A Cross-Border Payments, Exchange and Contracting Platform

Adrian, Grinberg, Mancini-Griffoli, Townsend, Zhang Monetary and Capital Markets Department, IMF and MIT

18th Annual NBP-SNB Joint Seminar — November 2022



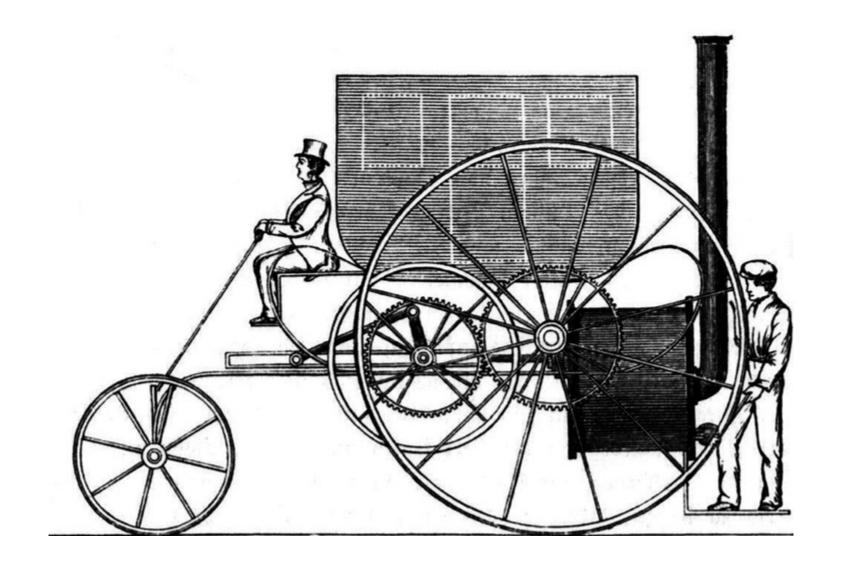
Innovations

— the engine —

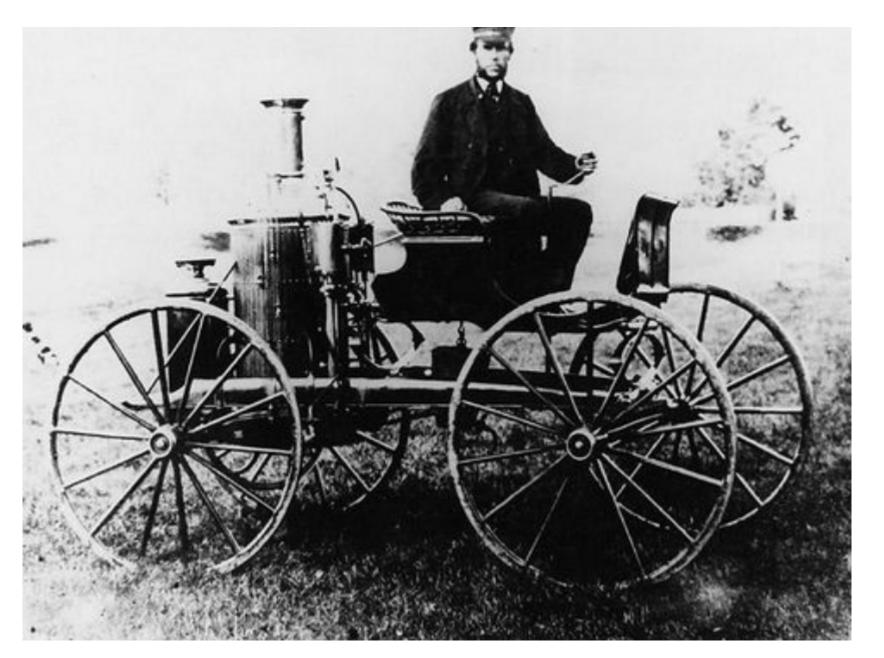














Useless

Awkward

Dangerous!

