

Test Cases Generated By Using UML Diagram

1Satinder Kaur, 2Prof.Rasbir Singh

1M.Tech Student, Assistant Professor

1,2 Computer Science Department

RIMT-IET, Mandi Gobindgarh, PTU

Satinderkaur988@gmail.com

Rasbir.rai@gmail.com

Abstract- In order to develop effective software, the main thing is to consider that the developed software should be error free. But the reality is that, it is impossible to develop software which is completely free from errors. So, developers try to develop software which may generate errors in rare cases. For this purpose, Software Testing plays an important role in Software development because it can minimize the development cost and improve the system performance. In today's world functionality of software increases very quickly which may increase the complexity and size of software applications, Due to this more emphasis has been sited on object oriented design strategy to reduce the complexity of the software which in turns reduces the software cost and increase its performance. Also, developers should concentrate on designing and coding of the software. An innovative approach is to use UML models for the development of the software, which consists of the designing and coding of the software. Designing phase is done with the help of the UML models. If the design is accurate then it will help in coding of the system in an effective manner. So, the proposed approach will focus on the UML activity diagram for the designing of the object oriented system.

Keywords- Software testing, Test case sequence, Activity diagram, UML models and test cases.

I. INTRODUCTION

Software Testing is the process of executing a program with the intention of finding errors [1]. Day by day with increasing functionality of software has caused increasing the complexity and size of software applications. Due to this reason more emphasis has been sited on object oriented design strategy to cut down software cost and boost software reusability [2]. Every software code has been reviewed and verified through SQA activities but these activities are not sufficient. Every time the software delivered to the client has been thoroughly tested by client before sending it to the production. Thus developer has to test the software before it gets to the client. Testing has been generally performed by three ways: white-box testing, black box testing and gray-box testing [3-4]. The testing techniques discussed so far is good to test software what it was supposed to do but it will not test what is missing in software code. From last few years there has been slow development made to the testing of object-oriented systems. One innovative approach is to use UML models for test cases generation. This approach can lead to find out faults in the design phase prior to the development phase and thus causes correction of faults in early life cycle stages of software. This type of testing comes under the category of gray-box testing

[5-9]. UML models are nothing but diagrammatical representation of specification document. UML models can be used as a base to derive test cases and to develop testing environments. However, using UML models to derive test case is not an easy task [10-11]. It is cumbersome for generating test models like control flow graph for an object oriented system. The UML Activity diagram is used for modeling discrete behavior of an object [12]. An activity diagram consists of flowchart for various activities with transition among them. It states the internal behavior of an operation of the system. An activity diagram is used for modeling the dynamic aspects of the system. Activity diagram is a kind of procedural flow chart. It helps in visualizing the sequence of activities involved in a control flow. An activity diagram emphasize on the sequential or concurrent flow path from activity to activity. It discusses the ordering of the activities [13].

II. RELATED WORK

Lot of work has been done on generating test cases from UML diagram. John D. McGregor, David A. Sykes presented a work to generate test cases on the basis of class diagram [14]. UML diagrams are broadly classified into two:

- Structure diagrams
- Behavior diagrams

The structure diagrams mainly focus on the static structural design of the system, so that they are used exclusively in documenting the software architectural design. Structure diagrams contain diagrams like class, component, deployment etc.

The Behavior diagrams are the diagrams which are having the dynamic structure, so that they are dynamic in nature and also it consists of diagrams like sequence, use case, activity etc.

UML has another set of diagrams, interaction diagrams which is an interaction involved. It consists of diagrams like sequence, communication, interaction overview and timing [15]. Since UML diagrams are always more abstract and provides ease to generate test cases than control flow graphs so researchers have started using UML diagrams to generate automated test cases from UML diagrams. Philip Samuel, Rajib Mall and SandeepSahoo have presented a novel testing methodology to test object-oriented software based on UML diagrams [16]. It is also true that sometimes testing is mistakenly considered not a resource-intensive activity, which does not require any supportive tools. One survey has done on

