On the Unusual Effectiveness of Type-aware Mutations for Testing SMT Solvers

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We propose type-aware operator mutation, a simple, but unusually effective approach for testing SMT solvers. The key idea is to mutate operators of conforming types within the seed formulas to generate well-typed mutant formulas. These mutant formulas are then used as the test cases for SMT solvers. We realized type-aware operator mutation within the OpFuzz tool and used it to stress-test Z3 and CVC4, two state-of-the-art SMT solvers. Type-aware operator mutations are unusually effective: During nine months of extensive testing with OpFuzz, we reported 909 bugs in Z3 and CVC4, ¹ out of which 632 bugs were confirmed and 531 of the confirmed bugs were fixed by the developers. The detected bugs are highly diverse — we found bugs of many different types (soundness bugs, invalid model bugs, crashes, *etc.*), logics and solver configurations. We have further conducted an in-depth study on the bugs found by OpFuzz. The study results show that the bugs found by OpFuzz are of high quality. Many of them affect core components of the SMT solvers' codebases, and some required major changes for the developers to fix. Among the 909 bugs found by OpFuzz, 130 were soundness bugs, the most critical bugs in SMT solvers, and 501 were in the default modes of the solvers. Notably, OpFuzz found 16 critical soundness bugs in CVC4, which has proved to be a very stable SMT solver.

1 INTRODUCTION

Satisfiability Modulo Theory (SMT) solvers are important tools for many programming languages advances and applications, e.g., symbolic execution [11, 17], program synthesis [26], solver-aided programming [27], and program verification [15, 16]. Incorrect results from SMT solvers can invalidate the results of these tools, which can be disastrous in safety critical domains. Hence, the SMT community has undertaken great effort to make SMT solvers reliable. Examples include the standardized input/output file formats for SMT solvers, semi-formal logic/theory specifications, extensive benchmark repositories, and yearly-held SMT solver competitions. To date, there are several mature SMT solvers, among which Z3 [14] (5.4k stars on GitHub) and CVC4 [3] (374 stars on GitHub) are the most prominent. Both Z3 and CVC4 are very stable and reliable. In Z3, there have been fewer than 150 reported soundness bugs in more than three years, while fewer than 50 in CVC4 in more than 8 years. Despite this, SMT solvers are complex software and still have latent bugs. Various approaches [6, 8, 10] have been devised to find bugs in SMT solvers. However, nearly all SMT solver soundness bugs have still been exposed directly by their client applications, not by these techniques. This has only begun to change with the recently proposed Semantic Fusion [29] and STORM [21]. Both exposed a number of soundness bugs in Z3, while Semantic Fusion additionally exposed some in CVC4. Yet, it is unclear whether SMT solvers have reached a strong level of maturity and how many more bugs in them are still latent.

Type-aware operator mutation. To answer this question, we introduce type-aware operator mutation, a simple, yet unusually effective approach for stress-testing SMT solvers. Its key idea is to mutate functions within SMT formulas with functions of conforming types. Fig. 1 illustrates type-aware operator mutation on an example formula. We replace the "distinct" in φ by an operator of conforming type, e.g., the equals operator "=" to obtain formula φ_{test} . We then differentially test

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¹All our bug report links are included in testsmt.github.io.

²Data recorded prior to any SMT fuzzing campaigns: July 2010 to October 2019 for CVC4; April 2015 to October 2019 for Z3.

Fig. 1. Type-aware operator mutation illustrated. We mutate the distinct operator in φ_1 to the equals operator (see φ_{test}). Formula φ_{test} triggers a soundness bug in Z3 which reports sat on this unsatisfiable formula. https://github.com/Z3Prover/z3/issues/3973

SMT solvers with φ_{test} as input and observe their results. If the results differ, *e.g.*, one SMT solver returns sat while the other returns unsat, we have found a soundness bug in either of the tested solvers. Formula φ_{test} is clearly unsatisfiable, since there is no integer *b* such that for all integer *a*, the equation 2b = a holds. Indeed, while CVC4 correctly returns unsat on φ_{test} , Z3 incorrectly reports sat on φ_{test} . Thus, φ_{test} has triggered a soundness bug in Z3 which was promptly fixed by Z3's main developer.

Bug Hunting with OpFuzz. We have engineered OpFuzz, a practical realization of type-aware operator mutation. OpFuzz is unusually effective. During our bug hunting campaign from September 2019 to May 2020, we found and reported 909 bugs in Z3 and CVC4, among which 632 were confirmed by the developers and 531 were already fixed. We have found bugs across various logics such as (non)-linear integer and real arithmetic, uninterpreted functions, bit-vectors, strings, sets, sequences, array, floating-point, and combinations of these logics. Among these, most of the bugs (501) were found in the default modes of the solvers *i.e.*, without additionally supplied options. This underpins the importance of our findings. We have found many high-quality soundness bugs in Z3 and maybe notably also in CVC4, which has proved to be a very robust SMT solver by previous work. The root causes of the bugs that we found are often complex and sometimes require the developers to perform major code changes to fix the underlying issues. The developers of Z3 and CVC4 greatly appreciated our bug finding efforts with comments like "Great find!", "Thanks a lot for the bug report!" or labelling our bug reports as "major".

A	Bugs i	in Z3	Bugs in CVC4	
Approach	soundness all		soundness	all
StringFuzz [6]	0 (0)	1 (0)	-	-
BanditFuzz [25]	$\geq 1 (0)$	$\geq 1 (0)$	-	-
Bugariu et al. [9]	3 (1)	5 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
YinYang [29]	25 (24)	39 (36)	5 (5)	9 (8)
STORM [21]	21 (17)	27 (21)	0 (0)	0 (0)
OpFuzz	114 (78)	452 (294)	16 (8)	180 (65)

Fig. 2. Comparison of confirmed bugs found by OpFuzz against the bug findings of recent SMT solver testing approaches on the trunks of Z3 and CVC4. In parentheses: confirmed bugs in the default modes of the solvers. Performance issues are excluded from this comparison.

Comparison of OpFuzz with recent SMT fuzzers. Fig. 2 shows a comparison of OpFuzz with recent tools on SMT solver testing from the last two years. We have not considered older approaches and defer to the related work section (Section 6) for a detailed discussion and literature review. The approaches can be roughly separated into two categories: generation-based (StringFuzz [6],

Bugariu and Müller's approach [9], BanditFuzz [25]) and mutation-based (StringFuzz, YinYang [29], STORM [21]). StringFuzz is a string formula generator that also comes with a mutator. It mainly targets performance issues in z3str3 [5]. StringFuzz can find correctness bugs as a by-product; the paper mentioned one. Bugariu and Müller's approach is a String formula synthesizer that can generate formulas that are by construction (un)satisfiable. They found 5 bugs in Z3 in total with 3 soundness bugs, but none in CVC4. Recently, BanditFuzz, a reinforcement learning-based fuzzer has been proposed. Similar to StringFuzz, BanditFuzz's main focus is on performance issues in SMT solvers and less on correctness bugs. The authors have identified inconsistent results for 1,600 syntactically different formulas on the four SMT solvers Z3, CVC4, MathSAT [12], Colibri, and 100 syntactically unique formulas triggering a bug in z3str3. However, the number of unique bugs in Z3 remains unclear as the authors did not reduce and report the bugs to filter out the duplicates. Among the mutation-based fuzzers, YinYang is an approach to stress-test SMT solvers by fabricating fused formula pairs that are by construction either satisfiable or unsatisfiable. YinYang found 39 bugs in Z3 and 9 in CVC4. Another recently proposed approach is STORM. It is based on a three-phase process of seed fragmentation, formula generation and instance generation. STORM has found 27 bugs in Z3 with 21 being soundness bugs, but none in CVC4.

As Fig. 2 illustrates, our realization OpFuzz of type-aware operator mutation compares favorably against all existing approaches by a significant margin — OpFuzz found substantially more bugs in both Z3 and CVC4 in terms of all bugs, the soundness bugs in Z3 and CVC4, and bugs for the default modes of the solvers. Existing approaches also extensively tested Z3 and CVC4, and have missed the bugs found by OpFuzz.

