

We need a fancy title

Whitepaper - Version 0.1

May 4, 2018

Benjamin Leiding¹, Will Vorobev², Peter Zverkov³, and Lena Cherry⁴

¹ Chorus Technology, Göttingen, Germany
benjamins-email-@domain.com

² Chorus Technology, New York, United States of America
benjamins-email-@domain.com

³ Chorus Technology, Barcelona, Spain
peters-email-@domain.com

⁴ Chorus Technology, New York, United States of America
lenas-email-@domain.com

Abstract. I am an abstract - pet me.

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Keywords: Blockchain, Autonomous Vehicles, V2X Communication, Chorus Technology, Self-Driving Cars, VANET, Smart Contract

1 Introduction

Despite steadily growing public transport networks and systems, especially in most first world countries, cars and similar vehicles are still the default standard for urban transportation. In the US, “about 86 percent of all workers commuted to work by private vehicle, either driving alone or carpooling” [28] even though in recent years the numbers remained relatively stable after decades of consistent increase - similar applies to other industrial countries [29][46] even though the overall percentage of vehicle commuters in Europe is lower than in the US [10]. While it was normal for the last few decades to own a vehicle and commute on a day-by-day basis, the future will be radically different due to the progressing evolution of self-driving cars and autonomous vehicles. The car-sharing economy that developed in recent years in combination with autonomous cars results in a so called *passenger economy* [20]. Users no longer own cars, instead just hop on an autonomous cars, pick a destination and get delivered without any human interaction. An Intel report estimates the size of this economy to be around US\$ 7 Trillion in 2050 [20].

Despite some recent setback, e.g. Uber and Tesla accidents [?][?][?], academic researchers as well as companies from the private sector make fast progresses in the research area of self-driving cars [?][?]. It took less than 15 years from the first DARPA Grand Challenge (a prize competition for autonomous vehicles) to

self-driving cars operating on public streets on a regular base (Tesla, Waymo, Uber, etc.) [?][?][?]. Besides the cars, several projects are also already working on system solutions for trucks, rovers, drones, ships and even airplanes [?][?][?][9]. But progressing automation and driverless transport that enables the passenger economy is only a small aspect of the potential of these new technologies. During a talk⁵ at the 2013 Turing Festival in Edinburgh, Mike Hearn did not only described a vision where most users don't own cars anymore and instead use services provided by autonomous vehicles that own itself, but also the potentials of a vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) as well as a vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) economy. Autonomous vehicles (AVs) may own themselves, offer services and goods to earn money, and pay money to acquire services that they cannot provide on their own, e.g., car renting a parking lot, paying for a charged battery, using toll roads, or simple service check ups. The idea of V2V and V2I or in general V2X (vehicle-to-everything) will fuel various new business fields.

Certainly, traditional payment systems such as paper money or fiat currencies in general are not suited to be part of this new economy. There are slow, depend on third parties (e.g., banks) and suffer from bureaucratic overhead. Blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies offer a promising alternative payment solution that comes with several additional advantages that we will discuss later on. The blockchain technology, also referred to as distributed ledger system, is most noticeably known for providing the foundation of the peer-to-peer (P2P) cryptocurrency and payment system Bitcoin [31], but nowadays there are various different platforms out there, e.g., [19][39][50]. Several companies already started to prototype applications that combine vehicles and blockchains. Porsche is researching different payment-related applications for vehicles [40] whereas Ford focuses on traffic marshaling [25]. As expected in the early days of a new technology, companies focus on selective solutions for a selection of very specific problems or use cases and the resulting solutions are only compatible with their own products. What is currently missing in the new business field of V2X economy is an industry standard that can easily be integrated with self-driving and (semi)-autonomous cars or even nowadays cars.

This whitepaper addresses the detected gap by introducing the Chorus Technology solution, thereby answering the question of how to implement a library for (semi)-autonomous vehicles that enables a V2X trading platform for goods and services? In order to answer this question with a separation of concerns, we pose the following sub-questions: What is the long term vision of Chorus Technology? What are the critical requirements and the corresponding architecture of the Chorus platform? What are the system-engagement processes for the stakeholders?

