

# Zcash Protocol Specification

## Version 2.0-draft-1

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# 1 Introduction

**Zcash** is an implementation of the *Decentralized Anonymous Payment* scheme **Zerocash** [2] with some adjustments to terminology, functionality and performance. It bridges the existing *transparent* payment scheme used by **Bitcoin** with a *confidential* payment scheme protected by zero-knowledge succinct non-interactive arguments of knowledge (zk-SNARKs).

Changes from the original **Zerocash** are highlighted in magenta.

## 2 Concepts

### 2.1 Integers, Bit Sequences, and Endianness

All integers visible in **Zcash**-specific encodings are unsigned, have a fixed bit length, and are encoded as big-endian.

In bit layout diagrams, each box of the diagram represents a sequence of bits. If the content of the box is a byte sequence, it is implicitly converted to a sequence of bits using big endian order. The bit sequences are then concatenated in the order shown from left to right, and the result is converted to a sequence of bytes, again using big-endian order.

Nathan: An example would help here. It would be illustrative if it had a few differently-sized fields.

$\text{Leading}_k(x)$ , where  $k$  is an integer and  $x$  is a bit sequence, returns the leading (initial)  $k$  bits of its input.

### 2.2 Cryptographic Functions

CRH is a collision-resistant hash function. In **Zcash**, the *SHA-256 compression* function is used which takes a 512-bit block and produces a 256-bit hash. This is different from the *SHA-256* function, which hashes arbitrary-length strings. [7]

$\text{PRF}_x$  is a pseudo-random function seeded by  $x$ . Four independent  $\text{PRF}_x$  are needed in our scheme:  $\text{PRF}_x^{\text{addr}}$ ,  $\text{PRF}_x^{\text{sn}}$ ,  $\text{PRF}_x^{\text{pk}}$ , and  $\text{PRF}_x^{\text{p}}$ . It is required that  $\text{PRF}_x^{\text{sn}}$  and  $\text{PRF}_x^{\text{p}}$  be collision-resistant across all  $x$  — i.e. it should not be feasible to find  $(x, y) \neq (x', y')$  such that  $\text{PRF}_x^{\text{sn}}(y) = \text{PRF}_{x'}^{\text{sn}}(y')$ , and similarly for  $\text{PRF}^{\text{p}}$ .

In **Zcash**, the *SHA-256 compression* function is used to construct all four of these functions. The bits **000**, **001**, **01x**, and **10x** are included (respectively) within the blocks that are hashed, ensuring that the functions are independent.

Nathan: Note: If we change input or output arity (i.e.  $N^{\text{old}}$  or  $N^{\text{new}}$ ), we need to be aware of how it is associated with this bit-packing.

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_{\text{pk}} &:= \text{PRF}_{a_{\text{sk}}}^{\text{addr}}(0) &= \text{CRH} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 252 \text{ bit } a_{\text{sk}} \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 0^{256} \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \\
 \text{sn} &:= \text{PRF}_{a_{\text{sk}}}^{\text{sn}}(\rho) &= \text{CRH} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 252 \text{ bit } a_{\text{sk}} \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 256 \text{ bit } \rho \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \\
 h_i &:= \text{PRF}_{a_{\text{sk}}}^{\text{pk}}(i, h_{\text{Sig}}) &= \text{CRH} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 0 & 1 & i-1 \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 252 \text{ bit } a_{\text{sk}} \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 256 \text{ bit } h_{\text{Sig}} \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \\
 \rho_i^{\text{new}} &:= \text{PRF}_{\varphi}^{\text{p}}(i, h_{\text{Sig}}) &= \text{CRH} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & i-1 \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 252 \text{ bit } \varphi \\ \hline \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 256 \text{ bit } h_{\text{Sig}} \\ \hline \end{array} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

### 2.3 Confidential Addresses and Private Keys

Nathan: This term, *confidential address*, may be confusing by comparison to a “private key”. In the latter case the adjective is reminding a user of their responsibility to protect its privacy, but in the case of *confidential address* we want users to know “transfers to this address are confidential, but the address itself \*may\* be published or kept confidential depending on your needs. Two different people can compare addresses to know they have the same *confidential address*.”

