Lab: SVFIR and Control-Flow Reachability

(Week 2)

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Quiz-1 + Lab-Exercise-1 + Assignment-1

- A set of quizzes on WebCMS (5 points) due on Week 3 Tuesday 23:59
 - LLVM compiler and its intermediate representation
 - Code graphs (including ICFG and PAG)
- Lab-Exercise-1 (5 points) due on Week 3 Tuesday 23:59
 - Implement a graph traversal on a general graph
- Assignment-1 (20 points) due on Week 4 Tuesday 23:59
 - Control-flow: Implement a context-sensitive graph traversal on a CodeGraph (i.e., ICFG) and collect feasible paths from a source to a sink node on the ICFG.
 - Data-flow: Implement field-sensitive Andersen's inclusion-based constraint solving for points-to analysis
 - Implement a taint checker using control-flow and data-flow analysis.

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 - Data-flow: Implement field-sensitive Andersen's inclusion-based constraint solving for points-to analysis
 - Implement a taint checker using control-flow and data-flow analysis.
 - Specification and code template: https: //github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/wiki/Assignment-1
 - SVF APIs for control- and data-flow analysis https: //github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/wiki/SVF-API

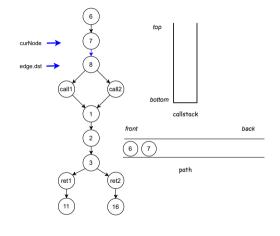
Understanding LLVM-IR and SVF-IR

- (1) Compile C programs under SVFIR/src into their LLVM IR and print their SVF IR (PAG, ICFG, Constraint Graph).
 - https://github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/wiki/SVFIR
 - Understand the mapping from a C program to its corresponding LLVM IR
 - Understand the mapping from LLVM IR to its corresponding SVF IR
- (2) Generate and visualize the graph representation of SVF IR (e.g., example.ll.pag.dot, example.ll.icfg.dot, consG.ll.dot).
 - https://github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/wiki/SVFIR# 4-visualize-icfg-constraint-graph-and-svfirpag-graph
- (3) Write code to iterate SVFVars and print nodes/edges of PAG and ICFG.
 - https://github.com/SVF-tools/Software-Security-Analysis/blob/main/ SVFIR/SVFIR.cpp#L74-L98 (C++)
 - https://github.com/SVF-tools/SVF-Python/tree/main/demo (Python)
- (4) More about LLVM IR and SVF's graph representation
 - LLVM language manual https://llvm.org/docs/LangRef.html
 - SVF website https://github.com/SVF-tools/SVF

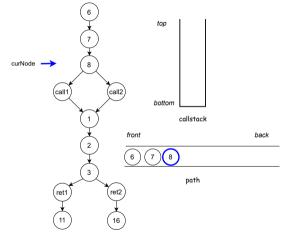
Context-Sensitive Control-Flow Reachability (Algorithm)

Algorithm 1: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability

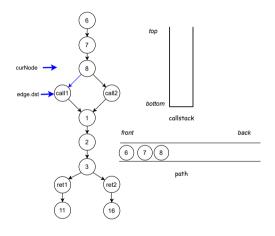
```
Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
  dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
        return:
    visited.insert(pair);
    path.push_back(curNode);
    if arc == ank then
      collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
      if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst,snk);
11
      else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
12
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
13
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
14
         callstack.pop_back();
15
      else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
16
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
18
             callstack.pop_back();
             dfs(edge.dst.snk):
19
             callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack == Ø then
21
             dfs(edge.dst.snk);
22
    visited.erase(pair);
    path.pop_back():
```



