



Dataflow Testing

Chapter 9



Dataflow Testing

- Testing All-Nodes and All-Edges in a control flow graph may miss significant test cases
- Testing All-Paths in a control flow graph is often too time-consuming
- Can we select a subset of these paths that will reveal the most faults?
- Dataflow Testing focuses on the points at which variables receive values and the points at which these values are used



Dataflow Analysis

- Can reveal interesting bugs
 - **A variable that is defined but never used**
 - **A variable that is used but never defined**
 - **A variable that is defined twice before it is used**
 - **Sending a modifier message to an object more than once between accesses**
 - **Deallocating a variable before it is used**
 - **Container problem**
 - Deallocating container loses references to items in the container, memory leak



Definitions

- A node **n** in the program graph is a **defining** node for variable **v** – **DEF(v, n)** – if the value of **v** is defined at the statement fragment in that node
 - **Input, assignment, procedure calls**
- A node in the program graph is a **usage** node for variable **v** – **USE(v, n)** – if the value of **v** is used at the statement fragment in that node
 - **Output, assignment, conditionals**



Definitions – 2

- A usage node is a predicate use, **P-use**, if variable **v** appears in a predicate expression
 - Always in nodes with outdegree ≥ 2
- A usage node is a computation use, **C-use**, if variable **v** appears in a computation
 - Always in nodes with outdegree ≤ 1




Definitions – 3

- A node in the program is a **kill** node for a variable **v** – **KILL(v, n)** – if the variable is deallocated at the statement fragment in that node



Example 2 – Billing program

```
calculateBill (usage : INTEGER) : INTEGER  
double bill = 0;  
if usage > 0 then bill = 40 fi  
if usage > 100  
then if usage ≤ 200  
    then bill = bill + (usage – 100) * 0.5  
    else bill = bill + 50 + (usage – 200) * 0.1  
        if bill ≥ 100 then bill = bill * 0.9 fi  
    fi  
fi  
return bill  
end
```





Definition-Use path

- **What is a du-path?**



Definition-Use path – 2

- **What is a du-path?**
 - A definition-use path, **du-path**, with respect to a variable **v** is a path whose first node is a defining node for **v**, and its last node is a usage node for **v**



