World Model for Testing Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Robots using Petri Nets

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Abstract: This paper describes a model-based test generation approach for testing Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) robots interacting with their environment (i.e., world). Unlike other approaches that assume a static world with attributes and values, we present and test a dynamic world. We use Petri Nets to illustrate a world model that describes behaviors of environmental entities (i.e., actors). The Abstract World Behavioral Test Cases (AWBTCs) are generated by covering the active world model using graph coverage criteria. We also select test-data by input-space partitioning to transform the generated AWBTCs into executable test cases. Reachability of the active world model and efficiency of coverage criteria are also discussed.

1 INTRODUCTION

According to (Williamson and Carnegie, 2007), Search and Rescue (SAR) refers to rescue activities in high-risk emergency situations. The 2001 World Trade Center (WTC) collapse, the 2005 Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in the United States, the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and Tsunami in Japan, are examples of emergency situations. (Murphy et al., 2008) report that over 900,000 people were reported killed by disasters from 1995 to 2004, with the total amount of disaster related damage estimated at 738 billion US dollars. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) robotics aims at minimizing human involvement in these emergency situations. In a USAR mission, the USAR robots explore unknown urban disaster scenes providing real-time video and other sensory data about the situation while searching for victims (Liu and Nejat, 2013). Urban disaster scenes are often inaccessible for rescue workers due to potential collapses, poisonous gases, hazardous materials, radiation or extreme temperatures. Testing the interactions between the USAR robots and urban disaster actors- victims, rubble, debris, bricks, mobile objects, and unknown obstacles- poses a series of challenges, due to the complexity and uncertainty of these actors. Model-based Testing (MBT) is able to leverage behavioral models, such as CEFSM (Li and Wong, 2002), Coloured Petri Nets (CPN) (Lill and Saglietti, 2012), and Labelled Transition Systems (LTS) (Tretmans, 2008), to describe the behavioral scenarios that can occur between the USAR robots and the disaster actors. This requires testing solutions that deal with the large number of possible behaviors. Current MBT approaches for testing Real-time Embedded Systems (RTES) interacting with their worlds assume a static world model (Iqbal et al., 2012) and (Hessel et al., 2008). However, for USAR robots, the world cannot be described only statically with attributes and values, the world should also be presented and tested dynamically. To address these challenges, we use a systematic MBT approach, World Model-based Test Generation (WMBTG), that identifies what, where and how to test USAR robots interacting with their surroundings. Test cases are generated by aggregating test paths in the individual models. These test paths are grouped as concurrent test paths which can be used with simulators or test-harnesses to validate the USAR robots. WMBTG has been introduced, in our previous work, and was applied to Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) domain (Andrews et al., 2015). This paper extends the applicability of WMBTG to USAR robots. We also evaluate the efficiency of test path coverage criteria used to generate Abstract World Behavioral Test Cases (AWBTs). We evaluate input-space partitioning coverage criteria (Ammann and Offutt, 2008) used to generate test-data. We use UML class diagrams to construct the structural model of disaster actors and their relationships. We also use Petri Nets (PNs) (Murata, 1989) to represent the behaviors of urban disaster actors that are involved in the disaster scenes (snippets). These snippets are used to...
link the behavioral models of disaster actors. This paper explores the applicability of the MBT technique for testing USAR robot behaviors in dynamic worlds alongside behavioral testing that is systematic, scalable, and shows that this technique is extendable to other domains of autonomous systems.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the state of research related to MBT, testing USAR robots, and World Model-based Testing. Section 3 describes a case study. Section 4 presents our approach and applies it to the case study. We analyze and discuss reachability and efficiency issues in section 5. Section 6 draws conclusions and future work.

