



## 4th International KLEE Workshop on Symbolic Execution

15-16 April 2024, Lisbon, Portugal, Co-located with [ICSE 2024](#)

# Poster: Input Grammar Oriented Symbolic Execution

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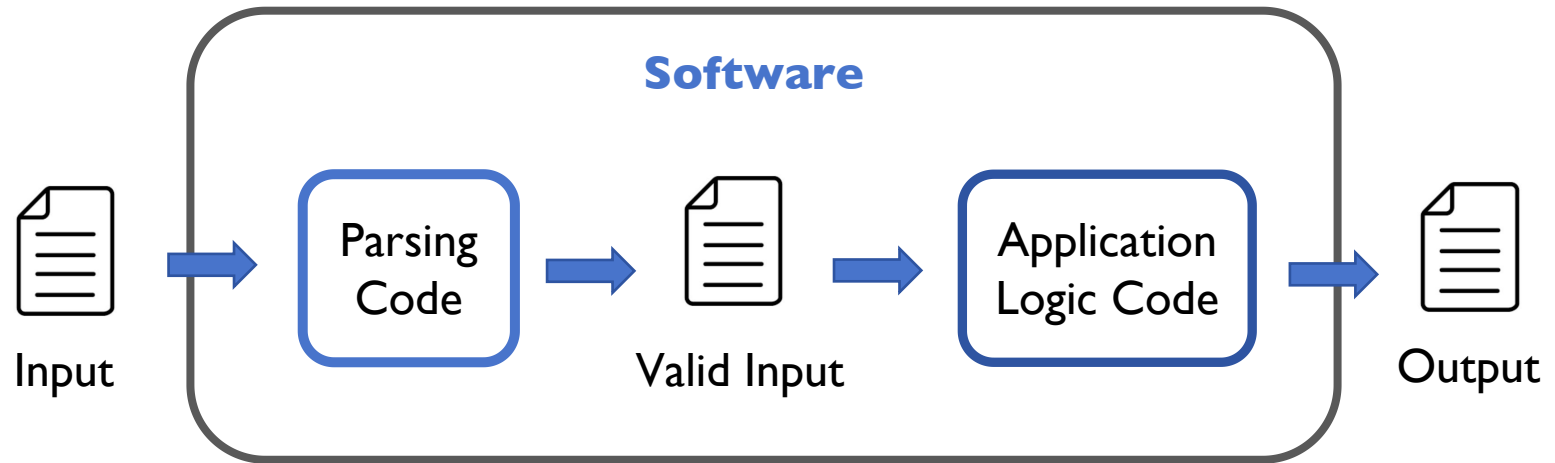
joint work with Ke Ma, Yunlai Luo, Zhenbang Chen, Yufeng Zhang and Ji Wang

College of Computer, NUDT& College of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering, HNU, China



# I. Background

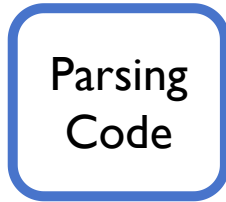
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# I. Background



