



Mutation testing: practical aspects and cost analysis

Macario Polo and Mario Piattini
Alarcos Group

Department of Information Systems and Technologies
University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain)

Macario.Polo@uclm.es

Contents

- What is mutation testing?
- Mutation operators
- Steps of mutation testing
- Cost reduction
- Conclusions

What is mutation testing?

- The goal of testing is to find faults on the System Under Test (SUT)
- Thus, a test suite is more or less effective depending on its ability to find faults on the SUT

A possible “SUT”

To be, or not to be: that is de question:
Whether 'tis novler in the mind to sufer
The slings and arrows of outrageus fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
No more; and by a slept to say the end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural socks
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation
Deboutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep; ...

(Hamlet, by William Shakespeare)

What is mutation testing?

- If I need to select an English reviewer, maybe I would select that of you who more faults have found
- Mutation works in this way:
 - A set of “mutants” are generated from a given SUT
 - A test suite is executed against the original SUT and its mutants
 - The adequacy of the suite is measured in terms of the “mutation score”

What is mutation testing?

- The “mutation score” measures the ability of the test suite to find faults on the SUT

$$MS(P, T) = \frac{K}{(M - E)}$$

- ...where:
 - P : program under test
 - T : test suite
 - K : number of mutants “killed”
 - M : number of mutants
 - E : number of functionally-equivalent mutants

What is mutation testing?

- Mutants maybe “killed” or “alive”
 - A mutant m is “killed” when it shows a different behavior than P , for one or more $t \in P$:

$$\exists t \in T \ / \ f(m, t) \neq f(P, t)$$

- Otherwise, the mutant is “alive”

$$f(m, t) = f(P, t) \ \forall t \in T$$

What is mutation testing?

- Each mutant is a copy of the program under test, usually with a small syntactic change, which is interpreted as a fault
- Mutants with n faults are call *n-order* mutants

What is mutation testing?

- Each mutant is a program with seeded faults
- Unchanged program is syntactic fault
- Changed program is semantic fault

- Mutant is a program with seeded faults
- Mutant is a program with seeded faults

...it was a SUT with seeded faults

To be, or not to be: that is **the** question:
Whether 'tis **nobler** in the mind to **suffer**
The slings and arrows of **outrageous** fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
No more; and by a sleep to say **we** end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural **shocks**
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep; ...

5

It's a 7th-order mutant

A program and four mutants

Version	Code
P (original)	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b; }</pre>
Mutant 1	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a - b; }</pre> <p style="text-align: center;">↑</p>
Mutant 2	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a * b; }</pre> <p style="text-align: center;">↑</p>
Mutant 3	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a / b; }</pre> <p style="text-align: center;">↑</p>
Mutant 4	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b++; }</pre> <p style="text-align: center;">↑</p>

	Test data (a,b)			
	(1, 1)	(0, 0)	(-1, 0)	(-1, -1)
P	2	0	-1	-2
M1	0	0	-1	0
M2	1	0	0	1
M3	1	Error	Error	1
M4	2	0	-1	-2

What is mutation testing?

- Faults are introduced (“seeded”) by mutation operators, and try to imitate actual programmer errors
- Mutation relies on the “Coupling effect”: a test suite that detects all simple faults in a program is so sensitive that it also detects more complex faults

Some mutation operators

Operator	Description
ABS	Substitution of a variable x by $abs(x)$
ACR	Substitution of a variable array reference by a constant
AOR	Arithmetic operator replacement ($a+b$ by $a-b$)
CRP	Substitution of a constant value
ROR	Relational operator replacement (A and B by A or B)
RSR	Return statement substitution ($return\ 5$ by $return\ 0$)
SDL	Removal of a sentence
UOI	Unary operator insertion (instead of x , write $-x$)
...	...

