

# Fault Tolerance



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- ▶ A distributed system should be able to recover automatically from partial failures without seriously affecting availability and performance.

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  - ▶ Safety
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  - ▶ Safety
  - ▶ Maintainability
- ▶ **In-class Exercise:** How is availability different from reliability? How about a system that goes down for 1 millisecond every hour? How about a system that never goes down but has to be shut down two weeks every year?

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- ▶ **In-class Exercise**: Give examples of each type of fault for your project!

# Failure Models (1)

Type of failure	Description
Crash failure	A server halts, but is working correctly until it halts
Omission failure <i>Receive omission</i> <i>Send omission</i>	A server fails to respond to incoming requests A server fails to receive incoming messages A server fails to send messages
Timing failure	A server's response lies outside the specified time interval
Response failure <i>Value failure</i> <i>State transition failure</i>	A server's response is incorrect The value of the response is wrong The server deviates from the correct flow of control
Arbitrary failure	A server may produce arbitrary responses at arbitrary times

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  - ▶ Arbitrary failures where a server is producing output that it should never have produced, but which cannot be detected as being incorrect.
  - ▶ A faulty server may even be working with other servers to produce intentionally wrong answers!

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- ▶ The reply message from the server to the client is lost.
- ▶ The client crashes after sending a request.

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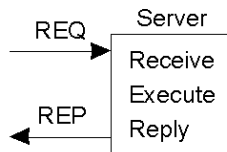
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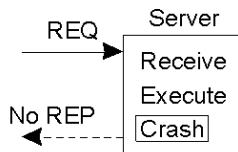
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- ▶ Possible RPC semantics
  - ▶ Exactly once semantics
  - ▶ At least once semantics
  - ▶ At most once semantics
  - ▶ Guarantee nothing semantics

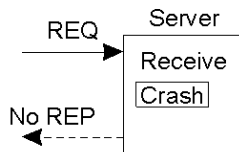
# Server Crash (1)



(a)



(b)



(c)

► A server in client-server communication

- (a) Normal case
- (b) Crash after execution
- (c) Crash before execution



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## Server Crash (3)

- ▶ Three events that can happen at the server:
  - ▶ Send the completion message (M)
  - ▶ Print the text (P)
  - ▶ Crash (C)



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- ▶ Three events that can happen at the server:
  - ▶ Send the completion message (M)
  - ▶ Print the text (P)
  - ▶ Crash (C)
- ▶ These events can occur in six different orderings:

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# Server Crash (5)

## Client

## Server

### Strategy M → P

### Strategy P → M

#### Reissue strategy

Always
Never
Only when ACKed
Only when not ACKed

#### MPC MC(P) C(MP)

DUP	OK	OK
OK	ZERO	ZERO
DUP	OK	ZERO
OK	ZERO	OK

#### PMC PC(M) C(PM)

DUP	DUP	OK
OK	OK	ZERO
DUP	OK	ZERO
OK	DUP	OK

- ▶ *M*: send the completion message, *P*: print the text, *C*: server crash
- ▶ OK (text is printed once), DUP (text is printed twice), ZERO (text is not printed at all)



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  - ▶ **Gentle Reincarnation.** A server tries to locate the owner of orphans before killing the computation.
  - ▶ **Expiration.** Each RPC is given a quantum of time to finish its job. If it cannot finish, then it asks for another quantum. After a crash, a client need only wait for a quantum to make sure all orphans are gone.

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  - ▶ Use a sequence number with each request so server can detect duplicates. But now the server needs to keep state for each client....
  - ▶ Have a bit in the message to distinguish between original and duplicate transmission

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- ▶ Basic reliable multicasting schemes
- ▶ Scalable reliable multicasting
  - ▶ Non-hierarchical feedback control
  - ▶ Hierarchical feedback control
- ▶ Atomic multicasting using Virtual Synchrony

# Basic Reliable Multicasting Schemes (1)

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- ▶ Few processes: Set up reliable point-to-point channels. Inefficient for more processes.
- ▶ Issues in reliable multicasting:
  - ▶ What does reliable multicasting mean?
  - ▶ What if a process joins during the communication?
  - ▶ What happens if a sending process crashes during communication?
  - ▶ How to reach agreement on what does the group look like?

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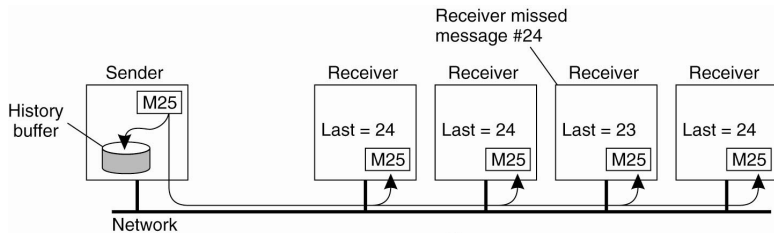
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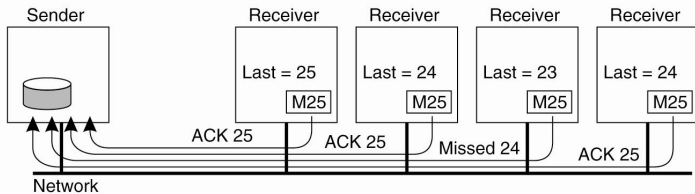
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- ▶ Each multicast message is kept in a history buffer at the sender. Assuming that the sender knows the receivers, the sender simply keeps the message until all receivers have returned the acknowledgment (**Ack**).
- ▶ Sender retransmits on a negative **Ack** or on timeout before all **Acks** were received. **Acks** can be piggy-backed. Retransmissions can be done with point-to-point communication.

