

Learning Goals

- Lecture 11 (Blockchain, Bitcoin, Ethereum)
 - Basic concepts (UTXO, account-based, mining, blockchain)
 - Advantages / disadvantages
 - 51% Attacks
 - Ethereum basic concepts



Introduction

- Bitcoin is an <u>experimental</u> digital currency
 - Bitcoin is fully peer-2-peer (no central entity)
 - 1st Bitcoin issued on January 3, 2009
 - Smallest unit: 0.00000001 BTC (1 satoshi)
- Key characteristics
 - Maximum of ~21 million BTC
 - Every transaction broadcast to all peers
 - Every peers knows all transactions (~570 GByte as of today)
 - Validation by proof-of-work (partial hash collision)
 - Difficult to fake proof-of-work
 - No double-spending
- The initiator is unknown so far





Who is Satoshi Nakamoto?

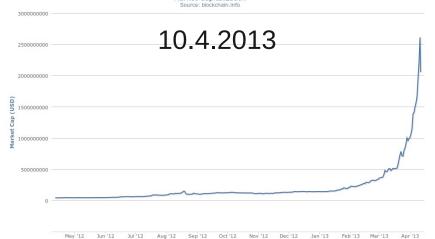
- The New Yorker believes that Satoshi Nakamoto was Michael Clear.
 - Analyzed texts from Nakamoto and searching for linguistic clues
 - 2nd possible candidate Vili Lehdonvirta
- Fast Company argues its either Neal King, Vladimir Oksman, or Charles Bry.
- Other names suggested: Martii Malmi (involved in Bitcoins since the beginning), Jed McCaleb (founder of Ripple), Donal O'Mahony, Michael Peirce, Hitesh Tewari (authors of Electronic Payment Systems for E-Commerce 2nd edition), Shinichi Mochizuki (Math Prof. Kyoto University), Hal Finney, Michael Weber, Wei Dai, Nick Szabo, Craig Wright (wired article),
- Dorian S Nakamoto (a guy with the same name)
- Satoshi is probably rich, first miner, may have ~1mio BTC
- Craig Wright, May 2016: «I'm Satoshi Nakamoto», fails to deliver proof → 2024: "Judge rules computer scientist not Bitcoin inventor"

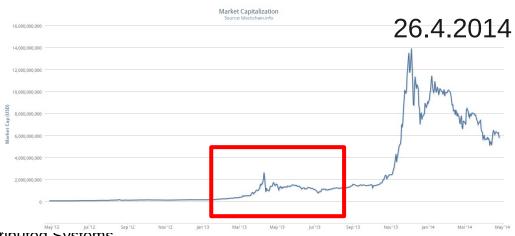


Bitcoin's Market Capitalization in USD

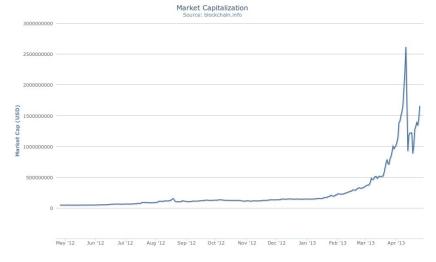
• Bitcoin boom, started in 2013 – current price

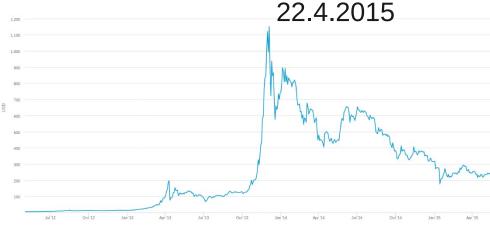






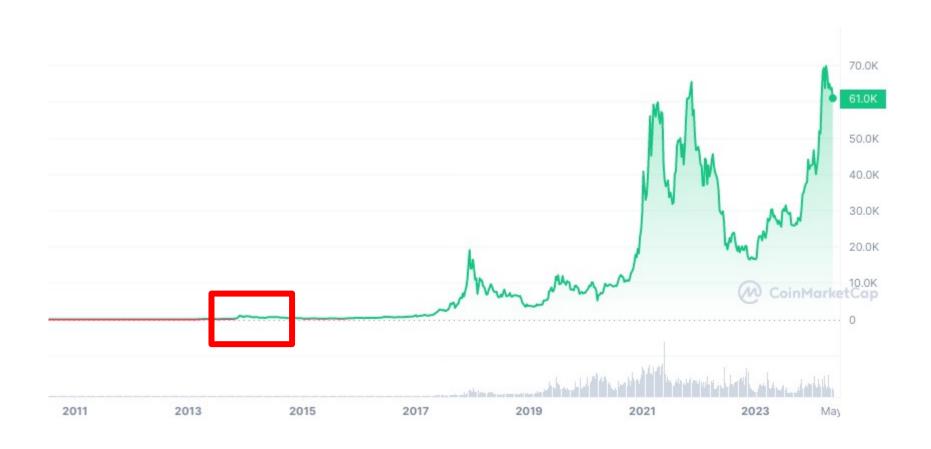
24.4.2013







Bitcoin's Price USD 2024







Bitcoins in the News

- As of 2024 11.05.2024, Forbes "Visa, Mastercard, JPMorgan And Citi Reveal Game-Changing Crypto Plan For 'Mass' Institutional Adoption' After Bitcoin, Ethereum And XRP Price Pump" [link]
- 20.04.2024, NZZ "Nun kommt die Volksinitiative, welche die Nationalbank zum Kauf von Bitcoin verpflichten will" [link]
- 20.04.2024, 20min "Grossereignis in der Krypto-Welt: Viertes Bitcoin-Halving ist durch" [link]
- 05.05.2024, Business Insider "Bitcoin trader loses almost \$70 million after sending crypto to wrong online account address." [link]



