

Ethereum: A blockchain-based smart contract platform

Dr. Raju Halder,
Dept. of Comp. Sc. & Engg., IIT Patna
halder@iitp.ac.in

Ethereum: A blockchain-based smart contract platform



bitcoin in usd

[All](#) [News](#) [Images](#) [Shoppin](#)

About 22,20,00,000 results (0.51 seconds)

1 Bitcoin equals

11,843.50 United States Dollar

20 Aug, 4:10 pm UTC · Disclaimer

1

Bitcoin

11843.50

United States Dolla

Data provided by Morningstar for Currency and Coir

ethereum in usd

[All](#) [News](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [S](#)

About 8,46,00,000 results (0.53 seconds)

1 Ether equals

422.39 United States Dollar

17 Aug, 6:05 am UTC · Disclaimer

1

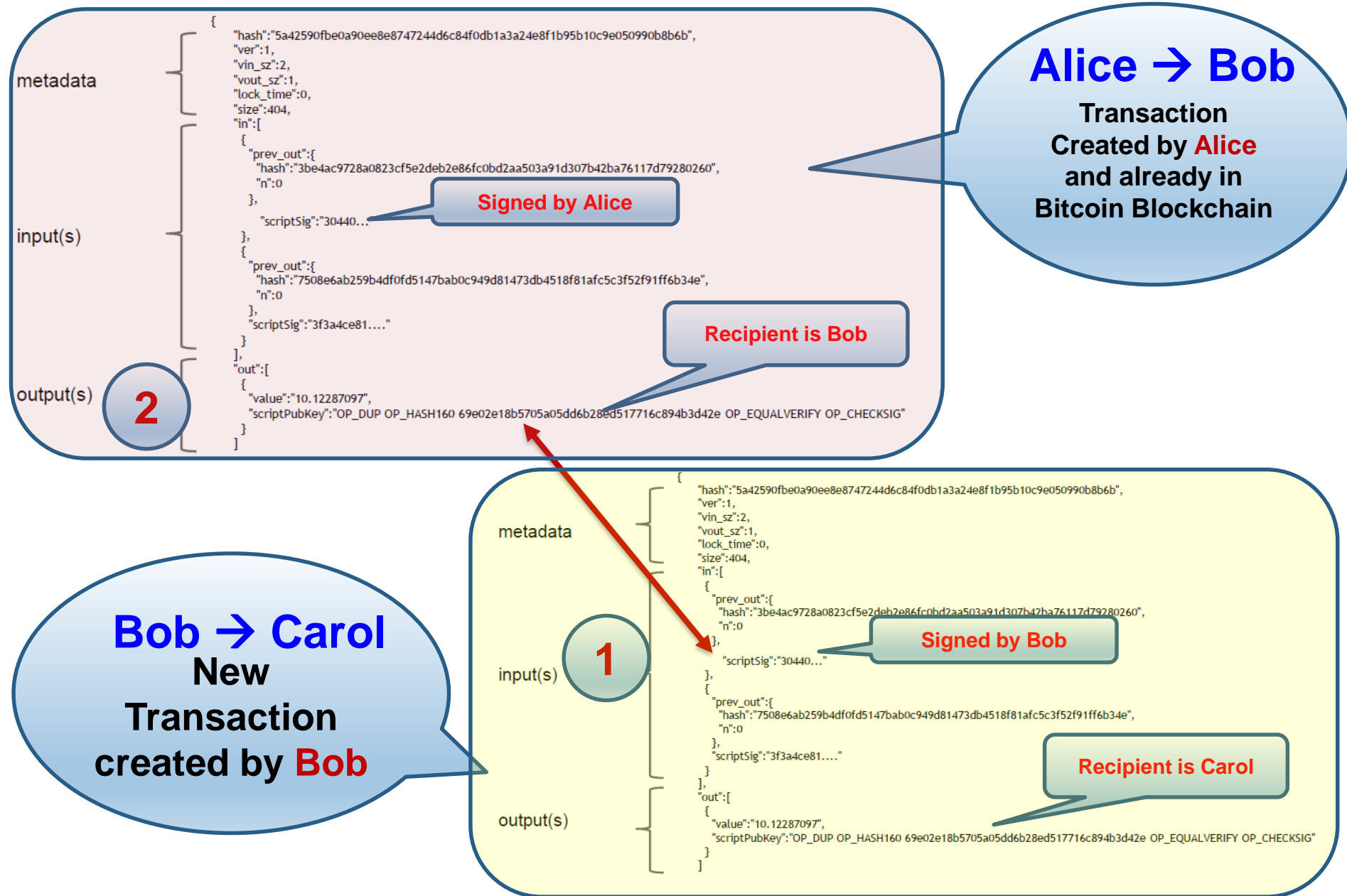
Ether

422.39

United States Dolla

Data provided by Morningstar for Currency and Coinbase for

Bitcoin Vs. Ethereum



Bitcoin Vs. Ethereum

- Existing blockchain protocols were designed with script language

Less Expressive
Not Turing Complete

 **bitcoin**



Bitcoin Vs. Ethereum

- Why not make a protocols like this?



OR
THIS



OR
THIS



Bitcoin Vs. Ethereum



Vitalik Buterin



Ethereum

- It's *the world's programmable blockchain*.
- Blockchain with expressive programming language
 - Programming language makes it ideal for **smart contracts**
 - Smart contracts enable much more applications

Turing Complete Language
(e.g., Solidity Language)

Bitcoin Vs. Ethereum



A **smart contract** is a computer program executed in a **secure environment** that directly controls **digital assets**

Blockchain is widely
used for other
applications

What you can see?

Example

```
1- contract Greetings {  
2-   string greeting;  
3-   function Greetings (string _greeting) public {  
4-       greeting = _greeting;  
5-   }  
6-  
7-   /* main function */  
8-   function greet() constant returns (string) {  
9-       return greeting;  
10-  }  
11- }
```

**What you
write**



**What other see
on the
blockchain**

606060405260405161
025038038061025083
3981016040528.....

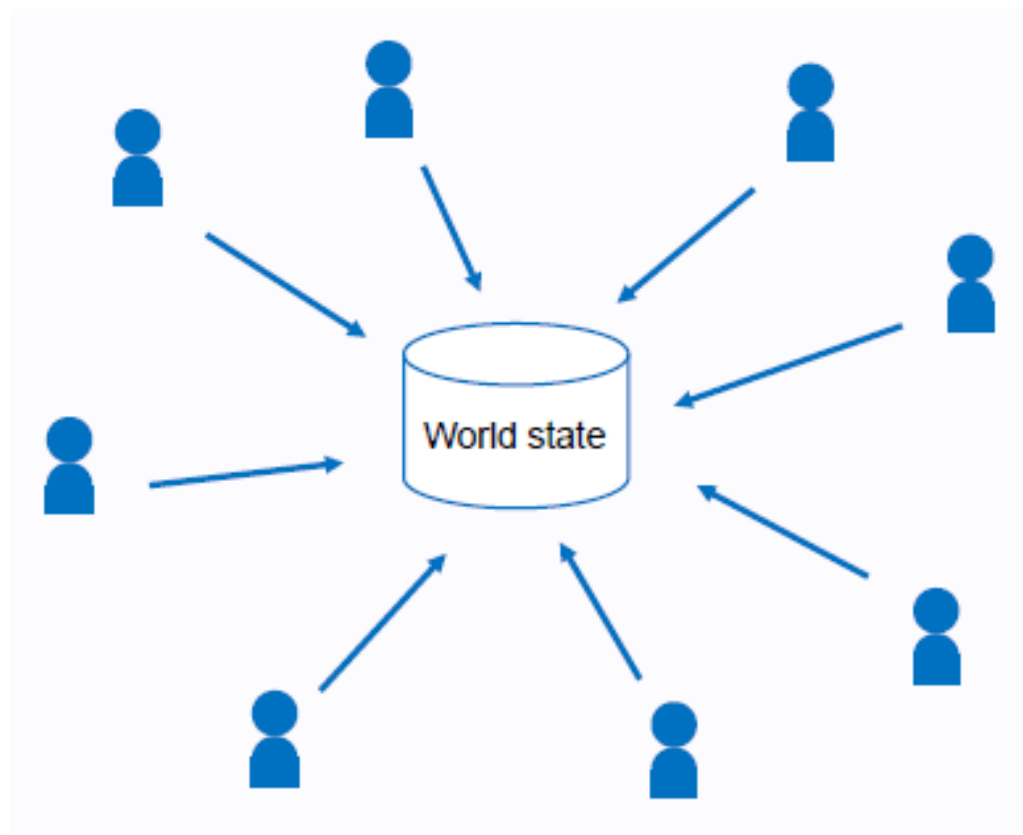


PUSH 60
PUSH 40
MSTORE
PUSH 0
CALLDATALOAD

**What people get
from the
disassembler**

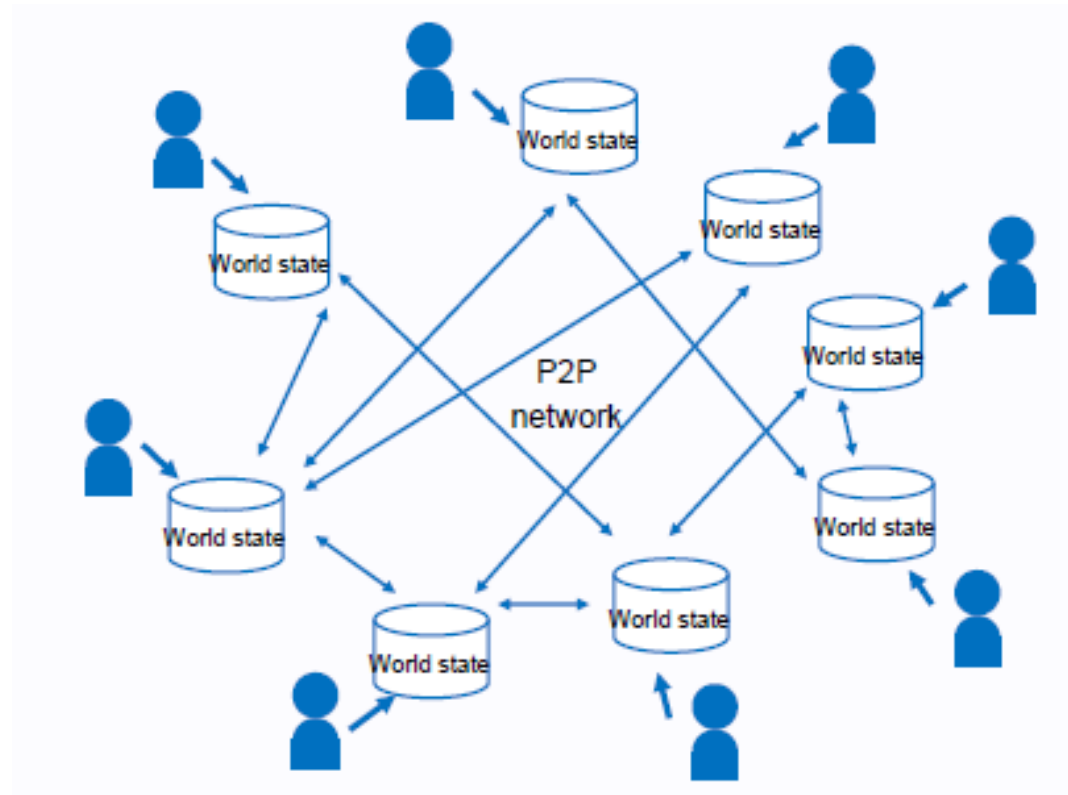
Ethereum World State

- A blockchain is a globally shared, transactional database.



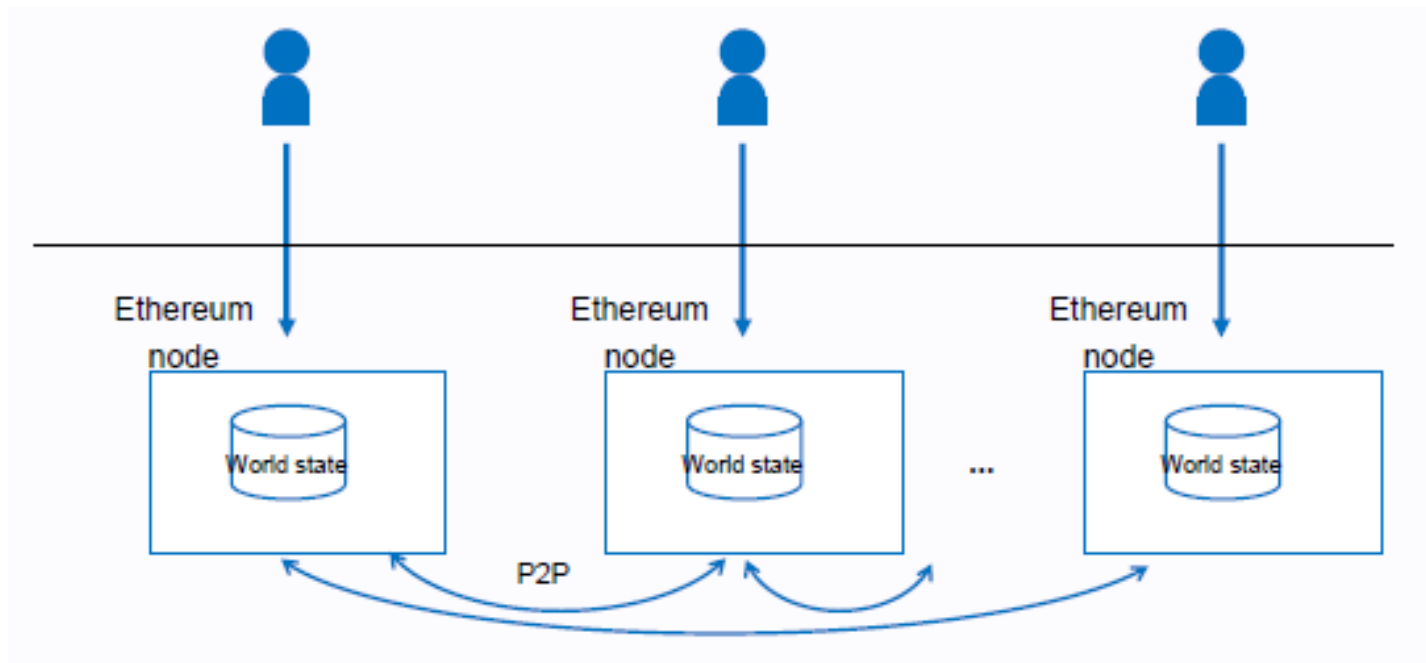
Ethereum World State

- A blockchain is a globally shared, **decentralised**, transactional database.



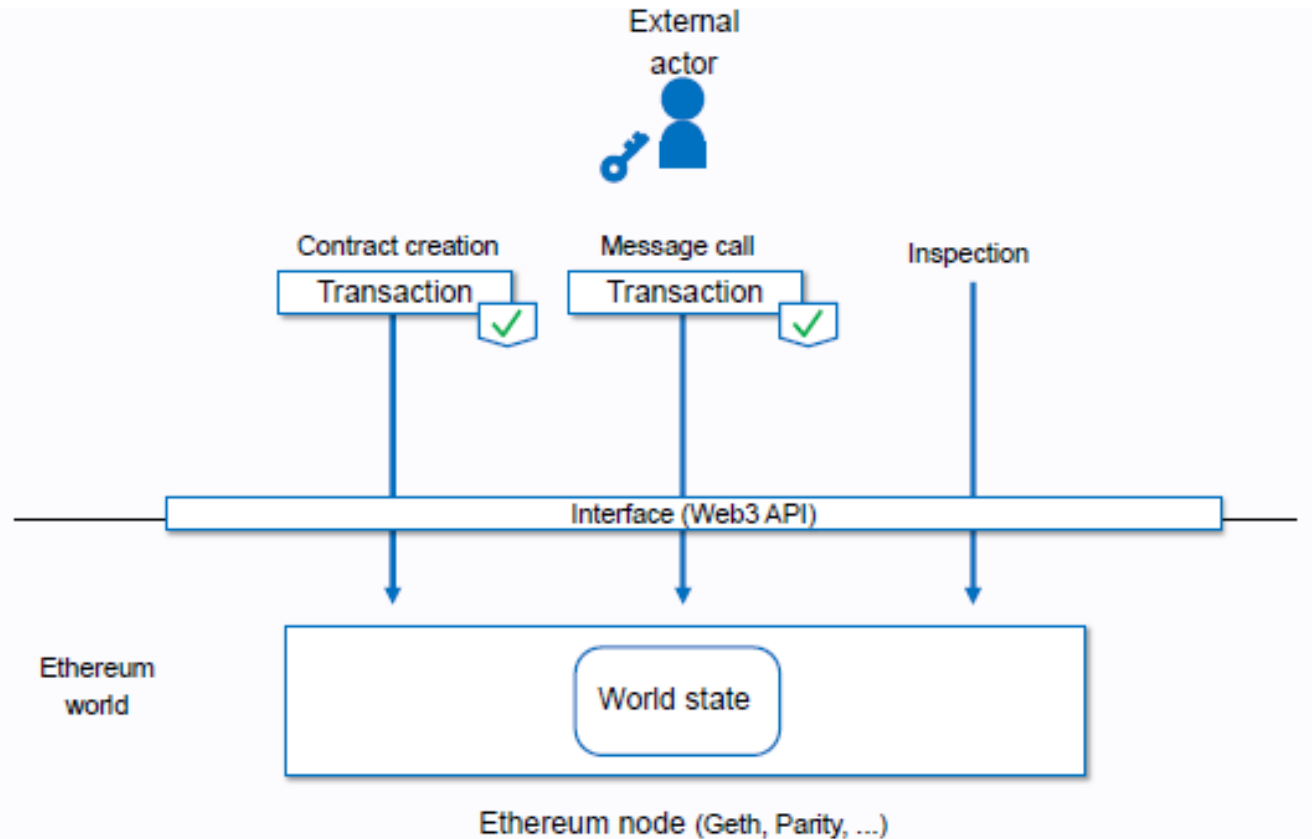
Ethereum World State

- Decentralised nodes constitute Ethereum P2P network.



