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Regression Test Case Prioritization For Industry Oriented Applications Using Properitary Tool

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Abstract: ***Regression testing is a testing to test the modified software during the maintenance level. Regression testing is a costly but crucial problem in software development. Both the research community and the industry have paid much attention to this problem. The paper try to do the survey of current practice in industry and also try to find out whether there are gaps between them. The observations show that although some issues are concerned both by the research community and the industry. This research discusses the problems about current research on regression testing and quality control in application of regression testing in the engineering practice, and proposes a practical regression method, combing with change-impact-analysis, business rules model, cost risk assessment and test case management. This paper presents an approach to prioritize regression test cases based on the factors such as rate of fault deduction, percentage of fault detected and the risk detection capability. The proposed approach is compared with previous approach using APFD metric. The results represent that propose approach outperforms the earlier approach.***

*Keywords- **Regression Testing, Rational Functional Tester, Genetic Algorithm, APFD Metric, RFT tool***

I. INTRODUCTION

Regression Testing is an integral part of any software development methodology. With extreme programming methodology, design documents are often replaced by extensive, repeatable, and automated testing of entire software package at every stage in the software development life cycle. Thus Regression Testing is not an isolated one-off feature, but a full fledged activity varying in scope and preconditions, and highly context dependent. Several techniques have been proposed and evaluated empirically; but in many cases, they are context specific and do not lend themselves to general use. This research discusses the limitations of current approaches on regression testing, and proposes a practical technique which combines change-impact-analysis, business-rules-model, cost-risk-assessment, and test-case-management. It provides confidence in modified software. The later sections of this paper elaborate how regression test cases are prioritised based on factors such as rate of fault detection, percentage of faults detected, and application of RFT Tool.

II. ISSUES IN INDUSTRY APPLICATION FOR REGRESSION TESTING

A. Issues

There are typically two major problems for regression testing of large-scale business systems. Firstly, regression test coverage cannot be accurately defined with the changes of system; Secondly, the number of test cases expands dramatically with the combination of parameters, so it is unable to complete regression testing of the minimum coverage requirements within the determined period of time at a reasonable cost.

Automated functional testing tools are frequently introduced in the testing of large business systems. These tools provide a basic means of testing, but t automatic function test management framework is not available, which leads to the fact that automated functional tests are often unable to be effectively implemented and carried out. The root cause is that functional testing is based on business, with a strong industry relevance, but automated functional testing tools are not related to business, so it cannot automatically adapt to the specific business needs of each industry, and it requires a lot of human intervention during the implementation of the testing process, and the results are often difficult to meet people's expectations.

Regression testing of large-scale business systems tends to be restrained by the deadline and budget constraints, and engineering properties of the test determine that it is impossible to achieve completely as it describe in theory. With the limited time and resources, in order to make more rational arrangements for testing, a decision-making mechanism is of great need in testing planning phase to constraints resources (time, manpower, budget) based on the premise of risk assessment and (test) cost estimation for decision making.

B. Methods

The previously mentioned test models are relying on software development process, so there is no practical implementation approach for regression testing. Different from the unit testing, integration testing and performance testing in development process, regression testing repeatedly emphasizes accumulation, which can be completed through the structure and the business rules modeling methods, so that the cycle of regression testing can proceed.

To build a supporting platform of regression testing for decision-making, at first, you need to scan and analyze the source code of the core business systems, and set up an application description model; meanwhile, a bank of expert knowledge of the industry should be established to collect and refine business information. And then, a model of business rules should be established to express business information. Finally, risk assessment model will be established, according to industry application and the characteristics of test implementation. If business systems change with the modification of demands, and with the changes of system maintenance and other reasons; if new versions of the software are produced by the development department, implementation steps regression testing of are as follows:

(1) Scan and analyze the source codes in the new version, and conduct analysis of changes bases on the application model, automatic identify system changes;

(2) Analysis of change impacts analysis accurately pointed out the scopes of functional business directly or indirectly influenced by a change of version.

(3) With the application of business rules, the regression test ranges are determined by experts and analysts

(4) Test suite is generated in the assessment model of cost and risk, and it will be compressed with optimization algorithm;

(5) Complete automatic testing by refusing used test cases in the library or developing new cases.

