

Example Project Proposal: Mixed Based and Advanced Testing

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Proposed System Under Test (SUT): swift

Link to SUT Source Code: <https://github.com/apple/swift>

SUT Size: 262,362 Lines of Code

SUT Description

The compiler and runtime of the Swift programming language (<https://developer.apple.com/swift/>), developed by Apple. Swift is a statically-typed language featuring generics and higher-order functions.

State of SUT

Swift is relatively mature (publicly existed since 2014), and is actively developed (over 76 thousand commits, including those from an hour ago). The language is being incrementally updated. There is no formal specification, but there is extensive documentation (<https://swift.org/documentation/>).

Attributes

- **Interactive:** Swift allows programmers to incrementally write code and see code results.
- **Modern:** Swift makes use of the latest programming language features.
- **Safe:** Swift's design prevents many common exploitable programming errors.
- **Fast:** Swift code runs quickly.

Components

- **REPL (Read/Eval/Print/Loop):** Allows users to incrementally type Swift code in a command-line interface and see the results.
- **Typechecker:** Ensures that Swift programs are well-typed.
- **Code Generator:** Compiles Swift code to machine code, with LLVM (<https://llvm.org/>) bitcode as an intermediate language.
- **ARC (Automatic Reference Counting):** Automatically deallocates memory that is no longer needed at runtime.

Capabilities:

- **REPL is Interactive:** REPL can read, parse, execute, and display results of valid input code from the user.
- **REPL is Interactive:** REPL will give informative messages when invalid code is given.
- **REPL is Safe:** REPL will not execute invalid code.
- **Typechecker is Interactive:** Typechecker will give informative type error messages.
- **Typechecker is Modern:** The typechecker can check if generics are used properly.
- **Typechecker is Modern:** The typechecker can check if higher-order functions are used properly.
- **Typechecker is Safe:** The typechecker will reject ill-typed programs.

- **Typechecker is Fast:** Less than 10% of compile time is spent in the typechecker.
- **Code Generator is Modern:** The code generator can produce machine code from Swift code involving generics.
- **Code Generator is Modern:** The code generator can produce machine code from Switch code involving higher-order functions.
- **Code Generator is Safe:** The code generator produces machine code that will not read from inaccessible memory locations.
- **Code Generator is Fast:** Generated machine code is no more than 50% slower than equivalent Objective-C code.
- **ARC is Safe:** ARC cannot trigger double-free.
- **ARC is Safe:** ARC will not deallocate any memory that is still in use.
- **ARC is Fast:** Less than 10% of runtime is spent performing ARC-related operations.

Capabilities Count:

	Interactive	Modern	Safe	Fast
REPL	2	0	1	0
Typechecker	1	2	1	1
Code Generator	0	2	1	1
ARC	0	0	2	1

Basic Testing:

For each one of the listed capabilities above, I plan to write unit/integration tests as appropriate to test each one. Swift is already heavily tested, so this should not require dramatic modification to its codebase.

Advanced V&V:

I want to use grammar-based techniques to generate Swift programs with which to test the Swift compiler. My plan is to design a grammar that describes a subset of well-typed Swift programs, and then use that grammar to generate well-typed Swift programs. If the Swift compiler fails to accept any of these programs, it indicates a bug in Swift's typechecker.