

# RGFuzz: Rule-Guided Fuzzer for WebAssembly Runtimes

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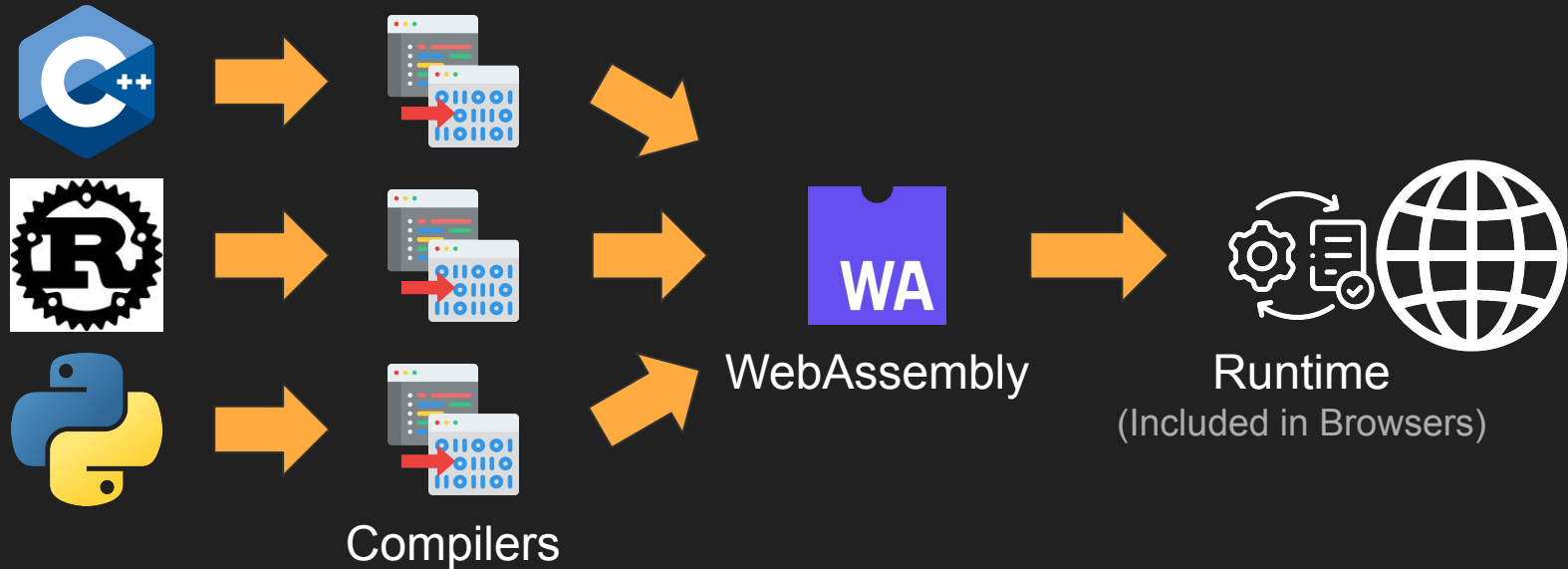
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# WebAssembly (WASM)

- **Fast, safe, portable, and compact** language
- Best for compilation target for other languages



# WebAssembly Runtimes

- WebAssembly runs on a stack machine
- Stack machine is slow → Let's compile the code!
- Just-In-Time (JIT) compilation to machine code

```
local.get 0  
local.get 1  
i64.and  
local.get 1  
i64.const -1  
i64.xor  
i64.or
```



Compile

```
push rbp  
mov rbp, rsp  
not rcx  
mov rax, rdx  
or rax, rcx  
mov rsp, rbp  
pop rbp  
ret
```

# Compiler Optimizations

- Optimizations to further boost speed

```
local.get 0  
local.get 1  
i64.and  
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i64.const -1  
i64.xor  
i64.or
```



