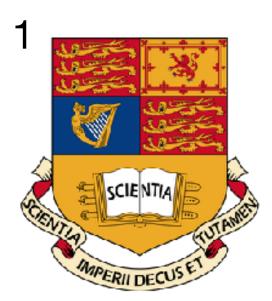


Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?

*Michaël Marcozzi¹ *Qiyi Tang²





Séminaire **VERIMAG** Grenoble, 21/02/2020

Alastair F. Donaldson^{3,1} Cristian Cadar¹

*The presented experimental study has been carried out equally by M. Marcozzi and Q. Tang.

Imperial College London



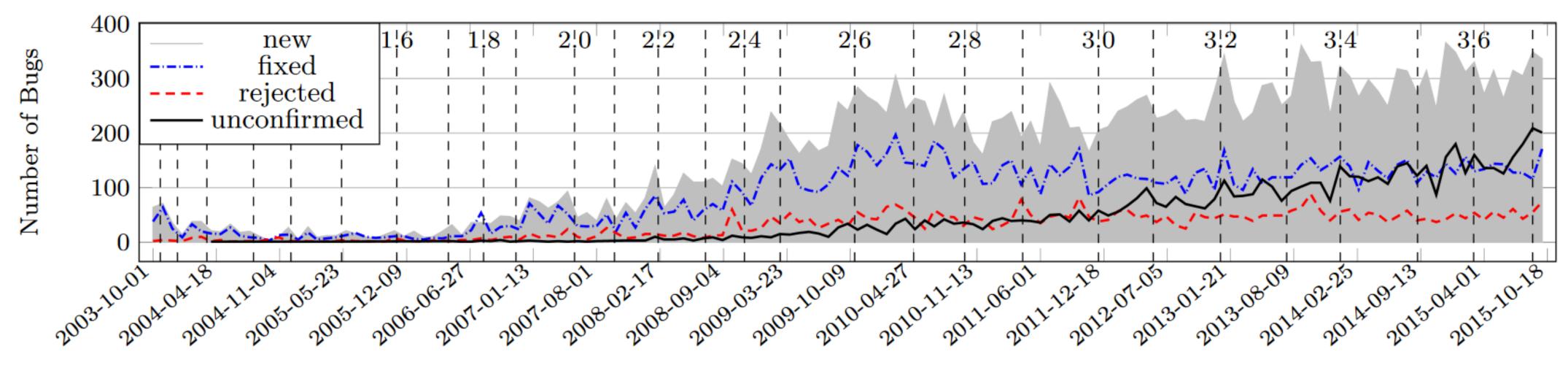


Outline

- 1. Context: compiler fuzzing
- 2. Problem: importance of fuzzer-found miscompilations is unclear
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- 4. Methodology for bug impact measurement
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- 6. Conclusions
- 7. Future work

Compiler Bugs

- Software developers intensively rely on compilers, often with blind confidence
- **Compilers** are software: they **have bugs** too (~150 fixed bugs/month in LLVM compiler) \bullet
- In worst case, unnoticed miscompilation (silent generation of wrong code)



M. Marcozzi

History of LLVM Bug Tracking System (2003-2015) [Sun et al., ISSTA'16]



Compiler Validation (1/2)

- Classical software validation approaches have been applied to compilers
 - Formal verification: CompCert verified compiler, Alive optimisation prover, etc.
 - Testing: commercial C test suites, LLVM test suite, etc.



Compiler Validation (2/2)

- Recent surge of interest in **compiler fuzzing**:
 - <u>Automatic and massive random generation of test programs</u> \bullet
 - Each program P is fed to the complier, automatic miscompilation detection via...
 - <u>differential testing</u> (compile P with N compilers, run the N binaries, detect different outputs)
 - <u>metamorphic testing</u> (compile and run P and P', check output of P' vs P is as expected)
 - e.g. <u>200+ miscompilations found in LLVM</u> by Csmith¹, EMI², Orange³ and Yarpgen⁴



- ¹ [Yang et al., PLDI'11] [Regehr et al., PLDI'12] [Chen et al., PLDI'13]
- ² Equivalence Modulo Inputs [Le et al., PLDI'14, OOPSLA'15] [Sun et al., OOPSLA'16]
- ³ [Nagai et al., T-SLDM] [Nakamura et al., APCCAS'16]
- ⁴ <u>https://github.com/intel/yarpgen</u>





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Importance of Fuzzer-Found Miscompilations (1/2)

- In our experience, this is a **contentious debate** and people can be poles apart:

In my opinion, compiler bugs are extremely dangerous, period. Thus, regardless of the real-world impact of compiler bugs, I think that techniques that can uncover (and help fix) compiler bugs are extremely valuable.

One anonymous reviewer of this paper at a top P/L conference

I would suggest that compiler developers stop responding to researchers working toward publishing papers on [fuzzers]. Responses from compiler maintainers is being becoming a metric for measuring the performance of [fuzzers], so responding just encourages the trolls.

• Audience of our talks on compiler fuzzers often question the importance of found bugs

'The Shape of Code' weblog author (former UK representative at ISO International C Standard)



Importance of Fuzzer-Found Miscompilations (2/2)

- In this work, we consider a **mature compiler** in a **non-critical environment**:
 - The compiler has been <u>intensively tested by its developers and users</u>
 - <u>Trade-offs between software reliability and cost are acceptable and common</u>
- In this context, **doubting** the **impact** of **fuzzer-found bugs** is **reasonable**: \bullet



It is unclear if mature compilers leave much space to find severe bugs



Fuzzers find bugs with <u>randomly generated code</u>, whose patterns may not occur in real code



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Outline

- In this work, our **objectives** are to:
 - X Show specifically that compiler fuzzing matters or does not matter
- Operationally, we aim at **overcoming** the following **challenges**: \bullet

 - Apply it over a <u>significant</u> but <u>tractable</u> set of bugs and real applications

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Goal and Challenges

 \checkmark Study the impact of miscompilation bugs in a mature compiler over real apps

<u>Compare impact of bugs from fuzzers with others (e.g. found by compiling real code)</u>

• Take steps towards a <u>methodology</u> to <u>measure the impact</u> of a miscompilation bug

Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?



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Fixing Patch written by developers

M. Marcozzi

Assumption: Restrict to publicly fixed bugs in open-source compilers, to extract









Buggy Compiler Source

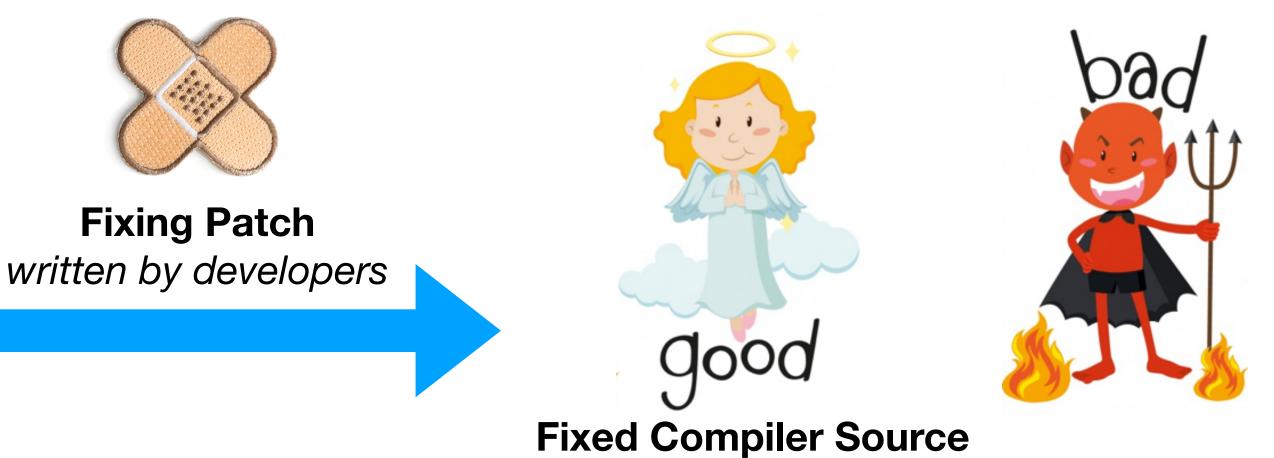
M. Marcozzi

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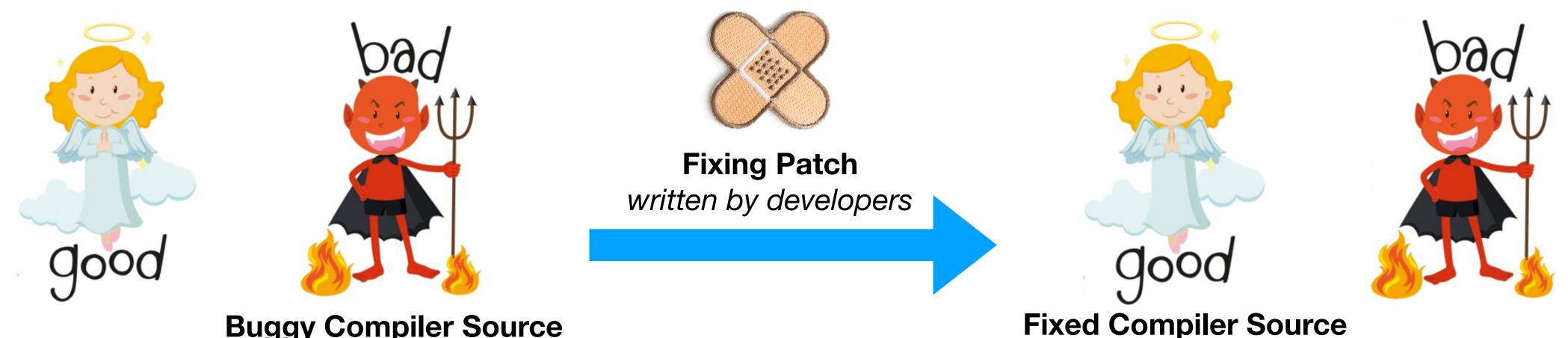




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M. Marcozzi

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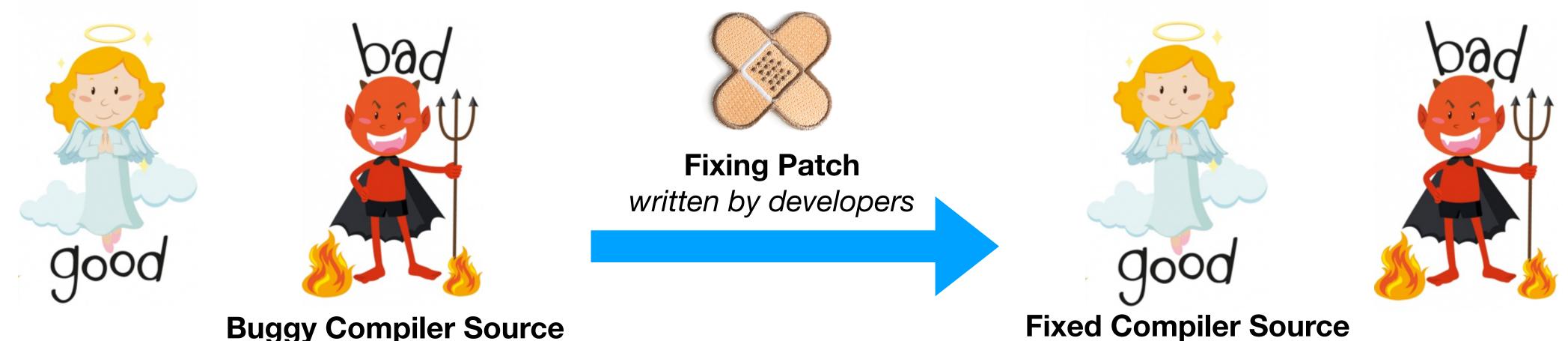
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Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter? 12





12

Buggy Compiler Source

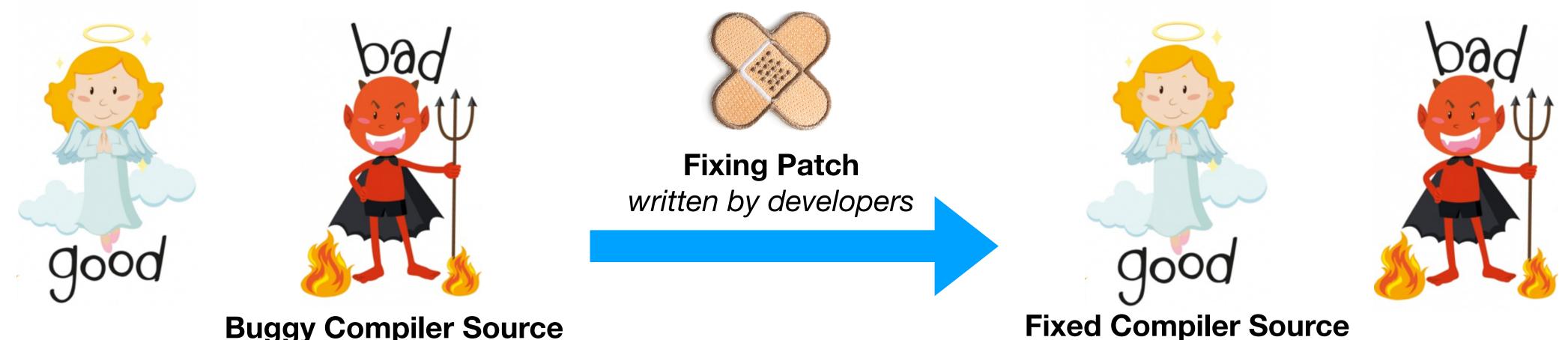
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We estimate the impact of the compiler bug over a real app in three stages:

Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?





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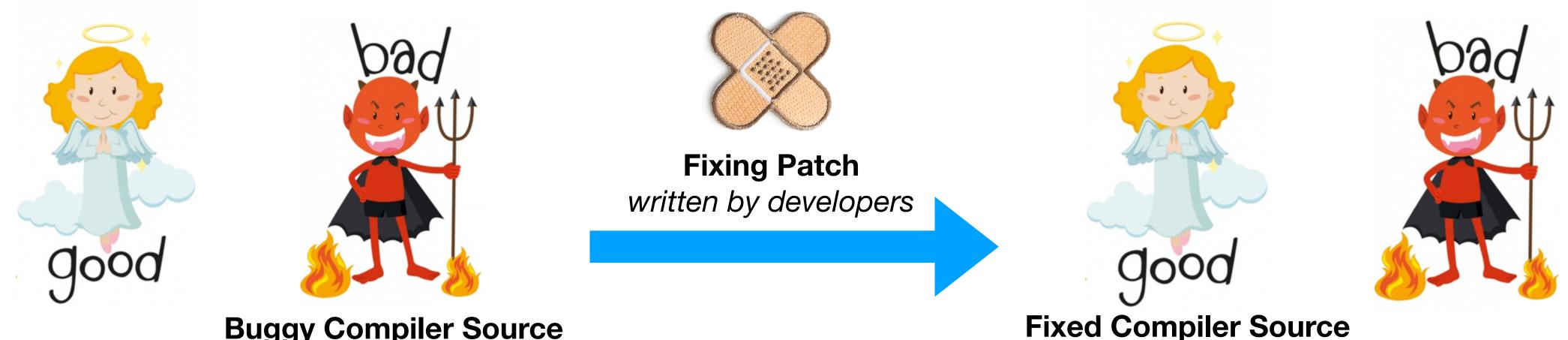
- \bullet Is the buggy compiler code reached and triggered during compilation?

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Buggy Compiler Source

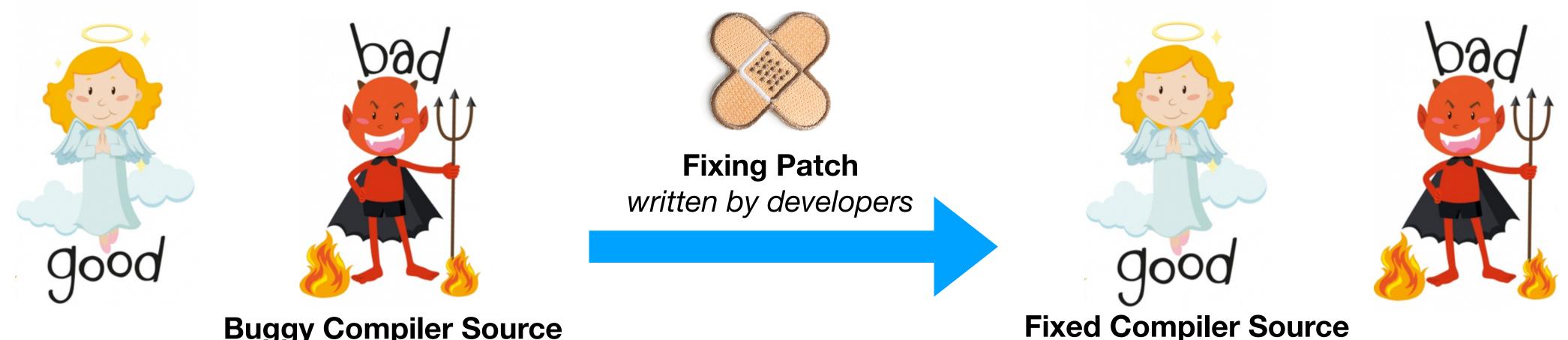
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 - Is the buggy compiler code reached and triggered during compilation?
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Buggy Compiler Source

- \bullet
 - Is the buggy compiler code reached and triggered during compilation?
 - 2. How much does a triggered bug change the binary code?
 - 3. Can the binary changes lead to differences in <u>binary runtime behaviour</u>?

