

Applying a Def-Use approach on signal exchange to implement SysML Model-Based Testing

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Abstract. Model-Based Testing (MBT) uses a model of the System Under Test as reference to automatically derive test cases. Since it is often not reasonable to cover all the behaviours formalized in the model, coverage criteria are applied to select a relevant subset of model behaviours. In this paper, we propose a dedicated test coverage criterion, based on Def-Use criteria on signal exchange, to implement MBT approach from *Systems Modeling Language* (SysML) test models to validate mechatronic systems. This novel criterion is introduced and the relevance of the approach from SysML models is discussed regarding results obtained with a dedicated MBT toolchain implementing this criterion.

Keywords: Model-Based Testing, UML/SysML notations, coverage criteria, mechatronic systems, toolchain experimentation

1 Introduction

Model-Based Testing (MBT) refers to the processes and techniques dealing with the automatic derivation of abstract test cases (including stimuli and expected outputs) from an abstract formal model, and the generation of executable tests from these abstract test cases [1]. MBT is usually performed to automate and rationalize functional black-box testing activities. The abstract model, called test model, formalizes the behavioural aspects of the System Under Test (SUT) in the context of its environment and at a given level of abstraction. It thus captures the control and observation points, the expected dynamic behaviour, the data associated with the tests, and finally the initial state of the SUT. The test model must be precise and formal enough to enable unambiguous interpretations to automate the derivation of test cases. UML4MBT approach [2] enables automated functional test generation from a UML test model written with a subset of UML language [3] and OCL constraints [4]. These UML and OCL fragments are respectively called UML4MBT and OCL4MBT [5]. Basically, class diagrams define the points of control and observation of the SUT, instance diagrams define the initial state of the SUT and give the set of the test data, while Statemachines with OCL constraints define the expected behaviours in a formal way.

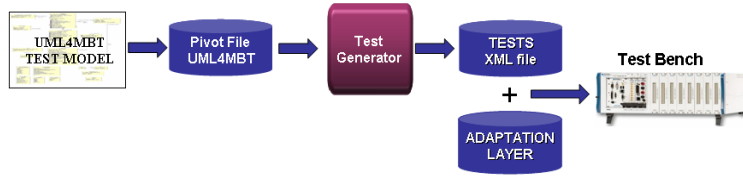


Fig. 1. UML4MBT existing toolchain.

This MBT solution is implemented by the toolchain depicted in Fig. 1. It takes as input a test model specified by the UML4MBT/OCL4MBT language, which has a precise and unambiguous meaning. OCL4MBT expressions indeed provide the expected level of formalization necessary for model-based testing modeling. This precise meaning makes it possible to simulate the execution of the models and to automatically generate test cases. Such a test case takes the form of an abstract sequence (abstract because it is defined at the abstraction level of the test model) of the high-level actions modeled in the test model. These generated test cases contain the stimuli to be executed on the SUT, but also the expected results, obtained by resolving the associated OCL constraints. Finally, the test cases are concretized into executable scripts to be automatically executed on the targeted testing platform.

Since there is usually an infinite number of possible test cases that can be generated from a test model, some test selection criteria have to be applied to select a subset of appropriate test cases regarding the global purpose of the test campaign, and/or to ensure a given coverage of the system behaviours. Test selection criteria are usually based either on control-flow coverage [6] (such as all-states, all-transitions, all-k-paths, etc.), or data-flow coverage [7] (such as All-Defs, All-Uses, All-DU-Paths, etc.). Moreover, condition coverage criteria [8] (such as CC, DC, D/CC, MC/DC, etc.) may additionally be applied to enforce the structural coverage of the decisions of the test model. The test coverage strategy applied by the UML4MBT approach relies both on control-flow and condition coverage criteria: UML4MBT applies *All transitions* coverage, which ensures to cover each transition of the UML4MBT Statemachines, and Decision/Condition Coverage (D/CC) criterion, which ensures the coverage of all the conditions and all the decisions of the UML4OCL annotations.

In this paper, we propose to extend the UML4MBT solution to specifically address embedded mechatronic system domain. We thus propose to adapt this existing approach (1) by taking *Systems Modeling Language* [9] (SysML) as input test models, (2) by introducing a dedicated coverage criteria, called **ComCover**, to select relevant test cases from such models, and (3) by developing a fully automated toolchain supporting this MBT process dedicated to mechatronic and embedded systems. The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the motivation and the context of this research. Section 3 defines the subset of SysML notation supported to express the test model. Section 4 and 5 respectively describe and formalize the original **ComCover** criterion dedicated to such test models. Section 6 presents the toolchain developed to support this approach and introduced case-study results. Section 7 finally concludes the paper.