In summary, we make the following contributions in this paper:

- We introduce type-aware operator mutation, a simple, but unusually effective approach for stress-testing SMT solvers;
- We have realized type-aware operator mutation within our tool OpFuzz in no more than 212 lines of code. OpFuzz helps SMT solver developers and practitioners to stress-test SMT solver decision procedures regardless of the used logic and solver;
- Between October 2019 and May 2020, we stress-tested Z3 and CVC4 using OpFuzz, and reported 909 unique bugs on the respective GitHub issue trackers of Z3 and CVC4. Out of these, 632 bugs were confirmed, and 531 bugs were fixed. Most of the bugs were triggered in the default modes (501) of the solvers, and many were soundness bugs (130); and
- We have conducted an in-depth analysis of the bugs to understand in which parts of the SMT solvers these bugs occur. Furthermore, we examined the effort necessary for the developers to fix OpFuzz's bugs. Our results show that many bugs occur in the core parts of the SMT solvers, and some require the developers to perform major code changes.

Organization of the Paper. Section 2 illustrates the idea behind type-aware operator mutation. Section 3 presents type-aware operator mutation formally, and shows how we apply it to SMT solver testing through our realization OpFuzz. We then present our empirical evaluation (Section 4) which includes detailed statistics about our bug findings. Section 5 introduces our quantitative analysis of the detected bugs and in-depth investigation on a set of sampled bugs to provide further insight. Finally, we survey related work (Section 6) and conclude (Section 7).

2 MOTIVATING EXAMPLES

This section gives a short introduction on the SMT-LIB [2] language³, the standard for describing SMT formulas, and then motivates our technique *type-aware operator mutation*.

³We consider the SMT-LIB language in version 2.6.

```
1 (set-logic NRA)
1 (set-logic NRA)
                                                   2 (declare-fun a () Real)
2 (declare-fun a () Real)
                                                   3 (declare-fun b () Real)
3 (declare-fun b () Real)
                                                   4 (assert ( > (* a b) 1))
4 (assert ( = (* a b) 1))
                                                   5 (check-sat) (get-model)
5 (check-sat) (get-model)
                                                  (b) Mutating the equals operator in Fig. 3a to a
(a) Invalid model bug in CVC4.
                                                  greater operator makes the bug disappear.
https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/3407
                                                   1 (declare-fun f (Int) Bool)
1 (declare-fun f (Int) Bool)
                                                   2 (declare-fun g (Int) Bool)
2 (declare-fun g (Int) Bool)
                                                   3 (assert ( distinct f g))
3 (assert ( = f g))
                                                   4 (check-sat)
4 (check-sat)
                                                   5 (get-model)
5 (get-model)
                                                   (d) Mutating the equals operator in Fig. 3c to a
(c) Invalid model bug in CVC4.
                                                   distinct operator makes the bug disappear.
https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/3527
                                                   1 (declare-fun x () Real)
1 (declare-fun x () Real)
                                                   2 (assert (>= x (sin 4.0)))
2 (assert (distinct x (sin 4.0)))
                                                   3 (check-sat)
3 (check-sat)
                                                  (f) Mutating the distinct operator in Fig. 3e to a
(e) CVC4 crashes on this formula.
https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/3498
                                                   greater than operator makes the bug disappear.
```

Fig. 3. Left column: bug-triggering formulas in SMT-LIB format. Right column: formulas that were transformed from the corresponding bug-triggering formulas by a single operator change.

 $SMT-LIB \ Language$. We consider the following subset of statements: declare-fun, assert, check-sat and get-model. Variables are declared as zero-valued functions. For example, the declaration "(declare-fun a () Real)" declares a variable of type real. An assert statement specifies constraints. The predicates within the constraints have different types, e.g., the constraint "(assert (<= $(/ \times 4) (* 5 \times))$)" includes predicates of real and boolean types. Multiple constraints can be viewed as the conjunction of the constraints in each individual constraint statement. The (check-sat) statement queries the solver to decide on the satisfiability of a formula. If all constraints are satisfied, the formula is satisfiable; otherwise, the formula is unsatisfiable. We can obtain a model, i.e., a satisfiable assignment, for a satisfiable formula by the (get-model) statement.

Type-aware operator mutation. We first examine three exemplary bugs that were found by our technique. Consider the formula in Fig. 3a on which CVC4 returns the following model: $a=-\frac{3}{2}$ and $b=-\frac{1}{2}$. This model is invalid as $a\cdot b\neq 1$. Mutating the equals operator = to the greater operator > hides this bug (see Fig. 3b). As another example, consider the formula in Fig. 3c. CVC4 gives an invalid model on this formula by setting f=g=false. Furthermore CVC4 crashes on the formula in Fig. 3e. Again in both cases, the bug disappears with a single operator change (see Fig. 3b and Fig. 3d). All illustrated cases show that operators play an important role in triggering SMT solver bugs. This inspired our technique type-aware operator mutation which is to stress-test SMT solvers via mutating operators, *i.e.*, generating new formulas by substituting the operators of seed formulas with different ones.

However, substituting an operator with another arbitrary operator may not always yield a syntactically correct formula. As an example, consider Fig. 4a that present a syntactically correct seed

```
1 (declare-fun a () Real)
                                            1 (declare-fun a () Real)
2 (assert (> (/ (* 2 a) a) (* a a) 1))
                                            2 (assert (* (/ (* 2 a) a) (* a a) 1))
3 (check-sat)
                                            3 (check-sat)
            (a) Original formula
                                                  (b) Syntactically incorrect mutant.
                                            1 (declare-fun a () Real)
1 (declare-fun a () Real)
2 (assert (= (/ (* 2 a) a) (* a a) 1))
                                            2 (assert (= (/ (* 2 a) a) ( / a a) 1))
3 (check-sat)
                                            3 (check-sat)
      (c) Syntactically correct mutant.
                                                     (d) Bug triggering mutant.
```

Fig. 4. Motivating examples for type-aware operator mutation.

formula. By substituting the first operator equals operator = to *, the formula becomes syntactically incorrect (see Fig. 4b). This is because the assert statement expects a boolean expression, while * returns a real. The formula of Fig. 4b is of little value to testing an SMT solver's decision procedures since the solvers would reject such formulas already at a preprocessing stage. Hence, we have to consider the operator types for the substitutions, i.e., avoid substituting an operator returning a boolean value, such =, by an operator returning a real, such as *; neither should we substitute an operator with a single argument, like not, by an operator of two or more arguments such as =. Instead we mutate the operators in a typ-aware fashion. Consider the first operator > of the formula in Fig. 4a. It takes an arbitrary number of numeral arguments and returns a boolean. Candidates for its substitution are <=, >=, <, =, distinct all of which have a conforming type, i.e., read more than one numeral and return a boolean. Therefore we can safely substitute > of the formula in Fig. 4a with a random candidate, e.g., =. As a result, we obtain mutant formula in Fig. 4c. This formula is syntactically correct and can successfully pass the preprocessing phase of the SMT solvers. We call such mutations, type-aware operator mutations. As we have the guarantee that the mutant is a type-correct formula, we can do iterative type-aware operator mutations. Given the mutant formula in Fig. 4c, we further substitute the second occurrence of * with / safely, since both * and /. This yields the formula in Fig. 4d which triggered a soundness bug in Z3. Division by zero terms are meaningful according to the SMT-LIB standard: they can be chosen arbitrarily. In fact, we can set a = 0 to realize a model, *i.e.*, to be 1 to satisfy the assert. Hence, the formula in Fig. 4d is satisfiable. However, Z3 reports unsat on it, which is incorrect.

3 APPROACH

In this section, we formally introduce type-aware operator mutation and propose OpFuzz, a fuzzer for stress-testing SMT solvers.

Background. We consider first-order logic formulas of the satisfiability modulo theories (SMT). Such a formula φ is satisfiable if there is at least one assignment on its variables under which φ evaluates to true. Otherwise φ is unsatisfiable. We consider formulas to be realized by SMT-LIB programs⁴ in which operators correspond to functions of the SMT theories. We use the terms functions and operators interchangeably unless stated otherwise.

