

Analysis of Failure Domain by ADFD+ and Daikon

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ABSTRACT

This paper verifies the accuracy of invariants generated automatically by Daikon and suggests how to improve their quality. To achieve this, it uses a newly developed Automated Discovery of Failure Domain+ (ADFD+) technique. ADFD+ is a testing frame-work which after identifying a failure searches its surrounding to find its domain within the set range. The result obtained is presented graphically on a two-dimension chart.

Several error-seeded one and two-dimensional numerical programs with point, block and strip failure domain were evaluated independently for 30 times by both ADFD+ and Daikon. On analysis of results, it is found that where Daikon generates the correct invariants, it was not good enough to identify the exact failure boundaries.

It is concluded that the invariants generated by Daikon can be made further effective if the boundary values of the failure domain identified by ADFD+ are passed to the Daikon as test cases.

Keywords

software testing, automated random testing

1. INTRODUCTION

Testing is an essential and most widely used method for verification and validation process. Efforts have been continuously made by researchers to make it more and more effective and efficient. Testing is effective when it finds maximum number of faults in minimum number of test cases and efficient when it executes maximum number of test cases in minimum possible time. Upgrading existing techniques and developing new test strategies focus on increasing test effectiveness while automating one or more components or complete system aims at increasing efficiency.

Boundary Value Analysis (BVA) is one of the technique

used of increasing test effectiveness. In BVA test cases with boundary values are added to the test suite with the assumption that errors reside along the boundaries [10]. Daikon [3] is an automatic tool used to improve the efficiency. It saves testers time by automatically generating likely program invariants.

However, the two approaches can adversely affect the testing process if wrong boundaries or invariants are taken into consideration. It is therefore motivating to accurately identify the boundaries of the input domain in BVA and measure the degree of correctness of auto-generated invariants by Daikon in the case of point, block and strip failure domain. To analyse the failure domains the ADFD+ technique was developed and experiments were conducted by testing several error-seeded one and two-dimensional numerical programs with ADFD+ and Daikon. The results obtained were analysed and reported.

The main contributions of the study are:

- **ADFD+:** It is an extension of Automated Discovery of Failure Domain (ADFD) strategy developed by Ahmad and Oriol [1]. The new technique improves the search algorithm of ADFD and makes the report more intuitive (Section 3).
- **Implementation of ADFD+:** It is implemented and integrated in the York Extensible Testing Infrastructure (Section 3.2).
- **Evaluation:** The results generated by ADFD+ and Daikon about failure domains in the error-seeded programs are evaluated (Section 5). The results show that although Daikon generate invariant to identify the failure yet it is not able to identify the boundary of failure domain as accurately as ADFD+.
- **Future work:** ADFD+ can be extended to find and plot failure domains in multi-dimensional non-numerical programs (Section 10).

2. PRELIMINARIES

A number of empirical evidence confirms that failure revealing test cases tend to cluster in contiguous regions across the input domain [4, 11, 12]. According to Chan et al. [2] the clusters are arranged in the form of point, block and strip failure domain. In the point domain the failure revealing inputs are stand-alone, and spread through out the

input domain. In block domain the failure revealing inputs are clustered in one or more contiguous areas. In strip domain the failure revealing inputs are clustered in one long elongated area. Figure 1 shows the failure domains in two-dimensional input domain.

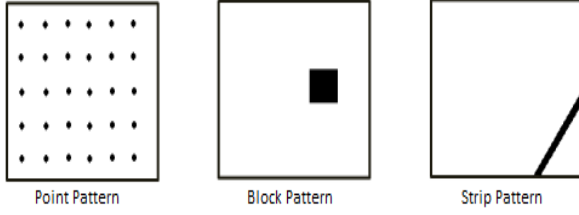


Figure 1: Failure domains across input domain [2]

3. AUTOMATED DISCOVERY OF FAILURE DOMAIN+

ADFD+ is an improved and extended form of ADFD strategy developed previously by Ahmad and Oriol [1]. It is an automated framework which finds the failures and their domains within a specified range and present them on a graphical chart.

The main improvements of ADFD+ over ADFD strategy are stated as follows.

