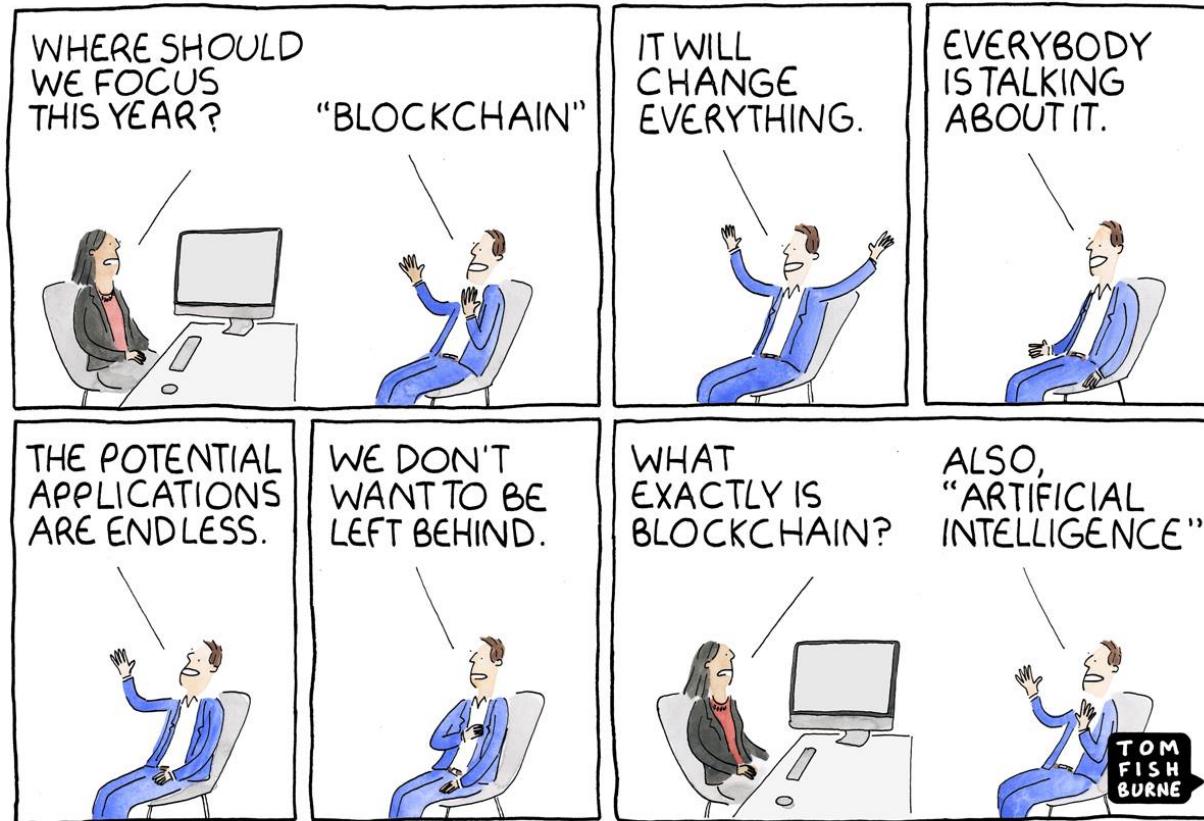




Deconstructing Blockchains: Concepts, Systems and Applications

INTRODUCTION

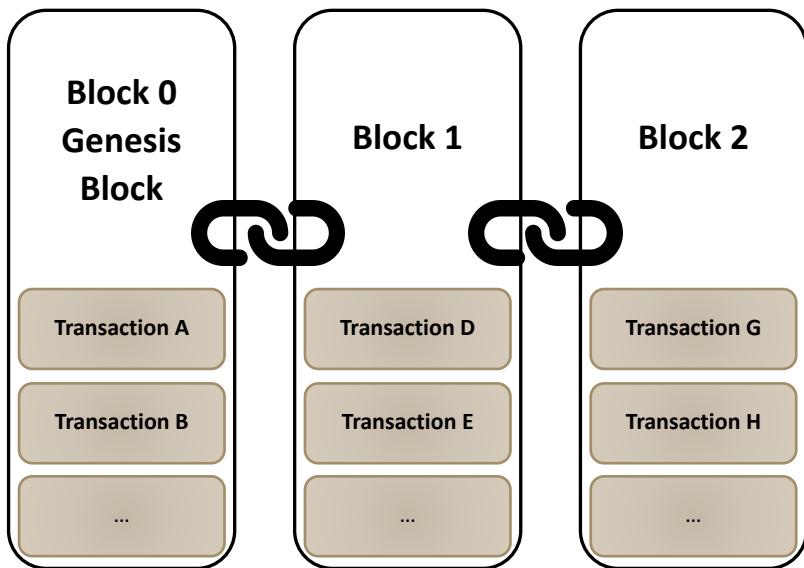
Understanding Blockchains



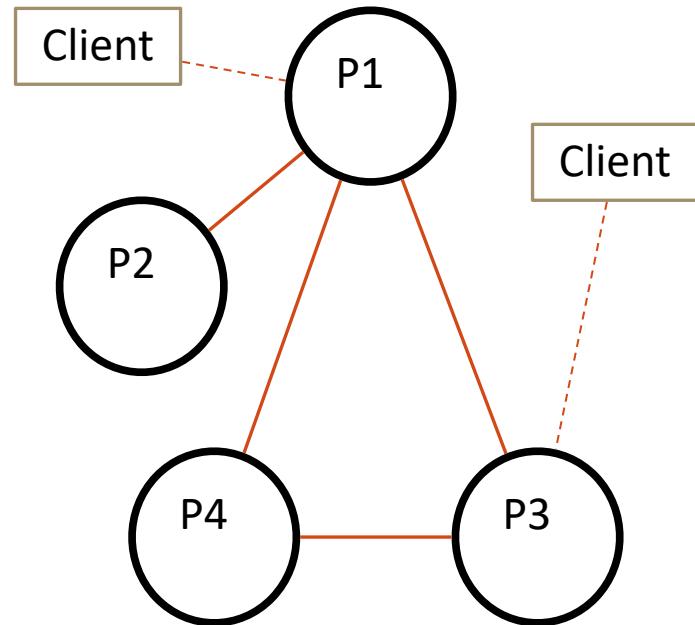
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Blockchain 101: Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)

Blockchain Data Structure

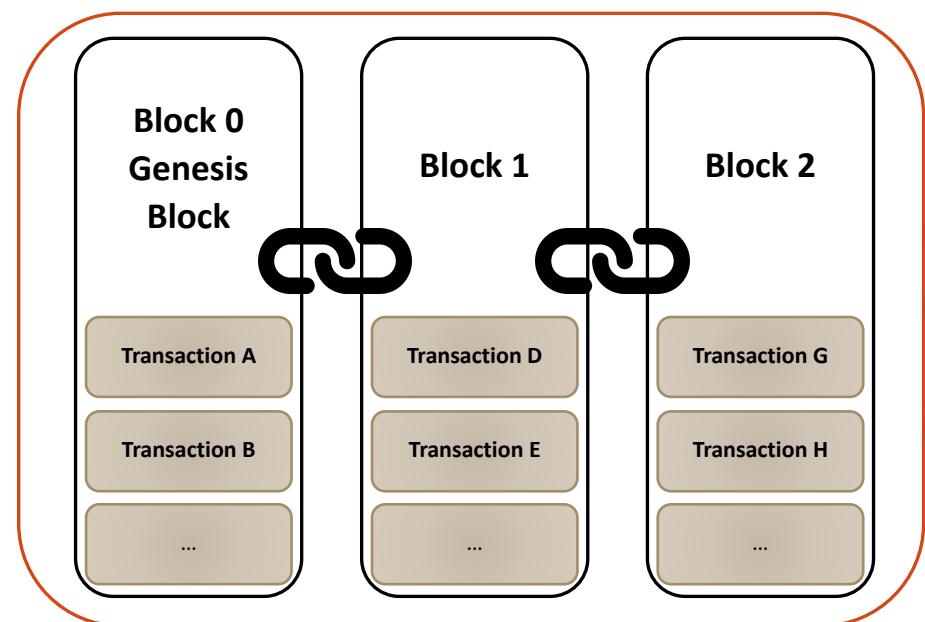


Peer-to-Peer Network

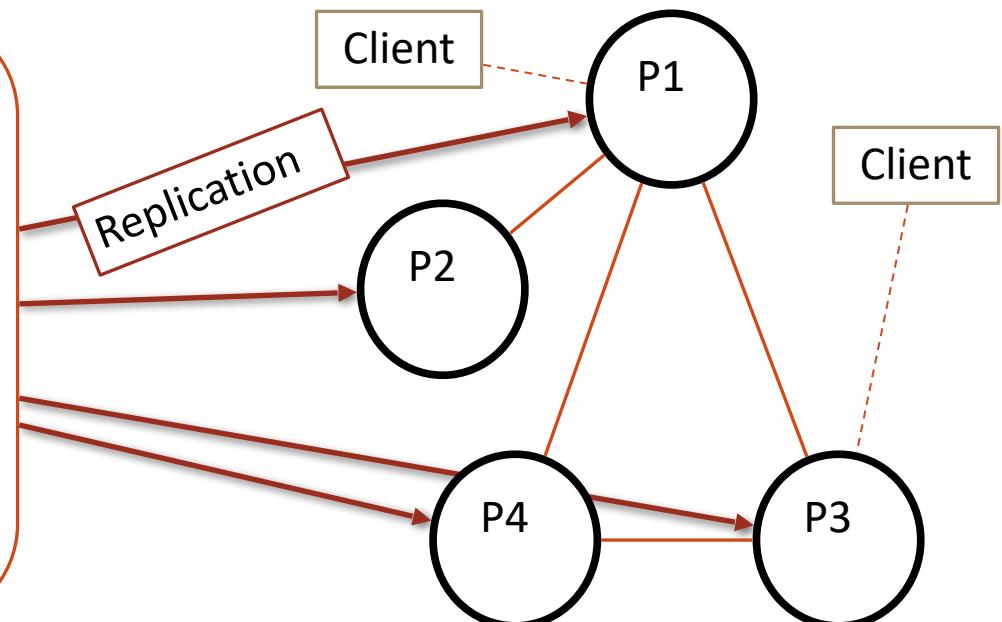


Blockchain 101: Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)

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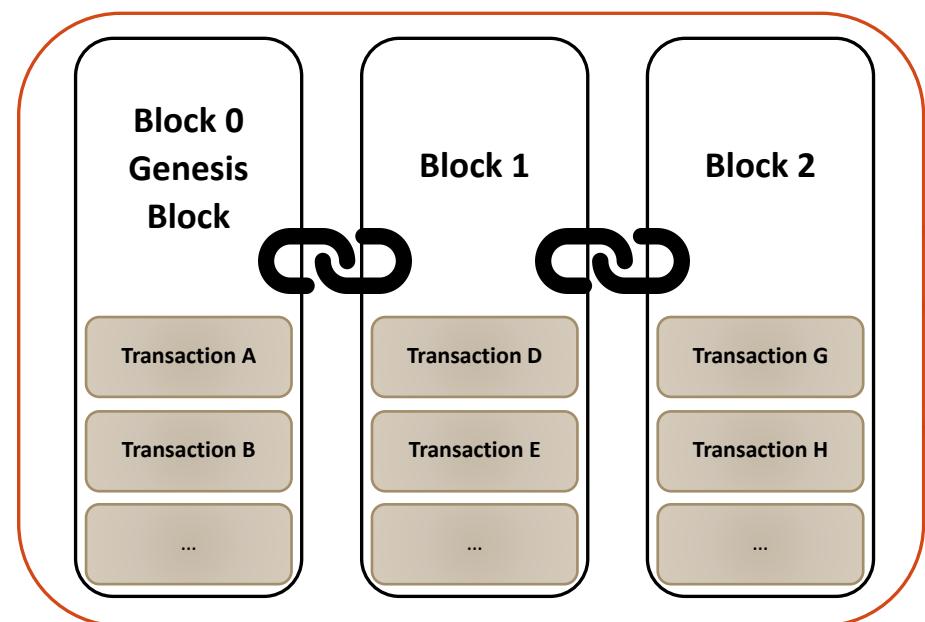


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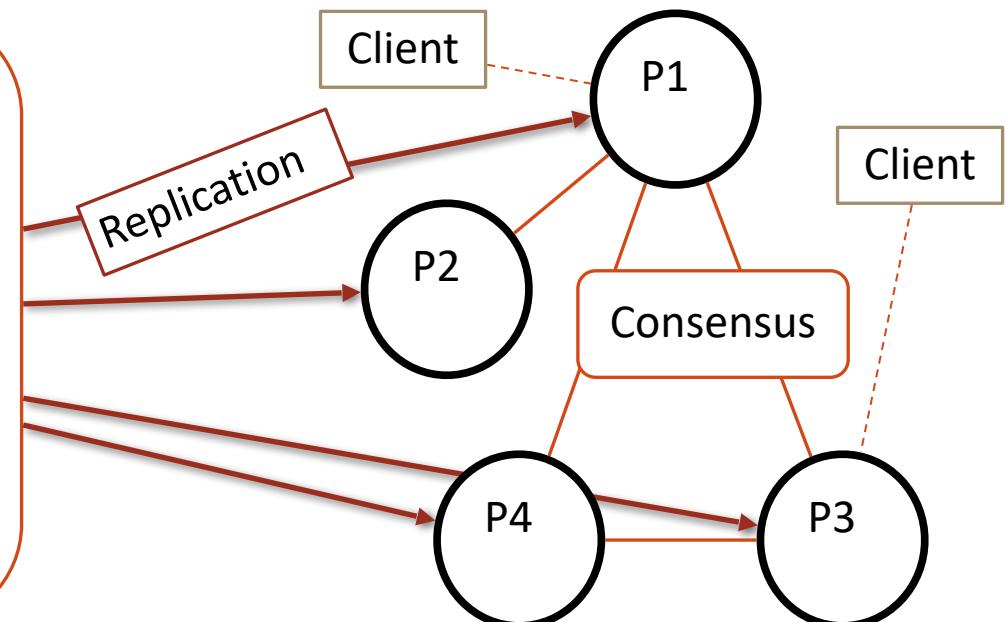


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Blockchain Data Structure

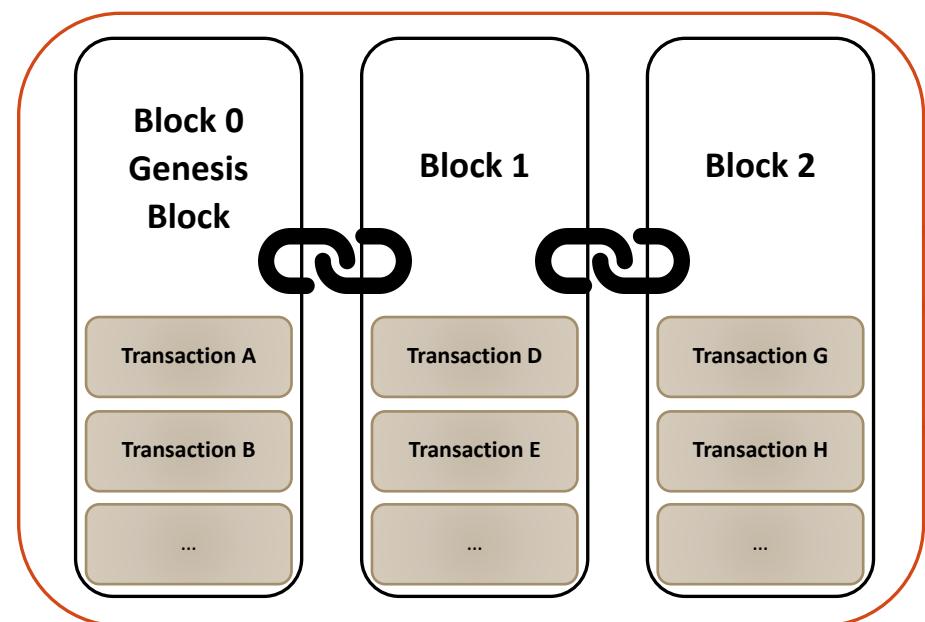


Peer-to-Peer Network

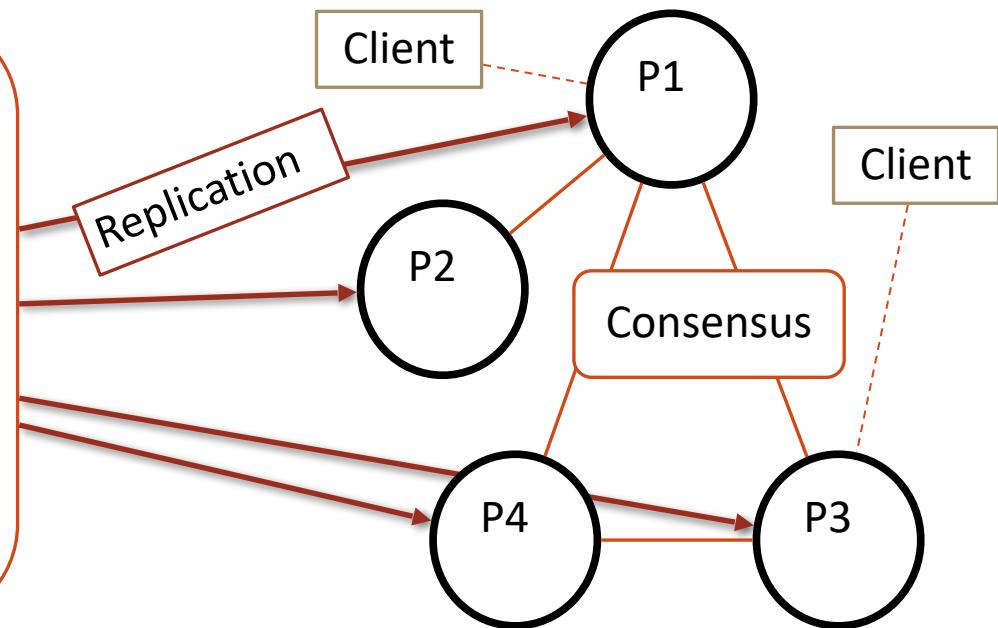


Blockchain 101: Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)

Blockchain Data Structure



Peer-to-Peer Network



Cryptography is used to...

*...encrypt data, prevent modification, insert new blocks, execute transactions, and query...
the distributed ledger*

Comparison with Databases

	Single Machine DBMSs	Distributed Databases		
		OLTP	OLAP	
Logically centralized (Single entity)	MySQL, Oracle, DB2, ...	NewSQL: Spanner, VoltDB, ...	Distributed SQL data warehouses	Relational
		NoSQL: Hbase, Cassandra, ...	Hadoop, MapReduce	Non-relational
Decentralized (Public/Private)		Distributed Ledgers (DLT)		Blockchain

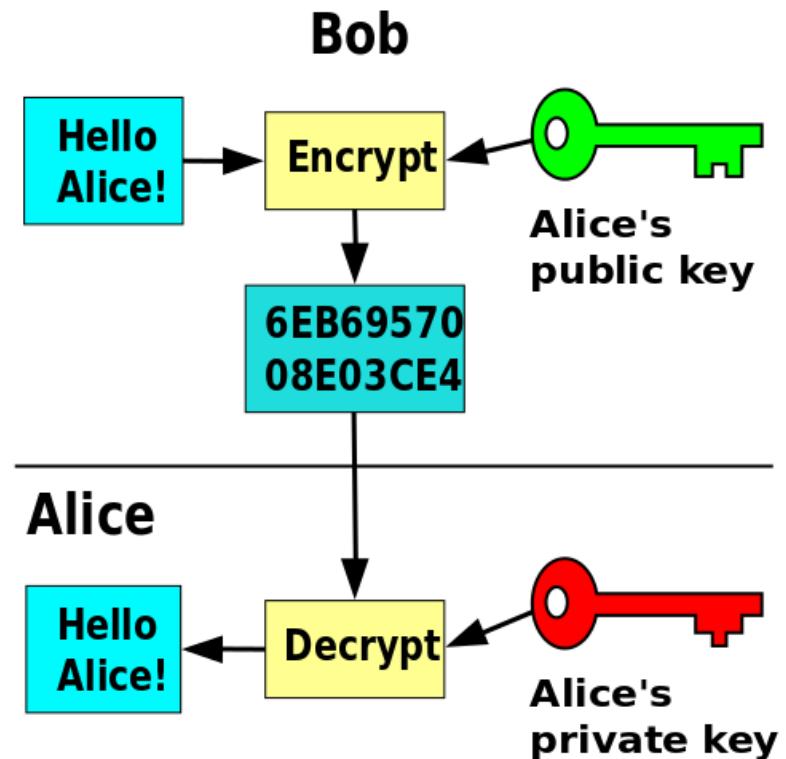
Comparison with Databases

	Single Machine DBMSs	Distributed Databases		
		OLTP	OLAP	
Logically centralized (Single entity)	MySQL, Oracle, DB2, PostgreSQL, Microsoft SQL Server	The key distinction is the use of <i>cryptography</i> to enable operation in a decentralized trustless environment.	SQL databases	Relational
Decentralized (Public/Private)		Distributed Ledgers (DLT)		Blockchain

Public Key Cryptography

(Asymmetrical Cryptography)

- Recipient's **public key** is used to **encrypt** the plaintext to ciphertext
- Recipient's **private key** to **decrypt** the ciphertext to original plaintext
- **No one can use the public key to decrypt the ciphertext to plaintext**



Outline

What?

- Concepts: Mining, proof-of-work, smart contracts
- Case studies: Bitcoin, Ethereum, Hyperledger

Why?

- Blockchain applications
- Why study blockchains?

How?

- The six layers of blockchain systems
- Research directions



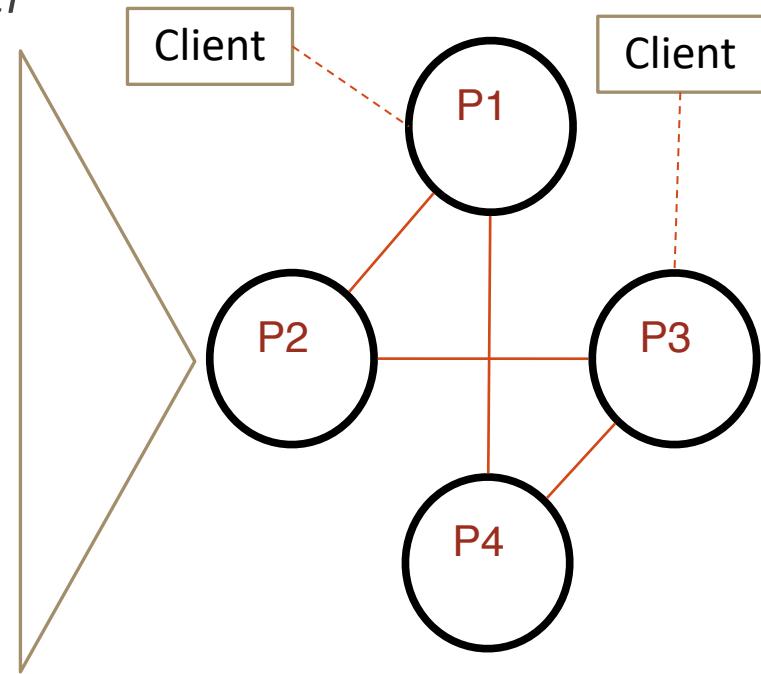
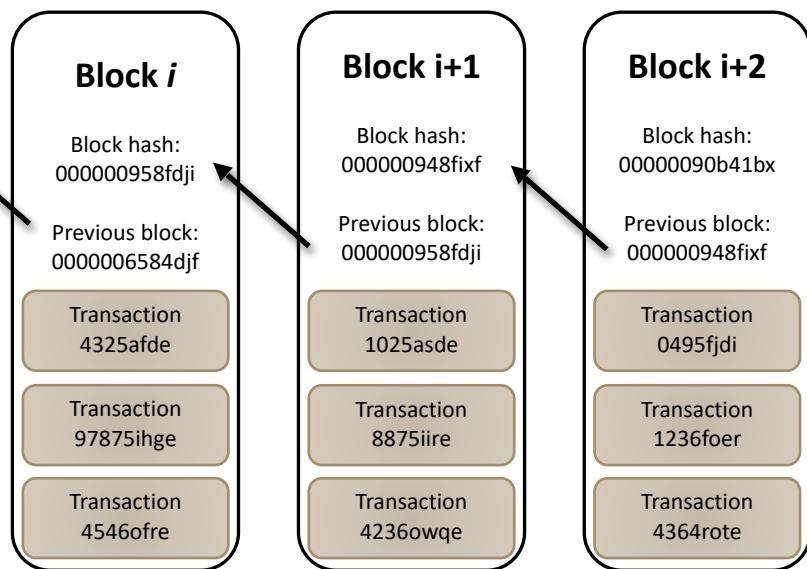
What is a Blockchain?

