# On the Security and Performance of Proof of Work Blockchains

区块链工作量证明的安全性与性能

- Part 1 选题背景
- Part 2 论文结构
- Part 3 研究方法
- Part 4 分析讨论
- Part 5 主要结论
- Part 6 参考文献

## 选题背景

### Part One 选题背景

1 Consensus Layer

- PoW共识机制是区块链中最广泛的应用的共识机制 (Proof of Work(PoW)\PoS\PoC)
- Block interval: 定义了内容写入区块的时延
- PoW安全

Network Layer

- Block size
- Information propagation mechanism
- Advertisement-based information dissemination; Send headers; Unsolicited block push; Relay networks; Hybrid Push/Advertisement Systems

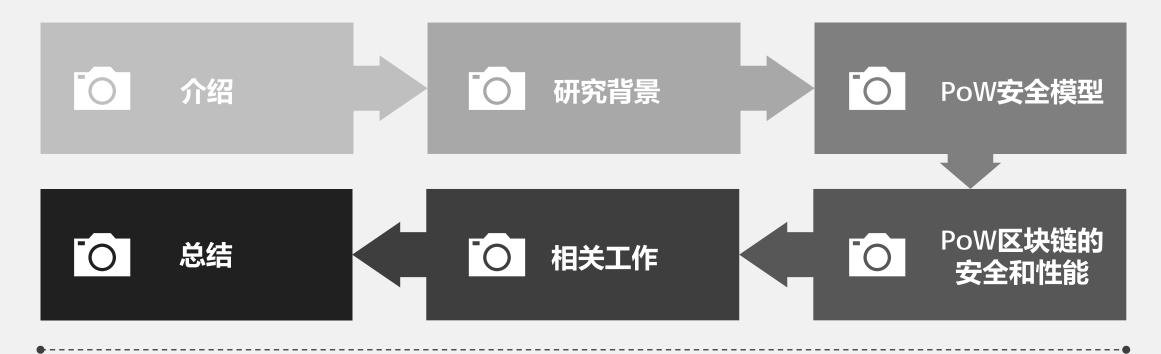
3 Stale blocks 旧区块指不在最长链中的区块

	Bitcoin	Litecoin	Dogecoin	Ethereum
Block interval	10 min	2.5 min	1 min	10-20 seconds
Public nodes	6000	800	600	4000 [12]
Mining pools	16	12	12	13
$t_{MBP}$	8.7 s [9]	1.02 s	0.85 s	0.5 - 0.75 s [13]
$r_s$	0.41%	0.273%	0.619%	6.8%
$s_B$	534.8KB	6.11KB	8KB	1.5KB

Table 1: Comparison of different Bitcoin forks, Ethereum and the impact of parameter choices on the network propagation times. Stale block rate  $(r_s)$  and average block size  $(s_B)$  were measured over the last 10000 blocks.  $t_{MBP}$  stands for median block propagation time.

## 论文结构

### Part Two 论文结构



#### - 结构概览

最近的研究指出,基于PoW的区块链的性能在不损害安全性的前提下不能再提升了。但是工作量证明区块链的安全和性能之间的关系并没有深入的细节的研究。

本文解决了这个问题,提出了一个新的量化框架分析PoW区块链各项共识和网络参数的安全和性能影响。

本文框架由2个元素组成:1区块链实例;2区块链安全模型

## 研究方法

#### Security Model

• Stale block rate  $r_s$ 

Mining power a

Mining costs  $c_m \in [0, \alpha]$ 

The number of block confirmations **k** 

Propagation ability

The impact of eclipse attacks

- Adversary action: Adopt Override Match Wait Exit
- Single-player decision problem M:=<S,A,P,R> M(Markov Decision Process)

