Reversing Ethereum Smart Contracts

to find out what's behind EVM bytecode

FUZZING LABS

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Bytecode disassembly
3. Control flow graph (CFG) reconstruction
4. Functions identification
5. Functions name recovery
6. Why using reversing?
   - Closed-source analysis
   - Optimization
   - Vulnerability research
   - Post mortem analysis, …
7. Questions

FUZZING LABS

Introduction

What is Reverse engineering?

```
contract Mortal {
    /* Define variable owner of the type address */
    address owner;

    /* This function is executed at initialization
              and sets the owner of the contract */
    function Mortal() { owner = msg.sender; }

    /* Function to recover the funds on the contract */
    function kill() {
        if (msg.sender == owner)
            selfdestruct(owner);
    }
}

contract Greeter is Mortal {
    /* Define variable greeting of the type string */
    string greeting;

    /* This runs when the contract is executed */
    function Greeter(string _greeting) public {
        greeting = _greeting;
    }

    /* Main function */
    function greet() constant returns (string) {
        return greeting;
    }
}
```

Solidity source code

```
6080604052600436106100c57
6000357c010000000000000000
0000000000000000000000000
0000000000000900463ffffff
ff16806341c0e1b51461005157
8063cfae321714610068575b60
0080fd5b34801561005d576000
80fd5b506100666100f8565b00
5b34801561007457600080fd5b
5061007d610189565b60405180
80602001828103825283818151
8152602001915080519060200 1
9080838360005b838110156100
bd578082015181840152602081
0190506100a2565b5050505090
5090810190601f1680156100ea
57808203805160018360200361
01000a031916815260200191 50
5b509250505060405180910390
f35b6000809054...
```

EVM bytecode

```
[1] PUSH1 0x80
[3] PUSH1 0x40
[4] MSTORE
[6] PUSH1 0x04
[7] CALLDATASIZE
[8] LT
[11] PUSH2 0x004c
[12] JUMPI
[14] PUSH1 0x00
[15] CALLDATALOAD
[45] PUSH29 0x0100000000000000000000000
[46] SWAP1
[47] DIV
[52] PUSH4 0xffffffff
[53] AND
[54] DUP1
[59] PUSH4 0x41c0e1b5
[60] EQ
[63] PUSH2 0x0051
[64] JUMPI
[65] DUP1
[70] PUSH4 0xcfae3217
[71] EQ
[74] PUSH2 0x0068
[75] JUMPI
```

EVM assembly

Bytecode decomposition

- Loader code
  - Run the contract constructor
  - Execute once to store the runtime code on the blockchain
  - Can be present in “Contract creation code” on etherscan.io
  - Present in Input Data of the deploying transaction

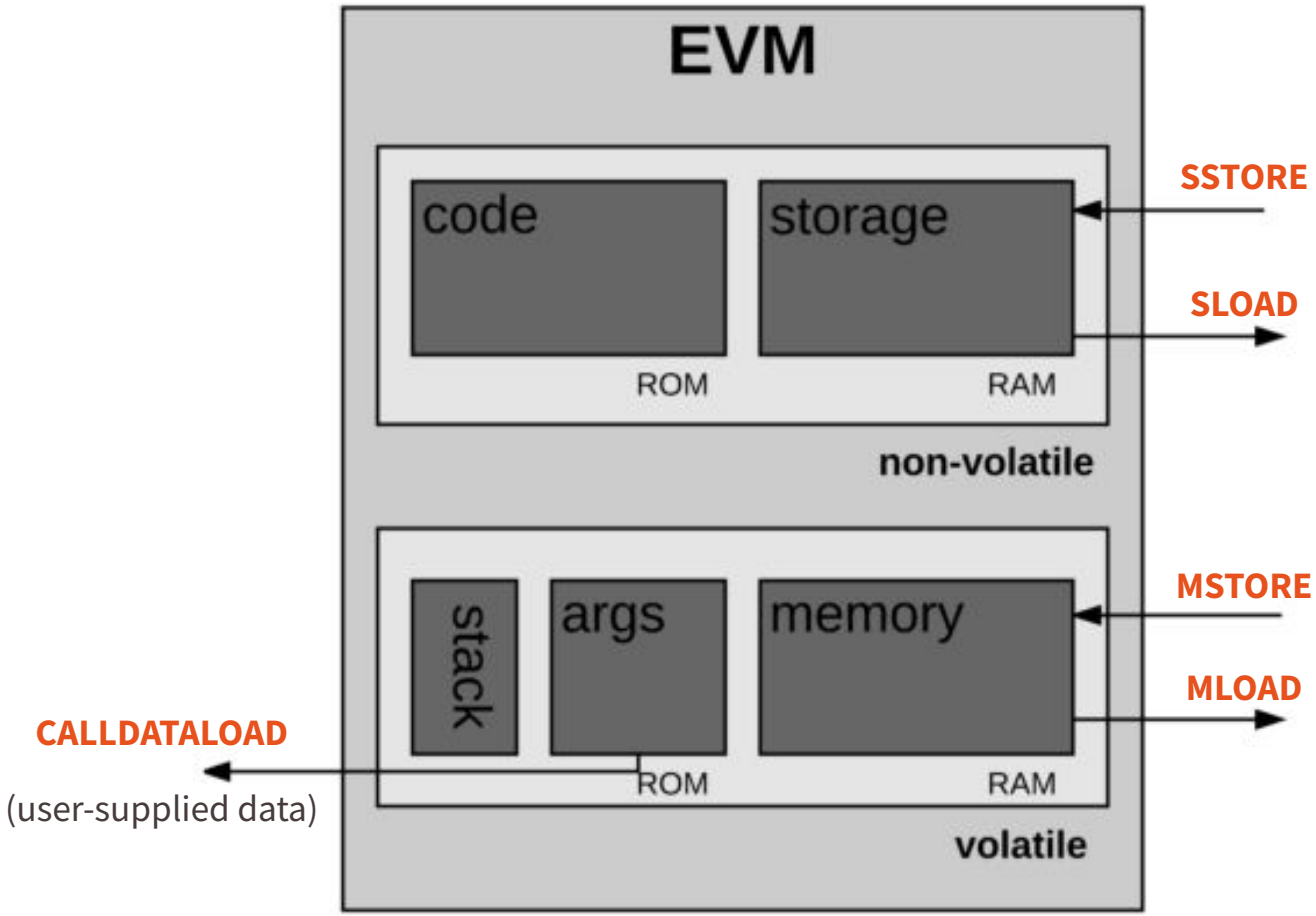
- Runtime code
  - Stored on the blockchain
  - Executed for each transaction with the contract

- Swarm Hash (a.k.a. bzzhash)
  - Merkle tree hash use to retrieve the content of the associated persistent storage of the contract
  - Concatenated at the end of the code
  - Magic number: 0x627a7a72 (bzzr)

```
6080604052348015610010576000 80fd5b5060405161039b380
38061039b83398101806040528101908080518201929190505050
5033600080610100 0a81548173ffffffffffffffffffffffffff
ffffffffffffffff02191690837 3ffffffffffffffffffffffff
ffffffffffffffff160217905550806001908051906020019060
1008992919061009056 5b5050610135565b8280546001816001
161561010002031660029004906000526020600020906 01f016
0209004810192826 01f106100d157805160ff19168380011785
556100ff565b828001600101855582156100 ff579182015b828
111156100fe57825182559160200191906001019061 00e3565b
5b5090506101 0c919061011056 5b5090565b61013291905b808
2111561012e576000816000905550600101610116565b509056
5b90565b610257806101446000396000f300 6080604052600043
61061004c576000357c0100000000000000000000000000000000
0000000000000000000000000090046 3ffffffff16806341c0e
1b514610051578063cfae321714610068575b600080fd5b3480
1561005d57600080fd5b506100666100 f8565b005b348015610
07457600080fd5b5061007d610189565b604051808060200182
8103825283818151815260200191508051906020019080838360
0005b838110156100bd57808201518184015260208101905061
00a2565b505050509050908101906 01f1680156100ea5780820
380516001836020036101000a031916815260200191505b5092
505050604051809103 90f35b60008090549061000a900473f
ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff1673ffffffff
ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff163373ffffffffffffff
ffffffffffffffffffffffff1614156101875760008090549
06101000a900473ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff
fffff1673ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff16
ff5b565b6060600180546001816001161561010002031660029
00480601f0160208091040260200160405190810160405280929
19081815260200182805460018160011615610100020316600
2900480156102215780601f106101f6576101008083540402 83
529160200191610221565b820191906000526020600020905b8
1548152906001019060200180831161020457829003601f1682
01915b505050505090505905600a165627a7a72305820df97826
8dd1593a7bbc753bfb0404d8353b4c6ced383d8107c926d5003
e40c060029
```

