Cryptography review for Blockchain

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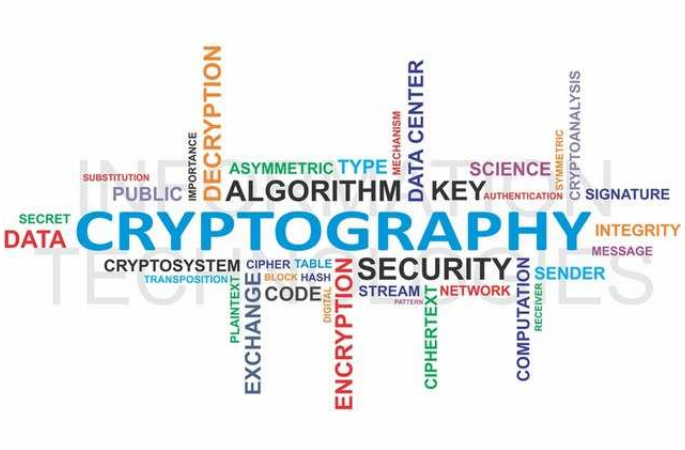
Blockchain – Relevant cryptography



- They are called **Crypto**-currencies
- We will show you what you need to know to understand and *program* them.
- Programming will use OpenSSL function calls.
- Will look at how to compile and use the functions.
- Uses Elliptic curve cryptography.
- BTC uses curve Secp256k1
- Why that one? I niether know, nor really care.
- Main tools to understand are hashing and signing.
- We will explain.

openSSL

- Result of NSA and NBS (now NIST) jonit initiative stated in 1986.
- SSL == Secure sockets layer. Netscape. v2.0 1995, but first usable version was v3.0 in 1996.
- TLS v1.0 is an update to SSL 3.0
- OpenSSL is a TLS implementation. Mainly volunteer.

gcc compile line

- gcc -g -Og -o program program.c -lssl -lcrypto
- -g *outputs symbols for gdb*
- -Og *optimizations that do not interfere with debugging*
- ssl and crypto libraries included

Debugging

- gdb program *Command line*
- For IDE style gdb in emacs:
  - $ gdb
  - $ gdb-many-windows
  - $ gdb-display-memory-buffer
  - in *gud-data*
    - break main
    - r
    - s

Basic functionality

- Cryptology == Cryptography + Cryptanalysis
- Cryptography == encryption + decryption
- encryption == clear text $\bigoplus$ key $-->$ cipher text
- decryption == cipher text $\bigoplus$ key $-->$ clear text
- Cryptanalysis == cipher text $-->$ clear text $\sim$ key

Hash

- Map variable size input to a fixed length number
  - Mapping has to be consistent.
  - Mapping has to be unpredictable (one way).
  - Mapping has to *avoid* collisions.
  - Speed of hash function iis usually important.

