

# MantaPay Protocol Specification

## v1.0.0

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### Abstract

MantaPay is an implementation of a *decentralized anonymous payment* scheme based on the MANTADAP protocol outlined in the original [MANTA whitepaper](#).

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# 1 Introduction

MantaPay aims to solve the long-standing privacy problems facing cryptocurrencies. At its heart, it uses various cryptographic constructions including NIZK (non-interactive zero knowledge proof) systems to ensure user privacy from *first principles* and to build the foundational layer for programmable private money. The MantaPay protocol provides the following features:

1. Elastic Multi-Asset Shielded Pool: A shielded pool for every kind of asset with elastic anonymity set resizing
2. Verifiable Viewing Keys: Opt-in transaction transparency with audit correctness assurance
3. Programmable zkAssets: New Transparent UTXO model allowing programmability layers to be built on top of the shielded pool
4. Delegated Proof Generation: Decoupling the spending access from the proof generation access gives hardware wallets native support for zkAssets

## 2 Notation

The following notation is used throughout this specification:

- **Type** is the type of types<sup>1</sup>.
- If  $x : T$  then  $x$  is a value and  $T$  is a type, denoted  $T : \text{Type}$ , and we say that  $x$  *has type*  $T$ .
- **Bool** is the type of booleans with values **True** and **False**.
- For any types  $A : \text{Type}$  and  $B : \text{Type}$  we denote the *type of functions* from  $A$  to  $B$  as  $A \rightarrow B : \text{Type}$ .
- For any types  $A : \text{Type}$  and  $B : \text{Type}$  we denote the *product type* over  $A$  and  $B$  as  $A \times B : \text{Type}$  with constructor  $(-, -) : A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow A \times B)$ . Depending on context, we may omit the constructor and inline the pair into another constructor/destructor. For example, if  $f : A \times B \rightarrow C$  we can denote  $f((a, b))$  as  $f(a, b)$  to reduce the number of parentheses.
- For any type  $T : \text{Type}$ , we define  $\text{Option}\langle T \rangle : \text{Type}$  as the inductive type with constructors:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{None} &: \text{Option}\langle T \rangle \\ \text{Some} &: T \rightarrow \text{Option}\langle T \rangle \end{aligned}$$

- We denote the *type of finite sets* over a type  $T : \text{Type}$  as  $\text{FinSet}\langle T \rangle : \text{Type}$ . The membership predicate for a value  $x : T$  in a finite set  $S : \text{FinSet}\langle T \rangle$  is denoted  $x \in S$ .
- We denote the *type of finite ordered sets* over a type  $T : \text{Type}$  as  $\text{List}\langle T \rangle : \text{Type}$ . This can either be defined by an inductive type or as a  $\text{FinSet}\langle T \rangle$  with a fixed ordering. We denote the constructor for a list as  $[\dots]$  for an arbitrary set of elements.
- We denote the *type of distributions* over a type  $T : \text{Type}$  as  $\mathcal{D}\langle T \rangle : \text{Type}$ . A value  $x$  sampled from  $\mathcal{D}\langle T \rangle$  is denoted  $x \sim \mathcal{D}\langle T \rangle$  and the fact that the value  $x$  belongs to the range of  $\mathcal{D}\langle T \rangle$  is denoted  $x \in \mathcal{D}\langle T \rangle$ . So namely,  $y \in \{x \mid x \sim \mathcal{D}\langle T \rangle\} \leftrightarrow y \in \mathcal{D}\langle T \rangle$ .
- We denote the equality predicate as  $(- = -) : T \times T \rightarrow \text{Type}$  and the equality function as  $\text{eq} : T \times T \rightarrow \text{Bool}$  whenever they exist.
- We denote the selection function as  $\text{select} : \text{Bool} \times T \times T \rightarrow T$ . For a boolean  $b : \text{Bool}$  and two values  $t_1, t_2 : T$ ,  $\text{select}(b, t_1, t_2)$  returns  $t_1$  when  $b = \text{True}$  and returns  $t_2$  when  $b = \text{False}$ .
- Depending on the context, the notation  $|\cdot|$  denotes either the absolute value of a quantity, the length of a list, the number of characters in a string, or the cardinality of a set.

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<sup>1</sup>By *type of types*, we mean the type of *first-level* types in some family of type universes. Discussion of the type theory necessary to make these notions rigorous is beyond the scope of this paper.

### 3 Concepts

#### 3.1 zkAssets

The `zkAsset` is the fundamental currency object in the `MantaPay` protocol. An asset  $a : \text{zkAsset}$  is a tuple

$$a = (a.\text{id}, a.\text{value}) : \text{AssetId} \times \text{AssetValue}$$

where the `AssetId` encodes the type of currency stored in  $a$  and the `AssetValue` encodes how many units of that currency are stored in  $a$ . `MantaPay` is a *decentralized anonymous payment* protocol which facilitates the private ownership and private transfer of `zkAssets`.

`zkAssets` are the basic building-blocks of *transactions* which consume a set of input `zkAssets` and produce a set of transformed output `zkAssets`. To preserve the economic value stored in `zkAssets`, the sum of the input `AssetValues` must balance the sum of the output `AssetValues`, and all assets in a single transaction must have the same `AssetId`<sup>2</sup>. This is called a *balanced transfer*: no value is created or destroyed in the process. The `MantaPay` protocol uses a distributed algorithm called `Transfer` to perform balanced transfers and ensure that they are valid.

