

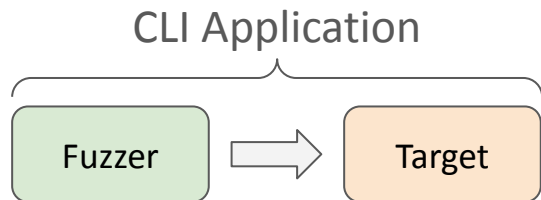
Liberating Libraries Through Automated Fuzz Driver Generation: Striking a Balance Without Consumer Code

Flavio Toffalini^{*+}, Nicolas Badoux^{*}, Zurab Tsinadze^{*}, Mathias Payer^{*}

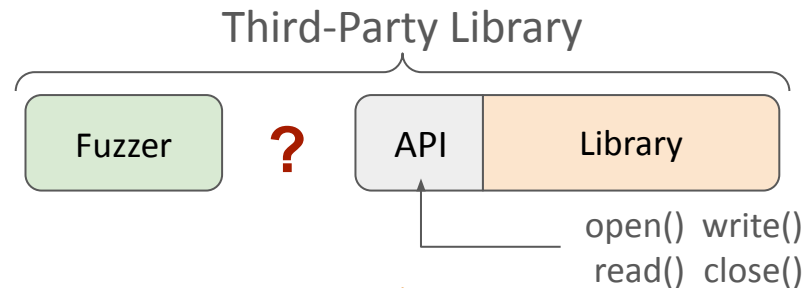
⁺ Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

^{*} EPFL, Switzerland

Testing Third-Party Libraries: What Semantics?



