Symbolic Execution and Software Testing

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Overview

- "Classical" symbolic execution and its variants
 - Generalized symbolic execution
 - Dynamic and concolic testing
- Challenges
 - Multi-threading, complex data structures
 - Complex constraints
 - Handling loops, native libraries
- Scalability issues path explosion problem
 - Compositional and parallel techniques
 - Abstraction
- Applications & Tools

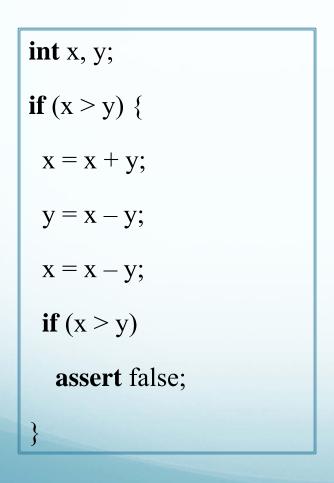
Symbolic Execution

- King [Comm. ACM 1976], Clarke [IEEE TSE 1976]
- Analysis of programs with unspecified inputs
 - Execute a program on symbolic inputs
- Symbolic states represent sets of concrete states
- For each path, build a path condition
 - Condition on inputs for the execution to follow that path
 - Check path condition satisfiability -- explore only feasible paths
- Symbolic state
 - Symbolic values/expressions for variables
 - Path condition
 - Program counter

Example: Standard Execution

Code that swaps 2 integers

Concrete Execution Path

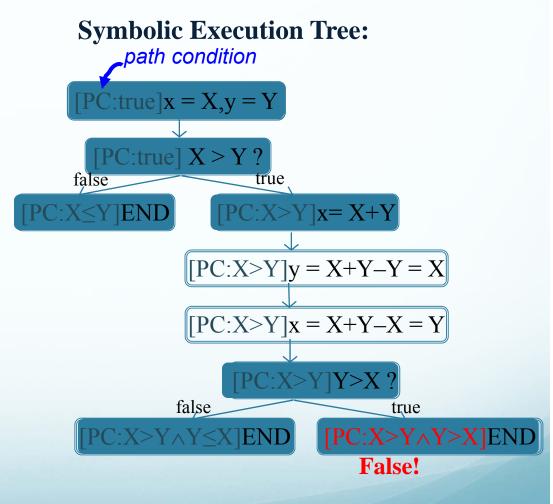


$$x = 1, y = 0$$
 $1 > 0 ? true$
 $x = 1 + 0 = 1$
 $y = 1 - 0 = 1$
 $x = 1 - 1 = 0$
 $0 > 1 ? false$

Example: Symbolic Execution

Code that swaps 2 integers:

```
int x, y;
if (x > y) {
 x = x + y;
 y = x - y;
 x = x - y;
 if (x > y)
  assert false;
```



Solve path conditions → test inputs

Questions

- What about loops?
- What about overflow?

- What about multi-threading?
- What about data structures?

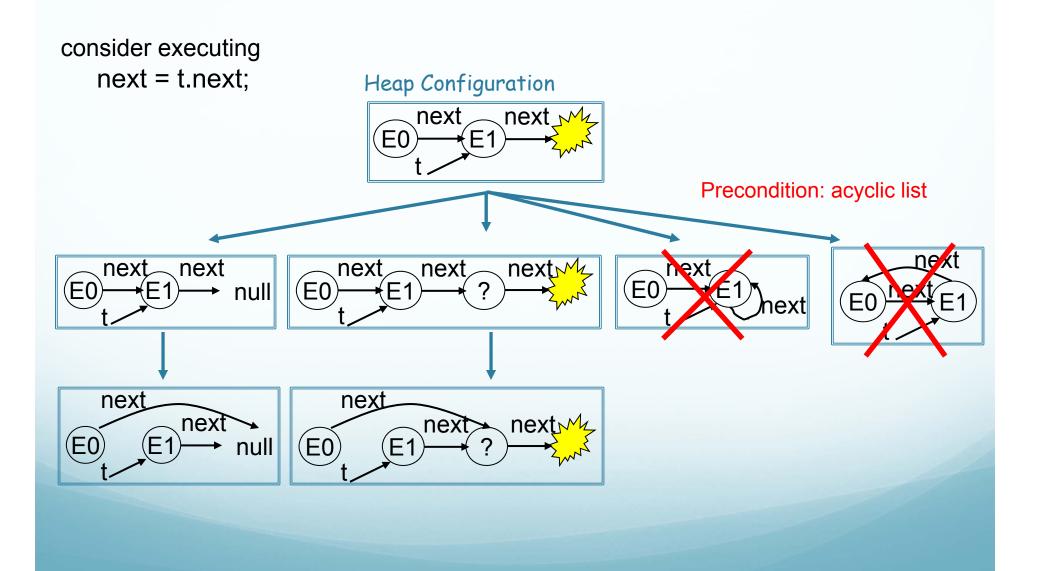
Generalized Symbolic Execution [TACAS'03]

