



Blockchain Technology for Cross-Border Remittances: A Smart Contract Approach

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ABSTRACT

This research explores a blockchain-based solution to address inefficiencies in traditional cross-border remittance systems, including high fees, slow processing times, and limited transparency. By deploying Ethereum-based smart contracts and a custom wallet system, the project streamlines user registration, transaction processing, and fee management. Users benefit from a secure and intuitive interface to send, receive, and track transactions with transparent fee calculations. The system significantly outperforms traditional remittance methods in cost, speed, and security. Transactions are processed within seconds at minimal fees, while the decentralized architecture ensures data integrity and transparency. Results demonstrate the system's potential to increase financial inclusion, particularly in underserved regions, by providing a secure and accessible alternative to traditional methods. Future work includes integrating multi-currency support and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) to enhance scalability and usability, further establishing blockchain as a transformative technology for global remittance solutions.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Blockchain is a distributed ledger technology that records transactions across multiple computers in a way that ensures data integrity and security. Unlike traditional databases, blockchain transactions are immutable, decentralized, and transparent. Each transaction is added to a "block," and these blocks are connected chronologically to form a chain. This setup prevents unauthorized alterations and offers high levels of security. Blockchain technology emerged to address issues of trust, transparency, and inefficiency in various sectors, particularly in finance, where secure and swift transactions are crucial. By removing intermediaries, blockchain enables direct and tamper-resistant exchanges of data, assets, or digital currency. Technology's decentralized nature also means that no single entity holds control, making it resilient to failures or attacks. Blockchain's core benefits include security, transparency, and cost reduction. Its decentralized nature ensures data security and reduces the risks of fraud. Blockchain's transparency offers visibility into transaction histories, which is valuable in financial contexts, while

reduced need for intermediaries brings down costs, especially in cross-border transactions.

Cross-border remittances are funds transferred from individuals in one country to recipients in another, often sent by migrant workers to support families. These transfers play a vital role in the global economy, providing financial support to families and communities in developing countries. According to the World Bank, remittances contribute significantly to household income and economic stability, especially in countries where traditional banking services are limited. Traditional remittance systems typically involve banks, money transfer operators (e.g., Western Union), and other financial intermediaries. A sender deposits funds in their country, which are transferred through a network of financial institutions to the recipient's location. This process can be time-consuming and costly due to multiple fees and exchange rates, and it may exclude individuals without formal banking access. Despite their importance, traditional remittance systems have several limitations:

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- i) High Costs- Transaction fees can reach 5-10% of the total remittance, making it expensive for senders and reducing the amount received.
- ii) Time Delays- Transfers can take several days, especially for remote locations, delaying access to funds for those who need them urgently.
- iii) Limited Accessibility- Many remittance services require bank accounts, which exclude the unbanked population from sending or receiving funds.
- iv) Lack of Transparency- Hidden fees and fluctuating exchange rates often make it hard for users to understand the actual cost of transactions.

These limitations highlight the need for a more efficient and inclusive remittance system, especially for low-income family's dependent on regular financial support.

Blockchain offers an innovative solution to the challenges faced by traditional remittance systems. By allowing direct peer-to-peer transfers on a secure, decentralized ledger, blockchain can reduce reliance on intermediaries and thus lower costs. Blockchain's transparency ensures that every transaction is visible and verifiable, fostering trust and reducing fraud. With near-instantaneous processing times, blockchain transactions eliminate the delays typical in traditional systems. Smart contracts, self-executing contracts with the terms written directly into code, further enhance blockchain's potential in remittances. These contracts automate processes such as identity verification, currency conversion, and fund transfer, reducing the need for manual intervention and further lowering costs.

This study proposes a smart contract-based model for cross-border remittances, utilizing blockchain to overcome the inefficiencies of traditional systems. By implementing smart contracts, the model aims to automate essential processes such as KYC (Know Your Customer), currency exchange, and transaction execution, ensuring secure, quick, and cost-effective remittance transfers. This approach is designed to make remittance services accessible to a broader population, particularly the unbanked, while maintaining compliance with international regulations.

The anticipated outcomes of this research include the development of a blockchain and smart contract-based cross-border remittance system that is secure, transparent, and cost-effective. The system aims to significantly reduce transaction fees by eliminating intermediaries, thereby making remittances more accessible to low-income populations. Transparency and security will be enhanced through the immutable nature of blockchain, reducing the risk of fraud and enhancing trust among users. Additionally, this research seeks to extend financial inclusion by providing unbanked and underbanked populations with access to affordable remittance services. By addressing the inefficiencies of traditional systems, the proposed solution will contribute to economic growth, improve livelihoods, and foster greater financial independence for individuals and families reliant on remittances. The findings of this study are expected to benefit individuals, financial institutions, and policymakers by offering a scalable and sustainable model for cross-border remittances.

This study is organized into seven sections. Section 1 provides an introduction to the topic. Section 2 presents a background study on blockchain technology for cross-border

remittances. The methodology employed in this research is detailed in Section 3. Section 4 outlines the proposed system design and development. Section 5 includes the results and analysis of the implemented approach. Section 6 offers a discussion of the findings, and finally, Section 7 concludes the study and explores directions for future work.

2. BACKGROUND STUDY

The author of this paper [1] explored the application modes and advantages of blockchain technology in cross-border payments, addressing the shortcomings of traditional systems and proposing blockchain-based solutions to enhance efficiency and security. This paper discussed various blockchain models (public, private, consortium) and their suitability for cross-border payments. Then it analyzed the impact of blockchain on the payment field, emphasizing decentralization, non-tampering of information, and transparency. The study also covered the development stages of blockchain applications in cross-border payments, highlighting initiatives by financial institutions like VISA and SWIFT. Lastly, they identified some challenges such as regulatory uncertainties and the need for technological advancements in blockchain to fully realize its potential in cross-border payments. This paper [2] explored the potential of blockchain technologies to enhance financial inclusion and transform correspondent banking in the remittance industry. They used case studies of Ripple and Stellar to demonstrate the application of blockchain in remittances. It examined how these technologies can improve transaction transparency, speed, and security. The analysis also included the role of blockchain in addressing existing financial infrastructure limitations. The study also highlighted the transformative potential of blockchain in making remittances more accessible and secure. However, the paper noted the challenges of achieving widespread adoption due to regulatory hurdles and the need for scalable solutions. The author of this paper [3] investigated whether blockchain technology can reduce the cost of remittances and improve the efficiency of money transfers. This study analyzed the cost structure of traditional remittance systems and compared it with blockchain-based systems, focusing on potential cost savings, transaction speed, and overall market impact. This paper provided empirical data showing cost reductions and efficiency gains. However, they also highlighted the need for further research into the regulatory environment and the development of user-friendly blockchain applications to ensure broader adoption. This study [4] explored the role of cryptocurrencies, stablecoins, and blockchain technology in providing efficient remittance solutions and promoting inclusive economic growth. It evaluated different digital money solutions, including cryptocurrencies and stablecoins, and their integration with blockchain technology. It also analyzed the benefits and limitations of these solutions in the context of remittances. However, this study noted the volatility of cryptocurrencies and the need for stable regulatory environments to ensure the success of digital money solutions in remittances. The author of this paper [5] proposed and evaluated a blockchain-based remittance system called RemBit, specifically designed to improve remittance flows to Ethiopia. It described the architecture of RemBit, including its components for secure transaction management and compliance with Ethiopian government recommendations. The proposed system used a

multi-tier architecture and employs complex cryptographic algorithms for transaction validation. The proposed system also ensured monetary balance and supports formal data collection on remittances, aligning with government policies. However, this paper suggested further work to enhance user interface designs and to expand the system's application to other developing countries.

