

AND NOW FOR  
SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT



# A readable and computable formalization of the Streamlet consensus protocol

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4 May 2025, FMBC @ Hamilton, Canada

# Motivation

- **Consensus** is an integral piece of blockchain technology
- We want *formally verified* implementations of these protocols

# Approach

1. Formally present a **readable** specification of the protocol
2. Provide **mechanized** proofs about the protocol's properties (e.g. safety)
3. Make sure the specification is also **computable**
  - so that we can extract executable code out of the formalization
4. Formally verifying a full implementation is too unrealistic, but...
  - ...we can test that an implementation **conforms** to the formal model

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**TOOL OF CHOICE:** the **Agda** proof assistant



Infrastructure, common to all BFT-style consensus protocols

- cryptographic and consensus assumptions
- messaging between nodes/replicas
- modelling time

## Global System: assumptions (crypto)

Epoch =  $\mathbb{N}$

## Global System: assumptions (crypto)

Hash : Type

---

```
record Hashable (A : Type) : Type where
  field _#      : A → Hash
  #-inj : Injective≡ _#
```



## Global System: assumptions (crypto)

```
record HashAssumptions : Type1 where
  field instance
    -- type formers
    Hashable-×      : { Hashable A } → { Hashable B } → Hashable (A × B)
    Hashable-⊔      : { Hashable A } → { Hashable B } → Hashable (A ⊔ B)
    Hashable-List    : { Hashable A } → Hashable (List A)
    Hashable-Maybe   : { Hashable A } → Hashable (Maybe A)

    -- base types
    Hashable-τ       : Hashable τ
    Hashable-ℕ       : Hashable ℕ
    Hashable-String  : Hashable String
```

## Global System: assumptions (crypto)

PrivateKey PublicKey Signature : Type

---

```
record SignatureAssumptions : Type1 where
  field
    verify-signature : PublicKey → Signature → Hash → Bool
    sign'            : { Hashable A } → PrivateKey → A → Signature
```

## Global System: assumptions (BFT)

```
record Assumptions : Type1 where
  field
    nodes      : ℕ
    nodes+ : nodes > 0

  Pid : Type
  Pid = Fin nodes
  ⋮
```

## Global System: assumptions (BFT)

field

Honest : Pid → Type

instance

Dec-Honest : Honest  $\leadsto^1$

Honest-irr : Irrelevant<sup>1</sup> Honest

honest-majority : 3 \* length honestPids > 2 \* nodes

## Global System: assumptions (BFT)

field

epochLeader : Epoch  $\rightarrow$  Pid

## Global System: assumptions (BFT)

field

Transaction : Type

instance

DecEq-Tx : DecEq Transaction

Hashable-Tx : Hashable Transaction

## Global System: state transition as an inductive relation

`data _→_ : GlobalState → GlobalState → Type`

## Global System: state

```
record GlobalState : Type where
  field e-now      : Epoch           networkBuffer : List Envelope
        stateMap   : StateMap        history       : List Message
```

---

StateMap = HonestVec LocalState



## Global System: step

data  $\rightarrow$  (s : GlobalState) : GlobalState  $\rightarrow$  Type where

Deliver :

(env $\epsilon$  : env  $\in$  s .networkBuffer)  $\rightarrow$

---

s  $\rightarrow$  deliverMsg s env $\epsilon$

AdvanceEpoch :

---

s  $\rightarrow$  advanceEpoch s

LocalStep : { \_ : Honest p }  $\rightarrow$

(p  $\triangleright$  s .e-now  $\vdash$  s @ p -[ m? ]  $\rightarrow$  ls')

---

s  $\rightarrow$  broadcast p m? (s @ p = ls')

DishonestStep :

•  $\neg$  Honest p • NoSignatureForging m s

---

s  $\rightarrow$  broadcast p (just m) s

## Global System: disallowing forged signatures

```
NoSignatureForging : Message → GlobalState → Type  
NoSignatureForging m s = Honest (m • pid) → m ∈ s .history
```

## Local View of a Replica

More specific to the case of Streamlet; the **essence** of the protocol:

- local notion of seen **blockchains**
- local **state** of each replica
- **notarization** and **finalization**
- local **protocol behaviour** for each replica

## Local View: state transition as an inductive relation

```
data _▷_┐_┐_[-]→_ (p : Pid) (e : Epoch) (ls : LocalState) : Maybe Message → LocalState → Type
```

