

DFX Finance

Security Assessment

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Changelog:

May 3, 2020: Initial report draft
May 19, 2021: Added fix log
May 27, 2021: Revised language

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Executive Summary

From April 12 to April 30, 2021, DFX Finance engaged Trail of Bits to review the security of its smart contracts. Trail of Bits conducted this assessment working from the following repository and commit hash:

• Repository: dfx-finance/protocol

• Commit Hash: 906bd5274dcd07c458e6bbd6f13adced873ac952

In the first week, we began to familiarize ourselves with the platform, employed <u>slither</u> to perform static analysis across the codebase, and started triaging relevant output to guide our manual review. As part of our scoping process, we identified critical components and data flows, which helped us to plan out subsequent aspects of our assessment. Our manual review efforts included analysis of token/interface compliance, high-level arithmetic issues, the platform's adherence to best practices when performing low-level calls and use of Chainlink APIs, and general code correctness. This resulted in four findings ranging from low to informational severity and a fifth of undetermined severity.

During the second week, we expanded our review of the codebase, covering aspects such as swap-related arithmetic and data validation within the invariant enforcement functions, in addition to partially reviewing fee calculations and assessing assimilators for general code correctness. These efforts led to five additional findings: four ranging from high to informational severity and one of undetermined severity. We also began setting up a fuzzing harness, which we used to validate codebase properties during the next week.

In the final week, we deepened our review of arithmetic and the state machine, writing related property and unit tests and considering additional attack vectors such as front-running and compromise by external providers. This resulted in four additional findings ranging from high to low severity and two more of undetermined severity.

The DFX Finance smart contracts represent a work in progress with multiple planned iterations. Trail of Bits recommends that DFX Finance address the findings detailed in this report and take the following additional steps prior to deployment:

- Improve code readability, document the purposes of individual functions and pieces of code, and provide external documentation such as a whitepaper or a wiki. Simplifying the code would facilitate code reviews, verification of any expected invariants, and the safe deployment of DFX Finance smart contracts.
- Simplify code paths that contain redundant artifacts (specifically structures/variables) of DFX Finance's fork from the Shell Protocol. For example, data structures populated by CurveFactory when initializing a new Curve contain many redundant/duplicated entries. Similarly, the reasoning behind the adjustments made to Curve construction arguments may be unclear to external reviewers/users, which could cause confusion (TOB-DFX-015).

- Improve data validation within the Curve and Router constructions, as well as in code paths that interface with external contracts/tokens such as assimilator code and the safeApprove function (TOB-DFX-004, TOB-DFX-005, TOB-DFX-006, TOB-DFX-007, TOB-DFX-008).
- Expand the unit testing suite to cover (for example) additional Curve parameters, weights, and withdrawal, deposit, and swap scenarios. Ensure that the logic of each assimilator is tested to prevent arithmetic issues such as the return of raw values by assimilator balance functions (TOB-DFX-012) and invalid Curve parameters such as weight (TOB-DFX-015).
- If any of the abovementioned code paths are refactored, perform an additional internal review of the invariants.

Update: On May 19, 2021, Trail of Bits reviewed fixes implemented for the issues in this report. A detailed review of the current status of each issue is provided in Appendix C.

Project Dashboard

Application Summary

Name	DFX Finance
Version	906bd5274dcd07c458e6bbd6f13adced873ac952
Туре	Solidity
Platform	Ethereum

Engagement Summary

Dates	April 12 – April 30, 2021
Method	Whitebox
Consultants Engaged	2
Level of Effort	6 person-weeks

Vulnerability Summary

Total High-Severity Issues	2	••
Total Medium-Severity Issues	1	
Total Low-Severity Issues	6	
Total Informational-Severity Issues	3	•••
Total Undetermined-Severity Issues	4	••••
Total	16	

Category Breakdown

Configuration	1	
Data Validation	11	
Patching	1	•
Timing	1	
Undefined Behavior	2	••
Total	16	

Code Maturity Evaluation

Category Name	Description
Access Controls	Satisfactory . We did not find any serious access control issues, though we identified one issue involving the transfer of ownership (TOB-DFX-004).
Arithmetic	Weak. We found many minor issues related to arithmetic (TOB-DFX-002, TOB-DFX-010, TOB-DFX-011, TOB-DFX-014) and one critical issue stemming from the use of an incorrect value type (TOB-DFX-012).
Assembly Use	Strong . The system uses a minimal amount of assembly. Although one token compliance issue was identified (TOB-DFX-005), it does not currently have any practical impact on the codebase.
Centralization	Moderate. The owner of a Curve has significant influence over the system. The owner can set the parameters of the Curve, put it into an emergency mode that does not check for liquidity invariants during withdrawals, and even freeze the contract, disallowing swaps and new deposits.
Function Composition	Weak. There is a large amount of code duplication. For example, the only difference between getOriginSwapData and getTargetSwapData (and viewOriginSwapData and viewTargetSwapData) is one line of code out of more than 20 lines. Having all four functions pass in a boolean and switch on that particular line would improve their implementation. Furthermore, there are numerous code remnants from the original Shell Protocol (TOB-DFX-007). Lastly, there is unused code in the codebase, such as the large library ABDKMathQuad.sol.
Front-Running	Satisfactory . We found only one front-running issue, which would allow a Curve contract owner to freeze contracts to prevent specific deposits and swaps (TOB-DFX-016). A front-runner may be able to generate profits from the swap functionality, but the loss incurred by the user would be mitigated by the limit price. Due to its nature, the system allows for arbitrage opportunities; documentation regarding those opportunities would be beneficial to users.
Monitoring	Satisfactory. The contracts use a deprecated Chainlink API. However, the contracts emit events where appropriate.
Specification	Moderate. There is no whitepaper for the project, and the whitepaper for the original Shell Protocol diverges from the DFX

	Finance implementation in many ways. For example, it states that the gain function is the sum of all token balances, when in DFX Finance, it is the sum of their numeraire values. However, various functions have code comments and natural specifications.
Testing & Verification	Weak. The project has relatively extensive integration testing but lacks unit and fuzz tests. More thorough end-to-end coverage may catch critical issues such as <u>TOB-DFX-012</u> .
Upgradeability	Not applicable. The system cannot be upgraded.