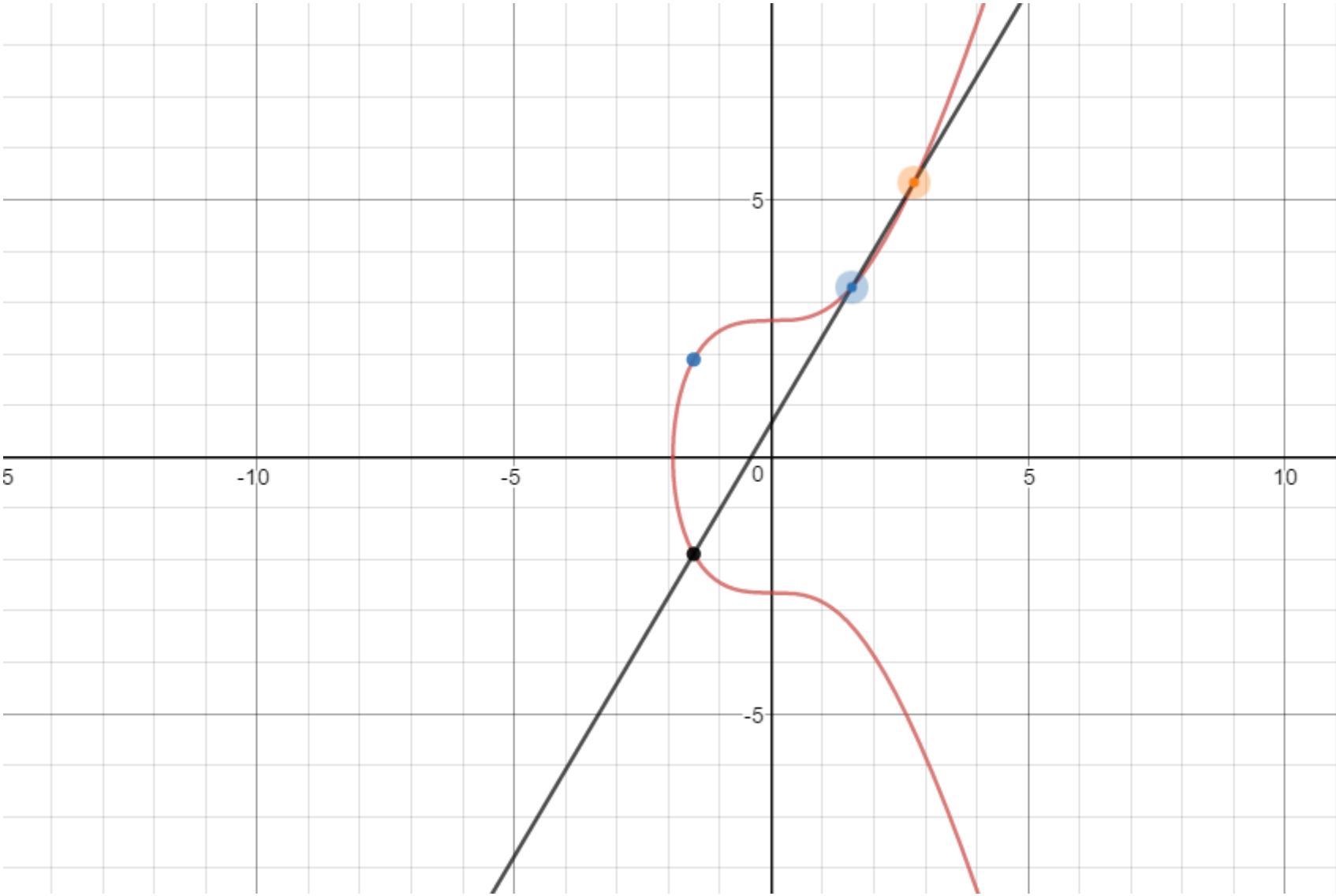
Symmetric key

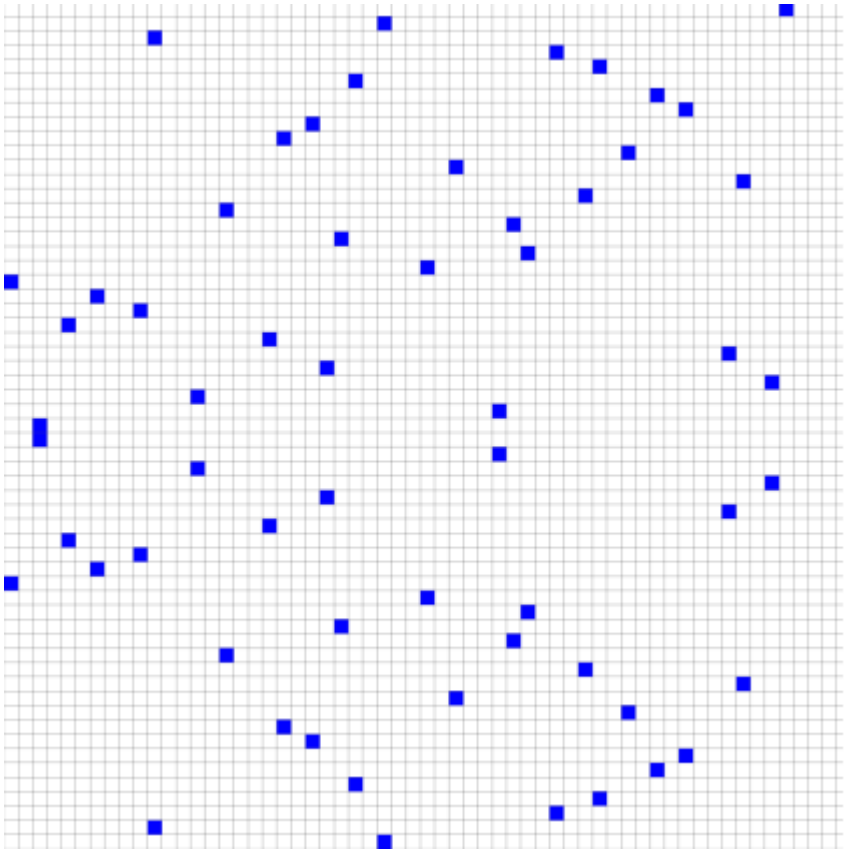
- Symmetric key has one key.
  - Same key encrypts and decrypts.
  - Both sides have to share the key.
  - Makes key management difficult/important.
  - Symmetric key crypto usually faster, easier to do in HW.
  - If you use large enough keys, symmetric systems are post-quantum resilient

