BA/SA/MA:

Decentralized Finance - Bring Your Own Idea

Overshadowed by the recent hype around Dogecoin and other meme coins, blockchain technology is actually being used for meaningful things: Parts of the financial system are being rebuilt in a decentralized manner. In the past year, the usage of Decentralized Finance (DeFi) applications on Ethereum and other blockchains has grown dramatically.

Some interesting applications (among others) are:

- Decentralized exchanges (e.g. Uniswap, Sushiswap, Curve and Balancer): Allow traders to swap tokens without trusting a third party such as Coinbase. Instead of using traditional order books, these protocols use automated market maker mechanism, i.e. a completely new market design.

- Algorithmic stablecoins such as DAI: The price of a stablecoin is always supposed to stay close to $1 (or another currency it is pegged to), without actually being backed by this amount of currency.

- Synthetic asset protocols (Synthetix, UMA): These protocols let you create tokens that track the price of any kind of assets (e.g. stocks or commodities).

Studying these protocols opens a whole new field of research: How do they work, how can they be improved, or how are they being used? A particularly nice aspect of this ecosystem is that all transactions are publicly available in the blockchain. So we can use this data to answer a lot of interesting questions.

Is there a question or problem related to DeFi that you are particularly interested in? Perhaps coming from your own experiences using DeFi or traditional finance?

Requirements: You will need to be able to work independently. Depending on the topic you’re interested in, certain programming skills might be required. We will have weekly meetings to discuss open questions and determine the next steps.

Interested? Please contact us for more details!

Contacts

- Robin Fritsch: rfritsch@ethz.ch, ETZ G63