Steps of mutation testing

- Mutation testing has three main steps:
 1. Mutant generation
 2. Mutant execution
 3. Result analysis

Mutant generation

- Almost each executable instruction of the original program can be mutated with several mutation operators
- Therefore, the number of mutants generated for a normal program may be huge
- The cost of compilation of all mutants may be also significant

Mutant generation

- Offutt et al. (1996): 10 programs from 10 to 48 executable sentences produce from 183 to 3010 mutants
- Mresa and Botaci (1999): 11 programs with 43,7 LOC produce 3211 mutants
- One of our experiments: mean of 76,7 LOC produce a mean of 150 mutants

Mutant generation

- Java version of Myers (1979) triangle-type problem: 61 LOC, 262 mutants
- A widely-used mutation tool is MuJava (Ma, Offutt and Kwon, 2005)

Mutant generation: the MuJava tool

Mutants (and operators)

Number of mutants per operator

Number of mutants

The screenshot shows the MuJava tool interface with the following components:

- Summary Table:**

Op	#
AO...	12
AO...	0
AOIU	15
AOIS	150
AO...	0
ROR	25
COR	10
COD	0
COI	0
SOR	0
LOR	0
LOI	50
LOD	0
ASRS	0

Total : 262
- Mutants List:** A scrollable list of mutants including AOIS_1 through AOIS_124.
- Code Viewer:** Shows the original and mutant code for the method `setJ(int v)`. The original code is:

```
(line 37) v => ++v
Original
37   i = v;
38   }
39
40   public void setJ( int v )
41   {
42       j = v;
43   }
44
45   public void setK( int v )
46   {
47       k = v;
48   }
49
50   public void calculateType()
51   {
```

The mutant code shows a modification to line 37:

```
Mutant
23   public static final int SCALENE = 1;
24
25   public static final int ISOSCELES = 2;
26
27   public static final int EQUILATERAL = 3;
28
29   public static final int NO_TRIANGLE = 0;
30
31   public TriangleType()
32   {
33   }
34
35   public void setJ( int v )
36   {
37       i = ++v;
```

Fault introduced

Modified sentence

Mutant generation: the MuJava tool

- In general, a parser is required to generate mutants:
 - $a+b$ is translated into $a-b$, $a*b$, a/b
 - Then, these program versions are compiled
- MuJava uses “Mutant Schemata Generation”
 - With some operators, it substitutes (at bytecode level) $a+b$ by a *OPERATOR* b
 - Then, all the program versions are directly generated with no need of compiling

Mutant execution

- In this case, the problem is the huge number of test cases that must be executed: each case is executed against the original program and the mutants.
- For testing a simple *BankingAccount* class, with 96 mutants and 300 test cases, $96 \times 300 = 28,800$ executions are required (with at least 28.800 accesses to the database, etc.)

Mutant execution

- All the outputs must be compared to detect which mutants are killed:
 - In the *BankingAccount* example, the outputs of the 300 test cases with the original and the 96 mutants
 - Actually, killed mutants can be removed for further comparisons

Mutant execution: MuJava

The screenshot shows the MuJava interface with the following components and annotations:

- Class under test:** `paper.TriangleType` (indicated by a red line from the label).
- Test suite:** `MujavaTriangleType_1` (indicated by a red line from the label).
- Results area:** A red box highlights the results section, which includes:
 - Traditional Mutants Result:**

Live Mutants #	32
Killed Mutants #	230
Total Mutants #	262
Mutant Score	87.0%

Live	Killed
AOIS_3	AOIS_1
AOIS_4	AOIS_2
AOIS_7	AOIU_1
AOIS_8	LOI_2
AOIS_11	AOIS_5
AOIS_12	AOIS_6
AOIS_153	AOIU_2
AOIS_154	LOI_4
AOIS_23	AOIS_10
AOIS_24	AOIS_9
AOIS_35	AOIU_3
AOIS_36	LOI_6
AOIS_47	AOIS_107
AOIS_48	AOIS_108
AOIU_14	AOIS_109
AOIU_4	AOIS_110
AOIU_5	AOIS_115
AOIU_7	AOIS_116
AOIU_8	AOIS_117
COR_4	AOIS_118
LOI_23	AOIS_119
 - Class Mutants Result:**

Live Mutants #	4
Killed Mutants #	2
Total Mutants #	6
Mutant Score	33.0%

Live	Killed
JSD_1	IOD_1
JSI_1	JSI_4
JSI_2	
JSI_3	
- Mutants:** A red line points to the list of mutants on the left side of the interface.

At the bottom of the mutant lists, the totals are: **Total : 262** and **Total : 6**.