This paper [6] explored how blockchain technology can transform cross-border payments by enhancing security, transparency, and efficiency. It examined various blockchain-based payment systems and their implementation, focusing on technological infrastructure, security protocols, and transaction processes. This study also showed that blockchain can significantly reduce processing times and costs. However, this paper identified challenges such as scalability issues and the need for international regulatory frameworks to support blockchain adoption. The author of this paper [7] explained Macrinici, Cartoceanu, and Gao systematically investigated smart contract applications within blockchain technology. This study employed a rigorous approach involving defined research questions, meticulous search queries, screening procedures, and systematic data extraction to identify relevant literature. The approach section of the paper detailed their systematic mapping methodology, which allowed for the categorization and analysis of selected papers. In the findings and discourse section, the outcomes were twofold: first, it explored the current research trends in smart contract applications, highlighting key areas of interest and innovation. Second, it categorized the identified problems and discussed corresponding solutions proposed in the literature. The implications of the study were discussed in terms of its impact on advancing knowledge in smart contracts and blockchain technology. The paper also addressed threats to validity and emphasized the significance of their systematic mapping study in contributing to a deeper understanding of smart contracts' implications for blockchain technology. This study [8] explored the transformative impact of blockchain technology on crowdfunding and capital sourcing through smart contracts, specifically focusing on the creation of innovative financial tools such as the Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE). This paper detailed how SAFE instruments are implemented and designed using security token architecture and smart contract functionalities. This study delved into the architecture of security token systems, models their utilities, and evaluates the pros and cons of utilizing blockchain-based smart contracts for designing SAFE instruments. In the results and discussion section, the paper highlighted that employing a smart contract system can optimize utility for key contracts within the ecosystem. It also identified the Equity financing state as particularly advantageous, fostering mutual benefits for investors and startups. The author of this paper [9] proposed a truly decentralized blockchain framework, named LayerOneX (L1X), to enhance remittance services by reducing costs and improving financial inclusion. The authors implemented the L1X blockchain-powered payment solution, incorporating mobile-enabled validation, digital wallet mechanisms, and interoperability protocols to support remittances over multiple digital assets and currencies. Key technologies included nucleus scripting, flash contracts, and digital fingerprinting for customer identification and KYC processes. The findings indicated that the L1X framework can significantly reduce remittance costs and improve transaction processing times while maintaining security and

decentralization. However, the paper also identified challenges such as regulatory compliance, interoperability between various fiat currencies, and practical deployment of mobile node validation as areas needing further research and technological advancements. The author of this paper [10] explained the security and privacy challenges facing blockchain technology. This underlines the importance of addressing these challenges to protect personal data and ensure the integrity of transactions. The authors highlighted the potential of blockchain technology in various industries but also warned against the risks of information security breaches. The methodological part of the work focused on analyzing the security and privacy issues of blockchain technology. The authors were likely delved into several different aspects, such as identifying common security threats, exploring blockchain applications in various sectors, and proposing measures to improve security and privacy protection. The results and discussion section of the paper presented the conclusions and insights gathered from the analysis of the security and privacy issues of blockchain technology. Overall, they discussed the identified security threats, the impact of these threats on personal privacy, and the potential impact on various applications of blockchain technology. They also examined the effectiveness of existing security measures and recommended solutions to mitigate identified risks.

The author of this paper [11] explained how blockchain technology affects different industries, as well as the security issues and challenges that come with it. The authors highlighted the need to tackle security concerns, even though blockchain offers many benefits. Additionally, the paper explored various blockchain applications and their services. In the results and discussion section, the importance of blockchain technology and its impact on different industries was emphasized. This study underscored the necessity for government regulations and for businesses to be ready to adopt blockchain technologies while avoiding negative impacts on existing systems. It also stressed the need to be cautious about the influence and security issues related to blockchain. The author of this paper [12] focused on developing atomic multi-hop locks (AMHLs) for secure and anonymous multi-hop payments in Payment Channel Networks (PCNs). They proposed efficient and practical constructions for AMHLs, with operations taking less than 100 milliseconds and a communication overhead of under 500 bytes. They demonstrated the usefulness of AMHLs in scenarios like atomic swaps and interoperable PCNs, acknowledging contributions from the Lightning Network Labs and Foteini Baldimtsi. This study introduced a new cryptographic tool called the anonymous multi-hop lock (AMHL). Performance evaluations indicated that AMHLs are practical, with computation times of at most 60 milliseconds and a communication overhead of less than 500 bytes. In the findings and analysis section, this paper discussed the proposed AMHLs, highlighting their security, privacy, and interoperability in PCNs. The paper also presented a new attack on PCNs called the wormhole attack and showed how AMHLs can mitigate it. Overall, this study provided a detailed analysis of cryptographic functionality in PCNs and proposed a novel solution to improve security and privacy in these networks [12]. The authors of this paper [13] explored the impact of blockchain technology on various applications, including Bitcoin, smart contracts, and cryptocurrencies. The

paper also examined the challenges blockchain faces and its potential uses in different business sectors, especially healthcare. The researchers conducted a survey on blockchain applications and the associated challenges. They also explained technical terms related to blockchain, such as decentralization, transparency, miners, consensus, forks, hashes, nodes, and timestamps. This paper also highlighted the versatility of blockchain technology beyond financial transactions. It explored its potential in various business fields, with a focus on healthcare. This study [14] explained a systematic literature review conducted on smart contracts, categorizing existing studies into two main areas: smart contract improvement and smart contract usage. The study highlighted challenges and future trends in the field, providing a comprehensive overview of areas needing further exploration. The review used three databases—ScienceDirect, IEEEExplore, and ACM Digital Library—to search for relevant works using the keyword "smart contract." This study aimed to identify the main publications on smart contracts, the current state of research, and gaps in literature. It categorized research into smart contract improvement and usage, addressing challenges and applications in various domains, and comparing contributions to existing surveys. The researchers identified smart contract challenges and open issues for future studies, discussing trends and solutions to these research challenges. The author of this paper [15] proposes and evaluates a blockchain-based payment system for secure, real-time P2P transactions. It features a server-based key management module to protect private keys, automatic gas recharging for hassle free token transfers, and DDoS defense for added security. The web application interface is accessible on multiple devices, enhancing user convenience. Key modules include token management, key storage, and real-name verification to ensure compliance with regulations. Experimental tests demonstrate high efficiency and reliability, making this system ideal for secure digital payments, particularly in sectors needing privacy, cost efficiency, and quick transaction capabilities.

The author of this paper [16] examined the potential transformative effects of blockchain technology in the finance sector, particularly its ability to enable trusted transactions without intermediaries. This study reviewed literature from 2008 to 2022, noting a significant rise in blockchain research post-2018, especially in areas like asset management, payments, compliance, and insurance. The study emphasized the importance of collaboration among academics, industry professionals, financial institutions, and governments to overcome these obstacles and maximize blockchain's benefits in finance. This study [17] introduced a novel method to enhance blockchain scalability by utilizing a one-time cross-chain contract in conjunction with a gossip network. This approach initiated a cross-chain task that creates a one-time contract executable by various blockchain systems, ensuring that the results are anchored across all systems via the gossip network. This method aimed to achieve linear scalability and maintain consistency among honest systems. By leveraging side chains, which offload certain tasks to quick-response off-chain networks for later confirmation on the main blockchain, the proposed solution enhanced performance without compromising security. The proposed framework integrated cross-blockchain contracts and a gossip network to improve both scalability and interoperability, offering a promising new direction for future blockchain system designs. The author of

