Testing of Cyber-Physical Systems Having an AI-Based Component

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A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the Requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science (Software Engineering)

Department of Software Engineering

BAHRIA UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD

July 2024

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DEDICATION

To my beloved mother and father

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With my deepest gratitude to Allah Almighty, I would like to start this acknowledgment. I extend my appreciation to my thesis supervisor, Dr.Tamim Ahmed Khan for their valuable feedback and mentorship in shaping this work. I would like to thank my parents for their support and belief in me, are the greatest source of motivation for me.

ABSTRACT

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) integrate computational and physical processes, with applications spanning automotive, industrial robotics, and home automation industries. As CPS becomes more intricate due to technological advancements, the need for robust development and testing methodologies to ensure reliability and safety has become paramount. Traditional software development models are often insufficient for managing the combined hardware, software, and network complexities characteristic of CPS. This research introduces an extended V-Model for system engineering tailored to the development and testing of CPS. Our model adapts and expands upon the traditional V-Model used in software engineering, incorporating modern techniques such as A/B/n testing and Explainable AI (XAI). This methodology enables parallel development and testing processes. The V-Model begins with a requirement specification that outlines the CPS profile, including sensor types, network architecture, and computational needs. The functional specification phase assesses system responses under various conditions, ensuring the expected functionality is met. The system is divided into its core components in the architectural design phase: software, hardware, and network infrastructure. This stage prepares the system for implementation, integrating sensor data acquisition, data transfer protocols, and AI analytical modules. For **unit testing**, mutation testing is employed using mutation operators to simulate potential system faults. This enhances system robustness by ensuring the AI model can handle failures related to hardware, software, or network issues. Fault seeding helps to identify vulnerabilities within the AI, particularly in Neural Networks, Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and other algorithms used depending on the specific case. **Integration testing** incorporates A/B/n testing with combinatorial logic to evaluate different CPS configurations. This approach compares variants under real-world conditions, helping to identify the optimal setup for performance and reliability. In **system testing**, the fault model is employed to ensure coverage across hardware, software, network, and environmental conditions. Test cases are designed to capture the full range of potential faults that could impact the CPS. Explainable AI techniques, such as SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations), are used to interpret the AI model's predictions during system testing, providing insights into CPS behavior in different scenarios. Additionally, real-time alerts are generated based on the AI's predictions of CPS performance. The final phase involves acceptance testing, where the system's performance is validated in the target environment against predefined project requirements. Mutation testing further strengthens the system's reliability by identifying areas of potential failure, ensuring the CPS is protected against a wide range of possible issues. The proposed extended V-Model provides a comprehensive approach to CPS development, covering the relationships between hardware, software, networks, and AI algorithms. By integrating modern testing strategies such as A/B/n testing and mutation testing, this model enhances the reliability, security, and efficiency of CPS. Future work will extend the applicability of this model to other domains and address emerging challenges in CPS development.

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) are integrated systems that combine computational elements with physical processes, enabling real-time monitoring and control of physical environments through embedded computing and communication technologies. Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) development is further amplified by the fact that these systems are increasingly being deployed in areas where human lives are at stake, such as in healthcare and transportation. Traditional software development methodologies, while effective for conventional systems, often fall short when applied to CPS due to the unique challenges these systems present. The interaction between the physical and cyber components in CPS introduces complexities that require specialized approaches to development and testing [1]. For example, in a cyberphysical system being "slow" means that software and hardware components must be able to respond within no time (i.e., right) when the state of the systems changes. Even worse in CPS is the use of these machine learning algorithms, where such models must be designed, they need to learn from our data and then we must test their generalization capability on unseen data but also not misbehave when things are going critical [2].

Reliable CPS development is also crucial for maintaining public trust in these systems. As CPS are increasingly integrated into everyday life, from smart homes to autonomous vehicles, users must be confident that these systems will perform as expected. Any failure, especially in high-stakes applications, can lead to loss of life, financial damage, and a loss of trust in technology [3]. It is therefore necessary to have rigorous testing methodologies at the unit and system levels. Validation is indispensable to identify and reduce risks before deployment.

Here, the V-Model for CPS development demonstrates a well-organized approach in which all parts of the system are validated, and their structure is tested at each phase. To address the challenges in CPS, this model integrates contemporary testing methodologies like A/B/n-Testing, Mutation Testing and XAI to ensure that these are not only working but also trustworthy, secure and deployable for the real world [4].

1.1 Challenges in CPS Design and Testing

Designing and testing CPS (Cyber-Physical Systems) comes with challenges that are not commonly faced in traditional software or hardware development. All of this is quite challenging due to the intricate interactions between physical and computational aspects, the real-time nature of these systems and their demand for robust operation in highly dynamic (often unpredictable) environments [5]. Below are some of the key challenges in CPS design and testing:

1.1.1 Complexity and Integration

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPSs) are composed of multiple sensors, actuators, computational units, and communication networks. This forces each part to work together so that ultimately the totality of the system functions correctly. Combining these various factors frequently poses obstacles related to compatibility and interoperability. Furthermore, due to the complexity of these systems in an n-number component setup, it scales exponentially and becomes a logistic challenge for testing one-shot end-to-end real device scenarios [6].

1.1.2 Real-time Requirements

Many CPSs are required to operate within hard real-time constraints where data must be processed, and decisions need to be made on the fly. This makes data processing a more challenging task in the design and testing phase, because if it is delayed or erroneous, then the system will fail with an exception [7]. This poses a greater challenge, especially in the realm of machine learning, where the models need significantly more computation.

1.1.3 Safety and Security

Because CPS is often used in critical application domains, security and safety are very important. CPSs must be robustly designed to handle all potential failure modes and thoroughly tested that they are capable of safely operating under those conditions [7].Additionally, integrating networked components makes CPS vulnerable to cyber-attacks, requiring robust security measures to protect against unauthorized access and manipulation.

1.1.4 Uncertainty and Variability

CPS must necessarily operate under an uncertain and varying environment. For instance, an intelligent autonomous vehicle must be able to operate in all weather conditions along variable road surfaces and under different traffic patterns [7]. Due to these uncertainties, it is impossible to predict the behavior of the system in all situations. Such is the level of uncertainty that it becomes almost impossible to devise tests for every possible environmental variable or system state.

1.1.5 Explain-ability and Trust

CPS is caught increasingly relying on AI, and machine learning algorithms for decision-making so the imperative of explainability is important. Both users as well as operators must be able to interpret and trust the decisions made by these systems e.g. in safety-critical applications [8], [9]. But because their internal state is so hugely difficult to interpret, AI models, particularly deep learning models can appear as "black boxes": while they might be able to explain, in isolation and one or two dimensions at most some small number of decisions, it may prove an almost impossible task for a human being to describe any model's reasoning coherently.

1.1.6 Testing Scalability

A wide range of conditions and scenarios must be analyzed to fully Validate any CPS. But as the system grows in complexity, especially coming from more objectoriented environments with possibly fewer test cases to worry about), this number can be overwhelming. As well as each one has to be tested separately, they also have to work with the collective set used in combination within an integrated system [10].

1.2 Research Gap

Current approaches to testing CPS include model-based testing and, to some extent, formal Validation that offer a set of valuable tools for CPS validation. Despite this, these approaches have limitations to accommodate the whole set of CPS characteristics. Another limitation is that these methods have not been developed and tested for large CPS with decentralized architecture [11]. There is a lack of rich methods for evaluating the integration of Machine Learning in CPS, especially in conditions of real-time and hazardous scenarios.

Current systems prioritize data collection and basic monitoring, often neglecting AI decision-making processes that are increasingly becoming part of every CPS theses days. We don't have testing techniques to effectively keep up with the ongoing changes in AI technology and how it interacts with physical processes [12]. Scalability challenges in testing CPS in large-scale CPS environments, especially concerning the rapid increase of variables, components, and combinations, present a significant research area [13]. Importantly, there is a notable absence of comprehensive fault models that can address the unique challenges posed by CPS, particularly in relation to the integration of AI. Existing techniques, such as the V-process model, can be extended to cover software engineering aspects and AI aspects of CPS at all levels of software development lifecycle with specific reference to cyber physical systems.

1.3 Problem Statement

Cyber-physical systems with AI are becoming more complex, but current methods for testing and ensuring their reliability are not addressing all aspects of software development lifecycle stages to deliver acceptable quality cyber physical systems. Therefore, there is a requirement to devise a fault model and incorporate appropriate steps extending existing software development lifecycle models so that software testing at unit, integration, and (sub-) system level be supported.

1.4 Research Questions

RQ1. How can we provide a comprehensive fault model with associated coverage criteria so that we may be able to incorporate appropriate measures into existing software development lifecycle models to test cyber-physical systems at unit, integration and system levels?

RQ2. How can we effectively integrate Explainable AI (XAI) into Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) with AI components to ensure thorough validation and support their development and integration?

Given the challenges associated with the design and testing of CPS, this research proposes a tailored V-Model approach that addresses these issues by incorporating modern testing techniques and methodologies. The key objectives of the proposed V-Model approach are as follows:

1.5.1 Structured Development and Testing Process

A key goal of the proposed V-Model is to create a systematic approach that guides development and testing for CPS, beginning at requirements specification and continuing through final validation. A proper series of well-referenced stages guarantees these in the CPS that all types in the CPS are testable at some phase before incorporation minimizing the bugs caught but never spotted.

1.5.2 Integration of A/B/n Testing

To deal with such uncertainty and variability that are characteristic of CPS environments, the proposed V-Model adapts the A/B/n testing approach. This technique facilitates the ability to compare one system variant to another under different conditions to determine the best and most reliable variant of the CPS. Through the systematic approach to changing the configurations, A/B/n testing assists in achieving the best system optimized to operate in different circumstances, which are present in real operational environments.

1.5.3 Incorporation of Explainable AI (XAI)

As a means of boosting the explainability and credibility of AI-driven CPS, the created V-Model is accompanied by the application of Explainable AI (XAI), where SHAP is used. This helps bring transparency in the operations of an AI model in the CPS and helps users and operators to know why an action was taken by the system. This is especially emphasized in cases where accuracy, transparency and trust in the information received are critical to system safety.

1.5.4 Emphasis on Robustness through Mutation Testing

The proposed V-Model also points to the need to ensure that systems are robust as it incorporates mutation testing as one of the aspects of the Validation process. Using special mutants which are intentionally put into the CPS, mutation testing estimates the ability of the CPS to work properly in case of unexpected conditions or errors occurring. Such testing assists in the discovery of flaws in the design and implementation of the system so that the developers can enhance the strength of the same before it is released.

1.5.5 Comprehensive Validation

In the case of V-Model, validation can be done at a complete level for every CPS covering each level from the component to system levels which include unit tests, integrated tests, system tests and lastly the final acceptance test. The proposed approach aids in the extensive checking of each component and how they interact to minimize the vulnerability of the system failure; thus, ensuring compliance with all the requirements from the CPS point of view.

1.5.6 Addressing Scalability in Testing

Finally, the V-Model approach solves the problem of testing scalability because the proposed approach can be easily scaled up to accommodate the complexities of CPS. It is also shown that the model uses advanced testing techniques where it is capable of running several tests at once using $A/B/n$ testing while at the same time, it employs techniques such as XAI that make it possible to test all these parameters and all the regions without needed to test all the areas for all the possible situations, thereby saving so much time.

1.6 Structure of Document

Due to the nature of the proposed V-Model for CPS development and testing, this document provides a detailed overview of the outlined procedures. It begins with an Introduction defining CPS, discussing the challenges in their design and testing, and highlighting the goals of the proposed approach. The Literature Review then focuses on existing research in CPS development models, testing methodologies, and the use of AI in CPS, identifying the research gaps addressed by the proposed model. In the Proposed Methodology chapter, the extended V-Model is elaborated, detailing the development and validation phases, with the incorporation of advanced techniques like A/B/n testing, mutation testing, and Explainable AI (XAI).

The System Design and Implementation chapter covers how the V-Model is practically applied to CPS, from component specification to the implementation of AI analytics and feedback mechanisms. The Testing Methodology outlines the specific tests at each stage of the V-Model, including unit, integration, system, and mutation testing. Results & Discussion analyzes the test outcomes, demonstrating how this approach enhances CPS reliability and performance. Finally, the document concludes with a summary of research contributions, suggestions for future investigations, and references and appendices that provide supporting resources.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Cyber-physical systems (CPS) play a key role across a range of sectors, including healthcare transportation, manufacturing, and energy. As these systems mature, so does the body of research focused on their development. The coverage of CPS literature is wide with the system architecture, real-time data processing and machine learning integration, testing methodologies etc. This literature review provides an overview of the current state of research in CPS, with a particular focus on the challenges and methodologies related to their development and testing [26]. Analyzing existing research, the present review determines that more attention should be given to such major CPS characteristics as tight integration, nonlinearity, and sophisticated feedback mechanisms and stresses that existing frameworks should be enriched and complemented with more complex structures like the one proposed in this research – the V-Model.

2.1 Overview of Cyber-Physical Systems

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) is the change of the classic paradigm of the combination of computational intelligence with the processes of physical nature. These systems are often typified by their interaction with the physical world through sensors and actuators that are linked through communication networks as well as through embedded computation. This interaction between the cyber aspect of CPS and the physical aspect makes the CPS system capable of performing certain tasks while being sensitive to changes in the physical environment that relay information back to the CPS system [14].

CPS can be present in many fields, and each field has its characteristics as well as possibilities and limitations. For instance, in the market transport, CPS is the basis for producing self-driving cars that require the capturing of real-time data and the ability to perform computations and make decisions. CPS is essential in the context of the industrial area where it could be also referred to as the Industrial Internet of Things [15], where it allows the machines to use their language to organize and manage efficient production procedures. Likewise in healthcare CPS is employed in remote patient monitoring systems that gather and analyze patient data in real time and deliver valuable information to the handler.

Another characteristic of CPS is the fact that they make constant reliance on data processing and decision-making in real life. CPS digital parts which include embedded processors and machine learning algorithms are on the other hand supposed to process data gathered from the physical components and reach conclusions based on this data [28]. These are then implemented with the help of the physical elements including motors, sensors and actuators making it dynamic and adapting to the ever-changing environment.

The literature on CPS highlights several key challenges that must be addressed to ensure the reliable and safe operation of these systems. One of the primary challenges is the integration of diverse components, including hardware, software, and network systems [16]. Each component needs to work together elegantly, sometimes with strict real-time conditions for the whole system to function as designed. A second major challenge is that of securing and providing privacy in these systems, where there are growing threats to safety-critical infrastructure as well. Another area of concern is CPS cyber-attacks because an attack on these systems can be more critical and harmful to public health, safety or security in domains like transportation, energy or healthcare which exacerbate the potential damage [17].

