ETHEREUM: A SECURE DECENTRALISED GENERALISED TRANSACTION LEDGER

BYZANTIUM VERSION 69351d5 - 2018-12-10

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FOUNDER, ETH

Second-largest Cryptocurrency

Accounts, not UTXO

Programmable via “smart contracts”

“Turing-Complete” Language

singleton machine with shared-state

Ethereum imple

cryptographically-secured transactions has demonstrated its with Bitcoin being one of the most notable ones. Each such project can be seen as on a decentralised, but singleton, compute resource. We can call this paradigm a transactional

d manner. Furthermore it provides a plurality of such resources, to interact through a message-passing framework with others. tunities it provides and the future hurdles we envisage.

W

of the

, global information transmission

incredibly cheap. Techn

coin ha

consens

contrac

lacking, and plain old prejudices are difficult to shake.

ish to provide a system such that users d that no matter with which other indi- or organisations they interact, they can do so with absolute confidence in the possible outcomes and how those outcomes might come about.

a decentralised value-transfer system that can be shared across the world and virtually free to use. This system can be said to be a very specialised version of a cryptographically secure, transaction-based state machine. Follow-up systems such as Namecoin adapted this original “currency application” of the technology into other applications albeit rather simplistic ones.

Ethereum is a project which attempts to build the generalised technology; technology on which all transaction-based state machine concepts may be built

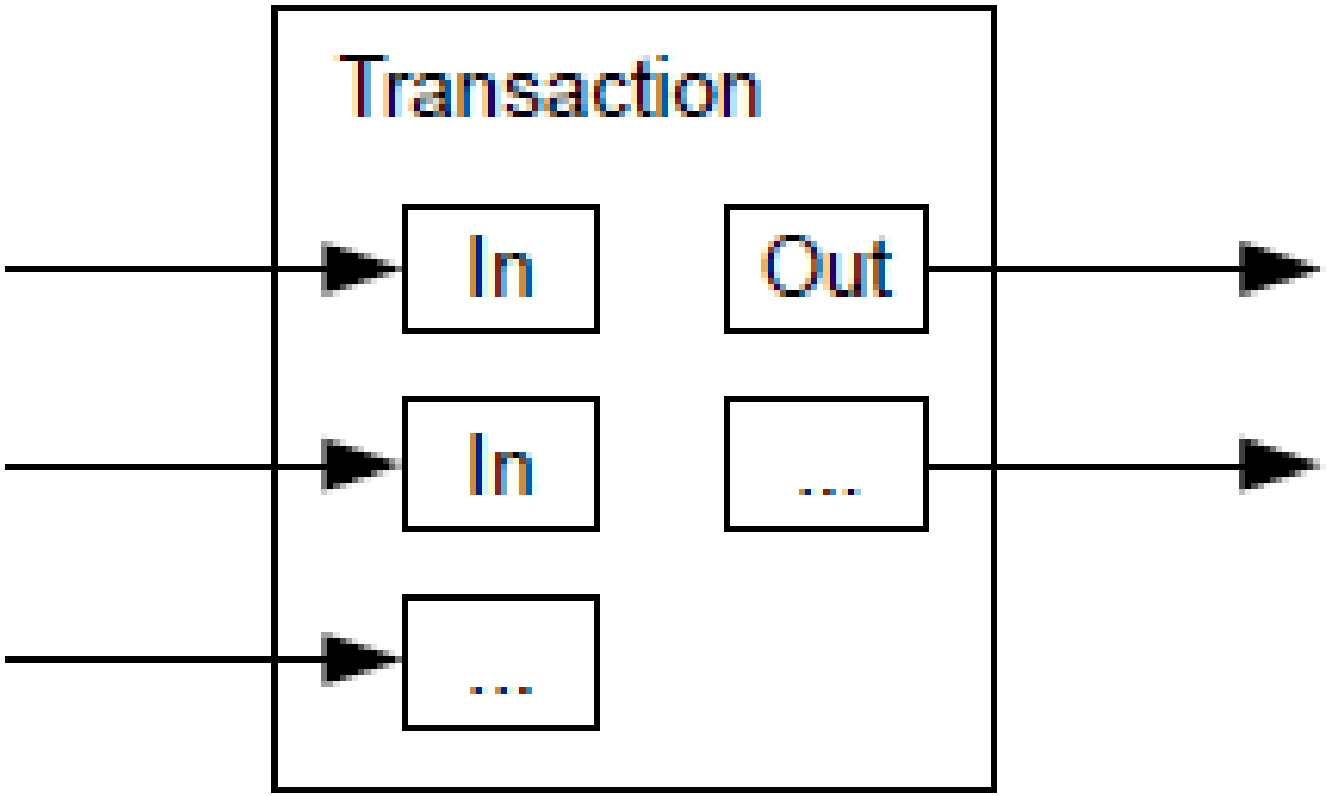
aims to provide to the

1.2. **Previous Work.** Buterin [2013a] first proposed the kernel of this work in late November, 2013. Though now evolved in many ways, the key functionality of a blockchain with a Turing-complete language and an effectively unlimited inter-transaction storage capability remains unchanged.

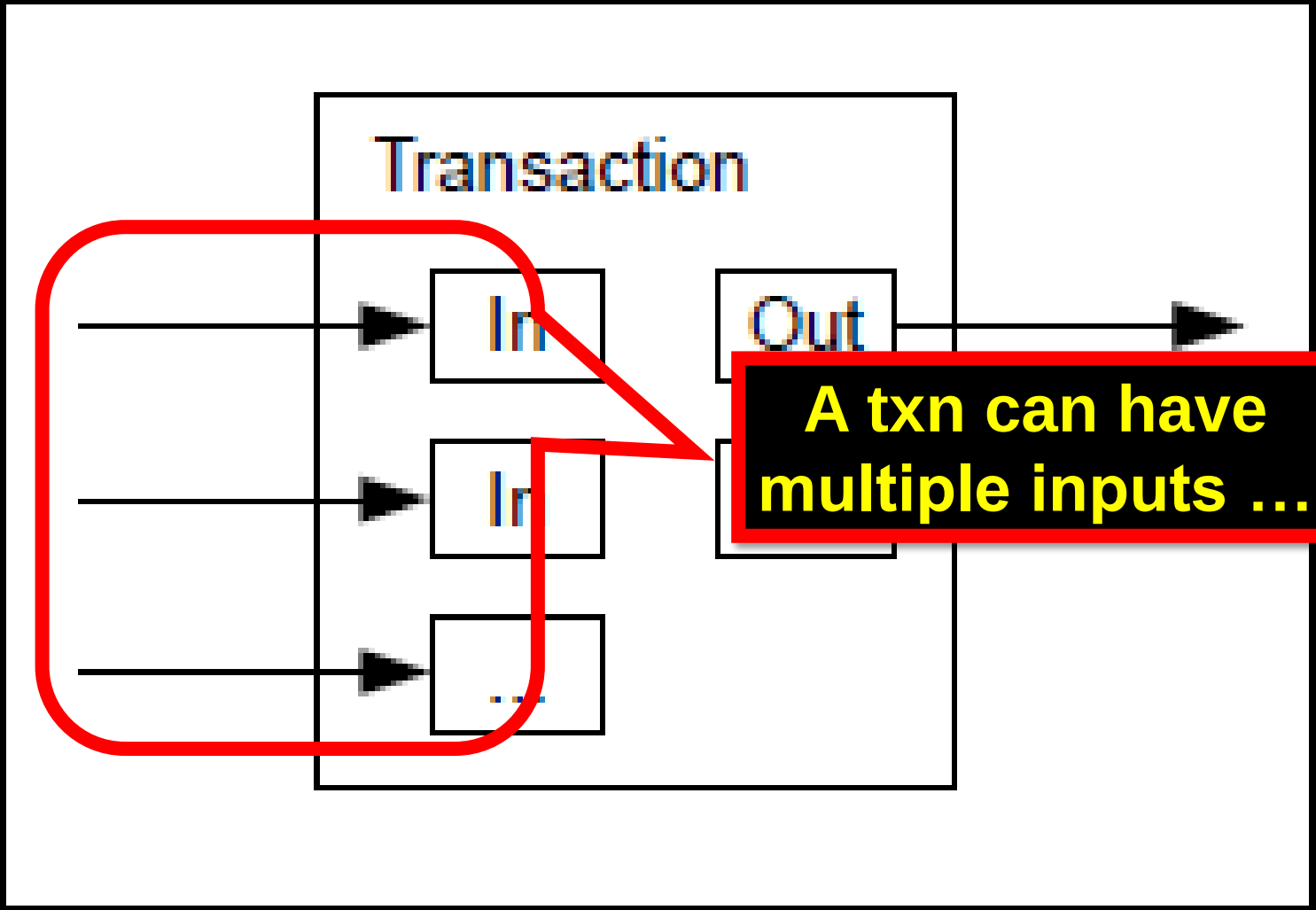
Dwork and Naor [1992] provided the f

usage of a cryptog

Bitcoin UTXO Model



Bitcoin UTXO Model



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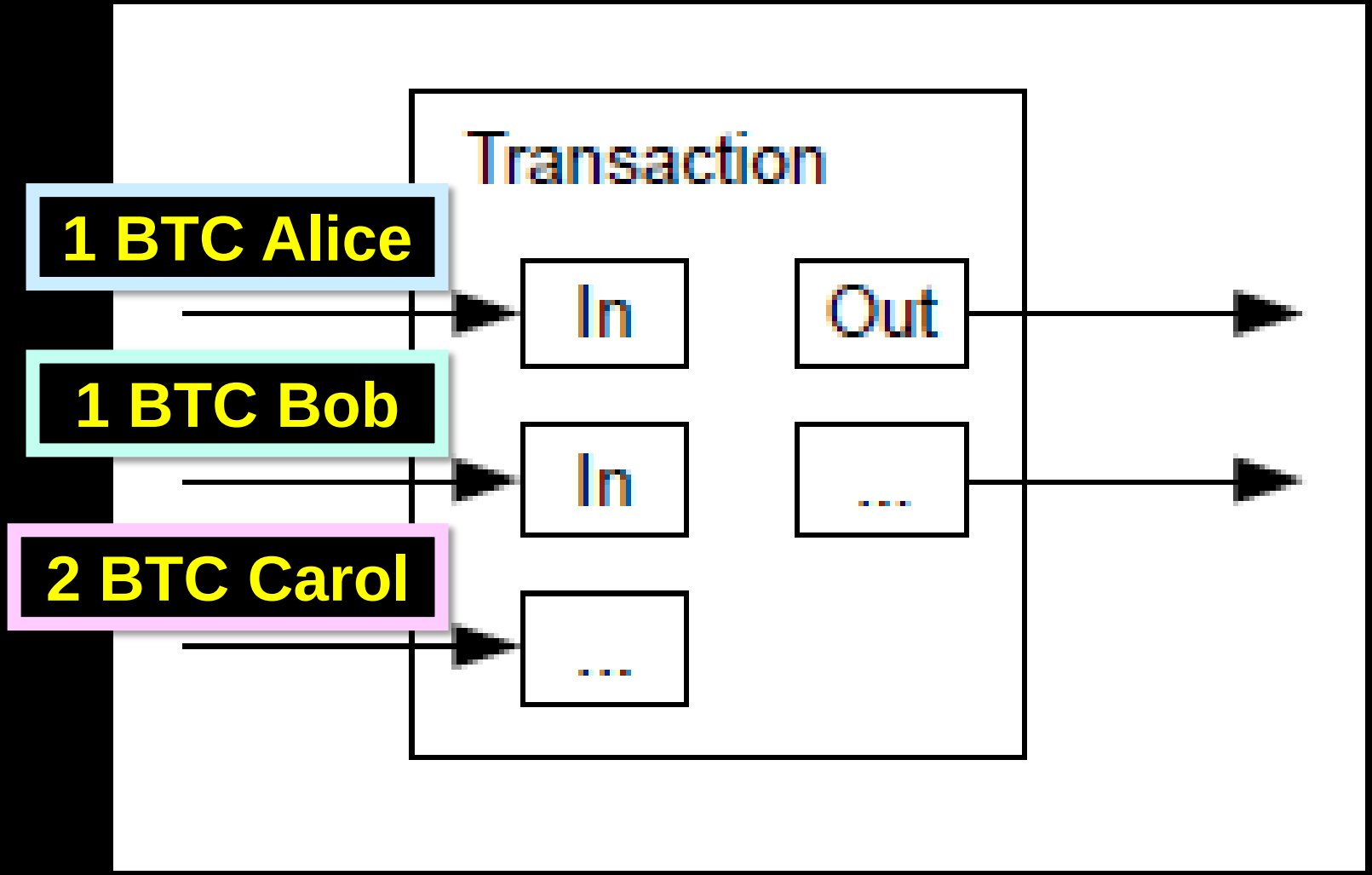

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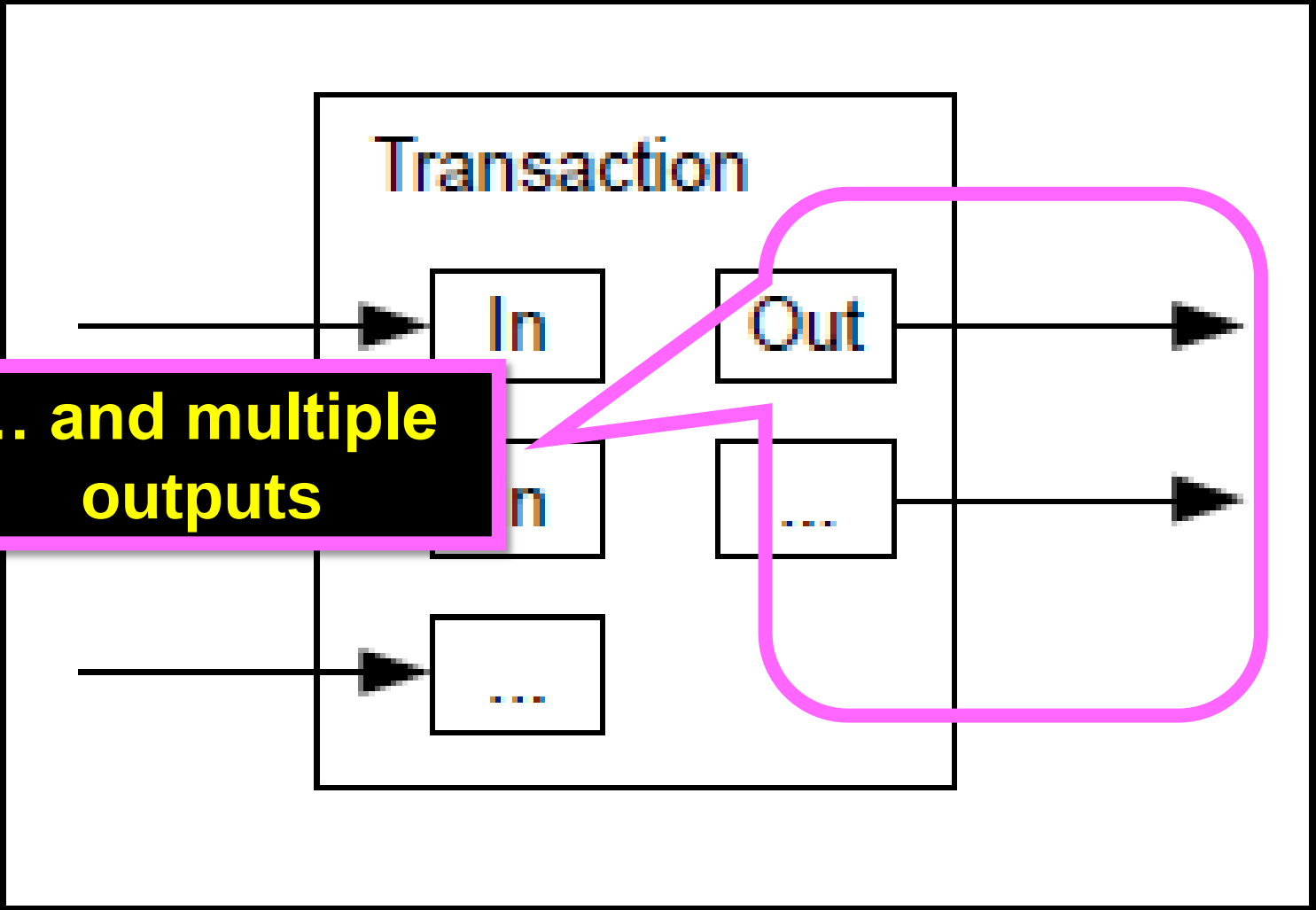

