

# **Towards a Verified Range Analysis for JavaScript JITs**

Steve Gustaman

Original paper by Brown et al.  
PLDI 2020

# Motivation

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**miscompilation**

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  - More potential bugs = **more security problems**

miscompilation

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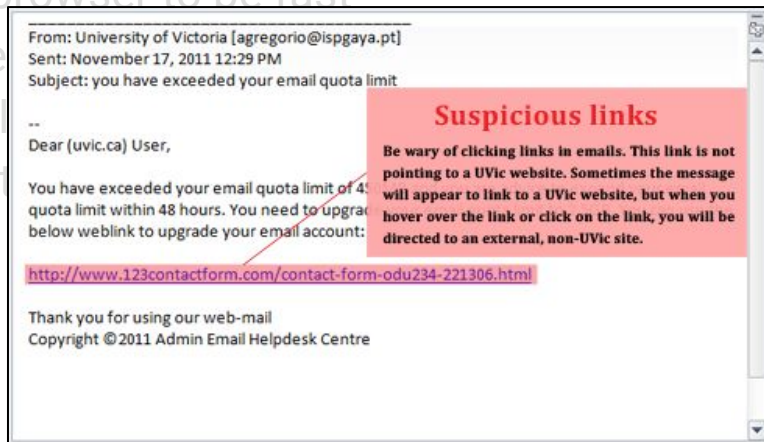
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mpilation

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# Motivation




- Bro
- Eve
- 


**SECURITY**

This article is more than **1 year old**

**Anatomy of an attack: How Coinbase was targeted with emails booby-trapped with Firefox zero-days**

32 

 [Thomas Claburn](#) Fri 9 Aug 2019 // 23:56 UTC

Coinbase chief information security officer Philip Martin this week published [an incident report](#) covering [the recent attack on the cryptocurrency exchange](#), revealing a phishing campaign of surprising sophistication.

The thwarted attack began with email messages on May 30 to more than a dozen Coinbase employees that appeared to be from Gregory Harris, a research grant administrator at the University of Cambridge in the UK.

At some point prior to that, the attackers – a group known to Coinbase as CRYPTO-3 or sometimes HYDSEVEN – compromised or created two email accounts at Cambridge.

JS code

em

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- Every

- B

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Using those two vulnerabilities to achieve arbitrary code execution, the attacker's shellcode issued a curl command to download and run the stage-one implant, a Netwire variant. Used for reconnaissance and credential theft on victims' machines, the malicious code was detected by Coinbase at this point based on unusual behavior, specifically Firefox spawning a shell.

The stage-one payload then transitioned to a stage two implant, identified by Martin as a variant of the Mokes malware family. It's a remote access trojan (RAT) and was operated under direct human control. Martin speculates that the attackers moved to stage two when they believed they had compromised a target of value.

Once aware of the hack, Coinbase's security team collected data artifacts related to the break-in, revoked affected credentials, and contacted Mozilla's security team, which

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**How do JIT bugs happen?**

# JIT Bugs

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- **What will happen if JIT engine range analysis is wrong?**

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actual: x = 4

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x = ...  
x = x+1 → actual: x = 5  
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**How to verify JIT engine  
range analysis' correctness?**

# VeRA:

a system for verifying the range analysis  
pass in browser JIT compilers

# VeRA Key Ideas

- Goal: Verify correctness of JIT engine range analysis



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  3. **Ask SMT solver: is it possible to get value from (1) outside of (2)?**

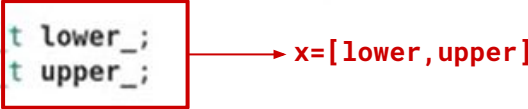
### VeRA Key Ideas

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outside of JIT

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## Firefox JIT Range Analysis

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integer, float

flow function for:

**x = abs(y)**

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# VeRA in Action – **cei1**

## VeRA in Action – **ceil**



round up value to  
nearest integer

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- Trivial: use SMT ceil operator

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3. Ask SMT solver: is it possible to get value from (1) outside of (2)?



disallows several construct e.g. loops

# VeRA in Action – **ceil**

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## ceil range flow function

```
Range*
Range::ceil(TempAllocator& alloc, const Range* op)
{
    Range* copy = new(alloc) Range(*op);

    // We need to refine max_exponent_ because ceil may have incremented it
    // If we have got int32 bounds defined, just deduce it using the definition
    // Else we can just increment its value,
    // as we are looking to maintain an over estimation.
    if (copy->hasInt32Bounds())
        copy->max_exponent_ = copy->exponentImpliedByInt32Bounds();
    else if (copy->max_exponent_ < MaxFiniteExponent)
        copy->max_exponent_++;

    copy->canHaveFractionalPart_ = ExcludesFractionalParts;
    copy->assertInvariants();
    return copy;
}
```

Firefox original implementation (C++)

the analysis routine in SMT

is implemented in VeRA C++

problem

is it from (1) outside of (2)?