- Handles dynamically allocated data structures and multithreading
- Key elements:
 - Lazy initialization for input data structures
 - Standard model checker (Java PathFinder) for multi-threading
- Model Checker
 - Analyzes thread inter-leavings
 - Leverages optimizations
 - Symmetry and partial order reductions, abstraction etc.
 - Generates and explores the symbolic execution tree
 - Explores different heap configurations explicitly -- non-determinism handles aliasing

Example Analysis

```
NullPointerException
class Node {
                                    Input list + Constraint ■
   int elem;
   Node next;
                                                         none
   Node swapNode() {
                                                         none
     if (novt I- null)
        if (elem > next.elem) {
                                                         E0 ≤ E1 ■
           Node t = next;
           next = t.next;
                                                         E0 > E1
           t.next = this;
           return t;
                                                         E0 > E1 ___
      return this;
                                                         E0 > E1
                                                         E0 > E1 (E1)
```

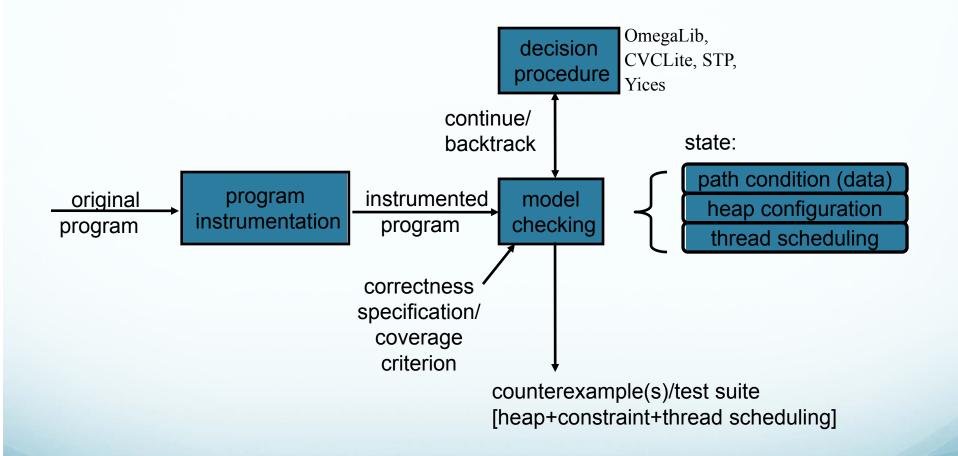
Lazy Initialization (illustration)



Implementation

- Symbolic execution of Java programs
- Code instrumentation
 - Programs instrumented to enable JPF to perform symbolic execution
 - Replace concrete operations with calls to methods that implement symbolic operations
 - General: could use/leverage any model checker
- Decision procedures used to check satisfiability of path conditions
 - Omega library for integer linear constraints
 - CVCLite, STP (Stanford), Yices (SRI)

Implementation via Instrumentation



Symbolic PathFinder

- No longer uses code instrumentation
- Implements a non-standard interpreter of byte-codes
 - Enables JPF to perform symbolic analysis
 - Replaces standard byte-code execution with non-standard symbolic execution
- During execution checks for assert violations, run-time errors, etc.
- Symbolic information:
 - Stored in attributes associated with the program data
 - Propagated dynamically during symbolic execution
- Choice generators and listeners:
 - Non-deterministic choices handle branching conditions
 - Listeners print results: path conditions, test vectors/sequences
- Native peers model native libraries:
 - Capture Math calls and send them to the constraint solver
- Generic interface for multiple decision procedures
 - Choco, IASolver, CVC3, Yices, HAMPI, CORAL [NFM11], etc.