2 Related Works

Mechatronic systems refer to systems that combine software, electrical systems and additional mechanical parts to perform a dedicated function. In this context, embedded softwares define a part of a larger system or product. Then, we can deduce that the embedded system exists because the larger system needs it. That is why testing an embedded system, without considering the system containing it, is often not efficient. In order to completely analyze and validate this kind of system, it appears necessary to take into account all parts which influences it.

Since 1990, the well-know simulation program PELOPS³ is developed on the idea that, to specify a vehicle embedded systems in order to analyze it, it is necessary to represent three specific parts: the vehicle, the driver and the environment. This framework [10] is depicted in the Fig. 2.

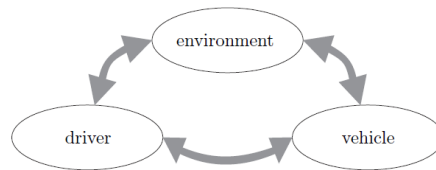


Fig. 2. Driving framework.

This realistic kind of modeling can then be validated by simulation: theoretical results calculated using such model framework are indeed compared with concrete results given by the physical corresponding system [11]. These three parts have to contain all elements that can influence the behaviour of the embedded system. This framework is nowadays still used in several works, and defines the preamble of the work presented in this paper. However, taking into account each environment part usually introduces combinatorial explosion problems, especially when each system part is tested independently. Moreover, in order to detect undesired behaviour, it is necessary to study interaction network between all the system components [12]. Consequently, our approach does not consist in verifying properties by proving local properties of each component, but to consider the global system components by focusing on their interactions.

A pain of such approaches can be caused by the heterogeneity of the different components and technology domains. To avoid this issue, it is needed to make uniform the representation of components at a given and adequate abstract level. [13] shows that using UML/SysML based models is an efficient way for automation engineering to handle the complexity of embedded systems. In this way, to avoid combinatorial problems, it is necessary to capture in the context model only the information required to simulate the behaviour of the system with regards to the evolution of its environment.

³ See <http://www.pelops.de/UK/index.html>

Several testing approaches for embedded systems are based on a model of the SUT environment. Typically, as proposed in [14], a test case is defined as a sequence of stimuli that are sent from the environment to the embedded system under test. In order to generate test cases, the authors apply Adaptive Random Testing and Search-Based Testing. These techniques allow to reduce combinatorial explosion during calculation, but gives poor information about the coverage of the test model and make difficult to assess a certain coverage.

Concerning the choice of the modelling language, two main strategies have been explored. As shown in [15], the first approach promotes the use of formal and mathematical languages such as Petri nets and VHDL-AMS codes. This kind of languages is powerful to specify mathematical and physical expressions, but they are not easy to acquire and does not often correspond to software engineer knowledge. Indeed, to be admitted by the software engineers, such approaches need to use a language widely used by software engineers. This point of view notably motivates the second approach that considers less formal, and often graphical, models. Moreover, in practice, starting the analysis of complex system using too formal models is not convenient: it is usually necessary to begin the study using a more abstract notation in order to master the complexity of such systems. In this way, in [16], the authors propose to develop a domain model with UML class Diagram to represent the global structure of the environment (relationships, properties and constraints). Several behavioral models for each environment parts are also designed using UML Statemachines to model the dynamic part of the system. Other UML-based approaches use sequence diagrams, as [17], to model behavioural aspects or to represent test classification trees. In [18], the authors propose to use SysML to initially specify the system in a graphical manner. This language, where the object-oriented features are not visible, makes it possible to capture the mechatronic aspects of the SUT, and ease the interaction between different teams of multi-domain engineers.

In this paper, we also propose to use the Unified Modeling Language paradigm. This notation gives the advantage to be widely supported in terms of tools and training material. More precisely, we adopt SysML as specification language. Even if SysML is a recent modeling language, it is indeed on the rise in embedded system domain and some studies already use it to develop new industrial validation approaches (e.g. Model Checking and testing of on-board space applications [19]). Moreover, SysML, being defined as an OMG standard profile of UML, makes it possible to reuse existing testing approaches and tooling based on UML test models. In this way, it allows to adapt the existing UML4MBT approaches by focusing on the specific needs of testing mechatronic systems.

