

# FORTE-CM Summer School

## July 2022

### Intro to Smart Contracts, Ethereum and Solidity

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# Blockchain Systems

## What is a blockchain?

A blockchain is an implementation of a **decentralized ledger**, which is a simple **database of transactions** of *coins* (in some digital currency) between addresses.

- Main characteristics:
  - ▶ **immutable**: cryptographic techniques prevent the ledger from being modified.
  - ▶ **verifiable**: anyone can check that transactions are correct.
  - ▶ **decentralized**: processed by *miners* (or *validators*).
- The blockchain technology allows to register information more general than a ledger for payments.

# Notion of smart contract

- In particular, blockchain technology can be used **to automate some rules usually contained in legal contracts or agreements**.
  - ▶ If the blockchain system can guarantee by construction the transactions without any intermediary, then
  - ▶ it could also be used for **automatically executing** the terms of a contract.
- The term **smart contract** was coined by Nick Szabo, a computer scientist and legal scholar, before blockchain technology was developed:

A **smart contract** is a set of promises, specified in digital form, including protocols within which the parties perform on these promises.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>N. Szabo. Smart Contracts: Building Blocks for Digital Markets, 1996

# Ethereum

- A full-fledged computer language would be **very appropriate for implementing smart contracts**.

Contracts should be executed in a trustworthy environment such as a **blockchain system**. This is the case of **Ethereum**.

- **Ethereum** is more than just another blockchain system.
- The main goal of Ethereum is to create a protocol for building decentralized applications.
  - ▶ It is able to **execute bytecode in a built-in virtual machine**.
  - ▶ **Ether currency** is used to pay for the execution of contracts and to reward miners for mining new blocks.
- The state in Ethereum is composed of a set of **accounts**:
  - ▶ **Externally owned accounts (EOA)**.
  - ▶ **Contract accounts**: Accounts controlled by a smart contract.

# Ethereum Contracts

“A contract is a collection of code (its functions) and data (its state) that resides at a specific address on the Ethereum blockchain. Contract accounts are able to pass messages between themselves as well as doing practically Turing complete computation. Contracts live on the blockchain in a Ethereum-specific binary format called Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM) bytecode.”

From <https://ethdocs.org/en/latest/contracts-and-transactions/contracts.html>

- Code and data **reside safe on the Ethereum blockchain.**
- **Turing complete computation:** it allows any arbitrary computation.
- **Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM):** Contracts **are compiled** into a hardware-independent bytecode language.
- **Contracts live on the blockchain:** executed in a **secured environment**, in the network nodes.

# Ethereum Virtual Machine

- Ethereum includes a virtual machine that executes bytecode (very much like Java VM).
- **EVM** bytecode is a platform-independent assembly-like language.
- High-level languages compile into EVM bytecode, e.g. **Solidity**.
- An important problem of a programmable blockchain are **infinite computations**.
  - ▶ They can be used as a form of DDoS attack.
  - ▶ They cannot be checked in advance (unless we manage to solve the **halting problem!**).
- This problem is overcome in Ethereum with the notion of **gas**.

# The notion of *gas*

- **DoS attacks and infinite computations** are prevented by **charging** the execution of contract bytecode with a fee:

**Every EVM instruction consumes some amount of *gas*.**

- Some instructions are more expensive than others (e.g., persistent storage handling).
- Local memory usage also consumes gas.
- When a contract function is invoked, two values are provided:
  - ▶ **gasLimit**: the amount of gas available for executing the contract.
  - ▶ **gasPrice**: the value of each unit of gas measured in Wei.
- If gasLimit is **exceeded**, the execution halts with an **exception** and **the entire execution is reverted**.

# Solidity

- **Solidity** is the most commonly used language for programming contracts in Ethereum.
- The **syntax of Solidity** is similar to other well-known programming languages (C, Java).
- However, it includes many details imposed by the **low-level EVM** bytecode language.
- **Contracts** are **similar to classes** in object-oriented languages.
- Contracts can contain the following elements (among others):
  - ▶ **State variables:** persistent variables that are stored on Ethereum blockchain **storage**.
  - ▶ **Functions:** define the behaviour of the contract.
  - ▶ **Events:** log entries for communicating info to external applications.



# Layout of a Solidity source file

```
// SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-3.0
pragma solidity >=0.7.0 <0.9.0;
contract Storage {
    uint number; // these are (persistent) state variables
    address owner;

    function store(uint num) public {
        uint double; // this is a local variable
        double = num * 2;
        number = double;
    }

    function retrieve() public view returns (uint) {
        return number;
    }
}
```

# Solidity Data Types

- **Value data types:**

- ▶ `uint`, `uint256`: 256-bit unsigned integers.
- ▶ `int`, `int256`: 256-bit signed integers.
- ▶ `uint8`, `int8`, `uint16`, `uint32`,...: (un)signed integers of N bits.
- ▶ `address`: 160-bit Ethereum addresses.

- **Reference data types:**

- ▶ `structs`
- ▶ `arrays` (fixed- and dynamically-sized)
- ▶ `mappings` (similar to hash tables)

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### EVM programs

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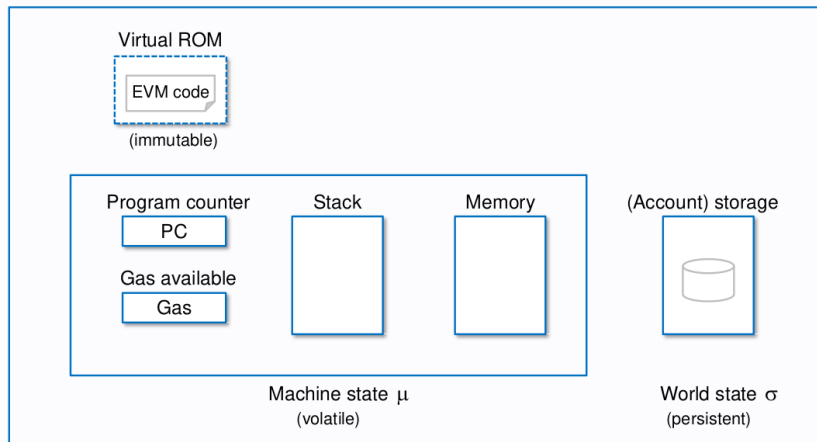


# Ethereum Bytecode (EVM)

- Stack based language
- Small set of instructions
  - ▶ Arithmetic operations
  - ▶ Conditional and unconditional jumps
  - ▶ Store and load data
  - ▶ Blockchain data
  - ▶ Cryptographic hash algorithms for allocating persistent memory
- A **specification of the EVM** is available:  
G. Wood, *Ethereum: A secure decentralised generalised transaction ledger (EIP-150)*, 2018.  
<https://ethereum.github.io/yellowpaper/paper.pdf> (latest version)

# EVM architecture

## Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM)



Source: [https://takenobu-hs.github.io/downloads/ethereum\\_evm\\_illustrated.pdf](https://takenobu-hs.github.io/downloads/ethereum_evm_illustrated.pdf)

# EVM bytecode

- Bytecode language is untyped.
  - ▶ Most instructions operate on 256-bit words as unsigned integers.
  - ▶ Specific signed operations (`SDIV`, `SMOD`, `SIGNEXTEND`).
- All invocations start executing the contract with  $PC = 0$ .
- Runtime code starts with some memory initializations and the **function selector**.
  - ▶ A function is identified by a hash of its signature:
  - ▶ Example: `bytes4(keccak256(bytes("square(uint256)")))`
- There is no notion of methods, objects or structs.
- Calls to internal functions are **translated to jumps**.
- Jump addresses are not constant. They are read from the stack.

# EVM calls to internal functions

```
pragma solidity ^0.6.0;
```

```
contract mini2 {  
    function square(uint n)  
    external pure returns(uint) {  
        return _square(n);  
    }  
  
    function _square(uint n)  
    internal pure returns(uint) {  
        return n*n;  
    }  
}
```

```
...  
JUMPDEST  
PUSH 0  
PUSH 8 //tag8  
DUP3  
PUSH 9 //tag9  
JUMP  
tag8  
JUMPDEST  
SWAP1  
POP  
SWAP2  
SWAP1  
POP  
JUMP //out
```

```
tag9 //_square  
JUMPDEST  
PUSH 0  
DUP2  
DUP3  
MUL  
SWAP1  
POP  
SWAP2  
SWAP1  
POP  
JUMP //out
```

# EVM bytecode instructions

- **Arithmetic:**

ADD, MUL, DIV, SDIV, MOD, SMOD, ADDMOD, MULMOD, EXP, SIGNEXTEND

- **Comparison and bitwise logic:**

LT, GT, SLT, SGT, EQ, ISZERO, AND, OR, XOR, NOT, BYTE, SHL, SHR, SAR

- **Environmental information:** ADDRESS, BALANCE, ORIGIN, CALLER, etc.

- **Stack:** POP, PUSH $i$ , DUP $j$ , SWAP $j$  ( $i \leq 32, j \leq 16$ )

- **Memory:** MLOAD, MSTORE

- **Storage:** SLOAD, SSTORE

- **Block information:** BLOCKHASH, COINBASE, GASLIMIT, etc.

