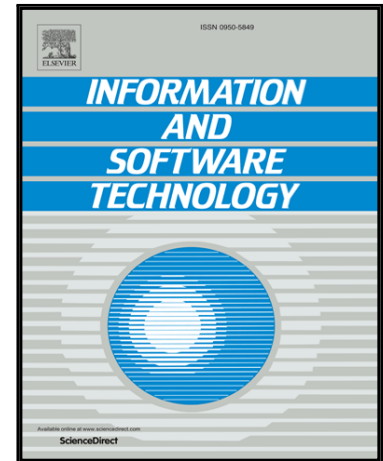


## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0950-5849(17)30269-0  
DOI: [10.1016/j.infsof.2018.01.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infsof.2018.01.016)  
Reference: INFSO 5954



To appear in: *Information and Software Technology*

Received date: 27 March 2017  
Revised date: 28 July 2017  
Accepted date: 30 January 2018

Please cite this article as: Larissa Rocha Soares, Pierre-Yves Schobbens, Ivan do Carmo Machado, Eduardo Santana de Almeida, Feature Interaction in Software Product Line Engineering: A Systematic Mapping Study, *Information and Software Technology* (2018), doi: [10.1016/j.infsof.2018.01.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.infsof.2018.01.016)

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# Feature Interaction in Software Product Line Engineering: A Systematic Mapping Study

Larissa Rocha Soares<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Pierre-Yves Schobbens<sup>c</sup>, Ivan do Carmo Machado<sup>a</sup>,  
Eduardo Santana de Almeida<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Computer Science Department, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, BA, Brazil

<sup>b</sup>RiSE - Reuse in Software Engineering, Salvador, BA, Brazil

<sup>c</sup>University of Namur, Belgium

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## Abstract

**Context:** Software product lines (SPL) engineering defines a set of systems that share common features and artifacts to achieve high productivity, quality, market agility, low time to market, and cost. An SPL product is derived from a configuration of features which need to be compounded together without violating their particular specifications. While it is easy to identify the behavior of a feature in isolation, specifying and resolving interactions among features may not be a straightforward task. The feature interaction problem has been a challenging subject for decades.

**Objective:** This study aims at surveying existing research on feature interaction in SPL engineering in order to identify common practices and research trends.

**Method:** A systematic mapping study was conducted with a set of seven research questions, in which the 35 studies found are mainly classified regarding the feature interaction solution presented: detection, resolution and general analysis.

**Results:** 43% of the papers deal with feature interaction at early phases of a software lifecycle. The remaining is shared among the other categories: source code detection, resolution and analysis. For each category, it was also identified

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\*Corresponding author

Email address: [larissars@dcc.com.br](mailto:larissars@dcc.com.br) (Larissa Rocha Soares)

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