MODULE TwoPhase

This specification is discussed in "Two-Phase Commit", Lecture 6 of the TLA+ Video Course. It describes the Two-Phase Commit protocol, in which a transaction manager (TM) coordinates the resource managers (RMs) to implement the Transaction Commit specification of module TCommit. In this specification, RMs spontaneously issue Prepared messages. We ignore the Prepare messages that the TM can send to the RMs.

For simplicity, we also eliminate Abort messages sent by an RM when it decides to abort. Such a message would cause the TM to abort the transaction, an event represented here by the TM spontaneously deciding to abort.

CONSTANT RM The set of resource managers

VARIABLES

rmState, rmState[r] is the state of resource manager r.

tmState, The state of the transaction manager.

tmPrepared, The set of RMs from which the TM has received "Prepared"

messages.

msgs

In the protocol, processes communicate with one another by sending messages. For simplicity, we represent message passing with the variable msgs whose value is the set of all messages that have been sent. A message is sent by adding it to the set msgs. An action that, in an implementation, would be enabled by the receipt of a certain message is here enabled by the presence of that message in msgs. For simplicity, messages are never removed from msgs. This allows a single message to be received by multiple receivers. Receipt of the same message twice is therefore allowed; but in this particular protocol, that's not a problem.

$Messages \triangleq$

The set of all possible messages. Messages of type "Prepared" are sent from the RM indicated by the message's rm field to the TM. Messages of type "Commit" and "Abort" are broadcast by the TM, to be received by all RMs. The set msg contains just a single copy of such a message.

```
[type: \{ \text{"Prepared"} \}, rm: RM ] \cup [type: \{ \text{"Commit"}, \text{"Abort"} \} ]
```

$TPTypeOK \triangleq$

The type-correctness invariant

$TPInit \stackrel{\triangle}{=}$

The initial predicate.

We now define the actions that may be performed by the processes, first the TM's actions, then the RMs' actions.

```
TMRcvPrepared(r) \stackrel{\triangle}{=}
```

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The TM receives a "Prepared" message from resource manager r. We could add the additional enabling condition r \notin tmPrepared, which disables the action if the TM has already received this message. But there is no need, because in that case the action has no effect; it leaves the state unchanged.
```

```
\land tmState = "init"
```

- $\land [\mathit{type} \mapsto \mathit{``Prepared''}, \mathit{rm} \mapsto r] \in \mathit{msgs}$
- $\land tmPrepared' = tmPrepared \cup \{r\}$
- \land UNCHANGED $\langle rmState, tmState, msgs \rangle$

$TMCommit \triangleq$

The TM commits the transaction; enabled iff the TM is in its initial state and every RM has sent a "Prepared" message.

- $\land tmState = "init"$
- $\land \ tmPrepared = RM$
- $\land tmState' = "done"$
- $\land msgs' = msgs \cup \{[type \mapsto "Commit"]\}$
- \land UNCHANGED $\langle rmState, tmPrepared \rangle$

$TMAbort \triangleq$

The TM spontaneously aborts the transaction.

- $\land tmState = "init"$
- $\land tmState' = "done"$
- $\land msgs' = msgs \cup \{[type \mapsto \text{``Abort''}]\}$
- \land UNCHANGED $\langle rmState, tmPrepared \rangle$

$RMPrepare(r) \triangleq$

Resource manager r prepares.

- $\land rmState[r] = "working"$
- $\land rmState' = [rmState \ EXCEPT \ ![r] = "prepared"]$
- $\land msgs' = msgs \cup \{ [type \mapsto "Prepared", rm \mapsto r] \}$
- \land UNCHANGED $\langle tmState, tmPrepared \rangle$

$RMChooseToAbort(r) \triangleq$

Resource manager r spontaneously decides to abort. As noted above, r does not send any message in our simplified spec.

- $\land rmState[r] = "working"$
- $\land rmState' = [rmState \ \texttt{EXCEPT} \ ![r] = "aborted"]$
- \land UNCHANGED $\langle tmState, tmPrepared, msgs \rangle$

$RMRcvCommitMsg(r) \stackrel{\triangle}{=}$

Resource manager r is told by the TM to commit.

- $\land [type \mapsto "Commit"] \in msgs$
- $\land rmState' = [rmState \ EXCEPT \ ![r] = "committed"]$
- \land UNCHANGED $\langle tmState, tmPrepared, msgs \rangle$

$RMRcvAbortMsg(r) \triangleq$

Resource manager r is told by the TM to abort.

The material below this point is not discussed in Video Lecture 6. It will be explained in Video Lecture 8.

```
TPSpec \ \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \ TPInit \land \Box [\mathit{TPNext}]_{\langle \mathit{rmState}, \, tmState, \, tmPrepared, \, msgs \rangle}
```

The complete spec of the Two-Phase Commit protocol.

```
THEOREM TPSpec \Rightarrow \Box TPTypeOK
```

This theorem asserts that the type-correctness predicate TPTypeOK is an invariant of the specification.

We now assert that the Two-Phase Commit protocol implements the Transaction Commit protocol of module TCommit. The following statement imports all the definitions from module TCommit into the current module.

INSTANCE TCommit

THEOREM $TPSpec \Rightarrow TCSpec$

This theorem asserts that the specification TPSpec of the Two-Phase Commit protocol implements the specification TCSpec of the Transaction Commit protocol.

The two theorems in this module have been checked with TLC for six RMs, a configuration with 50816 reachable states, in a little over a minute on a 1 GHz PC.

^{\ *} Modification History

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