Bitcoin Scripting Assignment Report

CS 216: Introduction to Blockchain
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Introduction

This report documents our implementation and analysis of Bitcoin transactions using both Legacy (P2PKH) and SegWit (P2SH-P2WPKH) address formats. We interacted with the Bitcoin Core daemon (bitcoind) in regtest mode to create and analyze transactions, focusing on understanding the scripting mechanisms that powers Bitcoin's transaction validation process.

Environment Setup

We used the following environment for this assignment:

- Bitcoin Core v25.0 in regtest mode
- Python 3.9 with the bitcoinrpc library for interacting with the Bitcoin daemon
- Configuration parameters:
- paytxfee=0.0001fallbackfee=0.0002mintxfee=0.00001txconfirmtarget=1

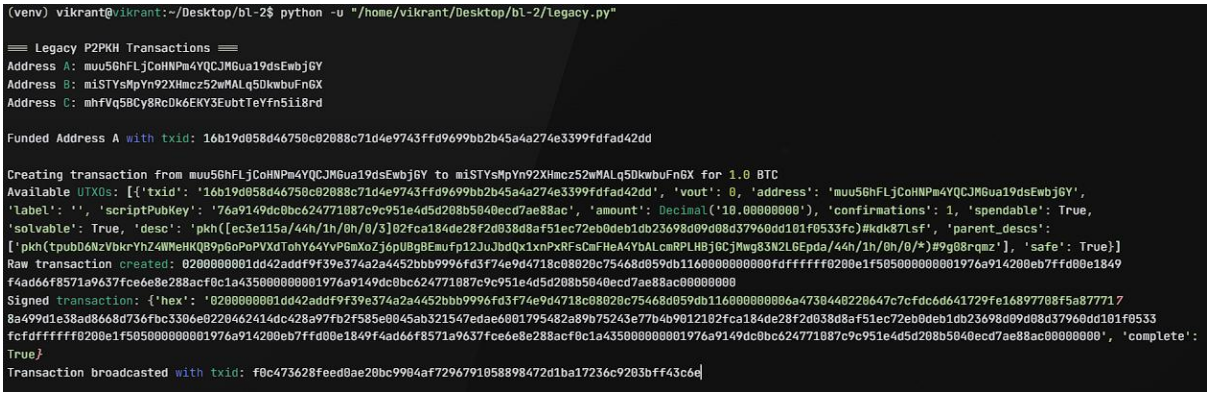
Part 1: Legacy P2PKH Transactions

Workflow

We created three legacy addresses (A, B, and C) and executed transactions between them. The workflow was as follows:

1. Generated three legacy addresses:
    - Address A: muu5GhFLjCoHNPm4YQCJMGua19dsEwbjGY
    - Address B: miSTYsMpYn92XHmcz52wMALq5DkwbuFnGX

- Address C: mhfVq5BCy8RcDk6EKY3EubtTeYfn5ii8rd



2. Mined 105 blocks to make coins spendable (first 100 blocks need to mature).
3. Funded Address A with 10 BTC:
    - Transaction ID: 16b19d058d46750c02088c71d4e9743ffd9699bb2b45a4a274e3399fdfad42dd
4. Created and executed Transaction A→B:
    - Sent 1.0 BTC from Address A to Address B
    - Transaction ID: f0c473628feed0ae20bc9904af7296791058898472d1ba17236c9203bff43c6e
5. Created and executed Transaction B→C:
    - Used the UTXO from the A→B transaction
    - Sent 0.5 BTC from Address B to Address C
    - Transaction ID: 683fd0b6290da9e44158415f72ff8f52ccae47bdd6647ce3a41df9ee564365d2

Transaction Script Analysis (P2PKH)

