

# Blockchains & Cryptocurrencies

## Smart Contracts / Ethereum In Detail (III)



Instructor: Matthew Green  
Fall 2024

News?

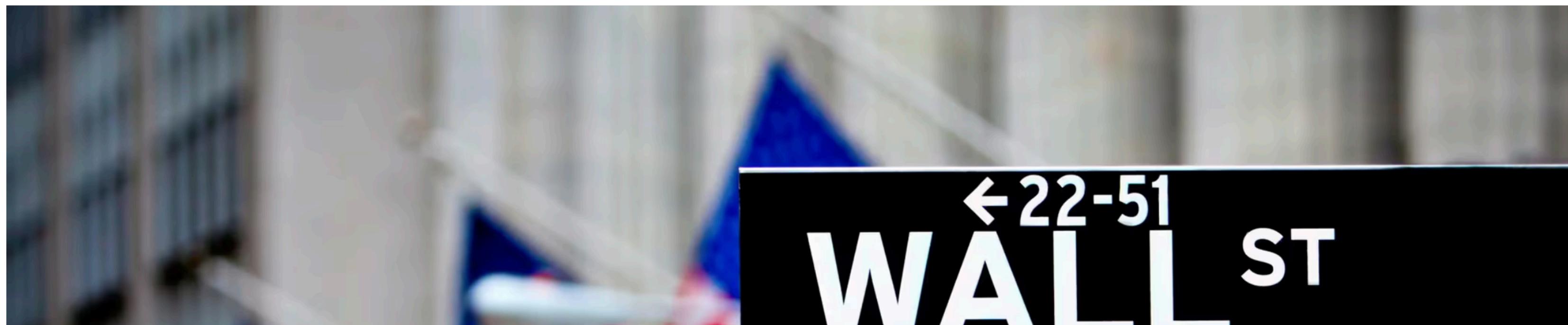
# News?

## Don't Tell Anyone, but Private Blockchains Handle Over \$1.5T of Securities Financing a Month

Permission-based repo ledgers are among the most successful applications of blockchain technology.

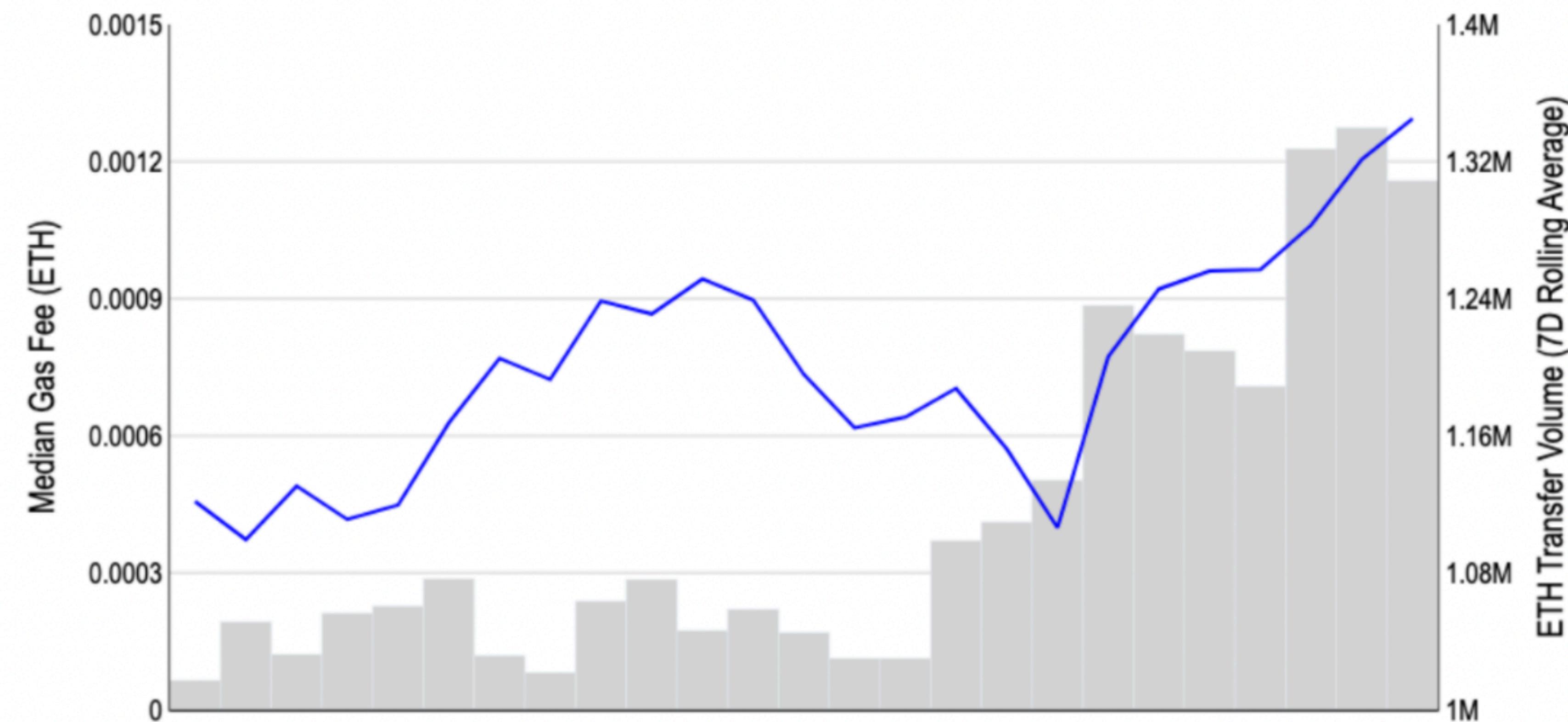
By Ian Allison

🕒 Jun 24, 2024 at 5:46 a.m. EDT Updated Jun 24, 2024 at 5:49 a.m. EDT



# News?

Coinbase's weekly report, published on Sept. 27, notes that the average Ethereum gas fees between Sept. 16 and Sept. 26 were 498% higher than the monthly average, with the median transaction cost rising from \$0.09 at the beginning of the month to \$1.69.



# Ethereum Gas Tracker 🚧

Sponsored by: 🦸 MetaMask

Next update in **6s**

</> Gas APIs

Install Gas Extension

Ad



**7.813 gwei**

Base: 7.812 | Priority: 0.001  
\$0.40 | ~ 2 mins: 31 secs



**8.006 gwei**

Base: 7.812 | Priority: 0.194  
\$0.41 | ~ 1 min: 48 secs



**8.833 gwei**

Base: 7.812 | Priority: 1.021  
\$0.45 | ~ 30 secs



MetaMask Portfolio: all-in-one web3 app.

[Try Now](#)

## Additional Info

LAST BLOCK  
**20877811**

PENDING QUEUE  
**151463**

AVG BLOCK SIZE  
**171**

AVG. UTILIZATION  
**48.29%**

Last Refreshed: Wed, 02 Oct 2024 12:27:26 UTC

## Featured Actions

Action	Low	Average	High
ⓘ Swap	\$6.84	\$7.01	\$7.71
ⓘ NFT Sale	\$11.56	\$11.84	\$13.04
ⓘ Bridging	\$2.20	\$2.25	\$2.48
ⓘ Borrowing	\$5.80	\$5.95	\$6.54

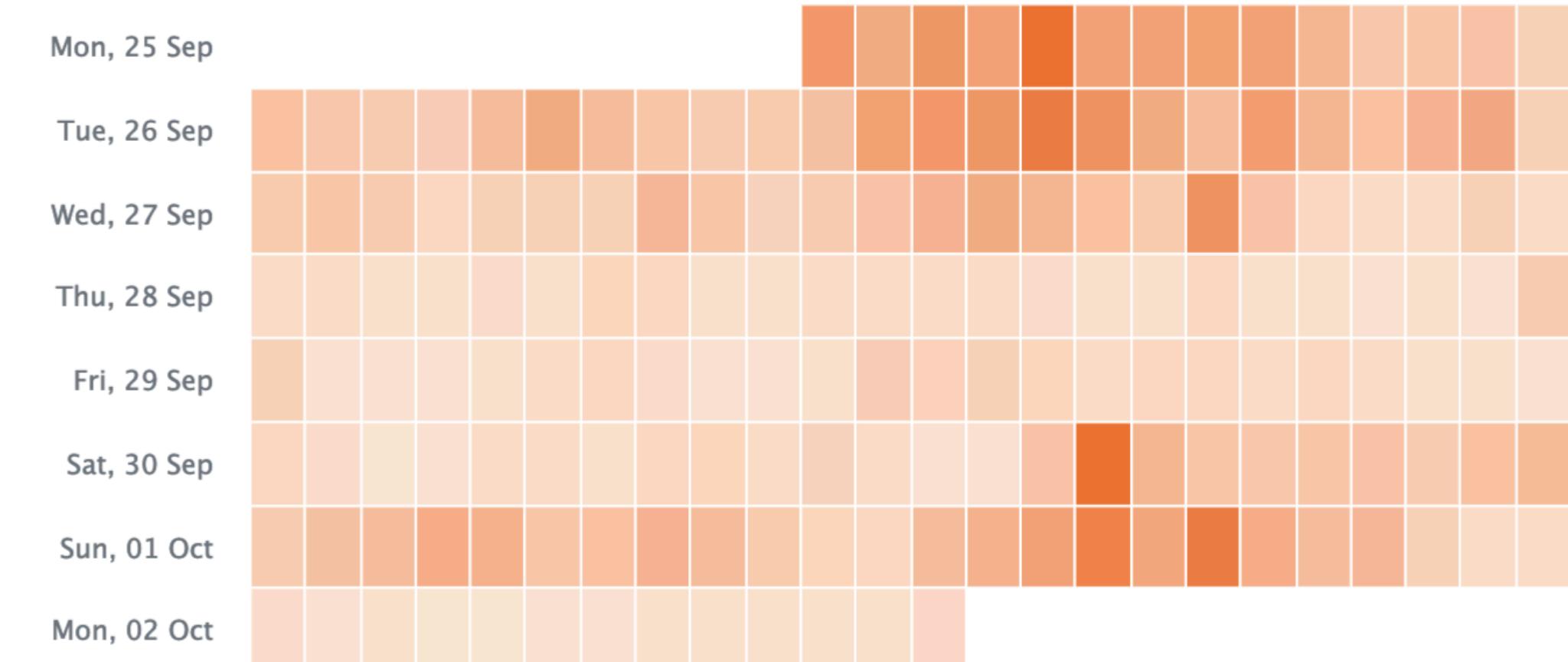
ⓘ Custom Gas Limit

🍪 This website [uses cookies to improve your experience](#). By continuing to use this website, you agree to its [Terms](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

[Got it!](#)

Gas Price Heatmap    Gas Price

## Gas Price Heatmap



16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

## Top 50 Gas Guzzlers (Contracts / Accounts that consume a lot of Gas)

[Dashboard](#)

 Last updated at Block [20877779](#)

