

In this article, we propose a way that could significantly increase a PoW blockchain double-spending attacking cost (potentially different orders) with staking (and slashing of course).

Definition 1 (Attacking Cost of A PoW Chain)

: Given chained blocks $\mathbf{B} = [B_0, B_1, \dots, B_l]$

of a PoW chain, the attacking cost of reverting a recently-created block B_i

by creating an attacking fork is about

$$C(B_i) \approx \sum_{j=i}^l D(B_j) \approx \int_{T(B_i)}^{\text{now}} H(t) dt \approx H \times (\text{now} - T(B_i))$$

where $D(B_j)$

returns the cost of creating a block with the same difficulty of B_j

, $T(B_i)$

is the block creation time, $H(t)$

is the cost of the network hash rate at time t

, and $H(t) = H$

is almost-constant from now to $T(B_i)$

.

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Now we impose a staking constraint for a PoW block:

Definition 2 (A PoW Chain with Staking)

: To produce a block, besides reaching the block difficulty, a miner must stake $S(N + 1)$

tokens, where S

is a pre-defined token numbers, N

is the number of blocked mined by the same miner in recent W

blocks. Note that the staked tokens will be locked much longer than the production time of W

blocks to prevent transfer-and-stake cheat.

With the definition, we now have the following proposition

Proposition 1 (Attacking Cost of A PoW Chain With Staking)

The attacking cost of reverting a recently-created block B_i , $i > l - W$

by creating an attacking fork is

$$\bar{C}(B_i) \approx \sum_{j=i}^l (D(B_j) + S(l - i + 1)) \approx \int_{T(B_i)}^{\text{now}} (\bar{H}(t) + S/P) dt \approx (\bar{H} + S/T) \times (\text{now} - T(B_i))$$

, and P

is the token price.

where $\bar{H}(t) = \bar{H}$

is the post-stake network hash rate cost, and $S(l - i + 1)$

are the number of tokens of the attacker that are slashed after the attack is discovered.

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Example

: Using Ethereum as example, suppose $W = 1000$

, $S = 200$

, $T = 15$

, and price per ETH is $P = 180$

USD, the attacking cost of reverting a blocked generated 5 mins ago (about 20 block confirmations) with staking will be about $20 \times S \times P = 20 \times 200 \times 180 = 720,000$

USD, while the upper limit of attacking cost without staking is about $2 \times 20 \times P = 7,200$

USD. Note that, all miners require to stake $1000 \times 200 = 200K$

ETH to prevent the network staling.