

软件分析与验证前沿

苏亭

软件科学与技术系

Test Oracles

Software Testing (软件测试)

- Assuring that a **system**, **program** or **program module** is suitable for the purpose for which it was built.
- Examining the artifacts and the behavior of the software under test by verification and validation.
 - Are we building the product right? (verification)
 - Are we building the right product? (validation)
- Dijkstra's Law: Testing can only be used to show the **presence** of errors, but never the **absence** of errors.

软件测试中的术语

Fault: Should start searching at 0, not 1

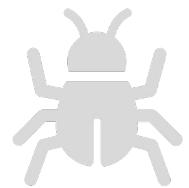
```
public static int numZero (int [ ] arr)
{ // Effects: If arr is null throw NullPointerException
  // else return the number of occurrences of 0 in arr
  int count = 0;
  for(int i = 1; i < arr.length; i++)
  {
    if (arr [ i ] == 0)
    {
      count++;
    }
  }
  return count;
}
```

Test 1
[2, 7, 0]
Expected: 1
Actual: 1

Error: i is 1, not 0, on
the first iteration
Failure: none

Test 2
[0, 2, 7]
Expected: 1
Actual: 0

Error: i is 1, not 0
Error propagates to the variable count
Failure: count is 0 at the return statement

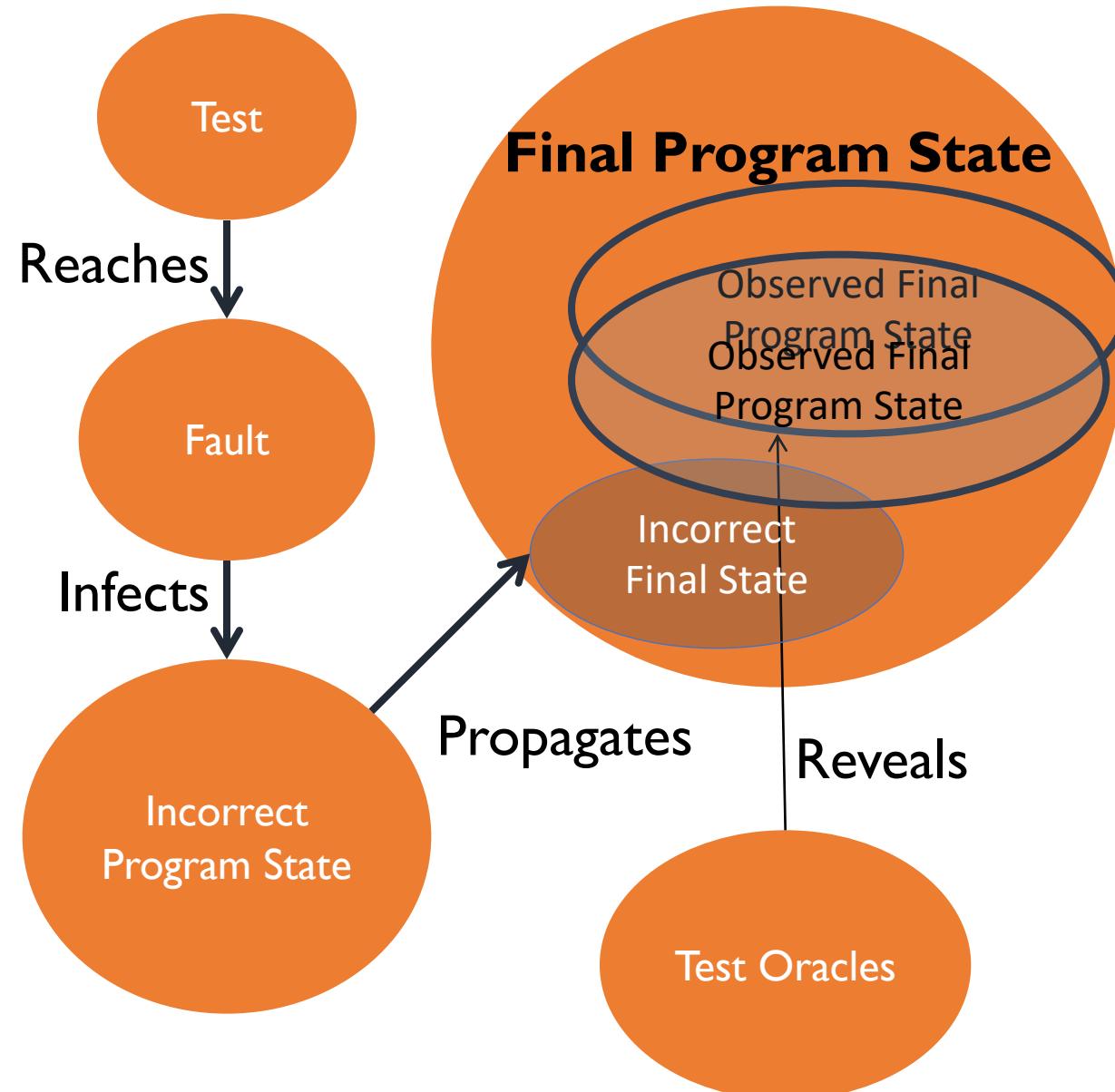


Fault : A static defect in the software. **Error** : An incorrect internal state that is the manifestation of some fault.

Failure : External, incorrect behavior with respect to the requirements of the expected behavior.

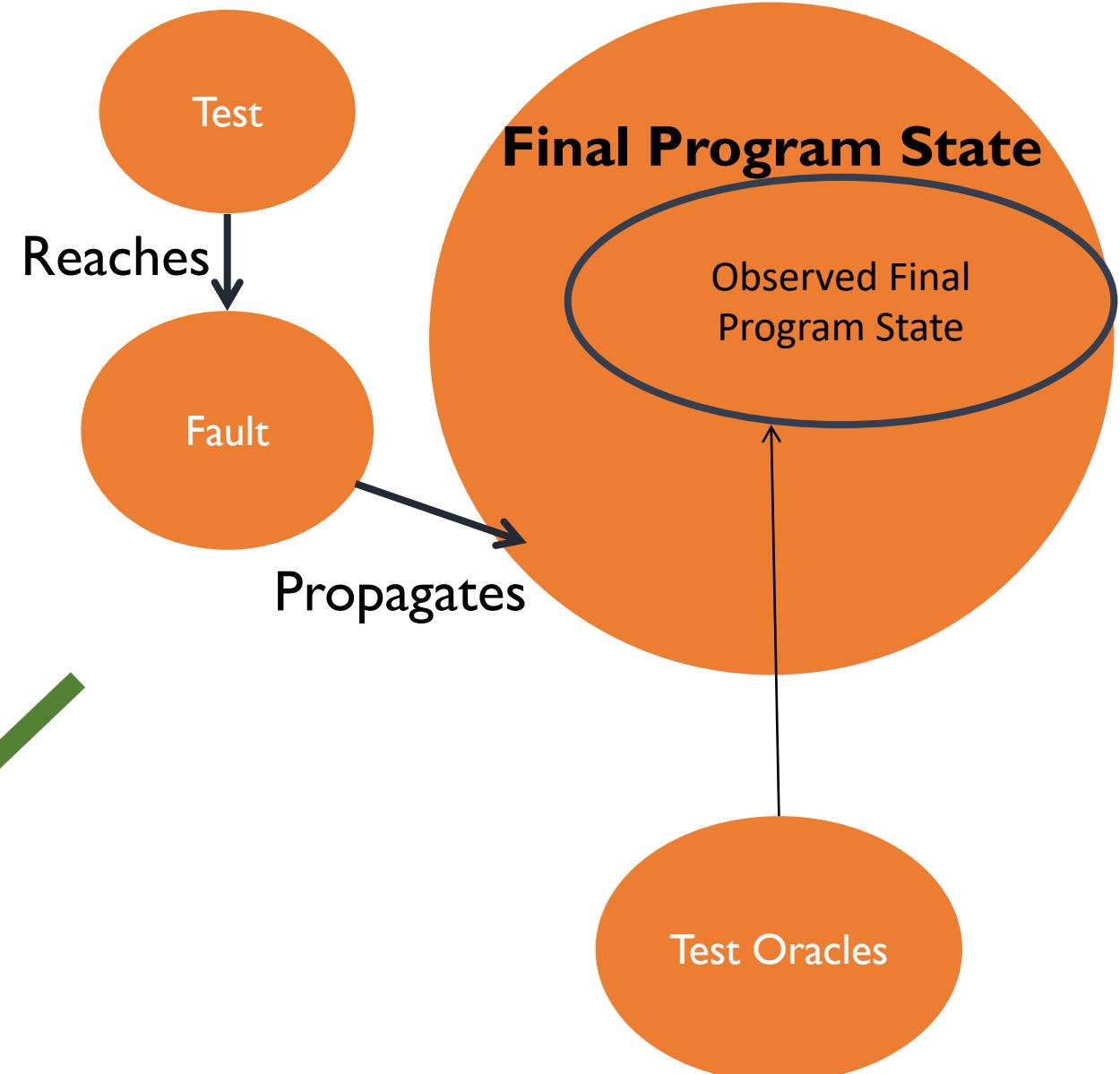
Software Fault and Failure Model (软件错误模型)

- Reachability
- Infection
- Propagation
- Revealability



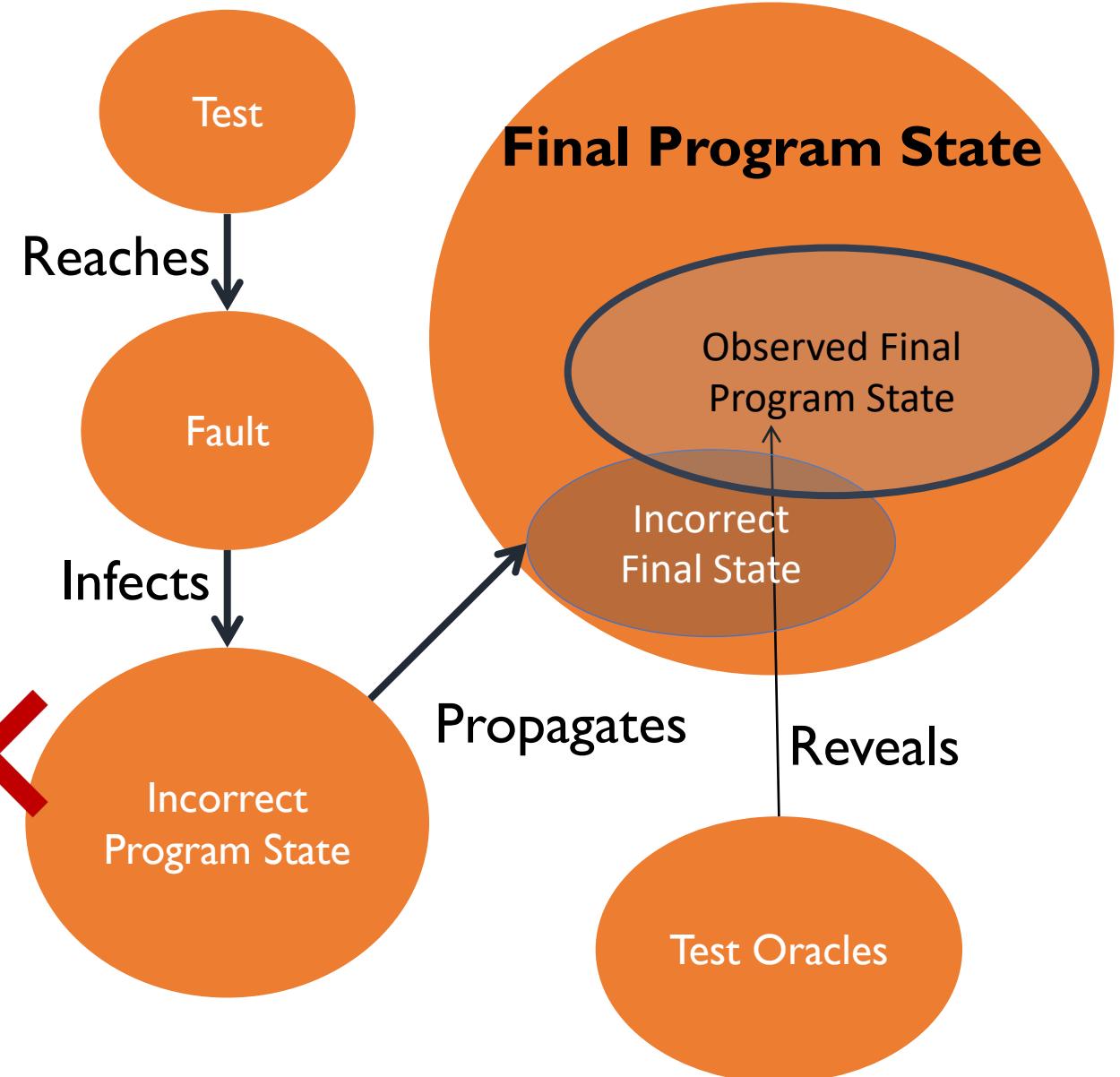
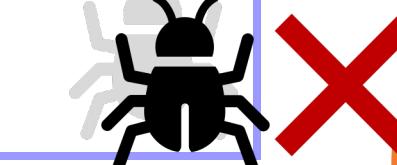
Test 1
[2, 7, 0]

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public static int numZero (int [ ] arr)
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    int count = 0;
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        {
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        }
    }
    return count;
}
```



Test 1
[0, 2, 7]

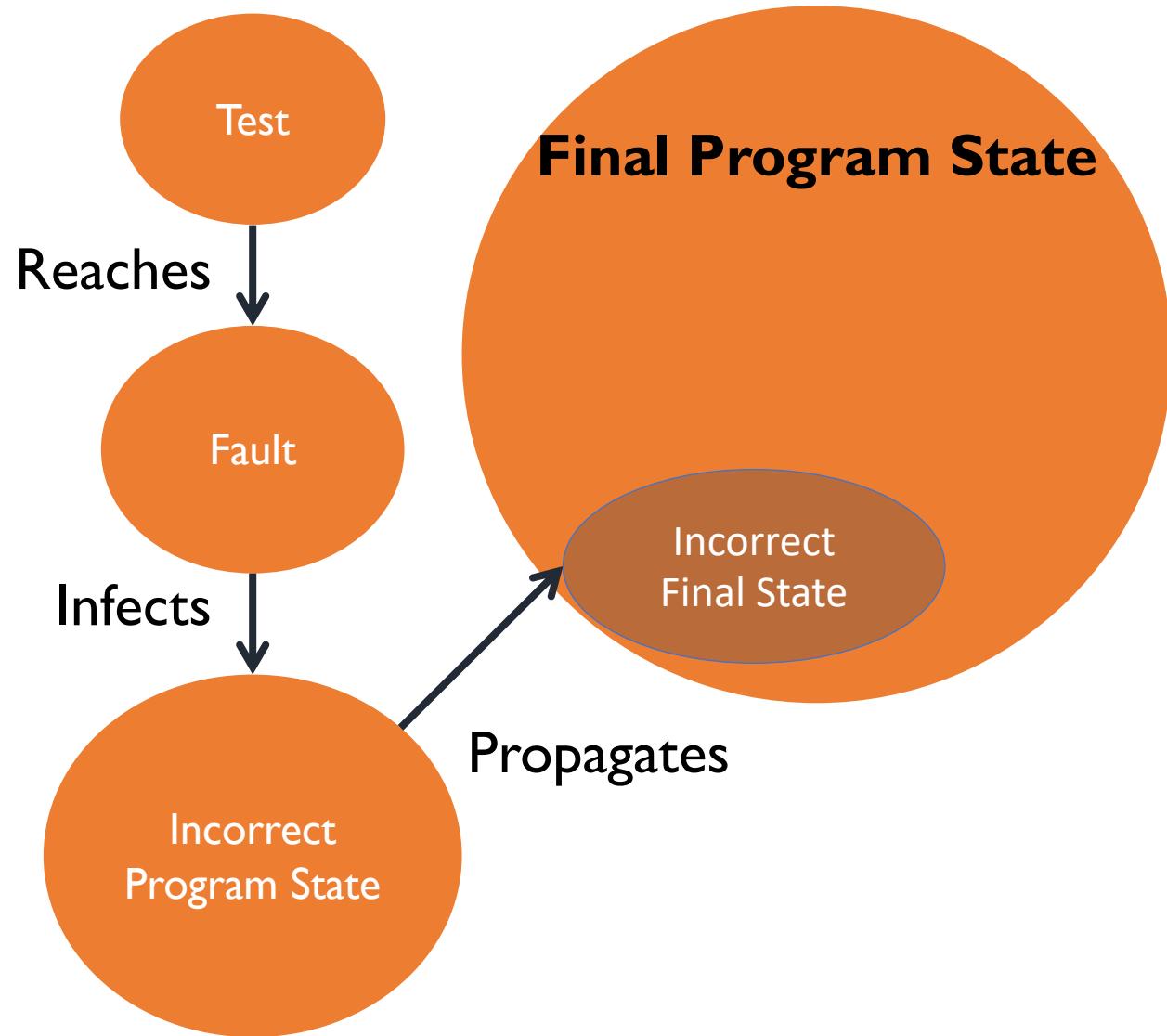
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    {
        if (arr [ i ] == 0)
        {
            count++;
        }
    }
    return count;
}
```



软件测试的挑战在哪里？

软件测试的挑战一: 测试数据的设计

- High coverage & diversity
- Redundant
- Illegal



```
struct tiny { char c; char d; char e; };

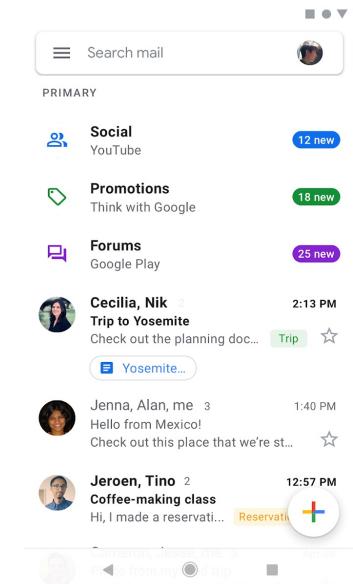
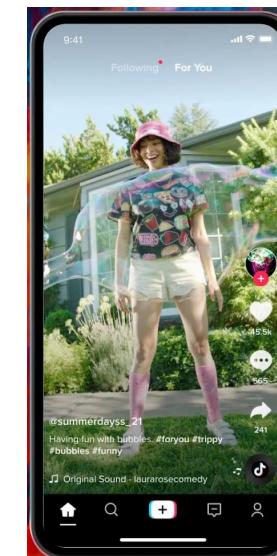
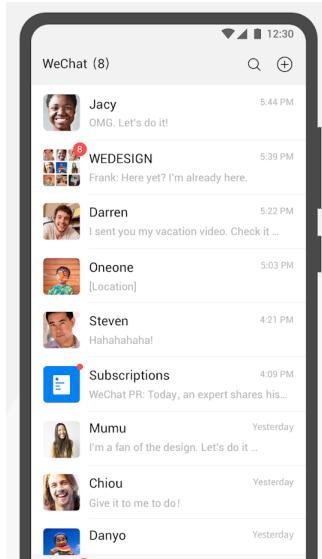
void foo(struct tiny x) {
    if (x.c != 1) abort();
    if (x.e != 1) abort();
}

int main() {
    struct tiny s;
    s.c = 1; s.d = 1; s.e = 1;
    foo(s);
    return 0;
}
```



Compilers

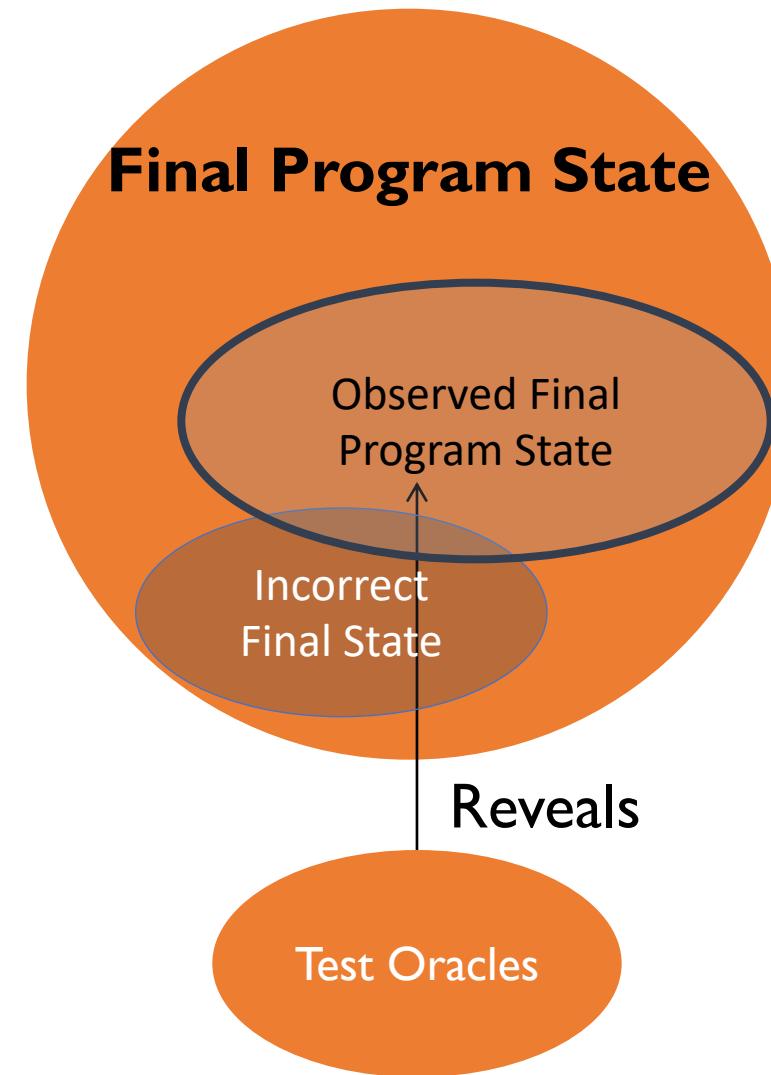
```
test_input := event *
event := action( view , text ) | ...
action := click | edit | drag | ...
view := Button | TextField | ...
text := anyString
```



GUI Apps

软件测试的挑战二: 测试预言的构造和判定

- How to specify?
- How to check?



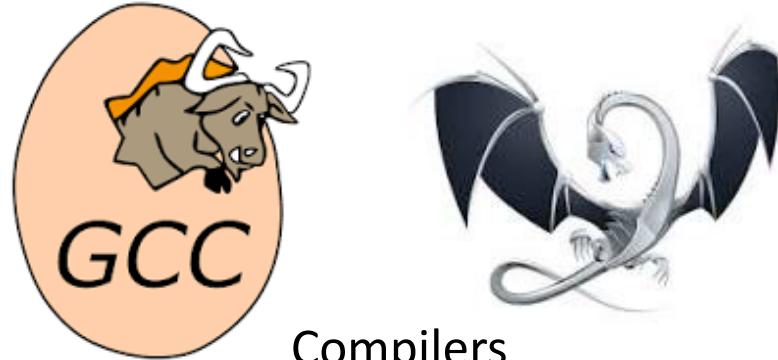
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struct tiny { char c; char d; char e; };

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}

int main() {
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    s.c = 1; s.d = 1; s.e = 1;
    foo(s);
    return 0;
}

```



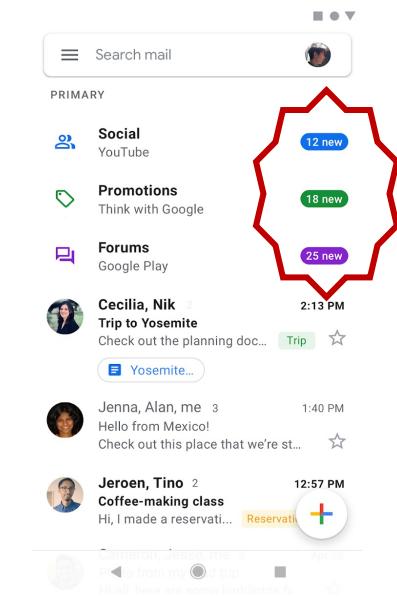
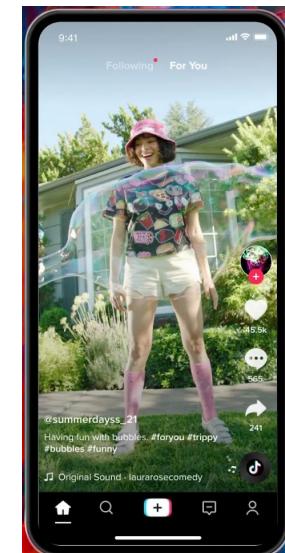
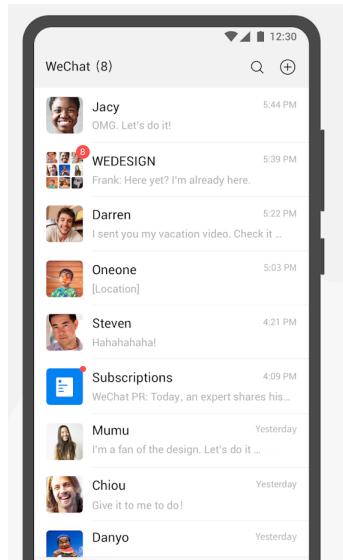
$P' \equiv ? \text{compile}(P)$



