

SYNCOPE: Automatic Enforcement of Distributed Consistency Guarantees

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Abstract. Designing reliable and highly available distributed applications typically requires data to be replicated over geo-distributed stores. But, such architectures force application developers to make an undesirable tradeoff between ease of reasoning, possible when replicated data is required to be strongly consistent, and performance, possible only when such guarantees are weakened. Unfortunately, undesirable behaviors may arise under weak consistency that can violate application correctness, forcing designers to either implement ad-hoc mechanisms to avoid these anomalies, or choose to run applications using stronger levels of consistency than necessary. The former approach introduces unwanted complexity, while the latter sacrifices performance.

In this paper, we describe a lightweight runtime verification system that relieves developers from having to make such tradeoffs. Instead, our approach leverages declarative axiomatic specifications that reflect the necessary constraints any correct implementation must satisfy to guide a runtime consistency enforcement mechanism. This mechanism guarantees a *provably optimal* strategy that imposes no additional communication or blocking overhead beyond what is required to satisfy the specification, allowing distributed operations to run in a *provably safe* environment. Experimental results show that the performance of our automatically derived mechanisms is better than both specialized hand-written protocols and common store-offered consistency guarantees, providing strong evidence of its practical utility.

Keywords: runtime safety enforcement, weak consistency, distributed systems, Haskell

1 Introduction

Historically, ACID¹ properties, have been included in the *de facto* system abstraction for developing distributed programs. These properties, guarantee *replication transparency* (i.e. requiring distributed systems to *appear* as a single compute and storage server to users), and have resulted in development of standardized implementation and reasoning techniques around *strongly consistent* (SC) distributed stores. Although strong notions of consistency, are ideal for development and reasoning about distributed applications, they require extensive

¹ Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation and Durability

synchronization overhead which is unacceptable for web-scale applications that wish to be “always-on” despite network partitionings. Applications are therefore usually designed to tolerate certain *inconsistencies*, in exchange for availability and low-latency. An extreme example is *eventual consistency* (EC), where the local state of each node at all time, only represents an *unspecified order* of an *unspecified subset* of the set of all updates submitted to the system globally. Applications that cannot tolerate the anomalous behaviors allowed under EC, may chose to use various stronger (than EC) instantiations, that are collectively referred to as *weak consistency* guarantees. Unfortunately, weak notions of consistency, are closely tied to specific data-store implementations, and in very few cases, such as *causal consistency* (CC), even though there exists relatively standard definitions and known implementation techniques, users are usually offered with unnecessary levels of consistency and potential performance loss (in fact, CC is the strongest consistency guarantee that remains available under network partitioning). In order to solve this problem, developers are forced to inject their code with *ad-hoc* anomaly tolerance mechanisms that are closely tied to the application logic and conflates it with concerns orthogonal to its semantics. To illustrate this problem, we will present an example in section 3, where we introduce a simple distributed application developed on top of an off-the-shelf eventually consistent data-store (ECDS), and explain how it must be re-engineered from the scratch in order to preempt certain undesired behaviors (i.e. enforce fine-grained weak consistency requirements). As we will see, the ad-hoc nature of such mechanisms confounds standardization, and complicates reasoning, maintainability and reusability of the applications.

In this paper, we propose an alternative to the aforementioned approaches that overcomes their weaknesses. SYNCOPE is a lightweight runtime system for Haskell that allows application developers to take advantage of weak consistency without having to re-engineer their code to accommodate anomaly preemption mechanisms. The key insight that drives SYNCOPE’s design is that the hardness of reasoning about the integrity of a distributed application stems from conflating application logic with the consistency enforcement logic, reasoning about both *operationally*. By separating application semantics from consistency enforcement semantics, admitting operational reasoning for the former, and declarative reasoning for the latter programmers are liberated from having to worry about implementation details of preemption mechanisms, and instead focus on reasoning about application semantics under the assumption that specified consistency requirements are automatically enforced by the data store at runtime. Our approach admits declarative reasoning for consistency enforcement via a specification language that allows programmers formally specify the consistency requirements of their application. The design of our specification language is based on the observation that all forms of anomalous behaviors under EC, are caused when operations are executed at replicas that do not contain *some necessary* updates, which we call them the *dependencies* of the operation. Users in SYNCOPE, can specify arbitrary dependence relations between updates, and the runtime monitoring system working on top of each replica, guarantees that an

operation will only proceed if it can witness all of its dependencies. For example, *lost updates*, which is a very well known anomaly under EC, occurs when an operation from a session is routed to a replica different than the replica serving the earlier operations from the same session (because of transient system properties, such as load balancing or network partitions) and is successfully executed, without witnessing the update from those operations. In this case, the dependency of the operations can be defined as the updates from *all previous operations from the same sessions*, and rely on SYNCOPE to temporarily block operations until all such dependencies become available at a replica.

To summarize contributions of this paper: (i) We propose a specification language to express the fine-grained consistency requirements of applications in terms of the dependencies between operations. (ii) We describe a generic consistency enforcement runtime that analyzes each operation’s consistency specification, and ensures that its dependencies are satisfied before it is executed. We formalize the operational semantics of the runtime, and prove its correctness and optimality (including *minimum blocking* and *minimum staleness*) guarantees. (iii) We describe an implementation of our specification language and consistency enforcement runtime in a tool called SYNCOPE, which works on top of an off-the-shelf EC data store. We evaluate SYNCOPE over realistic applications and microbenchmarks, and present results that demonstrate the performance benefits of making fine-grained distinctions between consistency guarantees, and the ease of doing so via our specification language.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. A system model that describes key notions of consistency and replication is presented in Sec. 2. In Sec. 3 we provide a detailed example to further motivate the problem. In Sec. 4 and Sec. 5, we formally present our specification language the high level operational semantics of the runtime system, with correctness and optimality theorems. Sec. 6 elaborates on the algorithmic aspects of our runtime that is key to its efficient realization. Sec. 7 describes implementation of SYNCOPE, and evaluates its applicability and practical utility. Related works and conclusion are presented in Sec. 8 and Sec. 9

2 System Model

A data store in our system model is a collection of *replicas* ($\#1, \#2, \dots$), each of which maintains an instance of a set of replicated *data object* (x, y, \dots). These objects, which are defined by application developers, contain a *state* (v, v', \dots) and are equipped with a set of *operations* (op, op', \dots), each of which are designated as either read-only or effectful. The former characterizes operations that just read from the store, and receive an instance of an object’s state, while the latter characterizes operations that modify an object’s state by generating *update effects* (η, η', \dots). Update effects or simply effects are associated with an *apply* function that executes asynchronously, and modifies object state on different replicas. An effectful operation is handled by a replica that updates the object’s state, and guarantees eventual delivery of the effect to all other replicas in the system. Each

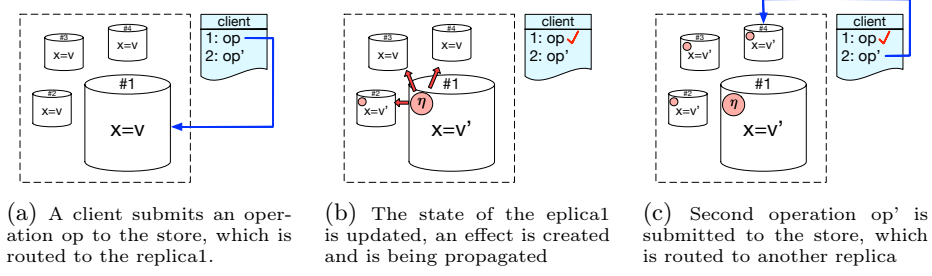


Fig. 1: system model of SYNCOPE

recipient uses the apply function to modify its local instance of the object; Fig.1 illustrates this behavior.

