# Implementation and Evaluation of a Static Backwards Data Flow Analysis in FLOWDROID

Implementierung und Evaluation einer statischen rückwärtsgerichteten Datenflussanalyse in FlowDroid

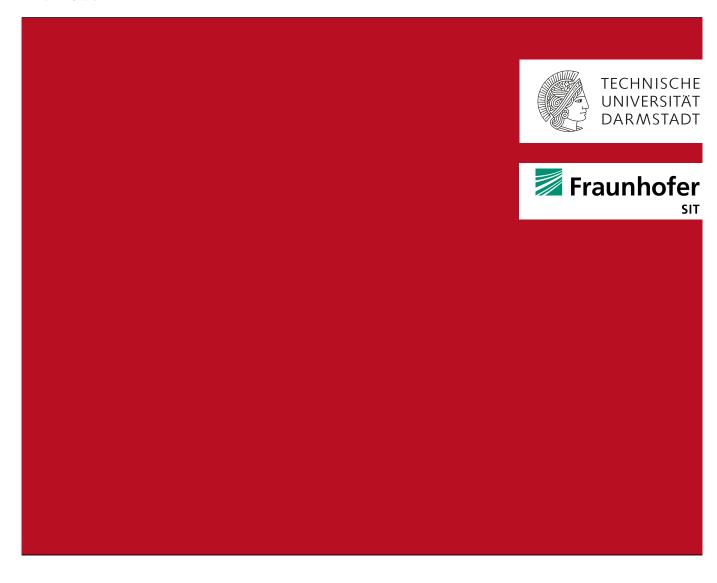
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Date of submission: 24th May 2021

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## 1. Introduction

Smartphones are a companion in our daily lives. We use them to keep track of our appointments, manage contacts, navigation and much more. Smartphones need to process and store sensitive data to provide these convenient functionalities. In most mobile ecosystems, the users are not limited to the default-shipped apps but also can install apps from third parties. Android is the market-leading operating system and mobile ecosystem for smartphones, with a market share of over 71% [29]. The most common way to distribute third-party apps is through app stores [21]. Google Play, Android's default app store, allows developers to publish their apps for a small fee. The Play Store currently offers nearly three million apps of all kinds from hundred of thousands of developers [16]. The issue, however, is that a third-party app can be a possible threat to the privacy of the user. The mobile ecosystem is known for tracking where apps send identifying information to an advertiser for individually tailored ads to the user or even sell the user's data [8, 12]. Third-party apps developed by unaware or careless developers might include vulnerabilities that allow compromising the user's data [7]. Moreover, some malicious players try to sneak potentially unwanted programs into the app stores trusted by millions [32].

As a counteract, Android offers a permission system to specify which data or resources an app can access. There are multiple categories for permission. Normal permissions are granted at installation automatically but are displayed in a submenu on the store page. Dangerous permissions need confirmation from the user at runtime. Android guarantees that an app only accesses resources and data for which it has permission to do so. While the permission system helps identify blatant misuses of resources and data, e.g., a flashlight app that wants to access the location, it is far from eliminating the problem. For example, the internet permission is a normal permission meaning an app can access the whole internet with no explicit confirmation. A user can only remove the internet access from an app but has no option to make finer-grained settings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Source: https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/permissions/overview (visited on 20.04.2021)

Researchers all around the world have identified the insufficient auditing of published apps as an issue. One solution academia came up with is data flow analysis which tries to identify data flows through a program. Several tools for the Android ecosystem have been proposed [15, 49, 47, 28], one of which is FLOWDROID [6].

FLOWDROID is a precise static data flow analysis tool to detect privacy leaks in Android apps and is the de facto standard for taint analysis on Android apps [6]. Like other data flow analyses [24, 31, 2], it is based on the IFDS framework, a theoretical framework for interprocedural data flow analyses that computes the solution by transforming it into a graph reachability problem [34]. Data flow analyses are directed and most run either in the forward or backward direction. Often the direction is implied by the problem. In contrast, taint analyses can be implemented in both directions. For such problems which are solvable in both directions, given a graph, the search direction can have a huge impact on the runtime of the search. But to this day, all taint analyses based on IFDS either have one fixed search direction [6, 2, 31] or are adjusted for a narrow use case [24].

Thus, in this thesis, we extend FlowDroid with an alternative implementation to provide a backward-directed data flow analysis leveraging FlowDroid's Android lifecycle modeling and library summaries. The choice between both directions comes in handy when applying the data flow analysis to various applications. Lerch et al.[24] already identified that a backward data flow analysis is beneficial if there is a single endpoint but a magnificent amount of possible starting points. A prime example is a search for the source of a key provided to a cryptographic implementation. Currently, solving this task using FlowDroid is only possible by making a brute-force approach by marking all user inputs and methods with access to resources as a starting point. With a backward analysis, it is as easy as starting with the argument containing the key as the starting point, which should yield much better performance.

Our backward analysis should be as sound and precise as the existing forward analysis. Furthermore, we aim at least for a similar runtime performance on real-world apps. On top, to fully utilize the potential of the direction choice, we investigate possible heuristics to predict the favorable direction. We define our research questions as follows:

**RQ1**: How efficient is the backward analysis in terms of runtime and memory consumption compared to the forward analysis?

**RQ2**: Is there an apriori known parameter to decide which analysis is more efficient for a given app?

**Outline** First, we explain the background and the concepts used in static data flow analysis in chapter 2. In chapter 3, we define the flow functions for the IFDS analysis and briefly discuss the impact of the direction on the runtime. We document the extensions we made to FlowDroid in chapter 4. In chapter 5, we validate that our implementation is as sound and precise as FlowDroid's existing implementation. Then in chapter 6, we evaluate our implementation on 200 apps from the Google Play Store. Based on the evaluation, we answer the research questions. We give an overview of the related work, primarily focusing on other backward-directed taint analyses, in chapter 7 before coming to the conclusion of this thesis in chapter 8.

# 2. Background

In this chapter, we introduce the necessary background. In section 2.1, we explain the term static data flow analysis. We introduce concepts used to solve data flow problems precisely in section 2.2 and section 2.3. We reason the need for a more manageable code representation in section 2.4. Finally, we introduce FlowDroid, the tool our work is based on, in section 2.5.

### 2.1. Static Data Flow Analysis

In the field of compilers, there is a distinction between static and dynamic. Static generally refers to something that is decided at compile-time, while dynamic refers to runtime decisions [1]. The same distinction is also present for analyses. Dynamic analysis observes the program's runtime behavior, while static analysis works on a representation of the code. Both have different tradeoffs. Achieving good code coverage is a challenge in dynamic analysis. In contrast, a static analysis often can not infer runtime properties, hence follows paths never taken at runtime, also called *infeasible paths* [3]. Thus the dynamic analysis is an underapproximation and static analysis is an overapproximation. In the following, we only consider static analysis.

Data flow analysis is a broad term for analyses that try to identify data flows through a program. Khedker [19] defines data flow analysis as follows:

Data flow analysis is a process of deriving information about the run time behavior of a program.

Data flow analyses are used in many different ways. Compilers use it to apply optimizations, others use it for software verification and it is also used for reverse-engineering [19]. A special kind of data flow analysis is taint analysis. In taint analysis, the goal is to determine whether a particular variables' contents flow through the program to another variable.

Variables that contain valuable information are *tainted*. This valuable information has to come from somewhere, the so-called *sources*. Sources can be any expression but are often methods. Values produced from sources are considered tainted. On the other end, *sinks* leak valuable information. A data flow between a source and a sink is called a *leak* [3]. For example, to detect apps tracking the user using taint analysis, sources could be methods returning a unique identifier and sinks could be methods that sent out data to the internet. When finding a leak, we know the receiving server can identify the device.

There is also a categorization for data flow analyses. Sensitivities describe whether an analysis is capable of considering an aspect. There are five common sensitivities [26]:

- Flow Sensitivity: A flow-sensitive analysis can determine if a fact holds at a particular statement.
- **Context Sensitivity**: An interprocedural analysis can distinguish the context of a called method, e.g., knows the original call site at a return statement.
- Object Sensitivity: An analysis can distinguish field accesses on different objects.
- **Field Sensitivity**: An analysis can distinguish different field accesses on the same object.
- Path Sensitivity: An analysis distinguishes facts which took different conditional branches. E.g., after a branch two facts regarding the same variable are not merged and instead, treated differently because the condition provided additional type information.

We also need a representation for the information the analysis gathered: the data flow fact. A *data flow fact* is a logical assertion that is either true or false at a statement. Now, there are two different kinds of facts: may and must. For a must analysis, the fact must hold on all paths to this statement, while a may analysis only guarantees the fact holds on one path. The decision of which kind fits depends on the type of data flow analysis. Taint analyses like FlowDroid are based on the may analysis [3].

The analysis direction of a data flow analysis is also decided by the problem to be solved. A live variables analysis computes whether a variable is read before written in the future to eliminate potential dead assignments. A backward pass traditionally solves the problem. On the other hand, a reaching definitions analysis finds out if a definition reaches a statement without an intermediate assignment, usually solved by a forward pass. Additionally, there are also data flow analyses for which the direction is a design choice. For example, program slicing identifies a slice, a subset of the program's statements, which influence a

statement (backward pass) or are influenced by a statement (forward pass). Taint analysis, on the other hand, can be solved in both directions with the same results [19].

### 2.2. IFDS

### 2.2.1. Original Definition

Interprocedural finite distributive subset (IFDS) problems are a special class of a data flow analysis problem. Generally, the solution to a data flow problem is the meet-over-all-paths (MOP) solution, which is undecidable [35]. However, all problems adhering to IFDS can be transformed into a graph-reachability problem and consequently, the solution is computable in polynomial time. It is context-sensitive and flow-sensitive by default [34].

IFDS operates on a so-called exploded supergraph. Every node in the exploded supergraph is a tuple  $\langle s,d\rangle$  of a statement s in the interprocedural control-flow graph and a data flow fact d. The domain is typically the set of variables in the program. Edges between two nodes  $\langle s,d\rangle$  and  $\langle s',d'\rangle$  exist if d propagated over s yields d' and s' is a successor of s. Propagating facts along the control-flow graph already ensures flow-sensitivity.

```
matched \rightarrow (i matched)_i matched \mid \epsilon \ valid \rightarrow valid (i matched) matched
```

Figure 2.1.: Context-Free Grammar proposed by Reps et al.[34]

To achieve context-sensitivity, Reps et al. proposed a context-free grammar (c.f. Figure 2.1). Each call site gets a unique index, outgoing call edges are labeled with (i) and incoming return edges is taken and valid models a partially balanced path, e.g., after a call for which the return is still pending. A path between two nodes is called (i) and if the sequence of labeled edges is a string in valid (i). Consider the example in figure 2.2. After the first call to bar, the sequence is (i), which is in valid. Now, there are multiple return edges from bar but only (i) is in (i) and (i) and (i) are incoming and (i) and (i) are incoming are incoming are incoming as a string in valid (i) and (i) are incoming are incoming are incoming and (i) are incoming as a string in valid (i) and (i) and (i) are incoming are incoming are incoming are incoming as a string in valid (i) and (i) are incoming are incoming as a string in valid (i) and (i) are incoming are incoming and (i) are incoming are incoming are incoming are incoming as a string in valid (i) and (i) are incoming are inco

```
void foo(){
   int i = 0;
   int j = bar(i);
   int k = bar(j);
   return p + 42;
   return k;
}
```

Figure 2.2.: Context-Sensitivity using a Context-Free Language

To propagate facts over statements, we need to define rules on how the data flow changes when observing a statement. These rules are called flow functions. There are four types of flow functions: [34]

- **Call Flow**: Edges from call statement into a method. The flow function maps the facts visible in the callee into it.
- **Return Flow**: Edges returning from a method. The flow function maps the facts visible in the caller out of the callee.
- **Call To Return Flow**: Edges over a call statement. The flow function maps the facts not visible in the callee over the call statement.
- **Normal Flow**: The default case. Handles edges over every other statement, for example, assignments.

The incoming set of facts is all predecessors' outgoing facts merged using a merge operator □:

$$in(s) := \prod_{p \in Preds(s)} out(p)$$

Now, we also want to introduce new facts. For that reason, the domain contains a zero fact and all nodes with  $d=\mathbf{0}$  are always reachable; thus, the zero fact is a tautology. Whenever we want to introduce a fact, we can model this in the flow function by deriving such facts from the zero fact [34]. For example, in taint analysis, the flow functions map zero facts at sources to a tainted variable.

IFDS also utilizes summaries. After returning from a method, the algorithm solved a subproblem for which it remembers the results to be applied later. So, the proposed tabulation algorithm for solving the realizable path problem is a dynamic algorithm [34].

Eventually, the worklist is empty as there are no facts to propagate anymore and the analysis will terminate. There are two ways for a fact to be not propagated further. Either a flow function killed the fact or the same fact was already observed at a statement, meaning the IFDS analysis reached a fixpoint [34].

However, we already started this section, hinting not all problems can be formulated in the IFDS framework. The restrictions the problems have to abide by are eponymous in IFDS and explained in the following paragraphs.

**Distributive** The flow function must be distributive over the merge operator. Formally,  $f(x \sqcap y) = f(x) \sqcap f(y)$  must hold at any time. Informally speaking, it does not matter whether facts get merged before or after applying the flow functions. Distributiveness is essential for the correctness of IFDS because only if the flow functions are distributive, the maximum fixed point (MFP) equals MOP and MFP is computable in polynomial time [19, 34].

**Finite** Another restriction is that the set of data flow facts has to be finite. Let us go by a counterexample of what IFDS is not capable of: Answering "Which value is stored in variable x at statement s?". Now the data flow fact is a tuple of the variable together with the stored value  $\langle x,v\rangle$ . Consider figure 2.3. x is initialized to an empty string and in every loop iteration, "a" gets appended to the string. The value of x changes every time and never repeats itself. In theory, the algorithm will never observe a taint twice in line 4. Because the algorithm can not reach a fixpoint, it will not terminate. In practice, every data type is bounded either by the heap or stack size, but the domain is cubic in the time-complexity  $O(|E|\cdot|D|^3)$  making IFDS infeasible for large domains [34].

**Subset** Data flow frameworks need to deal with merging the outcoming sets to a single incoming set. Essentially, to formalize the approximation and satisfy ordering constraints, data flow frameworks rely on lattices [19]. IFDS also defines an underlying lattice on the powerset of the domain. The lattice ordering must be set inclusion. Therefore, the merge operator is set union or set intersect. Now recall may and must from the last subsection. Here we can see the connection between the merge operator and may or must.

Figure 2.3.: Finiteness example

The paper by Reps et al. later decides on set union due to the duality of must and may not [34]. This decision is also efficient in practice, as discussed in the following subsection.

### 2.2.2. Practical Extensions

The original definition is inefficient in practice. Among others, Naeem et al. proposed practical extensions to the IFDS framework to perform better in practice [30].

The original algorithm demands a fully built exploded supergraph. Even in moderate programs, the domain can get quite large. As the nodes in the exploded supergraph are the cross-product of the domain and interprocedural call-graph nodes, it is infeasible to generate the full graph beforehand. Because there is no way to know before which part of the supergraph the analysis demands, they propose to generate it ad-hoc. That also removes the restriction on a small domain. Now IFDS is also feasible if the domain's encountered subset is small enough [30]. The restrictions on the domain set can be loosened even more. Bodden suggests the domain can be infinite in practice. Only the observed facts must adhere to the ascending-chain condition over the flow functions when using the on-demand supergraph [9].

Also, the original IFDS definition ignores the type structure of the programming language. Type information can be used to kill facts due to impossible casts. Also, facts with the same variable but different types can be merged with the superclass as its new type [30].

Furthermore, the original definition starts the IFDS algorithm at the entry point of the interprocedural call-graph. As described in subsection 2.2.1, a flow function can derive an initial fact from the zero fact if needed. If the methods where initial facts will be introduced are known a priori, the supergraph can be traversed without applying flow functions until

such a method is found on the path. This optimization introduces unbalanced problems where a method returns but no corresponding call site is found, which can be solved by a small extension to the tabulation algorithm. Lerch et al. first described the extension [25] and it is also present in FLOWDROID [3].

Another optimization is possible if the merge operator is set union thanks to the  $A \subseteq A \cup B$  property of set union. There is no need to wait for other predecessors to finish as a set is always a subset of a union with itself and another set. Hence, the IFDS solver can skip the in-set construction and immediately propagate the outcoming facts as singleton sets, sometimes referred to as point-wise propagation. Especially parallelized IFDS implementations benefit from point-wise propagation [36].

### 2.3. Access Paths

We have already seen IFDS fulfills context- and flow-sensitivity by default. Now, a precise analysis for Java also needs object- and field-sensitivity. Thus, we also need to model the heap.

Access paths are one possible heap model. They consist of a list of field dereferences linked to a tainted variable of a reference type [19]. Note, this increases the domain size because now not only "object o is tainted" is a data flow fact, but also all of its fields can be tainted. Especially when encountering recursive data structures with loops such as doubly-linked lists, this gets problematical. Consider figure 2.4, the loop would let the observed domain grow indefinitely and never reach a fixpoint. As a solution, access paths are limited in length, which is also called k-limiting, whereas the constant k is the maximum access path length. If an access path passes this length, it is cut off and the entire last reference is considered tainted. This cut-off comes with a loss of precision [18]. Consider again figure 2.4. With k=2 the analysis would reach the fixpoint lst.next.prev.\* after two iterations.