- **Flow:** JUMP (unconditional jump), JUMPI (conditional jump), JUMPDEST (jump destination)

- **Hash computation:** SHA3

- **System:** CREATE, CALL, DELEGATECALL, RETURN, REVERT, STOP, INVALID, SELFDESTRUCT, etc.



# EVM bytecode

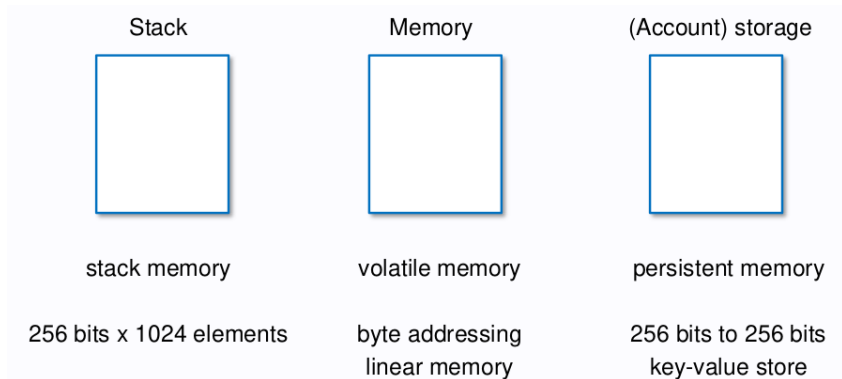
## Notion of *block*

“A maximal sequence of straight-line consecutive code in the program with the properties that the flow of control can only enter the block through the first instruction in the block, and can only leave the block at the last instruction.”

- Blocks are the **nodes** in the **control-flow graph (CFG)** of the contract.

# EVM memory regions

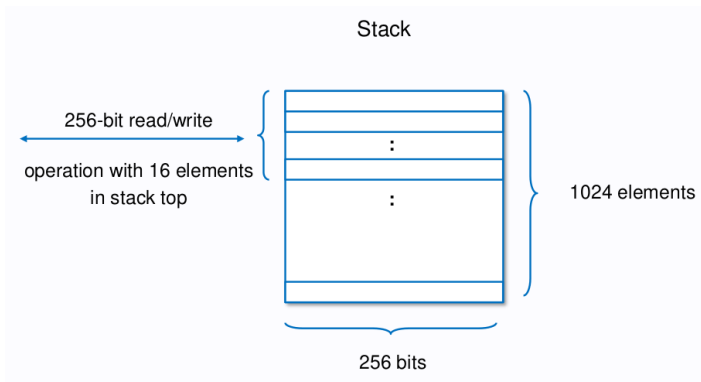
- There are several memory regions:



Source: [https://takenobu-hs.github.io/downloads/ethereum\\_evm\\_illustrated.pdf](https://takenobu-hs.github.io/downloads/ethereum_evm_illustrated.pdf)

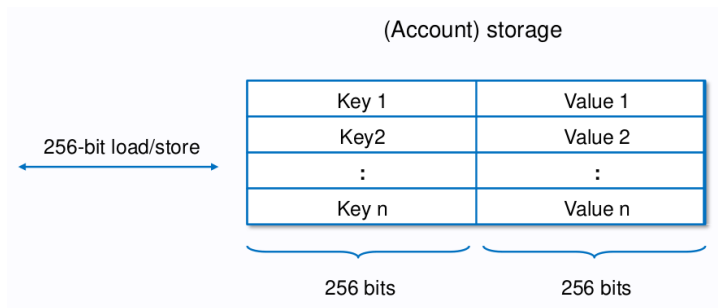
# EVM stack

- EVM is a **stack-based virtual machine**:
  - ▶ There are no registers, just a stack with 1024 256-bit words.
  - ▶ Most instructions operate on the top-most elements in the stack.
  - ▶ Contains **value-type local variables**, intermediate values and **jump addresses**.
  - ▶ **Gas consumption**: Operations on stack are **very cheap**.



# EVM storage

- **Persistent memory** region.
- Each contract can only access its own storage.
- Implemented as a collection of (key,value) pairs.
- Stores any data type: **value types, structs, arrays, mappings.**
- **Gas consumption:** Expensive to use (the price of persistence).

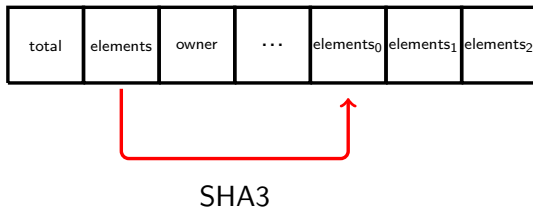


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# Storage layout

- State variables are stored in consecutive positions starting at 0.
- Value types are stored directly, packing them tightly if possible.
- Arrays are stored differently:
  - ▶ Array length is stored in its corresponding slot.
  - ▶ Array contents are stored at location  $\text{SHA3}(\text{slot})$ .

## Storage:



# Storage operations

```
contract StAccesses {
  uint total;
  uint[] elems;
  address owner;

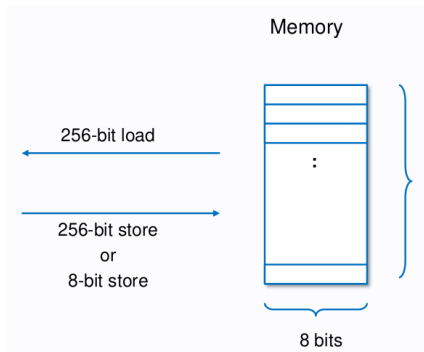
  function fn(uint n) external {
    for (uint i=0; i<n; i++){
      elems.push(0x97);
    }

    total = 13;
    owner = msg.sender;
  }
}
```

```
...
SLOAD      //elems.length
ADD        //length+1
DUP1
DUP3
SSTORE     //elems.length
...
KECCAK256  //addr(elems[0])
ADD        //addr(elems[length-1])
...
SSTORE     //elems[length-1]
...
PUSH D
PUSH 0
DUP2
SWAP1
SSTORE     //store total
...
```

# EVM memory

- Volatile memory region for local computations:
  - ▶ Fresh memory for each external function call.
  - ▶ Stores **reference-type local variables** (structs, arrays).
  - ▶ Required by some instructions (`SHA3`, arguments of external calls).
  - ▶ **Gas consumption:** Cheaper than storage, but gas increases with the amount of memory used.



# Memory layout

- Memory address `0x40` contains a pointer to the first free memory location.
  - ▶ It is increased for each variable.
  - ▶ Each basic value is stored in a 256-bit word (regardless of its size).
- It is **never freed**. Cleared for each external call.
- Arrays are stored next to their length.
- Pointers are used for nested data structures.

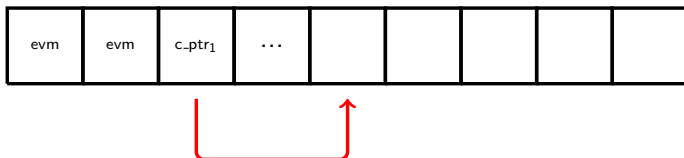
```
contract Accesses {  
    struct StrType { uint str1; uint str2; }  
  
    function fnMemory() external pure {  
        StrType memory st=StrType(15,11);  
        uint[] memory arr1=new uint[] (7);  
        //...  
    }  
}
```



# Memory layout

```
contract Accesses {  
    struct StrType { uint str1; uint str2; }  
  
    function fnMemory() external pure {  
        StrType memory st=StrType(15,11);  
        uint[] memory arr1=new uint8[](7);  
        //...  
    }  
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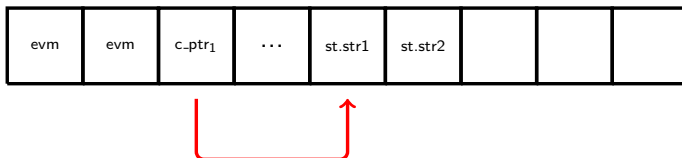
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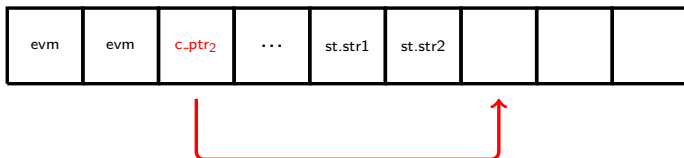
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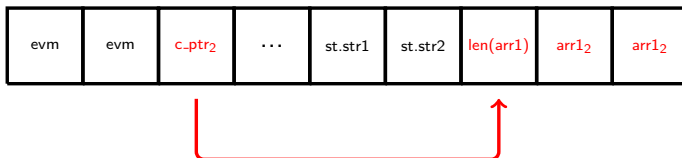
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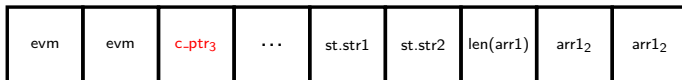
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```

## Memory:



# Memory operations

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        uint str2;
    }

    function fnMemory() external pure {
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        uint[] memory arr1=new uint[](7);

        //...
    }
}
```

```
PUSH 40
DUP1
MLOAD    // ptr=mem[0x40]
SWAP1
DUP2
ADD
PUSH 40
MSTORE   //mem[0x40]=ptr+0x40
DUP1
PUSH F
DUP2
MSTORE   //mem[ptr] = 15
PUSH 20 // (st.str1)
ADD
PUSH B
DUP2
MSTORE   //mem[ptr+0x20]=11
...      // (st.str2)
```

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July 2022  
**Analysis of Smart Contracts**  
Gas Analysis of Ethereum Smart Contracts

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## +EFFICIENT SMART CONTRACTS

Efficiency-related properties:

1. Estimate the gas consumption (static analysis)
  - ▶ Goal: avoid gas-related vulnerabilities (**GASTAP**)
2. Optimize the gas consumption (synthesis)
  - ▶ Goal: reduce transaction costs (**GASOL**)



## GAS-METERED EXECUTION

- *Gas-limit*: amount of gas allowed to carry out transaction.