Asymmetric key

- Asymmetric key has 2 key.
  - Public key is shared with others, private key is never shared.
  - If public (private) key encrypts, then private (public) key decrypts.
  - Used for either communications security, or showing source.
  - Post-quantum fears are mainly related to public key crypto.
  - RSA is starting to be out of date, public key crypto now mainly elliptic curve crypto.
  - Blockchain systems mainly use elliptic curve.
- Common systems, like ssh and tls/ssl, use public key crypto to exchange a symmetric key for the session. Data encrypted using symmetric key.

Secp256k1 – $y^2 = x^3 + 7$





Elliptic curve

- ☐ Hardness of *elliptic curve discrete logarithm*[1]
- ☐ Given a curve and a point at infininty,
- ☐ You can pick two points on the curve (public, private),
- ☐ So that, for any value you can encode it with private (public),
- ☐ Combining that result with private (public) gives the orignal,
- ☐ Nothing in particular ties public $< - - - - - - >$ private.
- ☐ Overly simplified, probably not quite right, embarassing
- ☐ But as much of an explanation as you will need for this course.

[1] https://blog.cloudflare.com/a-relatively-easy-to-understand-primer-on-elliptic-curve-cryptogr

Key generation – commmand line

- List all elliptic curves: openssl ecparam -list_curves
- Command line.
  - Generate key pair:
  - *Privacy Enhanced Mail* – PEM format de facto standard format for crypto keys
  - openssl ecparam -genkey -name secp256k1 -noout -out ec256-key-test.pem
  - Extract public key:
  - openssl ec -in ec256-key-test.pem -pubout -out ecpubkey.pem
  - *Distinguished encoding rules* DER binary format is tag, length, value format
  - openssl ec -in ec256-key-test.pem -pubout -outform DER -out ecpubkey.der