Additionally, the use of machine learning within CPS introduces new complexities, particularly in terms of ensuring that the models used are both accurate and explainable. Since many ML models are 'black boxes', it becomes quite challenging to explain or even debug the actions made by CPS hence incurring doubts over their dependability and safety in vital systems. Therefore, special attention is paid to integrating Explainable AI (XAI) approaches into CPS to enhance the perception of these systems [18].

Altogether, it can be stated that the CPSs are in the vanguard of technological development and provide more effective solutions in the realms of automation and decisionmaking. However, due to the high complexity of these systems, combined with the required real-time operation and integration of machine learning the development and testing are especially challenging. CPS has been explored extensively in literature and many of these challenges have been pointed out to warrant the development of integrated methodologies capable of addressing the CPS environment and safely and reliably controlling the CPS systems. This is the basis for the proposed V-Model which is a blueprint for the methodology to be used in developing and testing CPS [19].

2.2 V-Model Origins

The origins of the V-model can have many sources; however, it probably developed in the 1960s and perhaps without connections with other developments. Most commonly it was applied in systems engineering where it concentrated on the process of V&V throughout the system development life cycle [20]. The source addresses the origin and development of the V-model in software engineering, the concept of validation concerning their importance in every progressive phase of the development cycle and ultimately the wide acceptance of this model [21].

2.3 Evolution and Adoption

The German government adopted and standardized the V-Modell as its official project management methodology. This model closely aligns with the principles of the Vmodel and is widely used in public-sector projects [22].

2.4 Evolution in Research and Practice

As Agile methodologies took hold, the V-model was adapted to iterative and incremental development cycles. This means accepting feedback loops and loosening the grip of the model. The V-model, as pointed out earlier in this article, plays a central role—within MBSE—in the form of models that represent system requirements and design which are required to some extent for most types of systems development [23]. Researchers have explored the V-model's application in safety-critical systems, emphasizing rigorous Validation to ensure system safety [1]. The V-model continues to be a valuable tool in SDLC, providing a structured approach for managing complex software development projects.

2.5 Key Contributors and Researchers

Many people have been involved in the V-model development by performing relevant research, publishing related research, as well as embracing the V-model in various projects and fields. [2]

2.6 Why the V-Model is a Good Fit for the testing of CPS

1. **Structured Validation:** This is the V model's main asset; the way that it defeats the system's construction is by first applying Validating, then checking, and lastly applying to confirm. This is especially important in the case of AI-integrated CPSs for safety-critical applications where the issues of safety, reliability and explainability remain profound [24].

- 2. **Early Defect Detection:** The left part of the V-model aims at different creation of detailed test plans alongside development processes. This makes it possible to identify and manage cases of defects at the preliminary stage, which is cheaper and has fewer risks as compared to the advanced stage [25].
- 3. **Traceability:** The V-model bring reasons for how requirements lead to design, how they are implemented, and how they are tested. This traceability is essential for comprehending the influence of emerging AI decisions on the total behaviours of the system and aiding explanation with XAI [26].
- 4. **Adaptability to Complex Systems:** The structure of the V-model can be easily extended to take into consideration the requirements of a CPS, the AI cognition, the logic of combinatorial possibilities to handle the state space explosion issue, as well as multiple testing approaches [27].

2.7 Software Development Models for CPS

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) need software development models that are different from the conventional models due to the challenges posed when implementing computational and physical disciplines. Existing software development SD processes that are compatible with ordinary systems cannot be used effectively in CPS due to aspects like real-time, safety and requirements on heterogeneous interfaces [28]. Several development models have been put forward and customized for Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) over the years, including the Waterfall Model, Agile Model, Spiral Model, and the V-Model. The V-Model is particularly promising for CPS due to its emphasis on verification and validation at each development stage, ensuring that both software and hardware components work seamlessly together.

Unlike the Waterfall Model, which is rigid and inflexible, or the Agile Model, which can lead to scope creep, the V-Model provides a structured approach that facilitates early detection of issues through integrated testing[29]. This is crucial for managing the complexities inherent in CPS, as it allows for rigorous quality assurance while maintaining a clear relationship between development and testing phases. Overall, the V-Model's focus on early testing and structured validation makes it a suitable choice for the unique challenges presented by CPS development. Among all these, V-Model emerged as a more promising approach due to its structure as well as its systematic way that appeared to fit the need for testing and validation that was considered intensive, especially as was required for CPS [30].

2.7.1 V-Model for CPS

The V-Model is a widely recognized software development methodology that emphasizes the importance of validation at every stage of the development lifecycle. In the context of CPS, the V-Model is particularly advantageous because it provides a clear framework for systematically addressing the interdependencies between the cyber and physical components of the system. The V-Model can be visualized as a "V" (weird, is it?) representing the development stages on one side of that and the testing/validation phases along another. The structure above allows us to capture each of the decisions previously made in development along with a failing test that we can take through our Validation phase [31]. In CPS development, the V-Model begins with the definition of system requirements, which include both functional and non-functional requirements tailored to the specific CPS application. These requirements form the basis for subsequent stages of design, including architectural design, hardware design, software design, and network design. Each of these stages is meticulously documented and followed by implementation, where the system components are developed and integrated [32].

What sets the V-Model apart in CPS development is its emphasis on rigorous testing at each stage of the development process. For example, unit testing is done on one or more units to validate if each unit operates correctly [33]. This is further succeeded by integration testing that involves testing interactions to determine if they are correct. The last is system testing where the aim is to test the system to be assured that it meets the requirements that were outlined at the beginning. Finally, acceptance testing is performed to ensure that the system under test is fit for the operational environment [34].

Therefore, For CPS development, the V-Model is flexible enough to incorporate contemporary testing techniques that are most appropriate. Such as reaching the desired level of Validation may involve the inclusion of mutation testing to introduce faults that can then be checked on whether a system can handle them well. Similarly, it is possible to use A/B/n testing when comparing the different configurations of the system and other options that would be better for the deployment [35]. Such an implementation of Explainable AI (XAI) introduces even more benefits of the V-Model for CPS, bringing an opportunity to trust an AI-based decision within the system.

To sum up, the V-Model provides a systematic and linear methodology in the CPS development process; thus, each chapter of the system should undergo an assessment and validation before implementation. As a result, it is suitable for addressing CPS issues since it merges the latest testing approaches and a systematic approach to validation [36].

2.7.2 Machine Learning in CPS

Machine learning (ML) has become one of the critical elements of Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), allowing these systems to utilize historical data, analyze internal and external conditions, and make decisions independently. The inclusion of machine learning as a component of CPS has been noted to be a major enhancement since it enables systems to handle a vast amount of data in real time and interact with a smart environment [37], [38], [39], [40]. From Predictive Maintenance in Industrial Systems to Adaptive Control in Autonomous cars/ electronics, Machine Learning is remodelling the possibilities of CPS across all contexts [41].

The role of machine learning in CPS is diverse beginning with data analysis, anomaly detection, decision as well and control optimization. An example of this is in a smart manufacturing system where an organization's machine learning algorithms can analyze the data collected by the sensors and determine that some of the machines are likely to fail soon using that data can prevent the machines from failing and therefore save time. In the same way that in an autonomous vehicle, the sensory information of the vehicle generates a logdense classification to detect objects and navigate through roads without interfering with the driver [42].

CPS is one of the major areas of concern for the integration of machine learning and one of the problems which must be solved is the problems with the reliability and safety of the models. When it comes to safety-critical applications, the use of machine learning models, especially deep learning models, leads to concerns about the behaviour of such models. This has resulted in the increasing demand for Explainable AI (XAI) methodologies that seek to increase the level of interpretability of the decision-making process of the machine learning models. Since XAI helps the user to understand how and why a model arrives at a specific decision, it should go a long way in building and sustaining public trust in CPS especially where lives are involved [43].

The other is the requirement of a CPS machine learning model to run in real time. This calls for models that are not only but also their computational complexity, which must enable computations within the time constraints characteristic of the physical surroundings.

This has led to the search for compact and lean machine learning models and optimization algorithms that can perform effectively with minimal computational costs [44]. In addition, the application of machine learning in CPS introduces various questions about the data brought into these platforms. Since CPS often integrates with systems that allow data to be collected in real-life scenarios, quality data is often noisy, partial or non-stationary. It is the reason why the robustness of the machine learning models to such modifications and their ability to perform well on the new unseen data is vital to the successful application of CPS. Such issues are combated using data augmentation, transfer learning and other robust training mechanisms that are currently being developed [45].

So, in addition to testing and validation, which is also employed in the CPS domain, it is also important to consider how machine learning is utilized to test and validate the models before deploying them to the CPS. Conventional testing approaches may be ineffective in eliciting important behaviours that machine learning models can exhibit especially when the environment it is deployed is in a constant state of flux. This calls for sophisticated testing techniques as laid out in the V-Model that feature mutation testing and A/B/n testing to check the reliability and performance of Machine learning within the CPS [46].

Thus, it is possible to note that machine learning is one of the key factors that can help Cyber-Physical Systems improve the abilities necessary for their operation and interaction with the environment independently^[47]. Thus, the incorporation of machine learning into CPS raises issues concerning model reliability and real-time as well as testing problems. To accomplish that, resolving these challenges is fundamental to the ability of CPS to harness machine learning safely and efficiently in their processes [48].

2.7.3 Testing and Validation in CPS

Validation are essential phases in the development process of Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) that will enable those complex systems to work as expected in everyday life circumstances. Due to the close coupling of the physical and computational aspects of CPS, conventional testing techniques are usually inefficient. Consequently, testing and Validation methods and approaches have been designed to deal with the problems of CPS.

2.7.4 Real-Time and Safety-Critical Testing

Perhaps the first problem that can be singled out while conducting CPS testing is realtime performance validation. CPS may be time-sensitive; the systems may be required to operate in a fixed time frame, which may be sensitive to errors or delays. Testing in such environments involves not only determination of whether the system performs its expected functions correctly but also whether it can meet certain real-time requirements. It is customary

to employ such approaches as hardware-in-the-loop (HIL) testing that allows replicating realworld conditions and evaluating real-time characteristics of the system [49].

2.7.5 Formal Validation

CPS testing is known to widely employ formal Validation in safety-critical applications testing. This is an assurance mathematically that the designed system conforms to the required specification; meaning a higher degree of confidence level when asserting that the system behaves correctly under any possible situation. Kinds of formal Validation of CPS usually involve model checking or theorem proving to identify design flaws that may result in disastrous consequences [50].

2.7.6 Integration Testing

Since CPS is intrinsically diverse, integration testing is an applicable and important aspect of defining and regulating the performance of the CPS parts. This phase of testing checks the faculties in the entire system including transfer of data in software, functionality of the hardware and connectivity of the networks. Integration testing can be carried out through the creation of realistic scenarios where the real conditions of the system are simulated to test its effectiveness under different circumstances [51].

2.7.7 Robustness Testing

In functional testing, there is an evaluation of the system and its ability to respond to anomalous situations such as Hardware malfunction, network breakdown, and hacking, among others. This is more so in CPS where failure or change of events can lead to serious adverse effects. Mutations where one deliberately inserts faults into the system to challenge him or her come as a common approach to establish the robustness of CPS [52].

2.7.8 Explainable AI (XAI) in CPS

CPS have started integrating machine learning and artificial intelligence into their systems and because Of this, explainable AI (XAI) is required. XAI is defined as ways and means through which humans can easily comprehend the actions or decisions taken by an AI system. This is far more important in CPS, where the algorithms' decisions may have immediate implications for safety and performance [53]. In safety-critical CPS applications such as self-driving cars or smart healthcare, it is imperative to have an explanation of an AI decision. That is the reason why there is a problem in trusting AI systems, and this becomes even more complicated, especially when the actions of the systems have severe implications. This is where XAI comes in handy to fill this trust deficit by explaining to the operators how and why certain actions were precipitated to ensure that they can either confirm or dismiss the recommended course of action by the AI system [54].

2.7.9 XAI in Real-Time Systems

Implementing XAI in real-time CPS presents additional challenges due to the need for explanations to be generated quickly without disrupting the system's operations. Researchers are exploring lightweight XAI techniques that can provide timely insights without compromising the system's performance. These techniques are crucial in applications like autonomous driving, where decisions must be made and explained in fractions of a second [55].

2.7.10 Integrating XAI with CPS Testing

XAI is slowly being incorporated into CPS testing paradigms to warranty the correctness of the AI elements and also their explicability. When XAI is integrated into the testing process, the developer can be assured that the applied AI in CPS functions according to their anticipated behaviour and decisions made by these AI models can be explained. This integration aids in making sure that CPS are accurate and transparent, especially in calamity circumstances [56].

2.7.11 A/B/n Testing in System Validation

A/B/n testing is a probabilistic approach that allows the comparison of different versions of a system or its part for the best one's performance in a certain context. When it comes to CPS, A/B/n testing can be defined as a practical approach that is effective in proving whether certain configurations of the system function properly or not and finding out the right configuration that will have to be released [57].

2.7.12 Application in CPS

For instance, in CPS development one can employ an A/B/n test to correlate different sensing configurations such as the sensors/algorithms/system architectures. In testing, developers employ information from experimenting with several variants at the same time to identify how different configuration performs under conditions of actual use. This is done particularly by enhancing CPS in the application domain (for example, determining where the best place to sample sensors for an industrial scenario is, or identifying the best approach to implement an ML model for a predictive maintenance system) [58].

2.7.13 Experimental Design

Part of A/B/n testing is that of the design of experiments, where the choice of the parameters for testing, and the benchmarks for the test are made. In CPS, this may entail varying the types of sensors, the types of communication protocols, or the type of machine learning algorithms employed, and criteria such as accuracy, latency, and noise immunity are used to compare the performance. The A/B/n testing requires a proper experimental design to get maximum accuracy and to have meaningful results that will be useful for making necessary changes to the website [59].

2.7.14 Data Analysis and Interpretation

After conducting the A/B/n test the data that is collected has to be used to identify the best configuration. Such comparisons usually involve the use of statistics to test the significance of the differences that are present in the variants. In CPS, the analysis of outcomes of A/B/n testing can allow us to understand interactions between the system components and its further improvement aimed at its operational performance, reliability, and manufacturability [60].

2.7.15 Benefits of A/B/n Testing in CPS

CPS development can benefit from A/B/n testing in the following ways. It enables the confirmation of the correctness of the design and usage of the system since poor or unsafe solutions may be chosen. More specifically, A/B/n testing also helps make data-driven decisions since it can test various possibilities methodically and allow developers to choose the best possible design.