1. Translate to IR

```
[Args] v0: i64, v1: i64
```

```
v2 = band v0, v1  
v3 = iconst.i64 -1  
v4 = bxor v1, v3  
v5 = bor v2, v4  
return v5
```

# Compiler Optimizations

- Apply simple rule:  $v1 \wedge -1 \rightarrow \sim v1$  (changed to not)

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# Compiler Optimizations

- Can also apply complex rule:  $(v0 \& v1) \mid \sim v1 \rightarrow v0 \mid \sim v1$

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3. Apply complex rule  
 $(v0 \& v1) \mid \sim v1$   
 $\rightarrow v0 \mid \sim v1$

[Args] v0: i64, v1: i64

v2 = v0

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# Semantic Bugs

- What happens if optimization rules are wrongly written?
- Semantic bug: For some input, exec. of original code  $\neq$  exec. of compiled code

```
local.get 0  
local.get 1  
i64.and  
local.get 1  
i64.const -1  
i64.xor  
i64.or
```

Are they  
equivalent?

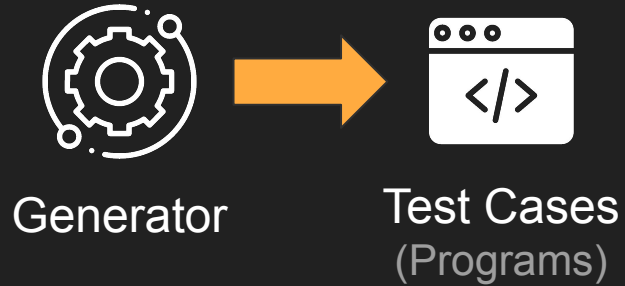


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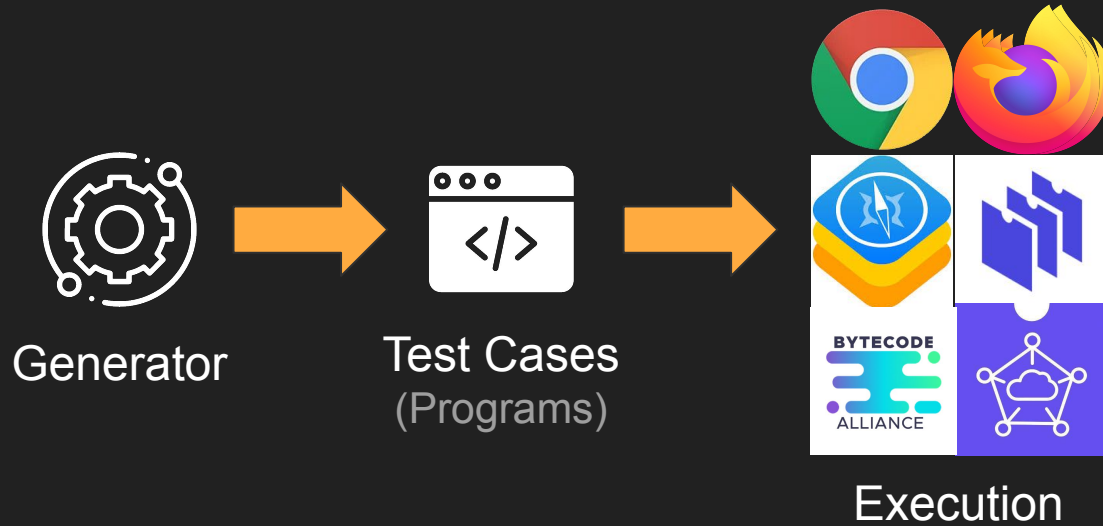
# Finding Semantic Bugs