C. Limitations of the APFD Metric

The APFD metric just presented relies on two assumptions: (1) all faults have equal severity, and (2) all test cases have equal costs. In practice, however, there are cases in which these ssumptions do not hold: cases in which faults vary in severity and test cases vary in cost. In such cases, the APFD metric can provide unsatisfactory results.

(i) Average Percentage Block Coverage (ABC).

This measures the rate at which a prioritized test suite covers the blocks.

(ii) Average Percentage Decision Coverage (ADC).

This measures the rate at which a prioritized test suite covers the decisions (branches).

(iii) Average Percentage Statement Coverage (ASC).

This measures the rate at which a prioritized test suite covers the statements.

(iv) Average Percentage Loop Coverage (ALC).

This measures the rate at which a prioritized test suite covers the loops.

(v) Average Percentage Condition Coverage (ACC).

This measures the rate at which a prioritized test suite covers the conditions.

(vi) Problem Tracking Reports (PTR) Metric

The PTR metric is another way that the effectiveness of a test prioritization may be analyzed. Recall that an effective prioritization technique would place test cases that are most likely to detect faults at the beginning of the test sequence. It would be beneficial to calculate the percentage of test cases that must be run before all faults have been revealed. PTR is calculated as follows:

$Ptr(t,p) = nd/n$

Let t - be the test suite under evaluation, n - the total number of test cases in the total number of test cases needed to detect all faults in the program under test p

III. REGRESSION TESTING METHODS FOR INDUSTRIES

Building a decision-support platform of regression testing provides a viable solution to industrial applications of regression testing. The construction involves models of business rules, application description model, change-impact-analysis, cost-risk-assessment, and test case management.

A. Extraction and Loading of Business Rules

Business rules are defined as constraints and norms for business structure and operation. They are important resources for enterprise business operations and management decisions.

Business rules should be managed by the rule-based system, thereby separating application logic from the business process logic of application system. Rules engine is an embedded component in an application program. Its task is to test and compare the object data which have been submitted by the rule with the original rules, activate rules that meet the current state of the data, and trigger corresponding actions in the application program, according to the rules declared in the executive logic.

To build business rules model supported by regression testing is to inherit the accumulated knowledge of senior analysts, so that there is an explicit expression for the actually used rules. On this basis, combining test theories and rules integration and optimization algorithms with the case, we can establish a generation system, which is not less efficient than an average level of case generation system in manual test.

The sources of business rules generally include:

(1) Rules derived from business needs (Rdbn)

(2) Rules derived from the theoretical testing principles (Rdtp)

(3) Rules from the industrial tradition (Rdit)

(4) Rules from the common sense of industry (Rcsi)

. This shows the Test Suite Reduction Technology has been utilized in the real industry applications. has a process for requesting and managing changes to an application during the product development cycle.

The basis of business rules model is the accumulation of a series of designing rules, industry standards, and special constraints from operations in manual test cases. Business rules model is used to express these rules in manual testing age, and establish a structure of rule engine which can be loaded rules. With these rules, a basic template case can be generated in the supportive system of decision-making for a specific business process.

Loading rules is to add a rule to the rule base. The key point is how to express the applicable conditions and specify optimization algorithms.

The expression of business rules is specific, and its basic form is If (applicable conditions of rules) Then op, among which Op both means generation of test points and case algorithms.

For a target system, it is impossible to exhaust all possibilities, it can only advance progressively. Therefore, manual addition should be allowed, and it is regarded as a learning process for business rule model.For industrial applications, tools for the source code analysis also need to extract some relationships of business process and component, component and component, component and class hierarchy, components and associated database table.

IV. CASE STUDY

[13] presents a complex industry application, they exemplify on the basis of a concrete case study (Siemens' HPCO Application, a complex Call-Center Solution) how test engineers can now work with the Integrated Test Environment. The above figure is one scenario regression test environment setting for the Call-Center Solution. We can see that even the simple scenario demonstrates the complexity of CTI platforms from the communication point of view because there are several internal protocols involved. This case study exposes the problem that in current industry practice, regression testing is intended to integrate with complex test environments. New methodology and technology should be developed to solve this problem.

The process includes:

Step 1. Collect change requests

Step 2. Identify the scope of the next release and the scope of the next release and determine which change requests will be included in the next build.

Step 3. Document the requirements, functional requirements, functional specification and implementation plans for each grouping of change requests.

