

Lecture 16 Final Project Part-2 : Blockchain, Bitcoin Hashing

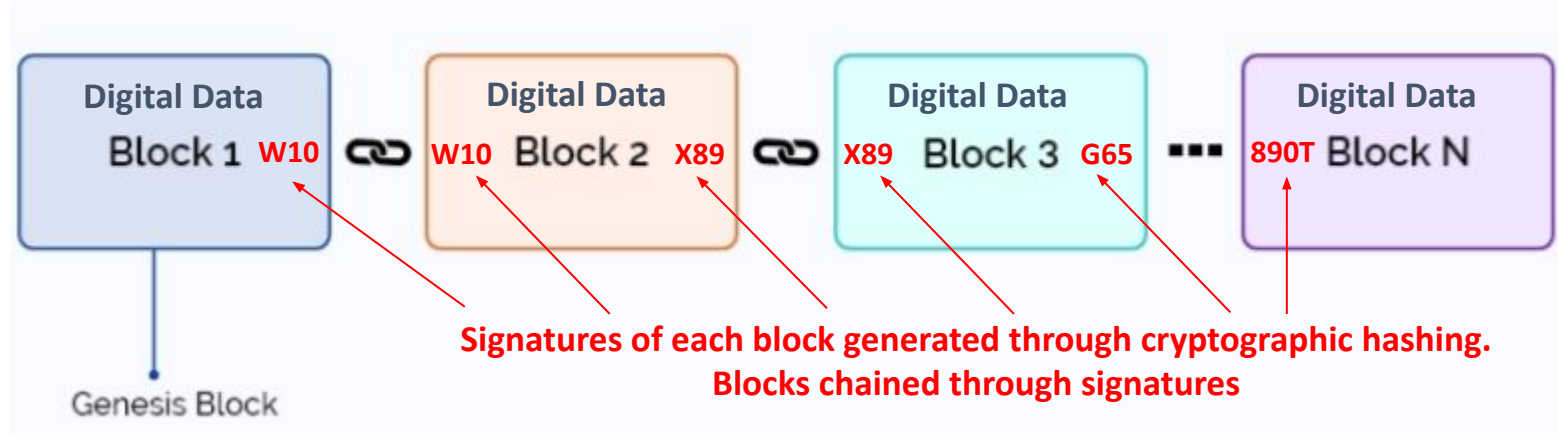
UCSD ECE 111

Prof. Farinaz Koushanfar

Fall 2023.

Blockchain and Bitcoin Hashing Concepts

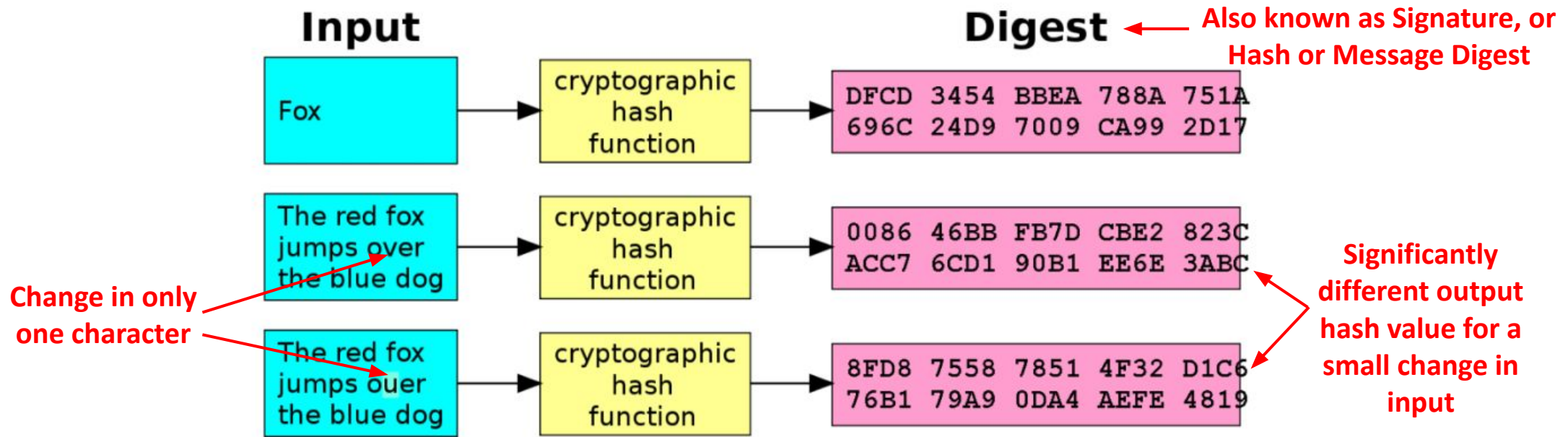
What is a Blockchain ?



- **A blockchain is a chain of digital data blocks**

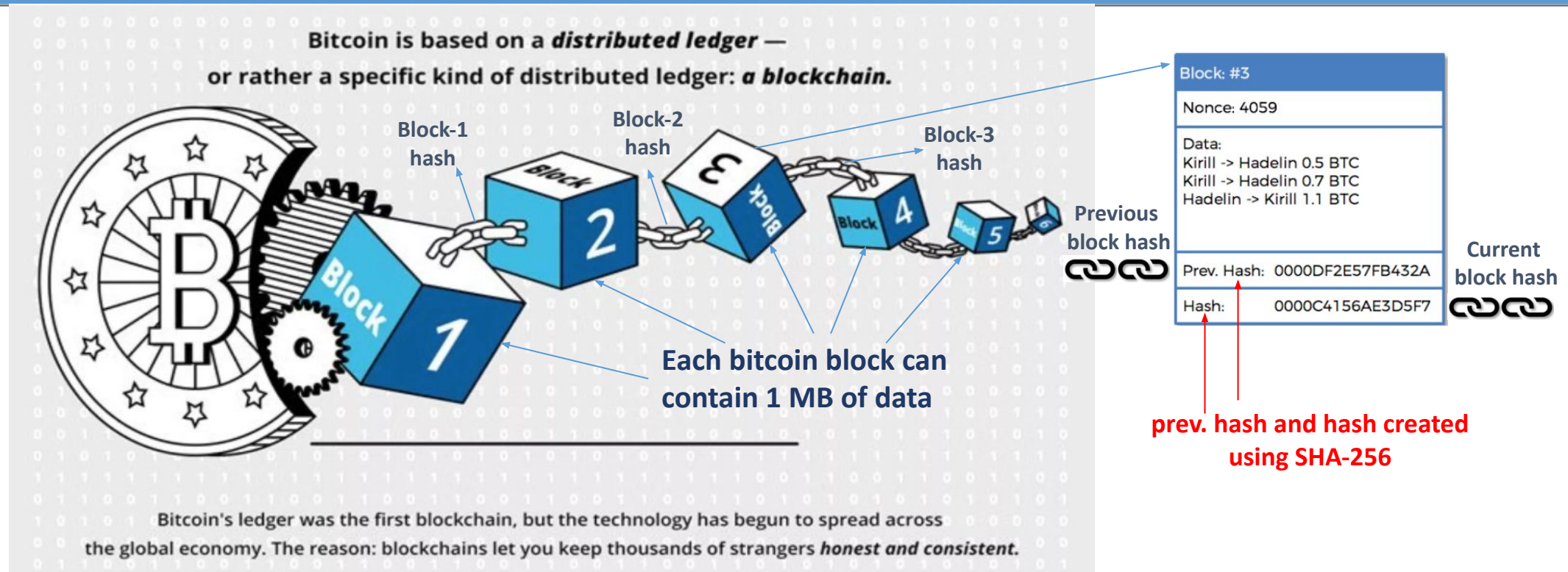
- Each blocks can store digital information about financial transactions such as date, time, dollar, sender, receiver or it can be medical records or property purchase deeds and much more.
- Chaining of blocks is done through cryptographic hashing algorithms, such as **SHA-256**, **Scrypt**, etc
- Blocks which are chained together, its data can never be changed again (**Immutable !**)
- Entire block chain is publicly available to anyone who wants to see it, in exactly the way it was once added to the blockchain.
- Blockchain is a distributed and decentralized public ledger.