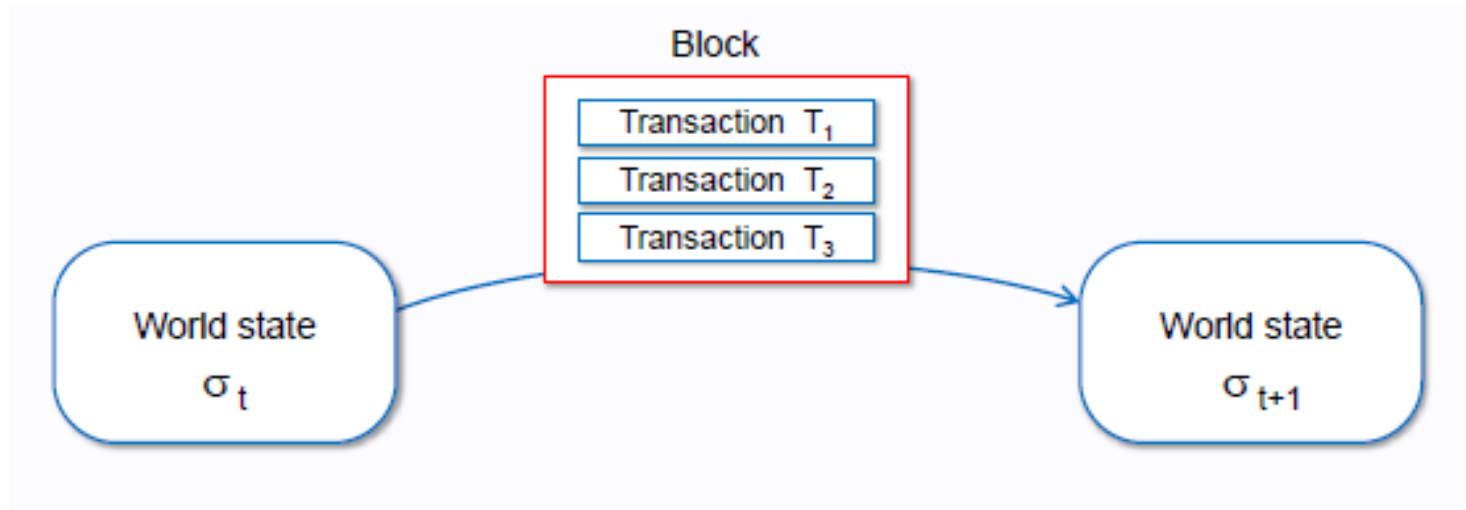
Interface to Nodes

- External actors access the Ethereum world through Ethereum nodes.



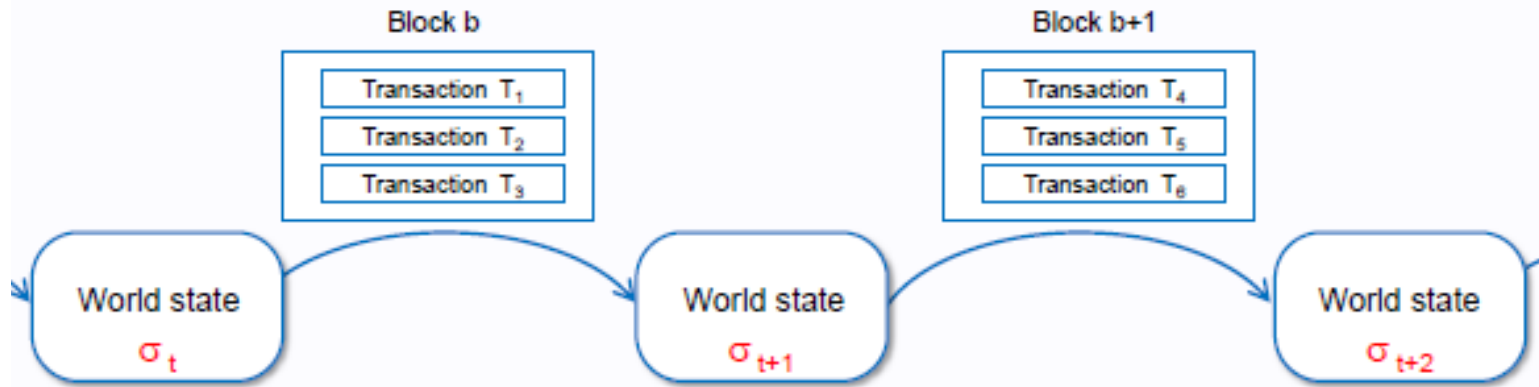
Ethereum as State Machine

- Ethereum can be viewed as a transaction-based state machine.
- Transactions are collated into blocks. A block is a package of data.

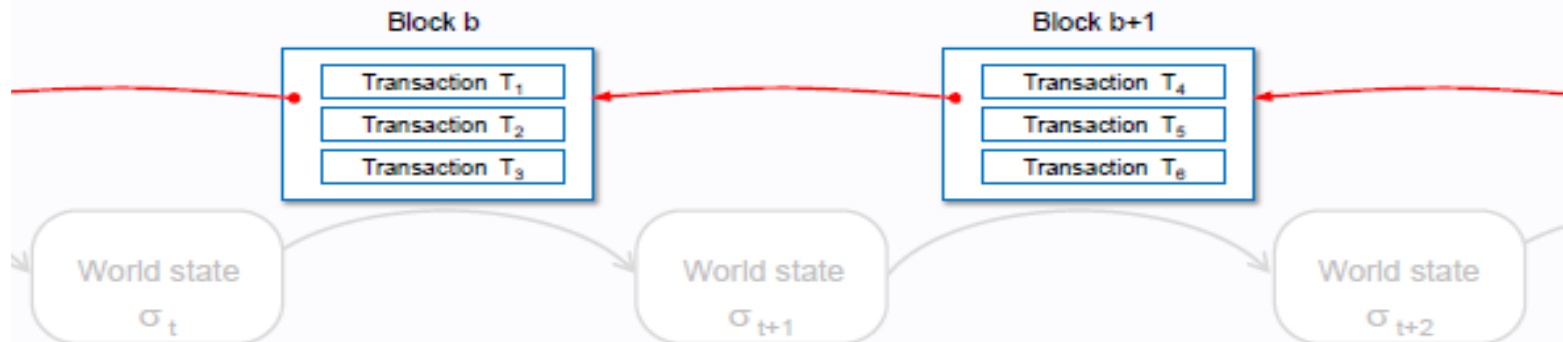


Statechain Vs. Blockchain

- From the viewpoint of the states, Ethereum can be seen as a statechain.



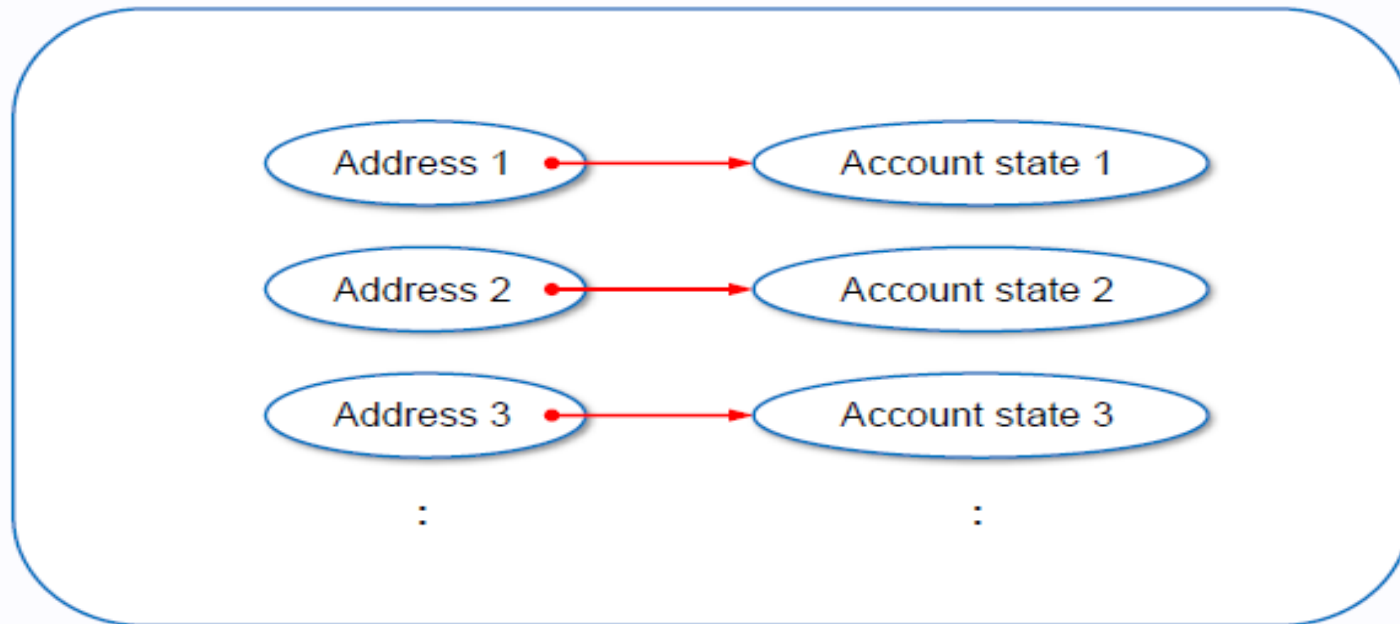
- From the viewpoint of the implementation, Ethereum can also be seen as a chain of blocks, so it is 'BLOCKCHAIN'.



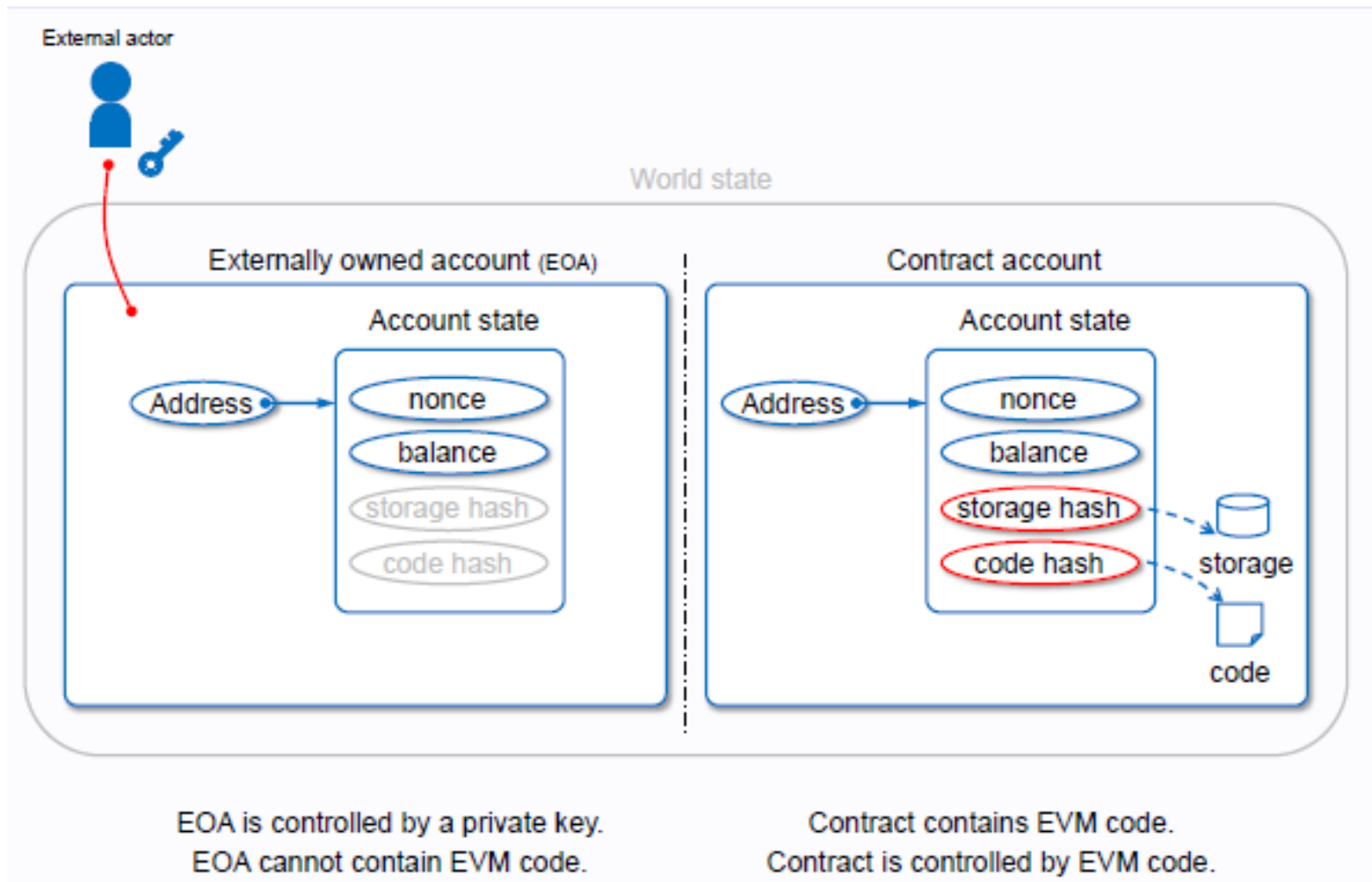
World State

- The world state is a mapping between address and account state.

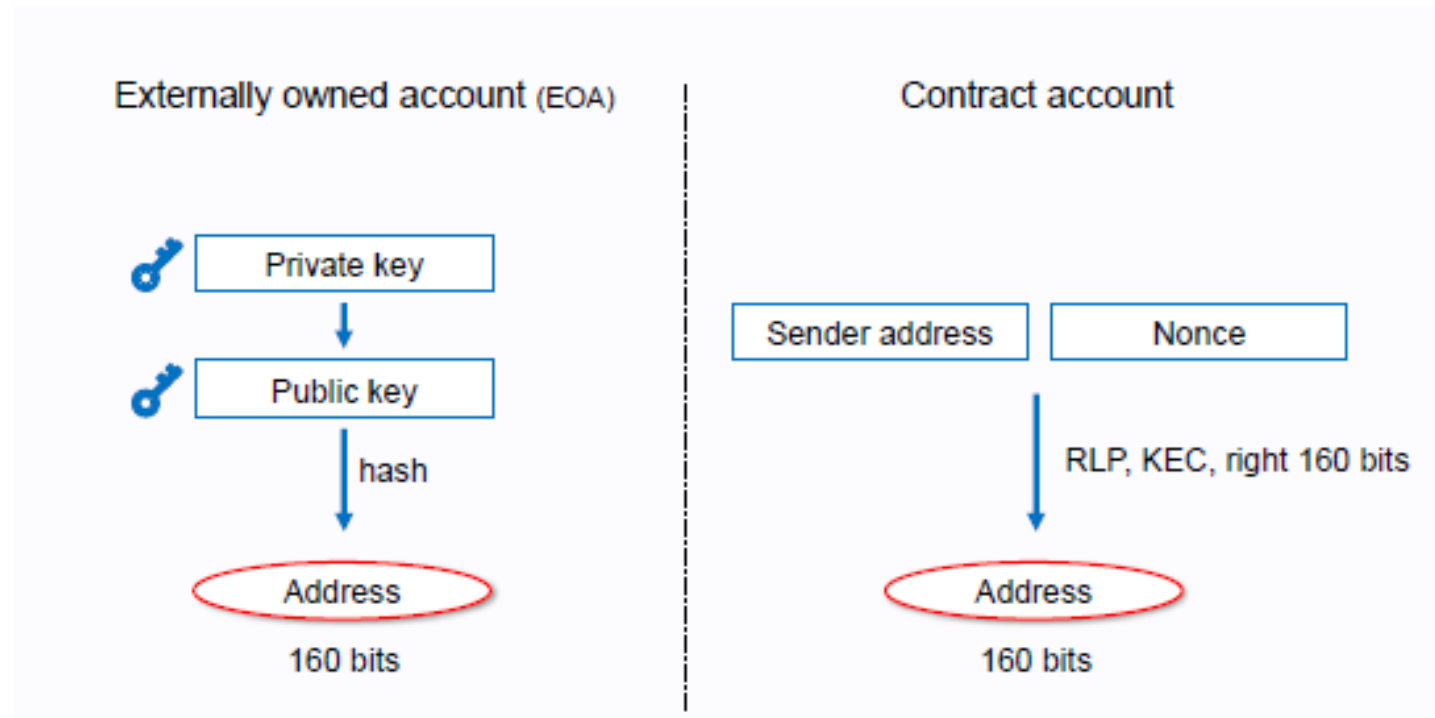
World state σ_t



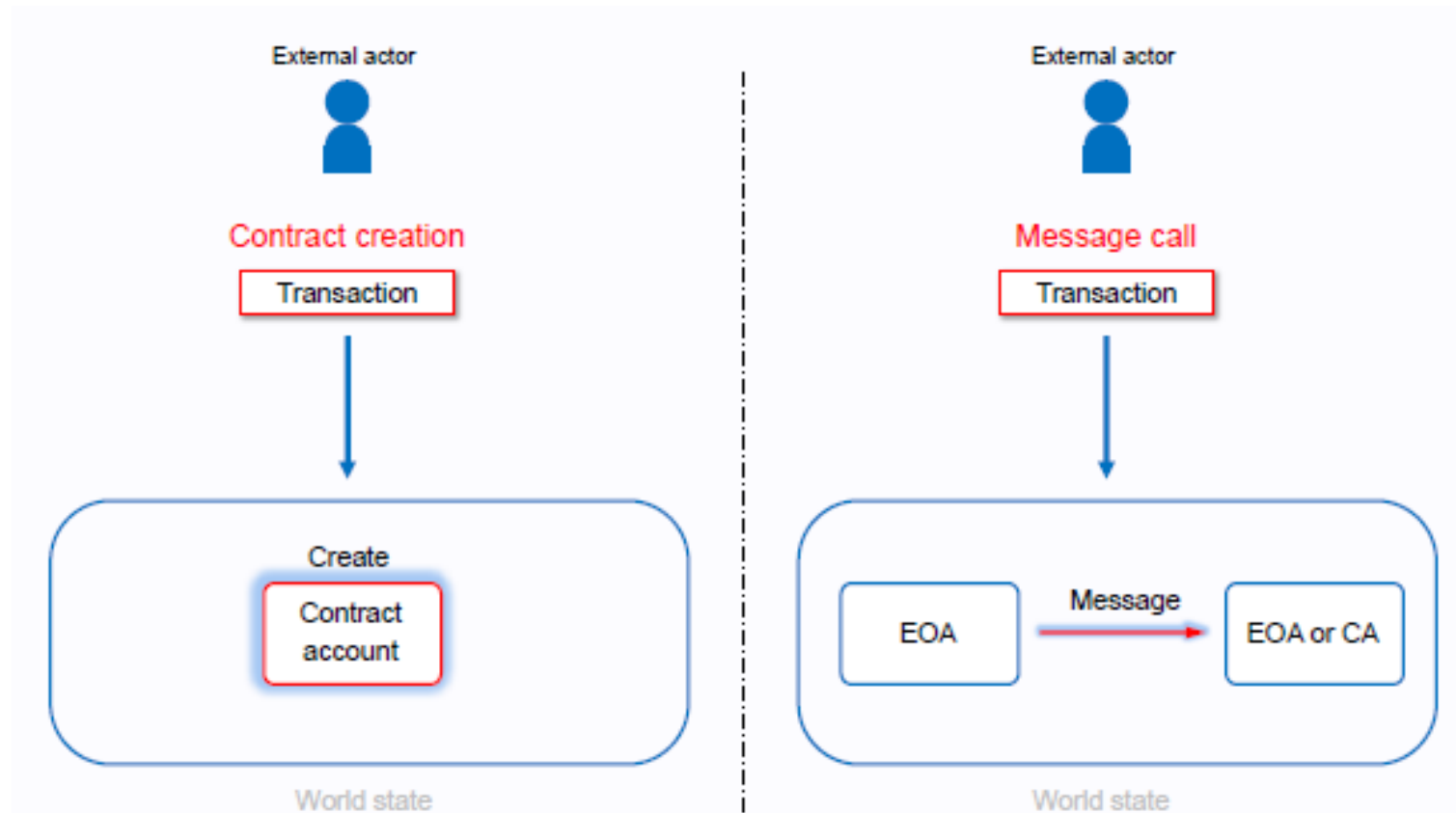
Two Types of Accounts



Account Address



Two Types of Transactions



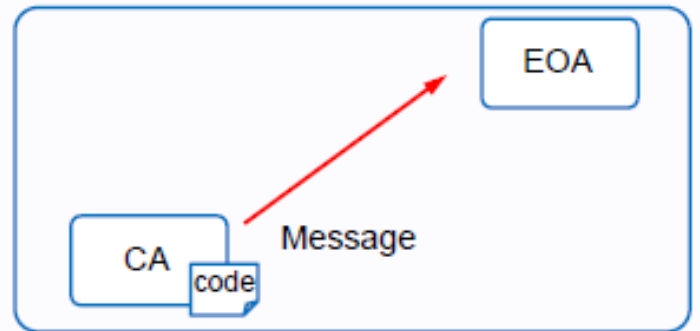
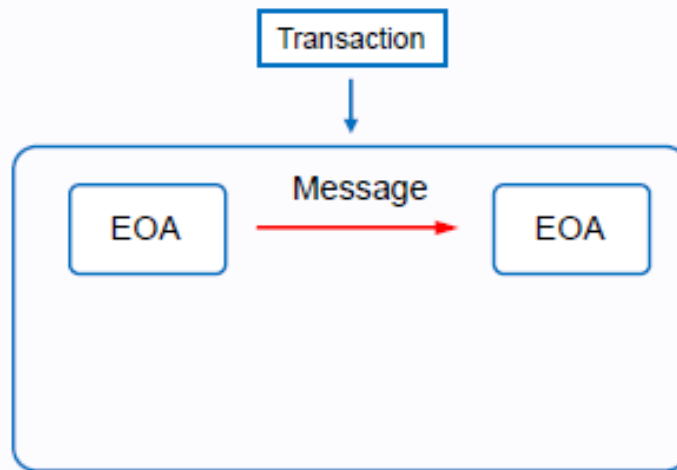
Message is Data (as a set of bytes) and Value (specified as Ether) .