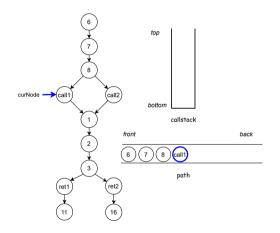
```
Algorithm 2: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack):
    if pair ∈ visited then
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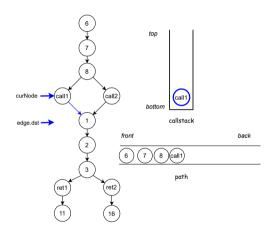
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Algorithm 3: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
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1 dfs(curNode snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
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    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
     foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
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     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
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         callstack.pop back():
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
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            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
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20
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         else if callstack == Ø then
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    visited.erase(pair):
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```



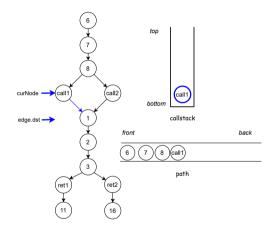
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Algorithm 4: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
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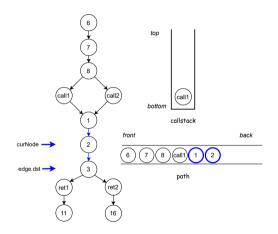
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  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
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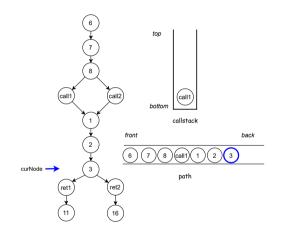
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  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
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1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
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    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
     collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
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         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite()):
13
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back():
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack ≠ Ø && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
            callstack.pop_back();
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            dfs(edge.dst.snk);
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            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack -- Ø then
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    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
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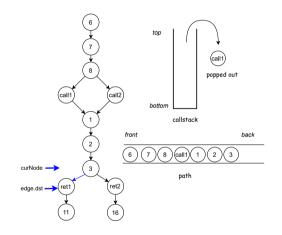
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Algorithm 7: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
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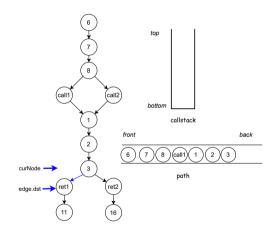
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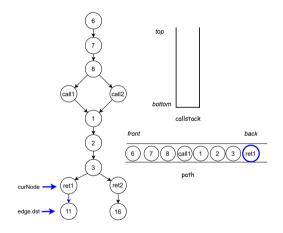
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  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
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    path push back(curNode):
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     foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
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      else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
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         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop back():
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         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
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             dfs(edge.dst.snk):
19
            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
20
21
         else if callstack == Ø then
            dfs(edge.dst,snk);
22
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
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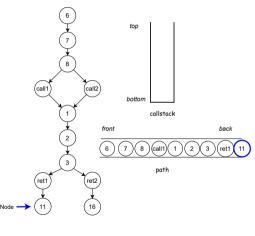
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Algorithm 10: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
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1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited.insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
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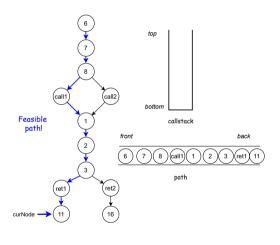
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    if pair ∈ visited then
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    path push back(curNode):
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     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back():
15
16
      else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack ≠ Ø && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
             callstack.pop_back();
19
             dfs(edge.dst.snk):
            callstack.push back(edge.getCallSite()):
20
         else if callstack -- Ø then
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            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



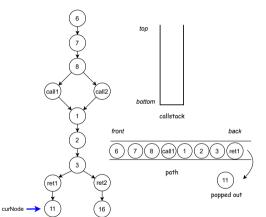
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Algorithm 12: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode callstack):
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return;
    visited insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
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     foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
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     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
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         dfs(edge.dst,snk);
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         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
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            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
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         else if call stack -- Ø then
            dfs(edge.dst.snk);
    visited.erase(pair);
    path.pop_back();
```



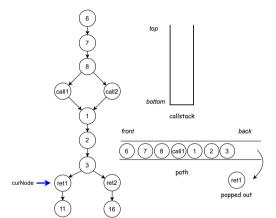
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Algorithm 13: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack);
1 dfs(curNode snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited.insert(pair);
    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
     foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
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     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
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         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
             callstack.pop_back();
             dfs(edge.dst.snk):
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            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
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         else if callstack == Ø then
            dfs(edge.dst,snk);
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



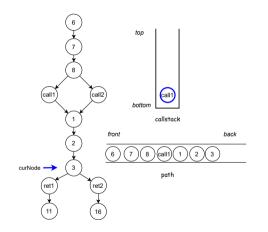
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Algorithm 14: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack);
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited.insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite()):
13
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back():
15
      else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
16
         if callstack ≠ Ø && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
             callstack.pop_back();
18
            dfs(edge.dst.snk);
19
            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack -- Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