*A blockchain-based **distributed ledger** is:*

- ✓ An **append-only** log storing transactions
- ✓ Fully **replicated** across a large number of peers (called miners)
- ✓ Comprised of **immutable** blocks of data
- ✓ Deterministically verifiable (using the *blockchain* data structure)
- ✓ Able to execute transactions **programmatically** (e.g., Bitcoin transactions and smart contracts)
- ✓ Fully **decentralized**, does not rely on a third party for trust

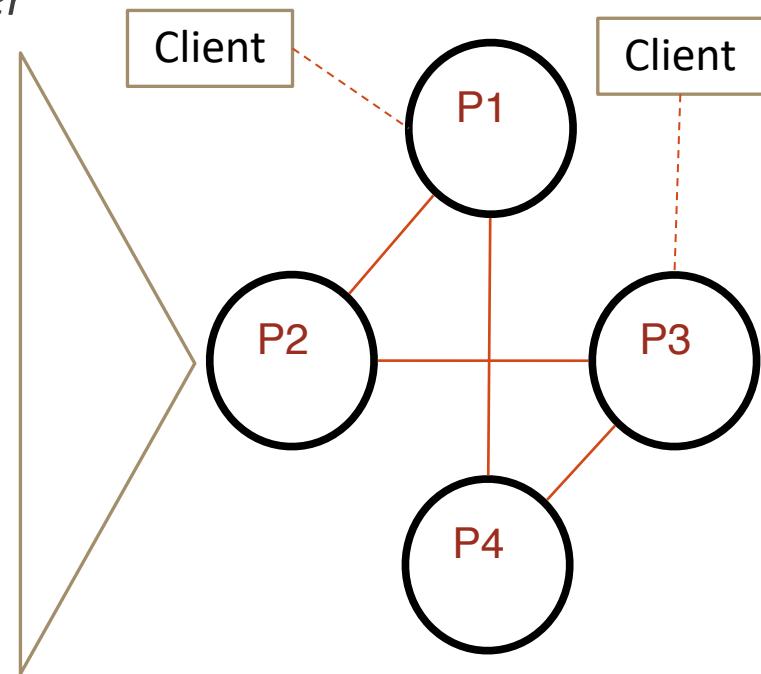
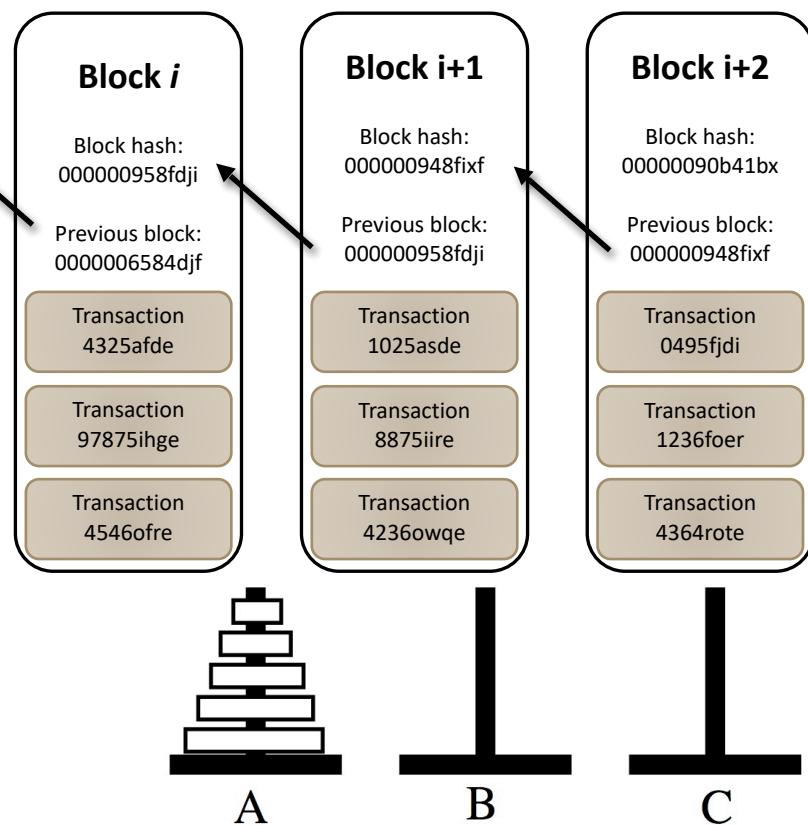
Immutability using Hashing

Blockchain data structure maintained at every peer



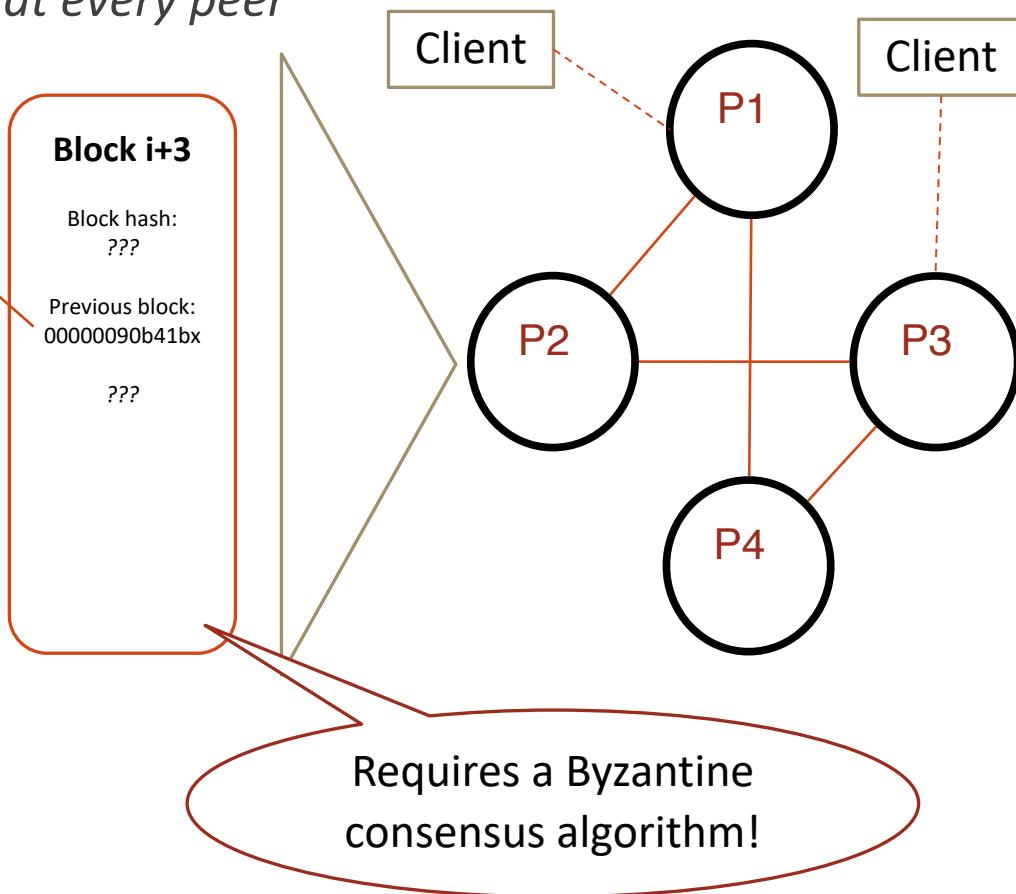
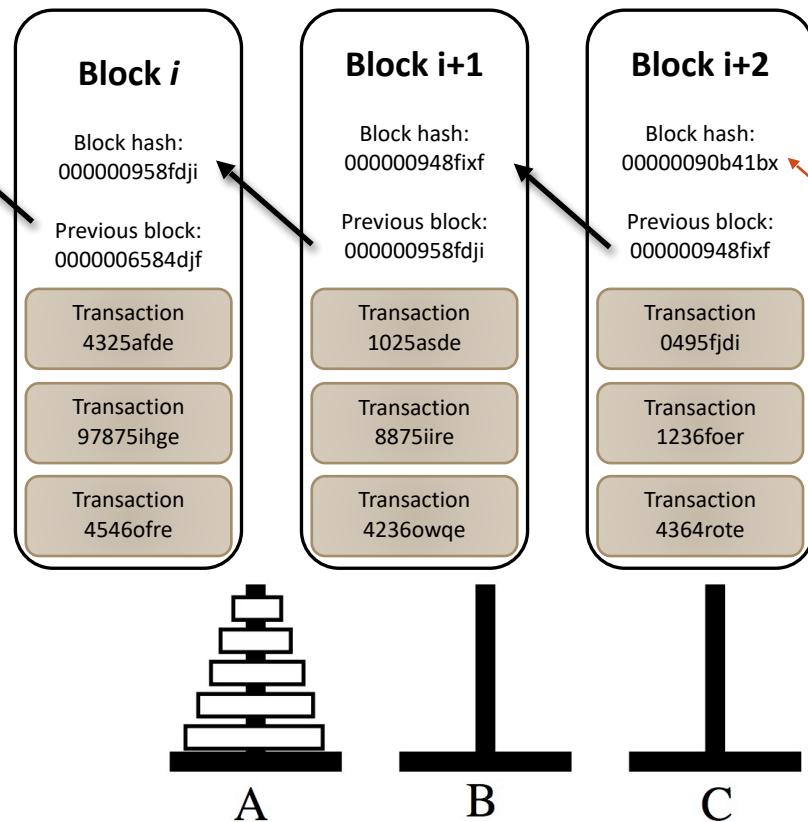
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Immutability using Hashing

Blockchain data structure maintained at every peer





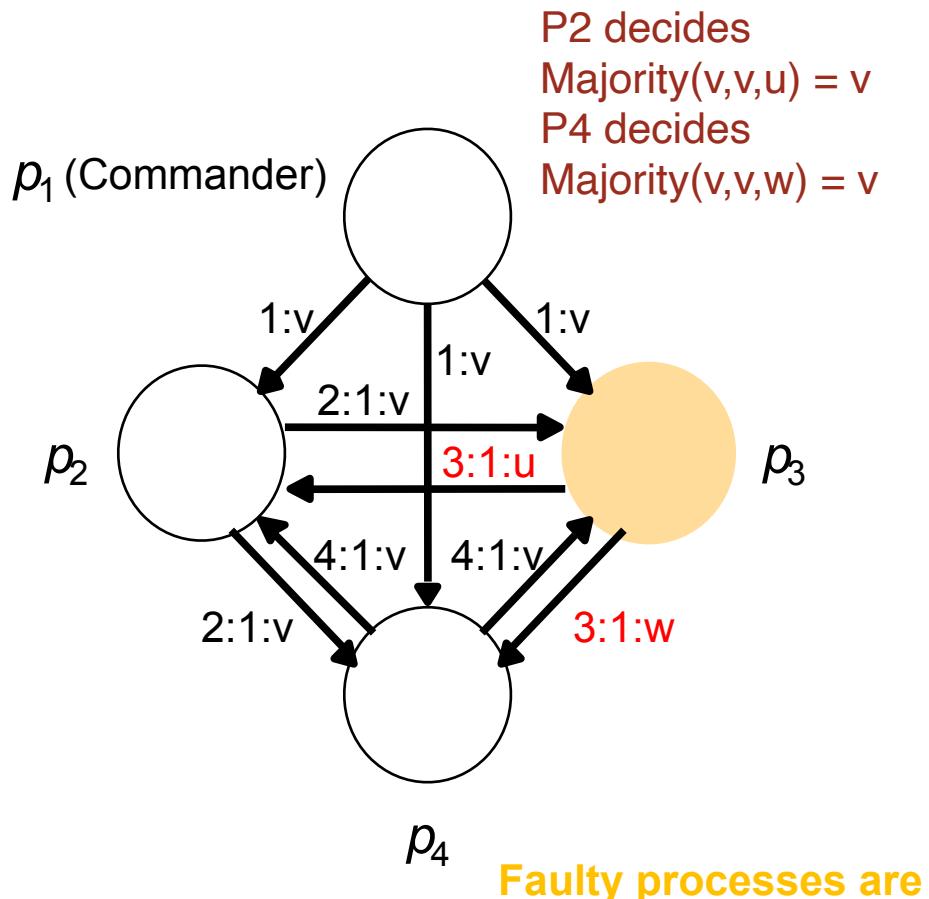
Deconstructing Blockchains: Concepts, Systems and Applications

BACKGROUND: BYZANTINE GENERALS PROBLEM

Origin: Byzantine Generals

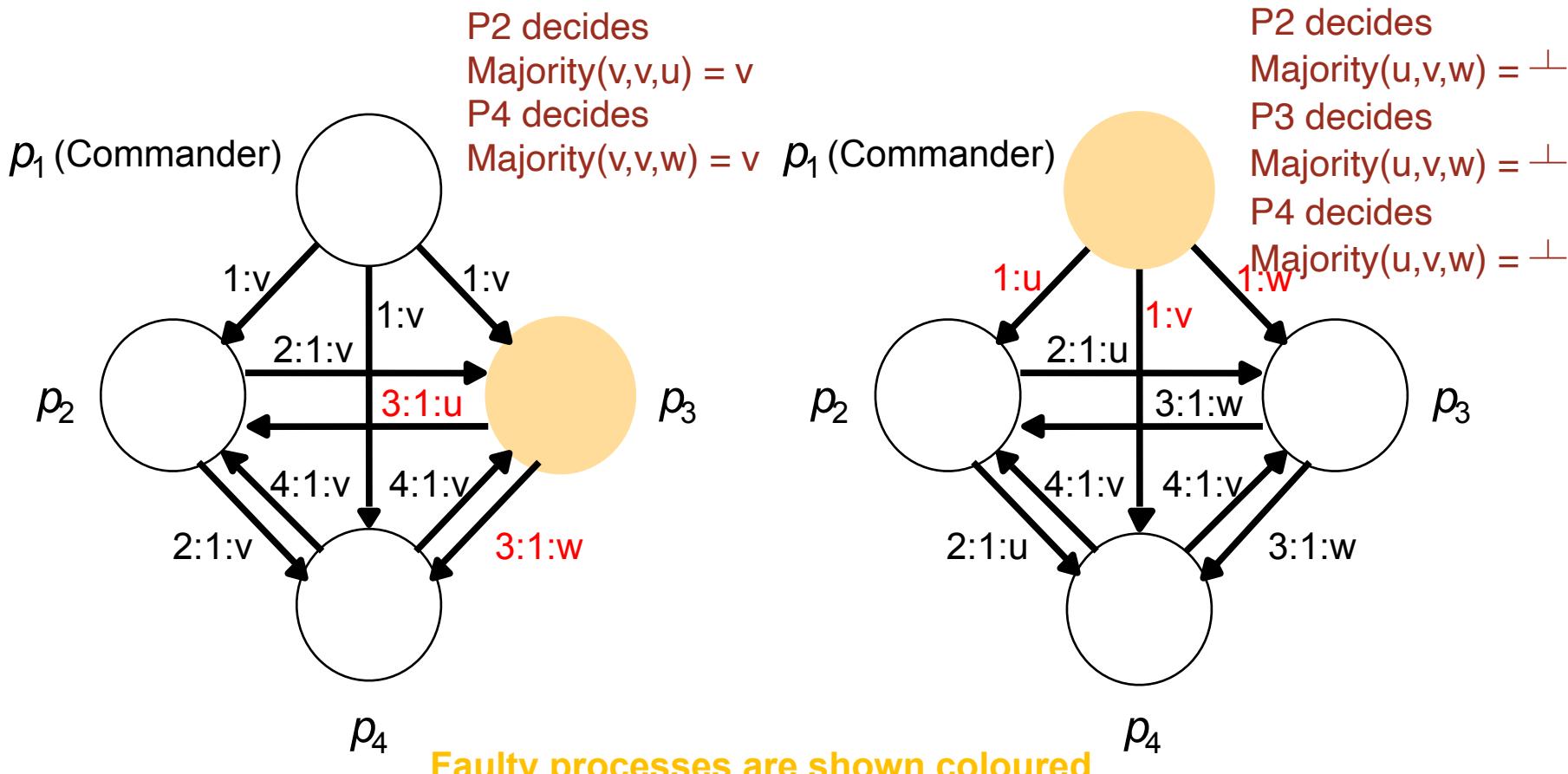
- Devised by Lamport, 1982; a model and thought experiment
- A *distinguished process* (the **commander**) proposes initial value (e.g., “attack”, “retreat”)
- Other processes, the **lieutenants**, *communicate the commander’s value*
- *Malicious processes* can lie about the value (i.e., *are faulty*)
- *Correct processes* report the truth (i.e., *are correct*)
- Commander or lieutenants may be faulty
- **Consensus** means
 - If the commander is correct, then correct processes should agree on commander’s proposed value
 - If the commander is faulty, then all correct processes agree on a value (*any value, could be the faulty commander’s value!*)

3f+1 Condition (1 failure, 4 nodes)



Source: Tanenbaum, Steen.

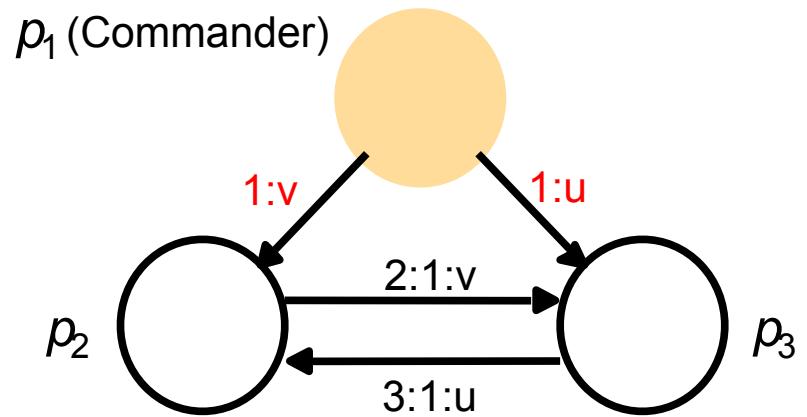
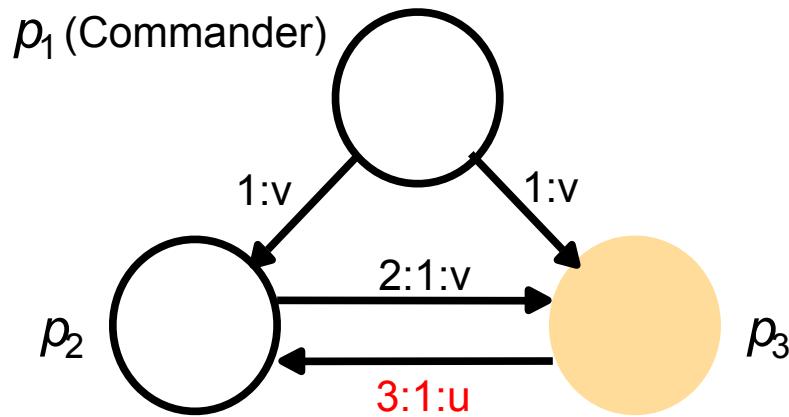
3f+1 Condition (1 failure, 4 nodes)



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Counter-Example

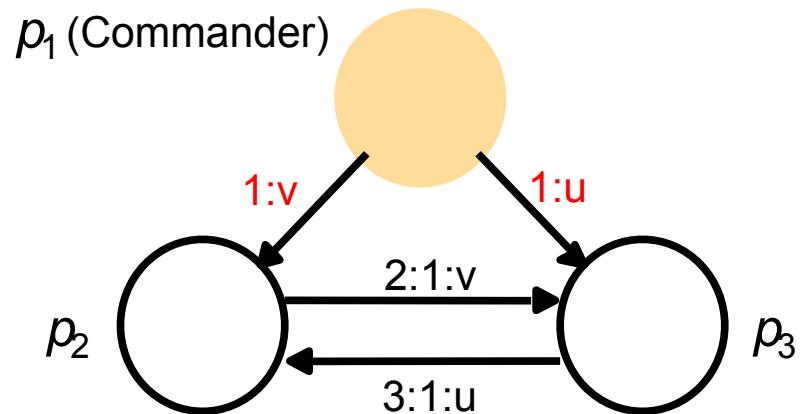
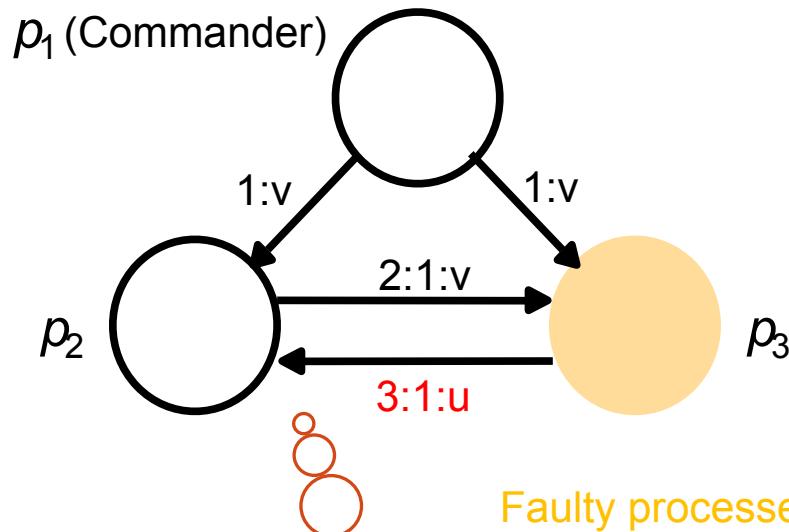
(1 failure, 3 nodes)



Faulty processes are shown coloured

Counter-Example

(1 failure, 3 nodes)

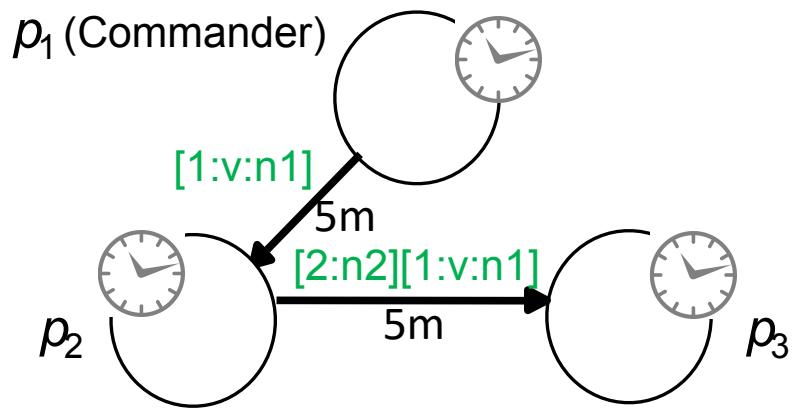


Faulty processes are shown coloured

Trust commander or p_3 ?
 Can't tell the difference
 between both situations!