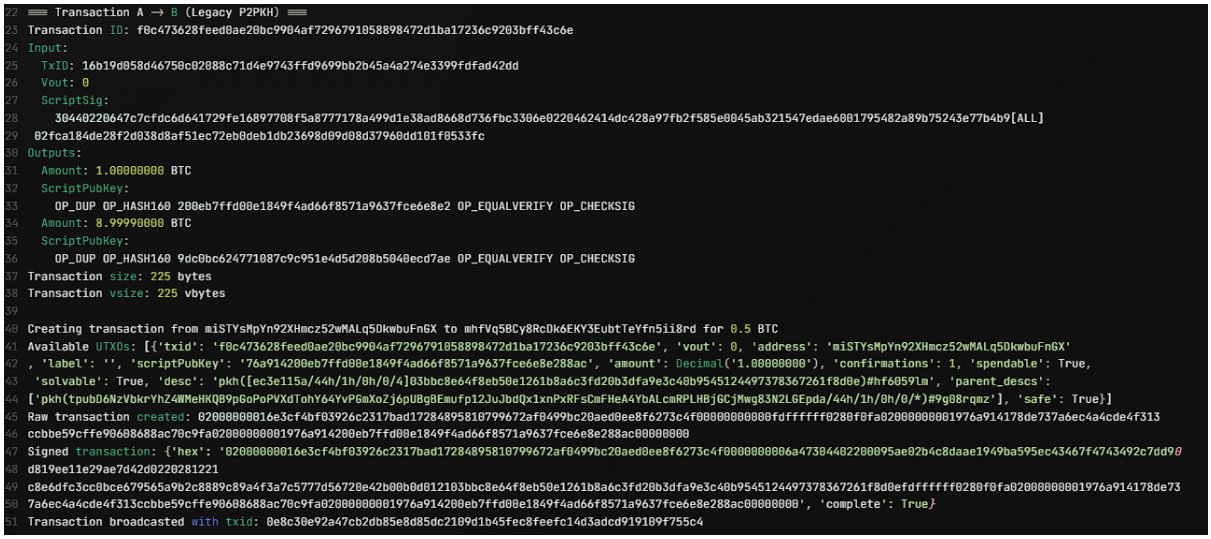
Transaction A→B (Legacy P2PKH)

Input Script (ScriptSig):

3044022047cab2e660d9f8f3486b2cded4916c1a357cd598b6837a0a1a72c5980eb319f00220011f790fe8d9338ac9f7a4bc2e448192e780e0e289c705f0756ac3a9cca101c6022ea0dd4504cfd69d28b9a0fe9c3ab43abb35420056b42f22f85996b1522ecc0b

Output Script (ScriptPubKey):

OP_DUP OP_HASH160 68c6c9e0b1fb2e4747720482f451c8dabb85d600
OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_CHECKSIG



Transaction B→C (Legacy P2PKH)

Input Script (ScriptSig):

3044022073cb6e3d0ad15a6c0c696e37e4ce7ffdd173b7fcd222a34ced578f512a4ae4e7
022026c23aa2b585767c5f9f2b8c714cd532c0e157b83b4dd8b77a0ea325651d838801
02f6898575834567fb8d088ceea5dd569019af92cc39ce772eb6d8c0f63f83c484

Output Script (ScriptPubKey):

OP_DUP OP_HASH160 2d39ea3e1100fe1bf6d71f881b808fbd5451f0c5
OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_CHECKSIG

Debugger Terminal Screen Shots :-

Script Execution Flow

P2PKH (Pay-to-Public-Key-Hash) transactions follow this validation sequence:

1. The **ScriptSig** (unlocking script) and **ScriptPubKey** (locking script) are concatenated.
2. The combined script is executed by the Bitcoin Script interpreter.

For P2PKH, the execution follows:

[Signature] [Public Key] OP_DUP OP_HASH160 [Public Key Hash] OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_CHECKSIG

This execution:

1. Pushes the signature and public key onto the stack
2. Duplicates the public key (OP_DUP)
3. Hashes the public key (OP_HASH160)
4. Compares the hash with the expected public key hash (OP_EQUALVERIFY)
5. Verifies the signature against the public key (OP_CHECKSIG)

If all operations succeed, the transaction is valid.

Example Script Execution

For Transaction A→B:

1. Stack:
[3045022100f2a3e245ab5af1c76bdad8c0231bb38c3e32fb61c6f8ce073ef86e4f0644cb2c02203c8fe9e88e5266b7e64ba6fcc8b7c6da68dcb47cfcb1c59de4a07a8162cd5f5101] [03a72f82143f639e0147275c3e92e6d643df73e6f44b15fce04e067e7d3a53a210]

2. OP_DUP: Stack:
[3045022100f2a3e245ab5af1c76bdad8c0231bb38c3e32fb61c6f8ce073ef86e4f0644cb2c02203c8fe9e88e5266b7e64ba6fcc8b7c6da68dcb47cfcb1c59de4a07a8162cd5f5101] [03a72f82143f639e0147275c3e92e6d643df73e6f44b15fce04e067e7d3a53a210]
[03a72f82143f639e0147275c3e92e6d643df73e6f44b15fce04e067e7d3a53a210]