## Local View: blockchains

Chain = List Block

---

```
record Block : Type where
  constructor ⟨-, -, -⟩
  field parentHash : Hash
        epoch      : Epoch
        payload     : List Transaction
```

## Local View: blockchains

```
record _-connects-to_ (b : Block) (ch : Chain) : Type where
  field hashesMatch    : b .parentHash ≡ ch #
        epochAdvances : b .epoch      > ch • epoch
```

## Local View: blockchains

data ValidChain : Chain → Type where

[ ] :

ValidChain [ ]

$_ :: _ \dashv _ : \forall b \rightarrow$

• ValidChain *ch* • *b* -connects-to- *ch*

ValidChain (*b* :: *ch*)

## Local View: state

```
record LocalState : Type where
  field phase : Phase          inbox : List Message
      db      : List Message    final : Chain
```

---

```
data Message : Type where
  Propose : SignedBlock → Message
  Vote    : SignedBlock → Message
```



## Local View: notarization

`votes : List Message → Block → List Message`

`votes ms b = filter (λ m → b  $\stackrel{?}{=}$  m • block) ms`

---

`NotarizedBlock : List Message → Block → Type`

`NotarizedBlock ms b = IsMajority (votes ms b)`

---

`NotarizedChain : List Message → Chain → Type`

`NotarizedChain ms ch = All (NotarizedBlock ms) ch`

## Local View: notarization

`data _chain-ε_ : Chain → List Message → Type where`

`[] :`

`_____`

`[] chain-ε ms`

`_ :: _-!_ :`

• `Any`  $(\lambda m \rightarrow b \equiv m \bullet \text{block}) ms$

• `ch chain-ε ms • b -connects-to- ch`

`_____`  
`(b :: ch) chain-ε ms`

`_notarized-chain-ε_ _longest-notarized-chain-ε_ : Chain → List Message → Type`

`ch notarized-chain-ε ms =`

`ch chain-ε ms × NotarizedChain ms ch`

`ch longest-notarized-chain-ε ms =`

`ch notarized-chain-ε ms ×`

`(∀ {ch'} → ch' notarized-chain-ε ms → length ch' ≤ length ch)`

## Local View: finalization

```
data FinalizedChain (ms : List Message) : Chain → Block → Type where
```

```
Finalize :
```

- NotarizedChain ms ( $b_3 :: b_2 :: b_1 :: ch$ )
- $b_3$  .epoch  $\equiv$  suc ( $b_2$  .epoch)
- $b_2$  .epoch  $\equiv$  suc ( $b_1$  .epoch)

---

```
FinalizedChain ms ( $b_2 :: b_1 :: ch$ )  $b_3$ 
```

## Local View: steps

data  $p \triangleright e \vdash ls \rightarrow p \in ls$  where

ProposeBlock :

```
let L = epochLeader e
    b = ⟨ ch # , e , txs ⟩
    m = Propose (sign p b)
```

in

- $ls.phase \equiv \text{Ready}$
- $ch$  longest-notarized-chain- $\in ls.db$
- $p \equiv L$
- ValidChain ( $b :: ch$ )

---

$p \triangleright e \vdash ls \rightarrow \text{just } m \rightarrow \text{record } ls \{ phase = \text{Voted}; db = m :: ls.db \}$

## Local View: steps

VoteBlock :

```
let L    = epochLeader e
    b    = ⟨ ch # , e , txs ⟩
    sbL = sign L b
    mL  = Propose sbL ; m = Vote (sign p b)
```

in

$\forall (m \in : m^L \in^1 ls.inbox) \rightarrow$

|  |   |
|--|---|
| • $sb^L \notin \text{map } \_ \bullet \text{signedBlock } (ls.db)$ | • $p \neq L$                                      |
| • $ls.phase \equiv \text{Ready}$                                   | • $ch \text{ longest-notarized-chain-} \in ls.db$ |
|  | • $\text{ValidChain } (b :: ch)$                  |

---

$p \triangleright e \vdash ls \rightarrow [ \text{just } m ] \rightarrow \text{record } ls \{ phase = \text{Voted}; db = m :: m^L :: ls.db; inbox = ls.inbox -^1 m \in \}$

## Local View: steps

RegisterVote : let  $m = \text{Vote } sb$  in

$\forall (m \in : m \in ls.inbox) \rightarrow$

- $sb \notin \text{map } \_ \bullet \text{signedBlock } (ls.db)$

---

$p \triangleright e \vdash ls - [ \text{nothing} ] \rightarrow \text{record } ls \{ db = m :: ls.db; inbox = ls.inbox - m \in \}$