Bitcoin - Introduction

- Not relying on trust, but on strong cryptography
- Weak anonymity (pseudonimity)
 - All peers know all transactions
 - Clustering: e.g. if a transaction has multiple input addresses, assume those addresses belong to the same wallet. (example)
- Not controlled by a single entity
 - Development community, no central bank forks Bitcoin Cash, SV
- BIP: Bitcoin Improvement Proposals
- Bitcoins can be exchange for real currencies
 - Several companies allow to exchange BTC for Dollar, Euro, ...
- US, CH considered Bitcoin friendly, China (energy) not that much



Bitcoin in Numbers / Fake Volume

- Spread, e.g. ETH
- High spread, should be around 0.01USD

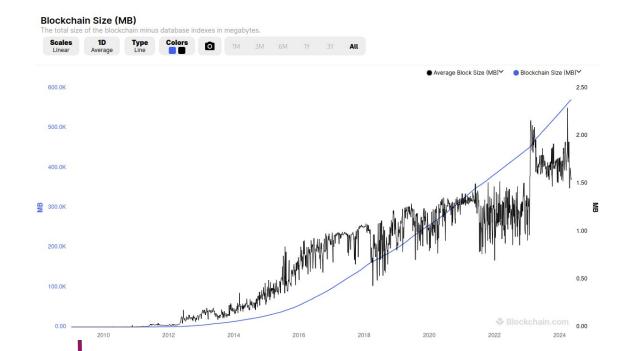
- 1 BTC \approx 61'000 US\$ (12.05.2024)
- Total of 20 Million BTC mined
 - Market capitalization of 1.2 Trillion US\$
 - Volume fake? E.g., CoinBene, RightBTC

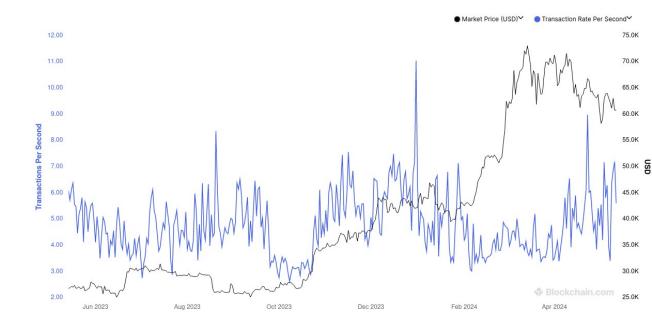
| 9 | Bitfinex | ETH/USD | \$2,405.70 | \$22,429,625 | \$8,879,712 | \$149,025,250 | 0.47% | High | 645 | Recently |
|----|------------|---------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------|------|-----|----------|
| 10 | B Bitstamp | ETH/USD | \$2,409.14 | \$2,117,937 | \$2,415,352 | \$120,185,425 | 0.38% | High | 396 | Recently |
| 11 | Binance | ETH/EUR | \$2,423.08 | \$731,224 | \$1,017,017 | \$114,211,638 | 0.36% | High | 727 | Recently |

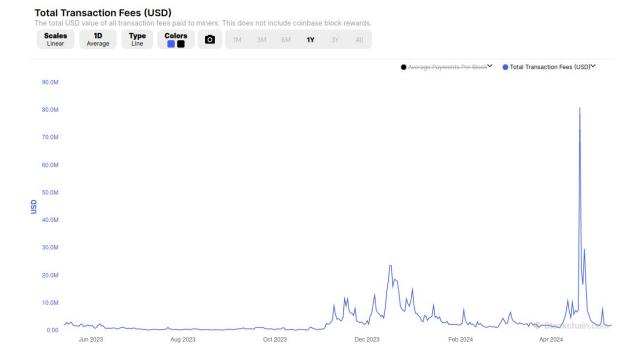


Bitcoin Transactions

- 450,000 transactions per day (highest)
 - ~3-11 transactions per second
- Transaction fees / day USD: 81m USD
 max. 20.04 Bitcoin NFT
- Blocksize: 600MB

