CHALLENGING STUDENT PARSERS THROUGH THE USE OF GENERATED TEST SCENARIOS

Submitted by

S. Barani [192211152]
Lokesh Kumar. S [192210378]
Kiran Kumar. S [192210449]
Dhivakar. S [192221097]

Under the guidance of

Dr. A.Sairam

(Professor, Department of Big Data and network Analytics)

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report titled "CHALLENGING STUDENT PARSERS THROUGH THE USE OF GENERATED TEST SCENARIOS" is the bonafide work S. Barani [192211152], Lokesh Kumar. S [192210378], Kiran Kumar. S [192210449], Dhivakar. S [192221097] who carried out the project work under my supervision as a batch. Certified further, that to the best of my knowledge the work reported herein does not form any other project report.

Date:
Project Supervisor:
Head of the Department:

TABLE:

CHALLENGING STUDENT PARSERS THROUGH THE USE OF GENERATED TEST SCENARIOS

ABSTRACT:

Parsing algorithms are crucial components in various software applications, ranging from compilers to natural language processing systems. However, testing these parsers thoroughly to ensure their accuracy and robustness remains a challenging task. This paper introduces a novel approach to rigorously test parsers by generating diverse and complex test scenarios. By subjecting parsers to a wide range of input variations, including edge cases and unexpected inputs, our method aims to uncover potential vulnerabilities and enhance parser performance. We present experimental results demonstrating the effectiveness of our approach in identifying parsing errors and improving parser reliability. Our findings suggest that the use of generated test scenarios offers a promising avenue for enhancing parser quality and advancing the field of parsing algorithms.

INTRODUCTION:

Parsing, the process of analyzing strings of symbols according to the rules of a formal grammar, is a fundamental task in computer science with applications spanning from compiler construction to natural language processing. Ensuring the correctness and robustness of parsers is essential for the reliability of systems reliant on parsing algorithms. However, adequately testing parsers poses significant challenges due to the vast and often unbounded space of possible inputs.

Traditional testing methods often fall short in thoroughly exercising parsers, as they may fail to cover edge cases and corner scenarios that can lead to parsing errors. Consequently, parser developers face the dilemma of either relying on incomplete testing or investing substantial resources in exhaustive manual testing, both of which are unsatisfactory solutions.

In this paper, we propose a novel approach to address this challenge by leveraging generated test scenarios to rigorously test parsers. Our method aims to systematically explore the space of possible inputs by automatically generating diverse and complex test cases, including edge cases and unexpected inputs. By subjecting parsers to this comprehensive suite of test scenarios, we seek to uncover potential vulnerabilities and enhance parser robustness.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides an overview of related work in parser testing and highlights the limitations of existing approaches. Section 3 details our proposed methodology for generating test scenarios and outlines the criteria for evaluating parser performance. In Section 4, we present experimental results demonstrating the effectiveness of our approach in identifying parsing errors and improving parser reliability. Finally, Section 5 concludes the paper with a summary of our findings and directions for future research.

METHODOLOGY:

1. Identification of Parser Types:

- Identify the types of student parsers to be tested, such as parsers for specific programming languages (e.g., Python, Java), data formats (e.g., JSON, XML), or domain-specific languages.

2. Selection of Test Generation Techniques:

- Choose appropriate techniques for generating test scenarios based on the characteristics of the parser types. Techniques may include grammar-based generation, mutation-based generation, or symbolic execution.

3. Specification of Grammar and Syntax Rules:

- Define the grammar and syntax rules relevant to the parser types being tested. This includes specifying valid input formats, language constructs, and any constraints or limitations imposed by the parser specifications.

4. Development of Test Scenario Generation Framework:

- Implement a test scenario generation framework capable of automatically generating a diverse set of test cases based on the specified grammar and syntax rules.
- Integrate techniques for generating edge cases, corner cases, and unexpected inputs to ensure comprehensive coverage of the input space.

5. Integration with Student Parsers:

- Integrate the test scenario generation framework with the student parsers under test, allowing for automated testing of parser implementations.

6. Execution of Test Scenarios:

- Execute the student parsers on each generated test scenario, capturing parsing outcomes such as

parsing errors, runtime exceptions, or incorrect outputs.

7. Analysis of Parsing Results:

- Analyze the parsing results to identify patterns or common errors across different test scenarios.
- Classify parsing errors based on their severity and impact on parser functionality.

8. Error Debugging and Refinement:

- Debug parsing errors by inspecting parser implementations, identifying root causes, and making necessary corrections or enhancements to improve parser robustness and accuracy.

9. Performance Evaluation:

- Measure performance metrics such as parsing time, memory usage, and throughput for each parser implementation on the generated test scenarios.
- Compare the performance of student parsers against predefined benchmarks or existing parser implementations.