Ethereum Virtual Machine

Architecture		
Stack machine		
Turing complete		
Instruction set		~180 Opcodes
Memory type		
Stack	volatile	byte-array (list [])
Memory	volatile	byte-array (list [])
Storage	persistent	key-value database (dictionary {})



Bytecode disassembly

Disassembling

```
6080604052348015610010576000 80fd5b5060405161039b3803806103
9b8339810180604052810190808051820192919050505033600080610 1
000a81548173ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff021916
908373ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff160217905550
806001908051906020019061008992919061009056 5b5050610135565b
828054600181600116156101000203166002900490600052602060002 0
90601f016020900481019282601f106100d157805160ff191683800117
85556100ff565b828001600101855582156100ff579182015b82811115
6100fe578251825591602001919060010190610 0e3565b5b5090506101
0c9190610110565b5090565b61013291905b8082111561012e57600081
6000905550600101610116565b5090565b90565b610257806101446000
396000f300 6080604052600436106100 4c576000357c0100000000000
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000900463ffffff
ff16806341c0e1b514610051578063cfae321714610068575b600080f
d5b34801561005d57600080fd5b506100666100f8565b005b34801561
007457600080fd5b5061007d610189565b604051808060200182810382
52838181518152602001915080519060200190808383600 05b838110
156100bd5780820151818401526020810190506100a2565b505050509
050908101906 01f1680156100ea5780820380516001836020036101000
0a031916815260200191505b509250505060405180910390f35b60008
09054906101000a900473ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff
ffff1673ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff163373fff
fffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff1614156101875760008 0
9054906101000a900473ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff
fff1673ffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff16ff5b565b
6060600180546001816001161561010002031660029004806 01f01602
080910402602001604051908101604052809291908181526020018280
546001816001161561010002031660029004801561022 15780601f106
101f657610100808354040283529160200191610221565b8201919060
005260206000209 05b81548152906001019060200180831161020457 8
29003601f168201915b5050505050905050905600a165 627a7a72305820
df978268dd1593a7bbc753bfb0404d8353b4c6ced383d8107c926d5003
e40c060029
```

Decoded Bytecode :

[1] PUSH1 0x80
[3] PUSH1 0x40
[4] MSTORE
[6] PUSH1 0x04
[7] CALLDATASIZE
[8] LT
[11] PUSH2 0x004c
[12] JUMPI
[14] PUSH1 0x00
[15] CALLDATALOAD
[45] PUSH29 0x0100000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
[46] SWAP1
[47] DIV
[52] PUSH4 0xffffffff
[53] AND
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[59] PUSH4 0x41c0e1b5
[60] EQ
[63] PUSH2 0x0051
[64] JUMPI
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[70] PUSH4 0xcfae3217
[71] EQ
[74] PUSH2 0x0068
[75] JUMPI
[76] JUMPDEST
[78] PUSH1 0x00
[79] DUP1

EVM Instructions set

Opcodes value	Family	Examples
0x00 – 0x0B	Stop and Arithmetic Operations	STOP, ADD, SUB, MUL, DIV, EXP
0x10 – 0x1A	Comparison & Bitwise Logic Operations	LT, GT, EQ, ISZERO, AND, XOR
0x20	SHA3	SHA3
0x30 – 0x3E	Environmental Information	ADDRESS, CALLER, CALLDATALOAD
0x40 – 0x45	Block Information	BLOCKHASH, COINBASE, NUMBER
0x50 – 0x5B	Stack, Memory, Storage and Flow Operations	POP, MSTORE, JUMP, JUMPI, JUMPDEST
0x60 – 0x7F	Push Operations	PUSH1 – PUSH32
0x80 – 0x8F	Duplication Operations	DUP1 – DUP16
0x90 – 0x9F	Exchange Operations	SWAP1 – SWAP16
0xA0 – 0xA4	Logging Operations	LOG0 – LOG4
0xF0 – 0xFF	System operations	CALL, RETURN, DELEGATECALL

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```
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```

https://etherscan.io/opcode-tool

CFG Reconstruction

Control flow graph (CFG)

- Control flow graph (CFG) is a graphical representation of the program logic using graph.

- Represented using:
  - Set of Basicblock (i.e. vertices or nodes)
  - Set of Edges

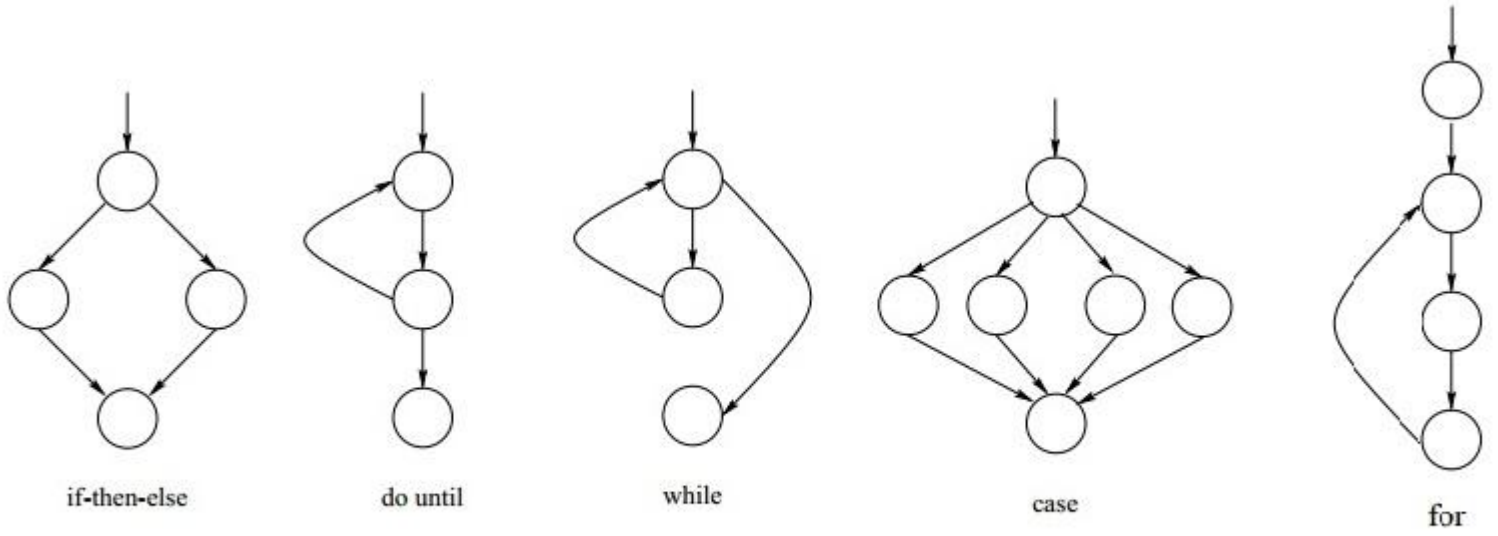

Figure 1: Flow graph representation.

Control flow instructions

Opcodes	Simplify description	Position within a Basicblock
JUMP	Unconditional jump	Last instruction
JUMPI	Conditional jump	Last instruction
RETURN , STOP INVALID SELFDESTRUCT , REVERT	Halt execution	Last instruction
JUMPDEST	Marks a position within the code that is a valid target destination for jumps	First instruction

EIP 615: Subroutines and Static Jumps for the EVM By *Greg Colvin*

New branch opcodes: JUMPTO, JUMPIF, JUMPSUB, JUMPSUBV, ….