**S:** state space; **A**: action space; **P**: stochastic transition matrix; **R**: reward matrix

•  $S(l_a, l_h, b_e, fork)$ 

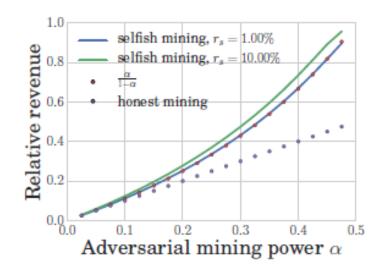
fork: relevant; irrelevant; active

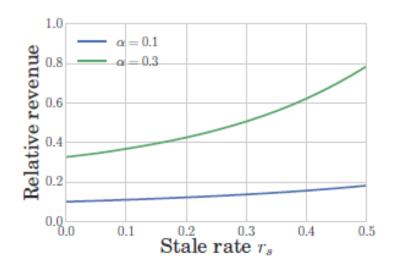
• Eclipse attacks

no eclipse attack

#### Optimal Strategies Selfish Mining

自私挖矿最佳防御策略 我们是自私挖矿模型中第一个:1)得到块传输次数,块大小,块产生 间隔等参数的;2)得到已知的网络漏洞如eclipse attack





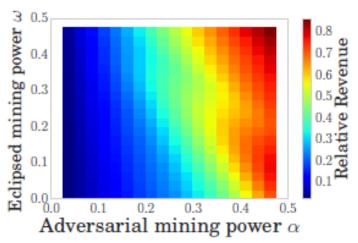


Figure 2: Selfish mining for  $r_s$  of 1%, 10%.

Figure 3: Selfish mining for  $\alpha = 0.1$  and 0.3. Figure 4: Selfish mining with eclipse attacks.

#### Double-Spending MDP

State × Action	Resulting State	Probability	Reward (in Block reward)
$(l_a, l_h, b_e, \cdot)$ , adopt	$(1,0,0,i) \ (1,0,1,i) \ (0,1,0,r) \ (0,0,0,i)$	$ \begin{array}{c} \alpha \\ \omega \\ (1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot (1 - r_s) \\ (1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot r_s \end{array} $	$(-c_m, l_h)$ $(-c_m, l_h)$ $(-c_m, l_h)$ $(-c_m, l_h)$
$(l_a, l_h, b_e, \cdot)$ , override	$ \begin{pmatrix} l_a - l_h, 0, b_e - \lceil (l_h + 1) \frac{b_e}{l_a} \rceil, i \end{pmatrix} $ $ \begin{pmatrix} l_a - l_h, 0, b_e - \lceil (l_h + 1) \frac{b_e}{l_a} \rceil + 1, i \end{pmatrix} $ $ \begin{pmatrix} l_a - l_h - 1, 1, b_e - \lceil (l_h + 1) \frac{b_e}{l_a} \rceil, r \end{pmatrix} $ $ \begin{pmatrix} l_a - l_h - 1, 0, b_e - \lceil (l_h + 1) \frac{b_e}{l_a} \rceil, i \end{pmatrix} $	$\alpha$ $\omega$ $(1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot (1 - r_s)$ $(1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot r_s$	$ \begin{pmatrix} \lfloor (l_h+1)\frac{l_a-b_e}{l_a}\rfloor - c_m, 0 \\ \lfloor (l_h+1)\frac{l_a-b_e}{l_a}\rfloor - c_m, 0 \\ \lfloor (l_h+1)\frac{l_a-b_e}{l_a}\rfloor - c_m, 0 \\ \lfloor (l_h+1)\frac{l_a-b_e}{l_a}\rfloor - c_m, 0 \end{pmatrix} $
$(l_a, l_h, b_e, i)$ , wait $(l_a, l_h, b_e, r)$ , wait	$(l_a + 1, l_h, b_e, i)  (l_a + 1, l_h, b_e + 1, i)  (l_a, l_h + 1, b_e, r)  (l_a, l_h, b_e, i)$	$ \begin{array}{c} \alpha \\ \omega \\ (1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot (1 - r_s) \\ (1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot r_s \end{array} $	$(-c_m, 0)$ $(-c_m, 0)$ $(-c_m, 0)$ $(-c_m, 0)$
$(l_a, l_h, b_e, a)$ , wait $(l_a, l_h, b_e, r)$ , match	$(l_a + 1, l_h, b_e, a)  (l_a + 1, l_h, b_e + 1, a)  (l_a - l_h, 1, b_e - \lceil (l_h) \frac{b_e}{l_a} \rceil, r)  (l_a, l_h + 1, b_e, r)  (l_a, l_h, b_e, a)$	$\alpha \\ \omega \\ \gamma \cdot (1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot (1 - r_s) \\ (1 - \gamma) \cdot (1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot (1 - r_s) \\ (1 - \alpha - \omega) \cdot r_s$	$(-c_m, 0)$ $(-c_m, 0)$ $\left(\lfloor (l_h) \frac{l_a - b_c}{l_a} \rfloor - c_m, 0\right)$ $(-c_m, 0)$ $(-c_m, 0)$
$(l_a, l_h, b_e, \cdot)$ , exit	exit	1	$(l_a - b_e + v_d, 0)$