Assumption: Restrict to publicly fixed bugs in open-source compilers, to extract

<u>Assumption</u>: impact of miscompilation bug = ability to change semantics of real apps

We estimate the impact of the compiler bug over a real app in three stages:



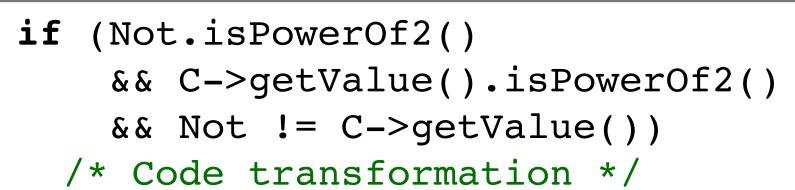
if (Not.isPowerOf2())
/* Code transformation */

fix for LLVM bug #26323





Buggy Compiler Source







Fixed Compiler Source

if (Not.isPowerOf2()) /* Code transformation */

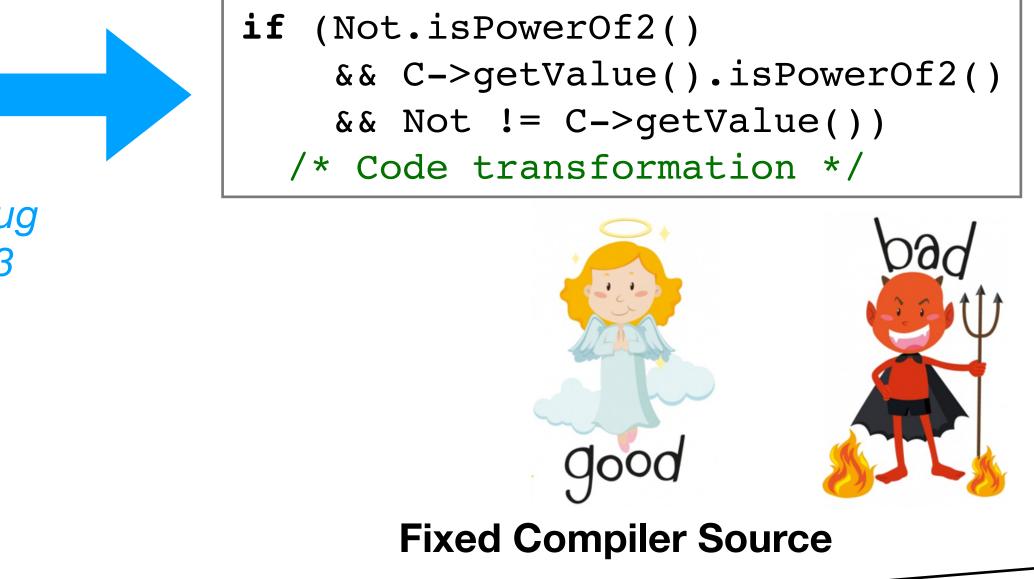
> fix for LLVM bug #26323



Buggy Compiler Source

warn("Fixing patch reached!"); if (Not.isPowerOf2()) {

Warning-Laden Compiler



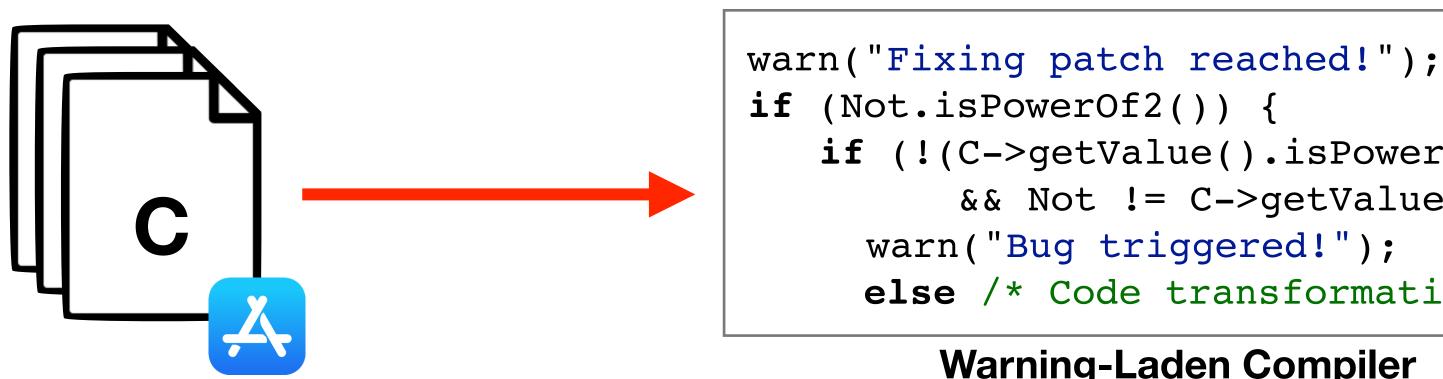
```
if (!(C->getValue().isPowerOf2()
      && Not != C->getValue()))
 warn("Bug triggered!");
 else /* Code transformation */ }
```

if (Not.isPowerOf2()) /* Code transformation */

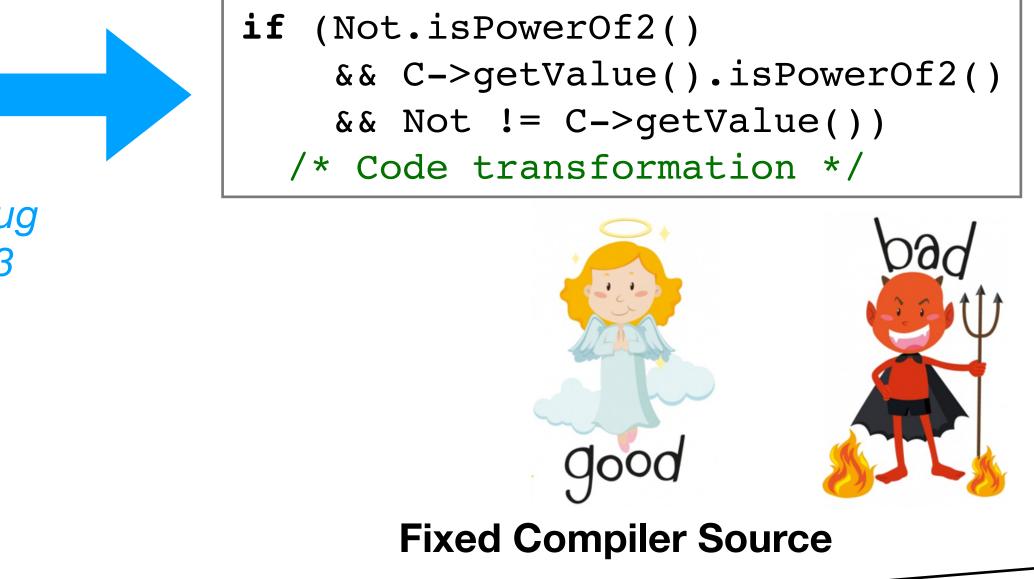
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Buggy Compiler Source



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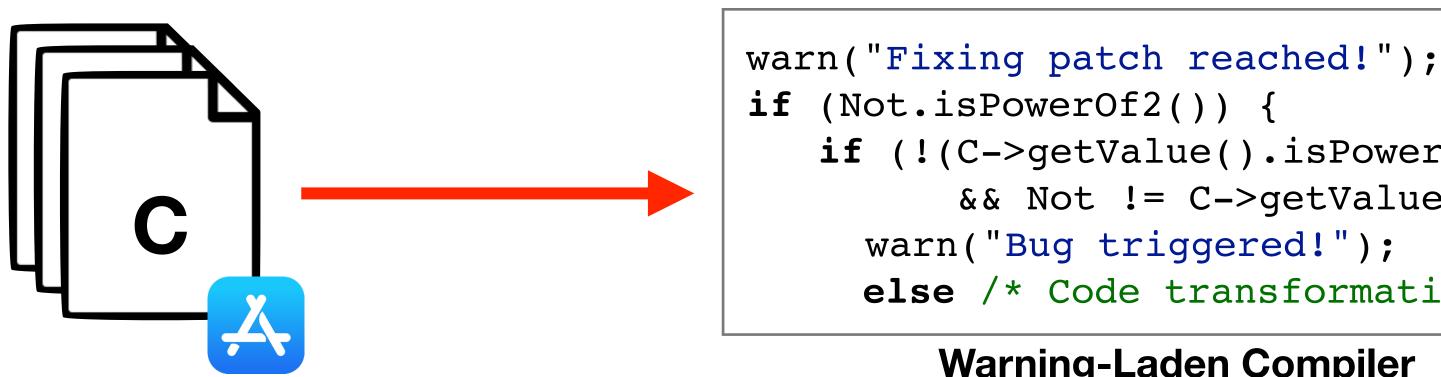
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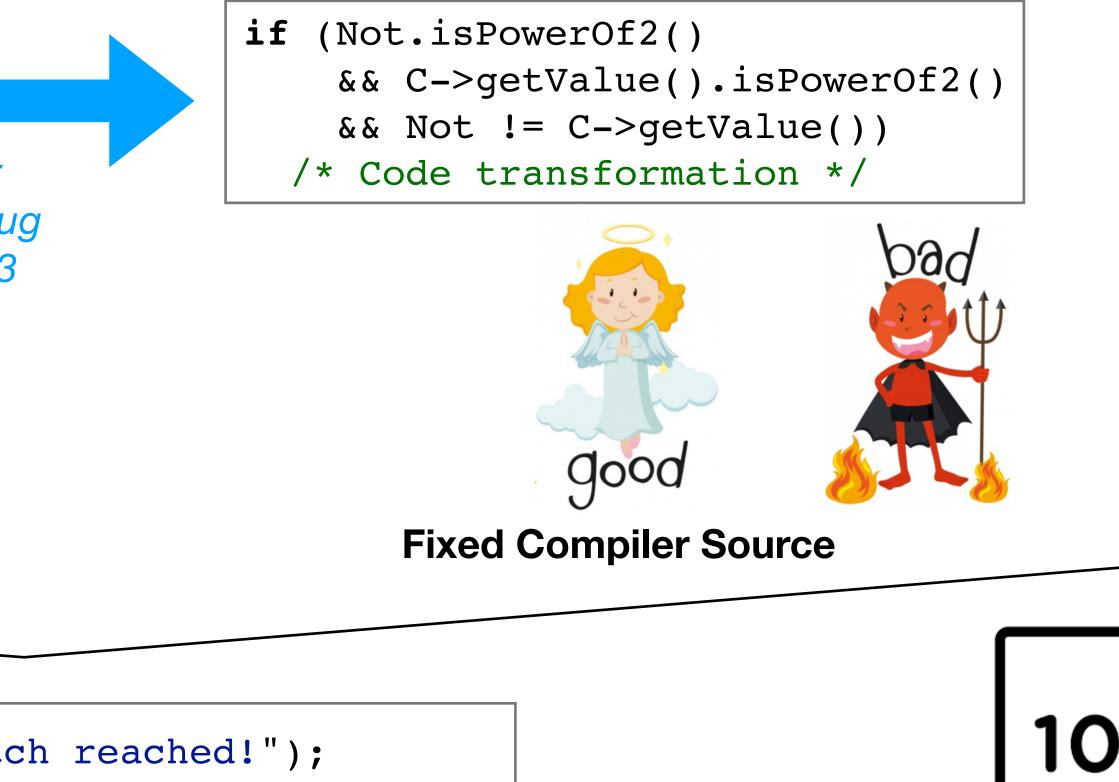
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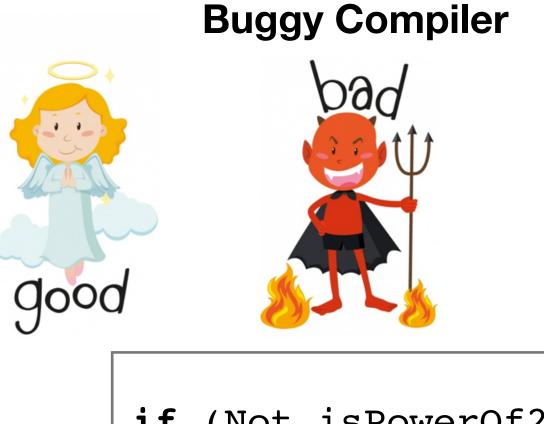
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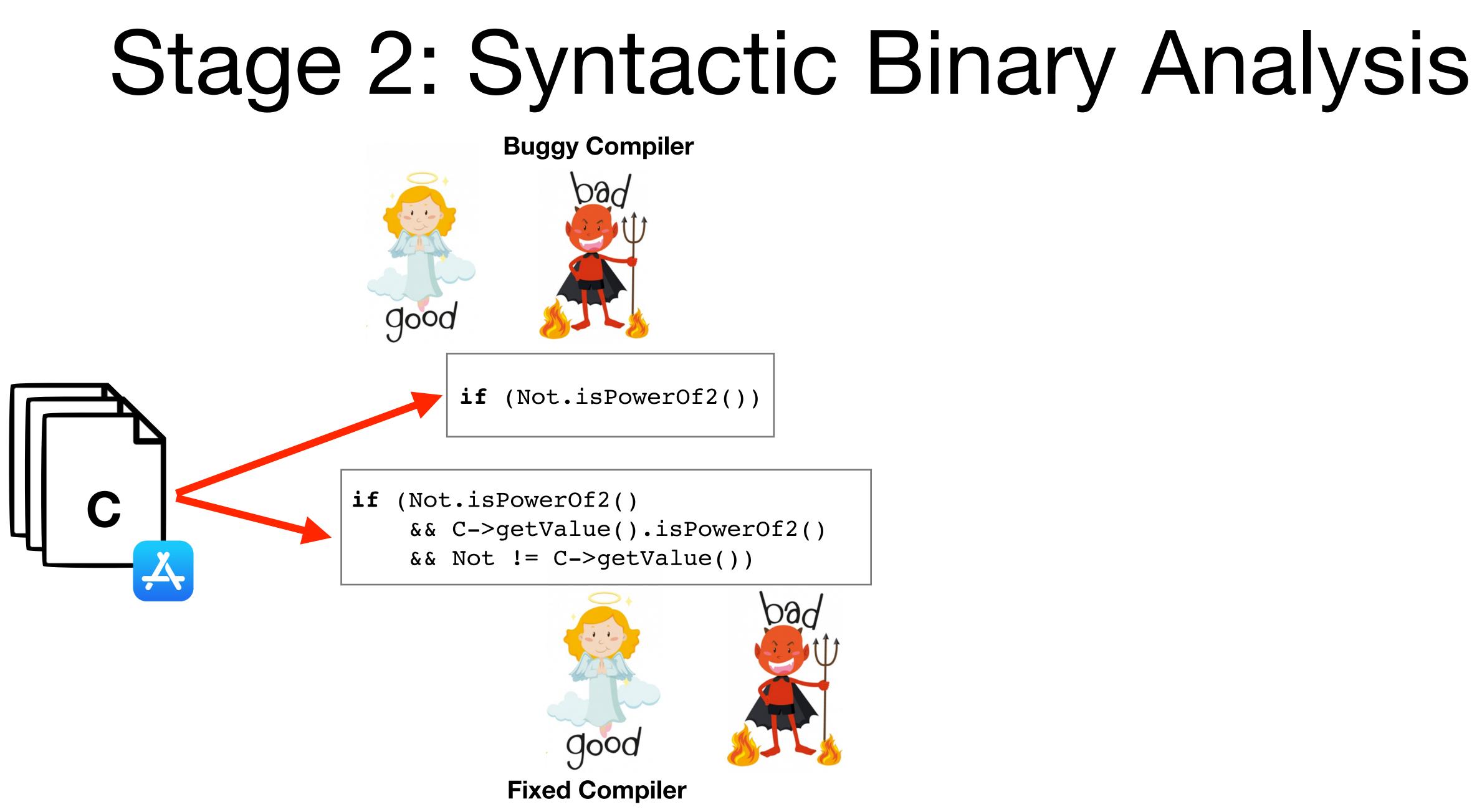
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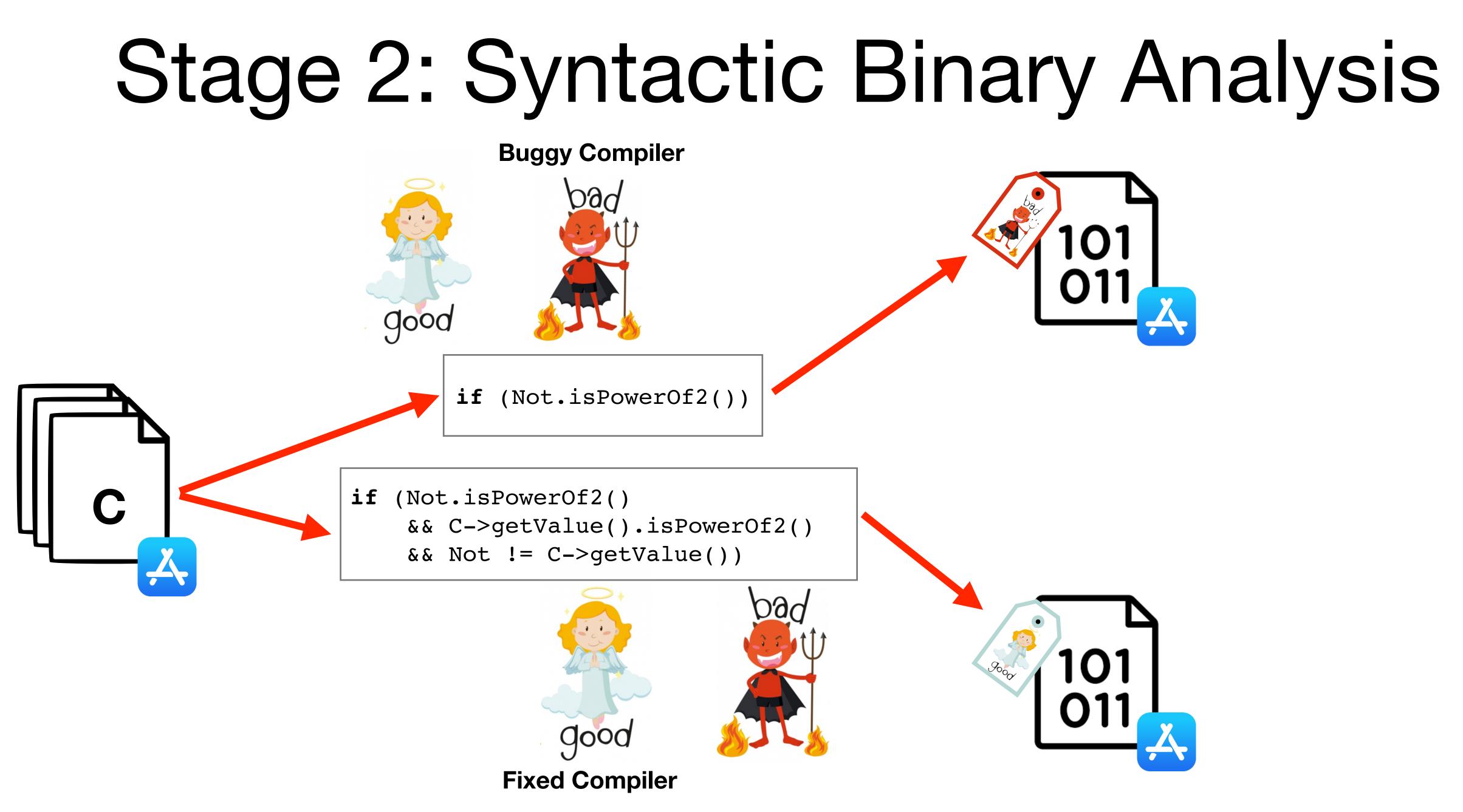
Stage 2: Syntactic Binary Analysis

