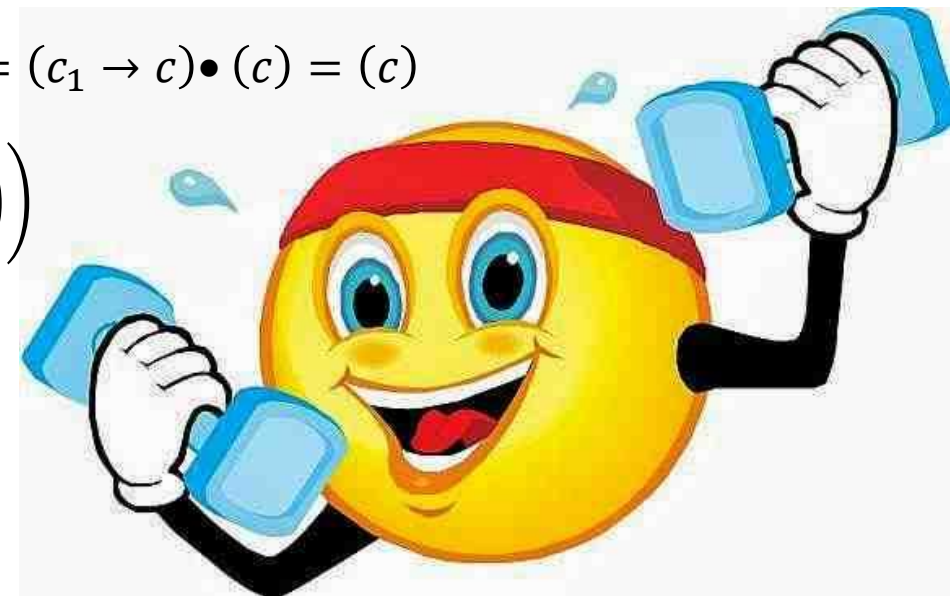
$$K \bullet (b) \bullet (c) = ((b_1 \rightarrow \emptyset \rightarrow b) \bullet (b)) \bullet (c) = (\emptyset \rightarrow b) \bullet (c) = (b)$$

➔ $KI = (\emptyset \rightarrow a_1 \rightarrow a)$ selects the **2nd Projection**:

$$KI \bullet (b) \bullet (c) = ((\emptyset \rightarrow c_1 \rightarrow c) \bullet (b)) \bullet (c) = (c_1 \rightarrow c) \bullet (c) = (c)$$

➔ $S = \left(a_i \rightarrow (b_j \rightarrow c) \right)_1 \rightarrow \left((d_k \rightarrow b)_i \rightarrow \left((b_j)_i \rightarrow c \right) \right)$

- Therefore, the algebra of arrow terms is a model of combinatory logic





Now we Have a Fountain to Generate Test Cases

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- A test case generator
- By combining other test cases
- By extracting new test cases from existing test cases
- All happens within a given test story



The Main Problem

- How to select those test cases that are relevant to the purpose of the tests?
 - ➔ We cannot execute all possible tests
 - ➔ That would possibly exceed the lifetime of the universe
- We need **Transfer Functions!**

$$y \equiv Ax$$



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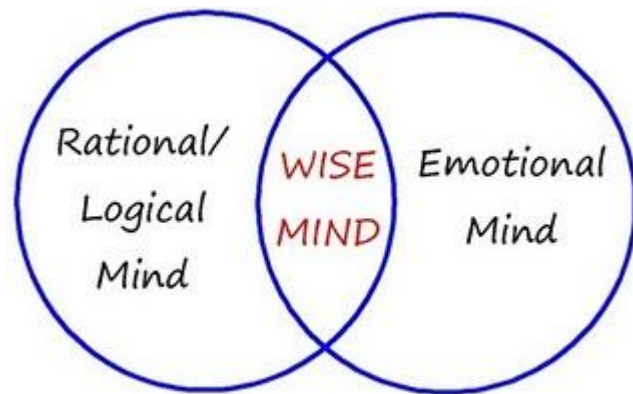
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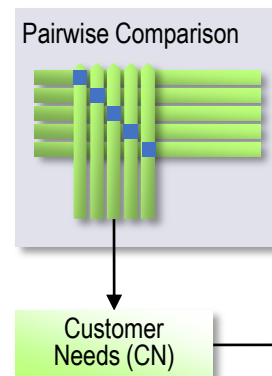
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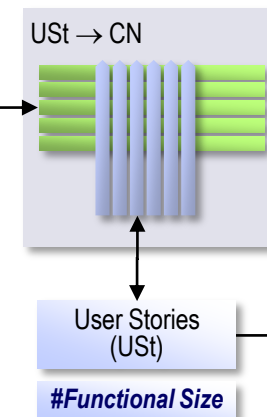
Goal Profile for User Values – Using Transfer Functions