Four Cases of Messages

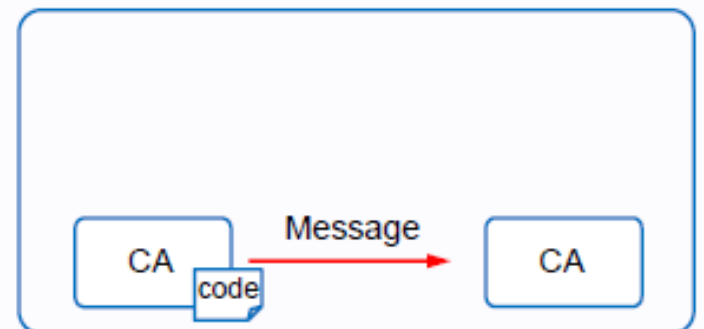
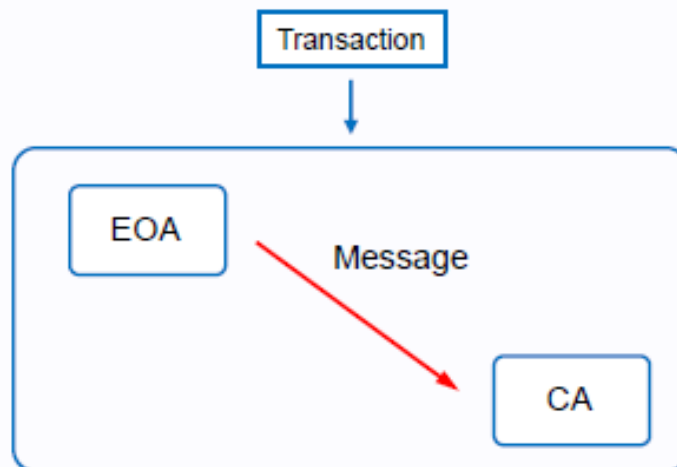
By Transaction From EOA

By EVM code From CA

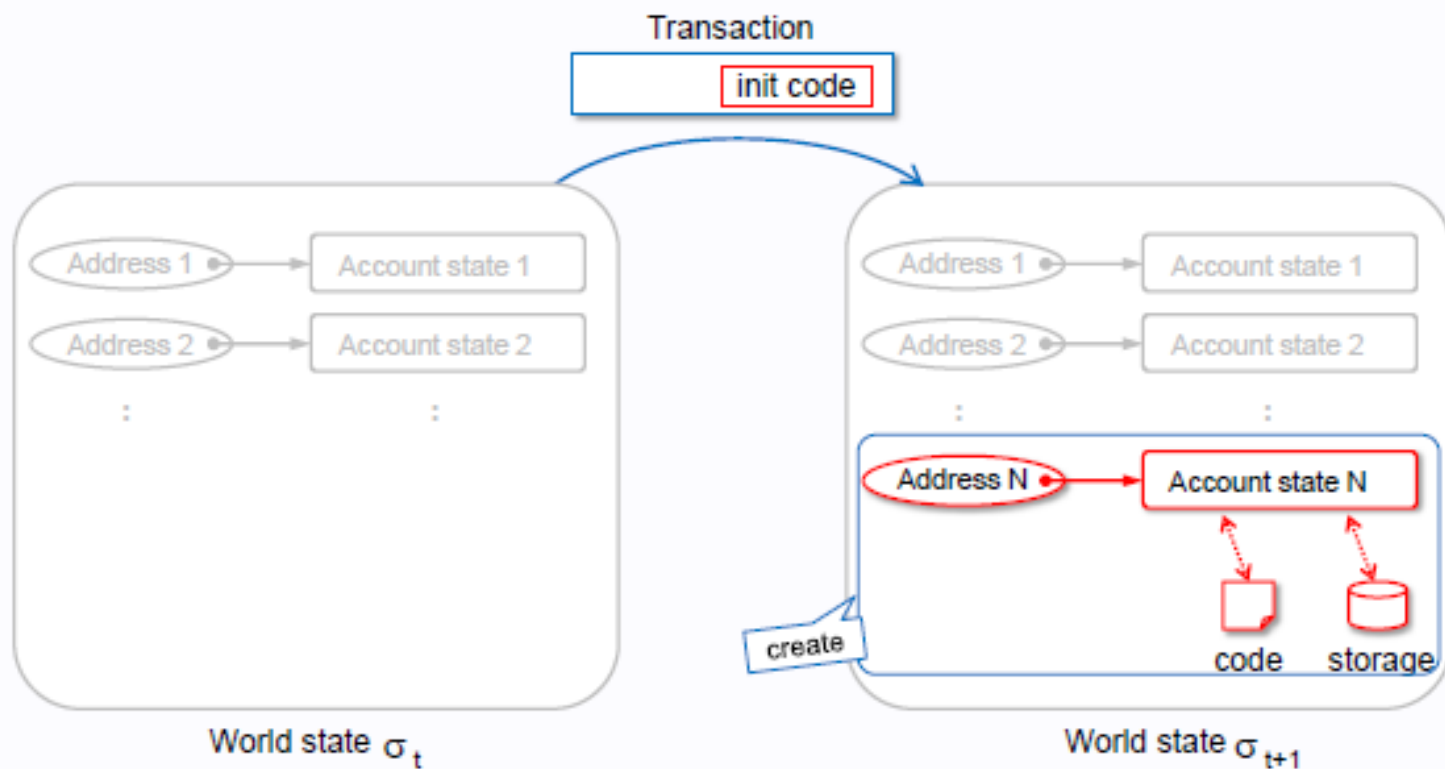
To EOA



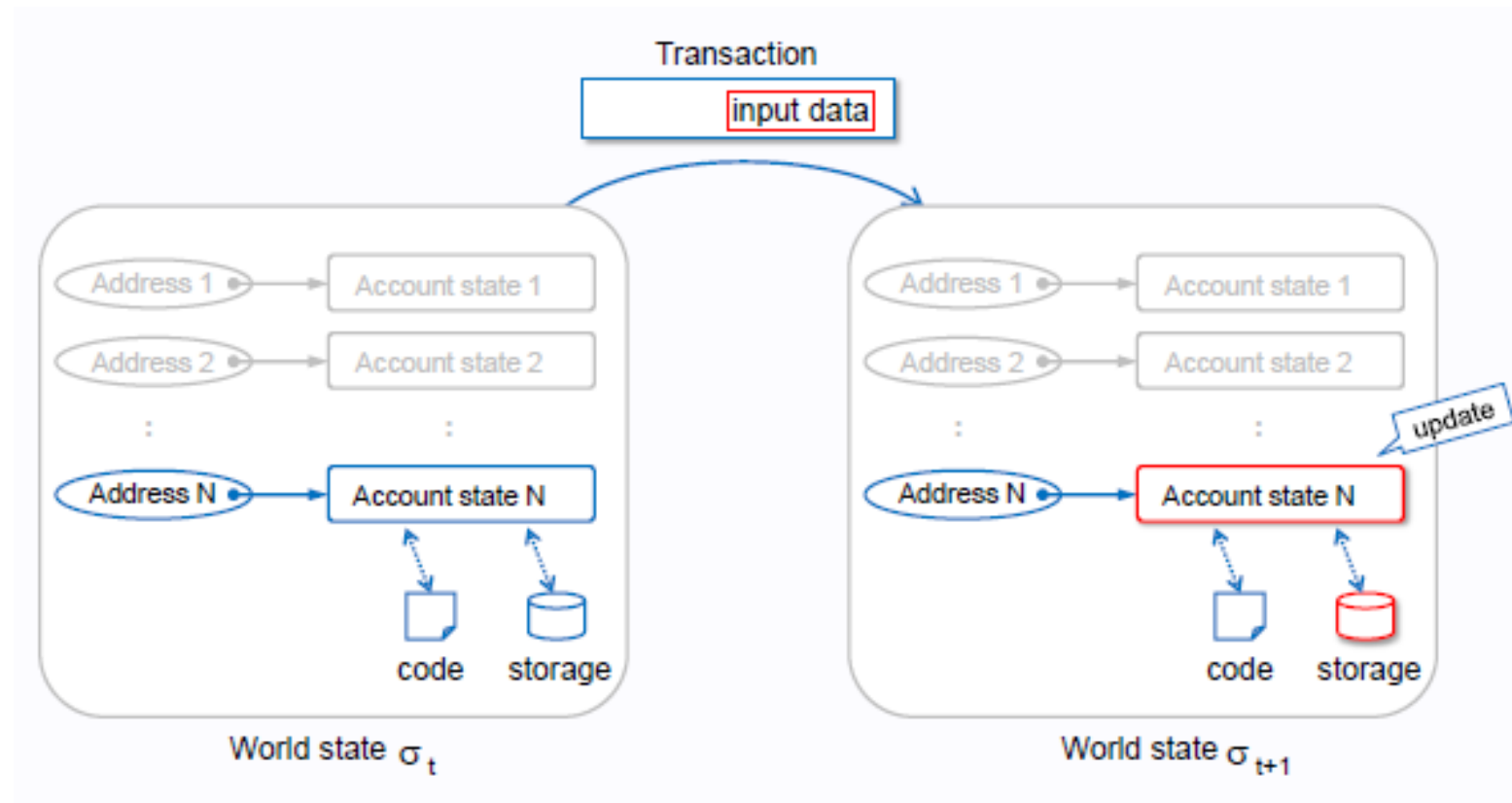
To CA



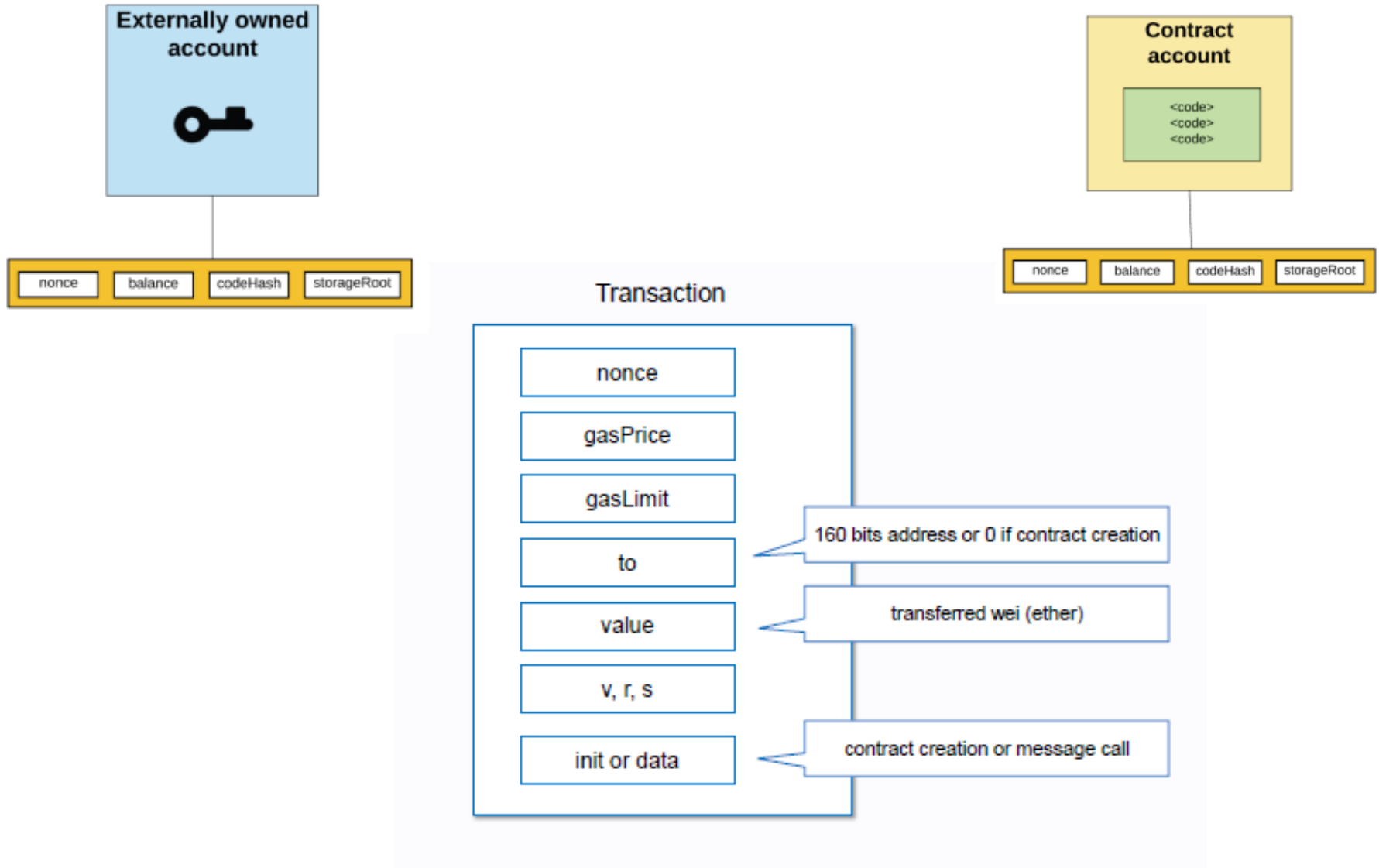
Contract Creation Transaction



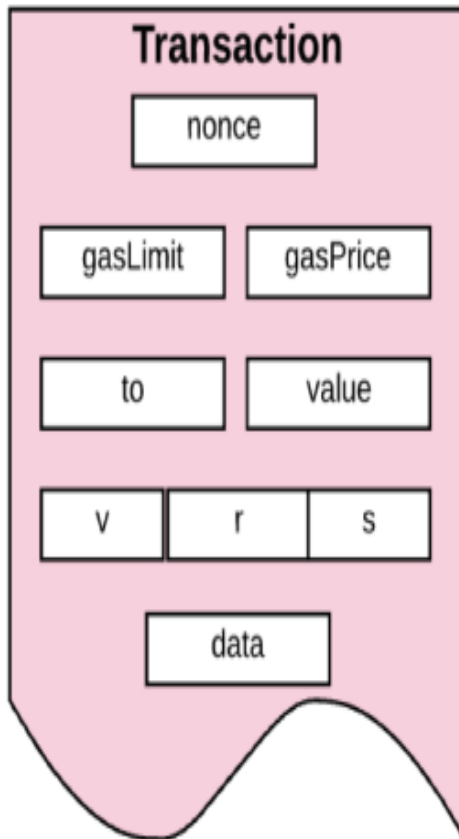
Message Call Transaction



Transaction Structure



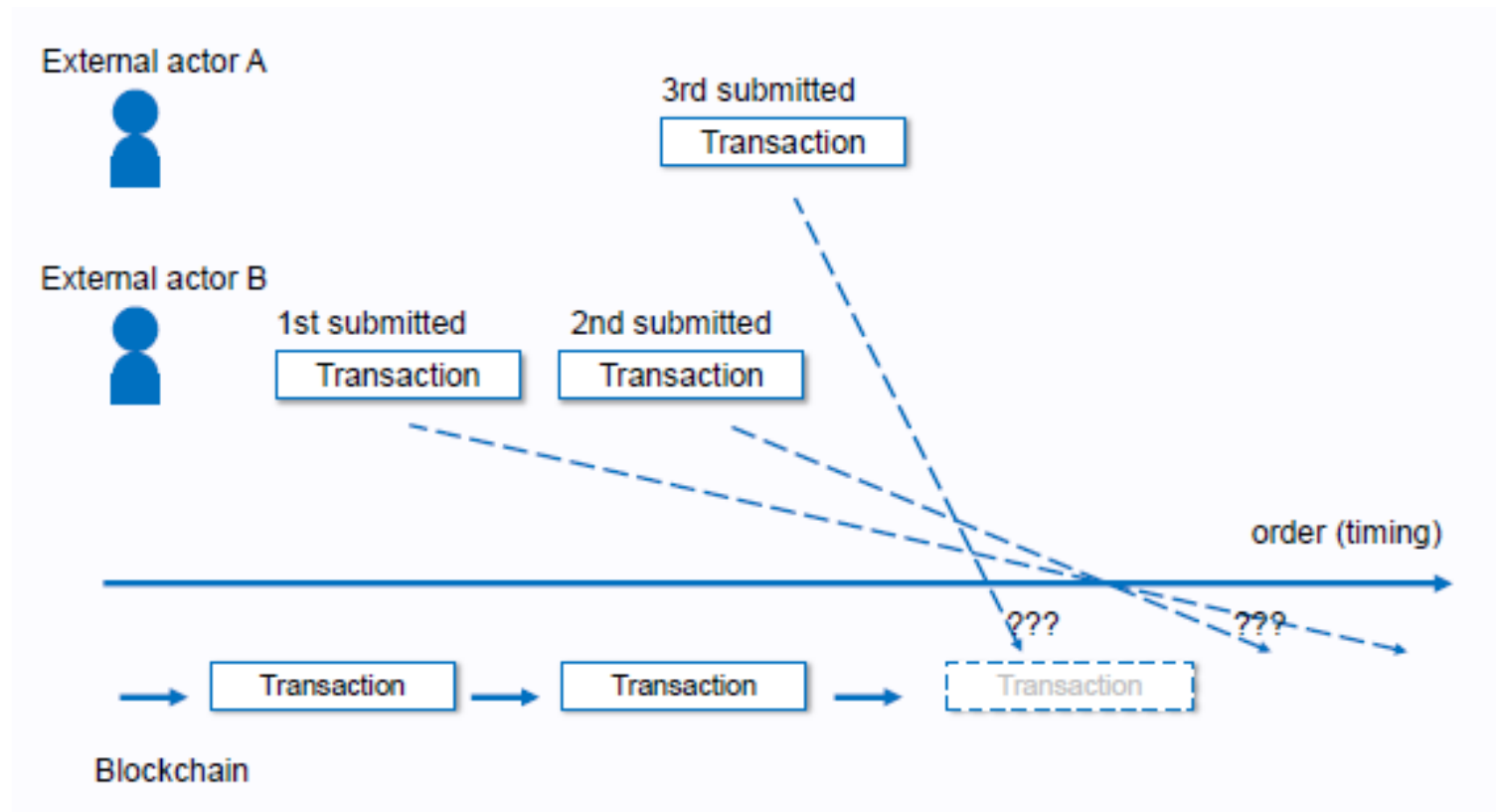
Transaction Structure



- **nonce**: A count of the number of transactions sent by the sender.
- **gasPrice**
- **gasLimit**
- **to**: Recipient's address
- **value**: Amount of Wei Transferred from sender to recipient.
- **v,r,s**: Used to generate the signature that identifies the sender of the transaction.
- **init**: EVM code used to initialize the new contract account.
- **data**: Optional field that only exists for message calls.