- Differential fuzzing



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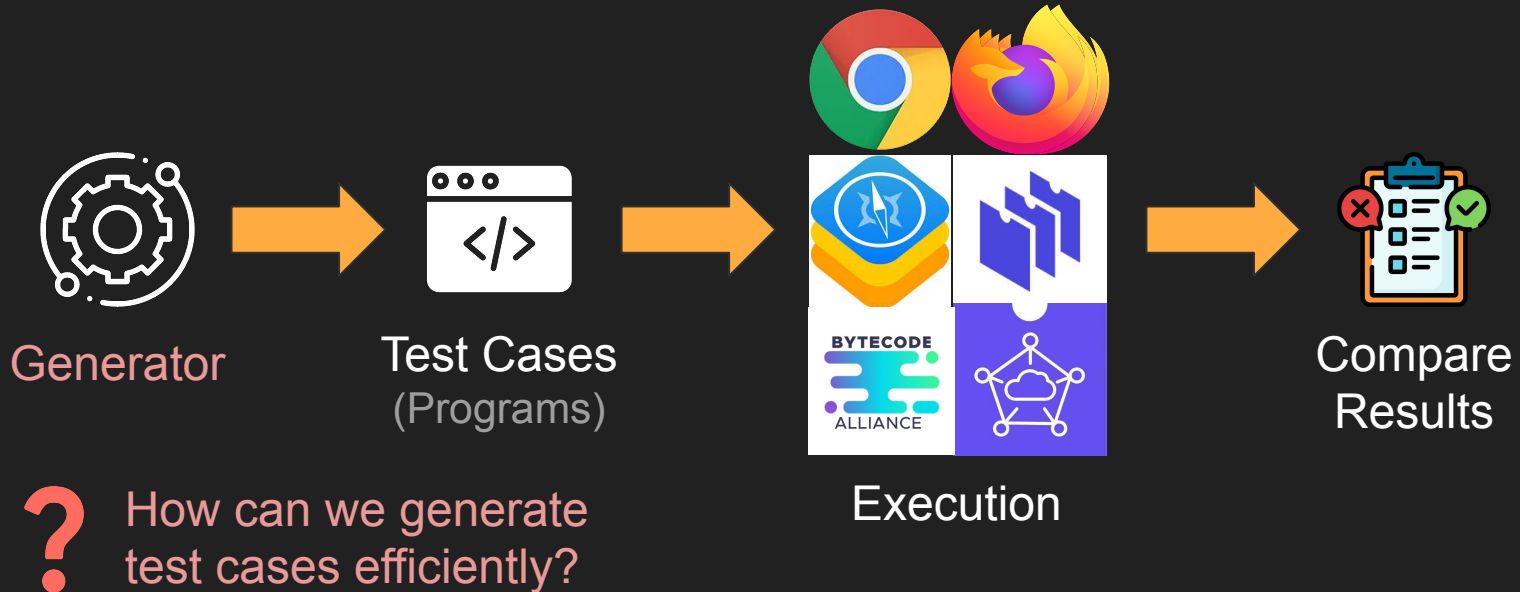
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# Approach 1: Rule-guided Fuzzing

- Challenge 1.1: Complex rules

$(v0 \ \& \ v1) \mid \sim v1$   
 $\rightarrow v0 \mid \sim v1$

Optimization

Testing needs:

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local.get 1  
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WASM Program

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Odds of generating  
this randomly?  
How do we guide this?

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[Preliminary Study]  
SOTA fuzzers failed to  
generate such program  
(Xsmith, wasm-smith)

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Solution: Rule-guided fuzzing  
 $\rightarrow$  Extract the rules and use them in fuzzing

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[Challenge]

Compiler rules: Defined in IR  
Programs: Written in WASM

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Optimization

Testing needs:



IR vs. WASM

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[Challenge]

Compiler rules: Defined in IR  
Programs: Written in WASM

How do we close the gap??

# Approach 1.1: Instruction-level Inference

- Challenge 1.2: Closing the gap between IR and WebAssembly

Instruction-level Inference:

band → i64.and

bor → i64.or

bnot → ???

# Approach 1.1: Instruction-level Inference

- Challenge 1.2: Closing the gap between IR and WebAssembly

## Instruction-level Inference:

band → i64.and

bor → i64.or

bnot → ???

