EXCVATE: Spoofing Exceptions and Solving Constraints to Test Exception Handling in Numerical Libraries

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*University of California, Davis

[†]University of California, Berkeley

[‡]Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory







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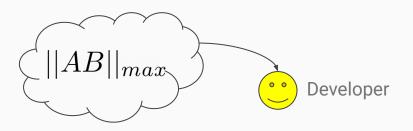
OVERFLOW DIVIDE-BY-ZERO INVALID INEXACT UNDERFLOW

View exceptions as bugs:

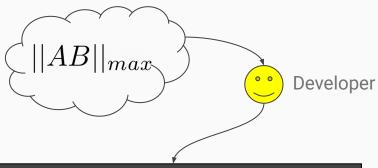
Make your code exception-free!

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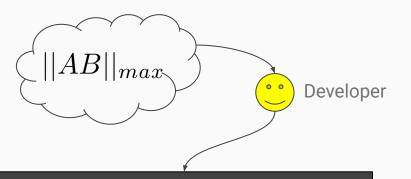






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result = 0.0
do i = 1, dim
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           acc = acc + A(i,k) * B(k,j)
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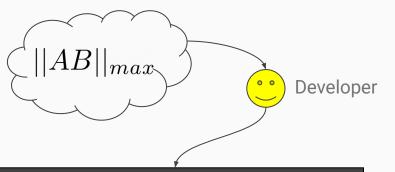
$$A = egin{bmatrix} 0.0 & 0.0 \ -3.40282 imes 10^{38} & -2.4245 \end{bmatrix} \ B = egin{bmatrix} 0.0 & 3.06254 imes 10^{38} \ 0.0 & -3.08694 imes 10^{38} \end{bmatrix}$$



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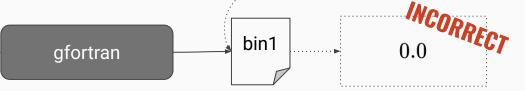
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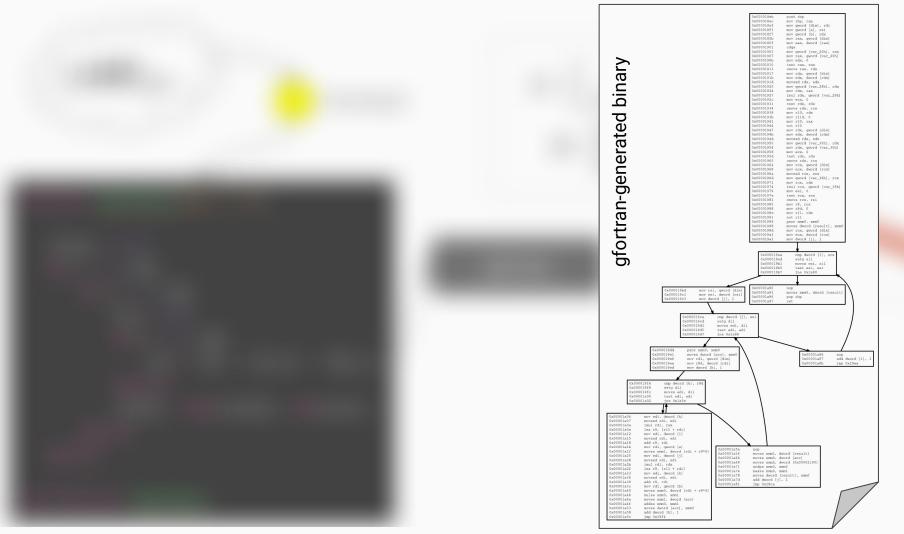




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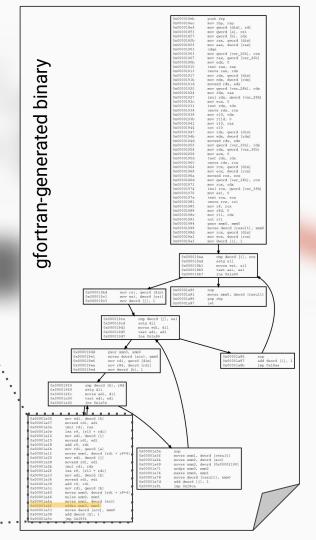
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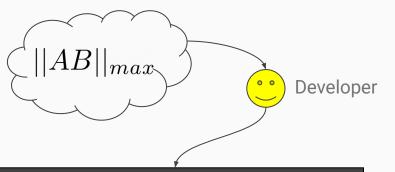




The eighth execution of this add instruction triggers an "Invalid" exception, generating a NaN that is ultimately lost.

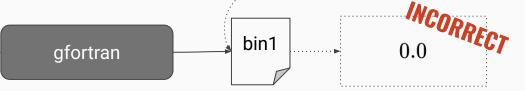
```
mov edi, dword [k]
                 movsxd rdi, edi
                 imul rdi, rax
                  lea r9, [r10 + rdi]
0x00001a12
                 mov edi, dword [i]
0x00001a15
                 movsxd rdi, edi
0 \times 00001a18
                 add r9, rdi
                 mov rdi, gword [a]
0x00001a1f
                 movss xmm1, dword [rdi + r9*4]
                 mov edi, dword [i]
                 movsxd rdi, edi
0 \times 00001a2b
                 imul rdi, rdx
                  lea r9, [r11 + rdi]
                 mov edi, dword [k]
0x00001a36
                 movsxd rdi, edi
0x00001a39
                  add r9, rdi
0 \times 00001a3c
                 mov rdi, gword [b]
                 movss xmm0, dword [rdi + r9*4]
                  mulss xmm0, xmm1
                 movss xmm1, dword [acc]
0 \times 00001 = 4f
                 addss xmm0, xmm1
0 \times 00001a53
                 movss dword [acc], xmm0
                  add dword [k], 1
                 imp 0x19f4
```

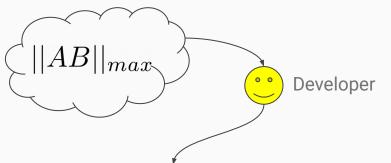




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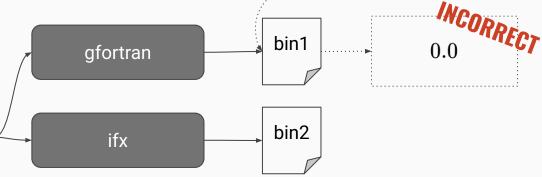
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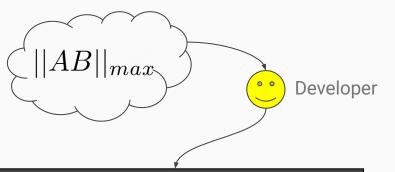




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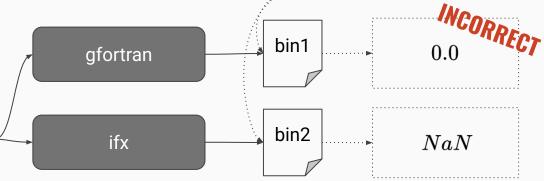
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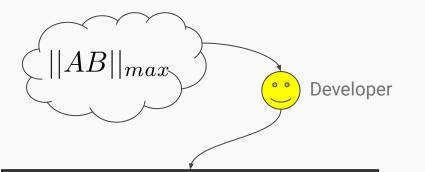




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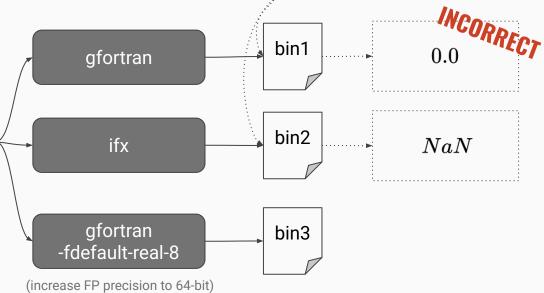
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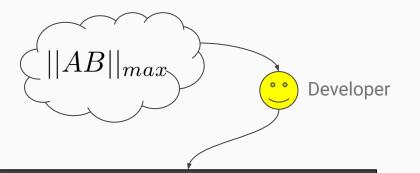




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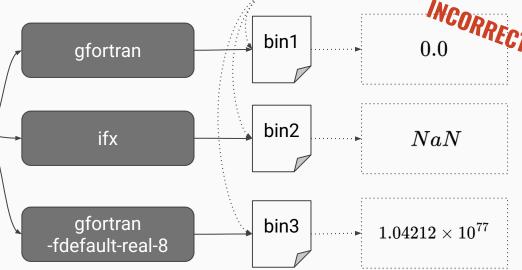
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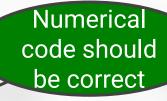


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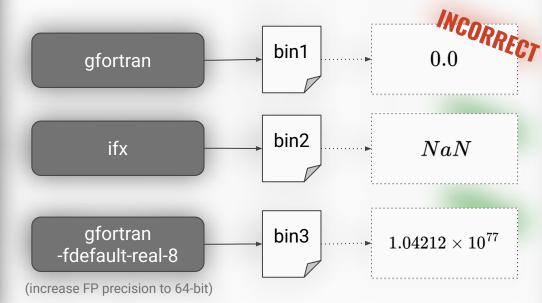
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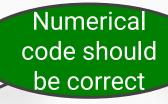


(increase FP precision to 64-bit)

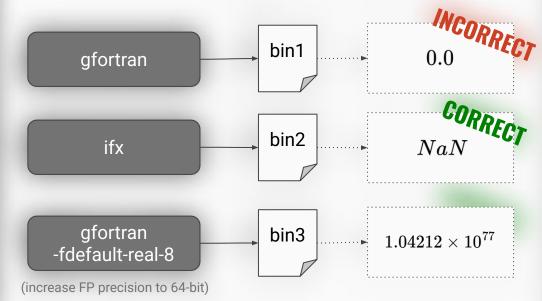


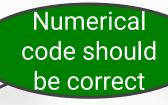
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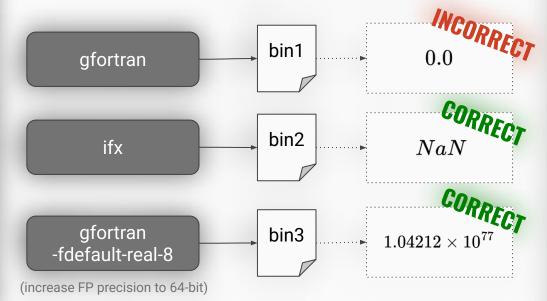


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When an Overflow, Divide-by-Zero, or Invalid exception occurs, a **sound exception-handling policy** notifies users by either...

- 1. The presence of EVs in the output
- Some library-specific mechanism triggered by checking for their presence at some point during the execution.