2 STATE OF RESEARCH

2.1 Model-based Testing (MBT)

According to (Dias-Neto et al., 2007), MBT uses various models to automatically generate tests. MBT includes three key elements: models that describe software behavior, criteria that guide the test-generation algorithms, and tools that generate supporting infrastructure for the tests. (Zander et al., 2012) define MBT as an algorithm that generates test cases automatically from models instead of creating them manually. (Utting et al., 2012) define six dimensions of MBT approaches (a taxonomy): model scope, characteristics, paradigm, test selection criteria, test generation technology and test execution. (Shirole and Kumar, 2013) also present a survey on model-based test generation. They define the process of test case generation from graphs as follows: build a graph model, identify test requirements, select test paths to cover those requirements, and derive test data. (Lill and Saglietti, 2012) use Coloured Petri Nets (CPNs) for testing a factory robot that carries a load from one place to another. The authors define coverage criteria for CPNs, such as color-based and event-based coverage criteria. This work does not provide validation, nor does it address dynamic worlds.

2.2 World Model-based Testing

Most approaches in the literature for modeling the world of autonomous systems aim at improve the understandability of the decision-making module to the surroundings, but not for testing. (Furda and Vlacic, 2010) present an object-oriented world model approach for the road traffic environment of autonomous vehicles. The approach uses UML class diagrams to represent the structure of the world actors. The authors conducted a field trial using two autonomous vehicles. The experiment illustrates that the world model strongly supports the decision-making module for making appropriate driving decisions in real-time. This work neither intends to be a testing technique for autonomous systems nor does it handle the dynamic aspect of world actors. A closely related approach for world model-based testing is presented in (Iqbal et al., 2010). The approach generates black-box test cases automatically based on a static world model for real-time embedded systems. The main characteristics of the approach are: 1) An extension of UML (MARTE) is used for modeling the structural and behavioral world properties, especially real-time properties. 2) Test oracles are then generated automatically from these models. 3) To identify feasible test cases and maximize possibilities of fault detection, heuristic algorithms are used as test generation strategies. An empirical study shows that Adaptive Random Testing (ART) is more satisfactory than the others. This approach limits the world model to a static world, therefore it is not applicable for autonomous systems because their worlds are dynamic.

2.3 Testing USAR Robots

The literature of testing USAR robots shows that the techniques for testing USAR robots are mostly computer-based simulation and test fields/arenas. (Jaccott et al., 2003), by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), introduce a standard for designing and evaluating test arenas (Reference Test Arena for Autonomous Mobile Robots). The test arenas consist of collapsed structures that are designed from buildings in various stages of the collapse. The authors classify the test arenas into three categories, each labelled by a specific color (Yellow, Orange, and Red). The Yellow arena consists of a planar maze with isolated test sensors in the form of obstacles, simulated victims, doors that can be closed, blinds that can be raised or lowered, and simple collapses that can block passages. The Orange arena provides more difficult challenges by adding an elevated floor, holes, ramps, and stairs. The Red arena is composed of unstable floors, harsh rubble, and piled debris. Thirty simulated victims can be placed over these test arenas. Each victim displays up to five signs of life (form, motion, body heat, sound, and/or CO2 emission). (Chiou and Wynn, 2009) also provide a small test arena that is portable and can be placed in a laboratory. Although test fields/arenas provide physical fidelity, they do not fully represent the physical conditions of actual disasters (Murphy et al., 2008).
(Pepper et al., 2007) illustrate a computer-based simulation technique for evaluating USAR robots using USARSim, a robot simulation tool. (Ferworn et al., 2013) also provide virtual urban disaster models for simulating USAR robots. These models are extracted from actual urban disaster scenes. The computer-based simulation is flexible, repeatable, and accurate compared with physical test fields/arenas; however, it lacks physical fidelity. Both techniques, test fields/arenas and computer-based simulation, also limit possible behavioral scenarios that may occur in urban disasters.

