

The NIST Bugs Framework (BF)

Data Type Bugs Taxonomy:
Integer Overflow, Juggling, and
Pointer Arithmetics in Spotlight



<https://samate.nist.gov/BF/>

Agenda

- Introduction:
 - “Bad Alloc” Pattern
 - Terminology:
 - ✓ Bug
 - ✓ Weakness
 - ✓ Vulnerability
 - ✓ Failure
- Existing Repositories:
 - CWE
 - CVE
 - NVD
 - KEV
- The Bugs Framework (BF)
 - Goals
 - Features
- BF Taxonomy – of Data Type Bugs
- Validation towards CWE
- BF Hands On:
 - Bad Allocation Chain
 - Incorrect Pointer Scaling Chain
- Potential Impacts

Introduction

“BadAlloc” Pattern – 25 CVEs



Alerts and Tips Re

ICS-CERT Advisories >

ICS Advisory

Multiple RTOS (I

Original release date: April.

Print Tweet Facebook

Legal Notice

All information products incl
regarding any information co
Light Protocol (TLP) marking

1. EXECUTIVE SI

- **CVSS v3 9.8**
- **ATTENTION:** Exploit
- **Vendors:** Multiple
- **Equipment:** Multiple
- **Vulnerabilities:** Integ

CISA is aware of a public
issuing this advisory to j

The various open-sourc

2. UPDATE INFO

This updated advisory is:
www.cisa.gov/uscert.

3. RISK EVALUAT

Successful exploitation

4.2 VULNERABILITY OVERVIEW

4.2.1 INTEGER OVERFLOW OR WRAPAROUND CWE-190

Media Tek LinkIt SDK versions prior to 4.6.1 is vulnerable to integer overflow in memory all memory corruption on the target device.

CVE-2021-30636 has been assigned to this vulnerability. A CVSS v3 base score of 7.3 has be

4.2.2 INTEGER OVERFLOW OR WRAPAROUND CWE-190

ARM CMSIS RTOS2 versions prior to 2.1.3 are vulnerable to integer wrap-around in osRtxMe allocation, resulting in unexpected behavior such as a crash or injected code execution.

CVE-2021-27431 has been assigned to this vulnerability. A CVSS v3 base score of 7.3 has be

4.2.3 INTEGER OVERFLOW OR WRAPAROUND CWE-190

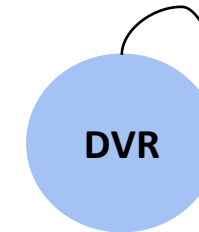
ARM mbed-ualloc memory library Version 1.3.0 is vulnerable to integer wrap-around in fun unexpected behavior such as a crash or a remote code injection/execution.

CVE-2021-27433 has been assigned to this vulnerability. A CVSS v3 base score of 7.3 has be

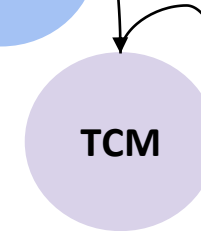
4.2.4 INTEGER OVERFLOW OR WRAPAROUND CWE-190

ARM mbed product Version 6.3.0 is vulnerable to integer wrap-around in malloc_wrapper f behavior such as a crash or a remote code injection/execution.

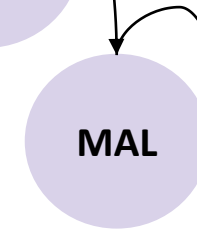
Data Verification
Bug



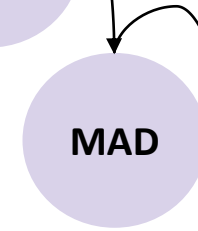
Type Computation
Weakness



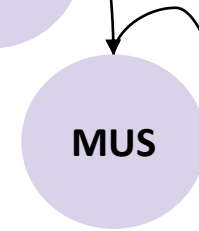
Memory Allocation
Weakness



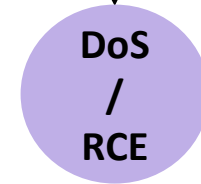
Memory Addressing
Weakness



Memory Use
Weakness



Failure



- Software Bug:
 - A coding error
 - Needs to be fixed
- Software Weakness:
 - Caused by a bug or ill-formed data
 - Weakness Type – a meaningful notion!
- Software Vulnerability:
 - An instance of a weakness type that leads to a security failure
 - May have several underlying weaknesses
- Security failure:
 - A violation of a system security requirement

Existing Repositories

Commonly Used Repositories

- Weaknesses:

[CWE](#) – Common Weakness Enumeration

<https://cwe.mitre.org/>

- Vulnerabilities:

[CVE](#) – Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures

<https://cve.mitre.org/>

→ over 18 000 documented in 2020

- Vulnerabilities by priority for remediation – CVEs:

[KEV](#) – Known Exploited Vulnerabilities Catalog

<https://www.cisa.gov/known-exploited-vulnerabilities-catalog>

- Linking weaknesses to vulnerabilities – CWEs to CVEs

[NVD](#) – National Vulnerabilities Database

<https://nvd.nist.gov/>

→ links also to KEV

Repository Problems

1. Imprecise Descriptions – CWE & CVE
2. Unclear Causality – CWE & CVE
3. No Tracking Methodology – CVE
4. Gaps in Coverage – CWE
5. Overlaps in Coverage – CWE
6. No Tools – CWE & CVE

Problem #1: Imprecise Descriptions

- Example:

CWE-502: Deserialization of Untrusted Data:

The application deserializes untrusted data without *sufficiently verifying that* the resulting data *will be valid*.

- Unclear what “*sufficiently*” means,
- “verifying that data is valid” is also confusing

Problems #2, #3: Unclear Causality, Tracking



- Example:

[CVE-2018-5907](#)

Possible **buffer overflow** in `msm_adsp_stream_callback_put` due to **lack of input validation** of user-provided data that leads to **integer overflow** in all Android releases (Android for MSM, Firefox OS for MSM, QRD Android) from CAF using the Linux kernel.

→ the NVD label is [CWE-190](#)

While the CWEs chain is:

CWE-20 → CWE-190 → CWE-119

Problems #4, #5: Gaps/Overlaps in Coverage

- Example:

CWEs coverage of buffer overflow by:

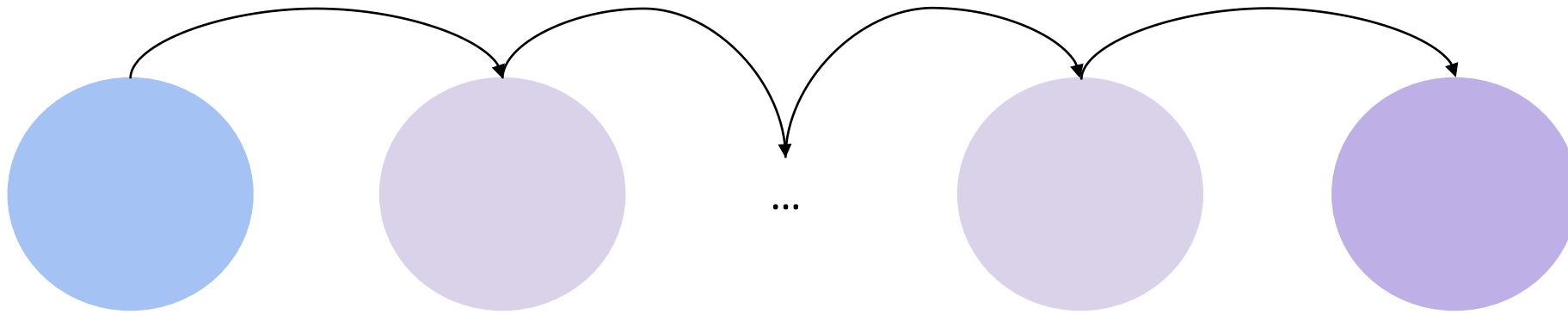
- ✓ Read/ Write
- ✓ Over/ Under
- ✓ Stack/ Heap

	Over	Under	Either End		Stack	Heap
Read	CWE-127	CWE-126	CWE-125		✦	✦
Write	CWE-124	CWE-120	CWE-123 CWE-787 ✦		CWE-121	CWE-122
Read/ Write	CWE-786	CWE-788	✦		✦	✦

The Bugs Framework (BF)

BF Goals

1. Solve the problems of imprecise descriptions and unclear causality

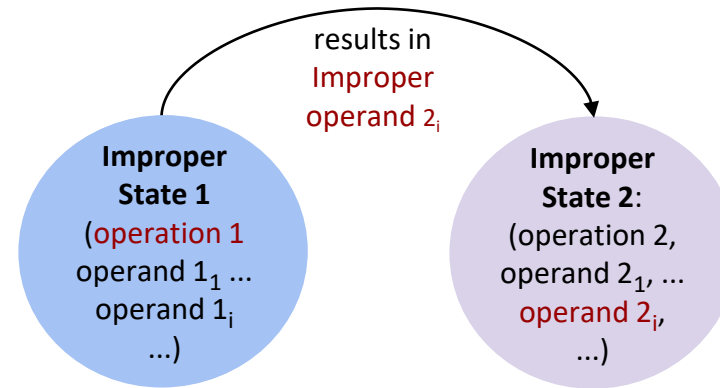


2. Solve the problems of gaps and overlaps in coverage

BF Features – Clear Causal Descriptions

- BF describes a bug/weakness as:

- An improper state
- and
- Its transition

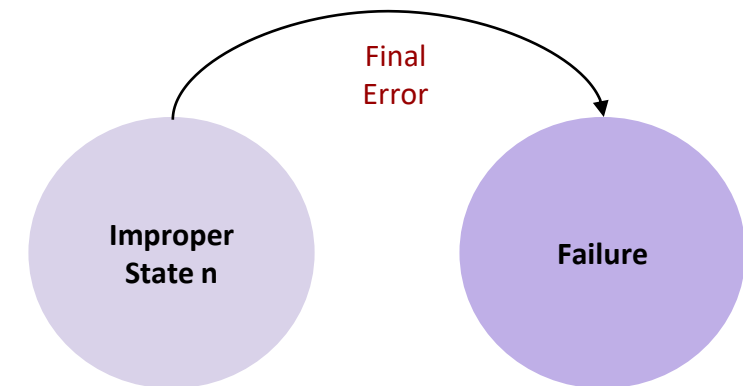


- Improper State –

a tuple (*operation*, operand₁, . . . , operand_n)
, where at least one element is improper

