An Applicable Family of Data Flow Testing Criteria

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Abstract—A test data adequacy criterion is a predicate which is used to determine whether a program has been tested "enough." An adequacy criterion is applicable if for every program there exists a set of test data for the program which satisfies the criterion. Most test data adequacy criteria based on path selection fail to satisfy the applicability property because, for some programs with unexecutable paths, no adequate set of test data exists.

In this paper, we extend the definitions of the previously introduced family of data flow testing criteria to apply to programs written in a large subset of Pascal. We then define a new family of adequacy criteria called feasible data flow testing criteria, which are derived from the data flow testing criteria. The feasible data flow testing criteria circumvent the problem of nonapplicability of the data flow testing criteria by requiring the test data to exercise only those definition-use associations which are executable. We show that there are significant differences between the relationships among the feasible data flow testing criteria.

We also discuss a generalized notion of the executability of a path through a program unit. A script of a testing session using our data flow testing tool, ASSET, is included in the Appendix.

Index Terms—Data flow analysis, software testing, software validation.

I. INTRODUCTION

An important problem in software testing is deciding when to stop. An adequacy criterion is a predicate which is used to determine whether a program has been tested "enough." Several software test data adequacy criteria are based on the idea that one cannot consider a program to be adequately tested if certain sequences of statements have never been executed by any test data. These methods generally associate a test set T, which is a subset of the input domain of the specification of a program P, with the set I of paths through P's flow graph, which are executed when the program is run with inputs from T. The test set T, or equivalently the set of paths I, is said to satisfy criterion C for programs P such that 

\[ C \text{ is } P\text{-adequate for } P \]

if and only if each of the sequences required by C is a subpath of one of the paths in I.

The most well known of these criteria are statement testing, branch testing, and path testing, which require that the test data cause every node, branch, or path, respectively, in the program's flow graph to be executed. Unfortunately, statement and branch testing can fail to expose many common errors, and path testing is usually infeasible since programs with loops have infinitely many paths. Several criteria which are based on analysis of the program's control flow and which are stronger than branch testing but weaker than path testing have been proposed.

Recently, a number of test data adequacy criteria which are based on data flow (DF) analysis, some of which "bridge the gap" between branch testing and path testing, have been proposed and studied. Tools based on some of them have been implemented. These criteria are based on the intuition that one should not feel confident that a variable has been assigned the correct value at some point in the program if no test data cause the execution of a path from the assignment to a point where the variable's value is subsequently used.

All of these criteria suffer from the weakness that for programs with unexecutable paths it may be impossible for any test set to satisfy the given adequacy criterion. For example, consider a program containing the statement "for \( i := 1 \) to 5 do S." For each \( n \geq 0 \), there is at least one path through the program's flow graph which traverses the loop \( n \) times. However, those paths corresponding to \( n \neq 5 \) can never be executed. Such a program could not be adequately tested using the path testing criterion, even if it were possible to do exhaustive testing. Experience using our tool, ASSET, has shown that, for many programs, unexecutable paths make it impossible for any test to satisfy a given DF testing criterion. This is clearly an undesirable situation.

An adequacy criterion C satisfies the applicability property if and only if for every program P there exists some test set which is C-adequate for P. One would expect a "good" adequacy criterion C to satisfy the applicability property. However, the statement testing, branch testing, path testing, and DF testing criteria all fail to satisfy the applicability property. Furthermore, for each of them it is undecidable whether a test set exists which adequately tests a given program.

One way to enforce the applicability of a criterion C is to restrict the class of programs considered to \( A_C \), the set of programs for which there exists a C-adequate test set. Unfortunately, for each DF testing criterion C (as well as the other criteria mentioned above), \( A_C \) excludes many "typical" programs. Furthermore, it is undecidable whether a given program belongs to \( A_C \). These drawbacks lead us to reject this approach. Instead, we define a new

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family of adequacy criteria by modifying the old criteria so as to ensure applicability.

In this paper, we define a new family of adequacy criteria, which are derived from the DF testing criteria proposed in [18], [19] and which satisfy the applicability property. Roughly speaking, for each of these new criteria, a test is adequate if and only if it comes “as close as possible” to satisfying the corresponding DF testing criterion. These criteria will be defined precisely, and the relationships between them will be explored in Section III. In Section II, we summarize the theory of DF testing, extending it to apply to programs written in Pascal. In Section IV, we define and discuss a generalization of the new family of criteria which takes into account information about the context in which the subprogram being tested is called.

II. DEFINITIONS OF THE DF TESTING CRITERIA

A family of test data adequacy criteria, based on analysis of the DF characteristics of the program being tested, was defined in [18]. These criteria, which we call data flow testing criteria, or DF testing for short, were originally defined for a very simple universal programming language consisting of assignment statements, conditional and unconditional transfer statements, and I/O statements. They require that the test data exercise certain paths from a point in a program where a variable is defined to points where the variable is subsequently used. A tool, ASSET, which performs DF testing on programs written in such a language, is described in [2].

In order to make DF testing more practical, we have extended it to apply to a large subset of Pascal and have enhanced ASSET accordingly. The basic ideas behind DF testing apply to testing programs written in other imperative languages, but for precision it is necessary to specify a particular syntax. We now summarize the extended theory of DF testing.

We apply DF testing to an individual subprogram, i.e., a main program, a procedure, or a function. To execute a procedure or function P, we must call it from a driver program. Thus, to test a procedure or function P, we need a test-set/driver-program pair (T, D) where D is a program which might call P and T is a subset of the input domain of the specification for D. Obviously, the path (or paths) through P which is executed when a particular test case is input to D will depend on D, as well as on the test case. We will often omit reference to the driver program when it is obvious which driver program is calling the subprogram. Similarly, we may omit reference to the driver program if it simply reads in the arguments to the subprogram in order and then calls the subprogram once.