Definition clear path

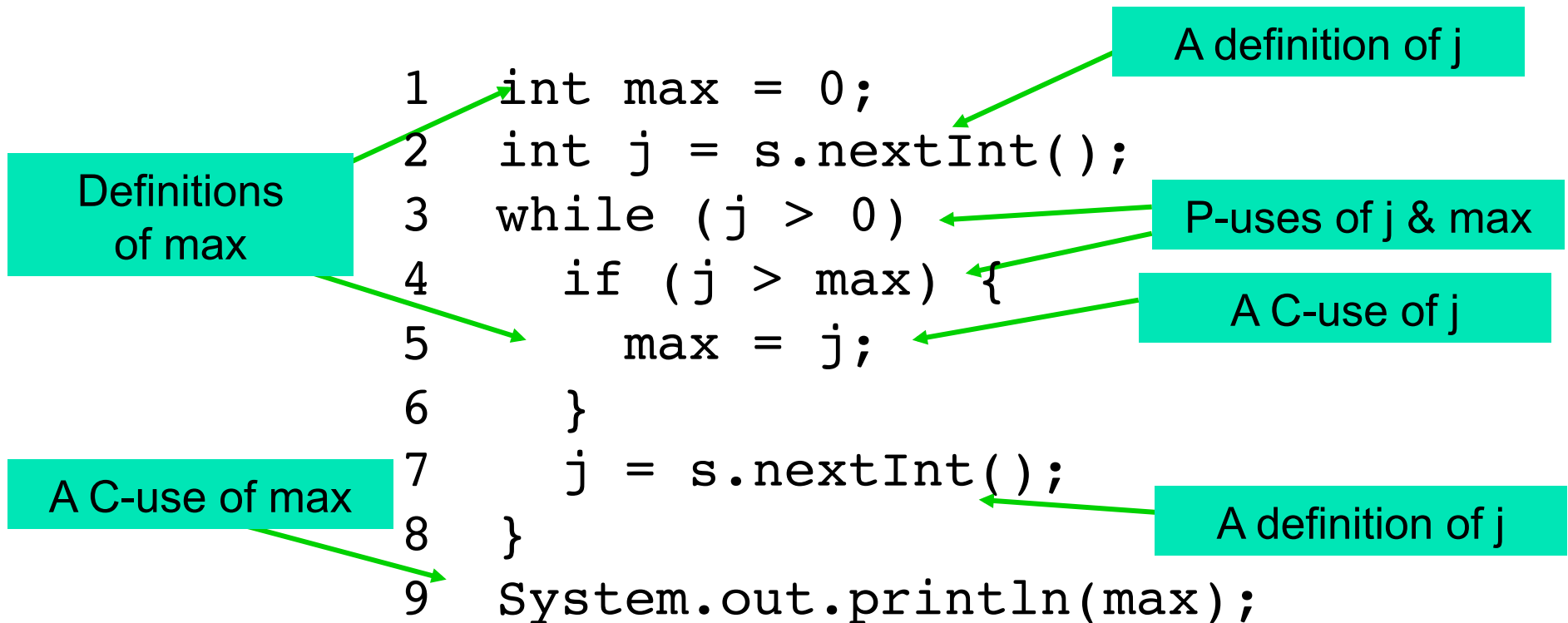
- **What is a dc-path?**



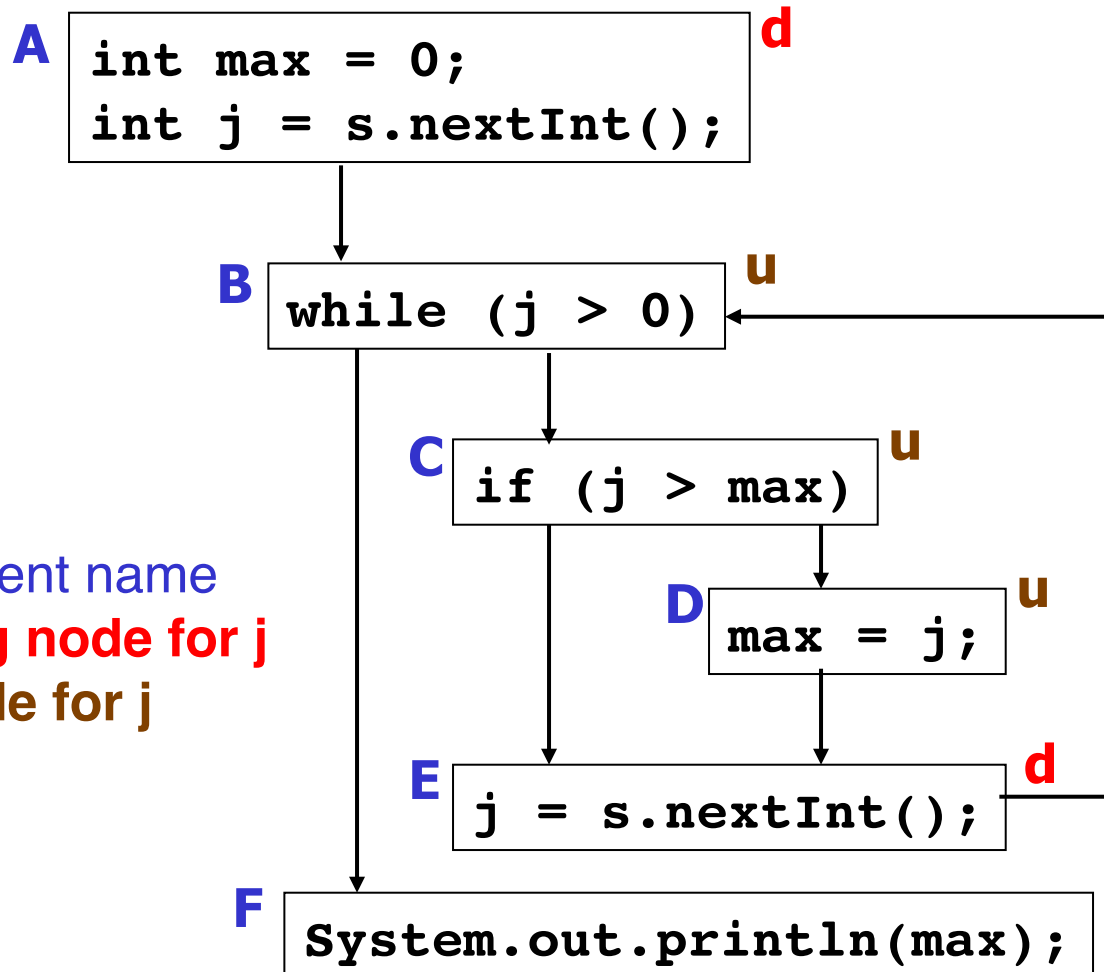
Definition clear path – 2

- **What is a dc-path?**
 - **A du-path with no other defining node for v is a definition-clear path**