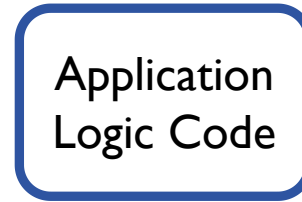
Input



Parsing Code



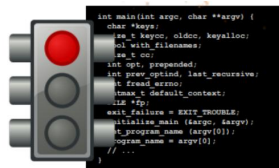
Valid Input



Application Logic Code



Output



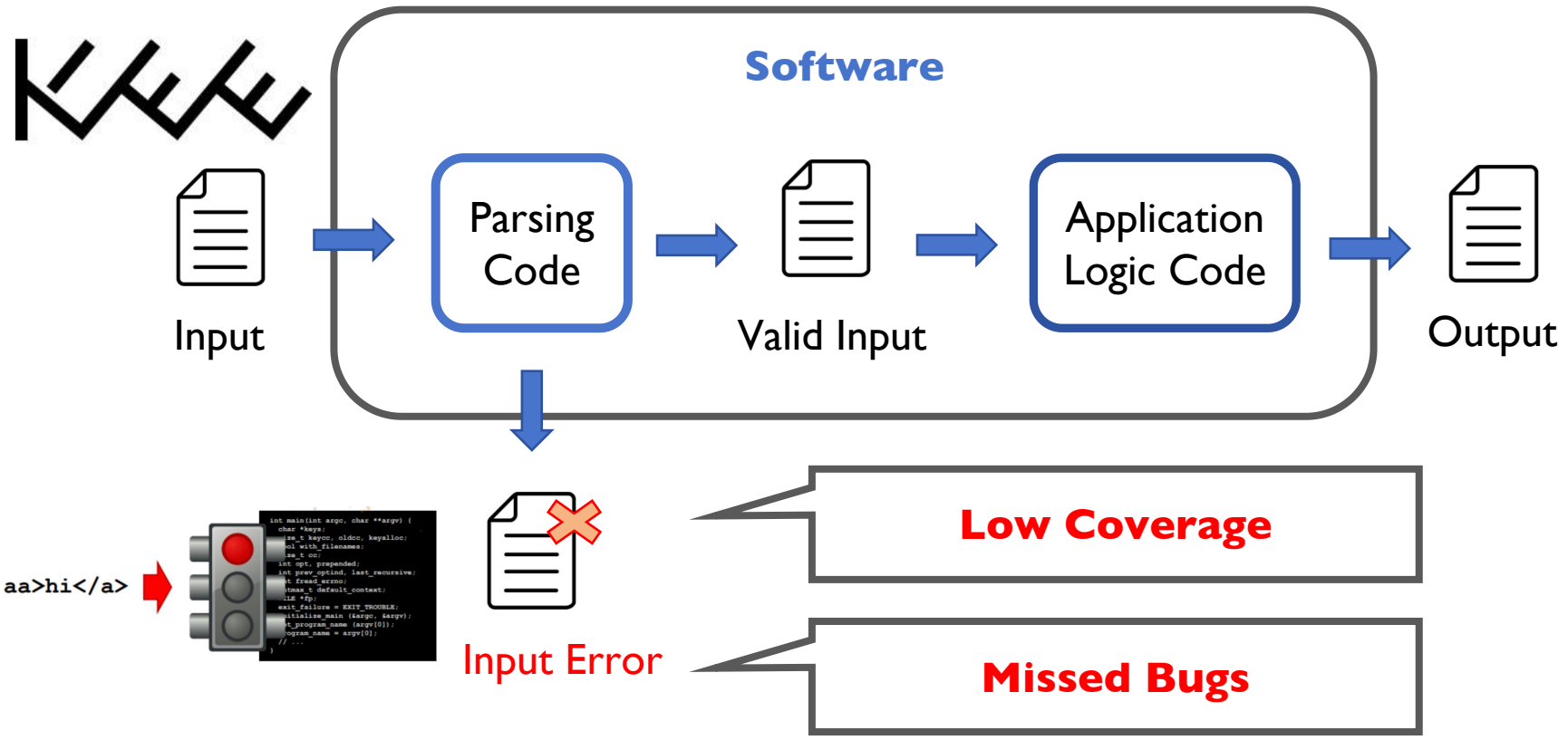
Input Error

Low Coverage

Missed Bugs

# I. Background

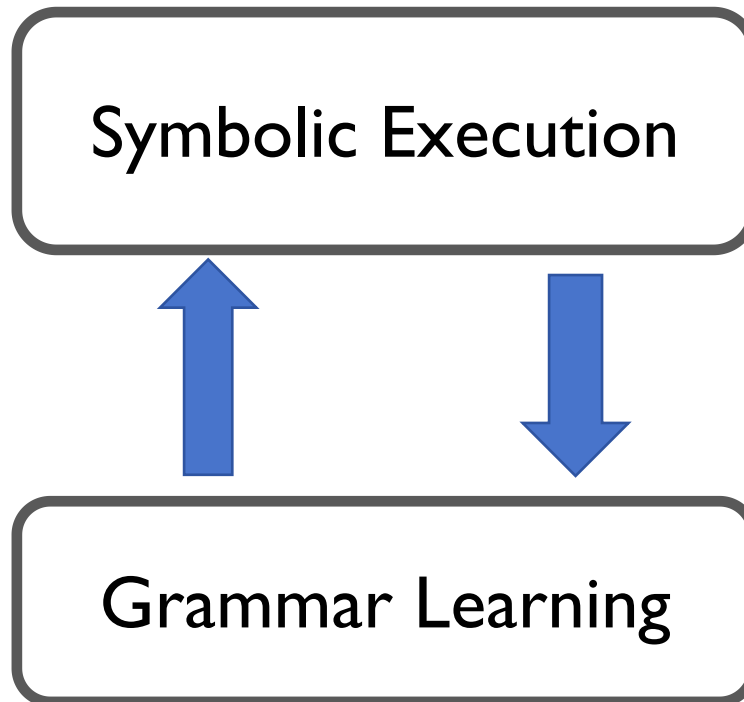
The underlying issue is that **symbolic execution** lacks awareness of the program's **input format grammar**.