We do not have a WASM instruction  
that directly maps to bnot



# Approach 1.2: Rule-level Inference

- Challenge 1.2: Closing the gap between IR and WebAssembly

Rule-level Inference:

band → i64.and

bor → i64.or

bnot → *opt. rule\**

Refer to other rules  
for missing linkages

# Approach 1.2: Rule-level Inference

- Challenge 1.2: Closing the gap between IR and WebAssembly

Rule-level Inference:

band → i64.and

bor → i64.or

bnot → *opt. rule\**

v3 = iconst.i64 -1

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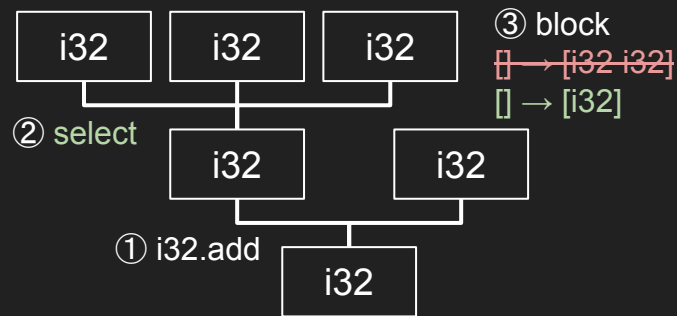
into

v4 = bnot v1

Refer to other rules  
for missing linkages

# Approach 2: Reverse Stack-based Generation

- Challenge 2: Generate structures or instructions diversely
  - AST-based : limited structure diversity (e.g., blocks)
  - Stack-based: limited instruction diversity (e.g., select)



AST-based

## Instructions

① local.get 0

② local.get 1

③ i32.add ~~select~~

④ block

[] → [i32 i32]

## Stack

[]

[i32]

[i32 i32]

[i32]

[i32 i32 i32]

Stack-based

## Approach 2: Reverse Stack-based Generation

- **Solution: Reverse stack-based generation**
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- Observation: Instructions have *only* 0-1 return types
  - Less stack state constraints on generating instructions

## Approach 2: Reverse Stack-based Generation

- **Solution: Reverse stack-based generation**

- Stack-based generation, but done *reversely*
- Observation: Instructions have *only* 0-1 return types
  - Less stack state constraints on generating instructions
- e.g., v128.bitselect requires 3 v128s on parameters, but only 1 in returns

# Evaluation

- Target Runtimes: 6 runtimes
  - wasmtime, Wasmer, WasmEdge, V8, SpiderMonkey, JavaScriptCore
  - Tested various optimization / architectures
- Found 20 new bugs, with one CVE ID (CVE-2023-29548)

# Evaluation

## - Coverage

- Able to cover significantly more in wasmtime

Baseline	Coverage	RGFUZZ	Mean	RGFUZZ Difference	<i>p</i>	wasmtime-differential			Mean	Fuzzgen Difference	<i>p</i>	Wasm-mutate			Mean	Xsmith Difference	<i>p</i>
		Mean				Mean	Difference	<i>p</i>				Mean	Difference	<i>p</i>			
Optimization	Line Rule	69.37%	49.29%	20.08%	<b>0.008</b>	36.89%	32.48%	<b>0.008</b>	46.32%	23.05%	<b>0.008</b>	37.85%	31.52%	<b>0.008</b>	39.33%	30.04%	<b>0.008</b>
		70.64%	51.89%	18.75%	<b>0.012</b>	42.79%	27.85%	<b>0.012</b>	50.97%	19.67%	<b>0.008</b>	40.13%	30.51%	<b>0.008</b>	41.02%	29.62%	<b>0.012</b>
Lowering	Line Rule	71.43%	70.54%	0.89%	<b>0.008</b>	65.42%	6.01%	<b>0.008</b>	56.61%	14.82%	<b>0.008</b>	27.22%	44.21%	<b>0.008</b>	27.53%	43.90%	<b>0.008</b>
		75.11%	74.23%	0.88%	<b>0.012</b>	68.73%	6.38%	<b>0.008</b>	56.63%	18.48%	<b>0.008</b>	27.06%	48.05%	<b>0.008</b>	26.47%	48.64%	<b>0.012</b>
Total	Line	28.14%	27.12%	1.02%	<b>0.008</b>	17.41%	10.73%	<b>0.012</b>	16.46%	11.68%	<b>0.008</b>	11.85%	16.29%	<b>0.012</b>	20.37%	7.77%	<b>0.008</b>