Blockchain is dependent on Hashing



- Hashing is a cryptographic method of converting input data of any kind and size, into a string of fixed number of characters.
- Characteristics of hashing cryptography algorithms : (Example : SHA-256, Scrypt, etc)
 - The same input must always generate the same output. (**Deterministic !**)
 - The hash should be of a fixed number of characters, regardless the size or type of input data (**Compression!**)
 - There should be no way to reverse the hashing process to see the original data set. (**Pre-Image Resistant !**)
 - Any change in the input must produce an entirely different output (**Avalanche effect !**)
 - Practically impossible to find two different inputs that produce the same output (**Collision Resistance !**)
 - Creating the hash should be a fast process that doesn't make heavy use of computing power (**Efficient !**)

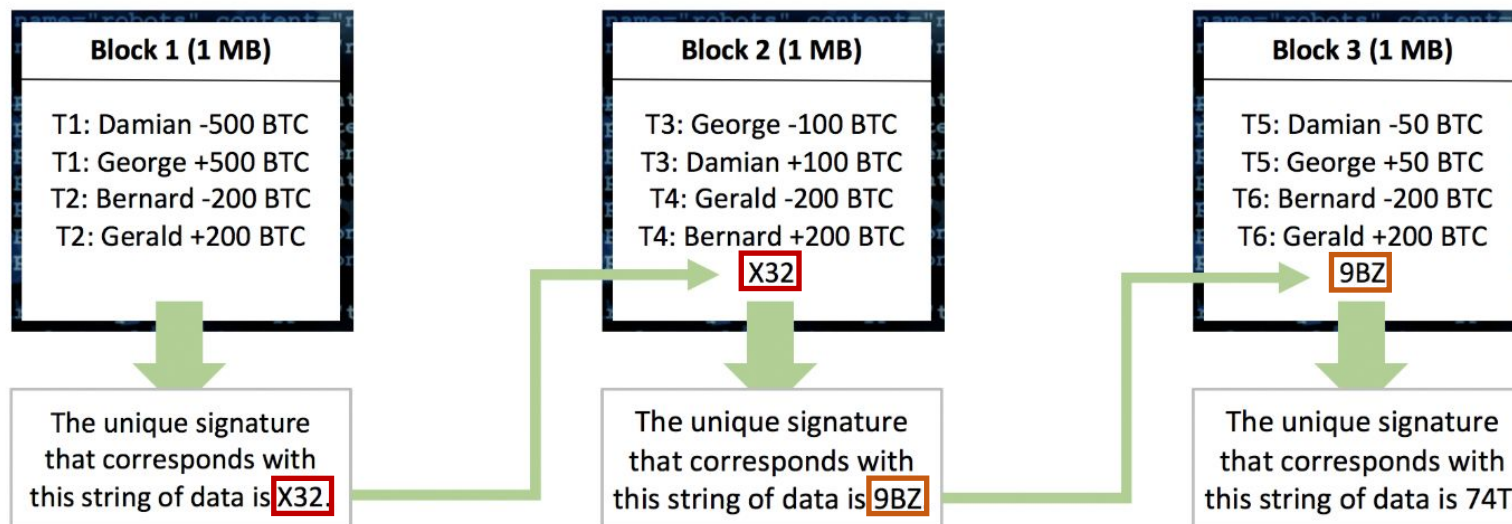
Bitcoin Blockchain



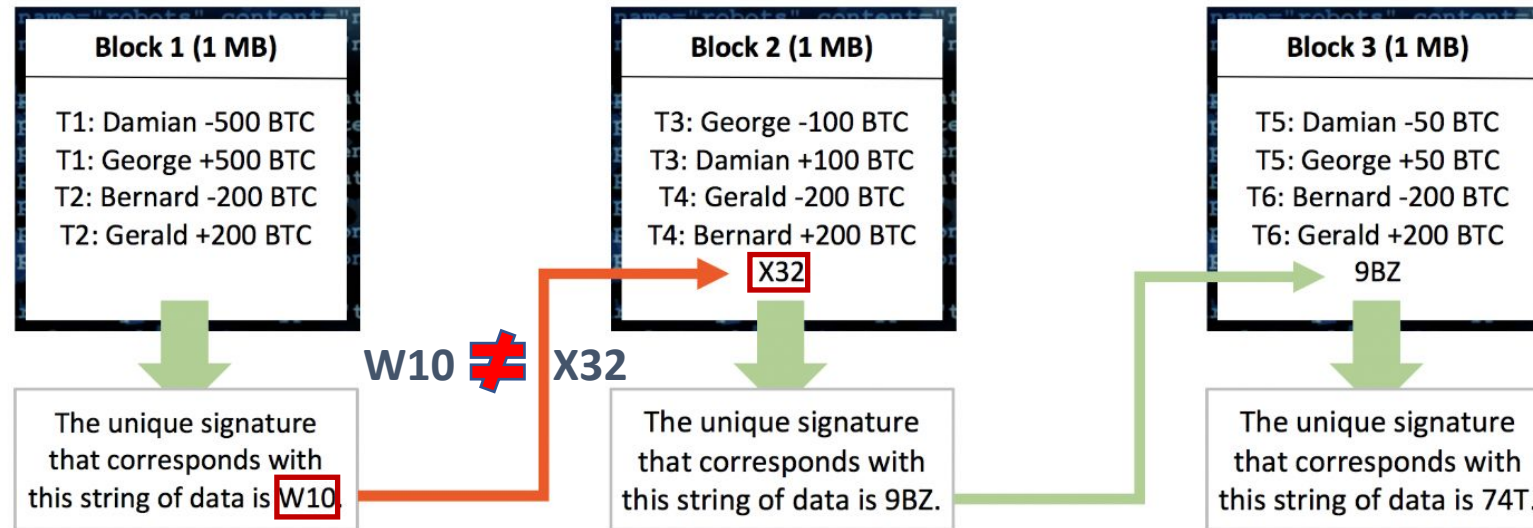
- **The Bitcoin blockchain is the oldest blockchain in existence.**
 - The blocks on the Bitcoin blockchain consist of approximately 1 MB of data each.
 - The data on the Bitcoin blockchain exclusively exists out of *transaction data* in regard to *Bitcoin transactions*.
 - It is a giant track record of all the Bitcoin transactions that have ever occurred, all the way back to the very first Bitcoin transaction.
 - Bitcoin blockchain uses **SHA-256** cryptographic hashing algorithm to chain blocks

Bitcoin Blockchain Example

- Block-1 registers two bitcoin transactions **T1** and **T2** between Damian and George.
- Signature is generated for Block-1 say, **X32** using hashing algorithm
- Block-2 registers two new bitcoin transactions **T3** and **T4**.
- The data in block 1 is now linked to block 2 by adding the signature of block 1 (**X32**) to the *data* of block 2.
- The signature of block 2 (**9BZ**) is now partially based on the signature of block 1, because it is included in the string of data in block 2
- **The signature links the blocks to each other, making them a chain of blocks !!**



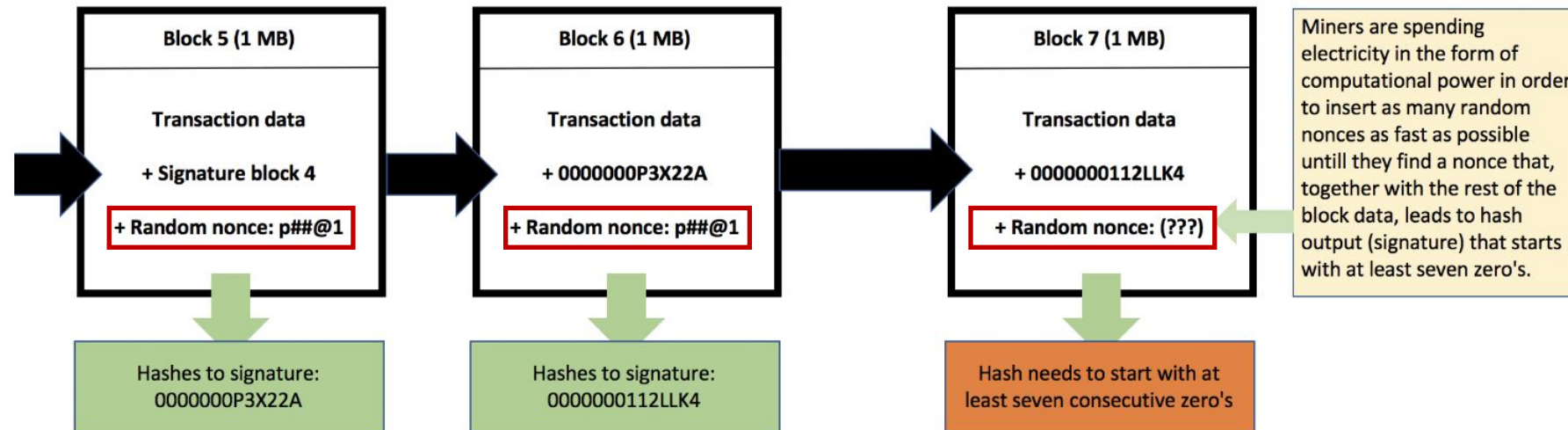
What if block data is altered by malicious user ?