- ADFD+ generates a single Java file dynamically at run time to plot the failure domains as compared to one Java file per failure in ADFD. This saves sufficient time and makes the execution process quicker.
- ADFD+ uses (x, y) vector series to represent failure domains as opposed to the (x, y) line series in ADFD. The vector series allows more flexibility and clarity to represent a failure and its domain.
- ADFD+ takes a single value as range with in which the strategy search for a failure domain whereas ADFD takes two values for lower and upper bound representing x and y -axis respectively.
- In ADFD+, the algorithm of dynamically generating Java file, created at run-time after a failure is detected, is made more simplified and efficient.
- In ADFD+, the failure domain is focused in the graph, which gives a clear view of, pass and fail points. The points are also labelled for clarification as shown in Figure 2.

3.1 Workflow of ADFD+

ADFD+ is a completely automatic process and all the user has to do is to specify the program to test and click the *DrawFaultDomain* button. The default value for range is set to 5, which means that ADFD+ will search 83 values around the failure. On clicking the button YETI is executed with ADFD+ strategy to search for a failure in two-dimension program. On finding a failure the ADFD+ strategy creates a Java file which contains calls to the program on the failing value and its surrounding values within

the specified range. The Java file is compiled and executed and the result is analysed to check for pass and fail values. Pass and fail values are stored in pass and fail text files respectively. At the end of test, all the values are plotted on the graph with pass values in blue and fail values in red colour as shown in Figure 2.

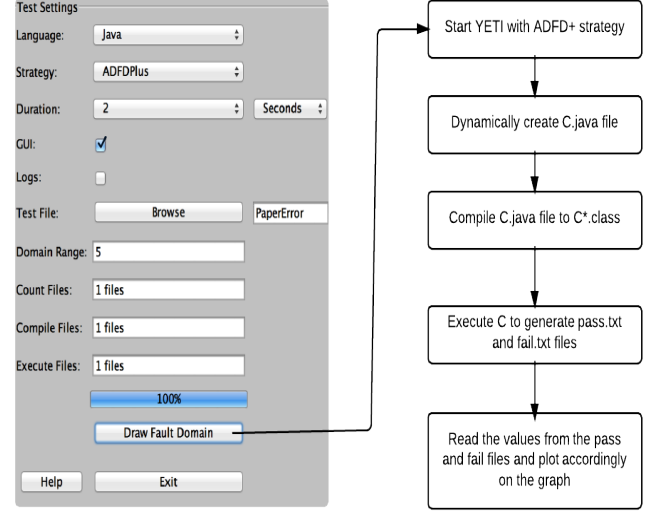


Figure 2: Workflow of ADFD+

3.2 Implementation of ADFD+

The ADFD+ technique is implemented in YETI. The tool YETI is available in open-source at <http://code.google.com/p/yeti-test/>. A brief overview of YETI is given with the focus on parts relevant to implementation of ADFD+ strategy.

YETI is a testing tool developed in Java that tests programs using random strategies in an automated fashion. YETI meta-model is language-agnostic which enables it to test programs written in functional, procedural and object-oriented languages.

YETI consists of three main parts including core infrastructure for extendibility, strategies section for adjustment of multiple strategies and languages section for supporting multiple languages. Both strategies and languages sections have pluggable architecture to easily incorporate new strategies and languages making YETI a favourable choice to implement ADFD+ strategy. YETI is also capable of generating test cases to reproduce the failures found during the test session. The strategies section in YETI contains all the strategies including random, random+ and DSSR to be selected for testing according to the specific needs. The default test strategy for testing is random. In strategies package, on top of the hierarchy, is an abstract class *YetiStrategy*, which is extended by *YetiRandomPlusStrategy* and is further extended to get ADFD+ strategy.

3.3 ADFD+ by an example

In this section we describe the working of ADFD+ with a motivating example. Suppose we have the following class