A key pair  $(\text{addr}_{\text{pk}}, \text{addr}_{\text{sk}})$  is generated by users who wish to receive coins under this scheme. The tuple parts embody two distinct keypairs used for different purposes called the *spend authority* and the *key-private encryption* keypair. The *confidential address*  $\text{addr}_{\text{pk}}$  is a tuple  $(a_{\text{pk}}, \text{pk}_{\text{enc}})$ , containing the public components of the *spend authority* and *key-private encryption* respectively. The  $\text{addr}_{\text{sk}}$  is a tuple  $(a_{\text{sk}}, \text{sk}_{\text{enc}})$ , containing the secret components respectively.

Nathan: A diagram could really help here.

Users can accept payment from multiple parties with a single  $\text{addr}_{\text{pk}}$  and the fact that these payments are destined to the same payee is not revealed on the blockchain, even to the paying parties. *However* if two parties collude to compare a  $\text{addr}_{\text{pk}}$  they can trivially determine they are the same. In the case that a payee wishes to prevent this they should create a distinct *confidential address* for each payer.

## 2.4 Coins

A *coin* (denoted  $\mathbf{c}$ ) is a tuple  $(a_{\text{pk}}, v, \rho, r)$  which represents that a value  $v$  is spendable by the recipient who holds the *spend authority* key pair  $(a_{\text{pk}}, a_{\text{sk}})$  such that  $a_{\text{pk}} = \text{PRF}_{a_{\text{sk}}}^{\text{addr}}(0)$ .

$r$  is randomly generated by the sender.  $\rho$  is generated from a random seed  $\varphi$  using  $\text{PRF}_{\varphi}^{\rho}$ . Only a commitment to these values is disclosed publicly, which allows the tokens  $r$  and  $\rho$  to blind the value and recipient *except* to those who possess these tokens.

### 2.4.1 In-band secret distribution

In order to transmit the secret  $v$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $r$  (necessary for the recipient to later spend) *and also a memo field* to the recipient *without* requiring an out-of-band communication channel, the *key-private encryption* public key  $\text{pk}_{\text{enc}}$  is used to encrypt these secrets to form a *transmitted coins ciphertext*. The recipient's possession of the associated  $(\text{addr}_{\text{pk}}, \text{addr}_{\text{sk}})$  (which contains both  $a_{\text{pk}}$  and  $\text{sk}_{\text{enc}}$ ) is used to reconstruct the original *coin and memo field*.

The encryption algorithm is defined in terms of `crypto_box` (i.e. `crypto_box_curve25519xsalsa20poly1305`) [3] as follows.

Let  $\text{pk}_{\text{enc}, 1..N^{\text{new}}}$  be the **Curve25519** public keys for the intended recipient addresses of each new *coin*, and let  $\mathbf{P}_{1..N^{\text{new}}}$  be their *coin plaintexts*.

Define:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{prenonce}(i, \text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \text{pk}_{\text{enc}, i}) &:= \text{SHA256} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 64 \text{ bit } i - 1 & 256 \text{ bit } \text{pk}_{\text{eph}} & 256 \text{ bit } \text{pk}_{\text{enc}, i} \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \\ \text{nonce}(i, \text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \text{pk}_{\text{enc}, i}) &:= \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \text{Leading}_{128}(\text{prenonce}) & 64 \text{ bit } i - 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{aligned}$$

Then to encrypt:

- Generate a new **Curve25519** (public, private) key pair  $(\text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \text{sk}_{\text{eph}})$ .
- For  $i$  in  $\{1..N^{\text{new}}\}$ , let  $\mathbf{C}_i = \text{crypto\_box}(\mathbf{P}_i, \text{pk}_{\text{enc}, i}, \text{sk}_{\text{eph}}, \text{nonce}(i, \text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \text{pk}_{\text{enc}, i}))$ .
- Let  $\text{Encrypt}_{\text{pk}_{\text{enc}, 1..N^{\text{new}}}}(\mathbf{P}_{1..N^{\text{new}}}) = (\text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \mathbf{C}_{1..N^{\text{new}}})$ .

Let  $(\text{pk}_{\text{enc}}, \text{sk}_{\text{enc}})$  be the recipient's **Curve25519** (public, private) key pair, and let  $(\text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \mathbf{C}_{1..N^{\text{new}}})$  be the *transmitted coins ciphertext*.

Then for each  $i$  in  $\{1..N^{\text{new}}\}$ , the recipient will attempt to decrypt that ciphertext component as follows:

- $\text{Decrypt}_{\text{sk}_{\text{enc}}}(i, \text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \mathbf{C}_i) = \text{crypto\_box\_open}(\mathbf{C}_i, \text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \text{sk}_{\text{enc}}, \text{nonce}(i, \text{pk}_{\text{eph}}, \text{pk}_{\text{enc}}))$

Any ciphertext components that fail to decrypt with a given recipient’s private key will be ignored.