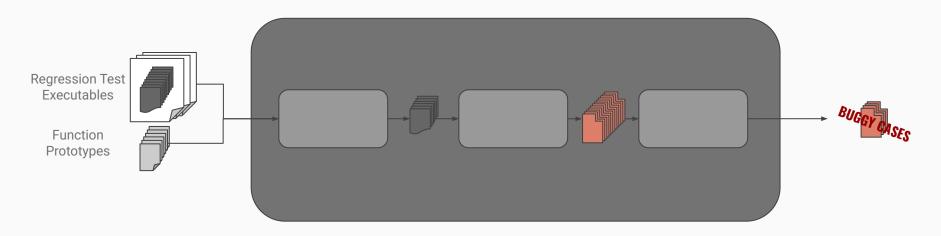
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This is the policy adopted by the reference LAPACK/BLAS implementations [1].

-> How can we test this?





EXCVATE is composed of three components that address three key challenges...

Pre-existing works use a variety of input generation techniques to yield floating-point inputs that trigger exceptions.

• e.g., fuzzing [1], symbolic execution [2,3], Bayesian optimization [4]

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- IEEE754 mandates propagation of exceptional-values in most cases
- Developers often do a good job!

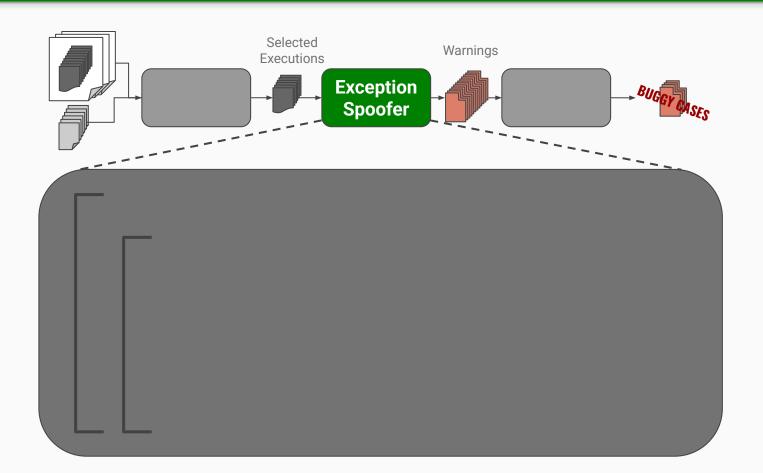
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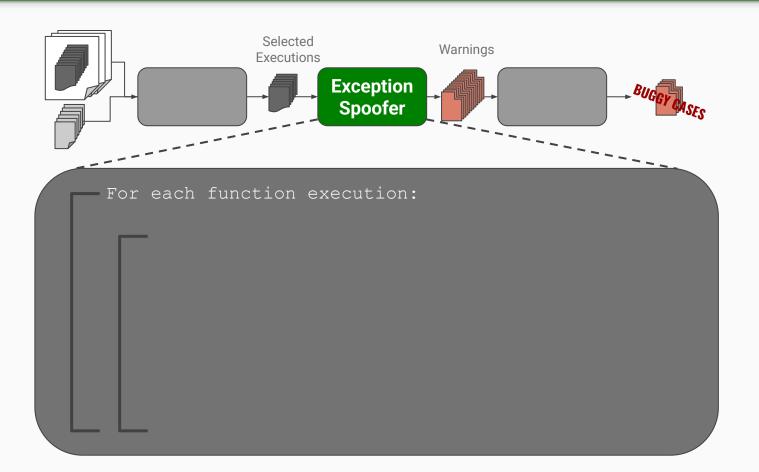
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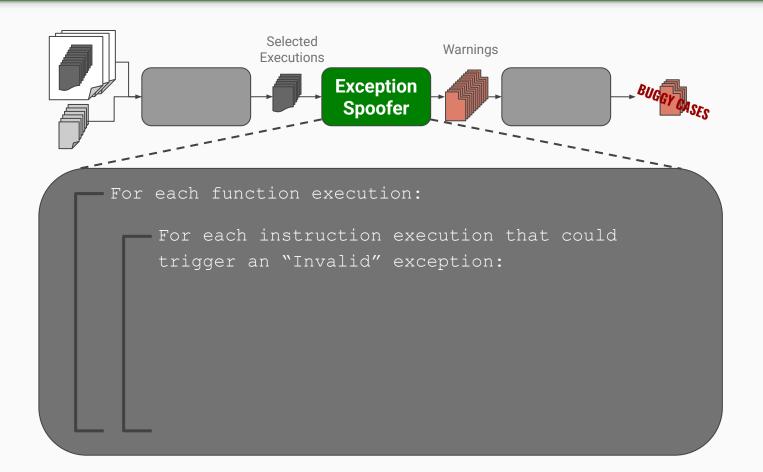
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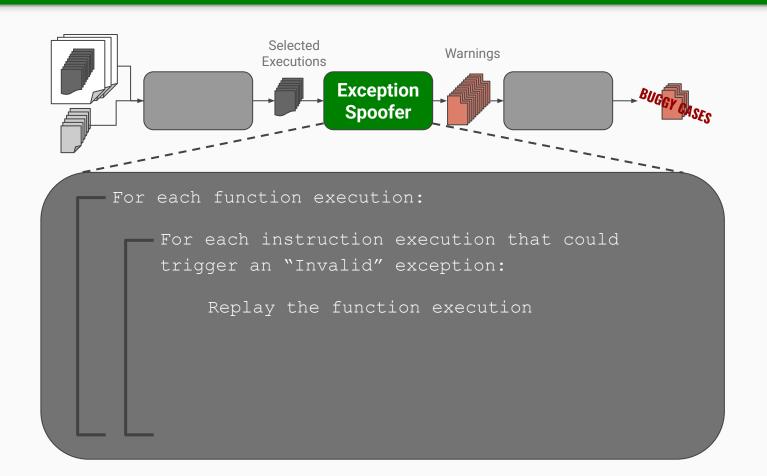
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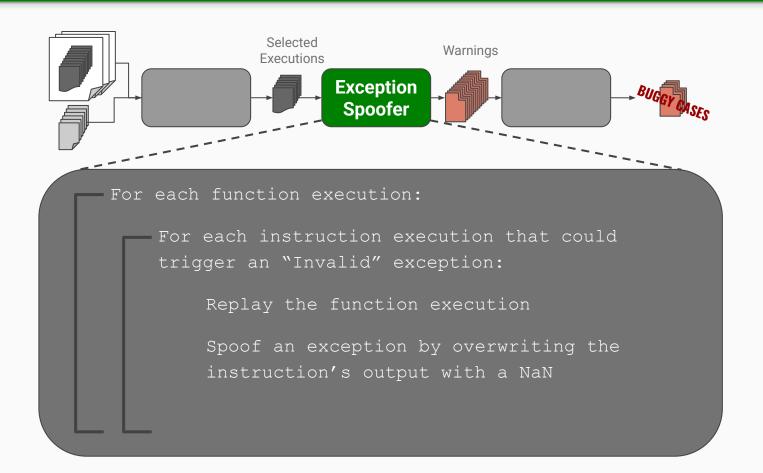


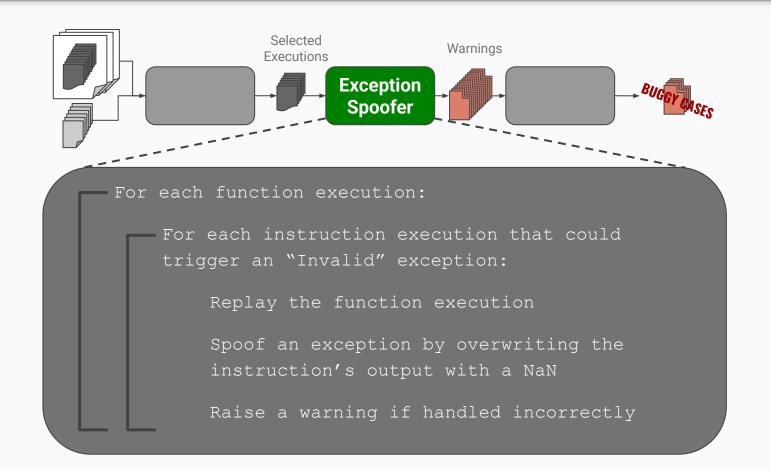


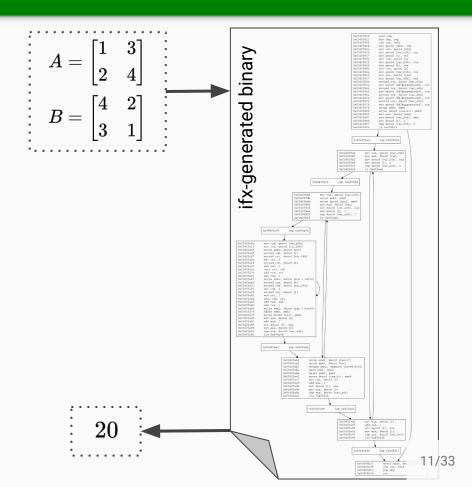




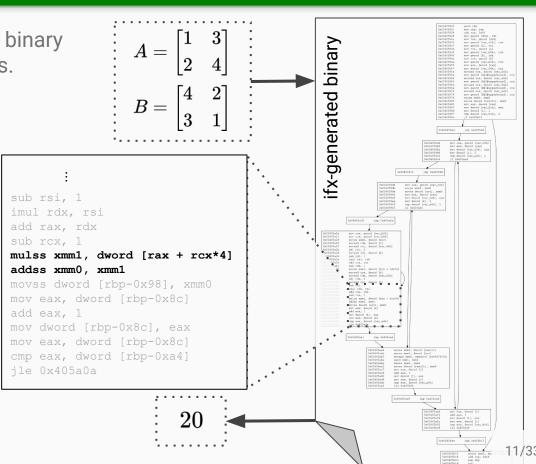






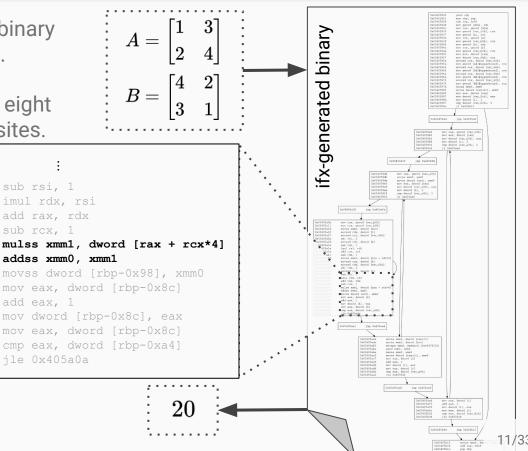


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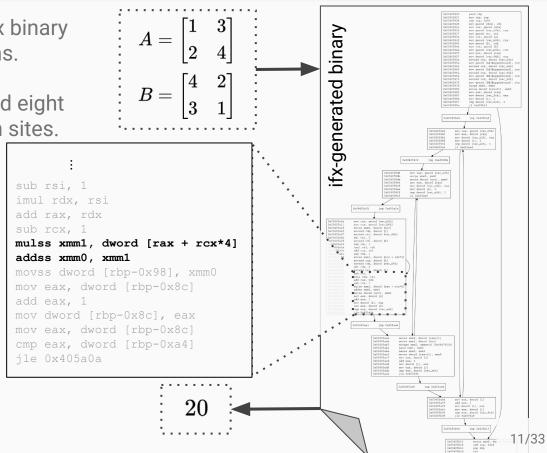
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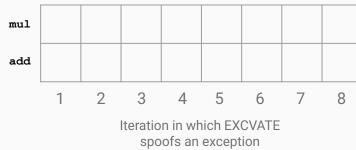