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 introduces supplementary literature and related work. Section 3 then outlines the vision of Chorus Technology as well as different use-cases. Afterwards, Section 4 analyses the requirements of the our system and outlines the resulting system architecture that we derive from the requirements. Afterwards, Section 5 expands on the

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVYv4t00Ke4>

system-engagement processes for the stakeholders, followed by Section 6 that introduces the Chorus prototype as well as feasibility evaluation. Section 7 provides an discussion and an analysis of related projects. Finally, Section 8 concludes this work and provides an outlook on future work.

2 Technical Background and Supplementary Literature

The following section provides background information and describes related works regarding previous ideas and concepts that focus on a blockchain-based VANET platforms. First, Section 2.1 introduces the general concepts of blockchain technology, terms and frameworks. Afterwards, Section 2.2 and Section 2.3 focus on the fundamentals of autonomous vehicles as well as vehicular ad-hoc networks. Finally, Section 2.4 introduces traffic waves, flows and congestions.

2.1 Blockchain Technology

As the name suggests, a blockchain consists of a chronologically ordered chain of blocks. Every block consists of a certain number of validated transactions and each of those block links to its predecessor by a hash reference. As a result, changing the content of one block also changes all succeeding blocks and hence breaks the chain. All blocks are stored on and verified by all participating nodes. While the initial Bitcoin blockchain only supported a very limited set of scripting instructions, the next generation of blockchain platforms, e.g., Ethereum [50], Qtum [11], or Tezos [19], provide Turing-complete programming languages on the protocol-layer level in order to enable smart contract capabilities. Smart contracts are, “orchestration- and choreography protocols that facilitate, verify and enact with computing means a negotiated agreement between consenting parties” [11]. Hence, the parties participating in the enactment of a smart contract establish binding agreements and deploy applications using such smart contracts in order to provide blockchain-based applications. Those application are as versatile as smart contracts itself and enable services including the finance sector [32][43], academic and business authentication and identity solutions [4][8][22][27][44], reputation systems [6] as well platforms for Internet-of-Things (IoT) applications [7][37].

The blockchain concept is particularly interesting for the V2X economy for three reasons. First, it removes the need for trusted third parties and instead enables trust-less transaction enactment. Second, transactions that were agreed up on cannot be changed any more since the underlying blockchain is tamperproof. Third, no human interaction is required for any kind of transaction between vehicles or machines in general.

2.2 Autonomous Vehicles

During the last 15 years research on autonomous and self-driving cars progressed a lot and nowadays such cars already operating on public streets on a regular

base, e.g., Tesla, Waymo, Uber, and so on. The ultimate goal of most manufacturers and researchers is to develop the first fully self-driving and autonomous vehicle. In order to clarify some definitions, this short section provides a short introduction to the most relevant terms and concepts.

An autonomous car, also referred to as a driverless car or robotic car, is able to navigating and interact with its environment without human input based on information provided by its sensors [17][48]. To do so, modern cars are equipped with radar- and laser sensors, lidars, GPS devices, cameras and several further sensing devices. Based on these information, the vehicle interprets the surrounding world and deduces appropriate action strategies such as avoiding obstacles (other vehicles, humans or a house) on the way to the supermarket [13][51]. As the technology developed over time, vehicles were equipped with more and more sensors, resulting in different driving capabilities. The SAE [42] defined six levels of driving autonomy to categorize the varying capabilities and progresses of several approaches:

- **Level 0 (No automation):** No driving autonomy, the driver has to perform all driving tasks and interactions.
- **Level 1 (Driver assistance):** The vehicle is controlled by the driver, but is supported by some basic driver assistance functionalities.
- **Level 2 (Partial automation):** The vehicle is able to perform some specific tasks (acceleration or steering) without driver input. Nevertheless, the driver must be fully engaged in driving task and monitor all decision of the car and the environment at all time. The user has to be able to intervene at any given moment.
- **Level 3 (Conditional automation):** The driver is still a necessity, but is not required to monitor the vehicle or the environment at any given moment. But given a notification by the vehicle, the driver has to be able to take back control over the car in case the vehicle encounters a situation that it cannot deal with on its own.
- **Level 4 (High Automation):** The vehicle is able to perform all driving tasks without human intervention in most driving scenarios. The driver can take control whenever desired.
- **Level 5 (Full Automation):** The vehicle is able to perform all driving tasks without human intervention in all driving scenarios. The driver can take control whenever desired as long as a steering wheel is still part of the vehicle.

