

Law, Science and Technology  
MSCA ITN EJD n. 814177



Mirko Zichichi<sup>1,2</sup>, Luca Serena<sup>2</sup>, Stefano  
Ferretti<sup>3</sup>, Gabriele D'Angelo<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

<sup>2</sup>University of Bologna

<sup>3</sup>University of Urbino "Carlo Bo"

Towards Decentralized Complex  
Queries over Distributed  
Ledgers: a Data Marketplace  
Use-case

# Overview

1. Introduction
2. Use Case
3. Hypercube DHT
4. Performance Evaluation
5. Conclusion

# Introduction

---

# Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) and Decentralized File Storages (DFS)

DLT and DFS are being increasingly used to create **common, decentralized and trustless infrastructures** where participants interact and collaborate in Peer-to-Peer interactions. They enable:

# Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) and Decentralized File Storages (DFS)

DLT and DFS are being increasingly used to create **common, decentralized and trustless infrastructures** where participants interact and collaborate in Peer-to-Peer interactions. They enable:

- secure transactions between **untrusted parties** through consensus mechanisms

# Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) and Decentralized File Storages (DFS)

DLT and DFS are being increasingly used to create **common, decentralized and trustless infrastructures** where participants interact and collaborate in Peer-to-Peer interactions. They enable:

- secure transactions between **untrusted parties** through consensus mechanisms
- **high data availability**

# Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) and Decentralized File Storages (DFS)

DLT and DFS are being increasingly used to create **common, decentralized and trustless infrastructures** where participants interact and collaborate in Peer-to-Peer interactions. They enable:

- secure transactions between **untrusted parties** through consensus mechanisms
- high data **availability**
- **ability to automate and enforce processes (through smart contracts)**

## Query Issues

- 1) data stored in DLTs and DFS are usually **unstructured** and need to be **filtered and indexed** before any **complex query**



## Query Issues

- 1) data stored in DLTs and DFS are usually **unstructured** and need to be **filtered and indexed** before any **complex query**
- 2) there are **no diffused efficient mechanisms to query** a certain type of data, that do not involve **centralization** (e.g. index data in a central database)

## Our work

- System for the search of data in DLTs and DFS according to their content or meaning

## Our work

- System for the search of data in DLTs and DFS according to their content or meaning
- **Distributed Hash Table (DHT)** as a layer placed over DLTs: DHT → distributed data structure that maps “keys” into “values”.

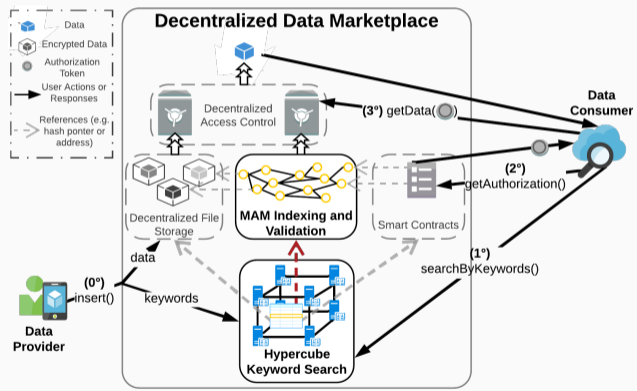
## Our work

- System for the search of data in DLTs and DFS according to their content or meaning
- **Distributed Hash Table (DHT)** as a layer placed over DLTs: DHT → distributed data structure that maps “keys” into “values”.
- **Hypercube** to organise the topological structure of such a DHT network.