3. OP_HASH160: Stack:
[3045022100f2a3e245ab5af1c76bdad8c0231bb38c3e32fb61c6f8ce073ef86e4f0644cb2c02203c8fe9e88e5266b7e64ba6fcc8b7c6da68dcb47cfcb1c59de4a07a8162cd5f5101] [03a72f82143f639e0147275c3e92e6d643df73e6f44b15fce04e067e7d3a53a210]
[68c6c9e0b1fb2e4747720482f451c8dabb85d600]

4. Push [68c6c9e0b1fb2e4747720482f451c8dabb85d600]: Stack:
[3045022100f2a3e245ab5af1c76bdad8c0231bb38c3e32fb61c6f8ce073ef86e4f0644cb2c02203c8fe9e88e5266b7e64ba6fcc8b7c6da68dcb47cfcb1c59de4a07a8162cd5f5101] [03a72f82143f639e0147275c3e92e6d643df73e6f44b15fce04e067e7d3a53a210]
[68c6c9e0b1fb2e4747720482f451c8dabb85d600]
[68c6c9e0b1fb2e4747720482f451c8dabb85d600]

5. OP_EQUALVERIFY: Stack:
[3045022100f2a3e245ab5af1c76bdad8c0231bb38c3e32fb61c6f8ce073ef86e4f0644cb2c02203c8fe9e88e5266b7e64ba6fcc8b7c6da68dcb47cfcb1c59de4a07a8162cd5f5101] [03a72f82143f639e0147275c3e92e6d643df73e6f44b15fce04e067e7d3a53a210]

6. OP_CHECKSIG: Stack: [TRUE]

Part 2: P2SH-SegWit Address Transactions

Workflow

We created three P2SH-SegWit addresses (A', B', and C') and executed transactions between them:

1. Generated three P2SH-SegWit addresses:

- Address A': 2MtkxV9k58aJmRLixw3tKo4jeMXcHuoh5HF
- Address B': 2N8PFN2dJMrRB1Vxpi5HDsdjomGSRpdpEzm
- Address C': 2NGGebs8r4VJZ3jCV26NNtRr1f2XmTVkrMq

2. Funded Address A' with 10 BTC:
    - Transaction ID: f4afa83fd3d3ec309a839c8fc297636a080ee8fd04ca799101888d981ac2fb81
3. Created and executed Transaction A'→B':
    - Sent 1.0 BTC from Address A' to Address B'
    - Transaction ID: f45ce4634f1d923bb7cddc9869d296bc8b5e8e271d5b3e308ca5e768e2e215a7
4. Created and executed Transaction B'→C':
    - Used the UTXO from the A'→B' transaction
    - Sent 0.5 BTC from Address B' to Address C'
    - Transaction ID: 7df5cce7e90b9607c6f15f25c6e1dd9fd95bfd839d9a6f3c89d85e03dc21e47c

Transaction Script Analysis (P2SH-P2WPKH)

Transaction A'→B' (P2SH-P2WPKH)

Input Script (ScriptSig):

