

The specification of the *Pactus consensus algorithm* :  
<https://pactus.org/learn/consensus/protocol/>

EXTENDS *Integers, Sequences, FiniteSets, TLC*

CONSTANT

*The maximum number of height.*  
*this is to restrict the allowed behaviours that TLC scans through.*

*MaxHeight,*

*The maximum number of round per height.*  
*this is to restrict the allowed behaviours that TLC scans through.*

*MaxRound,*

*The maximum number of cp – round per height.*  
*this is to restrict the allowed behaviours that TLC scans through.*

*MaxCPRound,*

*The total number of faulty nodes*

*NumFaulty,*

*The index of faulty nodes*

*FaultyNodes*

VARIABLES

*log is a set of received messages in the system.*

*log,*

*states represents the state of each replica in the consensus protocol.*

*states*

*Total number of replicas, which is  $3f + 1$ , where  $f$  is the number of faulty nodes.*

*Replicas*  $\triangleq (3 * NumFaulty) + 1$

*Quorum is  $2/3 +$  of total replicas that is  $2f + 1$*

*Quorum*  $\triangleq (2 * NumFaulty) + 1$

*OneThird is  $1/3 +$  of total replicas that is  $f + 1$*

*OneThird*  $\triangleq NumFaulty + 1$

*A tuple with all variables in the spec (for ease of use in temporal conditions)*

*vars*  $\triangleq \langle states, log \rangle$

ASSUME

$\wedge NumFaulty \geq 1$

$\wedge FaultyNodes \subseteq 0 .. Replicas - 1$

Helper functions

*Fetch a subset of messages in the network based on the *params* filter.*

*SubsetOfMsgs(params)*  $\triangleq$

$\{msg \in log : \forall field \in DOMAIN\ params : msg[field] = params[field]\}$

*IsProposer* checks if the replica is the proposer for this round.

To simplify, we assume the proposer always starts with the first replica, and moves to the next by the change-proposer phase.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IsProposer}(index) &\triangleq \\ &\text{states}[index].\text{round} \% \text{Replicas} = index \end{aligned}$$

Helper function to check if a node is faulty or not.

$$\text{IsFaulty}(index) \triangleq index \in \text{FaultyNodes}$$

*HasPrepareQuorum* checks if there is a quorum of the *PREPARE* votes in this round.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{HasPrepareQuorum}(index) &\triangleq \\ &\text{Cardinality}(\text{SubsetOfMsgs}([ \\ &\quad \text{type} \quad \mapsto \text{"PREPARE"}, \\ &\quad \text{height} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{height}, \\ &\quad \text{round} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{round}, \\ &\quad \text{cp\_round} \mapsto 0])) \geq \text{Quorum} \end{aligned}$$

*HasPrecommitQuorum* checks if there is a quorum of the *PRECOMMIT* votes in this round.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{HasPrecommitQuorum}(index) &\triangleq \\ &\text{Cardinality}(\text{SubsetOfMsgs}([ \\ &\quad \text{type} \quad \mapsto \text{"PRECOMMIT"}, \\ &\quad \text{height} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{height}, \\ &\quad \text{round} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{round}, \\ &\quad \text{cp\_round} \mapsto 0])) \geq \text{Quorum} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CPHasPreVotesQuorum}(index) &\triangleq \\ &\text{Cardinality}(\text{SubsetOfMsgs}([ \\ &\quad \text{type} \quad \mapsto \text{"CP:PRE-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad \text{height} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{height}, \\ &\quad \text{round} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{round}, \\ &\quad \text{cp\_round} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{cp\_round}])) \geq \text{Quorum} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CPHasPreVotesQuorumForOne}(index) &\triangleq \\ &\text{Cardinality}(\text{SubsetOfMsgs}([ \\ &\quad \text{type} \quad \mapsto \text{"CP:PRE-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad \text{height} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{height}, \\ &\quad \text{round} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{round}, \\ &\quad \text{cp\_round} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{cp\_round}, \\ &\quad \text{cp\_val} \mapsto 1])) \geq \text{Quorum} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CPHasPreVotesQuorumForZero}(index) &\triangleq \\ &\text{Cardinality}(\text{SubsetOfMsgs}([ \\ &\quad \text{type} \quad \mapsto \text{"CP:PRE-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad \text{height} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{height}, \\ &\quad \text{round} \mapsto \text{states}[index].\text{round}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} cp\_round &\mapsto states[index].cp\_round, \\ cp\_val &\mapsto 0)) \geq Quorum \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CPHasPreVotesForZeroAndOne(index) &\triangleq \\ &\wedge Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([ \\ &\quad type \mapsto \text{"CP:PRE-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad height \mapsto states[index].height, \\ &\quad round \mapsto states[index].round, \\ &\quad cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round, \\ &\quad cp\_val \mapsto 0])) \geq 1 \\ &\wedge Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([ \\ &\quad type \mapsto \text{"CP:PRE-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad height \mapsto states[index].height, \\ &\quad round \mapsto states[index].round, \\ &\quad cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round, \\ &\quad cp\_val \mapsto 1])) \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CPHasOneMainVotesZeroInPrvRound(index) &\triangleq \\ &Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([ \\ &\quad type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad height \mapsto states[index].height, \\ &\quad round \mapsto states[index].round, \\ &\quad cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round - 1, \\ &\quad cp\_val \mapsto 0])) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CPHasOneMainVotesOneInPrvRound(index) &\triangleq \\ &Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([ \\ &\quad type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad height \mapsto states[index].height, \\ &\quad round \mapsto states[index].round, \\ &\quad cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round - 1, \\ &\quad cp\_val \mapsto 1])) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CPAllMainVotesAbstainInPrvRound(index) &\triangleq \\ &Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([ \\ &\quad type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad height \mapsto states[index].height, \\ &\quad round \mapsto states[index].round, \\ &\quad cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round - 1, \\ &\quad cp\_val \mapsto 2])) \geq Quorum \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CPHasMainVotesQuorum(index) &\triangleq \\ &Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([ \\ &\quad type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"}, \\ &\quad height \mapsto states[index].height, \\ &\quad round \mapsto states[index].round, \end{aligned}$$

$cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round])) \geq Quorum$

$CPHasMainVotesQuorumForOne(index) \triangleq$   
 $Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([$   
 $type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"},$   
 $height \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto 1])) \geq Quorum$

$CPHasMainVotesQuorumForZero(index) \triangleq$   
 $Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([$   
 $type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"},$   
 $height \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto 0])) \geq Quorum$

$GetProposal(height, round) \triangleq$   
 $SubsetOfMsgs([type \mapsto \text{"PROPOSAL"}, height \mapsto height, round \mapsto round])$

$HasProposal(index) \triangleq$   
 $Cardinality(GetProposal(states[index].height, states[index].round)) > 0$

$HasBlockAnnounce(index) \triangleq$   
 $Cardinality(SubsetOfMsgs([$   
 $type \mapsto \text{"BLOCK-ANNOUNCE"},$   
 $height \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto 0,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto 0])) \geq 1$

Helper function to check if the block is committed or not.

A block is considered committed iff supermajority of non-faulty replicas announce the same block.

$IsCommitted(height) \triangleq$   
 $LET subset \triangleq SubsetOfMsgs([$   
 $type \mapsto \text{"BLOCK-ANNOUNCE"},$   
 $height \mapsto height,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto 0,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto 0])$   
 $IN \wedge Cardinality(subset) \geq Quorum$   
 $\wedge \forall m1, m2 \in subset : m1.round = m2.round$

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Network functions

$SendMsg$  simulates a replica sending a message by appending it to the log

$SendMsg(msg) \triangleq$   
 $log' = log \cup msg$

*SendProposal is used to broadcast the PROPOSAL into the network.*

$SendProposal(index) \triangleq$   
 $SendMsg(\{[$   
 $type \quad \mapsto \text{"PROPOSAL"},$   
 $height \quad \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \quad \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \quad \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto 0,$   
 $cp\_val \quad \mapsto 0]\})$

*SendPrepareVote is used to broadcast PREPARE votes into the network.*

$SendPrepareVote(index) \triangleq$   
 $SendMsg(\{[$   
 $type \quad \mapsto \text{"PREPARE"},$   
 $height \quad \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \quad \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \quad \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto 0,$   
 $cp\_val \quad \mapsto 0]\})$

*SendPrecommitVote is used to broadcast PRECOMMIT votes into the network.*

$SendPrecommitVote(index) \triangleq$   
 $SendMsg(\{[$   
 $type \quad \mapsto \text{"PRECOMMIT"},$   
 $height \quad \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \quad \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \quad \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto 0,$   
 $cp\_val \quad \mapsto 0]\})$

*SendCPPreVote is used to broadcast CP : PRE – VOTE votes into the network.*

$SendCPPreVote(index, cp\_val) \triangleq$   
 $SendMsg(\{[$   
 $type \quad \mapsto \text{"CP:PRE-VOTE"},$   
 $height \quad \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \quad \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \quad \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round,$   
 $cp\_val \quad \mapsto cp\_val]\})$

*SendCPMainVote is used to broadcast CP : MAIN – VOTE votes into the network.*

$SendCPMainVote(index, cp\_val) \triangleq$   
 $SendMsg(\{[$

$type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"},$   
 $height \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto cp\_val\}}$