Mutant execution: *testooj*

- *testooj* is a relatively user-friendly research tool developed in the University of Castilla-La Mancha
- Generates test cases in several formats and according to several generation strategies
- Executes test cases against versions and gives some additional results

Mutant execution: *testooj*

Test suite

Class under test

The screenshot shows the 'Test case executor' application window. At the top, the 'Test file' field contains 'MujavaTriangleType_1.class' and the 'Full CUT name (including package)' field contains 'paper.TriangleType.class'. The 'Timeout' is set to 3000 millis. Below these fields, there are buttons for 'Versions directory', 'Search', and 'Execute selected'. A list of 'Locations of the CUT versions' is shown, including various mutant directories like 'class_mutants/IOD_1/' and 'class_mutants/JSD_1/'. A red bracket labeled 'Mutants' points to this list. To the right, the 'CLASSPATH' field is visible. Below the classpath, there is a text area showing the execution command: 'Executing MujavaTriangleType_1 against paper.TriangleType.class in C:/mujava06/result/paper.TriangleType/traditio...'. A red arrow labeled 'Test cases' points to this text area. At the bottom, there is a 'Result analysis' section with radio buttons for 'Increasing', 'Decreasing', and 'Random', and a 'Time comparison' button. Below this is a large grid labeled 'Killing matrix' with a red box around its top row. The grid contains a sequence of 't' characters in the first row, indicating that all mutants were killed by the test cases.

The killing matrix

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1		t76	t77	t78	t54	t73	t74	t75	t81	t27	t49	t50	t51	t22	t23	t24	t46	t47	t48	t19	t20	t21
2	Mutants	28	28	28	27	27	27	27	27	26	26	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	25	24	24	24
3	IOD_1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4	PRV_1				X				X	X												
5	PRV_2				X				X	X												
6	PRV_3				X				X	X												
7	PRV_4				X				X	X												
8	PRV_5				X				X	X												
9	AOIS_1				X						X	X	X				X	X	X			
10	AOIS_10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11	AOIS_11				X				X	X												
12	AOIS_12				X				X	X												
13	AOIS_13	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X						
14	AOIS_14				X				X	X												
15	AOIS_17																					
16	AOIS_18				X				X	X												
17	AOIS_2	X	X	X		X	X	X	X													
18	AOIS_21				X				X	X												
19	AOIS_22				X				X	X												
20	AOIS_25	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
21	AOIS_26	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Result analysis

- The major difficulties appear with the detection of functionally equivalent mutants

A program and four mutants

Version	Code
P (original)	<code>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b; }</code>
Mutant 1	<code>int sum(int a, int b) { return a - b; }</code> ↑
Mutant 2	<code>int sum(int a, int b) { return a * b; }</code> ↑
Mutant 3	<code>int sum(int a, int b) { return a / b; }</code> ↑
Mutant 4	<code>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b++; }</code> ↑

	Test data (a,b)			
	(1, 1)	(0, 0)	(-1, 0)	(-1, -1)
P	2	0	-1	-2
M1	0	0	-1	0
M2	1	0	0	1
M3	1	Error	Error	1
M4	2	0	-1	-2

11

Result analysis

- A functionally equivalent mutant is a mutant which never will be killed
- Actually, the “fault” introduced is not a fault, but a code de-optimization

Version	Code
P (original)	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b; }</pre>
Mutant 4	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b++; }</pre> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">↑</p>

	Test data (a,b)			
	(1, 1)	(0, 0)	(-1, 0)	(-1, -1)
P	2	0	-1	-2
M4	2	0	-1	-2


Result analysis

- Mutation operators have different proneness for producing equivalent mutants

Program	# of 1-order mutants	Total equivalent mutants	Equivalent mutants per mutation operator				
			AOIS	AOIU	ROR	LOI	COR
Bisect	63	19	14	3	2	0	0
Bub	82	12	9	0	3	0	0
Find	179	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fourballs	212	44	42	1	0	1	0
Mid	181	43	38	2	1	2	0
TriTyp	309	70	54	8	1	4	3
			83,5%	7,4%	3,7%	3,7%	1,6%

Result analysis

- The example is an occurrence of the AOIS operator

Version	Code
P (original)	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b; }</pre>
Mutant 4	<pre>int sum(int a, int b) { return a + b++; }</pre> 

	Test data (a,b)			
	(1, 1)	(0, 0)	(-1, 0)	(-1, -1)
P	2	0	-1	-2
M+	2	0	-1	-2

Result analysis

- Detection of equivalent mutants is usually manual
- Grünen, Schuler and Zeller (2009) report that some equivalent mutants require up to 15 minutes to be detected
- Offutt and Pan (1997) demonstrated that is possible to automatically detect almost 50% of functionally equivalent mutants if the program under test is annotated with constraints