As a technical convenience, we assume that the subprogram being tested has no goto statements, no with statements, no variant records, no functions having var parameters, no procedural or functional parameters, and no conformant arrays. It would not be difficult to relax these assumptions. We also assume that in every conditional statement the Boolean expression which determines the flow of control has at least one occurrence of a variable or a call to the function eof or to the function eoln.

A subprogram can be uniquely decomposed into a set of disjoint blocks of statements. A block is a maximal sequence of simple statements having the properties that it can only be entered through the first statement and that, whenever the first statement is executed, the remaining statements are executed in the given order. The subprogram to be tested is represented by a flow graph in which the nodes correspond to the blocks of the subprogram and edges indicate possible flow of control between blocks. As a technical convenience, some nodes which correspond to empty sequences of statements may also be added to the flow graph. Fig. 1 shows the subgraphs corresponding to statements in the language. The subprogram’s flow graph is obtained by merging the exit node of each statement with the entry node of the following statement. An entry node preceding the first statement of the procedure and an exit node succeeding the last statement are added.

DF analysis was originally used for compiler optimization [8], [20]. It generally classifies each variable occurrence as being a definition, in which a value is stored in a memory location, a use, in which a value is fetched from a memory location, or an undefined, in which the value and the location become unbound. For our purposes, we will also distinguish between two different types of use. The first type directly affects the computation being performed or outputs the result of some earlier definition. We call such a use a computation use, or a c-use. Of course, a c-use may indirectly affect the flow of control through the subprogram. In contrast, the second type of use directly affects the flow of control through the subprogram, and thereby may indirectly affect the computations performed. We call such a use a predicate use or p-use.

We will associate a sequence of definitions and c-uses with each node in the flow graph and will associate a set of p-uses with each edge in the flow graph. Fig. 1 shows the classification of variable occurrences in the language’s statements. In addition, the entry node is considered to have a definition of each parameter, each nonlocal variable which occurs in the subprogram, and the input buffer input1, which may implicitly occur in calls to the standard procedures/functions read, readln, eoln, and eof. The exit node has an undefined of each local variable, a c-use of each variable parameter, a c-use of each nonlocal variable, and a c-use of the input buffer input1.

We now discuss how DF analysis is handled for structured variables. Since it is not possible, in general, to determine the particular array element which is being defined or used in an occurrence of an array variable, any definition of the variable a[e] will consist of a c-use of each variable occurring in the expression e, followed by a definition of a. Any use of a[e] will consist of uses of all of the variables occurring in e, followed by a use of a. Similarly, we will treat pointers purely syntactically, making no attempt to perform DF analysis on dereferenced pointers. If p is a pointer variable, a definition of
p↑ consists of a c-use of p followed by a definition of p↑, and a use of p↑ consists of a use of p followed by a use of p↑. Since it is not possible to determine statically the memory location to which a pointer points, we will ignore the definitions and uses of p↑.

Each field of a record is treated as an individual variable. Any unqualified occurrence of a record is treated as an occurrence of each field of the record. Occurrences of file variables in I/O statements are handled by considering the effect of the statement on the file buffer.

Note that our model of data flow may not reflect the actual DF in the subprogram being tested completely accurately. For example, we have made no attempt to perform any interprocedural data flow analysis, have ignored dereferenced pointers, have made no attempt to disambiguate array references, and have ignored potential aliasing and side effects. In an optimizing compiler, it is imperative that conservative assumptions be made about the flow of data, lest a code transformation which changes the semantics of the program be performed. In the context of DF testing, however, such caution is not strictly necessary. On the other hand, it seems reasonable to expect
that more accurate DF analysis will force the selection of better test data. In [3], we compare the test data needed to test programs adequately when each array is treated as a single entity to the test data required to test transformed programs adequately in which array references are disambiguated and each element of the array is treated as an individual entity. More exploration of the tradeoff between the difficulty of performing accurate DF analysis and the quality of the resulting test data is needed.

We are interested in tracing the flow of data between nodes, and thus define a c-use of a variable \(x\) in node \(i\) to be a global c-use if the value of \(x\) has been assigned in some block other than block \(i\). Let \(x\) be a variable occurring in a subprogram. A path \((i, n_1, \ldots, n_m, j)\), \(m \geq 0\), containing no definitions or undeфинitions of \(x\) in nodes \(n_1, \ldots, n_m\) is called a definition clear path with respect to \(x\) (def-clear path wrt \(x\)) from node \(i\) to node \(j\) and from node \(i\) to edge \((n_m, j)\). A node \(i\) has a global definition of \(x\) if it has a definition of \(x\) and there is a def-clear path wrt \(x\) from node \(i\) to some node containing a global c-use or edge containing a p-use of \(x\). Since every p-use is associated with a potential transfer of control from one node to another, there is no need to distinguish between p-uses and global p-uses.

We restrict the class of subprograms to which DF testing applies to those subprograms \(P\) satisfying the following two properties.

1) No-Syntactic-Undefined-P-use Property (NSUP): For every p-use of a variable \(x\) on an edge \((i, j)\) in \(P\), there is some path from the start node to edge \((i, j)\) which contains a global definition of \(x\).

2) Non-Straight-Line Property (NSL): \(P\) has at least one conditional or repetitive statement.

Note that the NSL property guarantees that at least one node in \(P\)'s flow graph has more than one successor and that at least one variable has a p-use in \(P\).

The subprogram's def-use graph is obtained from the flow graph by associating with each node \(i\) the sets \(\text{c-use}(i) = \{\text{variables which have global c-uses in block } i\}\) and \(\text{def}(i) = \{\text{variables which have global definitions in block } i\}\) and associating with each edge \((i, j)\) the set \(\text{p-use}(i, j) = \{\text{variables which have p-uses on edge } (i, j)\}\). We also define sets of nodes \(\text{dcu}(x, i) = \{\text{nodes } j \text{ such that } x \in \text{c-use}(j) \text{ and there is a def-clear path with respect to } x \text{ from } i \text{ to } j\}\) and \(\text{dpv}(x, i) = \{\text{edges } (j, k) \text{ such that } x \in \text{p-use}(j, k) \text{ and there is a def-clear path with respect to } x \text{ from } i \text{ to } (j, k)\}\).

