Automated Program Repair



A Systematic Study of Automated Program Repair: Fixing 55 out of 105 bugs for \$8 Each

Program	Defects Repaired	Cost per No Hours	on-Repair US\$	Cost Per Hours	Repair US\$	LOC	Tests	Defects
fbc	1/3	8.52	5.56	6.52	4.08	97,000	773	3
gmp	1/2	9.93	6.61	1.60	0.44	145,000	146	2
gzip	1/5	5.11	3.04	1.41	0.30	491,000	12	5
libtiff	17 / 24	7.81	5.04	1.05	0.04	77,000	78	24
lighttpd	5/9	10.79	7.25	1.34	0.25	62,000	295	9
php	28/44	13.00	8.80	1.84	0.62	1,046,000	8,471	44
python	1/11	13.00	8.80	1.22	0.16	407,000	355	11
wireshark	1/7	13.00	8.80	1.23	0.17	2,814,000	63	7
total	55 / 105	11.22h		1.60h		5,139,000	10,193	105

The Never-Ending Story

 Today we will use recent advances in automated program repair to touch on all of the lecture topics from this course



Speculative Fiction

• What if large, trusted companies paid strangers online to find and fix their normal and critical bugs?

ONLINE SHOPPING



webcomicname.com



3. Internet Explorer 11 Preview Bug Bounty. Microsoft will pay up to \$11,000 USD for

4

Heart of Blue Gold -

Business Email Forgot? Log In Sign Up

Personal

PayPal

Sell Transfer

For Security Researchers

Buy

Bug Bounty Wall of Fame

For Customers: Reporting Suspicious Emails

Customers who think they have received a Phishing email, please learn more about phishing at https://cms.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/marketingweb?cmd=_rendercontent&content_ID=security/hot_security_topics, or forward it to: spoof@paypal.com

For Customers: Reporting All Other Concerns

Customers who have issues with their PayPal Account, please visit: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/helpscr?cmd=_help&t=escalateTab

For Professional Researchers: Bug Bounty Program

Our team of dedicated security professionals works vigilantly to help keep customer information secure. We recognize the important role that security researchers and our user community play in also helping to keep PayPal and our customers secure. If you discover a site or product vulnerability please notify us using the guidelines below.

Program Terms

Please note that your participation in the Bug Bounty Program is voluntary and subject to the terms and conditions set forth on this page ("Program Terms"). By submitting a site or product vulnerability to PayPal, Inc. ("PayPal") you acknowledge that you have read and agreed to these Program Terms.

These Program Terms supplement the terms of PayPal User Agreement, the PayPal Acceptable Use Policy, and any other agreement in which you have entered with PayPal (collectively "PayPal Agreements"). The terms of those PayPal Agreements will apply to your use of, and participation in, the Bug Bounty Program as if fully set forth herein. If there is any inconsistency exists between the terms of the PayPal Agreements and these Program Terms, these Program Terms will control, but only with regard to the Bug Bounty Program.

You can jump to particular sections of these Program Terms by using the following links:

Responsible Disclosure Policy

Eligibility Requirements

Bug Submission Requirements and Guidelines

research community to help protect more than a billion computer systems worldwide. TIMEFRAME: ONGOING (in conjunction with the Mitigation Bypass Bounty).

New Bounty Progra information on bour

Heart of Blue Gold -

3. Internet Explorer 11 Preview Bug Bounty. Microsoft will pay up to \$11,000 USD for



Welcome to the AT&T Bug Bounty Program! This program encourages and rewards contributions by developers and security researchers who help make AT&T's online environment more secure. Through this program AT&T provides monetary rewards and/or public recognition for security vulnerabilities responsibly disclosed to us.

The following explains the details of the program. To immediately start submitting your AT&T security bugs, please visit the Bug Bounty submittal page.

Guidelines

The AT&T Bug Bounty Program applies to security vulnerabilities found within AT&T's public-facing online environment. This includes, but not limited to, websites, exposed APIs, and mobile applications.

