

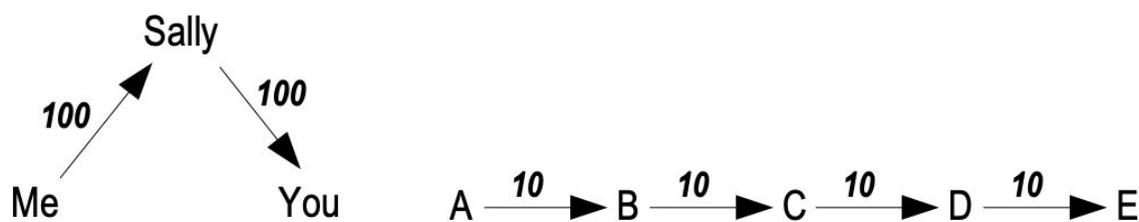
Resilience: a person-to-person safety net by multi-hop debt reduction

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ABSTRACT: Ripple, the multi-hop mutual credit system invented by Ryan Fugger in 2003, is an ideal topology for a person-to-person safety net. The web of credit lines that Ripple models can be used as a conduit for reallocation of transaction taxes, used to pay for debt reduction to provide a social safety net for access to basic needs. The result is similar to Silvio Gesell's notion of "decaying currency".

Introduction

Ryan Fugger improved on mutual credit by adding payment routing via multiple hops, similar to how traffic routing works on the internet. Ripple takes money to down the smallest possible scale. You are the bank. You issue money, and can only do so to people who trust you. In Ripple when you make a payment, you have to find a path of people that trust one another, going from you to the person you send the payment to.



In Ripple, your balance is between you and another person only. If you receive an IOU from someone else, it will not affect your balance with the other person. The way your balance is cleared is instead via credit clearing, when a circle of IOUs has formed.



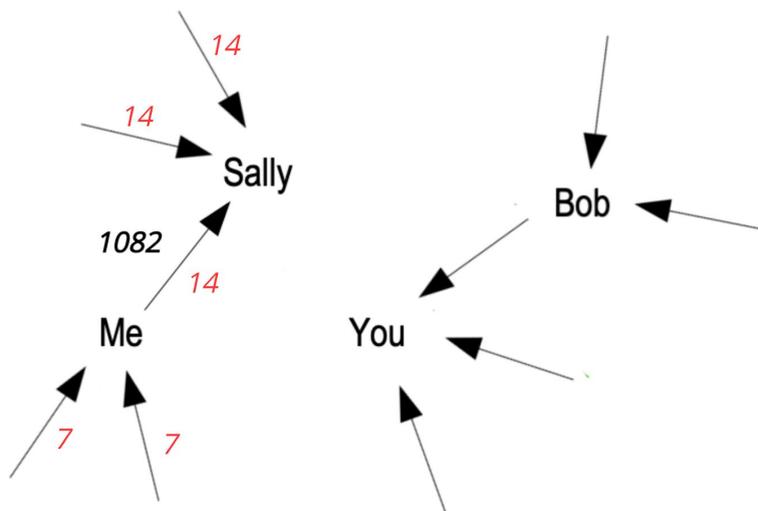
The credit lines that record IOUs (I-Owe-You) in Ripple are what create the "web" that Resilience is built on top of, similar to how email built on top of the internet.

Resilience

Resilience provides a social safety net in a way similar to traditional wealth redistribution, that is, from the rich to the poor, with the difference that the reallocation is in debt being forgiven, debt reduction. The safety net is paid for with transaction taxes, applied to every IOU, at each intermediary in payment routing.

The taxes are allocated to the “credit line web” by multi-hop debt reduction, propagating along credit lines, person-to-person. Each person reduces the debt others have to them with an amount equal to the amount their debt was reduced. When a person lacks an "income", has no incoming credit lines, they only receive, the system provides them with guaranteed basic income.

The example shows payment routing of 1000 XYZ with one hop, from Me via Sally to You, with a 4% transaction tax, and multi-hop debt reduction. The credit line for the payment also propagates tax.



These “pulses” decrease with the number of credit lines they split into, assuming an average number $\frac{1}{\text{creditLines}^{\text{hops}}}$

of credit lines per person the pulses decrease with $\frac{1}{\text{creditLines}^{\text{hops}}}$. The number of people reached increases with the same factor, $\text{creditLines}^{\text{hops}}$. This means that that how often pulses reach you increases with same factor as the amount you receive decreases. The resulting field is homogeneous, and can be mathematically defined with the equation:

$$\frac{1}{\text{creditLines}^{\text{hops}}} \times \text{creditLines}^{\text{hops}} = 1$$

There is one more detail, to prevent an attack vector, the propagation of taxes is in proportion to the size of a credit line, larger credit lines divert more than smaller. That removes any advantage from maximally distributing credit lines. ([animation](#))

References

Fugger, Ryan. (2004). Money as IOUs in Social Trust Networks and a Proposal for a Decentralized Currency Network Protocol.

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