#### 3.2 UTXOs

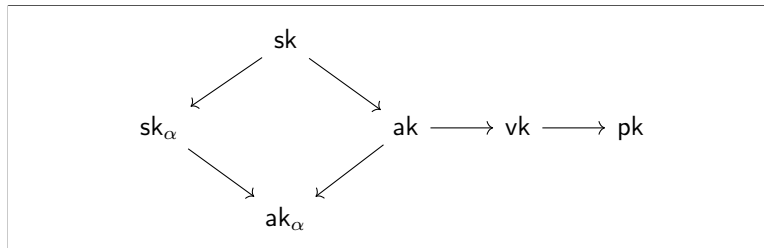
But `zkAssets` are not private on their own. A `UTXO` is a container for a `zkAsset` that hides its value and its owner and is the main object that `MantaPay` uses to transfer the spending power of `zkAssets` between different protocol participants. A `UTXO` is a cryptographic commitment along with some associated data that represents a spendable subset of an account stored in the protocol. In the `MantaPay` protocol, `UTXOs` come in two flavors, *opaque* and *transparent*. The *opaque* `UTXOs` are completely private and they do not reveal the owner or underlying asset contained in them, whereas *transparent* `UTXOs` reveal the underlying asset but not the owner. The *opaque* `UTXO` is used for the private transfer of `zkAssets` and the *transparent* `UTXO` is used to give programability to `zkAssets` whenever the `MantaPay` protocol lives in the same environment as other smart contracts by allowing contracts to control the `AssetId` and `AssetValue` stored in the *transparent* `UTXO`.

#### 3.3 Nullifiers

One of the important ways that privacy is preserved for `zkAssets` across many transactions is that the exact transaction where a `UTXO` is spent is not known to the public. Instead, only the owner of the `zkAsset`, or anyone with the appropriate viewing key, can know this information. The `Nullifier` is another cryptographic commitment that takes the place of the `UTXO` when it is spent and it is cryptographically hard for any particular `UTXO` to be derived from its `Nullifier`.

#### 3.4 zkAddresses

In order for `MantaPay` participants to receive `zkAssets` via the `Transfer` protocol, they create *zk-addresses* which they use as identifiers to represent them on the ledger.



**Figure 1:** Key Schedule for `MantaPay`.

`MantaPay` uses four kinds of keys all derived from a base secret, spending key `sk`, which give the following kinds of privileged access in the protocol:

- **zkAddress (send):** Access to the zk-address `pk` gives the user the right to send `zkAssets` to the owner of the associated `sk`.
- **Viewing Key (view):** Access to the viewing key `vk` gives the user the right to view all transactions for the owner of the associated `sk`.

<sup>2</sup>It is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss transactions with inputs and outputs that feature different `AssetIds`, like those that would be featured in a *decentralized anonymous exchange*.

- **Proof Authorization Key (prove):** Proof authorization key `ak` gives the user the right to build the `Transfer` proof on behalf of the owner of `sk`. This key is used when delegating proof generation to a semi-trusted entity while still protecting the spending rights associated to the `sk`, for example, if a hardware wallet holds `sk` it can ask a more capable computer to produce the `Transfer` proof for it without sending the spending rights off of the hardware wallet.
- **Spending Key (spend):** Access to the spending key `sk` gives total control over the assets owned by this secret, including spending, proof generation, and viewing.

Participants in MantaPay are represented by their zk-addresses, but they are not unique representations, since one participant may have access to more than one secret key. See § 4.2 for more information on how these keys are constructed and used for spending, proving, viewing, and receiving.

### 3.5 Notes

The encrypted `Note` is the primary means of communication in the MantaPay protocol. For a `zkAddress` owner to know that they have received a `zkAsset` and can now spend it they decrypt `Notes` with their viewing key to discover how much of an asset they have received and what information they need to spend it. The `Note` is also used to keep track of the balances of an entire account over its transaction history.

There are two kinds of `Notes` in the MantaPay protocol, *incoming* `Notes` and *outgoing* `Notes`. The `IncomingNote` is attached to every new `UTXO` and contains the same `zkAsset` as the `UTXO` and also a secret randomizer used to hide the `UTXO` commitment. The `OutgoingNote` is attached to every new `Nullifier` and contains the same `zkAsset` as the `UTXO` that the `Nullifier` is marking. When performing accounting over a `zkAddress` to measure how much of a particular `AssetId` that address controls, the `AssetValue` stored in the `IncomingNotes` should be *added* to the running total whereas the `AssetValue` stored in the `OutgoingNotes` should be *subtracted* from the running total as they represent inflows and outflows respectively.

### 3.6 ShieldedPool

The `ShieldedPool` is a data structure that contains the necessary data to enable the MantaPay `Transfer` protocol. The `ShieldedPool` is made up of the following three general storage groups:

- **UTXO Storage:** Contains all of the `UTXOs` that have ever been created along with their `IncomingNotes`
- **Nullifier Storage:** Contains all of the `Nullifiers` that have ever been created along with their `OutgoingNotes`
- **Public Pool Account:** The public account of the pool itself that holds a backing of all the `zkAssets` held in the `UTXOs` in the pool. Depositing into or withdrawing out of the pool has to go through this account.

There are two general requirements on the `UTXO` and `Nullifier` storage items:

1. Fast non-membership query for `UTXOs` and `Nullifiers`
2. Fast insertion and insertion-order iteration over `(UTXO, IncomingNote)` and `(Nullifier, OutgoingNote)` pairs

In order to satisfy both of these requirements we have the following breakdown of the storage:

- **UTXO Storage:**
  - `UTXOSet : UTXO → Bool`
  - `UTXOStorageInsertionOrder : ℕ → (UTXO, IncomingNote)`
- **Nullifier Storage:**
  - `NullifierSet : Nullifier → Bool`
  - `NullifierStorageInsertionOrder : ℕ → (Nullifier, OutgoingNote)`

where we use the sets for fast non-membership checks and the insertion order maps for insertion-order preserving insertion and iteration.

