White Paper, Version 1.0

GATO

The Geographic Analysis Token

(a.k.a. Geography Alumni Token)

By Dr. Claus Rinner

Professor and Undergraduate Program Director
@RyersonGeo

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1. Introduction

University and college graduates worldwide are completing their studies during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, with social distancing, work-from-home recommendations, and lockdown orders in place in many jurisdictions around the planet. Arguably, our graduates were deprived of some of the most valuable moments of their time in higher education.

Coincidentally, the author of these lines became interested in cryptocurrencies recently, including the possibility of creating custom tokens on some of the existing blockchains. The idea of a "token of appreciation" for graduating students was born!

This white paper outlines the name, possible immediate and future uses, benefits and limitations, and technical parameters of the **Geographic Analysis Token, GATO.**

2. The Geographic Analysis Token (GATO)

2.1. Ticker Symbol and Name

The token is created for the BA (Hons) in Geographic Analysis at Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada – the "GA" program in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Also known as "the GIS program", Geographic Analysis integrates geographic information systems (GIS) technology throughout the four years of study, giving students a high degree of data analysis, research, and critical thinking skills.

To be available for extension to other Geography graduates at Ryerson and beyond, the ticker symbol GATO can also stand for "Geography Alumni Token". It proudly references the "T.O." or T-Dot moniker for the city of Toronto.

Please note: El gato is Spanish for "cat", but we intend to be open to both cat and dog people as well as those indifferent to the distinction. It would be me-mesmerizing to see the GATO token cat-aclysmically follow the trajectory of its sibling, the DOGE coin! Should GATO ever attain any financial value, our graduates could have their cake (degree) and eat it too! Coincidentally, the French word for cake, gâteau, sure sends us in the right direction.

2.2. GATO – Technical Parameters

Blockchain: Bitcoin Cash (BCH)

Standard: Simple Ledger Protocol (SLP)

Name: Geographic Analysis Token

Description: A token of appreciation and recognition for 2021 graduates of the Geographic Analysis program at Ryerson University, Toronto.

Web site: https://www.ryerson.ca/geography/ga/

Abbreviation (symbol): GATO

Precision (decimals): 0 (none)

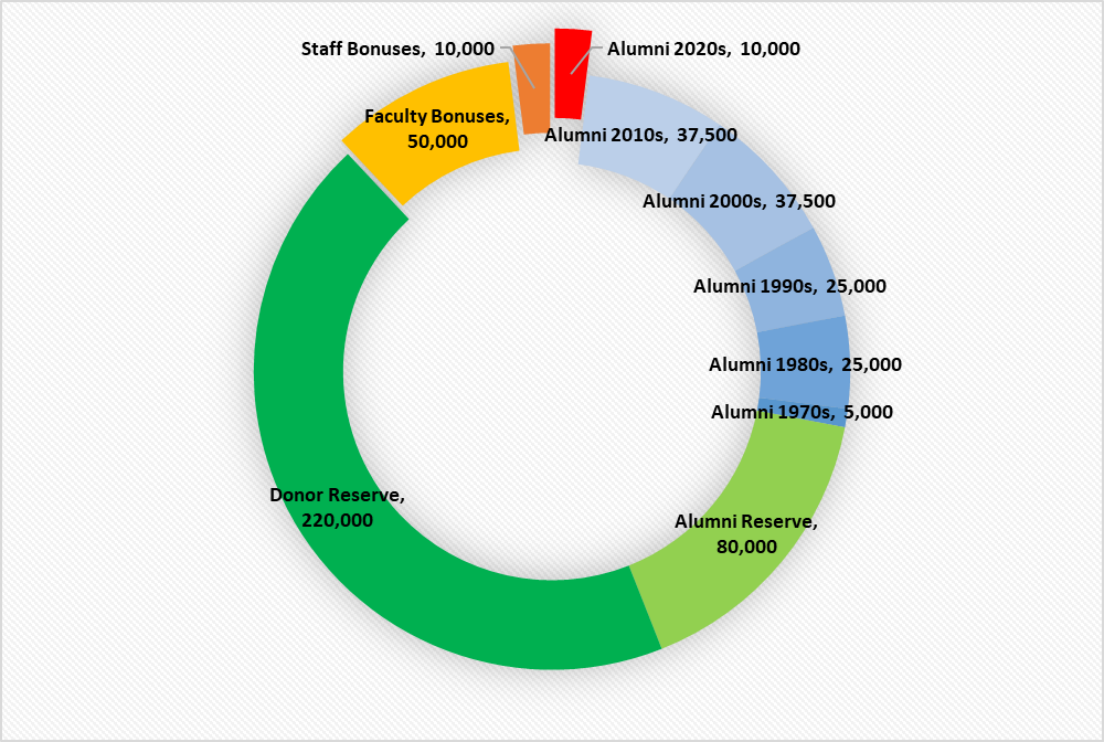
Initial supply: 10,000 - expandable

The BCH blockchain was selected for its recognition, fast transaction times, low transaction costs, and availability of exchanges and wallets.

Decimals are not used since their utility is not expected. We foresee that 1 GATO might be considered as having a value corresponding roughly to 1 Canadian Dollar, and any envisioned uses would work with approximated full-dollar values.

