Java Unit Testing Tool Competition - Eighth Round

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ABSTRACT
We report on the results of the eighth edition of the Java unit testing tool competition. This year, two tools, EvoSuite and Randoop, were executed on a benchmark with (i) new classes under test, selected from open-source software projects, and (ii) the set of classes from one project considered in the previous edition. We relied on an updated infrastructure for the execution of the different tools and the subsequent coverage and mutation analysis based on Docker containers. We considered two different time budgets for test case generation: one an three minutes. This paper describes our methodology and statistical analysis of the results, presents the results achieved by the contestant tools and highlights the challenges we faced during the competition.

CCS CONCEPTS
• Software and its engineering → Search-based software engineering; Automatic programming; Software testing and debugging.

KEYWORDS
tool competition, benchmark, software testing, test case generation, unit testing, Java, JUnit

ACM Reference Format:

1 INTRODUCTION
This year is the eighth edition of the Java unit testing tool competition. This year’s participants are EvoSuite [10] and Randoop [8]. Each tool has been executed with a time budget of one and three minutes on 70 classes under test: 10 classes coming from last years’ edition [6], and 60 classes taken from three projects never considered in past editions of the competition. We compare the tools for each time budget using well-established structural statement and branch coverage metrics, and mutation analysis to assess the fault revealing the potential of the generated test suites. The evaluation was carried out using our dockerized infrastructure that includes tooling to execute the different tools, compute code coverage metrics, and perform mutation analysis. Additionally, the infrastructure includes statistical analysis scripts to compare and rank the different test case generation tools. This year, we implemented several improvements to our infrastructure, including parallelizing the execution of mutation analysis, fixing the issues reported during last year’s edition of the competition [6], and implementing a novel Docker image to execute the Java unit test case generators. The infrastructure is open-source and available on GitHub at https://github.com/JUnitContest/junitcontest.

In the remainder of this report, Section 2 presents the benchmark and selection procedure, Section 3 briefly describes the participating tools, Section 4 presents the methodology, Section 5 reports this year’s results, and Section 6 concludes with remarks and ideas of future improvements.

2 THE BENCHMARK SUBJECTS
Choosing subjects for benchmarking unit test case generators should take into consideration several factors. The classes under test should be (i) a representative sample of real-world software covering different application domains [4]; (ii) preferably open-source to ease replicability of the study; and, (iii) should not be trivial [11] (e.g., classes should have branches in their methods and should require different types of input). Considering all the classes in each project is not possible as it would require an extensive amount of time and resources for the competition. Following the lead of past editions [6], we sampled a limited number of Classes under test (CUTs) using a two-step procedure. In the first step, we computed McCabe’s cyclomatic
Table 1: Characteristics of the benchmark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cand.</th>
<th>1m</th>
<th>3m</th>
<th>Filt.</th>
<th>Samp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresco/Seata</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2.2h</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guava</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>4.6h</td>
<td>13.8h</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PdfBox</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>5.1h</td>
<td>15.2h</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoon</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>7.3h</td>
<td>21.9h</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1094</strong></td>
<td><strong>14.7h</strong></td>
<td><strong>53.3h</strong></td>
<td><strong>1382</strong></td>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Line coverage, branch coverage and mutation score for the candidate and selected CUTs.

The competition infrastructure was hosted on two high-speed servers, with 120 GB memory each, while the tests were run in parallel using Docker on two servers: one Linux Ubuntu (v 4.4.0-174-generic) with 40 CPU cores (Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2650 v3 @ 2.30GHz) and 128 GB memory, and one with one Linux Ubuntu (version id 19.10) with 8 CPU cores (Intel Core Processor (Broadwell, no TSX, IBRS) CPU v6 @ 2.49GHz) and 160 GB memory.

Table 1 reports the main characteristics of the selected projects with the number of classes under tests. For each project, Table 1 details the number of candidate CUTs (Cand.), and, to give an idea of the time required for test case generation, the total estimated test case generation time when considering budgets of 1 (1m) and 3 minutes (3m) per candidate class. Finally, Table 1 gives the number of CUTs after filtering out CUTs for which Randoop could not generate a single test. This reduces the chances of running into technical difficulties during the execution of the different tools. After filtering, this resulted in a set of 382 classes (Spoon classes excluded) from which we randomly selected 20 CUTs from each project. We considered 10 classes from Spoon which were used in the past edition of the competition [6].

3 THE TOOLS

Two tools are competing in this eighth edition: Randoop [8], and EvoSuite [2, 10, 11]. Randoop relies on a feedback-driven random testing strategy [9], collecting information from the execution of the tests as they are generated to avoid redundant and illegal tests, to generate regression tests capturing how the system behaves as-is. EvoSuite uses an evolutionary algorithm to evolve a set of unit tests satisfying a given set of test objectives (for instance, covering the different branches of a CUT, or weakly killing a set of mutants) [4].

4 THE CONTEST METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted in this year’s edition is similar to the one adopted last year [6]. However, due to delays in the agenda, time constraints, and engineering concerns, we decided to drop the combined analysis of the results (evaluating the complementary of the different tools), and the comparison of the generated test cases with the manually written test suites. The following paragraphs described the main steps and modifications of the contest methodology.

