

Identifying MFSs with considering masking effect*

[Extended Abstract][†]

Xintao Niu
State Key Laboratory for Novel
Software Technology
Nanjing University
China, 210093
niuxintao@smail.nju.edu.cn

Changhai Nie
State Key Laboratory for Novel
Software Technology
Nanjing University
China, 210093
changhainie@nju.edu.cn

Alvin Chan
Department of computing
Hong Kong Polytechnic
University
Hong Kong
cstschan@comp.polyu.edu.hk

ABSTRACT

Minimal failure-inducing schema(MFS) is a important concept in combinatorial testing that indicate the failure-inducing interaction of parameters in the software under test(SUT). Identify the MFS can help developers quickly reduce the search space needed to find the buggy source. Many algorithms are proposed to find these MFSs in the failing test cases. In practice, however, we find that these algorithms cannot behave as expected in the condition that SUT has multiple faults with different levels. For if so, a fault with higher level may be triggered and leaving the code which will trigger the fault with lower level not executed. Thus we cannot observe the fault with lower level, as a result, we will omit the MFS that related to the fault with lower level. We call this a masking effect.

In this paper, we propose a framework which can help the algorithms to avoid this masking effect when identify MFSs in the test cases. In this framework, we first static analysis the data flow of the test cases. Second we record fault as well as the code lines related to this fault during executing test cases. Then we will determine the levels of different faults we triggered during testing through finding the relationships of the code lines of each fault. By doing so we can judge whether a masking effect is happened during the process of identifying MFS and avoiding them by generating new test case that exposing the fault with lower level. We have applied our framework into several algorithms which focus on identifying the MFS in test cases and empirically studied the framework on two widely used open source software. Our result of the studies shows that our framework can effectively

reduce the influence of masking effect.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.4 [Information Systems Applications]: Miscellaneous;
D.2.8 [Software Engineering]: Metrics—*complexity measures, performance measures*

General Terms

Theory

Keywords

Minimal failure-inducing schemas, Masking effect

1. INTRODUCTION

Modern software are designed module and having many components. While it can make software portable and flexible. It also give a big pressure on testers to test. A big challenge is that we must make sure that the components in the software coexistence with each other. As exhaustive testing each possible combination is not impractical when the number of components is of much amount, we need choose some of them and let them give us a confidence that we can get some coverage critical as the exhaustive testing. Combinatorial testing is a effective testing technique that can use small.

during the process of identify the MFS in the test cases, we will record each fault with the code block information related to the fault when executing a test case.

2. RELATED WORKS

Yilmaz propose a work that is feedback driven combinatorial testing, different from our work, it first using CTA classify the possible MFS and then eliminate them and generate new test cases to detect possible masked interaction in the next iteration. The difference is that the main focus of that work is to generate test cases that didn't omit some schemas that may be masked by other schemas. And our work is main focus on identifying the MFS and avoiding the masking effect.

3. THE BODY OF THE PAPER

Typically, the body of a paper is organized into a hierarchical structure, with numbered or unnumbered headings for sections, subsections, sub-subsections, and even smaller sections. The command `\section` that precedes this paragraph

*(Does NOT produce the permission block, copyright information nor page numbering). For use with ACM_PROC_ARTICLE-SP.CLS. Supported by ACM.

[†]A full version of this paper is available as *Author's Guide to Preparing ACM SIG Proceedings Using L^AT_EX₂ ϵ and BibTeX* at www.acm.org/eaddress.htm

is part of such a hierarchy.¹ L^AT_EX handles the numbering and placement of these headings for you, when you use the appropriate heading commands around the titles of the headings. If you want a sub-subsection or smaller part to be unnumbered in your output, simply append an asterisk to the command name. Examples of both numbered and unnumbered headings will appear throughout the balance of this sample document.

Because the entire article is contained in the **document** environment, you can indicate the start of a new paragraph with a blank line in your input file; that is why this sentence forms a separate paragraph.

3.1 Type Changes and *Special Characters*

We have already seen several typeface changes in this sample. You can indicate italicized words or phrases in your text with the command `\textit`; emboldening with the command `\textbf` and typewriter-style (for instance, for computer code) with `\texttt`. But remember, you do not have to indicate typestyle changes when such changes are part of the *structural* elements of your article; for instance, the heading of this subsection will be in a sans serif² typeface, but that is handled by the document class file. Take care with the use of³ the curly braces in typeface changes; they mark the beginning and end of the text that is to be in the different typeface.

You can use whatever symbols, accented characters, or non-English characters you need anywhere in your document; you can find a complete list of what is available in the *L^AT_EX User's Guide*[?].

3.2 Math Equations

You may want to display math equations in three distinct styles: inline, numbered or non-numbered display. Each of the three are discussed in the next sections.

