



Article Electric Vehicle Charging Transaction Model Based on Alliance Blockchain

Dongjun Cui^{1,2,*}, Jinghan He¹, Xiaochun Cheng² and Zhao Liu¹

- ¹ School of Electrical Engineering, Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing 100093, China; jhhe@bjtu.edu.cn (J.H.); liuzhao1@bjtu.edu.cn (Z.L.)
- ² Capital Power Exchange Center Co., Ltd., Beijing 100031, China; chengxiaochun@bj.sgcc.com.cn
- * Correspondence: cdj1122@126.com; Tel.: +86-136-6129-8629

Abstract: With the increasing demand for electric vehicle (EV) charging, there are cases of complicated trading between EV users and charging operators or electrical utilities. This paper proposes a new trading model based on consortium blockchain. Firstly, mutual trust interconnected transaction networks and channels between charging operators are established. The PBFT consensus algorithm is used to verify EV charging transactions, and smart contracts are used to complete the process. In this model, charging station nodes of each company can verify transactions, the interconnection and independent management of charging transactions are realized, users' charging methods are enriched, and the flexibility of charging services is improved. Finally, this paper uses hyperledger fabric to build an experimental environment. The feasibility of the above method is verified with an actual distribution scenario of some charging stations in Beijing.

Keywords: blockchain; electric vehicle; smart contract; PBFT

check for **updates**

Citation: Cui, D.; He, J.; Cheng, X.; Liu, Z. Electric Vehicle Charging Transaction Model Based on Alliance Blockchain. *World Electr. Veh. J.* **2023**, *14*, 192. https://doi.org/10.3390/ wevj14070192

Academic Editors: Dapeng Wu and Boran Yang

Received: 14 June 2023 Revised: 4 July 2023 Accepted: 17 July 2023 Published: 21 July 2023



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/).

1. Introduction

Electric vehicles have the advantages of low greenhouse gas emissions and high energy efficiencies and have developed rapidly in recent years [1]. A sound charging infrastructure system and a safe and convenient charging service model are important guarantees for the popularity of electric vehicles. At present, electric vehicle charging services have problems such as difficulty in finding piles for charging users, difficulty in connecting charging station information, and difficulty in settling charging transactions [2,3]. For example, the introduction of central institutions to manage charging services and charging transaction information can improve the status quo, but it is costly, and there is a risk of information leakage [4]. Therefore, it is necessary to seek a new charging service model and transaction information management system.

Blockchain, as a new application technology of "Internet +"'s new format, has the characteristics of weak centralization, has no trust, is not easy to tamper with, can realize multi-node undifferentiated recording, and promote the interconnection of information (30). It can be widely used in electricity market transactions, energy demand responses, and other energy trading interconnection scenarios (31). The application mode of blockchain is divided into a public chain, alliance chain, and private chain. Ref. [5] proposed to use blockchain technology to realize the transparency and trust of public charging pile billing. Ref. [6] proposed an Ethereum-based electric vehicle charging transaction mode, in which the electric vehicle user selects the charging station with the best bid. Ref. [7] proposed a charging pile sharing platform based on the lightning network, blockchain, and smart contracts. Ref. [8] proposed an electric vehicle charging transaction based on the lightning network, which solved the possible security problems in the lightning network. The above studies generally used the traditional Bitcoin or Ethereum blockchain architectures, which require tokens and public chains and are not conducive to improving transaction efficiency and reducing transaction costs. So, it is necessary to select a blockchain architecture that

is more suitable for the performance requirements of electric vehicle charging transaction businesses. The user in the alliance chain must have the participation permission of the federated authentication member, the write and read permission of the node used to block data in the federated authentication chain is limited by the federated authentication member, and its operation cost is moderate. Due to its special design, the alliance chain has also been widely concerned in various commercial organizations. Foreign scholars use weak centralized alliance chains to improve the efficiencies and security of electric vehicle transactions. In ref. [9], multiple agent nodes were set to manage the selection and transaction of user charging modes, but the implementation architecture of a specific alliance chain was not mentioned. In ref. [10], for the application scenario of a microgrid, electric vehicle users were set to trade with distributed energy operators. Ref. [11] used the alliance chain to design the charging and discharging transactions between electric vehicles and set up a local aggregator to act as a service node, without involving the situation of user transactions in different aggregators.