## 2. Key Idea

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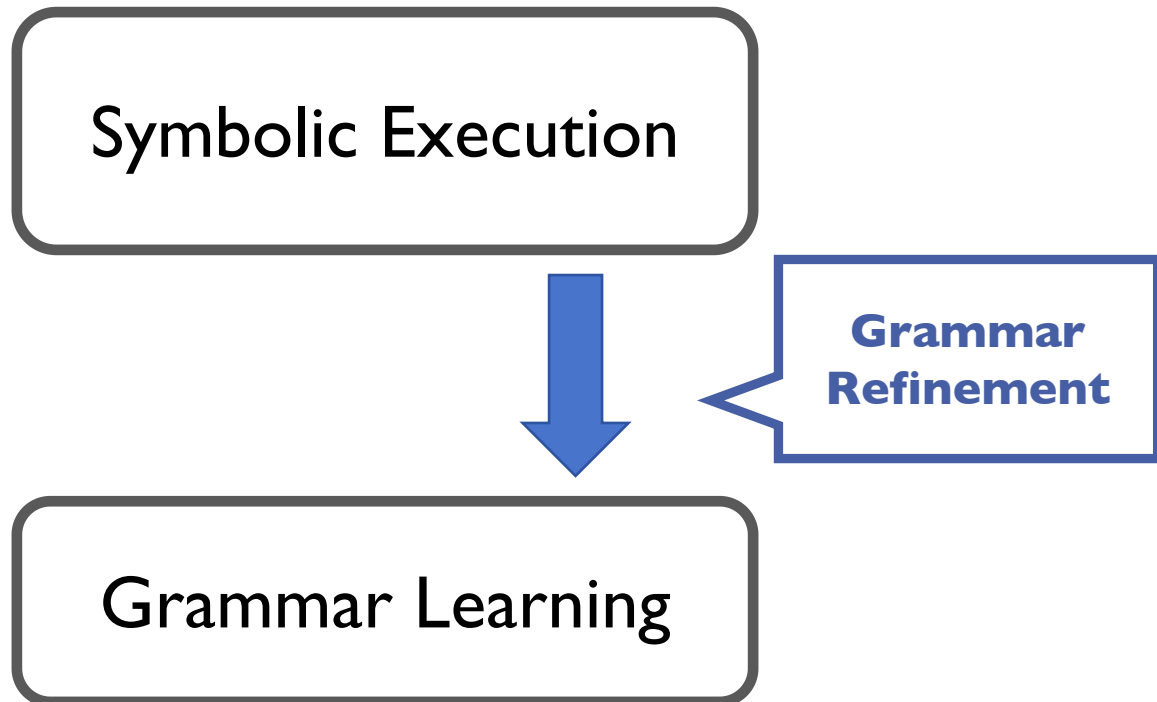
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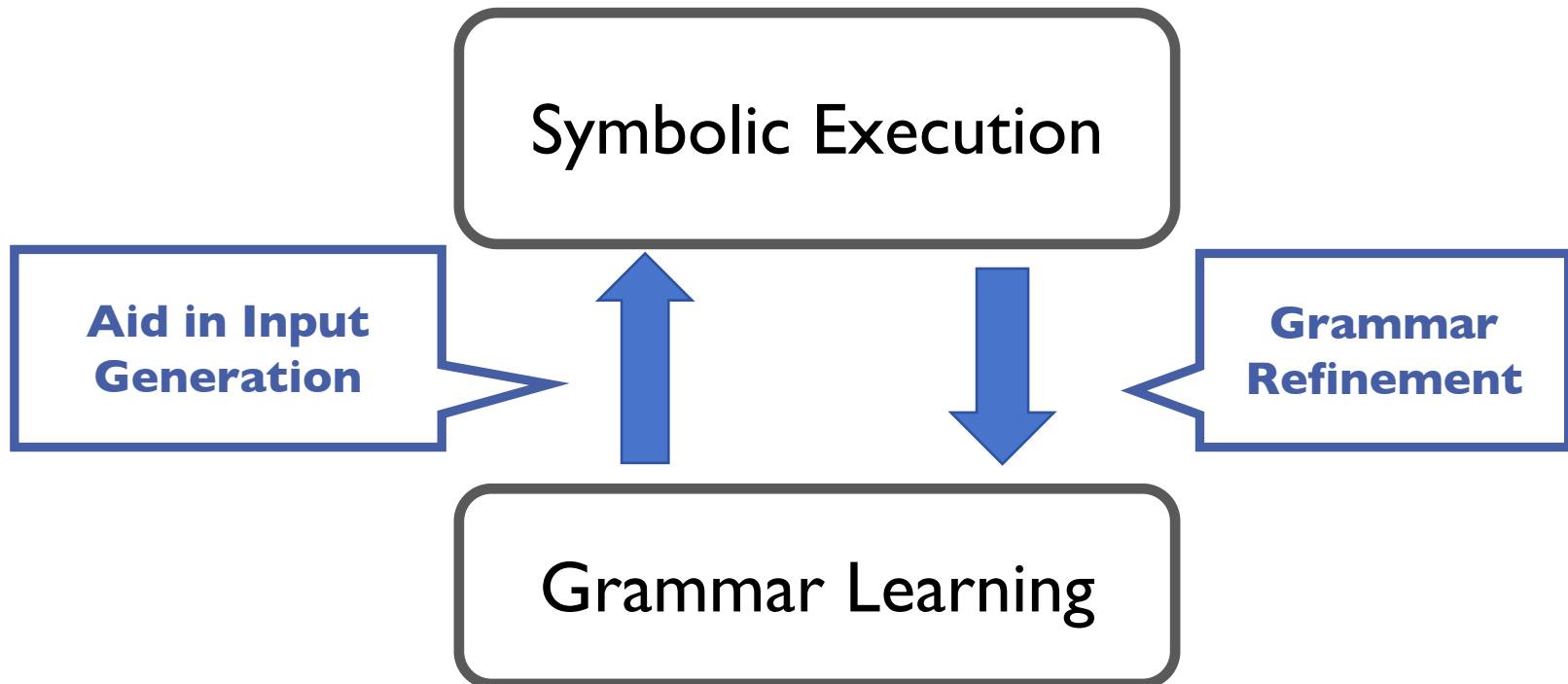
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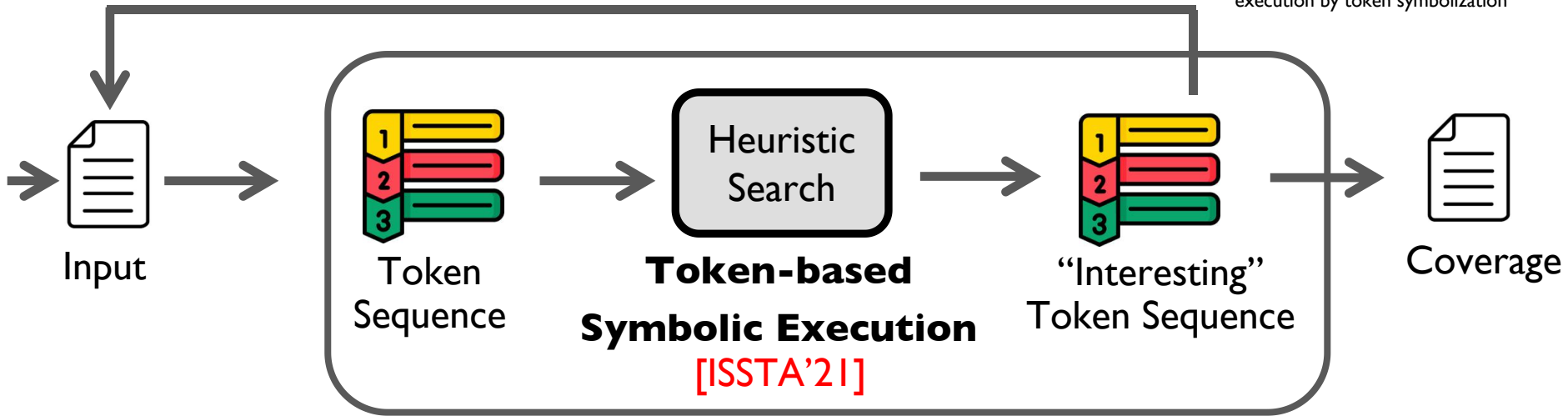
The underlying issue is that **symbolic execution** lacks awareness of the program's **input format grammar**.