3 CASE STUDY DESCRIPTION

For modeling an urban disaster world, we use the Reference Test Arena for Autonomous Mobile Robots (Jacoff et al., 2003) because it provides a clear description for urban disaster actors. The urban disaster actors include victims, constructions, rubble, debris, and hazards. The victims include humans and animals. They can be survivors or non-survivors. These victims can be visual, not visual, accessible, inaccessible, trapped, and entombed. Only the survivors show signs of life (motion, body heat, sound, CO₂ emission). The survivors have different conditions, aware, semi-conscious, and unconscious. The non-survivors do not stimulate any signs but can be recognized visually. The constructions are infrastructural objects including posts, stairs, elevators, walls, doors, windows, and ramps. These constructions may be inaccessible. They also have changeable states such as unsteady posts, loose walls, sloppy stairs, unsafe elevators. The posts can be placed as flat, hill, and diagonal. The ramps can also be pitch and roll. The rubble consist of rocks, bricks, and concretes. The debris are furniture, woods, ropes, wires, pipes, papers, glasses, and plastics. These debris are usually piled together. The rubble and debris block passages and increase orientation complexity. These rubble and debris also have changeable states as well. For example, a brick tumbles over a collapse then stops. An urban disaster scene may include all of these urban disaster actors as showing in Figure 1. The hazards also can occur when a collapse happens. Examples of the hazards are high temperature, electricity, and explosion. Regarding to the hazard severity, these hazards may not be manipulatable. The hazard severity has five levels (minimal, slight, moderate, serious, and severe).

4 APPROACH

Our objective is to apply a systematic model-based test generation approach (Andrews et al., 2015) to generate test cases from an active world model that represents urban disaster actors of USAR robots. We build the active world model in two steps. First, we construct a structural model of disaster actors to represent their attributes, functions and relations. Second, we construct the behavioral model to describe the disaster actors’ possible states and transitions and their interactions. Each disaster actor is presented by one behavioral model showing its behaviors. The interactions between these disaster actors represent the active world model. Since the disaster actors are interacting simultaneously, the active world model should cover not only the internal transitions of these disaster actors, but also the interactions between them. The active world model can then be leveraged to generate world behavioral test cases. Once we build the active world model, any member of the graph-based testing criteria from (Ammann and Offutt, 2008) and (Lill and Saglietti, 2012) can be used to generate abstract behavioral test paths, which are AWBTCs. Finally, we generate test-data by input-space partitioning to transform the generated AWBTCs into executable test cases. The test generation process is illustrated in Figure 2.
Figure 2. The World Model-based Test Generation process follows three phases:

- Model the active world by constructing structural and then behavioral models.
- Select proper graph-based coverage criteria for test-path generation and proper input-space partitioning coverage criteria for test-data.
- Generate AWTCs which are concurrent test paths and then generate test-data to transform these concurrent test paths into executable test cases.

4.1 Phase 1: World Models

4.1.1 Structural Model

The structural model is constructed using a UML class diagram, where classes represent the urban disaster actors including their important characteristics, behavioral messages, and relationships. An urban disaster scene can be represented by a single snippet "Urban Disaster Scene". The urban disaster actors are of six types: survivors, non-survivors, constructions, rubble, debris, and hazards. The UML class diagram that represents the urban disaster scene is shown in Figure 3. The urban disaster actors are aggregated into a Urban Disaster Scene snippet. Similar actors are generalized to a single class. For instance, Survivors and Non-survivors are generalized into Victim class. The number of involved disaster actors in the Urban Disaster Scene is determined by their multiplicity relationship. Instances of the urban disaster actors and examples of their behavioral messages are illustrated in Table 1. We assume that only the USAR robots perform in a snippet; these robots are not considered world actors as they are the SUT.

4.1.2 Behavioral Model

Although a wide range of behavioral models exists, we illustrate the behavioral model using Petri Nets (PNs). The strength of PNs is that they can model the functional behaviors of systems that are characterized as being concurrent, asynchronous, distributed, parallel, nondeterministic, and/or stochastic (Murata, 1989) and (David and Alla, 1994). Formally, a Petri Net is a 5-tuple, $PN = (P, T, F, W, M_0)$ where $P = \{p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_m\}$ is a finite set of places, $T = \{t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_n\}$ is a finite set of transitions, $F \subseteq (P \times T) \cup (T \times P)$ is a set of arcs (flow relation), $W : F \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \ldots\}$ is a weight function, $M_0 : P \subseteq \{0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots\}$ is the initial marking (the initial system state), $P \cap T = \emptyset$ and $P \cup T \neq \emptyset$. A Petri Net structure $N = (P, T, F, W)$ without any specific initial