Rank	Address	◆ Fees Last 3hrs	◆ % Used 3hrs	◆ Fees Last 24hrs	◆ % Used 24hrs	Analytics
1	<a href="#">Uniswap: Universal Router</a>	\$26,671.83 (10.87 Eth)	10.59%	\$483,154.57 (196.88 Eth)	11.66%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
2	<a href="#">Tether: USDT Stablecoin</a>	\$17,119.69 (6.98 Eth)	6.76%	\$247,016.60 (100.66 Eth)	5.71%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
3	<a href="#">Uniswap V2: Router 2</a>	\$9,807.52 (4.00 Eth)	2.85%	\$129,528.64 (52.78 Eth)	2.64%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
4	<a href="#">Maestro: Router 2</a>	\$10,625.01 (4.33 Eth)	2.36%	\$129,377.93 (52.72 Eth)	1.96%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
5	<a href="#">0x1a93c356...74e270d01</a>	\$4,754.70 (1.94 Eth)	2.35%	\$4,761.25 (1.94 Eth)	0.30%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
6	<a href="#">0xF3dE3C0d...172509127</a>	\$5,092.66 (2.08 Eth)	2.02%	\$67,205.75 (27.39 Eth)	1.86%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
7	<a href="#">EigenLayer: EIGEN Token</a>	\$4,132.22 (1.68 Eth)	1.77%	\$75,805.05 (30.89 Eth)	2.51%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
8	<a href="#">Circle: USDC Token</a>	\$4,387.47 (1.79 Eth)	1.76%	\$83,721.57 (34.12 Eth)	1.96%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
9	<a href="#">Metamask: Swap Router</a>	\$4,426.02 (1.80 Eth)	1.68%	\$71,576.21 (29.17 Eth)	1.73%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
10	<a href="#">Aggregation Router V5</a>	\$3,477.51 (1.42 Eth)	1.47%	\$73,738.08 (30.05 Eth)	1.87%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
11	<a href="#">Banana Gun: Router 2</a>	\$7,129.98 (2.91 Eth)	1.39%	\$148,304.80 (60.43 Eth)	1.80%	<a href="#">🔗</a>
12	<a href="#">EigenLayer: Delega...</a>					<a href="#">🔗</a>

# From concept to practice

- Ethereum programs are in “EVM byte code”
  - This is great for running things in a VM, works across platforms
  - Not made for human comprehension

```
00000d8b PUSH1    #2 {var_e0_25}
00000d8d EXP      {var_c0_53}
00000d8e SUB      {var_c0_53} {var_a0_34}
00000d8f DUP4    {var_40_4} {var_c0_54}
00000d90 AND      {var_a0_35} {var_a0_34} {var_c0_54}
00000d91 PUSH1    #0 {var_c0_55}
00000d93 SWAP1    {var_a0_35} {var_a0_36} {var_c0_56}
00000d94 DUP2    {var_e0_26}
```

# From concept to practice

- **How does a developer see Ethereum?**
  - So far we have talked about:
    - Init function (at deploy)
    - A single stateUpdate function (triggered by message Tx)
    - Databases and VMs

# From concept to practice

- Developers typically write programs in a high-level language
  - Technically any language can compile to EVM bytecode
  - And there are a few: Agoric (Javascript), Vyper
    - Some other chains (e.g., Solana) use rust
  - However, most Ethereum smart contracts are written in **Solidity**



Source: <https://blog.ret2.io/2018/05/16/practical-eth-decompilation/>

# Solidity

- **How does a Solidity developer see Ethereum?**
  - Solidity is object-oriented
    - “contract” programs are like classes, with methods and variables
    - Each contract will have a constructor method that initializes any state variables
    - There are “view” (read-only) methods, and methods that (may) change state
    - Methods can have modifiers attached, that execute specific checks

# Contract examples

- Simple “custom token” contract (ERC20)

```
1 // -----
2 // ERC Token Standard #20 Interface
3 // https://github.com/ethereum/EIPs/blob/master/EIPS/eip-20.md
4 // -----
5 contract ERC20Interface {
6     function totalSupply() public view returns (uint);
7     function balanceOf(address tokenOwner) public view returns (uint balance);
8     function allowance(address tokenOwner, address spender) public view returns (uint remaining);
9     function transfer(address to, uint tokens) public returns (bool success);
10    function approve(address spender, uint tokens) public returns (bool success);
11    function transferFrom(address from, address to, uint tokens) public returns (bool success);
12
13    event Transfer(address indexed from, address indexed to, uint tokens);
14    event Approval(address indexed tokenOwner, address indexed spender, uint tokens);
15 }
```

```
1 contract TokenContractFragment {
2
3     // Balances for each account
4     mapping(address => uint256) balances;
5
6     // Owner of account approves the transfer of an amount to another account
7     mapping(address => mapping (address => uint256)) allowed;
8
9     // Get the token balance for account `tokenOwner`
10    function balanceOf(address tokenOwner) public constant returns (uint balance) {
11        return balances[tokenOwner];
12    }
13
14    // Transfer the balance from owner's account to another account
15    function transfer(address to, uint tokens) public returns (bool success) {
16        balances[msg.sender] = balances[msg.sender].sub(tokens);
17        balances[to] = balances[to].add(tokens);
18        Transfer(msg.sender, to, tokens);
19        return true;
20    }
21
22    // Send `tokens` amount of tokens from address `from` to address `to`;
23    // The transferFrom method is used for a withdraw workflow, allowing contracts to send
24    // tokens on your behalf, for example to "deposit" to a contract address and/or to charge
25    // fees in sub-currencies; the command should fail unless the _from account has
26    // deliberately authorized the sender of the message via some mechanism; we propose
27    // these standardized APIs for approval:
28    function transferFrom(address from, address to, uint tokens) public returns (bool success) {
29        balances[from] = balances[from].sub(tokens);
30        allowed[from][msg.sender] = allowed[from][msg.sender].sub(tokens);
31        balances[to] = balances[to].add(tokens);
32        Transfer(from, to, tokens);
33        return true;
34    }
35
36    // Allow `spender` to withdraw from your account, multiple times, up to the `tokens` amount.
37    // If this function is called again it overwrites the current allowance with _value.
38    function approve(address spender, uint tokens) public returns (bool success) {
39        allowed[msg.sender][spender] = tokens;
40        Approval(msg.sender, spender, tokens);
41        return true;
42    }
43 }
```

# What can you trust?

- Contract/state variables will be isolated
- The **block** and **msg** data structures (and other globals)
  - Contain details of the TX and block you're running
- Your own contract address -> **address(this)**
- The hash of the execution code for a contract
  - Given a contract address, use the **EXTCODEHASH** opcode
  - Note: constructor code isn't included!

# What can you trust?

- `block.basefee` (`uint`): current block's base fee ([EIP-3198](#) and [EIP-1559](#))
- `block.blobbasefee` (`uint`): current block's blob base fee ([EIP-7516](#) and [EIP-4844](#))
- `block.chainid` (`uint`): current chain id
- `block.coinbase` (`address payable`): current block miner's address
- `block.difficulty` (`uint`): current block difficulty (`EVM < Paris`). For other EVM versions it behaves as a deprecated alias for `block.prevrandao` ([EIP-4399](#))
- `block.gaslimit` (`uint`): current block gaslimit
- `block.number` (`uint`): current block number
- `block.prevrandao` (`uint`): random number provided by the beacon chain (`EVM >= Paris`)
- `block.timestamp` (`uint`): current block timestamp as seconds since unix epoch
- `gasleft()` returns (`uint256`): remaining gas

# How to upgrade a contract?

# How to upgrade a contract?

- Contracts are default immutable
- If there is no useful ongoing state, don't: just replace it
- If there is ongoing state (e.g., account balances) then:
  - Don't allow upgrades — and pray you got the code right
  - Call upgradeable/replaceable library code
  - Create a complex mechanism to transfer state from an old contract instance to a new contract instance

# Concurrency and re-entrancy

- Ethereum transactions run sequentially and atomically
  - In principle this is good: there **appear** to be no concurrency issues (no threads) and your methods always run to completion or don't complete at all!

# Example (ok)

```
function transfer(uint amount, address recipient) ... {  
    if (balances[msg.sender] < amount) {  
        // insufficient balance  
        revert('Something bad happened');  
    }  
  
    // Transfer the money  
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
    balances[recipient] += amount;  
}
```

# Re-entrancy

```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {  
    if (balances[msg.sender] < amount) {  
        // insufficient balance  
        revert('Something bad happened');  
    }  
  
    // Call the specified contract to notify it that a deposit is coming  
    notifyContract.notify(amount, "You are getting a deposit!");  
  
    // Transfer the money  
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;  
}
```

# Re-entrancy

- There is still one scary “gotcha”!
- Ethereum is not re-entrancy “safe”. You can still have multiple calls to the same routine within any given call-stack.

```
contractA.bar()
```

```
contractB.foo()
```

```
contractA.bar()
```

# Re-entrancy

```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {  
    if (balances[msg.sender] < amount) {  
        // insufficient balance  
        revert('Something bad happened');  
    }  
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;  
  
    // Call the specified contract to notify it that a deposit is coming  
    notifyContract.notify(amount, "You are getting a deposit!");  
  
    // Transfer the money  
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
}
```

# Re-entrancy

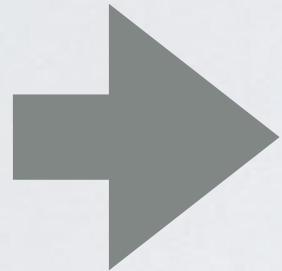
```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {  
    if (balances[msg.sender] < amount) {  
        // insufficient balance  
        revert('Something bad happened');  
    }  
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;  
  
    // Call the specified contract to notify it that a deposit is coming  
    notifyContract.notify(amount, "You are getting a deposit!");  
  
    // Transfer the money  
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
}
```

What if this contract call  
calls us?

# Re-entrancy

```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {  
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    }  
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    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
}
```

What if this contract call  
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# Re-entrancy

```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {  
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        // insufficient balance  
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    }  
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;  
  
    // Call the specified contract to notify it that a deposit is coming  
    notifyContract.notify(amount, "You are getting a deposit!");  
  
    // Transfer the money  
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
}
```

What if this contract call  
calls us?

# Re-entrancy

```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {  
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        // insufficient balance  
        revert('Something bad happened');  
    }  
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;  
  
    // Call the specified contract to notify it that a deposit is coming  
    notifyContract.notify(amount, "You are getting a deposit!");  
  
    // Transfer the money  
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
}
```

What if this contract call  
calls us?

# DAO disaster (2016)

- Decentralized Autonomous Organization
  - “Like a VC fund” but decentralized
  - Implementation: a contract that controls money, and directs its disbursement according to “shareholder votes”
  - Shareholders buy in, pool their ETH (sending to contract)
  - Then vote on investments, which are made together
  - Users can “split” a DAO

# “The DAO”

```
function splitDAO(
    uint _proposalID,
    address _newCurator
) noEther onlyTokenholders returns (bool _success) {

    ...
    // XXXXX Move ether and assign new Tokens. Notice how this is done first!
    uint fundsToBeMoved =
        (balances[msg.sender] * p.splitData[0].splitBalance) /
        p.splitData[0].totalSupply;
    if (p.splitData[0].newDAO.createTokenProxy.value(fundsToBeMoved)(msg.sender)
== false) // XXXXX This is the line the attacker wants to run more than once
        throw;

    ...
    // Burn DAO Tokens
    Transfer(msg.sender, 0, balances[msg.sender]);
    withdrawRewardFor(msg.sender); // be nice, and get his rewards
    // XXXXX Notice the preceding line is critically before the next few
    totalSupply -= balances[msg.sender]; // XXXXX AND THIS IS DONE LAST
    balances[msg.sender] = 0; // XXXXX AND THIS IS DONE LAST TOO
    paidOut[msg.sender] = 0;
    return true;
}
```

# Solutions?

```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {
    if (globalLock == true) {
        revert("Locked.");
    }
    globalLock = true;

    if (balances[msg.sender] < amount) {
        // insufficient balance
        revert('Something bad happened');
    }

    // Call the specified contract to notify it that a deposit is coming
    notifyContract.notify(amount, "You are getting a deposit!");

    // Transfer the money
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;

    globalLock=false;
}
```

```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {
    if (globalLock == true) {
        revert("Locked.");
    }
    globalLock =

    if (balances[msg.s
        // insufficient b
        revert('Someth
    }

    // Call the specific
    notifyContract.no

    // Transfer the mo
    balances[msg.send
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;

    globalLock=false;
}
```