Observe there is no direct synchronization between replicas when an operation is executed, which means there can be conflicting updates on an object, that are generated at different replicas concurrently. We do not bound the system to a particular conflict resolution strategy. Consequently, this model admits all inconsistencies and anomalies associated with eventual consistency [?]; our goal is equip applications and implementations with mechanisms to specify and avoid such inconsistencies.

Clients interact with the store by invoking operations on objects. A *session* is a sequence of operations invoked by a particular client. Consequently, operations (and update effects) can be uniquely identified by their invoking *session id* and their *sequence number* in that particular session. The data store is typically accessed by a large number of clients concurrently and as a result of the load balancing regulations of the store, operations might be routed to different replicas, even if they are from the same session (Figures 1a and 1c). Operations belonging to a given session are not required to be handled by the same replica.

We now define two relations over effects created in the store. *Session order* (\xrightarrow{so}) is an irreflexive, transitive relation that relates effects from the same session following the integer *smaller than* relation over their sequence numbers. *Visibility* ($\eta \xrightarrow{vis} \eta'$) is an irreflexive and asymmetric relation that holds if effect η has been applied to a replica R before η' is applied to R . In Fig.1c for example, η' (the effect of executing op') will witness the updates associated with effect η ($\eta \xrightarrow{vis} \eta'$), since η is already present at the replica4, when op' is submitted).

3 Motivation

3.1 Replicated Data Types (RDTs) in Eventually Consistent Stores

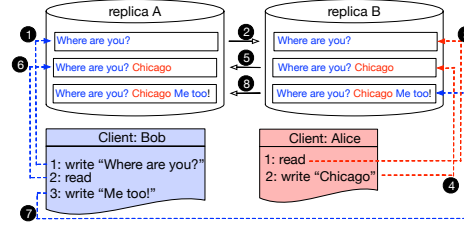
To provide further motivation, consider a highly available (low latency) application that manages the comment section of posts, as part of a photo sharing web site. Fig. 2a presents a simple Haskell implementation of such an application cognizant of our system model. The implementation treats **Effect** strings

```

1 type Effect = String
2 type State = String
3
4 read :: State -> (String, Maybe Effect)
5 read s = (s, Nothing)
6
7 write :: String -> ((), Maybe Effect)
8 write comment = ((), comment)
9
10 apply :: State -> Effect -> State
11 apply s eff = in s ++ " - " ++ comment

```

(a) A simple implementation



(b) Example execution

Fig. 2: A distributed application for comment section management

as the text of a comment, and **State** strings as the concatenation of all visible comments associated with a post. A new **Effect** is generated every time a user wants to comment on a post by calling the **write** function, and a **read** call simply returns the **State** of the object at the serving replica.

The **apply** function given an effect pastes the included comment to the end of the current **State**. For perspicuity, we omit any conflict resolution strategy in the code; however, developers (using roll-backs, etc) can design the **apply** function to resolve conflicting concurrent updates as they desire.

Fig. 9a presents an example of how users interact with the application. The example shows two clients, Bob and Alice, that invoke operations on the same object. In the beginning Bob writes a comment, which is routed to replica A (❶), whose effect is then propagated and delivered to replica B (❷); Alice's first read operation is routed to next (❸). Alice and Bob then keep talking through more read and write events while updates are propagated between replicas, whose order is marked in the figure.

Assume Bob's read operation, instead of being sent to replica A, was routed to another replica C, where the update from his first operation was not present. This is known as a *lost-updates* anomaly, a very well-understood albeit undesirable behavior that is admitted by eventually consistent stores. Preventing this sort of anomaly requires subtle reasoning and may entail sophisticated restructuring of application logic.

3.2 Ad-hoc Anomaly Prevention

One way to prevent a lost-update anomaly is to *tag* effects and operations with unique identifiers; such identifiers consist of an originating session (Alice/Bob), and an integer showing a sequence number in the session (*line* : 1, 2, 3). This is used by replicas to record the set of effects they have witnessed. Tracking dependencies in this way prevents the anomaly. Operations that are routed to a replica that have not witnessed their dependencies are postponed.

Another technique called **filtration** is also used to further realize the above idea, by separating the set of effects that have arrived to the replica (available effects), and the set of effects that have arrived and also been applied to the state

```

1 data Sess = Bob | Alice
2 type ID = (Sess, Int)
3 type Effect = (ID, String)
4 type State = (String, Int, Int)
5
6 read :: ID -> State -> String
7 read (sess, seq) (st, sq1, sq2) =
8   case sess of
9     Bob -> if (seq==sq1+1) then st
10            else read (sess, seq) (st, sq1, sq2)
11     Alice -> if (seq==sq2+1) then st
12             else read (sess, seq) (st, sq1, sq2)
13
14 apply :: State -> Effect -> State
15 apply (st, sq1, sq2) ((sess, seq), cm) =
16   case sess of
17     Bob -> if (sq1==seq-1)
18            then (st++cm, sq1+1, sq2)
19            else (st, sq1, sq2)
20     Alice -> if (sq2==seq-1)
21              then (st++cm, sq1, sq2+1)
22              else (st, sq1, sq2)

```

Fig. 3: Guarded Application to Prevent Lost-updates Anomaly When Serving Bob and Alice

(filtered effects). Replicas can filter the set of available effects before applying them, so that effects are applied only when all previous effects, as determined by session order, have been applied. In order to maintain the set of all effects applied to the state, replicas should only record the highest sequence numbers from each session since it is guaranteed that smaller ones are also already applied (*line* : 4).

Fig. 3 represents the blocking technique in the modified `read` operation, where the result is only returned if the sequence number of the operation is one larger than the previously seen sequence number from that session. (*line* : 9, 11). Otherwise, the function is blocked by calling itself recursively (*line* : 10, 12).

