Let's assume the transaction currently being built is t_i and the previous one is t_{i-1} . The following requirements apply to the timestamp t_i to of the transaction t_i :

1. Transaction timestamps are non-decreasing function in a chain, i.e.

$$t_i.ts \geq t_{i-1}.ts$$
.

2.A transaction timestamp is not smaller than the timestamps of request transactions taken as inputs in t_i , i.e.

$$\forall r \in t_i.req: t_i.ts \geq t_i.req[r].tx.ts,$$

where $t_i.req$ is a list of requests processed as inputs in the transaction t_i , $t_i.req[r]$ is a particular request and $t_i.req[r].tx$ is a transaction the request belongs to.

The initial attempt was to use the timestamp $t_i.ts$ as a median of timestamps proposed by the committee nodes accepted to participate in the transaction t_i by the ACS procedure. This approach conflicts with the rules of selecting requests for the batch (take requests that are mentioned in at least F+1 proposals). In this way it is possible that the median is smaller than some request transaction timestamp .

In this document we model the case, when we take maximal of the proposed timestamps excluding the F highest values. This value is close to the 66th percentile (while median is the 50th percentile). In this case all the requests selected to the batch will have timestamp lower than the batch timestamp IF THE BATCH PROPOSALS MEET THE CONDITION

$$\forall p \in batchProposals : \forall r \in p.req : p.req[r].tx.ts \leq p.ts.$$

It is possible that it can be not the case, because of the byzantine nodes. The specification bellow shows, that property (2) can be violated, in the case of byzantine node sending timestamp lower than the requests in the proposal.

The receiving node thus needs to check, if the proposals are correct. For this check it must have all the transactions received before deciding the final batch. The detected invalid batch proposals must be excluded from the following procedure. But that can decrease number of requests included into the final batch (because requests are included if mentioned in F+1 proposals). It is safe on the receiver side to "fix" such proposals by setting their timestamp to the maximal transaction timestamp of the requests in the proposal.

```
EXTENDS Naturals, FiniteSets, TLAPS, FiniteSetTheorems, NaturalsInduction
    CONSTANT Time
                                 A set of timestamps, represented as natural numbers to have \leq.
51
    CONSTANT Nodes
                                 A set of node identifiers.
    CONSTANT Byzantine
                                 A set of byzantine node identifiers.
    Assume ConstantAssms \stackrel{\triangle}{=}
54
       \land IsFiniteSet(Time) \land Time \neq \{\} \land Time \subseteq Nat
55
      \land IsFiniteSet(Nodes) \land Nodes \neq \{\}
56
       \land Byzantine \subseteq Nodes
57
    Requests \stackrel{\triangle}{=} Time Assume requests are identified by timestamps of their TX only.
    VARIABLE acsNodes Nodes decided to be part of the round by the ACS.
    VARIABLE npRq
                             Node proposal: A set of requests.
   VARIABLE npTS
                             Node proposal: Timestamp.
    vars \triangleq \langle acsNodes, npRq, npTS \rangle
```

 $5 \quad N \stackrel{\triangle}{=} Cardinality(Nodes)$ $6 \quad F \stackrel{\triangle}{=} CHOOSE \ F \in 0 \dots N :$