### **Drawbacks of (global) locks:**

1. Extra gas (due to stores/loads)
2. Can get “stuck” if you’re careless
3. Sometimes re-entrant calls are useful!

# Check-Effects-Interaction pattern

- Most common solution is to follow a code pattern:
  - First perform all contract checks (CHECKS)
  - Second, update contract state (EFFECTS)
  - Finally, make any contract calls (INTERACTION)

# Check-Effects-Interaction pattern

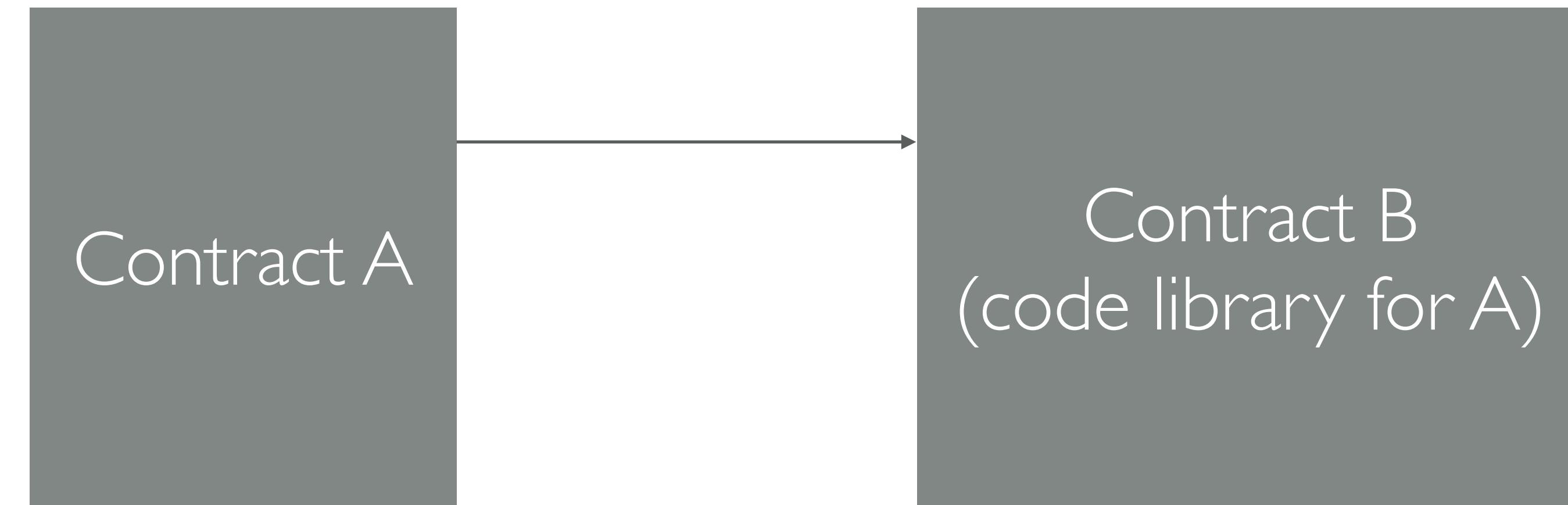
```
function transferAndNotify(uint amount, address notifyContract) ... {  
    // CHECK  
    require (amount < balances[msg.sender]);  
  
    // EFFECTS  
    balances[msg.sender] -= amount;  
    balances[notifyContract] += amount;  
  
    // INTERACTION  
    notifyContract.notify(amount, "You are getting a deposit!");  
}
```

# Contract upgrades

- Ethereum contracts are not (natively) upgradeable
  - Once a contract is deployed, it can self-destruct
  - But its code cannot be changed
  - But some contracts need to be upgraded (bug fixes, etc.)
    - How are we going to handle this?

# “Library” pattern

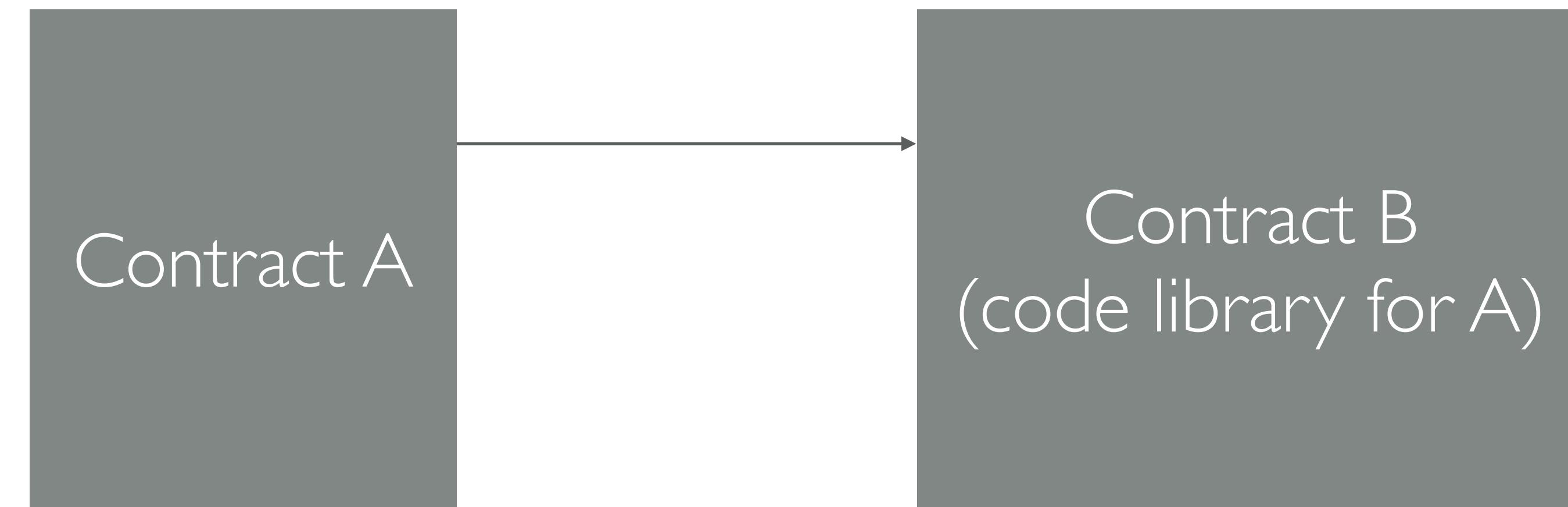
- Some contracts use a second contract to store their implementation



Address for B

# “Library” pattern

- Some contracts use a second contract to store their implementation
  - Enables code re-use (libraries)
  - Gets around code size limits



Address for B

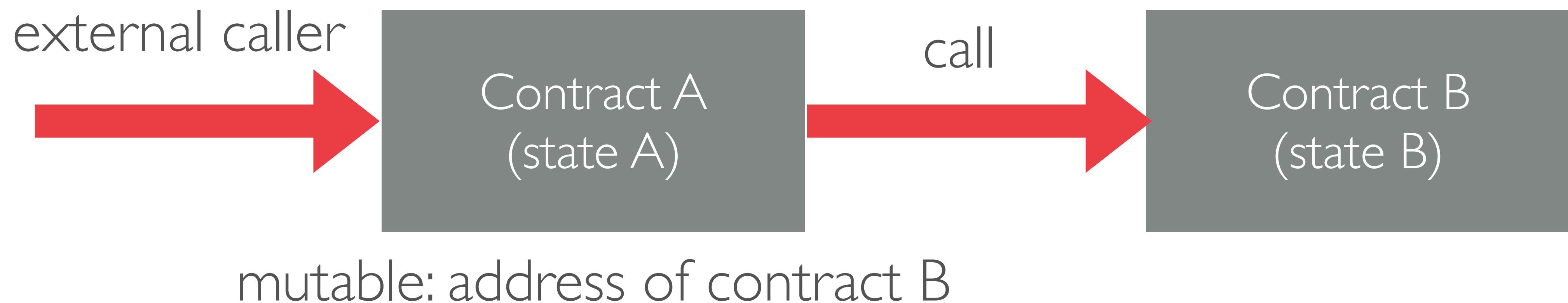
# Proxy pattern

- Based on two standard features of Ethereum
  - An Ethereum contract (A) can call another contract (B) as a library



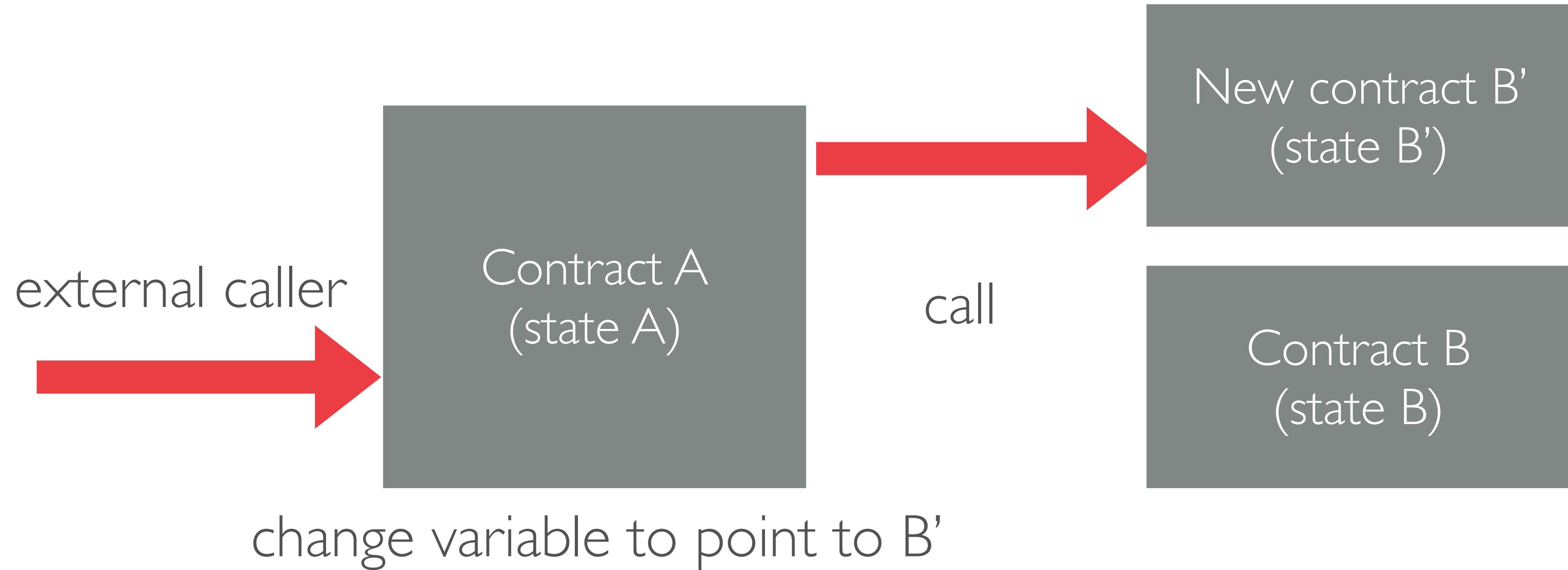
# Proxy pattern

- Based on two standard features of Ethereum
  - An Ethereum contract (A) can call another contract (B) as a library
  - The location of that second contract can be stored in a mutable variable