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Decomposition into basic blocks

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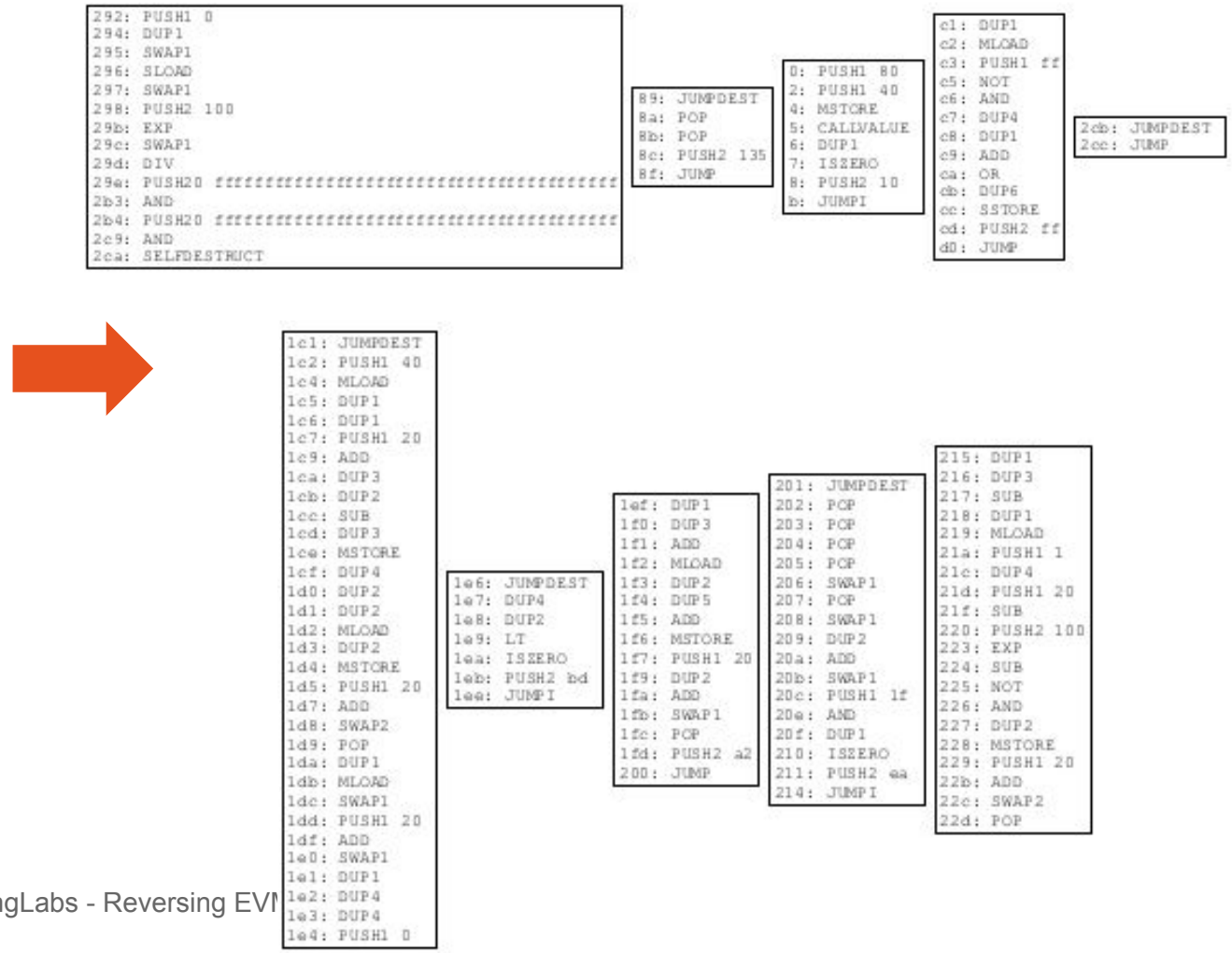
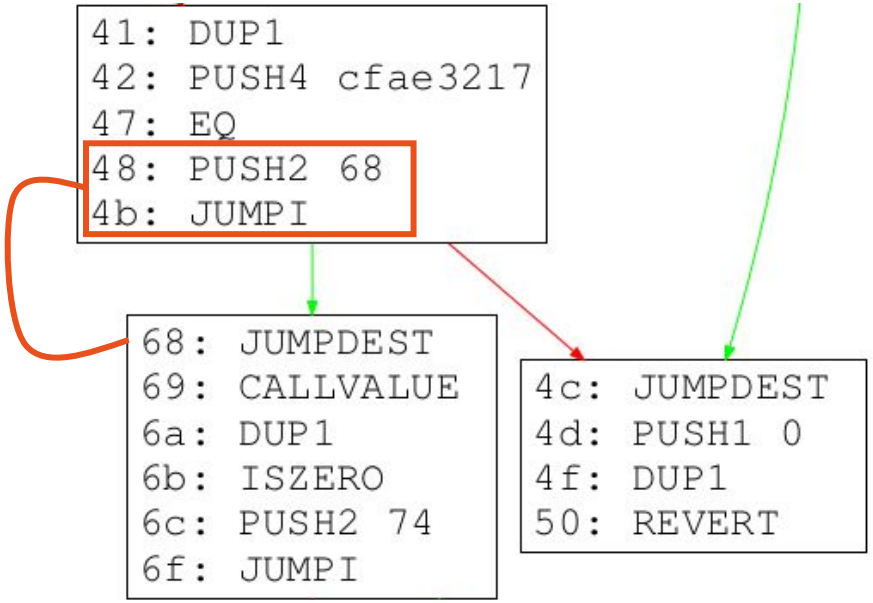


Edges identifications – static analysis

- Basic static analysis works if:
  - Jump target offset is pushed on the stack
  - Just before the JUMP/I



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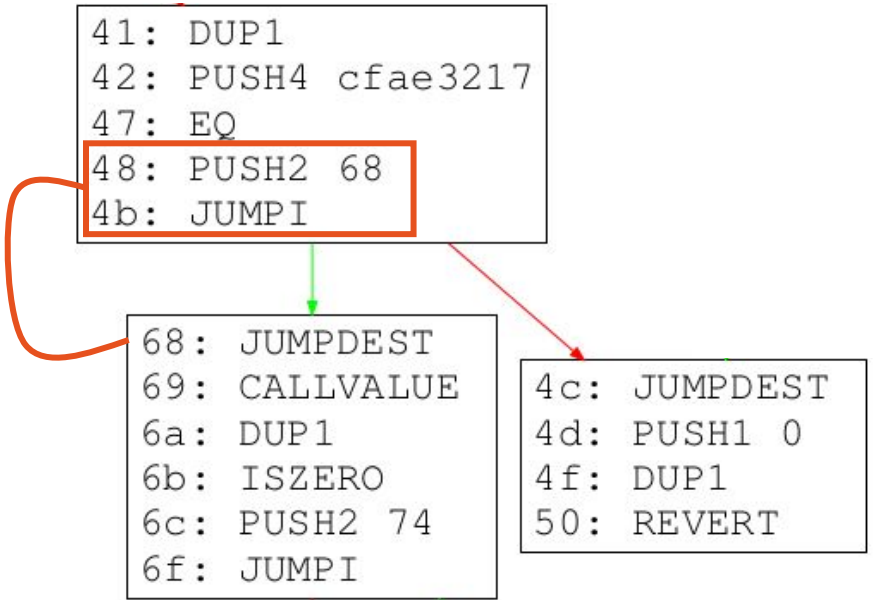
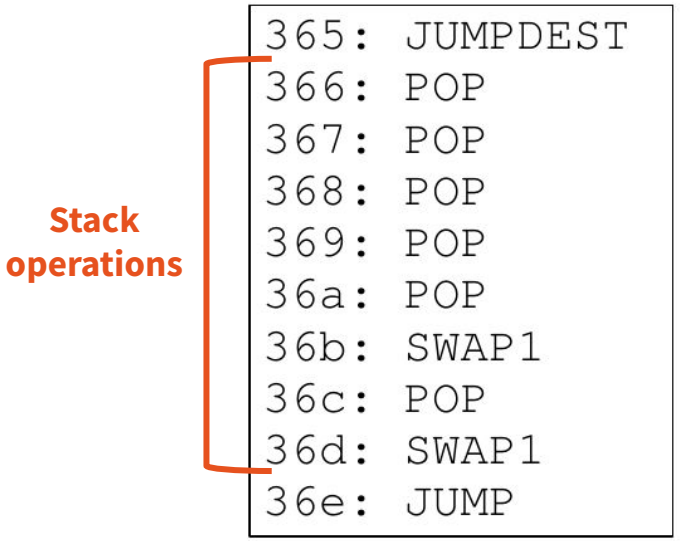


