

# Review of model based approach for automating the test case generation for Object Oriented Systems.

Rajvir Singh<sup>1</sup>, Preeti<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, CSE Department,  
Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University, Murthal.  
[Rajvirsingh.cse@dcrustm.org](mailto:Rajvirsingh.cse@dcrustm.org)

<sup>2</sup>Student, M.Tech(CSE),  
Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University, Murthal.  
[Preeti.lohchab32@gmail.com](mailto:Preeti.lohchab32@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT:** Testing plays an important part in software development process to ensure the quality and reliability of the developed product. For Object-oriented systems, model based testing has recently become very popular. This approach uses models representing system behavior to generate the test cases. In this paper, we would focus on the work done by various researchers in the field of model based testing approach. We would review the recent trends and different model-based approaches that have been proposed by different researchers. Finally, we would describe what are the present challenges and what work needs to be done in near future in this area.

**KEYWORDS:** Object-oriented Software, Model Based Testing, Testing, Design based approach

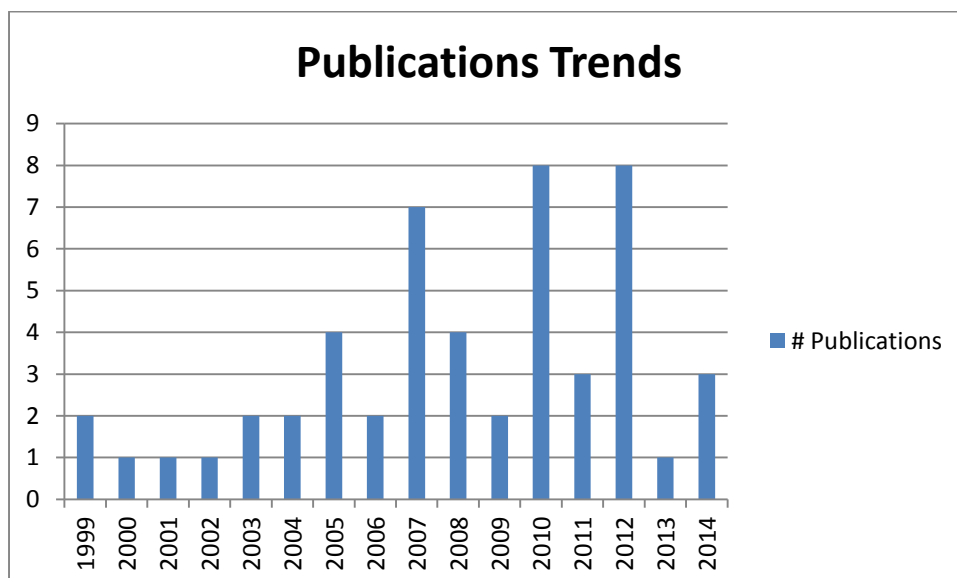
## 1. INTRODUCTION

Software testing plays central role in ensuring the quality of delivered software product. But as the size and complexity of software increases it becomes increasingly difficult to test the product thoroughly. For Object oriented systems this task becomes more complex because it has to deal with new problems introduced by the Object-Oriented features such as *encapsulation, inheritance, polymorphism, and dynamic binding*. Interactions between objects may give rise to certain errors that could be hard to detect. Object-oriented environment for design and implementation of software brings about new issues in software testing. This is because the above important

features of an object oriented program create several testing problems and bug hazards [1].

This paper presents a systematic literature review to analyze and report the findings in automated test case generation for object-oriented systems. Literature reviews provide a comprehensive view of the present research and allows one to find out the possible gaps in the present research.

The recent research trend in the field of automated test case generation for object-oriented systems is shown by the graph below.



As is clear from the graph, research in this field has attracted a lot of researchers recently. This number has grown over the years.

Rest of this paper is organized as follows: section 2 gives a background of the object-oriented test case generation process. Section 3 describes the review method that has been adopted for this paper; section 4 discusses the search result. Section 5 deals with the literature survey; section 6 covers the future work and section 7 includes the conclusion.

## 2. BACKGROUND:

According to IEEE testing is,

“The process of exercising or evaluating system or system components by manual or automated means to verify that it satisfies specified requirements”.

In other words, “Testing is the process of executing a program with the intent of finding errors”.

Software Testing involves three processes: Test Case Generation, Test Case Execution and Test Case Evaluation. Manual testing is time-consuming, labor-intensive and error-prone. Therefore, it is required to automate the testing effort. Automation, which automates a part of testing process, reduces the human effort in finding bugs and errors.

