

# Literature review of Formal Methods applied to Blockchain technology

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## ABSTRACT

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## CCS CONCEPTS

• **Software and its engineering** → **Process validation**; • **Security and privacy** → **Cryptography**.

## KEYWORDS

Software Quality, Formal Methods, Blockchain, Smartcontracts

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The rising complexity of features offered by software gives us the ability to use it for the most integrity and reliability dependent needs of our lives. Information systems that rely on these base principles can be financial and health related services, and in most recent times, blockchain based applications. Blockchain, being a decentralized and distributed network protocol that can be used as the core of a monetary system that performs peer-to-peer transactions, it needs the assurance of coordination and consensus of its economy's state [2]. Knowing that the protocol of a given blockchain project is what dictates how transactions and their coordination is maintained, the assurance of security and safety is a given. Formal methods can be introduced in order to provide unequivocal evidence that a given blockchain system and its consensus algorithm are secure and in according to expected software quality.

Formal methods are a rigorous description of a system or process using mathematics that aims to provide evidence of its reliability and robustness, according the specification in question [7].

//TODO FINISH

## 2 FORMAL MODELING APPLICATION

Blockchain systems can be divided into five main layers [2]: Blockchain system, Consensus, Smartcontract and Application. As seen on Figure 1.

## 3 TEMPLATE OVERVIEW

As noted in the introduction, the “acmart” document class can be used to prepare many different kinds of documentation — a double-blind initial submission of a full-length technical paper, a

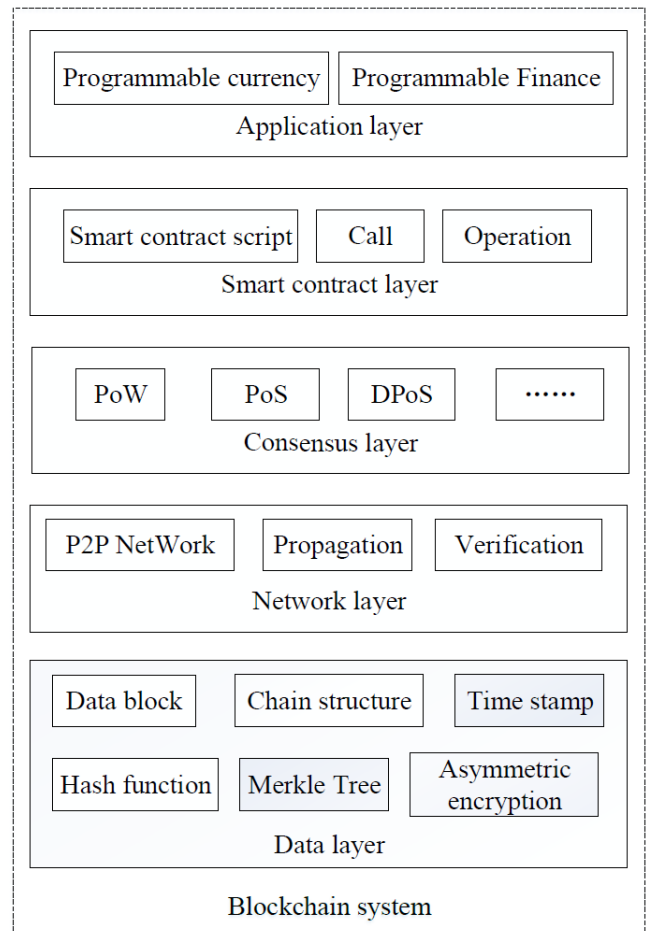


Figure 1: Blockchain infrastructure, from [2]

two-page SIGGRAPH Emerging Technologies abstract, a “camera-ready” journal article, a SIGCHI Extended Abstract, and more — all by selecting the appropriate *template style* and *template parameters*.

This document will explain the major features of the document class. For further information, the *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X User’s Guide* is available from <https://www.acm.org/publications/proceedings-template>.

### 3.1 Template Styles

The primary parameter given to the “acmart” document class is the *template style* which corresponds to the kind of publication or SIG

publishing the work. This parameter is enclosed in square brackets and is a part of the `\documentclass` command:

```
\documentclass[STYLE]{acmart}
```

Journals use one of three template styles. All but three ACM journals use the `acmsmall` template style:

- `acmsmall`: The default journal template style.
- `acmlarge`: Used by JOCCH and TAP.
- `acmtog`: Used by TOG.

The majority of conference proceedings documentation will use the `acmconf` template style.

- `acmconf`: The default proceedings template style.
- `sigchi`: Used for SIGCHI conference articles.
- `sigchi-a`: Used for SIGCHI “Extended Abstract” articles.
- `sigplan`: Used for SIGPLAN conference articles.

### 3.2 Template Parameters

In addition to specifying the *template style* to be used in formatting your work, there are a number of *template parameters* which modify some part of the applied template style. A complete list of these parameters can be found in the *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X User’s Guide*.