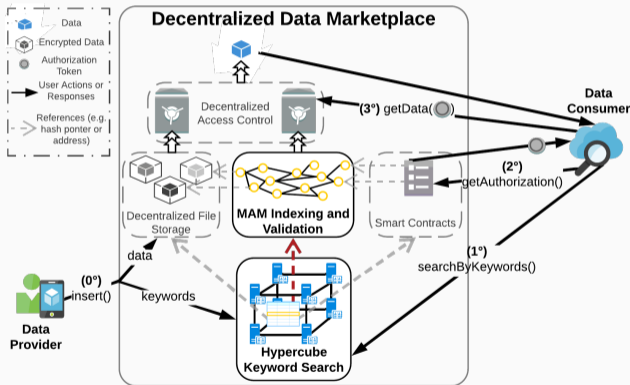
## Use Case

---

# Decentralized Data Marketplace Use Case

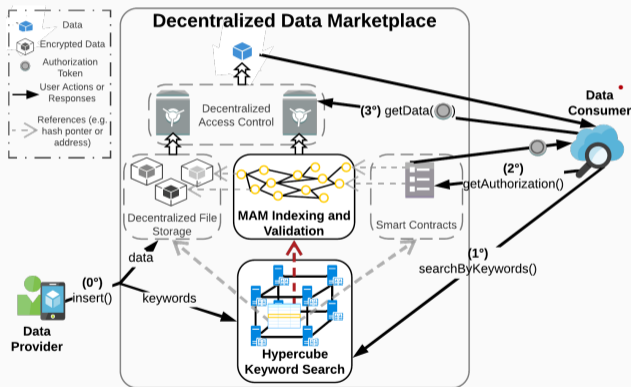


# Decentralized Data Marketplace Use Case



- **DFS** → used to store data in an encrypted form, offering high availability

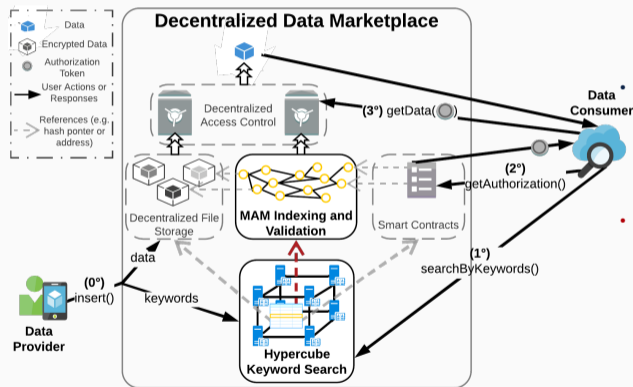
# Decentralized Data Marketplace Use Case



- DFS → used to store data in an encrypted form, offering high availability
- A decentralized access control system → to get the data from the DFS once they have been authorized

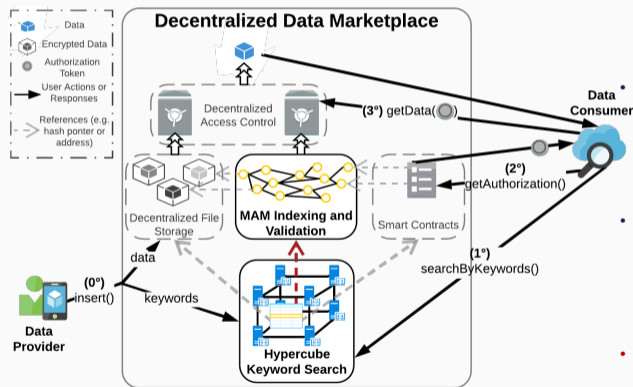


# Decentralized Data Marketplace Use Case



- DFS → used to store data in an encrypted form, offering high availability
- A decentralized access control system → to get the data from the DFS once they have been authorized
- **Smart contracts** have the ability to provide a distributed authorization mechanism following a policy

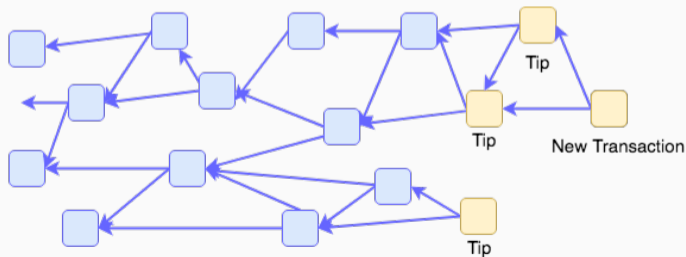
# Decentralized Data Marketplace Use Case



- DFS → used to store data in an encrypted form, offering high availability
- A decentralized access control system → to get the data from the DFS once they have been authorized
- Smart contracts have the ability to provide a distributed authorization mechanism following a policy
- A DLT such as IOTA enable the data indexing and validation (in form of hash pointers)