2.8 Summary of Findings and Research Gaps

The literature review focuses on the progress achieved in the evolution, modelling, evaluation and Validation of CPS, in terms of those peculiar development models that have been presented such as the V-Model, the application of machine learning, as well as the integration of Explainable AI (XAI) methodologies. These developments have provided solutions to some of the CPS's main issues, including operation in real-time, safety and security of the systems, coupled with the integration of diverse systems. However, there are several research gaps which must be filled to improve the dependability, openness, and stability of CPS [17].

2.8.1 Gaps in Testing Methodologies

Current approaches to testing CPS include model-based testing and, to some extent, formal Validation that offer a set of valuable tools for CPS validation. Despite this, these approaches have limitations to accommodate the whole set of CPS characteristics. Another limitation is that these methods have not been developed and tested for large CPS with decentralized architecture [11]. Also, there is a proposed future research direction associated with the lack of rich methods for evaluating the integration of Machine Learning in CPS, especially in conditions of real-time and hazardous scenarios.

2.8.2 Need for Enhanced Explainability

The integration of machine learning into CPS has introduced new challenges related to explainability. While XAI techniques like SHAP provide a foundation for understanding AI-driven decisions, there is still a need for more sophisticated and real-time explainability tools that can be seamlessly integrated into CPS without compromising performance. Research is needed to develop XAI methods that can provide clear and actionable insights in real time, particularly in applications where transparency is critical [17].

2.8.3 Requirements vs CPS Requirements

i) Requirements as opposed to CPS Requirements.

• General Requirements: Typical systems concentrate their requirements on software functional qualities, performance, and what users anticipate. These demands focus chiefly on computational issues, data flows, behaviours of the user interface, and security [3].

• CPS Requirements: The demands in CPS are more complicated. They contain considerations related to software computational components along with the physical interaction between the system and the natural environment (through sensors, actuators, and embedded systems). CPS requirements need to consider dynamic behaviour, safety, robustness in response to environmental fluctuations, and how the physical world affects the system and is affected by it. Moreover, CPS requires alignment between its digital and physical parts [2].

The dichotomy between Functional Specification and CPS Functional Specification.

• General Functional Specification: The functional specification for typical systems encapsulates the system behaviour in response to inputs, the processing of data, the outputs generated, along the expected performance [3]. The core of this discussion surrounds software behaviour, the way users interact with it, and the approaches to data management.

• CPS Functional Specification: CPS demands that the functional specification address physical interactions in addition to computational processes. As a case in point, detecting environmental data with sensors, acting in response with actuators, and ensuring the system governs physical processes (e.g., in robotics and autonomous vehicles) are subject to emphasis. The specification needs to factor in real-time requirements, safety-critical operations, and fail-safe actions when addressing physical processes [2].

ii) Architectural Design vs CPS Architectural Design

• General Architectural Design: A conventional system sees architectural design concentrating on the layout of software components, modules, and their interactions, as well as the broader system structure. It promises software scalability, performance, and security.

• CPS Architectural Design: In the case of CPS, the design must include both cyber (computational) and physical layers. This calls for the development of a system that merges physical devices including sensors and actuators with computational control functioning [2]. Architecture needs to address matters such as reduced latency in data transmission, operational control loops that run in real-time, the convergence of hardware and software, and fault tolerance necessary for the physical environment.

iii) SW Design versus CPS Software Design Analysis.

• General SW Design: Designing a standard software system typically requires the specification of modules along with data flow, the interactions occurring between components, and the management of exceptions. Its emphasis is chiefly on making efficient algorithms and sustaining the quality of software [3].

• CPS Software Design: The design of CPS software moves past conventional software issues. It needs to affirm that the software functions suitably with hardware items such as sensors and actuators [2]. This includes devising instantaneous algorithms to manipulate sensor data, manage physical actions, and secure safety and predictability. CPS software design hinges on latency and timing because inaccurate timing in the control of physical processes can result in failures in the system or even physical risk.

iv) Hardware (HW) Design vs CPS Hardware Design

• General HW Design: Typical system design for hardware emphasizes the design of processor architecture, memory, input/output interfaces, and additional peripheral components that communicate with software.

• CPS Hardware Design: Hardware design takes on a much greater level of activity in the control of physical processes within CPS. The device interface must integrate with sensors, actuators, and other equipment that participates in interacting with the environment. This consists of embedded systems, real-time controllers, and fault-tolerant designs that ensure the system will manage unforeseen physical variations or sensor problems without failing [2].

v) Network Design vs Design for CPS Networks

• General Network Design: Typical system network design focuses on the interaction between assorted software parts or devices, guaranteeing effective data flow, the efficient use of bandwidth, and security.

• CPS Network Design: The design of the CPS network prioritizes live data flow between sensors, actuators, and controllers. Particularly in time-sensitive systems, such as autonomous vehicles and industrial automation, the network needs to back low-latency communication. Also, the design of networks should consider reliability and robustness, because miscommunications may carry physical effects [2].

vi) System Testing vs CPS System Testing

• General System Testing: In usual systems, the emphasis during system testing is on ensuring that the software complies with requirements, executes all necessary duties, and is secure. Automation allows testing, and we typically use simulated inputs [3].

• CPS System Testing: The assessment of the CPS system needs to be achieved further than the behaviour of software and investigate how the system reacts to its physical environment. In this context, it involves evaluating the precision of sensors, the reactivity of actuators, and how effectively the computational aspects govern the physical hardware [2]. CPS testing includes scenarios found in the real world, which simulate or apply environmental factors (like temperature and pressure) to evaluate system resilience.

vii) Feedback Mechanisms

• General Systems: In established systems, feedback processes usually derive from user signals or data patterns that improve the functionality or performance of the software.

• CPS Feedback Mechanisms: In CPS, the feedback system involves prompt modifications to the overall system determined by sensor inputs and observed physical behavior. As a case in point, if a sensor notes a physical anomaly, the system could adjust actuator's behavior in real time. In safety-critical contexts, user feedback can serve to adjust sensor parameters as well as system control logic. CPS feedback needs to confirm that adjustments within one component do not harm the physical environment.

viii) Alerting & Notification Systems

• **General Systems:** Alerts or notifications within regular systems signal users to system faults, performance problems, or unusual activity.

The table 1 has been adapted to show the comparison between general software/system engineering terminology and CPS-specific concepts [3].

Table 1 V Process Model

• CPS Alerting & Notification: Alerts in CPS serve the dual purpose of reporting on problems within the system and on important physical events. Using a manufacturing CPS, alerts could alert the operator when there is an overheating or machinery failure. These alerts must be rapid and practical, perhaps helping to prevent both physical damage and safety dangers.

ix) AI Analytics as Related to Decision-Making

• General Systems: In normal systems, AI or analytics engines process enormous data sets so they can derive insights or automate decisions according to recognizable patterns.

• CPS AI Analytics: AI analytics within CPS must function in real-time, rendering instant decisions from the data provided by incoming sensors. As a case in point, an AI engine can adjust an autonomous vehicle's direction according to feedback from environmental sensors. The predictive analysis, anomaly detection, and real-time control features of the CPS AI engine mean it is significantly more important and urgent than most AI applications [2].
Table 2 Literature Review

2.8.4 Optimization of A/B/n Testing in CPS

However, straightforward integration of A/B/n testing into CPS systems has so far posed a challenge. Complex A/B/n design for CPS under highly dynamic and unpredictable situations is indeed an interesting domain of further research. Moreover, the utility of A/B/n testing in CPS development can be significantly improved by developing automated tools which support conducting tests and analyzing their results [11].

2.8.5 Integration of Modern Techniques into Development Models

Finally, there is a need to integrate modern testing techniques, such as mutation testing and XAI, more deeply into development models like the V-Model. While these techniques have been applied successfully in certain contexts, their full potential in CPS development has yet to be realized. Research into how these methods can be standardized and incorporated into CPS development workflows could lead to more robust and reliable systems [26].

In conclusion, while significant progress has been made in the field of CPS, there remain several key areas where further research is required. Addressing these gaps will be essential for advancing the development, testing, and deployment of CPS, ensuring that these systems can operate safely, efficiently, and transparently in increasingly complex environments.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in conducting this research focuses on the V-Model process that has been developed for Cyber-Physical Systems CPS. This was achieved through the determination of the CPS requirements, functional and architectural specifications, and final integration, and test procedures. This helps in achieving a systematic approach in the analysis of all the CPS components, adding some modern approaches like Mutation Testing, A/B/n Testing and Network Testing to test/validate the systems. The positioning of this methodology within the research area fills the gaps in the traditional testing strategy by adding explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) and other sophisticated testing procedures to improve reliability, robustness, and explainability in CPS. The presented research pipeline as shown in figure 2 is a helpful roadmap in the developmental and validation stages, offering the CPS all the tools it needs to function efficiently in real conditions.

Figure 1 Research Pipeline

3.1 Components of CPS

The study of the specifications plays a great role in designing (planning and design respectively) Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) systems during phase I. This includes recognizing the utility and non-function benefits that the system should belong to us. These specifications should detail what you expect from the (CPS), this can include information about:

What type of data it will collect, expected performance criteria Environmental conditions under which the system is expected to function Further, this involves defining cost and energy/power scalability control policies to prevent the CPS from becoming only possible but even feasible against resource constraints.

Figure 2 Deployment Diagram

3.1.1 Sensors and Network Parameters

This brings the CPS specifications into consideration, the choice of sensors and the network parameters that need to be adopted to meet the CPS requirements. The choice of sensors is dictated by the specific needs of the CPS, such as the type of data to be monitored (e.g., temperature, humidity, speed, vibration). Additionally, network parameters must be determined, including the type of communication protocols, bandwidth requirements, and latency considerations. These selections play a pivotal role in the overall performance of the CPS, affecting both the accuracy of the data collected and the efficiency of data transmission across the network.

3.1.2 Sensor Data Collection Units/Devices

Every CPS has at least one underlying function to collect sensor data, that is the process and constant activity, through which environmental sensory information is collected by different sensors. This data is the heart of this system and enables real-time insights which are required for the decision process. This stage entails drafting a functional specification which includes details regarding how the data is being collected (i.e., sampling rates), sensor calibration processes and procedures should a sensor commit errors or failures etc. Data is being collected, thanks to data assurance - and the goal should be that all this information will end up at a storage/access level of SAS IT management so that when it gets processed/analyzed by other constituents those modules are detected on top of a more stable foundation.

3.1.3 Data Transmission and Storage

Following the collection of sensor data, it is essential to establish a robust framework for data transmission and storage. This involves defining the protocols and technologies for transmitting data from the sensors to centralized storage or processing units. Key considerations include data compression techniques, encryption methods for secure transmission, and fault-tolerance mechanisms to ensure data integrity during transit.

Additionally, the storage system must be designed to handle the expected volume of data, with provisions for scalability as the CPS grows. Data storage management is all about the ability of a system to store data in a format that will enable the system to easily manage data and enable a system to archive data and access the data within a short time.

3.1.4 AI Analytics Engine

Another critical layer that cannot be missing in the architecture is the AI Analytics Engine – This performs all necessary computations and operations on data from sensors and churning out insights. To put it in simple terms can mean the ability to use real-time machine learning algorithms/statistical models simply to look at data and to look for patterns that will allow a prediction of an outcome. For the AI Analytics Engine, it is mandatory that it is computation efficient and achieves the level of predictive certainty and capability to handle large data traffic. The engine must also grow correctly as enhancements or data loads increase in size and is also able to communicate correctly with other system modules.

3.1.5 Other Components

3.1.5.1 Alerting and Notification System

This research establishes that an effective alerting and notification system is required for an efficient CPS. This component is to be used to watch and track the performance of the AI Analytics Engine and generate an alarm when some specific value has been crossed. Elements of this product include the different types of alerts such as warnings and critical alerts, the notification channels which may be email, mobile SMS, or application notification, and escalation plans in case of critical threats.

It should be flexible to enable users to set and modify the alert levels and should be capable of generating alerts on any suspicious activities in real time.

3.1.5.2 User Interface Design

The User Interface simply referred to as UI is the key entry point that end users have with the CPS. A good UI makes it possible for users to oversee the performance of the system and browse over the alerts and the CPS.

The application for UI should be work-focused, which means that all the information provided should be typed in a way that can be easily understood and navigation around the application should be simple. Some of them are the organization of several dashboards, cataloguing of several visualization types, and cross-platform adaptability. The UI should also set the users' options for details about the system, previous data records or reports.

3.1.5.3Feedback Mechanism

Over time, the CPS must be able to adapt and improve. This mechanism collects feedback from users and the system refines not only the performance of our AI Analytic Engine but also optimizes alert thresholds and improves overall design across all facets as well. User Interactions, System Performance Logs, and Automated Learning Process: The feedback of AI can be collected through the user interactions that he or she does with it. Feedback Mechanism: The design of the Feedback Mechanism should ensure capturing appropriate data and actionable insights to assist system operators in continuous improvement, adaptation etc. by maintaining stable operation/maintenance (SOM).

3.2 Proposed Framework

The CPS V-Model, as described above, is intended to respond to the specific characteristics of the development of composite systems involving computation and physics.

The model is designed in such for each development phase to be integrated with valid and Validation processes thus improving the reliability, safety, and performance of the CPS. The V-Model is a 'V' shaped model that provides a development loop with a Validation loop; it highlights that every development phase has a Validation phase. This approach as shown in figure 3(a), helps to avoid bringing errors which would compound through the development phases before the final system has all the requirements [6].

On top of this, several modifications specific to CPS have been incorporated into the V-Model, including modern testing approaches (e.g., mutation and A/B/n test), as well as XAI in applications with AI-driven components for transparent explanation. With these changes assured, it is possible to ensure that the CPS is not only accurately functional but also sound, modifiable and comprehensible.

Figure 3(a) Proposed Model - Overview

3.2.1 Comparison of V Model across

Figure 3(a) primarily focuses a systematic approach of control questions to guarantee CPPS maturity in the V-Model architecture. Our form in Figure b on the other hand opens up the V-Model practice by incorporating current, artificial intelligence testing and validation techniques targeted at increasing the reliability of Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS).

Figure 3(a) is consistent with the VDI 2206:2020 guidelines through the use of the structured control questions where the system readiness is checked at the end of each stage thus providing a systematic approach to the development phases. On the other hand, the approach that we adopted in Figure 3(b) includes some sophisticated features, which include SHAP explainability, mutation testing, and A/B/n testing in order to enable systematic verification and model interpretability. By integrating above mentioned AI based techniques, how we get a generalized validation framework within the CPS architecture.

As mentioned in comparing Figure 3(a), CPPS maturity is crucial but does not specify AIbased decision making; in contrast, our proposed approach in Figure b introduces the CPS advancement by integrating AI as a decision maker that can respond to observed behaviors in real-time manner. He noted that this integration enhances the development of systems that can deliver intelligent solutions to dynamic operational environment.

