

A Conceptual Model for Ethereum Blockchain Analytics

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Motivation

Ethereum

- Proposed in 2014
- Higher complexity than Bitcoin
- Introduced smart contracts
- \$12bn market capitalization
- 500k transactions per day
- 50k "verified contracts" on Etherscan



My contribution

- Model the system with Software Engineering techniques
- Goal: bring structure to the system to facilitate data analysis
- Practical implementation of blockchain data analysis

Research Questions





The Model

Source

C Variable

String name

String name

E DataType

INT UINT

BOOL

ARRAY

ENUM MAPPING

STRUCT

Туре



The Model





Data Acquisition





Analysis





Self-destructing constructors

- 43 detected contracts
- Reasons:
 - Obfuscation
 - Programming error

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Analysis – Anomalies

Front-running

- Conditions:
 - Same recipient
 - Same function call
 - 50% higher gas price
 - Issued ≥3 seconds later
- Detected during launch of a blockchain card game



Analysis – ERC Standard Usage





Analysis – Approximating Compiler Versions





Evaluation – Compiler Versions





Distances between minimum and maximum compiler version



Analysis – Library Usage

SafeMath library

- Most popular Solidity library
- Arithmetic operations without over- and underflows
- All functions are internal
- Approach:

Compile all SafeMath versions Extract bytecodes of functions Search bytecodes in all contract codes

Evaluation – Library Usage

	Source code uses SafeMath	Does not use SafeMath
Detected SafeMath	21,375	27
in bytecode	true positives	false positives
Did not detect	8,978	20,053
SafeMath	false negatives	true negatives

Distances between minimum and maximum SafeMath version

Future Work

TLM sebis

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