# Basic Reliable Multicasting Schemes (3)



(a)



(b)

- ▶ A simple solution to reliable multicasting when all receivers are known and are assumed not to fail.
- ▶ (a) Message transmission. (b) Reporting feedback.

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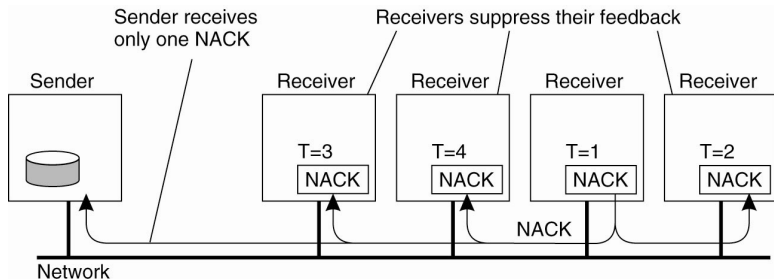
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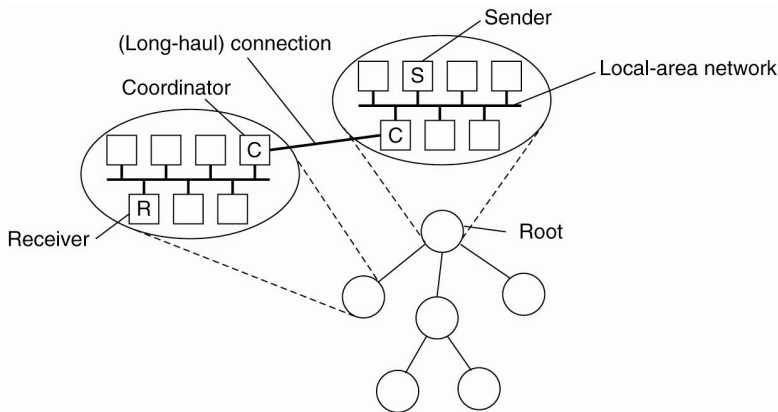
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- ▶ **Nonhierarchical feedback control:** Feedback suppression via multicasting of negative feedback.
- ▶ **Hierarchical feedback control:** Use subgroups and coordinators in each subgroup.

# Nonhierarchical Feedback Control



- ▶ Several receivers have scheduled a request for retransmission with random delays, but the first retransmission request leads to the suppression of others.

# Hierarchical Feedback Control



- The essence of hierarchical reliable multicasting. Each local coordinator forwards the message to its children and later handles retransmission requests.

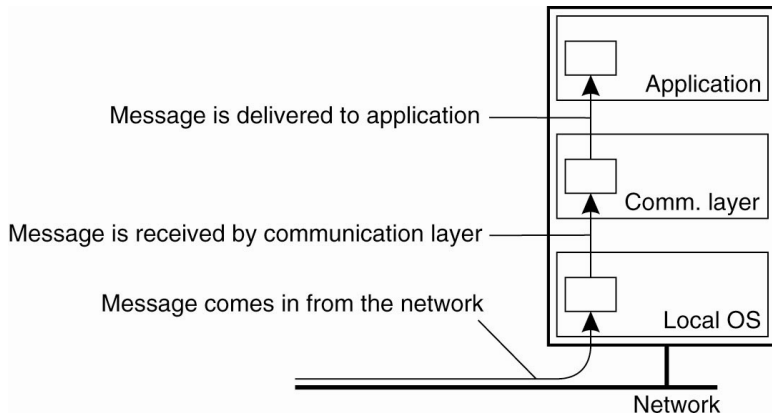
# Reliable Atomic Multicast

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- ▶ The atomic multicast setup to achieve reliable multicasting in the presence of process failures requires the following conditions:
  - ▶ A message is delivered to all processes or to none at all.
  - ▶ All messages are delivered in the same order to all processes.
- ▶ For example, this solves the problem of a replicated database on top of a distributed system.
  - ▶ Atomic multicasting ensures that non-faulty processes maintain a consistent view of the database, and forces reconciliation when a replica recovers and rejoins the group.

# Virtual Synchrony (1)



- The logical organization of a distributed system to distinguish between message receipt and message delivery.

## Virtual Synchrony (2)

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- ▶ Note that **m** being not delivered is because the sender of **m** crashed.

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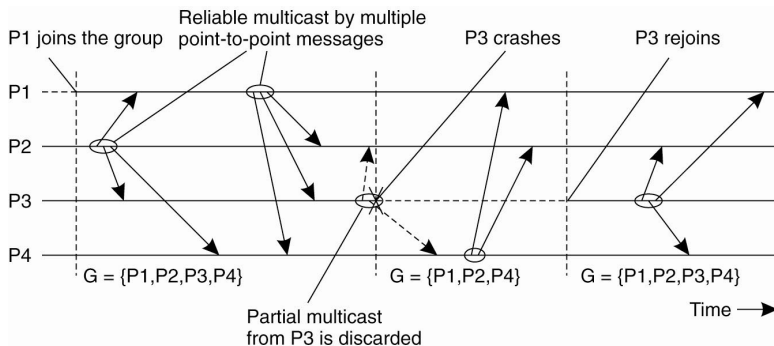
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- ▶ The principle is that all multicasts take place between view changes.
- ▶ All multicasts that are in transit when a view change takes place are completed before the view change comes into effect.



# Virtual Synchrony (4)



- ▶ The principle of virtual synchronous multicast.

