

# Test Case Selection Techniques For Software Product Line Using AI Techniques: A Survey

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**Abstract.** Software Product Line Engineering (SPLE) is an approach in software engineering that applies industrial production techniques and gradually alters software development. Reusing and maintaining the traceability of variant features across all products in the same product line family are fundamental requirements. The ideal approach to software development is to utilise software engineering techniques to precisely and successfully regulate it. In this research, we will describe the previous work of various researchers on test case selection and software product lines, with a focus on the TCS technique, its benefits, and its challenges.

**Keywords:** software product line; techniques of test case selection; feature model; challenges of TCS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Developing software products with similar features is simplified by the Software Product Line (SPL) model of software engineering. The main goal of developing a system as a software product line is to maximise software reusability, creating a product that can be customised to meet various needs [22].

The need to create several related software products rather than a single product is a growing trend in software development. This is due to several factors. First, to accommodate different legal or cultural contexts, as well as linguistic differences, the user interfaces of products designed for the global market must be adjusted. Second, software reuse must be enhanced because software developers cannot create a new product from scratch for every new customer, given time and expense restrictions. Software Product Line Testing (SPLT) often focuses solely on selecting test cases that address the product's features or interactions. Nonetheless, selecting test cases with enhanced fault-revealing capabilities can lead to more efficient testing. Finding a test suite that maximises the achievement of a particular aim, such as less test time or expense, while maintaining complete feature coverage, thus becomes a key goal in SPLT.

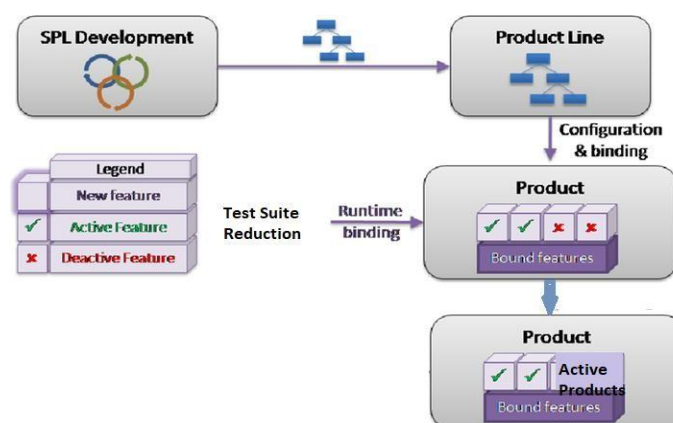


Figure 1. Product Software Line

To select test cases for software product lines, the following techniques can be applied:

1. Feature-Based Test Case Selection
2. Combinatorial Testing
3. Variability-Based Test Case Selection

4. Test Case Prioritisation
5. Reuse of Test Cases across Configurations
6. Model-Based Testing
7. Change Impact Analysis

The process of developing a Software Product Line (SPL) is depicted in Figure 1. SPL Development uses feature binding and configuration to create a Product Line. Then, using runtime binding, products are produced with certain active, new, or deactivated features. Reduced test suites are used to guarantee effective testing of goods with bound features that are customised as per Figure 1

## 2. PRELIMINARY WORK

### Feature Modeling

A feature is a system attribute that is important to a particular stakeholder. A feature may be a technical function or function group, a non-functional (quality) attribute, or a necessity, depending on stakeholders' interests. SPL generates several related products using a feature model (FM). Each product has a special combination of features.

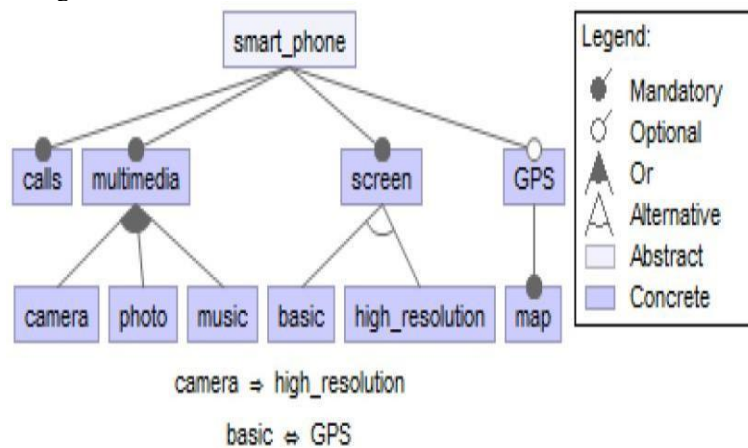
Four feature groups are used to derive the SPL products, and they are:

- Mandatory feature group
- Optional feature group
- OR feature group
- XOR (Alternative) feature group

The following guidelines are used to choose the characteristics. If the parent feature is chosen:

- Every required sub-feature needs to be chosen.
- Sub-features that are optional can be chosen or not.
- From the alternative feature group, only one feature ought to be chosen.
- The OR feature group should have at least one feature chosen.

A feature model diagram of smartphone setup options is shown in Figure 2. Functions, including calls, multimedia, screen, and GPS, are displayed, along with optional and required functions. Basic vs. high-resolution under screen, for example, or OR (camera/photo/music under multimedia) are used to categorise certain functions, as per Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Feature Model of Smartphone SPL

The bottom constraints specify cross-tree dependencies: basic  $\Rightarrow$  GPS and camera  $\Rightarrow$  high\_resolution. Lastly, one of the biggest challenges is testing awareness simultaneously. The majority of product lines offer many more possible variations than are currently in use, and it is occasionally impossible or a waste of time to test every single variation [19]. When there are many variants, testing only the ones created is already a significant challenge. Coordination of testing and variant manufacture is still required, though. One strategy is to cooperatively develop high-quality variants of the (software) response house, thereby creating a parallel solution house based on the feature model. However, for several product lines, reducing the effort required to review them remains somewhat unresolved.

### 3. SPL TESTING METHODOLOGY

Conventional testing methods struggle to scale effectively for Software Product Lines (SPLs) due to the inherent variability and feature interactions. To guarantee reliability while preserving efficiency, a structured approach to testing SPLs is essential. Current techniques for testing SPLs include combinatorial testing, model-based testing, and sampling methods such as pairwise and t-wise testing. Nevertheless, there are still shortcomings in optimising test case selection to achieve a balance between coverage and execution costs. An FM can produce a maximum of  $2^n$  products of an SPL with  $n$  characteristics. It is not possible to test every product as software products grow in size.

The following testing methodologies are applied to SPL.

- Test Case Selection (TCS) techniques—"Screen"
- Test Case Prioritisation (TCP) techniques—"Order"
- Test Suite Reduction (TSR) or Test Case Reduction (TCR) techniques—"Remove"
- Test all.

Techniques for Test Case Selection (TCS) are crucial for enhancing testing efficiency in the development of Software Product Lines (SPL), where various products are built upon a shared core with distinct variations. These techniques not only aid in providing comprehensive coverage of various configurations but also help minimise redundancy. In the domain of Software Product Line (SPL), Test Case Prioritisation (TCP) is a method employed to arrange test cases to optimise both the effectiveness and efficiency of testing processes [20-21]. Given that SPL encompasses a collection of interconnected software products with differing functionalities, TCP plays a crucial role in pinpointing the most critical test cases initially, thereby accelerating fault detection and minimising the duration of testing. In Software Product Lines (SPLs), Test Suite Reduction (TSR) is a method employed to decrease the number of test cases while still ensuring a high level of fault detection. Testing every possible configuration is impractical since SPLs consist of various software product variants that share certain components and differ in others. By eliminating unnecessary test cases, TSR enhances testing efficiency while still adequately testing essential functionalities. It is very difficult to test all cases in the product line due to increased time in the development of software and the wastage of human effort. So researchers work on these techniques to accelerate software development with minimum human effort and reliable software.

**Test Case Selection Technique:** The process of test case selection entails identifying a portion of test cases from a pre-existing test suite to run on a particular variant of a Software Product Line (SPL). The objective is to enhance fault detection while reducing testing expenses by eliminating redundant or superfluous tests.