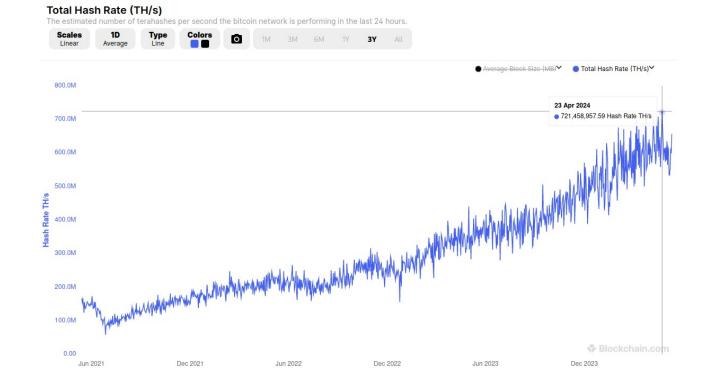


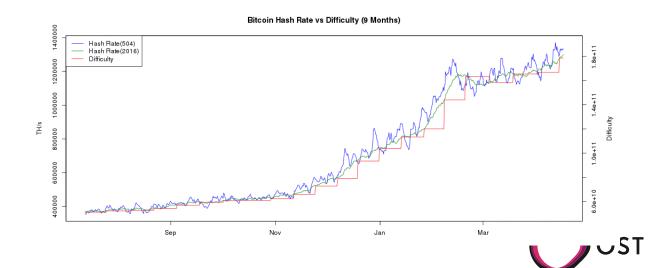




Bitcoin Numbers

- Network Hashrate (1 hash = 12.7 KFLOPs), 721Eh/s
 - ~9.1 YottaFLOPS in 2024
 - ~4.3 YottaFLOPS in 2023
 - ~3 YottaFLOPS in 2022
 - ~2.1 YottaFLOPS in 2021
 - ~1.4 YottaFLOPS in 2020
 - ~635 ZettaFLOPS in 2019
 - ~4 ZettaFLOPS in 2015
 - ~714 ExaFLOPS in 2014
 - ~900 PetaFLOPS in 2013
 - ~155 PetaFLOPS in 2012
- Adjust time: ~14 days
- Fastest supercomputer (top500.org) Frontier
 1600 PetaFLOPS (max), all 500 ~10.7 ExaFLOPS





Mechanism

- A wallet has public-private keys (wallet.dat)
 - Public key, ECDSA 256 bit → Bitcoin address (can receive bitcoins)
 - Simple address ~ base58(RIPEM160(Sha256(ecdsa public key)))
 - E.g. 1GCeaKuhDYnNLNR6LGmBtKhPqEJD4KeEtF
 - Private key used for signing transactions

Transaction

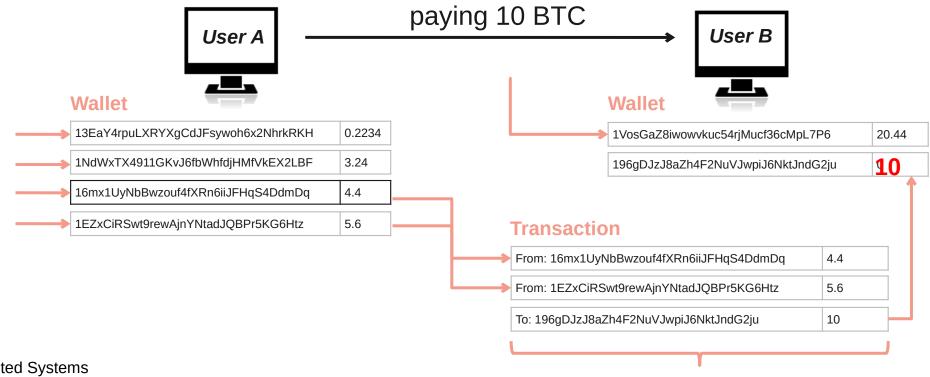
- Peer A wants to send BTC to peer B → creates transaction message
- Transaction contains input / output
 - where the BTC came from and where it goes
- Peer A broadcasts the transaction to all the peers in the network
- Transaction stored in blocks → block is created / verified ~10min





Key Bitcoin Operations

- Private key authorizes the transaction ("access")
 - If keys are stolen, thief may use "your" coins
 - If keys are lost, coins are lost
 - In UTXO (unspent transaction output) systems, complete output is spent



Sign with Private Key of User A

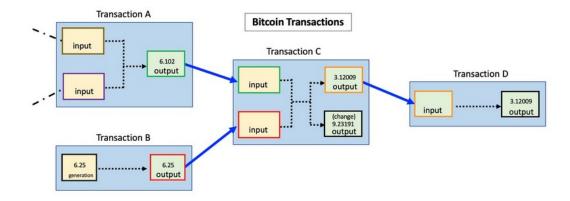


https://en.bitcoin.it/wiki/Transaction

Mechanism

- Avoiding double spending
 - Transactions in blocks are confirmed.
 - guessing value that results in zero bits (0000000000001805ff174586 b6acf100f733aaf634e92f9580b4fac9272ed97)
 - Chained proofs of work
- Generation of coins
 - Mining / creating blocks → Miner get currently
 3.125 BTC per creation
 - <u>adjustable difficulty</u> 6 blocks / h
 - Sometime in 2028 reward will be 1.5625