This is a variation on the `crypto.box_seal` algorithm defined in libsodium [6], but with a single ephemeral key used for all encryptions in a given *Pour description*, and with the nonce for each ciphertext component depending on the index  $i$ . Also, SHA256 (the full hash, not the compression function) is used instead of blake2b. The particular nonce construction is chosen so that a known-nonce distinguisher for Salsa20 would not directly lead to a break of the IK-CCA (key privacy) property.

### 2.4.2 Coin Commitments

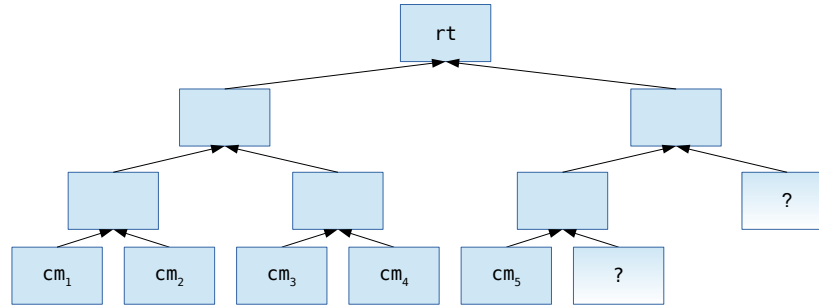
The underlying  $v$  and  $a_{pk}$  are blinded with  $\rho$  and  $r$  using the collision-resistant hash function SHA256. The resulting hash  $cm = \text{CoinCommitment}(c)$ .

$$cm := \text{SHA256} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{0xF0} & 256 \text{ bit } a_{pk} & 64 \text{ bit } v & 256 \text{ bit } \rho & 256 \text{ bit } r \\ \hline \end{array} \right)$$

### 2.4.3 Serial numbers

A *serial number* (denoted  $sn$ ) equals  $\text{PRF}_{a_{sk}}^{sn}(\rho)$ . A *coin* is spent by proving knowledge of  $\rho$  and  $a_{sk}$  in zero knowledge while disclosing  $sn$ , allowing  $sn$  to be used to prevent double-spending.

## 2.5 Coin Commitment Tree



The *coin commitment tree* is an *incremental merkle tree* of depth  $d$  used to store *coin commitments* that *Pour transfers* produce. Just as the *unspent transaction output set* (UTXO) used in Bitcoin, it is used to express the existence of value and the capability to spend it. However, unlike the UTXO, it is *not* the job of this tree to protect against double-spending, as it is append-only.

Blocks in the blockchain are associated (by all nodes) with the root of this tree after all of its constituent *Pour descriptions*’ *coin commitments* have been entered into the tree associated with the previous block.

## 2.6 Spent Serials Map

Transactions insert *serial numbers* into a *spent serial numbers map* which is maintained alongside the UTXO by all nodes.

Eli: a tx is just a string, so it doesn’t insert anything. Rather, nodes process tx’s and the “good” ones lead to the addition of serials to the spent serials map.

Transactions that attempt to insert a *serial number* into this map that already exists within it are invalid as they are attempting to double-spend.

Eli: After defining *transaction*, one should define what a *legal tx* is (this definition depends on a particular blockchain [view]) and only then can one talk about “attempts” of transactions, and insertions of serial numbers into the spent serials map.

## 2.7 The Blockchain

At a given point in time, the *blockchain view* of each *full node* consists of a sequence of one or more valid *blocks*. Each *block* consists of a sequence of one or more *transactions*. In a given node’s *blockchain view*, *treestates* are chained in an obvious way:

- The input *treestate* of the first *block* is the empty *treestate*.
- The input *treestate* of the first *transaction* of a *block* is the final *treestate* of the immediately preceding *block*.
- The input *treestate* of each subsequent *transaction* in a *block* is the output *treestate* of the immediately preceding *transaction*.
- The final *treestate* of a *block* is the output *treestate* of its last *transaction*.

An *anchor* is a Merkle tree root of a *treestate*, and uniquely identifies that *treestate* given the assumed security properties of the Merkle tree’s hash function.

Each *transaction* is associated with a **sequence of Pour descriptions**. **TODO: They also have a transparent value flow that interacts with the Pour  $v_{pub}^{old}$  and  $v_{pub}^{new}$ .** Inputs and outputs are associated with a value.

The total value of the outputs must not exceed the total value of the inputs.