Example 1 – Max program



Max program – analysis



dc-paths **j**

- AB
- ABC
- ABCD
- EB
- EBC
- EBCD

dc-paths **max**

- ABF
- ABC
- DEBC
- DEBF

Legend

A..F Segment name

d defining node for **j**

u use node for **j**



Dataflow Coverage Metrics

- Based on these definitions we can define a set of coverage metrics for a set of test cases
- We have already seen
 - **All-Nodes**
 - **All-Edges**
 - **All-Paths**
- Data flow has additional test metrics for a set T of paths in a program graph
 - **All assume that all paths in T are feasible**



All-Defs Criterion

- The set T satisfies the All-Def criterion
 - For every variable v , T contains a dc-path from every defining node for v to at least one usage node for v
 - Not all use nodes need to be reached

$\forall v \in V(P), nd \in prog_graph(P) \mid DEF(v, nd)$

• $\exists nu \in prog_graph(P) \mid USE(v, nu)$

• $dc_path(nd, nu) \in T$



All-Uses Criterion

- The set T satisfies the All-Uses criterion iff
 - For every variable v , T contains dc-paths that start at every defining node for v , and terminate at every usage node for v
 - Not $DEF(v, n) \times USE(v, n)$ – not possible to have a dc-path from every defining node to every usage node

$(\forall v \in V(P), nu \in prog_graph(P) \mid USE(v, nu)$

$\bullet \exists nd \in prog_graph(P) \mid DEF(v, nd) \bullet dc_path(nd, nu) \in T)$

\wedge

$all_defs_criterion$



All-P-uses / Some-C-uses

- The set T satisfies the All-P-uses/Some-C-uses criterion iff
 - For every variable v in the program P , T contains a dc-path from every defining node of v to every P-use node for v
 - If a definition of v has no P-uses, a dc-path leads to at least one C-use node for v

$(\forall v \in V(P), nu \in prog_graph(P) \mid P_use(v, nu)$

$\bullet \exists nd \in prog_graph(P) \mid DEF(v, nd) \bullet dc_path(nd, nu) \in T)$

\wedge

$all_defs_criterion$



All-C-uses / Some-P-uses

- The test set T satisfies the All-C-uses/Some-P-uses criterion iff
 - For every variable v in the program P , T contains a dc-path from every defining node of v to every C-use of v
 - If a definition of v has no C-uses, a dc-path leads to at least one P-use

$(\forall v \in V(P), nu \in prog_graph(P) \mid C_use(v, nu)$

$\bullet \exists nd \in prog_graph(P) \mid DEF(v, nd) \bullet dc_path(nd, nu) \in T)$

\wedge

$all_defs_criterion$



Miles-per-gallon Program

```
miles_per_gallon ( miles, gallons, price : INTEGER )  
if gallons = 0 then  
    // Watch for division by zero!!  
    Print(“You have “ + gallons + “gallons of gas”)  
else if miles/gallons > 25  
    then print( “Excellent car. Your mpg is “  
        + miles/gallon)  
    else print( “You must be going broke. Your mpg is “  
        + miles/gallon + “ cost “ + gallons * price)  
fi  
end
```