Result analysis

- Once more, the selection of the best mutation operators is essential (this is *selective mutation*):
 - Replacement of numerical constants
 - Negate jump conditions
 - Replacement of arithmetic operators
 - Omission of method calls (instead of $x=foo()$, write $x=0.0$)

Result analysis

- Other strategies rely on *weak mutation*:
 - “Strong” mutation has three conditions:
 - Reachability (the instruction must be reached)
 - Necessity (once the sentences has been reached, the test case must cause an erroneous state on the mutant)
 - Sufficiency (the erroneous state must be propagated to the output)
 - Instead of observing the output of each test case, the idea of *weak mutation* is to detect changes in intermediate states (reachability+necessity)

Cost reduction

- Summarizing, in mutant generation:
 - Selective mutation (use of the best operators)
 - Mutant Schemata Generation/Mutation at bytecode level
- In mutant execution:
 - Reduction of the test suite
 - N-order mutation
- In result analysis:
 - To take advantage of the previous techniques

Reduction of the test suite

- The optimal test-suite reduction problem:
 - *Given:* Test Suite T , a set of test-case requirements r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n , that must be satisfied to provide the desired test coverage of the program.
 - *Problem:* Find $T' \subset T$ such that T' satisfies all r_i and $(\forall T'' \subset T, T'' \text{ satisfies all } r \Rightarrow |T'| \leq |T''|)$
- It is NP-hard (no solution in polynomial time): solutions approached with greedy algorithms

Reduction of the test suite

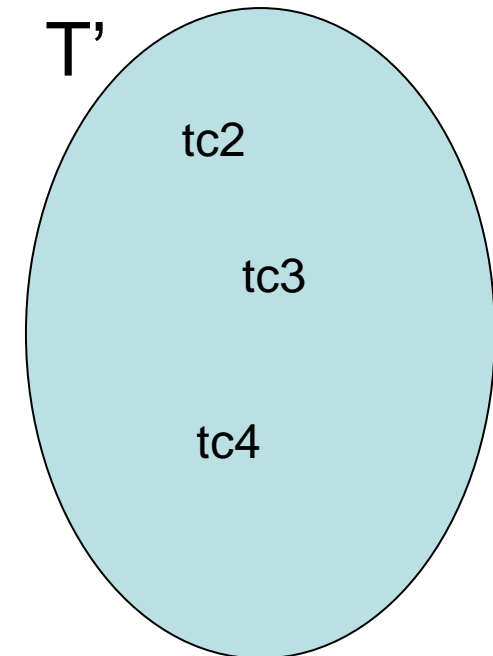
- Example: 6 test cases, 7 mutants

	tc1	tc2	tc3	tc4	tc5	tc6
m1	X	X				
m2	X	X			X	
m3		X				
m4			X			
m5			X			
m6			X	X		
m7				X		

Reduction of the test suite

- The greedy approach selects the test case killing more mutants

	tc1	tc2	tc3	tc4	tc5	tc6
m1	X	X				
m2	X	X			X	
m3		X				
m4			X			
m5			X			
m6			X	X		
m7				X		



Reduction of the test suite in *testooj*

The screenshot shows the 'Result analyzer' window with a grid of test results. The grid has 216 columns and multiple rows. The top row contains 't.' characters, and the first row contains 'X' characters. The bottom row contains 'X' characters. The grid shows a pattern of 'X' characters, indicating failed test cases. A red bracket highlights a list of 7 test cases in the 'Summary of results' section, labeled as the 'Reduced suite'.