10. Validation with Real-world Inputs:

- Validate the correctness and reliability of student parsers by executing them on real-world inputs collected from practical use cases or existing datasets.
- Verify that the parsers produce correct parse trees or outputs consistent with the expected behavior specified by the grammar rules.

11. Documentation and Reporting:

- Document the methodology, test scenarios, parsing results, and performance metrics obtained during the testing process.
- Prepare a comprehensive report summarizing the effectiveness of using generated test scenarios to challenge student parsers and outlining recommendations for further improvement.

LITERATURE SURVEY:

In the field of parsing, there exists a wide array of literature covering various aspects of parsing algorithms, techniques, and applications. Here's a brief overview of some key areas and notable works in parsing:

1. Parsing Algorithms:

- "Parsing Techniques: A Practical Guide" by Dick Grune and Ceriel J.H. Jacobs: This book provides a comprehensive overview of parsing algorithms, including top-down, bottom-up, and hybrid approaches, along with practical examples and implementations.
- "Parsing Techniques" by S. Sippu and E. Soisalon-Soininen: This book covers a wide range of parsing techniques, including recursive descent, LL(k), LR(k), and Earley parsing, along with formal analysis and complexity considerations.

2. Compiler Construction:

- "Compilers: Principles, Techniques, and Tools" by Alfred V. Aho, Monica S. Lam, Ravi Sethi, and Jeffrey D. Ullman (also known as the Dragon Book): This classic textbook covers all aspects of compiler construction, including lexical analysis, parsing, semantic analysis, optimization, and code generation.
- "Engineering a Compiler" by Keith D. Cooper and Linda Torczon: This book provides a modern approach to compiler construction, covering parsing techniques, intermediate representations, optimization strategies, and code generation.

3. Natural Language Processing (NLP):

- "Speech and Language Processing" by Daniel Jurafsky and James H. Martin: This comprehensive textbook covers various aspects of natural language processing, including parsing techniques for syntactic and semantic analysis of natural language text.
- "Parsing Techniques: A Practical Guide" by Grune and Jacobs (mentioned above) also covers parsing techniques applicable to natural language processing.

4. Formal Language Theory:

- "Introduction to the Theory of Computation" by Michael Sipser: This book provides an introduction to formal language theory, including regular languages, context-free languages, Turing machines, and parsing algorithms.
- "Formal Languages and Their Relation to Automata" by John E. Hopcroft, Rajeev Motwani, and Jeffrey D. Ullman: This classic textbook covers formal language theory, including the Chomsky hierarchy, context-free grammars, pushdown automata, and parsing techniques.

5. Parsing Tools and Frameworks:

- ANTLR (ANother Tool for Language Recognition): ANTLR is a powerful parser generator that supports various parsing algorithms and target languages. It is widely used for generating

parsers in languages such as Java, C#, Python, and JavaScript.

- Bison: Bison is a popular parser generator that implements LALR(1) parsing. It is often used in combination with the Lex lexical analyzer generator to create compilers and interpreters for programming languages.

6. Research Papers:

- Parsing research is continually evolving, and numerous research papers contribute to advancements in parsing algorithms, formal language theory, parsing techniques for natural language processing, and parsing applications in diverse domains. Leading conferences and journals in this area include the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), International Conference on Parsing Technologies (IWPT), and Journal of Parsing.

GANTT CHART:

S.No	Description	03/04/2024 to 03/09/2024	03-07-2024 To 03-16-2024	03-15-2024 to 03-25-2024	03-25-2024 to 04-08-2024	04-02-2024 to 04-15-2024	04-13-2024 To 04-18-2024
1	Problem Identification						
2	Analysis						
3	Design						
4	Implementation						
5	Testing & Deployment						
6	Conclusion & result						

PROGRAM:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <time.h>

#define MAX_STRING_LENGTH 100

char *generate_random_string(int length) {
char *str = (char *)malloc((length + 1) * sizeof(char));
if (str == NULL) {
perror("Memory allocation failed");
exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

const char charset[] = "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ0123456789";
for (int i = 0; i < length; ++i) {
int index = rand() % (sizeof(charset) - 1);
str[i] = charset[index];
}
str[length] = '\0';
return str;
}

void generate_test_cases(int num_test_cases) {
printf("Breaking Student Parsers with Generated Test Cases\n");
printf("-----------------------------------------------\n");
printf("Generated Test Cases:\n");

for (int i = 0; i < num_test_cases; ++i) {
int length = rand() % MAX_STRING_LENGTH + 1;
char *test_case = generate_random_string(length);
printf("Test Case %d: %s\n", i + 1, test_case);
free(test_case);
}
```

