

CFaults: Model-Based Diagnosis for Fault Localization in C with Multiple Test Cases

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Motivation

- Debugging is one of the most time-consuming and expensive tasks in software development.

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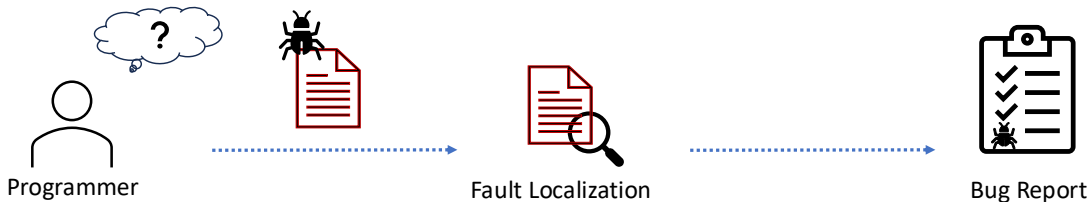
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 - In 2000, the total cost of the work done in preparation for Year 2000 Problem likely surpassed 400 Billion US\$ [The Guardian, 2019];
 - In 2024, the estimated global cost of Crowdstrike's error that hit Microsoft systems, is 24 Billion US\$ [The Sun UK, 2024].

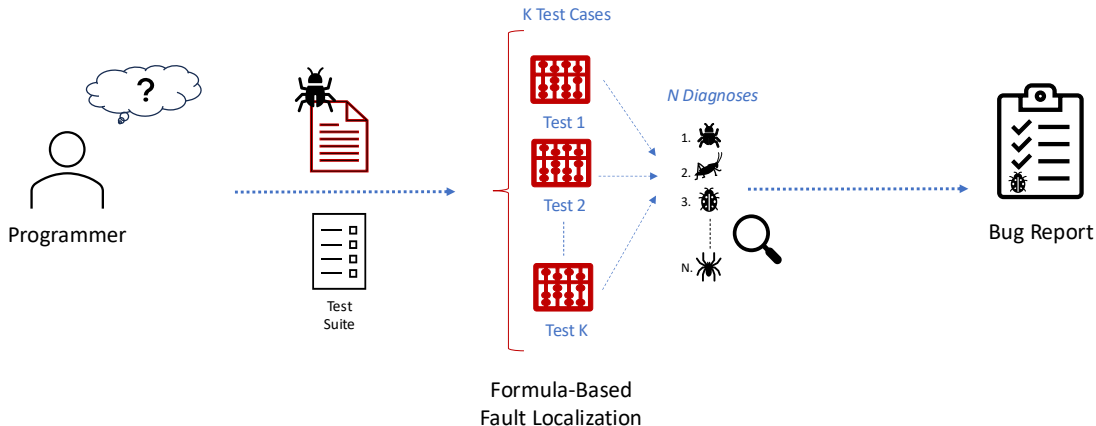
Fault Localization

- Given a buggy program, *fault localization (FL)* involves identifying locations in the program that could cause a faulty behaviour (bug).



Formula-Based Fault Localization (FBFL)

- FBFL methods encode the localization problem into **several optimization problems** to identify a minimal set of bugs (diagnoses).



Current Formula-Based Fault Localization

1: Faulty program example. Faulty lines:
{4,6,8}.

```
1  int main(){
2      int f,s,t;
3      scanf("%d%d%d",&f,&s,&t);
4      if (f < s && f >= t)
5          printf("%d",f);
6      if (f > s && s <= t)
7          printf("%d",s);
8      if (f > t && s > t)
9          printf("%d",t);
10     return 0;
11 }
```

Table 1: Test-suite.

	Input			Output
t0	1	2	3	3
t1	-1	-2	-3	-1
t2	1	2	1	2

Current Formula-Based Fault Localization

2: Faulty program example. Faulty lines: {4,6,8}.

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	BugAssist	SNIPER
#Diagnoses t_0	8	8
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#Total Unique Diagnoses	32	1297
Final Diagnosis	{3,9}	{4,6,8}

Table 2: Number of diagnoses (faulty statements) generated by BUGASSIST [Jose et al., 2011] and SNIPER [Lamraoui et al., 2016] per test.

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Current Limitations

FBFL tools especially for programs with multiple faults:

- **do not ensure a minimal diagnosis** across all failing tests (e.g., BUGASSIST);
- may produce an overwhelming number of **redundant sets of diagnoses** (e.g., SNIPER).

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- We leverage MaxSAT and the theory of *Model-Based Diagnosis (MBD)* [Reiter et al., 1987, Ignatiev et al., 2019], **integrating all failing test cases simultaneously**;
- We implement this MBD approach in a publicly available tool called CFAULTS.

