



**VisWeek 09**  
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# Visual Analysis of Malware Behavior

October 11th, 2009

# About Us

- University of Mannheim, Germany



- Laboratory for Dependable Distributed Systems
- Security research:
  - Analysis of malware and spam
  - Honeypots / IT-Forensics



# Motivation

- Sandbox Service - [CWSandbox.org](http://CWSandbox.org)
- Dynamic malware analysis
  - API-Hooking
  - Monitors 121 API-Calls out of 20 sections
  - Detailed Behavior Report (XML)
- Up to 4000 new samples per day
- Manual processing not possible



# Motivation

- What are the main Operations?
  - Network activities?
  - Registry access?
  - Filesystem operations?
  - ...
- Which operations do not occur?



# Motivation

- What are the main Operations?
  - Network activities?
  - Registry access?
  - Filesystem operations?
  - ...
- Which operations do not occur?

Which samples are of interest?





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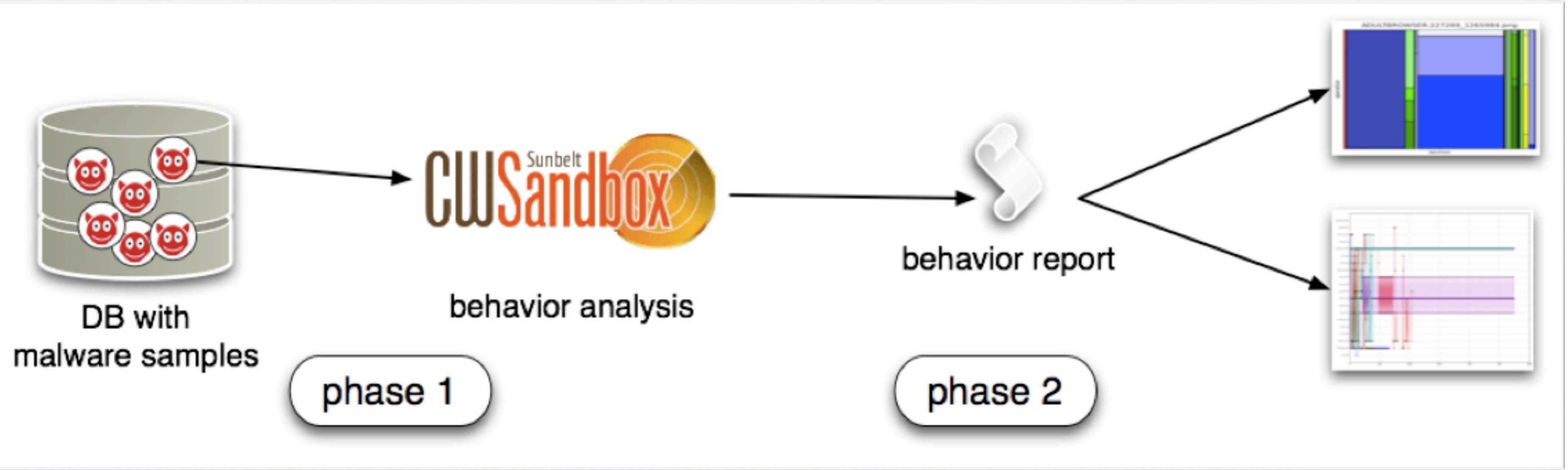
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```