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300.000

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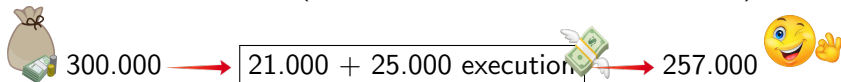
300.000



21.000 + 25.000 execution

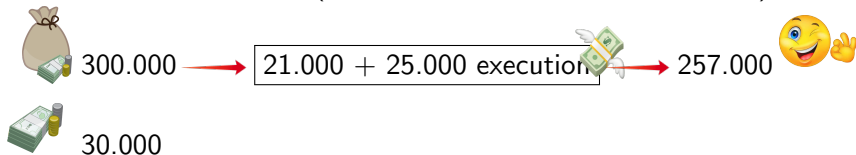
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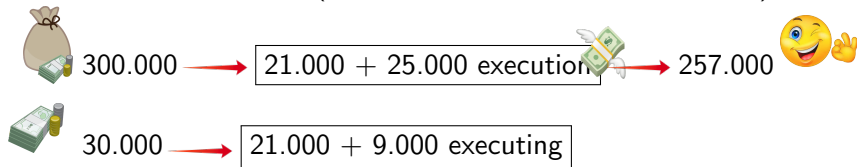
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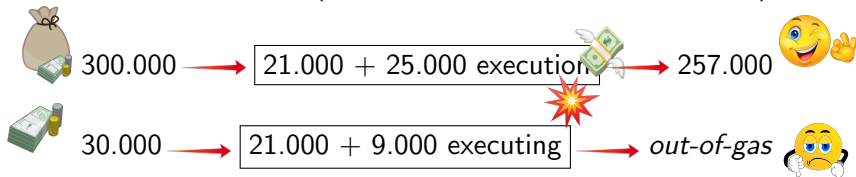
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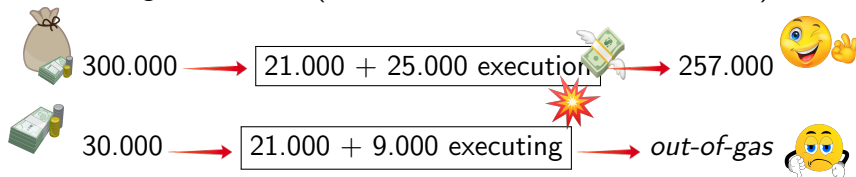
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- Rationale of gas metering :
  - ▶ prevents attacks based on non-terminating executions;
  - ▶ avoids wasting *miners* computational resources;
  - ▶ discourages users to overuse replicated *storage*

# WHAT IS GASTAP?

## GASTAP

**GASTAP** is a framework that given a smart contract infers gas upper bounds for all its public functions

```
contract EthereumPot {
  address public owner;
  address[] public addresses;
  address public winnerAddress;
  uint[] public slots;
  ...
  function findWinner(uint random) constant returns(address winner){
    for(uint i = 0; i < slots.length; i++) {
      if(random <= slots[i]) {
        return addresses[i];
      }
    }
    ...
  }
}
```

# WHAT IS GASTAP?

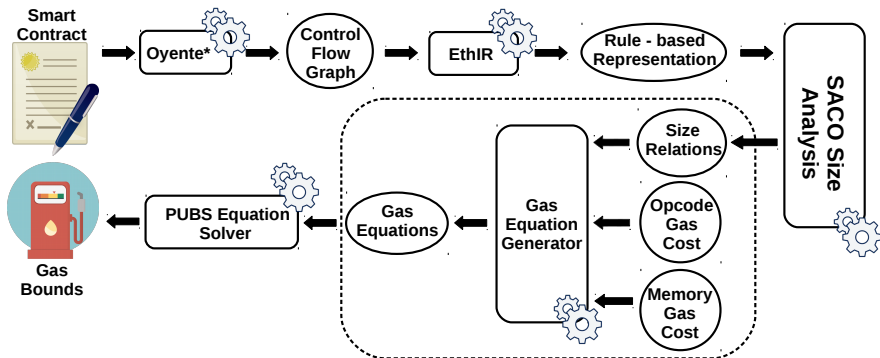
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      if(random <= slots[i]) {  
        return addresses[i];  
      }  
    }  
    ...  
  }  
}
```

15+  $(1555 + 779 \cdot \text{slots})$

# ARCHITECTURE OF GASTAP



# WHAT IS ETHIR?

## ETHIR

**EthIR** is a framework that translates Ethereum bytecode into an intermediate representation.

### Ethereum Bytecode

- Stack based language.
- Small set of instructions.

```
PUSH 0X01  
PUSH 0X04  
ADD  
PUSH 0X000F  
JUMP
```

# ETHIR (DECOMPILER FROM EVM)

- Why do we work at bytecode level?

# ETHIR (DECOMPILER FROM EVM)

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  - ▶ The source code of the smart contracts is not available
    - ★ Blockchain only stores the bytecode



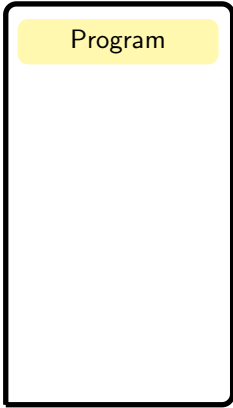
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  - ▶ Information only available at bytecode level
    - ★ Gas consumption

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  - ▶ The source code of the smart contracts is not available
    - ★ Blockchain only stores the bytecode
  - ▶ Information only available at bytecode level
    - ★ Gas consumption
  - ▶ Analyses may be affected by compiler optimizations
    - ★ Binary arithmetic, unfolding, etc.

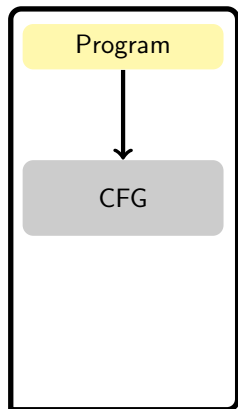
# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?



Program

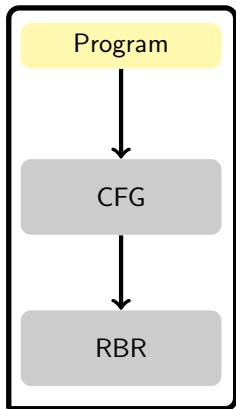
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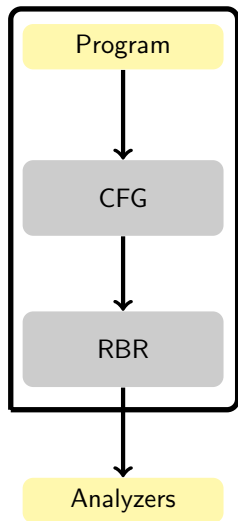
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Make explicit the stack, memory, fields variables.

# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?



- **Program**: Solidity, EVM Bytecode or Disassembly code.
- **CFG**: Detect jump addresses
- **RBR**: Rule based Representation. Make explicit the stack, memory, fields variables.
- **Analyzers**: The RBR can be injected straightforward to existing analyzers with minor changes.

# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

```
contract Loop{

    uint sum = 0;
    uint number = 5;

    function multiply(uint a){
        for(uint i = 0; i<a; i++){
            sum = sum+number;
        }
    }
}
```