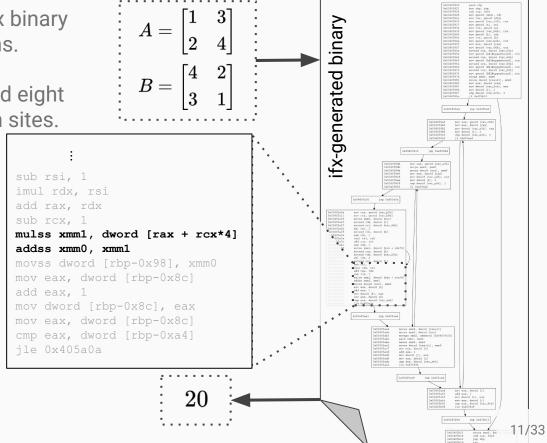
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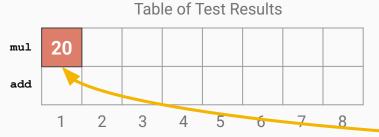




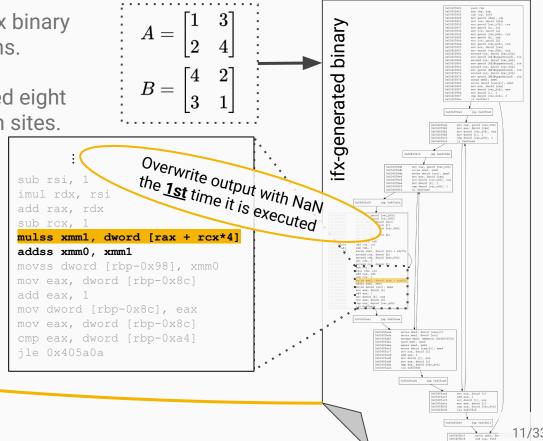
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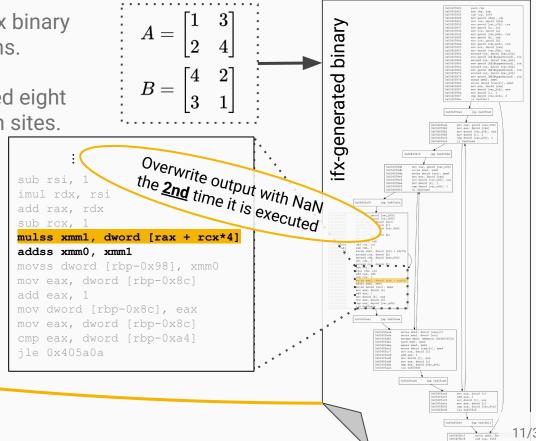
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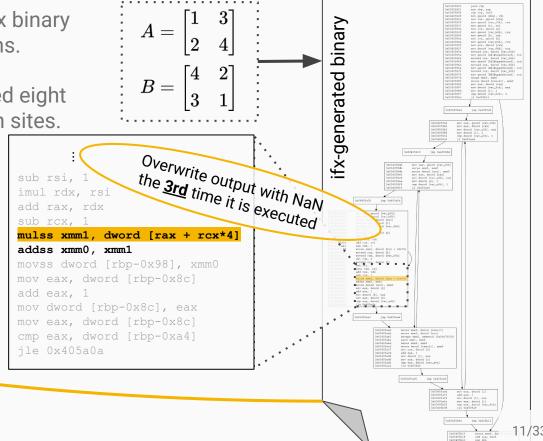
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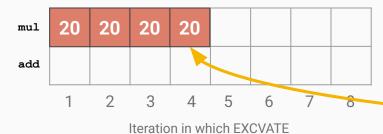


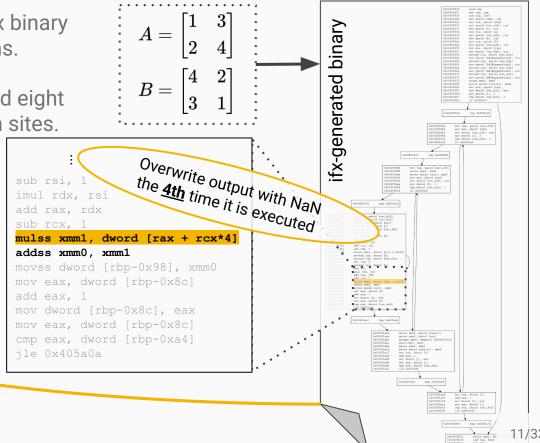
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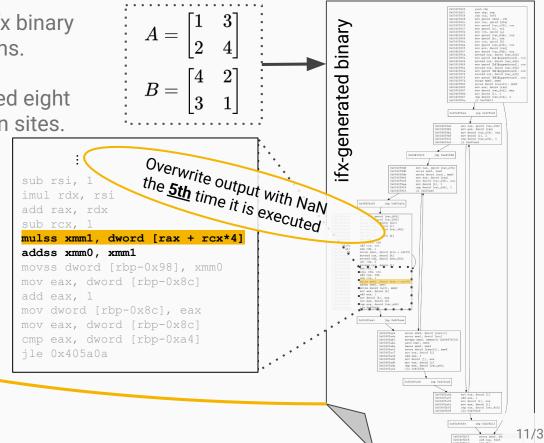
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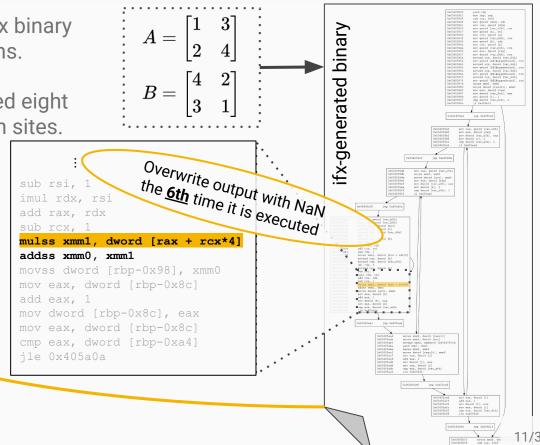
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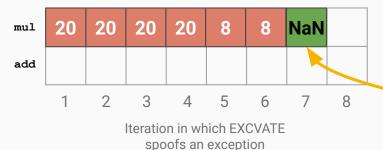


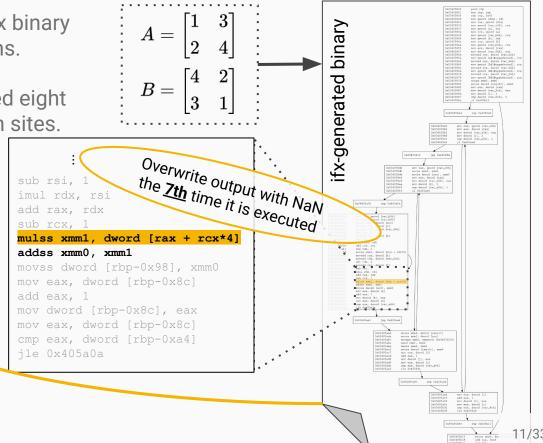
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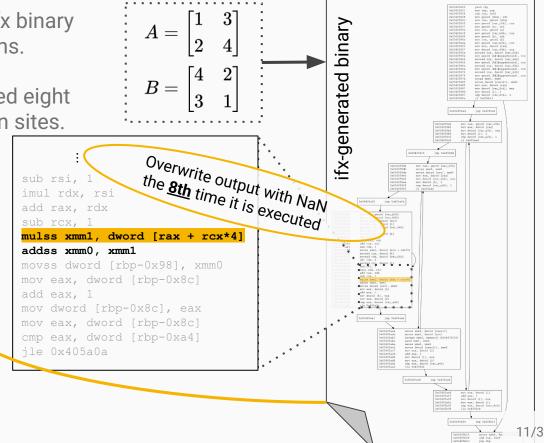
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add									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
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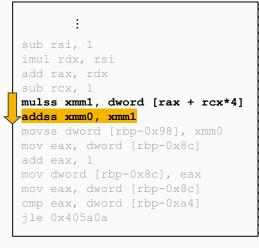
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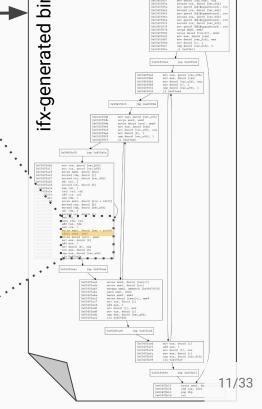
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spoofs an exception

 $A = egin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ $B = egin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ \ddots





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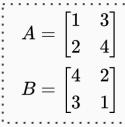
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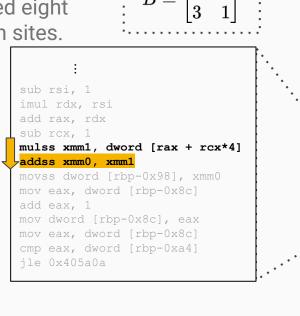
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fx-generated



Challenge 2: How do we "reify" a spoofed exception that results in an exception-handling failure?