The Chorus interaction- and transaction layer library supports and enables a varying number of services for vehicles of each automation level, whereas the most sophisticated applications require SAE level 5 and simpler plug-ins may only require SAE level 0.

2.3 Vehicular Ad-Hoc Networks - VANETs

Communication between vehicles, road infrastructure and Internet-based services is a key enabler of upcoming generation of vehicles. So called vehicular

ad-hoc networks provide an abstract concept that models the different components that are required for V2V, V2I and V2X communication. As illustrated in Figure 1, the basic components of VANETs are vehicles, on-board-units (OBUs), application-units (AUs) and road-side-units (RSUs).

RSUs are placed along the road side or in dedicated locations such as at cross-roads. Usually, RSUs provide short range communication based on IEEE 802.11p radio technology but can also be equipped with other network devices in order to provide communication within the infrastructural network [1]. An OBU is typically mounted onto a vehicle and used for exchanging information with RSUs or other OBUs. Short range wireless communication or other radio technologies are usually used to exchange information [3].

Closely linked to the OBU is the AU. They might even reside in the same physical unit or is mobile and might be regularly removed from the vehicle (e.g smart-phones). The AU provides an execution environment for applications that utilize the OBU's communication capabilities [1][3].

Communication in VANETs occurs either inside a vehicle between AUs and

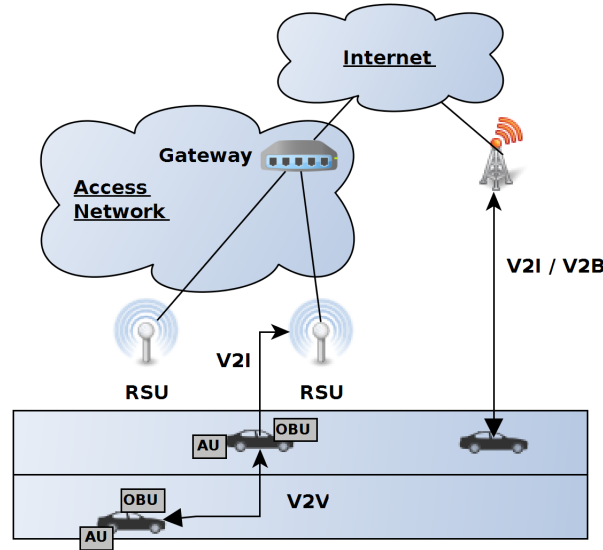


Fig. 1. General VANET architecture (Based on: [3] and [23])

OBU, wirelessly between different vehicles (V2V), vehicles and infrastructure (V2I) or vehicles and the infrastructure via broadband (V2B) [16]. For authentication purposes, each network participant is equipped with a unique public/private key pair which usually resides in a tamper-proof-device (TPD). In blockchain terms, the TPD is similar to an external hardware wallet.

2.4 Traffic Wave Theory Work

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3 The Chorus Vision

Intro

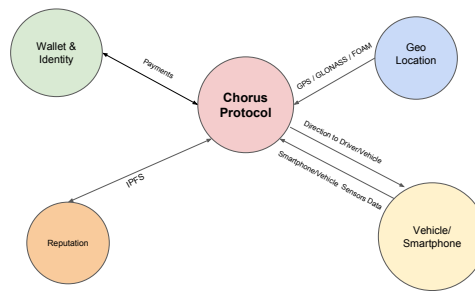


Fig. 2. Caption.