```

test_input := event *
event   := action( view , text ) | ...
action  := click | edit | drag | ...
view   := Button | TextField | ...
text    := anyString

```



GUI Apps

软件测试的两大挑战

测试数据的设计 (Input Generation)

&

测试预言的构造和判定

(Oracle Construction & Checking)

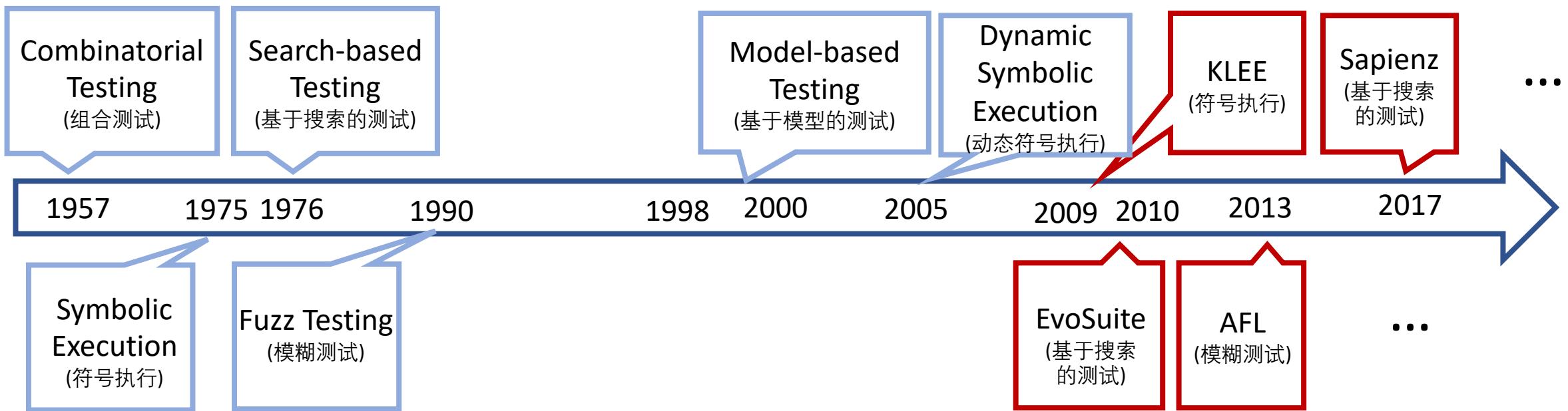
软件测试的两大挑战

测试数据的设计 (Input Generation)

&

测试预言的构造和判定
(Oracle Construction & Checking)

Techniques for *Input Generation*



* First proposed, Became popular.

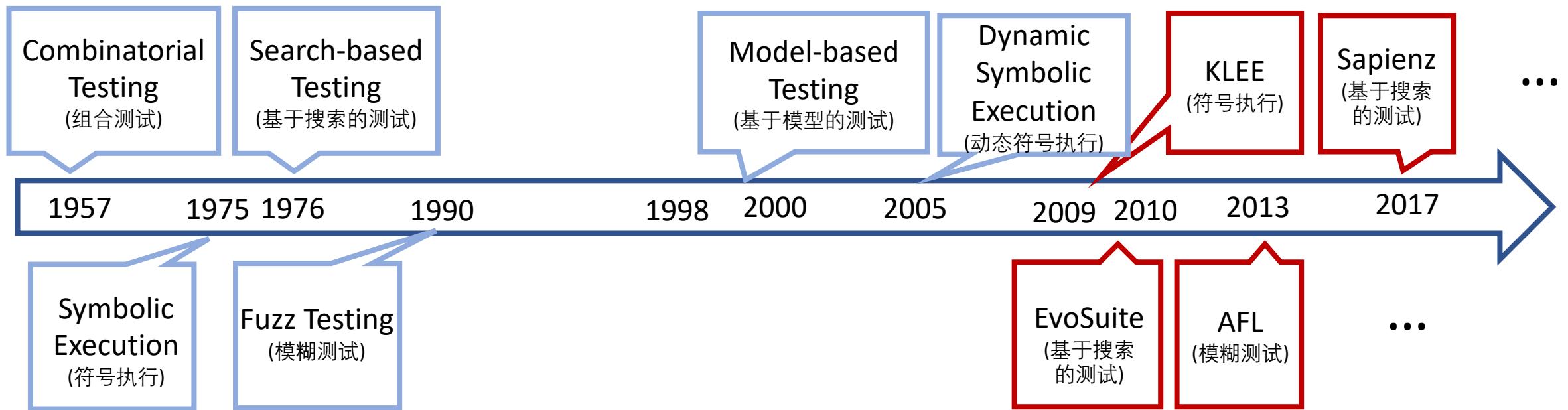
软件测试的两大挑战

测试数据的设计 (Input Generation)

&

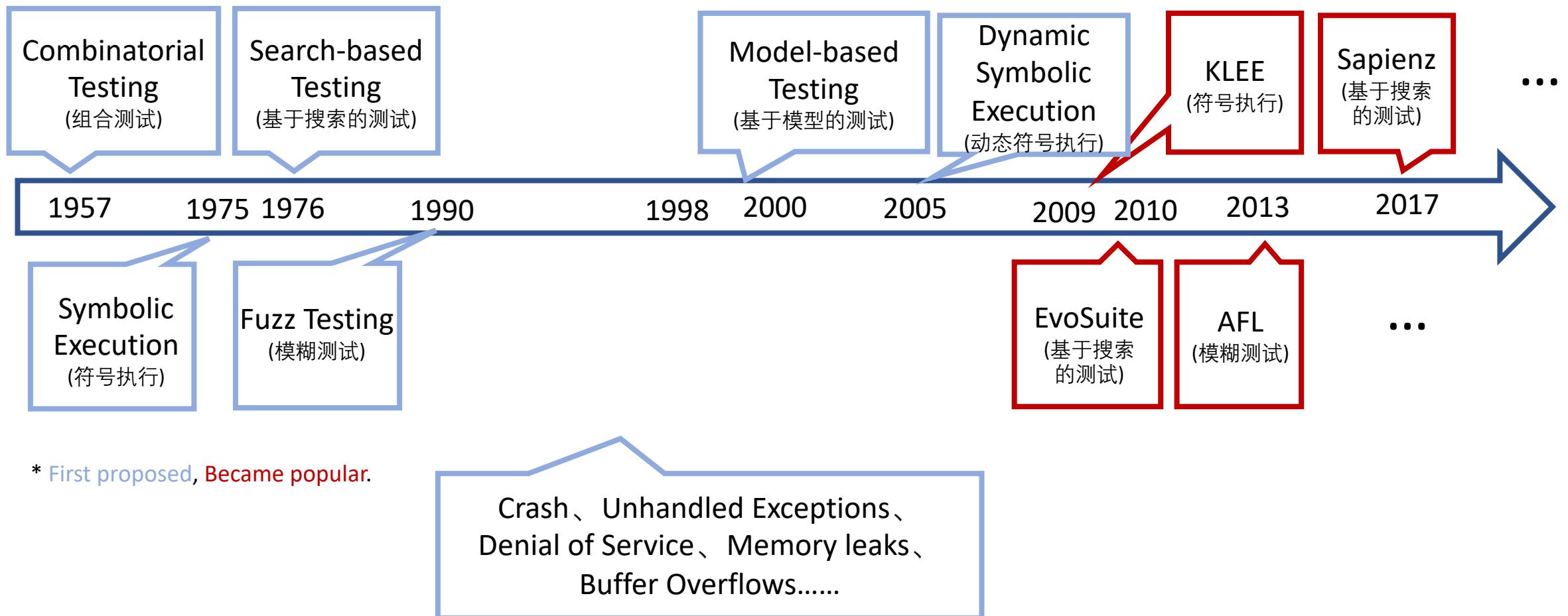
测试预言的构造和判定
(Oracle Construction & Checking)

Techniques for *Oracle Construction and Checking*

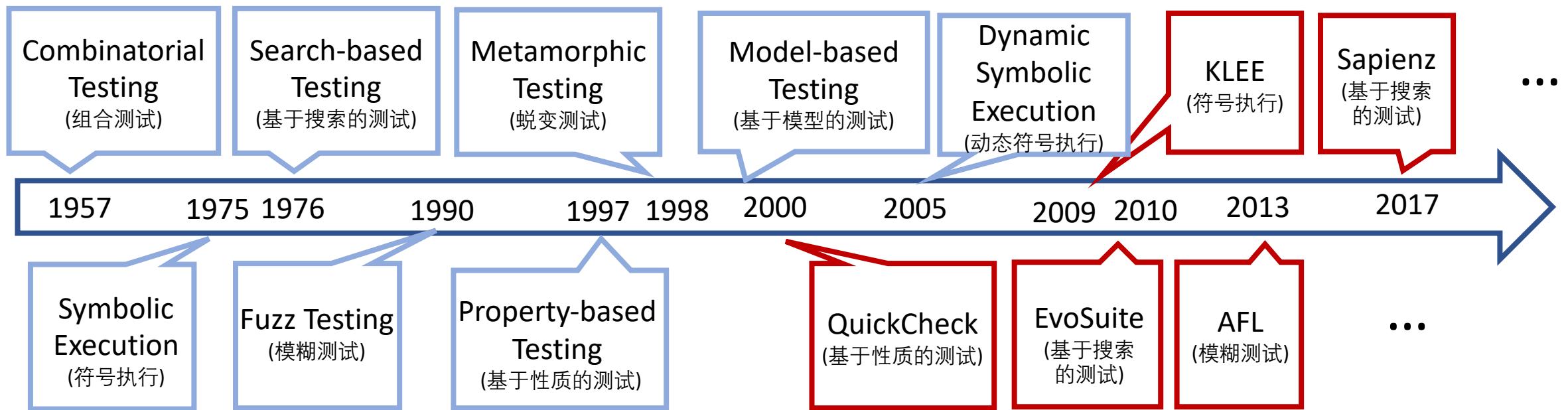


* First proposed, Became popular.

Techniques for *Oracle Construction and Checking*

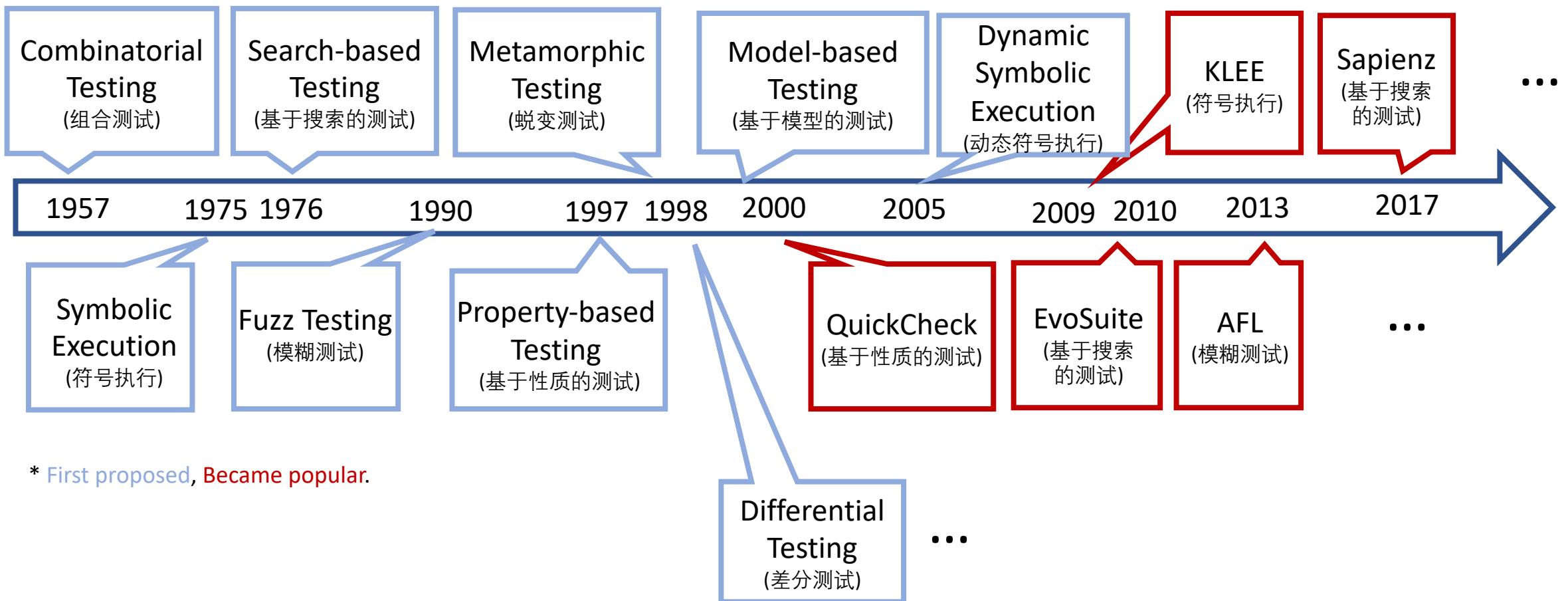


Techniques for *Oracle Construction and Checking*

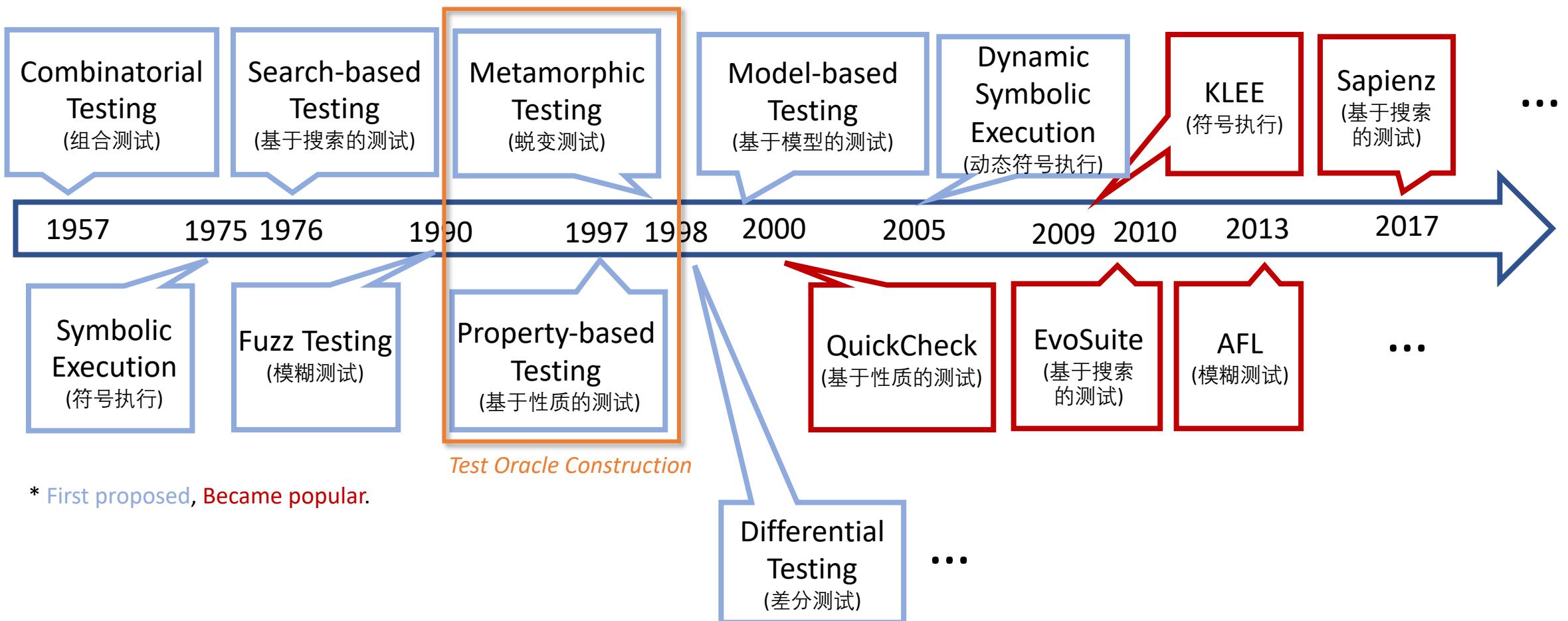


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Techniques for *Oracle Construction and Checking*



Techniques for *Oracle Construction and Checking*

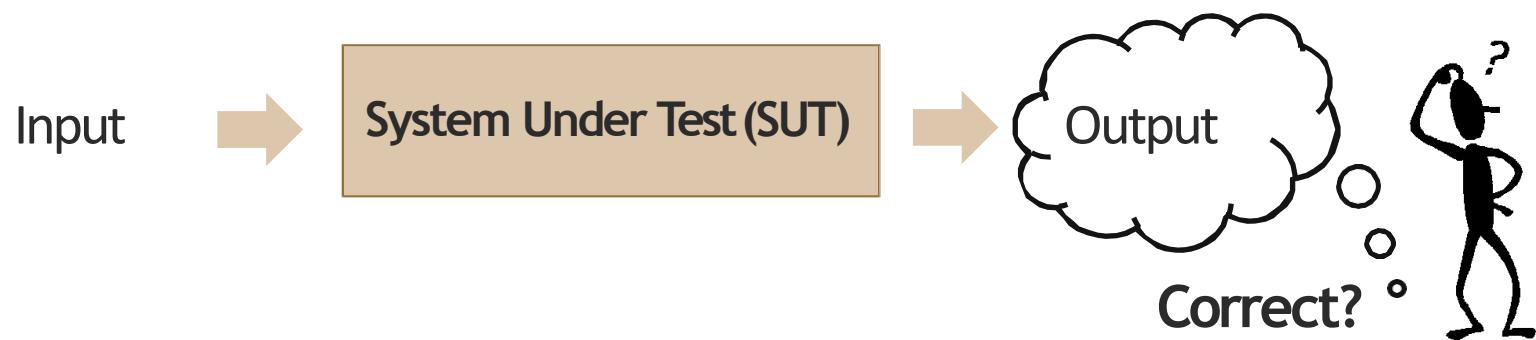


软件测试中的Oracle问题

Test Oracle

Test oracle (测试预言)

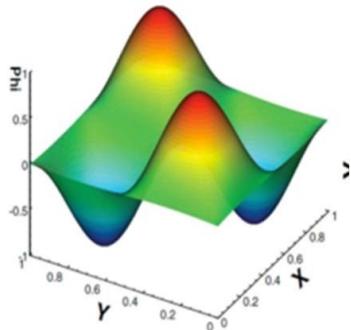
Mechanism to decide whether a test output is correct or not.



Oracle Problem

Oracle problem

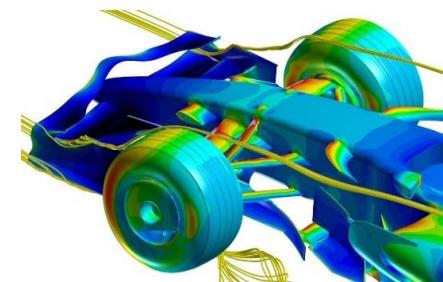
Sometimes it is not feasible to check the correctness of a test output.



Scientific
calculations

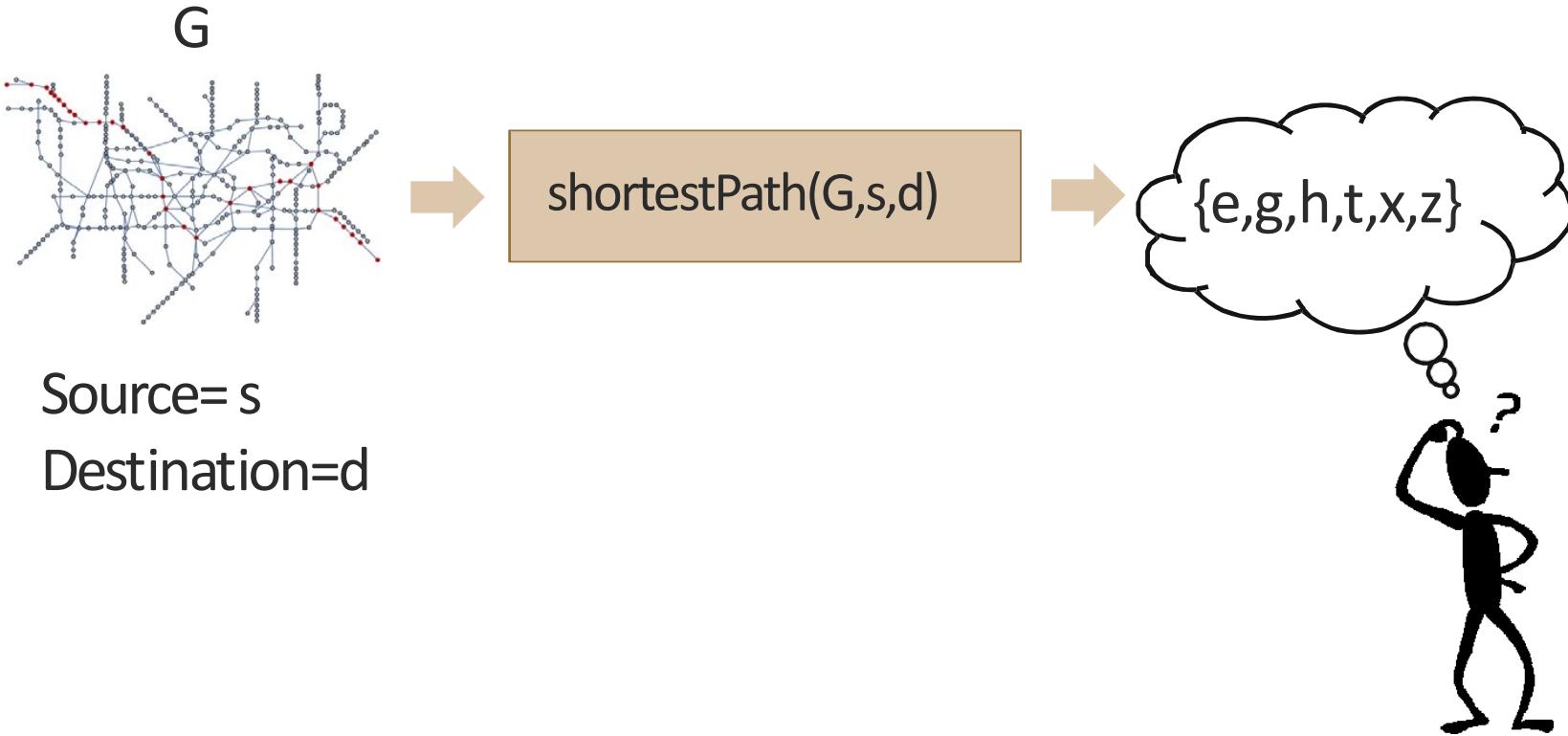


Artificial intelligence



Simulation and
modelling

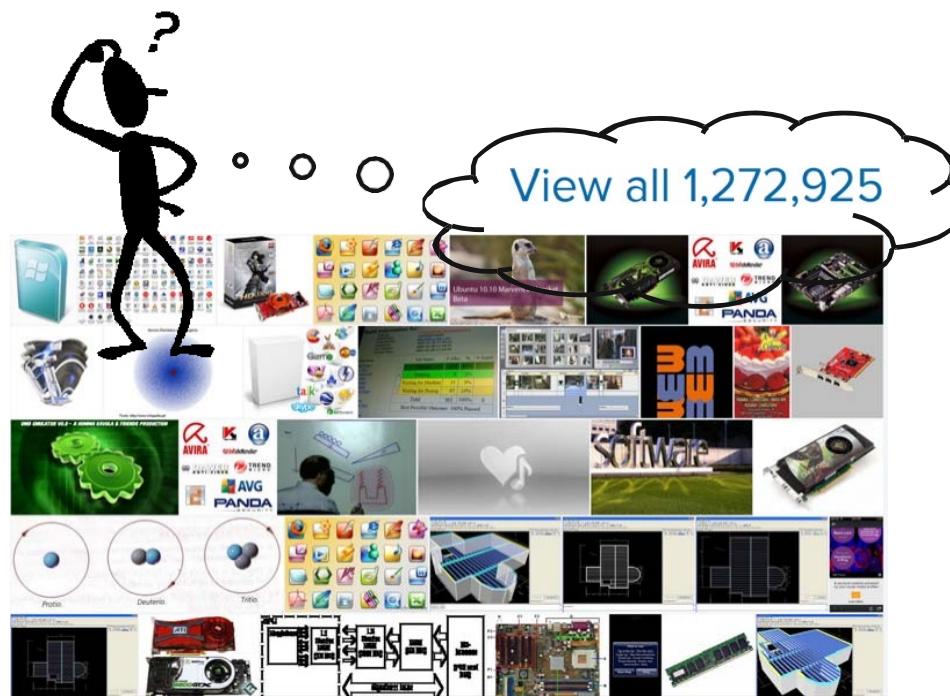
Oracle Problem - Examples



Oracle Problem - Examples

flickr

software

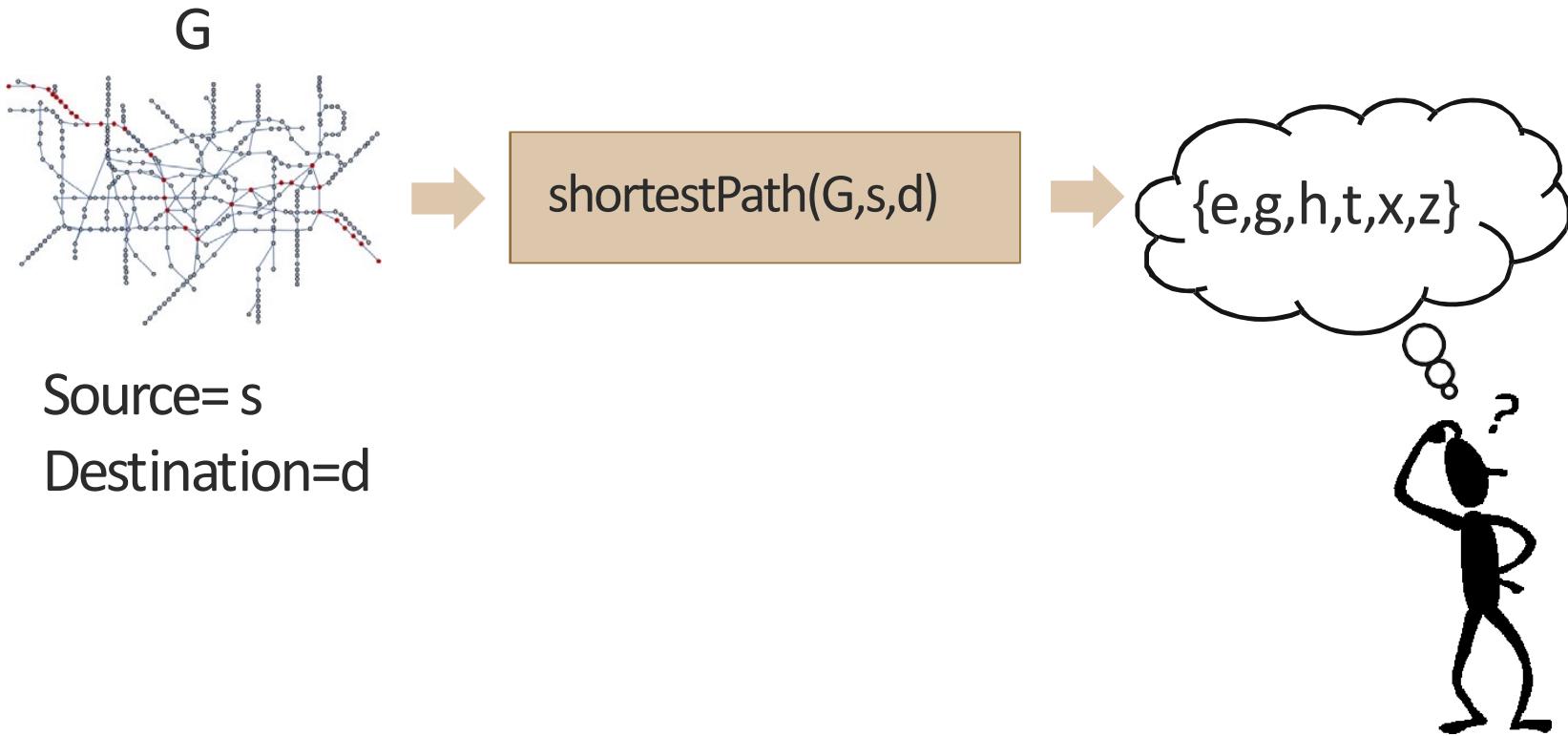


Metamorphic Testing (蜕变测试)

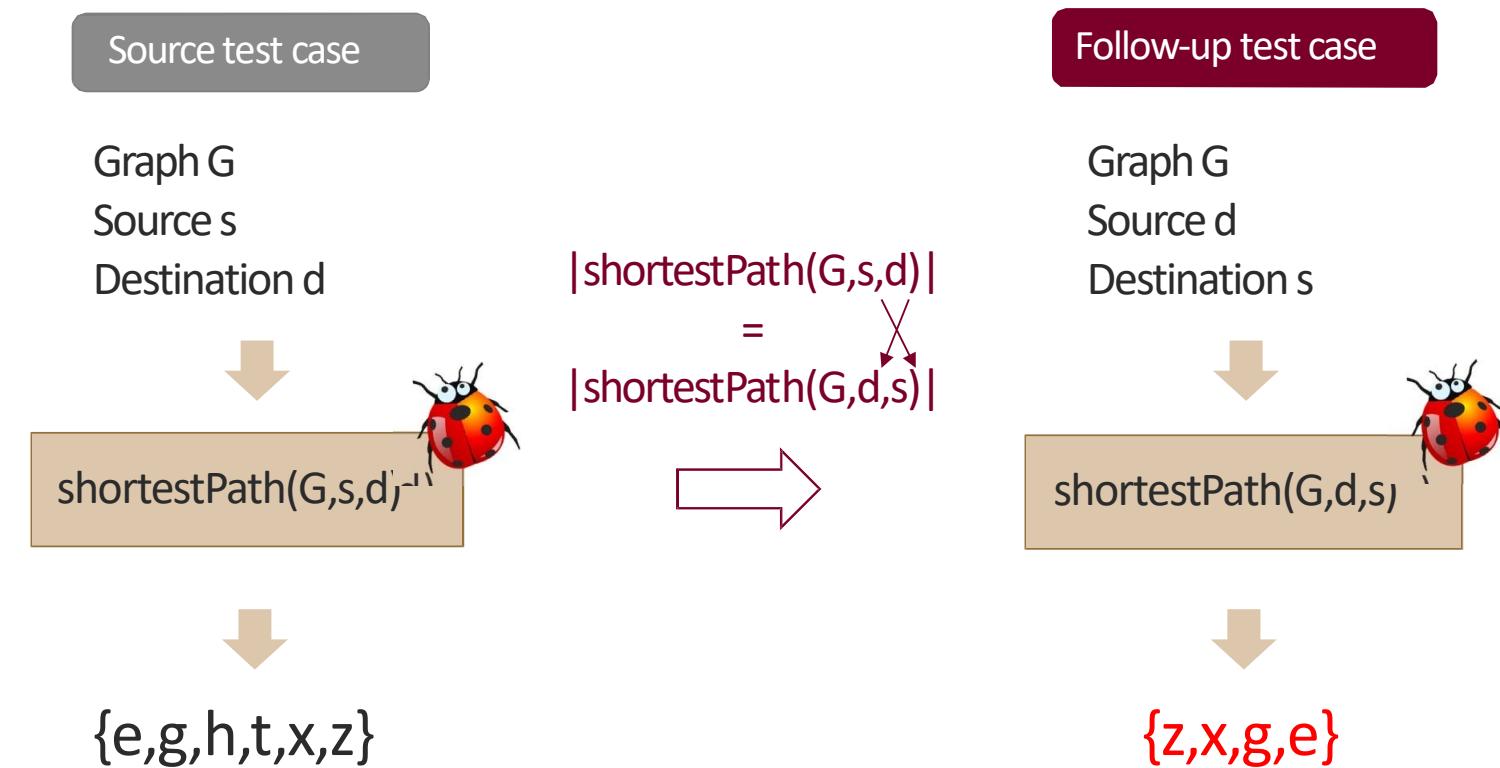
Metamorphic Testing (蜕变测试)

- An approach to both **input generation** (测试数据生成) and **test result validation** (测试结果验证)
- A central element is a set of **metamorphic relations** (蜕变关系), which are **necessary properties** (必要性质) of the target function or algorithm *in relation to multiple inputs and their expected outputs* (多个输入和输出之间的关系)

Metamorphic Testing - Examples



Metamorphic Testing - Examples



Source test case => seed test case (seed test/seed) ;

Follow-up test case => mutant test case (mutant test/mutant)

Metamorphic Testing - Examples

Source test case

$Q_1 = \text{"Software"}$



If $Q_2 \equiv Q_1$ AND size=large then
 $\text{Count}(Q_2) \leq \text{Count}(Q_1)$



[View all 1,272,925](#)

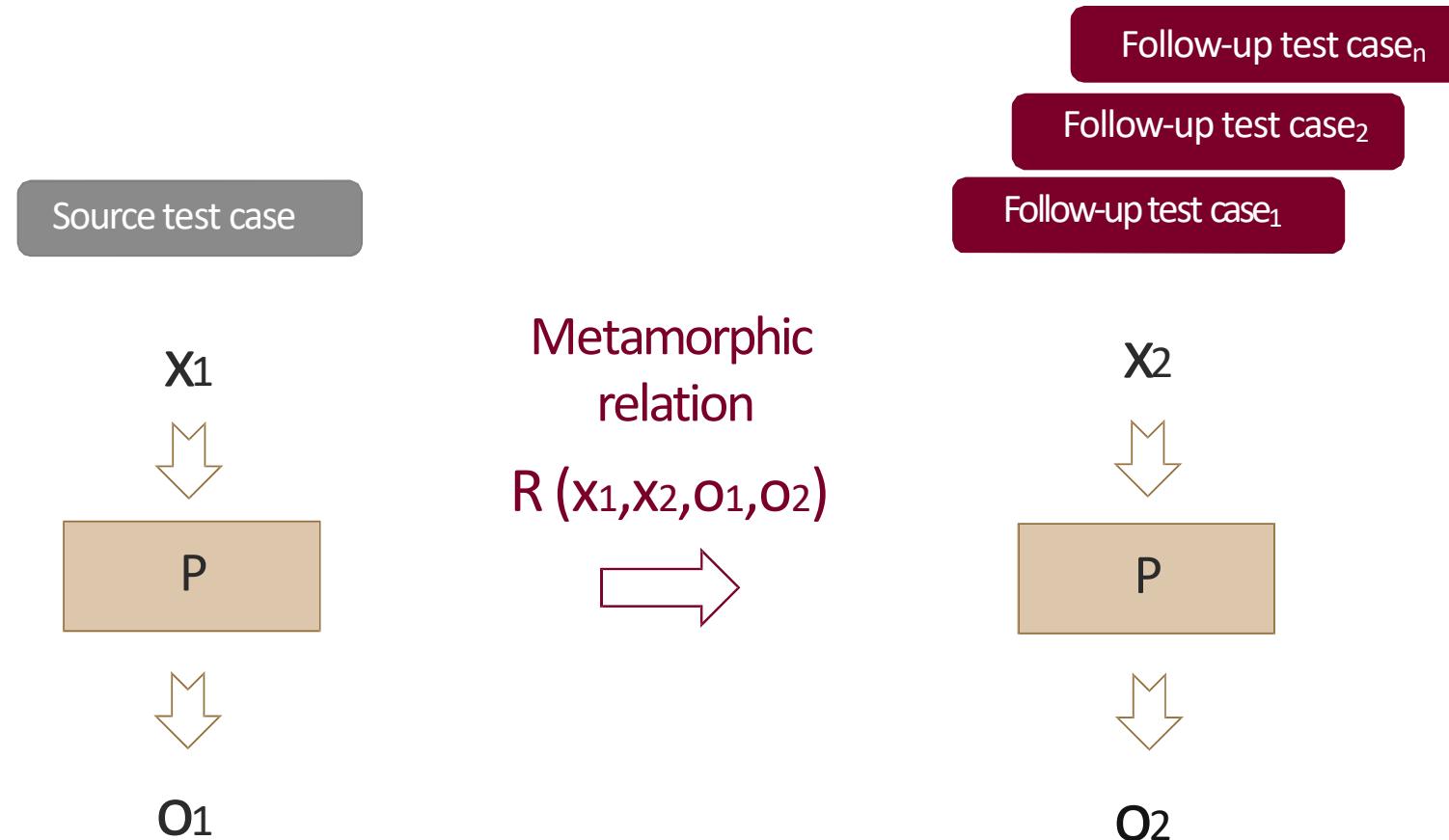
Follow-up test case

$Q_2 = \text{"Software", size=large}$



[View all 1,353,878](#)

Metamorphic Testing - Examples



Metamorphic Testing Process

Metamorphic Testing Process

- 1 Identification of **metamorphic relations**.
- 2 Generation/Selection **of source test cases**.
- 3 Generation of **follow-up test cases**.
- 4 Checking of **metamorphic relations**.

Metamorphic Testing Process

- 1 Identification of **metamorphic relations**. 根据领域知识**手工**分析识别
- 2 Generation/Selection **of source test cases**. **自动**随机生成/
复用现有tests
- 3 Generation of **follow-up test cases**. **自动**生成
- 4 Checking of **metamorphic relations**. **自动**验证

Metamorphic Testing Process

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自动生成
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自动验证



Metamorphic Testing -- State-of-the-Art

A Survey on Metamorphic Testing

Sergio Segura, Member, IEEE, Gordon Fraser, Member, IEEE, Ana B. Sanchez, and Antonio Ruiz-Cortés

Abstract—A test oracle determines whether a test execution reveals a fault, often by comparing the observed program output to the expected output. This is not always practical, for example when a program's input-output relation is complex and difficult to capture formally. *Metamorphic testing* provides an alternative, where correctness is not determined by checking an individual concrete output, but by applying a transformation to a test input and observing how the program output "morphs" into a different one as a result. Since the introduction of such *metamorphic relations* in 1998, many contributions on metamorphic testing have been made, and the technique has seen successful applications in a variety of domains, ranging from web services to computer graphics. This article provides a comprehensive survey on metamorphic testing: It summarises the research results and application areas, and analyses common practice in empirical studies of metamorphic testing as well as the main open challenges.

Index Terms—Metamorphic testing, oracle problem, survey

1 INTRODUCTION

SOFTWARE testing is an essential but costly activity applied during software development to detect faults in programs. Testing consists of executing a program with test inputs, and to detect faults there needs to be some procedure by which testers can decide whether the output of the program is correct or not, a so-called *test oracle* [1]. Often, the test oracle consists of comparing an expected output value with the observed output, but this may not always be feasible. For example, consider programs that produce complex output, like complicated numerical simulations, or code generated by a compiler—predicting the correct output for a given input and then comparing it with the observed output may be non-trivial and error-prone. This problem is referred to as the *oracle problem* and it is recognised as one of the fundamental challenges of software testing [1], [2], [3], [4].

Metamorphic testing [5] is a technique conceived to alleviate the oracle problem. It is based on the idea that often it is simpler to reason about relations between outputs of a program, than it is to fully understand or formalise its input-output behaviour. The prototypical example is that of a program that computes the sine function: What is the exact value of $\sin(12)^\circ$? Is an observed output of -0.3365 correct?

In this article, we present an exhaustive survey on metamorphic testing, covering 119 papers published between 1998 and 2015. To provide researchers and practitioners with an entry point, Section 2 contains an introduction to metamorphic testing. All papers were carefully reviewed and classified, and the review methodology followed in our survey as well as a brief summary and analysis of the selected papers are detailed in Section 3. We summarise the state of the art by capturing the main advances on metamorphic testing in Section 4. Across all surveyed papers, we identified more than 12 different application areas, ranging from web services through simulation and modelling to computer graphics (Section 5). Of particular interest for researchers is a detailed analysis of experimental studies and evaluation metrics (Section 6). As a result of our survey, a number of research challenges emerge, providing avenues for future research (Section 7); in particular, there are open questions on how to derive effective metamorphic relations, as well as how to reduce the costs of testing with them.