## Local View: steps

`FinalizeBlock` :  $\forall ch\ b \rightarrow$

- `ValidChain` ( $b :: ch$ )
- `FinalizedChain` ( $ls\ .db$ )  $ch\ b$

---

$p \triangleright e \vdash ls -[ \text{nothing} ] \rightarrow \text{record } ls \{ \text{final} = ch \}$

## Mechanizing consistency: statement

Consistency : StateProperty

Consistency  $s = \forall \{p \ p' \ b \ ch \ ch'\} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p \} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p' \} \rightarrow$   
let  $ms = (s \ @ \ p) .db$  ;  $ms' = (s \ @ \ p') .db$  in

- $(b :: ch) \text{ chain-}\in ms$     •  $ch' \text{ notarized-chain-}\in ms'$
- $\text{FinalizedChain } ms \ ch \ b$  •  $\text{length } ch \leq \text{length } ch'$

---

$ch \preceq ch'$



# Mechanizing consistency: closures as traces

data  $\_ \leftarrow \_$  : GlobalState  $\rightarrow$  GlobalState  $\rightarrow$  Type where

$\_ \blacksquare$  :  $\forall x \rightarrow$

---

$x \leftarrow x$

$\_ \langle \_ \rangle \leftarrow \_$  :  $\forall z \rightarrow$

•  $z \leftarrow y$    •  $y \leftarrow x$

---

$z \leftarrow x$

## Mechanizing consistency: invariants

$\text{StateProperty} = \text{GlobalState} \rightarrow \text{Type}$

---

$\text{Reachable} : \text{StateProperty}$

$\text{Reachable } s = s \Leftarrow s_0$

---

$\text{Invariant} : \text{StateProperty} \rightarrow \text{Type}$

$\text{Invariant } P = \forall \{s\} \rightarrow \text{Reachable } s \rightarrow P \ s$

## Mechanizing consistency: example invariant

HistorySound : StateProperty

HistorySound  $s = \forall \{p\ m\} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p \} \rightarrow$

- $p \equiv m$  •  $\text{pid}$
- $m \in s$  •  $\text{history}$

---

$m \in (s @ p)$  •  $\text{db}$

## Mechanizing consistency: example invariant

```
historySound : Invariant HistorySound
historySound (s' < s→ | s >← Rs) {p}{m} p≡ m∈
  with IH ← historySound Rs {p}{m} p≡
  with s→
  | DishonestStep _ replay
    with >> m∈
... | >> here refl rewrite p≡ = IH (replay it)
... | >> there m∈                = IH m∈
  | LocalStep {p = p'}{mm}{ls'} ls→
    with >> ls→
... | >> ProposeBlock _ _ _ _
    with >> m∈
...   | >> here refl rewrite p≡ | lookup✓ = here refl
...   | >> there m∈ with p ≠ p'
...       | yes refl rewrite lookup✓      = there $ IH m∈
...       | no p≠      rewrite lookup✗ p≠ = IH m∈
```

## Mechanizing consistency: main lemmas

UniqueNotarization : StateProperty

UniqueNotarization  $s = \forall \{p \ p' \ b \ b'\} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p \} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p' \} \rightarrow$

$\text{let } ms = (s \ @ \ p) \ .db ; ms' = (s \ @ \ p') \ .db \text{ in}$

$\bullet \text{NotarizedBlock } ms \ b \bullet \text{NotarizedBlock } ms' \ b' \bullet b \ .epoch \equiv b' \ .epoch$

---

$b \equiv b'$

# Mechanizing consistency: main lemmas

ConsistencyLemma : StateProperty

ConsistencyLemma  $s = \forall \{p \ p' \ b_1 \ b_2 \ b \ ch \ ch'\} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p \} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p' \} \rightarrow$

$\text{let } ms = (s @ p) .db ; ms' = (s @ p') .db \text{ in}$

- $(b_2 :: b_1 :: ch) \text{ chain-}\epsilon \ ms$
- $(b :: ch') \text{ notarized-chain-}\epsilon \ ms'$
- $\text{FinalizedChain } ms \ (b_1 :: ch) \ b_2$
- $\text{length } ch' \equiv \text{length } ch$

