



saveCHIMP: Application-aware Testbench for Chip Multi-Processors

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Motivation

Existing test generation solutions rely on random or directed tests that blindly explore the design space, which are inefficient.

If testing is not limited to a relevant pool of scenarios, resources spent on verifying complex systems in the future will grow without bound.

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saveCHIMP (save CHIP Multi-Processor)

Test generation platform that generates tests based on the behavior of applications that are to run on the multiprocessor system

Goals:

- Characterize the execution space of the target application.
- Generate tests that exercise the same execution space as the target application.
- Speedup the validation process by generating tests with significantly less overhead than original program.

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saveCHIMP Overview

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Characterization and Filtering

A sample trace:

```

270 -> 370 -> 470 -> 578
270 -> 370 -> 478 -> 578
... (the rest of Window0)
312 -> 320 -> 370 -> 373 -> 427 -> 527 -> 627
312 -> 101 -> 270 -> 215 -> 311 -> 427 -> 627
... (the rest of Window1)
  
```

Window	Most Common State
0	578
1	627
...	...

Source	Length	Freq.
270	4	852
312	7	734
...

Filter identical sequences

A set of reduced patterns

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Experimental Setup

Gem 5 Simulation Configuration

CPU	ARM, TimingSimple
Topology	4x4 Mesh
Coherency Protocol	MOESI CMP Directory
L1 Instruction Cache	4-way 32 KB
L1 Data Cache	4-way 32 KB
L2 Cache	8-way 1024 KB
DRAM	DDR3 1600MHz 4GB

4x4 mesh network

Target Application: Parsec's Blackscholes benchmark.

Random: Randomly generated stream of memory and ALU instructions.

Step (1): Tests based only on hashing data.

Step (1) + (2): Tests from hashing and characterization, but without filtering.

Step (1) + (2) + (3): Tests from full saveCHIMP process.

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Bug Injection Model

Our Bug Model: A specific sequence of source-destination network traffic.

Ex) Traffic History

Random Bug Injection

- At each iteration, we inject 10 bugs of length 3 into the gem5 simulation platform.
- Whenever gem5 detects a sequence of traffic that matches one of the injected bugs, it flags that a bug has been triggered.

Goal of Our Bug Model: To detect that two programs exercised similar sequence of network behaviors.

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Experimental Results – Coverage

- Randomly generated testvectors act as the baseline to assess how well tests generated from saveCHIMP reflects the behavior of target program.
- Impact of applying each step of the saveCHIMP solution is shown.
- Final solution achieves 93% accuracy, due to its high true negative rate.
- Sensitivity and Precision are two areas that need to be improved upon.

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Experimental Results – Overhead

- Tests generated from saveCHIMP is able to detect bugs more quickly with a smaller instruction footprint.
- Transaction characterization and filtering steps of saveCHIMP significantly reduce the bug detection latency.
- Transaction filtering help reduce the size of the testvectors by more than 70%.

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Conclusion/Future Work

- Improve on sensitivity and precision of test generation process, while maintaining accuracy.
- Incorporate network traffic behavior into state characterization
- Expand saveCHIMP to analyze and compare behaviors of multiple applications.
- Apply saveCHIMP to heterogeneous systems.

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