- Let's say transaction between Damian and George is altered and Damian now supposedly sent 500 Bitcoin to George instead of 100 Bitcoin.
- Changing any single bit of data will generate a new signature for Block-1 (say **W10**)
- The new signature W10 does not match the signature that was previously added to block 2 anymore.
 - **Hence Block 1 and 2 are now considered no longer chained to each other !!**
- This indicates to other users of this blockchain that some data in block 1 was altered, and because the blockchain should be immutable :
 - **All users reject this change by shifting back to their previous record of the blockchain where all the blocks are still chained together (the record where Damian sent 100 BTC to George)**

How is the data block accepted in blockchain ?

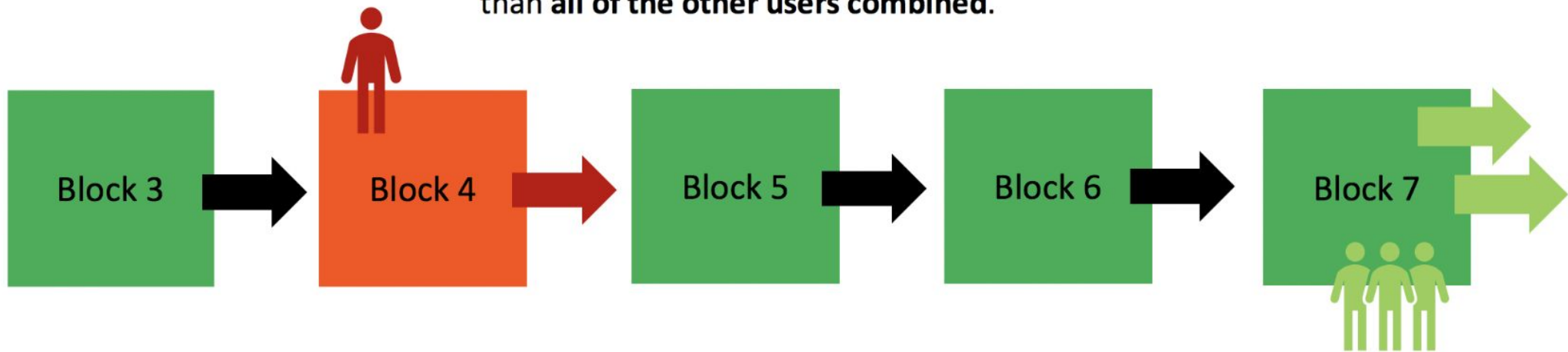
- A signature doesn't always qualify for block to be accepted in block chain
- A block will *only* be accepted on the blockchain if its digital signature starts with — for example — 7 consecutive number of *zeroes*.
- What if the signature (hash) of a block doesn't start with ten zeroes?
- Well, in order to find the block a signature that meets the requirements, the string of data of a block needs to be changed *repeatedly* until that specific string of data leads to a signature starting with ten zeroes.
- Because the transaction data and metadata (block number, timestamp, et cetera) need to stay the way they are, a small specific piece of data is added to every block that has no purpose except for being changed repeatedly in order to find an eligible signature. This piece of data is called the **nonce** of a block.
- The **nonce** is a completely random string of **numbers**



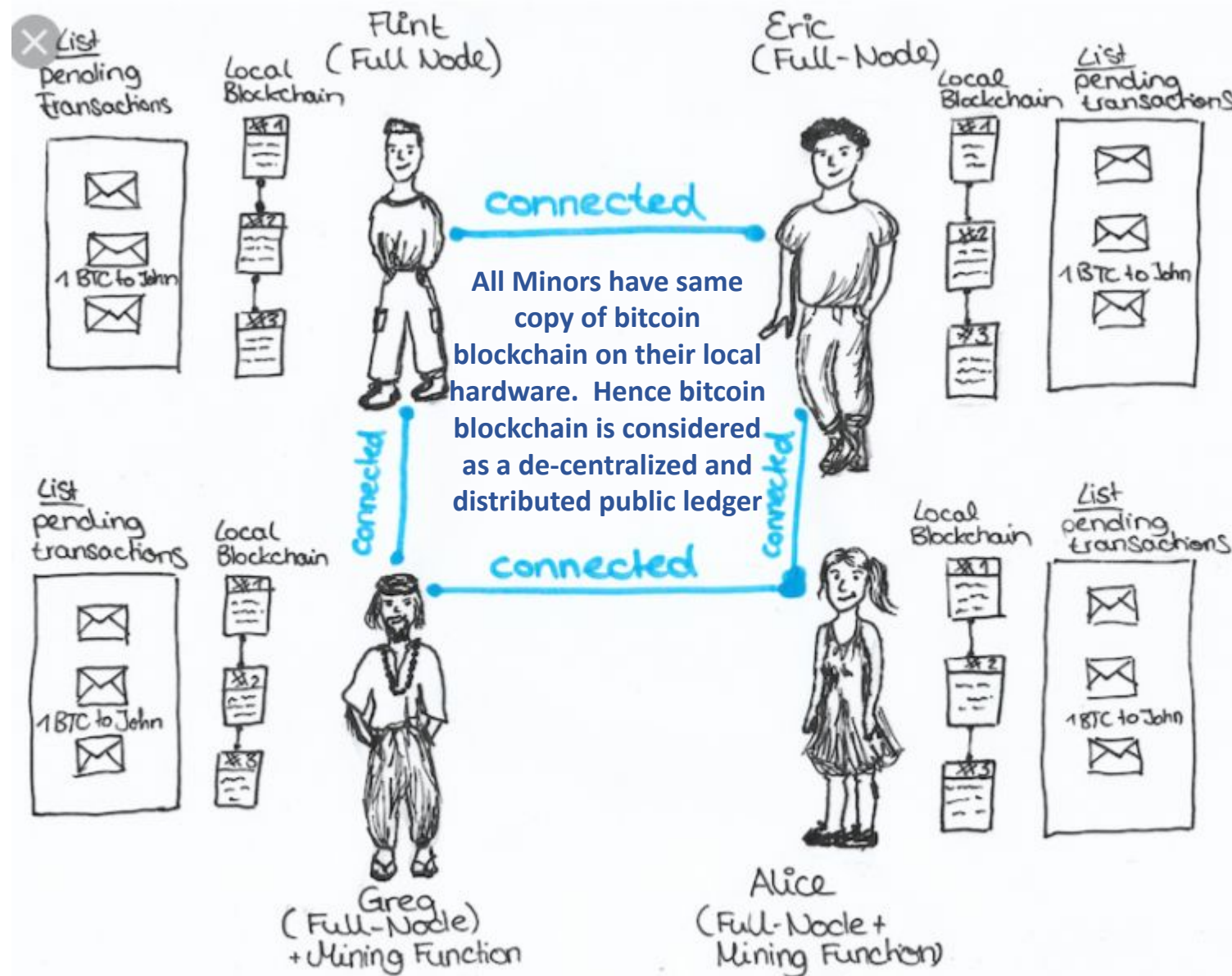
What makes blockchain immutable ?

- Let's say a *corrupt* miner has altered a block of transactions and is now trying to calculate new signatures for the subsequent blocks in order to have the rest of the network accept his change.
 - The problem for him is, the rest of the network is also calculating new signatures for new blocks.
 - The corrupt miner will have to calculate new signatures for these blocks too as they are being added to the end of the chain. After all, he needs to keep **all of the blocks** linked, including the new ones constantly being added.
 - Unless the miner has more computational power than the rest of the network combined, he will never catch up with the rest of the network finding signatures.

The malicious miner calculates new signatures much slower than the rest of the network combined because they have way more computational power together. His change can never catch up with the rest of the network and will be ignored forever. The only way to catch up is to calculate signatures faster than **all of the other users combined**.