Summary of results:
Minimal set of test cases (13 test cases of 216):

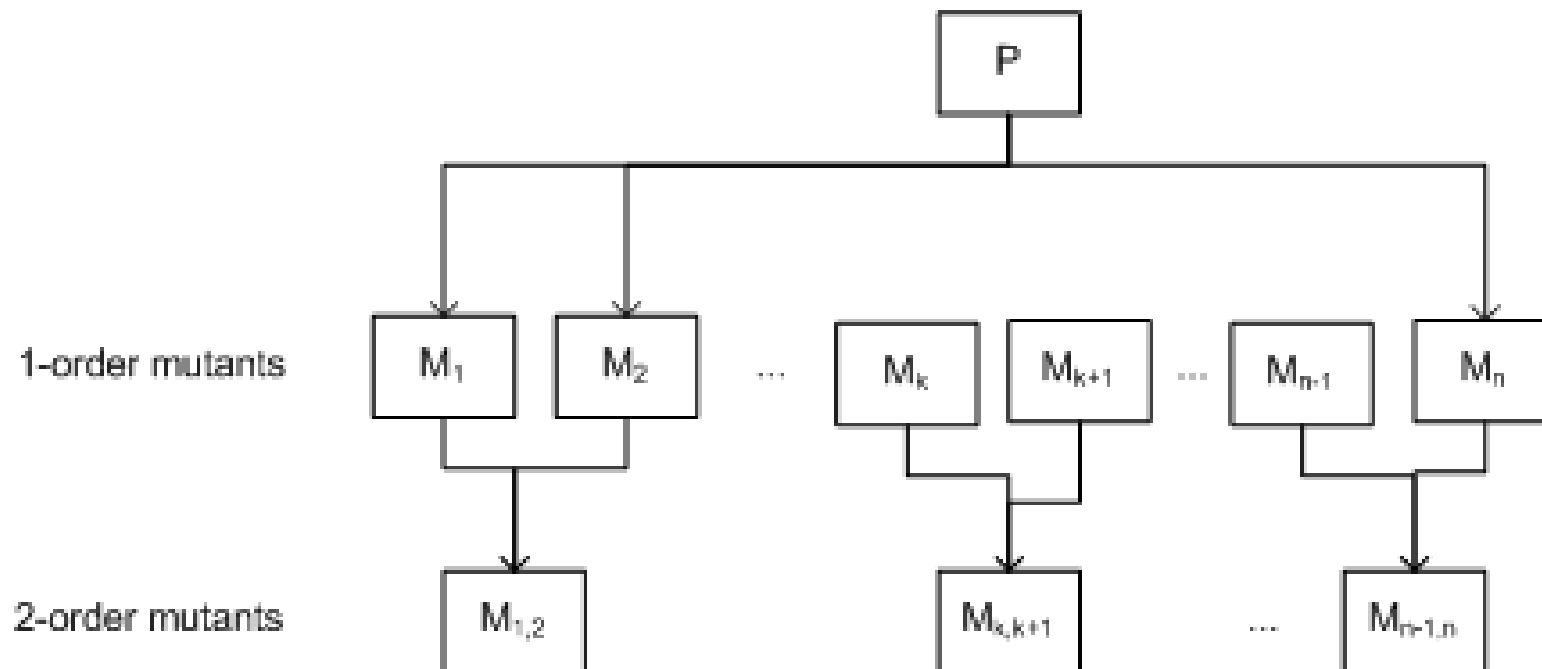
- testTS_0_95
- testTS_0_209
- testTS_0_215
- testTS_0_198
- testTS_0_99
- testTS_0_216
- testTS_0_196

Reduced suite

Buttons: Re-analysis excluding alive, Save as... (format: .txt, .html), Save times' table, Build stub file

N-order mutation

- The idea is to have mutants with more than one fault



N-order mutation

- Thus:
 - The number of mutants is closed to half the size of the original suite
 - Each equivalent mutant will be *probably* combined with a non-equivalent mutant, what implies a reduction of the number of equivalent mutants

N-order mutation

- However, there exists the possibility of having a test case that only finds one of the two faults injected

```
class Operations {  
    int sum(int a, int b) {  
        return a+b; a-b;  
    }  
    int mult(int a, int b) {  
        return a*b; a-b;  
    }  
}
```

```
public int test1() {  
    Operations op=new Operations();  
    return op.sum(5, 3);  
}
```

```
Original: 8  
Mutant 1: 5 (killed)  
Mutant 2: 8 (alive)  
Mutant 1,2 : 5 ("partially" killed)
```

N-order mutation

- Algorithms for mutants combination
 - *LastToFirst*
 - *DifferentOperators*
 - *RandomMix*

LastToFirst

- First with the last, second with the penultimate, etc.
- AOIS_1-ROR_6, AOIS_10-ROR_4, etc.
- It gets a half of the original mutant set