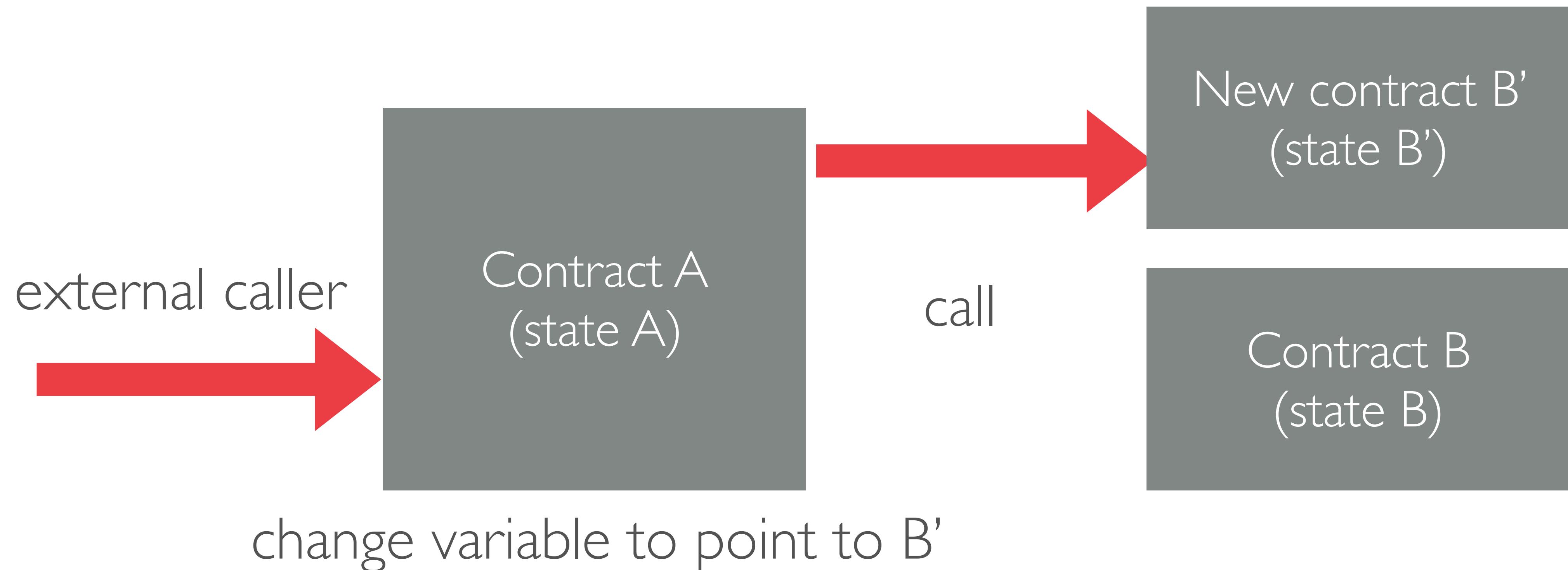
# Proxy pattern

- Based on two standard features of Ethereum
  - We can always update that variable (using some special contract call we implement ourselves.)



# Proxy pattern

- **What are some problems with this solution (so far)?**



# Delegate-Call

- Ethereum offers a nice “optimization”
  - A contract A can “load the code” from contract B into its own state context, run code B on A’s state
  - This is called delegateCall
  - This is an exception to our normal isolation rules



loads contract B code  
and runs it with contract A state

# Proxy pattern

external caller:



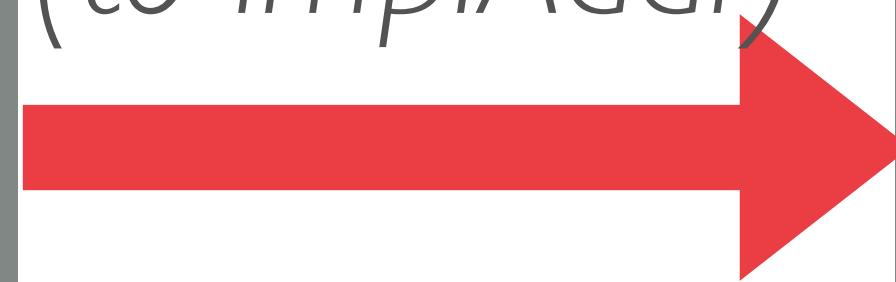
Contract A

proxy:  
has a variable  
“implAddr”  
pointing to B.

Has methods  
to change *implAddr*.

Stores all state  
variables!

*delegateCall*  
(to *implAddr*)



Contract B

implementation:  
this contains all  
relevant code for  
the current version  
of the contract.

Runs in A's state  
space via  
*delegateCall*.

A's state space

# Proxy upgrade

contract update  
“please upgrade to  
contract C”



(e.g., called  
by the “administrator”  
of this contract)

Contract A

*proxy:*  
check that upgrade  
is authorized,  
change “implAddr”  
to point to new  
Contract C

Contract C

# After upgrade

external caller:



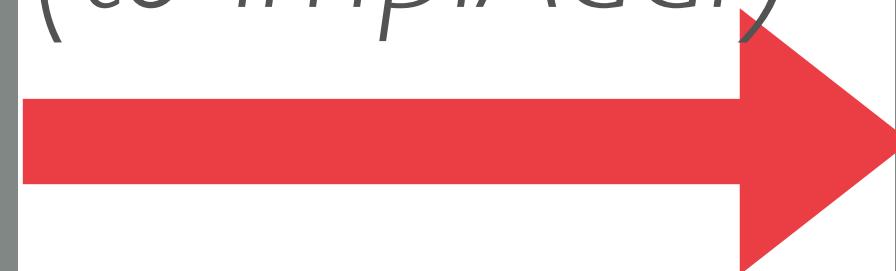
Contract A

proxy:  
has a variable  
“implAddr”  
pointing to C.

Has methods  
to change *implAddr*.

Stores all state  
variables!

*delegateCall*  
(to *implAddr*)



Contract C

implementation:  
this contains all  
relevant code for  
the current version  
of the contract.

Runs in A’s state  
space via  
*delegateCall*.

A’s state space

# Proxy costs

- There is always some overhead to proxy calls
  - Each call through the proxy involves (at least):
    1. A check to see if this is an upgrade call
    2. A variable load (lookup) to find *implAddr*
    3. A delegateCall

Modern proxy contracts use EVM bytecode to minimize this

Proxy	Gas cost	Gas overhead
OpenZeppelin Transparent	29815	2770
Dharma Beacon	29752	2707
EIP-1882 UUPS	28679	1634
Storageless Beacon	28629	1584

# Proxies: advantages/disadvantages

- The ability to upgrade contract code is useful (bug fixes, etc.)
  - Counterargument: it can be very risky
  - If someone “hacks” your upgrade mechanism, they can steal all your money
  - What are some ways we can secure this upgrade process?
    - **Multi-sig** (require many signatures to upgrade contract)
    - **Voting** (require many token-holders to vote for an upgrade)
    - **Timelocks** (put a delay between start & end of an upgrade)

# Contract governance

- The ability to upgrade contracts can be even more powerful
  - Enables the notion of “voting”-based contract governance
- **Idea:** issue a “governance token” (e.g., ERC20)
  - People might get the token in exchange for depositing real money, or for other reasons
  - This token gives holders a “vote” on contract governance
  - People can propose new features for the contract (in practice, this is essentially a contract upgrade proposal)
  - Voters can then review/vote/adopt the new features

# Contract governance

Available on  Ethereum Mainnet

## Aave Governance

Aave is a fully decentralized, community governed protocol by the AAVE token-holders. AAVE token-holders collectively discuss, propose, and vote on upgrades to the protocol. AAVE token-holders (Ethereum network only) can either vote themselves on new proposals or delegate to an address of choice. To learn more check out the [Governance documentation](#).

[SNAPSHOTS](#)  [FORUM](#)  [FAQ](#) 

### Proposals

Filter

All proposals 



Search proposals

#### MaticX Risk Parameter & Interest Rate Upgrade

YAE 2 AAVE

100.00 %

NAY 0 AAVE

0 %

• Active

Active ends in 3 days

Quorum 

Differential 

#### Rescue Mission Phase 1 Long Executor

YAE 499,388 AAVE

100.00 %

# Contract governance: dark side

- An observation in practice:
  - Contract governance is sometimes a form of “regulatory arbitrage”
  - Often: the contract developers want to argue that they are simply a software developer, and do not control this “decentralized protocol”
  - However they (or their friends/partners/VCs) may in fact control the bulk of the voting tokens
  - Hence one should always be a little bit skeptical of these claims

# Contract governance: dark side II

Q • News • Technology

## Group Uses Flash Loan to Game Maker Protocol Governance

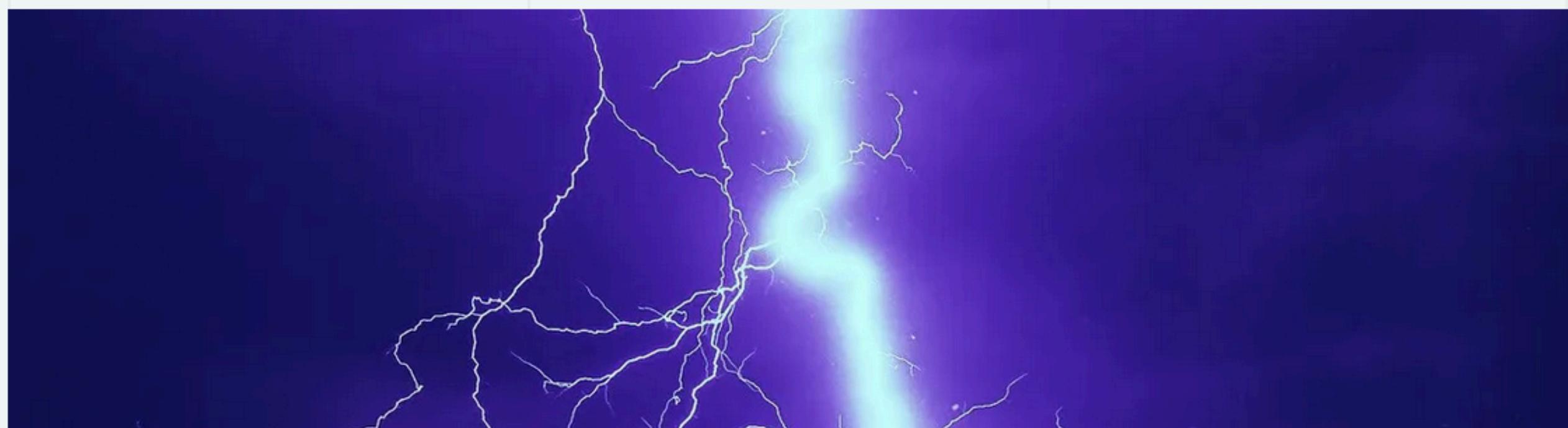
BProtocol used a DeFi arbitrage tool to push through a governance vote it had proposed on the Maker protocol.



By [Jeff Benson](#)

Oct 29, 2020

2 min read



I intend to return to this  
(if there is time)...

# ERC-2535: Diamonds, Multi-Facet Proxy



Create modular smart contract systems that can be extended after deployment.