Table 2: State transition and reward matrices for optimal selfish mining and double-spending strategies in PoW blockchains.  $\alpha$  is the mining power of the attacker,  $\omega$  is the mining power of the eclipsed node,  $b_e$  is the number of blocks in the attacker chain that were mined by the eclipsed node,  $\gamma$  is the fraction of nodes that an attacker can reach faster than the honest network,  $r_s$  is the stale block rate and  $v_d$  is the value of the double-spend. The actions override and match are feasible only when  $l_a > l_h$  or  $l_a \ge l_h$ , respectively. We discount the mining costs  $c_m \in [0, \alpha]$  in the state transition reward only for double-spending. The fork label (last element of the state) is denoted by i, r and a for irrelevant, relevant and active respectively. For a reward tuple (a, b), a corresponds to the adversary's costs, while b represents the reward for the honest network for selfish mining.

#### Optimal Strategies for Double-Spending

- pymdptoolbox library
- Policylteration algorithm

					$l_h$				
$l_a$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	w**	*a*	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
1	w**	ww*	ww*	*a*	***	***	***	***	***
2	w**	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	*a*	***	***	***
3	w**	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	*a*	***	***
4	w**	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	*a*	***
5	w**	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	*a*
6	w**	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*	ww*
7	e**	e**	e**	e**	e**	e**	e**	w**	ww*
8	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	e**	w**

Table 3: Optimal double-spending strategy for  $\alpha = 0.3$ ,  $\gamma = 0$ ,  $r_s = 0.41\%$ ,  $c_m = \alpha$ ,  $\omega = 0$  and  $v_d = 19.5$ . The rows correspond to the length  $l_a$  of the adversary's chain and the columns correspond to the length  $l_h$  of the honest network's chain. The three values in each table entry correspond to the fork labels *irrelevant*, relevant and active, where \* marks an unreachable state and w, a and e denote the wait, adopt and exit actions, respectively.

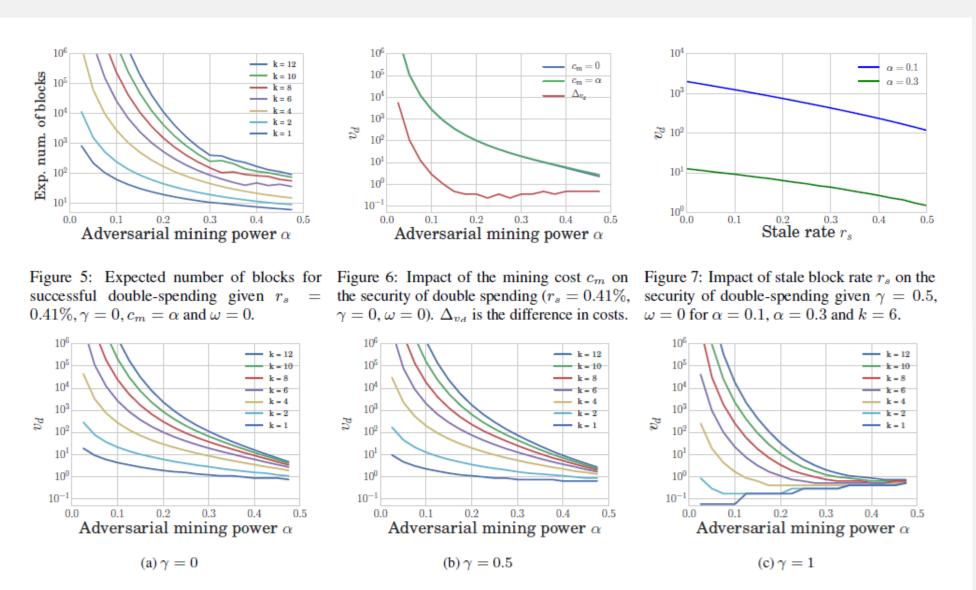


Figure 8: Impact of the propagation parameter  $\gamma$ . We observe that the higher is  $\gamma$ , the lower is  $v_d$  for double-spending to be more profitable than honest mining.  $r_s = 0.41\%$  (Bitcoin's stale block rate),  $c_m = \alpha$  (maximum mining costs),  $\omega = 0$  (no eclipse attack).

