



Extrapolating Coverage Rate in Greybox Fuzzing

Danushka Liyanage*
University of Sydney

Chakkrit Tantithamthavorn
Monash University

Seongmin Lee*
MPI-SP

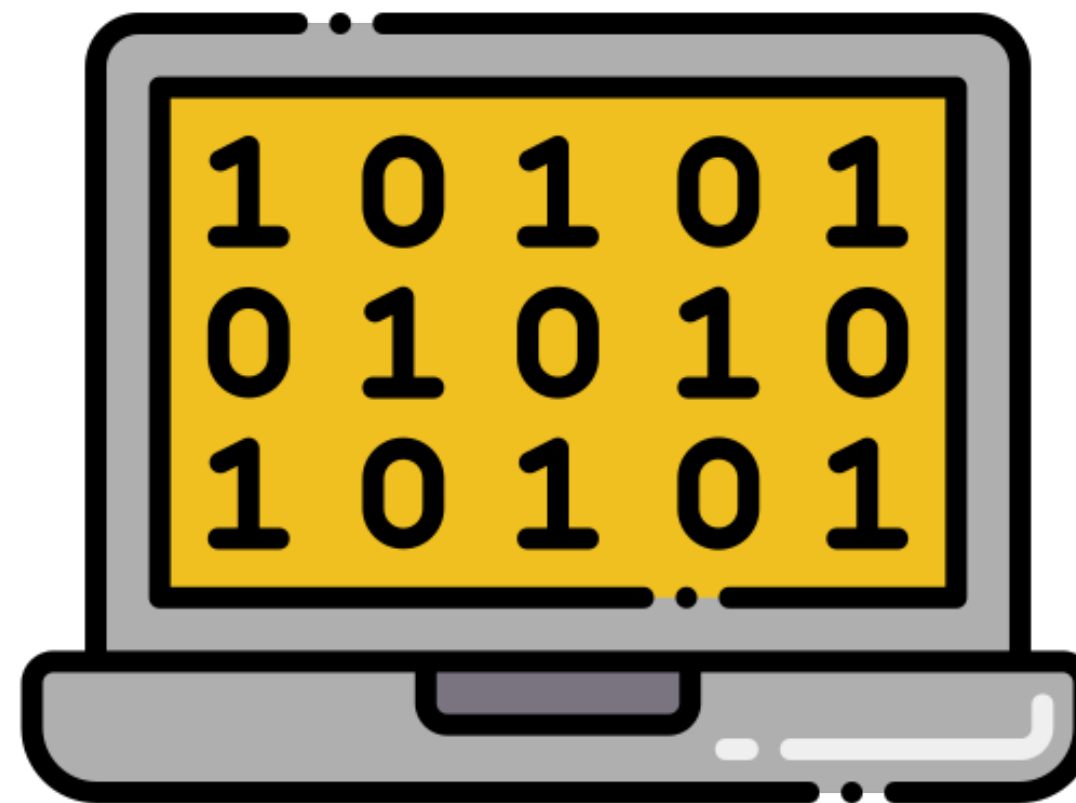
Marcel Böhme
MPI-SP

ICSE 2024

* Co-first Authors

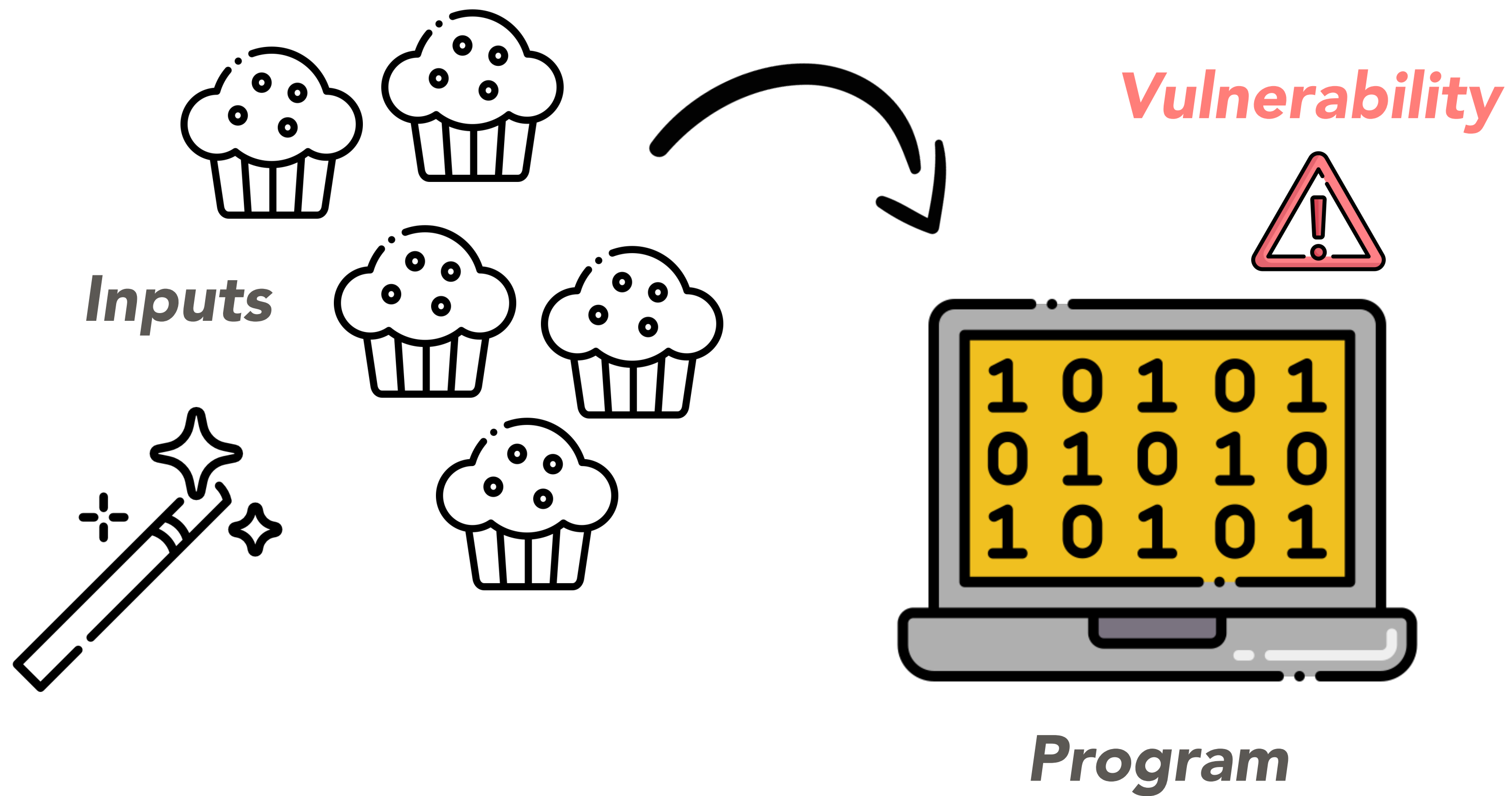
Fuzzing

Vulnerability

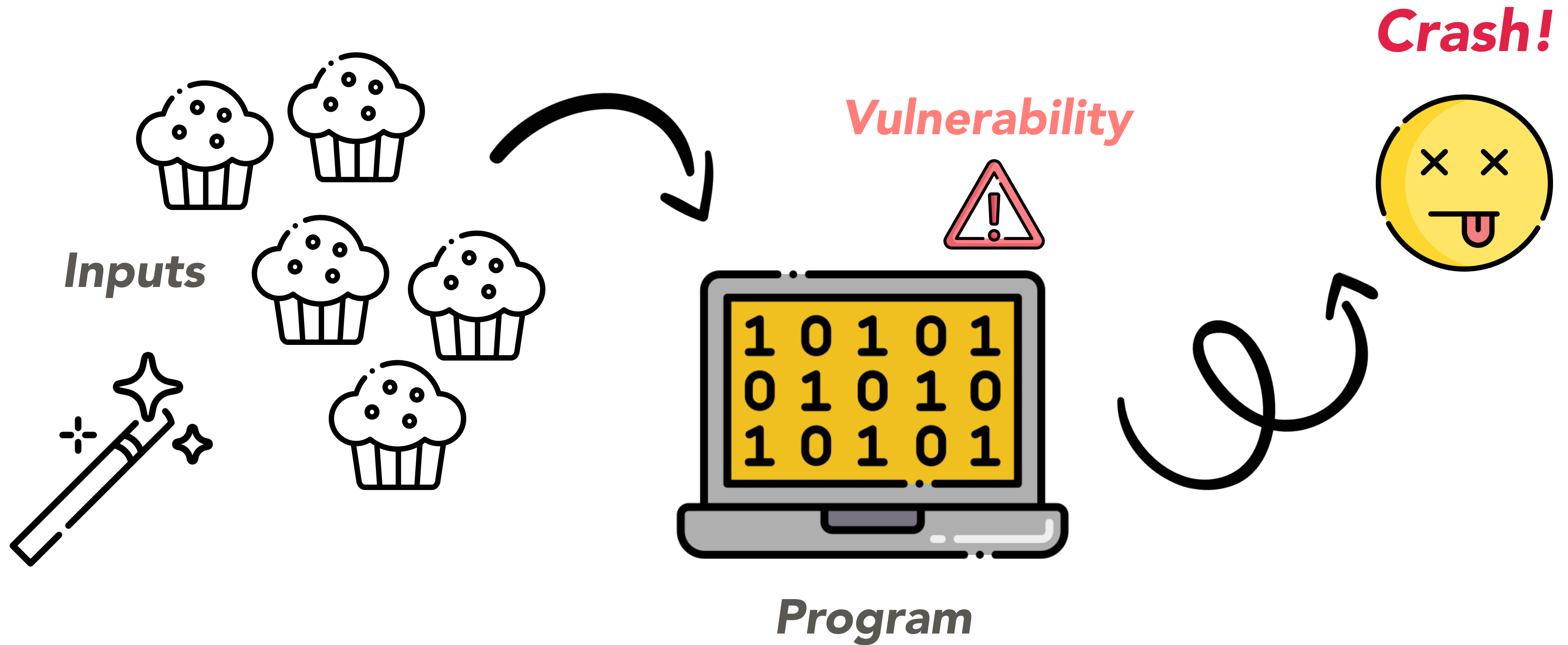


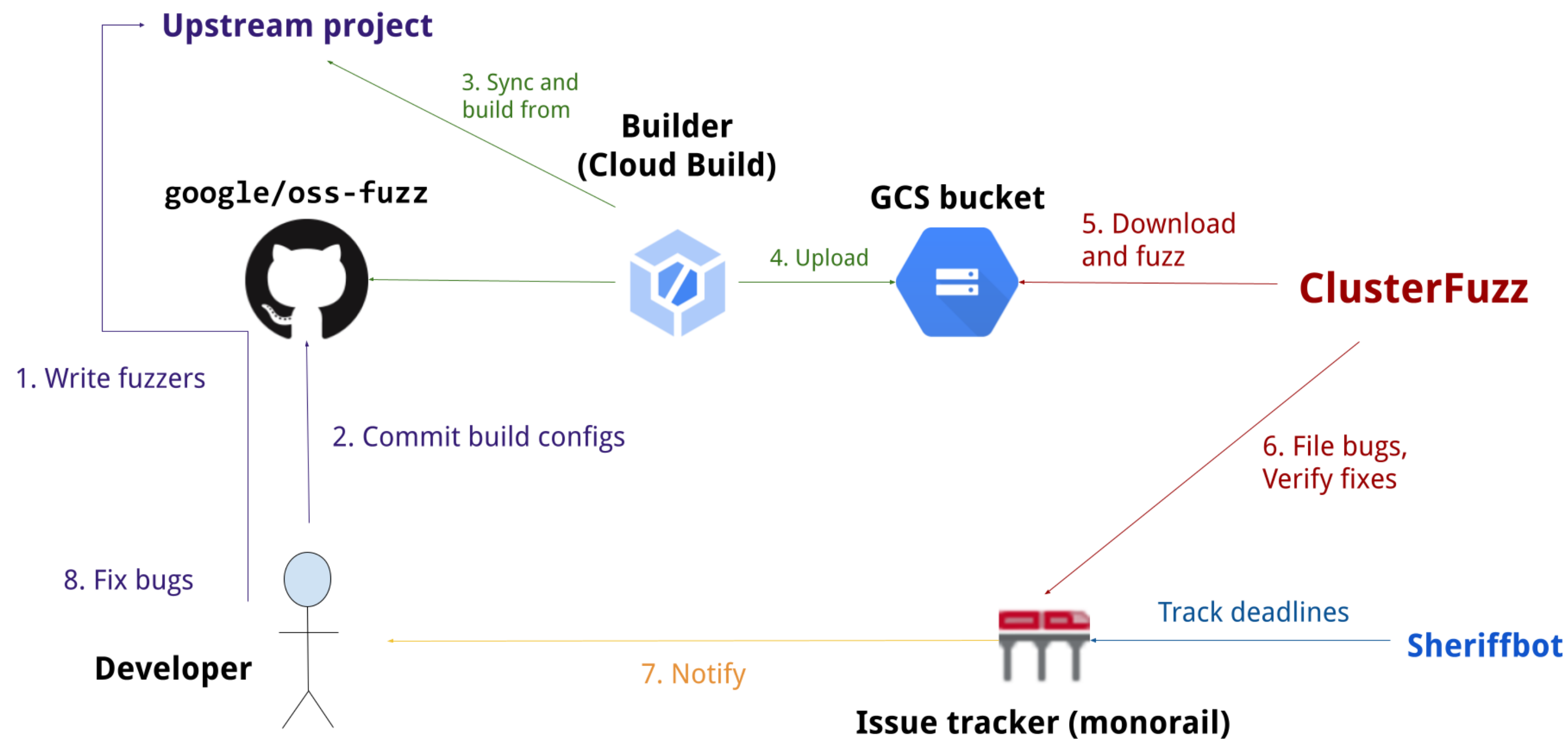
Program

Fuzzing



Fuzzing





OSS-Fuzz

- 10,000 vulnerabilities and 36,000 bugs across 1,000 open-source projects. (~August 2023)

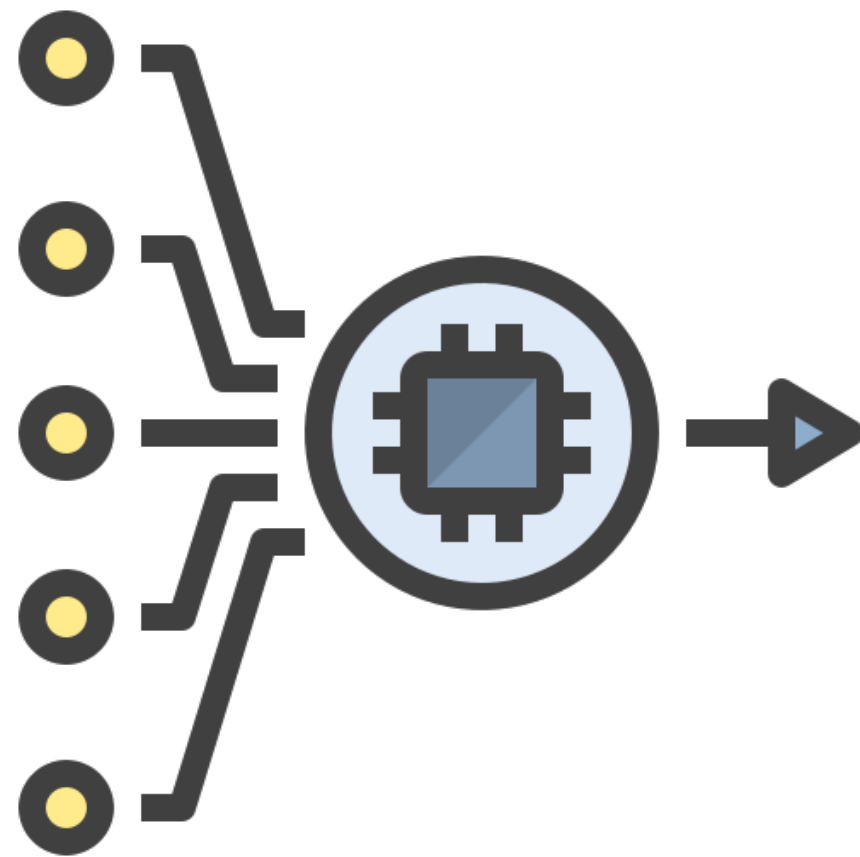
OSS-FUZZ: Continuous Fuzzing for Open Source Software

- **How can we make the fuzzer smarter at generating useful inputs?**

- **How** can we make the fuzzer **smarter** at generating useful inputs?
- **What/Where** else can we apply the fuzzing?

Q. **When should we stop** the fuzzing campaign?

Every possible Input?



Well, it's simply infeasible...

100% Coverage?



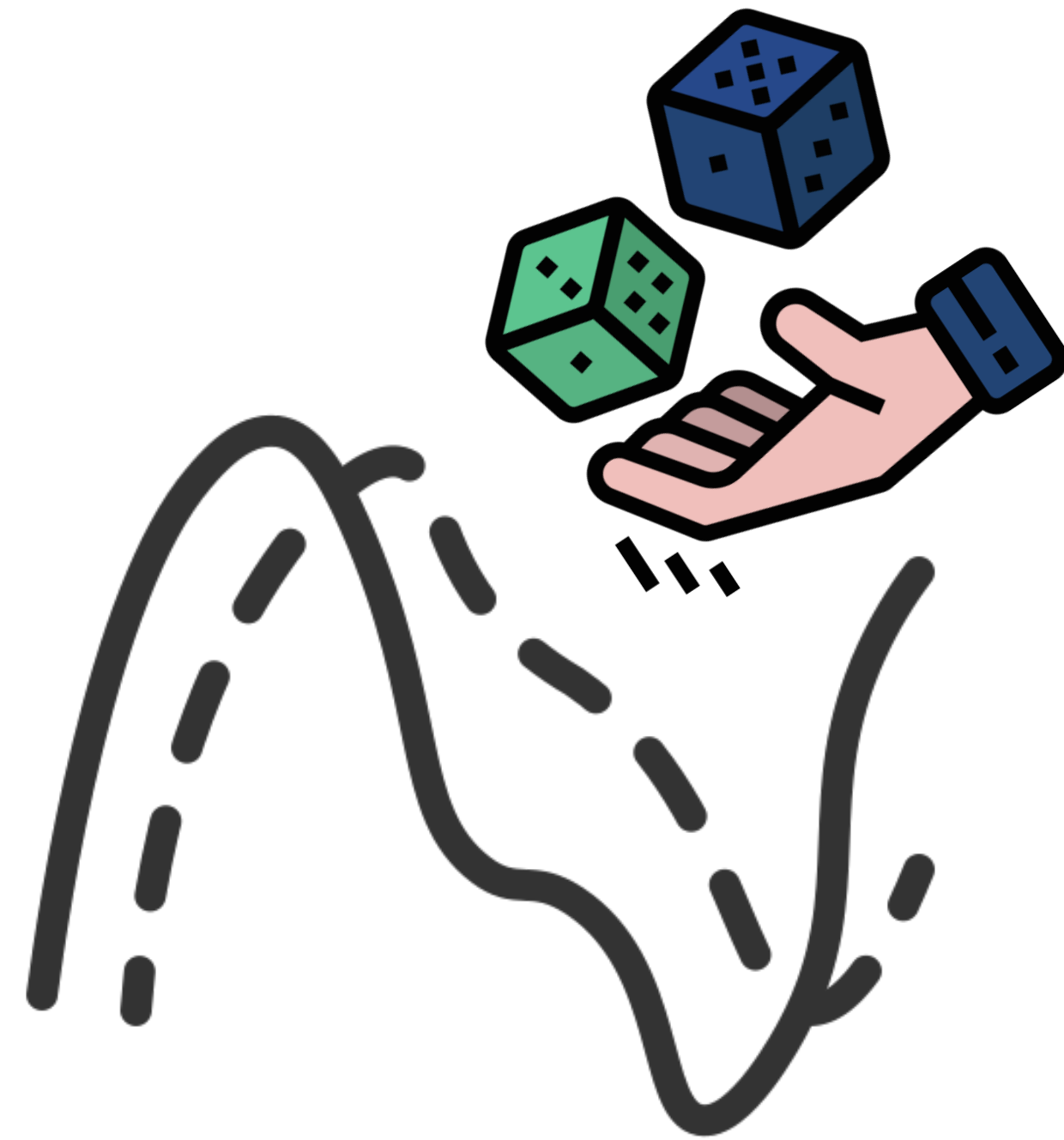
*Which level? Line? Method? Class?
What about unreachable elements?*

More importantly,



*Even if we have some criteria,
**how much of a resource do we
need to use more?***

Q. **When should we stop** the fuzzing campaign?

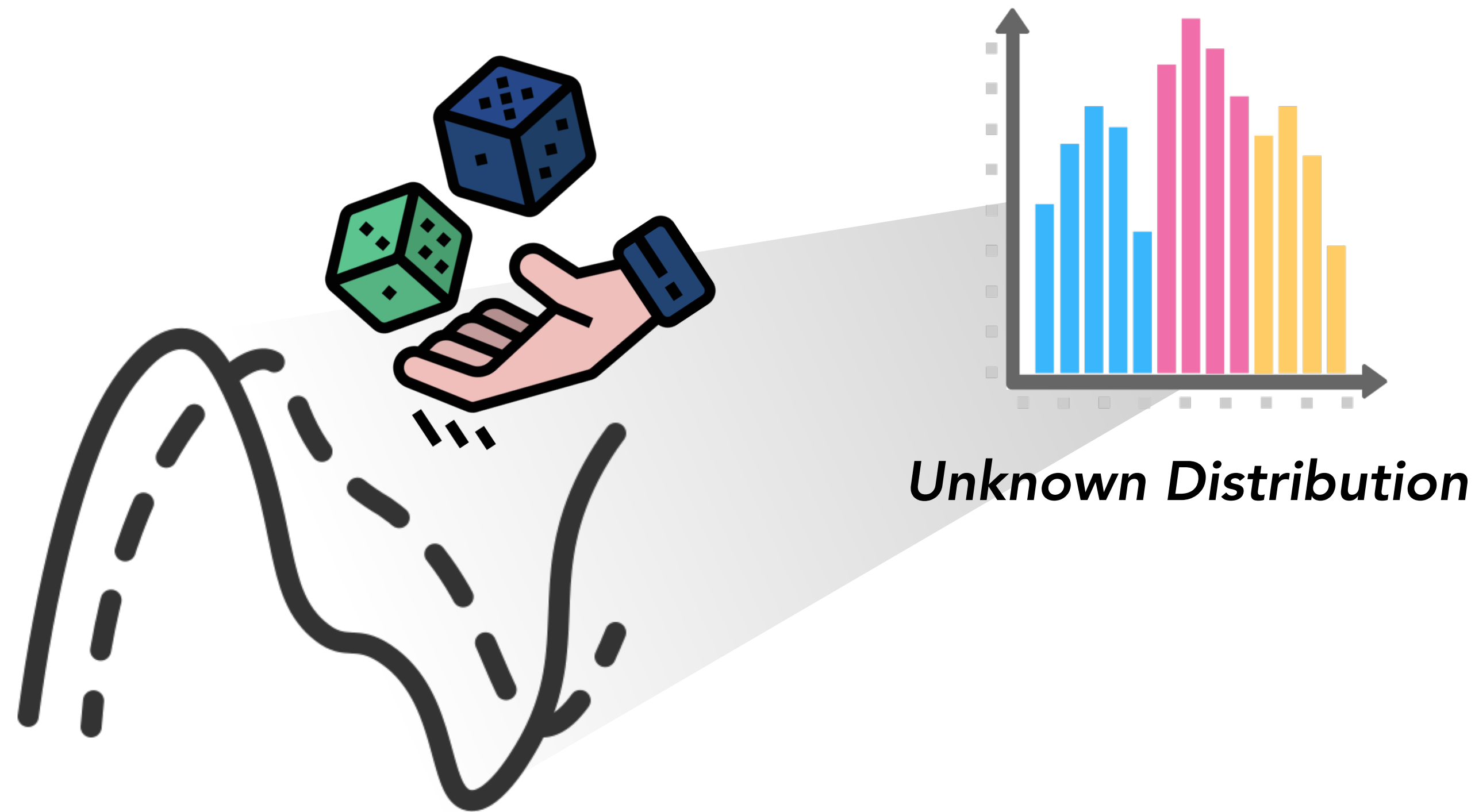


Stochastic Process



*Even if we have some criteria,
how much of a resource do we
need to use more?*

Q. **When should we stop** the fuzzing campaign?

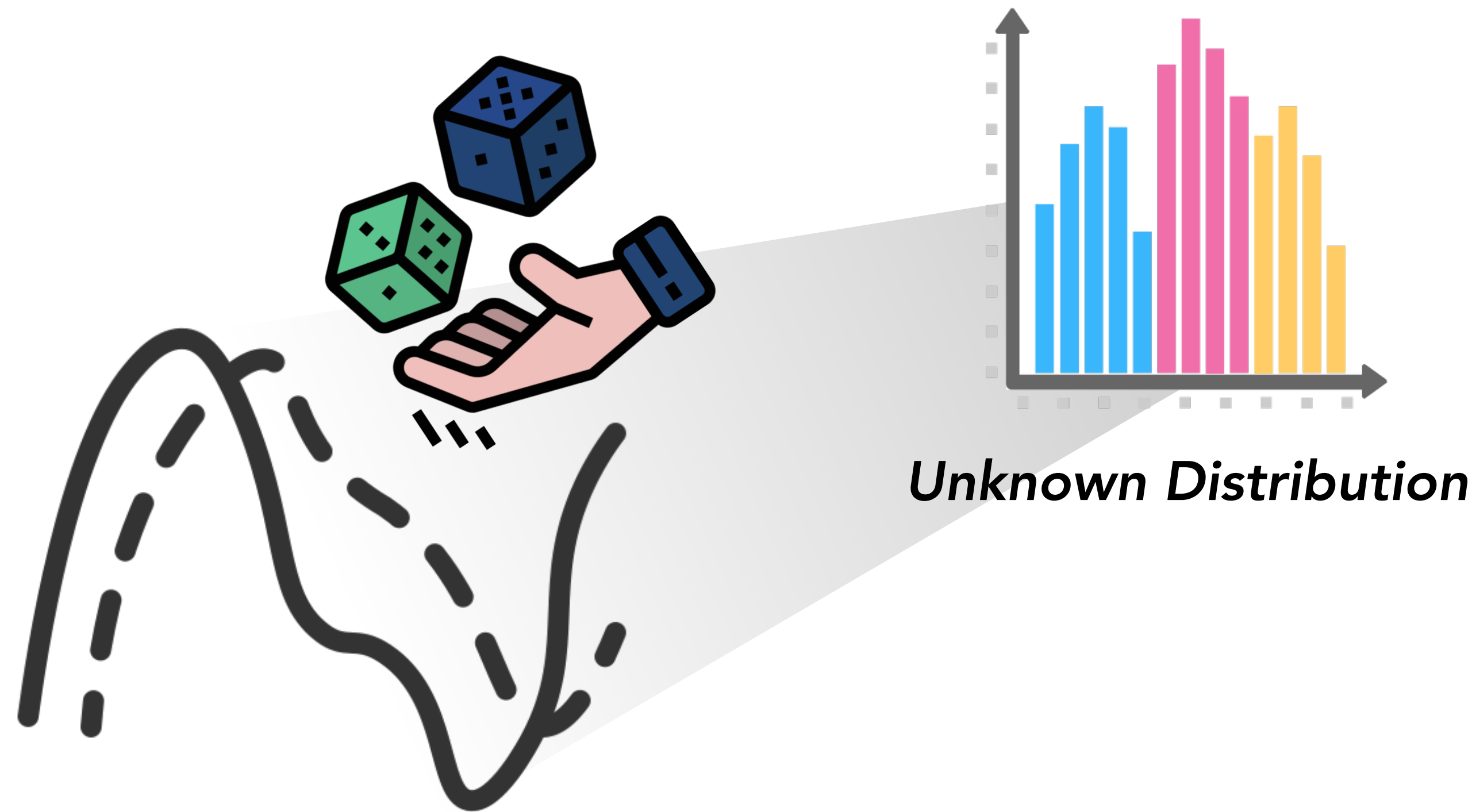


Stochastic Process



*Even if we have some criteria,
how much of a resource do we
need to use more?*

Q. **When should we stop** the fuzzing campaign?



Stochastic Process

Unsolvable with a formal/analytic method

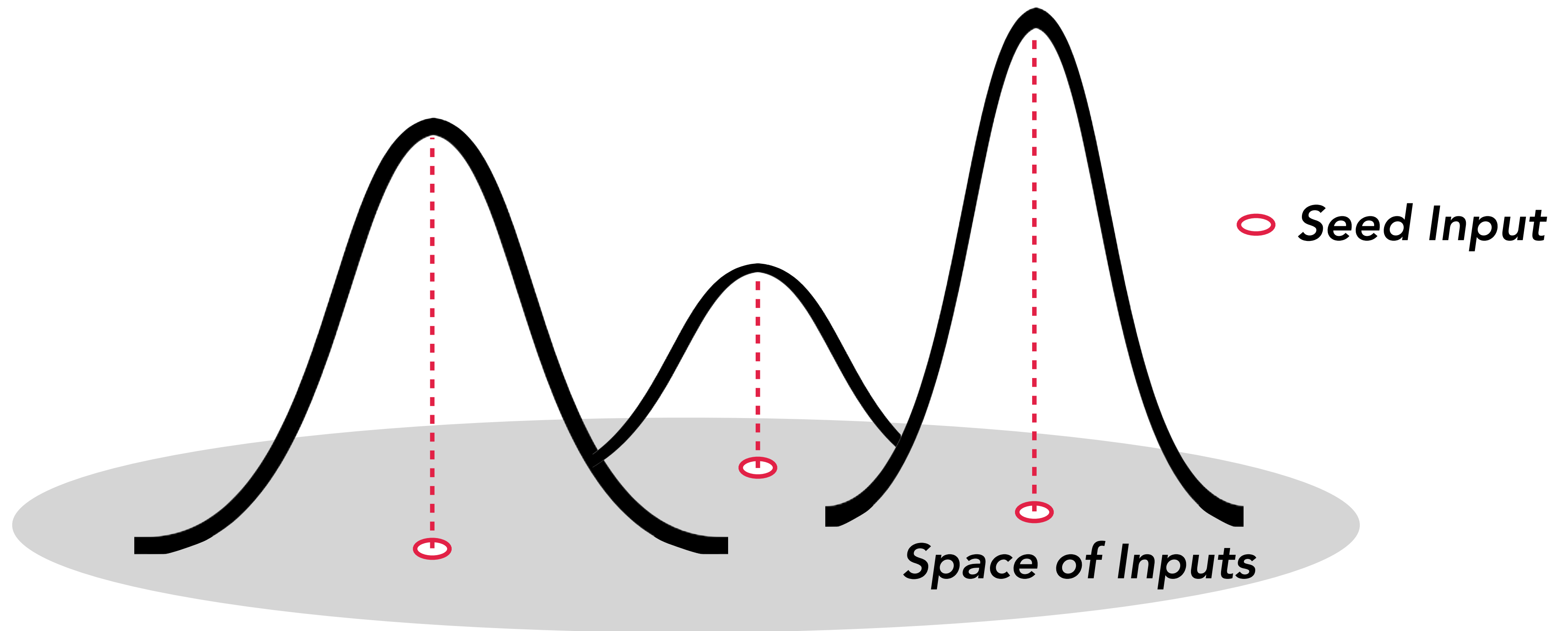


*Even if we have some criteria,
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Fuzzing in terms of Statistics