this paper [18] outlined a system designed to protect personal data privacy using blockchain technology. The system involved three entities: mobile phone users, service providers, and nodes maintaining the blockchain. Two new transaction types were introduced: Taccess for access control and Tdata for data storage and retrieval. This proposed blockchain system ensured data integrity and access control, with users retaining the ability to modify permissions. The off blockchain storage, maintained by a distributed hash table, ensured data availability and security. The proposed system also aimed to offer a decentralized, privacy-preserving alternative for data management. The author of the paper [19] explored the goal of creating a genuinely decentralized blockchain framework specifically for remittance services. The proposed system, called LayerOneX (L1X), was designed to provide a scalable and interoperable solution that can handle cross-border payments efficiently. The findings highlighted the potential for reduced transaction costs, improved processing times, and enhanced security and decentralization through broad participation of mobile devices. The framework also addressed interoperability across different blockchain networks and digital assets. However, this paper acknowledged challenges such as the need for further technological advancements and regulatory considerations to fully realize the potential of decentralized blockchain remittance solutions. This study [20] discussed a method for enhancing blockchain scalability and interoperability using a system called Layer-One.X. This system integrated various technologies such as para-sharding, Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAG), Proof of Participation consensus, mobile computing, flash contracts, and nucleus scripting. These elements collectively aimed to address the current limitations of blockchain technology by enabling efficient micro-validation and tokenization, facilitating high transaction throughput, and ensuring seamless interoperability between different blockchain networks. The Layer-One.X framework was designed to support both homogeneous and heterogeneous blockchain interoperability, ensuring data and asset exchange across various blockchains without compromising decentralization and security. This paper also reviewed existing solutions and outlines how Layer-One.X can offer improvements.

Despite their critical role in the global economy, cross-border remittance systems are riddled with inefficiencies. High transaction costs, averaging 6-8% of the transfer amount, make remittances inaccessible to low-income populations. Processing times often span multiple days, causing delays for recipients who depend on timely transfers. Additionally, the lack of transparency in traditional systems erodes trust, while limited access to financial services in underserved regions exacerbates economic disparities. These challenges underscore the need for an alternative solution that is efficient, transparent, and accessible. Blockchain and smart contract technologies offer a promising avenue to overcome these issues by eliminating intermediaries, ensuring secure and instantaneous transactions, and extending financial services to marginalized populations. This research seeks to design a system that addresses these systemic problems and provides a sustainable solution for global remittances.

This research contributes to blockchain, remittances, and financial technology by leveraging blockchain's decentralized nature and smart contracts to address inefficiencies in cross-border remittance systems. The solution reduces transaction costs, enhances transparency, and accelerates processing,

providing a secure alternative to traditional methods. Additionally, it promotes financial inclusion by making remittance services accessible to underserved populations, setting a foundation for further innovation in decentralized financial solutions.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 System Design

The proposed blockchain-based remittance system is designed to address inefficiencies in traditional remittance processes by leveraging the key capabilities of blockchain and smart contracts. The high-level architecture consists of three primary components: blockchain network, smart contracts, and user interfaces. The blockchain network forms the foundation of the system, providing a decentralized and secure ledger to record all transactions. This ensures transparency, immutability, and real-time validation, eliminating the need for intermediaries. Smart contracts act as automated execution layers within the blockchain, enforcing predefined rules for transactions. These contracts handle tasks such as verifying sender and recipient identities, initiating payments, and ensuring compliance with terms, all without manual intervention. The user interface serves as the front-end platform for users to interact with the system. This includes a mobile or web-based application where users can register, log in, initiate transfers, and track transactions. The interface connects seamlessly with the blockchain and smart contract backend, offering a user-friendly experience while maintaining robust security. Together, these components form a comprehensive system aimed at delivering secure, cost-effective, and efficient cross-border remittance services.

3.2 Development Tools

The development of the blockchain-based remittance system involves leveraging various tools and frameworks to ensure efficient implementation and seamless interaction between the blockchain network and the system's custom wallet. The tools and technologies used are as follows:

- **Ethereum Blockchain:** Ethereum provides the decentralized infrastructure for secure and transparent transactions. It enables the deployment of smart contracts that govern the remittance processes.
- **Solidity:** Solidity is the programming language used to write smart contracts. The contracts encode the business rules and ensure that the remittance system operates in a trustless and automated manner.
- **Hardhat:** Hardhat is chosen as the development environment for compiling, testing, and deploying smart contracts. Its local blockchain network is used for testing and debugging during development.
- **Custom Wallet Integration:** Instead of using third-party wallets like MetaMask, the system integrates its own custom wallet. This wallet is designed to securely store private keys and allow users to sign transactions directly within the platform. The wallet is integrated into the application's backend and frontend to provide a seamless user experience.
- **Web3.js or ethers.js:** These libraries are used to facilitate communication between the custom wallet

and the Ethereum blockchain. They handle tasks such as transaction signing, sending, and interacting with deployed smart contracts.

- **React.js:** The front-end of the system is developed using React.js, ensuring a dynamic and responsive user interface. The custom wallet is embedded into the frontend to allow users to manage their funds directly.
- **Node.js:** Node.js powers the backend services, which include managing interactions with the blockchain, handling wallet functionalities, and securely storing encrypted private keys (if required).
- **Hardhat Local Network:** Hardhat's local blockchain network is extensively used to test smart contract functionalities and custom wallet interactions during development, ensuring a bug-free deployment on the live blockchain.

This stack ensures the system has its own fully integrated custom wallet, allowing users to interact with the blockchain directly through the platform without relying on external wallet providers like MetaMask. This approach enhances control over wallet functionality and user experience.

3.3 Workflow of the proposed system

The workflow of the proposed blockchain-based remittance system with an integrated custom wallet follows a structured process for sending and receiving remittances. Below is a step-by-step description of the system's workflow-

Step 1: Registration-

1. User Creation-

- The sender and receiver register on the system by providing personal details such as their name, email, and a secure password.
- During registration, the system generates a unique wallet address for each user using the integrated custom wallet.
- Users are provided with private keys that are securely stored or encrypted for transaction signing.

2. Wallet Initialization-

- Each user's custom wallet is initialized with a starting balance or an option to top up using supported fiat or cryptocurrency.

Step 2: Sending Remittance-

1. Sender Initiates Transaction-

- The sender logs into the system and selects the option to send money.
- The sender enters the receiver's wallet address (or selects from a saved list), the amount to be transferred, and an optional message.

2. Transaction Verification-

- The system validates that the sender has sufficient balance in their wallet.
- If validated, the transaction details are presented for the sender's confirmation.

3. Smart Contract Execution-

- Upon confirmation, the sender signs the transaction using their private key through the custom wallet.
- The transaction is submitted to the blockchain, where the smart contract processes and records it on the distributed ledger.

Step 3: Blockchain Validation-

1. Transaction Propagation-

- The blockchain network validates the transaction by confirming the sender's balance and verifying the digital signature.

2. Transaction Inclusion-

- Once validated, the transaction is included in a new block on the blockchain.
- The smart contract automatically transfers the specified amount from the sender's wallet to the receiver's wallet.

Step 4: Receiving Remittance-

1. Notification to Receiver-

- The receiver is notified via the platform (or email) about the incoming remittance.
- The notification includes the sender's details, transaction ID, and the amount received.

2. Funds Availability-

- The transferred amount is credited to the receiver's wallet.
- The receiver can view their updated wallet balance on the platform.

Step 5: Withdrawal or Further Transactions-

1. Receiver Withdraws Funds-

- The receiver can choose to withdraw the funds to a linked bank account or use the balance for other transactions within the platform.

2. Audit Trail-

- Both the sender and receiver can view the transaction history, including timestamps, amounts, and transaction IDs, on their respective dashboards.