Example: IADD

Concrete execution of IADD byte-code:

```
public class IADD extends
   Instruction { ...
public Instruction execute(...
   ThreadInfo th){
   int v1 = th.pop();
   int v2 = th.pop();
   th.push(v1+v2,...);
   return getNext(th);
```

Symbolic execution of IADD byte-code:

```
public class IADD extends
   ....bytecode.IADD { ...
 public Instruction execute(...
   ThreadInfo th){
   Expression sym v1 = ....getOperandAttr(0);
   Expression sym_v2 = ....getOperandAttr(1);
   if (sym_v1 == null && sym_v2 == null)
     // both values are concrete
     return super.execute(... th);
   else {
     int v1 = th.pop();
     int v2 = th.pop();
     th.push(0,...); // don't care
     ....setOperandAttr(Expression._plus(
    sym_v1,sym_v2));
     return getNext(th);
```

Handling Branching Conditions

- Involves:
 - Creation of a non-deterministic choice in JPF's search
 - Path condition associated with each choice
 - Add condition (or its negation) to the corresponding path condition
 - Check satisfiability (with Choco, IASolver, CVC3 etc.)
 - If un-satisfiable, instruct JPF to backtrack
- Created new choice generator

```
public class PCChoiceGenerator

    extends IntIntervalGenerator {
        PathCondition[] PC;
        ...
}
```

Example: IFGE

Concrete execution of IFGE byte-code:

```
public class IFGE extends
    Instruction { ...
public Instruction execute(...
    ThreadInfo th){
    cond = (th.pop() >= 0);
    if (cond)
     next = getTarget();
    else
     next = getNext(th);
    return next;
```

Symbolic execution of IFGE byte-code:

```
public class IFGE extends
   ....bytecode.IFGE { ...
public Instruction execute(...
   ThreadInfo th){
   Expression sym v = ....getOperandAttr();
   if (sym v == null)
     // the condition is concrete
     return super.execute(... th);
   else {
     PCChoiceGen cg = new PCChoiceGen(2);...
     cond = cg.getNextChoice()==0?false:true;
     if (cond) {
        pc._add_GE(sym_v,0);
        next = getTarget();
     else {
        pc._add_LT(sym_v,0);
        next = getNext(th);
     if (!pc.satisfiable()) ... // JPF backtrack
     else cg.setPC(pc);
     return next;
```

Complex mathematical constraints

Model-level interpretation of calls to math functions

$$x + 1 \longrightarrow Math.sin \longrightarrow sin(x + 1)$$

Symbolic expression (un-interpreted function) denoting the result value of the call

CORAL solver [NFM'11]

- Target applications:
 - Symbolic execution of programs that manipulate floatingpoint variables
 - Use floating-point arithmetic
 - Call specific math functions (from java.lang.Math)

Common in software from NASA

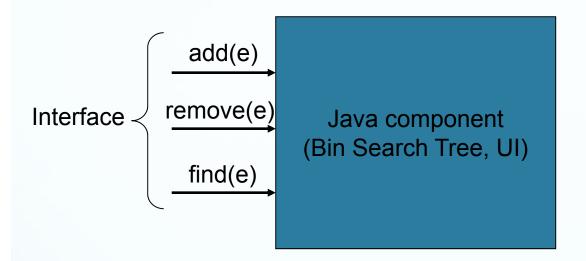
$$sqrt(exp(x+z))) < pow(z, x) \land x > 0 \land y > 1 \land z > 1 \land y < x + 2 \land Solver$$
 Coral Solver Solver $z=9.51, w=6.31$

- Meta-heuristic solver
 - Distance-based fitness function
- Particle swarm optimization (PSO)
 - Search simulates movements in a group of animals
 - Used opt4j library (see opt4j.sourceforge.net)

CORAL solvers

- Meta-heuristic solver
 - Distance-based fitness function
- Optimizations
 - Identification of dependent variables
 - Inference of variable domains
 - Efficient evaluation of constraints
- Particle swarm optimization (PSO)
 - Similar to GA, but with fixed-sized population
 - Search simulates movements in a group of animals
 - Implemented very efficiently (matrix operations)
 - Parameters to calibrate local and global influence
 - Used opt4j library (see <u>opt4j.sourceforge.net</u>)

Applications: Test Input and Sequence Generation



```
Generated test sequence:

BinTree t = new

BinTree();

t.add(1);

t.add(2);

t.remove(1);
```

- SymbolicSequenceListener generates JUnit tests
- JUnit tests can be run directly by the developers
- Measure coverage (e.g. MC/DC)
- Support for abstract state matching

[ISSTA'04, ISSTA'06]

Application: Onboard Abort Executive (OAE)