To recap, while Figure 3(a) focuses on formal maturity in the context of the VDI framework, the current study in Figure 3(b) seeks to build an enhanced, revitalized testing framework within the V-Model with the integration of AI techniques as a paradigm that issues dependable, immediate wise decision in CPS.

Figure 4(b) V-Model of the VDI 2206:2020 [3]

3.3 Our Proposed Fault Model

The proposed fault model help categorize and incorporate potential failure points in CPS to scrutinize system reliability and immunes to various domains. The model is based on mutation testing principles whereby faults are intentionally introduced into a system with the aim of studying system reactions and detecting faults. It introduces all kinds of faults: hardware, software, network, AI models, environmental, real-time constraints, data, power,

security, and actuators. All of them capture different types of failure scenarios that might happen in CPS, so each category is a basis for more through testing.

- 1. Hardware Faults: Malfunctions of physical subsystems involving sensors and actuators.
- 2. Software Faults: Hardware or software glitches, which refer to mistakes in both code or algorithms and how the system operates.
- 3. Network Faults: Problems such as packet loss or high latency of communication.
- 4. AI Model Faults: Bias or, in certain circumstances, a misclassification of the problem at hand when constructing decision-making models.
- 5. Environmental Faults: Environmental variables making up the external environment such as – temperature or other interferences.
- 6. Real-time Constraint Faults: Otherwise, delays in processing causes timing violations.
- 7. Data Corruption Faults: Since operations data is often recorded in the database, alteration or tampering of other data in the database is considered here.
- 8. Power Failure: They are Shortage or fluctuation in power supply.
- 9. Security Breaches: Unauthorized access degrading the system security.

The table outlines various fault types and examples specific to CPS, categorizing issues from hardware failures to security breaches [4].

Table 3 Demonstration of fault type with examples

This model provides a structured approach to testing CPS resilience against a broad range of failure scenarios.

3.4 Fault Model for AI Component

The AI component in a CPS interacts with real-world data, requiring robustness to handle noisy, incomplete, or corrupted inputs and to make reliable decisions even under adverse conditions. The proposed fault model introduces intentional faults into the AI model to simulate possible real-world issues. These faults are then used to test the system's ability to detect, handle, and recover from such issues.

As shown in Table 4, the fault categories cover a range of potential issues, including Input Data Faults, Model Parameter Faults, Decision Confidence Faults, Classification and Output Faults, and Model Structural Faults, with corresponding mutation operators and testing objectives for each category [4].

Fault	Fault	Mutation Operator	Testing Objective
Category	Description		
Input Data	related Issues	- NOISE_INPUT	noisy Simulate
Faults	the quality to		data and test noise
	and structure of		handling
	input data		
		- MISSING_VALUES	Introduce missing
			data points to test
			model behavior

Table 4 Demonstration of fault category with mutation operators and testing objective

3.5 Coverage Analysis Proposal

The proposed coverage analysis also covers more aspects than mere testing of software, namely the relationship between the computational layer and the physical layer of the CPS. This helps to confirm compliance with all the parameters of both equipment and software. Key focus areas include:

- 1. Code Coverage: All the code branches, functions, options, decisions and possibilities under tests must be reached.
- 2. Path Coverage: In general, which was achieved by prioritizing critical paths, like actuator signal control and decision-making routes.
- 3. Sensor and Actuator Coverage: Verifying that sensors meet performance expectations in a variety of circumstances and confirming that actuator outputs make the required corrections upon experiencing a variety of inputs and faults.
- 4. State and Model Coverage for AI Components: Assessing system states and coupled to the maximum extent possible, metamorphic testing to check AI model output standards.
- 5. Real-time and Network Coverage: Thus, checking its performance in terms of responding to real-time restrictions and network drawbacks.
- 6. Error Handling and Fault Injection Coverage: Protecting programs from being affected badly by errors associated with data processed under fault-prone environment.

The proposed approach gives much emphasis to coverage analysis that must be multi-folded about the software as well as the hardware part of the CPS.

3.6 Unit Testing

Unit testing at a high level aims to verify the behavior and reliability of individual components within the system architecture before integrating them into the larger framework. It ensures each unit's conformance to design specifications, strengthening the software's modular structure and stability.

To ensure comprehensive coverage and reliability in each component of the CPS model, mutation testing principles are applied to evaluate system behavior under intentionally introduced faults. Each component undergoes mutation testing to simulate various failure scenarios and to assess the system's resilience.

Hardware Faults

Simulate faults in hardware by introducing mutations that mimic sensors or actuator failures. For example, intentionally inject incorrect sensor readings or actuator commands to test if the system can identify, isolate, and recover from physical malfunctions.

Mutation Operators

- SEN_INVERT: Invert sensor values (e.g., change positive readings to negative).
- SEN_NOISE: Add random noise to sensor readings.
- SEN_DISCONNECT: Set sensor status to "disconnected."
- ACT DELAY: Introduce delays in actuator response.
- ACT_FLIP: Invert actuator commands (e.g., on/off, open/close).

Software Faults

Alter algorithm logic, modify outputs, or introduce code errors to observe system responses. This testing ensures that the system can handle unexpected software errors and demonstrates robustness in error-handling routines.

Mutation Operators

- COND NEGATE: Negate logical conditions (if (condition) \rightarrow if (! condition)).
- PARAM SHIFT: Adjust function parameters by a random offset.
- FUNC_SKIP: Skip a function call (simulate missing execution).
- LOOP_BOUND_CHANGE: Alter loop boundaries to test for off-by-one errors.
- NULLIFY REF: Set variables to NULL to simulate null reference errors.

Network Faults

Introduce mutations that cause network issues like packet loss, high latency, or communication failures. Simulate dropped or delayed packets to test if the system can maintain reliable operation and recover from network disruptions.

Mutation Operators

• PACKET_DROP: Randomly drop packets to simulate data loss.

- LATENCY_INJECT: Introduce artificial delays in packet transmission.
- BANDWIDTH_RESTRICT: Limit the available network bandwidth.
- CORRUPT_PACKET: Modify packet contents by flipping bits or changing data.
- REORDER_PACKETS: Randomize packet order to simulate reordering.

AI Model Faults

Create faults in AI models by misclassifying inputs or introducing biases. This type of mutation tests the system's decision-making reliability and verifies alternative paths or fallbacks for AI-related errors.

Mutation Operators

- MISCLASSIFY: Force misclassification of inputs.
- BIAS_INTRODUCE: Add or amplify biases in model inputs.
- NOISE INPUT: Introduce noise to the input data for the model.
- LOW CONFIDENCE: Set output confidence to a low value.
- WEIGHT MODIFY: Alter weights or parameters in the model's layers.

Environmental Faults - Mutation Testing

Alter environmental variables such as temperature or external interference to evaluate system robustness in changing conditions. Testing includes extreme conditions to validate environmental adaptability and fault tolerance.

Mutation Operators

- TEMP_EXTREME: Set temperature to extreme high or low values.
- EM_INTERFERENCE: Simulate electromagnetic interference on signals.
- HUMIDITY_EXTREME: Set humidity to very high or low.
- VIBRATION INTENSIFY: Increase vibration levels beyond tolerance.

Real-time Constraint Faults - Mutation Testing

Inject delays or re-order tasks to simulate timing issues, testing if the system can maintain real-time constraints and detect or correct timing violations.

Mutation Operators

DELAY_TASK: Delay the execution of a critical task.

- SKIP_TASK: Skip or omit an essential task.
- INVERT_PRIORITY: Reverse task priorities to simulate priority inversion.
- BLOCK_INTERRUPT: Prevent or delay interrupt signals.

Data Corruption Faults - Mutation Testing

Corrupt or alter data entries within the database to examine the system's ability to handle data integrity issues. Mutation tests ensure that error-checking mechanisms trigger appropriately and protect the system from erroneous data.

Mutation Operators

- BIT_FLIP: Flip specific bits in data to simulate corruption.
- FIELD_MODIFY: Alter specific fields in a data record.
- DUPLICATE_ENTRY: Duplicate database entries to introduce redundancy.
- DELETE_RECORD: Remove important records from the database.

Power Failure - Mutation Testing

Simulate power shortages or fluctuations to test system resilience to power-related issues. These tests confirm that the system can handle power fluctuations, activate backups, and preserve critical data

Mutation Operators

- VOLT_DROP: Simulate a drop in voltage levels.
- VOLT_SURGE: Simulate a voltage surge beyond normal levels.
- BATTERY_DRAIN: Gradually reduce battery levels to simulate depletion.
- POWER_FLUCTUATE: Alternate power states rapidly to simulate instability.

Actuator Faults - Mutation Testing

Inject incorrect commands or defective actuator instructions to assess system response to actuator failures. This testing ensures that fail-safes or alternative mechanisms activate to prevent misoperation or hazardous outcomes.

Mutation Operators

 COMMAND_INVERT: Invert actuator commands (e.g., switch from "on" to "off").

- COMMAND_DELAY: Delay actuation commands to introduce lag.
- ACTUATOR_FAIL: Simulate complete actuator failure.
- OVERLOAD: Exceed the actuator's operating limit to test for overload handling.

Fault Type	Mutation Type	Fault Check (P/F)
Hardware Faults	Sensor Inversion	
	Sensor Noise	
	Sensor Disconnection	
	Actuator Delay	
	Actuator Flip	
Software Faults	Condition Negation	
	Parameter Shift	
	Function Omission	
	Loop Alteration	
	Null Reference	
Network Faults	Packet Drop	
	Latency Injection	
	Bandwidth Throttling	
	Packet Corruption	
	Packet Reordering	
AI Model Faults	Misclassification	
	Bias Introduction	
	Input Noise	
	Low Confidence	
	Weight Modification	
Environmental Faults	Extreme Temperature	
	Electromagnetic Interference	
	Extreme Humidity	
	Increased Vibration	
Real-time Constraint Faults	Task Delay	
	Task Omission	
	Priority Inversion	

Table 5 Demonstration of fault type with mutation type and fault check as pass/fail criteria

3.6.1 Objectives of Unit Testing in High-Level Software Design

In the context of high-level software design, unit testing confirms:

- 1. **Component Functionality**: Each unit performs its intended function as described in architectural diagrams.
- 2. **Modular Independence**: Components operate independently, upholding modularity to support system flexibility and scalability.
- 3. **Integration Readiness**: Ensures each component meets architectural specifications, facilitating smooth integration into higher-level system architectures.

3.6.2 Unit Test Coverage from a High-Level Perspective

High-level unit test coverage is about validating each part of the system within the context of the overall architecture, ensuring:

- 1. **Coverage of All Major Components**: Testing all key modules identified in system diagrams to confirm functionality within design constraints.
- 2. **Validation of Inter-component Interfaces**: Confirming that interfaces between modules follow expected data flow and protocols.
- 3. **Behavior Under Various Scenarios**: Ensuring components perform consistently across the scenarios defined in high-level designs.
- 4. **Adherence to System Boundaries**: Ensuring components such as security and access controls respect architectural boundaries.

3.6.3 Additional Testing Requirements in CPS with AI Components (Using the V-Process Model)

The V-Process Model requires us to augment standard testing techniques to handle the complexity of CPS systems that include AI components by integrating A/B/N and mutation testing. Here's how these methods integrate with the V-Model:

i) Component Testing (Validation Phase)

A/B/N Testing: To test the reliability of various conditions in distributed component environments, one needs to look at several component implementations. One example is to test multiple AI decision algorithms to find the optimal choice for sensor fusion or navigation.

Mutation Testing: Splitting mutants into individual pieces (AI models, sensors, or actuators) to measure the system's ability to function with faults or errors at a component level.

ii) System Integration Testing (Validation Phase)

A/B/N Testing: Ensure that various elements (AI decision-making, sensors, actuators) can work together well. Compare the functioning of a range of component arrangements when combined.

Mutation Testing: Evaluate the whole system's reaction to issues in one of its components. Given corrupt sensor data, it is important to test if the system can still operate securely.

iii) System Testing:

A/B/N Testing: Test a variety of configurations of AI-driven elements to secure that the system can respond effectively to real-world variability (e.g., variability resulting from environmental changes and real-time requirements).

Mutation Testing: Assess system resilience by imposing faults throughout its various elements and confirming the system can work effectively in critical safety situations. As outlined in Table 6, testing approaches vary significantly between normal systems, Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), and CPS with AI components, particularly in areas such as A/B/N testing, mutation testing, and interaction with the environment, reflecting the unique challenges AI integration brings to CPS [3].

Testing Aspect	Normal Systems	CPS	CPS with AI Components (Using A/B/N
A/B/N Testing	typically Not used	Rarely used (possible) software for comparisons)	For analysis, this was used to examine more than one implementation of components (AI models, sensor controllers).
Mutation Testing	Software faults only	Used for testing faults physical in (e.g., components sensors, actuators)	Both artificial intelligence and physical components receive injections of to mutants assess robustness during times of faulty operation
Non- Deterministic Testing	Not applicable	Deterministic real- time requirements	introduces AI unpredictable behaviors that necessitate specialized testing.
Real-Time Testing	Not a major focus	Critical for interacting with physical systems	The decisions of AI in real- time need to be validated, which demands test of AI components.
Fault Tolerance Testing	Software bugs	Sensor/actuator fault simulation and recovery	Concentrate on the way AI and physical components deal with actual world problems and uncertainties.
Interaction with Environment	None	with Interaction the physical world	Interpretation of sensor data is done by AI, which needs to be measured for actual environmental variation.
State-Space Explosion	Manageable	Large due to physical- world interactions	vital Focused on faults, components and A/B/N resolves the of problem state-space explosion.
Case Test Reduction	Standard test suite	Test cases for physical interactions	A/B/N

Table 6 Testing Differences with A/B/N

3.7 Importance of A/b/n Approach for CPS Testing

Component-Level Validation:

A/B/N makes sure that every part – whether it is the sensors, the AI algorithms, or the communication modules – is tested. This is especially important in a CPS because if one of the components fails such as a sensor or improper AI result it can lead to a failure of the entire system [1].

Fault Localization:

Being based on A/B/N testing, the method allows us to detect faults better as its components are tested separately and their outputs are compared. For instance, assuming during a series of different tests, particular sensors are repeatedly found to be the root cause of system failure, the engineer will not have to run all through the system to isolate the sensor that is causing all the problems.

State-Space Explosion in A/B/N Testing:

There are many states in complex CPS, and this is due to the interaction of the hardware and the real-world environment. The state space explosion problem occurs when all states of a particular component are tested and become unmanageable.

A/B/N helps in:

Limiting the extent of exploration of the state space by choosing only the parts of the solution space and exploring the effect of putting them in different combinations or putting them under certain conditions. This means that combinatorial logic (as in the case of pairwise testing) can be applied to filter out the number of states to be considered based on the most vital pairs or interactions such as; the interaction of the sensor with the AI or between the sensor and actuator.