A security bug is an error, flaw, mistake, failure, or fault in a computer program or system that impacts the security of a device, system, network, or data. Any security bug may be considered for this program; however, it must be a new, previously unreported, vulnerability in order to be eligible for reward or recognition. Typically the in-scope submissions will include high impact bugs; however, any vulnerability at any severity might be rewarded.

Bugs which directly or indirectly affect the confidentiality or integrity of user data or privacy are prime candidates for reward. Any security bug, however, may be considered for a reward. Some characteristics that are considered in "qualifying" bugs include those



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Bug Bounties

- If you trust your triage and code review processes, anyone can submit a candidate bug report or candidate patch
- Bug Bounties combine defect reporting and triage with pass-around code review
- Finding, fixing and ignoring bugs are all so expensive that it is now (~2013+) economical to pay untrusted strangers to submit candidate defect reports and patches

Bug Bounties and Large Companies

- "We get hundreds of reports every day. Many of our best reports come from people whose English isn't great - though this can be challenging, it's something we work with just fine and we have paid out over \$1 million to hundreds of reporters."
 - Matt Jones, Facebook Software Engineering

Bug Bounties and Small Companies

 Only 38% of the submissions were true positives (harmless, minor or major): "Worth the money? Every penny." - Colin Percival, Tarsnap

For this reason, Tarsnap has a series of *bug bounties*. Similar to the bounties offered by <u>Mozilla</u> and <u>Google</u>, the Tarsnap bug bounties provide an opportunity for people who find bugs to win cash. Unlike those bounties, the Tarsnap bug bounties aren't limited to security bugs. Depending on the type of bug and when it is reported, different bounties will be awarded:

Bounty value	Pre-release bounty value	Type of bug
\$1000	\$2000	A bug which allows someone intercepting Tarsnap traffic to decrypt Tarsnap users' data.
\$500	\$1000	A bug which allows the Tarsnap service to decrypt Tarsnap users' data.
\$500	\$1000	A bug which causes data corruption or loss.
\$100	\$200	A bug which causes Tarsnap to crash (without corrupting data or losing any data other than an archive currently being written).
\$50	\$100	Any other non-harmless bugs in Tarsnap.
\$20	\$40	Build breakage on a platform where a previous Tarsnap release worked.
\$10	\$20	"Harmless" bugs, e.g., cosmetic errors in Tarsnap output or mistakes in source code comments.
\$5	\$10	A patch which significantly improves the clarity of source code (e.g., by refactoring), source code comments (e.g., by rewording or adding text to clarify something), or documentation. (Merely pointing to something and saying "this is unclear" doesn't qualify; you must provide the improvement.)
\$1	\$2	Cosmetic errors in the Tarsnap source code or website, e.g., typos in website text or source code comments. Style errors in Tarsnap code qualify here, but usually not style errors in upstream code (e.g., libarchive).

A Modest Proposal



- Using techniques from this class
- We can **automatically** find and fix defects
 - Rather than, or in addition to, paying strangers
- Given a program ...
 - Source code, binary code, etc.
- ... and evidence of a bug ...
 - Passing and failing tests, crashes, etc.
- ... fix that bug.
 - Create a textual patch (pull request)

How could that work?

- Many faults can be localized to a small area
 - Even if your program is a million lines of code, fault localization can narrow it to 10-100 lines
- Many defects can be fixed with small changes
 - Mutation (test metrics) can generate candidate patches from simple edits
 - A search-based software engineering problem
- Can use regression testing (inputs and oracles, continuous integration) to assess patch quality

[Weimer et al. *Automatically Finding Patches Using Genetic Programming*. Best Paper Award.]