Prototype for CEV ascent abort handling being developed by JSC GN&C

OAE Structure



Results

- Baseline
 - Manual testing: time consuming (~1 week)
 - Guided random testing could not cover all aborts
- Symbolic PathFinder
 - Generates tests to cover all aborts and flight rules
 - Total execution time is < 1 min
 - Test cases: 151 (some combinations infeasible)
 - Errors: 1 (flight rules broken but no abort picked)
 - Found major bug in new version of OAE
 - Flight Rules: 27 / 27 covered
 - Aborts: 7 / 7 covered
 - Size of input data: 27 values per test case
- Integration with End-to-end Simulation
 - Input data constrained by physical laws
 Example: inertial velocity can not be 24000 ft/s when the geodetic altitude is 0 ft
 - Need to encode these constraints explicitly

Generated Test Cases and Constraints

Test cases:

```
// Covers Rule: FR A_2_A_2_B_1: Low Pressure Oxidizer Turbo pump speed limit exceeded // Output: Abort:IBB
CaseNum 1;
CaseLine in.stage_speed=3621.0;
CaseTime 57.0-102.0;

// Covers Rule: FR A_2_A_2_A: Fuel injector pressure limit exceeded // Output: Abort:IBB
CaseNum 3;
CaseLine in.stage_pres=4301.0;
CaseTime 57.0-102.0;
...
```

Constraints:

```
//Rule: FR A_2_A_1_A: stage1 engine chamber pressure limit exceeded Abort:IA PC (~60 constraints): in.geod_alt(9000) < 120000 && in.geod_alt(9000) < 38000 && in.geod_alt(9000) < 10000 && in.pres_rate(-2) >= -2 && in.pres_rate(-2) >= -15 && in.roll_rate(40) <= 50 && in.yaw_rate(31) <= 41 && in.pitch_rate(70) <= 100 && ...
```

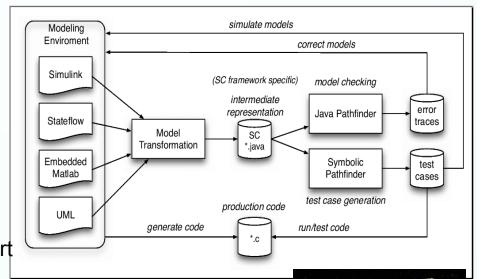
Test-Sequence Generation for Multiple Statechart Models

Polyglot Framework [ISSTA'11]

- Analysis for UML, Stateflow and Rhapsody interactive models
- Automated test sequence generation
- High degree of coverage
 - state, transition, path
- Pluggable semantics
- Study discrepancies between multiple statechart formalisms

Demonstrations:

- Orion's Pad Abort-1
- Ares-Orion communication
- JPL's MER Arbiter
- Apollo lunar autopilot



Orion orbits the moon (Image Credit: Lockheed Martin).

Shown: Polyglot Framework for model-based analysis and test case-generation; test cases used to test the generated code and to discover discrepancies between models and code.

Dynamic Techniques

- Classic symbolic execution is a static technique
- Dynamic techniques
 - Collect symbolic constraints during concrete executions
 - DART = Directed Automated Random Testing
 - Concolic (Concrete Symbolic) testing

DART = Directed Automated Random Testing

- Dynamic test generation
 - Run the program starting with some random inputs
 - Gather symbolic constraints on inputs at conditional statements
 - Use a constraint solver to generate new test inputs
 - Repeat the process until a specific program path or statement is reached (classic dynamic test generation [Korel90])
 - Or repeat the process to attempt to cover ALL feasible program paths (DART [Godefroid et al PLDI'05])
- Detect crashes, assert violations, runtime errors etc.

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

Path Constraint

int x, y;
$$x = 0, y = 0$$

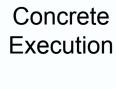
create symbolic variables x, y

x = x + y; y = x - y; x = x - y;**if** (x > y)

if (x > y) {

assert false;

}



Symbolic Execution

Path Constraint

create symbolic variables x, y

 $x \le y$

Solve: $!(x \le y)$

Solution: x=1, y=0

$$x = 0, y = 0$$

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

Path Constraint

int x, y;
$$x = 1, y = 0$$

create symbolic variables x, y

x = x + y; y = x - y; x = x - y;if (x > y)

if (x > y) {

assert false;

}



Symbolic Execution

create symbolic variables x, y

Path Constraint

if
$$(x > y)$$
 {

$$x = x + y$$
;

$$y = x - y;$$

$$x = x - y$$
;

if
$$(x > y)$$

assert false;

x = 1, y = 0



Symbolic Execution

Path Constraint

if
$$(x > y)$$
 {

$$x = x + y$$
;

$$y = x - y;$$

$$x = x - y$$
;

if
$$(x > y)$$

assert false;

x = 1, y = 0

create symbolic variables x, y

$$x = x+y$$



Symbolic Execution

Path Constraint

if
$$(x > y)$$
 {

$$x = x + y$$
;

$$y = x - y;$$

$$x = x - y$$
;

if
$$(x > y)$$

assert false;

x = 1, y = 1

create symbolic variables x, y

$$x = x+y$$

y = x



Symbolic Execution

Path Constraint

if
$$(x > y)$$
 {

$$x = x + y$$
;

$$y = x - y;$$

$$x = x - y$$
;

if (x > y)

