



AFL Fuzzing Algorithm

M. Raveendra Kumar (raveendra.kumar@tcs.com)
K.V. Raghavan (raghavan@iisc.ac.in)



Given: Instrumented program P , and a set of valid seed inputs S .

Data structures:

1. $Q = \emptyset$. currQ = null . // Working queue of test cases
2. $Q_x = \emptyset$ // Queue of crashed and hanging test cases
3. $G = \text{Table with } 2^{16} \text{ entries, each entry being 8 bits (one byte), initialized to } 0xFF$ // A zero at k^{th} bit position in a table entry $G[bp]$ indicates that in some run seen so far **roundOff**(visit count of branch-pair bp) = 2^k , where $0 \leq k \leq 7$. This structure persists across all runs of P .
4. $Shm = \text{Table with } 2^{16} \text{ entries, each entry being one byte, initialized to zero}$ // Shared memory table. Shared with the program P . Is re-initialized for each run of P . $Shm[bp]$ contains (rounded off) visit count to branch pair bp by the current run.
5. $R = \text{Table with } 2^{16} \text{ entries, each entry initialized to null}$ // Each table entry $R[bp]$ contains a preferred test input for that branch pair bp . Persists across all runs.
6. $cycle = 0$ // Number of processing cycles of Q
7. $G_c = \text{Table with } 2^{16} \text{ entries, each entry being 8 bits (one byte), initialized to } 0xFF$ // This structure maintains the information exactly the same way as G , but only for crashed or hanged runs of P .

```
1) main:
   for all  $t_s \in \text{seed set } S$  do
       reinitialize  $Shm$  to all zeroes
        $Shm = \text{execute}(P, t_s)$  // Execute  $P$  with  $t_s$  as input
       roundOff( $Shm$ )
       addToQueue( $t_s, Shm$ ) // Add test case to the queue
   end for
```

AFL-fuzz – main (continued)

currQ = head of Q

repeat

```
     $Q_{pr}$  = prioritize( $Q$ )                // Prioritize test cases
     $t$  = chooseNext( $Q, Q_{pr}$ )              // Select a test case from queue
     $Q_m$  =  $\emptyset$                         // List of new mutants
    if  $t$  is not fuzzed so far then
         $Q_m$  += mutateDeterministically( $t$ )    // Add deterministically fuzzed ones
    end if
     $N$  = assignFuzzingEnergy( $t$ )            // Determine number of non-deterministic
                                           // mutants to produce
     $Q_m$  += mutateNonDet( $t, N$ )            // Mutate  $t$  non-deterministically  $N$  times
    for all  $t' \in Q_m$  do
        reinitialize  $Shm$  to all zeroes
         $Shm$  = execute( $P, t'$ )
        if ( $P$  crashes or hangs) then // Is  $t'$  causing a crash or a hang of  $P$ ?
            if isUniqueCrashOrHang( $t', Shm$ ) then
                add  $t'$  to  $Q_x$             // Store it as crashing input
            end if
            else if isInterestingTestCase( $t', Shm$ ) then // Is  $t'$  of interest?
                addToQueue( $t', Shm$ )    // If yes, add it to queue
            end if
        end for
    until user stops fuzzing            // run this until user stops it
```

AFL-fuzz – addToQueue

2) addToQueue(t' , Shm):

```
Create metadata  $m$  for  $t'$            // metadata  $m$ : size of  $t'$ , exec_time of  $P$  with  $t'$ , cycle and depth at which  $t'$ 
is discovered, and number of bps covered by  $t'$ 
append ( $t', m$ ) to end of  $Q$ 
updateCoverage( $G, Shm, t'$ ) // update  $G$  and  $R$  using  $t'$ 
for  $i = 1$  to  $sizeOf(G)$  do
    if  $Shm[i] \neq 0$  then           // If test input  $t'$  visited branch pair  $i$ 
        if  $R[i] \neq null$  and  $score(R[i]) \geq score(t')$  then // For any test input  $t$ ,  $score(t) = size(t) * exec\_time(t)$ 
             $R[i] = t'$ 
        end if
    end if           //  $Shm[i] \neq 0$ 
end for
```