The current research on charging transaction models does not take into account that the charging company is composed of multiple charging operators and public power supply enterprises, and the charging information and transaction mode are not uniform. In view of this, this paper proposes an electric vehicle trading model based on the alliance chain to realize the interconnection of charging services. An intelligent contract with the functions of settlement, evaluation, and query is designed to realize the autonomous management of charging transactions. An experimental environment is built on the Hyperledger Fabric platform to verify that the model provides users with more convenient charging services.

2. Alliance Blockchain and Electric Vehicle Charging Transactions

2.1. Demand Analysis of Electric Vehicle Charging Transaction

At present, the demand for electric vehicle trading services is mainly reflected in the following aspects: information security of transactions, protecting the privacy of charging vehicle users, protecting the important assets and business secrets of charging operators and public power supply enterprises from being disclosed, and preventing the forgery and tampering of transaction data. In the aspect of transaction execution and settlement, the transparency and reliability of electric vehicle charging transaction settlements are improved to ensure real-time transaction data.

2.2. Significance of the Application of Alliance Chain in Charging Transaction

Blockchain is essentially a list of data blocks, enabling transaction data to be stored in a distributed system in a trusted, traceable, and tamper-proof manner. In blockchain technology, the alliance chain is more suitable for a charging service scenario [12,13] with more transaction nodes and higher transaction quantities and frequencies. It adapts to the development trend in charging transaction intellectualization by integrating a P2P protocol, asymmetric encryption, a consensus mechanism, a blockchain structure, and other technologies.

The introduction of an electric vehicle charging transaction model based on the alliance chain is of great significance to the overall system of the power industry, charging operators and electric vehicle users. For the power industry, the power grid can obtain data related to electric vehicle charging through the trading model, which is conducive to eliminating information asymmetry in the power system and the electric vehicle charging trading market.

For charging operators, at present, they can only provide charging services to their corporate users, and there are cases where charging equipment is idle or does not meet the demand. The transaction model enables the interconnection of services of various charging operators and improves the utilization rate of charging facilities. For electric vehicle users, its significance is mainly reflected in the enrichment of users' charging channels. In addition to charging at the charging station of the registered charging operator, it can also be charged

at the charging stations of other operators at an acceptable price, improving the convenience of charging services.

3. Electric Vehicle Charging Transaction Model and Smart Contract Design

3.1. Electric Vehicle Charging Transaction Model

An electric vehicle charging transaction architecture can be divided into an application layer, intelligent contract layer, consensus layer, network layer, and data layer [14]. The data layer stores transaction data in LeveldB or CouchdB with the data structure of the Merkle bucket tree and blockchain table. The network layer selects the HTTP/2-based P2P protocol as the network transport protocol, allowing nodes to listen to verify that the new block or new transaction of the broadcast is valid. The consensus layer uses a practical Byzantine fault-tolerant algorithm. The smart contract layer encapsulates the smart contract for electric vehicle charging transactions written in the Go language. The application layer supports electric vehicle charging applications with the functions of querying charging stations and transferring transactions.

Figure 1 shows the network structure of the electric vehicle charging transaction model. The participants include the application program, the charging station node of the charging operator and the public power supply company, the sorting service node, and the supervision department of the charging transaction market.



Figure 1. Network structure of electric vehicle charging transaction model.