#### Bitcoin vs. Ethereum

- Uncle reward uncle block
- Uniform tie breaking

State × Action	Resulting State	Probability	Reward	Condition		
$(l_a, l_h, \cdot, nr)$ , adopt	(1, 0, relevant, nr) (0, 1, relevant, nr) (0, 0, relevant, nr)	$(1 - \alpha) \cdot (1 - r_s)$ $(1 - \alpha) \cdot r_s$	$-c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$	-		
$(l_a, l_h, \cdot, inc)$ , adopt	(1, 0, relevant, nr) (0, 1, relevant, nr) (0, 0, relevant, nr)	$(1 - \alpha) \cdot (1 - r_s)$ $(1 - \alpha) \cdot r_s$	$r_u - c_m$ $r_u - c_m$ $r_u - c_m$	- - -		
$(l_a, l_h, \cdot, rel)$ , adopt	(1, 0, relevant, rel) (0, 1, relevant, inc) (0, 0, relevant, rel)	$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot r_s \end{pmatrix}$	$-c_m$ $-c_m$	-		
$(l_a, l_h, \cdot, \cdot)$ , override	$ \begin{array}{l} (l_a-l_h,0,\text{relevant},nr) \\ (l_a-l_h-1,1,\text{relevant},nr) \\ (l_a-l_h-1,0,\text{relevant},nr) \end{array} $	$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot r_s \end{pmatrix}$	$egin{aligned} l_h + 1 - c_m \ l_h + 1 - c_m \ l_h + 1 - c_m \end{aligned}$	$l_a > l_h$ $l_a > l_h$ $l_a > l_h$		
$(l_a, l_h, \text{relevant}, nr), \text{wait}$	$ \begin{array}{c} (l_a+1,l_h, \text{relevant}, nr) \\ (l_a,l_h+1, \text{relevant}, nr) \\ (l_a,l_h, \text{relevant}, nr) \end{array} $	$(1 - \alpha) \cdot (1 - r_s)$ $(1 - \alpha) \cdot r_s$	$-c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$	-		
$(l_a, l_h, \text{relevant}, inc)$ , wait	$(l_a + 1, l_h, relevant, inc)$ $(l_a, l_h + 1, relevant, inc)$ $(l_a, l_h, relevant, inc)$	$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot r_s \end{pmatrix}$	$-c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$	-		
$(l_a, l_h, relevant, rel)$ , wait	$(l_a + 1, l_h, relevant, rel)$ $(l_a, l_h + 1, relevant, inc)$ $(l_a, l_h, relevant, rel)$	$(1 - \alpha) \cdot (1 - r_s)$ $(1 - \alpha) \cdot r_s$	$-c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$	-		
$(l_a, l_h,  ext{active}, nr),  ext{wait}$ $(l_a, l_h,  ext{relevant}, nr),  ext{match}$	$(l_a + 1, l_h, active, nr)$ $(l_a + 1, l_h, active, rel)$ $(l_a - l_h, 1, relevant, nr)$ $(l_a, l_h + 1, relevant, nr)$ $(l_a, l_h + 1, relevant, inc)$ $(l_a, l_h, active, nr)$ $(l_a, l_h, active, rel)$	$\begin{matrix} \alpha \\ \alpha \\ \gamma \cdot (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\gamma) \cdot (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\gamma) \cdot (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot r_s \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot r_s \end{matrix}$	$-c_m$ $-c_m$ $l_h - c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$	$l_h > 6$ $l_h \le 6$ $l_h > 6$ $l_h \le 6$ $l_h > 6$ $l_h \le 6$		
$(l_a, l_h, active, inc)$ , wait $(l_a, l_h, relevant, inc)$ , match	$(l_a + 1, l_h, \text{active}, inc)$ $(l_a - l_h, 1, \text{relevant}, nr)$ $(l_a, l_h + 1, \text{relevant}, inc)$ $(l_a, l_h, \text{active}, inc)$	$\begin{array}{c} \alpha \\ \gamma \cdot (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\gamma) \cdot (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot r_s \end{array}$	$-c_m$ $l_h - c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$	- - - -		
$(l_a, l_h, \text{active}, rel)$ , wait $(l_a, l_h, \text{relevant}, rel)$ , match	$(l_a + 1, l_h, \text{active}, rel)$ $(l_a - l_h, 1, \text{relevant}, nr)$ $(l_a, l_h + 1, \text{relevant}, inc)$ $(l_a, l_h, \text{active}, rel)$	$\begin{array}{c} \alpha \\ \gamma \cdot (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\gamma) \cdot (1-\alpha) \cdot (1-r_s) \\ (1-\alpha) \cdot r_s \end{array}$	$-c_m$ $l_h - c_m$ $-c_m$ $-c_m$	- - -		
$(l_a, l_h, \cdot, nr)$ , release	$(l_a, l_h, \cdot, rel)$	1	0	$l_h \le 6 \land l_h > 1 \land l_a \ge 1$		
$(l_a, l_h, \cdot, \cdot)$ , exit	exit	1	$l_a + v_d$	$l_a > l_h \wedge l_a > k$		

