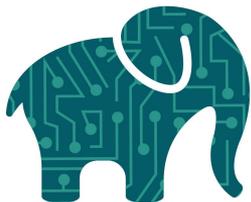


EPFL



RUB

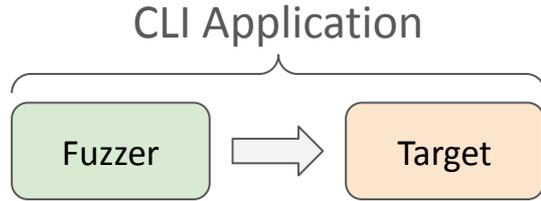
# Liberating Libraries Through Automated Fuzz Driver Generation: Striking a Balance Without Consumer Code

Flavio Toffalini<sup>\*+</sup>, Nicolas Badoux<sup>\*</sup>, Zurab Tsinadze<sup>\*</sup>, Mathias Payer<sup>\*</sup>

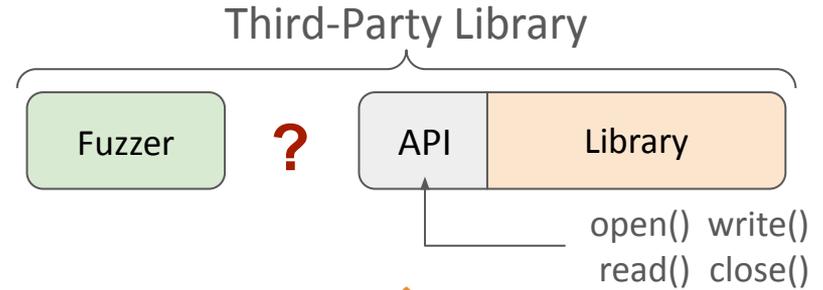
<sup>+</sup> Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

<sup>\*</sup> 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

Fuzz Drivers are usually manually written

*Fuzz Drivers* are a function that interacts with the library API

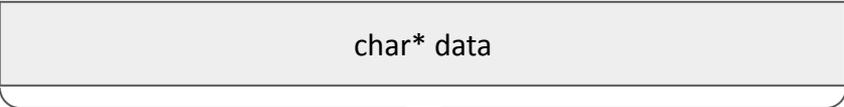
Fuzzer

```
LLVMFuzzerTestOneInput(char* data, size_t size) {  
  a = vpx_codec_dec_init(...);  
  vpx_codec_decode(a, data, size);  
  vpx_codec_destroy(a);  
}
```

API

```
VPXD_INTERFACE()  
vpx_codec_dec_init()  
vpx_codec_decode()  
vpx_codec_destroy()  
...
```

Library  
(libvpx)



size\_t size

# Problems in Driver Generation

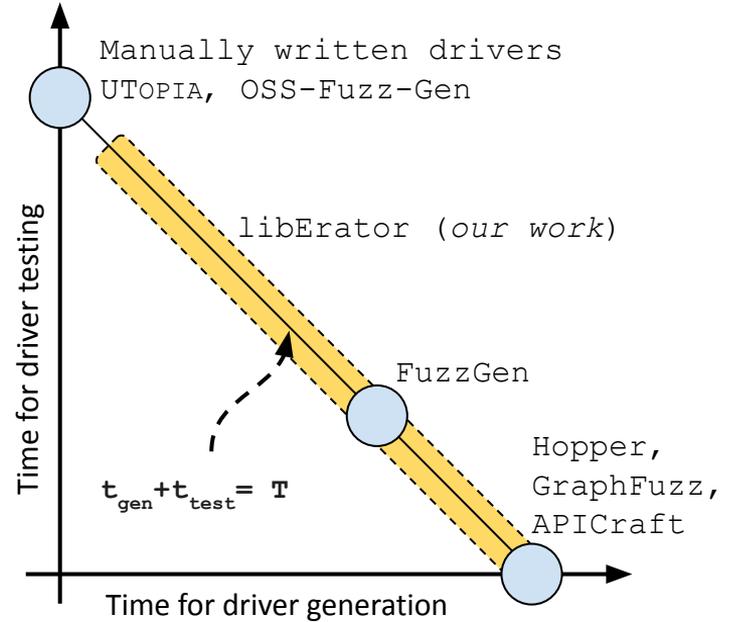
Automatic generating drivers is a two-sided task:

- Generating code
- Test the generated code

This leads to two questions

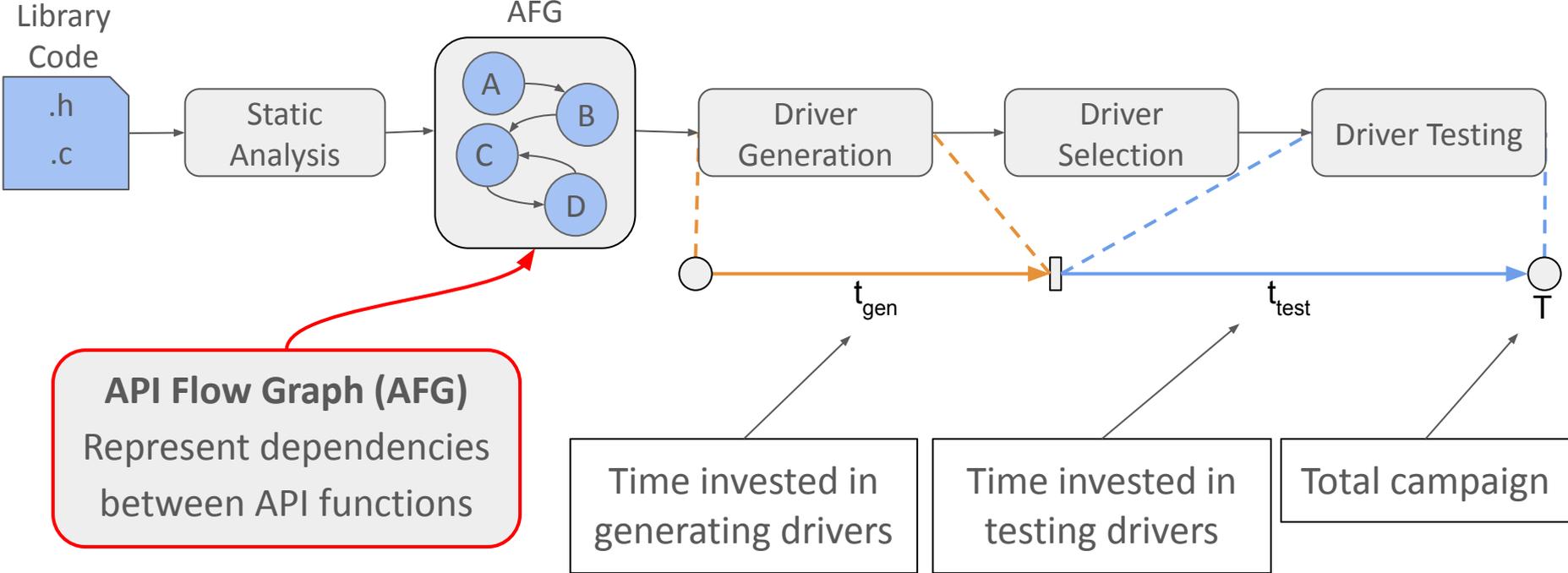
**Q1:** How much time should I spend to generate new drivers?