# Message Ordering in Multicasting (1)

Virtual synchrony allows us to think about multicasts as taking place in epochs. But we can have several possible orderings of the multicasts:

- ▶ Unordered multicasts
- ▶ FIFO-ordered multicasts
- ▶ Causally-ordered multicasts (requires vector timestamps)
- ▶ Totally-ordered multicasts

## Message Ordering in Multicasting (2)

Process P1	Process P2	Process P3
sends m1	receives m1	receives m2
sends m2	receives m2	receives m1

- ▶ Three communicating processes in the same group. The ordering of events per process is shown along the vertical axis. This shows unordered multicasts.

# Message Ordering in Multicasting (3)

Process P1	Process P2	Process P3	Process P4
sends m1	receives m1	receives m3	sends m3
sends m2	receives m3	receives m1	sends m4
	receives m2	receives m2	
	receives m4	receives m4	

- ▶ Four processes in the same group with two different senders, and a possible delivery order of messages under FIFO-ordered multicasting.

# Message Ordering in Multicasting (4)

<b>Multicast</b>	<b>Basic Message Ordering</b>	<b>Total-Ordered Delivery?</b>
Reliable multicast	None	No
FIFO multicast	FIFO-ordered delivery	No
Causal multicast	Causal-ordered delivery	No
Atomic multicast	None	Yes
FIFO atomic multicast	FIFO-ordered delivery	Yes
Causal atomic multicast	Causal-ordered delivery	Yes

- ▶ Six different versions of virtually synchronous reliable multicasting.

# Implementing Virtual Synchrony (1)

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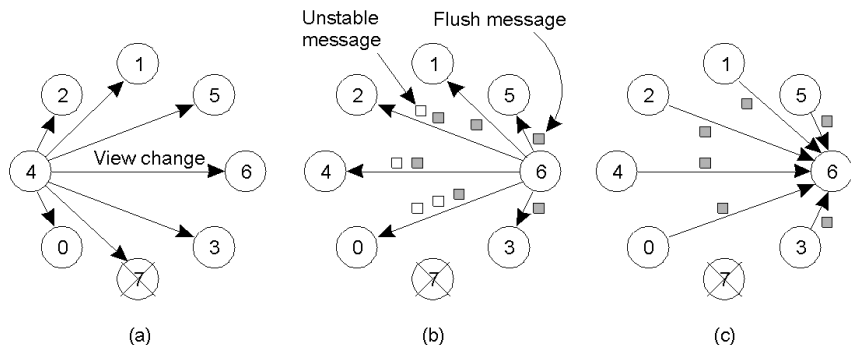
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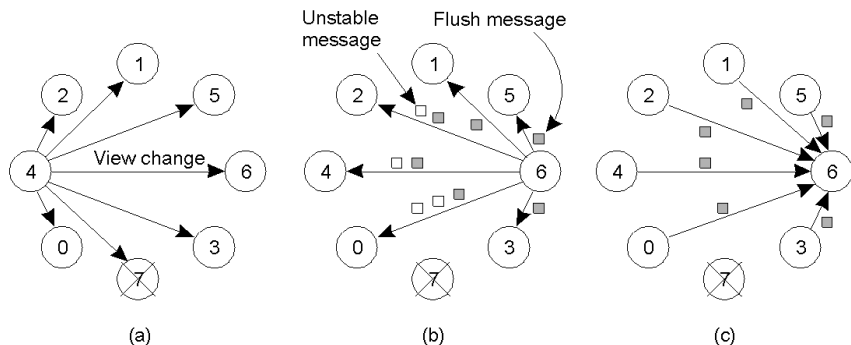
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- ▶ To ensure stability, it is sufficient to pick an arbitrary process in  $G$  and request it to send  $m$  to all other processes. That arbitrary process can be the coordinator.
- ▶ Assumes that no process crashes during a view change (although it can be generalized to handle that as well).

## Implementing Virtual Synchrony (2)



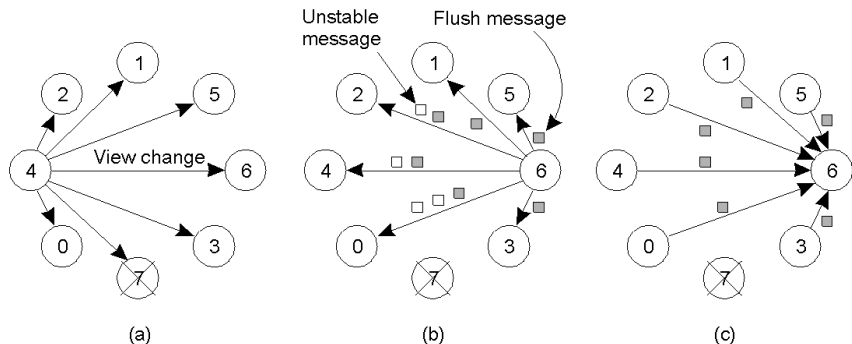
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## Implementing Virtual Synchrony (2)



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- (a) Process 4 notices that process 7 has crashed, sends a view change.
- (b) Process 6 sends out all its unstable messages, followed by a flush message.
- (c) Process 6 installs the new view when it has received a flush message from everyone else.

# Failure Masking by Redundancy

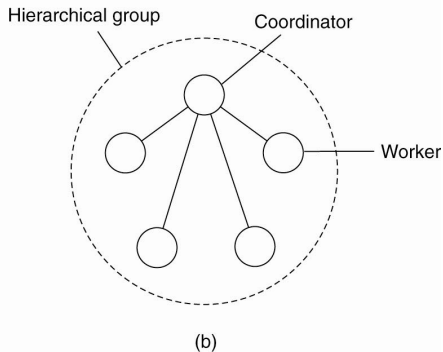
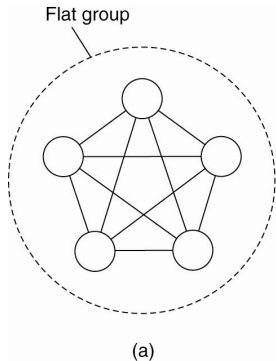
- ▶ **Information Redundancy.** For example, adding extra bits (like in Hamming Codes, see the book Coding and Information Theory) to allow recovery from garbled bits.
- ▶ **Time Redundancy.** Repeat actions if need be.
- ▶ **Physical Redundancy.** Extra equipment or processes are added to make the system tolerate loss of some components.