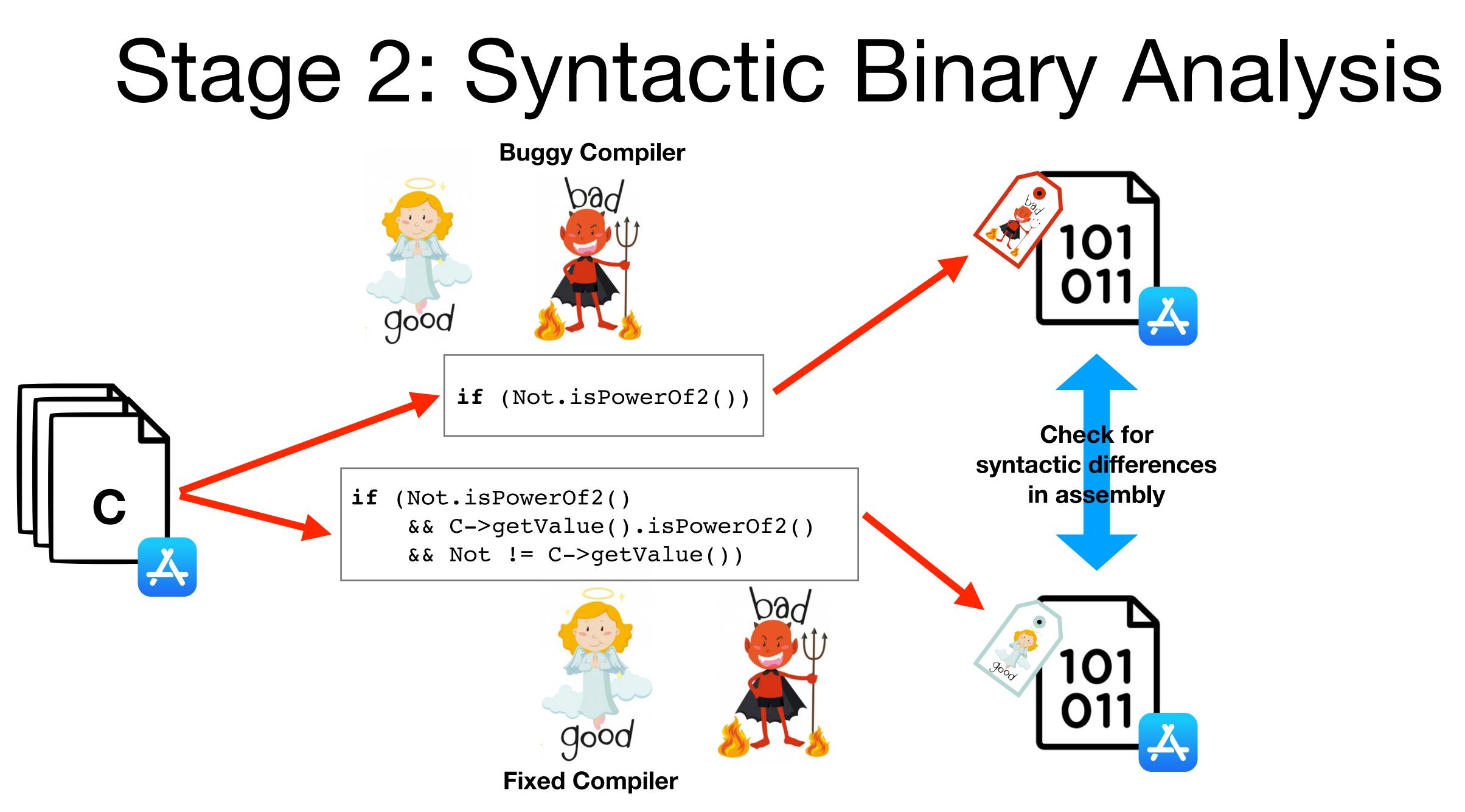


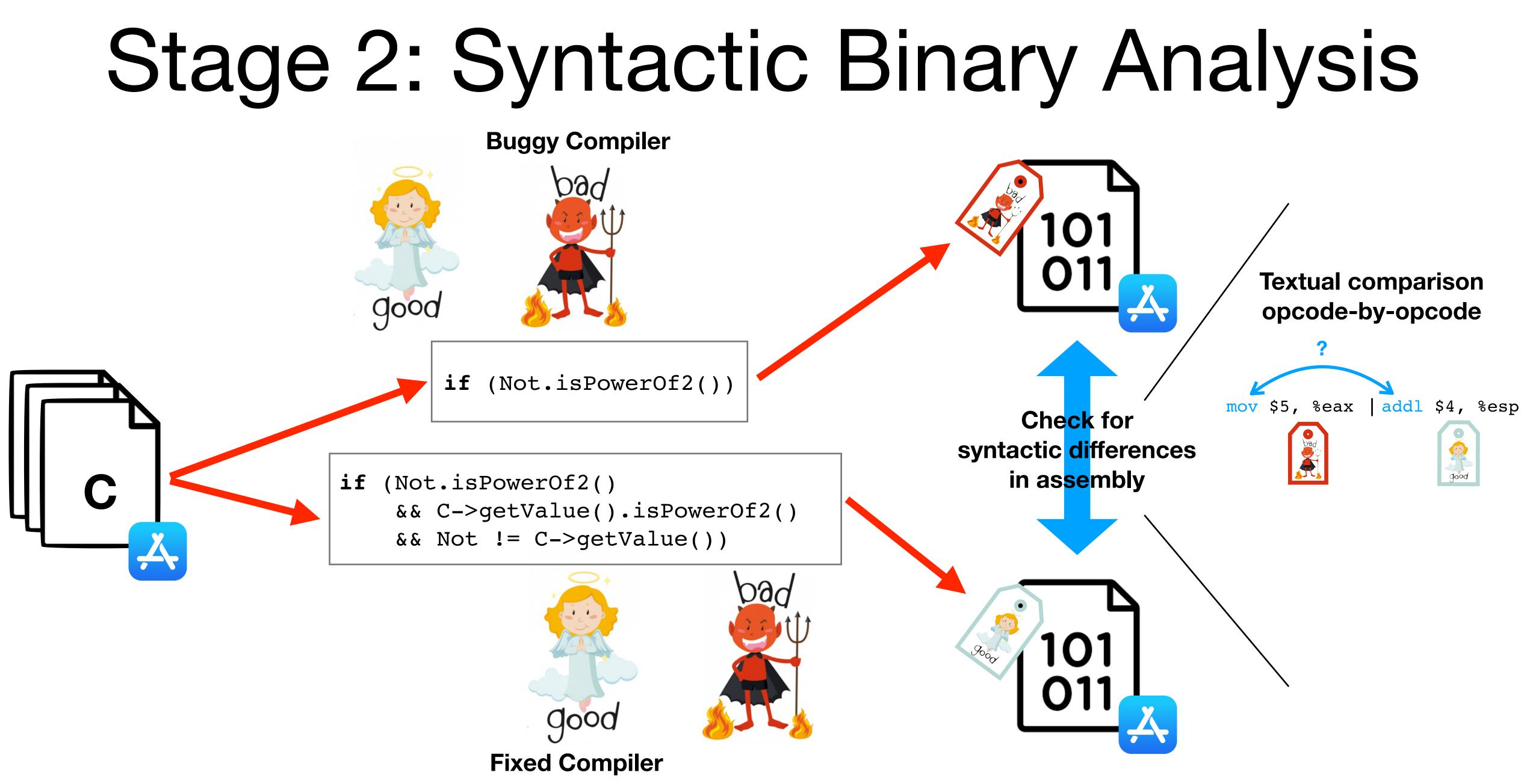




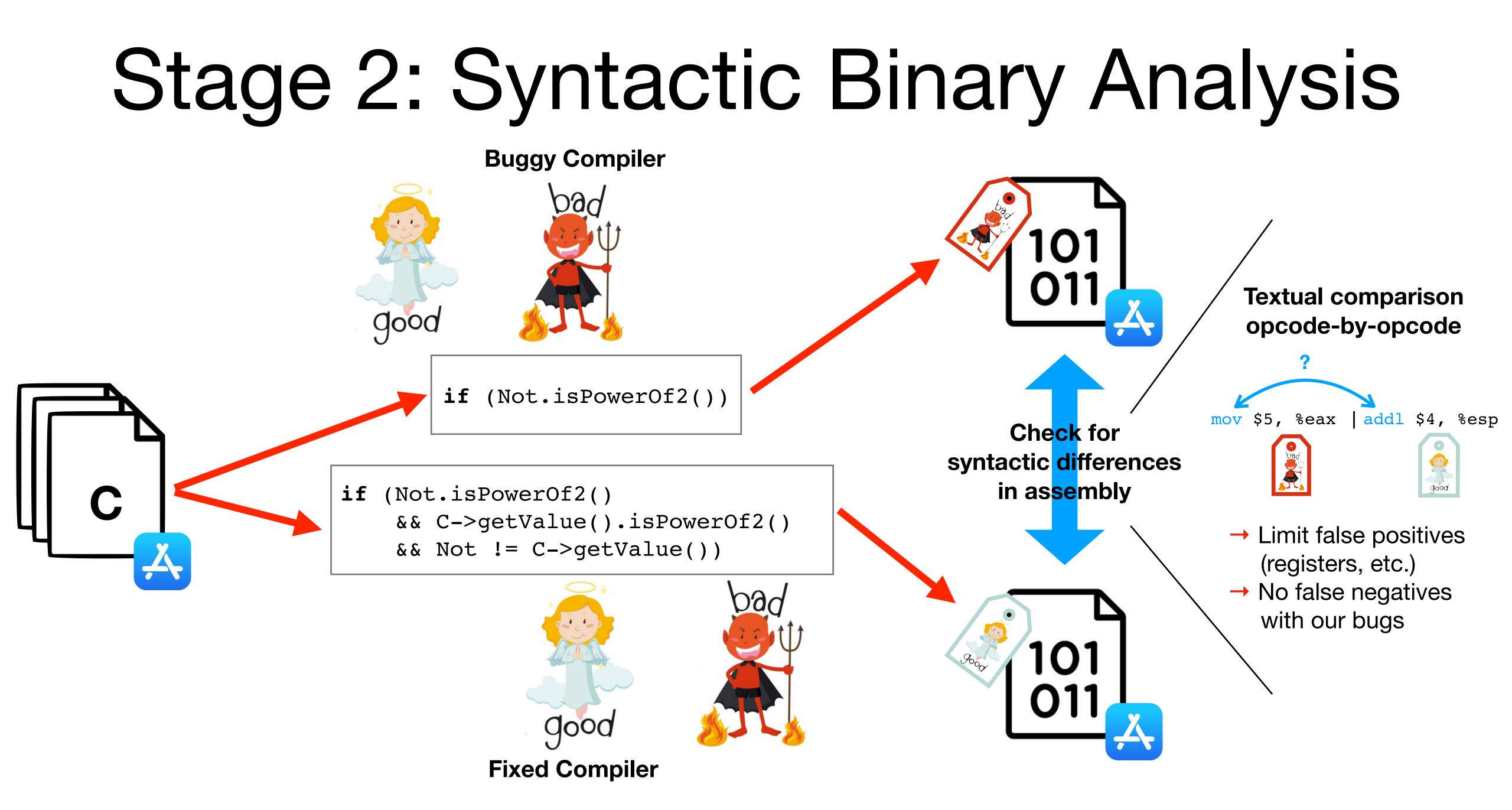
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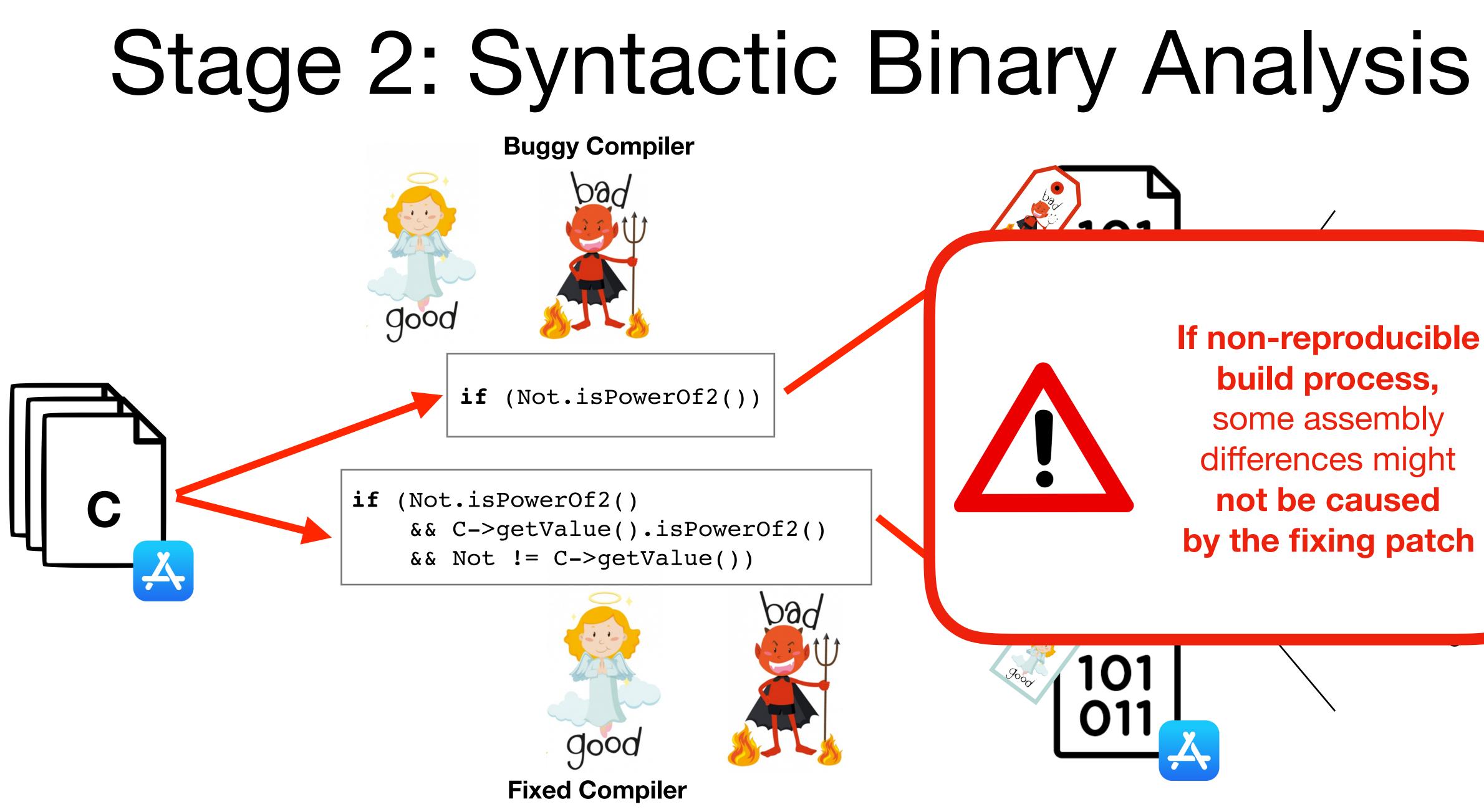


