Building with Lightning

DEV DECAL APR 2018

Max Fang

ABOUT MAX

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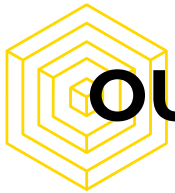
- Developer Advocate at **Lightning Network!**
- **UC Berkeley** Student: CS + Econ
- Upcoming Adjunct Professor **Berkeley Law**
  - LL.M program
- President of **Blockchain at Berkeley** since 2015
  - (Previously Bitcoin Association of Berkeley)
- **ChangeTip** Jan 2015 - Jan 2016
- ~4 years cryptocurrency experience since founding GPU-based cryptocurrency mining startup Feb 2014
- Designed & founded the **Blockchain Fundamentals** course at UC Berkeley: world's only undergraduate survey course (~120 students)
  - (Previously Cryptocurrency Decal)
- **Research interests:** Bitcoin privacy and PoW game theory
- Misc teaching and consulting
  - **Executive Education**

Me and the ChangeTip team

LIGHTNING

BLOCKCHAIN AT BERKELEY



OUTLINE

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1. Limitations of Bitcoin
2. Intro to Lightning
3. Lightning Use Cases
4. Lightning Development
5. The State of Lightning

1 LIMITATIONS OF BITCOIN

LIMITATIONS OF BITCOIN

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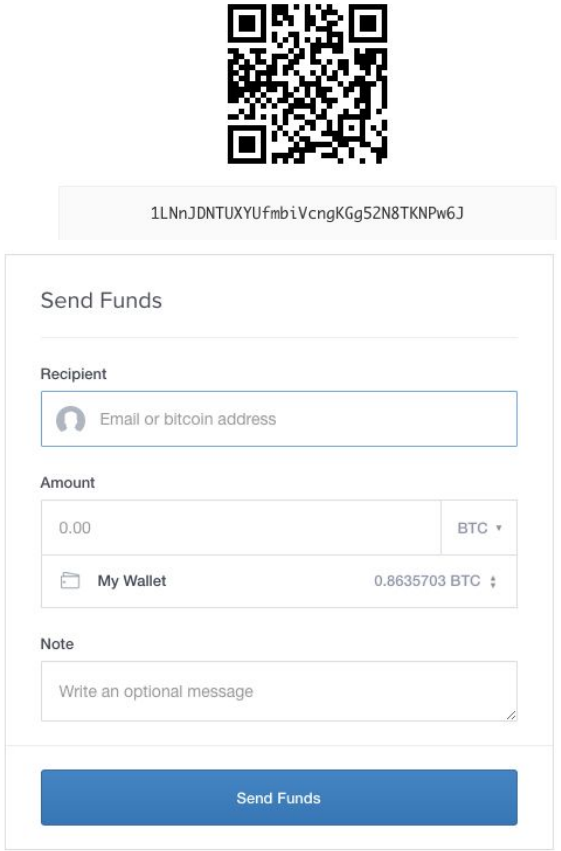
Bitcoin exists as software. Transactions are conducted through wallet software that makes our lives easy.

When we click "Send Funds", what is going on under the hood?

The transaction is

- **broadcast** to the network,
- where other nodes **verify it,**
- **add it to the transaction history**,
- and eventually, the recipient **accepts** the tx



Coinbase interface

AUTHOR: MAX FANG

TX: BROADCAST & VERIFY

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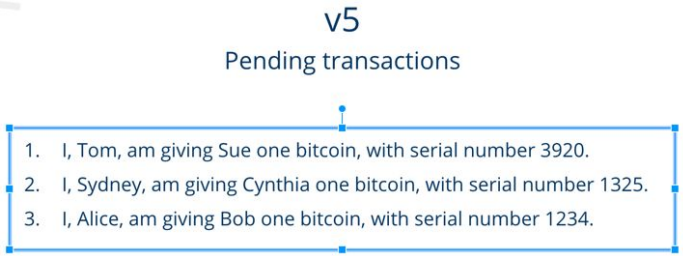
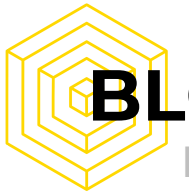
Slide by Viget



- I want to send money to @roasbeef 🍗
  - Sign transaction
  - **Broadcast** to network
    - A **flooding algorithm** or **gossip protocol** gets the entire network to hear about a transaction
    - Miners are listening for transactions
- **Verify** transaction with four checks*:
  - Does the script for each previous output being redeemed return true?
  - Have all redeemed outputs not been spent?
  - Have I already seen this transaction? Do not relay it if so.
  - Only accept and relay "standard scripts": based off a small whitelist of scripts
  - *The actual software is a lot more complicated than this



BLOCK: BROADCAST & VERIFY

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- After a while, miner finds PoW, **broadcasts** valid block
  - Block propagates across the network
- Miners **verify the block**
  - **Verify** the block header
  - **Verify** each of the transactions
    - Signature correct, script correct, output correct, etc
  - Miners start work on the next block

AUTHOR: MAX FANG

TX: ADD TO HISTORY

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Transactions

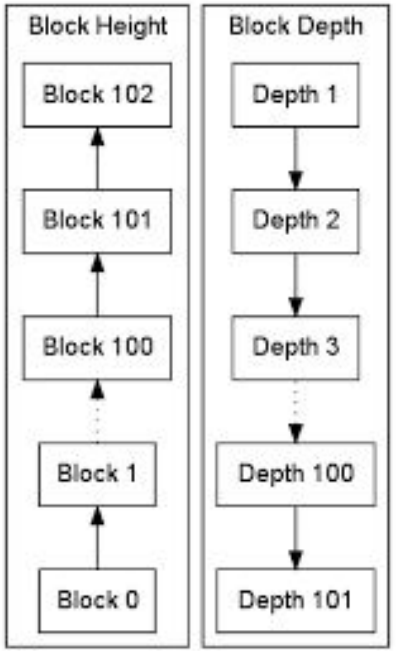
- Maps input addresses to output addresses
  - Typical tx: one input, two outputs
- Contains signature of owner of funds

Blocks

- Contains an ordered bunch of transactions
- Timestamps the transactions, are **immutable**
- Each block references a previous block

Blockchain

- The entire series of blocks 'chained' together by its hash



Block Height Compared To Block Depth

Source: Bitcoin Developer Guide

TX: FINALIZE

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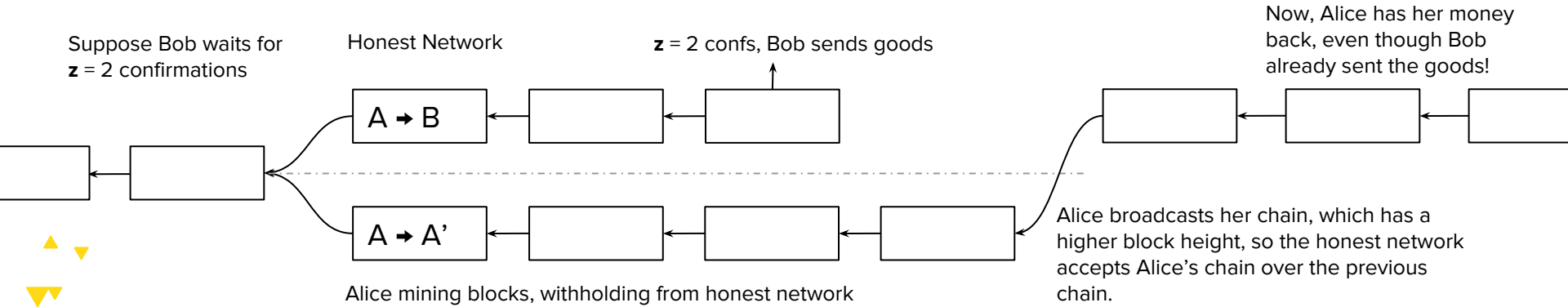
Need to protect against a **double spend attack**. The attack:

- Max makes a transaction to @roasbeef 🍖. @roasbeef 🍖 waits **z** confirmations sending goods.
- Max creates a double spend transaction in his private chain
- Honest network finds **z** blocks, @roasbeef 🍖 sends the goods
- Max broadcasts a chain longer than **z** blocks *after* @roasbeef 🍖 sends the goods.
- Max gets the good for free!



AUTHOR: PHILIP HAYES

LIMITATIONS OF BITCOIN

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What just happened?