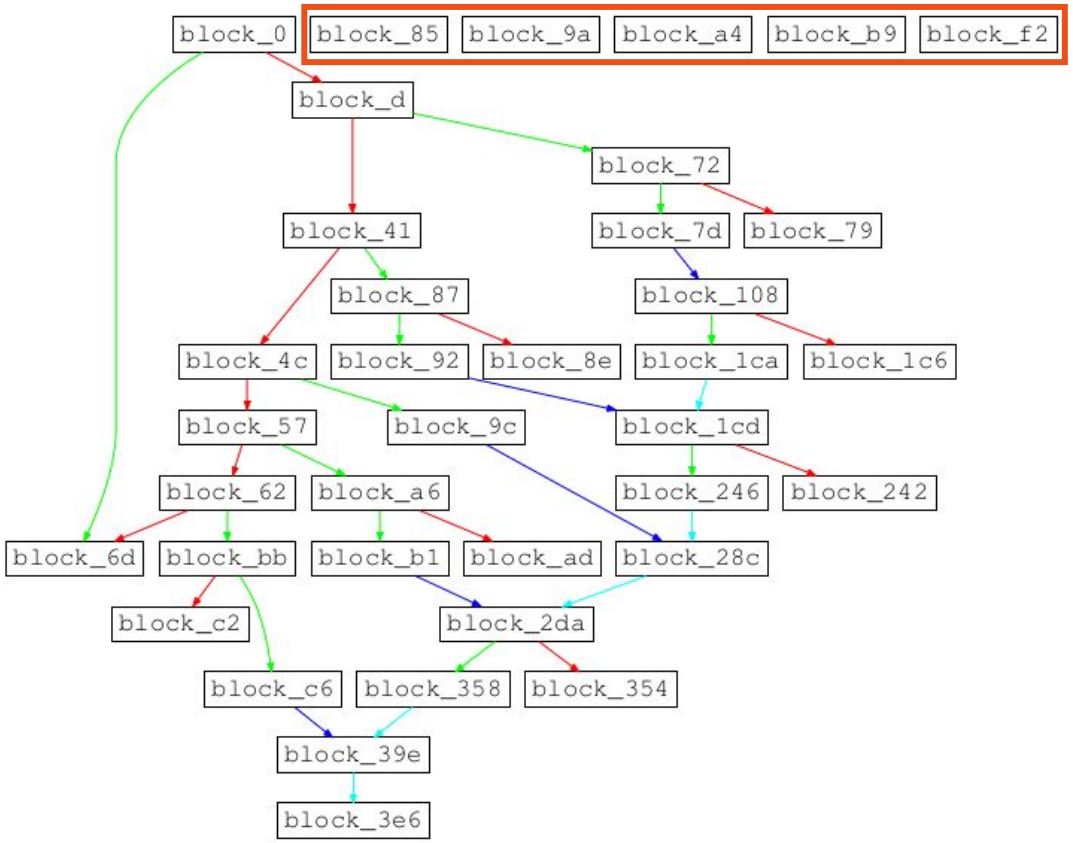
- But fails if:
  - Stack operations are used to put the jump target offset on top of the stack



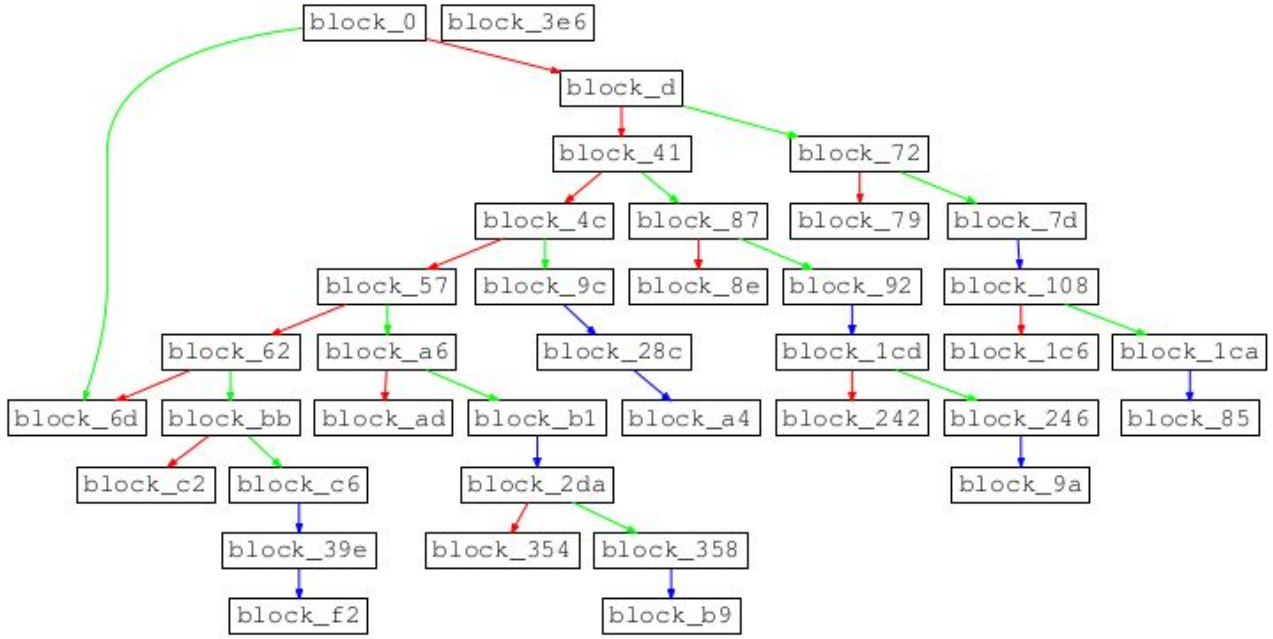
???

Control Flow Graph (CFG) reconstruction

Static analysis

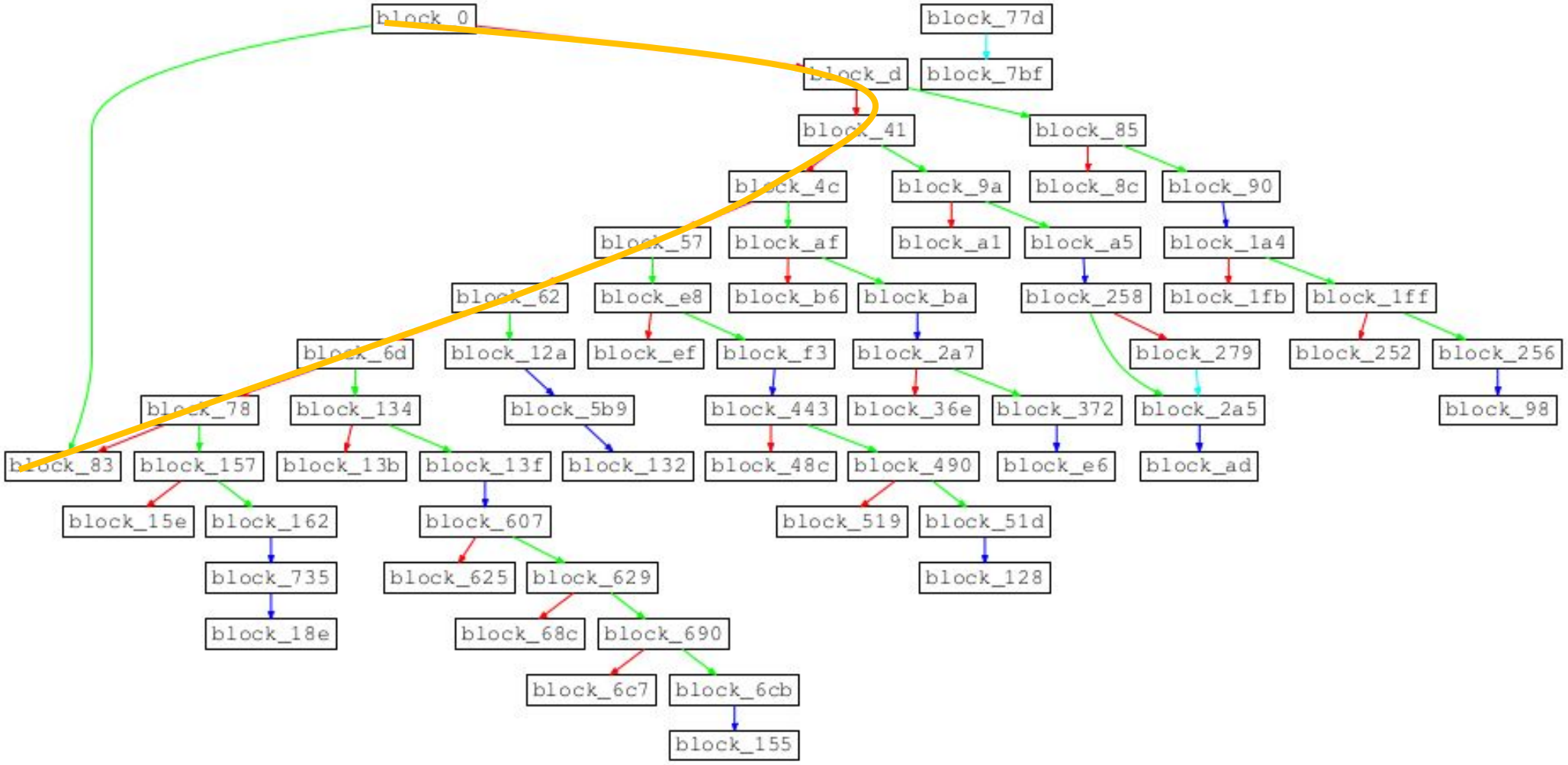


Dynamic analysis (stack evaluation)



