

EXTENDS *Integers, TLC, Utils*

CONSTANTS

*StartingTurnNumber*,  
*NumParticipants*,  
*AlicesIDX*,  
*NULL*

The purpose of this specification is to outline an algorithm that guarantees that a challenge is registered on chain with *turnNumber* equal to *LatestTurnNumber*. It is guaranteed even with an antagonist who can do anything (including front-run *Alice* an arbitrary number of times) except  
- signing data with *Alice*'s private key  
- corrupting the blockchain

This guarantee has a key assumption, namely: 1. When a challenge is recorded on the *adjudicator*, *Alice* is always

- able to
- a) notice the event
  - b) submit a transaction
  - c) receive confirmation that that transaction was mined
- all before the challenge times out.

If guarantee is met, then either A. the channel concludes at this state; or B. someone responds with a move that progresses the channel C. someone responds with an alternative move that progresses the channel

*Alice* must accept A. She must also accept C – indeed, she must accept any alternative round that is recorded on chain, since she must have signed exactly one state in that round, and has no control over what the other participants does after that state. She would be most satisfied with B.

In reality, it is possible that *Alice* receives a state with *turnNumber LatestTurnNumber + 1*, and in this case *Alice* could (gracefully) abort her algorithm and continue the channel. A future version of this specification could consider this possibility.

By inductively applying her algorithm, *Alice* can therefore guarantee that either the channel progresses as long as she wishes, or it concludes on the latest state that she has.

$LatestTurnNumber \triangleq StartingTurnNumber + NumParticipants - 1$   
 $AlicesCommitments \triangleq StartingTurnNumber .. LatestTurnNumber$   
 $ParticipantIDXs \triangleq 1 .. NumParticipants$   
 $ParticipantIDX(turnNumber) \triangleq 1 + ((turnNumber - 1) \% NumParticipants)$   
 $AlicesMove(turnNumber) \triangleq ParticipantIDX(turnNumber) = AlicesIDX$

ASSUME

$\wedge StartingTurnNumber \in Nat$   
 $\wedge NumParticipants \in Nat \setminus \{1\}$   
 $\wedge AlicesIDX \in ParticipantIDXs$   
 $\wedge \neg AlicesMove(LatestTurnNumber + 1)$

**--algorithm** *forceMove*

*Alice* calls *adjudicator* functions by submitting a pending transaction with the function type and arguments. The *adjudicator* processes this transaction and modifies the channel state on her behalf. However, when *Eve* calls functions, she directly modifies the channel state. This emulates a reality where *Eve* can consistently front-run *Alice*'s transactions, when desired.

#### variables

$channel = [turnNumber \mapsto [p \in ParticipantIDXs \mapsto 0], mode \mapsto ChannelMode.OPEN, challenge \mapsto NULL, submittedTX = NULL,$

$counter = 0$  Auxilliary variable used in some properties and invariants.

We can't specify any properties that require any memory of the

behaviour up to the certain point (ie. the behaviour has passed through state  $X$  seven times in a row)

we thus have to embed the "memory" of the behaviour in the state itself,

if we want to check some property the depends on the history of the behaviour

#### define

$challengeOngoing \triangleq channel.mode = ChannelMode.CHALLENGE$

$channelOpen \triangleq channel.mode = ChannelMode.OPEN$

$progressesChannel(commitment) \triangleq commitment.turnNumber \geq channel.turnNumber[commitment.signer]$

$validCommitment(c) \triangleq c \in [turnNumber : Nat, signer : ParticipantIDXs]$

$validTransition(commitment) \triangleq$

$\wedge commitment.turnNumber = channel.challenge.turnNumber + 1$

$\wedge commitment.signer = ParticipantIDX(commitment.turnNumber)$

$AlicesGoalMet \triangleq$

$\wedge channel.mode = ChannelMode.CHALLENGE$

$\wedge channel.challenge.turnNumber = LatestTurnNumber$

**end define ;**

**macro** *clearChallenge*(*turnNumber*)

**begin**

**assert**  $turnNumber \in Nat$  ;

$channel := [$

$mode \mapsto ChannelMode.OPEN,$

$turnNumber \mapsto [p \in ParticipantIDXs \mapsto Maximum(channel.turnNumber[p], turnNumber)],$