There are mainly three types of testing approaches:

### Model based testing:

Models are the intermediate artifacts between requirement specification and final code. Models preserve the essential information from the requirement, and are the basis for implementation.

A model of software is a depiction of its behavior where behavior can be described in terms of the input sequences accepted by the system, the set of actions, conditions, the flow of data through the application’s modules and routines. For example, control flow, data flow, and program dependency graphs. Model based testing uses these models as bases for generating test cases for the system under test. It combines both black and white box testing features and is also called gray box approach.

### Specification based testing:

In this approach test cases are derived directly from the specification or from some other kind of model of what the system should do. It is essentially a black box approach.

### Code based testing:

It ensures that each and every statement in the program is executed at least once during the test. It is a white box approach.

Code based testing is not an entirely satisfactory approach to ensure thorough testing of modern software products. Code based testing has two important disadvantages. First, certain aspects of behavior of a system are difficult to extract from code but are easily obtained from design models. e.g., all different sequences in which messages may be interchanged among classes during the use of software are very difficult to extract from the code. Another prominent disadvantage of code based testing is, it is very difficult to automate and code based testing overwhelmingly depends on manual test case design, [2].

Now-a-days model based testing methodology has gained popularity for testing the object oriented system and has become an obvious choice in software industries. It has following advantages over other two testing approaches:

- 1) Traditional software testing techniques consider only static view of code which is not sufficient for testing dynamic behavior of object-oriented systems, [3].
- 2) Use of code to test an object-oriented system is complex and tedious task. In contrast, models help software testers to understand systems in a better way and find test information only after simple processing of models compared to code, [4].
- 3) Model-based test case generation can be planned at an early stage of the software development life cycle, allowing carrying out coding and testing in parallel [4].

Because of these advantages most of the researchers have focused on the model based test case generation approach. Therefore, this paper focuses on the work done in the field of model based test case generation for object-oriented systems.

## 3. Review Method:

This paper is based on systematic literature review which addresses the following research questions:

1. How much work has been done in the field of automated test case generation for object-oriented systems?
2. How much of the work identified in first question focuses on design based test case generation approach?
3. What are the limitations of current research?

### 3.1 Search Process

The research process was a manual search of different journal papers, surveys and conferences related to automated test case generation since 1999. The selected journals and conferences are shown in table 1. Each of these journals deals with the issue of automating the test case generation process.

Table 1

Source	Acronym
Institute of electrical and electronics engineers	IEEE
Journal of object technology	JOT
International journal of software engineering	IJSE
Indian journal of computer science and engineering	IJCSE
International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Applications	IJACSA
International Journal of Software Engineering & Applications	IJSEA
International Journal of Inventive Engineering and Sciences	IJIES

### 3.2 Inclusion and Exclusion criteria

Articles published from 1999 to 2014 were included for the research. As a first step, irrelevant papers were excluded manually based on titles. Papers dealing with software testing and test case generation in general were also excluded. All the journals dealing with automated test case generation for object-oriented system were included. Only studies written in English were considered. Papers with revised versions were included and their initial versions were discarded.

### 4. Search Result:

After applying the search criteria described in the previous section, 32 articles have been identified as relevant to our topic of research. Out of these 32 articles 20 focus on the model based approach, 4 on specification based approach, 1 on code based testing and remaining 7 articles use some other approaches for test case generation. These 32 articles along with brief information about them have been listed in the table 2.