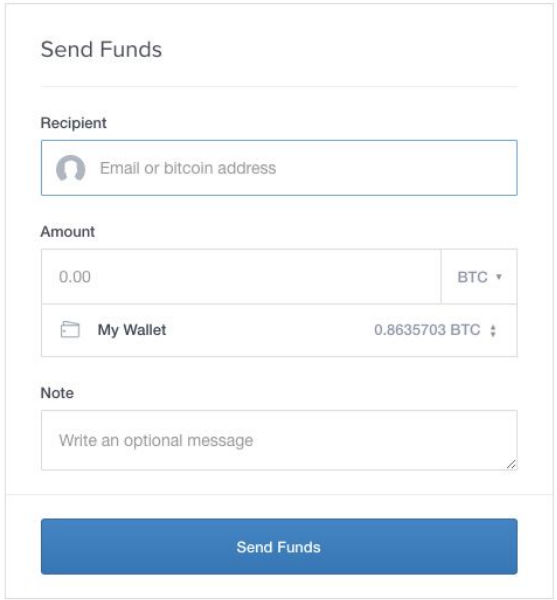
A transaction from Max to @roasbeef 🍗:

- Was broadcast to the whole world, and **no one cares**
- Made every Bitcoin node **waste computation** by verifying that transaction and the block that contained it
- Was added into the blockchain history, and now **everyone has to store it forever**
- Required @roasbeef 🍗 to **wait an hour** before he can safely accept the payment.
- Needs to fit into the **~3 tx/s** allowed by the Bitcoin network

Can we do better?

AUTHOR: MAX FANG

1LNnJDNTUXYUfmbiVcngKGg52N8TKNPw6J



Coinbase interface

2

INTRO TO LIGHTNING

LIGHTNING NETWORK

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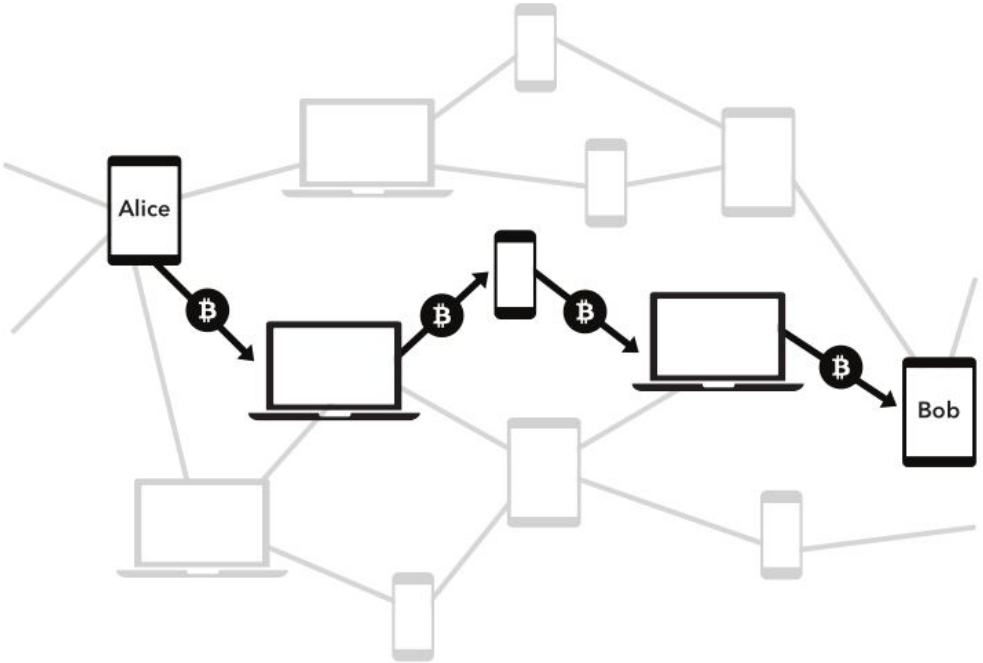
Lightning enables scalable blockchains through high-volume instant transactions without custodial delegation.

Transactions are secured in a “local consensus” that rely on the security of the underlying blockchain.

Lightning Network is infrastructure for speeding up digital ledger technology.



AUTHOR: JOSEPH POON

HOW THE LIGHTNING NETWORK WORKS

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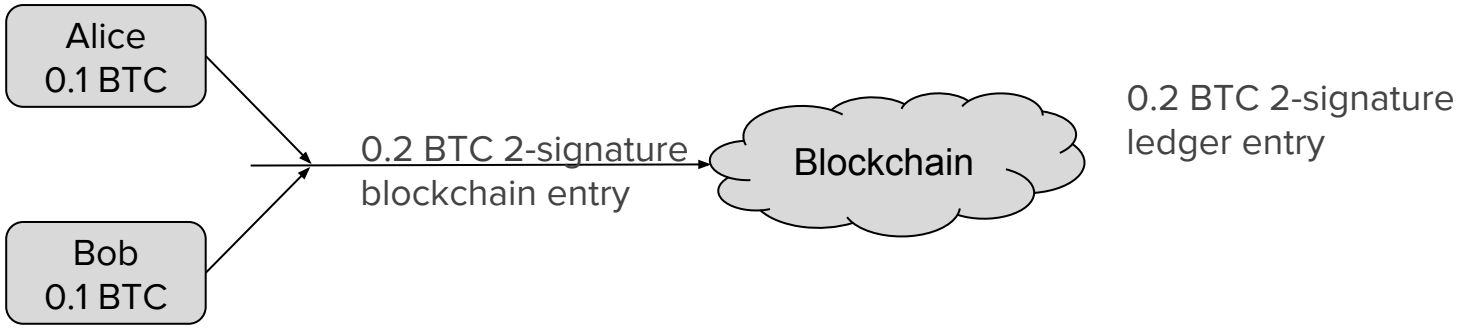
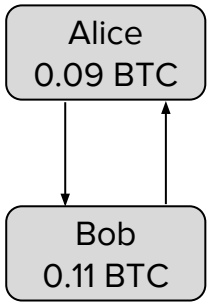


Two participants assign funds on the blockchain into an entry which **requires both parties to sign** off to spend from the blockchain entry.



Alice and Bob **exchange digital signatures** directly with each other every time they want to **update their balance** in this local off-blockchain "channel."

They can **close out and settle the transaction at any time** on the blockchain claiming their off-chain balance (since they've signed off but not broadcasted the old balances). They have also exchanged directly with each other a **cryptographic bonded proof revoking the old balances**, so only the newest one can be used.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC HASH FUNCTIONS

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A **cryptographic hash function**

$$H : \{0,1\}^* \longmapsto \{0,1\}^k$$

Maps some **arbitrarily-sized bit string** to some **fixed-size bit string**.

The function only **evaluates in one direction**; you can't find the input given just the output.

The function is **"deterministic"**; the same input always yields the same output.

AUTHOR: PHILIP HAYES

"The workhorses of modern cryptography"

- Bruce Schneier

3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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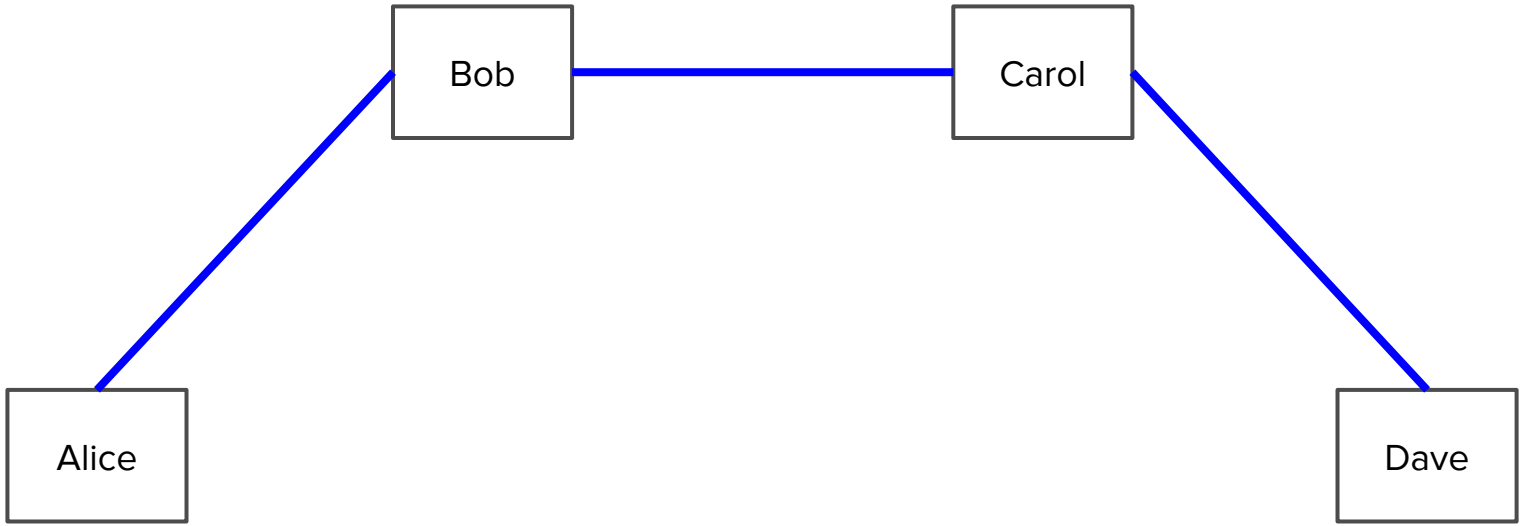
Alice wants to pay Dave without opening a new channel