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E-mail: {sergiosegura, anabsanchez, aruiz}@us.es.

• G. Fraser is with the Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom. E-mail: gordon.fraser@sheffield.ac.uk.

Manuscript received 11 July 2015; revised 9 Feb. 2016; accepted 14 Feb. 2016.
Date of publication 28 Feb. 2016; date of current version 23 Sept. 2016.

Recommended by P. Tuncer.

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Digital Object Identifier no. 10.1109/TSE.2016.2532875

1. Note that 86 out of the 119 papers reviewed in our survey were published in 2009 or later.

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Metamorphic Testing: A Review of Challenges and Opportunities

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HUAI LIU, Victoria University

PAK-LOK POON, RMIT University

DAVE TOWEY, University of Nottingham Ningbo China

T. H. TSE, The University of Hong Kong

ZHI QUAN ZHOU, University of Wollongong

Metamorphic testing is an approach to both test case generation and test result verification. A central element is a set of metamorphic relations, which are necessary properties of the target function or algorithm in relation to multiple inputs and their expected outputs. Since its first publication, we have witnessed a rapidly increasing body of work examining metamorphic testing from various perspectives, including metamorphic relation identification, test case generation, integration with other software engineering techniques, and the validation and evaluation of software systems. In this article, we review the current research of metamorphic testing and discuss the challenges yet to be addressed. We also present visions for further improvement of metamorphic testing and highlight opportunities for new research.

CCS Concepts: • Software and its engineering → Software verification and validation; Software testing and debugging;

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Metamorphic testing, metamorphic relation, test case generation, oracle problem

ACM Reference format:

Tsong Yueh Chen, Fei Ching Kuo, Huai Liu, Pak Lok Poon, Dave Towey, T. H. Tse, and Zhi Quan Zhou. 2018. Metamorphic Testing: A Review of Challenges and Opportunities. *ACM Comput. Surv.* 51, 1, Article 4 (January 2018), 27 pages.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3143561>

This research was supported in part by a linkage grant of the Australian Research Council (project ID LP160101691) and a grant of the General Research Fund of the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong (project no. 716612). Dave Towey acknowledges the financial support from the Artificial Intelligence and Optimisation Research Group of University of Nottingham Ningbo China, the International Doctoral Innovation Centre, the Ningbo Education Bureau, the Ningbo Science and Technology Bureau, and University of Nottingham. It is with deep regret and sadness that we report the passing of the second author Fei-Ching Kuo on October 6, 2017.

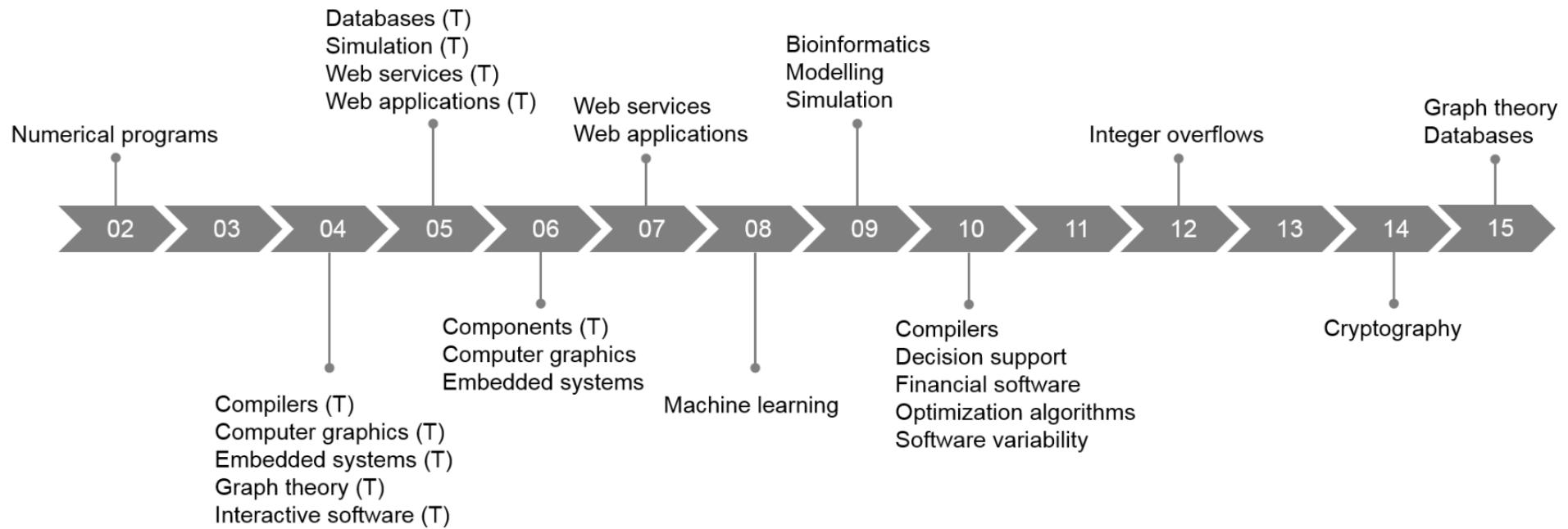
Authors' addresses: T. Y. Chen and F.-C. Kuo, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Swinburne University of Technology, John Street, Hawthorn, VIC 3122, Australia; email: tychen@swin.edu.au; H. Liu, College of Engineering & Science, Victoria University, PO Box 14428, Melbourne, VIC 8001, Australia; email: Huai.Liu@vu.edu.au; P.-L. Poon, School of Business IT and Logistics, RMIT University, Melbourne, VIC 3001, Australia; email: paklok.poon@rmit.edu.au; D. Towey, School of Computer Science, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Ningbo 315100, China; email: Dave.Towey@nottingham.edu.cn; T. H. Tse, Department of Computer Science, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong; email: thtse@cs.hku.hk; Z. Q. Zhou, School of Computing and Information Technology, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia; email: zhiquan@uow.edu.au.

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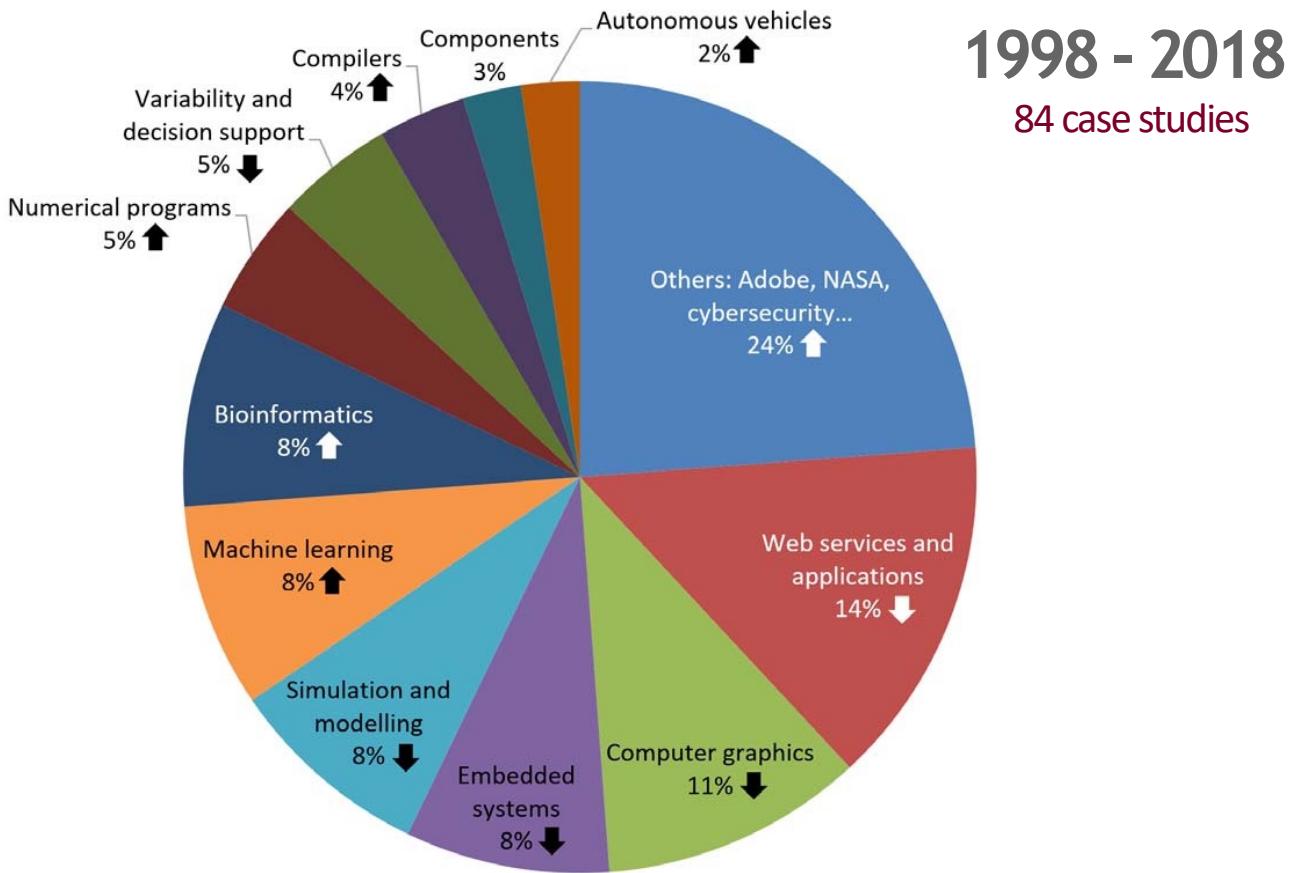
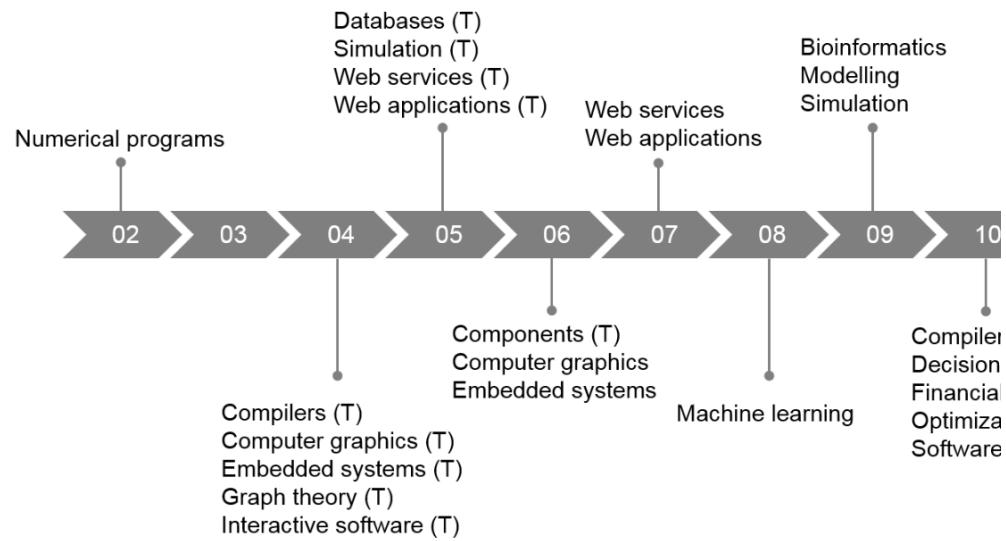
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<https://doi.org/10.1145/3143561>

Metamorphic Testing – State-of-the-Art



Metamorphic Testing – State-of-the-Art

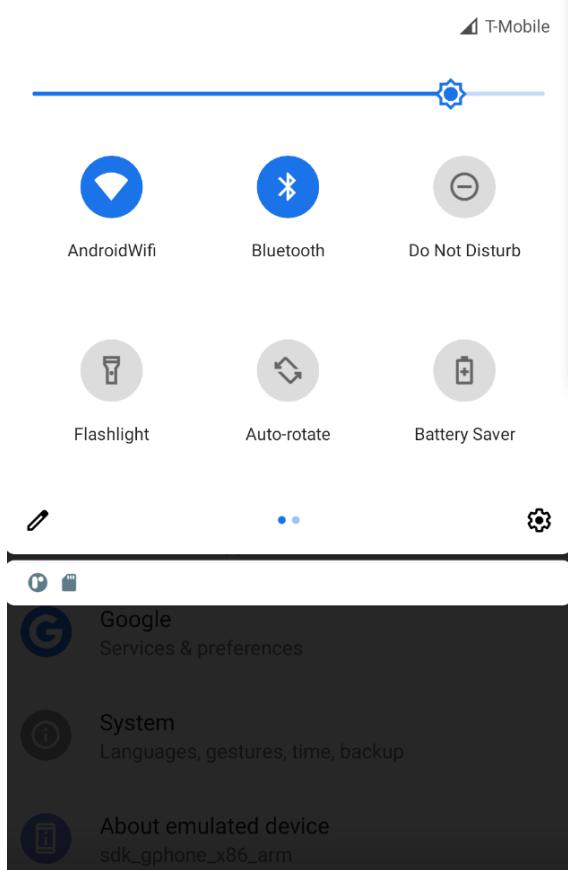


1998 - 2018
84 case studies

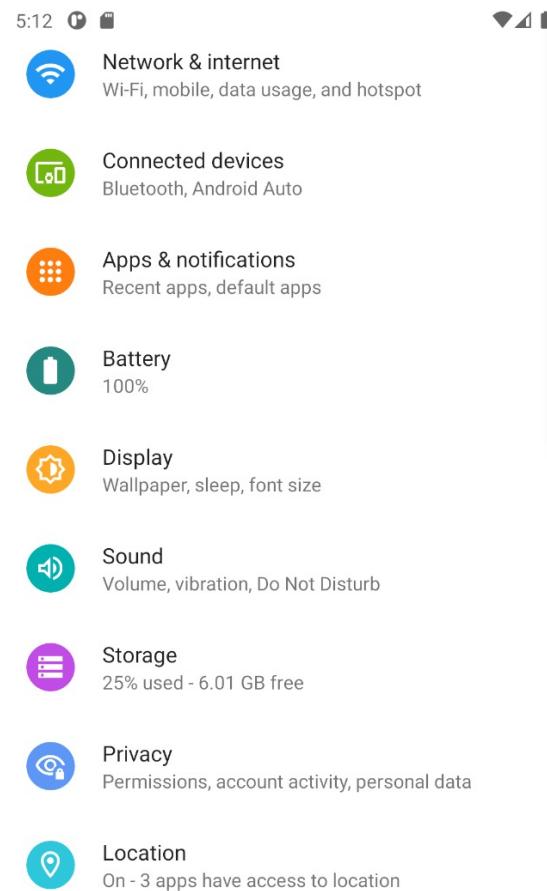
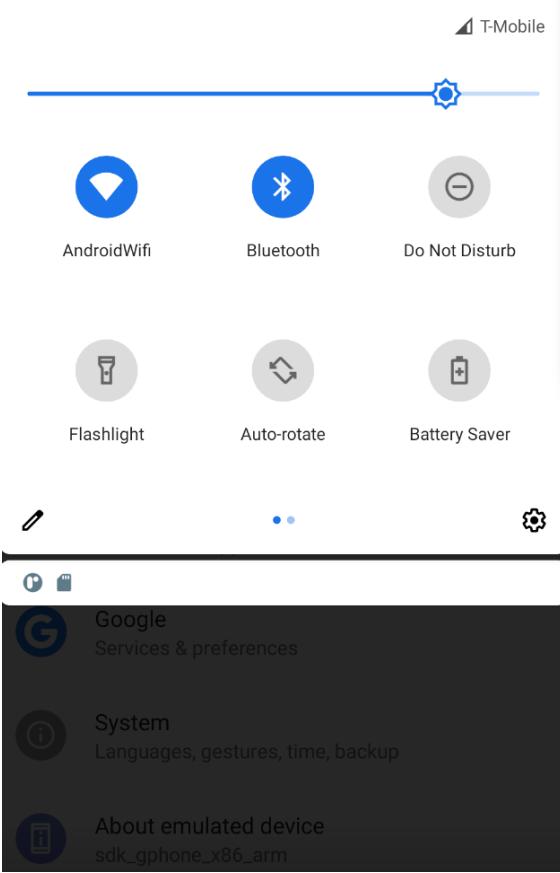
2018-2023年：物体识别系统、自然语言处理模型、数据库管理软件、编译器、自动驾驶模块、移动Apps、领域特定软件（如Datalog分析引擎、SMT求解器）、硬件处理器等。

蜕变测试的探索案例

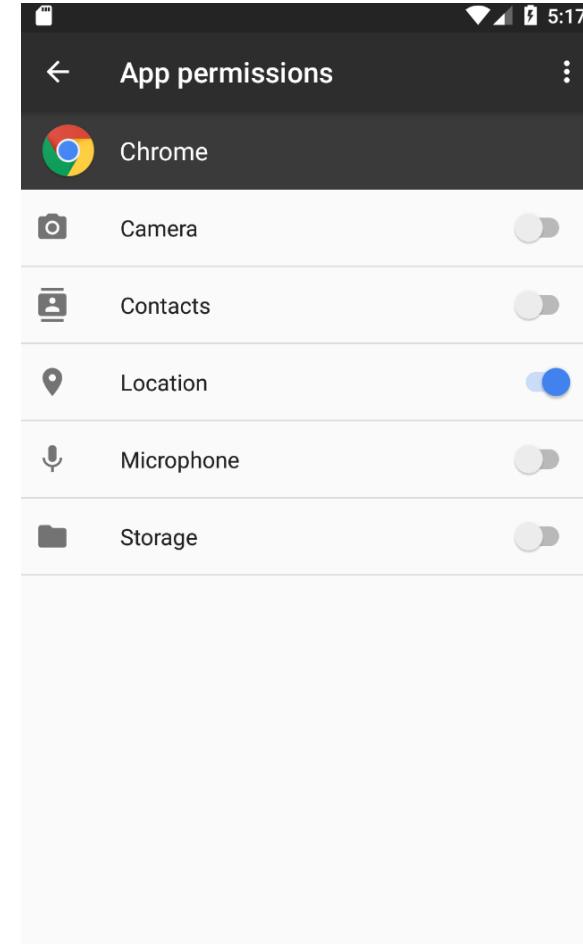
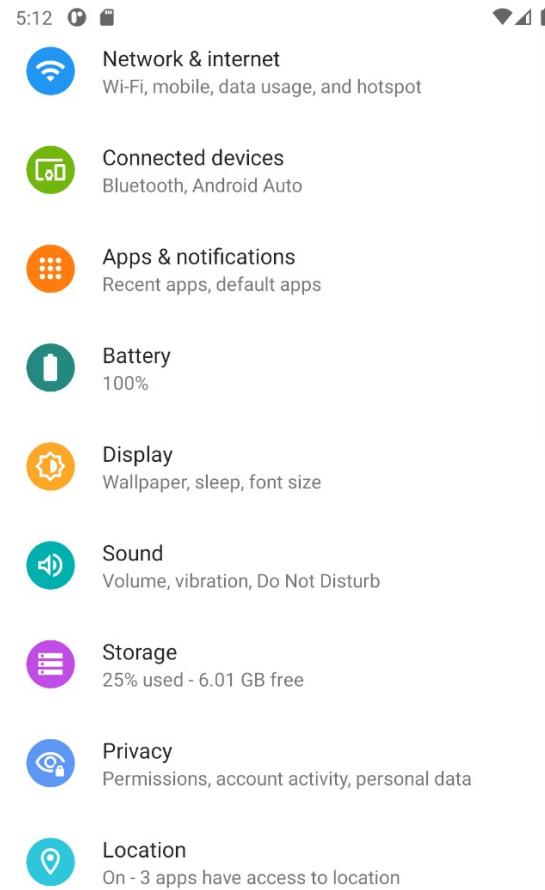
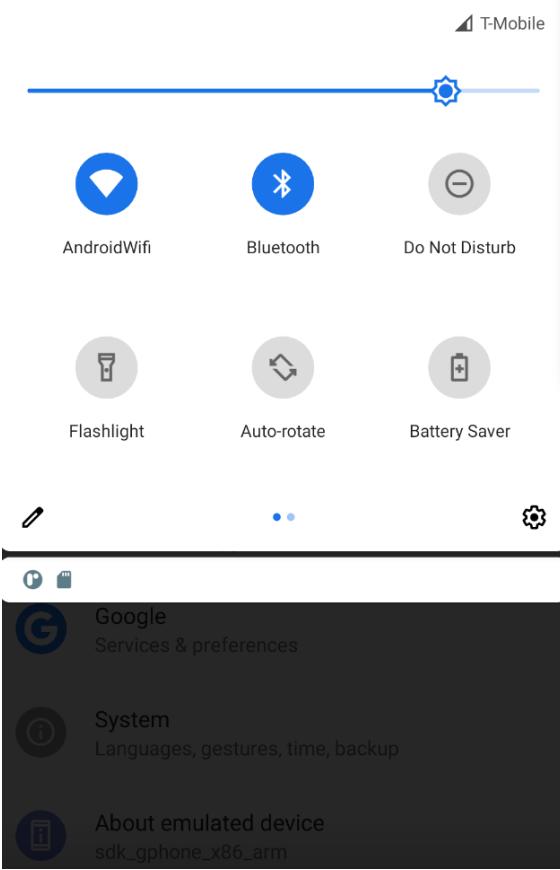
System Settings in Android



System Settings in Android



System Settings in Android



System Settings in Android

Setting Categories	Keywords	Description
Network and connect	Bluetooth, WLAN, NFC, internet, network, hot-spot, mobile, wifi, airplane	Manage the device's network mode (WiFi, mobile data or airplane mode), and the connection with other devices (such as Bluetooth).
Location and security	location, device only, phone only, GPS, high accuracy, screen lock, fingerprint	Manage the device's security settings (e.g., how to unlock screen), location setting (turning on/off device location) and three location modes: high accuracy (using the network and GPS), battery saving (using the network) and device only (using GPS).
Sound	vibrate, ringtone, do not disturb, silent	Manage the device's sound-related options (e.g., the "do not disturb" mode can completely mute the device).
Battery	power save, battery	Manage the power saving mode and the list of apps that are not restricted by the power saving mode (the power saving whitelist).
Display	orientation, vertical, horizontal, split screen, Multi-window, screen resolution, brightness, landscape, portrait, rotate	Manage the device's display settings (e.g., screen brightness and font size) and screen orientation settings (e.g., whether to allow the device to rotate the screen).
Apps and notifications	permission, disable, notification	Manage the runtime permissions of apps and whether they can push notifications to users.
Developer	developer option, keep activity	A number of advanced settings to simulate specific running environment (e.g., enable "Force RTL (right to left) layout direction").
Accessibility	accessibility, talkback, text-to-speech, color correction, color inversion, high contrast text	Customize the device to be more accessible, e.g., adjusting the contrast of UI interface and opening the screen reader.
Other Settings	setting, preference, date, time, time zone, hour format, date&time, reading mode, car mode, one-handed mode, dark mode, game mode, night mode, theme, language	Users can change the languages, the way they input, the system time, the time zone and hour format (24-hour or 12-hour format) and the themes.