$challenge \mapsto NULL$

$];$

**end macro ;**

**macro** *respondWithMove*(*commitment*)

**begin**

**if**

$\wedge challengeOngoing$

$\wedge validTransition(commitment)$

**then** *clearChallenge*(*commitment.turnNumber*) ;

**end if ;**

**end macro ;**

**macro** *refute*(*turnNumber*)

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begin
if
   $\wedge$  challengeOngoing
   $\wedge$  ParticipantIDX(turnNumber) = channel.challenge.signer
   $\wedge$  turnNumber > channel.turnNumber[ParticipantIDX(turnNumber)]
   $\wedge$  turnNumber > channel.challenge.turnNumber
then
  channel := [
    mode  $\mapsto$  ChannelMode.OPEN,
    challenge  $\mapsto$  NULL,
    turnNumber  $\mapsto$  [i  $\in$  {ParticipantIDX(turnNumber)}]  $\mapsto$  turnNumber] @@ channel.turnNumber
    By switching to the following effect, we can see how Eve could infinitely grief
    with the previous version of the force-move protocol.
    turnNumber  $\mapsto$  channel.turnNumber
  ];
end if ;
end macro ;

macro forceMove(commitment)
begin
if
   $\wedge$  channelOpen
   $\wedge$  progressesChannel(commitment)
then
  channel := [mode  $\mapsto$  ChannelMode.CHALLENGE, challenge  $\mapsto$  commitment] @@ channel ;
  By incrementing the number of forceMoves that have been called, we
  multiply the number of distinct states by a large amount, but we can specify properties like
  “Eve has not submitted 5 force moves”
  counter := counter + 1;
end if ;
end macro ;