## ceil range flow function

```
Range*
Range::ceil(TempAllocator& alloc, const Range* op)
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    if (copy->hasInt32Bounds())
        copy->max_exponent_ = copy->exponentImpliedByInt32Bounds()
    else if (copy->max_exponent_ < MaxFiniteExponent)
        copy->max_exponent_++;

    copy->canHaveFractionalPart_ = ExcludesFractionalParts;
    copy->assertInvariants();
    return copy;
}
```

Firefox original implementation (C++)

```
✓ range ceil(range const& op) {
    range copy = op;

    // missing fract check

    if (hasInt32Bounds(copy)) {
        copy.maxExponent = exponentImpliedByInt32Bounds(copy);
    } else if (copy.maxExponent < maxFiniteExponentS) {
        copy.maxExponent += (uint16_t) 1;
    }

    copy.canHaveFractionalPart = excludesFractionalPartsS;
    return copy;
}
```

Rewritten (VeRA C++)

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    - value = 5
    - range.lower = 1; range.upper = 10;

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**inRange = false**

$\text{inRange}(R, v) \triangleq$

$R.\text{exp} < \text{e\_INF} \implies \neg \text{isInf}(v)$

$\wedge R.\text{exp} \neq \text{e\_INF\_OR\_NaN} \implies \neg \text{isNaN}(v)$

$\wedge \neg R.\text{canBeNegZero} \implies v \neq -0.0$

$\wedge \neg R.\text{canHaveFraction} \implies \text{round}(v) = v$

$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \geq R.\text{lower})$

$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \leq R.\text{upper})$

$\wedge R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(v)$

$\text{wellFormed}(R) \triangleq$

$$\begin{aligned} & R.\text{lower} \geq \text{JS\_INT\_MIN} \wedge R.\text{lower} \leq \text{JS\_INT\_MAX} \\ & \wedge R.\text{upper} \geq \text{JS\_INT\_MIN} \wedge R.\text{upper} \leq \text{JS\_INT\_MAX} \\ & \wedge \neg R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies R.\text{lower} = \text{JS\_INT\_MIN} \\ & \wedge \neg R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies R.\text{upper} = \text{JS\_INT\_MAX} \\ & \wedge R.\text{canBeNegZero} \implies \text{contains}(0, R) \\ & \wedge (R.\text{exp} = \text{e\_INF} \vee R.\text{exp} = \text{e\_INF\_OR\_NaN} \vee R.\text{exp} \leq 1023) \\ & \wedge (R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound}) \\ & \quad \implies R.\text{exp} = \text{expOf}(\max(|R.\text{lower}|, |R.\text{upper}|)) \\ & \wedge R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(R.\text{lower}) \\ & \wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(R.\text{upper}) \end{aligned}$$

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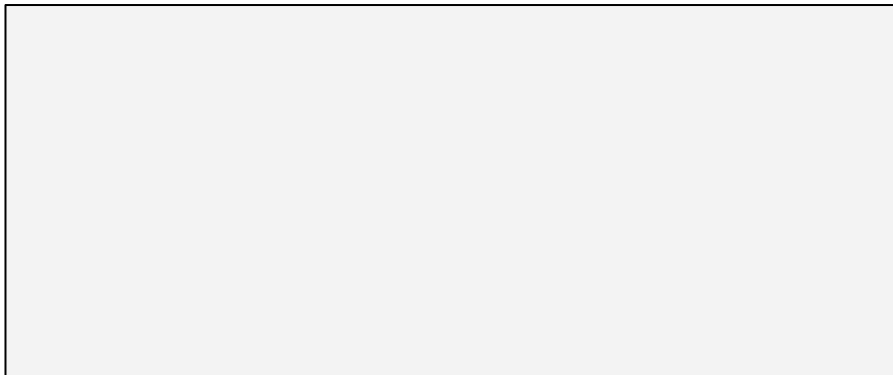
## VeRA in Action – **ceil**

- JS semantics in SMT
- JIT engine range analysis routine in SMT
- `inRange(value, range)`