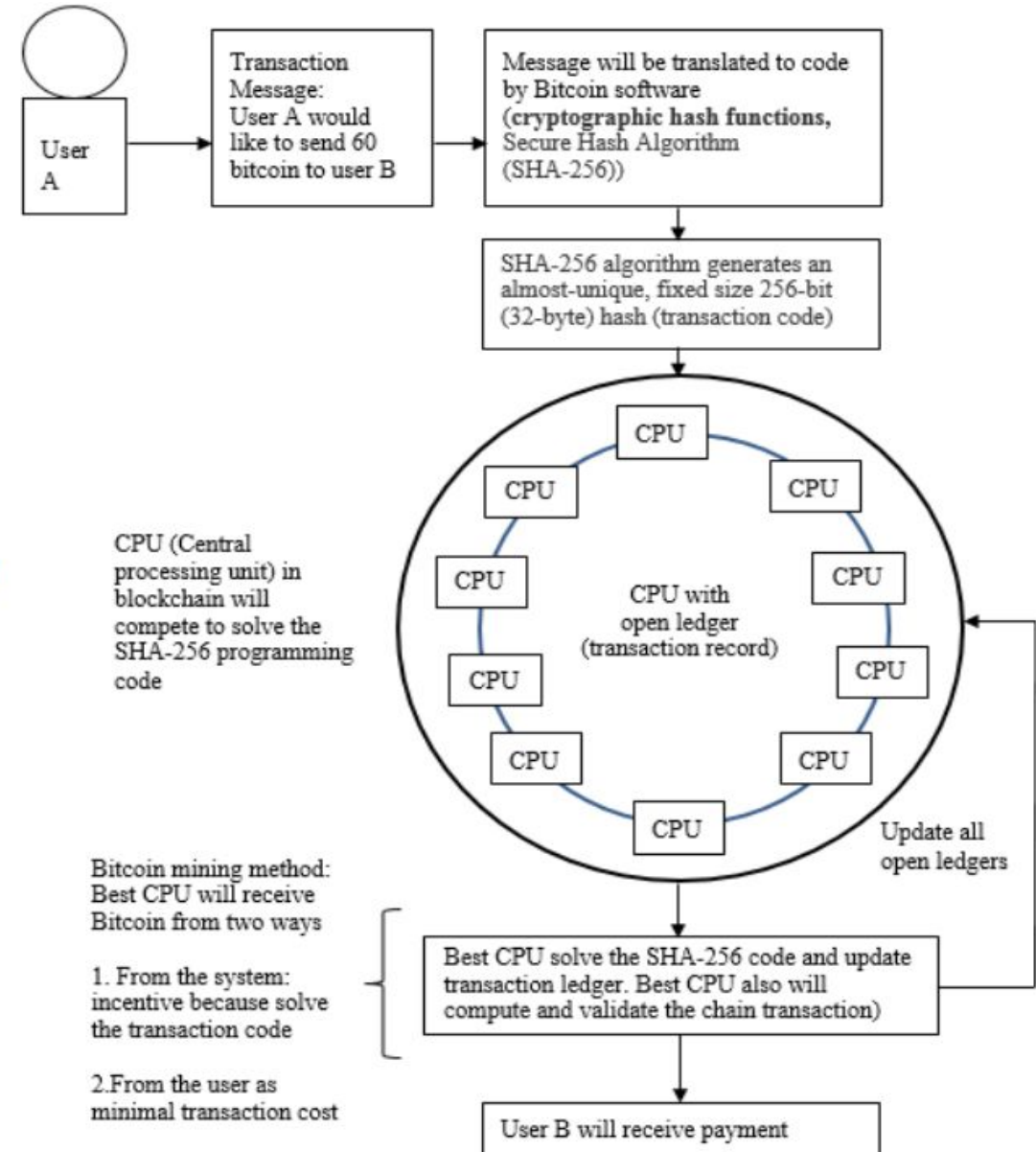
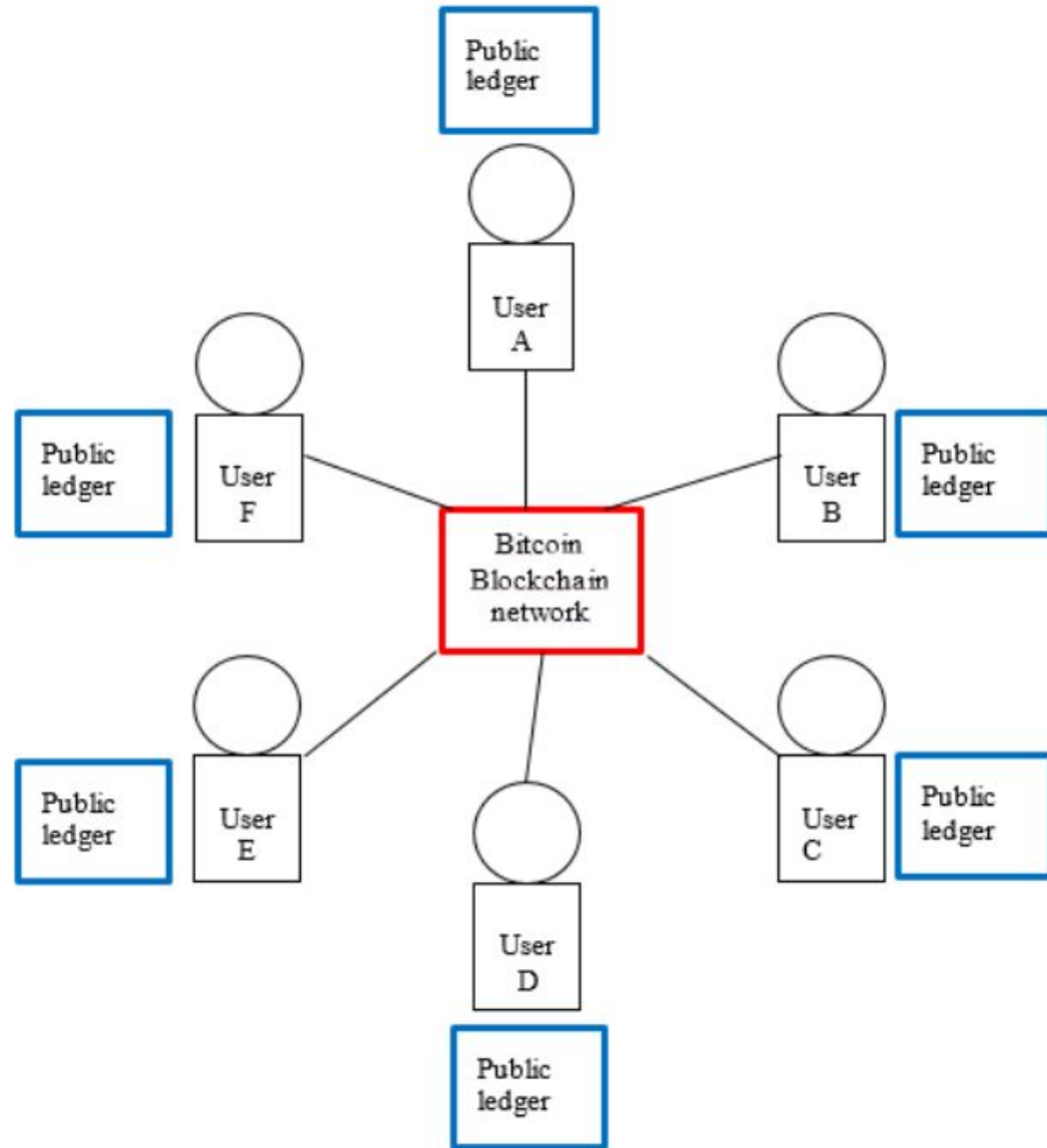


Bitcoin Blockchain Nodes



- Say a trader named John is trying to buy goods using bitcoin from a merchant who accepts bitcoin.
- Flint, Eric, Greg, Alice are bitcoin Miners and they will provide services to John to add John's new bitcoin transaction block to the block chain ledger by generating hash for this block & meeting required acceptance criteria for output hash value. They will keep using different nonce values until they are able to generate the hash value meeting the criteria.
- All miners are competing. First person to generate output hash value meeting the requirement (also known as difficulty target) will successfully able to add John's transaction block to the bitcoin block chain ledger and collect bitcoin(s) as a reward/service fee.
- All other Miners who did not win, will then update new block chain on their local hardware. (i.e. update bitcoin ledger)
- All miners have invested in expensive local hardware which might be several GPUs/CPU's, and more. They burn power/electricity when mining for bitcoin.

