

Property based testing in Erlang

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Outline

- ▶ Ignore "the Erlang part".
- ▶ Unit testing vs. property based testing.
- ▶ Defining property tests using Proper in Erlang.
- ▶ Questions

Concepts

- ▶ Generators.
- ▶ Shrinking strategies.

Base64 encoder and decoder

```
-type encode(binary()) -> binary().  
encode(Data) ->  
    ...
```

```
-type decode(binary()) -> binary().  
decode(Data) ->  
    ...
```

```
-type is_valid(binary()) -> boolean().  
is_valid(Data) ->  
    ...
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Unit testing

```
test_b64_encoding() -> [  
  ?assertEqual(<<" ">>, encode(<<" ">>)),  
  ?assertEqual(<<"YWJj">>, encode(<<"abc">>))  
].
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Unit testing

```
test_b64_decoding() -> [  
  ?assertEqual(<<" ">>, decode(<<" ">>)),  
  ?assertEqual(<<"abc">>, decode(<<"YWJj">>))  
].
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
prop_iso() ->
  ?FORALL(Data, binary(),
    begin
      EncodedData = encode(Data),
      Data ::= decode(EncodedData)
    end).
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
id(X) ->  
  X.
```

```
prop_iso() ->  
  ?FORALL(Data, binary(),  
    begin  
      EncodedData = id(Data),  
      Data := id(EncodedData)  
    end).
```


Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
prop_encoding_output_length() ->
  ?FORALL(Data, binary(),
    begin
      EncodedData = encode(Data),
      DataSize = byte_size(Data),
      byte_size(EncodedData) ::=
        ((4 * DataSize div 3) + 3)
        band (bnot 3)
    end).
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
-define(BASE64_ALPHABET ,  
    lists:seq($0, $9) ++  
    lists:seq($a, $z) ++  
    lists:seq($A, $Z) ++  
    "+/").
```

```
is_valid(Data) when is_list(Data) ->  
    valid_string(Data, ?BASE64_ALPHABET).
```

```
valid_string(Input, Alphabet) ->  
    Set = ordsets:from_list(Alphabet),  
    lists:all(fun (C) ->  
        ordsets:is_element(C, Set)  
    end, Input).
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
prop_encoding_alphabet() ->
  ?FORALL(Data, binary(),
    begin
      EncodedData = encode(Data),
      is_valid(EncodedData)
    end).
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
3> proper:quickcheck(b64:prop_encoding_alphabet()).  
..!  
Failed: After 3 test(s).  
<<4>>  
  
Shrinking .(1 time(s))  
<<0>>
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
-define(BASE64_ALPHABET ,  
    lists:seq($0, $9) ++  
    lists:seq($a, $z) ++  
    lists:seq($A, $Z) ++  
    "+/=").
```

Base64 encoder and decoder

Testing properties

```
3> proper:quickcheck(b64:prop_encoding_alphabet()).  
.....  
OK: Passed 100 test(s).
```

Missing

- ▶ Using Nifty to test C code.
- ▶ Stateful symbolic execution.
- ▶ Concurrency testing.

Other implementations

Erlang Proper

Python Hypothesis

Haskell QuickCheck

Rust quickcheck

Questions?