





A Deterministic Memory Allocator for Dynamic Symbolic Execution

Daniel Schemmel, Julian Büning, Frank Busse, Martin Nowack, Cristian Cadar

```
Imperial College
London
```

Dynamic Symbolic Execution

```
int x = input();
if (x == 0) {
    abort();
} else {
    return x;
}
```

Dynamic Symbolic Execution

int x = input();
if (x == 0) {
 abort();
} else {
 return x;
}

state 1 ({x ≔ λ},{ })

Dynamic Symbolic Execution

int x = input();
if (x == 0) {
 abort();
} else {
 return x;
}



Dynamic Symbolic Execution

int x = input();
if (x == 0) {
 abort();
} else {
 return x;
}



Address Translation in KLEE



Address Translation in KLEE

KLEE Process

Address Translation in KLEE

	KLEE Process
state 1	
state 2	

Address Translation in KLEE

	KLEE Process	
state 1		FE FE FE FE
state 2		

Address Translation in KLEE

	KLEE Process	
state 1		FE FE FE FE
		0×DEADBEEF
state 2		

Address Translation in KLEE

	KLEE Process	
state 1	00 00 00 00	FE FE FE FE
		0×DEADBEEF
state 2		

Address Translation in KLEE



Address Translation in KLEE



Address Translation in KLEE



٠

Address Translation in KLEE

Used for external What is the address of x? function calls **KLEE** Process state 1 00 00 00 00 FE FE FE FE **0**×DEADBEEF FF FF FF FF state 1' state 2

Address Translation in KLEE

Used for external What is the address of x? ٠ function calls **KLEE** Process state 1 00 00 00 00 FE FE FE FE **0**×DEADBEEF FF FF FF FF state 1' **0xFACEFEED** FE FE FE FE state 2 00 00 00 00



• For experiments to be repeatable, memory allocation must be repeatable

- For experiments to be repeatable, memory allocation must be repeatable
- Advanced symbolic execution techniques benefit from or outright require deterministic execution

- For experiments to be repeatable, memory allocation must be repeatable
- Advanced symbolic execution techniques benefit from or outright require deterministic execution
 - POR-SE [Symbolic partial-order execution for testing multi-threaded programs. Schemmel et al. CAV 2020]

- For experiments to be repeatable, memory allocation must be repeatable
- Advanced symbolic execution techniques benefit from or outright require deterministic execution
 - POR-SE [Symbolic partial-order execution for testing multi-threaded programs. Schemmel et al. CAV 2020]
 - SYMLIVE [Symbolic liveness analysis of real-world software. Schemmel et al. CAV 2018]

- For experiments to be repeatable, memory allocation must be repeatable
- Advanced symbolic execution techniques benefit from or outright require deterministic execution
 - POR-SE [Symbolic partial-order execution for testing multi-threaded programs. Schemmel et al. CAV 2020]
 - SYMLIVE [Symbolic liveness analysis of real-world software. Schemmel et al. CAV 2018]
 - MOKLEE [Running symbolic execution forever. Busse et al. ISSTA 2020]

KDALLOC

• An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!

- An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!
- Important properties:

- An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!
- Important properties:
 - 1. Support for external calls (addresses valid in host process)

- An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!
- Important properties:
 - 1. Support for external calls (addresses valid in host process)
 - 2. Cross-run determinism (multiple runs should behave the same)

- An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!
- Important properties:
 - 1. Support for external calls (addresses valid in host process)
 - 2. Cross-run determinism (multiple runs should behave the same)
 - 3. Cross-path determinism (multiple paths should behave the same)

- An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!
- Important properties:
 - 1. Support for external calls (addresses valid in host process)
 - 2. Cross-run determinism (multiple runs should behave the same)
 - 3. Cross-path determinism (multiple paths should behave the same)
 - 4. Spatially distanced allocations (misindexing an array should trap)

- An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!
- Important properties:
 - 1. Support for external calls (addresses valid in host process)
 - 2. Cross-run determinism (multiple runs should behave the same)
 - 3. Cross-path determinism (multiple paths should behave the same)
 - 4. Spatially distanced allocations (misindexing an array should trap)
 - 5. Temporally distanced allocations (use-after-free should trap)

- An allocator specifically for dynamic symbolic execution can do better!
- Important properties:
 - 1. Support for external calls (addresses valid in host process)
 - 2. Cross-run determinism (multiple runs should behave the same)
 - 3. Cross-path determinism (multiple paths should behave the same)
 - 4. Spatially distanced allocations (misindexing an array should trap)
 - 5. Temporally distanced allocations (use-after-free should trap)
 - 6. Stability (minor changes should not snowball)