Minimizing Patches

- A GenProg patch may contain extraneous edits
 - "close();" vs. "close(); x = x + 0;"
 - Both pass all tests, but ...
- Longer patches are harder to read
- Extraneous edits may only appear safe because of weak test suites: avoid unneeded churn
- After the repair search, use delta debugging (hypothesis testing) to find a passing 1minimal edit subset

Name	Subjects	Tests	Bugs	Notes
AFix	2 Mloc	—	8	Concurrency, guarantees
ARC	_	—	—	Concurrency, SBSE
ARMOR	6 progs.	—	3 + –	Identifies workarounds
Axis	13 progs.	—	—	Concurrency, guarantees, Petri nets
AutoFix-E	21 Kloc	650	42	Contracts, guarantees
CASC	1 Kloc	—	5	Co-evolves tests and programs
ClearView	Firefox	57	9	Red Team quality evaluation
Coker Hafiz	15 Mloc	—	7/-	Integer bugs only, guarantees
Debroy Wong	76 Kloc	22,500	135	Mutation, fault localization focus
Demsky <i>et al.</i>	3 progs.	—	—	Data struct consistency, Red Team
FINCH	13 tasks	—	—	Evolves unrestricted bytecode
GenProg	5 Mloc	10,000	105	Human-competitive, SBSE
Gopinath <i>et al.</i>	2 methods.	—	20	Heap specs, SAT
Jolt	5 progs.	—	8	Escape infinite loops at run-time
Juzi	7 progs.	—	20 + -	Data struct consistency, models
PACHIKA	110 Kloc	2,700	26	Differences in behavior models
PAR	480 Kloc	25,000	119	Human-based patches, quality study
SemFix	12 Kloc	250	90	Symex, constraints, synthesis
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Minimizing Costs

• Can stop generating candidate mutants when a valid repair is found, parallelize in the cloud

[Le Goues et al. A Systematic Study of Automated Program Repair: Fixing 55 out of 105 bugs for \$8 Each.]

- Each repair must pass the entire test suite
 - Running tests is the dominant cost of automated program repair
 - Use test suite prioritization and minimization
 - Stop evaluating as soon as a single test fails
 - Even one failure \rightarrow Not a valid repair!

Can We Avoid Testing?

- If P1 and P2 are semantically equivalent they must have the same functional test behavior
- Consider this insertion:



Can We Avoid Testing?

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- Consider this insertion:



Static Analysis

- If we had a cheap way to approximately decide if two programs are equivalent
 - We wouldn't need to test any candidate patch that is equivalent to a previously-tested patch

(Cluster or quotient the search space into equivalence classes with respect to this relation)

• We use static analysis (like a dataflow analysis for dead code or constant propagation) to decide this: 10x reduction in search space

[Weimer et al. Leveraging Program Equivalence for Adaptive Program Repair: Models and First Results.]

Design Patterns

- In mutation testing, the mutation operators are based on common human mistakes
- Instead, use human edits or design patterns
 - "Add a null check" or "Use a singleton pattern"
- Mine 60,000 human-written patches to learn the 10 most common fix templates
 - Resulting approach fixes 70% more bugs
 - Human study of non-student developers (n=68): such patches are 20% more acceptable

[Kim et al. Automatic Patch Generation Learned from Human-Written Patches. Best paper award.]

Not Trivial: Agronomy and Genetics

 This Nobel Peace Prize winner is described as the father of modern agriculture and the green revolution. Bruce Alberts, National Academy of Sciences President, said of him: "Some credit him with saving more human lives than any other person in history." He is credited with saving over a billion people worldwide from starvation.

Not Trivial: Death

- Rank these causes of death in the US for 2015 (most recent CDC data available):
 - Accidents (unintentional injuries)
 - Assault (inc. homicide)
 - Heart disease
 - Influenza and pneumonia
- Extra credit: One of these is over 20x more common than another. Identify that pairing.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus16.pdf#019

Not Trivial: World History

 This world leader is alleged to have said "A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic" during the 1943 Tehran conference when Churchill objected to an early opening of a second front in France.