Engagement Goals

The engagement was scoped to provide a security assessment of the DFX Finance smart contracts.

Specifically, we sought to answer the following non-exhaustive list of questions:

- Can Curves be constructed with parameters that cause trapped state transitions or arithmetic flaws?
- Are the assimilators generally sound? Do they update balances and handle transfers appropriately?
- Is the swap arithmetic correct? Is it susceptible to rounding errors or underflows/overflows?
- Are interactions with external systems such as the Chainlink API sound?
- Does the system properly calculate fees?
- Are there appropriate access controls on critical functions?
- Is the system vulnerable to re-entrancy attacks?
- Is it possible to front-run transactions to negatively affect the system?

Coverage

This section highlights some of the analysis coverage we achieved based on our high-level engagement goals. Our approaches and their results include the following:

- A review of Curve deployment parameters revealed unintuitive/undocumented behavior in CurveFactory.newCurve, which may return an existing Curve rather than a new one (TOB-DFX-003); unorthodox array parameters (TOB-DFX-004); and CurveFactory's incorrect initialization of _derivativeAssimilators (TOB-DFX-005).
- Analysis of the assimilators identified the use of deprecated Chainlink APIs (TOB-DFX-001), incorrect assimilator implementations that could lead to accounting errors (TOB-DFX-012), and an improper assumption (i.e., the USDC assimilator assumes that the value of USDC is always 1 USD) (TOB-DFX-013).
- A review of the use of access modifiers did not reveal any concerns.
- Analysis of swap arithmetic and user/pool balances found that the weight values used in calculations could cause unexpected deviations in the amount of funds transferred during deposits (TOB-DFX-015).
- Validation of external interactions did not reveal concerns regarding re-entrancy attacks; however, improving the data validation mechanisms and compliance with external contracts would help prevent future errors (TOB-DFX-008, TOB-DFX-009).
- A review of events that should be emitted during critical operations did not yield any concerns.

•	An audit of functions focused on front-running opportunities did not reveal any critical concerns, although a contract owner could front-run with a call to the setFrozen function to deny certain deposits/swaps (TOB-DFX-016).		

Recommendations Summary

This section aggregates all the recommendations made during the engagement. Short-term recommendations address the immediate causes of issues. Long-term recommendations pertain to the development process and long-term design goals.

Short Term
☐ Unless there is a reason not to, update tests/Constants.ts to the latest versions of the Chainlink oracle contracts and the assimilators and IOracle to the latest version of the Chainlink price feed API. TOB-DFX-001
☐ Unless they are intended to be strict, make the inequalities in the require statements non-strict. Alternatively, consider refactoring the variables or providing additional documentation to convey that they are meant to be exclusive bounds. TOB-DFX-002
☐ Consider rewriting newCurve such that it reverts in the event that a base-and-quote-currency pair already exists. A view function can be used to check for and retrieve existing Curves without any gas payment prior to an attempt at Curve creation. TOB-DFX-003
☐ Consider adding zero-address checks to the Router's constructor and Curve's transferOwnership function to prevent operator errors. TOB-DFX-004
☐ Consider adding contract existence checks to the delegate function to prevent future errors in the event that these code paths change. <a "="" 10.1007="" doi.org="" href="https://example.com/tolors/red/bases/com/tolors/com</td></tr><tr><td>□ Add data validation to ensure that the length of _assets, _assetWeights, and _derivativeAssimilators are proportionate. Additionally, ensure that a Curve can be initialized only with the expected curve.assets and that curve.assimilators entries created by includeAsset are consistent with those set by includeAssimilator. TOB-DFX-006</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Refactor Curve.initialize so that it properly validates parameters and succeeds only if the provided data is valid. This will prevent operator errors. TOB-DFX-007
☐ Leverage OpenZeppelin's safeApprove function wherever possible. TOB-DFX-008
☐ Implement symbol, name, and decimals on Curve contracts. TOB-DFX-009

☐ Rewrite the if statement such that it does not use and assign the same variable in an equality check. TOB-DFX-010
□ Change all instances of us_mul and us_div to ABDKMath64x64.mul and .div, respectively, which also operate on two fixed-point numbers but have overflow/underflow protections. TOB-DFX-011
☐ Change the semantics of the three functions listed above in the CADC, XSGD, and EURS assimilators to return the numeraire balance. TOB-DFX-012
□ Replace the hard-coded integer literal in the UsdcToUsdAssimilator's getRate method with a call to the relevant Chainlink oracle, as is done in other assimilator contracts. TOB-DFX-013
☐ Consider rounding up when determining the amount of tokens required in a deposit. TOB-DFX-014
☐ Refactor the weight-related code to ensure that the correct amount of assets is transferred when deposit is called. TOB-DFX-015
□ Consider rewriting setFrozen such that any contract freeze will not last long enough for a malicious user to easily execute an attack. Alternatively, depending on the intended use of this function, consider implementing permanent freezes. TOB-DFX-016
Long Term
☐ Use the latest stable versions of any external libraries or contracts leveraged by the codebase. TOB-DFX-001
□ Ensure that mathematical terms such as "minimum," "at least," and "at most" are used in the typical way—that is, to describe values inclusive of minimums or maximums (as relevant). TOB-DFX-002
☐ Review state variables which referencing contracts to ensure that the code that sets the state variables performs zero-address checks where necessary. TOB-DFX-004
☐ Be mindful of the need for contract existence checks in low-level calls to external contracts. TOB-DFX-005
□ Review all code paths that process contract construction arguments to prevent contracts from being deployed in invalid states. If these issues are overlooked during deployment, they can cause undefined behavior in the future. TOB-DFX-006, TOB-DFX-007