---

$b_1 \equiv b$

## Mechanizing consistency: other (important) lemmas

IncreasingEpochs : StateProperty

IncreasingEpochs  $s = \forall \{p \ p' \ p'' \ b \ ch \ b' \ ch'\} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p \} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p' \} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p'' \} \rightarrow$   
let  $ms = (s @ p) .db$  ;  $ms' = (s @ p') .db$  in

- $p'' \in \text{voteIds } ms \ b$
- $p'' \in \text{voteIds } ms' \ b'$
- $\text{length } ch < \text{length } ch'$
- $b \text{ -connects-to- } ch$
- $b' \text{ -connects-to- } ch'$

---

$b .\text{epoch} < b' .\text{epoch}$

## Mechanizing consistency: other (important) lemmas

MessageSharing : StateProperty

MessageSharing  $s = \forall \{p \ p' \ b\} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p \} \{ \_ : \text{Honest } p' \} \rightarrow$

$\text{let } ms = (s @ p) .db ; ms' = (s @ p') .db \text{ in}$

$p' \in \text{voteIds } ms \ b$

---

$p' \in \text{voteIds } ms' \ b$



# OK COMPUTER

RADIOHEAD



# Testing: decidability proofs as decision procedures

```
data Dec (P : Type) : Type where
  yes : P → Dec P
  no  : ¬ P → Dec P
```

```
record _?? (P : Type) : Type where
  field dec : Dec P
```

```
!_! : ∀ P → { P ?? } → Dec P
! _ ! = dec
```

```
instance
  Dec-! : ! ??
  Dec-! .dec = no λ()

  Dec-! : ! ??
  Dec-! .dec = yes tt
```

```
module _ {A B : Type} {A ?? B ??} where instance
  Dec-→ : (A → B) ??
  Dec-→ .dec with ! A ! | ! B !
    ... | no ¬a | _      = yes λ a → contradict (¬a a)
    ... | yes a  | yes b = yes λ _ → b
    ... | yes a  | no ¬b = no λ f → ¬b (f a)

  Dec-× : (A × B) ??
  Dec-× .dec with ! A ! | ! B !
    ... | yes a | yes b = yes (a , b)
    ... | no ¬a | _      = no λ (a , _) → ¬a a
    ... | _     | no ¬b = no λ (_ , b) → ¬b b
```

## Testing: decidability proofs as decision procedures

instance

Dec-Finalized :  $\forall \{ms\ ch\ b\} \rightarrow \text{FinalizedChain } ms\ ch\ b\ ?$

Dec-Finalized  $\{ch = ch\}$  .dec

with  $ch$

... | [] = no  $\lambda ()$

... | \_ :: [] = no  $\lambda ()$

... | \_ :: \_ :: \_

with dec | dec | dec

... | yes  $p$  | yes  $q$  | yes  $r$  = yes (Finalize  $p\ q\ r$ )

... | no  $\neg p$  | \_ | \_ = no  $\lambda$  where (Finalize  $p\ _\ _$ )  $\rightarrow \neg p\ p$

... | \_ | no  $\neg q$  | \_ = no  $\lambda$  where (Finalize  $\_ q\ _$ )  $\rightarrow \neg q\ q$

... | \_ | \_ | no  $\neg r$  = no  $\lambda$  where (Finalize  $\_ \_ r$ )  $\rightarrow \neg r\ r$

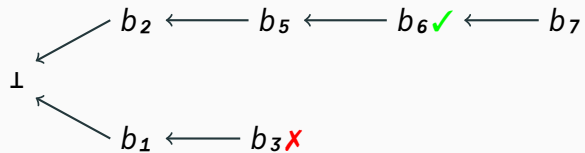
## Testing: decidability proofs as decision procedures

```
Propose? :  $\forall$  ch txs  $\rightarrow$  let  
  ...  
  ls' = proposeBlock ls m in  
  { _ : p  $\equiv$  L }  
  { _ : auto: ls .phase  $\equiv$  Ready }  
  { _ : auto: ch longest-notarized-chain- $\in$  ls .db }  
  { _ : auto: ValidChain (b :: ch) }  $\rightarrow$   


---

s  $\rightarrow$  broadcast L (just m) (updateLocal p ls' s)
```