3.1 Use Cases

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traffic wave fixing as one of the major selling points in the prototype as well as the main product insurance example as a running case later for the prototype

3.2 Human to Human

3.3 Human to Vehicle

3.4 Vehicle to Vehicle

road space negotiation

3.5 Vehicle to Infrastructure

4 System Design and Architecture

The vision of Chorus outlined in Section 3 is now analyzed from technical perspective as part of the following section. In order to identify, structure and

formalize the critical requirements and stakeholders on an abstract level, we use one part of an Agent-Oriented Modeling (AOM) method [47], i.e., goal models. Section 4.1 introduces AOM goal models and the Chorus specific goal model. The produced goal model is used in subsequent Section 4.2 to derive the Chorus system architecture. The resulting system architecture and specifications serve as implementation guidelines. Finally, Section 5.1 provides some details on the smart contract lifecycle management within our solution, whereas Section 4.3 outlines a general outlook on the APIs and how to integrate the Chorus library into external applications.

4.1 Functional Goals, Quality Goals, Stakeholders and Requirements

In system development and software engineering, good requirements follow certain characteristics. According to [12][18] requirements address one issue only and are completely specified without missing information. Moreover, they have to be consistent and do not contradict itself, or in correlation with other requirements. Finally, a requirement must also be atomic and without conjunctions [34].

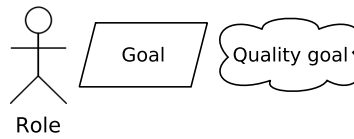


Fig. 3. Selection of AOM notation elements.

The AOM methodology is a socio-technical requirements-engineering approach used to model complex systems that consist of humans, devices, and software agents. An AOM goal model enables both, technical- and non-technical stakeholders, to capture and understand the functional- and non-functional requirements of a complex system. Figure 3 depicts the three main elements that an AOM goal model comprises in order to capture the system requirements and goals. Roles of involved entities are represented in form of sticky men, whereas functional requirements are depicted as parallelograms. Note that in the specific context of this whitepaper, a sticky man does not exclusively represent human entities but rather all kinds of entities, e.g., also vehicles or infrastructure. Functional requirements are also referred to as goals. Non-functional requirements are depicted as clouds and refer to quality goals of the modeled software system. The AOM goal model follows a tree-like hierarchy with the root value proposition of the modeled system at the top. Subsequently, this main goal is decomposed into sub-goals where each sub-goal represents an aspect for achieving its parent goal [26]. The goals are further decomposed into multi-layered sub-goals until the lowest atomic level is reached. Additionally, roles and quality goal may be assigned

to goals and are inherited to lower-level goals. The following Section 4.1.1 introduces the top-level goal model of our system, followed by Section 4.1.2 focusing on the non-functional goals of the AOM goal model.

4.1.1 Top-Level AOM Goal Model

The presented AOM goal model is similar to the model presented by the authors in [21], since implementation of a V2X system is a specific use case of the more abstract and general M2M (machine-to-machine) interaction platform represented in that paper. Meanwhile, Figure ?? presents the top-level AOM goal model of the system using the modeling method described above. The main value proposition is to provide a V2X interaction and transaction layer library for (autonomous) vehicles, thereby representing the root of the goal model. The complex main value proposition is split into four sub-goals representing the four main components.

First, one component for managing the V2X platform. This functional goal includes managing certain aspects of the platform itself, e.g., creating, updating, deleting a new platform, as well as the management of the underlying smart contracts. Each platform operates a master smart contract and several sub-smart contracts. While the master contract is in charge of platform management and controlled by the hardware vendor (e.g., Tesla), the sub contracts each offer service provision for a specific service, interaction, transaction or application.

The second functional goal enables V2X interaction. That mostly covers on- and off-chain supply and demand administration. Entities may register offers or requests on-chain in order to attract business partners, but for the other use cases a local supply demand management off-chain is more suitable, e.g., road-space negotiation. Supervising on- and off-chain auctions is basically equivalent to the on- and off-chain supply and demand management. Besides that, plug-ins and dApps of the Chorus eco-system might use platform smart contracts for service enactment and have to be integrated as well in this context.

The third functional requirement, that represents the third main component, enables V2X transaction via the blockchain. The most important part here is the transaction management via a smart contract lifecycle that will be detailed later on in Section 5.1.

Finally, the fourth functional requirement focus on the enactment of various plug-ins and decentralized applications (dApps). Applications and plug-ins have to be registered, prepared for enactment, executed and terminated. Moreover, they have to interact with various entities of the eco-system depending on the use case. Since nowadays most blockchains offer Turing-complete smart contract support, the variety of applications and plug-ins in our eco-system is quite vast.