☐ Ensure that all low-level calls have accompanying contract existence checks and return value checks where appropriate. TOB-DFX-008
□ Ensure that contracts conform to all required and recommended industry standards. <u>TOB-DFX-009</u>
□ Ensure that the codebase does not contain undefined Solidity or EVM behavior. TOB-DFX-010
☐ Review all critical arithmetic to ensure that it accounts for underflows, overflows and the loss of precision. Consider using SafeMath and the safe functions of ABDKMath64x64 where possible to prevent underflows and overflows. TOB-DFX-011
☐ Use unit tests and fuzzing to ensure that all calculations return the expected values. Additionally, ensure that changes to the Shell Protocol do not introduce bugs such as this one. TOB-DFX-012
☐ Ensure that the system is robust against a decrease in the price of any stablecoin. TOB-DFX-013
☐ Document and evaluate the effects of rounding errors in deposit and withdrawal operations, and account for scaling. <u>TOB-DFX-014</u>

Findings Summary

#	Title	Туре	Severity
1	Assimilators use a deprecated Chainlink API	Patching	Undetermined
2	<pre>_min* and _max* have unorthodox semantics</pre>	Data Validation	Low
3	CurveFactory.newCurve returns existing curves without provided arguments	Undefined Behavior	Low
4	Missing zero-address checks in Curve.transferOwnership and Router.constructor	Data Validation	Low
5	Missing contract existence checks prior to delegatecall	Data Validation	Informational
6	Unorthodox Curve constructions may cause undefined behavior	Data Validation	Undetermined
7	CurveFactory.newCurve fails to initialize derivativeAssimilators	Data Validation	Informational
8	safeApprove does not check return values for approve call	Data Validation	Low
9	ERC20 token Curve does not implement symbol, name, or decimals method	Configuration	Informational
10	Use of undefined behavior in equality check	Undefined Behavior	High
11	Insufficient use of SafeMath	Data Validation	Undetermined
12	Assimilators' balance functions return raw values	Data Validation	High
13	System always assumes USDC is equivalent to USD	Data Validation	Medium

14	Division operations do not consider rounding direction	Data Validation	Undetermined
15	Curve parameters are set incorrectly	Data Validation	Low
16	setFrozen can be front-run to deny deposits/swaps	Timing	Low

1. Assimilators use a deprecated Chainlink API

Severity: Undetermined Difficulty: High

Finding ID: TOB-DFX-001 Type: Patching

Target: tests/Constants.ts, assimilators/*, IOracle.sol

Description

The old version of the Chainlink price feed API (AggregatorInterface) is used throughout the contracts and tests. For example, the deprecated function latestAnswer is used:

```
function getRate() public view override returns (uint256) {
   return uint256(oracle.latestAnswer());
}
```

Figure 1.1: CadcToUsdAssimilator.sol#L39-L41

This function is not present in the <u>latest API reference</u> (AggregatorInterfaceV3). However, it is present in the deprecated API reference.

Exploit Scenario

We are still investigating potential exploit scenarios. In the worst-case scenario, the deprecated contract could cease to report the latest values, which would very likely cause liquidity providers to incur losses.

Recommendations

Short term, unless there is a reason not to, update tests/Constants.ts to the latest versions of the Chainlink oracle contracts and the assimilators and IOracle to the latest version of the Chainlink price feed API.

Long term, use the latest stable versions of any external libraries or contracts leveraged by the codebase.

2. _min* and _max* have unorthodox semantics

Severity: Low Difficulty: Low

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-002

Target: Curve.sol

Description

Throughout the Curve contract, minTargetAmount and maxOriginAmount are used as open ranges (i.e., ranges that exclude the value itself), such as in the last line in originSwap:

```
function originSwap(
       address _origin,
       address target,
       uint256 _originAmount,
       uint256 _minTargetAmount,
       uint256 deadline
   ) external deadline(_deadline) transactable nonReentrant returns (uint256 targetAmount_)
       targetAmount_ = Swaps.originSwap(curve, _origin, _target, _originAmount,
msg.sender);
        require(targetAmount > minTargetAmount, "Curve/below-min-target-amount");
   }
```

Figure 2.1: Curve.sol#L401-L411

This contravenes the standard meanings of the terms "minimum" and "maximum," which are generally used to describe closed ranges.

Exploit Scenario

Alice calls viewOriginSwap, gets the targetAmount_, and atomically calls originSwap, passing in the targetAmount_. She expects the call to succeed, but it reverts, which could cause unexpected behavior.

Recommendations

Short term, unless they are intended to be strict, make the inequalities in the require statements non-strict. Alternatively, consider refactoring the variables or providing additional documentation to convey that they are meant to be exclusive bounds.

Long term, ensure that mathematical terms such as "minimum," "at least," and "at most" are used in the typical way—that is, to describe values inclusive of minimums or maximums (as relevant).

3. CurveFactory.newCurve returns existing curveS without provided arguments

Severity: Low Difficulty: Low

Type: Undefined Behavior Finding ID: TOB-DFX-003

Target: contracts/CurveFactory.sol

Description

CurveFactory.newCurve takes values and creates a Curve contract instance for each baseCurrency and quoteCurrency pair, populating the Curve with provided weights and assimilator contract references. However, if the pair already exists, the existing Curve will be returned without any indication that it is not a newly created Curve with the provided weights.

```
function newCurve(
    address baseCurrency,
    address _quoteCurrency,
    uint256 baseWeight,
    uint256 _quoteWeight,
    address _baseAssimilator,
    address quoteAssimilator
) public onlyOwner returns (Curve) {
    bytes32 curveId = keccak256(abi.encode(_baseCurrency, _quoteCurrency));
    if (curves[curveId] != address(0)) {
        return Curve(curves[curveId]);
[...]
```

Figure 3.1: CurveFactory will return existing Curves for a base-and-quote-currency pair even if other desired properties differ. (contracts/CurveFactory.sol#L31-L42)

If an operator attempts to create a new Curve for a base-and-quote-currency pair that already exists, CurveFactory will return the existing Curve instance regardless of whether other creation parameters differ. A naive operator may overlook this issue.

Note that this function is triggered by the contract owner, and the testnet seems to be deployed with hard-coded Curve values in scripts/testnet/scaffold.ts. As such, CurveFactory's behavior is unlikely to cause problems in practice, though future changes may introduce an issue.

Exploit Scenario

Alice is an operator of DFX Finance contracts. When using CurveFactory to deploy a new Curve, Alice creates a Curve for a base-and-quote-currency pair that already exists but has different weights and assimilator references. Unbeknownst to her, newCurve returns the

existing Curve. Alice then begins operating on a Curve that does not represent the parameters she supplied to newCurve.