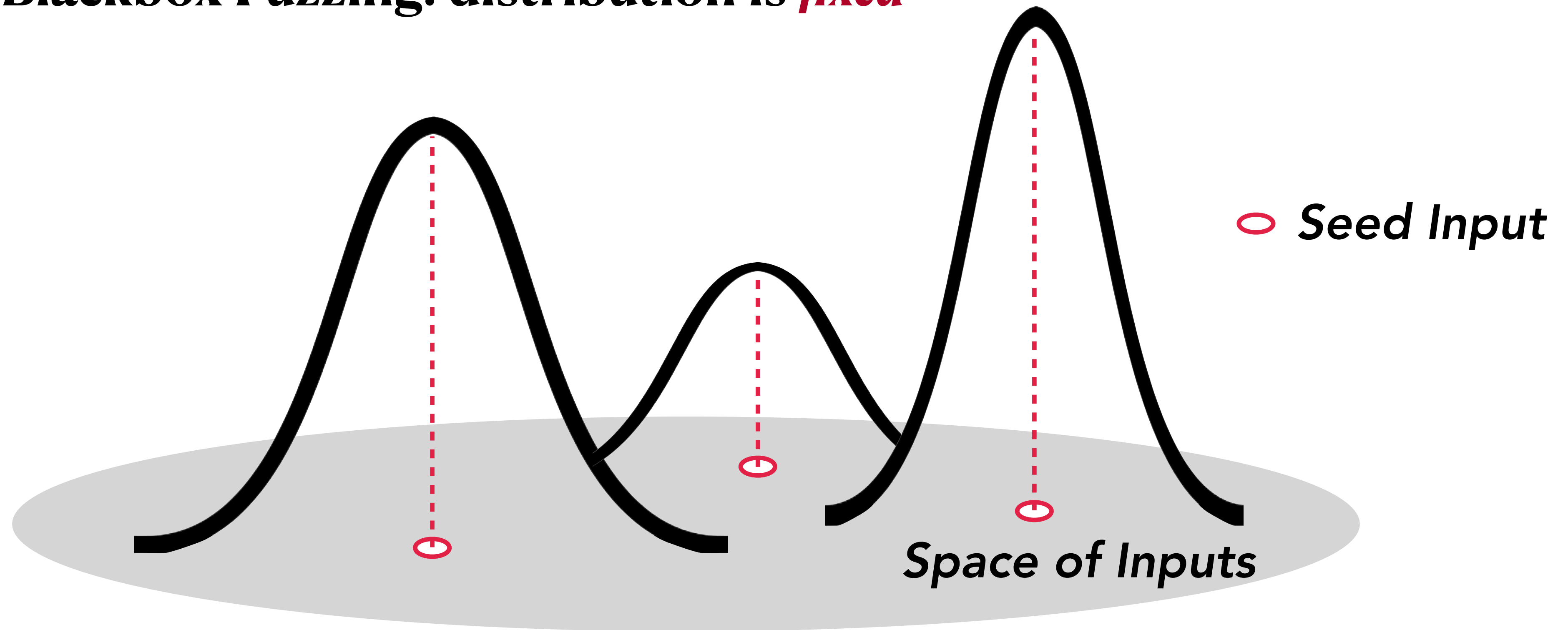


Fuzzing in terms of Statistics



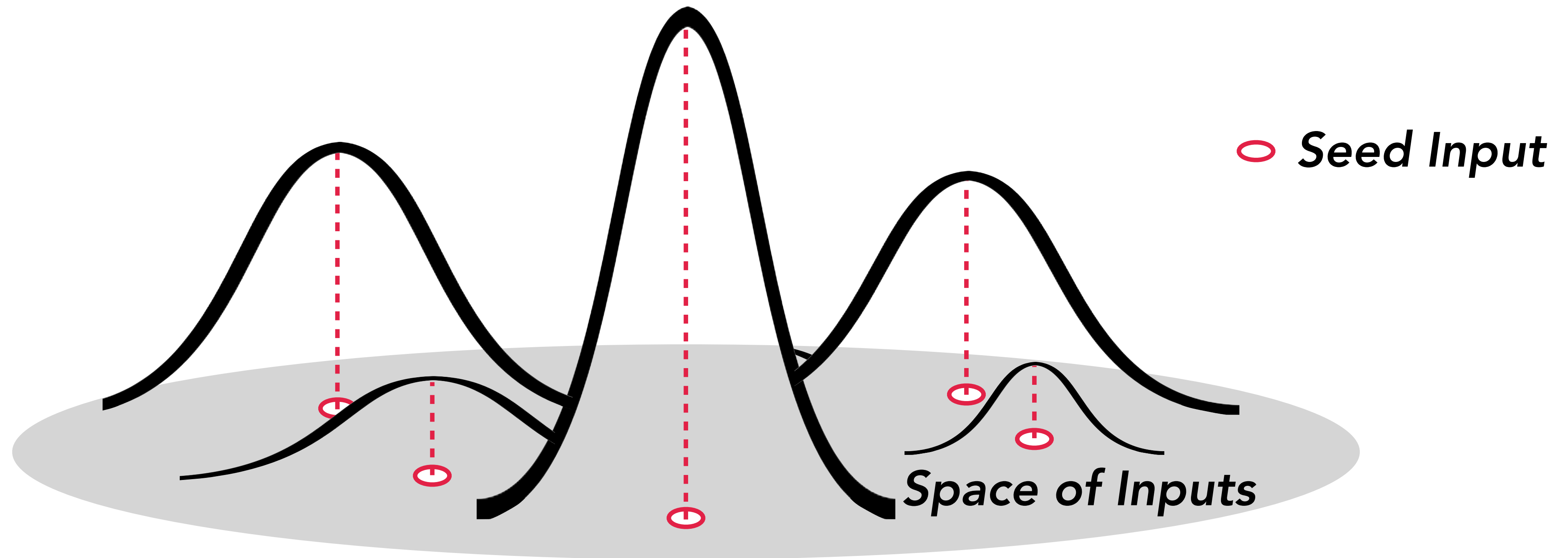
Fuzzing in terms of Statistics

Blackbox Fuzzing: distribution is *fixed*



Fuzzing in terms of Statistics

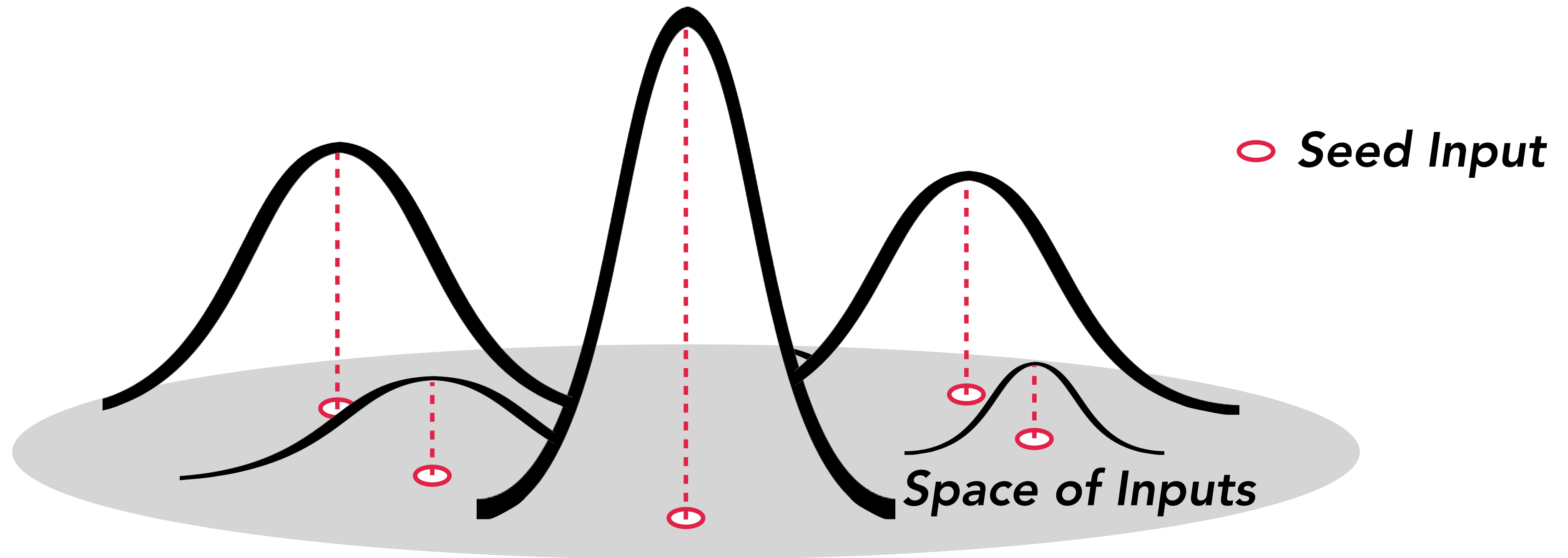
Greybox Fuzzing: distribution *changes* as time goes on



Fuzzing in terms of Statistics

Adaptive bias

Greybox Fuzzing: distribution *changes* as time goes on



Q. When should we stop the fuzzing campaign?

Statistically Extrapolating the Blackbox Fuzzing

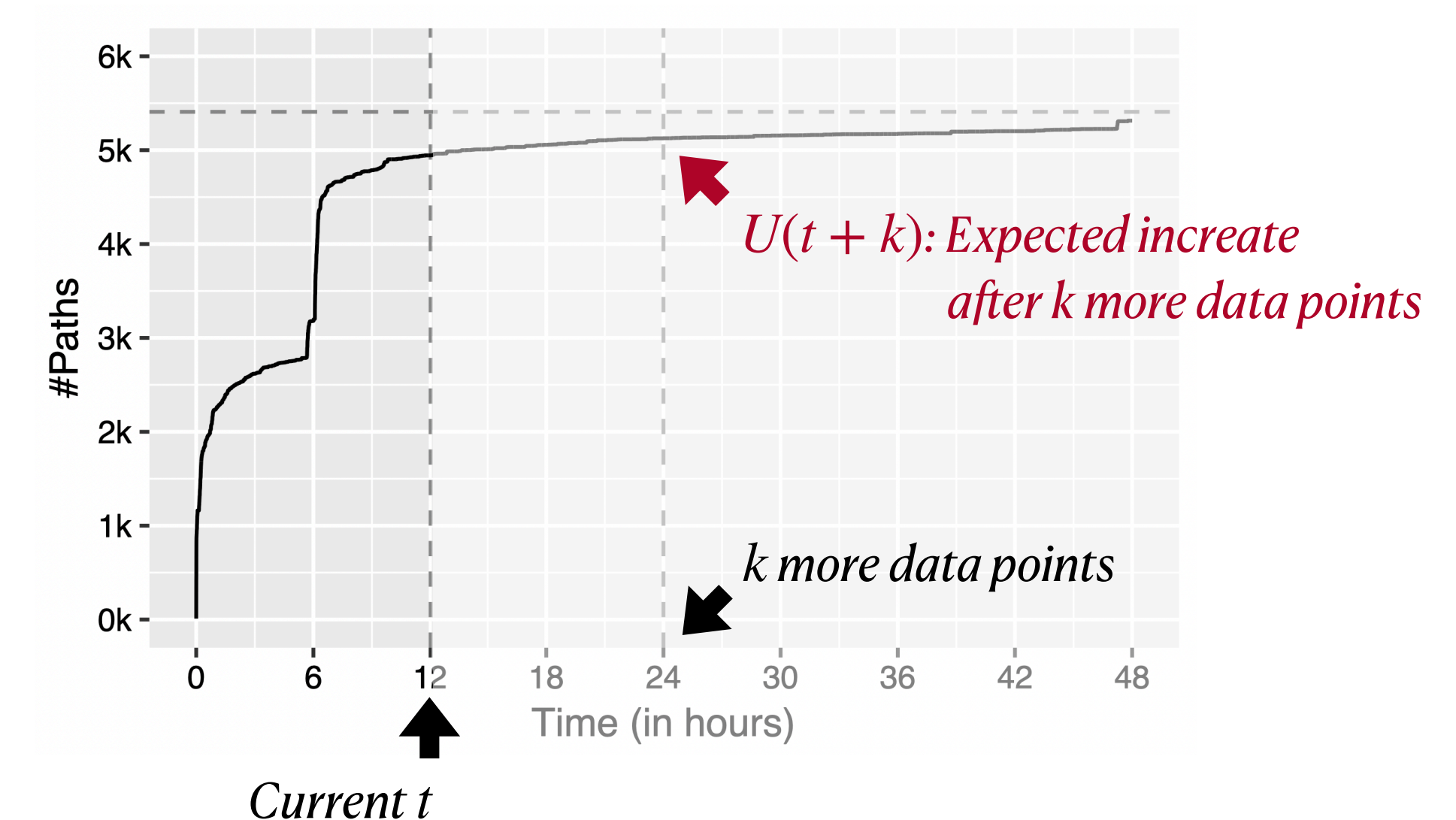
- Marcel Böhme, “STADS: Software testing as species discovery.” TOSEM, 2018.
*“A random sampling process of a **fixed distribution**, as a **Blackbox Fuzzing**, can be extrapolated statistically.”*

Statistically Extrapolating the Blackbox Fuzzing

- Provides statistical estimators for a **coverage rate**
 - Coverage rate $U(t)$: the expected number of newly covered elements in the $(t + 1)$ -th data point.

- Extrapolation of **coverage rate** $U(t + k)$

$$\hat{U}(t + k) = \hat{\Phi}_0 \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{\Phi_1}{t\hat{\Phi}_0 + \Phi_1} \right)^{k+1} \right], \text{ where } \hat{\Phi}_0 = \frac{t-1}{t} \frac{\Phi_1^2}{2\Phi_2}$$



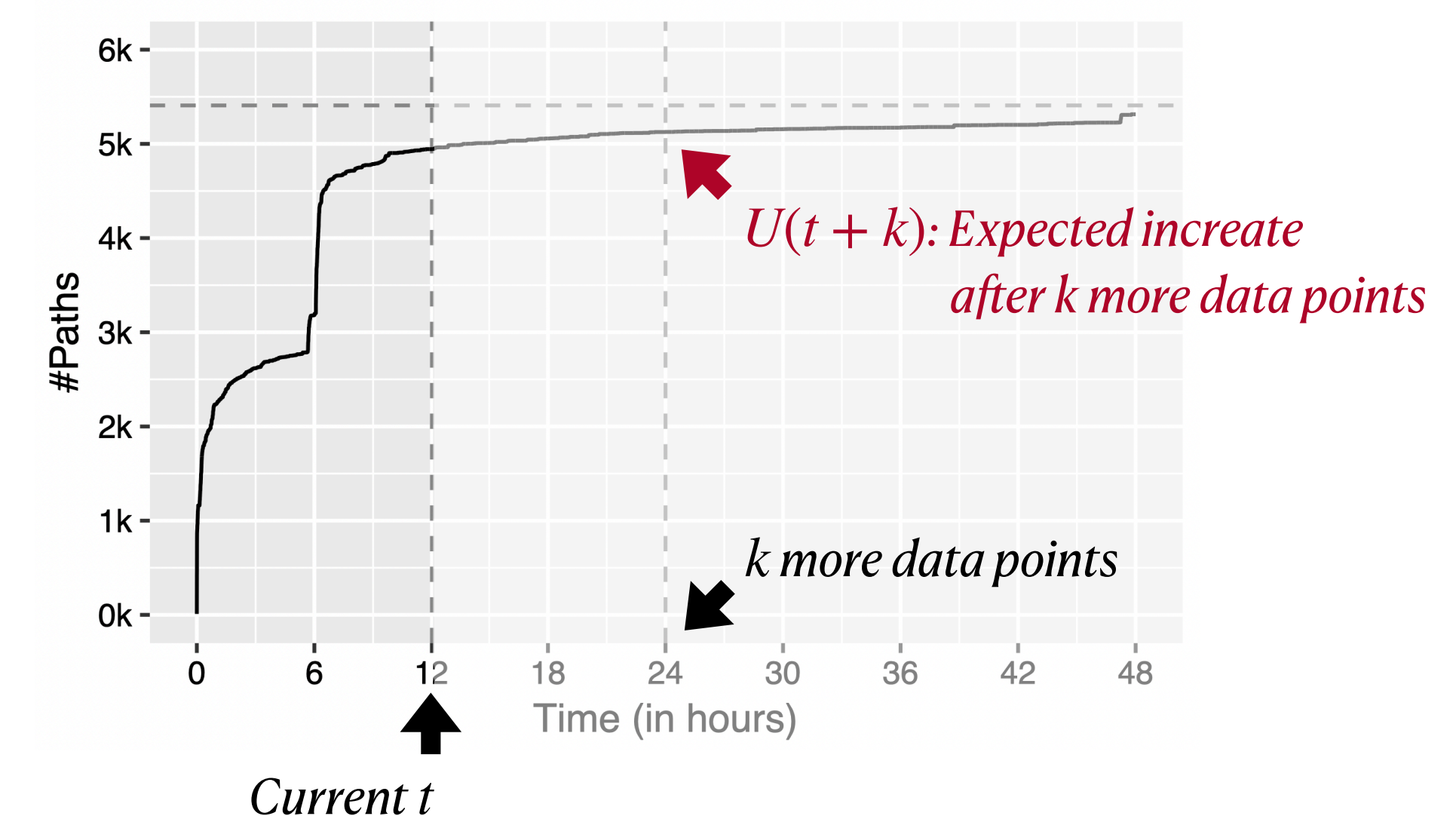
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- Φ_k : number of program elements covered k times in t data points (*frequencies of frequency*)
 - Φ_1 = number of singleton elements,
 Φ_2 = number of doubleton elements



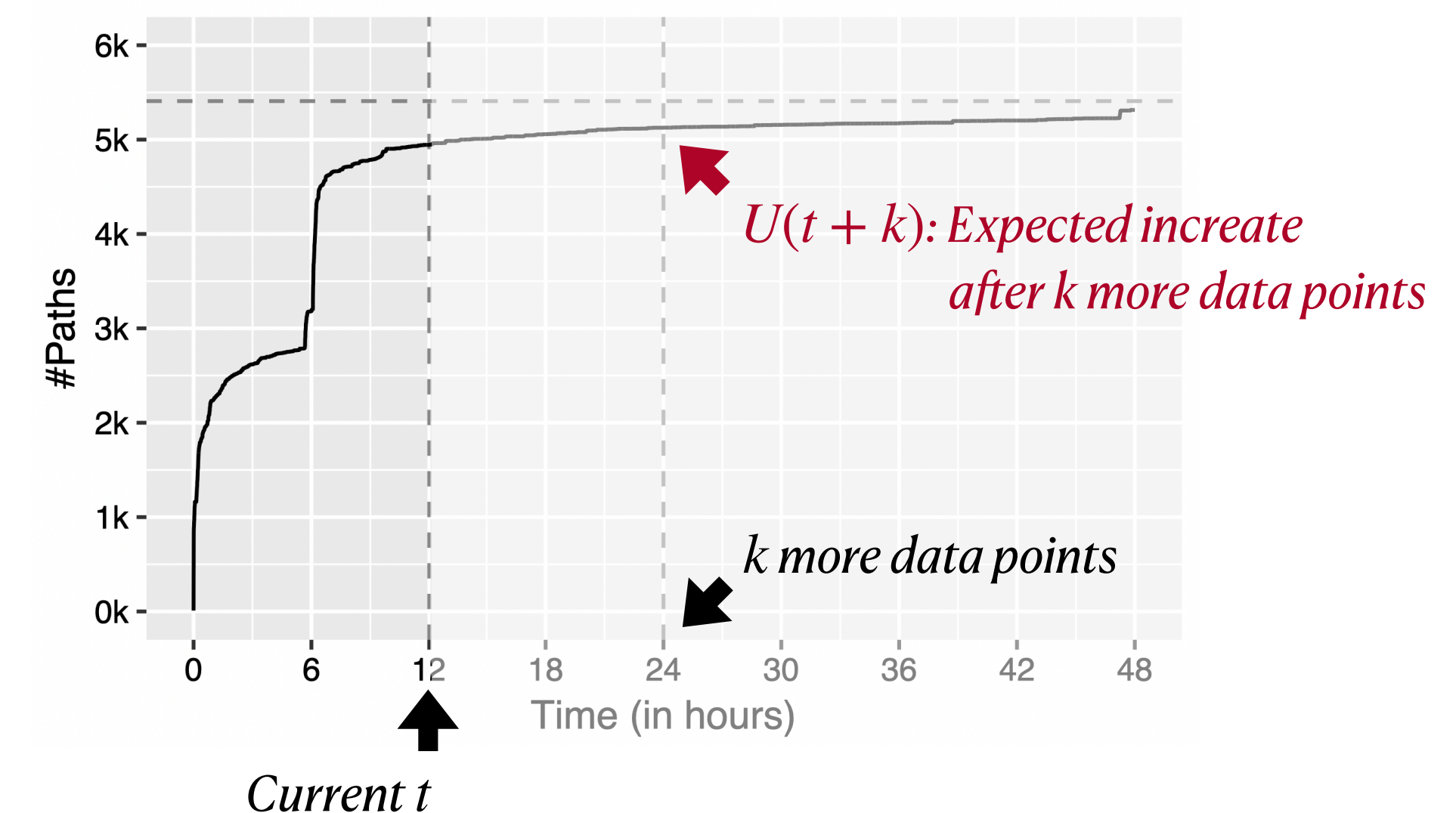
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Statistically Extrapolating the Blackbox Fuzzing

Without Extrapolation

```
american fuzzy lop 2.44b (jpeg)
-----
| run time : 0 days, 12 hrs, 0 min, 5 sec | cycles done : 53 |
| last new path : 0 days, 0 hrs, 17 min, 44 sec | current paths : 4944 |
| last uniq crash : none seen yet | uniq crashes : 0 |
| . . .
```

*12 hours of running, the last new path was 17 minutes ago.
... should I stop this fuzzing?*

With Extrapolation

```
extrapolation edition yeah! (jpeg)
-----
| residual risk : 7·10-06 | total inputs : 63.6M |
| path coverage : 77.6% paths covered | singletons : 447 |
| discover new path : 0 hrs, 1 min, 36 sec | doubletons : 70 |
| 142k new inputs needed |
```

A new path will come in 2 minutes? Let's keep going!

VS

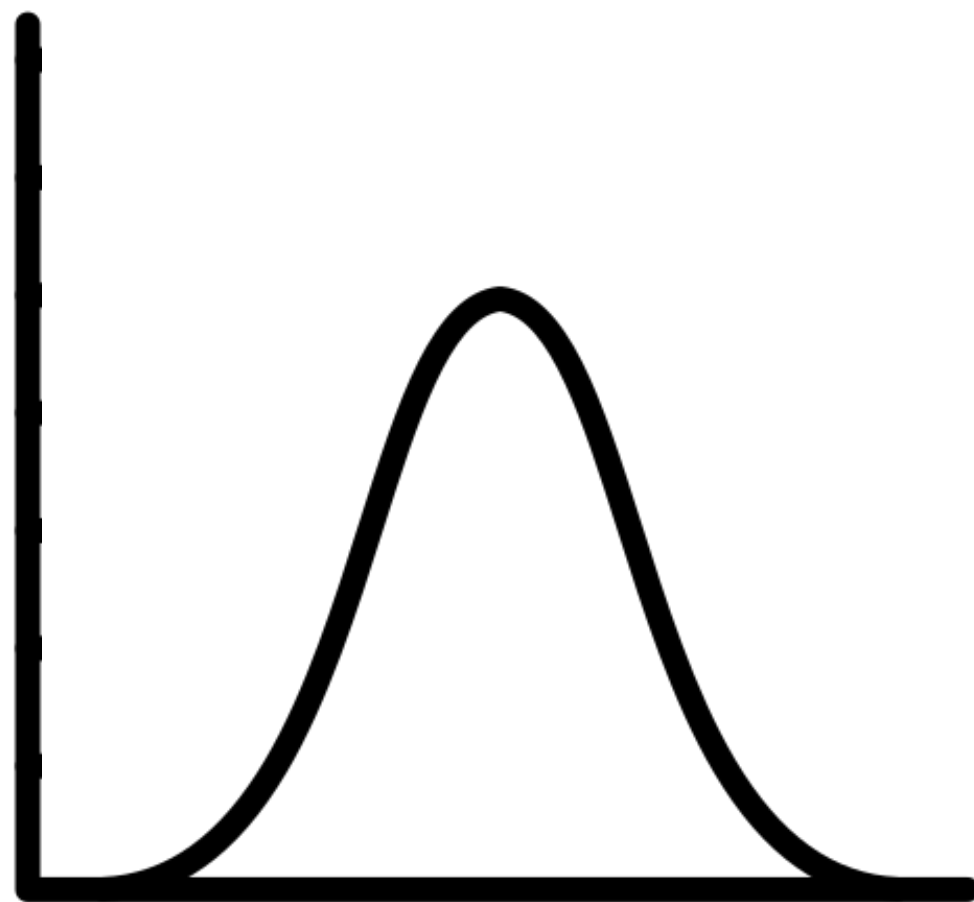
```
extrapolation edition yeah! (jpeg)
-----
| residual risk : 8·10-07 | total inputs : 124.8M |
| path coverage : 97.9% paths covered | singletons : 95 |
| discover new path : 0 hrs, 15 min, 9 sec | doubletons : 42 |
| 1.3M new inputs needed |
```

1/4 hour is needed for the next path? Let's stop!

*Extrapolation gives richer information for the **stopping criteria** for the fuzzing campaign*

How about the Greybox fuzzing?

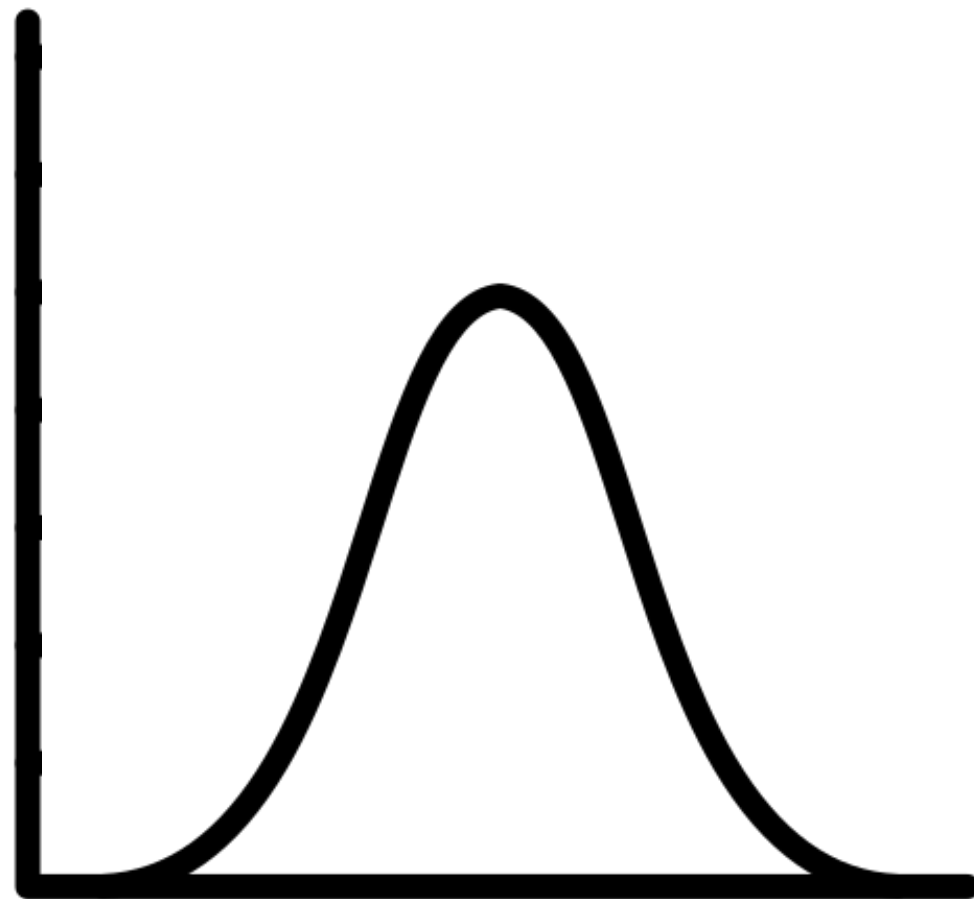
Blackbox



***Sampling distribution
is consistent***

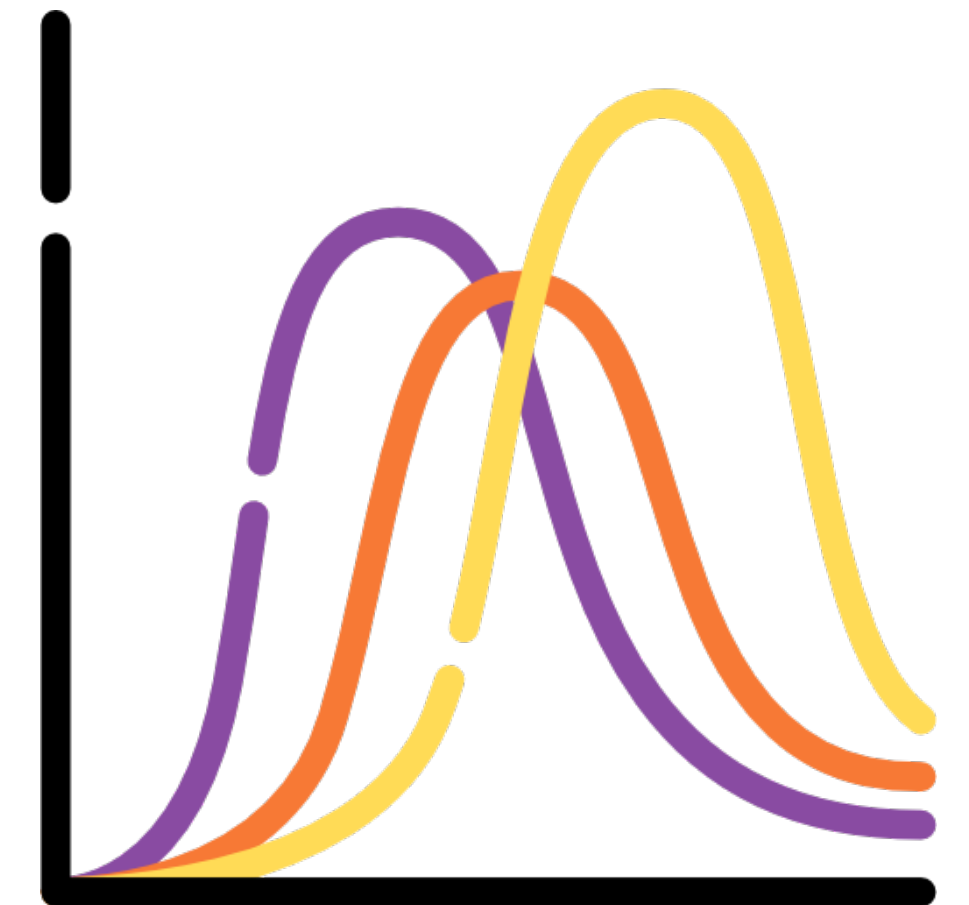
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*Sampling distribution
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Greybox