3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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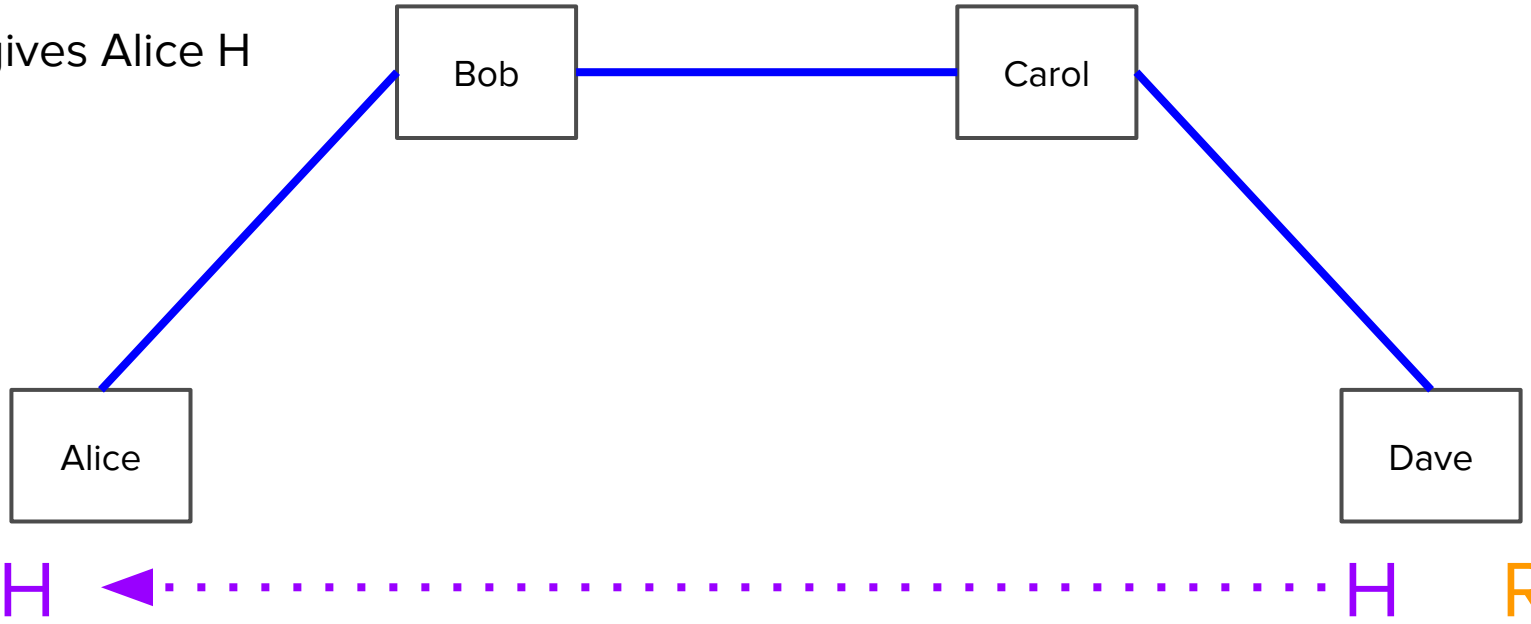
Dave makes a random number R and hashes it to H.

Dave gives Alice H



3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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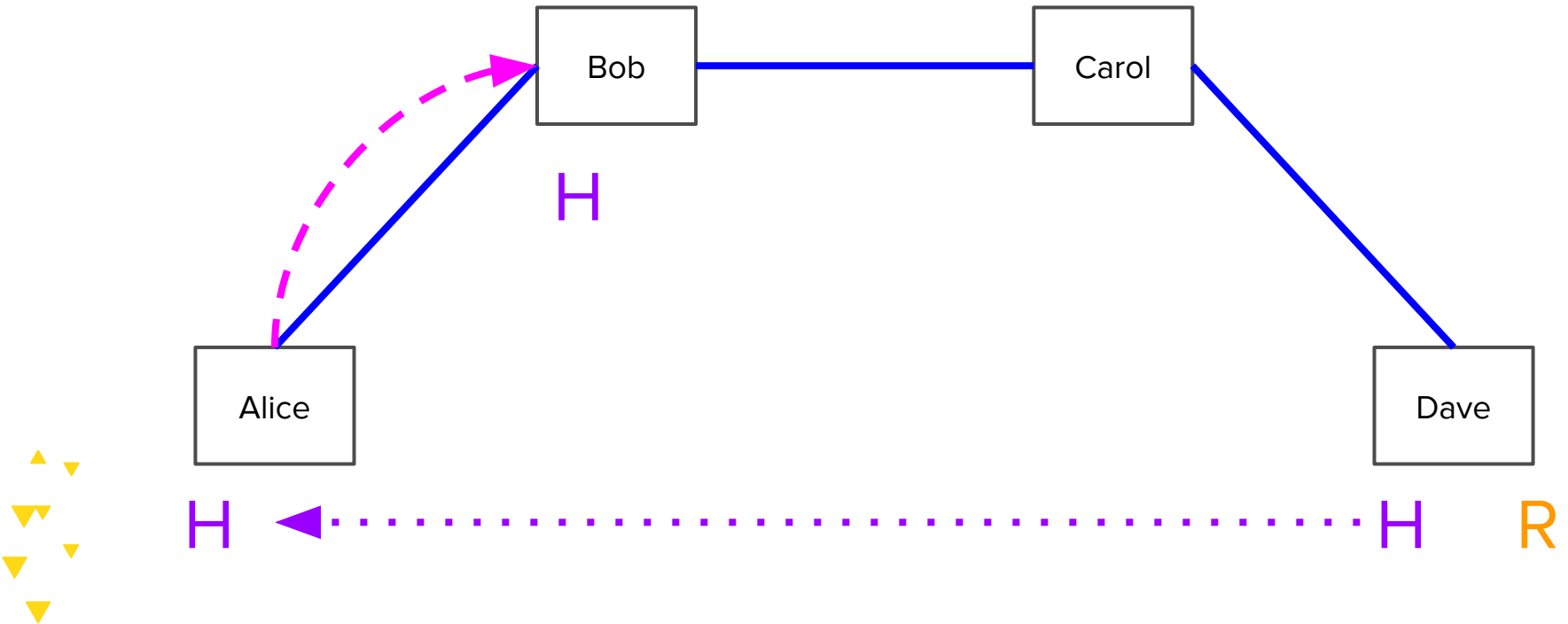
Alice pays Bob, but only if he knows R, the pre-image of H