3.4 Diagram of the proposed system

The diagram illustrates the process flow for sending and receiving remittances in the system. Below is a textual representation of the flowchart, which can be visualized using a tool like Lucidchart or Draw.io-

1. Sender Logs In → 2. Initiates Transaction → 3. Confirms Details → 4. Signs with Custom Wallet → 5. Smart Contract Execution → 6. Blockchain Validation → 7. Funds Transferred → 8. Receiver Notified → 9. Funds Credited to Receiver's Wallet → 10. Receiver Withdraws or Uses Funds

3.5 Performance Metrics

The evaluation of the proposed blockchain-based remittance system with an integrated custom wallet is centered on several key performance metrics. These metrics are essential for determining the system's efficiency, security, and overall usability.

- Transaction cost is a critical factor, as traditional remittance systems often impose high fees, making

them inaccessible for many users. By leveraging blockchain technology, the proposed system aims to significantly reduce transaction costs by eliminating intermediaries. This cost efficiency will be measured through the analysis of gas fees required for executing smart contracts and compared with the fees charged by traditional systems like banks and money transfer operators.

- Transaction speed is another vital metric. The current remittance systems are often slow, taking days to process transfers. The proposed blockchain-based system is designed to offer near-instant transactions by leveraging blockchain's decentralized validation process. The speed of transactions will be measured from initiation to final confirmation and compared with the processing times of existing systems.
- Security is a cornerstone of the system, given the sensitive nature of financial transactions. The system leverages blockchain's cryptographic mechanisms to safeguard funds and data, reducing the risks of fraud and unauthorized access. Security will be evaluated through the frequency of detected breaches, the robustness of private key management in the custom wallet, and the results of smart contract audits.
- Transparency is an inherent advantage of blockchain technology, ensuring that all transactions are recorded on an immutable ledger. These fosters trust among users by providing a clear and traceable record of all activities. Transparency will be assessed through user feedback on transaction clarity and the auditability of records via blockchain explorers.
- Scalability is also a crucial consideration, as the system must handle increasing transaction volumes without compromising performance. The system's scalability will be tested by measuring its maximum transaction throughput and its performance under high-stress conditions.
- User experience is paramount to the adoption of the system, particularly for users unfamiliar with blockchain technology. The system aims to provide an intuitive and seamless interface, ensuring ease of use for all users. User experience will be assessed through satisfaction surveys, feedback on usability, and the retention rates of registered users.
- Finally, the system's potential to enhance financial inclusion will be measured. By targeting unbanked and underbanked populations, the system aims to expand access to affordable and efficient financial services. The success of this objective will be evaluated by analyzing the percentage of users from underserved regions and comparing adoption rates with traditional remittance systems.

By focusing on these performance metrics, the proposed system aims to address the inefficiencies of existing remittance systems while providing a secure, transparent, and user-friendly solution.