AOIS_1	AOIS_35	AOIS_56	AOIU_11	AORB_1	ROR_1
AOIS_10	AOIS_37	AOIS_58	AOIU_12	AORB_10	ROR_10
AOIS_12	AOIS_38	AOIS_59	AOIU_13	AORB_3	ROR_4
AOIS_13	AOIS_39	AOIS_60	AOIU_2	AORB_5	ROR_6
AOIS_14	AOIS_4	AOIS_71	AOIU_3	AORB_7	
AOIS_15	AOIS_40	AOIS_72	AOIU_4		
AOIS_16	AOIS_41	AOIS_73	AOIU_6		
AOIS_17	AOIS_43	AOIS_74	AOIU_7		
AOIS_18	AOIS_44	AOIS_75	AOIU_8		
AOIS_19	AOIS_45	AOIS_76	AOIU_9		
AOIS_20	AOIS_47	AOIS_77			
AOIS_25	AOIS_48	AOIS_78			
AOIS_27	AOIS_5	AOIS_79			
AOIS_3	AOIS_52	AOIS_80			
AOIS_31	AOIS_54				

DifferentOperators

- Combines mutants obtained with different operators
- Mutants proceeding from the least frequent operator are used more than once

AOIS_1	AOIS_35	AOIS_56	AOIU_11	AORB_1	ROR_1
AOIS_10	AOIS_37	AOIS_58	AOIU_12	AORB_10	ROR_10
AOIS_12	AOIS_38	AOIS_59	AOIU_13	AORB_3	ROR_4
AOIS_13	AOIS_39	AOIS_60	AOIU_2	AORB_5	ROR_6
AOIS_14	AOIS_4	AOIS_71	AOIU_3	AORB_7	
AOIS_15	AOIS_40	AOIS_72	AOIU_4		
AOIS_16	AOIS_41	AOIS_73	AOIU_6		
AOIS_17	AOIS_43	AOIS_74	AOIU_7		
AOIS_18	AOIS_44	AOIS_75	AOIU_8		
AOIS_19	AOIS_45	AOIS_76	AOIU_9		
AOIS_20	AOIS_47	AOIS_77			
AOIS_25	AOIS_48	AOIS_78			
AOIS_27	AOIS_5	AOIS_79			
AOIS_3	AOIS_52	AOIS_80			
AOIS_31	AOIS_54				

RandomMix

- Makes a pure random combination

AOIS_1	AOIS_35	AOIS_56	AOIU_11	AORB_1	ROR_1
AOIS_10	AOIS_37	AOIS_58	AOIU_12	AOR 10	ROR_10
AOIS_12	AOIS_38	AOIS_59	AOIU_13	AORB_3	ROR_4
AOIS_13	AOIS_39	AOIS_60	AOIU_2	AORB_5	ROR_6
AC 14	AOIS_4	A 71	AOIU_3	AORB_7	
AOIS_15	AOIS_40	AOIS_72	AOIU_4		
AOIS_16	AOIS_41	AOIS_73	AC 6		
AOIS_17	AOIS 8	AOIS_74	AOIU_7		
AOIS_18	AOIS_44	AOIS_75	AOIU_8		
AC 19	AOIS_45	AOIS_76	AOIU_9		
AOIS_20	AOIS_47	AOIS_77			
AOIS_25	A 48	AOIS_78			
AOIS_27	AOIS_5	AOIS_79			
AOIS_3	AOIS_52	AOIS 9			
AOIS_31	AOIS_54				

Results with benchmark programs

Program	LOC	# of 1-order mutants	Equivalent 1-order mutants		# of test cases
			Number	%	
Bisect	31	63	19	30.15%	25
Bub	54	82	12	14,63%	256
Find	79	179	0	0.00%	135
Fourballs	47	212	44	20.75%	96
Mid	59	181	43	23.75%	125
TriTyp	61	309	70	22.65%	216
			Mean:	18,66%	

Program	LastToFirst			DifferentOperators			RandomMix		
	# mutants (*)	Equivalent		# mutants (*)	Equivalent		# mutants (*)	Equivalent	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
Bisect	32 (50,8%)	5	15,63	44 (69,8%)	5	11,36	32 (50,8%)	2	6,25
Bub	41 (50%)	0	0	44 (53,7%)	0	0	40 (48,8%)	1	2,5
Find	90 (50,3%)	0	0	97 (54,2%)	0	0	89 (49,7%)	0	0
Fourballs	107 (50,4%)	5	4,67	128 (60,4%)	6	4,68	106 (50%)	7	6,60
Mid	91 (50,3%)	8	8,79	110 (60,8%)	4	3,63	91 (50,3%)	7	7,69
TriTyp	155 (50,2%)	7	4,51	168 (54,4%)	11	6,54	155 (50,2%)	9	5,80
Means:		5,6%		4,4%		4,8%			