Figure 3: Structural Model for Urban Disaster Scenes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Instances of Urban Disaster Actors.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-survivor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debris</td>
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<td>Hazard</td>
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marking is denoted by \( N \). A Petri Net with the given initial marking is denoted by \((N, M_0)\). Modeling behavioral models follows two steps. First, each urban disaster actor is modeled individually. Figure 4 shows a set of PNs that represent a group of urban disaster actors, so-called actors processes. It is clear that these actors processes act independently and concurrently. As shown in Figure 4, in the top model, the survivor process stimulates signs of life, or visuality. The non-survivor, it can only be affected by others.

Figure 4: Behavioral Models for Urban Disaster Actors.

The survivor process stimulates only visuality. The construction process displays its state. The construction state changes unpredictably. It is similar to other actors’ processes. The key difference is that the behavioral messages of these processes are dissimilar. All actor processes also report either the actors are accessible or inaccessible. The hazard process reports the hazard severity. The hazard also is considered as manipulatable or not manipulatable. Secondly, these behavioral models that represent the disaster actors are linked together into a higher level behavioral model which describes the interactions among these actors. Figure 5 illustrates the high level behavioral model. All disaster actors can interact with each other except the non-survivor, it can only be affected by others.

4.2 Phase 2: Coverage Criteria

An active world behavioral model is defined as a collection of concurrent processes \( AWM = \{PN_1, PN_2, \ldots, PN_i\} \) where \( i \) is the number of actors that share a snippet. Model-flow coverage criteria such as node coverage and edge coverage (Ammann and Offutt, 2008) and (Lill and Saglietti, 2012), can be applied. Using any of a number of test path generation techniques, test paths that fulfill these coverage criteria can be generated. Let \( TP_i = (t_{p1}, t_{p2}, \ldots, t_{pk}) \) be a set of such internal test paths that cover a process, \( PN_i \), and \( k \) is the number of these paths. These internal paths describe the internal execution of the processes. We use transition-based coverage (Lill and Saglietti, 2012) to generate internal paths that cover the processes of disaster actors. The internal test paths that cover the disaster actors processes are illustrated in Table 2. Transition-based Coverage Criterion (TBCC) is defined as that given a set of input-places \( P_{in} \) and output-places \( P_{out} \) for \( TBCC \), a test set \( TP \) satisfies TBCC on a process \( PN_i \) if and only if every \( p_{in} \in P_{in} \) and \( p_{out} \in P_{out} \), there is at least one internal test path \( t_{pi} \in TP \) such that \( t_{pi} \) enables a sequence of transitions involved in the execution of process \( PN_i \) to be fired. The internal test path sets \( (TP_1, TP_2, TP_3, TP_4, TP_5, TP_6) \) interact concurrently with each other via the exchange of behavioral messages (i.e., interaction messages). These interaction messages represent the high level of execution behavior of the active world model, as shown in behavioral model (High-Level), in Figure 5. The interaction among the processes can be covered by interaction test paths which represent the possibilities of execution behavior of these processes. To avoid cyclic paths, simple-path coverage criterion (Ammann and Offutt, 2008), is used to generate the interaction test paths that cover the high level of the behavioral model. The high level of the active world model of the disaster actors is covered by 12 interaction test paths \((ITP_1, ITP_2, \ldots, ITP_{12})\). Each interaction test path combines the internal test paths of the processes that are involved in the interaction scenario. For instance, the interaction test path \( ITP_1 = (Construction : TP_1) \rightarrow (Hazard : TP_6) \rightarrow \)}
Table 2: Internal Test Path Sets.