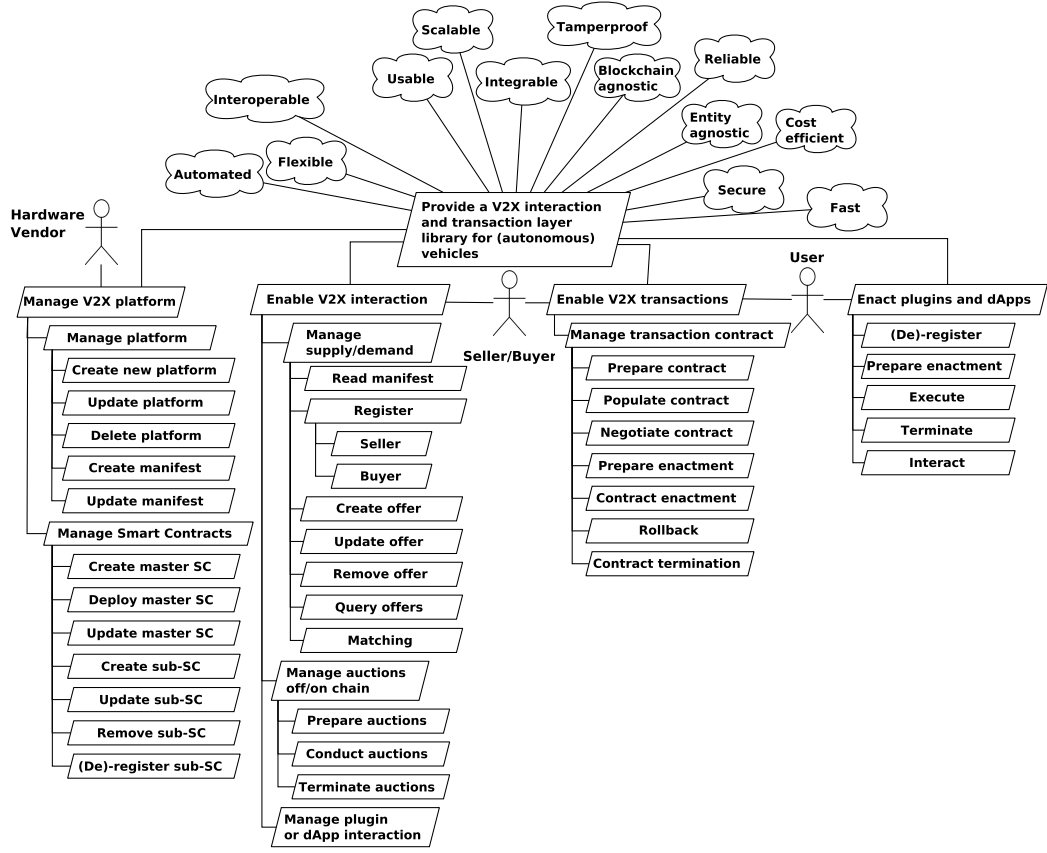


Fig. 4. Chorus - Top-level goal model representation (Source: Based on [21]).

4.1.2 Non-Functional Requirements

Besides the four sub-goals of the top-level AOM goal model, we further identify thirteen quality goals of the main value proposition that are inherited to all refining sub-goals. A *scalable* system design is necessary to provide Chorus services to a large quantity of users and customers. A further property that supports to achieve this scalability is the non-functional requirement *automated*, that refers to a high degree of process automation eliminating the need for human interaction, e.g., tedious and repetitive tasks. *Cost efficiency* is another important quality goal. *Flexible* digital collaboration is a highly dynamic process that involves the enactment of diverse activities, the participation of diverse partners, and the exchange of diverse data [33]. Thus, we must allow diverse collaboration scenarios and permit the inter-organizational harmonization of heterogeneous concepts and technologies between participating entities. Another key property of the system being easy to use (*Usable*) for business collaboration. According to [34], easy usability also includes the support of proper *error avoidance* in or-

der to “anticipate and prevent common errors that occur during a collaboration configuration. Closely related is *error handling*, to help with system support a user to recover from errors. *Learnability* refers to how quickly users master using the system” [34].