Although with k-limiting, the algorithm terminates, it does have another problem. After a loop like in figure 2.4, the access path is polluted with a dereference chain to its base object even though the next.prev dereference could be omitted without precision loss. As a solution, Deutsch proposed symbolic access paths, which try to eliminate loops in access paths [11]. In practice, Deutsch's approach needs some adaptions as he only considered fields but not base objects and he defines loops simply by type [3]. With symbolic access paths k-limiting is theoretically obsolete but still often applied to speed up the analysis.

Figure 2.4.: Infinite Access Path

### 2.4. Intermediate Representations

Most compilers these days use intermediate representations (IRs). IRs are an equivalent representation of the source code but are less complex and more regular and are typically not architecture-dependent. They are often in an interchangeable format and can be saved as text to be used by various tools [40]. Such an IR allows compilers to apply machine-independent optimizations to the code without worrying about complex expressions in the source code or reimplementing the optimization for each architecture.

The Java Virtual Machine (JVM) also operates on an IR called Java bytecode. The JVM is mostly stack-based and so is the Java bytecode. In figure 2.5 is an example of a simple code snippet translated to Java bytecode. Simple expressions such as c = a + b translate into multiple statements and there is no fixed length of an expression in the bytecode. The analysis would also have to reconstruct the expressions ad-hoc. Furthermore, Java bytecode has over 200 possible instructions<sup>1</sup>, which need to be considered and only knows primitive types and references. Concluding, stack-based IRs are suitable for just-in-time interpretation but inconvenient for data flow analysis [44].

A more convenient representation for static analysis is three-address codes. Each statement consists of up to three operands and is either an assignment or a control-flow statement. Operands are represented by variables instead of registers or stacks. Such a representation fixes the expression length to be better suited for static analysis than assembly. It also reduces the possible combinations to a manageable amount compared to the source code written by a human [1].

Jimple is a three-address intermediate representation and can be constructed from the Java and Dalvik bytecode, the IR used for Android apps. It is a high-level representation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Source: https://docs.oracle.com/javase/specs/jvms/se8/html/ (visited on 17.04.2021)

```
1 bipush 21 // push 21
2 istore_1 // store in register 1
3 bipush 21 // push 21
4 istore_2 // store in register 2
5 iload_1 // push a
1 int a = 21;
6 iload_2 // push b
2 int b = 21;
7 iadd // pop a & b and push a + b
3 int c = a + b;
8 istore_3 // store in register 3
(a) Java code
(b) Java bytecode
```

Figure 2.5.: Java bytecode example

and its syntax is close to Java. Complex statements are split up into multiple statements. For example, there can be only one field reference per statement and arguments are always local variables or constants [44]. This groundwork dramatically reduces the possible cases the data flow analysis needs to consider and eases the analysis.

### 2.5. FlowDroid

FLOWDROID is a precise context-, flow-, object- and field-sensitive static taint analysis tool for Android apps [6]. Since its initial release in 2014, it is actively maintained and gained traction in research and academia<sup>2</sup>. It is based on Soot, a Java optimization framework, which later has been extended for static analysis [23]. Soot provides the call graph and the conversion from Java and Dalvik bytecode to Jimple, the intermediate representation of choice for FLOWDROID [3].

Androids activity-lifecycle concept does not have a single entry point; instead, multiple callbacks are a possible entry point. Also, an Android app can contain multiple components and register callbacks in various of Android's standard libraries. FlowDroid models the entire Android lifecycle to be precise and generates a dummy main method to provide a single entry point for the call graph generation. [6].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Source: https://github.com/secure-software-engineering/FlowDroid (visited on 17.04.2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Source: https://developer.android.com/guide/components/activities/activity-lifecycle (visited on 17.04.2021)

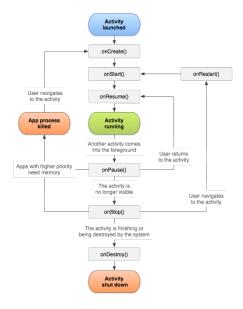


Figure 2.6.: Activity Lifecycle<sup>3</sup>

FLOWDROID inherits flow- and context-sensitivity from IFDS and the object- and field-sensitivity from symbolic access paths. To provide precise results even with aliases in use, FLOWDROID comprises an alais analysis. The alias analysis is encoded as another IFDS problem and resolves all encountered aliases on-demand. The two IFDS analyses are intertwined to maintain flow- and context-sensitivity between both analyses[6].

The implementation of FlowDroid is modular, easily extensible and offers many additional features. Two of them are noteworthy for this work: native call handler and taint wrappers. As both Java and Android allow calling native methods, FlowDroid also needs to model those cases. It currently does not support the analysis of those methods but contains rules for essential methods. The second feature is taint wrappers. They allow defining rules for methods, e.g., from a commonly used feature such as StringBuilder, which allows the taint analysis to skip the method and apply a summary [6]. StubDroid, an extension to FlowDroid by Arzt et al., allows precomputing summaries using FlowDroid and serializes them in an XML format for tool-independent use. These summaries are handy for real-world applications where third-party libraries are often used [5].

# 3. Theory

In the first part of this chapter, we define the flow functions for the IFDS analysis. In the second part, we discuss taint analysis's runtime, highlighting possible differences between forward and backward analysis.

### 3.1. Flow Functions

We describe the flow functions' behavior based on the Jimple language and define semiformal rules analogous to the publication[3] on FlowDroid. These rules only focus on the basic language constructs. We describe flows for additional language features such as arrays and exceptions later and more informal in section 4.3.

### 3.1.1. Normal Flow

Normal flow functions handle every statement that does not contain an InvokeExpr. For the base cases in normal flow, new taints are only produced at assignments. Assignments are always explicit in Jimple and are either AssignStmts or IdentityStmts. The IdentityStmt's are at the top of a method¹ and assign special values to locals, e.g., parameters and the this reference. We perform the identity function over those because we want to keep those taints alive to reach the return edge. Then the Return Flow function takes care of mapping all parameters back into the caller². So in the following, we only consider AssignStmts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>With the exception of local\_name := @caughtexception, which is outside of the base cases.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Note that traversing the interprocedural control-flow graph backward means call edges are now return edges and vice versa.

Now, let us consider an AssignStmt where the left side is either a field reference or a local and the right side is an expression. In the following, we assume the right side is always a local or a field dereference. If the expression is an InvokeExpr, we handle this in the call flow. For unary operators, the local can simply be extracted and for binary operators, we consider both locals separately. An assignment has the structure  $x.f^n \leftarrow y.g^m$  with  $n,m \in \{0,1\}$  modeling a possible field reference. As taints may have an access path of an arbitrary length, we denote this as  $h^k.^3$  Jimple also ensures only one field dereference per statement, which Arzt chose not to represent in the semi-formal definitions and neither did we.

In the first case, we look at exact matches. Either we have an assignment with a local (n=0) or a field dereference (n=1). For both, the base variable needs to match. For the latter, also the first field of the access path has to match the field dereference. The first field dereference is removed from the taint and the remaining access path is copied to the newly created taint. The incoming taint is killed because, thinking forward, it received the taint at this statement.

**Rule 1:** An incoming taint  $T = x.f^n.h^k$  with  $k \ge 0$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{y.g^m.h^k\}$ .

Next, we need a rule for the case the field dereference f is included in a cut-off approximation. Recall section 2.3, symbolic access paths can also be k-limited to speedup the analysis and are k=5-limited in FlowDroid by default. Thus, we might encounter a taint with no field dereferences and a wildcard \* appended. In this case, just the base needs to match. However, this time, the left side is kept alive because we can not reason which field is tainted due to the cut-off approximation.

**Rule 2:** An incoming taint T = x.\* with  $k \ge 0$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{y.g^m.*, T\}$ .

Whenever a taint does not match the left side, we perform the identity as the statement does not touch the tainted variable's contents. Later on, when we consider aliasing, there is one special case inside the default case. If the tainted variable is on the right side, an additional alias query is needed. We reference this case in section 4.2.

 $<sup>^3</sup>h^k$  is a k-length chain of field dereferences, not k-times the same field dereference

### 3.1.2. Call Flow

The Call Flow function and subsequently Return and Call To Return Flow function apply whenever a statement contains an InvokeExpr. For call statements without an assignment, we have statements of the structure  $o.m(a_0,...,a_n)$  with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $a_i$  denotes the i-th argument,  $p_i$  the corresponding parameter to  $a_i$  and c the class instance of the callee's base object.

When we encounter a tainted argument in the caller, the taint needs to go through the callee. Java uses pass-by-value<sup>4</sup>. Thus, for primitives, the value is copied and pushed on the stack. For reference types, the reference to the object is copied and pushed on the stack. Resulting, the callee can change the field values on the reference and those changes are reflected in the caller but it can not alter the reference the caller operates on. Now, if only the reference is tainted but nothing more (k = 0 and no wildcard), an update to the tainted reference in the callee has no effect on the tainted argument in the caller. We know because of these semantics in combination with the backward direction that a tainted primitive or reference without field dereferences can not originate from inside the callee. This property becomes apparent when we get specific to Java's types. Primitives do not have fields and strings are immutable<sup>5</sup>. Consider the example in figure 3.1. On the left, we use the built-in String type. In line 2, str is copied into callee. After this statement, both str hold the value 42 but point to another memory location<sup>6</sup>. Thus, main carries on with the original value of str no matter what callee writes to str. In contrast, on the right, the callee can update the field on the heap. Therefore, the taint needs to be propagated into the callee to find the leak. Conclusively, k needs to be greater than 0.

**Rule 1:** An incoming taint  $T = a_i.h^k$  with  $k > 0 \land 0 \le i \le n$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{p_i.h^k\}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>According to the Java specification, arguments are always *values* (Source: https://docs.oracle.com/javase/specs/jls/sel1/html/jls-8.html#jls-8.4.1 (visited on 19.05.2021)). Thus, many argue that Java is strictly pass-by-value. Sometimes reference types are described as pass-by-reference because the behavior of those is similar to what pass-by-reference is. The ambiguity is owed to the time when the term pass-by-reference was defined. Back then, 23 year before Java was invented, reference was used to describe an address in the memory [13]. A precise description of the semantics is given in the following lines.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>The special handling of strings results in transparent fields, e.g. we can treat strings as if they were primitives in this case.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>The JVM might only set a copy-on-write flag on str in callee and point it to the identical location as str in main to save memory. At least right before the update happens, it is guaranteed that the variable points to a different location.

```
1
                                         void main() {
   void main() {
                                      2
1
                                             Some0bject o = new
2
       String str = "42";

    SomeObject();

3
       callee(str);
                                      3
                                             callee(o);
4
       sink(str); // no leak
                                      4
                                             sink(o.str); // leak
5
   }
                                      5
                                        }
6
                                      7
   void callee(String str) {
                                         void callee(SomeObject o) {
8
       str = source();
                                      8
                                             o.str = source();
9 }
                                      9
                                        }
      (a) Taint Without Fields
                                                   (b) Taint With Fields
```

Figure 3.1.: Call Flow Example

**Rule 2:** An incoming taint  $T = a_i$  \* with  $0 \le i \le n$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{p_i$ .\*}.

A non-static callee can also access instance fields of the base object. When we observe a tainted base object, the taint also needs to flow through the callee. The tainted object transforms into a this reference. In Java, this references the current instance the method operates on.

**Rule 3:** An incoming taint  $T = o.h^k$  with k > 0 produces the outflowing taint set  $\{this_c.h^k\}$ .

**Rule 4:** An incoming taint T = o.\* produces the outflowing taint set  $\{this_c.*\}$ .

Static fields form a special case. Their scope extends over the whole program and thus, tainted static fields always have to go through the callee. The taint is untouched as the access to those is the same everywhere.

**Rule 5:** An incoming taint  $T = S.f.h^k$  with  $k \ge 0$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{T\}$ .

In Jimple, AssignStmts can also consist of an InvokeExpr on the right side. The structure of the statement is in this case  $x \leftarrow o.m(a_0,...,a_n)$ .  $r_i$  denotes a return value.  $n_r$  is the number of return statements in the callee. If we observe such a statement and the left side is tainted, we need to map the left-hand side of the AssignStmt back into the callee. Now, methods can have multiple return statements and as we traverse the reversed interprocedural control-flow graph, there are multiple outgoing edges. We can not reason

which return statement is the right one, so we need to taint every return statement's operand in the callee.

**Rule 6:** An incoming taint  $T = x.h^k$  with  $k \ge 0$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{r_i.h^k \mid 0 \le i < n_r\}$ .

Unlike at normal flows, we kill all taints not matching any of the rules. In the case of a taint being out of the callee's scope, the Call To Return flow function propagates the taint over the statement.

### 3.1.3. Return Flow

Taints reaching the end of a method need to be mapped back into the caller. The statement we consider is of the structure  $o.m(a_0,...,a_n)$  with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Again,  $a_i$  denotes the *i*-th argument,  $p_i$  the *i*-th parameter and c the class instance.

The first rule is the counterpart rule 1 and 2 of Call Flow<sup>7</sup> and map all parameters back into the caller. In contrast to the Call Flow, we also map primitives and strings back into the caller. When a taint reaches the end of a method in the backward interprocedural control-flow graph, it is actually at the start of the method. At the start of a method, the contents of a tainted parameter were copied from the caller. Thus we taint the argument in the caller.

**Rule 1:** An incoming taint  $T = p_i . h^k$  with  $k \ge 0 \land 0 \le i \le n$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{a_i . h^k\}$ .

The *this* reference also needs to be mapped back into the caller.

**Rule 2:** An incoming taint  $T = this_c.h^k$  with  $k \ge 0$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{o.h^k\}$ .

**Rule 3:** An incoming taint  $T = this_c.*$  with  $k \ge 0$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{o.*\}.$ 

Tainted static fields are also mapped back. As already written in the corresponding rule 5 of Call flow, the taint is untouched.

**Rule 4:** An incoming taint  $T = S.h^k$  with  $k \ge 0$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{T\}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Note that if k can be 0, the wildcard also works.

Again, taints not matching any rule are killed. For example, this kills taints, which are not in the caller's scope, when returning from a method.

### 3.1.4. CallToReturn Flow

The statement structure is  $o.m(a_0,...,a_n)$  with  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $a_i$  denotes the *i*-th argument.

A taint is independent of a callee if it is not static and neither matches an argument nor the base object the method is called on. Such a taint is not matched inside Call Flow and needs to be propagated over the call statement.

**Rule 1:** An incoming taint  $x.h^k$  with  $k \ge 0 \land (\forall i \in [0, n] \cap \mathbb{N} : a_i \ne x) \land x \ne o \land x \notin Static Variables produces the outflowing taint set <math>\{T\}$ .

Now, consider again the left side of figure 3.1. In line 3, the str taint is in the kill set of Call Flow because the callee can not be responsible for the tainted variable in the caller. Nevertheless, the taint is still valid after the call. As we want to preserve the taint, we need to propagate the taint over the call statement in such cases.

**Rule 2:** An incoming taint  $T = a_i$  with  $0 \le i \le n$  produces the outflowing taint set  $\{T\}$ .

Like in Call and Return Flow, we also kill taints that do not match any of these rules.

### 3.2. Runtime of the Data Flow Analysis

IFDS has a worst-case time complexity of  $O(|E|\cdot|D|^3)$  [34]. |E| is the number of observed edges in the control-flow graph and |D| is the number of observed domain elements by the IFDS analysis. Consequently, the complexity highly depends on the analyzed app and the location of the sources or sinks, depending on the analysis direction. Therefore it is not possible to deduce a general advantage for any direction. Nevertheless, there are certain cases where one direction is favorable, which we discuss in the following paragraphs.

We decide favorably based on the number of taint propagations, i.e., the exploded supergraphs observed edges. They correlate to the runtime and depend on two factors: taints' lifetime and the number of taints. In the following paragraphs, we show examples where the analysis direction influences both factors. After that, we discuss clues suitable for an apriori decision on the direction.

```
String returnParam(int i, String s1, String s2, String s3) {
 2
        if (i == 1)
 3
            return s1;
 4
        else if (i == 2)
 5
            return s2;
 6
        else if (i == 3)
 7
            return s3:
 8
        else
 9
            return "default";
10 }
```

Figure 3.2.: Call Flow Rule 6 Example

First, we take a look at the branching factor. The branching factor describes the number of outgoing edges from a node. A smaller branching factor is favorable. Consider a binary operator expression such as int c = a + b;. Backward, we can not argue which operand is responsible for the tainted output and thus proceed with both operands tainted. The same restriction is present in rule 6 of Call Flow which describes how the returned value is mapped back into the callee. This time the branching factor can be even larger. For example, in figure 3.2 is a method that conditionally returns one of its parameters and is part of the leak path. Let us assume the returned value of a call to returnParam() is tainted. Backward, every returned operand is tainted and later on mapped according to Return Flow rule 2 back into the caller. The effect gets apparent when looking at the method summary. The IFDS algorithm ends up with a summary  $retVal \rightarrow \{s1, s2, s3\}$ . Forward, a tainted parameter is mapped into the callee and later on returned to the caller resulting in three possible summaries  $s1 \rightarrow \{retVal, s1\}$ ,  $s2 \rightarrow \{retVal, s2\}$  or  $s3 \rightarrow \{retVal, s3\}$ . Such a case favors the forward analysis.

In contrast, a strict right-to-left flow favors backward analysis as taints are killed more often due to a stricter overwrite rule. In figure 3.3 is such a right-to-left flow displayed. Forward, the right-hand side is always kept alive because it still holds the tainted value below the statement and could be leaked. When traversing a right-to-left flow backward, the left side is always killed. A visited statement is the update responsible for tainting, leading to a branching factor of 1 and a shorter lifetime per taint.