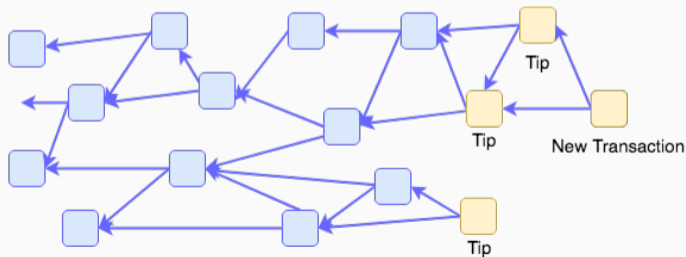
# IOTA Masked Authentication Messaging Channels

- **IOTA** → network of nodes that holds a distributed ledger where transactions are validated without fees



# IOTA Masked Authentication Messaging Channels

- **IOTA** → network of nodes that holds a distributed ledger where transactions are validated without fees
- **Masked Authenticated Messaging (MAM)** → communication protocol that adds the functionality to emit and access an encrypted data channels over IOTA



## MAM Channels and Data Retrieval

- To obtain information from a message within a MAM channel, it is necessary to know the exact address of the message or of the channel, i.e. the **root value**

## MAM Channels and Data Retrieval

- To obtain information from a message within a MAM channel, it is necessary to know the exact address of the message or of the channel, i.e. the **root value**
- *QEZXKW9HOPYNUGPNLOBXKZJEI9UJTNTACFVFNLYLX*

## MAM Channels and Data Retrieval

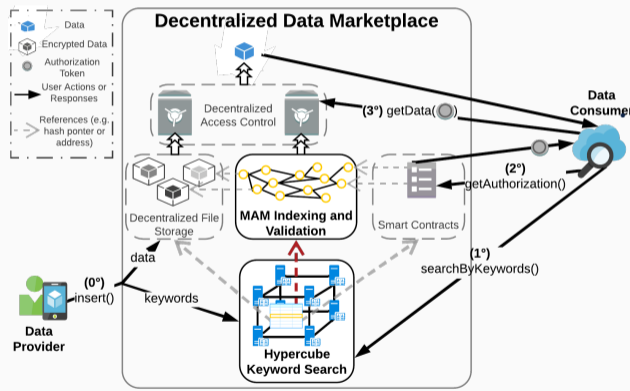
- To obtain information from a message within a MAM channel, it is necessary to know the exact address of the message or of the channel, i.e. the **root value**
- *QEZXKW9HOPYNUGPNLOBXKZJEI9UJTNTACFVFNLYLX*
- this root, and in general DLT addresses, **do not provide any information** related to the type and kind of data

## MAM Channels and Data Retrieval

- To obtain information from a message within a MAM channel, it is necessary to know the exact address of the message or of the channel, i.e. the **root value**
- *QEZXKW9HOPYNUGPNLOBXKZJEI9UJTNTACFVFNLYLX*
- this root, and in general DLT addresses, **do not provide any information** related to the type and kind of data
- in our system every single message is indexed by a **keyword set**, that is then exploited to search for specific kinds of contents ⇒



# Decentralized Data Marketplace Use Case



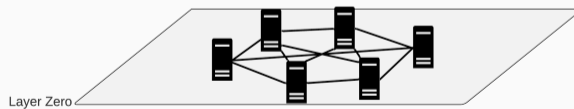
A distributed mechanism for the search of data is in charge of associating keywords to addresses or references stored in DLTs, smart contracts and DFS.