With Blockchains

(Proof-of-Work – Thought Experiment)



Idea #1:

Each message takes exactly 5 minutes to create by any process. ("Magic Block")



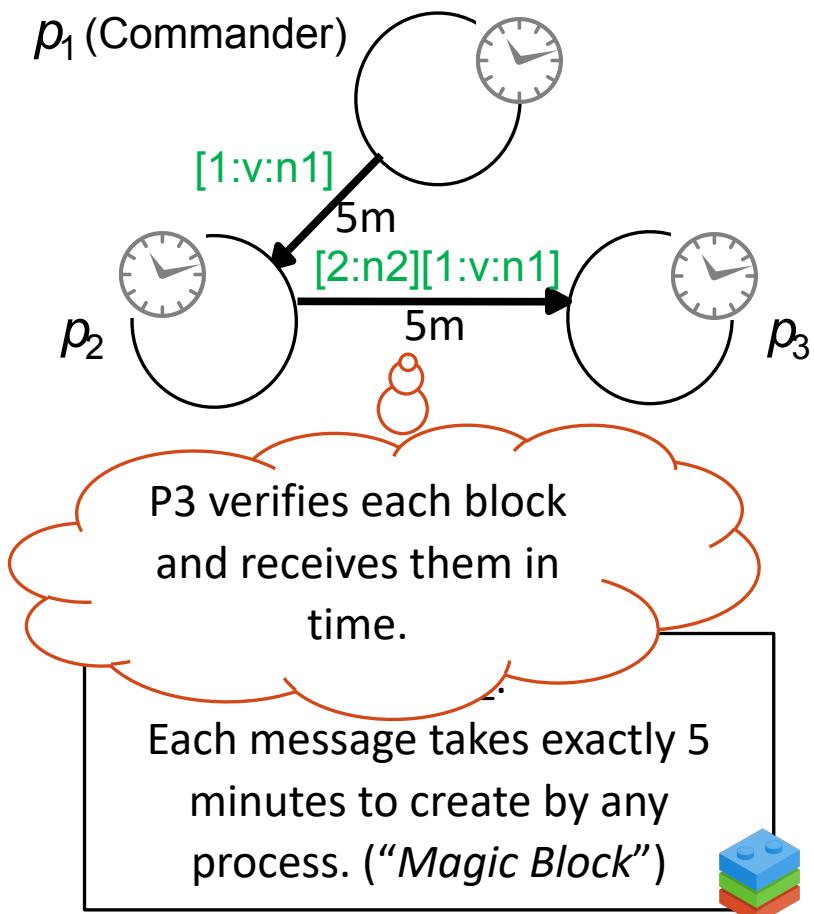
Idea #2:

Each process can accurately measure the amount of time taken by a process to create a message. ("Magic Watch")



With Blockchains

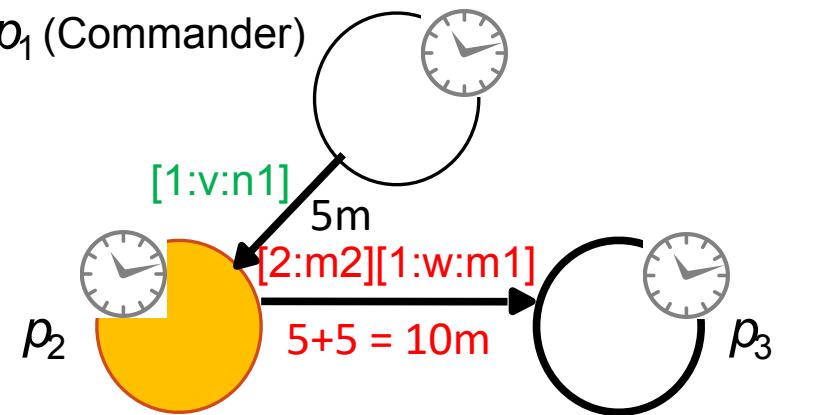
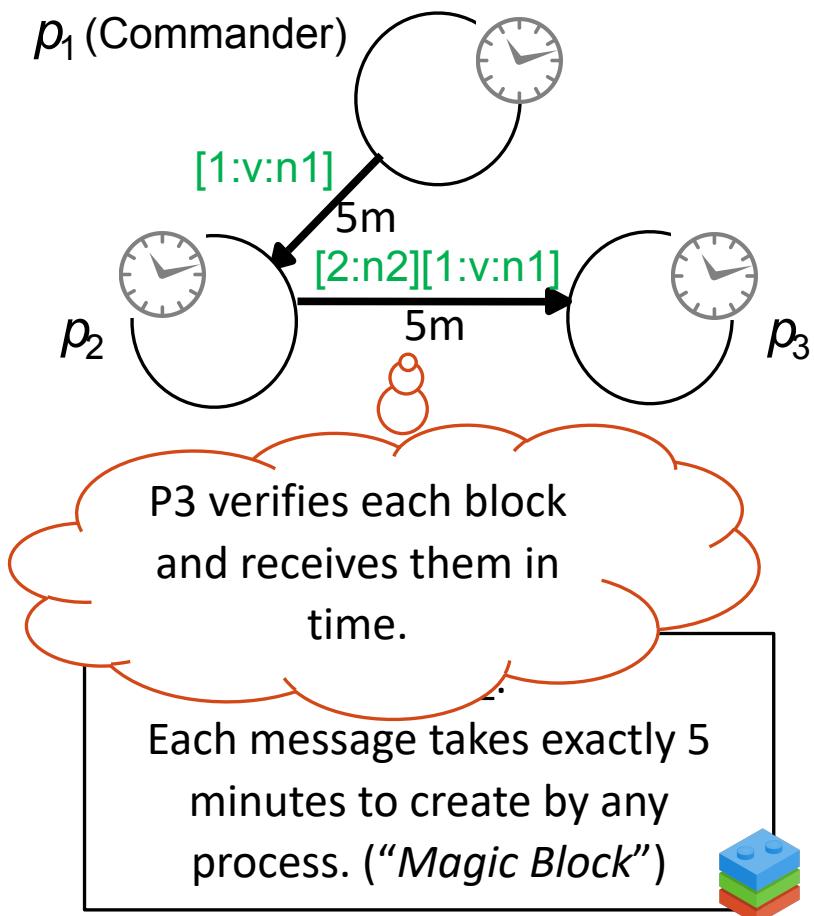
(Proof-of-Work – Thought Experiment)



Idea #2:
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With Blockchains (Proof-of-Work – Thought Experiment)

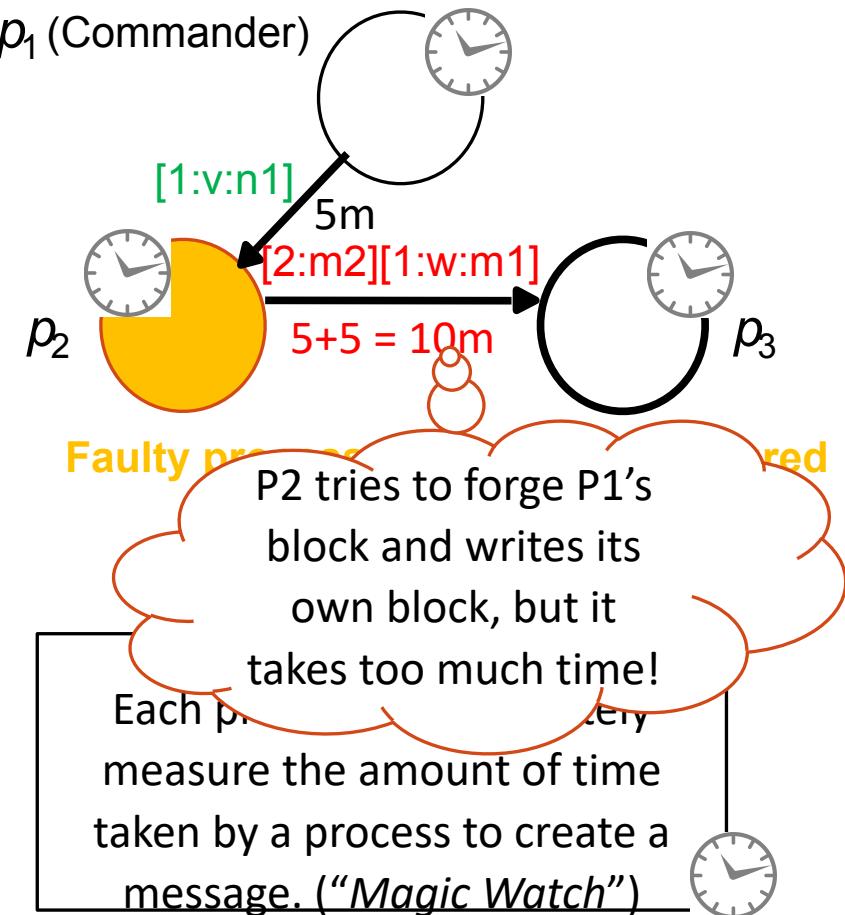
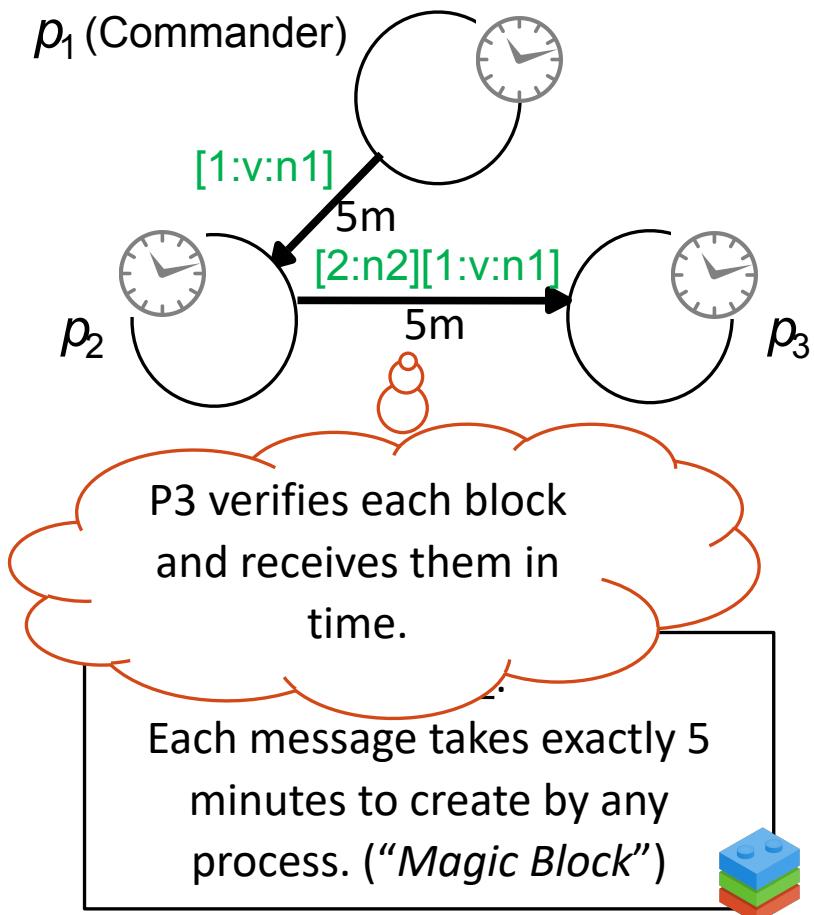


Idea #2:

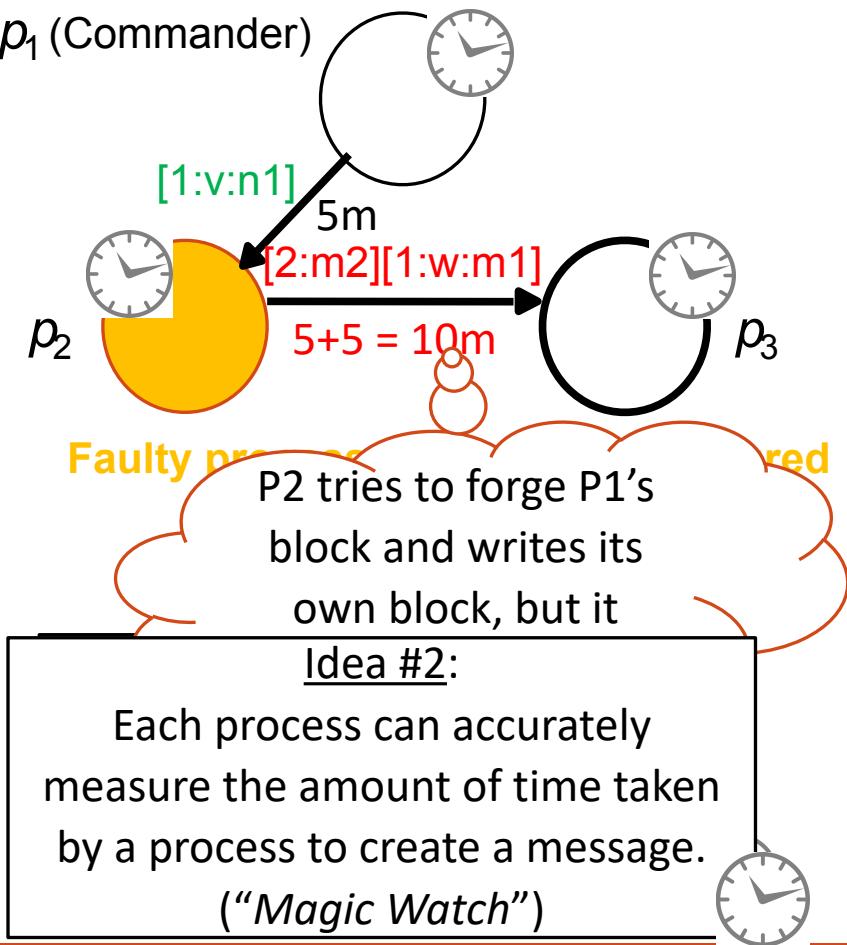
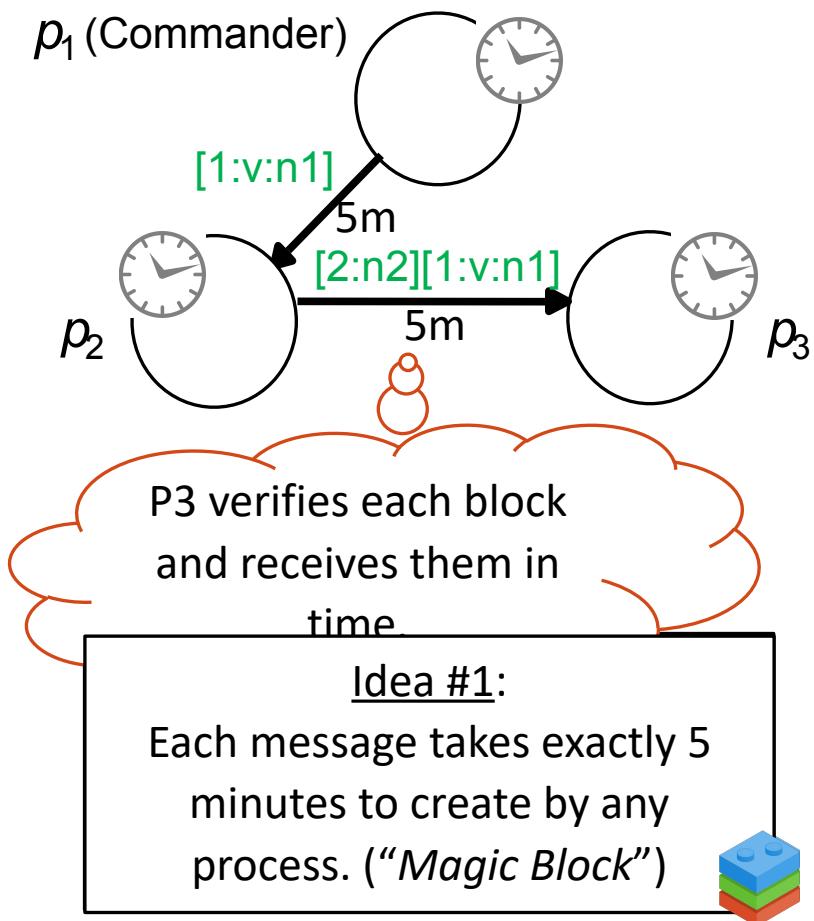
Each process can accurately measure the amount of time taken by a process to create a message. ("Magic Watch")

With Blockchains

(Proof-of-Work – Thought Experiment)



With Blockchains (Proof-of-Work – Thought Experiment)

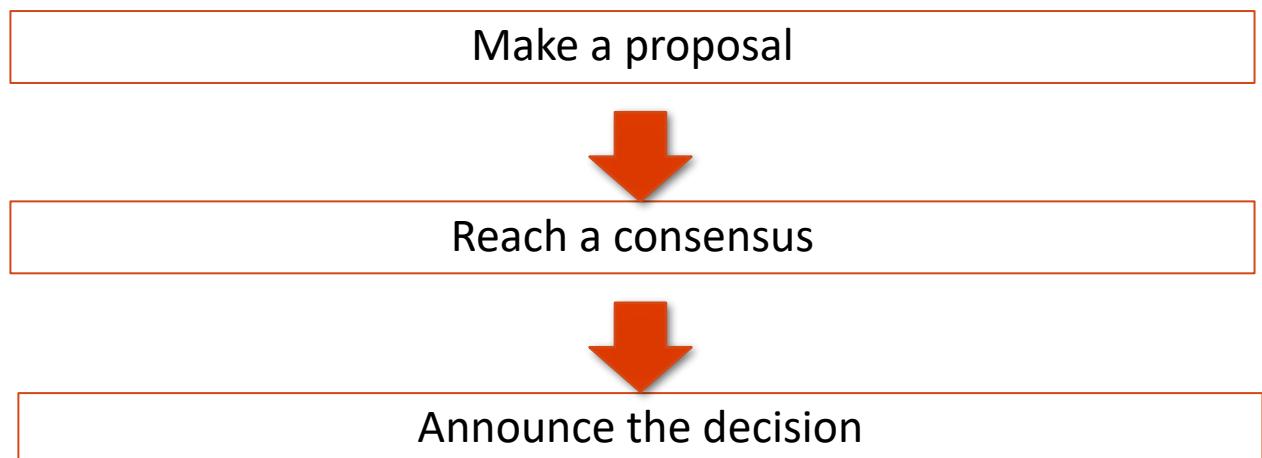


Consensus in the Bitcoin Blockchain

The peers need to agree on

- Which recently broadcast transactions go into the blockchain
- In what order they go into a block

The general anatomy of consensus:



Consensus in the Bitcoin Blockchain

The peers need to agree on

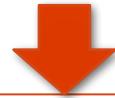
- Which recently broadcast transactions go into the blockchain
- In what order they go into a block

The general anatomy of consensus:

Tough problem

- Dozens of **impossibility results** since 1983
- **Does not scale** beyond ~30-100 participants
- Takes long time to converge

Make a proposal



Reach a consensus



Announce the decision



Deconstructing Blockchains: Concepts, Systems and Applications

PROOF OF WORK AND MINING

Blockchain “Puzzles”

verify(*nonce*, data) meets some “requirements”

Use of “trapdoor functions” (hash functions)

- Cannot reverse the function to find the input
- Therefore, keep trying random values (called nonce) until you find a solution
- Like trying random combinations to a lock...
- *The more computing power you have, faster* you can solve the puzzle.
- “*Magic blocks*” are blocks with puzzles, where everyone has the same power.



Proof-of-Work Example

E.g., the challenge is:

- sha256sum("data:**nonce**") starts with a "0"
- Normally more complicated than that! (e.g., 18 zeroes)

➤ P1 wants to send "1:v" to P2

```
arno@grey:~$ echo "1:v:118" | sha256sum
```

```
9479038ca7543ece09f48e8c77fce147d7561cac14058199afea18c2f323b8b
```

```
arno@grey:~$ echo "1:v:119" | sha256sum
```

```
79ae2bbac929112a349c2fe7f50210355f4a24683b2dd1ea8f059c9beeed7fd6
```

```
arno@grey:~$ echo "1:v:120" | sha256sum
```

```
002ce3a3b7092d960abf1795a89f70eb0f9ef960036e7d4620cbd3d26d34ffc8
```

➤ Send "1:v:120" to P2

Proof-of-Work Example

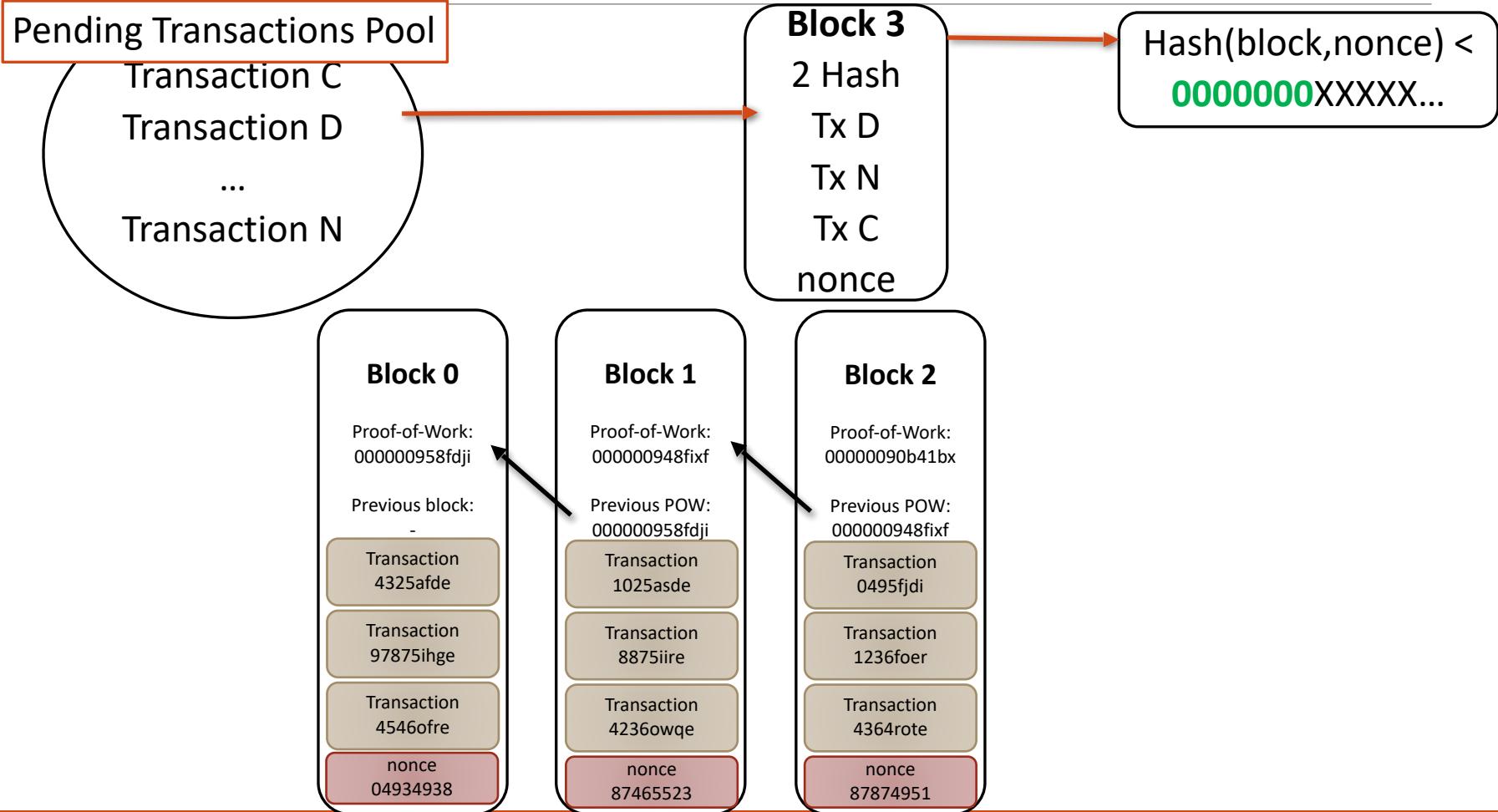
- P2 verifies “1:v:120” is correct (very quick!) ($\text{sha256sum}("1:v:120")$ starts with a “0”)
- P2 wants to send “2:1:v:120” to P3

```
arno@grey:~$ echo "2:1:v:120:119" | sha256sum
911ab1edf1f331ff423a45fe4c382db30a3f1cf802bb2211df53c80d5798c7ba
aarno@grey:~$ echo "2:1:v:120:120" | sha256sum
5344a3561673b1481b9cf69493368ca408b1edef67e3f96819c5d1b36cea53ce
arno@grey:~$ echo "2:1:v:120:121" | sha256sum
0a908c651e9ec5374976dc8f49a3342a4a789660011551da8871a6cc123c5b57
```

- P2 sends “2:1:v:120:121”
- P3 verifies “1:v:120” AND “2:1:v:120:121” are correct
- If P2 wants to send “2:1:**w**” and fool P3, it needs to find n_1 for “1:**w**: n_1 ” and n_2 for “2:1:**w**: n_1 : n_2 ”
- If P3 has a way to *detect* that P2 is *doing too much work*, it can detect fraud.



Proof-of-Work in Bitcoin



Pending transactions are propagated to the peers (miners)

Proof-of-Work in Bitcoin

Pending Transactions Pool

Transaction C

Transaction D

...

Transaction N

Block 3

2 Hash

Tx D

Tx N

Tx C

nonce

Hash(block,nonce) <
0000000XXXXX...

Block 0

Proof-of-Work:
000000958fdji

Previous block:

Transaction
4325afde

Transaction
97875ihge

Transaction
4546ofre

nonce
04934938

Block 1

Proof-of-Work:
000000948fixf

Previous POW:

Transaction
1025asde

Transaction
8875iire

Transaction
4236owqe

nonce
87465523

Block 2

Proof-of-Work:
00000090b41bx

Previous POW:

Transaction
0495fjdi

Transaction
1236foer

Transaction
4364rote

nonce
87874951

Pending transactions are propagated to the peers (miners)

Proof-of-Work in Bitcoin

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Miners verify and put transactions in a block, seek nonce

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Tx D
Tx N
Tx C
nonce

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Number of leading zeroes (difficulty) depend on the global *hash-rate*, s.t. one block is solved *per 10 minutes*

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Previous POW:
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Transaction
0495fjdi

Transaction
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Transaction
4364rote

nonce
87874951

Block 3

Proof-of-Work:
000000r9d8fjj

Previous block:
00000090b41bx

Transaction
D

Transaction
N

Transaction
C

nonce
79146512

The “lucky” miner attaches the solved block to the chain, or stops solving if someone else finds a valid block.

Pending transactions are propagated to the peers (miners)

Proof-of-Work in Bitcoin

Pending Transactions Pool

Transaction C
Transaction D
...
Transaction N

Miners verify and put transactions in a block, seek nonce

Block 3

2 Hash
Tx D
Tx N
Tx C
nonce

Hash(block,nonce) < 0000000XXXXX...

Number of leading zeroes (difficulty) depend on the global *hash-rate*, s.t. one block is solved *per 10 minutes*

The more *confirmations* a transaction receives, the less likely it is to disappear.

