VMC: A Tool for Product Variability Analysis

Maurice H. ter Beek ISTI–CNR, Pisa, Italy

joint work with fellow FMT lab members: P. Asirelli, A. Fantechi, S. Gnesi, F. Mazzanti & A. Sulova

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- 2 Running example: a family of coffee machines
- Operation of the Variability Model Checker VMC
- Discussion and future work

(Software) Product Line Engineering

Paradigm

To develop a family of products (product line) using a common platform and mass customization

Aim

To lower production costs of the individual products by

- letting them share an overall reference model of the product family
- allowing them to differ w.r.t. particular characteristics to serve, e.g., different markets

Product variants can be derived from a product family, thus allowing for reuse and differentiation

Production process

Maximize commonalities of product whilst minimizing cost of variations

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Feature modeling

Provide compact representations of all the products of a product family in terms of their *features* (pieces of functionality)

Variability modelling

How to explicitly define **optional**, **alternative**, **mandatory**, **required**, or **excluded** features of a product family as variation points

Managing variability with formal methods

Show that a certain product belongs to a product family or—instead derive a product from a family by properly selecting features Formally prove characteristics of products and families alike

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Aim

- One formal framework to express both feature-based constraints over the products of a family and constraints over their behavior
- Tool support for product derivation and for the formal verification (by model checking) of properties over products and families alike

Outcome : iFM'10, ACOTA @ ASE'10, PLEASE @ ICSE'11, FMOODS'11, SEW-34 @ FM'11, SPLC'11, iFM'12, SPLC'12

- MTS: Modal Transition Systems (Larsen et al.)
- MHML: CTL-like action- and state-based branching-time temporal logic (a.k.a. vACTL)
- VMC: Variability Model Checker

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Feature-based constraints

- The only accepted coins are 1€, exclusively for European products, and 1\$, exclusively for Canadian products (**alternative** features)
- All products must offer coffee (mandatory feature); only European products may offer cappuccino (excludes relation among features)
- A ringtone must be rung in products offering cappuccino (**requires** relation among features), while it may be rung in other products (**optional** feature)

Behavioral constraints

- After coin insertion, user must press a button to choose whether (s)he wants sugar, after which (s)he may select a beverage
- The optional ringtone is rung after delivering a beverage

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Coffee machine family: Feature model



10 different valid products (coffee machines defined by features)

 $\{ \{m, s, o, b, c, \in \}, \{m, s, o, b, c, \in, r\}, \{m, s, o, b, c, \in, t\}, \\ \{m, s, o, b, c, \$\}, \{m, s, o, b, c, \$, r\}, \{m, s, o, b, c, \$, t\}, \\ \{m, s, o, b, c, \in, t, r\}, \{m, s, o, b, c, \in, p, r\}, \\ \{m, s, o, b, c, \$, t, r\}, \{m, s, o, b, c, \in, p, r, t\} \}$

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Modal Transition Systems (MTSs)

Use for behavioral modeling of SPLs recognized by Uchitel et al.

An MTS is an LTS distinguishing **optional** (may) and **mandatory** (must) transitions to formalize a product family's

- underlying behavior, shared among all products, and
- variation points, differentiating between products

A product (LTS) is derived by including all (reachable) must transitions and a subset of the (reachable) may transitions

MTS however cannot model variability constraints regarding **alternative** features nor regarding the **requires** and **excludes** inter-feature relations

Our solution: add a set of variability constraints (hiding our logic) to the MTS to define which derivable products must be considered valid ones (we defined an algorithm to derive only—and possibly all—valid ones)

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Coffee machine family: MTS



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A valid European coffee machine ({ m, s, o, b, c, \in, p, r })



A valid Canadian coffee machine $(\{m, s, o, b, c, s, r\})$



A correct but not a valid product LTS of MTS



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VMC: Variability Model Checker

A tool for modeling and analysis of behavioral variability in SPLs

Given a textual encoding of an MTS and a set of variability constraints:

- interactively explore the MTS
- derive and explore (all) the family's valid products (LTSs)
- visualize the family/products graphically as MTS/LTSs
- verify branching-time temporal logic properties over family/products
- interactively explain why a product does (not) satisfy a property

Freely usable online: http://fmtlab.isti.cnr.it/vmc/

Verification engine and advanced explanation techniques are features of the highly optimized family of on-the-fly model checkers developed at our FMT lab over the last decades for verifying formulae in CTL-like actionand state-based branching-time temporal logics (e.g. FMC, UMC, CMC)

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VMC's web interface



Family of coffee machines specified in VMC

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Permitted variability constraints ALTernative, EXCludes, REQuires, and IFF (shorthand for bilateral REQs) hide the logic formalization from user

Family/MTS of coffee machines visualized by VMC



Family/MTS of coffee machines explored in VMC

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	Modelcheck MTS	19		
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	View Family MTS	1) <u>C6> C8</u> { pour_coffee } /* */ 2) <u>C6> C9</u> { pour_milk } /* */		
	Generate Products	2) <u>co->cy</u> { pour_mix } / /		
	Welcome			
	Quit			
	Kandisky 1908			

MTS model of coffee machine family actually permits a user to buy a cappuccino with a dollar, something which is forbidden for its products by the variability constraint dollar EXC unsugared_cappuccino

Outcome of a property verified over a family with VMC

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	Logic Formula for Family MTS	
	[dollar] EF <unsugared_cappuccino> true Check Explain The the Formula Result</unsugared_cappuccino>	
Kandisky 1908		

The formula expresses that every path through the MTS that starts with the insertion of a dollar, eventually leads to an unsugared cappuccino

Outcome of a property explained by VMC

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Products of family of coffee machines derived by VMC



VMC indeed generates all 10 valid products/LTSs that are derivable from the family/MTS if the set of variability constraints is considered

Outcomes of a property verified over products with VMC

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Kandisky 1908	Logic Formula for all Products [dollar] EF <unsugared_cappuccino> true</unsugared_cappuccino>		Check The Formula	Explain the Result

As required, no valid product (i.e. coffee machine) can deliver an (unsugared) cappuccino upon the insertion of a dollar!

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Specification of one of the products derived by VMC



Clicking on a product, VMC opens a window with its textual encoding

Product/LTS on previous slide visualized by VMC



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Outcome of a property verified over a product with VMC

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The formula expresses that in this particular LTS, there exists both a path to a sugared cappuccino and a path to an unsugared cappuccino

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Outcome property on previous slide explained by VMC

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Discussion and future work

VMC can also be used to specify and analyze only specific subsets of a product family's valid products by applying restrictions via constraints

Add constraint coffee EXC dollar to the family specification

Only European coffee machines will be derived as valid products, which can then be analyzed both as a subset and individually

Future work required before possible application in industry

- A high-level language hiding all semantic details (investigate the relation between features and actions)
- A predefined taxonomy for exemplary logical properties (e.g. the specification patterns repository for LTL, (A)CTL, etc.)
- Scale to large, industrial-size product families (with many variation points and many features)

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Publicity: consider submitting to VaMoS 2013 in Pisa

Variability Modelling of Software-Intensive Systems (VaMoS'13) 7th International Workshop

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Pisa, Italy, January 23-25, 2013
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⇒ http://www.vamos-workshop.net
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Submission deadline: November 4, 2012

PC chairs:

- Philippe Collet (Université Nice Sophia Antipolis, France)
- Klaus Schmid (Stiftung Universität Hildesheim, Germany)

Organized by our FMT lab at the CNR research area in Pisa