Thus, if \(x \in \text{def}(i)\) and \(j \in \text{dcu}(x, i)\), then \(x\) has a global definition in node \(i\) and a c-use in node \(j\), and there is a definition clear path with respect to \(x\) from node \(i\) to node \(j\). Therefore, it may be possible for control to reach node \(j\) with the variable \(x\) having the value which was assigned to it in node \(i\).

A definition-c-use association is a triple \((i, j, x)\) where \(i\) is a node containing a global definition of \(x\) and \(j \in \text{dcu}(x, i)\). A definition-p-use association is a triple \((i, (j, k), x)\) where \(i\) is a node containing a global definition of \(x\) and \((j, k) \in \text{dpv}(x, i)\). A simple path is one in which all nodes, except possibly the first and last, are distinct.

A loop-free path is one in which all nodes are distinct. A path \((n_1, \ldots, n_j, n_k)\) is a du-path with respect to a variable \(x\) if \(n_j\) has a global definition of \(x\) and either

1) \(n_k\) has a global c-use of \(x\) and \((n_1, \ldots, n_j, n_k)\) is a def-clear simple path with respect to \(x\), or

2) \((n_j, n_k)\) has a p-use of \(x\) and \((n_1, \ldots, n_j)\) is a def-clear loop-free path with respect to \(x\).

An association is a definition-c-use association, a definition-p-use association, or a du-path.

A complete path is a path from the entry node to the exit node of the flow graph. A complete path \(\pi\) covers a definition-c-use association \((i, j, x)\) (respectively, a definition-p-use association \((i, (j, k), x)\)) if it has a definition clear subpath with respect to \(x\) from \(i\) to \(j\) (respectively, from \(i\) to \((j, k)\)) and \(\pi\) covers a du-path \(\pi'\) if \(\pi'\) is a subpath of \(\pi\). A set \(\Pi\) of paths covers an association if some element of the set does. A test-set/driver-program pair \((D, T)\) covers an association if, when input to \(D\), the elements of \(T\) cause the execution of the set of paths \(\Pi\), and \(\Pi\) covers the association.

Roughly speaking, the family of DF testing criteria is based on requiring that the test data execute definition clear paths from each node containing a global definition of a variable to specified nodes containing global c-uses and edges containing p-uses of that variable. For each variable definition, we can demand that all some definition clear paths with respect to that variable from the node containing the definition to all some of the p-uses c-uses reachable by some paths be executed. The criteria are defined precisely in Fig. 2.

If variable \(x\) has a global definition in node \(i\), the all-defs criterion requires the test data to exercise some path which goes from node \(i\) to some node or edge at which the value assigned to \(x\) in node \(i\) is used. The all-uses criterion requires the test data to exercise at least one path to each such node and to each such edge. The all-du-paths criterion requires that all of the du-paths from \(i\) to each such node and each such edge be exercised. The criteria all-p-uses, all-c-uses, all-p-uses/some-c-uses, and all-c-uses/some-p-uses place emphasis on either c-uses or p-uses. Note that any subprogram has only finitely many definition-use associations, so none of the DF criteria requires an infinite amount of test data. Upper bounds on
The amount of test data required by the DF criteria are established in [21].

Criterion \( C_1 \) includes criterion \( C_2 \) if and only if, for every subprogram, any test-set/driver-program pair which satisfies \( C_1 \) also satisfies \( C_2 \). Criterion \( C_1 \) strictly includes criterion \( C_2 \), denoted \( C_1 \Rightarrow C_2 \), if and only if \( C_1 \) includes \( C_2 \) and for some subprogram \( P \) there is a test-set/driver-program pair which satisfies \( C_1 \) but does not satisfy \( C_2 \). The notion of subsumption in [1] is similar to our notion of inclusion.

Rapps and Weyuker proved that for the simple language for which DF testing was originally defined, the relationship among the criteria is as shown in Fig. 4 [19]. Clarke et al. [1] have shown the relationship of the criteria defined by Laski and Korel [14] and Ntanos [16] to the DF criteria.

In extending the theory of DF testing to apply to programs written in Pascal, we have preserved the inclusion relations among the DF criteria. Doing so required the inclusion of definitions of all nonlocal variables in the entry node of the procedure and careful treatment of implicit uses of the variable input. For symmetry, we have also added the all-c-uses criterion, which was not defined in [19]. For more details of the proof that the relationship among the criteria is as shown in Fig. 4, see [5].

III. The Feasible DF Testing Criteria

Given a subprogram \( P \) and a DF criterion \( C \), it may be the case that no test-set/driver-program pair for \( P \) satisfies \( C \). This occurs when none of the paths which cover a particular association required by \( C \) is executable. In such a case, \( P \) cannot be adequately tested according to \( C \). In this section, we introduce a new family of criteria, derived from the DF criteria, which circumvent this problem, and investigate some of its properties. We assume that all aliasing and side effects are known. We also assume that no element of the test set causes the program to crash; thus, if a test case causes the execution of the entry node of some subprogram, it will cause the execution of a path from the entry to the exit of that subprogram.

Recall that a complete path is a path from the entry node to the exit node of a subprogram's flow graph. We say that a complete path is executable or feasible if there exists some assignment of values to input variables, nonlocal variables, and parameters which causes the path to be executed. We say that a path is executable if it is a subpath of an executable complete path. Similarly, a node or edge is executable if it lies on some executable complete path. According to this definition, the question of whether or not a given path through a subprogram is executable is independent of the context in which that subprogram is called. However, it may depend on the effects of any procedures or functions which are called along the path. In Section IV, we will discuss the consequences of modifying this notion of executability to take into account information about the context in which the subprogram is called. Note that whether or not a particular path is executable depends on the actual subprogram, not just on its def-use graph.