# 3. Framework

New input generated by **Constraint Solving**

[ISSTA'21] Grammar-agnostic symbolic execution by token symbolization

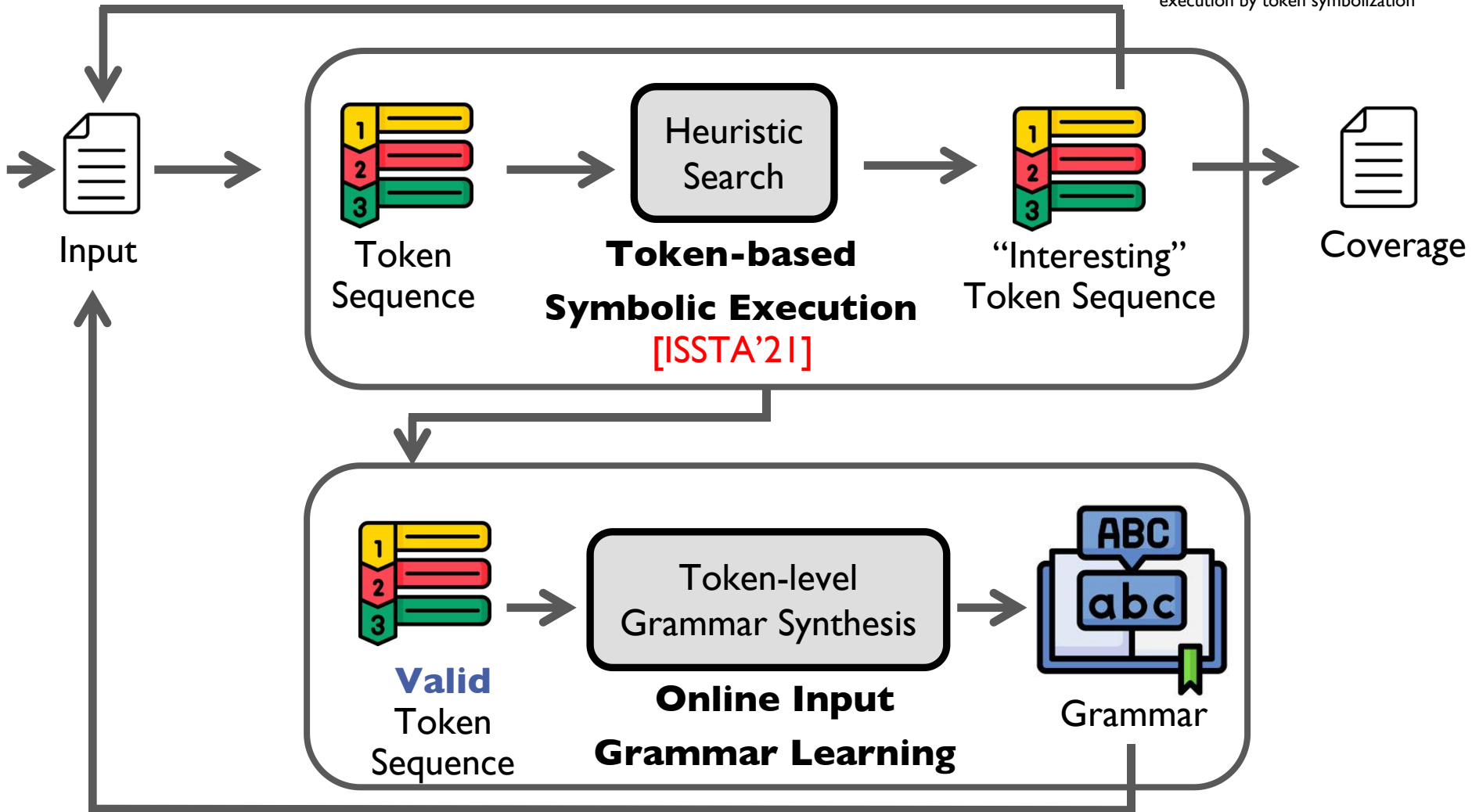




# 3. Framework

New input generated by **Constraint Solving**

[ISSTA'21] Grammar-agnostic symbolic execution by token symbolization

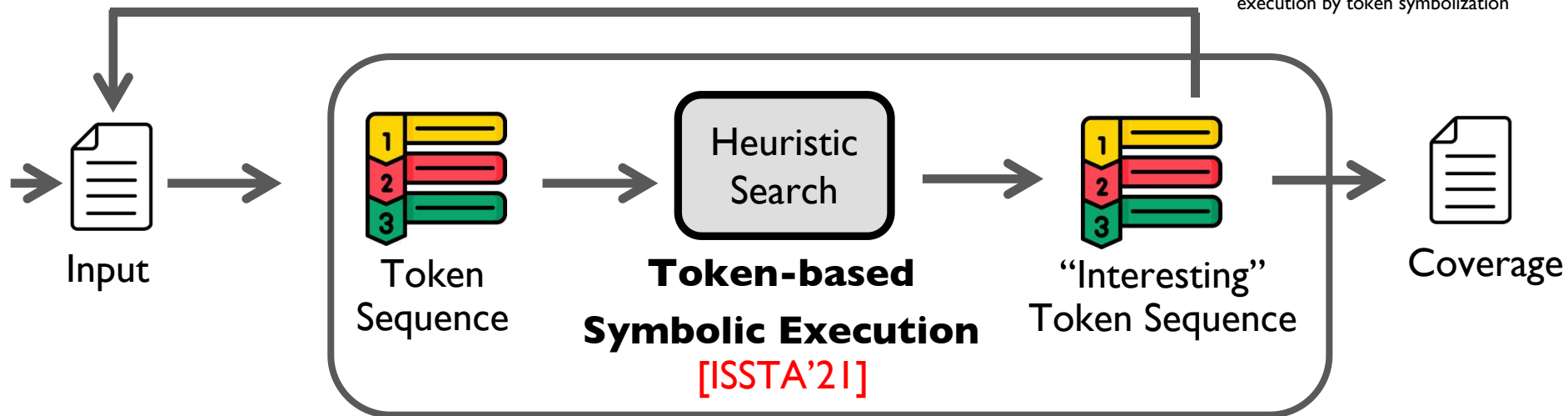