Transactions





Bitcoin - Protocol

TX in details

| version | | 01 00 00 00 |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| input count | | 01 |
| | previous output hash (reversed) | 48 4d 40 d4 5b 9e a0 d6 52 fc a8 25 8a b7 ca a4 25 41 eb 52 97 58 57 f9 6f b5 0c d7 32 c8 b4 81 |
| | previous output index | 00 00 00 00 |
| | script length | 8a |
| input | scriptSig | 47 30 44 02 20 2c b2 65 bf 10 70 7b f4 93 46 c3 51 5d d3 d1 6f c4 54 61 8c 58 ec 0a 0f f4 48 a6 76 c5 4f f7 13 02 20 6c 66 24 d7 62 a1 fc ef 46 18 28 4e ad 8f 08 67 8a c0 5b 13 c8 42 35 f1 65 4e 6a d1 68 23 3e 82 01 41 04 14 e3 01 b2 32 8f 17 44 2c 0b 83 10 d7 87 bf 3d 8a 40 4c fb d0 70 4f 13 5b 6a d4 b2 d3 ee 75 13 10 f9 81 92 6e 53 a6 e8 c3 9b d7 d3 fe fd 57 6c 54 3c ce 49 3c ba c0 63 88 f2 65 1d 1a ac bf cd |
| | sequence | ff ff ff |
| output count | | 01 |
| output | value | 62 64 01 00 00 00 00 |
| | script length | 19 |
| | scriptPubKey | 76 a9 14 c8 e9 09 96 c7 c6 08 0e e0 62 84 60 0c 68 4e d9 04 d1 4c 5c 88 ac |
| block lock time | | 00 00 00 00 |





Bitcoin Scripting Language

ScriptSig

PUSHDATA

signature data and SIGHASH_ALL

PUSHDATA

public key data

ScriptPubKey

OP_DUP

OP_HASH160

PUSHDATA

Bitcoin address (public key hash)

OP_EQUALVERIFY

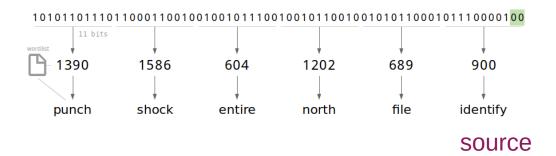
OP_CHECKSIG

- Non-turing complete (e.g. No loops)
- With scripts
 - Multisig, n-of-m, escrow and dispute mediation
 - · Micropayment channel, refund tx in future
- Opcodes all codes
 - Data operations
 - OP PUSHDATA1, OP PUSHDATA4,...
 - Flow control
 - OP_IF, OP_ELSE, ...
 - Stack
 - OP_DUP, OP_SWAP, ...
 - Arithmetic
 - OP ADD, OP ABS, ...
 - Crypto
 - OP_SHA256, OP_CHECKSIGVERIFY



BIP39

- BIP39: Bitcoin Improvement Proposal 39
- Purpose: Enhance security & simplify backup for cryptocurrency wallets
- Key component: Mnemonic phrase (humanreadable seed)
 - Hierarchical deterministic (HD) wallets
 - Use mnemonic phrase to generate & recover wallets



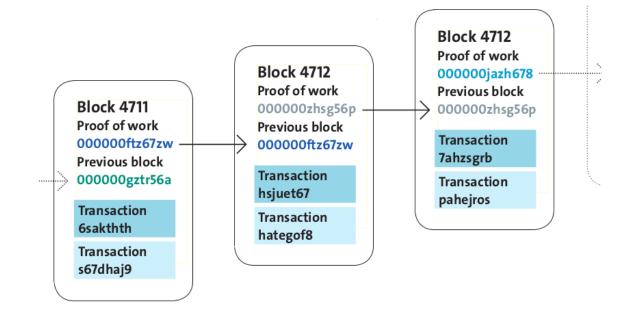
- Step 1: Generate random entropy (128-256 bits)
- Step 2: Calculate SHA256 checksum (4, 8 bits)
- Step 3: Concatenate entropy & checksum
 - E.g., 128bit random + 4 bit (msb of SHA256)
- Step 4: Divide into groups of 11 bits
 - E.g., 132/11 = 12 words
- Step 5: Match each group with a predefined word from the BIP39 wordlist (2048 words)



Blockchain

- Transactions are collected in blocks
 - New block created approximately every 10 min
- Blocks contain solved crypto puzzles
 - In the form of partial <u>hash collisions</u> (SHA256)
- A block has a pointer to previous block → Blockchain

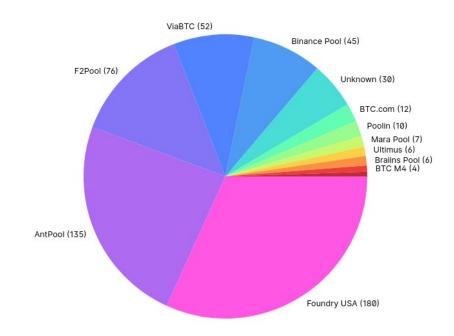
- Creation of blocks is called mining (reward)
 - Miners use highly specialized hardware!





