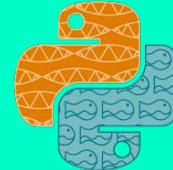


Hack The CPython

Batuhan Taskaya
@isidentical



eupython
July 6-14 2019
BASEL

What is hacking?



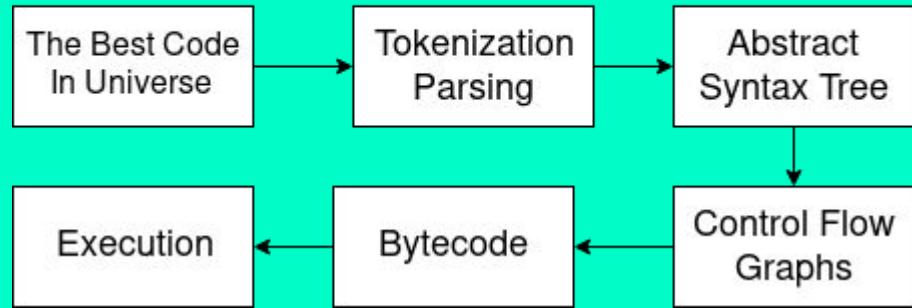
A portrait of Richard Stallman, a man with long dark hair and a full, greyish beard. He is looking slightly to his left with a neutral expression. The background is a vibrant, abstract stained-glass pattern composed of various colored shapes like red, green, blue, and yellow.

Why do we hack?

Yes, we want FREEDOM!
We want to use PEP313!