**Authors** Nick Mudge (@mudgen)

**Created** 2020-02-22

## Table of Contents

- Abstract
- Motivation
  - Upgradeable Diamond vs. Centralized Private Database
  - Some Diamond Benefits
- Specification
  - Terms
  - Overview
  - A Note on Implementing Interfaces
  - Fallback Function
  - Storage
  - Solidity Libraries as Facets
  - Adding/Replacing/Removing Functions
  - Inspecting Facets & Functions

# Decentralized Exchanges

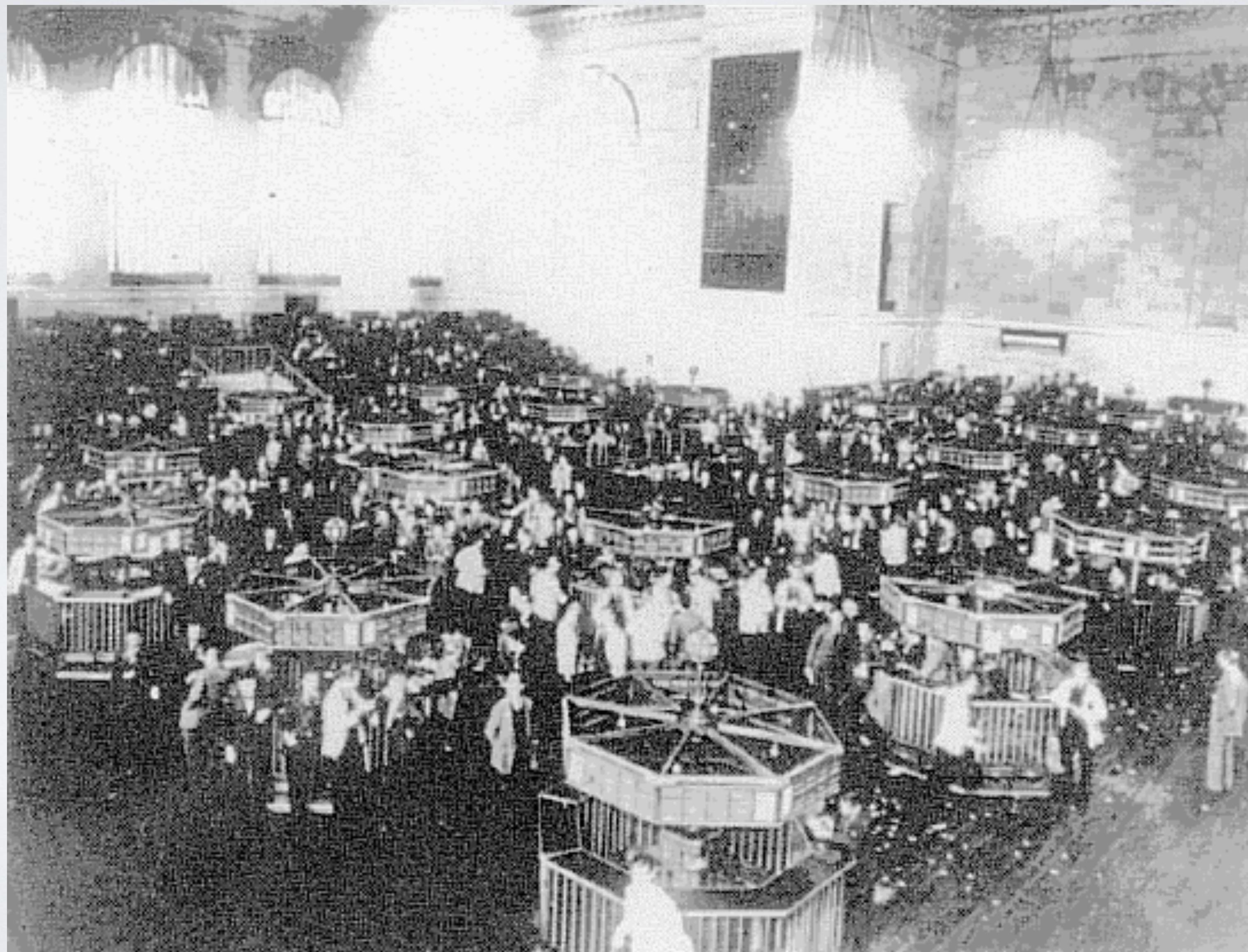
- Given multiple assets (ERC20s) on Ethereum, can we build platforms to exchange them?
  - Breaks down into two subproblems:
    1. Price discovery / order matching
    2. Execution (swap)

# Decentralized Exchanges

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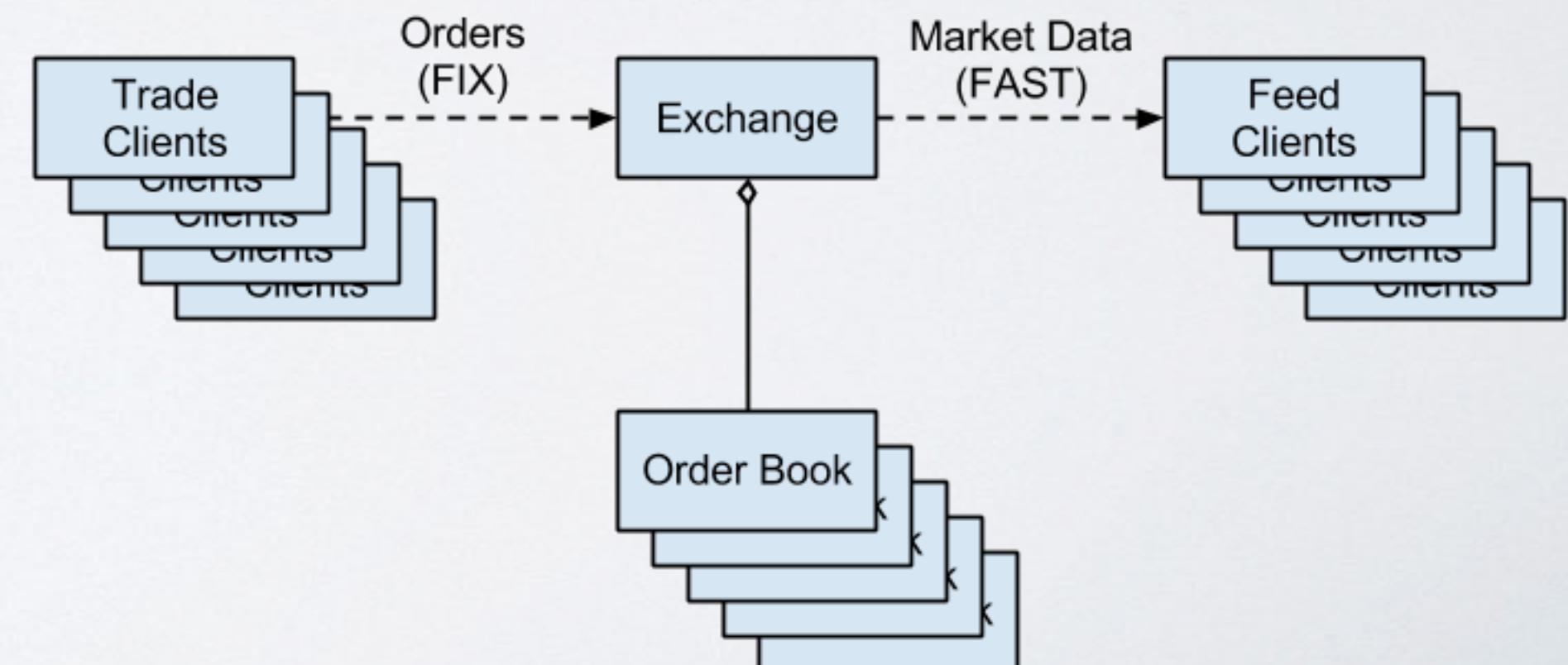
This part is relatively  
easy

# Traditional (centralized) exchange

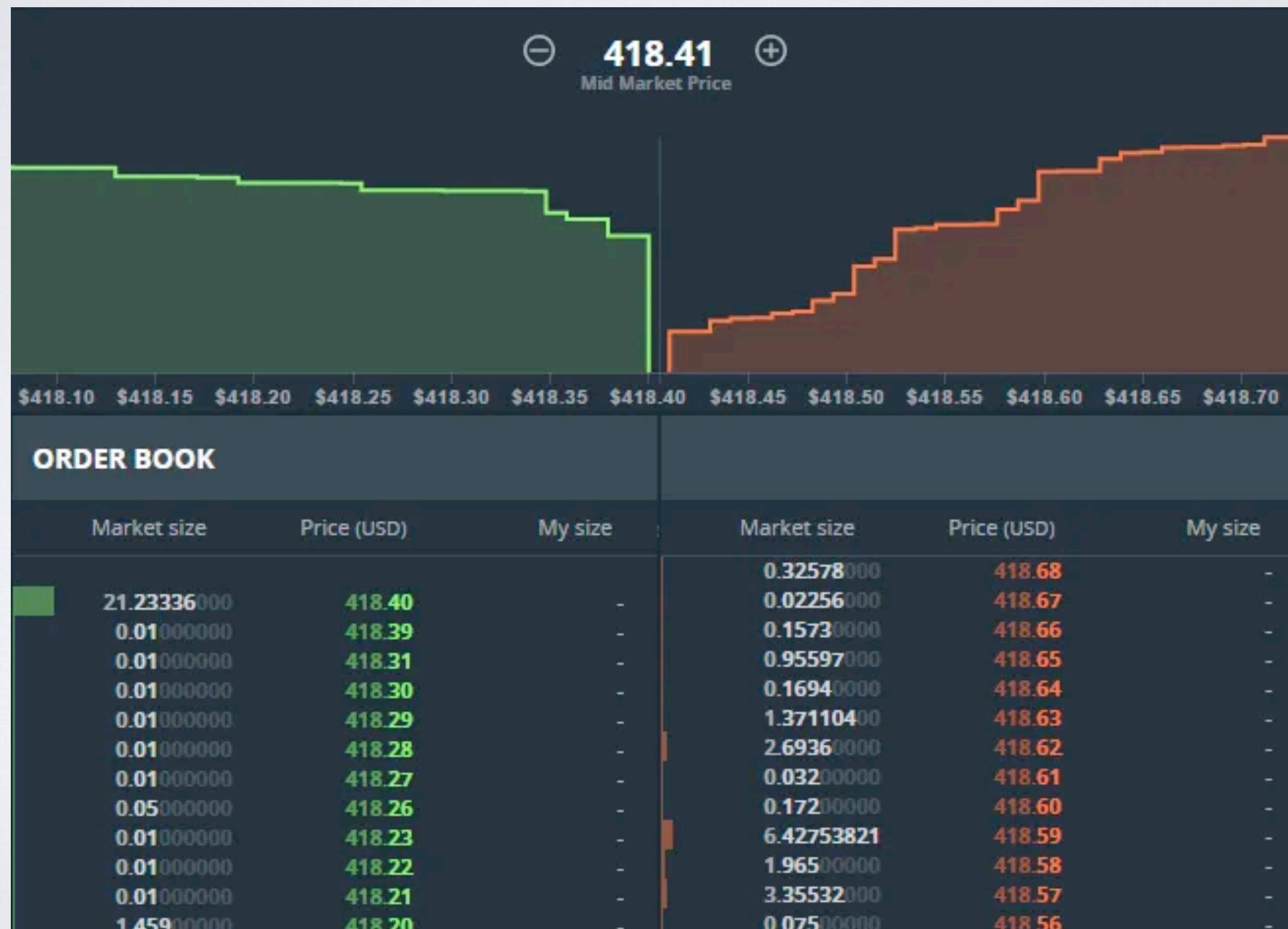


# Electronic centralized exchange

- Maintains an “electronic order book”
- Receives order of various types (e.g., market, limit, etc.)
- Implements a matching engine to reconcile orders
- Executes trades (swaps)
- Produces asset price data  
(as a side effect)



# Electronic order book



# Electronic order book

- Can we do this purely on Ethereum?
  - Why/why not?