$SendCPVotesForNextRound(index, cp\_val) \triangleq$   
 $SendMsg(\{$   
 $[$   
 $type \mapsto \text{"CP:PRE-VOTE"},$   
 $height \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round + 1,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto cp\_val],$   
 $[$   
 $type \mapsto \text{"CP:MAIN-VOTE"},$   
 $height \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto states[index].cp\_round + 1,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto cp\_val\}])$

*AnnounceBlock is used to broadcast BLOCK – ANNOUNCE messages into the network.*

$AnnounceBlock(index) \triangleq$   
 $SendMsg(\{[$   
 $type \mapsto \text{"BLOCK-ANNOUNCE"},$   
 $height \mapsto states[index].height,$   
 $round \mapsto states[index].round,$   
 $index \mapsto index,$   
 $cp\_round \mapsto 0,$   
 $cp\_val \mapsto 0\}])$

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*States functions*

$NewHeight\ state$   
 $NewHeight(index) \triangleq$   
 IF  $states[index].height \geq MaxHeight$   
 THEN UNCHANGED  $\langle states, log \rangle$   
 ELSE  
 $\wedge \neg IsFaulty(index)$   
 $\wedge states[index].name = \text{"new-height"}$   
 $\wedge states[index].height < MaxHeight$   
 $\wedge states' = [states\ EXCEPT$

$$\begin{aligned} & ![index].name = \text{"propose"}, \\ & ![index].height = states[index].height + 1, \\ & ![index].round = 0] \\ & \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle log \rangle \end{aligned}$$

*Propose state*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Propose}(index) & \triangleq \\ & \wedge \neg \text{IsFaulty}(index) \\ & \wedge states[index].name = \text{"propose"} \\ & \wedge \text{IF } \text{IsProposer}(index) \\ & \quad \text{THEN } \text{SendProposal}(index) \\ & \quad \text{ELSE UNCHANGED } \langle log \rangle \\ & \wedge states' = [states \text{ EXCEPT} \\ & \quad ![index].name = \text{"prepare"}, \\ & \quad ![index].timeout = \text{FALSE}, \\ & \quad ![index].cp\_round = 0] \end{aligned}$$

*Prepare state*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Prepare}(index) & \triangleq \\ & \wedge \neg \text{IsFaulty}(index) \\ & \wedge states[index].name = \text{"prepare"} \\ & \wedge \text{IF } \text{HasPrepareQuorum}(index) \\ & \quad \text{THEN } \wedge states' = [states \text{ EXCEPT } ![index].name = \text{"precommit"}] \\ & \quad \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle log \rangle \\ & \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge \text{HasProposal}(index) \\ & \quad \wedge \text{SendPrepareVote}(index) \\ & \quad \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle states \rangle \end{aligned}$$

*Precommit state*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Precommit}(index) & \triangleq \\ & \wedge \neg \text{IsFaulty}(index) \\ & \wedge states[index].name = \text{"precommit"} \\ & \wedge \text{IF } \text{HasPrecommitQuorum}(index) \\ & \quad \text{THEN } \wedge states' = [states \text{ EXCEPT } ![index].name = \text{"commit"}] \\ & \quad \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle log \rangle \\ & \quad \text{ELSE } \wedge \text{HasProposal}(index) \\ & \quad \wedge \text{SendPrecommitVote}(index) \\ & \quad \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle states \rangle \end{aligned}$$

*Commit state*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Commit}(index) & \triangleq \\ & \wedge \neg \text{IsFaulty}(index) \\ & \wedge states[index].name = \text{"commit"} \\ & \wedge \text{AnnounceBlock}(index) \\ & \wedge states' = [states \text{ EXCEPT} \end{aligned}$$

! $[index].name = \text{"new-height"}$ ]

*Timeout : A non – faulty Replica try to change the proposer if its timer expires.*

$Timeout(index) \triangleq$   
 $\wedge \neg IsFaulty(index)$   
 $\wedge states[index].round < MaxRound$   
 $\wedge states[index].timeout = FALSE$   
 $\wedge$   
 $\vee$   
 $\wedge states[index].name = \text{"prepare"}$   
 $\wedge SendCPPreVote(index, 1)$   
 $\vee$   
 $\wedge states[index].name = \text{"precommit"}$   
 $\wedge SendCPPreVote(index, 0)$   
 $\wedge states' = [states \text{ EXCEPT}$   
 $\quad ! [index].name = \text{"cp:main-vote"},$   
 $\quad ! [index].timeout = TRUE]$