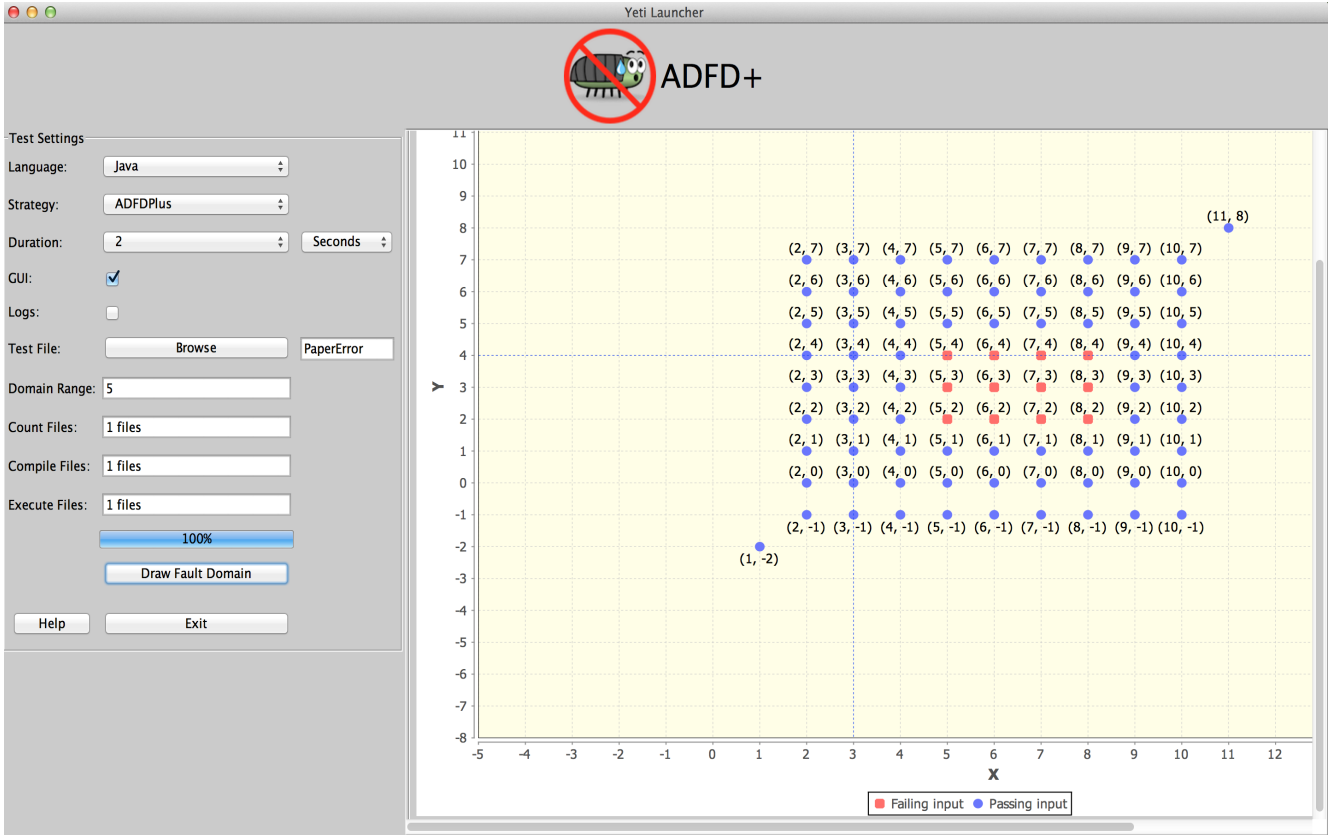


Figure 3: The output of ADFD+ for the above code.

name *Error* under test. According to the code, the value of variable x between 5 to 8 and the value of variable y between 2 to 4 triggers an *ArithmeticException* failure.

```
public class Error {
    public static void Error (int x, int y){
        int z;
        if (((x>=5)&&(x<=8))&&((y>=2)&&(y<=4)))
        {
            z = 50/0;
        }
    }
}
```

On execution, the ADFD+ strategy tests the class with the help of YETI and finds the first failure at $x = 6$ and $y = 3$. Once a failure is identified ADFD+ uses the surrounding values around it to find a failure domain. The range of surrounding values is limited to the value set by the user in the *DomainRange* variable. When the value of *DomainRange* is 5, ADFD+ evaluates total of 83 values of x and y around the found failure. All evaluated (x, y) values are plotted on a two-dimensional graph with red filled circles indicating fail values and blue filled circles indicating pass values. Figure 3 shows that the failure domain forms a block pattern and the boundaries of the failure are

$(5, 2), (5, 3), (5, 4), (6, 2), (6, 4), (7, 2), (7, 4), (8, 2), (8, 3), (8, 4)$.

4. DAIKON

Daikon [3] is a tool, which uses machine-learning technique to automatically generate likely invariants of the program written in C, C++, Java and Pearl. Daikon takes as input the program and few test cases written manually or generated by an automated tool. It executes the test cases on the program under test and observes the values that the program computes. At the end of the test session it reports the properties that were true over the observed executions. Daikon can process the generated invariants to mitigate non-interesting and redundant invariants. Daikon can also inserts the generated invariants in to the source code as assertions. Daikon's output can be useful in understanding program, generating invariants, predicting incompatibilities in component integration, automating theorem proving, repairing inconsistent data structures and checking the validity of data streams.