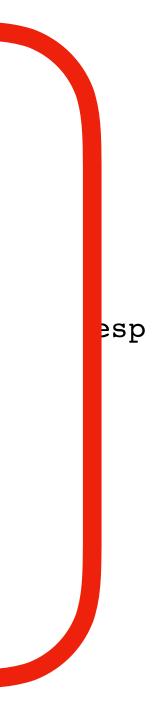




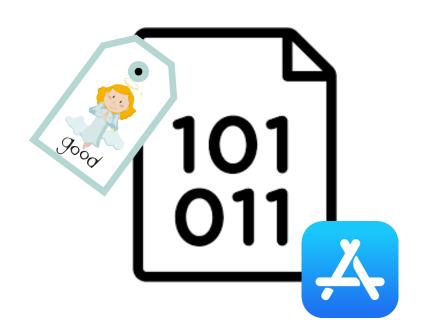






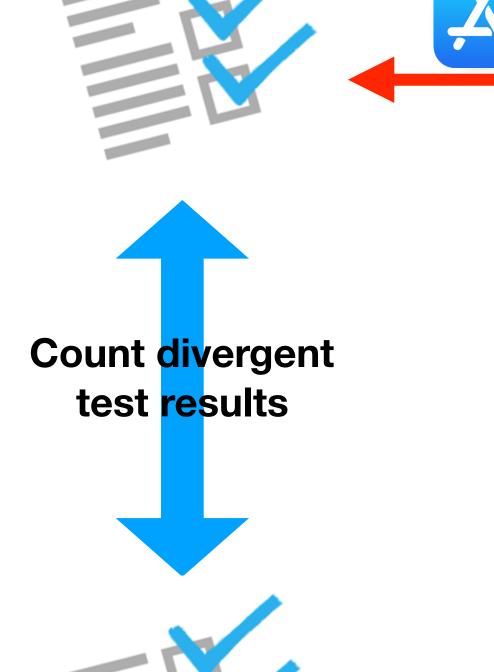




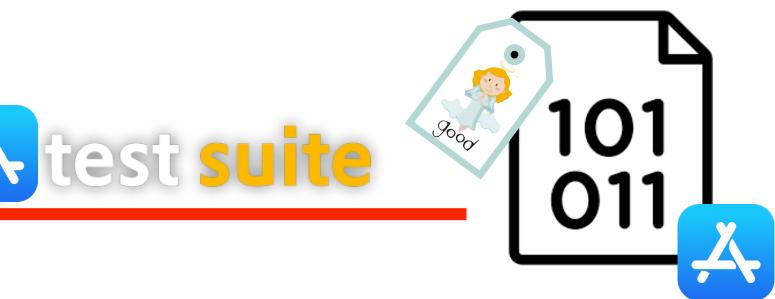


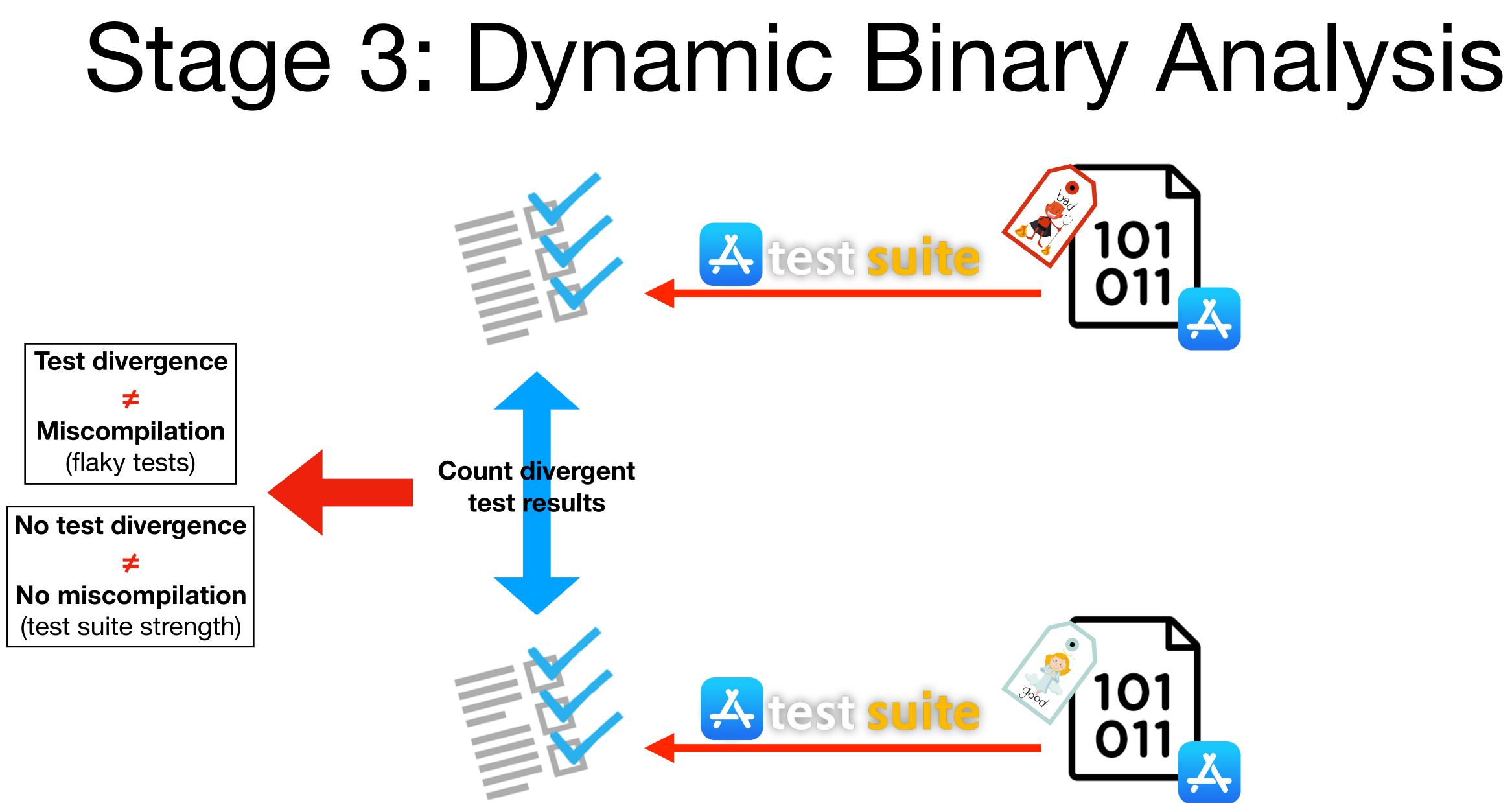




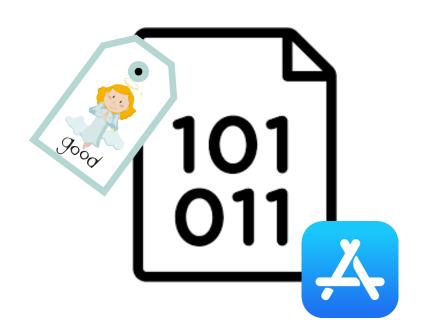




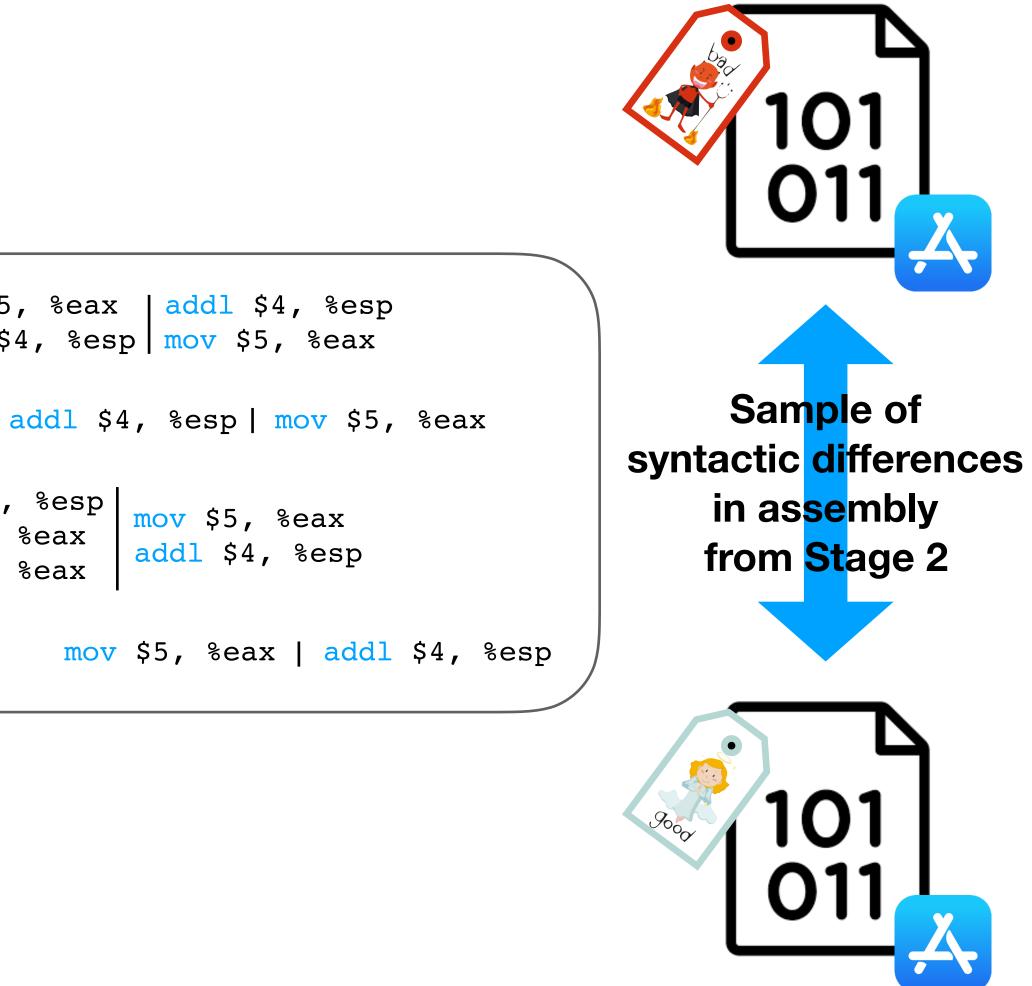






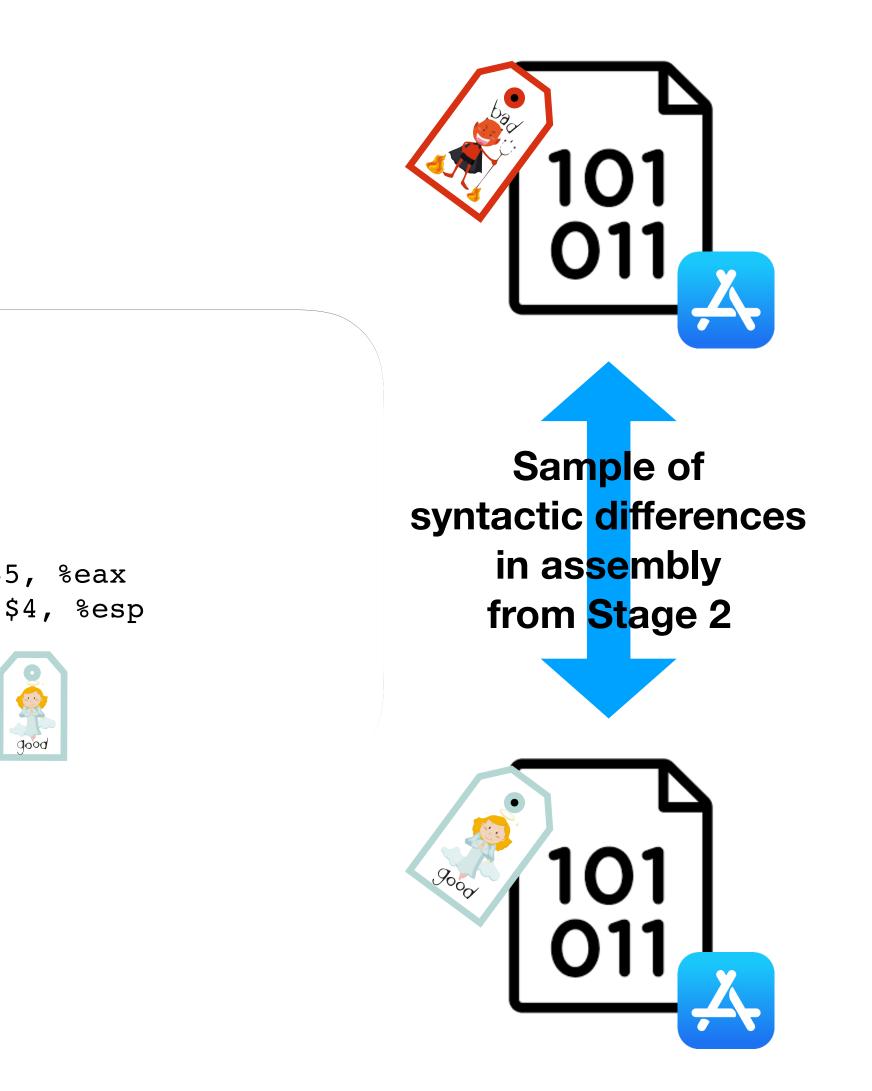


mov \$5, %eax | addl \$4, %esp addl \$4, %esp mov \$5, %eax addl \$4, %esp mov \$5, %eax mov \$4, %eax

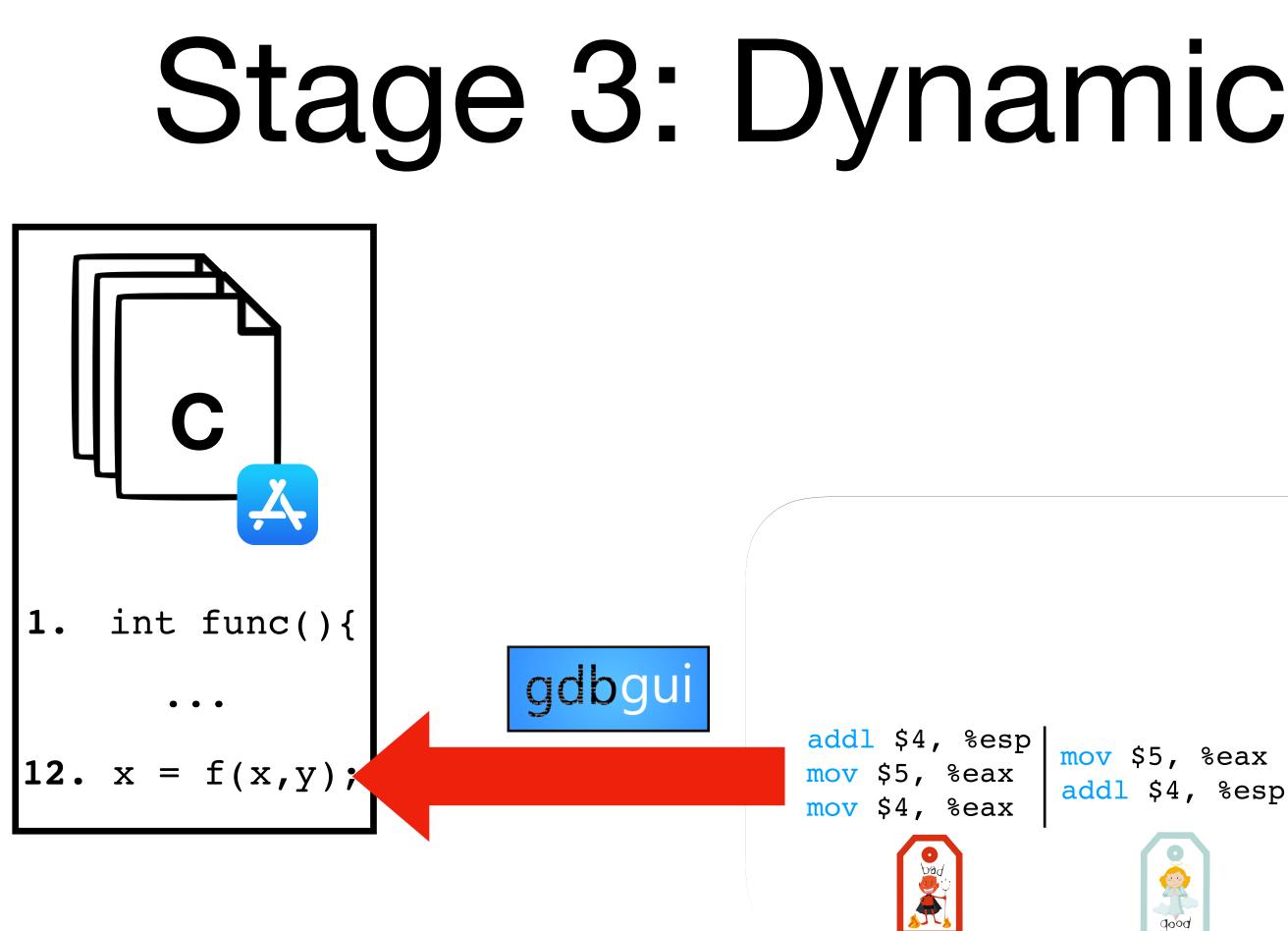


Stage 3: Dynamic Binary Analysis

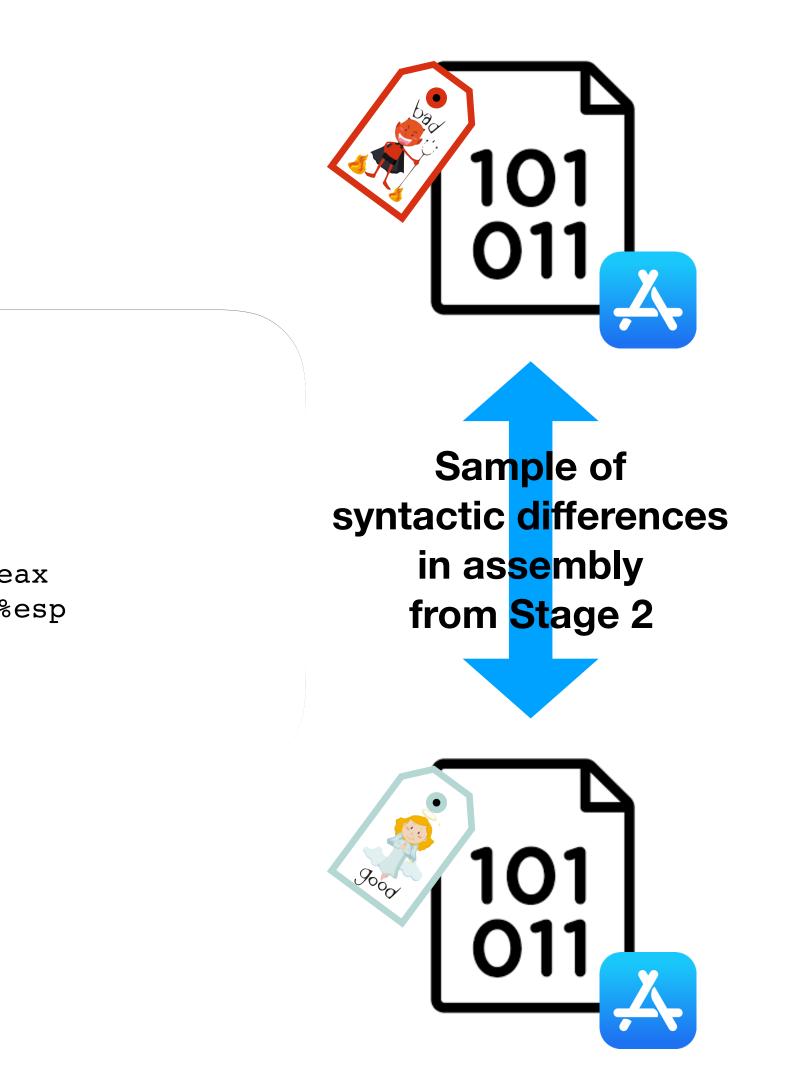
addl \$4, %esp mov \$5, %eax mov \$4, %eax	mov \$5, addl \$4,
Cond Cond	good



Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?