## 4 Abstract Protocol

### 4.1 Abstract Cryptographic Schemes

In the following section, we outline the formal specifications for all of the *cryptographic schemes* used in the MantaPay protocol.

**Definition 4.1.1** (Commitment Scheme). A *commitment scheme* COM is defined by the schema:

Randomness : Type  
Input : Type  
Output : Type  
commit : Randomness  $\times$  Input  $\rightarrow$  Output

with the following properties:

- **Binding:** It is infeasible to find an  $x, y : \text{Input}$  and  $r, s : \text{Randomness}$  such that  $x \neq y$  and  $\text{commit}(r, x) = \text{commit}(s, y)$ .
- **Hiding:** For all  $x, y : \text{Input}$ , the distributions  $\{\text{commit}(r, x) \mid r \sim \text{Randomness}\}$  and  $\{\text{commit}(r, y) \mid r \sim \text{Randomness}\}$  are *computationally indistinguishable*.

**Notation:** For convenience, we may refer to  $\text{COM.commit}(r, x)$  by  $\text{COM}(r, x)$ .

**Definition 4.1.2** (Hash Function). A *hash function* HASH is defined by the schema:

Input : Type  
Output : Type  
hash : Input  $\rightarrow$  Output

with the following properties:

- **Collision Resistance:** It is infeasible to find  $a, b : \text{Input}$  such that  $a \neq b$  and  $\text{hash}(a) = \text{hash}(b)$ .
- **Pre-Image Resistance:** Given  $y : \text{Output}$ , it is infeasible to find an  $x : \text{Input}$  such that  $\text{hash}(x) = y$ .
- **Second Pre-Image Resistance:** Given  $a : \text{Input}$ , it is infeasible to find another  $b : \text{Input}$  such that  $a \neq b$  and  $\text{hash}(a) = \text{hash}(b)$ .

We can also ask that a hash function be *binding* or *hiding* as in the above *Commitment Scheme* definition if we partition the **Input** space into a separate **Randomness** and **Input** space.

**Notation:** For convenience, we may refer to  $\text{HASH.hash}(x)$  by  $\text{HASH}(x)$ .

**Definition 4.1.3** (Signature Scheme). A *signature scheme* SIG is defined by the schema:

SigningKey : Type  
VerifyingKey : Type  
Randomness : Type  
Message : Type  
Signature : Type  
derive : SigningKey  $\rightarrow$  VerifyingKey  
sign : SigningKey  $\times$  Randomness  $\times$  Message  $\rightarrow$  Signature  
verify : VerifyingKey  $\times$  Signature  $\times$  Message  $\rightarrow$  Bool

with the following properties:

- **Correctness:** For a given  $sk : \text{SigningKey}$ ,  $r : \text{Randomness}$ , and  $m : \text{Message}$ , we have that  $\text{verify}(\text{derive}(sk), \text{sign}(sk, r, m), m) = \text{True}$
- **TODO:**

**Definition 4.1.4** (Authenticated Encryption Scheme). An *authenticated encryption* scheme AUTH is defined by the schema:

Key : Type  
Plaintext : Type  
Ciphertext : Type  
Tag : Type  
encrypt : Key  $\times$  Plaintext  $\rightarrow$  Tag  $\times$  Ciphertext  
decrypt : Key  $\times$  Tag  $\times$  Ciphertext  $\rightarrow$  Option(Plaintext)

with the following properties:

- **Correctness:** For a given  $k : \text{Key}$ ,  $p : \text{Plaintext}$ , we have that  $\text{decrypt}(k, \text{encrypt}(k, p)) = \text{Some}(p)$ .
- **TODO:** ...

**Definition 4.1.5** (Dynamic Cryptographic Accumulator). A *dynamic cryptographic accumulator* DCA is defined by the schema:

$\text{Item} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{Output} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{Witness} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{State} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{current} : \text{State} \rightarrow \text{Output}$   
 $\text{insert} : \text{Item} \times \text{State} \rightarrow \text{State}$   
 $\text{contains} : \text{Item} \times \text{State} \rightarrow \text{Option}(\text{Output} \times \text{Witness})$   
 $\text{verify} : \text{Item} \times \text{Output} \times \text{Witness} \rightarrow \text{Bool}$

with the following properties:

- **Unique Accumulated Values:** For any initial state  $s : \text{State}$  and any list of items  $I : \text{List}(\text{Item})$  we can generate the sequence of states:

$$s_0 := s, \quad s_{i+1} := \text{insert}(I_i, s_i)$$

Then, if we collect the accumulated values for these states,  $z_i := \text{current}(s_i)$ , there should be exactly  $|I|$ -many unique values, one for each state update.

- **Provable Membership:** For any initial state  $s : \text{State}$  and any list of items  $I : \text{List}(\text{Item})$  we can generate the sequences of states:

$$s_0 := s, \quad s_{i+1} := \text{insert}(I_i, s_i)$$

Then, if we collect the states  $s_i$  into a set  $S$ , we have the following property for all  $s \in S$  and  $t \in I$ ,

$$\text{Some}(z, w) := \text{contains}(t, s), \quad \text{verify}(t, z, w) = \text{True}$$

**Definition 4.1.6** (Non-Interactive Zero-Knowledge Proving System). A *non-interactive zero-knowledge proving system* NIZK is defined by the schema:

$\text{Statement} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{ProvingKey} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{VerifyingKey} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{PublicInput} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{SecretInput} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{Proof} : \text{Type}$   
 $\text{keys} : \text{Statement} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\text{ProvingKey} \times \text{VerifyingKey})$   
 $\text{prove} : \text{Statement} \times \text{ProvingKey} \times \text{PublicInput} \times \text{SecretInput} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\text{Option}(\text{Proof}))$   
 $\text{verify} : \text{VerifyingKey} \times \text{PublicInput} \times \text{Proof} \rightarrow \text{Bool}$