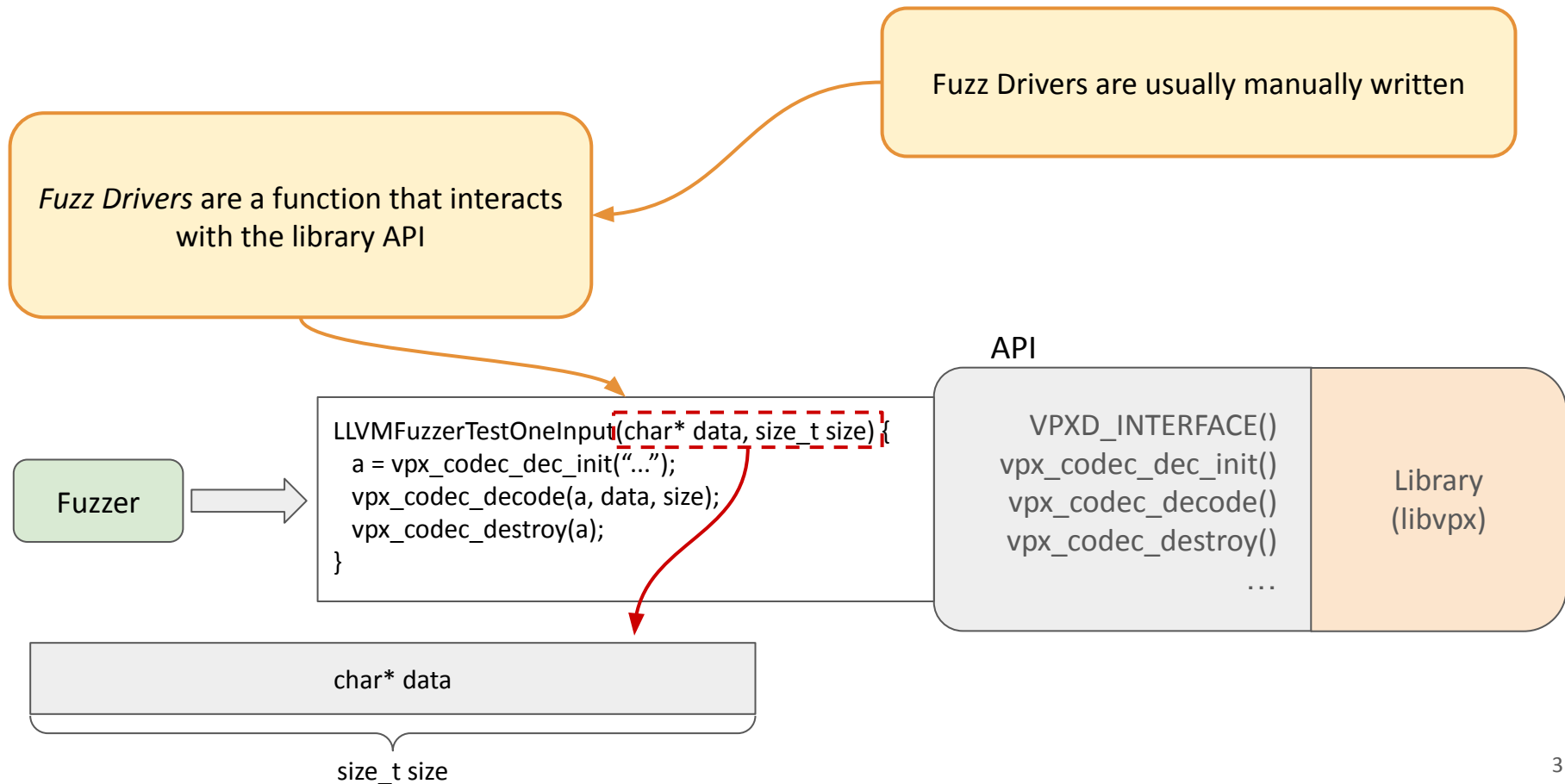
VS



Regular fuzzing targets
standalone applications
through main()

Libraries expose a complex
Application Programming
Interface (API) without clear
dependencies.

Testing Third-Party Libraries



Problems in Driver Generation

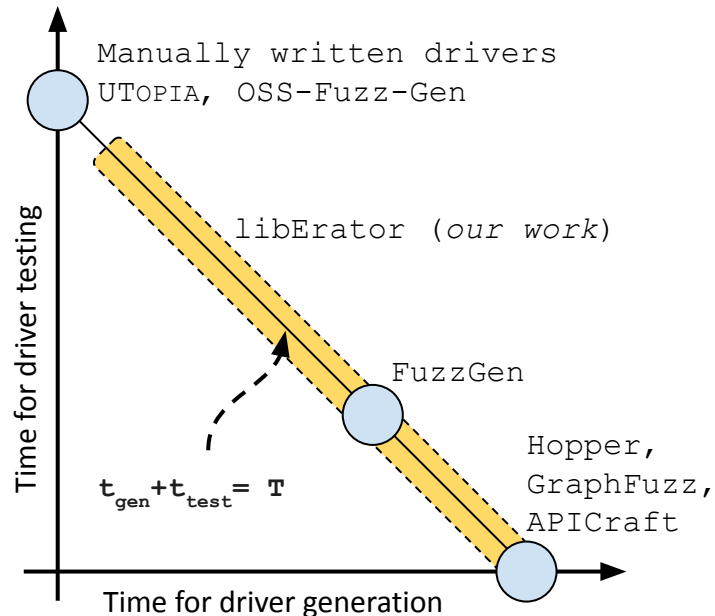
Automatic generating drivers is a two-sided task:

- Generating code
- Test the generated code

This leads to two questions

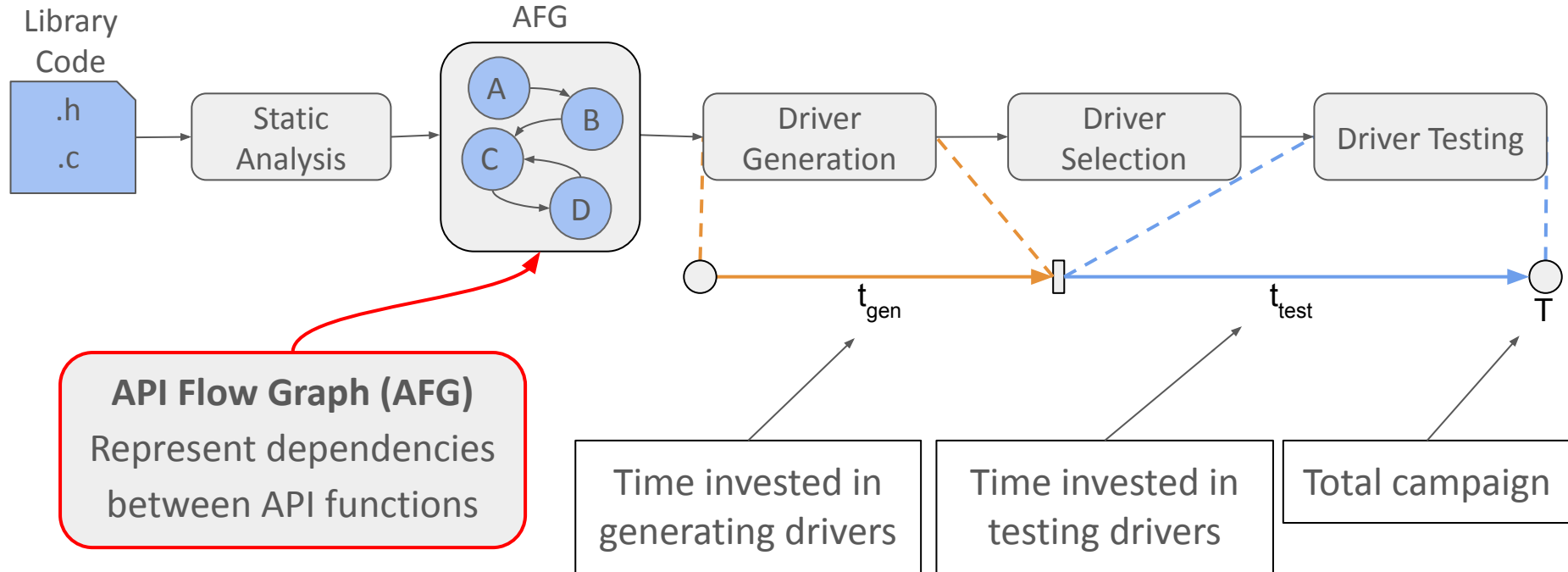
Q1: How much time should I spend to generate new drivers?

Q2: How much time should I spend to test the drivers?



libErator's (Simplified) Design

Fuzzing campaigns have limited time, how do I allocate it efficiently?



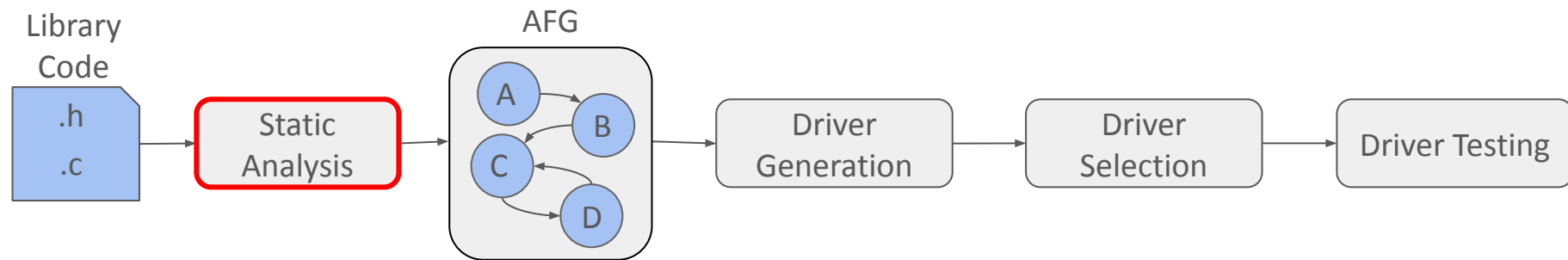
libErator's Design: Static Analysis

Populate the API Flow Graph (AFG)¹

- Dependencies between API calls

Infers API function arguments dependencies (e.g., buffer and its length)