 $\wedge N \ge 3 * F + 1$

Byzantine quorum assumption.

```
\land \forall f \in 0 \dots N : N \geq 3*f+1 \Rightarrow F \geq f \quad \text{Consider maximal possible } F. \\ \text{ASSUME } Byzantine Assms} \ \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \ F \in Nat \land N \geq 3*F+1 \land (N \geq 4 \Rightarrow F \geq 1)
 68
      FQuorums \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \{q \in \text{SUBSET Nodes} : Cardinality(q) = F\}
      F1Quorums \triangleq \{q \in \text{SUBSET Nodes} : Cardinality(q) = F + 1\}
      NFQuorums \triangleq \{q \in \text{SUBSET Nodes} : Cardinality(q) = N - F\}
      TSQuorums \triangleq \{q \in SUBSET\ Nodes : q \subseteq acsNodes \land Cardinality(q) = Cardinality(acsNodes) - F\}
      BatchRqs is a set of requests selected to the batch. Requests are selected to a batch, if they are
      mentioned at least in F + 1 proposals.
      BatchRq(rq) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \exists q \in F1Quorums:
                                 \land q \subseteq acsNodes
 81
                                  \land \forall n \in q : rq \in npRq[n]
 82
                          \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \{ rq \in Requests : BatchRq(rq) \}
      BatchRqs
      BatchTS(ts) is a predicate, that is true for the timestamp that should be considered as a batch
      timestamp. It must be maximal of the batch proposals, excluding F greatest ones.
      SubsetTS(s) \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \{npTS[n] : n \in s\}
      BatchTSx(ts) \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \forall q \in TSQuorums : TODO: Remove
                                  \land ts \in SubsetTS(q)
 91
                                  \land \forall x \in SubsetTS(q) : ts \geq x
 92
                                  \land \forall x \in SubsetTS(acsNodes \setminus q) : ts \leq x
 93
      BatchTS(ts) \triangleq
 94
         \forall q \in FQuorums : (
 95
            \land \ q \subseteq \mathit{acsNodes}
 96
            \land \forall x \in q, y \in acsNodes \setminus q : npTS[x] \ge npTS[y]
 97
 98
           \land ts \in SubsetTS(acsNodes \setminus q)
           \land \forall x \in SubsetTS(acsNodes \setminus q) : ts \geq x
100
           \land \forall x \in SubsetTS(q) : ts < x
101
102
      A batch proposal is valid, if its timestamp is not less than timestamps of all the request transactions
      included to the proposal.
      ProposalValid(n) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \forall rq \in npRq[n] : rq < npTS[n]
108
109 ⊢
     Init \triangleq
110
          \land acsNodes \in SUBSET \ Nodes \land Cardinality(acsNodes) \ge N - F
111
          \land npRq \in [acsNodes \rightarrow (SUBSET Requests) \setminus \{\{\}\}]
112
          \land npTS \in [acsNodes \rightarrow Time]
          \land \forall n \in (acsNodes \setminus Byzantine) : ProposalValid(n) Fair node proposals are valid.
114
      Next \stackrel{\triangle}{=} UNCHANGED \ vars Only for model checking in TLC.
      Spec \triangleq Init \wedge \Box [Next]_{vars}
      TypeOK \triangleq
118
         \land acsNodes \subseteq Nodes
119
```

```
\land npRq \in [acsNodes \rightarrow SUBSET \ Requests]
120
          \land npTS \in [acsNodes \rightarrow Time \cup \{0\}]
121
      Invariant \triangleq
123
         \forall ts \in Time, rq \in BatchRqs : BatchTS(ts) \Rightarrow rq \leq ts
124
      THEOREM Spec \Rightarrow \Box TupeOK \land \Box Invariant
126
         PROOF OMITTED Checked with TLC.
127
128 F
      Lemma SubsetsAllCardinalities \stackrel{\triangle}{=}
129
         Assume New S, IsFiniteSet(S)
130
         PROVE \forall x \in 0.. Cardinality(S) : \exists q \in SUBSET S : Cardinality(q) = x
131
132