The above approach obviously requires fundamental and pervasive changes to the original code. Additionally, modifications are heavily tangled with application logic complicating reasoning and hampering correctness arguments.

Another major drawback of this approach is that it requires constant alteration to the state of the application when sessions come and go. Applications are now required to make sure that a new field is created locally *and* globally when new sessions are connected. This requires modifying object state in the data store, and making sure that the global information is updated before allowing local sessions to start. This requires direct synchronization between replicas, degrading application performance and availability.

To make the matter worse, new anomalies are constantly found in systems requiring developers to develop new non-trivial solutions. For example, in the above application, another type of anomaly can occur when a third user Chris, uses the application and submits a read, which is routed to a replica D, that only contains the last write from Bob. Then Chris sees a window containing "Me too!", which is an undesirable behavior. Developers must now either find another ad-hoc solution, further polluting application logic, or execute the application using a stronger form of consistency, compromising performance.

3.3 An Alternative

To overcome these issues, we consider the design of a generic consistency management tool. Our goal is to have developers define a consistency level for each operation *a priori*, ensuring their satisfiability at runtime. We have realized this

idea, following our observation that preventing anomalies can be expressed in terms of filtration and blocking.

We therefore propose equipping a distributed data store with a filtration mechanism that regulates the effects an operation witnesses (e.g., preventing Chris from seeing Bob’s last comment without including the causal history that preceded it), and a blocking mechanism that allows operations to execute only when all its dependent effects have been recorded (e.g., thereby preventing the lost updates anomaly). We refer to the view an operation has of a replica’s state as its *environment*.

Our implementation (called SYNCOPE) requires developers to specify constraints on read operations that can be used to synthesize appropriate filtration and blocking mechanisms. The specification language is seeded with **so vis** relations and allows users to proscribe different anomalous behaviors. For example, the followings are the two constraints that prevent the anomalies described above: the two anomalies mentioned in this section:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1 : \forall(\eta, \eta'). \eta \xrightarrow{\text{so}} \eta' &\Rightarrow \eta \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \eta' \\ \psi_2 : \forall(\eta, \eta'). \eta \xrightarrow{\text{vis;vis}} \eta' &\Rightarrow \eta \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \eta'\end{aligned}$$

The specification of the first constraint eliminates the possibility of lost updates by mandating that any operation op with effect η that precedes another op' with effect η' in session order must also be visible (i.e., η must be witnessed on any replica that op' executes on). The second specification prevents causality violations by demanding that if an effect η is visible to another η' , then η' should also witness any effects η has witnessed.

4 Specification Language

The formal syntax of our specification language is presented in Fig. 4b. The language allows the definition of propositions, FOL formulae that establish the conditions under which one effect may become visible to another. The dependencies that must hold for a particular visibility effect to be valid is given in terms of a composition of

The type **relation** which is used to define dependencies between effects in **props**, is a sequence of **rel.seeds** where each of them is a **vis** or **so** relation or the union of them both over the set of effects. We use the following interpretation for the sequence of relations:

$$a \xrightarrow{R; r_k} b \iff \exists c. a \xrightarrow{R} c \wedge c \xrightarrow{r_k} b \quad (1)$$

In order to configure each environment, the developers are required to write a **spec** for each of them, that is consisted of conjunctions of **props**, which simply allows developers to eliminate multiple types of anomalous behavior from each environment. For example, the developers of the comment management application, can simply write $\psi_1 \wedge \psi_2$ for their **read** operation and prevent *both* anomalies explained in the previous section.

Now we syntactically classify propositions into *lower bound* (LB) and *upper bound* (UB) and hybrid types, and show that they completely align with types of anomalies previously mentioned.

$ \begin{aligned} r &\in \text{rel.seed} := \text{vis} \mid \text{so} \mid r \cup r \\ R &\in \text{relation} := r \mid R; r \mid \text{null} \\ \pi &\in \text{prop} := \forall a. a \xrightarrow{R} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta} \\ \psi &\in \text{spec} := \pi \mid \pi \wedge \pi \end{aligned} $	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Guarantee</th><th>Contract</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RMW</td><td>$\forall a. a \xrightarrow{\text{so}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$</td></tr> <tr> <td>MW</td><td>$\forall a. a \xrightarrow{\text{so}; \text{vis}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$</td></tr> <tr> <td>MR</td><td>$\forall a. a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}; \text{so}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Guarantee	Contract	RMW	$\forall a. a \xrightarrow{\text{so}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$	MW	$\forall a. a \xrightarrow{\text{so}; \text{vis}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$	MR	$\forall a. a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}; \text{so}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$
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(a) syntax	(b) examples								

Fig. 4: SYNCOPE Specification Language

- **LB**: We define a **prop** to be of type LB, if its dependency relation R , ends with an **so** relation, i.e. is of the following form: $\forall a. a \xrightarrow{r_1; r_2; \dots; \text{so}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$. Observe that these contracts simply put a lower bound on the set of effects each operation must witness, by defining a certain set of dependency for each effect, that must be visible to it, which makes the blocking technique very suitable for easily maintaining them.
- **UB**: These propositions are similarly defined as **props** with dependency relations ending with **vis**, or of the following form: $\forall a. a \xrightarrow{r_1; r_2; \dots; \text{vis}} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta}$. This type of **props**, put an upper bound on the set of effects a replica should make visible to each operation when executing it, by enforcing that if an effect is made visible, certain set of dependent effects must also be made visible. This clearly resembles the filtration technique, where only a subset of available effects can enter the consistent environments.
- **Hybrid**: The **props** whose dependency relation ends with $\text{vis} \cup \text{so}$, which require both blocking and filtration to be maintained.

We can extend the above definitions to **specs** also, by defining an LB (UB) **spec** to contain only LB (UB) **props**. Hybrid **specs** are also defined as the ones that are neither LB or UB.

We finish this section by presenting weak consistency guarantees from Terry et. al. in figure ??, which shows the generality of our simple specification language. We also present a simple way of representing contracts as graphs where the left-hand-side of the contracts are depicted as the sequence of edges relating two effects, and the right-hand-side (or what must be enforced by replicas at the execution time) is represented as the single dashed **vis** edge.