Table 4: State transition and reward matrices for an MDP for optimal double-spending strategies in Ethereum where  $r_u$  is the uncle reward (i.e.  $\frac{7}{8}$ ). Every state includes a flag (where nr =not released, rel =released, inc =included) indicating whether an attacker block has been or will be included as an uncle in the honest chain. The release action corresponds to the release of the first block of the attackers fork with the intention to be included as uncle in the honest chain. Therefore, it is only feasible if  $1 < l_h \le 6$  and  $l_a \ge 1$ , since it is otherwise equivalent to a match or override or the honest chain is too long to include it as uncle. With the release action, no block is mined and a state transitions from not released to released, which transitions to included with the next block mined on the honest chain. In Ethereum,  $\gamma$  is fixed at 0.5 and a match is possible even without a prepared block.

#### Optimal Strategies for Double-Spending

双花攻击最佳防御策略 Uncle reward & Uniform tie breaking

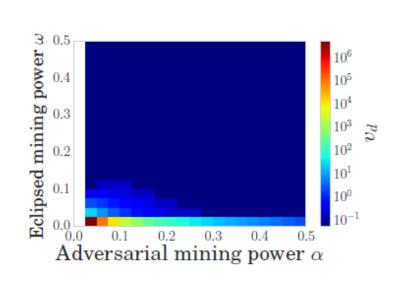


Figure 9: Full eclipse attack for  $r_s = 0.41\%$ ,  $\gamma = 0$  and  $c_m = 0$ .

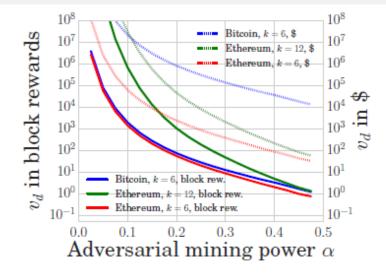
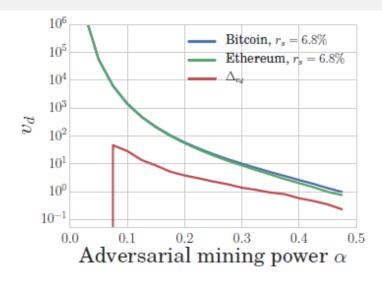


Figure 10: Double-spending resistance of Figure 11: USD exchange rate of 2016-04-20.



Direct comparison between Ethereum  $(k \in \{6, 12\})$  vs. Bitcoin (k = 6). Ethereum and Bitcoin with  $k = 6, r_s = 6.8\%$ and their respective difference  $\Delta_{v_d}$ .