3.2.1 Inline (In-text) Equations

A formula that appears in the running text is called an inline or in-text formula. It is produced by the **math** environment, which can be invoked with the usual `\begin. . . \end` construction or with the short form `$. . . $`. You can use any of the symbols and structures, from α to ω , available in L^AT_EX[?]; this section will simply show a few examples of in-text equations in context. Notice how this equation: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x = 0$, set here in in-line math style, looks slightly different when set in display style. (See next section).

3.2.2 Display Equations

A numbered display equation – one set off by vertical space from the text and centered horizontally – is produced by the **equation** environment. An unnumbered display equation is produced by the **displaymath** environment.

¹This is the second footnote. It starts a series of three footnotes that add nothing informational, but just give an idea of how footnotes work and look. It is a wordy one, just so you see how a longish one plays out.

²A third footnote, here. Let's make this a rather short one to see how it looks.

³A fourth, and last, footnote.

Again, in either environment, you can use any of the symbols and structures available in L^AT_EX; this section will just give a couple of examples of display equations in context. First, consider the equation, shown as an inline equation above:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x = 0 \quad (1)$$

Notice how it is formatted somewhat differently in the **displaymath** environment. Now, we'll enter an unnumbered equation:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x + 1$$

and follow it with another numbered equation:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x_i = \int_0^{\pi+2} f \quad (2)$$

just to demonstrate L^AT_EX's able handling of numbering.

3.3 Citations

Citations to articles [?, ?, ?, ?], conference proceedings [?] or books [?, ?] listed in the Bibliography section of your article will occur throughout the text of your article. You should use BibT_EX to automatically produce this bibliography; you simply need to insert one of several citation commands with a key of the item cited in the proper location in the `.tex` file [?]. The key is a short reference you invent to uniquely identify each work; in this sample document, the key is the first author's surname and a word from the title. This identifying key is included with each item in the `.bib` file for your article.

The details of the construction of the `.bib` file are beyond the scope of this sample document, but more information can be found in the *Author's Guide*, and exhaustive details in the *L^AT_EX User's Guide*[?].

This article shows only the plainest form of the citation command, using `\cite`. This is what is stipulated in the SIGS style specifications. No other citation format is endorsed.

3.4 Tables

Because tables cannot be split across pages, the best placement for them is typically the top of the page nearest their initial cite. To ensure this proper "floating" placement of tables, use the environment **table** to enclose the table's contents and the table caption. The contents of the table itself must go in the **tabular** environment, to be aligned properly in rows and columns, with the desired horizontal and vertical rules. Again, detailed instructions on **tabular** material is found in the *L^AT_EX User's Guide*.

Immediately following this sentence is the point at which Table 1 is included in the input file; compare the placement of the table here with the table in the printed dvi output of this document.

To set a wider table, which takes up the whole width of the page's live area, use the environment **table*** to enclose the table's contents and the table caption. As with a single-column table, this wide table will "float" to a location deemed more desirable. Immediately following this

Table 1: Frequency of Special Characters

Non-English or Math	Frequency	Comments
Ø	1 in 1,000	For Swedish names
π	1 in 5	Common in math
\$	4 in 5	Used in business
Ψ ₁ ²	1 in 40,000	Unexplained usage



Figure 1: A sample black and white graphic (.eps format).

sentence is the point at which Table 2 is included in the input file; again, it is instructive to compare the placement of the table here with the table in the printed dvi output of this document.

3.5 Figures

Like tables, figures cannot be split across pages; the best placement for them is typically the top or the bottom of the page nearest their initial cite. To ensure this proper “floating” placement of figures, use the environment **figure** to enclose the figure and its caption.

This sample document contains examples of .eps and .ps files to be displayable with L^AT_EX. More details on each of these is found in the *Author’s Guide*.

As was the case with tables, you may want a figure that spans two columns. To do this, and still to ensure proper “floating” placement of tables, use the environment **figure*** to enclose the figure and its caption.

Note that either .ps or .eps formats are used; use the `\epsfig` or `\psfig` commands as appropriate for the different file types.

3.6 Theorem-like Constructs

Other common constructs that may occur in your article are the forms for logical constructs like theorems, axioms, corollaries and proofs. There are two forms, one produced by the command `\newtheorem` and the other by the command `\newdef`; perhaps the clearest and easiest way to distinguish them is to compare the two in the output of this sample document:



Figure 2: A sample black and white graphic (.eps format) that has been resized with the `epsfig` command.

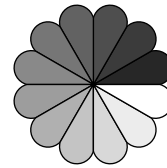


Figure 3: A sample black and white graphic (.ps format) that has been resized with the `psfig` command.