**Notation:** We use the following notation for a NIZK:

- We write the  $\text{Statement}$  and  $\text{ProvingKey}$  arguments of  $\text{prove}$  in the superscript and subscript respectively,

$$\text{prove}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w) := \text{prove}(P, \text{pk}, x, w)$$

- We write the  $\text{VerifyingKey}$  argument of  $\text{verify}$  in the subscript,

$$\text{verify}_{\text{vk}}(x, \pi) := \text{verify}(\text{vk}, x, \pi)$$

- We say that  $(x, w) : \text{PublicInput} \times \text{SecretInput}$  has the property of being a **satisfying input** whenever

$$\text{satisfying}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w) := \exists \pi : \text{Proof}, \text{Some}(\pi) \in \text{prove}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w)$$

Every NIZK has the following properties for a fixed statement  $P : \text{Statement}$  and keys  $(\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \sim \text{keys}(P)$ :

- **Completeness:** For all  $(x, w) : \text{PublicInput} \times \text{SecretInput}$ , if  $\text{satisfying}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w) = \text{True}$  with proof witness  $\pi$ , then  $\text{verify}_{\text{vk}}(x, \pi) = \text{True}$ .
- **Knowledge Soundness:** For any polynomial-size adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ ,

$$\mathcal{A} : \text{ProvingKey} \times \text{VerifyingKey} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\text{PublicInput} \times \text{Proof})$$

there exists a polynomial-size extractor  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{A}}$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{A}} : \text{ProvingKey} \times \text{VerifyingKey} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\text{SecretInput})$$

such that the following probability is negligible:

$$\Pr \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{satisfying}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w) = \text{False} \\ \text{verify}_{\text{vk}}(x, w) = \text{True} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} (\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \sim \text{keys}(P) \\ (x, \pi) \sim \mathcal{A}(\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \\ w \sim \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{A}}(\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \end{array} \right]$$

- **Statistical Zero-Knowledge:** There exists a stateful simulator  $\mathcal{S}$ , such that for all stateful distinguishers  $\mathcal{D}$ , the difference between the following two probabilities is negligible:

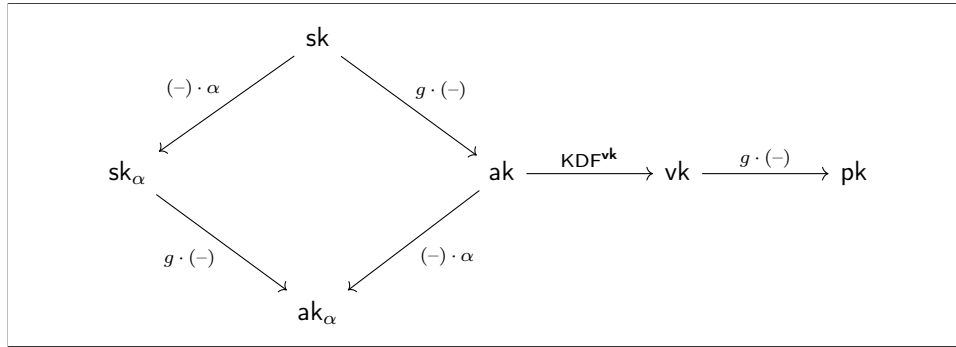
$$\Pr \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{satisfying}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w) = \text{True} \\ \mathcal{D}(\pi) = \text{True} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} (\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \sim \text{keys}(P) \\ (x, w) \sim \mathcal{D}(\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \\ \text{Some}(\pi) \sim \text{prove}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w) \end{array} \right] \text{ and } \Pr \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{satisfying}_{\text{pk}}^P(x, w) = \text{True} \\ \mathcal{D}(\pi) = \text{True} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} (\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \sim \mathcal{S}(P) \\ (x, w) \sim \mathcal{D}(\text{pk}, \text{vk}) \\ \pi \sim \mathcal{S}(x) \end{array} \right]$$

- **Succinctness:** For all  $(x, w) : \text{PublicInput} \times \text{SecretInput}$ , if  $\text{Some}(\pi) \sim \text{prove}(P, \text{pk}, x, w)$ , then  $|\pi| = \mathcal{O}(1)$ , and  $\text{verify}(\text{vk}, x, \pi)$  runs in time  $\mathcal{O}(|x|)$ .

**Definition 4.1.7** (Cryptographic Group). We define a *cryptographic group*  $(\mathbb{G}, p, g)$  as some finite cyclic group  $\mathbb{G}$ , of prime order  $p$  with generator  $g$  where the discrete logarithm problem is hard, namely, given  $X \in \mathbb{G}$  it is infeasible to find  $x$  such that  $X = g^x$ . We may omit the prime  $p$  when convenient.

## 4.2 Addresses and Key Components

For the Transfer protocol we use a multi-layered system of keys:



**Figure 2:** Detailed Key Schedule for MantaPay where  $\alpha$  is a random scalar and  $g$  is a generator.

Here we define each key and its function in the Transfer protocol:

**Definition 4.2.1** (Key Schedule). A KeySchedule is a collection of implementations of the following abstract cryptographic primitives as described in the above definitions:

- **Cryptographic Group:**  $(\mathbb{G}, p, g)$
- **Viewing Key Derivation Function:**  $\text{KDF}^{\text{vk}}$
- **Proof Authorization Signature:**  $\text{SIG}$

with the following notational conventions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SpendingKey} &:= Z_p \\ \text{ProofAuthorizingKey} &:= \mathbb{G} \\ \text{ViewingKey} &:= Z_p \\ \text{zkAddress} &:= \mathbb{G} \end{aligned}$$

with the following constraints:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{SIG.SecretKey} &= \mathbb{Z}_p \\ \text{SIG.PublicKey} &= \mathbb{G} \\ \text{SIG.derive} &= g \cdot (-)\end{aligned}$$