New input specified by **Grammar**

## 3.1 Heuristic Search

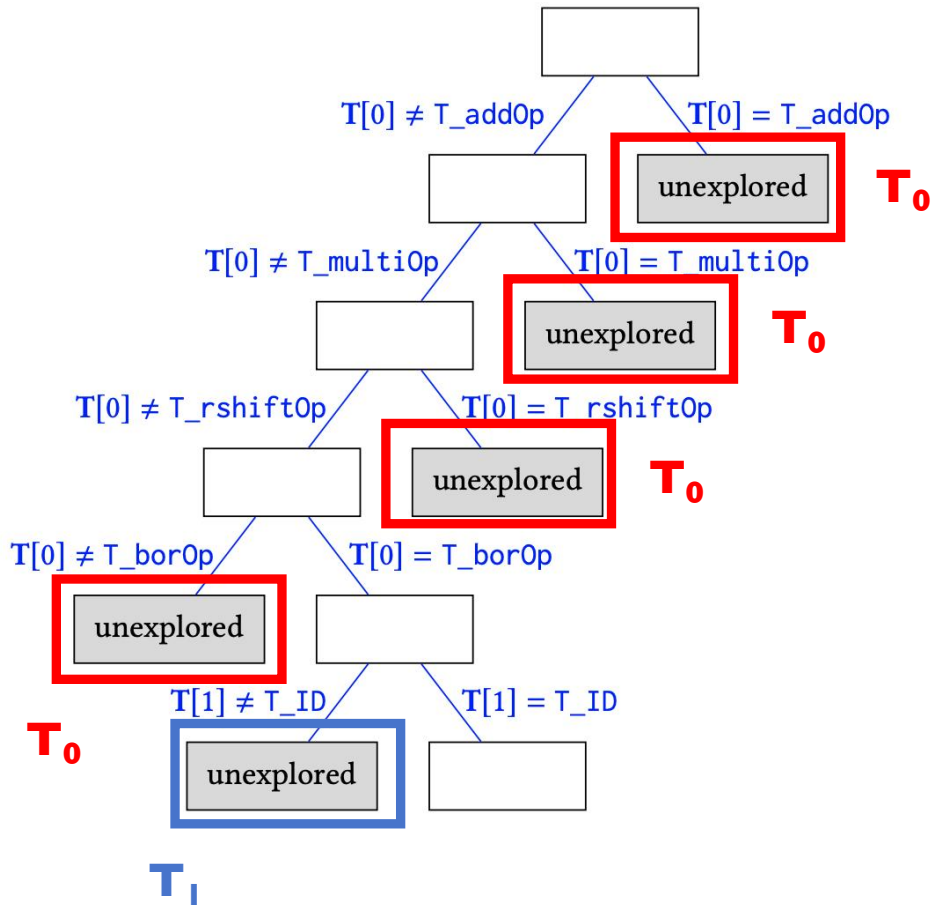
New input generated by **Constraint Solving**

[ISSTA'21] Grammar-agnostic symbolic execution by token symbolization



How to design the **heuristic search** that tries to **generate new inputs, covering more syntax rules** in the parsing code?