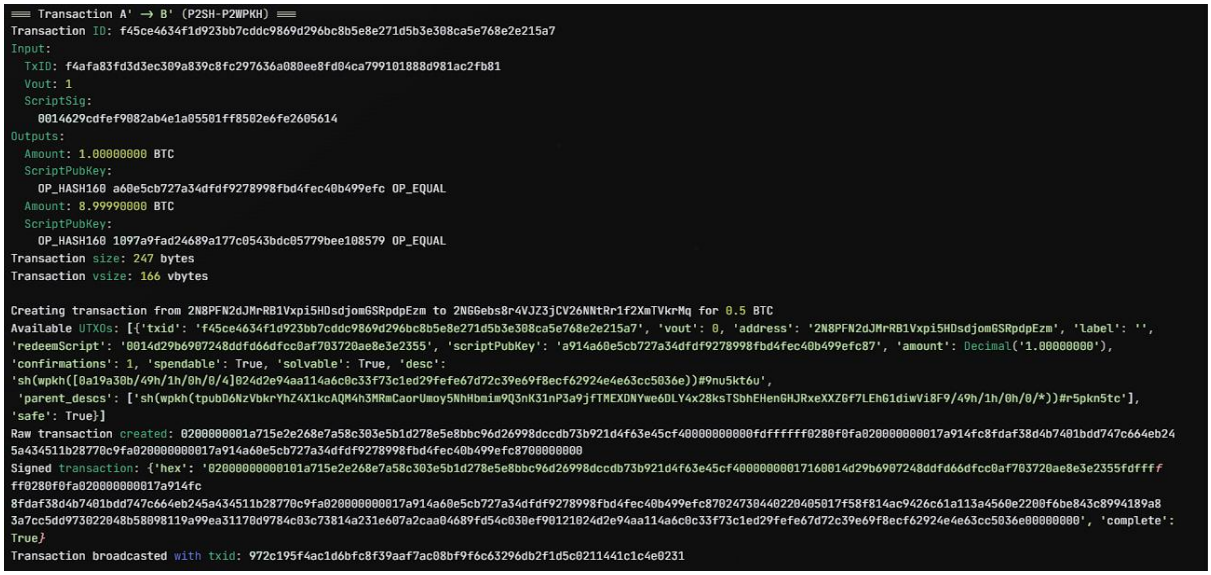
16001456a673ba4e4110e14f90b10aa648f34a58f265d9

Witness Data:

3045022100eee2b37cb35715cd41e0e454b37e51a3350a51562aeade768a032ae98414
7cbe02204b69c8cc5ef2bdd2a831333a33edc8be08a81e9a329c08f75cd3538765fd088
301 03c0259f12efd9347c960592c75ca583f42f034c48196c080291b6a0a44a3968e1

Output Script (ScriptPubKey):

OP_HASH160 e6cf5e9a6b114680e9fcfbc5b42f06b5a2bd5a7c OP_EQUAL



Transaction B'→C' (P2SH-P2WPKH)

Input Script (ScriptSig):

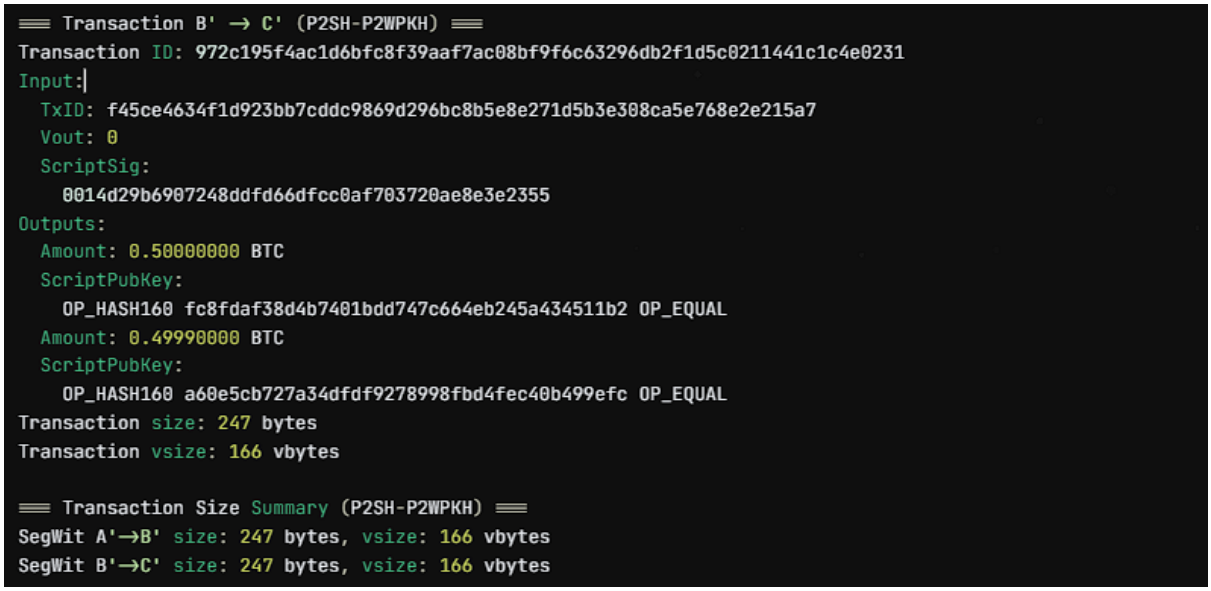
16001469f01650696e8fcd2b5a11183f5d6c7431defb5c