# Process Resilience

Achieved by replicating processes into groups.

- ▶ How to design fault-tolerant groups?
- ▶ How to reach an agreement within a group when some members cannot be trusted to give correct answers?

# Flat Groups Versus Hierarchical Groups



# Failure Masking Via Replication

- ▶ *Primary-backup protocol.* A primary coordinates all write operations. If it fails, then the others hold an election to replace the primary.
- ▶ *Replicated-write protocols.* Active replication as well as quorum based protocols. Corresponds to a flat group.



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  - ▶ Requires atomic multicasting: all requests arrive at all servers in same order. This can be relaxed to just be for write operations.

# Consensus in Faulty Systems

**The model:** a very large collection of clients send commands to a group of processes that jointly behave as a single, highly robust process. To make this work, we need to make an important assumption:

*In a fault-tolerant process group, each nonfaulty process executes the same commands, in the same order, as every other nonfaulty process.*

- ▶ Flooding Consensus (for fail-stop failures)
- ▶ Paxos Consensus (for fail-noisy failures)
- ▶ Byzantine Agreement (for arbitrary failures)

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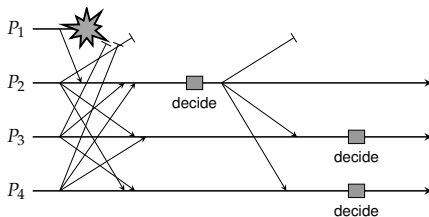
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# Example: Realistic Consensus: Paxos

## ► Assumptions (rather weak ones, and realistic)

- A **partially synchronous** system (in fact, it may even be asynchronous).
- **Communication** between processes may be **unreliable**: messages may be lost, duplicated, or reordered.
- **Corrupted message can be detected** (and thus subsequently ignored).
- All **operations are deterministic**: once an execution is started, it is known exactly what it will do.
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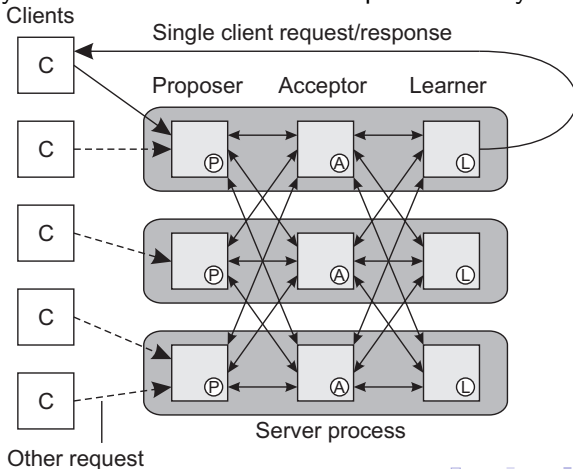
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- ▶ **Understanding Paxos**
  - ▶ We will build up Paxos from scratch to understand where many consensus algorithms actually come from.

# Paxos Organization

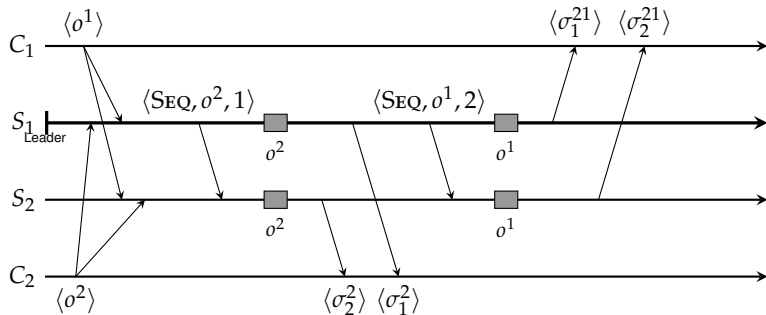
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# Two Server Situation



Subscripts designate processes, and superscripts designate operations and states.

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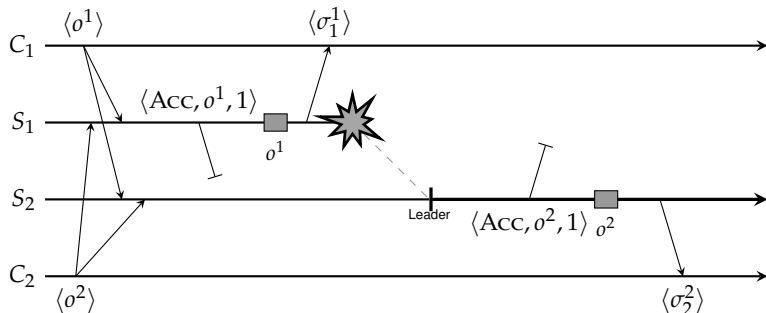
## Issues:

- ▶ Not only do the servers need to reach consensus on which operation to execute, we also need to make sure that each of them actually executes it.
- ▶ Failing leader.

# Handling lost messages

- ▶ Some Paxos terminology
  - ▶ The leader sends an **accept** message  $\text{ACCEPT}(o, t)$  to backups when assigning a timestamp  $t$  to command  $o$ .
  - ▶ A backup responds by sending a **learn** message:  $\text{LEARN}(o, t)$
  - ▶ When the leader notices that operation  $o$  has not yet been learned, it retransmits  $\text{ACCEPT}(o, t)$  with the original timestamp.