5. EVALUATION

Because of using error-seeded one and two dimensional numerical programs, we were aware of the failure domain present in each program. The correct identification and presentation of the failure domain by ADFD+ prove the correct working of ADFD+. We then evaluated the same program by Daikon and plot its results. The unit test cases required by Daikon for generating invariants were generated using Randoop [?]. YETI being capable of generating the test cases is not used

for this step to keep the second completely independent from first.

5.1 Research questions

For evaluating Daikon, the following research questions have been addressed in this study:

1. If Daikon is capable of generating invariants to identify the failure?
2. If Daikon is capable of generating invariants that identify the failure domain?
3. If Daikon is capable of correctly identifying the boundaries of the failure domain?

5.2 Experimental setup

To evaluate the invariants generated by Daikon in case of point, block and strip failure domain, we performed testing of several error seeded one and two-dimensional numerical programs written in Java. The programs were divided in to two sets. Set A and B contains one and two-dimensional programs. Each program is injected with point, block or strip failure domain. Every program is tested independently for 20 times by both ADFD+ and Daikon. The external parameters were kept constant in each test run and the initial test cases required by Daikon for generating invariants were generated by using an automated testing tool Randoop. The code for the programs under test is given in Appendix ?? while the test details are presented in Table ?. The effect of increased number of test cases is also shown in column .. of Table ?.

Because of the absence of the contracts and assertions in the code, similar approach as used in previous study [1, 7] is followed using undeclared exceptions to compute failures.

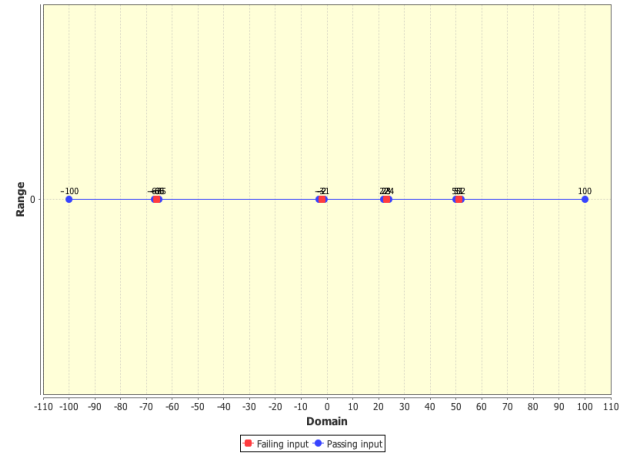
All tests are performed with a 64-bit Mac OS X Lion Version 10.7.4 running on 2 x 2.66 GHz 6-Core Intel Xeon processor with 6 GB (1333 MHz DDR3) of RAM. YETI runs on top of the JavaTMSE Runtime Environment [version 1.6.0_35]. The machine took approximately 100 hours to process the experiments.

6. RESULTS

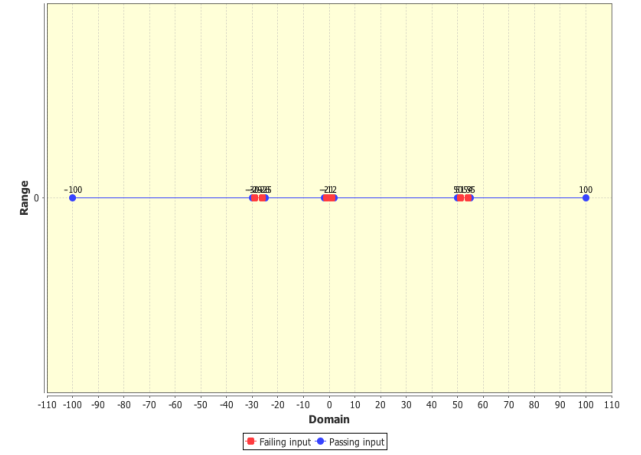
The results are split in to four sub-sections for convenience.