For a formula φ , we define $F(\varphi)$ to be its set of (enumerated) functions occurrences. For example, for $\varphi = (+ (* 1 1) (- 2 (* 5 2)))$, we have $F(\varphi) = \{+_1, *_1, -_1, *_2\}$. $\varphi[f_1/f_2]$ describes the substitution of function f_2 by f_1 . Expressions and functions are typed. For example, 1 is of type Int, 1.0 is of type Real, "foo" is of type String. Similarly functions also have types. We denote the type of a function f by $f: A \to B$ where A is the type of its arguments and B its return type. We

⁴We consider the SMT-LIB language in version 2.6.

Function types	Function Symbols
Γ , $A <: \top \vdash A \times \cdots \times A \rightarrow Bool$	=, distinct
$\Gamma \vdash Quantifier \times Bool \rightarrow Bool$	exists, forall
$\Gamma \vdash Bool \times \cdots \times Bool \longrightarrow Bool$	and, or, =>
Γ , $Int <: Real \vdash Real \times \cdots \times Real \rightarrow Bool$	<=, >=, <, >
Γ , $Int <: Real \vdash Real \times \cdots \times Real \rightarrow Real$	+, -, *, /
$\Gamma \vdash \mathit{Int} \times \cdots \times \mathit{Int} \to \mathit{Int}$	div
$\Gamma \vdash \mathit{Int} \times \mathit{Int} \to \mathit{Int}$	mod

Fig. 5. SMT function symbols categorized by their type.

use Γ to denote the static typing environment of the SMT-LIB language. For example, we write $\Gamma \vdash Int \times Int \rightarrow Int$ for the type of function mod and $\Gamma \vdash Int \times \dots \times Int \rightarrow Int$ for the function div. $Int \times \dots \times Int$ means function div accepts more than one arguments with type Int. Fig. 5 shows selected functions and their types considered in this paper. We emphasize that our theory is not restricted to the functions used in Fig. 5. Our theory can be extended to a richer set of functions and types according to the SMT-LIB standard.

Similar to other programming languages with types, we can define a subtyping relation for the SMT-LIB language. We now formalize a fragment of the SMT-LIB's type system. We define type *Int* to be a subtype of *Real*, *i.e.*, $\Gamma \vdash Int <: Real$. Let A be an arbitrary type, then we define type $A \times A$ to be a subtype of $A \times \cdots \times A$, *i.e.*, $\Gamma, A <: \Gamma \vdash A \times A <: A \times \cdots \times A$. For two functions $f_1 : A_1 \to B_1$ and $f_2 : A_2 \to B_2$ with $A_1 <: A_2$ and $A_2 : A_3 \to A_4$ we have

$$\frac{A_1 <: A_2 \quad B_2 <: B_1}{f_2 : A_2 \to B_2 <: f_1 : A_1 \to B_1}$$

For example, consider function div of type $Int \times \cdots \times Int$ and function mod of type $Int \times Int$ \rightarrow Int from Fig. 5. We can hence conclude that div's type is a subtype of mod's type:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{Int} \times \mathit{Int} <: \mathit{Int} \times \cdots \times \mathit{Int} \quad \Gamma \vdash \mathit{Int} <: \mathit{Int}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{Int} \times \cdots \times \mathit{Int} \rightarrow \mathit{Int} <: \mathit{Int} \times \mathit{Int} \rightarrow \mathit{Int}}$$

We say a formula φ to be well-typed if complies with the rules of SMT-LIB's typing system.

3.1 Type-aware operator mutation

Having provided basic background, we present type-aware operator mutation, the key concept of this paper. We first introduce type-aware operator mutations and then show that type-aware operator mutants are well-typed.

Definition 3.1 (Type-aware operator mutation). Let φ be an SMT formula and let $f_1:t_1$ and $f_2:t_2$ be two of its functions. We say formula $\varphi'=\varphi[f_2/f_1]$ is a **type-aware operator mutant** of φ if t2 <: t1. Transforming φ to $\varphi[f_2/f_1]$ is called **type-aware operator mutation**.

Proposition 3.2. Type-aware operator mutants are well-typed.

PROOF. Let φ be a well-typed SMT formula and let φ' be a type-aware operator mutant of φ . According to Definition 3.1 we know that $\varphi' = \varphi[f_2/f_1]$ where $f_1:t_1$ and $f_2:t_2$ are two of its functions. By Definition 3.1, we also know $t_2 <: t_1$. This implies that all arguments of f_1 are also accepted by f_2 and all values returned by f_2 could be produced by f_1 . Thus, f_2 accepts all the inputs provided by φ' , and formula φ' accepts all the outputs of f_2 . Therefore φ' is well-typed.

```
Procedure OpFuzz (Seeds, S_1, S_2):
                                                                                   Function type_aware_mutate(\varphi):
      bugs \leftarrow \emptyset
                                                                                         f_1 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} F(\varphi)
      while true do
                                                                                        f_2 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \text{subtypes}(f_1)
return \varphi[f_2/f_1]
            \varphi \xleftarrow{R} \mathsf{Seeds}
                   \varphi' \leftarrow \mathsf{type\_aware\_mutate}\,(\varphi)
                                                                                  Function validate(\varphi', S_1, S_2):
                   if \neg validate(\varphi', S_1, S_2) then
                                                                                         if S_1(\varphi') = crash \lor
                     bugs \leftarrow bugs \cup \{\varphi'\}
                                                                                            S_2(\varphi') = crash \lor
                                                                                            S_1(\varphi') \neq S_2(\varphi') then
                                                                                            return false
            if Interruption then
      return bugs
```

Fig. 6. Left: OpFuzz's main process iterates formula mutation. Right: Function type_aware_mutate for type-aware operator mutation and function validate for differential testing the SMT solvers S_1 and S_2 .

Example 3.3. Consider φ = (assert (= (mod 1 1) 1) with $F(\varphi)$ = {mod, =}. We randomly pick a function mod from F, substitute it with a function that has its subtype, e.g., function div. We get the following type-aware operator mutant φ' = (assert (= (div 1 1) 1). As Proposition 3.2 shows, φ' is guaranteed to be well-typed. Thus, we can use φ' to test the decision procedures of SMT solvers

3.2 OpFuzz

We implemented OpFuzz, a type-aware operator mutation-based fuzzer, for stress-testing SMT solvers. OpFuzz leverages type-aware mutation to generate test inputs, and validates the results of the SMT solvers via differential testing, i.e., by comparing the results of two or more SMT solvers and reporting their inconsistencies. Fig. 6 presents the algorithm of OpFuzz. OpFuzz takes a set of seed formulas Seeds and two SMT solvers S_1 and S_2 as its input. OpFuzz collects bugs in the set bugs which is initialized to the empty set. The main process runs inside a while loop until an interrupt is detected, e.g., by the user or by a time or memory limit that is reached. We first choose a random formula φ from the set of formulas Seeds for initialization. In the while loop, we then perform a type-aware mutation on ϕ realized by the type_aware_mutate function. In the type_aware_mutate function, we first randomly pick a function f_1 from the set of functions in φ . Then, we randomly choose a function f_2 from the set f_1 's subtypes. The subtype function is realized based on Fig. 5. After we obtained $\varphi' \equiv \varphi[f_2/f_1]$ by type-aware mutation on φ , we call the function validate. It tests the two SMT solvers S1 and S2 via differential testing on input formula φ' . First, it checks whether either of the solvers has crashed on solving φ' . If that is the case, the function returns false. Otherwise, it checks whether the results of the solvers are different, and returns false if so, else validate returns true indicating that φ' has not exposed a bug in neither of the solvers S_1 and S₂. OpFuzz realizes an n-times repeated type-aware operator mutation on every seed formula. The choice for parameter *n* is arbitrary but an *n* within 200 and 400 has worked well in practice. OpFuzz is very light-weight. We realized OpFuzz in a total of only 212 lines of Python 3.7 code. OpFuzz can be run in parallel mode, which can significantly increases its throughput. Users can customize OpFuzz's command-line interface to test specific solvers and/or configurations. OpFuzz can be used with any SMT solver that takes SMT-LIB v2.6 files as its input. We have implemented the type-aware function mutations according to Fig. 5.