```

<open_key key="HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\WPA\TabletPC"/>
<open_key key="HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\WPA\MediaCenter"/>
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```

# Visualization

- CWSandbox report is “too” detailed
- Use visualization for abstraction
  - Simple to create
  - Comprehensible
- Treemaps and Threadgraphs
- Static version (Python, matplotlib)
- Dynamic version using JavaScript (flot, Jit)



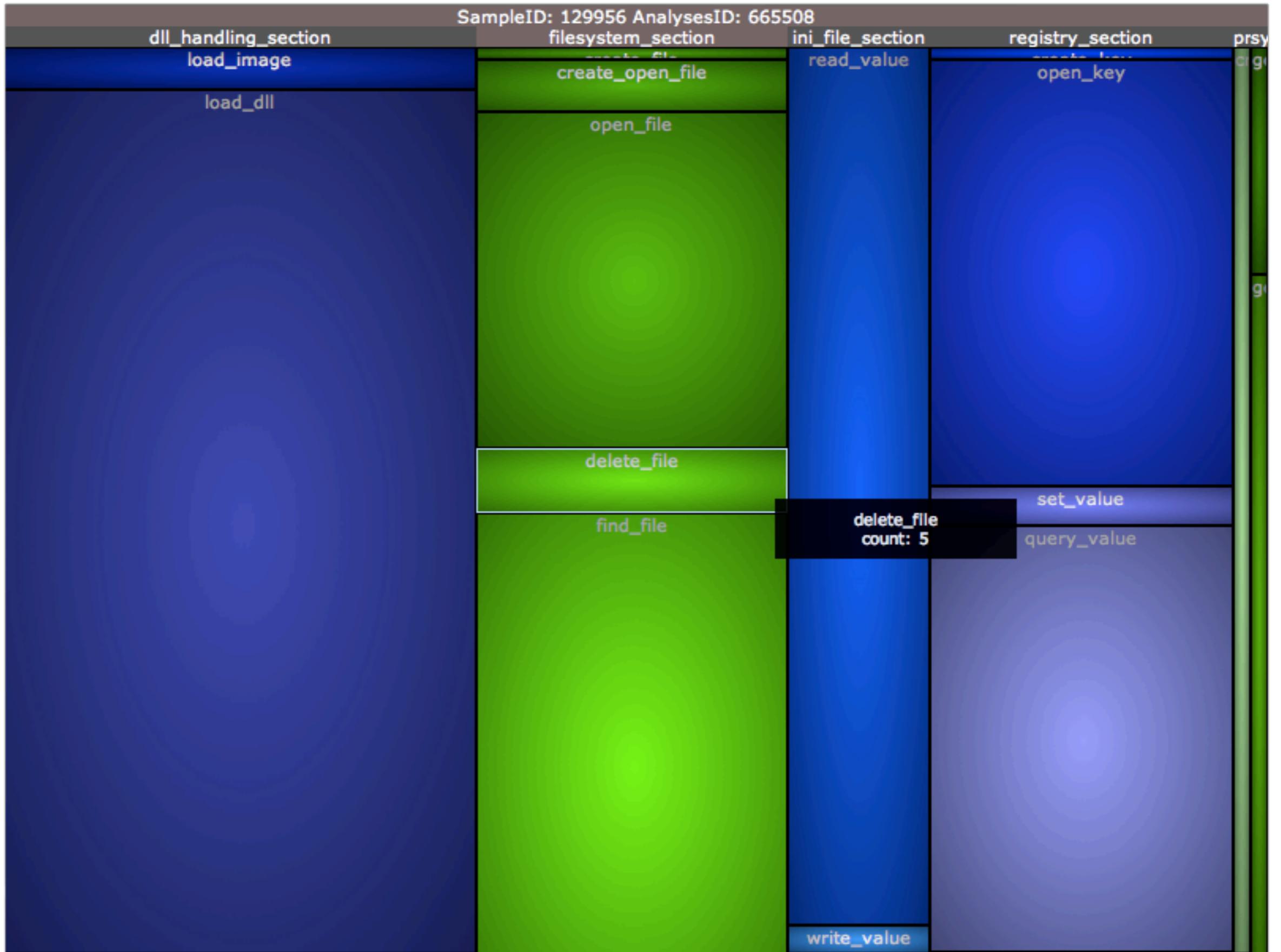
# Treemaps

- Quick overview
- Displays the distribution of all operations
- No information about the sequence of operations
- Use case: Malware clustering



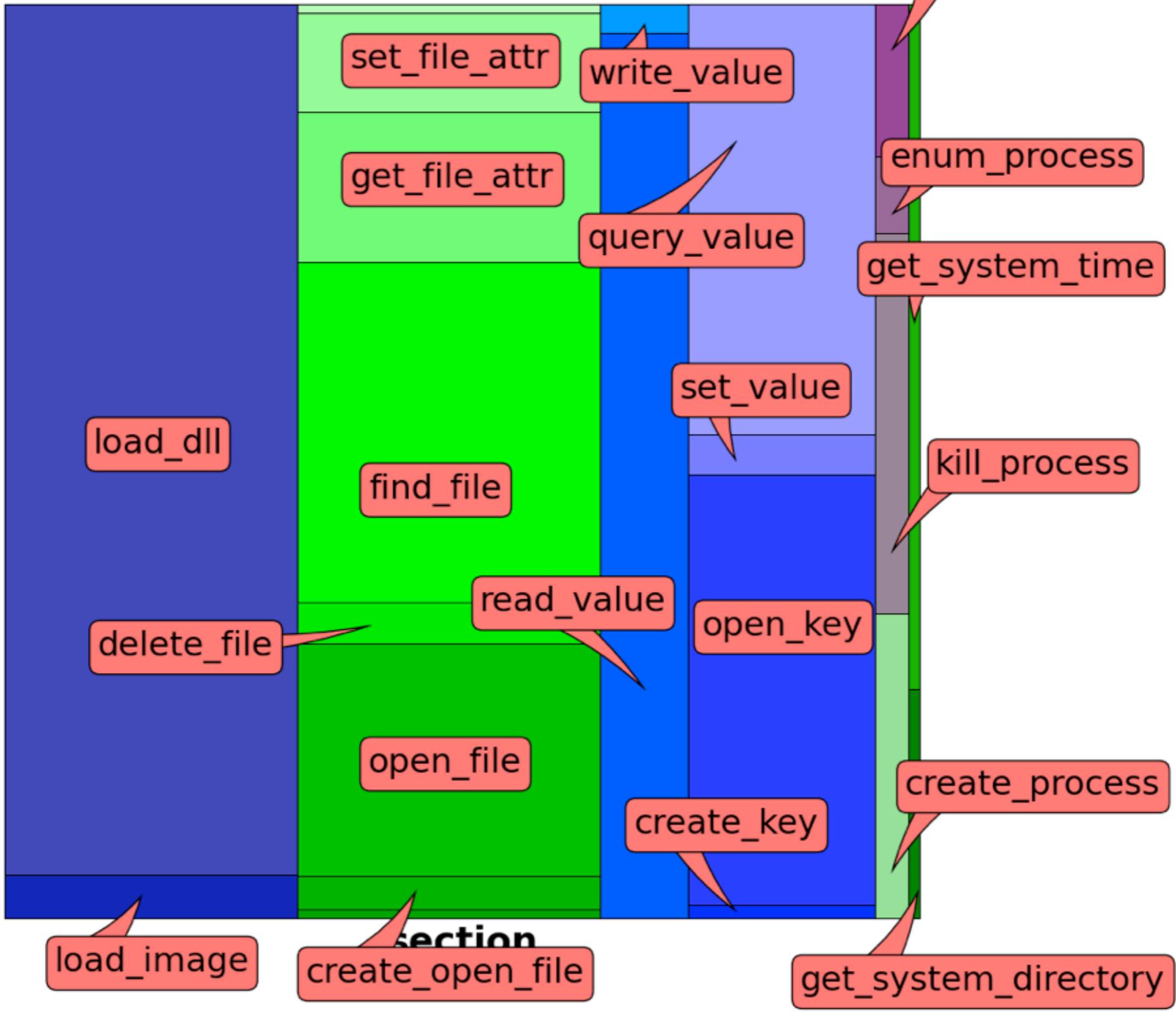


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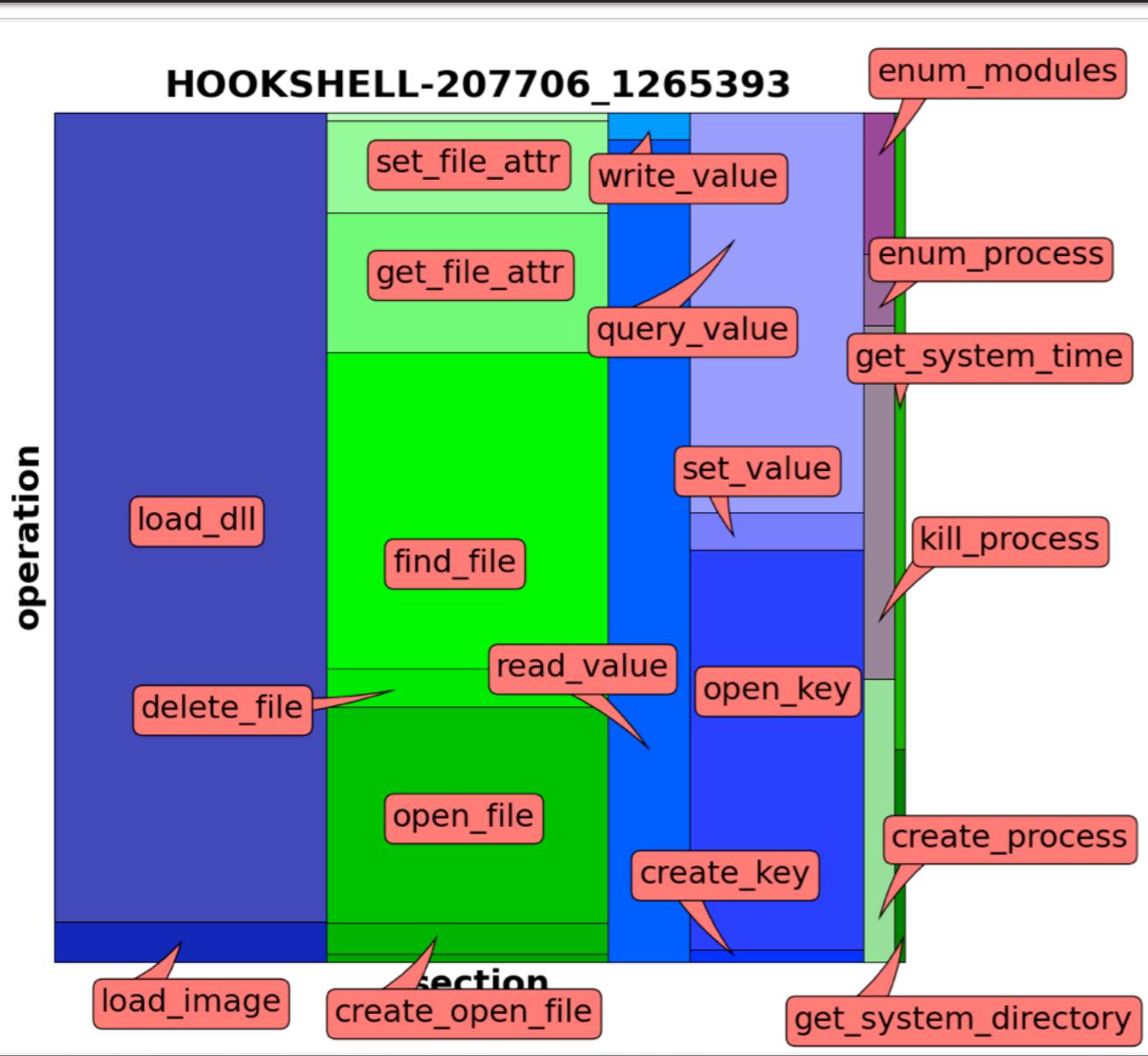


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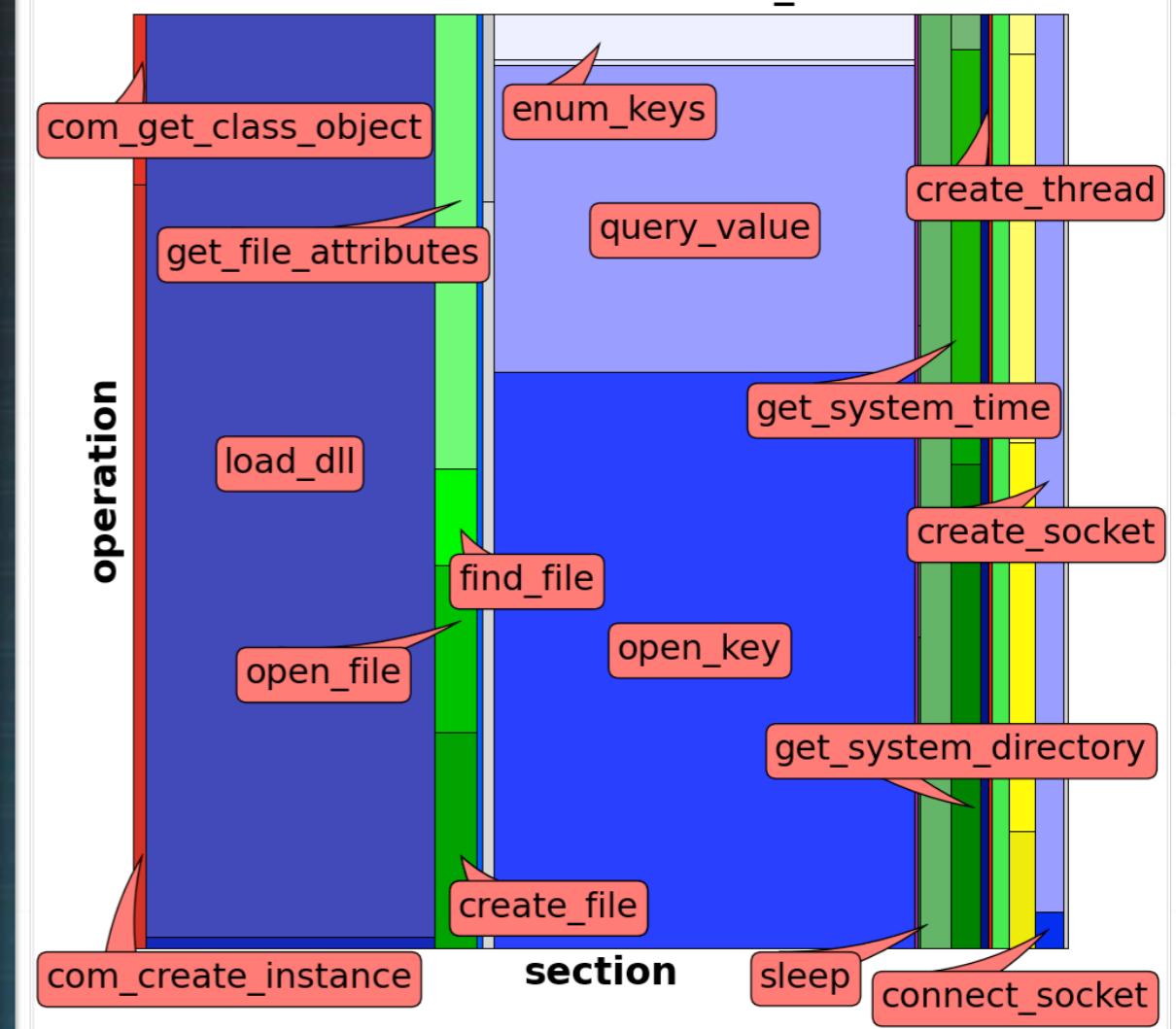
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### HOOKSHELL-207706\_1265393

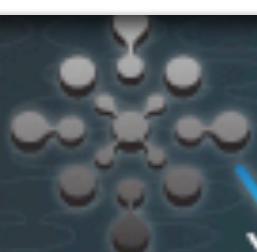
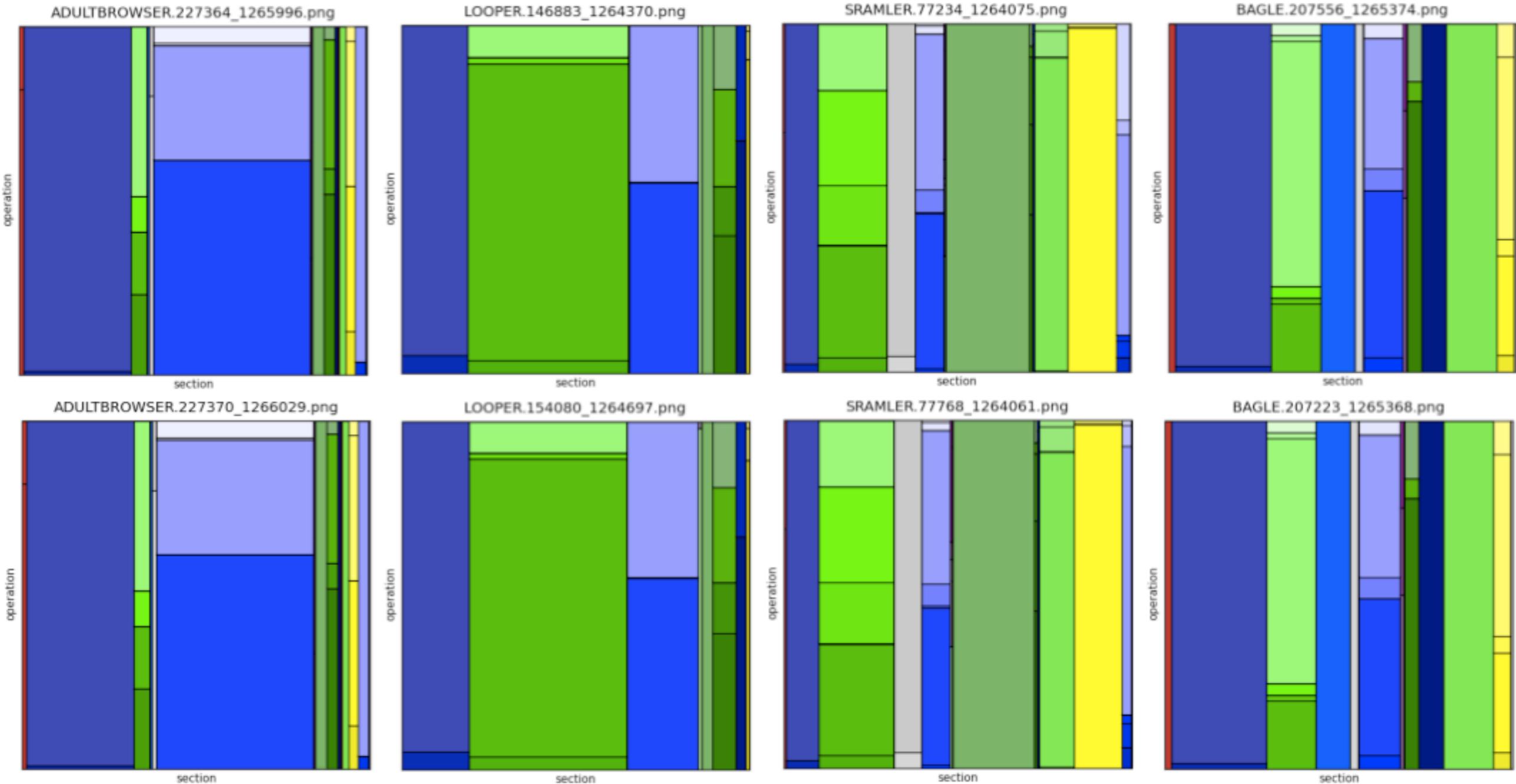


