TEACHING AND LEARNING SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Reflections on TDD and mob programming in the classroom

BACKGROUND

ME:

- Student until "recently"
- Former Teacher's Assistant (TA)
- Enjoy teaching and sharing things I've learned

CHALLENGES IN THE CLASSROOM

- Students may be reluctant to ask for help or have trouble getting started
- Students may become uninvolved or disinterested
- Programming is hard to learn, and code is hard to read

HOW CANTDD HELP STUDENTS?

- Tests have a clear intention and test a single behavior each
- Segregating passing tests and refactoring
- Natural language is easier for everyone to understand than code
- Learn useful tools that you may not pick up during university (Version Control, Intellisense, etc)

HOW CAN MOB PROGRAMMING HELP STUDENTS?

- Imperative thinking! Declarative communication?
- Discussions and passing on information are great ways to learn
- Every student has ownership of the same code and learn good practices together
- A social experience that involves everyone

POTENTIAL NEGATIVES

- May not be suited to larger groups of students
- Does TDD assume too much knowledge ahead of time?
- Students may have different concerns and priorities
- Other problems?

CONCLUSION