fair process adjudicator = “Adjudicator”
begin
  This process records submitted transactions.
  Adjudicator:
  while  $\neg$ AlicesGoalMet  $\vee$  submittedTX  $\neq$  NULL do
    if submittedTX  $\neq$  NULL then
      if submittedTX.type = TX_Type.FORCE_MOVE then forceMove(submittedTX.commitment) ;
      elseif submittedTX.type = TX_Type.REFUTE then refute(submittedTX.turnNumber) ;
      elseif submittedTX.type = TX_Type.RESPOND then respondWithMove(submittedTX.commitment) ;
      else assert FALSE ;
      end if ;
      submittedTX := NULL ;
    end if ;
  end while ;

```

**end while ;**  
**end process ;**

**fair process** *alice* = “Alice”  
**begin**

*Alice* has commitments  $(n - \text{numParticipants}) \dots (n - 1)$ . She wants to end up with commitments  $(n - \text{numParticipants} + 1) \dots n$ .

She is allowed to :

- Call *submitForceMove* with any states that she currently has
- Call *refute* with any state that she has
- Call *respondWithMove* whenever there’s an active challenge where it’s her turn to move

*A*:

**while**  $\neg \text{AlicesGoalMet}$  **do**

**await** *submittedTX* = *NULL*;

**if** *challengeOngoing* **then with** *turnNumber* = *channel.challenge.turnNumber* **do**

**if** *turnNumber* < *StartingTurnNumber* **then**

*Alice* has signed commitments from *StartingTurnNumber* up to *LastTurnNumber*.

            She can therefore call *refute* with exactly one commitment, according to the channel’s current *turnNumber*.

**with** *refutation* = *CHOOSE*  $n \in \text{AlicesCommitments} : \text{ParticipantIDX}(n) = \text{channel.challenge.signer}$

**do** *submittedTX* := [*type*  $\mapsto$  *TX\_Type.REFUTE*, *turnNumber*  $\mapsto$  *refutation*]; **end with ;**

**elseif** *turnNumber* < *LatestTurnNumber* **then**

**with** *response* = *turnNumber* + 1,

*commitment* = [*turnNumber*  $\mapsto$  *response*, *signer*  $\mapsto$  *ParticipantIDX(response)*]

**do**

**assert** *response*  $\in$  *AlicesCommitments* ;

*submittedTX* := [*type*  $\mapsto$  *TX\_Type.RESPOND*, *commitment*  $\mapsto$  *commitment*];

**end with ;**

**else skip ;** *Alice* has run out of allowed actions.

**end if ;**

**end with ; else**

*submittedTX* := [

*commitment*  $\mapsto$  [*turnNumber*  $\mapsto$  *LatestTurnNumber*, *signer*  $\mapsto$  *AlicesIDX*],

*type*  $\mapsto$  *TX\_Type.FORCE\_MOVE*

        ];

**end if ;**

**end while ;**

**end process ;**

**fair process** *eve* = “Eve”

**begin**

*Eve* can do almost anything.

- a. She can sign any data with any private key, except she cannot sign a commitment with *Alice*’s private key when the turn number is greater than or equal to *StartingTurnNumber*

- b. She can call any *adjudicator* function, at any time *c*. She can front-run any transaction an arbitrary number of times: if
    - anyone else calls an *adjudicator* function in a transaction tx, she can then choose to submit any transaction before tx is mined.
  - d. She can choose not to do anything, thus causing any active challenge to expire.
- (d) is emulated by behaviours where execution is either  $Alice \rightarrow Adjudicator$  or  $Adjudicator \rightarrow Alice$

*E*:

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while  $\neg AlicesGoalMet$  do
  either
    with  $n \in NumParticipants \dots LatestTurnNumber,$ 
       $idx \in ParticipantIDXs \setminus \{AlicesIDX\}$ 
    do
       $forceMove([turnNumber \mapsto n, signer \mapsto idx]);$ 
    end with ;
  or if challengeOngoing
    then either with
       $turnNumber = channel.challenge.turnNumber + 1,$ 
       $commitment = [turnNumber \mapsto turnNumber, signer \mapsto ParticipantIDX(turnNumber)]$ 
    do  $respondWithMove(commitment);$  end with ;
  or with  $turnNumber \in \{\}$ 
     $Eve$  can refute with any state she has.  $Alice$  has seen all of these states.
     $\cup 0 \dots LatestTurnNumber$ 
    Since  $Eve$  can sign arbitrary data with any private key other than  $Alice$ 's,
    she can also refute with arbitrarily states, as long as it's not  $Alice$ 's
    turn in that state.
     $\cup \{n \in Nat : \neg AlicesMove(n)\}$ 
    do  $refute(turnNumber);$  end with ;
  end either ;
  end if ;
  end either ;
end while ;
end process ;

end algorithm ;

BEGIN TRANSLATION
VARIABLES channel, submittedTX, counter, pc

define statement
challengeOngoing  $\triangleq channel.mode = ChannelMode.CHALLENGE$ 
channelOpen  $\triangleq channel.mode = ChannelMode.OPEN$ 
progressesChannel(commitment)  $\triangleq commitment.turnNumber \geq channel.turnNumber[commitment.signer]$ 
validCommitment(c)  $\triangleq c \in [turnNumber : Nat, signer : ParticipantIDXs]$ 
validTransition(commitment)  $\triangleq$ 
   $\wedge commitment.turnNumber = channel.challenge.turnNumber + 1$ 

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$$\begin{aligned}
& \wedge \text{commitment.signer} = \text{ParticipantIDX}(\text{commitment.turnNumber}) \\
\text{AlicesGoalMet} & \triangleq \\
& \wedge \text{channel.mode} = \text{ChannelMode.CHALLENGE} \\
& \wedge \text{channel.challenge.turnNumber} = \text{LatestTurnNumber} \\
\\
\text{vars} & \triangleq \langle \text{channel}, \text{submittedTX}, \text{counter}, \text{pc} \rangle \\