# 3.1 Heuristic Search



**Input: bitor a**

Token Sequence:  $\langle T\_borOp, T\_ID \rangle$

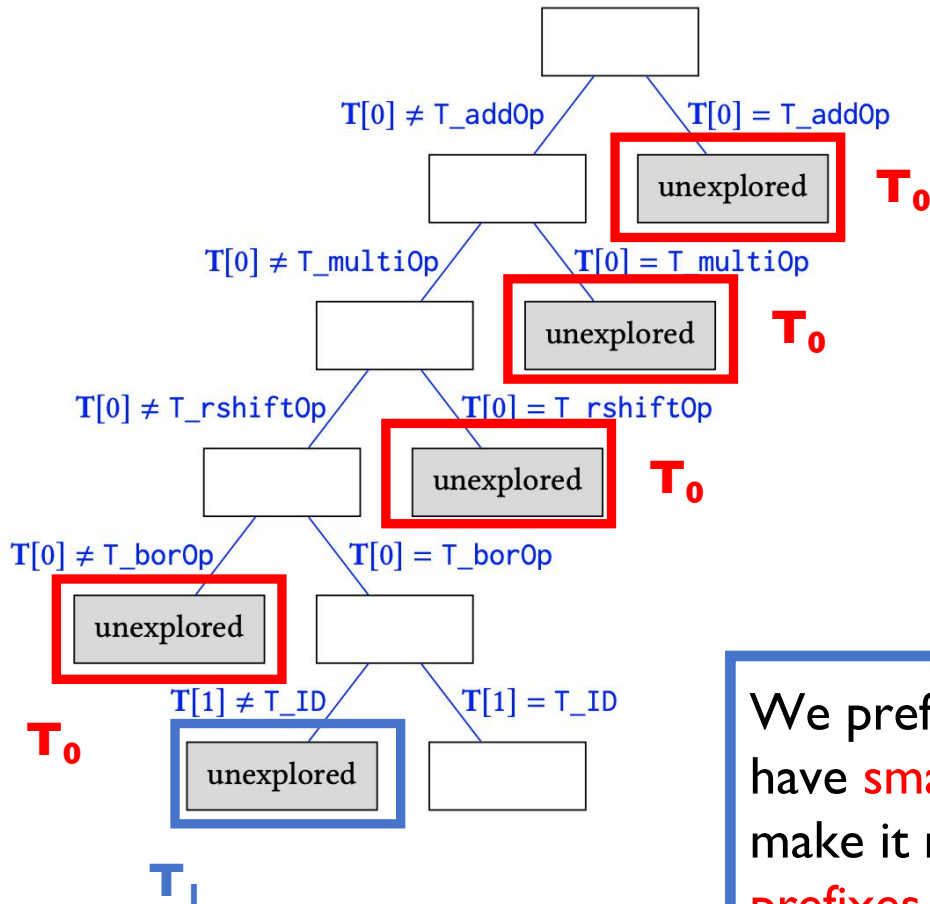
Path Condition:

$T[0] \neq T\_addOp \wedge T[0] \neq T\_multiOp \wedge$

$T[0] \neq T\_rshiftOp \wedge T[0] = T\_borOp \wedge$

$T[1] = T\_ID$

## 3.1 Heuristic Search



**Input: bitor a**

Token Sequence:  $\langle T\_borOp, T\_ID \rangle$

Path Condition:

$$T[0] \neq T\_addOp \wedge T[0] \neq T\_multiOp \wedge T[0] \neq T\_rshiftOp \wedge T[0] = T\_borOp \wedge T[1] = T\_ID$$

We prefer to select the unexplored branches that have **smaller token indexes in priority**, which make it more easier to generate **different token prefixes**.

New Path Condition:

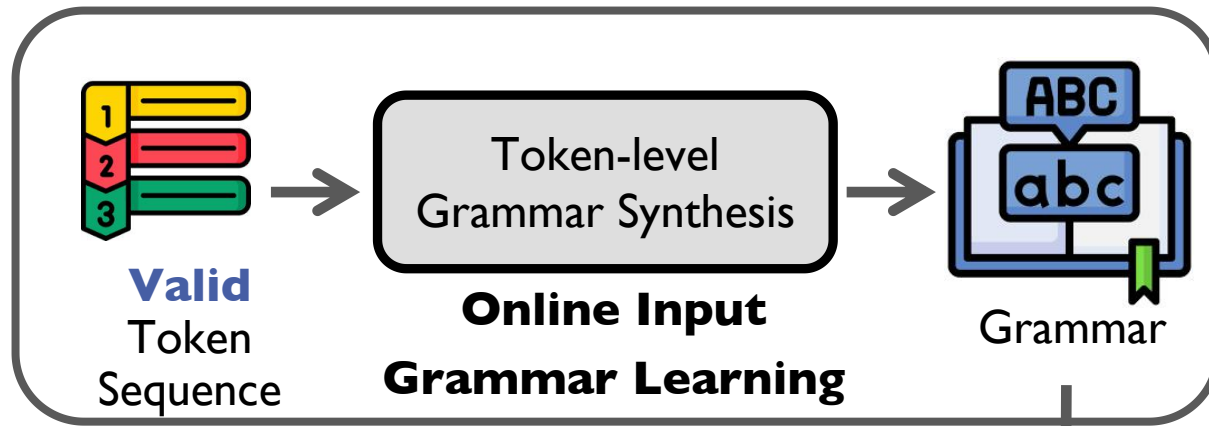
$$T[0] = T\_addOp$$

## 3.2 Grammar Synthesis



Input

How to learn **better grammars** with as few iterations as possible?