## 分析讨论

## 区块链模拟器

Consensus parameter	Description				
Block interval distribution Mining power distribution of the miners	Time to find a block PoW power distribution				
Network-layer parameter	Description				
Block size distribution # of reachable network nodes Geo. distribution of nodes Geo. mining pool distribution # of connections per node # of connections of the miners Block request management system	Variable transaction load Open TCP port nodes Worldwide distribution Worldwide distribution Within network Within network Possible Protocols				
Standard mechanism (inv/getdata) Unsolicited block push Relay network Sendheaders	Default Miner only push block Miner network Bitcoin v0.12				

Table 5: Parameters of the blockchain simulation.

#### 区块链模拟器

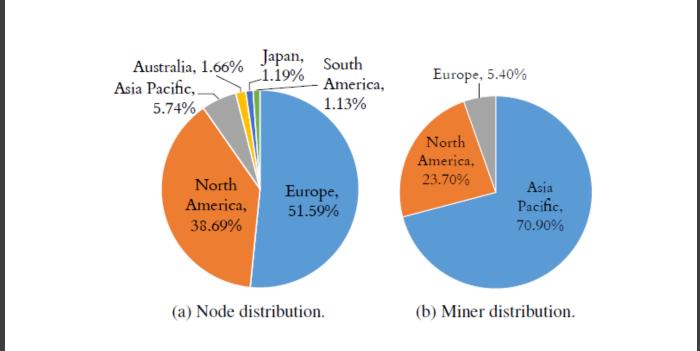


Figure 12: Geographical distribution of Bitcoin nodes and miners used in our simulator.



• 评价结果

我们从以上四个方面来讨论我们的实验结果

#### **Simulator Validation**

模拟器验证

	Bitcoin	Litecoin	Dogecoin
Block interval	10 min	2.5 min	1 min
Measured $t_{MBP}$	8.7 s [9]	1.02 s	0.98 s
Simulated $t_{MBP}$	9.42 s	0.86 s	0.83 s
Measured $r_s$	0.41 %	0.27 %	0.62 %
Simulated $r_s$	(a)0.14%-(b)1.85%	(b)0.24 %	(b)0.79 %

Table 6: Median block propagation time ( $t_{MBP}$ , in seconds), and  $r_s$  in the real networks and the simulation (10000 blocks for each blockchain). (a) assumes that all miners use the relay network and unsolicited block push, while (b) is only given the standard propagation mechanism. We conclude that not all miners in Bitcoin use the relay network and unsolicited block push.

2015.5-2015.11区块大小和区块 生成率 6个月的数据: 24000Bitcoin blocks, 100000Litecoin and

240000 Dogecoin blocks

#### Impact of the Block Interval

区块间隔的影响

	Case 1				Case 2			Case 3			Case 4					
Block interval	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$
25 minutes	35.73	1.72 %	12.47	0.34	25.66	0.16 %	12.86	0.33	22.50	0.03 %	12.89	0.33	22.44	0.02 %	12.89	0.33
10 minutes	14.7	1.51 %	12.52	0.34	10.65	0.13 %	12.88	0.33	9.41	0.14 %	12.86	0.33	9.18	0.13 %	12.87	0.33
2.5 minutes	4.18	1.82 %	12.45	0.34	2.91	0.16 %	12.86	0.33	2.60	0.16 %	12.86	0.33	2.59	0.15 %	12.86	0.33
1 minute	2.08	2.15 %	12.35	0.34	1.34	0.35 %	12.81	0.33	1.30	0.25 %	12.83	0.33	1.27	0.29 %	12.77	0.33
30 seconds	1.43	2.54 %	12.06	0.34	0.84	0.45 %	12.78	0.33	0.84	0.51 %	12.77	0.33	0.84	0.52 %	12.69	0.33
20 seconds	1.21	3.20 %	11.73	0.34	0.67	0.86 %	12.68	0.33	0.69	0.85 %	12.68	0.33	0.68	0.82 %	12.68	0.33
10 seconds	1.00	4.77 %	10.73	0.35	0.35	1.73 %	12.46	0.34	0.33	1.41 %	12.54	0.34	0.53	1.59 %	12.50	0.34
5 seconds	0.89	8.64 %	10.08	0.37	0.37	2.94 %	11.85	0.34	0.45	2.99 %	11.80	0.34	0.44	3.05 %	11.78	0.34
2 seconds	0.84	16.65 %	7.35	0.41	0.40	6.98 %	10.47	0.36	0.39	7.28 %	10.37	0.36	0.38	7.10 %	10.42	0.36
1 seconds	0.82	26.74 %	4.37	0.53	0.53	12.44 %	8.34	0.39	0.38	12.59 %	8.24	0.39	0.37	12.52 %	8.30	0.39
0.5 seconds	0.82	38.15 %	2.78	0.60	0.61	20.62 %	6.22	0.42	0.49	20.87 %	6.16	0.42	0.36	21.10 %	6.02	0.42