Block 0

Proof-of-Work:
000000958fdji

Previous block:
-

Transaction
4325afde

Transaction
97875ihge

Transaction
4546ofre

nonce
04934938

Block 1

Proof-of-Work:
000000948fixf

Previous POW:
000000958fdji

Transaction
1025asde

Transaction
8875iire

Transaction
4236owqe

nonce
87465523

Block 2

Proof-of-Work:
00000090b41bx

Previous POW:
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Transaction
0495fjdi

Transaction
1236foer

Transaction
4364rote

nonce
87874951

Block 3

Proof-of-Work:
000000r9d8fjj

Previous block:
00000090b41bx

Transaction
D

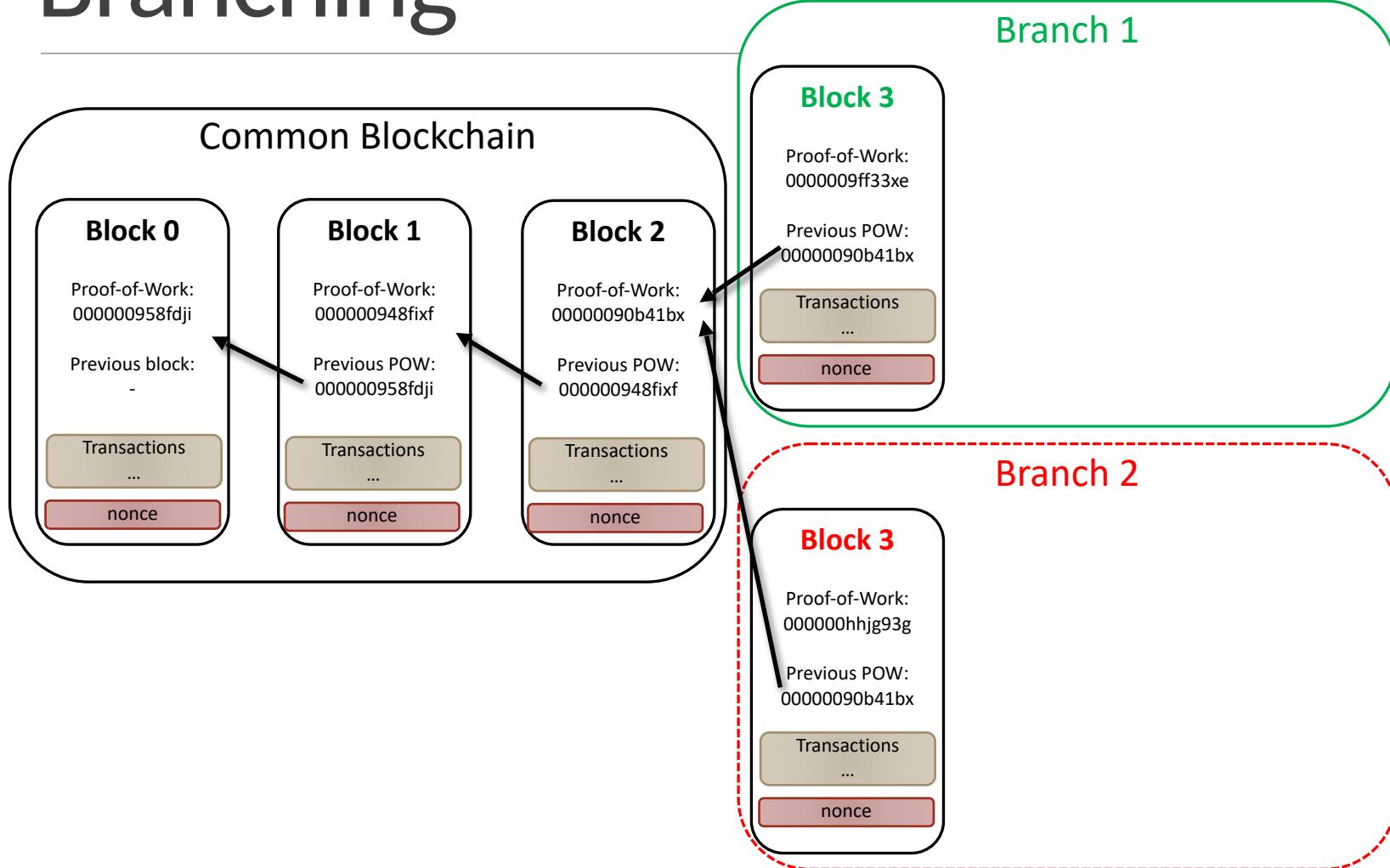
Transaction
N

Transaction
C

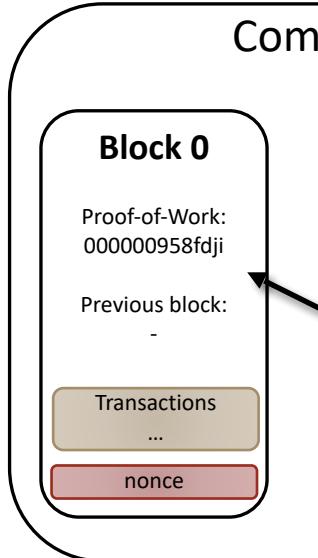
nonce
79146512

The “lucky” miner attaches the solved block to the chain, or stops solving if someone else finds a valid block.

Branching



Branching



Here, two blocks 3 are solved at the same time by different miners (very rare occurrence)

Block 1

Proof-of-Work:
000000948fixf

Previous POW:
000000958fdji

Block 2

Proof-of-Work:
00000090b41bx

Previous POW:
000000948fixf

Block 3

Proof-of-Work:
0000009ff33xe

Previous POW:
00000090b41bx

Transactions
...
nonce

Branch 1

Branch 2

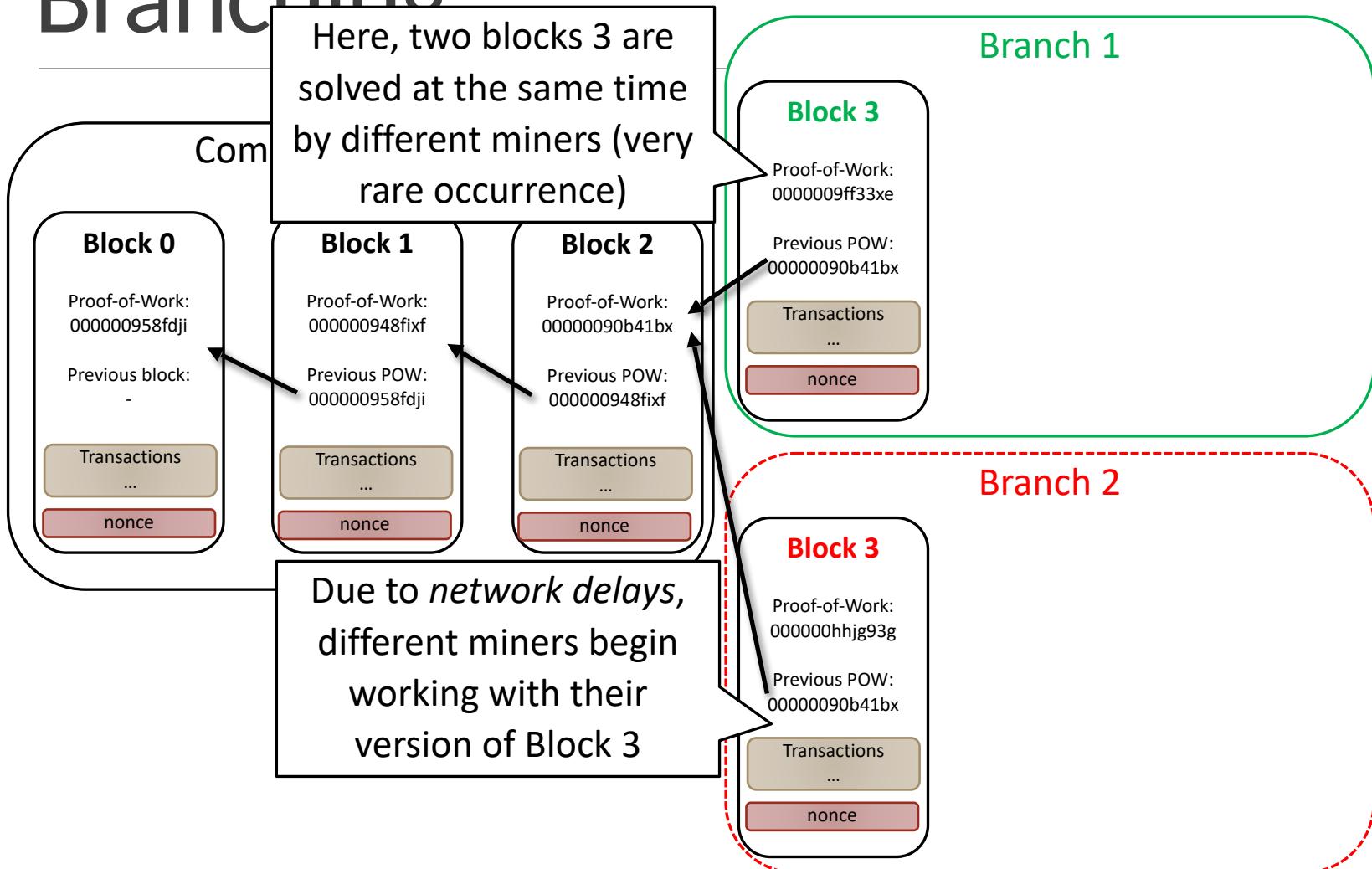
Block 3

Proof-of-Work:
000000hhjg93g

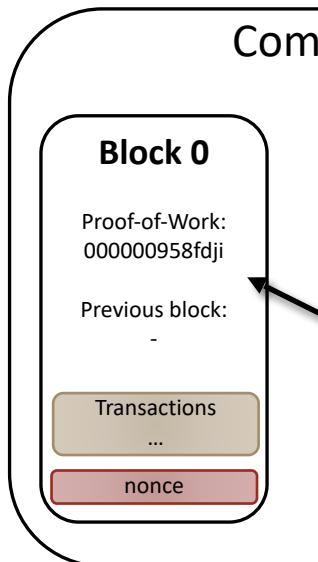
Previous POW:
00000090b41bx

Transactions
...
nonce

Branching



Branching



Here, two blocks 3 are solved at the same time by different miners (very rare occurrence)

Block 1

Proof-of-Work:
000000948fixf

Previous POW:
000000958fdji

Previous block:
-

Transactions
...
nonce

Block 2

Proof-of-Work:
00000090b41bx

Previous POW:
000000948fixf

Transactions
...
nonce

Transactions
...
nonce

Block 3

Proof-of-Work:
0000009ff33xe

Previous POW:
00000090b41bx

Transactions
...
nonce

Branch 1

Block 4

Proof-of-Work:
000000zzbbf4

Previous POW:
0000009ff33xe

Transactions
...
nonce

Due to *network delays*, different miners begin working with their version of Block 3

Block 3

Proof-of-Work:
000000hhjg93g

Previous POW:
00000090b41bx

Transactions
...
nonce

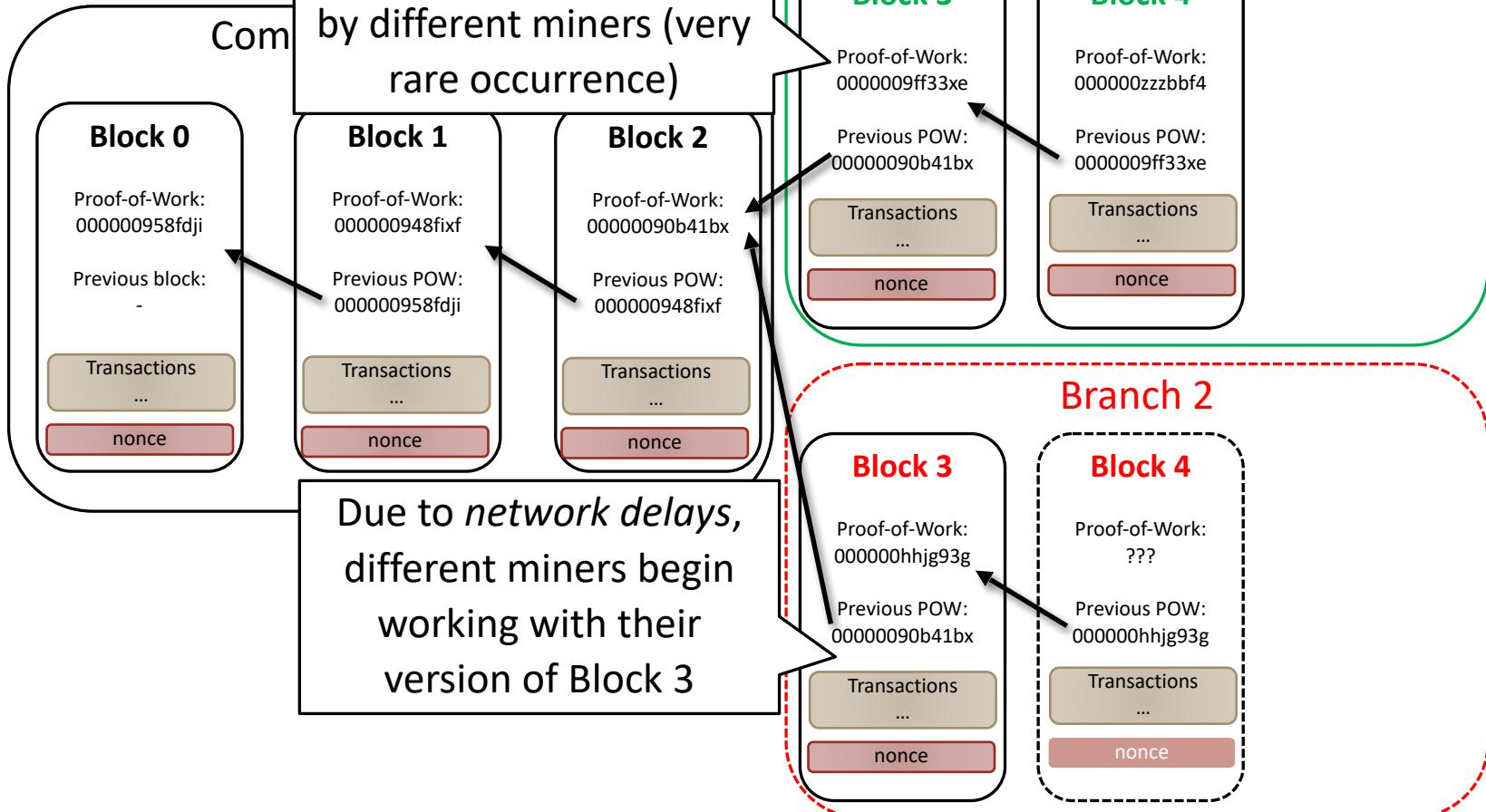
Block 4

Proof-of-Work:
???

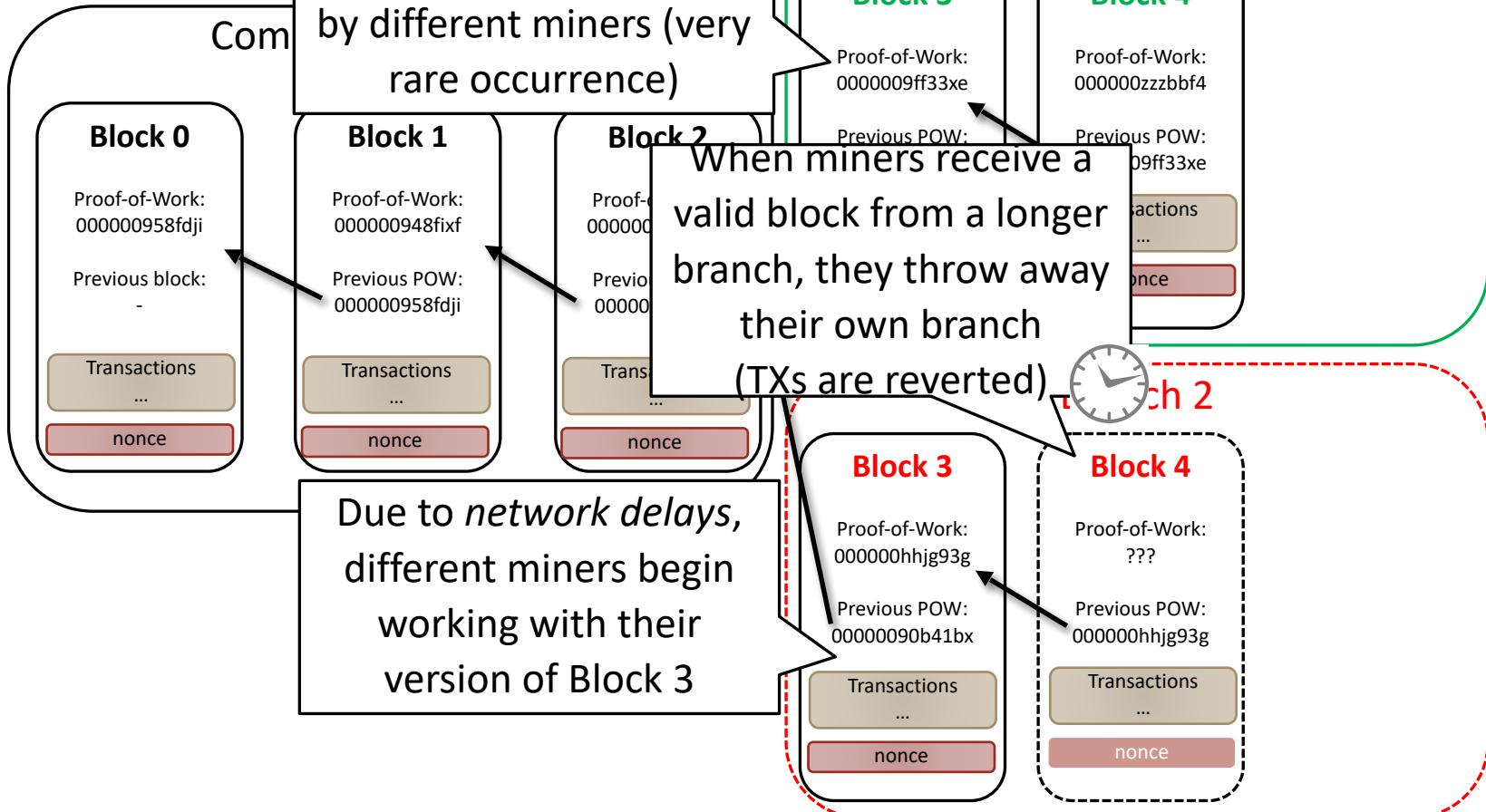
Previous POW:
000000hhjg93g

Transactions
...
nonce

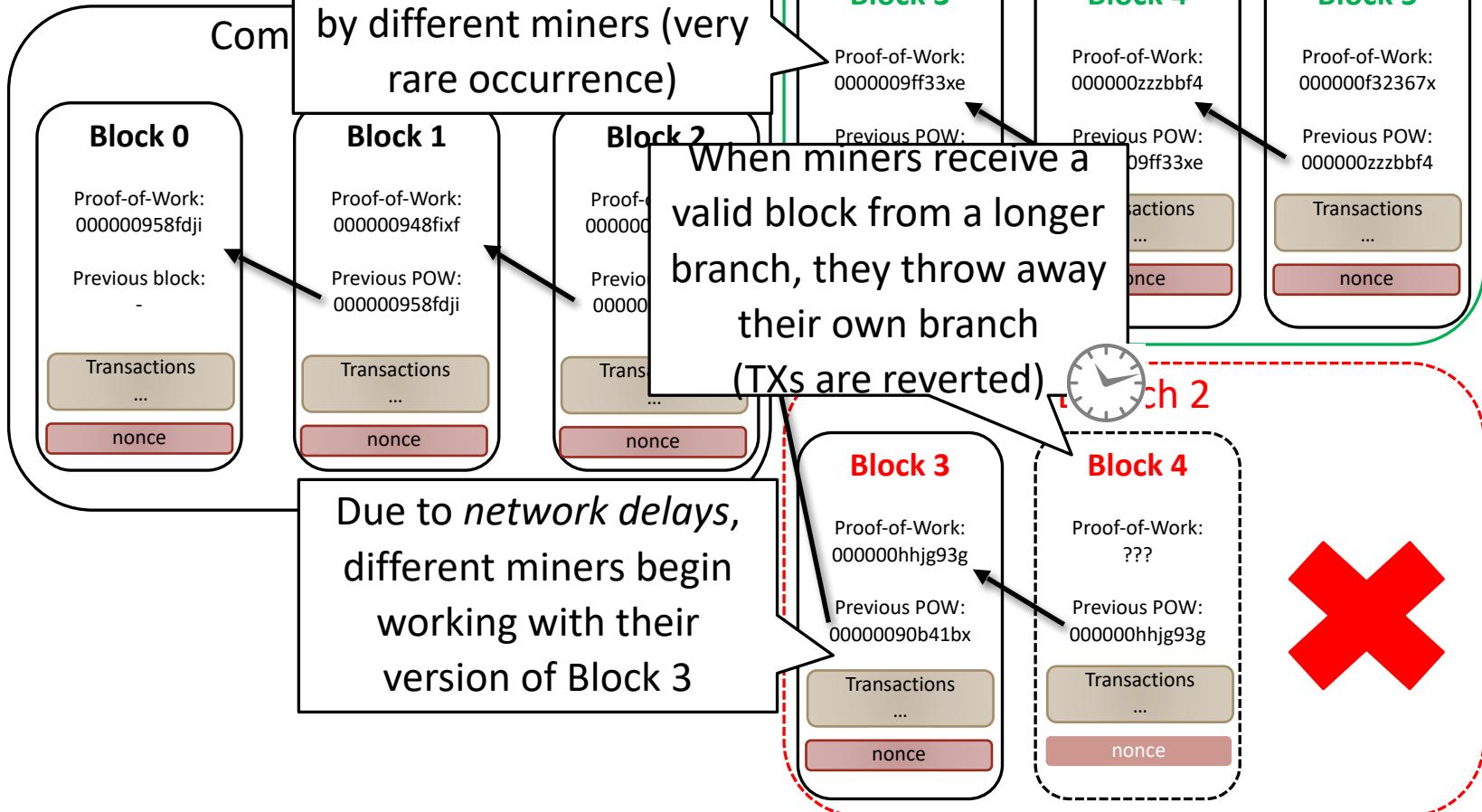
Branching



Branching



Branching



Incentives

\$\$\$\$\$\$

Block reward, started with 50 BTC, 25 BTC, 12.5 BTC. ...

- Creating of new coins (the only means to create coins)
- Reward reaped by miner whose block ultimately makes it into the chain
- Block reward will converge toward zero

Transaction fee

- Small amount that is paid by transaction issuer to miner
- Not a fixed amount, amount declared by issuer
- Ultimately, market forces may set this value