Step 4. Implement the change.

Step 5. Test or verify the change. Unit testing is done by the person who made the change, usually the programmer. Function testing tests a functional area of the system to see that everything works as expected.

Step 6.Release.

Factors Taken For Proposed Approach

We consider three factors for proposed prioritization technique. These factors are discussed as follows.

(i) Rate of Fault Detection

The rate of fault detection (RFD) is defined as the average number of defects found per minute by a test case For the test case k.

$RFD_k = (N_k / \text{time } k) * 6$ (1)

(ii) Percentage of Fault Detected

The percentage of fault detected (PFD) for test case Tk can be computed by using number of

$PFD_k = (N_k)$ (2)

Risk Detection Ability

Risk value was allocated to every fault depending on the fault"s impact on software. To every fault a Risk value has been allocated based on a 10 point scale expressed as follows.

Very High Risk: RV of 10
High Risk: RV of 8
Medium Risk : RV of 6
Less Risk: RV of 4
Least Risk : RV of 2.

For test case Tk, RDAk have been computed using severity value Sk, Nk is the number of defects found by Tk, and timek is the time needed by Tk to find those defects. The equation for RDA can be expressed as follows.

$RDA = (S_k * N_k)/\text{time } k$ (3)

.

B.Test Case Ranking

Test case Ranking is the summation of the three factors which are RFD, PFD and RDA. For test case T_k, Test case ranking (TCR_k) can be calculated by the equation given below:

$TCR_k = RFD_k + PFD_K + RDA_k$ (4)

C. (Genetic algorithm for Regression Test suite with greatest fitness)

The proposed prioritization technique expressed as follows.

Algorithm
***Input*:**
Program *P1*
Test suite *T 1*
Number of tuples to be created per iteration *s1*
Maximum iterations *MaxIT*
Percent of total test suite time *PTT*
Crossover Probability *CroPro*
Mutation Probability *MutPro*
Addition Probability *AddPro*
Deletion Probability *DelPro*
Test Adequacy Criteria *TAC*
Program Coverage Information *PCI*

Output: Test suite with greatest Fitness.

Algorithm:

Step 1: Begin

Step 2: Compute *PTT*

Step 3: Obtain maximum execution time of a tuple, *timetuple* from *PTT*

Step 4: Create *s* test tuples executed in *timetuple*

Step5 . Obtain coverage information of all tuples

Step 6: Determine goodness (Fitness) of all tuples using coverage information.

Step7 : For *MaxIT* iterations repeat steps 8 to 15

Step 8: Select two best tuples to be the element next generation

Step 9: If the selected tuples are not fit for next generation then until all *s* test tuples are selected repeat steps 9 to 14

Step10: Select a pair of parent tuples using Roulette wheel selection based on probability propotional to |Fitness|

Step11 : Merge the pair based on *CrossPro* to create potentially new pairs

Step 12:. If the created potentially new pair are fit for next generation then

Step 13: Mutate each new tuple based on *MutPro*

Step 14: Add mutated tuples to *T* based on *AddPro*, if they fit for next generation else

Step15: Delete the mutated tuples based on *DelPro*

Step 16: In the final set, tuple with greatest fitness is determined

Step 17: END

V. EXPERIMENT AND ANALYSIS

For example, suppose that regression test suite *T* contains six test cases with the initial ordering {*T1, T2, T3, T4, T5. T6*} as described in Figure 6.1(a). A prior knowledge of the faults detected by *T* in the program *P* is assumed in this example. The number of faults identified, the execution time and the average faults detected per minute for the test cases *T1* to *T6* are tabulated in Figure 6.1(b). From the tabulation it can be inferred that the test case *T1* can find seven

TABLE 1: Fault Matrix

Faults / **Test cases**	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8
T1	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
T2	X							
T3	X				X			
T4		X	X				X	
T5				X		X		X
T6		X		X		X		

For example, suppose that regression test suite *T* contains six test cases with the initial ordering {*T1, T2, T3, T4, T5. T6*} as described in Table 1.

TABLE 2: Binary representation of Test cases

Test cases	**Binary form**
T1	11011111
T2	10000000
T3	10001000
T4	01100001
T5	00010101
T6	01010100

TABLE 3: Number of faults detected by every test case, the time required to detect faults, and severity value of faults for every test case

Test cases	**No of faults covered**	**Execution time**	**Risk severity**
T1	2	12	8
T2	3	14	10
T3	1	11	4
T4	4	10	20
T5	2	10	12
T6	2	13	6

In Table 3 for the purposes of motivation, this example assumes a priori knowledge of the faults detected by *T* in the program *P*.