Mechanism - Mining

- Couple of big miners
 - Miners specialized, AMD GPUs, FPGA, ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit) [1][2][3]



http://blockchain.info/pools

- Mining = creating valid blocks
- Blocks are linked to previous blocks
 - Longest block survive (most difficult)
- Different level of confirmations
 - 3-6 block conf. is considered secure
- Dangerous if someone has more than 50% computing power
 - Can exclude and modify the ordering of transactions



Mining Evolution – CPU



Ost

Mining Evolution – GPU





Mining Evolution – FPGA





Mining Evolution – ASIC Farms

Big mining facilities

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8kua5B5K3I https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4qbkQ3cK8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWPifXIWPwE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLddN0y2cS8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ekOcDG2D8E https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AJhJKSx_70 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0HC1Udk6-E



Source: https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/knc-miner-to-build-second-facility-in-the-node-pole/



Mining: Evolution ASIC

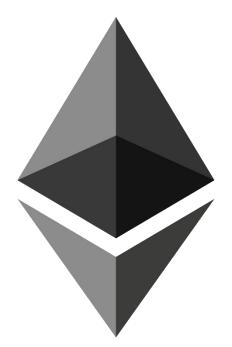
- Scenario: old ASIC miner
 - Example: Avalon Batch #2
 - 70GHash/s
- Generated ~0.005CHF per day in 2020
- Generates ~0.02CHF per day in 2021
- Uses 700W
 - 0.6KWh with 0.08 / 0.04CHF
 - Cost per day 2.59 CHF (Hochtarif, Mo-Sa 06:00-22:00)
 - Cost per day 1.30 CHF (Niedertarif, rest)





Many Coins – Similar Mechanism

- All electronic backed by scarce resource avoid: double spending
 - Bitcoin: SHA256 partial hash collision: time, ASIC, electricity
 - Ethereum: Opcodes in Bitcoin, smart contracts in Ethereum
 - Litecoin: scrypt partial hash collision: time, GPU, memory, electricity
 - Ripple XRP: Unique node list (trusted validators, 1000): web of trust
 - Tezos, Ethereum: proof of stake:
 - Holding/staking 1% will generate e.g., 1% of coins
 - Energy efficient / proof of stake
 - ...many more





Discussion (1)

- Disadvantages
 - Power consumption
 - ~ as much as Poland
 - Not scalable
 - Bitcoin with ~7 tps vs. VISA 57,000 tps (23.12)
 [tps: transactions per sec]



- Anonymity
 - Can be used for illegal activities

- Advantages
 - Low (fixed) tx fees
 - ~21 satoshi per byte / 3USD
 - Scalable
 - Hardware/storage gets faster

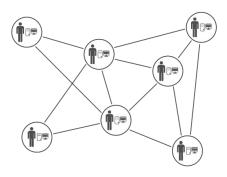


- Anonymity
 - Preserving privacy



Discussion (2)

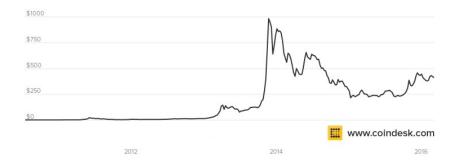
- Advantages
 - No major "crashes"
 - Mt.Gox was exchange site!
 - Decentralized
 - Open protocol
 - Forks



- Many other blockchain use cases
 - Smart contracts



- Disadvantages
 - Volatile exchange rate



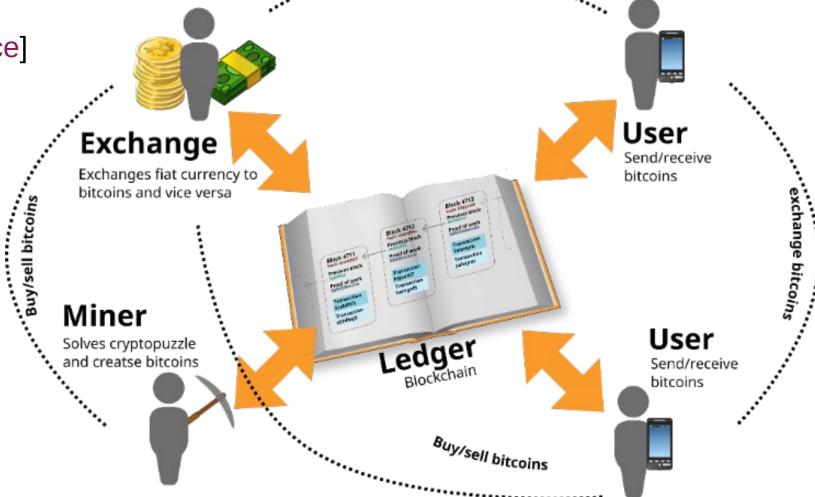
- Central elemements
 - Core developers





Summary: Bitcoin Stakeholders Buy/sell bitcoins

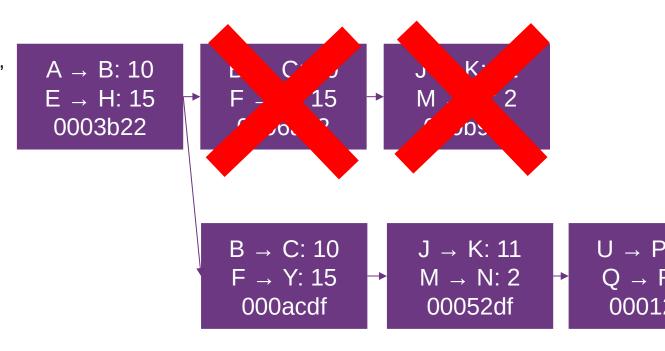
• Building blocks [source]