A prominent real-world example of a right-to-left order is Java's StringBuilder. The implementations of append() and insert() return the this instance to allow for easy chaining of multiple calls. Consider the corresponding Jimple code in figure 3.4. Soot

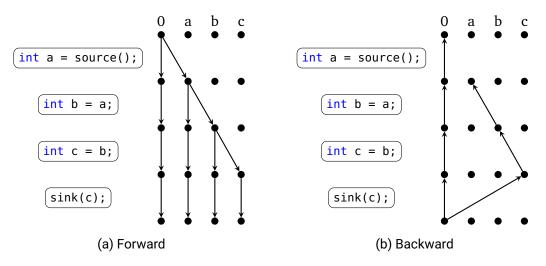


Figure 3.3.: Right-to-Left Order

does not reuse the local variables when translating JVM bytecode to Jimple<sup>8</sup>. Although all locals from \$stack9 to \$stack15 refer to the same object, the forward analysis can not kill any of those. In a simple view, our backward analysis has a huge advantage here. However, when we also consider aliases, the advantage is weakened by the aliasing queries. Nevertheless, because the Java compiler internally transforms non-constant string concatenation into a StringBuilder, StringBuilder objects are present in nearly every JVM-based program.

We already briefly mentioned the global scope of static field taints in the last section. Hence, unless the static taint is overwritten, it traverses the whole interprocedural control-flow graph. This obviously creates many unneccessary edges. FlowDroid already applies an optimization and looks ahead to skip methods in which the static field is not used. Still, the long lifetime stays an issue for real-world application and the direction can not generally change this issue [3].

We discussed the complexity based on the taint propagations. However, they are only known after the analysis. Now, it would be beneficial to decide which direction is the best before analyzing an app. An obvious choice for a clue would be the ratio of sources and sinks. If one is much less than the other, we could argue less taints to start with should also lower the taint propagations. Sadly, it is not as easy to generalize the statement to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Locals are reused when converting Dalvik bytecode to Jimple.

```
1 StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
2 sb = sb.append("DeviceID: ").append(id).append("\n IMEI: ")
3
       .append(imei).append("\n ISMI: ").append(imsi);
                                         (a) Java
1 $stack9 = new java.lang.StringBuilder;
2 specialinvoke $stack9.<java.lang.StringBuilder: void <init>()>();
3 $stack10 = virtualinvoke $stack9.<java.lang.StringBuilder:</pre>

    java.lang.StringBuilder append(java.lang.String)>("My device id is ");
4 $stack11 = virtualinvoke $stack10.<java.lang.StringBuilder:

    java.lang.StringBuilder append(java.lang.String)>($stack6);

5 $stack12 = virtualinvoke $stack11.<java.lang.StringBuilder:</pre>

    java.lang.StringBuilder append(java.lang.String)>(",my IMEI is ");

6 $stack13 = virtualinvoke $stack12.<java.lang.StringBuilder:</pre>

    java.lang.StringBuilder append(int)>($stack7);
7 $stack14 = virtualinvoke $stack13.<java.lang.StringBuilder:</pre>
       \hookrightarrow java.lang.StringBuilder append(java.lang.String)>(" and my IMSI is ");
8 $stack15 = virtualinvoke $stack14.<java.lang.StringBuilder:</pre>

    java.lang.StringBuilder append(int)>($stack8);
                                        (b) Jimple
```

Figure 3.4.: StringBuilder example

less starting taints means less runtime. Arzt's evaluation of FLOWDROID has shown no correlation between the number of sources and the runtime in FLOWDROID[3]. This result indicates that the observed statements have way more influence on the number of taint propagations balancing out the initial advantage. Even though the starting taints possibly do not correlate with the runtime, whenever there is a tiny number of sinks but hundreds of sources, the backward analysis should perform better. Likewise, Lerch et al. claim in their work that a magnificent smaller amount of sinks than sources are advantageous for a backward-directed search [24].

The choice on the direction might also be useful for special analysis applications. Think of a case where sanitization methods<sup>9</sup> are in use. Depending on the use case, it might be possible to deduce the proximity between sanitization methods and sources or sinks. Whenever this is possible, there should be a clear favorite for one direction due to the taints' lower lifetime.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Sanitization methods are run against user input to ensure the input is safe to be processed.

# 4. Implementation

This chapter describes the details of our backward-directed implementation and how we integrated it into FLowDroid.

### 4.1. Integration

First, we needed a backward interprocedural control-flow graph. FLOWDROID already contained one for the on-demand aliasing, which suited our needs. Next, we need to introduce unconditional taints at sinks and check for the matching access paths at sources. The methods for retrieving sources and sinks from a Source Sink Manager have different signatures because, in a forward analysis, access paths only have to match at sinks. We added the interface IReversibleSourceSinkManager extending the ISourceSinkManager. It enforces two additional methods:

- SourceInfo getInverseSinkInfo(Stmt sCallSite, InfoflowManager manager)
- SinkInfo getInverseSourceInfo(Stmt sCallSite, InfoflowManager manager, AccessPath ap)

getInverseSinkInfo() returns the necessary information for introducing unconditional taints at sinks, while getInverseSourceInfo() also matches the access paths at sources. All source sink managers needed for the data flow analysis now implement the corresponding interface. Note that reversible source sink managers currently do not support the one-source-at-a-time mode.

For the core flow functions, we created two new classes implementing IInfoflowProblem. BackwardsInfoflowProblem implements the flow functions described in section 3.1. We

also refer to this as the main analysis or infoflow analysis<sup>1</sup>. The flow functions for additional language features are sourced out into rules which are informally described in section 4.3. The second class is BackwardsAliasProblem which is the on-demand forward alias analysis. We describe the on-demand aliasing in greater detail in section 4.2.

After the analysis, the path builder constructs a path out of the leaked taint and its predecessors. Because the path builder expects a forward-built taint chain, the path ends up being the wrong way round. To hide the fact that we internally searched backward, we also created a BackwardsInfoflowResults extending InfoflowResults. The implementation is quite simple. It overwrites only the addResult() implementations used by the path builder to save the results and swaps the start and end. If full path reconstruction is enabled, it also reverses the path in between.

### 4.2. Flow-Sensitive Alias Analysis

FLOWDROID offers multiple aliasing strategies. In this work, we focus on flow-sensitive alias analysis. The analysis is formulated as another IFDS problem. Basically, it is a forward-directed IFDS analysis using flow function with aliasing rules. The main analysis invokes the alias analysis on-demand when it discovers an alias. The alias analysis runs independent from the main analysis and later injects found aliases into the main analysis.

Note that pointer analysis itself is a non-distributive problem [3, 38]. Nonetheless, the alias analysis is encoded in IFDS and we deliberately accept the possibly imprecise results due to the overapproximation. Not using the intertwined alias analysis is too imprecise and the cases of overapproximation are rare in practice [3].

Handover between the analyses The main analysis discovers aliases at assignments. Consider figure 4.1 where two different cases are displayed. On the left is a normal flow according to rule 1. In line 2, the in taint a.str produces the outcoming taint b.str. Because the assignment type is a reference type, the backward analysis now recognizes that it possibly missed updates to b.str below of line 2. It invokes the alias analysis with b.str. On the right is a normal flow according to default case. In comparison to the left side, this time the assignment in line 2 is swapped. At line 2, the main analysis leaves the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The term information flow analysis is sometimes used interchangeably with taint analysis. Others use it to describe taint analyses which also support implicit flows [24].

```
void aliasRule1() {
1
                                             void aliasDefaultRule() {
                                           2
2
       A a = b;
                                                  A a = b;
3
                                           3
       b.str = source();
                                                  a.str = source();
                                           4
4
       sink(a.str);
                                                  sink(b.str);
                                           5
5 }
                                             }
```

- (a) Example for alias analysis initiated by rule 1
- (b) Example for alias analysis initiated by the default case

Figure 4.1.: Normal flow Aliasing examples

```
1 void turnStmtNeeded() {
2     A a = b;
3     String str = b.str;
4     a.str = source();
5     sink(str);
6 }
```

Figure 4.2.: Aliasing example with turn unit

incoming taint b.str untouched but notices a aliases b below line 2, hence invoking the alias analysis with a.str.

The alias analysis searches for missed updates. If the analysis found an update, e.g., the taint is on the left side of the assignment, the analysis injects the edge to the statement with the taint into the main analysis' worklist. Consider again figure 4.1a. In line 3, the alias analysis encounters the tainted b.str on the left side. At this point, b.str gets handed back to the main analysis, following the missed update to find a possible leak. In this case, the leak happens right away.

**Maintaining Flow Sensitivity** Arzt solved this in the existing forward implementation using an activation unit. This statement marks the update at which the alias gets tainted and can leak at sinks [3]. This concept does not work for our backward implementation as our alias analysis traverses forward where the taint is already valid. Thus we introduce the turn unit. The turn unit holds the last observed non-aliasing assignment in the backward analysis. When a taint reaches its turn unit in the aliasing analysis, the analysis kills the taint. Consider figure 4.2. The newly introduced taint str at the sink in line 5 also initially has line 5 as a turn unit. In line 3, a non-aliasing assignment happens, hence the turn

unit is updated. In line 2, b.str is tainted and the alias analysis is invoked with a.str. Without the turn unit, the taint would pass line 3. Further in line 4, the taint is handed to the main analysis. The main analysis then reports a leak. With the turn unit in place, the alias analysis kills the taint in line 4, preventing the false positive.

The turn unit is a new field in the Abstraction class, which is representing a taint. A drawback of this is the reduced reusability of the IFDS summaries. As the turn unit is part of the taint, IFDS treats equal taints with different turn units as if they have a different context.

### 4.3. Rules

Flow functions can get quite large, complicated to understand and hard to maintain [25]. To counteract this, FLOWDROID outsources certain features into rules. These rules also implement the four flow functions and are applied in the main analysis's corresponding flow function. In this section, we describe our implementation and informally state the rule behavior.

### 4.3.1. Source & Sink Propagation Rule

In backward analysis, sources act like sinks and vice versa. Thus, the Source Propagation Rule records taints flowing into sources and the Sink Propagation Rule unconditionally introduces taints at sinks requiring an IReversibleSourceSinkManager.

Notably, the default Source Sink Manager assumes the return value to be tainted. Only if the return value is ignored or the method has no return value, the base object is assumed to be tainted. While at sinks the base object and parameters are leaked by default [3]. Thus, starting at sinks might result in more taints per statement. We did not notice an impact on the performance in the development phase but the test cases are fairly simple, so the base object creation is often right before the sink call. Also, we assume this does not impact the real-world performance of the backward analysis because Arzt evaluation of the forward implementation showed no correlation between runtime and source count [3]. We evaluate this assumption in section 6.2. If the assumption does not hold, more precise Source Sink Managers like the AccessPathBasedSourceSinkManager, where the problem is not present, can be used.

### 4.3.2. Backwards Array Propagation Rule

In FlowDroid, array taints are overapproximated by only distinguishing contents and length but not elements. Meaning if one element of an array is tainted, FlowDroid considers all elements tainted. Indices are often computed at runtime and thus not available for a static analysis without applying another analysis beforehand. Hence, the approximation is not as severe because we could only track constant indices without large overhead regardless. Furthermore, distinguishing elements would increase the domain even more, subsequently increasing the runtime [3].

The Array Propagation Rule handles ArrayNewExpr, LengthExpr and ArrayRef on the right-hand side.

- **Array Rule 1**: If the left side's length is tainted and the right side is an ArrayNewExpr, the outcoming taint is the size local of the ArrayNewExpr.
- Array Rule 2: If the left side is tainted and the right side is a LengthExpr, the outcoming taint is the operand of the LengthExpr with only its length tainted.
- **Array Rule 3:** If the left side is tainted and the right side is an ArrayRef, the outcoming taint is the array base with only its content tainted.

The overapproximation of arrays implies that array taints can not be killed if the left side is an ArrayRef. This restriction also holds outside the Array Rule, e.g., in the Normal Flow functions.

### 4.3.3. Backwards Exception Propagation Rule

The backwards analysis first finds a catch statement \$someVar := @caughtexception. If the left side matches, it sets an exception flag at the taint and propagates it onwards. The subsequent propagation then finds the corresponding throw statement.

- Exception Rule 1: On a caught exception expression, derive a taint with an exception flag set.
- Exception Rule 2: If a taint with the exception flag set occurs at a ThrowStmt, taint the operand of the ThrowStmt.

The second rule is present in Call and Normal Flow because the throw statement can be inside the same method or in a callee.

### 4.3.4. Backwards Wrapper Propagation Rule

The implementation of this rule is similar to the existing implementation. A tainted returned value also needs to be passed into the taint wrapper because of the backward direction. The rule calls getInverseTaints() and thus requires the taint wrapper to implement the IReversibleTaintWrapper interface.

### 4.3.5. Backwards Implicit Propagation Rule

Flows which are influenced by a condition are called implicit flows. A common example is a password check. Such a method could return a boolean signifying the password is correct or not. Without implicit flows, the taint analysis would be unable to find the path between the password input and the output action. The semantics of implicit flows in FLOWDROID are that every update flowing into a sink or a sink call inside a conditional branch, even in transitive callees, is considered a leak.

The existing forward-directed implementation derives a wildcard taint<sup>2</sup> and propagates it until the conditional branch is left again at the immediate postdominator. This behavior does not scale well because the semantics demand tainting every update and following every call in conditionals leading to many unneccessary taints never reaching a sink. The bad scalability is not an issue specific to FLOWDROID but is present for most analyses providing implicit flows [20].

We also use the wildcard taint but with a different semantic. Backward, the wildcard signifies that a conditional update happended and is propagated further to find the corresponding condition. Thus, the branching factor inside a conditional branch should be lower. To detect a conditional, we push and pop the dominator on the taints. Whenever an update is conducted to a taint carrying a dominator, the wildcard taint is derived. However, it is not that easy to reconstruct the conditional branches while traversing the exploded supergraph. Consider the code in figure 4.3. We expect from the analysis to find the path from line 2 to line 10. First of all, starting at the sink it is unknown whether a conditional influenced the call to the transitiveSink() method. Also, assuming we created a taint representing the sink call, consider the return edge into foo(). The edge is already inside a conditional branch, thus the dominator is per-definition line 4. We cannot use the dominator as a indication whether a taint enters a conditional in such

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>A wildcard taint is an taint without an object or access path but a wildcard appended. E.g., this taints all left operands of assignments inside a conditional branch.

```
1
   void foo() {
2
        int tainted = source();
 3
        if (tainted == 42) {
 4
            int x = 0;
 5
            transitiveSink();
 6
        }
7
   }
8
9
   void transitiveSink() {
10
        sink();
11 }
```

Figure 4.3.: Implicit Flow Challenges

cases. Both of those challenges are not a data-flow problem but rather a control-flow graph reachability problem. We extended the backward interprocedural control-flow graph with two methods:

- List<Unit> getConditionalBranchesInterprocedural(Unit unit)
- List<Unit> getConditionalBranchesIntraprocedural(Unit unit)

The first one is used for sink calls. It traverses the interprocedural graph using a worklist algorithm to find all possibly reachable conditional statements. We then use those found conditionals to derive wildcard taints with the correct conditional dominator. The second one only returns the conditional statements above the unit but does not follow call sites. For example, the second method is used to reconstruct whether a taint enters a conditional through a method return.

### 4.3.6. Backwards Strong Update Rule

Until now, we always assumed that a taint is only affected if the variable occurs in a statement. However, with aliasing, this gets more complicated. A taint could not match the left side and, thus, is propagated over the statement according to the default rule of normal flow, but the taint is an alias of the left side and should have been killed. Also, we can not just link aliases to taints for such strong updates because that would violate the flow functions' distributiveness property.

Figure 4.4.: Examples of statements being in <clinit>

In this case, FLOWDROID falls back to Soot's must-aliasing analysis. However, the must-aliasing analysis is only intraprocedural. Thus, strong updates split over methods are not detected and may produce a false positive.

Backward, the first observed update is the correct one. We treat a must-alias like a regular match:

• **Strong Update Rule**: If the incoming taint must-aliases the left side, then apply the Normal Flow rules just as if the left side was tainted.

### 4.3.7. Backwards Clinit Rule

<clinit> is a special method in the JVM and stands for class loader init. The compiler generates the method and calls it implicitly. Examples of statements that get compiled into clinit are in figure 4.4. The invokation is implicit at the class's initialization phase and is executed at most once for each class<sup>3</sup>. SPARK, the default call graph algorithm of FLOWDROID, overapproximates the <clinit> behavior. It adds an edge to <clinit> at each statement containing a StaticFieldRef, StaticInvokeExpr or NewExpr<sup>4</sup>.

The need for this rule is rooted in the IFDS solver of FLOWDROID. The solver decides whether to use Normal Flow or Call Flow by calling isCallStmt(Unit u) on the interprocedural control-flow graph generated by Soot. Internally, this method calls containsInvokeExpr() on the Unit object. containsInvokeExpr() for AssignStmt only returns true if the right-hand side is an instance of InvokeExpr. Consequently, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Source: https://docs.oracle.com/javase/specs/jvms/se8/html/jvms-2.html#jvms-2.9 (visited on 17.04.2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Source: https://github.com/soot-oss/soot/blob/59931576784b910a7d38f81910b7313aa2feafea/src/main/java/soot/jimple/toolkits/callgraph/OnFlyCallGraphBuilder.java#L969 (visited on 17.04.2021)

calls to <clinit> from AssignStmts with NewExpr or StaticFieldRef on the right side are missed.

The Backwards Clinit Rule manually injects an edge to the <clinit> method in the infoflow solver when appropriate during the analysis. Also, it lessens the overapproximation of SPARK by carefully choosing whether to inject the edge. The rule works as follows:

- Clinit Rule 1: If the tainted static variable is a field of the class where the current statement is located in, do not inject because we will at least encounter a NewExpr of the same class further in the call graph.
- Clinit Rule 2: Else if the tainted static variable matches the StaticFieldRef on the right hand side: Inject the edge because we can not be sure whether we see another edge to <clinit>.
- Clinit Rule 3: Else if the class of the tainted static variable matches the class of the NewExpr: Inject the edge because we can not be sure whether we see another edge to <clinit>.

