CS 5154: Software Testing

Dealing with Loops in Graph Coverage

Owolabi Legunsen
Handling Loops in Graph-Based Testing

• If a test graph contains a loop, it has an infinite number of paths

• So, Complete Path Coverage is not feasible

• There have been very many attempts to “handle” loops:
  • 1970s : Execute cycles at least once
  • 1980s : Execute each loop, exactly once
  • 1990s : Execute loops 0 times, once, more than once
  • 2000s : Prime paths (touring, sidetrips, and detours)
A Prime Path is a Simple Path

- **Simple Path**: A path from node \( n_i \) to \( n_j \) is *simple* if no node appears more than once, except possibly the first and last nodes are the same.

- A simple path has no internal loops.

- A loop is a simple path.
Prime Paths defined

**Prime Path**: A simple path that does not appear as a proper subpath of any other simple path
Example on Simple Paths and Prime Path

*Write down three simple paths and three prime paths for this graph*

**Simple Paths:**

- [1,2,4,1], [1,3,4,1], [2,4,1,2], [2,4,1,3], [3,4,1,2], [3,4,1,3], [4,1,2,4], [4,1,3,4], [1,2,4], [1,3,4], [2,4,1], [3,4,1], [4,1,2], [4,1,3], [1,2], [1,3], [2,4], [3,4], [4,1], [1], [2], [3], [4]

**Prime Paths:**

- [2,4,1,2], [2,4,1,3], [1,3,4,1], [1,2,4,1], [3,4,1,2], [4,1,3,4], [4,1,2,4], [3,4,1,3]
Prime Path Coverage (PPC)

Prime Path Coverage (PPC): TR contains each prime path in G.

• PPC requires loops to be executed as well as skipped

• Tests that satisfy PPC will tour all paths of length 0, 1, ...
  • That is, PPC subsumes node and edge coverage

• But does PPC subsume edge pair coverage?
Does PPC subsume Edge Pair Coverage?

EPC Test Requirements: 
\[ TR = \{ [1,2,3], [1,2,2], [2,2,3], [2,2,2] \} \]

PPC Test Requirements: 
\[ TR = \{ [1,2,3], [2,2] \} \]
PPC does not subsume Edge Pair Coverage

- If a node $n$ has a self-edge, EPC requires ([$m, n, n$] or [$n, n, m$]) and [$n, n, n$]

- [$n, n, m$], [$m, n, n$], and [$n, n, n$] are not simple paths (not prime)
  - Do you see why these are not simple paths?
Finding Prime Paths in a Test Graph

Prime Paths

[1, 2, 3, 4, 7]
[1, 2, 3, 5, 7]
[1, 2, 3, 5, 6]
[1, 3, 4, 7]
[1, 3, 5, 7]
[1, 3, 5, 6]
[6, 5, 7]
[6, 5, 6]
[5, 6, 5]
Illustrating an algorithm for finding Prime Paths

“!” Means “cannot be extended to a simple path”

Prime Paths?
Observations about Prime Paths

Prime Paths
- \( [1, 2, 3, 4, 7] \)
- \( [1, 2, 3, 5, 7] \)
- \( [1, 2, 3, 5, 6] \)
- \( [1, 3, 4, 7] \)
- \( [1, 3, 5, 7] \)
- \( [1, 3, 5, 6] \)
- \( [6, 5, 7] \)
- \( [6, 5, 6] \)
- \( [5, 6, 5] \)

execute loop once
execute loop 0 times
execute loop more than once
Any questions
More on prime path algorithm

• There is another example in the textbook (reading 3)

• Implementing this algorithm used to be a homework question
Tension: test paths vs prime paths

- **Tour**: A test path $p$ tours subpath $q$ if $q$ is a subpath of $p$

Does the test path $[1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 5, 6]$ tour the prime path $[1, 2, 3, 5, 6]$?

We can relax the definition of “tour” in two ways
Touring with Sidetrips

- **Tour With Sidetrips**: A test path $p$ tours subpath $q$ with sidetrips if and only if every edge in $q$ is also in $p$ in the same order.
- Tour can have a sidetrip if it comes back to the same node.
Touring with Detours

- **Tour With Detours**: A test path \( p \) tours subpath \( q \) with detours if and only if every node in \( q \) is also in \( p \) in the same order.

- Tour can have a detour from node \( n_i \), if it returns to the prime path at a successor of \( n_i \).
How to handle infeasible test requirements?

• Drop infeasible $tr$ from TR

• Replace infeasible $tr$ with less stringent TR

• Thoughts?
Are sidetrips and detours useful for testing?

• Without sidetrips, there are many more infeasible test requirements

• But allowing sidetrips “weakens” the criteria 😞

• So, what should be do?
Best Effort Touring

• First, satisfy as many test requirements as possible without sidetrips
• Then, allow sidetrips to try to satisfy remaining test requirements
• (It is not clear yet if detours help as much.)
Subsumption among Graph coverage criteria

- Node Coverage (NC)
- Edge Coverage (EC)
- Edge-Pair Coverage (EPC)
- Prime Path Coverage (PPC)
- Complete Path Coverage (CPC)
What we have seen so far

• Prime Paths as one way to deal with loops in Graph-based MDTD

• An algorithm for computing the prime paths in a graph

• Best effort touring for dealing with infeasible test requirements

• We worked entirely at the “design abstraction level”
Next

• Applying Graph-Based MDTD to source code