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## Verification SMT



# VeRA in Action – **ceil**

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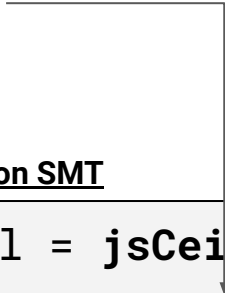
## Verification SMT

```
endVal = jsCeil(startVal)
```

# VeRA in Action – **ceil**

- JS semantics in SMT
- **JIT engine range analysis routine in SMT**
- `inRange(value, range)`

## Verification SMT



```
endVal = jsCeil(startVal)
endRange = ceilRa(startRange)
```



# VeRA in Action – **ceil**

- JS semantics in SMT
- JIT engine range analysis routine in SMT
- **inRange(value, range)**

## Verification SMT

```
endVal = jsCeil(startVal)
endRange = ceilRa(startRange)
inRange(startVal, startRange)
```

# VeRA in Action – **ceil**

- JS semantics in SMT
- JIT engine range analysis routine in SMT
- `inRange(value, range)`

## Verification SMT

assume previous  
range analysis was  
correct

```
endVal = jsCeil(startVal)
endRange = ceilRa(startRange)
inRange(startVal, startRange)
```

# VeRA in Action – **ceil**

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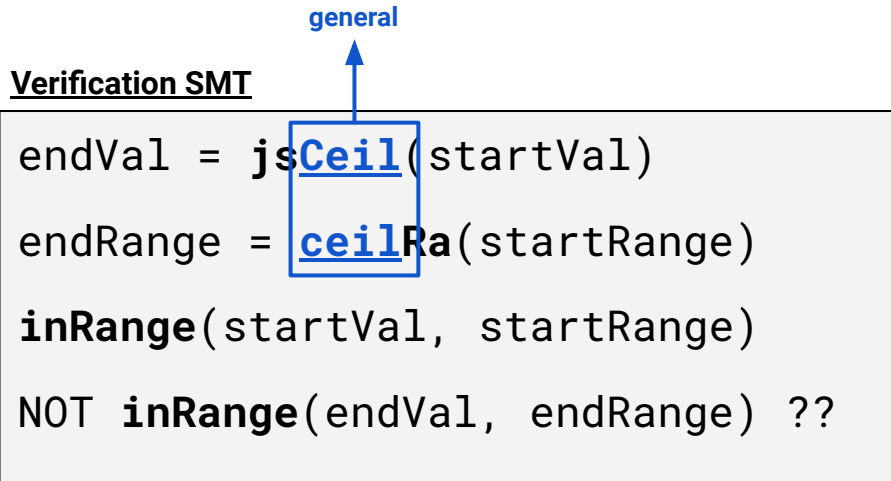
## Verification SMT

```
endVal = jsCeil(startVal)
endRange = ceilRa(startRange)
inRange(startVal, startRange)
NOT inRange(endVal, endRange) ??
```

# VeRA in Action – **ceil**

- JS semantics in SMT
- JIT engine range analysis routine in SMT
- `inRange(value, range)`