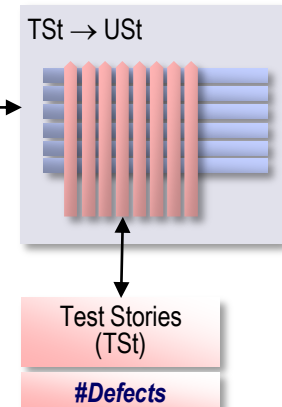
User Values



Effectiveness



Test Coverage



● How to get a goal profile for User Values?

- ➔ Privacy Needs
- ➔ Safety Needs
- ➔ Emotional Needs
- ➔ Business Needs

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How do We Know What is Relevant?

$$\text{Convergence Gap} = \|y - Ax\|$$

- We need a Goal Profile
 - ➔ Expressing the relative importance of User Stories
 - ➔ Agile Teams have such a profile
 - They need it for setting priorities in the Sprints!
- Compare what's being tested by the Test Stories with the User Story Profile
 - ➔ By counting frequency of data movements being executed
- If the Convergence Gap is close to zero
 - ➔ Test Stories test the responses that users expect
- If the Convergence Gap opens
 - ➔ Some Test Cases that matter for the users are missing, or superfluous





From Simple Search to an IoT Concert

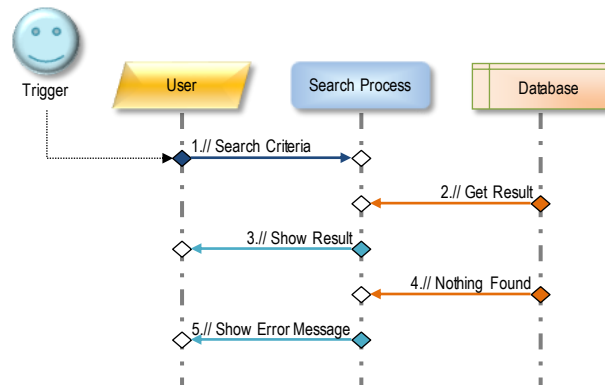
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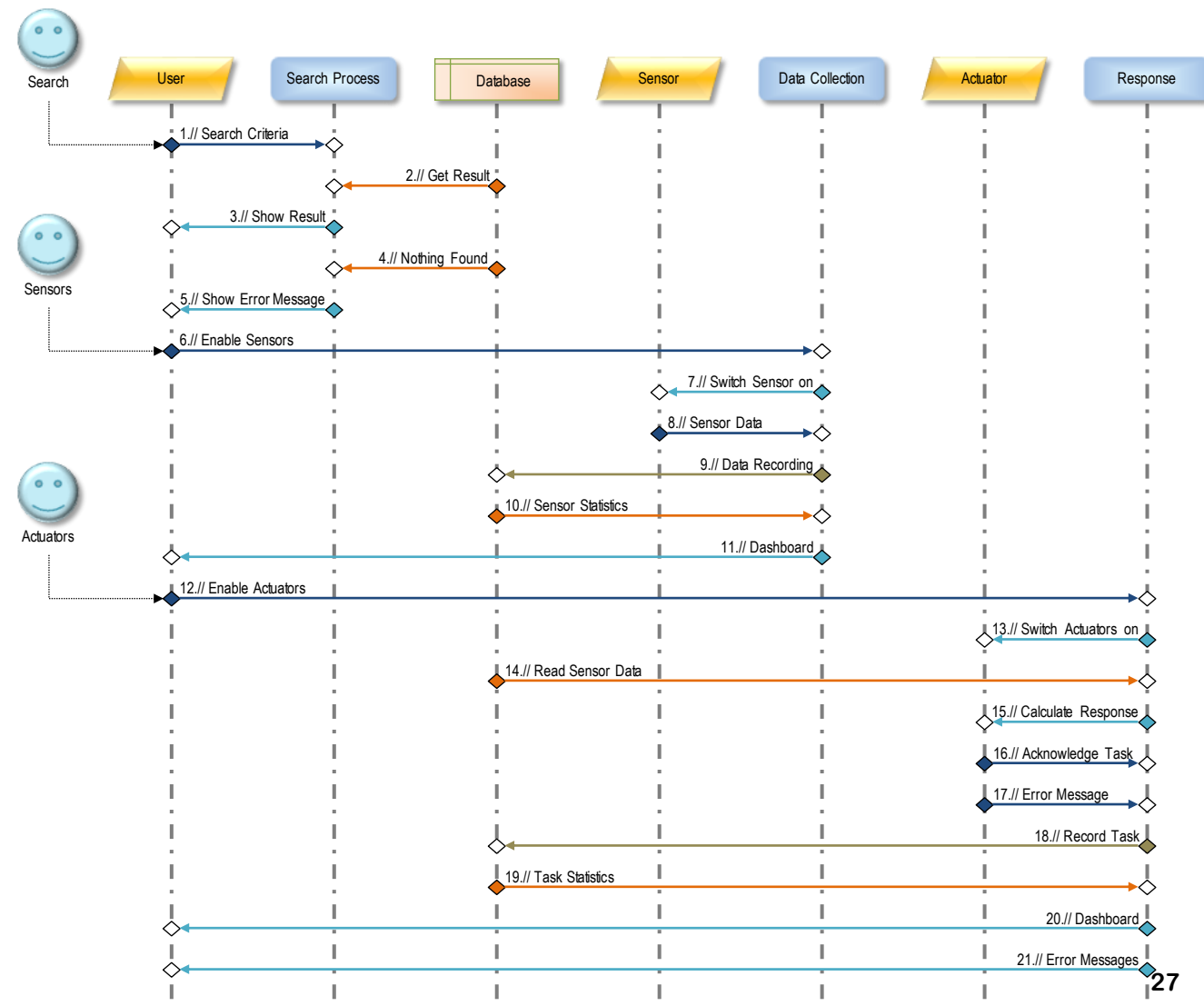
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Simple Search
IoT Concert



- Start with a simple search app
- Add sensors and actuators
- ➔ Become an IoT Concert
- ➔ Enhance search results by data observed by Sensors