Bitcoin Blockchain Mining Example



Final Project Part-2 : Bitcoin Hashing Project Details and Requirements and Report

Bitcoin Data Block Header

- Bitcoin's header format :

Field	Purpose	Updated when ...	Size (Words)
Version	Block version number	You upgrade the software and it specifies a new version	1
hashPrevBlock	256-bit hash of the previous block header	A new block comes in	8
hashMerkleRoot	256-bit hash based on all of the transactions in the block	A transaction is accepted	8
Time	Current timestamp as seconds since 1970-01-01T00:00 UTC	Every few seconds	1
Bits	Current <u>target</u> in compact format	The <u>difficulty</u> is adjusted	1
Nonce	32-bit number (starts at 0)	A hash is tried (increments)	1

Main Point

These 19 words are given and fixed. These 19 words are stored in memory instantiated in testbench code

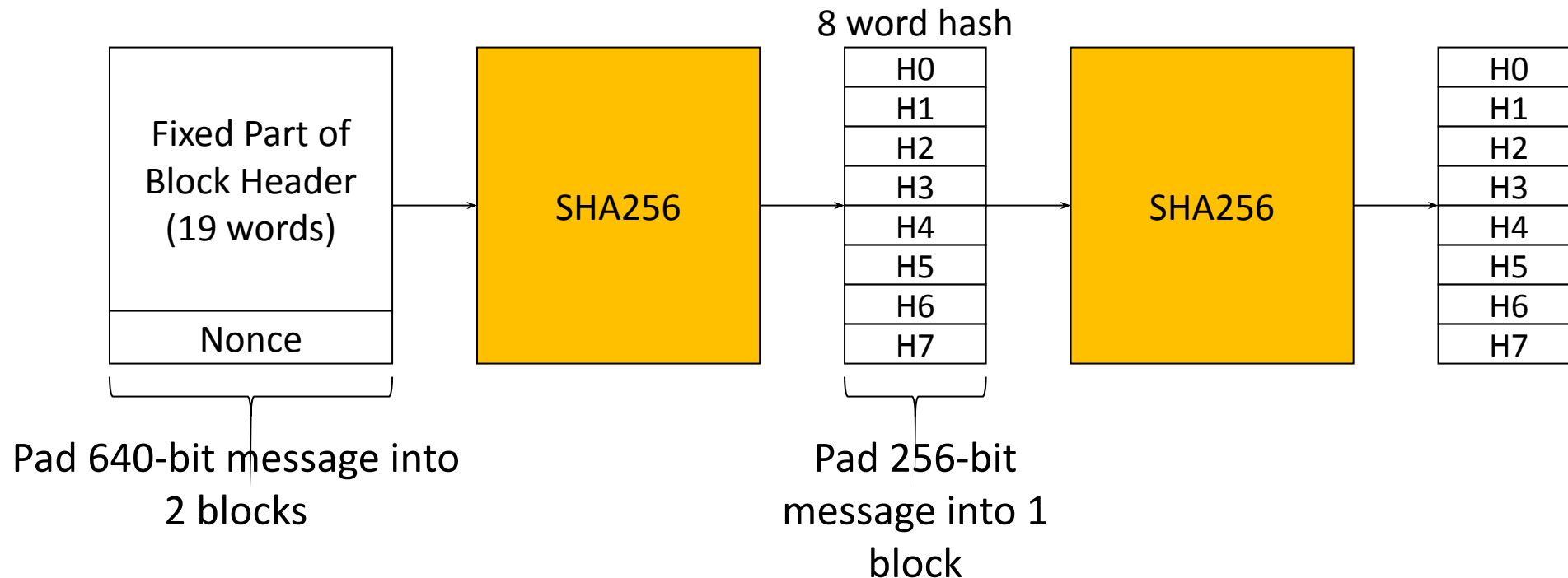
Try different nonces (0 to 15 nonce value instead of random nonce values)

Bitcoin Hashing Project Assumptions

- **Input Message :**
 - Input message (Wt) is of size 20 words (where 1 word = 32 bits)
 - Hence total input message size : $20 \times 32 = 640$ bits
 - Size of each data block in bitcoin block chain is 512 bits
 - Since 640 bits cannot be stored in 1 digital block, there are total 2 digital blocks created for input message
 - 640 bits of message is stored in memory which is instantiated in testbench code. Actual content of input message is not important for code development and simulation.
 - Out of 20 words, 19 words are data/metadata and final 1 word is a nonce.
- **SHA-256 should be used to create output hash value for each digital block**
 - Since there two digital blocks provided in memory, there will be 2 hash values created (one hash value for each block)
- **For sake of simplicity and convergence, project should assume only 16 nonce values (0 to 15) and hence 16 attempts for each block to create its hash value.**
 - For first block hash value computed is same for each nonce value hence hash value is created only once
 - For second block, hash value is created 16 times. And during each iteration of nonce, nonce value is incremented by 1.

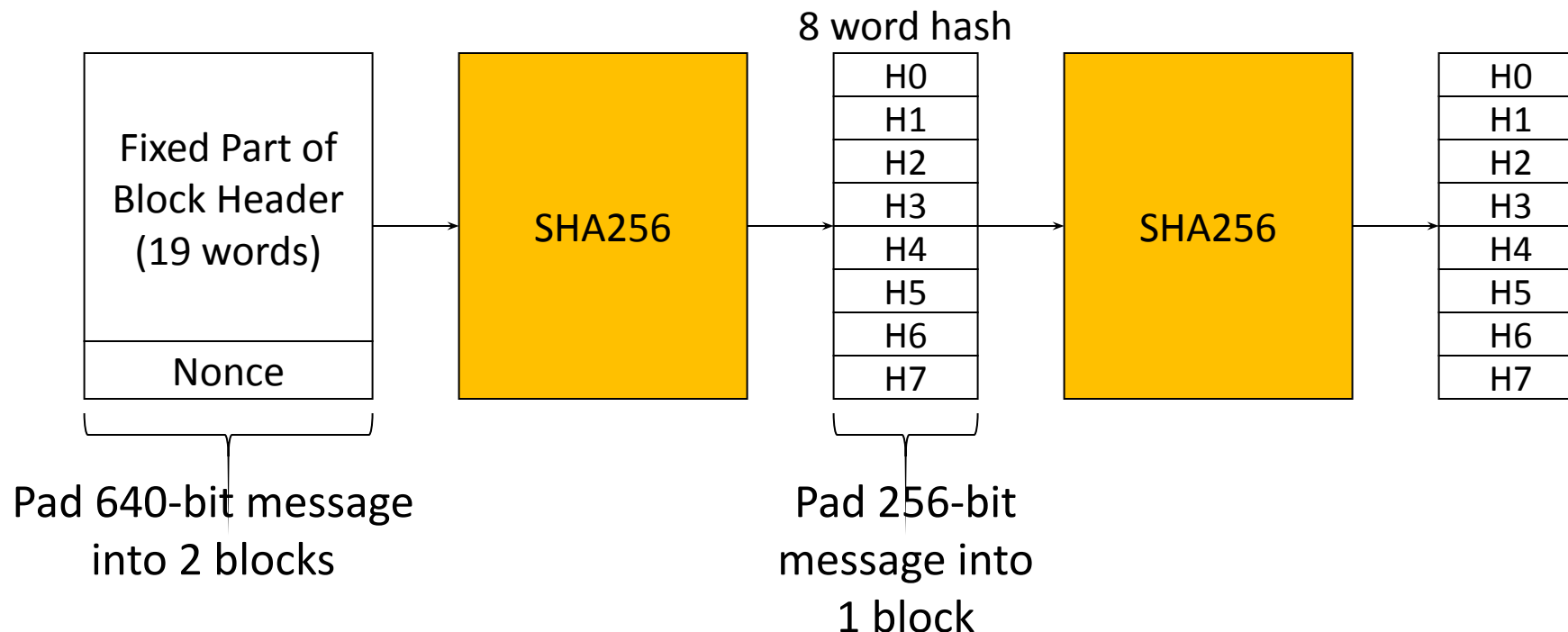
Bitcoin Hashing

- Change input message by changing the “nonce” (32-bits = 1 word), starting with nonce = 0 ...
- Keep trying new nonces 1, 2, ... until finish hash < target goal
 - **Note :** There is no actual hash value target for this project. Instead after fixed 16 iterations of nonce (from 0 to 15), hash value obtained is considered as meeting target goal (also known as acceptance criteria for hash value)



Bitcoin Hashing

- For the final project, we will simply compute final hashes for **16 nonces**, nonce = 0, 1, 2, ... 15 without checking if any < target
- **Key observation:** The hash computation for the 1st block of the 1st hash is the same for all nonce values; therefore, can be computed just once.