The importance of the TCS technique is

- **Scalability:** Because of the combinatorial explosion, it is impractical to evaluate every variant of a product.
- **Efficiency:** It minimises the time and resources required for testing, leading to cost savings while maintaining effective fault detection.
- **Regression testing:** This approach identifies appropriate test cases for modified features.

Now we are discussing the challenge of TCS.

- **Feature Combinations:** With an increase in the number of features, the variety of product variations grows exponentially, leading to a dramatic rise in the possible test cases. This creates challenges in selecting a suitable set of test cases that effectively cover all interactions between the features.
- **Time and Resource Constraints:** Testing every possible product configuration might not be feasible due to resource constraints like time and processing power. As a result, methods that can reduce the test set's size while maintaining thorough coverage must be used.
- **Redundancy Minimisation:** Inefficient use of resources may result from test cases that overlap because they may assess the same feature combinations. The goal of good test selection techniques is to reduce redundancy while maintaining the efficacy of the testing procedure.  
Recent studies have investigated various strategies to tackle these challenges, including:
- **Machine Learning for Test Case Selection:** By using machine learning algorithms, test suite selection can be improved by determining which test cases are most likely to reveal defects.
- **Integration of Continuous Testing:** As DevOps and continuous integration techniques gain traction, automated and continuous testing play a crucial role in overseeing the selection of test cases for Software Product Lines (SPL). The importance of methods that can adjust to frequent changes in features or configurations is growing.

- **Reducing Test Explosion:** To prevent an excessive rise in test cases within large SPLs, techniques like combinatorial optimisation, which generate a minimal set of test cases that cover all potential combinations, are being improved.

#### 4. SOFTWARE PRODUCT LINE ENGINEERING

Nowadays, people want to accomplish more with less work, which has increased demand for software product lines (SPL) in the software sector. Instead of concentrating only on individual software products, there is an increasing need to develop multiple similar software products. Several factors are responsible for this trend. Customised user interfaces are required when products are meant for an international market because they must be made to accommodate different languages, legal systems, and cultural contexts. Furthermore, software reusability has grown in significance as developers frequently encounter financial and temporal limitations that make it impractical to develop completely new products from the ground up for every single client. Among the many benefits of Software Product Line Engineering (SPLE) are increased productivity, reduced expenses, and better product quality.

The basis of the SPLE is the modelling of commonalities and variations between variants of software products. FMS [16, 17] is often used for this. SPL also includes the design and management of variable software architectures and their components.

#### 5. RELATED WORK

In 2023, Shahbaa and Raghda do not particularly address test case selection approaches for software product lines; they concentrate on choosing the best test cases using artificial intelligence techniques, specifically using a genetic algorithm for prioritisation and a modified crow search algorithm, as per Table 1

**Table 1.** Recent Research

| S. No. | Publication Year | References N0. | Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Research Gap                                                                                                                                       | Objectives                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | 2011             | [1]            | Proposed a goal-oriented test case selection approach—prioritised features based on stakeholder importance for testing.                                                                                                             | Empirical evaluation of the proposed approach is ongoing. The correlation between error coverage and test case prioritisation needs investigation. | Reduce required test cases for product line testing. Maintain acceptable error detection coverage during testing.                               |
| 2      | 2013             | [2]            | Methodology reduces test case selection effort significantly. Test engineers positively view the methodology's adoption.                                                                                                            | Future evaluation in other product lines is needed. A thorough effectiveness analysis against manual processes is required.                        | Automate test case selection for product lines. Reduce selection effort while maintaining testing coverage.                                     |
| 3      | 2013             | [3]            | Automated methodology reduces test selection time and increases effectiveness. Test engineers positively view the methodology's adaptation in practice.                                                                             | Innovative application of FM and CFM in literature is unexplored. The need for practical value in questionnaire design was identified.             | Propose a systematic methodology for test case selection.                                                                                       |
| 4      | 2014             | [4]            | The results demonstrated that the approach significantly reduced test selection time and achieved higher effectiveness in terms of feature coverage, feature pairwise coverage, and fault detection compared to the manual process. | Innovative application of FM and CFM in literature is unexplored. The need for practical value in questionnaire design was identified.             | Propose a systematic methodology for test case selection. Evaluate the effectiveness and cost of automated selection versus the manual process. |