Each charging operator or utility acts as an organization in the transaction network structure, and each organization has multiple charging station nodes. All nodes are accounting nodes and are responsible for verifying that the transaction is valid and writing the transaction to the ledger. On this basis, it can also play the roles of a host node, anchor node, and endorsement node. The master node is a node responsible for communicating with the sequencing service node, and the sequencing service node receives a transaction containing an endorsement signature, sequences the unpackaged transaction, generates a block, and broadcasts the block to the accounting node. An anchor node is a node that can communicate with nodes of other organizations. By running its installed smart contract, the endorsement node can sign and endorse the charging transaction proposal proposed by the client and feed back the results. The transaction model calculates the endorsement experience value *M* according to the number of endorsements of nodes and refers to this index in service evaluation so that it can encourage each charging station node to act as

an endorsement node and maintain the stable operation of the blockchain platform. The endorsement empirical value *M* is calculated as

$$M = \beta \frac{l_{cs,n}}{L_n} \tag{1}$$

Here, $l_{cs,n}$ is the number of book updates by which charging station node acted as endorsement node at the time of this transaction. L_n is the total number of book updates. β is the weight of endorsement experience. In this paper, considering the practical application of electric vehicles at the present stage, beta is taken as 0.5.

All charging station nodes implement public key infrastructure (PKI) services through the digital certificate authentication center module of the Federation chain and set a membership service provider (MSP) component. The control structure relationship between the participants is abstracted, and the identity authentication and authority control are carried out. The authentication center is mainly responsible for providing digital certificates to the charging station node, including a public key, a private key, and a certificate revocation list. The administrator of the MSP component is the supervision department of the electric vehicle charging trading market, and the roles of organization, channel, and node are configured in the MSP of the trading model. After the MSP directory is set for each node, the node has a signature certificate. When transmitting and writing data in the channel node, it is necessary to verify the signature of the node, the path of the certificate, and whether it is in the certificate revocation list.

Data exchange is realized by establishing a transaction channel, which is a virtual channel for atomic broadcasting. The design of the transaction channel makes the nodes outside the channel unable to access the data in the channel, providing safe and efficient data exchange. The channel is managed by the supervision department of the electric vehicle charging trading market and connects the charging station nodes and sorting service nodes of multiple companies. Users registered with any charging operator or public power supply enterprise can have the account authentication of the trading platform and deposit their wallet address, account balance, current credibility, certificate, and public/private key pair. Users can access all endorsement nodes in the channel through the application program and select charging services provided by multiple charging operators and public power supply enterprises.

The energy function is used to define the probability distribution of the explicit and implicit layers.

When a new charging operator joins the network, the corresponding endorsement node of the operator will be added to the channel; the geographical location of the charging station, the type and quantity of charging piles, and other parameters will be uploaded to the database; and the nodes of other operators and public power supply enterprises will update the data synchronously.

3.2. Operation Process of Electric Vehicle Charging Transaction Model

The operation process of the EV charging transaction mode is based on the practical Byzantine fault-tolerant (practical Byzantine fault tolerance, PBFT) algorithm [15]. PBFT is a state machine replica replication algorithm. In short, PBFT is a data filtering algorithm that reflects the majority rule. The state machine performs replica replication at different nodes. Figure 2 is its timing diagram. The client sends a request to the master node to invoke the service operation. After receiving the request information, the master node enters the pre-preparation phase to broadcast to other nodes. After receiving the broadcast, other nodes simulate the transaction and generate the transaction result, generate the hash value of the new block according to the result information, and enter the preparation stage to broadcast an authentication message to the network when a node receives 2F identical copies of information can be submitted to the local blockchain and database. The PBFT algorithm



can effectively reduce the influence of EV users' misoperations on charging stations' credit evaluations.

Figure 2. Sequence diagram of PBFT consensus algorithm.

The operation process of the electric vehicle charging transaction mode is shown in Figure 3, including transaction initiation, contract execution, and transaction verification of the transaction subject under the consensus mechanism. Firstly, the electric vehicle user selects the charging station to charge according to the service score and uses the charging client to send the operation of calling the charging service to the endorsement node in the channel. After receiving the request message, the endorsement node verifies the identity of the client, simulates the transaction by executing the smart contract, and evaluates the charging service. The endorsement node outputs the smart contract result, which is a set of key values read or written in the smart contract. The response to the transaction request with an endorsed signature will be sent back to the client. The client broadcasts it to the sequencing service node. The sequencing service node transmits the ordered transactions as a block to all nodes on this channel. Each node verifies whether the execution result can be written into the ledger state database and notifies the client.