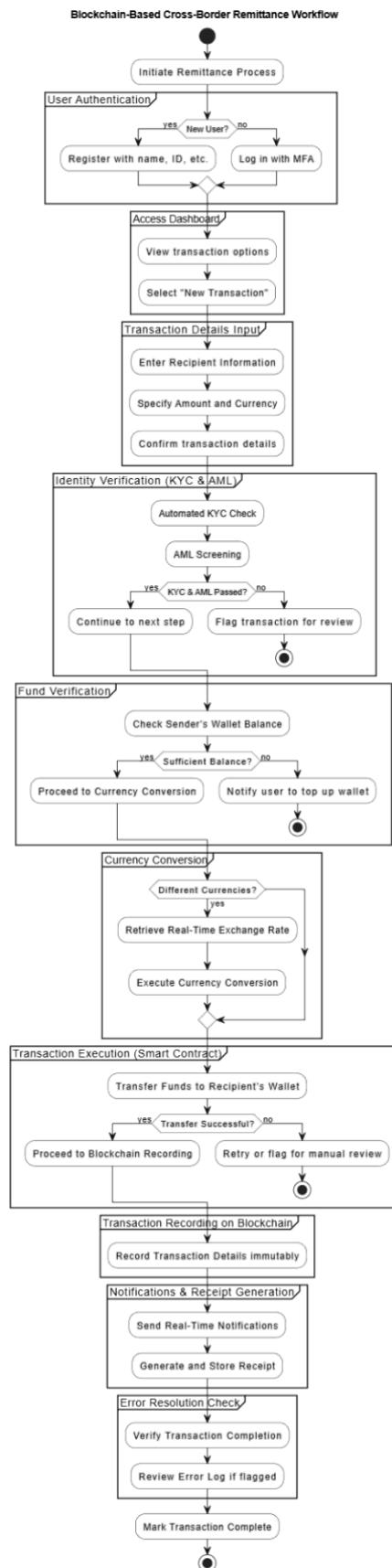


Fig. 1. Blockchain based cross-border remittance system - Flowchart diagram

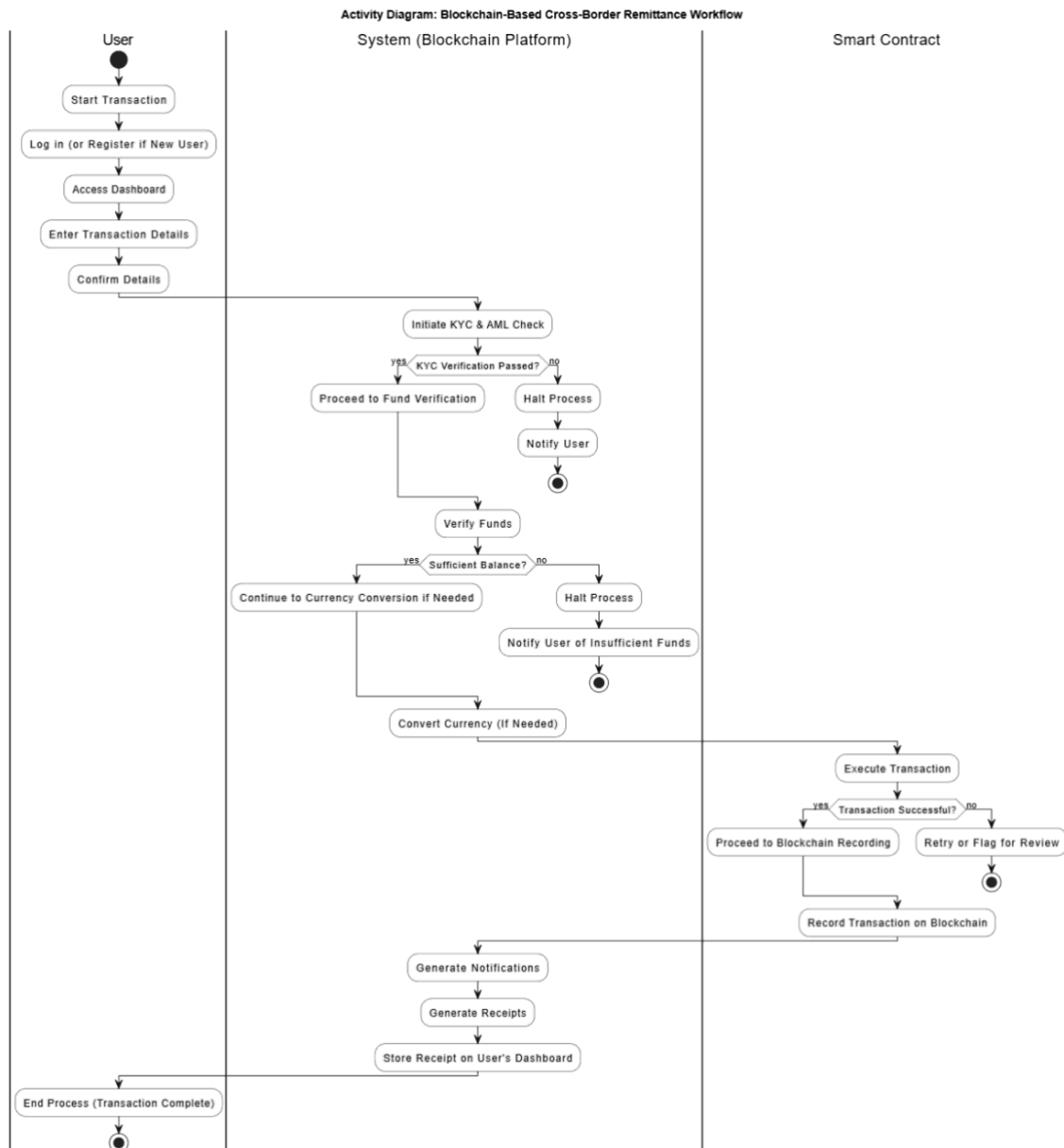


Fig. 2. Blockchain based cross-border remittance system - User Activity diagram

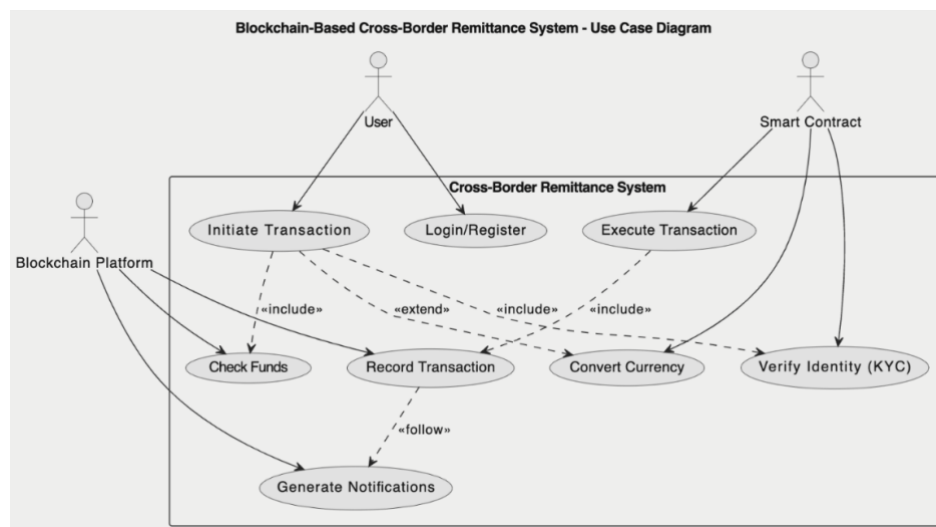


Fig. 3. Blockchain based cross-border remittance system - Use Case diagram

3.6 Data Collection and Analysis

To evaluate the performance of the proposed blockchain-based remittance system, a systematic approach to data collection and analysis will be undertaken. Data collection will focus on capturing key metrics such as transaction costs, processing times, system security, scalability, and user satisfaction. Quantitative data, including transaction records and network performance metrics, will be gathered directly from the blockchain network and smart contract execution logs using tools such as blockchain explorers and Hardhat's testing framework. Additionally, user interaction logs will record transaction attempts, completions, and any errors encountered. Security assessments, including smart contract audits and private key management evaluations, will provide insights into the system's robustness, while user feedback will be collected through surveys and usability tests to gauge satisfaction, ease of use, and trust in the platform. Stress tests will also be conducted to evaluate the system's scalability under high transaction volumes, capturing metrics such as throughput and system stability.

The collected data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics to understand performance trends and establish baselines for transaction costs, speed, and other metrics. Comparative analysis will be conducted to benchmark the blockchain-based system against traditional remittance methods, highlighting differences in cost, speed, and accessibility. Security findings from audits and vulnerability assessments will be examined to ensure system resilience, while stress test data will be analyzed to measure scalability and resource utilization. Qualitative feedback from users will be categorized and analyzed to identify themes and insights related to user experience and system adoption.

The findings will be visualized through graphs, charts, and tables to effectively communicate key performance indicators such as transaction speed, cost efficiency, and user satisfaction levels. The insights derived from the analysis will

provide a comprehensive understanding of the system's strengths and areas for improvement. Recommendations for optimization, particularly in enhancing scalability and user experience, will be developed to further refine the system. This holistic approach ensures a thorough evaluation of the system's performance, offering actionable insights into future enhancements.

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Blockchain and Smart Contract Implementation

The foundation of the remittance system is a robust blockchain-based architecture powered by custom smart contracts and a uniquely designed custom wallet. The following components provide insights into the technical design and implementation-

User Registration and Authentication-

- **Implementation-** Users register by providing their personal details and a password, which is hashed using the secure keccak256 algorithm before being stored in the blockchain. A unique wallet address is programmatically generated for each user using the generateWalletAddress function, ensuring immutability and uniqueness.
- **Key Features-** The smart contract validates credentials during login by comparing the hashed password, ensuring data security. Duplicate email registrations are prevented through the emailToWallet mapping, which enforces a one-to-one relationship between emails and wallet addresses.
- **Security-** Sensitive data, such as passwords, are never stored in plaintext, and all interactions with the blockchain are verified for authenticity.

```

1  function register(
2      bytes32 hashedPassword,
3      string memory firstName,
4      string memory lastName,
5      string memory email
6  ) public {
7      require(emailToWallet[email] == address(0), "Email already registered");
8
9      address newWallet = generateWalletAddress(email);
10
11     users[newWallet] = User({
12         userAddress: msg.sender,
13         walletAddress: newWallet,
14         hashedPassword: hashedPassword,
15         firstName: firstName,
16         lastName: lastName,
17         email: email,
18         balance: 0
19     });
20
21     emailToWallet[email] = newWallet;
22
23     emit UserRegistered(msg.sender, firstName, lastName, email, newWallet);
24 }

```

Fig. 4. Smart Contract Function for User Registration

```

eth_getTransactionCount
eth_chainId
eth_estimateGas
eth_chainId (2)
eth_gasPrice
eth_maxPriorityFeePerGas
eth_getBlockByNumber
eth_blockNumber
eth_chainId
eth_sendRawTransaction
Contract call:    UserRegistry#register
Transaction:      0xb03a39324dac30d0ca90c9aee48a0f884109fa73c27f622c2400d6762160eda1
From:             0x8626f6940e2eb28930efb4cef49b2d1f2c9c1199
To:               0x5fbd2315678afecb367f032d93f642f64180aa3
Value:            0 ETH
Gas used:         211885 of 211885
Block #3:         0x0bdeb1b2af066f913b89efe39bb7758977405d19cbc23625c594ab67a9bf9fca

eth_getTransactionReceipt
eth_chainId
eth_blockNumber

```

Fig. 5. Blockchain Transaction Details for User Registration Function Call

Custom Wallet System-

- Implementation- A custom wallet system provides each user with a blockchain-based wallet for storing balances and executing transactions. This wallet is integrated with the smart contract, which manages the user's balance and transaction history.
- Key Features- Real-time balance updates with integration between the smart contract and the frontend. Full transparency for users, displaying wallet activity and recent transactions.

```

1 address newWallet = generateWalletAddress(email);
2
3     users[newWallet] = User({
4         userAddress: msg.sender,
5         walletAddress: newWallet,
6         hashedPassword: hashedPassword,
7         firstName: firstName,
8         lastName: lastName,
9         email: email,
10        balance: 0
11    });
12
13    emailToWallet[email] = newWallet;

```

Fig. 6. Wallet Address Generation and User Registration

```

1 function generateWalletAddress(
2     string memory email
3 ) internal pure returns (address) {
4     return address(uint160(uint256(keccak256(abi.encodePacked(email))))));
5 }