To derive the `zkAddress`, `pk`, we use the following:

$$\text{sk} \mapsto \text{ak} := g \cdot \text{sk} \mapsto \text{vk} := \text{KDF}^{\text{vk}}(\text{ak}) \mapsto \text{pk} := g \cdot \text{vk}$$

For signing a message  $m$  with a randomized key, the owner of the `SpendingKey`, `sk`, and owner of the `ProofAuthorizingKey`, `ak`, perform the following protocol:

1. Spender samples  $\alpha$  randomly and sends it to prover.
2. Prover computes  $\text{ak}_\alpha := \text{ak} \cdot \alpha$  and binds it to the message  $m$  and sends the message to spender.
3. Spender computes  $\text{sk}_\alpha := \text{sk} \cdot \alpha$  and checks that  $\text{ak}_\alpha = g \cdot \text{sk}_\alpha$  and signs the message  $m$  with  $\text{sk}_\alpha$ .

### 4.3 Transfer Protocol

The `Transfer` protocol is the fundamental abstraction in `MantaPay` and facilitates the valid transfer of `zkAssets` among participants while preserving their anonymity. The `Transfer` is made up of special cryptographic constructions called `Senders` and `Receivers` which represent the private input and the private output of a transaction. To perform a `Transfer`, a protocol participant gathers the `SpendingKeys` they own, selects a subset of the `UTXOs` they have still not spent (with a fixed `AssetId`), collects `ReceivingKeys` from other participants for the outputs, assigning each key a subset of the input `zkAssets`, and then builds a `Transfer` object representing the transfer they want to build. From this `Transfer` object, they construct a `TransferPost` which they then send to the `Ledger` to be validated and stored, representing a completed state transition in the `Ledger`. The transformation from `Transfer` to `TransferPost` involves keeping the parts of the `Transfer` that *must* be known to the `Ledger` and for the parts that *must* not be known, substituting them for a *zero-knowledge proof* representing the validity of the secret information known to the participant, and the `Transfer` as a whole.

We begin by defining the cryptographic primitives involved in the `Transfer` protocol:

**Definition 4.3.1** (Transfer Configuration). A `TransferConfiguration` is a collection of implementations of the following abstract cryptographic primitives:

- **Key Schedule:** `KeySchedule`
- **Incoming Authenticated Encryption Scheme:** `AUTHin`
- **Outgoing Authenticated Encryption Scheme:** `AUTHout`
- **UTXO Commitment Scheme:** `COMUTXO`
- **Void Number Commitment Scheme:** `COMVN`
- **UTXO Dynamic Cryptographic Accumulator:** `UTXOSet`
- **Zero-Knowledge Proving System:** `NIZK`

with the following notational conventions:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{UTXO} &:= \text{COM}^{\text{UTXO}}.\text{Output} \\ \text{VoidNumber} &:= \text{COM}^{\text{VN}}.\text{Output}\end{aligned}$$

and the following constraints:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{COM}^{\text{UTXO}}.\text{Input} &= \mathbb{G} \times \text{Asset} \\ \text{COM}^{\text{VN}}.\text{Randomness} &= \mathbb{G} \\ \text{COM}^{\text{VN}}.\text{Input} &= \mathbb{F} \\ \text{UTXOSet}.\text{Item} &= \mathbb{F} \\ \text{ValidTransfer} &: \text{NIZK.Statement}\end{aligned}$$

where `ValidTransfer` is defined below.



For the rest of this section, we assume the existence of a `TransferConfiguration` and use the primitives outlined above explicitly. We continue by defining the `Sender` and `Receiver` constructions as well as their public counterparts, the `SenderPost` and `ReceiverPost`.

**Definition 4.3.2** (Transfer Sender). A `Sender` is the following tuple:

$$\begin{aligned} r &: \mathbb{F} \\ sa &: \text{Asset} \\ pa &: \text{Asset} \\ t &: \text{Bool} \\ \text{asset} &: \text{Asset} \\ cm &: \mathbb{F} \\ \text{utxo} &: \text{UTXO} \\ h &: \mathbb{F} \\ h_z &: \text{UTXOSet.Output} \\ h_w &: \text{UTXOSet.Witness} \\ vn &: \text{VoidNumber} \\ esk &: \mathbb{Z}_p \\ epk &: \mathbb{G} \\ C_{\text{out}} &: \text{AUTH}^{\text{out}}.\text{Ciphertext} \end{aligned}$$

A `Sender`,  $S$ , is constructed from a public key  $pk : \text{zkAddress}$  with the following algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} t &:= \text{iszero}(sa) \\ \text{asset} &:= \text{select}(t, sa, pa) \\ cm &:= \text{COM}^{\text{UTXO}}(r, pk, sa) \\ \text{utxo} &:= (t, pa, cm) \\ h &:= H(\text{utxo}) \\ \text{Some}(h_z, h_w) &:= \text{UTXOSet.contains}(h, \text{Ledger.utxos}()) \\ vn &:= \text{COM}^{\text{VN}}(ak, h) \\ epk &:= g \cdot esk \\ C_{\text{out}} &:= \text{AUTH}^{\text{out}}.\text{encrypt}(pk \cdot esk, \text{select}(t, sa, pa)) \end{aligned}$$

**Definition 4.3.3** (Transfer Sender Post). A `SenderPost` is the following tuple extracted from a `Sender`:

$$\begin{aligned} h_z &: \text{UTXOSet.Output} \\ vn &: \text{VoidNumber} \\ epk &: \mathbb{G} \\ C_{\text{out}} &: \text{AUTH}^{\text{out}}.\text{Ciphertext} \end{aligned}$$

which are the parts of a `Sender` which should be *posted* to the `Ledger`.