- Transition –

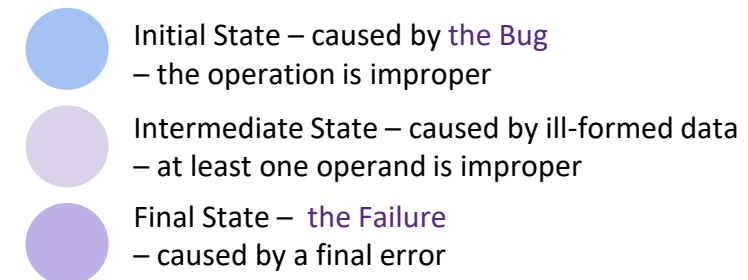
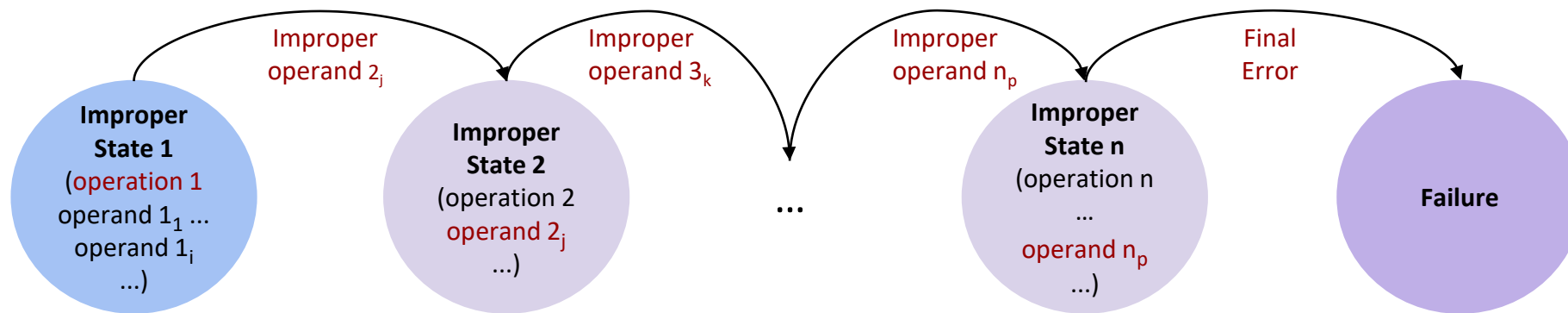
the result of the *operation* over the operands



- Initial State – caused by the Bug
– the operation is improper
- Intermediate State – caused by ill-formed data
– at least one operand is improper
- Final State – the Failure
– caused by a final error

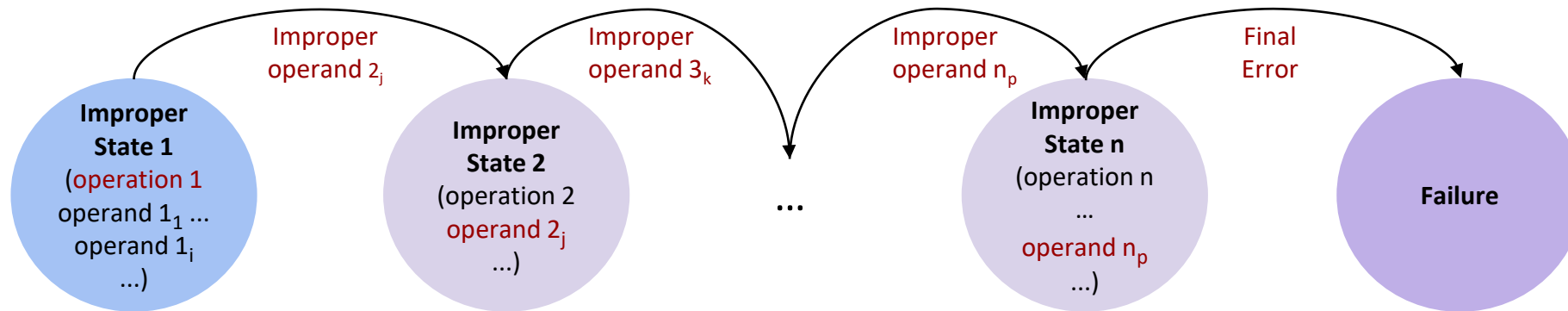
BF Features – Chaining Weaknesses

- BF describes a vulnerability as:
 - A chain of improper states and their transitions
 - States change until a failure is reached



BF Features – Backtracking

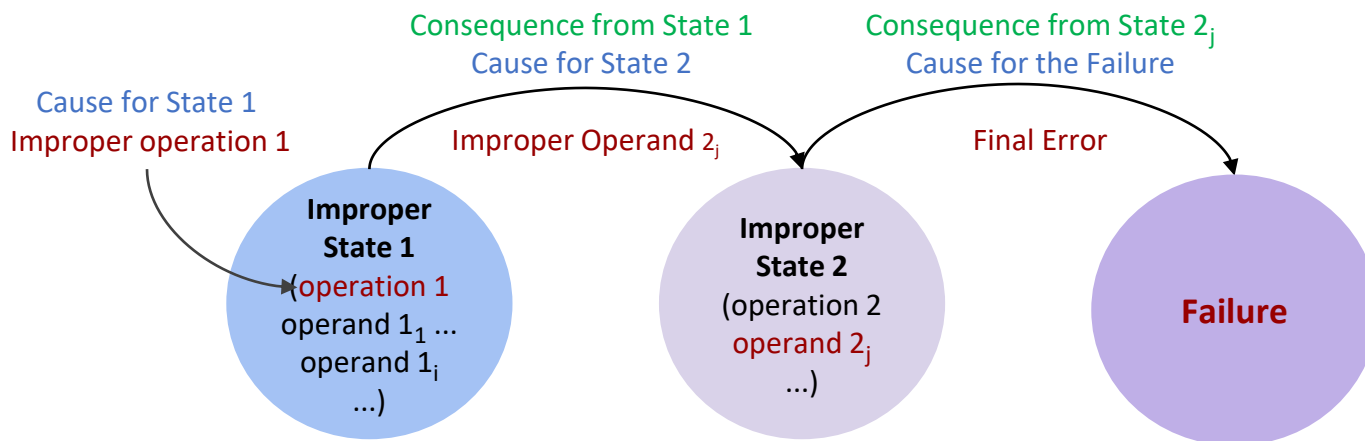
- How to find the Bug?
- Go backwards by operand until an operation is a cause



- Initial State – caused by **the Bug**
– the operation is improper
- Intermediate State – caused by ill-formed data
– at least one operand is improper
- Final State – **the Failure**
– caused by a final error

BF Features – Classification

- BF Class – a taxonomic category of a weakness type, defined by:
 - A set of operations
 - All valid cause → consequence relations
 - A set of attributes



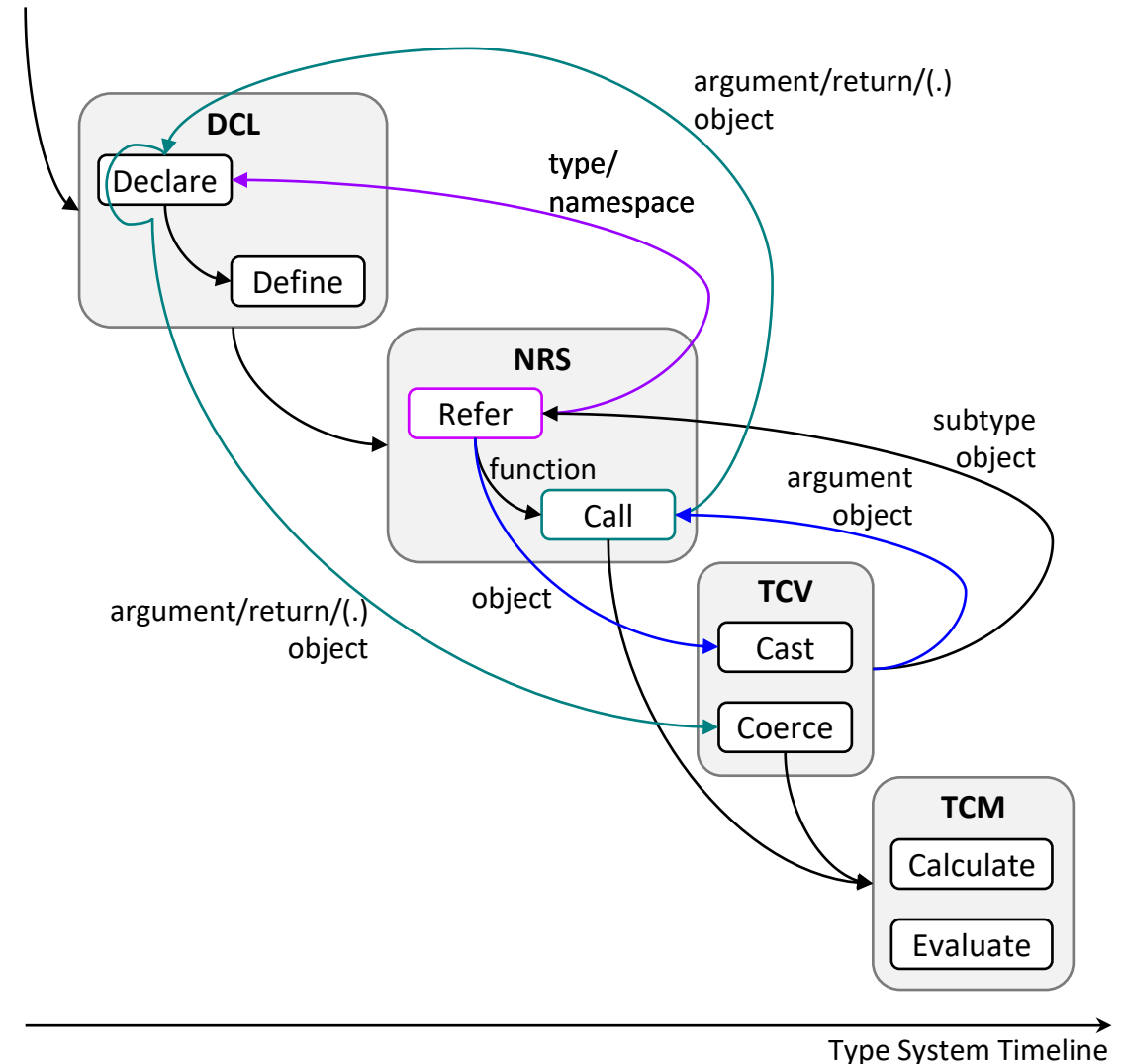
- BF bug/weakness description – instance of a BF class with:
 - one cause
 - one operation
 - one consequence
 - and their attributes
- BF vulnerability description –
 - chain of BF classes instances
 - consequence–cause transitions.