6.1 Test of one-dimension programs by ADFD+

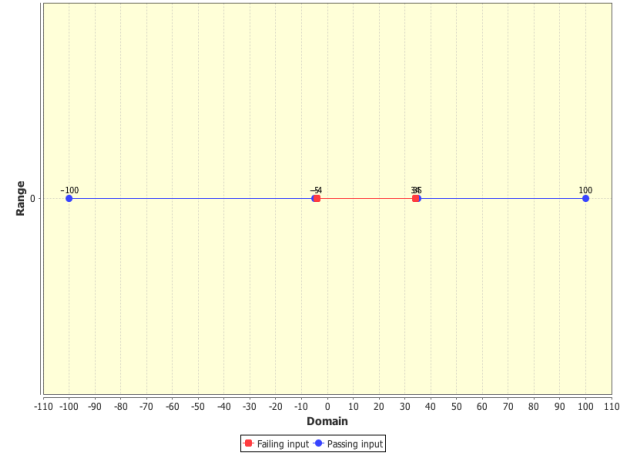
In each of the 30 experiments, The ADFD+ successfully discovered and plotted the failure domains for point, block and strip pattern as shown in the Figure 4. The lower and upper bound for each experiment are set to -100 and 100 respectively.



(a) Point failure domain in one-dimension



(b) Block failure domain in one-dimension



(c) Strip failure domain in one dimension

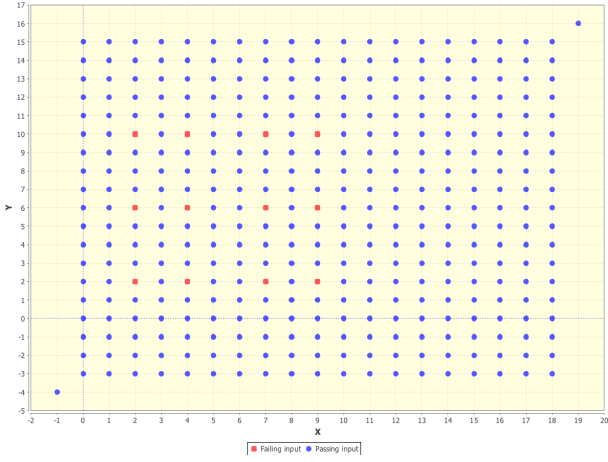
Figure 4: Pass and fail values of plotted by ADFD+ in three different cases of two-dimension programs

6.2 Test of one-dimension programs by Daikon

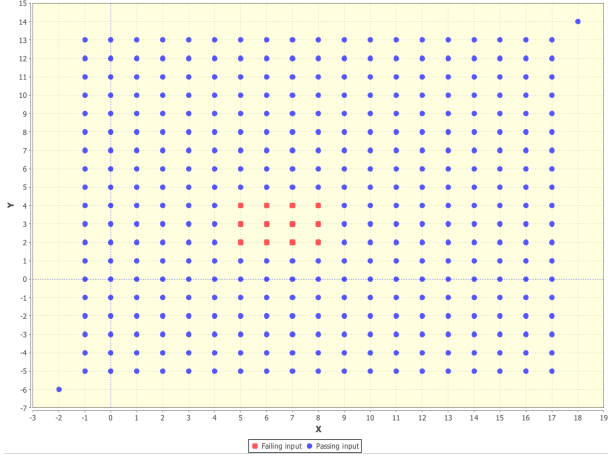
6.3 Test of two-dimension programs by ADFD+

In each of the 30 experiments, The ADFD+ once again successfully discovered and plotted the failure domain for point, block and strip failure domain as shown in the Figure 5. The

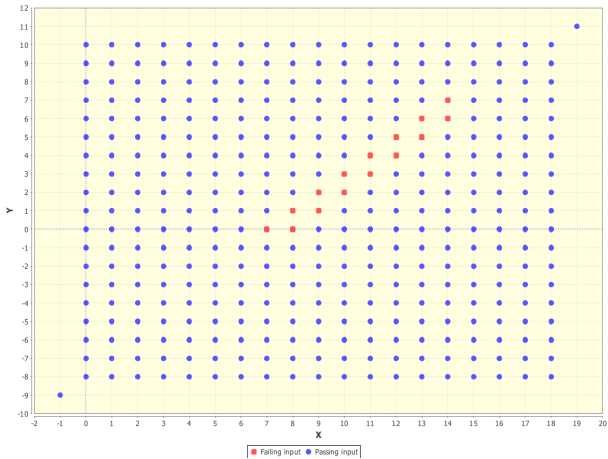
range value for each experiment is set to 10. Labels are disabled in the charts given in Figure 5 for clarity purpose. The failure values in each of the point, block and strip failure domain is given in Table 1.