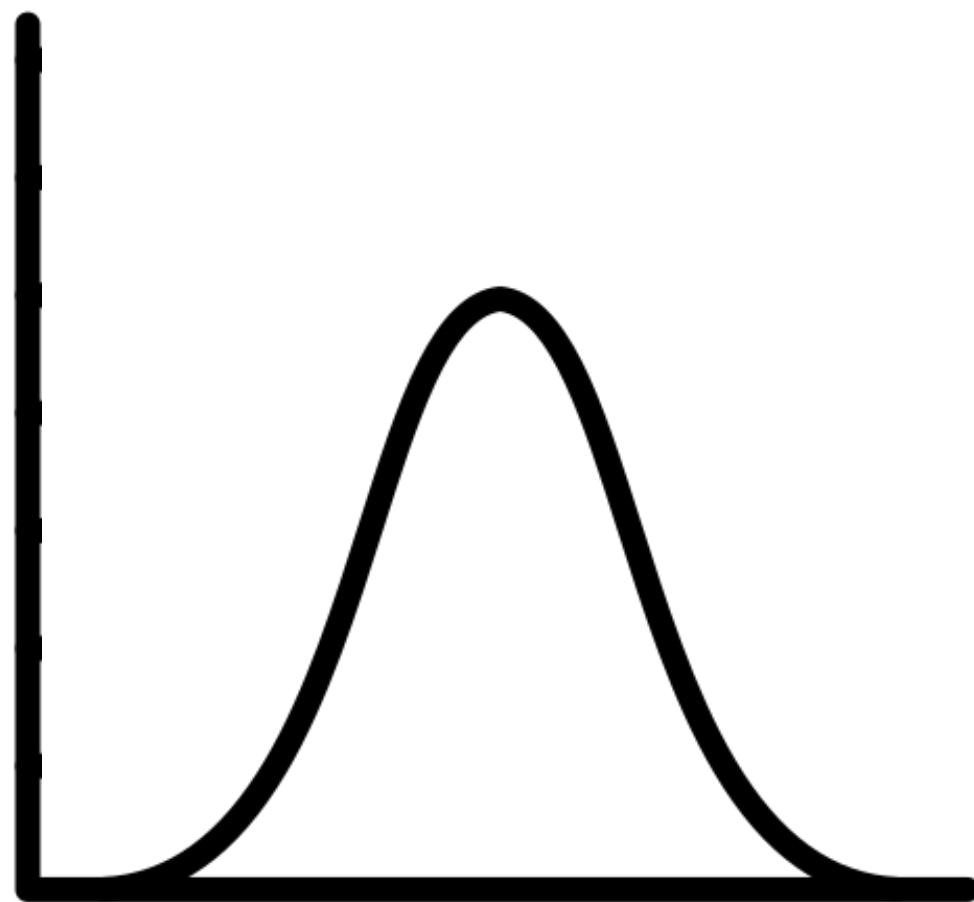


*Sampling distribution
keeps change*

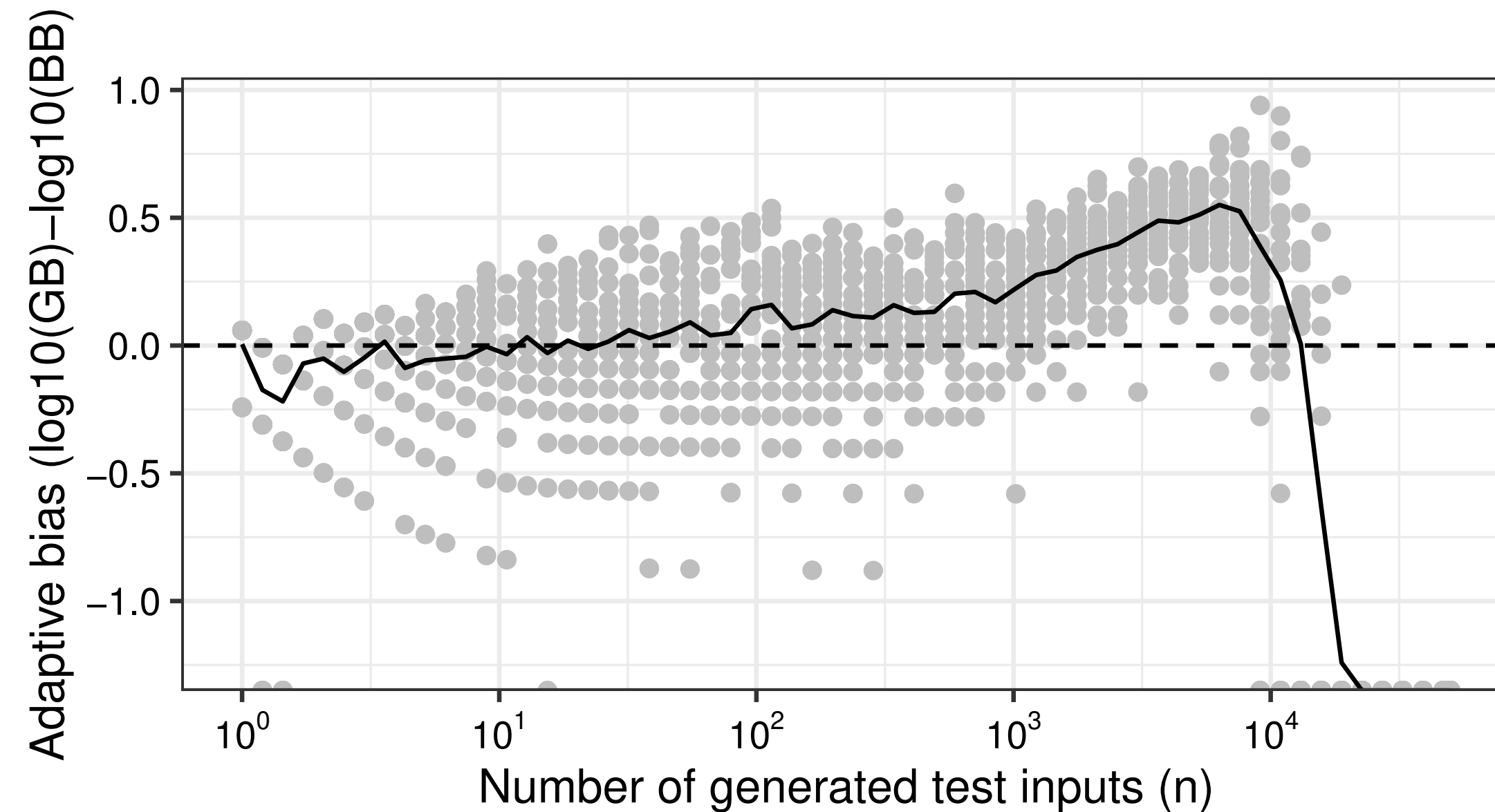
Adaptive bias

How about the Greybox fuzzing?

Blackbox

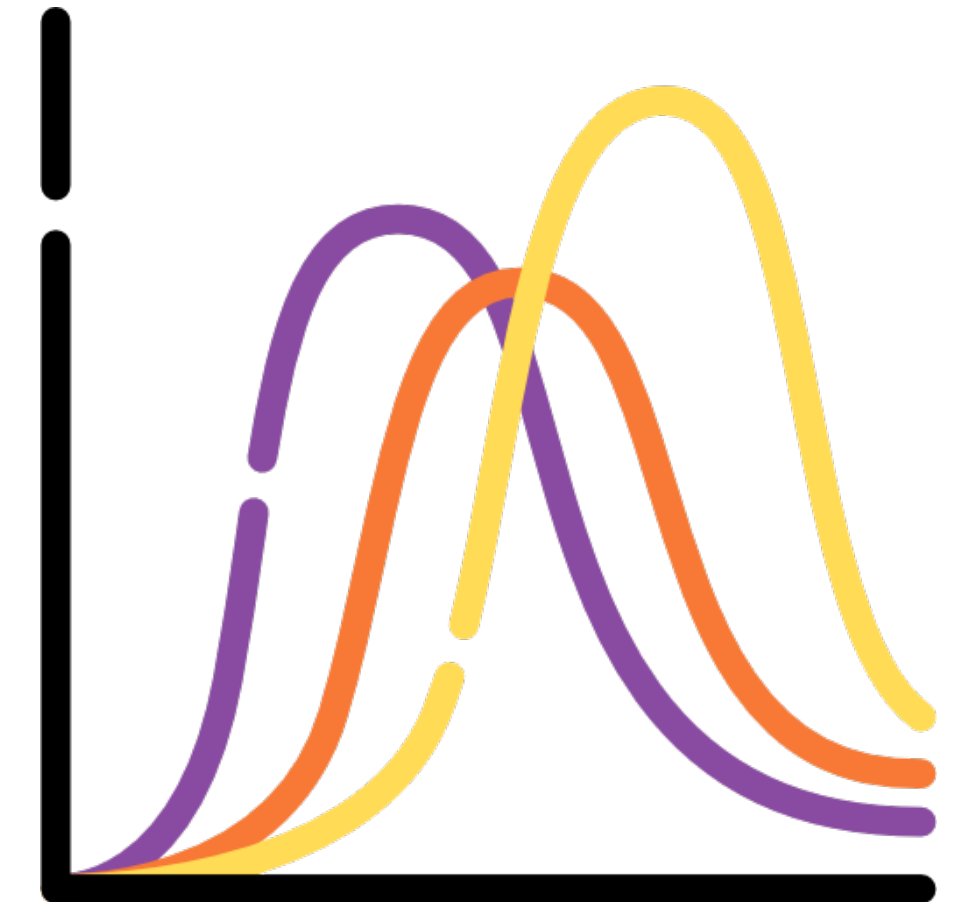


**Sampling distribution
is consistent**



“Due to adaptive bias, the discovery probability is consistently higher in the greybox campaign than the blackbox campaign.”

Greybox



**Sampling distribution
keeps change**

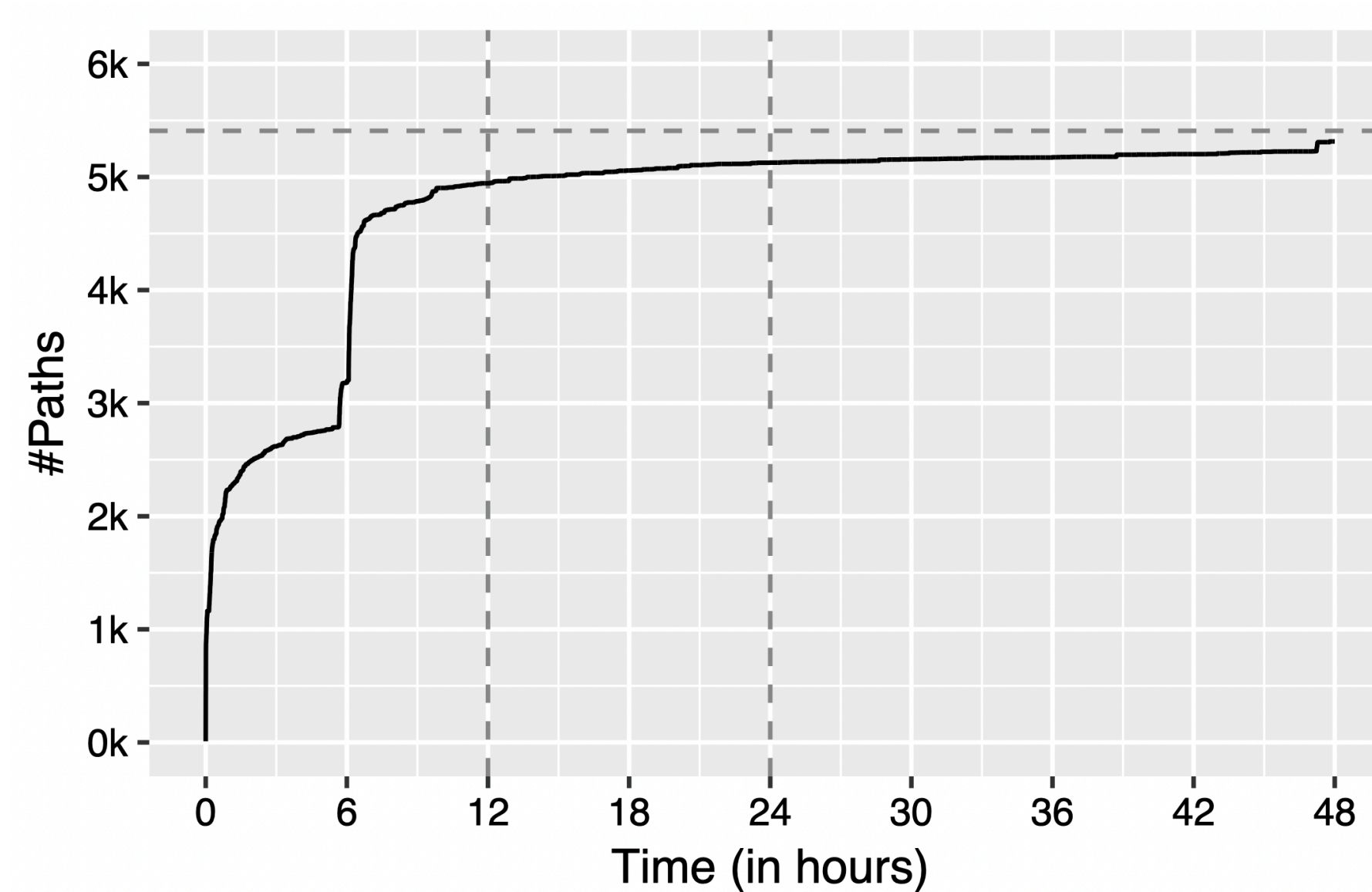
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Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- Aim: Predict the future coverage rate of the greybox fuzzing campaign

Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

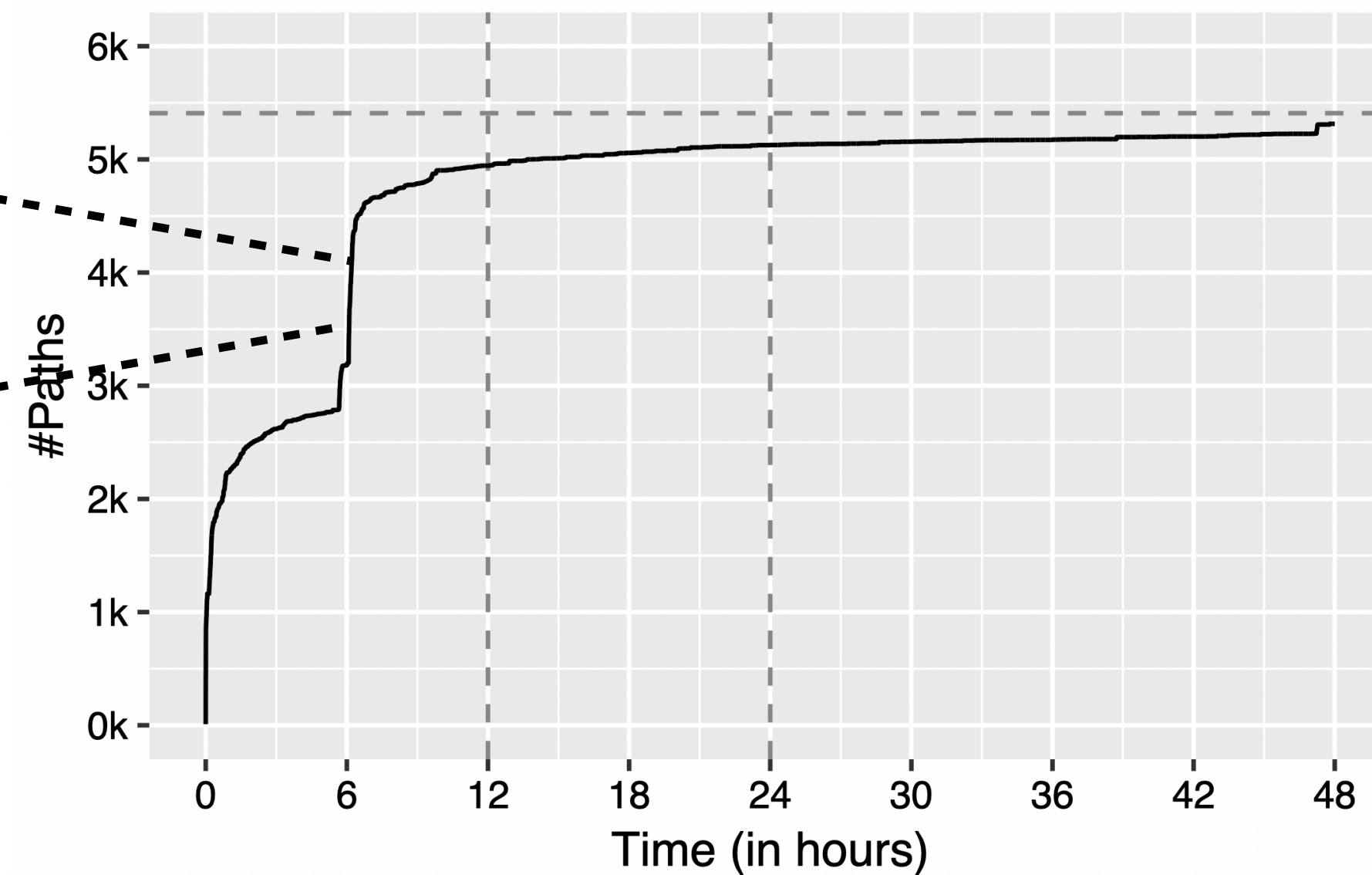
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- In other words, how can we solve the *adaptive bias* problem?



Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

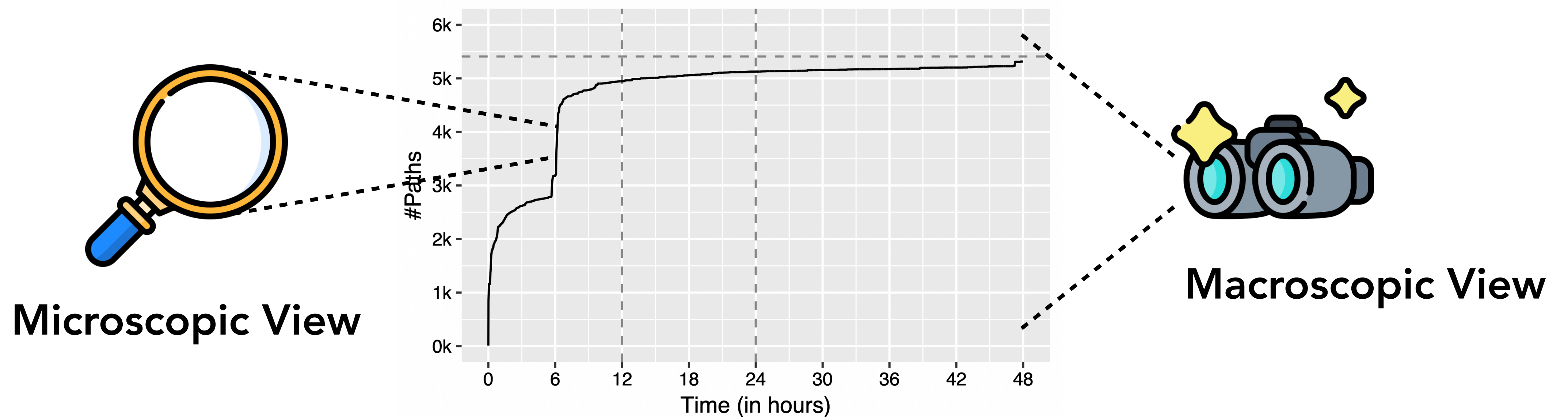
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Microscopic View



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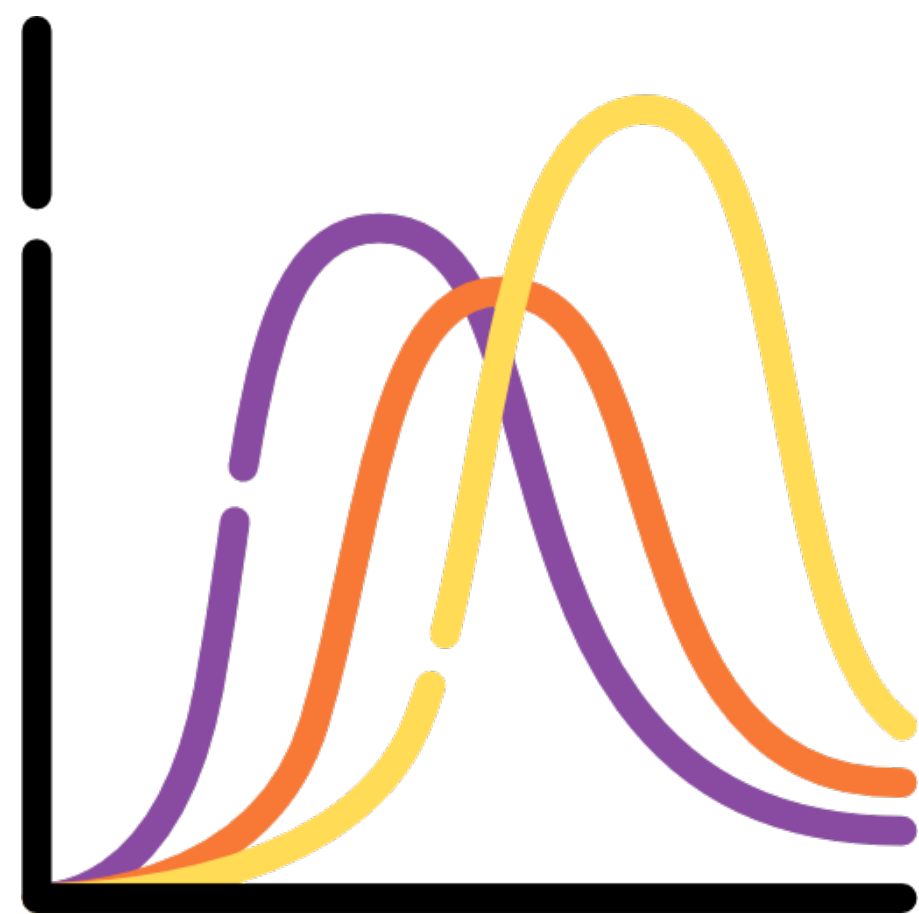


Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

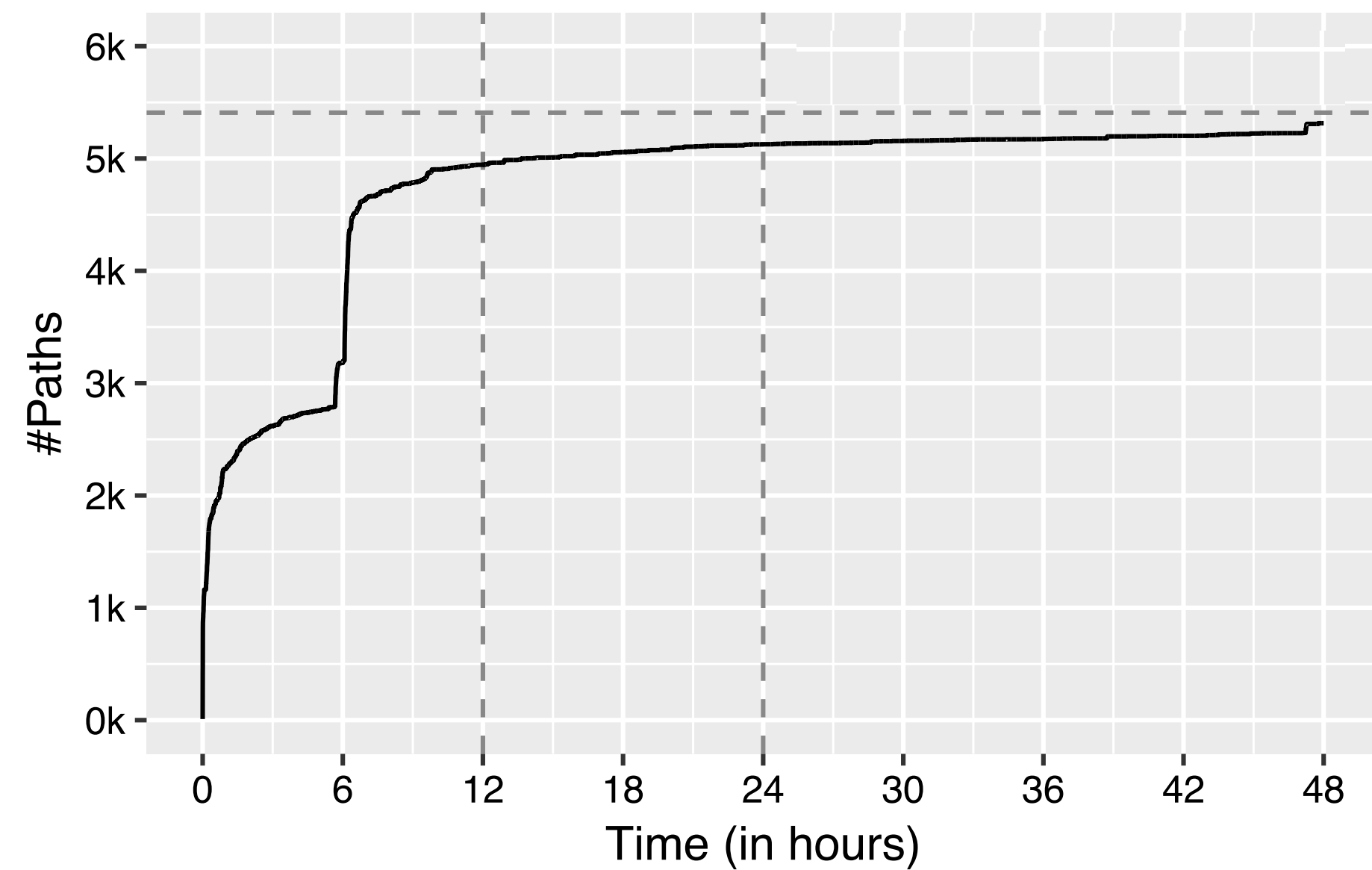
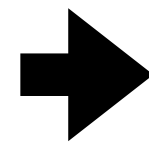
- First key insight — *Microscopic view*

Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

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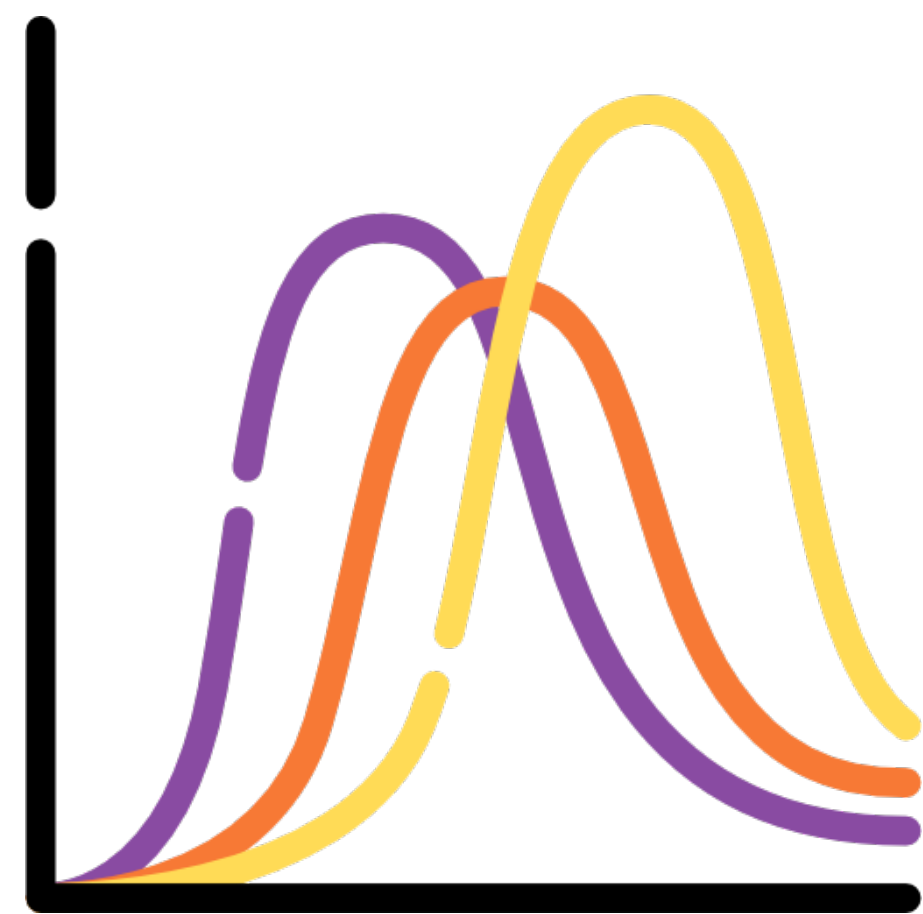


Adaptive bias

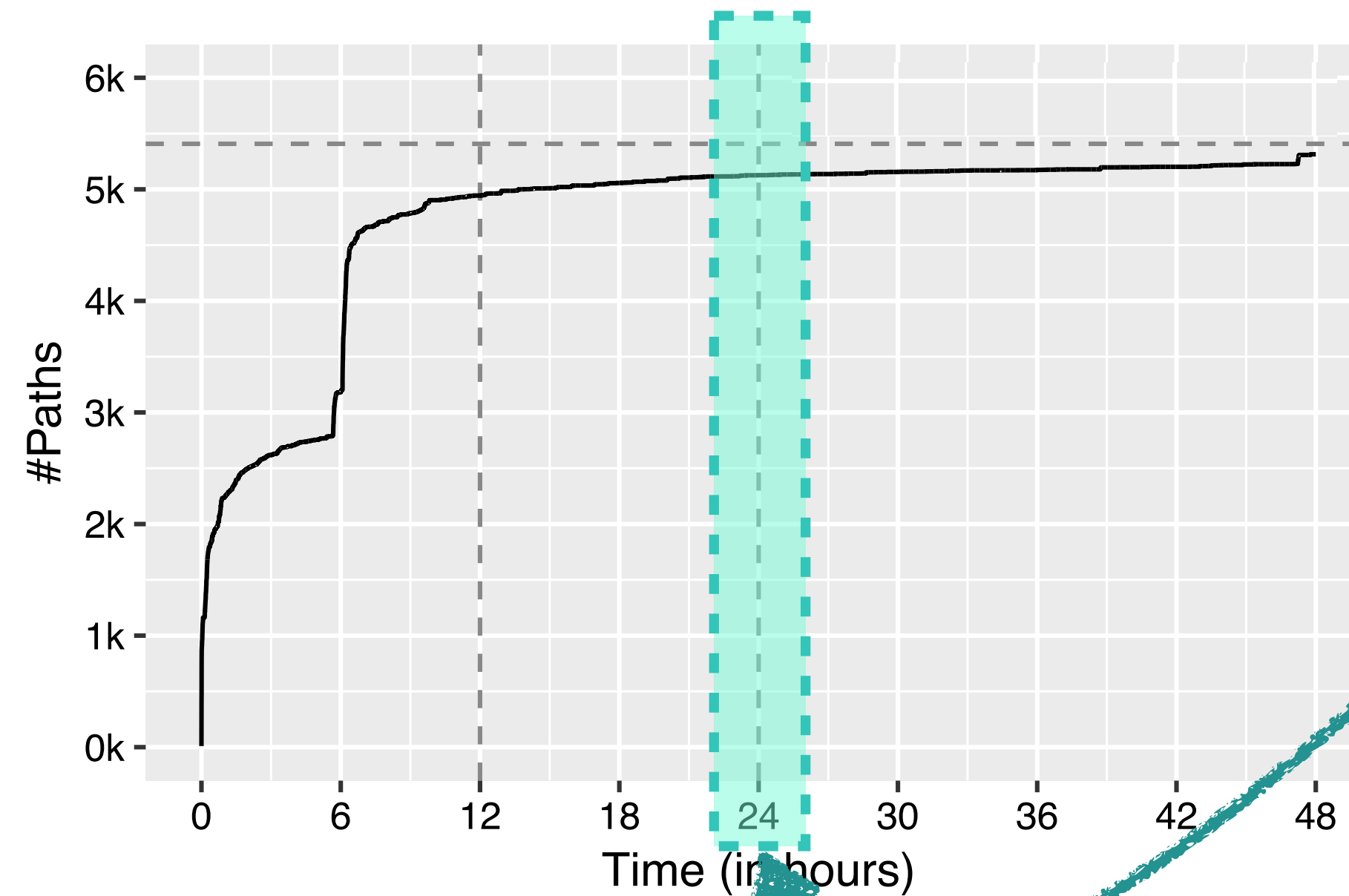
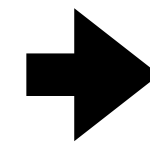