\text{ProcSet} & \triangleq \{ \text{"Adjudicator"} \} \cup \{ \text{"Alice"} \} \cup \{ \text{"Eve"} \} \\
\text{Init} & \triangleq \text{Global variables} \\
& \wedge \text{channel} = [\text{turnNumber} \mapsto [p \in \text{ParticipantIDXs} \mapsto 0], \text{mode} \mapsto \text{ChannelMode.OPEN}, \text{challenge} \mapsto \text{null}] \\
& \wedge \text{submittedTX} = \text{NULL} \\
& \wedge \text{counter} = 0 \\
& \wedge \text{pc} = [\text{self} \in \text{ProcSet} \mapsto \text{CASE } \text{self} = \text{"Adjudicator"} \rightarrow \text{"Adjudicator"} \\
& \quad \square \text{self} = \text{"Alice"} \rightarrow \text{"A"} \\
& \quad \square \text{self} = \text{"Eve"} \rightarrow \text{"E"}] \\
\\
\text{Adjudicator} & \triangleq \wedge \text{pc}[\text{"Adjudicator"}] = \text{"Adjudicator"} \\
& \wedge \text{IF } \neg \text{AlicesGoalMet} \vee \text{submittedTX} \neq \text{NULL} \\
& \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{IF } \text{submittedTX} \neq \text{NULL} \\
& \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{IF } \text{submittedTX.type} = \text{TX\_Type.FORCE\_MOVE} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{IF } \wedge \text{channelOpen} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge \text{progressesChannel}((\text{submittedTX.commitment})) \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{channel}' = [\text{mode} \mapsto \text{ChannelMode.CHALLENGE}, \text{challenge} \mapsto \text{submittedTX.challenge}, \text{turnNumber} \mapsto \text{submittedTX.turnNumber}] \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge \text{TRUE} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge \text{UNCHANGED channel} \\
& \quad \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge \text{IF } \text{submittedTX.type} = \text{TX\_Type.REFUTE} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{IF } \wedge \text{challengeOngoing} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge \text{ParticipantIDX}((\text{submittedTX.turnNumber})) = \text{self} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge (\text{submittedTX.turnNumber}) > \text{channel.challenge.turnNumber} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge (\text{submittedTX.turnNumber}) > \text{channel.challenge.turnNumber} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{channel}' = [ \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{mode} \mapsto \text{ChannelMode.OPEN}, \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{challenge} \mapsto \text{submittedTX.challenge}, \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{turnNumber} \mapsto \text{submittedTX.turnNumber} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad ] \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge \text{TRUE} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge \text{UNCHANGED channel} \\
& \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge \text{IF } \text{submittedTX.type} = \text{TX\_Type.RESPOND} \\
& \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{IF } \wedge \text{challengeOngoing} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \wedge \text{validTransition}((\text{submittedTX.commitment})) \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{Assert}(((\text{submittedTX.commitment}))) \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{"Failure of validTransition"}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \wedge channel' = \\
& \quad ] \\
& \quad ELSE \wedge TRUE \\
& \quad \quad \wedge UNCHANGED channel \\
& ELSE \wedge Assert(FALSE, \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{"Failure of assertion at line 187, column 18"} \\
& \quad \wedge UNCHANGED channel \\
& \quad \wedge submittedTX' = NULL \\
& ELSE \wedge TRUE \\
& \quad \wedge UNCHANGED \langle channel, submittedTX \rangle \\
& \quad \wedge pc' = [pc \text{ EXCEPT } !["\text{Adjudicator}"]] = "\text{Adjudicator}" \\
& ELSE \wedge pc' = [pc \text{ EXCEPT } !["\text{Adjudicator}"]] = "\text{Done}" \\
& \quad \wedge UNCHANGED \langle channel, submittedTX \rangle \\
& \wedge UNCHANGED counter \\
adjudicator & \triangleq Adjudicator \\
A & \triangleq \wedge pc["\text{Alice}"] = "\text{A}" \\
& \wedge \text{IF } \neg AlicesGoalMet \\
& \quad \text{THEN } \wedge submittedTX = NULL \\
& \quad \wedge \text{IF } challengeOngoing \\
& \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{LET } turnNumber \triangleq channel.challenge.turnNumber \text{ IN} \\
& \quad \quad \text{IF } turnNumber < StartingTurnNumber \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{LET } refutation \triangleq \text{CHOOSE } n \in AlicesCommitments : Participate(n, turnNumber) \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad submittedTX' = [type \mapsto TX\_Type.REFUTE, turnNumber \mapsto turnNumber] \\
& \quad \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge \text{IF } turnNumber < LatestTurnNumber \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{THEN } \wedge \text{LET } response \triangleq turnNumber + 1 \text{ IN} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{LET } commitment \triangleq [turnNumber \mapsto response, \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge Assert(response \in AlicesCommitments, \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{"Failure of assertion at line 187, column 18"} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge submittedTX' = [type \mapsto TX\_Type.RESPOSE, turnNumber \mapsto turnNumber] \\