- ➔ Use Actuators to move things



IoT Needs remain; Functional Effectiveness evolves

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	User Values Topics	Attributes	Weight	Profile
FUR	y1 Extensible	Easy to extend IoT Device independent Flexible	29%	0.54
	y2 Open	Open Source Open Interfaces	24%	0.45
NFR	y3 Reliable	Always correct Always secure Safe	37%	0.68
	y4 Fast	No waiting	11%	0.20

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User Values
Deployment Combinator

User Stories

		Goal Profile	Q001 Search Data	Q002 Answer Questions	Q003 Keep Data Safe	Achieved Profile
User Values	y1 Extensible	0.54	3	1	1	0.50
	y2 Open	0.45		4		0.48
	y3 Reliable	0.68	2	2	3	0.70
	y4 Fast	0.20	1		1	0.18

Solution Profile for User Stories: 0.55 0.68 0.49

Convergence Gap 0.06

18 Total Effort Points
0.10 Convergence Range
0.20 Convergence Limit

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Simple Search
IoT Concert

User Values
Deployment Combinator

User Stories

		Goal Profile	Q001 Search Data	Q002 Answer Questions	Q003 Keep Data Safe	Achieved Profile
User Values	y1 Extensible	0.54	8	11	9	0.52
	y2 Open	0.45	7	10	4	0.39
	y3 Reliable	0.68	10	13	16	0.72
	y4 Fast	0.20	5	4	1	0.24

Changed!