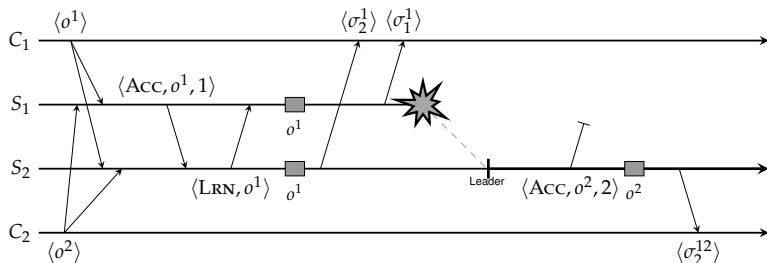
# Two servers and one crash: problem



## Problem:

- ▶ Primary crashes after executing an operation, but the backup never received the accept message.

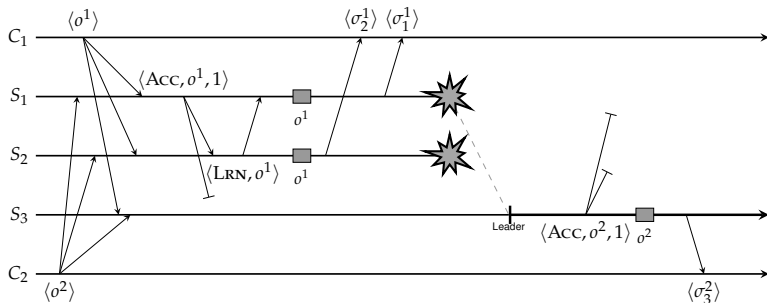
# Two servers and one crash: solution



## Solution:

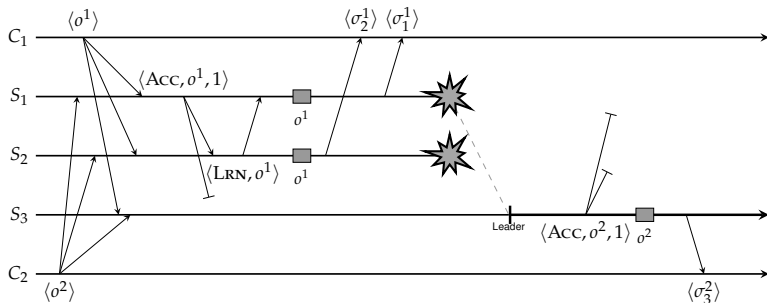
- ▶ Never execute an operation before it is clear that it has been learned.

# Three servers and two crashes: still a problem?





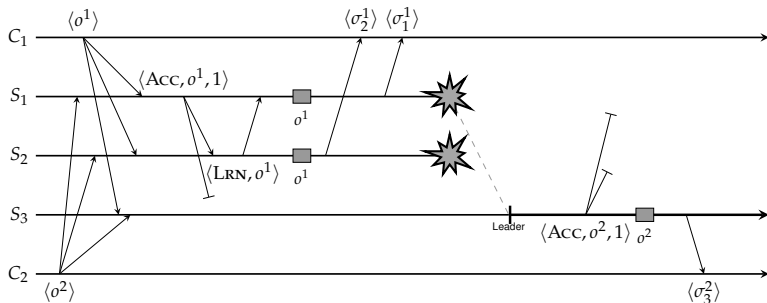
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## Scenario:

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What happens when  $\text{LEARN}(o^1)$  as sent by  $S_2$  to  $S_1$  is lost?

## Solution:

$S_2$  will also have to wait until it knows that  $S_3$  has learned  $o^1$ .

# Paxos: fundamental rule

## General rule:

In Paxos, a server  $S$  cannot execute an operation  $o$  until it has received a `LEARN( $o$ )` from all other nonfaulty servers.

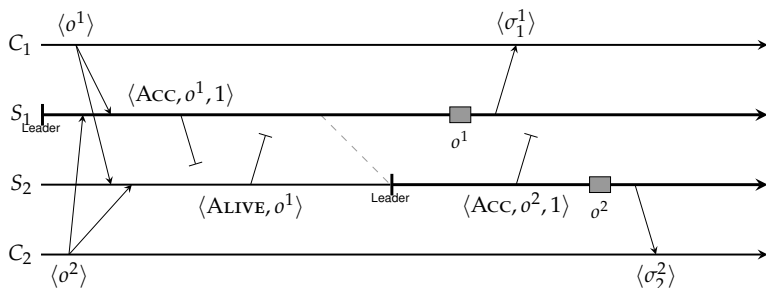
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# Required number of servers

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## Adapted fundamental rule:

- ▶ In Paxos with three servers, a server  $S$  cannot execute an operation  $o$  until it has received at least one (other)  $\text{LEARN}(o)$  message, so that it knows that a majority of servers will execute  $o$ .

## Required number of servers (contd.)

### Assumptions before taking the next steps:

- ▶ Initially,  $S_1$  is the leader.
- ▶ A server can **reliably detect it has missed a message**, and recover from that miss.
- ▶ When a new leader needs to be elected, the remaining servers follow a **strictly deterministic algorithm**, such as  $S_1 \rightarrow S_2 \rightarrow S_3$ .
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## Observation:

- ▶ If either one of the backups ( $S_2$  or  $S_3$ ) crashes, Paxos will behave correctly: operations at nonfaulty servers are executed in the same order.

