

Towards effective mutation testing for ATL

Esther Guerra, Juan de Lara
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)

Jesús Sánchez Cuadrado
Universidad de Murcia (Spain)



Introduction

Model transformations

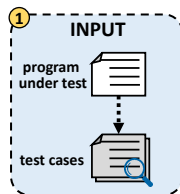
- Importance of correctness of model transformations
- Testing of transformations helps in detecting errors
- How do you know if you did enough tests?
- Mutation testing to the rescue!
 - It permits quantifying the quality of a test suite
 - Based on injecting artificial faults in the program under test
 - If test suite detects the artificial faults, it will likely detect real errors
- Our focus is on mutation testing for ATL

Introduction

Mutation testing

Input

- ATL transformation to test
- Test suite made of:
 - input models (manual vs automatic)
 - oracle function (partial vs total)
- Challenge: Identify the best test input model generation technique
 - good at finding errors
 - few models if possible



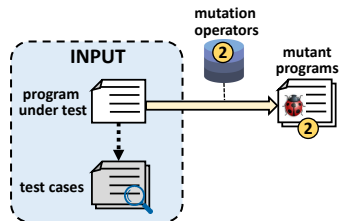
Introduction

Mutation testing

Mutation operators

- Mimic errors of competent developers
- Used to create mutants of the program

- Operators for ATL exist, but do not mimic real errors
- Challenge: Design operators based on errors made by ATL developers

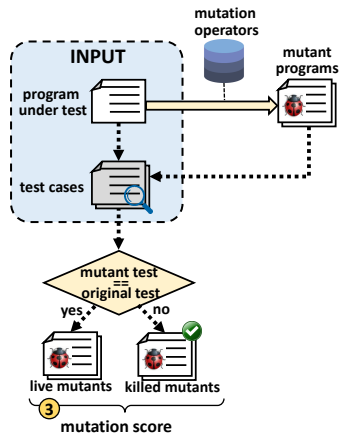


Introduction

Mutation testing

Mutation score

- For each mutant, execute test suite against mutant and original program
- Compare results
 - if different, the mutant is killed
 - otherwise, it is alive (undetected error)
- Mutation score = $\frac{\text{killed mutants}}{\text{total mutants}}$
- The higher the score, the better the quality of the test suite



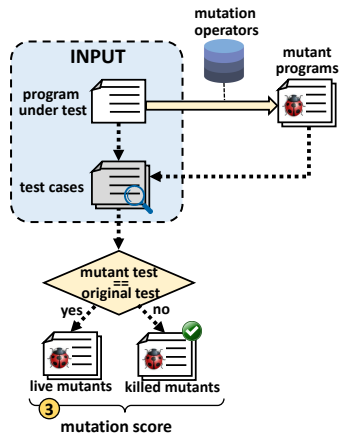
Introduction

Mutation testing

On effectiveness

- Mutation testing is very expensive (many potential mutants)
- Careful selection of mutation operators
 - do not produce trivial mutants
 - produce hard-to-kill mutants

- Challenge: Analyse the effectiveness of operators for ATL, which is unknown

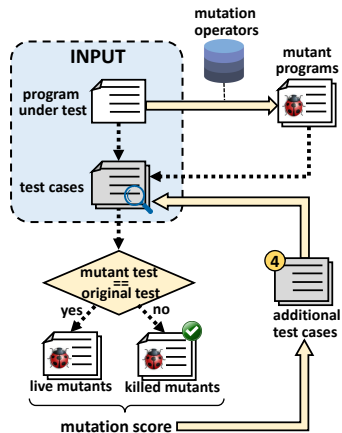


Introduction

Mutation testing

Improving the test suite

- Add input models that kill live mutants
- Challenge: Devise a technique to synthesize mutant-killer models for ATL



- Mutation operators for ATL
 - new operators that mimic frequent ATL developer errors
 - evaluation of efficacy of these and other operators
- Test suite
 - evaluation of efficacy of three test model generation techniques: random, meta-model coverage, transformation coverage
 - novel technique to generate input models that kill live mutants
- Open-source tool for mutation testing of ATL