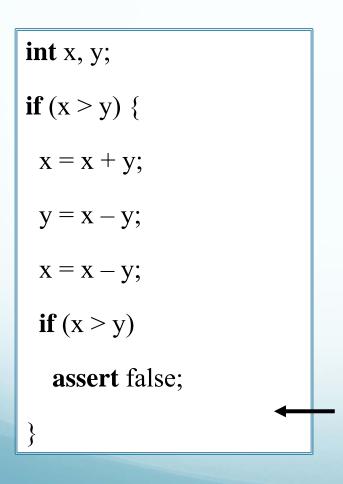
assert false;

x = 0, y = 1

create symbolic variables x, y

y = x

x = y



Concrete Execution

x = 0, y = 1

Symbolic Constraint Execution create symbolic variables x, y x > ySolve: x > y AND $!(y \le x)$ Impossible: DONE! y = xx = y

Path

 $y \le x$

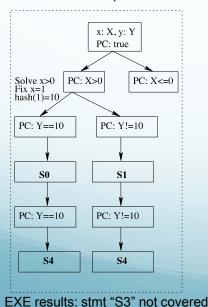
Dynamic Test Generation

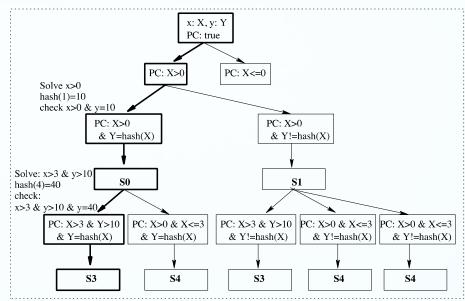
- Very popular
- Implemented and extended in many interesting ways
- Many tools
 - PEX, SAGE, CUTE, jCUTE, CREST, SPLAT, etc
- Many applications
 - Bug finding, security, web and database applications, etc.
- EXE (Stanford Univ. [Cadar et al TISSEC 2008])
 - Related dynamic approach to symbolic execution

A Comparison [ISSTA'11]

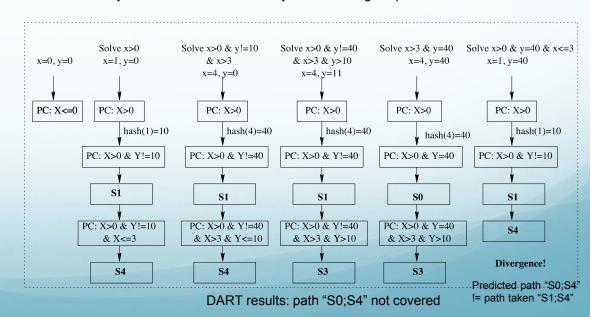
```
void test(int x, int y) {
     if (x > 0) {
1:
      if (y == hash(x))//hash(x)=10*x
2:
3:
         SO;
4:
       else
5:
         S1:
      if (x > 3 \&\& y > 10)
6:
7:
      //if (y > 10)
         S3;
8:
9:
       else
10:
         S4;
```

Example





"Classic" sym exe w/ mixed concrete-symbolic solving: all paths covered



Mixed Concrete-Symbolic Solving [ISSTA'11]

- Use un-interpreted functions for external library calls
- Split path condition PC into:
 - simplePC solvable constraints
 - complexPC non-linear constraints with un-interpreted functions
- Solve simplePC
 - Use obtained solutions to simplify complexPC
 - Check the result again for satisfiability

Example (assume hash(x) = 10 *x):

Solve simplePC; use solution X=4 to compute h(4)=40

Simplify complexPC: Y=40

Solve again: $X>3 \land Y>10 \land Y=40$ Satisfiable!