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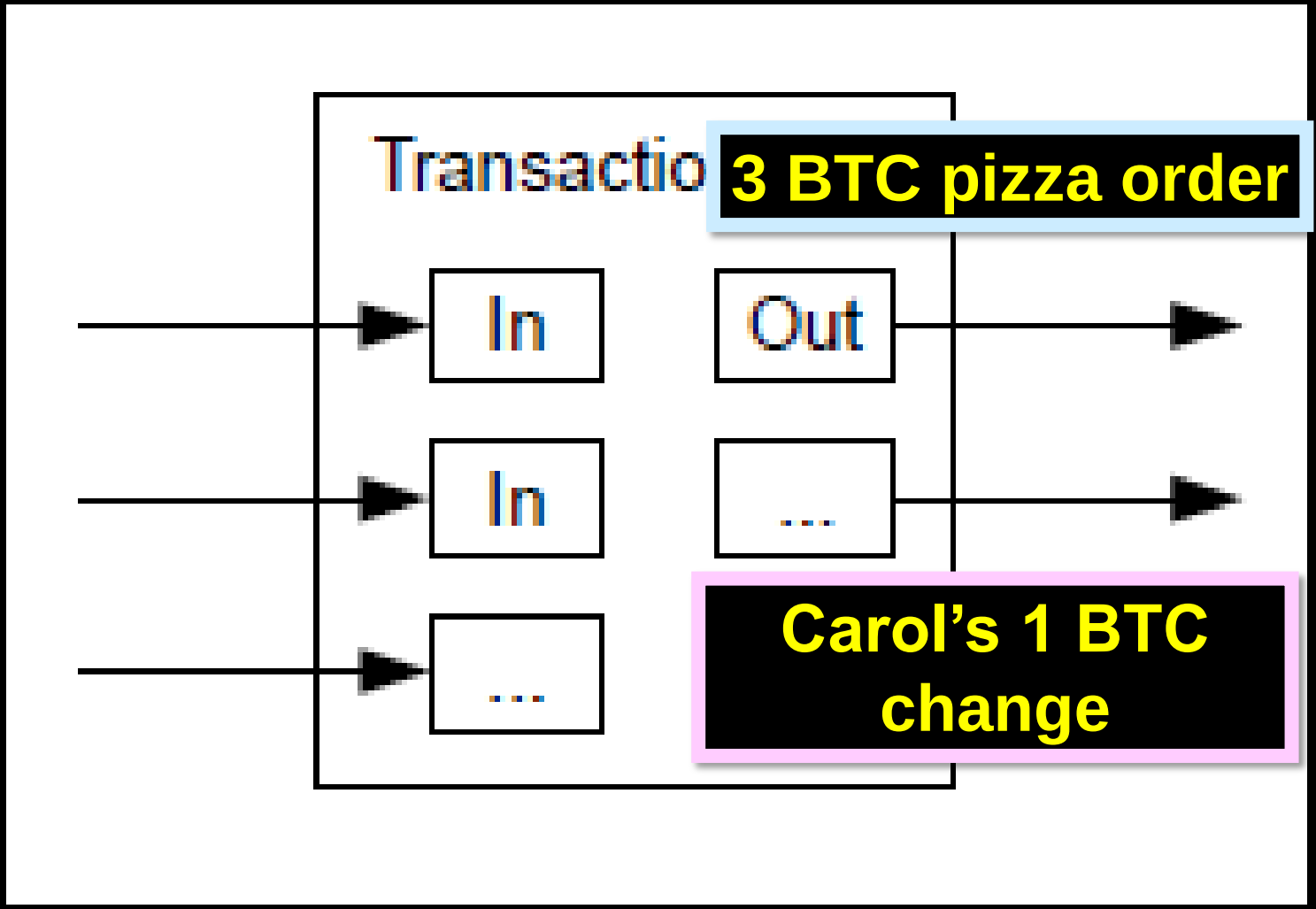
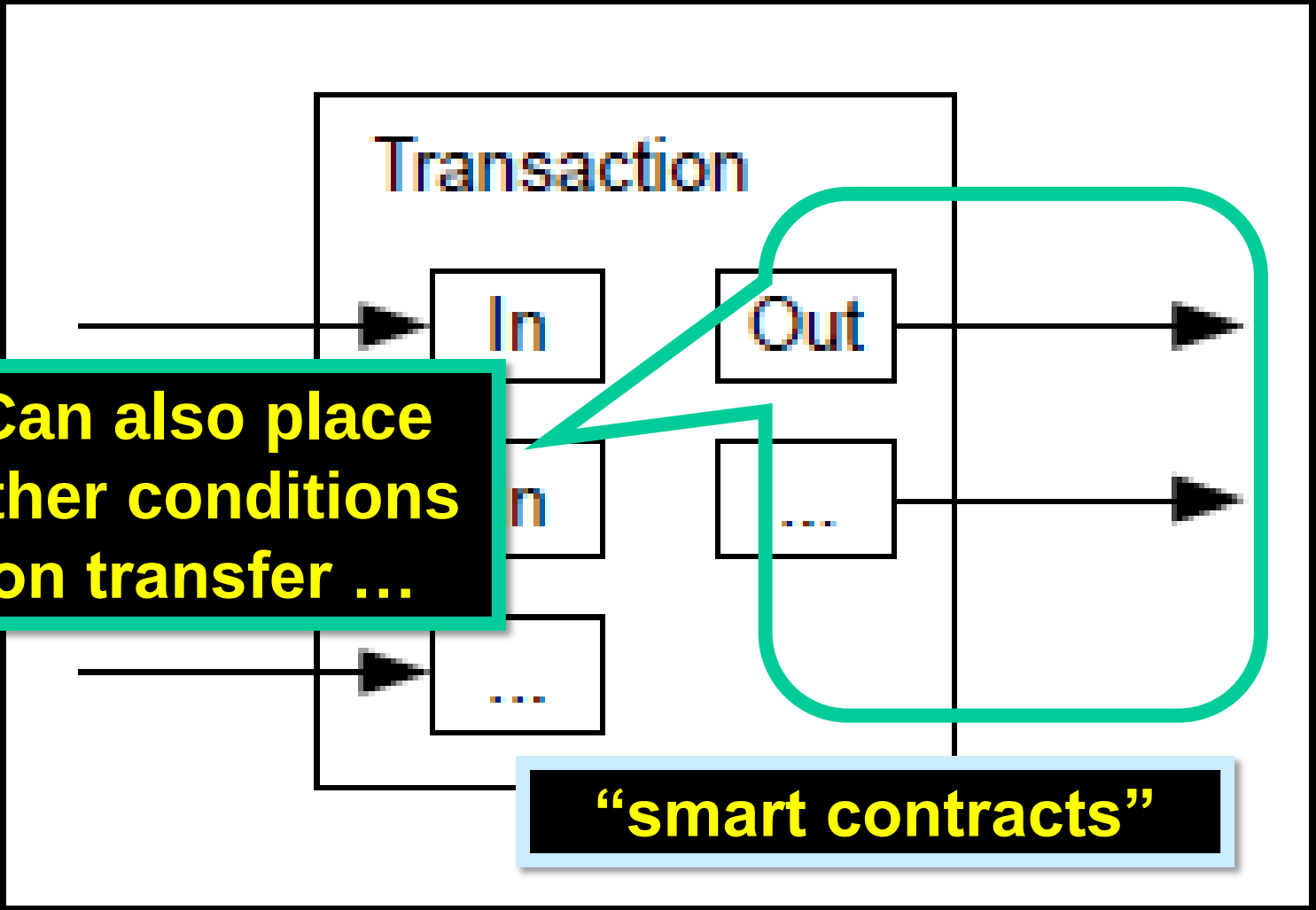
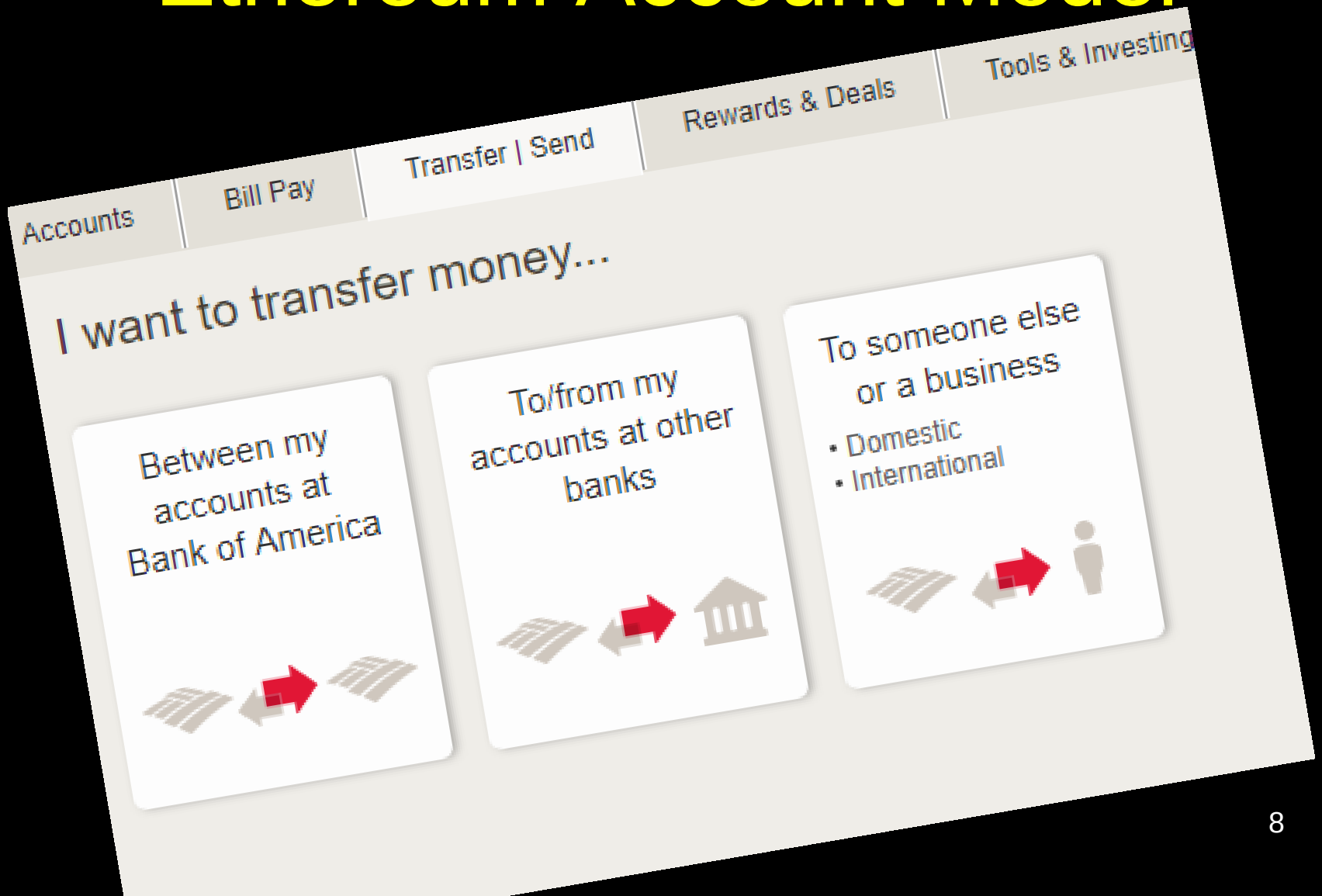


UTXO Model

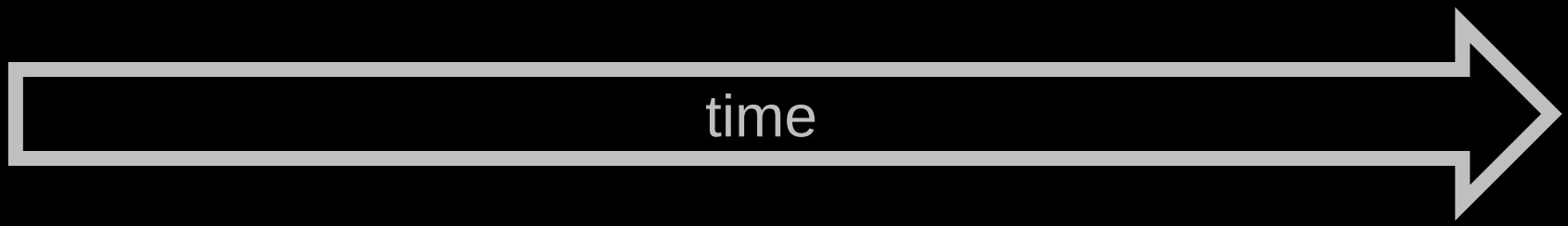

Transaction
In
n
...
Out
...
Can also place other conditions on transfer …
“smart contracts”