New input specified by **Grammar**

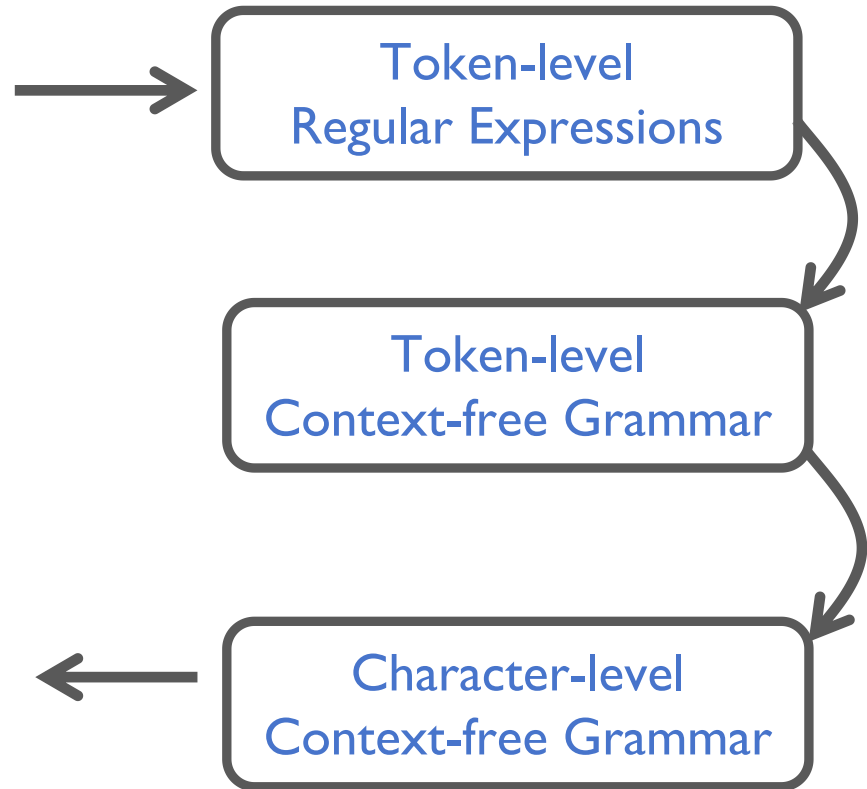
## 3.2 Grammar Synthesis

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**Valid Input: a+a+l**

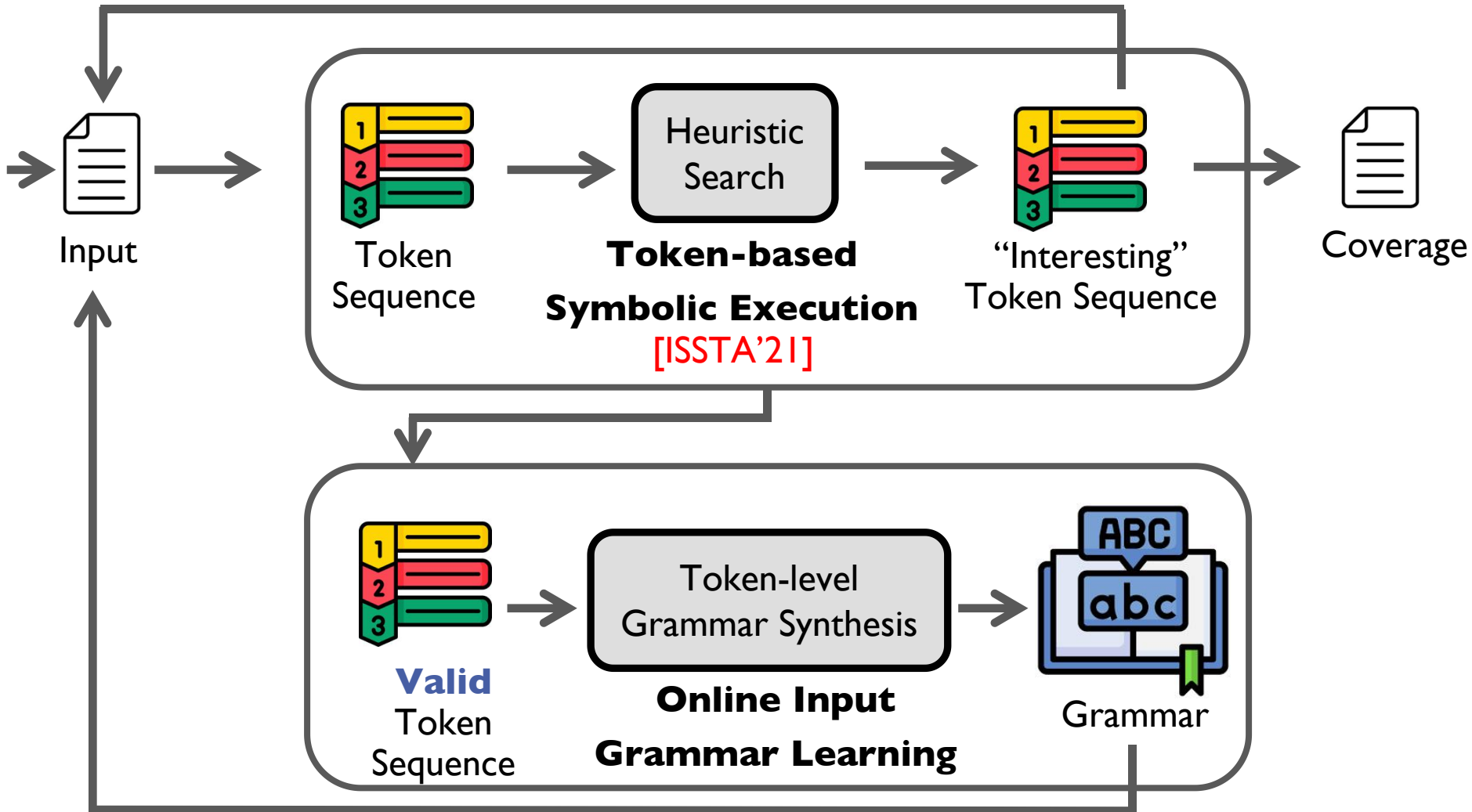
Token Sequence:  
 $\langle T\_ID, T\_OP, T\_ID, T\_OP, T\_NUM \rangle$