51% Attack

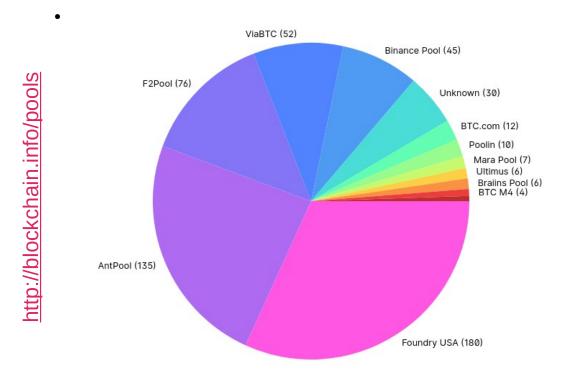
- "If a majority of CPU power is controlled by honest nodes, the honest chain will grow the fastest and outpace any competing chains."
 - https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf
- PoW: majority of hashing power, PoS: 33% of coins
- How expensive is a 51% attack?
 - Buy an attack? (5-20bn USD)
- Double spend, or rollback transactions
 - X is an exchange
 - Mine secretly, Y is your address
 - X arrived payout (1 block conf.)
 - You mine faster, broadcast secret chain
 - Tx $F \rightarrow X$: 15 never happened, goes to Y





51% Attack

- Control over 50% (33%) of the scarce resources
 - Pools: cooperative puzzle solving

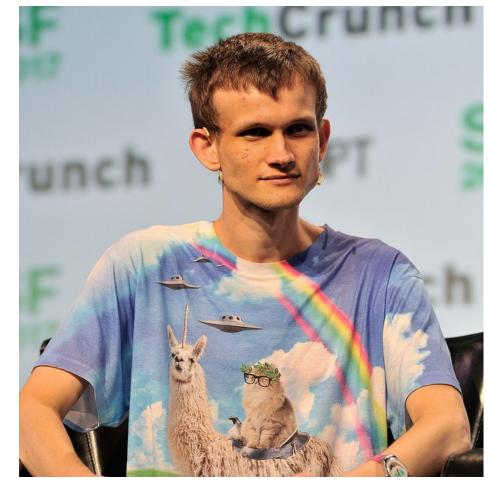


- 07.08.2021: Bitcoin SV rocked by three 51% attacks in as many months [link]
- 30.08.2020: Ethereum Classic suffers another 51% attack [link]
 - "The total value of the double spends that we have observed thus far is 219,500 ETC (~\$1.1M)."
- 23.04.2020: DeFi Platform Suffers 51%
 Attack From Its Top Miners or Does It? [link]
 - "resulted in \$6.7 million worth of the USDpegged stablecoin pUSD"
- 08.11.2020: Grin network hit with 51% attack while GRIN token remains resilient [link]



Bitcoin / Ethereum

- Bitcoin vs. Ethereum
 - Implementing new features slow
 - Many Bitcoin hardforks (segregated witness vs. increasing block size voting) Cash vs. SV
 - · Bitcoin Script limited
 - Lightning network
 - Pros and Cons no silver bullet
- Ethereum (1 ETH ~ 2900\$)
 - Generalized blockchain (loops, arithmetics, etc.)
 - White paper released in December 2013
 - Protocols designed from scratch (not like Litecoin, Peercoin)
- Ethereum foundation located in Zug (initiator known) non-profit foundation
- Mining reward ~ block every ~12s ~3%



Vitalik Buterin



Ethereum History

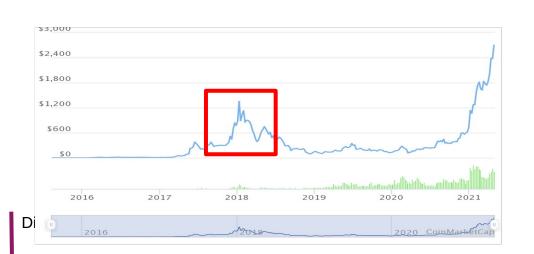
- Olympic (past) released 09.05.2015
 - Last Ethereum Proof-of-Concept series
 - "Olympic will feature a total prize fund of up to 25,000 ether" (now 70m USD)
- Frontier (past) released 30.07.2015
 - Main public network, "Beta"/use at your own risk
- Homestead (past) released 14.03.2016
 - Public network considered "stable", integrate critical protocol changes

