

Dynamic Program Analysis for a Better World

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Outline

Dynamic Program Analysis for a Better World

Motivation

Warmup: Profilers

Dynamic Program Analysis

Have a Better World with Fun

Computers Changed Our World

- ▶ We write programs to change the world



- ▶ The simple “blackbox” paradigm draws a paradise of applications
 - ▶ manufacturing, transportation, schedule, health care, education, entertainment, etc.
 - ▶ so be proud of what you are doing (though many times being called a “码农”)

But We are in Suffering of Bugs

- ▶ We changed the world, but with imperfections
 - ▶ endless time, money and human-hours spent on finding and fixing bugs
 - ▶ we are in a endless war between bugs

9/9

0800 Antarm started

1000 " stopped - antarm ✓

1300 (032) HP - MC { 1.2700 9.037 447 025
 (032) PRO 2 2.130476415 9.037 846 995 correct
 correct 2.130476415 4.615 925 059 (-2)

Relays 6-2 in 033 failed speed test
 in Relays 11,000 test.

1100 Relays changed

1525 Started Cosine Tape (Sine check)
 Started Multi-Adder Test

1545 Relay #70 Panel F
 (moth) in relay.

First actual case of bug being found.

1600 Antarm started.

1700 closed down.

Relay 3145
 Relay 3372

To Be a Bug Fighter!

- ▶ Have you ever thinking to be a bug fighter
 - ▶ for salvation of the programmers,
 - ▶ *using knowledge learned in this course?*
- ▶ Write programs that play with programs!

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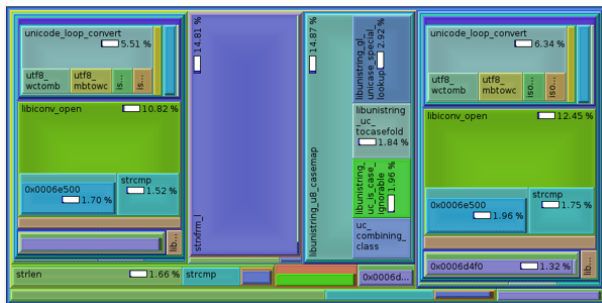
The Game Issue

- ▶ You wrote a fantastic game, but it runs only 15FPS on your i7 computer
 - ▶ but the game experience requires 30+ FPS
 - ▶ fortunately, you think the code can be tuned
 - ▶ but, to optimize what portion of your 100,000 lines of code?



The Profiler

- ▶ A magical tool that displays which function takes most of the time
 - ▶ run the program together with the profiler
- ▶ Rationales
 - ▶ usually, 10% of code takes up 90% of time
 - ▶ real case: string comparison bottleneck in git gc



Implement a Profiler

- ▶ By sampling
 - ▶ sample the “current running code” periodically
 - ▶ find EIP's corresponding function at each time interrupt
- ▶ By instrumentation
 - ▶ change the source/binary to log function call timings
 - ▶ `f(); → t1=time(); f(); t2=time(); cost_f += t2-t1;`
- ▶ By cheating
 - ▶ use monitor (hardware/OS) provided tools (e.g., debugging interrupts)

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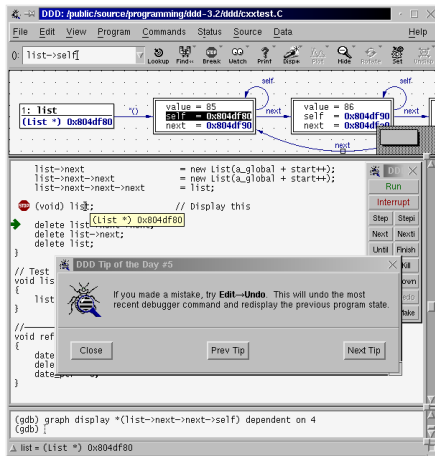
- ▶ The **analysis** of computer software that is **performed by executing programs** on a real or virtual processor
 - ▶ play with concrete execution of programs
- ▶ Two fundamental approaches
 - ▶ instrumentation / change the monitor
- ▶ Applications
 - ▶ anything you can imagine if you have a program at hand (software testing, debugging, maintenance, etc.)