System Settings in Android

Setting Categories	Keywords	Description
Network and connect	Bluetooth, WLAN, NFC, internet, network, hot-spot, mobile, wifi, airplane	Manage the device's network mode (WiFi, mobile data or airplane mode), and the connection with other devices (such as Bluetooth).
Location and security	location, <u>device only</u> , <u>phone only</u> , <u>GPS</u> , <u>high accuracy</u> , screen lock, fingerprint	Manage the device's security settings (e.g., how to unlock screen), location setting (turning on/off device location) and three location modes: high accuracy (using the network and GPS), battery saving (using the network) and device only (using GPS).
Sound	vibrate, ringtone, do not disturb, silent	Manage the device's sound-related options (e.g., the "do not disturb" mode can completely mute the device).
Battery	power save, battery	Manage the power saving mode and the list of apps that are not restricted by the power saving mode (the power saving whitelist).
Display	orientation, vertical, horizontal, split screen, Multi-window, screen resolution, brightness, landscape, portrait, rotate	Manage the device's display settings (e.g., screen brightness and font size) and screen orientation settings (e.g., whether to allow the device to rotate the screen).
Apps and notifications	permission, disable, notification	Manage the runtime permissions of apps and whether they can push notifications to users.
Developer	developer option, keep activity	A number of advanced settings to simulate specific running environment (e.g., enable "Force RTL (right to left) layout direction").
Accessibility	accessibility, talkback, text-to-speech, color correction, color inversion, high contrast text	Customize the device to be more accessible, e.g., adjusting the contrast of UI interface and opening the screen reader.
Other Settings	setting, preference, date, time, time zone, hour format, date&time, reading mode, car mode, one-handed mode, dark mode, game mode, night mode, theme, language	Users can change the languages, the way they input, the system time, the time zone and hour format (24-hour or 12-hour format) and the themes.

System Settings in Android

Setting Categories	Keywords	Description
Network and connect	Bluetooth, WLAN, NFC, internet, network, hot-spot, mobile, wifi, airplane	Manage the device's network mode (WiFi, mobile data or airplane mode), and the connection with other devices (such as Bluetooth).
Location and security	location, device only, phone only, GPS, high accuracy, screen lock, fingerprint	Manage the device's security settings (e.g., how to unlock screen), location setting (turning on/off device location) and three location modes: high accuracy (using the network and GPS), battery saving (using the network) and device only (using GPS).
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Other Settings	setting, preference, date, time, <u>time zone</u> , hour format, date&time, reading mode, car mode, one-handed mode, dark mode, game mode, night mode, theme, <u>language</u>	Users can change the languages, the way they input, the system time, the time zone and hour format (24-hour or 12-hour format) and the themes.



Apps and notifications



Battery



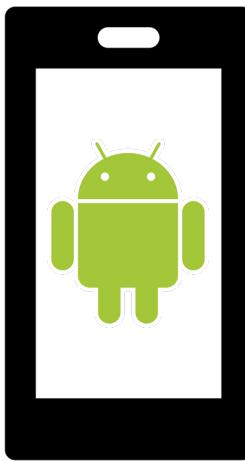
Location and security



Accessibility



Developer



Sound



Display



Network and connect



Other



Apps and notifications



Battery



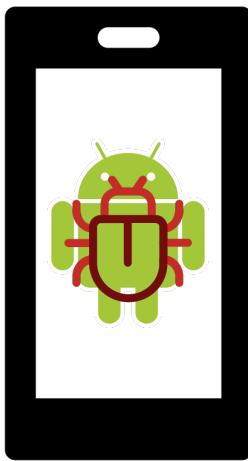
Location and security



Accessibility



Developer



Sound



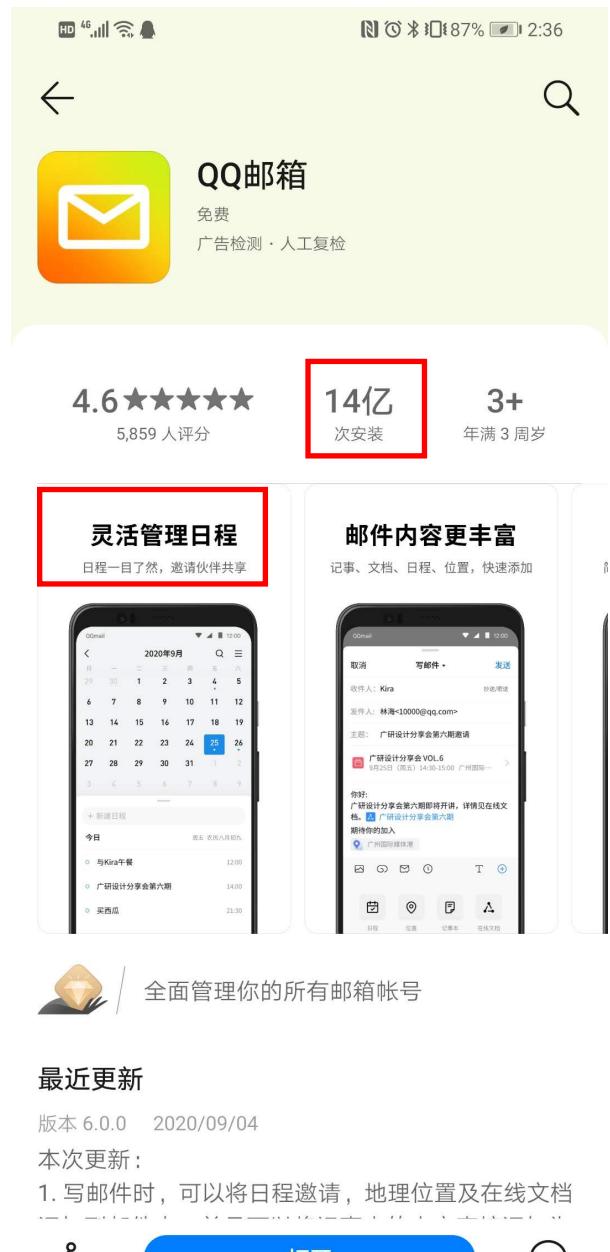
Display



Network and connect



Other



A QQ-Mail Bug

- Consequence:**
cannot delete a to-do task

- Root cause:**
Fail to properly handle the calendar permission

- Status:**
Confirmed and fixed



Consequences of System Setting-related Functional Bugs

Consequence Type	Description	#Defects
Crash	App crashes	315
Disrespect of setting changes	Do not reflect setting changes, e.g., untranslated texts or incomplete translations when the system language is changed.	218
Problematic UI display	GUI display issues	197
Function failure	Function cannot work, e.g., app stuck, black screen, infinite loading, and unable to refresh.	197
Total		1074

* We analyzed 1074 setting issues from 180 popular, well-maintained Android apps on GitHub

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Total		1074

functional
bugs

* We analyzed 1074 setting issues from 180 popular, well-maintained Android apps on GitHub

⇒ 70.7% of setting defects are non-crashing functional bugs

How to use *metamorphic testing* to find such system setting-related *non-crashing* functional bugs?

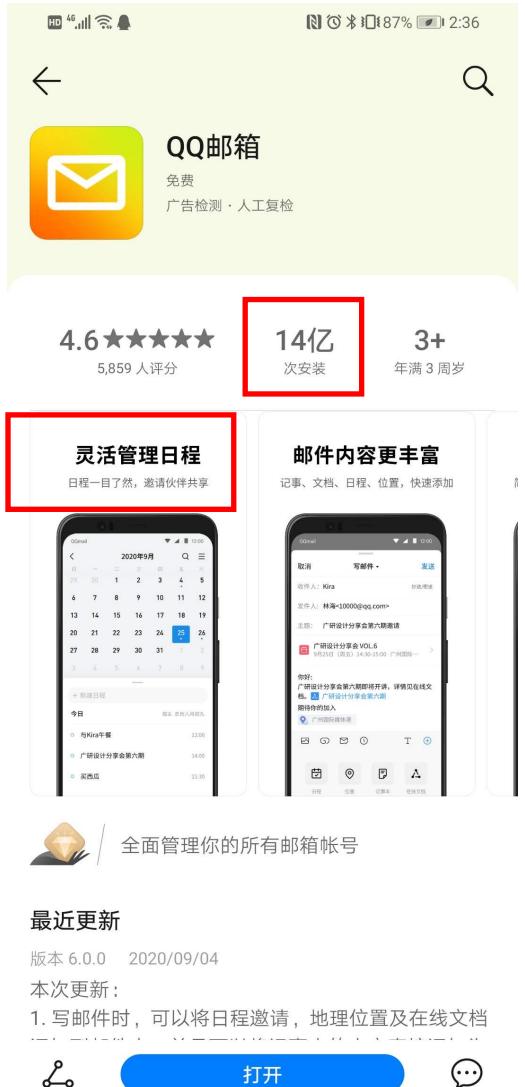


Metamorphic Relations for Setting Defects

- **MR1:** If a given system setting is changed *and later* restored,
⇒ an app's behaviors (functionalities) should *keep consistent*



A QQ-Mail Bug



- **Consequence:**
 - cannot delete a to-do task

- **Root cause:**
 - Fail to properly handle the calendar permission

- **Status:**
 - Confirmed and fixed

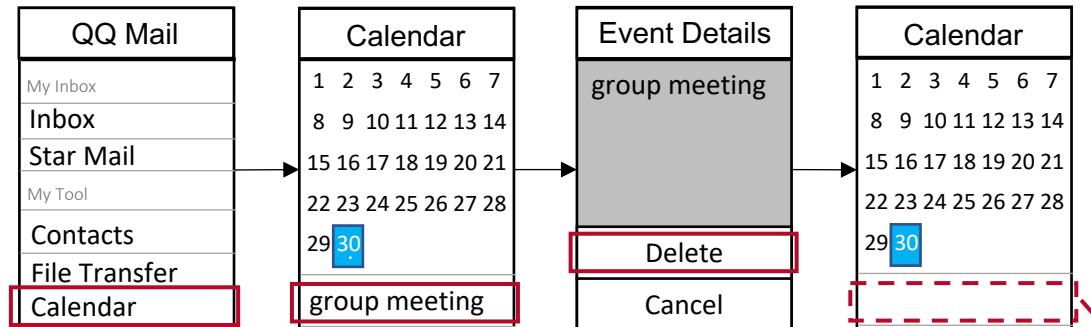




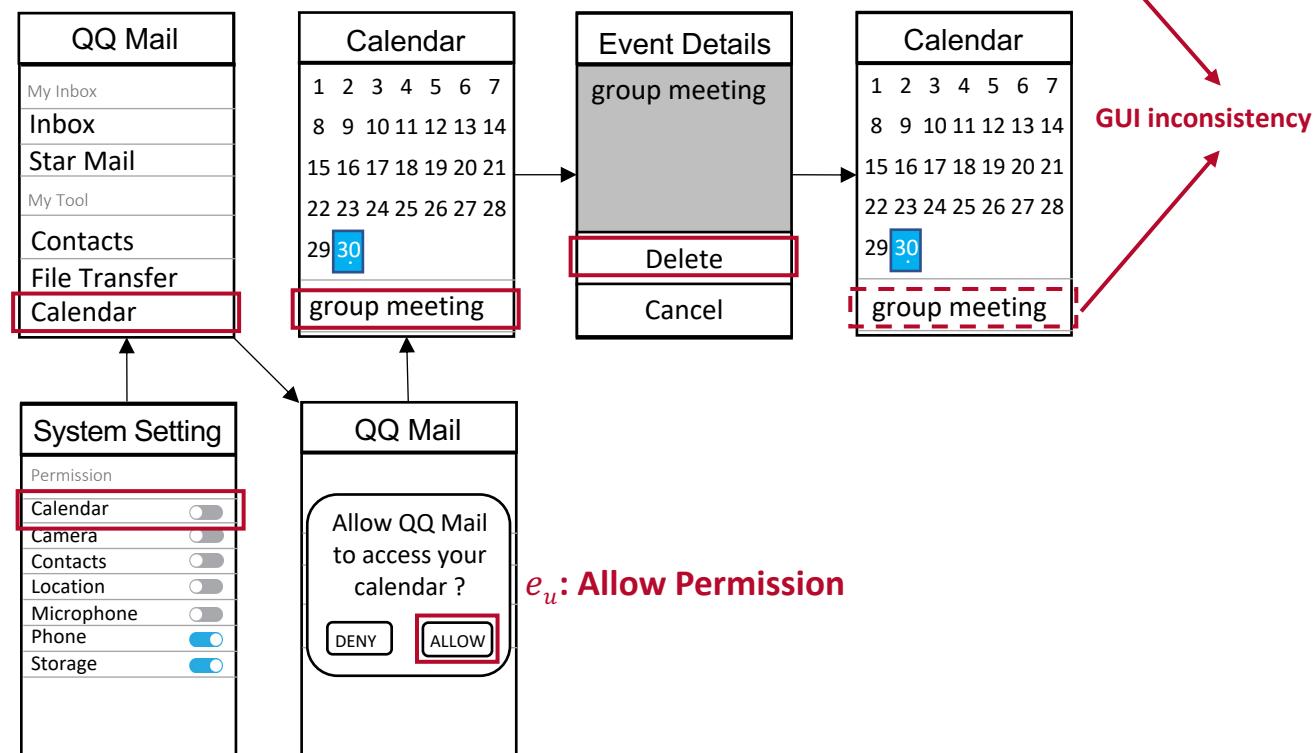
QQ Mail

4,500,000,000+
installations in major
app markets

Source Test :
(can delete
calendar event)



Follow-up Test :
(cannot delete
calendar event)

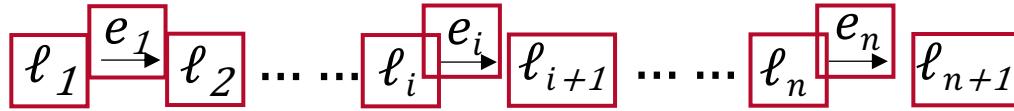


e_c : Revoke Permission

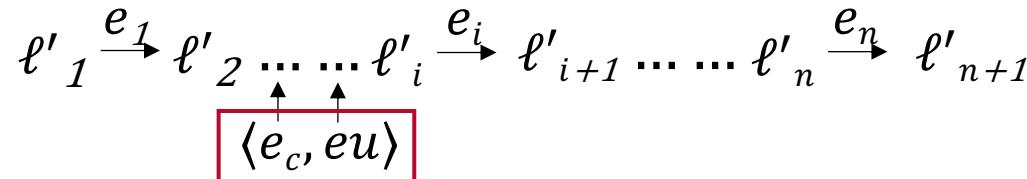
e_u : Allow Permission

Our Approach

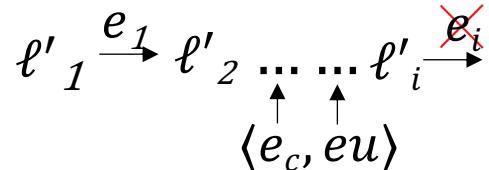
Source test case:



Follow-up test case
(w/o setting issue):



Follow-up test case
(w/ setting issue):



e — a GUI event

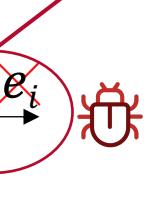
e_c — changes a given setting

ℓ — a GUI layout

e_u — restores the setting.

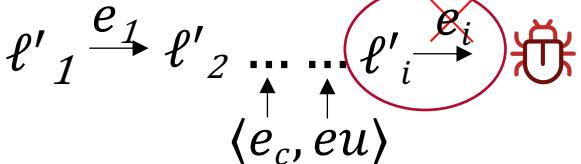
Our Approach

Source test case:



Inconsistency

Follow-up test case
(w/setting issue):



$$\exists e_i. e_i.w \in \ell_i \wedge e_i.w \notin \ell'_i$$

e — a GUI event

e_c — changes a given setting

$e.w$ — target widget of GUI event

ℓ — a GUI layout

e_u — restores the setting.

Metamorphic Relations for Setting Defects

- **MR1:** If a given system setting is changed *and later* restored,
⇒ an app's behaviors (functionalities) should *keep consistent*



Metamorphic Relations for Setting Defects

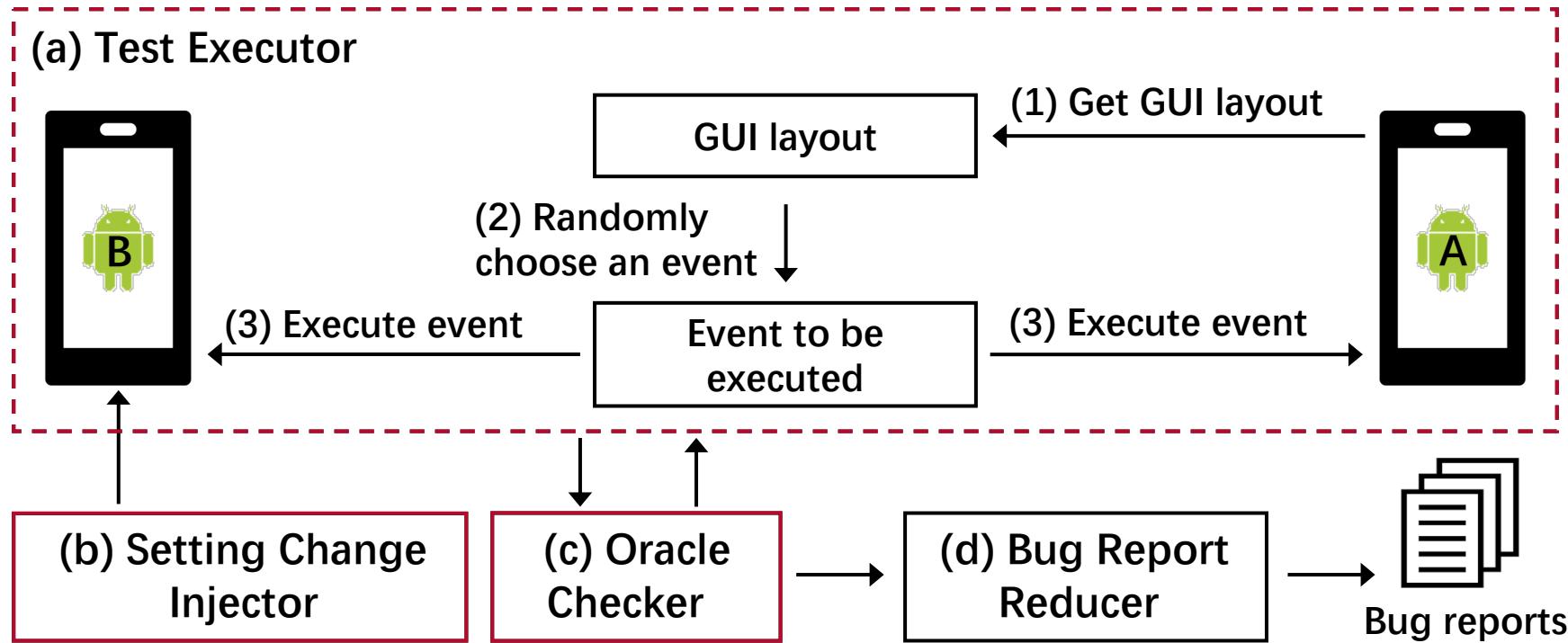
- **MR1:** If a given system setting is changed *and later* restored,
⇒ an app's behaviors (functionalities) should *keep consistent*



- **MR2:** If a given system setting is changed *but not* restored
⇒ an app's behaviors (functionalities) should *show differences*



SetDroid: Setting-wise Metamorphic Fuzzing



Workflow of Our Approach

Results: Bug Finding in Open-source Apps

Name of category	What's inside