Ethereum Account Model

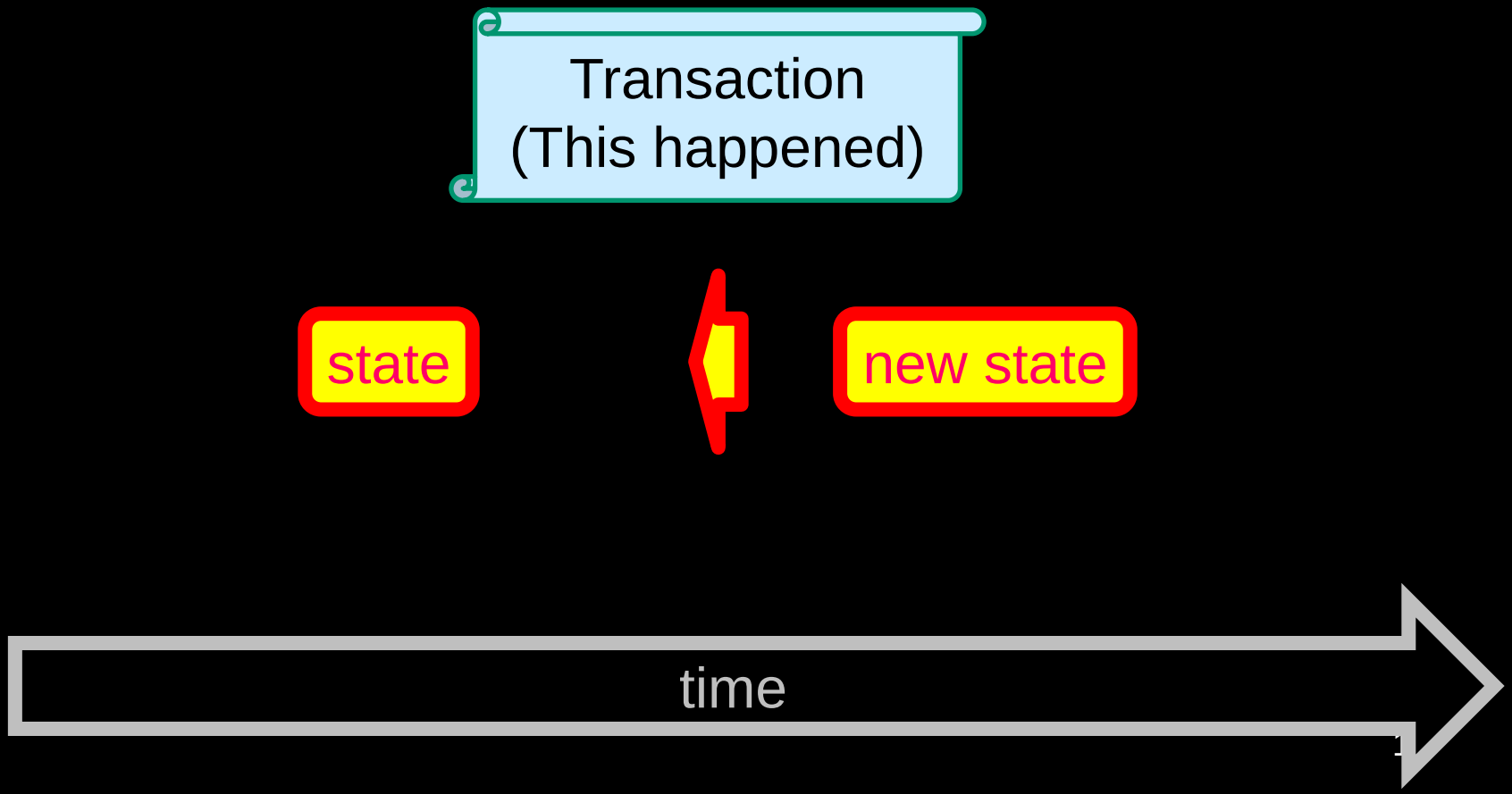


In the beginning …

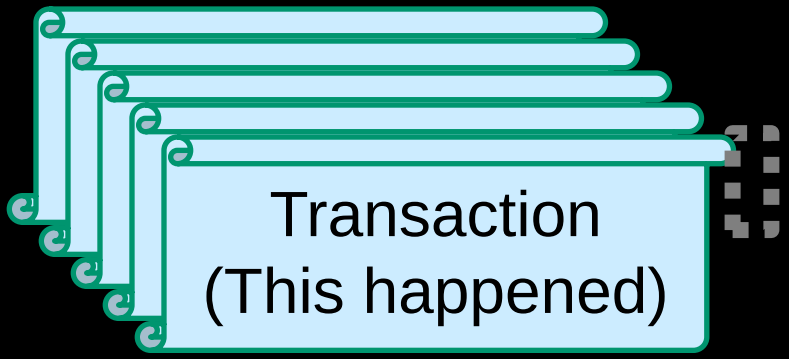
state



On the first day …



Not long after …



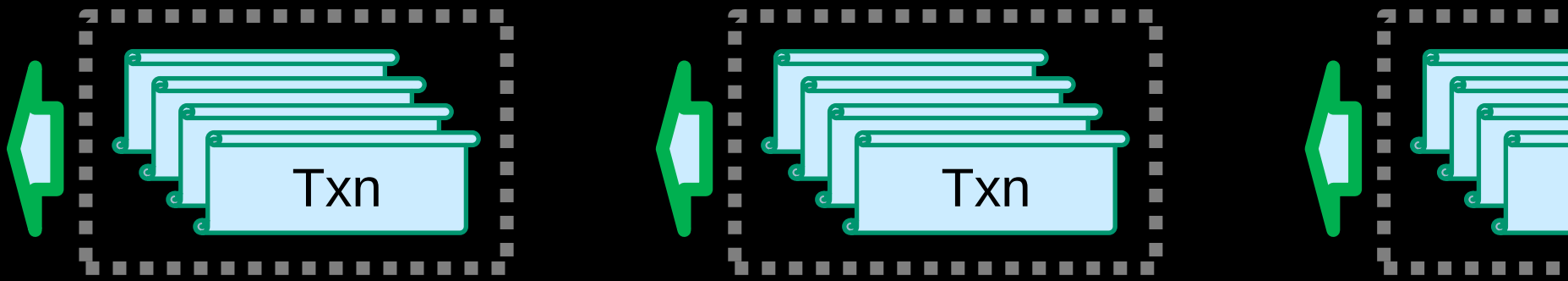
block

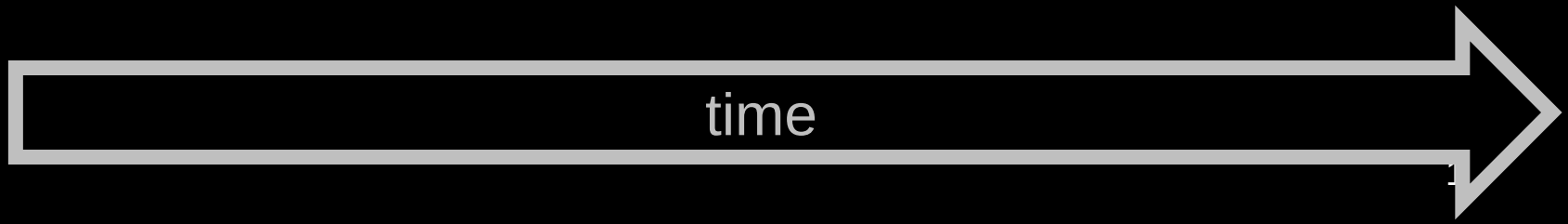
state

new state

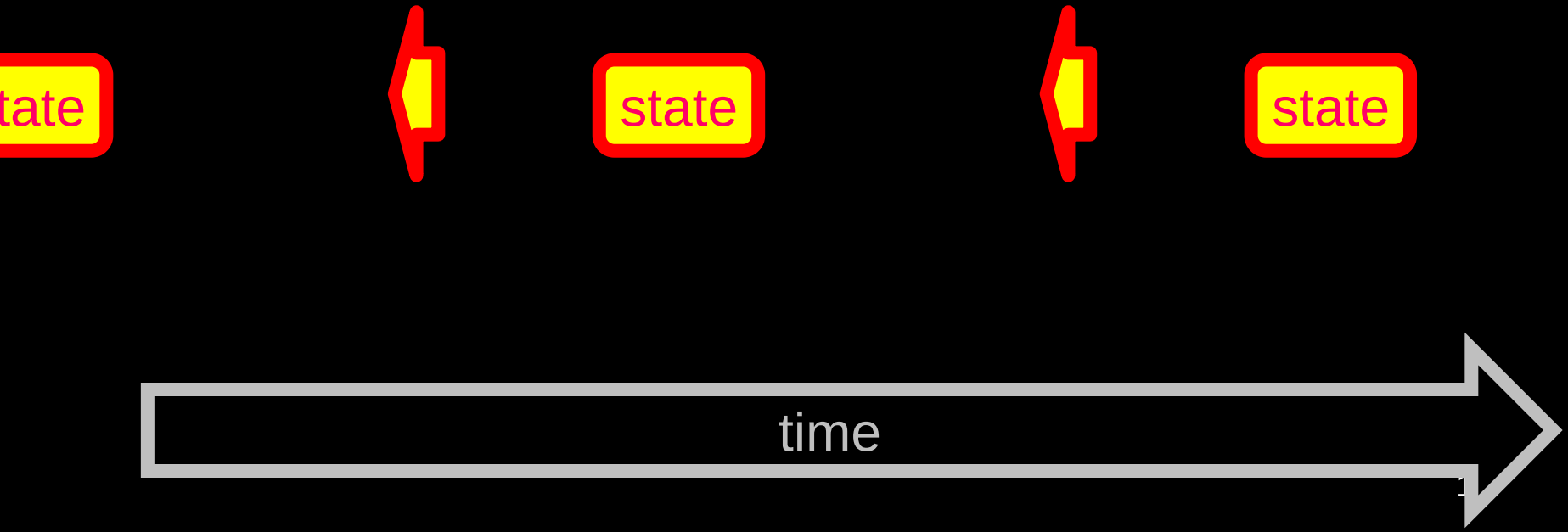
time

Chain of Blocks

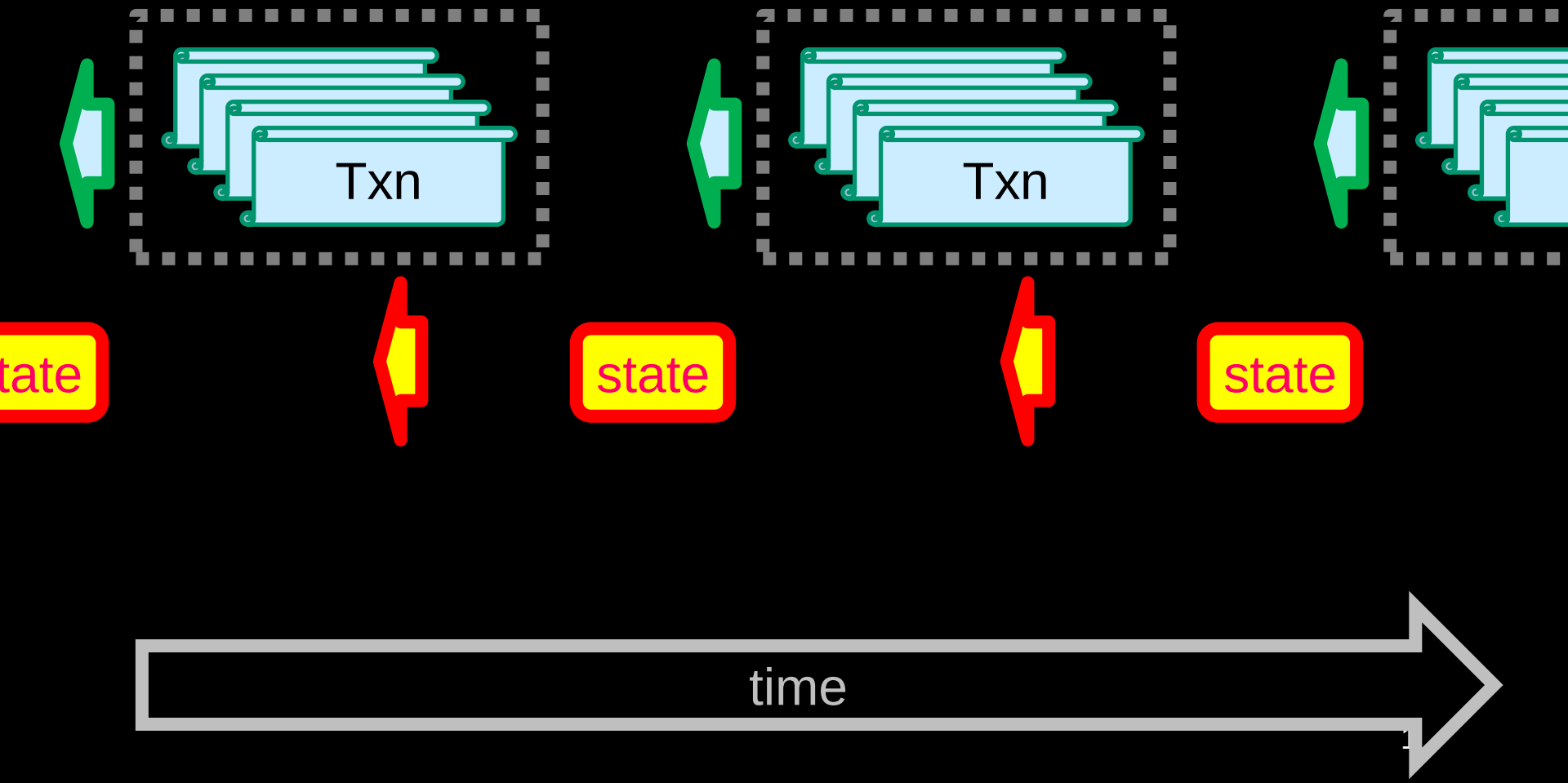




Chain of States

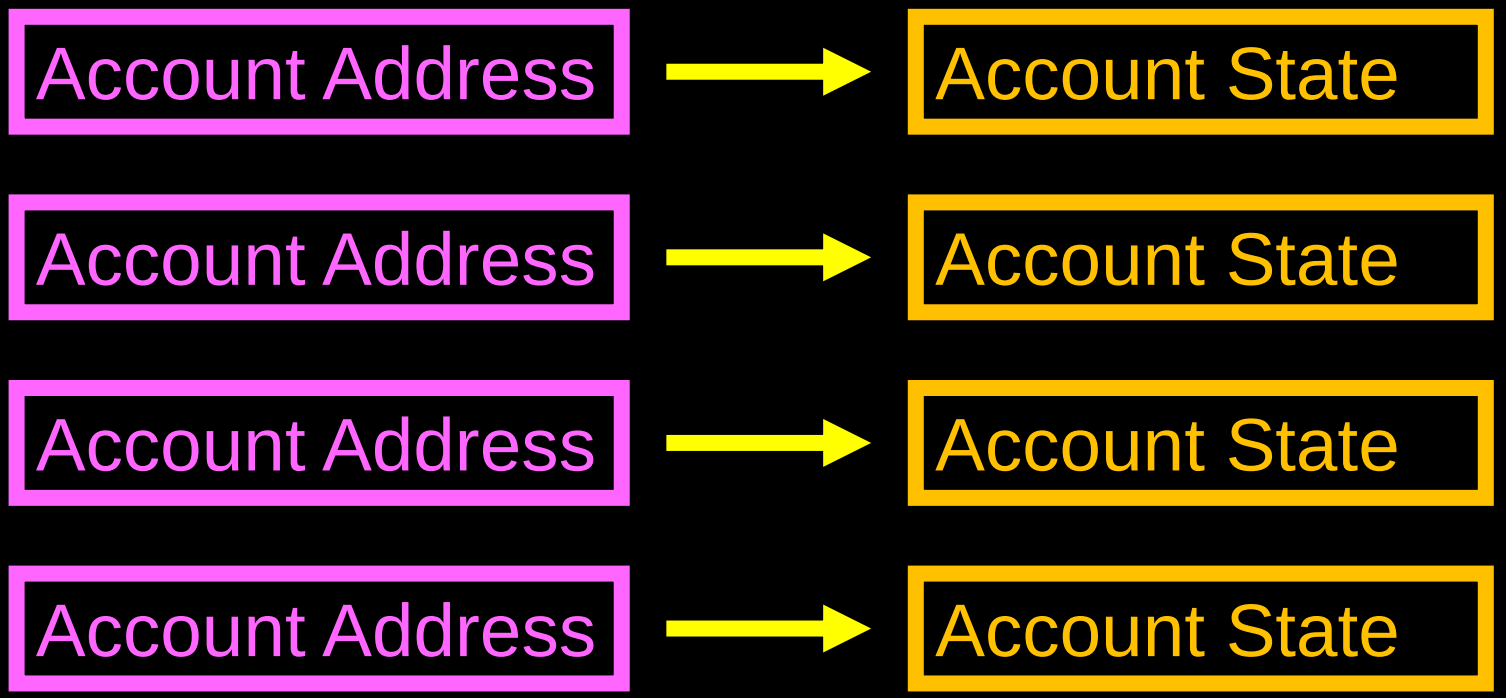


Block-State Duality



Ethereum State

Ethereum State



External Account

Owned by person or organization

Controlled by private keys

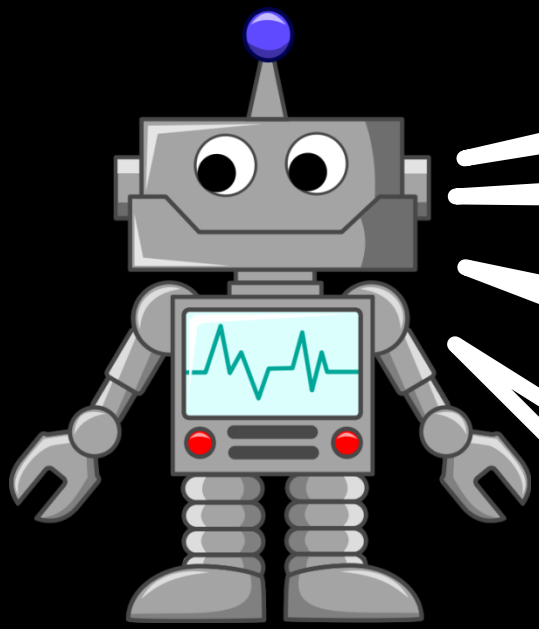
Holds currency balance

Active agent: transfers currency, calls contract code

External Account

Address → balance

Contract Account