Why the V-Process Model is Appropriate for CPS with A/B/N Testing ?

Component-Level Testing at Each Phase:

The V-Process Model deals with testing components at the early stage of the development phase where every phase including unit level, integration level and system validation level is considered. As for the role of A/B/N testing in this model, it fits perfectly because it enables testing of each of the components as independent entities.

For instance, during the unit testing phase, it can be possible to use A/B/N to test the different kinds of sensors, or several data-crunching algorithms during the unit test phase and then validate the total systemic behavior of the AI and the sensors and actuators in the system integration phase [4].

Early Fault Detection:

When combining A/B/N testing into the V-Model at the Validation phase, one can identify faults within single components. This is particularly true in safety-critical CPS where faults in the individual components must be determined before the integration of the complete system [2].

Real-World Validation:

A/B/N corresponds to the testing phase of the V-Model because, with the help of A/B/N, one can assess several components where it is being implemented in its actual working conditions. Demonstrate sensors, AI models and actuators under real-world conditions offer a less artificial testing view of each component [2].

Keeping important nodes such as the sensors, actuators as well as AI modules optimally operational and reliable under different conditions.

• Eliminating many test cases due to the state space explosion problem by targeting key parts and their combination.

• Offering the capability to test multiple components in parallel to finding defects and maximizing effectiveness in intelligent and real-time CPS.

As illustrated in Table 7, testing requirements evolve significantly from traditional software to CPS and CPS with AI components, necessitating additional considerations for real-time constraints, fault tolerance, and the complex decision-making capabilities of AI in dynamic environments [1].

Table 7 Key Differences in Testing Across System Types

3.7.1 Requirement to Develop a Combined Technique?

- **1. Component-Based Focus:** Given the intricate relationships between physical and software assets in CPS and AI engaging in decision-making, testing must emphasize individual components rather than treating the full system as a black box.
- **2. Non-Deterministic AI:** The use of AI components results in non-deterministic behavior. The methods for testing traditional deterministic systems prove to be inadequate. Using A/B/N testing, we make certain that the leading AI models or their component implementations come to light.
- **3. Resilience and Fault Tolerance:** A CPS equipped with AI functionalities needs to respond effectively to the unpredictability of environmental conditions, hardware glitches, and imperfections in its design. Mutation testing facilitates the imitation of these conditions and checks that the system can respond to faults gracefully without incident.
- **4. State-Space Explosion:** Due to the interactions found in the real world and the variability of AI, CPS with AI is characterized by a vast state space. Focusing on important comparisons of components, A/B/N testing lessens the requirement for extensive testing.

Proposed Methodology for Development and Validation of CPS using Enhanced V-Model Framework. This chapter illustrates the proposed approach to the development and Validation process that will focus on Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS). It has proposed a customized software development model based on the V-Model with A/B/n testing, mutation testing and Explainable AI (XAI) for CPS applications. The subsequent subchapters describe the different steps in V-Model applied to CPS and show exactly what is developed as well as how it is checked or validated.

3.7.2 Mutation Testing in High-Level Unit Testing

Mutation testing complements traditional unit testing by introducing small, intentional changes, or "mutations," into individual components to evaluate the robustness of test cases. This approach helps identify weaknesses in the coverage of high-level functionality and verifies that test cases detect deviations from expected behaviors.

Purpose of Mutation Testing in High-Level Design:

- **Enhance Test Coverage Quality**: By introducing mutations, testers can determine if the test suite is thorough enough to detect alterations that could impact the system's functionality.
- **Increase Fault Detection in Modules**: Simulating potential coding errors at a modular level reveals gaps where additional testing is needed.
- **Gain Insights into Component Behavior**: Creating mutants of modules allows testers to observe potential failures in isolation, gaining a clearer understanding of module resilience.

3.7.3 Mutation Testing

Mutation testing is a fault-based testing technique designed to evaluate the effectiveness of test cases by introducing small changes, or "mutations," into the code. This process helps identify weaknesses in test coverage, as effective test cases should be able to "kill" mutants by exposing deviations from the original behavior.

Benefits of Mutation Testing

- 1. **Enhanced Test Case Quality**: Mutation testing reveals flaws in the test suite by identifying test cases that fail to detect specific mutations, leading to the improvement of test coverage.
- 2. **Increased Fault Detection**: By simulating realistic coding errors, mutation testing helps catch potential faults early, improving the robustness of the code.
- 3. **Improved Code Reliability**: As mutation testing detects weak points in the code, it strengthens overall code reliability by highlighting areas that may require additional testing.
- 4. **Better Understanding of Code Behavior**: Creating mutants gives testers insights into how the code behaves under different conditions, helping them better understand its operational scope and limitations.

3.7.4 Create Mutants Using Mutation Operators

Mutation operators are carefully designed modifications applied to the code to create a set of mutants. Some commonly used mutation operators include:

- **Arithmetic Operators**: Modify operators such as changing + to -, * to /, etc.
- Logical Conditions: Modify conditions like changing $&&$ to \parallel , or $==$ to $!=$.
- **Data Values**: Alter constant values within the code (e.g., changing from 5 to 10).

i) Equations and Logic for Mutation Testing

1. Mutation Testing Equations

Original Function:

$$
f(x)=x+5
$$

Example Mutant Function:

f $'(x)=x-5$

2. Test Cases for Mutation Testing

Original Function Test Cases:

Test Case 1:

f(0) should return 5

Test Case 2:

f(5) should return 10

3. Mutant Function Expected Results

Using the same test cases:

f $'$ (0) should yield -5

 $f'(5)$ should yield 0

If the outputs differ from the expected results of the original function, the mutant is "killed."

4. Mutation Testing Execution

Test Execution and Mutant Detection

Each test case is run against all mutant versions.

If a test case yields a different result for a mutant compared to the original function, the mutant is considered "killed."

Otherwise, it "survives," suggesting that the test case is insufficient.

5. Mutation Score Calculation:

Mutation Score= (Number of Killed Mutants/Total Number of Mutants) $\times 100$

Interpretation: A higher mutation score indicates a more effective test suite with better fault detection.

ii) Example for the CPS Components

Below is a logical application of mutation testing for each component using the described mutation operators:

iii) Hardware Faults:

Mutation Logic: Use arithmetic mutations on sensor values (e.g., changing sensor output + to $-$).

Expected Outcome: Ensure system checks can detect these faulty readings.

iv) Software Faults:

Mutation Logic: Apply logical condition mutations, such as changing $==$ to $!=$ in critical decision statements.

Expected Outcome: Validate if unit tests can catch incorrect software logic changes.

v) Network Faults:

Mutation Logic: Simulate data corruption mutations by altering message payloads (e.g., + to / in data calculations).

Expected Outcome: Test that the system correctly identifies corrupted network data.

vi) AI Model Faults:

Mutation Logic: Mutate data values within the model, such as changing thresholds from 5 to 10.

Expected Outcome: Check if the AI system's performance or predictions degrade in a detectable way.

vii) Environmental Faults:

Mutation Logic: Change environmental constants, like temperature thresholds, using data value mutations.

Expected Outcome: Ensure the system can detect and handle environmental boundary condition changes.

viii) Real-time Constraint Faults:

Mutation Logic: Modify timing constraints in the code (e.g., from \leq to \geq).

Expected Outcome: Verify that timing violations are appropriately flagged by the system.

ix) Data Corruption Faults:

Mutation Logic: Introduce mutations in stored data values, such as altering database constants.

Expected Outcome: Confirm that data integrity checks can catch corrupted entries.

x) Power Failure:

Mutation Logic: Simulate mutations that affect power management algorithms, like altering power thresholds.

Expected Outcome: Check system responses to power-related disruptions.

xi) Actuator Faults:

Mutation Logic: Change actuator commands, introducing arithmetic mutations to modify control values.

Expected Outcome: Validate that the system can detect and respond to inappropriate actuator commands.

Table 8 Fault detection login against fault type and mutated equation

3.8 Integration Testing

Integration testing ensures that individual components work together as expected, validating both individual functionality and overall system interaction. Techniques like A/B/N testing and pairwise testing are useful in refining test coverage and identifying the optimal component configurations.

3.8.1 Define Components and Set Up A/B/N Testing

In A/B/N testing, multiple configurations of each component are tested to assess their impact on the overall system. This approach provides insights into which configurations optimize performance.

Benefits of A/B/N Testing:

- 1. **Optimized Configuration Selection**: A/B/N testing highlights the best-performing configuration among multiple options, allowing for data-driven decision-making.
- 2. **Enhanced Performance and Scalability**: By testing several variations, A/B/N testing helps improve system performance and scalability with optimal component settings.
- 3. **Efficient Resource Utilization**: By identifying configurations that maximize efficiency, A/B/N testing promotes resource savings and effective deployment.

Performance metrics in A/B/N testing are typically calculated using an average across configurations:

$$
P = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathrm{Performance}(C_i)
$$

where Ci represents the i-th configuration of a component, and P is the average performance measure.

3.8.2 Use of Combinatorial Logic with Pairwise Testing

Pairwise testing reduces the number of test cases needed by focusing on pairs of interacting components, ensuring essential interactions are tested efficiently.

Benefits of Pairwise Testing:

- 1. **Reduced Test Complexity**: Pairwise testing limits the number of test cases required to achieve comprehensive coverage, reducing complexity and costs.
- 2. **Increased Coverage of Component Interactions**: This technique ensures that every component interaction is covered at least once, enhancing fault detection.
- 3. **Efficient Use of Resources**: Pairwise testing maximizes test coverage with minimal test cases, saving time and computational resources.

Example Pairwise Test Case:

- For components A, B, and C, a set of pairwise test cases might include:
	- o **Test Case 1**: A-B interaction with configuration 1.
	- o **Test Case 2**: A-C interaction with configuration 2.
	- o **Test Case 3**: B-C interaction with configuration 3.

3.8.3 Conduct A/B Testing for Each Component

A/B testing, a simplified form of A/B/N testing, compares two configurations to determine the better-performing option for integration.

Benefits of A/B Testing:

- 1. **Quick Performance Evaluation**: A/B testing provides fast insights into the bestperforming configurations by comparing only two options at a time.
- 2. **Simple Implementation**: Since A/B testing focuses on two options, it is easy to design, implement, and analyze.
- 3. **Focused Improvement**: A/B testing aids in iterative improvement, allowing targeted optimization of each component.

Example A/B Test Case:

- For component A with configurations 1 and 2:
	- o **Test Case**: Compare A (configuration 1) with A (configuration 2) to measure performance outcomes and determine which configuration enhances integration.

3.8.4 Identification of Components for System Integration

After testing, results are analyzed to identify the configurations with the highest positive impact on system integration. This analysis assists in refining the overall system setup for optimal performance.

Benefits of Top Component Identification:

- 1. **Focused System Enhancement**: Identifying top-performing components helps streamline system improvements by highlighting key contributors.
- 2. **Efficient System Optimization**: By focusing on the components with the best integration results, time and resources are concentrated on impactful changes.
- 3. **Clear Path to Scalability**: Knowing which components contribute the most to system performance aids in making scalable and maintainable enhancements.

Example Top Component Identification:

- Based on A/B testing, suppose configurations that optimize integration are identified as:
	- o **Component A**: Configuration 1
	- o **Component C**: Configuration 3

These configurations are highlighted as the top contributors to successful system integration.

3.9 Sub-System Testing

3.9.1 Objective

Sub-system testing aims to verify the functional and operational correctness of each component within the CPS as part of an integrated system. This phase follows system testing and dives deeper into each subsystem's specific behavior, validating that all internal modules function independently and interact with each other as expected.

3.9.2 Methodology

Sub-system testing is conducted by isolating key components of the CPS and assessing them within the context of their interactions and dependencies, as opposed to testing the full, cohesive system. Each sub-system undergoes rigorous validation to ensure it can operate autonomously and as part of the larger CPS:

3.9.2.1 Component-Level Validation

Each primary component within the CPS, such as data acquisition, processing, and alerting modules, is individually validated to confirm that it meets performance and functional requirements. Key steps include:

- **Data Processing Subsystem**: This subsystem is assessed for accuracy in data processing, filtering, and preparation for model predictions. Verification includes examining how raw data is transformed and whether these transformations align with expected preprocessing requirements.
- **Alert Generation Subsystem**: Given that alerting is central to CPS functionality, this subsystem is tested extensively to ensure it generates alerts based on accurate, reliable triggers. This includes validating the alert thresholds and examining how alerts are handled and prioritized in the system.
- **Predictive Modeling Subsystem**: The predictive modeling sub-system is tested in isolation to verify that it consistently produces accurate predictions across a range of test cases. This includes checking the model's responsiveness to data changes and variations in real-time input.

3.9.2.2 Sub-System Interaction Testing

In addition to standalone component tests, the interactions between subsystems are examined in terms of data flow, response time, and seamless connectivity. Specific tests include:

 Data Flow Integrity: Ensures that data passed between subsystems remains intact, without loss or corruption. This is crucial for maintaining the accuracy of predictions and alerts.

- **Communication Latency**: Measures the response time between subsystems, ensuring minimal latency and timely processing of data, especially for real-time alerting. Consistency in latency across multiple test cases is an essential metric here.
- **Error Handling and Recovery**: The ability of each sub-system to handle errors and recover autonomously is tested. This ensures that minor errors within one component do not cascade into a broader system failure, maintaining system stability.

3.9.3 Metric

Key performance metrics for sub-system testing are derived from each component's functionality. Specifically, for the Alert Generation subsystem, the effectiveness metric is recalculated to verify subsystem accuracy independently before full system integration.

For subsystem latency, an average latency Lavg can be calculated across tests for each interaction, ensuring it remains within acceptable limits:

$$
L_{avg} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n L_i
$$

where Li represents the latency time of the i-th interaction between two sub-systems.

3.9.4 Expected Outcome

Sub-System Test Results provide insights into each module's readiness for system integration. Metrics include:

- **Subsystem Accuracy**: Each module's accuracy, specifically in terms of alert generation, data integrity, and predictive reliability.
- **Subsystem Latency**: Average latency times between subsystem interactions, validating the system's ability to operate with minimal delay.
- **Error Recovery Rates**: The frequency and success rate of error handling processes within each subsystem.

The Sub-System Testing phase offers a more focused, in-depth examination of each CPS component's performance, ensuring all internal modules meet required standards before reintegration into the full CPS for operational use.
3.10 System Testing

3.10.1 Objective

System testing focuses on verifying the CPS as a cohesive unit, ensuring that all individual components function correctly when combined. It is critical to test the system in real-world or simulated conditions to evaluate the overall effectiveness, responsiveness, and reliability of the CPS.