Solution Profile for User Stories: 0.49 0.64 0.60

Convergence Gap 0.08

101 Total Effort Points
0.10 Convergence Range
0.20 Convergence Limit



Test Cases

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Test Story			Case 1	Test Data	Expected Response	Case 2	Test Data	Expected Response
CT-A.1 Reliable Responses			CT-A.1.1	{Enter valid Search String}	Retrieved in Database	CT-A.1.2	{Enter invalid Search String}	Invalid Search String
CT-A.2 Detect Missing Data			CT-A.2.1	{Enter valid Search String for No Data}	No Data Available	CT-A.2.2	{Enter invalid Search String}	Invalid Search String
CT-A.3 Data Stays Untouched			CT-A.3.1	{Enter valid Search String}	Return identical Answer	CT-A.3.2	{Enter invalid Search String}	Invalid Search String

Simple Search
IoT Concert

Test Story			Case 3	Test Data	Expected Response	Case 4	Test Data	Expected Response	Case 5	Test Data
CT-A.1 Reliable Responses			CT-A.1.3	{Sensor Readings}	Retrieved in Database	CT-A.1.4	{Transmission Error}	No Data available	CT-A.1.5	{Actuator Enable}
CT-A.2 Detect Missing Data			CT-A.2.3	{Sensor Off}	No Data available	CT-A.2.4	{Sensor Off}	Dashboard Indication	CT-A.2.5	{Actuator Off}
CT-A.3 Data Stays Untouched			CT-A.3.3	{Same Readings Again}	Return identical Answer	CT-A.3.4	{Transmission Interference}	Data Rejected	CT-A.3.5	{Actuator Set}

$$\left((b_i \rightarrow c)_j \rightarrow a \right)$$

where $(b_i \rightarrow c)_j$ is in the sensor's unit tests



Test Coverage for the Full IoT Concert

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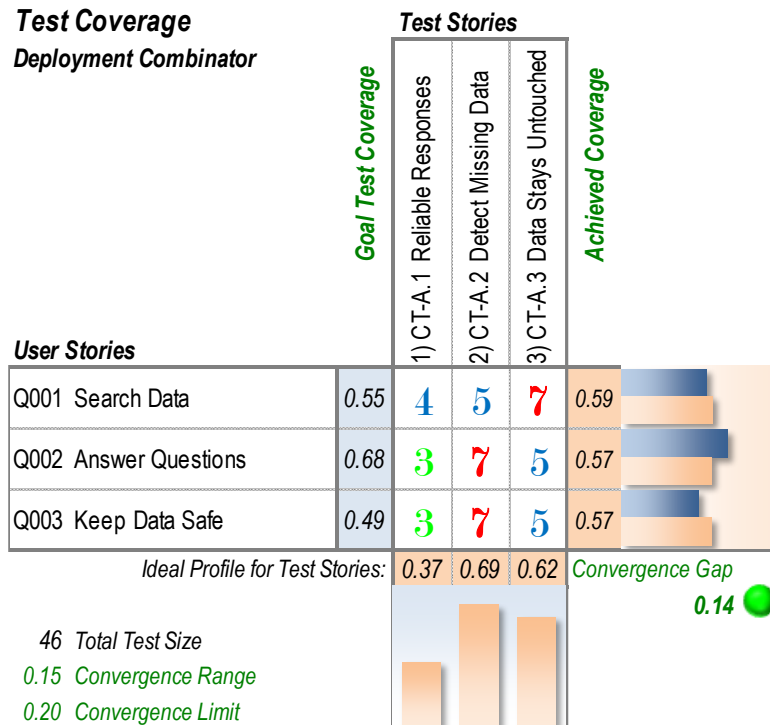
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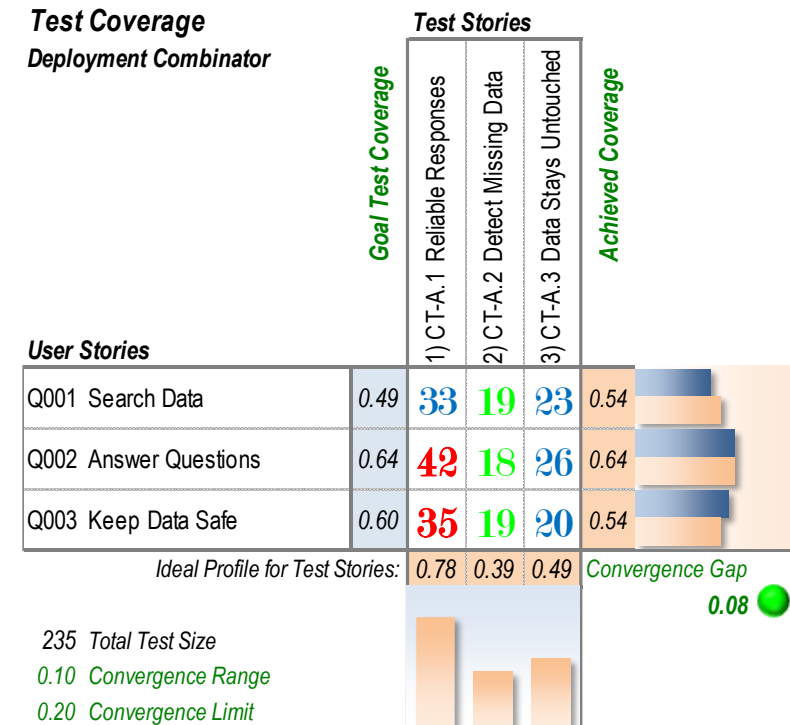
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Test Coverage
Deployment Combinator