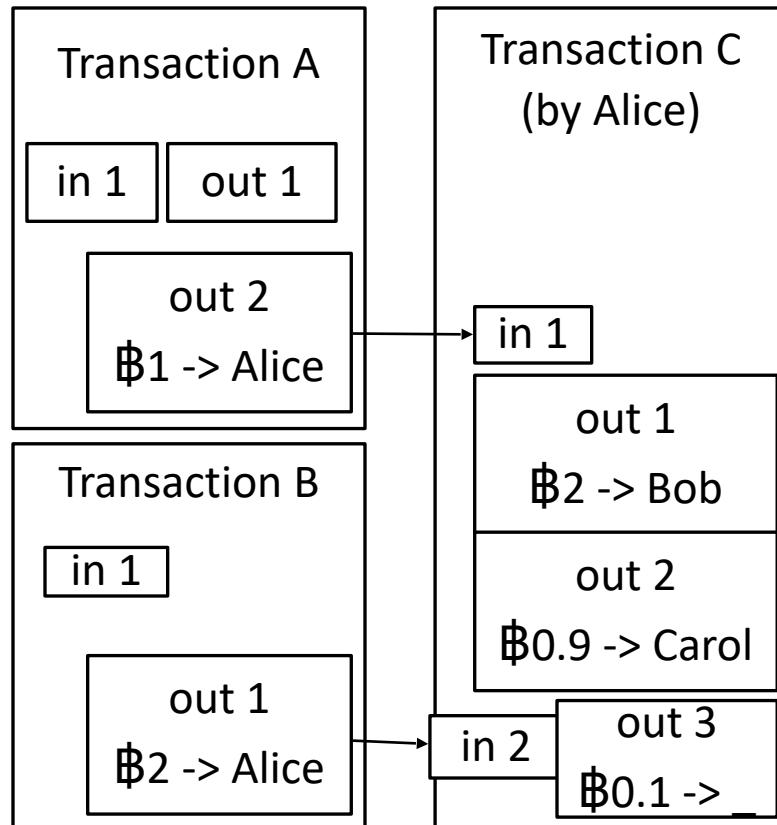




Deconstructing Blockchains: Concepts, Systems and Applications

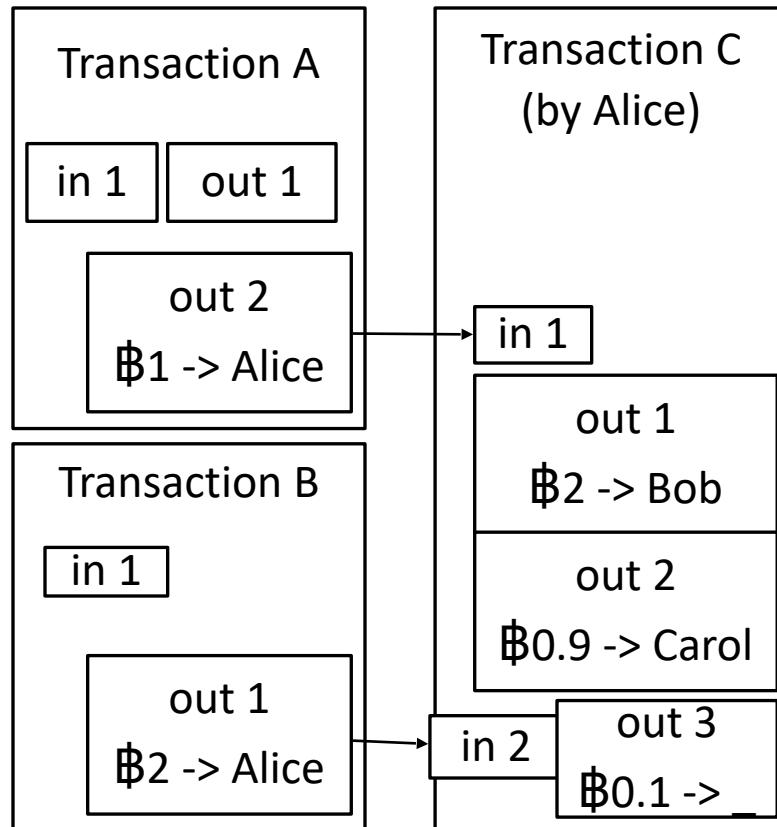
TRANSACTIONS AND TRANSACTION FLOW

Bitcoin Transactions



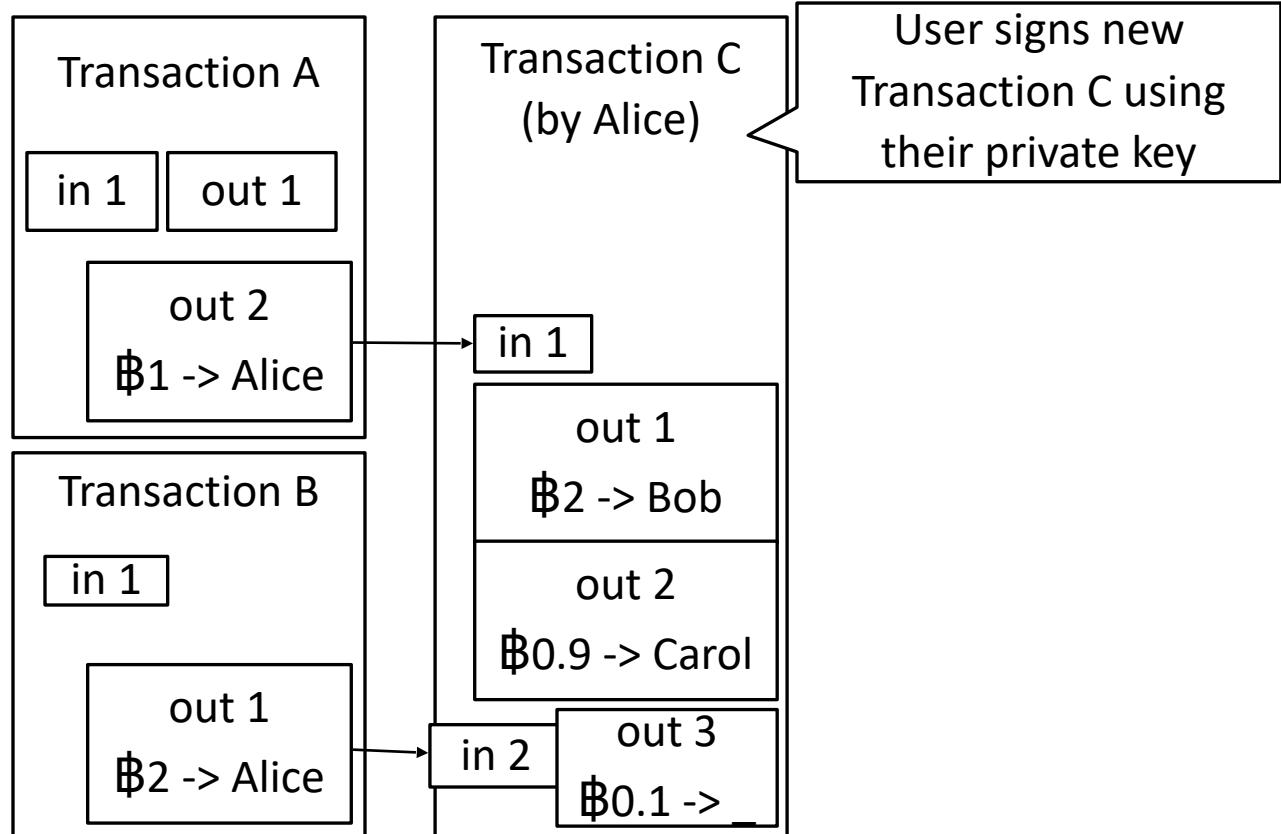
Bitcoin Transactions

Each user possesses a wallet identified by *public/private key* pairs



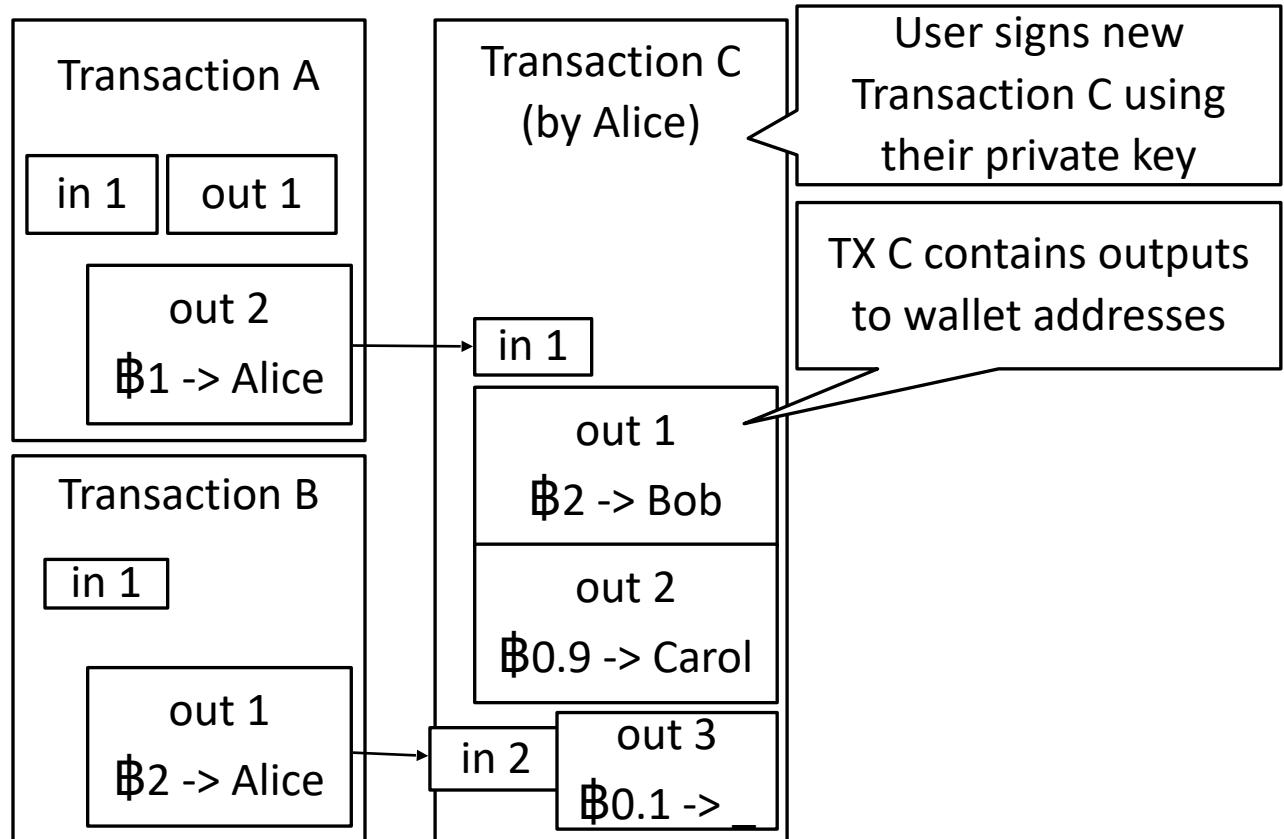
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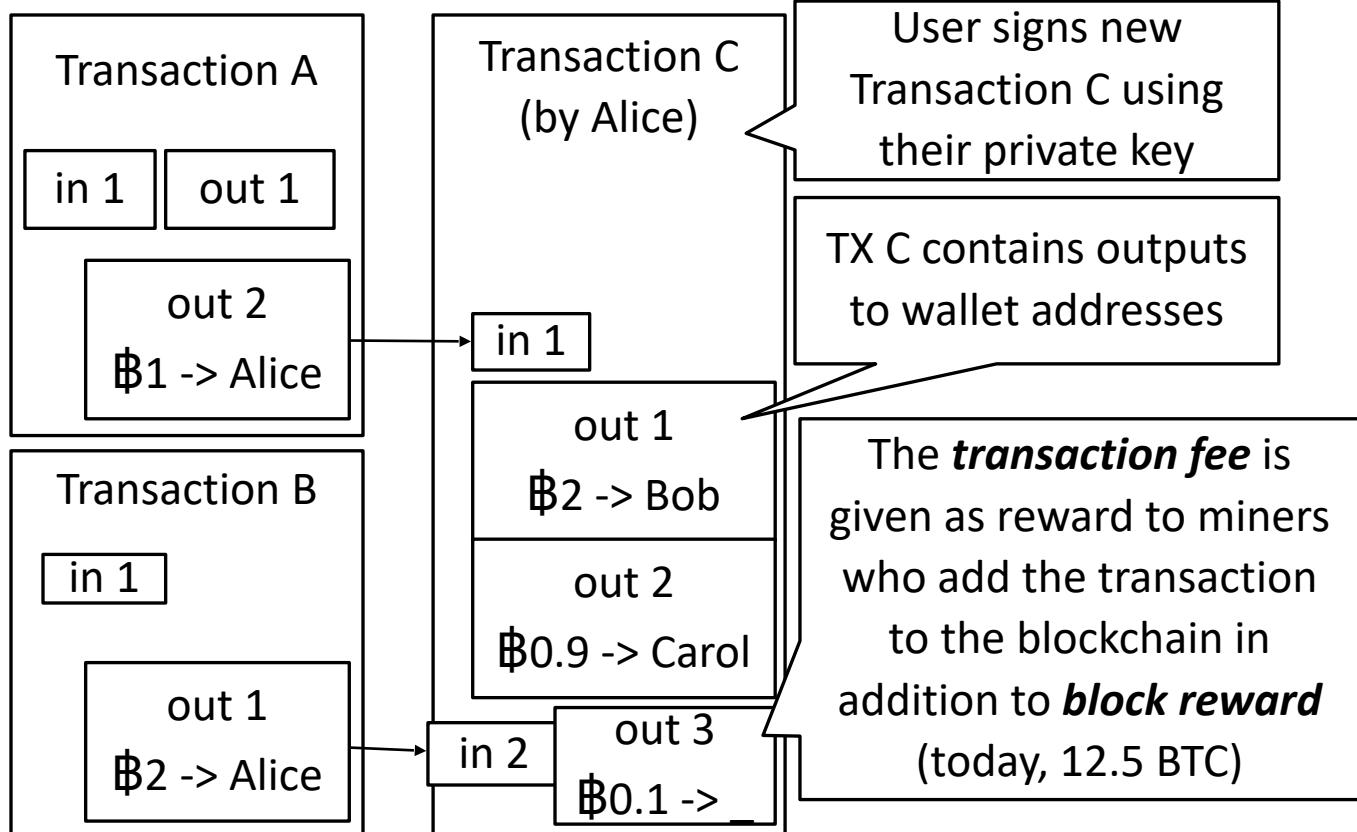
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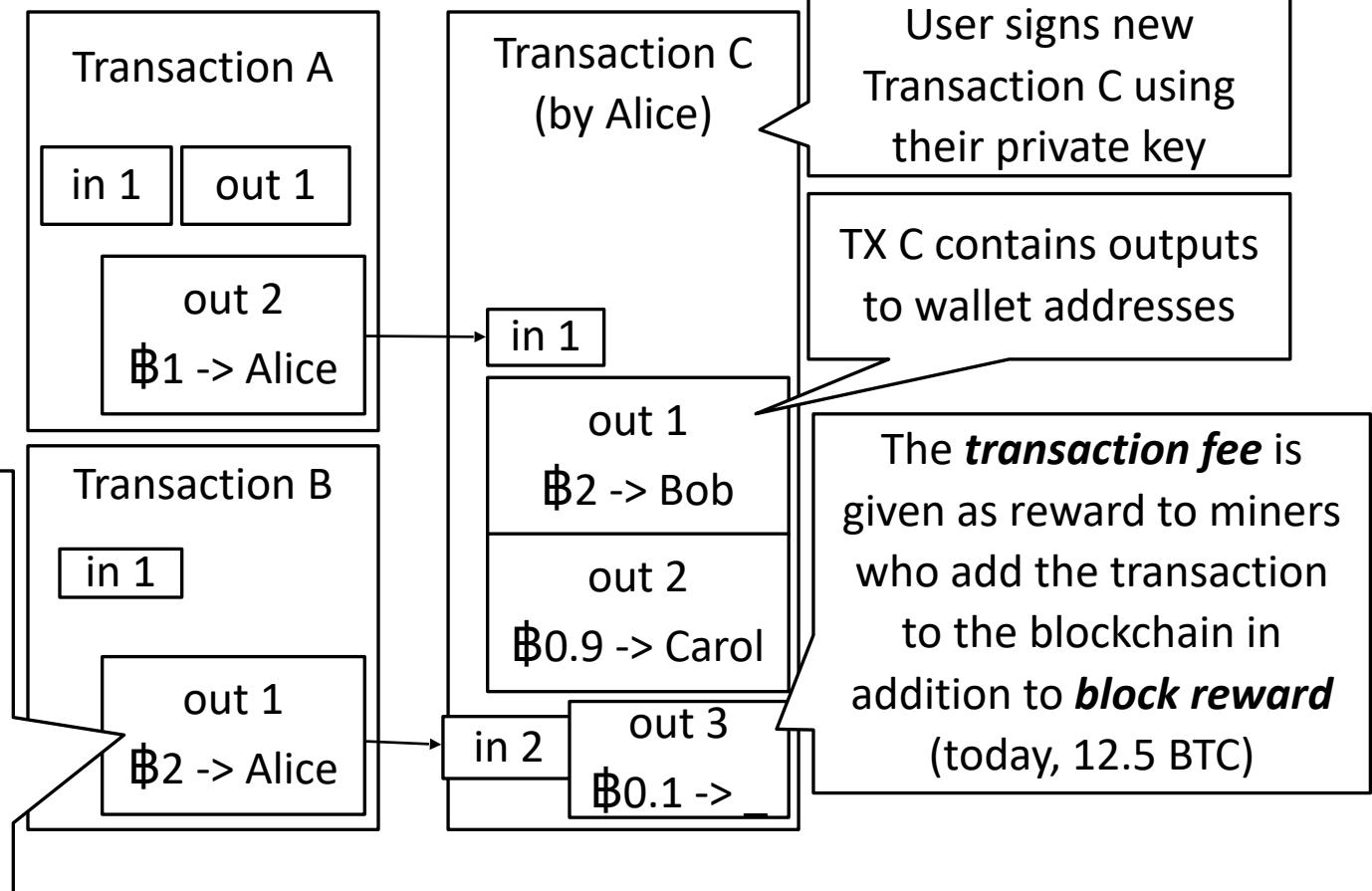
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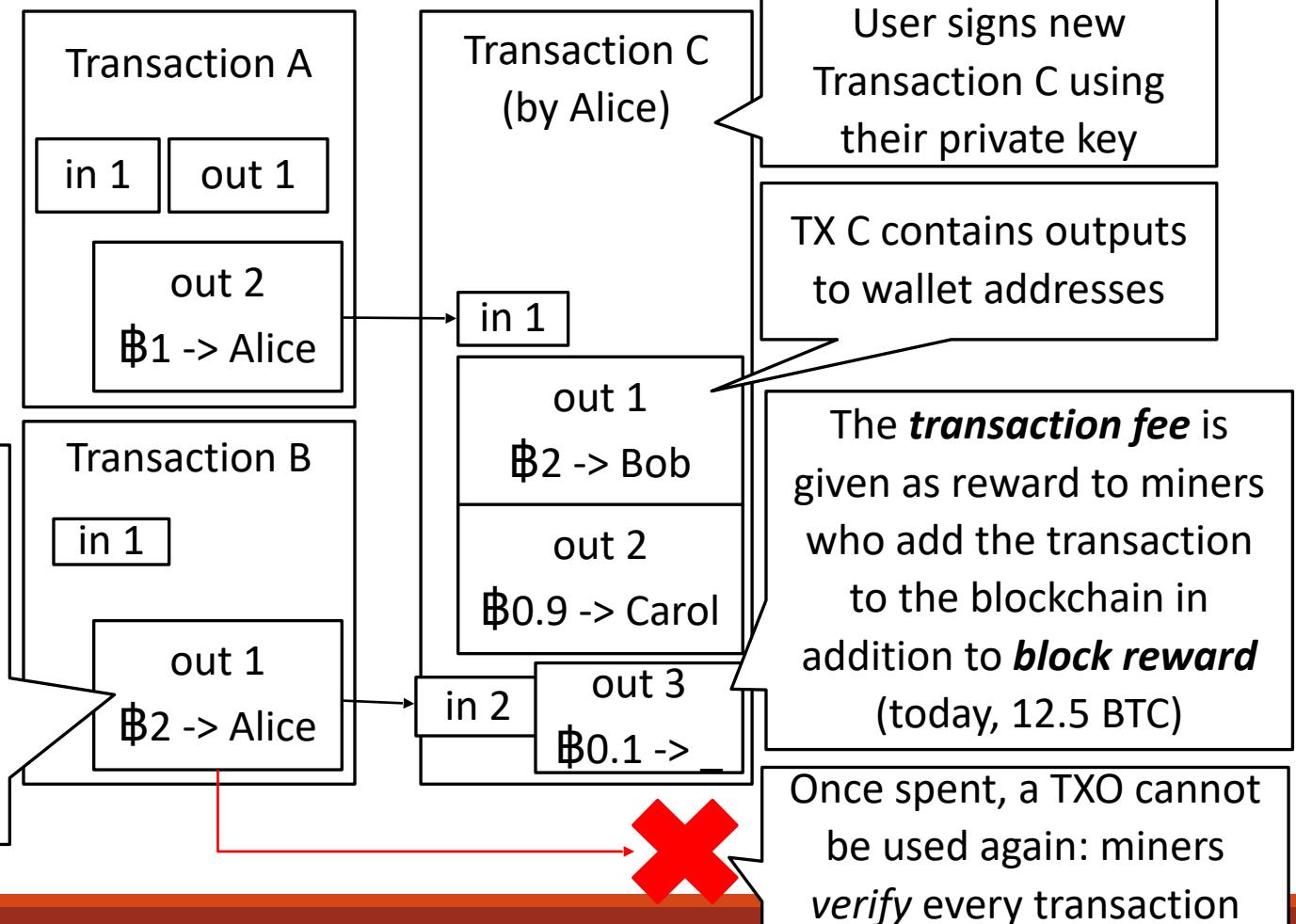
Bitcoin Transactions

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Bitcoin Transactions

Each user possesses a wallet identified by *public/private key* pairs



TX C must reference *unspent transaction outputs* (UTXOs) from previously committed blocks equal to the total output of TX C (3 BTC)

Wallets and Addresses

Users require a **wallet** to store money

- Includes any user, including but not limited to miners

Wallet is authenticated and identified by a **public/private key pair**

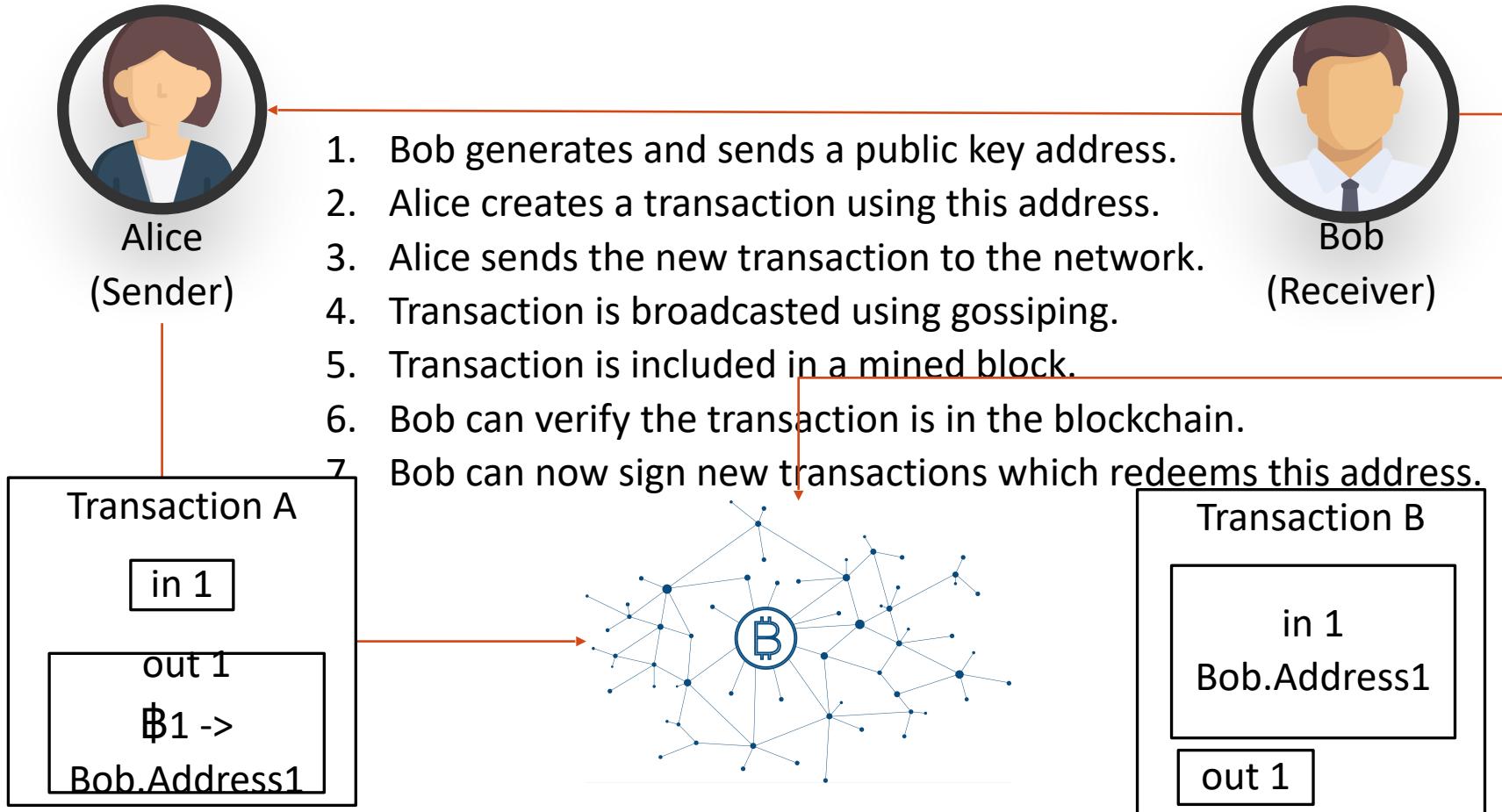
- Generated using ECDSA (Elliptic curve cryptography)



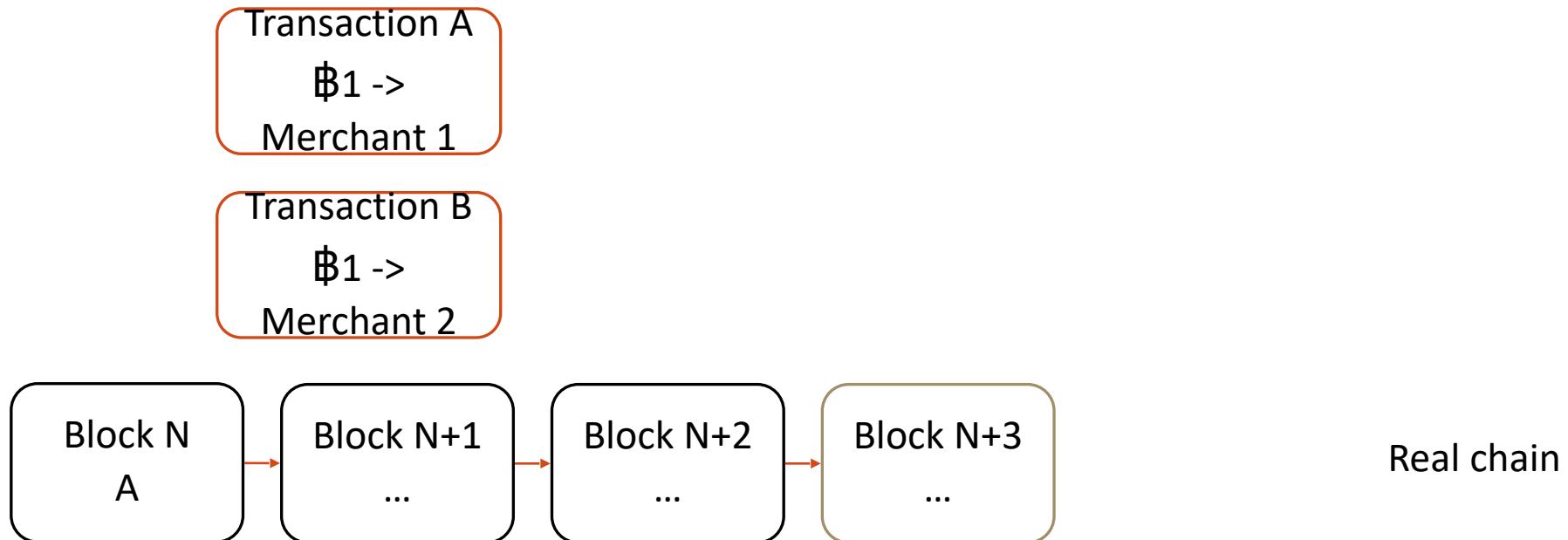
Loosing Your Private Key

- Loss of private key means the wallet and its **funds are permanently locked**, as it is no longer possible to sign proofs redeeming existing UTXOs.
- This **money is** essentially lost, thereby reducing the total amount of currency in Bitcoin
- Trusting an online service to store key is also risky, since there is no way to prove that you are the rightful owner if the key is stolen or misused
- **The most reliable solution is to store your private keys on tamper-proof hardware wallets**

Transaction Flow



Preventing Double Spending: 51% Attack



Preventing Double Spending: 51% Attack

Transaction A

฿1 ->

Merchant 1

Transaction B

฿1 ->

Merchant 2

A malicious attacker, ☹, creates two transactions using the same money (*double-spending*)

Block N

A

Block N+1

...