5 Semantics

In this section we formalize our consistency enforcement algorithm with an operational semantics, which is also a high-level abstraction of our tool SYNCOPE. Our approach is complete for the specification language defined in section 4, however, here for simplicity reasons we present an operational semantics parametrized over a non-hybrid contract with a single **prop**. As we will explain in section 5.5, the rules can be easily generalized to cover multiple consistency levels, each specified by any given contract. Therefore, in the rest of this section we will assume a given contract ψ of the following form:

$$\psi = \forall a. a \xrightarrow{R} \hat{\eta} \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \hat{\eta} \quad R = r_1; r_2; \dots; r_k$$

The operational semantics is defined via a small-step relation over *execution states*, which are tuples of the form $E = (A, \text{vis}, \text{so})$. The *effect soup* A , represents the set of all effects produced in the system, and $\text{vis}, \text{so} \subseteq A \times A$, respectively stand for the visibility and session order relations among such effects. Figures 5a and 5b represent a simple execution state of a system consisting of 9 effects with associated primitive relations, where we omitted drawing the transitive so edge between η_8 and η_1 , for better readability. We use notation $A_{(\text{condition})}$ to

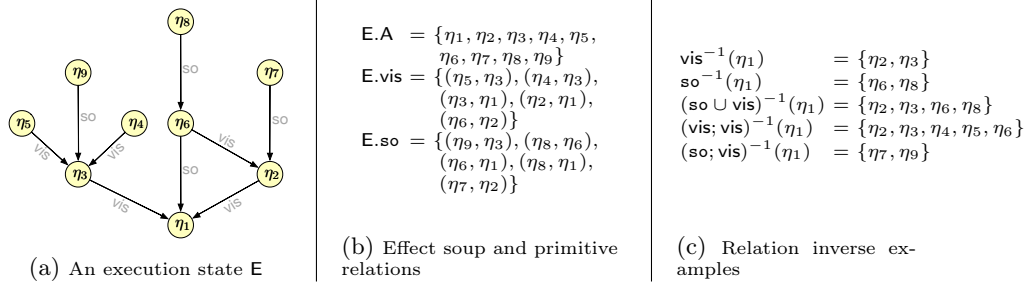


Fig. 5: A simple execution state

represent a subset of A consisting of effects that satisfy the specified condition. Note that SYSCOPE's contracts are in fact constraints over execution states, where the domain of quantification is fixed to the effect soup A , and interpretation for so and vis relations (which occur free in the contract formulae) are also provided. Thus, execution states are potential models for any first-order formula expressible in the contract language. If an execution state E is in fact a valid model for a contract ψ , we say that E satisfies ψ , written as $E \models \psi$.

The semantics' reduction step is of the form

$$(E, \text{op}_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (E', \eta),$$

which can be interpreted as a reduction of the initial execution state E , initiated by a replica with a local set of effects V , after it executes an operation op , which is the i^{th} request from the session s . During this reduction step a new effect η is produced and added to the system, resulting a new execution state E' with updated effect soup and primitive relations.

Before introducing the operational semantics, we will first formally present the required definitions in the next section. Namely, we will define notions of the *inverse* of a given relation R , and the *maximally closed subset* of a given set of effects V under a contract ψ .

5.1 Preliminaries

We start by formally defining the inverse of a seed relation ($\mathbf{r} \in \mathbf{rel.seed}$) given an execution state \mathbf{E} :

$$\mathbf{r}^{-1}(S) = \begin{cases} \bigcup_{b \in \mathbf{S}} \{a \mid (a, b) \in \mathbf{E.r}\} & \text{if } \mathbf{r} \in \{\mathbf{so}, \mathbf{vis}\} \\ \mathbf{r}_1^{-1}(S) \cup \mathbf{r}_2^{-1}(S) & \text{if } \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_1 \cup \mathbf{r}_2 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Note that when the input of an inversed relation is a singleton $\{\eta\}$, we drop the brackets and simply write it as $\mathbf{r}^{-1}(\eta)$. We now present the definition of the inverse of sequences (of size larger than 1) of **rel.seed** as follows:

$$b \in (R'; r)^{-1}(a) \iff \exists c. c \in r^{-1}(a) \wedge b \in (R')^{-1}(c) \quad (3)$$

Inverse of sequences of length 1 is also implicitly defined as the inverse of the enclosed **rel.seed**.

Following definitions (2) and (3), since **relation** in our specification language is defined as either a **rel.seed**, or a sequence of them, we are now ready to formally define the inverse of any given relation $R \in \mathbf{relation}$. However, note that the definition (3) fails to capture the reality of distributed systems, where all computations are done locally by replicas, which might have access to only a *subset of all effects* at any given moment. For example, consider $(\mathbf{so}; \mathbf{vis})^{-1}(\eta_1)$ of the execution state in figure 5. In order to compute this set, based on the recursive definition of (3) we have:

$$b \in (\mathbf{so}; \mathbf{vis})^{-1}(\eta_1) \iff \exists c. c \in \mathbf{vis}^{-1}(\eta_1) \wedge b \in (\mathbf{so})^{-1}(c)$$

Since there exist *mid-level* effects η_2 and η_3 , such that satisfy the above definition respectively for $b = \eta_7$ and $b = \eta_9$, we have: $(\mathbf{so}; \mathbf{vis})^{-1}(\eta_1) = \{\eta_7, \eta_9\}$. Now assume a replica only contains $\{\eta_1, \eta_6, \eta_7, \eta_8, \eta_9\}$ and wants to check if the dependencies of η_1 are locally present or not. Even though based on the above definitions the answer is yes (since the replica does contain $\{\eta_7, \eta_9\}$), but in reality the replica would not be able to verify that, since the mid-level effects η_2 and η_3 are not present at the replica yet.

To capture the above property, we now present partial definition of the inverse of a given relation $R \in \mathbf{relation}$ *according to a set of available effects* V . We define the inverse, only if all the required mid-level effects are present in V using definition (2) and a slightly different version of the definition (3).

$$b \in R_V^{-1}(a) \iff \begin{cases} \perp & \text{if } R = \text{null} \\ b \in \mathbf{r}^{-1}(a) & \text{if } R = \mathbf{r} \\ \exists c. c \in \mathbf{r}^{-1}(a) \wedge b \in (R')^{-1}(c) \wedge \mathbf{r}^{-1}(a) \subseteq V & \text{if } R = R'; \mathbf{r} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Note that the only difference between the third case in above definition and the definition (3), is the last conjunct which is added to ensure the presence of mid-level effects before performing the next recursive call.

Now, we define **trunc()** as a function that given $R \in \mathbf{relation}$, removes the last element from the sequence (if there is any) in R , i.e.

$$\text{trunc}(R) = \begin{cases} \text{null} & \text{if } R = \mathbf{r} \quad \text{or} \quad R = \text{null} \\ R' & \text{if } R = R'; \mathbf{r} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Finally, we define *closed subsets* of a given set of effects V under the contract ψ , which the maximal element among such subsets is also defined next²:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{closed subsets : } V' \in [V] &\iff V' \subseteq V \wedge (\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V') \subseteq V' \\ \text{maximally closed subset : } V' = [V]_{\max} &\iff V' \in [V] \wedge \nexists V'' \in [V]. |V''| > |V'| \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

5.2 Core Operational Semantics

In this part we present the reduction rules, representing our consistency preservation approach. Figure 6 presents the set of rules defining the auxiliary relation (\hookrightarrow) and small-step reduction relation (\rightarrow) over executions. The latter relation is parametrized over a set V , that represents the set of effects that are available at the replica taking the step. Obviously V must be a subset of the effect soup of the initial execution, however, there is no other restrictions on V , since we only assume eventual consistency at the underlying store.