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  - ▶  $S_2$  received  $\text{ACCEPT}(o, 1)$ , detects crash, and becomes leader.
  - ▶  $S_3$  even never received  $\text{ACCEPT}(o, 1)$ .
  - ▶  $S_2$  sends  $\text{ACCEPT}(o^2, 2) \Rightarrow S_3$  sees unexpected timestamp and tells  $S_2$  that it missed  $o^1$ .
  - ▶  $S_2$  retransmits  $\text{ACCEPT}(o^1, 1)$ , allowing  $S_3$  to catch up.
- ▶  $S_2$  missed  $\text{ACCEPT}(o^1, 1)$ 
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- ▶  $S_3$  is completely ignorant of any activity by  $S_1$ 
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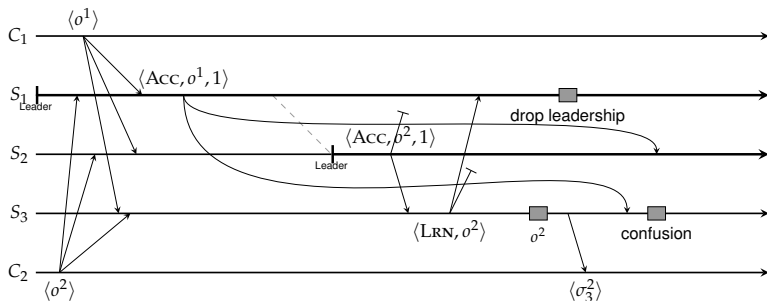
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### Observation:

- ▶ Paxos (with three servers) behaves correctly when a single server crashes, regardless when that crash took place.

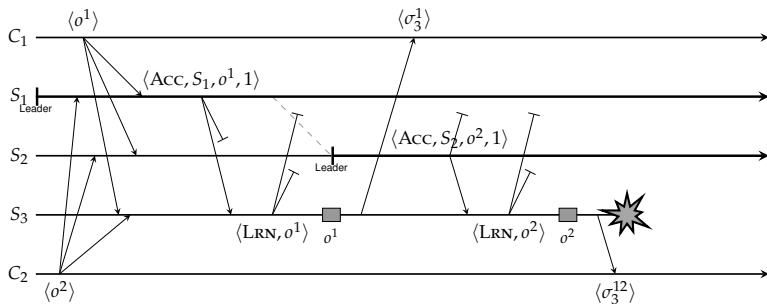
# False crash detection



## Problem and solution:

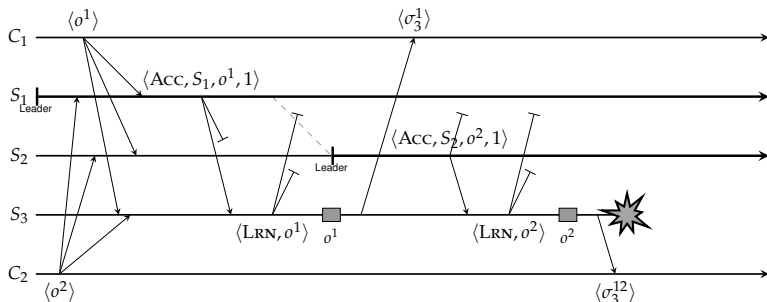
- ▶  $S_3$  receives  $\text{ACCEPT}(o^1, 1)$ , but much later than  $\text{ACCEPT}(o^2, 1)$ . If it knew who the **current** leader was, it could safely reject the delayed accept message  $\Rightarrow$  leaders should include their ID in messages.

# But what about progress (liveness)?





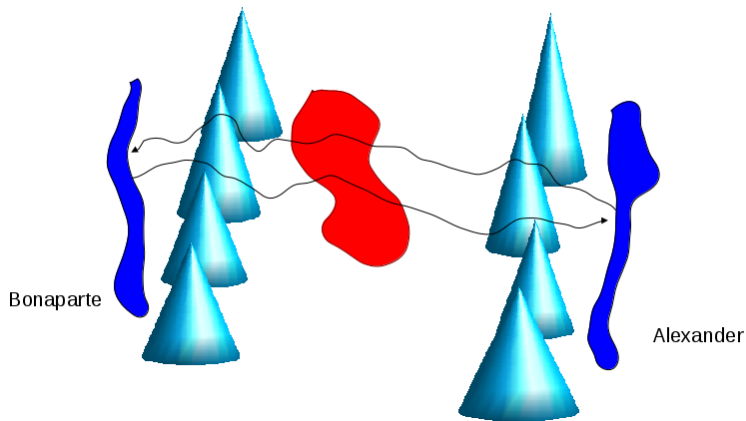
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### Essence of solution

- ▶ When  $S_2$  takes over, it needs to make sure that any **outstanding operations** initiated by  $S_1$  have been properly **flushed**, i.e., executed by enough servers. This requires an **explicit leadership takeover** by which other servers are informed before sending out new accept messages.

# Consensus in Systems with Arbitrary Faults



- ▶ Two Army Problem
- ▶ Non-faulty generals with unreliable communication.

# Byzantine Agreement Problem (1)

## Problem:

- ▶ Red army in the valley,  $n$  blue generals each with their own army surrounding the red army.
- ▶ Communication is pairwise, instantaneous and perfect.
- ▶ However  $m$  of the blue generals are traitors (faulty processes) and are actively trying to prevent the loyal generals from reaching agreement. The generals know the value  $m$ .

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## Conditions for a solution:

- ▶ All loyal generals decide upon the same plan of action
- ▶ A small number of traitors cannot cause the loyal generals to adopt a bad plan

# Byzantine Agreement Problem (2)

## Setup:

- ▶ Assume that we have  $n$  processes, where each process  $i$  will provide a value  $v_i$  to other processes. The goal is to let each process construct a vector of length  $n$  such that if process  $i$  is non-faulty,  $V[i] = v_i$ . Otherwise,  $V[i]$  is undefined.
- ▶ We assume that there are at most  $m$  faulty processes.