$\langle expr \rangle ::= \langle expr \rangle \langle op \rangle \langle term \rangle \mid \langle term \rangle$   
 $\langle term \rangle ::= \langle num \rangle \mid \langle ID \rangle$   
 $\langle num \rangle ::= '0' \mid '1' \mid \dots \mid '9'$   
 $\langle ID \rangle ::= 'a' \mid 'b' \mid \dots \mid 'y' \mid 'z'$   
 $\langle op \rangle ::= '+'$



### 3. Framework

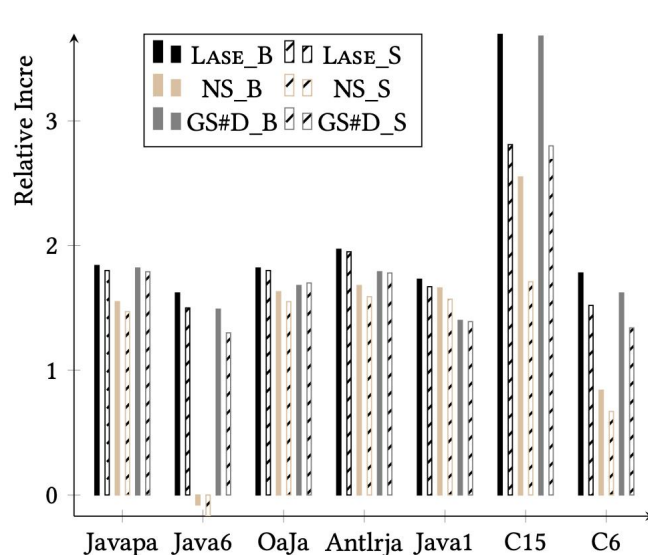
New input generated by **Constraint Solving**



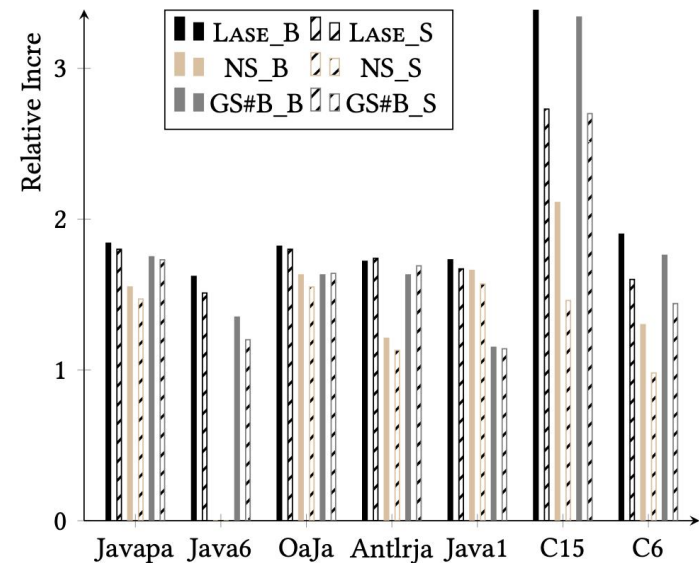
New input specified by **Grammar**

## 4. Results

- for Java compiler **Janino**, on average, we achieve a **50.92%** increase in statement coverage under the **BFS** strategy, and a **57.68%** increase in statement coverage under the **DFS** strategy.
- for C compiler **CLoli**, on average, we achieve a **289.57%** under **BFS** strategy, and a **342.09%** increase in statement coverage under the **DFS** strategy.



Relative increase compared to  
GADSE under **DFS**



Relative increase compared to  
GADSE under **BFS**



Thank you!

Q & A