Before we hack,

Execution Model of CPython



Learn the internals

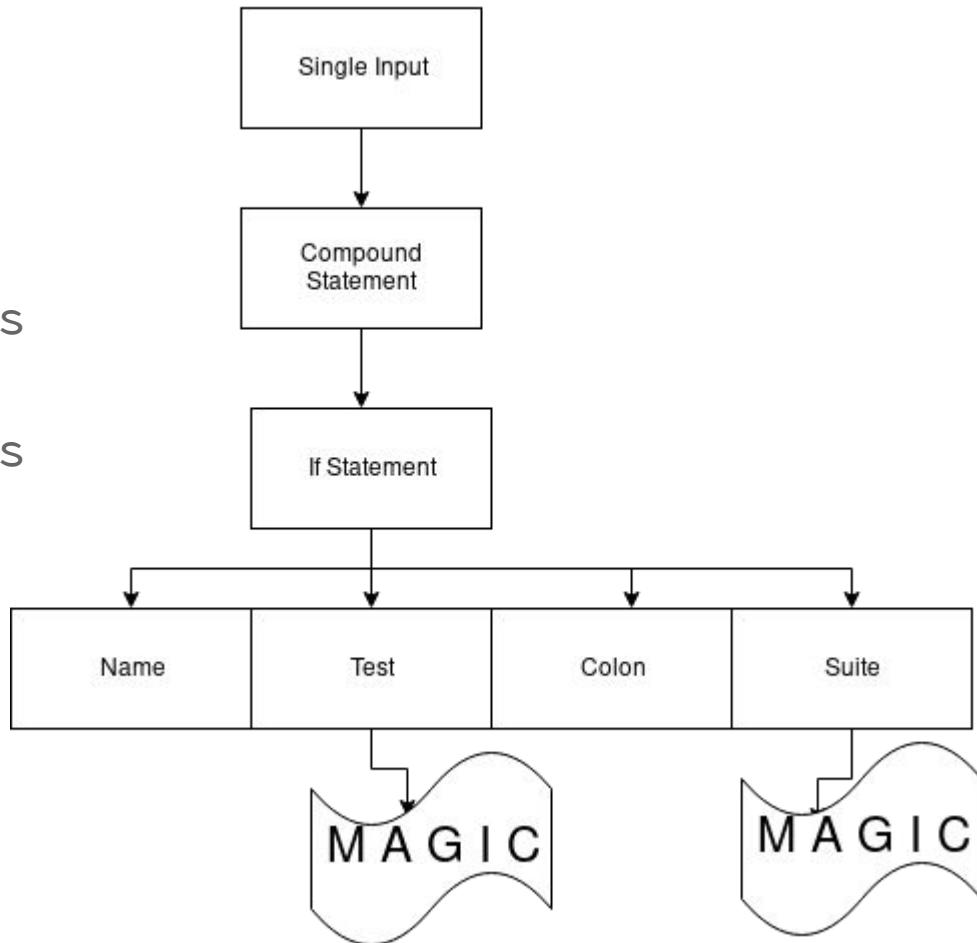
Lexing - Tokenization

- Read `#define NEWLINE` 4
- Split `#define INDENT` 5
- Set the first `#define DEDENT` 6
token `#define LPAR` 7
- `#define RPAR` 8
- `#define LSQB` 9
- `#define RSQB` 10
- `#define COLON` 11
- `#define COMMA` 12

Parsing - Parser

- Generated by PGen2
- Keeps record of structures in arcs, dfas etc.
- Keeps non-affect things (like whitespace)
- Constructs a CST

Parse Tree



AST (where actual hack begins)

- Generated by ASDL
- A highly relational tree that constructed from CST
- Doesn't keep any thing if it doesn't need (like whitespace)
- Can be manipulated easily

```
class RewriteName(NodeTransformer):  
  
    def visit_Name(self, node):  
  
        return ast.Name("a" +  
node.id, node.ctx)
```

Bytecode Generation

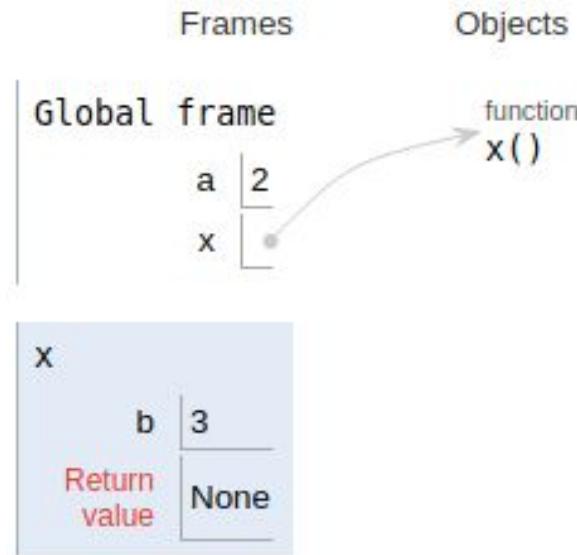
- CFG construction
- Compiling to a code object
- Peephole

```
>>> dis.dis("a.xyz(3)")

  1           0 LOAD_NAME               0 (a)
  2           0 LOAD_METHOD             1 (xyz)
  4           0 LOAD_CONST              0 (3)
  6           1 CALL_METHOD            1
  8           1 RETURN_VALUE
```

Evaluation

- A big for loop
- (with labeled goto's if gcc)
- Tons of structs tries to track everything
- Based on frame by frame execution atop on stacks
- Global & Local namespaces



Let's Hack



Walrus on Python 3.7

A project that allows you to use walrus operator on python 3.7 with using a new encoding

```
# coding: walrus37
name = "batuhan"
if (name := "new_name") == "batuhan":
    print("name changed as ", name)
else:
    print("no name doesnt equal to 'batuhan'")
```

The Strategy For Hacking

- Should run before the tokenization happen
- Needs a new tokenizer or modification to python's tokenize module
- Should be tokenized with that tokenizer
- Needs an untokenizer that consumes sequence of tokens to construct source back
- Should stream that source to real tokenizer