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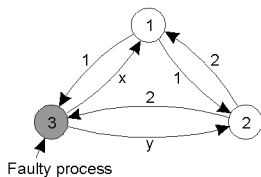
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*The goal of Byzantine agreement is that consensus is reached on the value for nonfaulty processes only.*

# Byzantine Agreement Example (1)



(a)

1 Got(1, 2, x)  
2 Got(1, 2, y)  
3 Got(1, 2, 3)

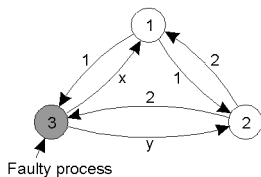
(b)

1 Got	2 Got
(1, 2, y)	(1, 2, x)
(a, b, c)	(d, e, f)

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- We have 2 loyal generals and one traitor.

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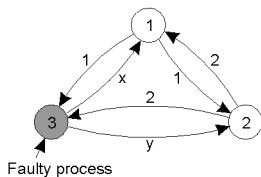
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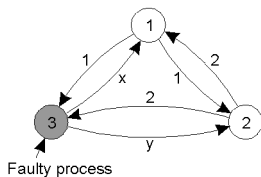
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$\frac{(1, 2, y)}{(a, b, c)}$	$\frac{(1, 2, x)}{(d, e, f)}$

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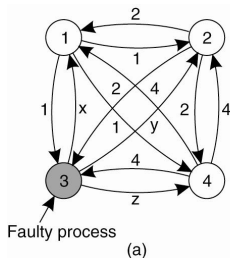
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- ▶ Similarly, process 2 cannot ascertain the right value for  $V[1]$ . Hence, they cannot reach agreement.
- ▶ For  $m$  faulty processes, we need  $2m + 1$  non-faulty processes to overcome the traitors. In total, we need a total of  $3m + 1$  processes to reach agreement.



# Byzantine Agreement Example (2)



1 Got(1, 2, x, 4)  
 2 Got(1, 2, y, 4)  
 3 Got(1, 2, 3, 4)  
 4 Got(1, 2, z, 4)

1 Got	2 Got	4 Got
(1, 2, y, 4)	(1, 2, x, 4)	(1, 2, x, 4)
(a, b, c, d)	(e, f, g, h)	(1, 2, y, 4)
(1, 2, z, 4)	(1, 2, z, 4)	(i, j, k, l)

The Byzantine generals problem for 3 loyal generals and 1 traitor:

- (a) The generals announce their troop strengths (let's say, in units of 1 kilo soldiers).
- (b) The vectors that each general assembles based on previous step.
- (c) The vectors that each general receives.
- (d) If a value has a majority, then we know it correctly, else it is unknown. In this case, we can reach agreement amongst the non-faulty processes.

# Limitations on Reaching Consensus (1)

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- ▶ Synchronous versus asynchronous systems
- ▶ Communication delay is bounded or not
- ▶ Message delivery from the same sender is ordered or not
- ▶ Message transmission is done through unicasting or multicasting

# Limitations on Reaching Consensus (2)

		Message ordering				
		Unordered		Ordered		
Process behavior	Synchronous	X	X	X	X	Bounded
				X	X	Unbounded
	Asynchronous				X	Bounded
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- ▶ Most distributed systems in practice assume that processes behave synchronously, message transmission is unicast, and communication delays are unbounded.

# The CAP Theorem

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  - ▶ **Consistency** (all nodes see the same data at the same time)
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## Brewer's CAP Theorem (Liberian.com)

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- ▶ Design around it!

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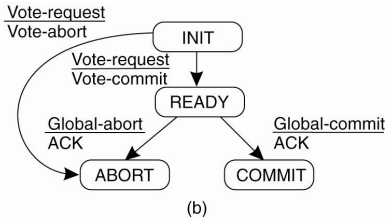
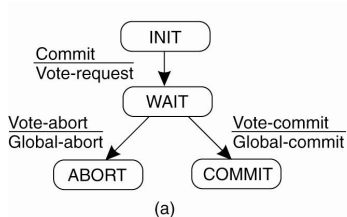
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  - ▶ **Three-phase commit**: Can work even if the coordinator crashes, but rarely used in practice.

# Two Phase Commit (1)



- (a) The finite state machine for the coordinator in Two Phase Commit (2PC).
- (b) The finite state machine for a participant.

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  - ▶ We can simply block until the coordinator recovers.
  - ▶ Or contact another participant Q to see if it can decide from Q's state what to do. Four cases to deal with here that are summarized on next slide.

## Two Phase Commit (3)

State of Q	Action by P
COMMIT	Make transition to COMMIT
ABORT	Make transition to ABORT
INIT	Make transition to ABORT
READY	Contact another participant

- ▶ Actions taken by a participant P when residing in state READY and having contacted another participant Q.