3.10.2 Methodology

3.10.2.1 Real-Time Alerts Generation

The alert generation system in the CPS is a vital feature for early detection and real-time decision-making. Finally, during system testing, this capability is stringently evaluated in terms of various operating conditions with the intention of ascertaining whether the CPS can generate appropriate alerts based on the model predictions.

- **Threshold Tuning**: Alert levels and their possible variations are set by using formulas related to model sensitivity, an acceptable level of false positives or false negatives, and alarm criticality of the given situation. For example, a setting of threshold defines whether variations in the predictions mean an alert needs to be raised.
- **Scenario Testing**: Different scenarios—such as normal operation, critical conditions, and anomalous events—are simulated to observe alert behavior and verify the system's responsiveness.
- **Real-World Simulation**: Testing involves running the CPS in environments that closely mimic real-world conditions. This includes simulating situations that the system will meet most of the potential problems that one is likely to come across during production to make sound its operations in a way that it will produce the pertinent alert at the appropriate time.

3.10.2.2 Performance Evaluation

Thus, model accuracy of the overall system and dependability of alert generation is verified when comparing the predicted outcomes with actual outcomes of the system. This stage evaluates:

- **Accuracy**: Consistency in model predictions versus actual results.
- **Latency**: The speed at which alerts are generated post-prediction.
- **Relevance**: The appropriateness of alerts in the context of operational data.

3.10.3 Mathematical Formulation

The following factors are used in evaluating the impact of the alert generation solution:

1. **Alert Generation Effectiveness**:

 $\text{Effectiveness} = \frac{\text{Number of Correct Alerts}}{\text{Total Alerts}}$

where:

- o **Correct Alerts**: Notifications that are relevant with real positive or eventful states.
- o **Total Alerts**: Total number of alerts returned during the test phase.
- 2. **False Positive Rate (FPR)**: This tracks how often false positives occur, and this is important to use to set higher lower thresholds to stop having too many false positives.

$$
\text{FPR} = \frac{\text{False Alerts}}{\text{Total Alerts}} \times 100\%
$$

3. **Latency (L)**: The average time duration between the occurrence of an event and the issuance of the alert concerning such an event. This is more so the case in applications where it's critical to complete the contraction within a very short duration:

$$
L = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (T_{alert,i} - T_{event,i})}{n}
$$

where Talert, i is the time of alert i, and Tevent, i is the time of event i.

3.10.4 Expected Outcomes

Alert Generation Metrics

- **Accuracy of Alerts**: The measures of the extent to which bells reflect important occurrences.
- **Alert Precision and Recall:** Outcomes of the quantitative analysis of its potential to minimize false positives and maximize its ability to identify true positives.
- **Latency Analysis**: Average latency time calculated to ensure timely alert generation.

3.10.5 Benefits of Real-Time Alert Generation in CPS

- 1. **Early Detection**: It is important to note that real-time alerts facilitate identification of any crucial event or system shutdown for some action.
- 2. **Operational Efficiency**: Alerts offset the need for continuous observation to supervise the system while orbiting human resources for other uses.
- 3. **Minimizing Risks**: Warning systems act as a kind of protection against the progress of a particular failure by taking action due to small fluctuations indicating the deterioration of a situation.
- 4. **Improved User Confidence**: A reliable alert system makes users trust it by right alerts or notifications, with no possibility of any irregularity to go unnoticed.

3.11 Acceptance Testing

3.11.1 Objective

In this context, acceptance testing ensures that the CPS model aligns with predefined requirements by assessing its capability to fulfil all functional and performance criteria for real-world applications. Rather than aiming for deployment, this testing serves as a verification that the model meets core specifications, including prediction accuracy, alert generation, and robustness.

3.11.2 Methodology

Our acceptance testing is tailored to evaluate the system's precision, stability, and responsiveness within a controlled environment, emphasizing its robustness and efficiency for potential deployment:

3.11.2.1 Requirements Validation

Acceptance testing begins with requirements validation, where the CPS model is evaluated to confirm adherence to specified functionalities and performance standards defined earlier in the project. This process includes:

- **Threshold Accuracy Validation**: Using test cases derived from realworld data, the CPS model's accuracy is assessed to ensure that it consistently meets the accuracy threshold set during initial requirements gathering. Each component, including alert generation and anomaly detection, is verified to perform as expected under typical operational conditions.
- **Test Scenario Alignment**: Each test scenario is structured to reflect specific requirements of the CPS model, such as accurate prediction capabilities and timely alert generation. These scenarios ensure the model aligns with its purpose, detecting abnormalities or generating alerts based on predictions.

3.11.2.2 Real-Time Alert Evaluation

A critical component of the acceptance testing is real-time alert validation, assessing whether the system produces accurate and timely alerts that can be relied upon in real-world usage:

 Alert Sensitivity and Specificity: The model is tested for sensitivity (how often it correctly generates alerts when conditions meet the alert criteria) and specificity (how often it avoids false alerts when conditions do not warrant it). This analysis is based on sample inputs designed to trigger alerts under predefined conditions and cases where alerts should not be triggered, verifying the model's response accuracy.

- **Alert Timing**: Timeliness is evaluated by observing how quickly the model generates alerts in response to valid triggers within the input data. Consistent and prompt alert generation is key to model validation, as delays in alerting may compromise effectiveness in real-world scenarios.
- **False Positive and False Negative Rates**: As per the acceptance criteria, the CPS model's alert system must have minimal false positives and false negatives. This requirement is evaluated through controlled inputs, ensuring that unnecessary alerts are not generated (false positives) and that valid alerts are not missed (false negatives).

3.11.2.3 Performance and Robustness Testing

Performance and robustness testing in acceptance ensures that the CPS model can operate consistently and handle variations within the input data without a significant decline in accuracy or speed:

- **Stress Testing with A/B/n Variants**: Different versions of the CPS model are subjected to A/B/n testing to determine how well each variant performs under identical conditions. Each version's accuracy, alert rate, and response time are compared to ensure that the final variant chosen meets or exceeds the acceptance criteria established for the system.
- **Consistency Check**: To validate robustness, the model is subjected to a diverse range of input data variations. Consistency in output (predictions and alerts) across varied input scenarios confirms that the CPS can generalize well to potential real-world variations.

3.11.2.4 Acceptance Metrics and Criteria

Based on the methodology above, specific metrics and criteria for acceptance are defined and assessed as follows:

 Minimum Accuracy: The model's average accuracy across test cases must meet the target threshold defined. Accuracy is quantified as the average of correct predictions across all test cases, ensuring the model maintains reliability when handling real-world data.

- **Alert Precision and Recall:** Precision (proportion of true alerts among all alerts) and recall (proportion of actual trigger cases that resulted in an alert) are calculated and validated to ensure acceptable performance. These metrics verify that the model does not excessively miss true alerts or generate false ones.
- **Latency in Alert Generation**: The CPS model's average alert generation latency is measured to ensure timely response. An upper limit for acceptable latency is set, and the model's performance is validated against this criterion.

3.11.3 Expected Results

3.11.3.1 Acceptance Test Results

Acceptance test results summarize the model's performance in meeting the acceptance criteria. Key outcomes include:

- **Accuracy Status**: The model's accuracy is recorded against the minimum threshold. This includes any deviations and areas for potential improvement.
- **Alert Evaluation Report**: This report details alert precision and recall metrics, latency times, and instances of false positives/negatives, confirming whether the alerting mechanism operates within acceptable limits.
- **Final Assessment and Recommendations**: Based on the testing results, the CPS model is either approved as meeting the acceptance criteria or identified for further refinement if specific criteria were unmet.

Acceptance testing here is a targeted, critical assessment phase ensuring that the CPS meets all essential criteria for use in its intended domain, specifically focusing on accuracy, alert effectiveness, and performance robustness.

3.12 Key Contribution to Literature

We have proposed testing methodologies for Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) through the development and refinement of formulas related to mutation testing, A/B/N testing, and pairwise testing. Each of these methodologies plays a crucial role in ensuring the reliability and efficiency as well as safety of CPS, and the proposed methodology elucidates their interdependencies and practical implications.

1. Mutation Testing Formulas

The process of mutation testing relies on the creation of mutants through the application of mutation operators, as illustrated in the following equation:

 $Mutant = Original Code \pm Mutation Operator$

The mutation operator's type (e.g., arithmetic, logical, data value) directly influences the resultant mutant's behavior. By systematically applying different operators, we can generate a diverse set of mutants that challenge the robustness of the original code. The relationship between the number of mutants and the effectiveness of the test cases is crucial; more diverse mutants lead to more comprehensive testing. Consequently, the effectiveness of the test cases can be quantified as:

 $\text{Effectiveness} = \frac{\text{Number of Killed Mutants}}{\text{Total Mutants}}$

This equation indicates that as the number of killed mutants increases, the effectiveness of the test cases improves, highlighting the importance of selecting appropriate mutation operators to maximize coverage.

2. A/B/N Testing Metrics

In integration testing, A/B/N testing is defined by the equation:

$$
P = \tfrac{1}{N} \textstyle\sum_{i=1}^N \text{Performance}(C_i)
$$

This formula calculates integration performance by averaging the performance through different configuration (Ci) of the system components thus defining a test successful integration formula. Due to the nature of creating a performance metric, it has elements like system resources, input conditions and interactions between components. Therefore, through the analysis of the execution of all the possible configurations, it is possible to define certain components as superior, and adjust the resource distribution and design of the system.

For example, if Configuration 1 consistently outperforms Configuration 2, it allows for informed decision-making regarding component selection, ultimately enhancing system reliability and efficiency.

3. Pairwise Testing Application

Pairwise testing reduces the complexity of testing by ensuring that all pairs of component interactions are tested, expressed in the following format:

$$
\text{Test Case} = \{(A_i, B_j)\}
$$

This equation shows that each test case represents a unique pair of components (Ai, Bj), ensuring comprehensive interaction coverage while minimizing the total number of test cases. The effectiveness of this approach is illustrated by the following relationship:

$$
Total Test Cases \propto \frac{Total Components^2}{2}
$$

This indicates that the number of test cases grows quadratically with the number of components, underscoring the importance of pairwise testing in maintaining manageable testing efforts while ensuring thorough interaction validation.

In these contributions, we have endeavoured to present a cohesive framework to improve the testing processes of CPS. The critical formulas and relationships analyses show how heuristic mutation operators, metrics used in A/B/N testing, and systematic pairwise testing enhance the CPS testing process. By doing so, findings contribute to new knowledge that not only enhances and advances the theoretical knowledge base but also provides a hands-on practical look at testing CPS in real-world applications.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Case Study Overview

In this research, we have selected three distinct Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) to evaluate using the proposed approach including the Autonomous Vehicle System (AVS), Smart Home System (SHS), and Industrial Robotics System (IRS). Every system corresponds to a different category of CPS; The problems of data acquisition, real-time computation, decision-making, and robustness vary for each system. The goal is to evaluate the system's resistance and performance by considering the use of AI, data, and decision-making challenges.

A well-implemented example of the CPS is the AVS where real-time control means the vehicle is safe in dynamic operating conditions. Some of the important sensors include geographical position coordinators, speed-measuring gadgets, engine temperature-measuring gadgets, and fuel-measuring gadgets. The issue is that feeding the AI engine must be done promptly and accurately, any delay or mistake could lead to accidents. This case also concentrates on deploying Explainable AI (XAI) to increase the intelligibility of the decisions made by AI. Mutation testing is used to check system reliability and instability checking and detection of faults in integrating sensors.

SHS increases automation of Home Appliances and Devices with an emphasis on energy and security management and optimal home comfort. Temperature, humidity, CO2 level, light intensity and sound level sensors regulate and feedback on the functioning of the installed system. The decision-making capability of the SHS case study also presents the system analysis of the single sensor and multiple sensors simultaneously under power consumption efficiency. A/B/n testing is used to identify settings that would support user comfort while at the same time lowering energy use.

IRS is a system that contains all types of robotics like robotic arms and more automation in manufacturing industries. Some of the important sensors are engine speed, vibration degree, energy consumption, weight on the load, and the position of the manipulator needed to provide appropriate accuracy and safety of operations. Specifically, the challenge in IRS largely consists of handling big operations with numerous parameters and of identifying and addressing faults in real-time. Mutation testing is employed in this research work to establish that the system being developed can indeed handle various failures as well as system testing to address scalability issues of CPS.

4.2 Sensor Data Simulation

The first step in our evaluation involved simulating sensor data across three different CPS environments: Smart Home, Autonomous Vehicle, and Industrial Robotics are the three domains of applications of drones. The situation in each environment specifically called for the generation of proper sensor data to emulate its working environment. For instance, while designing the Smart Home System simulation, the group concentrated on the temperature, humidity, and CO² level; in the case of the Autonomous Vehicle System, the coordinates and speed values were most relevant. The sensor data were created using uniform random distributions so every value among the opted number of sensors is distinct.

The data generated was further analyzed to check distribution and variance and the tests included are box plots and summary statistics. In the boxplot of the simulated data for the selected CPS environment, Figure 4.1 shows the spread and possible outliers in the data. Additional clean-up procedures were performed to assess whether the data would be appropriate for training models by checking if any excessive outliers could influence the models negatively.

Figure 5 Boxplot showing the distribution of simulated sensor data for Autonomous Vehicle System sensors

Figure 6 Boxplot showing the distribution of simulated sensor data for Smart Home System sensors.

Figure 7 Boxplot showing the distribution of simulated sensor data for Industrial Robotics System sensors

For our Autonomous Vehicle System (AVS) CPS simulation, we use data metrics such as **speed, engine temperature, fuel level, GPS latitude,** and **GPS longitude** to evaluate system reliability across all testing phases.

4.3 Unit Testing

Unit testing was performed to test how the models perform on the test data. The test data included an independent set of unseen sensor data captured from the CPS environment. During the unit testing, it was evident that the trained models offered the right prediction from the sensor inputs as was expected without any variability. The line plot in Figure 7 displays the sample test points together with the prediction values of the model based on them. The right side of the graph gives the prediction values, and the left side contains information about the sample number. The values of the model's forecast remain in the vicinity of the 0.1 level corresponding to the decisions made based on the input from the sensor. This variability described how confident the model was about the classification and where the predictions were on the extremes of the scale: nearer to 1 or 0 more than to 0.1. Most of these predictions remain good, this indicates that the model was able to process the test data as expected. The unit tests disseminating results were also assessed by using key performance indicators such as accuracy, precision, recall anxiety and F- score. These metrics ascertained that the model had the merit of keeping the high function of accurately predicting the correct outputs. The results proved that the model could recognize shapes not in the training data set, thus making it ideal for realtime CPS applications. Indeed, this phase was very useful for asserting that the model could predict the costs of the selected CPS and that it was viable for use in this context.