General Architecture

• mmap one large region and attach forkable metadata to the initial state

- mmap one large region and attach forkable metadata to the initial state
 - This region is only used to provide addresses and for external calls

- mmap one large region and attach forkable metadata to the initial state
 - This region is only used to provide addresses and for external calls
 - Object data is already state-dependent

- mmap one large region and attach forkable metadata to the initial state
 - This region is only used to provide addresses and for external calls
 - Object data is already state-dependent
- Categorize allocations to reduce snowball effect

- mmap one large region and attach forkable metadata to the initial state
 - This region is only used to provide addresses and for external calls
 - Object data is already state-dependent
- Categorize allocations to reduce snowball effect
 - Multiple allocators, especially to disconnect stack and heap

- mmap one large region and attach forkable metadata to the initial state
 - This region is only used to provide addresses and for external calls
 - Object data is already state-dependent
- Categorize allocations to reduce snowball effect
 - Multiple allocators, especially to disconnect stack and heap
 - Binned allocations

Memory Layout for KDALLOC





Slot Allocator for Sized Bins: Spatially Distanced

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
								1^{st}							



Slot Allocator for Sized Bins: Spatially Distanced

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
								1^{st}							

		2^{nd}				3^{rd}		



Slot Allocator for Sized Bins: Spatially Distanced

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
								1^{st}							

		2^{nd}				3^{rd}		

$_4th$	6^{th}	7^{th}	5^{th}	

Memory Consumption



Performance



Solver Time



MOKLEE: Fewer Diverging Locations

	D	\mathbf{FS}	RN	DCOV
Suite	Moklee	KDALLOC	Moklee	KDALLOC
Coreutils	22	12	42	32
Findutils	1	0	1	1
Libspng	0	0	1	0
Binutils	0	0	0	0
Diffutils	0	0	0	0
Grep	0	0	1	1
Tcpdump	0	0	0	0

MOKLEE: Fewer Divergences in memmove

MOKLEE: Fewer Divergences in memmove

MOKLEE: Fewer Divergences in memmove

• uClibc's memmove is sensitive to memory layout





Summary & Conclusion

• The memory allocator has significant impact on dynamic symbolic execution

- The memory allocator has significant impact on dynamic symbolic execution
- We implemented KDALLOC in KLEE and show:

- The memory allocator has significant impact on dynamic symbolic execution
- We implemented KDALLOC in KLEE and show:
 - Performance and memory consumption are not impacted negatively

- The memory allocator has significant impact on dynamic symbolic execution
- We implemented KDALLOC in KLEE and show:
 - Performance and memory consumption are not impacted negatively
 - Use-after-free detection is improved (general benefit)

- The memory allocator has significant impact on dynamic symbolic execution
- We implemented KDALLOC in KLEE and show:
 - Performance and memory consumption are not impacted negatively
 - Use-after-free detection is improved (general benefit)
 - Specific benefits for multiple DSE-based techniques

- The memory allocator has significant impact on dynamic symbolic execution
- We implemented KDALLOC in KLEE and show:
 - Performance and memory consumption are not impacted negatively
 - Use-after-free detection is improved (general benefit)
 - Specific benefits for multiple DSE-based techniques
- KDALLOC is becoming part of mainline KLEE!

Guaranteed Use-After-Free Behavior

```
char *mallocfree() {
    char *s = strdup("A");
    free(s);
    char *t = strdup("B");
    return s;
    }
}
int main(void) {
    char *s = mallocfree();
    puts(s);
    return 0;
}
```

KDALLOC guarantees detection when quarantine is enabled

Query Structure with KDAlloc

```
(Extract w32 0
    (Add w64 0xFFFFDDBC00000000 (Select w64 C 0x00000000000000000000000000000)))
            \downarrow Extract(Add): (Extract (Add x y)) \rightarrow (Add (Extract x) (Extract y))
(Add w32 (Extract w32 0 0xFFFFDDBC0000000))
    (Extract w32 0 (Select w64 C 0x000000000000000 0x000022440000000)))
           (Extract w32 0 0xFFFFDDBC0000000) \rightarrow 0x00000000 and \downarrow Extract(Select)
(Add w32 0x0000000)
    (Select w32 C (Extract w32 0 0x0000000000000000) (Extract w32 0 0x000022440000000)))
                       (\text{Extract w32 0 0x0000000000000}) \rightarrow 0x00000000
                       (\text{Extract w32 0 0x000022440000000}) \rightarrow 0x00000000)
(Add w32 0x00000000 (Select w32 C 0x00000000 0x00000000))
                      (\text{Select w32 C } 0x0000000 \ 0x0000000) \rightarrow 0x0000000)
(Add w32 0x0000000 0x0000000) = 0x00000000
```



Query Structure without KDAlloc

