Transaction Rate

3.56 tps
Block Size

Average Block Size
1.23 MB

1 MB per Block
250 byte
4000 tx/block
Max: 6.7 tx/s
Ethereum Throughput

Transactions per second

TX: 21k Gas
12.5M Gas per block
600tx/block
1 Block/15s
Max 40tx/s
Visa Throughput

Visa ~2000tx/s
Up to 65000tx/s (Christmas shopping season)
Raising Blocksize/Gas limit

TX/s directly dependent on blocksize.

Why not raise it?

Network delay/Consensus security is dependent on block size

Additional issue: Latency (delay till TX confirmation)
Idea: Increase #tx without increasing data

- What if we don’t record every TX on the chain
- Only record settlements
- Use Blockchain to solve disputes
- Potential to scale transactions especially if everything goes well
- Get Blockchain security if things go bad
Payment Channels

Tx1: 0.01 BTC
Tx2: 0.01 BTC
Tx3: 0.01 BTC
Settlement Tx: 0.03BTC
Unidirectional Payment Channel

UTXO A:
1 BTC

Alice

Bob does not publish

TX1: 0.99 to Alice/0.01 to Bob from UTXO A
TX2: 0.98 to Alice/0.02 to Bob from UTXO A
TX3: 0.97 to Alice/0.03 to Bob from UTXO A

Publish TX3 on Blockchain
Unidirectional Payment Channel

UTXO A: 1 BTC

Bob does not publish

Attack: Alice double spends UTXO A

Alice

TX1: 0.99 to Alice/0.01 to Bob from UTXO A
Alice

TX2: 0.98 to Alice/0.02 to Bob from UTXO A
Alice

TX3: 0.97 to Alice/0.03 to Bob from UTXO A
Alice

Publish TX3 on Blockchain
Unidirectional Payment Channel

TX1: 0.99 to Alice/0.01 to Bob from AB
Alice

TX2: 0.98 to Alice/0.02 to Bob from AB
Alice

TX3: 0.97 to Alice/0.03 to Bob from AB
Alice

2-2 Multisig Account AB:
1 BTC

UTXO A:
1 BTC

Attack:
Bob never signs

Publish TX3 on Blockchain
• Alice needs a way to ensure refund of funds
• Basic idea: If Bob doesn’t publish after some time Alice gets 1 BTC refunded
• Refund transaction signed before funding Account AB

UTXO A: 1 BTC

2-2 Multisig Account AB: 1 BTC

Timelocked

UTXO A’: 1 BTC

Channel TX: 0.9 BTC A’ 0.1 to B

Alice

Bob

Publish
Unidirectional Payment Channel

- If Alice and Bob cooperate use multisig, otherwise timelock
- In Ethereum implemented as smart contract
- Non expiring: Refund TX starts claim period for Bob
- Once Alice sent 1 BTC to Bob Channel is “exhausted”
pragma solidity >=0.4.24 <0.6.0;

contract SimplePaymentChannel {
    address payable public sender; // The account sending payments.
    address payable public recipient; // The account receiving the payments.
    uint256 public expiration; // Timeout in case the recipient never closes.

    constructor (address payable _recipient, uint256 duration)
        public payable
    {
        sender = msg.sender;
        recipient = _recipient;
        expiration = now + duration;
    }

    /// the recipient can close the channel at any time by presenting a
    /// signed amount from the sender. the recipient will be sent that amount,
    /// and the remainder will go back to the sender
    function close(uint256 amount, bytes memory signature) public {
        require(msg.sender == recipient);
        require(isValidSignature(amount, signature));

        recipient.transfer(amount);
        selfdestruct(sender);
    }

    /// if the timeout is reached without the recipient closing the channel,
    /// then the Ether is released back to the sender.
    function claimTimeout() public {
        require(now >= expiration);
        selfdestruct(sender);
    }
}
Bidirectional Payment Channel

Alice and Bob want to move funds back and forth

Two Unidirectional Channels?

Not as useful, Channels get exhausted
Bidirectional Payment Channel

Shared Account:
A: 0.5 ETH, B: 0.5 ETH Nonce 0

A: 0.6, Bob: 0.4 Nonce 1
Alice       Bob
Bidirectional Payment Channel

Alice and Bob want to move funds back and forth

Shared Account:
A: 0.6 ETH, B: 0.4 ETH Nonce 1

A: 0.3, Bob: 0.7 Nonce 2

Alice              Bob
Before funding Alice and Bob get sign initial state

Alice submits balances and signatures to contract.

-> Starts challenge period

If Bob can submit tx with greater nonce: New state is valid.