**Definition 4.3.4** (Transfer Receiver). A `Receiver` is the following tuple:

$$\begin{aligned} pk &: \text{zkAddress} \\ r &: \mathbb{F} \\ sa &: \text{Asset} \\ pa &: \text{Asset} \\ t &: \text{Bool} \\ \text{asset} &: \text{Asset} \\ cm &: \mathbb{F} \\ \text{utxo} &: \text{UTXO} \\ esk &: \mathbb{Z}_p \\ epk &: \mathbb{G} \\ C_{\text{in}} &: \text{AUTH}^{\text{in}}.\text{Ciphertext} \end{aligned}$$

A Receiver,  $R$ , is constructed in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} t &:= \text{iszero}(sa) \\ \text{asset} &:= \text{select}(t, sa, pa) \\ cm &:= \text{COM}^{\text{UTXO}}(r, pk, sa) \\ \text{utxo} &:= (t, pa, cm) \\ \text{epk} &:= g \cdot \text{esk} \\ C_{\text{in}} &:= \text{AUTH}^{\text{in}}.\text{encrypt}(pk \cdot \text{esk}, (r, sa)) \end{aligned}$$

**Definition 4.3.5** (Transfer Receiver Post). A ReceiverPost is the following tuple extracted from a Receiver:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{utxo} &: \text{UTXO} \\ \text{epk} &: \mathbb{G} \\ C_{\text{in}} &: \text{AUTH}^{\text{in}}.\text{Ciphertext} \end{aligned}$$

which are the parts of a Receiver which should be *posted* to the Ledger.

**Definition 4.3.6** (Transfer Sources and Sinks). A Source (or a Sink) is an Asset representing a public input (or output) of a Transfer.

**Definition 4.3.7** (Transfer Object). A Transfer is the following tuple:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{id} &: \text{Option}(\text{AssetId}) \\ \text{sources} &: \text{List}(\text{AssetValue}) \\ \text{senders} &: \text{List}(\text{Sender}) \\ \text{receivers} &: \text{List}(\text{Receiver}) \\ \text{sinks} &: \text{List}(\text{AssetValue}) \end{aligned}$$

The *shape* of a Transfer is the following 4-tuple of cardinalities of those sets

$$(|T.\text{sources}|, |T.\text{senders}|, |T.\text{receivers}|, |T.\text{sinks}|)$$

Also, note that the  $\text{id}$  value is optional. This is inhabited whenever there are sources or sinks, but if the shape of the transaction is  $(0, m, n, 0)$  then  $\text{id} = \text{None}$ .

In order for a Transfer to be considered *valid*, it must adhere to the following constraints:

- **Correct Key Signing:** The keys used to construct Senders and Receivers are valid and can be signed by a unique SpendingKey.
- **Same Id:** All the AssetIds in the Transfer must be equal.
- **Balanced:** The sum of input AssetValues must be equal to the sum of output AssetValues.
- **Well-formed Senders:** All of the Senders in the Transfer must be constructed according to the above Sender definition.
- **Well-formed Receivers:** All of the Receivers in the Transfer must be constructed according to the above Receiver definition.

In order to prove that these constraints are satisfied for a given Transfer, we build a zero-knowledge proof which will witness that the Transfer is valid and should be accepted by the Ledger.

**Definition 4.3.8** (Transfer Validity Statement). A transfer  $T : \text{Transfer}$  is considered *valid* if and only if

1. The signing authority is correctly constructed:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ak}_\alpha &:= \text{ak} \cdot \alpha \\ \text{vk} &:= \text{KDF}^{\text{vk}}(\text{ak}) \\ \text{pk} &:= g \cdot \text{vk} \end{aligned}$$

2. All the AssetIds in  $T$  are equal:

$$\left| T.\text{id} \cup \left( \bigcup_{S \in T.\text{senders}} S.\text{asset.id} \right) \cup \left( \bigcup_{R \in T.\text{receivers}} R.\text{asset.id} \right) \right| = 1$$

3. The sum of input AssetValues is equal to the sum of output AssetValues:

$$\left( \sum_{a \in T.sources} a \right) + \left( \sum_{S \in T.senders} S.asset.value \right) = \left( \sum_{R \in T.receivers} R.asset.value \right) + \left( \sum_{a \in T.sinks} a \right)$$

4. For all  $S \in T.senders$ , the Sender  $S$  is well-formed:

$$\begin{aligned} S.t &:= \text{iszero}(sa) \\ S.asset &:= \text{select}(S.t, S.sa, S.pa) \\ S.cm &:= \text{COM}^{\text{UTXO}}(S.r, S.pk, S.sa) \\ S.utxo &:= (S.t, S.pa, S.cm) \\ S.h &:= H(S.utxo) \\ \text{UTXOSet.verify}(S.h, S.h_z, S.h_w) &= \text{True} \\ S.vn &:= \text{COM}^{\text{VN}}(ak, S.h) \\ S.epk &:= g \cdot S.esk \\ S.C_{\text{out}} &:= \text{AUTH}^{\text{out}}.\text{encrypt}(pk \cdot S.esk, S.asset) \end{aligned}$$

5. For all  $R \in T.receivers$ , the Receiver  $R$  is well-formed:

$$\begin{aligned} R.t &:= \text{iszero}(R.sa) \\ R.asset &:= \text{select}(R.t, R.sa, R.pa) \\ R.cm &:= \text{COM}^{\text{UTXO}}(R.r, R.pk, R.sa) \\ R.utxo &:= (R.t, R.pa, R.cm) \\ R.epk &:= g \cdot R.esk \\ R.C_{\text{in}} &:= \text{AUTH}^{\text{in}}.\text{encrypt}(R.pk \cdot R.esk, (R.r, R.sa)) \end{aligned}$$