Results with benchmark programs

Bisect	
KM	TC
17	3
18	5
20	1
22	1
23	1
24	3
25	1
26	1
28	1
30	1
31	1
35	1
37	2
40	2
42	1

Bub	
KM	TC
1	174
2	1
25	1
26	1
29	9
30	3
59	5
61	4
62	3
63	5
64	5
65	8
66	11
67	19
68	6

Find	
KM	TC
2	1
3	75
4	20
178	81

Fourballs	
KM	TC
43	12
46	6
49	14
50	6
52	12
53	8
54	8
55	10
56	2
59	10
60	4
67	4

Mid			
KM		TC	
11	1	40	3
14	4	41	4
17	2	42	1
19	3	43	5
20	1	45	2
21	1	46	1
22	1	47	3
23	1	48	1
25	2	49	4
26	3	50	1
28	4	51	3
29	3	52	3
30	3	53	2
31	2	54	2
32	6	55	7
33	1	56	3
34	3	57	5
35	1	59	2
36	4	60	5
37	6	62	2
38	9	64	1
39	3	67	1

TriTyp			
KM		TC	
0	56	86	2
3	48	88	1
4	48	89	1
22	2	91	2
23	4	94	3
39	2	96	1
44	2	97	1
48	2	100	1
51	4	101	1
57	4	103	1
62	4		
66	1		
68	1		
69	4		
70	4		
71	1		
73	1		
75	1		
77	6		
78	2		
84	3		
85	2		

Results with industrial software

Program	# of sentences	WMC	# of methods	# of 1-order mutants	# of available test cases	1-order mutans killed
Ciudad	177	65	23	203	37	92%
IgnoreList	26	8	3	27	6	85%
PluginTokenizer	157	27	16	94	14	31%

Ciudad				
KM	TC		KM	TC
0	9		94	2
6	1		95	1
15	1		96	3
69	1		97	1
75	1		98	1
86	3		99	1
88	1		100	1
89	1		101	1
91	1		102	2
92	2		118	1
93	1		181	1