Frequently-used parameters, or combinations of parameters, include:

- `anonymous, review`: Suitable for a “double-blind” conference submission. Anonymizes the work and includes line numbers. Use with the `\acmSubmissionID` command to print the submission’s unique ID on each page of the work.
- `authorversion`: Produces a version of the work suitable for posting by the author.
- `screen`: Produces colored hyperlinks.

This document uses the following string as the first command in the source file:

```
\documentclass[sigconf]{acmart}
```

## 4 MODIFICATIONS

Modifying the template — including but not limited to: adjusting margins, typeface sizes, line spacing, paragraph and list definitions, and the use of the `\vspace` command to manually adjust the vertical spacing between elements of your work — is not allowed.

**Your document will be returned to you for revision if modifications are discovered.**

## 5 TYPEFACES

The “`acmart`” document class requires the use of the “Libertine” typeface family. Your T<sub>E</sub>X installation should include this set of packages. Please do not substitute other typefaces. The “`lmodern`” and “`ltimes`” packages should not be used, as they will override the built-in typeface families.

## 6 TITLE INFORMATION

The title of your work should use capital letters appropriately — <https://capitalizemytitle.com/> has useful rules for capitalization. Use the `\title` command to define the title of your work. If your work has a subtitle, define it with the `\subtitle` command. Do not insert line breaks in your title.

If your title is lengthy, you must define a short version to be used in the page headers, to prevent overlapping text. The `\title` command has a “short title” parameter:

```
\title[short title]{full title}
```

## 7 AUTHORS AND AFFILIATIONS

Each author must be defined separately for accurate metadata identification. Multiple authors may share one affiliation. Authors’ names should not be abbreviated; use full first names wherever possible. Include authors’ e-mail addresses whenever possible.

Grouping authors’ names or e-mail addresses, or providing an “e-mail alias,” as shown below, is not acceptable:

```
\author{Brooke Aster, David Mehldau}
\email{dave,judy,steve@university.edu}
\email{firstname.lastname@phillips.org}
```

The `\authornote` and `\authornotemark` commands allow a note to apply to multiple authors — for example, if the first two authors of an article contributed equally to the work.

If your author list is lengthy, you must define a shortened version of the list of authors to be used in the page headers, to prevent overlapping text. The following command should be placed just after the last `\author{}` definition:

```
\renewcommand{\shortauthors}{McCartney, et al.}
```

Omitting this command will force the use of a concatenated list of all of the authors’ names, which may result in overlapping text in the page headers.

The article template’s documentation, available at <https://www.acm.org/publications/proceedings-template>, has a complete explanation of these commands and tips for their effective use.

Note that authors’ addresses are mandatory for journal articles.

## 8 RIGHTS INFORMATION

Authors of any work published by ACM will need to complete a rights form. Depending on the kind of work, and the rights management choice made by the author, this may be copyright transfer, permission, license, or an OA (open access) agreement.

Regardless of the rights management choice, the author will receive a copy of the completed rights form once it has been submitted. This form contains L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands that must be copied into the source document. When the document source is compiled, these commands and their parameters add formatted text to several areas of the final document:

- the “ACM Reference Format” text on the first page.
- the “rights management” text on the first page.
- the conference information in the page header(s).

Rights information is unique to the work; if you are preparing several works for an event, make sure to use the correct set of commands with each of the works.

The ACM Reference Format text is required for all articles over one page in length, and is optional for one-page articles (abstracts).

**Table 1: Frequency of Special Characters**

Non-English or Math	Frequency	Comments
∅	1 in 1,000	For Swedish names
$\pi$	1 in 5	Common in math
\$	4 in 5	Used in business
$\Psi_1^2$	1 in 40,000	Unexplained usage

## 9 CCS CONCEPTS AND USER-DEFINED KEYWORDS

Two elements of the “acmart” document class provide powerful taxonomic tools for you to help readers find your work in an online search.

The ACM Computing Classification System — <https://www.acm.org/publications/class-2012> — is a set of classifiers and concepts that describe the computing discipline. Authors can select entries from this classification system, via <https://dl.acm.org/ccs/ccs.cfm>, and generate the commands to be included in the  $\LaTeX$  source.

User-defined keywords are a comma-separated list of words and phrases of the authors’ choosing, providing a more flexible way of describing the research being presented.

CCS concepts and user-defined keywords are required for for all articles over two pages in length, and are optional for one- and two-page articles (or abstracts).

## 10 SECTIONING COMMANDS

Your work should use standard  $\LaTeX$  sectioning commands: `section`, `subsection`, `subsubsection`, and `paragraph`. They should be numbered; do not remove the numbering from the commands.

Simulating a sectioning command by setting the first word or words of a paragraph in boldface or italicized text is **not allowed**.

## 11 TABLES

The “acmart” document class includes the “booktabs” package — <https://ctan.org/pkg/booktabs> — for preparing high-quality tables.

Table captions are placed *above* the table.

Because tables cannot be split across pages, the best placement for them is typically the top of the page nearest their initial cite. To ensure this proper “floating” placement of tables, use the environment `table` to enclose the table’s contents and the table caption. The contents of the table itself must go in the `tabular` environment, to be aligned properly in rows and columns, with the desired horizontal and vertical rules. Again, detailed instructions on `tabular` material are found in the  *$\LaTeX$  User’s Guide*.