The type system determines the variables' initialization procedure



[1] More technical info in the paper

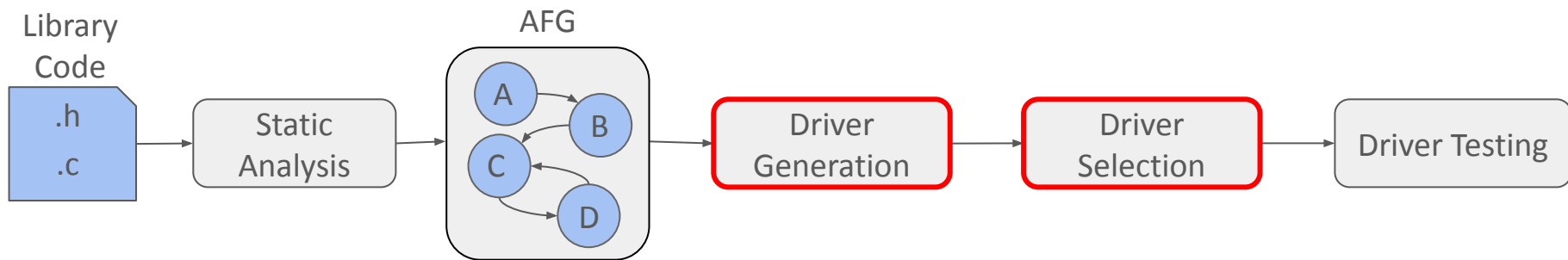
libErator's Design: Driver Generation and Selection

Driver generation through iterative AFG traversal¹

- Instantiate necessary variable and their cleanup code
- Bias towards function manipulating more argument fields
- Deemed successful if the driver produce seeds

Selection of diverse drivers for deep testing¹

- Pick one driver per cluster of drivers using similar API functions



[1] More technical info in the paper

Evaluation

We compare against consumer-aware and consumer-agnostic works

- Hopper, CCS'23
- UTopia, S&P'23
- FuzzGen, Usenix SEC'20
- OSS-Fuzz-Gen, Google '23
- Manually written drivers

A benchmark of **15 C libraries**, taken across the above tools

Coverage¹

libErator vs Consumer-agnostic:

Hopper, 8 / 13 better

libErator vs Consumer-aware:

UTopia, 3 / 6 better

FuzzGen, 1 / 2 better

OSS-Fuzz-Gen, 5 / 6 better

libErator vs Manually Written:

misc. 6 / 12 better

Lesson Learned:

- (i) better than SotA consumer-agnostic works
- (ii) similar or better against consumer-aware works and manually written drivers
- (iii) overall, fit-for-all solution seems missing

Most importantly....

[1] Not all the libraries were compatible with all the competitors

Bugs Found

24 unique bugs identified, including a CVE in libpcap

25% true positive crashes (vs 0.7% for Hopper)

False positives caused by:

- Incoherent arguments (e.g., 2D array)
- Incorrect memory tracking (e.g., UAF)

Bugs were reported and fixed

We also contribute drivers and derived test cases

| Tool | Bugs |
|------------------|-----------|
| Manual drivers | 0 |
| FuzzGen | 0 |
| UTopia | 0 |
| OSS-Fuzz-Gen | 0 |
| Hopper | 6 |
| libErator | 24 |

Lesson Learned:

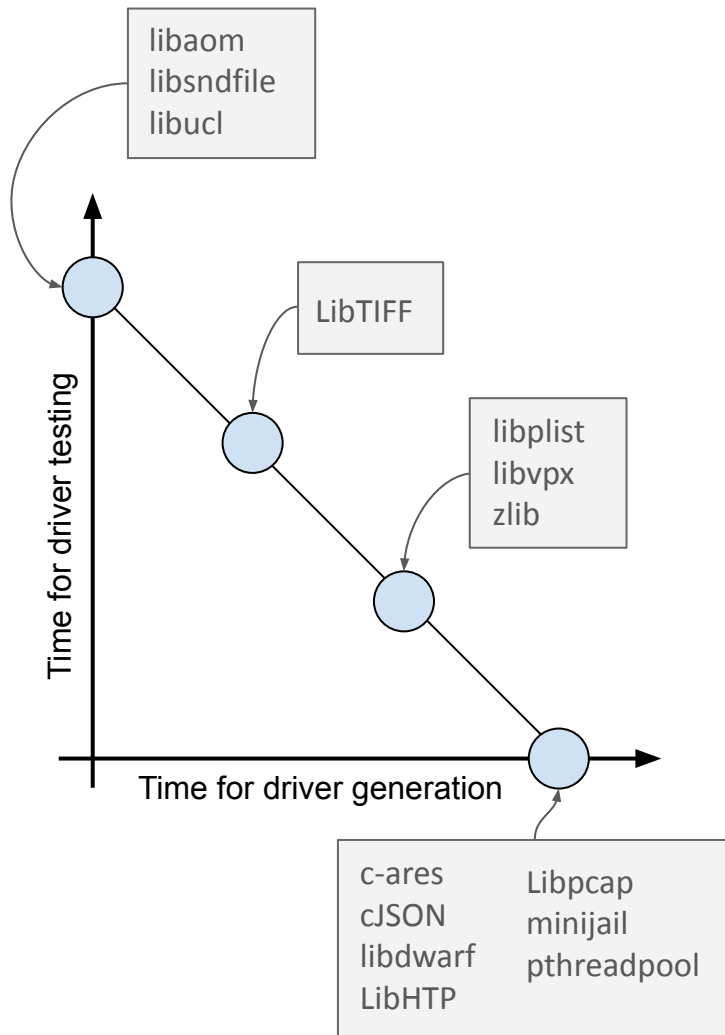
- (i) libErator reaches untested library regions and find bugs where
- (ii) Consumer-aware and manually written drivers are exhausted.