PluginTokenizer	
KM	TC
18	8
21	1
22	1
25	2
26	1
30	1

IgnoreList	
KM	TC
10	1
12	1
19	2
21	1
22	1

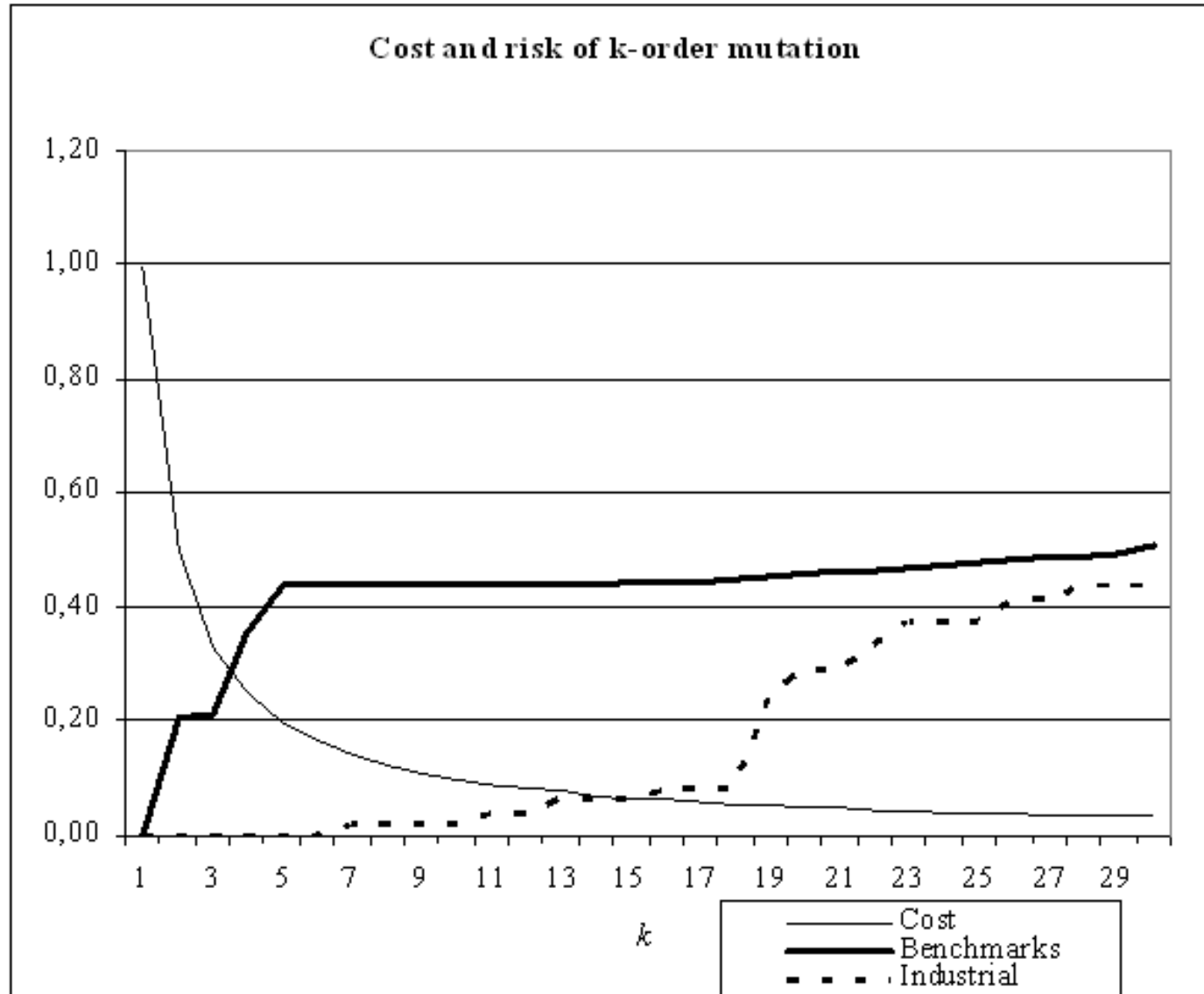
Cost-risk analysis

K	Cost	Benchmark		Industrial	
		TC	Risk	TC	Risk
1	1,00	174	0,00	0	0,00
2	0,50	2	0,21	0	0,00
3	0,33	123	0,21	0	0,00
4	0,25	68	0,36	0	0,00
5	0,20	0	0,44	0	0,00
6	0,17	0	0,44	1	0,00
7	0,14	0	0,44	0	0,02
8	0,13	0	0,44	0	0,02
9	0,11	0	0,44	0	0,02
10	0,10	0	0,44	1	0,02
11	0,09	1	0,44	0	0,04
12	0,08	0	0,44	1	0,04
13	0,08	0	0,44	0	0,06
14	0,07	4	0,44	0	0,06
15	0,07	0	0,44	1	0,06

K	Cost	Benchmark		Industrial	
		TC	Risk	TC	Risk
16	0,06	0	0,44	0	0,08
17	0,06	5	0,44	0	0,08
18	0,06	5	0,45	8	0,08
19	0,05	3	0,46	2	0,25
20	0,05	2	0,46	0	0,29
21	0,05	1	0,46	2	0,29
22	0,05	4	0,46	2	0,33
23	0,04	6	0,47	0	0,38
24	0,04	3	0,47	0	0,38
25	0,04	4	0,48	2	0,38
26	0,04	5	0,48	1	0,42
27	0,04	0	0,49	0	0,44
28	0,04	5	0,49	0	0,44
29	0,03	12	0,50	0	0,44
30	0,03	7	0,51	1	0,44

$$risk(k) = 1 - \frac{\text{\# of test cases killing } k \text{ mutants or more}}{\text{total \# of test cases}}$$

Cost-risk analysis



Conclusions

- Mutation is an excellent testing technique
- From the point of view of research, it is mature
- From the industry point of view, user-friendly tools are required
- Mutation is also applied at other levels: black-box, components, web services, models...



Mutation testing: practical aspects and cost analysis

Macario Polo and Mario Piattini
Alarcos Group

Department of Information Systems and Technologies
University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain)

Macario.Polo@uclm.es