BF Taxonomy – Data Type Bugs

BF Data Type Bugs Model

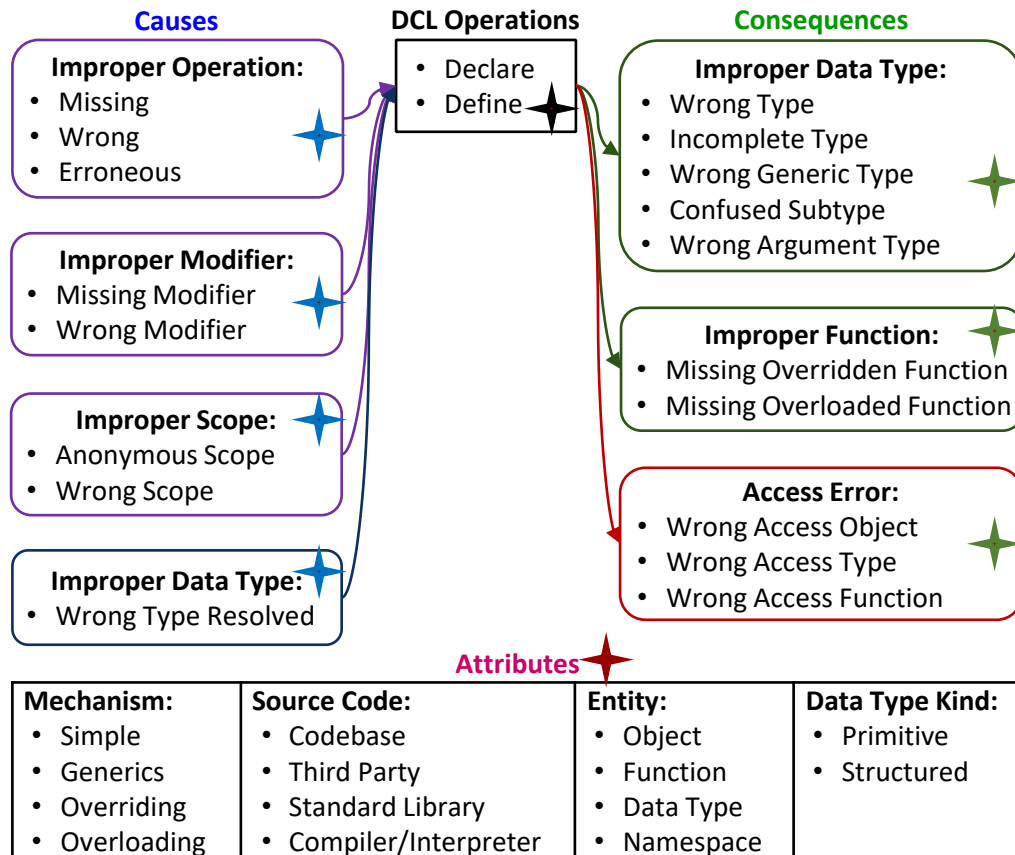
- Four phases, corresponding to the BF Data Type Bugs classes: DCL, NRS, TCV, and TCM
- Data Type operations flow

- **Entity:**
- Object
 - Data Type
 - Function
 - Namespace

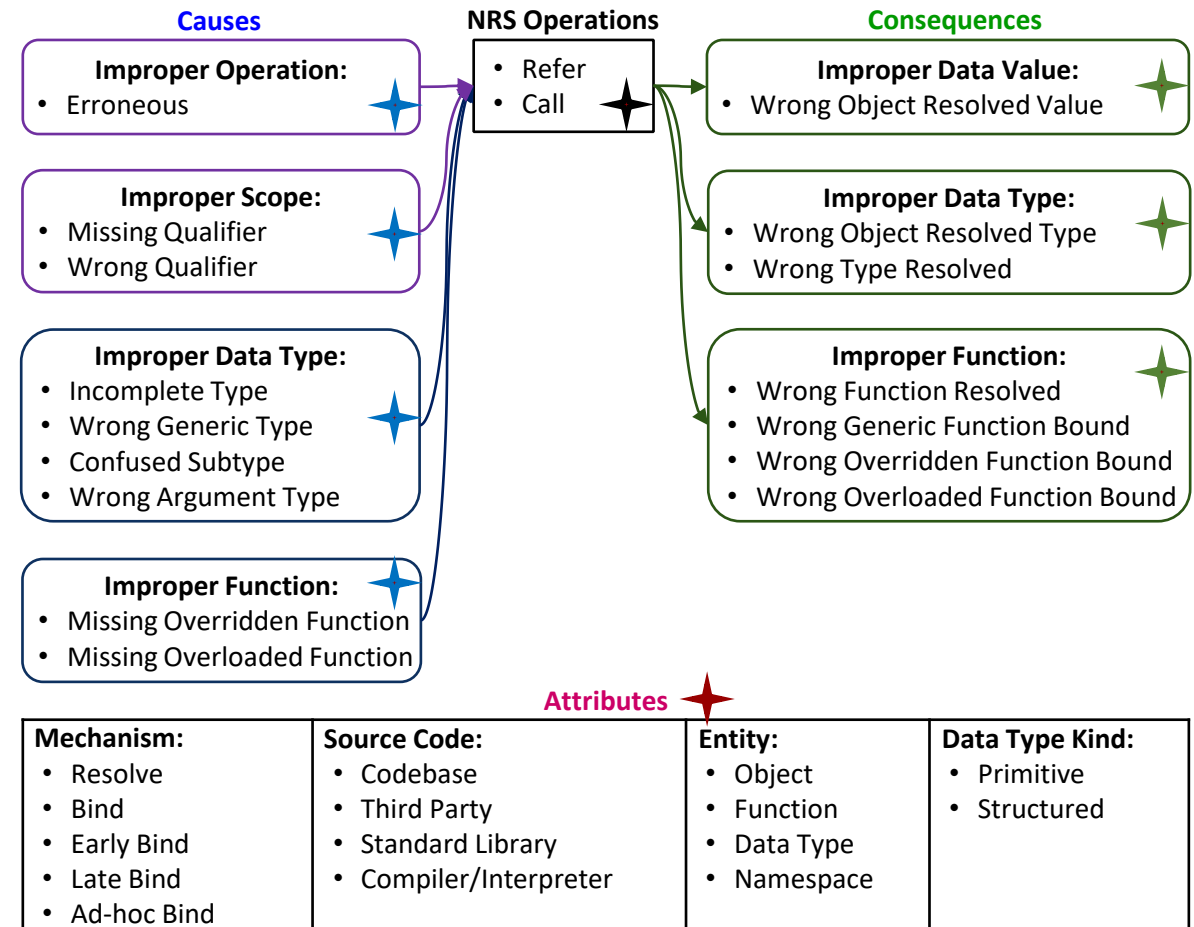


BF Data Type Bugs Classes: DCL & NRS

Declaration Bugs (DCL) – *An object, a function, a data type, or a namespace is declared or defined improperly.*

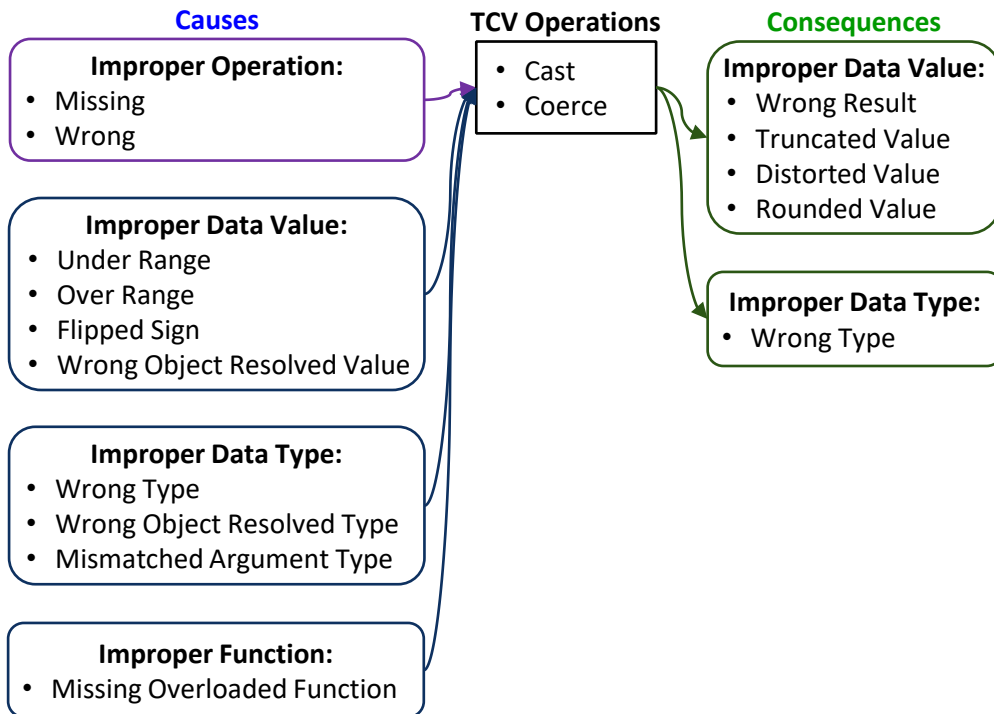


Name Resolution Bugs (NRS) – *The name of an object, a function, or a data type is resolved improperly or bound to an improper data type or implementation.*



BF Data Type Bugs Classes: TCV & TCM

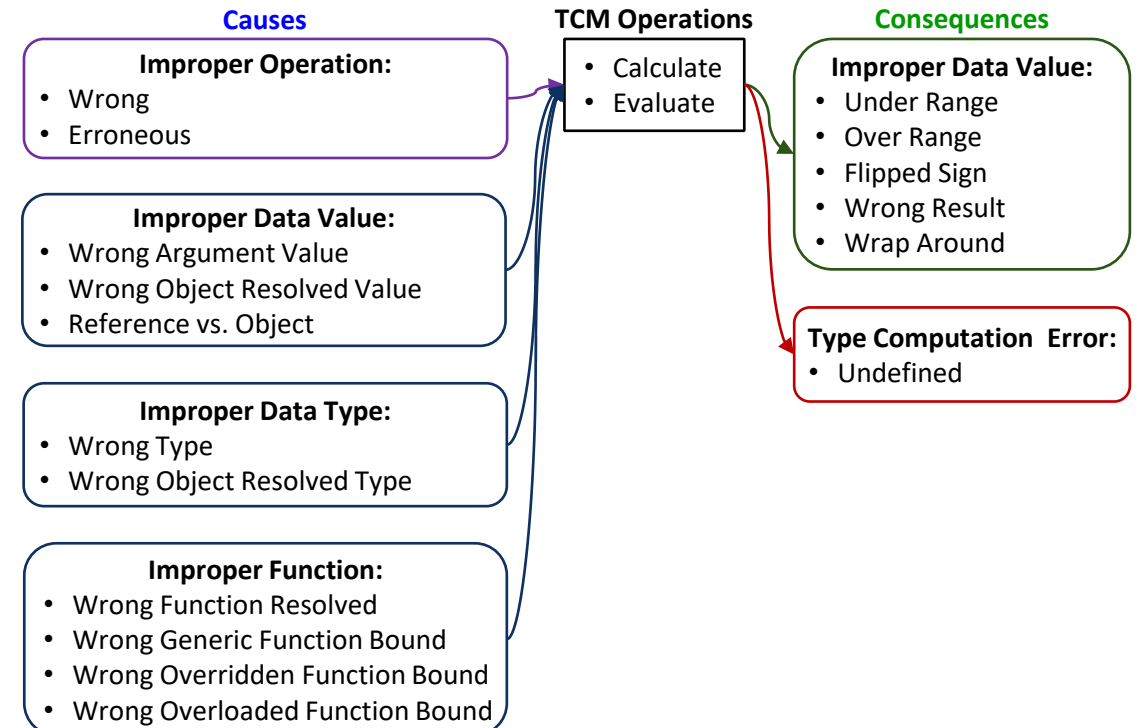
Type Conversion Bugs (TCV) – *A data value is cast or coerced into another data type improperly.*