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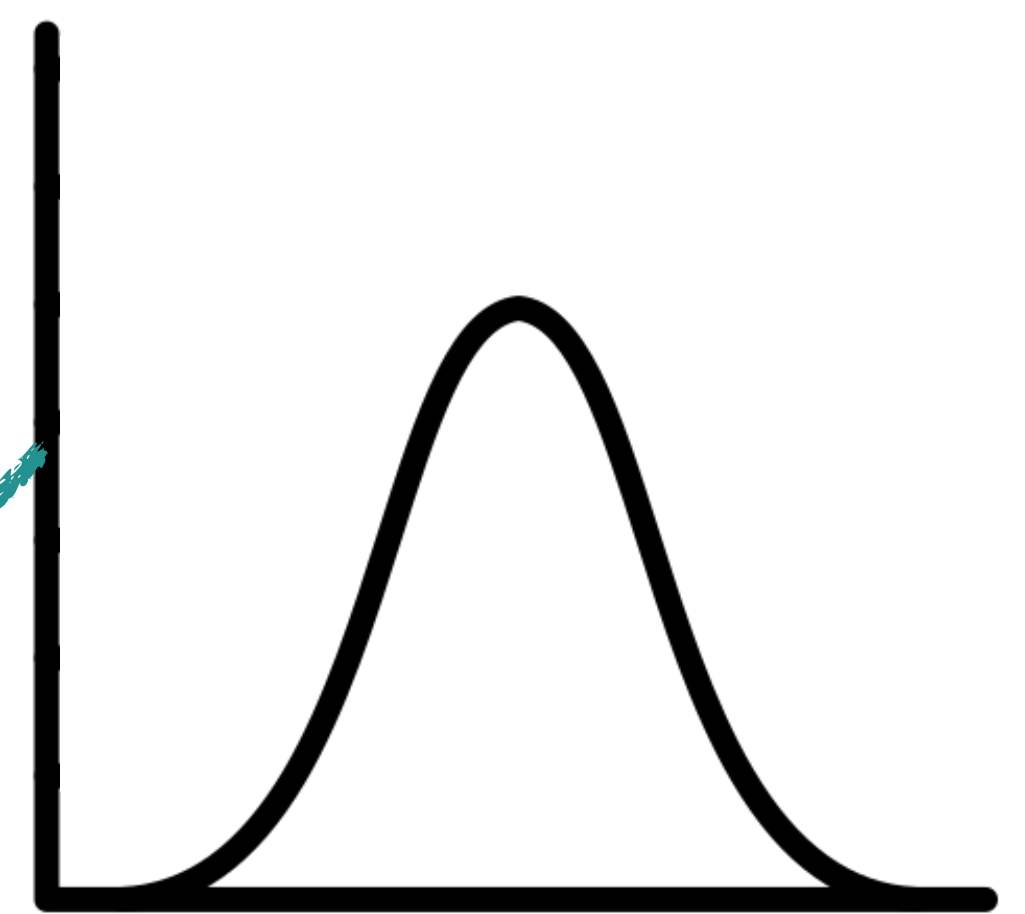
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Adaptive bias

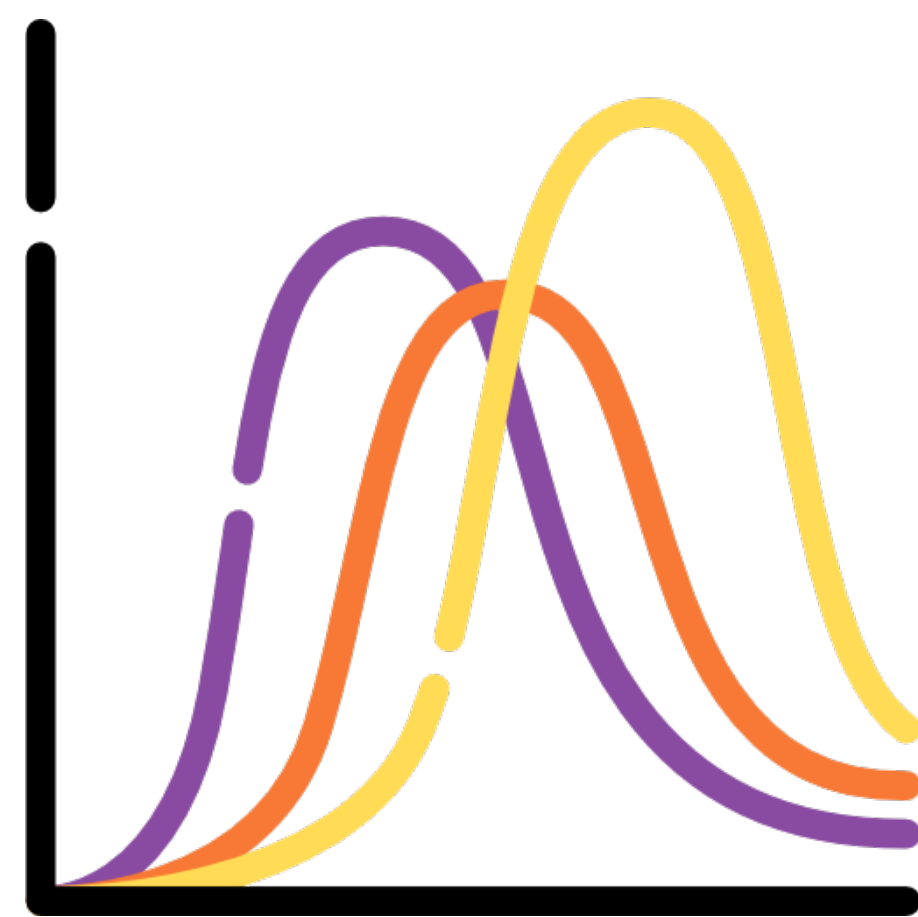


Less adaptive bias

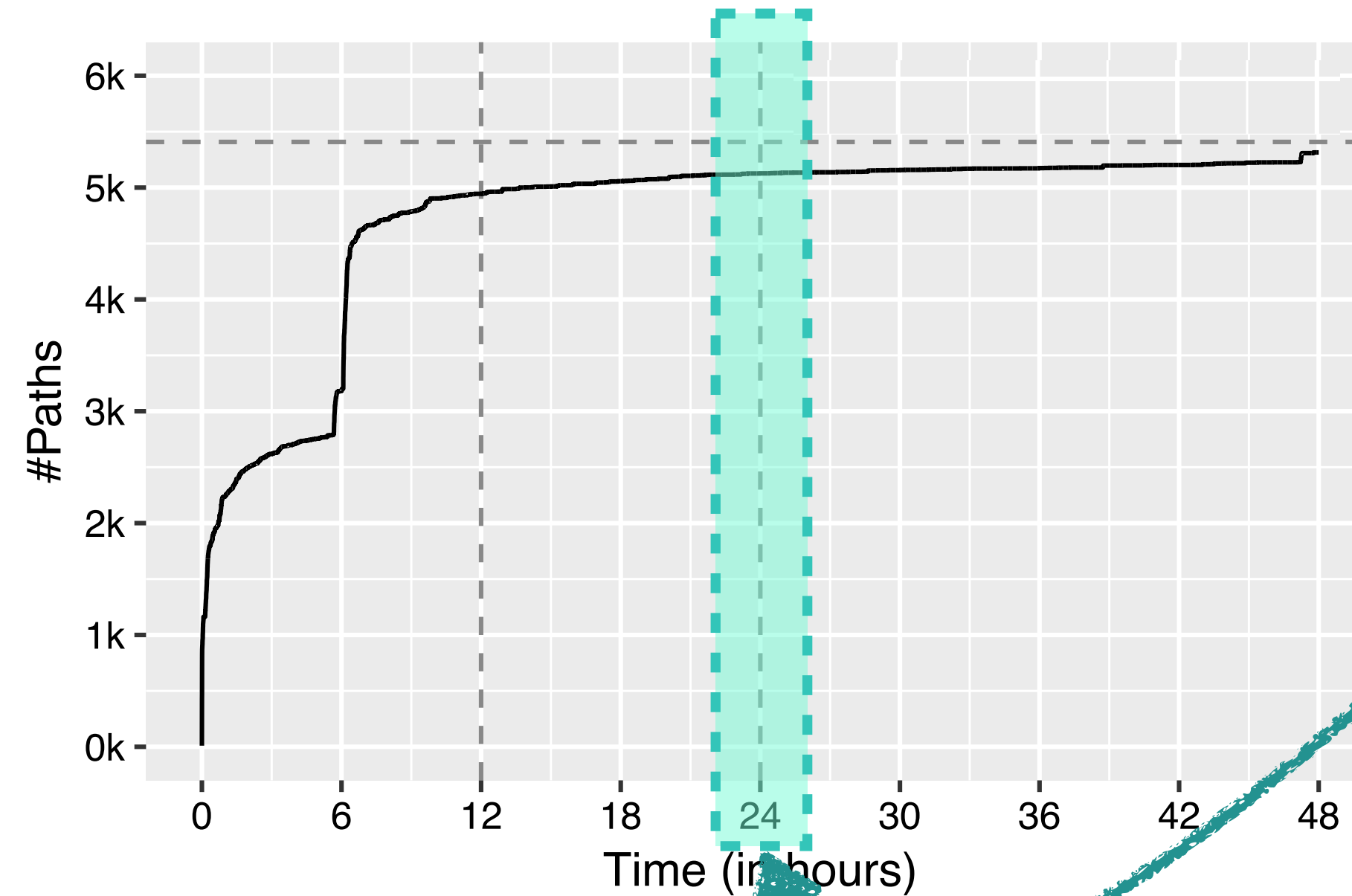
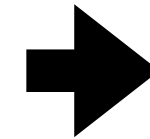


Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

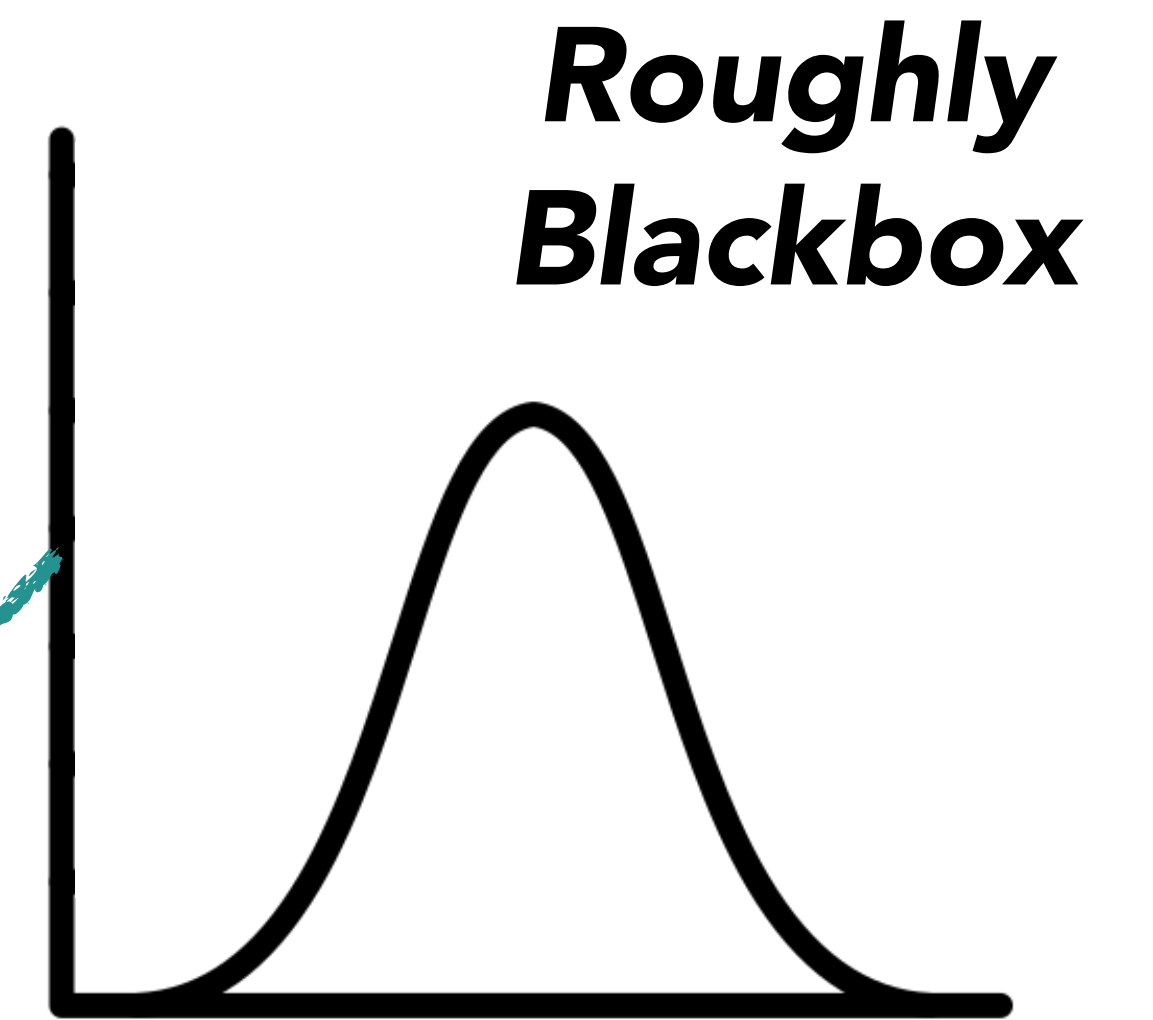
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Adaptive bias



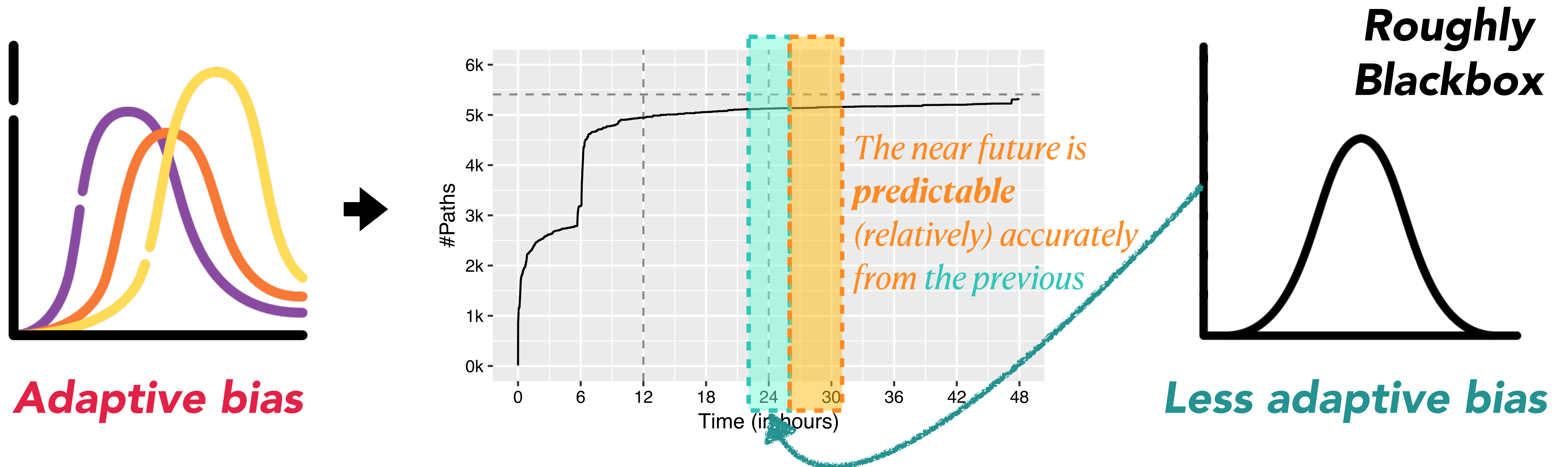
Time (in hours)



Less adaptive bias

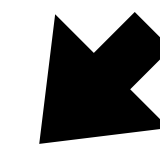
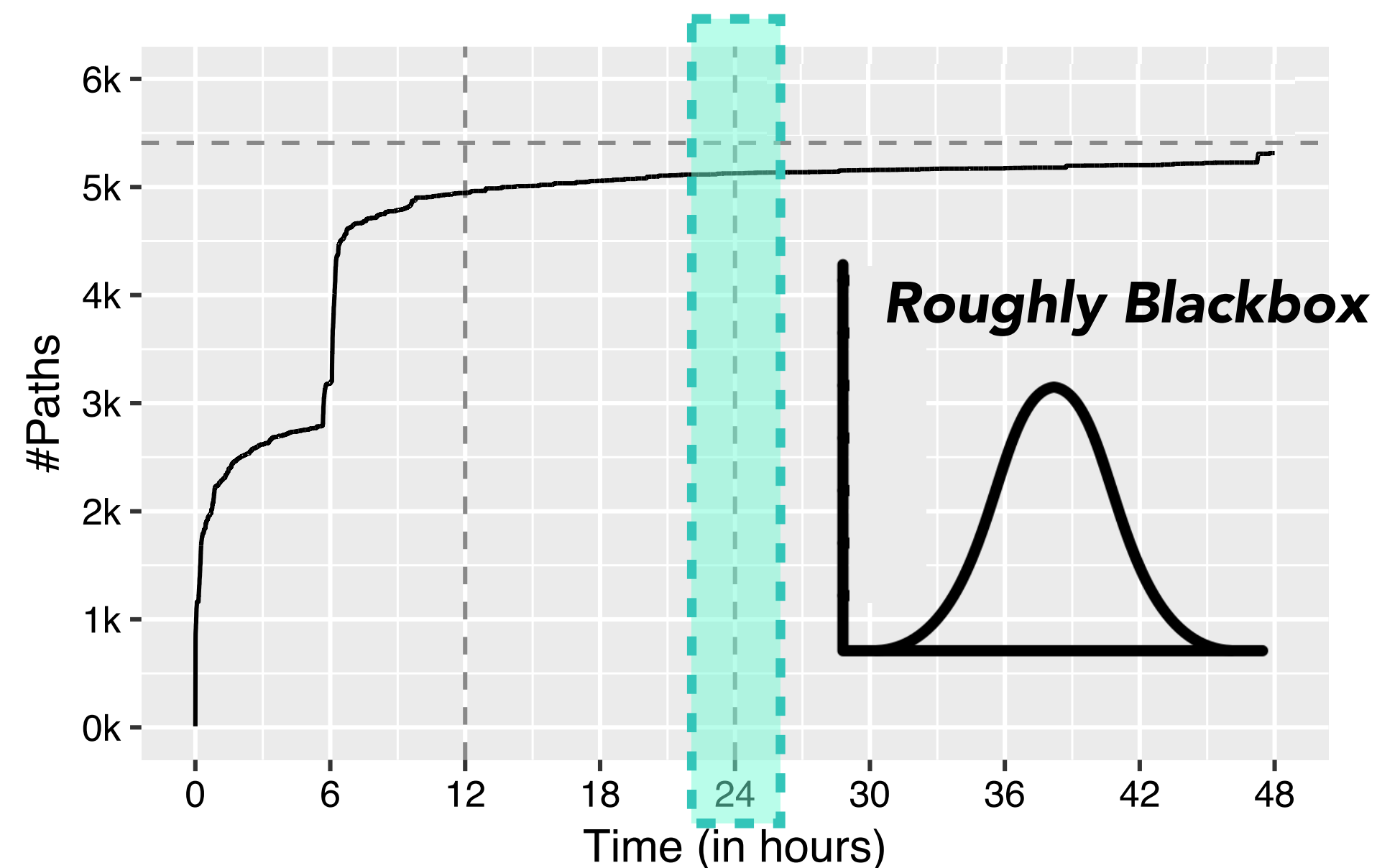
Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- First key insight — *Microscopic view*



Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- First key insight — *Microscopic view*
- Potential drawback: *Small region has small data to use*

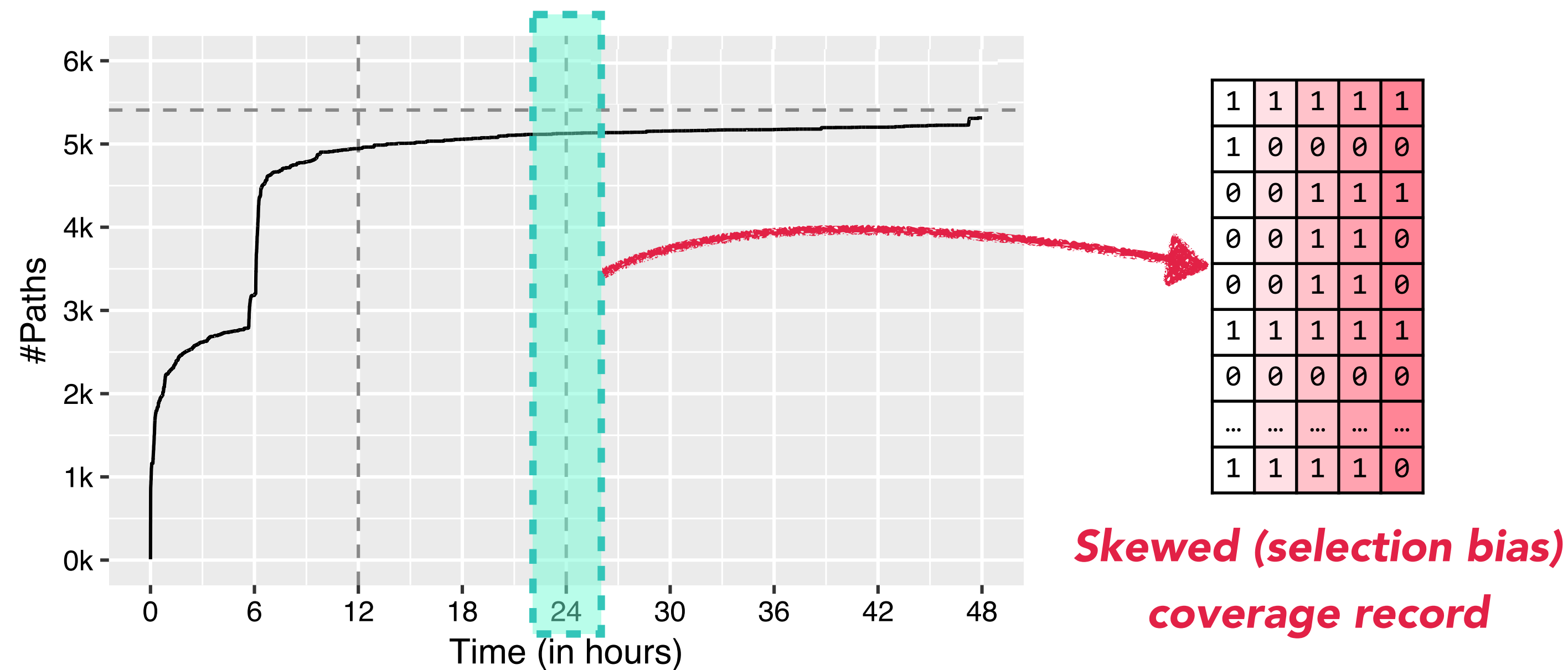


$$\hat{U}(t) = \frac{\Phi_1}{t} \left[\frac{(t-1)\Phi_1}{(t-1)\Phi_1 + 2\Phi_2} \right]$$

**Coverage rate estimator
for a blackbox fuzzing campaign**

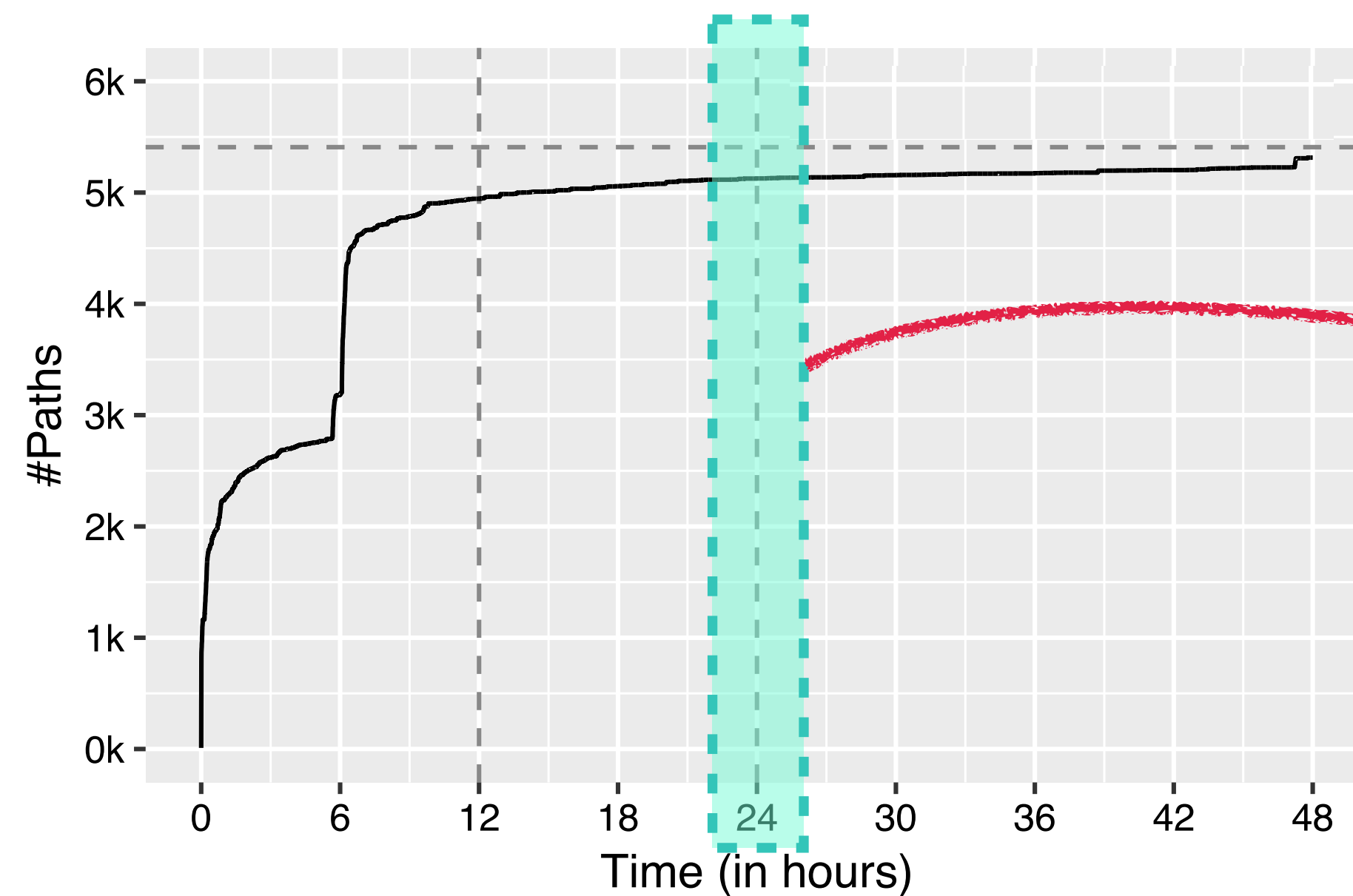
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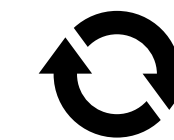
- First key insight — *Microscopic view*
- Solution: *Shuffle to amplify*



*Skewed (selection bias)
coverage record*

1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
1	1	1	1	0

Shuffle



1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
1	0	1	1	1

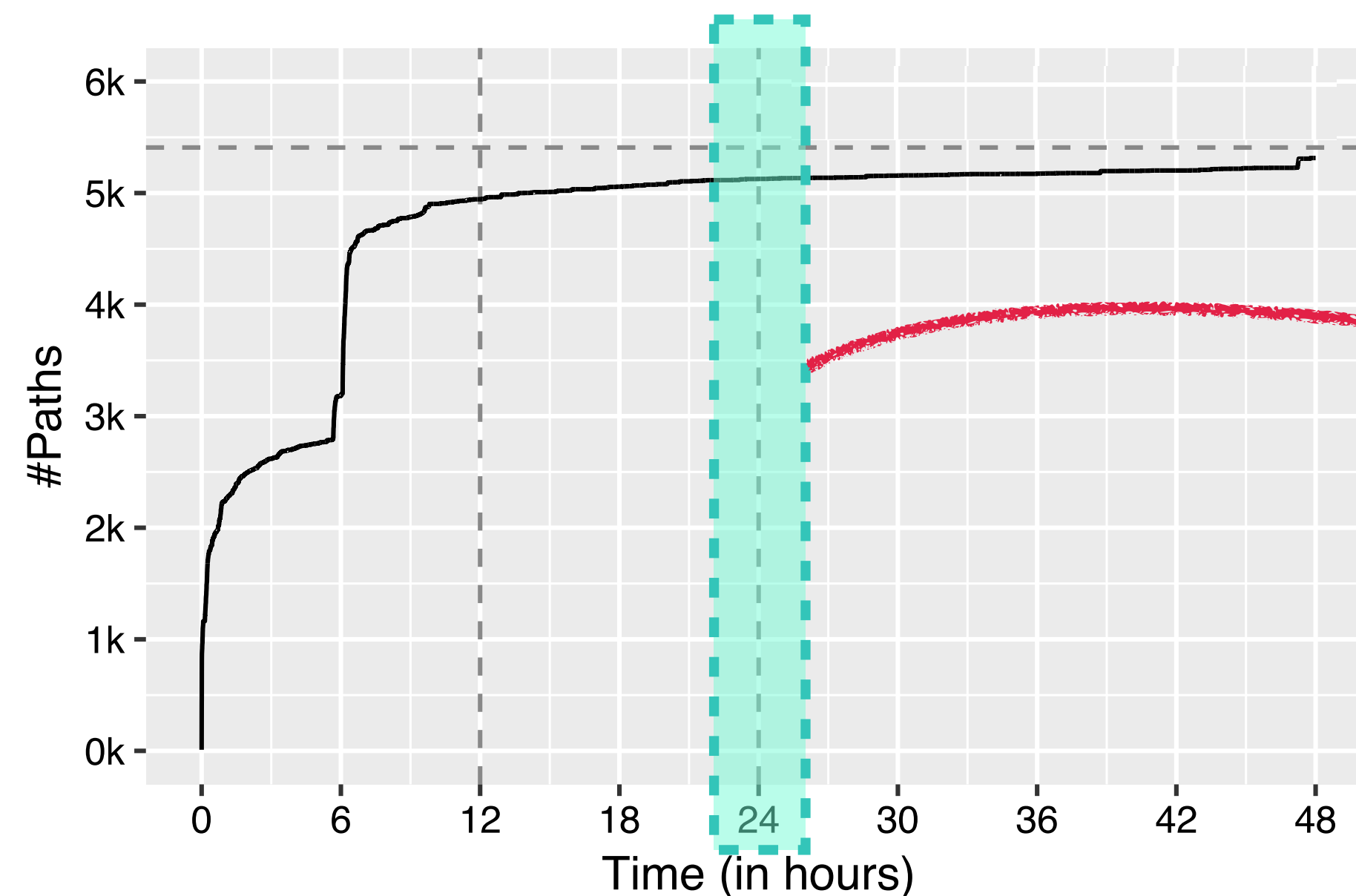
1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	1
0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
1	1	1	0	1

1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	1	0
1	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
0	1	1	1	1

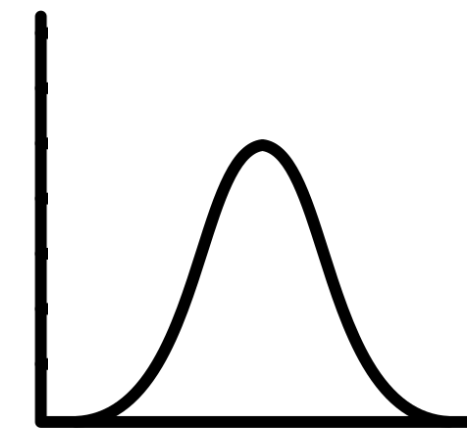
*Amplifying blackbox fuzzing
- Blackbox Approximation-*