Bitcoin Hashing

- There are 3 phases:
 - **Phase 1:** Processing 1st block of the 1st SHA 256 hash function
 - H0...H7 correspond to constants, 32'h6a09e667, etc.
 - Wt's correspond to first 16 words in memory
 - **Phase 2:** Processing 2nd block of the 1st SHA 256 hash function
 - H0...H7 come from the Phase 1
 - Wt's correspond the last 3 words in memory, the nonce, 32'h80000000, ten 32'h00000000 padding, and 32'd640
 - **Phase 3:** Processing the 2nd SHA 256 hash function
 - H0...H7 correspond to constants, 32'h6a09e667, etc.
 - Wt's correspond the H0...H7 from Phase 2, 32'h80000000, six 32'h00000000 padding, and 32'd256
 - **Phase-2 and 3 are performed 16 times. This will produce 16 finals hashes.**

Bitcoin Data Block Header

- Compute final hash for $\text{SHA256}(\text{SHA256}(\text{message}))$ for **16 nonces** = 0, 1, ... 15, each message = {block header, nonce}
- Will produce **16** final hashes

H0[0], H1[0], H2[0], H3[0], H4[0], H5[0], H6[0], H7[0]

H0[1], H1[1], H2[1], H3[1], H4[1], H5[1], H6[1], H7[1]

:

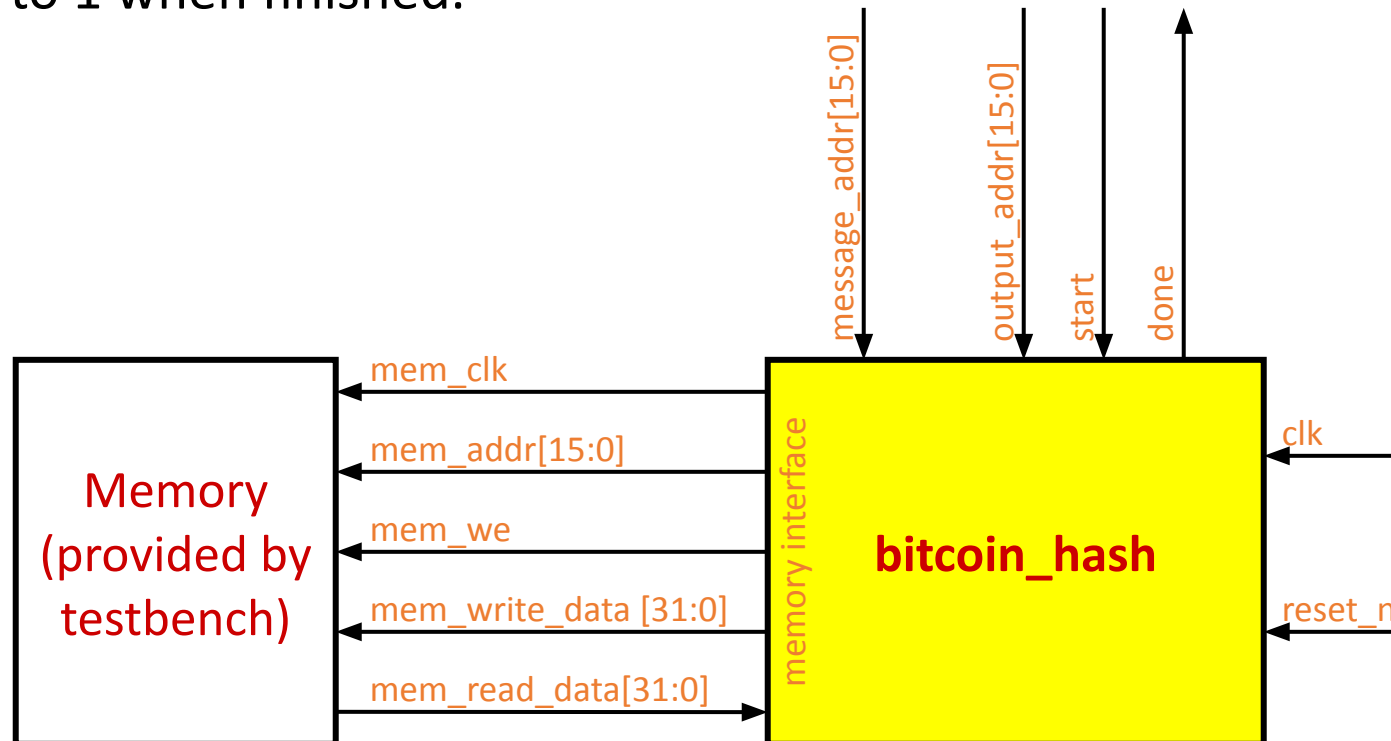
:

H0[15], H1[15], H2[15], H3[15], H4[15], H5[15], H6[15], H7[15]

- We will just write to memory H0[0], H0[1] ..., H0[15], a total of **16** words

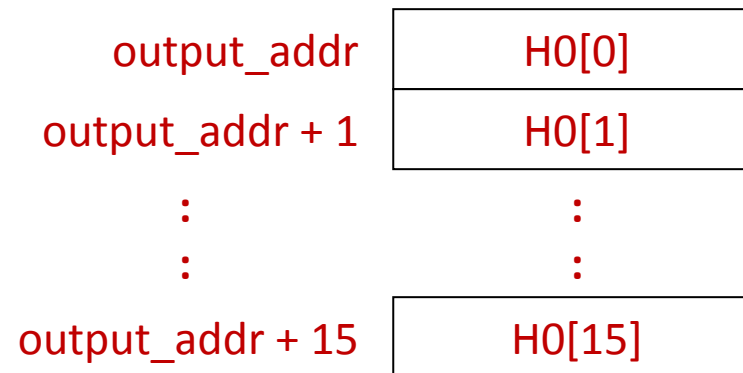
Final Project Module Interface

- Wait in idle state for **start**
- Read **19 word** block header starting at **block_addr**
- Compute final hash for SHA256(SHA256(message)) for **16 nonces**, each message = {block header, nonce}
- Just write final **H0** for each of the **16 nonces** into memory starting at **output_addr**.
- Set **done** to 1 when finished.



Final Project Module Interface

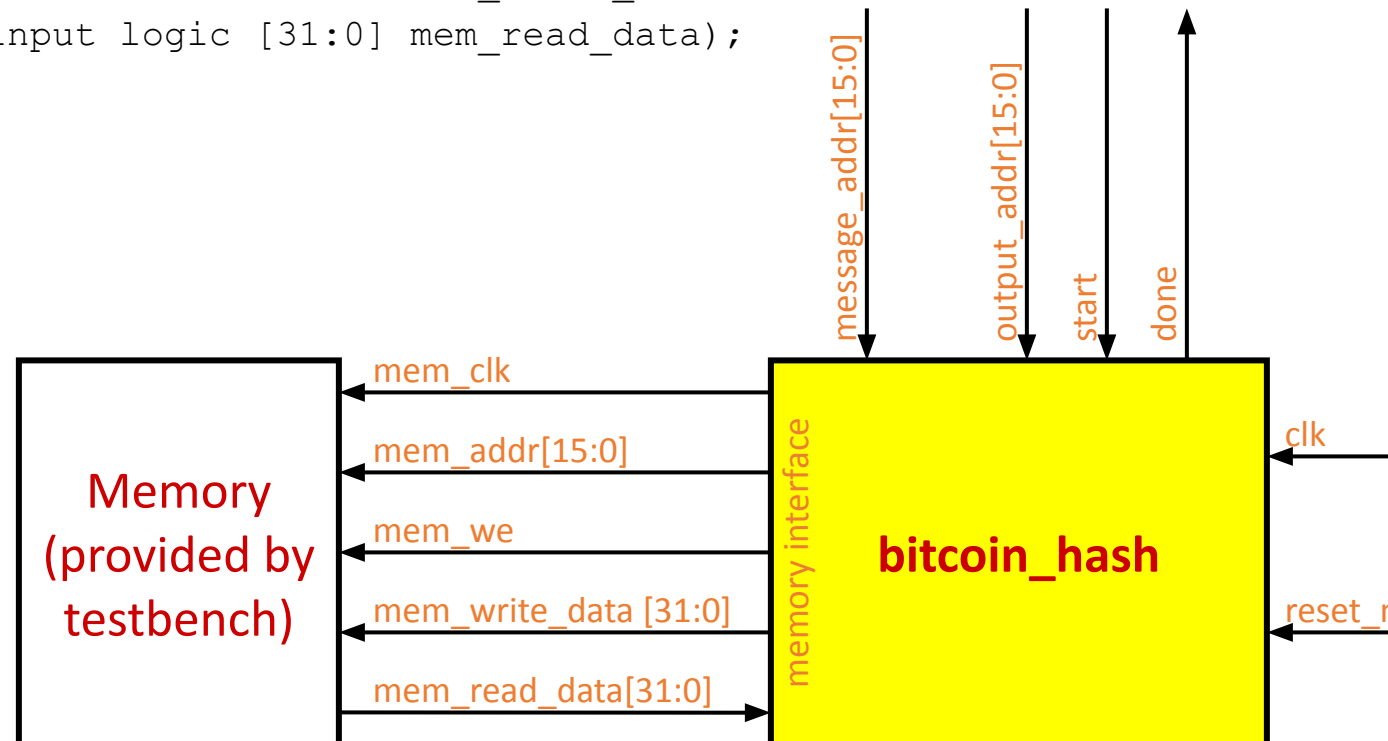
- Write the final hash values for **H0[0], H0[1] ..., H0[15]** in **16 words** to memory starting at **output_addr** as follows:
 - Note : There are 2 blocks for input message, and there is 256-bit (8 words) hash value created for each block hence total (8 words of hash x 2=) 16 words for hash to be stored in memory.