```

Fig. 7. Smart Contract Function for Generating Wallet Addresses

Transaction Processing-

- Implementation- The transfer function facilitates seamless and secure fund transfers. It validates recipient wallet addresses, calculates transaction fees dynamically, and updates wallet balances.
- Key Features- A 1% fee is calculated using the calculateFee function, which is stored in a fee reserve managed by the smart contract. The transaction is logged in both the sender's and recipient's history, ensuring traceability and transparency.

```

1 function getTransactionHistory(
2     address walletAddress
3 ) public view returns (Transaction[] memory) {
4     require(users[walletAddress].userAddress != address(0), "User not found");
5     return transactionHistory[walletAddress];
6 }

```

Fig. 8. Smart Contract Function for Get Transaction History

```

eth_call
Contract call:    UserRegistry#getTransactionHistory
From:             0x8626f6940e2eb28930efb4cef49b2d1f2c9c1199
To:              0x5fbd2315678afecb367f032d93f642f64180aa3

eth_chainId

```

Fig. 9. Blockchain Transaction Details for Get Transaction History Function Call

```

1  function calculateFee(uint256 amount) public view returns (uint256) {
2      return (amount * feeRate) / 100;
3  }
4
5  function transfer(
6      address sender,
7      address recipient,
8      uint256 amount,
9      string memory relationship,
10     string memory purpose
11 ) public {
12     require(users[sender].userAddress != address(0), "Sender not registered");
13     require(users[recipient].userAddress != address(0), "Recipient not registered");
14
15     uint256 fee = (amount * feeRate) / 100;
16
17     require(users[sender].balance >= amount+fee, "Insufficient balance");
18
19     bool success = false;
20
21     if (users[sender].balance >= amount+fee) {
22         users[sender].balance -= amount+fee;
23         users[recipient].balance += amount;
24         success = true;
25         feeReserve += fee;
26     }
27
28     transactionHistory[sender].push(
29         Transaction({
30             sender: sender,
31             recipient: recipient,
32             amount: amount,
33             relationship: relationship,
34             purpose: purpose,
35             success: success,
36             timestamp: block.timestamp
37         })
38     );
39
40     if (success) {
41         transactionHistory[recipient].push(
42             Transaction({
43                 sender: sender,
44                 recipient: recipient,
45                 amount: amount,
46                 relationship: relationship,
47                 purpose: purpose,
48                 success: success,
49                 timestamp: block.timestamp
50             })
51         );
52     }
53
54     emit FundsTransferred(sender, recipient, amount, relationship, purpose, success);
55 }

```

Fig. 10. Smart Contract Function for Calculate Fee and Transaction

```

eth_getTransactionCount
eth_chainId
eth_estimateGas
eth_chainId (2)
eth_getBlockByNumber
eth_maxPriorityFeePerGas
eth_gasPrice
eth_blockNumber
eth_sendRawTransaction
Contract call:    UserRegistry#transfer
Transaction:      0x3a13e6502fc7bff92d1f8430002c5e2ecb61551f09329404556d6ff92d023006
From:             0x8626f6940e2eb28930efb4cef49b2d1f2c9c1199
To:              0x5fbd2315678afecb367f032d93f642f64180aa3
Value:           0 ETH
Gas used:        428535 of 428535
Block #5:        0x18ecf548c0660fb8eafdeef7c5fc2bc2a76958117edaac1eec27fe30e25ab5c

eth_chainId (2)
eth_getTransactionReceipt
eth_chainId
eth_blockNumber

```

Fig. 11. Blockchain Transaction Details for Transaction Function Call

Fee Reserve Management-

- Implementation- All transaction fees are stored in a feeReserve variable within the smart contract. This reserve provides transparency for platform earnings and maintains blockchain integrity.
- Key Features- Users can query the total collected fees via the getTotalFeeReserve function. Transparent handling of fees encourages user trust.

Security and Error Handling-

- Implementation- The smart contract employs strict input validations, error handling, and secure hash algorithms to ensure data integrity.
- Key Features- Error messages, such as "Email already registered" or "Insufficient balance," provide clear feedback to users. Security mechanisms like hashed passwords and wallet validation protect user data.

4.2 User Interface and Experience

The user interface was designed to make blockchain-based remittance accessible to non-technical users. Every feature

was built with simplicity and transparency in mind to create a seamless user experience.

Custom Wallet Dashboard-

- Implementation- The dashboard serves as a central hub for users to view their wallet balance, recent transactions, and personal information.
- Key Features- Displays a real-time balance synced with the blockchain. Provides an overview of recent transactions with details like timestamp, recipient, and purpose.

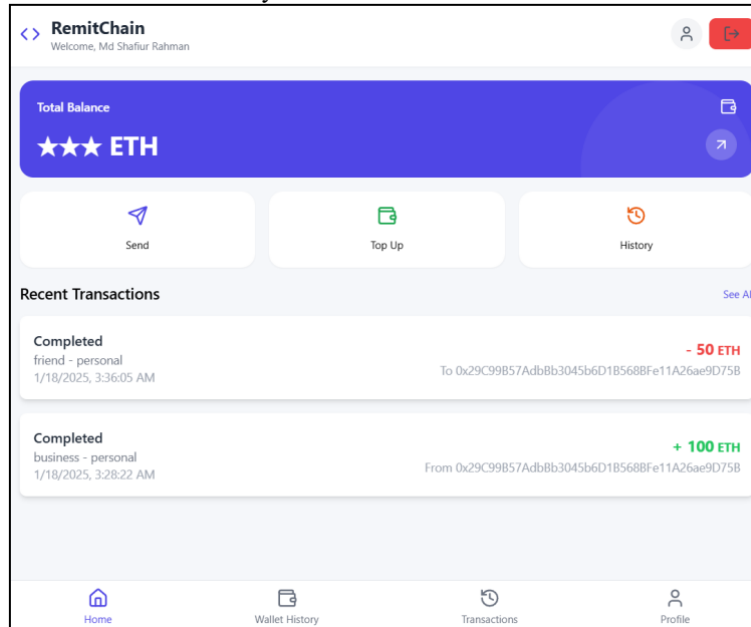


Fig. 12. User Dashboard UI

Registration and Login-

- Implementation- Users can easily register and log in with their credentials. The interface includes input validation, password strength indicators, and error prompts.

- Key Features- Password visibility toggle and strength indicators enhance usability. Error prompts guide users to correct invalid input.

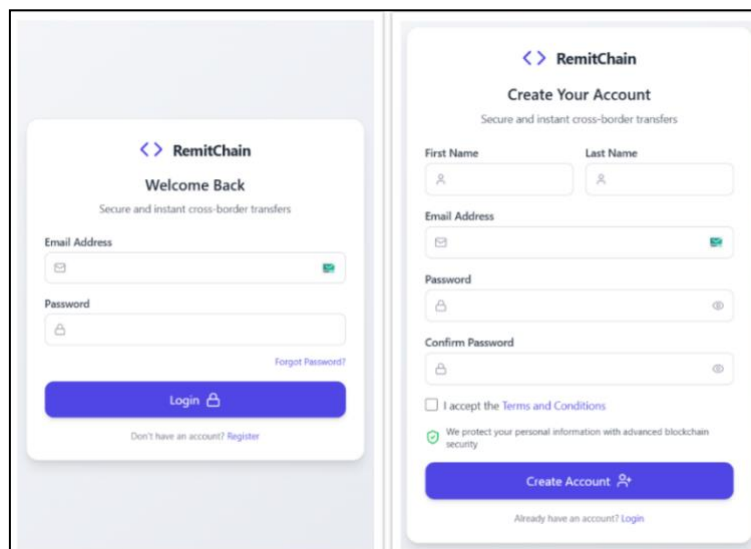


Fig. 13. Login and Registration Interfaces

Transaction Workflow-

- Implementation- The transaction page allows users to input recipient details, transaction amount, purpose, and relationship before confirming the transfer.
- Key Features- Dynamic fee calculation is displayed to users for transparency. A confirmation page ensures users can review details before completing the transaction.