Recommendations

Short term, consider rewriting newCurve such that it reverts in the event that a base-and-quote-currency pair already exists. A view function can be used to check for and retrieve existing Curves without any gas payment prior to an attempt at Curve creation.

4. Missing zero-address checks in Curve.transferOwnership and Router.constructor

Severity: Low Difficulty: Low

Finding ID: TOB-DFX-004 Type: Data Validation

Target: contracts/{Curve.sol, Router.sol}

Description

Like other similar functions, Curve._transfer and Orchestrator.includeAsset perform zero-address checks. However, Curve.transferOwnership and the Router constructor do not.

This may make sense for Curve.transferOwnership, because without zero-address checks, the function may serve as a means of burning ownership. However, popular contracts that define similar functions often consider this case, such as OpenZeppelin's Ownable contracts. Conversely, a zero-address check should be added to the Router constructor to prevent the deployment of an invalid Router, which would revert upon a call to the zero address.

```
constructor(address _factory) {
   factory = _factory;
}
```

Figure 4.1: Router's constructor does not perform zero-address checks. (contracts/Router.sol#L33-L35)

Exploit Scenario

Alice, an operator of DFX Finance contracts, authors an external tool to manage the contracts. However, because of a bug, when she calls Curve's transferOwnership function, her tool does not set the address; instead, it passes in a zero address for the ownership transfer. Because of the lack of zero-address checks, this results in ownership burning.

Recommendations

Short term, consider adding zero-address checks to the Router's constructor and Curve's transferOwnership function to prevent operator errors.

Long term, review state variables which referencing contracts to ensure that the code that sets the state variables performs zero-address checks where necessary.

5. Missing contract existence checks prior to delegatecall

Severity: Informational Difficulty: Low

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-005

Target: contracts/Assimilators.sol

Description

The Assimilators library contains a function, delegate, that performs a delegate call to a designated address with the provided data or reverts in the event that the delegate call fails. However, this function does not confirm the existence of a contract before calling it. delegatecall will always return success, even if it calls a non-existent contract (one with empty bytecode).

The relevant code is shown below:

```
function delegate(address callee, bytes memory data) internal returns (bytes memory) {
    // solhint-disable-next-line
    (bool success, bytes memory returnData ) = callee.delegatecall( data);
   // solhint-disable-next-line
    assembly {
       if eq( success, 0) {
           revert(add(returnData_, 0x20), returndatasize())
       }
    }
   return returnData ;
}
```

Figure 5.1: The Assimilators library does not perform a contract existence check before a delegate call. (contracts/Assimilators.sol#L26-L38)

All subsequent uses of this function are passed to abi.decode, resulting in a revert. However, if code paths are changed and an assimilator contract is destroyed, or if an invalid assimilator contract reference is used, this may result in undefined behavior.

Recommendations

Short term, consider adding contract existence checks to the delegate function to prevent future errors in the event that these code paths change.

Long term, review all contract code that performs low-level calls to ensure that contract existence checks are conducted before those calls where necessary.

6. Unorthodox Curve constructions may cause undefined behavior

Severity: Undetermined Difficulty: Low

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-006

Target: contracts/{Curve.sol, Orchestrator.sol}

Description

When initializing a Curve, an operator should typically account for base and quote currencies, which will result in a curve.assets length of two. However, when constructing a Curve directly, the _assets and _assetWeights parameters can contain more elements than a CurveFactory would normally provide in construction.

These additional elements would likely result in undefined behavior, as functions such as proportionalWithdraw and proportionalDeposit loop through and consider all curve.assets; other functions, such as getFee, consider only the first two elements of curve.assets during fee calculations.

```
function getFee(Storage.Curve storage curve) private view returns (int128 fee ) {
    int128 _gLiq;
     // Always pairs
     int128[] memory _bals = new int128[](2);
     for (uint256 i = 0; i < bals.length; i++) {</pre>
          int128 bal = Assimilators.viewNumeraireBalance(curve.assets[i].addr);
[\ldots]
```

Figure 6.1: The getFee function considers only the first two elements of curve.assets, while other functions consider all elements when performing calculations. (contracts/Orchestrator.sol#L80-L95)

Similarly, the proportionality of _assets, _assetWeights, and _derivativeAssimilators is not validated. If the amount of assets is more than five times the amount of _assetWeights, some elements of_assets may be silently ignored. Additionally, if the number of derivativeAssimilators is not divisible by five, some entries may not be considered.

```
function initialize(
    [...]
) external {
    for (uint256 i = 0; i < assetWeights.length; i++) {</pre>
        uint256 ix = i * 5;
        [...]
        includeAsset(
```

```
curve,
            _assets[ix], // numeraire
            _assets[1 + ix], // numeraire assimilator
            _assets[2 + ix], // reserve
            _assets[3 + ix], // reserve assimilator
            _assets[4 + ix], // reserve approve to
            _assetWeights[i]
        );
    }
    for (uint256 i = 0; i < derivativeAssimilators.length / 5; i++) {</pre>
        uint256 ix = i * 5;
        [...]
        includeAssimilator(
            curve,
            derivativeAssimilators[ix], // derivative
            _derivativeAssimilators[1 + ix], // numeraire
            derivativeAssimilators[2 + ix], // reserve
            _derivativeAssimilators[3 + ix], // assimilator
            _derivativeAssimilators[4 + ix] // derivative approve to
        );
    }
}
```

Figure 6.2: The initialize function performs appropriate data validation of all elements but argument array lengths. (contracts/Orchestrator.sol#L109-L152)

Also note that arguments can be passed such that includeAssimilator will overwrite data within the curve.assimilators entry created by earlier calls to includeAsset.

Recommendations

Short term, add data validation to ensure that the length of _assets, _assetWeights, and derivativeAssimilators are proportionate. Additionally, ensure that a Curve can be initialized only with the expected curve.assets and that curve.assimilators entries created by includeAsset are consistent with those set by includeAssimilator.

Long term, review all code paths that process contract construction arguments to prevent contracts from being deployed in invalid states. If these issues are overlooked during deployment, they may cause undefined behavior in the future.