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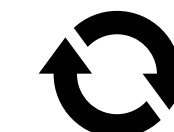


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1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
1	1	1	1	0

Shuffle



1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	1	0
0	1	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
1	0	1	1	1

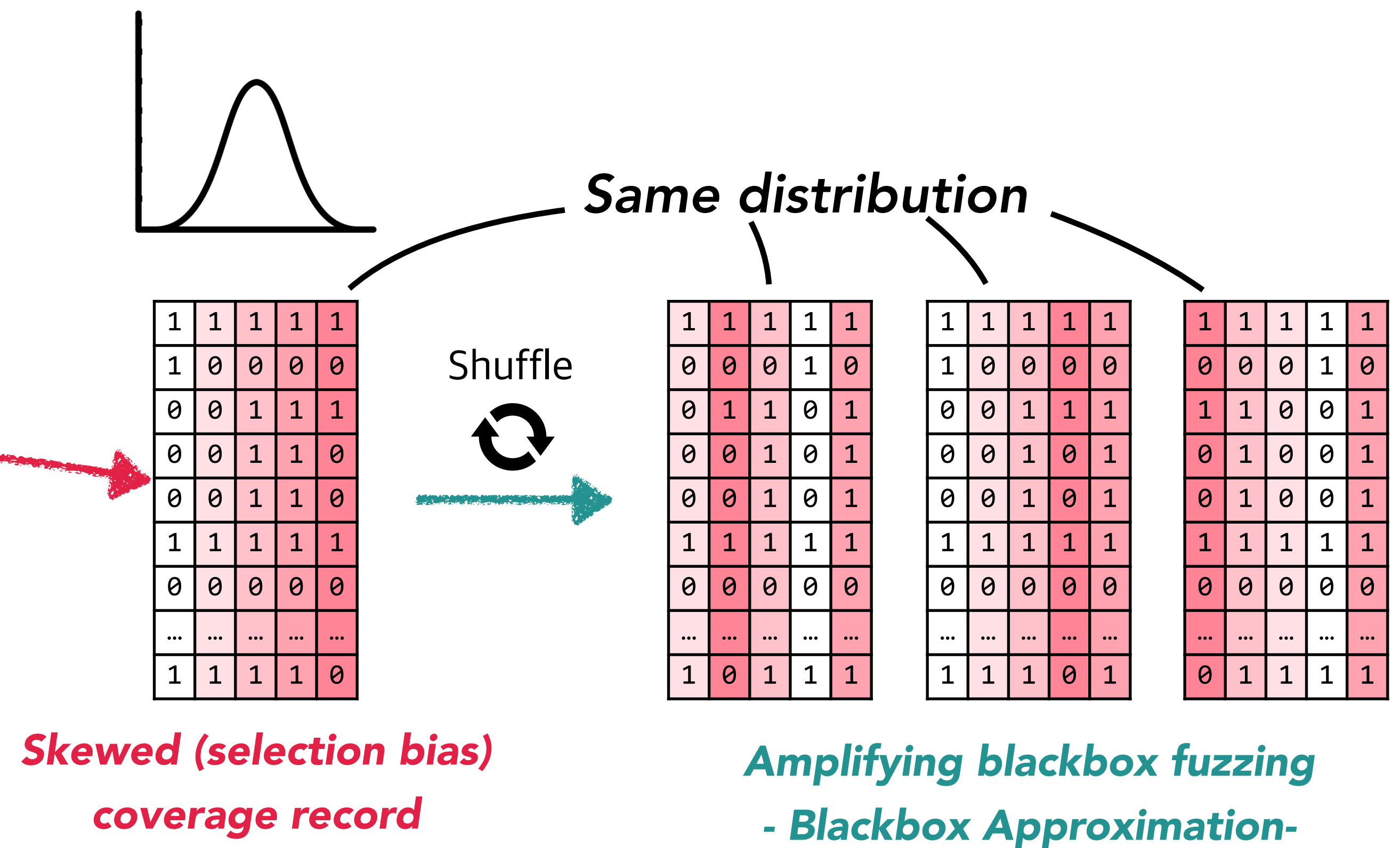
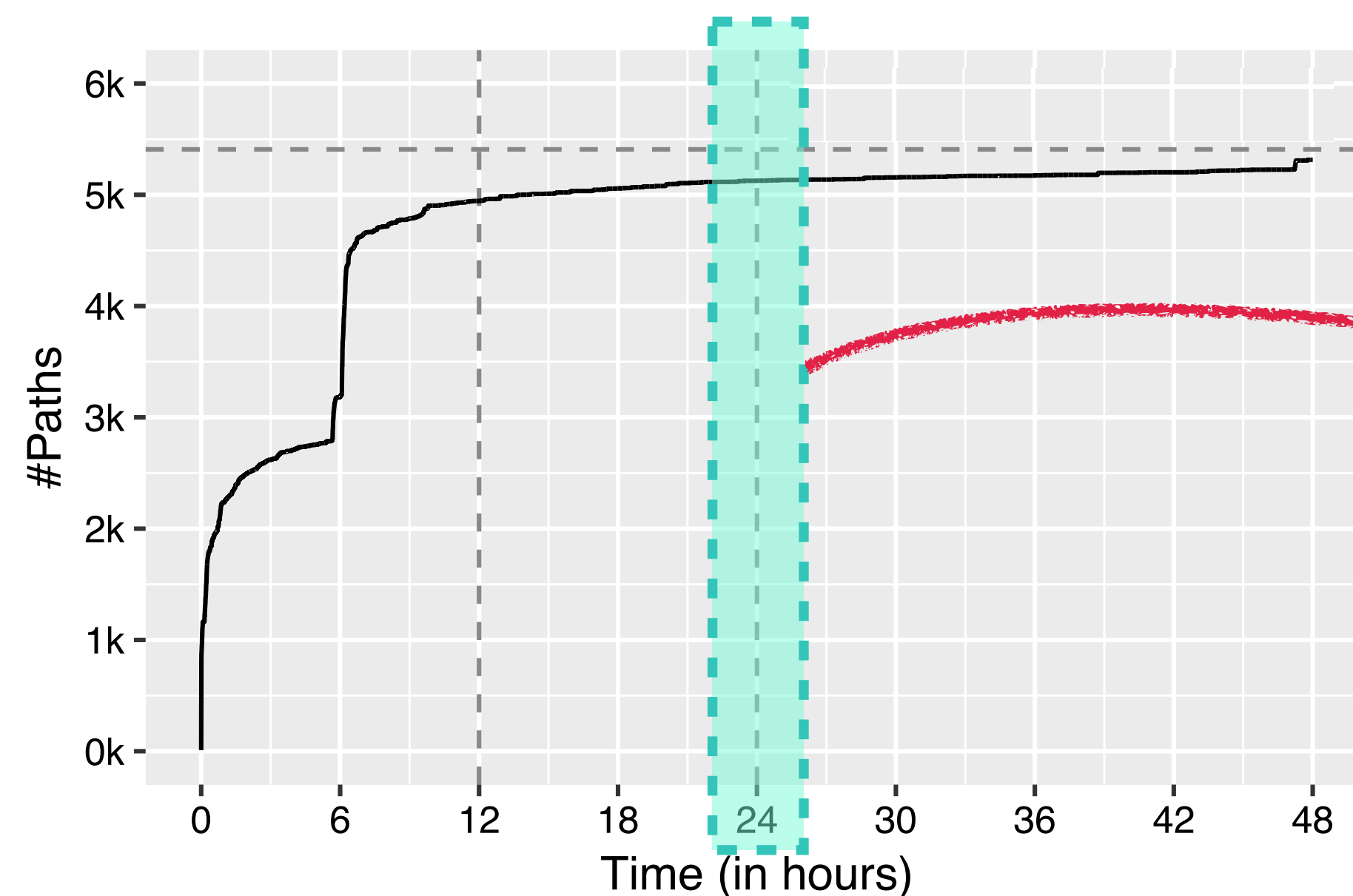
1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1	1
0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
1	1	1	0	1

1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	1	0
1	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1
0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0
...	...	...	...	...
0	1	1	1	1

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Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- First key insight — *Microscopic view*
- Solution: *Shuffle to amplify*



Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- Second key insight — *Macroscopic view*

*“Greybox fuzzing’s adaptive bias could be **predictable**.”*

Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

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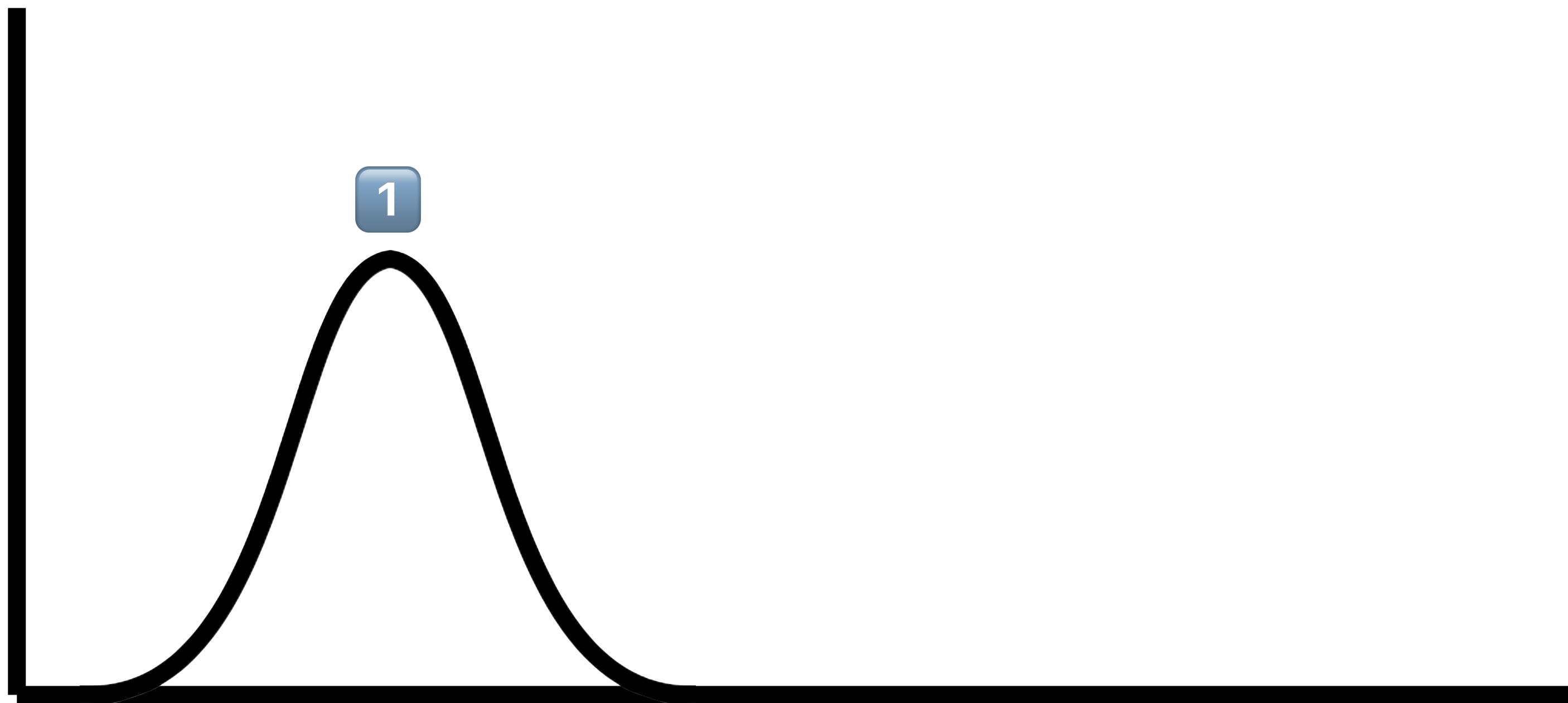
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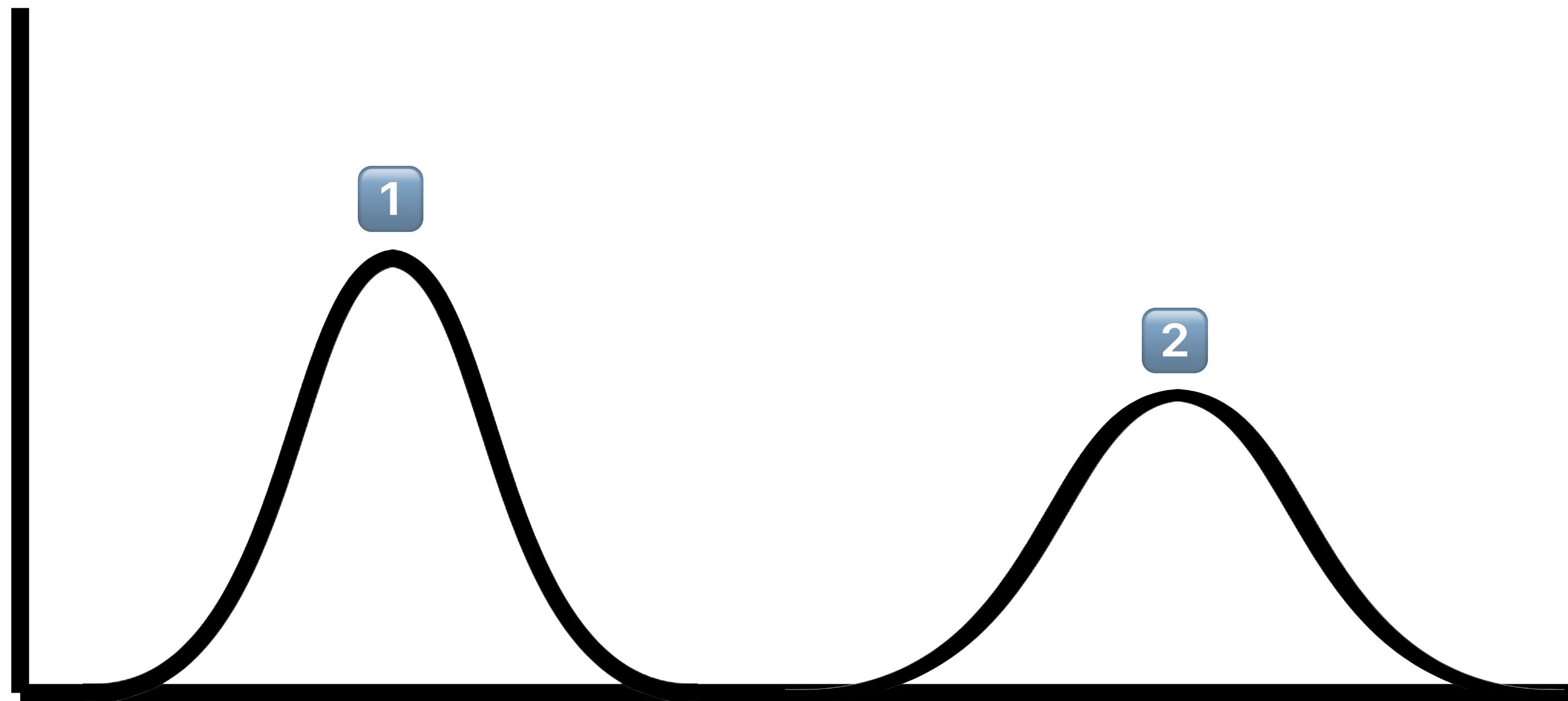
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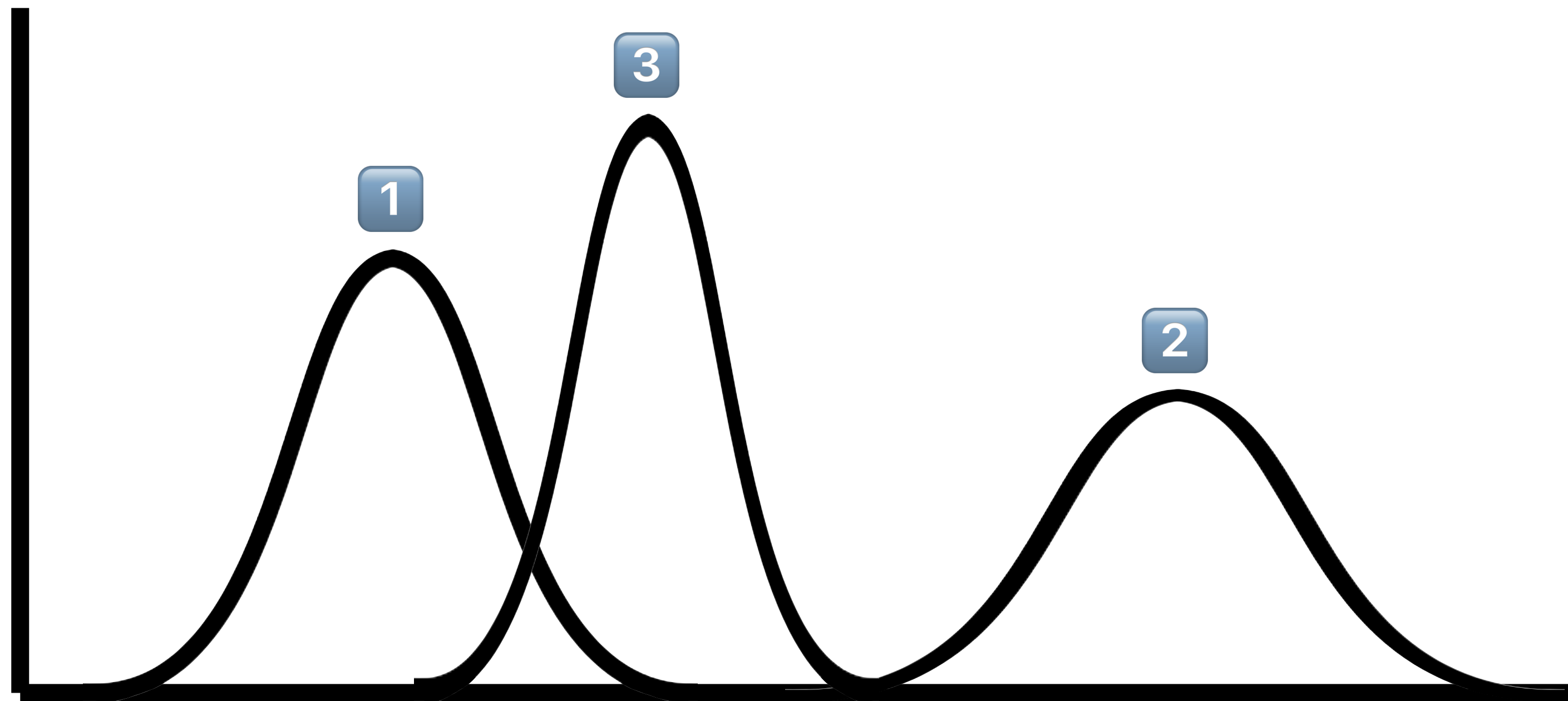
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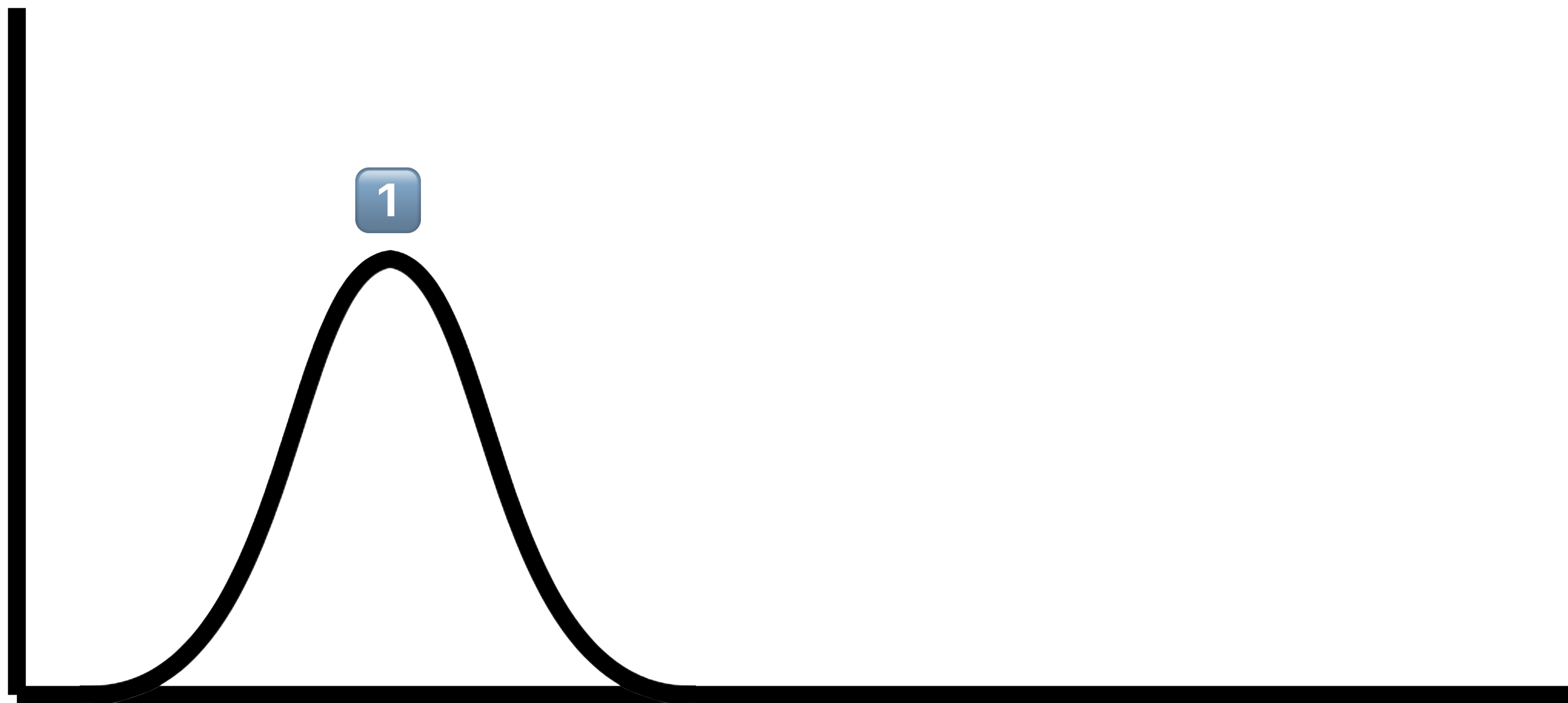
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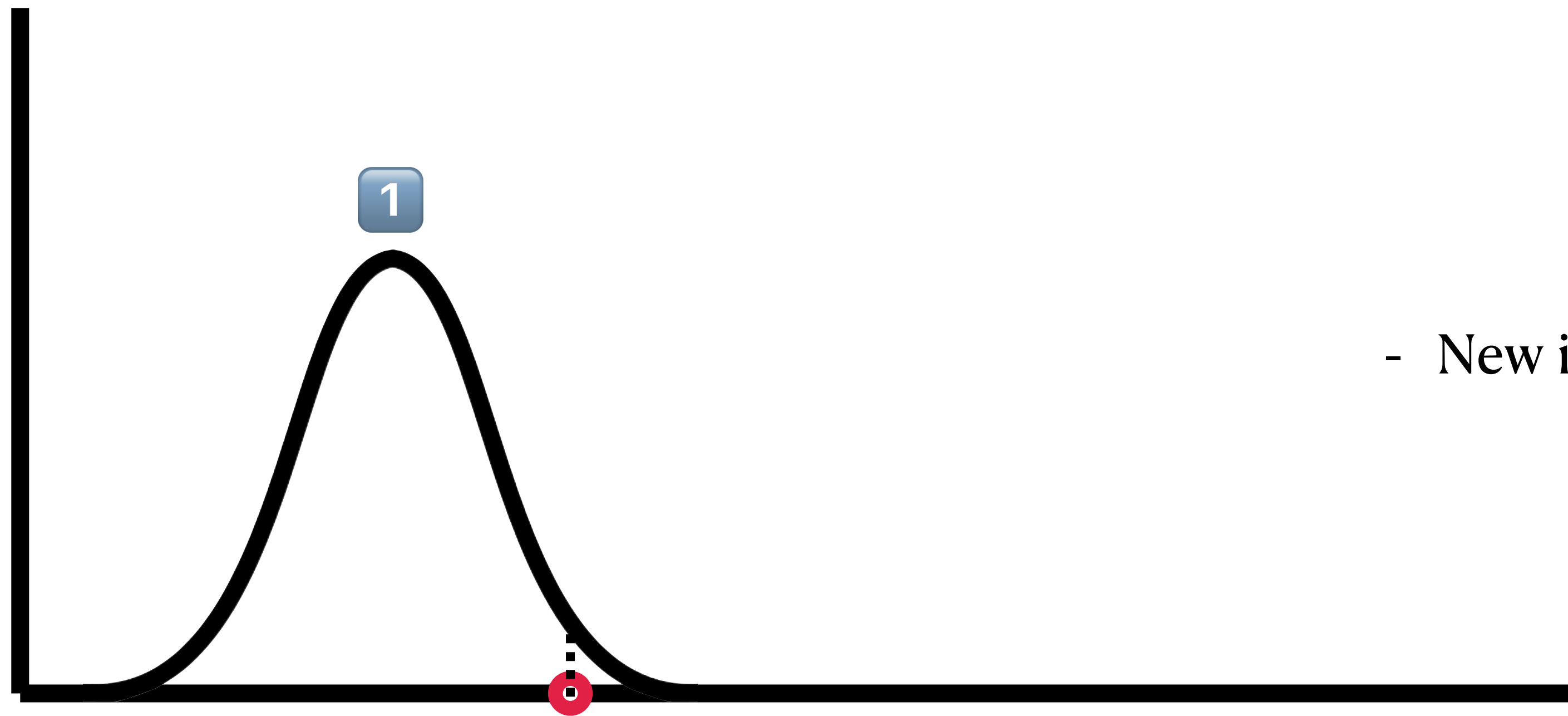
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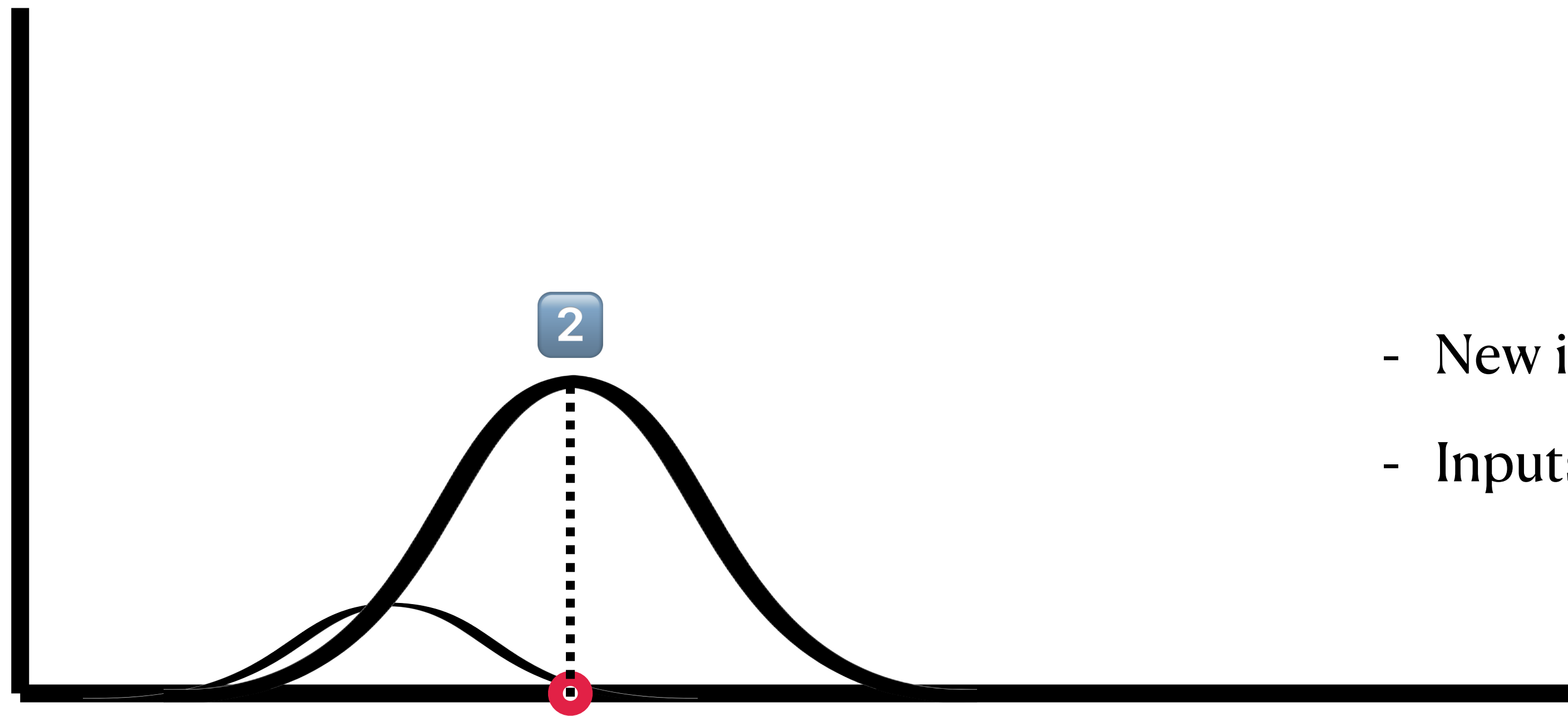


- New input that *increases coverage* is found

Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

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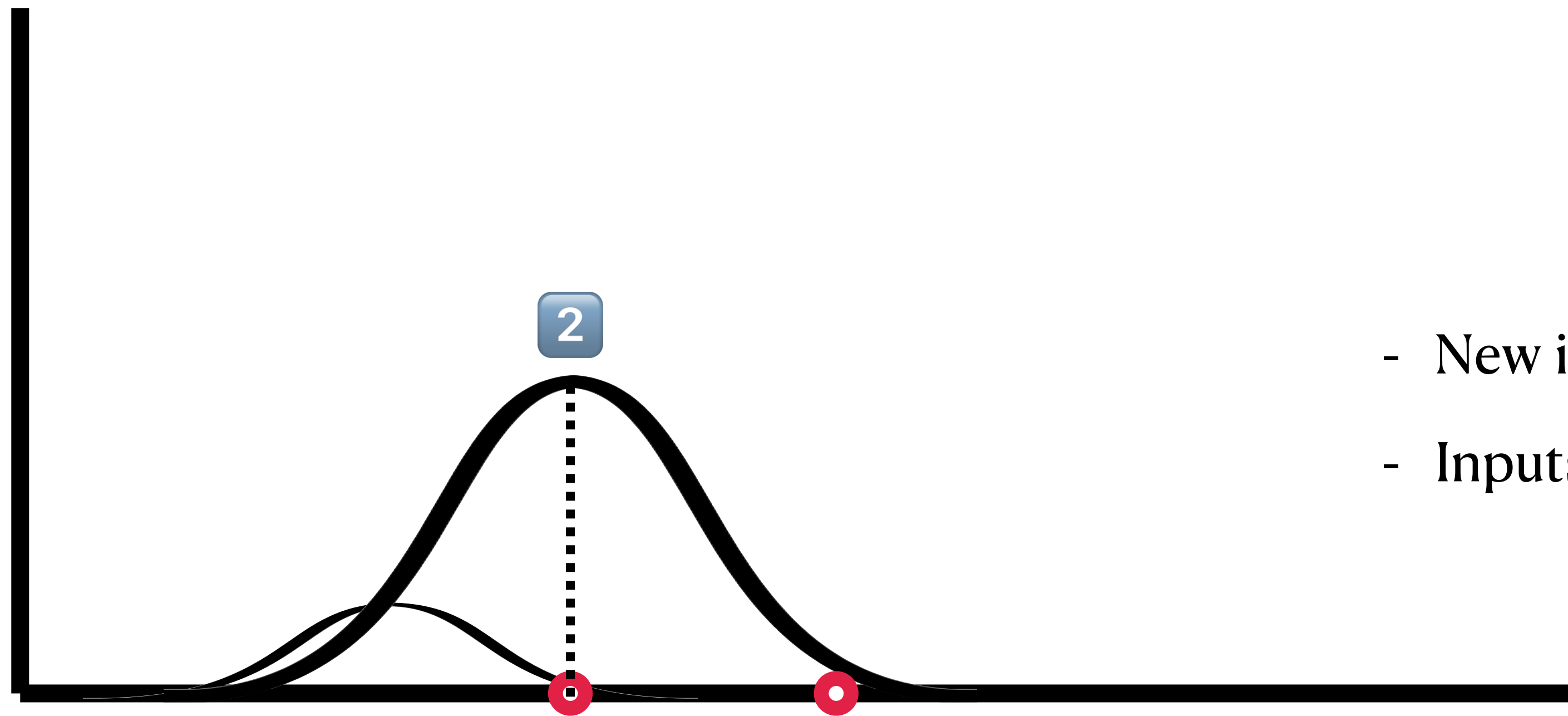