       \langle 1 \rangle Define P(x) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} x \leq Cardinality(S) \Rightarrow \exists q \in SUBSET S : Cardinality(q) = x
       \langle 1 \rangle 1. \ \forall x \in Nat : P(x)
134
          \langle 2 \rangle 1. \ P(0)BY FS\_EmptySet
135
          \langle 2 \rangle 2. \ \forall x \in Nat : P(x) \Rightarrow P(x+1)
136
             \langle 3 \rangle 1. Take x \in Nat
137
             \langle 3 \rangle 2. Have P(x)
138
            \langle 3 \rangle 3. Have x+1 \leq Cardinality(S)
139
            \langle 3 \rangle 4. PICK qx \in \text{SUBSET } S : Cardinality(qx) = x
140
                    BY \langle 3 \rangle 2, \langle 3 \rangle 3, FS\_CardinalityType
141
            \langle 3 \rangle 5. PICK x1 \in S : x1 \notin qx
142
                    BY \langle 3 \rangle 3, \langle 3 \rangle 4
143
            \langle 3 \rangle 6. WITNESS qx \cup \{x1\} \in \text{SUBSET } S
144
            \langle 3 \rangle 7. Cardinality (qx \cup \{x1\}) = x + 1
145
                    BY \langle 3 \rangle 4, \langle 3 \rangle 5, FS\_AddElement, FS\_Subset
146
            \langle 3 \rangle QED BY \langle 3 \rangle 7
147
          \langle 2 \rangle 3. QED BY \langle 2 \rangle 1, \langle 2 \rangle 2, NatInduction
       \langle 1 \rangle 2. QED BY \langle 1 \rangle 1
149
      THEOREM SpecTypeOK \stackrel{\triangle}{=} Spec \Rightarrow \Box TypeOK
151
          \langle 1 \rangle 1. Init \Rightarrow TypeOKby def Init, TypeOK
152
          \langle 1 \rangle 2. TypeOK \wedge [Next]_{vars} \Rightarrow TypeOK'BY DEF vars, TypeOK, Next
153
          \langle 1 \rangle 3. QED BY \langle 1 \rangle 1, \langle 1 \rangle 2, PTL DEF Spec
154
       THEOREM SpecInvariant \triangleq Byzantine = \{\} \land Spec \Rightarrow \Box Invariant
156
          \langle 1 \rangle suffices assume Byzantine = \{\} Prove Spec \Rightarrow \Box Invariant obvious
157
158
          \langle 1 \rangle 1. TypeOK \wedge Init \Rightarrow Invariant
            (2) Suffices assume TypeOK, InitProve Invariantobyious
159
            \langle 2 \rangle USE DEF Invariant
160
            \langle 2 \rangle take ts \in Time, rq \in BatchRqs
161
            \langle 2 \rangle have BatchTS(ts) prove : rq < ts
162
            \langle 2 \rangle_{\text{c.}} \forall q1 \in F1 \, Quorums, q2 \in NF \, Quorums : q1 \cap q2 \neq \{\}
163
                    \langle 3 \rangle take q1 \in F1Quorums, q2 \in NFQuorums
164
                    \langle 3 \rangle 1. \ N \in Nat \wedge F \in Nat
165
```

```
BY ONLY ConstantAssms, ByzantineAssms, FS_CardinalityType DEF N, F
166
                              \langle 3 \rangle 2. Cardinality(q1) + Cardinality(q2) > Cardinality(Nodes)
167
                                          BY ONLY \langle 3 \rangle 1 DEF N, F1Quorums, NFQuorums
168
                              \langle 3 \rangle 3. \ q1 \subseteq Nodes \land q2 \subseteq Nodes
169
                                          BY ONLY DEF F1 Quorums, NFQuorums
170
                              \langle 3 \rangle 4. QED BY ONLY \langle 3 \rangle 2, \langle 3 \rangle 3, FS_MajoritiesIntersect, ConstantAssms
171
                  \langle 2 \rangleb. \forall rr \in BatchRqs : \exists q \in F1Quorums : \forall n \in q : rr \in npRq[n]
172
                              BY DEF BatchRqs, BatchRq
173
                  \langle 2 \rangle d. \ \forall \ nn \in acsNodes : ProposalValid(nn)
174
                              BY DEF Init
175
                  \langle 2 \rangleg. acsNodes \subseteq Nodes
176
                              BY DEF Init
177
                  \langle 2 \ranglef. Cardinality(acsNodes) - F > 0
178
179
                             \langle 3 \rangle 1. Cardinality(acsNodes) \in Natby \langle 2 \rangle_g, FS_CardinalityType, FS_Subset, ConstantAssms
                              \langle 3 \rangle 2. \ F \in Natby \ ByzantineAssms