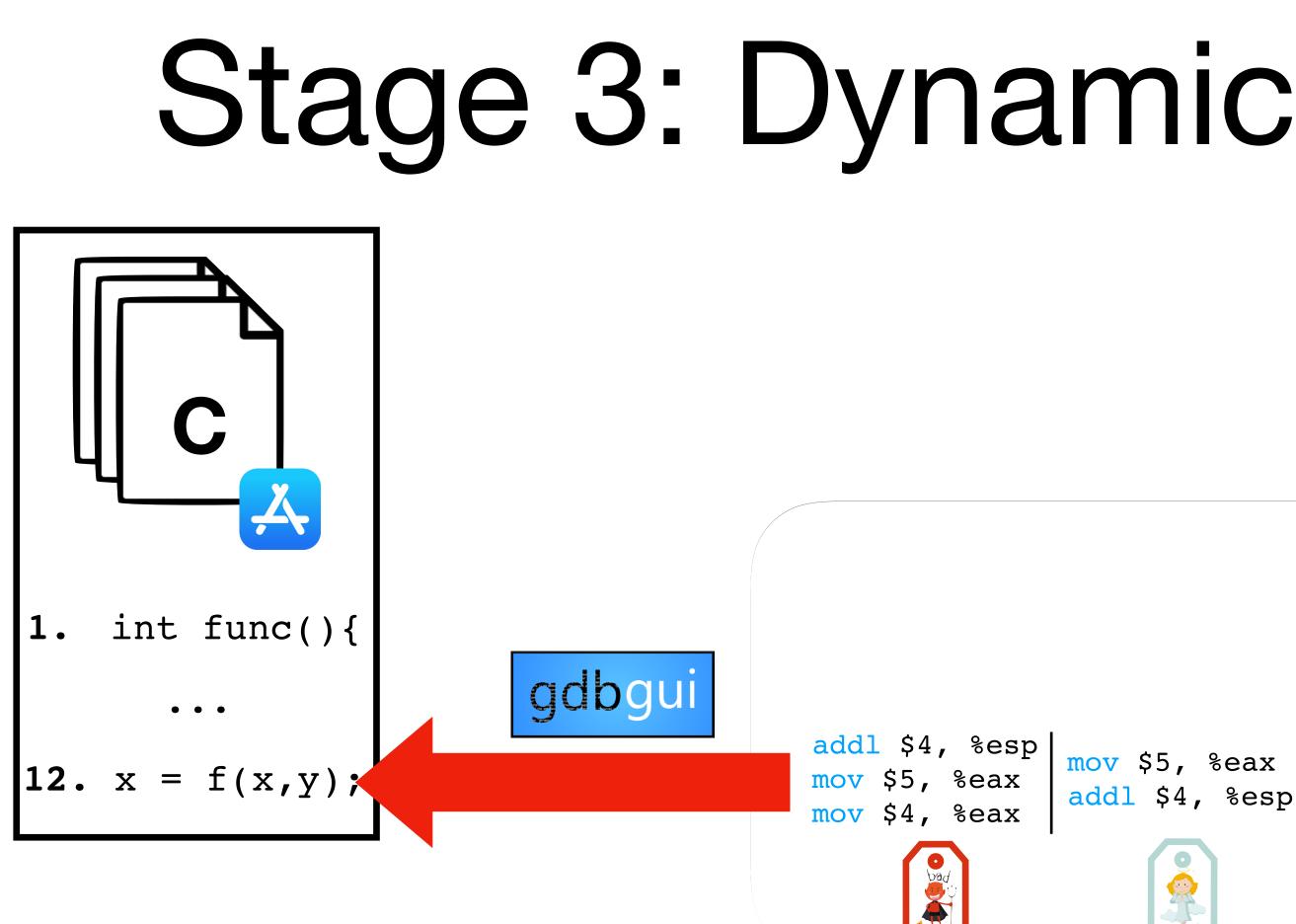


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Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?

good

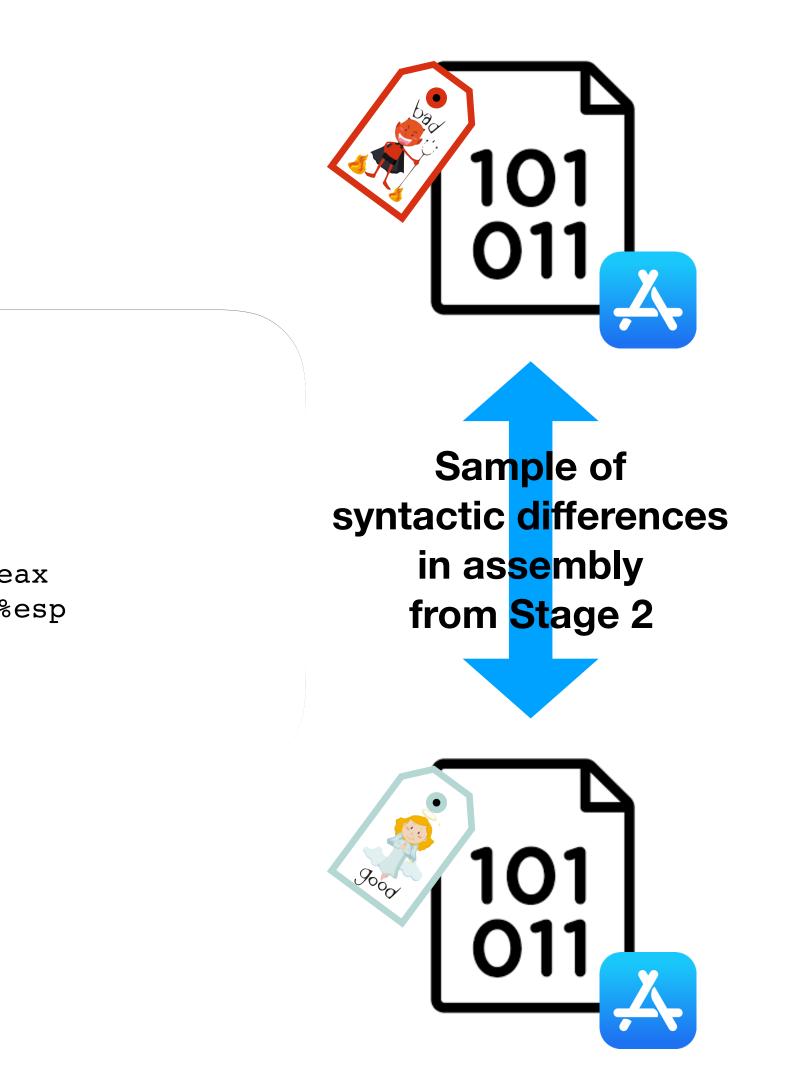


Manual crafting of local or global inputs to trigger runtime divergence



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Stage 3: Dynamic Binary Analysis



Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?

good

Outline

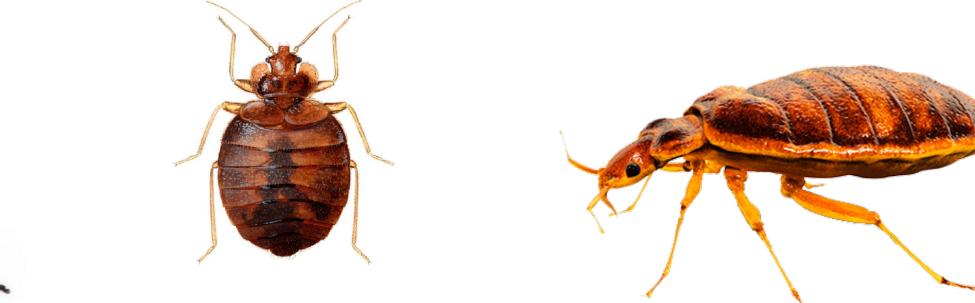
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Experiments (1/2)

We apply our bug impact measurement methodology over a sample of:

- <u>45 miscompilations bugs</u> in the open-source LLVM compiler (C/C++ \rightarrow x86_64)
 - 27 *fuzzer-found* bugs (12% of miscompilations from Csmith, EMI, Orange and Yarpgen)
 - 10 bugs detected by compiling real code and 8 bugs from Alive formal verification tool









Experiments (2/2)

We apply our bug impact measurement methodology over a sample of:

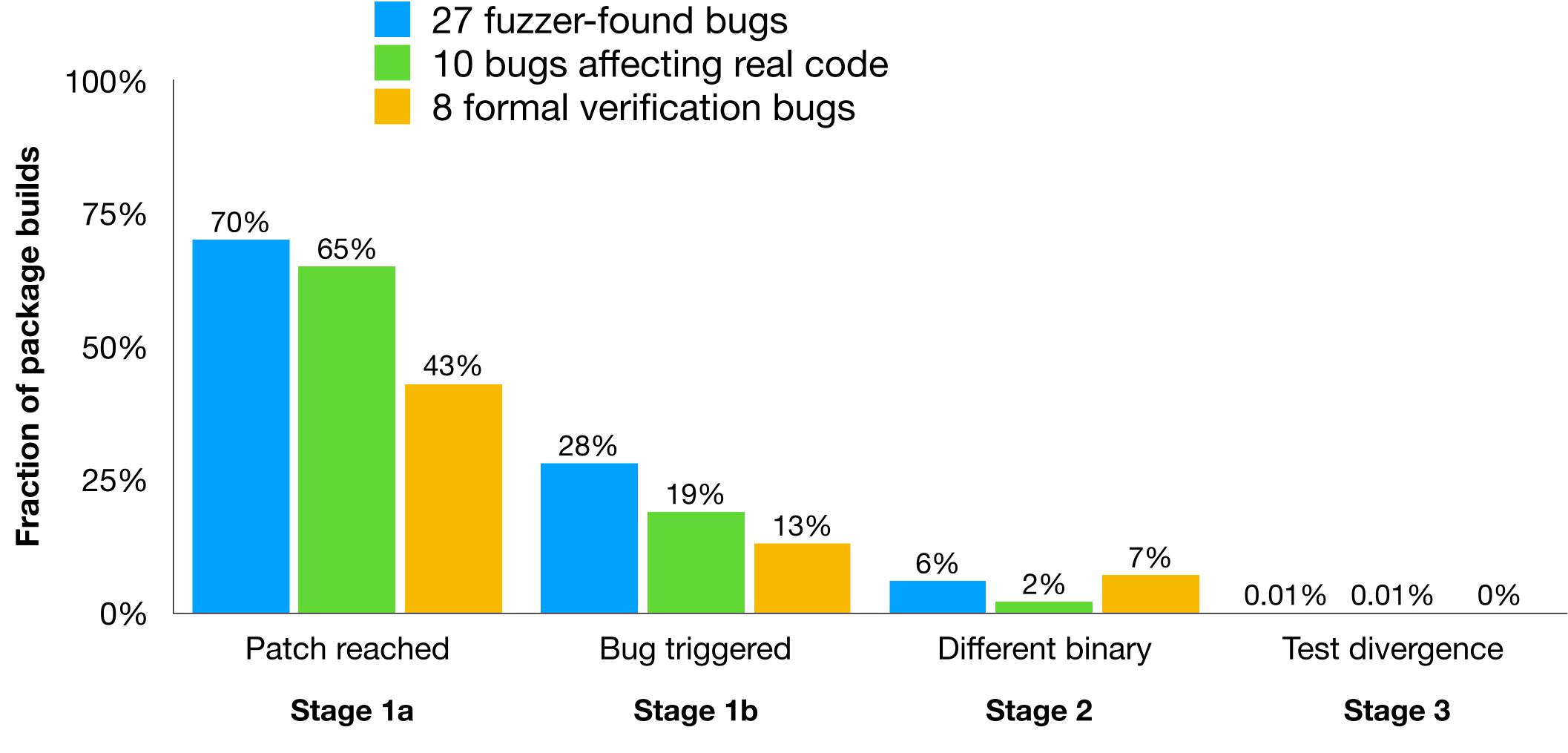
- <u>309 Debian packages</u> totalling 10M+ lines of C/C++ code
 - Not part of the LLVM test suite and with a reproducible build process
 - Diverse set of applications w.r.t. type, size, popularity and maturity