Moreover, we assign two additional quality goals that ensure a *blockchain agnostic* as well as *entity agnostic* design. Chorus should be neither limited to a specific blockchain nor vehicle hardware of a specific vendor. *Interoperable* hardware and software design is another consequence of the previous quality goals as well as easy integration (*Integrable*). It is crucial to interoperate at runtime with information systems supporting other business functions.

Furthermore, a *secure* service provision is also crucial in terms of operational security, e.g., protect user accounts and personal data from unauthorized access, secure data transfer within the system between entities or preventing data- and information leaks as well as preventing accidents. A *reliable* enactment of all Chorus-based interactions and transaction facilitates the previous goals as well. Data communicated internally as well as externally has to be protected against unauthorized tampering (*tamperproof*) in order to protect business collaborations, but also ensure the safety of participating entities. Finally, since cars and similar vehicles move much faster than humans, a *fast* service provision is essential for most tasks.

The presented goal model is used in the following Section 4.2 to derive our system architecture. We do not list all details of the further refined AOM goal model in this whitepaper due to space constraints and in order to focus on the most relevant system components and features.

4.2 Component Diagrams

The abstract system- and business architecture is derived from the functional- and non-function requirements of the AOM goal model presented earlier. The services are powered by a service-oriented architecture (SOA) that is comprised of different designated components. Each of these components is self-contained, well-defined components and provides a specific set of services [15][38]. Dedicated services and components may also consist of other underlying sub-services [41].

In the following, a technology-agnostic UML-component-diagram representation is used to illustrate the system architecture [5][45]. The UML notation elements used to model the architecture are presented in Figure 5. In UML, components are represented as rectangular boxes and labeled either with the keyword *component*, or with the component icon in the right-hand upper corner. A component may consist of further sub-components and is implemented by one, or more classes, or objects. Moreover, components are reusable and communicate via two types of interfaces as illustrated in Figure 5. Small squares depict ports that are attached to the border of components and expose required and provided interfaces. Ports may also specify inputs and outputs as they operate uni-, or bi-directionally [5][45]. Once more, sticky men are used to depict entities and their interactions with the system.

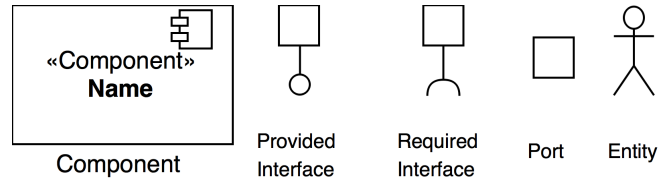


Fig. 5. UML-component diagram notation elements.

The remainder of this section first introduces an abstract high-level overview of the system architecture and components. Afterwards, further illustration present selected sub-components of our architecture.

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MAKE SURE TO ADAPT THE COMPONENT DIAGRAM TO THE AOM GOAL MODEL! it is a distributed system that resides in different components on different places - hence we had to add further helper-component that enable communication and proper system execution.

4.2.1 High-Level Architecture

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Fig. 6. Caption.

4.3 Library / API

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5 System Engagement Processes

The Chorus transaction layer library automates and simplifies VANET-based V2X service provision on several levels. A core element of many of the Chorus use cases is smart contract-based negotiation and contract enactment between entities that are the result of collaborating tasks and subprocesses. For example, as described in Section 2 two vehicles conduct a road-space negotiation auction

that results either in a change of positions or is aborted. This process potentially also involves payment processing, further local as well as global communication and local match-making between vehicles. On an abstract level, most of the use cases presented earlier in this paper follow at some point a similar procedure on smart-contract level. Same applies for scenarios that involve a price negotiation or auction. In the following, we introduce these two abstract processes in more detail. The processes are represented using Business Process Model and Notation (BPMN) [35] and UML sequence diagrams [36].

Consequently, Section 5.1 details the BPMN representation of the generalized contract negotiation lifecycle, followed by Section 5.2 that details the different auction mechanisms of our platform. Finally, Section 5.3 covers the Chorus token value proposition.