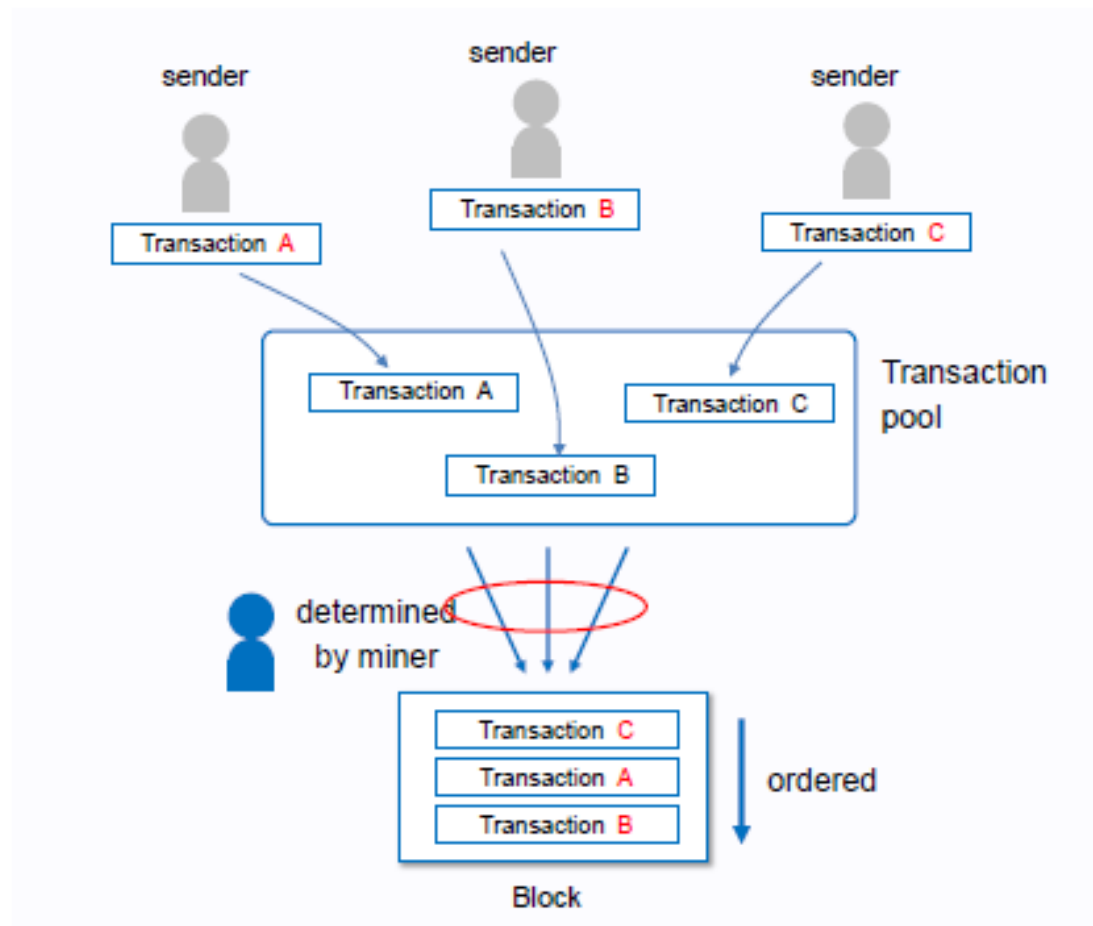
Order of Transactions

- Transaction order is not guaranteed



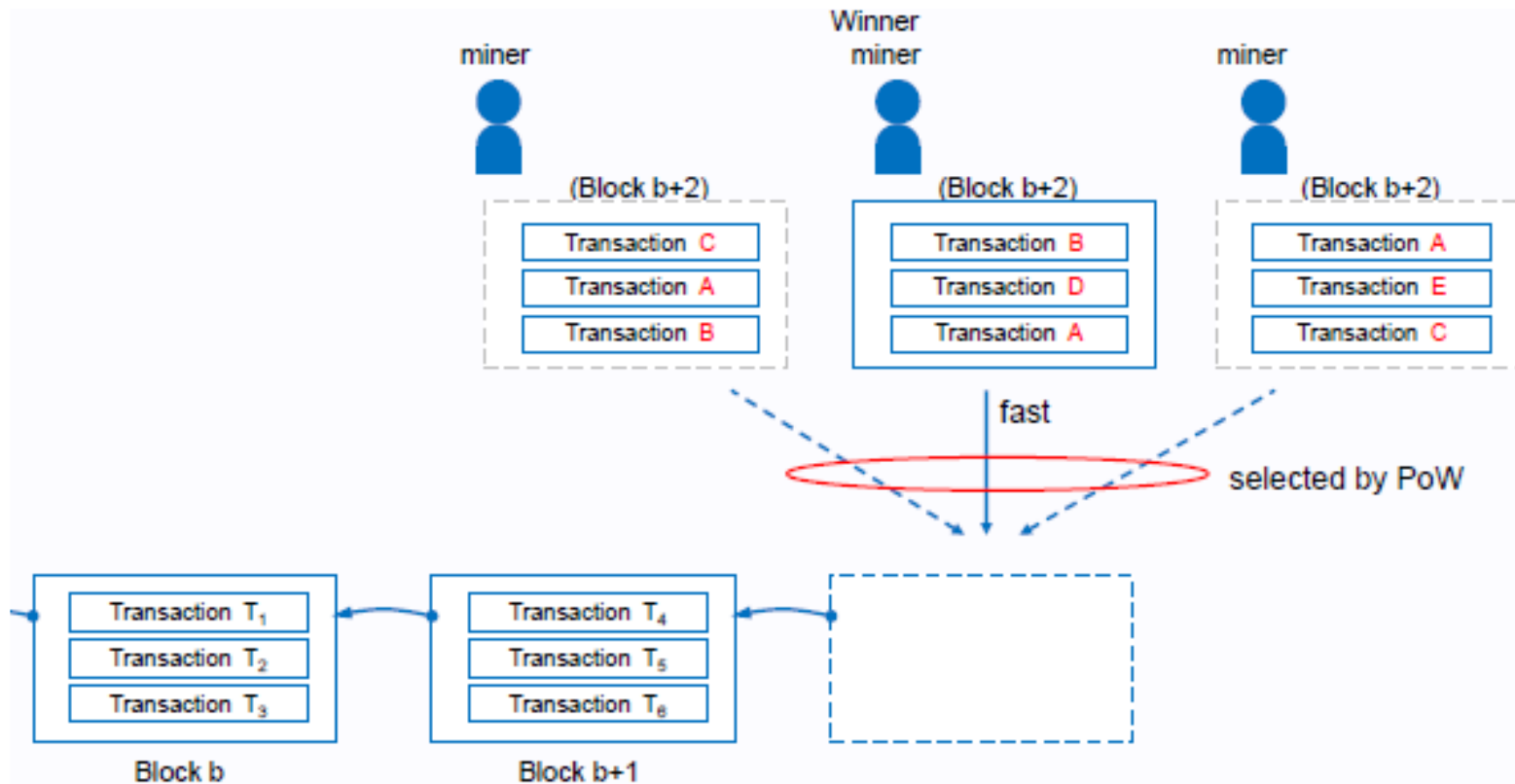
Order of Transactions

- Miner can determine the order of transactions in a block.

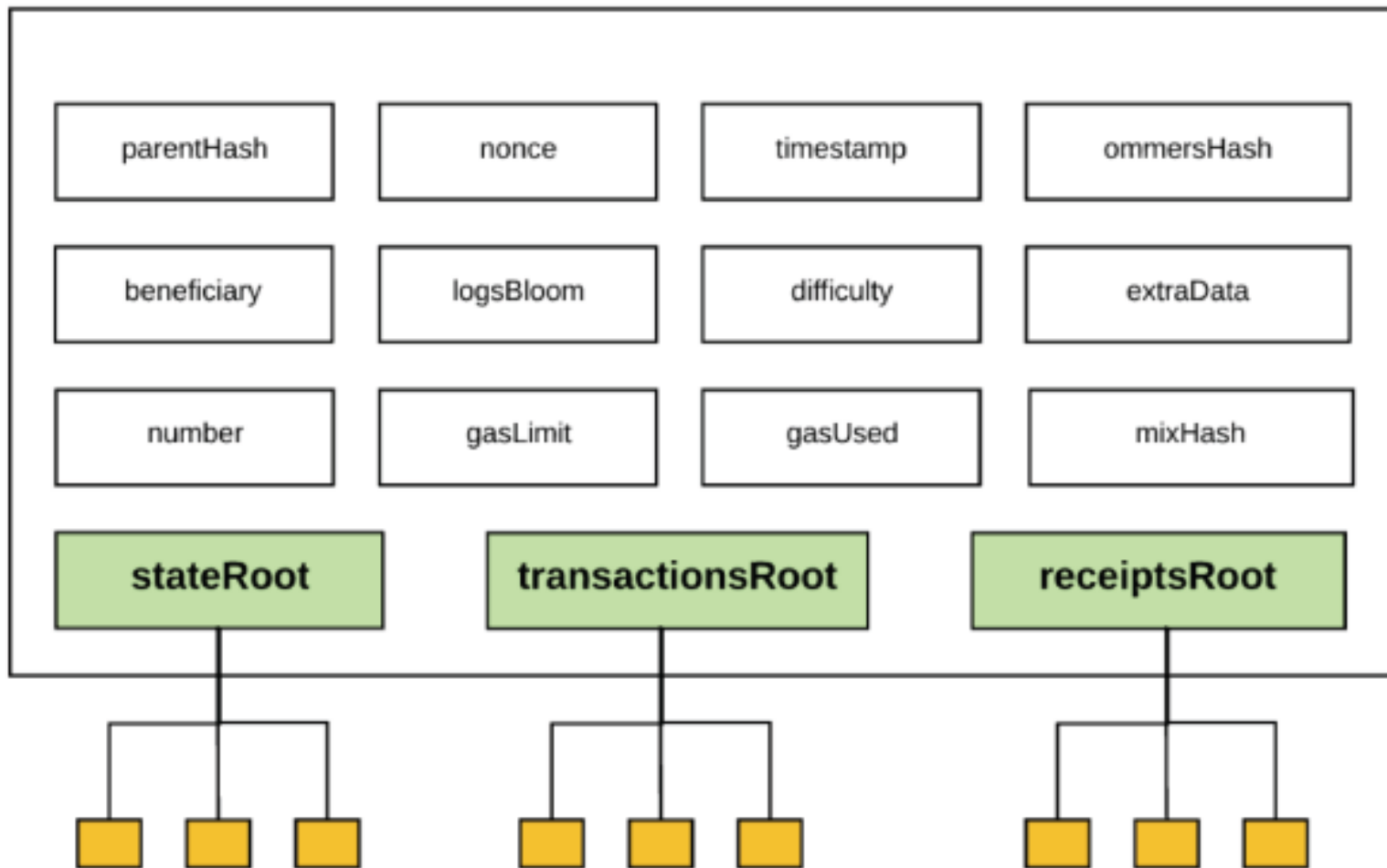
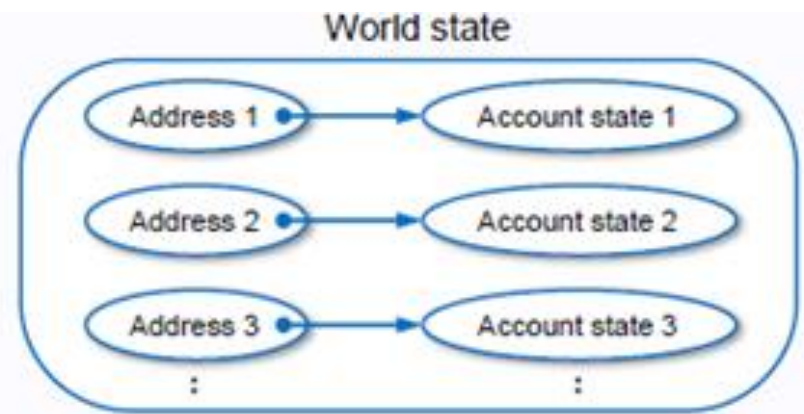


Order of Transactions

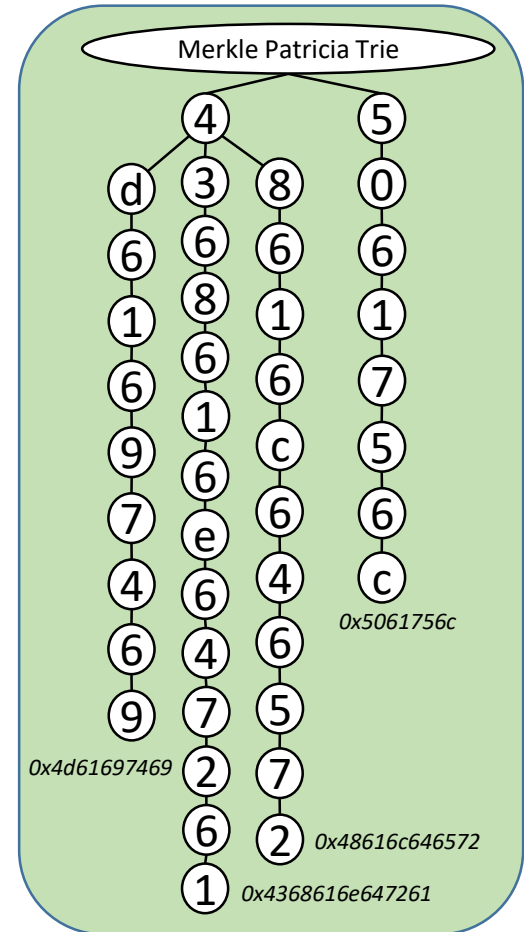
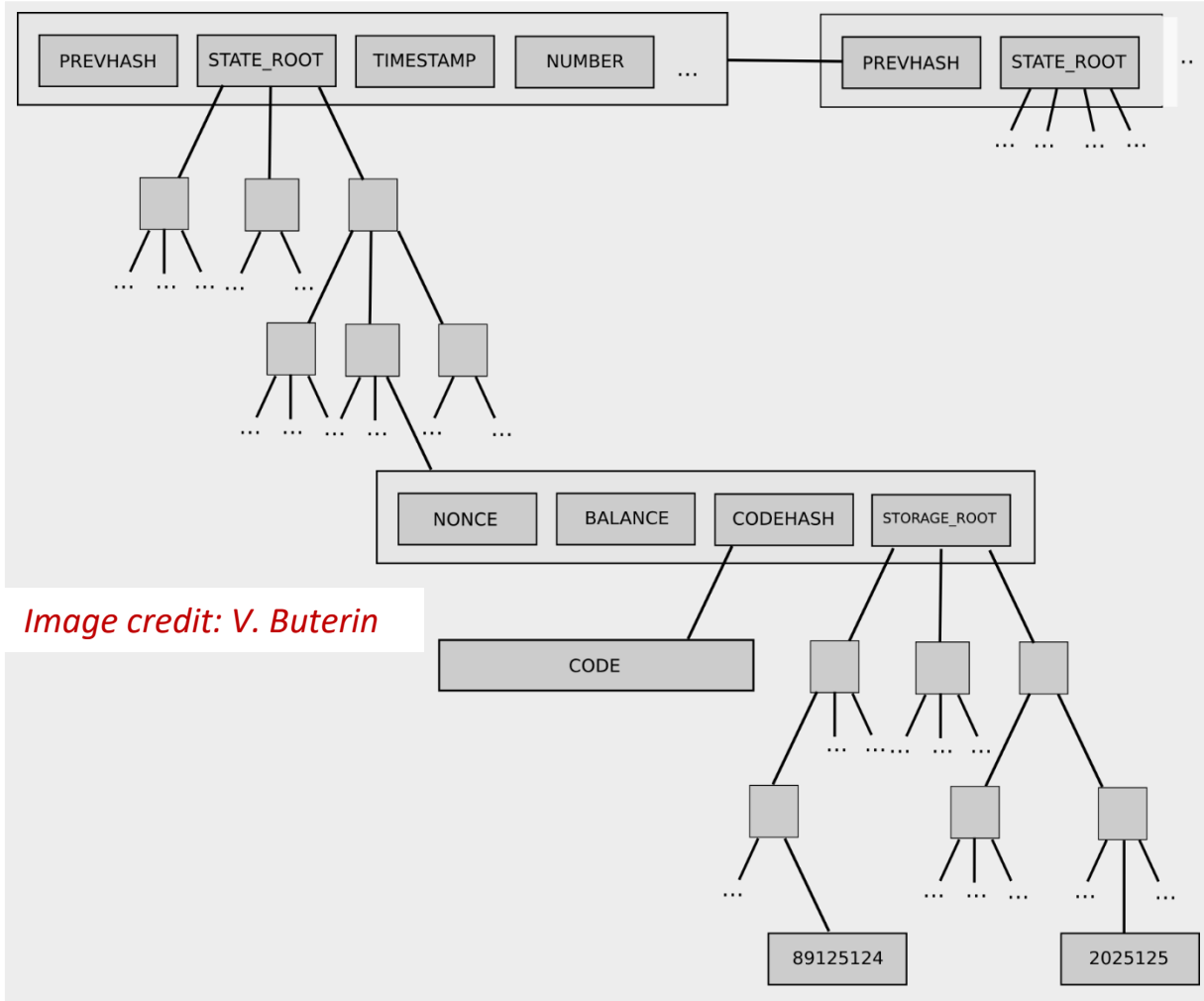
- The order between blocks is determined by a consensus algorithm such as PoW.