180
                              \langle 3 \rangle 3. \ N \in Natby\ ConstantAssms,\ FS\_CardinalityType\ DEF\ N
181
                              \langle 3 \rangle 4. Cardinality(acsNodes) \geq N - FBY DEF Init
182
                              \langle 3 \rangle 5. N - F \geq 2 * F + 1BY ByzantineAssms, \langle 3 \rangle 2, \langle 3 \rangle 3
183
                             \langle 3 \rangle 6. Cardinality (acsNodes) > FBY \langle 3 \rangle 1, \langle 3 \rangle 2, \langle 3 \rangle 3, \langle 3 \rangle 4, \langle 3 \rangle 5, ByzantineAssms
184
                              \langle 3 \rangle QED BY \langle 3 \rangle 1, \langle 3 \rangle 2, \langle 3 \rangle 6
185
                  \langle 2 \ranglej. Cardinality(acsNodes) - F \geq 0
186
                             BY \langle 2 \rangle f
187
               \langle 2 \ranglei. \exists q \in SUBSET\ Nodes: q \subseteq acsNodes \wedge Cardinality(q) = Cardinality(acsNodes) - F <math>\langle 3 \rangle1.
                         Cardinality(acsNodes) \in Nat \ BY \ \langle 2 \rangle g, FS\_CardinalityType, FS\_Subset, ConstantAssms
                        \langle 3 \rangle 6. Cardinality(Nodes) \in Nat BY FS_CardinalityType, ConstantAssms
                        \langle 3 \rangle 2. F \in Nat BY ByzantineAssms
                        \langle 3 \rangle 3. N \in Nat \text{ By } ConstantAssms, FS\_CardinalityType Def <math>N \langle 3 \rangle 4. F \geq 0 \text{ By}
                        \langle 3 \rangle 2, FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are FS_C and FS_C are FS_C are
                        FS\_CardinalityType,\ ConstantAssms,\ ByzantineAssms\ \ \mathsf{DEF}\ \ F
                        \langle 3 \rangle x. \ Cardinality(Nodes) \geq Cardinality(acsNodes)
                                By FS\_CardinalityType, FS\_Subset, ConstantAssms Def Init
                        \langle 3 \ranglez. Cardinality(acsNodes) \geq (Cardinality(acsNodes) - F) by FS\_CardinalityType,
                                  FS\_EmptySet, \langle 2 \rangle f, \langle 3 \rangle 1, \langle 3 \rangle 4, \langle 3 \rangle 5, ByzantineAssms
                        \langle 3 \rangley. Cardinality(Nodes) \geq (Cardinality(acsNodes) - F) by only \langle 3 \ranglex, \langle 3 \ranglez, \langle 3 \rangle1, \langle 3 \rangle2,
                        \langle 3 \ranglew1. \exists q \in \text{SUBSET Nodes} : Cardinality(q) \geq (Cardinality(acsNodes) - F) BY <math>\langle 3 \rangley,
                                     FS\_CardinalityType, FS\_Subset, FS\_SUBSET
                        \langle 3 \ranglew2. \exists q \in \text{SUBSET Nodes} : Cardinality(q) <
                                                                                                                             (Cardinality(acsNodes) - F) BY
                                     \langle 2 \rangle j, \langle 3 \rangle 1, \langle 3 \rangle 2, FS\_CardinalityType, FS\_Subset, FS\_SUBSET, FS\_EmptySet,
                                      Constant Assms
                        \langle 3 \rangle Define TSQCard \stackrel{\triangle}{=} Cardinality(acsNodes) - F
                        \langle 3 \rangleu1. \exists q \in \text{SUBSET } Nodes : Cardinality(q) \geq 0 \land Cardinality(q) \leq Cardinality(Nodes)BY
                                FS_CardinalityType, FS_Subset, FS_SUBSET, ConstantAssms
                        \langle 3 \rangleu2. TSQCard > 0 BY \langle 2 \ranglej
                        \langle 3 \rangleu3. TSQCard \leq Cardinality(Nodes)BY \langle 3 \rangley
                        \langle 3 \rangleu4. TSQCard \in Nat \text{ BY } \langle 3 \rangle 1, \langle 3 \rangle 2, \langle 2 \rangle f
                        \langle 3 \rangle HIDE DEF TSQCard
```

```