Block N+2

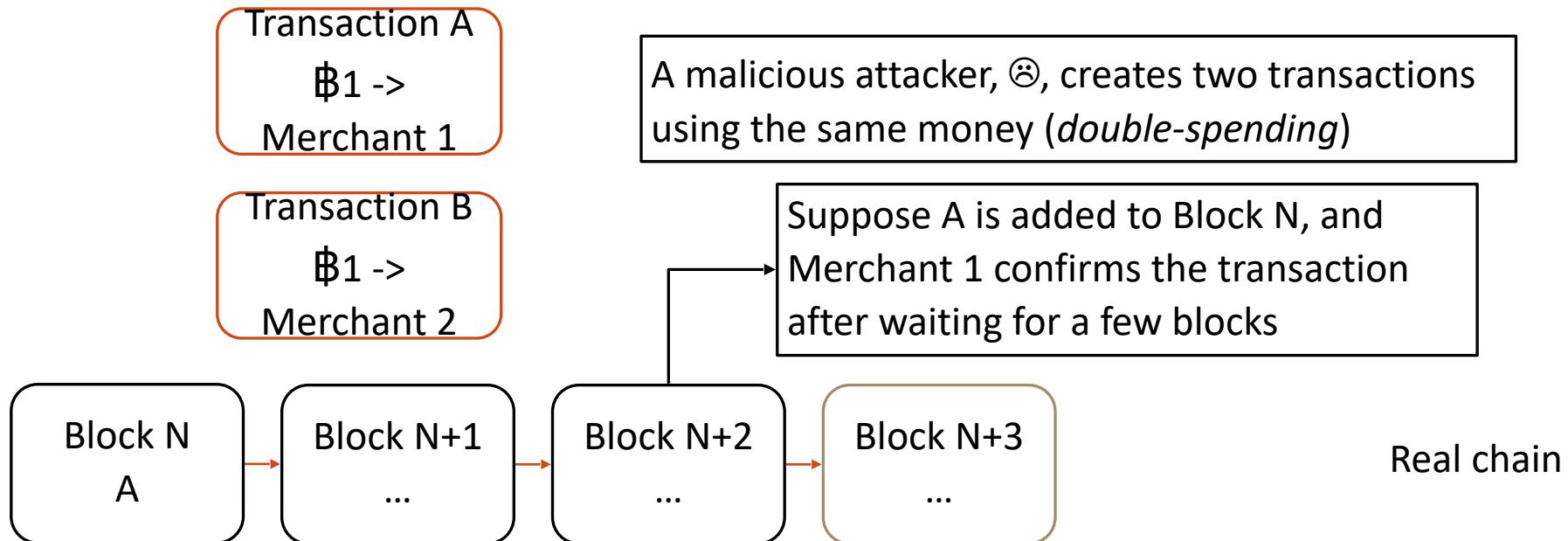
...

Block N+3

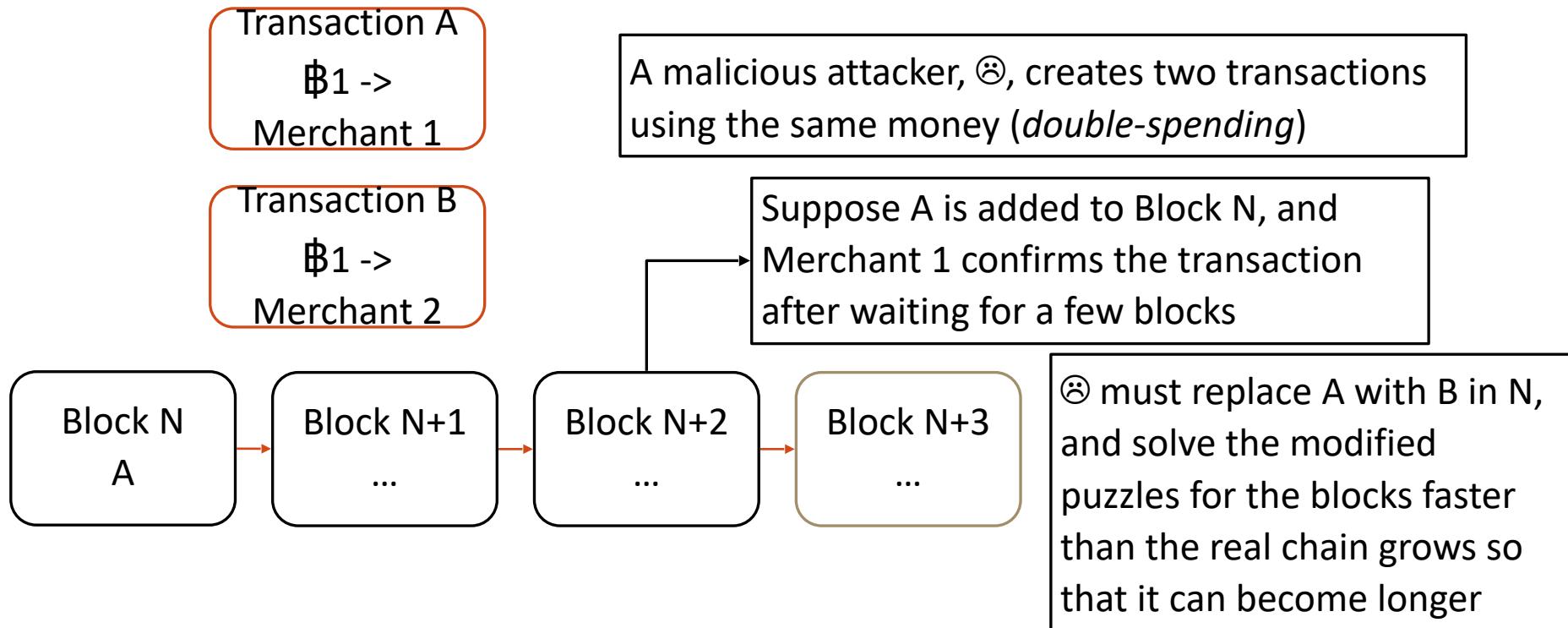
...

Real chain

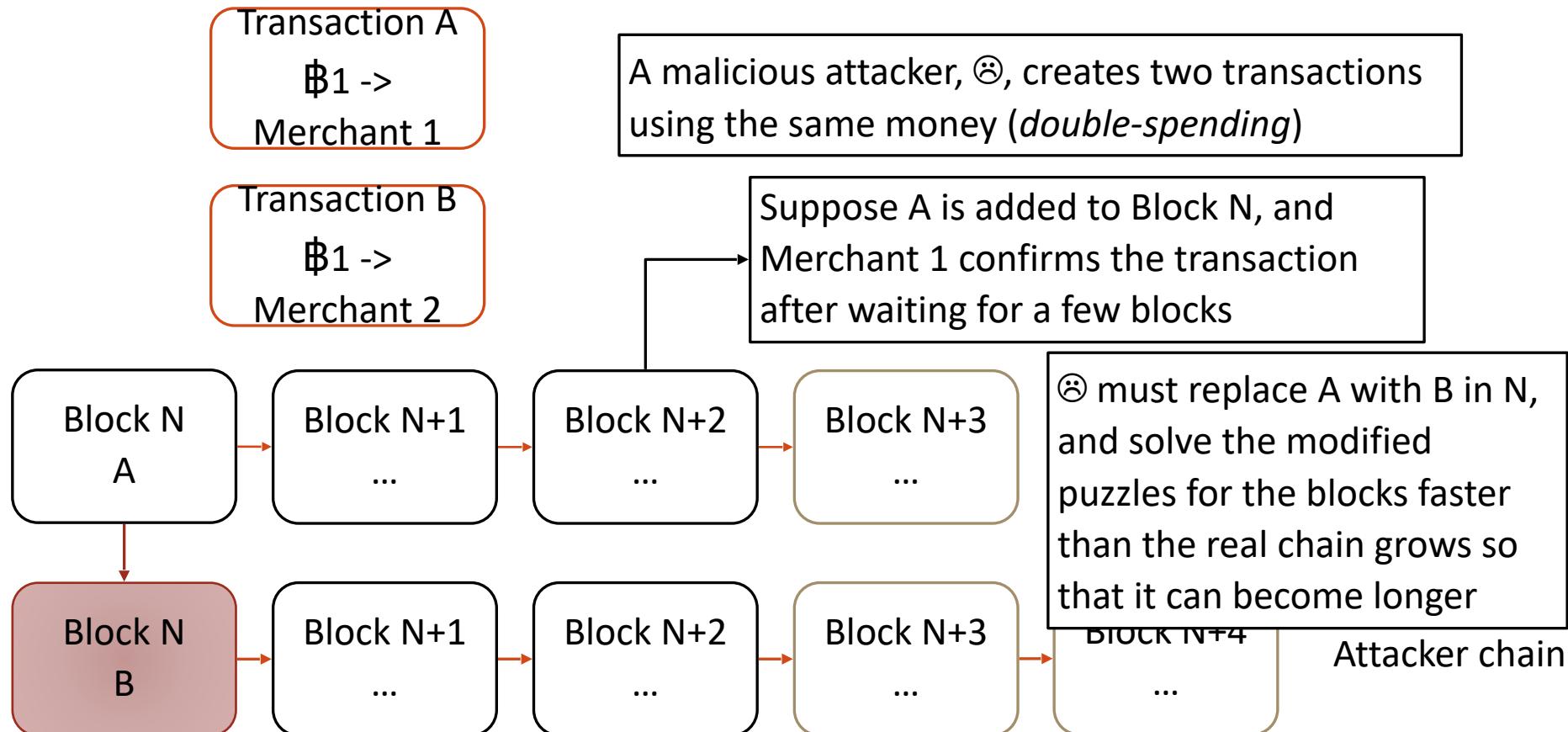
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Preventing Double Spending: 51% Attack



Preventing Double Spending: 51% Attack

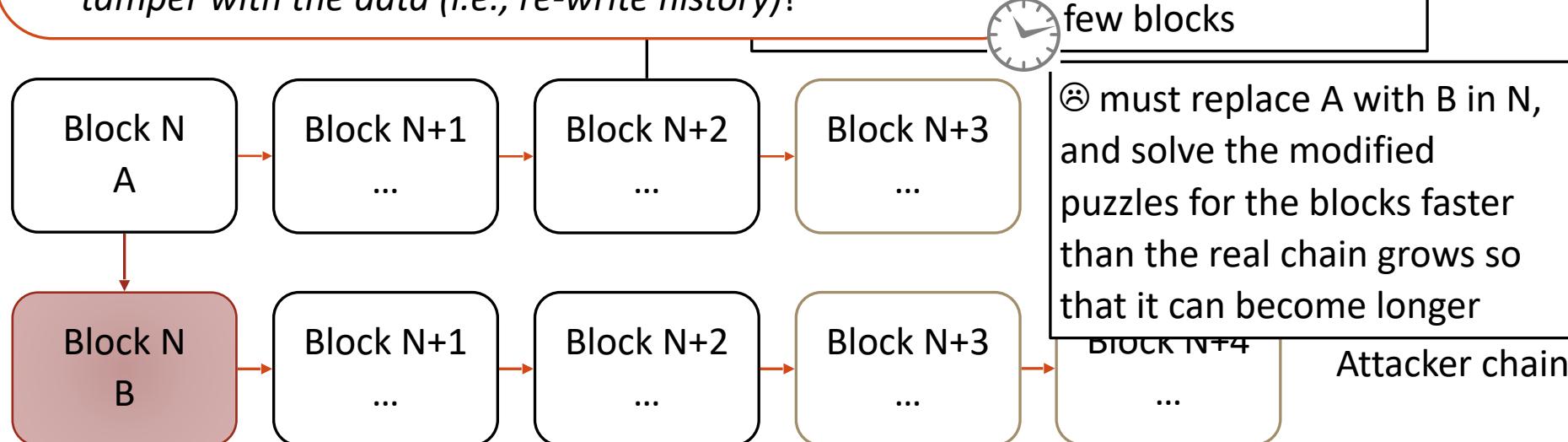


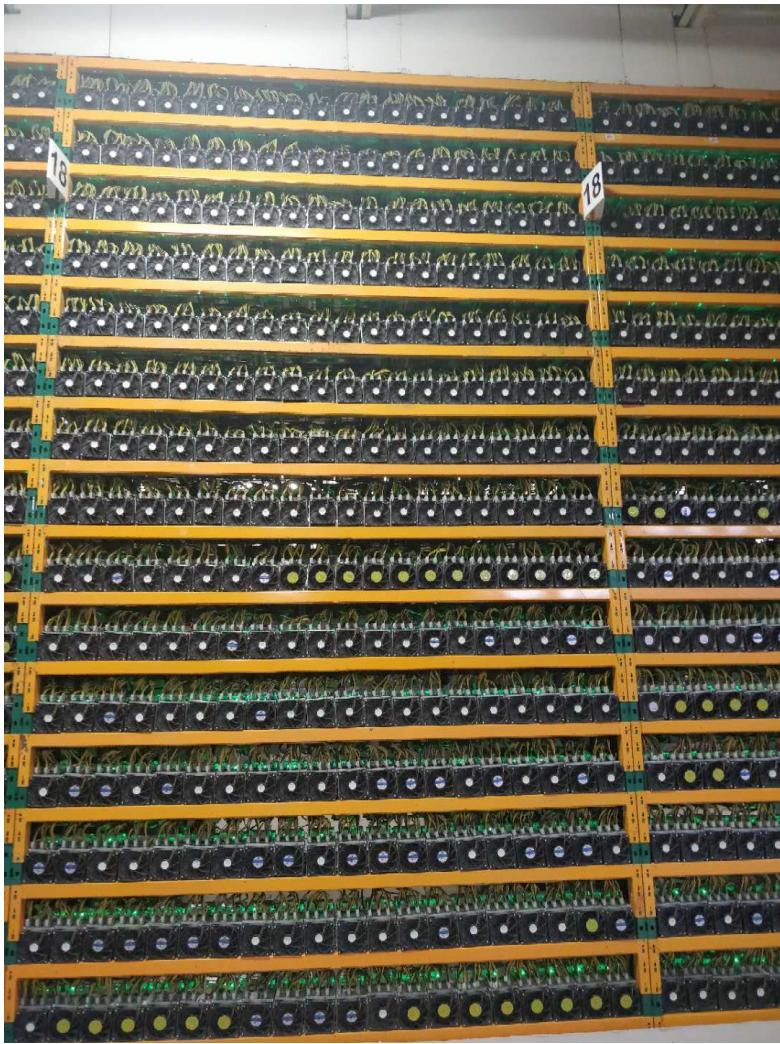
Preventing Double Spending: 51% Attack

- The “Magic Watch” is the *continuous generation* of blocks in the main chain which *limits the amount of time* an attacker has to create its own chain.
- If the attacker owns *>51% of the power* in the network, the “Magic Watch” gives *enough time* to the attacker to *tamper with the data (i.e., re-write history)!*

creates two transactions
(*double-spending*)

ed to Block N, and
rms the transaction
few blocks





Mining ASICs,
200 PETA Hashes
per second



Limitations of Bitcoin

Limitations of Bitcoin

Limited expressiveness

- Cryptocurrency only
- Each app requires new platform
(e.g. NameCoin, PrimeCoin,
CureCoin)

Slow block time (10 mins)

- Also slow confirmation time (1+ hour for 6 confirmations)

Hard/Soft forks

- Updates to the code cause forks
- Hard forks are not compatible
- Duplicated money
- 5 Bitcoin forks (e.g., Bitcoin Classic)

Limitations of Bitcoin

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Slow transaction rate

- 7 transactions/second
- VISA Network: 2000 tps (average)
- Limited block size (1MB -> 2MB)

Environmental impact of PoW

- ~1000x more energy than credit card
- Ahead of 159 countries for energy consumption (e.g. Ireland)

Long bootstrap time for a miner

- Full ledger: 270 GB (2020/04)
- CPU/I/O cost to verify each transaction/block
- Takes hours/days



Please do not forget to
provide your feedback via the
course evaluation.



Deconstructing Blockchains: Concepts, Systems and Applications

PLATFORMS AND APPLICATIONS

Blockchain Platforms

ETHEREUM

HYPERLEDGER



ETHEREUM

Managing entity: Ethereum Foundation

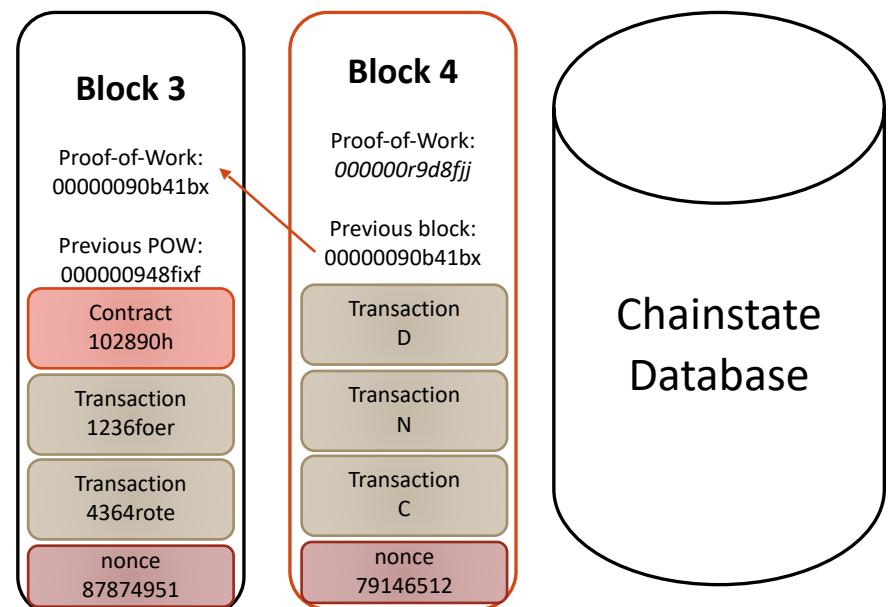
- Major players: Deloitte, Toyota, Microsoft, ...

Enable decentralized applications (Dapps) *et al.*

Open-source, flexible, general platform

- Permissionless (public) ledger, proof-of-work-based(alternative mechanisms are work in progress)
- Cryptocurrency: 1 Ether = 1e18 Wei (~150 USD, 2020/4)
- Smart contracts: Solidity, Remix (Web IDE), Truffle (Dev./Test), Viper (programming language to build Dapps)
- Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM)

Smart Contracts

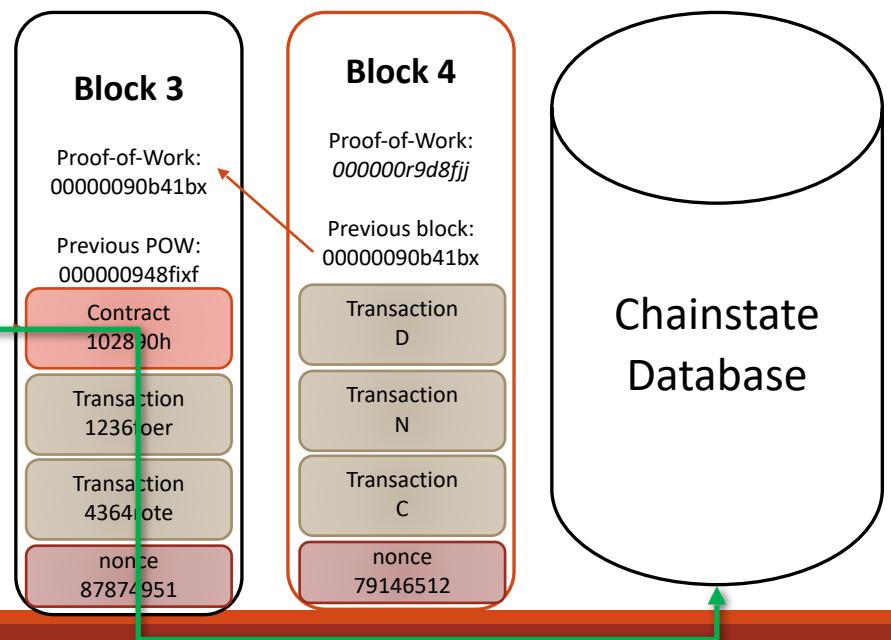


Smart Contracts

- Contracts are programs, compiled into bytecode to execute on EVMs
- Contracts have internal storage

```

1 • <contract>
2   └──
3     └──
4       └──
5         └──
6           └──
7             └──
8               └──
9                 └──
10                └──
11                  └──
12                    └──
13                      └──
14                        └──
15                          └──
16                            └──
17                              └──
18                                └──
19
20 • </contract>
```

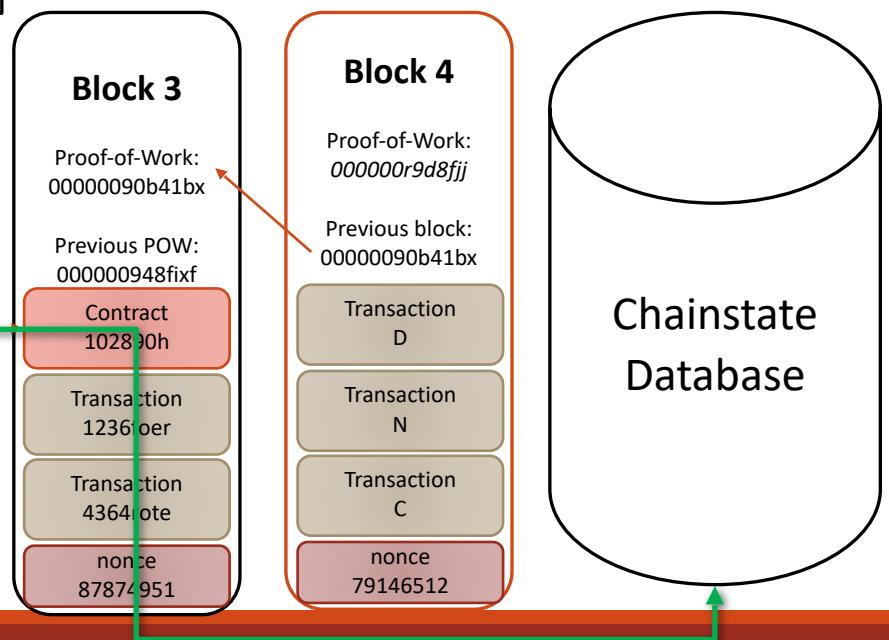


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4   - - - - -
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6   - - - - -
7   - - - - -
8   - - - - -
9   - - - - -
10  - - - - -
11  - - - - -
12  - - - - -
13  - - - - -
14  - - - - -
15  - - - - -
16  - - - - -
17  - - - - -
18  - - - - -
19 • </contract>
  
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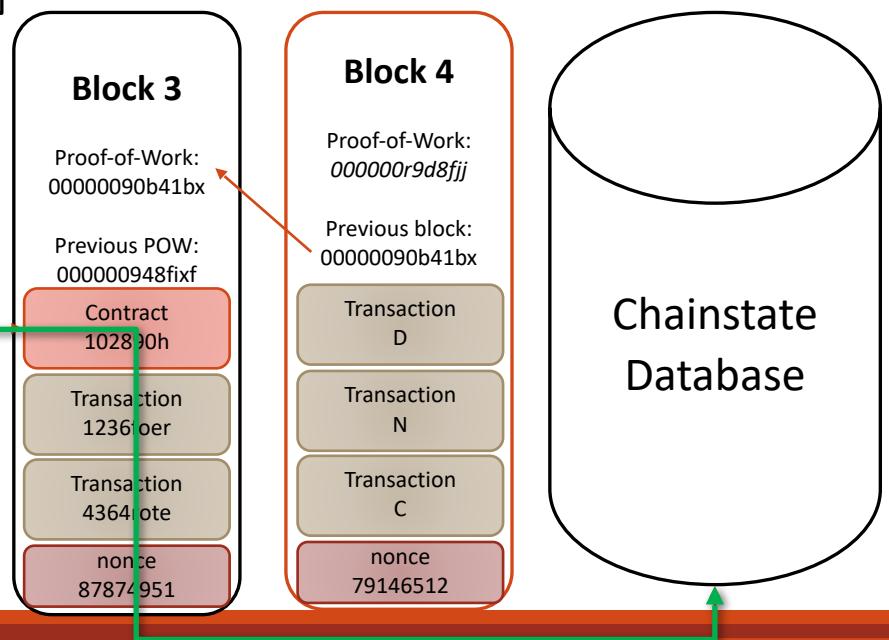