The behavior is still an overapproximation, of course. A more precise solution would require bookkeeping of every class's last observation equal to the first occurrence in the code.

In the existing implementation, there is no such explicit modelling. As taints are introduced at sources, if the source statement is inside a static initialization like in figure 4.4a, the propagation starts inside the <clinit> method. Then unbalanced problem handling of the solver propagates the taint into the callers of ClinitClass1 <clinit>. This behavior allows the forward analysis to detect leaks originating from static variable initializations. Leaks from inside a static blocks as shown in figure 4.4b can be missed by the forward analysis because it might not see any call statement with an edge to <clinit>. The Clinit Rule could also be ported to the forward analysis but with a larger overapproximation. Unlike backward, there is no guarantee that there will be another edge to <clinit> if the statement is in the same class as the <clinit> method. Thus, it would inherit the entire overapproximation from the SPARK call-graph algorithm.

### 4.3.8. Other Rules

Skip System Class Rule and Stop After First K Flows Rule are not direction-dependent. Both are shared with the forwards search and therefore use the existing implementation in FlowDroid.

```
1 char[] tainted = source();
2 StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
3 sb.append(tainted, offset, len);
4 sb.append("untainted");
5 sink(sb.toString());
```

Figure 4.5.: Easy Taint Wrapper Example

## 4.4. Other Components

### 4.4.1. Taint Wrappers

FLOWDROID already has an interface IReversibleTaintWrapper for taint wrappers providing inversed summaries. The SummaryTaintWrapper using StubDroid's summaries already implemented this interface. For the EasyTaintWrapper, we contributed the inverse implementation. Its implementation follows simple rules which cover most cases[3]. The rules are inverted to:

- If the return value is tainted, taint the object and the parameters.
- If the base object is tainted, taint all parameters.

Note that these simple rules are disadvantageous for the backward direction the more parameters a method has. Consider the code snippet in figure 4.5, especially line 3. Forwards, tainted is the incoming taint and the EasyTaintWrapper produces the taint set {tainted, sb}. Backward, the incoming taint is sb and the taint wrapper produces four taints {sb, tainted, offset, len}. Luckily, most methods supported by the EasyTaintWrapper have less than three arguments. Alternatively, using the more precise SummaryTaintWrapper eliminates this problem. We compare both taint wrappers in section 6.1.

### 4.4.2. Native Call Handler

The native call handler of FLOWDROID handles two methods: System#arraycopy and reflect.Array#newArray. The handling of System#arraycopy is direction-dependent. Thus, we adapted the existing implementation and reversed the logic of System#arraycopy to reflect the analysis direction.

### 4.4.3. Code Optimizer: AddNOPStmts

Before starting the analysis, FLOWDROID applies code optimization to the interprocedural call graph. By default, dead code elimination and within constant value propagation is performed. Those are also applied before backward analysis, but we needed another code optimizer to handle an edge case in backward analysis.

First, consider the static2Test test case in the StatictTestCode class of FlowDroid in figure 4.6. The method is also the entry point for the analysis, is static and does not have any parameters. The same is true for the source TelephonyManager#getDeviceId. Due to the first condition, static2Test has no identity statements and because of the second condition, there are also no assign statements before the source statement in Jimple. Therefore the source statement is the first statement in the graph. Next, a detail of FlowDroid's IFDS solver is important. The Return and CallToReturn flow function is only applied if a return site is available. When traversing backward, the source statement is the last and thus has no return sites. Now, the taints flowing into source methods are registered in the Call To Return flow function. Altogether, leaks are missed if the source statement is the first statement.

Moving the detection of incoming taints flows into sources from the CallToReturn to the Call flow function was not an option because by default source methods are not visited and changing this would require multiple changes in the existing implementation. Our solution is to add a NOP statement in such cases before the analysis. Due to the entry points being known beforehand, the overhead is negligible.

### 4.4.4. Omit Aliasing Optimization

Recall section 3.2 where we explained our backward implementation benefits from a right-to-left order. The StringBuilder however can alias and the alias search offsets the advantage. We use the observation that Jimple does not reuse the local variables when compiled from Java bytecode and all locals pointing to the same StringBuilder instance except one are not reused either. Thus, we apply a live variables analysis for the base object between the current statement and the turn unit as a preanalysis. Only if the preanalysis finds an use, the alias analysis is used. The preanalysis needs around  $100\mu s$  runtime per query. Based on our observations, it should rarely find an use. We reviewed the optimization using the well-known org.json<sup>5</sup> library. The library makes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>https://mvnrepository.com/artifact/org.json/json/20210307 (visited 17.04.2021)

```
1 public static void static2Test() {
 2
        String tainted = TelephonyManager.getDeviceId();
 3
        ClassWithStatic static1 = new ClassWithStatic();
 4
        static1.setTitle(tainted);
 5
        ClassWithStatic static2 = new ClassWithStatic();
 6
        String alsoTainted = static2.getTitle();
 7
 8
        ConnectionManager cm = new ConnectionManager();
 9
        cm.publish(alsoTainted);
10 }
                                          (a) Java
 1 public static void static2Test() {
        tainted = staticinvoke
            \hookrightarrow <soot.jimple.infoflow.test.android.TelephonyManager:
            \hookrightarrow java.lang.String getDeviceId()>(); // Line 2 in (a)
 3
 4
        // [...]
 6
        virtualinvoke cm.<soot.jimple.infoflow.test.android.ConnectionManager:</pre>
            ⇔ void publish(java.lang.String)>(alsoTainted); // Line 9 in (a)
 7
 8
        return;
 9 }
```

Figure 4.6.: static2Test Code

(b) Jimple

```
public void JSONTest() {

String tainted = TelephonyManager.getDeviceId();

JSONObject json0 = new JSONObject();

json0.put("str", tainted);

ConnectionManager cm = new ConnectionManager();

cm.publish(json0.toString());

}
```

Figure 4.7.: JSON Test Code

use of StringWriter, which internally uses StringBuffer. A StringBuffer has the same chaining in place for the append() and insert() methods. For the test case shown in figure 4.7, we observed 58 misses and 0 hits while spending 0.0337 seconds in the preanalysis until the analysis found the first flow.

Note that this optimization is part of the Backwards Wrapper Rule and, thus, only works with taint wrappers that provide summaries for StringBuilder and StringBuffer.

# 5. Validation

### 5.1. Unit Tests

FLOWDROID already contains 519 unit tests for the core component. We validated the backward analysis with these tests. As already stated earlier, we focused in this work on flow-sensitive aliasing, which is the default aliasing strategy of FLOWDROID. Thus, HeapTestPtsAliasing tests were not applicable.

### 5.2. DroidBench

DROIDBENCH is a test suite to evaluate data flow analysis tools targeting the Android ecosystem. It originated from the initial work on FlowDroid to assess it in comparison to other tools [6]. The latest development version 3 includes 190 test cases<sup>1</sup>. We used the newest commit on the develop branch at the time of writing<sup>2</sup> to validate our implementation. We aim to achieve similar results as FlowDroid's existing forward implementation.

### 5.2.1. Configuration

For the validation, we ran FLOWDROID with the Android module's default configuration using the EasyTaintWrapper as the taint wrapper. The original publication also used the EasyTaintWrapper for DroidBench [3]. Doing the same has multiple advantages. We know what ground truth results are, because all deviating results are explained in the

 $<sup>^1</sup> Source: \ \texttt{https://github.com/secure-software-engineering/DroidBench/} \ (visited \ on \ 18.04.2021)$ 

 $<sup>^2</sup> Commit\ ddbd50c68dde18e1f6b75bfa13c617f986ba9e46$ 

original publication. Also, we can rely that all needed summaries are already present. And last, the complexity of the EasyTaintWrapper is managable, which made it easier to identify bugs in our flow function implementation and explain the results. The configuration summary is in table 5.1.

Nonetheless, we also describe the improvements from using the more sophisticated SummaryTaintWrapper later in subsection 5.2.4.

Option	Value
Array Size Tainting	disabled
Inspect Sources & Sinks	disabled
Static Field Tracking	enabled
Ignore Flows in System Packages	enabled
Exclude Soot Library Classes	enabled
Timeout	-
Taint Wrapper	EasyTaintWrapper

Table 5.1.: Real World Apps Configuration

We only used a subset of DroidBench's tests to validate our results. Dynamic Code Loading, Self Modification, Unreachable Code and Native Code are all not fully supported by FlowDroid. The first three are all call-graph related and the latter is not supported because FlowDroid has no Android native call handler for now. Also, Inter Component Communication (ICC), Reflection Inter Component Communication and Inter App Communication were left out because the ICC module is - at the time of this work - not maintained anymore. All of the tests stated above are flow function independent. If FlowDroid gets support for those features in the future, they should also work in the backward analysis.

#### 5.2.2. Results

The complete overview of the results is in table 5.2.  $\odot$  denotes true positive,  $\star$  false positive and  $\bigcirc$  false negative. If a row is empty, the test expects no leaks and also none were found.

Our backward-directed implementation yields nearly the same result as the existing forward implementation, with one missed leak less than the baseline. We achieve a F1 measure of 0.89 equally to the baseline.

Test Case	Forwards	Backwards
Aliasi	ng	
FlowSensitivity1		
Merge1	*	*
SimpleAliasing1	*	*
StrongUpdate1		
Android-S	pecific	1
ApplicationModeling1	*	(*)
DirectLeak1	*	*
InactiveActivity		
Library2	*	*
LogNoLeak		
Obfuscation1	(*)	(*)
Parcel1	(*)	*
PrivateDataLeak1	(*)	*
PrivateDataLeak2	(*)	*
PrivateDataLeak3	(*)	(*)
PublicAPIField1	*	*
PublicAPIField2	(*)	*
View1	(*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*)	*  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *
Arrays an	d Lists	
ArrayAccess1	*	*
ArrayAccess2	*	*
ArrayAccess3	*	*
ArrayAccess4		
ArrayAccess5		
ArrayCopy1	*	*
ArrayToString1	*	*
HashMapAccess1	*	*
ListAccess1	*	*
MultidimensionalArray1	(*)	(*)
Callba	1 0	
AnonymousClass1	(*)	(*)
Button1	( <del>*</del> )	$(\star)$
Button2	****	(*)(*)(*) *
Button3	$ \overset{\smile}{(\star)}(\star) $	$(\star)(\star)$
Button4		

Test Case	Forwards	Backwards
Button5	*	*
LocationLeak1	**	**
LocationLeak2	**	**
LocationLeak3	*	*
MethodOverride1	*	*
MultiHandlers1		
Ordering1		
RegisterGlobal1	*	*
RegisterGlobal2	*	*
Unregister1	*	*
Emulator D	etection	
Battery1	*	*
Bluetooth1	*	*
Build1	*	*
Contacts1	*	*
ContentProvider1	(*)(*)	(*)(*)
DeviceId1	*	*
File1	*	*
IMEI1	(*)(*)	(*)(*)
IP1	*	*
PI1	*	*
PlayStore1	(*)(*)	(*)(*)
PlayStore2	*	*
Sensors1	(*)	*
SubscriberId1		
VoiceMail1	(*)	(*)
Field and Object	ct Sensitivity	
FieldSensitivity1		
FieldSensitivity2		
FieldSensitivity3	*	*
FieldSensitivity4		
InheritedObjects1	(*)	*
ObjectSensitivity1		
ObjectSensitivity2		
General	Java	l
= = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =		*

Test Case	Forwards	Backwards
Exceptions1	*	*
Exceptions2	(★)	*
Exceptions3	*	*
Exceptions4	*	*
Exceptions5	*	*
Exceptions6	*	*
Exceptions7		
FactoryMethods1	(*)(*)	(*)(*)
Loop1	(*)	*
Loop2	(*)	*
Serialization1		$\bigcup$
SourceCodeSpecific1	*	*
StartProcessWithSecret1	(*)	(*)
StaticInitialization1		*
StaticInitialization2	*	*
StaticInitialization3		
StringFormatter1		$\bigcup$
StringPatternMatching1	(*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*)	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
StringToCharArray1	(*)	*
StringToOutputStream1	(*) *	(*) *
UnreachableCode		
VirtualDispatch1	(*) *	(*) *
VirtualDispatch2	(*) *	(*) *
VirtualDispatch3	*	*
VirtualDispatch4		
Implicit	Flows	1
ImplicitFlow1	*	*
ImplicitFlow2	$\star\star$	$\star\star$
ImplicitFlow3	**	**
ImplicitFlow4		
ImplicitFlow5		
Lifecy	vcle	
ActivityEventSequence1	*	*
ActivityEventSequence2		
ActivityEventSequence3		
ActivityLifecycle1	<b>*</b>	*

Test Case	Forwards	Backwards
ActivityLifecycle2	*	*
ActivityLifecycle3	*	*
ActivityLifecycle4	*	*
ActivitySavedState1	*	*
ApplicationLifecycle1	*	*
ApplicationLifecycle2	*	*
ApplicationLifecycle3	*	*
AsynchronousEventOrdering1	*	*
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle1	*	*
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle2	* *	* *
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle3	*	*
EventOrdering1	*	*
FragmentLifecycle1	(*)	*
FragmentLifecycle2		
ServiceEventSequence1		
ServiceEventSequence2		
ServiceEventSequence3		
ServiceLifecycle1	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
ServiceLifecycle2	(*)	*
SharedPreferenceChanged1	(*) *	* *
Reflection		
Reflection1	*	(*)
Reflection2		*
Reflection3	*	*
Reflection4	*	*
Reflection5	*	*
Reflection6	*	*
Reflection7		$\bigcup$
Reflection8	*	*
Reflection9	(*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*)	*
Threadi		
AsyncTask1	*	*
Executor1	( <del>*</del>	*
JavaThread1	$\mid \check{oldsymbol{\otimes}} \mid$	*
JavaThread2	(*) (*) (*) (*)	(*) (*) (*) (*)
Looper1	IÃ	Ã

Test Case	Forwards	Backwards
TimerTask1	*	*
*	108	109
*	14	14
	13	12
Precision	88.52%	88.62%
Recall	89.26%	90.08%
F1 measure	0.89	0.89

Table 5.2.: DroidBench Validation Results

### 5.2.3. Results Explanation

The analyses only differ in StaticTests#StaticInitialization1 where we do not miss the leak. As all StaticInitialization tests depend on the <clinit> behavior modeling, we decided to explain all three even though only StaticInitialization1 is different.

**StaticInitialization1** differs between forward and backward analysis. Backward reports one leak due to the explicit modeling of <clinit> edges instead of relying on SPARK. Recall subsection 4.3.7, leaks inside static blocks are missed in the forward analysis. This test case is quite similar to figure 4.4b, and therefore, only the backward analysis reports the leak.

**StaticInitialization2** yields the same result but because of different reasons. The test assigns a tainted value to a static field in the static initializer. Again, recall subsection 4.3.7. Backward, the clinit rule takes care of visiting the <clinit> edge while forwards the followReturnsPastSeeds option of the IFDS solver is responsible.

StaticInitialization3's leak is missed despite the explicit modeling of clinit. The code is provided in figure 5.1. The MainActivity is using the singleton pattern and thus has a static field v referring to its instance. The source statement is inside the Test class's static block using the singleton to access the instance field s. The taint is now introduced at the sink and refers to the field through the this instance. When we visit line 13, the <clinit> edge is not taken because the taint is not used inside the callee. Line 12 kills the taint and stops the analysis as there is no taint to propagate anymore. We never get to see the statement where the static field v aliases this. The false negative is a limitation of the alias handling.

```
1 \quad \hbox{public class MainActivity extends Activity } \{
 2
         public static MainActivity v;
 3
        public String s;
 4
 5
        @Override
 6
        protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
 7
             v = this;
 8
 9
             super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
10
             setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
11
12
             s = ""; // T={}
13
             Test t = new Test(); // T={this.s}
14
             Log.i("DroidBench", s); // T={this.s}
15
        }
16 }
17
18 class Test {
19
        static {
20
             TelephonyManager mgr = (TelephonyManager)
                 \hookrightarrow \texttt{MainActivity.v.getSystemService}(\texttt{Activity.TELEPHONY\_SERVICE});
21
             MainActivity.v.s = mgr.getDeviceId(); // source
22
        }
23 }
```

Figure 5.1.: StaticInitialization3 code

# 5.2.4. Improvements From The Summary Taint Wrapper

We briefly explained the simple but not always precise rules of the EasyTaintWrapper in subsection 4.4.1. Using StubDroid's more precise summaries yields even better results for both directions. The false positives in the test cases BroadcastReceiverLifecycle2 and SharedPreferenceChanged1 are gone and the leak in Serialization1 is found.

# 6. Performance Evaluation

In the last chapter, we have shown that our implementation has the necessary soundness to be viable and yields the expected results. We now evaluate our implementation against the existing implementation in FLOWDROID.

### 6.1. DroidBench

We already introduced Droidench in section 5.2 to validate the soundness of our backward-directed implementation. In this section, we focus on the performance in comparison to the existing forward-directed implementation in FlowDroid.

DroidBench has the advantage that all apps are crafted explicitly for benchmarking taint analysis. So, most tests only contain a single-figure number of sources and sinks. Also, the number of sources and sinks are often equal or differ by one to test whether the tool can differentiate something. These simplify the comparison between both analysis directions as neither one has an initial disadvantage.