Challenge

Path explosion

Symbolic execution of a program may result in a very large, possibly infinite number of paths

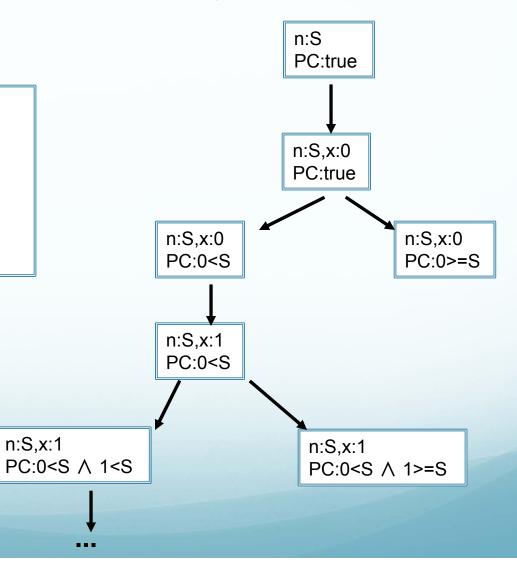
Problem: loops and recursion

n:S,x:1

Infinite symbolic execution tree

Example Code

```
void test(int n) {
     int x = 0;
     while(x < n)
      x = x + 1;
```



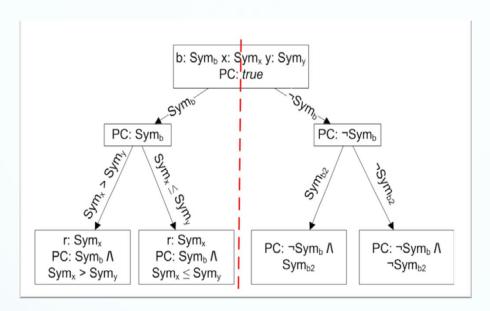
Solutions

- Dealing with loops and recursion
 - Put bound on search depth or on number of PCs
 - Stop search when desired coverage achieved
 - Loop abstraction [Saxena et al ISSTA'09] [Godefroid ISSTA'11]
- Solutions addressing path explosion
 - Parallel Symbolic Execution
 - Abstract State Matching
 - Compositional DART = SMART

Parallel Symbolic Execution

- Path explosion
 - Increases exponentially with the number of inputs specified as symbolic
 - Very expensive in terms of time (weeks, months)
- Solution
 - Speed-up symbolic execution using parallel or distributed techniques
- Symbolic execution is amenable to parallelization
 - No sharing between sub-trees

Balancing partitions



Nicely Balanced – linear speedup

Poorly Balanced – no speedup

- Solutions
 - Simple static partitioning [ISSTA'10]
 - Dynamic partitioning [Andrew King's Masters Thesis at KSU, Cloud9 at EPFL, Fujitsu]

Simple Static Partitioning

- Static partitioning of tree with light dynamic load balancing
 - Flexible, little communication overhead
- Constraint-based partitioning
 - Constraints used as initial pre-conditions
 - Constraints are disjoint and complete
- Approach
 - Shallow symbolic execution => produces large number of constraints
 - Constraints selection according to frequency of variables
 - Combinatorial partition creation
- Intuition
 - Commonly used variables likely to partition state space in useful ways
- Results
 - maximum analysis time speedup of 90x observed using 128 workers and a maximum test generation time speedup of 70x observed using 64 workers.

Abstract State Matching

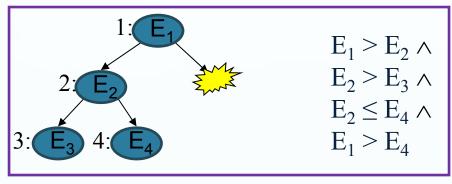
- State matching subsumption checking [SPIN' 06, J. STTT 2008]
 - Obtained through DFS traversal of "rooted" heap configurations
 - Roots are program variables pointing to the heap
 - Unique labeling for "matched" nodes
 - Check logical implication between numeric constraints
 - Not enough to ensure termination
- Abstraction
 - Store abstract versions of explored symbolic states
 - Use subsumption checking to determine if an abstract state is re-visited
 - Decide if the search should continue or backtrack

Abstract State Matching

- Enables analysis of under-approximation of program behavior
- Preserves errors to safety properties -- useful for testing
- Automated support for two abstractions (inspired by shape analysis [TVLA]
 - Singly linked lists
 - Arrays
- No refinement!
- See [Albarghouthi et al. CAV10] for symbolic execution with automatic abstraction-refinement

State Matching: Subsumption Checking

Stored state:



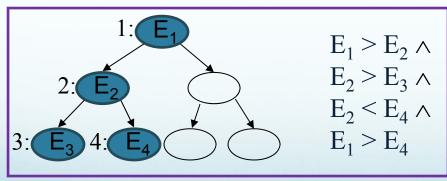
Set of concrete states represented by stored state

U



U

New state:



