

# REVERSE ENGINEERING, SYMBOLIC EXECUTION, AND GRÖBNER BASES

2022-04-09

Tobias Magnusson



# DENNIS YURICHEV'S CHALLENGE #4

What does the following code do? Give a one to two sentence answer.

```
1  mov     edx, edi
2  shr     edx, 1
3  and     edx, 0x55555555
4  sub     edi, edx
5  mov     eax, edi
6  shr     edi, 0x2
7  and     eax, 0x33333333
8  and     edi, 0x33333333
9  add     edi, eax
10 mov     eax, edi
11 shr     eax, 0x4
12 add     eax, edi
13 and     eax, 0x0f0f0f0f
14 imul    eax, eax, 0x01010101
15 shr     eax, 0x18
```

# REGISTERS

# REGISTERS

64-bit registers:

`rax, rbx, rcx, rdx, rsi, rdi, rbp, rsp, r8-r15`

# REGISTERS

## 64-bit registers:

`rax, rbx, rcx, rdx, rsi, rdi, rbp, rsp, r8-r15`

## 32-bit lower half:

`eax, ebx, ecx, edx, esi, edi, ebp, esp`

# REGISTERS

## 64-bit registers:

`rax, rbx, rcx, rdx, rsi, rdi, rbp, rsp, r8-r15`

## 32-bit lower half:

`eax, ebx, ecx, edx, esi, edi, ebp, esp`

## 16-bit lower lower half:

`ax, bx, cx, dx, si, di, bp, sp`

Back to the code.

```
1  mov     edx,edi
2  shr     edx,1
3  and     edx,0x55555555
4  sub     edi,edx
5  mov     eax,edi
6  shr     edi,0x2
7  and     eax,0x33333333
8  and     edi,0x33333333
9  add     edi,eax
10 mov     eax,edi
11 shr     eax,0x4
12 add     eax,edi
13 and     eax,0x0f0f0f0f
14 imul    eax,eax,0x01010101
15 shr     eax,0x18
```



# INSTRUCTIONS

# INSTRUCTIONS

- `mov X, Y`

# INSTRUCTIONS

- `mov X, Y`
- `shr X, n`

# INSTRUCTIONS

- `mov X, Y`
- `shr X, n`
- `and X, Y`

# INSTRUCTIONS

- `mov X, Y`
- `shr X, n`
- `and X, Y`
- `sub X, Y`

# INSTRUCTIONS

- `mov X, Y`
- `shr X, n`
- `and X, Y`
- `sub X, Y`
- `add X, Y`

# INSTRUCTIONS

- `mov X, Y`
- `shr X, n`
- `and X, Y`
- `sub X, Y`
- `add X, Y`
- `imul X, Y`

# INSTRUCTIONS

- `mov X, Y`
- `shr X, n`
- `and X, Y`
- `sub X, Y`
- `add X, Y`
- `imul X, Y`
- `ret`



# SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

# SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

What does a program do on arbitrary input?

# SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

What does a program do on arbitrary input?

Goes back to mid 70s (e. g. *SELECT - a formal system for testing and debugging programs by symbolic execution*, Boyer-Elspas-Levitt, 1975).



- Initialize graph with a single node containing state and branching constraint.

- Initialize graph with a single node containing state and branching constraint.
- Go through program line-by-line.

- Initialize graph with a single node containing state and branching constraint.
- Go through program line-by-line.
  - Non-branching: create child-node with new state and old branching constraint.

- Initialize graph with a single node containing state and branching constraint.
- Go through program line-by-line.
  - Non-branching: create child-node with new state and old branching constraint.
  - Branching: for every branch, create child-node with new state **and** branching constraint.



- Initialize graph with a single node containing state and branching constraint.
- Go through program line-by-line.
  - Non-branching: create child-node with new state and old branching constraint.
  - Branching: for every branch, create child-node with new state **and** branching constraint.

Problem: Loops.

- Initialize graph with a single node containing state and branching constraint.
- Go through program line-by-line.
  - Non-branching: create child-node with new state and old branching constraint.
  - Branching: for every branch, create child-node with new state **and** branching constraint.

Problem: Loops.

Solution: Induction or heuristics (e. g. "concolic execution").



Simple example (from *A Survey of Symbolic Execution Techniques*, Baldoni et al. 2018)

Simple example (from *A Survey of Symbolic Execution Techniques*, Baldoni et al. 2018)

When does the `assert` fail?