Cars

Roads

Rules





Useless

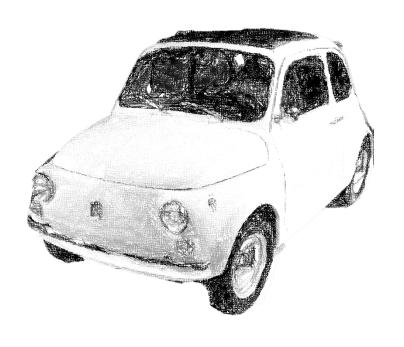
Awkward

Dangerous!

Cars

Roads

Rules





Can we build infrastructure that leverages new technology, and guides the adoption of technology for public policy goals?









Cryptography

Programmability



Unbacked crypto

Cryptography

Stablecoins

Defi

Programmability

Other...



Unbacked crypto

Cryptography

Stablecoins

Defi

Programmability

Other...

Useless

Awkward

Dangerous!



Unbacked crypto

Unstable value

Cryptography

Stablecoins

Runnable

Programmability

Defi

Pseudonymous

Other..

No clear issuer



Consumer, invest--or protection

Financial stability

Financial integrity

Macro & other...



Prudential, conduct, payment, disclosure, governance, financial & market integrity

Consistent across risks and activities

Comprehensive across all entities

Coordinated across countries

Prudential requirements on banks

Unstable value

Runnable

Pseudonymous

No clear issue

Consumer, invest--or protection

Financial stability

Financial integrity

Macro & other...



Interoperability

Safety

Efficiency



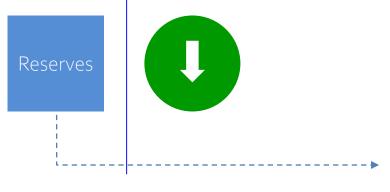
We know how to deal with these problems...

... in domestic payment systems

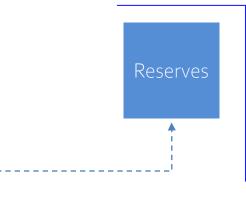




BOB



Central Bank





Settlement asset
Infrastructure
Rules & governance



Interoperability

Safety

Efficiency



Can we do the same for cross-border payments?



ALICE...

wants to pay...

BOB





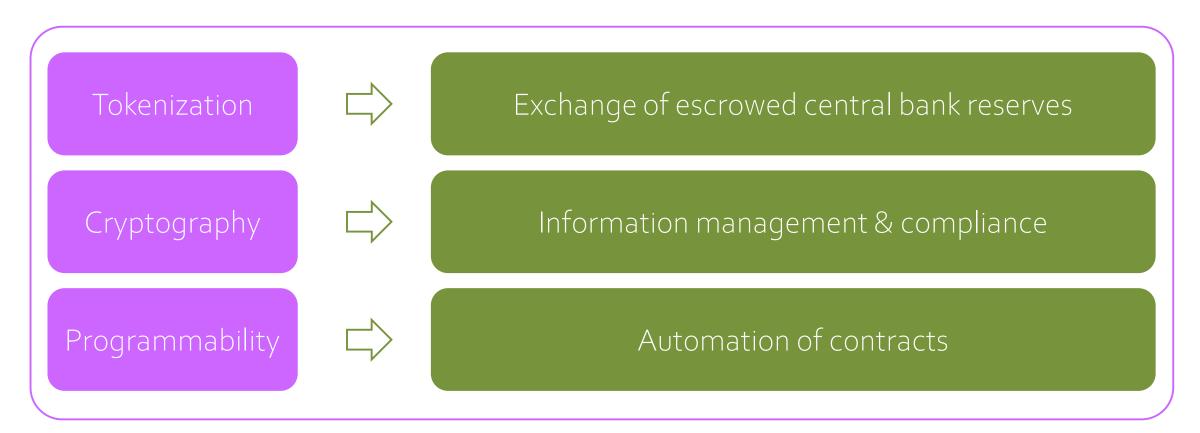


Risks and costs favor few large players...
... underly today's limitations



Cross-border payments, exchange, and contracting platform (X-C platform)