The *anchor* of the **first Pour description** in a *transaction* must refer to some earlier *block*’s final *treestate*.

**The anchor of each subsequent Pour description may refer either to some earlier block’s final treestate, or to the output treestate of the immediately preceding Pour description.**

These conditions act as constraints on the blocks that a *full node* will accept into its *blockchain view*.

We rely on Bitcoin-style consensus for *full nodes* to eventually converge on their views of valid *blocks*, and therefore of the sequence of *treestates* in those *blocks*.

**Value pool** Transaction inputs insert value into a *value pool*, and transaction outputs remove value from this pool. The remaining value in the pool is available to miners as a fee.

## 3 Pour Transfers and Descriptions

A *Pour description* is data included in a *block* that describes a *Pour transfer*, i.e. a confidential value transfer. This kind of value transfer is the primary **Zerocash**-specific operation performed by transactions; it uses, but should not be confused with, the *POUR circuit* used for the zk-SNARK proof and verification.

A *Pour transfer* spends  $N^{old}$  coins  $c_{1..N^{old}}^{old}$  and creates  $N^{new}$  coins  $c_{1..N^{new}}^{new}$ . **Zcash** transactions have an additional field *vpour*, which is a **sequence of Pour descriptions**.

Each *Pour description* consists of:

***vpub.old* which is a value  $v_{pub}^{old}$  that the Pour transfer removes from the value pool.**

***vpub.new* which is a value  $v_{pub}^{new}$  that the Pour transfer inserts into the value pool.**

***anchor* which is a merkle root *rt* of the coin commitment tree at some block height in the past, or the merkle root produced by a previous pour in this transaction. Sean: We need to be more specific here.**

**scriptSig** which is a *script* that creates conditions for acceptance of a *Pour description* in a transaction.

**scriptPubKey** which is a *script* used to satisfy the conditions of the **scriptSig**.

**serials** which is an  $N^{\text{old}}$  size sequence of serials  $\text{sn}_{1..N^{\text{old}}}^{\text{old}}$ .

**commitments** which is a  $N^{\text{new}}$  size sequence of *coin commitments*  $\text{cm}_{1..N^{\text{new}}}^{\text{new}}$ .

**ephemeralKey** which is a Curve25519 public key  $\text{pk}_{\text{eph}}$ .

**ciphertexts** which is a  $N^{\text{new}}$  size sequence of ciphertext components. (**ephemeralKey** and **ciphertexts** together form the *transmitted coins ciphertext*.)

**vmacs** which is a  $N^{\text{old}}$  size sequence of message authentication tags  $\text{h}_{1..N^{\text{old}}}$  that bind  $\text{h}_{\text{Sig}}$  to each  $\text{a}_{\text{sk}}$  of the *Pour description*.

**zkproof** which is the zero-knowledge proof  $\pi_{\text{POUR}}$ .

**Computation of  $\text{h}_{\text{Sig}}$**  Given a *Pour description*, we define:

$$\text{h}_{\text{Sig}} := \text{SHA256} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{0xF1} & 256 \text{ bit } \text{sn}_0^{\text{old}} & \dots & 256 \text{ bit } \text{sn}_{N^{\text{old}}-1}^{\text{old}} & \text{scriptPubKey} \\ \hline \end{array} \right)$$

**Merkle root validity** A *Pour description* is valid if **rt** is a *coin commitment tree* root found in either the blockchain or a merkle root produced by inserting the *coin commitments* of a previous *Pour description* in the transaction to the *coin commitment tree* identified by that previous *Pour description*'s anchor.

**Non-malleability** A *Pour description* is valid if the script formed by appending **scriptPubKey** to **scriptSig** returns *true*. The **scriptSig** is cryptographically bound to  $\pi_{\text{POUR}}$ .

**Balance** A *Pour transfer* can be seen, from the perspective of the transaction, as an input and an output simultaneously.  $\text{v}_{\text{pub}}^{\text{old}}$  takes value from the value pool and  $\text{v}_{\text{pub}}^{\text{new}}$  adds value to the value pool. As a result,  $\text{v}_{\text{pub}}^{\text{old}}$  is treated like an *output* value, whereas  $\text{v}_{\text{pub}}^{\text{new}}$  is treated like an *input* value.

Note that unlike original **Zerocash** [2], **Zcash** does not have a distinction between Mint and Pour transfers. The addition of  $\text{v}_{\text{pub}}^{\text{old}}$  to a *Pour description* subsumes the functionality of Mint. Also, *Pour descriptions* are indistinguishable regardless of the number of real input *coins*.