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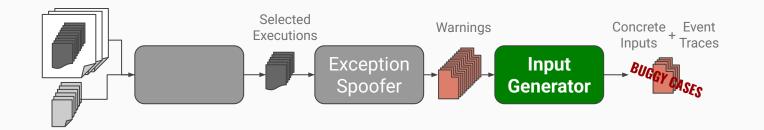
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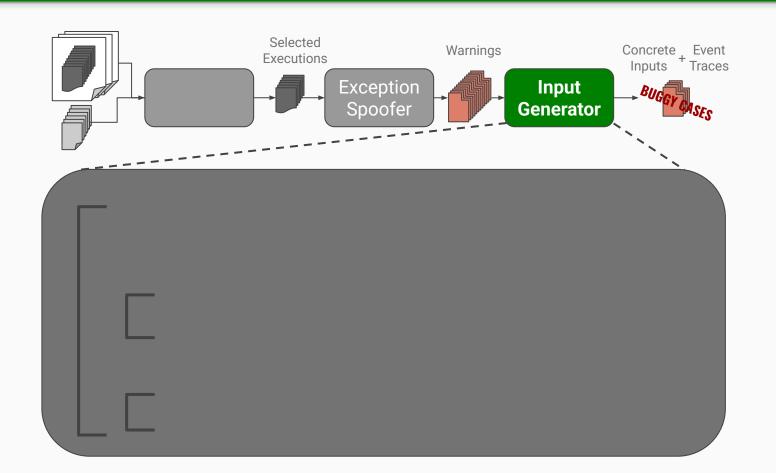
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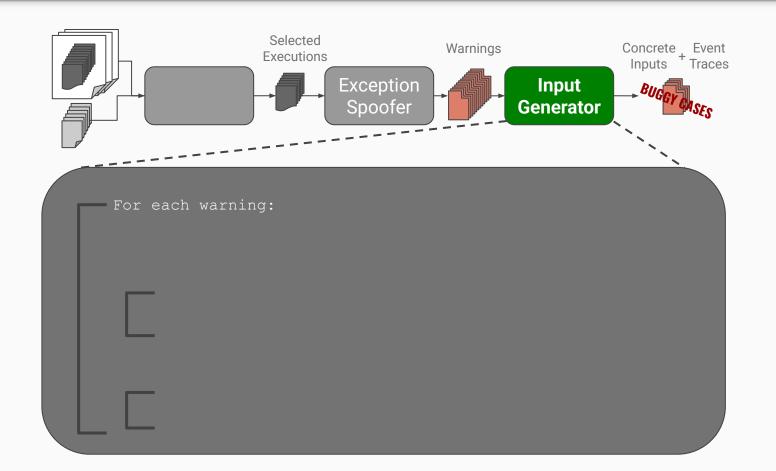
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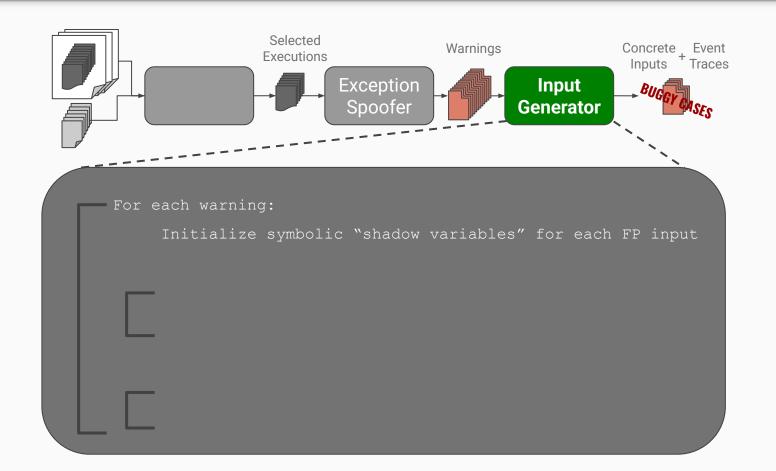
For a true buggy case, EXCVATE must create an input that:

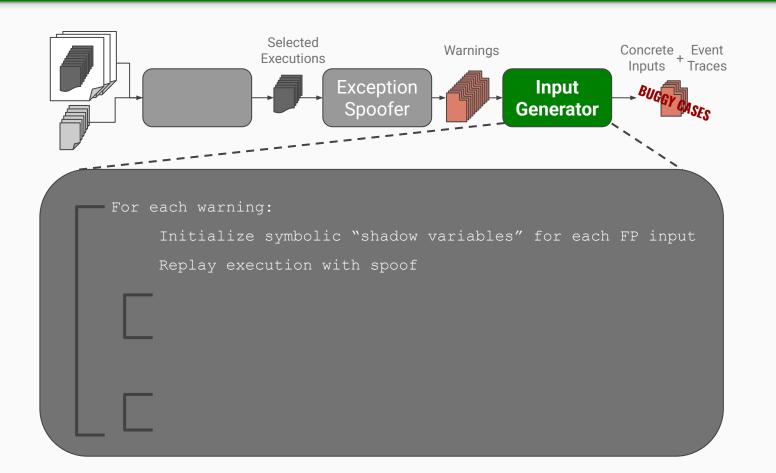
- 1. triggers the spoofed Invalid exception
- 2. preserves the control flow that resulted in failed exception handling

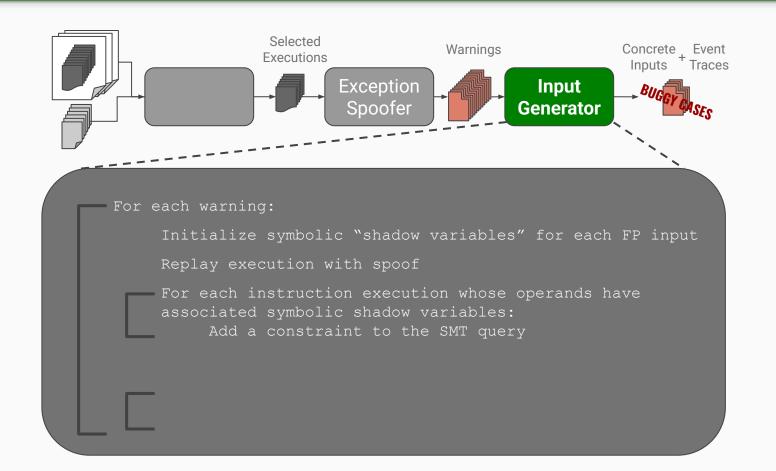


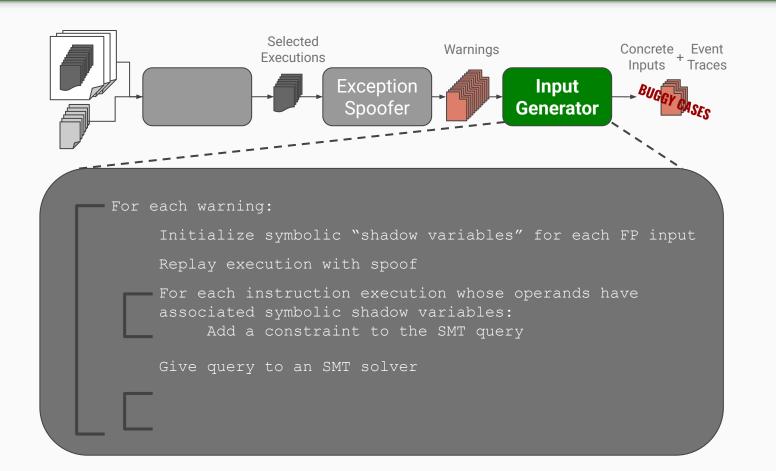


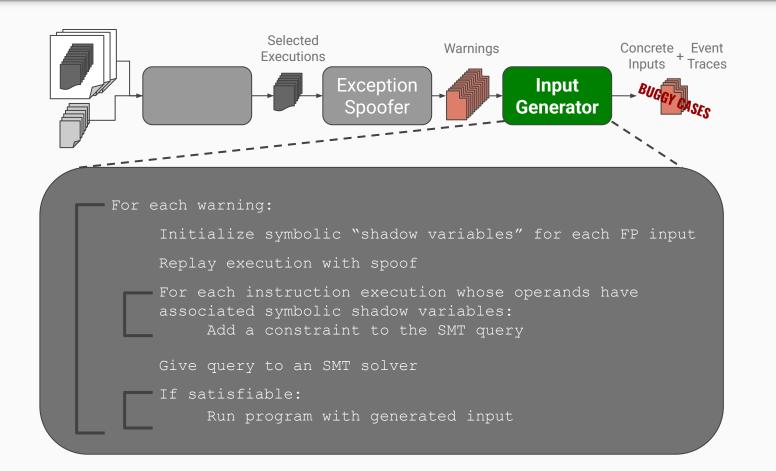




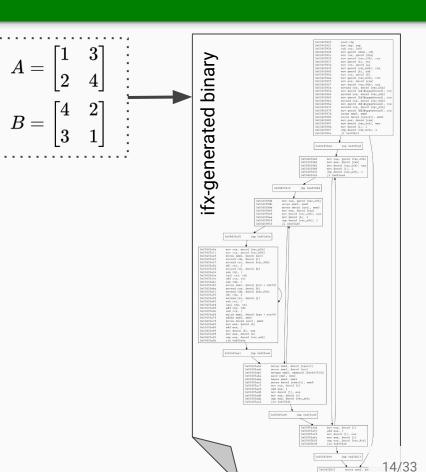




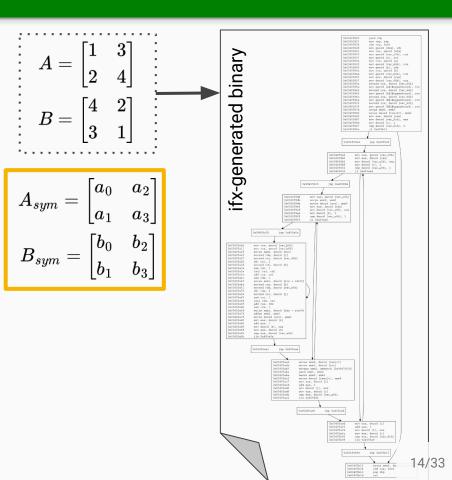




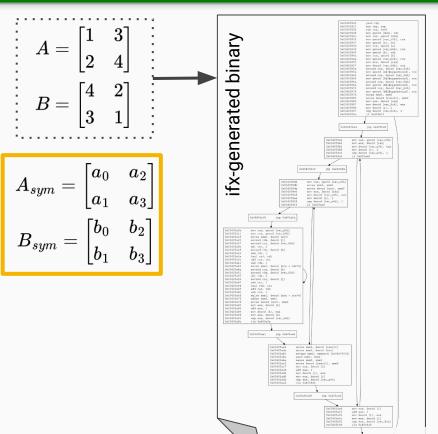
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



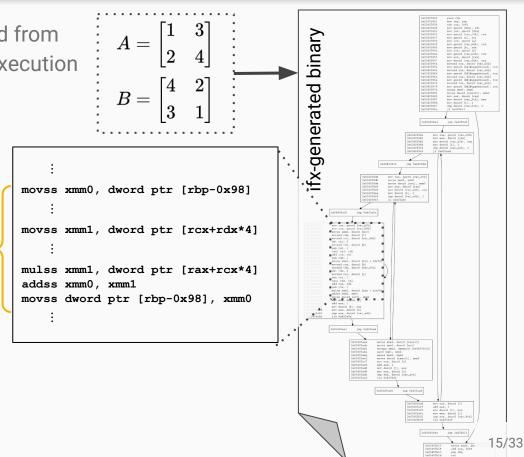
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



14/33

Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

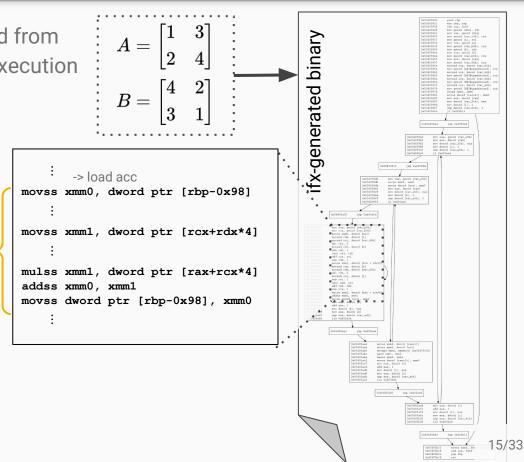
Active Symbols



Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

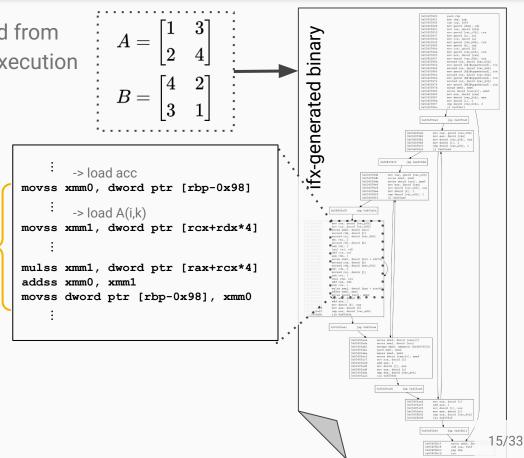
```
do j = 1, dim
        acc = acc + A(i,k) * B(k,j)
```