We say that an association is executable if there is some executable complete path which covers it; otherwise, it is unexecutable. We define subsets \( \text{fcdu}(x, i) \subseteq \text{dcu}(x, i) \) and \( \text{fdpu}(x, i) \subseteq \text{dp}(x, i) \), whose elements correspond to those associations which are executable as follows: \( \text{fcdu}(x, i) = \{ \text{nodes } \} \text{ such that } x \in \text{c-use}(j) \} \) and there is an executable definition clear path with respect to \( x \) from \( i \) to \( j \} \) \( \text{fdpu}(x, i) = \{ \text{edges } (j, k) \text{ such that } x \in \text{p-use}(j, k) \} \). Equivalently, \( \text{fcdu}(x, i) = \{ j \in \text{dcu}(x, i) \} \text{ the association } (i, j, x) \text{ is executable } \} \) and \( \text{fdpu}(x, i) = \{ (j, k) \in \text{dp}(x, i) \} \text{ the association } (i, j, k, x) \text{ is executable } \} \). For each DF criterion \( C \), we define a new criterion \( C^* \) by selecting the required associations from \( \text{fcdu}(x, i) \) and \( \text{fdpu}(x, i) \) instead of from \( \text{dcu}(x, i) \) and \( \text{dp}(x, i) \). Precise definitions of these...
THE FEASIBLE DATA FLOW TESTING CRITERIA

\[
\text{FD
u(x,i) = \{j : \text{if the association } (i,j) \text{ is executable} \}
\]

\[
\text{FDpu(x,i) = \{(i,j) : \text{the association } (i,j) \text{ is executable} \}
\]

A test-set/collect-program pair (T,J) satisfies criterion C for subprogram P if and only if for each node i in P's flow graph and each \( x \in \text{def}(\text{P}) \) the set \( \Pi \) of paths executed by T covers the following associations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERION</th>
<th>REQUIRED ASSOCIATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(all-du-paths)*</td>
<td>If ( \text{FDpu(x,i)} \neq \phi ) then ( \Pi ) covers some (j,k) s.t. ( (j,k) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ) or ( (i,j) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ) or ( (j,k) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(all-p-uses)*</td>
<td>All ( (i,j) ) s.t. ( (i,j) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(all-c-uses)*</td>
<td>All ( \text{FDpu(x,i)} ) s.t. ( (i,j) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(all-p-uses/some-c-uses)*</td>
<td>All (i,j,k) s.t. ( (i,j) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ) and ( (i,k) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(all-c-uses/some-p-uses)*</td>
<td>All (i,j,k) s.t. ( (i,j) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ) and ( (k,j) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(all-defs)*</td>
<td>All executable du-paths with respect to x from i to j s.t. ( (i,j) \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ) and all executable du-paths with respect to x from i to (j,k) for each (j,k) ( \in \text{FDpu(x,i)} ).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For comparison we also define the criteria (all-nodes)*, (all-edges)*, (all-paths)*, (all-uses)*, (all-du-paths)*, (all-c-uses/some-p-uses)*, (all-p-uses/some-c-uses)*, (all-defs)*, and (all-du-paths)* as feasible FDF testing criteria, or FDF criteria for short.

The FDF criteria satisfy the applicability property: for any subprogram P and any FDF criterion C*, there is some test set T which satisfies C*. However, the question of whether a particular T satisfies C* for subprogram P is undecidable. In going from the family DF to the family FDF, we have traded the undecidability of the existence question "Is there any test set which is C*-adequate for P?" for the undecidability of the recognition problem "Is a given test set C*-adequate for P?"

Observe that for any DF criterion C, C \( \Rightarrow C^* \). We now investigate the inclusion relations among the FDF criteria.

**Theorem 1:** The family of FDF criteria is partially ordered by strict inclusion, as shown in Fig. 6. Furthermore, FDF criterion \( C^*_+ \) includes FDF criterion \( C^*_\) if and only if the inclusion is explicitly shown in the figure or follows from the transitivity of the relations.

**Proof:**

**A) Strictness of the Inclusions:** We first observe that if subprogram P has no unexecutable paths, then a test set is C-adequate for P if and only if it is C*-adequate for P. This observation, along with the proofs of strictness of the inclusions in Theorem 1 of [19], none of which involves subprograms with unexecutable paths, shows that all of the inclusions in Fig. 6 are strict. It thus suffices to show that the inclusions in Fig. 6 hold.

**B1) (all-paths)* \( \Rightarrow \) (all-uses)*:** Suppose that this does not hold. Then there are a subprogram P and a set T of test data which are (all-paths)*-adequate for P, but not (all-uses)*-adequate. Let \( \Pi = T \) be the set of paths through P which T executes. There exist a node \( i \in P \) with a global definition of some variable \( x \), a node \( j \) with a global c-use of \( x \) or edge \( (j,k) \) with a p-use of \( x \), and an executable definition clear path with respect to \( x \) from \( i \) to \( j \) [respectively, from \( i \) to \( j,k \)] which is not covered by \( \Pi \). This contradicts the fact that \( \Pi \) covers every executable path.

**B2) (all-paths)* \( \Rightarrow \) (all-du-paths)*:** Suppose that this does not hold. Then there are a subprogram P and a set \( T \) of test data which are (all-paths)*-adequate for P, but not (all-du-paths)*-adequate. Let \( \Pi = T \) be the set of paths through P which T executes. There exists an executable du-path which is not covered by \( \Pi \). This contradicts the fact that \( \Pi \) covers every executable path.

**B3) (all-paths)* \( \Rightarrow \) (all-nodes)*:** Suppose that this does not hold. Then there are a subprogram P and a set \( T \) of test data which are (all-paths)*-adequate for P, but not (all-nodes)*-adequate. Let \( \Pi = T \) be the set of paths through P which T executes. There exists an executable node \( i \) or edge \( j \) which is not covered by \( \Pi \). This contradicts the fact that \( \Pi \) covers every executable path.