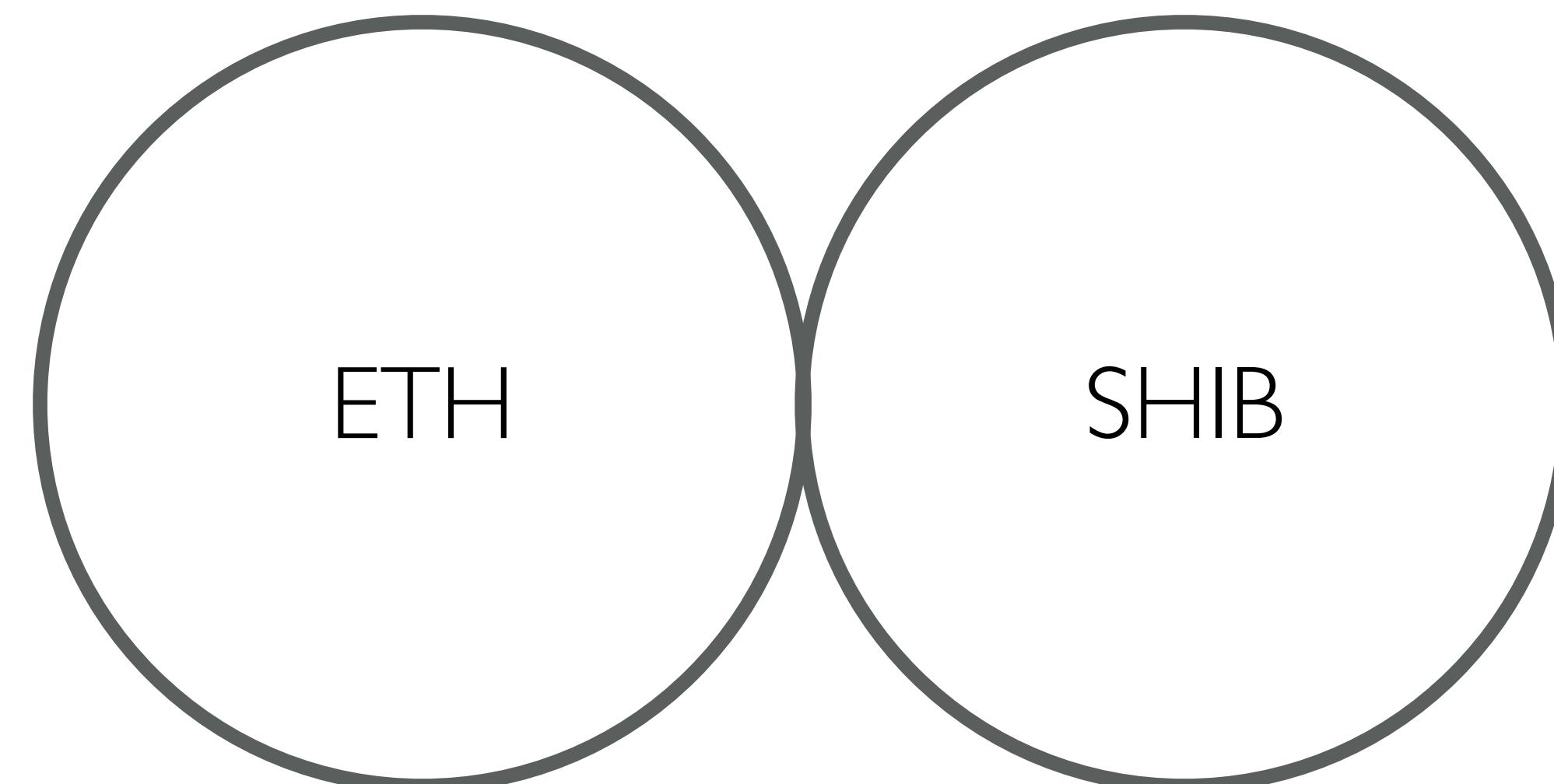
# Electronic order book

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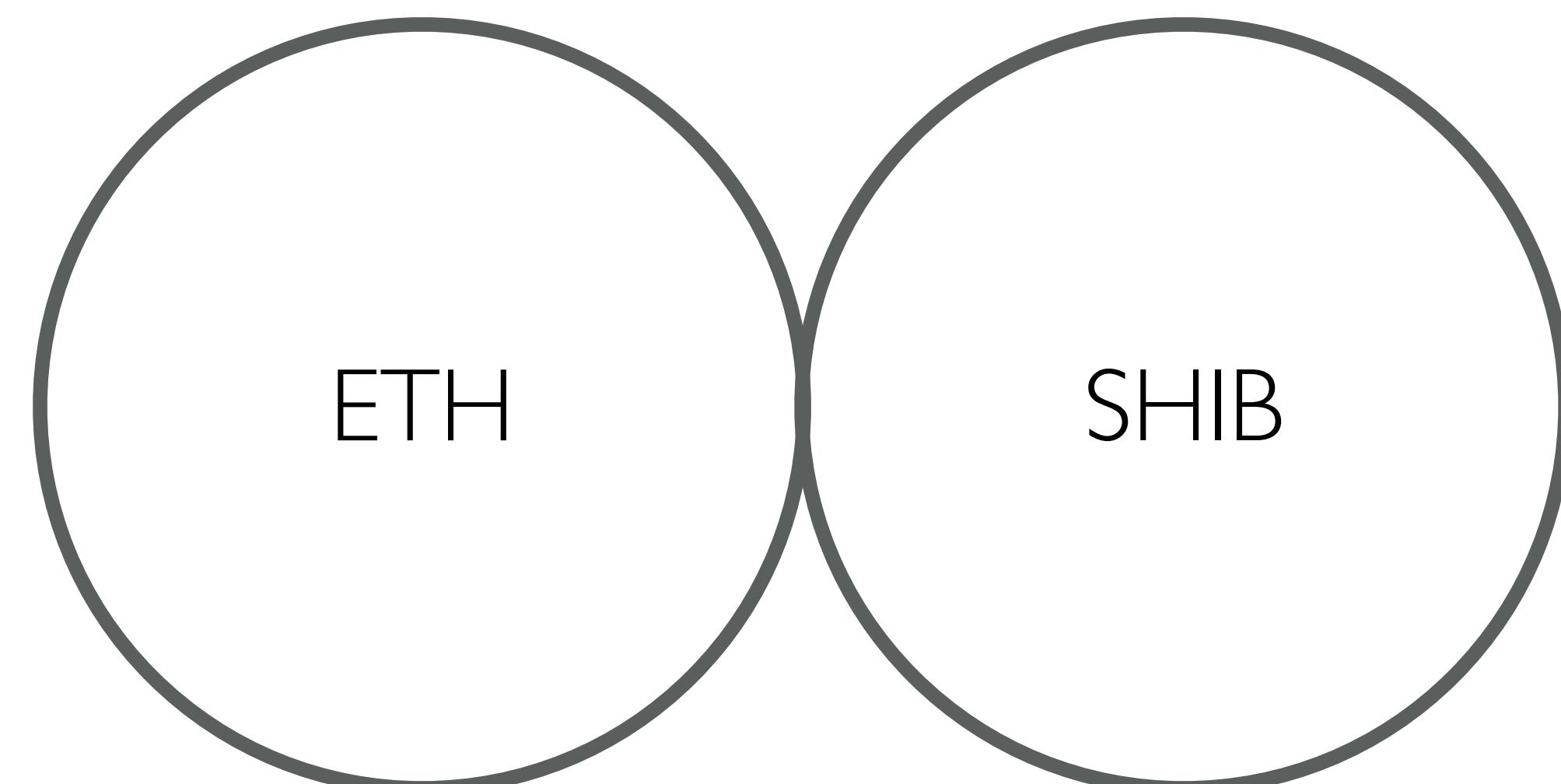
# Constant Function Market Makers (AMM)

- A simpler (and much less efficient) type of exchange
- Built from pairs of assets (e.g., ETH/SHIB)
- Liquidity providers can deposit and withdraw asset pairs (in some ratio), forming a “liquidity pool”



# Constant Function Market Makers (AMM)

- A simpler (and much less efficient) type of exchange
- Built from pairs of assets (e.g., ETH/SHIB)
- New LPs can increase/reduce the overall size of both pools, without changing the ratio

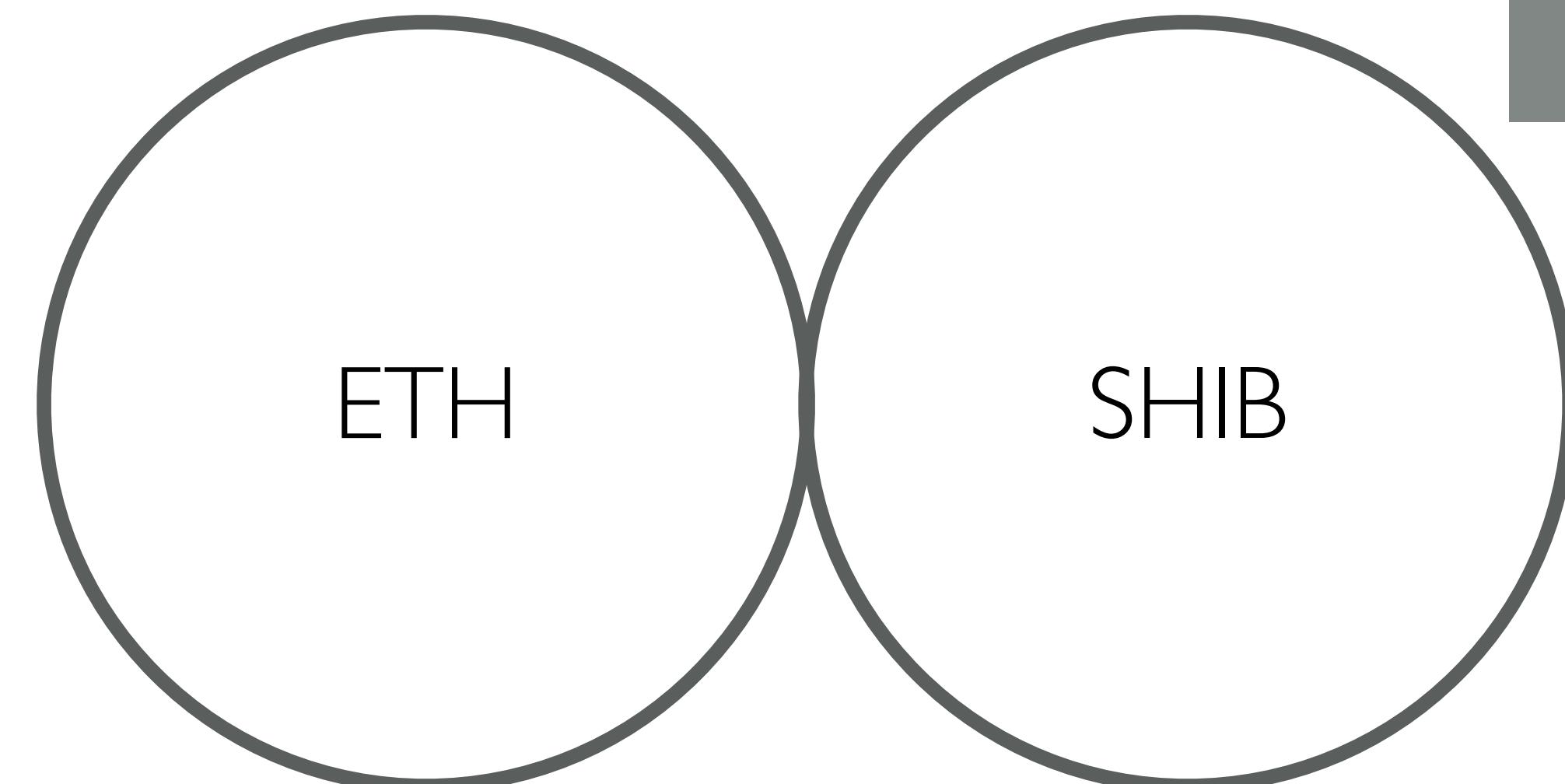


# Constant Function Market Makers (AMM)

- A simpler (and much less efficient) type of exchange
- Built from pairs of assets (e.g., ETH/SHIB)
- Users can also “swap” (deposit one asset, withdraw the other), in exchange for fees