# Hypercube DHT

---

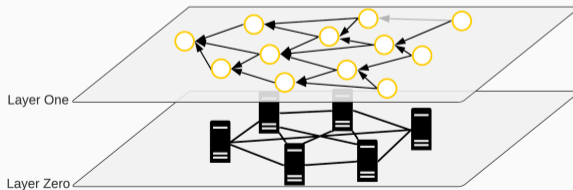
# Layer Two Lookup Scheme

- DLT P2P Network



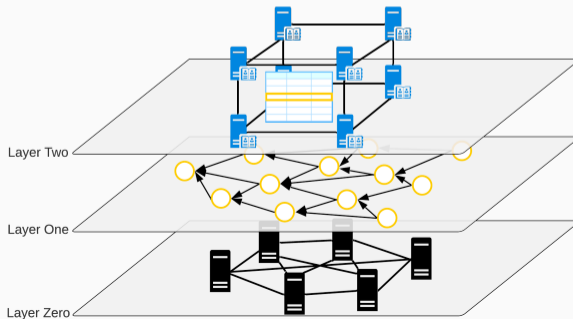
# Layer Two Lookup Scheme

- DLT P2P Network
- Data are stored in a DFS and/or referenced in a **IOTA MAM Channels**.



# Layer Two Lookup Scheme

- DLT P2P Network
- Data are stored in a DFS and/or referenced in a IOTA MAM Channels.
- Layer two solution → MAM messages associated to a **keyword set** in a DHT



# Keywords Sets

- $\mathcal{O}$  ← set of all MAM messages in IOTA

# Keywords Sets

- $\mathcal{O} \leftarrow$  set of all MAM messages in IOTA
- DHT for mapping  $\mathbf{o} \in \mathcal{O}$  to a **keyword set**  $K_{\mathbf{o}} \subseteq W$  ( $W$  is the keyword space)

# Keywords Sets

- $O \leftarrow$  set of all MAM messages in IOTA
- DHT for mapping  $o \in O$  to a **keyword set**  $K_o \subseteq W$  ( $W$  is the keyword space)
- By using a **uniform hash function**  
 $h : W \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, r - 1\}$   
 $K$  can be represented by a **string of bits**  $u \rightarrow 101001$



# Keywords Sets

- $\mathcal{O} \leftarrow$  set of all MAM messages in IOTA
- DHT for mapping  $\mathbf{o} \in \mathcal{O}$  to a **keyword set**  $K_o \subseteq W$  ( $W$  is the keyword space)
- By using a **uniform hash function**  
 $h : W \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, r - 1\}$   
 $K$  can be represented by a **string of bits**  $\mathbf{u} \rightarrow 101001$
- **in  $\mathbf{u}$  the 1s are set in the positions** given by  
 $one(\mathbf{u}) = \{h(k) \mid k \in K\}$

# Keywords Sets

- $O \leftarrow$  set of all MAM messages in IOTA
- DHT for mapping  $o \in O$  to a **keyword set**  $K_o \subseteq W$  ( $W$  is the keyword space)
- By using a **uniform hash function**  
 $h : W \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, r - 1\}$   
 $K$  can be represented by a **string of bits**  $u \rightarrow 101001$
- in  $u$  the **1s are set in the positions** given by  
 $one(u) = \{h(k) \mid k \in K\}$
- E.g.:  $o =$  *MAM msg indexed by QEZ...OBX root*,  $K = \{temperature, celsius\}$   
 $h(temperature) = 3, h(celsius) = 5$   
 $K$  is represented by  $u = 000101 \Rightarrow$  **DHT stores (000101, QEZ...OBX)**

## Hypercube based DHT

- We use these  $r$ -bit strings to identify logical nodes in a **DHT network**

## Hypercube based DHT

- We use these  $r$ -bit strings to identify logical nodes in a **DHT network**
- **network topology**  $\rightarrow H_r(V, E)$   $r$ -dimensional **hypercube**

# Hypercube based DHT

- We use these  $r$ -bit strings to identify logical nodes in a **DHT network**
- network topology  $\rightarrow H_r(V, E)$   $r$ -dimensional **hypercube**
- **V** set of vertices that represent **logical nodes**

## Hypercube based DHT

- We use these  $r$ -bit strings to identify logical nodes in a **DHT network**
- network topology  $\rightarrow H_r(V, E)$   $r$ -dimensional **hypercube**
- **V** set of vertices that represent **logical nodes**
- **E** set of edges formed when two vertices differ of only one bit (they are also network **neighbors**), e.g. 1011 and 1010.