The figure displays three sequential screens in a transaction workflow:

- Recipient Details:** A form with a 'Wallet ID' field containing '0x734F6B892B5Ba9562453E26297D7A190ceCDF724' and a 'Relationship' dropdown menu set to 'Family'. A blue 'Next →' button is at the bottom.
- Transaction Details:** A form with an 'Amount' field showing 'ETH 100' and a 'Purpose' dropdown menu set to 'Family Support'. It includes '< Back' and 'Next →' buttons.
- Confirm Transaction:** A summary screen showing transaction details: Recipient Name (Unknown Recipient), Wallet ID (0x734F6B892B5Ba9562453E26297D7A190ceCDF724), Amount (ETH 100), Fee (ETH 1), Total (ETH 101.00), Purpose (Family_support), and Relationship (Family). It features an '< Edit' button and a large blue 'Confirm & Send' button.

Fig. 14. Transaction Workflow Screens

Transaction History-

- Implementation- Users can view detailed transaction logs, including sender, recipient, amount, and timestamps. Successful and failed transactions are clearly labeled.
- Key Features- Transactions are sorted chronologically and filtered for easy navigation. Users can view the purpose and relationship for each transaction.

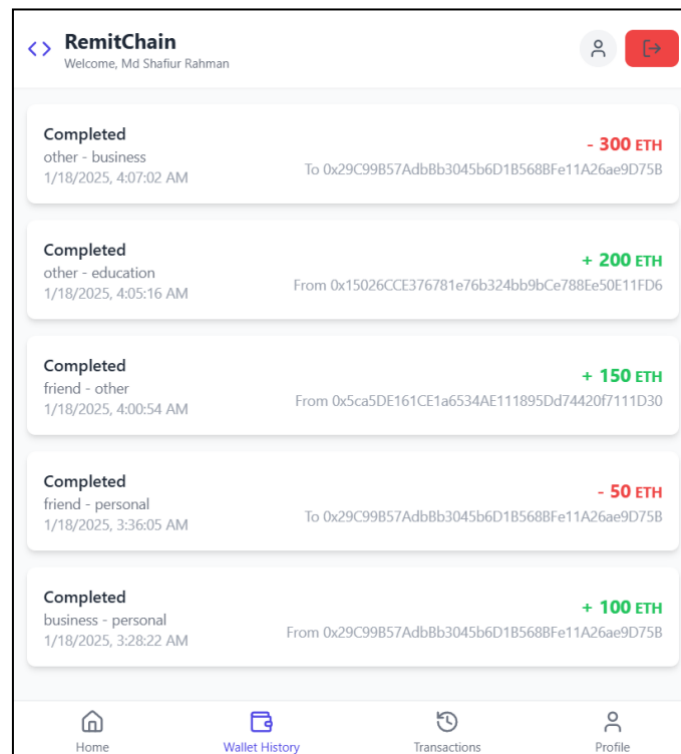


Fig. 15. Transaction History View

Interactive Feedback-

- Implementation- The UI incorporates interactive elements such as toast notifications for successful actions and error handling, along with loaders for pending processes.
- Key Features- Real-time feedback enhances user confidence and reduces frustration. Loaders and spinners indicate ongoing actions like login or fund transfer. Toast notifications for successful registration and transfer completion. Loader animation during transaction processing.

4.3 Experimental Setup

Development Environment- The project was developed and tested using local blockchain simulation tools, ensuring a controlled and efficient environment for validating functionality and performance. The following tools and platforms were utilized-

- **Hardhat Framework-** Used to compile, deploy, and test the smart contracts in a local blockchain environment. Provided debugging capabilities and simulated blockchain behavior for rapid iteration.
- **VS Code IDE-** Leveraged for initial contract development and quick testing of smart contract functions.
- **Testing Environment-** A local blockchain setup using Hardhat's development network was employed to simulate blockchain interactions. The environment mimicked transaction flows, including gas consumption and block confirmations, to test the remittance process end-to-end.

Tools for Interaction-

- **Ethers.js-** Integrated to enable seamless interaction between the frontend and the smart contracts. Used for wallet address generation, transaction submissions, and balance queries.
- **Local JSON-RPC Provider-** Facilitated connection between the backend and the blockchain network for data retrieval and transaction execution.

4.4 Challenges and Solutions

Securing Sensitive Data-

- **Challenge-** Storing and managing sensitive user information like passwords on a decentralized platform.
- **Solution-** Implemented keccak256 hashing to store passwords securely and ensure all user data is encrypted during communication between the frontend, backend, and blockchain.
- **Transparent Fee Calculation-**
- **Challenge-** Providing users with a clear understanding of transaction fees and platform revenue.
- **Solution-** Developed the calculateFee function in the smart contract and integrated it with the frontend to display fee breakdowns during transactions.

Error Handling and Validation-

- **Challenge-** Managing errors like duplicate registrations, invalid wallet addresses, and insufficient balances.
- **Solution-** Built robust error-handling mechanisms in both the smart contract and backend, with clear feedback in the UI.

Enhancing User Experience-

- Challenge- Designing an intuitive UI for blockchain-based remittance, which is often perceived as complex.
- Solution- Developed a user-friendly frontend with clear labels, prompts, and step-by-step guidance for registration, transactions, and wallet management.

5. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Amount	ETH 100
Fee	ETH 1
Total	ETH 101.00

Fig. 16. Transaction Fee Breakdown

Transaction Speed- Traditional remittance methods typically take between 1 to 5 business days to process a transaction, depending on the financial institutions and intermediaries involved. In comparison, the blockchain-based system completes transactions in under 5 seconds on average. This speed is achieved by executing smart contract functions directly on the blockchain, eliminating intermediaries and delays caused by traditional processes. This makes the system highly effective for urgent financial transfers.

Security- Traditional remittance systems store user data and transaction details in centralized databases, making them vulnerable to data breaches and fraudulent activities. In contrast, the blockchain-based system ensures the security of user credentials and transaction data through secure hashing algorithms like keccak256. The decentralized nature of the blockchain further eliminates single points of failure, enhancing data security. By leveraging these features, the system offers robust protection against fraud and unauthorized access.

5.2 Case Study

- Use Case: International Family Support-

Imagine a scenario where a user in one country wishes to send \$100 (equivalent in cryptocurrency) to a family member in another country to support their education expenses. The process begins with the sender registering on the platform and generating a unique wallet address. After registration, the sender inputs the recipient's wallet address, specifies their relationship (e.g., "family"), and describes the purpose of the transaction (e.g., "education expenses"). Upon initiating the transaction, the platform calculates a fee of 1% (equivalent to \$1) and displays the total cost to the sender. The sender reviews the details and confirms the transfer. Within a few seconds, the transaction is processed on the blockchain, and the recipient's wallet reflects the credited amount. The system demonstrates significant advantages over traditional remittance services-

- Cost Efficiency- The sender paid a nominal fee of \$1 compared to \$5-\$10 typically charged by traditional methods.

5.1 Performance Comparison Against Traditional Remittance Methods

Transaction Cost- Traditional remittance methods often charge fees ranging from 5% to 10% of the transfer amount. Additionally, hidden costs such as unfavorable exchange rate markups further increase the expense. In contrast, the blockchain-based remittance system developed in this project offers a fixed transaction fee of 1%. This transparent fee structure is displayed to users during the transaction process, ensuring there are no hidden charges. As a result, the system reduces remittance costs by up to 90%, making it an affordable option for users.