# Simple example (from *A Survey of Symbolic Execution Techniques*, Baldoni et al. 2018)

When does the `assert` fail?

```
1 void foobar(int a, int b) {  
2     int x = 1, y = 0;  
3     if (a != 0) {  
4         y = 3 + x;  
5         if (b == 0) {  
6             x = 2 * (a + b);  
7         }  
8     }  
9     assert (x - y != 0);  
10 }
```

# Simple example (from *A Survey of Symbolic Execution Techniques*, Baldoni et al. 2018)

When does the `assert` fail?

```
1 void foobar(int a, int b) {  
2     int x = 1, y = 0;  
3     if (a != 0) {  
4         y = 3 + x;  
5         if (b == 0) {  
6             x = 2 * (a + b);  
7         }  
8     }  
9     assert (x - y != 0);  
10 }
```

Let's go to `xournalpp`.





Back to our case.

Back to our case.

- State?

Back to our case.

- State?
- State transitions?

Back to our case.

- State?
- State transitions?
- No branching.



Let  $I = (b_0^2 - b_0, \dots, b_{31}^2 - b_{31}) \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2[b_0, \dots, b_{31}]$  and

$$B = \mathbb{F}_2[b_0, \dots, b_{31}]/I$$

Let  $I = (b_0^2 - b_0, \dots, b_{31}^2 - b_{31}) \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2[b_0, \dots, b_{31}]$  and

$$B = \mathbb{F}_2[b_0, \dots, b_{31}] / I$$

Bitstrings of length 32 belong to  $B^{32}$ .

Let  $I = (b_0^2 - b_0, \dots, b_{31}^2 - b_{31}) \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2[b_0, \dots, b_{31}]$  and

$$B = \mathbb{F}_2[b_0, \dots, b_{31}] / I$$

Bitstrings of length 32 belong to  $B^{32}$ .

Least significant bit on the right.





$$\mathbf{shr}((x_{31}, \dots, x_0), 1) = (0, x_{31}, \dots, x_1)$$

$$\mathbf{and}(x, y) = (x_{31}y_{31}, \dots, x_0y_0)$$

$$\mathbf{shr}((x_{31}, \dots, x_0), 1) = (0, x_{31}, \dots, x_1)$$

$$\mathbf{and}(x, y) = (x_{31}y_{31}, \dots, x_0y_0)$$

How about add, sub, and imul?

**CARRY**

# CARRY

Let  $c, x, y \in B$ . Then

$$\mathbf{carry}(c, x, y) = cx + cy + xy$$

**FROM CARRY TO ADD**

# FROM CARRY TO ADD

Let  $x, y \in B^{32}$ . Define  $B^{32} \ni z = \mathbf{add}(x, y)$  by  $c_0 = 0$   
and

$$z_i = x_i + y_i + c_i$$

$$c_{i+1} = \mathbf{carry}(c_i, x_i, y_i)$$

for  $0 \leq i \leq 31$ . If  $c_{32} = 1$ , we have overflow.

**sub AND imul**



# sub AND imul

Two's complement. For  $x \in B^{32}$ , set

$$-x = \text{add}((x_{31} + 1, \dots, x_1 + 1, x_0 + 1), \\ (0, \dots, 0, 1))$$

# sub AND imul

Two's complement. For  $x \in B^{32}$ , set

$$-x = \text{add}((x_{31} + 1, \dots, x_1 + 1, x_0 + 1), \\ (0, \dots, 0, 1))$$

imul is just repeated addition.











**WORKING IN  $\mathbb{F}_2[b]$**



# WORKING IN $\mathbf{F}_2[B]$

Use Singular.jl.

# WORKING IN $\mathbb{F}_2[B]$

Use Singular.jl.

```
1 using Singular
2 vars = ["b$ix" for ix in 0:31]
3 R, b = PolynomialRing(Fp(2), vars)
4 (b0,b1,b2,b3,b4,b5,b6,b7,
5  b8,b9,b10,b11,b12,b13,b14,b15,
6  b16,b17,b18,b19,b20,b21,b22,b23,
7  b24,b25,b26,b27,b28,b29,b30,b31) = b
```



Here is add without "reduction".

# Here is add without "reduction".

```
1  function addeq!(l0 :: Vector{spoly{A}},  
2                  l1 :: Vector{spoly{A}},  
3                  l2 :: Vector{spoly{A}})  
4      where A  
5      length(l0) == length(l1) == length(l2)  
6      || error("vector dimensions not equal")  
7      ln = length(l0)  
8      R = parent(l0[1])  
9      temp1 = zero(R)  
10     temp2 = zero(R)  
11     temp3 = zero(R)  
12     carry = zero(R)  
13     for ix in 1:ln  
14         addeq!(l0[ix], l1[ix])  
15         addeq!(l0[ix], l2[ix])
```

For others -- same idea.

# GRÖBNER BASES

# GRÖBNER BASES

What are they?



# GRÖBNER BASES

What are they?

Gotta talk about monomial orders.