Block Header



Merkle Patricia Trie



Merkle Patricia Trie

Ethereum Modified Merkle-Paricia-Trie System

An interpretation of the Ethereum Project Yellow Paper

G. Wood, "Ethereum: A secure decentralised generalised transaction ledger", 2014.

Lee Thomas
Ver 8.8 2016-06-23

Block Header, H or B_H

stateRoot, H_r

Keccak 256-bit hash of the root node of the state trie, after all transactions are executed and finalisations applied

Hash function:

KECCAK256()

World State Trie

Simplified World State, σ

Keys Values

a	7	1	1	3	5	5	45.0 ETH
a	7	7	d	3	3	7	1.00 WEI
a	7	f	9	3	6	5	1.1 ETH
a	7	7	d	3	9	7	0.12 ETH

ROOT: Extension Node		
prefix	shared nibble(s)	next node
0	a7	

Branch Node															
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f

Leaf Node		
prefix	key-end	value
2	1355	45.0ETH

Extension Node		
prefix	shared nibble(s)	next node
0	d3	

Leaf Node		
prefix	key-end	value
2	9365	1.1ETH

Prefixes

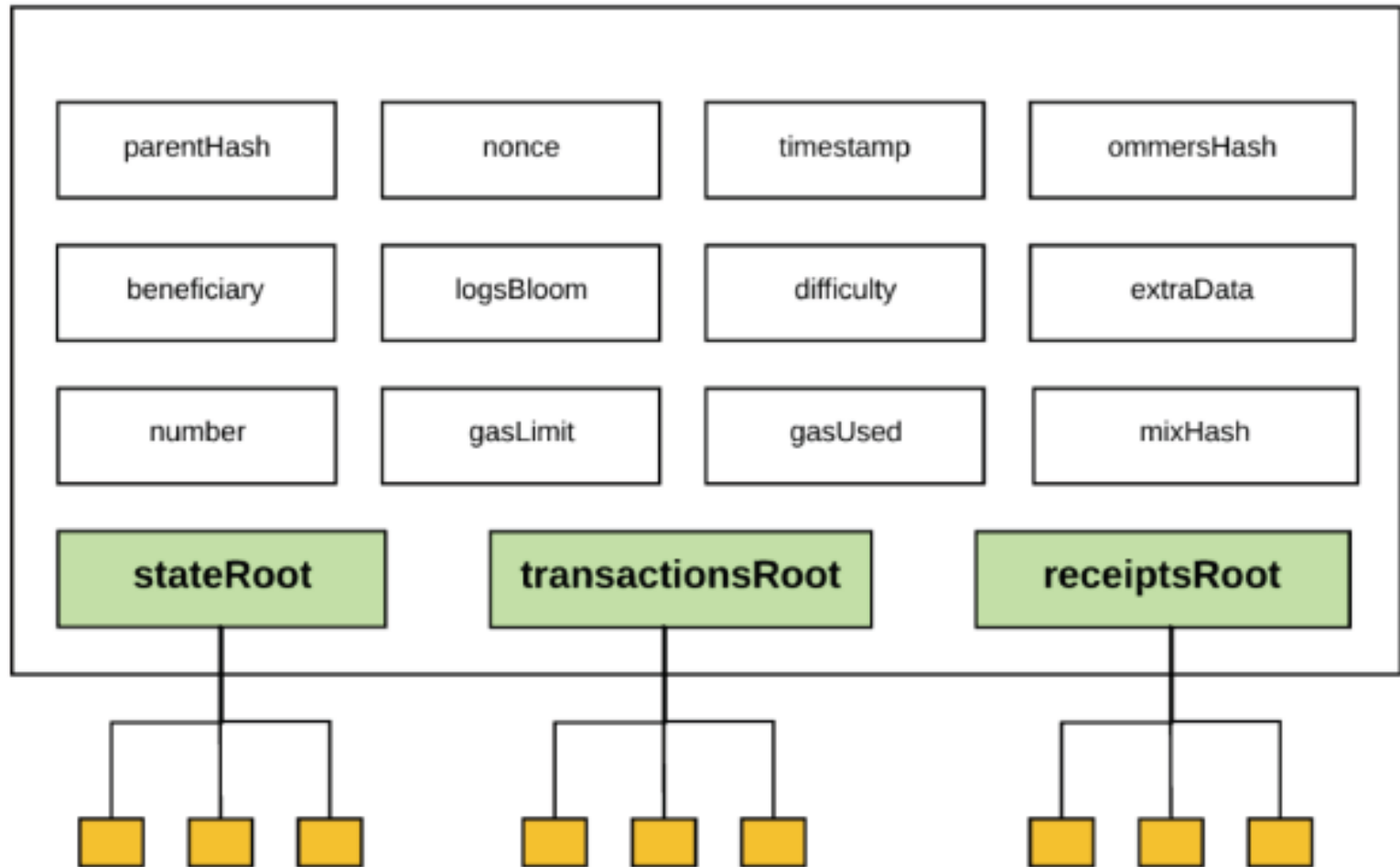
0 - Extension Node, even number of nibbles
 1□ - Extension Node, odd number of nibbles,
 2 - Leaf Node, even number of nibbles
 3□ - Leaf Node, odd number of nibbles
 □ = 1st nibble
 1 nibble = 4 bits

Branch Node															
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f

Leaf Node		
prefix	key-end	value
3□	7	1.00WEI

Leaf Node		
prefix	key-end	value
3□	7	0.12ETH

Block Header

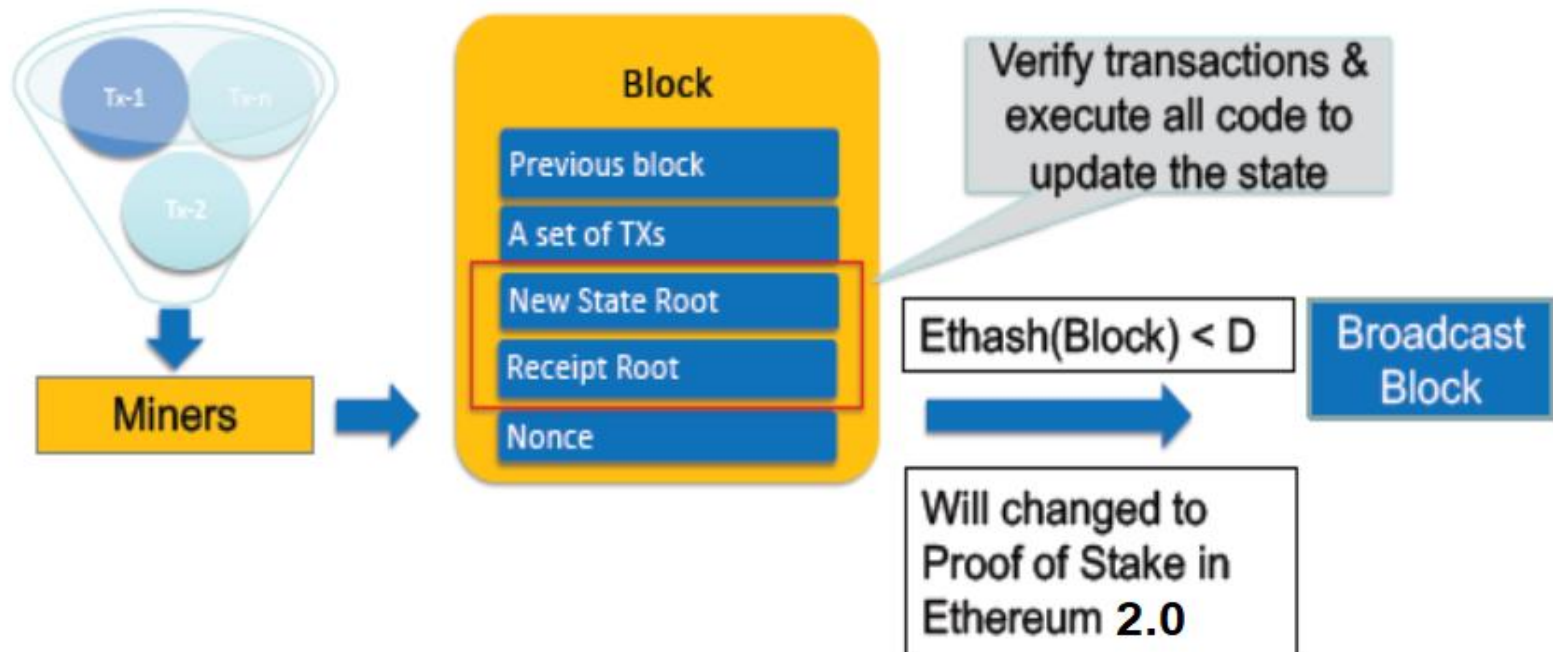


Ethereum's PoW

- Follows Ethash hashing algorithm

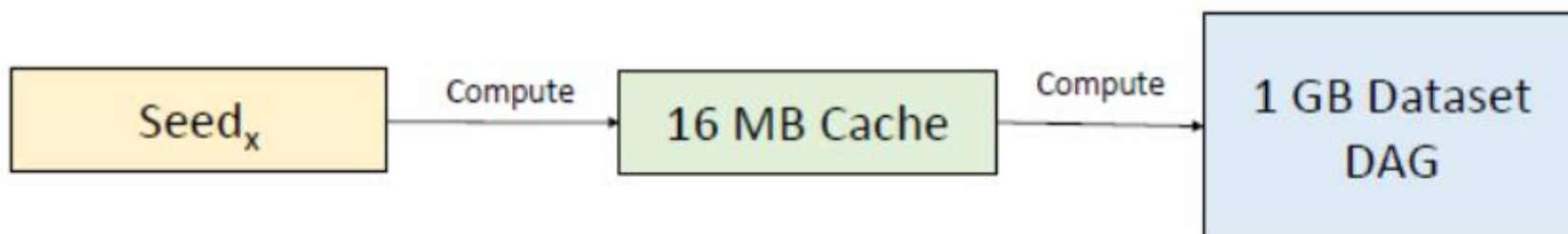


Block Mining



Ethereum's PoW

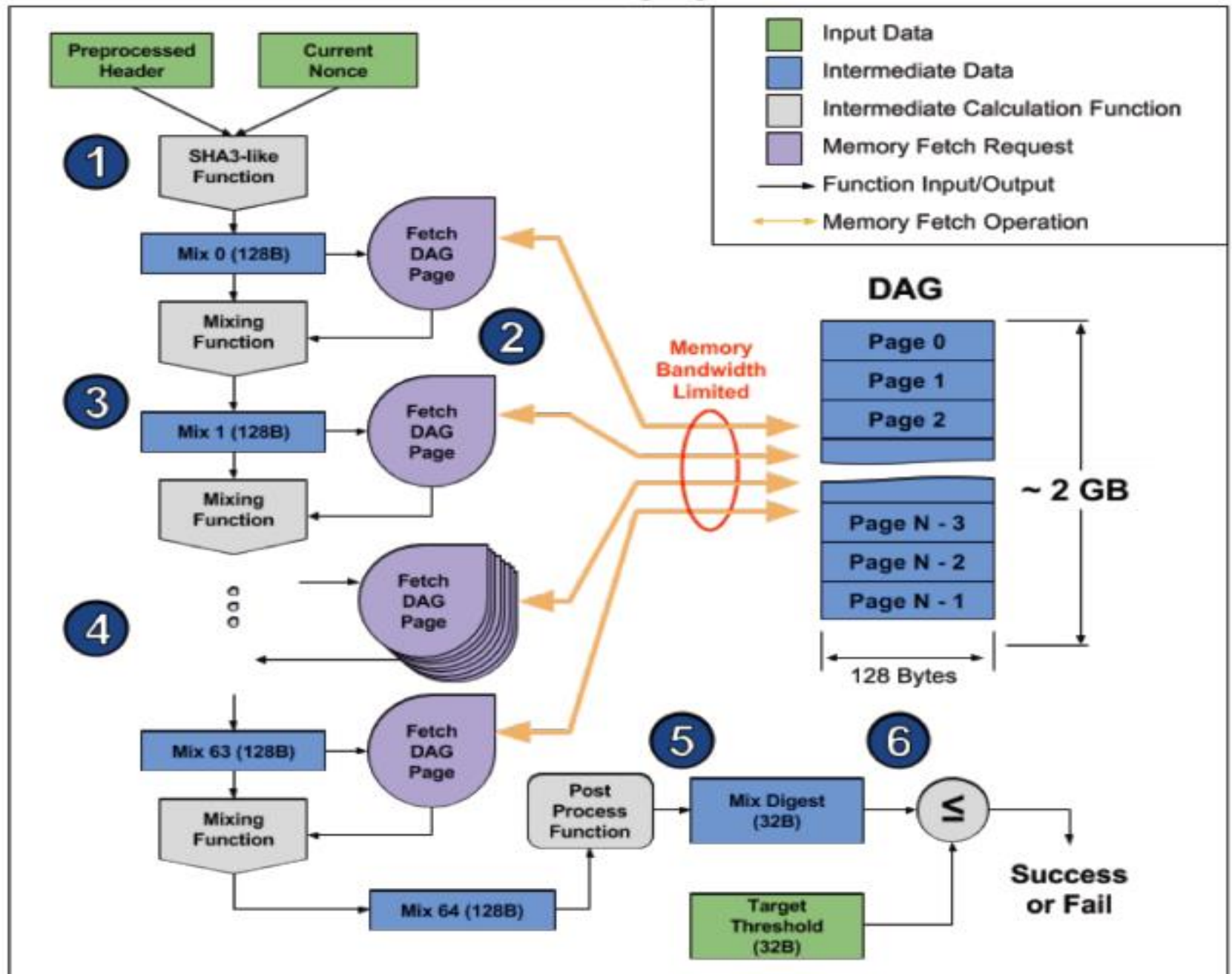
- Multilevel DAG Construction



- Light nodes only need to store the cache for verification.
- They can efficiently verify a transaction without storing the entire blockchain dataset.

- Each item in the dataset depends on only a small number of items from the cache.
- The dataset DAG grows linearly with time.
- Miners need to store this entire dataset DAG.

Ethash Hashing Algorithm

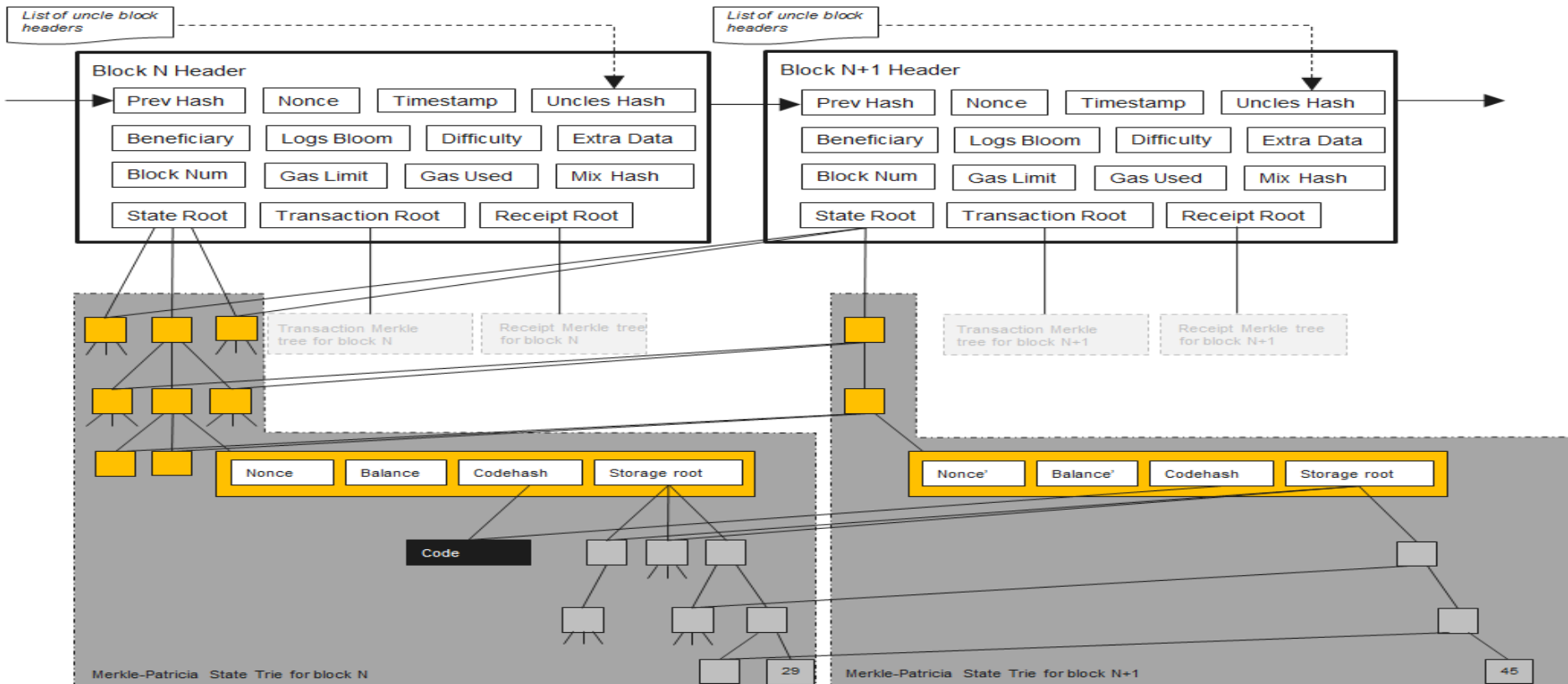


Computation Vs. Memory Access

Why is Ethash Memory Hard?

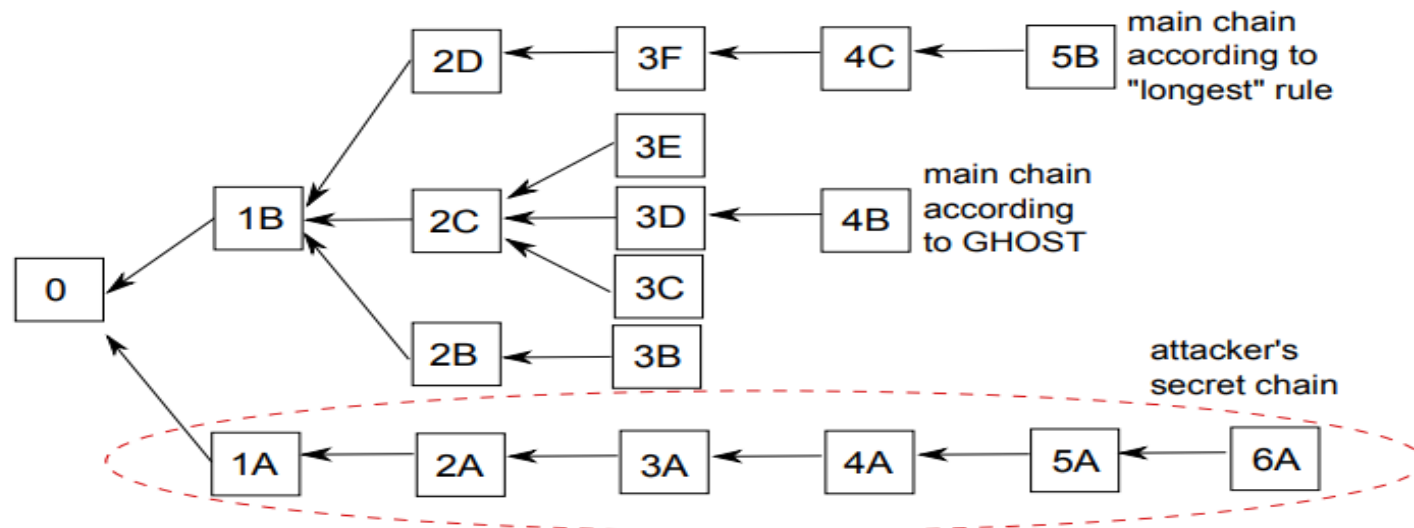
- Every mixing operation requires a 128 byte read from the DAG.
- Hashing a single nonce requires 64 mixes, resulting in $(128 \text{ Bytes} \times 64) = 8 \text{ KB}$ of memory read.
- The reads are random access, so putting a small chunk of the DAG in an L1 or L2 cache isn't going to help much.
- Fetching the DAG pages from memory is much slower than the mixing computation
- The best way to speed up the ethash hashing algorithm is to speed up the 128 byte DAG page fetches from memory.
- Thus, we consider the ethash algorithm to be memory hard.