Table 7: Impact of the block interval on the median block propagation time  $(t_{MBP})$  in seconds, and the stale block rate  $r_s$ ,  $v_d$  and  $r_{rel}$  given the current Bitcoin block size distribution, an adversary with  $\alpha=0.3$  and k=6. Case 1 refers to the standard block propagation mechanism, Case 2 refers to standard mechanism plus unsolicited block push, Case 3 to the combination of Case 2 plus the relay network and Case 4 to the send headers with unsolicited block push and relay network.

#### Impact of the Block size

区块大小的影响

	Case 1				Case 2			Case 3			Case 4					
Block Size	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$	$t_{MBP}$	$r_s$	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$
0.1 MB	3.18	0.32 %	12.80	0.33	2.12	0.03 %	12.89	0.33	2.02	0.03 %	12.89	0.33	2.02	0.2 %	12.90	0.33
0.25 MB	7.03	0.88 %	12.67	0.33	4.93	0.11 %	12.87	0.33	4.49	0.05 %	12.88	0.33	4.46	0.17 %	12.87	0.33
0.5 MB	13.62	1.63 %	12.48	0.34	9.84	0.13 %	12.87	0.33	8.65	0.05 %	12.88	0.33	8.64	0.06 %	12.87	0.33
1 MB	27.67	3.17 %	11.79	0.34	20.01	0.38 %	12.79	0.33	17.24	0.07 %	12.88	0.33	17.14	0.07 %	12.88	0.33
2 MB	57.79	6.24 %	10.57	0.36	44.6	1.12 %	12.61	0.34	35.49	0.08%	12.87	0.33	35.38	0.1 %	12.86	0.33
4 MB	133.30	11.85 %	8.20	0.38	126.57	5.46 %	10.51	0.35	78.01	0.12 %	12.85	0.33	78.40	0.13 %	12.66	0.33
8 MB	571.50	29.97 %	4.11	0.53	875.97	15.64 %	7.64	0.41	555.49	0.43 %	12.65	0.33	550.25	0.4 %	12.68	0.33

Table 8: Impact of the block size on the median block propagation time  $(t_{MBP})$  in seconds, the stale block rate  $r_s$ ,  $v_d$  and  $r_{rel}$ , given the current Bitcoin block generation interval and an adversary with  $\alpha = 0.3$  and k = 6.

Throughput

吞吐量

tps	$v_d$	$r_{rel}$	Block size	Block interval
33.4	12.75	0.33	0.25MB	30 seconds
40	12.38	0.34	0.10MB	10 seconds
50	12.45	0.34	0.25MB	20 seconds
66.7	12.06	0.34	0.25MB	15 seconds
66.7	12.65	0.33	0.50MB	30 seconds
66.7	12.71	0.33	1.00MB	1 minute

Table 9: Throughput in transactions per second (tps) vs. security measured in  $v_d$  and  $r_{rel}$  for an adversary with 30% mining power, k = 6 and given 16 mining pools.

## 主要结论

## Part Five 主要结论









#### 新的定量框架

- PoW blockchains
- Blockchain parameters

#### Bitcoin & Ethereum

Bitcoin的区块链比Ethereum 的区块链更安全, Ethereum 会用uncle reward 来奖励矿 工 , 并 形 成 uniform tie breaking来解决区块链分叉。

#### 交易量

现存的PoW区块链可以得到一分钟60个交易的吞吐量,并且不严重影响区块链的安全。

#### 量化评价旧块率

首次提出量化评价PoW区块链 中对抗自私挖矿和双花攻击的 最优策略中旧块率影响。

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