Modifying the Tokens

- Add a new token under `token` module (where python keep token names and ids)
- Add a new key to `tokenize.EXACT_TOKEN_TYPES` for getting token name when that token streamed
- Updating rule for tokenization (if not python will throw error tokens because it cant understand :=)

```
tokens.COLONEQUAL = 0xFF
tokens.tok_name[0xFF] = "COLONEQUAL"
tokenize.EXACT_TOKEN_TYPES[":="] =
tokens.COLONEQUAL

tokenize.PseudoToken =
tokenize.Whitespace + tokenize.group(
    r":=",
    tokenize.PseudoExtras,
    tokenize.Number,
    tokenize.Funny,
    tokenize.ContStr,
    tokenize.Name,
)
```

Modifying The Source

- A function that reads walrused source and returns the 3.7 adapted source
- Tokenizes the walrused source with new modifications
- Creates a copy of that tokens
- Uses real one for detection and the copy for modification

```
def generate_walrused_source(readline):  
    source_tokens = list(tokenize(readline))  
    modified_source_tokens =  
    source_tokens.copy()  
  
    for index, token in  
        enumerate(source_tokens):  
        if token.exact_type ==  
            tokens.COLONEQUAL:  
            <code for replacing that token>  
  
    return untokenize(modified_source_tokens)
```

Creating decode function for Encoding

- Reads source
- Decodes with the actual decoding
- Streams into `generate_walrused_source`
- Returns the clean source back

```
def decode(input, errors="strict",
encoding=None):
    if not isinstance(input, bytes):
        input, _ = encoding.encode(input,
errors)

    buffer = io.BytesIO(input)
    result =
    generate_walrused_source(buffer.readline)
    return encoding.decode(result)
```

Adding a search function

- `codecs.register` takes a search function that returns the `codecs.CodecInfo` if the given name is the codec's name else returns `None`
- For using walrus37 with other encodings then utf8 allow user to specify encoding and bind that encoding into `decode` function

```
def search(name):  
    if "walrus37" in name:  
        encoding =  
            name.strip("walrus37").strip("-") or  
            "utf8"  
        encoding = lookup(encoding)  
        decoder = <partial decoder with  
            given encoding>  
  
    walrus_codec = CodecInfo(...)  
    return walrus_codec
```

Implementing Rejected PEPs

A project that allows you to use features of rejected peps

```
from pepallow.allow import Allow  
  
with Allow(313):  
    assert IV == 4
```

The Strategy For Hacking

- Should run when imported
- Should be effective only with-in the Allow(<pep num>) space
- If the syntax is used outside the scope should raise the proper error (for an example if I used without the pep313 scope it should raise NameError)

Implementing Peps (Example PEP313)

- Should go through all names (a, x, obtainer, I, IV, test)
- If the name is a valid roman literal
- Get the value of that literal and then replace it with proper number

```
class PEP313(HandledTransformer):  
    def visit_Name(self, node):  
        number = roman(node.id)  
        if number:  
            return ast.Num(number)  
        return node
```

Scoping

- Should go through all with statements
- Find with's name and check if name is `Allow`
- Get args of `Allow` (PEP Number)
- Dispatch the elements of that with to proper PEP handler

```
class PEPTransformer(Transformer):  
    def visit_With(self, node):  
        if <name check>:  
            pep = <get first arg>  
            new_node = <get node>  
  
            copyloc(new_node, node)  
            fix_missing(new_node)  
  
        return node
```

Runtime

- Run when imported
- Get the source code of the file it is imported
- Transform that source into AST
- Dispatch AST to Scoping Handler
- Get back the AST
- Compile AST to bytecode
- Run the bytecode

```
def allow():  
    main = __import__("__main__")  
    tf = PEPTransformer()  
    f = main.__file__  
    main_ast = ast.parse(<open>)  
    main_ast = tf.visit(main_ast)  
    fix_missing_locations(main_ast)  
    bc = compile(main_ast, f, "exec")  
    exec(bc, main.__dict__)  
  
allow()
```