Android TV	Apps for Android TV.
Android Wear	Apps for Android Wear.
Communication	Apps like Messager, Hangout, Gmail...
Education	Apps about education.
Finance	Apps about finance.
Game	All games for Android.
Health & Fitness	Apps about health and fitness.
LifeStyle	Apps about our life.
Multi-Media	Apps like Google Play Music, MX Player...
News & Magazines	Apps about news and magazines.
Personalization	Apps about live-wallpaper, launcher...
Productivity	Apps like Any.Do, Evernote...
Social Network	Apps like Twitter, Facebook, GitHub, Dribbble...
Tools	Apps like Clean Master, Barcode Scanner, Keyboard...
Travel & Local	Apps about travel or local things.
Business	Apps for the improvement of your business.
CNSoftBei	Apps of the cnsoftbei.

✓ Selected 26 apps

✓ Detected 42 bugs in 24 apps

App ID	App name	#Installations	#Stars	Issue ID	Issue state	Cause setting	Consequence
1	APhotoManager	-	162	#175	Confirmed	Permission	Crash
2	A2DP Volume	100K-500K	71	#295	Fixed	Display	Crash
				#294	Fixed	Display	Data lost
				#291	Fixed	Display	Crash
				#290	Fixed	Display & Permission	Data lost
				#289	Confirmed	Developer	Crash
3	Always On	10M-50M	121	#2476	Confirmed	Language	Disrespect of Settings
				#2475	Confirmed	Language	Incomplete translation(5)
4	AnkiDroid	5M-10M	3.2K	#5407	Fixed	Permission	Stuck
5	AntennaPod	500K-1M	3.3K	#4227	Fixed	Network	Lack of refresh
6	Commons	50K-100K	649	#3906	Discussion	Location	Infinite loading
				#3134	Confirmed	Permission	Crash
7	ConnectBot	1M-5M	1.6K				
8	FillUp	100K-500K	29				
9	Forecastie	10K-50K	609	#505	Fixed	Permission	Lack of prompt
				#504	Fixed	Language	Incomplete translation(5)
				#358	Confirmed	Display	Data lost
10	Good Weather	5K-10K	196	#62	Waiting	Network	Infinite loading
				#61	Waiting	Location	Lack of prompt
				#55	Waiting	Language	Language confusion
11	Notepad	100K-500K	156				
12	Omni Notes	100K-500K	2.2K	#776	Fixed	Permission	Lack of prompt
				#775	Fixed	Location	Functionality failure
				#764	Fixed	Language	Disrespect of Settings
				#695	Fixed	Language	Incomplete translation(2)
13	Opensudoku	10K-50K	209	#93	Confirmed	Language	Incomplete translation(7)
14	RedReader	50K-100K	1.1K	#783	Discussion	Network	Infinite loading
				#749	Confirmed	Language	Incomplete translation(23)
15	Timber	100K-500K	6.4K	#459	Confirmed	Display	Data lost
				#458	Waiting	Permission	Crash
				#454	Waiting	Permission	Incomplete translation(9)
16	Vanilla Music	500K-1M	777	#1048	Waiting	Display	Crash
17	Wikipedia	50M-100M	1.3K				
18	OpenBikeSharing	1K-5K	58	#55	Confirmed	Display	Functionality failure
19	Suntimes	-	134	#420	Fixed	Location	Infinite loading
20	RadioBeacon	-	43	#249	Confirmed	Network	Stuck
				#234	Confirmed	Permission	Crash
21	RunnerUp	10K-50K	511	#923	Fixed	Permission	Lack of prompt
22	Amaze	1M-5M	3K	#1965	Fixed	Display & Permission	Black screen
				#1964	Fixed	Display & Permission	Data lost
				#1920	Fixed	Network	Lack of prompt
				#1919	Fixed	Display & Permission	Crash
				#1885	Fixed	Permission	Crash
23	Habits	1M-5M	3.6K	#620	Fixed	Display	Data lost
				#599	Fixed	Language	Incomplete translation(2)
24	Materialistic	100K-500K	2.1K	#1429	Waiting	Network	Lack of refresh

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Finance	Apps about finance.
Game	All games for Android.
Health & Fitness	Apps about health and fitness.
LifeStyle	Apps about our life.
Multi-Media	Apps like Google Play Music, MX Player...
News & Magazines	Apps about news and magazines.
Personalization	Apps about live-wallpaper, launcher...
Productivity	Apps like Any.Do, Evernote...
Social Network	Apps like Twitter, Facebook, GitHub, Dribbble...
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Travel & Local	Apps about travel or local things.
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- ✓ Selected 26 apps
- ✓ Detected 42 bugs in 24 apps
- ✓ 32/42 are functional bugs

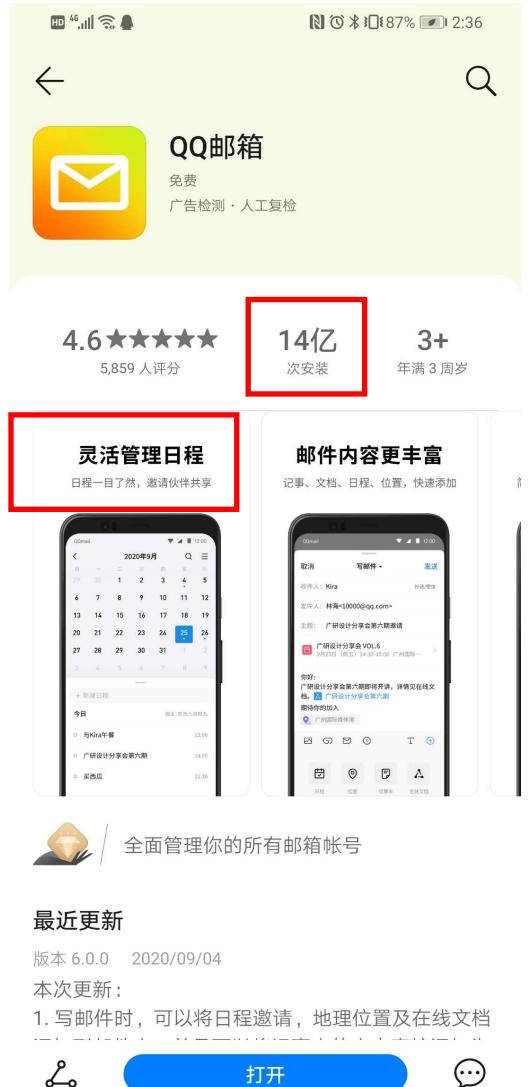
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Results: Bug Finding in Industrial Apps



ID	App	Setting	Consequence
1	QQMail	Permission	Function failure
2	QQMail	Permission	Crash
3	Wechat	Permission	Function failure
4	Wechat	Permission	Function failure
5	Wechat	Language	Problematic UI display
6	Wechat	Language	Incomplete translation
7	Wechat	Network	Stuck
8	Wechat	Network	Function failure
9	CapCut	Network	Infinite loading
10	CapCut	Permission	Function failure
11	CapCut	Display&Permission	Problematic UI display
12	CapCut	Network	Function failure
13	TikTok	Network	Function failure
14	TikTok	Permission	Function failure
15	TikTok	Location	Function failure
16	AlipayHK	Language	Function failure
17	AlipayHK	Location	Function failure

A QQ-Mail Bug



- **Consequence:**
 - cannot delete a to-do task

- **Root cause:**
 - Fail to properly handle the calendar permission

- **Status:**
 - Confirmed and fixed



A WeChat Bug



- **Consequence:**

- User video/audio is leaked

- **Root cause:**

- Fail to properly handle pop-up window permission
- Galaxy A6s, HuaWei nova 5 Pro

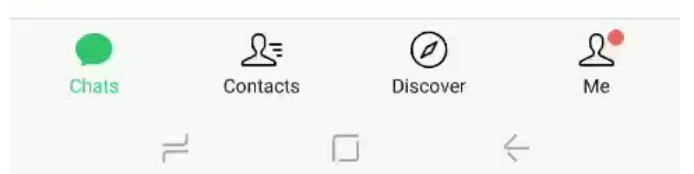
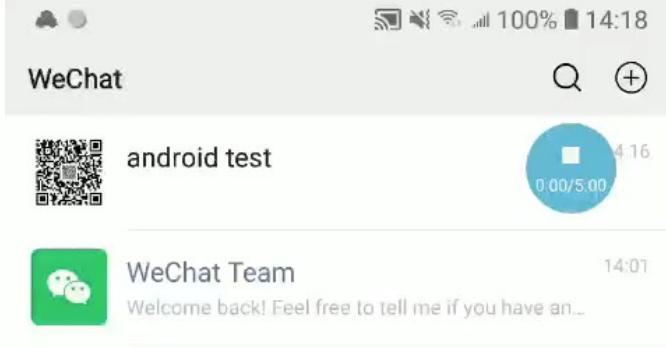
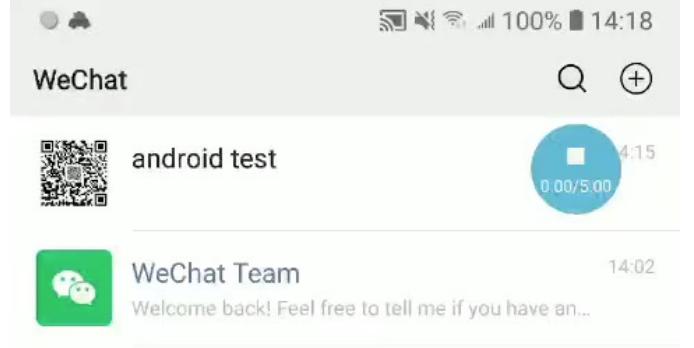
- **Status:**

- Confirmed and fixed

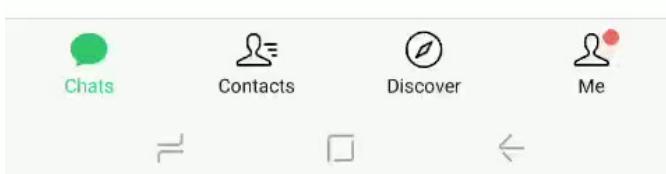
A WeChat Bug

中国移动 4G 上午 10:12 89%

< 搜索



视频电话的发起方



视频电话的接收方

Lessons Learned

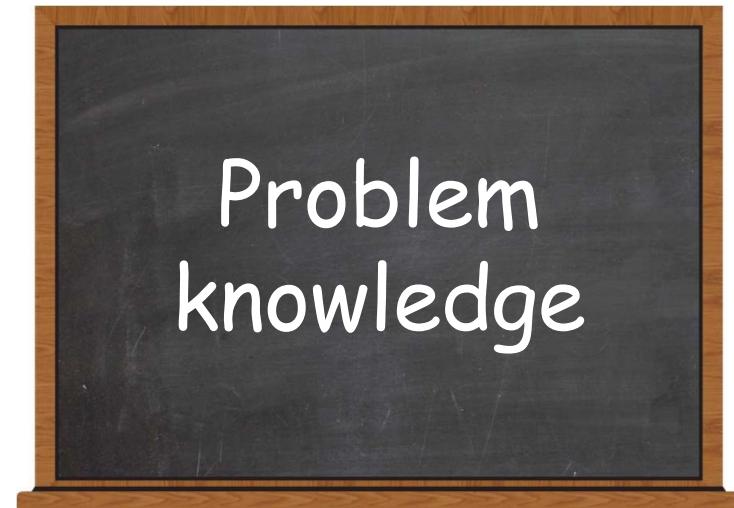
Metamorphic Testing (蜕变测试)

- An approach to both **input generation** (测试数据生成) and **test result validation** (测试结果验证)
- A central element is a set of **metamorphic relations** (蜕变关系), which are **necessary properties** (必要性质) of the target function or algorithm *in relation to multiple inputs and their expected outputs* (多个输入和输出之间的关系)

Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

Metamorphic testing requires good knowledge of the problem domain.



Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

Different metamorphic relations can have different fault-detection capability.

MR₁



MR₂



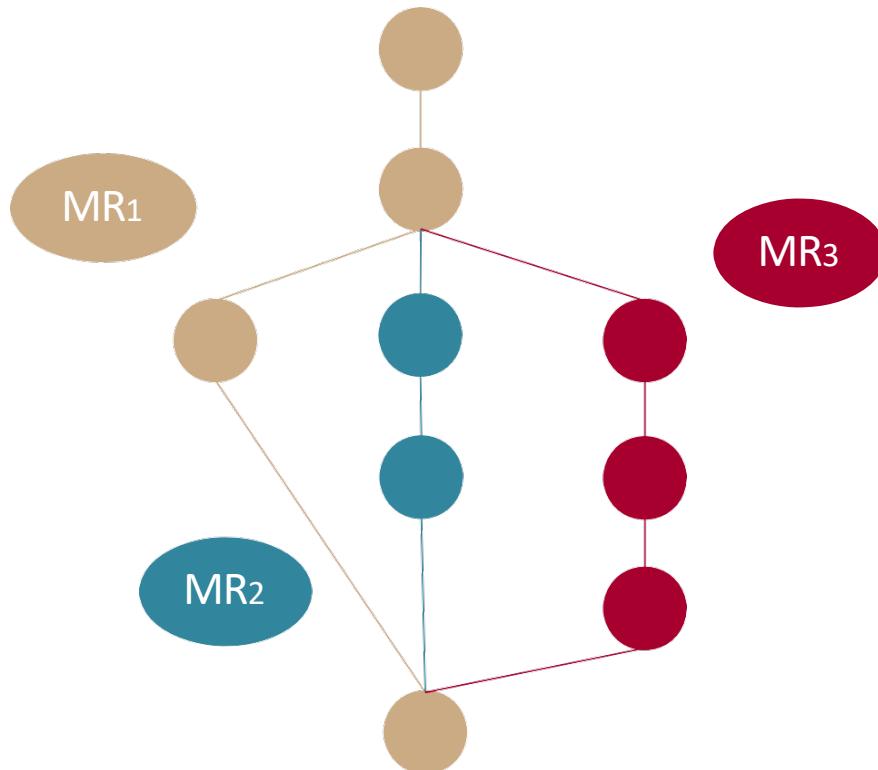
MR₃



Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

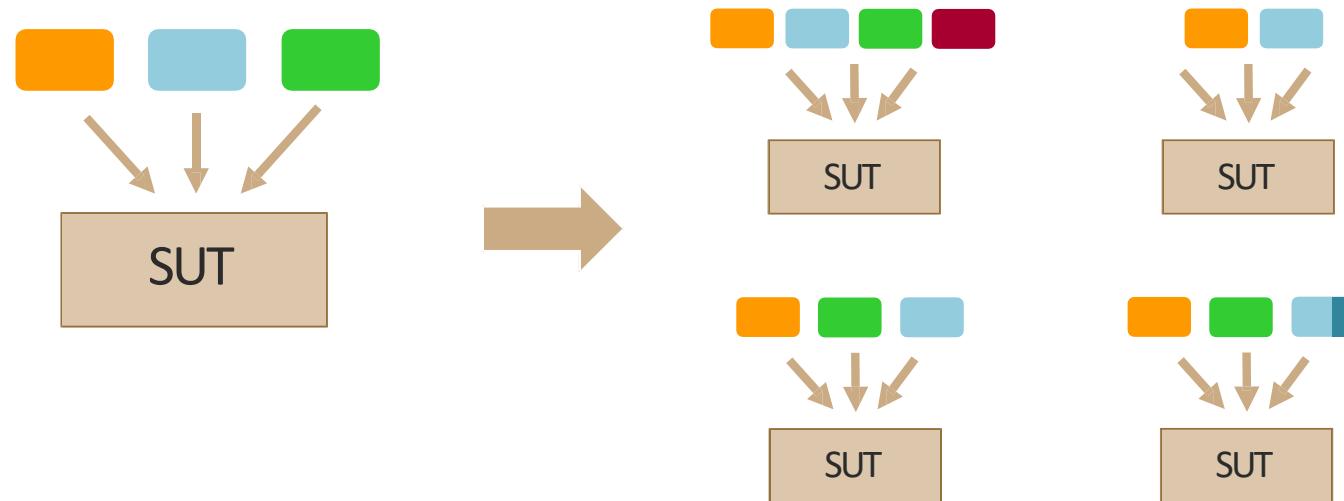
Metamorphic relations should be diverse so they exercise different parts of the program.



Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

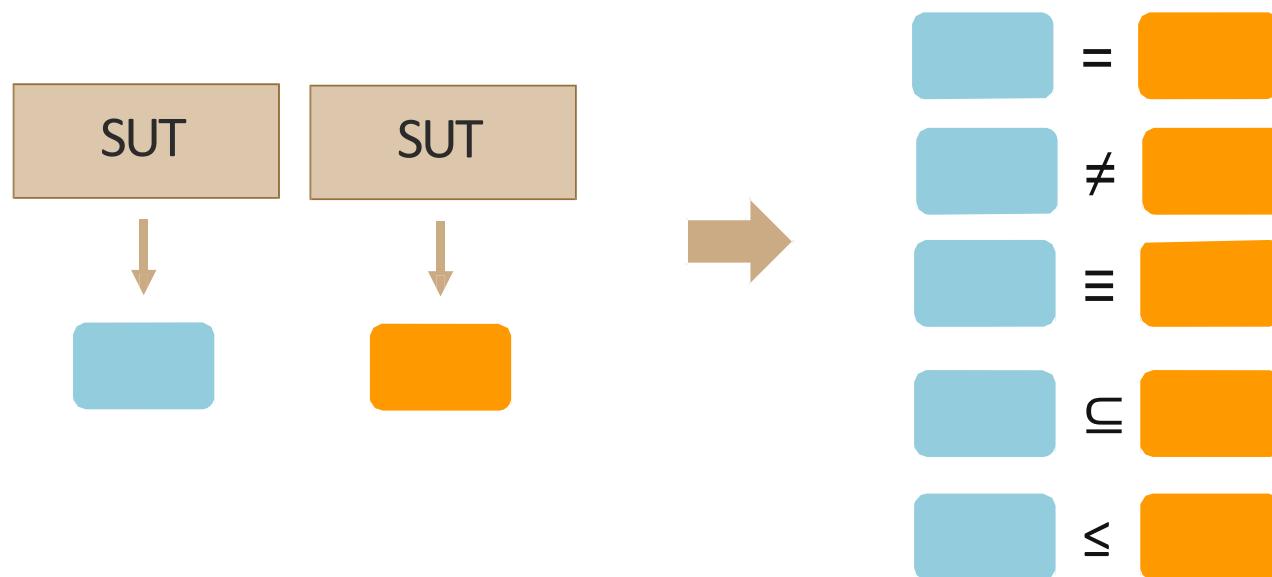
Two common approaches for the construction of metamorphic relations: **input-driven** vs output-driven



Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

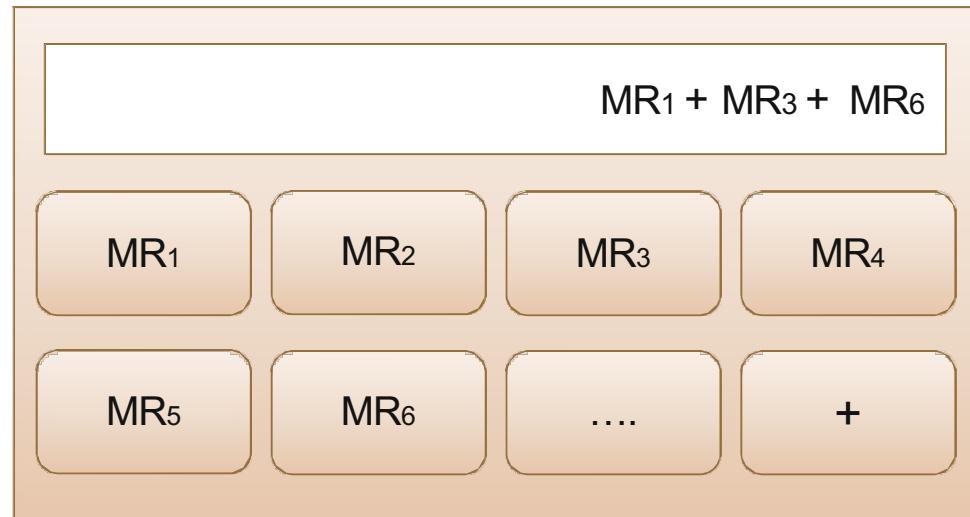
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Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

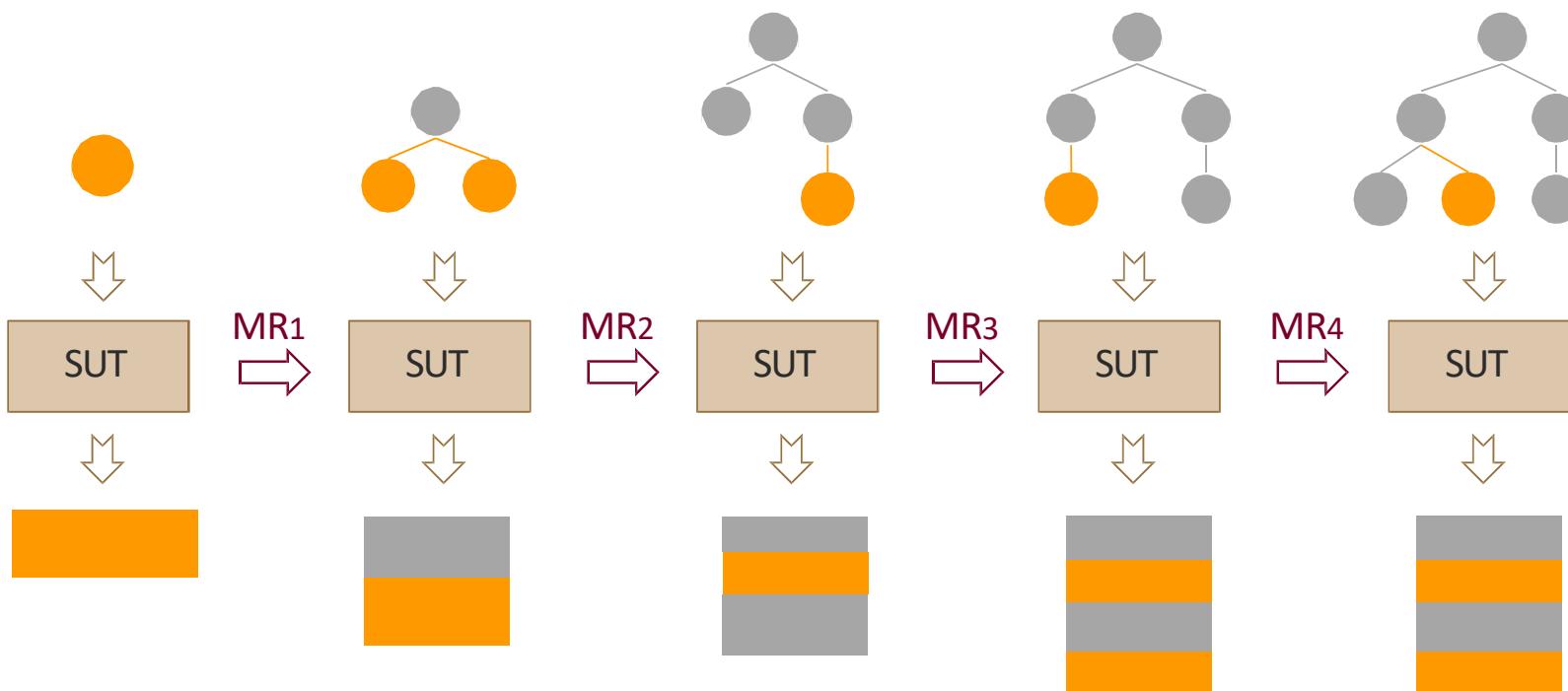
Metamorphic relations can be combined.



Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

Metamorphic relations can be combined.



Property-based Testing(基于性质的测试)

Revisit the Oracle Problem

A *sort* algorithm (which sorts a list of numbers)