7. CurveFactory.newCurve fails to initialize derivativeAssimilators

Severity: Informational Difficulty: Low

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-007

Target: contracts/{CurveFactory.sol, Curve.sol}

Description

CurveFactory.newCurve(...) passes a _derivativeAssimilators array with two elements to the Curve constructor when creating an instance of a Curve. However, as mentioned in TOB-DFX-006, when the Curve's constructor calls Curve.initialize to set all Curve parameters, it will assume that derivative assimilators will be represented by five array elements and will not account for these items.

Figure 7.1 shows two derivative assimilators passed as construction arguments.

```
address[] memory derivativeAssimilators = new address[](2);
[...]
// Assimilators
_derivativeAssimilators[0] = _baseAssimilator;
_derivativeAssimilators[1] = _quoteAssimilator;
Curve curve = new Curve(_assets, _assetWeights, _derivativeAssimilators);
```

Figure 7.1: CurveFactory.newCurve constructs an array for derivative assimilators of size two. (contracts/CurveFactory.sol#L46-L71)

When these arguments reach Curve.initialize, they will be ignored because of the bounds of the loop, which will never be satisfied.

```
for (uint256 i = 0; i < derivativeAssimilators.length / 5; i++) {</pre>
    [...]
    includeAssimilator(
    [...]
```

Figure 7.2: Curve.initialize will process elements of _derivativeAssimilators only in blocks of five elements. (contracts/Orchestrator.sol#L138-L151)

This issue appears unlikely to have a significant impact on the system, because these arguments should be included in the includeAsset function as part of CurveFactory's argument construction.

Recommendations

Short term, refactor Curve.initialize so that it properly validates parameters and succeeds only if the provided data is valid. This will prevent operator errors.

Long term, review all code paths that process contract construction arguments to prevent contracts from being deployed in invalid states. If these issues are overlooked during deployment, they can cause undefined behavior in the future.

8. safeApprove does not check return values for approve call

Severity: Low Difficulty: Low

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-008

Target: contracts/Orchestrator.sol

Description

Although the Router contract uses OpenZeppelin's SafeERC20 library to perform safe calls to ERC20's approve function, the Orchestrator library defines its own safeApprove function. This function checks that a call to approve was successful but does not check returndata to verify whether the call returned true.

```
function safeApprove(
   address _token,
   address _spender,
   uint256 _value
) private {
   (bool success, ) =
        // solhint-disable-next-line
        _token.call(abi.encodeWithSignature("approve(address,uint256)", _spender,
_value));
   require(success, "SafeERC20: low-level call failed");
}
```

Figure 8.1: safeApprove performs a low-level call to an ERC20 spec approve function but checks only the result of the low-level call attempt, not the result returned from a successful call.

(contracts/Orchestrator.sol#L97-L107)

In contrast, OpenZeppelin's safeApprove function checks return values appropriately.

This issue may result in uncaught approve errors in successful Curve deployments, causing undefined behavior.

Recommendations

Short term, leverage OpenZeppelin's safeApprove function wherever possible.

Long term, ensure that all low-level calls have accompanying contract existence checks and return value checks where appropriate.

9. ERC20 token Curve does not implement symbol, name, or decimals method

Severity: Informational Difficulty: Low

Finding ID: TOB-DFX-009 Type: Configuration

Target: contracts/Curve.sol

Description

Curve.sol is an ERC20 token and implements all six required ERC20 methods: balance0f, totalSupply, allowance, transfer, approve, and transferFrom. However, it does not implement the optional but extremely common view methods symbol, name, and decimals.

The symbol and name methods do not exist in the contract or its dependencies. Although decimals is included in the library Curves, it is a public pure function and therefore will not be copied into Curve. In other words, the method will exist in the separately deployed library but not in the Curve contract.

```
function decimals() public pure returns (uint8) {
   return 18;
```

Figure 9.1: The abovementioned getter function for decimals. (Curve.sol#L67-L69)

Exploit Scenario

Alice knows that ERC20 contracts commonly implement the symbol, name, and decimals methods (even though they are not required) and assumes that Curve contracts do too. When she calls one of the methods in Curve, it reverts, which can lead to unexpected outcomes.

Recommendations

Short term, implement symbol, name, and decimals on Curve contracts.

Long term, ensure that contracts conform to all required and recommended industry standards.

10. Use of undefined behavior in equality check

Severity: High Difficulty: High

Type: Undefined Behavior Finding ID: TOB-DFX-010

Target: contracts/Curve.sol

Description

CurveMath.calculateTrade is used to compute the output amount for a trade. It computes the S_{i,j} function from the whitepaper using an iterative approach. The loop contains the following if statement:

```
if (
    (outputAmt_ = _omega < _psi</pre>
        ? -( inputAmt + omega - psi)
        : -( inputAmt + lambda.us mul( omega - psi))) /
        1e13 ==
    outputAmt / 1e13
) {
```

Figure 10.1: The output amount computation includes an equality check that may result in undefined behavior. (<u>CurveMath.sol#L105-L111</u>)

On the left-hand side of the equality check, there is an assignment of the variable outputAmt . The right-hand side uses the same variable. The Solidity 0.7.3. documentation states the following:

The evaluation order of expressions is not specified (more formally, the order in which the children of one node in the expression tree are evaluated is not specified, but they are of course evaluated before the node itself). It is only guaranteed that statements are executed in order and short-circuiting for boolean expressions is done.

Figure 10.2: Solidity Documentation: "Order of Evaluation of Expressions"

It follows that this check constitutes an instance of undefined behavior. As such, the behavior of this code is not specified and could change in a future release of Solidity.

Exploit Scenario

A future Solidity release uses different semantics for this case. As a result, the if statement is executed differently, leading to unexpected outcomes.

Recommendations

Short term, rewrite the if statement such that it does not use and assign the same variable in an equality check.

Long term, ensure that the codebase does not contain undefined Solidity or EVM behavior.

11. Insufficient use of SafeMath

Severity: Undetermined Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-011

Target: contracts/CurveMath.sol

Description

CurveMath.calculateTrade is used to compute the output amount for a trade. However, although SafeMath is used throughout the codebase to prevent underflows/overflows, it is not used in this calculation.