4 EMPIRICAL EVALUATION

This section details our extensive evaluation with OpFuzz demonstrating the practical effectiveness of type-aware operator mutation for testing SMT solvers. Between September 2019 and May 2020, we were running OpFuzz to stress-test the SMT solvers Z3 [14] and CVC4 [3]. We have chosen Z3 and CVC4, since they (1) both are popular and widely used in academia and industry, (2) support a rich set of logics, and (3) adopt an open-source development model. During our testing period, we have filed numerous bugs on the issue trackers of Z3 and CVC4. This section describes the outcome of our efforts.

Result Summary and Highlights. In summary, OpFuzz is unusually effective.

- *Many confirmed bugs*: In nine months, we have reported 909 bugs, and 632 unique bugs in Z3 and CVC4 have been confirmed by the developers.
- *Many soundness bugs*: Among these, there were 130 soundness bugs in Z3 and CVC4. Most notably, we have found 16 in CVC4.
- *Most logics affected:* Our bug findings affect most SMT-LIB logics including strings, (non)-linear integer and real arithmetic, bit-vectors, uninterpreted functions, floating points, arrays, sets, sequences, horn, and combinations thereof.
- *Most bugs in default modes*: 501 out of our reported 909 bugs are in the default modes of the solvers, *i.e.*, without additionally supplied options.

4.1 Evaluation Setup

Hardware Setup and Seeds. We have run OpFuzz on an AMD Ryzen Threadripper 2990WX processor with 32 cores and 32GB RAM on an Ubuntu 18.04 64-bit. As test seeds, we have used the SMT-LIB benchmarks.⁵ In addition, we have used the regression test suites of Z3 and CVC4.

Bug reduction. When a bug is found, we reduce the bug-triggering formula to a small enough size for reporting. We use C-Reduce [23], a C code reduction tool, which also works for the SMT-LIB language. We implemented a pretty printer to help with the bug reduction process, e.g., when C-Reduce has converged to a still very large formula or hangs. The pretty-printer makes simple modifications to the abstract syntax tree of the formula, e.g., flattens nestings of the same operator, removes additions and multiplications with neutral elements and returns the modified formula in a human-readable format.

Tested options and features. We mainly focused our testing efforts on the default modes of the solvers. For CVC4 this includes enabling the options --produce-models, --incremental and --strings-exp as needed to support all test seed formulas. To detect invalid model bugs, we have supplied --check-models to CVC4 and model.validate=true to Z3. We consider these to be part of the default mode for the two solvers Z3 and CVC4, if apart from these necessary options, no other options or tactics were used. Besides the default modes of Z3 and CVC4, we have considered many frequently used options and solver modes for Z3 and CVC4 of which we only detail a subset here. For Z3, we have stress-tested several tactics and several arithmetic solvers including smt.arith_solver=x with $x \in \{1, \dots, 6\}$. We have also tested, among others, the string solver z3str3 by supplying smt.string_solver=z3str3. In CVC4 we have tested, among many other options, syntax-guided synthesis procedure [24] by specifying --sygus-inference and higher order reasoning for uninterpreted functions by specifying --uf-ho.

⁵http://smtlib.cs.uiowa.edu/benchmarks.shtml

Status	Z 3	CVC4	Total
Reported	678	231	909
Confirmed	452	180	632
Fixed	418	113	531
Duplicate	62	17	79
Won't fix	71	11	82

Type	Z 3	CVC4	Total
Crash	277	155	432
Soundness	114	16	130
Invalid model	61	9	70
	(b)		

#Options	Z3	CVC4	Total	
default	294	65	359	
1	96	47	143	
2	34	29	63	
3+	28	39	67	
(c)				

Fig. 7. a) Status of bugs found in Z3 and CVC4. b) Bug types among the confirmed bugs. c) Number of options supplied to the solvers among the confirmed bugs.

Bug types. We have encountered many different kinds of bugs and issues while testing SMT solvers. We distinguish them by the following categories with two SMT solvers S_1 and S_2 .

- *Soundness bug*: Formula φ triggers a soundness bug if solvers S_1 and S_2 both do not crash and give different satisfiabilities for φ .
- *Invalid model bug*: Formula φ triggers an invalid model bug if the model returned by the solver does not satisfy φ .
- *Crash bug*: Formula φ triggers a crash bug if the solver throws out an assertion violation or a segmentation fault while solving φ .

OpFuzz detects soundness bugs by comparing the standard outputs of the solvers S_1 and S_2 . OpFuzz detects invalid model bugs by internal errors when using the SMT solver's model validation configuration. A crash bug is detected whenever a solver returns a non-zero exit and no timeout occurred.

4.2 Evaluation Results

Having defined the setup and bug types, we continue with the presentation of the evaluation results. The section is divided into three parts: (1) statistics on the bug findings by OpFuzz to assess its effectiveness, (2) coverage measurements of OpFuzz relative to the seed formulas (3) solver trace comparisons to gain further insights into the technique.

Bug Findings. Fig. 7a shows the bug status counts. We have reported a total of 909 bugs on Z3's and CVC4's respective issue trackers. Among these, 632 were confirmed and 531 were fixed. Although we devoted equal testing effort to both solvers, we found more than twice as many bugs in Z3 as in CVC4. Previous approaches made similar observations. We partially explain this by the different models of Z3 and CVC4. While Z3 is essentially maintained by one core developer and a couple of assisting developers, CVC4 is more of a community effort. CVC4 has mandatory code reviews while, to the best of our knowledge, Z3 does not. However, the bugs in Z3 are usually fixed very fast while the CVC4 developers must sometimes wait for their fixed code to be reviewed. Fig. 7b shows the bug types. Among the bug types of the confirmed bugs, crash bugs were most frequent (432), followed by soundness bugs (130) and invalid model bugs (70). The large majority (324 out of 632) of bugs found by OpFuzz were found in the default modes of the solvers, i.e., no additional options were supplied, some were found with one or two additional options enabled, and clearly less bugs with more than three options enabled (see Fig. 7c). Furthermore, out of the 909 reported bugs we 501 bugs were found in the default modes of the solvers (i.e., without supplying any options to the solvers) while 408 bugs were found with options. We have also examined the distribution of logics among the confirmed bugs that could clearly be categorized into one of the SMT-LIB logics. Among the top-10 most frequent logics in Z3 are: QF S (61), NRA (68),QF NRA

Z3		CVC4				
	lines	functions	branches	lines	functions	branches
Seeds ₁₀₀₀	33.2%	36.2%	13.7%	28.5%	47.1%	14.3%
OpFuzz	33.5%	36.4%	13.8%	28.8%	47.4%	14.4%

Fig. 8. Line, function and branch coverage achieved by Seeds₁₀₀₀ and OpFuzz on Z3 and CVC4's source code.

(57), QF_SLIA (30), QF_NIA (26) QF_LIA (28) UF (34) QF_BV (26), LIA (19) and LRA (21). For CVC4, the top-10 ranking is as follows: QF_S (56), NRA (52), QF_NRA (32), QF_SLIA (29), QF_NIA (22), QF_LIA (21), UF (20), QF_BV,(13), LIA (12), LRA (12).

Code Coverage of OpFuzz's mutations. Code coverage is a reference for the sufficiency of software testing. This experiment aims to answer whether the mutants generated by OpFuzz can achieve higher coverage than the seed formulas. We randomly sampled 1,000 formulas (Seeds₁₀₀₀) from all formulas that we used for stress-testing SMT solvers. We view the absolute line/function and branch coverage achieved by Benchmark to be the baseline for OpFuzz. We instantiated OpFuzz with n=300, run OpFuzz on the seeds Seeds₁₀₀₀ and then measure the cumulative line/function/branch coverage over all formulas and runs.⁶ The results show that OpFuzz increases the code coverage upon Seeds₁₀₀₀ (Fig. 8). Z3 and CVC4 have over 436K LoC and 238k LoC respectively, so that 0.1% improvement already translate to hundreds of additionally covered lines. However, although noticeable, the coverage increments are not significant ($\leq 0.5\%$). This experiment provides further evidence that standard coverage metrics (e.g., statement and branch coverages), although useful, are insufficient for measuring the thoroughness of testing.