1. survivor process, \( TP_1 = \{t_{p11}, t_{p12}\} \)
   \( t_{p11} \): unrealized
   \( t_{p12} \): unrealized

2. non-survivor process, \( TP_5 = \{t_{p51}\} \)
   \( t_{p51} \): unobserved
   \( t_{p51} \): observed

3. construction process, \( TP_3 = \{t_{p31}\} \)
   \( t_{p31} \): unspecified
   \( t_{p31} \): specified

4. rubble process, \( TP_2 = \{t_{p21}\} \)
   \( t_{p21} \): unstated
   \( t_{p21} \): stated

5. debris process, \( TP_5 = \{t_{p51}\} \)
   \( t_{p51} \): unobserved
   \( t_{p51} \): observed

6. hazard process, \( TP_6 = \{t_{p61}\} \)
   \( t_{p61} \): unidentified
   \( t_{p61} \): hazard

\((\text{Survivor}: TP_1)\) covers the interaction between the construction process, the hazard process, and the survivor process. Thus, the internal paths of this interaction are \((t_{p31} \rightarrow t_{p61} \rightarrow t_{p11})\) and \((t_{p31} \rightarrow t_{p61} \rightarrow t_{p12})\). The interaction test paths are considered concurrent paths. Therefore, the concurrent interaction between internal test paths that represent multiple processes produces an arbitrary combination of internal paths. In order to cover all possible combinations of internal paths, path combination coverage criteria should be determined. Let \( \{TP_1, TP_2, \ldots, TP_n\} \) be sets of internal test paths (nodes in \( ITP_i \)) where \( TP_1 = \{t_{p11}, t_{p12}, \ldots, t_{p1n}\} \), \( TP_2 = \{t_{p21}, t_{p22}, \ldots, t_{p2n}\} \), \ldots, and \( TP_i = \{t_{pi1}, t_{pi2}, \ldots, t_{pin}\} \). Then, the selection of \( t_{p1j} \) from \( TP_1 \) and \( t_{p2j} \) from \( TP_2 \) is called a path combination. Let \( |p| \) be the number of nodes in \( TP \), the length of \( TP \).

The set combination for interaction test path \( ITP_i \), \( Comb_{ITP_i} = \{(t_{pjk}, \ldots, t_{pkm})|p_{mn} \in TP_m, m = \text{len}(ITP_i), n = |TP_n|, 1 \leq j \leq m, 1 \leq k \leq n\} \). The number of all path combinations of \( ITP_i \) will be the product of the number of internal paths of each \( TP_i \). Each combination introduces a set of concurrent test paths. The path combination sets do not show how these paths interact concurrently. Therefore, we use the Rendezvous coverage criterion (RCC), as in (Yang and Chung, 1990). The test requirements contain a set of all paths that have rendezvous nodes. The possible number of rendezvous-paths of the interaction test path \( ITP_i \) is \( \prod_{i=1}^{n} (TP_i + 1) - 1 \). However, the generated concurrent test paths are still abstract. To transform these concurrent test paths into executable test cases, test-data coverage criteria, i.e., input-space partitioning (Ammann and Offutt, 2008), are required. We divide a collection of values (input-domain) into test-data blocks that make the concurrent test paths executable. The input-domain is the possible values that input parameters (tokens in Petri Nets) can have. The urban disaster snippet has ten input-domains: survivor stimuli, survivor conditions, construction types, construction states, rubble types, rubble states, debris types, debris states, hazard types, and hazard severity. The survivor stimulus block includes \{motion, body heat, sound, and CO\(_2\) emission\}. The survivor conditions block consists of \{aware, semi-conscious, and unconscious\}. The construction types block consists of \{posts, stairs, elevators, walls, doors, windows, and ramps\} while the rubble types block consists of \{rocks, bricks, and concretes\}. The debris types block includes \{furniture, woods, ropes, wires, pipes, papers, glasses, and plastics\}. The construction states block consists of \{flat, hill, diagonal, pitch, roll, steady, unsteady, loose, sloppy, safe, and unsafe\}. In addition to the construction states block values, the rubble and debris blocks contain \{piled, scattered, tumbled\}. The hazards block includes \{exothermic-fire, high-temperature, high-voltage, and gas explosion\}. The hazard severity block consists of \{minimal, slight, moderate, serious, and sever\}. We use All Combinations Coverage (ACoC) which exercises all possible combinations of test-data. The number of the test-data sets that satisfy ACoC is \( \prod_{i=1}^{n} (B_i) \), where \( B_i \) is a block of values for a parameter and \( Q \) is the number of parameters. To compare with ACoC, we also use Each Choice Coverage (ECC) that selects one value only from each block of values. The number of the test-data sets that satisfy ECC is \( MAX_{i=1}^{n} (B_i) \) (Ammann and Offutt, 2008).