**Notation:** This statement is denoted `ValidTransfer` and is assumed to be expressible as a Statement of NIZK.

To finish the transfer, the `SpendingKey` for the `Transfer.ak : ProofAuthorizingKey` needs to sign the public side of the transaction. The public part of the transaction is the following post body:

**Definition 4.3.9** (Transfer Post Body). A `TransferPostBody` is the following tuple:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{id} &: \text{Option}(\text{AssetId}) \\ \text{sources} &: \text{List}(\text{Source}) \\ \text{senders} &: \text{List}(\text{SenderPost}) \\ \text{receivers} &: \text{List}(\text{ReceiverPost}) \\ \text{sinks} &: \text{List}(\text{Sink}) \\ \pi &: \text{NIZK.Proof} \end{aligned}$$

A `TransferPostBody`,  $B$ , is constructed by assembling the zero-knowledge proof of `Transfer` validity from a known proving key  $pk : \text{NIZK.ProvingKey}$  and a given  $T : \text{Transfer}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} x &:= \text{Transfer.public}(T) \\ w &:= \text{Transfer.secret}(T) \\ \text{Some}(\pi) &\sim \text{NIZK.prove}_{pk}^{\text{ValidTransfer}}(x, w) \\ B.\text{id} &:= x.\text{id} \\ B.\text{sources} &:= x.\text{sources} \\ B.\text{senders} &:= x.\text{senders} \\ B.\text{receivers} &:= x.\text{receivers} \\ B.\text{sinks} &:= x.\text{sinks} \\ B.\pi &:= \pi \end{aligned}$$

where `Transfer.public` returns `SenderPosts` for each `Sender` in  $T$  and `ReceiverPosts` for each `Receiver` in  $T$ , keeping `Sources` and `Sinks` as they are, and `Transfer.secret` returns all the rest of  $T$  which is not part of the output of `Transfer.public`.

Now we can sign this body with  $sk_\alpha : \text{SpendingKey} := sk \cdot \alpha$  where the signature scheme has `TransferPostBody` as the `SIG.Message` type and we use  $ak_\alpha$  as the verifying key:

**Definition 4.3.10** (Transfer Post). A `TransferPost` is the following tuple:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &: \text{Option}(\text{SIG.VerifyingKey} \times \text{SIG.Signature}) \\ \text{body} &: \text{TransferPostBody} \end{aligned}$$

Note that the  $\sigma$  value is optional. This is inhabited whenever the number of `Senders` in a transaction is positive.

Now that a participant has constructed a transfer post  $P : \text{TransferPost}$  they can send it to the `Ledger` for verification.

**Definition 4.3.11** (Ledger-side Transfer Validity). To check that  $P$  represents a valid `Transfer`, the ledger checks the following:

- **Verify Signature:** Check that  $\text{SIG.verify}(P.\sigma_0, P.\sigma_1, P.\text{body}) = \text{True}$ . This check is only performed if the transfer shape includes at least one `Sender`.
- **Public Withdraw:** All the public addresses corresponding to the `Assets` in  $P.\text{body.sources}$  have enough public balance (i.e. in the `PublicAssetLedger`) to withdraw the given `Asset`.
- **Public Deposit:** All the public addresses corresponding to the `Assets` in  $P.\text{body.sinks}$  exist.
- **Current Accumulated State:** The `UTXOSet.Output` stored in each  $P.\text{body.senders}$  is equal to current accumulated value,  $\text{UTXOSet.current}(\text{Ledger.utxos}())$ , for the current state of the `Ledger`.
- **New VoidNumbers:** All the `VoidNumbers` in  $P.\text{body.senders}$  are unique, and no `VoidNumber` in  $P.\text{body.senders}$  has already been stored in the `Ledger.VoidNumberSet`.
- **New UTXOs:** All the `UTXOs` in  $P.\text{body.receivers}$  are unique, and no `UTXO` in  $P.\text{body.receivers}$  has already been stored on the ledger.
- **Verify Transfer:** Check that the following relation holds:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{NIZK.verify}_{vk}( \\ &\quad P.\sigma_0 \parallel P.\text{body.id} \parallel P.\text{body.sources} \parallel P.\text{body.senders} \parallel P.\text{body.receivers} \parallel P.\text{body.sinks}, \\ &\quad P.\text{body}.\pi \\ & ) = \text{True} \end{aligned}$$

where  $P.\sigma_0$  is included whenever the transfer shape includes at least one `Sender` and  $P.\text{body.id}$  is included whenever the transfer shape includes at least one of `Sources` or `Sinks`.

**Definition 4.3.12** (Ledger Transfer Update). After checking that a given `TransferPost`  $P$  is valid, the `Ledger` updates its state by performing the following changes:

- **Public Updates:** All the relevant public accounts on the `PublicAssetLedger` are updated to reflect their new balances using the `Sources` and `Sinks` present in  $P$ .
- **UTXOSet Update:** The new `UTXOs` are appended to the `UTXOSet`.
- **VoidNumberSet Update:** The new `VoidNumbers` are appended to the `VoidNumberSet`.

## 4.4 Batched Transactions

For `MantaPay` participants to use the `Transfer` protocol, they will need to keep track of the current state of their `zkAssets` and use them to build `TransferPosts` to send to the `Ledger`. The balance of any participant is the sum of the balances of their `zkAssets`, but this balance may be fragmented into arbitrarily many pieces, as each piece represents an independent asset that the participant received as the output of some `Transfer`. To then spend a subset of their balance, the participant would need to accumulate all of the relevant fragments into a large enough `zkAsset` to spend all at once, building a collection of `TransferPosts` to send to the `Ledger`.