Miles-per-gallon Program – 2

- **We want du- and dc-paths**
- **What do you do next?**



Mile-per-gallon Program – Segmented

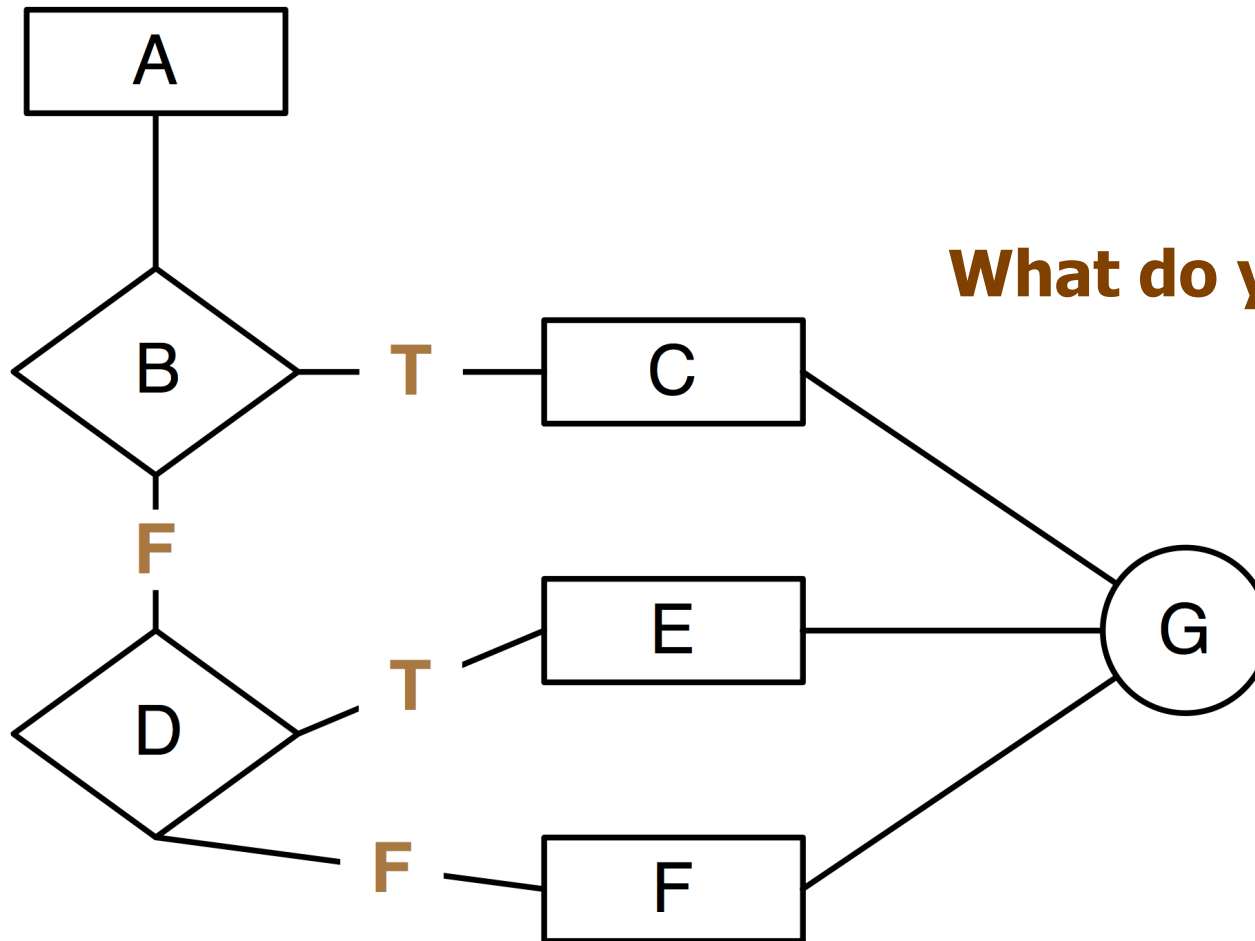
gasguzzler (miles, gallons, price : INTEGER)	A
if gallons = 0 then	B
// Watch for division by zero!! Print(“You have “ + gallons + “gallons of gas”)	C
else if miles/gallons > 25	D
then print(“Excellent car. Your mpg is “ + miles/gallon)	E
else print(“You must be going broke. Your mpg is “ + miles/gallon + “ cost “ + gallons * price)	F
fi end	G



Miles-per-gallon Program – 3

- **We want du- and dc-paths**
- **What do you do next?**

MPG program graph



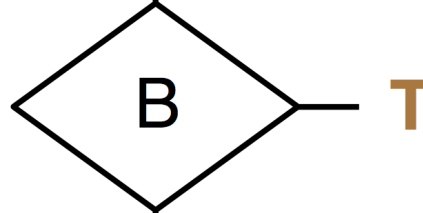
What do you do now?