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|----|------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5  | 2015 | <a href="#">[5]</a>  | The research examines the difficulties associated with selecting automated test cases in product lines, emphasising the systematic capture of variability and the identification of reusable test cases for newly developed products. | An incomplete feature model requires more detailed information. Cannot select test cases bound to early requirements.                                                                                                                                                               | Automate test case selection for product lines. Reduce selection effort while maintaining testing coverage.                                       |
| 6  | 2017 | <a href="#">[6]</a>  | A mutation-based approach reveals faults not found in pairwise testing. Tool FMTS supports feature mutation testing and evaluation.                                                                                                   | Higher-order mutation testing needs further exploration. Operators for absent features are not adequately addressed.                                                                                                                                                                | Present a deeper description of the mutation-based approach. Provide complete experimental results for evaluating the approach.                   |
| 7  | 2017 | <a href="#">[7]</a>  | Improved efficiency, reduced execution time, and good fault detection with historical data and ML integration.                                                                                                                        | Lack of ML use in real test pipelines, insufficient model comparisons, limited empirical results, and static models.                                                                                                                                                                | To enhance regression test selection using a logistic regression model that predicts test case importance.                                        |
| 8  | 2019 | <a href="#">[8]</a>  | Three test case selection methods are proposed for time-budget scenarios. Coverage information improves fault detection under low time budgets.                                                                                       | The identified research gap is the lack of efficient techniques for choosing a few test cases from a large Software Product Line (SPL) test suite while maintaining sufficient structural code coverage across product line variations, especially when time constraints are tight. | Propose test case selection methods for product lines. Analyse methods using structural coverage information efficiently.                         |
| 9  | 2019 | <a href="#">[9]</a>  | Collaborative filtering improves test case prioritisation and reduction. Ontology aids in storing product configurations effectively.                                                                                                 | The problem of effectively testing software product lines (SPLs), which can produce an exponentially high number of product configurations because of different feature combinations, is discussed by the author.                                                                   | Reduce the number of products for testing efficiency. Prioritise test cases for effective fault detection.                                        |
| 10 | 2020 | <a href="#">[10]</a> | The automated method reduces retest cases by 22.4% on average. No fault-revealing test cases were missed during selection.                                                                                                            | Scalability to Large Product Lines and Handling Dynamic Variability                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Propose an automated source code-based regression test selection method. Improve the efficiency of SPL regression testing by reducing test cases. |
| 11 | 2022 | <a href="#">[11]</a> | The improved algorithm reduces redundant test executions effectively. Method applicable for initial and subsequent product family testing. Proposed methods improve test case selection efficiency and quality.                       | Extend method applicability to finer granularity levels.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Reduce redundant test executions in software product lines. Propose a practical process for SPL testing.                                          |

|    |      |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                         |
|----|------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 | 2023 | <a href="#">[12]</a> | Proposed methods improve test case selection efficiency and quality. Selected test cases reduce testing duration significantly.                                                                     | The important problem of choosing test cases optimally to cut down on software testing time and effort without sacrificing quality is covered in the research study.                               | Minimise time and effort in software testing. Select test cases to uncover the most bugs efficiently.                                                   |
| 13 | 2023 | <a href="#">[13]</a> | The tool uses AI techniques to choose the best test cases. The selection of test cases is improved by an improved crow search algorithm.                                                            | Hybridisation of boundary value and branch coverage for the fitness function. Utilisation of the crow's awareness probability in test case selection.                                              | Build a tool for optimal test case selection. Use AI techniques for efficient error detection.                                                          |
| 14 | 2024 | <a href="#">[14]</a> | This study looks at the latest developments in fuzzing research. The main study covers the optimisation of several fuzzing phases in software testing as well as the test case validation workflow. | Challenges such as the integration of AI into existing testing frameworks, the need for standardised AI models, and the requirement for large, diverse datasets for training AI systems are noted. | The Study identifies the primary objective as enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of software testing processes through AI-driven methodologies. |
| 15 | 2025 | <a href="#">[15]</a> | The study examines several test suite reduction techniques for software product lines, emphasising how well they work to reduce test cases while maintaining fault detection.                       | The study highlights research gaps in the restricted handling of complicated feature interactions and the scalability of reduction techniques for big and complex software product lines.          | The purpose of the study is to carefully investigate and categorise current test suite reduction techniques for software product line testing.          |