**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?



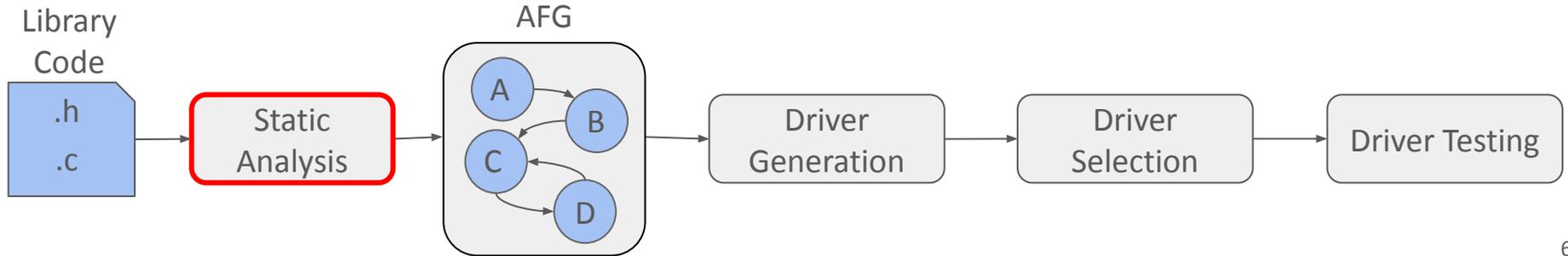
# libErator's Design: Static Analysis

Populate the API Flow Graph (AFG)<sup>1</sup>

- 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

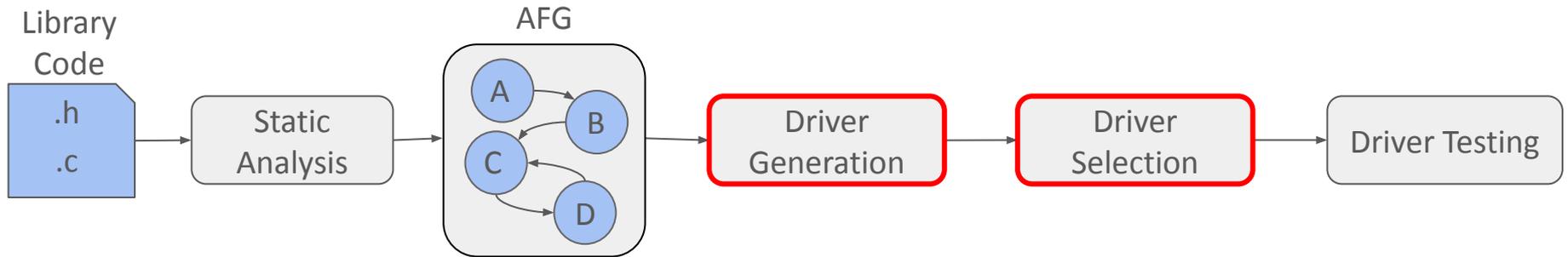
# libErator's Design: Driver Generation and Selection

## Driver generation through iterative AFG traversal<sup>1</sup>

- 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 testing<sup>1</sup>

- 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

# Coverage<sup>1</sup>

## **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
<b>libErator</b>	<b>24</b>

## Lesson Learned:

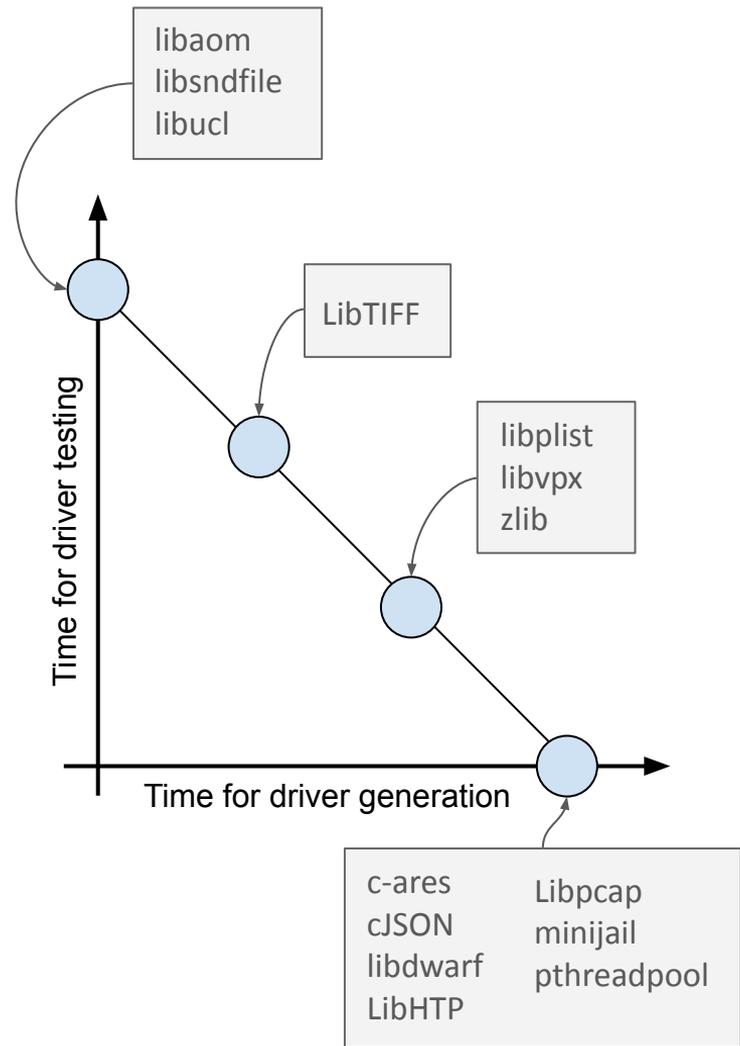
- libErator reaches untested library regions and find bugs where
- Consumer-aware and manually written drivers are exhausted.