3 SysML4MBT Modeling

This section describes the subset of SysML notation supported to express the test model. This description is based on a simplified version of a realistic case study that will be used in the next sections to illustrate our approach.

3.1 Emergency-Stop Case Study

The emergency-stop case study describes a train emergency-stop system. This example will be used in the next sections to illustrate the proposed MBT approach. This system is defined by the following functionalities and rules:

- The train can either be stationing or moving on rail track.
- It is possible to set off the *emergency – stop* by pulling the button *button1*.
- It is possible to set off the *emergency – stop* by pushing the button *button2*.
- When one of these two buttons is activated, a signal is sent to the emergency-stop manager system, which automatically stops the train and sets off the alarm if the train is moving, or only prevents the driver if the train is stopped.

To model this system, it is necessary to represent mechanical parts (buttons for example) and communications between subsystems (buttons and emergency-stop manager system) using signal. Mechatronic systems are indeed typically composed of some logical and some physical parts that communicate using mechanical or physical signals. But UML, and so UML4MBT, is not adapted to cover such aspects: a UML4MBT class diagram represents a logical entities of the system, and not at all a physical system; classes contain operations and attributes but signals are not allowed; only one Statemachine annotated by OCL expressions is allowed; neither parallel structures (parallel states, fork and join states) nor historic states are supported in the Statemachine; etc. That is why we decided to extend UML4MBT capabilities using SysML profile notation to capture the semantics of such embedded systems. To model the communication network between the subsystems of the SUT, the expressiveness of UML4MBT has also been extended by taking into account the communication ports and links. It should be noted that the representation of time constraints, which is an other major aspect of embedded systems, will not be considered in the current approach, but will be studied in future work by using a dedicated UML extension such as MARTE [20] profile.

3.2 SysML4MBT Expressiveness

The test model, specified by SysML diagrams, defines the expected behavior of the SUT: it formalizes the control and observation points of the SUT, and its expected behaviour. However, SysML contains a large set of diagrams and notations that are defined with a flexible way and some freedom that can offer different semantical interpretations. For practical MBT, it is necessary to select a subset of SysML, and to clarify its semantics so that MBT tools can interpret the models in a unambiguous way. We thus define a precise subset of SysML for test generation purpose called SysML4MBT. A SysML4MBT model is composed of the following entities:

- A Block Definition Diagram (BDD) represents the static view of the system. It is defined as a stereotype of the UML class diagram. It can contain blocks, associations, compositions, signals, flow specifications and enumerations.
- An Internal Block Diagram (IBD) precises interconnections between and/or inside the physical parts of the system. The SysML IBD is defined as a stereotype of the UML Composite Structure Diagram.

- One or more Statemachines specify the dynamical view of the system. SysML Statemachines are directly inherited from UML Statemachines. Additionally to UML4MBT, SysML4MBT enables parallel structures (parallel states, fork/join states and multiple Statemachines) and historic states.
- In order to represent in a formal way the dynamical aspect of the system, OCL4MBT constraints are used to define the pre and post-conditions of the operations, and the guards and effects of the transitions in the Statemachine. The circumflex operator, which represents a sent signal in OCL, has been added to the OCL4MBT initial expressiveness.

3.3 SysML4MBT Modeling

To model the emergency-stop system, the train can be divided into three parts: the first part defines the general state of the train, the second one defines the button system, and the third one specifies the emergency-stop manager. It should be noted that, due to their simplicity and to simplify the presentation, only Statemachines are presented and depicted in Fig. 3 (BDD and IBD are not shown in this paper), and actions are all abstracted in the Statemachines. Finally, each transition is identified by a label **trX** to ease the explanation understanding.