Table 2

S.N	Title	main journal/conference	Authors	Year	Pages	Main Tool(s)	Algorithm	Basic Approach used	Type of Testing	Metrics used for effectiveness measure	Remarks
1	The State-based Testing of Object-Oriented Programs	IEEE	C.D. Turner, D.J. Robson	1993	302-310			emphasis on interaction between features and object's state			complementary to other functional and structural approaches to validation
2	Automatic Test Case Generation from Requirements Specifications for Real-time Embedded Systems	IEEE	S.J. Canning, J.W. Reizenhilt	1999	v 784-v 789						
3	Test Case Generation from UML State Diagrams	IEEE	Y.J. Kim, H.S. Hong, S.M. Cho, D.H. Bae, S.D. Cha	1999	17		na	based on control flow and data flow	class level testing		specification based approach, class level testing
4	A Test Class Framework for Generating Test Cases from Z Specifications	IEEE	MIAO Huikou, LIU Ling	2000	164-171		developed a TCGS tool	uses concept of test classes and test class framework			test cases are derived from z specifications
5	Interclass Testing of Object Oriented Software	Technical Report GIT-CC-02-28	Vincenzo Martena, Aless andro Orso, Mauro Pezzue	2002	26			based on data flow analysis	interclass testing		tackles the problem of state-dependent faults
6	Generating Test Cases from UML Activity Diagram based on Gray-Box Method	IEEE (APSEC '04)	Wang Linhang, Yuan Jiesong, Yu Xiaofeng, Hui Jia, Li Xuandong, Zheng Guokang	2004			developed a prototype tool	uses UML activity diagrams	gray box testing		
7	Automated Generation of Test Programs From Closed Specifications of Classes and Test Cases	IEEE	26th International Conference on Software Engineering Wee Kheng Liew, Siau Cheng Khoo, Yi Sun	2004	10			based on the generation of a test program			specification based testing

8	A Survey on Automatic Test Case Generation		M.Prasanna, S.N Sivanandam, R.Venkatesan, R.Sundarajan	2005	8		focuses on various testing approaches used for automatic test case generation			
9	Model Based Object-oriented Software Testing		Santosh Kumar Swain, Subhesu Kumar Pati, Durga Prasad Mohapatra	2005	30-36		focuses on various model based testing techniques for automatic test case generation		model based testing	
10	Automatic Test Generation: A Use Case Driven Approach	IEEE	Cle mentine Nebut, Franck Fleurey, Yves Le Traon, Jean-Marc Je'ze'quel	2005	140-155		uses a custom algo for designing use case transition system, test objectives	uses a use case driven approach for embedded systems	statement coverage	model based testing
11	UML Sequence Diagram Based Testing Using Slicing	IEEE Conference	Philip Samuel, Rajib Mall and Sandeep Sahoo	2005	176-178		uses UML sequence diagrams and dynamic slicing technique for testing		slice test coverage	model based testing
12	An Approach to Integration Testing of Object-Oriented Programs	IEEE Software	Seventh International Conference on The (Jessie) Li, Tom Mabaum	2007		developed a prototype	uses the concept of coordination Contract	integration testing		
13	Automatic Test Case Generation from UML Models	IEEE Technology	10th International Conference on Monalisa Sarma,Rajib Mall	2007	196-201		uses the combination of sequence diagrams and use case diagrams		use case dependency coverage and all sequence diagram message path sequence	model based testing
14	Automatic Test Case Generation from UML Sequence Diagrams	IEEE Advanced Computing	15th International Conference on Monalisa Sarma,Rajib Mall	2007	60-65		uses sequence diagram,use case template and class diagrams to develop test vectors	system testing	sequence diagram message path sequence coverage	model based testing
15	Automatic testing of object-oriented software		Bertrand Meyer, Ilina Ciupa, Andreas Leimer, Lisa (Ling) Liu	2007		a test framework AUTOTES 1.7 T is used	based on automation of test case and test oracles generation	unit(class testing)		automatically retains information for regression testing
16	Kiasan KUnit: Automatic Test Case Generation and Analysis Feedback for Open Object-oriented Systems	IEEE	Academic and Industrial Conference - Practice And Research Techniques	Nanghua Deng, Robby, John Hatchiff	2007	3,12				
17	A Novel Approach to Generate Test Cases from UML Activity Diagrams	JOT	Debasish Kanda, Debasish Samanta	2009	65-83		uses UML 2.0 syntax to generate test cases based on DFS and BFS of a single use case	from activity diagrams	activity path coverage	model based testing
18	Research on Method of Object-Oriented Test Cases Generation Based on UML and LTS	IEEE	The 1st International Conference on Faping Zeng, Zhide Chen, Qing Cao, Liangliang Mao	2009	5055-5058		uses UML state diagram model that represent state transition to generate test cases			model based testing
19	A Test Case Generation Technique and Process		Nicha Kosindrdech, Jirapun Daengdej	2010	8		based on requirement prioritizationmethod and uses use cases for test case generation		no of test cases, domain specific requirement coverage, total time	model based testing
20	Test Case Generation Based on State and Activity Models	JOT	Santosh Kumar Swain, Durga Prasad Mohapatra, Rajib Mall	2010	27		uses a combination of custom algo based on DFS models	state and activity integration testing	state-activity coverage, transition coverage, activity path coverage	model based testing