Symbols

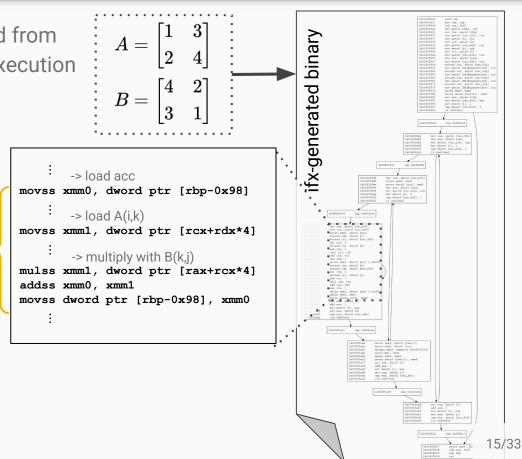


Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

Active Symbols



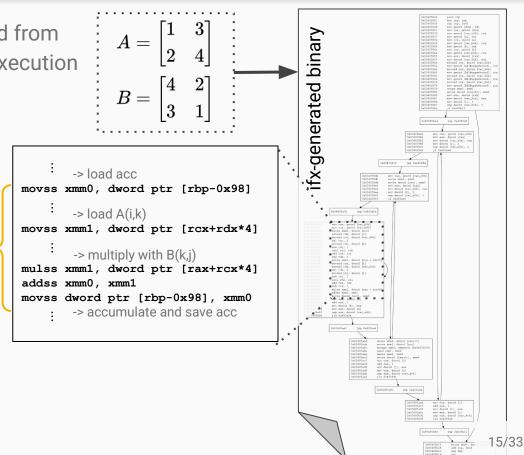
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



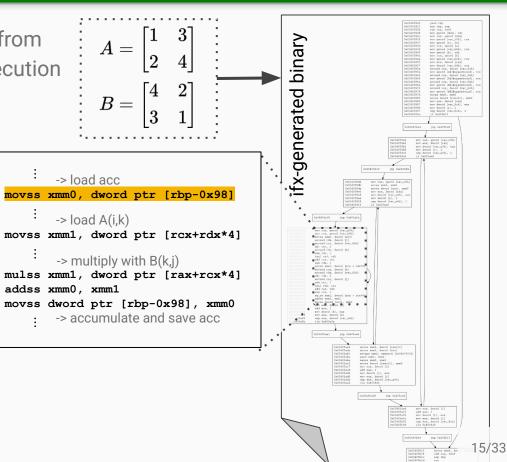
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

```
result = 0.0
do i = 1, dim
    do j = 1, dim
        acc = 0.0
        do k = 1, dim
        acc = acc + A(i,k) * B(k,j)
        end do
        result = max(result, abs(acc))
    end do
end do
end do
```

Active Symbols



Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



Variable 30 Active Sympols

Ox7f9dea0970a8

Ox7f9dea0970ac

Ox7f9dea0970b0

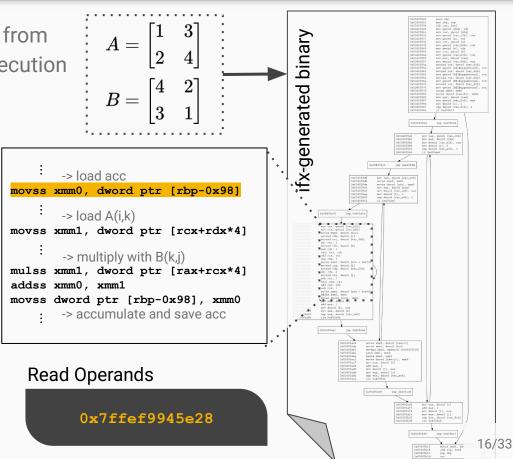
Ox7f9dea0970b4

Ox7f9dea0970b8

Ox7f9dea0970bc

Ox7f9dea0970c0

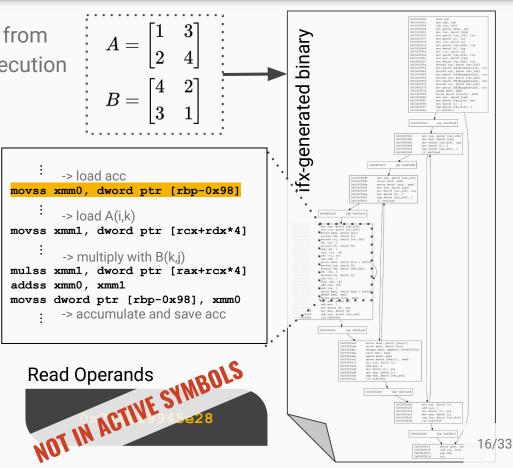
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



Active Symbols

0x7f9dea0970a4 0x7f9dea0970a8 0x7f9dea0970ac 0x7f9dea0970b0 0x7f9dea0970b4 0x7f9dea0970b8 0x7f9dea0970bc 0x7f9dea0970c0

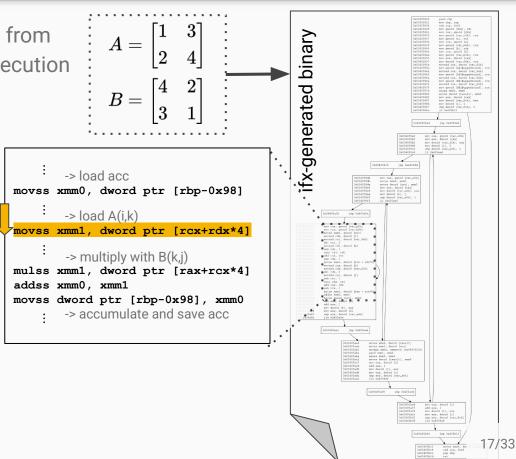
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



Active Symbols

0x7f9dea0970a4 0x7f9dea0970ac 0x7f9dea0970b0 0x7f9dea0970b4 0x7f9dea0970b8 0x7f9dea0970bc 0x7f9dea0970c0

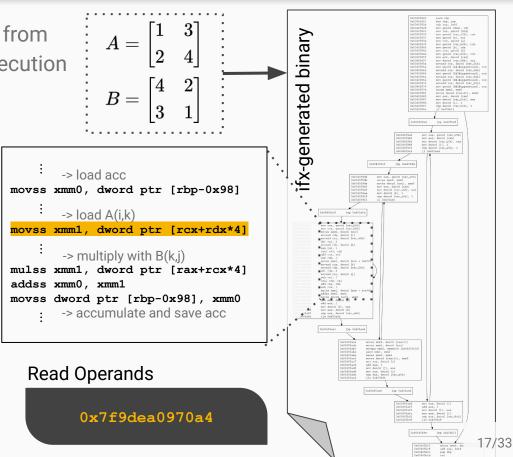
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



Active Symbols

0x7f9dea0970a4 0x7f9dea0970a8 0x7f9dea0970ac 0x7f9dea0970b0 0x7f9dea0970b4 0x7f9dea0970b8 0x7f9dea0970bc 0x7f9dea0970c0

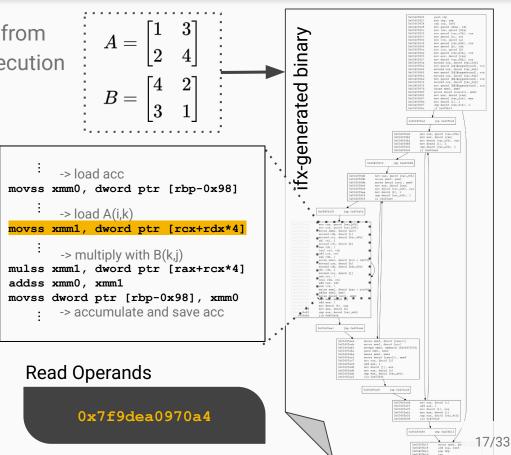
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



Active Symbols

0x7f9dea0970a4 0x7f9dea0970a8 0x7f9dea0970b0 0x7f9dea0970b4 0x7f9dea0970b8 0x7f9dea0970bc 0x7f9dea0970c0

Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

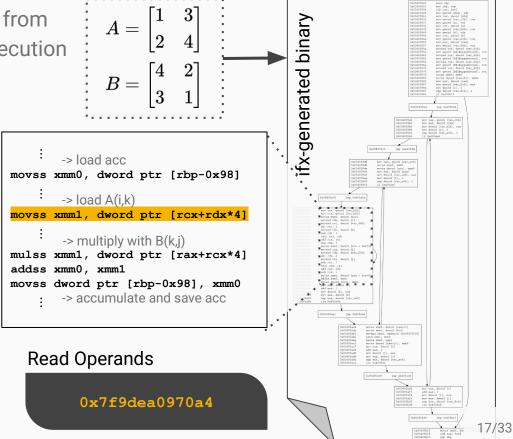


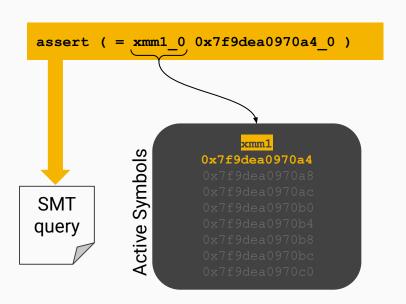
Active Symbols

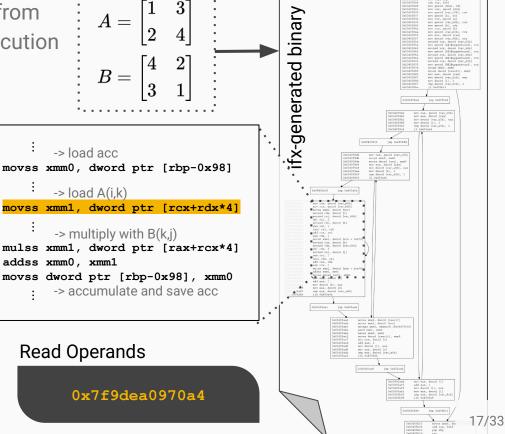
0x7f9dea0970a4

Dx7f9dea0970a8 Dx7f9dea0970ac Dx7f9dea0970b0 Dx7f9dea0970b4 Dx7f9dea0970b8 Dx7f9dea0970bc