# Hypercube based DHT

- We use these  $r$ -bit strings to identify logical nodes in a **DHT network**
- network topology  $\rightarrow H_r(V, E)$   $r$ -dimensional **hypercube**
- **V** set of vertices that represent **logical nodes**
- **E** set of edges formed when two vertices differ of only one bit (they are also network **neighbors**), e.g. 1011 and 1010.
- to find out how far apart two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  are  
 $\rightarrow$  **HammingDistance** $(u, v) = \sum_{i=0}^{r-1} (u_i \oplus v_i)$ ,  
 $\oplus$  is the XOR operation and  $u_i$  is the bit at the  $i$ -th position.

## Multiple Keywords Search

- **Pin Search** -  $\{o \in O \mid K_o = K\}$   
gets all and only the objects associated with a keyword set  $K$   
e.g.  $pinSearch(\{temperature, celsius\}) = (000101, QEZ...OBX), (000101, IHU...9HZ), \dots$



## Multiple Keywords Search

- **Pin Search** -  $\{o \in O \mid K_o = K\}$   
gets all and only the objects associated with a keyword set  $K$   
e.g.  $pinSearch(\{temperature, celsius\}) = (000101, QEZ...OBX), (000101, IHU...9HZ), \dots$
- **Superset Search** -  $\{o \in O \mid K_o \supseteq K\}$   
also gets objects that can be described by keywords sets that include  $K$   
e.g.  $superSetSearch(\{temperature, celsius\}) = (000101, QEZ...OBX), (000111, XTL...A9Z), \dots$

# Performance Evaluation

---

# Test Setup

- **Simulated DHT network (using PeerSim)**

# Test Setup

- Simulated DHT network (using PeerSim)
- **Nodes number** → from 128 ( $r = 7$ ) up to 8192 ( $r = 13$ )

# Test Setup

- Simulated DHT network (using PeerSim)
- Nodes number → from 128 ( $r = 7$ ) up to 8192 ( $r = 13$ )
- Randomly created keywords-objects (i.e. MAM message roots) → **objects number 100, 1000 and 10000**

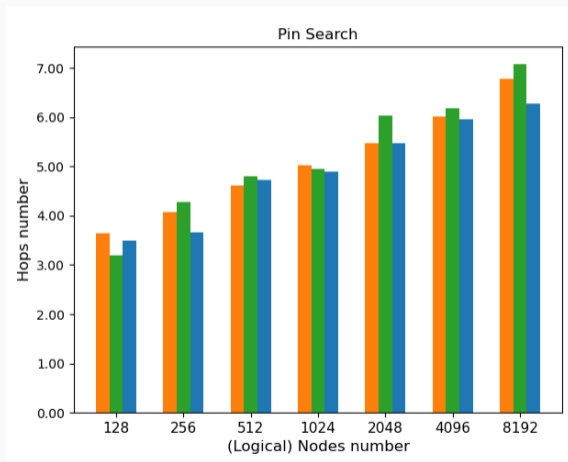
# Test Setup

- **Simulated DHT network** (using PeerSim)
- **Nodes number** → from 128 ( $r = 7$ ) up to 8192 ( $r = 13$ )
- Randomly created keywords-objects (i.e. MAM message roots) → **objects number 100, 1000 and 10000**
- We evaluated the **number of hops** required for each new query

# Test Setup

- **Simulated DHT network** (using PeerSim)
- **Nodes number** → from 128 ( $r = 7$ ) up to 8192 ( $r = 13$ )
- Randomly created keywords-objects (i.e. MAM message roots) → **objects number 100, 1000 and 10000**
- We evaluated the **number of hops** required for each new query
- **For each type of test → 50 repetitions**