TABLE 4. RFD, PFD, RDA for test cases T1..T6

Test cases	RFD	PFD	RDA
T1	1	2	1.333
T2	1.285	3	2.142
T3	0.54	1	0.3636
T4	2.4	4	8
T5	1.2	2	2.4
T6	0.9	2	0.923

The values of rate of fault detection (RFD), percentage of fault detected (PFD) and risk detection ability (RDA) for test cases T1..T10 is calculated by using equation (1), equation (2) and equation (4) respectively. Table 4 represents the values for all three factors which are RFD, PFD, RDA for test case T1..T6 respectively.

TABLE 5. Test case ranking for T1..T6 respectively

Test cases	**Prioritized order**
T1	T4
T2	T2
T3	T5
T4	T1
T5	T6
T6	T3

For test cases, T1..T6, TCR value computed from equation (4) as given below. Table 5 shows test case ranking for each test case.

TABLE 6: Test cases ordering for proposed approach and previous work

Test cases	**Test case ranking TCR=RFD+PFD+RDA**
T1	4.33
T2	6.427
T3	1.909
T4	14.4
T5	5.6
T6	3.8

For execution, test cases are arranged

Prioritization Technique	**APFD %**
Non Preroritized	59%
Random approach	66%
GARTSGF	90%

in decreasing order of TCR. Test cases are ordered in such a manner, that those with greater TCR value executes earlier

V. RFT TOOL:

A. Features of RFT

Rational Functional Tester software is an automated tool which provides testers with automated testing capabilities for functional testing, regression testing, GUI testing and data driven testing.

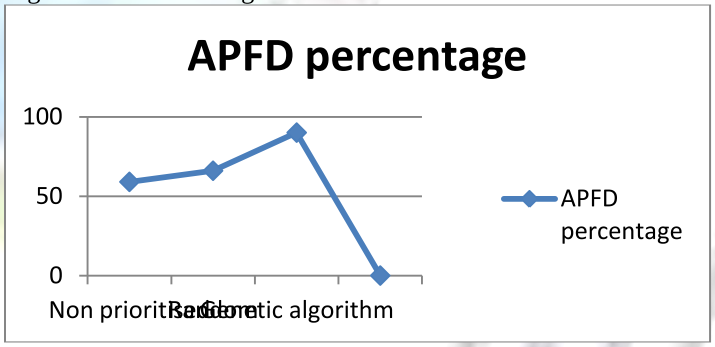
As an automated testing tool, RFT has several features below:
1) Provide robust testing support for Java, Web 2.0, SAP, Siebel, terminal-based and Microsoft Visual Studio .NET Windows Forms applications
2) Perform story board testing to combine natural language test narrative with visual editing through application screenshots
3) Use keywords to bridge the gap between manual and automated testing
4) Manage validation of dynamic data with multiple verification points and support for regular expression pattern matching
5) Reduce rework, minimize the rerecording of scripts, and reduce script maintenance

Comparison with the previous work

In this section, the proposed prioritized order is compared with previous work Table 7 represents proposed order of test cases and the prioritized order proposed

TABLE 7: APFD % for no prioritization, Random and proposed prioritization techniques

Fig 1: APFD Percentage for no order and the IIGRTP



In Fig 1 the percentage of APFD for both no order and the IIGRTP .APFD % for no prioritization and proposed prioritization techniques

VI. CONCLUSION:

This paper presents a regression testing methodology for industry-oriented applications to overcome current limitations such as low degree of automation and difficulty of defining test coverage. While the authors were not actually involved in the testing, we got the cooperation of the industry who were developing software in Java and using IBM's Rational Functional Tester. Here the test cases were made into several sets, each set of test cases being called a Test Suite. This methodology is compared with different prioritization techniques making use of APFD metric. We take the weighted average of the number of faults detected during the execution of the test suite. The results confirm the efficacy of this proposal. Test Case. The proposed methodology is easily integrated with RFT Tool. Any attempt to improve functionality of regression testing that optimises resources of time and labor will result in a better software product

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