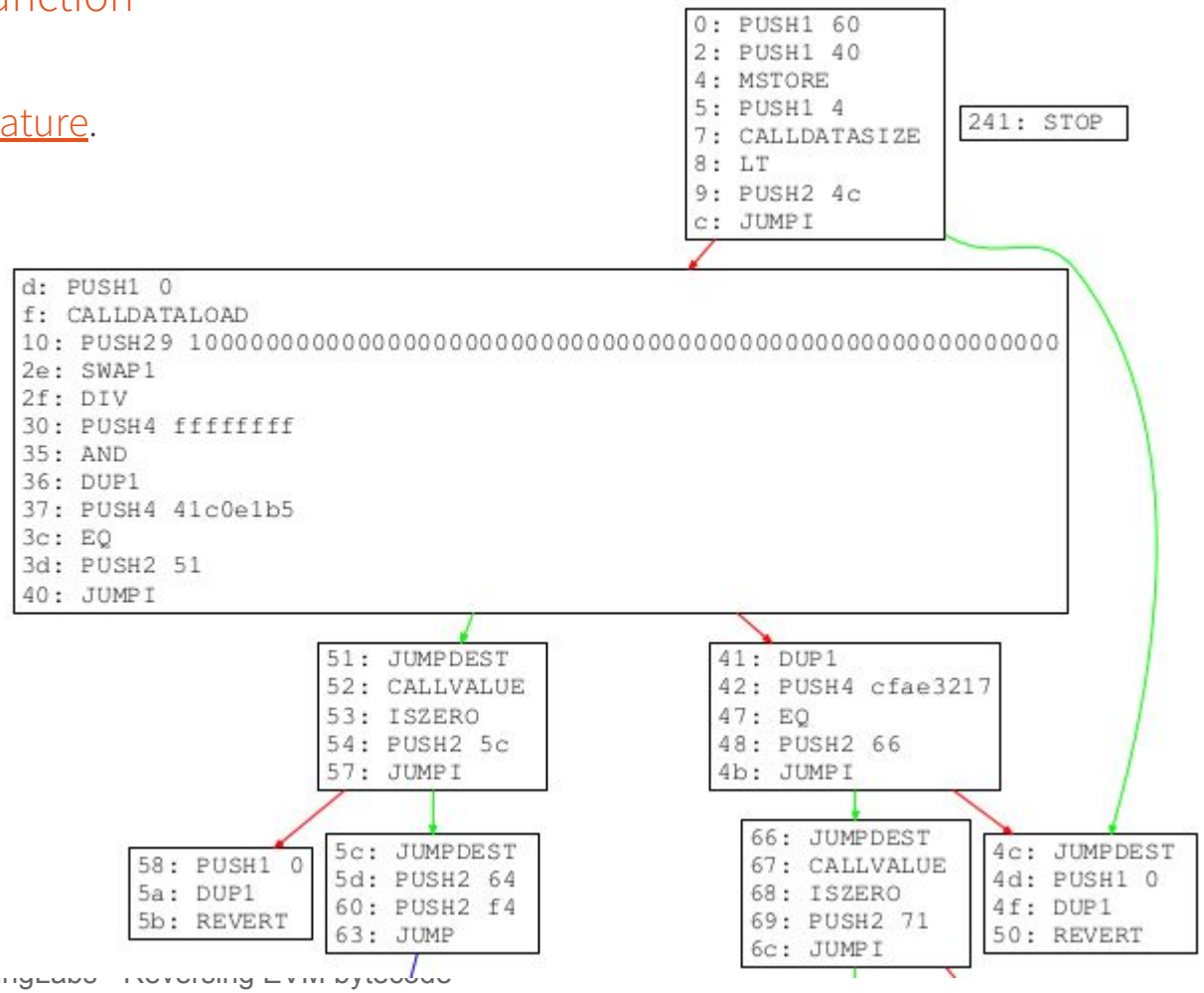
Functions identification

CFG pattern for a “switch”



Dispatcher function

- Runtime code entry point is usually a Dispatcher function
  - Switch on the first 4 bytes of the transaction payload
  - execute the associated code of the given function signature.



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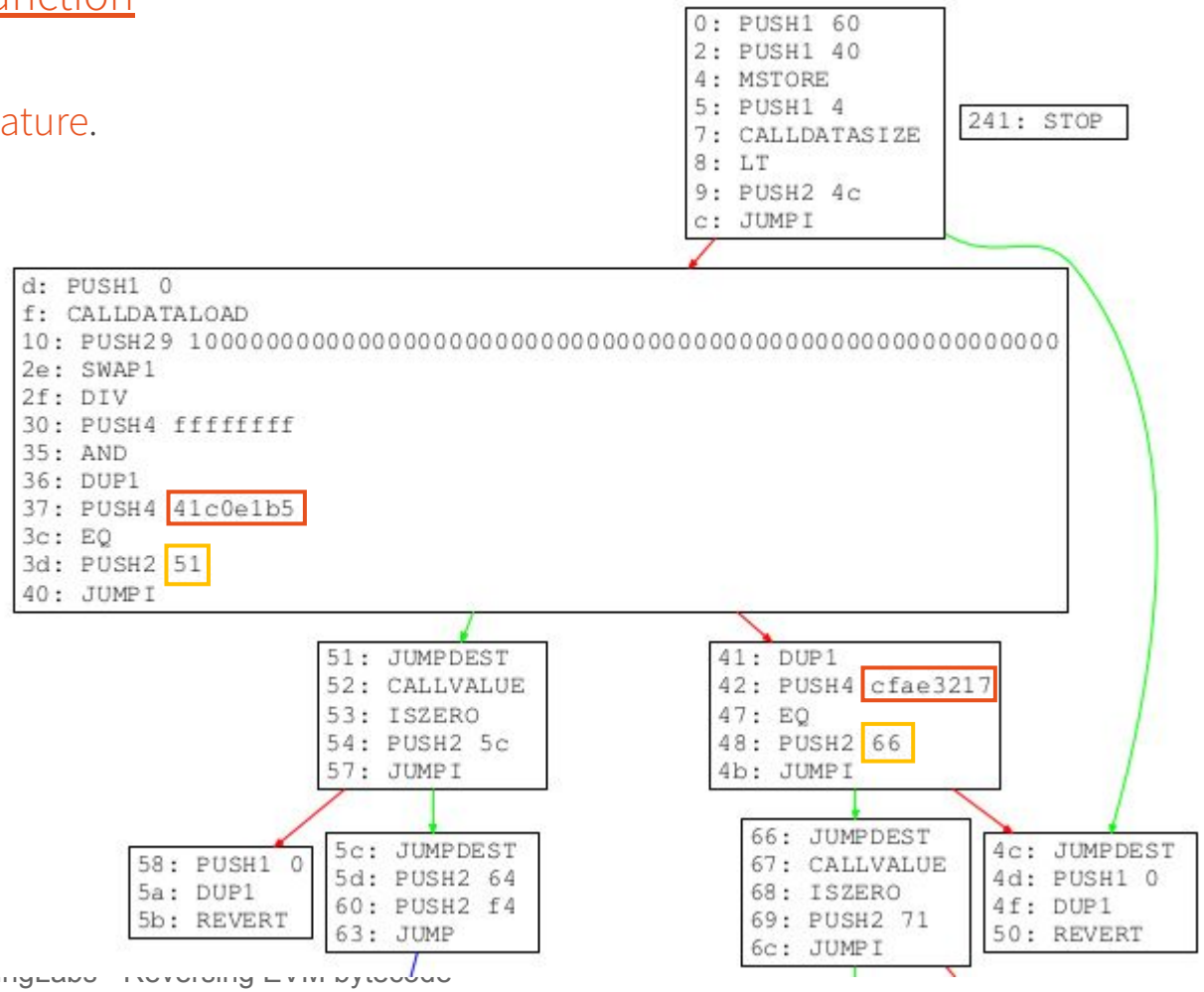
- Two functions signatures here:
  - **41c0e1b5**
  - **cfae3217**

```
41: DUP1
42: PUSH4   FUNC_HASH
47: EQ
48: PUSH2   FUNC_OFFSET
4b: JUMPI
```