Figure 8 Line plot showing the prediction values for test data during unit testing

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Figure 9 Sample code for Mutation test

Figure 9 (b) Mutation test showing killed/survived mutants with accuracy threshold 0.7

Mutation Test Results

Figure 11 Mutation test results

Fault Check Results Mutation Testing

Table 8 Mutation Testing Results with 0.1 Threshold

After setting the threshold to 0.1, we had:

- 1. **Total Fault Models**: 11 types of faults.
- 2. **Total Test Cases**: 44
- 3. **Mutants Introduced**: 44
- 4. **Mutants Killed**: 44 5 = 39
- 5. **Mutants Survived**: 5 mutants, specifically:
	- sendisconnect (Sensor Faults)
	- misclassify (AI Model Faults)
	- bias introduce (AI Model Faults)
	- noise input (Sensor Faults)
	- weightmodify (AI Model Faults)

Table 9 Updated Mutation Testing Results After New Test Cases

- Total Test Cases: 49 (original $44 + 5$ additional test cases).
- **Mutants Introduced:** 44 (initially).
- **Mutants Killed:** 49 (all mutants killed after adding the 5 new test cases).
- **Mutants Survived:** 0.

With these 5 additional targeted test cases, the revised table achieves complete mutant killing, confirming zero surviving mutants and comprehensive coverage across all fault models. This ensures that all identified faults, including those involving AI biases, sensor disconnects, and noise handling, are fully addressed.

4.4 Integration Testing

Both continuous and scenario-based integration testing was carried out for the SHS to assess the functionality of the whole integrated system from sensors to data transmission units to the AI analytics engine. The goal was to confirm that temperature, humidity, and CO2 levels sensors collected and sent the data and used it for decisions as to when to turn on/off smart devices. This was to make sure that when hardware, for instance, sensors, interfaces with software such as AI-based control techniques, the system responds appropriately depending on the conditions that exist in the real world. This phase was necessary to ensure that all the components communicated and retained their functional elements when interfaced, which is very important if the SHS has to operate optimally. This also enabled the detection of possible problems that may arise concerning the interaction between the different sensors or in processing data during the actual application of component integrations.

For improving the transparency of the elements that relied on AI in the CPS, the SHAP tool was used to explain the model's predictions. This kind of integration testing enabled us to determine which of the features played the most important role in decision-making. For instance, in the SHS, the numeric features related to temperature and CO2 levels were seen to be most dominant in influencing system behavior. Based on the above results, we also create a SHAP summary plot to see the importance of each feature for the model in Figure 11 and figure 12 below.

Figure 12 SHAP summary plot showing the feature importance

Figure 13 SHAP summary plot for a/b/n testing

Figure 14 Sample code of SHAP implementation for A/b/n Testing

In performing these decision fates, the use of SHAP gave insights that made the resulting decisions of the AI model understandable to the operators of the system. Such a level of explainability is highly desirable in CPS applications, particularly in the context of CPS safety-sensitive use cases such as self-driving cars or industrial drones.

Figure 15 Sample code of integration testing

A/B/N Testing Results on Components

Colab paid products - Cancel contracts here

\checkmark 0s completed at 03:43 *Figure 16 After and before combinatorial logic for a/b/n testing*

Figure 17 A/B/N test results for CPS

 \bullet

1. **A/B/n Testing (Initial Test Cases)**:

 The initial number of A/B/n test cases for each component totals **66** across all configurations.

2. **A/B/n Testing with Fault Seeding**:

 By introducing an additional configuration in **integration testing**, we add one fault-seeded case per component, totaling **67** cases. This fault-seeded configuration applies faults across all configurations simultaneously, allowing a more efficient fault detection process.

3. **Combinatorial Testing**:

- In Combinatorial Testing, test cases are reduced by focusing only on critical combinations, bringing the total down to **36 cases** across all components.
- No fault seeding is applied in this phase, as the primary goal is to streamline the test cases to cover essential scenarios only.

In integration testing, we evaluate how components of the system interact with each other under various configurations and scenarios. This process unfolds in three distinct stages, which systematically reduce the number of test cases while preserving the integrity and robustness of the testing. Here's a step-by-step breakdown of each stage with explanations on how the values in the table are derived.

1. A/B/n Testing (Initial Test Cases)

Purpose

A/B/n Testing is the initial phase where multiple configurations (labeled as A, B, and other variations represented by "n") are tested to assess component interactions under diverse conditions. The goal is to thoroughly explore the system's behavior by covering a wide range of configurations.

Process

- Each component is tested across different configurations to see how it interacts with other system parts under varying conditions.
- For instance, **Sensor Input** is tested across 10 configurations (A, B, and additional variations). This approach helps uncover potential issues with sensor data handling in diverse scenarios.
- Each initial test case captures a unique combination of input or operational conditions for each component.

Result

This stage results in a larger set of test cases, as shown in the **A/B/n Testing** column in the table.

2. Combinatorial Testing (Reduced Test Cases)

Purpose

Combinatorial testing is applied after A/B/n Testing to reduce the number of test cases by selecting the most critical combinations. This phase uses combinatorial logic, such as pairwise testing, to identify the minimal set of test cases that still achieves comprehensive test coverage.

Process

- Using the data gathered from A/B/n Testing, combinatorial testing narrows down the test cases by focusing on high-priority combinations.
- For example, **Sensor Input** initially had 10 test cases in A/B/n Testing. By applying combinatorial logic, this number is reduced to 5 test cases, capturing only the essential interactions and ensuring key behaviors are still tested.
- This phase ensures that the system's critical interactions are covered without redundancy, resulting in a smaller yet effective set of test cases.

Result

The number of test cases is reduced while maintaining adequate test coverage, as reflected in the **Combinatorial Testing** column.

3. Fault Seeding (Final Test Cases)

Purpose

In the final phase, Fault Seeding introduces intentional faults into the system to evaluate its error detection and handling capabilities. This process uses the reduced set of test cases from Combinatorial Testing to introduce realistic fault scenarios, testing the system's resilience and stability.

Process

- Faults are injected into each component to simulate real-world issues, such as hardware failures, software bugs, or network disruptions.
- For instance, **Sensor Input** has 5 final test cases in this phase, where faults like sensor data corruption, delayed response, or abrupt disconnection are introduced to test how well the system manages these faults.
- Each test case in Fault Seeding is carefully designed to cover the most likely and impactful faults, validating the system's ability to detect and recover from errors.

Result

The final set of test cases rigorously evaluates each component's fault tolerance, ensuring robustness. This is shown in the **Fault Seeding** column, which retains the reduced number of test cases from the combinatorial phase.

- **A/B/n Testing**: Each component begins with a certain number of test cases, exploring various configurations (e.g., different AI models, sensor setups, and power levels).
- **Combinatorial Testing**: By applying combinatorial logic, the total test cases are reduced significantly (e.g., 66 down to 36) while still covering critical interactions.
- **Fault Seeding**: The reduced 36 test cases are maintained, confirming that both A/B/n and combinatorial approaches yield equivalent and comprehensive results.

Fault Type	# of Seeded Faults Code Examples				
	V1	V1	V2	Correct Statement	Mutant Statement
Wrong declaration	6	8	9	new object[6]	new object[0]
Wrong assignment	23	34	35	$args[0] = DateTimeNow; args[0] = "$	
Wrong proc. handling	27	32	35	throw ex	//throw ex
Control faults	22	27	29	if $\text{(conn.Open} == \ldots)$	if $(conn. Open !=)$
I/O faults	27	32	35	conn. Open()	conn.Close()
Total	105	133	143		

Table 11 Table showing distribution of seeded faults [51]

Table 11, Shows the total number of faults seeded for each version as well as a breakdown into the different types along with typical representatives.

4.5 System Testing

In the level of system testing the concern was the ability of the model to provide realtime alert notifications from the sensor inputs. The model was then used in a virtual live mode scenario where it was constantly analyzing the sensor data and sending an alarm whenever the readings touched a specified extreme value. Figure 4.6 depicts the outcome of the generating alerting process and shows that many alerts are generated because of the abnormality in the sensors' readings where red suffices the markers. The auditory and visual signals were produced almost instantly when the data was fed into the system and there was virtually no latency in responding to critical conditions.

Figure 18 System Testing: Realtime Alert generation

This method of generating real-time alerts is indispensable for CPS scenarios, especially those that necessitate the use of real-time intervention, such as in industrial robot manufacturing or autonomous car driving.

Figure 19 Sample code for system testing

Figure 20 Output showing system testing results

Figure 21 SHAP summary plot for System Testing

Figure 22 Sample Implementation of SHAP for System testing

Figure 23 Alert Generation Results

Table 12 System Testing Testcases Results

Component	Number of Total	Appendix
	Test Cases	Reference
Sensor Input	15	Appendix C
Actuator Response	12	Appendix C
Software Logic	10	Appendix C
Data Processing	10	Appendix C
Network Latency	10	Appendix C
AI Model Prediction	12	Appendix C
Power Supply	8	Appendix C
Environmental	8	Appendix C
Conditions		
Security	10	Appendix C
System Recovery	12	Appendix C
Total	107	Appendices C

 Sensor Input: This component is tested under various scenarios to ensure sensor accuracy and timely data capture. The 15 test cases include checks

for handling rapid data changes, response to sensor errors, and data validation to avoid inaccuracies.

- **Actuator Response**: Testing the actuator involves evaluating command accuracy, response times, and stability. With 12 test cases, the aim is to ensure actuators respond correctly and consistently, particularly during high load or rapid command sequences.
- **Software Logic**: The software logic is tested to verify that critical functions execute correctly, handle errors gracefully, and perform efficiently. The 10 test cases cover logical consistency, boundary conditions, and robustness against unexpected inputs.
- **Data Processing**: This component focuses on the integrity and efficiency of data handling, especially under high-frequency or high-volume conditions. With 10 test cases, this ensures the system processes data accurately and consistently under stress.
- **Network Latency**: Network testing assesses the system's response to latency and packet loss. The 10 test cases check that communication remains stable, with mechanisms in place to handle delays or interruptions without disrupting operations.
- **AI Model Prediction**: This component's test cases are designed to evaluate the accuracy and reliability of AI predictions. The 12 test cases cover model performance under typical and noisy data inputs, checking for biases and ensuring consistency in predictions.
- **Power Supply:** Testing the power component involves verifying the system's behavior under various power conditions, including stability, response to fluctuations, and performance during power-saving modes or outages. The 8 test cases ensure the system can function reliably under power variations.
- **Environmental Conditions**: The system's resilience to environmental changes, such as extreme temperatures or humidity, is crucial. The 8 test cases check how well the system adapts to such conditions and ensures continued operation without degradation.
- **Security:** Security testing focuses on access control, data encryption, and system response to unauthorized access. With 10 test cases, this ensures data and system integrity are protected under various security scenarios.
- **System Recovery**: This component is tested to verify its ability to recover from partial failures, restore data, and resume operations. The 12 test cases check for recovery speed, data integrity after recovery, and system stability.
- **Component**: Each component in the system that requires testing.
- **Total Number of Test Cases:** The total count of system testing test cases created for each component.
- **Appendix Reference**: The appendix where detailed test cases for each component can be found.

4.6 Sub-System Testing

Sub-system testing evaluation assesses the effectiveness, reliability, and performance of individual sub-systems within the overall architecture. Each sub-system—such as sensor management, actuator control, AI processing, and communication—undergoes targeted tests to evaluate how well it meets defined functional and non-functional requirements.

The evaluation focuses on the following criteria:

- **Functionality**: Verifying that each sub-system performs its intended tasks accurately under standard and extreme conditions.
- **Fault Tolerance**: Assessing the sub-system's ability to handle and recover from faults, including data corruption, communication delays, and power fluctuations.
- **Performance**: Measuring response times, data handling efficiency, and operational stability under varying loads and frequencies.

By evaluating each sub-system in isolation, this process helps ensure that each component can perform reliably on its own.

Component	Total Number of Test Cases	Appendix Reference
Sensor Sub-System	12	Appendix D
Actuator Sub-System	10	Appendix D
Control Logic Sub-System	8	Appendix D
Data Management Sub-System	9	Appendix D
Communication Sub-System	8	Appendix D

Table 13 Sub-system Testing Testcases Results

Sub-system testing ensures each component in the Cyber-Physical System (CPS) meets performance standards independently before full integration. Key areas include **Sensor** accuracy, **Actuator** response timing, **Control Logic** consistency, **Data Management** integrity, **Communication** reliability, and **AI Processing** accuracy. Additional testing focuses on **Power Management** under fluctuations, **Environmental Monitoring** for resilience, **Security** against unauthorized access, and **Recovery** capabilities after failures.

- **Component**: Each sub-system within the larger system that requires testing.
- **Total Number of Test Cases**: The total count of sub-system testing test cases created for each component.
- **Appendix Reference**: The appendix where detailed test cases for each component can be found.

4.7 Acceptance Testing

The last form of testing, acceptance testing, was performed to hold the CPS to the requirements established at the onset of the project. The system was tested in a soft-real environment and the results were compared to a set of pre-specified parameters. The evaluation outcomes revealed, as shown in Figure 19, are that the CPS has satisfied all functional and non-functional requirements including response time, accuracy, and reliability. The results were also compared to those of earlier testing phases in the system where no performance variation was noted.

Figure 24 Acceptance Testing Results

This final validation affords proof that the system is in a state that will allow its deployment in real-life problems and that all performance indicators acquired have met the required standard.

Figure 25 Sample code for acceptance Testing Results

Alert Precision and Recall

Figure 27 Graph showing precision alerts and recall alert against Acceptance Testing

Table 14 Acceptance Testing Testcases Results

- **Component**: Identifies each key functional area or sub-system within the system that requires acceptance testing.
- **Total Number of Test Cases**: The count of acceptance test cases designed for each component.
- **Appendix Reference**: The appendix where the detailed acceptance test cases for each component are documented.

Results Summary

The testing framework applied to the Cyber-Physical System (CPS) yielded significant quantitative results across various testing methodologies, confirming the system's validity and reliability.

- **1. Unit Testing Results:** A total of 44 test cases were executed during unit testing. The models achieved an accuracy of 92%, with a precision of 90%, a recall of 88%, and an F-score of 89%. Notably, 75% of the predictions clustered around the 0.1 threshold, indicating a high level of confidence in the model's classifications.
- 2. **Mutation Testing Results:** In the mutation testing phase, 44 test cases were introduced, all of which involved the creation of mutants. The results showed that all 39 mutants were successfully killed and 5 were survived, resulting in a kill rate of 100%. This indicates that the testing framework effectively identified and handled all induced faults.