5.1 Smart Contract Negotiation Lifecycle Management

The abstract smart contract negotiation lifecycle, as illustrated in Figure 7, is divided into the following stages: a) preparatory, b) negotiation, c) contract execution d) rollback and e) a contract expiry stage. During the preparatory stage, information regarding the involved entities, such as identifiers and wallet addresses are incorporated into the contract. In addition, the conditions of the requested contract are formally defined by specifying, e.g, the content and target of the contract. Following, the example of the cab service for a human, this might include the start location, final destination, price, and so on. The conditions of the requested cab-ride mainly depend on information such as the travel distance and fuel/energy consumption of the vehicle. In case the vehicle and the user agree on the negotiated conditions, both parties sign the contract and express their approval - if no agreement is reached, a contract rollback is triggered. After signing the agreement, the contract execution phase is triggered and the the vehicle picks up the user.

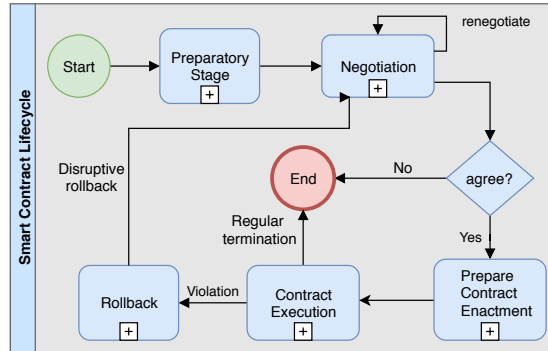


Fig. 7. Smart contract negotiation lifecycle (Based on [11]).

The transportation contract terminates, or expires either after the defined user arrives the final destination, or when the contract is prematurely terminated. Failing to transport the user to the agreed final destination might result in an immediate rollback of the smart contract or invokes some kind of an mediation process that is supervised by a conflict resolution escrow service that is not depicted in this illustration.

The lifecycle presented in Figure 7 not only cover trading negotiation but rather all kind of contract enactments, also the insurance use case from Section 6 that we implement as a prototype. You prepare and negotiate a contract with your insurance company and execute in case you agree on the specifications. That also covers what happens in case you behave correctly, e.g., reward, as well as punishing bad behaviors, e.g., paying a penalty. A serious violation of the contract from any of the involved parties might result in an early termination of the contract or even a rollback.

5.2 Auction Algorithms

A further important core concept of the Chorus transaction library is to support the exchange and provision of goods on services between entities (V2X). When trading goods and services, the buying and the selling party usually have contrary goals in terms of pricing. The seller's goal is to maximize his/her profits while the buyer tries to minimize the costs. Auctions are a common approach to reach a consensus on a certain price between buyer and seller. We designed two auction algorithms based on the concept of so called Vickrey Auction [30][49]; An algorithm for the scenario with exactly one buyer and one seller, as well as an algorithm that can be used in scenarios with multiple buyers and multiple sellers. Figure 8 illustrates one-to-one auctions and Figure 9 many-to-many auctions.

During a Vickrey auction, participants exchange sealed bid. Each bidder submits a written and signed bid without knowing the bid of the other participants. In the end, the highest bidder wins but instead of paying the price of this highest bid, the price paid is the second-highest bid. Due to space constraints and the technical nature of this whitepaper we will not cover the economical and game theoretical implications concepts of Vickrey auctions and instead refer the reader to specific supplementary literature, e.g., [2][14][24][30][49].

Figure 8 presents a sequence diagram of our one-to-one auction algorithm. We assume that the buyer is not willing to pay more than three Euro, and the seller is not selling for less than 2.80 Euro. As mentioned in our AOM goal model (Figure 4, speed is one of the non-functional goals of our system - hence, only one auction round is conducted. Both participants prepare an encrypted (sealed) and signed bid before exchanging the bids. As soon as both participants received the other parties bids, the encryption keys are exchanged as well. Buyer and seller decrypt the bids and compare the offers. Given the case that the buyer offered more than 2.80 Euro the auction is successful and due to the second-price rule of Vickrey auctions, the buyer pays 2.80 Euro to the seller. In case the buyer offers less than the seller's minimum price the auction ends without a deal.

