

Principle Foundations of Ethereum

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This Lecture

First Part :

History and significance of blockchains

Second Part :

Ethereum!

Possible Historical Roots

- ▶ Applications (Digital Cash, Smart Contracts)
- ▶ Incentive compatible protocol design
- ▶ Consensus

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- ▶ Maximum Delay Δ

Permissioned

- ▶ Number of nodes is common knowledge
- ▶ Nodes are always alive
- ▶ Authenticated, and the id of every node is common knowledge

Permissionless

- ▶ Number of nodes is unknown.
- ▶ Churn is allowed.
- ▶ Unauthenticated.

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- ▶ Consensus becomes impossible without authentication.
- ▶ Nakamoto Consensus is possible, and is permissionless.

Nakamoto Blockchain

A Nakamoto Blockchain is a Blockchain that has Proof of Work + Longest chain.
Proof of Work is the main mechanism that provides Sybil resistance.

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- ▶ Implements a Nakamoto Blockchain, but also includes uncle blocks.
- ▶ Each node agrees on the value that's returned from executing an arbitrary 'program'.

Value

Ethereum has an intrinsic currency called Ether.
Fee schedule is denominated in Gas.

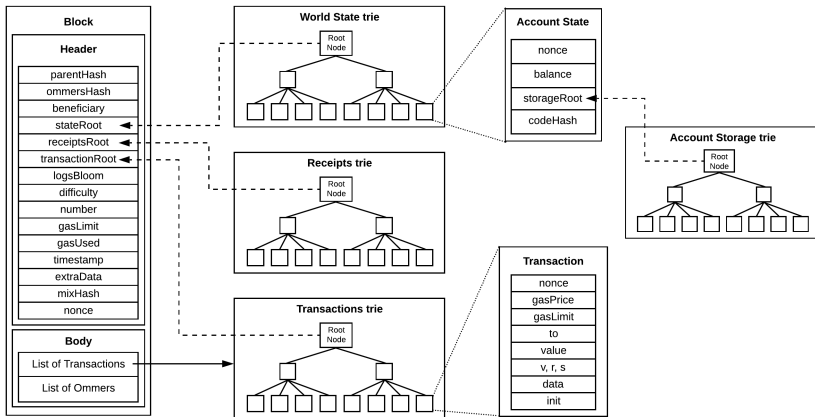
RLP

The inputs and outputs of almost every mapping in Ethereum is serialized with RLP protocol: <https://eth.wiki/fundamentals/rlp>

- ▶ The string “dog” = [0x83, 'd', 'o', 'g']
- ▶ The list [“cat”, “dog”] = [0xc8, 0x83, 'c', 'a', 't', 0x83, 'd', 'o', 'g']
- ▶ [[], [[]], [[], [[]]] = [0xc7, 0xc0, 0xc1, 0xc0, 0xc3, 0xc0, 0xc1, 0xc0]

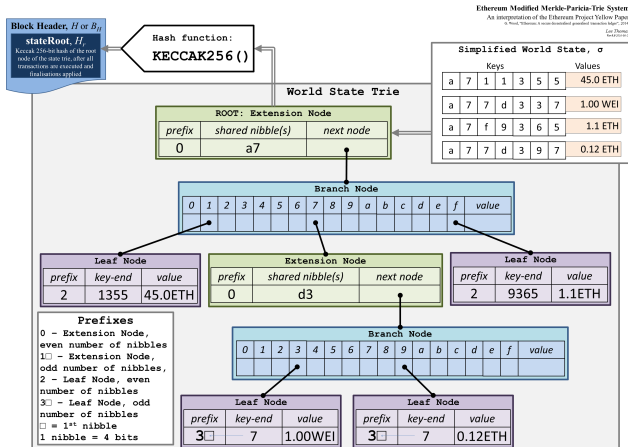
Overview

<https://www.lucassaldanha.com/ethereum-yellow-paper-walkthrough-2/>



World State

A mapping between addresses and account states, implemented in the form of a Merkle-Patricia Trie.



Accounts

Account Types:

- ▶ ***Externally Owned***: Can use private key.
- ▶ ***Contract accounts***

Account State contains:

- ▶ ***Nonce*** : Number of (transactions sent | contracts created) by this account.
- ▶ ***Balance***
- ▶ ***Storage Root***
- ▶ ***codeHash***

Transactions

- ▶ ***Nonce***: Number of transactions sent
- ▶ ***gasPrice***: Eth value of every unit of Gas.
- ▶ ***gasLimit***
- ▶ ***to***: (if for contract creation, nil)
- ▶ ***value***
- ▶ ***v, r, s***
- ▶ ***Init*** (if contract creation)
- ▶ ***data***

Block

Block = Headers + A list of Ommer block headers + a List of transactions

The canonical difficulty of a block of header H is defined as $D(H)$:

$$(41) \quad D(H) \equiv \begin{cases} D_0 & \text{if } H_i = 0 \\ \max(D_0, P(H)_{H_d} + x \times \varsigma_2 + \epsilon) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where:

$$(42) \quad D_0 \equiv 131072$$

$$(43) \quad x \equiv \left\lfloor \frac{P(H)_{H_d}}{2048} \right\rfloor$$

$$(44) \quad \varsigma_2 \equiv \max \left(y - \left\lfloor \frac{H_s - P(H)_{H_s}}{9} \right\rfloor, -99 \right)$$

$$y \equiv \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \|P(H)_{\mathbf{U}}\| = 0 \\ 2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$(45) \quad \epsilon \equiv \left\lfloor 2^{\lfloor H'_i + 100000 \rfloor - 2} \right\rfloor$$

$$(46) \quad H'_i \equiv \max(H_i - 5000000, 0)$$

Transaction flow

1. Increment Nonce.
2. Deduct max Gas put aside the intrinsic gas..
3. Execute
4. Refund the (remaining Gas) + (the Gas from freeing up storage / 2).
5. Pay the miner gas used plus intrinsic gas.