Figure 3. Operation process of electric vehicle charging transaction model.

4. Intelligent Contract of Electric Vehicle Charging Trading Model

A smart contract is a program that runs on a blockchain data ledger and is automatically executed by a computer. The main functions of the intelligent contract for electric vehicle charging transaction include the settlement of charging fees for electric vehicles, the evaluation of charging services and user credibility, and the inquiry of transaction orders by users, charging operators, and public power supply enterprises. For each electric vehicle transaction settlement completed by the vehicle owner, the credibility R_v of the vehicle owner is evaluated according to the transaction behavior of the vehicle owner, and the formula is as follows:

$$R_v = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=0}^{J} C_{vj}$$
 (2)

Here, C_{vj} is the credit award that the EV account v obtains or deducts after the *j*th charging transaction is completed, and its value satisfies the collection $C_{vj} \in \{-1, +1\}$. When the user completes the correct payment of the previous charging service, they can receive a credit award, and, vice versa, a credit score is deducted. If the reputation is below the minimum threshold set by the system, i.e., $R_v < R_{v,\min}$, the user will not be able to use the charging service normally. In this paper, the initial and threshold values of reputation are 0.

The transaction model recommends charging stations with high evaluations of nearby charging services for charging transactions to users with normal reputations. The charging service evaluation R_{cs} of the charging station node is updated with the increase in transaction number n. Formula (3) is based on the literature [16] evaluation mechanism, the charging service evaluation of the charging station is calculated according to the rating given by users with different reputation and endorsed experience value of the charging station node. The formula is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} R_{cs,n} = R_{cs,n-1} + \frac{1}{\alpha} (1+M) \Phi(R_{cs,n-1}) R_v(W_n - E_n) \\ \Phi(R_{cs,n-1}) = 1 - \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{\sigma}} \\ E_n = \frac{R_{cs,n-1}}{D} \end{cases}$$
(3)

Here, $R_{cs,n-1}$ represents the n-1st transaction service evaluation of the charging station node. α determines the speed of service evaluation change after each transaction score. By adjusting the value of α , the charging station node with low evaluation will not always be affected by the past bad evaluation after its service capability is improved. M is the endorsement empirical value calculated by Formula (1). W_n is the rating given by the user with a reputation of R_v and satisfies $W_n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. E_n is the expected score to be obtained by the charging station node. D is highest level of service evaluation. $\Phi(R_{cs,n-1})$ is a damping function that makes the change in the charging service evaluation value tend to be gentle. σ is the acceleration factor in the damping function.

When calculating the evaluation of charging service, the creditworthiness of EV users and endorsements of charging station nodes are taken into account to make the evaluation more reasonable and play a role in stimulating charging station nodes to improve the level of charging service, contributing computing power, and maintaining the stable and efficient operation of trading platform. The intelligent contract pseudocode for completing credit rating and charging service evaluation calculations uses intelligent contracts to achieve charging fee payments for electric vehicle users, setting up a charging station to provide charging services for electric vehicles; electric vehicle users need to pay charging operators and utility power supply company fees, and the formula is:

$$F_{\text{charging}(v)} = f_{\text{charging}(v)}(E_e - E_s)$$
(4)

$$F_{\text{service}(v)} = f_{\text{service}(v)}(E_e - E_s)$$
(5)

Here, E_s is the initial electric quantity of the electric vehicle. E_e is the amount of electricity after charging. $f_{\text{charging}(v)}$ is the unit price of electricity. $f_{\text{service}(v)}$ is the unit price of service charge. The total cost of charging an electric vehicle F_v is:

$$F_v = F_{\text{charging}(v)} + F_{\text{service}(v)} = f_{\text{charging}(v)} P_v t + f_{\text{service}(v)} P_v t$$
(6)

Here, P_v is the charging power. *t* is the charging time.