```
start address: 187
end address: 210
type: uncond
jump target: 179
PUSH1 0x01
SLOAD 1
PUSH1 0x00
SLOAD 0
ADD
PUSH1 0x00
DUP2
SWAP1
SSTORE 0
...
PUSH1 0xb3
JUMP
```

- We generate the CFG of the smart contract including annotations
  - ▶ SSTORE, SSLOAD, MSTORE, MLOAD, CALLDATALOAD...

# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

**start address: 187**  
**end address: 210**  
**type: uncond**  
**jump target: 179**  
**PUSH1 0x01**  
**SLOAD 1**  
**PUSH1 0x00**  
**SLOAD 0**  
**ADD**  
**PUSH1 0x00**  
**DUP2**  
**SWAP1**  
**SSTORE 0**  
...  
**PUSH1 0xb3**  
**JUMP**

$\text{block187}(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)) \Rightarrow$   
 $s(4) = 1$   
 $s(4) = g(1)$   
 $s(5) = 0$   
 $s(5) = g(0)$   
 $s(4) = s(5) + s(4)$   
 $s(5) = 0$   
 $s(6) = s(4)$   
 $s(7) = s(5)$   
 $s(5) = s(6)$   
 $s(6) = s(7)$   
 $g(0) = s(5)$   
...  
 $s(4) = 179$   
 $\text{call}(\text{block179}(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)))$



# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

**start address: 187**  
**end address: 210**  
**type: uncond**  
**jump target: 179**  
**PUSH1 0x01**  
**SLOAD 1**  
**PUSH1 0x00**  
**SLOAD 0**  
**ADD**  
**PUSH1 0x00**  
**DUP2**  
**SWAP1**  
**SSTORE 0**  
...  
**PUSH1 0xb3**  
**JUMP**

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 $s(4) = 1$   
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 $s(5) = g(0)$   
 $s(4) = s(5) + s(4)$   
 $s(5) = 0$   
 $s(6) = s(4)$   
 $s(7) = s(5)$   
 $s(5) = s(6)$   
 $s(6) = s(7)$   
 $g(0) = s(5)$   
...  
 $s(4) = 179$   
 $\text{call}(\text{block179}(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)))$

- Each block corresponds to one rule.

# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

start address: 187  
end address: 210  
type: uncond  
jump target: 179  
PUSH1 0x01  
SLOAD 1  
PUSH1 0x00  
SLOAD 0  
ADD  
PUSH1 0x00  
DUP2  
SWAP1  
SSTORE 0  
...  
PUSH1 0xb3  
JUMP

block187(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0))  $\Rightarrow$   
s(4) = 1  
s(4) = g(1)  
s(5) = 0  
s(5) = g(0)  
s(4) = s(5) + s(4)  
s(5) = 0  
s(6) = s(4)  
s(7) = s(5)  
s(5) = s(6)  
s(6) = s(7)  
g(0) = s(5)  
...  
s(4) = 179  
call(block179(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)))

- Each block corresponds to one rule.
- The fields and data are passed to the rules as parameters.

# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

```
start address: 187
end address: 210
type: uncond
jump target: 179
PUSH1 0x01
SLOAD 1
PUSH1 0x00
SLOAD 0
ADD
PUSH1 0x00
DUP2
SWAP1
SSTORE 0
...
PUSH1 0xb3
JUMP
```

```
block187(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)) ⇒
s(4) = 1
s(4) = g(1)
s(5) = 0
s(5) = g(0)
s(4) = s(5)+s(4)
s(5) = 0
s(6) = s(4)
s(7) = s(5)
s(5) = s(6)
s(6) = s(7)
g(0) = s(5)
...
s(4) = 179
call(block179(s(3),s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1), g(0)))
```

- Each block corresponds to one rule.
- The fields and data are passed to the rules as parameters.
- Stack variables are explicit in the code.

# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

```
start address: 187
end address: 210
type: uncond
jump target: 179
PUSH1 0x01
SLOAD 1
PUSH1 0x00
SLOAD 0
ADD
PUSH1 0x00
DUP2
SWAP1
SSTORE 0
...
PUSH1 0xb3
JUMP
```

```
block187(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)) ⇒
s(4) = 1
s(4) = g(1)
s(5) = 0
s(5) = g(0)
s(4) = s(5)+s(4)
s(5) = 0
s(6) = s(4)
s(7) = s(5)
s(5) = s(6)
s(6) = s(7)
g(0) = s(5)
...
s(4) = 179
call(block179(s(3),s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1), g(0)))
```

- Each block corresponds to one rule.
- The fields and data are passed to the rules as parameters.
- Stack variables are explicit in the code.
- Jump instructions are converted to calls to new blocks.

# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

**start address: 175**  
**end address: 170**  
**type: cond**  
**jump target: 189**  
**falls to: 171**

**JUMPDEST**  
**PUSH1 0x05**  
**PUSH1 0x01**  
**DUP2**  
**SWAP1**  
**SSTORE 1**  
**PUSH1 0xab**  
**LT**  
**PUSH1 0xbd**  
**JUMPI**

```
block175(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)) =>
  s(4) = 5
  s(5) = 1
  s(6) = s(4)
  s(7) = s(6)
  s(6) = s(5)
  s(5) = s(7)
  g(1) = s(5)
  s(4) = 171
  call(jump175(s(4),s(3),s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1),g(0)))
```

```
jump175(s(4),s(3),s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1),g(0)) =>
  lt(s(4),s(3))
  call(block189(s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1)))
```

```
jump179(s(4),s(3),s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1),g(0)) =>
  geq(s(4),s(3))
  call(block171(s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1),g(0)))
```

- Each block corresponds to one rule.
- The fields and data are passed to the rules as parameters.
- Stack variables are explicit in the code.
- Jump instructions are converted to calls to new blocks.

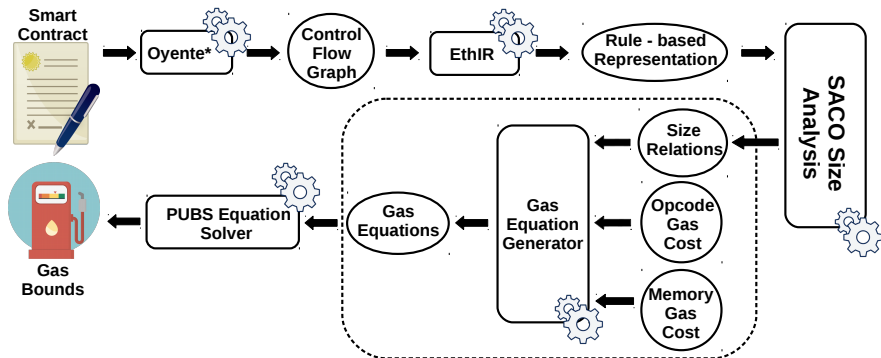
# HOW DOES ETHIR WORK?

```
start address: 187
end address: 210
type: uncond
jump target: 179
PUSH1 0x01
SLOAD 1
PUSH1 0x00
SLOAD 0
ADD
PUSH1 0x00
DUP2
SWAP1
SSTORE 0
...
PUSH1 0xb3
JUMP
```