Psychology: Emotions vs. Math

• N=1111 (!) adult participants were shown math problems to assess their numeracy

(half were shown the numbers flipped)

Result

	Rash Got Better	Rash Got Worse
Patients who <u>did</u> use the new skin cream	223	75
Patients who did <u>not</u> use the new skin cream	107	21

What result does the study support?

People who used the skin cream were more likely to get better than those who didn't.

People who used the skin cream were more likely to get worse than those who didn't.

Identity-Protection Cognition Thesis

- First, 59% of participants got it wrong
- Second, they tracked political beliefs
- Third, they also gave the same math problems (same numbers, etc.), but reworded the treatment as a city passing a gun ban and the effect as crime decreasing (or not)
- Spoiler: highly-numerate people end up *more* vulnerable to bias

[Kahan et al. *Motivated Numeracy and Enlightened Self-Government*. Behavioral Public Policy.]



- Risk is "likelihood of P happening" * "cost if P happens"
- Amhdalh's Law is "time spend on P"
 - * "improvement possible to P"
- But we can't do math ...

[https://www.smbc-comics.com/?id=2305]



Super Opportunity Cost

- If you are really interested in the greatest good for the greatest number, don't focus on muggings
- Dually, focus on muggings if you like, but don't lie to yourself about what you are doing
 - Local importance to you vs. global importance overall



WHERE WE DONATE VS. DISEASES THAT KILL US



Sources: CDC, 2011; Komen Race for the Cure, 2012; Movember, 2013; Jump Rope for Heart, 2013; ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, 2014; Ride to End Aids, 2013; Fight for Air Climb, 2013; Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes, 2013; Out of Darkness Overnight Walk, 2014.

Cognitive Bias Conclusion

- I am not saying you should not fight cancer or that you should not be liberal or conservative
 - All have good points
- I am saying that you should figure out what you want and then correctly evaluate candidate actions in that light
 - Do things because you want to, not because you made a mistake



Relationship with Mutation Testing

- This program repair approach is a dual of mutation testing
 - This suggests avenues for cross-fertilization and helps explain some of the successes and failures of program repair.
- Very informally:
 - PR Exists M in Mut. Forall T in Tests. M(T)
 - MT Forall M in Mut. Exists T in Tests. Not M(T)

Idealized Formulation

Ideally, mutation testing takes a program that passes its test suite and requires that all mutants based on human mistakes from the entire program that are not equivalent fail at least one test.

By contrast, program repair takes a program that fails its test suite and requires that one mutant based on human repairs from the fault localization only be found that passes all tests.

No Source Code Needed

- Can repair assembly or binary programs to support multi-language projects
 - Use sampling-based profiling for fault localization

Original

movq 8(%rdx), %rdi
xorl %eax, %eax
movq %rdx, -80(%rbp) addl \$1, %r14d
call atoi
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
movl %eax, (%r15)
addq \$4, %r15

movq 8(%rdx), %rdi
xorl %eax, %eax
addl \$1, %r14d
call atoi
movq %rdx, -80(%rbp)
movl %eax, (%r15)
addg \$4, %r15

Result

(a) Delete

Original

movq 8(%rdx), %rdi
xorl %eax, %eax
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
addl \$1, %r14d
call atoi
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
addl \$1, %r14d
call atoi
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
movq %rdx, -80(%rbp)
movq -80(%rbp), %rdx
addq \$4, %r15
addq \$4, %r15

movl %eax, (%r15) adda \$4. %r15 (b) Insert

Sample Raw Sample Program Counter Counts

Result

Counts movq 8(%rdx), %rdi xorl %eax, %eax movl %eax, (%r15) addl \$1, %r14d call atoi movq -80(%rbp), %rdx movq %rdx, -80(%rbp) addq \$4, %r15 movq 8(%rdx), %rdi xorl %eax, %eax movl %eax, (%r15) addl \$1, %r14d



Smoothed Sample

Machine-code Instructions

[Schulte et al. Automated Program Repair of CPU Binary and Assembly Programs for Cooperating Embedded Devices.]