**B4) (all-edges)* \( \Rightarrow \) (all-nodes)*:** Let \( T \) be a test set which satisfies (all-edges)* for subprogram P, and let \( \Pi = T \) be the set of paths executed by T. Let \( n \) be any executable node in P. If \( n \) is the exit node, then \( n \) has a unique successor \( m \), and \( (n,m) \) is executable. So \( \Pi \) covers \( (n,m) \) and hence covers \( n \). If \( n \) is not the exit node, then since \( n \) is executable, some branch \( (i,n) \) is executable. So \( \Pi \) covers \( (i,n) \) and hence covers \( n \).

**B5) (all-uses)* \( \Rightarrow \) (all-p-uses/some-c-uses)*:** These inclusions follow immediately from the definitions of the criteria given in Fig. 5. For example, any set \( \Pi \) of paths which covers all of the associations required by (all-uses)* will a fortiori cover all of the associations required by (all-p-uses/some-c-uses)*.

We next show that those relations not in the transitive closure of the diagram in Fig. 6 do not hold.

C1) (all-du-paths)* \( \nRightarrow \) (all-du-paths)*, (all-du-paths)* \( \nRightarrow \) (all-uses)*,
(all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-c-uses)*, (all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-c-uses/some-p-uses)*, (all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-defs)*, (all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-nodes): It suffices to show that (all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-p-uses)*, (all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-c-uses)*, (all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-defs)*, and (all-du-paths)* ⇒ (all-nodes)*. The rest follows from the transitivity of ⇒. Consider the subprogram shown in Fig. 7(a). Its du-paths are shown in Fig. 7(b). Of these, only (1, 2), (2, 3, 4), (4, 3, 4), and (4, 3, 5) are executable. Let T = { (X, Y) | where X is any integer and Y < 0. Since T executes II = { (1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10) }, T satisfies (all-du-paths)*. However, II does not cover the associations (2, (6, 8), (2, 8, 9, x), or node 8, all of which are covered by the executable path (1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10), so T does not satisfy (all-p-uses)*, (all-c-uses)*, (all-defs)*, or (all-nodes)*.

Intuitively, (all-du-paths)* fails to include these criteria because it is possible for a subprogram to have certain definition–use associations which can be executed only by paths which traverse some loop one or more times.

C2) (all-p-uses)* ⇒ (all-edges)*, (all-p-uses/some-c-uses)* ⇒ (all-edges)*, (all-uses)* ⇒ (all-du-paths)*, (all-nodes)* ⇒ (all-defs)*, (all-nodes)* ⇒ (all-nodes)*: Consider the subprogram in Fig. 8, where y is a local variable (and hence does not have a definition in the entry node). Notice that since node 3 is unexecutable, y is always uninitialized when control reaches node 5. In the absence of any information about which (if either) edge leaving node 5 will be executed when the program is run on actual test data, we make the worst case assumption that edges (5, 6) and (5, 7) are both executable. This would be the case, for example, in an environment in which uninitialized variables receive arbitrary values. Since node 3 is unexecutable, the only executable definition–use associations are (1, 2, input1), (2, (2, 4), x), and (2, 9, input1). Let T be a test which executes II = { (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9) } or II = { (1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9) }. Then T satisfies (all-p-uses)*, (all-p-uses/some-c-uses)*, and (all-uses)*, but does not satisfy (all-edges)* or (all-nodes)*.

The rest of the noninclusions follow immediately from the incomparability and strictness proofs for the DF criteria, given in [19] and [5].

It seems discouraging that (all-p-uses)* fails to include (all-edges)*. DF testing was developed in part in order to "bridge the gap" between branch testing and path testing. Since many "real-life" subprograms cannot be adequately tested using the unstarched versions of the DF criteria, one would hope that the FDF criteria would "bridge the gap" between (all-edges)* and (all-p-uses)*. We have seen that this is not the case. We next show that, for a certain class of "well-behaved" subprograms, any test which satisfies (all-p-uses)* satisfies (all-edges)*.

Definition: We will say that a subprogram P satisfies the No-Feasible-Undefined-P-uses property (NFUP) if and only if, for every executable edge (i, j) in P having a p-use of a variable x, there is some executable path from the start node to edge (i, j) which contains a global definition of x.

We note that it is quite reasonable to expect subprograms to have property NFUP. If (i, j) is an edge which causes NFUP to fail, then any input which causes (i, j) to be executed will involve referencing an uninitialized variable.

Theorem 2: For the class of subprograms which satisfy NFUP, (all-p-uses)* ⇒ (all-edges)*.

Proof: Let P be a subprogram satisfying NFUP, let T be a test set which satisfies (all-p-uses)* for P, let II be the set of paths executed by T, and let (i, j) be an executable edge in P. Suppose (i, j) has a p-use of a variable x. By hypothesis, there is an executable path π from the start node to (i, j) which includes a global definition of
x. Let \( n \) be the last node in \( \pi \) having a global definition of \( x \). Then \( (n, (i, j), x) \) is an executable definition-\( p \)-use association, so it is covered by \( \Pi \). Hence, \( (i, j) \) is covered by \( \Pi \).

If \((i, j)\) has no \( p \)-uses, then the result follows by a straightforward modification of the corresponding part of the proof of (all-\( p \)-uses) \( \Rightarrow \) (all-edges) [5].

In [19], the class of subprograms to which DF testing applies was restricted to those subprograms satisfying the NSUP property, defined in Section II above. This restriction was necessary in order to ensure that all-\( p \)-uses \( \Rightarrow \) all-edges. NFUP is a strengthening of NSUP. It takes into account the fact that even in subprograms satisfying NSUP, it may be the case that no executable path \( \pi \) from the entry node to some \( p \)-use of \( x \) has a definition of \( x \).

It is tempting to restrict the class of programs to which the FDF criteria apply to those satisfying NFUP. It is our feeling, however, that while one can live with the undecidability of the adequate test recognition problem and perhaps (albeit very uncomfortably) with the undecidability of the adequate test existence problem, one should at least be able to decide algorithmically whether a given testing strategy applies to a given subprogram. Since it is undecidable whether a given subprogram satisfies NFUP, we refrain from requiring that this property hold for subprograms to be tested.