Ethereum Blockchain



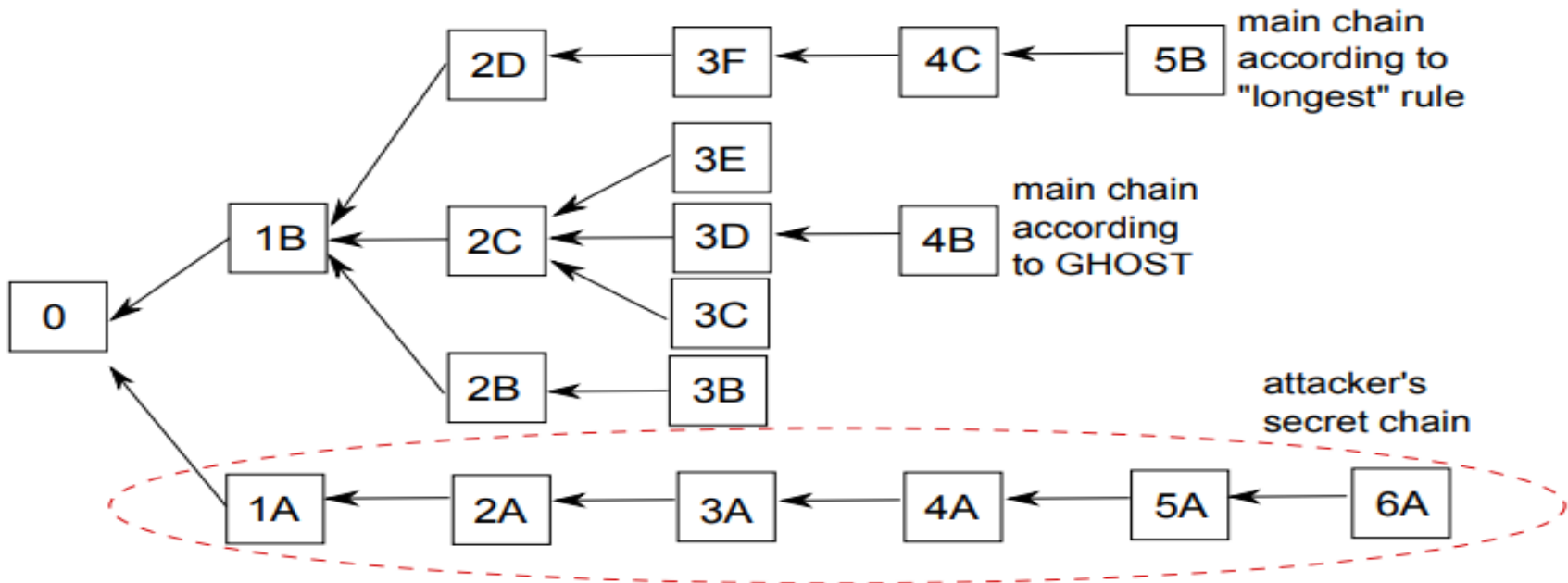
Ethereum's PoW

- Greedy Heaviest Observed Subtree (GHOST) by Yonatan and Aviv (Dec 2013)
- Fork creation is inevitable; How to deal with it?
- Bitcoin considers LONGEST CHAIN. What about Ethereum?



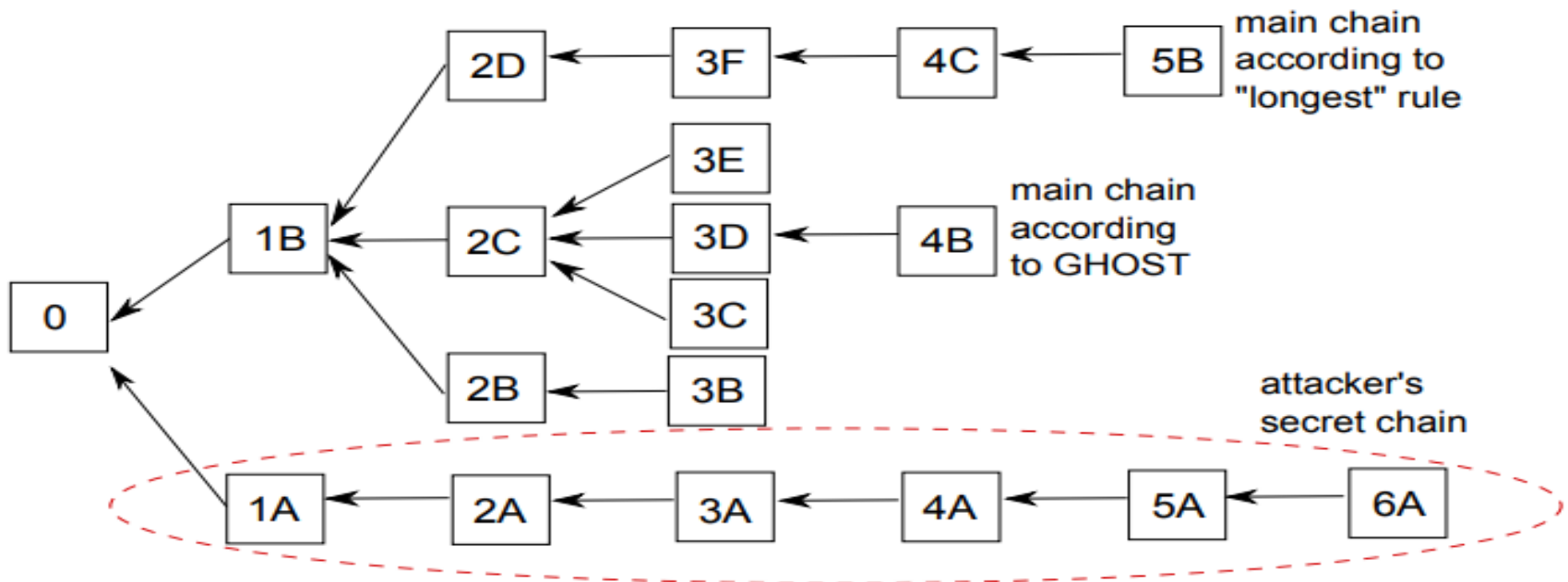
Ethereum's PoW

- Blockgap is 15 sec (much less than bitcoin which is 10 min)
[Source: <https://etherscan.io/chart/blocktime>]
- More competing Blocks → More no. of orphaned blocks
- Aim to prevent orphaned blocks (blocks discovered by miners with less computing power)



Ethereum's PoW

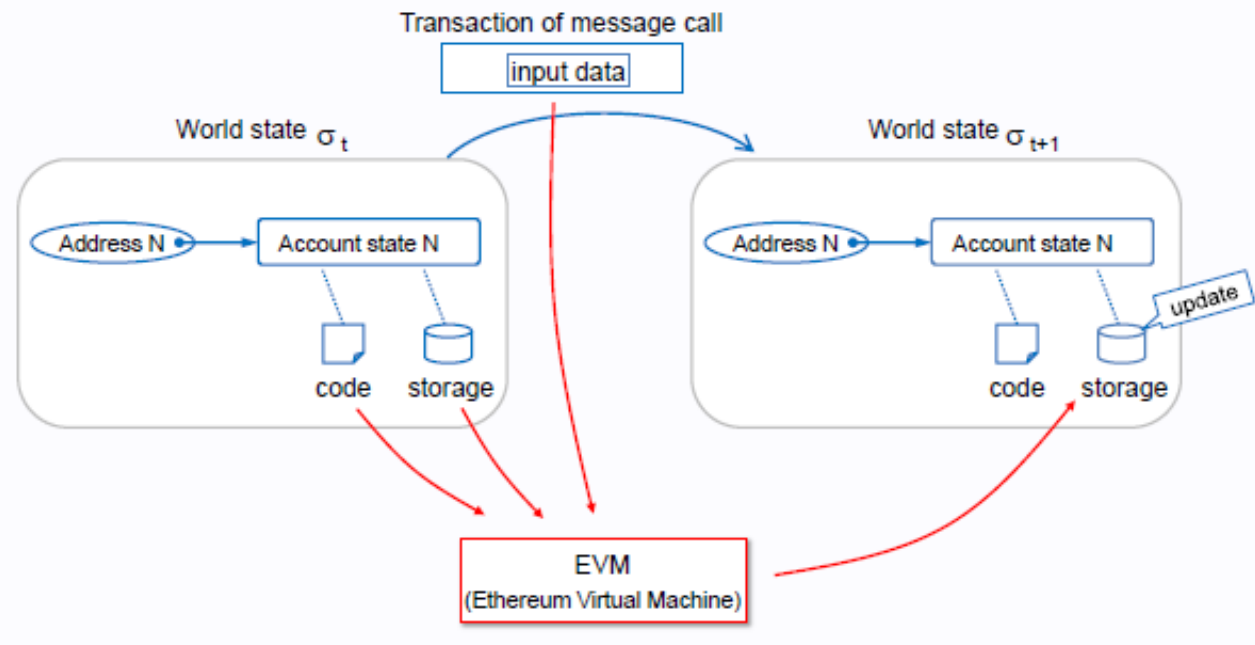
- Uncle Blocks (or Ommers): whose parent is equal to current block's parent's parent
- Consider Tree structure instead of chain
- Choose the Heaviest path as main chain, where weight depends on how dense the subtree is



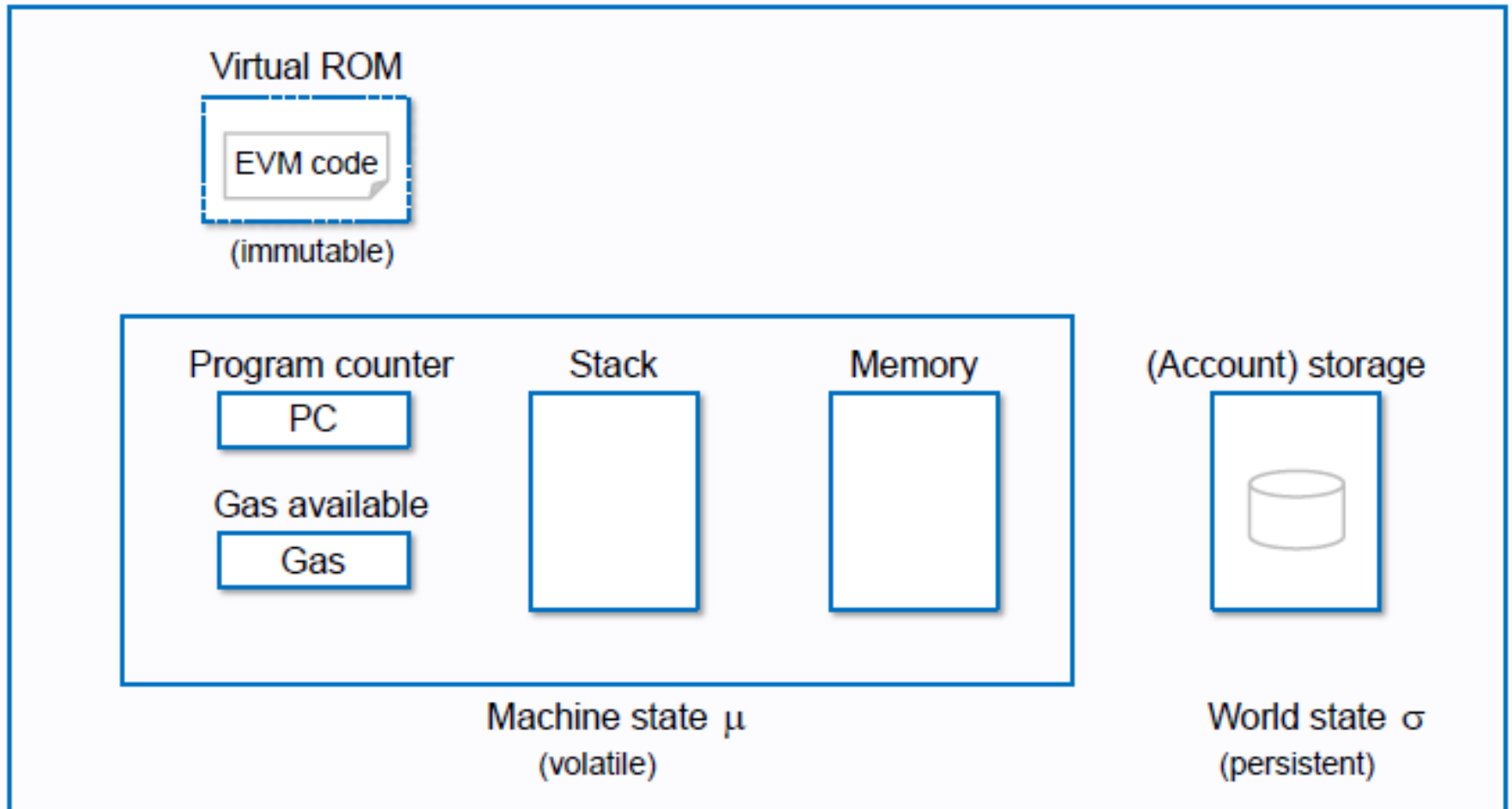
Ethereum Virtual machine (EVM) & Smart Contract Execution

Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM)

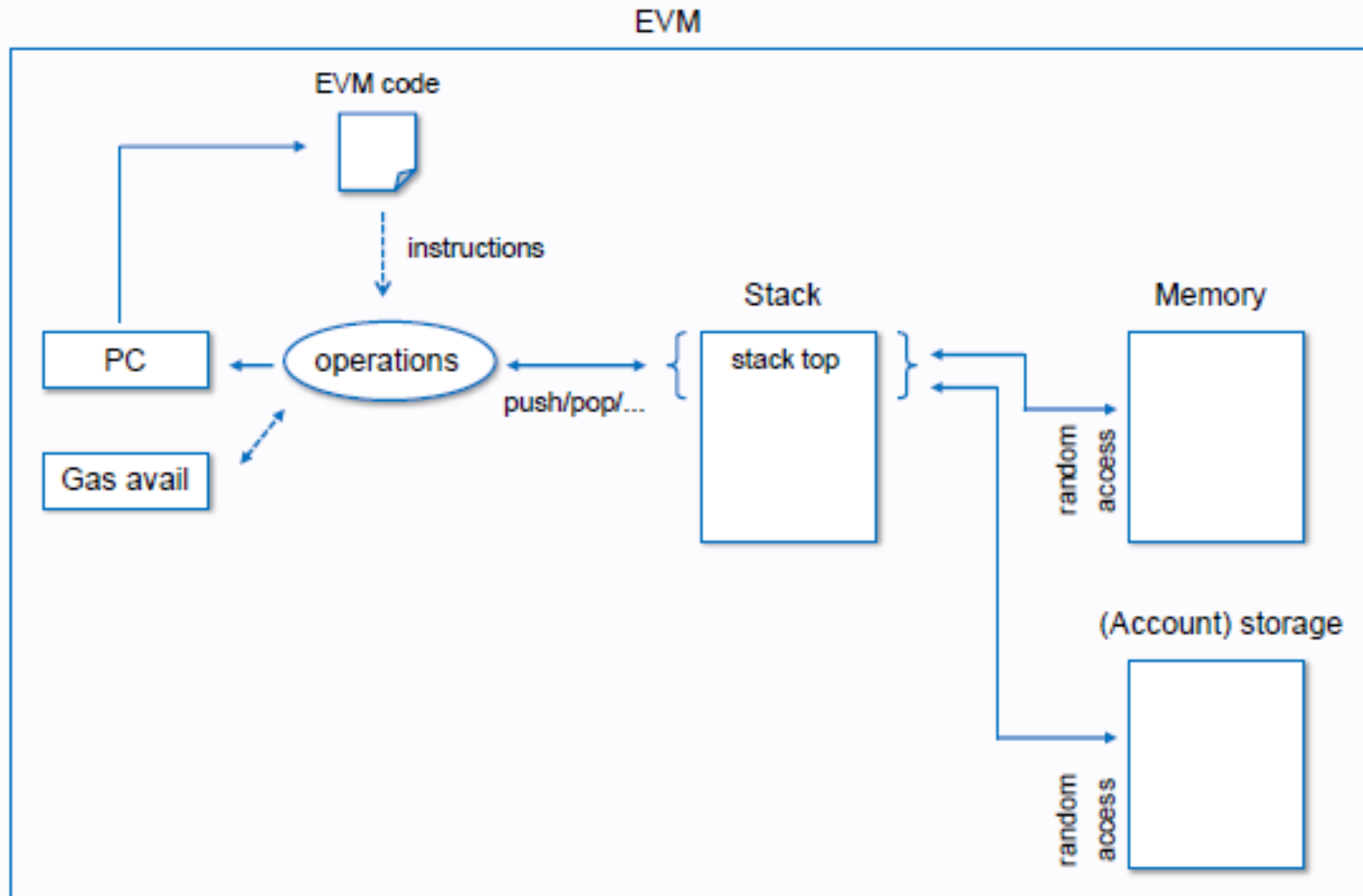
- EVM code is executed on Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM).
- The Ethereum Virtual Machine is the runtime environment for smart contracts in Ethereum.