**Commitments and Serials** A *transaction* that contains one or more *Pour descriptions*, when entered into the blockchain, appends to the *coin commitment tree* with all constituent *coin commitments*. All of the constituent *serial numbers* are also entered into the *spent serial numbers map* of the *blockchain view* and *mempool*. A *transaction* is not valid if it attempts to add a *serial number* to the *spent serial numbers map* that already exists in the map.

### 3.1 Pour Circuit and Proofs

In **Zcash**,  $N^{\text{old}}$  and  $N^{\text{new}}$  are both 2.

A valid instance of  $\pi_{\text{POUR}}$  assures that given a *primary input* ( $\text{rt}, \text{sn}_{1..N^{\text{old}}}^{\text{old}}, \text{cm}_{1..N^{\text{new}}}^{\text{new}}, \text{v}_{\text{pub}}^{\text{old}}, \text{v}_{\text{pub}}^{\text{new}}, \text{h}_{\text{Sig}}, \text{h}_{1..N^{\text{old}}}$ ), a witness of *auxiliary input* ( $\text{path}_{1..N^{\text{old}}}, \text{c}_{1..N^{\text{old}}}^{\text{old}}, \text{a}_{\text{sk}, 1..N^{\text{old}}}^{\text{old}}, \text{c}_{1..N^{\text{new}}}^{\text{new}}, \varphi$ ) exists, where:

for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{old}}\}$ :  $\text{c}_i^{\text{old}} = (\text{a}_{\text{pk}, i}^{\text{old}}, \text{v}_i^{\text{old}}, \rho_i^{\text{old}}, \text{r}_i^{\text{old}})$

for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{new}}\}$ :  $\text{c}_i^{\text{new}} = (\text{a}_{\text{pk}, i}^{\text{new}}, \text{v}_i^{\text{new}}, \rho_i^{\text{new}}, \text{r}_i^{\text{new}})$

The following conditions hold:

**Merkle path validity** for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{old}}\} \mid v_i^{\text{old}} \neq 0$ :  $\text{path}_i$  must be a valid path of depth  $d$  from  $\text{CoinCommitment}(c_i^{\text{old}})$  to Coin commitment merkle tree root  $rt$ .

**Balance**  $v_{\text{pub}}^{\text{old}} + \sum_{i=1}^{N^{\text{old}}} v_i^{\text{old}} = v_{\text{pub}}^{\text{new}} + \sum_{i=1}^{N^{\text{new}}} v_i^{\text{new}}.$

**Serial integrity** for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{new}}\}$ :  $sn_i^{\text{old}} = \text{PRF}_{a_{sk,i}^{\text{old}}}^{\text{sn}}(\rho_i^{\text{old}}).$

**Spend authority** for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{old}}\}$ :  $a_{pk,i}^{\text{old}} = \text{PRF}_{a_{sk,i}^{\text{old}}}^{\text{addr}}(0).$

**Non-malleability** for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{old}}\}$ :  $h_i = \text{PRF}_{a_{sk,i}^{\text{old}}}^{\text{pk}}(i, h_{\text{Sig}})$

**Uniqueness of  $\rho_i^{\text{new}}$**  for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{new}}\}$ :  $\rho_i^{\text{new}} = \text{PRF}_{\varphi}^{\rho}(i, h_{\text{Sig}})$

**Commitment integrity** for each  $i \in \{1..N^{\text{new}}\}$ :  $cm_i^{\text{new}} = \text{CoinCommitment}(c_i^{\text{new}})$

## 4 Encoding Addresses, Private keys, Coins, and Pour descriptions

This section describes how **Zcash** encodes public addresses, private keys, coins, and *Pour descriptions*.

Addresses, keys, and coins, can be encoded as a byte string; this is called the *raw encoding*. This byte string can then be further encoded using Base58Check. The Base58Check layer is the same as for upstream **Bitcoin** addresses [1].

SHA-256 compression function outputs are always represented as strings of 32 bytes.

The language consisting of the following encoding possibilities is prefix-free.

### 4.1 Transparent Public Addresses

These are encoded in the same way as in **Bitcoin** [1].

### 4.2 Transparent Private Keys

These are encoded in the same way as in **Bitcoin** [1].

### 4.3 Confidential Public Addresses

A *confidential address* consists of  $a_{pk}$  and  $pk_{\text{enc}}$ .  $a_{pk}$  is a SHA-256 compression function output.  $pk_{\text{enc}}$  is a **Curve25519** public key, for use with the encryption scheme defined in section “In-band secret distribution”.