# Lesson Learned

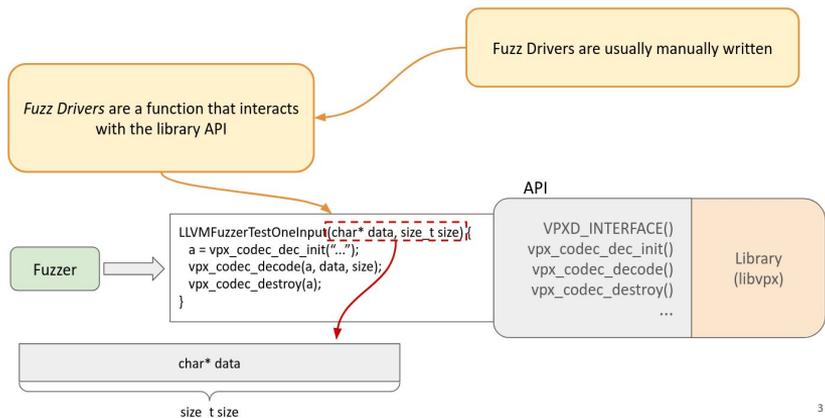
We measured how different values of  $t_{gen}$  and  $t_{test}$  affect performances in terms of coverage

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

24 unique bugs identified, including a CVE in libpcap

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

False positives caused by:

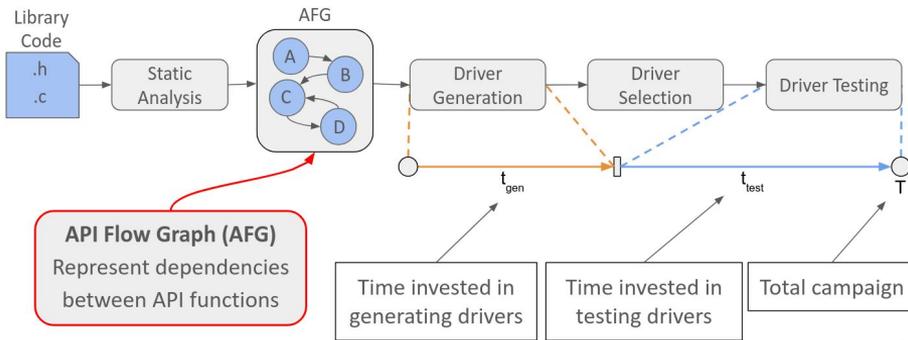
- Incoherent arguments (e.g., 2D array)
- Incorrect memory tracking (e.g., UAF)

Bugs were reported and fixed

We also contribute drivers and derived test cases

## Real impacts

Tool	Bugs
Manual drivers	0
FuzzGen	0
UTopia	0
OSS-Fuzz-Gen	0
Hopper	6
<b>libErator</b>	<b>24</b>



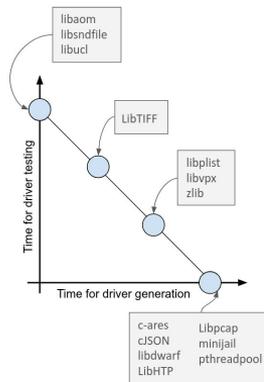
## New design to generate drivers

### 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



## Different trade-off