```
void testSort()
{
    int [] list_a = [5, 4, 2, 7, 0, 1];
    int [] output = sort(list_a);
    int [] expected_output = [0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7];
    assertEquals(output, expected_output);
}
```

Example-based Oracles (Assertions)

Revisit the Oracle Problem

A *sort* algorithm (which sorts a list of numbers)

```
void testSortMetamorphic(int [] list)
{
    int [] permutedList = permute(list);
    int [] output1 = sort(list);
    int [] output2 = sort(permutedList);
    assertEquals(output1, output2);
}
```

Are metamorphic oracles enough?

Metamorphic Oracles



Revisit the Oracle Problem

A *sort* algorithm (which sorts a list of numbers)

```
@given(some.lists(some.integers()))
void testSortProperty(int [] list)
{
    int [] sorted_list = sort(list);
    for(int i=0; i<=len(sorted_list)-1; i++)
        assertTrue(sorted_list[i] <= sorted_list[i+1])
}
```

Revisit the Oracle Problem

A *sort* algorithm (which sorts a list of numbers)

```
@given(some.lists(some.integers()))
void testSortProperty(int [] list)
{
    int [] sorted_list = sort(list);                                Property
    for(int i=0; i<=len(sorted_list)-1; i++)
        assertTrue(sorted_list[i] <= sorted_list[i+1])
}
```

Revisit the Oracle Problem

A *sort* algorithm (which sorts a list of numbers)

Random Input Generator

```
@given(some.lists(some.integers()))
void testSortProperty(int [] list)
{
    int [] sorted_list = sort(list);
    for(int i=0; i<=len(sorted_list)-1; i++)
        assertTrue(sorted_list[i] <= sorted_list[i+1])
}
```

Revisit the Oracle Problem

A *sort* algorithm (which sorts a list of numbers)

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@given(some.lists(some.integers()))
void testSortProperty(int [] list)
{
    if (len(list) >= 100) Conditions
        return;
    int [] sorted_list = sort(list);
    for(int i=0; i<=len(sorted_list)-1; i++)
        assertTrue(sorted_list[i] <= sorted_list[i+1])
}
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Property-based Testing!

Property-based Testing (基于性质的测试)

- The term *property-based testing* originate from "*Property-Based Testing: A New Approach to Testing for Assurance*" by Fink and Bishop (SE Notes 1997)
- The approach was *popularized* by the work "*QuickCheck: A Lightweight Tool for Random Testing of Haskell Programs*" by Claessen and Hughes (ICFP 2000)

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- Property-based testing fundamentally depends on being able to write *abstract assertions* that are effectively *specifications*.

Property-based Testing (基于性质的测试)

for all (x, y, z, \dots)

such that $\text{condition}(x, y, z)$ holds

$\text{property}(x, y, z, \dots, f(x, y, z, \dots))$ **is** true.

where x, y, z, \dots are input variables, and f is a function that we are testing. condition is a predicate that returns true if some property is true for x, y, z, \dots , while property is a test oracle that returns true if the some property holds true between the inputs in x, y, z, \dots and the output of the program $f(x, y, z, \dots)$.

Property-based Testing Pattern



(如何产生有效的测试输入？)

- 1 Generating **random inputs** **自动**生成随机输入
- 2 Ensuring the **condition** holds **自动**检查前置条件是否满足
- 3 Checking whether a **property** holds on those inputs **自动**检查性质是否成立
- 4 Shrinking the counter-example input to obtain the minimal one **自动**约减反例

Property-based Testing -- State-of-the-Art

Many Implementations for PBT

Re-implementations of QuickCheck exist for several languages:

- C^{[2][3][4]}
- C++^{[5][6][7]}
- Chicken^[8]
- Clojure^{[9][10]}
- Common Lisp^[11]
- Coq^[12]
- D^[13]
- Elm^[14]
- Elixir^{[15][16]}
- Erlang^[17]
- F#, and C#, Visual Basic .NET (VB.NET)^[18]
- Factor^[19]
- Go^[20]
- Io^[21]
- Java^{[22][23][24][25][26][27][28]}
- JavaScript^{[29][30][31][32]}
- Julia^[33]
- Logtalk^[34]
- Lua^[35]
- Mathematica^[36]
- Objective-C^[37]
- OCaml^[38]
- Perl^[39]
- Prolog^{[40][41]}
- PHP^[42]
- Pony^[43]
- Python^[44]
- R^[45]
- Racket^[46]
- Ruby^[47]
- Rust^{[48][49]}
- Scala^{[50][51][52]}
- Scheme^[53]
- Smalltalk^[54]
- Standard ML^[55]
- Swift^[56]
- TypeScript^[57]
- Whiley^[58]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QuickCheck>

<https://hypothesis.works/articles/quickcheck-in-every-language/>

<https://github.com/ksaaskil/introduction-to-property-based-testing>

PBT frameworks

- QuickCheck
(Haskell)
- junit-quickcheck
(Java)
- Hypothesis
(Python)
- FuzzTest
(C/C++)

...

PBT frameworks --- Example

- QuickCheck
(Haskell)
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(Java)
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12W1B12W3B24W1B14W

1

a run-length encoding system

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Run-length_encoding

PBT frameworks --- Example

- QuickCheck
(Haskell)
- junit-quickcheck
(Java)
- Hypothesis
(Python)
- FuzzTest
(C/C++)

...

```
def encode(input_string):
    count = 1
    prev = ""
    lst = []
    for character in input_string:
        if character != prev:
            if prev:
                entry = (prev, count)
                lst.append(entry)
            count = 1
            prev = character
        else:
            count += 1
    entry = (character, count)
    lst.append(entry)
    return lst

def decode(lst):
    q = ""
    for character, count in lst:
        q += character * count
    return q
```

a run-length encoding system

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Run-length_encoding

PBT frameworks --- Example

- QuickCheck
(Haskell)
- junit-quickcheck
(Java)
- Hypothesis
(Python)
- FuzzTest
(C/C++)

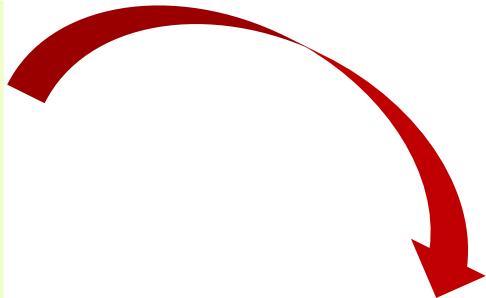
...

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            prev = character
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def decode(lst):
    q = ""
    for character, count in lst:
        q += character * count
    return q
```

a run-length encoding system

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Run-length_encoding



```
from hypothesis import given
from hypothesis.strategies import text

@given(text())
def test_decode_inverts_encode(s):
    assert decode(encode(s)) == s
```

Property-based Tests

Successful Applications of PBT

Quickstrom: Property-Based Acceptance Testing with LTL Specifications



Web Apps

QuickREST: Property-based Test Generation of OpenAPI-described RESTful APIs



Web Service APIs

General and Practical Property-based Testing for Android Apps



Mobile Apps

Testing Scratch Programs Automatically



Scratch Programs

JQF: Coverage-Guided Property-Based Testing in Java



Java SDK library

Property-Based Testing for the Robot Operating System



Robot OS

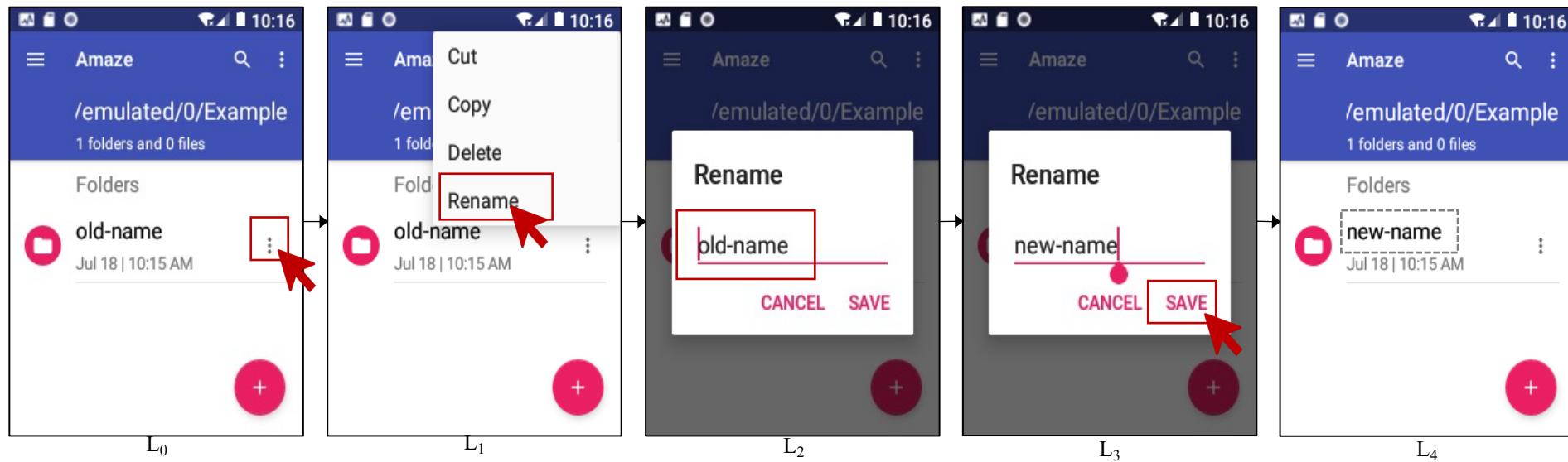
基于性质测试的探索案例

Data Manipulation Functionalities (DMF)

- **DMFs** are prevalent in mobile apps, which perform the CRUD operations (*create, read, update, delete*) to handle *app-specific data*.

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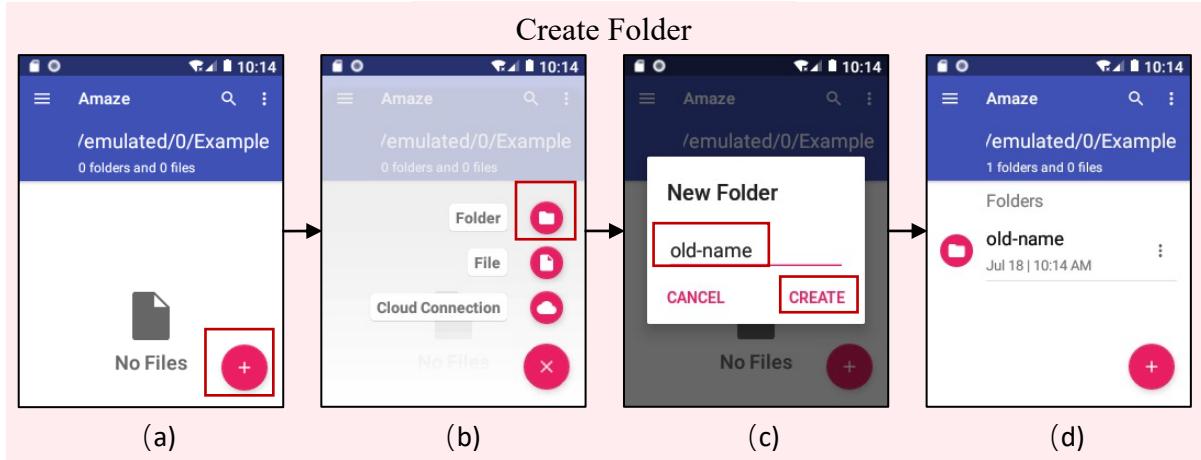
A “Rename” Function for app data “Folder”

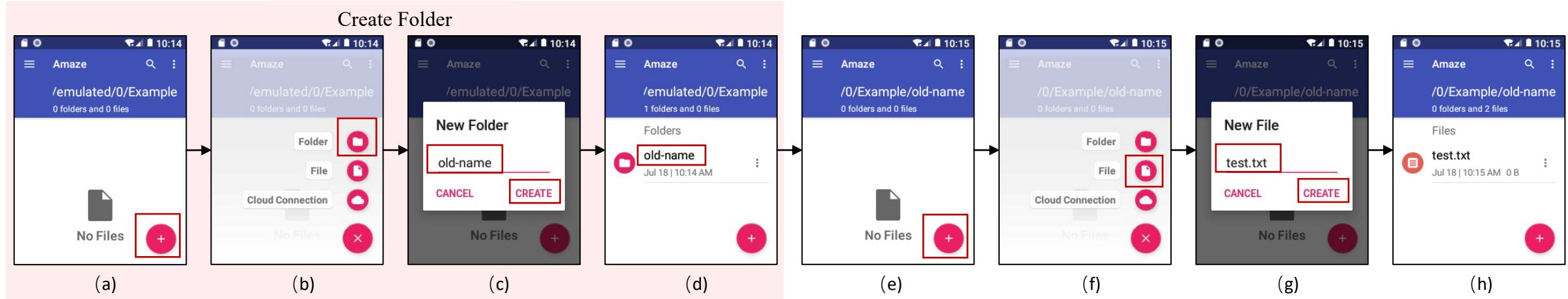
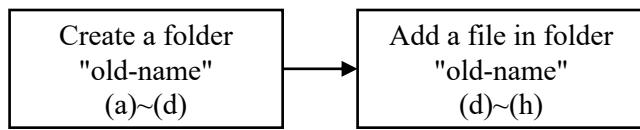
Data Manipulation Functionalities (DMF)

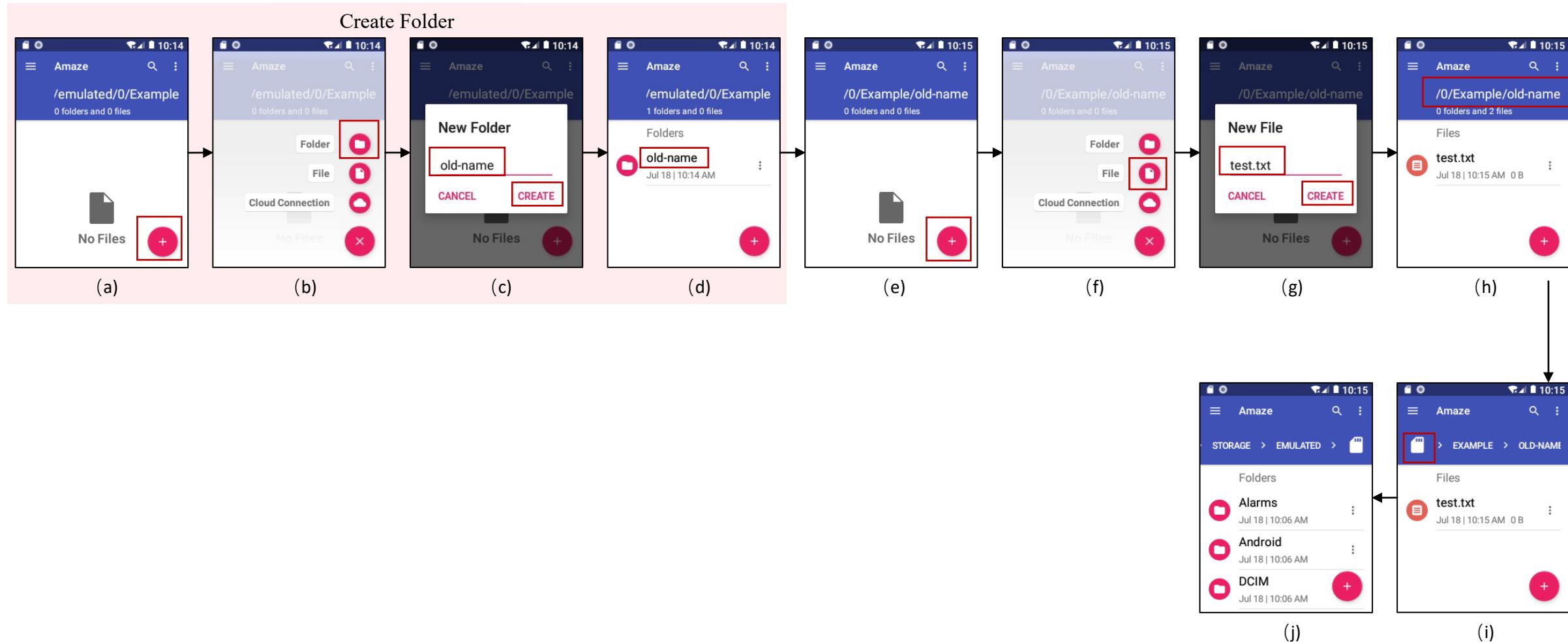
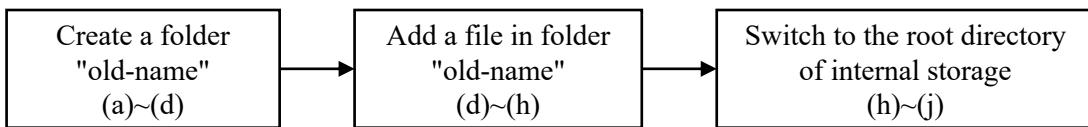
- DMFs are prevalent in mobile apps, which perform the CRUD operations (*create, read, update, delete*) to handle *app-specific data*.
- Ensuring the **correctness** of these DMFs is *fundamentally important* for many core app functionalities.
- The bugs related to DMFs are named as **data manipulation errors, DMEs**, are prevalent but difficult to find.

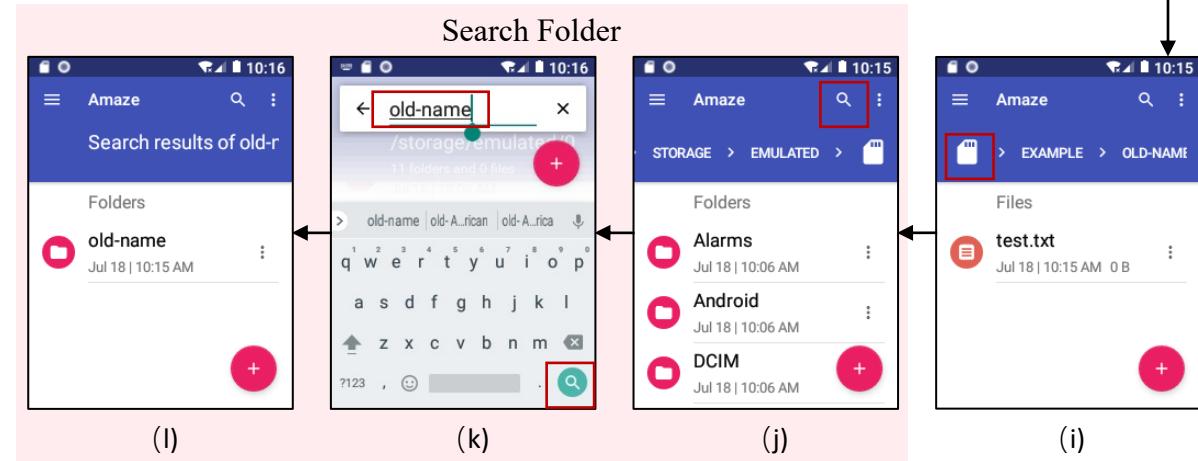
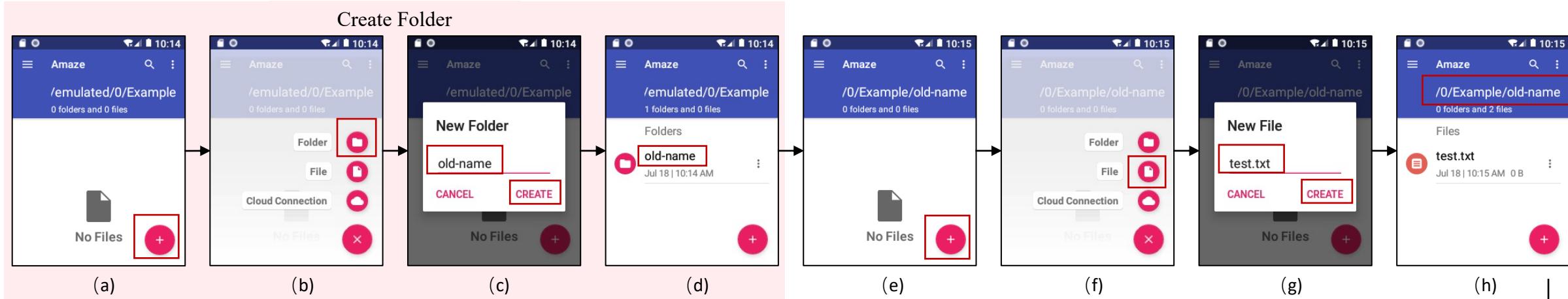
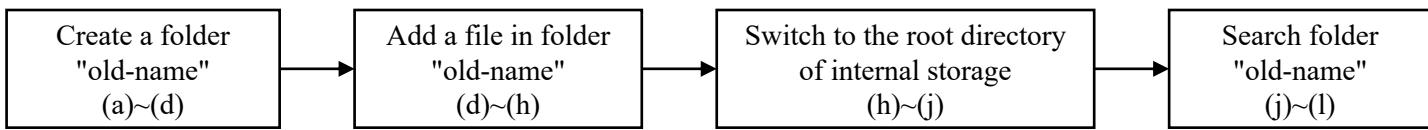
A Real Example of DME

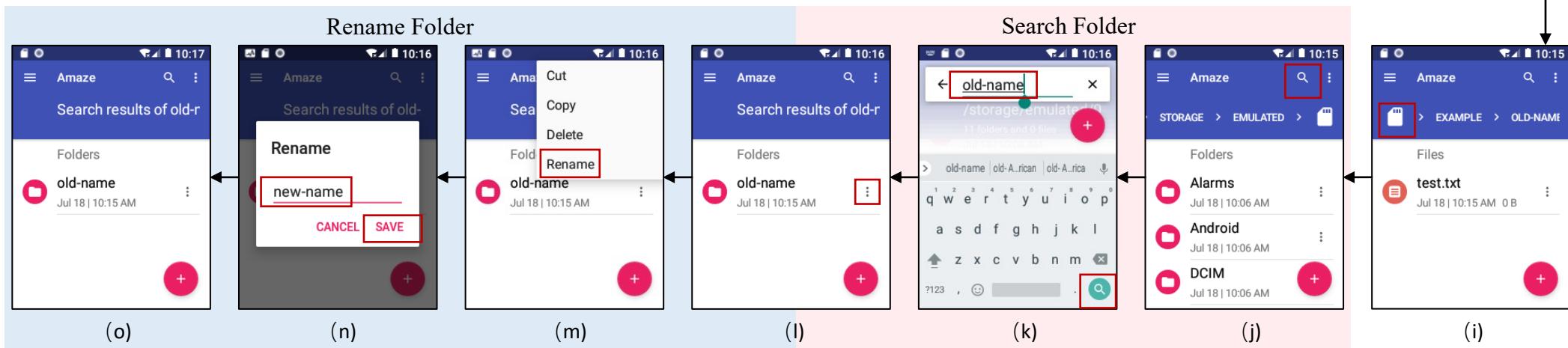
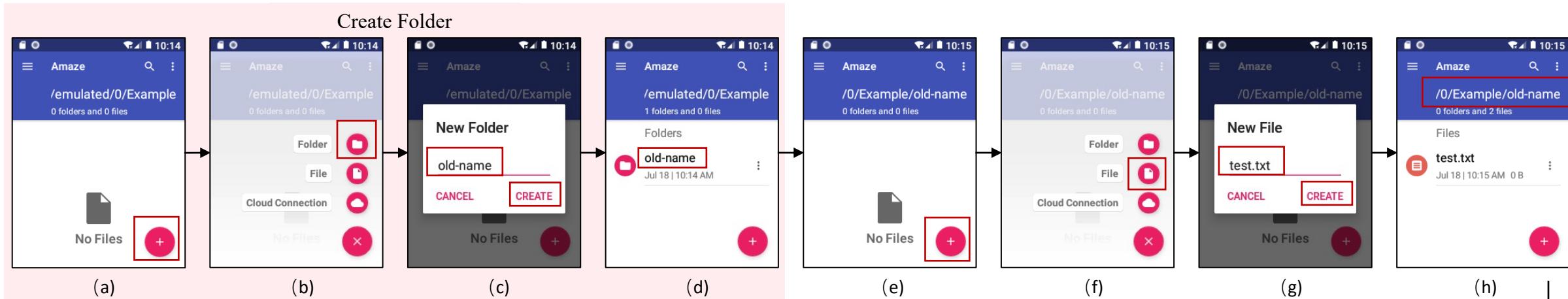
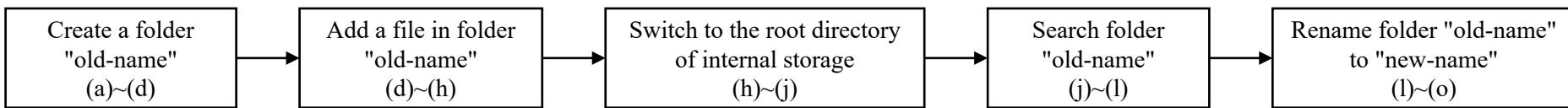
Create a folder
"old-name"
(a)~(d)

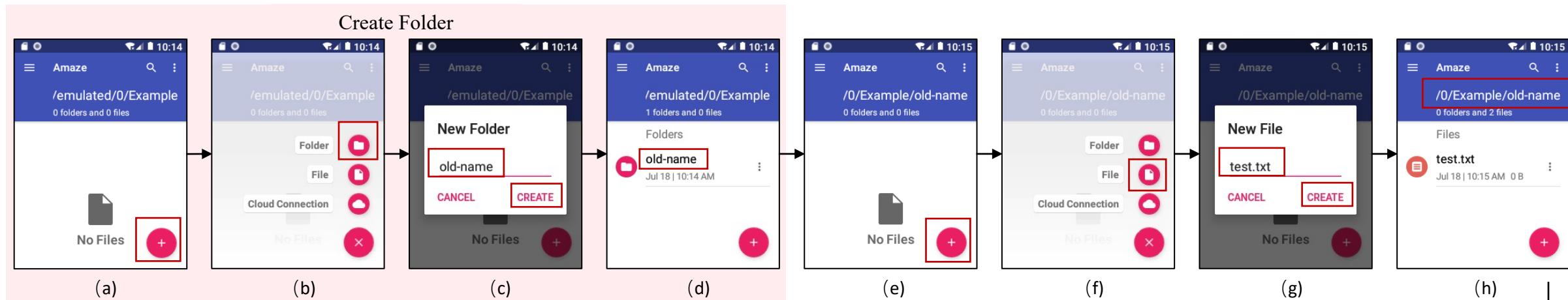
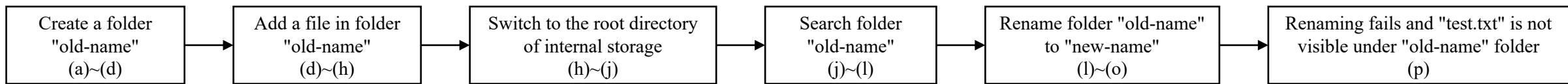




