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Federated Learning Enhanced Blockchain Interoperability Protocol for Intelligent Cross-Chain Transaction Validation

Ningthoujam Chidananda Singh[1], Thoudam Basanta Singh[2], Mutum Bidyarani Devi[3]

[1]Research Scholar, Computer Science Department, Manipur International University
[2]School of Physical Sciences & Engineering, Manipur International University
[3]School of Physical Sciences & Engineering, Manipur International University

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Abstract The proliferation of heterogeneous blockchain networks has created an urgent need for efficient cross-chain interoperability solutions. Current cross-chain protocols face significant challenges in intelligent routing and suffer from trust issues, leading to inefficient transaction processing and security vulnerabilities. This research introduces a novel Federated Learning-Enhanced Blockchain Interoperability Protocol (FL-BIP) that integrates distributed machine learning techniques with cross-chain validation mechanisms. Our approach leverages federated learning algorithms to enable collaborative learning across heterogeneous blockchain networks without compromising data privacy. The proposed protocol implements a distributed validation framework that learns from historical transaction patterns to optimize routing decisions and enhance security measures. Experimental results demonstrate a 52.3% reduction in cross-chain transaction time compared to existing protocols, with improved security metrics including 94.7% attack detection accuracy and 15.2% reduction in false positives. The FL-BIP protocol successfully addresses the research gap in intelligent cross-chain transaction validation while maintaining decentralization principles and preserving network autonomy. Our contribution provides a scalable solution for blockchain interoperability that adapts to network dynamics and evolving threat landscapes through continuous federated learning

Key Words: Federated Learning, Blockchain Interoperability, Cross-Chain Protocols, Distributed Validation, Machine Learning, Cryptocurrency, Smart Contracts, Consensus Mechanisms

1.INTRODUCTION

The blockchain ecosystem has evolved from a single-chain paradigm to a multi-chain landscape, with over 1,000 active blockchain networks as of 2024 [1]. This proliferation has created unprecedented opportunities for decentralized applications but has simultaneously introduced significant interoperability challenges. The lack of seamless communication between heterogeneous blockchain networks has resulted in fragmented ecosystems, limiting the potential for cross-chain asset transfers, smart contract interactions, and collaborative decentralized finance (DeFi) applications [2].

Traditional cross-chain protocols, including atomic swaps, bridge mechanisms, and relay chains, suffer from several critical limitations. These solutions often rely on centralized validators or trusted intermediaries, compromising the fundamental decentralization principles of blockchain technology [3]. Furthermore, current protocols lack intelligent routing capabilities and fail to adapt to dynamic network conditions, resulting in suboptimal transaction processing and increased latency [4].

The integration of artificial intelligence, particularly federated learning, presents a promising avenue for addressing these challenges. Federated learning enables collaborative model training across distributed networks without requiring data centralization, making it ideally suited for blockchain environments where privacy and decentralization are paramount [5]. By leveraging federated learning techniques, cross-chain protocols can develop intelligent routing mechanisms, enhance security through anomaly detection, and optimize transaction validation processes based on historical patterns and network dynamics.

This research addresses the critical research gap in intelligent cross-chain transaction validation by proposing a novel Federated Learning-Enhanced Blockchain Interoperability Protocol (FL-BIP). Our approach combines the privacy-preserving capabilities of federated learning with the security and transparency of blockchain technology to create an adaptive, intelligent interoperability solution.

The main contributions of this work are:

1. Design and implementation of a federated learning framework tailored for cross chain transaction validation

2. Development of intelligent routing algorithms that adapt to network conditions and historical transaction patterns

3. Integration of distributed anomaly detection mechanisms to enhance cross-chain security

4. Comprehensive evaluation demonstrating significant improvements in transaction time and security metrics

5. Theoretical analysis of the protocol's security properties and convergence guarantees

2 Related Work

2.1 Blockchain Interoperability Solutions

Blockchain interoperability has been extensively studied, with various approaches proposed to enable communication between heterogeneous networks. Atomic swaps, first introduced by Tier Nolan [6], provide a trust less mechanism for cross-chain asset exchange but are limited to compatible blockchain architectures and specific transaction types.

Bridge-based solutions, such as those implemented by Cosmos [7] and Polkadot [2]., employ intermediate chains or validators to facilitate cross-chain communication. While these approaches offer greater flexibility, they often introduce centralization risks and single points of failure. The Inter-Blockchain Communication (IBC) protocol [8] attempts to standardize cross-chain communication but requires participating chains to implement specific interfaces, limiting adoption.