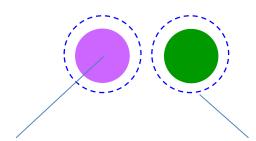




Governance & rules (by central banks)



X-C Platform — Feature 1: Single ledger tokenization



National money

CB reserves

Escrowed on platform

Public good

A token representation of escrowed money

On single ledger

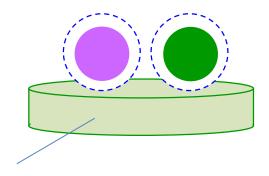
Not necessarily DLT

Advantages

- Safety & funding liquidity
- Enlarged access to CB money...
- ... while retaining oversight
- Known settlement assets
- Interoperability among multi currencies...
- ... and with legacy systems



X-C Platform — Feature 2: Contracting



New public good

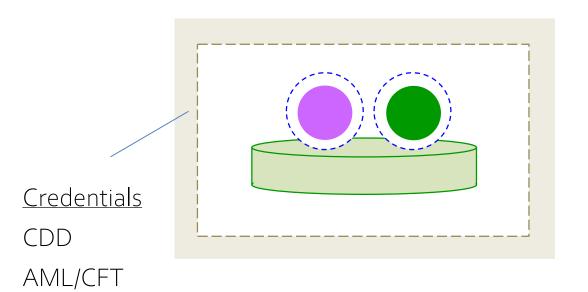
Common programming interface/ language

Advantages

- Spot: payment-vs-payment
- Future: pledge-vs-pledge
- Interoperability/ consistency of contracts
- Liquidity savings
- Automatic execution (commitment)
- No need for "trusted third party/ auctioneer"
- Lower counterparty risk/ trade fails
- Extensions by private sector



X-C Platform – Feature 3: Encryption



CFMs

Advantages

- Data nationally controlled
- Straight-through tagging of credentials
- Privacy preserving
- Truthful bidding...
- ... and no aversion to revealing, incentive to mislead, fear of being exploited
- Aggregate transparency (eg order book)
- Efficiency: size & access to info matters less



X-C Platform – Ecosystem

Financial firms

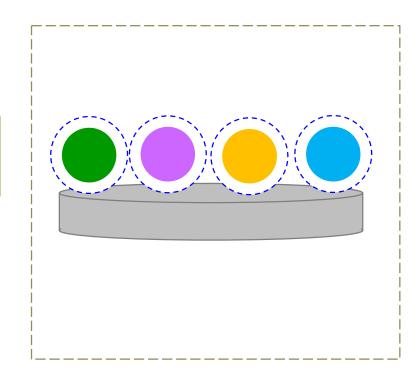
Link end-user

Banks

Provide liquidity, FX Innovate (program)

Credential providers

Do KYC, AML/CFT Check (off platform) CFMs



Same in country B

Same in country C

Same in country D



Possible X-C applications

Hedging, risk sharing, insurance

FX auctions

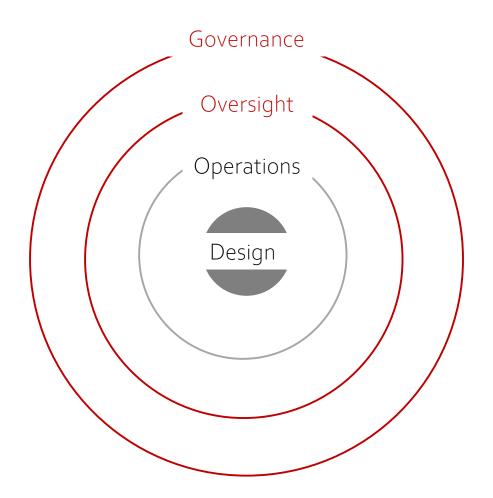
Extendibility by private sector

Monitoring and oversight

CB swaps & backstops

Automatic CFMs





Design

From vision to testing

Operations

Public sector provided or private sector under license

Governance & oversight

Who? Global body

What? Participation, legal treatment, recourse, data...