The specific steps of the transaction fee settlement function are as follows. First, the payment function receives parameters, including a charging amount, an electric vehicle ID (EVID), a charging station ID (CSID), and a time period ID (PriceID), to which the electricity price belongs. The function then applies the API that queries the ledger to receive the account balance and the unit price of electricity corresponding to the PriceID. The calculation of the charging transaction amount payment is completed according to the Formula (6), and the corresponding amount in the electric vehicle account is transferred to the charging station account amount. If the balance of the electric vehicle's account after transfer is lower than the threshold value, the bonus points are deducted; otherwise, the bonus points are increased. Finally, the transaction is written in the ledger. See Algorithms 1 and 2 for the smart contract pseudocode that completes the transaction fee settlement function.

Algorithm 1 Calculate reputation function

Input: W_n , R_v , $\Phi(R_{cs,n-1})$ **Output:** Query results, include time, payment, PriceID, CSID, EVOrgID, CSOrgID. **Initialize:** J = 0

- 1: **Step 1**: calculate the reputation of CS
- 2: Step 2: calculate the reputation of EV user
- 3: Update J, R_v
- 4: For $R_v < R_{v,\min}$ do
- 5: Use Algorithm 2 to complete transaction

Return R_{cs} , R_v

Algorithm 2 Chaincode payment function Input: transaction information including EVID, CSID, PriceID Output: new EVaccount, new CSaccount. Initialize: payment = 0

- 1: **Step 1**: query their accounts in database
- **2: Step 2:** calculate the payment of charging
- **3:** EVaccount = Vaccount-payment
- 4: CSaccount = Saccount + payment
- 5: **Step 3:** write the state back to ledger
- **6:** Putstate (EVID, EVaccount)
- 7: Putstate (CSID, CSaccount)
- Return EVaccount, CSaccount

Electric vehicle users and administrators of charging operators can query the data of charging bills through smart contracts. Take the function of bill inquiry as an example. The electric vehicle number EVID is first received from the client's Java SDK. Then, the query string is constructed according to the EVID, and the query string proposal is sent to the ledger, and the query result is obtained. The query results include transaction time, charging cost, unit electricity price, charging station number, user organization number, and charging station organization number. Finally, all the query results are aggregated and returned. Different from other functions that need to be written into the ledger, such as calling the function of querying the transaction ledger when the node runs the smart contract to access the status data, it does not need consensus to directly output the running results to the client.

5. Simulation and Analysis

5.1. Experimental Environment

To verify the validity of the model designed in this section, we tested a host configuration that comprised Windows 10 and an Intel(R) Core i7 CPU@3.7 GHz in a virtual machine environment with 16 GB RAM. VMware was selected for the virtual machine software, which was configured with an 8-core CPU, 13.5 G memory, and a 40 GB hard disk. We published the intelligent contract of electric vehicle charging transaction to Hyperledger Fabric platform, simulated the charging transaction scenario within the outer loop of Tianjin, and performed network building and simulation tests. This scenario included three charging operators and one public power supply enterprise. In this paper, the number of charging stations built by four companies based on mobile phone client data is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of charging stations and the corresponding peer.

Charging Operator/Public Power Supply Enterprise	Number of Charging Stations	Number of Network Nodes
TELD	52	5
Star Charge	29	3
PTNE	16	2
Smart Grid	46	5

According to Table 1, the charging station nodes of each charging operator and public power supply enterprise are set up in the electric vehicle charging transaction network according to the construction scale of the charging station of each operating company. The numbers of charging station nodes were 5, 3, 2, and 5. The network topology is shown in Figure 4. Nodes 1–15 represent accounting nodes that assumed the role of endorsement nodes, with nodes 1, 6, 9, and 14 also assuming the role of master nodes that communicated with the ordering service nodes and anchoring nodes that interconnected organizations.



Figure 4. Network topology for charging transaction.

Figure 5 shows a flow of charging by a specific user using a transaction model. Each charging station node updates the service evaluation by running the intelligent contract and calculates whether the credibility of the user applying for charging is higher than a threshold value. If the user has a good reputation, the charging station node can be selected according to the service evaluation, and the selected charging station node can belong to any organization.