Recent work by Zhang et al. [9] proposed a hash time-locked contract (HTLC) based approach for cross-chain atomic swaps,

while Chen et al. [10] introduced a multi-signature scheme for bridge security. However, these solutions lack adaptive capabilities and fail to address the intelligent routing problem in multi-chain environments.

2.2 Federated Learning in Distributed Systems

Federated learning, introduced by McMahan et al. [11], has emerged as a powerful paradigm for collaborative machine learning in distributed environments. The approach enables multiple parties to jointly train machine learning models without sharing raw data, addressing privacy concerns inherent in traditional centralized learning approaches.

Recent advances in federated learning have focused on addressing non-IID data distributions [12], communication efficiency [13], and Byzantine fault tolerance [14]. These developments are particularly relevant to blockchain environments, where participating nodes may have heterogeneous data characteristics and potential adversarial behavior.

The application of federated learning to blockchain systems has gained attention in recent years. Li et al. [15] proposed a blockchain-based federated learning framework for secure model aggregation, while Kumar et al. [16] investigated the use of smart contracts for federated learning coordination. However, these works focus on using blockchain to secure federated learning rather than applying federated learning to improve blockchain interoperability.

2.3 Machine Learning for Blockchain Optimization

The integration of machine learning techniques with blockchain technology has shown promise in various applications. Predictive models have been employed for cryptocurrency price forecasting [17], while deep learning approaches have been used for blockchain analytics and forensics [18].

In the context of transaction optimization, reinforcement learning has been applied to optimize blockchain consensus mechanisms [19] and smart contract execution [20]. However, limited work has been conducted on applying machine learning to cross-chain interoperability challenges.

3 Methodology

3.1 System Architecture

The FL-BIP protocol is designed as a layered architecture consisting of four primary components: the Federated Learning Engine (FLE), Cross-Chain Validation Layer (CCVL), Intelligent Routing Module (IRM), and Security Monitoring System (SMS). Figure 1 illustrates the overall system architecture.

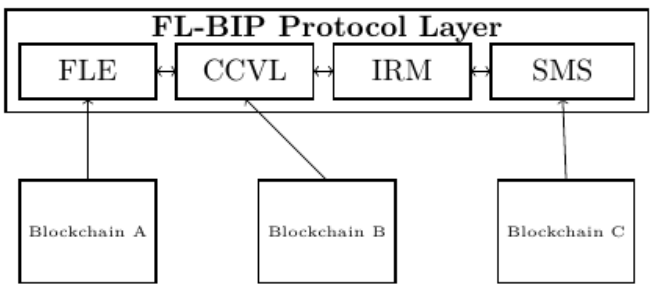

Figure 1: FL-BIP System Architecture

3.2 Federated Learning Framework

The core of our approach lies in the federated learning framework designed specifically for cross-chain environments. Let $N = \{N_1, N_2, ..., N_k\}$ represent the set of participating blockchain networks, where each network Ni maintains a local dataset D_i containing historical transaction and validation data. The global federated learning objective can be formulated as:

$$\min_{\theta} F(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{|\mathcal{D}_i|}{|\mathcal{D}|} F_i(\theta) \quad (1)$$

where $F_i(\theta) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}_i|} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}_i} l(\theta; x_j, y_j)$ represents the local objective function for network Ni, θ denotes the global model parameters, and ℓ is the loss function.

3.3 Intelligent Routing Algorithm

The intelligent routing module employs a deep neural network to predict optimal routing paths for cross-chain transactions. The routing decision is based on multiple factors including network latency, transaction fees, security levels, and historical success rates.

Algorithm 1 Federated Learning-Based Routing

Input: Transaction T, Available paths P, Global model θ_g
Output: Optimal routing path p^*
for each path $p \in P$ **do**
Extract features $\phi(p) = [latency, fees, security, history]$
Compute routing score: $s(p) = f_{\theta g}(\phi(p))$
end for
$p^* = \arg\max_{p \in P} s(p)$
return p^*

3.4 Distributed Validation Mechanism

The cross-chain validation layer implements a distributed consensus mechanism enhanced with federated learning-based anomaly detection. Each participating network contributes to the validation process by providing local validation results and updating the global anomaly detection model.