Model-Based Diagnosis

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- For each component $c \in \mathcal{C}$, $h(c) = 0$ **if c is unhealthy, otherwise, $h(c) = 1$** .
- \mathcal{P} is described by a CNF formula, where \mathcal{F}_c denotes the encoding of component c :

$$\mathcal{P} \triangleq \bigwedge_{c \in \mathcal{C}} (\neg h(c) \vee \mathcal{F}_c) \quad (1)$$

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- In this work, **the failing test cases represent the set of observations**.
- A system \mathcal{P} is considered **faulty if there exists an inconsistency with a given observation o when all components are declared healthy**:

$$\mathcal{P} \wedge o \wedge \bigwedge_{c \in \mathcal{C}} h(c) \models \perp \quad (2)$$

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- A diagnosis is redundant if it is not subset-minimal [Ignatiev et al., 2019].

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$$\bigwedge_{c \in \mathcal{C}} h(c);$$

- This encoding enables enumerating subset **minimal diagnoses, considering a single observation**;

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- The soft clauses are formulated as:

$$\phi_s = \bigwedge_{c \in \mathcal{C}} h(c).$$

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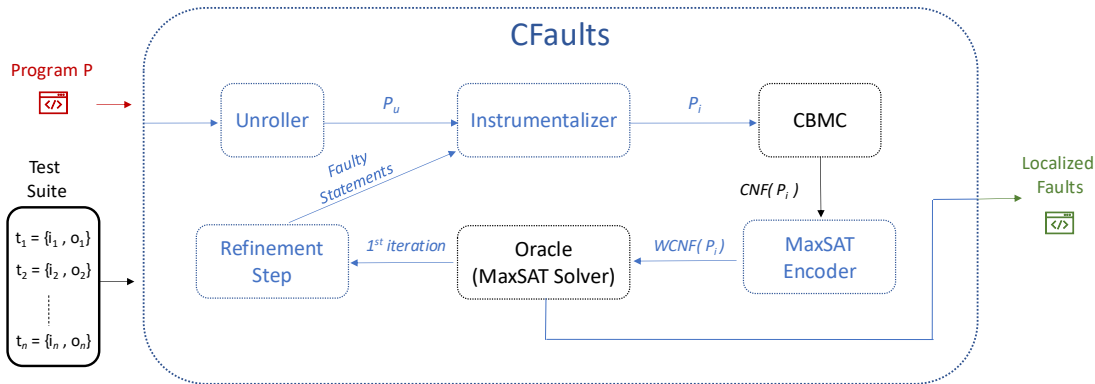
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Model-Based Diagnosis with Multiple Test Cases

- The set of unhealthy components ($h(c) = 0$), corresponds to a **subset-minimal aggregated diagnosis**.
- This diagnosis is a subset-minimal of components that, when declared unhealthy (deactivated), make the system consistent with all observations, as follows:

$$\bigwedge_{o_i \in \mathcal{O}} (\mathcal{P}_i \wedge o_i) \wedge \bigwedge_{c \in \mathcal{C} \setminus \Delta} h(c) \wedge \bigwedge_{c \in \Delta} \neg h(c) \not\models \perp \quad (4)$$

CFaults



Program unrolling

- An unrolled program is the **original program expanded m times**;
- It **encodes the execution of all failing tests** within the program;

```
1  float _input_f0[3] = {1, 2, 3};
2  char _out_0[2] = "3";
3  int _ioff_f0 = 0, _ooff_0 = 0;
4  // ... inputs and outputs for the other tests
5  int main(){
6      scope_0:{
7          int f_0, s_0, t_0;
8          f_0 = _input_f0[_ioff_f0++];
9          s_0 = _input_f0[_ioff_f0++];
10         t_0 = _input_f0[_ioff_f0++];
11         if ((f_0 < s_0) && (f_0 >= t_0))
12             _ooff_0 = printInt(_out_0, _ooff_0, f_0);
13         if ((f_0 > s_0) && (s_0 <= t_0))
14             _ooff_0 = printInt(_out_0, _ooff_0, s_0);
15         if ((f_0 > t_0) && (s_0 > t_0))
16             _ooff_0 = printInt(_out_0, _ooff_0, t_0);
17         goto scope_1;
18     }
19     // ... scope_1 and scope_2
20     final_step:
21     assert(strcmp(_out_0, "3") != 0 // other assertions);
22 }
```

Program unrolling

For each scope, CFAULTS:

- generates **fresh variables and functions**;
- establishes **variables representing the inputs and outputs**;
- embeds an assertion capturing all the specifications.