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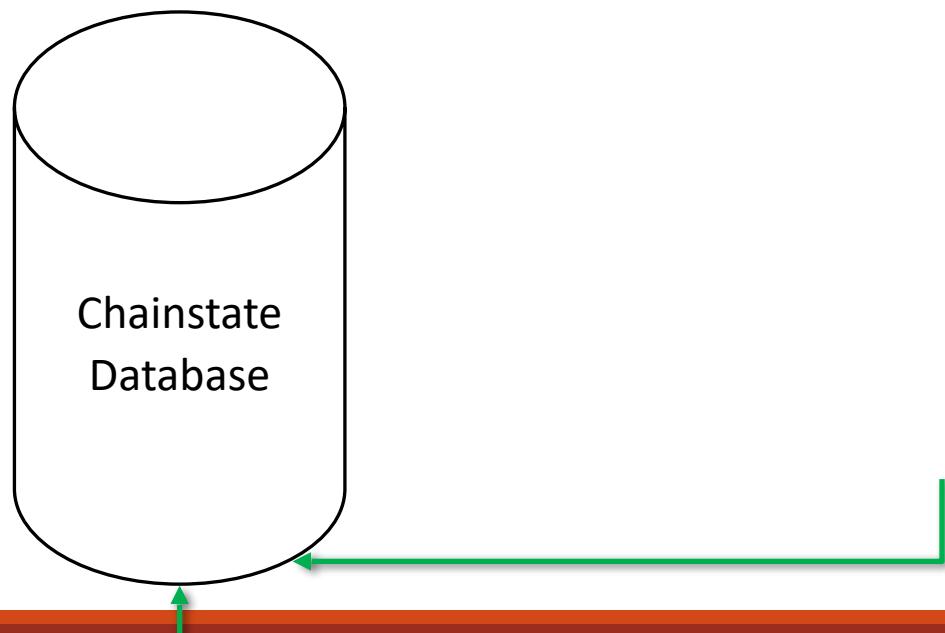
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9   - - - - -
10  - - - - -
11  - - - - -
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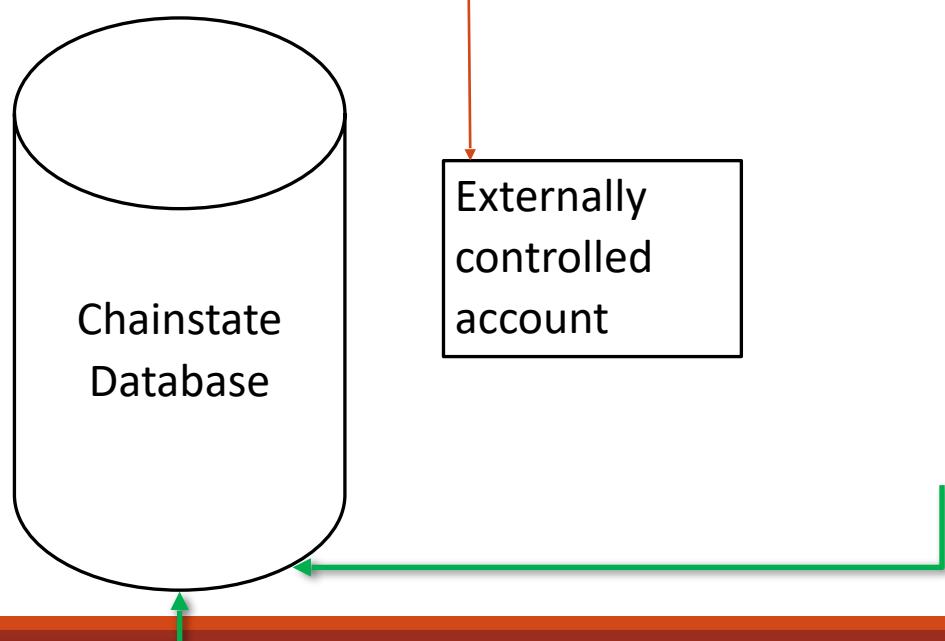
Account State (“World State”)

Wallet ID	Balance	Code Hash	Internal State
99823428347	45.12	-	99554HGJ
98217981623	1123.332	9ERU12T4	3453ADFG
90987344755	9.3444	0490CNDJ	132GJR4



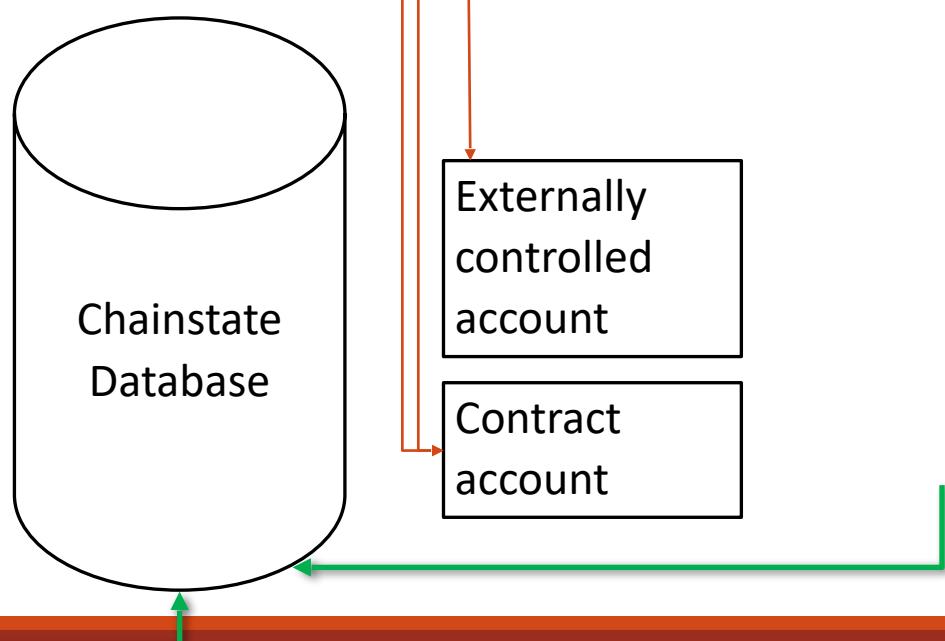
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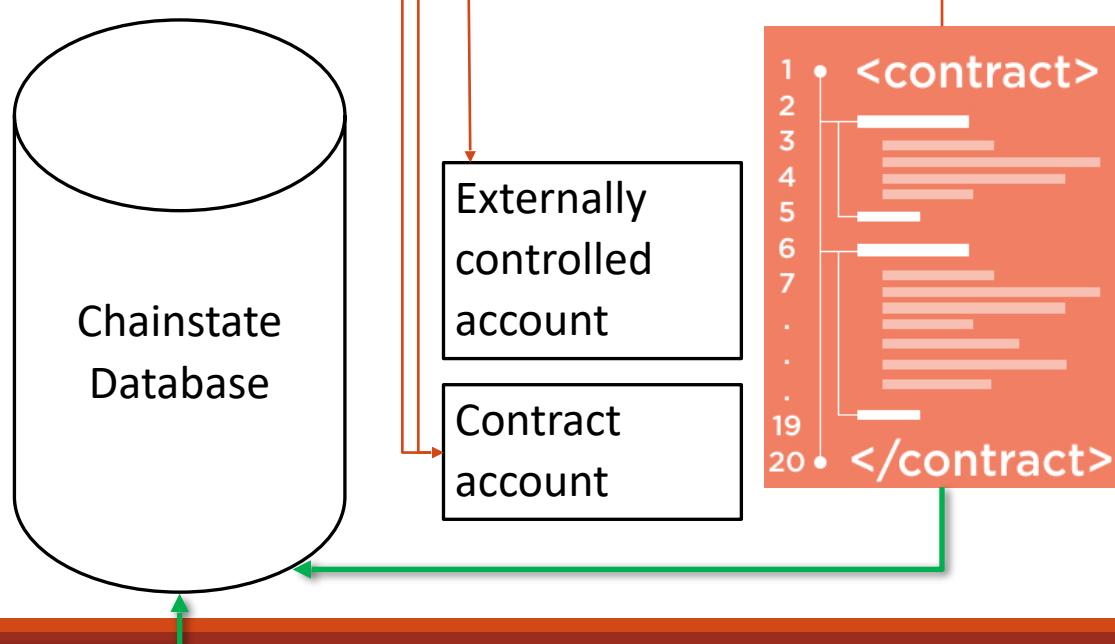
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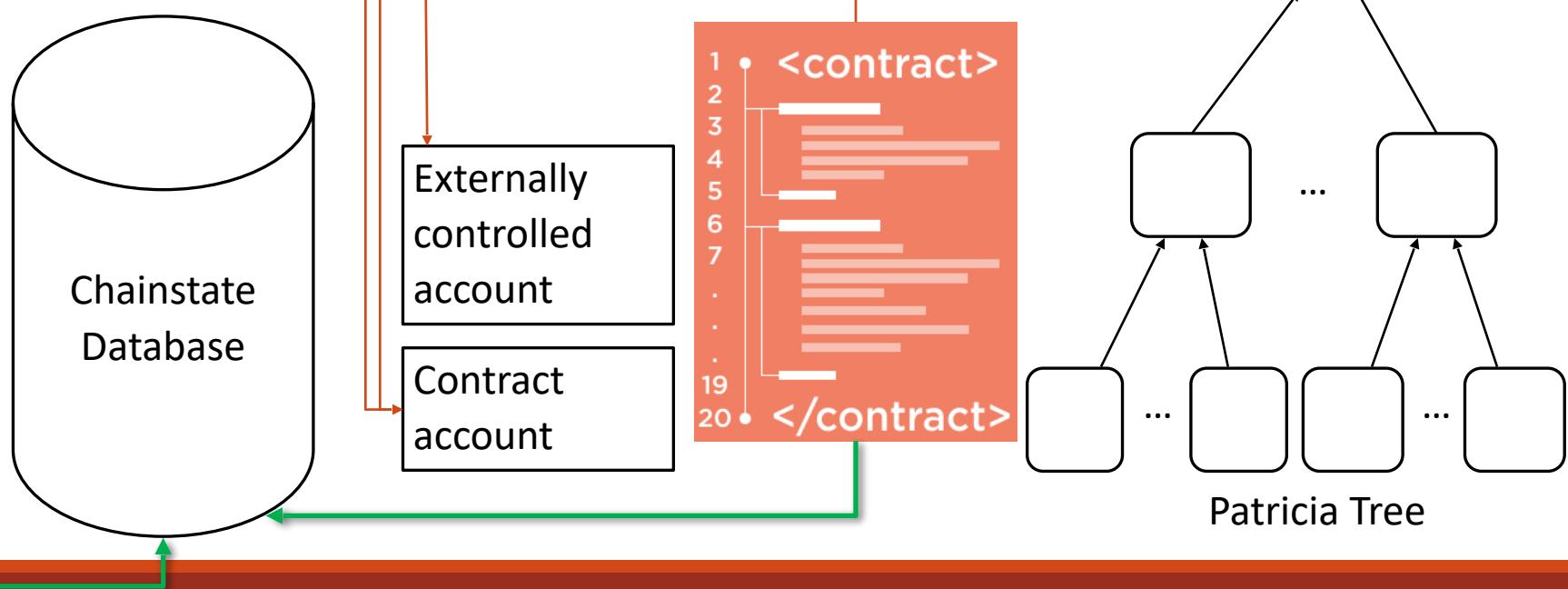
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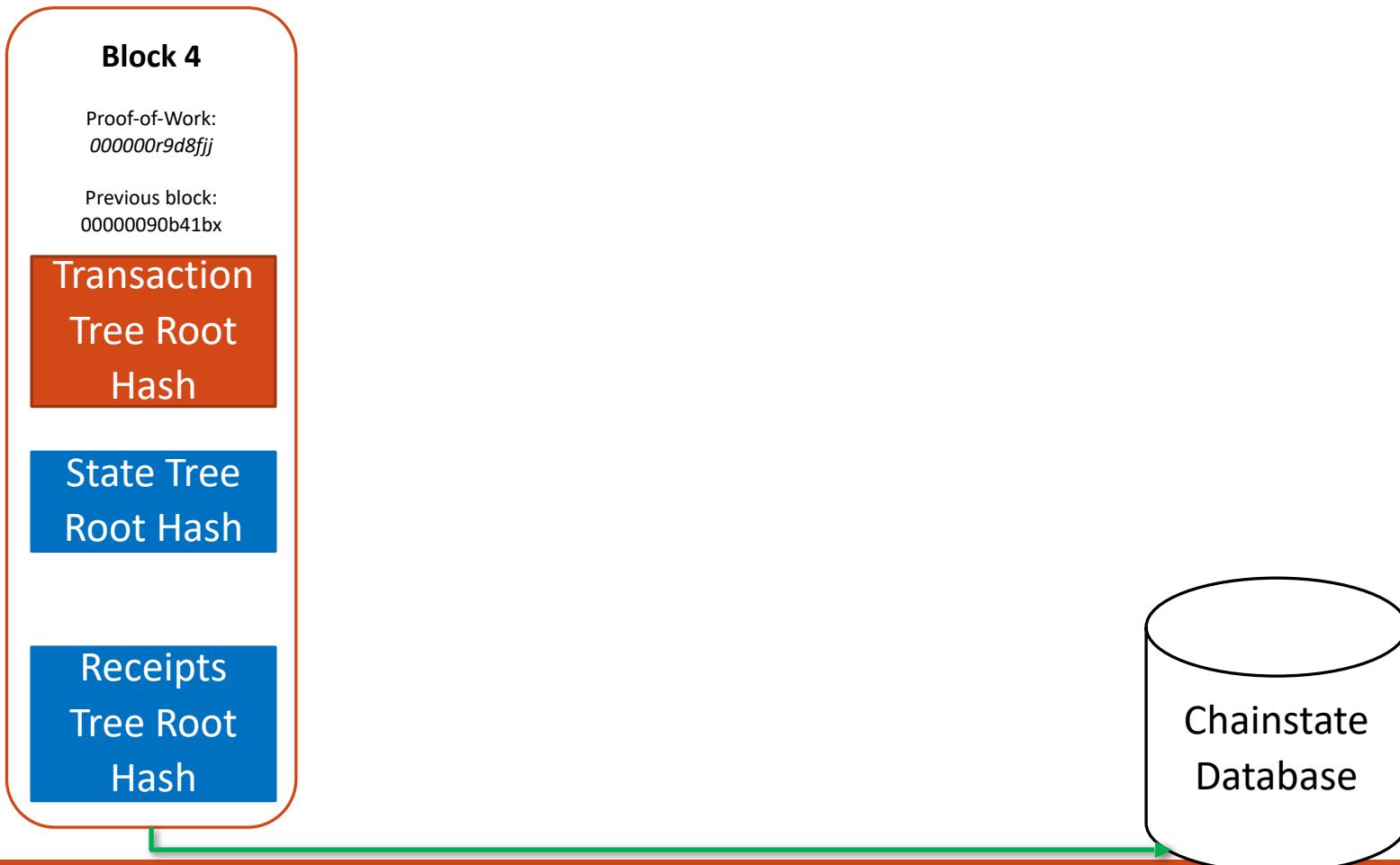


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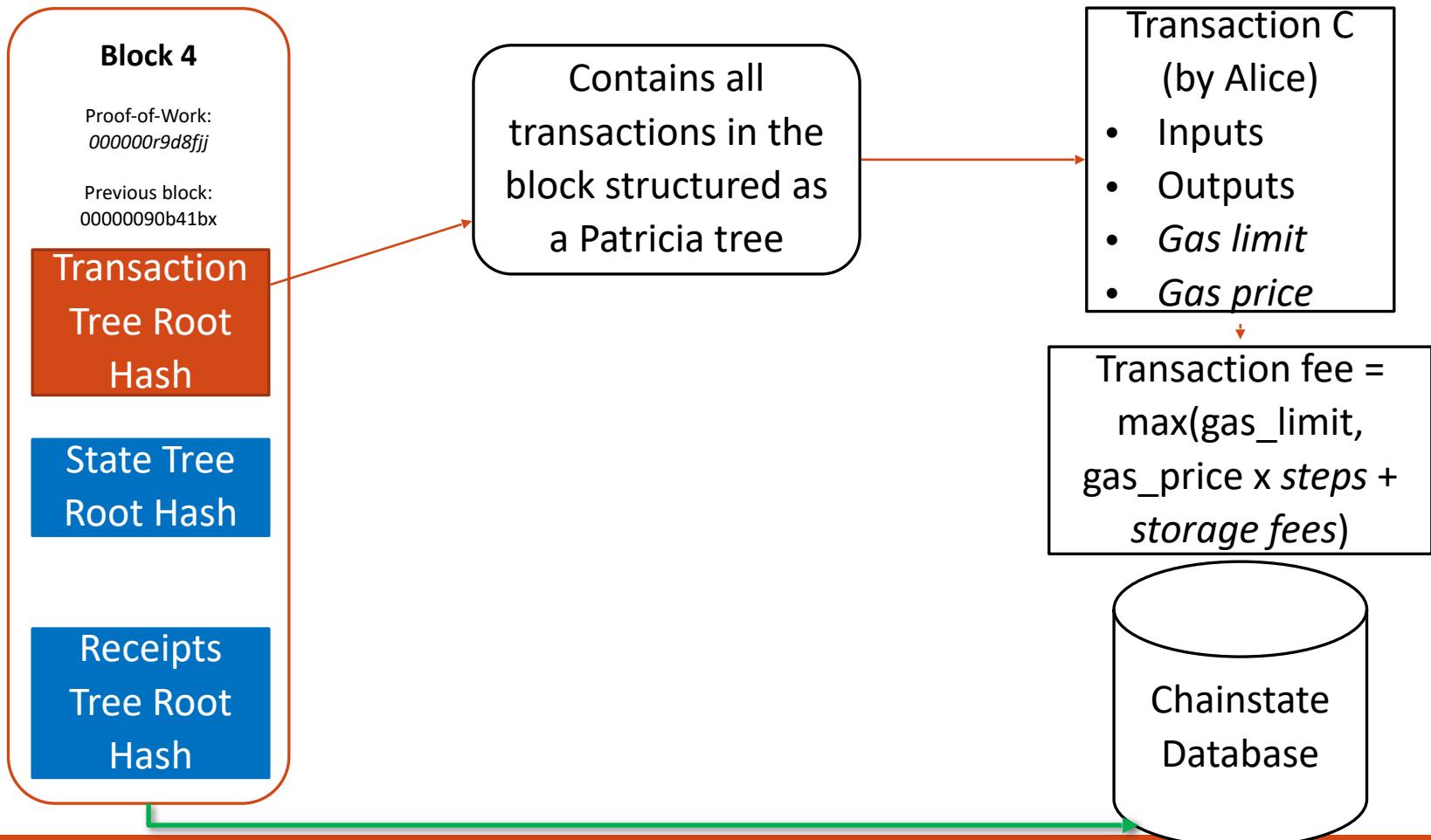
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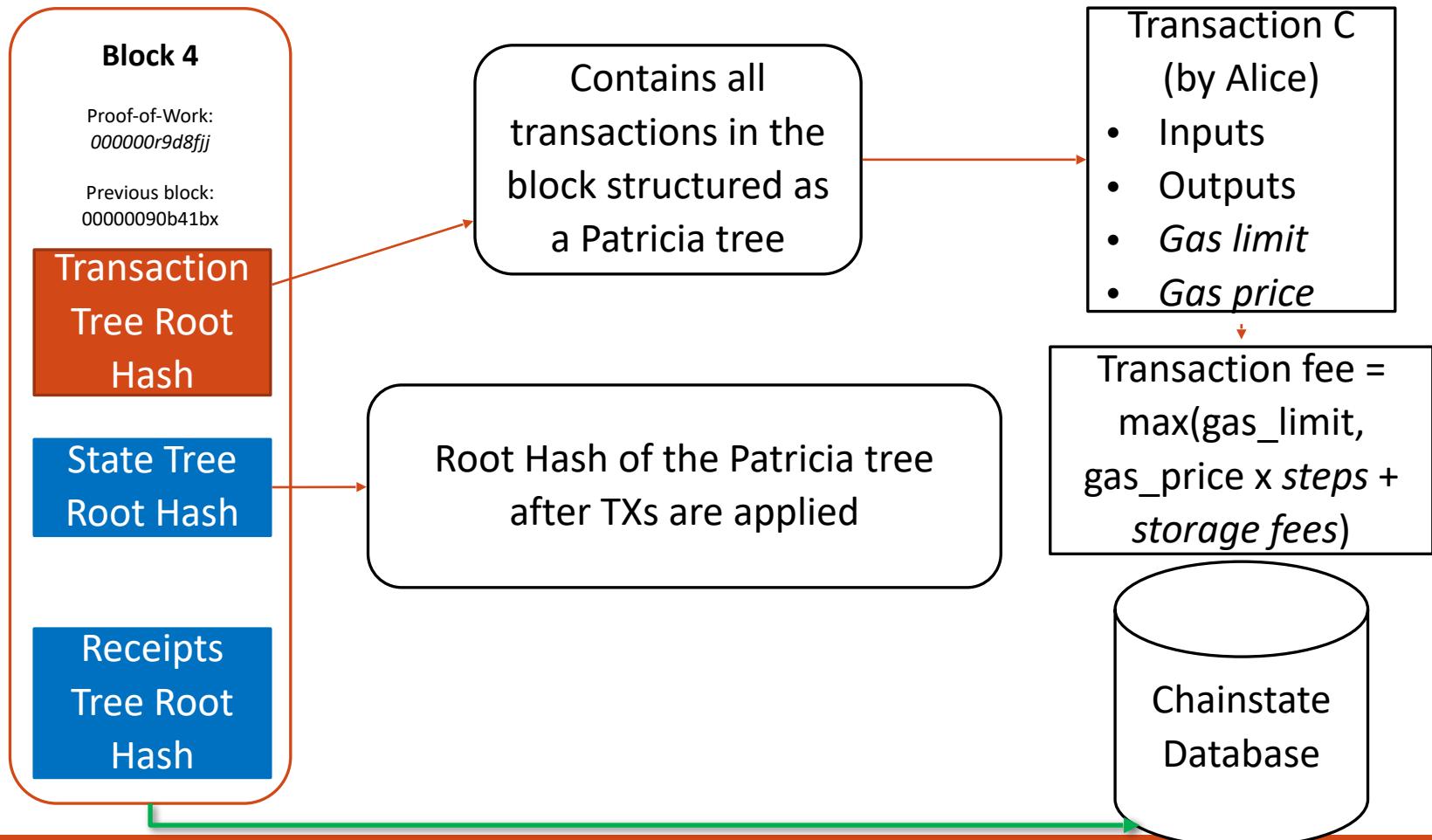
Execution



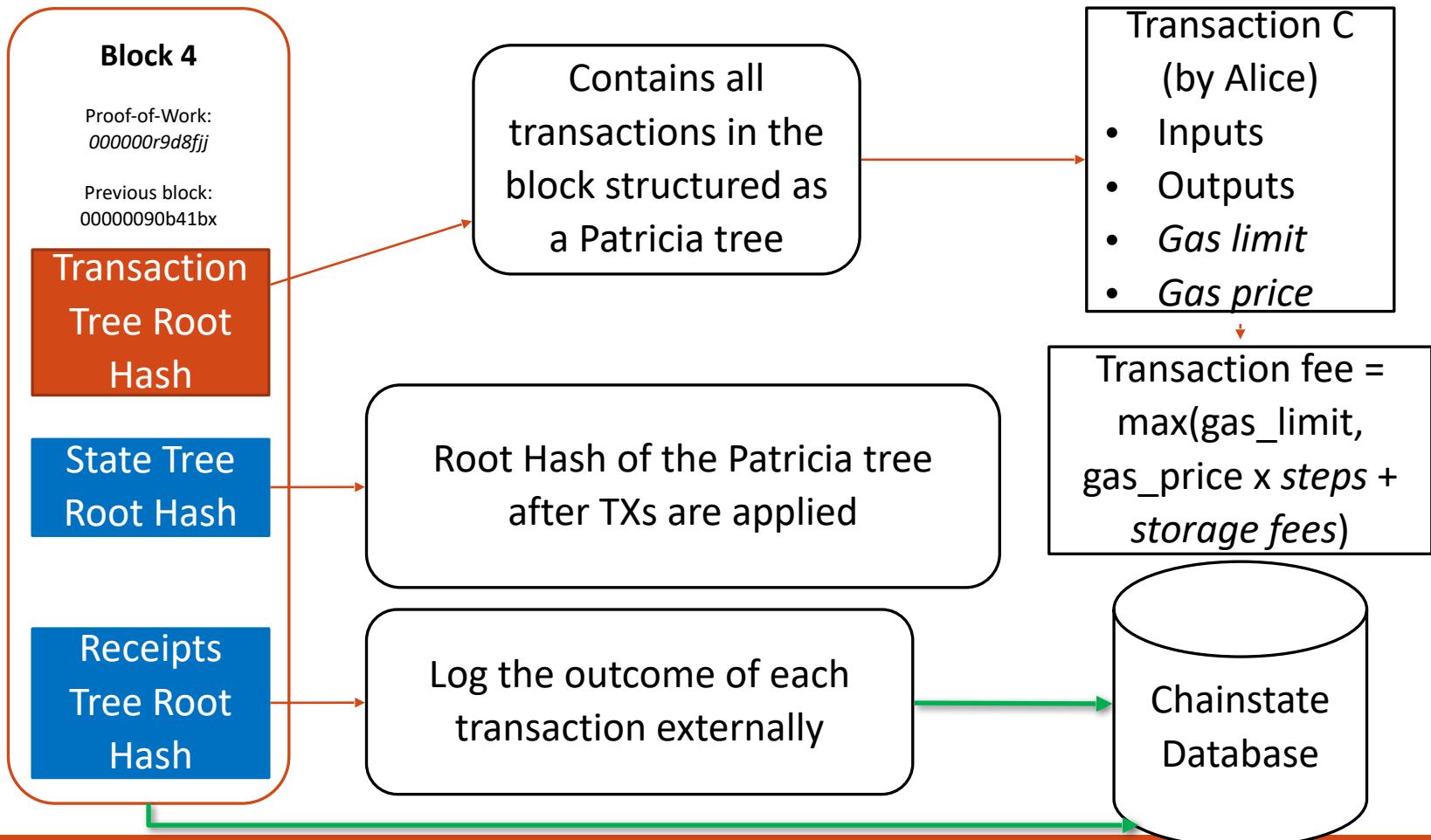
Execution

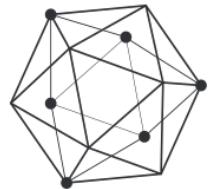


Execution



Execution





HYPERLEDGER

Managing entity: Hyperledger Consortium

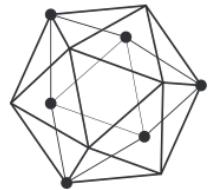
- Major players: IBM, NEC, Intel, R3, ...