Lesson Learned

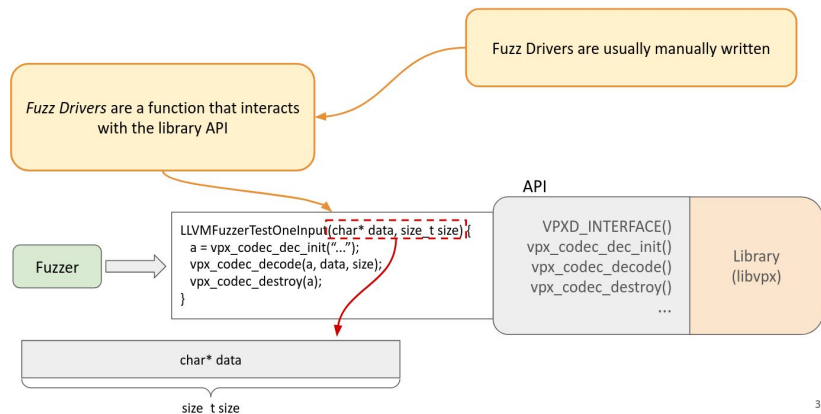
We measured how different values of t_{gen} and t_{test} affect performances in terms of coverage

We learned that two aspects affect this tradeoff:

- **Input complexity:** libraries that expect complex inputs requires more testing time for single driver
- **API complexity:** we may need to spend more time in finding the correct library interaction



libErator Summary



Third-party library testing

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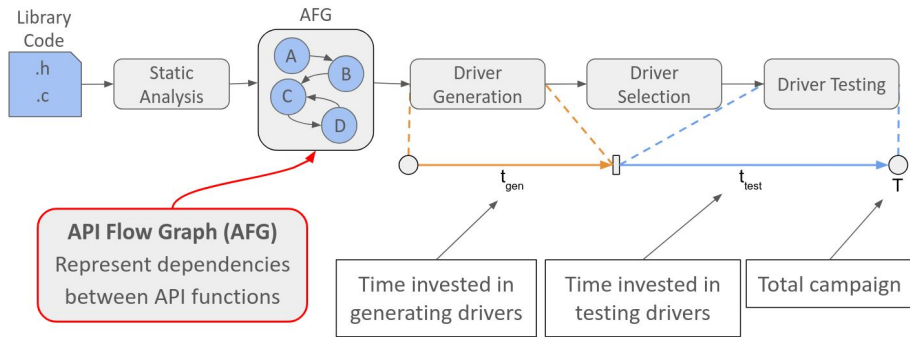
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Real impacts



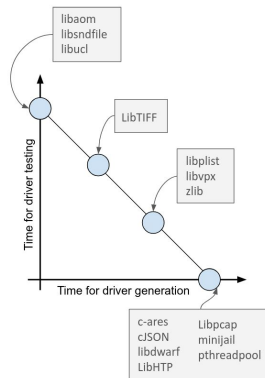
New design to generate drivers

Lesson Learned

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Different trade-off