Attributes

Mechanism:	Source Code:	Data Value Kind:	Data Type Kind:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pass InPass Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CodebaseThird PartyStandard LibraryCompiler/Interpreter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NumericTextPointerBoolean	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PrimitiveStructured

Type Computation Bugs (TCM) – *An arithmetic expression (over numbers, strings, or pointers) is calculated improperly, or a boolean condition is evaluated improperly.*

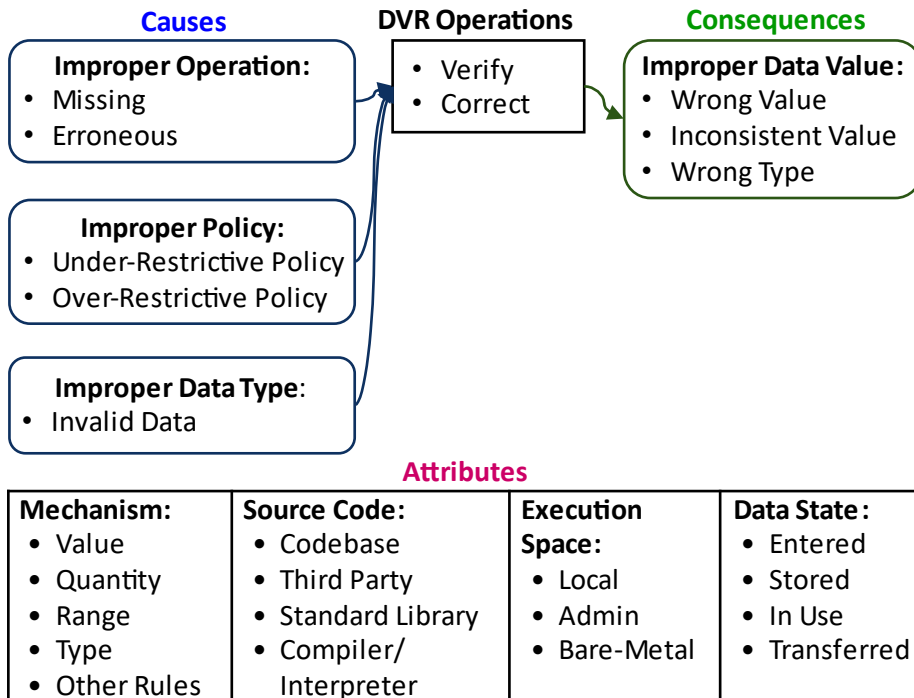


Attributes

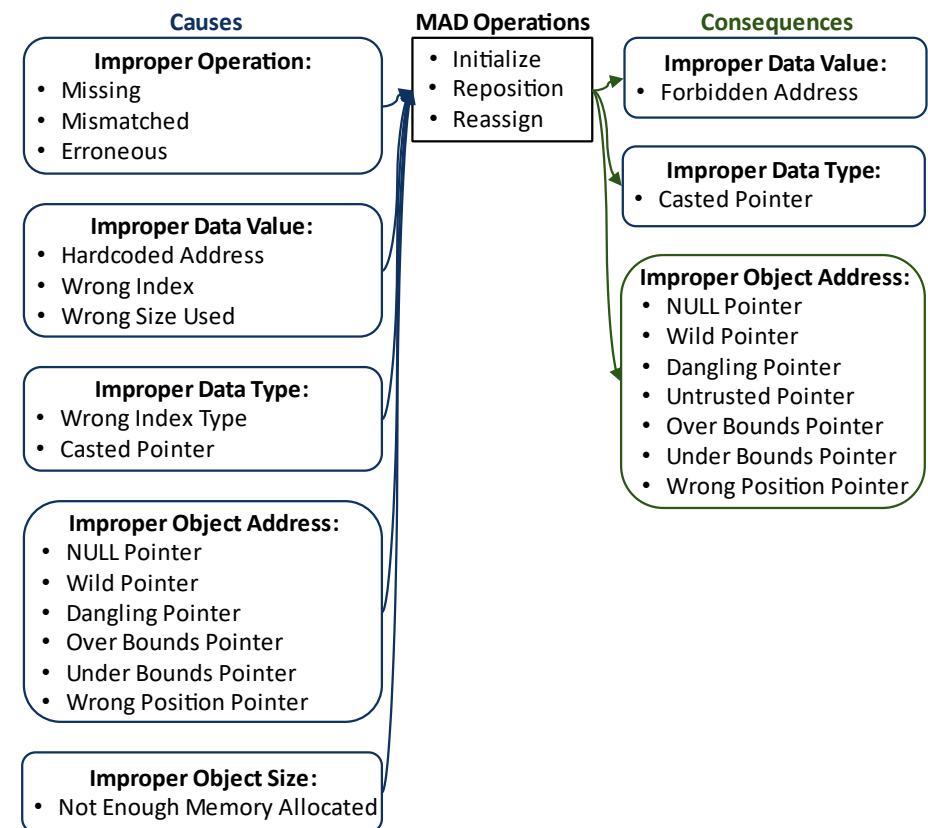
Mechanism:	Source Code:	Data Value Kind:	Data Type Kind:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">FunctionOperatorMethodLambda ExpressionProcedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CodebaseThird PartyStandard LibraryCompiler/ Interpreter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NumericTextPointerBoolean	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PrimitiveStructured

Other BF Classes – DVR, MAD

Data Verification Bugs (DVR) – *Data are verified (semantics check) or corrected (assign value, remove) improperly.*



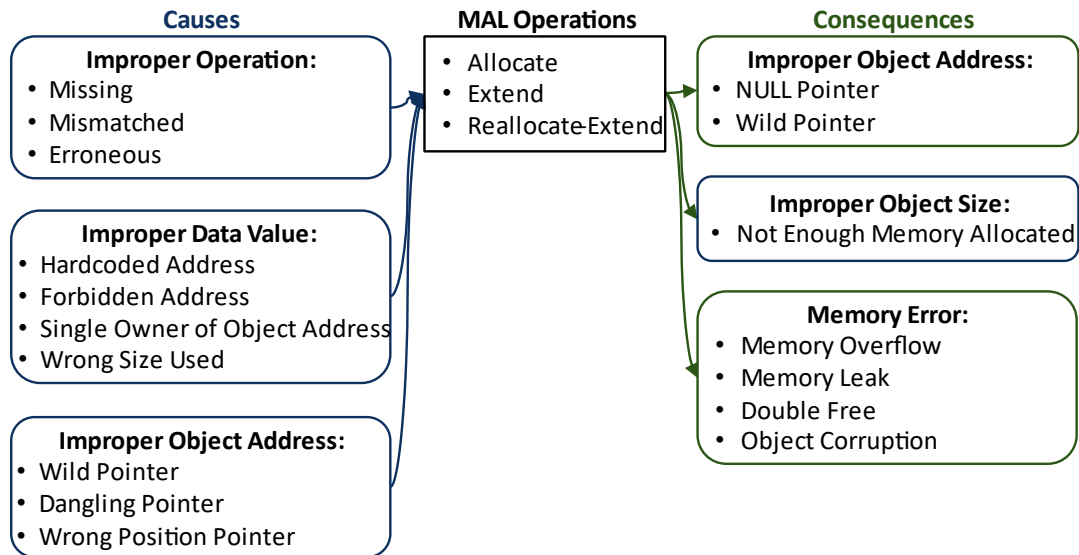
Memory Addressing Bugs (MAD) – *The pointer to an object is initialized, repositioned, or reassigned to an improper memory address.*



Attributes			
Mechanism:	Source Code:	Execution Space:	Object Location:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">DirectSequential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CodebaseThird PartyStandard LibraryCompiler/ Interpreter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UserlandKernelBare-Metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">StackHeap...

Other BF Classes – MAL, MUS

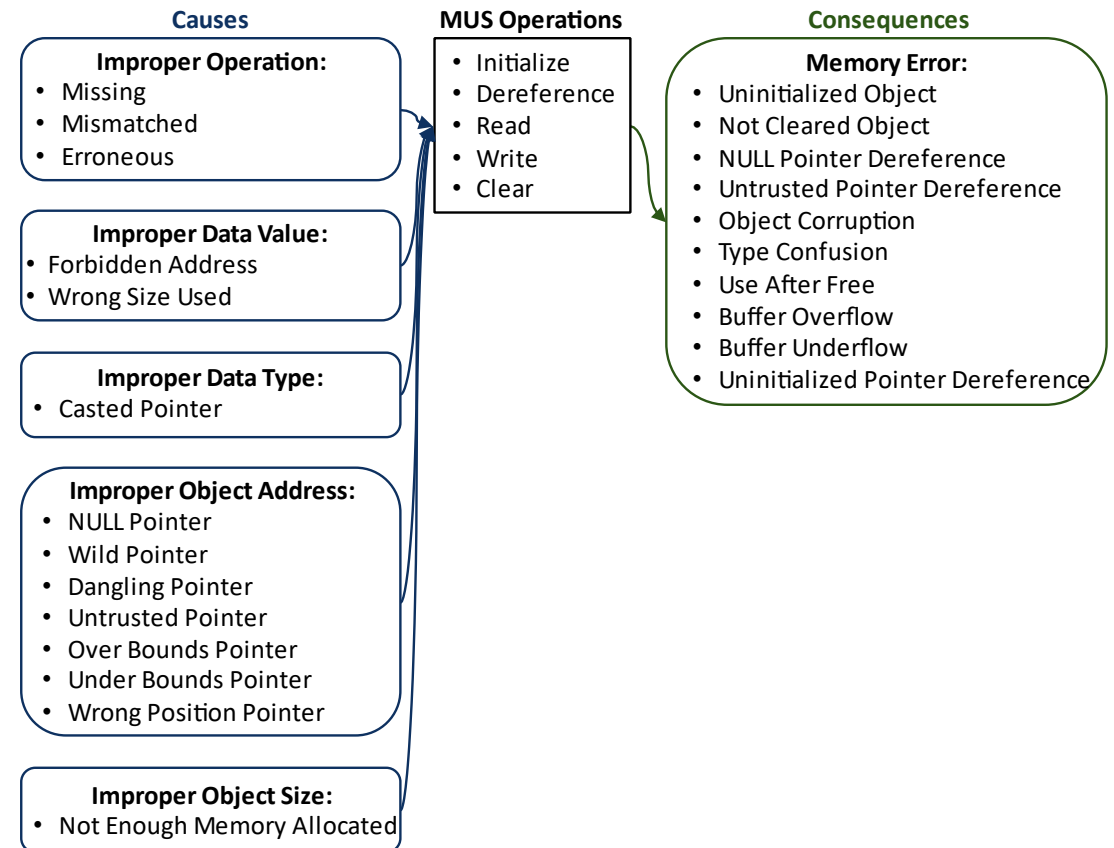
Memory Allocation Bugs (MAL)



Attributes

Operation			Object	
Mechanism:	Source Code:	Execution Space:	Ownership:	Location:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ImplicitExplicit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CodebaseThird PartyStandard LibraryCompiler/ Interpreter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UserlandKernelBare-Metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NoneSingleShared	<ul style="list-style-type: none">StackHeap...

