Generative Tokenomics: The Constellation Validator Rewards Model

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Abstract

We propose the Generative Tokenomics, a validator rewards model that adapts according to dynamic network organization.

Introduction

In general, a cryptocurrency is a commodification of the utility provided by a distributed consensus protocol, similar to how currencies were once backed by gold or silver. For most cryptocurrencies, that utility is an atomic update to an immutable append only log, yielding a tamper proof record of network state. Network state is defined by the dimensions of the data model and units involved in the transactions of the protocol.

Consensus protocols with a linear data model have fallen short in terms of scalability. In most cases they are distributed systems that operate in serial, which is antithetical to the concurrent underpinnings of distributed systems; horizontal scalability and efficient data locality. Attempts at sharding these protocols are limited by their ability to adapt to network outages and centralized delegate selection models that hinder the efficacy of data validation.

In order to apply the utility of a distributed consensus protocol to scalable backends, they must be fully compatible with dynamic scaling/deployment features such as elastic deployment and dynamic partitioning. As the backbone to these systems is the economic incentive to provide computational resources, a key requirement is the ability for their validator rewards models to dynamically adjust in tandem with network organization. An emerging class of consensus protocols-of which the Constellation Protocol is a type of-overcome these limitations with a nonlinear data model known as a DAG (directed acyclic graph).

For nonlinear protocols, Generative Economics is a comparably dynamic economic model. A Generative Economy is a living economy that is designed to generate the conditions for life to thrive, an economy with a built-in tendency to be socially fair and ecologically sustainable [1]. The Constellation Protocol embodies this ethos in its validator rewards model. Validator rewards adjust as nodes join or leave and increase or decrease their contribution.

A Generative Tokenomic Model

In Constellation, utility is given not only by immutable notarization or the application of consensus to validate data but also by throughput, or the rate at which data is notarized and validated. Like all consensus protocols, access to rewards is governed by delegate selection. In turn delegate selection is governed by a decentralized locality sensitive hashing mechanism which organizes the network by a seeder/leacher ratio of transactions validated vs transactions submitted. Reputation is equivalent to the throughput a delegate has provided vs the throughput used (as well as the efficacy of notarization and validation; more about this model is detailed in the technical white paper: Hylochain). As nodes participate they are ranked based on their reputation. The magnitude of rewards and reputation is proportional to rank. Fees are charged relative to the scarcity of the throughput and are only charged if an account breaches its allotted utility ratio. The $DAG token acts as an inflation mechanism like cash, which, like gas[2] can be used to pay transaction fees when an account has not or can not maintain their required utility ratio. $DAG is injected into the pool of validator rewards, and there is incentive to validate transactions that have an accompanying fee attached.

The dimensionality of reputation is equivalent to a volume of computational space relative to the computational space of total network. It is a perishable good in the constellation economy as accounts that leave the network will watch their reputation recede until 0 and they are replaced by a new player. Accounts' reputation is varying and falls according to various tiers which follow our definition of rank along with a branching factor. It is the role of $DAG to provide a non depreciating asset for work provided. $DAG will initially be earn-able through participation within a minting window, depreciating according to a minting curve. During the minting window and after $DAG will be earned by accuonts processing transactions that have been submitted with accompanying transaction fees (as opposed to transactions submitted within a account's allotted seeder/leacher ratio.)

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[1] Kelly,   Marjorie,   "Toward   A   Generative   Economy"
https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/marjorie-kelly/toward-generative-economy
[2] Section 4.2 EthereumYellowpaper `https://ethereum.github.io/yellowpaper/paper.pdf`

Validator Rewards in Constellation

Constellation's data model was designed to follow combinatorial models in distributed computing, where network state can be described in terms of simplicial geometry and transitions are defined in terms of a discreet gradient. This is advantageous as it allows a numerical correspondence to placement within a network of hierarchical mesh topology[3], which is optimal for a highly available network of heterogeneous devices.