A novel tool was developed that utilises artificial intelligence techniques to select optimal test cases. This tool aims to increase the efficacy and efficiency of the software testing process, addressing the need for scalable and applicable testing methods. The research introduced the crow search algorithm for selecting test cases. This algorithm was modified and improved to better generate and select test cases that cover the basic paths of the program. The improvements were based on a hybrid approach that combines boundary value criteria and branch coverage in the fitness function calculation [13]. In 2024, Mani and Padmanabhan focus on fuzzing approaches powered by artificial intelligence for software test case optimisation, with a particular emphasis on data organisation, test case development, and validation. However, it doesn't particularly include test case selection methods for software product lines using AI [14]. In 2025, Satendra Kumar and Viplesh examine a range of Test Suite Reduction (TSR) methods within Software Product Lines (SPLs), with the objective of minimising the number of test cases/products required for testing while maintaining coverage and fault detection. The study classifies techniques according to their utilisation of feature models, constraints, and redundancy among variants; it also addresses combinatorial, optimisation, and constraint-based strategies. Furthermore, the authors emphasise the trade-offs between reduction and the risk of overlooking feature interactions, cost and automation, and identify scalability and tool support as significant challenges [15]. The study by Mahmudul Islam and Farhan Khan looks at how AI, particularly machine learning and deep learning, can be used to automate a range of software testing jobs, enhance performance, and expedite testing processes [16]. Instead of specifically discussing test case selection strategies for software product lines using AI, Kiyoshi Ueda, Riku Shikama, and Yuki Shimizu concentrate on automatic test case generation from requirement specifications using machine learning, stressing the selection of structured training data based on cosine similarity. The paper's main strategy is an automated system that chooses regression tests according to source code modifications. In order to optimise the testing process, this approach focuses on determining which test cases are pertinent to the code changes [17].

To minimise test space and improve error coverage by prioritising crucial features and configurations for testing, Alireza Ensan et al. propose a goal-oriented method for selecting and ranking test cases in software product lines. The idea of Software Product Line (SPL) engineering, a technique for developing a group of software products with similar features, is covered in the article. This method reduces development time and expenses by reusing code. He used a different approach and reduced the number of test cases [1].

By employing Feature Model for Testing (FMT) and Component Family Model for Testing (CFMT), Shuai Wang et al. provide a methodical approach to automated test case selection that guarantees thorough coverage of testing functionalities in product lines while drastically cutting down on selection time and effort. The findings demonstrated that the methodology lowers reliance on the subject expertise of individual test engineers while also reducing the selection effort. This is important because it keeps the selection of test cases consistent even when team members shift [2]

By creating hash-based traceability links between test cases and source code, Pilsu Jung et al.'s ActSPL automates the selection of reusable test cases for software product lines, achieving 100% precision and 62% recall while drastically cutting down on testing time [10].

As I reviewed the literature, I discovered that testing in a Software Product Line (SPL) may present greater challenges compared to testing individual systems. Conducting tests on each individual SPL product would be beneficial; however, the associated costs make it impractical to implement. As the number of options increases, the potential variety of products will also grow exponentially, typically based on a feature model. Due to time and cost constraints, the range of alternatives is producing hundreds of different goods. Various methods are planned to lower the cost of testing. Test case reduction (TCR) approaches are among them.

- Study and analysis of test case selection techniques for SPLT.
- Screen the test cases/products of an SPL using AI techniques
- Reduce the efforts of testers to test the products of SPLs.
- Reduce the test space or number of products for SPLs.
- Study different SPL tools (SPLOT, Feature IDE, FAMA-FW, etc.). Implement, validate, and analyse our approaches to these tools.
- Improve the quality of products of SPLs so that bug-free products can be achieved.