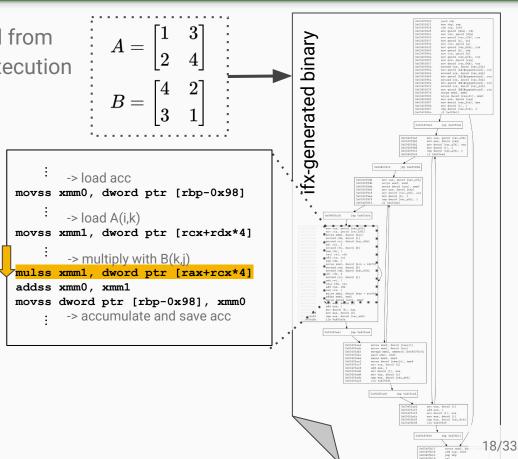








Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

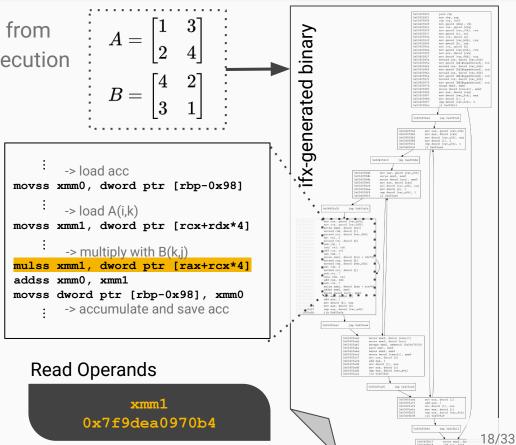


SMT query Symbols

Active

xmm1
0x7f9dea0970a4
0x7f9dea0970a8
0x7f9dea0970ac
0x7f9dea0970b0
0x7f9dea0970b4
0x7f9dea0970b8
0x7f9dea0970bc
0x7f9dea0970c0

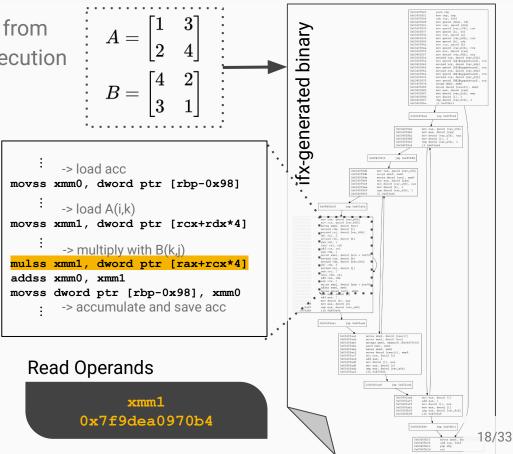
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



SMT query Symbols 0x7f9dea0970a4 0x7f9dea0970a8 0x7f9dea0970ac 0x7f9dea0970b0 0x7f9dea0970b4 Active 0x7f9dea0970b8 0x7f9dea0970bc 0x7f9dea0970c0

xmm1

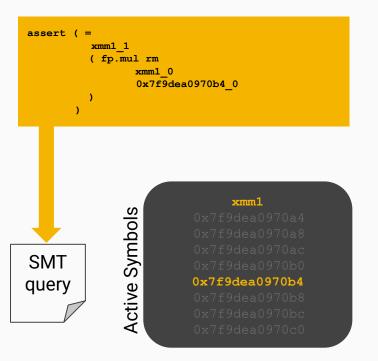
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

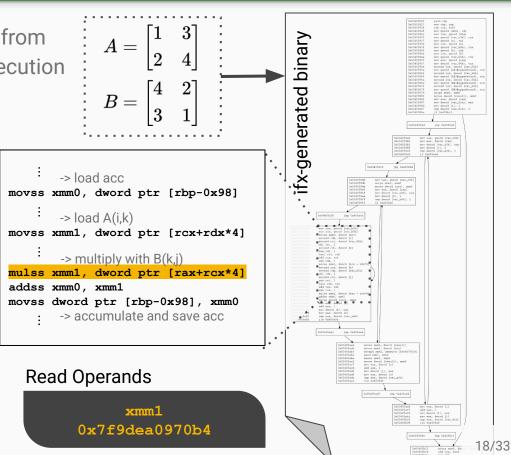


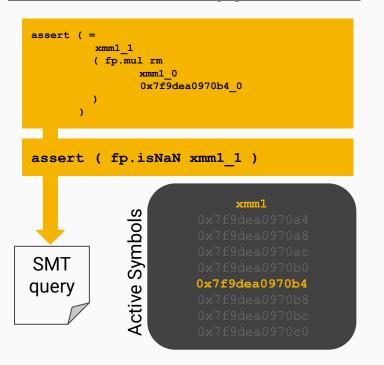
ctive Symbols

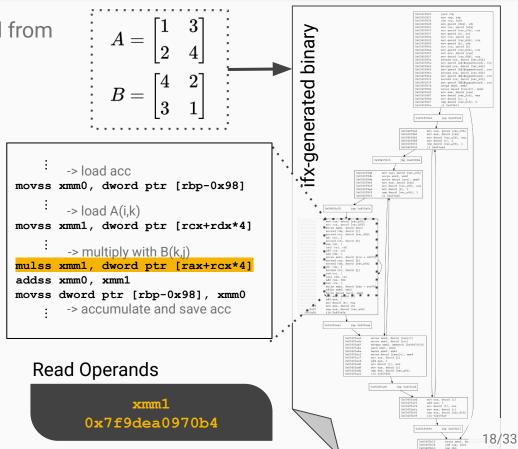
xmm1

0x7f9dea0970a4 0x7f9dea0970ac 0x7f9dea0970b0 **0x7f9dea0970b4** 0x7f9dea0970b8 0x7f9dea0970bc

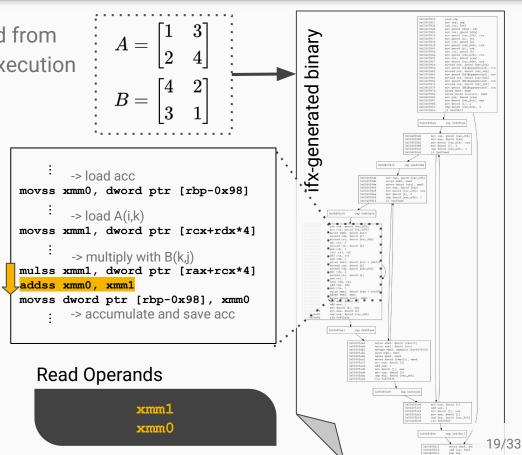








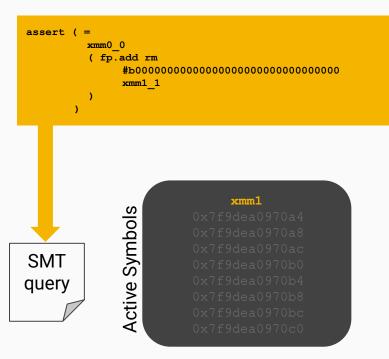
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.

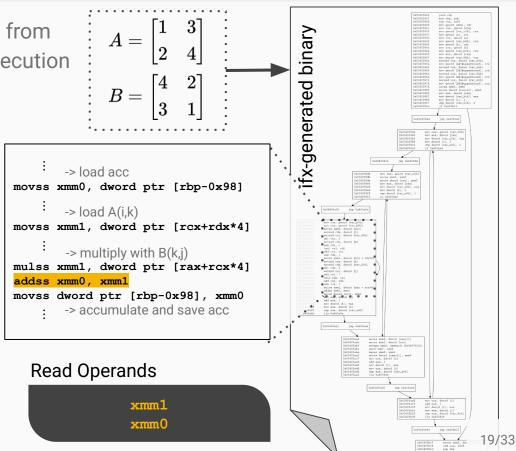


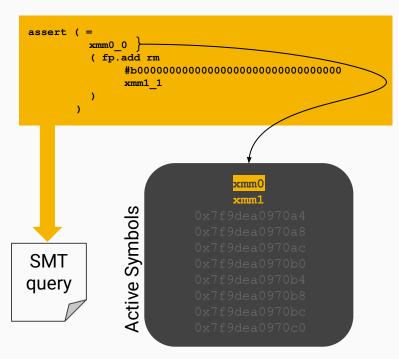
SMT query Symbols

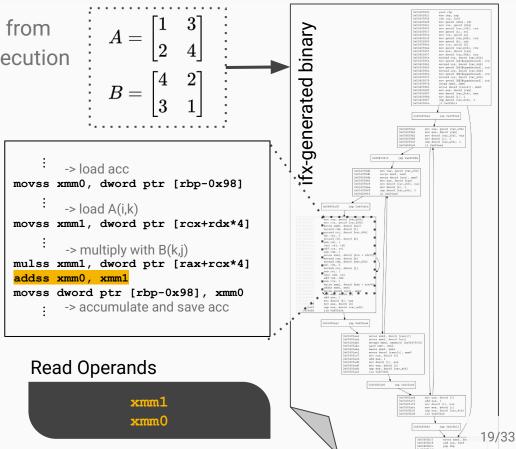
Active

xmm1
0x7f9dea0970a4
0x7f9dea0970a8
0x7f9dea0970ac
0x7f9dea0970b0
0x7f9dea0970b4
0x7f9dea0970b8
0x7f9dea0970bc
0x7f9dea0970c0

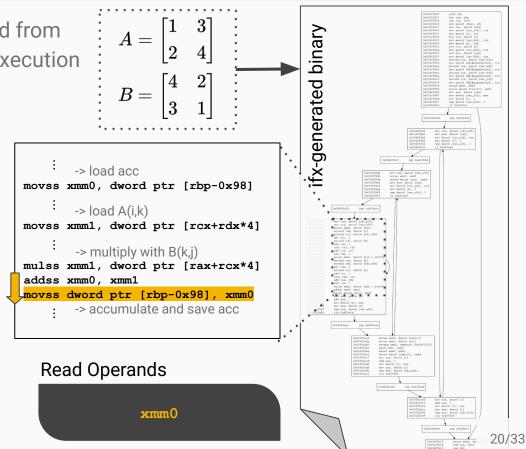








Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction.