\langle 3 \rangleu5. \forall q \in \text{SUBSET Nodes}: Cardinality(q) \in Nat \ BY FS\_Subset, FS\_CardinalityType,
               Constant Assms
                   \langle 3 \rangleu6. \forall x \in 0 . . Cardinality(Nodes): \exists q \in SUBSET\ Nodes: Cardinality(q) = x
                          BY ConstantAssms, FS\_CardinalityType, FS\_Subset, FS\_SUBSET \langle 3 \rangle q.
              \exists \ q \in \mathtt{SUBSET} \ \mathit{Nodes} : \ \mathit{Cardinality}(q) = \mathit{TSQCard}
                   BY \langle 3 \rangle u1, \langle 3 \rangle u2, \langle 3 \rangle u3, \langle 3 \rangle u4, \langle 3 \rangle u5, \langle 3 \rangle 6, FS\_Subset, FS\_CardinalityType,
                   Constant Assms, \ Subsets All Cardinalities
              \langle 3 \rangle PICK q \in \text{SUBSET Nodes}: Cardinality(q) = Cardinality(acsNodes) - F by <math>\langle 3 \rangle q,
                  FS\_CardinalityType, FS\_Subset, FS\_SUBSET DEF TSQCard
              (3) QED OBVIOUS
         \langle 2 \rangleh. TSQuorums \neq \{\} \setminus * TSQuorums \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \{q \in SUBSET \ Nodes : q \subseteq acsNodes \land
         Cardinality(q) = Cardinality(acsNodes) - F
              BY \langle 2 \ranglef Def TSQuorums
            \langle 2 \rangle QED OBVIOUS PROOF OMITTED \backslash * TODO
224
         \langle 1 \rangle 2. Invariant \wedge [Next]_{vars} \Rightarrow Invariant'
225
           \langle 2 \rangle 1. Suffices assume Invariant Prove [Next]_{vars} \Rightarrow Invariant'
226
227
                   OBVIOUS
           \langle 2 \rangle 2. Unchanged vars \Rightarrow (Invariant')
228
                   BY \langle 2 \rangle 1 DEF vars, Invariant, BatchRq, BatchRqs, BatchTS,
229
                                       Proposal Valid, SubsetTS, TSQuorums
230
           \langle 2 \rangle 3. Suffices assume Next Prove Invariant'
231
                   BY \langle 2 \rangle 2
232
           \langle 2 \rangle 4. QED BY \langle 2 \rangle 1, \langle 2 \rangle 3 DEF vars, Next, Invariant, BatchRq,
233
                          BatchRqs, BatchTS, ProposalValid, SubsetTS, TSQuorums
234
         \langle 1 \rangleq. QED BY \langle 1 \rangle 1, \langle 1 \rangle 2, PTL, SpecTypeOK DEF Spec, vars
235
      THEOREM SpecInvariant \stackrel{\Delta}{=} Byzantine = \{\} \land Spec \Rightarrow \Box Invariant
        \langle 1 \rangle suffices assume Byzantine = \{\} prove Spec \Rightarrow \Box Invariant \text{ obvious }
        \langle 1 \rangle 1. Init \Rightarrow Invariant BY DEF Init, Invariant \langle 1 \rangle 2. TypeOK \wedge TypeOK' \wedge Invariant \wedge
        [Propose]\_vars \Rightarrow Invariant'
         \langle 2 \rangle 1. Suffices assume TypeOK, TypeOK', Invariant PROVE [Propose]_vars <math>\Rightarrow Invariant'
         \langle 2 \rangle 2. Unchanged vars \Rightarrow (Invariant') by \langle 2 \rangle 1 def vars, Invariant, BatchRq, BatchRqs,
                BatchTS,
                         Proposal Valid, SubsetTS, TSQuorums
         (2)3. Suffices assume Propose Prove Invariant'
         \langle 2 \rangle 4. Suffices assume proposed'
                     PROVE (\forall ts \in Time, rq \in BatchRqs: BatchTS(ts) \Rightarrow rq \leq ts)'
              BY DEF Invariant
         \langle 2 \rangle take ts \in Time, rq \in BatchRqs'
         \langle 2 \rangle have BatchTS(ts)' \setminus *PROVE: rq \leq ts
      BY DEF Propose, Proposal Valid
      \langle 2 \rangleb. \forall x \in BatchRqs : \exists q \in F1Quorums : \forall n \in q : x \in npRq[n]BY DEF BatchRqs, BatchRqs
```

Counter-example with Nodes = 101..104, $Byzantine = \{104\}$, Time = 1..3 PropposedRq: $(101:>\{1\}@@102:>\{1\}@@103:>\{2\}@@104:>\{2\})$, PropposedTS: (101:>1@@102:>1@@103:>2@@104:>1), BatchRq: $\{1,2\}$, BatchTS: 1