Immediately following this sentence is the point at which Table 1 is included in the input file; compare the placement of the table here with the table in the printed output of this document.

To set a wider table, which takes up the whole width of the page’s live area, use the environment `table*` to enclose the table’s contents and the table caption. As with a single-column table, this wide table will “float” to a location deemed more desirable. Immediately following this sentence is the point at which Table 2 is included in the input file; again, it is instructive to compare the placement of the table here with the table in the printed output of this document.

Always use `midrule` to separate table header rows from data rows, and use it only for this purpose. This enables assistive technologies to recognise table headers and support their users in navigating tables more easily.

## 12 MATH EQUATIONS

You may want to display math equations in three distinct styles: inline, numbered or non-numbered display. Each of the three are discussed in the next sections.

### 12.1 Inline (In-text) Equations

A formula that appears in the running text is called an inline or in-text formula. It is produced by the `math` environment, which can be invoked with the usual `\begin . . . \end` construction or with the short form `$ . . . $`. You can use any of the symbols and structures, from  $\alpha$  to  $\omega$ , available in  $\LaTeX$  [? ]; this section will simply show a few examples of in-text equations in context. Notice how this equation:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x = 0$ , set here in in-line math style, looks slightly different when set in display style. (See next section).

### 12.2 Display Equations

A numbered display equation—one set off by vertical space from the text and centered horizontally—is produced by the `equation` environment. An unnumbered display equation is produced by the `displaymath` environment.

Again, in either environment, you can use any of the symbols and structures available in  $\LaTeX$ ; this section will just give a couple of examples of display equations in context. First, consider the equation, shown as an inline equation above:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x = 0 \quad (1)$$

Notice how it is formatted somewhat differently in the `displaymath` environment. Now, we’ll enter an unnumbered equation:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x + 1$$

and follow it with another numbered equation:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x_i = \int_0^{\pi+2} f \quad (2)$$

just to demonstrate  $\LaTeX$ ’s able handling of numbering.

## 13 FIGURES

The “figure” environment should be used for figures. One or more images can be placed within a figure. If your figure contains third-party material, you must clearly identify it as such, as shown in the example below.

Your figures should contain a caption which describes the figure to the reader.

Figure captions are placed *below* the figure.

Every figure should also have a figure description unless it is purely decorative. These descriptions convey what’s in the image to someone who cannot see it. They are also used by search engine crawlers for indexing images, and when images cannot be loaded.

A figure description must be unformatted plain text less than 2000 characters long (including spaces). **Figure descriptions should**

Table 2: Some Typical Commands

Command	A Number	Comments
<code>\author</code>	100	Author
<code>\table</code>	300	For tables
<code>\table*</code>	400	For wider tables



Figure 2: 1907 Franklin Model D roadster. Photograph by Harris & Ewing, Inc. [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons. (<https://goo.gl/VLCRBB>).

not repeat the figure caption – their purpose is to capture important information that is not already provided in the caption or the main text of the paper. For figures that convey important and complex new information, a short text description may not be adequate. More complex alternative descriptions can be placed in an appendix and referenced in a short figure description. For example, provide a data table capturing the information in a bar chart, or a structured list representing a graph. For additional information regarding how best to write figure descriptions and why doing this is so important, please see <https://www.acm.org/publications/taps/describing-figures/>.

### 13.1 The “Teaser Figure”

A “teaser figure” is an image, or set of images in one figure, that are placed after all author and affiliation information, and before the body of the article, spanning the page. If you wish to have such a figure in your article, place the command immediately before the `\maketitle` command:

```
\begin{teaserfigure}
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{sampleteaser}
\caption{figure caption}
\Description{figure description}
\end{teaserfigure}
```

## 14 CITATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The use of  $\LaTeX$  for the preparation and formatting of one’s references is strongly recommended. Authors’ names should be complete – use full first names (“Donald E. Knuth”) not initials (“D. E. Knuth”) – and the salient identifying features of a reference should be included: title, year, volume, number, pages, article DOI, etc.

The bibliography is included in your source document with these two commands, placed just before the `\end{document}` command:

```
\bibliographystyle{ACM-Reference-Format}
\bibliography{bibfile}
```

where “bibfile” is the name, without the “.bib” suffix, of the  $\LaTeX$  file.

Citations and references are numbered by default. A small number of ACM publications have citations and references formatted in the “author year” style; for these exceptions, please include this command in the **preamble** (before the command “`\begin{document}`”) of your  $\LaTeX$  source:

```
\citestyle{acmauthoryear}
```

Some examples. A paginated journal article [1], an enumerated journal article [6], a reference to an entire issue [5], a monograph (whole book) [2], a monograph/whole book in a series (see 2a in spec. document) [3], a divisible-book such as an anthology or compilation [4] followed by the same example, however we only output the series if the volume number is given.

## REFERENCES

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## A RESEARCH METHODS

### A.1 Part One

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### A.2 Part Two

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## B ONLINE RESOURCES

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