automated test case generation techniques categorized under specification based test case generation and model base test case generation. They also touched on few other approaches for generating test cases as path oriented test case generation and intelligent techniques [17]. During the last 10-15 years many studies have been conducted and tools developed, where elements of above mentioned methods are implemented. Thus dynamic methods with elements of formal methods were distinguished: model driven testing, runtime verification and passive testing [18]. The time reviews' effectiveness is highly dependent on experience and motivation, as well as process organization and interaction between participants [19]. Again a method is introduced by Korel by using function minimization method in the context of unit testing of procedural programs. He generated test data based on actual execution of the program under test using the function minimization method and dynamic data flow analysis. Test data are developed for the program using actual values of input variables. If during a program execution an undesirable execution flow is observed (e.g. the „actual“ path does not correspond to the selected control path), then the function minimization search algorithm is used to automatically locate the values of input variables for which the selected path is traversed. In addition, dynamic data flow analysis is used to determine those input variables responsible for undesirable program behavior, leading to significant speedup of the search process [15]. But this paper shows how test cases are generated from Activity diagram to represent the behavior of the system. If all test cases consider all scenario of the situation then only system can give better results.

III. IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY

The proposed work is to generate test cases from activity diagram using BFS and DFS method which will help in eliminating useless test cases and generate the useful test paths with reducing the complexity of time. This approach also helps in synchronization between activities. This approach is implemented on JDK 7 version and used the Net beans framework of 6.7.1 version.

Implementation Steps:

Our approach consists of the following three steps.

- Augmenting the activity diagram with necessary test information.
- Converting the activity diagram into an activity graph.
- Generating test cases from the activity graph.

First step will be implemented with the help of Unified Modeling Language (UML).

Second step will be generated with the help of some pre-defined mapping rules. These pre-defined mapping rules will help in converting UML activity diagram into an Activity graph.

After that, the Activity graph will help in generating the test paths or test cases. With the help of this java code it is easy to generate test cases of the system.

Functional Diagram of proposed work

The Flow Chart shown by Fig 5.1 describes the proper working and easy understandable of the proposed approach. Means, how UML diagrams are helpful in generating test cases which will cover maximum cases of failures. It also shows that how the results are obtained from UML Activity diagrams.

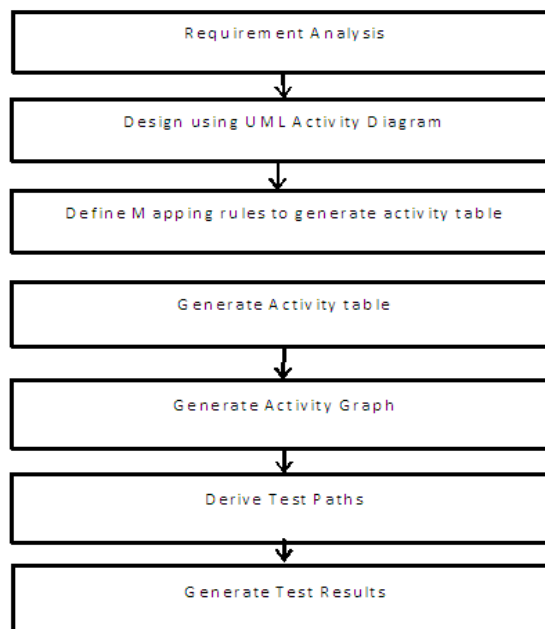


Fig.1 Functional Diagram of each task

IV. CONCLUSION

As the demand of the new software increase in the current field of software engineering, new techniques and methods are needed for fulfilling the needs of the market. In order to make this possible in the case of design model, an approach for using the UML Activity diagram is used. The proposed approach can generate efficient test cases with lesser effort using an UML activity diagram. This helps in saving time and increases the quality of generated test cases. The overall testing process performance can be improved using this approach. In this activity graph is generated from the Activity diagram by using some mapping rules. Then the proposed technique uses only activity graph as input. It generates the number of possible outcomes as an output which will help in generating the test cases. This algorithm is used for traversing Activity graph in order to extract all the possible test paths. The proposed algorithm is based on DFS and BFS method. It helps in reducing time, effort, and cost consumption.

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