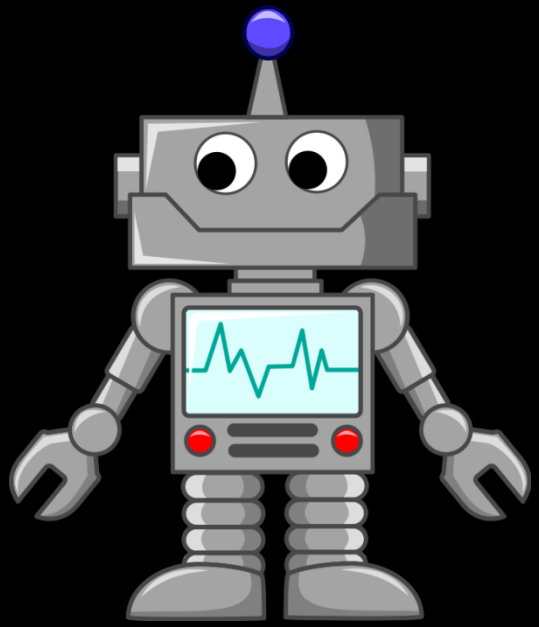
Holds currency balance

Associated with code

Passive Agent:
code called by other accounts

code can transfer money,
call other contracts

Contract Account

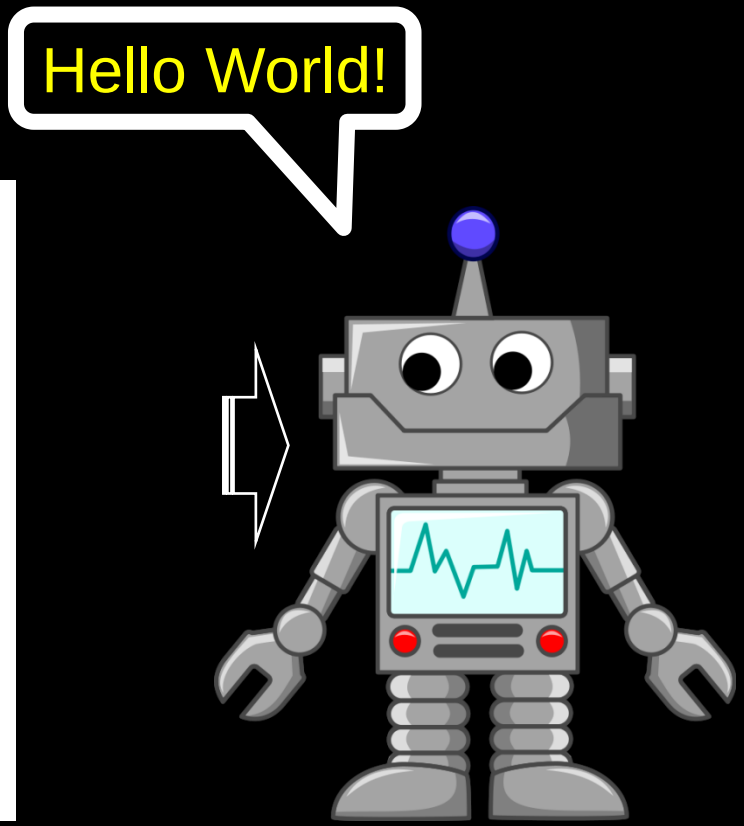


Address → balance, code, storage

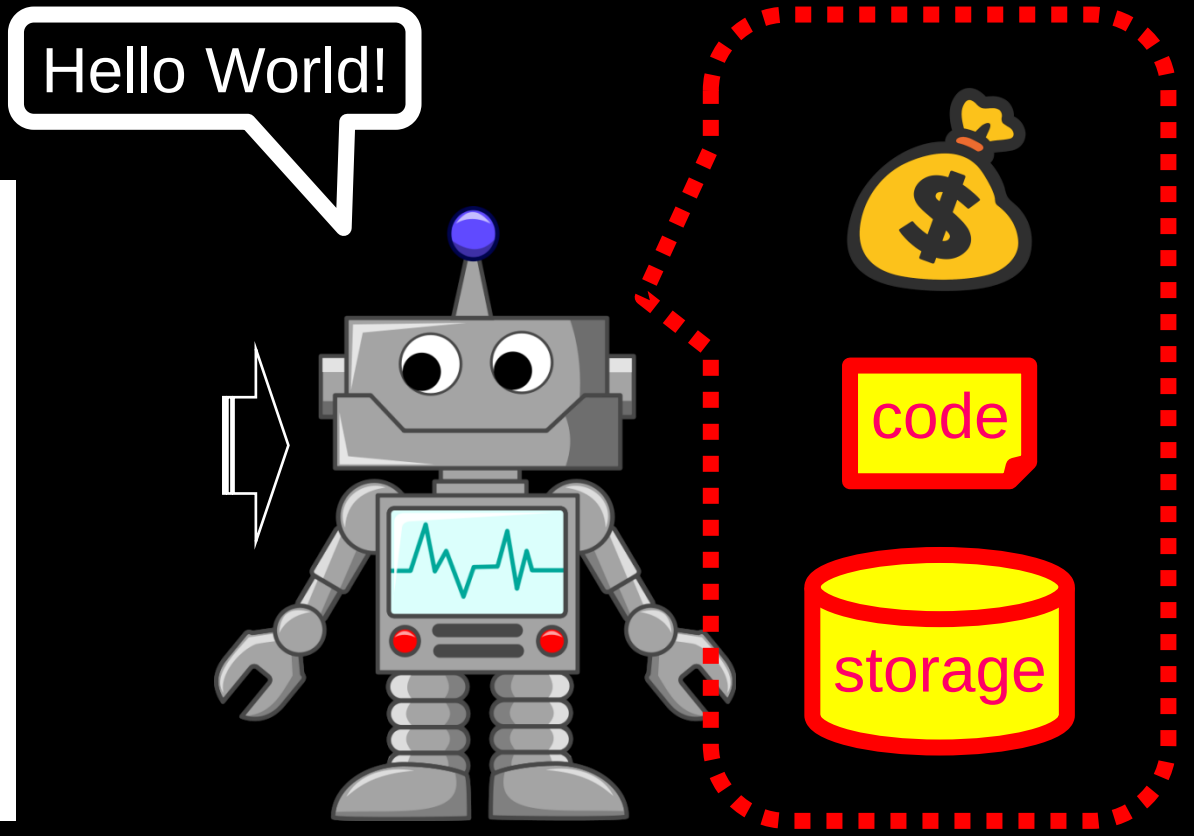
Transaction Creation

Contract Creation Transaction

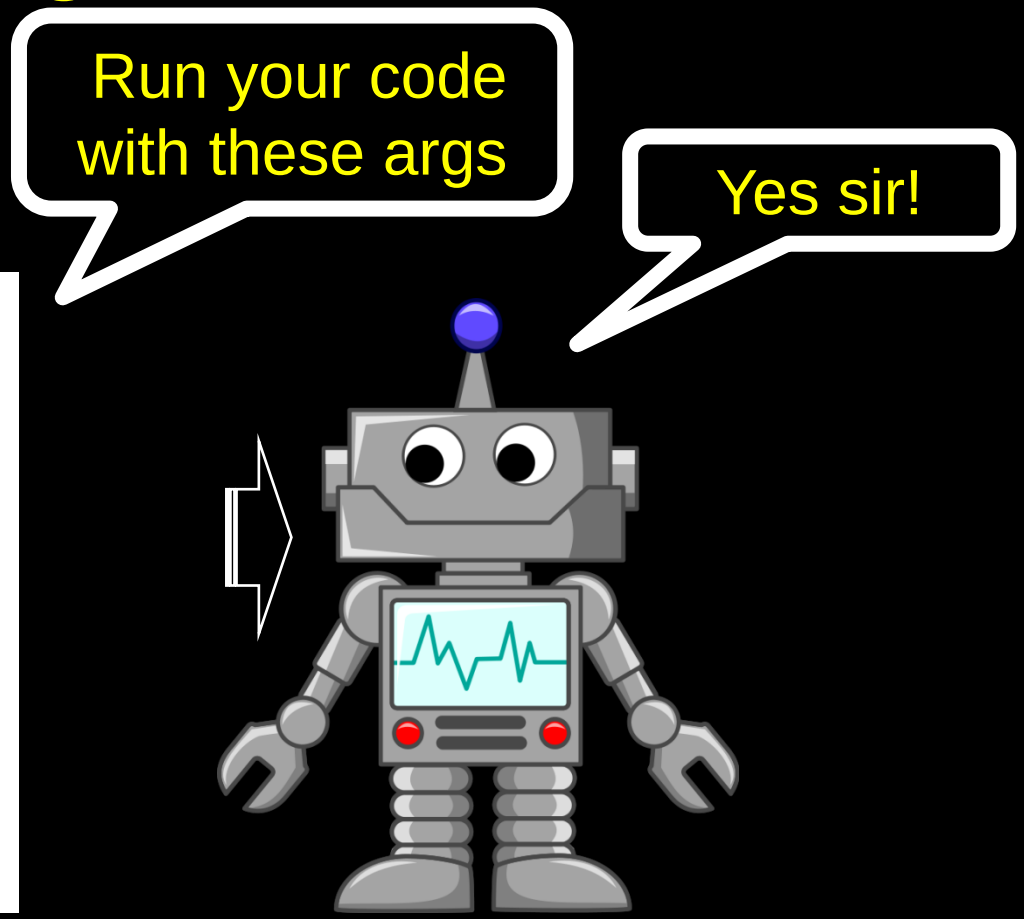
Contract Creation Transaction



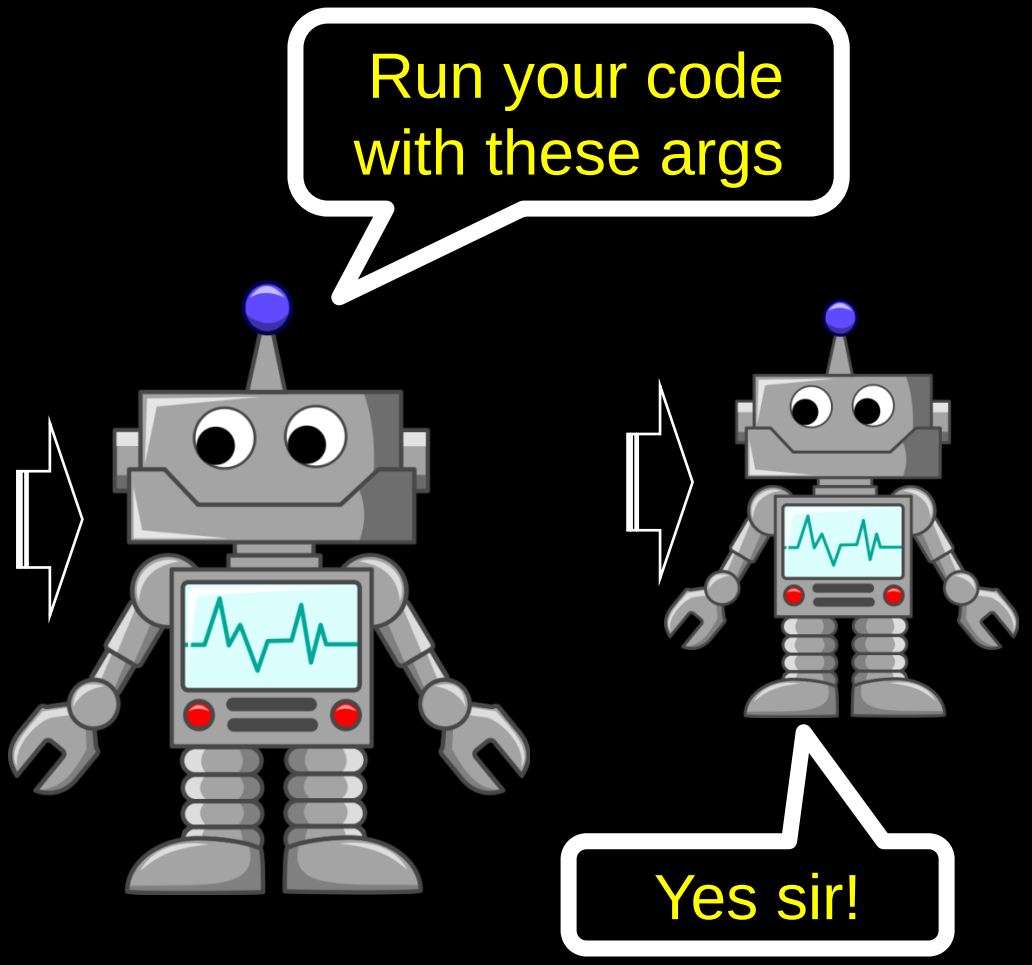
Contract Creation Transaction



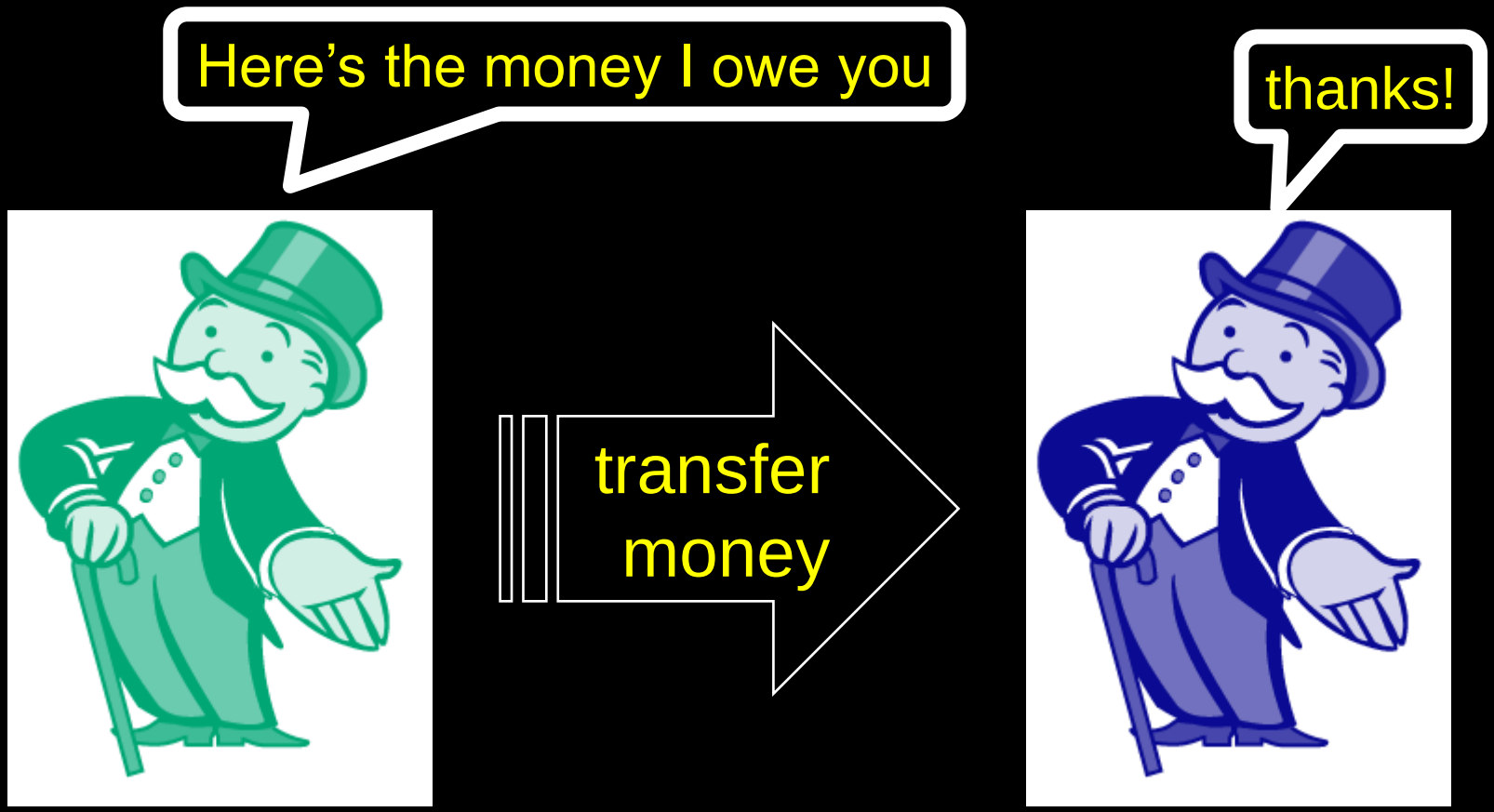
Message Call Transaction



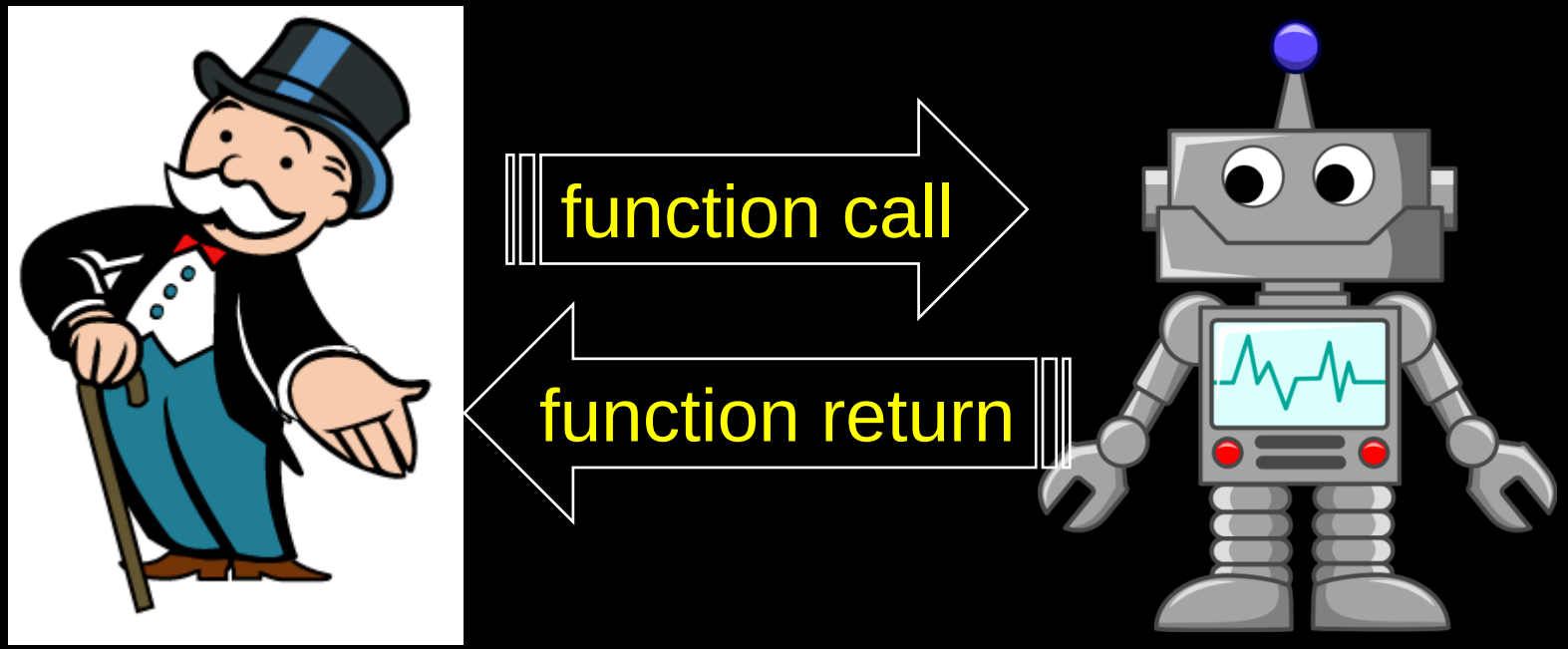
Message Call Transaction



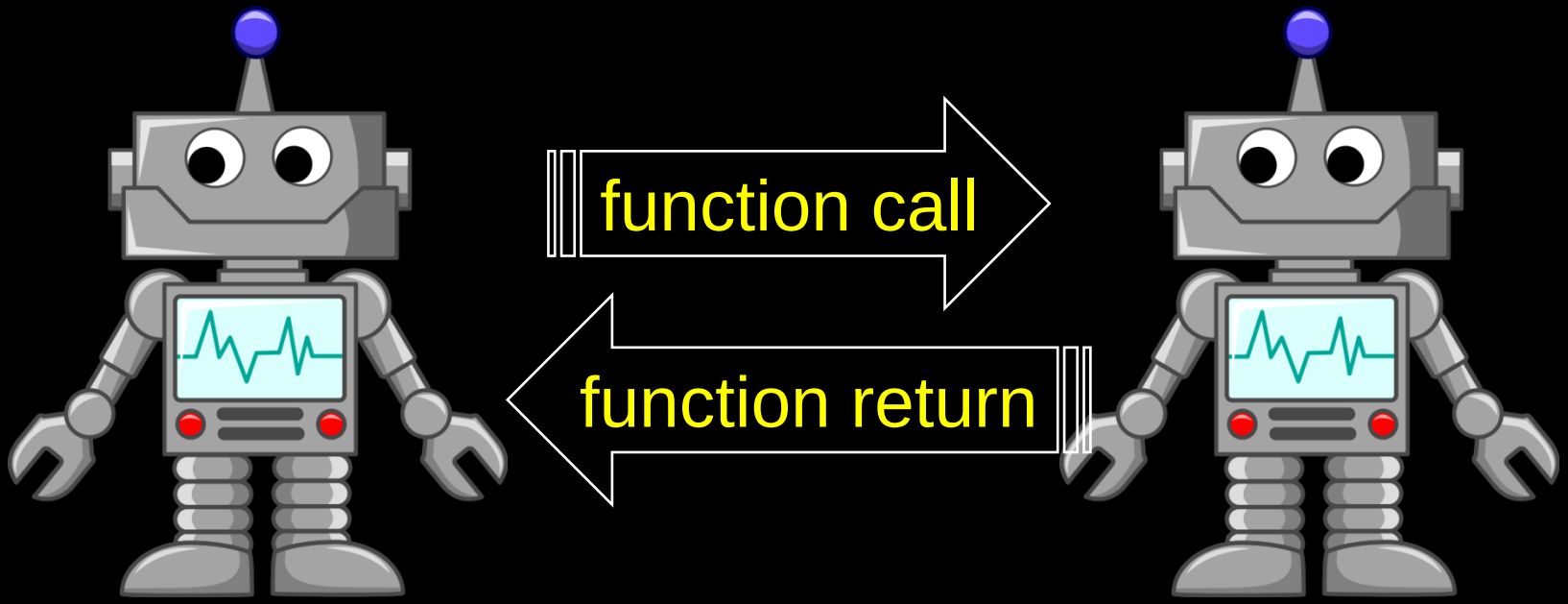
External to External Message



External to Contract & Vice-Versa



Contract to Contract Message