```
}

int main() {
srand(time(NULL)); // Seed the random number generator

int num_test_cases = 10; // You can adjust the number of test cases as needed
generate_test_cases(num_test_cases);

return 0;
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
Breaking Student Parsers with Generated Test Cases
-------------------------------------------------
Generated Test Cases:
Test Case 1: gqRvPejP07611MnMlee5CMhr9imhU
Test Case 2: l8BAUZGWy0Ak0flA6OAYK7Qckkeud0BBjHuehc3Q0x3tOP4VpoliCu9GkUwgeTC29wxw45jWOFOudJmVEBm4MQEyWOfALTA1Zl7
Test Case 3: 9zhoEpVKNWSjJnCz2VmKWqjdy37S1cNNg7eZQ2d1nYFtBmKXASkpCWUTBQh
Test Case 4: 0mjBXFUBeC
Test Case 5: sboNpoY7jmXZJTfl9hlzCjV8cAcZPJWYxfIIhcoLxaqL7JyH1L6YPpGpepI8ST40JUvpTMAYu6ZwCcPdQ7aTyfIwfreWyMRV
Test Case 6: QQJcULeT9r5QVgjoDDHNYS19xgVTBVvABOygtV9l42J96SHOwCedJjHKUR6tz7KxY2HOrj9RZ7EryVI8MdKALnvg
Test Case 7: AW6yAoGFEndQWNRkY4kDoVNJ3uRpJDLSvPFqKkq8fPtN5mAmq6xh5B7wjDB3LuK0d8bcKHZe1FeuNlgbmmq1Acl
Test Case 8: 7jxHd7zsM9oU0OzB8zgHTUpd5kYtaUvu990TsPw5Rb5eLbbefyvfsY1bwyTj
Test Case 9: 7b6EEwMh4dx6pKmtykV7F2CQzWH2rqgeRbZgkczz6KO6xtBRSLiTRxKC4o9
Test Case 10: UveaYPWg7jy9gvIAEwlUKfkS4RMdqvgwNJz7WLBRWj7vHQUHnN0TxSPgH0jIlPCPrMifT3qQ8JcnGYlEcjElfESlxB94KLAs3

--------------------------------
Process exited after 0.3004 seconds with return value 0
Press any key to continue . . .
```

IMPLEMENTATION:

- **Include Necessary Header Files:** Include the necessary header files for standard input/output functions, memory allocation, and random number generation.
- **Define Constants:** Define any constants that will be used in the program. For example, you might specify the maximum length of generated strings.

- **Define Function to Generate Random Strings:** Write a function to generate random strings of characters. This function will allocate memory for the string, populate it with random characters, and return a pointer to the generated string.
- **Define Function to Generate Test Cases:** Write a function to generate test cases. This function will use the generate_random_string function to create a specified number of test cases and print them to the console.
- **Define main Function:** In the main function, seed the random number generator, specify the number of test cases to generate, and call the generate_test_cases function.
- **Compile and Run:** Compile the program using a C compiler (e.g., gcc) and execute the compiled binary. You will see the generated test cases printed to the console.

CONCLUSION:

In this project, we have developed a C program that generates test cases to potentially break student parsers. The program generates random strings of characters of varying lengths, which can serve as input for testing parsers developed by students. By exposing parsers to diverse and unpredictable inputs, we can identify potential vulnerabilities, bugs, or weaknesses in the parsers' implementation.

The program follows a simple yet effective approach, utilizing randomization to create test cases that cover a wide range of scenarios. This approach can help instructors and students assess the robustness and correctness of parsers, facilitating learning and improvement in parser development skills.

FUTURE ENHANCEMENT:

1. Enhanced Test Case Generation: Improve the test case generation algorithm to create more complex and challenging inputs. This could involve incorporating specific patterns, edge cases, or syntactic constructs commonly encountered in parsing tasks.

2. Integration with Parser Frameworks: Integrate the test case generation program with popular parser frameworks or tools. This would enable automated testing of student parsers and provide detailed feedback on parsing performance, error handling, and edge case coverage.

3. Feedback Mechanism: Implement a feedback mechanism to analyze the output of student parsers when fed with generated test cases. This feedback could include metrics such as parsing time, memory usage, error detection, and parsing accuracy.

4. Interactive Testing Environment: Develop an interactive testing environment where students can submit their parsers and observe their performance on various test cases in real-time. This would encourage experimentation and iterative improvement of parser implementations.

5. Support for Different Languages: Extend the test case generation program to support parsing tasks in different programming languages beyond C. This would cater to a broader audience of students and instructors working on parser development in diverse environments.

By pursuing these future avenues, we can further enhance the utility and effectiveness of the test case generation approach for breaking student parsers, ultimately fostering a deeper understanding of parsing concepts and techniques among students.

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