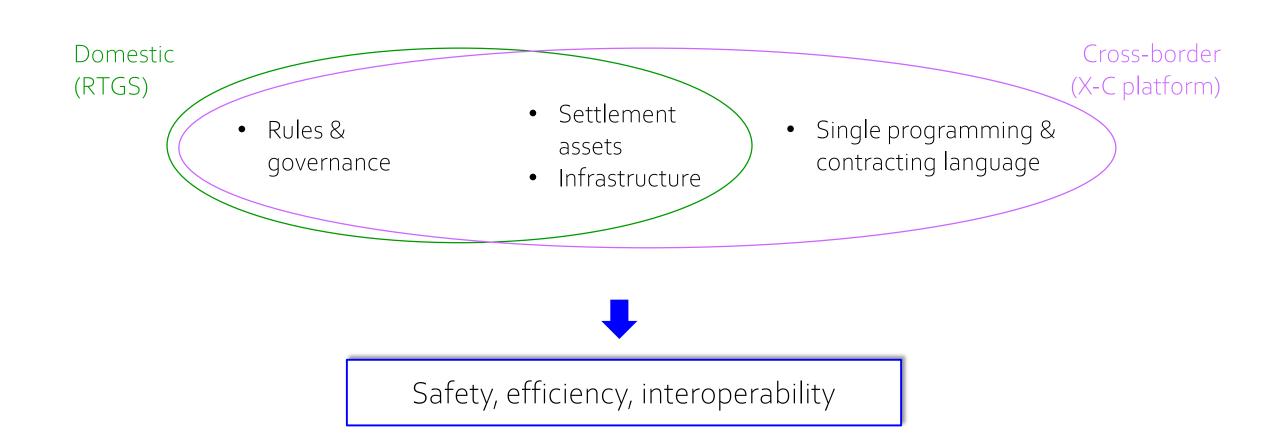
How? Rules vs. discretion



One more step...



Extension of public goods



Tokenization of money

Tokenization of assets

Automation

Congestion & externalities

Finality?

Closed networks



At risk: Efficiency, safety, interoperability



Domestic (RTGS)

• Rules & governance

• Settlement assets

• Infrastructure

Cross-border (X-C platform)

• Single programming & contracting language



CBDC as a platform

To tokenize, pay, exchange, and program... on which the central bank can also issue

Rules & governance

- Settlement assets
- Infrastructure
- Single programming & contracting language



Safety, efficiency, interoperability of money & asset tokenization and automation



A CBDC platform stack

Smart contracts & innovation

API or other access

Compliance, access, tokenization rules

Common programming language

Safe settlement asset (r or w)

Unique shared ledger



What will the cars of tomorrow look like?

Much depends on the roads deployed





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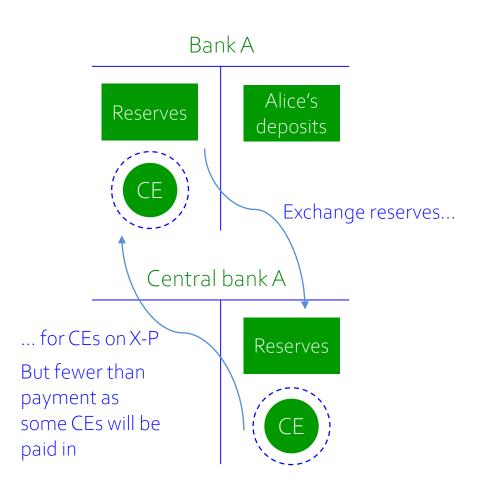
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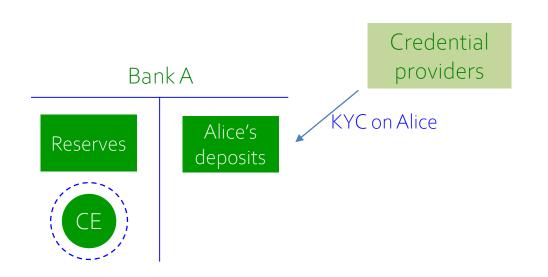
Appendix