Can Humans Use These Patches?

- Synthesize "What" comments for generated patches (design for maintainability)
 - Test input generation constraints \rightarrow English
 - Human study (N=150): "With docs \rightarrow Yes!"



[Fry et al. A Human Study of Patch Maintainability.]

Human-Machine Partnerships

- What if your partner in **pair programming** were a machine that suggested patches?
 - Machine is driver, you are navigator/observer
 - In response to your feedback and characterization of program state, it suggests new patches
- You note "checkpoints" where at point X, test Y is running correctly (or variable Z is wrong)
- Human study of first-year grads (N=25):
 - Reduces debugging on 14/15 scenarios compared to singleton (~60% reduction over all 15)

[Xinrui Guo. SmartDebug: An Interactive Debug Assistant for Java.]

Concurrency Bugs

- So far we have required deterministic tests
- We can use a dynamic analysis like CHESS or Eraser to detect concurrency bugs
 - Look for two threads accessing X, one is a write
- Use special repair templates (e.g., always add paired lock()/unlock() calls)
- Fixes 6/8 historical single-variable atomicity violations in Apache, MySQL, Mozilla, etc.
 - Devs fixed 6/8 in 11 days each, on average
 - Union of humans and devs fixes all 8/8 [Jin et al. Automated Atomicity-Violation Fixing.]

Quality Defects

- What if the bug is that your program is too slow or too big or uses too much energy?
- We can also improve and trade-off verifiable quality properties (requirements)
 - cf. MP3 or JPG *lossy* compression: space vs. quality
- Candidates must pass all functional tests
- But we also measure quality properties of all passing candidates
- Present a Pareto frontier to help user explore alternative solutions to requirement conflicts 41

Automatically Exploring Tradeoffs In Conflicting Requirements



Can you spot the difference?



Can you spot the difference?



[Dorn et al. Automatically exploring tradeoffs between software output fidelity and energy costs.]

Code Inspection

- What if we want to improve **code inspection**?
- Make many EvoSuite-generated unit tests
- Use a learned readability metric to rank them
 - Given two tests with equal coverage, humans agree with readability ranking 69% of the time
 - Recall difficulties with normative models
- Humans (n=30) are 14% faster when answering maintenance questions on readabilityoptimized tests (same level of accuracy)

Human Brains and Subjectivity



- Trust is sometimes defined as a willingness to take on risk. How do human brains perceive and trust code from unknown sources? [Walter et al. Developing a mechanism to study code trustworthiness.]
- Cognitive Task Analysis of how readability and provenance relate to human trust (n=12 grads)
 - Take same code and degrade readability, etc.



"Wishes Come True, Not Free"

- Automated program repair, the whiny child:
 - "You only said I had to get in to the bathtub, you didn't say I had to wash."
- The specification (tests) must encode requirements (cf. conflicts)
- GenProg's first webserver defect repair
 - 5 regression tests (GET index.html, etc.)
 - 1 bug (POST → remote security exploit)
 - GenProg's fix: remove POST functionality
 - (Adding a 6th test yields a high-quality repair.)

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Requirements and Testing

- MIT Lincoln Labs evaluation of GenProg: sort
 - Tests: "the output of sort is in sorted order"
 - GenProg's fix: "always output the empty set"
 - (More tests yield a higher-quality repair.)
- Existing human-written tests suites implicitly assume the developers are reasonable humans
 - Unless you are outsourcing, you rarely test against "creative" for "adversarial" solutions or bugs
 - cf. "we're already good at this" denials, terminology conflicts

Measuring Quality via Tests

- Another GenProg example:
 - Tests: "compare yours.txt to trusted.txt"
 - GenProg's fix: "delete trusted.txt, output nothing"
- Canonical perverse incentives situation
 - Automated program repair optimizes the metric
 - "What you said" not "What you meant"
- Sleep forever to avoid CPU-usage penalties
- Always segfault to avoid bad output checks