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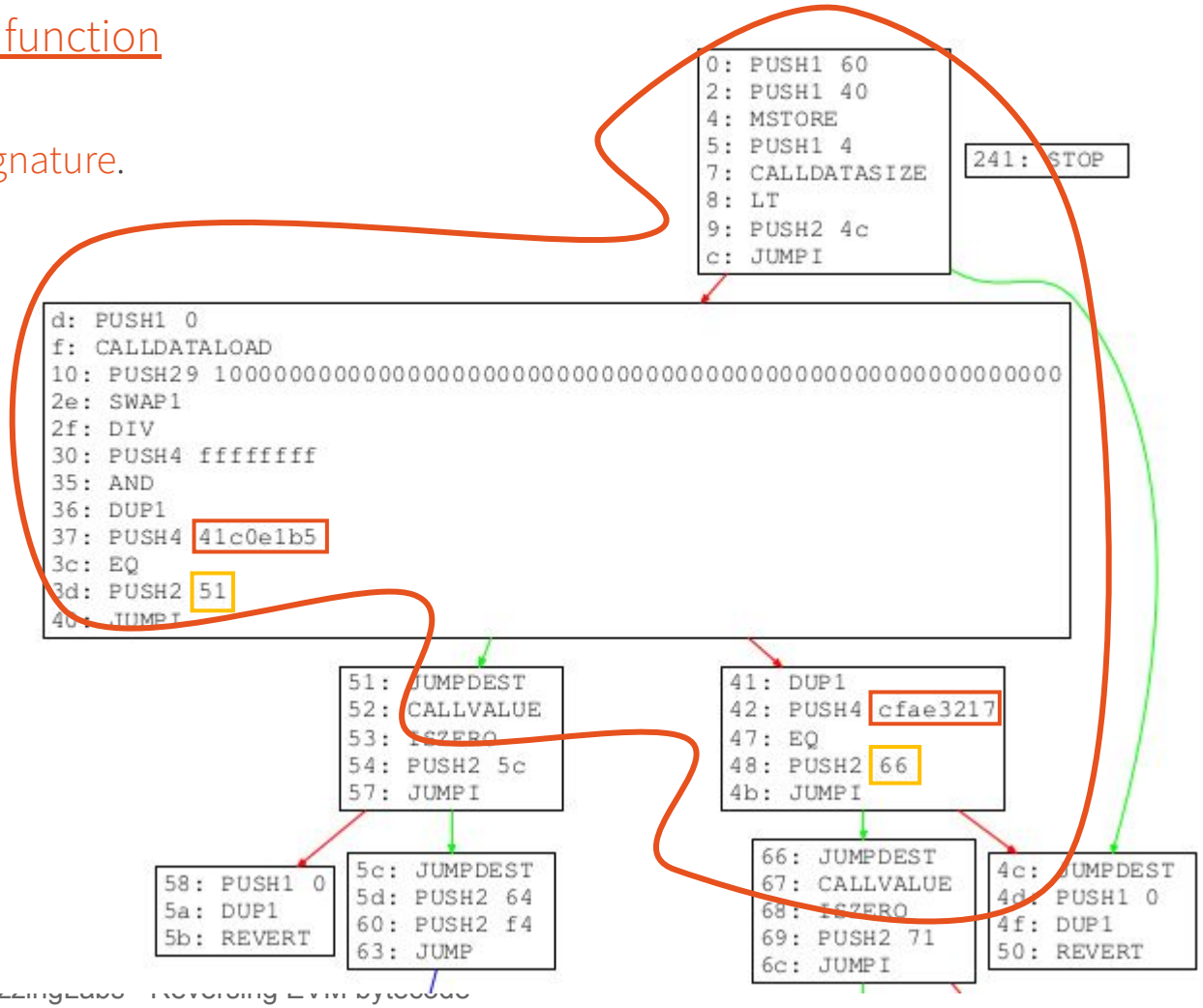
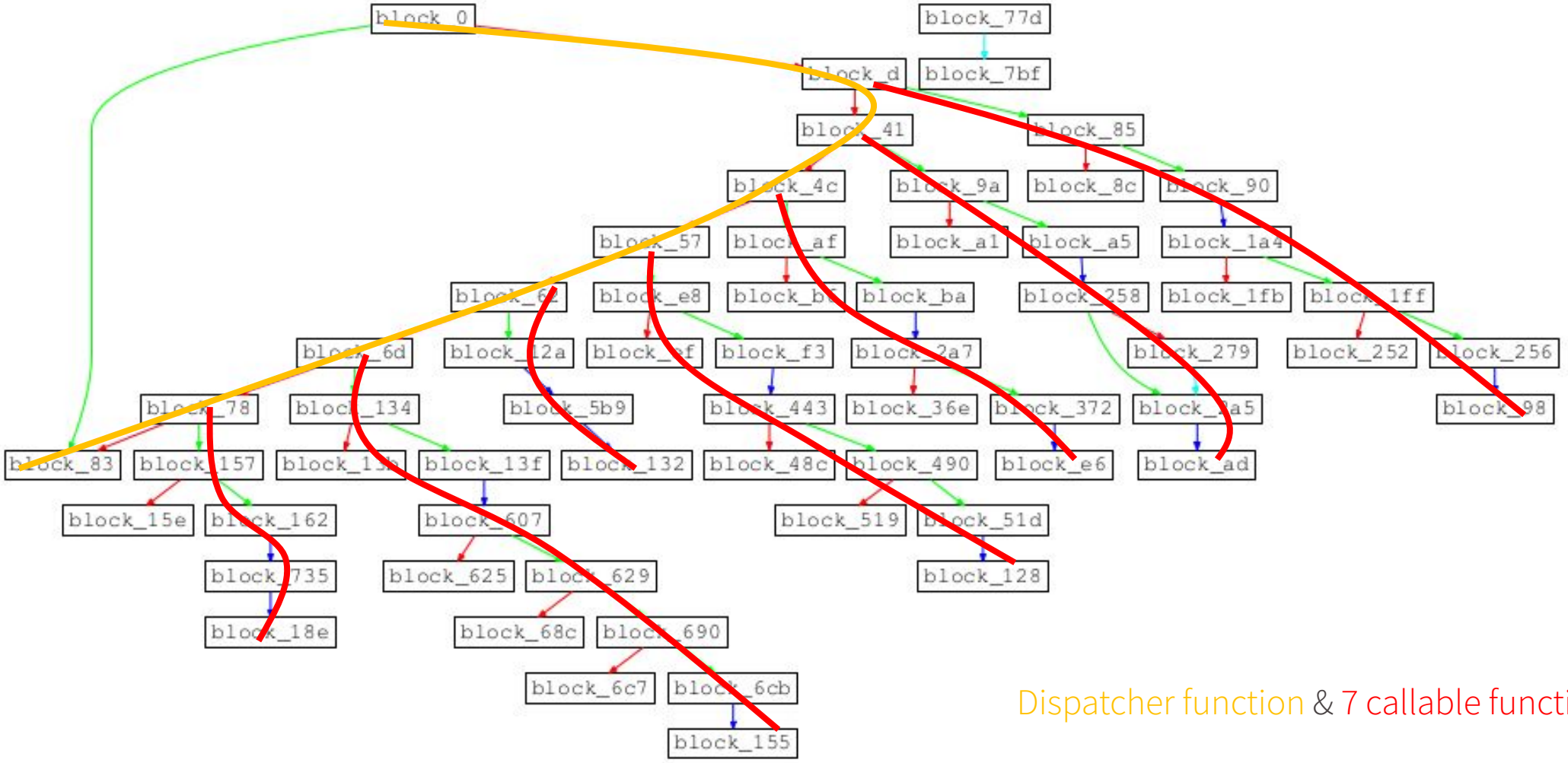