Memory Use Bugs (MUS)



Attributes

Operation			Pointer	Object
Mechanism:	Source Code:	Execution Space:	Span:	Location:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">DirectSequential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CodebaseThird PartyStandard LibraryCompiler/ Interpreter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UserlandKernelBare-Metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LittleModerateHuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">StackHeap...

BF in XML Format

```
BF.xml*  X
<!--@author Irena Bojanova(ivb)-->
<!--@date - 2/9/2022-->
<BF Name="Bug Framework">
  <Cluster Name="_INP" Type="Bug/Weakness" Definition="Input/Output Ch">...</Cluster>
  <Cluster Name="_DTC" Type="Bug/Weakness" Definition="Data Type Bugs (incl. Convert and Compute Errors)">
    <Class Name="DCL" Title="Declaration Bugs" Definition="An object, a function, a type, or a namespace is declared or defined improperly.">
      <Operations>
        <Operation Name="Declare"/>
        <Operation Name="Define"/>
        <AttributeType Name="Mechanism">...</AttributeType>
        <AttributeType Name="Source Code">...</AttributeType>
        <AttributeType Name="Entity">...</AttributeType>
      </Operations>
      <Operands>
        <Operand Name="Data Type">
          <AttributeType Name="Kind">...</AttributeType>
        </Operand>
      </Operands>
      <Causes>
        <BugCauseType Name="Improper Operation">
          <Cause Name="Missing"/>
          <Cause Name="Wrong"/>
          <Cause Name="Erroneous"/>
        </BugCauseType>
        <BugCauseType Name="Improper Modifier">
          <Cause Name="Missing Modifier"/>
          <Cause Name="Wrong Modifier"/>
        </BugCauseType>
        <BugCauseType Name="Improper Scope">
          <Cause Name="Anonymous Scope"/>
          <Cause Name="Wrong Scope"/>
        </BugCauseType>
      </Causes>
      <Consequences>
        <WeaknessConsequenceType Name="Improper Data Type">

```

```
BF.xml*  X
<!--_DTC Cluster-->
<Definition Name="Declare">Specify name and type of an object; na
<Definition Name="Define">Specify data of an object; implementati
<Definition Name="Refer">Use a name in local or remote scopes of
<Definition Name="Call">Invoke a function implementation. The Typ
<Definition Name="Cast">Explicitly convert the value of an object
<Definition Name="Coerce">Implicitly (forced by the Type System)
<Definition Name="Calculate">Find the result of a numeric, pointe
<Definition Name="Evaluate">Find the result of a boolean conditio
<!--<Definition Name="Missing">The operation is absent.</Definiti
<Definition Name="Wrong">An inappropriate data type is specified;
<Definition Name="Erroneous (_DTC)">The Type System or a compute
<Definition Name="Missing Modifier">A required behavioral restric
<Definition Name="Wrong Modifier">A wrong behavioral restriction
<Definition Name="Anonymous Scope">The declaration is in an unnam
<Definition Name="Wrong Scope">The declaration should be in anoth
<Definition Name="Missing Qualifier">A namespace include is absen
<Definition Name="Wrong Qualifier">A wrong namespace is included,
<Definition Name="Object">A memory region used to store data.</De
<Definition Name="Data Value">A numeric, text, pointer/address, o
<Definition Name="Data Type">A set of allowed values and the oper
<Definition Name="Function">An organized block of code that when
```


BF – Defined

- BF is a ...
 - Structured
 - Complete
 - Orthogonal
 - Language independent

Classification System of software bugs and weaknesses.

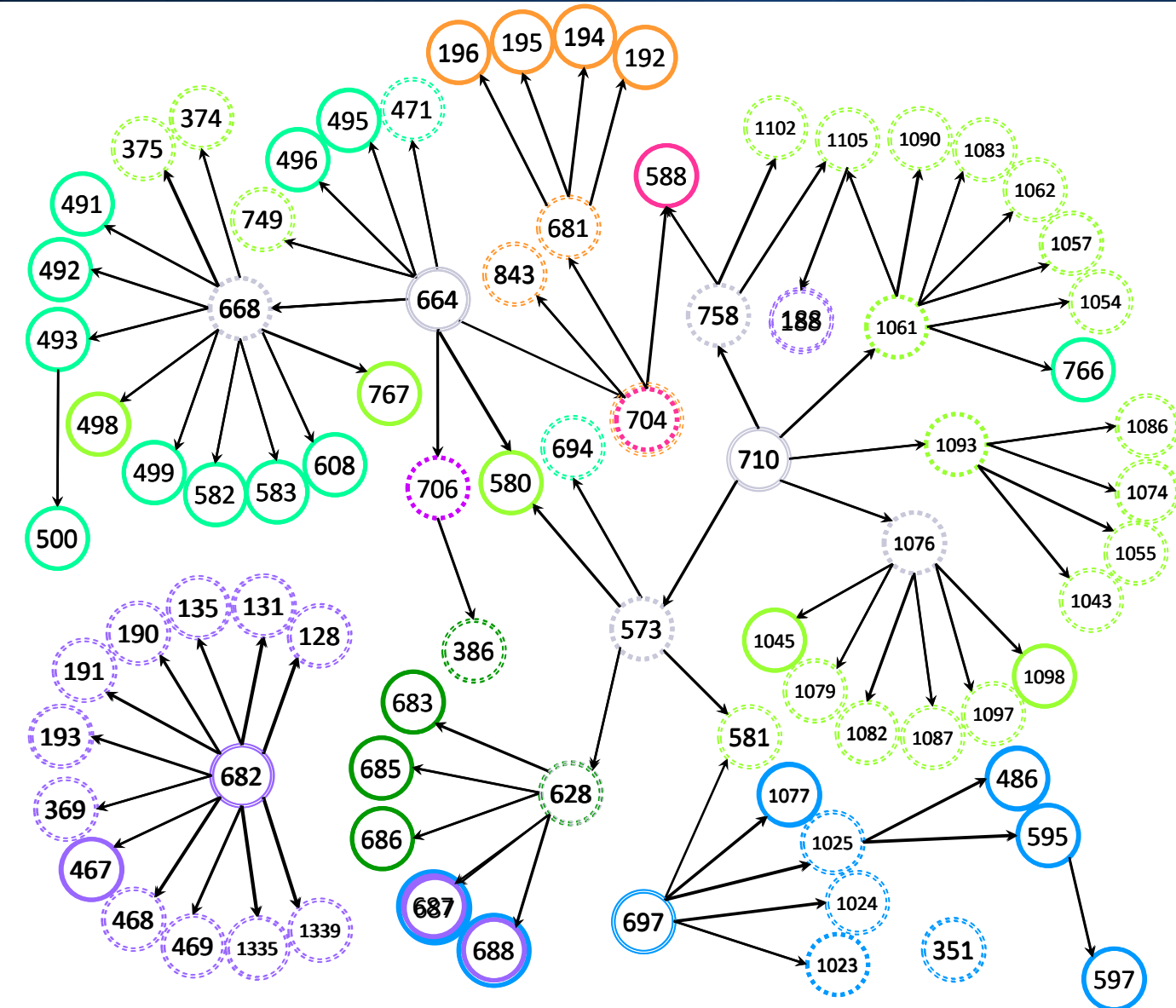
Validation towards CWE

Data Type Related CWEs

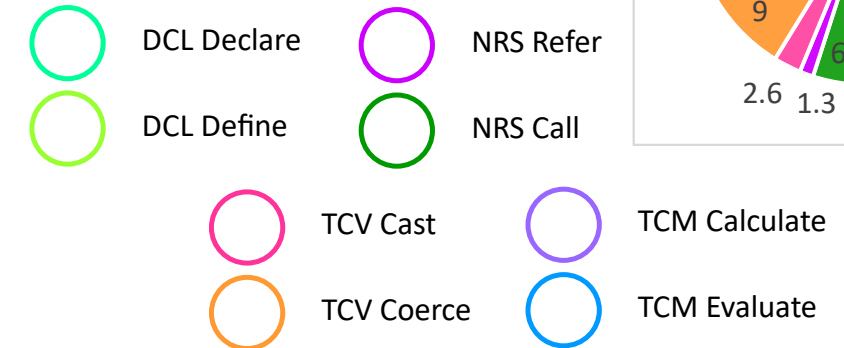
- Identifying CWEs:
 1. CWE Filtering
 2. Automated Extraction
 3. Manual Review
- 84 CWEs:
 - 78 data type related – incl.:
 - integer overflow (wrap around)
 - juggling (argument coercion)
 - pointer arithmetics
 - six others – kept for parent-child completeness.