The endorsement node simulates the transaction to generate an endorsement signature and feeds back to the client whether the charging pile of the charging station is idle or whether the payment transaction of the charging station is successful. If the transaction is a payment transaction, it is broadcast through the ranking service provided by the ranking node. The ordering node provides the payment transaction to the accounting node, and all



charging stations in the channel verify the signature and read the received packet to submit to the ledger.

Figure 5. Flow chart of electric vehicle charging transaction model.

5.2. Test Results and Analysis

Taking Qichen Chenfeng electric vehicles as an example, this paper assumes that the user selects a different company's charging stations within 1 km of a subway station in the center of Tianjin. The charging time [17,18] is calculated by the battery charging duration, and the electric vehicle charging parameters of reference [19] are used. The account balance changes after the smart contract is executed are shown in Table 2. It can be seen from Table 2 that the charging costs of users at charging stations belonging to different charging operators or public power supply companies are similar, especially during peak charging hours, and there are few idle charging piles. Using the transaction model in this paper, the user's cost is almost unchanged while greatly improving the quality of charging service and the utilization rate of charging facilities.

We set the initial charging service evaluation to 0. Figures 6 and 7 show the service evaluation iterations of a charging station node with different charging service levels and transaction calculation participations, and the evaluation becomes stable after the node participates in about 200 transactions. As shown in Figure 6, when the endorsement experience value M is 0.1, the service evaluation of the charging station node increases with the increase in the user service score, which is the highest when the average user score is 4, and it follows the normal distribution N (4,0.6). The second where the average user

score is three, it obeys N (3,0.6); the lowest, when the average user score is two, obeys N (2,0.6). The user's rating is related to the quality of the real-time charging service at the charging station. If charging equipment is old or the user waits too long, the user will give a lower rating. This encourages each charging station node to improve service quality, whereas attracting users to participate in the transaction model. Figure 7 gives the service evaluation iterations of charging station nodes with endorsement experience values M of 0.1, 0.5, and 0.9 and the normal distribution N (3,0.6) for user service rating. Nodes with higher endorsement experiences can obtain higher service evaluations, which motivate each charging station node to act as endorsement node, thus maintaining the efficient operation of the trading platform.

Table 2.	Smart	contract	trading	parameters.
----------	-------	----------	---------	-------------

Charging Operator	Electricity Charges (Yuan/kw·h)	Service Charge (Yuan/kw∙h)	Account Balance (Yuan/kw·h)
TELD	1.41	0.60	-53.06
Star Charge	1.20	0.50	-44.88
PTNE	1.20	1.00	-58.08
Smart Grid	1.00	0.68	-44.35



Figure 6. Evaluation score of service with different users.



Figure 7. Evaluation score of service with different experience.

The evaluation after setting up the first 200 transactions of the charging station node is two points, and Figure 8 shows the change in service evaluation after the node's service capability is improved. After the improvement of service capability, there are three comparison scenarios, in which user ratings are set to the normal distribution N (4,0.6). Scenario 1 uses Formula (3) as the reputation evaluation formula, and the reputation values of EV users are evenly distributed on [1,4]; Scenario 2 uses Formula (3) as the reputation evaluation formula, and the reputation values of EV users are evenly distributed on [1,2]; Scenario 3 chooses the reputation evaluation method of other blockchain transaction models, and the reputation values of EV users are evenly distributed on [0, 2]. From Figure 8, we can see that Scenario 3's service evaluation rises slowly and is susceptible to the impact of previous bad transaction scores. Scenarios 1 and 2 reduce the impact of previous bad transaction scores by adjusting the control parameters. Scenario 1 also has more high-reputation ratings of electric vehicle users than Scenario 2, so service evaluation rises faster. Therefore, the credit evaluation calculation method in this paper is more suitable for charging trading scenarios and can flexibly adjust the changing speed of service evaluation so that the evaluation will not always be affected by past evaluations. The charging reputation of EV users is also considered. Users with low reputations have little influence on the evaluation's results, which reduces malicious evaluations and can motivate users to improve their reputations and participate in the transaction model. On the other hand, a large number of low-score charging evaluations will affect the overall score of the charging station.