The rule $[\text{OPER}]$ represents the procedure of producing a new effect η , by witnessing a set of effects S . An effect is formally defined as a tuple $\eta = (s, op, v)$, representing the session and the operation name whose execution created η , and the value that the replica returns as the response to that operation. The rule explains how the execution state changes after producing an effect at a replica. Specifically, in the new state, the effect soup A' contains the newly created effect η , and the relations vis' and so' capture the fact that all effects in the set S were made visible to η , and all effects from the same session that were already present in the initial execution state, should be in session order with η in the final execution state.

Now we explain the rules for reduction relation (\xrightarrow{V}), starting with $[\text{UB EXEC}]$, which represents the execution of operations in a replica that updates the global state and produces a new effect under a UB contract. The rule requires operations witnessing only the maximally consistent subset V' of the local set of available effects V . In other words, the rule filters out the effects that may result anomalies and shows the safe environment to the operation.

The next rule, $[\text{LB EXEC}]$, represents the step taken when an operation is performed under an LB contract. The precondition $R_V^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq V$ in the rule, ensures that the reduction happens only if the effects necessary to avoid the specified anomaly are present in V . The operations performing under an LB contract must be blocked, until all the necessary effects (and possibly required mid-level effects) become available in the locally available set of effects V . Note that in this case effects are not filtered out, and the operation witnesses all effects in set V .

5.3 Soundness

In order to prove a meta-theoretic correctness property for our semantics, we first define a ψ -consistent set of effects S given a execution state E as follows:

² We abuse the previously defined notation slightly and use a *set* of effects as the input to the inverse of $R \in \text{relation}$, which simply means the union of the results of apply the function for all the effects in the input set

Auxiliary Definitions

$op \in \text{Operation Name} \quad v \in \text{Return Value} \quad s \in \text{Session Id}$
 $\eta \in \text{Effect} := (s, op, v)$
 $F_{op} \in \text{Op. Def.} := \mathcal{P}(\eta) \mapsto v$
 $A \in \text{Eff Soup} := \mathcal{P}(\eta)$
 $vis, so \in \text{Relations} := \mathcal{P}((\eta, \eta))$
 $E \in \text{Exec State} := (A, vis, so)$

Auxiliary Reduction

$$S \vdash (E, op_{<s, i>}) \hookrightarrow (E', \eta)$$

[OPER]

$$\frac{S \subseteq A \quad F_{op}(S) = v \quad \eta \notin S \quad \eta = (s, op, v) \quad A' = A \cup \{\eta\} \quad vis' = vis \cup S \times \{\eta\} \quad so' = so \cup \{(\eta', \eta) \mid \eta' \in A_{(SessID=s)}\}}{S \vdash ((A, vis, so), op_{<s, i>}) \hookrightarrow ((A', vis', so'), \eta)}$$

Operational Semantics

$$(E, op_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (E', \eta)$$

[UB EXEC]

$$\frac{r_k = vis \quad V \subseteq E.A \quad V' = \lfloor V \rfloor_V \quad V' \vdash (E, op_{<s, i>}) \hookrightarrow (E', \eta)}{(E, op_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (E', \eta)}$$

[LB EXEC]

$$\frac{r_k = so \quad V \subseteq E.A \quad R_V^{-1}(\eta) = R_{E'.A}^{-1}(\eta) \quad R_V^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq V \quad V \vdash (E, op_{<s, i>}) \hookrightarrow (E', \eta)}{(E, op_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (E', \eta)}$$

Fig. 6: Core Operational semantics of a replicated data store.

$$S \text{ is } \psi\text{-consistent} \iff \forall(\eta \in S). \forall(a \in E.A). R(a, \eta) \Rightarrow a \in S \quad (7)$$

Theorem 1. For all reduction steps $(E, op_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (E', \eta)$,

- (i) if V is ψ -consistent under E , then $V \cup \{\eta\}$ is ψ -consistent under E'
- (ii) $E' \models \psi[\eta/\hat{\eta}]$

Proof. Appendix A.1

5.4 Optimality

Now we will present theorems 2 and 3, the former showing that the set of effects made visible during each operation execution is the largest one possible, and the later presenting the liveness property of the semantics, which states that the store will take a step, if the required dependencies are locally present. This guarantees that the store would never get stuck, since the eventual delivery of all updates to all replicas is guaranteed by the underlying ECDS.

Theorem 2. For all operation executions $(E, op_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (E', \eta)$, the set of effects made visible to η is maximal. i.e. for all $a \in V$ that $(\text{trunc}(R)_V^{-1}(a) = \text{trunc}(R)_{E'.A}^{-1}(a))$ the following holds:

$$(a, \eta) \notin E'.vis \Rightarrow (E'.A, E'.vis \cup \{a, \eta\}, E'.so) \not\models \psi[\eta/\hat{\eta}]$$

Proof. Appendix A.2.

Theorem 3. For all execution states E , set of effects ($S \subseteq E.A$), if:

$$S \vdash (E, op_{<s,i>}) \hookrightarrow (E', \eta) \quad \wedge \quad (S \cup \{\eta\} \text{ is } \psi\text{-consistent under } E')$$

then there exist E'', η' and $V \subseteq E.A$ such that: $((E, op_{<s,i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (E'', \eta'))$

Proof. Appendix A.3

5.5 Generalization

We finish this section by extended our ideas in two dimentions. We will first explain how to handle an arbitrary contract ψ of the following form:

$$\psi = \pi_1 \wedge \pi_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \pi_m \quad \pi_i = \forall(a, b). a \xrightarrow{R_i} b \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} b$$

Later, we will explain how to maintain multiple levels of consistency simultaneously, each of which is defined for a different operation name. We will assume an arbitrary contract ψ_{op} for every user-defined operation op , and explain how to modify our system model to preserve them all.

