Bounded Model Checking of C++ Programs based on the Qt Cross-Platform Framework

Journal-First Abstract*

Felipe R. Monteiro†
Federal University of Amazonas
Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil

Mário A. P. Garcia
Federal University of Amazonas
Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil

Lucas C. Cordeiro
University of Manchester
United Kingdom

Eddie B. Lima Filho
TPV Technology Ltd.
Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil

CCS CONCEPTS

• **General and reference** → **Verification**; • **Software and its engineering** → **Model checking**; *Software verification*; Formal software verification;

KEYWORDS

Software Engineering, Qt Framework, Model Checking, Formal Verification, Verification in Industrial Practice

OVERVIEW

Technology companies, such as AMD, Intel and Amazon, increasingly invest effort and time to develop fast and cheap verification alternatives, in order to check for correctness in their systems and then reduce product recall rates. Among such alternatives, one of the most promising is the model checking approach; however, despite its advantages, there are many systems that could not be automatically verified, due to the restrict support of formal verifiers. To tackle this problem, Monteiro *et al.* [4] propose a simplified version of the Qt framework, which is integrated into a model checker based on satisfiability modulo theories (SMT), known as the Efficient SMT-based Context-Bounded Model Checker (ESBMC) [2, 5], in order to verify actual Qt-based applications. Importantly, such an approach resulted in a success rate of 89% based on the developed benchmark test suite. Furthermore, the simplified version of the Qt framework, named as Qt Operational Model (QtOM), was also evaluated using other state-of-the-art verifiers for C++ programs. In fact, QtOM was combined with two different verification approaches: explicit-state model checking and also symbolic (bounded) model

checking, during the experimental evaluation, which highlights its flexibility. The proposed methodology is the first one to formally verify Qt-based applications, which has the potential to devise new directions for software verification of portable code.

Contributions. Monteiro *et al.* [4] extend a previous published work by Garcia *et al.* [1] and Monteiro *et al.* [3]. The respective OM was expanded, in order to include new features from the main Qt modules: QtGUI and QtCore. Indeed, the main contributions here are *(i)* the support for sequential and associative template-based containers, *(ii)* the integration of QtOM into the verification process of the state-of-the-art C++ verifiers DIVINE and LLBMC, and *(iii)* the verification of two Qt-based applications known as *Locomaps* and *GeoMessage*. Furthermore, the employed benchmark suite was extensively revised and expanded, now 13 times bigger than the mentioned previous work, and the performance of three SMT solvers (*i.e.*, Z3, Yices, and Boolector) was evaluated, along with the proposed approach.

Availability of Data and Tools. The performed experiments are based on a set of publicly available benchmarks. All benchmarks, tools, and results, associated with the current evaluation, are available at http://esbmc.org/qtom.

REFERENCES

[1] Garcia M. A. P., Monteiro F. R., Cordeiro L. C., and de Lima Filho E. B. 2016. *ESBMC^QtOM: A Bounded Model Checking Tool to Verify Qt Applications*. Springer International Publishing, Cham, Chapter 10, 97–103.
[2] Gadelha M. R., Monteiro F. R., Morse J., Cordeiro L. C., Fischer B., and Nicole D. A. 2018. ESBMC 5.0: An Industrial-Strength C Model Checker. In 33rd *ACM/IEEE Int. Conf. on Automated Software Engineering (ASE'18)*. ACM, New York, NY, USA.
[3] Monteiro F. R., Cordeiro L. C., and de Lima Filho E. B. 2015. Bounded Model Checking of C++ Programs Based on the Qt Framework. In 4th *Global Conference on Consumer Electronics*. IEEE, Osaka, Japan.
[4] Monteiro F. R., Garcia M. A. P., Cordeiro L. C., and de Lima Filho E. B. 2017. Bounded Model Checking of C++ Programs based on the Qt Cross-Platform Framework. *Software Testing, Verification and Reliability* 27, 3 (2017), e1632.
[5] M. Ramalho, M. Freitas, F. Sousa, H. Marques, L. Cordeiro, and B. Fischer. 2013. SMT-Based Bounded Model Checking of C++ Programs. In *Proceedings of the 20th Annual IEEE Int. Conference and Workshops on the Engineering of Computer Based Systems (ECBS'13)*. IEEE Computer Society, Washington, DC, USA, 147–156.

Unpublished working draft. Not for distribution.