EVM: Stack-based Architecture



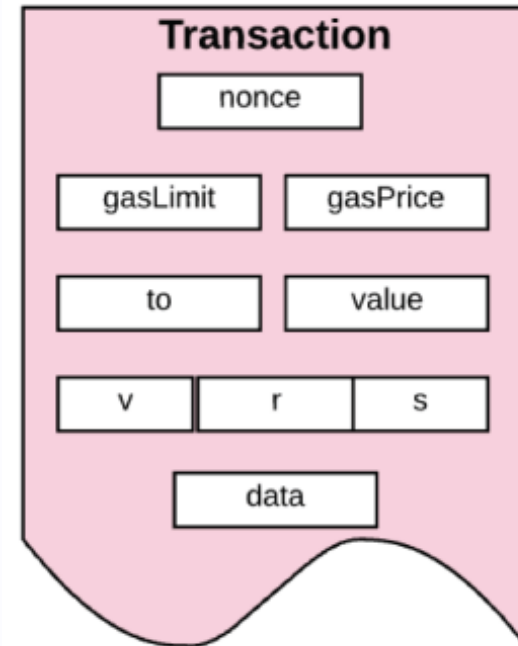
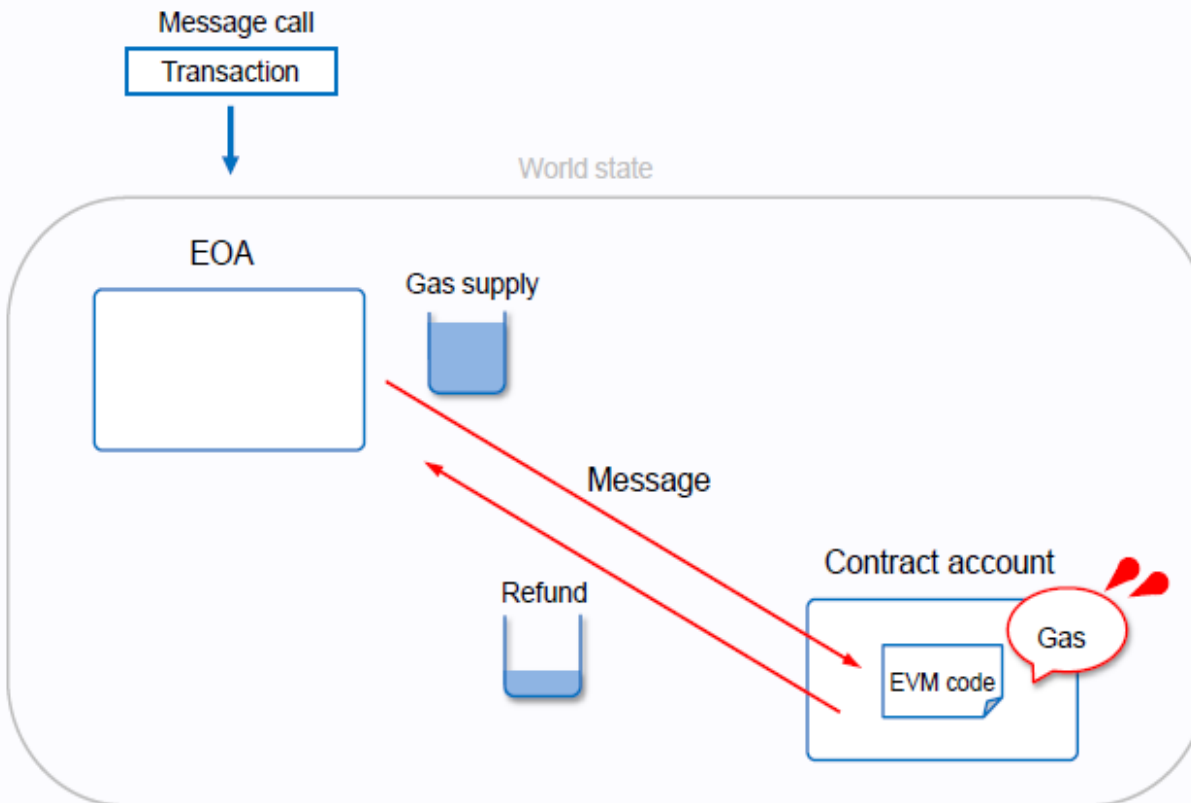
EVM Execution Model



Gas and Fee

- All programmable computation in Ethereum is subject to fees (denominated in gas).

Operation	Gas	GasCost
PUSH1	111741	3
PUSH1	111738	3
MSTORE	111726	12
CALLDATASIZE	111724	2
ISZERO	111721	3
PUSH2	111718	3
JUMPI	111708	10



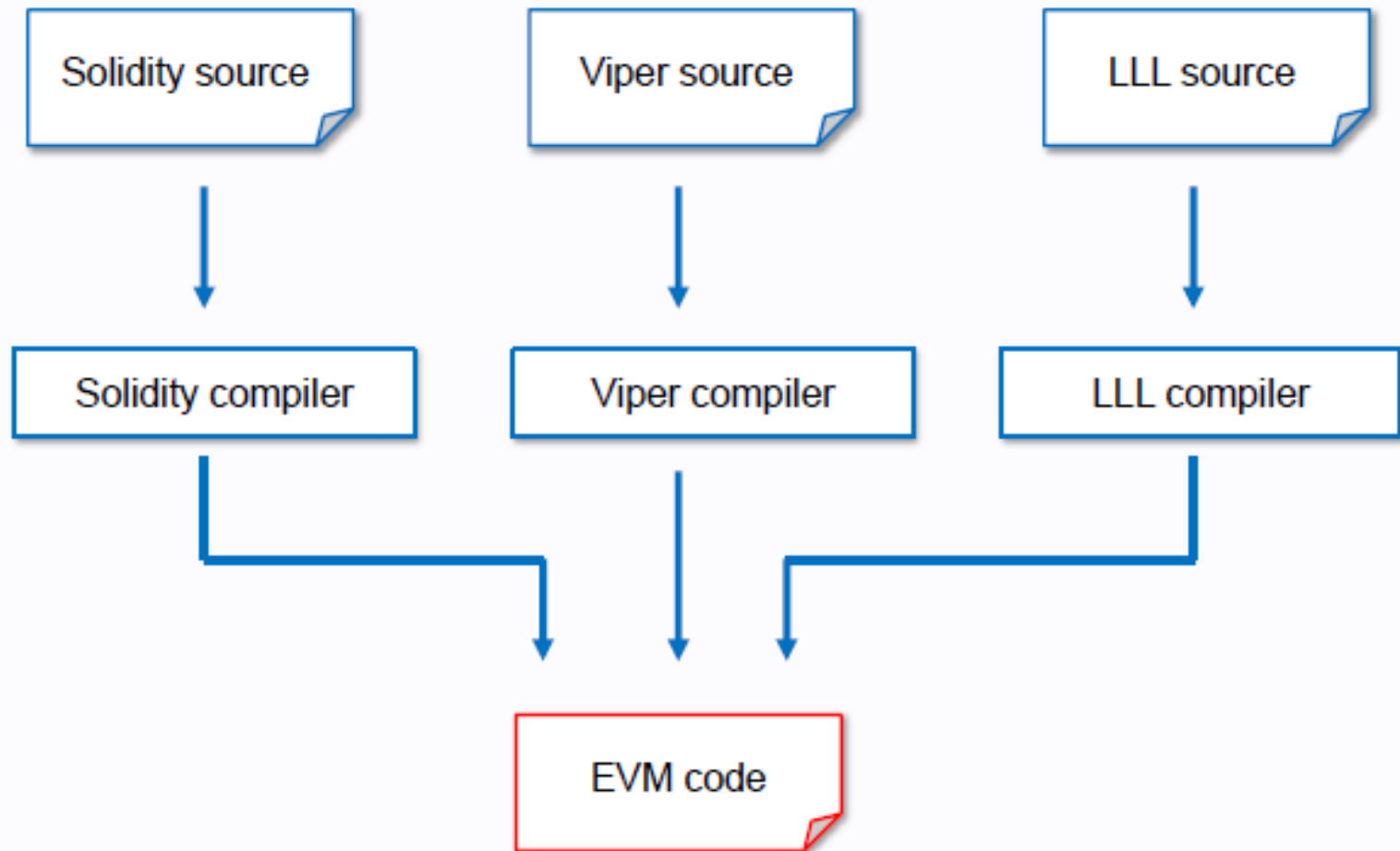
Gas and Fee

- **Gas limit:** Max no. of computational steps the transaction is allowed.
- **Gas Price:** Max fee the sender is willing to pay per computation step.

Gas Limit 50,000	X	Gas Price 20 gwei	=	Max transaction fee 0.001 Ether
----------------------------	----------	-----------------------------	----------	---

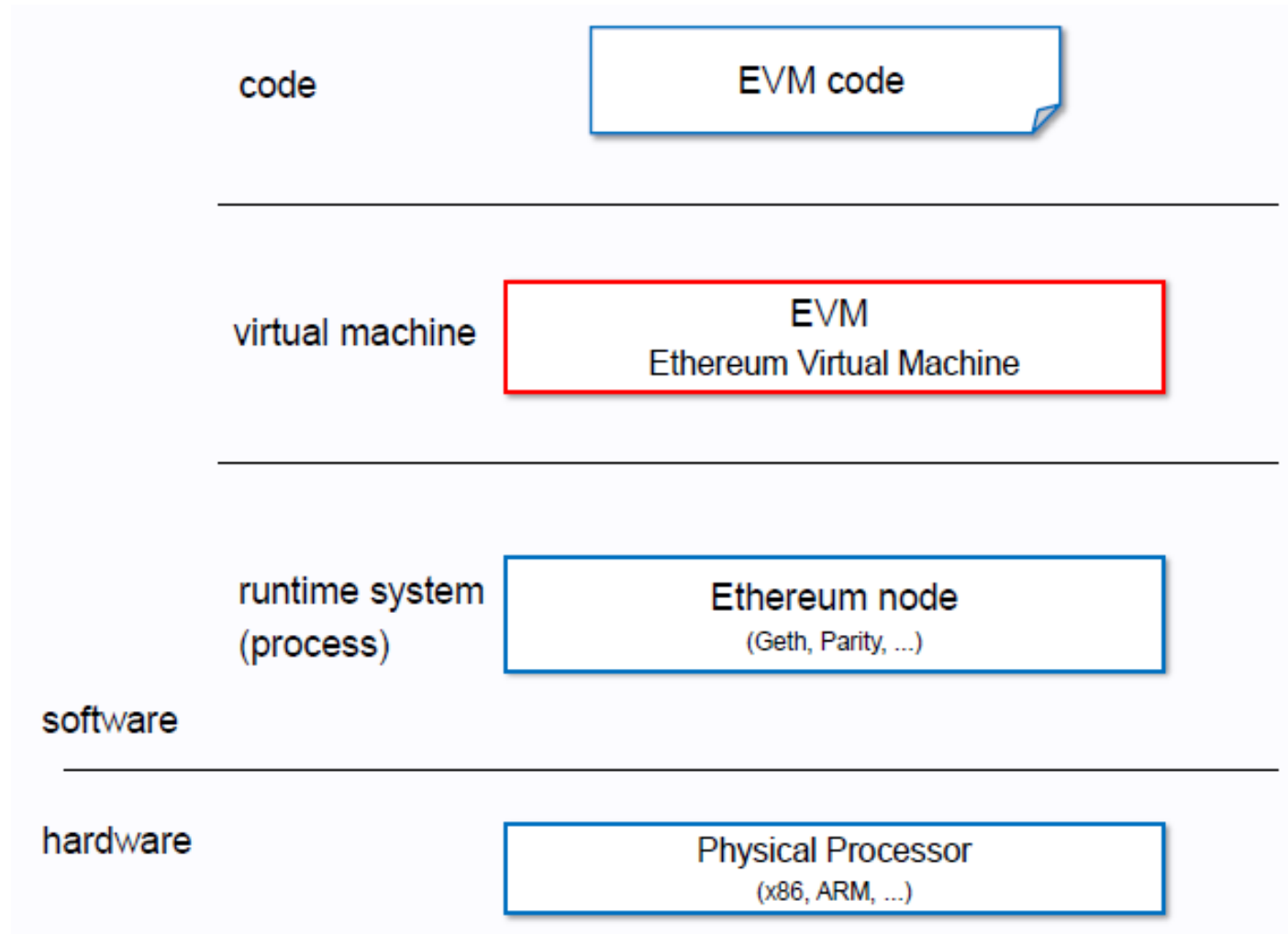
- Out of Gas Exception, revert the state as if the transaction has never happened
- Sender still pays all the gas
- Note that Block has also a GasLimit (Like Block size in Bitcoin)