MPG program graph

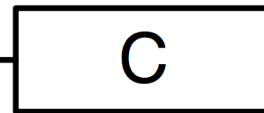
Def miles,
gallons



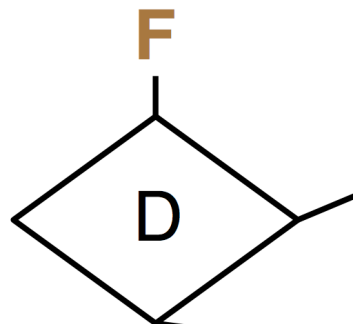
P-use
gallons



C-use gallons



P-use
miles,
gallons



C-use miles, gallons

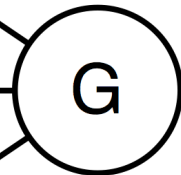


Possible
C-use miles, gallons
But not common
practice

T

F

C-use miles, gallons, price





Miles-per-gallon Program – 4

- **We want du- and dc-paths**
- **What do you do next?**



Example du-paths

- For each variable in the miles_per_gallon program create the test paths for the following dataflow path sets
 - **All-Defs (AD)**
 - **All-C-uses (ACU)**
 - **All-P-uses (APU)**
 - **All-C-uses/Some-P-uses (ACU+P)**
 - **All-P-uses/Some-C-uses (APU+C)**
 - **All-uses**



MPG – DU-Paths for Miles

- All-Defs
 - Each definition of each variable for at least one use of the definition
 - **A B D**
- All-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable to each c-use of the definition
 - **A B D E** **A B D F** **A B D**



MPG – DU-Paths for Miles – 2

- All-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable to each p-use of the definition
 - **A B D**

- All-C-uses/Some-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each c-use of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use p-use
 - **A B D E** **A B D F** **A B D**



MPG – DU-Paths for Miles – 3

- All-P-uses/Some-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered by p-use, then use c-use
 - **A B D**
- All-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use and each c-use of the definition
 - **A B D** **A B D E** **A B D F**



MPG – DU-Paths for Gallons

- All-Defs
 - Each definition of each variable for at least one use of the definition
 - **A B**
- All-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable to each c-use of the definition
 - **A B C A B D E A B D F A B D**



MPG – DU-Paths for Gallons – 2

- All-P-uses
 - **At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use of the definition**
 - **A B A B D**
- All-C-uses/Some-P-uses
 - **At least one path of each variable definition to each c-use of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered by c-use, then use p-use**
 - **A B C A B D E A B D F A B D**



MPG – DU-Paths for Gallons – 3

- All-P-uses/Some-C-uses

- At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use c-use

- **A B** **A B D**

- All-uses

- At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use and each c-use of the definition

- **A B** **A B C** **A B D** **A B D E** **A B D F**



MPG – DU-Paths for Price

- All-Defs
 - Each definition of each variable for at least one use of the definition
 - **A B D F**
- All-C-uses
 - At least one path of each variable to each c-use of the definition
 - **A B D F**