SMT query Active Symm1

0x7f9dea0970a4

0x7f9dea0970a8

0x7f9dea0970ac

0x7f9dea0970b0

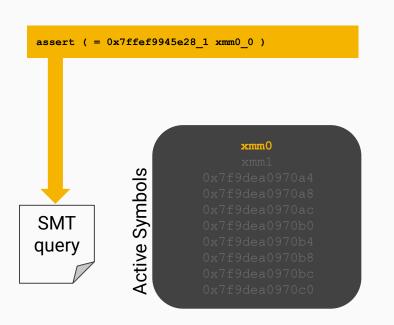
0x7f9dea0970b4

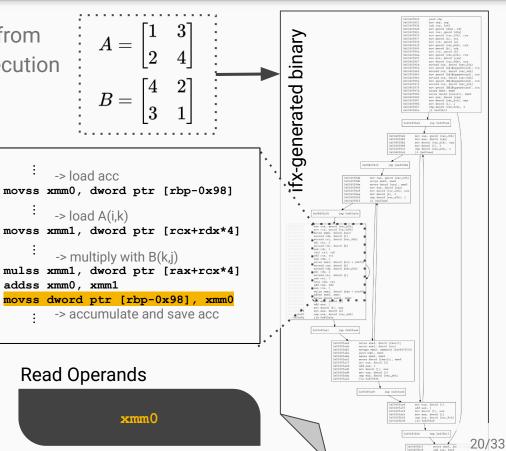
0x7f9dea0970b8

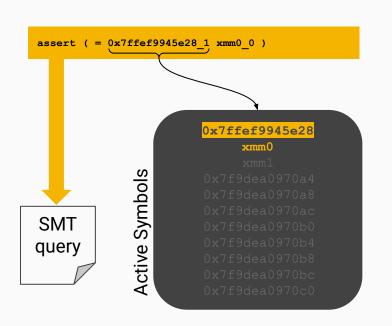
0x7f9dea0970bc

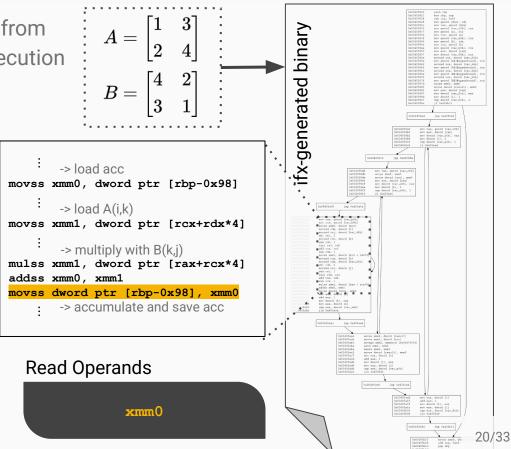
0x7f9dea0970c0

xmm()

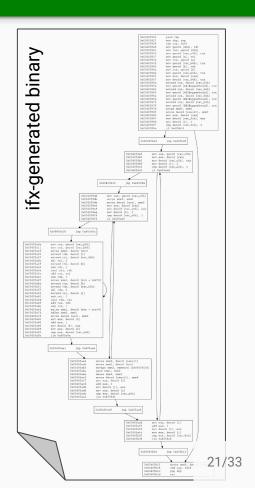


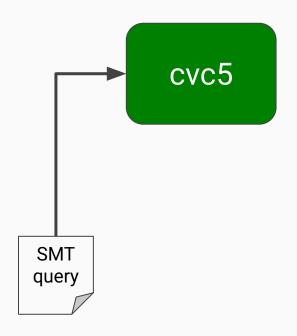


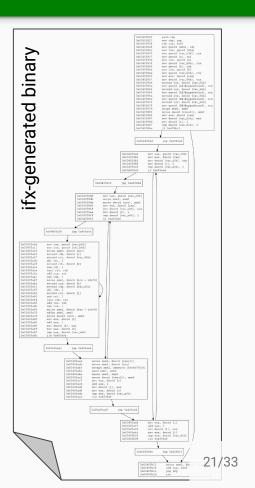






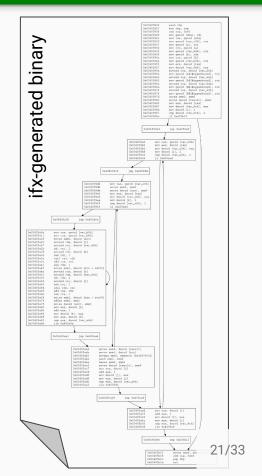


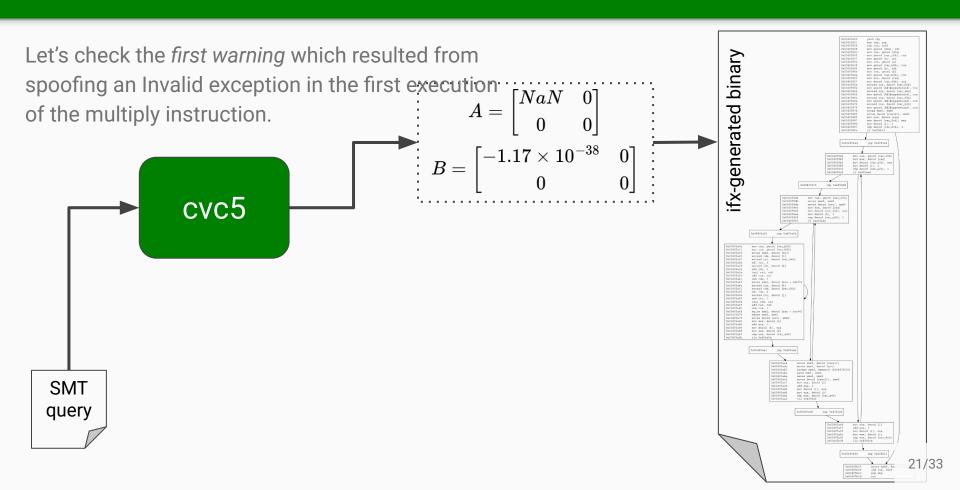


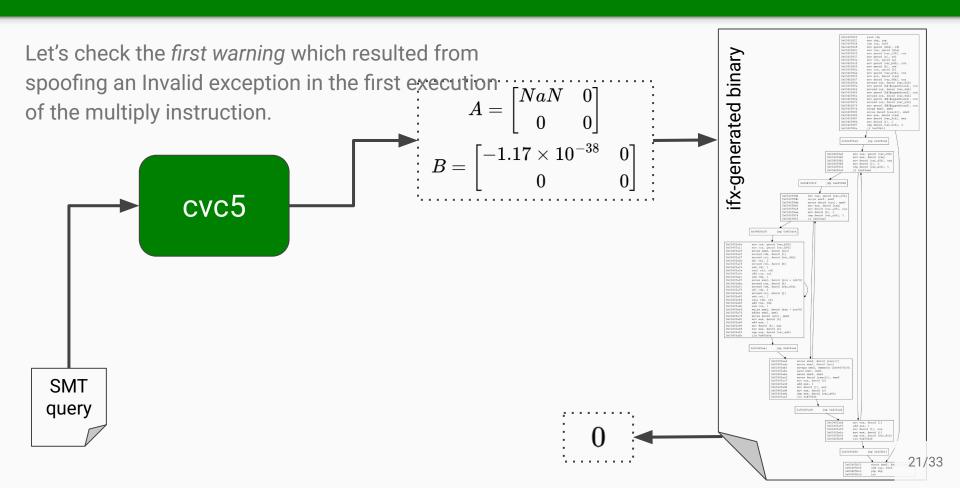


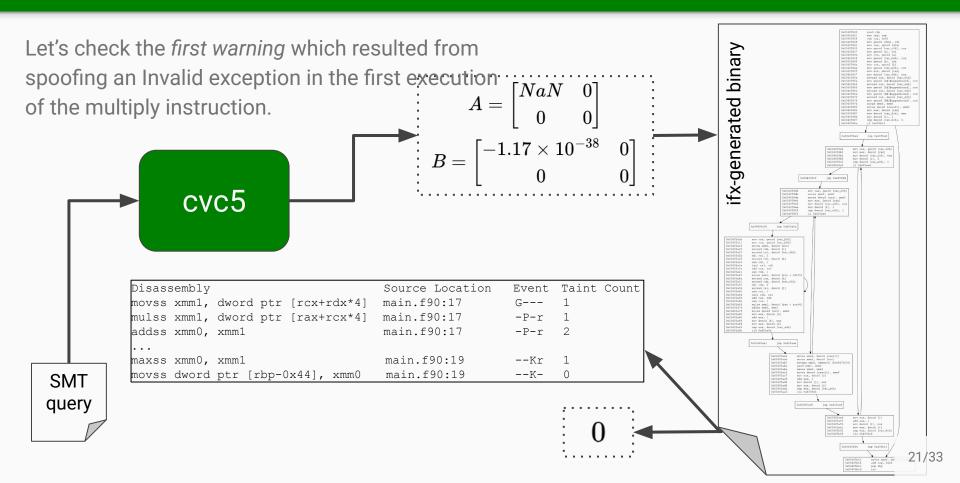
Let's check the *first warning* which resulted from spoofing an Invalid exception in the first execution of the multiply instruction. $A = \begin{bmatrix} NaN & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $B = \begin{bmatrix} -1.17 \times 10^{-38} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

SMT query







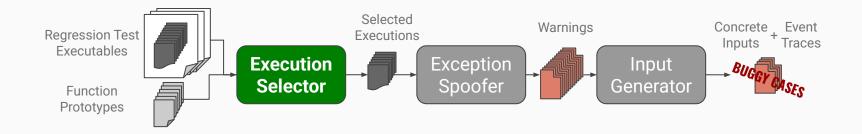


Challenge 3: How do we get a representative set of function executions to test?

Soundness increases as the set of function executions covers more possible execution paths...

...but covering all possible execution paths is generally not feasible.

Approach: Take executions from the library's regression tests



Evaluation: A BLAS Case Study

- 26 functions from Levels 1 & 2 of the BLAS
- Implementations taken from the Reference BLAS, OpenBLAS, and BLIS
- Binaries generated by GNU (gfortran, gcc) and Intel (ifx, icx) compilers
 - o different combinations of default, -03, and -ffast-math/-fp-model=fast=[1|2] optimizations
 - -> 598 (function, implementation, compiler, optimizations) tuples
 - -> 12 hours of total testing time

Finding 1: Only 4.4% of spoofed exceptions resulted in warnings

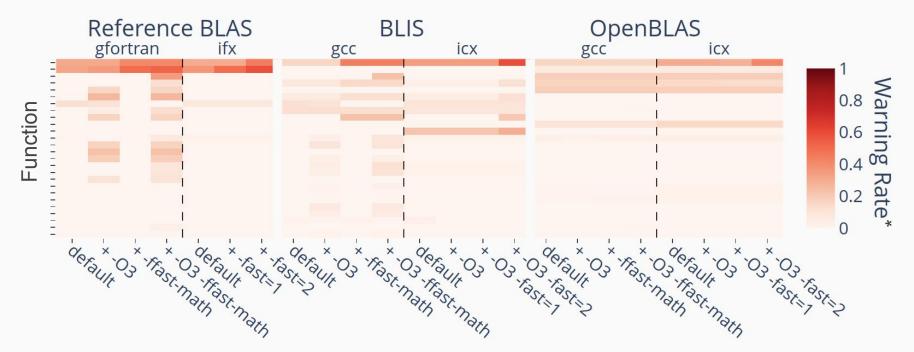
Out of 530K spoofed exceptions, 23K resulted in warnings

-> supports the assumption that most code handles exceptions correctly

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- 1) Compiler optimizations changing control flow
- 2) Design/documentation not accounting for NaNs or Infs
- 3) Implicit zeroes in input matrices

sgemv / sger

$$\mathbf{y} := \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y}$$
$$\mathbf{A} := \alpha \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}^T + \mathbf{A}$$

exception-handling failures caused by compiler optimizations that change control flow in the face of comparisons involving NaN

$$\mathbf{y} := \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y}$$
$$\mathbf{A} := \alpha \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}^T + \mathbf{A}$$

exception-handling failures caused by compiler optimizations that change control flow in the face of comparisons involving NaN