## Verification SMT



```
endVal = jsCeil(startVal)
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inRange(startVal, startRange)
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# Implementation

# Implementation

- Test VeRA-rewritten flow functions with Firefox's test suites
  - Passed all ~147k tests

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- Test VeRA-rewritten flow functions with Firefox's test suites
  - Passed all ~147k tests
- Verify 21 top-level Firefox range analysis flow functions using VeRA

# Evaluation

Operation	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5.i32	R5.double	R6.i32	R6.double	R7	W1	W2	W3	W4	Undef
add	15	2	5	386	2	$\infty$	2	$\infty$	21	2	1	2	80	1
sub	13	2	11	445	8	$\infty$	5	$\infty$	14	2	2	2	78	1
and*	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
or*	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
xor*	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
not*	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
mul	92	65	22	362	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	94	4	4	4	$\infty$	11
lsh*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rsh*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ursh*	-	-	-	-	<b>X</b>	-	<b>X</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
lsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ursh'*	-	-	-	-	<b>X</b>	-	<b>X</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
abs	1	1	1	5	1	$\infty$	1	224	1	1	1	4	$\infty$	1
min	2	20	2	2	5	224	2	$\infty$	3	2	1	2	$\infty$	1
max	3	17	2	2	15	$\infty$	2	$\infty$	4	3	2	12	$\infty$	1
floor	4	2	1	5	1	146	1	9	54	1	1	5	$\infty$	1
ceil	$\infty$	1	<b>X</b>	8	1	5	1	9	266	1	1	$\infty$	$\infty$	1
sign	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1



# Evaluation

Operation	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5.i32	R5.double	R6.i32	R6.double	R7	W1	W2	W3	W4	Undef
add	15	2	5	386	2	$\infty$	2	$\infty$	21	2	1	2	80	1
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and*	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
or*	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
xor*	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
not*	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
mul	92	65	22	362	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
lsh*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rsh*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ursh*	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
lsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ursh'*	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
abs	1	1	1	5	1	$\infty$	1	224	1	1	1	4	$\infty$	1
min	2	20	2	2	5	224	2	$\infty$	3	2	1	2	$\infty$	1
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ceil	$\infty$	1	X	8	1	5	1	9	266	1	1	$\infty$	$\infty$	1
sign	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1

// ursh's left operand is uint32, not int32, but for range  
 // analysis we currently approximate it as int32. We assume  
 // here that the range has already been adjusted...

# Evaluation

Operation	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5.i32	R5.double	R6.i32	R6.double	R7	W1	W2	W3	W4	Undef
add	15	2	5	386	2	$\infty$	2	$\infty$	21	2	1	2	80	1
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ursh*	-	-	-	-	<b>X</b>	-	<b>X</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
lsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ursh'*	-	-	-	-	<b>X</b>	-	<b>X</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
abs	1	1	1	5	1	$\infty$	1	224	1	1	1	4	$\infty$	1
min	2	20	2	2	5	224	2	$\infty$	3	2	1	2	$\infty$	1
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actual bug

# Evaluation

- Bug in Firefox JIT range analysis flow function for **ceil**

# Evaluation

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- $\text{inRange}(R, v) \triangleq$

$$R.\text{exp} < \text{e\_INF} \implies \neg \text{isInf}(v) \quad (\text{R1})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \neq \text{e\_INF\_OR\_NaN} \implies \neg \text{isNaN}(v) \quad (\text{R2})$$

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{canBeNegZero} \implies v \neq -0.0 \quad (\text{R3})$$

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{canHaveFraction} \implies \text{round}(v) = v \quad (\text{R4})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \geq R.\text{lower}) \quad (\text{R5})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \leq R.\text{upper}) \quad (\text{R6})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(v) \quad (\text{R7})$$

# Evaluation

- Bug in Firefox JIT range analysis flow function for **ceil**
- $\text{inRange}(R, v) \triangleq$

$$R.\text{exp} < \text{e\_INF} \implies \neg \text{isInf}(v)$$

(R1)

$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \neq \text{e\_INF\_OR\_NaN} \implies \neg \text{isNaN}(v)$$

(R2)

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{canBeNegZero} \implies v \neq -0.0$$

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$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \geq R.\text{lower})$$

(R5)

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(R6)

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(R7)

ceil(-0.5)

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- $\text{inRange}(R, v) \triangleq$

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$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(v)$$

(R7)

ceil(-0.5)

- actual: -0

# Evaluation

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$$R.\text{exp} < \text{e\_INF} \implies \neg \text{isInf}(v)$$

(R1)

$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \neq \text{e\_INF\_OR\_NaN} \implies \neg \text{isNaN}(v)$$

(R2)

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{canBeNegZero} \implies v \neq -0.0$$

(R3)

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{canHaveFraction} \implies \text{round}(v) = v$$

(R4)

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \geq R.\text{lower})$$

