

# SpecCheck – Specification-Based Testing for Isabelle/ML

Kevin Kappelmann, Lukas Bulwahn, and Sebastian Willenbrink

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## Abstract

SpecCheck is a [QuickCheck](#)-like testing framework for Isabelle/ML. You can use it to write specifications for ML functions. SpecCheck then checks whether your specification holds by testing your function against a given number of generated inputs. It helps you to identify bugs by printing counterexamples on failure and provides you timing information.

SpecCheck is customisable and allows you to specify your own input generators, test output formats, as well as pretty printers and shrinking functions for counterexamples among other things.

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## 1 SpecCheck Base

```
theory SpecCheck-Base  
imports Pure  
begin
```

**Summary** Basic setup for SpecCheck.

*<ML>*

**end**

## 2 Generators

**theory** *SpecCheck-Generators*

**imports** *SpecCheck-Base*

**begin**

**Summary** Generators for SpecCheck take a state and return a pair consisting of a generated value and a new state. Refer to `gen_base.ML` for the most basic combinators.

*<ML>*

**end**

## 3 Show

**theory** *SpecCheck-Show*

**imports** *Pure*

**begin**

**Summary** Show functions (pretty-printers) for SpecCheck take a value and return a `Pretty.T` representation of the value. Refer to `show_base.ML` for some basic examples.

*<ML>*

**end**

## 4 Output Styles

**theory** *SpecCheck-Output-Style*

**imports**

*SpecCheck-Base*

*SpecCheck-Show*

**begin**

**Summary** Output styles for SpecCheck take the result of a test run and process it accordingly, e.g. by printing it or storing it to a file.

*<ML>*

**end**

## 5 Shrinkers

```
theory SpecCheck-Shrink  
imports SpecCheck-Generators  
begin
```

**Summary** Shrinkers for SpecCheck take a value and return a sequence of smaller values derived from it. Refer to `shrink_base.ML` for some basic examples.

*<ML>*

```
end
```

## 6 SpecCheck

```
theory SpecCheck  
imports  
  SpecCheck-Generators  
  SpecCheck-Show  
  SpecCheck-Shrink  
  SpecCheck-Output-Style  
begin
```

**Summary** The SpecCheck (specification based) testing environment and Lecker testing framework.

*<ML>*

```
end
```

## 7 Dynamic Generators

```
theory SpecCheck-Dynamic  
imports SpecCheck  
begin
```

**Summary** Generators and show functions for SpecCheck that are dynamically derived from a given ML input string. This approach can be handy to quickly test a function during development, but it lacks customisability and is very brittle. See `./Examples/SpecCheck_Examples.thy` for some examples contrasting this approach to the standard one (specifying generators as ML code).

*<ML>*

```
end
```