- New input that *increases coverage* is found
- Inputs around the new input are sampled

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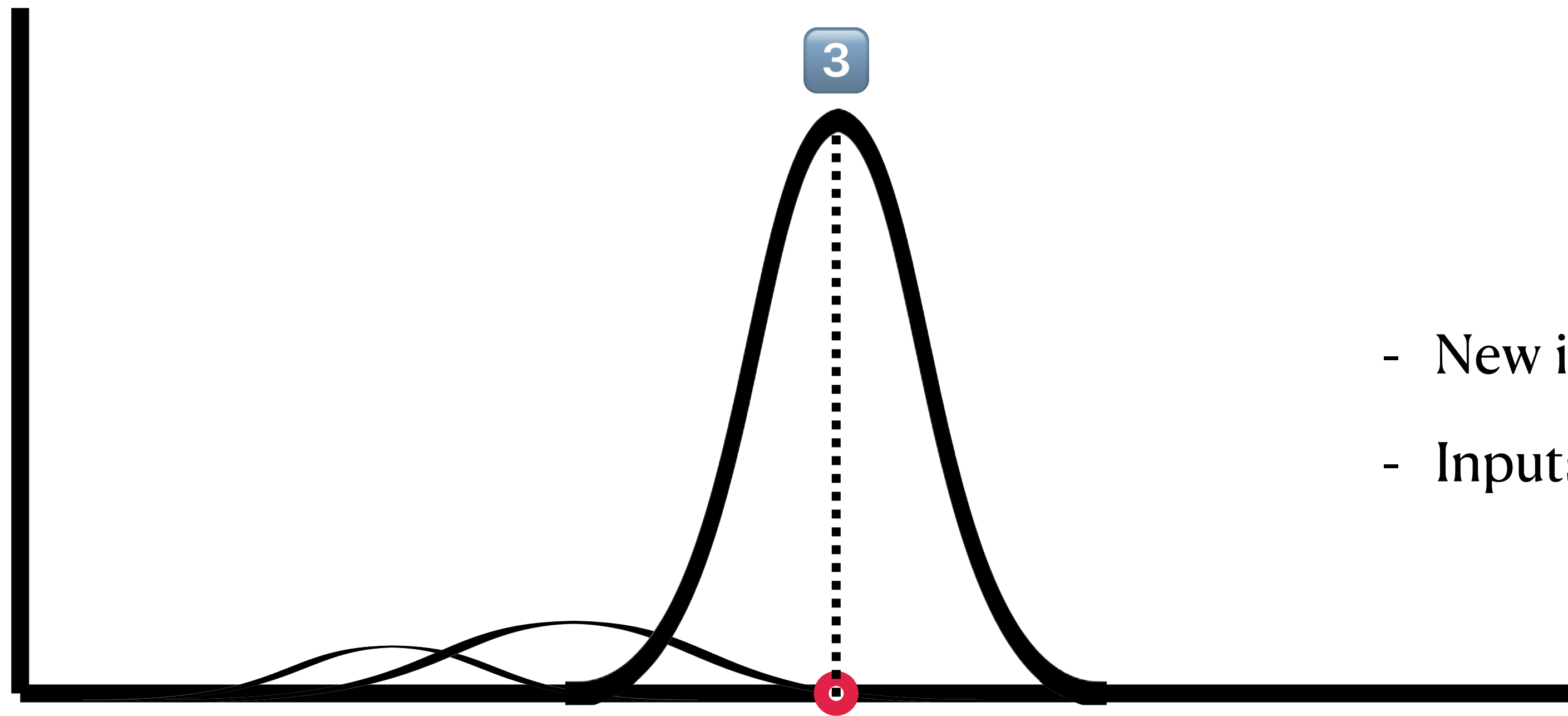


- New input that *increases coverage* is found
- Inputs around the new input are sampled

Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- Second key insight — *Macroscopic view*

“Greybox fuzzing’s adaptive bias could be *predictable*.”

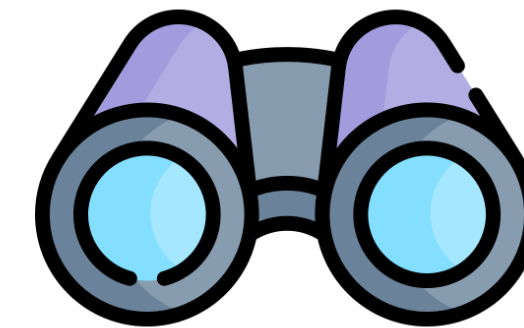
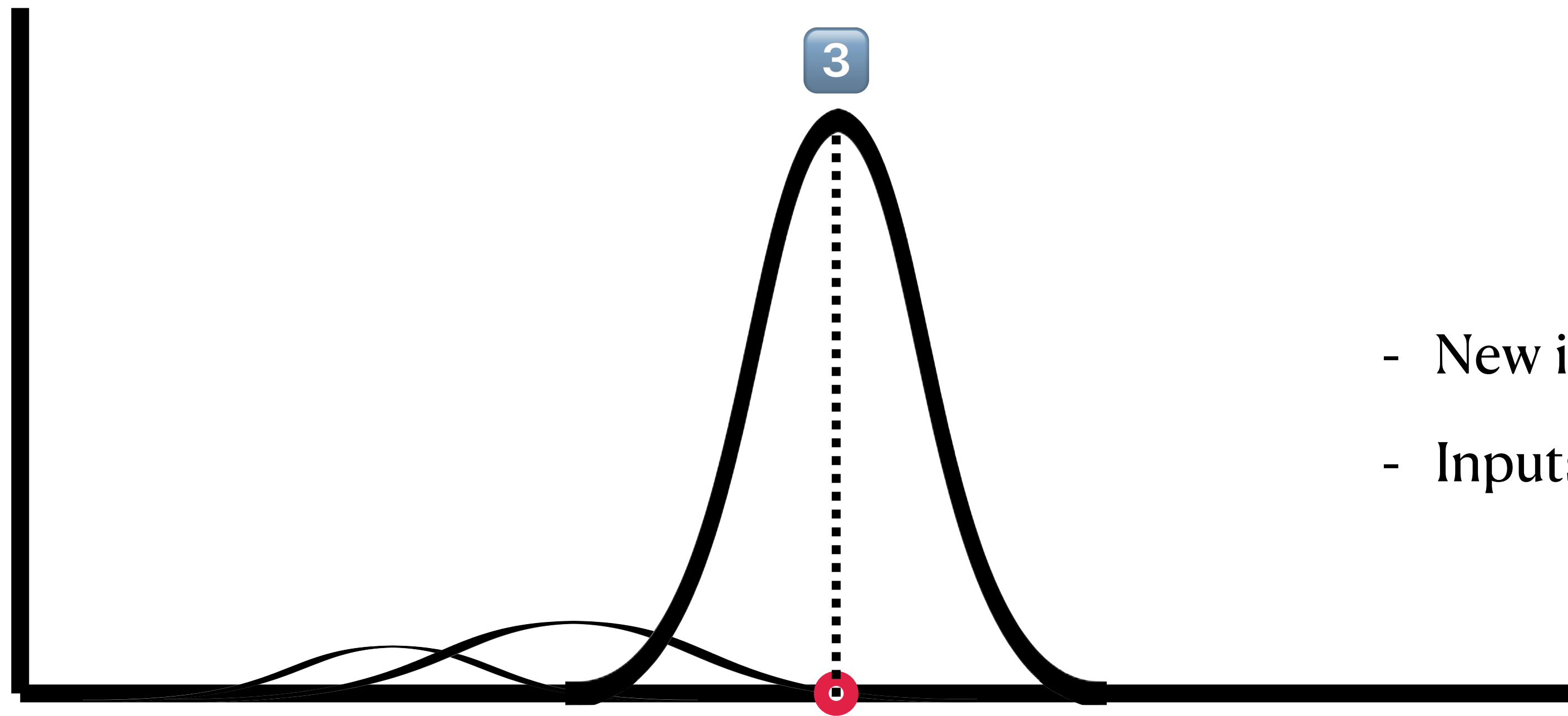


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Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

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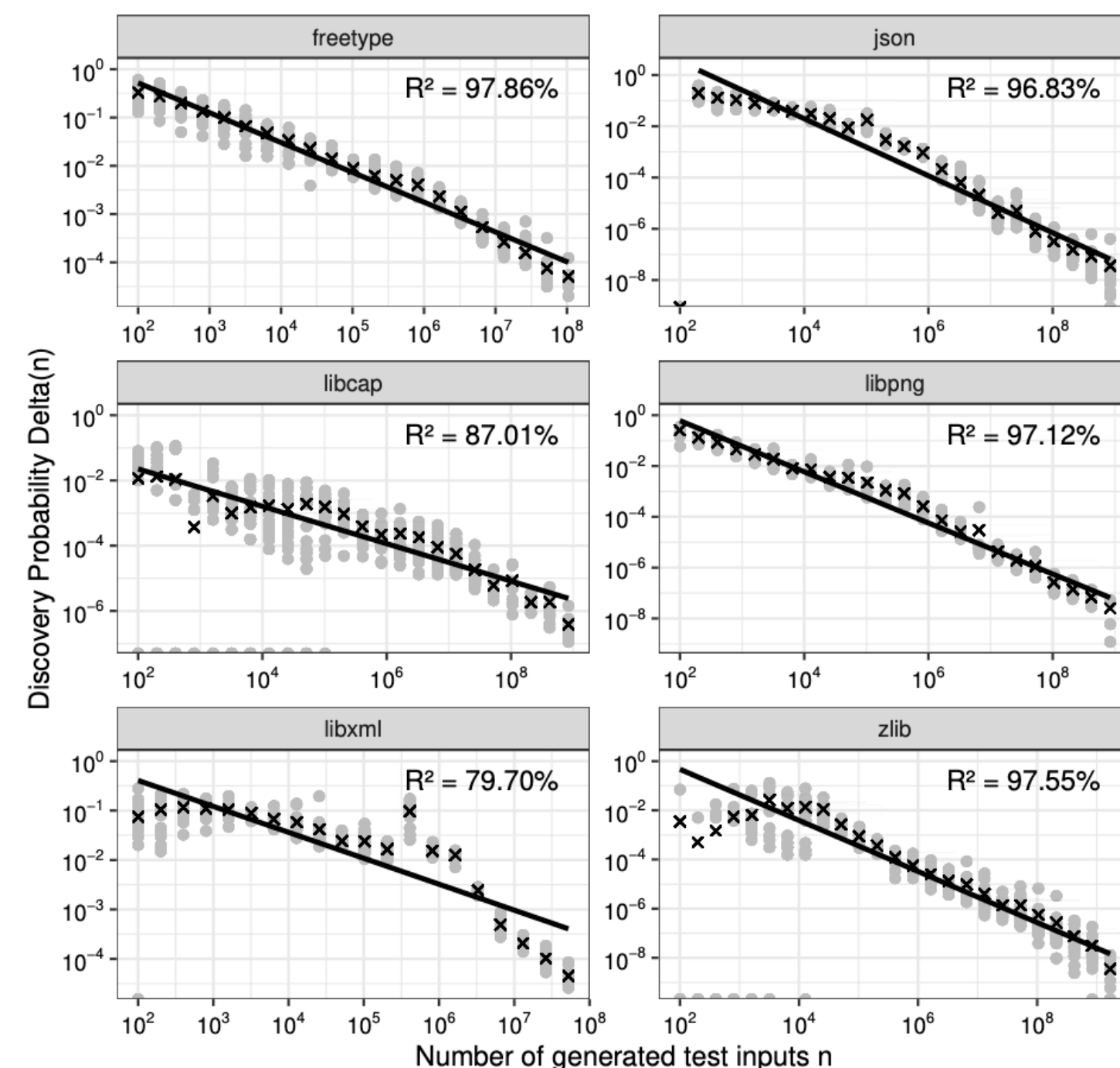


- New input that *increases coverage* is found
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Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- Second key insight — *Macroscopic view*

*“Greybox fuzzing’s adaptive bias could be **predictable**.”*



For example,

Böhme et al. “Estimating Residual Risk in Greybox Fuzzing.” ESEC/FSE’21

*$\log(\# \text{ of data points})$ has linear relation with
 $\log(\text{probability of discovering new program element})$*

(probability) discovery probability $\neq$ coverage rate (# of new element)

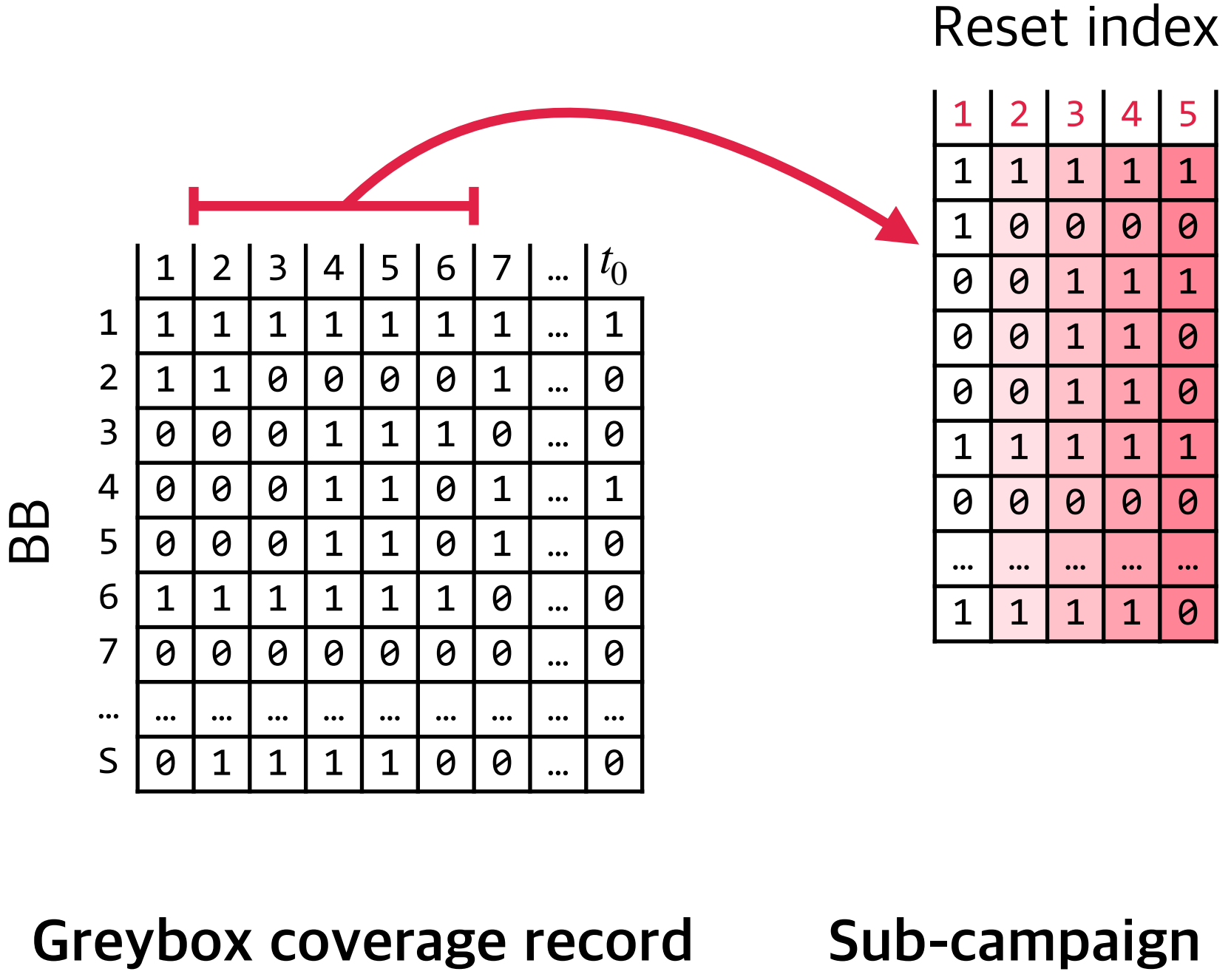
Methodology

Methodology

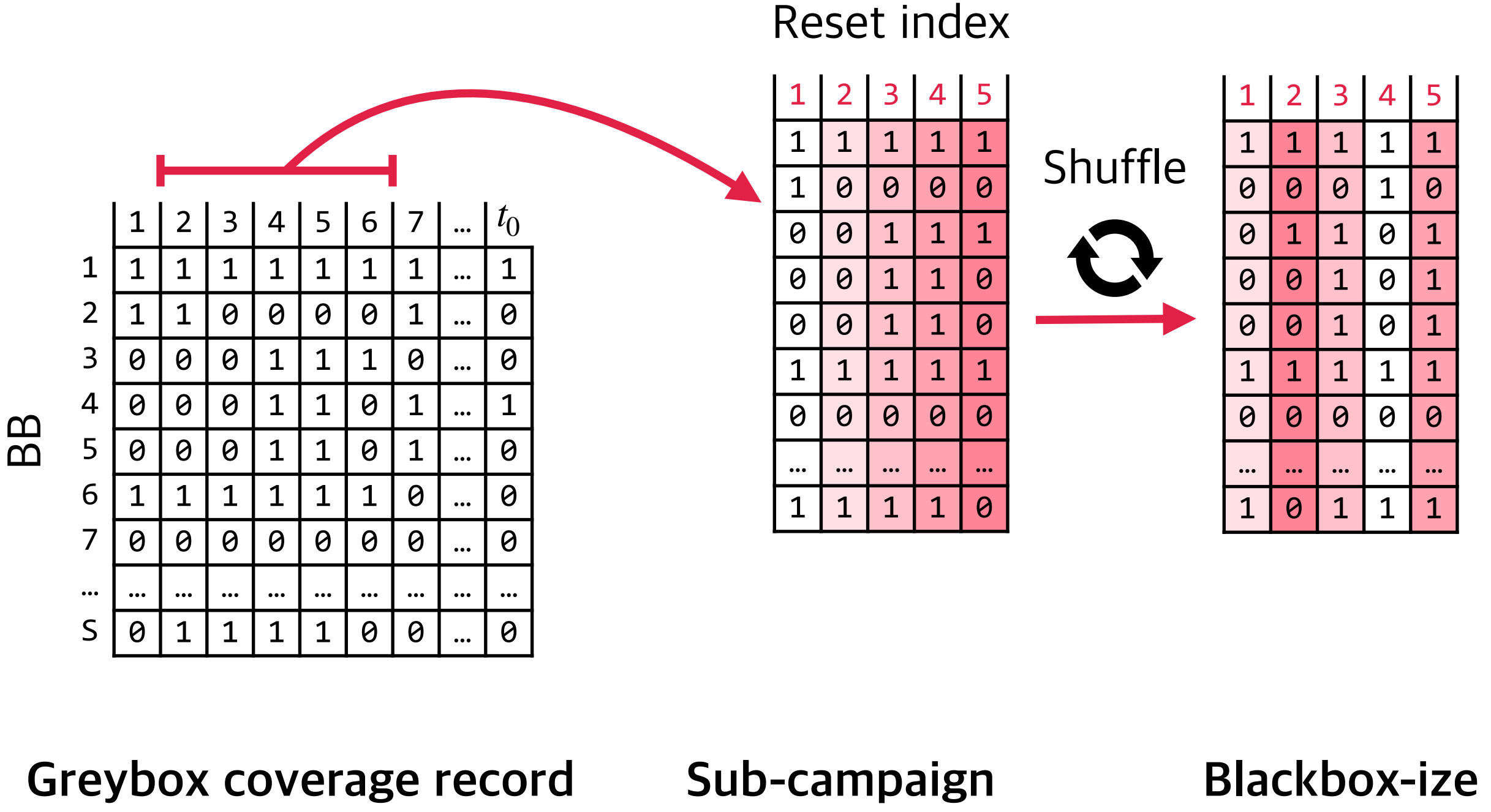
BB		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	t_0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1
	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	...	0
	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	...	0
	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	1
	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	0
	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	...	0
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	S	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	...	0

Greybox coverage record

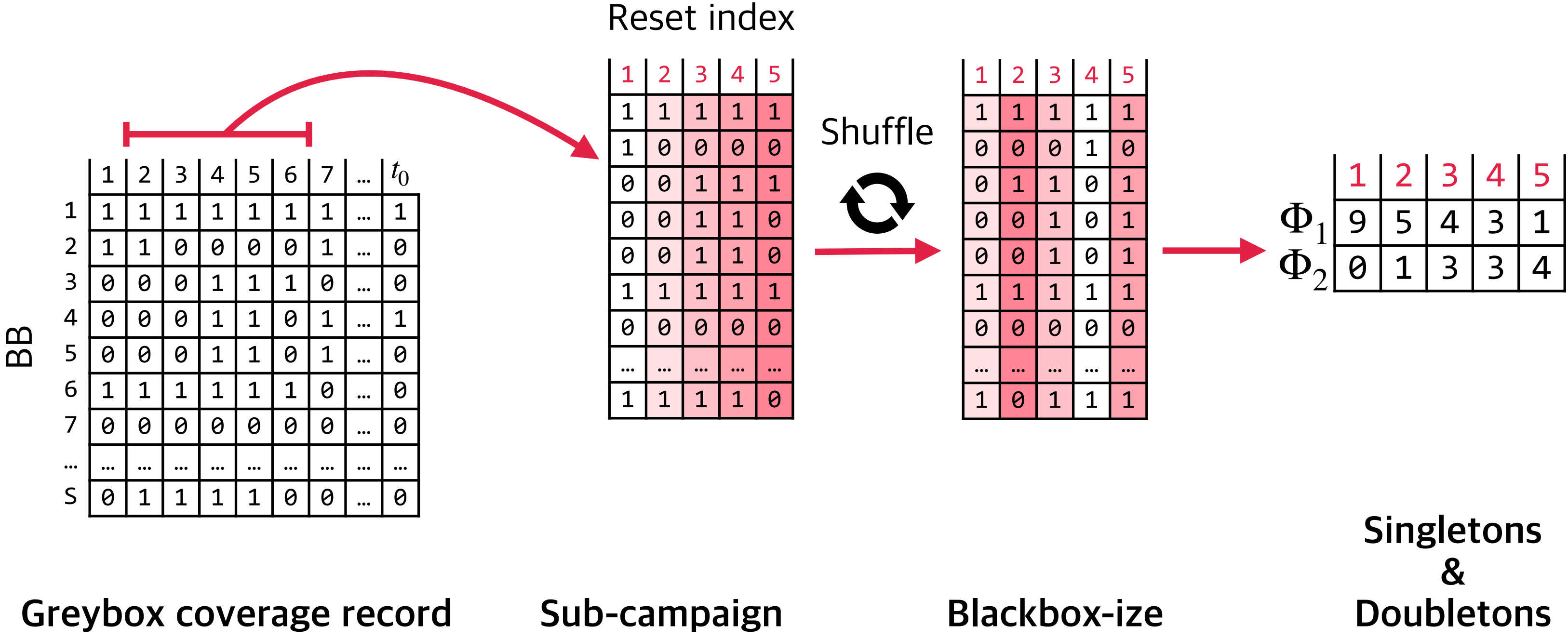
Methodology



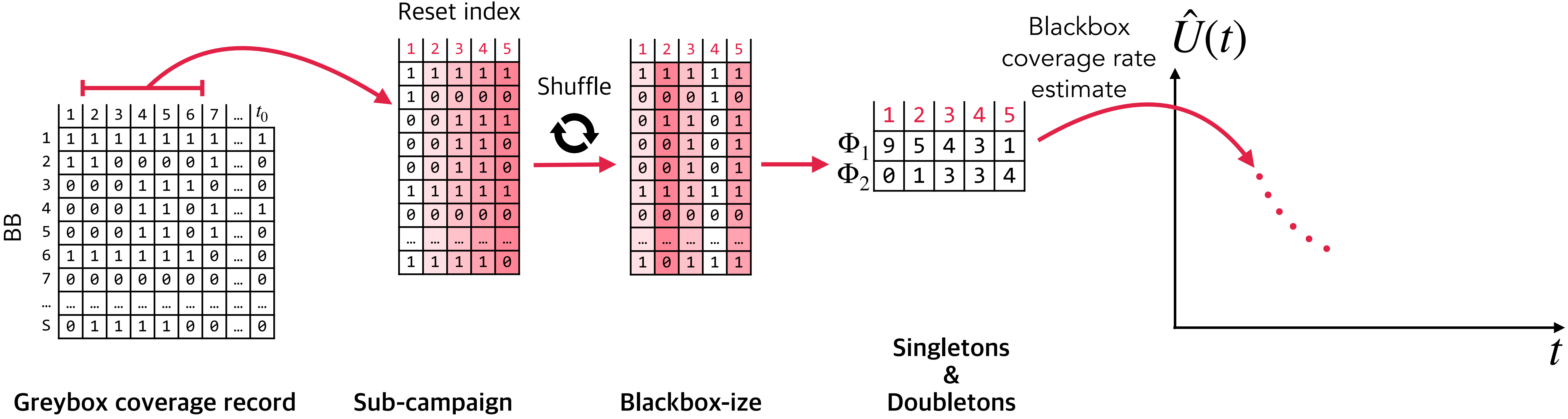
Methodology



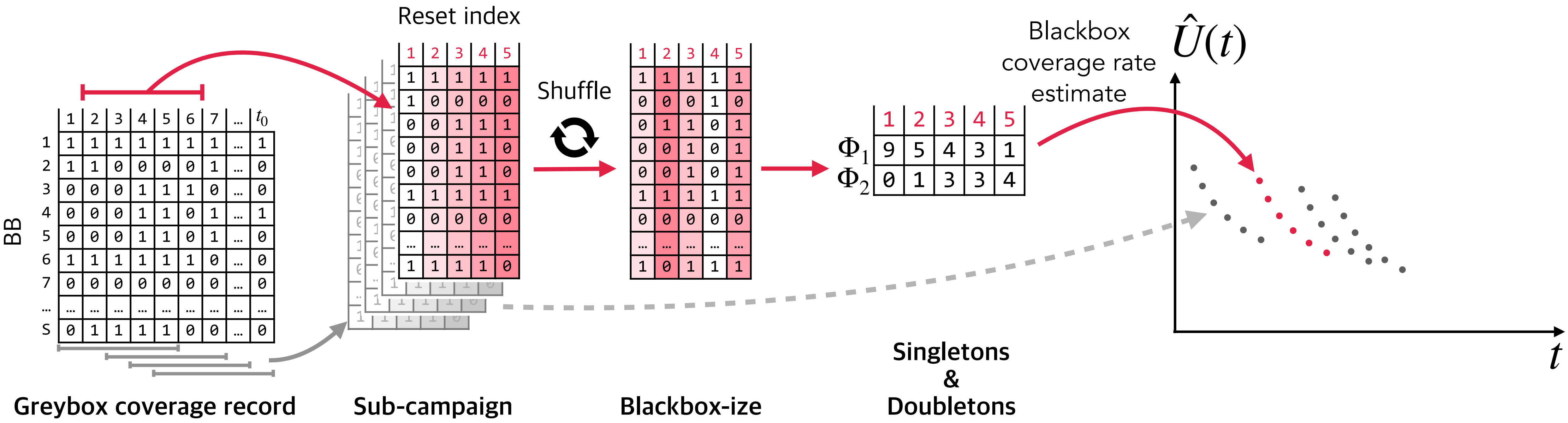
Methodology



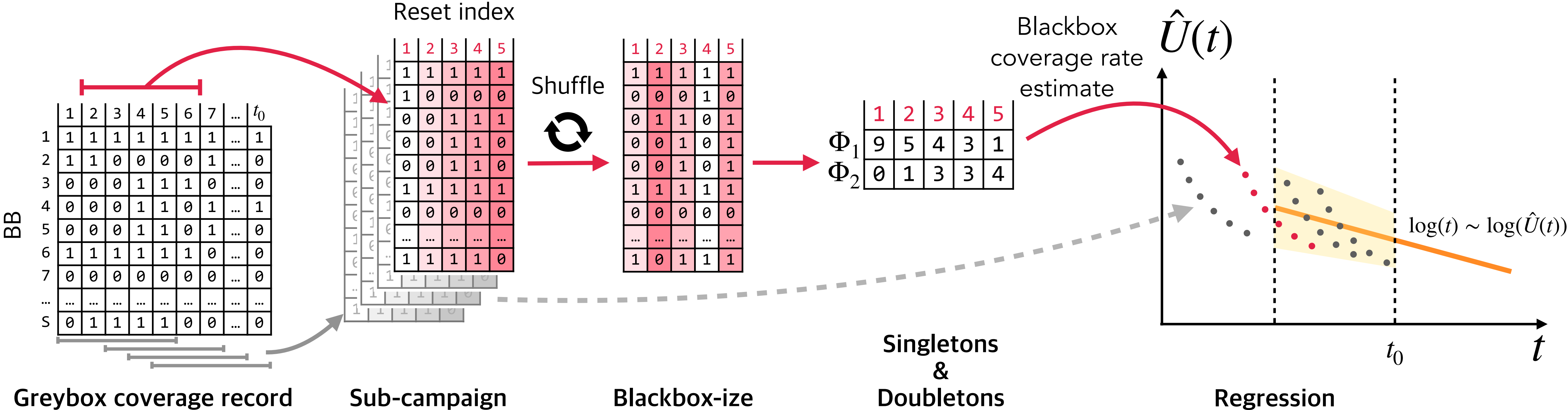
Methodology



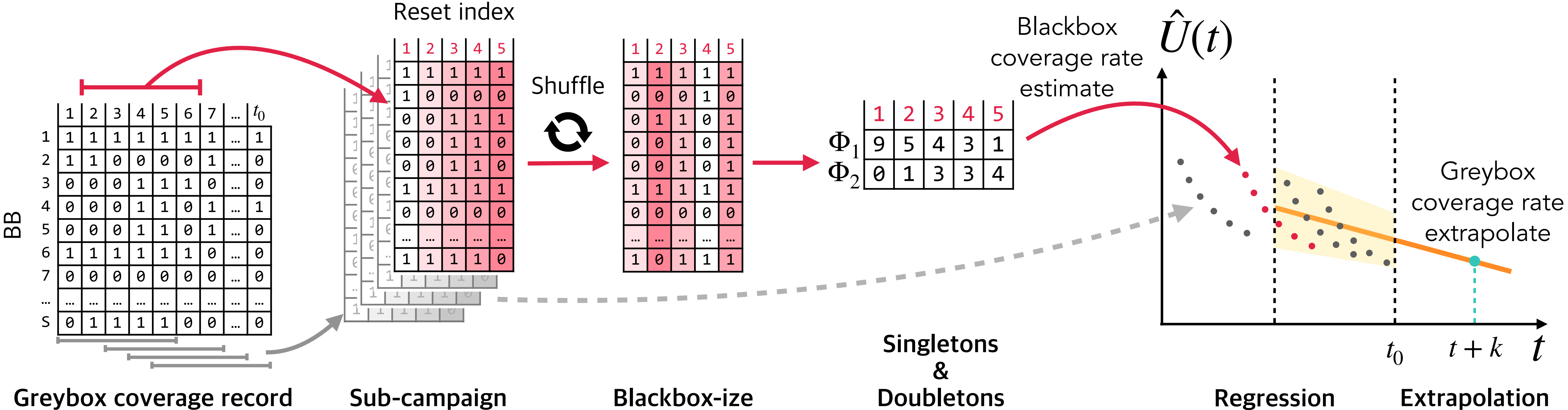
Methodology



Methodology



Methodology



RQ 1. Coverage Rate Prediction

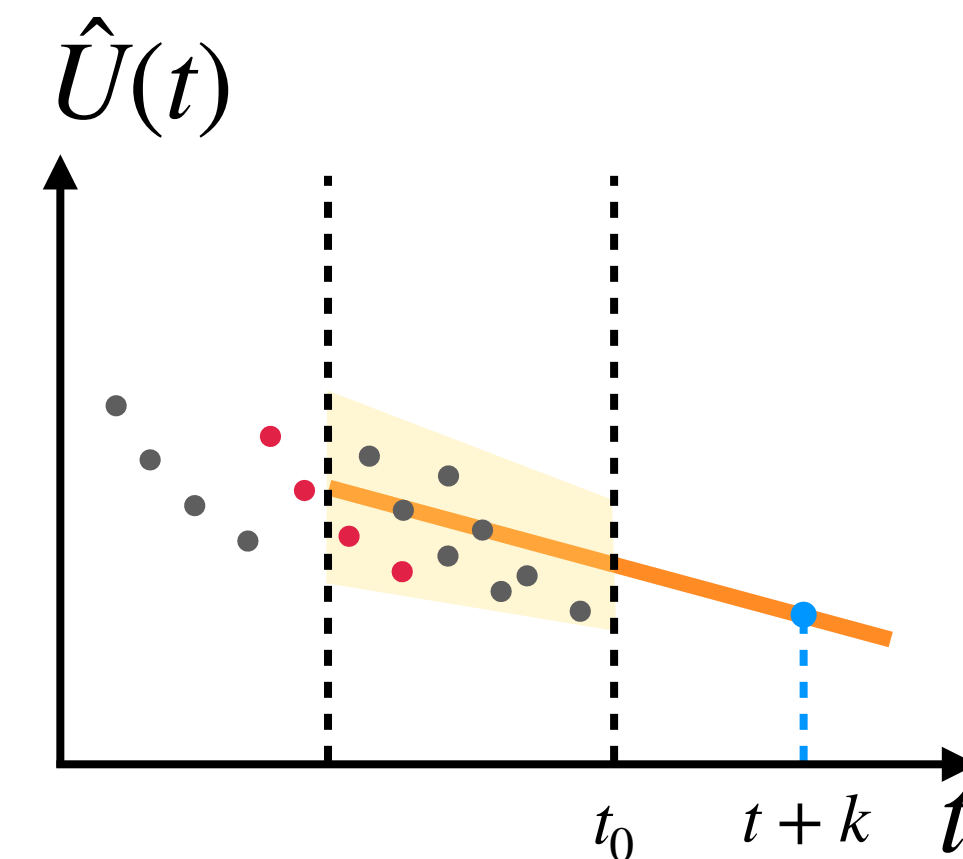
Q. How accurate is our *regression model considering the adaptive bias* compared to the *existing blackbox extrapolation model*?