```
block187(s(3), s(2), s(1), s(0), g(1), g(0)) ⇒
s(4) = 1    nop(PUSH1)
s(4) = g(1)  nop(SLOAD)
s(5) = 0    nop(PUSH1)
s(5) = g(0)  nop(SLOAD)
s(4) = s(5)+s(4)  nop(ADD)
s(5) = 0    nop(PUSH1)
s(6) = s(4)  nop(DUP2)
s(7) = s(5)
s(5) = s(6)
s(6) = s(7)  nop(SWAP1)
g(0) = s(5)  nop(SSTORE)
...
s(4) = 179  nop(PUSH1)
call(block179(s(3),s(2),s(1),s(0),g(1), g(0)))
nop(JUMP)
```

- Each block corresponds to one rule.
- The fields and data are passed to the rules as parameters.
- Stack variables are explicit in the code.
- Jump instructions are converted to calls to new blocks.
- **nop** instructions for the cost model.

# ARCHITECTURE OF GASTAP



# GAS EQUATIONS

- Generated using the RBR and SR
- It depends on the opcodes executed and the memory used during the transaction
  - ▶ Memory Gas.
  - ▶ Opcode Gas.

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{mem}(\mu'_i) - C_{mem}(\mu_i) + C_{opcode}(i)$$

- Gas consumed by EVM instruction  $i$ .
- $\mu'_i$  and  $\mu_i$  are the highest memory slot accessed after and before the execution of the opcode at program point  $i$ , resp.



# GAS EQUATIONS

## Memory Gas

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{mem}(\mu'_i) - C_{mem}(\mu_i) + C_{opcode}(i)$$

$$C_{mem}(a) = 3 \cdot a + \left\lfloor \frac{a^2}{512} \right\rfloor$$

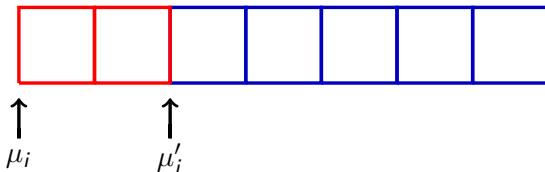


# GAS EQUATIONS

## Memory Gas

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{\text{mem}}(\mu'_i) - C_{\text{mem}}(\mu_i) + C_{\text{opcode}}(i)$$

$$C_{\text{mem}}(a) = 3 \cdot a + \left\lfloor \frac{a^2}{512} \right\rfloor$$

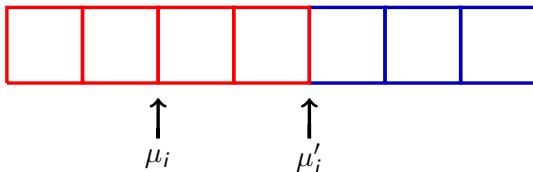


# GAS EQUATIONS

## Memory Gas

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{\text{mem}}(\mu'_i) - C_{\text{mem}}(\mu_i) + C_{\text{opcode}}(i)$$

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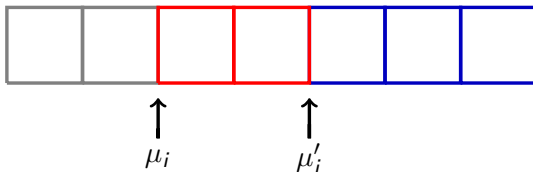


# GAS EQUATIONS

## Memory Gas

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{\text{mem}}(\mu'_i) - C_{\text{mem}}(\mu_i) + C_{\text{opcode}}(i)$$

$$C_{\text{mem}}(a) = 3 \cdot a + \left\lfloor \frac{a^2}{512} \right\rfloor$$



# GAS EQUATIONS

## Memory Gas

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{mem}(\mu'_i) - C_{mem}(\mu_i) + C_{opcode}(i)$$

$$C_{mem}(a) = 3 \cdot a + \left\lfloor \frac{a^2}{512} \right\rfloor$$

**The sum of all memory gas cost  $\equiv$  the memory cost function for the highest slot accessed**

# GAS EQUATIONS

## Opcode Gas

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{mem}(\mu'_i) - C_{mem}(\mu_i) + C_{opcode}(i)$$

- Each opcode has a fee associated:
  - ▶ Most of them are constant: JUMP(8)\*, ADD(3), MLOAD(3), etc.
  - ▶ Different constant gas depending on some condition: SLOAD(100 / 2100)\*, SSTORE (100 to 22100)\*, etc.
  - ▶ Non-constant gas consumption: EXP, SHA3, etc.
  - ▶ \* These fees changed after Berlin hard fork.

# GAS EQUATIONS

## Opcode Gas

- **Constant gas**

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{mem}(\mu'_i) - C_{mem}(\mu_i) + C_{opcode}(i)$$

They can be classified in 8 groups:

- Zero (0): STOP, RETURN, REVERT
- Base (2): POP, GAS, CALLER, ADDRESS,...
- VeryLow (3): ADD, SUB, LT, EQ, PUSH, MLOAD, MSTORE,...
- Low (5): MUL, DIV, MOD, SMOD,...
- Mid (8): ADDMOD, MULMOD, JUMP
- High (10): JUMPI
- Extcode (700): EXTCODESIZE
- Others: JUMPDEST(1), CREATE(32000),...

# GAS EQUATIONS

## Opcode Gas

- **Constant gas depending on some condition**

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{\text{mem}}(\mu'_i) - C_{\text{mem}}(\mu_i) + C_{\text{opcode}}(i)$$

When loading some value from address  $pos$ :

$$\mathbf{SLOAD} = \begin{cases} 100 & \text{if storage}(pos) \text{ previously accessed (in the current or a} \\ 2100 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**SSTORE** has a more complex constant gas expression that depends on several conditions (see Yellow Paper):

- The location has been accessed in a previous transaction,
- it has been already modified in this transaction,
- and the value being assigned to that storage location.



# GAS EQUATIONS

## Opcode Gas

- **Non-constant gas**

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{mem}(\mu'_i) - C_{mem}(\mu_i) + C_{opcode}(i)$$

- $\text{EXP} = 10 + 50 \cdot (1 + \lfloor \log_{256}(\text{stack}[\text{top} - 1]) \rfloor)$
- $\text{SHA3} = 30 + 6 \cdot \lceil \text{stack}[\text{top} - 1] \div 32 \rceil$
- $\text{LOG3} = 375 + 8 \cdot \text{stack}[\text{top} - 1] + 3 \cdot 375$
- ...

# GAS EQUATIONS

$$\text{Gas}(i) = C_{\text{mem}}(\mu'_i) - C_{\text{mem}}(\mu_i) + C_{\text{opcode}}(i)$$

- Each rule is transformed into a cost equation
- Nop instructions determine the gas consumed
- Calls to other rules replaced to cost equations
- Size relations attached
- PUBS Solver: Generation of a closed-form gas upper bound

```
block1619(s(4), ..., s(0), g(3), g(1), l(l2), l(l1), l(l0)) ⇒  
  s(5) = 3    nop(PUSH1)  
  s(6) = s(5)  nop(DUP1)  
  s(6) = g(3)  nop(SLOAD)  
  ...  
  s(6) = s(4)  nop(DUP2)  
  call(jump1619(s(6), ..., s(0), g(3), g(1), l(l2), l(l1),  
l(l0)))  
  nop(LT)  nop(ISZERO)  nop(PUSH2)  nop(JUMPI)
```

```
block1619(s(4), ..., s(0), g(3), g(1), l(l2), ...) ⇒  
  234 + jump1619(s(6), ..., s(0), g(3), g(1), ...)  
  {s(6) = s(4), s(5) = g(3)}
```

# GAS EQUATIONS

- We compute the **memory gas cost** and **opcode gas cost** separately
  - ▶ **Memory gas cost**: Infer the highest slot of memory accessed by the opcodes executed in the function
  - ▶ **Opcode gas**: Compute gas equations

$$\text{Total gas consumption} = \text{Memory gas} + \text{Opcode gas}$$

# PRACTICE WITH GASTAP

GASTAP can be found at <https://costa.fdi.ucm.es/gastap/>

1. Load into GASTAP the following contract and analyze it.
  - ▶ Copy the code on Gastap central panel and press **Refresh Outline**.
  - ▶ Then Select one function on the right and press **Apply**.

Analyze the contract functions one by one.
2. Explain the results obtained for these functions.

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.0;
contract exercise3 {
    uint[] arr = new uint[](5);
    function p1() external view returns (uint) {
        uint sumEven = 0;
        for (uint i = 0; i < arr.length; i+=2) {
            sumEven += arr[i];
        }
        return sumEven;
    }
    function p2() external view { uint[] memory local = arr; }
    function p3() external view { uint[] storage local = arr; }
}
```

# GASOL: GAS ANALYSIS TOOLKIT

**Goal:** Optimization of gas consumption. It works at two levels:

1. Solidity level: It uses resource analysis to reduce the accesses to storage.
2. EVM bytecode level: It uses superoptimization to find equivalent bytecode that produces the same state but consuming less gas.

# GASOL: SOLIDITY LEVEL (RESOURCE ANALYSIS)

Original program:

```
for (uint i=0; i<data.length; i++) {  
    address a = address( data[i] & (D160-1) );  
    uint amount = data[i] / D160;  
    if (balanceOf[a] == 0) {  
        balanceOf[a] = amount;  
        totalSupply = totalSupply + amount;  
    }  
}
```

# GASOL: SOLIDITY LEVEL (RESOURCE ANALYSIS)

Original program:

```
for (uint i=0; i<data.length; i++) {  
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}
```

# GASOL: SOLIDITY LEVEL (RESOURCE ANALYSIS)

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Accesses to totalSupply

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for (uint i=0; i<data.length; i++) {  
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        totalSupply = totalSupply + amount;  
    }  
}
```

**2\*data**



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        balanceOf[a] = amount;  
        totalSupply = totalSupply + amount;  
    }  
}
```

**2\*data**

Sound transformation?

# GASOL: SOLIDITY LEVEL (RESOURCE ANALYSIS)

Original program:

Accesses to totalSupply

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for (uint i=0; i<data.length; i++) {  
    address a = address( data[i] & (D160-1) );  
    uint amount = data[i] / D160;  
    if (balanceOf[a] == 0) {  
        balanceOf[a] = amount;  
        totalSupply = totalSupply + amount;  
    }  
}
```

**2\*data**

Optimized program:

Sound transformation? **Yes**

```
uint totalSupply_mem = totalSupply;  
for (uint i=0; i<data.length; i++) {  
    address a = address( data[i] & (D160-1) );  
    uint amount = data[i] / D160;  
    if (balanceOf[a] == 0) {  
        balanceOf[a] = amount;  
        totalSupply_mem = totalSupply_mem + amount;  
    }  
}  
totalSupply = totalSupply_mem;
```

# GASOL: SOLIDITY LEVEL (RESOURCE ANALYSIS)

What are the difficulties?

- Detect the pattern
  - ▶ ensure effectiveness
- Guarantee soundness
  - ▶ global data not reachable by transitive calls
  - ▶ analysis that can be done with different precision levels
- Implementation
  - ▶ analysis performed on the EVM
  - ▶ changes made in the Solidity

# GASOL: EVM LEVEL (SUPEROPTIMIZATION)

## Superoptimization

**Superoptimization** is a transformation technique that aims to find the (cost-optimal) translation of a code by trying all possible sequences of instructions that produce the same result.

# GASOL: EVM LEVEL (SUPEROPTIMIZATION)

## Superoptimization

**Superoptimization** is a transformation technique that aims to find the (cost-optimal) translation of a code by trying all possible sequences of instructions that produce the same result.

- **given:** source program **s** and a cost function **C**
- **find:** target program **t** that
  - 1 has **minimal** cost **C(t)**
  - 2 correctly implements **s**
- **using:** constraint solver

# GASOL: GAS OPTIMIZATION TOOLKIT



Gas and bytes-size superoptimization tool that uses symbolic execution, dependency analysis and a Max-SMT solver for stack/memory/storage optimization

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Gas and bytes-size superoptimization tool that uses symbolic execution, dependency analysis and a Max-SMT solver for stack/memory/storage optimization