4.3 Phase 3: Test Generation

The path combinations are represented as an ordered references of internal test paths of the processes involved in the execution. These combinations may result in a huge number of concurrent test paths, AWBTCs, although not all of these concurrent test paths are feasible. We used the serialization algorithm in (Yang and Chung, 1990) to generate these concurrent test paths. The concurrent test paths are serialized nodes of the internal paths. We ex-
pressed the concurrency of test paths using double-bar \[||\] as used in LOTOS for defining concurrent function (Sighireanu et al., 2000). For instance, $ITP_2 = (\text{Construction} : T_5) \rightarrow (\text{Hazard} : T_6) \rightarrow (\text{Survivor} : T_7)$ generates two AWBTCs. When we impose the RCC on these AWBTCs, it produces 11 rendezvous-path. We apply ACoC and ECC coverage criteria to select test-data that fulfill these AWBTCs. For each interaction test path $ITP_i$, a set of test-data is selected from blocks that are only related to the actor processes involved in this $ITP_i$. For instance, for $ITP_1$, six blocks (construction types, construction states, hazard types, hazard severity, survivor stimuli, and survivor conditions) are used to select test-data. The ACoC results 18480 test-data set while the ECC produces 11 test-data set. When this 18480 test-data set is fulfilled in the 11 rendezvous-paths, this transformation results 203280 executable test cases. Nevertheless, the number of executable test cases generated by ECC with RCC is 121 test cases.

5 REACHABILITY & CRITERIA EFFICIENCY

To perform reachability analysis on the behavioral models, we use Platform-Independent Petri Net Editor (PIPE) (Dingle et al., 2009). For reachability analysis, the reachability graph module that PIPE provides is used to generate all possible states that a system can reach. For six disaster actor processes, the generated reachability graph consists of 216 states intensively interconnected by 1161 arcs. However, the number of reachable states grows exponentially as the number and the size of processes increase. For instance, when these six processes are replicated to 12 processes, the number of reachable states expended to 13824 states with 161280 arcs which displaying them in PIPE may not be feasible. However, CADP (Construction and Analysis of Distributed Processes) toolbox (Garavel et al., 2013) is more practicable due to its scalability. CADP is scalable up to $10^{13}$ node. Instead of investigating reachability, one can also use Markov chain techniques for probabilistic. For coverage criteria efficiency, we exercise all interaction test paths, $(ITP_1, ITP_2, \ldots, ITP_{12})$. The total number of executable test cases generated by the RCC with ACoC is 58841115 test case while the RCC with ECC generates 1878 test case. It is clear that using RCC with ACoC is not feasible but it is considered as an upper bound. Nevertheless, exploiting RCC on ECC shows feasibility and efficiency.

6 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper presented the applicability of a model-based test generation approach (Andrews et al., 2015) that allows testing of autonomous systems in their active world. We modeled an active world of the USAR robots. A test generation process is applied. RCC is used to generate AWBTCs. To transform the generated AWBTCs into executable test cases, we also exploited ACoC and ECC coverage criteria to generate test-data. The findings show that exploiting RCC on ECC is practically feasible. The PIPE tool is used for reachability analysis. However, a display in PIPE is no longer easily readable. Future work will experiment using the CADP (Construction and Analysis of Distributed Processes) toolbox (Garavel et al., 2013). Future work will also explore other testing techniques that can handle the scalability of concurrent processes. Comparison between experiments will also be provided.

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