3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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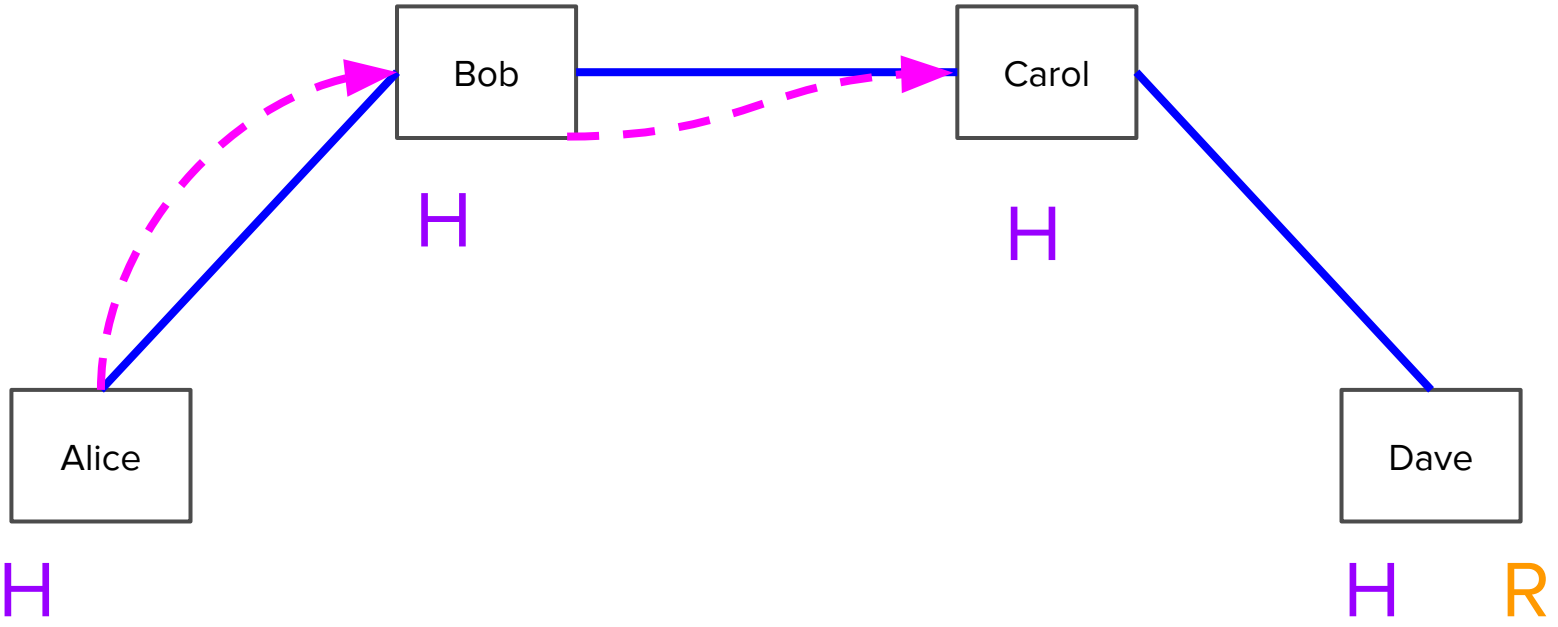
Bob pays Carol, but only if she knows R, the pre-image of H



3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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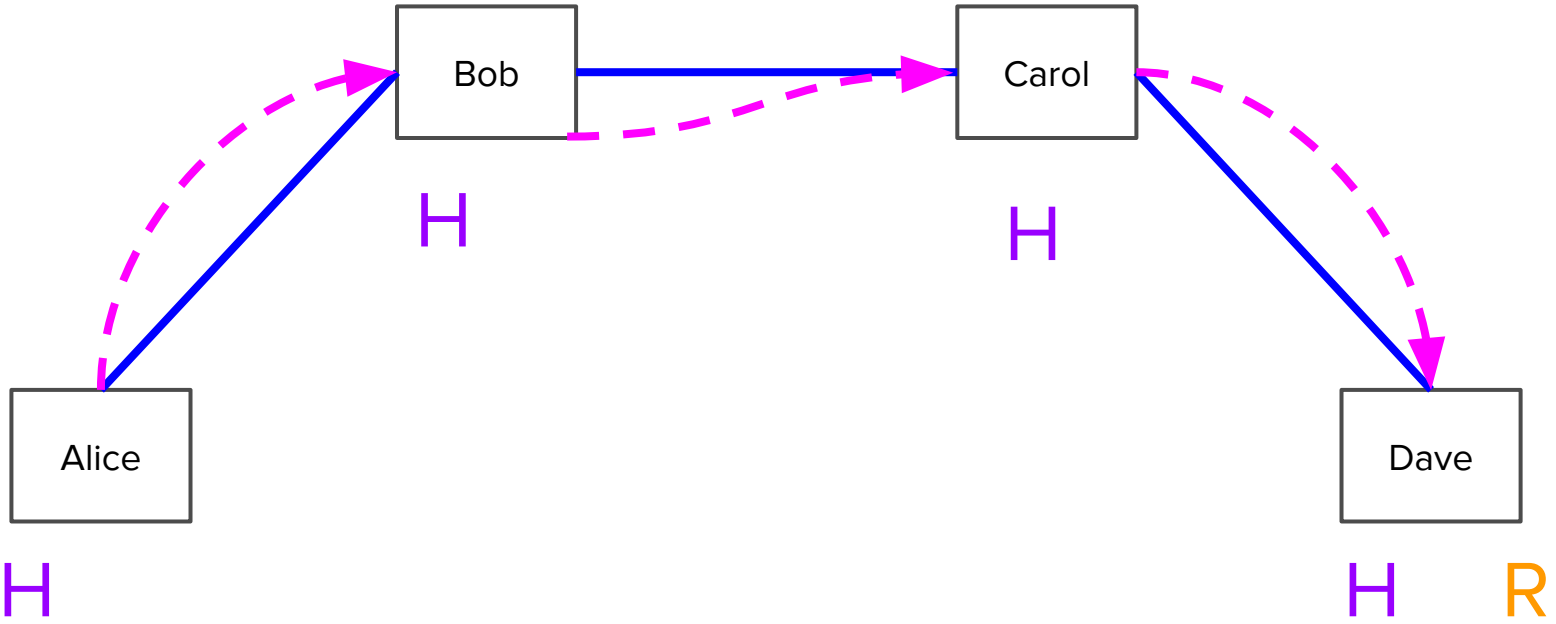
Carol pays Dave, but only if he knows R... and he does!



3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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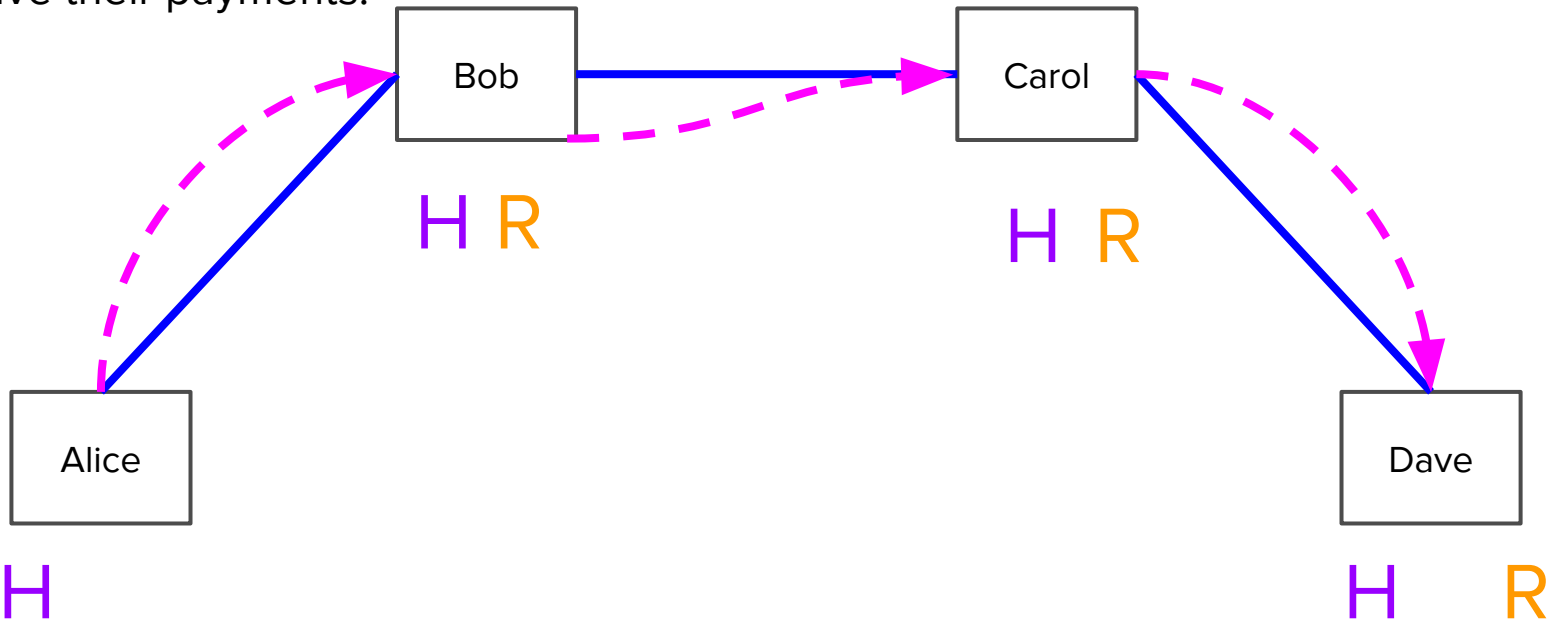
When Dave receives the payment, he must reveal R. Revealing R allows Carol and Bob to receive their payments.