# MONOMIAL ORDER

# MONOMIAL ORDER

Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Monomial order  $\geq$  :

# MONOMIAL ORDER

Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Monomial order  $\geq$  :

- Is reflexive, transitive, antisymmetric, strongly connected.

# MONOMIAL ORDER

Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Monomial order  $\geq$  :

- Is reflexive, transitive, antisymmetric, strongly connected.
- Satisfies: If  $\alpha \geq \beta$  then  $\alpha + \gamma \geq \beta + \gamma$ .

# MONOMIAL ORDER

Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Monomial order  $\geq$  :

- Is reflexive, transitive, antisymmetric, strongly connected.
- Satisfies: If  $\alpha \geq \beta$  then  $\alpha + \gamma \geq \beta + \gamma$ .
- Satisfies: Every  $\emptyset \neq A \subseteq M$  has smallest element w. r. t.  $>$ .

# MONOMIAL ORDER

Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Monomial order  $\geq$  :

- Is reflexive, transitive, antisymmetric, strongly connected.
- Satisfies: If  $\alpha \geq \beta$  then  $\alpha + \gamma \geq \beta + \gamma$ .
- Satisfies: Every  $\emptyset \neq A \subseteq M$  has smallest element w. r. t.  $>$ .

For  $x^\alpha, x^\beta \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  define:

$$x^\alpha \geq x^\beta \text{ iff } \alpha \geq \beta$$

# MONOMIAL ORDER

Let  $M = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Monomial order  $\geq$  :

- Is reflexive, transitive, antisymmetric, strongly connected.
- Satisfies: If  $\alpha \geq \beta$  then  $\alpha + \gamma \geq \beta + \gamma$ .
- Satisfies: Every  $\emptyset \neq A \subseteq M$  has smallest element w. r. t.  $>$ .

For  $x^\alpha, x^\beta \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  define:

$$x^\alpha \geq x^\beta \text{ iff } \alpha \geq \beta$$

Some examples





Lexicographical:

$a >_{\text{lex}} \beta$  iff leftmost nonzero of  $a - \beta$  is positive

## Lexicographical:

$a >_{\text{lex}} \beta$  iff leftmost nonzero of  $a - \beta$  is positive

## Graded lex.:

$a >_{\text{grlex}} \beta$  iff  $|a| > |\beta|$ , or  $|a| = |\beta|$  and  $a >_{\text{lex}} \beta$

## Lexicographical:

$\alpha >_{\text{lex}} \beta$  iff leftmost nonzero of  $\alpha - \beta$  is positive

## Graded lex.:

$\alpha >_{\text{grlex}} \beta$  iff  $|\alpha| > |\beta|$ , or  $|\alpha| = |\beta|$  and  $\alpha >_{\text{lex}} \beta$

## Graded rev. lex.:

$\alpha >_{\text{grevlex}} \beta$  iff  $|\alpha| > |\beta|$ ,

or  $|\alpha| = |\beta|$  and r.-most nonzero of  $\alpha - \beta$  is negative

## Lexicographical:

$\alpha >_{\text{lex}} \beta$  iff leftmost nonzero of  $\alpha - \beta$  is positive

## Graded lex.:

$\alpha >_{\text{grlex}} \beta$  iff  $|\alpha| > |\beta|$ , or  $|\alpha| = |\beta|$  and  $\alpha >_{\text{lex}} \beta$

## Graded rev. lex.:

$\alpha >_{\text{grevlex}} \beta$  iff  $|\alpha| > |\beta|$ ,

or  $|\alpha| = |\beta|$  and r.-most nonzero of  $\alpha - \beta$  is negative

And others.

# TERMINOLOGY

# TERMINOLOGY

Let  $f = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $\succ$  monomial order.

# TERMINOLOGY

Let  $f = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $>$  monomial order.

- $\text{multideg}(f) = \max$



# TERMINOLOGY

Let  $f = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $\succ$  monomial order.

- $\text{multideg}(f) = \max$
- $\text{LC}(f) = c_{\{\text{multideg}(f)\}}$

# TERMINOLOGY

Let  $f = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $\alpha > \beta$  monomial order.

- $\text{multideg}(f) = \max$
- $\text{LC}(f) = c_{\alpha}$  where  $\alpha = \text{multideg}(f)$
- $\text{LM}(f) = x^{\alpha}$  where  $\alpha = \text{multideg}(f)$

# TERMINOLOGY

Let  $f = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $\alpha > \beta$  monomial order.

- $\text{multideg}(f) = \max$
- $\text{LC}(f) = c_{\alpha}$  where  $\alpha = \text{multideg}(f)$
- $\text{LM}(f) = x^{\alpha}$  where  $\alpha = \text{multideg}(f)$
- $\text{LT}(f) = \text{LC}(f) \cdot \text{LM}(f)$

# TERMINOLOGY

Let  $f = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $>$  monomial order.