(in) TRANS: N
(in) M: 1
(in) N: 3
(in) ALPHA: 1.14752e-41
(in) LDA: 2
(in) INCX: 1
(in) BETA: 1
(in) INCY: 1
(in) A: 0 0 0 0 0
(in) X: nan 0 0
(in) Y: 0

$$\mathbf{y} := \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y}$$
$$\mathbf{A} := \alpha \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}^T + \mathbf{A}$$

exception-handling failures caused by compiler optimizations that change control flow in the face of comparisons involving NaN

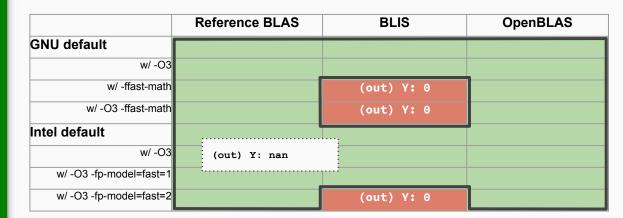
(in) TRANS: N
(in) M: 1
(in) N: 3
(in) ALPHA: 1.14752e-41
(in) LDA: 2
(in) INCX: 1
(in) BETA: 1
(in) INCY: 1
(in) A: 0 0 0 0 0 0
(in) X: nan 0 0
(in) Y: 0

	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
ntel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2			

$$\mathbf{y} := \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y}$$
$$\mathbf{A} := \alpha \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}^T + \mathbf{A}$$

exception-handling failures caused by compiler optimizations that change control flow in the face of comparisons involving NaN

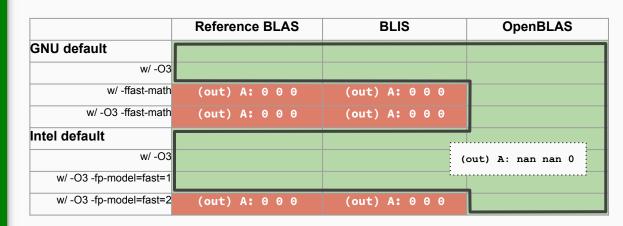
(in) TRANS: N
(in) M: 1
(in) N: 3
(in) ALPHA: 1.14752e-41
(in) LDA: 2
(in) INCX: 1
(in) BETA: 1
(in) INCY: 1
(in) A: 0 0 0 0 0
(in) X: nan 0 0
(in) Y: 0



$$\mathbf{y} := \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y}$$
$$\mathbf{A} := \alpha \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}^T + \mathbf{A}$$

exception-handling failures caused by compiler optimizations that change control flow in the face of comparisons involving NaN

(in) M: 2
(in) N: 1
(in) ALPHA: 1.14752e-41
(in) INCX: 1
(in) INCY: 1
(in) LDA: 3
(in) X: 0 0
(in) Y: nan
(in) A: 0 0 0



Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

EXCVATE found multiple different exception-handling failures necessitating clearer documentation and even possible deprecation

	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
Intel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2			

Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

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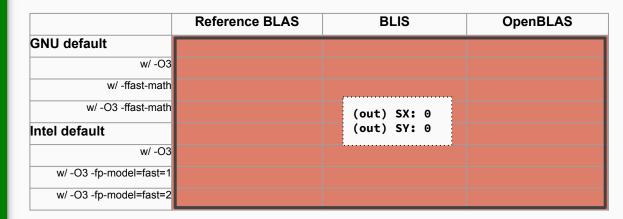
(in) N: 1 (in) INCX: 1 (in) INCY: 1 (in) SPARAM: nan 0 0 0 0 (in) SX: 0 (in) SY: 0

	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
Intel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2			

Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

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(in) N: 1 (in) INCX: 1 (in) INCY: 1 (in) SPARAM: nan 0 0 0 0 (in) SX: 0 (in) SY: 0



Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

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(in) SD1: inf (in) SD2: -1.99976 (in) SX1: nan (in) SY1: -inf

(in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0 0

(in) SD1: 1.17549e-38 (in) SD2: -1.4013e-45 (in) SX1: nan (in) SY1: -1.66667 (in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0

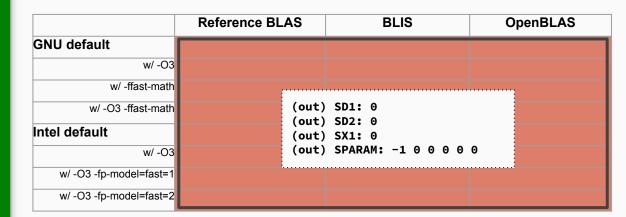
	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
Intel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2			

Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

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(in) SD1: inf
(in) SD2: -1.99976
(in) SX1: nan
(in) SY1: -inf
(in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0 0

(in) SD1: 1.17549e-38 (in) SD2: -1.4013e-45 (in) SX1: nan (in) SY1: -1.66667 (in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0

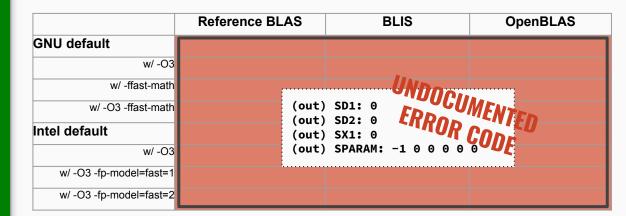


Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

EXCVATE found multiple different exception-handling failures necessitating clearer documentation and even possible deprecation

(in) SD1: inf
(in) SD2: -1.99976
(in) SX1: nan
(in) SY1: -inf
(in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0 0

(in) SD1: 1.17549e-38 (in) SD2: -1.4013e-45 (in) SX1: nan (in) SY1: -1.66667 (in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0



Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

EXCVATE found multiple different exception-handling failures necessitating clearer documentation and even possible deprecation

(in) SD1: inf

(in) SD2: -1.23382e-05 (in) SX1: -1.81899e-12

(in) SY1: -2.21834e-39

(in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0 0

	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
Intel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2			

Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

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(in) SD1: inf

(in) SD2: -1.23382e-05 (in) SX1: -1.81899e-12

(in) SY1: -2.21834e-39

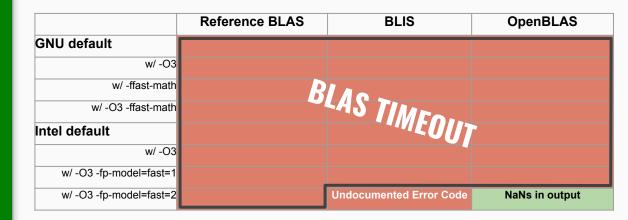
(in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0 0

	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
Intel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2		Undocumented Error Code	NaNs in output

Generate and apply a modified Givens rotation, respectively

EXCVATE found multiple different exception-handling failures necessitating clearer documentation and even possible deprecation

(in) SD1: inf (in) SD2: -1.23382e-05 (in) SX1: -1.81899e-12 (in) SY1: -2.21834e-39 (in) SPARAM: 0 0 0 0 0



sgbmv

$$\mathbf{y} := \alpha \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \beta \mathbf{y}$$

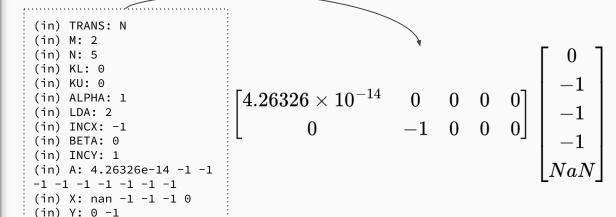
EXCVATE found exception handling failures in all tuples due to the handling of implicit zeros in the banded matrix representation.

	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
ntel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2			

sgbmv

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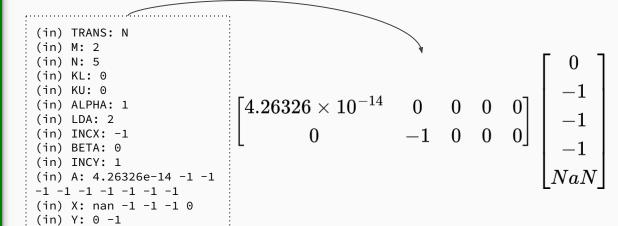


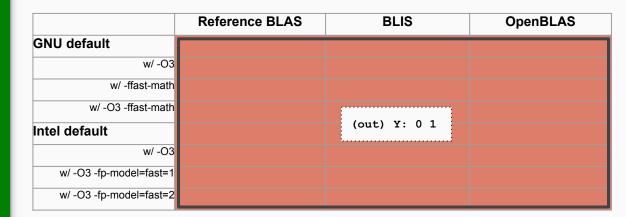
	Reference BLAS	BLIS	OpenBLAS
GNU default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -ffast-math			
w/ -O3 -ffast-math			
ntel default			
w/ -O3			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=1			
w/ -O3 -fp-model=fast=2			

sgbmv

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We have...

...introduced the problem of testing exception handling

And why current input-generation tools are a poor fit for the problem.

...described a novel approach to this problem

- Targeting binary executables using exception spoofing and constraint solving
- Implemented in the prototype tool EXCVATE

...demonstrated our approach on the BLAS

- Tested across multiple implementations, compilers, compiler optimizations
- Found exception-handling failures in 5/26 functions

Source code and data available at https://github.com/ucd-plse/EXCVATE







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I am...

...looking for a job!!

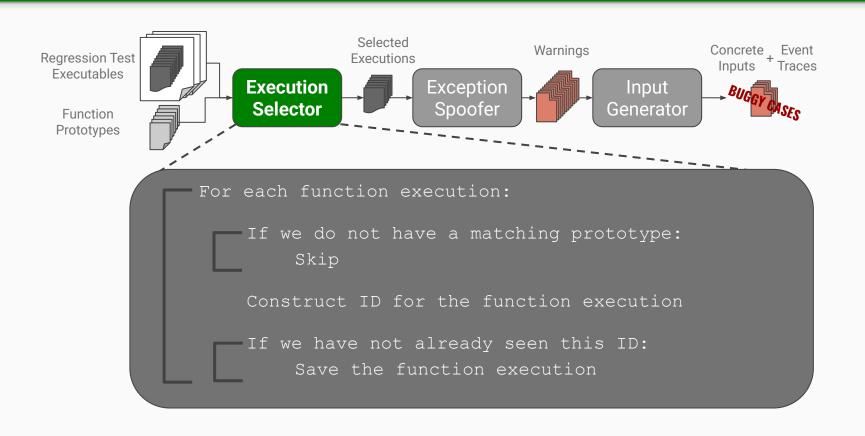






Appendices

Approach: Take executions from the library's regression tests



Future Work

Improve scalability

- Reducing redundant spoofs
- Reducing redundant SMT queries

Improve soundness

- Increasing path coverage
- Explore static methods

Support new targets

- Multithreaded programs
- Complex-valued functions
- More ISAs: FMA, AVX-512, PTX, CDNA