Execution Trace Comparison. Since code coverage could not thoroughly explain the effectiveness of OpFuzz, we also examine the internals of the solvers by investigating the similarity of their execution traces upon type-aware operator mutations. What is the relative similarity of the execution traces with respect to the seed? In the following experiment, we approach this question. In Z3 and CVC4, we can obtain an execution trace by setting the flags TRACE=True and --trace-theory respectively. Before describing the experiment, we first show the format of Z3's and CVC4's respective traces via an example. Consider formula φ and its type-aware operator mutation φ mutant (see Fig. 9a and 9d). Fig. 9c and 9e shows Z3's and CVC4's traces on solving φ respectively, Fig. 9d and 9f show Z3's and CVC4's traces on solving φ mutant respectively.

Having obtained an intuition of the execution traces, we now get to the actual experiment. Our aim is to measure the relative change in the execution traces of Z3 and CVC4. We therefore perform 40 mutation steps for every formula in Seeds₁₀₀₀ and record the execution trace triggered in each step. To quantify the similarity of two traces t_1 and t_2 , we compute a metric $sim(t_1, t_2)$ with

$$sim(t_1, t_2) = \frac{2 \cdot matching_lines(t_1, t_2)}{lines(t_1) + lines(t_2)}$$

where $matching_lines(t_1, t_2)$ corresponds to the number of matching lines between t_1 and t_2 , $lines(t_1)$ and $lines(t_2)$ are the number of lines in t_1 and t_2 respectively. As an example, consider again Fig. 9. The differing lines of φ 's trace and φ_{mutant} 's trace are shaded. φ 's Z3 trace and φ_{mutant} 's Z3 trace match in 10 out of 11 lines and therefore their similarity score is $\frac{10}{11}$. For the trace pair of CVC4, the number of matching lines is 3, hence the similarity of Z3's trace is $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁶This makes a total of 300k runs.

```
1 ; phi
                                                 1 ;phi_mutant
                                                 2 (declare-fun a () Real)
2 (declare-fun a () Real)
3 (declare-fun b () Real)
                                                 3 (declare-fun b () Real)
                                                 4 (assert ( > a 0))
4 (assert ( < a 0))
5 (assert (< b 0))
                                                 5 (assert (< b 0))
6 (check-sat)
                                                 6 (check-sat)
             (a)
                                                              (b)
1 [mk-app] #23 a
                                                 1 [mk-app] #23 a
2 [mk-app] #24 Int
                                                 2 [mk-app] #24 Int
                                                 3 [attach-meaning] #24 arith 0
3 [attach-meaning] #24 arith 0
4 [mk-app] #25 to_real #24
                                                4 [mk-app] #25 to_real #24
                                                 5 [mk-app] #26 > #23 #25
5 [mk-app] #26 < #23 #25
6 [mk-app] #27 Real
                                                6 [mk-app] #27 Real
7 [attach-meaning] #27 arith 0
                                                 7 [attach-meaning] #27 arith 0
8 [inst-discovered] theory-solving 0
                                                 8 [inst-discovered] theory-solving 0
9 arith# ; #25
                                                 9 arith# ; #25
10 [mk-app] #28 = #25 #27
                                                10 [mk-app] #28 = #25 #27
11 [instance] 0 #28
                                                11 [instance] 0 #28
12 [attach-enode] #28 0
                                                12 [attach-enode] #28 0
             (c)
                                                              (d)
  TheoryEngine::assertFact
                                                    TheoryEngine::assertFact
                                                      ((not (>= (* (- 1.0) a) 0.0)))
     (not (>= b 0.0)) (0 left)
3 Theory<THEORY_ARITH>::assertFact[1]
                                                 3 Theory<THEORY_ARITH>::assertFact[1]
     ((not (>= a 0.0)), false)
                                                      ((not (>= (* (- 1.0) a) 0.0)), false)
5 TheoryEngine::assertFact
                                                 5 TheoryEngine::assertFact
    ((not (>= b 0.0)))
                                                      ((not (>= b 0.0)))
                                                 6
7 Theory < THEORY_ARITH >:: assertFact[1]
                                                 7 Theory < THEORY_ARITH >:: assertFact[1]
    ((not (>= b 0.0)), false)
                                                      ((not (>= b 0.0)), false)
9 Theory::get() =>
                                                    Theory::get() =>
                                                      (not (>= (* (- 1.0) a) 0.0)) (1 left)
     (not (>= a 0.0))(1 left)
11 Theory::get() =>
                                                11 Theory::get() =>
   (not (>= b 0.0)) (0 left)
                                                 12 (not (>= b 0.0)) (0 left)
              (e)
```

Fig. 9. Left column: (a) seed formula φ (b) Z3 trace snippet of φ and (c) CVC4 trace snippet of φ . Right column: (d) type-aware operator mutant φ_{mutant} (e) Z3 trace snippet of φ_{mutant} (f) CVC4 trace snippet of φ_{mutant} of φ . Differences in the execution traces snippets are highlighted by shading.

In our experiment, we fix the trace of the original formula to be t_1 , and t_2 corresponds to the trace triggered of the mutant. Fig. 10 shows the similarity of the corresponding mutation step averaged over all formulas in Seeds₁₀₀₀. The results of Z3 and CVC consistently show that along with a gradual mutation step increase, the similarity between the traces triggered by the mutant and the original formula gradually decreases. The result indicates that OpFuzz can generate diverse test cases that trigger different execution traces via type-aware operator mutation.

Takeaways. We designed three quantitative evaluations to measure and gain an intuition about the effectiveness of OpFuzz. First, we observe that OpFuzz can find a significant number of bugs in

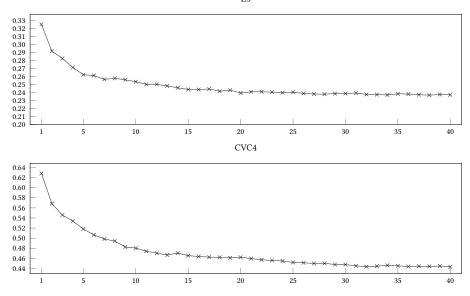


Fig. 10. The y-axis represents the average similarity between the mutant generated by the corresponding mutation step and the original formula in Z3 and CVC4 respectively. The x-axis represents the mutation step.

various logics, solver configurations, most of which are in default mode. Second, to understand why OpFuzz can find so many bugs, we designed a coverage evaluation. The evaluation result shows that OpFuzz can increase coverage, but the increment is minor. As the coverage evaluation did not fully answer why OpFuzz is effective, we further designed the third evaluation investigating the similarity of execution traces. The trace evaluation shows that OpFuzz can gradually change the execution traces of the solvers, which partially explains the effectiveness of OpFuzz.

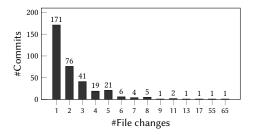
5 IN-DEPTH BUG ANALYSIS

This section presents an in-depth study on OpFuzz's bug findings in which we (1) quantify the fixing efforts for Z3's and CVC4's developers (2) identify weak component in Z3 and CVC4 and (3) examine the file sizes of bug triggering SMT formulas. We summarize the insights gained and then present selected bug samples, examine their root causes and the developer's fixes.

5.1 Quantitative analysis

We collected all GitHub bug reports that we have filed in our extensive evaluation of OpFuzz. This data serves as the basis for our analysis. We guide our analysis by three consecutive research questions.

RQ1: How much effort had the developers with fixing the bugs found by OpFuzz? To approach this question, we consider two metrics: the file count affected by a bug fix and the number of lines of code (LoC) necessary for fixing. If a bug causes many lines of code and/or file changes, it may indicate a high fixing effort necessary by the developers. To examine the LoC and file changes for the bugs found by OpFuzz, we collected 350 bug fixing commits in Z3 and 83 bug fixing commits in CVC4. We solely considered commits that could be one-to-one matched to their bug reports *i.e.*, the commit log mentions the issue id of our bug reports and no other issue ids.



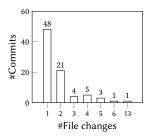
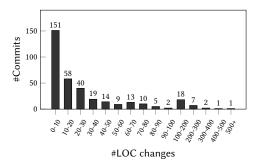


Fig. 11. Distributions of the file changes for a single bug-fixing commit in Z3 (left) and CVC4 (right).



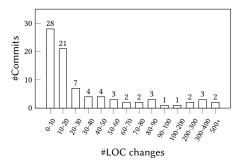


Fig. 12. Distributions of the LoC changed in one commit in Z3 (left) and CVC4 (right).