- $\text{multideg}(f) = \max$
- $\text{LC}(f) = c_{\{\text{multideg}(f)\}}$
- $\text{LM}(f) = x^{\{\text{multideg}(f)\}}$
- $\text{LT}(f) = \text{LC}(f) \cdot \text{LM}(f)$

Let  $\{0\} \neq I \subseteq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  ideal. Then  
 $\text{LT}(I) = \{z : \exists f \in I, \text{LT}(f) = z\}$

# REDUCTION

# REDUCTION

Fix order. Let  $F=(f_1,\dots,f_s)$  be polynomials in  $k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$ . Let  $f\in k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$ .

# REDUCTION

Fix order. Let  $F=(f_1,\dots,f_s)$  be polynomials in  $k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$ . Let  $f\in k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$ .

Then exists  $a_i,r\in k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$  such that  $f=a_1f_1+\dots+a_sf_s+r$ , where  $r=0$  or is lin. comb. of monomials neither of which is div. by  $\text{LT}(f_i)$ .

# REDUCTION

Fix order. Let  $F=(f_1,\dots,f_s)$  be polynomials in  $k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$ . Let  $f\in k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$ .

Then exists  $a_i,r\in k[x_1,\dots,x_n]$  such that  $f=a_1f_1+\dots+a_sf_s+r$ , where  $r=0$  or is lin. comb. of monomials neither of which is div. by  $\text{LT}(f_i)$ .

Instead of algorithm -- let's look at a generic example.



Back to xournalpp.

# GRÖBNER BASES, DEFINITION

# GRÖBNER BASES, DEFINITION

Let  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with fixed monomial order. Let  $I \subseteq A$  ideal.

# GRÖBNER BASES, DEFINITION

Let  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with fixed monomial order. Let  $I \subseteq A$  ideal.

Say  $g_1, \dots, g_t \in I$  Gröbner basis if  $\langle \text{LT}(g_1), \dots, \text{LT}(g_t) \rangle = \langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle$

# GRÖBNER BASES, DEFINITION

Let  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with fixed monomial order. Let  $I \subseteq A$  ideal.

Say  $g_1, \dots, g_t \in I$  Gröbner basis if  $\langle \text{LT}(g_1), \dots, \text{LT}(g_t) \rangle = \langle \text{LT}(I) \rangle$

Non-example:  $g_1 = xy - 1$  and  $g_2 = y^2 - 1$  in  $k[x, y]$  with grevlex. Have  $x \in \langle \text{LT}(g_1, g_2) \rangle$  but  $x \notin \langle \text{LT}(xy, y^2) \rangle$ .

# GRÖBNER BASES, PROPERTIES

# GRÖBNER BASES, PROPERTIES

- Reduction is unique! (Proof omitted.)

# GRÖBNER BASES, PROPERTIES

- Reduction is unique! (Proof omitted.)
- Equivalent to defining property.





Back to example.

Back to example.

Have that  $\{b_0^2 - b_0, \dots, b_{31}^2 - b_{31}\}$ , is  
Gröbner basis!

Back to example.

Have that  $\{b_0^2 - b_0, \dots, b_{31}^2 - b_{31}\}$ , is  
Gröbner basis!

So, pick order and reduce.



Inserting reduction in Singular.

# Inserting reduction in Singular.

```
1  function _addeq! (l0 :: Vector{spoly{A}},  
2                    l1 :: Vector{spoly{A}},  
3                    l2 :: Vector{spoly{A}},  
4                    I  :: sideal{spoly{A}}) where A  
5      ...  
6      for ix in 1:ln  
7          zero! (l0_ix_unred)  
8          addeq! (l0_ix_unred, l1[ix])  
9          addeq! (l0_ix_unred, l2[ix])  
10         addeq! (l0_ix_unred, carry)  
11         l0[ix] = reduce (l0_ix_unred, I)  
12         mul! (temp1, l1[ix], l2[ix])  
13         mul! (temp2, carry, l2[ix])  
14         mul! (temp3, carry, l1[ix])  
15         zero! (carry_unred)
```





Time for a demo.



We obtain the bit-vector  $e$  with  $e_i = \sum_{0 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{2^i} \leq 31} b_{j_1} \cdots b_{j_{2^i}}$  for  $0 \leq i \leq 5$ , and the rest zero.

We obtain the bit-vector  $e$  with  $e_i = \sum_{0 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_{2^i} \leq 31} b_{j_1} \cdots b_{j_{2^i}}$  for  $0 \leq i \leq 5$ , and the rest zero.

That is: say  $e d i$  has  $n$  ones, then  $e_i = \binom{n}{2^i} \bmod 2$ .

Questions?