Set of concrete states represented by new state

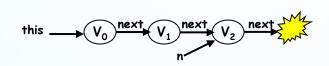
Normalized using existential quantifier elimination

Abstractions for Lists and Arrays

- Shape abstraction for singly linked lists
 - Summarize contiguous list elements not pointed to by program variables into summary nodes
 - Valuation of a summary node
 - Union of valuations of summarized nodes
 - Subsumption checking between abstracted states
 - Same algorithm as subsumption checking for symbolic states
 - Treat summary node as an "ordinary" node
- Abstraction for arrays
 - Represent array as a singly linked list
 - Abstraction similar to shape abstraction for linked lists

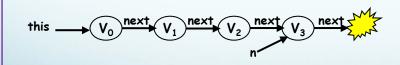
Abstraction for Lists

Symbolic states



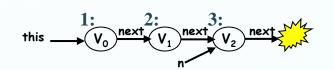
PC: $V_0 \le v \land V_1 \le v$

Unmatched!



PC: $V_0 \le v \land V_1 \le v \land V_2 \le v$

Abstracted symbolic states



 $E_1 = V_0 \wedge E_2 = V_1 \wedge E_3 = V_2$

PC: $V_0 \le v \wedge V_1 \le v$





 $E_1 = V_0 \land (E_2 = V_1 \lor E_2 = V_2) \land E_3 = V_3$ PC: $V_0 \le v \land V_1 \le v \land V_2 \le v$

Compositional DART [POPL'07]

- Idea: compositional dynamic test generation
 - use summaries of individual functions like in inter-procedural static analysis
 - if f calls g, analyze g separately, summarize the results, and use g's summary when analyzing f
 - A summary $\phi(g)$ is a disjunction of path constraints expressed in terms of input preconditions and output post-conditions:

```
\varphi(g) = \vee \varphi(w), with \varphi(w) = \text{pre}(w) \wedge \text{post}(w)
```

- g's outputs are treated as symbolic inputs to calling function f
- SMART: Top-down strategy to compute summaries on a demand-driven basis from concrete calling contexts
- Same path coverage as DART but can be exponentially faster!
- Follow-up work
 - Anand et al. [TACAS'08], Godefroid et al. [POPL'10]

Example

```
int is_positive(int x) {
  if (x>0) return 1;
  return 0;
}
#define N 100
void top (int s[N]) {// N inputs
  int i, cnt=0;
  for (i=0;i<N; i++)
    cnt=cnt+is_positive(s[i]);
  if (cnt == 3) error(); // (*)
  return;
}</pre>
```

Program P = {top, is_positive} has 2^N feasible paths

DART will perform 2^N runs

SMART will perform only 4 runs

- 2 to compute summary
 φ(is_positive) = (x>0∧ ret=1) ∨ (x≤0∧ ret=0)
- 2 to execute both branches of (*) by solving:

```
[(s[0]>0 \land ret<sub>0</sub>=1) \lor (s[0]\le0 \land ret<sub>0</sub>=0)] \land

[(s[1]>0 \land ret<sub>1</sub>=1) \lor (s[1]\le0 \land ret<sub>1</sub>=0)] \land \cdots \land

[(s[N-1]>0 \land ret<sub>N-1</sub>=1) \lor (s[N-1]\le0 \land ret<sub>N-1</sub>=0)] \land

(ret<sub>0</sub>+ret<sub>1</sub>+ \cdots + ret<sub>N-1</sub>=3)
```

Applications – An Example

Symbolic execution tree:

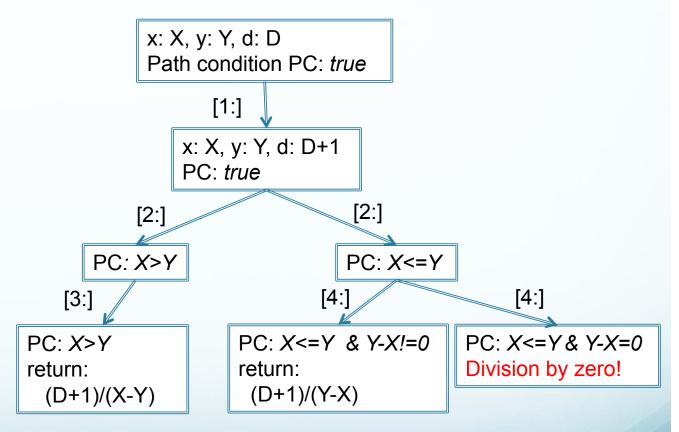
Method m:

```
1: d=d+1;
```

2: if (x > y)

3: return d / (x-y); else

4: return d / (y-x);