### ADULTBROWSER-227269\_1265984





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## **Assignments**

**Cluster 1** (968 members, 3 prototypes, 23.6% of data, 1 label, 23.6% cumulative)

A large grid of green dots arranged in a regular pattern, covering most of the page. The dots are small and light green, set against a white background.

Cluster 2 (298 members, 8 prototypes, 7.3% of data, 1 label, 30.8% cumulative)

mist . . . . .

**Cluster 3** (184 members, 2 prototypes, 4.5% of data, 1 label, 35.3% cumulative)

mist . . . . .

**Cluster 4** (178 members, 2 prototypes, 4.3% of data, 1 label, 39.6% cumulative)

Figure 1 (273 members, 2 prototypes, 7.5 % of data, 1 label, 55.0 % cumulative)

Cluster 5 (145 members, 1 prototypes, 3.5% of data, 1 label, 43.1% cumulative)

Chapter 6 (134 members, 3 prototypes, 3.3% of data, 1 label, 45.1% cumulative)

Cluster 8 (154 members, 3 prototypes, 3.3 % of data, 1 label, 46.4 % cumulative)  
mist

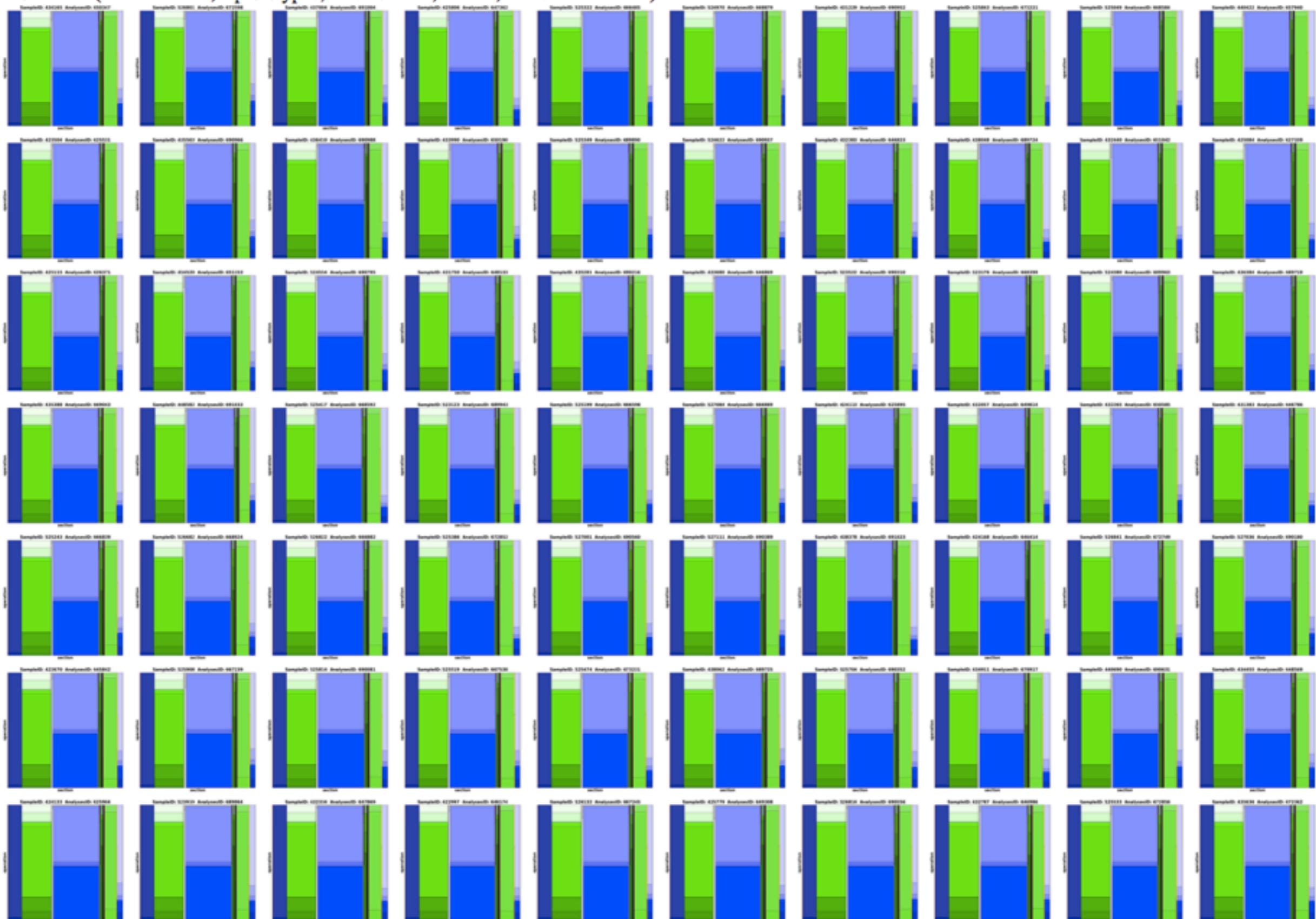
Chapter 7 (133 members, 1 prototypes, 3.2% of data, 1 label, 49.6% cumulative)

mist • . . . . .

