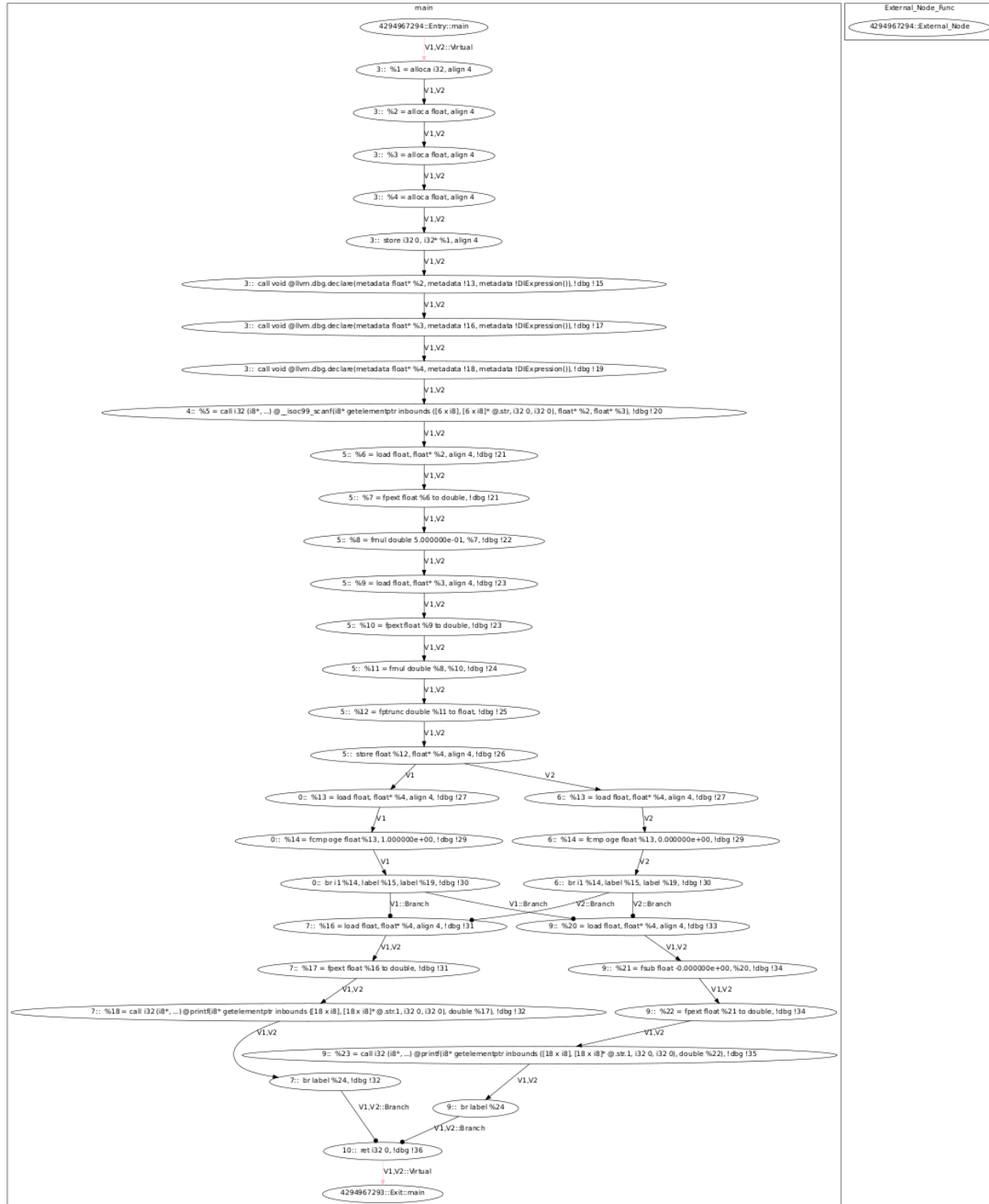


1)



2)

```
Newly removed paths:  
Path 1: 32 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 31 33  
Path 2: 32 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 26 27 28 29 30 31 33  
Number of newly removed paths: 2  
Newly added paths:  
Path 1: 32 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 39 40 41 22 23 24 25 31 33  
Path 2: 32 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 39 40 41 26 27 28 29 30 31 33  
Number of newly added paths: 2
```

3)

Yes this change can impact the output of the code. If you run this initial version with $a = .5$ and $b = 1$, then area is calculated as $-.25$. In the second version, its calculated as $.25$.