21	Test Case Generation Based on Use case and Sequence Diagram	IJSE	Suresh Kumar Swain, Durga Prasad Mohapatra, Rajib Mall	2010 21-52	custom algo	uses a combination of use case and sequence diagram	integration and system testing	full predicate coverage	model based testing
22	GenRed: A Tool for Generating and Reducing Object-Oriented Test Cases	IEEE	IEEE 34th Annual Computer Software and Applications	Hejin Jaygarl, Kai-Shin Lu, Carl K. Chang	2010 127-136	custom tool GenRed is used	based on the enhancement of RANDOOP tool		
23	Automated Test cases generation for Object Oriented Software	IJCSE	A.V.K. Shaahidi, DR.G.Mahankumar	2011 543-546	evolutionary genetic algo, DFS	uses the UML class diagram and concept of data mining to generate optimal test cases			model based testing
24	EvoSuite: Automatic Test Suite Generation for Object oriented Software		Gordon Fraser, Andrea Arcuri	2011	custom tool EvoSuite is developed	based on the insertion of assertions in the code under test		code coverage and branch coverage	code based testing
25	Test Case Generation For Concurrent Object-Oriented Systems Using Combinational Uml Models	IJACS-A	Svagnatika Dahi, Arup Abhinna Acharya, Durga Prasad Mohapatra	2011 97-102		uses combinational UML model (Sequence diagram and Activity diagram) for generating test cases for concurrent systems			model based testing
26	Generation and Optimization of Test cases for Object-Oriented Software Using State Chart Diagram		Ranjita Kumari Swain, Pradifa Kumar Behera, Durga Prasad Mohapatra	2012 407-424	uses custom algos	uses state chart diagrams for generation and optimization of test cases		state coverage, action coverage, transition path coverage and condition coverage	model based testing
27	Minimal TestCase Generation for Object-Oriented Software with State Charts	IJSEA	Ranjita Kumari Swain, Pradifa Kumar Behera, Durga Prasad Mohapatra	2012 39-59	uses custom algos	uses state chart diagrams for generation and optimization of test cases		state coverage, action coverage, transition path coverage and condition coverage	model based testing
28	Behavior based Automated Test Case Generation for Object Oriented Systems	IJSEA	Rohin Verma, Rajesh Bharti	2012 49-60	custom tool is developed	uses combination of class diagram, sequence diagram and state chart diagram		piecemeal coverage, transition coverage, round trip path coverage	model based testing
29	Semi-Automatic Search-based Test Generation	IEEE	Fifth International Conference on Software Testing	Yury Pavlov, Gordon Fraser	2012 777-784	EVOSUIT E tool is used	integrates user-feedback into the genetic algo applied to generate test cases	unit(class testing)	
30	Test Case Generation for Classes in Objects Oriented Programming Using Grammatical Evolution		Jirawat Chairateert, Peraphon Sophanarith, Chidchanok Lursinsap	2012 251-257		uses Grammatical Evolution technique for user specified grammar to generate test cases	unit(class testing)	branch coverage	
31	Object Oriented Test Case Generation Technique using Genetic Algorithms	IJSEA	V.Mary Sumalatha, G.S.V.P.Raju	2013 20-26		based on the application of genetic algo on sequence diagram			model based testing
32	Review of Automatic Test Case Generation from UML Diagram using Evolutionary Algorithm	IJIES	Kiandeep Kaur, Vinay Choura	2014 17-20		uses multi objective genetic algo for test case generation from UML sequence diagram			model based testing

## 5. Literature Survey:

As is clear from the above list most of the work in the field of automated test case generation for object-oriented systems focus on the model based approach (mainly UML diagram). So, focus of this review paper has been on the model based approach for test case generation.

UML has emerged as an industrial standard for modeling software systems [6]. UML is a visual modeling language that can be used to specify, visualize, construct, and document the artifacts of a software system [6].

A number of researchers have used Models for testing the object oriented systems. This approach has increasingly become popular. C.D. Turner and D.J. Robson used the concept of FSA (Finite State Automata) for generation of test cases and validation of object-oriented programs. It emphasizes on the validation of interaction between the features of a class, [5].

Wang Linzhang, Yuan Jiesong, Yu Xiaofeng, Hu Jun, Li Xuandong and Zheng Guoliang, in their paper [7], derive test scenarios directly from the activity diagram modeling an operation. Then, all the information for test case generation, i.e. input/output sequence and parameters, the constraint conditions and expected object method sequence, is extracted from each test scenario. At last, the possible values of all the input/output parameters could be generated by applying category-partition method, and test suite could be systematically generated to find the inconsistency between the implementation and the design.