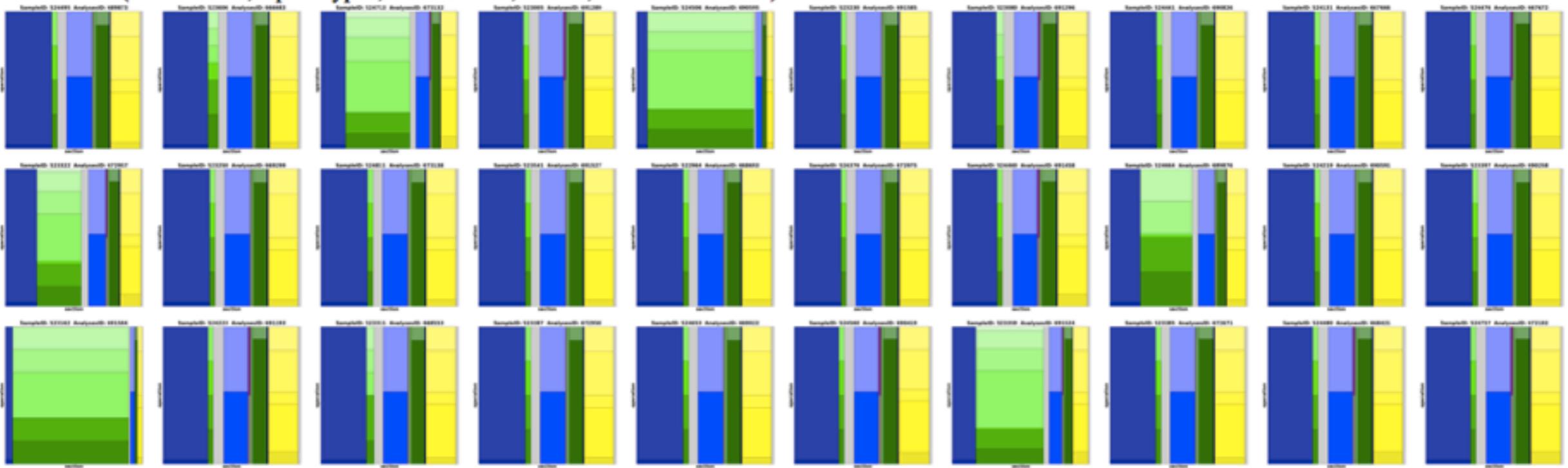
ter 8 (123 members, 4 prototypes, 3.0% of data, 1 label, 52.6% cumulative)  
mist

Cluster 9 (102 members, 2 prototypes, 2.5% of data, 1 label, 55.1% cumulative)

- Cluster 5 (145 members, 1 prototypes, 3.5% of data, 1 label, 43.1% cumulative)



- Cluster 17 (30 members, 5 prototypes, 0.7% of data, 1 label, 64.6% cumulative)