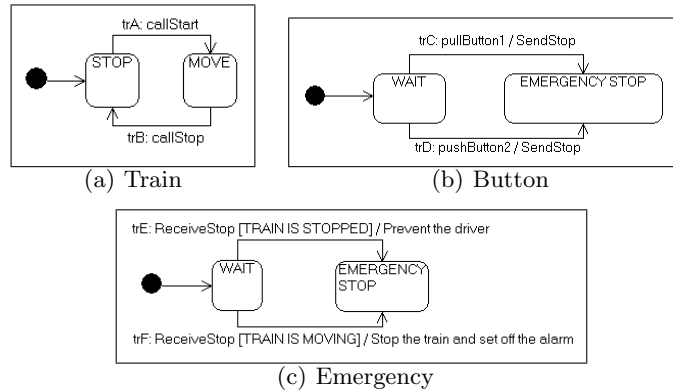


Fig. 3. Statemachines of the emergency-stop case study

The Statemachine defining the behaviour of the train, contains two states: *STOP* (the train is stationing) and *MOVE* (the train is moving). The expression *callStart* (resp. *callStop*) represents a call of *start* (resp. *stop*) operation that is a request to move (resp. stop) the train. At the initial state, the button system is waiting for an activation of one of the buttons. When one of them is activated (action *pullButton1* if the button1 is pulled, and action *pushButton2* if the button2 is pushed), a signal is sent to the emergency manager system. The sending of this signal is modeled by the action *SendStop*. Finally, the emergency-stop manager is initially positioned in the state *WAIT*. When it receives the emergency-stop signal sent by the button system (transition triggered by *ReceiveStop*), the train will stop and the alarm will be set off if the train is moving (guard of the transition); else, it only prevents the driver. This example will be used in the rest of the paper to illustrate the SysML4MBT testing approach.

4 Test Model Coverage Strategies

Some well-known criteria are usually used in Model-Based Testing techniques. A hierarchy of structural coverage criteria is notably defined in [21] and is depicted in the figure 4. Criteria in the box are control-flow criteria, the others are data-flow criteria. The (inheritance) arrows depict that if the criterion at the start of the arrow is covered, the criterion pointed by this arrow is also covered.

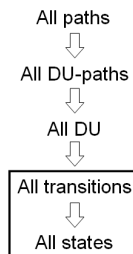


Fig. 4. Usual hierarchy of criteria.

The criterion *All states* consists in the coverage of each state of the model, while *All transitions* ensures that each transition is covered. It means that for each state (resp. transition), at least one test case executes it (if it is feasible). The criterion *All DU* (shortcut for *All Definition/Use*) deals with the coverage of each couple of definition (update) and use (reading) of each variable. It means that each time a variable is modified in the model, for each time it is read, a test, executing the definition before executing the use of the variable (without executing another definition meantime) has to be generated. The criterion *All DU* is defined as an extension of the *All transitions* criterion: it ensures the coverage of all transitions and all definition/use pairs. The criterion *All DU – paths* suggests the same level of coverage as *All DU*, but apply the approach to cover, for each variable, all the possible paths linking a definition and a use. Finally, the most constrained criterion of this hierarchy is the criterion *All paths*: it guarantees the coverage of all the possible paths in the system. The *All DU – paths* and *All paths* criteria are infeasible in practice due to combinatorial explosion of reachable states, and can be usually applied only on very small models since it generates a large number (potentially infinite) of test cases.

4.1 Strategy implemented within UML4MBT

The test coverage strategy implemented within UML4MBT relies both on control-flow and condition coverage criteria. UML4MBT applies *All transitions* that ensures to cover each transition, and also implements Decision/Condition Coverage criterion (D/CC) for each decision branch of the model. The D/CC criterion deals with the coverage of all the conditions and all the decision of the model. It means that for each effect of each transition, the condition of decision structure and the decision itself have to be true and false in at least one test case.

These criteria do not take into account particularities of SysML models. Indeed, a major issue of SysML4MBT models in comparison with UML4MBT models concern the representation of communication links and exchanges (send and receive of signals) between components of the system. The next subsection underlines this lack of the UML4MBT approach on the emergency-stop example.

4.2 Illustration of the UML4MBT Strategy

The three Statemachines of the case study model contain six transitions. Each one contains only one behaviour without condition. Then, the application of the *All Transitions* criterion is sufficient and the D/CC criterion is of no interest in this case. By performing UML4MBT approach to this model, the test cases represented in the table 1 are generated (in the representation of test cases, elements in parenthesis represent automatically fired transitions, while elements into brackets gives the name of the corresponding transition).

Table 1. Tests generated using UML4MBT strategy.

Targets	Id	Tests
Train state Statemachine		
trA Start the train.	S1	<i>callStart</i> [trA]
trB Stop the train.	S2	<i>callStart</i> [trA] → <i>callStop</i> [trB]
Button system Statemachine		
trC Pull the button 1.	S3	<i>pullButton1</i> [trC] → (<i>ReceiveStop</i> [trE])
trD Push the button 2.	S4	<i>pushButton2</i> [trD] → (<i>ReceiveStop</i> [trE])
Emergency manager Statemachine		
trE Emergency stop called (train already stopped).		Already covered by S3 and S4.
trF Emergency stop called (train moving).	S5	<i>callStart</i> [trA] → <i>pullButton1</i> [trC] → (<i>ReceiveStop</i> [trF])

Since the sequence S1 is included in S2, S1 is not required. Thus, to satisfy the coverage criterion *All Transitions*, the four test cases represented by the sequences S2, S3, S4 and S5 are generated by the UML4MBT approach.