Applications of Dynamic Program Analysis

- ▶ Anything related to a concrete execution
 - ▶ test input generation and coverage measurement
 - ▶ memory error (corruption/leak/overflow) detection
 - ▶ profiling and optimization hints
 - ▶ debugging aids
 - ▶ mobile application analysis (privilege/energy leaking)
 - ▶ multi-thread error (deadlock/data race/atomicity violation) detection

Example: Data Display Debugger

- ▶ Ever thinking of visualizing your program execution?
 - ▶ it is done 18 years ago¹!



¹A. Zeller, D. Lutkehaus. DDD: A free graphical front-end for UNIX debuggers. In *SIGPLAN Not.* 31(1), pp. 22–27, 1996.

Example: Dynamic Symbolic Execution

- ▶ The daily used coreutils contain bugs!
 - ▶ and these bugs are find by a dynamic program analysis tool²!

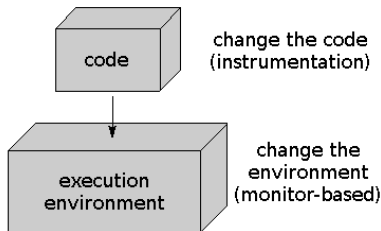
```
paste -d\\ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
pr -e t2.txt  
tac -r t3.txt t3.txt  
mkdir -Z a b  
mkfifo -Z a b  
mknod -Z a b p  
md5sum -c t1.txt  
ptx -F\\ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
ptx x t4.txt  
seq -f %0 1
```

```
t1.txt: "\t \tMD5(" "  
t2.txt: "\b\b\b\b\b\b\b\b\t"  
t3.txt: "\n"  
t4.txt: "a"
```

²C. Cadar, D. Dunbar, D. Englar. KLEE: Unassisted and automatic generation of high-coverage tests for complex systems programs. In *Proc. of OSDI*, 2008.

Two Ways to Implement a Dynamic Analysis Tool

- ▶ Instrumentation
 - ▶ change the source code or binary to perform specific functions
 - ▶ example: gprof (insert code at function calls)
- ▶ Monitor-based
 - ▶ use the up-level function (operating system/virtual machine monitor) to achieve a specific goal
 - ▶ example: KLEE (a LLVM bitcode interpreter)



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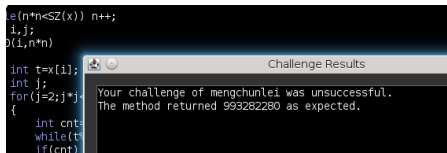
Program Analysis for Fun

- ▶ Backing to the 2000s
 - ▶ hacking 大菠萝, 红警, 大航海 and, especially, HGAMES with “Kingsoft Knight”
 - ▶ have you ever wondered how to implement such a amazing tool?



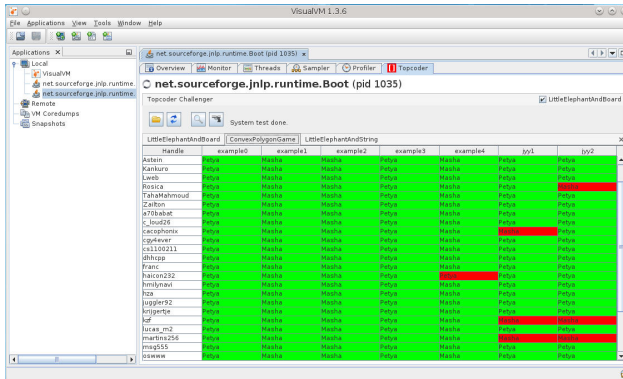
A Concrete Example

- ▶ Topcoder has a special challenge phase
 - ▶ you can only view codes of others, or “challenge” them with specified test cases
 - ▶ the Java client forces you can only view, but not copy-paste the code outside its client
 - ▶ succeed +50 pts, fail -25 pts
- ▶ We are sure that **the codes are in the memory**, and we want to dig them out



A Topcoder Challenger

- ▶ An insanely IMBA tool to achieve 100% challenge successful rate
 - ▶ scan the heap to find the code → compile → automatically test with pre-defined test cases



A Closer Look at the State-of-the-art

- ▶ What is a researcher doing?
 - ▶ find things new, interesting and useful
- ▶ Why the term “research” is so far away from us?
 - ▶ not interested → bad teachers
 - ▶ do not have basic capability of doing research (e.g., implementation, reading and writing skills, etc.) → bad teachers
 - ▶ do not know what is the state-of-the-art → bad teachers
- ▶ But you still have good teachers!
 - ▶ papers, books and open courses are available online

Q & A Time

- ▶ Have fun!