Functions identification - Depth First Search



Dispatcher function & 7 callable functions

Functions name recovery

Functions signatures – 4byte identifiers

- Function signatures/identifiers: First 4 bytes of the sha3 (keccak256) of the function prototype text

```
In [51]: explorer.web3_sha3('0x' + 'attack(address,uint8)'.encode("utf-8").hex())
Out[51]: '0x6ebb6d8020dbdaad3245b82b9ed99905876002f2e6cc8216cd475a481e0b7414'
```

- In the previous example:
  - kill() == 0x41c0e1b5eba5f1ef69db2e30c1ec7d6e0a5f3d39332543a8a99d1165e460a49e
  - greet() = 0xcfae3217c5b262aa4fd3346d6d110ec3c0361903298087be8626cb438090d274

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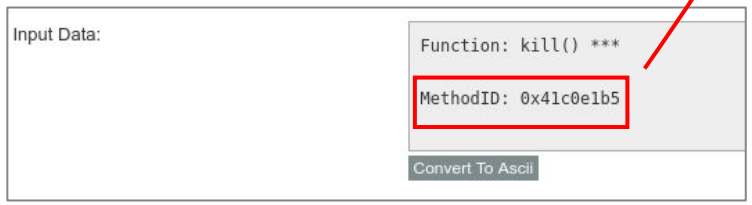
- When you interact with a contract:
  - You send the function signature (MethodID) followed by the arguments
  - Signature, Argument #1, Argument #2 (256-bits words)




```
'input': '0x6ebb6d80000000000000000000000002983eedfbd560b6d65ffa47de6a0f6d6fee6e136000000000000000000
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000004',
```

Function signature reverse lookup database

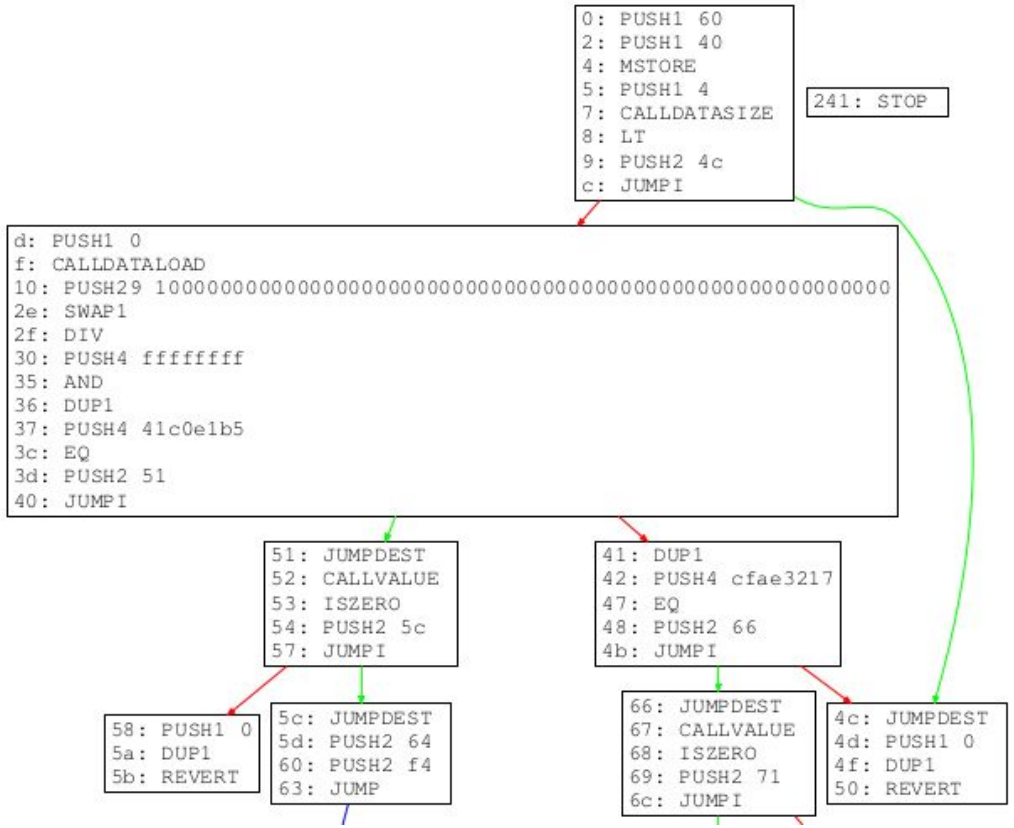
Search Signatures 0x70a08231 Search

ID	text signature	bytes signature
31808	distributeTokens(address[],uint256[])	0x4bd09c2a
31807	distributeTokens(address[],uint256)	0x256fa241
31806	finishMinting(address)	0x76192200
31805	salvageTokens(address,uint256)	0xaf303a11
31804	finishSalvage(address)	0xe63b029d
31803	setSalvageable(address,bool)	0xc9206ddf
31802	freezeAccounts(address[],bool)	0xc341b9f6
31801	lockAccounts(address[],uint256)	0xe5ac7291
31800	isUnlockedBoth(address)	0x5789baa5
31799	isUnlocked(address)	0x2bbf532a

Functions name & arguments type recovery

Search Signatures 0x70a08231 Search

ID	Text Signature
2009	greet()
1907	kill()



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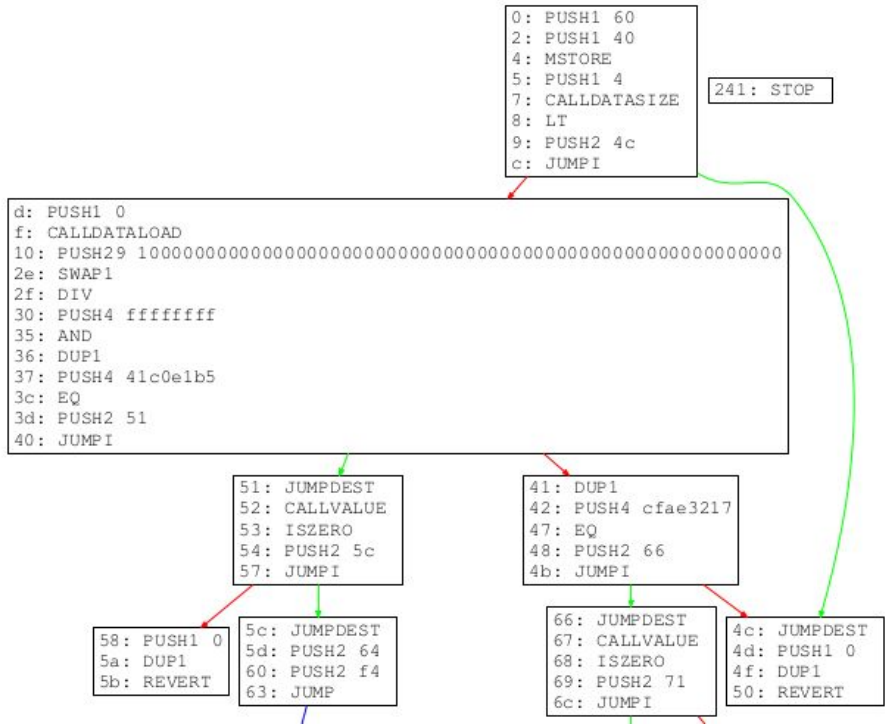

- Allow you to recover:
  - Function names
  - Arguments types

ID	text signature	bytes signature
31808	distributeTokens(address[],uint256[])	0x4bd09c2a
31807	distributeTokens(address[],uint256)	0x256fa241

Why using reversing?