Overall goal:  
Preserve a constant function  
(e.g., product, sum). E.g.:

$$A * B = K$$



# On Market Makers (AMM)

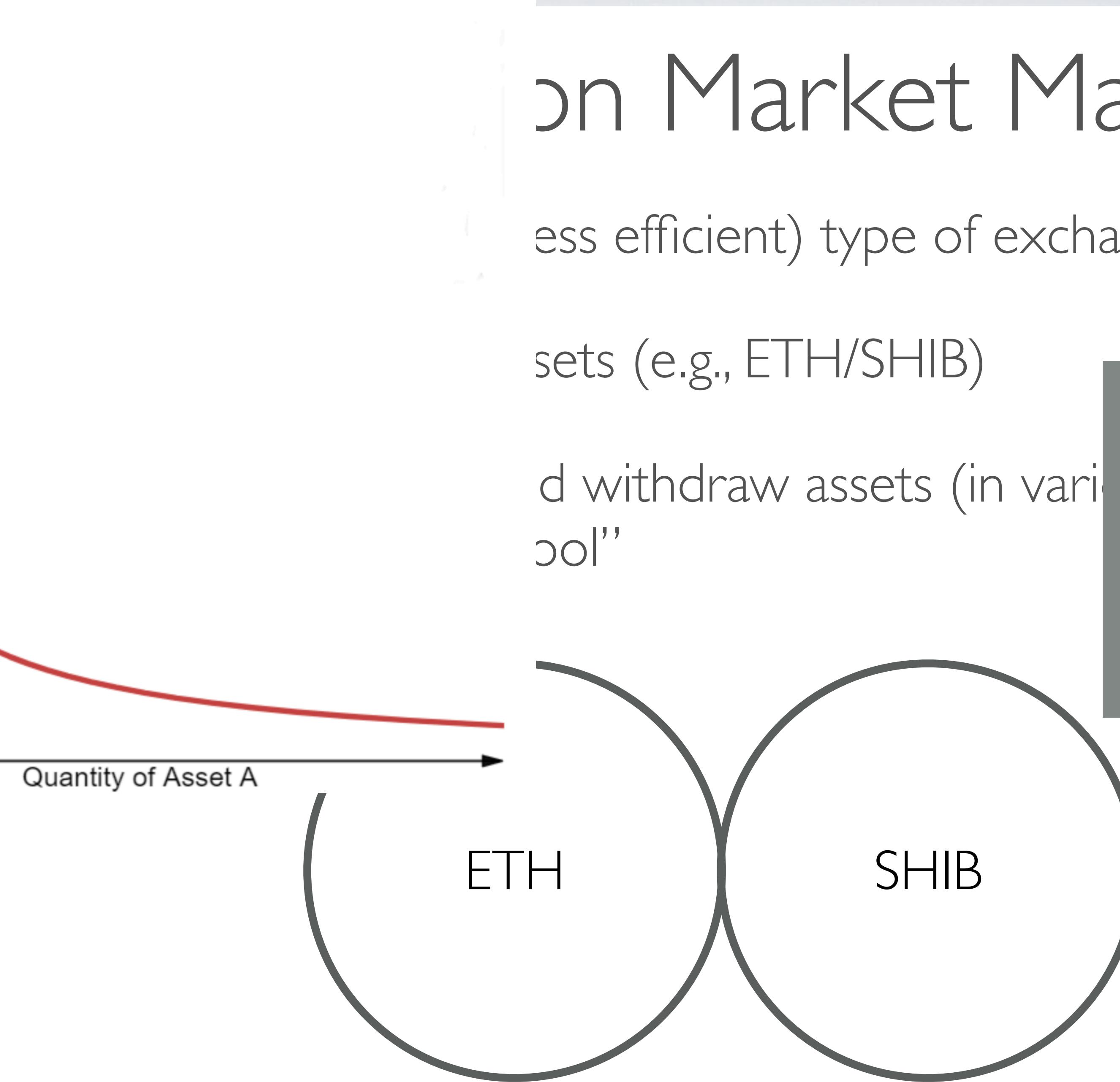
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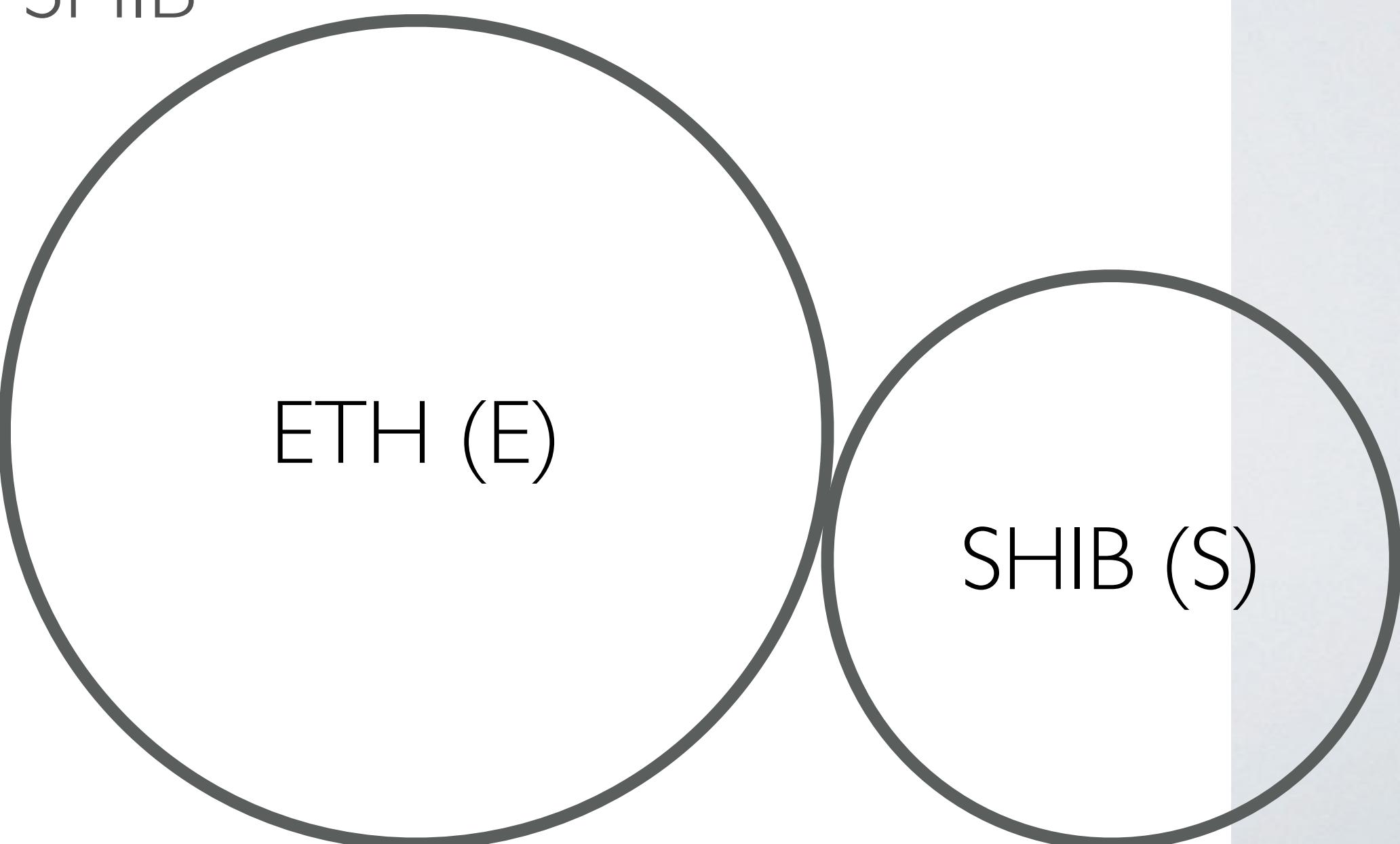
Overall goal:  
Preserve a constant function  
(e.g., product, sum). E.g.:

$$A * B = K$$



# Constant Function Market Makers (AMM)

- User A deposits ETH, wants to “buy” SHIB
  - Initial equation:  $E * S = K$
  - Defines an implicit price (ratio) between the assets
  - They can now deposit ETH & withdraw SHIB at that price (plus pay some fees)
  - This trade changes the market price
  - New price ratio for SHIB:  
 $(K / E') / S'$



Cor

Uniswap Pair

A / B

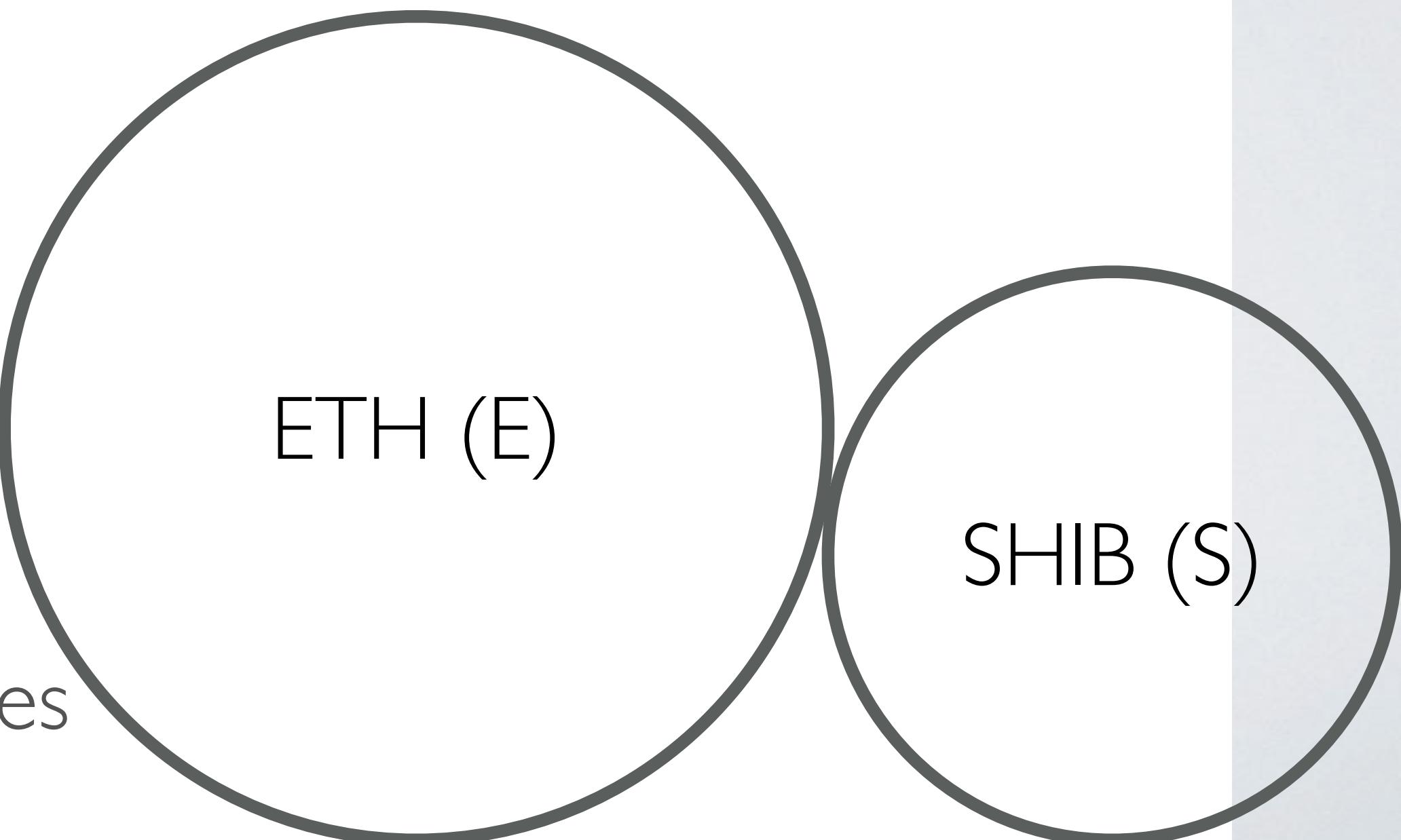
M)

Trades change the balance of reserves resulting in a new price.