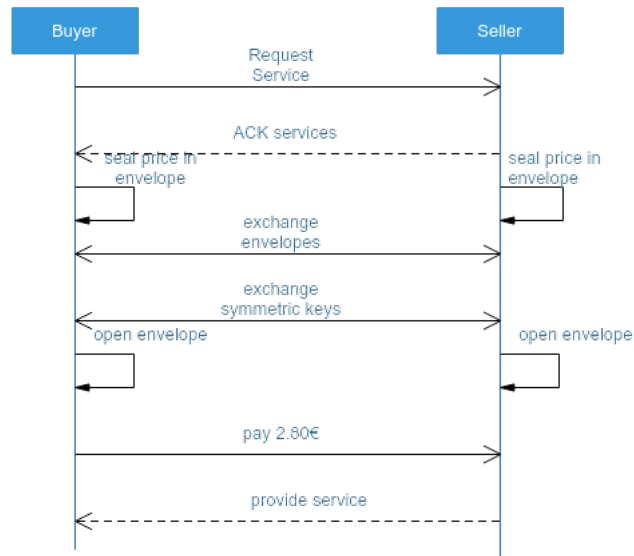


Fig. 8. Chorus auction algorithm - 1 buyer and 1 seller.

X-X auction Note: - (modified) Vickrey Auction - only one auction round - buyer-1 max price: 1.80 - buyer-2 max price: 3.20 - buyer-3 max price: 3.5 - seller min price: 2.0 - Note: If seller offer \neq buyer offer $=$, no deal - NOTE: In case we have multiple sellers, the workflow is similar. In the end, the highest bidder is matched with the seller of the highest price, the second highest offer with the second highest seller price ... and so on. Please keep in mind that this is a Vickrey auction \Rightarrow hence, highest bidder pay price of the second highest offer and so on...

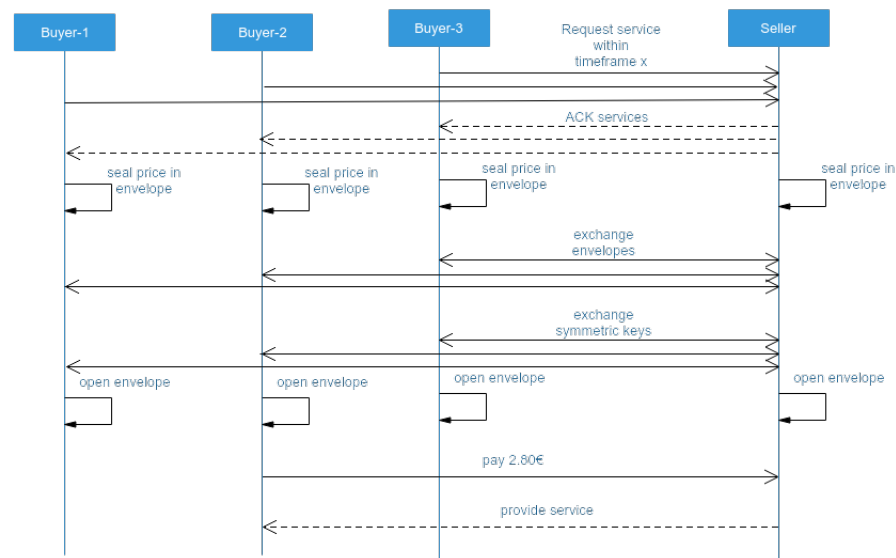


Fig. 9. Chorus auction algorithm - Many buyers and many sellers.

5.3 Token Economics and Value Proposition

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6 Prototype and Feasibility Study

Intro

- what is the use case and purpose of our prototype
- traffic wave fixing as one of the major selling points in the prototype as well as the main product
- insurance example
- burnable tokens ERC721?
- what problem does it solve?

6.1 Prototype Architecture

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Fig. 10. System architecture of the Chorus prototype.

- component diagram - scoring algorithm - tech stack (?) - token - testnet - incentive system

6.2 Eco-System and Economics

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6.3 Evaluation

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7 Discussion

Intro

7.1 Critical Analysis

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7.2 Related Work

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8 Conclusion and Future Work

We conclude ...

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