3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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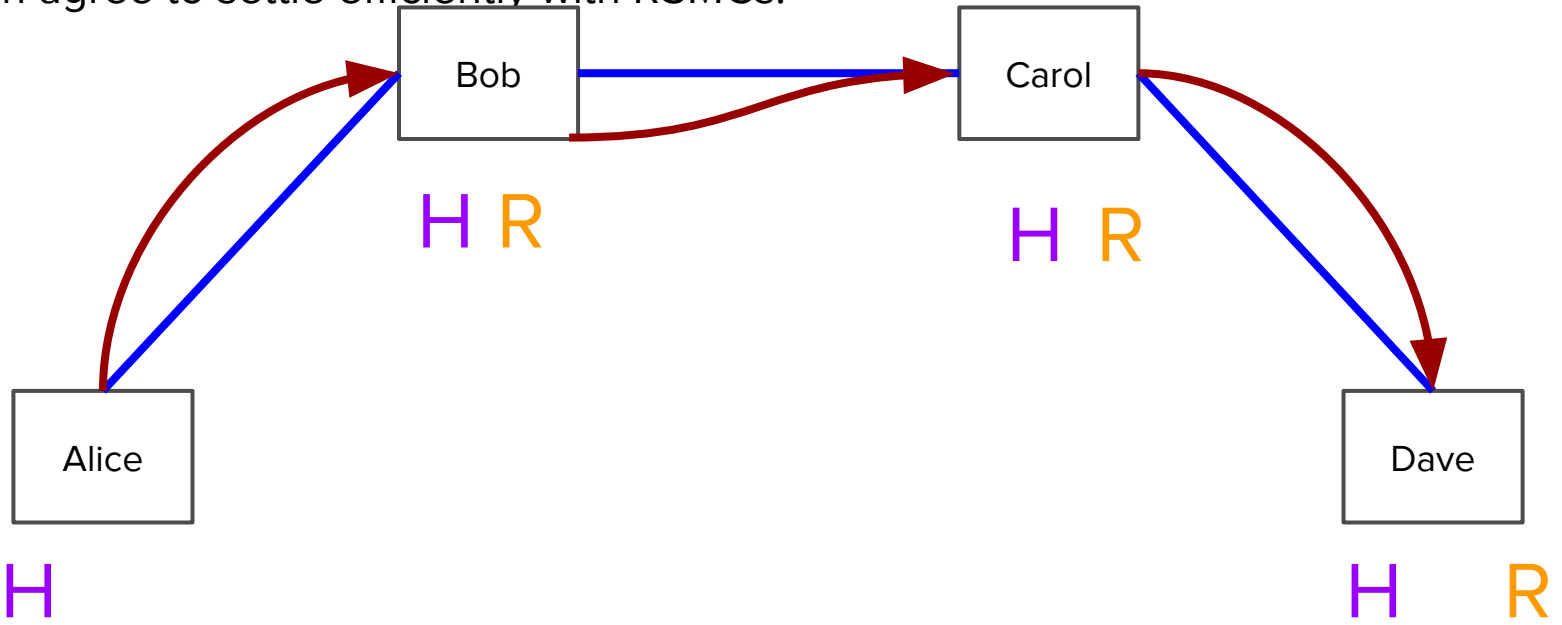
Alice<->Bob, Bob<->Carol, and Carol<->Dave now have a safeguard against stealing, so they can agree to settle efficiently with RSMCs.



3+ PARTY NON-CUSTODIAL CLEARING

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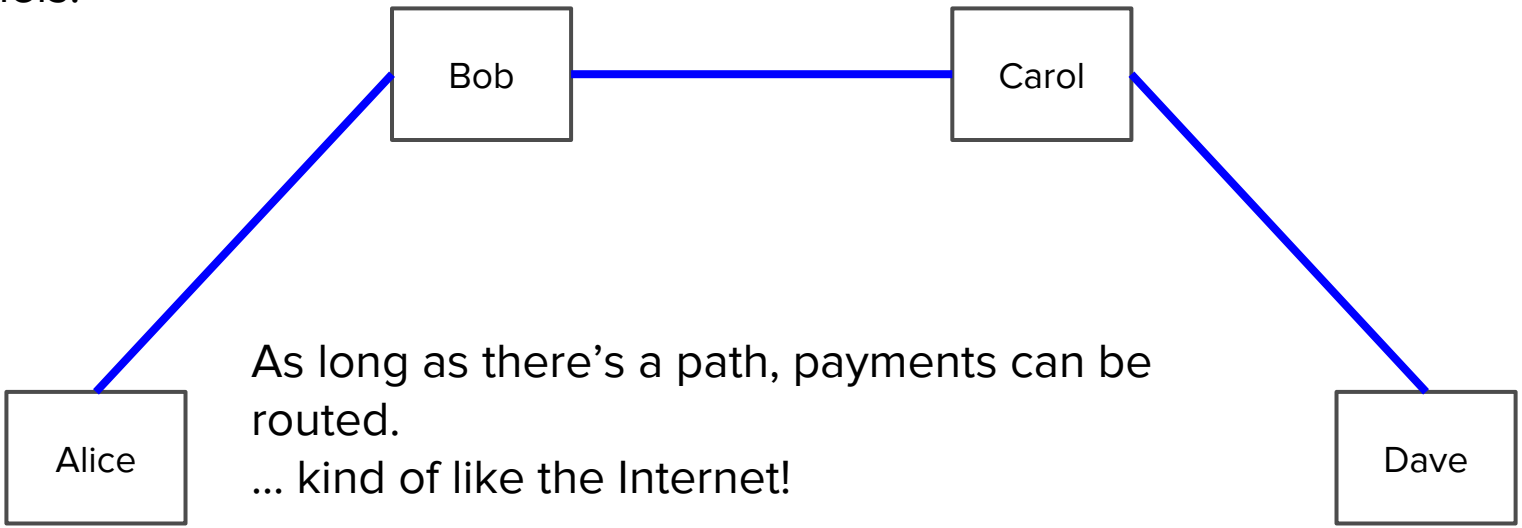
Lots of payments to anyone within the networks, without the need to make new channels.



As long as there's a path, payments can be routed.
... kind of like the Internet!

ADVANTAGES OF LIGHTNING

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- Micropayments:
  - Possible to send **1 satoshi** ($0.00001) **instantly** in open+decentralized network
- Scalability via amortization:
  - Channel setup: 1 **on-chain** transaction
  - Channel operation:
    - Can send an **unbounded** number of payments **off-chain**
    - With a **few channels** can reach **entire network** via multi-hop payments
    - Fees are **predictable** and **known a priori**
    - Channels can stay open **indefinitely**
  - Channel closure: 1 **on-chain** transactions, can be closed **unilaterally**
- Higher level abstraction for developers:
  - Payment invoices/requests
  - Instant success/error
- Tradeoffs: not suitable for **very** large payments, liveness assumptions

SECOND LAYER BITCOIN PROTOCOLS

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- Layer 1:
  - Write **directly** to the Blockchain
  - Highest security (each write backed by PoW)
  - Best for **high-value** payments
  - Constrained to **3-7** transactions per second

- Layer 2:
  - Uses **security** of Layer 1
  - Greater flexibility via Bitcoin's scripting capabilities
  - Low cost
  - Point-to-point, greater scalability
  - Suitable for **real-time** use cases
  - Day-to-day payments (thousands of transactions per second)

AUTHOR: LAOLU OSUNTOKUN

USING LIGHTNING INSTEAD

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A transaction from Max to @roasbeef 🍗:

- Was **known and computed only by participating parties**
- Did not add to the forever-growing blockchain history stored by all nodes
- Allowed @roasbeef 🍗 to instantly and safely accept the payment.
- Cost Max **satoshi amounts** in fees
- Has no limit on the number of transactions per second.

Much better.