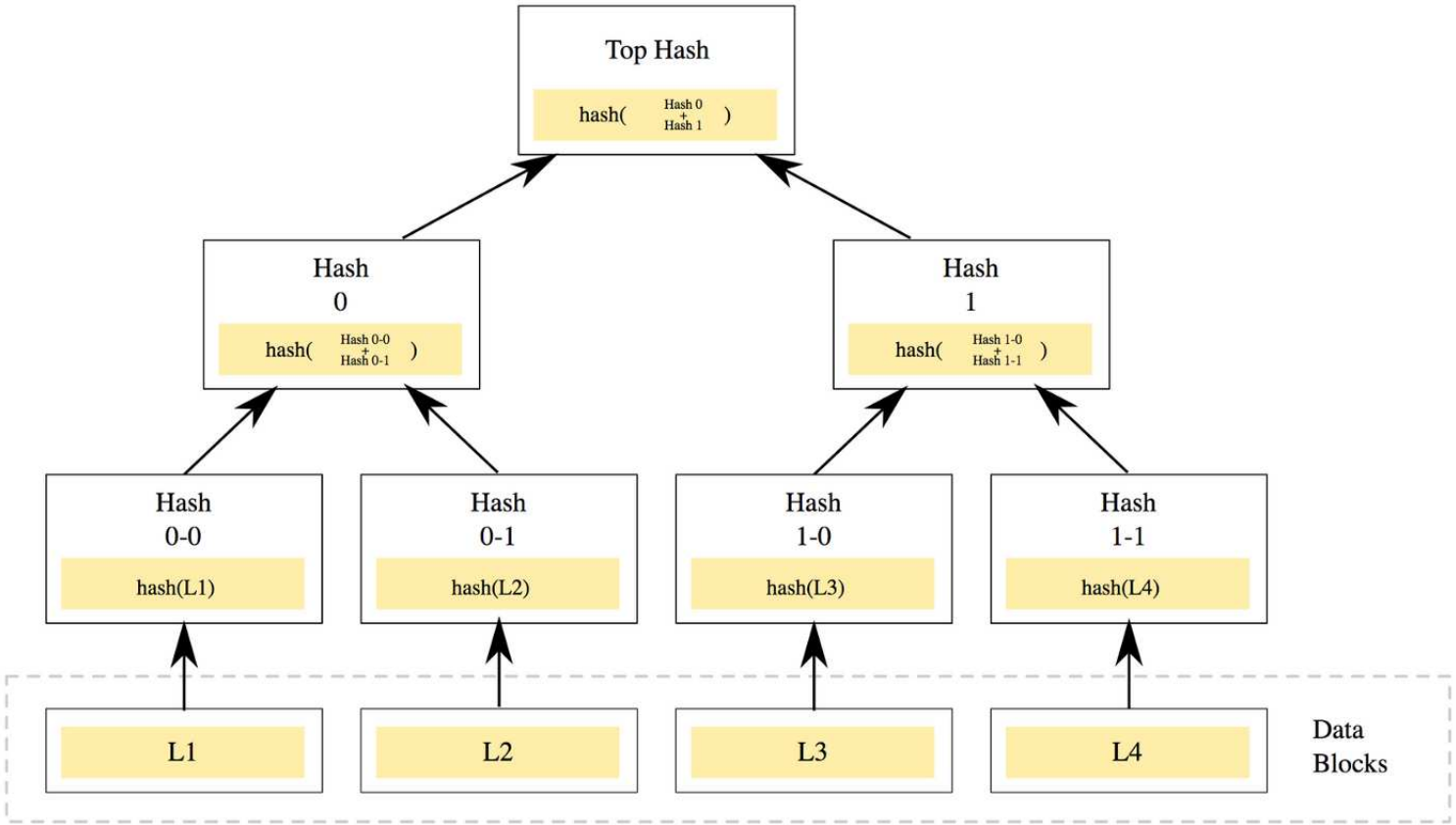
Key generation – C program

- Look at example program

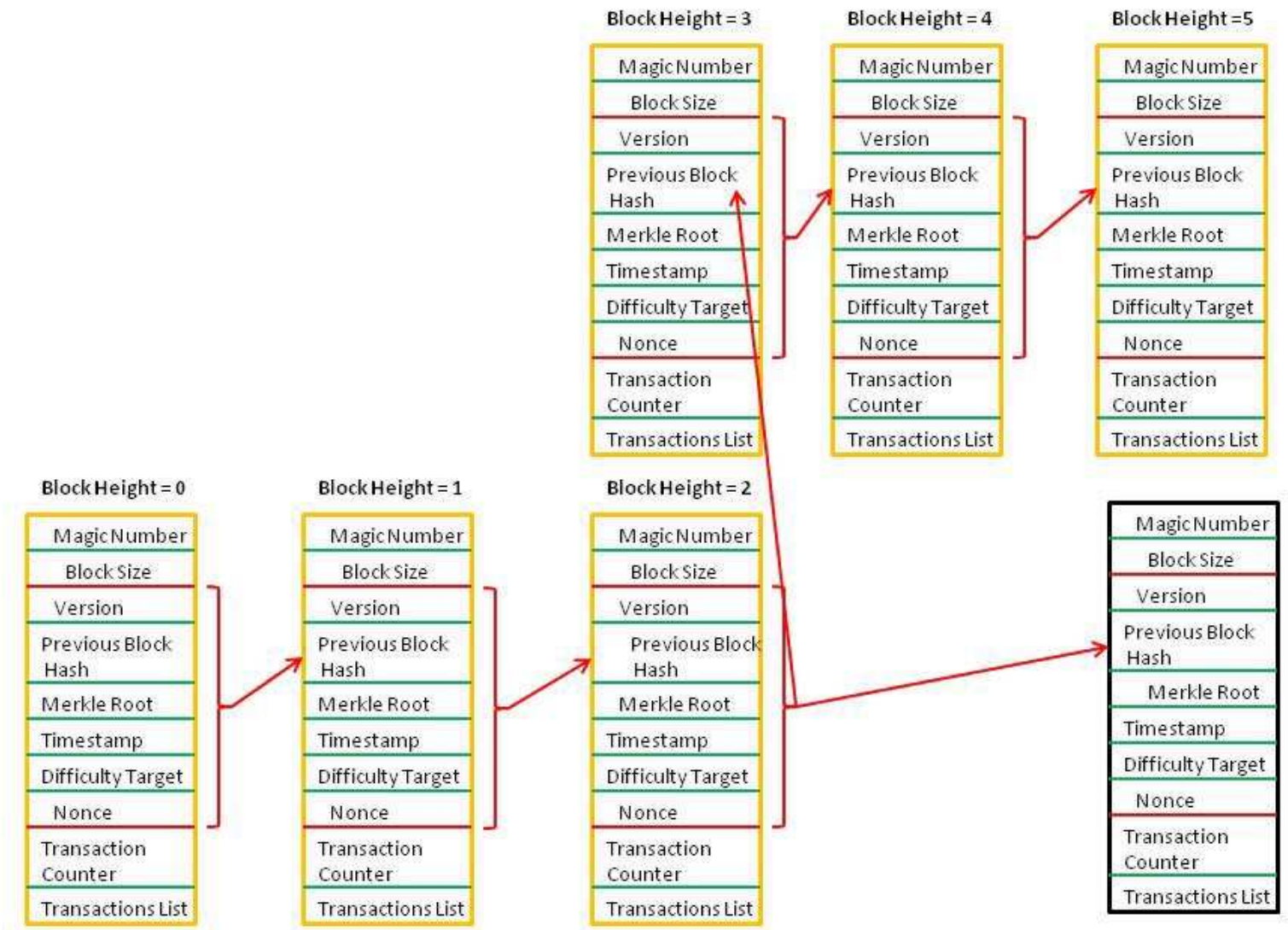
Transaction

- https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/mastering-bitcoin/9781491902639/ch05.html

Merkle tree



BTC Block



BTC Block Example

Block 125552

Hash: 00000000000000001e8d6829a8a21adc5d38d0a473b144b6765798e61f98bd1d
Previous block: 00000000000008a3a41b85b8b29ad444def299fee21793cd8b9e567eab02cd81
Time: 2011-05-21 17:26:31
Difficulty: 244 112.487774
Transactions: 4
Total BTC: 84.52
Size: 1.496 kilobytes
Merkle root: 2b12fcf1b09288fcaff797d71e950e71ae42b91e8bdb2304758dfcffc2b620e3
Nonce: 2504433986