Another possible way to force (all-\( p \)-uses)* to include (all-edges)* would be to require subprograms to satisfy the No-Anomalies property (NA), which is as follows. Every path from the start node to a use of a variable \( x \) must contain a definition of \( x \). Osterweil and Fosdick [17] consider any subprogram not satisfying this property to have a DF anomaly indicative of possible subprogram error. Since NA is a purely syntactic property and NA implies NFUP, we could restrict FDF testing to subprograms satisfying this property. We feel that this is overly restrictive since many perfectly good subprograms fail to satisfy NA.

One way to force NA to be satisfied is to give the entry node a definition of each variable. This would potentially increase the number of def-\( p \)-use associations and thus make the criteria more demanding. However, it would also make the model of the subprogram's DF reflect the actual DF less accurately.

Another approach is to perform FDF testing in conjunction with a check for DF anomalies. For any subprogram which satisfies NA and any test set \( T \) which satisfies (all-\( p \)-uses)*, the tester will be assured that \( T \) satisfies (all-edges)*. In case NA does not hold, the tester should explicitly check whether (all-edges)* is satisfied and, if necessary, add more test data or inspect the subprogram for references of uninitialized variables.

IV. A Generalized Notion of Executability

The definition of executability given in Section III fails to take into account any information about the context in which a subprogram is called. It may be the case that there are no input data to the program as a whole which cause the execution of a particular executable path through a subprogram. In order to test such a subprogram adequately with respect to a given FDF criterion, it may be necessary to write a driver program which assigns particular values to global variables and parameters and then calls the subprogram. Whether this extra effort is "worthwhile" depends on whether it is likely that the subprogram will ever be called in a context other than the one in which it currently appears in the program. In this section, we define a more general notion of executability which takes into account information about the context in which a subprogram is called. We then explore the effects of this generalization on the FDF criteria.

Consider the program

```plaintext
program main(input,output);
    type CharString = array[1..10] of char;
    var string1 : CharString;
        length : integer;
    procedure WriteString(str: CharString; n: integer);
        {Writes the first n characters of str to standard output.}
        var i : integer;
        begin
            for i := 1 to n do write(str[i])
        end;
    begin {statement part of main program}
        if length > 0 then WriteString(string1,length)
        else ...
    end. {main}
```

Suppose that at every point in the program at which WriteString is called, the value of \( n \) is guaranteed to be strictly greater than zero. Then no input to the program can cause the execution of the path through the procedure which traverses the loop zero times.

In order to test WriteString adequately with respect to the criterion (all-uses)*, it is necessary to include test data which cause the for loop to be traversed zero times. To do this, one must write a driver program which calls WriteString with the second parameter having a value less than or equal to zero. If we think that we might actually want to use the procedure WriteString in a less restricted context (for example, because of modifications of the calling program or reusing the procedure in a different program), then this is a reasonable thing to do. On the other hand, if we are fairly certain that the procedure will never be called in a context where \( n \) is less than or equal to zero, then writing a driver program could be construed as being a wasted effort. What is needed is a notion of test data adequacy which takes into account information about the context in which the subprogram being tested can be called.

We can achieve this by relativizing the definition of executability as follows. We associate with the subprogram to be tested a predicate \( IC(V_1, \ldots, V_r) \) called the input constraint where \( V_1, \ldots, V_r \) represent the subprogram's
parameters and nonlocal variables. A path through the subprogram is then executable relative to IC if there exists some assignment of values to input variables, parameters, and nonlocal variables which satisfies IC and which causes the path to executed. A path is executable as defined in Section III if and only if it is executable relative to the input constraint IC = TRUE. The notion of executability of an association and the definitions of the FDF criteria can be relativized in a straightforward manner.

The relationship among the relativized FDF criteria is essentially the same as that among the nonrelativized criteria. The definitions must be modified to reflect the fact that the objects being tested now consist of pairs (P, IC) where P is a subprogram and IC is an input constraint.

We say that the relativized criteria C1 includes the relativized criterion C2 if for every subprogram/input-constraint pair (P, IC) every test which satisfies C1 for that pair also satisfies C2. C1 strictly includes C2 if C1 includes C2 and for some pair (P, IC) there is a test which satisfies C2 but does not satisfy C1. It is easy to show that the relationship among the relativized criteria is as shown in Fig. 6.

One reasonable choice for the input constraint is the predicate ICspec obtained by taking the constraints on the input to the program as a whole (drawn from the program's specification), conjoining them, and "pushing them through" the program to all points at which the subprogram being tested is called. In practice, one might want to use a weaker predicate than ICspec, which can be built up during the testing process as follows. At some point in the testing process, the tester notices that a particular executable association has still not been exercised. Upon examining the program to see what values of input data, nonlocal variables, and parameters would cause the execution of that association, the tester sees that the needed values of nonlocal variables and parameters cannot arise in the context of the program as a whole. One can then formulate a constraint which reflects this fact and can conjoin it to the previous constraint.

If the calling program is modified some time after the subprogram has been certified to be adequately tested, the predicate IC will provide useful documentation which will help in selecting additional test data for the subprogram. If IC is still satisfied whenever the subprogram is called, then no further testing of the subprogram will be needed. If IC no longer holds at the points of call, however, it will be necessary to update IC, determine which def-use associations become executable relative to the new constraint, and add test data to exercise those associations.

V. Conclusions

We have introduced a new family of path selection criteria derived from the DF testing criteria and explored the relationships among them. These criteria, the feasible data flow (FDF) testing criteria, are obtained from the corresponding DF testing criteria by eliminating unexecutable associations from consideration.

