De Cifris Augustae Taurinorum

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Aula Buzano, Politecnico di Torino

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Libra blockchain and consensus: an overview

Abstract: Libra is a novel blockchain platform, developed and maintained by a foundation currently leaded by Facebook. Libra, which is still in its development phase, offers a stable cryptocurrency and smart contracts, and targets at a user base of billions of people around the world. It is therefore designed aiming at high speed and scalability. To this purpose, Libra developers devised LibraBFT, a byzantine fault tolerant consensus algorithm based on HotStuff. HotStuff is the first BFT consensus algorithm that enjoys both responsiveness and linear communication complexity. Responsiveness guarantees that, if the leader is correct, consensus is reached at the pace of actual (vs. maximum) network delay. In this talk, after a brief introduction to Libra and its functionalities, I will present HotStuff and sketch its safety and liveness proofs.

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