To begin with, as we mentioned earlier, all propositions in our specification language, either put a maximal or a minimal bound on the subset of local effects to be made visibe to each operation. This simply means that when the system is given a conjunction of propositions, it should define the such subsets in a way, so it would not violate *any* of them. Therefore, by a few modifications we can extend the system to support all contracts. Firstly, the single premise $R_V^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq V$ in the reduction rule should be replaced with the following conjunction:

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq m} (R_i)_V^{-1} \subseteq V$$

Secondly, the definition of the maximal closed subset of local effects must also be modified to a subset that is closed under *all* given relations:

$$[S]_V = S' \iff S' \subseteq S \wedge \bigwedge (R_i)_V^{-1}(S') \subseteq S' \wedge \exists S'' . (\bigwedge ((R_i)_V^{-1}(S'')) \subseteq S'' \wedge |S''| > |S'|)$$

Moreover, for modifying the system to handle multiple contracts simultaneously, we can extend the local effect set V , to a sequence of sets V_{op_i} , each maintaining the consistency level for an operation type op_i . Now we define the modified form of execution steps as follow:

$$(E, \text{op}_{<s,i>}) \xrightarrow{V_{\text{op}}} (E', \eta)$$

The local effect set V must also be replaced with V_{op_i} in the premises of the reduction rules, so each operation of type op_i would only witness the associated subset for its own consistency requirements. This abstractly represents our implementation, in the sense that all operations work only on a specific subset of available effects at any replica. The subset, is maintained according to the contract associated with each operation, and is guaranteed to preserve the consistency requirements following the theorems of sections 5.3 and ??.

6 Algorithm

In this section, we present a detailed and practical implementation strategy of the operational semantics presented in section 5, where we introduced an abstract outline of our consistency preservation technique. Here we realize our ideas by equipping each replica with a *cache*, that is guaranteed to preserve a specified consistency level. Here we assume a contract of the form $\psi = \forall(a, b).a \xrightarrow{R} b \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} b$ and a replica containing a local set V and explain SYNCOPE's behavior in more detail.

Let's first define a *truncated relation* as the relation derived by removing the last element from a given relation:

$$\text{trunc}(r_1; r_2; \dots; r_k) = r_1; r_2; \dots; r_{k-1}$$

We now extend the above definition to the given contract ψ , by replacing R with $\text{trunc}(R)$ and argue that an effect η can only enter the cache, if its presence would not violate the truncated contract in the replica, i.e. η 's dependency set $(\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(\eta)$ is already present in the cache (replica) for a UB (LB) contract. Now we consider two possible types of contracts and explain the replicas' behavior when an operation is submitted:

1. LB contracts: In this case, the replica makes sure that the operation is blocked until effects of earlier operations from the same session, are already present in the cache. This guarantees the presence of all the dependencies of the current operation, according to the *original* contract. Note that in this case, the operation can witness *all* effects at the replica.
2. UB contracts: In this case, operations are not blocked, however, they should only witness the effects that are already present in the cache. This guarantees the preservation of the original contract, which puts a maximal bound on the set of effects to be made visible to an operation.
3. Hybrid Contracts: Here, the operations should both be blocked similar to the LB case, and also witness only the effects in the cache.

6.1 Degree of Dependency Presence

In the above description of our consistency management tool, the notion of *the presence of the dependency set* is treated as a true/false property, that is checked before allowing an effect enter the cache. However, as an astute reader might have noticed, a naive implementation of this idea, could result in poor performance. That is because contracts in our specification language can be arbitrarily large and might contain closures of relations, computing the inverse of which can become very large. A naive implementation that drops all the computations done for a failed dependency check of an effect, results in redundancies the next time the same property is being validated, which is not practically reasonable.

To address the mentioned difficulties, we introduce the *Degree of Dependency Presence*, *DDP*, that extends the above binary property, by marking the

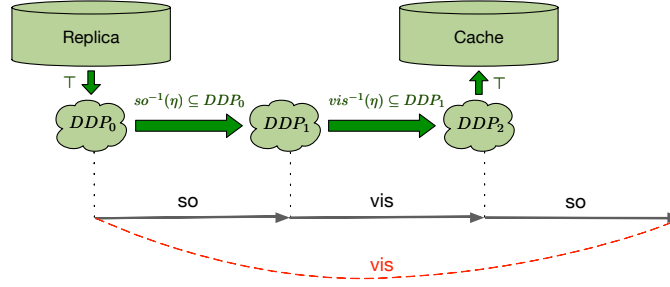


Fig. 7: Representation of the stepwise process where effects become closer to the cache, before actually entering it

effects with a number, that represents how far the presence of their dependencies have been checked so far. The DDP of an effect according to a relation $R = r_1; r_2; \dots; r_k$ and a given set of effects V is defined as the length of the longest prefix of R , under which $V \cup \{\eta\}$ is consistent, that is,

$$DDP_V(\eta) = m \iff (r_1; r_2; \dots; r_m)^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq V$$

For example, $DDP_V(\eta) = 0$ means that η has just arrived to the replica and no degree of its dependencies are checked yet, and $DDP_V(\eta) = k - 1$ means that all of η 's dependencies according to the truncated relation are present and it is safe now to add it to the cache. We use the notation DDP^i to refer to the set of all effects whose DDP value is equal to i .

This way, by periodically refreshing the DDP of effects, the porcess of moving effects from the replica to the cache is recorded while the the dependencies arrive, and as we will explain shortly, we can totally avoid computing closures of relations and redundant computations at replicas by a simple memoization technique. Finally, note that (following the discussion in the previous section) we require the dependencies to be looked for, in the replica and the cache respectively, for the LB and non LB contracts. i.e. in the case of LB contracts $DDP_{replica}$ should be computed and DDP_{cache} for UB and hybrid contracts.

6.2 Example

In this part, we will explain the behavioral outline of our algorithm using an example. The formal operational semantics of this approach can be found in appendix B.

Let's assume we are given a contract $\psi = \forall(a, b). a \xrightarrow{\text{so}; \text{vis}; \text{so}} b \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} b$, and we want replicas to maintain consistent caches according to this contract. We explain our approach by explaining a replicas' behavior when certain events occur:

- **Remote Effect Arrival:** When a new remote effect arrives to the replica, it is simply added to the set of local effects and its DDP is initially set to 0. Since the length of the given contract is 3, as we will see shortly the effect requires two steps of DDP refreshes, before it can enter the cache.

- **Operation Submission:** Since the given contract is an LB type, the replica must now make sure that all effects from earlier operations of the same session, are present in the *cache* and if not, block the operation temporarily. The operation can proceed and witness *all* effects at the replica, after the mentioned effects enter the cache.
- **Cache Refresh:** The replica, must periodically perform cache refreshes and move effects from DDP_2 to the cache. As explained we know that the complete set of dependencies for these effects are already present.
- **DDP Refresh:** At this periodic step, DDP of effects are updated by checking if they can be given a larger one. At each step the DDP of an effect η is increased from i to $i + 1$ if all effects in $r_{i+1}^{-1}(\eta)$ already have DDP value at least equal to i . In this example, an effect η that has the initial DDP value 0, can get the value 1, only if all effects in $so^{-1}(\eta)$ are already present at the replica which means they have DDP value of at least 0. Similarly, effects that have the DDP value of 1 can get the value 2, if all effects in their vis^{-1} set, have the DDP value of minimum 1. At this point, effects have reached the value 2, which means they can be now moved to the cache at the next cache refresh (Figure 7).