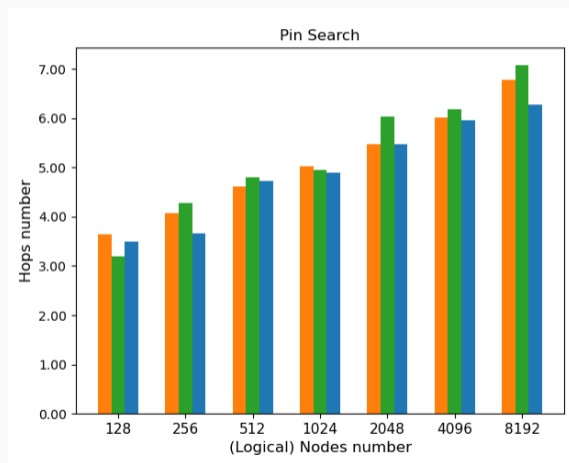
# Pin Search Results



- Average number of hops increases

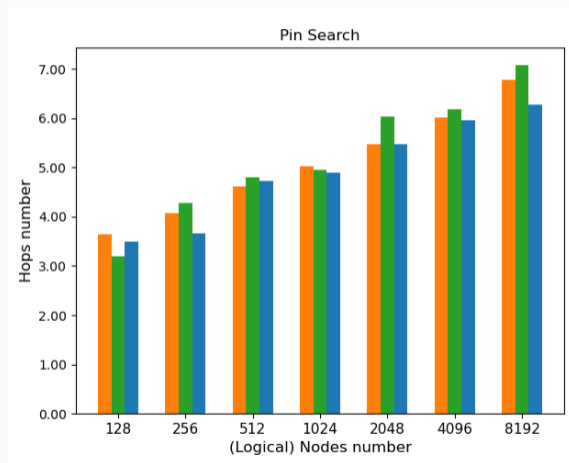


# Pin Search Results



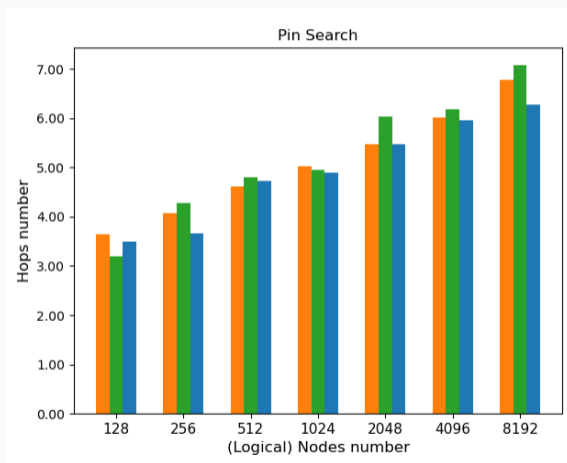
- Average number of hops increases
- from about 3.5 for 128 nodes ( $r = 7$ )

# Pin Search Results



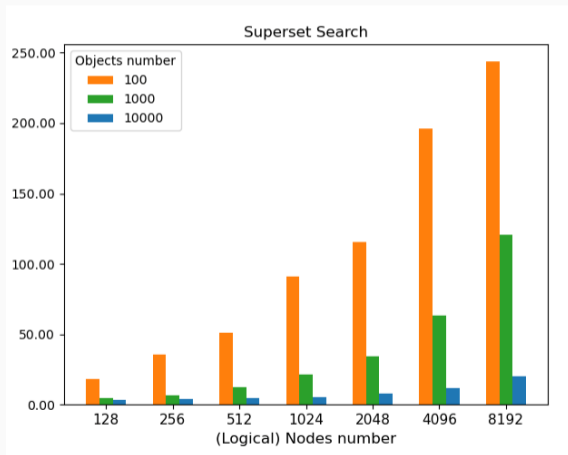
- Average number of hops increases
- from about 3.5 for 128 nodes ( $r = 7$ )
- to about 6.72 for 8192 nodes ( $r = 13$ )

# Pin Search Results



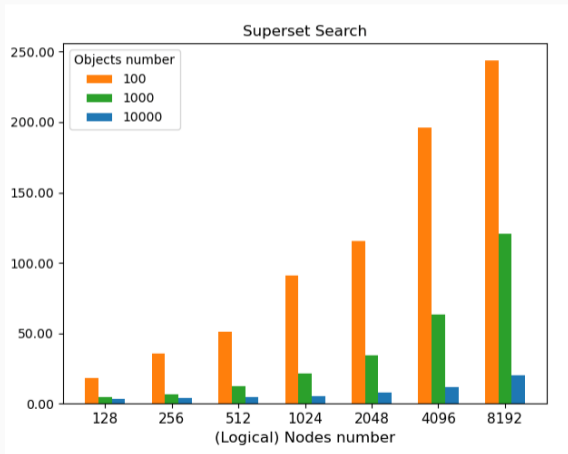
- Average number of hops increases
- from about 3.5 for 128 nodes ( $r = 7$ )
- to about 6.72 for 8192 nodes ( $r = 13$ )
- order of the **logarithm of the hypercube logical nodes number**  
 $\rightarrow \frac{\log(n)}{2} = \frac{r}{2}$