Any wallet implementation should see that their users need not keep track of this complexity themselves. Instead, like a public ledger, the notion of a *transaction* between one participant and another should be viewed as a single atomic action that the user can take, performing a withdrawal from their balance. To describe such a *batched transaction*, we assume the existence of two transfer shapes<sup>3</sup>: `Mint` with shape  $(1, 0, 1, 0)$  and `PrivateTransfer` with shape  $(0, N, N, 0)$  for some natural number  $N > 1$ .

<sup>3</sup>Other `Transfer` accumulation algorithms are possible with different starting shapes.

---

**Algorithm 1** Batched Transaction Algorithm

---

```
procedure BUILD BATCH(sk,  $\mathcal{B}$ , total, pk)
   $B \leftarrow \text{Sample}(\text{total}, \mathcal{B})$  ▷ Samples coins from  $\mathcal{B}$  that total at least total
  if  $\text{len}(B) = 0$  then
    return [] ▷ Insufficient Balance
  end if
   $P \leftarrow []$  ▷ Allocate a new list for TransferPosts
  while  $\text{len}(B) > N$  do ▷ While there are enough pairs to make another Transfer
     $A \leftarrow []$ 
    for  $b \in (B, N)$  do ▷ Get the next  $N$  pairs from  $B$ 
       $S \leftarrow \text{BuildSenders}_{\text{sk}}(b)$ 
       $[acc, zs...] \leftarrow \text{BuildAccumulatorAndZeroes}_{\text{sk}}(S)$  ▷ Build a new accumulator and zeroes
       $P \leftarrow P + \text{TransferPost}(\text{Transfer}([], S, [acc, zs...], []))$ 
       $(A, Z) \leftarrow (A + acc, Z + zs)$  ▷ Save  $acc$  for the next loop,  $zs$  for the end
    end for
     $B \leftarrow A + \text{remainder}(B, N)$ 
  end while
   $S \leftarrow \text{PrepareZeroes}_{\text{sk}}(N, B, Z, P)$  ▷ Use  $Z$  and Mints to make  $B$  go up to  $N$  in size.
   $R \leftarrow \text{BuildReceiver}_{\text{sk}}(\text{pk}, S)$ 
   $[c, zs...] \leftarrow \text{BuildAccumulatorAndZeroes}_{\text{sk}}(S)$ 
  return  $P + \text{TransferPost}(\text{Transfer}([], S, [R, c, zs...], []))$ 
end procedure
```

---

For a fixed spending key,  $\text{sk} : \text{SpendingKey}$ , and asset id,  $\text{id} : \text{AssetId}$ , we are given a balance state,  $\mathcal{B} : \text{FinSet}(\text{Bool} \times \mathbb{F} \times \text{AssetValue})$ , a set of transparent-blinder-balance triples for unspent assets, a total balance to withdraw,  $\text{total} : \text{AssetValue}$ , and a receiving key  $\text{pk} : \text{zkAddress}$ . We can then compute

$$\text{BUILD BATCH}(\text{sk}, \mathcal{B}, \text{total}, \text{pk})$$

to receive a  $\text{List}(\text{TransferPost})$  to send to the ledger, representing the transfer of  $\text{total}$  to  $\text{pk}$ .

If all of the **Transfers** are accepted by the ledger, the balance state  $\mathcal{B}$  should be updated accordingly, removing all of the pairs which were used in the **Transfer**. Wallets should also handle the more complex case when only some of the **Transfers** succeed in which case they need to be able to continue retrying the transaction until they are finally resolved. Since the only **Transfer** which sends  $\text{zkAssets}$  out of the control of the user is the last one (and it recursively depends on the previous **Transfers**), then it is safe to continue from a partially resolved state with a simple retry of the **BUILD BATCH** algorithm.

## 5 Concrete Protocol

We define the instantiation of the abstract protocol in this section, but first some preliminary notes.

### 5.1 Poseidon Permutation and Poseidon Hash

The **Poseidon** Permutation (**Poseidon** $^\pi$ ) [1] is a finite field cryptographic primitive that can be used to build many cryptographic primitives, like hash functions, commitment schemes, and symmetric encryption schemes. **Poseidon** plays a fundamental role in simplifying the **Transfer** protocol and reducing the overall cost of the Zero-Knowledge circuits. **Poseidon** $^\pi$  is a family of permutation functions with the following type:

$$\text{Poseidon}_k^\pi : \mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^k$$

over some sufficiently large finite field  $\mathbb{F}$ . The first distinguished field element is used as a domain separation element. For this purpose, we use the following hashing function to generate domain strings:

$$\text{HashToScalar}(m) := \mathbb{F}.\text{truncate}(\text{Blake2s}(m))$$

The **Poseidon** hash function (without sponges) with the following type:

$$\text{Poseidon}_k : \mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

is defined as extracting the first finite field element out of **Poseidon** $^\pi_k$ .

We make use of **Poseidon** for a few values of  $k$  in the concrete protocol below.

## 5.2 Elliptic Curve Cryptography

Because our protocol relies on a cryptographic group which should be efficient in a Zero-Knowledge Proving System we choose an elliptic curve defined over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}$  of the proving system. To use group elements in affine form we also define the projections:

$$x : \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \text{ and } y : \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

which we use below to insert group elements into field-only hash functions.

For this protocol, we use BN254 as our outer (pairing-friendly) curve with scalar field  $\mathbb{F}$  and BabyJubJub [2] as our inner curve with scalar field  $\mathbb{S}$ .

## 5.3 Concrete Cryptographic Schemes

**Definition 5.3.1** (Commitment Schemes).

**Definition 5.3.2** (Signature Scheme).

**Definition 5.3.3** (Authenticated Encryption Scheme).

**Definition 5.3.4** (Dynamic Cryptographic Accumulator).

**Definition 5.3.5** (Non-Interactive Zero-Knowledge Proving System).

## 6 Acknowledgements

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## References

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