Questions?

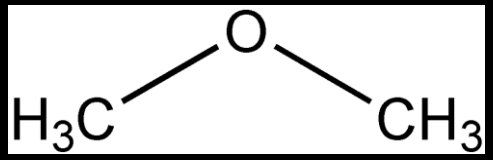
Take 15 seconds to reflect …

Unmute and ask!

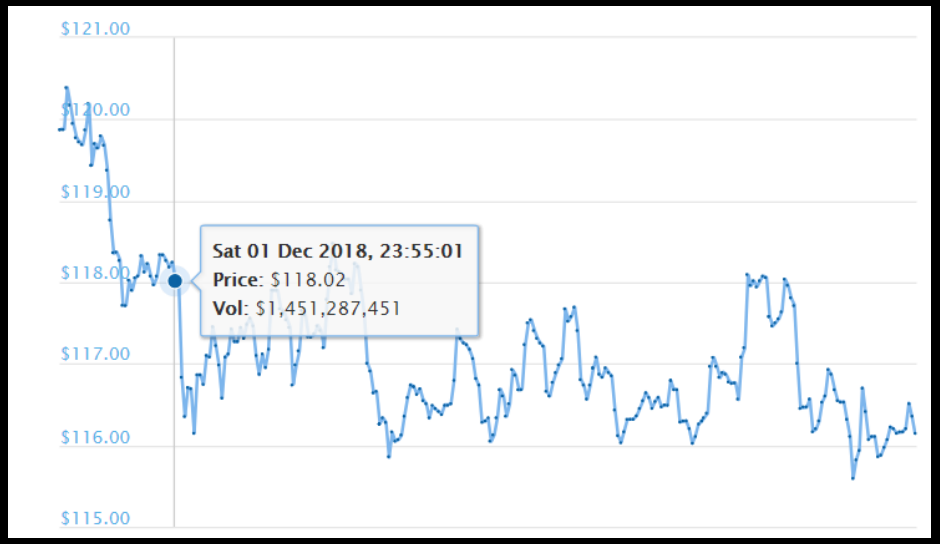
Money, Honey

Native currency called *ether*

not this



but this



Gas

Caller pays fee for each transaction step

Denial of Service attacks expensive

Gas

Each step has fixed “gas” fee

But gas price in Ether up to caller!

Low price means low priority …

And vice-versa

Gas

If a call runs out of gas …

Effects discarded

Gas not refunded

If a call has leftover gas …

Unused gas refunded

Block Gas Limit

Bitcoin has limit on block *size*

Ethereum has limit on block *gas*

Block full when transactions' gas costs reach limit

We will see how this can be exploited later

Questions?

Take 15 seconds to reflect …

Unmute and ask!