Transactions

Transaction	Fee	Size (kB)	From (amount)	To (amount)
51d37bdd87...	0	0.135	Generation: 50 + 0.01 total fees	15nNvBTUdMaiZ6d3GWCeXFu2MagXL3XM1q: 50.01
60c25dda8d...	0	0.259	1HuppjXz7dPrt2a67LqacDW5T4VanFrpqC: 29.5	1B8vkT58i8KUPVJvvyQfrbc8Wjwu3yEarQ: 0.5 1BQbxzgRSLEsmv1JNe8MG76wdUgMwbsaww: 29
01f314cdd8...	0.01	0.617	1NdzSE6sHubscXJrv7jJn2gd4fL9L3ai6E: 0.03 1Jjv9m5VrRUE7VoktCsj18KUSqkqchhbum: 0.02 1HsYJJPqTn34DEjMnTb3VfKckX7ZcWPibm: 4.82	175FNxeLc1YrTwwG6TcsywcsHYdVqyhbwC: 0.01 1MueNMRJmcqVQeqE7v4dqogpNbhyxqq8R6: 4.85
b519286a10...	0	0.404	12DCoCVvDCkQShZ5RTh9bysgCkmkRMNQbT: 0.14 13CJwnnXJPwkzY4Xnaoqf8dnyNBwrHG9fe: 0.01	1Mos7p8fqJKBcYNRG1TdT5hBRxdMP6YHPy: 0.15