Most test cases are small enough to be analyzed in sub-two seconds on an average four-core desktop CPU from 2012. Our test environment is not isolated, so background tasks and the process scheduler can affect the runtime. Together with the variance of the unisolated testing environment, the short runtime renders the runtime unusable as a comparison point. In contrast, edge propagations are deterministic<sup>1</sup> and correlate with the runtime. Thus, we only use the number of propagations to compare both implementations.

The configuration is the same as described in subsection 5.2.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>This is only true if there are enough resources. FLowDROID tries to gracefully terminate when running low on memory. Also, timeouts result in a non-reproducible number of edge propagations.

#### 6.1.1. Results

The full results are listed in table 6.1. When rows only contain hyphens, the IFDS analysis did not start, e.g., because no sink is in the reachable code. #I denotes the number of edge propagations inside the infoflow analysis and #A the number of edge propagations inside the alias analysis. We calculated the absolute difference with the existing implementation as the reference:  $Result_B - Result_F$ . The relative difference is calculated similarly:  $\frac{TotalDifference}{\|\#I_F + \#A_F\|}$ . Hence, negative values signify the backward analysis performed better.

On average, our implementation needs more edge propagations to finish the analysis. Even though for explicit flows the backward analysis needs fewer propagations in the infoflow analysis, it then suffers from more encountered aliases. If we look at it on a per-test basis, there are not many test cases where both perform identically. Instead, dependent on the specific test case, the relative difference is between -1 and 1. However, we did not expect cases that let the edge propagations of our implementation explode up to a factor of 100, as seen in LifecycleTest#BroadcastReceiverLifecycle3. In contrast, the existing forward implementation has a maximum relative difference of -0.95.

Test Case	Forwards Backwards		ards	Difference						
Test Case	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative		
Aliasing										
FlowSensitivity1	175	72	39	4	-136	-68	-204	-0.83		
Merge1	137	65	89	47	-48	-18	-66	-0.33		
SimpleAliasing1	35	13	20	3	-15	-10	-25	-0.52		
StrongUpdate1	30	13	11	3	-19	-10	-29	-0.67		
		Andr	oid-Speci	ic						
ApplicationModeling1	212	96	851	1208	639	1112	1751	5.69		
DirectLeak1	3	0	4	0	1	0	1	0.33		
InactiveActivity	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		
Library2	5	0	6	0	1	0	1	0.2		
LogNoLeak	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		
Obfuscation1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0		
Parcel1	144	15	86	93	-58	78	20	0.13		
PrivateDataLeak1	410	110	608	766	198	656	854	1.64		
PrivateDataLeak2	15	0	5	3	-10	3	-7	-0.47		
PrivateDataLeak3	17	2	210	140	193	138	331	17.42		
runPublicAPIField1	89	1	43	0	-46	-1	-47	-0.52		
runPublicAPIField2	5	0	11	0	6	0	6	1.2		
runView1	71	50	69	0	-2	-50	-52	-0.43		
		Array	s And Lis	ts						
ArrayAccess1	77	34	51	100	-26	66	40	0.36		
ArrayAccess2	16	4	12	0	-4	-4	-8	-0.4		
ArrayAccess3	77	34	51	100	-26	66	40	0.36		

Test Case	Forw	ards	Backw	Backwards Difference				
	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative
ArrayAccess4	164	84	42	21	-122	-63	-185	-0.75
ArrayAccess5	75	5	34	23	-41	18	-23	-0.29
ArrayCopy1	18	2	9	2	-9	0	-9	-0.45
ArrayToString1	10	1	6	0	-4	-1	-5	-0.45
HashMapAccess1	22	5	15	1	-7	-4	-11	-0.41
ListAccess1	85	9	60	97	-25	88	63	0.67
MultidimensionalArray1	29	3	16	23	-13	20	7	0.22
		C	allbacks					
AnonymousClass1	152	0	208	0	56	0	56	0.37
Button1	58	39	43	0	-15	-39	-54	-0.56
Button2	444	66	155	254	-289	188	-101	-0.2
Button3	360	89	109	408	-251	319	68	0.15
Button4	58	39	43	0	-15	-39	-54	-0.56
Button5	80	40	6	3	-74	-37	-111	-0.93
LocationLeak1	617	222	260	298	-357	76	-281	-0.33
LocationLeak2	212	121	152	0	-60	-121	-181	-0.54
LocationLeak3	220	73	104	115	-116	42	-74	-0.25
MethodOverride1	3	0	2	0	-1	0	-1	-0.33
MultiHandlers1	17	0	145	149	128	149	277	16.29
Ordering1	456	151	44	0	-412	-151	-563	-0.93
RegisterGlobal1	291	162	49	0	-242	-162	-404	-0.89
RegisterGlobal2	52	37	43	0	-9	-37	-46	-0.52
Unregister1	11	0	9	0	-2	0	-2	-0.18
		Emula	tor Detect	ion				
Battery1	7	0	39	15	32	15	47	6.71
Bluetooth1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
Build1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
Contacts1	53	0	200	19	147	19	166	3.13
ContentProvider1	13	0	8	0	-5	0	-5	-0.38
DeviceId1	15	0	6	0	-9	0	-9	-0.6
File1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
IMEI1	137	0	422	1	285	1	286	2.09
IP1	4	0	29	0	25	0	25	6.25
PI1	6	0	4	0	-2	0	-2	-0.33
PlayStore1	158	0	8	0	-150	0	-150	-0.95
PlayStore2	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
Sensors1	5	0	4	0	-1	0	-1	-0.2
SubscriberId1	29	0	4	0	-25	0	-25	-0.86
VoiceMail1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Fi	eld and C	Object Ser	nsitivity				
FieldSensitivity1	98	50	25	3	-73	-47	-120	-0.81
FieldSensitivity2	35	15	19	0	-16	-15	-31	-0.62
rieidsensitivityz	55					_		
FieldSensitivity3 FieldSensitivity4	38	15	16	0	-22	-15	$-37 \\ -12$	-0.7

Track Cons	Forw	ards	Backw	wards Backwards Difference			Difference				
Test Case	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative			
InheritedObjects1	4	0	6	0	2	0	2	0.5			
ObjectSensitivity1	19	7	14	1	-5	-6	-11	-0.42			
ObjectSensitivity2	15	8	10	0	-5	-8	-13	-0.57			
General Java											
Clone1	23	2	12	4	-11	2	-9	-0.36			
Exceptions1	16	0	13	0	-3	0	-3	-0.19			
Exceptions2	22	0	13	0	-9	0	-9	-0.41			
Exceptions3	18	0	11	0	-7	0	-7	-0.39			
Exceptions4	21	1	22	0	1	-1	0	0.0			
Exceptions5	13	1	16	0	3	-1	2	0.14			
Exceptions6	78	12	23	0	-55	-12	-67	-0.74			
Exceptions7	71	12	6	0	-65	-12	-77	-0.93			
FactoryMethods1	40	0	14	0	-26	0	-26	-0.65			
Loop1	93	2	51	0	-42	-2	-44	-0.46			
Loop2	123	2	79	0	-44	-2	-46	-0.37			
Serialization1	50	4	22	29	-28	25	-3	-0.06			
SourceCodeSpecific1	16	0	45	7	29	7	36	2.25			
StartProcessWithSecret1	29	8	17	3	-12	-5	-17	-0.46			
StaticInitialization1	26	27	9	0	-17	-27	-44	-0.83			
StaticInitialization2	57	29	86	0	29	-29	0	0.0			
StaticInitialization3	35	9	5	0	-30	-9	-39	-0.89			
StringFormatter1	16	1	10	0	-6	-1	-7	-0.41			
StringPatternMatching1	23	1	8	4	-15	3	-12	-0.5			
StringToCharArray1	91	4	47	0	-44	-4	-48	-0.51			
StringToOutputStream1	26	3	25	1	-1	-2	-3	-0.1			
UnreachableCode	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_			
VirtualDispatch1	128	31	88	28	-40	-3	-43	-0.27			
VirtualDispatch2	7	0	12	0	5	0	5	0.71			
VirtualDispatch3	8	0	6	0	-2	0	-2	-0.25			
VirtualDispatch4	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_			
		Imp	licit Flow	S							
ImplicitFlow1	1823	144	3315	11	1492	-133	1359	0.69			
ImplicitFlow2	146	63	991	3	845	-60	785	3.76			
ImplicitFlow3	148	50	1023	20	875	-30	845	4.27			
ImplicitFlow4	67	0	1864	12	1797	12	1809	27.0			
ImplicitFlow6	18	0	112	0	94	0	94	5.22			
			ifecycle								
ActivityEventSequence1	58	35	72	0	14	-35	-21	-0.23			
ActivityEventSequence2	32	24	77	0	45	-24	21	0.38			
ActivityEventSequence3	209	116	156	0	-53	-116	-169	-0.52			
ActivityLifecycle1	99	72	156	7	57	-65	-8	-0.05			
ActivityLifecycle2	47	34	33	0	-14	-34	-48	-0.59			
ActivityLifecycle3	65	31	28	0	-37	-31	-68	-0.71			
ActivityLifecycle4	49	33	14	0	-35	-33	-68	-0.83			

Test Case	Forw	ards	Backw	ards	Difference			
Test Case	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative
ActivitySavedState1	20	0	7	0	-13	0	-13	-0.65
ApplicationLifecycle1	37	10	82	0	45	-10	35	0.74
ApplicationLifecycle2	86	17	94	155	8	138	146	1.42
ApplicationLifecycle3	32	12	21	0	-11	-12	-23	-0.52
AsynchronousEventOrdering1	58	31	16	0	-42	-31	-73	-0.82
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle2	109	44	248	114	139	70	209	1.37
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle3	3	0	195	110	192	110	302	100.67
EventOrdering1	61	29	30	0	-31	-29	-60	-0.67
FragmentLifecycle1	187	127	90	0	-97	-127	-224	-0.71
FragmentLifecycle2	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
ServiceEventSequence1	53	20	124	34	71	14	85	1.16
ServiceEventSequence2	105	49	389	220	284	171	455	2.95
ServiceEventSequence3	46	12	275	151	229	139	368	6.34
ServiceLifecycle1	119	44	42	0	-77	-44	-121	-0.74
ServiceLifecycle2	68	20	89	21	21	1	22	0.25
SharedPreferenceChanged1	13	0	11	0	-2	0	-2	-0.15
		R	eflection					
Reflection1	15	5	8	0	-7	-5	-12	-0.6
Reflection2	21	5	11	0	-10	-5	-15	-0.58
Reflection3	42	9	62	25	20	16	36	0.71
Reflection4	9	0	8	0	-1	0	-1	-0.11
Reflection5	16	1	11	0	-5	-1	-6	-0.35
Reflection6	7	0	134	51	127	51	178	25.43
Reflection7	15	5	15	11	0	6	6	0.3
Reflection8	35	7	14	0	-21	-7	-28	-0.67
Reflection9	42	7	21	0	-21	-7	-28	-0.57
			hreading					
AsyncTask1	22	2	11	1	-11	-1	-12	-0.5
Executor1	34	7	17	0	-17	-7	-24	-0.59
JavaThread1	34	7	17	0	-17	-7	-24	-0.59
JavaThread2	62	10	31	8	-31	-2	-33	-0.46
Looper1	49	3	20	16	-29	13	-16	-0.31
TimerTask1	203	28	32	33	-171	5	-166	-0.72
Ø Propagations	85.46	23.41	117.64	38.6	32.19	15.19	47.37	1.61
Ø without Implicit Flow	70.61	22.46	60.56	40.1	-10.05	17.63	7.59	1.34

Table 6.1.: DroidBench Performance Evaluation Results

### 6.1.2. Result Explanation

We define tests with a relative difference greater than 10 as worth investigating. In the following, we explain why our implementation performed worse than expected.

**PrivateDataLeak3** This test contains two sinks and one source. The tainted data is written to a file, later read from the file and then leaked. FLOWDROID does not support tracking taints over files, so it only finds a leak from source to file write but misses the leak from file read to send SMS. Due to EasyTaintWrapper's simplicity, overtainting happens in the backward direction. When FileInputStream fis = openFileInput("out.txt"); is called with fis tainted, EasyTaintWrapper also taints the base object - the MainActivity in this case. As the MainActivity has an enormous scope, the taint has a long lifetime and many other taints could derive from this taint. This taint explains the relative difference of 17.68. Using the more precise SummaryTaintWrapper, the edges reduce to (51, 16) and a relative difference of 2.53, which is more reasonable. It is still higher because of the second sink.

**MultiHandlers1** Two LocationListeners are registered in different activities. In both activities, an instance field is a parameter of a sink. So there are two possible paths where something could be leaked. The LocationListener does not call any source on the first path, while the second path has an empty setter method killing the taint. For the first path, the backward analysis has to propagate the taint into the LocationListener to notice that this is a dead-end while the forward's search does not even start there. For the second path, the backward analysis seems to suffer because it starts at an instance field taint with a larger scope than a local variable.

**BroadcastReceiverLifecycle3** The test contains five sinks but only one source. If we only consider the leak path, both implementations perform equally. The four other sinks are responsible for the overhead on edge propagations.

**Reflection6** The reflective call site has multiple possible callees in the interprocedural control-flow graph. Backward all of these callees are visited, of which only one contains a source statement. Forward, the taint is introduced in the callee at the source and just one return site needs to be processed.

A Note On Implicit Flows All implicit flow tests and the IMEI1 test need the implicit flow rule to find the leaks. In those test cases, our implementation does not stand a chance. We especially want to highlight the "every sink call influenced by conditional" semantics here. This semantic forces us to derive an empty taint for every conditional that is theoretically reachable from a sink. Beyond, we also taint the base object without any fields at every sink to detect a possible conditional object instantiation. Even in simple test cases such as ImplicitFlow4 this results in 10 additional taints per sink. Important to note is also that the prior computation of reachable conditionals is not represented in the edge propagations. We thus conclude that it is probably better to live without a backward-directed implicit data flow analysis.

### 6.1.3. Using A More Precise Taint Wrapper

We noticed the overtainting in PrivateDataLeak3 is caused by the EasyTaintWrapper. Thus, we now look at how using the SummaryTaintWrapper influences the edge propagations. The full results are in table 6.2. In the table, we take the EasyTaintWrapper as the reference and compare it against the SummaryTaintWrapper on our implementation. The structure of the table is as in the last subsection.

As we already described, PrivateDataLeak3 benefits from the more precise taint wrapper. Similarly, many other test cases also benefit. Others, especially Serialization1 have more edge propagations because the SummaryTaintWrapper has a summary for a method which the EasyTaintWrapper does not handle<sup>2</sup> resulting in a premature kill of a taint. Even with Serialization1 included in the average, the SummaryTaintWrapper needs fewer total edge propagations. Excluding it also equals out the relative difference. Altogether, the SummaryTaintWrapper should be the default choice for real-world applications because it is more precise without compromising on the edge propagations.

Test Case	EasyTW		SummaryTW		Difference					
	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative		
Aliasing										
FlowSensitivity1	39	4	71	13	32	9	41	0.95		
Merge1	89	47	109	91	20	44	64	0.47		
SimpleAliasing1	20	3	20	3	0	0	0	0.0		
StrongUpdate1	11	3	11	3	0	0	0	0.0		
		And	roid-Spe	cific						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The EasyTaintWrapper contains a list of supported classes. Every method from those classes is excluded from the analysis, regardless of the method being in the list of the handled methods.