# Two Phase Commit (4)

## ► actions by coordinator

```
write START_2PC local log;
multicast VOTE_REQUEST to all participants;
while not all votes have been collected {
    wait for any incoming vote;
    if timeout {
        write GLOBAL_ABORT to local log;
        multicast GLOBAL_ABORT to all participants;
        exit;
    }
    record vote;
}
if all participants sent VOTE_COMMIT and coordinator votes COMMIT{
    write GLOBAL_COMMIT to local log;
    multicast GLOBAL_COMMIT to all participants;
} else {
    write GLOBAL_ABORT to local log;
    multicast GLOBAL_ABORT to all participants;
}
```

# Two Phase Commit (5)

## ► actions by participant

```
write INIT to local log;
wait for VOTE_REQUEST from coordinator;
if timeout {
    write VOTE_ABORT to local log;
    exit;
}
if participant votes COMMIT {
    write VOTE_COMMIT to local log;
    send VOTE_COMMIT to coordinator;
    wait for DECISION from coordinator;
    if timeout {
        multicast DECISION_REQUEST to other participants;
        wait until DECISION is received; /* remain blocked */
        write DECISION to local log;
    }
    if DECISION == GLOBAL_COMMIT
        write GLOBAL_COMMIT to local log;
    else if DECISION == GLOBAL_ABORT
        write GLOBAL_ABORT to local log;
} else {
    write VOTE_ABORT to local log;
    send VOTE_ABORT to coordinator;
}
```



# Two Phase Commit (6)

## ► actions for handling decision requests

```
/* executed by separate thread */  
while true {  
    wait until any incoming DECISION_REQUEST is received; /* remain b  
    read most recently recorded STATE from the local log;  
    if STATE == GLOBAL_COMMIT  
        send GLOBAL_COMMIT to requesting participant;  
    else if STATE == INIT or STATE == GLOBAL_ABORT  
        send GLOBAL_ABORT to requesting participant;  
    else  
        skip; /* participant remains blocked */  
}
```

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  - ▶ Backward recovery requires a loop of recovery so failure transparency cannot be guaranteed. Some states can never be rolled back to...
- ▶ **Forward recovery.** Bring the system to a correct new state from which it can continue execution. E.g. In an  $(n, k)$  **block erasure code**, a set of  $k$  source packets is encoded into a set of  $n$  encoded packets, such that any set of  $k$  encoded packets is enough to reconstruct the original  $k$  source packets.

- ▶ We need fault-tolerant disk storage for the checkpoints and message logs. Examples are various **RAID** (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) schemes (although they are used for both improved fault tolerance as well as improved performance). Some common schemes:
  - ▶ **RAID-0** block-level striping
  - ▶ **RAID-1** mirroring
  - ▶ **RAID-5** block-level striping with distributed parity
  - ▶ **RAID-6** block-level striping with double distributed parity
  - ▶ **RAID-10** stripes data across mirrored pairs

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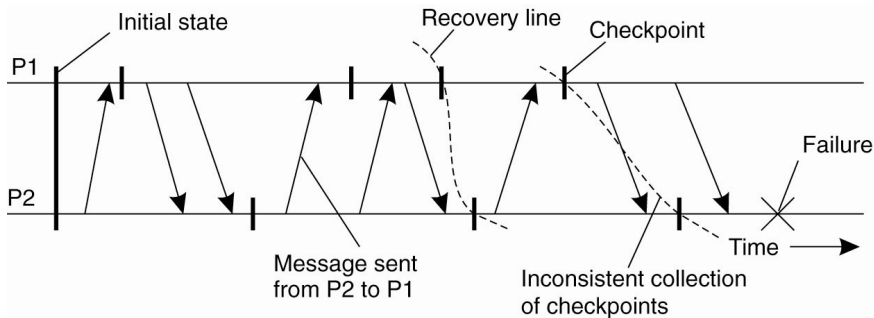
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  - ▶ Message logging:
    - ▶ Optimistic message logging
    - ▶ Pessimistic message logging

# Checkpointing and Recovery Line



# Independent Checkpointing

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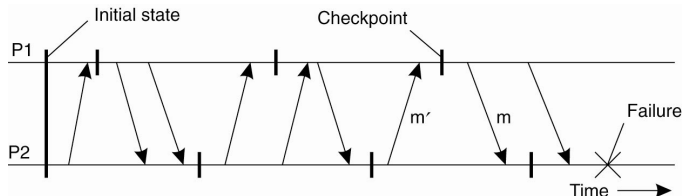
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- ▶ Find the recovery line in the following timeline:



# Coordinated Checkpointing (1)

- ▶ All processes synchronize to jointly write their state to local stable storage, which implies that the saved state is automatically consistent.
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  - ▶ When the coordinator has received an acknowledgment from all processes, it multicasts a **CHECKPOINT\_DONE** message to allow the blocked processes to continue.

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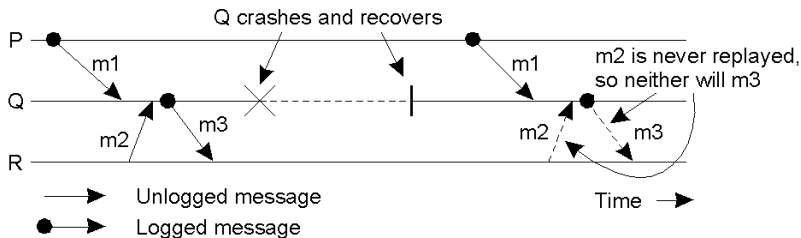
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- ▶ An deterministic interval can be replayed with a known result, provided it is replayed starting with the same non-deterministic event as before. Hence if we record all non-deterministic events, it becomes possible to completely replay the entire execution of a process in a deterministic way.

# Orphan Process

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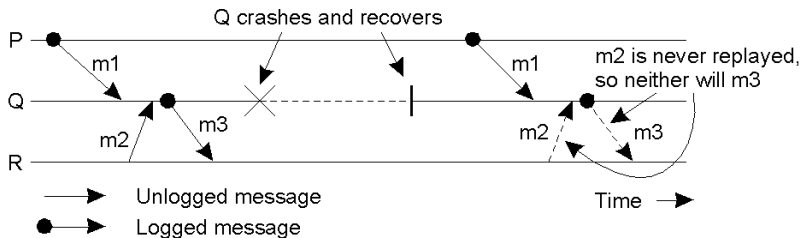
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- ▶ How to deal with orphans?

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