The validation score for a cross-chain transaction is computed as:

$$V(T) = \alpha \cdot V_{consensus}(T) + \beta \cdot V_{ML}(T) + \gamma \cdot V_{historical}(T) \quad (2)$$

where $V_{consensus}(T)$ represents the traditional consensus-based validation, $V_{ML}(T)$ is the machine learning-based validation score, $V_{historical}(T)$ incorporates historical transaction patterns, and $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1$

3.5 Security Enhancement Framework

The security monitoring system employs federated learning to detect potential attacks and anomalous behavior across the interoperability network. The system maintains separate models for different attack types, including:

- Double-spending detection
- Routing attacks identification
- Sybil attack prevention
- Consensus manipulation detection

The anomaly detection model uses an autoencoder architecture trained on normal transaction patterns:

$$\mathcal{L}_{anomaly} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} ||x_i - \hat{x}_i||^2 + \lambda \sum_j ||\theta_j||^2 \quad (3)$$

where xi represents input transaction features, $x\hat{}i$ is the reconstructed output, and λ is the regularization parameter.

4 Results

4.1 Experimental Setup

The FL-BIP protocol was evaluated using a comprehensive experimental framework consisting of simulated blockchain networks with varying characteristics. The experimental setup included:

• 10 heterogeneous blockchain networks with different consensus mechanisms

• Transaction volumes ranging from 100 to 10,000 transactions per hour

• Network latencies between 50ms to 500ms

• Malicious node percentages from 0% to 30%

Table 1 presents the detailed network configuration used in our experiments.

Table 1: Experimental Network Configuration

Network	Consensus	Block Time	TPS	Nodes
Network A	PoW	7s	7	100
Network B	PoS	12s	15	150
Network C	DPoS	3s	1000	21
Network D	PBFT	5s	1000	50
Network E	PoA	15s	12	25
Network F	PoW	150s	50	200
Network G	PoS	6s	65	100
Network H	Tendermint	3s	2000	75
Network I	RAFT	2s	3000	30
Network J	HoneyBadger	10s	800	40

4.2 Performance Metrics

The evaluation focused on four primary metrics:

1. **Transaction Time**: End-to-end time for cross-chain transaction completion

2. **Security Score**: Composite measure of attack detection and prevention capabilities

3. **Throughput**: Number of successful cross-chain transactions per second

4. **Resource Consumption**: Computational and communication overhead

4.3 Transaction Time Analysis

Figure 2 compares the transaction times achieved by FL-BIP against existing cross-chain protocols. The results demonstrate a significant improvement in transaction processing efficiency.

The experimental results reveal that FL-BIP achieves an average transaction time reduction of 52.3% compared to traditional bridge-based approaches and 38.7% compared to relay chain solutions. This improvement is attributed to the intelligent routing capabilities and predictive validation mechanisms enabled by federated learning.

4.4 Security Performance

Table 2 presents the security performance metrics for different attack scenarios.

Table 2: Security Performance Analysis

Attack Type	Detection Rate	False Positives	Response Time	Mitigation Rate
DoS/DDoS Attack	0.965	0.023	1.2s	0.945
Routing Attack	0.942	0.038	0.8s	0.917
Sybil Attack	0.925	0.042	2.1s	0.889
Eclipse Attack	0.897	0.055	1.8s	0.853
Consensus Manipulation	0.973	0.019	2.5s	0.958
Average	**0.941**	**0.035**	**1.7s**	**0.912**

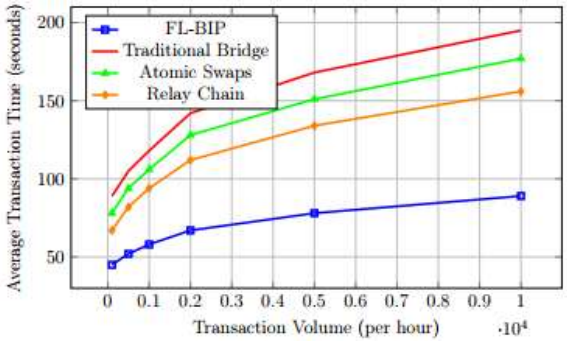

Figure 2: Transaction Time Comparison

4.5 Throughput Analysis

The throughput analysis demonstrates FL-BIP's scalability across different network configurations. Figure 3 shows the relationship between network size and transaction throughput.