This uses the **theorem** environment, created by the `\newtheorem` command:

THEOREM 1. *Let f be continuous on $[a, b]$. If G is an antiderivative for f on $[a, b]$, then*

$$\int_a^b f(t)dt = G(b) - G(a).$$

The other uses the **definition** environment, created by the `\newdef` command:

Definition 1. *If z is irrational, then by e^z we mean the unique number which has logarithm z :*

$$\log e^z = z$$

Two lists of constructs that use one of these forms is given in the *Author’s Guidelines*.

and don’t forget to end the environment with `figure*`, not `figure`!

There is one other similar construct environment, which is already set up for you; i.e. you must *not* use a `\newdef` command to create it: the **proof** environment. Here is an example of its use:

PROOF. Suppose on the contrary there exists a real number L such that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = L.$$

Then

$$l = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \left[gx \cdot \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = 0 \cdot L = 0,$$

which contradicts our assumption that $l \neq 0$. \square

Complete rules about using these environments and using the two different creation commands are in the *Author’s Guide*; please consult it for more detailed instructions. If you need to use another construct, not listed therein, which you want to have the same formatting as the Theorem or the Definition[?] shown above, use the `\newtheorem` or the `\newdef` command, respectively, to create it.

A Caveat for the T_EX Expert

Table 2: Some Typical Commands

Command	A Number	Comments
<code>\alignauthor</code>	100	Author alignment
<code>\numberofauthors</code>	200	Author enumeration
<code>\table</code>	300	For tables
<code>\table*</code>	400	For wider tables

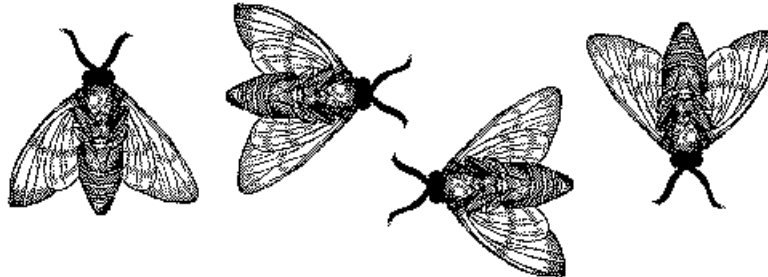


Figure 4: A sample black and white graphic (.eps format) that needs to span two columns of text.

Because you have just been given permission to use the `\newdef` command to create a new form, you might think you can use \TeX 's `\def` to create a new command: *Please refrain from doing this!* Remember that your \LaTeX source code is primarily intended to create camera-ready copy, but may be converted to other forms – e.g. HTML. If you inadvertently omit some or all of the `\defs` recompilation will be, to say the least, problematic.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This paragraph will end the body of this sample document. Remember that you might still have Acknowledgments or Appendices; brief samples of these follow. There is still the Bibliography to deal with; and we will make a disclaimer about that here: with the exception of the reference to the \LaTeX book, the citations in this paper are to articles which have nothing to do with the present subject and are used as examples only.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This section is optional; it is a location for you to acknowledge grants, funding, editing assistance and what have you. In the present case, for example, the authors would like to thank Gerald Murray of ACM for his help in codifying this *Author's Guide* and the `.cls` and `.tex` files that it describes.

APPENDIX

A. HEADINGS IN APPENDICES

The rules about hierarchical headings discussed above for the body of the article are different in the appendices. In the `appendix` environment, the command `section` is used to indicate the start of each Appendix, with alphabetic order designation (i.e. the first is A, the second B, etc.) and a title (if you include one). So, if you need hierarchical structure *within* an Appendix, start with `subsection` as the highest level. Here is an outline of the body of this document in Appendix-appropriate form:

A.1 Introduction

A.2 The Body of the Paper

A.2.1 Type Changes and Special Characters

A.2.2 Math Equations

Inline (In-text) Equations

Display Equations

A.2.3 Citations

A.2.4 Tables

A.2.5 Figures

A.2.6 Theorem-like Constructs

A Caveat for the \TeX Expert

A.3 Conclusions

A.4 Acknowledgments

A.5 Additional Authors

This section is inserted by \LaTeX ; you do not insert it. You just add the names and information in the `\additionalauthors` command at the start of the document.

A.6 References

Generated by bibtex from your `.bib` file. Run latex, then bibtex, then latex twice (to resolve references) to create the `.bbl` file. Insert that `.bbl` file into the `.tex` source file and comment out the command `\thebibliography`.

B. MORE HELP FOR THE HARDY

The `acm_proc_article-sp` document class file itself is chock-full of succinct and helpful comments. If you consider yourself a moderately experienced to expert user of \LaTeX , you may find reading it useful but please remember not to change it.