Rusty Return

Implicitly return the last expression (like rust)

```
@rlr
def add(x, y):
    x + y

assert add(2, 3) == 5
```

The Strategy For Hacking

- Should run when function decorated
- Should be return the last expression
- Should support infinite branching

Transforming AST (1)

- Visit the function definition
- Remove the @rlr from the decorators list (for preventing infinite recursion)

```
class RLR(ast.NodeTransformer):  
    def visit_FunctionDef(self, fn):  
        self._adjust(fn)  
        ds = filter(lambda d: d.id  
!= "rlr", fn.decorator_list)  
        fn.decorator_list = list(ds)  
        return fn
```

Transforming AST (2)

- If the last node is an expression should replace last node with `ast.Return`
- Call itself back while the last statement is `ast.If`

```
def _adjust(self, container: ast.AST, items: str = "body") -> None:  
    items = getattr(container, items) if items is not None else container  
    last_stmt = items[-1]  
  
    if isinstance(last_stmt, ast.Expr):  
  
        items.append(ast.Return(value=items.pop().value))  
    elif isinstance(last_stmt, ast.If):  
        self._adjust(last_stmt)  
        if len(last_stmt.orelse) > 0:  
            self._adjust(last_stmt.orelse, None)  
    else:  
        return None
```

Poophole Optimizer

An extra bytecode optimizer for python

```
@Poophole.optimize(elem_local_vars = True)
def some_func():
    a = 5
    b = 3
    return b + 6
```

The Strategy For Hacking

- Should run when function decorated
- Should go through bytecode and only apply the optimizations the user specified
- Should re-set the optimized bytecode

Optimize Function

- A decorator that takes a set of options
- Creates a `dis.Bytecode` from function
- Call optimizers by checking the given options
- Re-set the bytecode
- Return the function

```
@classmethod
def optimize(cls, el):
    def wrapper(func):
        buffer = Bytecode(func)
        if el:
            buffer = elem(buffer)
        reset_bytecode(func, buffer)
        return func
    return wrapper
```

Optimizers 1 (Example Elem Local Vars)

- Go over bytecode buffer
- Keep a dict of variables their value is a constant (like a int or string)
- Find unused variables

```
def _elem_locals(self, buffer,
function):
    constant_loaded = False
    stack, symbols = [], {}
    for instr in buffer:
        <create a list of symbols>

        unuseds = [(unused[0],
unused[1]) for unused in
symbols.values() if unused[2] == 0]
```

Optimizers 2 (Example Elem Local Vars)

- Remove unused parts from bytecode
- Remove unnecessary constants
- Remove unnecessary symbols

```
unused_consts, unused_varnames =  
[], []  
offset = 0  
for value, unused in unuses:  
    <replace code>
```

<remove consts>

<remove names>

Catlizer v1-extended

Assign hooks to python functions without mutating functions

```
@Hook.pre
class PreLoggingHook(Hook):
    methods = ['add_task']
    callbacks = [lambda result: print(result.args, result.kwargs)]
```

The Strategy For Hacking

- Should not mutate the function itself
- Should notify before a function call
- Should notify during a function call

(result = notify(call(x)))

- Should notify after a function call

Hooking

- Write onto the memory address of default function call function
- Written by @dutc

```
#pragma pack(push, 1)
jumper = {
    .push = 0x50,
    .mov  = { 0x48, 0xb8 },
    .jmp  = { 0xff, 0xe0 }
};

#pragma pack(pop)

lpyhook(_PyFunction_FastCallKeywords, &hookify_PyFunction_FastCallKeywords);
```

Modifying

- Adding hooks for pre, on call and post actions
- Calling catlizor interface when these hooks activated

```
PyObject *  
hookify_PyFunction_FastCallKeywords  
(PyObject *func, PyObject * const  
*stack, Py_ssize_t nargs, PyObject  
*kwnames)  
{  
    <code>  
    <code>  
}
```

Thanks

@isidentical