## Testing: example correct-by-construction traces



## Testing: example correct-by-construction traces

```
begin
  initGlobalState
→⟨ Propose? ℒ [] [] ⟩ -- leader proposes b1
  record { e-now          = 1
          ; history       = [ p1 ]
          ; networkBuffer = [ [ A | p1 ] ; [ B | p1 ] ]
          ; stateMap      = [ { - ℒ - } ◁ Voted , [ p1 ] , [] , [] ▷
                              ; { - A - } ◁ Ready , [] , [] , [] ▷
                              ; { - B - } ◁ Ready , [] , [] , [] ▷ ] }
→⟨ Deliver? [ B | p1 ] ⟩
```

—

## Testing: example correct-by-construction traces

```
⋮  
→⟨ Vote? B [] [] ⟩ -- b1 becomes notarized  
  record { e-now      = 1  
          ; history    = [ v1 ; p1 ]  
          ; networkBuffer = [ [ A | p1 ] ; [ L | v1 ] ; [ A | v1 ] ]  
          ; stateMap    = [ ( Voted , [ p1 ] , [], [] )  
                          ; ( Ready , [] , [], [] )  
                          ; ( Voted , [ v1 ; p1 ] , [], [] ) ] }  
⋮
```

## Testing: example correct-by-construction traces

```
⋮  
→⟨ Propose? ℒ [ b6 ; b5 ; b2 ] [] ⟩ -- leader proposes b7  
⋮  
→⟨ Vote? ℳ [ b6 ; b5 ; b2 ] [] ⟩ -- b7 becomes notarized  
⋮
```



## Testing: example correct-by-construction traces

```
⋮  
→⟨ Finalize? A [ b6 ; b5 ; b2 ] b7 ⟩ -- b6 becomes finalized  
  record { e-now          = 7  
    ; history             = [ v7 ; p7 ; v6 ; p6 ; v5 ; p5 ; v3 ; p3 ; v2 ; p2 ; v1 ; p1 ]  
    ; networkBuffer       = _  
    ; stateMap             = [ ( Voted , _ , [] , [] )  
                              ; ( Voted , _ , [] , [ b6 ; b5 ; b2 ] )  
                              ; ( Ready , _ , [] , [] ) ] }
```



# FAITH NO MORE



T H E R E A L T H I N G

## Conformance testing: trace verification

```
data Action : Type where
  Propose      : Pid → Chain → List Transaction → Action
  Vote         : Pid → Chain → List Transaction → Action
  RegisterVote : Pid → ℕ → Action
  FinalizeBlock : Pid → Chain → Block → Action
  DishonestStep : Pid → Message → Action
  Deliver      : ℕ → Action
  AdvanceEpoch : Action
```

```
Actions = List Action
```

## Conformance testing: trace verification

`getLabels : (s  $\rightarrow$  s')  $\rightarrow$  Actions`

---

`ValidTrace : Actions  $\rightarrow$  GlobalState  $\rightarrow$  Type`

`ValidTrace  $\alpha$  s s =  $\exists \lambda$  s'  $\rightarrow \exists \lambda$  (st : s  $\rightarrow$  s')  $\rightarrow$  getLabels st  $\equiv \alpha$  s`

---

`instance`

`Dec-ValidTrace : ValidTrace  $\eta^2$`

## Conformance testing: trace verification

$\llbracket \_ \rrbracket^* : \text{ValidTrace } \alpha s \ s \rightarrow \text{GlobalState}$

$\llbracket s' , \_ \rrbracket^* = s'$

$\text{ValidTrace-sound} : (vas : \text{ValidTrace } \alpha s \ s) \rightarrow s \twoheadrightarrow \llbracket vas \rrbracket^*$

$\text{ValidTrace-sound } (\_ , s \twoheadrightarrow , \text{refl}) = s \twoheadrightarrow$

$\text{ValidTrace-complete} : (st : s \twoheadrightarrow s') \rightarrow \text{ValidTrace } (\text{getLabels } st) \ s$

$\text{ValidTrace-complete } s \twoheadrightarrow = \_, s \twoheadrightarrow , \text{refl}$

## Future Work

- Also prove the crucial property of **liveness**
  - should be possible using the same methodology as consistency
- Apply our methodology to more complex realistic protocols, e.g. Jolteon
  - in fact we have already done so (proved **safety** for Jolteon) and thus we're confident that our approach scales well

We've demonstrated a formalization of Streamlet, which is:

- **mechanized** in Agda to make sure there are no mistakes;
- presented in a **readable** fashion;
- also **computable** to leverage the formal model for conformance testing.

# Questions?

<https://github.com/input-output-hk/formal-streamlet>