CWEs by BF Operation

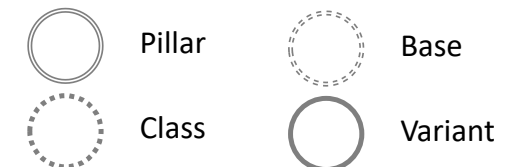
- Data Type CWEs (incl. Integer Overflow, Juggling, and Pointer Arithmetics) – mapped by BF DCL, RNS, TCV, TCM operation



CWEs by DCL, NRS, TCV, and TCM operation:



CWEs by Abstraction:

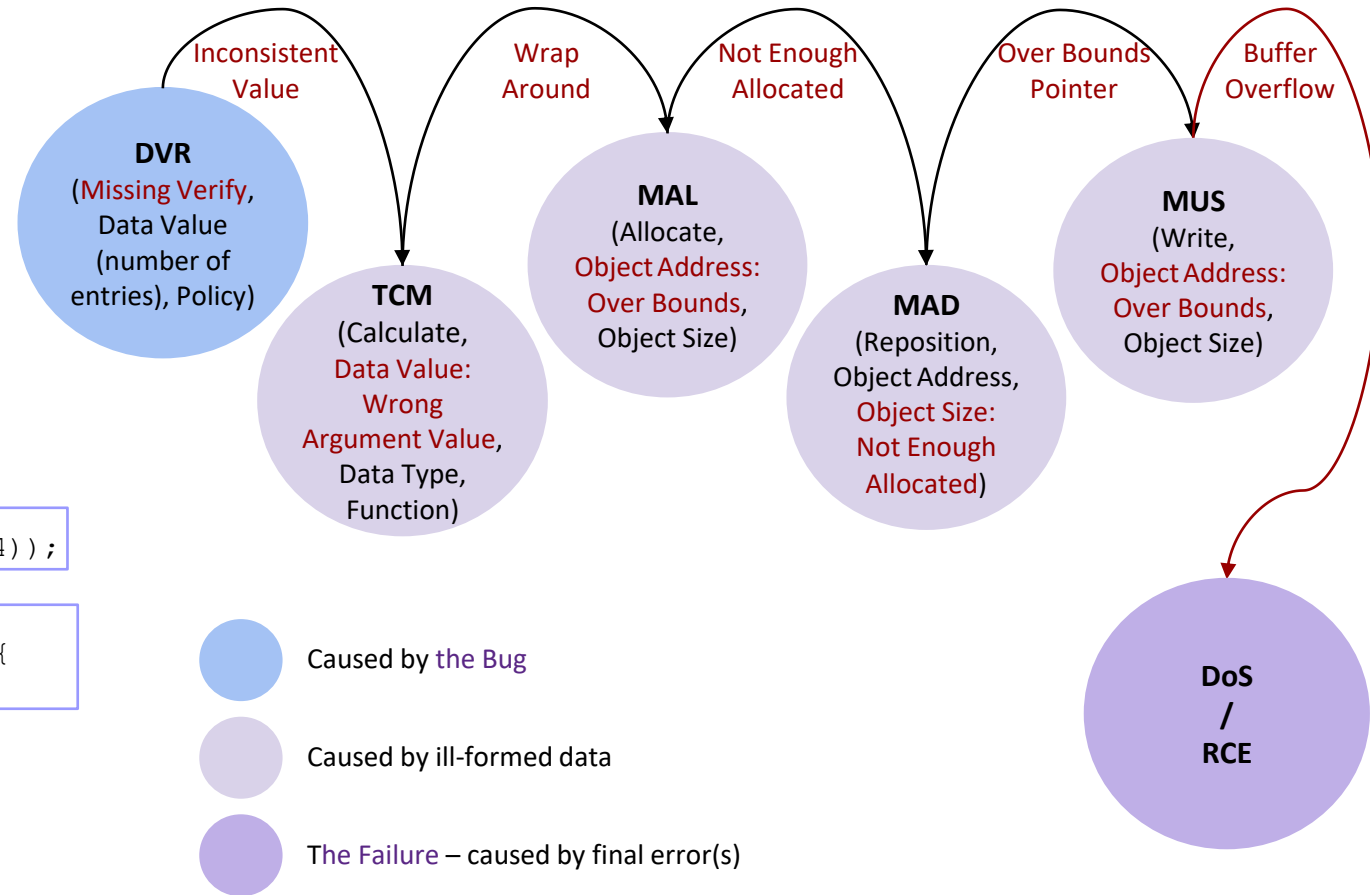


BF Hands-on: Bad Alloc

“BadAlloc”(CVE-2021-21834)

[CVE-2021-21834](#) An exploitable integer overflow vulnerability exists within the MPEG-4 decoding functionality of the GPAC Project on Advanced Content library v1.0.1. A specially crafted MPEG-4 input when decoding the atom for the “co64” FOURCC can cause an integer overflow due to unchecked arithmetic resulting in a heap-based buffer overflow that causes memory corruption. An attacker can convince a user to open a video to trigger this vulnerability.

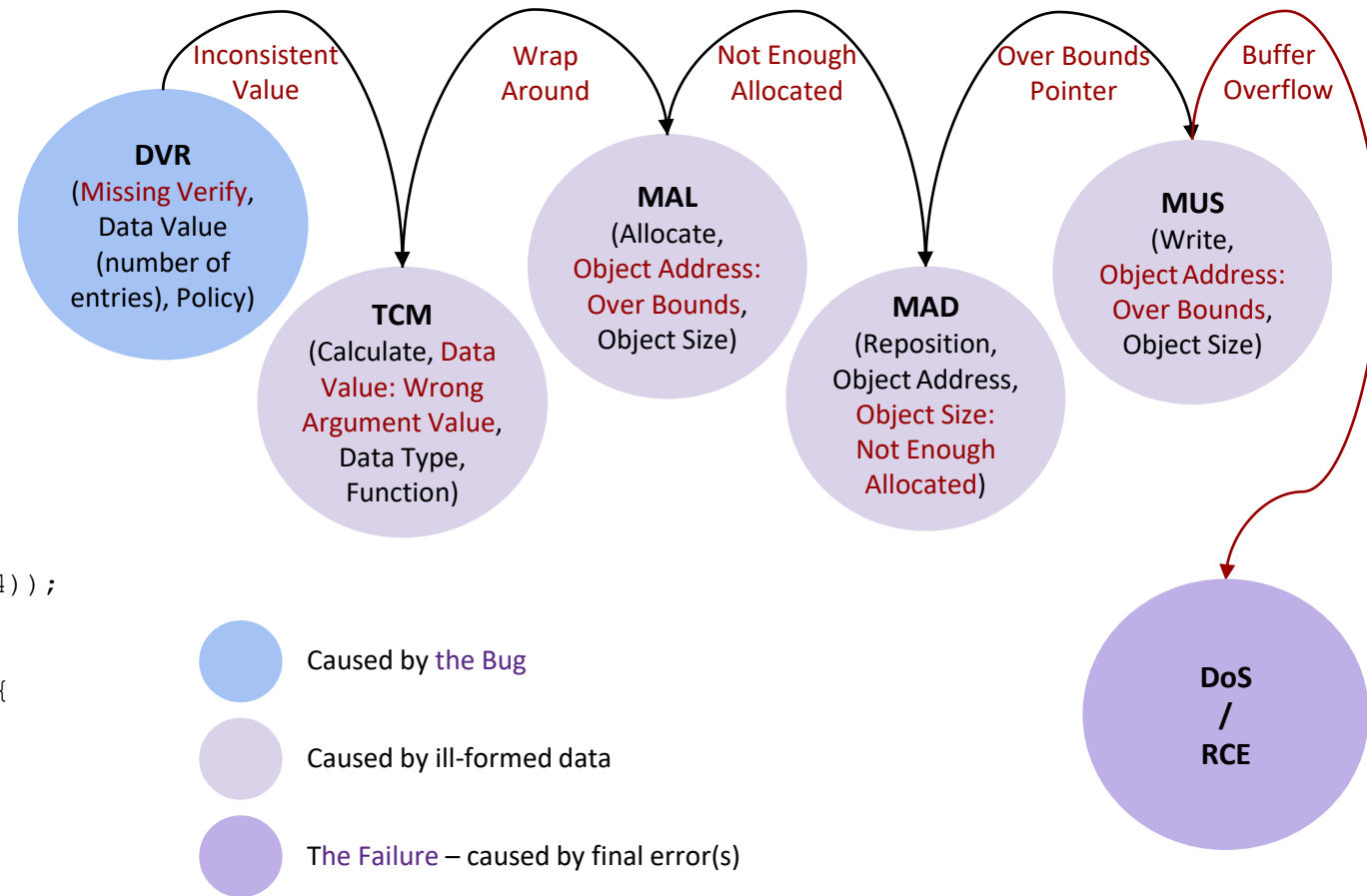
```
41 GF_Err co64_box_read(GF_Box* s, GF_BitStream* bs)
42 {
43     u32 entries;
44     GF_ChunkLargeOffsetBox* ptr = (GF_ChunkLargeOffsetBox*)s;
45     ptr->nb_entries = gf_bs_read_u32(bs);
46     ISOM_DECREASE_SIZE(ptr, 4)
47     if (ptr->nb_entries > ptr->size / 8) {
48         GF_LOG(GF_LOG_ERROR, GF_LOG_CONTAINER,
49             ("[iso file] Invalid number of entries %d in co64\n",
50              ptr->nb_entries));
51         return GF_ISOM_INVALID_FILE;
52     }
53     ptr->offsets = (u64*)gf_malloc(ptr->nb_entries * sizeof(u64));
54     if (ptr->offsets == NULL) return GF_OUT_OF_MEM;
55     ptr->alloc_size = ptr->nb_entries;
56     for (entries = 0; entries < ptr->nb_entries; entries++) {
57         ptr->offsets[entries] = gf_bs_read_u64(bs);
58     }
59     return GF_OK;
60 }
61 }
```