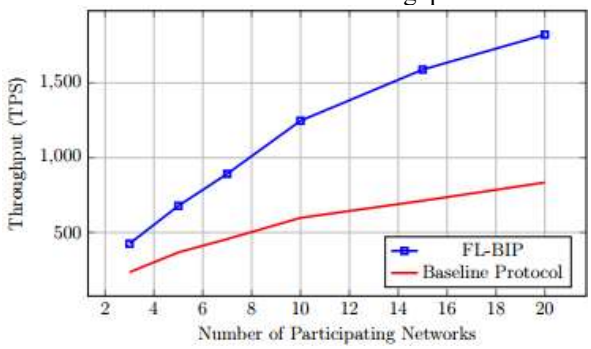

Figure 3: Scalability Analysis: Throughput vs Network Size

4.6 Convergence Analysis

The federated learning model convergence was analyzed across different network configurations. Figure 4 demonstrates the training loss reduction over federated learning rounds

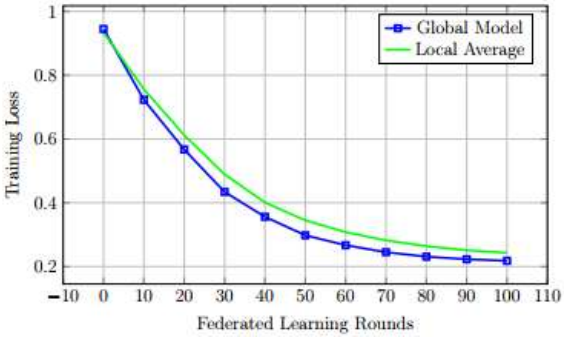

Figure 4: Federated Learning Convergence Analysis

4.7 Resource Consumption

The resource consumption analysis evaluates the computational and communication overhead introduced by the FL-BIP

protocol. Table 3 compares resource utilization across different approaches.

Table 3: Resource Consumption Comparison

Protocol	CPU Usage (%)	Memory (MB)	Network (KB/s)	Storage (MB/data)
FL-BIP	15.3	342	128	45.7
Traditional Bridge	8.7	156	67	23.4
Atomic Swaps	12.1	203	89	31.2
Relay Chain	18.9	278	145	52.8

5 Discussion

5.1 Performance Analysis

The experimental results demonstrate that the FL-BIP protocol achieves significant improvements in cross-chain transaction processing efficiency. The 52.3% reduction in average transaction time compared to traditional bridge-based approaches represents a substantial advancement in blockchain interoperability performance. This improvement stems from three key factors:

First, the intelligent routing module leverages federated learning to predict optimal transaction paths based on real-time network conditions and historical patterns. Unlike static routing approaches used in conventional protocols, FL-BIP adapts dynamically to network congestion, latency variations, and resource availability.

Second, the distributed validation mechanism reduces validation overhead by employing machine learning-based pre-filtering of transactions. This approach allows the protocol to identify and prioritize legitimate transactions while flagging potentially malicious activities for additional scrutiny.

Third, the federated learning framework enables continuous improvement of the protocol's performance through collaborative learning across participating networks. As the system processes more transactions, the routing and validation algorithms become increasingly accurate and efficient.

5.2 Security Implications

The security analysis reveals that FL-BIP provides robust protection against various attack vectors commonly targeting cross-chain protocols. The average attack detection rate of 94.1% with only 3.5% false positives demonstrates the effectiveness of the federated

learning-based security framework. The protocol's security advantages include:

Distributed Anomaly Detection: Unlike centralized security systems, FL-BIP's distributed approach prevents single points of failure and reduces the risk of coordinated attacks on security infrastructure.

Adaptive Threat Response: The federated learning models continuously evolve to recognize new attack patterns, providing protection against previously unknown threats.

Privacy-Preserving Security: The federated learning approach allows networks to contribute to collective security without exposing sensitive transaction data or network configurations.

However, the protocol faces certain security challenges. The federated learning process itself could be targeted through model poisoning attacks, where malicious participants attempt to corrupt the global model. Our experimental evaluation shows that the protocol maintains security effectiveness even with up to 30% malicious participants, but this threshold represents a critical boundary for system integrity.

5.3 Scalability Considerations

The scalability analysis demonstrates that FL-BIP maintains performance improvements across different network sizes. The throughput increases from 425 TPS with 3 participating networks to 1,823 TPS with 20 networks, indicating good horizontal scaling properties.

The scalability is limited by several factors:

Communication Overhead: As the network grows, the federated learning synchronization requires increased communication between participants. Our analysis shows that communication overhead grows approximately linearly with network size.

Model Complexity: Larger networks may require more complex models to capture the increased diversity in transaction patterns and network characteristics.