Ranjita Kumari Swain, Prafulla Kumar Behera and Durga Prasad Mohapatra, in [8], proposed a test data generation scheme using state chart diagram which optimizes test coverage by minimizing time and cost.

Debasish Kundu and Debasis Samanta used UML Activity Diagrams to generate test cases in [4]. They used UML 2.0 syntax for generating test cases from activity diagrams with use case scope. They considered a coverage criterion called activity path coverage criterion with the aim to cover faults like synchronization faults, faults in a loop.

Santosh Kumar Swain, Durga Prasad Mohapatra and Rajib Mall, in [9], proposed a novel technique by combining state and activity models of the system to construct an intermediate representation which they named as state-activity diagram. This technique is very effective in detecting integration faults.

Santosh Kumar Swain, Subhendu Kumar Pani, Durga Prasad Mohapatra, in [11], focus on various model based techniques for automatic object-oriented software testing.

A use case driven approach has been used by Cle´mentine Nebut, Franck Fleurey, Yves Le Traon, Jean-Marc Je´ze´quel for automated test case generation for embedded systems in [12].

Philip Samuel, Rajib Mall and Sandeep Sahoo have used UML sequence diagrams and dynamic slicing technique in their paper published in 2005. It uses slice coverage as the test coverage criteria, [13].

Monalisa Sarma, Rajib Mall in 'Automatic Test Case Generation from UML Models' use the combination of sequence diagrams and use case diagrams for test case generation and uses sequence diagram message path coverage and use case dependency coverage as metrics for measuring the effectiveness of generated test cases, [14].

Sequence diagrams, use case template and class diagrams have been used by Monalisa Sarma and Rajib Mall for system testing of the software, in [15]. This approach ensures sequence diagram message path sequence coverage.

Fanping Zeng, Zhide Chen, Qing Cao and Liangliang Mao used UML state diagram model that represent state transition to generate test cases, in [16]. A variation of this approach has also been proposed which uses state

chart diagrams for generation and optimization of test cases, [21].

A requirement prioritization method approach has been proposed by Nicha Kosindrdech and Jirapun Daengdej which is based on use case diagram which ensures domain specific requirement coverage, in [17].

A.V.K.Shanthi and DR.G.Mohankumar applied the concept of data mining to generate optimal test cases from UML class diagram, in [18].

Combinational UML models (sequence diagram and Activity diagram,[19] and class diagram, sequence diagram and state chart diagram, [20] ) have also been used by researchers for automating the test case generation for object-oriented systems.

Some researchers have also applied genetic algorithm to UML sequence diagrams for test case generation, [22], [23]. A multi objective genetic algorithm has been used by Kirandeep Kaur and Vinay Chopra for generating test cases from UML sequence diagram, [23].

### 5.1 Limitations of Design based approach

Work of these researchers and various other researches done in this field show that model based testing provides better test coverage especially for behavioral aspects which are difficult to identify in the code. Another advantage of this approach is that whenever a code change occurs to fix a coding error, the test cases are not affected as the changed code still conforms to the model. But this approach requires the testers to be familiar with the models and its underlying mathematics and theories. They need to be aware of the tools and programming languages necessary for performing various tasks. Moreover, can never displace code based testing, since models constructed during the development process lack several details of implementation that are required to generate test cases[4] .

## 6. Future Work:

The real work that remains for the near future is fitting specific models (finite state machines, grammars or language-based models) to specific application domains [2]. We must form an understanding of how we are testing and be able to sufficiently communicate that understanding so that testing insight can be encapsulated as a model for any and all to benefit from. Modifications can be done in existing models or new models can also be designed which are more generic and can host a wide variety of applications and provide an optimal test suite for testing.

## 7. Conclusion:

Model Based Testing approach provides the test cases early in the development of software development life cycle. It increases productivity and it doesn't require changes in the test cases whenever changes are made to

the code to correct the coding error. But it lacks certain implementation level details that are available for code based testing. At present there are not any guidelines or measures that can be used to weigh one model against the other. So, careful analysis of test requirement should be done before selecting a relevant model. A number of researchers have proposed different model based approaches for test case generation. But still a lot of work needs to be done to find the optimal test suite for applications under test.

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