W C	EasyTW SummaryTW		Difference					
Test Case	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative
ApplicationModeling1	851	1208	427	792	-424	-416	-840	-0.41
DirectLeak1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
InactiveActivity	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Library2	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0.0
LogNoLeak	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Obfuscation1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
Parcel1	86	93	87	76	1	-17	-16	-0.09
PrivateDataLeak1	608	766	585	766	-23	0	-23	-0.02
PrivateDataLeak2	5	3	5	3	0	0	0	0.0
PrivateDataLeak3	210	140	38	12	-172	-128	-300	-0.86
runPublicAPIField1	43	0	36	0	-7	0	-7	-0.16
runPublicAPIField2	11	0	14	0	3	0	3	0.27
runView1	69	0	69	0	0	0	0	0.0
		Arra	ys and L	ists				
ArrayAccess1	51	100	51	100	0	0	0	0.0
ArrayAccess2	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0.0
ArrayAccess3	51	100	51	100	0	0	0	0.0
ArrayAccess4	42	21	42	21	0	0	0	0.0
ArrayAccess5	34	23	34	23	0	0	0	0.0
ArrayCopy1	9	2	9	2	0	0	0	0.0
ArrayToString1	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0.0
HashMapAccess1	15	1	15	1	0	0	0	0.0
ListAccess1	60	97	77	118	17	21	38	0.24
MultidimensionalArray1	16	23	16	23	0	0	0	0.0
		(	Callbacks					
AnonymousClass1	208	0	208	0	0	0	0	0.0
Button1	43	0	43	0	0	0	0	0.0
Button2	155	254	184	272	29	18	47	0.11
Button3	109	408	120	357	11	-51	-40	-0.08
Button4	43	0	43	0	0	0	0	0.0
Button5	6	3	7	3	1	0	1	0.11
LocationLeak1	260	298	286	314	26	16	42	0.08
LocationLeak2	152	0	152	0	0	0	0	0.0
LocationLeak3	104	115	107	115	3	0	3	0.01
MethodOverride1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.0
MultiHandlers1	145	149	148	149	3	0	3	0.01
Ordering1	44	0	44	0	0	0	0	0.0
RegisterGlobal1	49	0	49	0	0	0	0	0.0
RegisterGlobal2	43	0	43	0	0	0	0	0.0
Unregister1	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0.0
			ator Dete					
Battery1	39	15	39	15	0	0	0	0.0
Bluetooth1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
Build1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0

	Easy	тW	Summ	arvTW	1	Diff	erence	
Test Case	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative
Contacts1	200	19	167	4	-33	-15	-48	-0.22
ContentProvider1	8	0	8	0	$\begin{bmatrix} -35 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	0	-40	0.0
DeviceId1	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0.0
File1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
IP1	29	0	52	0	$\frac{0}{23}$	0	23	0.79
PI1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.19
PlayStore1	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0.0
PlayStore2	4	0	$\begin{vmatrix} & 6 \\ 4 \end{vmatrix}$	0	0	0	0	0.0
Sensors1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
SubscriberId1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
VoiceMail1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
Voiceiviaii i		-	Object So		~	0	0	0.0
FieldSensitivity1	25	3	25	3	0	0	0	0.0
FieldSensitivity2	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0.0
FieldSensitivity2 FieldSensitivity3	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0.0
FieldSensitivity4	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0.0
InheritedObjects1	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0.0
ObjectSensitivity1	$\begin{vmatrix} & 6 \\ 14 \end{vmatrix}$	1	$\begin{vmatrix} & 6 \\ 14 \end{vmatrix}$	1	0	0	0	0.0
ObjectSensitivity2	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0.0
Objectsensitivity2	10		neral Jav		U	U	- 0	0.0
Clone1	12	4	19	10	7	6	13	0.81
	13		- 1		0	0		
Exceptions1 Exceptions2	-	0	13	0		- 1	0	0.0
	13	0	13	0	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	0	0.0
Exceptions3 Exceptions4	$\begin{vmatrix} 11 \\ 22 \end{vmatrix}$	0	$\begin{array}{c c} & 11 \\ & 22 \end{array}$	0	0	0	0	$0.0 \\ 0.0$
±								
Exceptions5	16 23	0	16 23	0	0 0	0	0	0.0
Exceptions6				0		0	_	0.0
Exceptions7	6	0	6	0	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	0	0.0
FactoryMethods1	14	0	14	-	- 1	0	0	0.0
Loop1	51	0	47	0	-4	-	$-4 \\ -4$	-0.08
Loop2	79	0	75	0	-4	0	_	-0.05
Serialization1	22	29	332	547	310	518	828	16.24
SourceCodeSpecific1	45	7	45	7	0	0	0	0.0
StartProcessWithSecret1	17	3	18	4	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	1	2	0.1
StaticInitialization1	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0.0
StaticInitialization2	86	0	86	0	0	0	0	0.0
StaticInitialization3	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0.0
StringFormatter1	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0.0
StringPatternMatching1	8	4	7	0	-1	-4	-5	-0.42
StringToCharArray1	47	0	43	0	-4	0	-4	-0.09
StringToOutputStream1	25	1	24	1	-1	0	-1	-0.04
UnreachableCode	- 00	-	- 110	-	-	-	-	
VirtualDispatch1	88	28	110	88	22	60	82	0.71
VirtualDispatch2	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0.0

Test Case  VirtualDispatch3	#I	,, .						
		#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative
	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0.0
VirtualDispatch4	-	_	-	-	-	-	_	_
Lifecycle								
ActivityEventSequence1	72	0	73	0	1	0	1	0.01
ActivityEventSequence2	77	0	77	0	0	0	0	0.0
ActivityEventSequence3	156	0	156	0	0	0	0	0.0
ActivityLifecycle1	156	7	156	7	0	0	0	0.0
ActivityLifecycle2	33	0	33	0	0	0	0	0.0
ActivityLifecycle3	28	0	28	0	0	0	0	0.0
ActivityLifecycle4	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	0.0
ActivitySavedState1	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0.0
ApplicationLifecycle1	82	0	82	0	0	0	0	0.0
ApplicationLifecycle2	94	155	94	155	0	0	0	0.0
ApplicationLifecycle3	21	0	21	0	0	0	0	0.0
AsynchronousEventOrdering1	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0.0
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0.0
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle2	248	114	208	98	-40	-16	-56	-0.15
BroadcastReceiverLifecycle3	195	110	144	82	-51	-28	-79	-0.26
EventOrdering1	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	0.0
FragmentLifecycle1	90	0	90	0	0	0	0	0.0
FragmentLifecycle2	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
ServiceEventSequence1	124	34	122	38	-2	4	2	0.01
ServiceEventSequence2	389	220	315	176	-74	-44	-118	-0.19
ServiceEventSequence3	275	151	232	110	-43	-41	-84	-0.2
ServiceLifecycle1	42	0	42	0	0	0	0	0.0
ServiceLifecycle2	89	21	89	21	0	0	0	0.0
SharedPreferenceChanged1	11	0	8	0	-3	0	-3	-0.27
		R	eflection					
Reflection1	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0.0
Reflection2	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0.0
Reflection3	62	25	50	0	-12	-25	-37	-0.43
Reflection4	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0.0
Reflection5	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0.0
Reflection6	134	51	122	31	-12	-20	-32	-0.17
Reflection7	15	11	3	0	-12	-11	-23	-0.88
Reflection8	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	0.0
Reflection9	21	0	21	0	0	0	0	0.0
	I.	Т	hreading					
AsyncTask1	11	1	11	1	0	0	0	0.0
Executor1	17	0	17	0	0	0	0	0.0
JavaThread1	17	0	17	0	0	0	0	0.0
JavaThread2	31	8	28	8	-3	0	-3	-0.08
Looper1	20	16	20	16	0	0	0	0.0
TimerTask1	32	33	45	37	13	4	17	0.26

Test Case	Easy	EasyTW SummaryTW Difference			ference			
lest Case	#I	#A	#I	#A	#I	#A	Total	Relative
∅ Propagations	60.56	40.1	57.29	39.16	-3.27	-0.93	-4.2	0.13
∅ without Serialization1	60.88	40.19	55.04	35.0	-5.84	-5.19	-11.02	0.0

Table 6.2.: DROIDBENCH Evaluation with Summary Taint Wrapper

# 6.2. Real World Apps

## 6.2.1. Configuration

Our test machine is equipped with four Intel Xeon E5-4650 and 1 TB of RAM. We limited the JVM to 50 GB RAM and FlowDroid on 16 threads per instance. We ran four instances in parallel to ensure a one-to-one mapping between CPU threads and FlowDroid threads. Note that the test machine is a shared system, but we made sure there are always enough resources for our evaluation available. Still, background services might influence the performance of a single run. To stamp out this factor, we ran each app three times with a distance of time<sup>3</sup>. If there were outliers<sup>4</sup>, we repeated the run. Some runs did not comply with our outlier norm even after we ran them multiple times, but this only concerns 9 out of 600 runs.

We also measured the memory usage of both implementations. Using the memory amount reported by the JVM is not precise because the JVM prefers to take up free memory before running the garbage collector [3]. We borrowed the memory evaluation tool from CleanDroid, which internally depends on a memory calculation tool from Twitter<sup>5</sup>. The memory evaluation tool measures the size of the exploded supergraph in 15 seconds intervals [4]. Because we do not want to pollute the measured data flow time with the memory evaluation tool's latency, the memory measuring runs were run independently of the time measuring runs. The memory sampling also takes up memory and because our test system has enough memory available, we bumped the maximum heap size up to 100GB, effectively eliminating memory timeouts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The time distance between each run is at least the elapsed time from the analysis of the remaining 199 apps.

 $<sup>^4</sup>$ Outliers are runs with at least 25% difference to the median run and a minimum of 5 seconds absolute difference.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>https://mvnrepository.com/artifact/com.twitter.common/objectsize (visited on 18.04.2021)

Option	Value
Array Size Tainting	disabled
Inspect Sources & Sinks	disabled
Static Field Tracking	disabled
Ignore Flows in System Packages	enabled
Exclude Soot Library Classes	enabled
Timeout	10 minutes
Taint Wrapper	SummaryTaintWrapper

Table 6.3.: Real World Apps Configuration

For this evaluation, we chose to use a non-default configuration of FLOWDROID. First, we disabled static field tracking due to the global scope as described in section 3.2. Next, instead of the EasyTaintWrapper, we use the SummaryTaintWrapper, which utilizes StubDroid. We set the timeout for the data flow analysis to 10 minutes<sup>6</sup>. The call graph generation was limited to 180 seconds and the call graphs were serialized before, so every run was on the same call graph. The configuration summary is in table 6.3.

We did not use the full sources and sinks list included in FlowDroid because such would result in hundreds of sources and sinks per app and probably a long runtime. Instead, we chose to analyze which sensitive and possibly user-identifying data is sent out to the internet. As we want to compare the forwards and backward implementation, it is also essential to not put one at a disadvantage. We opted for a 2:1 ratio of sources to sinks. This decision is based on the results of SuSi, a tool to automatically find sources and sinks in the Android framework [33]. Their extracted list of sources and sinks contains roughly 2.17 times more sources than sinks. The list of sources and sinks used in this evaluation is in table 6.4 and table 6.5.

We used FlowDroid's forward implementation on the latest upstream commit<sup>7</sup> from the develop branch for the point of comparison. The backward implementation ran on our latest commit<sup>8</sup> at that time, with all changes from the upstream merged into.

We chose 200 apps randomly out of a Google Playstore dump from 2021 containing over

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>A timeout in FlowDroid prevents processing new edges but lets the solver finish the current edge propagation. Thus, some apps may have a data flow time of above 600 seconds.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>The latest upstream commit was at that time b436733fc4a5130dfe4ce8ddb3f76fd374e9a487.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Our latest commit was 87bf33ba40ef8b4fb25f33439d887ebc98c2c184. Note that we found some bugs during the real-world evaluation and later on fixed some edge cases in the analysis. All fixes should not influence the runtime in a bad way.

Class	Method
android.location.Location	getLatitude()
	getLongitude()
android.location.LocationManager	getLastKnownLocation()
android.telephony.TelephonyManager	getDeviceId()
	getSubscriberId()
	getSimSerialNumber()
	getLine1Number()
	getImei()
	getMeid()
android.bluetooth.BluetoothAdapter	getAddress()
android.net.wifi.WifiInfo	getMacAddress()
	getSSID()
	getIpAddress()
java.net.InetAddress	getHostAddress()
android.telephony.gsm.GsmCellLocation	getCid()
	getLac()
android.content.pm.PackageManager	getInstalledApplications()
	getInstalledPackages()
	queryIntentActivities()
	queryIntentServices()
	queryBroadcastReceivers()
android.content.SharedPreferences	getDefaultSharedPreferences()
android.provider.Browser	getAllBookmarks()
	getAllVisitedUrls

Table 6.4.: Sources for Real World Apps Evaluation

Class	Method
java.net.URL	set()
	openConnection()
java.net.URLConnection	connect()
	setRequestProperty()
android.net.http.HttpsConnection	openConnection()
android.net.http.Headers	setEtag()
	setContentType()
	setLastModified()
	setLocation()
android.net.http.AndroidHttpClientConnection	sendRequestHeader()
android.net.http.RequestQueue	queueRequest()

Table 6.5.: Sinks for Real World Apps Evaluation

6000 apps for our evaluation set. Out of 200 apps, 60 apps do not have any sources or sinks and thus, the analysis did not start. For six apps, the analysis aborted with errors on at least one run. All thrown exceptions happened outside of FlowDroid. We are left with 134 apps for which both implementations completed all runs without errors. The full list is appended to this work in table A.1.

### 6.2.2. Time Evaluation

In general, the individual apps' runtimes were far apart from each other. We had many apps with a single-digit analysis time and on the other side, we also found many apps that triggered a timeout or were close to triggering one. In between those extrema are only a few apps. Recall that we set a soft limit on the runtime at 600 seconds. The reference forward runs have a standard deviation of 209 seconds and the runs of our implementation has 277 seconds standard deviation. It is essential to keep this in mind when interpreting the results.

We first begin with an overview of the results. Table 6.6 shows the results, including timeouts. Notably, the backward analysis had 20% less time timeouts than the forward analysis. In return, it seems a bit more memory-hungry with 3.63% more memory timeouts. We conducted a t-test to check the significance of those differences with the null hypothesis of equal average expected values. The p-value for the memory timeouts is 0.156, thus being insignificant. A t-test over the runtime yielded a p-value of 0.00036, meaning the

	Forward			
Metric	Avg	Median	$P_{85}$	
Data Flow Time	518.93s	600.00s	605.10s	
Edge Propagations Infoflow	34555326.97	41743088.00	52163969.60	
<b>Edge Propagations Alias</b>	12562479.07	14598571.50	18638900.10	
<b>Total Edge Propagations</b>	47117806.04	57697027.00	70602469.30	
Memory Timeouts			2.99%	
Time Timeouts			80.60%	

	Backward			
Metric	Avg	Median	$P_{85}$	
Data Flow Time	413.19s	600.00s	606.00s	
Edge Propagations Infoflow	13826566.90	14981108.50	23712802.00	
<b>Edge Propagations Alias</b>	33567561.46	43444060.00	56773141.00	
<b>Total Edge Propagations</b>	47394128.36	60855935.50	79405729.00	
Memory Timeouts			6.62%	
Time Timeouts			59.56%	

Table 6.6.: Results With Timeouts

advantage for our implementation is significant. We cover the memory consumption extensively in the following subsection and focus on the time for now. Interestingly, the propagated edges along the same interprocedural call graph are of the same order of magnitude. Also, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile runtime is nearly equal and the median is equal. However, claims based on the runtime and edges with timeouts are only possible to a limited extent because the timeout highly influences both values.

Next, we only consider the runs without any timeouts in table 6.7. This time, the relation between backward infoflow edges and forward alias edges is present to a lesser extent. More significant, backward needed fewer propagations in average and in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. This fact is also represented in the runtimes. The average runtime is half of the existing implementation. Though because of the diverse data, the average is not convincing. The median is equally at zero for both. This is partly based on FlowDroid's measuring, where it only measures the time in seconds and rounds it down. Thus, all runs with a runtime of zero seconds did terminate in less than 1 second. In the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, more significant given our data set, the backward analysis needs 68.8 seconds less.

A knowledgeable reader might have noticed the results in table 6.6 are worse than in

		Forward	
Metric	Avg	Median	$P_{85}$
Data Flow Time	76.91s	0.00s	108.05s
Edge Propagations Infoflow	5651572.23	28692.00	7164554.30
<b>Edge Propagations Alias</b>	1864306.77	8689.50	4212872.40
<b>Total Edge Propagations</b>	7515879.00	37310.00	11377426.70

	Backward				
Metric	Avg	Median	$P_{85}$		
Data Flow Time	35.20s	0.00s	39.25s		
Edge Propagations Infoflow	2353723.61	19940.50	1733519.75		
Edge Propagations Alias	3795159.13	20013.50	6883734.25		
Total Edge Propagations	6148882.74	39954.00	8692988.50		

Table 6.7.: Results without Timeouts

previous publications where FLOWDROID was evaluated [3, 4]. We want to emphasize that none of our changes influenced the reference runs in a bad way as we used the upstream version without a single line changed to conduct the first run<sup>9</sup>. The existing implementation suffers as ours, so we suspect it partly depends on an unfortunately drawn app set, further development in the call graph generation and more summaries for the SummaryTaintWrapper leading to more possible edges.

With that out of the way, let us look at the results in greater detail. We now compare the analysis on a per-app basis. The histogram is in figure 6.1. We compiled the delta data flow time of the analyses per app, calculated as in the last section with the forward implementation being the reference:  $t_{Backward} - t_{Forward}$ . Hence, negative values represent that our implementation performed better. The delta on the x-axis is given in seconds and the frequency on the y-axis in the number of apps. The bins always span over 50 seconds. The graph shows a large number of apps around 0 with a slight bias towards the forward implementation. Equivalent to the distribution of the data flow times, there are only few deltas in the range from  $\pm 100$  to  $\pm 500$ . More interestingly, there are significantly more apps around -600 than around 600. Recall, the timeout is set to 600s. So, our implementation terminates nearly instantaneous in some cases on which the forward analysis times out. As expected, there is no general advantage for a direction. Instead,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>We found some exceptions in the upstream project while evaluating, so we switched to our version with the fixes included after the first run. This change did not yield the results any worse than before.

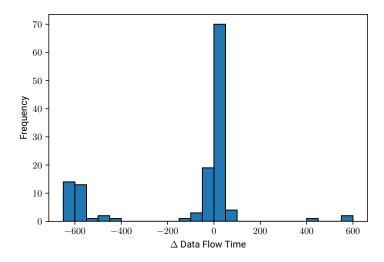


Figure 6.1.: Histogram of the Delta Data Flow Time

we observe a per-app advantage in around 60% of the test set, while for the rest, the performance is similar.

We confirmed that the right direction choice could speed up the analysis by a magnificent amount. To take advantage of the favorable direction, we now investigate the correlating conditions for the advantageous direction. Most straightforward would be a correlation between the difference of source and sink count and the data flow time. In figure 6.2c are two graphs with the ratio of sources and sinks ( $\frac{Sinks-Sources}{Sources}$ ) on the x-axis and the data flow time in seconds on the y-axis. The left graph is always the forward implementation and the right graph is our implementation. Blue dots represent apps without a timeout, orange a time timeout and red a memory timeout. Intuitively, a negative ratio should put our implementation at an advantage. The graphs show no correlation between the ratio and the runtime, neither forward nor backward. We also included the forward data flow time by sources and the backward data flow time by sinks in figure 6.2a and figure 6.2b. The number of sinks backward and the number of sources forward do not influence the runtime. So we can confirm Arzt's evaluation[3] as there is no correlation between sources and the forward runtime in our app set. Parallel to this observation, the sink count does not influence the backward runtime. The sink count for forward and the source count for backward can not influence the runtime as they neither influence the edge propagations.