# Superset Search Results



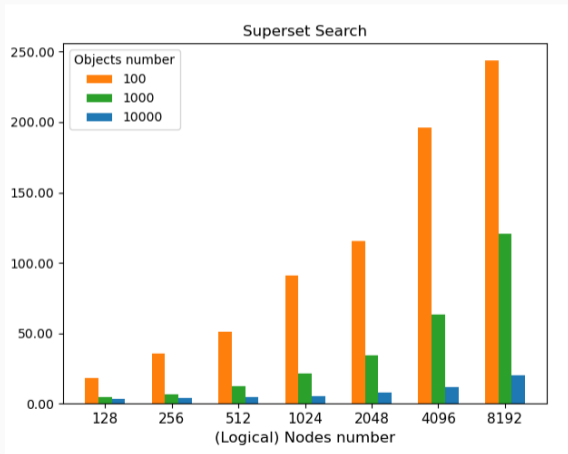
- apparently **anomalous** values stand out

# Superset Search Results



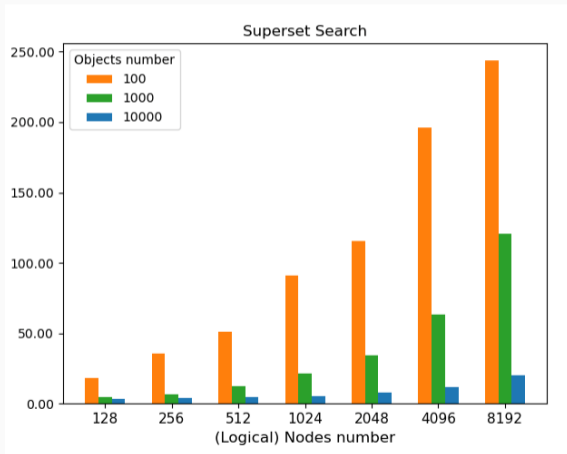
- apparently **anomalous** values stand out
- Superset traverse the network **until it finds the number of objects indicated by the limit, i.e.  $l = 10$**

# Superset Search Results



- apparently **anomalous** values stand out
- Superset traverse the network **until it finds the number of objects indicated by the limit**, i.e.  $l = 10$
- with **many nodes and few objects** → the query might take longer to reach that limit, because many nodes are “empty”

# Superset Search Results



- apparently **anomalous** values stand out
- Superset traverse the network **until it finds the number of objects indicated by the limit**, i.e.  $l = 10$
- with **many nodes and few objects** → the query might take longer to reach that limit, because many nodes are “empty”
- order of  $\frac{\log(n)}{2} + l$ , where  $l$  can be set as limit of the nodes number

## Conclusion

---



## Conclusion

- **Decentralized data markets** → showing a **DLT layer two solution** → facilitating the retrieval of large amounts of data using **keywords**.

# Conclusion

- **Decentralized data markets** → showing a **DLT layer two solution** → facilitating the retrieval of large amounts of data using **keywords**.
- **IOTA MAM channels** (however, can be easily extended to other DLTs and DFSs).

# Conclusion

- **Decentralized data markets** → showing a **DLT layer two solution** → facilitating the retrieval of large amounts of data using **keywords**.
- **IOTA MAM channels** (however, can be easily extended to other DLTs and DFSs).
- The DHT network structured as a hypercube → efficient routing mechanism based on keyword sets.

# Conclusion

- **Decentralized data markets** → showing a **DLT layer two solution** → facilitating the retrieval of large amounts of data using **keywords**.
- **IOTA MAM channels** (however, can be easily extended to other DLTs and DFSs).
- The DHT network structured as a hypercube → efficient routing mechanism based on keyword sets.
- **Efficient trade-off between memory space and response time**