Coinbase interface

LIGHTNING NETWORK

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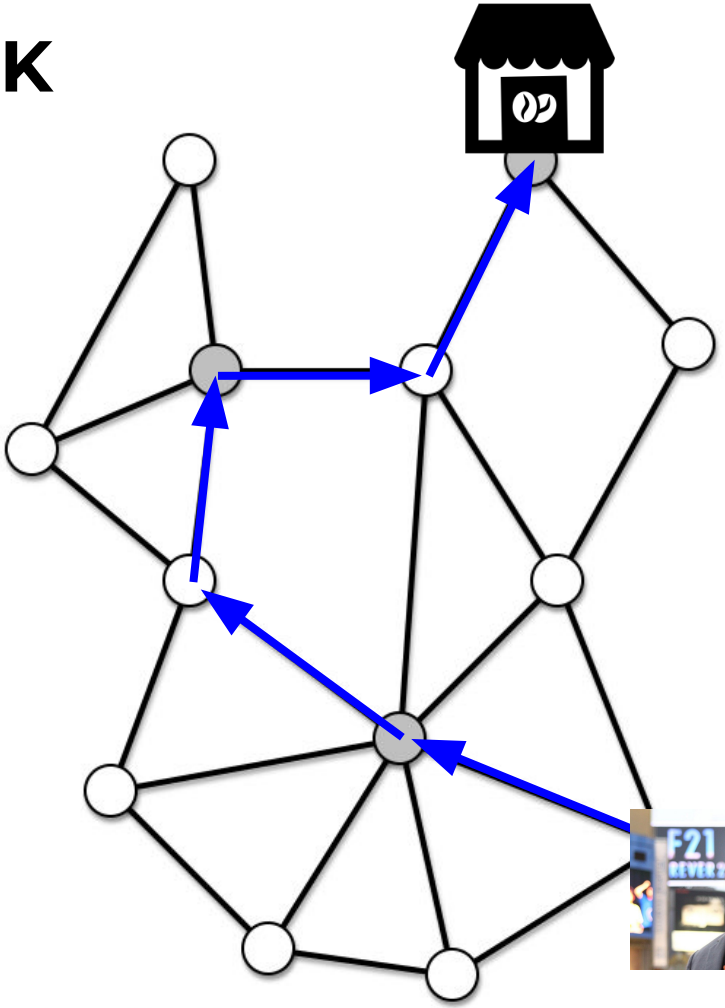
With Lightning, you can finally pay for a coffee with Bitcoin



AUTHOR: MAX FANG

4 THE STATE OF LIGHTNING

STATE OF THE NETWORK

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- Lightning Network In-Progress specifications (lightning-rfc)
  - Basis of Lightning Technology (BOLT)
  - Specs cover: funding process, key derivation, p2p interaction, messages, etc.
- **4+** implementations being **actively developed** e.g:
  - lnd, eclair, lightningd (c-lightning), lit
  - Implementations are interoperable! (Lightning Protocol 1.0)
- Development around cross-chain swaps!
  - Nov 2017 Lightning Labs demonstrated the first cross-chain atomic swap between Bitcoin and Litecoin testnets!
- Growing list of LApps at dev.lightning.community/lapps/
  - ~33 Lapps as of March 2018
  - Developer tools, games, streaming, visualizations, network stats

Lightning Protocol 1.0: Compatibility Achieved ✅

As developers of the Lightning Network protocol, we're excited to announce version 1.0 RC of the Lightning protocol specification along with a successful cross-implementation test on Bitcoin mainnet!

Connecting Blockchains: Instant Cross-Chain Transactions On Lightning

16 NOV 2017 on Announcement

by Conner Fromknecht

LND - THE LIGHTNING NETWORK DAEMON

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- Code: https://github.com/lightningnetwork/lnd/
  - Uses the **btcsuite (**a.k.a btcd**)** set of Bitcoin libraries
- Developed by **Lightning Labs.** Lead developer: **roasbeef**
- Recently released **v0.4-beta: MAINNET RELEASE!**
  - Developer-oriented; desktop/mobile app support soon
  - Recommended experimentation with only small amounts
  - New Capabilities:
    - **bitcoind** support in addition to **btcd**
    - Easier backup, and recovery from data loss
    - Vastly improved **fault-tolerance** (persistence)
    - Smarter Path-Finding
    - Automated contract resolution
    - Segwit only
    - Routing node metrics

Lightning Labs $2.5 million round

- Investors: Jack Dorsey, Charlie Lee, Ben Davenport, Digital Currency Group and others
- Upcoming Lightning ICO!
  Ticker OST (Osuntokuns)
  - (no, not really)

4

LIGHTNING USE CASES

MICROPAYMENTS

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LIGHTNING

The **Lightning Network** enables a high volume of instant, low-fee payments while retaining a fully trustless, decentralized nature

- Utilizes "payment channels," allowing for the amortization of transaction fees
- Relies on the security of the underlying blockchain

Benefits

- Enables decentralized global scale payment network **competitive with credit cards**
- In Bitcoin, **possible to send 1 satoshi** ($0.00001) per payment
- **Real-time payments** with **instant confirmations**
  - No more waiting an hour to safeguard against double spends
- **Enhanced privacy** - transactions by default only shared between interested parties
  - Can also add onion routing on top

MICROPAYMENTS

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LIGHTNING

Media Use Cases

- Payroll by the minute
- Micropayment paywalls
  - Replacing ads or expensive subscriptions with "freemium" models
    - Save media companies!
  - Pay per article, pay per video
- Replace virtual game currency with real currency

IoT Use Cases

- Buzzwords like "Machine-to-machine payments"
- IBM ADEPT
- Pay for metered energy

AUTHOR: MAX FANG

MICROPAYMENTS

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LIGHTNING

Tech Use Cases

- DDOS-resistant internet
  - Embed a micropayment in each internet packet
- Pay-per-API call
  - Anonymous API tokens
- Pay for Internet by the megabyte

Financial use cases

- Alternative payment method: low-free, irreversible payments
- HFT trading between cryptocurrency exchanges
- Decentralized exchanges
- Reduce risk of theft at centralized exchanges
  - Store money in channels instead of accounts
  - Let users be custodians of keys

AUTHOR: MAX FANG

MICROPAYMENTS

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Blockchain Use Cases

- Pay for blockchain services!
  - Running full nodes and other key network infrastructure
  - Storage
  - Computation
  - Oracles
  - Arbitration
  - Almost any other blockchain product that claims to need its own token

Other Use Cases

- Trustless, efficient off-chain betting
- Experimental game-theoretic protocols e.g. to surface high quality content
  - Create profit opportunities for hipsters

AUTHOR: MAX FANG

CRYPTOCURRENCIES & MICROPAYMENTS

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Conclusions

- Cryptocurrencies are neutral; can serve as common ground between competing entities
  - No primary beneficiary
  - Well-suited for horizontal integration
- Cryptocurrency payments don't require personal information
  - Potentially send money to pseudonyms across the internet
- Cryptocurrencies are **irreversible**
  - May or may not be desired
  - Elizabeth Stark: "Reversible systems can be built on top of irreversible ones, but not vice versa"
- Lightning Network is like the 'checking account' of Bitcoin
  - Lightning adds benefits of microtransactions and instant finality to the existing benefits of cryptocurrencies

5

LIGHTNING DEVELOPMENT

LIGHTNING DEVELOPMENT

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Developer site: dev.lightning.community

- Resources
- Tutorial
- Install guide
- Python / Javascript gRPC guide
- Slack

AUTHOR: MAX FANG

CONCLUSION

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Thank you!

Lightning Twitter: @lightning

Max: @maxfangx
- max@lightning.engineering
- Website: maxfa.ng

LIGHTNING

QUESTIONS?

X ARCHIVED SLIDES

TRANSACTION THROUGHPUT LIMITS

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Rough network stats:

- Average of ~340 bytes per transaction (0.68 MB blocks, 2000 tx/block)
- Current blocksize is 1 MiB.
- Expected time to next block is 10 min.

Therefore we can compute the sustained maximum transaction volume in tps:

TPS COMPARISONS

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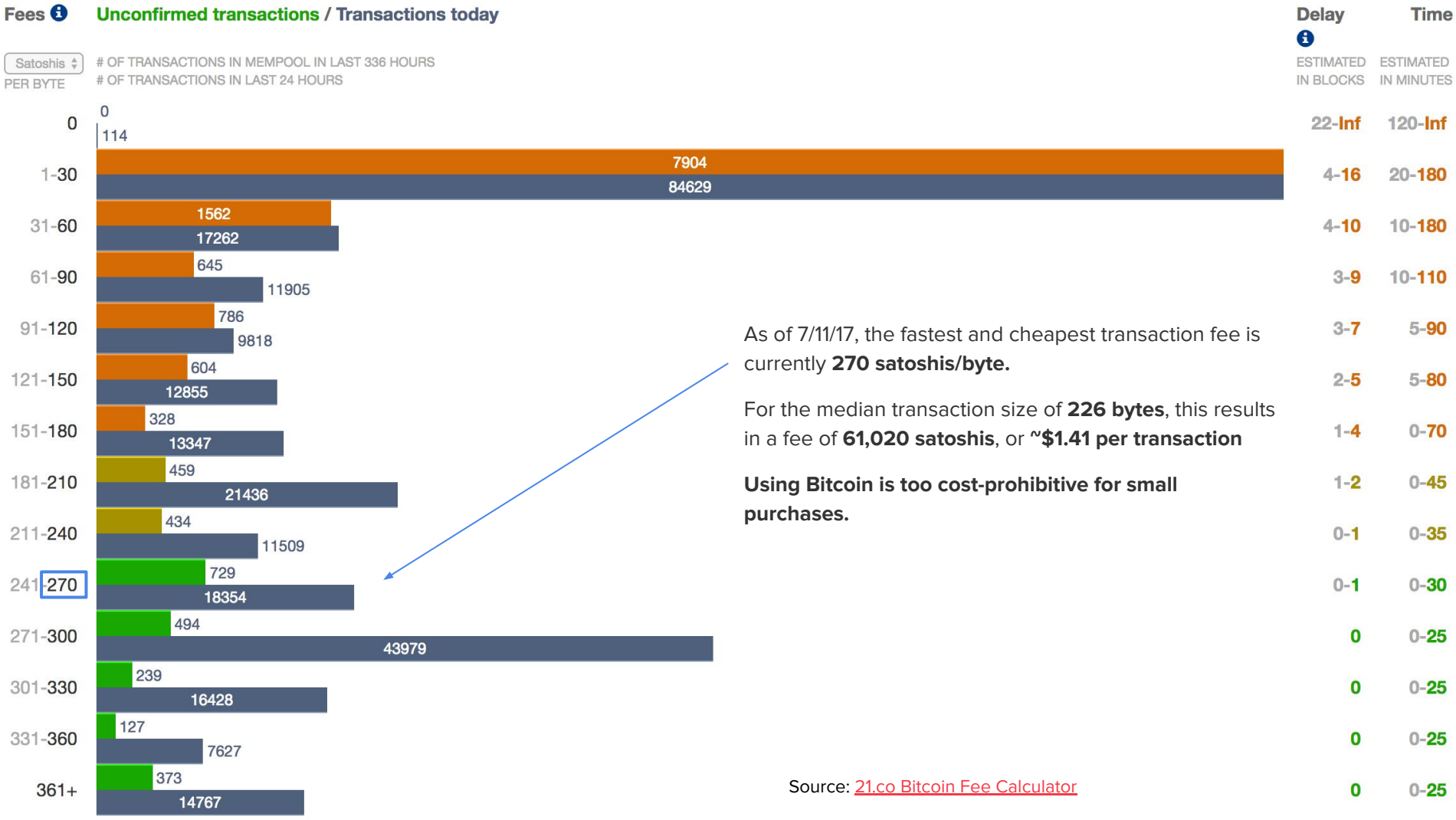
How does Bitcoin compare with other traditional payment systems?

	Average	High Load / Maximum
Bitcoin	3 tps	3.2 tps
PayPal*,**	150 tps	450 tps
VISA***	2,000 tps	56,000 tps

* https://investor.paypal-corp.com/secfiling.cfm?filingID=1206774-16-5430&CIK=1633917
** http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2016/02/04/5-things-paypal-holdings-inc-wants-you-to-know.aspx
*** https://usa.visa.com/dam/VCOM/download/corporate/media/visa-fact-sheet-Jun2015.pdf



As of 7/11/17, the fastest and cheapest transaction fee is currently **270 satoshis/byte.**

For the median transaction size of **226 bytes**, this results in a fee of **61,020 satoshis**, or **~$1.41 per transaction**

Using Bitcoin is too cost-prohibitive for small purchases.

Source: 21.co Bitcoin Fee Calculator

5

ADVANCED SLIDES

LIGHTNING NETWORK

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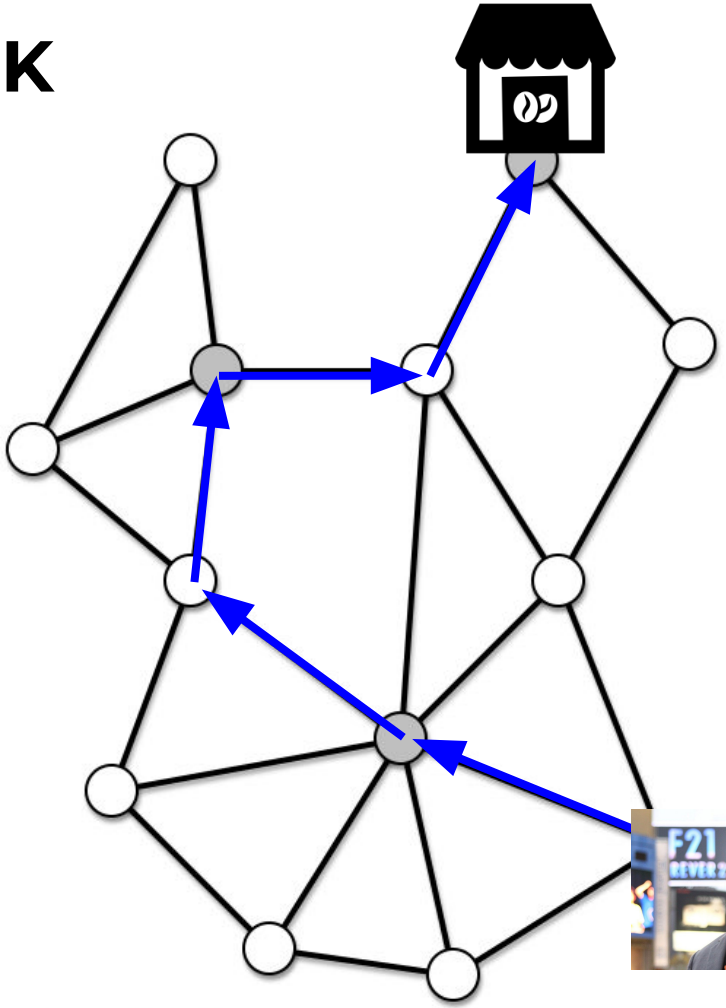
With Lightning, you can finally pay for a coffee with Bitcoin



AUTHOR: MAX FANG

BITCOIN CONTRACTS

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- Bitcoin's core is a **distributed**, highly replicated **deterministic VM**:
  - We call this VM: "Script"
    - Uses a Forth-like stack-based programming language
  - Nodes **globally** process inputs to this VM in **lock-step**
  - Building block in **advanced** cryptographic protocols
- Programs in Script (predicates):
  - Public Key Script: program which encodes **redemption conditions**
  - Witness: input to program, if returns **True** then the spend is **permitted**
- Example payment script:
  - pkScript: `OP_DUP OP_HASH160 <pubKeyHash> OP_CHECKSIG`
  - sigScript: `<signature> <pubKey>`
  - Stack eval: sigScript on stack, **eval** with pkScript

BITCOIN PAYMENTS TODAY

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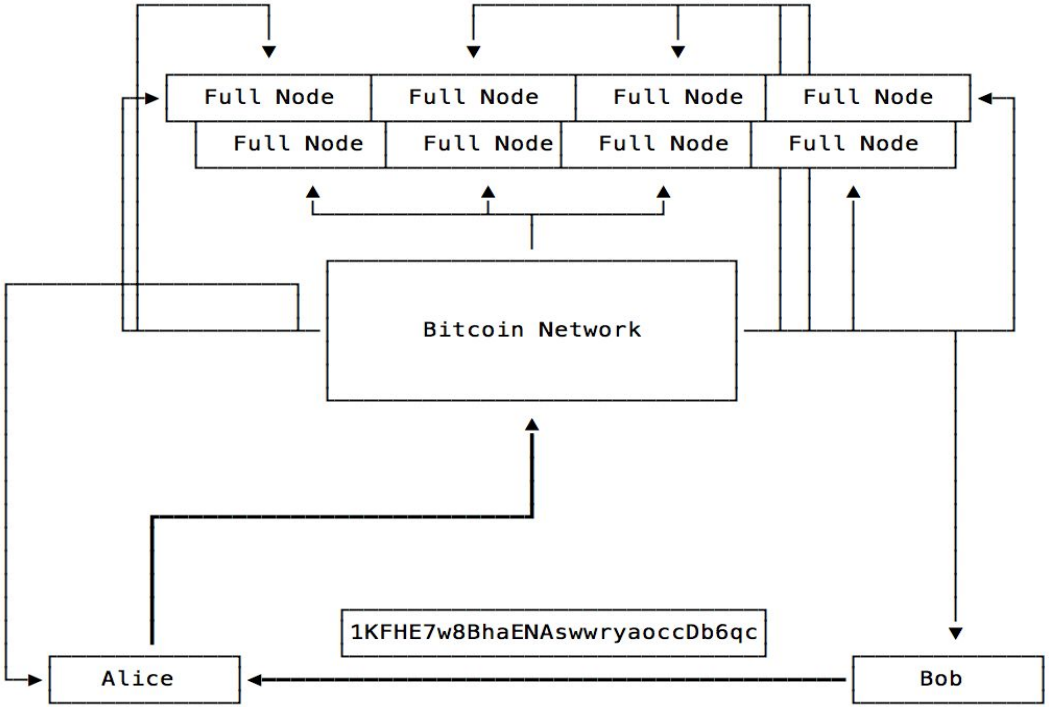
- All participants connected to **global** network
- **All** payments broadcast to **all other** participants
- **Each** payment **must** be fully verified
- Drawbacks:
  - Scalability limitations of **global broadcast** network
  - Each node does work even if not involved in payment
  - **Public** record of **each** payment kept for **ALL TIME**