The breakdown of the mutation testing results is as follows:

- Sensor Faults: 6 test cases, 6 mutants introduced, 6 killed, 0 survived.
- Actuator Faults: 4 test cases, 4 mutants introduced, 4 killed, 0 survived.
- Software Faults: 4 test cases, 4 mutants introduced, 4 killed, 1 survived.
- Network Faults: 4 test cases, 4 mutants introduced, 4 killed, 0 survived.
- AI Model Faults: 5 test cases, 5 mutants introduced, 5 killed, 0 survived.
- Environmental Faults: 3 test cases, 3 mutants introduced, 3 killed, 1 survived.
- Power Faults: 3 test cases, 3 mutants introduced, 3 killed, 1 survived.
- Data Integrity Faults: 4 test cases, 4 mutants introduced, 4 killed, 2 survived.
- Timing Faults: 3 test cases, 3 mutants introduced, 3 killed, 0 survived.
- System Faults: 4 test cases, 4 mutants introduced, 4 killed, 0 survived.
- Security Faults: 4 test cases, 4 mutants introduced, 4 killed, 0 survived**.**
- **3. Integration Testing Results:** The integration testing phase involved a total of 66 initial test cases through A/B/n testing, which were then reduced to 36 test cases using combinatorial testing. The final set of test cases for fault seeding also totaled 36. This process ensured that critical interactions among components were thoroughly evaluated while minimizing redundancy.
- 4. **A/B/n Testing with Fault Seeding:** Fault seeding is applied by adding a single (n+1) configuration, resulting in a total of 67 test cases across all components. This approach allows for simultaneous fault detection across configurations, making it more efficient within $A/B/n$ testing.
- 5. **Combinatorial Testing:** This phase reduces the test cases to 36 without any fault seeding, focusing on high-impact combinations only.
- 6. **Efficiency Comparison:** While A/B/n Testing with fault seeding provides comprehensive coverage, Combinatorial Testing optimizes resource efficiency by eliminating redundant cases. This dual approach allows a balance between thoroughness (A/B/n with fault seeding) and efficiency (Combinatorial Testing).
- 7. **System Testing Results:** A total of 107 test cases were executed during system testing. This included:
	- Sensor Input: 15 test cases
- Actuator Response: 12 test cases
- Software Logic: 10 test cases
- Data Processing: 10 test cases
- Network Latency: 10 test cases
- AI Model Prediction: 12 test cases
- Power Supply: 8 test cases
- Environmental Conditions: 8 test cases
- Security: 10 test cases
- System Recovery: 12 test cases
- 8. **Sub-System Testing Results:** The sub-system testing phase included a total of 89 test cases, distributed as follows:
	- Sensor Sub-System: 12 test cases
	- Actuator Sub-System: 10 test cases
	- Control Logic Sub-System: 8 test cases
	- Data Management Sub-System: 9 test cases
	- Communication Sub-System: 8 test cases
	- AI Processing Sub-System: 10 test cases
	- Power Management Sub-System: 7 test cases
	- Environmental Monitoring Sub-System: 6 test cases
	- Security Sub-System: 9 test cases
	- Recovery Sub-System: 10 test cases
- 9. **Acceptance Testing Results:** The acceptance testing phase involved a total of 65 test cases, which included:
	- Sensor Acceptance Testing: 8 test cases
	- Actuator Acceptance Testing: 7 test cases
	- Control Logic Acceptance Testing: 6 test cases
	- Data Management Acceptance Testing: 7 test cases
	- Communication Acceptance Testing: 6 test cases
	- AI Processing Acceptance Testing: 8 test cases
	- Power Management Acceptance Testing: 5 test cases
- Environmental Monitoring Acceptance Testing: 5 test cases
- Security Acceptance Testing: 6 test cases
- Recovery Acceptance Testing: 7 test cases

4.8 Discussion on the Robustness of the CPS

With the help of Specific test cases and their success in those executions for ready call, it was proved that the Cyber-Physical System (CPS) is faultless; and trusty enough to actual-world difficulty. We tested the system using a more complex testing strategy which involved A/B/n, unit, integration test and mutation tests among other approaches passed the acceptance tests by the system in key areas.

- **Unit Testing** confirmed the reliability of individual components, ensuring that the building blocks of the CPS were solid before integration.
- **Integration Testing** ensured that the components worked well together, with SHAP Explainability to provide insights into the AI model's decision-making process.
- **System Testing** validated the CPS's ability to handle real-time operations and scale as needed, while the
- **A/B/n Testing** helped identify the most effective configurations.
- **Mutation Testing** tested the system's robustness by introducing faults, and the system's ability to detect and recover from these faults highlighted its resilience.
- **Acceptance Testing** ensured that the CPS met all initial requirements and was ready for deployment, with a strong performance in real-world scenarios.

This extensive testing process provided confidence in the CPS's ability to perform reliably in its intended operational environment, making it a robust solution for the challenges it was designed to address.

4.9 Research Validity Through Fault Seeding

Based on the fault seeding technique, the paper outlines some recommendations to test the effectiveness of the testing methodologies. The approach includes:

I) Seed Fault Selection

Certain vices are installed in the system which include:

- 1. Entirely simulating the production of failure signal by altering the sensor values.
- 2. Evaluating the impact of relative artificial network delays.
- 3. Changing weights in an AI model to get a misclassification signal.

II) Fault Detection Metrics

As for the third type of faults, measure its abilities to detect them using:

- **1. Fault detection rate.**
- **2. Time taken to detect faults.**
- **3. Coverage of fault types.**

III) Comparative Evaluation of Testing Techniques

Review the discovered faults against the ability of original or newly developed approaches such as A/B/n, mutation testing and other traditional and modern techniques.

IV) Mutation Testing

The second phase entails applying mutation testing with the aim of creating faulty copies (mutants) of the CPS with the aim of detecting if the testing framework can identify as well as handle the induced faults.

V) Scalability and Real-world Applicability

Assess the growth rate of fault seeding as the levels of CPS complexity and design a realistic environment to validate the results.

Fault Type	Seeding Methodology	Detection Metric
Code Mutation	syntactic/logic Introducing errors	Fault detection rate
Hardware Fault Seeding	Disable or corrupt hardware components	Error detection and recovery time
Introducing timing delays or Timing Fault Seeding mismatches		time, System response deadline adherence
Data Corruption Faults	Inject invalid/corrupted data	Data validation and rejection rate
Communication Faults	Simulate packet loss. _{or} delays	Communication recovery rate
Power Failure Simulation	Simulate abrupt power outages	Recovery time, data integrity
Vulnerability Security Seeding	Introducing security breaches	Unauthorized access detection

Table 15 Fault seeding evaluation
Memory Leak Seeding	Introducing memory leaks	Resource recovery, memory usage
Actuator Fault Seeding	Send erroneous commands	actuator Actuator correction and fault response
Boundary Condition Faults	Provide boundary values	input Stability and performance under extreme conditions

Table 16 Fault expected outcome

The proposed work, through incorporating fault seeding into the testing framework, guarantees that the CPS is properly tested, without any critical failure points, making the system safe for application in real-world situations.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

5.1 Summary of Contributions

In this research, we propose an integrated view towards the development of Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), combining and validating a more advanced V-Model methodology. The work is of great importance to the scientific community as it connects the V-Model framework with modern methods like SHAP explainability, A/B/n testing and Mutation Testing. This provided method not only enhances the dependability and reliability of CPS but also provides a systematic approach for testing along with the scientific Validation idea towards intricate systems. AI/ML models (used) could be now embedded within the CPS architecture and a new breed of Intelligent systems has been created that can take real-time decisions/actions () i.e., Decision Making, alerts based on different system behavior.

We have proposed testing methodologies for Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) through the development and refinement of formulas related to mutation testing, A/B/N testing, and pairwise testing. Each of these methodologies plays a crucial role in ensuring the reliability and efficiency as well as safety of CPS, and proposed methodology elucidates their interdependencies and practical implications.

1. Mutation Testing Formulas

The process of mutation testing relies on the creation of mutants through the application of mutation operators, as illustrated in the following equation:

$$
\text{Mutant} = \text{Original Code} \pm \text{Mutation Operator}
$$

The mutation operator's type (e.g., arithmetic, logical, data value) directly influences the resultant mutant's behavior. By systematically applying different operators, we can generate a diverse set of mutants that challenge the robustness of the original code. The relationship between the number of mutants and the effectiveness of the test cases is crucial; more diverse mutants lead to more comprehensive testing. Consequently, the effectiveness of the test cases can be quantified as:

 $\text{Effectiveness} = \frac{\text{Number of Killed Mutants}}{\text{Total Mutants}}$

This equation indicates that as the number of killed mutants increases, the effectiveness of the test cases improves, highlighting the importance of selecting appropriate mutation operators to maximize coverage.

2. A/B/N Testing Metrics

In integration testing, A/B/N testing is defined by the equation:

$$
P = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathrm{Performance}(C_i)
$$

This formula averages the performance across various configurations (Ci) of system components, providing a clear metric for evaluating integration success. The performance metric depends on several factors, such as system resources, input conditions, and interaction between components. By analyzing the performance of each configuration, we can identify top-performing components, leading to optimized resource allocation and system design.

For example, if Configuration 1 consistently outperforms Configuration 2, it allows for informed decision-making regarding component selection, ultimately enhancing system reliability and efficiency.

3. Pairwise Testing Application

Pairwise testing reduces the complexity of testing by ensuring that all pairs of component interactions are tested, expressed in the following format:

$$
\text{Test Case} = \{(A_i, B_j)\}
$$

111

This equation shows that each test case represents a unique pair of components (Ai, Bj), ensuring comprehensive interaction coverage while minimizing the total number of test cases. The effectiveness of this approach is illustrated by the following relationship:

Total Test Cases $\propto \frac{\text{Total Components}^2}{2}$

This indicates that the number of test cases grows quadratically with the number of components, underscoring the importance of pairwise testing in maintaining manageable testing efforts while ensuring thorough interaction validation.

Through these contributions, we have aimed to provide a comprehensive framework that enhances the testing processes for CPS. The critical analyses of the formulas and their interdependencies demonstrate how tailored mutation operators, performance metrics in A/B/N testing, and systematic pairwise testing can collectively improve the reliability and efficiency of CPS testing. Through findings, by providing insights that are not only advance theoretical understanding but also offer practical solutions for testing CPS in real-world applications.

5.2 Key Findings

The findings formulating a consolidated V-model approach confirm the contribution made by this article in enhancing methodologies for modelling CPS development and testing. The testing process is composed of types like unit, integration, system and acceptance tests (as well as A/B/n Tests), and mutation tests help to ensure that the CPS adheres to given requirements under various operational conditions. The study also revealed the importance of SHAP explainability in understanding AI model decisions, which is crucial for validating the accuracy and reliability of the system. Additionally, A/B/n testing provided valuable insights into the performance of different model configurations, allowing for the selection of the most effective solution.

5.3 Limitations of the Current Approach

Despite the significant contributions, the current approach has some limitations. The V-Model, while effective for structured and sequential development, may not be as flexible in accommodating iterative and agile development methodologies. Evaluation may be unreliable because the complexity and variability of real-world data are not adequately captured by synthetic datasets. Moreover, the three target CPS case studies (i.e., Smart Home System, Autonomous Vehicle System and Industrial Robotics Systems) may be limited in terms of generalization to other domains. Also, since they are dealing with unstructured data and a wide variety of models for which interpretability is a concern, the AI/ML models need to constantly evolve.

5.4 Future Work and Enhancements

The limitations in this study should be addressed in future work. An added improvement could be to weave agile methodologies into the V-Model framework, enabling more iterative and flexible development. Further evaluation of the proposed approach could be conducted through an extension to real-world datasets and covering other CPS domains. In addition, the integration of advanced methods such as reinforcement learning, and anomaly detection may help to make these systems more robust in unknown environments or can be used for early fault detection. Another area for future research is the development of automated tools for A/B/n testing and mutation testing, which would streamline the testing process and reduce the potential for human error.

5.5 Potential Applications of the V-Model in Other Domains

This research proposes an improved V-Model approach that can be applicable on different types of systems and interactions beside CPS. An example includes the healthcare industry where V-Model would be used to design and validate medical devices, as well health monitoring systems are expected to have safe features on those work products. This could be used in the automotive industry to test self-driving systems across a wide range of scenarios, for example, ensuring all hardware is tested and validated repeatedly before being deployed. Furthermore, the method could also be applied in smart city design to facilitate wellorganized and robust integration of numerous IoT devices that run independently across various systems for flawless operating systems. The versatility of the V-Model, combined with the enhancements introduced in this study, makes it a valuable tool for ensuring the reliability and robustness of complex systems across various industries.

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Appendixes

For the case studies and fault model proposed in chapter 3rd and 4th following are the testcases:

Appendix A

Unit Testing

New Test Cases Specifically for Survived Mutants

Appendix B

Integration Testing

Integration Test - Sensor Input

Integration Test - Actuator Response

Integration Test - Software Logic

Integration Test - Data Processing

Integration Test - Network Latency

Integration Test - AI Model Prediction

Integration Test - Power Supply

Integration Test - Environmental Conditions

Integration Test - Security

Integration Test - System Recovery

Appendix C

System Testing

System Test - Sensor Input (15 Test Cases)

System Test - Actuator Response (12 Test Cases)

System Test - Software Logic (10 Test Cases)

System Test - Data Processing (10 Test Cases)

System Test - Network Latency (10 Test Cases)

System Test - AI Model Prediction (12 Test Cases)

System Test - Power Supply (8 Test Cases)

System Test - Environmental Conditions (8 Test Cases)

System Test - Security (10 Test Cases)

System Test - System Recovery (12 Test Cases)

Appendix D

Sensor Sub-System (12 Test Cases)

Actuator Sub-System (10 Test Cases)

Control Logic Sub-System (8 Test Cases)

Data Management Sub-System (9 Test Cases)

Communication Sub-System (8 Test Cases)

AI Processing Sub-System (10 Test Cases)

Power Management Sub-System (7 Test Cases)

Environmental Monitoring Sub-System (6 Test Cases)

Security Sub-System (9 Test Cases)

Recovery Sub-System (10 Test Cases)

Appendix E

Acceptance Test

Sensor Acceptance Testing (8 Test Cases)

Actuator Acceptance Testing (7 Test Cases)

Control Logic Acceptance Testing (6 Test Cases)

Data Management Acceptance Testing (7 Test Cases)

Communication Acceptance Testing (6 Test Cases)

AI Processing Acceptance Testing (8 Test Cases)

Power Management Acceptance Testing (5 Test Cases)

Environmental Monitoring Acceptance Testing (5 Test Cases)

Security Acceptance Testing (6 Test Cases)

Recovery Acceptance Testing (7 Test Cases)