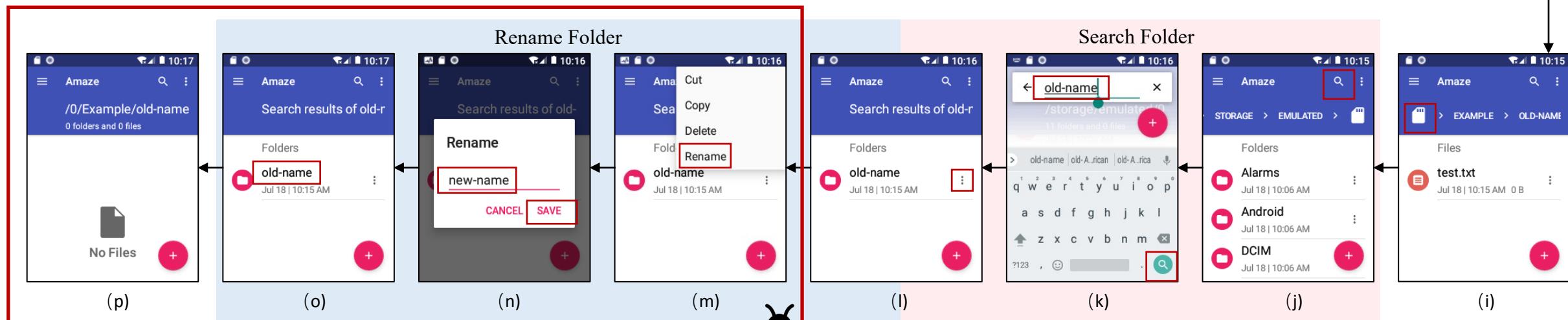








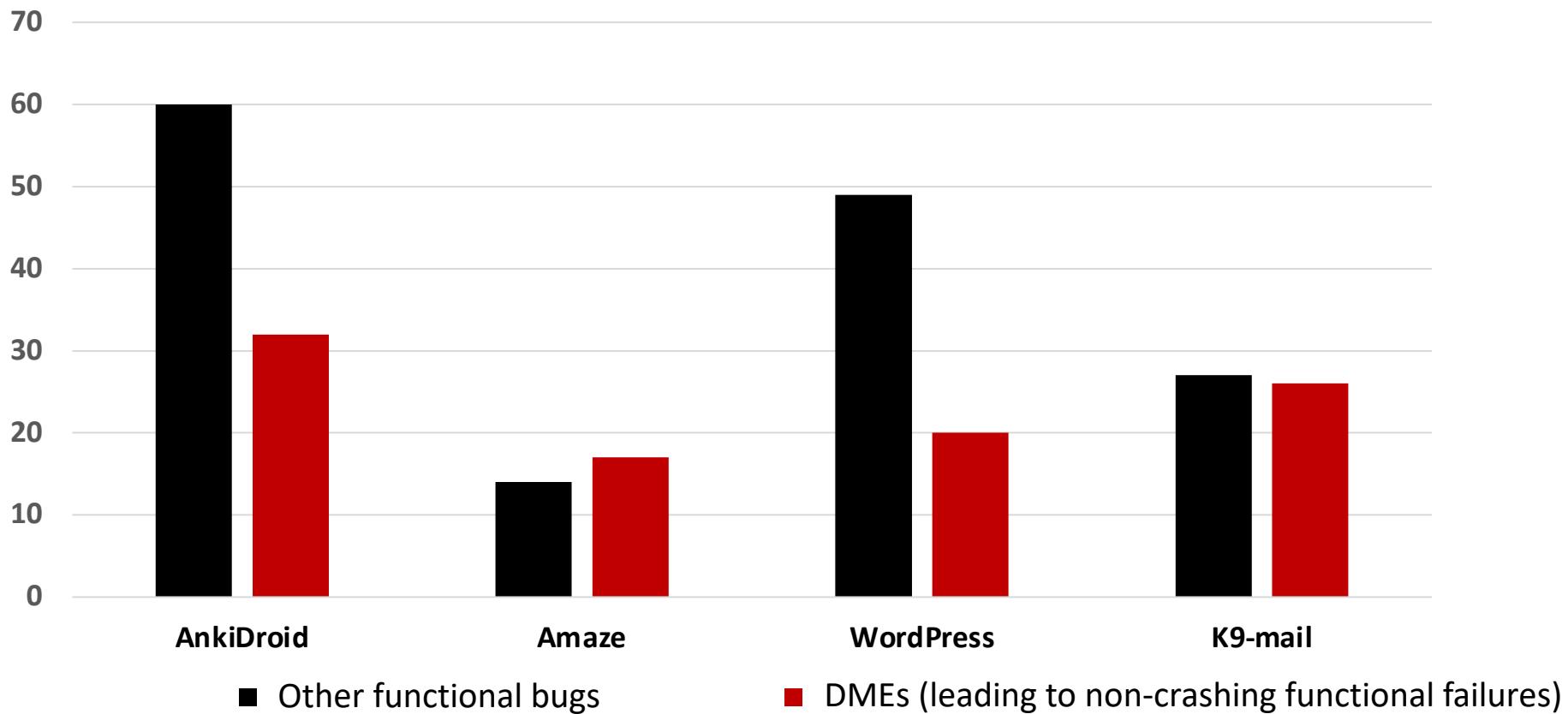
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h)



(l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (k) (j) (i)



Prevalence of DMEs



*Bugs are collected from the issue repositories of these apps on GitHub from August 2018 and July 2021.

How to use *property-based testing* to find such
data manipulation errors?



How to *Specify* the Properties of DMFs?

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An app *property* φ of some functionality F can be specified as:

$$\phi = \langle \text{Pre}, E, \text{Post} \rangle$$

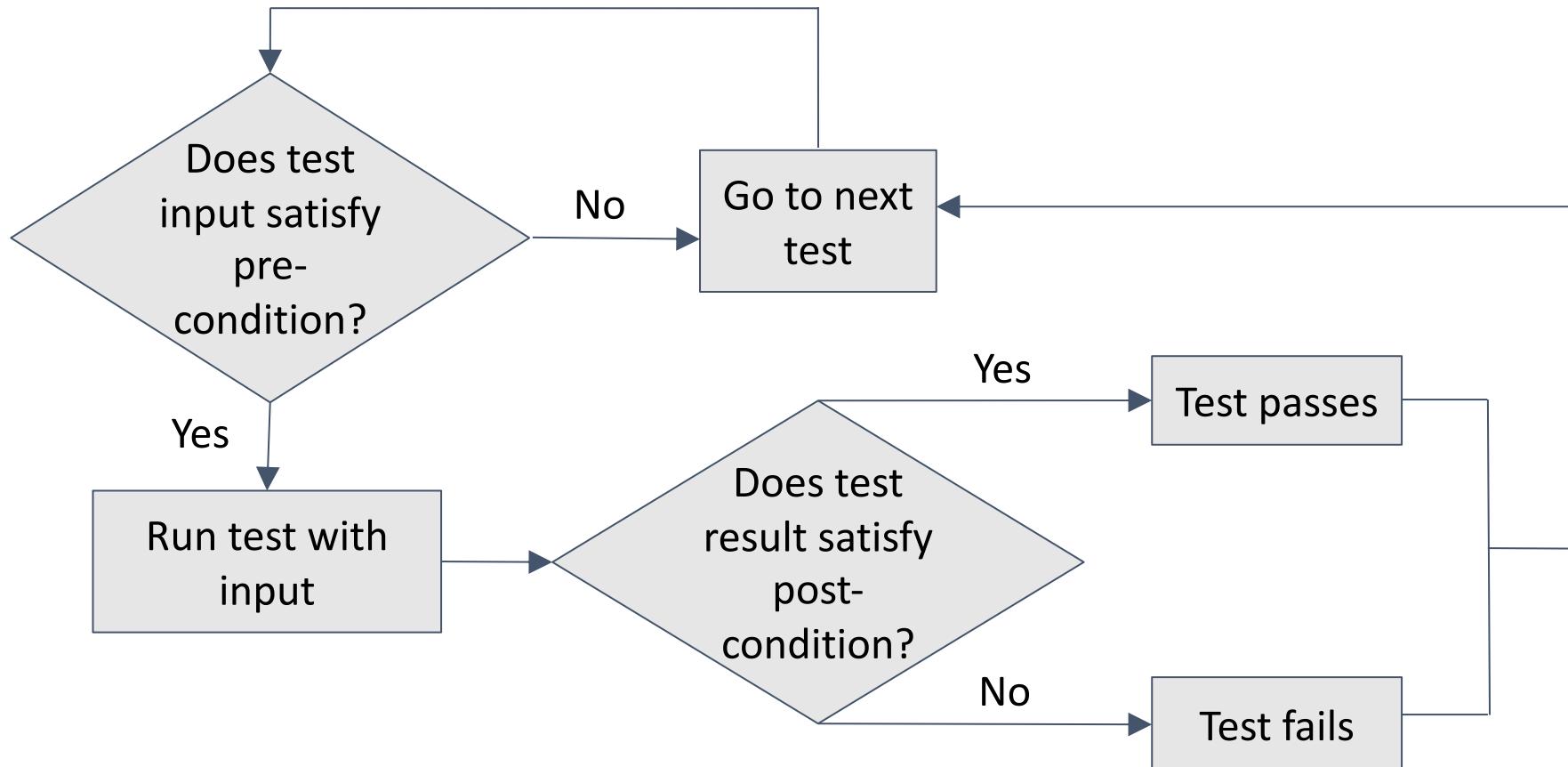
- ❖ E denotes F in the form of an event trace
- ❖ Pre is the *precondition* that must hold before execution of E
- ❖ Post is the *postcondition* defining the effect on the app state after executing E

How to *Check* the Properties of DMFs?

When an app *property* φ of some functionality F is specified as:

$$\phi = \langle \text{Pre}, E, \text{Post} \rangle$$

Using Pre- and Post-Conditions



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How to *Check* the Properties of DMFs?

When an app *property* φ of some functionality F is specified as:

$$\phi = \langle \text{Pre}, E, \text{Post} \rangle$$

- ❖ Generate many random inputs (*random UI event traces in our context*) to check ϕ .
If some input satisfying Pre but failing Post after executing E , a DME is found.

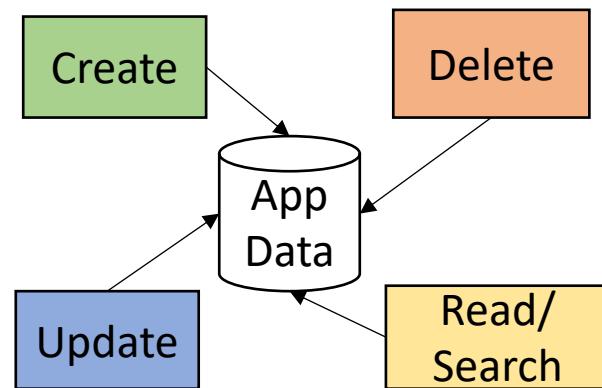
Let s be some app state, $s \models \text{Pre}$ and $s' = E(s)$, if $s' \not\models \text{Post}$, then ϕ is violated.

How to Effectively *Check* the Properties of DMFs?

- Randomly *interleave the relevant DMFs* on the shared app data (*with other possible random events*) to exhibit *diverse* app states.

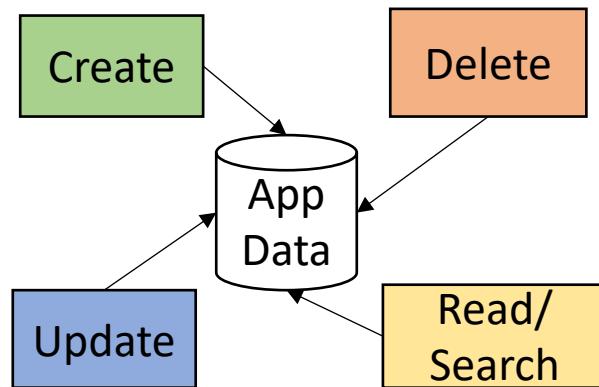
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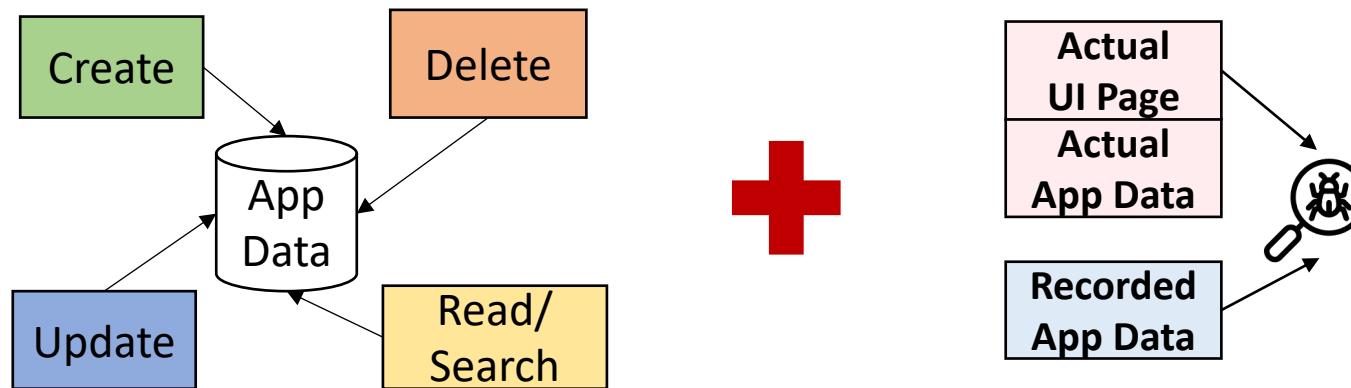
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- Use *an abstract data model* to simulate the data update effect of E , thus facilitating property checking; and use the *consistency between the app data and UI layouts* to check the property.

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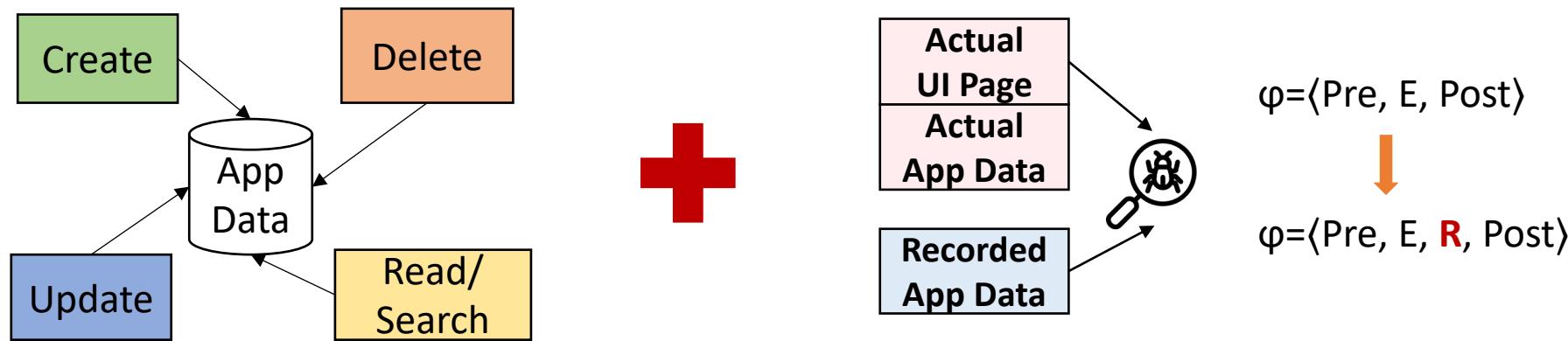
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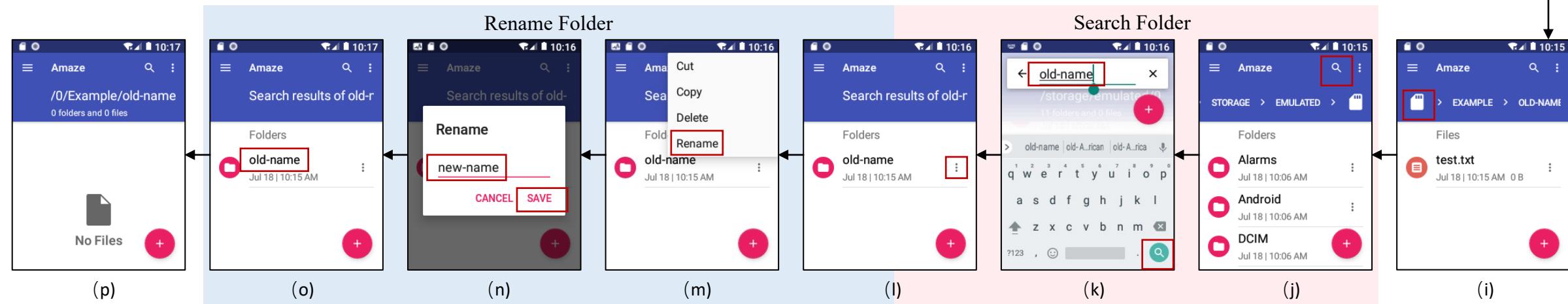
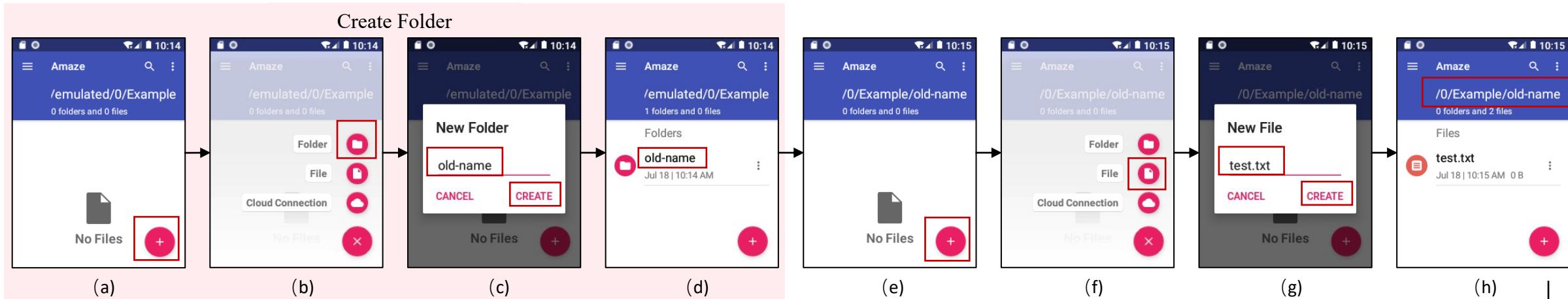
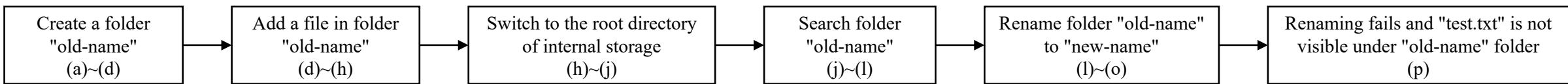
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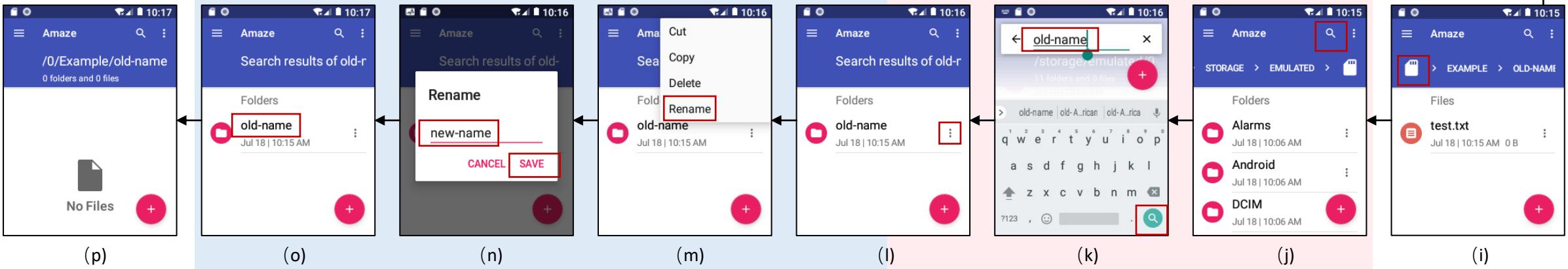
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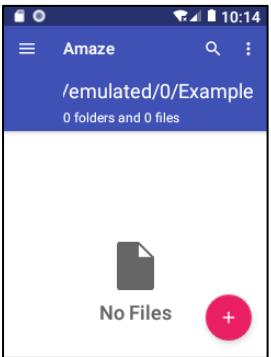


Create Folder



Rename Folder





(a)

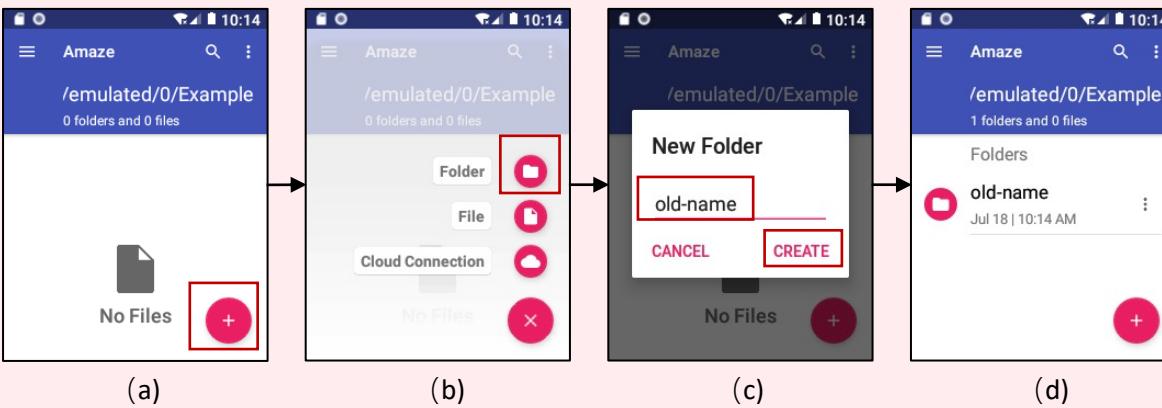
**Actual
app state:**

L_a
\mathcal{D}_a
\emptyset

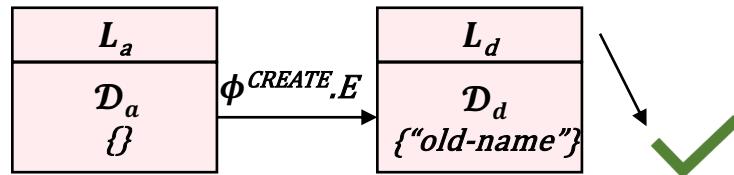
**Abstract
data model:**

D_a
\emptyset

Create Folder



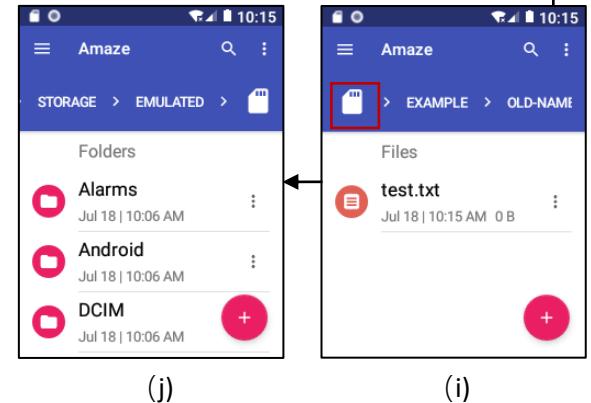
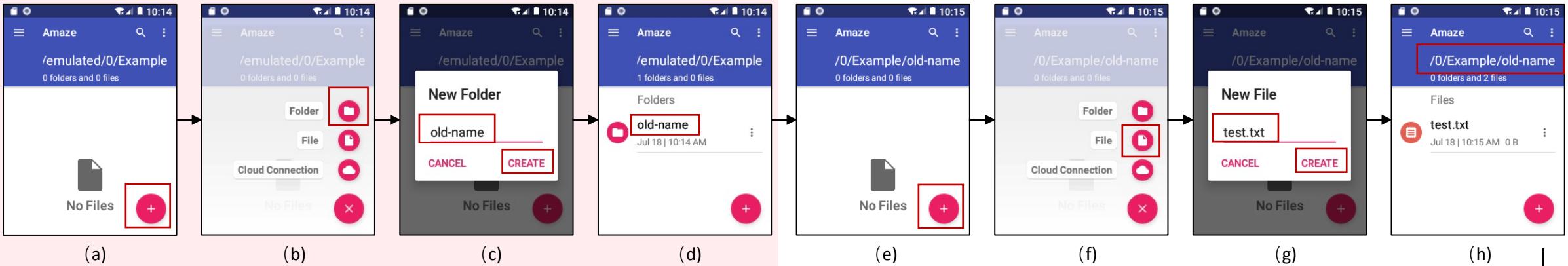
**Actual
app state:**