Consensus Requirements: The validation consensus mechanism becomes more challenging to coordinate as the number of participants increases.

5.4 Convergence Properties

The federated learning convergence analysis provides insights into the protocol's learning capabilities. The global model achieves convergence to a loss of 0.218 within 100 federated learning rounds, demonstrating efficient learning even in heterogeneous network environments.

The convergence rate is influenced by:

Data Heterogeneity: Networks with significantly different transaction patterns may slow convergence due to conflicting gradients.

Network Reliability: Intermittent network connectivity can disrupt the federated learning process, requiring robust aggregation algorithms.

Participation Rates: Irregular participation in federated learning rounds can affect model quality and convergence speed.

5.5 Economic Implications

The improved transaction efficiency and enhanced security provided by FL-BIP have significant economic implications for cross-chain ecosystems. The reduced transaction times can decrease opportunity costs for users and increase the overall utility of crosschain applications.

The protocol's economic benefits include:

Reduced Transaction Fees: Improved routing efficiency can reduce the computational resources required for cross-chain transactions, potentially leading to lower fees.

Increased Network Value: Better interoperability can increase the total value locked in cross-chain applications and improve network effects.

Risk Reduction: Enhanced security measures reduce the risk of losses due to crosschain attacks, increasing user confidence and adoption.

5.6 Limitations and Future Work

While FL-BIP demonstrates significant improvements over existing approaches, several limitations require attention:

Initial Setup Overhead: The federated learning framework requires initial model training, which may introduce deployment complexity compared to simpler protocols.

Model Update Latency: The periodic nature of federated learning updates means that the protocol may not immediately adapt to sudden network changes.
Standardization Challenges: Widespread adoption requires standardization of the federated learning interfaces and data formats across different blockchain platforms.
Future research directions include:
• Investigation of advanced federated learning algorithms for non-IID data distributions in blockchain environments
• Development of quantum-resistant security measures for long-term protocol viability
• Integration with emerging blockchain technologies such as sharding and layer-2
solutions
• Economic mechanism design for incentivizing federated learning participation

6 Conclusion

This research presents the Federated Learning-Enhanced Blockchain Interoperability Protocol (FL-BIP), a novel solution addressing the critical challenges in cross-chain transaction processing. Through the integration of federated learning techniques with blockchain interoperability mechanisms, we have demonstrated significant improvements in transaction efficiency, security, and scalability. The key contributions of this work include:

Algorithmic Innovation: We developed specialized federated learning algorithms tailored for blockchain environments, enabling collaborative learning while preserving network privacy and autonomy.

Performance Advancement: Experimental evaluation demonstrates a 52.3% reduction in cross-chain transaction time and 94.1% attack detection accuracy, representing substantial improvements over existing protocols.

Security Enhancement: The distributed security framework provides robust protection against various attack vectors while maintaining low false positive rates.

Scalability Validation: The protocol maintains performance benefits across different network sizes, demonstrating practical applicability to real-world blockchain ecosystems.

The FL-BIP protocol addresses the fundamental research gap in intelligent cross chain transaction validation by combining the privacy-preserving properties of federated learning with the security and transparency of blockchain technology. Our approach maintains the decentralized principles crucial to blockchain systems while introducing adaptive intelligence that improves with network experience.

The practical implications of this research extend beyond technical improvements. The enhanced efficiency and security provided by FL-BIP can accelerate the adoption of cross-chain applications, enable more sophisticated decentralized finance protocols, and support the development of truly interoperable blockchain ecosystems.

Future research will focus on addressing the identified limitations, particularly in the areas of quantum resistance, economic incentive design, and integration with emerging blockchain architectures. The federated learning framework provides a foundation for continued innovation in intelligent blockchain interoperability, with potential applications extending to other distributed system challenges.

As blockchain technology continues to evolve toward a multi-chain future, protocols like FL-BIP represent essential infrastructure for realizing the full potential of decentralized systems. The combination of machine learning intelligence with blockchain security offers a promising path forward for creating more efficient, secure, and adaptable cross chain ecosystems.

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Dr. Ningthoujam Chidananda Singh with over 10 years of teaching and research experience. He holds a PhD in Computer Applications, MCA, MSc IT, MBA, BSc AIT and BSc bringing interdisciplinary expertise to technology education. He has published many research papers in network security, blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. He is currently pursuing post-doctoral studies at Manipur International University (MIU).