EVM Codes

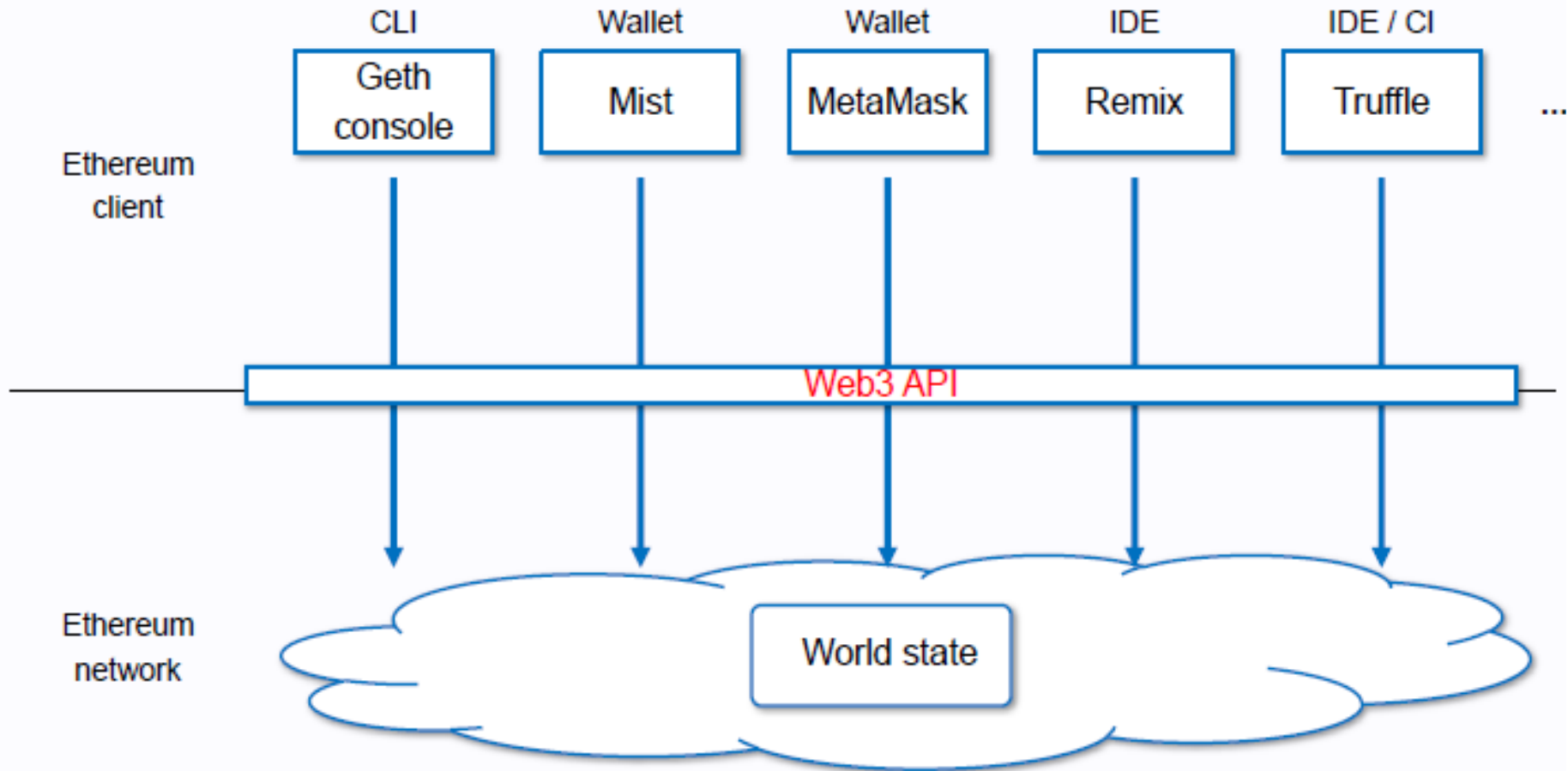


Ethereum virtual machine code

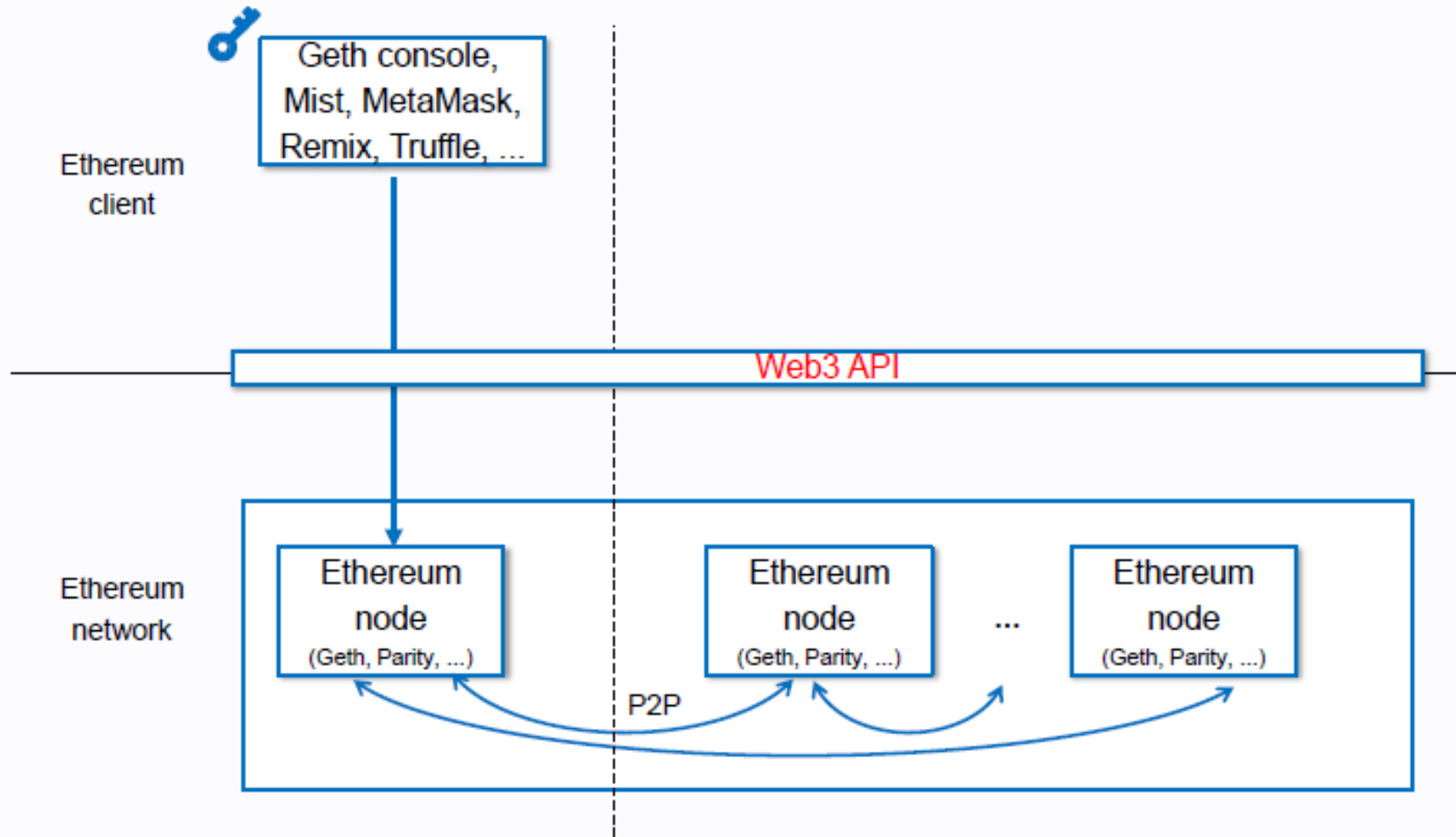
EVM Layers



Web3 API and Client

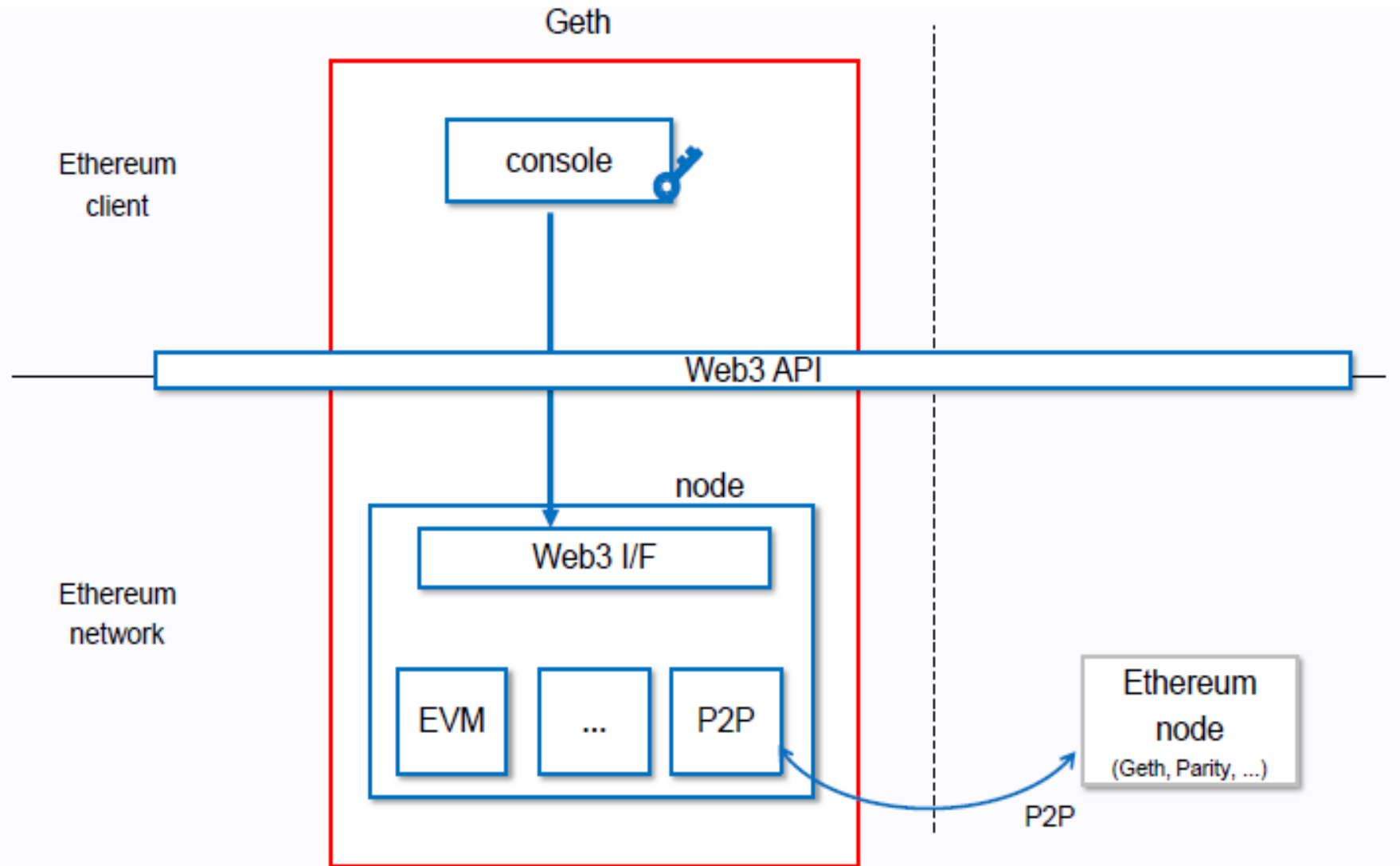


Web3 API and Client

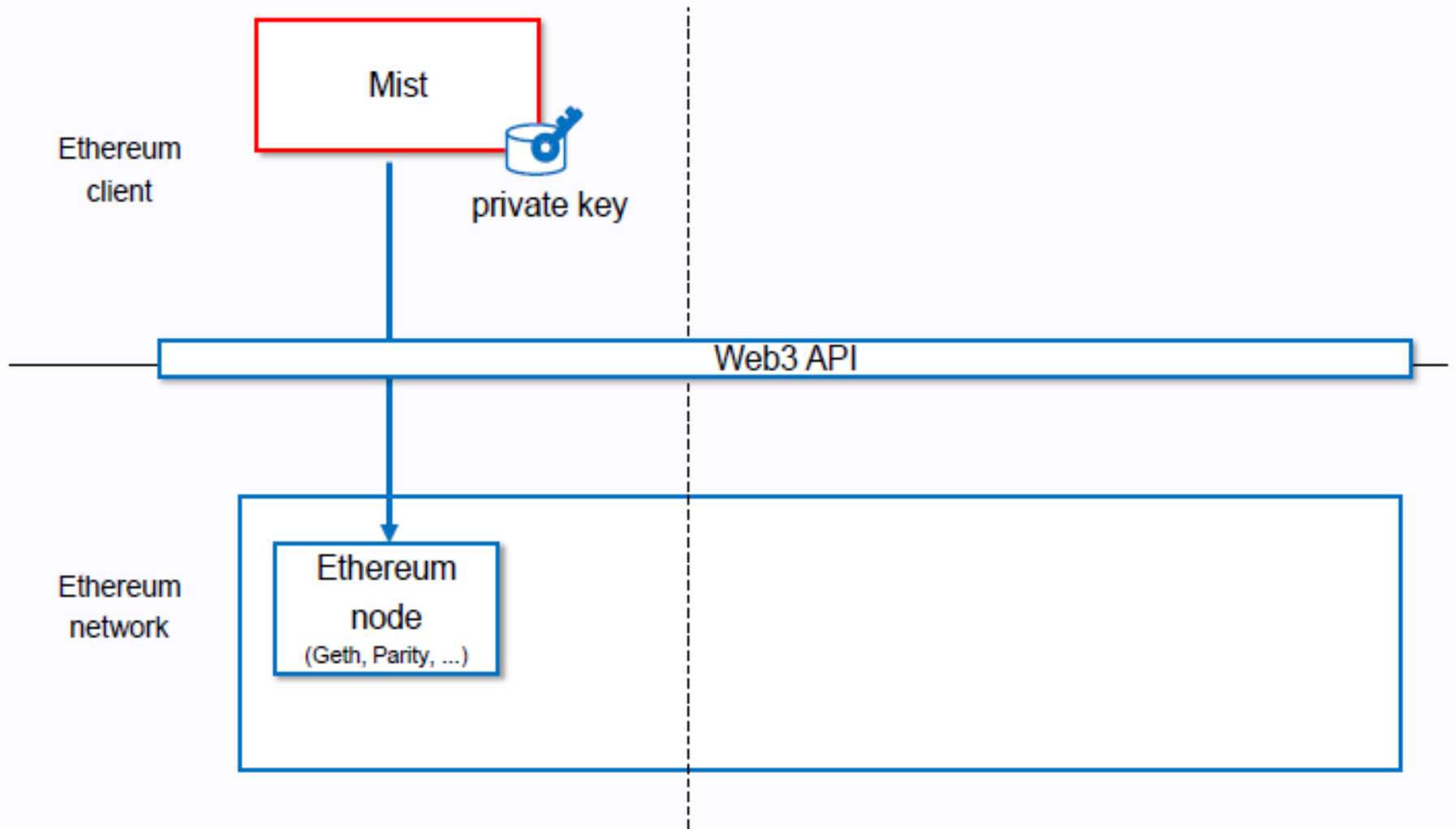


Ethereum clients access to Ethereum network via Web3 API.

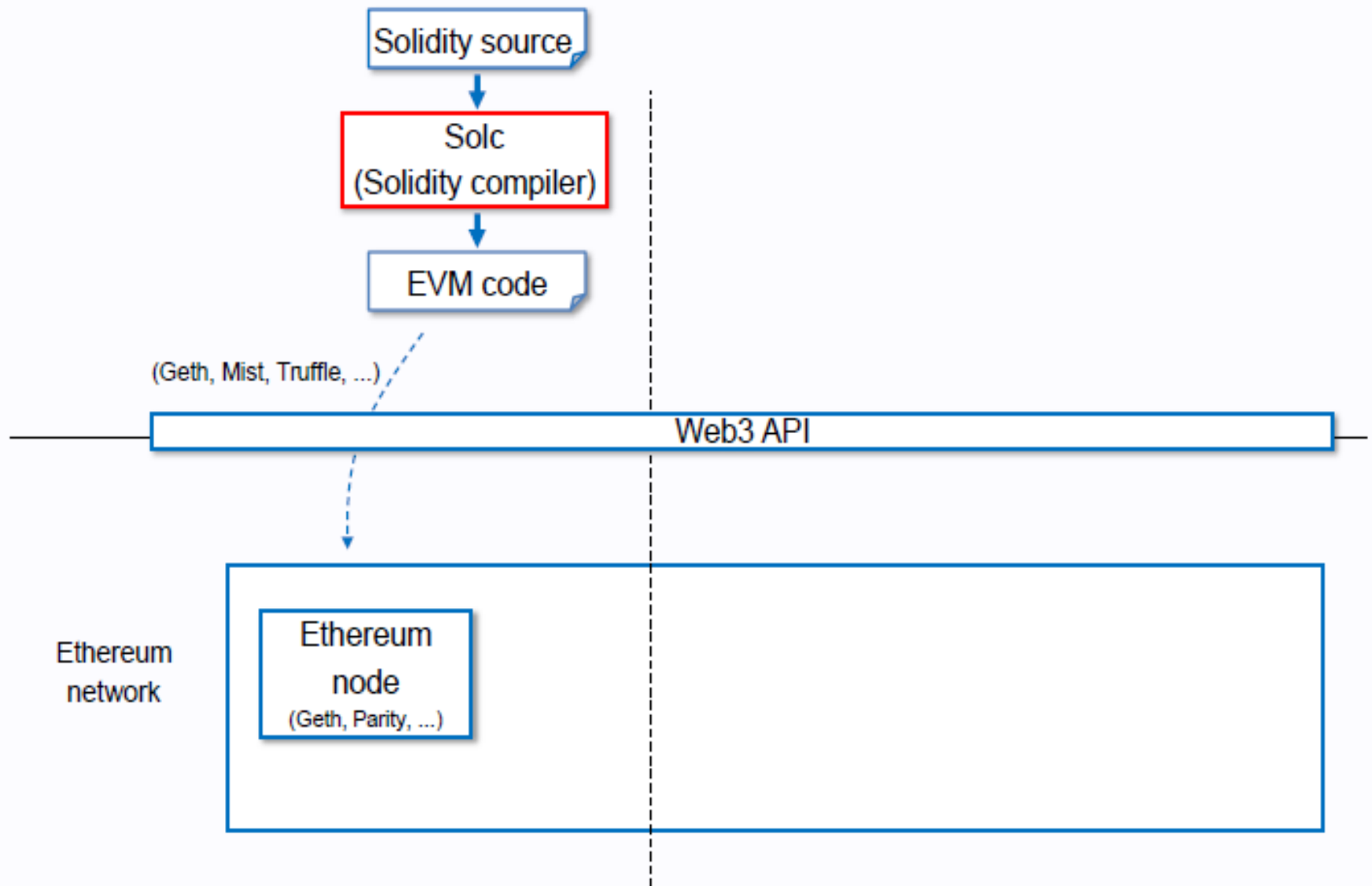
Geth



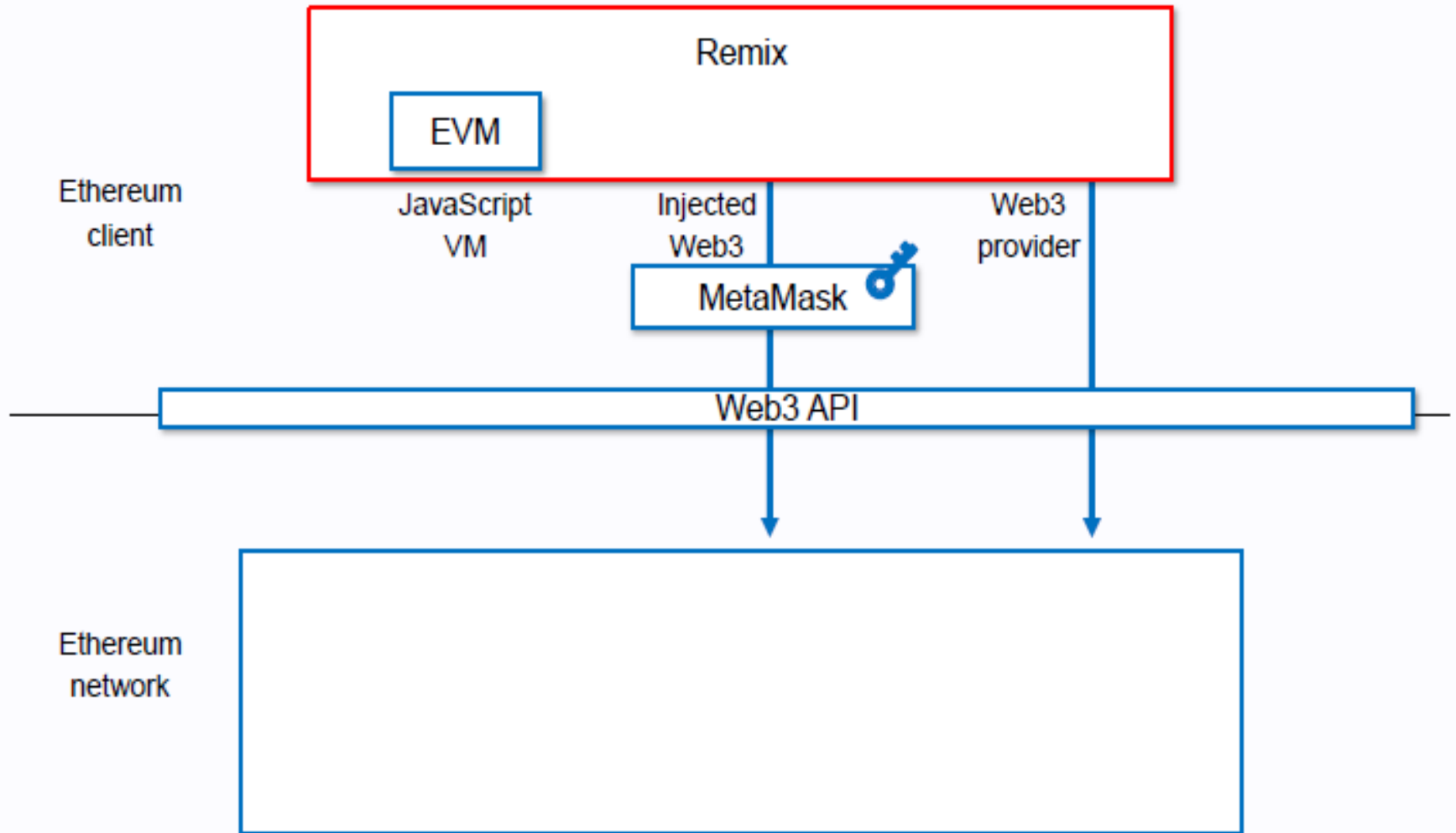
Mist



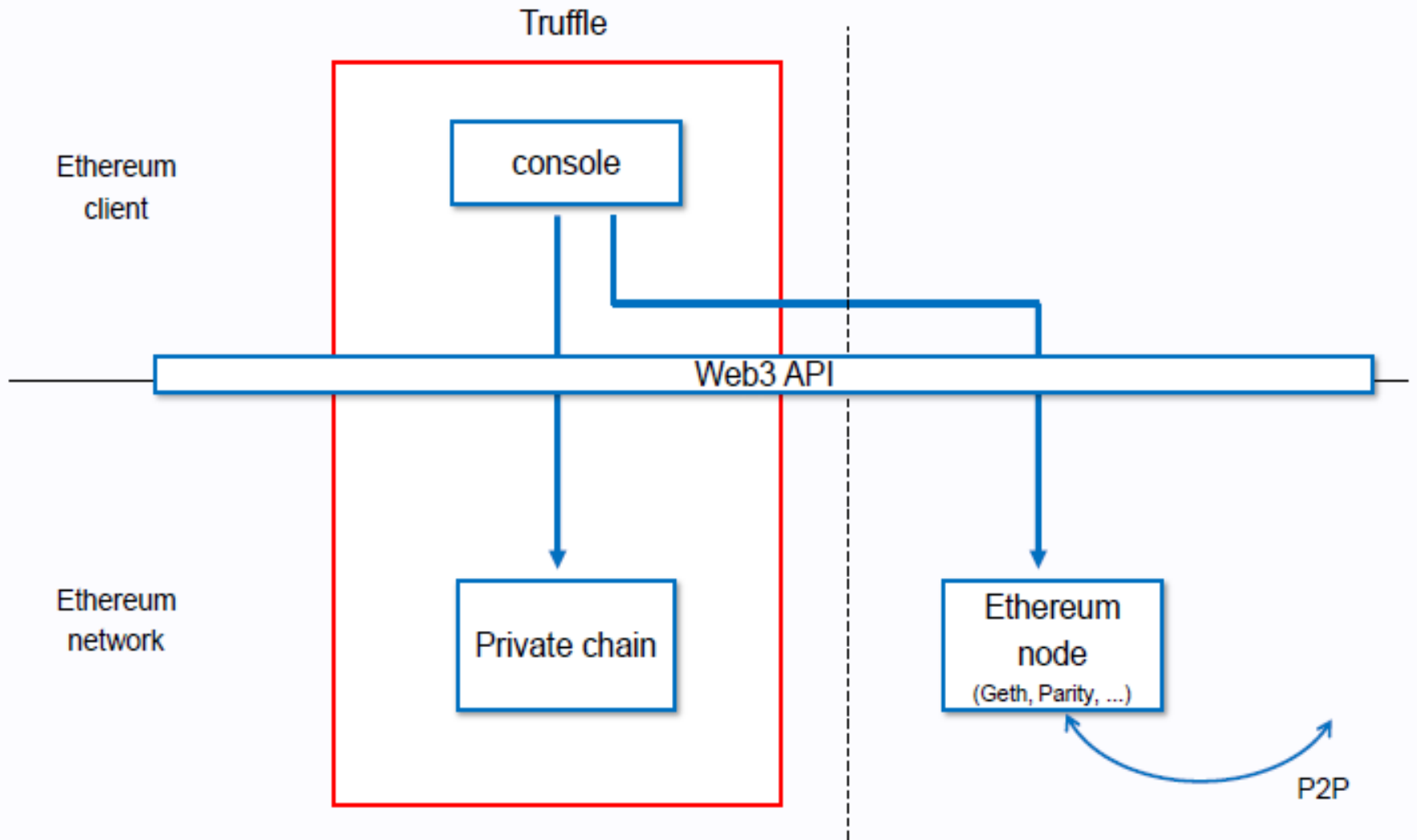
Solc



Remix



Truffle



Thank You!