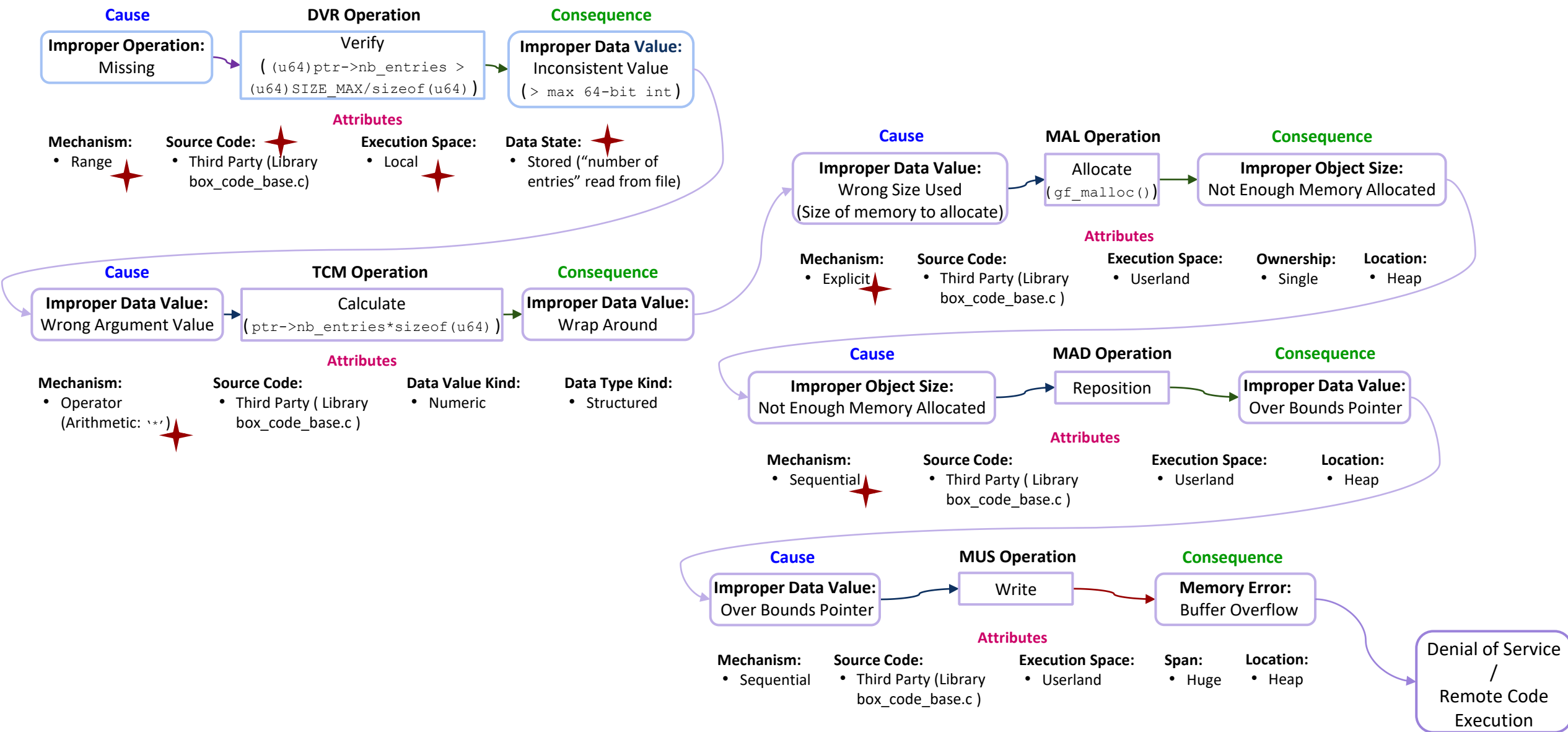
“BadAlloc” – the Fix

[CVE-2021-21834](#) An exploitable integer overflow vulnerability exists within the MPEG-4 decoding functionality of the GPAC Project on Advanced Content library v1.0.1. A specially crafted MPEG-4 input when decoding the atom for the “co64” FOURCC can cause an integer overflow due to unchecked arithmetic resulting in a heap-based buffer overflow that causes memory corruption. An attacker can convince a user to open a video to trigger this vulnerability.

```
41 GF_Err co64_box_read(GF_Box* s, GF_BitStream* bs)
42 {
43     u32 entries;
44     GF_ChunkLargeOffsetBox* ptr = (GF_ChunkLargeOffsetBox*)s;
45     ptr->nb_entries = gf_bs_read_u32(bs);
46
47     ISOM_DECREASE_SIZE(ptr, 4)
48     if ((u64)ptr->nb_entries > ptr->size / 8
49         || (u64)ptr->nb_entries > (u64)SIZE_MAX/sizeof(u64)) {
50         GF_LOG(GF_LOG_ERROR, GF_LOG_CONTAINER,
51             ("[iso file] Invalid number of entries %d in co64\n",
52              ptr->nb_entries));
53         return GF_ISOM_INVALID_FILE;
54     }
55     ptr->offsets = (u64*)gf_malloc(ptr->nb_entries * sizeof(u64));
56     if (ptr->offsets == NULL) return GF_OUT_OF_MEM;
57     ptr->alloc_size = ptr->nb_entries;
58     for (entries = 0; entries < ptr->nb_entries; entries++) {
59         ptr->offsets[entries] = gf_bs_read_u64(bs);
60     }
61     return GF_OK;
62 }
```



BF Description of “BadAlloc”



BF Hands-on: Incorrect Pointer Scaling

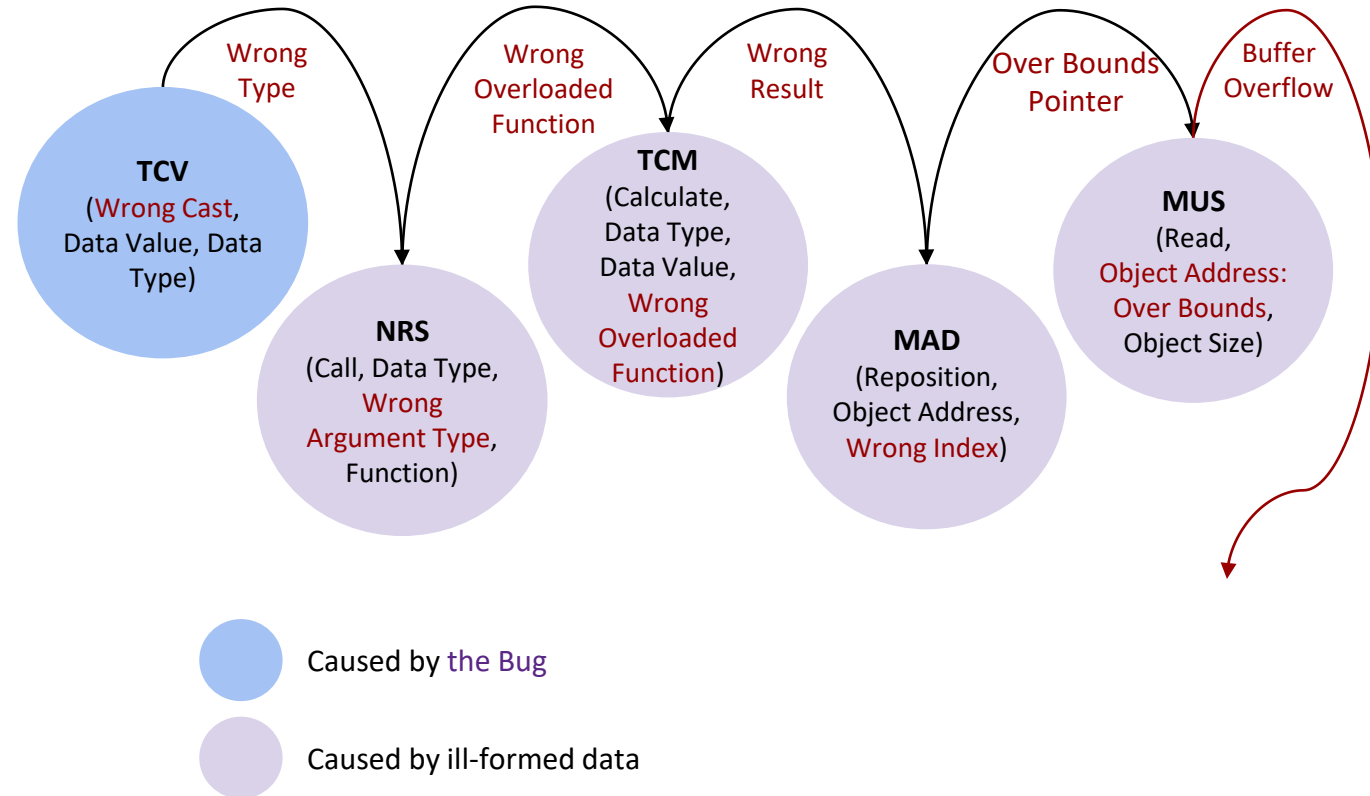
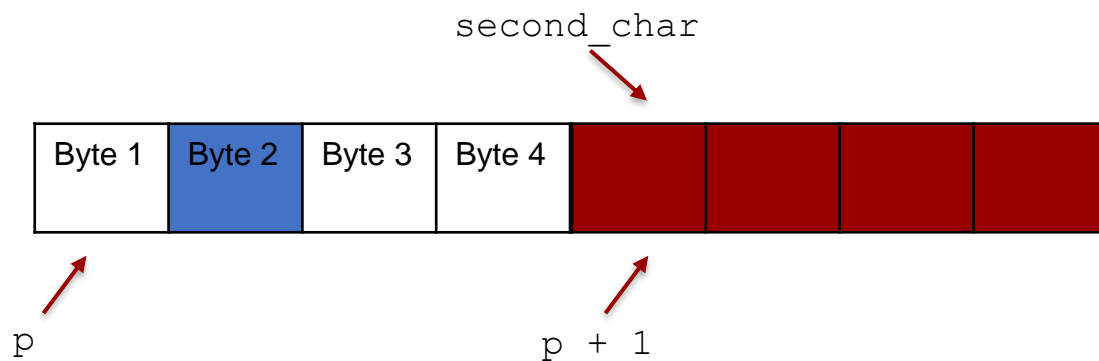
Incorrect Pointer Scaling (CWE-468, Ex. 1)

[CWE-468](#), Example 1: This example attempts to calculate the position of the second byte of a pointer.

Example Language: C

```
int *p = x;  
char * second_char = (char *) (p + 1);
```

moving 4 bytes



Incorrect Pointer Scaling – the Fix

CWE-468 Example 1

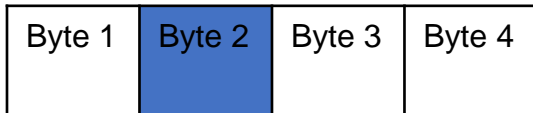
This example attempts to calculate the position of the second byte of a pointer.