A Brief Tour of ATL

- Atlas Transformation Language
- Widely used model transformation language
- Dynamic, testing is needed to avoid runtime errors

ATL by example

```
create OUT : Relational from IN : Class
```

```
helper context Class!Attribute def: multiValued : Boolean =  
  if self.upperBound = -1 then true  
  else self.upperBound > 1 endif;
```

```
rule Class2Table {  
  from c : Class!Class ( not c.isAbstract )  
  to out : Relational!Table (  
    name <- c.name,  
    col <- Sequence{key}→union(c.att→select(e | not e.multiValued)),  
    key <- Set{key} ),  
  key : Relational!Column ( name <- 'objectId' )  
}
```

```
rule MultiValuedDataTypeAttribute2Column {  
  from a : Class!Attribute ( a.type.ocIsKindOf(Class!DataType) and a.multiValued )  
  to out : Relational!Table (  
    name <- a.owner.nameOrElse + '-' + a.name,  
    col <- Sequence {thisModule.createIdColumn(a.owner), value} ),  
  value : Relational!Column ( name <- a.name )  
}
```

```
lazy rule createIdColumn {  
  from ne : Class!NamedElt  
  to key : Relational!Column ( name <- ne.name )  
}
```

ATL by example

create OUT : Relational from IN : Class // input and output meta-models

```
helper context Class!Attribute def: multiValued : Boolean =  
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create OUT : Relational from IN : Class
```

```
helper context Class!Attribute def: multiValued : Boolean =  
  if self.upperBound = -1 then true  
  else self.upperBound > 1 endif;
```

```
rule Class2Table { // matched rule  
  from c : Class!Class ( not c.isAbstract ) // input pattern with filter  
  to out : Relational!Table ( // output pattern  
    name <- c.name,  
    col <- Sequence{key}→union(c.att→select(e | not e.multiValued)),  
    key <- Set{key} ),  
  key : Relational!Column ( name <- 'objectId' )  
}
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rule Class2Table {  
  from c : Class!Class ( not c.isAbstract )  
  to out : Relational!Table (  
    name <- c.name, // binding  
    col <- Sequence{key}→union(c.att→select(e | not e.multiValued)), // binding  
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ATL by example

```
create OUT : Relational from IN : Class
```

```
helper context Class!Attribute def: multiValued : Boolean = // helper, similar to a function
  if self.upperBound = -1 then true
  else self.upperBound > 1 endif;
```

```
rule Class2Table {
  from c : Class!Class ( not c.isAbstract )
  to out : Relational!Table (
    name <- c.name,
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Mutation testing for ATL

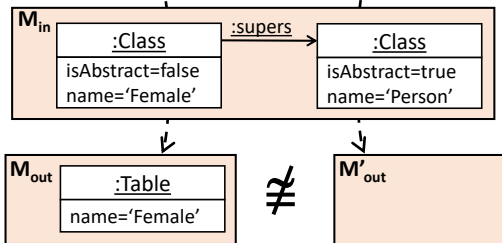
original transformation

```
rule Class2Table {  
  from c : Class!Class (not c.isAbstract)  
  to out : Relational!Table ... }
```

CFCP

mutant transformation

```
rule Class2Table {  
  from c : Class!Class (not c.isAbstract  
    and c.name='')  
  to out : Relational!Table ... }
```



Mutation Operators

for

ATL

Mutation operators for ATL

Syntactic operators

- Create-update-delete operations on language elements
- Troya et al. [1]: 18 operators for main elements of ATL meta-model

Concept	Operator
Matched rule	addition deletion name change
In and out pattern element	addition deletion class change name change
Filter	addition deletion condition change
Binding	addition deletion value change feature change

¹Troya et al., *Towards systematic mutations for and with ATL model transformations*, ICST Workshops, 2015, pp.1-10

Mutation operators for ATL

Semantic operators

- Operations mimic faults a developer may incur, based on authors' experience not on empirical evidence
- Mottu et al. [1,2]: 10 operators which are language-independent

Navigation operators

Relation to the same class change (RSCC)	Replaces navigation by another to the same class
Relation to another class change (ROCC)	Replaces navigation by another to a different class
Relation sequence modification with deletion (RSMD)	Removes last step of a navigation sequence
Relation sequence modification with addition (RSMA)	Adds navigation step in a navigation sequence