Final Project Module Interface

- Your assignment is to design the yellow box assuming below mentioned primary ports and module name:

```
module bitcoin_hash (input logic clk, reset_n, start,  
                    input logic [15:0] message_addr, output_addr,  
                    output logic done, mem_clk, mem_we,  
                    output logic [15:0] mem_addr,  
                    output logic [31:0] mem_write_data,  
                    input logic [31:0] mem_read_data);  
  
    ...  
endmodule
```



Rough Estimation of Cycles

- **Basic implementation: at least 2147 cycles**

Cycle Count	Step	Comments
19	Read 19 words	
64	Process 1 st block in 1 st SHA256 hash	Same for all 16 nonces
16*64 = 1024	For each nonce, process 2 nd block of 1 st SHA256 hash	
16*64 = 1024	For each nonce, compute 2 nd SHA256 hash	
16	For each nonce, write out H0 (hash value)	

Rough Estimation of Cycles

- **Hide reading: at least 2128 cycles**

Cycle Count	Step	Comments
64	Process 1 st block in 1 st SHA256 hash	19 words read “on-the-fly”. Same for all 16 nonces
16*64 = 1024	For each nonce, process 2 nd block of 1 st SHA256 hash	
16*64 = 1024	For each nonce, compute 2 nd SHA256 hash	
16	For each nonce, write out H0	

No Inferred Megafunctions or Latches

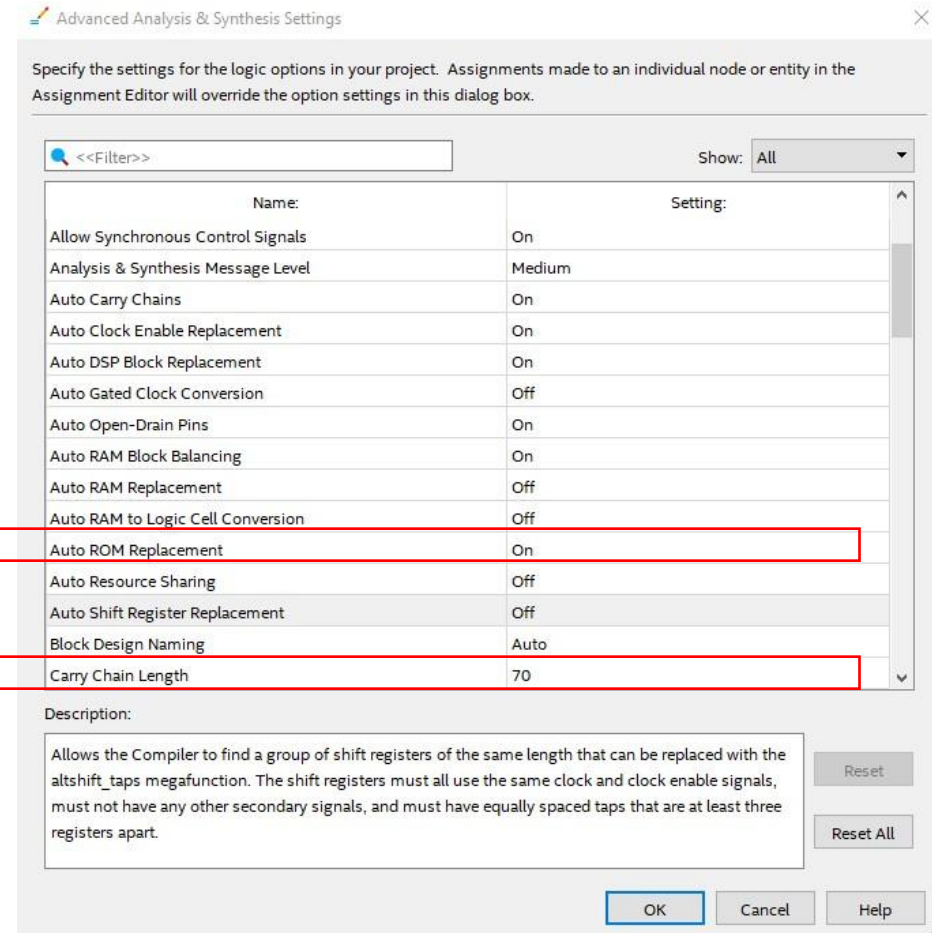
- **In your Quartus compilation message**
 - **No inferred megafunctions:** Most likely caused by block memories or shift-register replacement. Can turn OFF “Automatic RAM Replacement” and “Automatic Shift Register Replacement” in “Advanced Settings (Synthesis)”. If you still see “inferred megafunctions”, contact Professor. Your design will not pass if it has inferred megafunctions.
 - **No inferred latches:** Your design will not pass if it has inferred latches.

No Block Memory Bits

- In your bitcoin_hash.fit it **must** say **Total block memory bits is 0** (otherwise will not pass).

```
+-----+
; Fitter Summary
+-----+
; Fitter Status           ; Successful - Wed May 09 15:37:04 2018 ;
; Quartus Prime Version  ; 17.1.0 Build 590 10/25/2017 SJ Lite Edition ;
; Revision Name           ; bitcoin_hash ;
; Top-level Entity Name  ; bitcoin_hash ;
; Family                  ; Arria II GX ;
; Device                  ; EP2AGX45DF29I5 ;
; Timing Models           ; Final ;
; Logic utilization       ; 8 % ;
;   Combinational ALUTs   ; 2,009 / 36,100 ( 6 % ) ;
;   Memory ALUTs         ; 0 / 18,050 ( 0 % ) ;
;   Dedicated logic registers ; 1,257 / 36,100 ( 3 % ) ;
; Total registers        ; 1257 ;
; Total pins              ; 118 / 404 ( 29 % ) ;
; Total virtual pins      ; 0 ;
; Total block memory bits ; 0 / 2,939,904 ( 0 % ) ;
; DSP block 18-bit elements ; 0 / 232 ( 0 % ) ;
```

- If not, go to “Assignments→Settings” in Quartus, go to “Compiler Settings”, click “Advanced Settings (Synthesis)”
- Turn OFF “Auto RAM Replacement” and “Auto Shift Register Replacement”



Final Project Submission

- **Put following files into (LastName, FirstName)_(LastName, FirstName)_finalproject.zip**
 - Both design files and also testbench code for both SHA256 and Bitcoin hashing project
 - Modelsim transcript files msim_transcript for both SHA256 and Bitcoin hashing project
 - Only for bitcoin hashing provide, bitcoin_hash.fit, bitcoin_hash.sta files
 - Report for both SHA256 and Bitcoin hashing project
 - Finalssummary.xls file with fmax, number of cycles, aluts, registers detail filled. Template of this file is provided as part of Final_Project.zip folder.