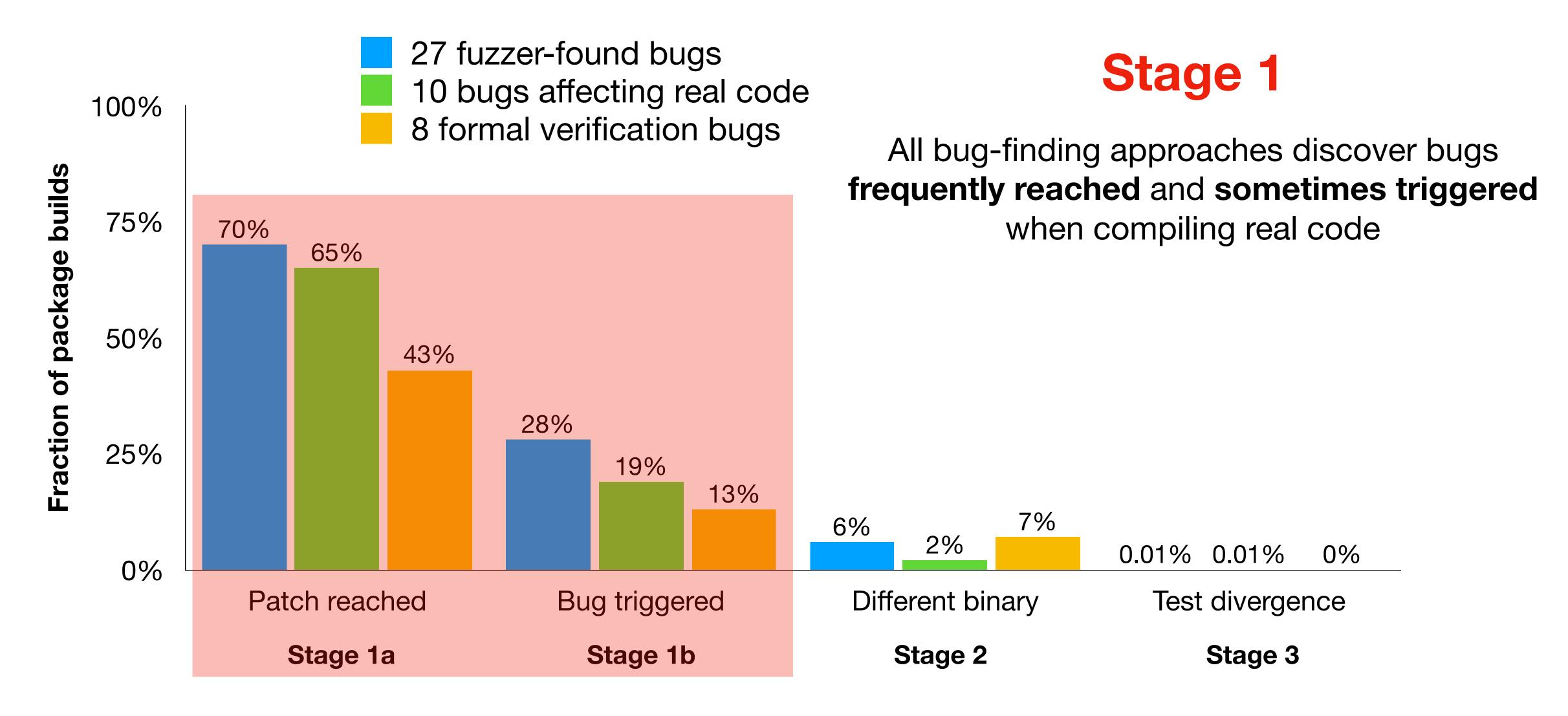


A lot of manual effort and 5 months of computation happen here

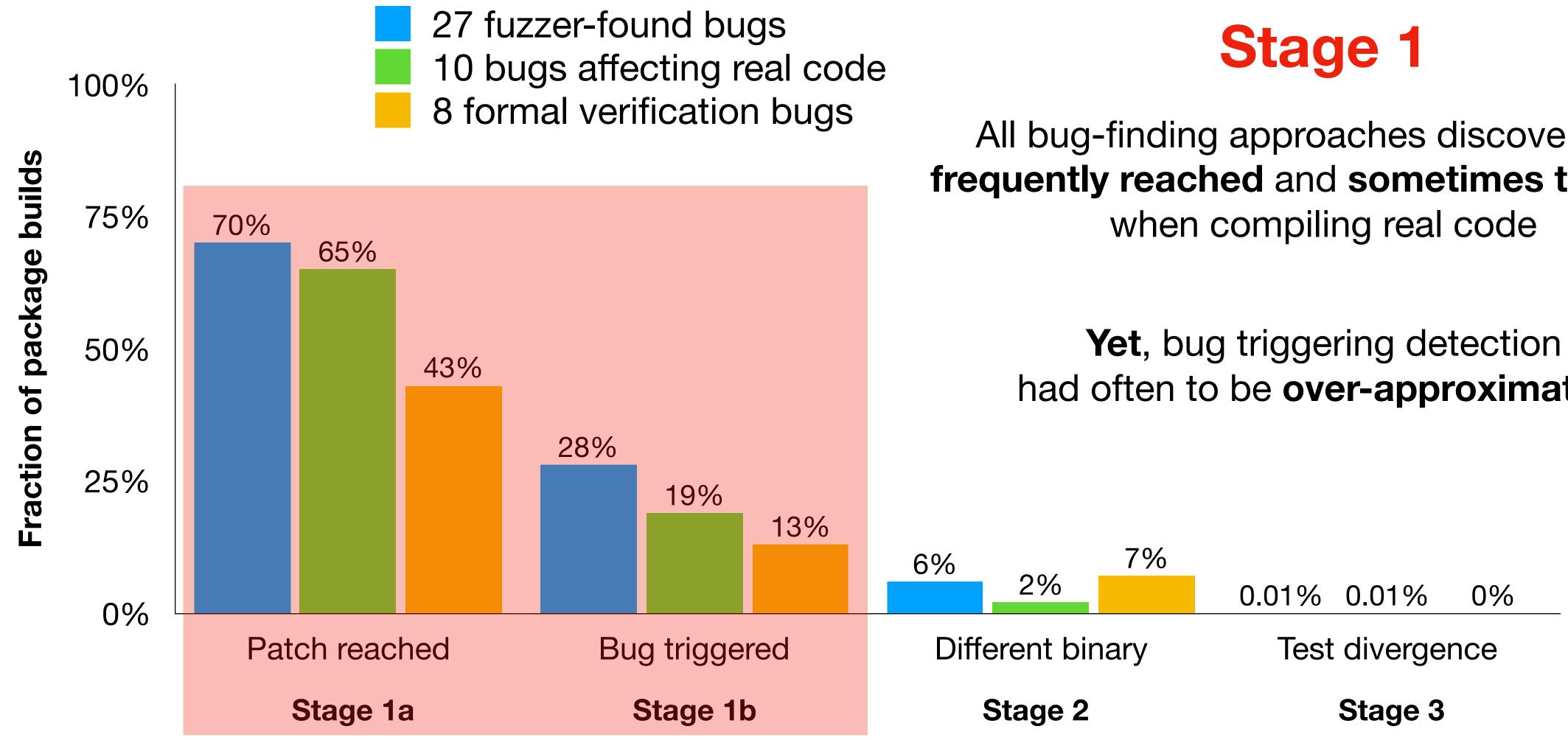


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Results



Results



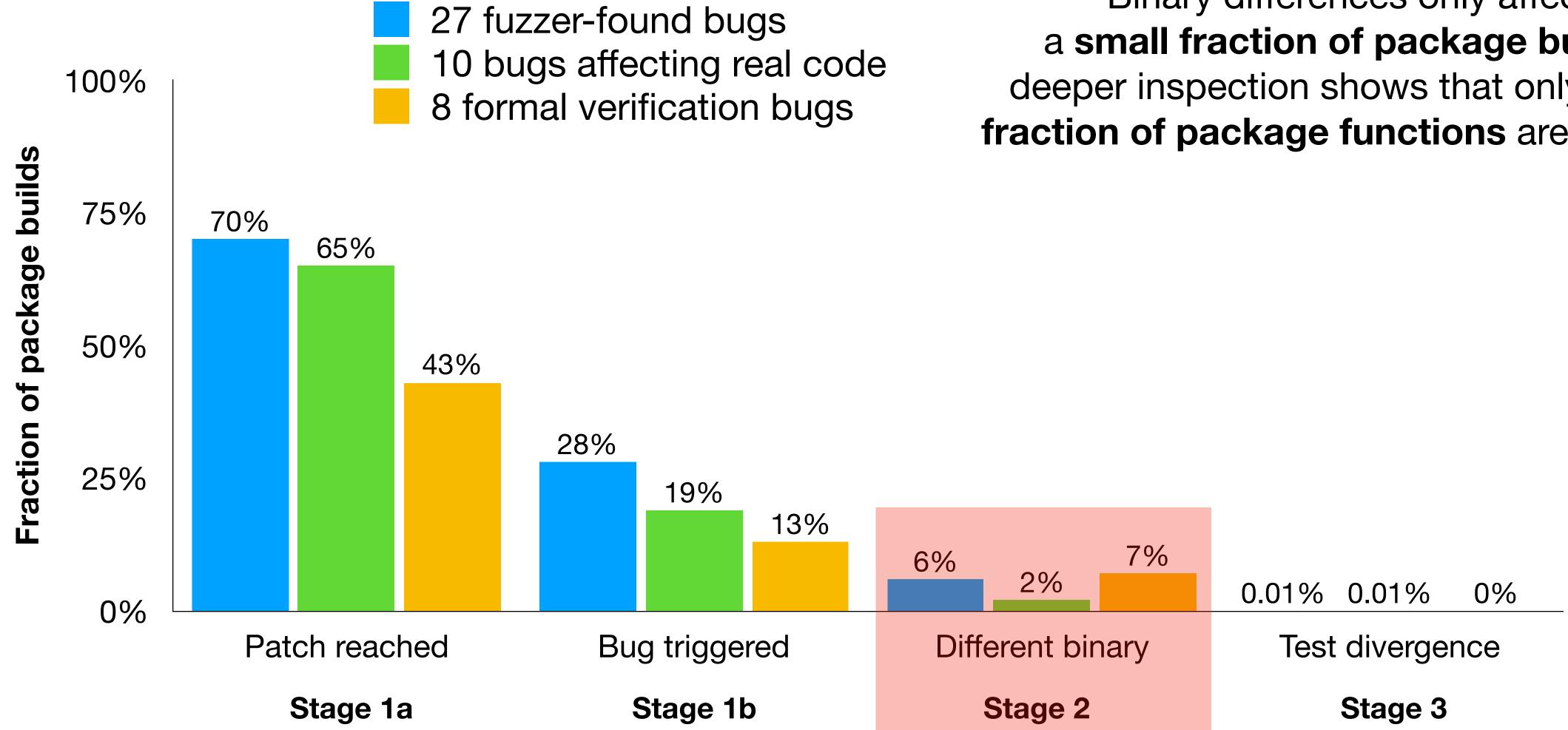
Results



All bug-finding approaches discover bugs frequently reached and sometimes triggered

had often to be **over-approximated**!



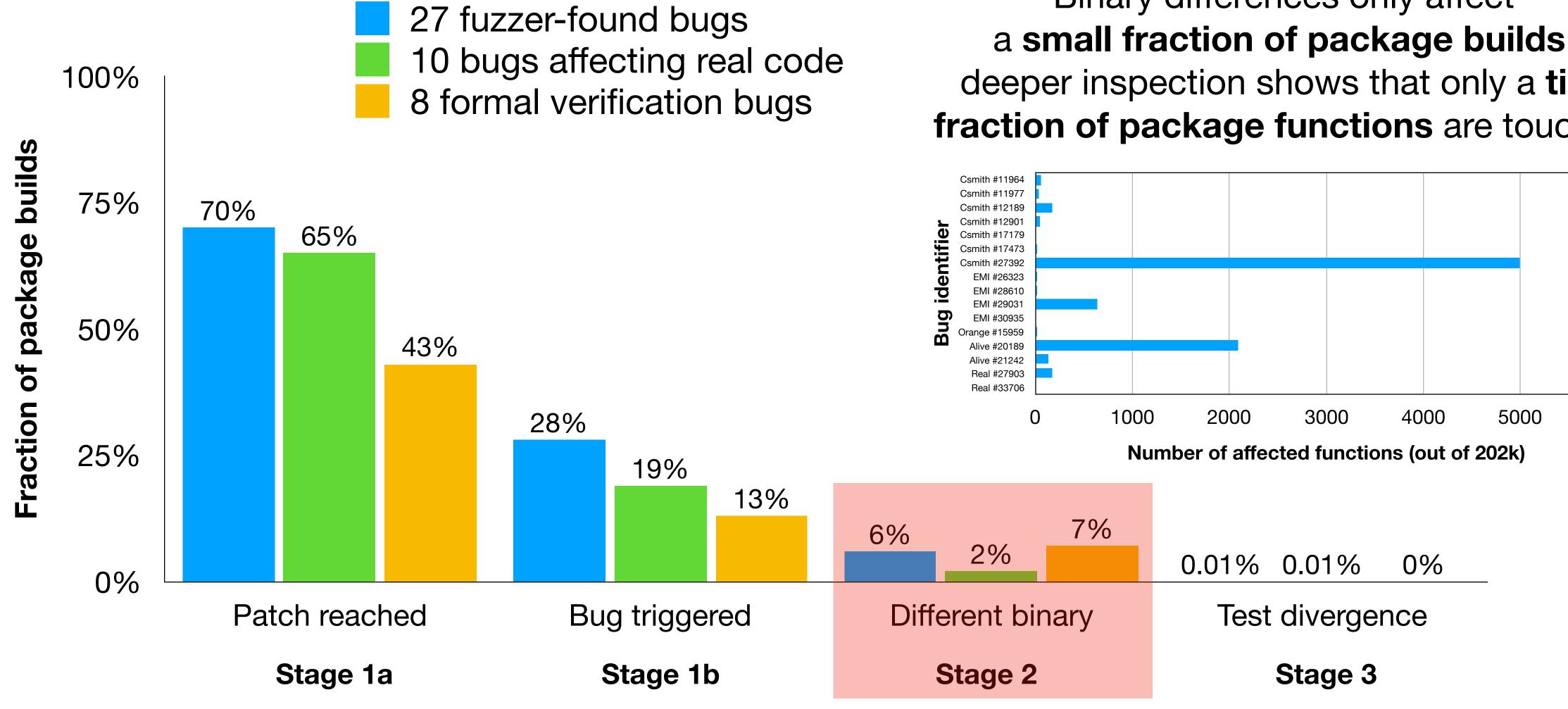


Results

Stage 2

Binary differences only affect a small fraction of package builds, deeper inspection shows that only a tiny fraction of package functions are touched

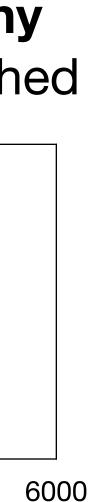


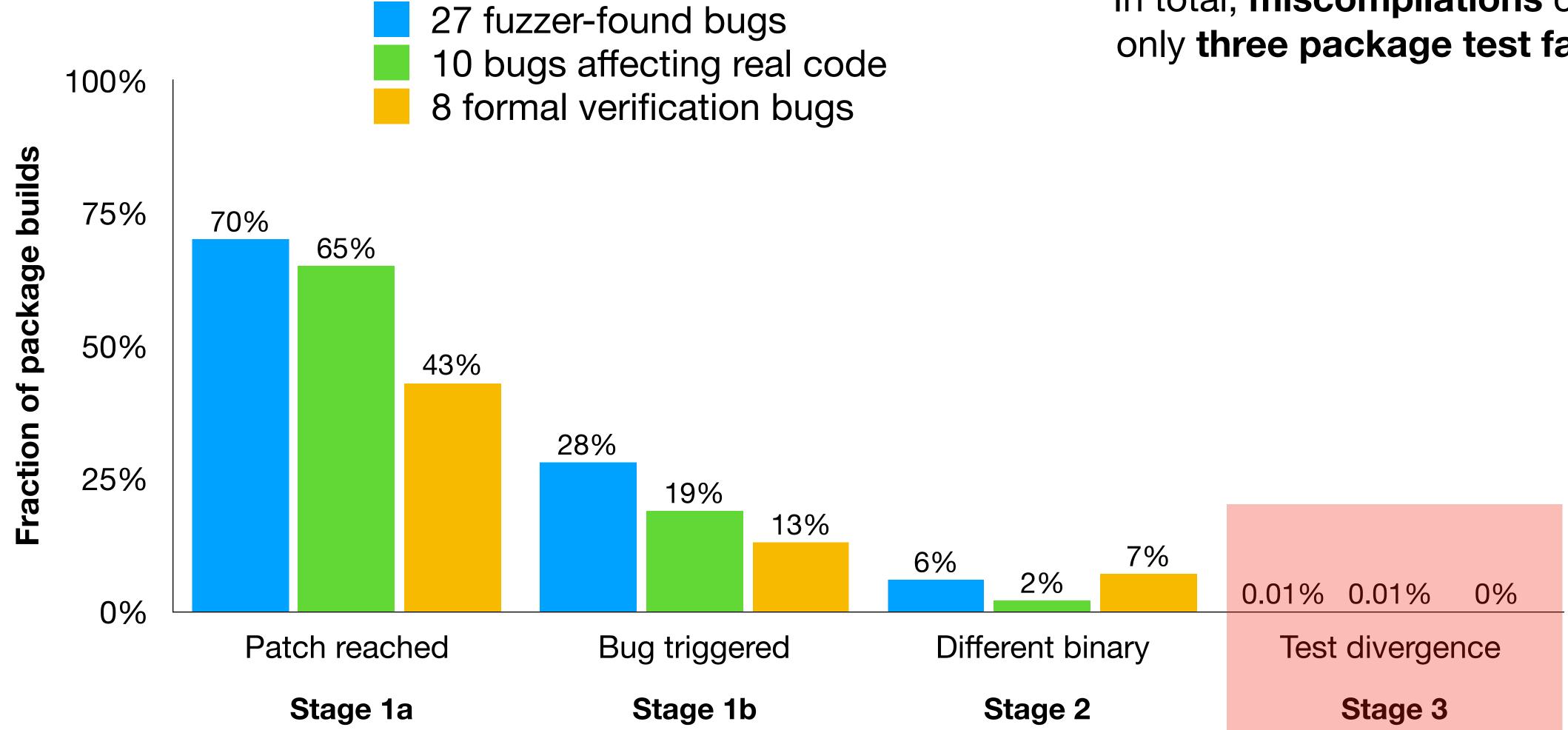


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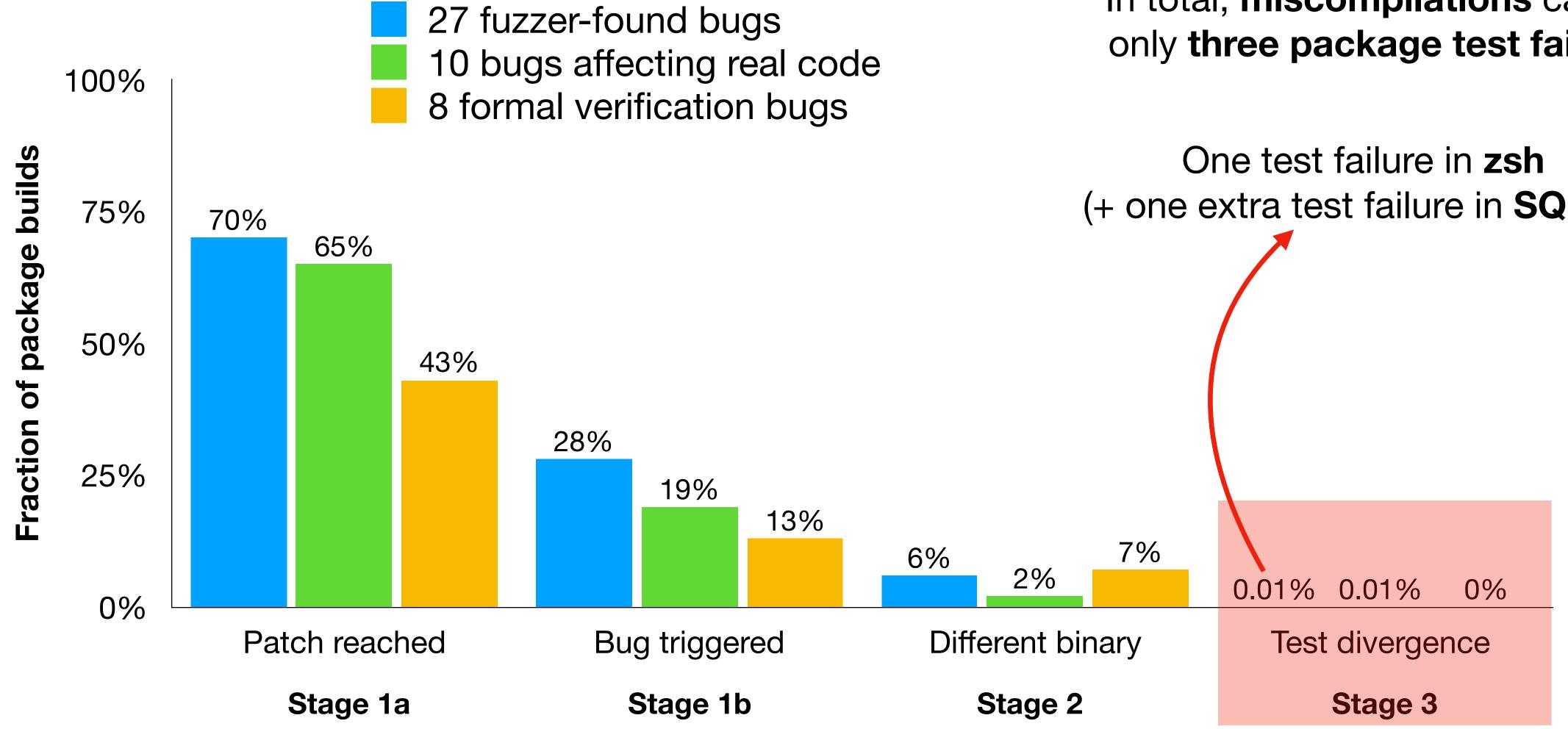
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Results