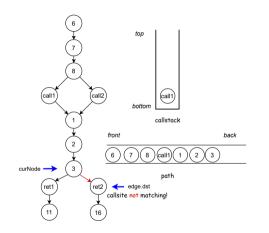
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Algorithm 15: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack);
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
     visited.insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
     collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge isIntraCEGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
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13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
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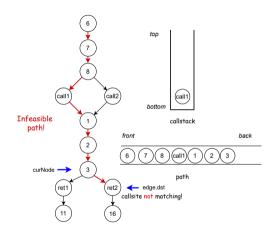
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Algorithm 16: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack);
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
     visited.insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
     collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge isIntraCEGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
      else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk);
14
         callstack.pop_back();
15
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
16
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
18
             callstack.pop.back():
19
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
20
             callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack == Ø then
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back():
```



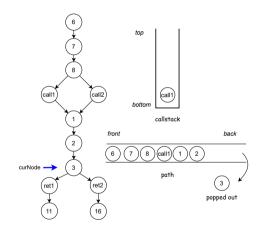
```
Algorithm 17: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack):
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited insert(pair):
    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back():
16
      else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
             callstack.pop_back();
            dfs(edge.dst.snk);
            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
20
         else if callstack -- Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



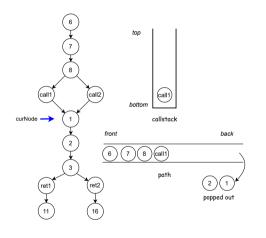
```
Algorithm 18: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited insert(pair):
    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back():
15
      else if edge isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
18
             callstack.pop back():
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
19
            callstack.push back(edge.getCallSite()):
20
         else if callstack -- Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



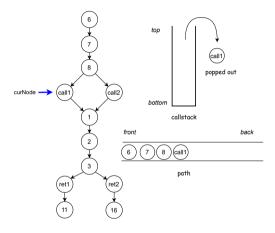
```
Algorithm 19: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited insert(pair):
    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back():
15
      else if edge isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
18
             callstack.pop back():
19
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
            callstack.push back(edge.getCallSite()):
20
         else if callstack -- Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



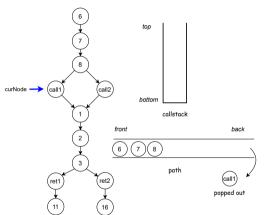
```
Algorithm 20: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack);
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
     visited.insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
     collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge isIntraCEGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
      else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk);
         callstack.pop_back();
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
16
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
18
             callstack.pop.back():
19
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
20
             callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack == Ø then
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back():
```



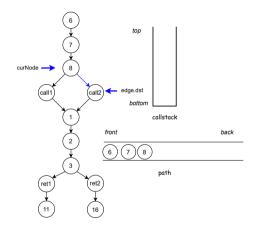
```
Algorithm 21: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack);
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
     visited.insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
     collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge isIntraCEGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
      else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk);
         callstack.pop_back();
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
16
         if callstack \( \neq \@&& callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
18
             callstack.pop.back():
19
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
20
             callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack == Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back():
```



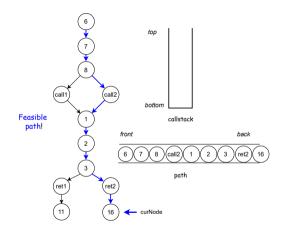
```
Algorithm 22: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack):
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited insert(pair):
    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back();
15
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
18
             callstack.pop_back():
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
19
            callstack.push back(edge.getCallSite()):
20
         else if callstack -- Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



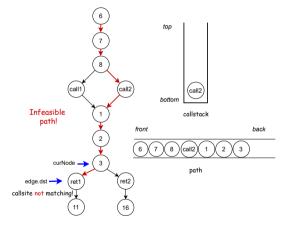
```
Algorithm 23: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack);
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
     visited.insert(pair):
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if arc == ank then
     collectICFGPath(path):
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge isIntraCEGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
      else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk);
14
         callstack.pop_back();
15
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
16
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
18
             callstack.pop.back():
19
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
20
            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack == Ø then
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back():
```



```
Algorithm 24: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
    visited insert(pair):
    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
11
     else if edge isCallCFGEdge() then
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
13
         dfs(edge.dst.snk);
         callstack.pop_back();
15
     else if edge.isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
18
             callstack.pop back():
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
19
            callstack.push back(edge.getCallSite()):
20
         else if callstack -- Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```