This example shows that there is a deficiency on the case study coverage because the scenario, consisting to push the button2 when the train is moving, is not required to satisfy the criterion. In critical system context, it appears to be necessary to test such case. Then, to avoid this lack, a more precise strategy should be applied: for this purpose, a dedicated data-flow test selection strategy, called *ComCover*, has been defined to cover all the configurations of signal exchange. The next subsection introduces this dedicated criterion and defines it with regards to the previously presented criteria.

4.3 ComCover Strategy

Within SysML4MBT test generation strategy, we are interested in the coverage of each signal received from each signal sending. In this way, we propose to adapt the *DU* approach, which concerns variables of the system, to address the exchange of signals in order to create a sensible test metric for reactive parallel Statemachines. This original criterion is called *All DU_{sig}*, and the corresponding strategy to select test cases, that satisfy this criterion, is called **ComCover**.

The *All DU_{sig}* criterion, based on *All DU*, deals with the coverage of send and receive events. The criterion *All DU_{sig}* guarantees the coverage of the succession of the sending event and the receive event: For each transition pair that is synchronized on the same event (one sender and one receiver), a test is required to show that the sender triggers the receiver. In analogy with the *All DU* criterion, the *All DU_{sig}* criterion can be seen as an extension of the *All transitions* criterion. Thus, the *All DU_{sig}* criterion ensures the coverage of all transitions and all send/receive couples. Finally, we also define the *All DU_{sig} - paths* criterion, which guarantees, for each send/receive couple, the coverage of all possible paths containing them. The criteria hierarchy is updated as shown in Fig. 5.

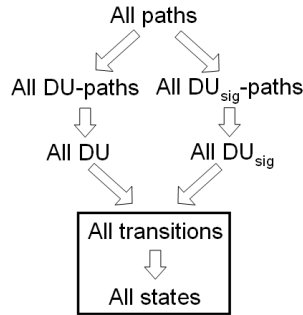


Fig. 5. Hierarchy of communication criteria.

The strategy, which consists in generating test cases in order to guarantee the *All DU_{sig}* criterion, is called **ComCover**. The use of *All DU_{sig} - paths* as selection criterion has not been implemented, and not be experimented, due to scalability issues. Indeed, *All DU - paths* criteria is known to be infeasible in practice since it results in an infinite number of tests when the Statemachine contains loops [22].

The **ComCover** strategy is thus based on communications between parts: its purpose is to extract all send/receive couples of SysML4MBT Statemachines and to cover them by at least one test case that fires the concerned signal receiving behaviour after having fired its sending. Concretely, each behaviour *BhvA* (of a transition in a Statemachine) that sends a signal to a specific port, and each behaviour *BhvB* that can receive the signal sent by *BhvA*, are extracted from the model. Each couple *BhvA/BhvB* then constitutes a test target to be covered by at least one test case to ensure *All DU_{sig}*.

4.4 Illustration of the ComCover Strategy

This section presents the results of the **ComCover** strategy using the SysML4MBT emergency-stop example. This model contains two signal sendings: *SendStop* on the transition *trC* and *SendStop* on *trD*. The receive of the signal can activate two transitions: *trE* and *trF*. Then, four test targets can be derived: the couples C1 (by firing *trC* before *trE*), C2 (by firing *trC* before *trF*), C3 (by firing *trD* before *trE*) and C4 (by firing *trD* before *trF*). The test cases of Table 2 are then generated using a classical breadth-search algorithm to cover each couple.

Table 2. Test cases generated using ComCover.

Targets	Id	Tests
C1 (trC/trE) Pull the button 1 (train already stopped).	S6	<i>pullButton1[trC]</i> → (<i>ReceiveStop[trE]</i>)
C2 (trC/trF) Pull the button 1 (train moving).	S7	<i>callStart[trA]</i> → <i>pullButton1[trC]</i> → (<i>ReceiveStop[trF]</i>)
C3 (trD/trE) Push the button 2 (train already stopped).	S8	<i>pushButton2[trD]</i> → (<i>ReceiveStop[trE]</i>)
C4 (trD/trF) Push the button 2 (train moving).	S9	<i>callStart[trA]</i> → <i>pushButton2[trD]</i> → (<i>ReceiveStop[trF]</i>)
Complement to guarantee <i>All transitions</i>		
trB Stop the train.	S10	<i>callStart[trA]</i> → <i>callStop[trB]</i>

In comparison with the results obtained using UML4MBT approach, S6 and S3 are equals, like S8 and S4, S7 and S5, and S2 and S10. On this simple example, all tests generated by the strategy of the UML4MBT approach are also generated with the **ComCover** strategy. Besides, the sequence that was missing using UML4MBT approach (activation of the emergency-stop using the button2 when the train is moving), is generated by **ComCover** with the sequence S9.