(R5)

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \leq R.\text{upper})$$

(R6)

$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(v)$$

(R7)

ceil(-0.5)

- actual: -0
- Firefox JIT Range Analysis:  
**canBeNegZero = false**

# Evaluation

- Bug in Firefox JIT range analysis flow function for **ceil**

- $\text{inRange}(R, v) \triangleq$

$R.\text{exp} < e$

$\wedge R.\text{exp} \neq e$

$\wedge \neg R.\text{canBe}$

$\wedge \neg R.\text{canHave}$

$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32}$

$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \leq R.\text{upper}) \quad (\text{R6})$

$\wedge R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(v) \quad (\text{R7})$

## Exploiting the Math.expm1 typing bug in V8

02 Jan 2019

Minus zero behaves like zero, right?

I love browser exploitation. Must be something about breaking what I consider to be one of the most complex pieces of software we run every day. At [35C3 CTF](#) this year (I played with KJC + mhackeroni, we got first place!) there was a Chrome challenge about exploiting a [bug](#) in V8,

ual: -0

fox JIT Range Analysis:

BeNegZero = false



# Conclusion

- VeRA: a system for verifying the range analysis pass in browser JIT compilers
  - Rewrite range analysis flow function in VeRA C++
  - Verify by SMT solver
- Verified 21 top-level Firefox range analysis flow functions
  - Detected Firefox bug (existed for 6 years)

# My Review

- **Strengths**

- Targets critical part of browser
- Presents end-to-end system: C++ to SMT
- Easy to adapt to logic change

- **Weaknesses**

- SMT solver could not verify everything (timeouts)
- Current implementation is tightly coupled to Firefox
- Hard to extend to other RA engine (e.g. Chrome)

# Thank you

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$\text{inRange}(R, v) \triangleq$

$$R.\text{exp} < \text{e\_INF} \implies \neg \text{isInf}(v) \quad (\text{R1})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \neq \text{e\_INF\_OR\_NaN} \implies \neg \text{isNaN}(v) \quad (\text{R2})$$

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{canBeNegZero} \implies v \neq -0.0 \quad (\text{R3})$$

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{canHaveFraction} \implies \text{round}(v) = v \quad (\text{R4})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \geq R.\text{lower}) \quad (\text{R5})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies (\text{isNaN}(v) \vee v \leq R.\text{upper}) \quad (\text{R6})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{exp} \geq \text{exp0f}(v) \quad (\text{R7})$$

$\text{wellFormed}(R) \triangleq$

$$R.\text{lower} \geq \text{JS\_INT\_MIN} \wedge R.\text{lower} \leq \text{JS\_INT\_MAX} \quad (\text{W1})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{upper} \geq \text{JS\_INT\_MIN} \wedge R.\text{upper} \leq \text{JS\_INT\_MAX} \quad (\text{W1})$$

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies R.\text{lower} = \text{JS\_INT\_MIN} \quad (\text{W2})$$

$$\wedge \neg R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies R.\text{upper} = \text{JS\_INT\_MAX} \quad (\text{W2})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{canBeNegZero} \implies \text{contains}(0, R)$$

$$\wedge (R.\text{exp} = \text{e\_INF} \vee R.\text{exp} = \text{e\_INF\_OR\_NAN} \vee R.\text{exp} \leq 1023) \quad (\text{W3})$$

$$\wedge (R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound})$$

$$\implies R.\text{exp} = \text{expOf}(\max(|R.\text{lower}|, |R.\text{upper}|))$$

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32LowerBound} \implies R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(R.\text{lower}) \quad (\text{W4})$$

$$\wedge R.\text{hasInt32UpperBound} \implies R.\text{exp} \geq \text{expOf}(R.\text{upper}) \quad (\text{W4})$$

# Evaluation

Operation	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5.i32	R5.double	R6.i32	R6.double	R7	W1	W2	W3	W4	Undef
add	15	2	5	386	2	$\infty$	2	$\infty$	21	2	1	2	80	1
sub	13	2	11	445	8	$\infty$	5	$\infty$	14	2	2	2	78	1
and*	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
or*	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
xor*	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
not*	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
mul	92	65	22	362	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	94	4	4	4	$\infty$	11
lsh*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rsh*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ursh*	-	-	-	-	<b>X</b>	-	<b>X</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
lsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rsh'*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ursh'*	-	-	-	-	<b>X</b>	-	<b>X</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
abs	1	1	1	5	1	$\infty$	1	224	1	1	1	4	$\infty$	1
min	2	20	2	2	5	224	2	$\infty$	3	2	1	2	$\infty$	1
max	3	17	2	2	15	$\infty$	2	$\infty$	4	3	2	12	$\infty$	1
floor	4	2	1	5	1	146	1	9	54	1	1	5	$\infty$	1
ceil	$\infty$	1	<b>X</b>	8	1	5	1	9	266	1	1	$\infty$	$\infty$	1
sign	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1

## Evaluation - Time to Verify

We successfully prove or refute 137 conditions out of a possible 159, for a success rate of  $\approx 86\%$ ; the shortest proofs complete in under a second, while the longest takes  $\approx$ ten minutes. The results suggest that **R5.double**, **R6.double**, and **W4** are particularly challenging to verify. **R5.double** and **R6.double** are more challenging than their integer counterparts because they involve reasoning about floating-point values, which is generally more expensive. **W4** is challenging because it involves proving a relationship between two properties of the range, both of which may be modified by the range analysis. Finally, **R1** and **W3** of `Math.ceil` may timeout because they involve bounding the size of an exponent, since `Math.ceil` involves extracting the exponent from the absolute value of the range bounds.