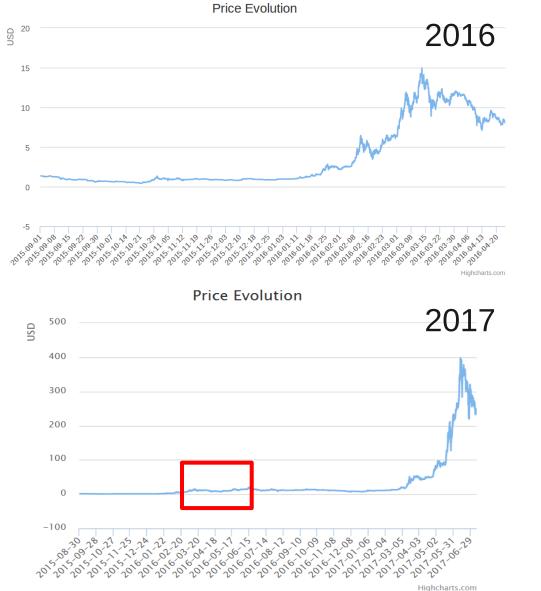
| Name | Release Date | Description | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Cancun-Deneb ("Dencun") | Mar 13, 2024 | Introduced EIP-4844 (Proto-Danksharding) for reducing layer 2 rollup costs, among other enhancements. | |
| Shanghai- Capella ("Shapella") | Apr 12, 2023 | Enabled staking withdrawals from the consensus layer to the execution layer. | |
| Paris (The Merge) | Sep 15, 2022 | Transitioned Ethereum from proof-of-work to proof-of-stake, significantly reducing energy consumption of the network. | |
| Bellatrix | Sep 6, 2022 | Prepared the network for The Merge by updating fork choice rules and bringing validator penalties to full enforcement. | |
| Gray Glacier | Jun 29, 2022 | Delayed the difficulty bomb to ease the transition to proof-of-stake. | |
| Arrow Glacier | Dec 8, 2021 | Similar to Gray Glacier, it delayed the difficulty bomb to ease the transition to proof-of-stake. | |
| Altair | Oct 27, 2021 | Enhanced support for light clients, increased validator penalties, and introduced sync committees. | |
| London | Aug 5, 2021 | Implemented EIP-1559, altering the transaction fee model to improve predictability and reduce fee volatility. | |
| Berlin | Apr 15, 2021 | Improved gas costs for certain EVM actions and added support for multiple transaction types. | |
| Muir Glacier | Jan 2, 2020 | Delayed the Ethereum difficulty bomb, intending to decrease block times until the next planned upgrade. | |
| Istanbul | Dec 8, 2019 | Implemented various EIPs to enhance denial-of-service attack resilience, and gas cost efficiencies for certain EVM operations. | |
| Constantinople | Feb 28, 2019 | Introduced several cost-adjustments for on-chain operations to improve network performance and interoperability with Zcash. | |
| Byzantium | Oct 16, 2017 | Part of the Metropolis update, it included privacy improvements and added new opcodes for contract developers. | |
| Spurious Dragon | Nov 22, 2016 | Enhanced network security and refined the blockchain following the DAO attack by introducing state clearing. | |
| Tangerine Whistle | Oct 18, 2016 | Addressed the denial-of-service attack vectors and adjusted the gas pricing for various opcodes. | |
| Homestead | Mar 14, 2016 | Officially moved Ethereum from beta to a more stable stage with improvements to transaction processing. | |
| Frontier | Jul 30, 2015 | The initial release of Ethereum, setting the foundation of the blockchain with the capability of executing smart contracts. | |



Ethereum Stats

- Basic Stats
 - 2nd in market cap ~ 350b USD
 - Daily transactions now ~1961k per day (23tx/s avg)
 - Node count (~7.5k)
 - Blocksize ~90-270KB
 - Accounts (270mio)







Blocktime and Gas

- Smart Contracts are turing complete
 - Every instruction needs to be paid for (example)
- Gas price
 - If you run out of gas, state is reverted, ETH gone

```
\begin{split} W_{zero} &= \{ \text{STOP, RETURN} \} \\ W_{base} &= \{ \text{ADDRESS, ORIGIN, CALLER, CALLVALUE, CALLDATASIZE, CODESIZE, GASPRICE, COINBASE,} \\ &\quad \text{TIMESTAMP, NUMBER, DIFFICULTY, GASLIMIT, POP, PC, MSIZE, GAS} \} \\ W_{verylow} &= \{ \text{ADD, SUB, NOT, LT, GT, SLT, SGT, EQ, ISZERO, AND, OR, XOR, BYTE, CALLDATALOAD,} \\ &\quad \text{MLOAD, MSTORE, MSTORE8, PUSH*, DUP*, SWAP*} \} \\ W_{low} &= \{ \text{MUL, DIV, SDIV, MOD, SMOD, SIGNEXTEND} \} \\ W_{mid} &= \{ \text{ADDMOD, MULMOD, JUMP} \} \\ W_{high} &= \{ \text{JUMPI} \} \\ W_{extcode} &= \{ \text{EXTCODESIZE} \} \end{split}
```

Appendix G. Fee Schedule

The fee schedule G is a tuple of 31 scalar values corresponding to the relative costs, in gas, of a number of abstract operations that a transaction may effect.