5 Formalization

This section proposes a formalization of the criteria *D/CC* and *All DU_{sig}*.

5.1 Formalization of a SysML4MBT Model

In this subsection, we introduce the subset of SysML4MBT notation that is required to formalize the coverage criteria. All elements annotated with * are not detailed here, but can be found in [23], where the SysML4MBT modeling expressiveness is fully formalized. A SysML4MBT model is composed of a Block Definition Diagram (BDD), Internal Block Diagram (IBD) and one or more Statemachines (SM). Internal Block Diagram, not required to formalize criteria, will be ignored in the rest of this section. We adopt the same restrictions for BDD in which only blocks and signals are relevant to define the criteria.

Definition 1 (Model) A *SysML4MBT* model can be defined by the 2-tuple $\langle BDD, SMS \rangle$, where *BDD* represents the Block Definition Diagram and *SMS* is a set of Statemachine Diagrams (*SM*).

Definition 2 (BDD) A *BDD* is defined by the 2-tuple $\langle SIGS, BLOCKS \rangle$, where *SIGS* is the set of all signals and *BLOCKS* is the set of all blocks.

Definition 3 (Block) A *Block BLOCK* is defined by the 3-tuple $\langle OPS^*, PROPS^*, PORTS^* \rangle$, where *OPS* is a set of all operations, *PROPS* the set of all properties, and *PORTS* the set of all ports contained in the block.

To directly access to block elements of a model *M*, we define the accessors *M.allProps*, *M.allOps* and *M.allPorts* that respectively represent the set of all properties, operations and ports of the model *M*. We can now formalize the SysML4MBT Statemachine and its transitions. A transition starts from a state and reaches an other (which can be the same), and can be guarded and triggered by an event. When this event appends, if the guard of the transition holds, the transition is fired and one of its behaviours is executed.

Definition 4 (SM) A *Statemachine* is represented by a 2-tuple $\langle STATES^*, TRANS \rangle$, where *STATES* denotes all states of the Statemachine Diagram, and *TRANS* is a set of all transitions of the Statemachine Diagram.

Definition 5 (Transition) A *transition* is defined by $\langle TRstart^*, TRend^*, TRtrig, TRguard^*, TRbhvs \rangle$ where:

- *TRstart* is the initial state of the transition.
- *TRend* is the final state of the transition.
- *TRtrig* corresponds to the trigger of the transition
 $TRtrig \in ((BDD.SIGS * allPorts) \cup allOps)$.
- *TRguard* defines the guard of the transition.
- *TRbhvs* contains all behaviours of the transition.

The behaviours of the transition are defined by an effect and a guard, which is a boolean expression that must hold to execute the action. It is formalized in the following way.

Definition 6 (Behaviour) A *behaviour* is defined by a 2-tuple $\langle BHVdecision^*, BHVaction \rangle$, where:

- *BHVdecision* defines the guard.
- *BHVaction* is the set of all effects that can be executed when the behaviour is activated. An effect takes the form of a signal sending on a specific port or an update of a property value:
 $(BDD.SIGS * allPorts) \cup (allProps * newValue)$
(newValue represents the new value to be associated to the property).

5.2 Formalization of a Test Case

Within test generation from SysML4MBT models, we define a test case as a trace (sequence) of steps (operation calls).

Definition 7 (Trace) *TRACES* defines the set of all possible traces of the SysML4MBT model. A trace tr , such that $tr \in TRACES$, contains an ordered set of steps $\langle StepOP^*, StepBhv^*, AllBhvs^* \rangle$, where:

- *StepOP* defines the operation triggering the behaviour.
- *StepBhv* is the executed behaviour if the trigger holds.
- *AllBhvs* is an ordered set that contains all the behaviours (including *StepBhv*) triggered by *StepOP*.

The set of generated test cases *TESTS* is thus a subset of *TRACES* that contains all the traces selected by the test generation strategy: $TESTS \subseteq TRACES$. All the elements, needed to formalize the coverage criteria *D/CC* and *All DU_{sig}* have been introduced.