Stage 3

In total, **miscompilations** caused only three package test failures

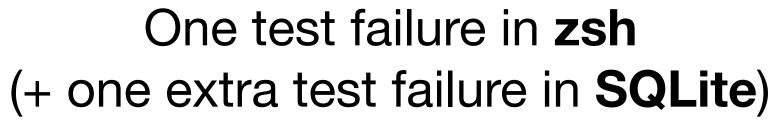


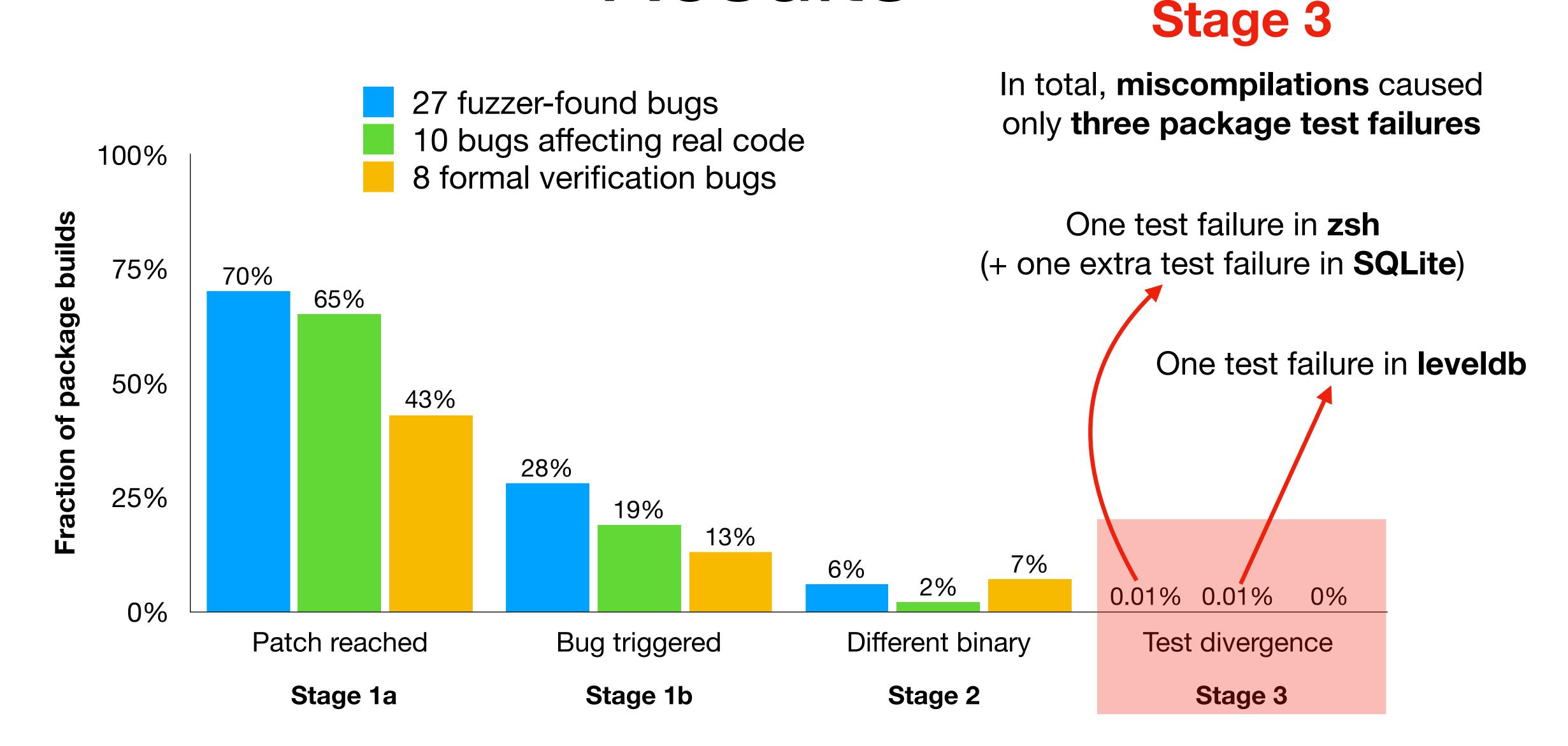


Results

Stage 3







Results

- Miscompilation is caused by LLVM bug #13326, found by Csmith
- Bug affects translation of 8-bits unsigned integer division from IR (udiv) to x86
- When divisor is constant, translation is wrong for 6 of 65k possible divisor values lacksquare
- In SQLite, the following line of source code is miscompiled, triggering a test failure:

zBuf[i] = zSrc[zBuf[i]%(sizeof(zSrc)-1)];

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COMPILE TIME

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COMPILE TIME

```
Wrong modulo binary code generated
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                                   79
                                     78
```

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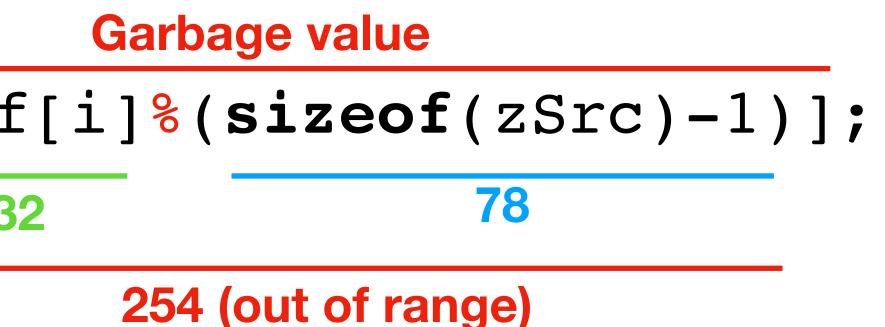
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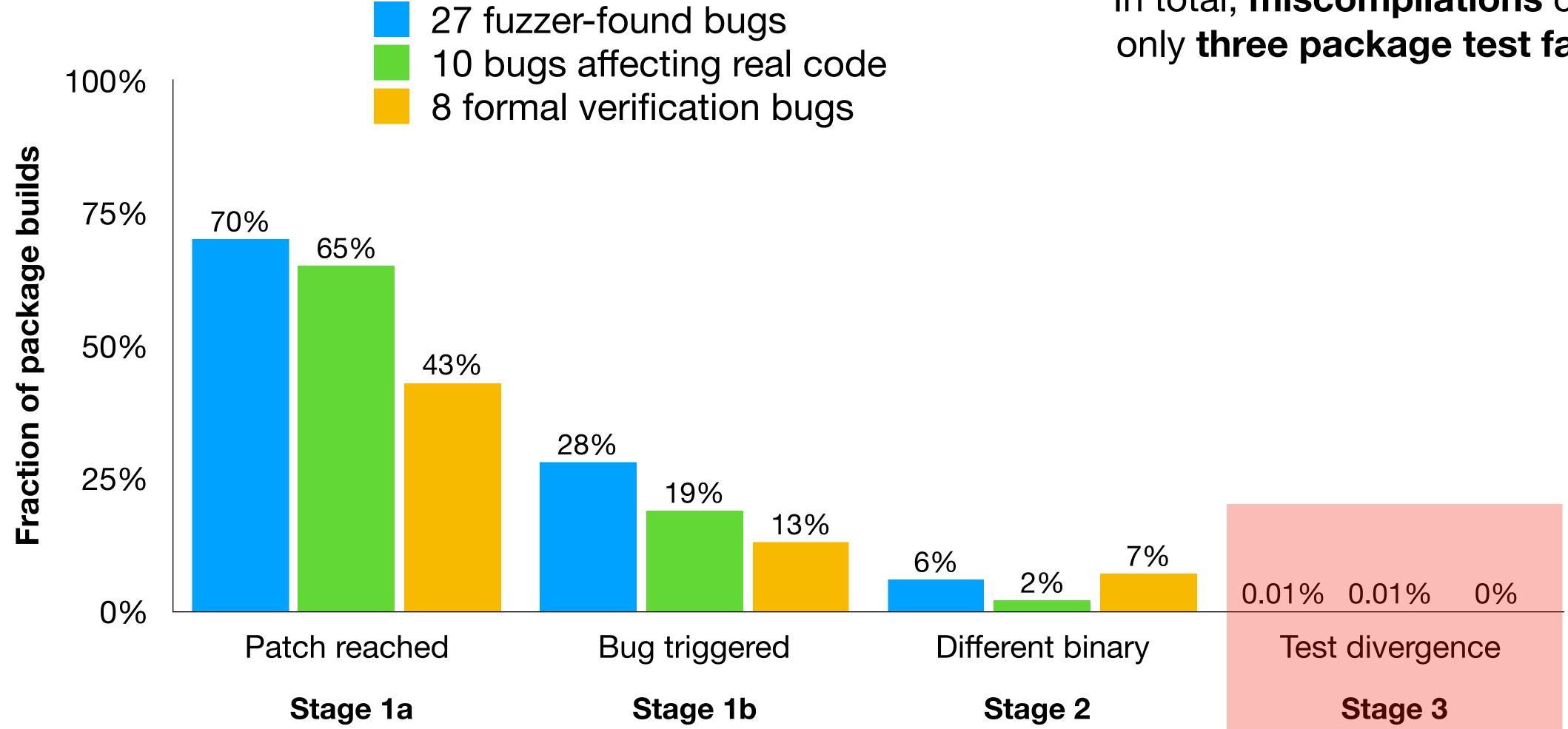
zBuf[i] = zSrc[zBud

TEST RUN TIME

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TEST RUN TIME





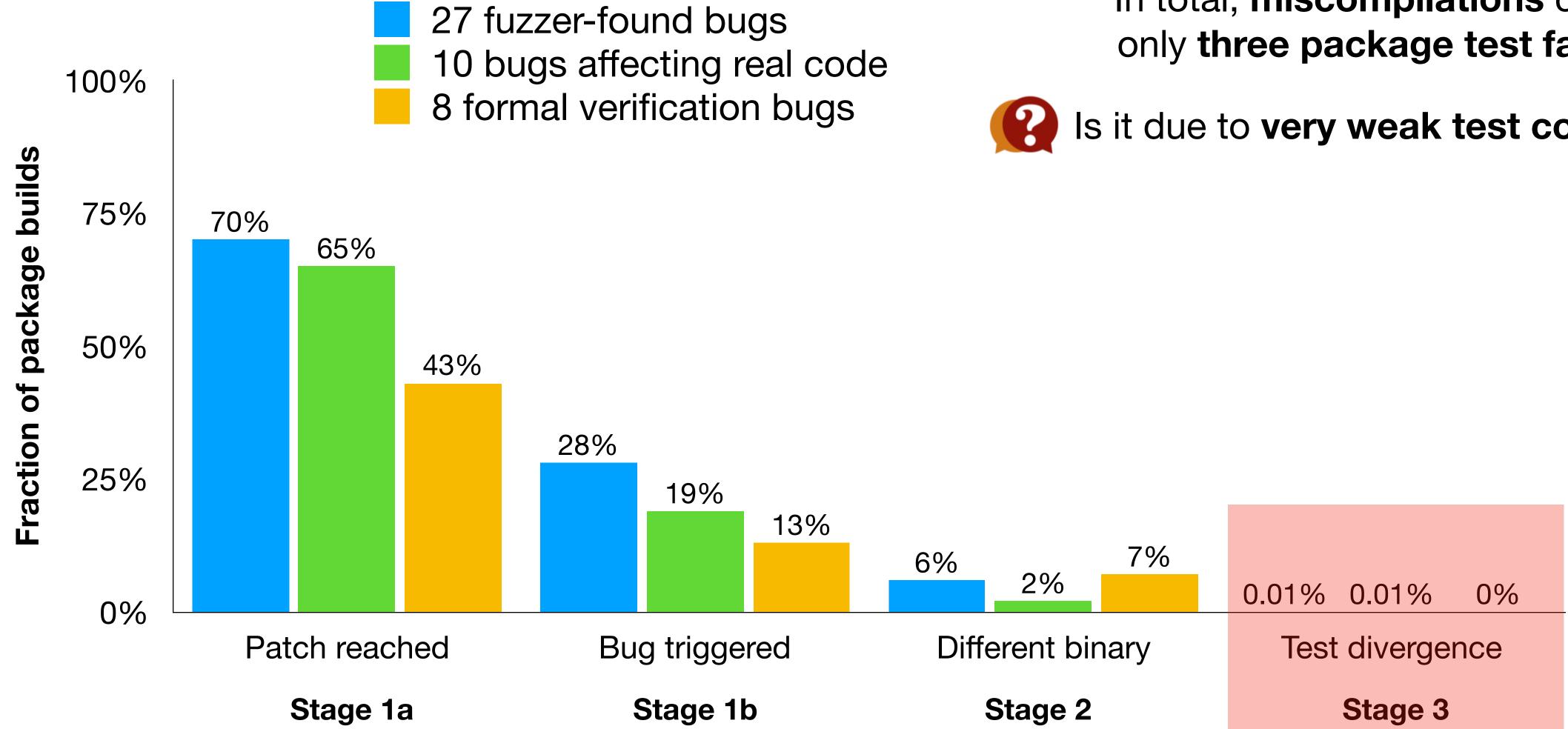
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Results

Stage 3

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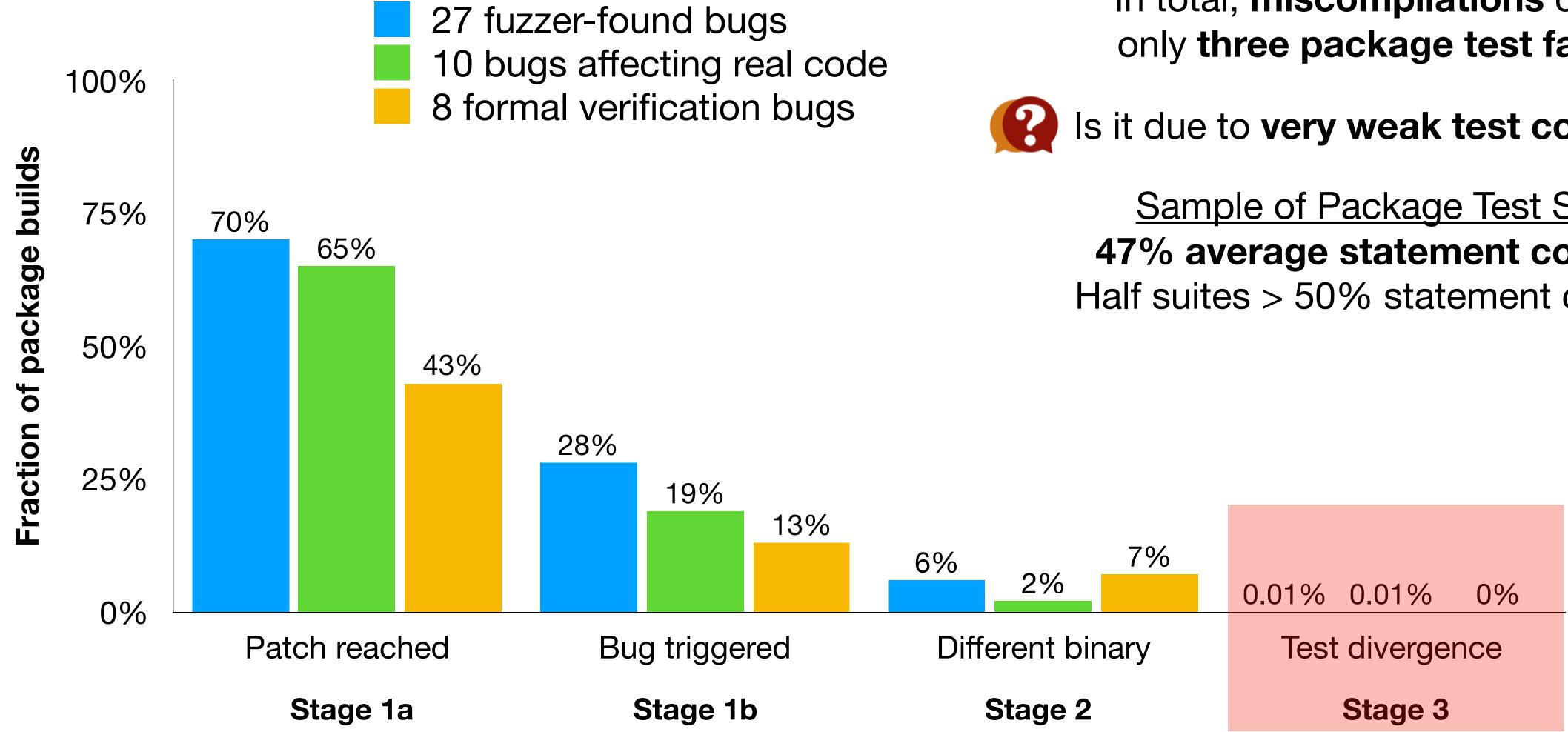
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Is it due to very weak test coverage?