Figure 8. Evaluation score of service with different charging station nodes.

Using Hyperledger Caliper, the performance benchmark tool for the Hyperledger project, we tested the throughput and latency of the settlement, evaluation, and query transaction functions of the network set up in Figure 5, when the total number of transactions is 1000. As shown in Figures 9 and 10, the horizontal coordinate is the transaction request speed, the number of requests per second at the front end. The simulation results show:

- (1) With the increase in request rate, the time delay of invoking the charging transaction function and querying the transaction record function increases gradually. Settlement and evaluation functions take longer than query functions and grow faster because they require consensus algorithms to write to blocks. The key to reducing latency is to reduce blockchain transactions and consensus processing times, which can be improved by merging more transactions into one blockchain transaction.
- (1) Figure 10 shows that the throughput of the query function increases as the request rate increases. Properly increasing the request speed can increase the throughput of the blockchain before the transaction speed of the blockchain reaches its peak. However, as the settling and evaluation functions show, the throughput of the blockchain will stabilize as the consensus processing speed reaches its peak.



Figure 9. Delay of trading functions.



Figure 10. Throughput of trading functions.

Experiments show that the electric vehicle transaction network built in this paper can achieve the performance of hundreds of transactions per second, and the performance can be improved by improving the processing speed of server nodes. Therefore, through the interconnection of charging services of multiple charging operators and public power supply enterprises, the autonomous management of charging transactions and the security of information can be effectively realized.

6. Conclusions

In this paper, we propose a transaction model based on the alliance blockchain, according to the demand of electric vehicle charging transaction, which avoids the use of tokens, improves the transaction performance, and solves the interconnection problem of charging facilities between different charging operators and public power supply enterprises by establishing inter-organizational channels. Through blockchain technology, the whole network can trade independently and solve the industry pain points of different payment methods and scarce charging piles under the inconsistent application scenarios of charging operation companies. The intelligent contract of charging transaction running on the channel is designed to ensure the automatic and strict execution of transaction rules, improve the transparency of charging transaction information and the timeliness and fairness of charging settlements, and encourage each charging station node to maintain the efficient operation of the trading platform by calculating the charging service evaluation. It should be pointed out that the profit game between charging operators, charging guidance optimizations, system maintenance, and other issues still need to be further studied and discussed, although this paper designed a charging transaction model based on the alliance blockchain.

Author Contributions: Investigation, J.H., X.C. and Z.L.; other work, D.C. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by Beijing Electric Power Co., Ltd., grant number 2019YX0802001.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Acknowledgments: Thanks for the technical support provided by the State Grid Beijing Electric Power Company.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; or in the decision to publish the results.