Figure 11.1: The calculation of the difference between _omega and _psi does not account for an underflow. (CurveMath.sol#L105-L111)

Although we could not prove that the lack of SafeMath would cause an arithmetic issue in practice, all such calculations would benefit from the use of SafeMath.

Recommendations

Short term, change all instances of us_mul and us_div to ABDKMath64x64.mul and .div, respectively, which also operate on two fixed-point numbers but have overflow/underflow protections.

Long term, review all critical arithmetic to ensure that it accounts for underflows, overflows, and the loss of precision. Consider using SafeMath and the safe functions of ABDKMath64x64 where possible to prevent underflows and overflows.

12. Assimilators' balance functions return raw values

Severity: High Difficulty: Low Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-012 Target: contracts/assimilators/(Cadc|Xsgd|Eurs)ToUsdAssimilator.sol

Description

The system converts raw values to numeraire values for its internal arithmetic. However, in one instance it uses raw values alongside numeraire values.

```
function getOriginSwapData(
        Storage.Curve storage curve,
        uint256 _inputIx,
        uint256 _outputIx,
        address _assim,
        uint256 _amt
        private
        returns (
           int128 amt,
           int128 oGLiq_,
           int128 nGLiq,
           int128[] memory,
           int128[] memory
        )
    {
        uint256 _length = curve.assets.length;
        int128[] memory oBals_ = new int128[](_length);
        int128[] memory nBals = new int128[]( length);
        Storage.Assimilator[] memory _reserves = curve.assets;
        for (uint256 i = 0; i < _length; i++) {</pre>
            if (i != _inputIx) nBals_[i] = oBals_[i] =
Assimilators.viewNumeraireBalance( reserves[i].addr);
           else {
                int128 bal;
                (amt_, _bal) = Assimilators.intakeRawAndGetBalance(_assim, _amt);
                oBals_[i] = _bal.sub(amt_);
                nBals [i] = bal;
            }
           oGLiq_ += oBals_[i];
           nGLiq_ += nBals_[i];
        }
```

Figure 12.1: getOriginSwapData handles numeraire values. (Swaps.sol#L175-L209)

originSwap calls getOriginSwapData to retrieve an array of numeraire balances. The first if case is handled correctly, as viewNumeraireBalance correctly returns a numeraire value.

However, the second case assigns _nBals[i] to the result of intakeRawAndGetBalance. Here is an example of that function in the CadcToUsdAssimilator:

```
function intakeRawAndGetBalance(uint256 _amount) external override returns (int128
amount , int128 balance ) {
       bool transferSuccess = cadc.transferFrom(msg.sender, address(this), amount);
        require( transferSuccess, "Curve/CADC-transfer-from-failed");
        uint256 _balance = cadc.balanceOf(address(this));
       uint256 rate = getRate();
        balance_ = _balance.divu(1e18);
       amount_ = ((_amount * _rate) / 1e8).divu(1e18);
   }
```

Figure 12.2: The error-prone function within the CadcToUsdAssimiLator (contracts/assimilators/CadcToUsdAssimilator#L44-L56)

It is clear that the balance returned is a *raw* value, rather than a numeraire value.

The same bug is also present in the XSGD and EURS assimilators. It is absent from the USDC assimilator, since the raw value of USDC is also the numeraire value. (See TOB-DFX-013.)

Note that the original Shell Protocol does not contain this bug. That protocol computes the raw value of the *numeraire* token, which necessarily corresponds to the numeraire value.

```
function intakeRawAndGetBalance (uint256 _amount) public returns (int128 amount_, int128
balance ) {
       bool _transferSuccess = cdai.transferFrom(msg.sender, address(this), _amount);
       require(_transferSuccess, "Shell/cDAI-transfer-from-failed");
       uint redeemSuccess = cdai.redeem( amount);
       require(_redeemSuccess == 0, "Shell/cDAI-redeem-failed");
       uint256 balance = dai.balanceOf(address(this));
```

```
uint256 rate = cdai.exchangeRateStored();
    balance_ = _balance.divu(1e18);
    amount = ( ( amount * rate ) / 1e18 ).divu(1e18);
}
```

Figure 12.2: Shell Protocol contains the above assimilator code. (MainnetCDaiToDaiAssimilator#L35-L53)

Our early test results show that for a deployed system containing USDC and CADC worth \$1,000 each (with USDC valued at \$1 and the CADC price oracle reporting a value of \$0.10), an originSwap with CADC as the origin will always revert. If the originAmount > 5e16, it will revert in CurveMath.calculateTrade (i.e., the convergence algorithm fails). If originAmount <= 5e16, it will revert in CurveMath.enforceHalts (having reached the upper threshold).

It is clear that even for different values, when the swap does not revert, interchanging raw and numeraire values will produce unwanted results.

The same issue is present in the following functions corresponding to targetSwap, viewOriginSwap, and viewTargetSwap:

- targetSwap: outputRawAndGetBalance
- viewOriginSwap: viewNumeraireAmountAndBalance
- viewTargetSwap: viewNumeraireAmountAndBalance

These four affected functions constitute the only times these three functions are misused; therefore, correcting them will not cause any further issues.

Exploit Scenario

Alice uses a Curve to swap tokens. Since the calculation uses the raw value instead of the numeraire value, she receives more tokens than she should. As a result, Bob, a liquidity provider, loses funds.

Recommendations

Short term, change the semantics of the three functions listed above in the CADC, XSGD, and EURS assimilators to return the numeraire balance.

Long term, use unit tests and fuzzing to ensure that all calculations return the expected values. Additionally, ensure that changes to the Shell Protocol do not introduce bugs such as this one.

13. System always assumes USDC is equivalent to USD

Severity: Medium Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-013

Target: contracts/assimilators/UsdcToUsdAssimilator.sol

Description

Throughout the system, assimilators are used to facilitate the processing of various stablecoins. However, the UsdcToUsdAssimilator's implementation of the getRate method does not use the USDC-USD oracle provided by Chainlink; instead, it assumes 1 USDC is always worth 1 USD.

```
// Multiple by the rate for usd its always 1
// solhint-disable-next-line
function getRate() public view override returns (uint256) {
   return uint256(1e8); // Oracle 8 decimals
```

Figure 13.1: The UsdcToUsdAssimilator's getRate method uses a fixed rate. (UsdcToUsdAssimilator.sol#L32-L36)

A deviation in the exchange rate of 1 USDC = 1 USD could result in exchange errors.