Fig. 11 shows the distributions of file changes for bug-fixing commits in Z3 (left) and CVC4 (right). We observe that in both solvers most bug-fixing commits change less than five files, and the single file fixes are the majority. However, a few affected many files. We have manually examined the right tail of the distribution. We specifically present the top-2 file changing commits in both Z3 and CVC4 individually to demonstrate exemplary reasons for major changes in Z3 and CVC4. We begin with Z3. Highest ranked, is a bug-fixing commit in Z3 with 65 changes. The main part of this fix was in "smt/theory_bv.cpp" which is the implementation of bit-vector logic which also serves as the low-level implementation for floating-point logic. The developer's fix resulted in many function name updates and added checkpoints and additional 64 file changes. Another bug-fixing commit in Z3 that affected 55 files is a crash caused by an issue in the Z3's abstract syntax tree. The core issue addressed by this fix is in "ast/rewriter/rewriter_def.h" and "ast/rewriter/th_rewriter.cpp". Reorganizations of the assertion checks triggered additional 54 file changes. In CVC4, the fix with most file changes (13) is caused by a crash bug affecting string operators. By fixing this bug the developers added support for the regex operators re.loop and re. that were recently added to the theory of strings. The fix six file changes is also due to a crash bug. The bug changed various files related to quantifiers. As an intermediate conclusion we observe: although a relatively high numbers of file changes indicate extensive revisions in the SMT solvers Z3 and CVC4, their root cause are often rather simple fixes such as updating function names, adding assertions, etc.. We therefore also investigate the LoC changes for each bug fixing commit. Many simple fixes on the other hand, exhibit subtle missed corner cases.

Fig. 12 presents the distributions of the LoC changes for each bug-fixing commit. For both Z3 and CVC4, we observe that most commits have less than 100 LoC changes and many bugs fixes only involve a 0-10 LoC change. We have manually inspected all 0-10 LoC fixes and observed the majority of them are subtle corner cases. Again we examine top-2 commits for each solver. In

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File	#Commits
smt/theory_seq.cpp	30
smt/smt_context.cpp	27
smt/theory_lra.cpp	23
ast/ast.cpp	15
smt/theory_arith_nl.h	14
ast/rewriter/seq_rewriter.cpp	14
qe/qsat.cpp	14
ast/rewriter/rewriter_def.h	11
tactic/arith/purify_arith_tactic.cpp	11
smt/theory_seq.h	10

(a)

Filename	#LoC changes
smt/theory_seq.cpp	1033
ast/rewriter/seq_rewriter.cpp	837
smt/theory_arith_nl.h	613
smt/theory_lra.cpp	395
tactic/ufbv/ufbv_rewritercpp	375
math/lp/emonics.cpp	333
smt/theory_recfun.cpp	247
smt/smt_context.cpp	247
tactic/core/dom_simplify_tactic.cpp	229
$tactic/arith/purify_arith_tactic.cpp$	224

(b)

File	#Commits
theory/arith/nonlinear_extension.cpp	7
theory/arith/nl_model.cpp	5
smt/smt_engine.cpp	5
theory/strings/theory_strings.cpp	5
theory/quantifiers/quantifiers_rewriter.cpp	4
theory/quantifiers_engine.cpp	3
theory/quantifiers/instantiate.cpp	3
theory/arith/nonlinear_extension.h	3
preprocessing/passes/sygus_inference.cpp	3
$options/quantifiers_options.toml$	3

(c)

Filename	#LoC changes
theory/quantifiers/inst_propagator.cpp	864
theory/quantifiers/quantifiers_rewriter.cpp	611
theory/arith/nonlinear_extension.cpp	519
theory/quantifiers/local_theory_ext.cpp	270
theory/strings/theory_strings.cpp	243
theory/arith/nonlinear_extension.h	212
preprocessing/passes/int_to_bv.cpp	201
theory/quantifiers/inst_propagator.h	194
smt/smt_engine.cpp	130
theory/quantifiers/sygus/sygus_grammar_cons.cpp	95

(d)

Fig. 13. Top-10 (a) files affected by bug fixing commits in Z3. (b) LoC changes per file in Z3 (c) files affected by bug fixing commits in CVC4. (d) LoC changes per file in CVC4.

Z3 these have 572 and 332 LoC changes respectively. The 572 LoC change commit is a fix for a soundness bug in string logic. It leads to an extensive change in the rewriter of the sequential solver. The 481 LoC changes commit is a fix for a soundness bug in non-linear arithmetic logic. The fix was systematically revamping the decoupling of monomials in non-linear arithmetic logic. For CVC4, the top-2 commits have 1162 and 588 LoC changes respectively. The 1162 LoC changes in CVC4 commit fixes a crash bug by systematically removing the instantiation propagator infrastructure of CVC4. The developer commented that they will redesign this infrastructure in the future. The bugfix with 588 LoC changes is fixing a soundness bug which is labeled as "major" in CVC4's issue tracker. The bug is due to a buggy ad-hoc rewriter that was incorporated into CVC4's extended quantifier rewriting module. The fix deleted the previous buggy rewriting steps and re-implemented an alternative rewriter. Compared to the analysis on file changes, commits with high LoC have a stronger correlation with interesting and systematic fixes in the SMT solvers. On average, the bugs found by OpFuzz lead to 34 and 63 LOC changes for each commit in Z3 and CVC4 respectively.

RQ2: Which parts/files of Z3's and CVC4's codebases are most affected by the fixes? In this research question, we investigate the influence of OpFuzz's bug findings on the respective codebases of Z3 and CVC4. For this purpose, we use two metrics. First, the number of bug-fixing commits that changed a specific file f in either Z3's or CVC4's codebase, i.e., in how many bug-fixing commits file g was included. The second metric is the cumulative number of LoC changes for a file f caused by fixes in either Z3's or CVC4's codebase. For each file f we add up additions and deletions based on GitHub's changeset.

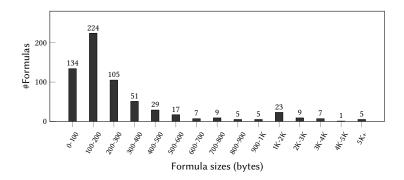


Fig. 14. File-size distribution of reduced bug-triggering formulas.

In general, there are 103 files in CVC4 and 348 files in Z3 are affected by the fixes of our bugs. Fig. 13 shows a top-10 ranking of files in Z3's (top row) and CVC4's codebase (bottom row) with respect to the two metrics. We observe that in both Fig. 13a and Fig. 13b, most files belong to the "smt" directory which contains the core implementations of Z3. Strikingly, the files "smt/theory_seq.cpp" (Z3's sequence and string solvers), "smt/theory_arith_nl.h" (Z3's nonlinear arithmetic solver) and "smt/theory_lra.cpp" (Z3's linear arithmetic solver) are ranked in the top-5 in both # Commits and # LoC changes rankings. This suggests that many of OpFuzz bug findings lead to fixes in the core components of Z3. Besides files from the "smt" directory, the remaining files are mostly part of Z3's "tactic" and "ast" directories. These contain the implementations of solver front-end and Z3's solving tactics. Note, several formulas rewriters related files such as files "ast/rewriter/seq_rewriter.cpp", "ast/rewriter/rewriter_def.h" and "tactic/ufbv/ufbv_rewriter.cpp" also rank highly in the top-10 files ranking of Z3.

We now turn our attention to CVC4. Consider the bottom row of Fig. 13 that presents file and LoC rankings in CVC4. The files "nonlinear_extension.cpp", "quantifiers_rewriter.cpp" and "theory_strings.cpp" are listed in the top-5 in of both rankings. The file "nonlinear_extension.cpp" was the implementation of non-linear arithmetic solver, and a recent pull request moved the core of the non-linear arithmetic solver elsewhere. The file "quantifiers_rewriter.cpp" contains the implementations of quantifier rewriters that caused soundness bugs, as RQ1 revealed. The file "theory_strings.cpp" contains the decision procedures for string logic in CVC4. Moreover, model generator of non-linear arithmetic ("nl_model.cpp") and pre-processings ("sygus_inference.cpp", "int_to_bv.cpp") are also heavily influenced by bug fixes.