Note that, in case one of the elements of the given relation is a closure, for example assume the given relation is $\xrightarrow{so;vis^*;so}$, we can avoid all recursive computations, by allowing an effect η to go from DDP_1 to DDP_2 , only if $vis^{-1}(\eta)$ is present in DDP_1 **and** in DDP_2 . This way, we are sure that the same condition was also checked for all effects in $vis^{-1}(\eta)$ before they entered DDP_2 , which brings us the desired behavior, without any computations involving closures.

Benchmark	LoC	Consistency Reqs.	Description
Counter	65	MR	Monotonically increasing counter, e.g. YouTubes' watch count
DynamoDB	126	RMW	An integer register that allos different types of (conditional) puts and gets
Online Store	236	RMW	Online store with shopping carts and modifiable item prices
Bankaccount	85	2VIS \wedge RMW	A bankaccount application with deposit, withdraw and get balance operation
Shopping List	140	MW \wedge RMW	A shopping list with concurrent adds and deletes functionality
Microblog	395	MW, RMW	A Twitter-like application modeled after Twissandra, with posting and reply to tweets, following, unfollowing and blocking users, etc.
Rubis	417	RMW, RMW \wedge 2VIS	eBay-like application with browsing, bidding and making payments from a v

Fig. 8: Usage of weak consistency requirements in benchmark applications

7 Evaluation

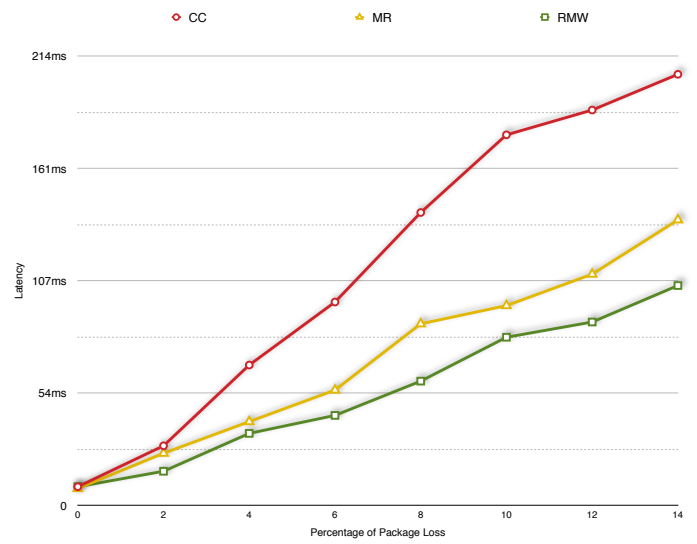
In this section, we present our evaluation study of SYNCOPE. The results are presented in three parts, where we first present the distribution of weak consistency requirements on benchmark programs. Second, we presents our studies on the performance of programs running on various consistency levels and finally, we present the complexity and perforamnce results from our study of implementing a well-understood ad-hoc prevention mechanism for lost-updates anomaly, compared to writing the same program in SYNCOPE.

7.1 Weak Consistency in Benchmark Programs

In this section, we present seven different benchmark applications we collected, in which various types of anomalous behavior under eventual consistency have been detected. We present these programs and their detected consistency requirements, in figure 8. For example, two following anomalies have been detected for operations of the microblog application:

1. When Alice unfollows Donald, but later sees more tweets from him. This is because the `getFolloweeList` operation did not witness the effect of the `unfollow` operation; a clear example of lost-updates anomaly which can be prevented by RMW guarantee.
2. When Donald posts a series of tweets, but after Alice refreshes her timeline, only sees the fifth tweet. This can be prevented by requiring `getTweet` operation to return only tweets, whose prior tweets are also visible; which is exactly what is provided by enforcing MW contract.

In addition to having a large number of operations each of which might require a different level of consistency, above examples also show how in practice, some programs might include operations that are involved in *multiple* types of anomalies. For example the `getBalance` operation of the bank account application above, shows two different types of anomalies, whose prevention requires 2VIS *and* RMW. The possiblity of showing *combinations* of anomalies, considering the large number of known anomalies, shows the inefficiency of any consistency enforcement technique specific to a certain type of anomaly.



(a) Example execution.

Fig. 9: A distributed application for comment section management

7.2 Latency and Staleness Comparison

7.3 Ad-hoc vs SYNCOPE

8 Related Works

9 Conclusion

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A Proofs

Here, we present the detailed proofs of the theorems of the paper. Let's first present a useful lemma:

Lemma 1. *For all relations R and execution steps:*

$$(\mathbf{E}, op_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (\mathbf{E}', \eta)$$

interpretatin of R under E and E' only differs considering η , i.e. $a, b \neq \eta \Rightarrow (R'(a, b) \Leftrightarrow R(a, b))$

Proof. We only prove \Rightarrow , the other part can be done similarly. We have the following goal and hypotheses:

$$\begin{aligned} H_0 &: (\mathbf{E}, op_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \\ H_1 &: a, b \neq \eta \\ H_2 &: R'(a, b) \\ G_0 &: R(a, b) \end{aligned}$$

Now by destructing R we have the followings from new hypothesis and goal:

$$\begin{aligned} H_3 &: (\text{trunc}(R); r)'(a, b) \\ G_1 &: (\text{trunc}(R); r)(a, b) \end{aligned}$$

which can be rewritten by the definition to get that y exists s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} H_4 &: (\text{trunc}(R))'(a, y) \\ H_5 &: r'(y, b) \\ G_1 &: \exists x. (\text{trunc}(R))(a, x) \wedge (r)(x, b) \end{aligned}$$

Now we instantiate the goal with y itself and by using induction on the length of R , the first conjunct is proved, and we are left with the following:

$$\begin{aligned} H_6 &: r'(y, b) \\ G_1 &: r(y, b) \end{aligned}$$

Now by inversion on H_0 we get two cases, at both of which the following can be derived. (In one case V should be replaced by V' but has no effect on the proof):

$$\begin{aligned} H_7 &: \text{vis}' = \text{vis} \cup V \times \{\eta\} \\ H_8 &: \text{so}' = \text{so}' = \text{so} \cup \{(\eta', \eta) \mid \eta' \in \mathbf{A}_{(\text{SessID}=s)}\} \end{aligned}$$

Now, because of H_1 (and the fact that $y \neq \eta$) it is easy to get the following from H_7 and H_8 :

$$\begin{aligned} H_9 &: \text{vis}(y, b) \Rightarrow \text{vis}(y, b) = \\ H_{10} &: \text{so}(y, b) \Rightarrow \text{so}(y, b) = \end{aligned}$$

Which directly prove the goal, after destructing r .