## 6. SIGNIFICANCE OF SURVEY

The aim of the literature survey is to identify, evaluate, and understand all the current research that is relevant to a specific topic, question, or any other area of interest (SPL testing). In this research, we review all the efforts made by software engineering researchers for SPL testing and follow the process and criteria for gathering primary data (including technical reports, case studies, etc.). Rather than constructing each software product from scratch, a Software Product Line (SPL) is a set of related software products that are created by reusing a common set of features. One of the important principles of Software Product Line Engineering (SPLE) is reusability [23]. The unique features of each product in a Software Product Line (SPL) describe it. A feature describes a software product's behaviour and capabilities. To represent SPLs, feature models (FMs) are frequently used. These models describe the features and how they relate to one another, thereby encapsulating information about every product in an SPL. Information from FMs is retrieved with computer assistance as part of automated FM analysis. Among other things, this analysis makes it easier to examine SPL properties like complexity, variability, and consistency. Several methods, tools, and techniques for FM analysis have been developed over the last 20 years. [7]. This paper introduces TCP methodologies for software product lines (SPLs). Our research is driven by several perspectives.

- What methods have been suggested for the selection of test cases in Software Product Lines (SPLs)?
- What advancements have been made in the research of test case selection techniques?
- What strategies can we implement to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of testing for SPLs?

## 7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This survey was carried out using test case selection (TCS) techniques tailored for software product lines (SPL). Even though a lot of research papers have been written, none of them has specifically addressed TCS methods in relation to SPL. We therefore hope that this work will pique researchers' interest. Even though the methods, benefits, logistics, and constraints of SPL have been covered in a number of studies, our discussion will only focus on the most important elements of TCS techniques that apply to SPL.

## 8. DATA SOURCES AND SEARCH TACTIC

Using the following methodology, we created a search string to find relevant materials for our work. Develop the key terms associated with our subjects. In place of the main term, use related terms. Utilise alternative spellings to locate pertinent information by employing the Boolean operator "OR." Main terms are connected

through the Boolean operator "AND". Various combinations of related terms were utilised for the search terms. The search strings developed for this strategy are outlined below. We created search strings after compiling the resources relevant to our investigation. Better search features are made possible by the dynamic nature of digital literature sources. In order to obtain pertinent materials, the main databases used in this process were IEEEExplore, Springer Link, Science Direct, and ACM Digital Library. Not every digital source can be found using a single search term. As a result, we used unique search strings for each database (IEEE, Springer, Elsevier, and ACM publications), as mentioned by others [22, 17]. Two researchers worked together to complete this task, and they had in-depth conversations at every turn to improve the final search strings until they were completely happy with how effective they were. We conducted a search of key publications from the following digital databases: 1. Google Scholar; 2. Web of Science; 3. Research Gate; 4. Springer Link; 5. Science Direct; 6. EI Compendex/Inspec; 7. IEEEExplore; 8. Google (Cite Seer Library); and 9. ACM Digital. Search strings were utilised within the search engines mentioned in a previous section to identify relevant data. The selection of studies was conducted through a screening process that involved filters to identify pertinent studies using the specified keywords. This process also included refining the search results by eliminating titles of studies, as illustrated in Fig. 3. Subsequently, studies were excluded after a review of their abstract and conclusion sections. The studies included in the final selection met the following criteria:

- Studies were excluded based on the following criteria:
- SPL methods are lacking adequate information regarding testing exertion.
- Duplicate studies published across multiple papers, with only the most recent version retained.
- Studies that do not provide comprehensive details on concepts and exercises related to SPL testing.
- Additionally, studies that have already been included from other sources were also excluded.