Transaction Fields

Gas price

Value

Gas limit

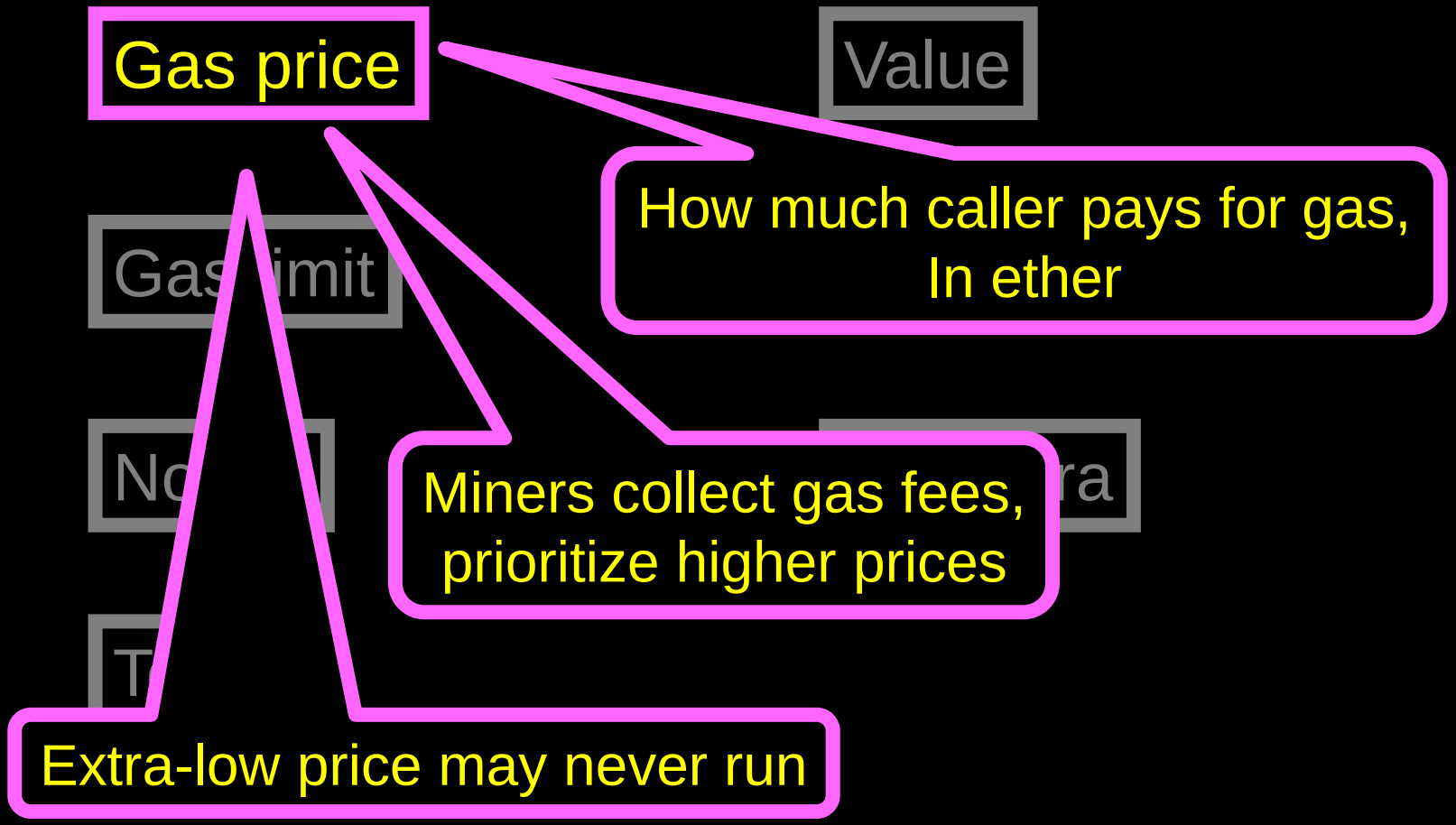
Data

Nonce

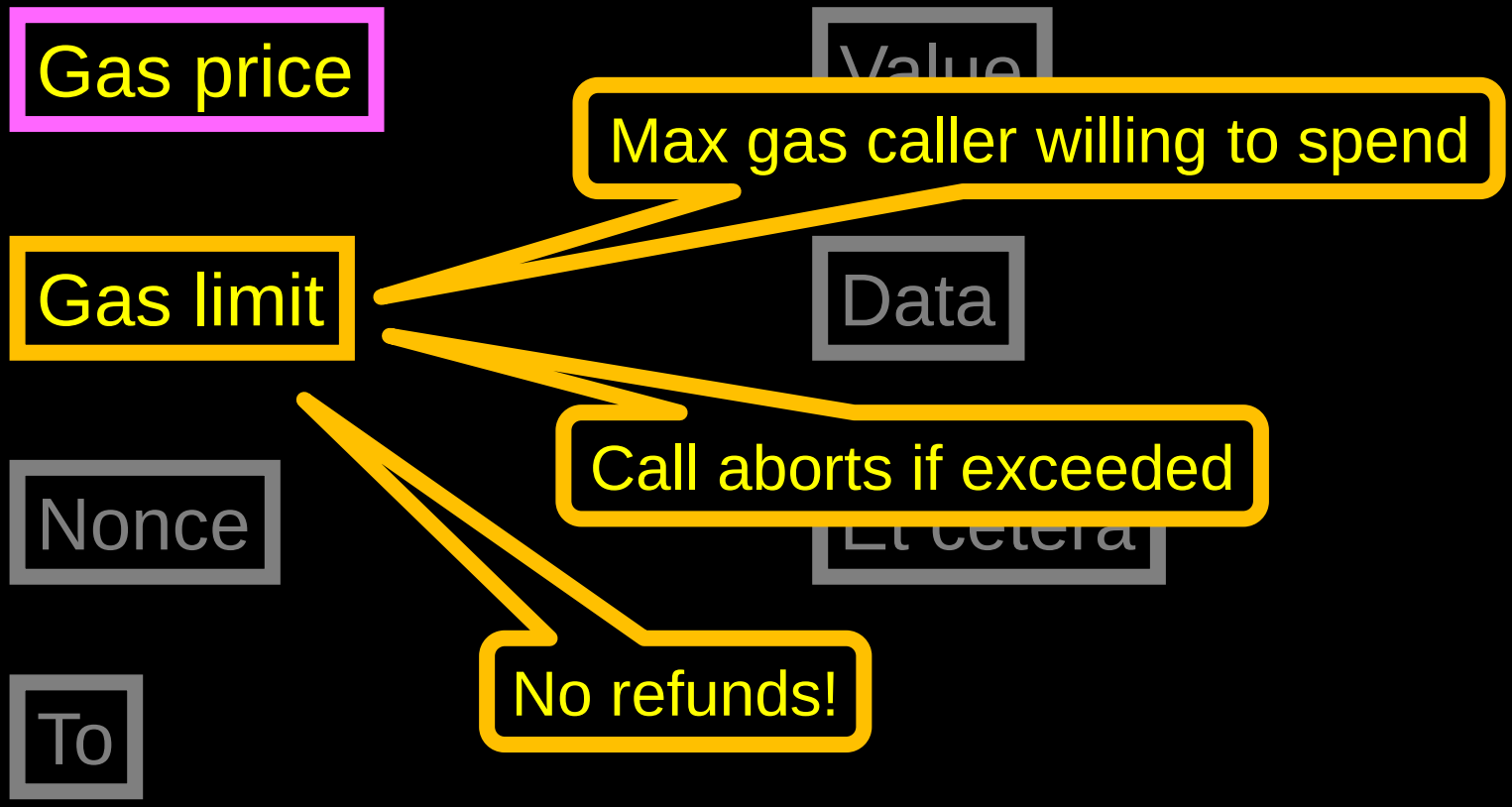
Et cetera

To

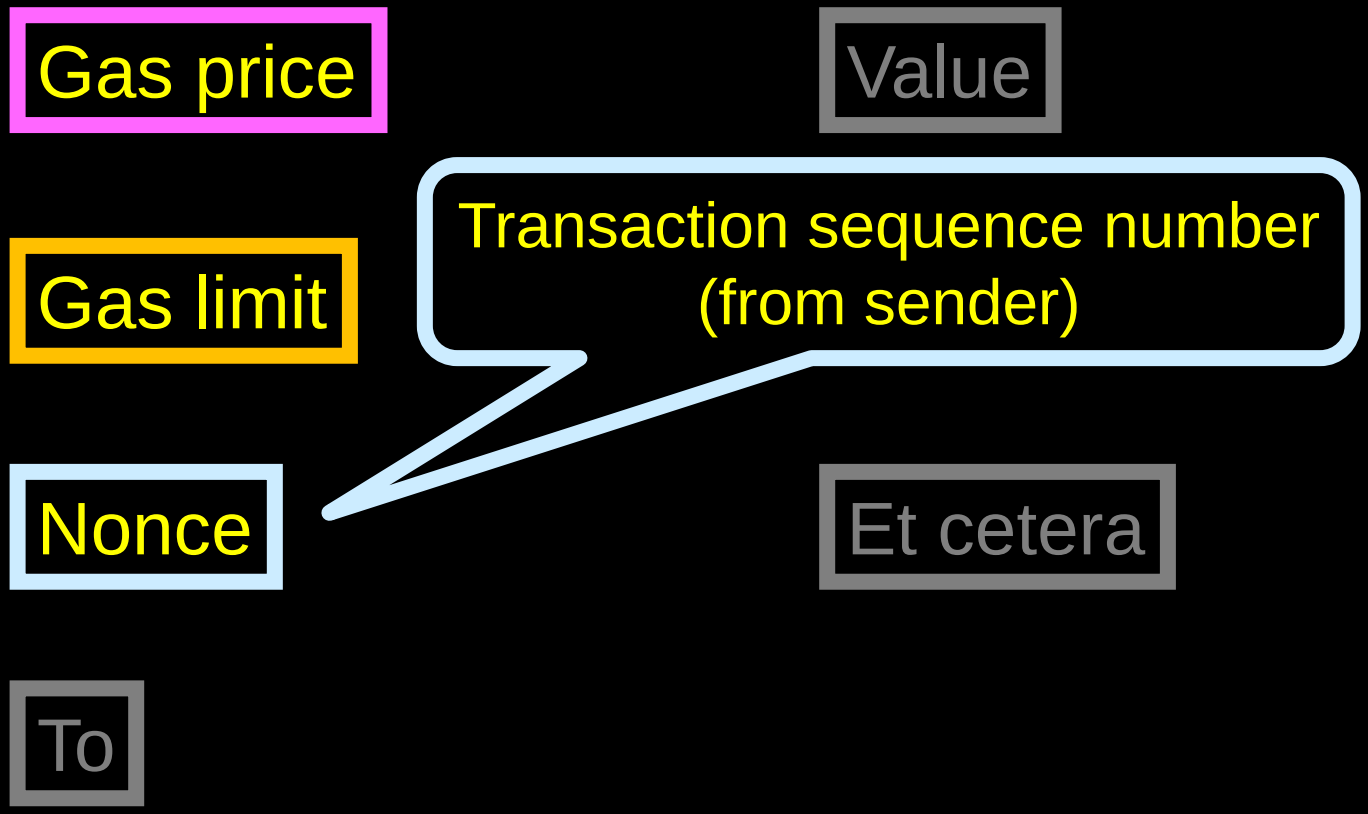
Transaction Fields



Transaction Fields



Transaction Fields



Transaction Fields

Gas price

Gas limit

Nonce

To

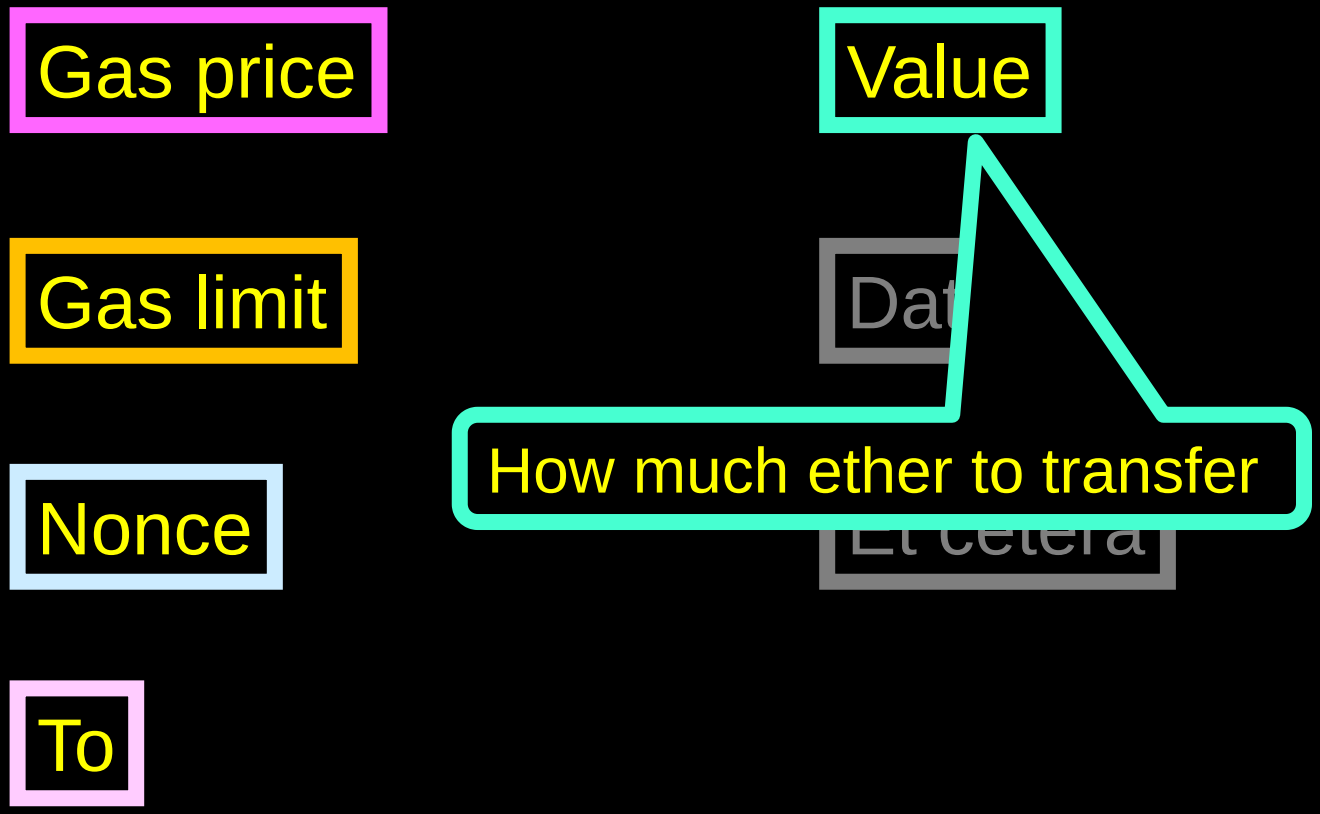
destination address
(external or contract)

Value

Data

Et cetera

Transaction Fields



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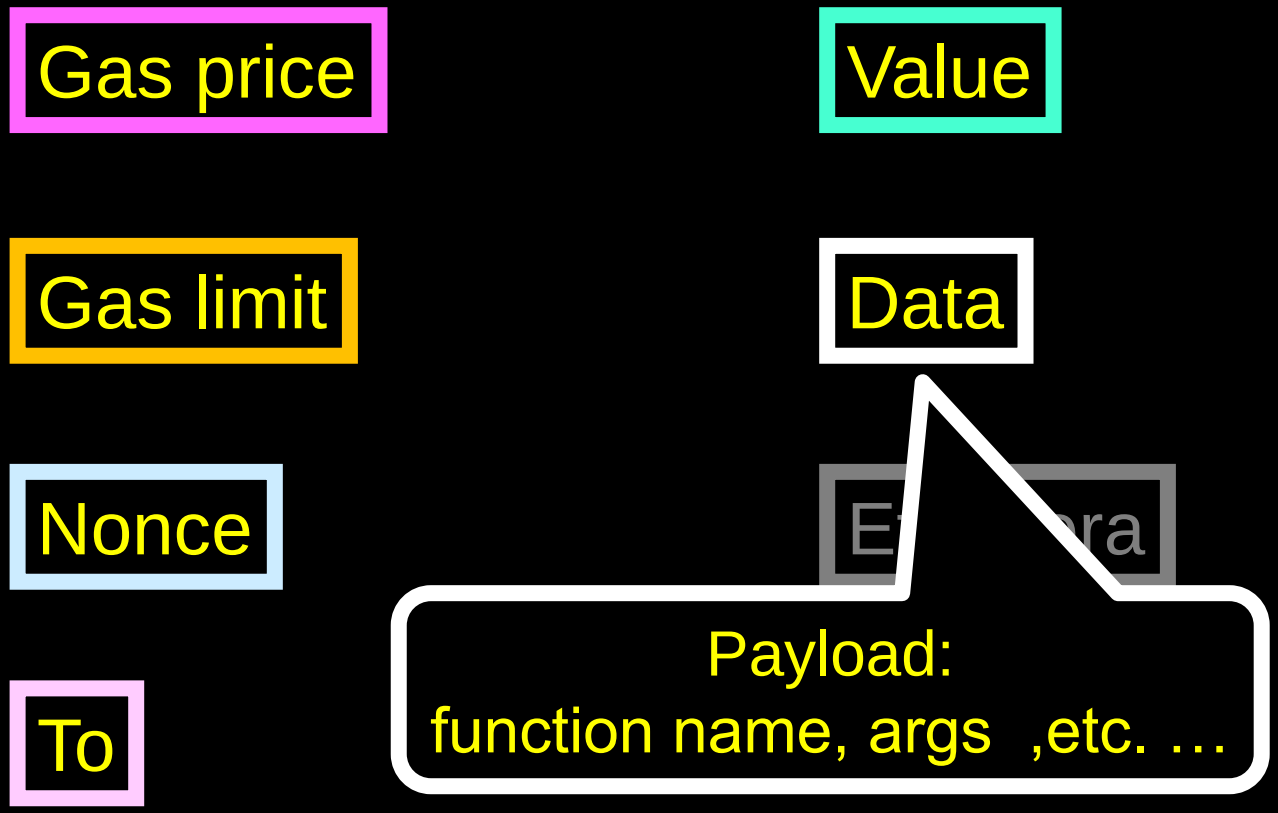


Transaction Fields

Gas price

Value

Gas limit

Data

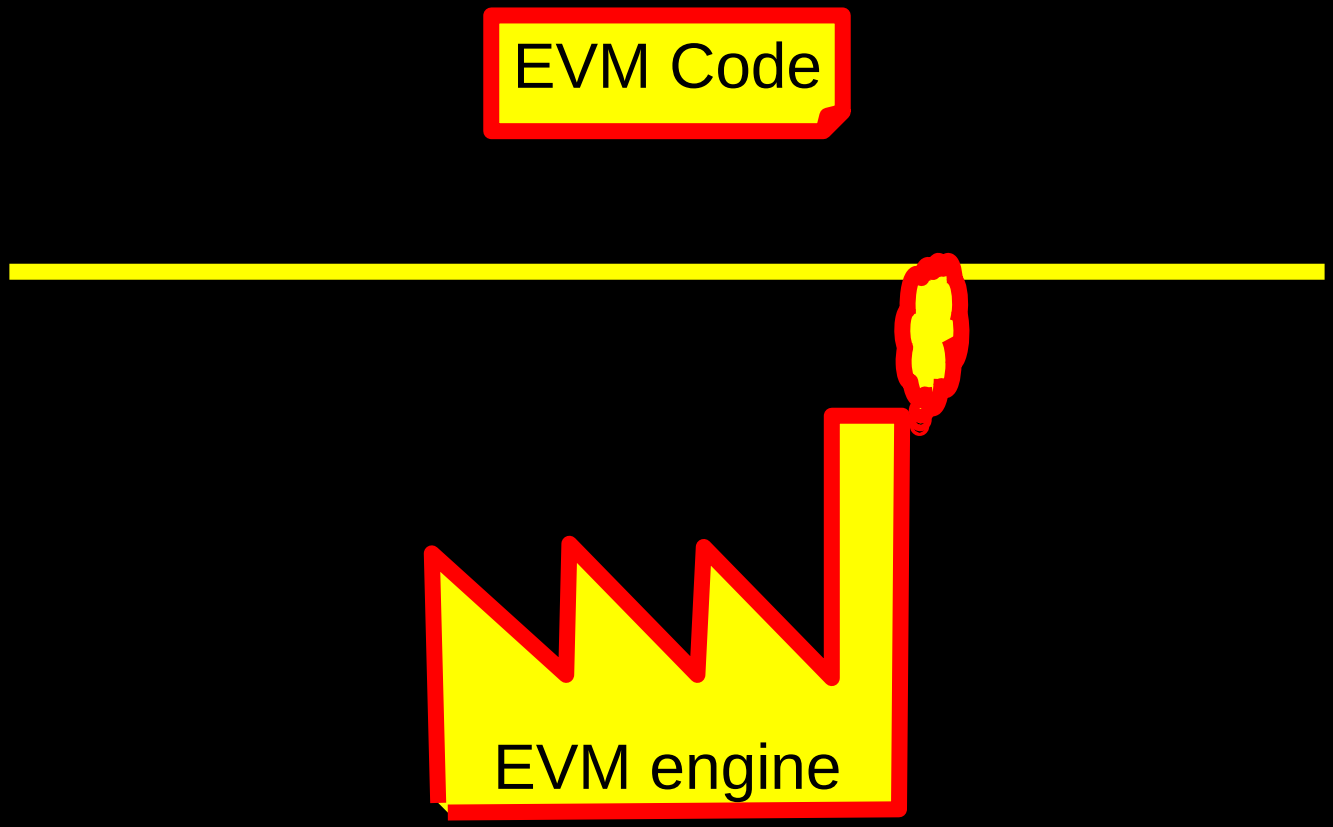
Nonce

Et cetera

To

ECDSA signature args ….