**Existing $\hat{U}(t+k)$
Extrapolator**

$$\hat{\Phi}_0 \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{\Phi_1}{t\hat{\Phi}_0 + \Phi_1} \right)^k \right]$$

Ignores the adaptive bias

VS



**Our $\hat{U}(t+k)$
Extrapolator**

Consider the adaptive bias

RQ 1. Coverage Rate Prediction

Q. How accurate is our *regression model considering the adaptive bias* compared to the *existing blackbox extrapolation model*?

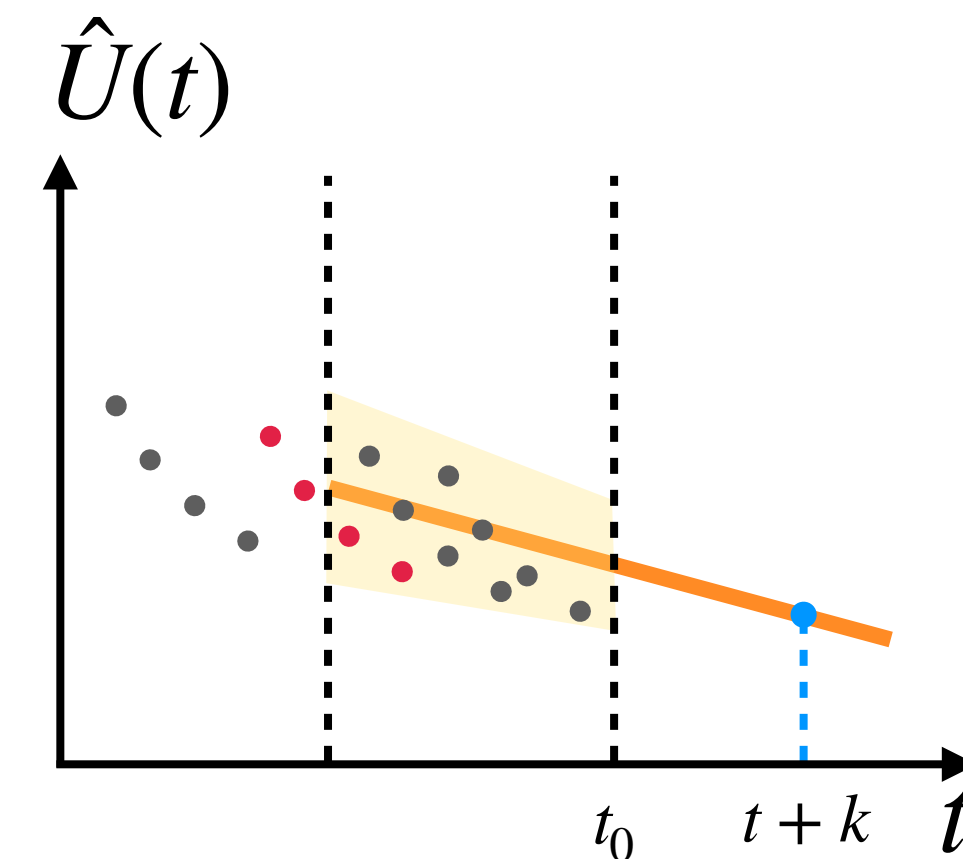
- Subject program: five open-source C libraries
- Evaluation Scenario:

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$$\hat{\Phi}_0 \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{\Phi_1}{t\hat{\Phi}_0 + \Phi_1} \right)^k \right]$$

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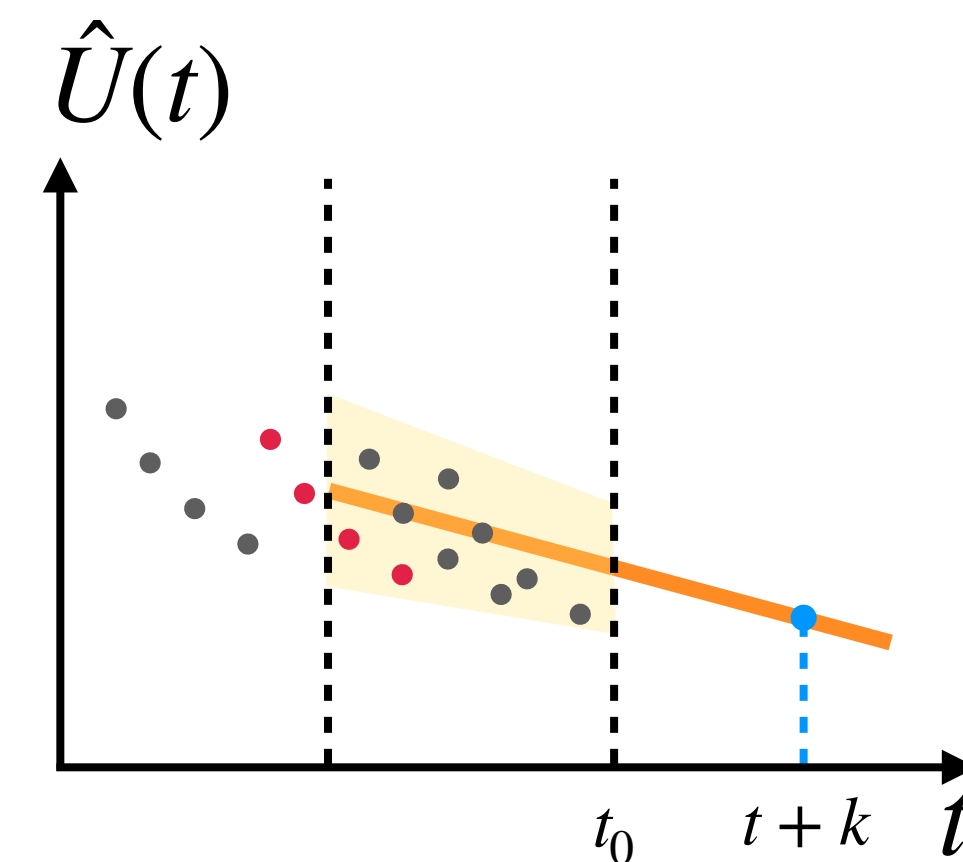
- Subject program: five open-source C libraries
- Evaluation Scenario: 1) run the greybox fuzzer until having t data points
2) apply each extrapolator to extrapolate $\hat{U}(t + k)$
3) run the greybox fuzzer for k more data points to get $U(t + k)$.

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Extrapolator**

$$\hat{\Phi}_0 \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{\Phi_1}{t\hat{\Phi}_0 + \Phi_1} \right)^k \right]$$

Ignores the adaptive bias

VS



**Our $\hat{U}(t + k)$
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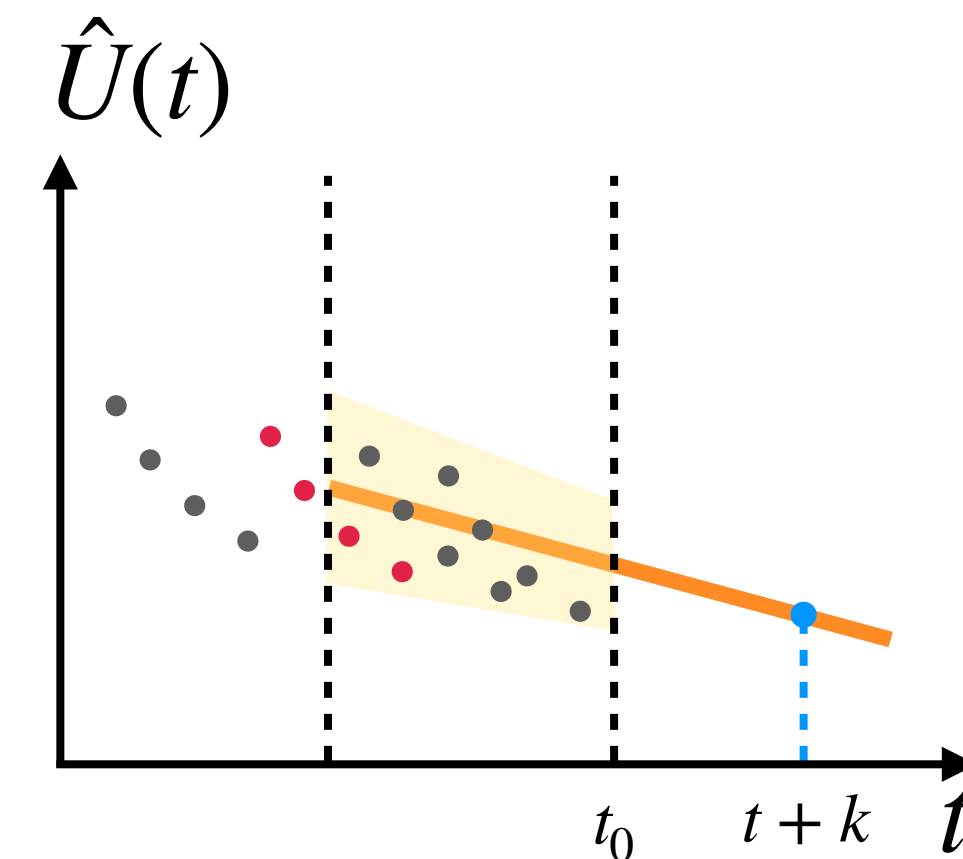
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Ignores the adaptive bias

VS



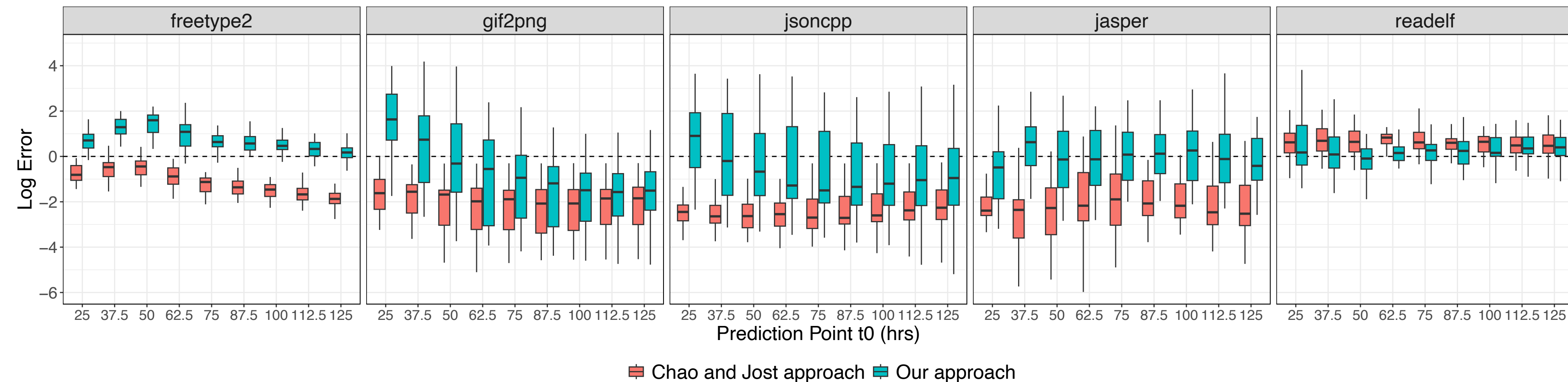
**Our $\hat{U}(t+k)$
Extrapolator**

Consider the adaptive bias

Compare

Result 1: Coverage Rate Prediction

Difference between $\log(U(t + k))$ vs. $\log(\hat{U}(t + k))$



(close to 1 is better)

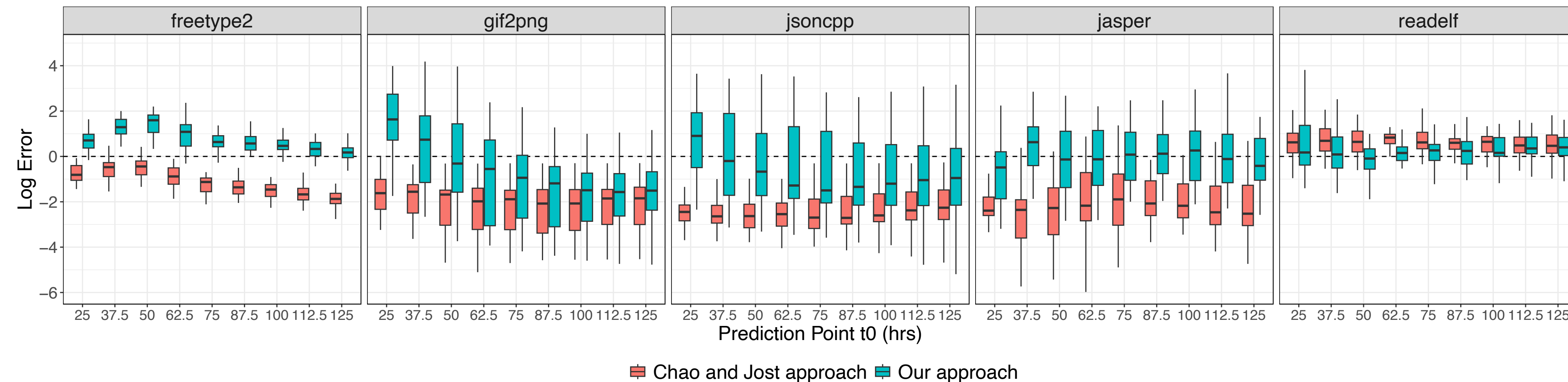
“Our extrapolator exhibits
at least one order of magnitude lower absolute bias
than the existing extrapolator for *4 out of 5 subjects*,
especially for long-term prediction.”

The average ratio $U(t + k)/\hat{U}(t + k)$:

[Existing] **1.6 - 800** [Ours] **1.17 - 7**
across all subjects.

Result 1: Coverage Rate Prediction

Difference between $\log(U(t + k))$ vs. $\log(\hat{U}(t + k))$



(close to 1 is better)

“Our extrapolator exhibits
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⇒ **Well-handled the adaptive bias**

The average ratio $U(t + k)/\hat{U}(t + k)$:

[Existing] **1.6 - 800** [Ours] **1.17 - 7**

across all subjects.

RQ 2. Stopping-Time Estimation

Q. Is our *extrapolator* useful for the stopping criteria?

Greybox Coverage Record

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	t_0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	...	0
3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	...	0
4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	1
5	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	0
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	...	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	...	0

&

U: Target coverage rate

RQ 2. Stopping-Time Estimation

Q. Is our *extrapolator* useful for the stopping criteria?

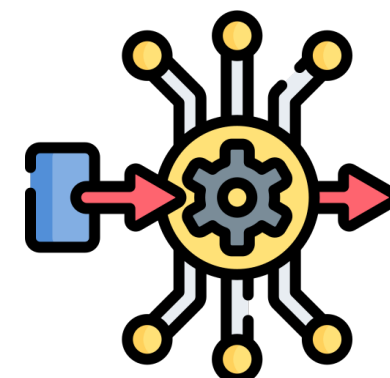
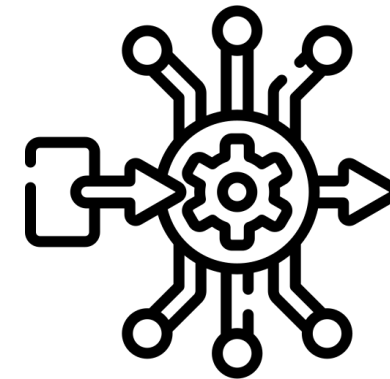
Greybox Coverage Record

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	t_0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	...	0
3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	...	0
4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	1
5	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	0
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	...	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	...	0

&

***U*: Target coverage rate**

**Existing
Extrapolator**



**Our
Extrapolator**

RQ 2. Stopping-Time Estimation

Q. Is our *extrapolator* useful for the stopping criteria?

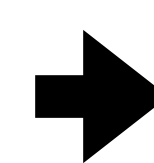
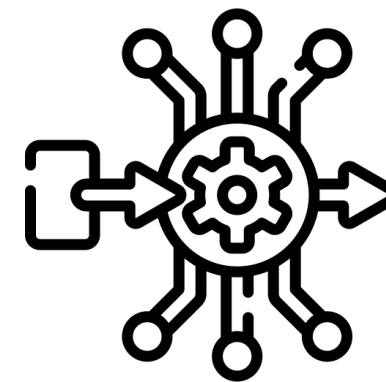
Greybox Coverage Record

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	t_0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	...	0
3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	...	0
4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	1
5	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	0
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	...	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	...	0

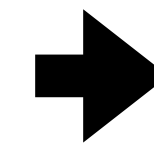
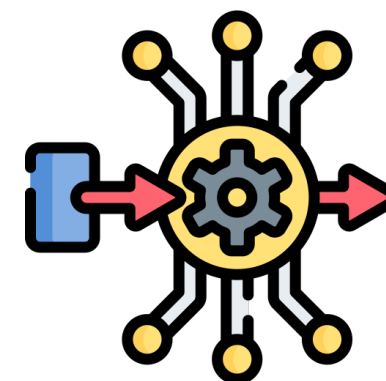
&

***U*: Target coverage rate**

**Existing
Extrapolator**



t'



t''

**Our
Extrapolator**

Estimated time

RQ 2. Stopping-Time Estimation

Q. Is our *extrapolator* useful for the stopping criteria?

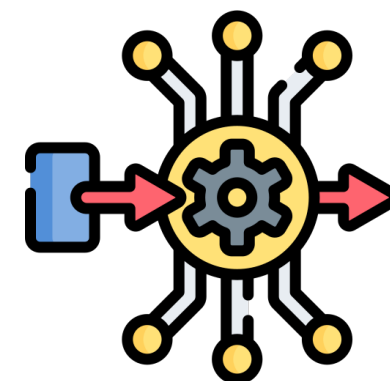
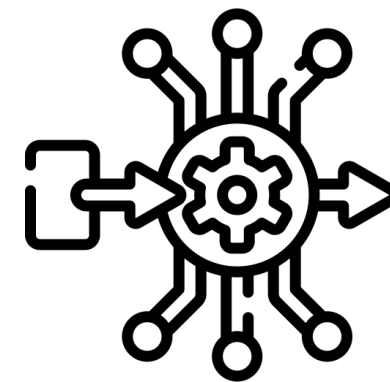
Greybox Coverage Record

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	t_0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	...	0
3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	...	0
4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	1
5	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	0
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	...	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	...	0

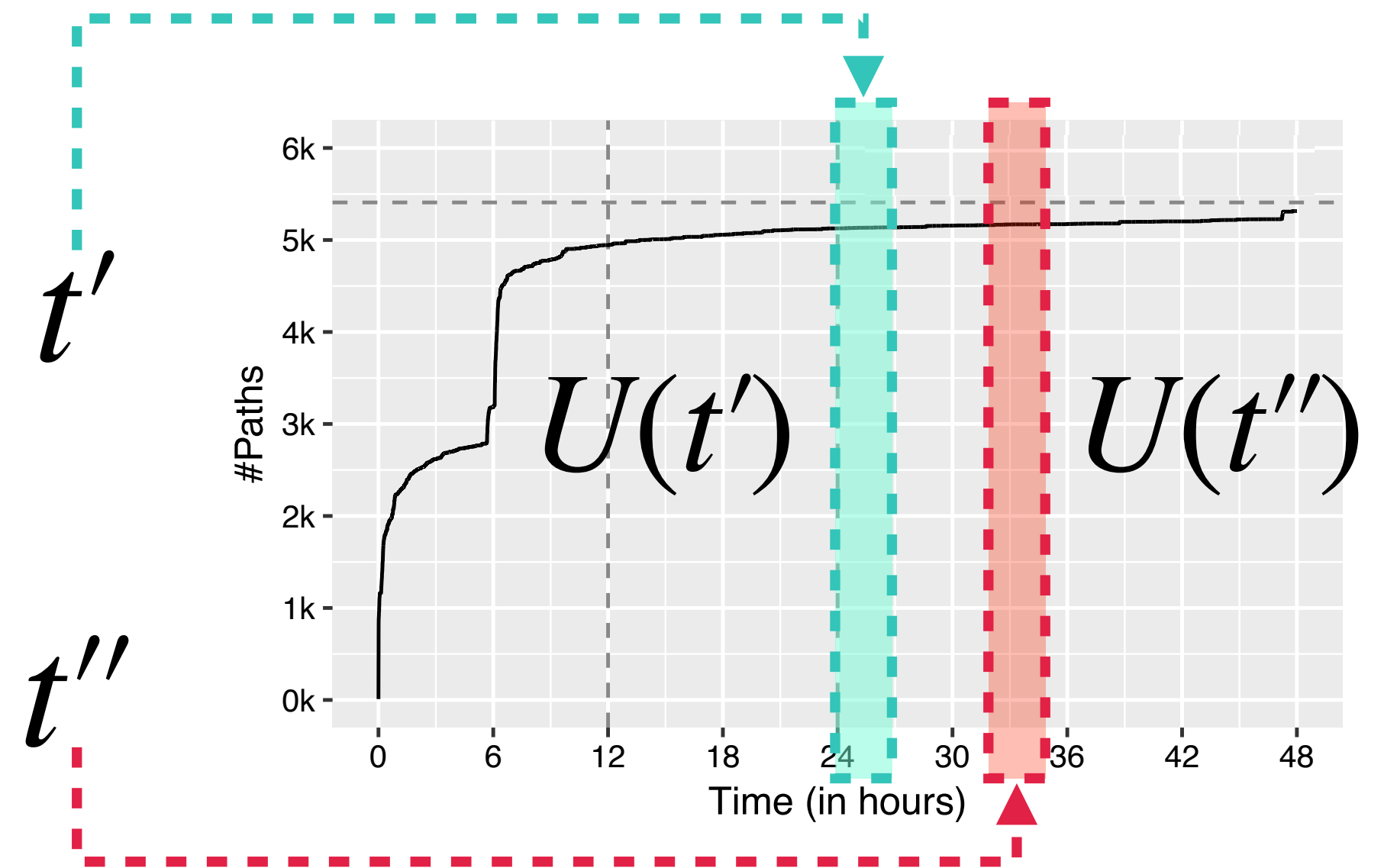
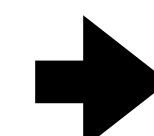
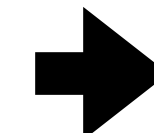
&

U: Target coverage rate

Existing Extrapolator



Our Extrapolator



Estimated time

Actual coverage rate

RQ 2. Stopping-Time Estimation

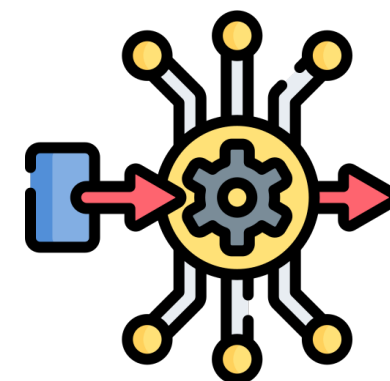
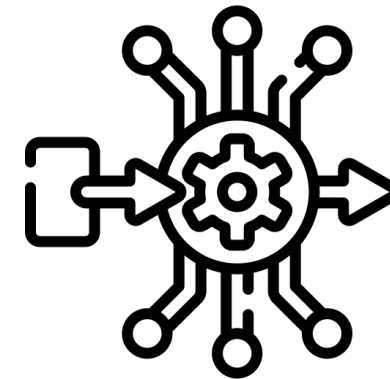
Q. Is our *extrapolator* useful for the stopping criteria?

Greybox Coverage Record

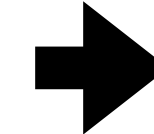
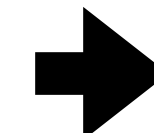
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	t_0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	...	0
3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	...	0
4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	1
5	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	...	0
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	...	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	...	0

&

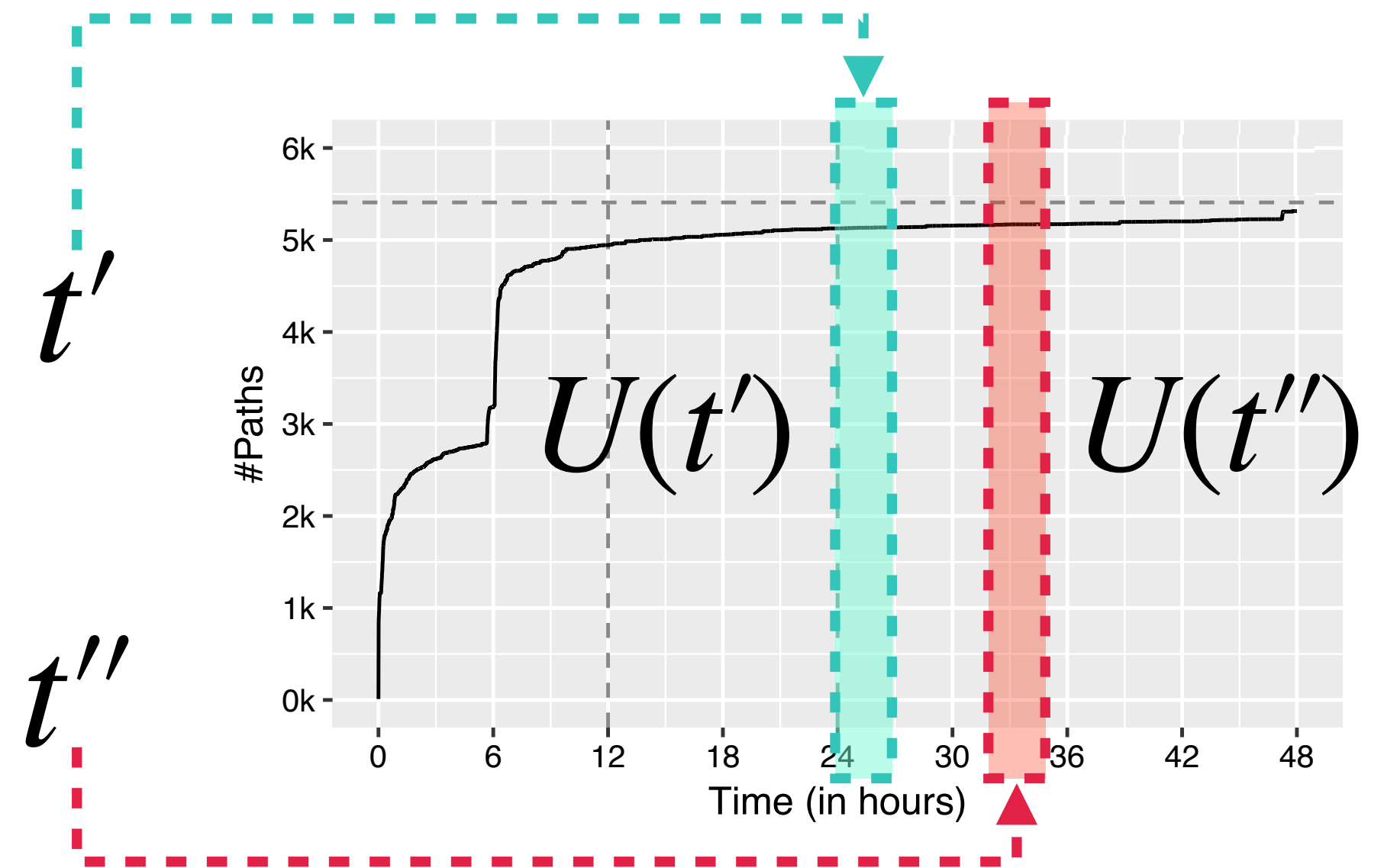
**Existing
Extrapolator**



**Our
Extrapolator**



Estimated time



**Actual
coverage rate**

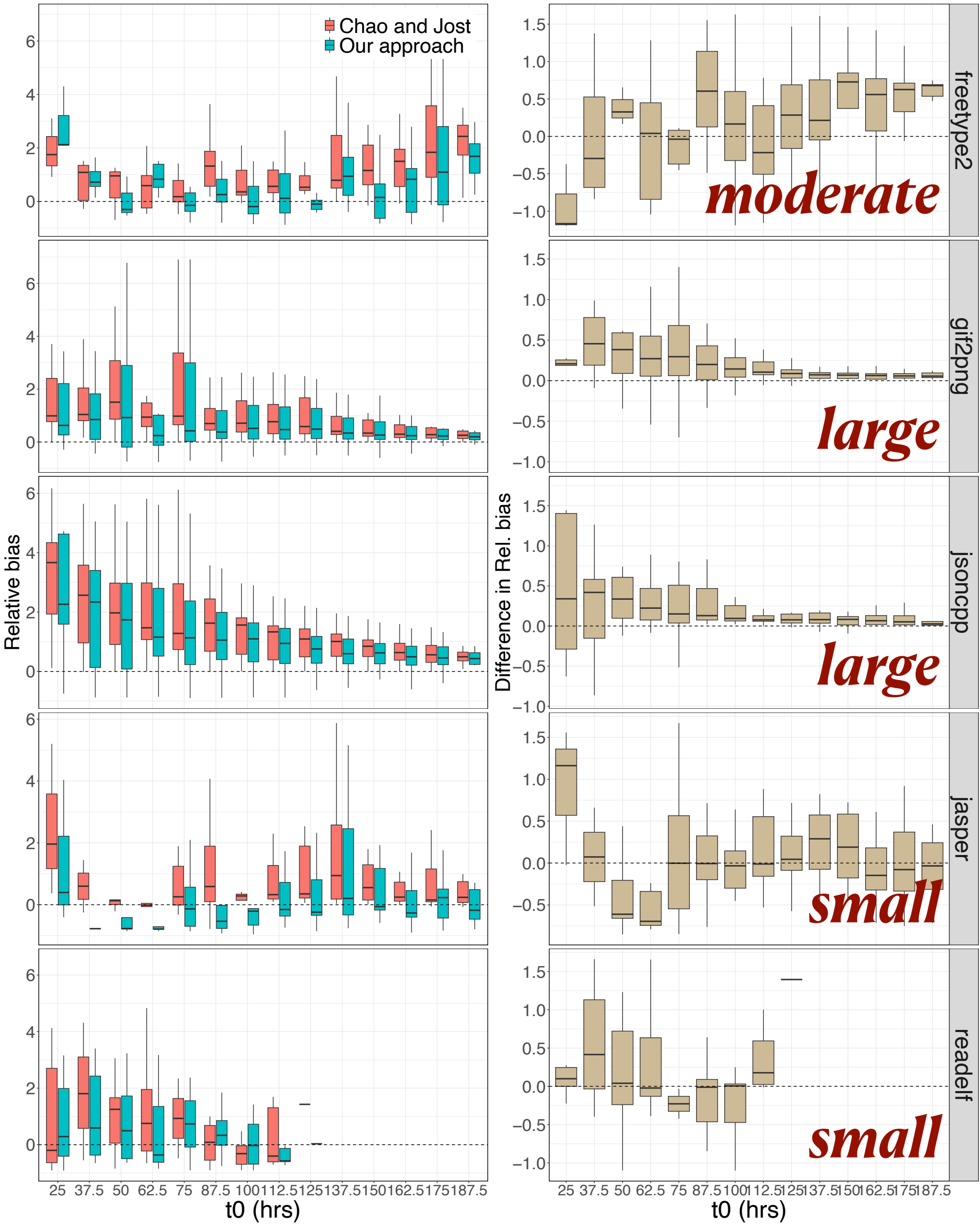
U : Target coverage rate  **v.s. U** 

Average difference between $U(\hat{t})$ and target U

Result 2. Stopping-Time Estimation

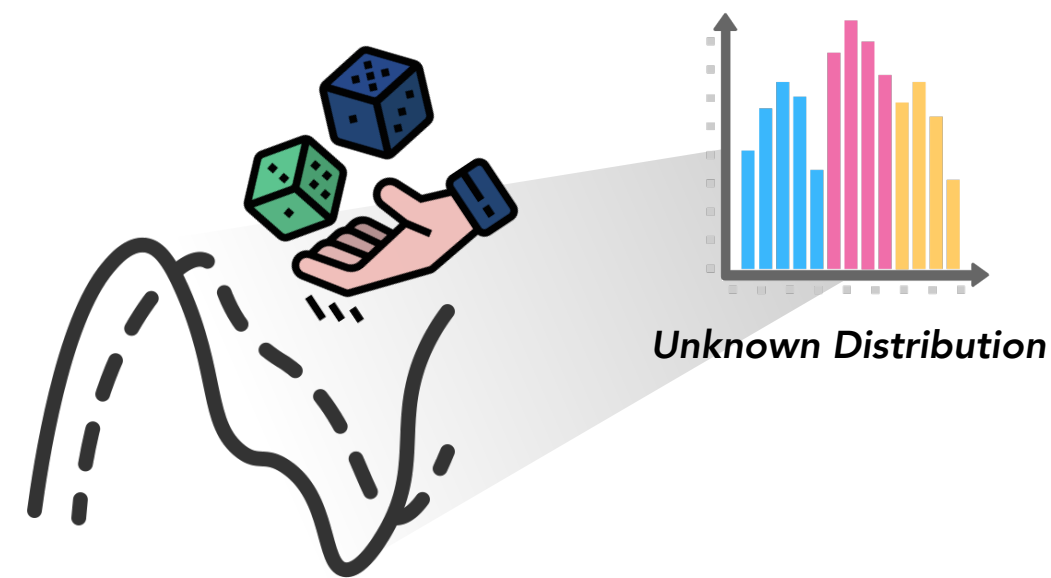
(>0 is better)

