

ESC/Java

extended static checking for Java

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- *not sound, not complete, but finds lots of potential bugs quickly*
- good at proving absence of runtime exceptions (eg Null-, ArrayIndexOutOfBounds-, ClassCast-) and verifying relatively simple properties.
- ESC/Java only supported a subset of full JML, but ESC/Java2 by Joe Kiniry [KUN] & David Cok [Kodak] remedies this.

static checking vs runtime checking

Important differences:

- ESC/Java checks specs at **compile-time**,
jmlc checks specs at **run-time**
- ESC/Java **proves** correctness of specs,
jml only **tests** correctness of specs.

Hence

- ESC/Java independent of any test suite,
results of runtime testing only as good as the test
suite,
- ESC/Java provided higher degree of confidence.

ESC/Java “demo”

```
class Bag {  
    int[] a;  
    int    n;  
    int extractMin() {  
        int m = Integer.MAX_VALUE;  
        int mindex = 0;  
        for (int i = 1; i <= n; i++) {  
            if (a[i] < m) { mindex =i; m = a[i]; } }  
        n--;  
        a[mindex] = a[n];  
        return m;  
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Warning: **possible null deference**. Plus other warnings

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    int[] a;  //@ invariant a != null;  
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```

Warning: Array index possibly too large

ESC/Java “demo”

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class Bag {  
    int[] a;    //@ invariant a != null;  
    int    n;   //@ invariant 0 <= n && n <= a.length;  
    int extractMin() {  
        int m = Integer.MAX_VALUE;  
        int mindex = 0;  
        for (int i = 1; i <= n; i++) {  
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        n--;  
        a[minindex] = a[n];  
        return m;  
    }  
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```

Warning: Possible negative array index

ESC/Java “demo”

```
class Bag {  
    int[] a;    //@ invariant a != null;  
    int    n;    //@ invariant 0 <= n && n <= a.length;  
    //@ requires n > 0;  
    int extractMin() {  
        int m = Integer.MAX_VALUE;  
        int mindex = 0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            if (a[i] < m) { mindex =i; m = a[i]; } }  
        n--;  
        a[mindex] = a[n];  
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No more warnings about this code

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        n--;  
        a[minindex] = a[n];  
        return m;  
    }  
}
```

...but warnings about calls to `extractMin()` that do not ensure precondition

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But for larger programs this may not be the case!

- If you have these properties documented,
then understanding the code is easier.

ESC/Java vs runtime checking (cont.)

- For **runtime assertion checking**, we could **choose what we specify**, e.g. all, one, or none of the properties we have written for Bag.
- But for **ESC/Java** to accept a spec, we are *forced* to specify *all properties* (e.g. invariants, preconditions) that this spec relies on.

Limitations of ESC/Java

Like most tools, ESC/Java is

- **not complete**: it may **complain about a correct spec**
- **not sound**: it may **fail to warn about an incorrect spec**

ESC/Java warns about **many potential bugs**, but **not about all actual bugs**.

These are unavoidable concessions to main goal:
pointing out lots of potential bugs quickly & completely automatically

In practice ESC/Java is quite good at checking simple specs, e.g. ruling out any `NullPointerException`- and `IndexOutOfBoundsException`s