Enterprise blockchains

- Permissioned ledger (private and consortium networks)
- Smart contracts in general purpose language(s)
- Open-source, configurable, pluggable consensus
- World state on CouchDB, LevelDB, *et al.*

Hyperledger is a family of projects

- Fabric: PBFT Consensus *et al.*
- Sawtooth: Proof-of-elapsed time (using Intel SGX)
- Composer: Smart contract language and development tool
- Cello: Blockchain-as-a-Service framework



HYPERLEDGER

Key differentiators

- Assumes a more trusted environment than Bitcoin/Ethereum
- Requires authentication to partake in business network
- Dozens of peers that manage distributed ledger (not 1000s)
- No cryptocurrency, no tokens (could be build on top)
- No proof-of-work-based consensus (traditional consensus)
- No mining, no intrinsic inventive mechanisms

Intended use cases

- Trade finance (tracking financial transactions and goods)
- Supply chains, logistics (tracking goods, assets, etc.)
- Cross-border trade
- Inter governmental information exchange
- Health-care networks (provider, insurer, laboratory, end-user)

Chaincode Example

Digital Rights Management for Music (DRM)

The DRM chaincode has a function 'play()' which:

- Reads an artwork
- Reads the royalty related to that artwork
- Increments a count to track royalty payments
- Writes the new count

Chaincode Example

Digital Rights Management for Music (DRM)

DRM chaincode function 'play()':

```
async play(ctx, artWorkId) {  
    const metadata = await ctx.stub.getState(artWorkId);  
    let royaltyManagementAsset = await  
        ctx.stub.getState(metadata.royaltyManagementId);  
    royaltyManagementAsset.incrementPlayCount();  
    await ctx.stub.putState(metadata.royaltyManagementId,  
        royaltyManagementBuffer);  
}
```

Chaincode Example

Digital Rights Management for Music (DRM)

play(context, 04672033) generates this **read-write set**:

```
{"namespace":"drm","rwset":{  
  "reads": [  
    {"key":"04672033","version": {"block_num": "5","tx_num": "8"}},  
    {"key": "554266330", "version": {"block_num": "5", "tx_num": "8"} }],  
  "range_queries_info": [],  
  "writes": [  
    {"key": "04672033", "is_delete": false, "value": "{\"docType\":\\\"  
    \\\"royaltyManagement\\\",  
    \\\"perPlayRoyalty\\\":0.0031611628296938066,\\\"allRightHolder\\\":  
    [{\\\"ipiName\\\":\\\"44350234880\\\",\\\"share\\\":0.7245692636304071},  
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Read set with key and version

Chaincode Example

Digital Rights Management for Music (DRM)

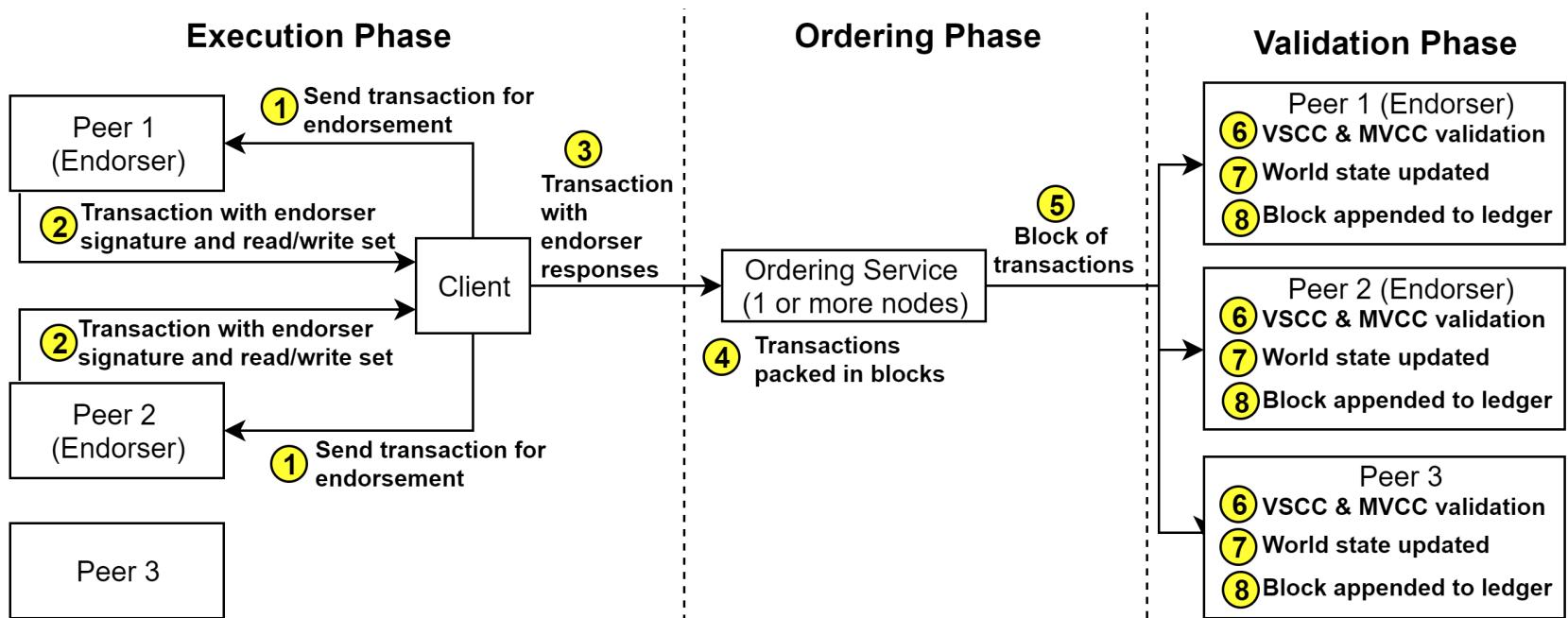
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```

Read set with key and version

Write set with key and value

Transaction Flow in Fabric

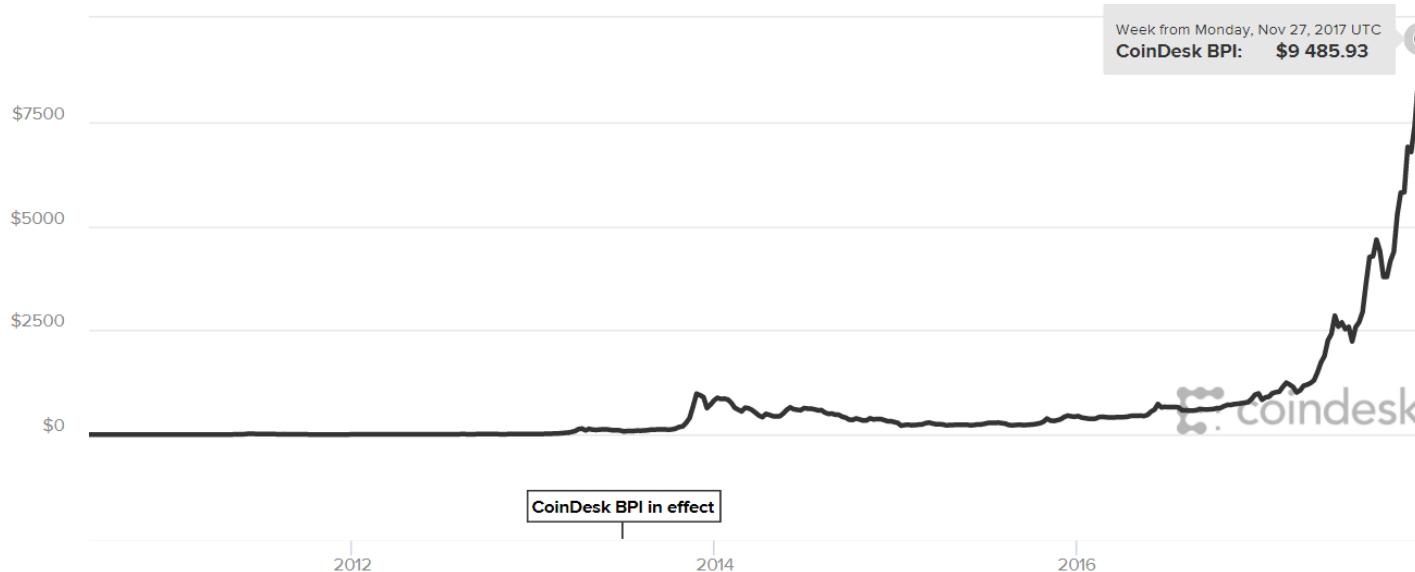


E-O-V Model

Blockchain Applications

1.0, 2.0, 3.0 GENERATIONS
IMPACT

Blockchain 1.0: Currency



\$9,485.93 ▲ 1.71%	Today's Open	\$9,326.59	Change	▲ \$159.34
	Today's High	\$9,732.76	Market Cap	\$0.158T
	Today's Low	\$9,326.59	Supply	16,704,138

Bitcoin cryptocurrency (2008)

Blockchain 2.0: Decentralized Apps (DApps)



DApps are applications built on blockchain platforms using smart contracts (e.g. Ethereum)

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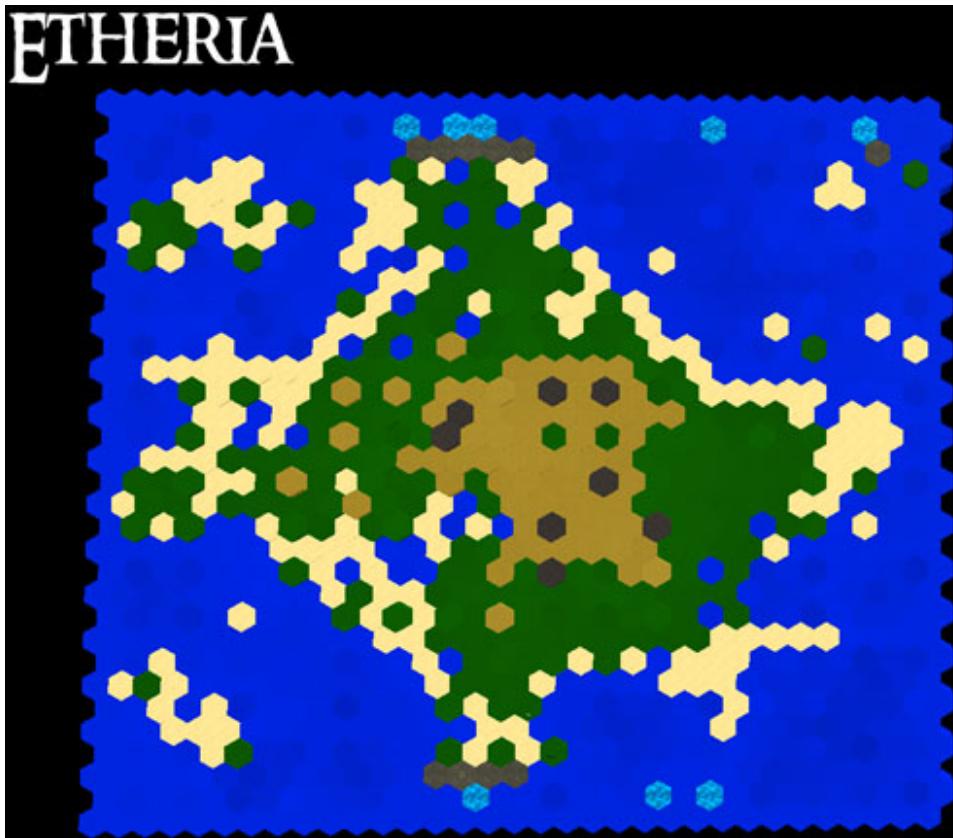


Forecast market (e.g. betting, insurance)

Blockchain 2.0: Decentralized Apps (DApps)



Forecast market (e.g. betting, insurance)



Blockchain 3.0: Pervasive Apps

Applications involve entire industries,
public sector, and IoT.

Blockchain 3.0: Pervasive Apps



everledger

Diamonds Provenance

Applications involve entire industries,
public sector, and IoT.

Blockchain 3.0: Pervasive Apps



everledger

Diamonds Provenance



FACTOM

Land Registry in Honduras

Applications involve entire industries, **public sector**, and IoT.

Blockchain 3.0: Pervasive Apps



everledger

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FACTOM

Land Registry in Honduras



BlockchainHealth

Electronic Health Records

Blockchain 3.0: Pervasive Apps



everledger

Diamonds Provenance



FACTOM

Land Registry in Honduras



BlockchainHealth

Electronic Health Records

Applications involve entire industries, **public sector**, and IoT.



Why Study Blockchains?

Drivers

- Avoid middlemen
- Provide transparency, audit trail
- Eliminate friction during conflicts (non-repudiation)



Research challenges for 1.0:

- Identify theoretical **security flaws**
- **Sustainability** of legacy systems

Research challenges for 2.0:

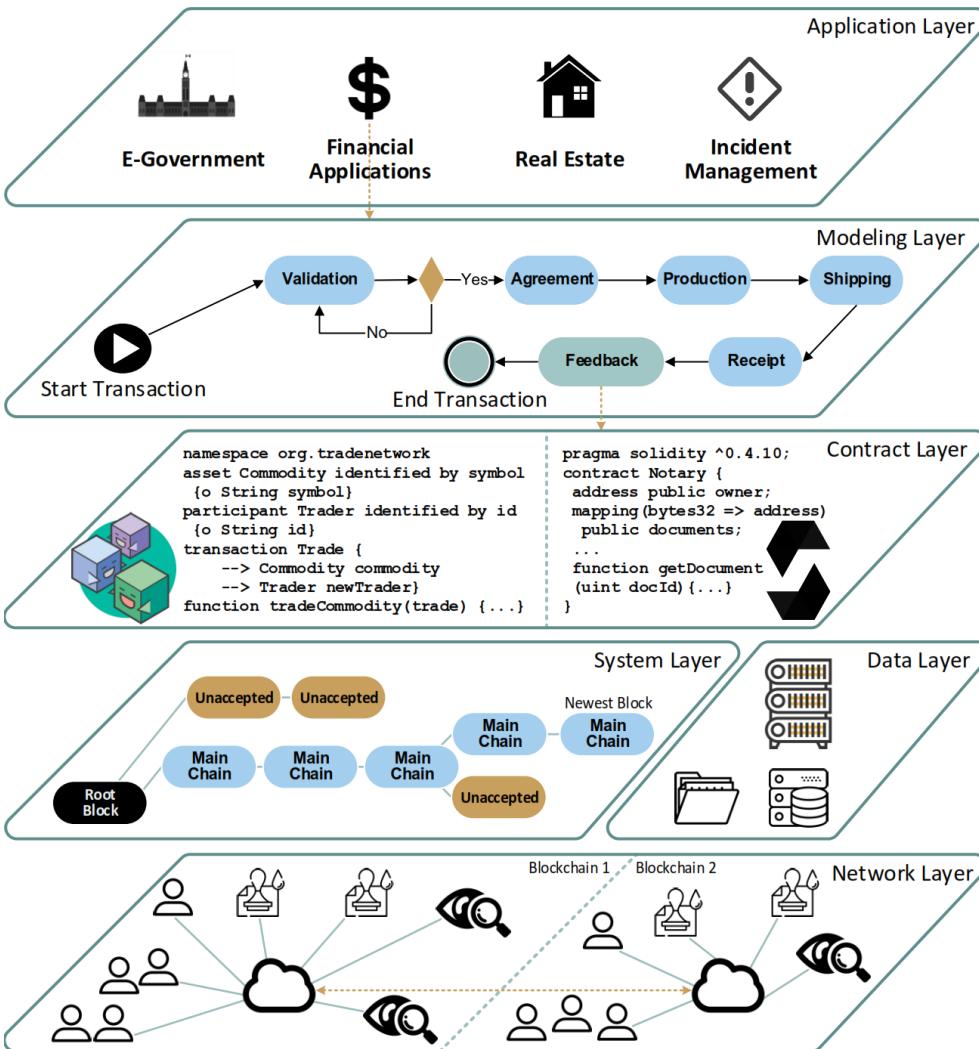
- **Verify** smart contracts
- Create generic middleware **services**

Research challenges for 3.0:

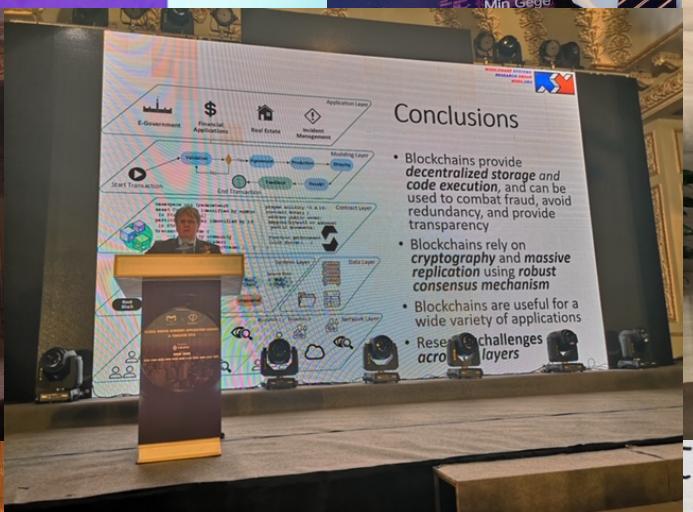
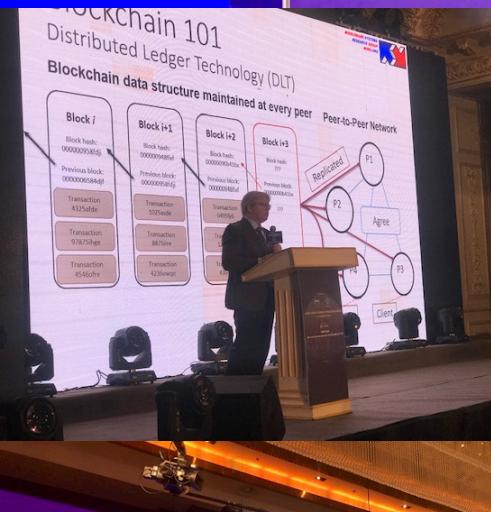
- Develop **scalable and fast** systems
- Guarantee data **privacy**
- Verify **correctness** of data entry points (CPS interface barrier)

Conclusions

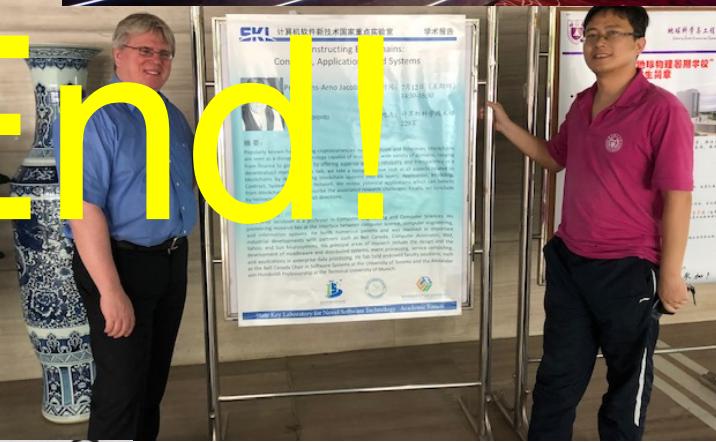
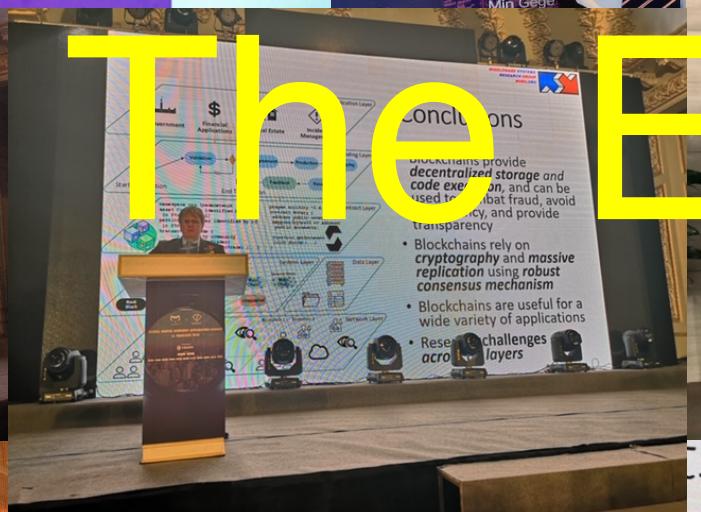
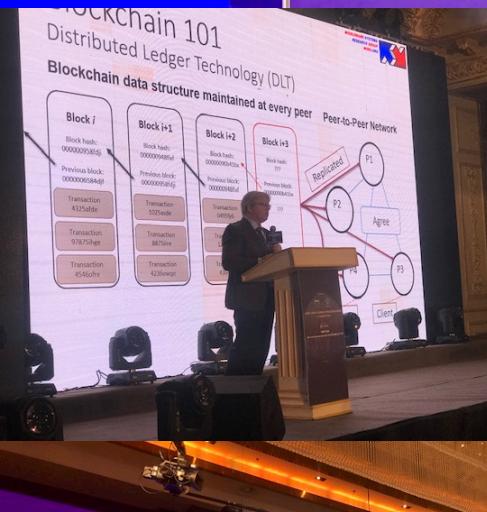
- Blockchains provide *decentralized storage and code execution*, and can be used to combat fraud, avoid redundancy, and provide transparency.
- Blockchains rely on *cryptography* and massive replication using a robust consensus mechanism.
- Blockchains are useful for a wide variety of applications, ranging from cryptocurrency (1.0) to health (3.0).
- Research directions exist across *the six layers* for all kinds of applications (from 1.0 to 3.0).



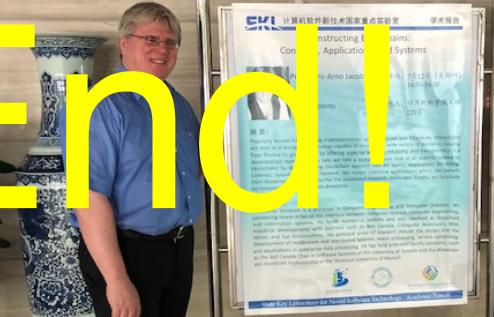
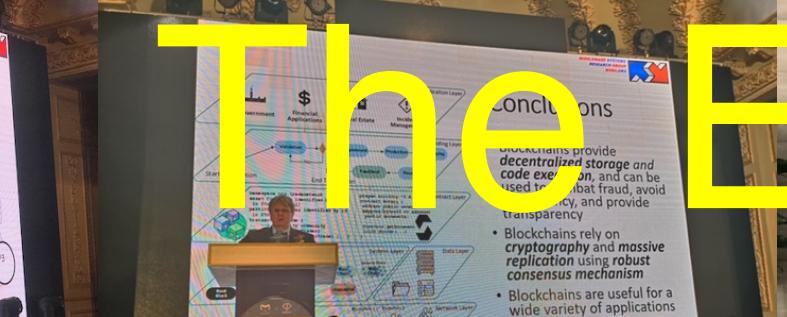
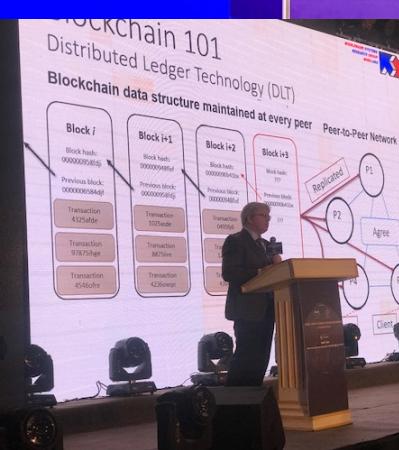
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The End!



The End!

Please do not forget to provide your feedback via the course evaluation.