Filter operators

Collection filtering change with perturbation (CFCP)	Modifies filter, e.g., acting on property or type of class
Collection filtering change with deletion (CFCD)	Deletes filter
Collection filtering change with addition (CFCA)	Adds filter, e.g., returning an arbitrary element

Creation operators

Class compatible creation replacement (CCCR)	Replaces type of created object by a compatible one
Classes association creation deletion (CACD)	Deletes creation of association
Classes association creation addition (CACA)	Adds relation between two target objects

¹ Mottu et al., *Mutation analysis testing for model transformations*, ECMDA-FA, LNCS 4066, Springer, 2006, pp. 376-390

² Aranega et al., *Towards an automation of the mutation analysis dedicated to model transformations*, STVR 25(5=7), 2014

Mutation operators for ATL

Typing operators

- Operators introduce typing errors or force runtime errors
- Sánchez et al. [1]: 27 operators
 - used to test a static analyzer for ATL
 - coverage of ATL mm + operators for programming languages

Type	Targets
Creation	binding source/target pattern element rule inheritance relation
Deletion	rule, helper, binding source/target pattern element rule filter, rule inheritance relation
Type modification	type of source/target pattern element helper context type, helper return type type of variable, collection or parameter
Feature name modification	navigation expression, target of binding
Operation name modification	predefined operator (e.g., and) or operation (e.g., size) collection operation (e.g., includes), iterator (e.g., exists, collect) operation/helper invocation

¹Sánchez et al., *Static analysis of model transformations*, IEEE TSE 43(9), 2017, pp. 868-897

Mutation operators for ATL

Operators based on errors made in practice (zoo)

- Operators emulate errors made by competent developers
- Zoo set (**new!!!**): 7 operators emulating the 5 most frequent typing errors in the ATL zoo [1]

Error	Frequency	Operator
No binding for compulsory target feature	48.8%	Remove binding of compulsory feature (RBCF)
Invalid actual parameter type	11.9%	Replace helper call parameter (RHCP)
Feature access over possibly undefined receptor	11.22%	Remove enclosing conditional (REC) Add navigation after optional feature (ANAOF)
Feature found in subtype	3.75%	Replace feature access by subtype feature (RSF)
Binding possibly unresolved	3.7%	Restrict rule filter (RRF) Delete rule (DR)

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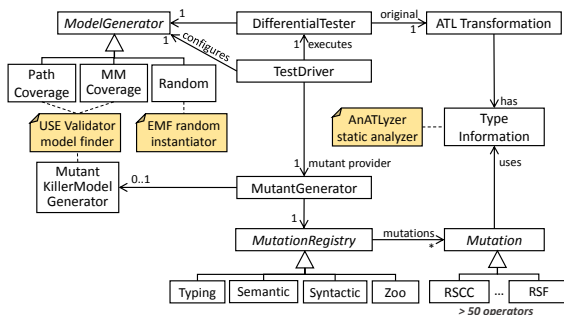
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Tool Support

Tool support

- Java framework for mutation testing of ATL:
<https://github.com/jdelara/MDETesting>
- Implementation of all presented mutation operators (extensible)
- Operators can use transformation typing info (anATLyzer)
- Generator of test models (random, mm coverage, path coverage)
- Generator of mutant-killer models (explained later)



Efficacy of Operators and Test Model Generation Techniques

Evaluation of mutation operators

Experiment design

- 6 syntactically correct transformations from the ATL zoo
- For each transformation:
 - create test suite with models generated by our three techniques (random, meta-model coverage, path coverage)
 - create transformation mutants
 - compute mutation score
- Overall, >32 000 mutants, >1 million executions

Evaluation of mutation operators

Applicability of operators

- 61% operators were applicable to all transformations
- 4 operators with **poor applicability** (i.e., frequently useless):
 - [typ] deletion of parent rule (1 application)
 - [typ] modification of type of variable (1 application)
 - [zoo] deletion of enclosing conditional (1 application)
 - [syn] deletion of input pattern element (0 applications)

