

Confidential Transactions

Theory Justification

Iftach Haitner*

July 23, 2025

Abstract

[Iftach's Note: **TODO**]

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Preliminaries	2
2.1	Notation	2
2.2	Homomorphic Encryption	2
3	The Confidential Transaction Protocols	2
3.1	The Ideal Functionality	2
3.2	The Protocol	3

*Stellar Development Foundation. E-mail: iftach.haitner@stellar.org.

1 Introduction

[Iftach's Note: TODO]

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Notation

We use calligraphic letters to denote sets, uppercase for random variables, and lowercase for integers and functions. Let \mathbb{N} denote the set of natural numbers. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $(n) := \{0, \dots, n\}$. For a relation \mathcal{R} , let $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{R})$ denote its underlying language, i.e., $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{R}) := \{x : \exists w : (x, w) \in \mathcal{R}\}$.

2.2 Homomorphic Encryption

An homomorphic encryption is a triplet $(\text{KeyGen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ of efficient algorithms, with the standard correctness and semantic security properties. In addition, there is addition operation denote $+$ over any two (valid) ciphertexts such that for any validly generated public key pk and valid ciphertexts x_0, x_1 , it holds that $\text{Enc}_{sk}(x_0) + \text{Enc}_{pk}(x_1) \in \text{Supp}(\text{Enc}_{sk}(x_0 + x_1 \bmod q))$, where $q \in \mathbb{N}$ is efficiently determined by pk .

[Iftach's Note: Do we really need the homomorphic properties or only for the proofs?]

3 The Confidential Transaction Protocols

3.1 The Ideal Functionality

Functionality 3.1 ($\mathcal{F}_{\text{ConfTrans}}$: Confidential transactions).

Parties: Issuer I, Chain C and users U_1, \dots, U_n .

Init. Upon receiving init from all parties:

1. For each $i \in [n]$: set $\text{balance}_i \leftarrow 0$ and $\mathcal{Heldbalance}_i \leftarrow \emptyset$.
2. Set $\text{log} \leftarrow \emptyset$.

Issue. Upon receiving $(\text{sid}, \text{issue}, x, d)$ from C and I:

1. Assert($x \in \mathbb{N}$ and $d \in [n]$).
2. $\mathcal{Heldbalance}_d \cup = (\text{sid}, \text{issue}, x)$.
3. Set $\text{log} \cup = (\text{sid}, \text{issue}, x, d)$.

Transfer. Upon receiving $(\text{sid}, \text{transfer}, d)$ from C and U_s , with U_s using private input x .

1. Assert($x \in \mathbb{N}$, $\text{balance}_s \geq x$ and $s, d \in [n]$).
2. $\text{balance}_s -= x$.

3. $\mathcal{Heldbalance}_d \cup = (\text{sid}, \text{transfer}, s, x).$
4. Set $\log \cup = (\text{sid}, \text{transfer}, s, d)$

Update. Upon receiving $(\text{sid}, \text{update})$ from party P_i and C, party C

1. Set $\text{balance}_i += \sum_{(\cdot, x) \in \mathcal{Heldbalance}_i} x.$
2. Set $\mathcal{Heldbalance}_i \leftarrow \emptyset.$
3. Set $\log \cup = (\text{sid}, \text{update}, i)$

History. Upon receiving $(\text{sid}, \text{history})$ from party P_i and C:

Send $(\log, \mathcal{Heldbalance}_i)$ to $P_i.$

[**Iftach's Note: TODO**

1. Should the receiver be part of the call in which it gets money.

2. Auditor?

]

3.2 The Protocol

Protocol 3.2 ($\Pi_{\text{ConfTrans}}$: Confidential transactions).

Parties: Issuer I, Chain C and users $U_1, \dots, U_n.$

Parameters: $1^{\kappa_c}.$

Subprotocols: See below.

Protocol 3.3 ($\Pi_{\text{ConfTrans.Init}}$).

Participating parties. All parties.

Operation:

1. P_i , for all $i \in [n],$
 - (a) Set $(pk_i, sk_i) \xleftarrow{R} \text{KeyGen}(1^{\kappa_c}).$
 - (b) Store $sk_i.$
 - (c) Send pk_i to all parties.
2. All parties store $\{pk_i\}_{i \in [n]}.$
3. C:
 - (a) For all $i \in [n]:$ Set $B_i \xleftarrow{R} \text{Enc}_{pk_i}(0)$ and $H_i \leftarrow \emptyset.$
 - (b) Set $\log \leftarrow \emptyset.$

Protocol 3.4 ($\Pi_{\text{ConfTrans}}.\text{Issue}$).

Participating parties. \mathbf{I} and \mathbf{C} .

\mathbf{C} 's input. sid , $x \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i \in [n]$.

Operation:

1. \mathbf{I} : Send (x, i) to \mathbf{C} .
2. \mathbf{C} : Set $H_i \cup = \{\text{sid}, \text{issue}, (\text{Enc}_{pk_i}(x))\}$.
3. \mathbf{C} : Set $\log \cup = (\text{sid}, \text{issue}, x, i)$.

Protocol 3.5 ($\Pi_{\text{ConfTrans}}.\text{Transfer}$).

Participating parties. \mathbf{P}_s and \mathbf{C} .

Proof's systems: $\Pi^{\text{pos}}, \Pi^{\text{lrg}}$

Common input. $d \in [n]$.

\mathbf{P}_s 's private input. $x \in \mathbb{N}$.

Operation:

1. \mathbf{P}_s :
 - (a) $X \xleftarrow{\mathbf{R}} \text{Enc}_{pk_d}(x; r)$ for $r \xleftarrow{\mathbf{R}} \{0, 1\}^{\kappa_c}$.
 - (b) $\pi^{\text{pos}} \xleftarrow{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{P}^{\text{lrg}}((pk_d, X), (x, r))$.
 - (c) $\pi^{\text{lrg}} \xleftarrow{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{P}^{\text{lrg}}((pk_s, pk_d, B_i, X), (sk_s, x, r))$.
 - (d) Send $(X, \pi^{\text{pos}}, \pi^{\text{lrg}})$ to \mathbf{C} .
2. \mathbf{C} :
 - (a) $\mathbf{V}^{\text{pos}}(pk_d, X)$.
 - (b) $\mathbf{V}^{\text{lrg}}(pk_s, pk_d, B_i, X)$.
 - (c) Set $H_d \cup = (\text{sid}, s, X)$.
 - (d) Set $\log \cup = (\text{sid}, \text{transfer}, s, d)$.

Protocol 3.6 ($\Pi_{\text{ConfTrans}}.\text{Update}$).

Participating parties. \mathbf{P}_i and \mathbf{C} .

Operation: \mathbf{C}

1. $B_i += \sum_{(\cdot, X) \in H_i} X$.
2. $H_i \leftarrow \emptyset$.

3. $\log += (\text{sid}, \text{update}, i)$

Protocol 3.7 ($\Pi_{\text{ConfTrans.History}}$).

Participating parties. P_i and C .

Operation: C sends (\log, H_i) to P_i .