5.3 Formalization of the Criteria

Using the definitions introduced in the previous subsection, we firstly propose in Fig. 6, the formalization of the criterion *all transitions* applied on UML4MBT model, which is refined using SysML4MBT model by *All DU_{sig}* criterion.

$$\forall trans.(trans \in \{t \mid \exists sm.(sm \in M.SMS \wedge t \in sm.TRANS)\} \Rightarrow \exists bhvTest.(bhvTest \in \{b \mid \exists (step, t).(t \in TESTS \wedge step \in t \wedge b \in step.AllBhvs)\} \wedge bhvTest \in trans.TRbhvs))$$

Fig. 6. Formalization of *All transitions* criterion.

The *All DU_{sig}* criterion applied to SysML4MBT model, to improve its coverage regarding communication exchange, is defined in Fig. 7 (in this formalization, the formula $bhvSend <_{step.AllBhvs} bhvRec$ means that $bhvSend$ is before $bhvRec$ in the $step.AllBhvs$ ordered set).

$$\forall (sig, port, bhvSend, trRec). ((sig \in M.BDD.SIGS \wedge port \in M.allPorts() \wedge bhvSend \in \{b \mid \exists (sm, t).(sm \in M.SMS \wedge t \in sm.TRANS \wedge b \in t.TRbhvs)\} \wedge trRec \in \{t \mid \exists sm.(sm \in M.SMS \wedge t \in sm.TRANS)\} \wedge \langle sig, port \rangle \in bhvSend.BHVaction \wedge trRec.TRtrig = \langle sig, port \rangle) \Rightarrow \exists (step, bhvRec). (step \in \{s \mid \exists t.(t \in TESTS \wedge s \in t)\} \wedge bhvSend \in step.AllBhvs \wedge bhvRec \in step.AllBhvs \wedge bhvRec \in trRec.TRbhvs \wedge bhvSend <_{step.AllBhvs} bhvRec))$$

Fig. 7. Formalization of *All DU_{sig}* criterion.

Informally, this formalization establishes that a test set satisfies this criterion if all pairs signal send/receive is covered by at least one test case. The criterion *All DU_{sig} - paths* enforces this criterion by ensuring the coverage of all paths that can be used to provide the *All DU_{sig}* criterion (this criterion has not been experimented due to scalability issues and is thus not formalized in this paper).

Finally, we can use the formalization of a SysML4MBT model to formalize the D/CC criterion, which is applied in our approach to complete the previous data-flow strategies. This formalization is expressed in Fig. 8.

$$\forall bhv.(bhv \in \{b|\exists (sm, t).(sm \in M.SMS \wedge t \in sm.TRANS \wedge b \in t.TRbhvs)\} \Rightarrow \exists bhvTest.(bhvTest \in \{b|\exists (step, t).(t \in TESTS \wedge step \in t \wedge b \in step.AllBhvs)\} \wedge bhvTest = bhv))$$

Fig. 8. Formalization of D/CC criterion.

6 Toolchain and Experimentation Results

The **ComCover** approach consists to automatically derive, from a SysML4MBT model, test cases that satisfy *All DU_{sig}* . Moreover, we decide to ensure the D/CC criterion to cover the conditional branches specified in the model. The toolchain implementing this approach from SysML4MBT models is an extension of the existing UML4MBT toolchain (See Fig. 1 in the introduction of this paper), which derives test cases from UML4MBT model by computing both *All transitions* and D/CC test selection strategies. The obtained toolchain, depicted in Fig. 9, translates the entities of the SysML4MBT model into an equivalent UML4MBT model, and allows to re-use the test generation techniques and algorithms initially developed for UML4MBT models.

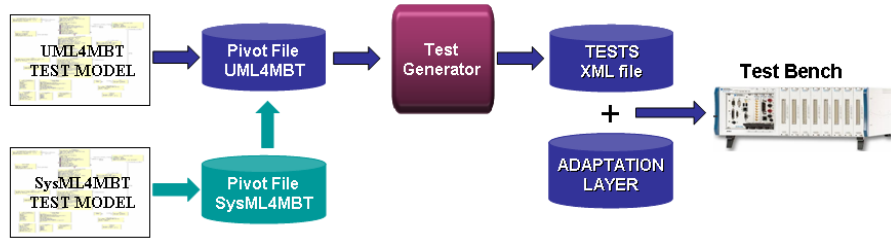


Fig. 9. SysML4MBT toolchain.