3) updateCoverage(G, Shm, t'):

```
for  $i = 1$  to  $sizeOf(G)$  do
    if  $Shm[i] \neq 0$  and  $G[i] == 255$  then
         $R[i] = t'$ 
    end if
    if  $Shm[i] \& G[i] > 0$  then //Does  $Shm[i]$  have a new visit count never seen before by other test inputs?
         $G[i] = G[i] \& \sim Shm[i]$  // zero the corresponding visited bit in  $G$ 
    end if
end for
```

AFL-fuzz - prioritize

4) `prioritize(Q):`

$Q_{pr} = \emptyset$

for $t \in Q$ ***do***

if $\exists i. R[i] = t$ ***and*** $t \notin Q_{pr}$ ***then***

add t to Q_{pr}

end if

end for

return Q_{pr}

AFL-fuzz - chooseNext

5) chooseNext(Q , Q_{pr}):

while(true)

Advance currQ to next element of Q (to head of Q in case currQ already at last element)

if currQ wrapped around in previous step, then $cycle = cycle + 1$

Let t be the test case in Q at currQ

Let $b = \text{random}(100)$ // Pick a random number between 0 - 99

if $b < 95$ **then**

if $t \in Q_{pr}$ or t is not fuzzed so far **then**

return t

end if

else

return t

end if

end while

AFL-fuzz - assignFuzzingEnergy

6) assignFuzzingEnergy(t):

Let $N = 100$.

Let N_1 be the $N \times$ a factor inversely proportional to t 's *execution time*.

Let N_2 be $N_1 \times$ a factor based on *number of branch pairs* covered by t .

Let N_3 be $N_2 \times$ a factor based on *cycle* of t 's discovery.

Let N_4 be $N_3 \times$ a factor based on *depth* of t 's discovery.

return N_4

AFL-fuzz – isInterestingTestCase

7) isInterestingTestCase(*t*, *Shm*):

roundOff(*Shm*) // rounds of every element in *Shm* to a power of 2

for *i* = 0 to **SizeOf**(*G*) **do**

if *G*[*i*] == 255 and *Shm*[*i*] ≠ 0 **or**

 (*G*[*i*] ≠ 255 and *Shm*[*i*] & *G*[*i*] > 0) **then** // Is there any new visit bit in *Shm*[*i*] relative to *G*[*i*]?

return *true*

end if

end for

return *false*

8) roundOff (*Shm*):

for *i* = 0 to **SizeOf**(*Shm*) **do**

if *Shm*[*i*] == 0 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 0 // all bits set to zero

else if *Shm*[*i*] == 1 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 1 // 0000 0001

else if *Shm*[*i*] == 2 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 2 // 0000 0010

else if *Shm*[*i*] == 3 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 4 // 0000 0100

else if *Shm*[*i*] ≥ 4 and *Shm*[*i*] ≤ 7 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 8 // 0000 1000

else if *Shm*[*i*] ≥ 8 and *Shm*[*i*] ≤ 15 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 16 // 0001 0000

else if *Shm*[*i*] ≥ 16 and *Shm*[*i*] ≤ 31 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 32 // 0010 0000

else if *Shm*[*i*] ≥ 32 and *Shm*[*i*] ≤ 127 **then** *Shm*[*i*] = 64 // 0100 0000

else *Shm*[*i*] = 128 // 1000 0000

end for

AFL-fuzz – isUniqueCrashOrHang

9) isUniqueCrashOrHang(t , Shm):

uniqueCrashOrHangFlag = *false*

roundOff(Shm) // rounds of every element in Shm to a power of 2

for $i = 0$ to **SizeOf**(G_c) **do**

if ($G_c[i] == 255$ and $Shm[i] \neq 0$) or

 ($G_c[i] \neq 255$ and $Shm[i] \& G_c[i] > 0$) **then** // Is there any new visit bit in $Shm[i]$ relative to $G_c[i]$?

$G_c[i] = G_c[i] \& \sim Shm[i]$ // zero the corresponding visited bit in G_c

 uniqueCrashOrHangFlag = *true*

end if

end for

return uniqueCrashOrHangFlag