## 9. STUDY MATERIAL SELECTION

In our search, we gathered data indicating that significant research efforts have been made over the past decade. As illustrated in Table 2, a considerable number of conferences and workshops have been organised to support researchers in the field of Software Product Lines (SPL). Numerous organisations have hosted these events to enhance research, enabling participants to identify challenges and explore solutions proposed by various researchers [22]. Notably, the primary sources for these workshops and conferences are SPLT (Software Product Line Testing) and SPLC (Software Product Line Conference), from which we obtained over 50 papers covering diverse topics, including testing, selection, and configuration within Software Product Lines. In this discussion, our review of various papers revealed that the methods and techniques suggested by numerous authors primarily address theoretical issues, with no practical problems being highlighted. However, over the past decade, industries have significantly contributed to this field, providing researchers with a genuine platform to confront real-world challenges. This has enabled them to develop solutions through various methods and techniques, as evidenced by several industrial case studies conducted by different authors.

## 10. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

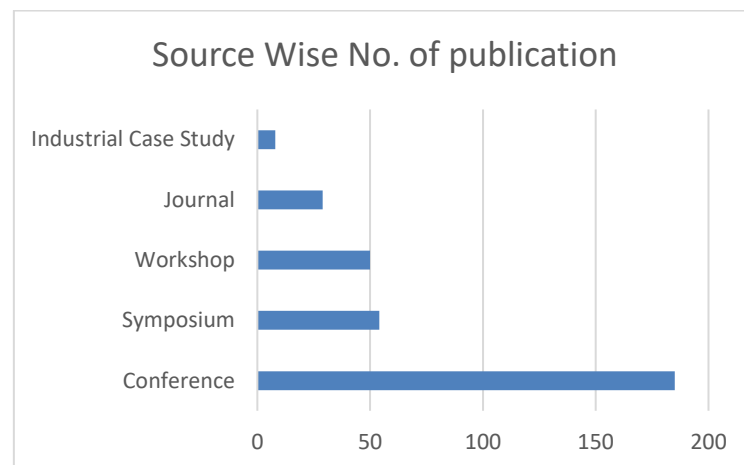
According to Table 2 data, conference publications—of which there were 185 articles produced between 2010 and 2025—are the most common way that research is shared. This suggests that presenting work at conferences is strongly preferred, perhaps because of their increased visibility and speed of turnaround. Despite a considerable uptick in 2024 with 19 articles, symposium publications have been comparatively stable over the years, indicating a noteworthy event or heightened focus on symposiums in that year. With peaks in 2013, 2021, and 2023 (7 each), workshop publications exhibit a cyclical pattern. However, they are completely absent in years such as 2010, 2015, and 2020, suggesting irregular participation or shifting relevance over time as per Table 2.

**Table 2.** Research work published in a different year

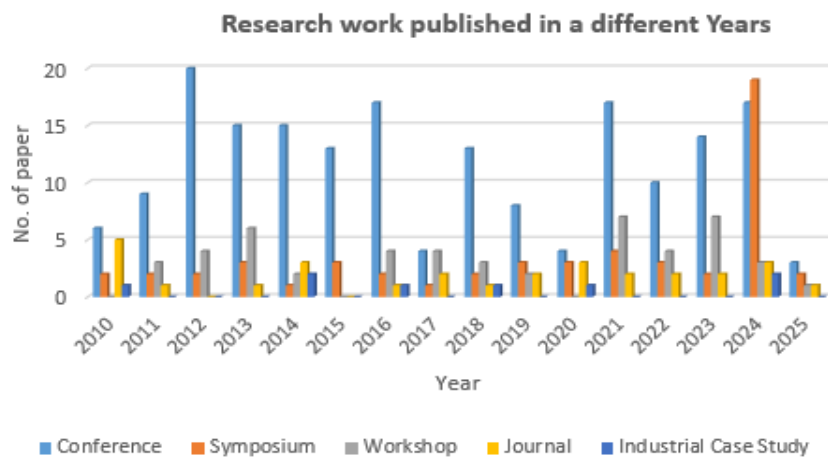
| <b>Publications<br/>Year</b> | <b>Conference</b> | <b>Symposium</b> | <b>Workshop</b> | <b>Journal</b> | <b>Industrial<br/>Case Study</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>2010</b>                  | 6                 | 2                | --              | 5              | 1                                |
| <b>2011</b>                  | 9                 | 2                | 3               | 1              | --                               |
| <b>2012</b>                  | 20                | 2                | 4               | --             | --                               |
| <b>2013</b>                  | 15                | 3                | 6               | 1              | --                               |
| <b>2014</b>                  | 15                | 1                | 2               | 3              | 2                                |
| <b>2015</b>                  | 13                | 3                | --              | --             | --                               |