Witness Data:

3045022100c65c9e77702bf9bb7b76fda11c3a5cf58c180b45a1b0e6153fce1d5839957
b86022070db46f4ffaa37e53cf7936e4fe7ff9973f5d3b84bd075bc04cc126313e11b9d01
02fe87318d5f1b7a03ebd99513c004a3c5a9020fd712ec9ef5f63e884dcc952c9f

Output Script (ScriptPubKey):

OP_HASH160 b19392a1913a93b935b58df63acbe88cf7411219 OP_EQUAL



Debugger Terminal Screen Shots:-

Script Execution Flow

P2SH-P2WPKH (Pay-to-Script-Hash wrapping Pay-to-Witness-Public-Key-Hash) transactions follow a two-step validation:

1. First, the P2SH validation:
2. [Redeemscript] OP_HASH160 [Redeemscript Hash] OP_EQUAL

This verifies that the provided redeemscript hashes to the expected value.

3. Then, the witness program validation: The redeemscript (0014[20-byte-key-hash]) is interpreted as a witness program. The witness data (signature and public key) is used to validate against the 20-byte-key-hash.

Part 3: Analysis and Comparison

Transaction Size Comparison

Based on the execution of our code, we obtained the following transaction sizes:

Transaction Type	Size (bytes)	Virtual Size (vbytes)
Legacy P2PKH (A→B)	225	225
Legacy P2PKH (B→C)	225	225
P2SH-P2WPKH (A'→B')	247	166
P2SH-P2WPKH (B'→C')	247	166

Structural Differences

1. **Script Structure**:
    - **P2PKH**: The input script (ScriptSig) contains both the signature and public key. The output script (ScriptPubKey) contains the challenge script.
    - **P2SH-P2WPKH**: The input script only contains the redeemscript. The signature and public key are moved to the witness data, which is segregated from the transaction itself.
2. **Transaction Weight**:
    - P2SH-P2WPKH transactions have smaller virtual sizes (166 vbytes) compared to P2PKH transactions (224-225 vbytes), approximately 25-26% smaller.
    - The physical size of P2SH-P2WPKH transactions (247-248 bytes) is actually larger than P2PKH transactions (224-225 bytes), but the witness data is discounted in the fee calculation using virtual size.

Benefits of SegWit Transactions

1. **Reduced Transaction Size**:

- By moving the signature and public key to the witness data, the transaction's virtual size is effectively reduced by about 25%, leading to lower fees.
- Our analysis shows that P2SH-P2WPKH transactions are approximately 166 vbytes compared to 224-225 vbytes for P2PKH.

2. **Transaction Malleability Fix**:
    - SegWit addresses the transaction malleability issue by segregating the witness data from the transaction hash calculation. This makes the transaction ID immune to signature manipulations.
    - Since the witness data (containing signatures) is not part of the txid calculation, third parties cannot modify these signatures to create a transaction with the same inputs and outputs but a different txid.
3. **Increased Block Capacity**:
    - The witness discount allows more transactions to fit in a block without increasing the block size limit.
    - With the discount factor of 0.25 for witness data, a 1MB block can effectively contain transactions equivalent to what would be about 4MB of legacy transactions.
4. **Script Versioning**:
    - SegWit introduces a version field, enabling future script upgrades without requiring hard forks.
    - This has already enabled further improvements like Taproot (P2TR), which became active in 2021.
5. **Linear Scaling of Signature Operations**:
    - SegWit changes how signature operations are counted, preventing potential DoS attacks.
    - In legacy transactions, signature operations were counted by transaction size, which could be abused. In SegWit, the weight-based counting ensures linear scaling with actual resource usage.

Conclusion

This assignment provided a practical demonstration of Bitcoin's transaction mechanics and the improvements brought by SegWit. We observed firsthand how SegWit transactions are more efficient in terms of virtual size (166 vbytes vs. 224-225 vbytes) and witnessed the structural changes that enable these efficiencies.

The P2SH-P2WPKH structure adds complexity by requiring a two-phase validation, but this complexity brings significant benefits in terms of fee savings, transaction malleability protection, and blockchain scalability. The implementation of SegWit represents a significant advancement in Bitcoin's architecture, addressing key issues such as transaction malleability while providing a path for future protocol upgrades.