Example Language: C

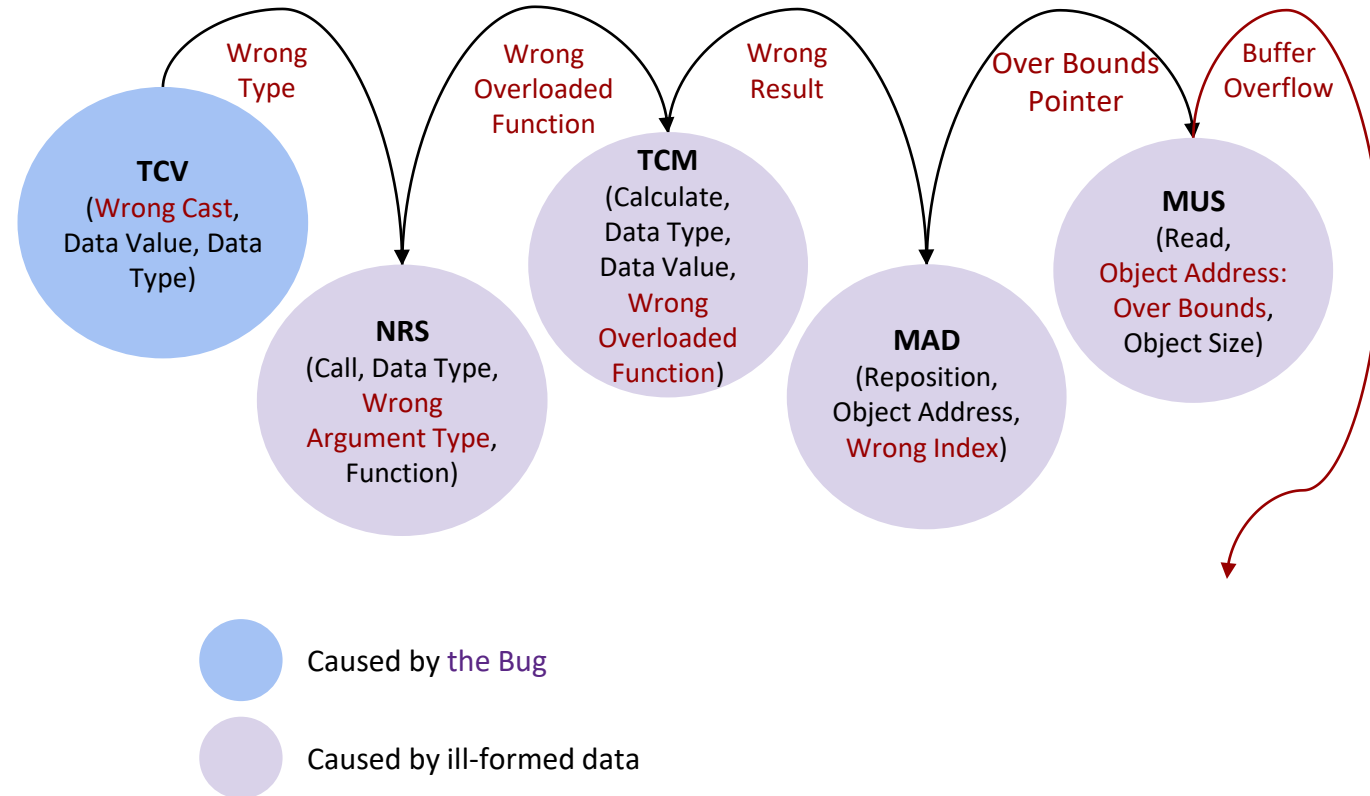
```
int *p = x;
```

```
char * second_char = (char *) (p + 1)  
                    (char *) p + 1;
```

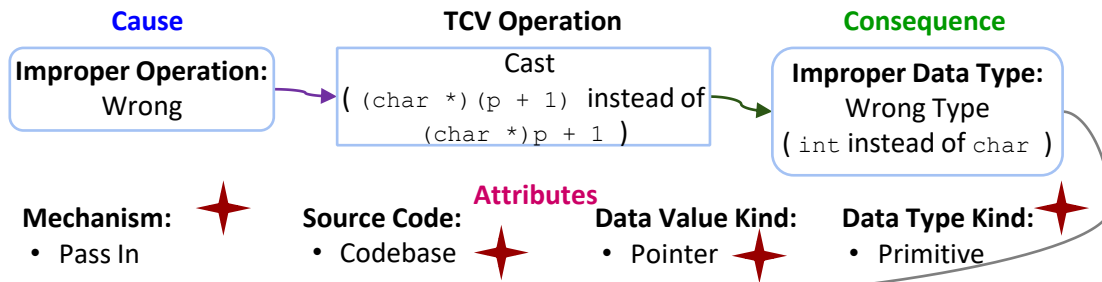
second_char



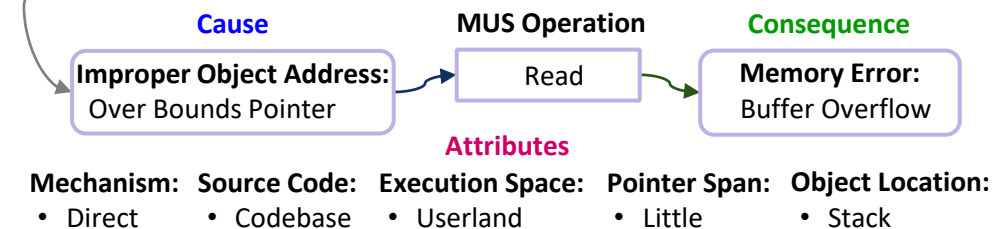
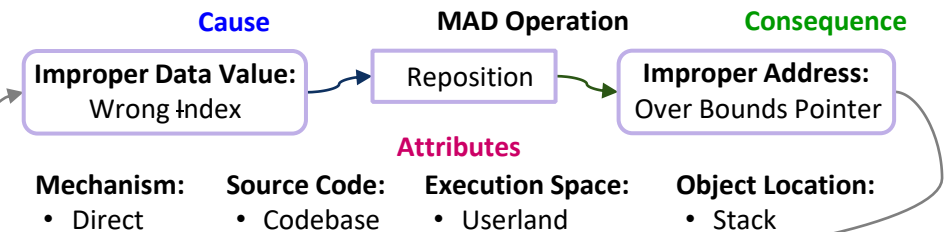
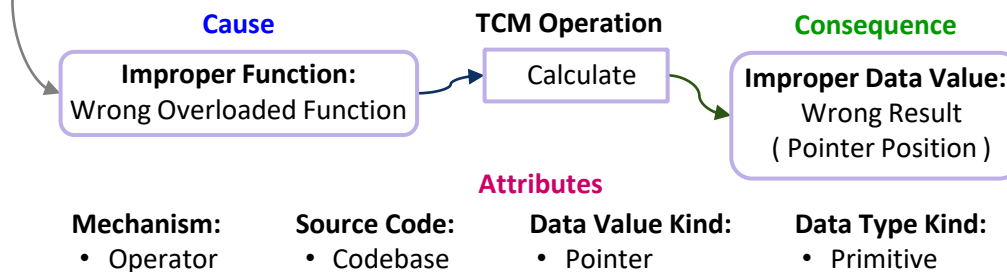
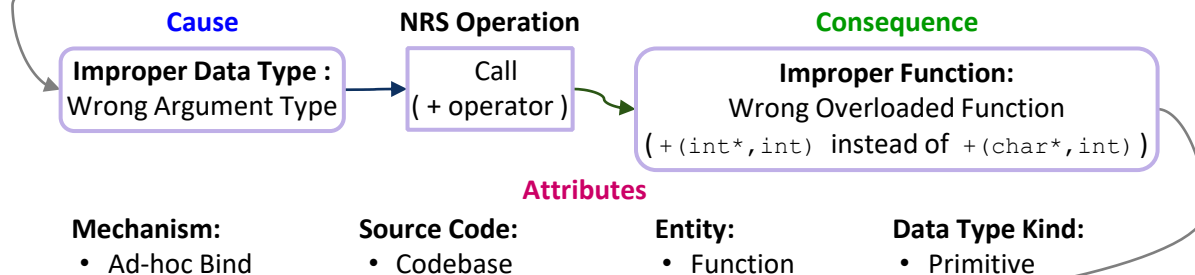
p (char *) p + 1



BF Description of CWE-468, Example 1



```
int *p = x;  
char * second_char = (char *) (p + 1);
```



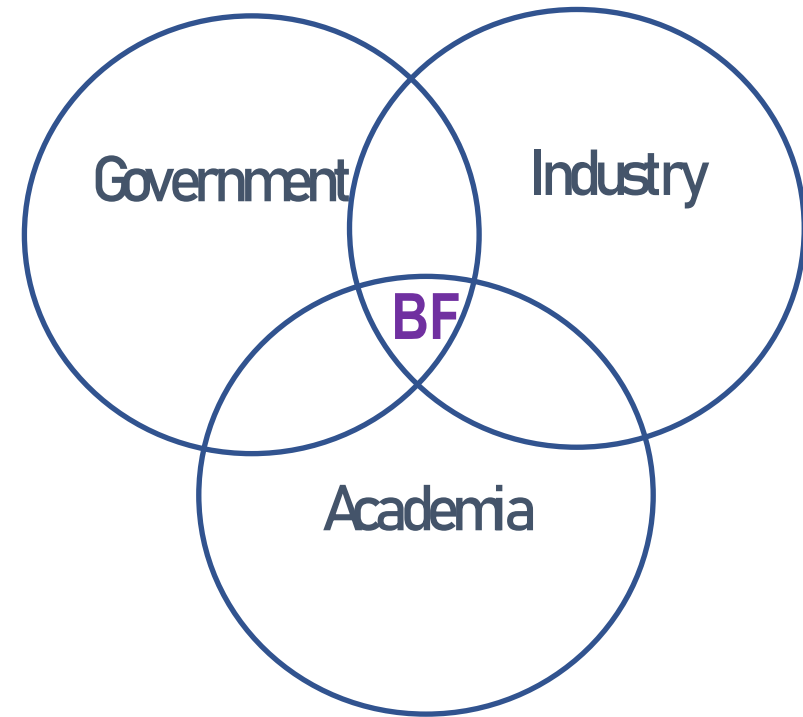
BF Descriptions in XML Format

```
CVE-2021-218...n Chain.bfcve -> X
<!--Generated by the BFCVE tool.-->
<CVE Name="CVE-2021-21834">
  <Bug Type="_INP" Class="DVR">
    <Cause Type="Improper Operation">Missing</Cause>
    <Operation Comment="( (u64)ptr->nb_entries > (u64)SIZE_MAX/sizeof(u64) ) ">Verify</Operation>
    <Consequence Comment="( > max 64-bit int )" Type="Improper Data Value">Inconsistent Value</Consequence>
    <Attributes>...</Attributes>
  </Bug>
  <Weakness Type="_DTC" Class="TCM">
    <Cause Type="Improper Data Value">Wrong Argument Value</Cause>
    <Operation Comment="( ptr->nb_entries*sizeof(u64) )">Calculate</Operation>
    <Consequence Type="Improper Data Value">Wrap Around</Consequence>
    <Attributes>...</Attributes>
  </Weakness>
  <Weakness Type="_MEM" Class="MAL">
    <Cause Comment="Size of memory to allocate" Type="Improper Data Value">Wrong Size Used</Cause>
    <Operation Comment="gf_malloc()">Allocate</Operation>
    <Consequence Type="Improper Object Size">Not Enough Memory Allocated</Consequence>
    <Attributes>...</Attributes>
  </Weakness>
  <Weakness Type="_MEM" Class="MAD">
    <Cause Type="Improper Object Size">Not Enough Memory Allocated</Cause>
    <Operation>Reposition</Operation>
    <Consequence Type="Improper Object Address">Over Bounds Pointer</Consequence>
    <Attributes>...</Attributes>
  </Weakness>
  <Weakness Type="_MEM" Class="MUS">
    <Cause Type="Improper Object Address">Over Bounds Pointer</Cause>
    <Operation>Write</Operation>
    <Consequence Type="Memory Error">Buffer Overflow</Consequence>
    <Attributes>...</Attributes>
  </Weakness>
  <Failure Type="_FLR" Class="DOS">
    <Cause Type="Memory Error">Buffer Overflow</Cause>
```

BF – Potential Impact

BF – Potential Impacts

- Allow precise communication about software bugs and weaknesses
- Help identify exploit mitigation techniques



Questions

Questions

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<https://samate.nist.gov/BF/>