| Name | Value | Description* |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| G_{zero} | 0 | Nothing paid for operations of the set W_{zero} . |
| G_{base} | 2 | Amount of gas to pay for operations of the set W_{base} . |
| $G_{verylow}$ | 3 | Amount of gas to pay for operations of the set $W_{verylow}$. |
| G_{low} | 5 | Amount of gas to pay for operations of the set W_{low} . |
| G_{mid} | 8 | Amount of gas to pay for operations of the set W_{mid} . |
| G_{high} | 10 | Amount of gas to pay for operations of the set W_{high} . |
| $G_{extcode}$ | 700 | Amount of gas to pay for operations of the set $W_{extcode}$. |
| $G_{balance}$ | 400 | Amount of gas to pay for a BALANCE operation. |
| G_{sload} | 200 | Paid for a SLOAD operation. |
| $G_{jumpdest}$ | 1 | Paid for a JUMPDEST operation. |
| G_{sset} | 20000 | Paid for an SSTORE operation when the storage value is set to non-zero from zero. |
| G_{sreset} | 5000 | Paid for an SSTORE operation when the storage value's zeroness remains unchanged or is set to |
| R_{sclear} | 15000 | Refund given (added into refund counter) when the storage value is set to zero from non-zero. |
| $R_{suicide}$ | 24000 | Refund given (added into refund counter) for suiciding an account. |
| $G_{suicide}$ | 5000 | Amount of gas to pay for a SUICIDE operation. |
| G_{create} | 32000 | Paid for a CREATE operation. |
| $G_{codedeposit}$ | 200 | Paid per byte for a CREATE operation to succeed in placing code into state. |
| G_{call} | 700 | Paid for a CALL operation. |
| $G_{callvalue}$ | 9000 | Paid for a non-zero value transfer as part of the CALL operation. |
| $G_{callstipend}$ | 2300 | A stipend for the called contract subtracted from $G_{callvalue}$ for a non-zero value transfer. |
| $G_{newaccount}$ | 25000 | Paid for a CALL or SUICIDE operation which creates an account. |
| G_{exp} | 10 | Partial payment for an EXP operation. |
| $G_{expbyte}$ | 10 | Partial payment when multiplied by $\lceil \log_{256}(exponent) \rceil$ for the EXP operation. |
| G_{memory} | 3 | Paid for every additional word when expanding memory. |
| G_{txcreate} | 32000 | Paid by all contract-creating transactions after the Homestead transition. |
| $G_{txdatazero}$ | 4 | Paid for every zero byte of data or code for a transaction. |
| $G_{txdatanonzero}$ | 68 | Paid for every non-zero byte of data or code for a transaction. |
| $G_{transaction}$ | 21000 | Paid for every transaction. |
| G_{log} | 375 | Partial payment for a LOG operation. |
| $G_{logdata}$ | 8 | Paid for each byte in a LOG operation's data. |
| $G_{logtopic}$ | 375 | Paid for each topic of a LOG operation. |
| G_{sha3} | 30 | Paid for each SHA3 operation. |
| $G_{sha3word}$ | 6 | Paid for each word (rounded up) for input data to a SHA3 operation. |
| G_{copy} | 3 | Partial payment for *COPY operations, multiplied by words copied, rounded up. |
| $G_{blockhash}$ | 20 | Payment for BLOCKHASH operation. |

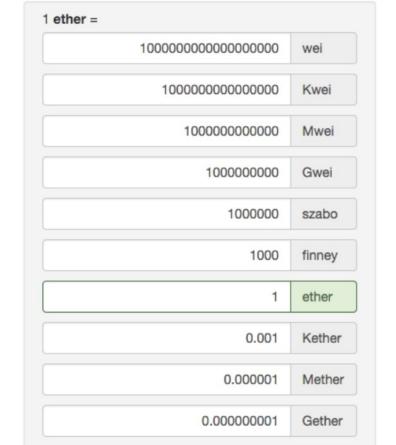


Blocktime and Gas

- Gas Price set by Miner
 - Gas price (other, 2) ~4+1 gwei

- Miner decides which transaction at which gas price to include
 - Market for TX

 Gas price with low priority fee, longer waiting time until TX will be included



0.000000000001

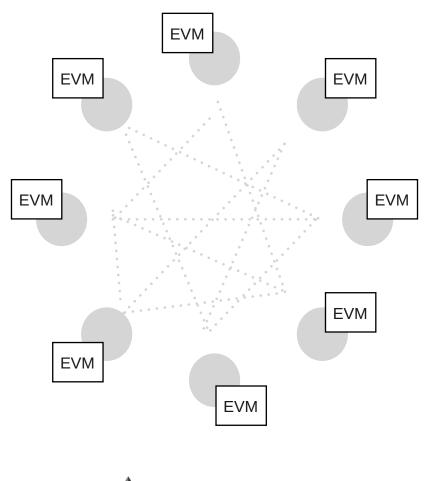
Units:



Tether

Ethereum smart contract

- Computation and storage on EVM is "very expensive": every contract is run on every full Ethereum node
 - Result on every node is the same
 - Global computer, always running, always correct
- Account-based
 - 2 types: externally controlled, contract
 - Both can have and send ether
 - External accounts: controlled by private keys
 - Contract accounts never executed on their own
 - Contract accounts: controlled by code
 - All action fired from externally controlled accounts







Account vs UTXO - Introduction

Account-based

- Global state stores a list of accounts with balances and/or code
- Transaction is valid if the sending account has enough balance
 - Balance on sender is deducted, new balance

UTXO-based

- Every referenced input must be valid and not yet spent
- Total value of the inputs must equal or exceed the total value of the outputs
 - You always spend all outputs