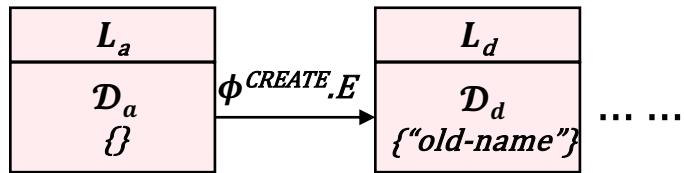
**Abstract
data model:**



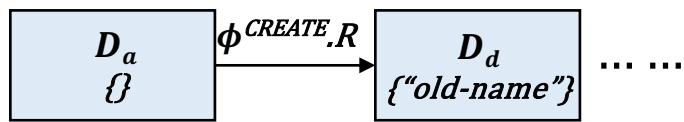
Create Folder



**Actual
app state:**



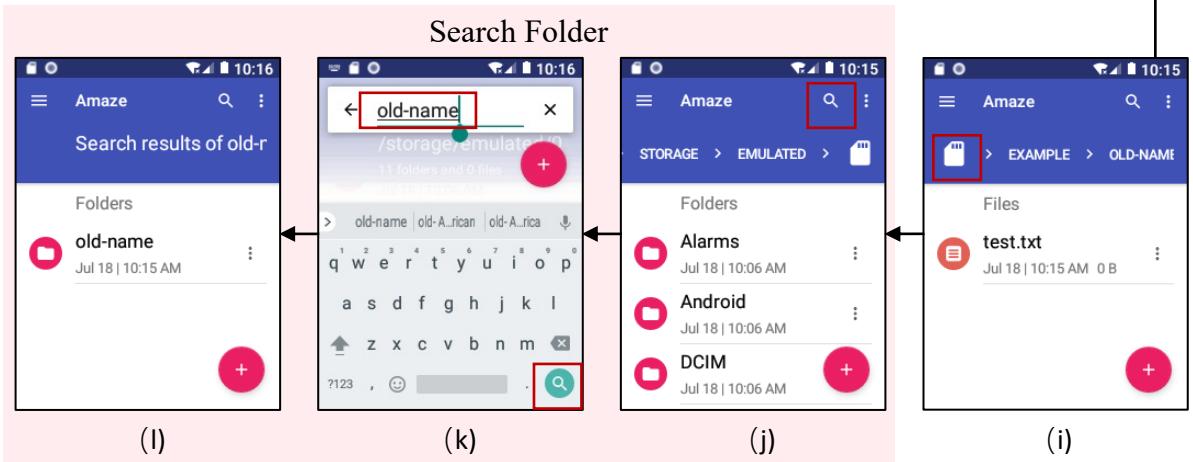
**Abstract
data model:**



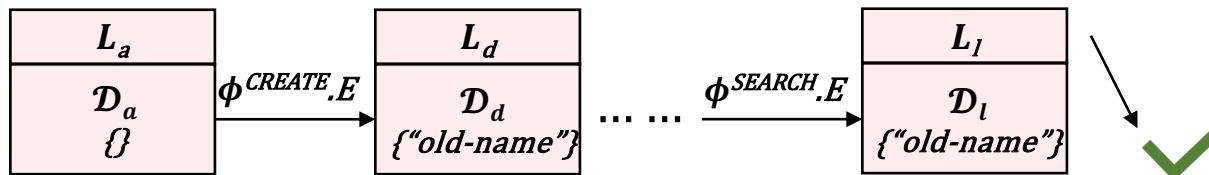
Create Folder



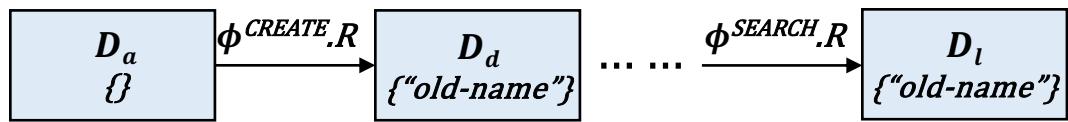
Search Folder



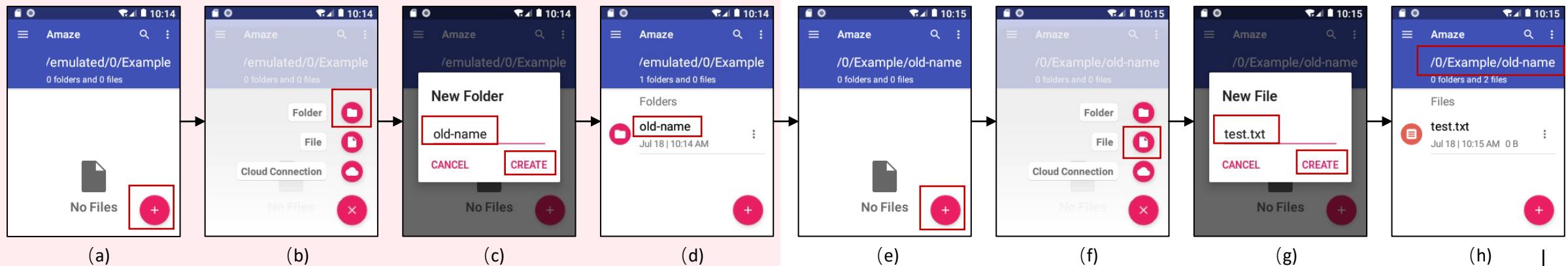
Actual app state:



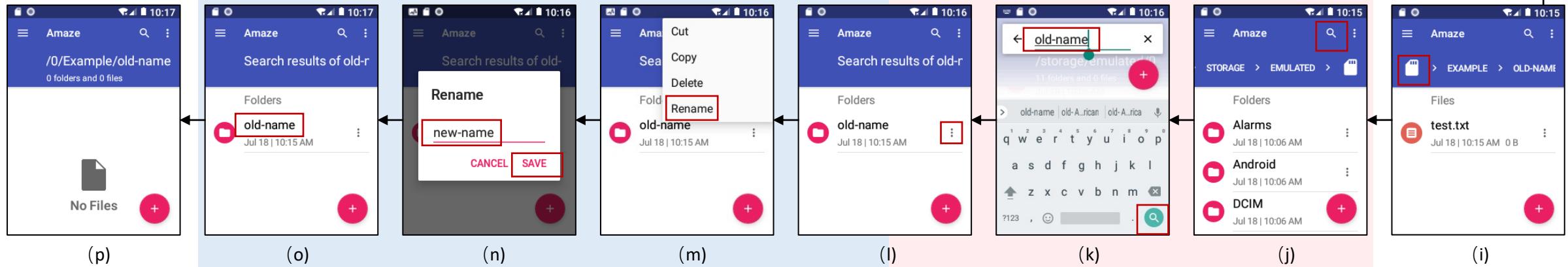
Abstract data model:



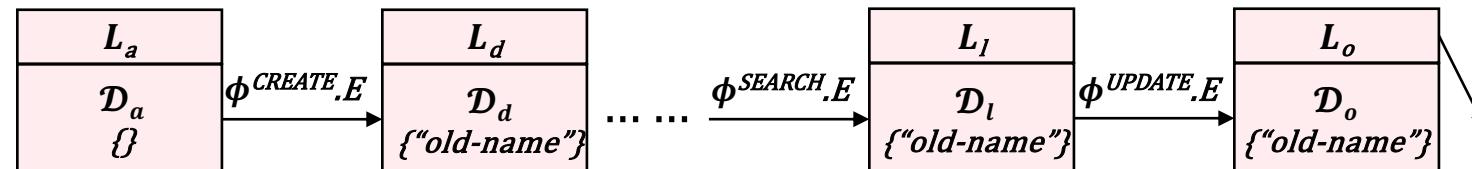
Create Folder



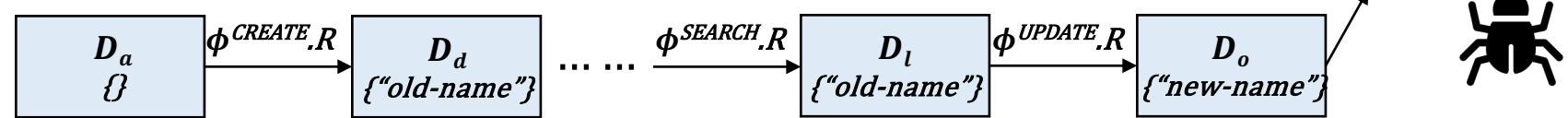
Rename Folder



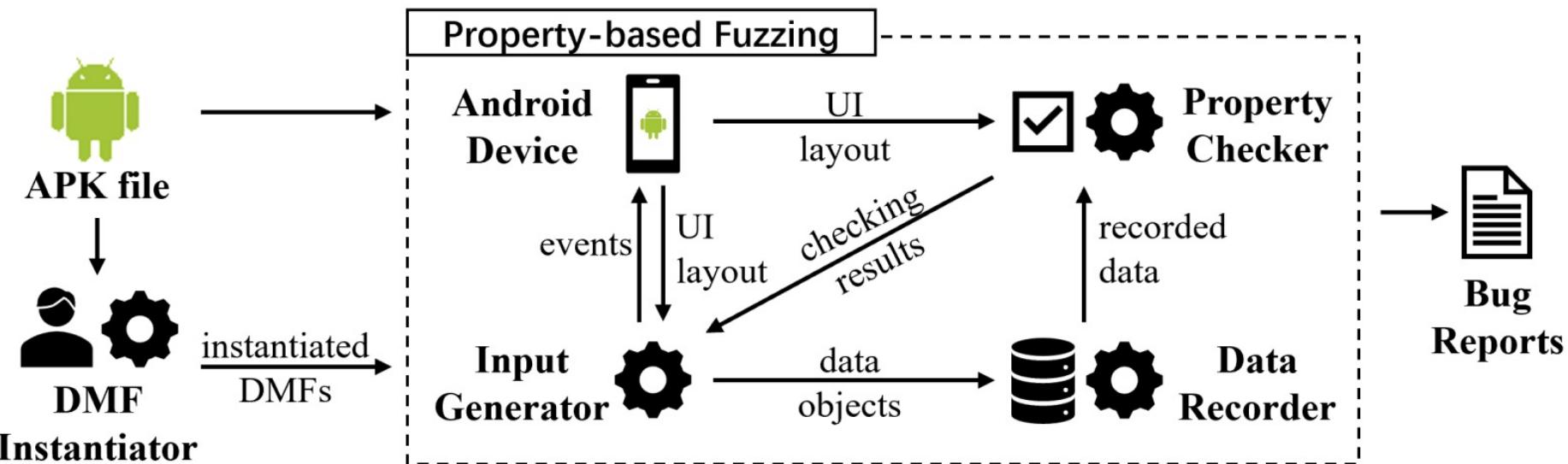
Actual app state:



Abstract data model:



Workflow of Our Approach



*abstract data model

op	Pre^{op}	Semantics of E^{op}	R^{op}	$Post^{op}$
CREATE	$e_1.w \in L_0$	Create a new data object d , $d \notin D_0$	$D_n := D_0 \cup \{d\}$	$\exists w.d \mapsto w \wedge w \in L_n$
READ	$e_1.w \in L_0$	Read the details of any data object d	-	$\exists w.d \mapsto w \wedge w \in L_n$
UPDATE	$e_1.w \in L_0$	Update any data object d to d' , $d' \notin D_0$	$D_n := D_0 \setminus \{d\} \cup \{d'\}$	$(\neg \exists w.d \mapsto w \wedge w \in L_n) \wedge (\exists w'.d' \mapsto w' \wedge w' \in L_n)$
DELETE	$e_1.w \in L_0$	Delete any data object d	$D_n := D_0 \setminus \{d\}$	$\neg \exists w.d \mapsto w \wedge w \in L_n$
SEARCH	$e_1.w \in L_0 \wedge D_0 \neq \emptyset$	Search any data object $d \in D_0$	-	$\exists w.d \mapsto w \wedge w \in L_n$

Evaluated Open-source and Industrial Apps

- ✓ Selected 20 apps
- ✓ 17 open-source apps
- ✓ 3 industrial apps

App ID	App Name	Version	#Stars	#Installations	App Feature	Target Data (#DMFs)
1	Markor	2.8.6	2.2K	100K-500K	Text Editor	File (5)
2	Aard2	0.51	314	10K-50K	Dictionary Reader	Word (4)
3	SimpleTask	10.9.3	475	10K-50K	Task Manager	Task (4)
4	SkyTube	2.980	1.6K	100K-500K	Video Player	Channel (5)
5	AnyMemo	10.11.7	140	100K-500K	Learning Software	Card (7)
6	Amaze	3.6.7	3.9K	1M-5M	File Manager	Folder (7)
7	AnkiDroid	2.16	5.3K	10M-50M	Learning Software	Card (7)
8	Wikipedia	2.7.5	1.7K	50M-100M	Wikipedia Reader	Favorite (5)
9	Tasks	12.5	2.2K	100K-500K	Task Manager	Task (5)
10	RadioDroid	0.84	485	100K-500K	Radio Manager	Radio (5)
11	ActivityDiary	1.4.2	67	1K-5K	Activity Recorder	Activity (5)
12	MyExpenses	3.3.7	442	1M-5M	Expense Tracker	Account (5)
13	Antennapod	2.7.1	4.6K	500K-1M	Podcast Manager	Podcast (5)
14	Materialistic	3.3	2.2K	100K-500K	News Browser	Story (4)
15	Notepad	3.0.3	252	500K-1M	Note Manager	Note (5)
16	Transistor	4.1.1	420	10K-50K	Station Browser	Station (4)
17	Omni Notes	6.1.0	2.5K	100K-500K	Note Manager	Note (4)
18	TikTok	20.5.0	-	1B-5B	Video Platform	User (5)
19	CapCut	7.8.0	-	100M-500M	Video Editor	User (5)
20	Feishu	5.14.6	-	10M-50M	Collaboration Platform	Folder (5)

Bug Finding Results on the Apps

App Name	Bug ID	Bug State	Related DMFs	#Steps	Consequence	Description
Markor	1	Fixed	CREATE,SEARCH	11	Wrong behavior	No files can be searched in the root directory
	2	Fixed	CREATE,UPDATE	8	Wrong behavior	Renaming will fail if new name contains "?"
	3	Fixed	CREATE,UPDATE,SEARCH	8	Data loss	Renaming will overwrite the same case sensitive name files
	4	Fixed	SEARCH	6	Crash	Rotating the screen after searching causes a crash
	5	Fixed	CREATE,UPDATE	6	Crash	Rotating the screen while editing will cause a crash
Aard2	6	Fixed	CREATE,SEARCH	7	Wrong behavior	Symbols in search text are ignored when searching
SimpleTask	7	Confirmed	CREATE,SEARCH	9	Wrong behavior	Searching again after canceling a search will not work
SkyTube	8	Pending	CREATE,DELETE,SEARCH	9	Wrong behavior	The function of clearing the blocked channel list is unstable
	9	Confirmed	CREATE,SEARCH	4	Infinite loading	Refreshing video list after blocking any channel causes infinite loading
AnyMemo	10	Pending	CREATE,UPDATE	6	Update delay	The card list is not updated in time after editing any card
	11	Pending	CREATE,SEARCH	12	Data loss	The "Reset All Preferences" option will delete the added card
Amaze	12	Fixed	CREATE,SEARCH	9	Infinite loading	Searching for hidden folders causes crashes or infinite loading
	13	Confirmed	CREATE,SEARCH,UPDATE	14	Wrong behavior	Renaming will fail on the search results page
	14	Confirmed	CREATE,SEARCH	7	Wrong behavior	Search results are not sorted by relevance
AnkiDroid	15	Fixing	CREATE,READ	14	Wrong behavior	Cards that use the wrong card template will show up empty
	16	Confirmed	CREATE,UPDATE,READ	12	Wrong behavior	Cards cannot be edited when their type is changed to cloze
	17	Fixed	CREATE	10	Crash	Saving an empty video in card causes a crash
Wikipedia	18	Fixed	CREATE,UPDATE,SEARCH	11	Update delay	Cannot search the favorites by new name after renaming the favorites
Tasks	19	Confirmed	CREATE,READ	7	Wrong behavior	Tasks can be filtered by other criteria but not by date
RadioDroid	20	Pending	-	4	Crash	Long-pressing the radio information in the history causes a crash
ActivityDiary	21	Pending	SEARCH	6	Crash	Rotating the screen after entering the invalid date in the search bar cause a crash
	22	Pending	ADD,DELETE	11	Crash	Deleted activity cannot be recovered correctly
Materialistic	23	Pending	READ	4	Crash	Rotating the screen before selecting "zoom in or zoom out" causes a crash
NotePad	24	Pending	ADD,READ	13	Wrong behavior	The layout is inconsistent using the "right to left layout" setting
Transistor	25	Pending	ADD	7	Crash	Pressing the keyboard's "next" key while editing causes a crash
Omin Notes	26	Confirmed	CREATE,DELETE,SEARCH	14	Wrong behavior	Deleted items can still be searched
TikTok	27	Confirmed	CREATE,READ	11	Wrong behavior	Videos of blocked users can still be seen in the recommendation page
	28	Pending	CREATE,READ	9	Update delay	The status is not updated in time after unblocking the user
CapCut	29	Confirmed	CREATE,READ	11	Wrong behavior	Videos of blocked users can still be seen in the recommendation page
FeiShu	30	Pending	CREATE,UPDATE,SEARCH	14	Update delay	Cannot search the folder by new name after renaming the folder

* We found 30 bugs, 29 of which are DMEs (22 are non-crashing failures, and 7 are crashing ones).

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

Property-based testing requires specifying the interested properties of the software under test for validation.



Strengths of PBT

- PBT can generate a large volume of tests with minimal human oversight and cost.
- PBT encourages us to make our assumptions explicit by defining properties.
- PBT can find things that a human tester does not think of.

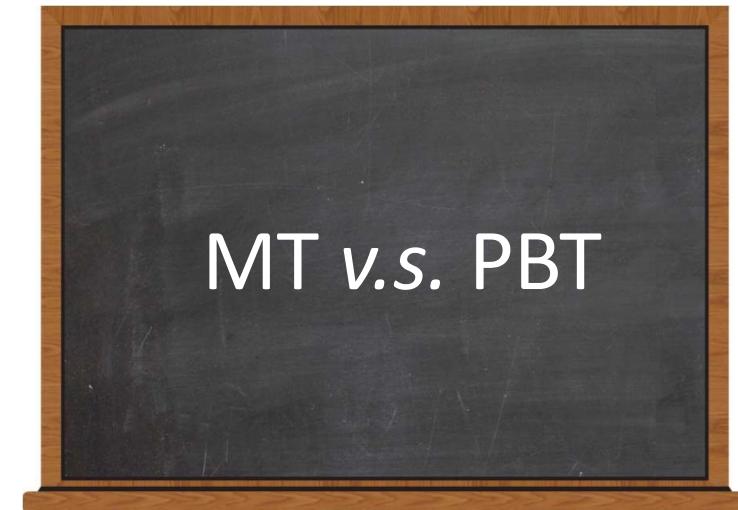
Challenges of PBT

- PBT's **input domain is not systematic**, so it is unlikely to test edges cases like boundary values unless explicitly told to, and is unlikely to achieve good coverage of the software unless specifically guided.
- PBT **only tests the properties that it is given**, which are (usually) partial properties. While specifying test oracles that are complete is possible, it is uncommon.
- Side-effects, dependencies, performance, ...

Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

Metamorphic testing (MT) is a special case of Property-based testing (PBT).



MT v.s. PBT

for all (x, y, z, \dots)

PBT such that $\text{condition}(x, y, z)$ holds

property($x, y, z, \dots, f(x, y, z, \dots)$) **is** true.

MT

Formally, metamorphic testing follows the following pattern to test a function f :

1. Given input i , generate another input j , such that property $p(i, j)$ holds between i and j .
2. Obtain outputs $o_i = f(i)$ and $o_j = f(j)$.
3. Check whether $q(o_i, o_j)$ holds between o_i and o_j , raising an error if it fails.

MT is one special form of PBT

for all (x, y, z, \dots)

PBT such that $\text{condition}(x, y, z)$ holds

property($x, y, z, \dots, f(x, y, z, \dots)$) **is** true.



Metamorphic testing is one form of property-based testing. In metamorphic testing, **condition** is the relation, $p(i, j)$, on the input, and **property** is the relation, $q(o_i, o_j)$, on the outputs.

MT

Formally, metamorphic testing follows the following pattern to test a function f :

1. Given input i , generate another input j , such that property $p(i, j)$ holds between i and j .
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Lessons Learned

Lesson learned

There are five approaches to specifying the properties for PBT, and different properties have different fault revealing abilities.



How To Specify It (Property)!

Validity Testing

“Every operation should return valid results.”

Postconditions

“Postconditions relate return values to arguments of a single call.”

Metamorphic Properties

“Related calls return related results.”

Inductive Testing

“Inductive proofs inspire inductive tests.”

Model-based Properties

“Abstract away from details to simplify properties.”

*<https://johanneslink.net/how-to-specify-it>

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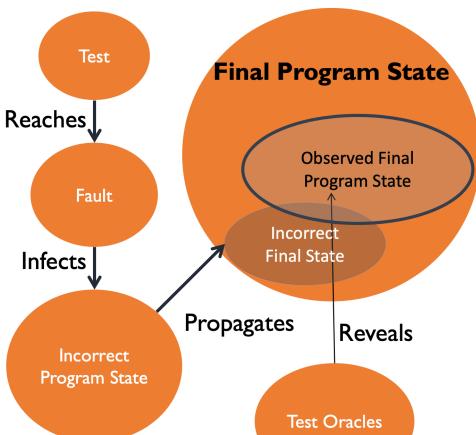
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总结和思考

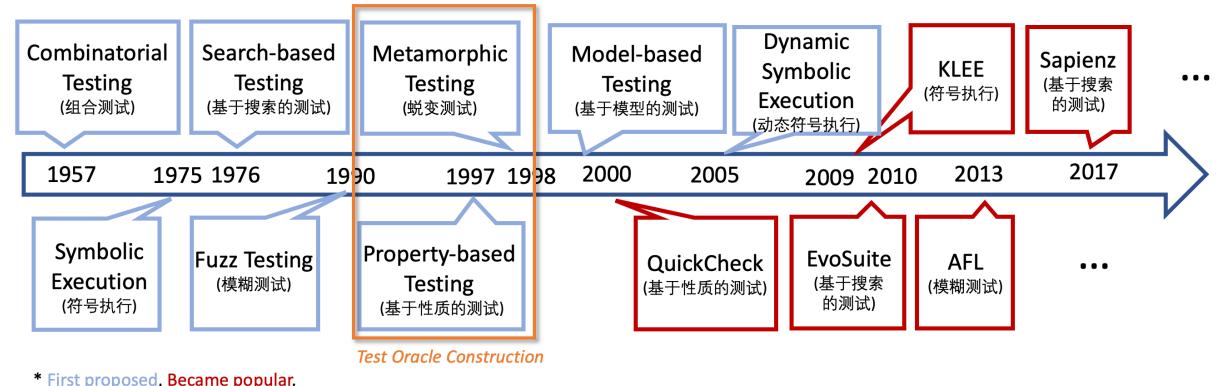
- 如何利用领域知识解决Oracle问题？
- 如何针对复杂软件和系统构造蜕变关系？如何针对复杂软件和系统构建基于属性的测试框架？
- 如何将有效的测试用例设计技术与上述Oracle技术结合？
- 如何以更好的人机交互方式解决Oracle问题？

Software Fault and Failure Model (软件错误模型)

- Reachability
- Infection
- Propagation
- Revealability



Techniques for *Oracle Construction*



Metamorphic Testing Process

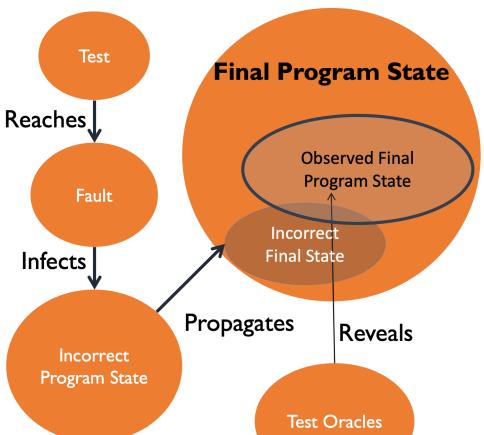
- 1 Identification of **metamorphic relations**. 根据领域知识**手工**分析识别
- 2 Generation/Selection of source test cases. **自动**随机生成/
复用现有tests
- 3 Generation of **follow-up test cases**. **自动**生成
- 4 Checking of **metamorphic relations**. **自动**验证

Property-based Testing Pattern

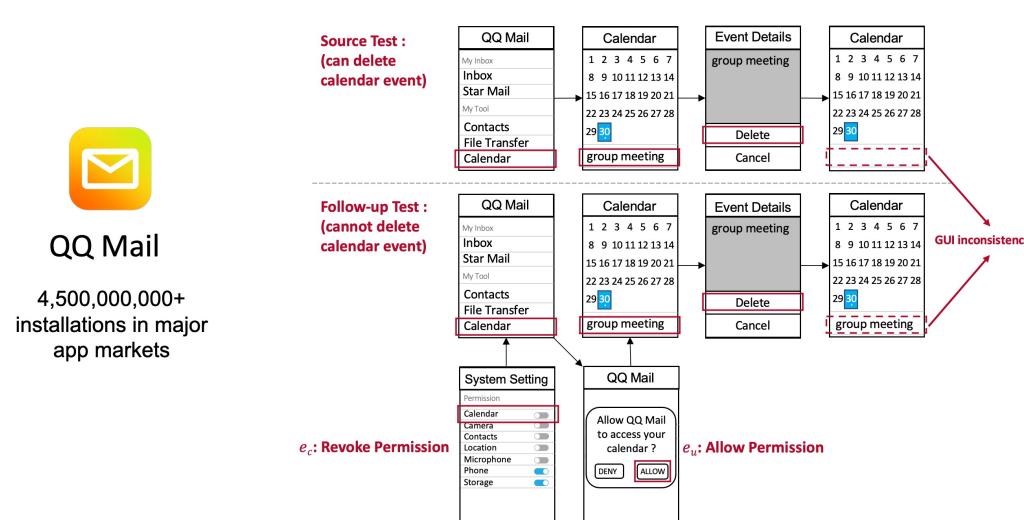
- 1 Generating **random inputs** **自动**生成随机输入
- 2 Ensuring the **condition holds** **自动**检查前置条件是否满足
- 3 Checking whether a **property holds** on **those inputs** **自动**检查性质是否成立
- 4 Shrinking the **counter-example input** to obtain the **minimal one** **自动**约减反例

Software Fault and Failure Model (软件错误模型)

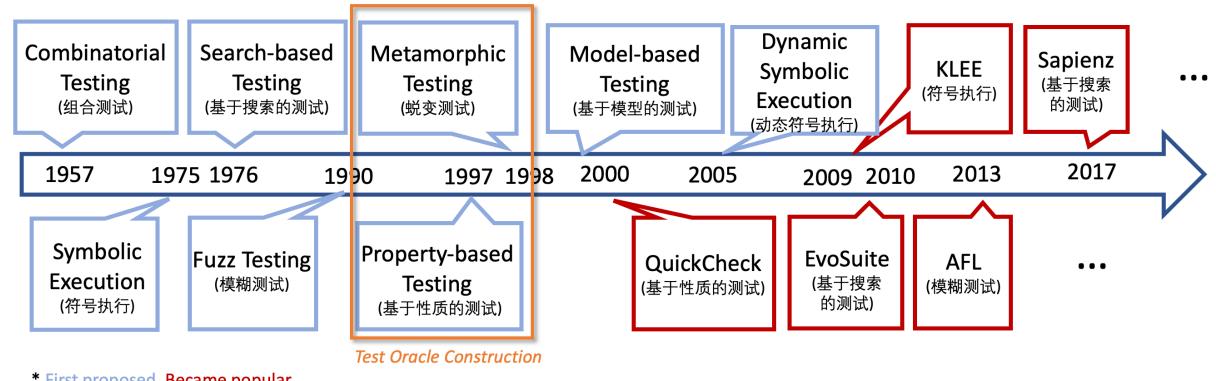
- Reachability
- Infection
- Propagation
- Revealability



System Setting-related Defects



Techniques for Oracle Construction



Data Manipulation (CRUD) Errors