Public contest repository. The complete contest infrastructure is released under a BSD3 license and is available on GitHub https://github.com/JUnitContest/junitcontest/. We improved the infrastructure by highly parallelizing the mutation analysis execution and stopping the test execution as soon as a mutant is killed, correcting several bugs related to coverage computation which were reported during last year’s edition of the competition [6], and revising the procedure to update the Docker image readily usable to execute the Java unit test case generators. Additionally, the repository hosts the benchmarks, detailed reports and data of this year’s as well as previous years’ editions.

Execution environment. The infrastructure performed a total of 2,800 executions (4,560 in the previous edition): 70 CUTs × 2 tools × 2 time budgets × 10 repetitions for statistical analysis. The executions were run in parallel using Docker on two servers: one Linux Ubuntu (v 4.4.0-174-generic) with 40 CPU cores (Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2650 v3 @ 2.30GHz) and 128 GB memory, and one with one Linux Ubuntu (version id 19.10) with 8 CPU cores (Intel Core Processor (Broadwell, no TSX, IBRS) CPU v6 @ 2.49GHz) and 160 GB memory.

Test generation and time budget. Each tool was executed ten times against each CUT for each time budget to take randomness of the generation processes into account [1]. We considered two different time budgets: 1 and 3 minutes.

Metrics computation. As for last year, we kept the strict mutation analysis time budget of 5 minutes per CUT, and a timeout of 1 minute for each mutant, and we sampled the mutants generated by PITest 2. We applied a random sampling of 33% for CUTs with more than 200 mutants, and a sampling of 50% for CUTs with more than 400 mutants. This year, however, we did not encounter difficulties while computing coverage metrics, thanks to the fixes applied to the competition infrastructure. We updated JaCoCo to the latest version (version 0.8.5) to compute line and branches coverage.

Combined analysis and comparison with manually written tests. Due to delays and time constraints for the execution of the combined analysis and publication of the present report, we could not perform the combined analysis and the comparison with manually written tests. The combined analysis gathers all the tests generated by the different tools and performs a coverage and mutation analysis, but requires an extensive amount of time to be

1Available at https://github.com/codehaus/javancss.

2http://pitest.org/
performed as it re-executes all the tests. One possible improvement to the existing infrastructure would be to collect the full coverage and mutation analysis reports from JaCoCo and PIT to avoid re-executing all the combined test suites.

The comparison between automatically generated and manually written tests represents a great source of information for research. Unfortunately, this process is largely manual in the current competition infrastructure and poses several challenges. For instance, Google Guava contains several and diverse extensions to the Java standard API and therefore constitutes a great candidate for the evaluation of the unit test generation capabilities of a tool. However, the developers chose to keep Guava’s test suite in a dedicated Maven module to allow for the tests to depend on Guava itself, posing several challenges (e.g., dependencies management) to the competition infrastructure. Those limitations should be investigated further to (partially) automate the comparison.

**Statistical analysis.** Similarly to previous editions [6], we used statistical tests to support the results: the Friedman test to assess whether the scores over the different CUTs and time budgets (70 CUTs × 2 budgets = 140 data points) achieved by alternative tools differ significantly from each other; and the post-hoc Conover’s test for pairwise multiple comparisons to determine for which pair of tools the significance actually holds. We used the confidence level $\alpha = 0.05$, and p-values obtained with the Conover’s test were further adjusted with the Holm-Bonferroni procedure, which is required in case of multiple comparisons.

## 5 RESULTS

Figure 2 presents the results of the coverage and mutation analysis for EvoSuite and Randoop for the two time budgets considered. Mutants coverage denotes mutated statements that could be covered by at least one test, while the mutation score is the classical ratio between mutants that were killed by at least one test to the total number of mutants.

Out of 700 executions (70 CUTs × 10 executions), EvoSuite achieved, on average, a higher coverage and mutation score for all the projects compared to Randoop. The average coverage and mutation score of the tests generated by EvoSuite slightly increase (from 55.9% to 57.0% for line coverage, 50.8% to 51.7% for branch coverage, from 32.6% to 33.8% for the mutation score) when increasing the time budget from one to three minutes. For Randoop, the average coverage and mutation score of the test cases remain stable (from 42.4% to 42.7% for line coverage, from 32.6% to 33.1% for branch coverage, and from 30.9% to 31.1% for the mutation score).

Table 2 presents the final score and ranking achieved by the tools at different search budgets as well as the ranking produced by the Friedman test. The total score is split in (resp.) 199.73 (standard deviation 33.72) and 206.40 (standard deviation 45.64) for EvoSuite, and (resp.) 152.77 (standard deviation 1.55) and 157.98 (standard deviation 3.44) for Randoop, for time budgets of (resp.) one and three minutes. Figure 3 presents the detailed score achieved by the generated tests for each execution of EvoSuite and Randoop. The p-values produced by the post-hoc Conover’s procedure is lower than

Table 2: Overall scores and rankings obtained with the Friedman test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EvoSuite</td>
<td>406.14</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randoop</td>
<td>310.75</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Line, branch and mutants coverage, and mutation score for EvoSuite (E.) and Randoop (R.) with a time budget of one (1) and three (3) minutes on the different CUTs, grouped by project.
than the coverage and mutation analysis [5]; (ii) exploring the possibility to consider other languages (e.g., Python) in future competitions; (iii) extend even further the dockerized version of the infrastructure, making it available as service to researchers of the community.

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