

Intro to ZK

Flying Nobita 2024–10–16





Content



O2 What is ZK?

How ZK is used in blockchain?

2024 Electric Capital ZK Market Map August 8, 2024 V1.0 🛛 🗶 @ElectricCapital Wallets Identity & Data Management **Public Goods** Apps **User Facing** Gener 23 6 11 categories projects DeFi Identity & Data Management **Privacy & Shielding** Protocols DEXes Mixers dYdX Lighter Semaphore TLSNotary Worldcoin 38 9 14 projects categories Tools Deployment Developer Verifiable Data RaaS Frameworks & SDKs **Tools & Services** Languages SDKs Privacy Gaming AltLayer Caldera Conduit Gateway.fn Gelato Argus Labs Cartridge Dojo Lattice Paima arkworks gnark otjs Karnot Lumoz Presto Snapchair Zeeve Airchains Madara Sovereign Labs Zeko Ola VampiR ZoKrates 10 64 26 projects categories **Proof Supply Chain** Coprocessors Interoperability & Middleware MPC Verifying Supply Aggregation Comput Axiom Brevis Herodotus Lagrange Relic Space and Time Arcium Fairblock Jiritsu Network Silence Labs Tangle Network RISC Zero Bonsal Sindri Snarkify Sorella Labs Strobe Succinct Aligned Layer Electron Hyle Nebra Pi Squared zkVerify Automata Blockless Cilque Delphinus Labs Marlin Phala Espresso NodeKit Radius Rome Pro FHE 72 13 31 projects categories L2s L1s zkVMs Core **Privacy Enabled** STARK Infrastructure **Ethereum Virtual Machine Contract Platforms** Cronos zkEVM ImmutableX INTMAX Kakarot Kroma Linea Loopring Manta Pacific Morph Myria OKX X Layer Dava Mataek Aztec Blocksense Eclipse Ola Starknet Polygon zkEVM Scroll Sophon Taiko Zircuit ZKBase ZKFair zkSync Alpen Bison Labs BNZK Chakra Citrea Twilight ZeroSync Anoma Findora Fluent Manta Atlan Mina Nockchain **Contract Platforms** Aleph Zen DarkFi Dusk Inco Core Tech Ziosha Money & Payments Shielded Storage Firo tron Fish Neptune Zcash 76 15 32 19 projects categories



Outsourcing Computation

Weaker machines (blockchain):

- outsources hard computations to powerful machines
- verifies the succinct proofs that ensure the transactions are valid

ZK Rollups scale blockchain by reducing **costs**:

- 1. transactions executed and batched on L2 by rollup nodes
- 2. proof is generated that prove the transactions are valid
- 3. batched transaction and proof are submitted to L1

Cost is **amortized** across many transactions and users



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Self-Sovereign Identity

Self-sovereign identity requires:

- selective disclosure of attributes to prove predicates without disclosing the attributes themselves
- unlinkability between proofs
- cheap on-chain verification with succinct proofs for onchain KYC

Require **Zero Knowledge Proofs** + other cryptographic primitives

Decentralized digital

Self-Sovereign Identity

Alex Preukschat



MANNING

Some more..

Privacy-oriented blockchain & Dapps

- **private** transactions and states
- e.g. Zcash, Aleo, Aztec, Mina

ZK Coprocessors

- a form of outsourcing computation
- used at the smart contracts layer

ZK Bridges

- states on chain 1 can be **succinctly** verified on chain 2
- allow transactions to flow across chains
- replaces multisigs or centralized bridges



Content



O2 What is ZK?

Where's Wally?



How can I prove to you I know where Wally is without giving the answer away?

Where's Wally? Back Front

front black card > 2X size of puzzle

Photo source: https://medium.com/swlh/a-zero-knowledge-proof-for-wheres-wally-930c21e55399



you only know that I know the answer, but you still need to find Wally yourself

So What Does ZK Really Mean?

By **ZK**, we mean Zero Knowledge Proof System







Classical Proofs

Traditionally, proofs are:

- static statements that follow axioms and logical deductions
- checked step-by-step for correctness

Photo source: <u>https://medium.com/swlh/a-zero-knowledge-proof-for-wheres-wally-930c21e55399</u>

Proof: When n=1, $\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} = \frac{1(2)(3)}{6} = 1^{2}$. Suppose that 12+22+32+...+ K2= K(K+1)(2K+1) Then, $1^2 + ... + k^2 + (k+1)^2$ $= \frac{k(K+1)(2K+1)}{6} + (K+1)^{2}$ $= \frac{K(k+1)(2k+1) + 6(k+1)^{2}}{6}$ $= \frac{(k+1)(k(2k+1) + 6(k+1))}{6}$ = $\frac{(k+1)(2k^{2} + 7k + 6)}{6}$ $= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)(2k+3)}{k+2(2k+3)}$

Interactive Proofs

Proofs involve interaction between Prover and Verifier



How to get started?

Let's translate Where's Wally into a ZK Proof problem!

Let's Rephrase It (informal)

Objective:

Alice wants to prove to Bob that she knows where Wally is, without revealing the answer

Statement s – can only be True or False: Alice knows where Wally is in Where's Wally Beach puzzle

Witness w – Alice's solution: Wally's location (only one in this case)

Instance x – a specific problem: Where's Wally Beach puzzle (Wally can be hiding in other places in another puzzle)

Relation R for NP – set of ordered pairs (x, w): R_Wally. We say "The pair (Beach, Wally's Location) is in R_Wally"

Language L – the set of all satisfiable instances for R i.e. L(R) Set of all Where's Wally puzzles and their locations. i.e. S is in L(R_Wally)

Now we're ready to define our ZKP Statement

To give proof that an **instance** is in the **language** defined by some **relation**, without revealing the **witness**.

I can prove that I know the solution to this puzzle, without giving away the actual solution. You can take the proof and verify it easily.

Privacy (Zero Knowledge)

Allow the Prover to prove to the Verifier that: 1. Prover knows the solution 2. The proof doesn't reveal anything else except 1

It's Not Magic



Compression (Succinctness)

How to get efficient verification?

We need **short proofs**:

- short proof lengths (O(log))
- quick verification time (O(log) or O(1))

Probabilistically Checkable Proof (PCP) Theorem: Any problem that can be verified by Classical Proof can also be verified by a special IP proofs where Verifier reads a few random bits from the proof

<u>Proofs</u> -> succinct by using Polynomial Commitment Schemes



But.

What's the catch?

A tiny chance that an incorrect proof passes verification.

But it's so small that we can basically **ignore** it!

What if I don't want interactivity?

There's a trick we can make IP non-interactive again (Fiat-Shamir transformation)



Some More Important Properties

Completeness:

If the proposed solution is correct, the Verifier will accept it.

i.e. if it's true, it stays true

Soundness:

If the proposed solution is incorrect, the Verifier will not accept it.

i.e. if it's false, it stays false

We now have ZKP System!

- ZKP = Language + IP + Compression +
 - Completeness + Soundness +
 - Privacy (optional) +
- **Convert back to NI (optional but common)**

Thank you

List of ZK Resources





References

1. Proofs, Arguments & Zero-Knowledge, Jul 18, 2023, Justin Thaler 2. Do You Need a Zero Knowledge Proof?, 2024, Ernstberger et al 3. ZK Market Map (Aug 8, 2024), Electric Capital, https://www.cryptomarketmap.org/zk





Appendix





Argument vs Proof vs Knowledge



PIOP + PCS = SNARK

Source: Nicolas Mohnblatt