$CPPreVote(index) \triangleq$   
 $\wedge \neg IsFaulty(index)$   
 $\wedge states[index].name = \text{"cp:pre-vote"}$   
 $\wedge$   
 $\vee$   
 $\wedge CPHasOneMainVotesOneInPrvRound(index)$   
 $\wedge SendCPPreVote(index, 1)$   
 $\vee$   
 $\wedge CPHasOneMainVotesZeroInPrvRound(index)$   
 $\wedge SendCPPreVote(index, 0)$   
 $\vee$   
 $\wedge CPAllMainVotesAbstainInPrvRound(index)$   
 $\wedge SendCPPreVote(index, 0)$  *biased to zero*  
 $\wedge states' = [states \text{ EXCEPT } ! [index].name = \text{"cp:main-vote"}]$

$CPMainVote(index) \triangleq$   
 $\wedge \neg IsFaulty(index)$   
 $\wedge states[index].name = \text{"cp:main-vote"}$   
 $\wedge CPHasPreVotesQuorum(index)$   
 $\wedge$   
 $\vee$   
 $\quad$  *all votes for 1*  
 $\wedge CPHasPreVotesQuorumForOne(index)$   
 $\wedge SendCPMainVote(index, 1)$   
 $\wedge states' = [states \text{ EXCEPT } ! [index].name = \text{"cp:decide"}]$





$$\begin{aligned}
& \vee \text{states}[index].name = \text{"cp:main-vote"} \\
& \vee \text{states}[index].name = \text{"cp:decide"} \\
& \wedge \text{HasBlockAnnounce}(index) \\
& \wedge \text{states}' = [\text{states EXCEPT } ![index].name = \text{"prepare"}] \\
& \wedge \text{log}' = \text{log}
\end{aligned}$$


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$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Init} & \triangleq \\
& \wedge \text{log} = \{\} \\
& \wedge \text{states} = [index \in 0 \dots \text{Replicas} - 1 \mapsto [ \\
& \quad \text{name} \quad \mapsto \text{"new-height"}, \\
& \quad \text{height} \quad \mapsto 0, \\
& \quad \text{round} \quad \mapsto 0, \\
& \quad \text{timeout} \quad \mapsto \text{FALSE}, \\
& \quad \text{cp\_round} \quad \mapsto 0, \\
& \quad \text{cp\_decided} \mapsto -1]]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Next} & \triangleq \\
& \exists index \in 0 \dots \text{Replicas} - 1 : \\
& \quad \vee \text{NewHeight}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{Propose}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{Prepare}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{Precommit}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{Timeout}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{Commit}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{Sync}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{CPPreVote}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{CPMainVote}(index) \\
& \quad \vee \text{CPDecide}(index)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Spec} & \triangleq \\
& \text{Init} \wedge \square[\text{Next}]_{\text{vars}} \wedge \text{WF}_{\text{vars}}(\text{Next})
\end{aligned}$$

*Success : All non-faulty nodes eventually commit at MaxHeight.*

$$\text{Success} \triangleq \diamond(\text{IsCommitted}(\text{MaxHeight}))$$

*TypeOK is the type-correctness invariant.*

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{TypeOK} & \triangleq \\
& \wedge \forall index \in 0 \dots \text{Replicas} - 1 : \\
& \quad \wedge \text{states}[index].name \in \{\text{"new-height"}, \text{"propose"}, \text{"prepare"}, \\
& \quad \quad \text{"precommit"}, \text{"commit"}, \text{"cp:pre-vote"}, \text{"cp:main-vote"}, \text{"cp:decide"}\} \\
& \quad \wedge \text{states}[index].height \leq \text{MaxHeight} \\
& \quad \wedge \text{states}[index].round \leq \text{MaxRound} \\
& \quad \wedge \text{states}[index].cp\_round \leq \text{MaxCPRound} + 1
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \wedge \text{states}[index].name = \text{"new-height"} \wedge \text{states}[index].height > 1 \Rightarrow \\
& \quad \wedge \text{IsCommitted}(\text{states}[index].height - 1) \\
& \wedge \text{states}[index].name = \text{"precommit"} \Rightarrow \\
& \quad \wedge \text{HasPrepareQuorum}(index) \\
& \quad \wedge \text{HasProposal}(index) \\
& \wedge \text{states}[index].name = \text{"commit"} \Rightarrow \\
& \quad \wedge \text{HasPrepareQuorum}(index) \\
& \quad \wedge \text{HasPrecommitQuorum}(index) \\
& \quad \wedge \text{HasProposal}(index) \\
& \wedge \forall \text{round} \in 0 \dots \text{states}[index].round : \\
& \quad \text{Not more than one proposal per round} \\
& \quad \wedge \text{Cardinality}(\text{GetProposal}(\text{states}[index].height, \text{round})) \leq 1
\end{aligned}$$