The Future

- Despite quality and trust concerns, some form of this is coming in the future (10-20 years?)
 - Already-demonstrated productivity gains
- What if "solve this one-line bug" became an atomic action in your lexicon?
 - The same way "complete this method call" or "sort" or "rename this variable" is today

Productive Imposters

- Old adage: What do you call someone who graduates last in a medical school class?
- Many worry: "I'm not as fast at coding"
- If most of SE is maintenance and 33-50% of bugs can be fixed automatically, the real indemand skills are evaluating candidate fixes and eliciting and encoding requirements
 - Future productivity: reading and talking
 - True for bug bounties or automated repair
 - This isn't really news (cf. first lectures ...)

Should My Company Use It?

- As with any other software development process option (e.g., pair programming, Infer, 100% coverage goals, etc.) we estimate (or measure) costs and benefits
 - 2012: fix 50% of bugs, \$8 each (vs. \$20 for humans)
 - 2013: 3x cheaper, not counting cloud reductions
- Does not have to be used exclusively
 - Tools generate patches for simple bugs, freeing up creative human developer time for tougher issues
 - A fault tree analysis is possible, etc.

Fixing Bugs in Your Sleep: How Genetic Improvement Became an Overnight Success [2017]

Saemundur O. Haraldsson* University of Stirling Stirling, United Kingdom FK9 4LA soh@cs.stir.ac.uk

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ABSTRACT

We present a bespoke <u>live system in commercial</u> use with selfimproving capability. During daytime business hours it provides an overview and control for many specialists to simultaneously schedule and observe the rehabilitation process for multiple clients. However in the evening, after the last user logs out, it starts a self-analysis based on the day's recorded interactions. It generates test data from the recorded interactions for Genetic Improvement to fix any recorded bugs that have raised exceptions. The system has already been <u>under test for over 6 months</u> and has in that time identified, located, and fixed 22 bugs. No other bugs have been identified by other methods during that time. It demonstrates the effectiveness of simple test data generation and the ability of GI for improving live code. John R. Woodward University of Stirling Stirling, United Kingdom FK9 4LA jrw@cs.stir.ac.uk

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1 INTRODUCTION

Genetic Improvement (GI) [38] is a growing area within Search Based Software Engineering (SBSE) [23, 24] which uses computational search methods to improve existing software. Despite its growth within academic research the practical usage of GI has not yet followed. Like with many SBSE applications, the software industry needs an incubation period for new ideas where they come to trust in outcomes and see those ideas as cost effective solutions. GI is in the ideal position to shorten that period for the latter as it presents a considerable cost decrease for the software life cycle's often most expensive part: maintenance [18, 34]. There are examples of software improved by GI being used and publicly available [31] which is impressive considering how young GI is as a field. In time it can be anticipated that we will see tools emerging

Was this course easy?

"My favorite operational definition of engineering is 'design under constraint.' Engineering is creating, designing what can be, but it is constrained by nature, by cost, by concerns of safety, reliability, environmental impact, manufacturability, maintainability, and many other such 'ilities.'"

[Bill Wulf, NAE President, The Urgency of Engineering Education Reform, 2008]

"[Software Engineering is] The Establishment and use of sound engineering principles in order to obtain economically software that is reliable and works efficiently on real machines." [Bauer 1975, S. 524]

One-Slide Course Summary: You Have Learned

Process (Risk), Measurement, Quality Assurance, Testing (Metrics, Inputs, Oracles), Code Inspection and Review, Dynamic Analysis, Static Analysis, Defect Reporting, Fault Localization (Profiling), Automated Debugging, Requirements (Specifications, Elicitation), Design Patterns, Refactoring (Search-Based), Design for Maintainability, Human Productivity (Brains, Pair Programming, Interviews), Multi-Language Projects, and Large and Small **Companies**

I hope you enjoyed this class and learned something from it. I did.