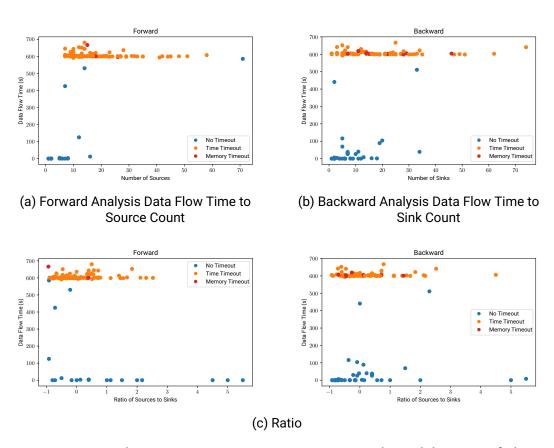


Figure 6.2.: Data Flow Time in Comparison to Sources, Sinks and the Ratio of Those

Even though Arzt's evaluation also showed no correlation between the code size [3], we do for completeness also compare the runtime to the number of statements, methods and classes. Note that these refer to the Jimple intermediate representation and not Java. Figure 6.3 includes all graphs with the existing implementation on the left side and our implementation on the right side. The notation is the same as before, with the x-axis swapped out. The number of statements is uniformly distributed with some outliers. If we consider our data as two linear data sets with a structural break between the two groups, the linear regressions have a slope of close to 0. Resulting, the number of statements, methods and classes do not have an impact on the runtime.

Because the parameters mentioned above do not influence the runtime, we further investigated to find a parameter to decide the favorable direction. First, we looked at the methods containing sources and sinks. We counted the number of statements of the method, call statements and callers of the method and compared these numbers between sources and sinks. An advantage in those did not result in a faster analysis. Next, we implemented a fast intraprocedural taint analysis. It omits access paths and aliasing. Method calls are overapproximated in a similar fashion to the EasyTaintWrapper. We then counted the taints flowing into the callees and callers. Also, we did count the number of taints in the method. The drawback is that this only works when the state explosion happens inside the first method and this is not the case in the app set. Again, we could not find any resilient correlation. At this point, we run out of easily computable facts about an app that could correlate with the runtime and decided to leave the question up for future work.

Finally, we compare the number of edges in the exploded supergraph, referred to as taint propagations in section 3.2. Note that the edges in the exploded supergraph are only known after the analysis, making them useless for predictions. In figure 6.4a we plot the edge count on the x-axis to the data flow time on the y-axis. In both graphs, we observe a linear correlation for the apps with a runtime below 500 seconds. Then there is a structural break and after that, the apps time out. A linear regression did not fit our diverse data set well with a low  $r^2$  value, we decided to fit a function using the least-squares method. We achieved a  $r^2$  measure of greater than 0.9 for four-degree polynomials and above. However, the good fitting curve seems overfitted to us because the apps not being close to timeouts have a good fitting linear correlation. When we look at the point where the structural break happens, we notice that backward the timeouts start after roughly  $3 \cdot 10^7$ propagations. Forward, on the other hand, only gets to around  $2 \cdot 10^7$  edge propagations before reaching a timeout. Such a large difference is unintuitive because the computation cost should not be much different. We split the edges up by IFDS problems in figure 6.4b and figure 6.4c. Interestingly, all curves have a similar steep curve except for the backward alias analysis, which curve is more shallow. This gives a possible explanation linked to

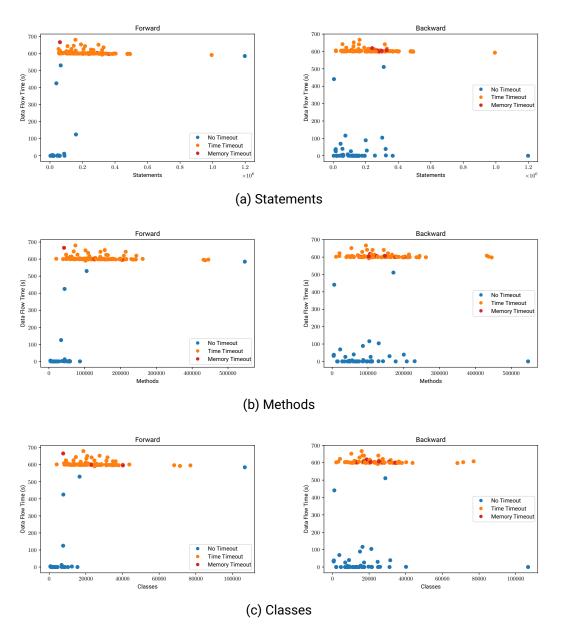


Figure 6.3.: Data Flow Time in Comparison to Code Size

the ratio of infoflow and alias edges. The alias flow functions are way simpler and, thus, should also cost less to compute. The backward analysis has a ratio biased toward the alias edges, possibly explaining the higher edge count possible in ten minutes. Why the structural break happens could not be conclusively clarified in this work, so it is also hard to finally reason whether this also holds without such a structural break.

To conclude, our backward analysis is efficient enough to be an alternative to the existing implementation. We even found that it performed slightly better on our app set. This also confirms that the default handling of sources and sinks does not bias the outcome. Our evaluation shows that there is no correlation between an apriori known parameter and the runtime of FlowDroid - in both directions. Furthermore, we did not find any apriori known parameter to decide the favorable direction either. The edge propagations have shown that our implementation can analyze roughly  $10^7$  more edges than the existing implementation in ten minutes. Though the sample size of 200 apps is too small to generalize statements and our data was somewhat challenging to interpret with a high standard deviation.

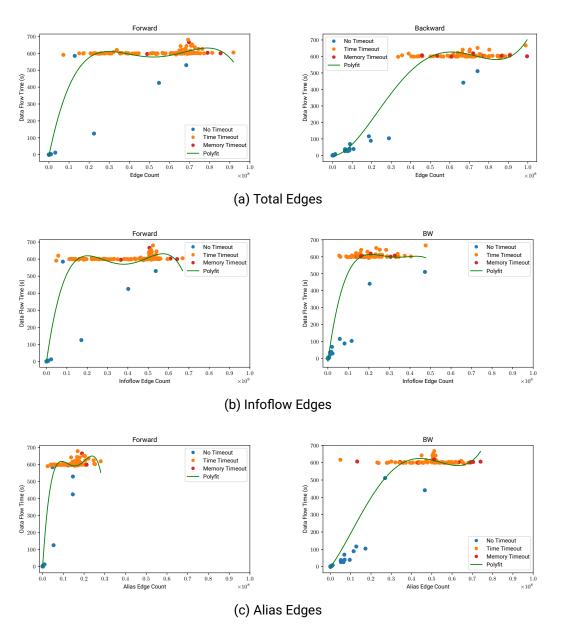


Figure 6.4.: Data Flow Time in Comparison to Edge Count

### 6.2.3. Memory Evaluation

Table 6.8 shows an overview of the results from the memory evaluation. Note that we only measured the memory usage of the edges in the exploded supergraph and not of the full program. Also, unlike the time measurements, the memory consumption is much more distributed across the range. The measurements with timeouts show similar values for both directions with a bias toward our implementation. Though, maximum measurements with timeouts are not meaningful because of the cut-off at ten minutes. Without timeouts, the gap gets a bit bigger. The average maximum memory consumption of our implementation is around 65 MB lower than the existing one. Especially in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, our implementation shines where it needs 3.3 GB less memory. This result is a consequence of the fewer edge propagations in the backward direction as already seen in the time evaluation.

Next, we look at the memory consumption difference per app in figure 6.5. The x-axis shows the delta maximum memory consumption in megabytes and the y-axis the frequency. Each bin is  $1\,\mathrm{GB}$  wide. The delta is calculated with forward as the refrence:  $m_{Backward}-m_{Forward}$ . Again, we see a gathering around 0. Otherwise, the histogram has a more uniform distribution than its time counterpart. Just as in the overview, there is a slight bias towards the backward analysis. We argue this bias is related to the faster backward analysis in the app set. A faster analysis means fewer edges  $^{10}$  and the edges should correlate linearly with the memory usage of the exploded supergraph. We looked at this by comparing the sign of the delta data flow time with the sign of the delta memory consumption. 48 apps had different signs, with 23 being negligibly close to 0. Hence, the claim is valid for 109 of 134 apps. We also calculated the Pearson correlation coefficient for the data flow time and the maximum memory consumption. For the forward analysis, the coefficient is 0.75 and 0.87 for the backward implementation. Both values indicate a correlation.

For completeness, we now validate our claim that the edges in the exploded supergraph correlate linearly with the memory consumption. We expect a linear correlation because the exploded supergraph is represented as a HashMap of edges and taints. Consider figure 6.6 where a clear, linear correlation is visible. We confirmed our claim.

Also beneficial for the real-world usage of FLOWDROID would be to estimate the memory consumption to utilize the available resources efficiently. In figure 6.7, we contrast the memory consumption with the number of sources, sinks and the ratio of both. Figure 6.8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>This is at least true for apps without a timeout.

	Forward		
Metric	Avg	Median	$P_{85}$
Maximum Memory Consumption	$10005.68\mathrm{MB}$	$10459.48\mathrm{MB}$	15 482.98 MB
Maximum Memory Consumption Without Timeouts	1535.20 MB	6.98 MB	4952.20 MB

		Backward	
Metric	Avg	Median	$P_{85}$
Maximum Memory Consumption	8326.27 MB	$10008.52\mathrm{MB}$	14 539.64 MB
Maximum Memory Consumption Without Timeouts	1473.21 MB	7.33 MB	1566.61 MB

Table 6.8.: Memory Results

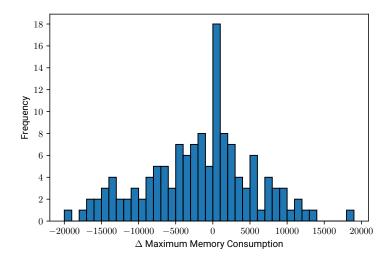


Figure 6.5.: Histogram of the Delta Maximum Memory Consumption

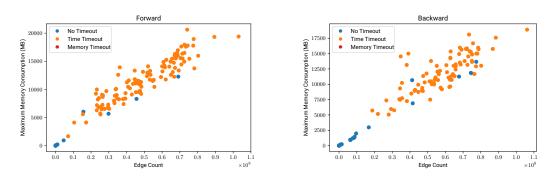


Figure 6.6.: Maximum Memory Consumption in Comparison to the Edge Count

shows the memory consumption in contrast to the statement, method and class count. The arrangement and legend are the same as in the time evaluation. Unlike in the time evaluation, there is only one cluster of dots: those terminating nearly instantaneous. Otherwise, the dots seem to be randomly distributed. All graphs indicate no correlation.

To conclude, our backward analysis performed a bit better in the time evaluation, which is also reflected in the memory consumption. The results show that the observed edges are more critical for memory consumption than the code size or the sources and sinks. It is not possible to estimate the memory consumption prior nor which analysis direction will use less memory.

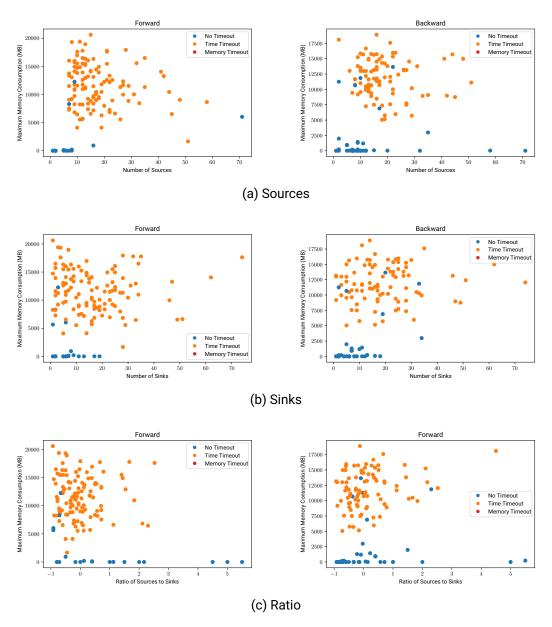


Figure 6.7.: Maximum Memory Consumption In Comparison To Source, Sink And Edge Count

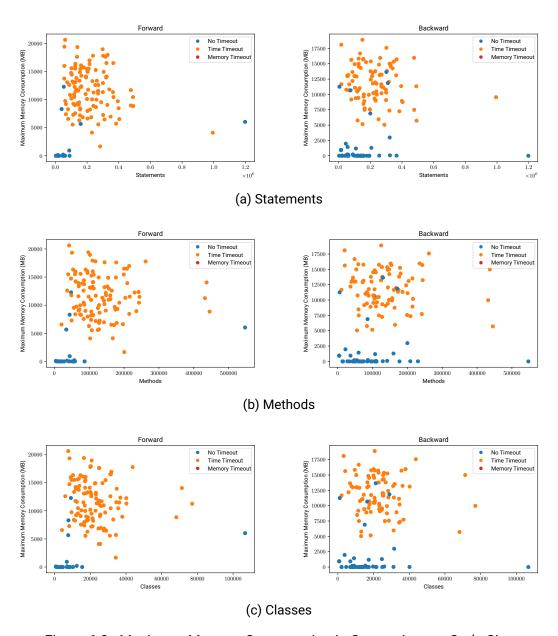


Figure 6.8.: Maximum Memory Consumption in Comparison to Code Size

### 7. Related Work

One of the first taint analyses was based on a points-to analysis in 2005 [27]. Since then, taint analyses have made tremendous progress and gained traction in the last decade. TAJ[43] used a context-sensitive forward thin-slice<sup>1</sup> for local variables and a context-insensitive points-to analysis modeling the heap. Other taint analyses also utilize slicing, either as a preprocessing step [48] or using a combination of a forward and backward slice [41, 14]. Andromeda[42] was the first data flow analysis to incorporate an on-demand alias analysis. FLowDROID[6] then ported this concept to IFDS and also introduced a novel approach for modeling the Android lifecycle.

Some taint analyses also have a main backward pass similar to our approach. We take a more detailed look at them in the following paragraphs.

Lerch et al.[24] contributed FlowTwist, a static taint analysis tool based on IFDS to detect confused deputy problems<sup>2</sup> in libraries. They identify the cause of such as a combination of an integrity and confidentiality problem. For the integrity part, the sinks perform sensitive operations and the sources are attacker-controlled. In the confidentiality part, an attacker can read the sinks and sources provide sensitive data. A combination of both naturally gives a centered statement. Now, the integrity sources and confidentiality sinks are way more frequent. Thus they propose to solve the integrity part backward and the confidentiality part forward. In contrast to FlowDroid, FlowTwist focuses on a specific taint analysis case and the applicability is relatively narrow.

Allen et al.[2] present another taint analysis based on IFDS for Java used internally at Oracle. They also rely on access paths as a heap model and chose a backward-directed analysis. They justify their direction choice with the use-case of detecting web vulnerabilities where sinks are less frequent based on their intuition. Also, they have had good experiences with a backward analysis in the Parfait[45] project. Orthogonal to our work,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Thin-slices only include statements responsible for the explicit flow from or to a seed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>A confused deputy is a legitimate program with more privileges tricked into misusing its authority by a malicious program.

they intentionally go without alias analysis and cut off the access paths at k=5 without appending a wildcard. Both are trade-offs to accuracy in favor of scalability. The taint analysis is compared to another non-public tool at Oracle on three benchmarks<sup>3</sup> and on a not further specified Oracle product. Also, the choice of sources and sinks remain unclear and they only provide a too-brief summary of the results. Because both tools in the comparison are not public and the results are not detailed, we neither can comprehend the weak points of their analysis besides the missing alias resolving nor score the given runtimes. We are not sure whether their analysis can find non-trivial data flows because aliasing is ubiquitously in Java and access paths of k=13 are observed in real-world applications [39].

Yan et al.[46] proposed a vulnerability detection tool for PHP with a focus on web applications. They aim to detect typical web application vulnerabilities such as cross-site scripting and SQL injections using backward taint analysis. Instead of relying on nesting the problem in proven data flow frameworks, they seemingly define their custom data flow algorithm. The proposed algorithm traverses the basic blocks backward and copies the taints left after traversing a basic block to its predecessors. They do not try to reach a fixpoint; instead, they do not follow circular paths in the control-flow graph. They also emphasize their concept of "cleans": a predefined list of sanitization methods that kill the incoming taints. In FlowDroid, the same is possible using taint wrappers and both shipped implementations support such a concept. A rationale for traversing backward, which is why we included it as related work, is not provided. Generally speaking, we doubt their tool is precise enough to be useful in practice.

FLOWDROID, FlowTwist and also Allen et al.'s tool is based on IFDS. Even though IFDS seems to be a prominent choice for a taint analysis, taint analyses can also be formulated in other frameworks.

Synchronized pushdown systems (SPDS) by Späth et al.[39] are an alternative to IFDS with access paths for modeling a precise context-, flow- and field-sensitive data flow analysis. Similar to IFDS, a context-free grammar ensures the context sensitivity. Additionally, another context-free grammar model the field sensitivity. Contrary to access paths, this does not increase the domain and needs no k-limiting to be fast enough in practice. Then it computes the acceptance state of both pushdown automata to combine context- and field-sensitivity. Now, in general, an automaton with two stacks is undecidable. The separation of the problems into two reachability problems and later combining the results is decidable. However, if both automata are in an acceptance state via different paths, the algorithm overapproximates the solution. Their results look promising with a performance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Securibench, WebGoat and OWASP.

close to access paths with k = 1. Also, they could not observe the overapproximation in practice when performing typestate analysis.