The value of our network derives from the total computational space (volume of network resources) available for verifying transactions i.e. its maximum throughput. Since our data model is a data dependency graph with hashes linking collections of data, we can equate value to the total amount of storage space that it can contain. Thus we use a calculation of the 'volume' of an account's contributions (signed observation edges) relative to the total volume of the data dependency graph to define validator rewards (reputation and $DAG). We then weight this contribution by its relative information gain or its measure of entropy, lowest being best, according to the distribution of all accounts' entropy measures. For note, an account can be attributed to multiple nodes.

If we consider each Signed Observation Edge as a basis of given rank r in the space greater data dependency graph, we can calculate this volume as the integral over the outer product space of these basis, which is a differential r-form.

The volume of 'space' of nodes across ranks $1 \ldots r$

$$\int_M \epsilon_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \epsilon_r$$

Figure 1: Hierarchical Mesh topology. Original from M.H.Abu-Amara[3]
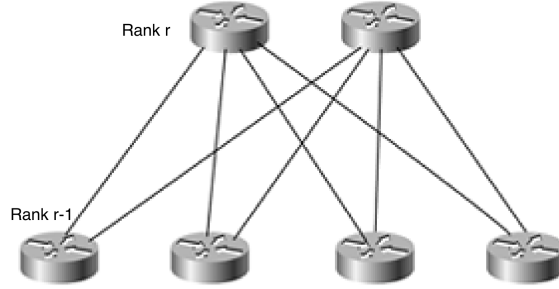
where M is a manifold, ϵ is the basis of the vector space of rank r. Each collection in the data dependency graph has the basis and rank of the node that

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[3]http://faculty.kfupm.edu.sa/coe/marwan/richfiles/Designing%20a%20Network%20Topology.pdf

emitted it. Within our model this would be explicitly defined as the numerical integration over the outer product of our cohomological definition[4] which is a vector space given by the tensor product of each space across ranks

$$\sum_{1...r} \Gamma^{\epsilon_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \Gamma^{\epsilon_r}$$

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where each Γ^{ϵ} is a manifold corresponding to a rank in the differential form above, subordinate to the rank before it. If we assume a uniform data transmission, we can define bandwidth (SOE/sec) as the total space[5] of the resources given by each node

$$B_{(\frac{SOE}{sec})} = \sum_r \int \rho_i \theta_i \omega$$

where ρ_i is a partition of unity and θ_i is a discrete diffeomorphism (the effect that the protocol has on the total configuration space) on our r-form ω and SOEs are Signed Observation Edges[6] linking collections in our data dependency graph.

We determine a measure of performance, by mapping each entry in the bandwidth space to its normalized Shannon entropy (bits), giving us a measure of relative information gain.

$$B_{entropy} = \sum_r \int \rho_i H_i \omega$$

where H is our normalized Shannon entropy

$$H_n(p) = -\sum_i \frac{p_i log_b p_i}{log_b n}$$

and p is a probability measure of how the result of a node's actions deviate from the acceptable state of the protocol and b is our base, bits in the case of Shannon entropy. Deficiency in entropy can be seen as a measure of efficiency. We want to use normalized entropy as using normal Shannon entropy scales with sample size.

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[4]https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.07047
[5]sec 9.2 `ftp.cis.upenn.edu/pub/cis610/public_html/diffgeom4.pdf`
[6]`https://constellationlabs.io/blog/index.php/how-constellation-is-different-than-blockchain/`

Results

The Constellation validator rewards model forms a well defined feature space for defining a reputation model, which is core to reputation based consensus. Delegate selection is governed by this model which optimizes the network topology bases on the performance of each node. By tying optimal network organization to the criteria for delegate selection, such a model embodies the adaptive qualities of a Generative economic mode.

In addition to forming a tractable kernel for a reputation model based on performance, defining our dynamics in terms of a differential model allows for econometric methods like equilibria analysis to be employed for analyzing the stability of our model under attacks or an influx of $DAG used to pay for transactions. Equilibria analysis of this model will the a topic of future work.