# Threadgraph

- Detailed view of the monitored behavior
- Every monitored operation of all executed threads
- Sequential order preserved
- Truncated Reports only (static version)
- Zoom necessary (JavaScript)

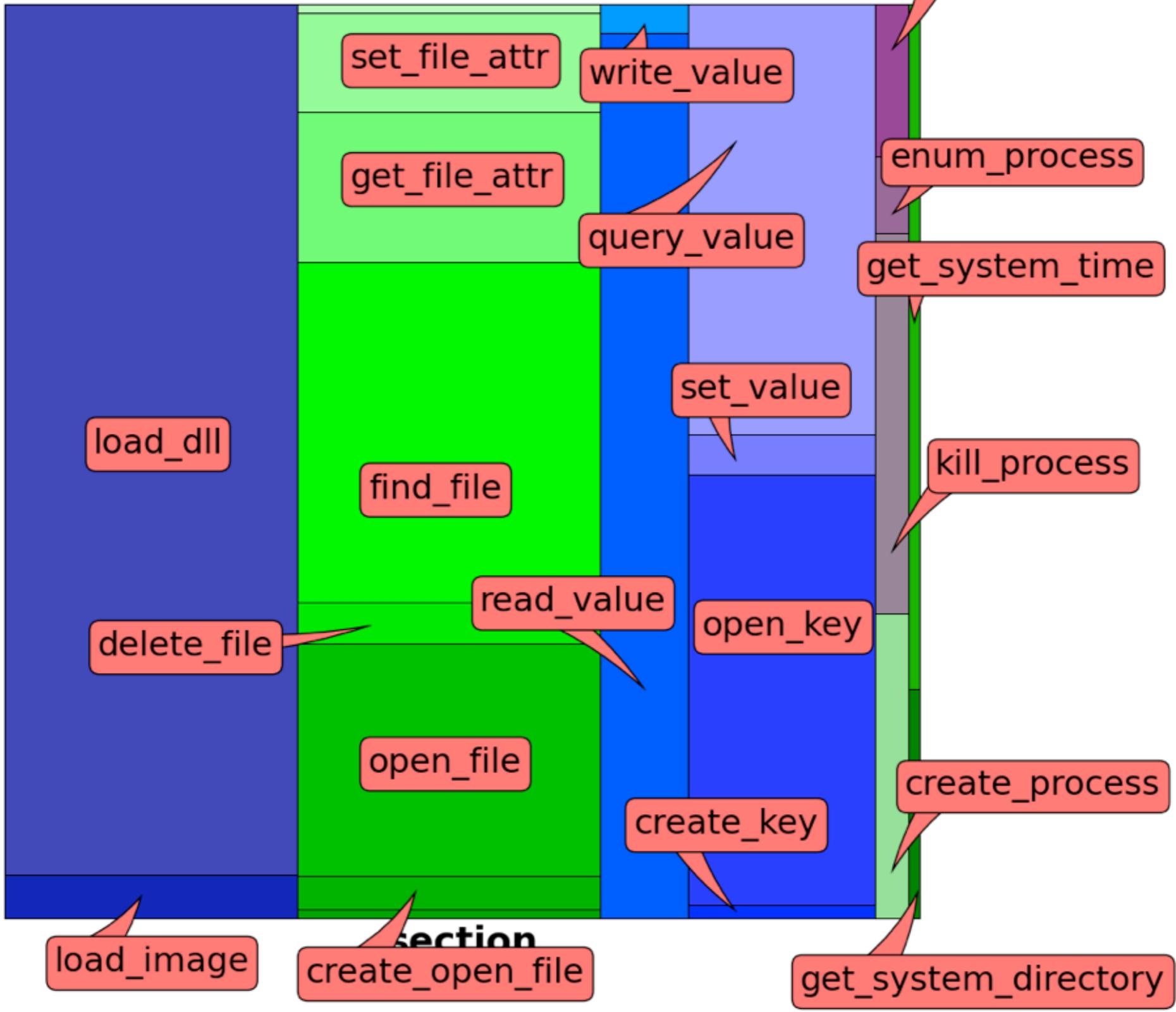


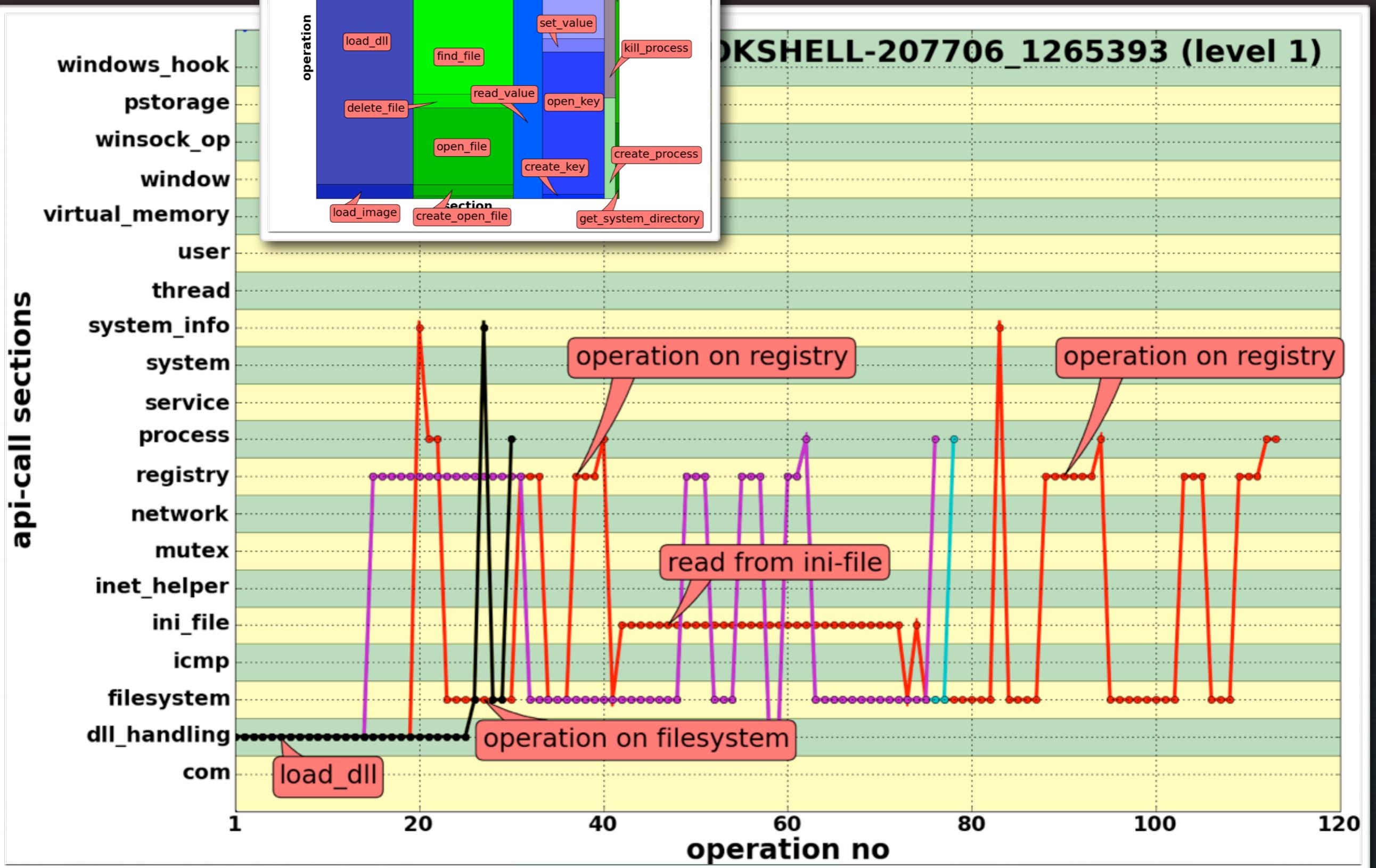


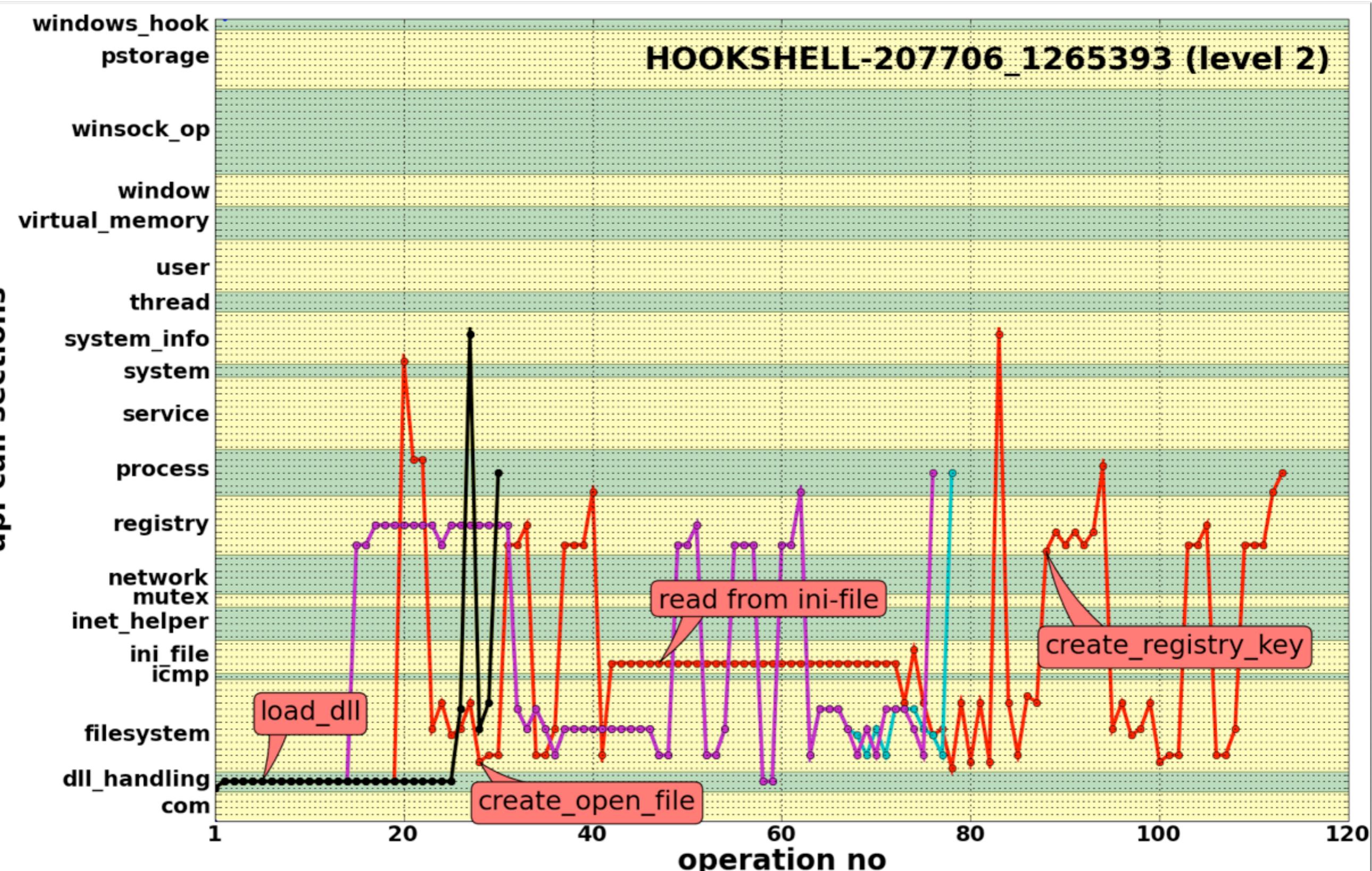
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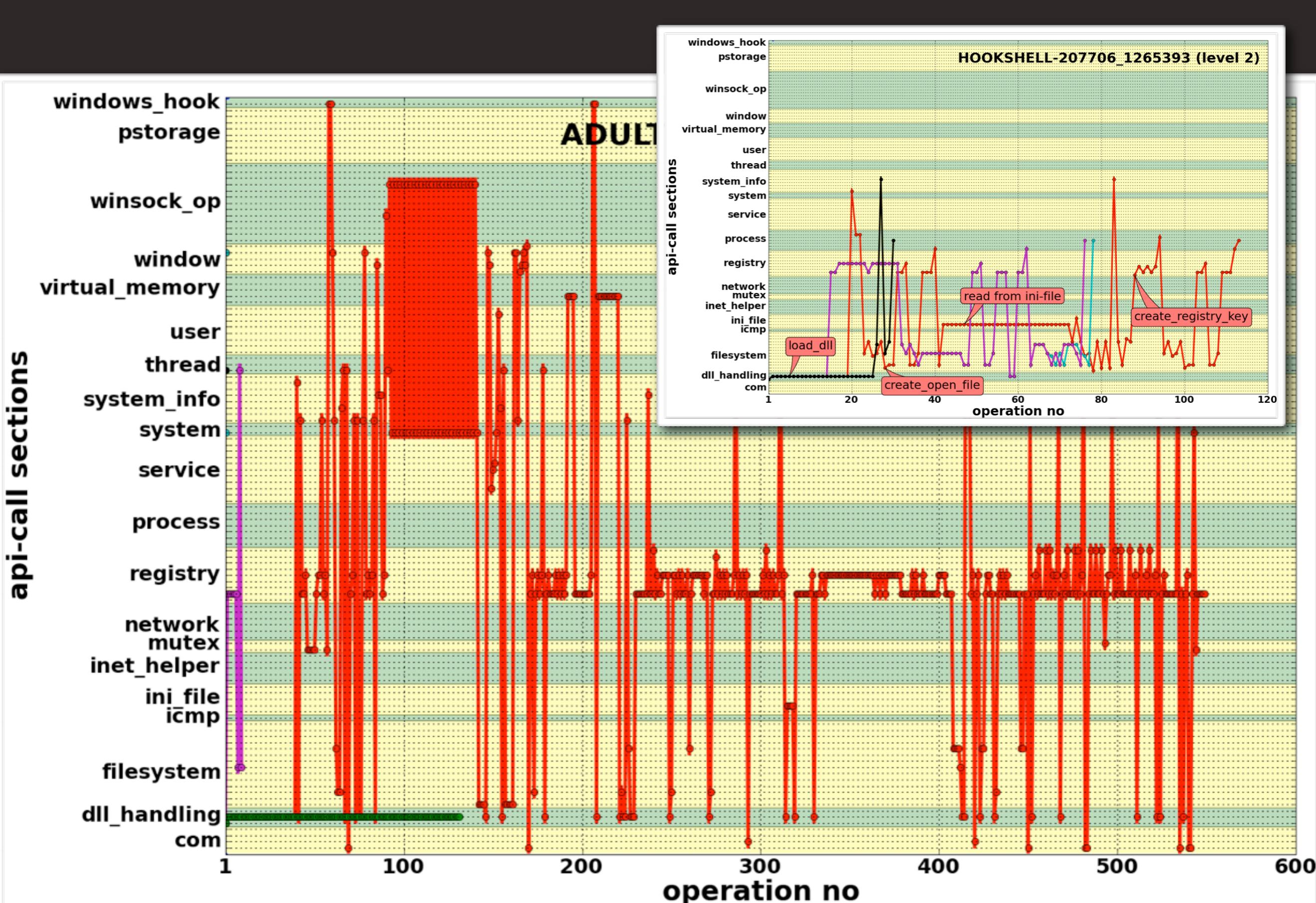