RQ3: What is the file-size distribution the bug-triggering formulas? In this research question, we investigate the file-size distribution of reduced bug-triggering formulas. We collected the bug-triggering formulas from all confirmed and fixed Z3 and CVC4 bug reports we filed. Fig. 14 presents the distribution of bug-triggering formulas collectively for Z3 and CVC4. According to Fig. 14, most formulas have less than 600 bytes, while the range of 100-200 bytes has the highest formula count. Among all bugs-triggering formula we reported, there are three formulas to have more than 10,000 bytes *i.e.*, 23,770 bytes, 19,473 bytes and 10,562 bytes. All of these are in bit-vector logic. The formula with 23,770 bytes and 10,562 bytes triggered an invalid model bug and a crash bug respectively in Z3, and both of them take the developers a half month to fix. The formula with 19,473 bytes triggered a crash bug in CVC4, which is still open.

The top-3 smallest bug-triggering formulas have 21, 30, and 34 bytes respectively. The 21 byte formula is an invalid formula that triggers a crash bug in Z3. The 30 bytes and 34 bytes formulas are a crash-triggering formula for Z3 and CVC4 respectively, both point to the corner cases. These

three bugs were all fixed promptly, i.e., in less than one day, which is significantly faster than the bugs triggered by the top-3 largest formulas. In general, the average size of the bug-triggering formulas reported by us is 426 bytes, which is usually sufficiently small for the developers to fix the bug.

5.2 Insights

Insight 1: OpFuzz's bugs are of high-quality. RQ1 and RQ2 have shown that OpFuzz's bug findings have not only led to non-trivial file and LoC changes in both CVC4 and Z3, but also motivated the developers to reorganize and redesign some parts of the solvers. Systematic infrastructure changes such as the decoupling of the monomial instantiation propagator show this. Furthermore OpFuzz's bugs affected core implementations of the SMT solvers Z3 and CVC4. As RQ2 presented, the "smt" directory in Z3 and "theory" directory in CVC4, solvers are among the most affected. Besides, the bugs also affected various pre-processors and rewriters components. Third, the bug-triggering formulas that OpFuzz could be reduced to reasonable sizes (cf. RQ3).

Insight 2: Weak components in Z3 and CVC4. From the rankings in RQ2, we identify several "weak" components in Z3 and CVC4. First, in both Z3 and CVC4, source files for the non-linear arithmetic solvers rank high. This indicates: decision procedures for non-linear arithmetic are among the weak components in SMT solvers. Apart from these, rewriters are a weak components as well. Z3's "rewriter_def.h", "ufbv_rewriter.cpp" and "seq_rewriter.cpp" are among the top-10 in LoC changes. In CVC4, the quantifier rewriter "quantifiers_rewriter.cpp" is ranked high (5th and 2nd in Fig. 13c and Fig. 13d respectively). In Z3, we identified the tactics to be a weak component. Among the filed bug reports, there are 126 including reports related to tactics. In Fig. 13, these are "purify_arith_tactic.cpp" and "dom_simplify_tactic.cpp" which are ranked 9th or 10th in both Fig. 13a and Fig. 13b.

Insight 3: Bugs found by OpFuzz can usually be reduced to small-sized formulas but bug reduction can be challenging. As we have observed (c.f. Fig. 14), 90% of all bugs found by OpFuzz are triggered by formulas of less than 600 bytes. Small-sized formulas facilitate the bug fixing efforts significantly. As we observed in RQ3, the bug reports with the top-3 largest formulas took the developers around half a month while the top-3 smallest formulas have been fixed very fast, usually within just a few hours. However, reducing SMT formulas to such small sizes can be quite challenging. ddSMT [19] is the only existing specialized SMT formula reducer for that purpose which does however not fully support the SMT-LIB 2.6 standard and formulas in string logic. We therefore preferred C-Reduce, a C code reducer to reduce SMT formulas. While creduce worked surprisingly well in practice, bug reduction is often challenging especially if the time for solving the formula is itself high.

5.3 Assorted Bug Samples

This subsection details multiple bug samples from our extensive bug hunting campaign of the SMT solvers Z3 and CVC4 and inspects the root causes. The bugs shown are reduced by C-Reduce, since the unreduced formulas are too large to be presented.

Fig. 15a shows a soundness bug in Z3's bit-vector logic. The formula is clearly unsatisfiable as the nested byxnor expression equals the unnested byxnor expression. However, Z3 reports unsat on it, which is incorrect. The root cause for this bug is an incorrect handling of the ternary byxnor in Z3's bitvector rewriter "by_rewriter.cpp". The byxnor was implemented as the negation of the byxor operator. This is correct in the binary case, however incorrect for the n-ary case. To see this consider, e.g., (byxnor a b c) = (byxnor (byxnor a b) c) = true ≠

(a) Soundness bug in Z3 caused by a logic in the handling of the ternary byxnor operator.

https://github.com/Z3Prover/z3/issues/2832

```
1 (declare-fun a () Int)
2 (declare-fun b (Int) Bool)
3 (assert (b 0)) (push)
4 (assert (distinct true)
5 (= a 0) (not (b 0))))
6 (check-sat)
```

(c) Soundness bug in Z3 in the boolean rewriter handling the distinct operator.

https://github.com/Z3Prover/z3/issues/2830

(e) Soundness bug in Z3 due to a missing axiom in the integer to string conversion function.

https://github.com/Z3Prover/z3/issues/2721

(g) Longstanding soundness bug in Z3's qe tactic (since version 4.8.5).

https://github.com/Z3Prover/z3/issues/4175

```
1 (declare-fun a () Int)
2 (declare-fun b () Real)
3 (declare-fun c () Real)
4 (assert (> a 0))
5 (assert (= (* (/ b b) c) 2.0))
6 (check-sat)
7 (check-sat)
8 (get-model)
```

(i) Invalid model bug in Z3.

https://github.com/Z3Prover/z3/issues/3118

(b) Soundness bug in CVC4 caused by an inadmissble reduction of the square root operator.

https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/3475

(d) Soundness bug in CVC4 due to a variable reuse in a simplification.

https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/4469

(f) Soundness bug in CVC4 due to an invalid indexof range lemma.

https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/3497

```
1 (declare-fun a () Real)
2 (assert (= (* 4 a a) 9))
3 (check-sat)
4 (get-model)
```

(h) Invalid model bug in CVC4.

https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/3719

```
1 (declare-fun d () Int)
2 (declare-fun b () (Set Int))
3 (declare-fun c () (Set Int))
4 (declare-fun e () (Set Int))
5 (assert (subset b e))
6 (assert (= (card b) d))
7 (assert (= (card c) 0 (mod 0 d)))
8 (assert (> (card (setminus e)))
10 (setminus e c)))) 0))
```

(j) Soundness bug in CVC4's set logic caused by an incorrectly implemented cardinality rule.

https://github.com/CVC4/CVC4/issues/4391

Fig. 15. Selected bug samples in Z3 and CVC4.