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Results

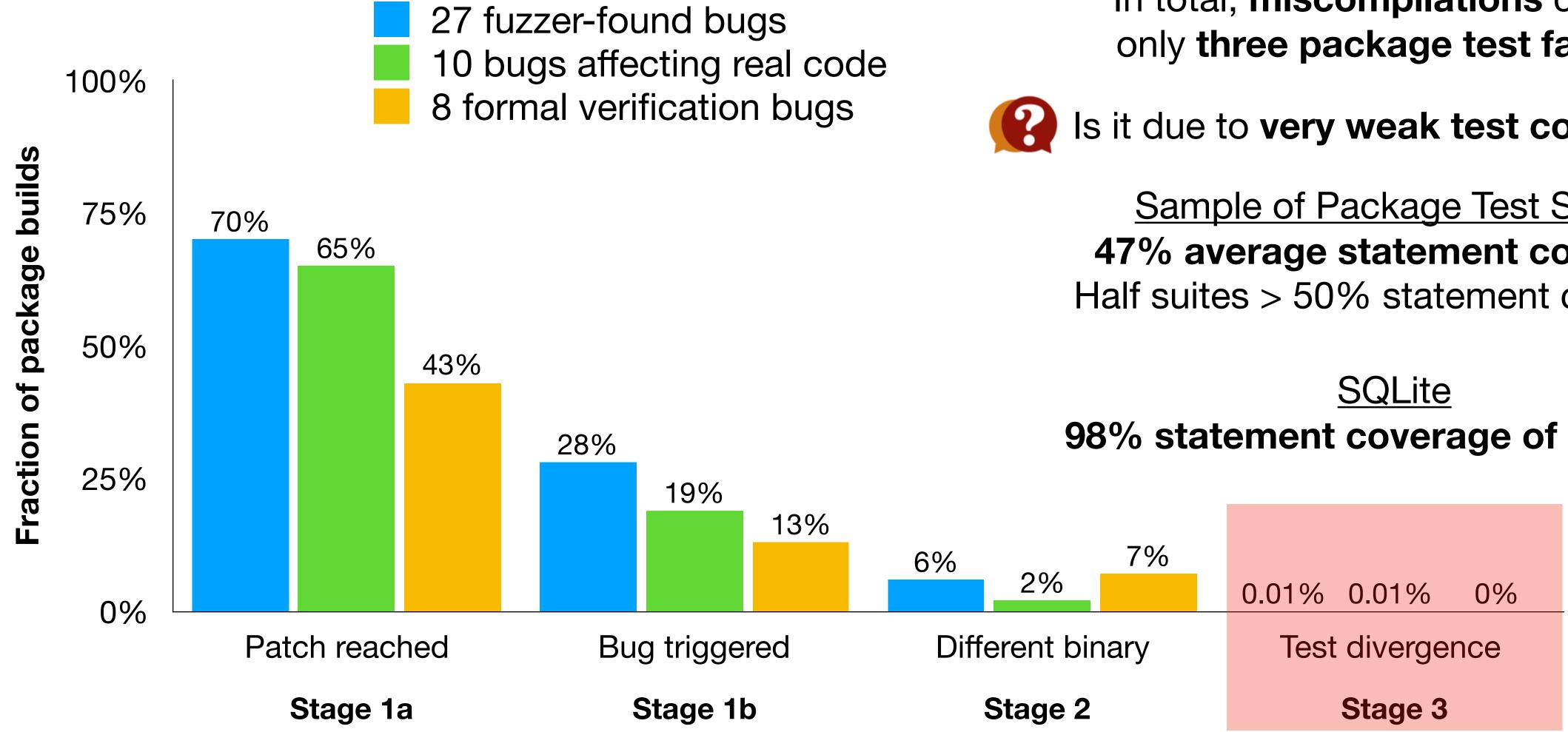
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Is it due to very weak test coverage?

Sample of Package Test Suites 47% average statement coverage Half suites > 50% statement coverage





Results

Stage 3

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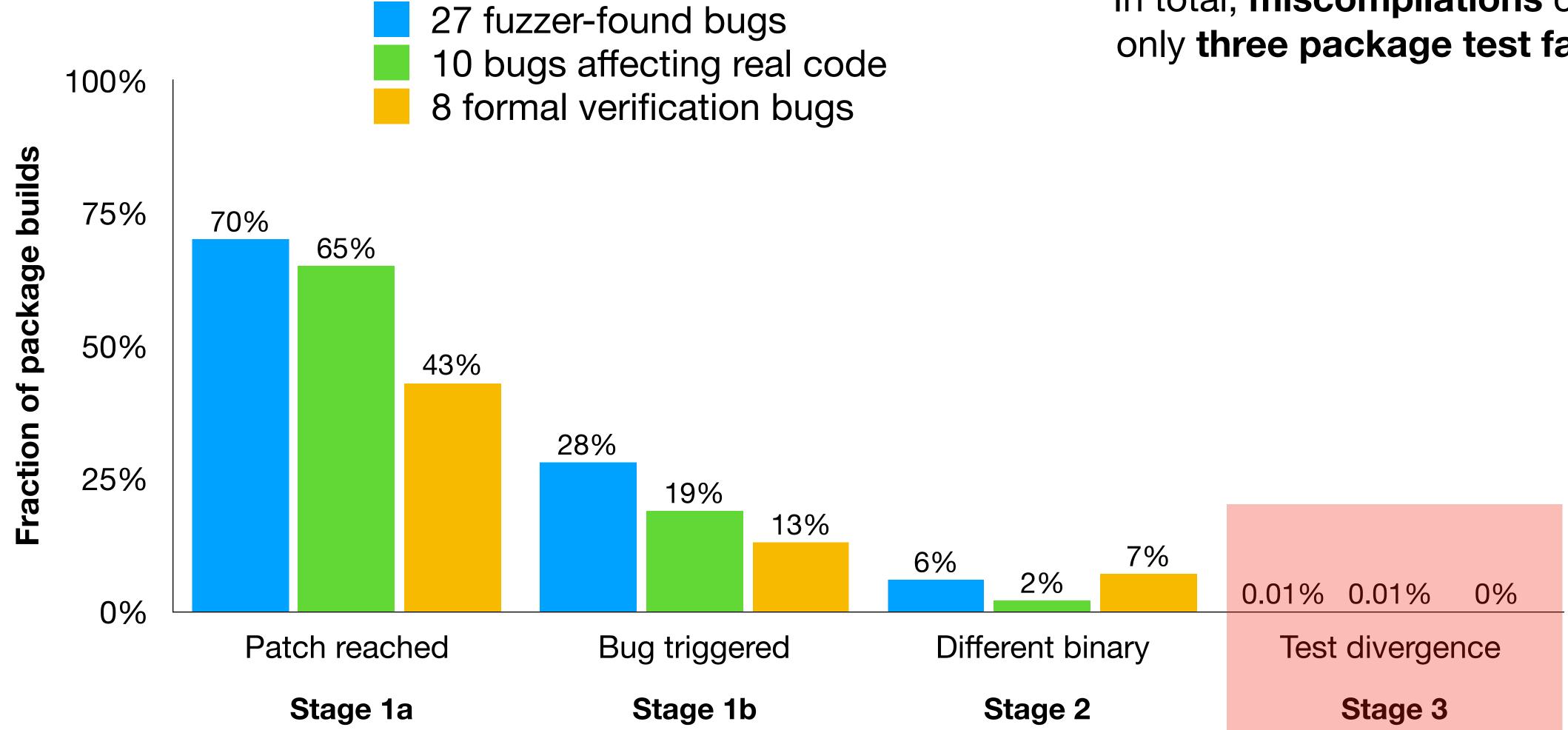


Sample of Package Test Suites 47% average statement coverage Half suites > 50% statement coverage

98% statement coverage of 151kLoC

Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?



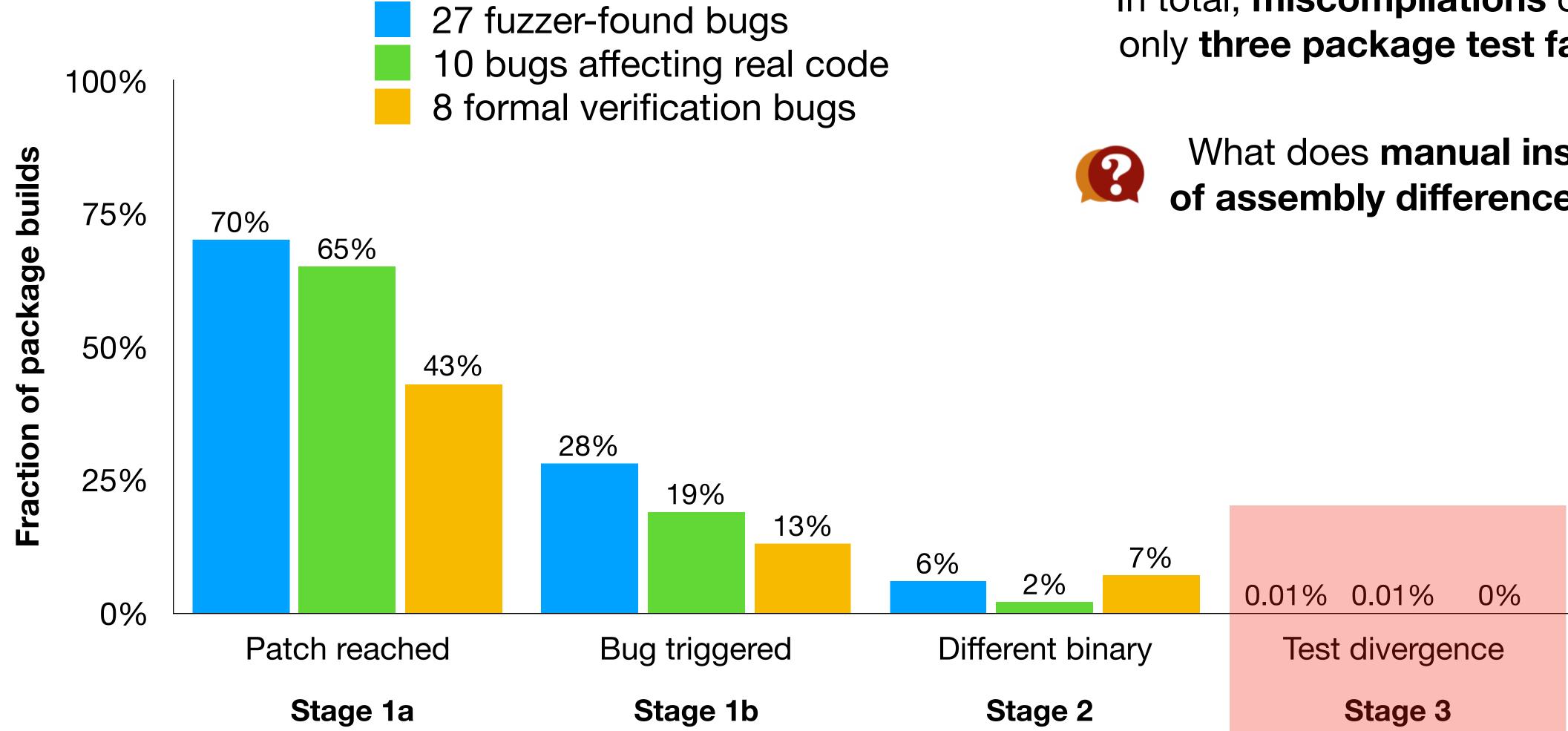


Results

Stage 3

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Results

Stage 3

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What does manual inspection of assembly differences reveal?

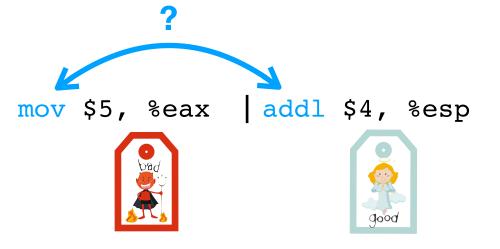


Manual Inspection of Assembly Differences

- We inspected about 50 differences in package assembly code
- For each, we tried and failed to craft inputs triggering a runtime divergence
- In practice, differences have no or little impact over package semantics:



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Compiler maintainers often deactivate whole parts of features instead of fixing them

<u>Specific runtime circumstances often necessary for miscompilation to cause failure</u>



Outline

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Conclusions

- Our two major take-aways are that miscompilations bugs in a mature compiler...
 - <u>seldom impact</u> app reliability (as probed by test suites and manual inspection)
 - have similar impact no matter they were found in real or fuzzer-generated code
- A **possible explainer** for these results is that, in a mature compiler...





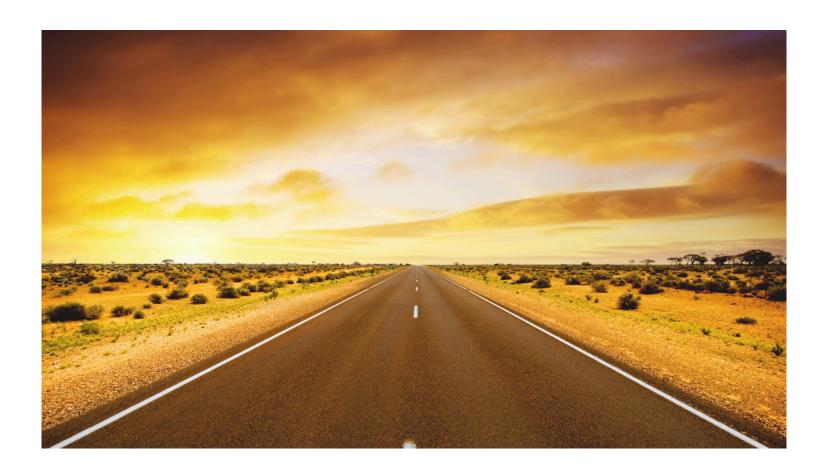
- all the bugs affecting patterns frequent in real code have already been fixed
 - only corner-case bugs remain, affecting real and generated code similarly

Outline

- 1. Context: compiler fuzzing
- 2. Problem: importance of fuzzer-found miscompilations is unclear
- 3. Goal: a study of the practical impact of miscompilation bugs
- 4. Methodology for bug impact measurement
- 5. Experiments and results
- 6. Conclusions
- 7. Future work

Future Work

- - 1. <u>Better probe differences in assembly</u>: symbolic execution + multi-version execution
 - 2. Exploit methodology and artefact: replication, more bugs, less mature compiler, etc.
 - 3. <u>Consider impact on non-functional properties</u>: speed, compiler-induced backdoors, etc.



M. Marcozzi

Our main research directions for even better evaluation of compiler bugs impact:





Compiler Fuzzing: How Much Does It Matter?

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Despite much recent interest in randomised testing (fuzzing) of compilers, the practical impact of fuzzer-found compiler bugs on real-world applications has barely been assessed. We present the first quantitative and qualitative study of the tangible impact of miscompilation bugs in a mature compiler. We follow a rigorous methodology where the bug impact over the compiled application is evaluated based on (1) whether the bug appears to trigger during compilation; (2) the extent to which generated assembly code changes syntactically due to triggering of the bug; and (3) whether such changes cause regression test suite failures, or whether we can manually find application inputs that trigger execution divergence due to such changes. The study is conducted with respect to the compilation of more than 10 million lines of C/C++ code from 309 Debian 155 packages, using 12% of the historical and now fixed miscompilation bugs found by four state-of-the-art fuzzers in the Clang/LLVM compiler, as well as 18 bugs found by human users compiling real code or as a by-product of formal verification efforts. The results show that almost half of the fuzzer-found bugs propagate to the generated binaries for at least one package, in which case only a very small part of the binary is typically affected, yet causing two failures when running the test suites of all the impacted packages. User-reported and formal verification bugs do not exhibit a higher impact, with a lower rate of triggered bugs and one test failure. The manual analysis of a selection of the syntactic changes caused by some of our bugs (fuzzer-found and non fuzzer-found) in package assembly code, shows that either these changes have no semantic impact or that they would require very specific runtime circumstances to trigger execution divergence.

CCS Concepts: • Software and its engineering \rightarrow Compilers; Software verification and validation.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: software testing, compilers, fuzzing, bug impact, Clang, LLVM

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1 INTRODUCTION

Context. Compilers are among the most central components in the software development toolchain. While software developers often rely on compilers with blind confidence, bugs in state-of-the-art compilers are frequent [Sun et al. 2016b]; for example, hundreds of bugs in the Clang/LLVM and GCC compilers are fixed each month. The consequence of a functional compiler bug may be a compile-time crash or a miscompilation, where wrong target code is silently generated. While compiler crashes are spotted as soon as they occur, miscompilations can go unnoticed until the compiled application fails in production, with potentially serious consequences. Automated compiler

*Michaël Marcozzi and Qiyi Tang have contributed equally to the presented experimental study.

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