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operation



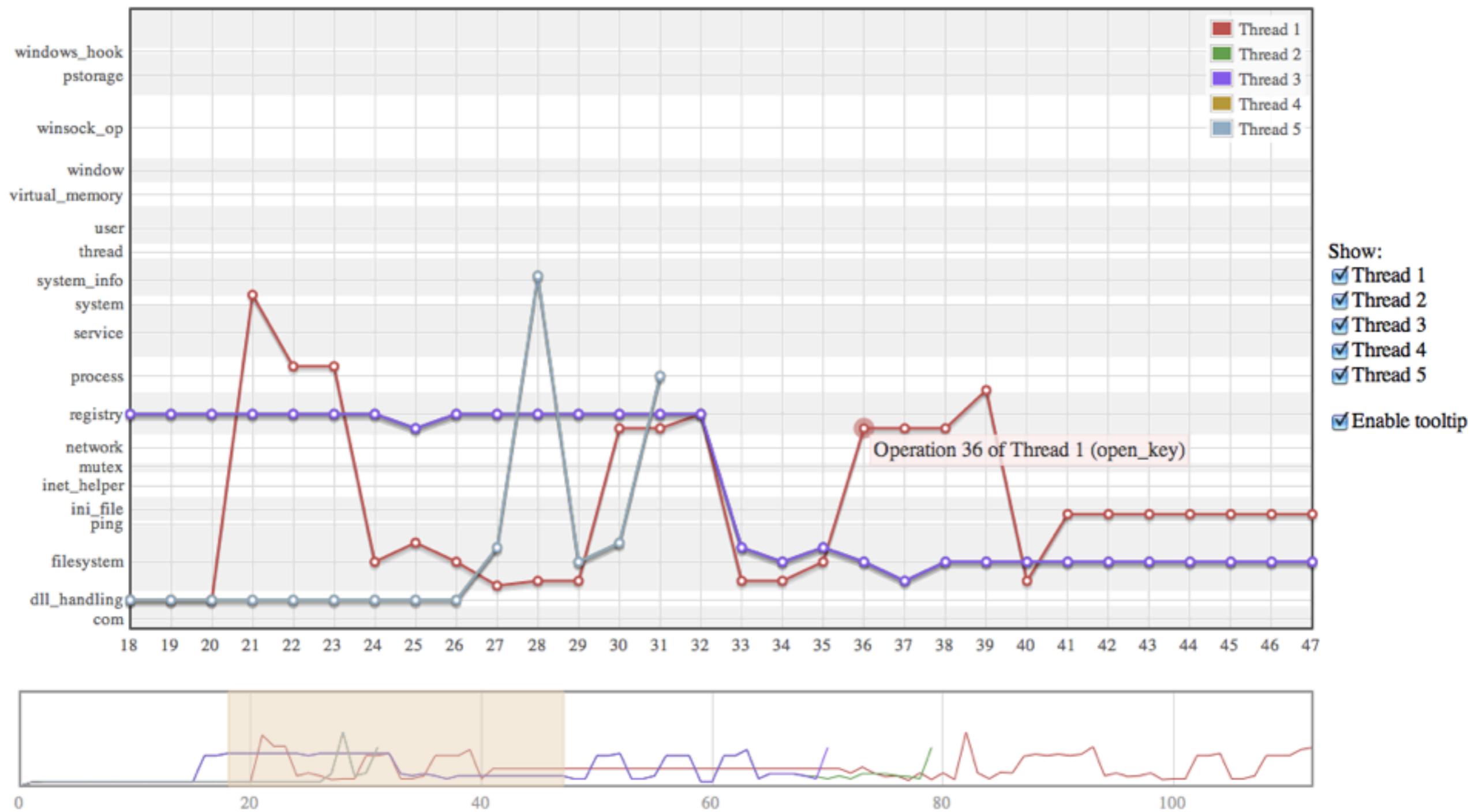






# Threadgraph of SampleID: 129956 AnalysesID: 665508 (level2)

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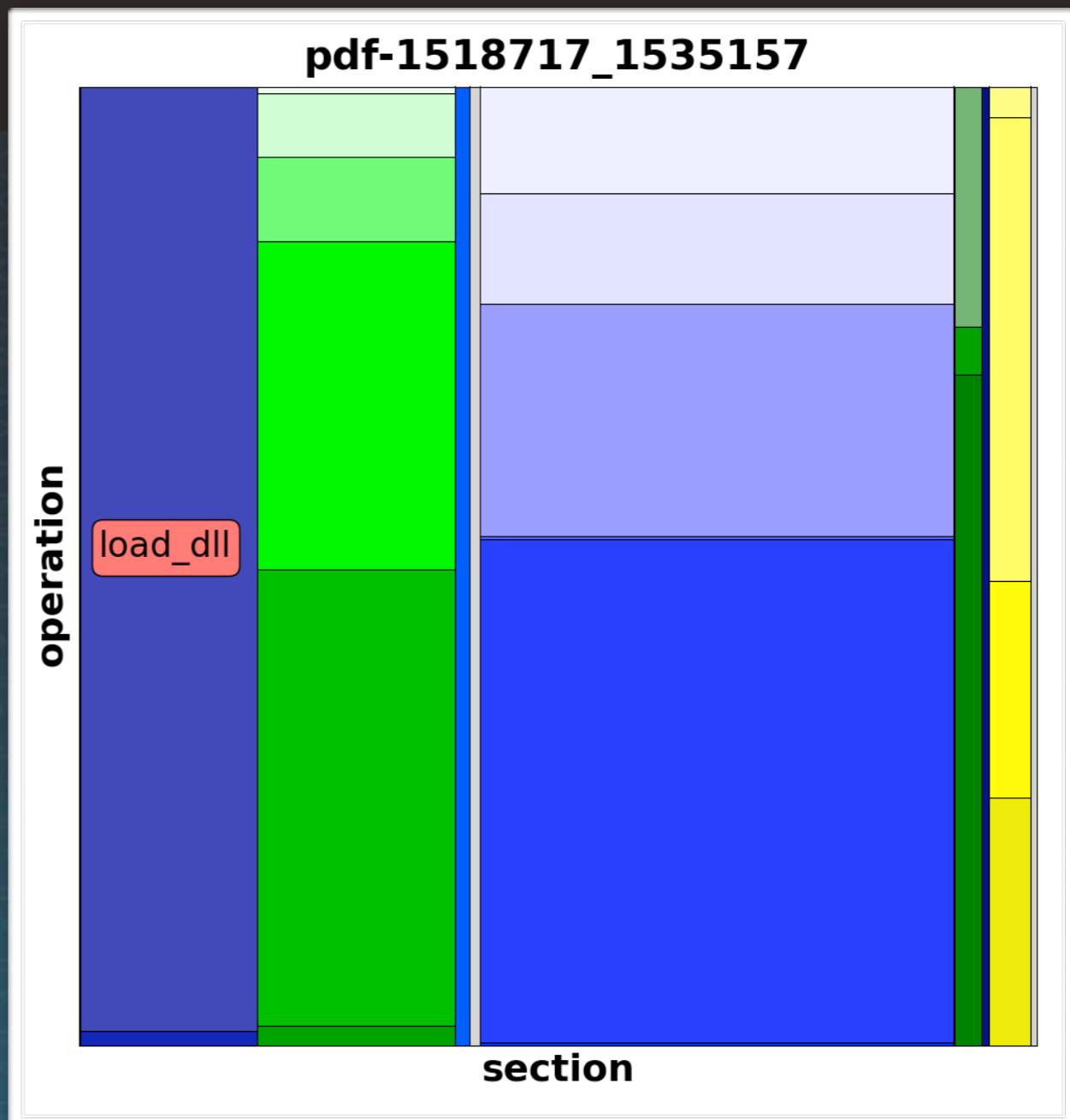
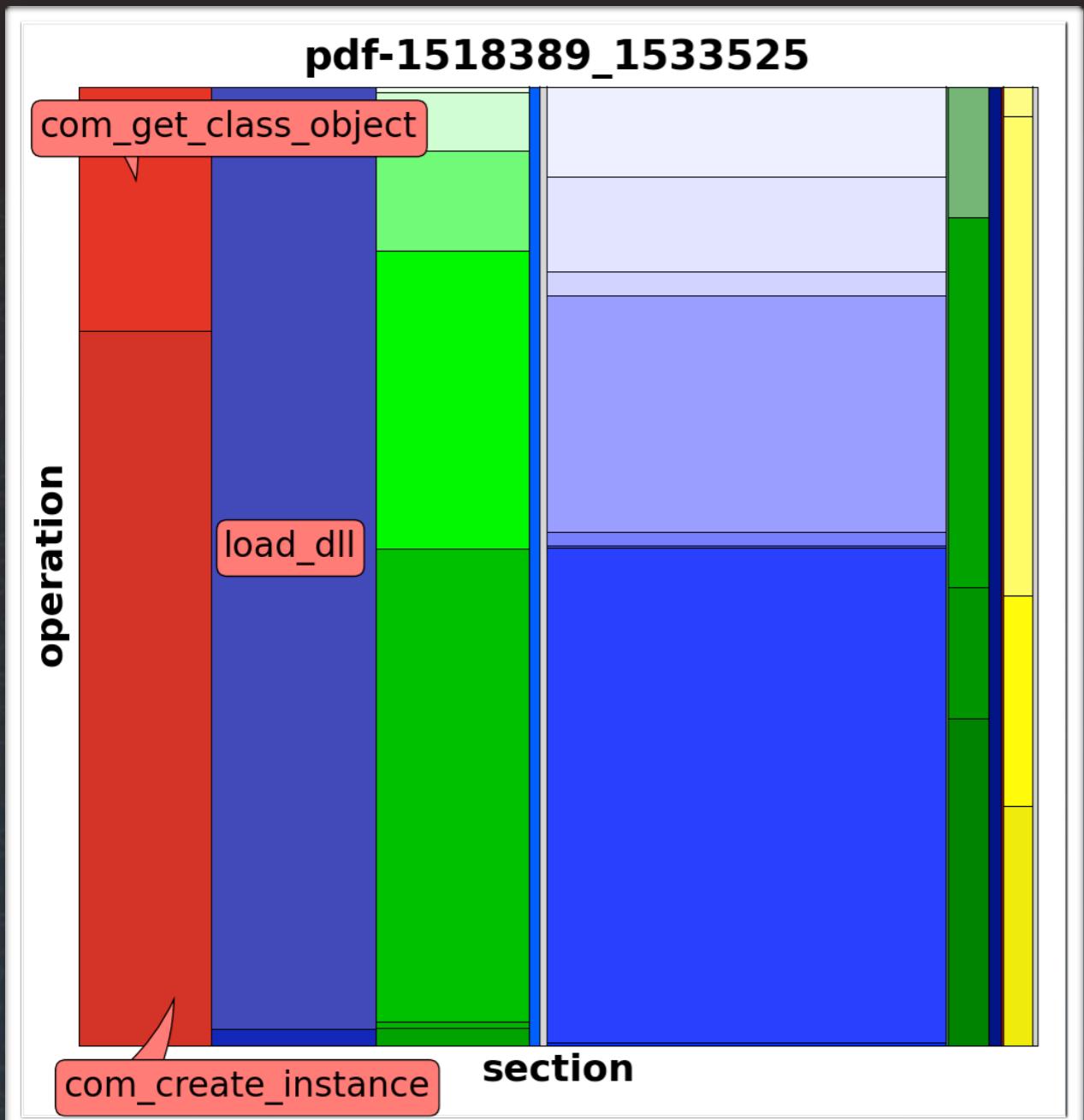
# Analysis of malicious PDFs

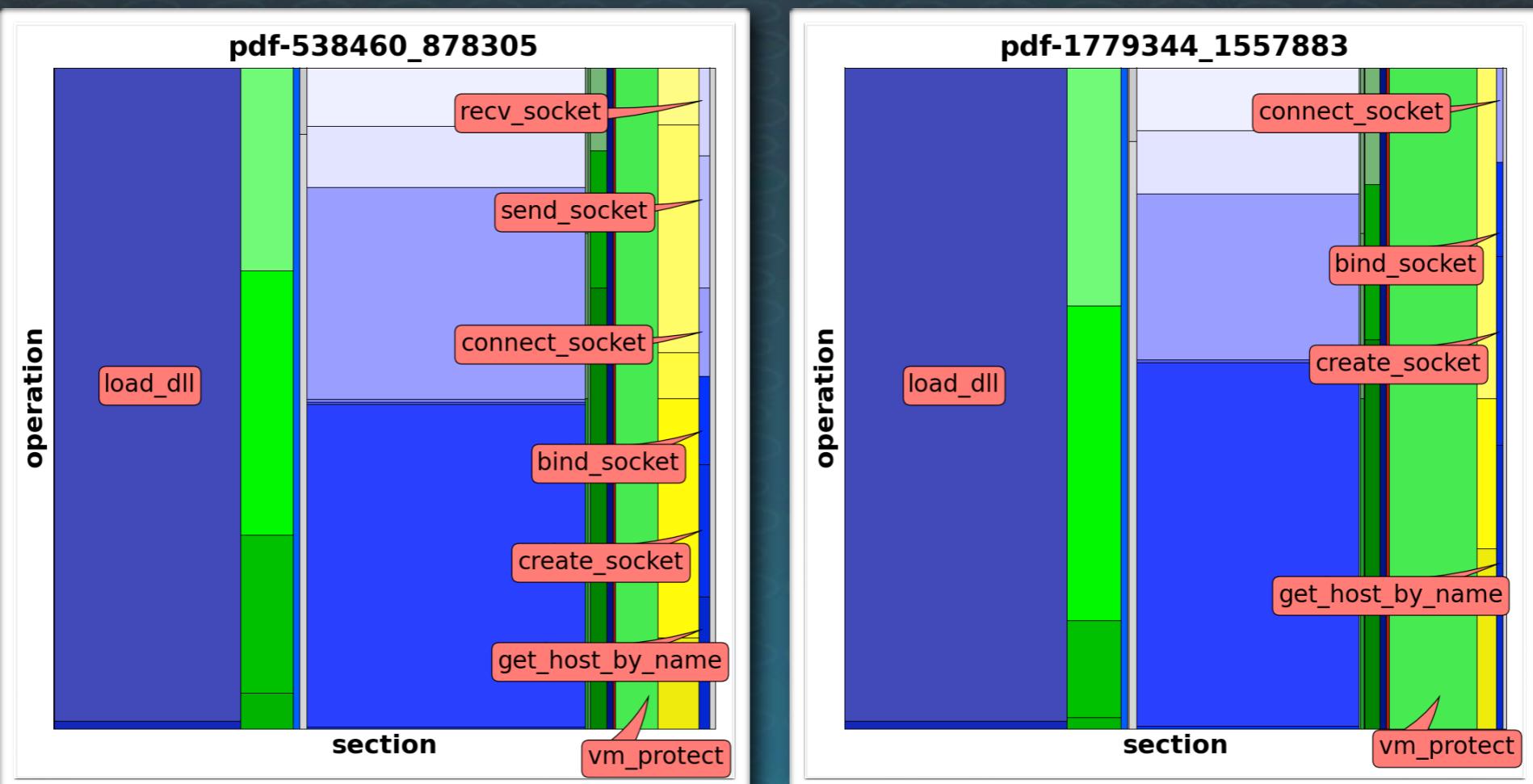