Exploit Scenario

Alice is a user of DFX Finance contracts. The system assumes that the value of USDC is pegged to USD until it is discovered that each USDC is not backed by a US dollar. This causes the USDC-USD exchange rate to drop. Unfortunately, because the USDC-USD exchange rate is derived from a hard-coded integer literal, the system will not account for this change. As a result, Alice may unexpectedly lose funds when performing swaps.

Recommendations

Short term, replace the hard-coded integer literal in the UsdcToUsdAssimilator's getRate method with a call to the relevant Chainlink oracle, as is done in other assimilator contracts.

Long term, ensure that the system is robust against a decrease in the price of any stablecoin.

14. Division operations do not consider rounding direction

Severity: Undetermined Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-014

Target: contracts/assimilators/*

Description

Division operations throughout the codebase appear to be consistently rounded down, rather than up. Although no proof of concept has been created to verify this issue, conceptually, a system should round up when requesting funds from a user and round down when disbursing them. That would ensure that the pool remained appropriately funded and would prevent withdrawals from failing.

If the arithmetic is rounded down in a calculation of the amount a user owes to the system, the amount of the user's payment may be lower than expected. That could result in accounting issues during proportional deposits. Rounding up would ensure that the pool remained appropriately funded and prevent issues such as reverts during the last user's attempt to execute a withdrawal.

Recommendations

Short term, consider rounding up when determining the amount of tokens required in a deposit.

Long term, document and evaluate the effects of rounding errors in deposit and withdrawal operations, and account for scaling.

15. Curve parameters are set incorrectly

Severity: Low Difficulty: Medium Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-DFX-015

Target: contracts/Orchestrator.sol

Description

When initializing a Curve, the includeAsset method adds a new weight value to curve.weights. The provided numerator must be less than the denominator (1e18). However, the smallest denomination of weight possible (1/1e18) is added to the supplied weight. Intuitively, it would follow that the sum of all weights should represent 100% (i.e., the sum of all numerators should be no more than the denominator, 1e18). This is not the case, though, as initializing with 0 and (1e18 - 1/1e18) would yield 1/1e18 and 1e18, the sum of which is larger than the denominator.

For example, consider the following scenario: the system creates a test pool with two assets (a mock token and a mock USDC coin with a weight of 50% each) and writes a test that mints and approves one thousand dollars' worth of each asset for the Curve to use. In that case, a deposit of two thousand dollars would result in a revert. This is because the weight on each asset is slightly higher than usual and requires a deposit of additional tokens, which represent a small margin of error.

Additionally, the Curve construction increments many supplied integer parameters by one (such as within the setParams function) before storing them. Defining the parameters differently would generally increase readability while preventing confusion about the practical underlying values to a reader. In the least, the intent of these code paths is not immediately clear.

Exploit Scenario

Alice deposits funds into DFX Finance contracts using the deposit function. Because of the above error in arithmetic, the number of tokens transferred from Alice to the Curve contract is higher than the number she planned to deposit.

Recommendations

Short term, refactor the weight-related code to ensure that the correct amount of assets is transferred when deposit is called.

16. **setFrozen** can be front-run to deny deposits/swaps

Severity: Low Difficulty: Medium Type: Timing Finding ID: TOB-DFX-016

Target: contracts/Orchestrator.sol

Description

Currently, a Curve contract owner can use the setFrozen function to set the contract into a state that will block swaps and deposits. A contract owner could leverage this process to front-run transactions and freeze contracts before certain deposits or swaps are made; the contract owner could then unfreeze them at a later time.

Exploit Scenario

Alice, a DFX Finance smart contract user, attempts to execute a swap. Around the same time, the contract owner front-runs a transaction, which freezes the contracts and causes the swap to fail. The contract owner subsequently sends another transaction to unfreeze the contracts. In this way, the contract owner can deliberately impede Alice's deposits and swaps.

Recommendations

Short term, consider rewriting setFrozen such that any contract freeze will not last long enough for a malicious user to easily execute an attack. Alternatively, depending on the intended use of this function, consider implementing permanent freezes.

A. Vulnerability Classifications

Vulnerability Classes				
Class	Description			
Access Controls	Related to authorization of users and assessment of rights			
Auditing and Logging	Related to auditing of actions or logging of problems			
Authentication	Related to the identification of users			
Configuration	Related to security configurations of servers, devices, or software			
Cryptography	Related to protecting the privacy or integrity of data			
Data Exposure	Related to unintended exposure of sensitive information			
Data Validation	Related to improper reliance on the structure or values of data			
Denial of Service	Related to causing a system failure			
Error Reporting	Related to the reporting of error conditions in a secure fashion			
Patching	Related to keeping software up to date			
Session Management	Related to the identification of authenticated users			
Timing	Related to race conditions, locking, or the order of operations			
Undefined Behavior	Related to undefined behavior triggered by the program			

Severity Categories				
Severity	Description			
Informational	The issue does not pose an immediate risk but is relevant to security best practices or Defense in Depth.			
Undetermined	The extent of the risk was not determined during this engagement.			
Low	The risk is relatively small or is not a risk the customer has indicated is important.			
Medium	Individual user's information is at risk, exploitation would be bad for client's reputation, moderate financial impact, possible legal			

	implications for client
High	Large numbers of users, very bad for client's reputation, or serious legal or financial implications

Difficulty Levels				
Difficulty	Description			
Undetermined	The difficulty of exploitation was not determined during this engagement			
Low	Commonly exploited, public tools exist or can be scripted that exploit this flaw			
Medium	Attackers must write an exploit, or need an in-depth knowledge of a complex system			
High	The attacker must have privileged insider access to the system, may need to know extremely complex technical details or must discover other weaknesses in order to exploit this issue			

B. Non-Security-Related Findings

The following findings do not have immediate or obvious security implications.