(a) Point failure domain in two-dimension



(b) Block failure domain in two-dimension



(c) Strip failure domain in two-dimension

Figure 5: Pass and fail values of plotted by ADFD+ in three different cases of two-dimension programs

Point failure	Block failure	Strip failure
$x = 2, y = 10$	$x = 5, y = 2$	$x = 7, y = 0$
$x = 4, y = 10$	$x = 6, y = 2$	$x = 8, y = 0$
$x = 7, y = 10$	$x = 7, y = 2$	$x = 8, y = 1$
$x = 9, y = 10$	$x = 8, y = 2$	$x = 9, y = 1$
	$x = 5, y = 3$	$x = 9, y = 2$
	$x = 6, y = 3$	$x = 10, y = 2$
	$x = 7, y = 3$	$x = 10, y = 3$
	$x = 8, y = 3$	$x = 11, y = 3$
	$x = 5, y = 4$	$x = 11, y = 4$
	$x = 6, y = 4$	$x = 12, y = 4$
	$x = 7, y = 4$	$x = 12, y = 5$
	$x = 8, y = 4$	$x = 13, y = 6$
		$x = 14, y = 6$
		$x = 14, y = 7$

Table 1: Table depicting values of x and y arguments responsible for forming point, block and strip failure domain in Figure 1(a), Figure 1(b) and Figure= 1(c) respectively

6.4 Test of two-dimension programs by Daikon

7. DISCUSSION

We have shown that ADFD+ is a promising technique to find a failure and using it as a focal point find the whole failure domain. We have also shown that ADFD+ can graphically draw the failure domain on a chart. The failure values are drawn in red and the pass values are drawn in green. The pictorial representation of failure domain helps in easily identifying the underlying pattern and its boundaries.

As a pilot study, we also ran an empirical study to evaluate several error-seeded programs. While it would be surprising if production programs produced much different results, it would be worthwhile to check.

More importantly, the implementation of ADFD+ for this pilot study has significant limitations in practice, as it requires only one and two dimensional numerical programs. Though it is not difficult to extend the approach to test more than two-dimensional programs containing other primitive types, it would however be difficult to plot them on the chart as the number of coordinates increases. The approach can also be extended to test object-oriented programs by implementing objects distance proposed by Ciupa et al. [?]. The details of such an implementation will take some effort.

The ADFD+ range value specifies how many values to test around the failure. The range can be set to any number before the test starts. The value of range is directly proportional to the time taken because the higher the range value the higher number of values to test. Higher range value also leads to a very large graph and the tester has to use the zoom feature of graph to magnify the failure region.

8. THREATS TO VALIDITY

The threats to external validity are the same, common to all empirical evaluation i.e. the degree to which the tested

Technique	Dimension	Test cases	Point failure	Block failure	Strip failure
ADFD+	One	N/A			
Daikon	One	10			
Daikon	One	20			
ADFD+	Two	N/A			
Daikon	Two	10			
Daikon	Two	20			

Table 2: Table depicting values of failure points identified by ADFD+ Daikon

classes and external test generation tool (Randoop) are representative of true practice. The classes are very simple concerning failure domain in only one and two-dimensional input domain. The threats could be reduced by experiments on various types of classes and different auto test generation tools. The main threat to internal validity includes annotation of invariants that can bias our results. Error seeded classes selected in our implementation, might cause such effects. Taking in to consideration the real failures in real classes could also reduce the threat. Furthermore, testing a higher number of classes would naturally have increased the reliability of the results.

9. CONCLUSION

Automated Discovery of Failure Domain+ (ADFD+) is distinctive from other random test strategies in the sense that it is not only limited to identifying a failure in the program. Instead, the failure is exploited to identify and graphically plot its failure domain.

In the first section, we describe ADFD+ in detail which is based on our previous approach ADFD [1]. We then describe the main improvements of ADFD+ over ADFD.

In the second section, we analysed and compared the results of the experiments performed by both ADFD+ and Daikon in the case of programs with point, block and strip failure domain.

We showed that Daikon lakes to accurately identify the failure boundary and therefore cannot generate invariants for such failures. We further explain why Daikon does not work well for boundary failures. The main reason we identified for this behaviour is Daikons dependence on initial set of test cases, which are required by Daikon for generating invariants. With increase in number of test suite or high quality test suite improves the performance of invariants.

10. FUTURE WORK

We aim to extend the current approach to a larger set of real world multi-dimension programs, using real failure instead of error-seeded programs. Moreover, to plot failure domains of complex multi-dimension shapes we would also require more sophisticated graphical tool like Matlab than JFreeChart. This could also result in the formation of new failure domains of different nature instead of the only point, block and strip failure domain in one and two dimension numerical programs.

11. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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