For a large class of "well-behaved programs, the FDF criteria (all-p-uses)*, (all-p-uses/some-c-uses)*, and (all-uses)* "bridge the gap" between (all-edges)* and (all-paths)* in the same way that the corresponding DF criteria do. For certain programs with anomalies, however, there are tests which satisfy (all-p-uses)* without satisfying (all-edges)*. Furthermore, although (all-du-paths) = (all-uses), (all-du-paths)* does not even include (all-nodes)*.

The advantage of the FDF criteria over the DF criteria is that they satisfy the applicability property: for every subprogram P and every FDF criterion C, there is some set of paths which is C-adequate for P. The DF criteria do not satisfy this property. The disadvantage of the FDF criteria is that it is undecidable whether a particular set of paths is C-adequate for P. Thus, in deciding whether to use the DF criteria or the FDF criteria, one is faced with a tradeoff between applicability and automatability.

Although it is in general undecidable whether a given association is executable, it is often easy for a person looking at a subprogram to determine whether or not a particular association is executable. Sometimes this requires very little semantic information. For example, any program with a for loop in which the upper bound is always greater than or equal to the lower bound has an unexecutable definition-p-use association. In other cases, determining whether a given association is executable seems to require a "high-level" understanding of how the subprogram and other subprograms which it calls operate.

We have developed a heuristic method which uses a combination of symbolic evaluation and DF analysis to attempt to identify unexecutable definition-use associations [5]. When the heuristic cannot determine whether or not a particular association is executable, the person using the tool will have to intervene. We hope that this approach will prove to be a practical way to preserve the applicability property enjoyed by the FDF criteria, while sacrificing automatability to only a small extent.

APPENDIX

Example of an ASSET Session

In this Appendix, we present an annotated example of an ASSET session. To distinguish between test written by the system and that written by the user, we display text entered by the user in boldface type. Comments are written in italics. For further information, see the ASSET USER MANUAL [4].

Example 1: This example shows an ASSET session in which a brute-force string matching procedure is analyzed. The program reads a string and a pattern. It is supposed to print the position in the string at which the pattern first appears and print 0 if the pattern never appears in the string. The current working directory has a subdirectory called "StrMtch." The file "StrMtch/subject.p" contains the following program:

```
program TestStringMatch (input, output);
const MAX = 80;
LENGTH = 10;
```
type Source = array[1..MAX] of char;
String = array[1..LENGTH] of char;

var Pat : String;
Txt : Source;
i,result,TxtLen : integer;

function StringMatch(Pattern:String;
SorText: Source;
PatLen, SorLen : integer): integer;
{Brute force pattern-matcher. Returns 0 for no match}
var PatPos, SorPos : integer;
begin
  PatPos := 1;
  SorPos := 1;
  repeat
    if Pattern[PatPos] = SorText[SorPos] then
      begin
        SorPos := SorPos + 1;
        PatPos := PatPos + 1
      end {then}
    else
      begin
        SorPos := (SorPos - PatPos) + 2;
        PatPos := 1
      end; {else}
    until (PatPos > PatLen) or (SorPos > SorLen);
  if PatPos > PatLen
    then StringMatch := SorPos - PatLen
  else StringMatch := 0
end; {StringMatch}

begin {main program}
  {Read Input}
  writeln('ENTER THE TEXT');
i := 1;
  while (not(eo1n) and (i < = MAX)) do
  begin
    read(Txt[i]);
i := i + 1
  end;
  TxtLen := i - 1;
readln;
  writeln('ENTER THE PATTERN');
i := 1;
  while (not(eo1n) and (i < = LENGTH)) do
  begin
    Read(Pat[i]);
i := i + 1
  end;
readln;
result := StringMatch(Pat,Txt,i - 1, TxtLen);
  writeln('The pattern first appears at position ',
result:3, ' in the text.');
end.

Script started on Sun May 31 13:09:59 1987
csd27 < asset
Still must exercise at least one of the following def-clear paths:

with respect to from to
SorText 1 (3, 5)
SorText 1 (3, 4)

AND

Still must exercise at least one of the following def-clear paths:

with respect to from to
PatLen 1 8
PatLen 1 (6, 3)
PatLen 1 (6, 7)
PatLen 1 (7, 9)
PatLen 1 (7, 8)

AND

Still must exercise at least one of the following def-clear paths:

with respect to from to
SorLen 1 (6, 3)
SorLen 1 (6, 7)

AND

Still must exercise at least one of the following def-clear paths:

with respect to from to
PatPos 2 4
PatPos 4 5
PatPos 4 (3, 5)
PatPos 4 (3, 4)
PatPos 4 (6, 3)
PatPos 4 (6, 7)
PatPos 4 (7, 9)
PatPos 4 (7, 8)

AND

Still must exercise at least one of the following def-clear paths:

with respect to from to
SorPos 4 4
SorPos 4 5
SorPos 4 (3, 5)
SorPos 4 (3, 4)
SorPos 4 (6, 3)
SorPos 4 (6, 7)

AND

Still must exercise at least one of the following def-clear paths:

with respect to from to
PatPos 5 4
PatPos 5 5
PatPos 5 (3, 5)
PatPos 5 (3, 4)
PatPos 5 (6, 3)
PatPos 5 (6, 7)
PatPos 5 (7, 9)
PatPos 5 (7, 8)

AND

Still must exercise at least one of the following def-clear paths:

with respect to from to
SorPos 5 4
SorPos 5 5
SorPos 5 8
SorPos  5  (3, 5)
SorPos  5  (3, 4)
SorPos  5  (6, 3)
SorPos  5  (6, 7)

To look at these again use the command 'view results'.

Next we will compile the program and start running it on some test data. As the initial test data set, we select one element in which the pattern appears in the string and one element in which the pattern does not appear in the string.

>>> : compile
Compilation begins ...
Done, and successful.

>>> : run
File 'traversed' already exists.

Do you want to append to it? (Y/N) [Y]

Do you want to save old 'traversed'? (Y/N) [N]

Command line arguments? (Y/N) [Y]

Executing modified subject program ...

The quick brown fox

ENTER THE PATTERN
quick

The pattern first appears at position 5 in the text.