Evaluation of mutation operators

Resilience and stubbornness of mutants

- overall, 88% mutants were killed
- most operators produced stubborn mutants (killed by few models)

Id	Type	Operator	Mutants	%Killed mutants	%Killer models
0	syn	In pattern element deletion	0	-	-
1	sem	Classes association creation addition (CACA)	14	100.00	17.87
2	zoo	Replace feature access by subtype feature	48	100.00	3.97
3	typ	Parent rule deletion	21	100.00	3.72
4	typ	Variable modification	48	100.00	2.08
5	sem	Relation sequence modification with deletion (RSMD)	72	100.00	1.94
.....					
18	typ,syn	In pattern element creation	3818	100.00	0.03
.....					
21	typ,syn	Remove binding	724	99.45	0.13
.....					
24	zoo	Remove binding of compulsory feature	260	99.23	0.36
.....					
52	typ	Helper deletion	780	89.87	0.12
53	typ	Parameter deletion	513	89.47	0.15
54	typ	Parameter type modification	570	89.47	0.13
55	zoo	Add navigation after optional feature	44	83.33	1.04

Evaluation of mutation operators

Resilience and stubbornness of mutants

- operators 1 to 18 only produced trivial mutants (always killed)

Id	Type	Operator	Mutants	%Killed mutants	%Killer models
0	syn	In pattern element deletion	0	-	-
1	sem	Classes association creation addition (CACA)	14	100.00	17.87
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Evaluation of mutation operators

Resilience and stubbornness of mutants

- operators 52 to 55 produced the hardest-to-kill mutants
 - mutants of 52–54 were among the stubbornest
 - mutants of 55 were crash-prone and not so stubborn

Id	Type	Operator	Mutants	%Killed mutants	%Killer models
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Evaluation of mutation operators

Resilience and stubbornness of mutants

- operators 21 & 24 had similar resilience, but 24 created fewer mutants
- similarly, *matched rule deletion* preferable to *rule deletion*

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Evaluation of mutation operators

Resilience and stubbornness of mutants

- no operator set was more efficient than the others
- zoo operators: 1 hard-to-kill, 3 trivial, 3 intermediate

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Evaluation of test model generation techniques

- Mutation score of test suites generated by:
 - random instantiation (50 models with 100 objects)
 - coverage of input meta-model
 - coverage of transformation execution path

	Meta-model					Transformation path					Random				
	#M.	typ	sem	syn	zoo	#M.	typ	sem	syn	zoo	#M.	typ	sem	syn	zoo
t1	62	69.98	80.73	100.00	97.14	27	77.53	75.23	100.00	97.14	50	67.15	58.33	59.86	97.14
t2	200	87.44	31.68	45.54	30.33	18	82.47	71.66	89.31	95.08	50	65.64	56.71	48.36	23.58
t3	50	81.21	81.44	84.50	97.04	1	84.85	87.37	90.56	99.26	50	64.18	81.05	69.01	95.56
t4	50	98.71	68.52	86.17	100.00	92	98.14	98.60	96.33	100.00	50	99.22	98.33	95.74	100.00
t5	710	73.48	82.05	73.37	92.16	24	76.83	84.62	81.41	92.16	50	15.67	65.81	22.22	78.00
t6	26	75.91	72.84	60.96	87.88	6	82.70	70.37	60.56	87.88	50	21.60	19.28	23.51	45.45

- Transformation path is the best option
 - produced the highest-quality test suite more often
 - produced the smallest test suites (less testing time)

Synthesis of Mutant-Killer Models

Synthesis of mutant-killer models

Method (intuition)

live mutant

```
helper context Class!Attribute def: multiValued : Boolean =  
  if self.upperBound = -1 then true false  
  else self.upperBound > 1 endif;
```

Mutation

1) AST node of mutated code

Synthesis of mutant-killer models

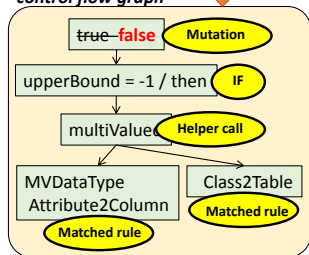
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Mutation

control flow graph



2) execution paths from matched rules to mutation

Synthesis of mutant-killer models

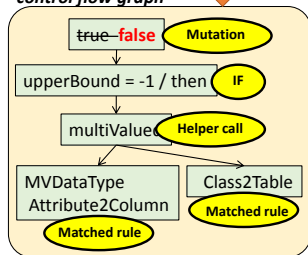
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```