Simple Search
IoT Concert

Test Coverage
Deployment Combinator



- Automatic selection of additional test cases based on
 - ➔ Same Test Stories
 - ➔ Analogous Sensor Entries and Responses
 - ➔ Keep Convergence Gap $\rightarrow 0$ as the selection criterion



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Open Questions

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- Will testing tools benefit from using Combinatory Algebra?
- Can we define combinators that target at generating meaningful additional tests?
- Is there a connection between matrix sensitivity analysis and such combinators?
 - ➔ The two last questions may not only lead to practical solutions, but also provide highly interesting theoretical insights towards the axiom of choice



Conclusions

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Computer science uses choice functions only in a constructive way; existence of a choice always means existence of an algorithm that does the choice

- This is counter-intuitive to human perception of the world and might partly explain the difficulties encountered with digitalization and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- The Axiom of Choice is connected to the Russel Paradox: No rule-based system will ever be free from contradictions

Arrow terms are an extremely rich structure for representing models for quite different topics such as

- The way how the brain thinks
- Product improvement with focus on customer needs by Quality Function Deployment (QFD)
- Testing of complex, software-intense systems with thousands of Embedded Control Units (ECU)



Questions?

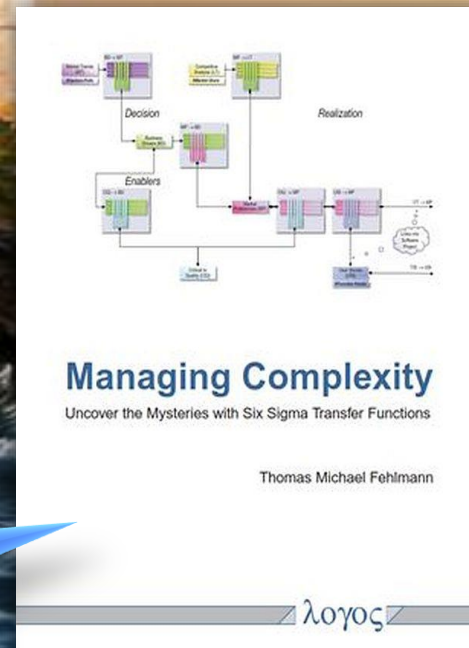
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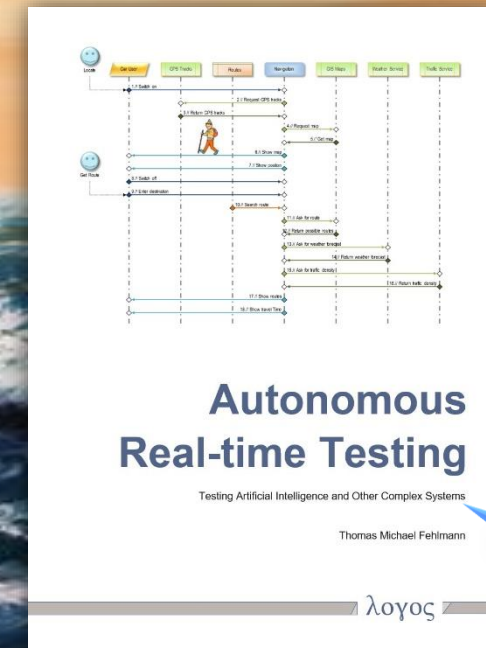
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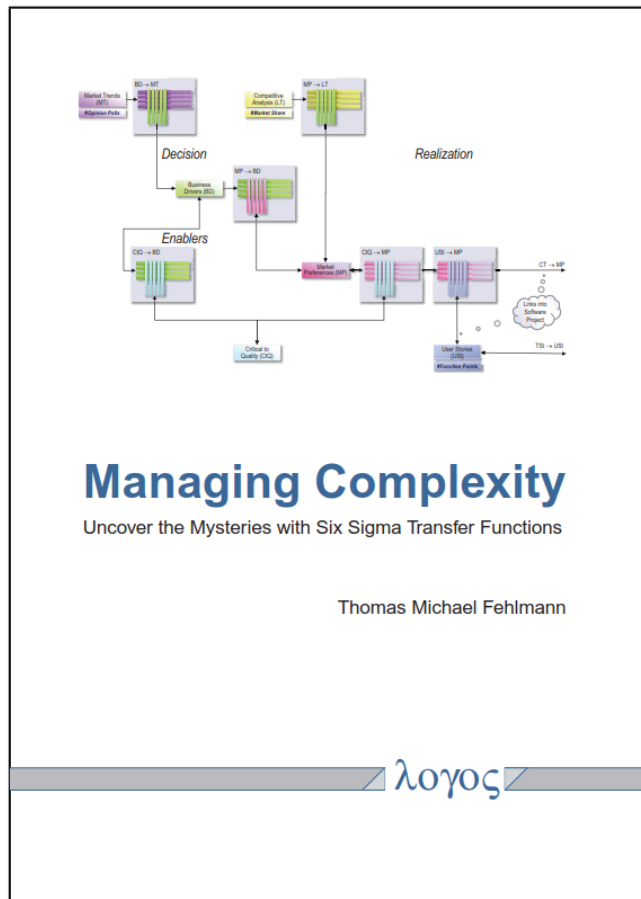
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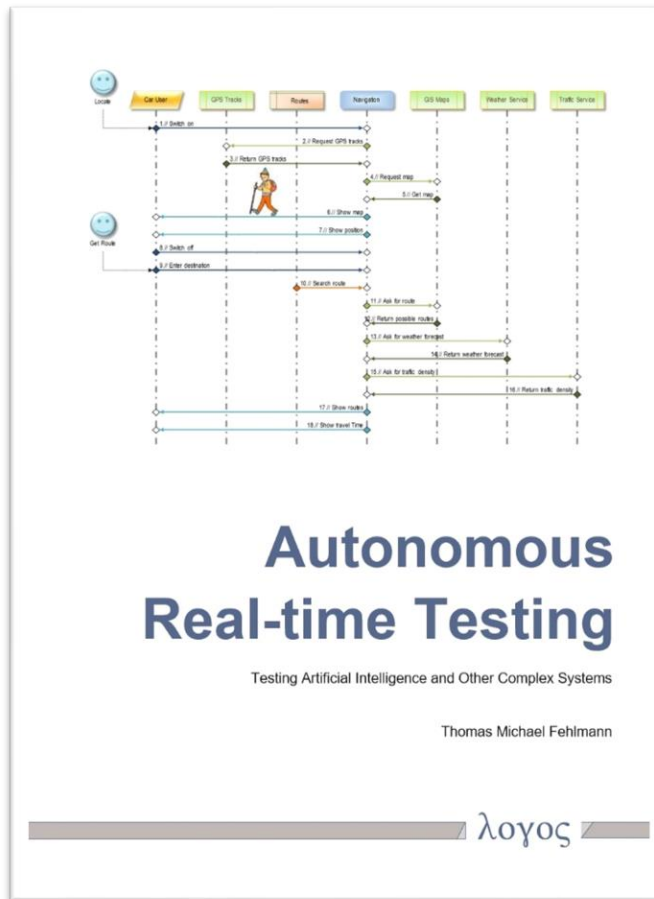
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