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20     final_step:
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```

Program Instrumentalization

3: Program statements.

```
1  int i;
2  int n;
3  int s;
4
5  s = 0;
6  n = _input_f0[_ioff_f0++];
7
8  if (n == 0)
9      return 0;
10
11 for (i=1; i < n; i++){
12     s = s + i;
13 }
```

4: Program statements relaxed.

```
1  //main scope
2  bool _rv1, _rv2, _rv3, _rv5;
3  bool _rv6[UNWIND],..., _rv8[UNWIND];
4  int _los; // loop1 offset
5
6  //test scope
7  bool _ev4;
8  int i,n,s;
9  _los=1;
10
11 if (_rv1) s = 0;
12 if (_rv2) n = _input_f0[_ioff_f0++];
13 if (_rv3 ? (n == 0) : _ev4)
14     return 0;
15
16 for (_rv5 ? (i = 1) : 1;
17     !_rv6[_los] || (i<n);
18     _rv8[_los] ? i++ : 1, _los++){
19     if (_rv7[_los]) s = s + i;
20 }
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- We assign a **hierarchical weight to each relaxation variable** based on the height of its sub-AST (abstract syntax tree);
- CFAULTS **enumerates all MaxSAT solutions** to identify all subset-minimal diagnoses.

Experimental Results

Experimental Setup

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- All the experiments were conducted using:
 - a memory limit of **32GB**;
 - a timeout of **3600 seconds** (1 hour).

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- are either **unavailable or no longer maintained**, prototypes of their algorithms were implemented;
- in this experiment, **handle ANSI-C programs**, as their algorithms are built on top of CFAULTS's unroller and instrumentalizer modules.

Results

Benchmark: TCAS			
	Valid Diagnosis	Memouts	Timeouts
BugAssist	41 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
SNIPER	7 (17.07%)	34 (82.93%)	0 (0.0%)
CFaults	41 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
CFaults-Refined	41 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

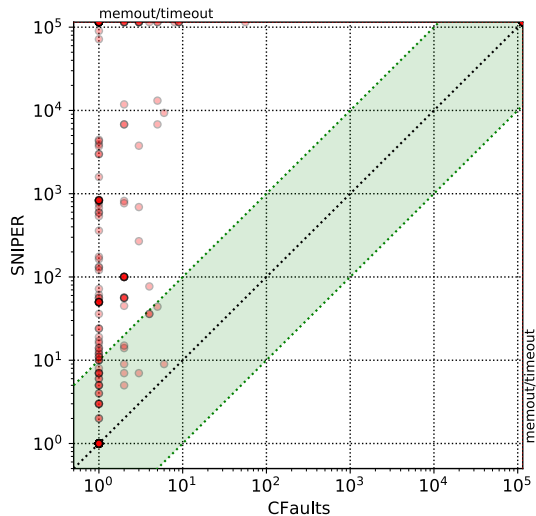
Table 4: BUGASSIST, SNIPER and CFAULTS fault localization results on TCAS.

Results

Benchmark: C-Pack-IPAs			
	Valid Diagnosis	Memouts	Timeouts
BugAssist	454 (93.42%)	0 (0.0%)	32 (6.58%)
SNIPER	446 (91.77%)	4 (0.82%)	36 (7.41%)
CFaults	483 (99.38%)	1 (0.21%)	2 (0.41%)
CFaults-Refined	482 (99.18%)	1 (0.21%)	3 (0.62%)

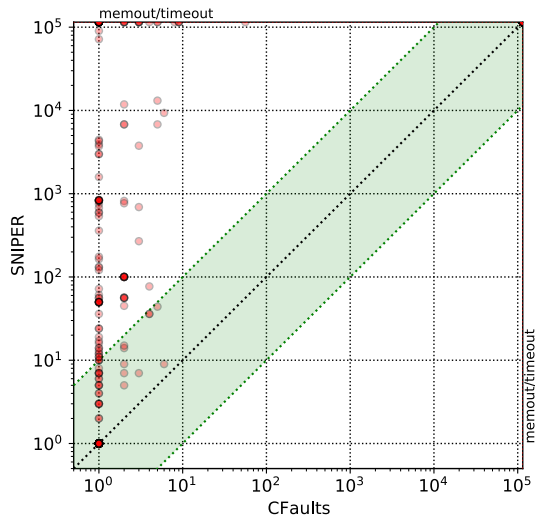
Table 5: BUGASSIST, SNIPER and CFAULTS fault localization results on C-PACK-IPAs.

Diagnoses Enumerated



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2. SNIPER generates significantly more diagnoses.

Takeaway Message

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 - allows **refinement of localized faults** to pinpoint the bugs' location more precisely;

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- We only **generate subset-minimal aggregated diagnosis** to identify all faulty program components;
- We present CFAULTS, **a fault localization tool for ANSI-C programs**, that:
 - allows **refinement of localized faults** to pinpoint the bugs' location more precisely;
 - is **fast and only produces subset-minimal diagnoses**, unlike other SOTA FBFL tools.

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The Guardian - Year 2000 Problem
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/31/millennium-bug-face-fears-y2k-it-systems>
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The Sun UK - CrowdStrike Meltdown
[https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/27223882/microsoft-crowdstrike-meltdown-trillions-cost-world-economy.](https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/27223882/microsoft-crowdstrike-meltdown-trillions-cost-world-economy)
The Sun UK.

Thank you!



<https://github.com/pmorvalho/cfaults>