Mutation

control flow graph



OCL path condition

```
Class.allInstances()->  
  select(c | not c.isAbstract)->  
    exists(c | c.att->exists(e |  
      not e.upperBound = -1)) -- inlining of helper  
or  
Attribute.allInstances()->  
  exists(a | a.upperBound = -1)
```

3) requirements for a test model to reach the mutated code

Synthesis of mutant-killer models

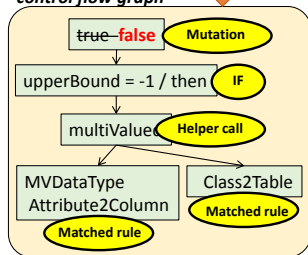
Method (intuition)

live mutant

```
helper context Class!Attribute def: multiValued : Boolean =  
  if self.upperBound = -1 then true false  
  else self.upperBound > 1 endif;
```

Mutation

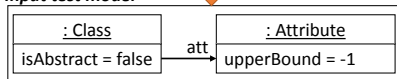
control flow graph



OCL path condition

```
Class.allInstances()->  
  select(c | not c.isAbstract)->  
    exists(c | c.att->exists(e |  
      not e.upperBound = -1)) -- inlining of helper  
or  
Attribute.allInstances()->  
  exists(a | a.upperBound = -1)
```

input test model



model finding

4) synthesis of input test model by model finding

Synthesis of mutant-killer models

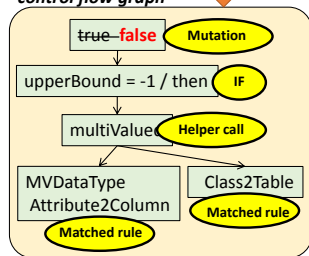
Method (intuition)

live mutant

```
helper context Class!Attribute def: multiValued : Boolean =  
  if self.upperBound = -1 then true false  
  else self.upperBound > 1 endif;
```

Mutation

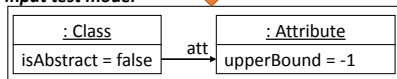
control flow graph



OCL path condition

```
Class.allInstances()->  
  select(c | not c.isAbstract)->  
  exists(c | c.att->exists(e |  
    not e.upperBound = -1)) -- inlining of helper  
or  
Attribute.allInstances()->  
  exists(a | a.upperBound = -1)
```

input test model



model finding

However, reachability is necessary but not sufficient...

Synthesis of mutant-killer models

Evaluation of efficacy

- For each mutant:
 - generate a killer test model
 - execute mutant and original transformation with the test model
 - compare the results

	typ		sem		syn		zoo	
	Mutants	%Killed	Mutants	%Killed	Mutants	%Killed	Mutants	%Killed
t1	266	93.94	58	96.55	187	87.57	15	100.00
t2	2200	97.14	550	83.82	4045	97.11	60	81.67
t3	151	93.10	32	100.00	175	94.08	21	95.24
t4	3161	82.76	649	71.19	5993	78.66	65	73.85
t5	382	92.25	75	94.67	363	86.76	41	92.68
t6	153	59.48	42	54.76	143	58.04	16	43.75

- Overall, 85% mutants killed
- By cases, killed mutants >90% in 12/24 (in green)
- Altogether, reasonable good results

Wrap-up

Today's presentation

- Analyse some steps in mutation testing for ATL
 - mutation operators
 - test model generation techniques
 - synthesis of mutant-killer models

to make it more effective
(and ATL transformations less buggy)

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- Analyse some steps in mutation testing for ATL
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Future plans

- Replica of evaluation with partial oracles
- Method to detect equivalent mutants for ATL
- Improve synthesis of mutant-killer models

Towards effective mutation testing for ATL

Esther Guerra, Juan de Lara
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)

Jesús Sánchez Cuadrado
Universidad de Murcia (Spain)

esther.guerra@uam.es

Questions?