Ethereum Virtual Machine



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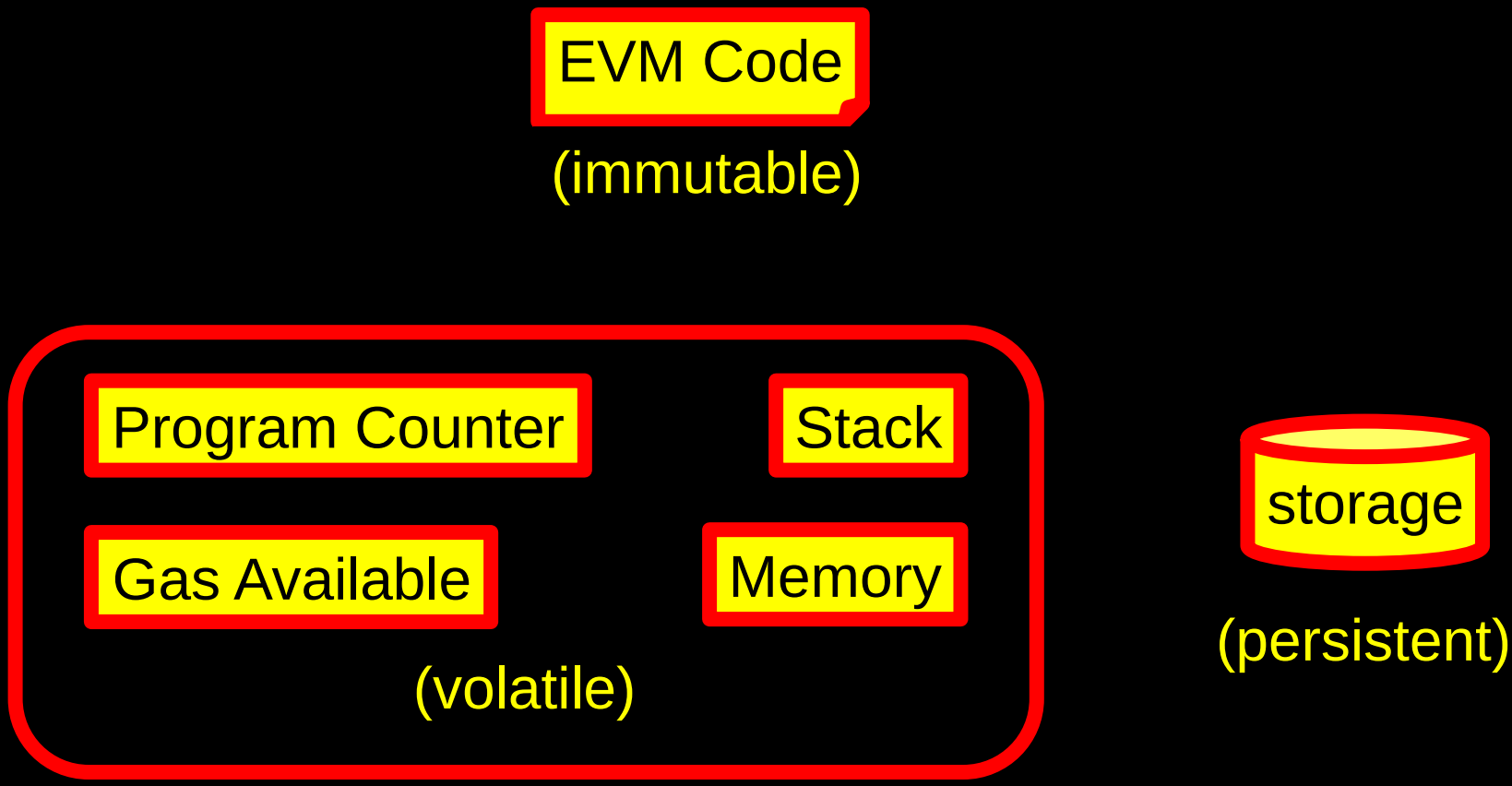
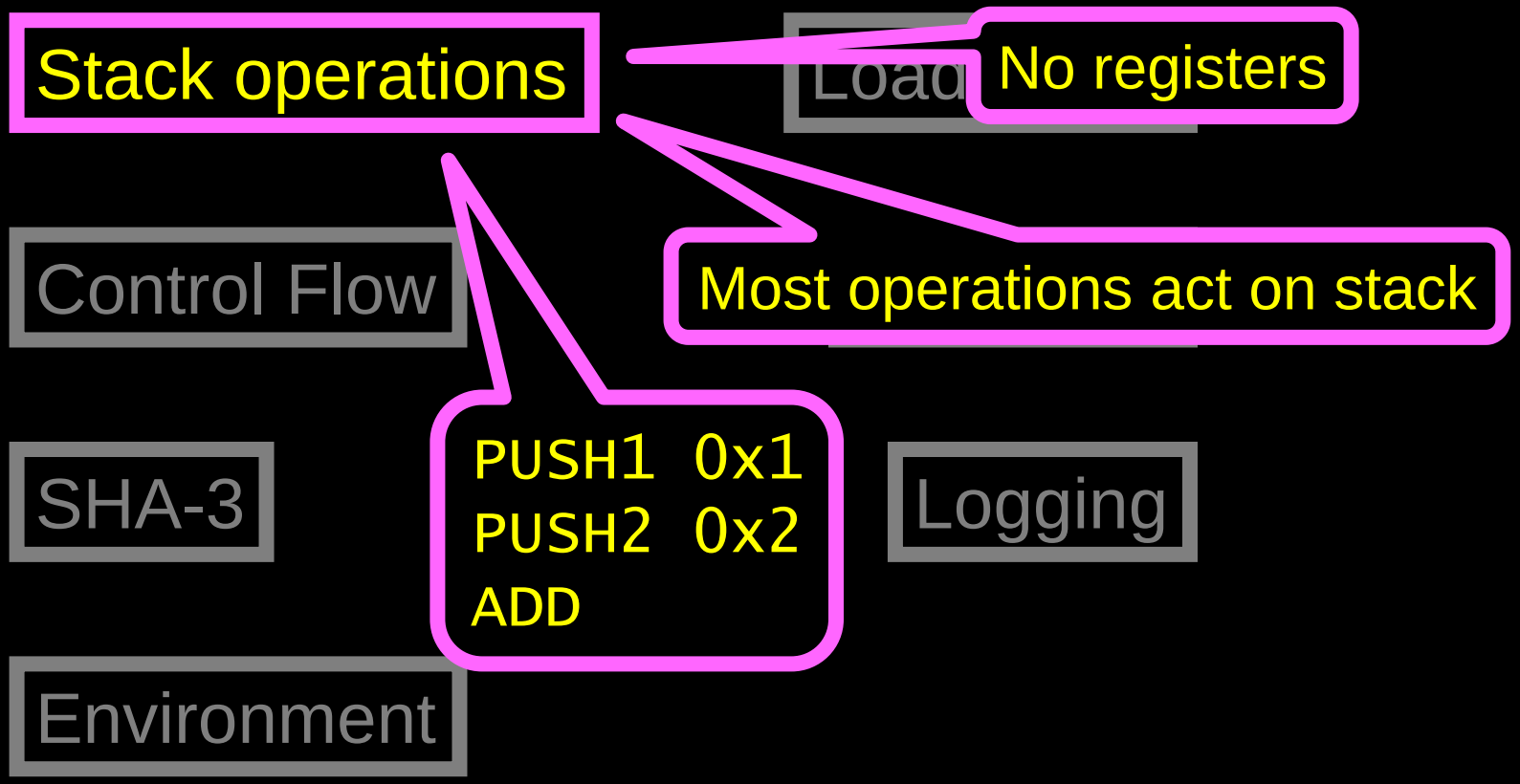


Types of Instructions



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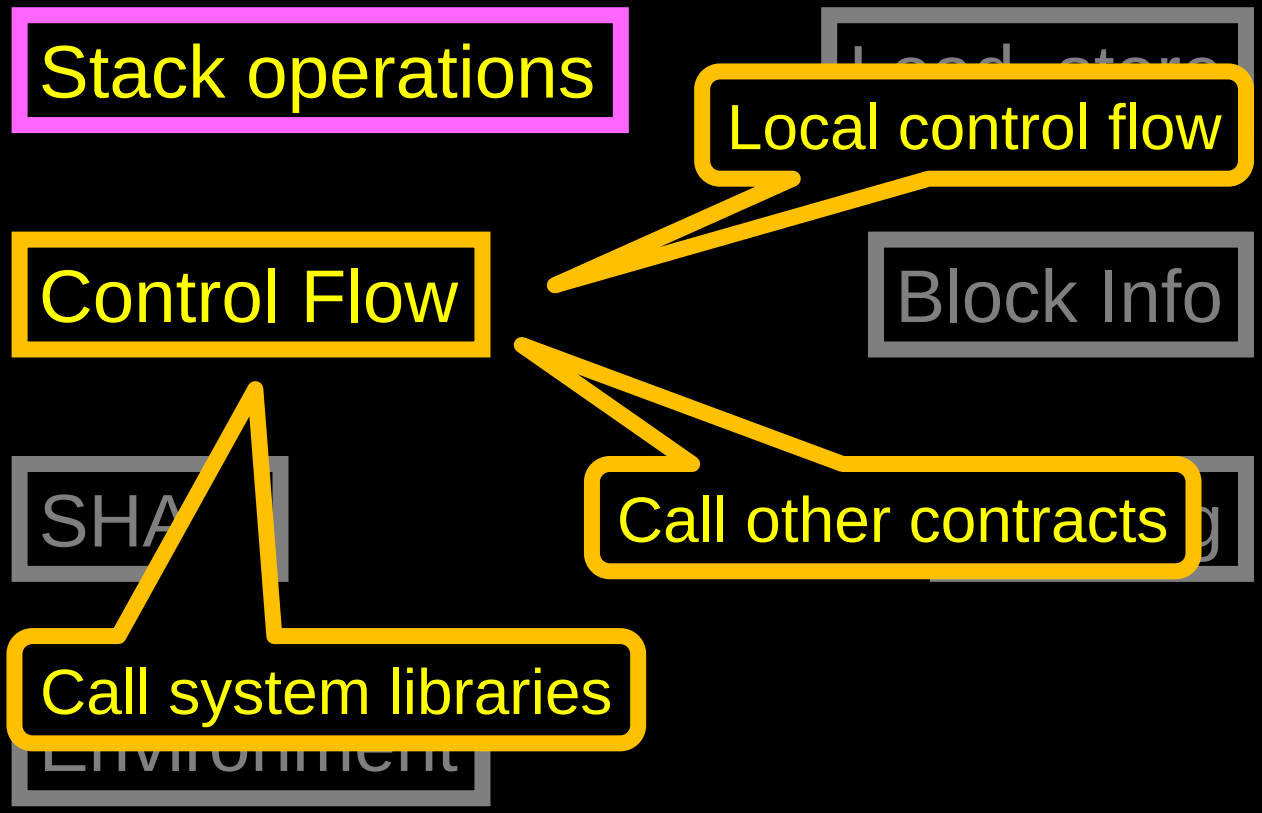

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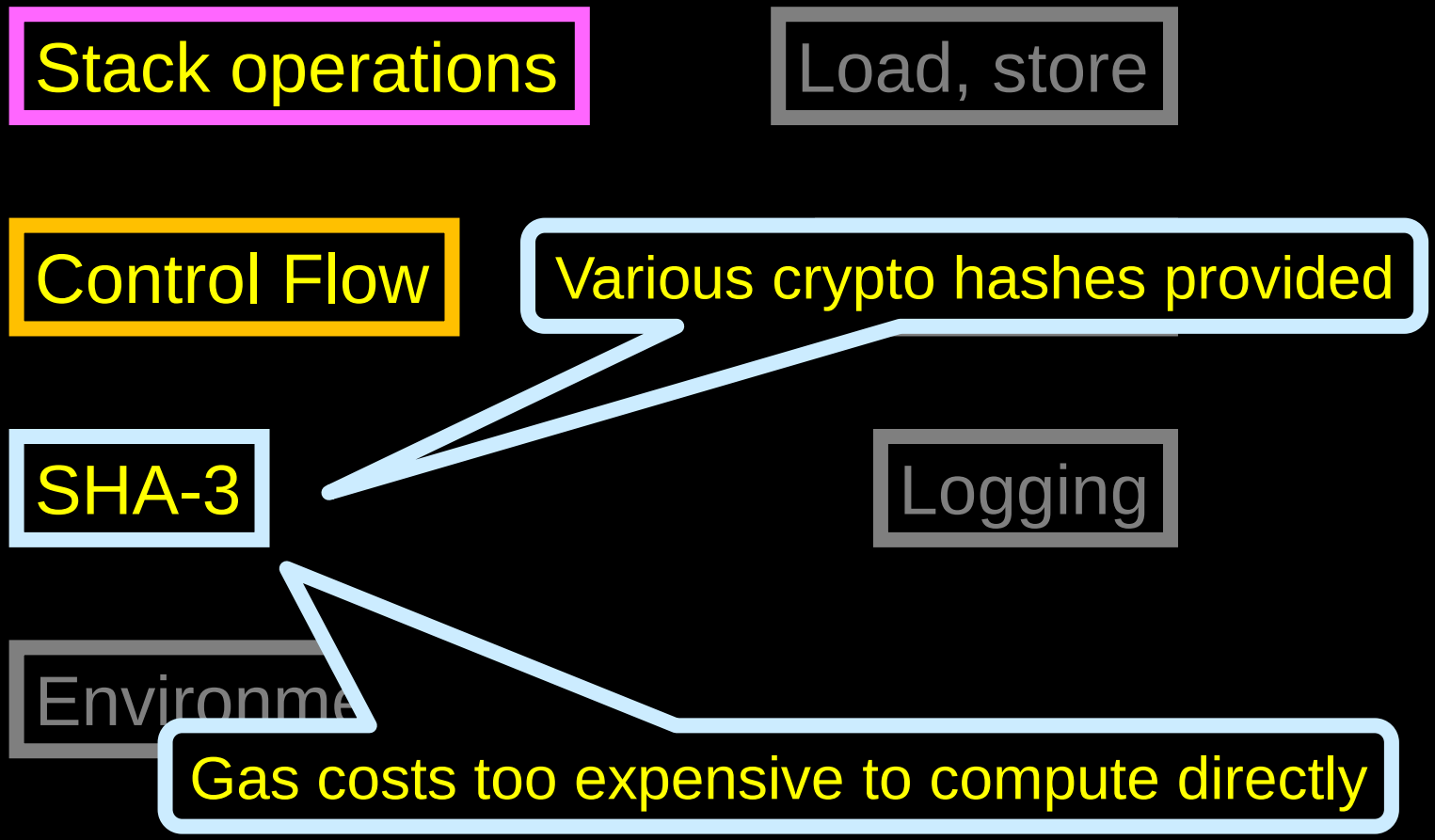