← $Bias(Exist) - Bias(Our)$



- Our extrapolator predicts the time significantly better (**large/moderate effect size**) than the existing extrapolator for **3 out of 5** subjects.
- For significant improvement, our extrapolator achieves **35-77% closer prediction** than the existing extrapolator.

Q. When should we stop the fuzzing campaign?



Stochastic Process

Unsolvably with an analytical methodology



*Even if we have some criteria,
how much of a resource do we
need to use more?*

Q. When should we stop the fuzzing campaign?

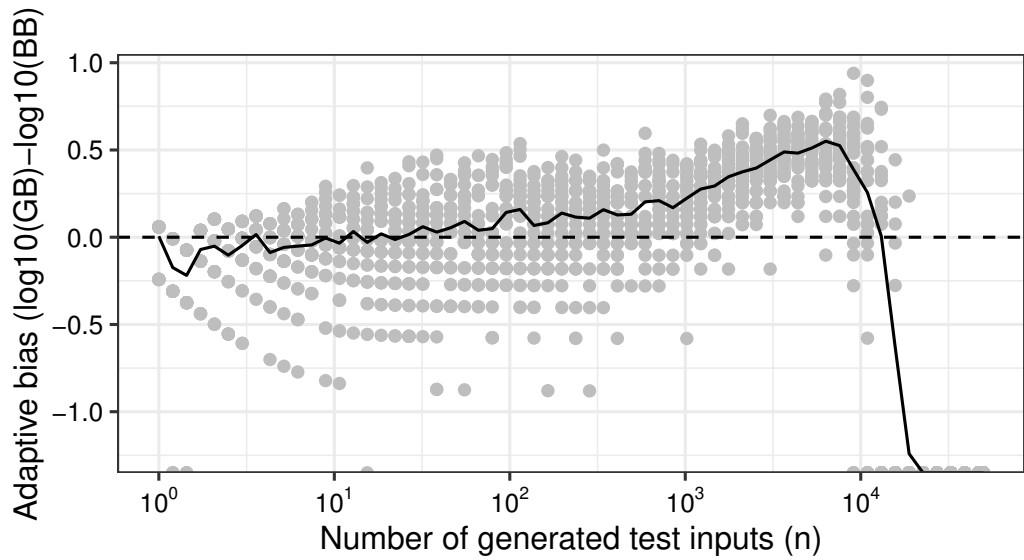


Stochastic Process

Unsolvable with an analytical methodology

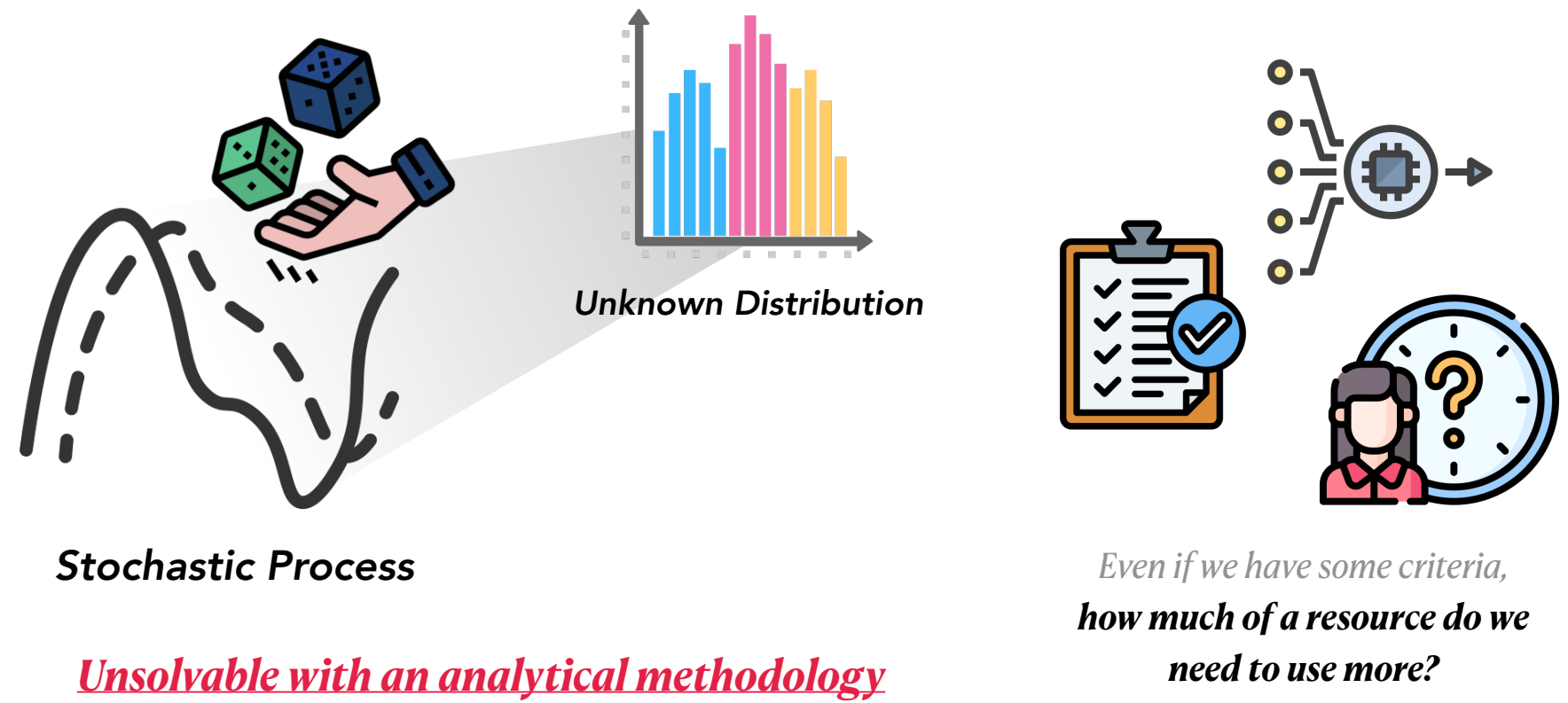
*Even if we have some criteria,
how much of a resource do we
need to use more?*

Adaptive bias



“Due to adaptive bias, the discovery probability is consistently higher in the greybox campaign than the blackbox campaign.”

Q. When should we stop the fuzzing campaign?

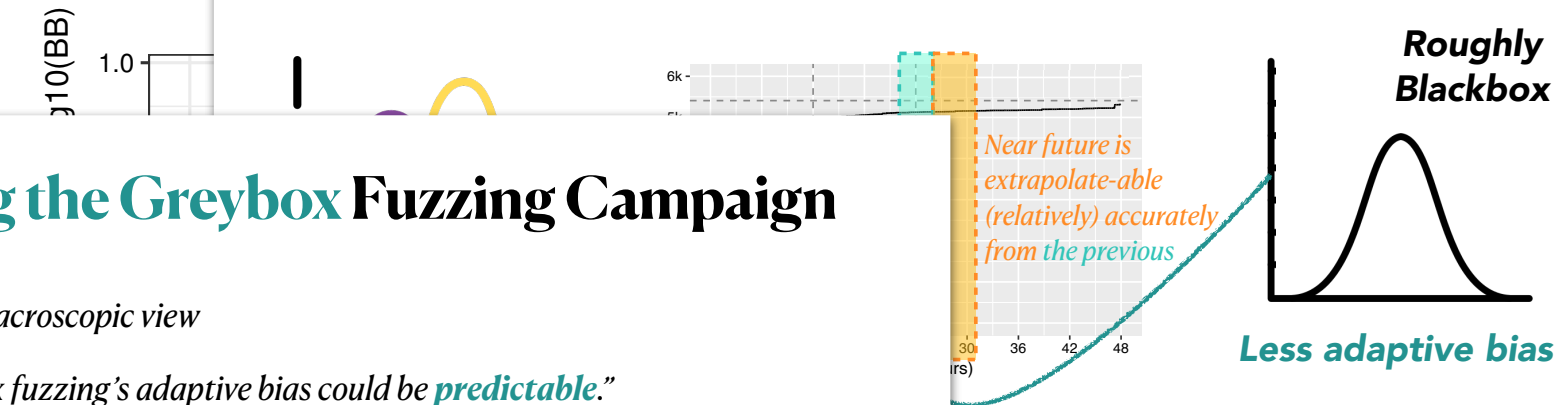


Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- Second key insight — Macroscopic view
- “Greybox fuzzing’s adaptive bias could be *predictable*.”
-
- New input that *increases coverage* is found
 - Inputs around the new input are sampled

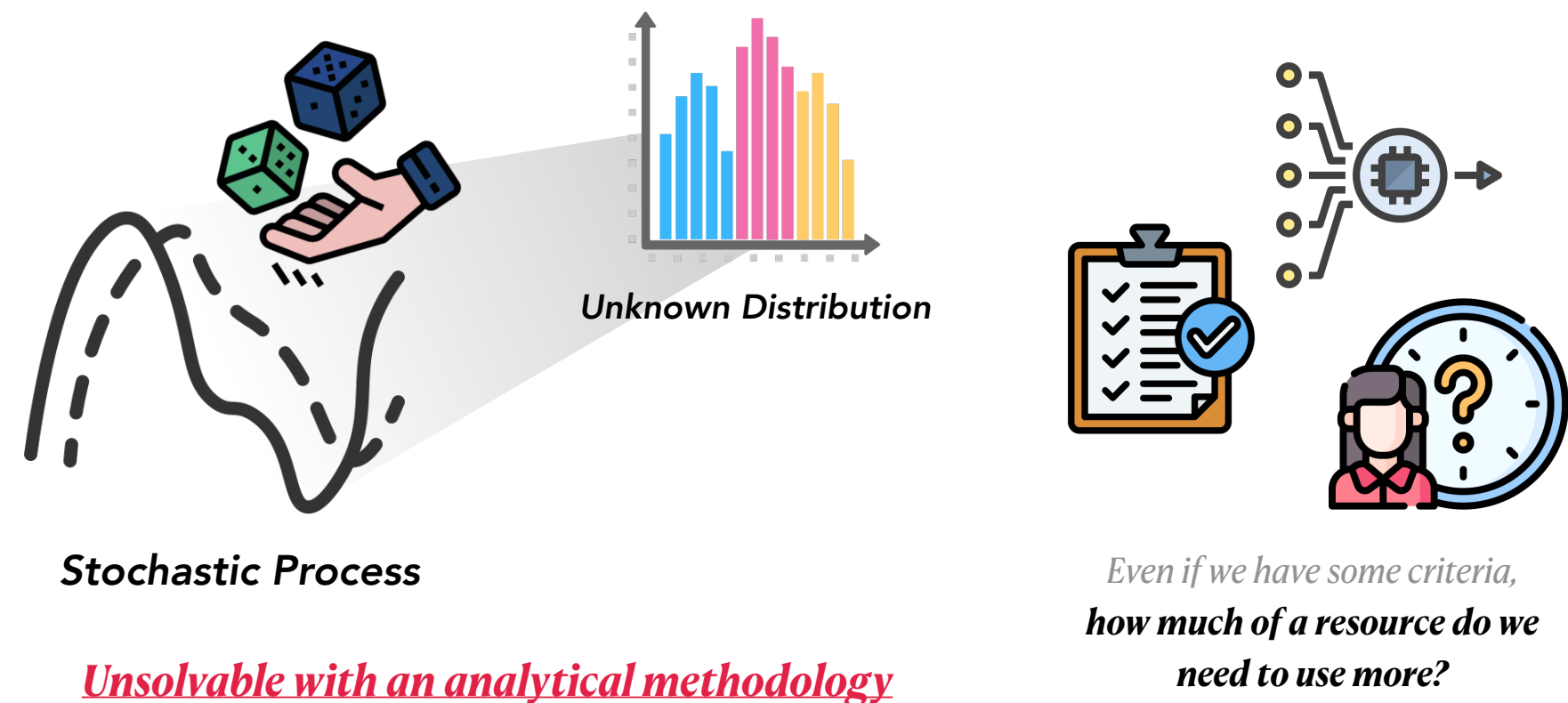
Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

- First key insight — Microscopic view



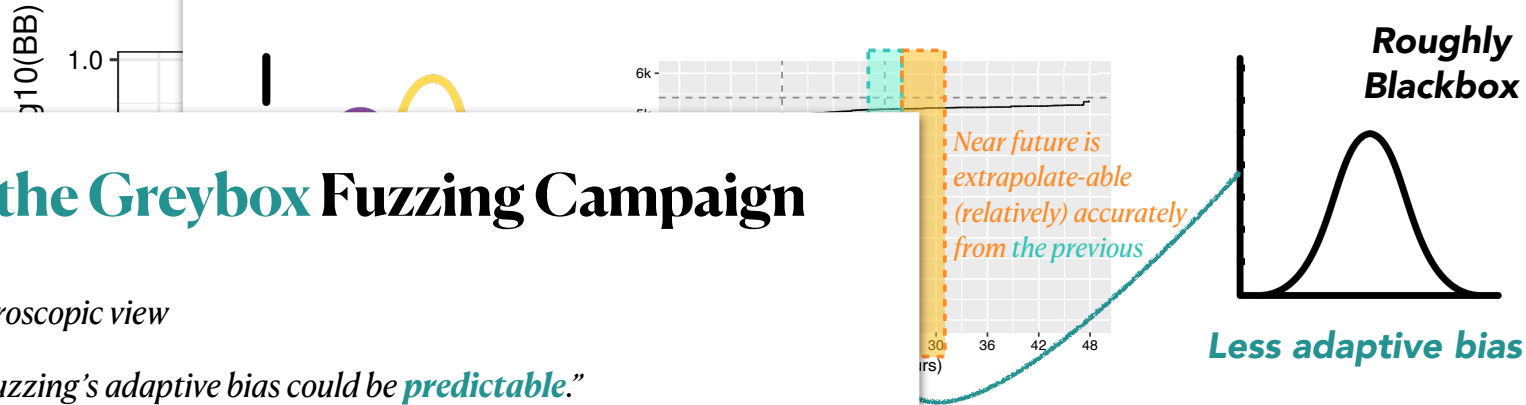
tently
aign.”

Q. When should we stop the fuzzing campaign?



Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

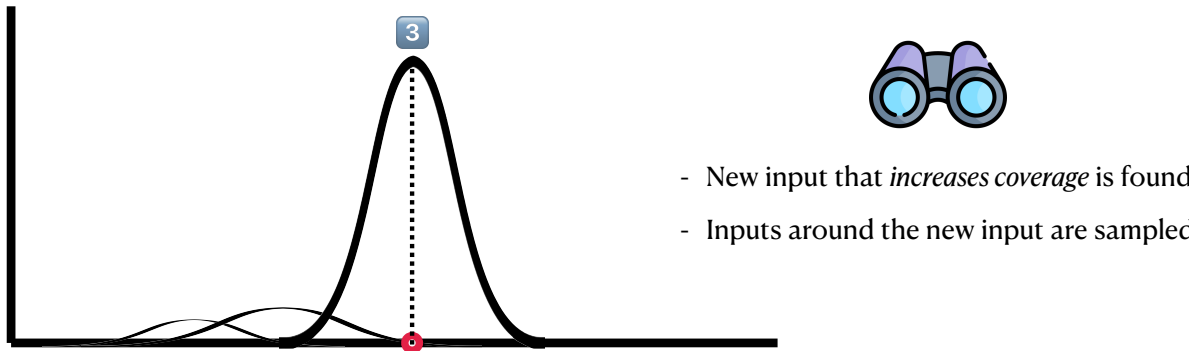
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Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

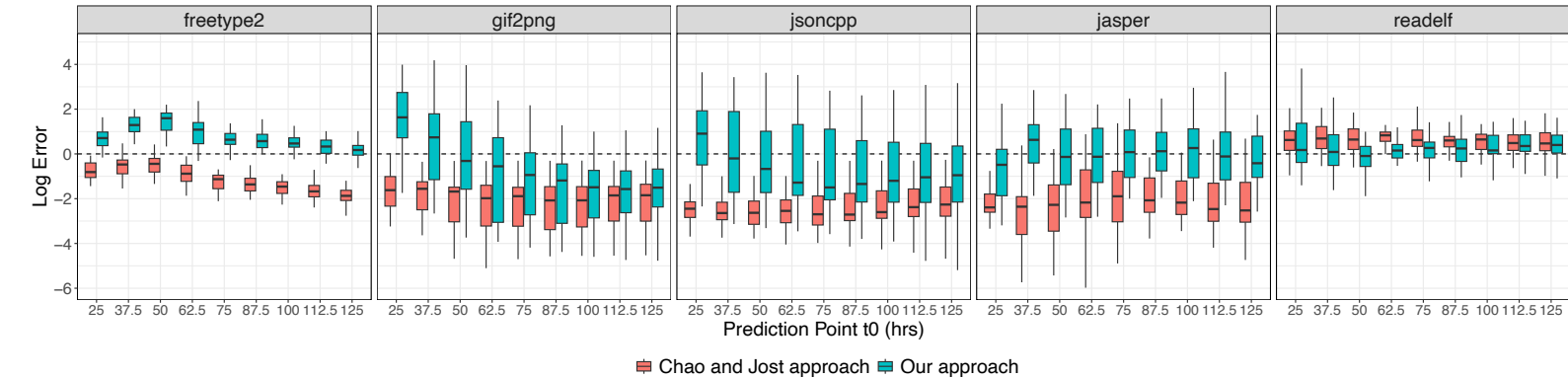
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“Greybox fuzzing’s adaptive bias could be *predictable*.”



Result 1: Coverage Rate Prediction

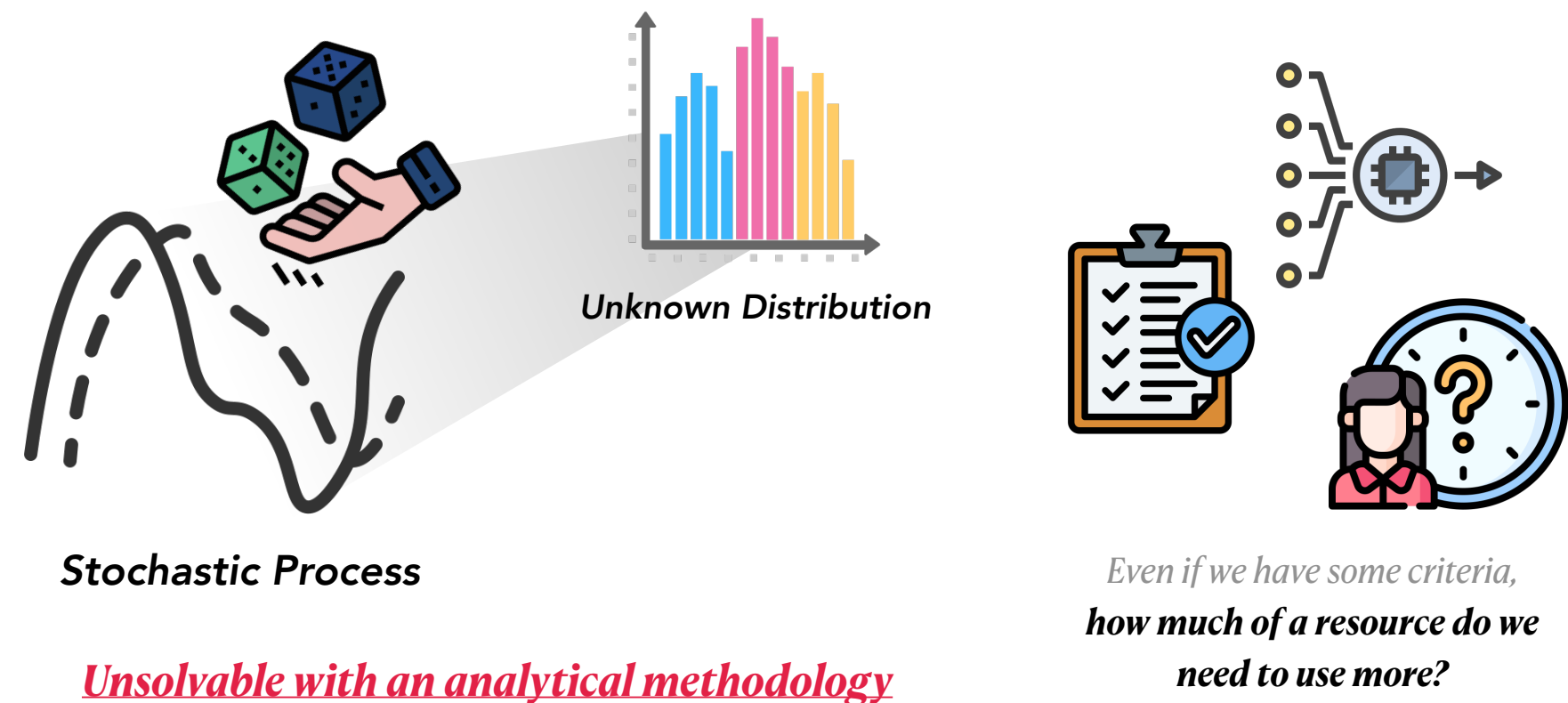
Difference between $\log(U(t + k))$ vs. $\log(\hat{U}(t + k))$



“Our extrapolator exhibits
at least one order of magnitude lower absolute bias
than the existing extrapolator for 4 out of 5 subjects,
especially for long-term prediction.”
⇒ *Well-handled the adaptive bias*

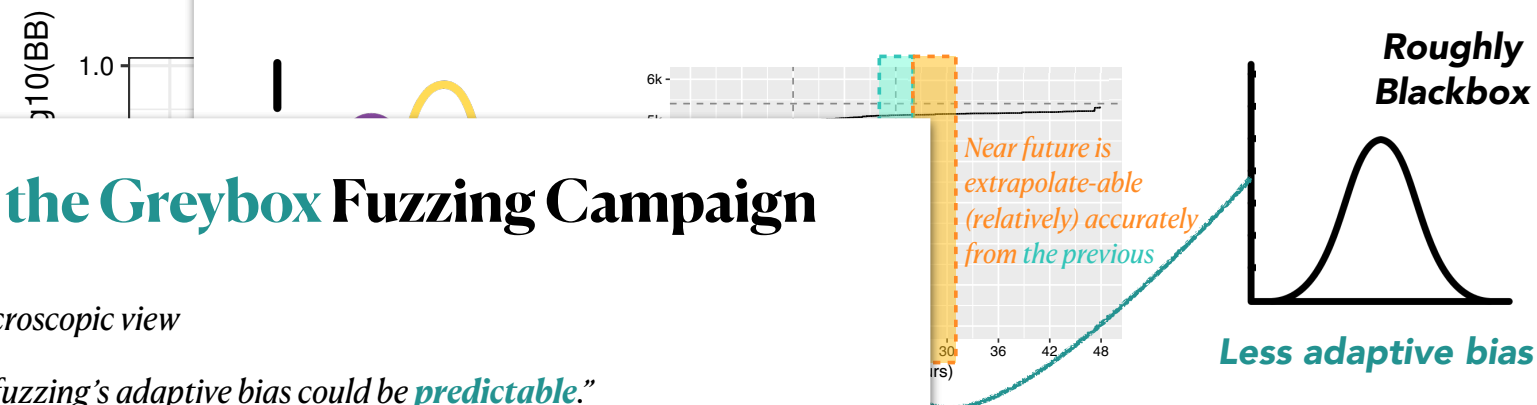
(close to 1 is better)
The average ratio $U(t + k)/\hat{U}(t + k)$:
[Existing] 1.6 - 800 [Ours] 1.17 - 7
across all subjects.

Q. When should we stop the fuzzing campaign?



Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

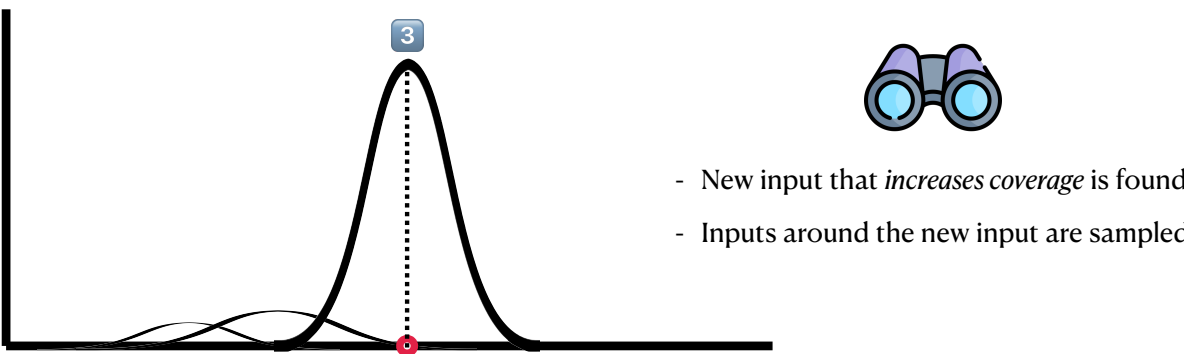
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Extrapolating the Greybox Fuzzing Campaign

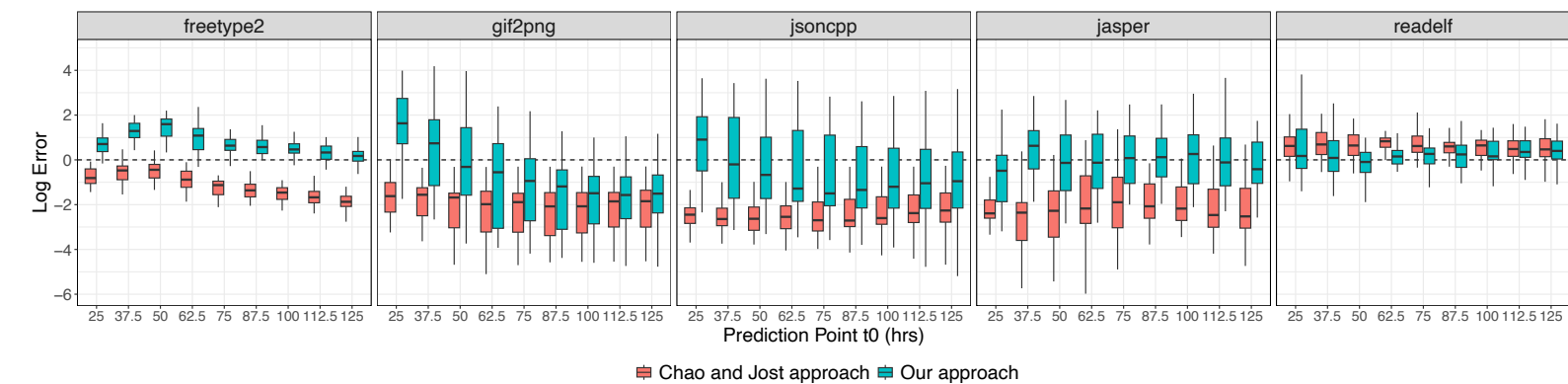
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Result 1: Coverage Rate Prediction

Difference between $\log(U(t + k))$ vs. $\log(\hat{U}(t + k))$



“Our extrapolator exhibits *at least one order of magnitude lower absolute bias* than the existing extrapolator for 4 out of 5 subjects, especially for long-term prediction.”
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The average ratio $U(t + k)/\hat{U}(t + k)$:
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Dr. Seongmin Lee

<https://nimngnoeseel.github.io/>