CogniCrypt[22] finds misuses of cryptographic APIs based on rules written in a domain-specific language. Internally, it also consists of a taint analysis and is based on SPDS. CodeShield<sup>4</sup> is a proprietary taint analysis for cloud applications to detect vulnerabilities and also based on SPDS. SWAN<sup>5</sup> is a framework for static analysis for the Swift programming language. It is based on SPDS and currently in heavy development<sup>6</sup>. They plan to include a taint analysis.

Doop[10] is a framework initially for pointer analysis. In contrast to all others, it uses a declarative approach. Doop's frontend depends on Soot to create facts and encodes them in tables. The analyses are a declarative rule set written in Datalog. These rule sets are then fed into the datalog solver Soufflé[37]. P/Taint[17] extends Doop with a taint analysis. Doop is flow-insensitive and, thus, P/Taint as well.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>https://codeshield.io/ (visited on 19.05.2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>https://github.com/themaplelab/swan (visited on 19.05.2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>We refer to the newer version and not to the older conference publication.

### 8. Conclusion

In this thesis, we extended FlowDroid to feature a backward-directed static data flow analysis usable as an alternative to the existing forward implementation. The alternative analysis is equally precise and sound. Just like FlowDroid, our extensions are open-source and possibly will be integrated into FlowDroid in the future. To our knowledge, it is novel for a taint analysis to offer two distinct general-purpose analysis directions. Moreover, our work broadens the applicability of FlowDroid for real-world applications with a number of sources much greater than the number of sinks.

Furthermore, we evaluated our implementation against the existing one in FLowDroid. We confirmed the assumption that the runtime and also the favorable direction highly depend on the analyzed app. Both analyses put up similar numbers. In the app set we used for evaluation, we even had a statistically significant smaller runtime on our implementation. To fully utilize the benefits from a favorable direction, we investigated whether apriori known parameters can be used to predict which direction performs better. Our experiments included naturally known parameters such as code size, source and sink count and a fast preanalysis. None of which showed a correlation toward the runtime.

As the prediction of runtime remains unsolved, further research should continue on clues to choose the favorable direction beforehand. For example, it is still an open question whether specific taint analysis applications (e.g., to find SQL injections) favor one direction. Also, further work could evaluate the impact of commonly used third-party libraries on the analysis time. Additionally, our work focused on the most common context-sensitive alias analysis and other aliasing strategies were not implemented for the backward analysis. For the sake of completeness, future work could include a points-to aliasing strategy for our implementation.

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# A. Appendix

### A.1. Evaluation App Set

# App Name kr.co.smartstudy.cartown\_android\_googlemarket.apk org.mopria.scan.application.apk

com.groplay.tutalfonsaberg.apk jp.co.canon.oip.android.opal.apk com.binibambini.minidancing.apk com.amazon.dee.app.apk com.musicplayer.player.mp3player.white.apk com.rvappstudios.sight.words.phonics.reading.kids.games.apk com.nhn.android.navertv.apk ru.beeline.services.apk com.fsn.nds.apk org.familysearch.mobile.apk com.radio.fmradio.apk com.edokicademy.monte com.fivory.prod.apk com.tocaboca.tocahairsalon4.apk com.speeddating.ad.pro.apk com.mufumbo.android.recipe.search.apk fr.tisseo.android.apk com.kedronic.cbndinosaursfree.apk com.labs.merlinbirdid.app.apk com.tacobell.ordering.apk kidzooly.fivelittle.apk com.backgrounderaser.cutout.photoeditor.apk com.newspaperdirect.pressreader.android.apk com.khorasannews.akharinkhabar.apk com.microsoft.office.officehubrow.apk com..microsort.omce.omcenuorow.apk com.cabs.apk com.hasbro.tf360appstore.apk com.budgestudios.MissHollywood2.apk com.amazon.mShop.android.shopping.apk

com.romwe.apk
au.com.parrotfish.phonemic.lite.apk
com.budgestudios.googleplay.StrawberryShortcakeIceCreamIsland.apk
com.autoscout24.apk
de.number26.android.apk
com.bplus.vtpay.apk
hr.palamida.apk
com.kinky.fetlifestyle.apk
com.indianexpress.android.apk
com.fabernovel.ratp.apk
com.adernovel.ratp.apk
com.dywx.larkplayer.apk

com.euronews.express.apk cn.wps.pdf.fillsign.apk com.citymobil.apk com.starfall.StarfallABCs.apk SHA256 Checksum

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App Name

com.apartmentlist.mobile.apk

tw.com.ctitv.ctitvnews.apk nineNewsAlerts.nine.com.apk com.grabtaxi.passenger.apk com.hk01.news\_app.apk mnn.Android.apk com.ubieva.cura.userapp.droid.apk com.simplepractice.video.apk com.google.android.apps.seekh.apk com.murphy.driverewards.apk com.pjmasks.heroacademy.apk com.aspiro.tidal.apk com.skyhealth.glucosebuddyfree.apk com.vuclip.viu.apk air.com.pepiplay.pepigarage.apk com.google.toontastic.apk com.touchtype.swiftkey.apk com.croquis.zigzag.apk com.yoox.apk com.application.zomato.apk com.rcmbusiness.apk com.zoho.show.app.apk com.streema.simpleradio.apk com.google.android.apps.docs.editors.sheets.apk com.orange.kidspiano.music.songs.apk com.storytoys.sesame.elmolovesyou.free.android.googleplay.apk com.creditkarma.mobile.apk com.originatorkids.EndlessWordplay.apk vivino.web.app.apk com.playtoddlers.sweethomestories.free.apk

com.nbaimd.gametime.nba2011.apk com.flur.apk

com.budgestudios.googleplay.ThomasAndFriendsMinis.apk com.lezhin.comics.apk HinKhoj.Dictionary.apk

com.videocall.randomfriendvideo.apk com.cupidmedia.wrapper.filipinocupid.apk com.xfinity.cloudtvr.apk

dbx.taiwantaxi.apk com.socialnetwork.hookupsapp.apk com.bilgapp.mydevs.mathapp.apk com.clusterdev.hindikeyboard.apk

document.scanner.scan.pdf.image.text.apk com.splendapps.voicerec.apk

air.com.turner.boomerangmakeandrace.apk

app.habitaclia2.apk com.FDGEntertainment.Oceanhorn.gp.apk sweet.selfie.lite.apk

fr.anuman.HomeDesign3D.apk com.espn.score\_center.apk mobi.ka.gp.wrkshts.app.apk com.fineapp.yogiyo.apk

com.thredup.android.apk kr.co.smartstudy.dinoworld\_android\_googlemarket.apk

com.opera.touch.apk com.calmid.learnandplay.launcher.apk

com.astepanov.mobile.mathforkids.apk com.microsoft.math.apk

com.citi.citimobile.apk com.yy.hiyo.apk

com.kedronic.cbnvehiclesfree.apk de.etecture.ekz.onleihe.apk com.urbanclap.urbanclap.apk com.niksoftware.snapseed.apk com.kevinbradford.games.pklg2.apk ua.insomnia.kenya.newsi.apk

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com.bimiboo.puzzles.apk

org.pbskids.video.apk com.rvappstudios.shapes.colors.toddler.apk

#### SHA256 Checksum

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#### App Name

com.curse.dndbeyond.apk

com.money91.apk com.foofoo.tracing.apk com.cisco.wx2.android.apk com.adpdigital.mbs.ayande.apk kz.kkb.homebank.apk com.aol.mobile.aolapp.apk com.resmed.myair.apk com.sadadpsp.eva.apk com.budgestudios.googleplay.HotWheelsUnlimited.apk com.zoho.sheet.android.apk com.facebook.mlite.apk taxi.android.client.apk com.budgestudios.StrawberryShortcakeFoodFair.apk au.com.auspost.android.apk com.dating.find\_love.apk ma.safe.bnau.apk com.buildium.resident.android.apk com.affinityapps.blk.apk com.jrtstudio.music.apk app.quiktrip.com.quiktrip.apk com.sendo.apk com.covalent.kippo.apk com.weedmaps.app.android.apk com.emra.AntibioticGuide.apk com.onlvoffice.documents.apk com.ak.ta.dainikbhaskar.activity.apk  $com. cloud mos a. puffin Free. apk\\ com. spin master. enterprise. collegg tibles. apk$ com.finlim.forkapp.apk com.planner5d.swedishhomedesign.apk net.psyberia.offlinemaps.apk com.nhn.android.webtoon.apk com.ace.android.apk com.lafiya.telehealth.apk com.waitrapp.apk com.match.android.matchmobile.apk com.clouthub.clouthub.apk com.coutnub.coutnub.apk com.blek.android.belk.apk com.lyrebirdstudio.face\_camera.apk com.poqstudio.app.platform.boohoo.apk com.foofoo.tracing123.apk com.pinger.textfree.apk com.accruehealth.mobile.apk com.enuma.todomath.apk com.lyrebirdstudio.tbt.apk ir.balad.apk co.brainly.apk com.budgestudios.MyLittlePonyHarmonyQuest.apk com.budgestudios.StrawberryShortcakePocketLockets.apk ir.nasim.apk photocollage.photoeditor.collagemaker.apk com.app.rondevo.apk com.foofoo.coloring.apk com.uba.vericash.apk com.rubenmayayo.reddit.apk com.adobe.reader.apk com.musicplayer.music.apk com.footba11.results.apk com.budgestudios.StrawberryShortcakeCandyGarden.apk com.microsoft.office.onenote.apk it.casa.app.apk com.tubitv.apk info.yogantara.utmgeomap.apk com.thesouledstore.apk com.duckduckmoosedesign.cpkids.apk com.dazz.hoop.apk ir.tgbs.peccharge.apk com.sinyee.babybus.engineering.apk com.meesho.supply.apk de.wonderkind.flightschool.apk fr.cnaf.mobile.moncompte.apl

#### SHA256 Checksum

38ebf5fd508c05559f02a5094cd7ba4816ebc5bda3a1f67c156104ff78d500b9 f10db842b0b8051e8ed752d0eda71cb5110cbce3d0a57bc10bb366a0176411e4 8aba701329ecbbd52dd5b6060ff7d1ea6f3fc0f736b79182c2c28237803c49d1 e43d84e5609a1f7cc9c76195c27355abd2634723a43ace192ecbca9e9015a1d3 a7fb7a5a13128ea90643193b6156ce9c06f1e987e7feac4966119aa9aa04a919 aa833049899cf5dfce78a552a8fb115fa837d6a2b813798163277b29fa86c3cb 214482468cea54a4d0e85af74ec9a8f554d674cc5f92a5b8527de053dd9cb4f6 02dfb457f663a1416d9efe9d829088b56e759430a692ab58977edfd6b0e21a2b 46b990e564c0af762bd983fce9513547d97546d47b0f9002e104e65768c127d7  $\label{eq:degcont} 4 de 9 c b 4 c e d 761 b 8840 f a 9 d b f 0.71 f 50 f 83 c 50 e 1 c 50 3 f 40 3 e c a 5 a f 58 c d da 3 c 62 6 c 85 a e 0 c a 44350 6 7 2 d 0 f f 45 f 1 d f a a b b e f 3 e 0 6 6 e d 41 c b 3 2 d e 834 f d c 8 a 7 3 1 9 f 43 c 7 e 6 c a 44350 6 7 2 d 0 f f 45 f 1 d f a a b b e f 3 e 0 6 6 e d 41 c b 3 2 d e 834 f d c 8 a 7 3 1 9 f 43 c 7 e 6 c a 44350 6 7 e 6 c a 443$  $8021599e fe 390a 204262 d673 f 9e 62e d05054a 59c 02d93a 61e 3300b 46d895694c\\013b701e 2d70c4 f 3dbc8abc680a 059697018dd02c93de 491e 54b7ca 1692e 57e 8$  $\begin{array}{l} efe0f27383e12a8c0902cc771c5606e2dbb7711fe6939efa8c08d784a1100463\\ 42cadeb194c47220a062c2a6e59ea99728b324016794dc67a846a27b18559ebf\\ \end{array}$ 748 fc4335 fcf91c4aa1da9d22b6bf2177eb637676680863325e56aaf20b777702a49e104e9c2aeb4680f0ea4f611bbac38353a825dbbc75b20b3b00c87f6d95b $ebbaf09fc37e65af9089bd815b7528ff9c067d9c95e901111974480939bcf0d7\\00f66fdc41dbb684bd122a20cc7106392d8352246998ed249528d60303bb1a48$ ae 51b 595f 53d 5f 9 cebef 94a 404431a 38 faa 8f 3c 1cb 8c 9ac 4e 252193d f2f b0 9346596e 1854ad f1b 70d 9983463cb 7dedd 72c 5492e 4645f b6 351f 2e 7f d65a 88ad bf 64645f b6 64645f b667e97774f38a5845ad45663342ddd50b4d73749698f4d83ad5e7eba9f78e470f 8c9365e2eaf715f44f62ffd8bb1b0fbe1aef8a60355ace7b5821e534b59a71b4 3e7afe11ac7748ff6a7282ab13b17058d73ae22b8c3aa624a499a44607cd2147 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111e78eeed80b86f613aee13b4e93bcb87a3a9287a7564baad7be0200bbf8e74  $\frac{db6704e865af504b70488bcbe8143daf790e796afdc5bf4e240777fc2b36f2f0}{6a2f15edf4fe9d9b8651d4675088acc70ea3df2a3515b1ca00faa055d1b9fa9f}$ 1380ebed63a240ade60bbc42f4e581615ca35bf61ae32a3e1b2ffa7f21509077 e2b83af323cd294ad24905098ff43efcb4d9a7426d830709962996d47b3e1a68 168d8ccc23bbe32051bb627719efcec6067ae55df5f71fd7c28e21ac7d55cda33df6da10ac62569cf7d52c261fba5f4701624f13648f800e9bdce1cedb7bfa97 $b79cbe2fc940147dba81092e39dfa21f545809eab2304def6e91e9c9ee4028bc\\232d2ce3364ce1f4d6062043ca7bf0a4df8ed6d90ba261b0e957bbbe68fb099eab261b0e957$ ee51967db6972af6343a58f2c282c5c882261febd1640e6c9e4836c60139428b ec23c5112a67815ec5faf5f3f74f1987f9fcfe17802ef4458354e3389c751cf9 341 b c 42 f 3 e 13038 b e 22298 d 13 f a a 2 f 9 6 1 d 7801 c 135 a e 0 b 3 d 4 a 556 c d 54 e b 6 c 4 c d b 8 a 345 a 5 b 777 c 727296 c e 6 b f f 3 f b 5 6 d 255 c 629 f 9 c 314865 a e f 9 19 a e 8 d 5555 1358004ff6108f8f0578e70ab4a31fc7d9586df1d4d9529db053f5005016551d8a4d715f10d81b69f8ae970bea4c22e5807eb7a25afc744ae8ef8d6e260eec576f2 $2b0f8e9cadc1355398215cdc61f4f4519124587220d964a1b469f18e6117bfe0\\e832ecfba016f7c0a7decc2cd0f5f1f2ba6539dea74074ee06b1cb596f57aabf$ fccbed1ac44299c09ccb28e4792b43a03e9022b604b42c7a0e78c551bbe93d21 06c97d3d7f9d0b3644bdd178f2c205be8359fe201359a4b63f65dcb7838ac1c2 c249ca4011ec76cd328a1ba6c3a3b10535a1df87d1c5a5b4c1e5e8f3b0da3da7 0006a8a47b457e9bd2a7e64335dbdd951ca67008b22f47223e72fae34b29660c  $\label{eq:d6595ccdf6d351c49eca443e2519ee5aa8590153dfc301b5d90c4f3ed620220075fe0d4e3470149e7ec591b7927685b53303828130ddfa36b6920fb93eaa1ceec57c26eb55a6d0618484a1e35f25ef9f9fc642ce2906d73a7f1fee42f5b9c467$ 915a3b700fa63cf3e8770e2e0346de186a039fedf4b010da090b5e4a0519ead8 4b120cd31fc522d4efbfcd65e5aa3d4ec3c543b6af5d2f1ab849bcb33f4dbb78 c16b725a5ebd1734f665f0cfbeca268058949a608aa9b5701f7576f56ff70fd8 2d1cf94bf57e039f12463d4365152c199a14410a5faa9a5372f76155724f0f1b a63f721b81514caefed3157df8aedbc18d09a53b944cc6c4fa35087196913dee ce69c9d93a2c703f4339efc1b87874c80512d505a937e7c3f06c6673a94f1131 1fa6fde595d41916ce246ca16bbedce5f8712e6a55b0a77f08c6d40bfb37df79

App Name	SHA256 Checksum
com.marlustudio.englishforkids.apk	ba0cb61dc4e913c8ca61c9ad83ed9bc5fd98202ab7f200cdd76068c8544b0217
com.Slack.apk	200de82bccde54d4db7d09e0c887ca39015bad5a2877d01250bf873472208dfc
com.fuib.android.spot.online.apk	066fbef97444bbb17a71688a817e56cf86ee338bc7fb667ce328474edc47ea75
com.playtoddlers.urbancitystories.free.apk	64581c42741a40ab76b404acbc2df39845193716cb5f6e397571021e1b758548
camsurf.com.apk	3b35f57e003092271644fb99aca3aea7cd24f3017d28a7f77742bf3853c8c4e8
com.lego.friends.heartlake.apk	c8539ee963bcd42c6527da0c7c433773a32a8c61df832d6d96e2c079f220bc29
kidzooly.rhymes.apk	42b0e6172af6ae1204582c85807ca04177aeb1b3915c7c6bbb7da27dbe2a8603
police.scanner.radio.broadcastify.citizen.apk	ba23252a676054d0f9f02a2a72a670ad943b7d68aec1536721906b6f53c6ac98

Table A.1.: App Set