Reversing & EVM bytecode analysis for…

- Users/ICO
  - Due diligence
  - Understand the Logic
  - CTF competition

- Security researcher
  - Bug hunting
  - Vulnerability research

- Company
  - Security audit
  - Bytecode Optimization

- Threat intelligence team
  - Transaction tracking
  - Analyze smart contract interactions

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Only bytecode is mandatory

Contract Source Code </>

.sol

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.11;


/**
 * @title Ownable
 * @dev The Ownable contract has an owner address, and provides basic authorization control
 * functions, this simplifies the implementation of "user permissions".
 */
contract Ownable {
  address public owner;


  /**
   * @dev The Ownable constructor sets the original `owner` of the contract to the sender
   * account.
   */
  function Ownable() {
    owner = msg.sender;
  }


  /**
   * @dev Throws if called by any account other than the owner.
   */
  modifier onlyOwner() {
```

Contract ABI

.abi

```
[{"constant":true,"inputs":[{"name":"_interfaceID","type":"bytes4"}],"name":"suppo
yable":false,"stateMutability":"view","type":"function"},{"constant":true,"inputs"
ddress"}],"payable":false,"stateMutability":"view","type":"function"},{"constant":t
ame":"_preferredTransport","type":"string"}],"name":"tokenMetadata","outputs":[{"na
Mutability":"view","type":"function"},{"constant":true,"inputs":[],"name":"promoCre
ayable":false,"stateMutability":"view","type":"function"},{"constant":true,"inputs"
g"}],"payable":false,"stateMutability":"view","type":"function"},{"constant":false,
kenId","type":"uint256"}],"name":"approve","outputs":[],"payable":false,"stateMutab
e,"inputs":[],"name":"ceoAddress","outputs":[{"name":"","type":"address"}],"payable
{"constant":true,"inputs":[],"name":"GEN0_STARTING_PRICE","outputs":[{"name":"","ty
```

.evm

Contract Creation Code

```
6060604090815260028054 60a060020a60ff02191690556101c09051908101604090815260 3c825260
152610e1060a0820152611c2060c08201526138406 0e08201526170806101008201526 1e1006101208
018082015262093a806101a0820152620000a790600390600e620004e4565b50600f60055566071afd
```

Switch To Opcodes View | Find Similiar Contracts

```
0x6060604052600436106100b95763ffffffff7c0100000000000000000000000
ea7b3146101495780631860ddd1461018457806323b872dd146101a957806331
1461023957806395d89b411461025e578063a9059cbb1461027157806cae9ca5
1610333565b604051808060200182810382528381815181526020019150805190
5050905090810190601f16801561013b5780820380516001836020036101000a0
1016e60048035600160a060020a0316906020013561 03d1565b60405190151515
5190815260200160405180910390f35b34156101b457600080fd5b61016e60016
7600080fd5b6101eb6104af565b60405160ff9182169091168152602001604051
80fd5b610197600160a060020a0360043516610561565b34156102445760008 0f
0fd5b6100d161068e565b341561027c57600080fd5b6102966004803560016 0a0
600160a060020a0316906020019091908035906020019091908035906020019 08
1906020840183808284375094965061070895505050505050565b3415610316
0080546001816001161561010002031660029004806 01f0160208091040260200
```

.evm

Constructor Arguments

```
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000002c68af0bb1400000
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000080
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000853686f70436f726e000
```

Swarm Source:

```
bzzr://5451f726cc9250998b9e11c407ba51b6401dc80c6ee37fa85a0343b008
```

CryptoKitties “geneScience” contract

- *“the sooper-sekret gene mixing operation” (0xf97e0a5b616dffc913e72455fde9ea8bbe946a2b)*
  - Call to the `mixGenes` function of the `geneScience` external contract
  - `GeneScience.sol` not release on there bug-bounty github

```
// Call the sooper-sekret gene mixing operation
uint256 childGenes = geneScience.mixGenes(matron.genes, sire.genes, matron.cooldownEndBlock - 1);
```

CryptoKittiesCore

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CryptoKittiesCore

- Community started by diffing kitties genome DNA
  - in order to isolate the genes associated with a specific trait.
  - CryptoKittydex website

- Reversed & analyzed by the community
  - CryptoKitties GeneScience algorithm by *Alex Hegyi*
  - Towards Cracking Crypto Kitties’ Genetic Code by *Mo Dong*
  - CryptoKitties mixGenes Function by *Sean Soria*
  - The CryptoKitties Genome Project by kaigani

Reversing & EVM bytecode analysis for…

- Users/ICO
  - Due diligence
  - Understand the Logic
  - CTF competition

- Security researcher
  - Bug hunting
  - Vulnerability research

- **Company**
  - **Security audit**
  - **Bytecode Optimization**

- Threat intelligence team
  - Transaction tracking
  - Analyze smart contract interactions

Bytecode optimization – Exponentiation

- Exponentiation (`EXP`) can be optimize (save 10 GAS) in two cases:
  - If args of `EXP` are constants
    - compiler should calculate the result
    - replace directly `EXP` by a `PUSH result` instruction
  - If one of the `EXP` args == 0 | 1
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    - even if the other `EXP` argument are a runtime variable (`CALLDATALOAD/MLOAD/SLOAD/…`)

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- Martin Holst Swende (holiman) reproduces this on 16 random blocks:
  - 18538 invocations of `EXP`
  - 4896 are non-trivial
  - 13642 can be optimize == 73.5 % of EXP invocations

The takeaway is that if we do some trivial optimizations:

1. `x^1 == x`
2. `x^0 == 1`
3. `0^y == 0` (if y != 0)

Adding the filter `1^y ==1` leaves `4896` non-trivial invocations.

- Maybe those optimization are done using `solc --optimize`
  - But compiler should optimize that behavior by default without any extra flag

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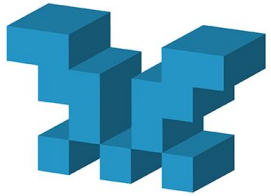
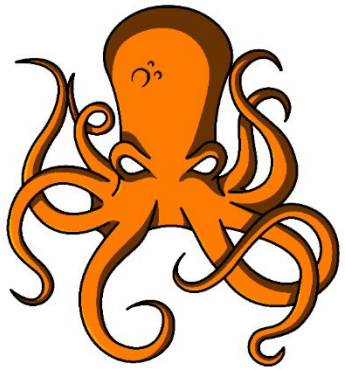
Vulnerability research / Bug finding

- All those tools uses directly the EVM bytecode to perform their analysis

- Octopus: Security Analysis tool for Blockchain Smart Contracts (BTC/ETH/NEO/EOS)
- Mythril: Security analysis tool for Ethereum smart contracts
- Securify: Security Scanner for Ethereum Smart Contracts
- Rattle: evm binary static analysis
- Echidna: Ethereum fuzz testing framework
- ethervm.io: Online Solidity Decompiler
- …





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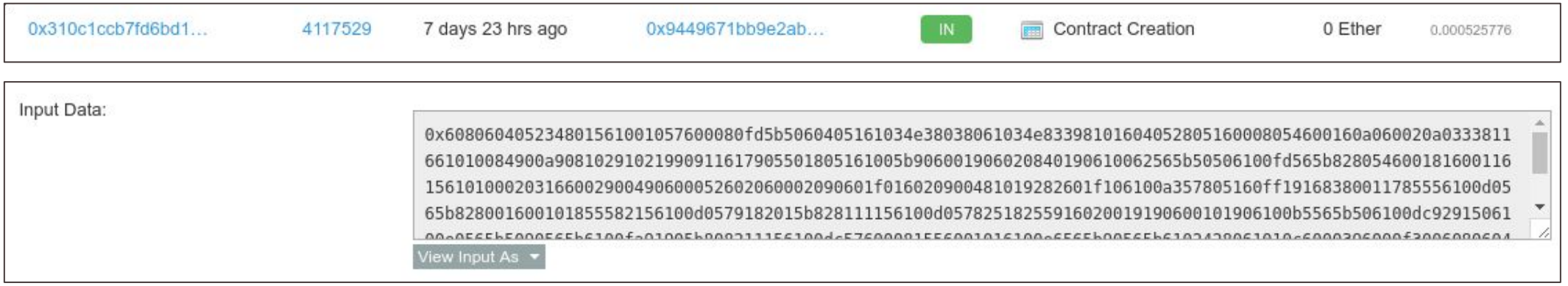
Post-mortem smart contract analysis

- If you want to analyze post-mortem interactions of a destroyed smart contract
  - When a smart contract is destroyed, code is no longer available

Post-mortem smart contract analysis

- If you want to analyze post-mortem interactions of a destroyed smart contract
  - When a smart contract is destroyed, code is no longer available
  - but the smart contract bytecode is still present in the contract creation transaction
  - So you can recover the smart contract bytecode
  - and you can analyze the smart contract & replay locally the transactions



Loader code + Runtime code

Conclusion