Dear Editor and Reviewers:

With this cover letter, we are pleased to submit the revised manuscript (TSE-2017-07-0182) entitled, “An interleaving approach to combinatorial testing and failure-inducing interaction identification” which we wish to be considered for publication in the IEEE transactions on software engineering (TSE).

We would like to thank the editors and reviewers for the careful and constructive comments. We have studied the comments carefully and have made correction as suggested. Our revision includes, but not limited to: 1) We clarified the applicability of the feedback checking mechanism; 2) We rephrasing the reasons of closing constraints handling techniques; 4) We conducted three more empirical studies. The first one is to evaluate the performance of these approaches on multiple MFS in on test case. The second one is to evaluate the performance of these approaches on multiple defeats. The third one is to observe the performance of the static approach—Error Locating Array. 3) We re-designed the empirical studies of non-deterministic studies and safe value studies according to the 3rd reviewer 4) We gave more details of functionalities, and the whole algorithms of our approaches 5) We offered more examples to describe the proposed approach ICT.

We appreciate Editors/Reviewers’ careful consideration, and hope that the correction will meet with approval. Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely

Xintao Niu