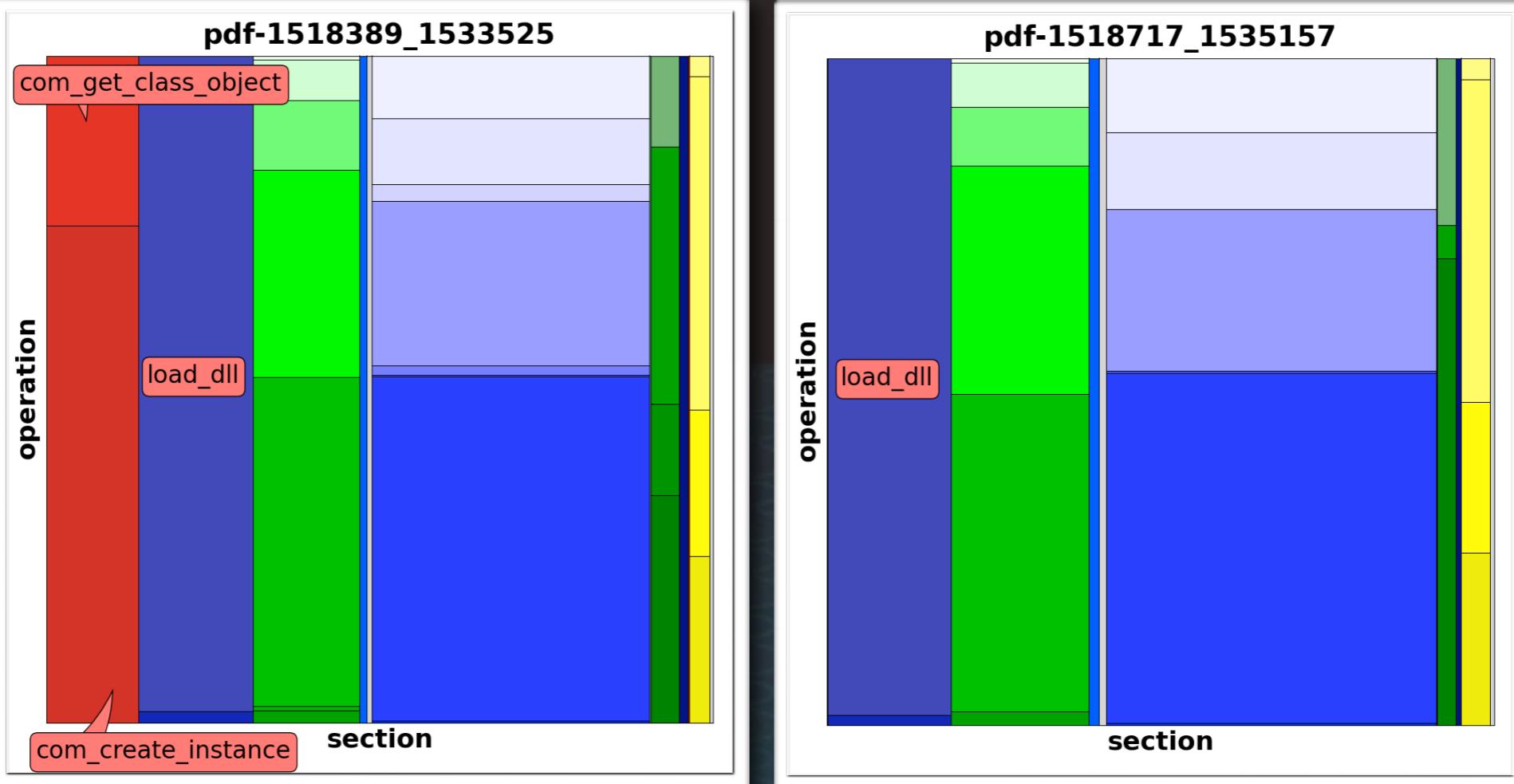
- Monitor Adobe Acrobat Reader within CWSandbox
- Autoupdate disabled
- Short experiment:
  - 200 benign PDFs
  - 17 malicious PDFs
- Two different Treemaps
- Malicious operations are observable at once

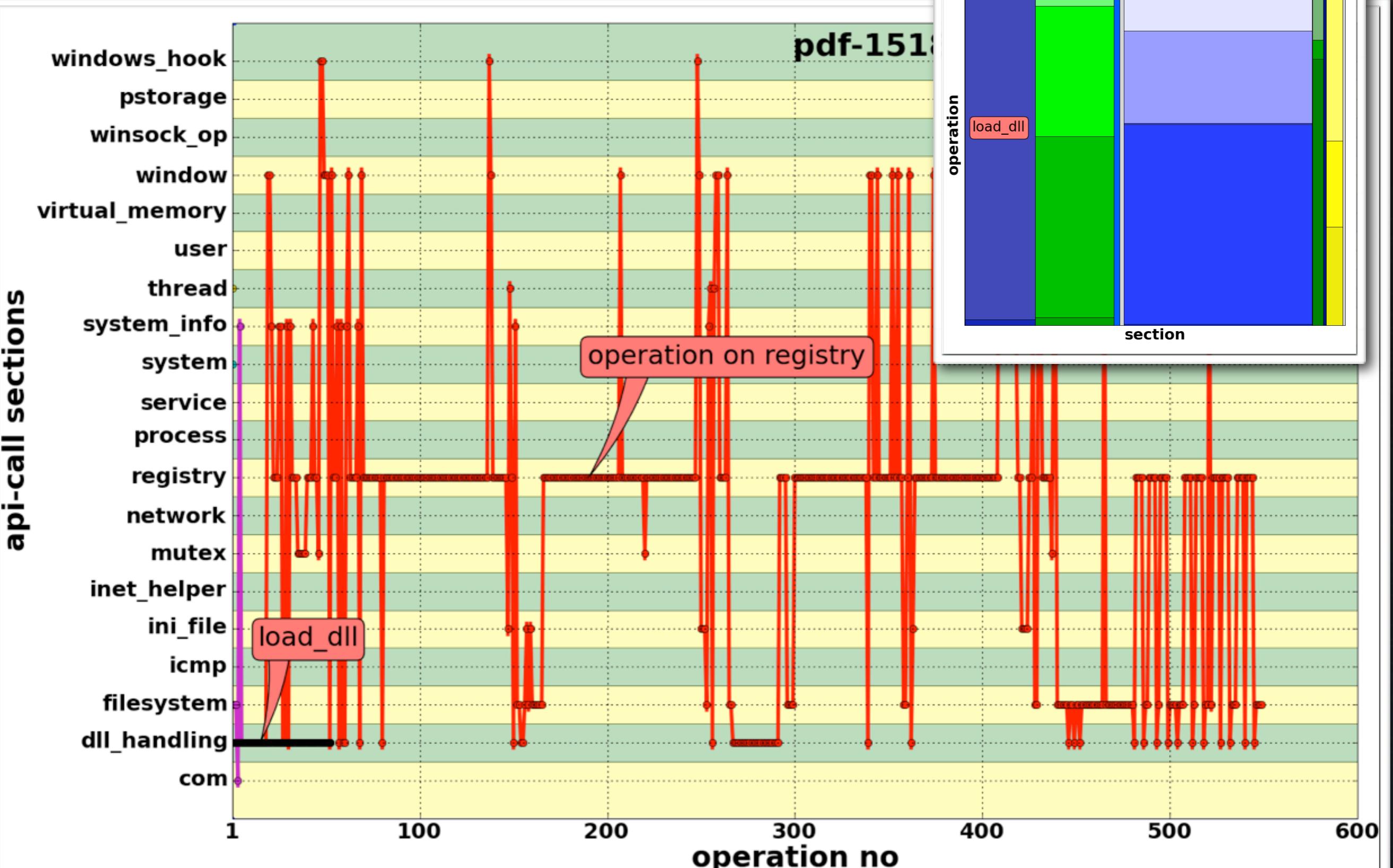


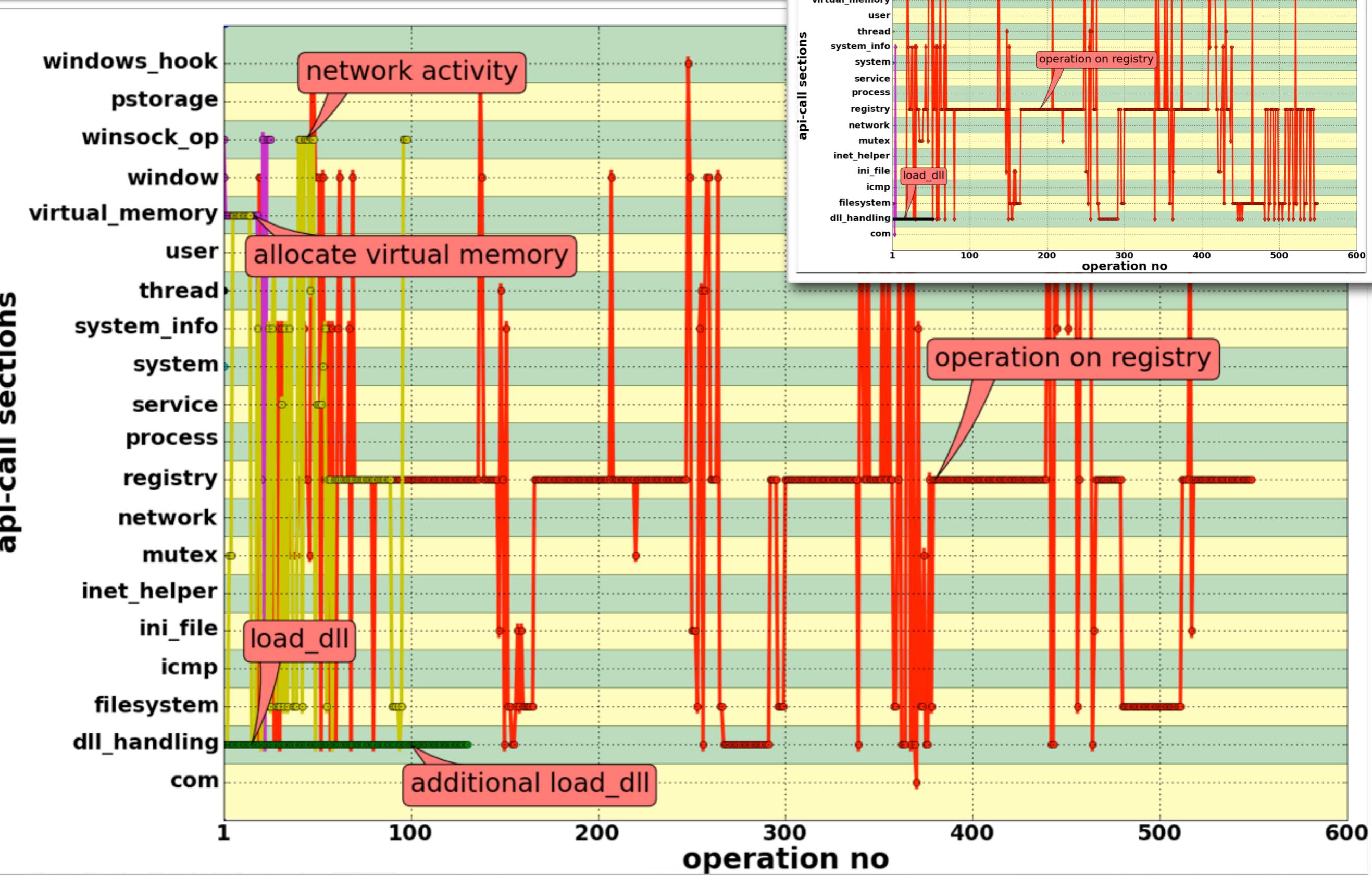


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# Conclusion

- First attempt on visualization - need Feedback
- Plots are accessible on [CWSandbox.org](http://CWSandbox.org)
  - Static + JavaScript version
- Study on image clustering and classification
- Development of further visualization types



<http://pi1.informatik.uni-mannheim.de>

<http://cwsandbox.org>



Questions?

[trinius@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:trinius@uni-mannheim.de)