- **Final report should including following mentioned :**
 - Explain briefly what SHA-256 is and bitcoin hashing (may use lecture slide contents)
 - Describe algorithm for both SHA-256 and Bitcoin hashing implemented in your code
 - Simulation waveform snapshot for both SHA-256 and Bitcoin hashing
 - Provide modelsim transcript window output indicating passing test results generated from self-checker in testbench for both SHA-256 and Bitcoin hashing
 - Provide synthesis resource usage and timing report for bitcoin_hash only.
 - Should include ALUTs, Registers, Area, Fmax snapshots
 - Provide fitter report snapshot
 - Provide Timing Fmax report snapshots
 - Make sure to use **Arria II GX EP2AGX45DF29I5** device and use Fmax for **Slow 900mV 100C Mod**

Fill up finalsummary.xlsx

- Fill up finalsummary.xlsx posted on Piazza as part of Final_Project.zip (to be filled for bitcoin_hash project only)

Last Name	First Name	Student ID	SectionId	Email	Compiler Settings	#ALUTs	#Registers	Area	Fmax (MHz)	#Cycles	Delay (microsec)	Area*Delay (millisec*area)
SMITH	ROBERT BENJAMIN	A12345678	925042	r.smith@ucsd.edu	balanced	31607	20932	52539	134.01	242	1.806	94.877
JONES	ALICE MARIE	A23456789	925044	a.jones@ucsd.edu	balanced	31607	20932	52539	134.01	242	1.806	94.877

- If you worked alone, just fill out one row
- Spreadsheet already contains calculation fields: e.g. Area = #ALUTs + #Registers. Please use them.
- Students to fill ALUTs, Registers, Fmax and Cycles column in excel sheet.
- #cycles will be generated for your design from testbench code.
- Make sure to use **Arria II GX EP2AGX45DF29I5** device
- Make sure to use Fmax for **Slow 900mV 100C Model**
- Make sure to use **Total number of cycles**
- **Note : Best Fmax with area will be considered as one of the grading point for bitcoin hashing project.**

bitcoin_hash.fit Fitter Report

- Copy of the **fitter reports** (not the flow report) with area numbers.
- Make sure to use **Arria II GX EP2AGX45DF29I5** device
- **IMPORTANT:** Make sure **Total block memory bits is 0.**

```
+-----+
; Fitter Summary
+-----+
; Fitter Status           ; Successful - Wed May 09 15:37:04 2018
; Quartus Prime Version  ; 17.1.0 Build 590 10/25/2017 SJ Lite Edition
; Revision Name           ; bitcoin_hash
; Top-level Entity Name   ; bitcoin_hash
; Family                  ; Arria II GX
; Device                  ; EP2AGX45DF29I5
; Timing Models           ; Final
; Logic utilization       ; 8 %
;   Combinational ALUTs   ; 2,009 / 36,100 ( 6 % )
;   Memory ALUTs         ; 0 / 18,050 ( 0 % )
;   Dedicated logic registers ; 1,257 / 36,100 ( 3 % )
; Total registers        ; 1257
; Total pins             ; 118 / 404 ( 29 % )
; Total virtual pins     ; 0
; Total block memory bits ; 0 / 2,939,904 ( 0 % )
; DSP block 18-bit elements ; 0 / 232 ( 0 % )
; Total GXB Receiver Channel PCS ; 0 / 8 ( 0 % )
; Total GXB Receiver Channel PMA ; 0 / 8 ( 0 % )
; Total GXB Transmitter Channel PCS ; 0 / 8 ( 0 % )
; Total GXB Transmitter Channel PMA ; 0 / 8 ( 0 % )
; Total PLLs             ; 0 / 4 ( 0 % )
; Total DLLs             ; 0 / 2 ( 0 % )
+-----+
```

bitcoin_hash.sta

- Copy of the sta (static timing analysis) reports.
- Make sure to use Fmax for **Slow 900mV 100C Model**
- **IMPORTANT:** Make sure “clk” is the ONLY clock.
- You must,
 assign mem_clk = clk;
- Your bitcoin_hash.sta.rpt must show “clk” is the only clock.

```
+-----+  
; Slow 900mV 100C Model Fmax Summary  
+-----+  
; Fmax      ; Restricted Fmax ; Clock Name ; Note ;  
+-----+  
; 151.95 MHz ; 151.95 MHz      ; clk      ;  
+-----+
```

Tips

- **Many possible implementations, so no single “right way”.**
- **In FSM code, combined always block for sequential and combination logic using non-blocking assignments should be used**
- **Good rule of thumb is to make your code easy to read.**
 - If there are too many nested if-then-else such that the code is hard to read, try to simplify the code as it tends to lead to better implementations.
 - Minimizing the number of states is not necessarily good if it means that you have to add many if-then-else to effectively recreate the same next-state logic.
- **Add comments before each block of code explaining what it is trying to achieve**

Tips

- Debug your design first with a smaller NUM_NONCES. e.g., by changing the NUM_NONCES parameter in testbench and your design to NUM_NONCES = 1 or NUM_NONCES = 2

```
Testbench

module tb_bitcoin_hash();

  parameter NUM_NONCES = 16
  :
  Initial
  begin
    :
    $stop;
  end
  :
endmodule
```

```
Your Design

module bitcoin_hash(input logic clk, reset_n ...);

  parameter NUM_NONCES = 16
  :
  always_ff @(posedge clk, negedge reset_n)
  begin
    if (!reset_n) begin
      :
    end else case (state)
      :
    endcase
  end
endmodule
```

Can change this
parameter to try
smaller design

Implementing Parallelism

- Can implement “vectorization” like this (effectively doing SIMD execution like a GPU).

```
parameter NUM_NONCES = 16

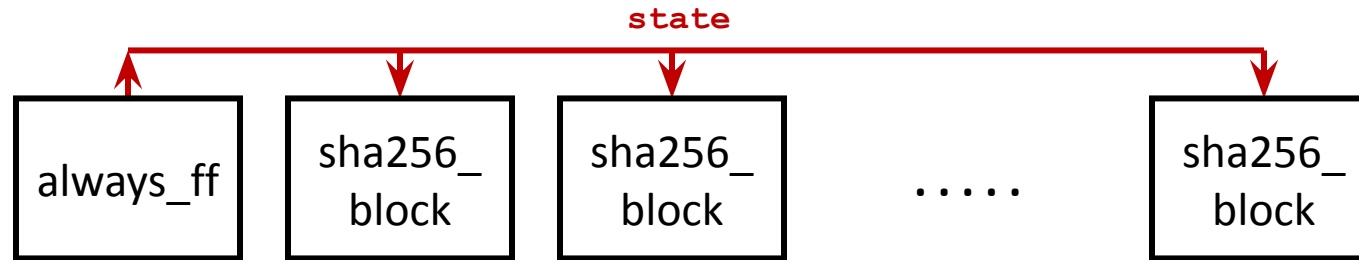
logic [31:0] A[NUM_NONCES], B[NUM_NONCES], ..., H[NUM_NONCES];

always_ff @(posedge clk, negedge reset_n)
begin
    if (!reset_n) begin
        ...
    end else case (state)
        IDLE:
            ...
        COMPUTE: begin
            ...
            for (int n = 0; n < NUM_NONCES; n++) begin
                {A[n], B[n], ..., H[n]} <= sha256_op(A[n], B[n], ..., H[n], ...);
            end
            ...
        end
        ...
    endcase
end
```

- This will create 16 sets of A, B, ... H registers and 16 sets of logic for sha256_op, but under the same state machine control.

Implementing Parallelism

- Can also use module instantiation to create multiple instances of the SHA256 unit.



```
parameter NUM_NONCES = 16

// INSTANTIATE SHA256 MODULES
genvar q;
generate
    for (q = 0; q < NUM_NONCES; q++) begin : generate_sha256_blocks
        sha256_block block (
            .clk(clk),
            .reset_n(reset_n),
            .state(state),
            .mem_read_data(mem_read_data),
            ...);
    end
endgenerate

always_ff @(posedge clk, negedge reset_n)
begin
    ...
end
```

Optimization in Quartus

- In practice, these modes don't always do what you want, so wait until the end to try out different optimization modes.

Optimization mode	Description
Balanced	Optimizes synthesis for balanced implementation that respects timing constraints.
Performance (High effort - increases runtime)	Makes high effort to optimize synthesis for speed performance. High effort increases synthesis run time.
Performance (Aggressive - increases runtime and area)	Makes aggressive effort to optimize synthesis for speed performance. Aggressive effort increases synthesis run time and device resource use.
Power (High effort - increases runtime)	Makes high effort to optimize synthesis for low power. High effort increases synthesis run time.
Power (Aggressive - increases runtime, reduces performance)	Makes aggressive effort to optimize synthesis for low power. Aggressive effort increases synthesis time and reduces speed performance.
Area (Aggressive - reduces performance)	Makes aggressive effort to reduce the device area required to implement the design.

Some Possible & Median Results

- Targeting Delay Only: effectively create 16 SHA256 units to work in parallel
- Targeting Area*Delay: effectively use one SHA256 unit to enumerate 16 nonces

	Possible Delay Only	Median Delay Only	Possible Area*Delay	Median Area*Delay
#ALUTs	25,201	31,607	1,627	1,525
#Registers	19,432	20,932	1,230	2,076
Area	44,633	52,539	2,857	3,601
Fmax (Mhz)	182.55	134.01	179.21	151.92
#Cycles	225	242	2,201	2,252
Delay (microsecs)	1.233	1.806	12.282	14.821
Area*Delay (millisec*area)	55.012	94.877	35.089	53.369