Instant closing?
State Channels

Smart contract that implements a game between Alice and Bob
Game has a state
State Channels

Shared Contract:
State: Board state Nonce i

Can be used to move arbitrary 2 party contracts off chain
Problem: No state -> Can’t store nonce

Solution:
When updating the channel to Alices benefit, Alice gets TX that invalidates Bob’s old state
UTXO payment channel concepts

• **Relative time-lock**: output can be claimed \( t \) timesteps (i.e., blocks) from the time the TX is accepted to the blockchain

• **Hash lock**: Claiming output is pre-conditioned on providing the preimage of a cryptographic hash

**Intuition**: Both A and B hold TXs they can submit to settle the current split balance. Balance is updated by exchanging new TXs and “invalidating” old. Unilateral settlement is time-locked for one party, allows the other to challenge by providing hash-lock preimage. TXs invalidated by exchanging hash-lock preimages.
UTXO Payment Channel

2-of-2 Multisig Address C: A: 7BTC, B: 3BTC

Random x

X = H(x)

TX1 from C:
Out1: Pay 7 -> A
Out2: Either 3 -> B (7 Day timelock)
    Or 3 -> A y s.t. H(y) = Y

Alice

Random y

Y = H(y)

TX2 from C:
Pay 3 -> B
Either 7 -> A (7 Day timelock)
Or 7 -> B given x s.t. H(x) = X

Bob
UTXO Payment Channel Update

2-of-2 Multisig Address C:
A: 6 BTC, B: 4 BTC

TX3 from C:
Out1: Pay 6 -> A
Out2: Either 4 -> B (7 Day timelock)
      Or 4 -> A y s.t. H(y)=Y

Alice

Random x'

X' = H(x')

TX4 from C:
Pay 4 -> B
Either 6 -> A (7 Day timelock)
Or 6 -> B given x s.t. H(x')=X'
Bob
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alice has TX2, TX4</th>
<th>Bob has TX1, TX3, x</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TX2 from C:</strong></td>
<td><strong>TX1 from C:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay 3 -&gt; B</td>
<td>Pay 7 -&gt; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Either 7 -&gt; A (7 Day timelock)</td>
<td>Either 3 -&gt; B (7 Day timelock)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or 7 -&gt; B given x s.t. H(x)=X</td>
<td>Or 3 -&gt; A y s.t. H(y)=Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bob</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alice</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TX4 from C:</th>
<th><strong>TX3 from C:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay 4 -&gt; B</td>
<td>Pay 6 -&gt; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Either 6 -&gt; A (7 Day timelock)</td>
<td>Either 4 -&gt; B (7 Day timelock)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or 6 -&gt; B given x’ s.t. H(x’)=X’</td>
<td>Or 4 -&gt; A y s.t. H(y)=Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bob</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alice</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UTXO Payment Channel Update

2-of-2 Multisig Address C:
A: 8 BTC, B: 2 BTC

Random y’

Y’=H(y’)

TX5 from C:
Pay 8 -> A
Either 2 -> B (7 Day timelock)
Or 2 -> A y s.t. H(y’)=Y’

Alice

TX6 from C:
Pay 2 -> B
Either 8 -> A (7 Day timelock)
Or 8 -> B given x s.t. H(x’)=X’

Bob
Security

Alice has TX2, TX6, y

| TX2 from C:   | Pay 3 -> B                                      |
|              | Either 7 -> A (7 Day timelock)                  |
|              | Or 7 -> B given x s.t. H(x)=X                  |
|              | Bob                                             |

| TX6 from C:   | Pay 2 -> B                                      |
|              | Either 8 -> A (7 Day timelock)                  |
|              | Or 8 -> B given x s.t. H(x’)=X’                |
|              | Bob                                             |

Bob has TX3, TX5, x

| TX3 from C:   | Pay 6 -> A                                      |
|              | Either 4 -> B (7 Day timelock)                  |
|              | Or 4 -> A y s.t. H(y)=Y                        |
|              | Alice                                           |

| TX5 from C:   | Pay 8 -> A                                      |
|              | Either 2 -> B (7 Day timelock)                  |
|              | Or 2 -> A y s.t. H(y’)=Y’                      |
|              | Alice                                           |
Multi-hop payments

Pay through *untrusted* intermediary
Multi-hop payments

Pay 1.01 BTC to B
Hashlocked with R
Timelock to refund

B claims 1.01 BTC with r

Pay 1 BTC to C
Hashlocked with R
Timelock to refund

C claims 1 BTC with r

R = H(r)

Random r
Lightning network

Many extensions possible:
Multi currency hubs
Credit hubs
Watchtowers

Lightning requires nodes to be periodically online to check for claim TX.

Watchtowers outsource this task.

User gives latest state to watchtower.

Trusted for availability not custodian of funds
Risk of bribing
END OF LECTURE

Next lecture:
Scaling II: Accumulators and Rollup