```
SWAP1  
PUSH1 0  
MSTORE  
PUSH1 32  
MSTORE  
ISZERO
```

# GASOL: GAS OPTIMIZATION TOOLKIT



Gas and bytes-size superoptimization tool that uses symbolic execution, dependency analysis and a Max-SMT solver for stack/memory/storage optimization

```
SWAP1  
PUSH1 0  
MSTORE  
PUSH1 32  
MSTORE  
ISZERO
```

**18 gas**

**8 bytes**



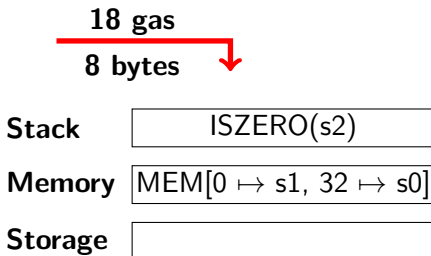


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ISZERO
```

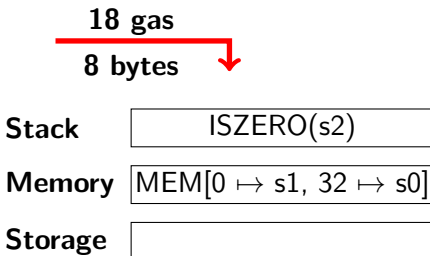


# GASOL: GAS OPTIMIZATION TOOLKIT



Gas and bytes-size superoptimization tool that uses symbolic execution, dependency analysis and a Max-SMT solver for stack/memory/storage optimization

SWAP1  
PUSH1 0  
MSTORE  
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ISZERO



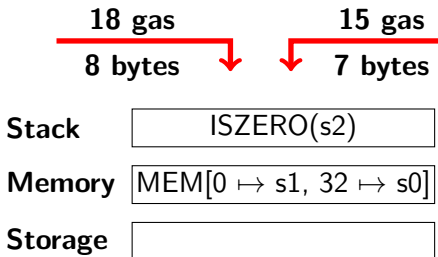
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MSTORE  
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MSTORE  
ISZERO

# GASOL: GAS OPTIMIZATION TOOLKIT



Gas and bytes-size superoptimization tool that uses symbolic execution, dependency analysis and a Max-SMT solver for stack/memory/storage optimization

SWAP1  
PUSH1 0  
MSTORE  
PUSH1 32  
MSTORE  
ISZERO



PUSH1 32  
MSTORE  
PUSH1 0  
MSTORE  
ISZERO

# ANALYSIS 1: SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- Functional description of the final Stack and Memory and Storage (SMS) in terms of the initial stack after executing the instructions in each block of the CFG

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- Functional description of the final Stack and Memory and Storage (SMS) in terms of the initial stack after executing the instructions in each block of the CFG
- Obtained by symbolic execution from the initial stack

PUSH1 96	SHL
SWAP2	SUB
SWAP1	NOT
SWAP2	AND
SHL	PUSH1 128
PUSH1 1	MSTORE
PUSH1 1	PUSH1 160
PUSH1 96	MSTORE

## Stack

s0
s1

## Memory


# ANALYSIS 1: SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- Functional description of the final Stack and Memory and Storage (SMS) in terms of the initial stack after executing the instructions in each block of the CFG
- Obtained by symbolic execution from the initial stack

→ PUSH1 96      SHL  
   SWAP2        SUB  
   SWAP1        NOT  
   SWAP2        AND  
   SHL          PUSH1 128  
   PUSH1 1      MSTORE  
   PUSH1 1      PUSH1 160  
   PUSH1 96     MSTORE

## Stack

96
s0
s1

## Memory


# ANALYSIS 1: SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- Functional description of the final Stack and Memory and Storage (SMS) in terms of the initial stack after executing the instructions in each block of the CFG
- Obtained by symbolic execution from the initial stack

PUSH1 96	SHL
→ SWAP2	SUB
SWAP1	NOT
SWAP2	AND
SHL	PUSH1 128
PUSH1 1	MSTORE
PUSH1 1	PUSH1 160
PUSH1 96	MSTORE

## Stack

s1
s0
96

## Memory


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- Functional description of the final Stack and Memory and Storage (SMS) in terms of the initial stack after executing the instructions in each block of the CFG
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## Stack

s0
s1
96

## Memory




# ANALYSIS 1: SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- Functional description of the final Stack and Memory and Storage (SMS) in terms of the initial stack after executing the instructions in each block of the CFG
- Obtained by symbolic execution from the initial stack

PUSH1 96	SHL
SWAP2	SUB
SWAP1	NOT
→ SWAP2	AND
SHL	PUSH1 128
PUSH1 1	MSTORE
PUSH1 1	PUSH1 160
PUSH1 96	MSTORE

## Stack

96
s1
s0

## Memory


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SHL(96, s1)
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1
SHL(96, s1)
s0

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SHL(96, 1)
1
SHL(96, s1)
s0

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SUB(SHL(96, 1), 1)
SHL(96, s1)
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160
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## ANALYSIS 2: DEPENDENCY ANALYSIS