The implementation of the **ComCover** approach is then performed during the translation of the SysML4MBT model into the corresponding UML4MBT model, as suggested in other Model-Based approaches such as [22]. More precisely, it consists to specialize the translation rules of SysML4MBT into UML4MBT model such that applying *All transitions* and D/CC strategies on UML4MBT resulting model implies the coverage of the initial SysML4MBT model by *All DU_{sig}* and D/CC criteria. The next sections give details about this implemented approach.

6.1 Model Transformation

The rules to translate SysML4MBT models into an equivalent UML4MBT models are defined and detailed in [23]. SysML being a profile of UML, the majority of the rewriting rules from SysML4MBT to UML4MBT can be automatically performed by deleting the stereotype layer of SysML (blocks become classes, block properties become class attributes, block operations become class operation. . .). For specific SysML entities, dedicated translation rules are defined:

- Each SysML4MBT signal is translated into a dedicated UML4MBT class.
- Each receive port is translated into a link between the class representing the block hosting the port and each class representing each signal that can be received on this port.
- The OCL operator circumflex is translated into an OCL expression that manipulates the link resulting from the translation of the receive ports
- Historic states are rewriting using a class attribute that simulates a memory state and related OCL constraints are added on transitions.
- parallel structures (fork/join, parallel states and multiple Statemachines) are translated into sequential structures by applying a synchronized product.

6.2 ComCover Implementation

To apply the **ComCover** strategy, specific transitions have to be introduced during the translation from SysML4MBT into UML4MBT model. These artificial behaviours concern each signal send/receive couple, which defines the goal of the *All DU_{sig}* coverage criterion: each pair signal send/receive of the SysML4MBT model is thus represented by one specific transition in the resulting UML4MBT model. Since UML4MBT applies a selection strategy based on the criteria *All transitions* and *D/CC*, we can ensure that each pair signal send/receive is covered by the generated test cases. The implementation of this dedicated translation requires three steps: firstly, adding an attribute on each generated UML4MBT classes to represent SysML4MBT signals; secondly adding OCL expression on all behaviours sending a signal to update this attribute; and thirdly adding OCL expression on each transition triggered by a signal receive to test if it is pending. These steps are explained in the next subsections. It can be noted that, to simulate the *All $DU_{sig} - paths$* criterion, it would be necessary to add one transition for each path linking each pair signal send/receive, and this processing may not terminate if the state diagram contains loop.

6.3 Case Study Results

The **ComCover** selection strategy has been experimented and validated with several case studies. The most realistic one concerns the behaviours of the steering column of a car, which consisted to test the reactions of the system contingent on road plots. In the SysML4MBT model, road characteristics are represented using blocks. Those blocks are linked to the steering column that defines the SUT. This case study gave rise to a complete toolchain from the SysML4MBT test model (high level of abstraction) to the execution of the generated test cases on a Matlab/Simulink simulation model and a physical test bench (concrete system).

This realistic experimentation enables the detection of some errors both in the simulation model and in the concrete system configuration. More details about this end-to-end toolchain and the experimentation results on this case-study have been respectively published in [24] and in [25]. A short videotape, exemplifying it, is also available⁴. This experimentation demonstrates the relevance of the **ComCover** strategy for embedded mechatronic systems, that strongly rely on subsystem communication, by focusing the test objectives on signal exchanges.

7 Conclusion and Future Work

This paper proposes original coverage criteria (*All DU_{sig}* and *All DU_{sig}-paths*) to increase the model coverage, within MBT approach from *Systems Modeling Language*, to validate mechatronic systems. These criteria are based on a Def-Use approach focused on the communication features of the SysML test model. A dedicated test selection strategy, called **ComCover**, has been defined and implemented to automatically generate test cases covering the *All DU_{sig}* criterion. This strategy aims to improve an existing MBT process by considering communicating embedded systems modeled using SysML. However, the results presented in this paper are not restricted to this process and can be applied in all approaches that consider systems defined by material and logical subparts that communicates to each other. Finally, this automated toolchain has been experimented with industrial case studies, which allow to highlight the relevance of the **ComCover** strategy to generate test cases for (complex) communicating system. We are now investigating the use of real-time constraints in the SysML4MBT test model to complete the SysML4MBT model and improve the relevance of test cases for real-time systems. This model feature, major aspect of embedded system domain, will be addressed using the dedicated UML MARTE profile.

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⁴ VETESS project web site - <http://lifc.univ-fcomte.fr/vetess/>

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