MPG – DU-Paths for Price – 2

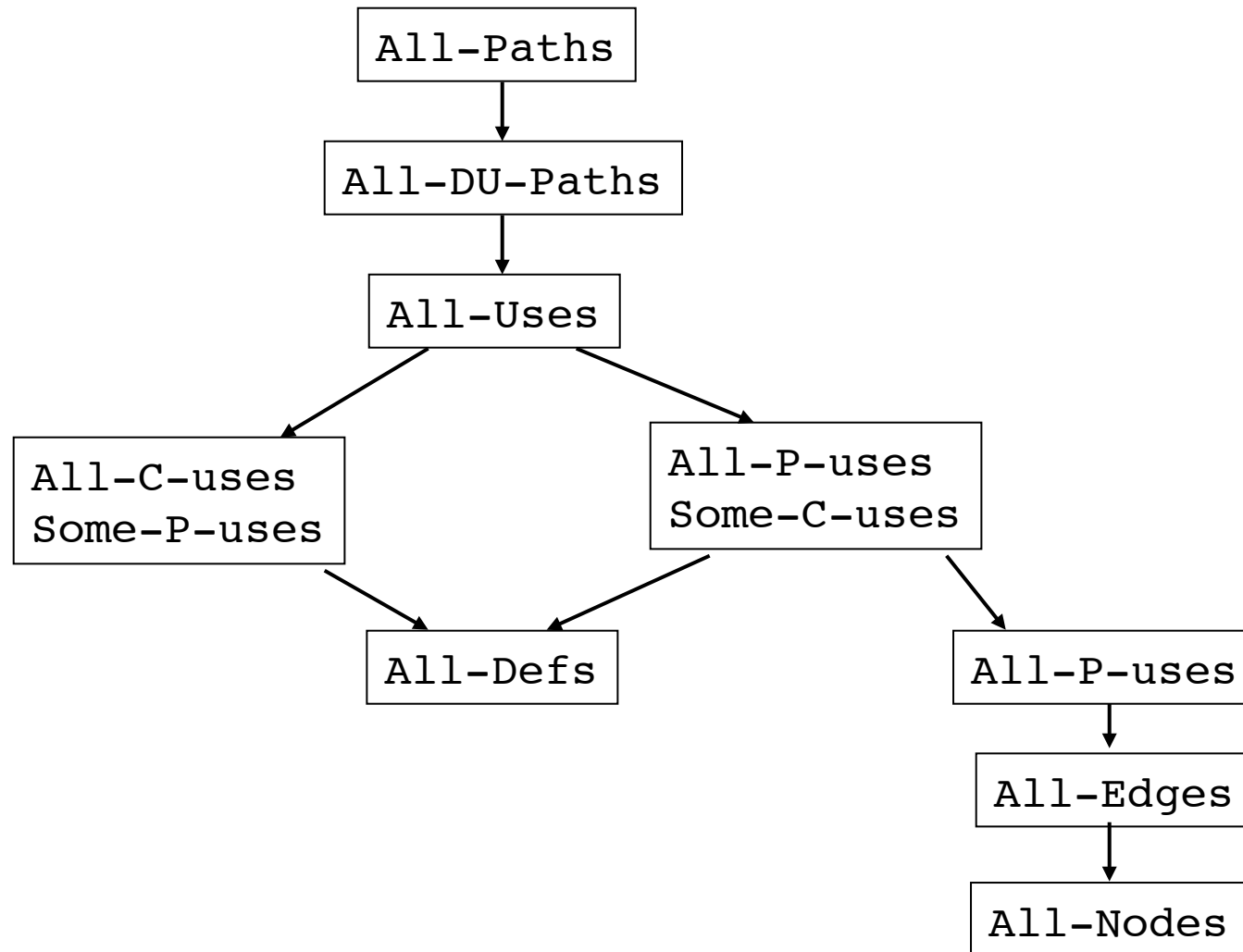
- All-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use of the definition
 - **None**
- All-C-uses/Some-P-uses
 - At least one path of each variable definition to each c-use of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use p-use
 - **A B D F**



MPG – DU-Paths for Price – 2

- All-P-uses/Some-C-uses
 - **At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use of the variable. If any variable definitions are not covered use c-use**
 - **A B D F**
- All-uses
 - **At least one path of each variable definition to each p-use and each c-use of the definition**
 - **A B D F**

Rapps-Weyuker data flow hierarchy





Potential Anomalies – static analysis

Data flow node combinations for a variable
Allowed? – Potential Bug? – Serious defect?

Anomalies		Explanation
~ d	first define	???
du	define-use	???
dk	define-kill	???
~ u	first use	???
ud	use-define	???
uk	use-kill	???
~ k	first kill	???
ku	kill-use	???



Potential Anomalies – static analysis – 2

Data flow node combinations for a variable
Allowed? – Potential Bug? – Serious defect?

Anomalies		Explanation
kd	kill-define	???
dd	define-define	???
uu	use-use	???
kk	kill-kill	???
d ~	define last	???
u ~	use last	???
k ~	kill last	???



Potential Anomalies – static analysis – 3

Anomalies		Explanation
~ d	first define	Allowed – normal case
du	define-use	Allowed – normal case
dk	define-kill	Potential bug
~ u	first use	Potential bug
ud	use-define	Allowed – redefine
uk	use-kill	Allowed – normal case
~ k	first kill	Serious defect
ku	kill-use	Serious defect



Potential Anomalies – static analysis – 4

Anomalies		Explanation
kd	kill-define	Allowed - redefined
dd	define-define	Potential bug
uu	use-use	Allowed - normal case
kk	kill-kill	Serious defect
d ~	define last	Potential bug
u ~	use last	Allowed- normal case
k ~	kill last	Allowed - normal case



Data flow guidelines

- **When is dataflow analysis good to use?**

- **When is dataflow analysis good to use?**
 - **Data flow testing is good for computationally/control intensive programs**
 - **If P-use of variables are computed, then P-use data flow testing is good**
 - **Define/use testing provides a rigorous, systematic way to examine points at which faults may occur.**



Data flow guidelines – 3

- Aliasing of variables causes serious problems!
- Working things out by hand for anything but small methods is hopeless
- Compiler-based tools help in determining coverage values