- (not (bvxor a b c)) = false for a = b = c = true. In the his fix, Z3's main developer recursively reduces n-ary case bvxnor expression to the binary case. The fix lead to a 17 LoC change in ast/rewriter/bv_rewriter.cpp.
- Fig. 15b shows a soundness bug in the implementation of the symbolic square root in CVC4. The formula can be satisfied by assigning an arbitrary negative real to variable x. CVC4 incorrectly reported unsat on this formula. The root cause for this bug is an inadmissible reduction of the square root expression (sqrt x) to "choice real y s.t. x = y · y". For negative x, there is no y to satisfy the equation. However, square roots of negative numbers are permitted by the SMT-LIB standard. CVC4's developers fixed this bug by interpreting square roots of negative numbers as an undefined value that can be chosen arbitrarily. For the formula in Fig. 15b, the term (/ (sqrt x) (sqrt x)) can be arbitrarily chosen, as the second assert demands x to be negative. Therefore, the formula in Fig. 15b is satisfiable. The bug-fixing pull request was labeled as "major" which reveals that this issue was of high importance to the CVC4 developers. The fix lead to a 126 LoC change on 5 files.
- Fig. 15c is a soundness bugs in Z3. Although the second assert is unsatisfiable (as true cannot be distinct with (not (b 0)), Z3 reported sat on this formula The bug is caused by a logic error in a loop condition of a rewriting rule for the distinct operator. An incorrect index condition accidentally skips the last argument in an n-ary distinct. The push command is necessary for triggering the bug, as it actives the rewriter for distinct. The developer has fixed this bug by correcting the index condition. Hence, his fix consisted of only two character deletes in ast/rewriter/bool_rewriter.cpp
- Fig. 15d shows a soundness bug in CVC4's logic of uninterpreted functions In default mode, CVC4 incorrectly reports unsat on this satisfiable formula. If we disable unconstrained simplification (--no-unconstrained-simp), CVC4 correctly reports unsat. The bug is caused by an unsound variable reuse. Our bug report got a "major" label by CVC4's developers and was promptly fixed. The core fix consisted of three LoC deletions in file the unconstrained simplifier implementation "preprocessing/passes/unconstrained_simplifier.cpp".
- Fig. 15e depicts a soundness bug in Z3's QF_SLIA logic. The formulas is unsatisfiable since if b > 0 holds there does not exist an a starting with "0". However, Z3 reports sat on this formula. The developers fixed this issue by adding an axiom to the smt/theory_seq.cpp adding two additional LoC to this file.
- Fig. 15f shows a soundness in CVC4's string logic. The intuition behind this formula is the following. The index of string y in x after position 1 should be equal to the length of string x. Furthermore x should contain y. The formula can be satisfied by setting y to the empty string and x to a string of length 1. However, CVC4 incorrectly reports unsat. The root cause was a logic error in theory/strings/theory_strings.cpp The developer's fix changed three characters in theory/strings/theory_strings.cpp. The fix is labelled as "major".
- Fig. 15g presents a long-standing soundness bug in Z3's qe tactic. It affects z3 release from version 4.8.5 to 4.8.7. The qe tactic is an equisatisfiable transform for eliminating quantifiers. Hence , the satisfiability should not be changed by using the qe tactic. The formula is satisfiable by assigning a to 0, while Z3's qe tactic reports unsat. The bug has been confirmed by Z3's

developers but has not been fixed yet.

- Fig. 15h shows an invalid model bug in CVC4. CVC4 correctly reports sat but generates the model $\{a \mapsto \frac{-9}{2}\}$ which does not satisfy the formula. The bug is caused in CVC4's implementation of the square root. A logic error assigns the result of the square root to be the square root's argument. The fix is labeled as "major" by the developers, and promptly fixed only with a two LoC change in file theory/arith/nl_model.cpp.
- Fig 15i shows an invalid model bug in Z3. The (check-sat) command appears twice in the formula. This means that Z3 is queried twice for solving. Z3 reports unknown for the first query and sat for the second. In the second query, Z3 gives the following invalid model $\{a\mapsto 0,b\mapsto 0.0,c\mapsto 16.0,\frac{0}{0}\mapsto \frac{1}{8}\}$ violating (> a 0). The developers fixed this bug through three LoC changes in file solver/tactic2solver.cpp.
- Fig. 15j presents a soundness bug in CVC4's set logic. CVC4 returns unsat on this satisfiable formula. The root cause is an incorrectly implemented set cardinality rule in the cardinality extension of CVC4. CVC4's set solver uses lemmas to guess the equalities for terms by identifying cycles of terms $e_1 = \cdots = e_2 = \cdots = e_2$. CVC4 has incorrectly assumed that these cycles are loops and in that case would conclude $e_1 = \cdots = e_2$. However, the cycles could have a lasso form which was triggered by our formula. The developers fixed this issue, included the formula to CVC4's regression test suite and marked the pull request to be critical for CVC4's 1.8 release. The fix was labeled as "major" and made 9 LoC changes to theory/sets/cardinality_extension.cpp.

6 RELATED WORK

SMT Solver Testing. This paper is not the first work on testing SMT solvers. Roughly ten years ago, the fuzzing tool FuzzSMT [8] has been proposed, which is based on differential testing and targeted bit-vector logic. FuzzSMT uses a grammar for generating the SMT formula . FuzzSMT totally found 16 solver defects in five solvers, however, none in Z3. BtorMBT [20] is a testing tool for Boolector [7], an SMT solver for the bit-vector theory. BtorMBT tests Boolector by generating random valid API call sequences. However, BtorMBT did not find any bugs in a real setting.

The efforts of the SMT-LIB initiative [4] have resulted in formalized SMT theories and common input/output file formats. In addition, the yearly solver competition SMT-COMP [13] heavily penalized solvers with soundness issues. Consequently, SMT solvers have robustified and finding bugs in SMT solvers became more difficult. Researchers have hence targeted the less mature logics such as the recently proposed theory of strings. Blotsky et al. [6] proposed StringFuzz which focuses on performance issues in string logic. StringFuzz generates test cases in two ways, one is mutating and transforming the benchmarks, another one is randomly generating formulas from a grammar. StringFuzz found 2 performance bug and 1 implementation bug in z3str3. Bugariu and Müller [9] proposed a formula synthesis approach that generates String formulas which can be specified to be by construction satisfiable or unsatisfiable. They showed that their approach can detect many existing bugs in String solvers and they found 5 new soundness/incorrect model bugs in z3 and z3str3. However, it remained an open question whether automated testing tools could find bugs in theories except the unicode string theory in Z3 and CVC4. Recently, semantic fusion [29] has been proposed which is an approach to stress-test SMT solvers by fusing formula pairs that are by construction either satisfiable or unsatisfiable. Their tool YinYang found 39 bugs in Z3 and 9 in CVC4. STORM [21], another recent mutation-based SMT solver testing approach, found 27 bugs in Z3, however none in CVC4. Another related approach is BanditFuzz [25], a reinforcement learning-based fuzzer to detect SMT solver performance issues.

Compared to previous work, type-aware operator mutation is the simplest, while it has also demonstrated to be the most effective technique for testing SMT solvers. Type-aware operator mutations show a promising direction for testing SMT solvers which can benefit the whole community. For example, OpFuzz can be used for the solver developers to stress-test new features conveniently.

Grammar-aware Mutation Based Testing. Type-aware operator mutation is related to grammar-aware mutation-based testing. The closest work is skeletal program enumeration (SPE) [30], an approach for validating compilers. Similar to type-aware mutation testing, program skeletons are generated from a set of seed programs. The holes in these skeletons are then systematically filled by exhaustive enumeration. However, unlike type-aware operator mutation, SPE focuses on program variables and not on functions. SPE provides relative guarantees with respect to the input seed programs. Type-aware operator mutation is also related to FuzzChick [18], a coverage-guided fuzzer for Coq programs. FuzzChick generates test cases for Coq programs by semantic mutations at type-level. FuzzChick is aware of parameter types and generates new values for the parameters while preserving type-correctness. Type-aware operator mutation, on the other hand, is focusing on the operators' types and to generate highly diverse SMT formulas.

AFLSmart [22], Superion [28] and Nautilus [1] are general grammar-aware grey-box fuzzers targeting programming language engines. They use code coverage to guide the grammar-aware mutations. As a key difference to type-aware operator mutation, they both need to fully parse the program and work on abstract syntax tree level, which leads to high computational cost during fuzzing. Type-aware operator mutation on the other hand works on token level, and works without fully parse the formula, which makes type-aware operator mutation more practical and highly efficient.

7 CONCLUSION

We introduced type-aware operator mutation, a simple and effective approach for stress-testing SMT solvers. We realized type-aware operator mutation in our testing tool OpFuzz in little more than 200 LoC supporting only the most basic operators of the SMT-LIB language. Despite this, OpFuzz found 632 confirmed bugs (531 fixed) in Z3 and CVC4. These bug findings are highly diverse, ranging over various types, logics and solver configurations in both state-of-the-art SMT solvers. Among these were many critical bugs. Type-aware operator mutation has found many more bugs than previous approaches by a large margin. Our bug findings show that SMT solvers are not yet reliable enough, even the most popular and stable, such as Z3 and CVC4. Our highly practical tool OpFuzz can help SMT solver developers making their solvers more reliable. For future work, we want to explore the full potential of type-aware operator mutation by invoking more sophisticated type-aware mutations.

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