- Static analysis applied to memory for more optimization

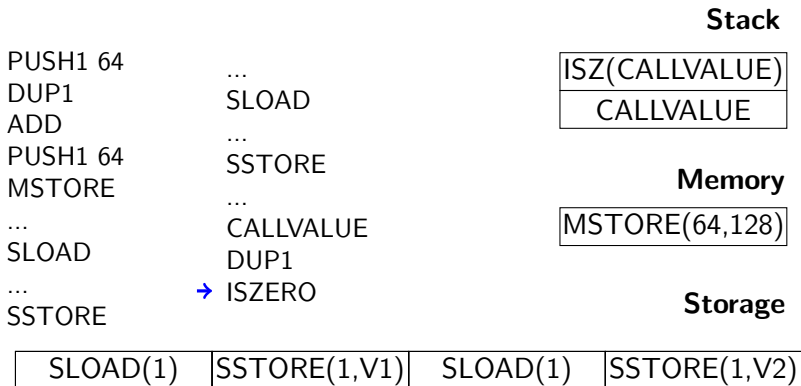
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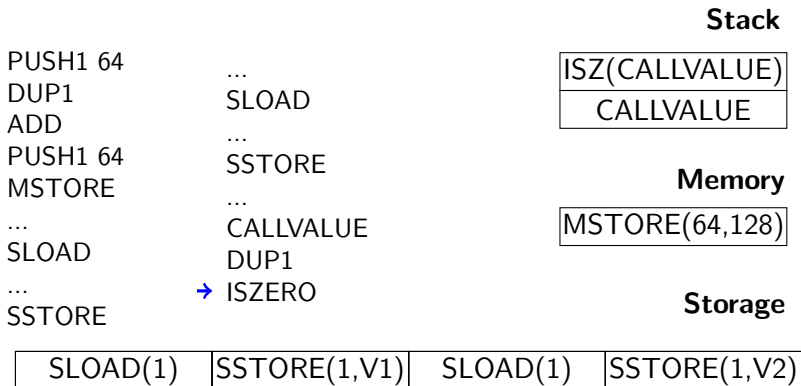
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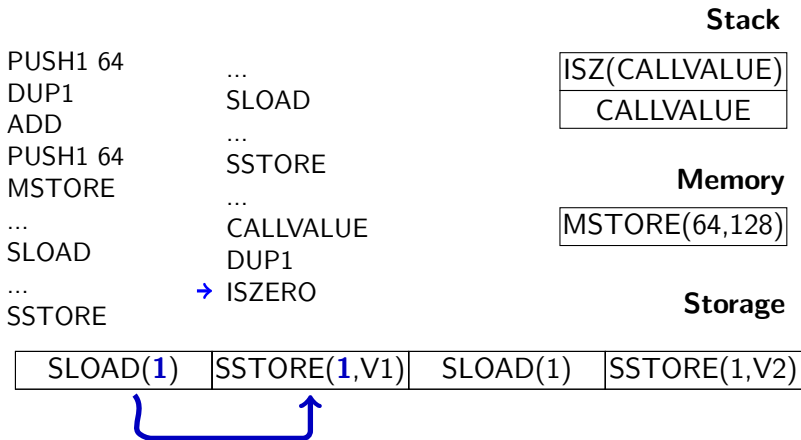
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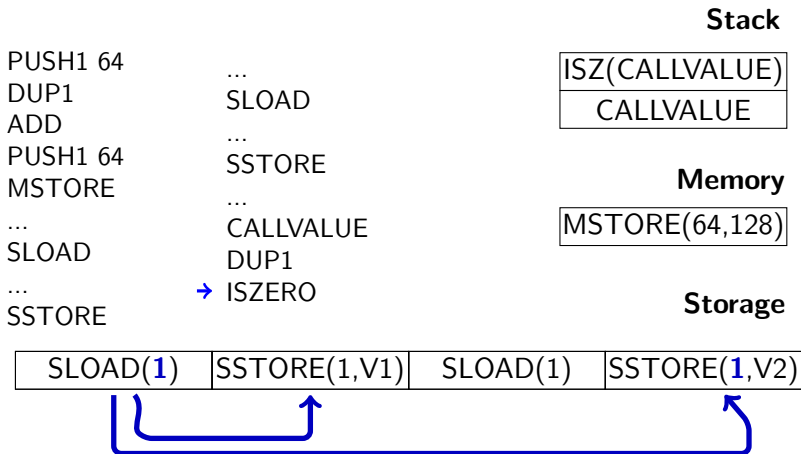
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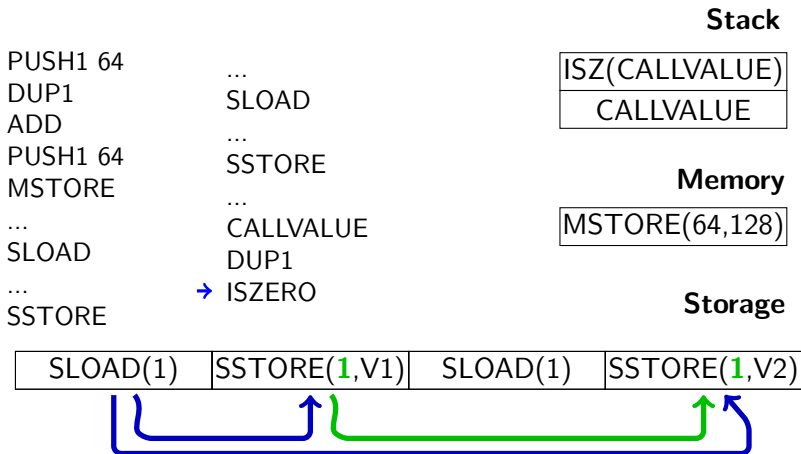
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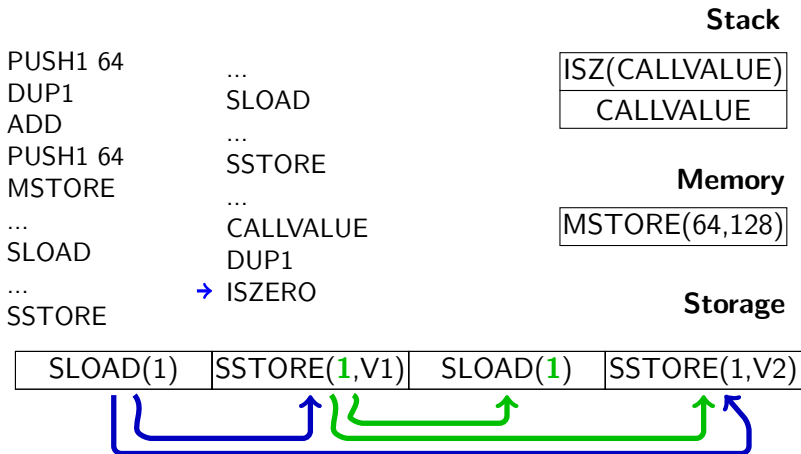
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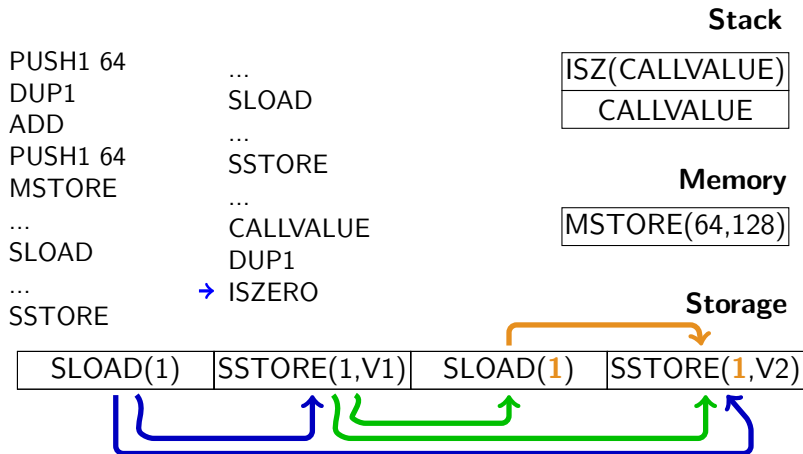
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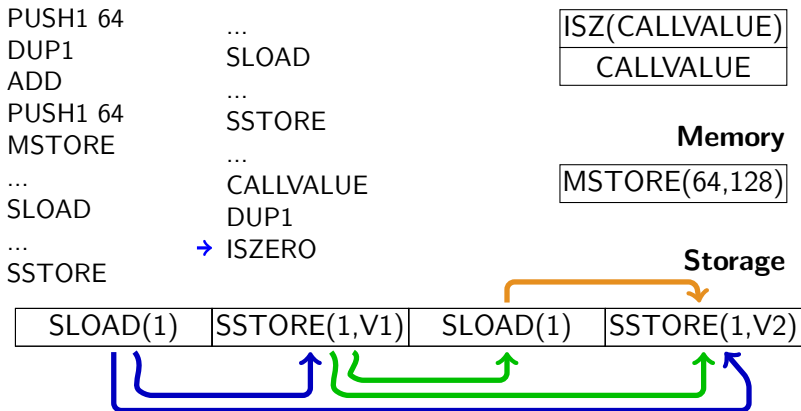
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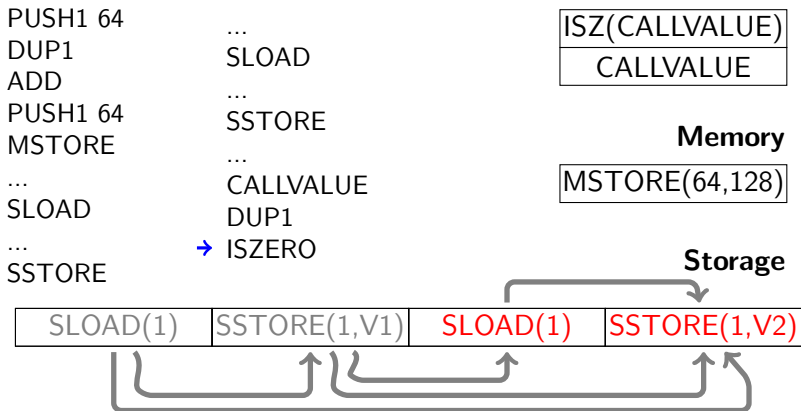
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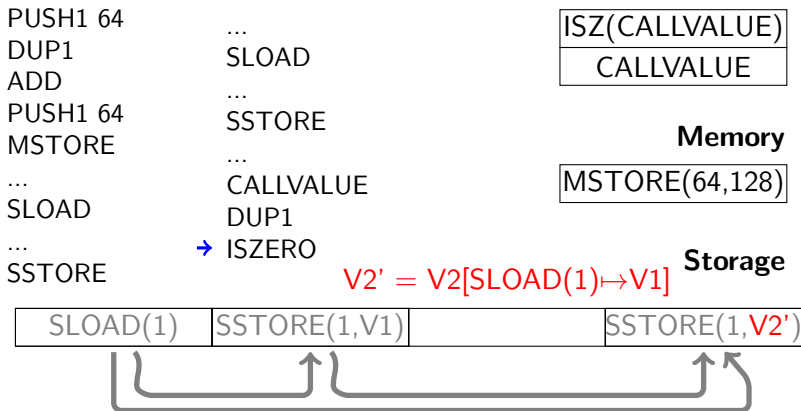
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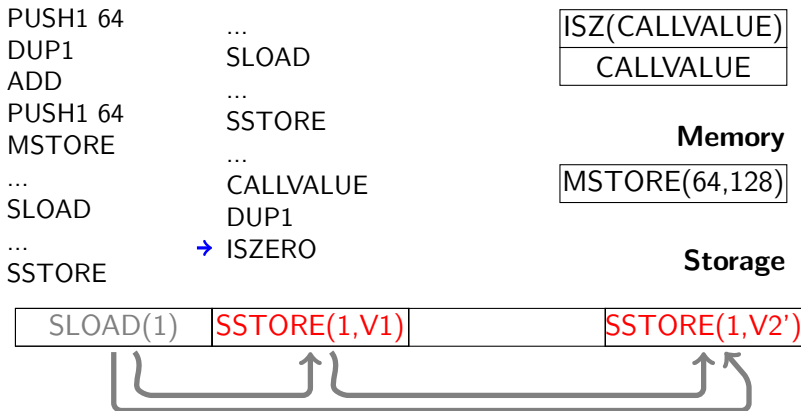
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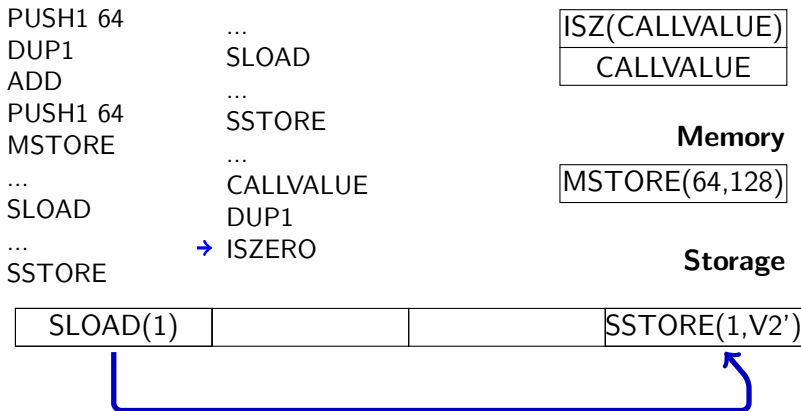
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- Extension to other uninterpreted functions: if  $B(\dots, A(\dots), \dots)$  then  $A \sqsubseteq B$ 
  - ▶ In previous example,  $\text{CALLVALUE} \sqsubseteq \text{ISZ}(\text{CALLVALUE})$