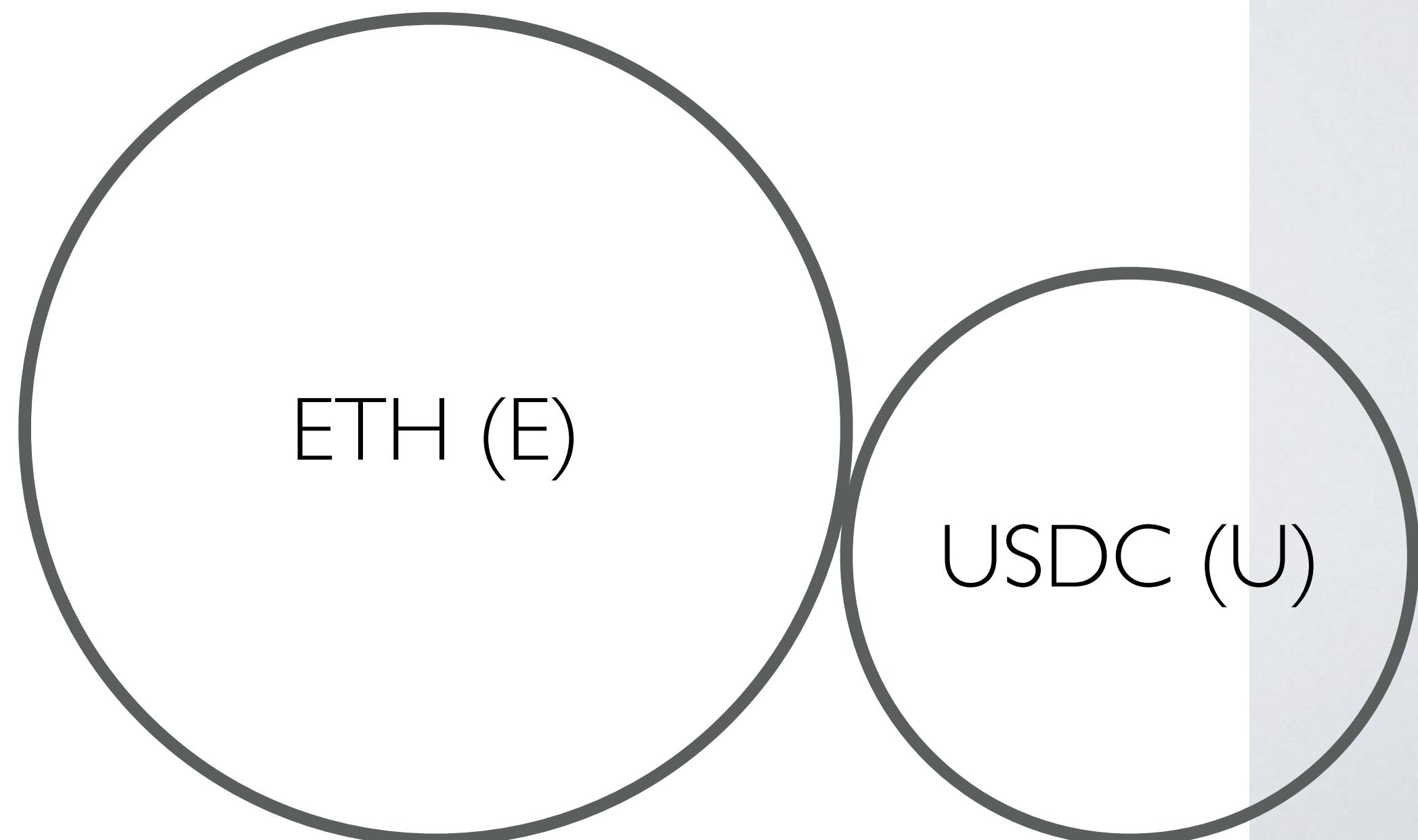
# Arbitrage / MEV

- In principle, the price of assets should stay “close” to the true price (whatever that is)
- If the ratio gets far out of whack, hungry traders will “adjust” the pool sizes by executing profitable swaps
- If there is no pool for an asset pair, systems can “route” trades through multiple pools with more liquidity e.g., ETH->USDC, USDC->SHIB
- Slippage can be quite large
- Relatively easy to “front-run” public trades



# Why put your “liquidity” in these pools?

- The liquidity providers receive fees from the trade (usually split with the DeFi operators, developers)
- They receive “Liquidity Provider Tokens” (yet another made-up ERC20) that they can later redeem to get money back out (in a new ratio)
- **Criticism:** being an LP is dumb, because arbitrage is profitable and you are the loser in all those trades
- Many LPs have been “incentivized” to participate by weird token schemes



## Swap



8,131.19

\$8,131.19

(\$)**USDC** ▾

Balance: 0



5

\$8,127.04 (-0.051%)

ETH ▾

Balance: 0

ⓘ 1 ETH = 1,626.24 USDC (\$1,625.41)

4.43 ▾

Insufficient USDC balance

# Asset lending

- Another thing smart contracts can do easily is asset lending
- **Problem:** smart contracts are not great at getting people to repay asset loans
- This means you need some way to insure those loans
- Answer: require (over)collateralization

# Asset lending

- Another “popular” DeFi service is collateralized asset lending (borrowing)
- You wish to borrow some amount of Asset B (for whatever)
- You can deposit and “lock up” some amount of Asset A as collateral for the loan (and pay interest)

The screenshot shows two side-by-side sections of a DeFi application interface.

**Assets to supply:** This section is currently empty, indicated by the message: "Your Avalanche wallet is empty. Purchase or transfer assets or use [Avalanche Bridge](#) to transfer your Ethereum & Bitcoin assets." It includes filters for Assets, Wallet balance, APY, and Can be collateral, and lists WETH and WBTC tokens with their respective details.

**Assets to borrow:** This section lists available assets for borrowing. It includes filters for Asset, Available, APY, variable APY, and stable APY. It lists DAI.e and FRAX tokens with their respective details and "Borrow" and "Details" buttons.

Asset	Available	APY, variable	APY, stable
DAI.e	0	2.53 % 0.11 % ⓘ	5.46 %
FRAX	0	3.75 %	—

# Asset lending

- If lenders don't repay the principal, their collateral is automatically liquidated to repay the lenders
  - Hence collateral value must (substantially) exceed loan value
  - If the value of the collateral drops, the system may automatically liquidate it without warning
- **Question:** How do these smart contracts know the “value” of anything?

# Asset lending

- If lenders don't repay the principal, their collateral is automatically liquidated to repay the lenders
  - Hence collateral value must (substantially) exceed loan value
  - If the value of the collateral drops, the system may automatically liquidate it without warning
- **Question:** How do these smart contracts know the “value” of anything?
- **Answer:** services provide price “oracles” to these systems, by sending Txes (to some contract) that contain current prices, e.g., ChainLink.  
(Or they can query AMM contracts!)

# Asset lending

## Assets to supply

Hide —

 Your Avalanche wallet is empty. Purchase or transfer assets or use [Avalanche Bridge](#) to transfer your Ethereum & Bitcoin assets.

Assets ◆ Wallet balance ◆ APY ◆ Can be collateral ◆

Assets	Wallet balance	APY	Can be collateral	Supply	Details
 WET...	0	0.31% 0.47 % ⓘ	✓	<button>Supply</button>	<button>Details</button>
 WBT...	0	0.35 %	✓	<button>Supply</button>	<button>Details</button>
 WAVAX	0	1.65% 1.15 % ⓘ	✓	<button>Supply</button>	<button>Details</button>
 AVAX	0	1.65% 1.15 % ⓘ	✓	<button>Supply</button>	<button>Details</button>

## Assets to borrow

Hide —

 To borrow you need to supply any asset to be used as collateral.

Asset ◆ Available ⓘ ◆ APY, variable ⓘ ◆ APY, stable ⓘ ◆

 DAI.e	0	2.53% 0.11 % ⓘ	5.46 %	<button>Borrow</button>	<button>Details</button>
 FRAX	0	3.75 %	—	<button>Borrow</button>	<button>Details</button>
 MAI	0	3.51 %	—	<button>Borrow</button>	<button>Details</button>
 USDC	0	2.31% 0.17 % ⓘ	5.43 %	<button>Borrow</button>	<button>Details</button>

# Asset lending (horror stories)

- There are big risks here, if the collateral asset is badly priced (or thinly traded)
- Show up with some fake nonsense-coin, that has been “wash traded” into appearing to have value
- Borrow actual money with it
- Walk away and never come back
- So these systems are not usually unsupervised... and lenders can lose money



# Flash loans!

- It is possible to make loans that must be repaid within the course of a single transaction

flashLoan()

getAndRepay  
Loan()

crazyTrading()

# Frontrunning

# Re-entrancy

# DAO disaster

- Decentralized Autonomous Organization
  - “Like a VC fund” but decentralized
  - Implementation: a contract that controls money, and directs its disbursement according to “shareholder votes”
  - Shareholders buy in, pool their ETH (sending to contract)
  - Then vote on investments, which are made together
  - Users can “split” a DAO

# “The DAO”

```
function splitDAO(
    uint _proposalID,
    address _newCurator
) noEther onlyTokenholders returns (bool _success) {

    ...
    // XXXXX Move ether and assign new Tokens. Notice how this is done first!
    uint fundsToBeMoved =
        (balances[msg.sender] * p.splitData[0].splitBalance) /
        p.splitData[0].totalSupply;
    if (p.splitData[0].newDAO.createTokenProxy.value(fundsToBeMoved)(msg.sender)
== false) // XXXXX This is the line the attacker wants to run more than once
        throw;

    ...
    // Burn DAO Tokens
    Transfer(msg.sender, 0, balances[msg.sender]);
    withdrawRewardFor(msg.sender); // be nice, and get his rewards
    // XXXXX Notice the preceding line is critically before the next few
    totalSupply -= balances[msg.sender]; // XXXXX AND THIS IS DONE LAST
    balances[msg.sender] = 0; // XXXXX AND THIS IS DONE LAST TOO
    paidOut[msg.sender] = 0;
    return true;
}
```

# How to upgrade a contract?

# How to upgrade a contract?

- Contracts are default immutable
- If there is no useful ongoing state, don't: just replace it
- If there is ongoing state (e.g., account balances) then:
  - Don't allow upgrades — and pray you got the code right
  - Call upgradeable/replaceable library code
  - Create a complex mechanism to transfer state from an old contract instance to a new contract instance

# Future of Ethereum

- Proof of stake
- Rollups
- Sharding