

Kerma - Task 3

1 General Notes

In your group of up to three students, you may use any programming language of your choice to implement the following task. We provide skeleton projects in Python and TypeScript (see `python-skeleton-for-task-3.tgz` and `typescript-skeleton-for-task-3.tgz` on TUWEL). You can use them to build upon. After the deadline, these skeleton projects will be updated and act as sample solutions for the previous tasks. These are guaranteed to pass all test cases for the previous tasks.

2 High level Overview

After completing this task, your node should be able to:

- validate blocks with known ancestry.
- execute transactions.

3 Task Description

Important notice - Deviations from the protocol description

For this task, you do not have to implement recursive object fetching of blocks. This means that you can assume that your node will receive all blocks in the correct order during grading. Concretely:

- If (valid) block A is the parent of block B, then A will be sent to your node before B.
- If this is not the case, i.e. if your node receives this block B but has never received block A, then it must send an `UNKNOWN_OBJECT` error message.

Your node however must be able to fetch all unknown transactions in a block.

Other than these deviations, the protocol description has general precedence over task descriptions - when in doubt, follow the protocol description. Be sure to also read the respective sections before you start working on this task.

In this exercise, you will implement block validation for your Kerma node.

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5 Maintaining UTXO Sets

Overview - UTXO set

The UTXO set ("unspent transaction output set") contains all unspent transaction outputs and is used to quickly check if a new transaction may use a transaction output as an input.

The following scenario explains how a UTXO set should be maintained: Assume that a chain of blocks (g, b_0, b_1) with g the genesis block is valid. This defines an execution order of all transactions included in these blocks. Call these transactions (t_0, t_1) .

Assume further:

- t_0 is a coinbase transaction and the only transaction in block b_0 .
- t_1 is a transaction spending from the first output of t_0 and creating two outputs. It is contained in b_1 .

Now assume that a node N regards (g, b_0) as the current longest chain, because it has not yet received block b_1 .

The UTXO set of N at this point is $\{(t_0, 0)\}$, with $(t_0, 0)$ denoting the output at index 0 of transaction t_0 .

Now one of its peers sends N block b_1 . N fetches the transaction t_1 and validates it "in isolation", i.e. everything you did in the previous task. Additionally, it now has to check if this transaction may spend from its referenced inputs. It could be the case that t_1 would spend from an output of a transaction which is not confirmed in the chain or would spend from a transaction output that has already been spent by another transaction; in both cases the whole block must be considered invalid. t_1 spends from $(t_0, 0)$: This is possible, because this particular transaction output exists and is not yet spent. To determine this, N just checks if this transaction output is in the current UTXO set. Transaction t_1 then gets "executed", which means that N needs to update its UTXO set: Let u be the current UTXO set, i the set of inputs of t_1 , and o the set of its outputs. Then, the updated UTXO state u' is defined as $u' = (u \setminus i) \cup o$.

The reason for maintaining a UTXO set is because verification of new transactions is as simple as a set inclusion check - otherwise you might need to traverse the whole chain to determine if an output is unspent.

In this exercise, you will implement a UTXO set and update it by executing the transactions of each block that you receive. This task will not yet cover all the features of the UTXO set. We will revisit this part in future homeworks.

1. For each block in your database, store a UTXO set that will be computed by executing the transactions in that block. This set is not modified when you receive transactions, only when they get executed during handling of new block objects.
2. When you receive a new block, you will compute the UTXO set after that block in the

following way. To begin with, initialize the UTXO set to the UTXO set after the parent block (the block corresponding to the previd). Note that the UTXO set after the genesis block is empty. For each transaction in the block:

- (a) Validate the transaction as per your validation logic implemented in Task 2. Additionally, check that each input of the transaction corresponds to an output that is present in the UTXO set. This means that the output exists and also that the output has not been spent yet.
- (b) Apply the transaction by removing UTXOs that are spent and adding UTXOs that are created. Update the UTXO set accordingly.
- (c) Repeat steps a-b for the next transaction using the **updated** UTXO set. This is because a transaction can spend from an output of a non-coinbase transaction in the same block.

For testing your node, you can use the genesis block which is a valid block. Below is another block mined on the genesis block that is valid. You can also mine more blocks to test your validation.

Example valid coinbase transaction

```
// objectid is 6ebfb4c8e8e9b19dcf54c6ce3e1e143da1f473ea986e70c5cb8899a4671c933a
{
  "height": 1,
  "outputs": [
    {
      "pubkey": "3f0bc71a375b574e4bda3ddf502fe1afd99aa020bf6049adfe525d9ad18ff33f",
      "value": 50000000000000
    }
  ],
  "type": "transaction"
}
```

Example valid block

```
// objectid is 0000000093a2820d67495ac01ad38f74eabd8966517ab15c1cb3f2df1c71eea6
{
  "T": "00000000abc0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000",
  "created": 1671148800,
  "miner": "grader",
  "nonce": "100000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000001aaf999",
  "note": "This block has a coinbase transaction",
  "previd": "0000000052a0e645eca917ae1c196e0d0a4fb756747f29ef52594d68484bb5e2",
  "txids": [
    "6ebfb4c8e8e9b19dcf54c6ce3e1e143da1f473ea986e70c5cb8899a4671c933a"
  ],
  "type": "block"
}
```

The UTXO set after this block is $\{(6ebfb4c8...71c933a, 0)\}$.

6 Sample Test Cases

IMPORTANT: Make sure that your node is running at all times! Therefore, make sure that there are no bugs that crash your node. If our automatic grading script can not connect to your node, you will not receive any credit. Taking enough time to test your node will help you ensure this. Below is a (non-exhaustive) list of test cases that your node will be required to pass. We will also use these test cases to grade your submission. Consider two nodes Grader 1 and Grader 2.

1. On receiving an object message from Grader 1 containing any invalid block, Grader 1 must receive a correct error message and the transaction must not be gossiped to Grader 2. Beware: invalid blocks may come in many different forms! Some examples are as follows:
 - (a) The block has an incorrect target.
 - (b) The block's proof-of-work is not valid.
 - (c) There is an invalid transaction in the block.
 - (d) There are two transactions in the block that spend the same output.
 - (e) A transaction attempts to spend an output that is not in the UTXO.
 - (f) The coinbase transaction has an output that exceeds the block rewards and the fees.
2. On receiving an object message from Grader 1 containing a valid block, the block must be gossiped to Grader 2 by sending an ihaveobject message with the correct blockid.

7 Grading

We will grade your solution locally. Please upload your submission as a tar archive. When grading your solution, we will perform the following steps:

```
tar -xf <your submission file> -C <grading directory>
cd <grading directory>
docker-compose build
docker-compose up -d
# grader connects to localhost port 18018 and runs test cases
docker-compose down -v
```

When started in this way, there should be neither blocks (except the genesis block) nor transactions in the node's storage.

If you use the skeleton templates, you can use the provided Makefile targets to build and check your solution. Note however, that this will only check if the container can be built, started and a connection can be established to localhost:18018. We highly recommend that you write your own test cases.

The deadline for this task is 21st November, 11.59pm. We will not accept any submissions after that. One submission per group is sufficient. Plagiarism is unacceptable. If you are caught handing in someone else's code, you will receive zero points.