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- Balance between a great coverage of EVM optimization and an encoding in a simple theory for a SMT solver

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$s2 = \text{SHL}(96, s1)$

$s3 = \text{AND}(1.158 \times 10^{29}, s2)$

**Stack**



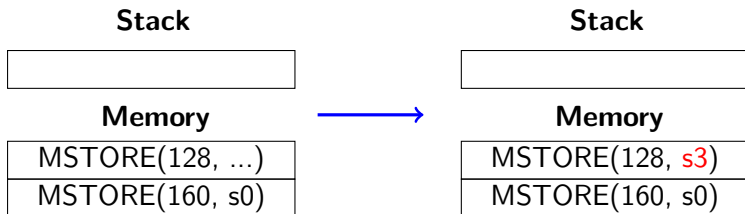
**Memory**

MSTORE(128, ...)
MSTORE(160, s0)

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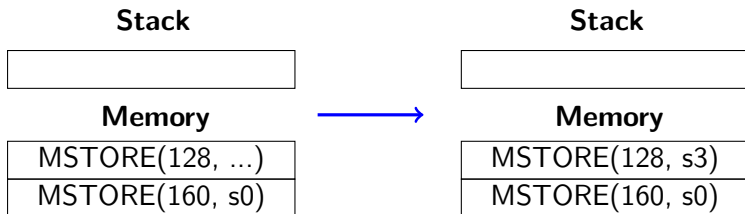
$$s3 = \text{AND}(1.158 \times 10^{29}, s2)$$


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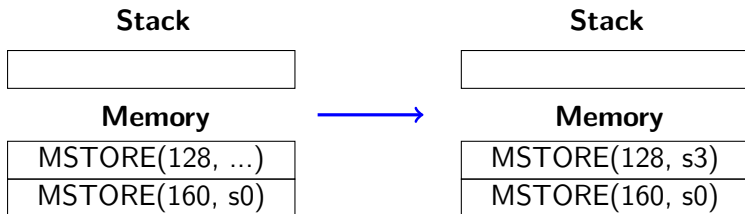
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$\text{maxLn} = 10$

$\text{skSz} = 5$





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- Complete encoding

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$t_j = \text{DUP } k \rightarrow$

$$\neg u_{skSz-1,j} \wedge u_{k-1,j} \wedge u_{0,j+1} \wedge x_{0,j+1} = x_{k-1,j} \wedge \textit{MoveRest}$$

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  - ★ Bytes-size model

## OPTIMIZED BYTECODE FROM MODEL

- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:

```
sat
```

```
(objectives (gas 24))
```

```
( (  $t_0$  0 ) ) ( (  $a_3$  160 ) )
```

```
( (  $t_1$  13 ) ) ( ( - ) )
```

```
( (  $t_2$  0 ) ) ( (  $a_2$  96 ) )
```

```
( (  $t_3$  14 ) ) ( ( - ) )
```

```
( (  $t_4$  0 ) ) ( (  $a_3$   $1.158 \times 10^{29}$  ) )
```

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PUSH1 160



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PUSH1 160

MSTORE



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MSTORE

PUSH1 96

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PUSH1 160

MSTORE

PUSH1 96

SHL

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- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:

sat

(objectives (gas 24))

( (  $t_0$  0 ) ) ( (  $a_3$  160 ) )

( (  $t_1$  13 ) ) ( ( - ) )

( (  $t_2$  0 ) ) ( (  $a_2$  96 ) )

( (  $t_3$  14 ) ) ( ( - ) )

( (  $t_4$  0 ) ) ( (  $a_3$   $1.158 \times 10^{29}$  ) )



PUSH1 160

MSTORE

PUSH1 96

SHL

PUSH32  $1.158 \times 10^{29}$

# OPTIMIZED BYTECODE FROM MODEL

- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:

sat

...

$((t_5 \ 11)) ((-))$   
 $((t_6 \ 0)) ((a_6 \ 128))$   
 $((t_7 \ 12)) ((-))$   
 $((t_8 \ 2)) ((-))$   
 $((t_9 \ 2)) ((-))$



PUSH1 160

MSTORE

PUSH1 96

SHL

PUSH32  $1.158 \times 10^{29}$

AND

## OPTIMIZED BYTECODE FROM MODEL

- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:

sat

...

$((t_5 \ 11)) ((-))$   
 $((t_6 \ 0)) ((a_6 \ 128))$   
 $((t_7 \ 12)) ((-))$   
 $((t_8 \ 2)) ((-))$   
 $((t_9 \ 2)) ((-))$



PUSH1 160  
MSTORE  
PUSH1 96  
SHL  
PUSH32  $1.158 \times 10^{29}$   
AND  
PUSH1 128

# OPTIMIZED BYTECODE FROM MODEL

- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:

sat

...

$((t_5 \ 11)) ((-))$   
 $((t_6 \ 0)) ((a_6 \ 128))$   
 $((t_7 \ 12)) ((-))$   
 $((t_8 \ 2)) ((-))$   
 $((t_9 \ 2)) ((-))$



PUSH1 160  
 MSTORE  
 PUSH1 96  
 SHL  
 PUSH32  $1.158 \times 10^{29}$   
 AND  
 PUSH1 128  
 MSTORE

# OPTIMIZED BYTECODE FROM MODEL

- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:

sat

...

$((t_5 \ 11)) ((-))$   
 $((t_6 \ 0)) ((a_6 \ 128))$   
 $((t_7 \ 12)) ((-))$   
 $((t_8 \ 2)) ((-))$   
 $((t_9 \ 2)) ((-))$



PUSH1 160  
 MSTORE  
 PUSH1 96  
 SHL  
 PUSH32  $1.158 \times 10^{29}$   
 AND  
 PUSH1 128  
 MSTORE

## OPTIMIZED BYTECODE FROM MODEL

- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:
- Initial block consumes 48 gas and 22 bytes

sat

...

$((t_5 \ 11)) ((-))$   
 $((t_6 \ 0)) ((a_6 \ 128))$   
 $((t_7 \ 12)) ((-))$   
 $((t_8 \ 2)) ((-))$   
 $((t_9 \ 2)) ((-))$



PUSH1 160  
 MSTORE  
 PUSH1 96  
 SHL  
 PUSH32  $1.158 \times 10^{29}$   
 AND  
 PUSH1 128  
 MSTORE



## OPTIMIZED BYTECODE FROM MODEL

- The optimized bytecode is obtained from the model together with the cost:
- Initial block consumes 48 gas and 22 bytes
- Final block consumes 24 gas and 43 bytes

sat

...

$((t_5 \ 11)) ((-))$   
 $((t_6 \ 0)) ((a_6 \ 128))$   
 $((t_7 \ 12)) ((-))$   
 $((t_8 \ 2)) ((-))$   
 $((t_9 \ 2)) ((-))$



PUSH1 160  
 MSTORE  
 PUSH1 96  
 SHL  
 PUSH32  $1.158 \times 10^{29}$   
 AND  
 PUSH1 128  
 MSTORE

# CONCLUSIONS

- Analysis and optimization of Ethereum smart contracts is a popular research topic
  - ▶ There are tools based on symbolic execution, SMT solving or certified programming for detecting security vulnerabilities
- Presented tools:
  - ▶ GASTAP
    - ★ estimate the gas fee for running transactions
    - ★ attackers: estimate how much *Ether* an adversary has to pour into a contract in order to execute an out-of-gas attack
    - ★ analyzer that measures several resources
  - ▶ GASOL
    - ★ optimize storage accesses at Solidity level
    - ★ optimize the gas fee for running transactions and bytes-size
    - ★ Superoptimization and Max-SMT solver
  - ▶ tools applied to thousands of real smart contracts