& \quad \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge TRUE \\
& \quad \quad \quad \wedge UNCHANGED submittedTX \\
& \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge submittedTX' = [ \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad commitment \mapsto [turnNumber \mapsto LatestTurnNumber, signature \mapsto refutation], \\
& \quad \quad \quad \quad type \mapsto TX\_Type.FORCE\_MOVE \\
& \quad \quad \quad ] \\
& \quad \wedge pc' = [pc \text{ EXCEPT } !["\text{Alice}"]] = "\text{A}" \\
& \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge pc' = [pc \text{ EXCEPT } !["\text{Alice}"]] = "\text{Done}" \\
& \quad \quad \wedge UNCHANGED submittedTX \\
& \quad \wedge UNCHANGED \langle channel, counter \rangle \\
alice & \triangleq A
\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \text{ELSE } \wedge pc' = [pc \text{ EXCEPT } !["\text{Eve}"] = "\text{Done}"] \\ & \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } channel \\ & \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle submittedTX, counter \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$eve \triangleq E$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Allow infinite stuttering to prevent deadlock on termination.} \\ \text{Terminating} & \triangleq \wedge \forall self \in ProcSet : pc[self] = "\text{Done}" \\ & \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } vars \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Next} & \triangleq adjudicator \vee alice \vee eve \\ & \vee \text{Terminating} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Spec} & \triangleq \wedge \text{Init} \wedge \square [Next]_{vars} \\ & \wedge \text{WF}_{vars}(adjudicator) \\ & \wedge \text{WF}_{vars}(alice) \\ & \wedge \text{WF}_{vars}(eve) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Termination} \triangleq \diamond (\forall self \in ProcSet : pc[self] = "\text{Done}')$$

END TRANSLATION

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AllowedTurnNumbers} & \triangleq 0 \dots (\text{StartingTurnNumber} + \text{NumParticipants}) \\ \text{AllowedCommitments} & \triangleq [\text{turnNumber} : \text{AllowedTurnNumbers}, \text{signer} : \text{ParticipantIDXs}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AllowedTransactions} & \triangleq \{NULL\} \\ & \cup [type : \{TX\_Type.FORCE\_MOVE, TX\_Type.RESPOND\}, \text{commitment} : \text{AllowedCommitments}] \\ & \cup [type : \{TX\_Type.REFUTE\}, \text{turnNumber} : \text{AllowedTurnNumbers}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{AllowedChannels} \triangleq [\text{turnNumber} : [\text{ParticipantIDXs} \rightarrow \text{Nat}], \text{mode} : \text{Range}(\text{ChannelMode}), \text{challenge} : \text{Allow}$$

Safety & liveness properties

$$\begin{aligned} \text{TypeOK} & \triangleq \\ & \wedge channel \in \text{AllowedChannels} \\ & \wedge submittedTX \in \text{AllowedTransactions} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AliceCanProgressChannel} & \triangleq \diamond \square ( \\ & \wedge channel.mode = \text{ChannelMode.CHALLENGE} \\ & \wedge channel.challenge.turnNumber = \text{LatestTurnNumber} \\ & ) \end{aligned}$$

We can verify that *Alice* can never directly modify the channel with this property, with the exception that she can finalize the channel.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AliceMustSubmitTransactions} & \triangleq \square [ \\ & \wedge pc["\text{Alice}"] = "\text{AliceTakesAction}" \\ & \wedge pc'["\text{Alice}"] = "\text{AliceMoves}" \\ & \Rightarrow \text{UNCHANGED } channel \\ & ]_{\langle pc, channel \rangle} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{TurnNumberIncrements} \triangleq \square[ \begin{array}{l} \forall p \in \text{ParticipantIDXs} : \text{channel}'.\text{turnNumber}[p] \geq \text{channel}.\text{turnNumber}[p] \\ \end{array} ]_{\langle \text{channel} \rangle}$$

It's useful to specify the following invariants or properties, since we can inspect the trace of behaviours that violate them to verify that the model checker is working as intended.

$$\text{EveCanGrieveAlice} \triangleq \text{counter} < 5$$

Behaviours that violate this property exhibit *Eve*'s ability to front-run: *Alice* always submits a transaction that would change the channel state, if it took effect immediately. Therefore, if the channel state is not changed when a pending transaction is processed, *Eve* must have called a function already.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{EveCannotFrontRun} \triangleq \square[ \\ \quad \wedge \text{submittedTX} \neq \text{NULL} \\ \quad \wedge \text{submittedTX}' = \text{NULL} \\ \Rightarrow \\ \quad \vee \text{channel}' \neq \text{channel} \\ \quad \text{By uncommenting the following line, one can inspect traces where } \textit{Eve} \text{ might} \\ \quad \text{have front-run } \textit{Alice} \text{ multiple times} \\ \quad \vee \text{counter} \leq 3 \\ \end{array} ]_{\langle \text{submittedTX}, \text{channel} \rangle}$$


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