



Never Work in Theory - Virtual
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Proofreading the Proofreader: *The Benefits of Unit Tests for Software Models*

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Software Modeling

Problem:



Software Modeling

Problem:



Solution:

```
one sig List { header: lone Node }
sig Node { link: lone Node }
pred acyclic(){
  no List.header or
  some n : List.header.*link | no n.link
}
run acyclic for 3
```

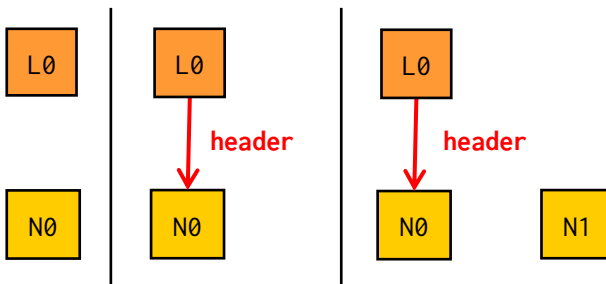
A Software Model

An Alloy Model:

```
one sig List { header: lone Node }
sig Node { link: lone Node }
pred acyclic(){
  no List.header or some n : List.header.*link | no n.link
}
run acyclic for 3
```

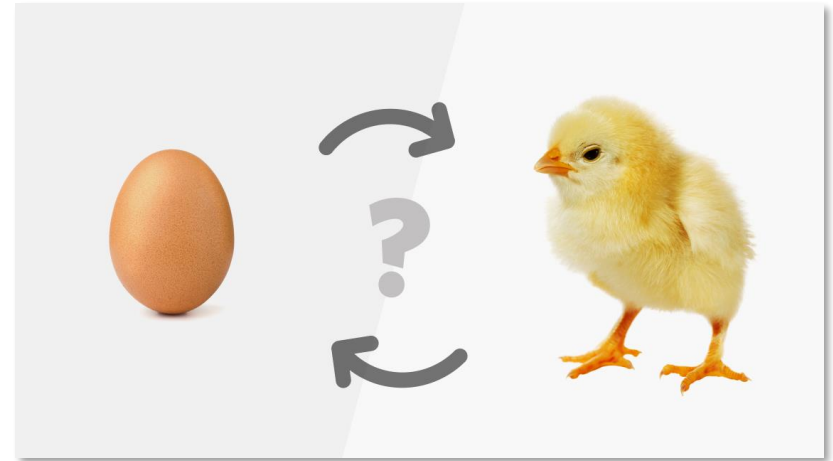
Show me all acyclic lists with up to 3 nodes

Discovered Scenario:



Software Modeling

New Problem:

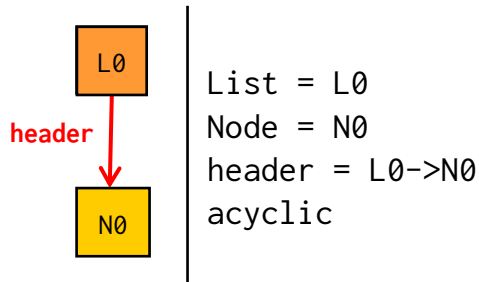


New Solution: Unit Tests for Models

An Alloy Model:

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one sig List { header: lone Node }
sig Node { link: lone Node }
pred acyclic(){
  no List.header or some n : List.header.*link | no n.link
}
run acyclic for 3
```

Discovered Scenario: Unit Test

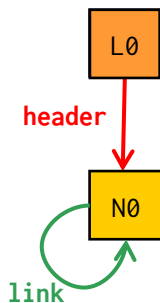


New Solution: Unit Tests for Models

An Alloy Model:

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one sig List { header: lone Node }
sig Node { link: lone Node }
pred acyclic(){
  no List.header or some n : List.header.*link | no n.link
}
run acyclic for 3
```

Discovered Scenario: Unit Test



List = L0
Node = N0
header = L0->N0
link = N0->N0
!acyclic

Ex: Mutation Testing

```
public int min(int x, int y) {  
    int v;  
    if(x < y)  
        v = x;  
    else  
        v = y;  
    return v;  
}
```

Original

```
public int min(int x, int y) {  
    int v;  
    if(x >= y)  
        v = x;  
    else  
        v = y;  
    return v;  
}
```

Mutant 1.

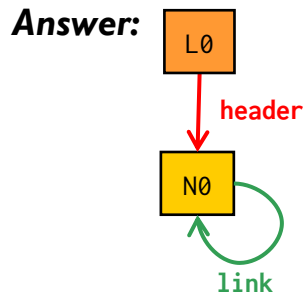
```
public int min(int x, int y) {  
    int v;  
    if(x <= y)  
        v = x;  
    else  
        v = y;  
    return v;  
}
```

Mutant 2.

Ex: Mutation Testing

```
pred acyclic(){
  no List.header or some n : List.header.*link | no n.link
}
pred acyclicMUTATED(){
  no List.header or some n : List.header.*link | some n.link
}
check {acyclic[] <=> acyclicMUTATED} for 3
```

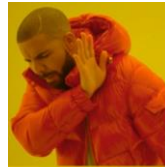
↖ **Ask:** Do these two properties differ? (detect equivalent mutant)
If yes, show me a scenario where they differ. (test to kill mutant)



What you can walk away with:

- Software models can be intimidating, but enable a really robust automated testing environment
- If working with a non-traditional language, consider investing in unit testing

Thank you! Any questions?



Doing a bunch of testing to make sure software is correct



Doing a bunch of testing to make sure a model of that software is correct

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