AUTHOR: LAOLU OSUNTOKUN

PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKING LAYER

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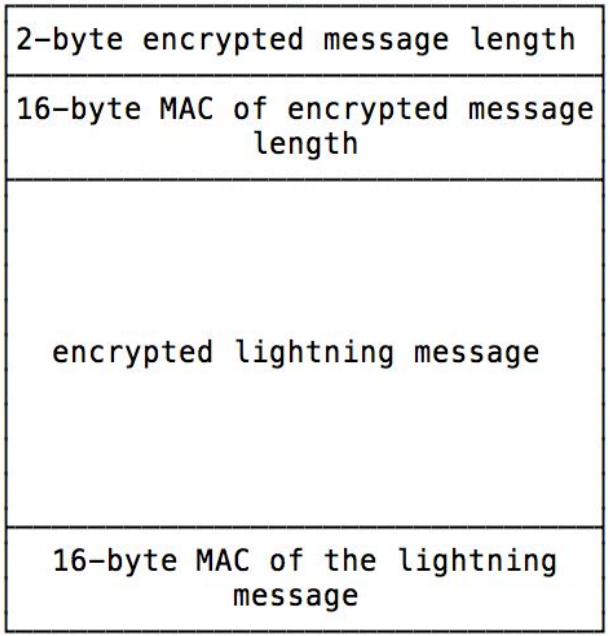
- **All** communications between nodes **encrypted+authenticated:**
  - No protocol messages sent until **brontide** session initiated
- Brontide (BOLT #8):
  - Variant of the **Noise Protocol Framework** (brontide):
    - Framework for **Authenticated Key Agreement**
    - Init: series of **handshake** messages (ECDH+hashing)
    - Transport: **AEAD** cipher mode used for encryption
  - `Noise_XK_secp256k1_ChaChaPoly_SHA256`
    `<- s`
    `…`
    `-> e, es`
    `<- e, ee`
    `-> s, se`
  - Hash rachet for **key rotation**



PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKING LAYER

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- Nodes identified on the network by **public key**
- **Bitcoin keys** and **node keys** used to authenticate information
  - Node Announcement:
    - Announces node existence: PubKey+sig, reachability
    - **Global features**
  - Channel Announcement (channel proof):
    - Channel ID: **location** of funding output in chain (8-bytes)
    - 4 keys: two multi-sig keys, two node keys
      - Verify: `2 <key1> <key2> 2 OP_CHECKMULTISIG`
    - 4 sigs:
      - Can be compressed to single key w/ **signature aggregation**
    - Verification can be sped up via **batch signature** verification
  - Channel Update Announcement:
    - Advertises **routing policy** for a **directed** channel edge
    - Signed by node advertising

ONION-ENCODED PAYMENT ROUTES

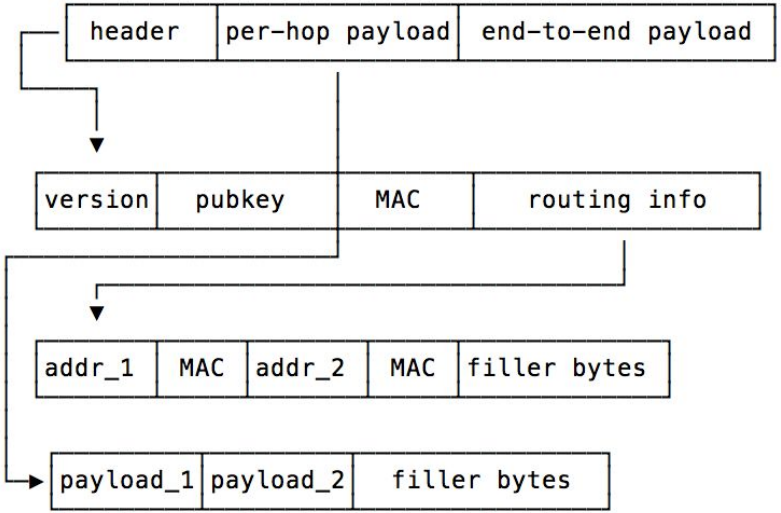
DEV DECAL APR 2018

- Sphinx: compact, provably secure **mix-net** packet format
  - Used within lightning as basis for **onion routing**
  - **Fixed-sized** payload
  - Modified version in BOLT #4
- Security Features
  - Nodes don't know their **location** in the route
    - Packet remains **fix sized** during processing
  - Nodes don't how **how long** the route really was
    - All packets encode the **max hop** limit
  - Nodes only know their predecessor and successor
    - Received from downstream node, contains instructions to forward
  - All packets **indistinguishable** from all others
    - Packet is **re-randomized** at each hop
- Shared secret re-used to back-propagate **error messages**

ONION-ENCODED PAYMENT ROUTES

DEV DECAL APR 2018

- Payments routed through network using **source routing:**
  - Gives sender **total control** over payment path
  - Authenticated per-hop payload:
    - Outgoing time-lock (#blocks or time)
    - Satoshis to forward (ensure proper fees)
    - Outgoing “realm” (Bitcoin, Litecoin, etc)
- Replay attack prevention:
  - Each Sphinx packet commits to the **payment hash**
  - HTLC’s past **absolute** are rejected
- Routes still subject to **traffic+timing** analysis
  - Poor path diversity weakens security



BIDIRECTIONAL PAYMENT CHANNELS

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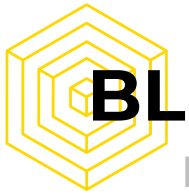
- Lightning uses two Bitcoin contracts to ensure proper execution
  - Some call this “**Cryptoeconomics**”
- Contract #1: The Hash-Time-Locked-Contract (HTLC)
  - Set up: **receiver** gives **sender** `H = Hash(R), where R <-$ {0, 1}^n`
  - Conditions: “I will pay you N BTC, iff you present R s.t `Hash(R)== H`”
  - Escape hatches: “If you don’t within T days, I get my money back”
  - Result: **end-to-end** secure **multi-hop** payments through **untrusted intermediaries**
- Contract #2: Commitment State Revocations
  - Set up: each **commitment state** references secret from other side
  - Conditions: each **update** requires **revealing** that secret
  - Escape hatches: if **prior state** is broadcast, knowledge of secret entitles other to **all funds**
  - Result: both sides **incentivized** to *always* only save/broadcast the **latest state**
- **Optimistically,** the escape hatches or punishments are **never needed**



BLINDED CHANNEL OUTSOURCING

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- Lightning requires parties to occasionally **monitor** the blockchain
  - **TEE** based schemes (e.g. Teechan) can help
  - Each “pay-to-self” output has a **relative time-lock** (CSV)
  - Delay acts as **adjudication** period
- Responsibility for watching the chain can be outsourced to a third-party
  - With `SIGHASH_NOINPUT` or MAST, can reduce storage to `O(log(N))`
    - `N = number_of_commitment_updates`
  - For now, we can at least make the process more **private**
- Blinded Channel Monitoring
  - Outsourcer shouldn’t be able to distinguish **which** channel they’re watching
  - Achieved by **randomizing** commitment keys on each update
  - Able to **collapse** the revocation state, saving disk-space
    - “Reverse” merkle-tree -- once you have parent, can **discard** children

ON-CHAIN LIVELINESS

DEV DECAL APR 2018

- Security model of Lightning:
  - Relies on Bitcoin for **ordering of transactions**
  - Dependent on **time-based** windows of action (`T`)
    - Longer `T` (CSV delay) provides more security during **channel breaches**
    - Longer `T` also results in unavailability of funds for **unilateral closes**
    - In the optimistic case: higher `T`, as closures assumed to be **cooperative**
- Thundering herd failure mode
  - Massive **network-wide channel closure** clogs up chain
  - Depending on `T` (unique to each channel), and duration of backlog, adversaries may profit
- Possible solutions:
  - Time-stop
    - “Relative time-lock” stops ticking above “higher-water” mark
  - Consensus enforced transaction **dependency**
    - Covenant or op-code
  - Fee-based dependency: CPFP