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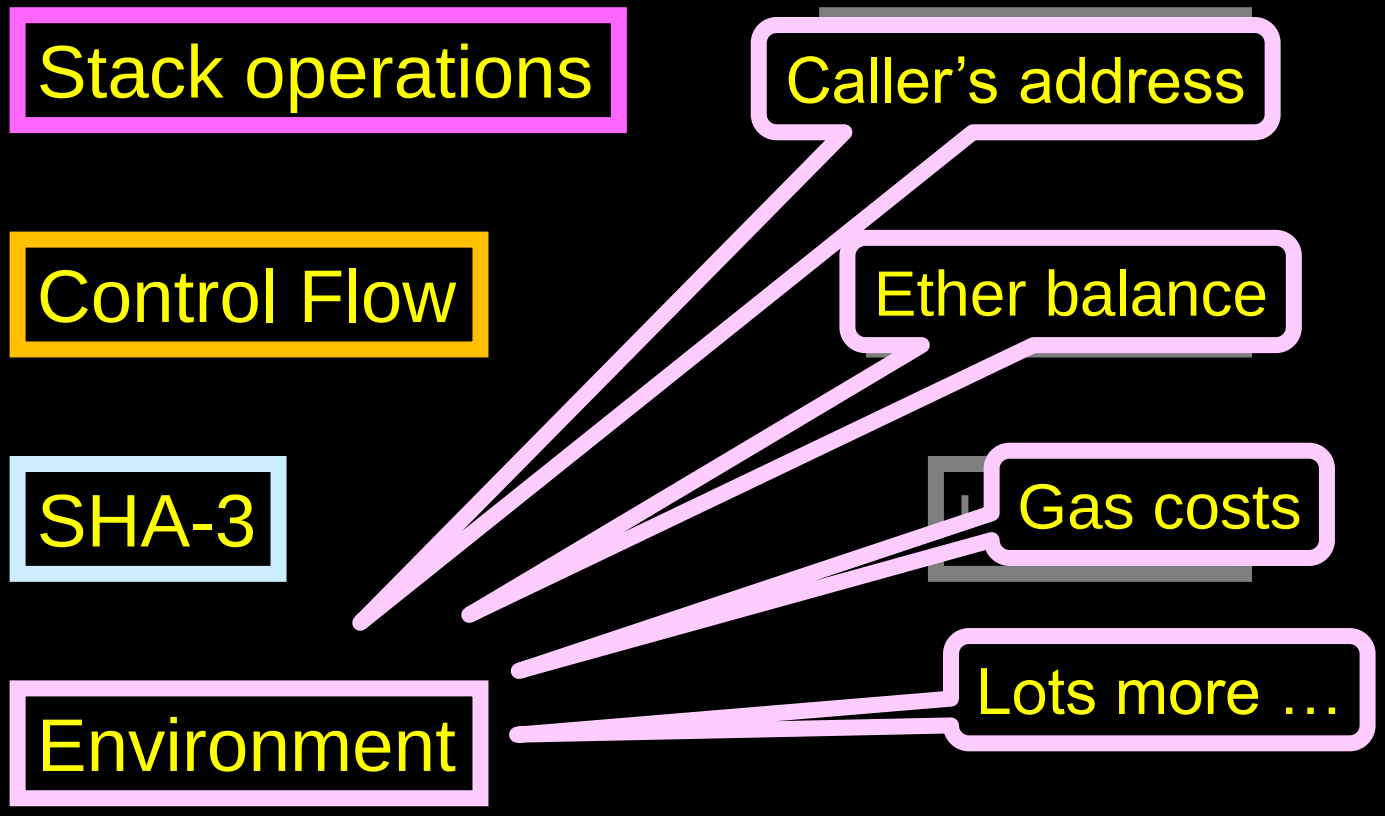

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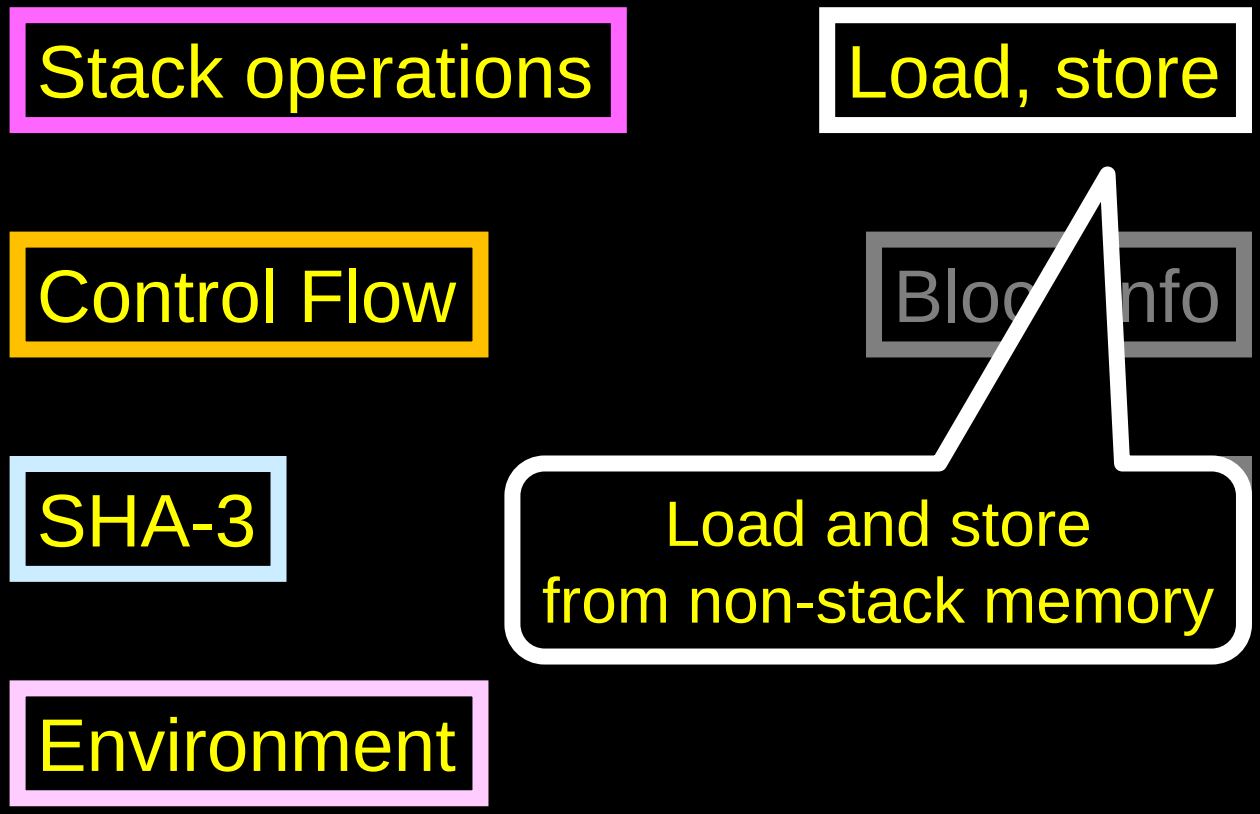

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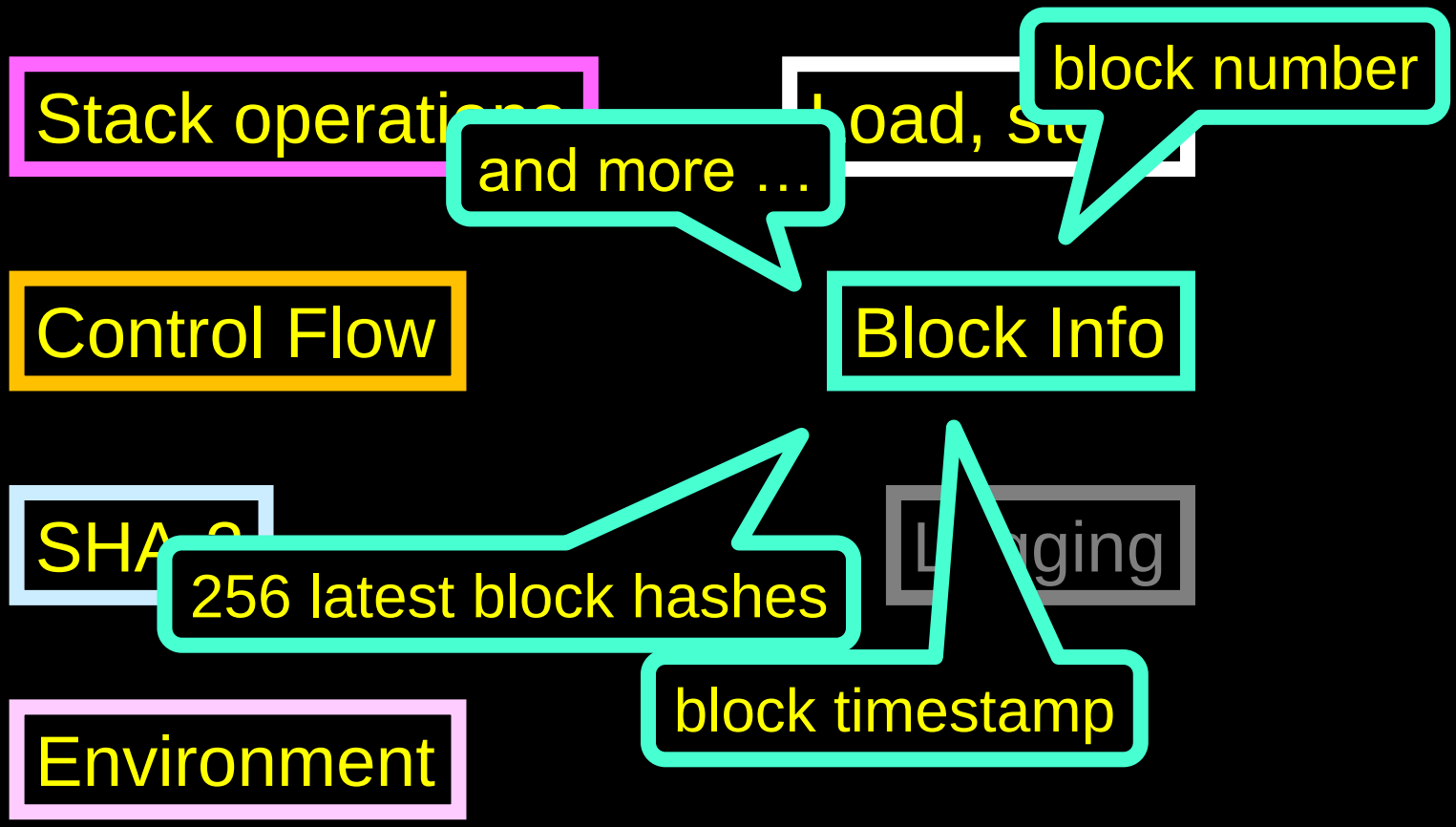

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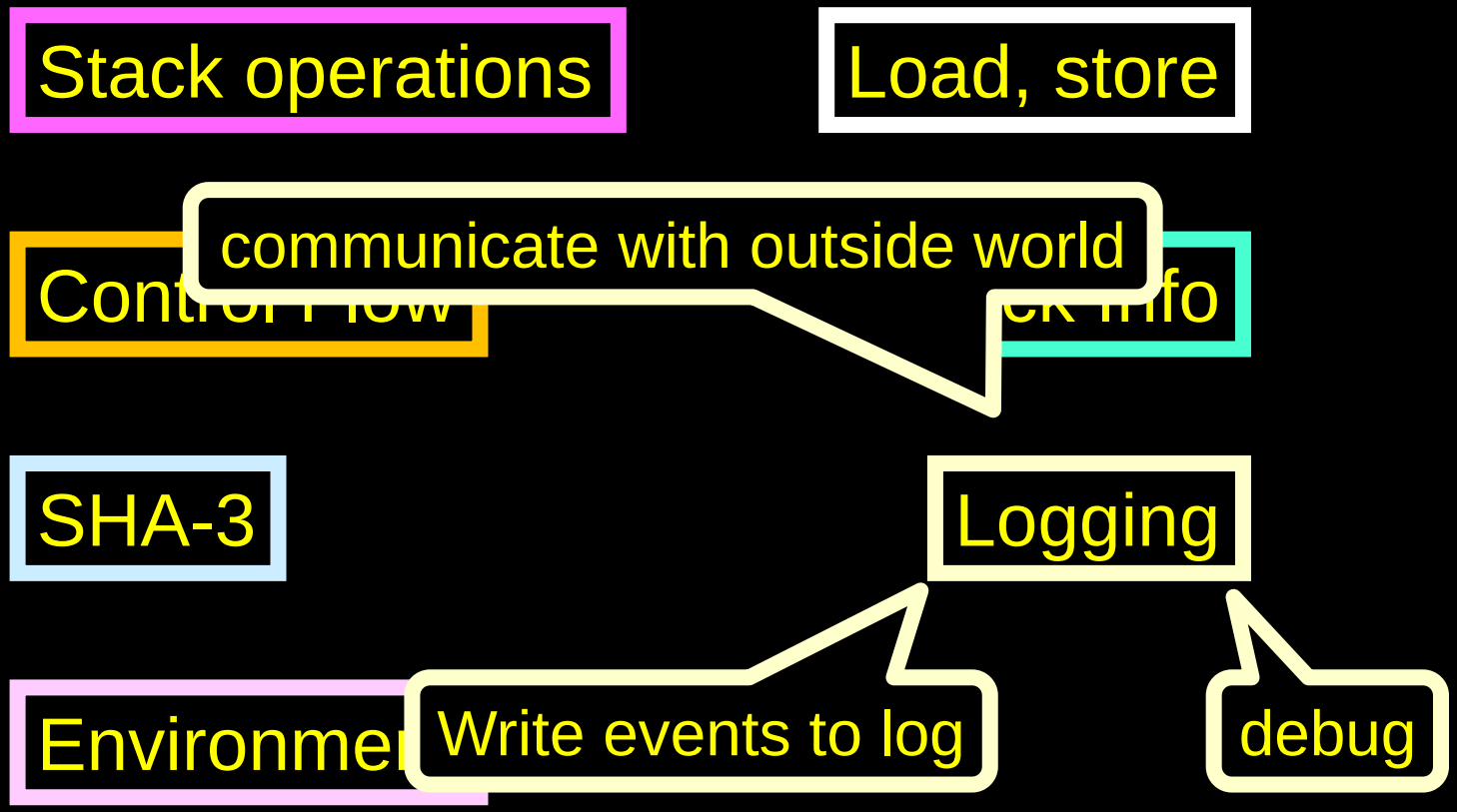

Source : Ethereum Virtual Machine, CS1951 L by
Maurice Herlihy
Brown University

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