Solve path conditions → test inputs

Auto-generated JUnit Tests

```
@Test public void t1() {
    m(1, 0, 1);
}
@Test public void t2() {
    m(0, 1, 1);
}
@Test public void t3() {
    m(1, 1, 1);
}
Pass ✓
Fail X PC: X<=Y&Y-X=0 ⇔ X=Y
```

Achieves full path coverage

Program Repair and Synthesis

- Add JML pre-condition:
 - @Requires("x!=y)
- Add argument check in m:
 - If(x==y) throw new IllegalArgumentException("requires: x!=y")
- Add expected clause to test t3:

```
@Test(expected=ArithmeticException.class)
public void t3() {
   m(1, 1, 1);
}
```

Will fix the error or produce more useful output

One can do more sophisticated program repairs.

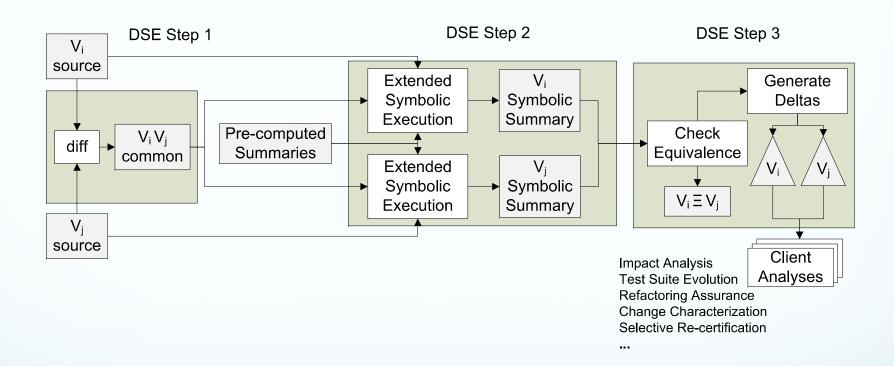
See [ICSE'11 "Angelic Debugging"]

Invariant Generation

- Pre-condition:
 - "x!=y"
- Post-condition:
 - "\result==((x>y)? (d+1)/(x-y): (d+1)/(y-x))"

- Use inductive and machine learning techniques to generate loop invariants
- See DySy [Csallner et al ICSE'08], also [SPIN'04]

Differential Symbolic Execution



- Computes logical difference between two program versions
- [FSE08, Person et al PLDI11]

Applications

- Automated test-input generation
 - test vectors and test sequences
- Error detection, Invariant generation
- Program and data structure repair
- Security
- Robustness and stress testing
- Regression testing etc.

Challenges

- Scalability
 - Compositional techniques [Godefroid, POPL'07]
 - Pruning redundant paths [Boonstoppel et al, TACAS'08]
 - Heuristic search [Brunim & Sen, ASE'08] [Majumdar & Se, ICSE'07]
 - Parallel techniques [Siddiqui & Khurshid, ICSTE'10] [Staats & Pasareanu, ISSTA'10]
 - Incremental techniques [Person et al, PLDI'11]
- Complex non-linear mathematical constraints
 - Un-decidable or hard to solve
 - Heuristic solving [Lakhotia et al., ICTSS'10][Souza et al, NFM'11]
- Testing web applications and security problems
 - String constraints [Bjorner et al, 2009] ...
 - Mixed numeric and string constraints [ISSTA'11] [Fujitsu]
- Not covered:
 - Symbolic execution for formal verification [Coen-Porisini et al, ESEC/FSE'01], [Dillon, ACM TOPLAS'90], [Harrison & Kemmerer'88]
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Symbolic Execution and Software Testing

- King [Comm. ACM 1976], Clarke [IEEE TSE 1976]
- Received renewed interest in recent years
 - Algorithmic advances
 - Increased availability of computational power and decision procedures
- Tools, many open-source
 - NASA's Symbolic (Java) Pathfinder
 http://babelfish.arc.nasa.gov/trac/jpf/wiki/projects/jpf-symbo
 - UIUC's CUTE and jCUTE http://osl.cs.uiuc.edu/~ksen/cute
 - Stanford's KLEE http://klee.llvm.org/
 - UC Berkeley's CREST and BitBlaze http://code.google.com/p/crest
 - Microsoft's Pex, SAGE, YOGI, PREfix http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/pex/
 - IBM's Apollo, Parasoft's testing tools etc.

See ICSE'11 Impact Project talk on Thursday

Bibliography on symbolic execution (Saswat Anand): http://sites.google.com/site/symexbib/

Thank you!

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