References

- 1. Ye, Z.; Gao, Y.; Yu, N. Learning to Operate an Electric Vehicle Charging Station Considering Vehicle-Grid Integration. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* **2022**, *13*, 3038–3048. [CrossRef]
- Schwenk, K.; Meisenbacher, S.; Briegel, B.; Harr, T.; Hagenmeyer, V.; Mikut, R. Integrating Battery Aging in the Optimization for Bidirectional Charging of Electric Vehicles. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* 2021, *12*, 5135–5145. [CrossRef]
- 3. Wang, B.; Dehghanian, P.; Wang, S.; Mitolo, M. Electrical Safety Considerations in Large-Scale Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. *IEEE Trans. Ind. Appl.* **2019**, *55*, 6603–6612. [CrossRef]
- 4. Jeong, S.; Jang, Y.J.; Kum, D.; Lee, M.S. Charging Automation for Electric Vehicles: Is a Smaller Battery Good for the Wireless Charging Electric Vehicles? *IEEE Trans. Autom. Sci. Eng.* **2019**, *16*, 486–497. [CrossRef]
- Chaudhari, K.; Kandasamy, N.K.; Krishnan, A.; Ukil, A.; Gooi, H.B. Agent-Based Aggregated Behavior Modeling for Electric Vehicle Charging Load. *IEEE Trans. Ind. Inform.* 2019, 15, 856–868. [CrossRef]
- Jeong, S.; Jang, Y.J.; Kum, D. Economic Analysis of the Dynamic Charging Electric Vehicle. *IEEE Trans. Power Electron.* 2015, 30, 6368–6377. [CrossRef]
- Etezadi-Amoli, M.; Choma, K.; Stefani, J. Rapid-Charge Electric-Vehicle Stations. *IEEE Trans. Power Deliv.* 2010, 25, 1883–1887. [CrossRef]
- Li, Z.; Guo, Q.; Sun, H.; Xin, S.; Wang, J. A New Real-Time Smart-Charging Method Considering Expected Electric Vehicle Fleet Connections. *IEEE Trans. Power Syst.* 2014, 29, 3114–3115. [CrossRef]
- Lu, F.; Zhang, H.; Hofmann, H.; Mi, C. A Double-Sided LCLC-Compensated Capacitive Power Transfer System for Electric Vehicle Charging. *IEEE Trans. Power Electron.* 2015, *30*, 6011–6014. [CrossRef]
- 10. Tan, J.; Wang, L. Real-Time Charging Navigation of Electric Vehicles to Fast Charging Stations: A Hierarchical Game Approach. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* **2017**, *8*, 846–856. [CrossRef]
- 11. Jin, Y.; Xu, J.; Wu, S.; Xu, L.; Yang, D. Enabling the Wireless Charging via Bus Network: Route Scheduling for Electric Vehicles. *IEEE Trans. Intell. Transp. Syst.* 2021, 22, 1827–1839. [CrossRef]
- Vu, V.-B.; Tran, D.-H.; Choi, W. Implementation of the Constant Current and Constant Voltage Charge of Inductive Power Transfer Systems With the Double-Sided LCC Compensation Topology for Electric Vehicle Battery Charge Applications. *IEEE Trans. Power Electron.* 2018, 33, 7398–7410. [CrossRef]
- 13. Turker, H.; Bacha, S. Optimal Minimization of Plug-In Electric Vehicle Charging Cost With Vehicle-to-Home and Vehicle-to-Grid Concepts. *IEEE Trans. Veh. Technol.* 2018, 67, 10281–10292. [CrossRef]
- 14. Dost, P.K.-H.; Spichartz, P.; Sourkounis, C. Charging Behavior of Users Utilizing Battery Electric Vehicles and Extended Range Electric Vehicles Within the Scope of a Field Test. *IEEE Trans. Ind. Appl.* **2018**, *54*, 580–590. [CrossRef]
- 15. Hayes, J.G.; Egan, M.G.; Murphy, J.M.D.; Schulz, S.E.; Hall, J.T. Wide-load-range resonant converter supplying the SAE J-1773 electric vehicle inductive charging interface. *IEEE Trans. Ind. Appl.* **1999**, *35*, 884–895. [CrossRef]
- 16. Sohet, B.; Hayel, Y.; Beaude, O.; Jeandin, A. Hierarchical Coupled Driving-and-Charging Model of Electric Vehicles, Stations and Grid Operators. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* **2021**, *12*, 5146–5157. [CrossRef]
- 17. Mohsenian-Rad, H.; Ghamkhari, M. Optimal Charging of Electric Vehicles with Uncertain Departure Times: A Closed-Form Solution. *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid* 2015, *6*, 940–942. [CrossRef]

- Rezaee, S.; Farjah, E.; Khorramdel, B. Probabilistic Analysis of Plug-In Electric Vehicles Impact on Electrical Grid Through Homes and Parking Lots. *IEEE Trans. Sustain. Energy* 2013, *4*, 1024–1033. [CrossRef]
- 19. Koufakis, A.-M.; Rigas, E.S.; Bassiliades, N.; Ramchurn, S.D. Offline and Online Electric Vehicle Charging Scheduling With V2V Energy Transfer. *IEEE Trans. Intell. Transp. Syst.* 2020, *21*, 2128–2138. [CrossRef]

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.