An example

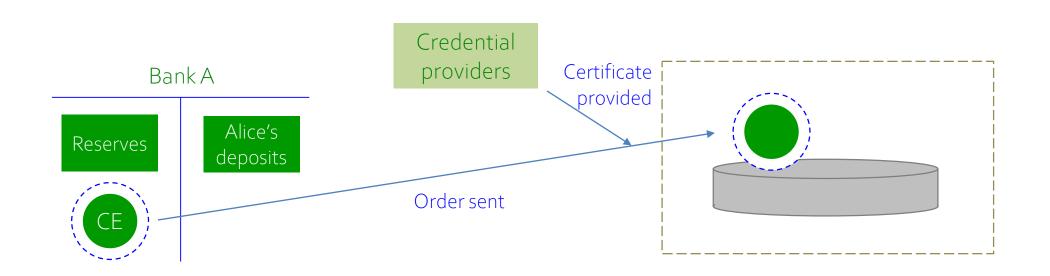




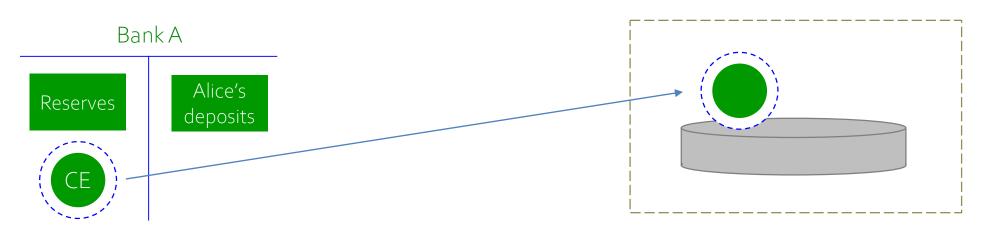












Automated FX auction (green for purple)

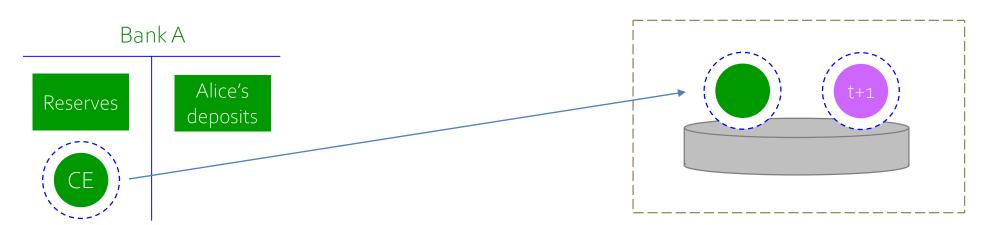
... open to all participants

... send (privacy preserving) bids

... can hedge, manage risks

... might even benefit from backstops (CB can participate)

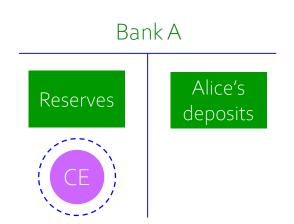


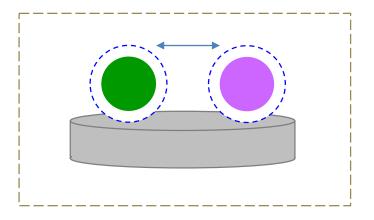


Automated FX auction (green for purple)

- ... open to all participants
- ... send (privacy preserving) bids
- ... can hedge, manage risks
- ... might even benefit from backstops (CB can participate)
- ... can bid future receivables (consistent contracts)







On-platform CFMs checked

Green for purple CEs exchanged atomically