# Evaluation

## - Coverage

- Able to cover significantly more in wasmtime
- Could also efficiently test other runtimes
- Rule-guided fuzzing was only effective in wasmtime though

Baseline	Coverage	RGFUZZ	Mean	RGFUZZ <sup>+</sup> Difference	<i>p</i>	wasmtime-differential			Fuzzgen			Wasm-mutate			Xsmith		
		Mean				Mean	Difference	<i>p</i>	Mean	Difference	<i>p</i>	Mean	Difference	<i>p</i>	Mean	Difference	<i>p</i>
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Engines	RGFUZZ	Mean	RGFUZZ <sup>+</sup> Difference	<i>p</i>	Mean	Wasm-smith Difference	<i>p</i>	Mean	Xsmith Difference	<i>p</i>
	Mean									
Wasmer	12.22%	12.21%	0.01%	0.234	12.02%	0.19%	<b>0.012</b>	11.33%	0.89%	<b>0.011</b>
WasmEdge	10.82%	10.83%	-0.01%	0.154	10.57%	0.25%	<b>0.011</b>	10.37%	0.45%	<b>0.010</b>
V8	19.81%	19.80%	0.01%	0.264	19.53%	0.28%	<b>0.011</b>	17.65%	2.16%	<b>0.011</b>
JavaScriptCore	19.58%	19.55%	0.03%	0.057	19.07%	0.51%	<b>0.012</b>	14.58%	5.00%	<b>0.012</b>

# Case Study

- Could even cover super complex optimizations

```
(rule (simplify (bor ty @ $I64
  (bor ty
    (bor ty
      (ishl ty x (iconst_u ty 56))
      (ishl ty
        (band ty x (iconst_u ty 0xff00))
        (iconst_u ty 40)))
    (bor ty
      (ishl ty
        (band ty x (iconst_u ty 0xff_0000))
        (iconst_u ty 24))
      (ishl ty
        (band ty x (iconst_u ty 0xff00_0000))
        (iconst_u ty 8))))
  (bor ty
    (bor ty
      (band ty
        (ushr ty x (iconst_u ty 8))
        (iconst_u ty 0xff00_0000))
      (band ty
        (ushr ty x (iconst_u ty 24))
        (iconst_u ty 0xff_0000)))
    (bor ty
      (band ty
        (ushr ty x (iconst_u ty 40))
        (iconst_u ty 0xff00))
      (ushr ty x (iconst_u ty 56))))))
(bswap ty x))
```

```
(rule 6 (lower (shuffle a b (u128_from_immediate
  0x1f0f_1e0e_1d0d_1c0c_1b0b_1a0a_1909_1808)))
  (x64_punpckhbw a b))
```

Specific Immediates

Complex Optimization Rule

# Case Study

- Could find optimization bugs!

```
local.get 0
local.get 1
local.get 1
local.get 0
i64.gt_s
select
;; Expected: min(arg0, arg1)
;; Actual   : max(arg0, arg1)
```

min mistaken as max  
wasmtime issue 8114

```
local.get 2 ;; arg2: 0xfff8
f64.load
f64.const 0
local.get 0 ;; arg0: 1
select
;; Expected: mem[arg2] or 0.0 based on arg0
;; Actual   : Trap
```

Load more bytes than expected (as xmm)  
wasmtime issue 8112

# Key Takeaways

- Two main approaches
  - Rule-guided fuzzing
  - Reverse stack-based generation
- Showed effectiveness in finding optimization bugs