- Speed- The transaction was completed in less than 5 seconds, a significant improvement over the 1-5 days required by traditional remittance services.
- Security- The transaction details, including sender and recipient wallet addresses, were securely recorded on the blockchain, ensuring transparency and immutability.
- Insights from Testing-

The system successfully addressed key challenges faced by users of traditional remittance platforms. It offered transparency in fee calculation, reduced transaction costs, and improved processing speed, while maintaining high security standards. These results highlight the potential of blockchain technology to revolutionize the remittance industry.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Interpretation of Results

The results of this research confirm the potential of blockchain technology to revolutionize cross-border remittance systems. The findings validate the system's ability to address key challenges such as high costs, long transaction delays, and security vulnerabilities in traditional remittance methods. Below are the key takeaways-

- Cost Efficiency- The blockchain-based remittance platform achieves a 1% transaction fee, which is considerably lower than the fees charged by traditional money transfer services. This improvement directly supports financial inclusion for underserved populations, particularly in regions where remittance costs are prohibitive.
- Speed of Transactions- The system provides near-instantaneous transaction processing, demonstrating a significant advantage over the 1–5 business days required by traditional systems. This ensures users can send and receive funds in real-time, which is particularly critical during emergencies.
- Enhanced Security- Blockchain technology ensures the immutability of transaction records and uses smart

contracts to automate processes securely. This approach eliminates risks associated with human error, fraud, or manipulation, ensuring that funds reach the intended recipients safely.

These results align with the research objectives of creating a secure, cost-effective, and transparent remittance platform.

6.2 Significance of Finding

The significance of these findings extends beyond meeting the technical requirements of the system-

- **Improved Financial Accessibility-** The low transaction fees reduce the financial burden on users, particularly for those sending smaller remittances. This is a step toward democratizing access to financial services and empowering underserved communities.
- **Transparency and Trust-** The platform's transparent fee structure and traceable transactions enhance trust among users. By allowing users to verify transactions directly on the blockchain, the system promotes accountability, which is often lacking in traditional systems.
- **Scalability and Sustainability-** The system's modular design allows for future enhancements, such as multi-currency support or integration with financial institutions for seamless fiat-to-crypto conversions. The fee reserve mechanism provides a self-sustaining revenue model, ensuring long-term operational viability.
- **Real World Applicability-** The system can address global remittance challenges, particularly in regions with high dependence on international remittances. It offers a scalable alternative for financial institutions, NGOs, and governments looking to modernize their payment systems.

6.3 Broader Implications

This blockchain-based platform is more than just a technical solution; it represents a paradigm shift in how cross-border transactions can be conducted-

- **For Developing Economies-** The system provides an accessible and affordable remittance solution, reducing the financial barriers for families relying on income from overseas workers.
- **For Financial Institutions-** By leveraging blockchain technology, banks and remittance companies can adopt this system to enhance their services and reduce operational costs.
- **For Policy Makers-** The transparent and traceable nature of blockchain transactions aligns with anti-money laundering (AML) and know-your-customer (KYC) regulations, making it a regulatory-compliant alternative to traditional methods.

7. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

This research successfully demonstrates the potential of blockchain technology in addressing the inefficiency of traditional cross-border remittance systems. Through the design and development of a custom blockchain-based solution, the system achieved significant milestones in terms

of security, cost efficiency, and transparency. The implemented smart contracts facilitated secure and immutable transactions, while the custom wallet system provided users with unique addresses and real-time balance management. The platform's user-centric design further simplified complex blockchain functionalities, making the system accessible to non-technical users. Additionally, a transparent fee structure and efficient fee reserve management ensured a sustainable and scalable revenue model. Overall, this project provides a strong foundation for leveraging blockchain technology to revolutionize the remittance industry. Despite its achievements, the system has several limitations that need to be addressed for broader adoption and scalability-

- **Scalability Challenges-** The current implementation operates in a simulated blockchain environment and has not been fully tested on high-throughput public blockchains. Deploying a main network could lead to challenges related to transaction processing speed and high gas fees during network congestion.
- **Fiat-Crypto Barrier-** The system is fully reliant on cryptocurrencies, which poses a challenge for users in regions with limited access to fiat-to-crypto conversion services. This could hinder adoption among individuals unfamiliar with or hesitant to use cryptocurrencies.
- **Regulatory and Compliance Issues-** While basic user verification mechanisms are in place, the system does not yet comply with comprehensive regulatory frameworks such as anti-money laundering (AML) and know-your-customer (KYC) requirements. Achieving compliance with varying global regulations is critical for large-scale deployment.
- **User Adoption and Education-** Blockchain technology, despite its advantages, remains unfamiliar and intimidating for many potential users. The learning curve associated with wallets, private keys, and transaction processes could limit adoption, especially in non-technical user segments.
- **Single Cryptocurrency Support-** The system currently supports only Ethereum (ETH) for transactions. This lack of multi-currency or fiat integration reduces flexibility and limits the platform's usability in markets where Ethereum may not be the preferred currency.
- **Limited Security Enhancements-** Although the platform uses hashed passwords (keccak256) and secure smart contract validations, additional measures like multi-signature wallets, biometric authentication, and advanced encryption for sensitive data storage are not yet implemented.
- **High Dependency on Ethereum-** The system is heavily reliant on Ethereum, which, while robust, is subject to high gas fees and scalability issues. This dependency could limit the system's usability during periods of network congestion or high transaction costs.
- **Fee Transparency and Allocation-** While the system collects and reserves transaction fees, there is no mechanism for users to see how the fees are being allocated or used. This lack of transparency could affect user trust.

- **Absence of Offline Accessibility-** The system requires constant internet connectivity for transactions and balance checks. In regions with unstable internet access, this could create a barrier for consistent usage.
- **Insufficient Disaster Recovery Mechanisms-** The system does not currently include mechanisms for recovering lost private keys or addressing accidental transfers to invalid addresses. This poses a risk for users unfamiliar with the irreversible nature of blockchain transactions.
- **Complexity of Dispute Resolution-** There is no integrated mechanism for handling transaction disputes. In case of erroneous or fraudulent transfers, users may have limited recourse, reducing trust in the system.
- **Limited Customization Options-** The system lacks advanced features like recurring payments, customizable transaction limits, or personalized fee structures, which could attract diverse user groups.
- **Energy Consumption-** While Ethereum is transitioning to a more energy-efficient proof-of-stake (PoS) mechanism, blockchain transactions still consume significant energy compared to centralized systems, raising concerns about environmental impact.

To expand the scope and usability of the system, the following directions are proposed-

- **Multi-Currency and CBDC Support-** Future iterations of the platform should integrate multiple cryptocurrencies, including stablecoins like USDT or USDC, and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). This will enhance flexibility, allowing users to choose their preferred currency for transactions. Such support would significantly broaden the platform's appeal across different markets, particularly in countries exploring CBDC adoption.
- **Regulatory Compliance-** Achieving compliance with global financial regulations, including anti-money laundering (AML) and know-your-customer (KYC) frameworks, is crucial for building trust and enabling broader adoption. Advanced regulatory integration will facilitate partnerships with financial institutions and ensure that the system adheres to legal requirements in diverse jurisdictions.
- **Fiat Integration-** Integrating fiat-to-crypto conversion mechanisms directly within the platform will remove barriers for users who rely primarily on traditional currencies. This feature will enable seamless deposits and withdrawals in local fiat currencies, bridging the gap between conventional banking systems and blockchain technology. Partnerships with payment gateways and financial institutions can play a pivotal role in achieving this goal.

By addressing these aspects, the system can evolve into a globally adaptable, compliant, and user-friendly platform that reshapes the remittance landscape. Such enhancements will not only improve scalability and usability but also position the platform as a robust solution for addressing the inefficiencies of cross-border remittances.

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