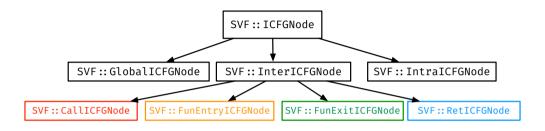


```
Algorithm 25: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICEGNode snk: ICEGNode path: vector(ICEGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return;
    visited.insert(pair);
    path.push_back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path):
     foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite()):
12
         dfs(edge.dst,snk);
         callstack.pop_back();
15
     else if edge isRetCFGEdge() then
16
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
17
             callstack.pop_back();
18
            dfs(edge.dst.snk);
19
            callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         else if callstack == Ø then
            dfs(edge.dst.snk);
22
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```



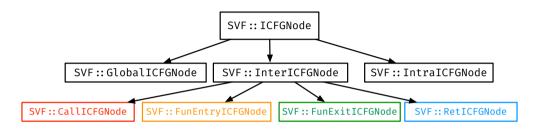
```
Algorithm 26: 1 Context sensitive control-flow reachability
  Input: curNode: ICFGNode snk: ICFGNode path: vector(ICFGNode)
         callstack: vector(SVFInstruction) visited: set(ICFGNode, callstack):
1 dfs(curNode.snk)
    pair = (curNode, callstack);
    if pair ∈ visited then
       return:
     visited insert(pair):
    path push back(curNode):
    if src == snk then
     collectICFGPath(path);
    foreach edge ∈ curNode.getOutEdges() do
     if edge.isIntraCFGEdge() then
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
     else if edge.isCallCFGEdge() then
12
13
         callstack.push_back(edge.getCallSite());
         dfs(edge.dst.snk):
         callstack.pop_back():
15
      else if edge isRetCFGEdge() then
         if callstack \neq \emptyset && callstack.back() == edge.getCallSite() then
18
             callstack.pop back():
19
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
            callstack.push back(edge.getCallSite()):
20
         else if callstack -- Ø then
22
            dfs(edge.dst.snk):
    visited.erase(pair):
    path.pop_back();
```

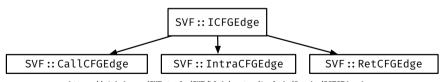
ICFG Node and Edge Classes



https://github.com/SVF-tools/SVF/blob/master/include/Graphs/ICFGNode.h

ICFG Node and Edge Classes





 $\verb|https://github.com/SVF-tools/SVF/blob/master/include/Graphs/ICFGEdge.h| \\$

SVFUtil::cast and SVFUtil::dyn_cast

- C++ Inheritance: see slides in Week 1 Lab.
- Casting a parent class pointer to pointer of a Child type:
 - SVFUtil::cast
 - Casts a pointer or reference to an instance of a specified class. This cast fails and aborts the program if the object or reference is not the specified class at runtime.
 - SVFUtil::dyn_cast
 - "Checked cast" operation. Checks to see if the operand is of the specified type, and
 if so, returns a pointer to it (this operator does not work with references). If the
 operand is not of the correct type, a null pointer is returned.
 - Works very much like the dynamic_cast<> operator in C++, and should be used in the same circumstances.
- Example: accessing the attributes of the child class via casting.
 - RetICFGNode* retNode = SVFUtil::cast<RetICFGNode>(ICFGNode);
 - CallCFGEdge* callEdge = SVFUtil::dyn_cast<CallCFGEdge>(ICFGEdge);

"Casting" from Parent to Child in Python

- Python is a dynamically typed language:
 - No cast is required to call a method or access an attribute of an object.
 - A method can be called without declaring the object's type in code, as long as the object is of the correct type at runtime.
- Dynamic Typing ≠ No Discipline:
 - Adding type hints is highly recommended to improve readability and tooling support.
 - This enables code completion, bug detection, and better maintainability.
- isinstance() and typing.cast:
 - Use isinstance() to narrow the type at runtime and assist IDE.
 - Use typing.cast() to explicitly annotate the expected type.
- Example: narrowing and annotating types for better IDE inference.
 - if isinstance(node, RetICFGNode): # IDE infers node is RetICFGNode
 - call_edge = typing.cast(CallCFGEdge, edge) # IDE infers call_edge is CallCFGEdge