- Remove the unused variable iAsmltr. In the Assimilators library, there is a constant variable, iAsmltr, used throughout the library code to obtain the selector of a function from the IAssimilator interface. This is unnecessary, as Solidity supports the direct use of the interface to obtain selectors. For example, abi.encodeWithSelector(iAsmltr.intakeRaw.selector, _amt) can be replaced by abi.encodeWithSelector(IAssimilator.intakeRaw.selector, amt).
- Consider refactoring the code such that equivalent integer literals are seldom repeated. Contracts including the assimilators reuse large numbers such as 1e18 and 1e6 in rate calculations. These integer literals are repeated throughout the contracts many times. Consider refactoring them into constants to increase the code's readability, facilitate maintenance of the code, and prevent developer errors.
- ProportionalLiquidity's burn and mint functions should use the account parameter instead of msg. sender in the emission of a Transfer event. These functions mint/burn tokens for the provided account address. However, they emit an event using msg. sender instead of account. Because the account argument is always set to msg. sender by the caller, this does not have a significant impact on the system; however, it should be fixed to enhance the code's correctness.
- CurveMath and ProportionalLiquidity both define a constant ONE WEI that is **unnecessary and can be removed.** This may have previously served a purpose. However, if it is no longer necessary, it should be removed to improve the code's readability.
- Curve.originSwap has an incorrect natural specification (natspec). The first line of the natspec for Curve.originSwap states the following: "/// @notice swap a dynamic origin amount for a fixed target amount." In actuality, originSwap swaps a fixed origin amount for a dynamic target amount. We recommend that the line be changed to reflect that. A correct natspec increases the readability of code and helps developers and users interact with it.
- CurveStorage.Curve.oracles is never used. CurveStorage defines a struct Curve with a member element, mapping(address => IOracle) oracles, which is neither set nor read in the codebase. We recommend removing this field to enhance the readability of the code.

C. Fix Log

After Trail of Bits completed the initial assessment, DFX Finance addressed certain issues identified in the report. The audit team then verified each of the fixes to ensure that it was applied appropriately. The results of these checks are provided below.

ID	Title	Severity	Status
01	Assimilators use a deprecated Chainlink API	High	Fixed
02	_min* and _max* have unorthodox semantics	Undetermined	Fixed
03	CurveFactory.newCurve returns existing curves without provided arguments Informati		Fixed
04	Missing zero-address checks in Curve.transferOwnership and Router.constructor		Fixed
05	Missing contract existence checks prior to delegatecall Undetermined		Fixed
06	Unorthodox Curve constructions may cause Low undefined behavior		Partially fixed
07	CurveFactory.newCurve fails to initializederivativeAssimilators	Low	Fixed
08	safeApprove does not check return values for approve call	Low	Fixed
09	ERC20 token Curve does not implement symbol, name, or decimals method	Informational	Fixed
10	Use of undefined behavior in equality check	Informational	Fixed
11	Insufficient use of SafeMath	Informational	Fixed
12	Assimilators' balance functions return raw values	Informational	Fixed
13	System always assumes USDC is equivalent to USD	Informational	Fixed
14	Division operations do not consider rounding direction	Informational	Fixed
15	Curve parameters are set incorrectly	Informational	Not fixed

16	setFrozen can be front-run to deny	Informational	Not fixed
	deposits/swaps		

For additional information on each fix, please refer to the detailed fix log on the next page.

Detailed Fix Log

Finding 1: Assimilators use a deprecated Chainlink API

Fixed. The deprecated Chainlink API calls were replaced with the superseding API calls.

Finding 2: min* and max* have unorthodox semantics

Fixed. These variables are now used in the expected way—that is, as inclusive minimums (>=, <=) rather than exclusive minimums (>, <).

Finding 3: CurveFactory.newCurve returns existing curves without provided arguments

Fixed. This function now returns only new curves or reverts if one already exists. Another function, getCurve, was added to obtain the address of any existing curve. However, it will return a zero address when no curve with the provided parameters exists. This behavior should be documented for external users.

Finding 4: Missing zero-address checks in Curve.transferOwnership and Router.constructor

Fixed. The missing zero-address checks have been added to the code.

Finding 5: Missing contract existence checks prior to delegatecall

Fixed. The contract code now conducts contract existence checks with require statements prior to performing a delegate call.

Finding 6: Unorthodox Curve constructions may cause undefined behavior

Partially fixed. Although checks were added to make sure that each array would be divisible by the expected value (and therefore able to enter its respective initialization loop), other checks were not added. For example, there are no checks verifying whether the amount of _assets is more than five times the amount of _assetWeights, in which case some elements of _assets may be silently ignored.

Finding 7: CurveFactory.newCurve fails to initialize _derivativeAssimilators Fixed. The _derivativeAssimilators code was removed entirely, as it was deemed unnecessary. Elements of this array will already be included in _assets.

Finding 8: safeApprove does not check return values for approve call

Fixed. The affected contract now uses OpenZeppelin's safeApprove function, which appropriately checks any values returned by an approve call.

Finding 9: ERC20 token Curve does not implement symbol, name, or decimals method Fixed. The abovementioned fields have been added to the Curve contract.

Finding 10: Use of undefined behavior in equality check

Fixed. The assignment and comparison of outputAmt_ were split into separate statements.

Finding 11: Insufficient use of SafeMath

Fixed. The affected contracts now leverage safe functions provided by ABDKMath64x64.

Finding 12: Assimilators' balance functions return raw values

Fixed. The affected contracts now use numeraire values instead of raw values.

Finding 13: System always assumes USDC is equivalent to USD

Fixed. This assimilator now uses the relevant USDC-USD Chainlink oracle contract.

Finding 14: Division operations do not consider rounding direction

Fixed. Deposit calculations now include ONE_WEI, which should provide a mechanism for rounding up. Note that this fix was reviewed manually, and our fix review did not include in-depth testing of the new arithmetic.

Finding 15: Curve parameters are set incorrectly

Not fixed. The DFX Finance team indicated that precision loss is minimal. For example, the floating-point representation (int128) and back would yield only a loss of 1. As such, adding 1/1e18 to the weight will compensate for the precision loss.

Finding 16: setFrozen can be front-run to deny deposits/swaps

Not fixed. The DFX Finance team has indicated that it intends to leave this mechanism "as is," as only the DFX Finance team could access this functionality.