Do you want to run the subject program on some additional test data? (Y/N) [N]

Command line arguments? (Y/N) [Y]

Executing modified subject program ...

ENTER THE TEXT
The quick brown fox

ENTER THE PATTERN
quick

The pattern first appears at position 0 in the text.

Do you want to run the subject program on some additional test data? (Y/N) [N]

To look at these again use the command 'view results'.

The test set satisfies the all-defs criterion. We next check whether the same test set satisfies a stronger criterion, all-uses.

>>> : select

SELECT A CRITERION
A. All-defs
B. All-c-uses
C. All-p-uses
D. All-c-uses/some-p-uses
E. All-p-uses/some-c-uses
F. All-uses
G. All-du-paths

Enter letter representing the selected criterion

>>> : f
Criterion is All-uses.

To aid in the selection of the test data which cover the remaining def-use associations, the user can draw the flow graph (see Fig. 9) and use "copy.p" to aid in labeling each node with the corresponding code. Notice that for each i, block i begins with the statement "write(traversed,i;FW);".
>>> run
File 'traversed' already exists.
Do you want to append to it? (y/n) [Y]
>>> y
Do you want to save old 'traversed'? (y/n) [N]
>>> n
Command line arguments? (y/n) [Y]
>>> y
Executing modified subject program ...

ENTER THE TEXT
The quick brown fox
ENTER THE PATTERN
quick
The pattern first appears at position 5 in the text.
Do you want to run the subject program
on some additional test data? (y/n) [N]
>>> [1]

write(traversed, 1; FW);
write(traversed, 2; FW);
PatPos := 1;
SorPos := 1;
10:
write(traversed, 3; FW);
if Pattern[PatPos] = SortText[SorPos] then begin
write(traversed, 4; FW);
begin
SorPos := SorPos + 1;
PatPos := PatPos + 1
end
end else begin
write(traversed, 5; FW);
begin
SorPos := SorPos - PatPos + 2;
PatPos := 1
end
end;
write(traversed, 6; FW);
if not ((PatPos > PatLen) or (SorPos > SorLen)) then
goto 10;
write(traversed, 7; FW);
if PatPos > PatLen then begin
write(traversed, 8; FW);
StringMatch := SorPos - PatLen
end else begin
write(traversed, 9; FW);
StringMatch := 0
end
end;
write(traversed, 11; FW);

Fig. 9. Screen dump of an ASSET session.
program TestStringMatch(traversed, input, output);
var
  traversed: text;
const
  MAX = 80;
  LENGTH = 10;
type
  Source = array [1..MAX] of char;
  String = array [1..LENGTH] of char;
var
  Pat: String;
  Txt: Source;
i, result, TxtLen: integer;
function StringMatch(Pattern: String; SorText: Source;
  PatLen, SorLen: integer): integer;
lable
  10;
const
  FW = 4;
var
  PatPos, SorPos: integer;
begin
  rewrite(traversed);
  begin writeln('ENTER THE TEXT');
    write(traversed, 1: FW);
    write(traversed, 2: FW);
    PatPos := 1;
    SorPos := 1;
  10:
    write(traversed, 3: FW);
    if Pattern[PatPos] = SorText[SorPos] then begin
      write(traversed, 4: FW);
      begin
        SorPos := SorPos + 1;
        PatPos := PatPos + 1
      end
    end else begin
      write(traversed, 5: FW);
      goto 10;
    end
end;
write(traversed, 6: FW);
if not ((PatPos > PatLen) or (SorPos > SorLen)) then
  goto 10;
write(traversed, 7: FW);
if PatPos > PatLen then begin
  write(traversed, 8: FW);
  StringMatch := SorPos - PatLen
end else begin
  write(traversed, 9: FW);
  StringMatch := 0
end;
write(traversed, 10: FW);
write(traversed, 11: FW)
end; { StringMatch }
result := StringMatch(Pat, Txt, i - 1, TxtLen);
writeln('The pattern first appears at position', result: 3, ' in the text.')
end. { TestStringMatch }

Examining the annotated flow graph, we see that in order to execute a path from 2 to 4 which is definition clear with respect to PatPos, a test case in which the first character of the string matches the first character of the pattern is needed. We run the program on such a test case, adding its trace to those produced by the test cases run previously.

>>> : run
File 'traversed' already exists. Do you want to append to it? (Y/N) [Y]
>>: y
Command line arguments? (Y/N) [Y]
>>: n
Executing modified subject program …

ENTER THE TEXT
The quick brown fox

ENTER THE PATTERN
The

The pattern first appears at position 1 in the text. Do you want to run the subject program on some additional test data? (Y/N) [N]
>>: n

>>> : check
Still need to exercise all of the following of def-clear paths:
with respect to from to
SorPos 5 8
PatPos 4 (7, 9)
PatPos 5 (7, 8)

To look at these again use the command 'view results'.

Examining the annotated flow graph, we see that in order to execute a path from 5 to 8 which is definition clear with respect to SorPos, a test case in which the pattern is the null string is needed. We run the program on such a test case, adding its trace to those produced by the test cases run previously.

>>> : run
File 'traversed' already exists.
Do you want to append to it? (Y/N) [Y]
>>: y
Command line arguments? (Y/N) [Y]
>>: n

Executing modified subject program …

ENTER THE TEXT
The quick brown fox

ENTER THE PATTERN
The pattern first appears at position 2 in the text.

Examining the program’s output, we see that the program has reported that the null string first appears in position 2 of the string. This is an error! The reader should note that this bug is guaranteed to be detected by any test set which is adequate according to the all-uses criterion.

Having discovered a bug, we save the ASSET session and prepare to report the error.

Do you want to run the subject program on some additional test data? (Y/N) [N]
>>: n

>>> : save

Note that to cover the one remaining association (4,(7,9),PatPos) we would have to include a test case in which the first k characters of the pattern matched the last k characters of the text, for some k such that 0 < k < the length of the pattern.

REFERENCES

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