#### 4.3.1 Raw Encoding

The raw encoding of a confidential address consists of:



<b>0x92</b>	256 bit $a_{pk}$	256 bit $pk_{enc}$
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- A byte, **0x92**, indicating this version of the raw encoding of a **Zcash** public address.
- 256 bits specifying  $a_{pk}$ .
- 256 bits specifying  $pk_{enc}$ , using the normal encoding of a Curve25519 public key [4].

Daira: check that this lead byte is distinct from other Bitcoin stuff, and produces 'z' as the Base58Check leading character.

Nathan: what about the network version byte?

## 4.4 Confidential Address Secrets

A confidential address secret consists of  $a_{sk}$  and  $sk_{enc}$ .  $a_{sk}$  is a SHA-256 compression function output.  $sk_{enc}$  is a **Curve25519** private key, for use with the encryption scheme defined in section “In-band secret distribution”.

### 4.4.1 Raw Encoding

The raw encoding of a confidential address secret consists of, in order:

<b>0x93</b>	$0^4$	252 bit $a_{sk}$	256 bit $sk_{enc}$
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- A byte **0x93** indicating this version of the raw encoding of a **Zcash** private key.
- 4 zero padding bits.
- 252 bits specifying  $a_{sk}$ .
- 256 bits specifying  $sk_{enc}$ .

Note that, consistent with big-endian encoding, the zero padding occupies the high-order 4 bits of the second byte.

Daira: check that this lead byte is distinct from other Bitcoin stuff, and produces 'z' as the Base58Check leading character.

Nathan: what about the network version byte?

## 4.5 Coins

Transmitted coins are stored on the blockchain in encrypted form, together with a *coin commitment*  $cm$ .

The *coin plaintexts* associated with a *Pour description* are encrypted to the respective *key-private encryption* keys  $pk_{enc,1..N^{new}}$ , and the result forms a *transmitted coins ciphertext*.

Each *coin plaintext* consists of  $(v, \rho, r, \text{memo})$ , where:

- $v$  is a 64-bit unsigned integer representing the value of the *coin* in *zatoshi* (1 **ZEC** =  $10^8$  *zatoshi*).
- $\rho$  is a 32-byte  $PRF_{a_{sk}}^{sn}$  preimage.
- $r$  is a 32-byte *COMM trapdoor*.
- **memo** is a 64-byte *memo field* associated with this *coin*.

The usage of the *memo field* is by agreement between the sender and recipient of the *coin*. It should be encoded as a UTF-8 human-readable string [5], padded with zero bytes. Wallet software is expected to strip any trailing zero bytes and then display the resulting UTF-8 string to the recipient user, where applicable. Incorrect UTF-8-encoded byte sequences should be displayed as replacement characters (U+FFFD). This does not preclude uses of the *memo field* by automated software, but specification of such usage is not in the scope of this document.

Note that the value  $s$  described as being part of a *coin* in the **Zerocash** paper is not encoded because the instantiation of  $\text{COMM}_s$  does not use it.

#### 4.5.1 Raw Encoding

The raw encoding of a *coin plaintext* consists of, in order:

<b>0x00</b>	$v$ (8 bytes)	$\rho$ (32 bytes)	$r$ (32 bytes)	<b>memo</b> (64 bytes)
-------------	---------------	-------------------	----------------	------------------------

- A byte **0x00** indicating this version of the raw encoding of a *coin plaintext*.
- 8 bytes specifying a big-endian encoding of  $v$ .
- 32 bytes specifying  $\rho$ .
- 32 bytes specifying  $r$ .
- 64 bytes specifying **memo**.

## 5 Pours (within a transaction on the blockchain)

TBD.

Describe case where there are fewer than  $N^{\text{old}}$  real input coins.

## 6 Transactions

TBD.

## 7 Differences from the Zerocash paper

- Instead of ECIES, we use an encryption scheme based on `crypto_box`, defined in section “In-band secret distribution”.
- Faerie Gold fix (TBD).
- The paper defines a coin as a tuple  $(a_{pk}, v, \rho, r, s, cm)$ , whereas this specification defines it as  $(a_{pk}, v, \rho, r)$ . This is just a clarification, because the instantiation of  $\text{COMM}_s$  in section 5.1 of the paper does not use  $s$ , and  $cm$  can be computed from the other fields.

## 8 References

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