1. Background

As the fast pace of Android app development and evolution continues, effective quality assurance for industrial Android appes becomes increasingly necessary and demanding. User Interface testing, aiming to uncover potential app defects by mimicking human interactions, is a popular approach to ensure the quality of mobile apps and has long been a important testing methods.

There are three most popular automated GUI testing forms in the world. Model-based techniques rely on abstract models of an AUT as the basis for test generation. Monkey is a popular random GUI testing tool that is part of the Android Software Development Framework (SDK). It generates GUI tests by interacting with random screen coordinates on Android devices. Dynamic event extraction techniques do not use a preexisting abstract model to generate test cases. Dynamic event extraction techniques

do not generate infeasible test cases since the test cases are based on runtime interaction with the AUT.

This work adopts a dynamic event extraction approach. We try to use reinforcement learning techniques to optimize event selection in an attempt to improve code coverage relative to random test generation.

1. Approach
2. Design flow

The agent will be a procedure in PC. It use android app activity statement as input, output next operation like action type, click position and so on. We use ADB to connect phone with PC (agent). After each operation in phone, it transmits information to agent, the information includes the current activity statement, unit statement and so on. The agent uses this information to choose next operation and transmits this operation to the phone.

This flow will iterate until the time is over or get requested code coverage.

Till now, we had built this organization. It can work as monkey, get information from the phone, do choice randomly and transmits this operation to the phone.

1. read current state

We have done some researched about the general way of getting the

state of android application. Until now, we used the combination of ADB(android debug bridge) and UIAutomator to get the state of application. UIAutomator has offered a tool named UIAutomator viewer, which can produce a xml file contains all the details of current widgets. With the help of this tool, we produce the xml through ADB and pull it back to computer. In the computer side, we run a python script to analysis this script and store the information of current widgets. They are put in a class named widget.

1. generate next event

After we get the widgets’ list, the next step is to choose the next action.

In addition to the basic structure of widgets, the xml file generated by UIAutomator also contains the functionality of widgets. For example, whether it can be clicked(clickable) or scrolled (scrollable). We will choose limited widgets from the whole list base on their functionality. After that, we will randomly pick one from the chosen widgets and click it. The Q-learning strategy of the choosing process will be put in consideration in our future work.

1. operate the event

When we get the chosen widget and its information. The next step is operating on it. We use another tool in android SDK to reach this goal. Monkey runner is designed to operation on android application by executing python script. That means we can directly add the code of operating after the code of generation, in the same python script. For now, we only implement the click action. When the operation is done, the program will wait for a period of time until we received the signal of operating next event.

1. code coverage

We use code coverage to evaluate this work. The rule can be code, block, class and package coverage.

To get this UI test coverage, we need to do instrumentation to our app. At first, we used Emma to do this. However, it need ant to generate app, this cause some bugs. Later we choose jacoco to instrument. It work excellent and can reach our request.

1. Future work
2. Q-learning in test generation  
   What we now suppose is that AUT represents the environment and testing tool is the agent, GUI state is the state, event is the action the agent needs to take. The goal of the agent is to learn a sequence of actions that maximize the reward.
3. optimize tools.

We use uiautomator to read current statement and use monkeyrunner to send operator. However, there are still some blemish in the work. The uiautomator takes some second to generate xml file. This time is to long for a UI test tool. And the monkeyrunner can not run python as windows environment, processes in running will influence each other and cause wrong result. Besides these, the monkey runner can not send system operation to the phone. We will try new ways to solve these problem in future work.

1. Reference

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