The initial supply includes the expected number of around 50 graduates in spring 2021 times 100 GATO each, with the same amount held in reserve for other short-term experimental purposes, e.g. to be offered to last year's spring 2020 cohort.

A possible total supply of 500,000 tokens could be used as follows. We assume that there were around 50 graduates in each year of the program back to the first graduating cohort in the year 1978. Alumni from the 2000s and 2010s will be offered 75 GATO each, alumni from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s will be offered 50 GATO each. A reserve of 80,000 GATO can be used to top up all alumni to 100 GATO each, possibly in exchange for a donation to support current students; and/or the reserve can be distributed to future graduating or incoming students. An amount equal to the alumni total of 220,000 GATO is reserved for recognition of donors, while amounts of 50,000 and 10,000 will be offered to current and former program faculty and staff, respectively.



2.3. Immediate Uses of the Token

GATO is created as a token of appreciation for Geography graduates. It has the potential to help creating a community of alumni, make our graduates aware of blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies, and give them a sense of recognition for being able to complete their studies during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

In addition to being held, the token could be used as a form of payment for attendance at departmental events (academic/social) after graduation. Conversely, attendance of alumni e.g. as guest speakers in classes or panelists at career events could be rewarded through transfer of additional tokens.

Furthermore, in the context of program promotion and recruitment, tokens could be given to high school students attending program information sessions and to incoming students.

2.4. Possible Future Uses of This or Related Tokens

- Acquisition of donations and student scholarships in exchange for tokens (pending financial/tax implications)

- Extension to the BA in Environment and Urban Sustainability, Master of Spatial Analysis (MSA), and Certificate of Applied Digital Geography and GIS (CODG) and Crime Analytics (CODC) programs at Ryerson
- Extension to other Geography programs worldwide
- Use of the BCH blockchain and smart contracts, e.g. for:
    - Departmental / library data storage and access
    - Access to distributed geospatial applications at the university

2.5. Benefits and Limitations

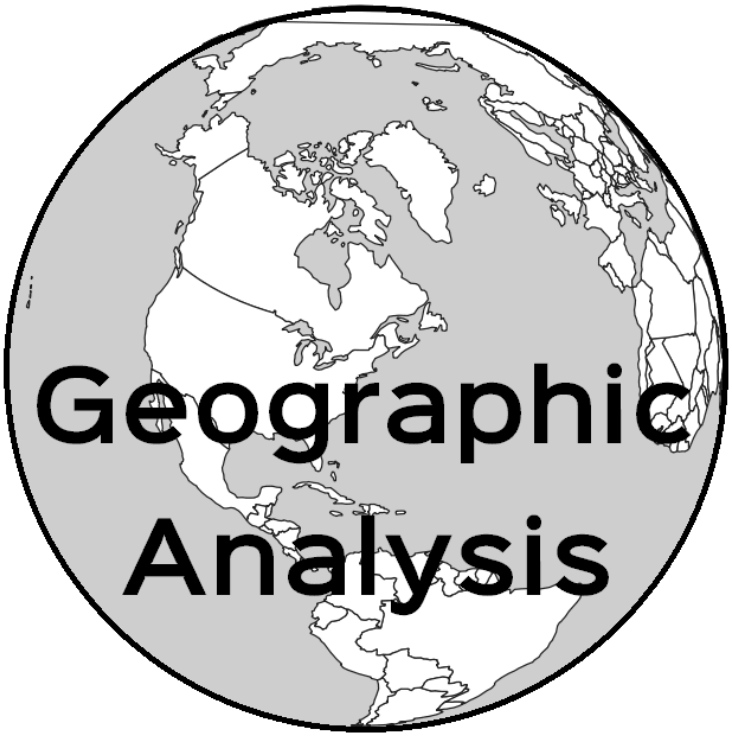
The Geographic Analysis program has been a driver of innovation since its inception in the early 1970s. It has pioneered experiential learning at the university with its internship requirement and course projects for external clients. It continues to be one of the few Geography programs that integrate a variety of GIS tools throughout the curriculum. And it uniquely teaches these technical skills combined with critical thinking abilities to undergraduate students. Engaging with blockchain technology is a logical extension of this record of current, hands-on learning.

Along with student engagement and co-learning of a novel technology with a fun factor, come a few possible limitations. One drawback arises from the additional costs for transaction fees on the BCH network that are needed for both, the distribution of tokens and the future use of tokens by the recipients. Recipients need to install a cryptocurrency wallet and will incur fees for transactions such as paying for event participation, while the department would incur fees e.g. for gifting tokens to guest speakers. On the BCH network, these fees currently amount to cents worth of the BCH coin – much less than comparable letter postage, but requiring the acquisition and handling of a second cryptocurrency (BCH).

Due to its purpose and foreseeable uses, the GA token is a relatively centralized token. It does therefore not reflect the ideal of decentralized applications, data, or finance that blockchain technology enables.

There are concerns about the Bitcoin blockchain's total energy usage. As a derivative, BCH uses the same proof-of-work algorithm. However, its energy use per transaction has been estimated to be over 90% less than Bitcoin's.

3. Conclusions



Logo by Dr. Claus Rinner <crinner@ryerson.ca> using QGIS, the free and open-source cross-platform desktop GIS; Natural Earth 1:110m admin 0 boundary data; and Apache-licensed Sinkin Sans 600 SemiBold font.