|              |     |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|-----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>2016</b>  | 17  | 2  | 4  | 1  | 1  |
| <b>2017</b>  | 4   | 1  | 4  | 2  | -- |
| <b>2018</b>  | 13  | 2  | 3  | 1  | 1  |
| <b>2019</b>  | 8   | 3  | 2  | 2  | -- |
| <b>2020</b>  | 4   | 3  | -- | 3  | 1  |
| <b>2021</b>  | 17  | 4  | 7  | 2  | -- |
| <b>2022</b>  | 10  | 3  | 4  | 2  | -- |
| <b>2023</b>  | 14  | 2  | 7  | 2  | -- |
| <b>2024</b>  | 17  | 19 | 3  | 3  | 2  |
| <b>2025</b>  | 3   | 2  | 1  | 1  | -- |
| <b>Total</b> | 185 | 54 | 50 | 29 | 8  |

The number of journal publications, though limited (29 in total), exhibits occasional peaks in 2010 and 2020, indicating a consistent but slower level of engagement with peer-reviewed journals. Industrial case studies are the least frequently published, with only 8 outputs over a span of 16 years, which implies a lack of collaboration between industry and academia or a reduced emphasis on applied research. The year 2024 is notable for being the most productive, showcasing high output across all categories, particularly in symposiums. Conversely, 2025 experiences a marked decrease in all categories, possibly due to it being a partial or ongoing year. Overall, the findings indicate a strong focus on rapid academic dissemination, while highlighting potential opportunities to enhance journal publications and industry collaboration.



**Figure 3.** Research work collected from different sources



**Figure 4.** Research work on SPL in different years

Figure 3 illustrates the number of publications across different sources. Conference publications are the highest, approaching 190. Symposium and workshop publications are nearly equal, around 50 each. Journal and industrial case study publications are the lowest, with industrial case studies contributing the least. Figure 4 shows the number of research papers published from 2010 to 2025 across five categories: Conference, Symposium, Workshop, Journal, and Industrial Case Study. Conference papers consistently have the highest count each year. Symposium publications spike sharply in 2025, surpassing all other categories. Other sources remain relatively stable with lower publication counts throughout the years.

## 11. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The wide variety of product variants arising from a product line renders SPL testing a demanding endeavour. Testing each individual product is impractical due to the sheer volume of products available. To mitigate the costs and time associated with software product testing, TCS techniques are employed. These techniques facilitate the scheduling of test cases for execution in a specific order, while also striving to enhance their efficiency in meeting performance objectives. In this paper, we present a survey focused on TCS techniques applicable to Software Product Lines (SPLs). This survey encompasses numerous research papers; however, we identified a limited number of studies directly related to our area of interest. There is a scarcity of literature addressing SPL-specific test case selection perspectives, and we have analysed the contributions of all relevant papers. We propose that future research could be informed by our analysis and comparison. This survey reveals that the majority of research on SPLs has concentrated on addressing specific, narrow challenges. In order to increase the efficiency and accuracy of test selection, advanced machine learning models such as deep learning, reinforcement learning, and evolutionary algorithms will be integrated into test case selection methods for Software Product Lines (SPL), utilising AI in the future. Additionally, there is an opportunity to create self-learning, adaptive systems that adjust to changes in the SPL and require less human involvement. Furthermore, hybrid approaches that combine AI with conventional methods might offer improved coverage and scalability. However, there are a number of drawbacks to the methods used now. The high computational cost of training AI models, especially for extremely large and complex SPLs, is one of the main challenges. The absence of varied and high-quality training datasets is another drawback that may have an impact on model performance. Additionally, it is still difficult for testers to evaluate or trust the results due to the interpretability and openness of AI decisions in test selection. Last but not least, it is still challenging to generalise AI-based techniques across other SPL areas without requiring substantial modification.

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