A.1 Proof of Theorem 1

(Part i) We have the following two hypotheses and the goal:

$$\frac{H_0 : (\mathbf{E}, op_{<s,i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \quad H_1 : V \text{ is } \psi\text{-consistent under } \mathbf{E}}{G_0 : V \cup \{\eta\} \text{ is } \psi\text{-consistent under } \mathbf{E}'}$$

Rewriting the definition in G_0 results in the following. We denote the interpretation of R under E' as R' :

$$G_1 : \forall(b \in V \cup \{\eta\}). \forall(a \in E'.A). R'(a, b) \Rightarrow a \in V \cup \{\eta\}$$

By intros we have:

$$\frac{H_2 : b \in V \cup \{\eta\} \quad H_3 : a \in E'.A \quad H_4 : R'(a, b)}{G_2 : a \in V \cup \{\eta\}}$$

by inversion on H_0 , there is two cases, in case one (UB reduction) we have the following:

$$T_1 : V' \vdash (\mathbf{E}, op_{<s,i>}) \hookrightarrow (\mathbf{E}', \eta)$$

by inversion on T_1 we will have the following:

$$T_2 : E'.A = E.A \cup \{\eta\}$$

Since the other case (LB reduction) also includes similar premises which yields T_2 , we can add it to the hypothesis:

$$H_5 : E'.A = E.A \cup \{\eta\}$$

by rewriting H_5 in H_3 and by inversion, we get two cases: $a = \eta$ and $a \in E.A$. The first case immediatly proves G_2 , so we only consider the second case where we have:

$$H_6 : a \in E.A$$

Now, by inversion on H_2 , we have two cases:

– **Case 1:**

$$b \in V$$

by inversion in H_1 we have:

$$H_7 : \forall(x \in V). \forall(y \in E.A). R(y, x) \Rightarrow y \in V$$

by instantiation with a and b:

$$H_8 : R(a, b) \Rightarrow a \in V$$

Now by applying the lemma 1 on H_4 we get that $R(a, b)$ holds (since $a, b \neq \eta$), which can be applied on H_8 to get $a \in V$ which proves the goal G_2 .

– **Case 2:**

$$\begin{array}{l} H_9 : b = \eta \\ \text{(by rewriting } H_9 \text{ in } H_4) \quad H_{10} : R'(a, \eta) \end{array}$$

Now we use inversion on H_0 and get two cases: (LB exec) and (UB exec)

– **SCase (LB exec):** we have H_{11} and H_{12} from the reduction rule premises:

$$\begin{array}{l} H_{11} : R_V^{-1}(\eta) = R_{E'.A}^{-1}(\eta) \\ H_{12} : R_V^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq V \end{array}$$

now from H_{10} we have H_{13} which can be rewritten by H_{11} to get H_{H14} :

$$\begin{aligned} H_{13} &: a \in R_{E'.A}^{-1}(\eta) \\ H_{14} &: a \in R_V^{-1}(\eta) \end{aligned}$$

The goal G_2 is now proved from H_{12} and H_{14} .

– **SCase (UB exec)**: We have the following from the premises:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{15} &: V' = \lfloor V \rfloor_{\max} \\ H_{16} &: V' \subseteq V \end{aligned}$$

now destruct R , the only non-trivial cases are $(R = \text{trunc}(R); \text{vis})$ and $(R = \text{vis})$:

SSCase $(R = \text{trunc}(R); \text{vis})$:

From H_{10} we get H_{17} which based on the definition, yields that there exists c such that H_{18} , H_{19} and H_{20} hold:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{17} &: a \in (\text{trunc}(R)'; \text{vis}')^{-1}_{E'.A}(\eta) \\ H_{18} &: c \in \text{vis}'^{-1}(\eta) \\ H_{19} &: a \in \text{trunc}(R)'^{-1}(c) \\ H_{20} &: \text{vis}'^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq E'.A \end{aligned}$$

from H_{15} we have:

$$H_{21} : (\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V') \subseteq V'$$

Now from H_{18} is straightforward to get:

$$H_{22} : c \in V'$$

which after appying the lemma 1 on H_{19} , and by H_{21} yields the following, which proves the goal G_2 :

$$H_{23} : a \in V'$$

SSCase $(R = \text{vis})$: From H_{10} we get that $\text{vis}'(a, \eta)$, which -with a similar argument to the previous subcase- yields the following and the goal is proved:

$$H_{24} : a \in V'$$

QED.

(Part ii)

For this part we have the following hypothesis and the goal:

$$\begin{aligned} H_0 &: (\mathbf{E}, \text{op}_{<s, i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \\ G_0 &: E' \models [\eta/\hat{\eta}] \end{aligned}$$

By inversion on H_0 , we have two cases:

Case1 (UB exec):

$$\begin{aligned} H_1 &: r_k = \text{vis} \\ H_2 &: V \subseteq E.A \\ H_3 &: V' = \lfloor V \rfloor_{\max} \\ H_4 &: V' \vdash (\mathbf{E}, \text{op}_{<s, i>}) \hookrightarrow (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \end{aligned}$$

The goal G_0 can be rewritten as:

$$G_1 : E' \models \forall a. a \xrightarrow{R} \eta \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{\text{vis}} \eta$$

Since the $E'.A$ gives the interpretation for the universe of quantification:

$$G_2 : \forall(a \in E'.A).E' \models a \xrightarrow{R} \eta \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{vis} \eta$$

by intros:

$$\begin{aligned} H_5 &: a \in E'.A \\ G_3 &: E' \models a \xrightarrow{R} \eta \Rightarrow a \xrightarrow{vis} \eta \end{aligned}$$

Now since $((\mathcal{M} \models A \Rightarrow B) \Leftrightarrow (\mathcal{M} \models A \Rightarrow \mathcal{M} \models B))$ we can rewrite G_3 as:

$$G_4 : (E' \models a \xrightarrow{R} \eta) \Rightarrow (E' \models a \xrightarrow{vis} \eta)$$

intros:

$$\begin{aligned} H_6 &: E' \models a \xrightarrow{R} \eta \\ G_5 &: E' \models a \xrightarrow{vis} \eta \end{aligned}$$

Now we use the interpretation given by E' , to rewrite the relations as follows. Note that we denote the interpretation of R under E' as R' and $E.vis$ as vis' .

$$\begin{aligned} H_7 &: R'(a, \eta) \\ G_6 &: vis'(a, \eta) \end{aligned}$$

by inversion on H_4 :

$$H_8 : vis' = vis \cup V' \times \{\eta\}$$

Now since η is a fresh effect, we get that $a \in V' \Rightarrow vis'(a, \eta)$ which can be applied to G_6 to get the following:

$$G_7 : a \in V'$$

Now, destructing R yields multiple cases, only one of which is non-trivial: $R = \text{trunc}(R); vis$, which can be rewritten in H_7 to get:

$$H_9 : (\text{trunc}(R); vis)'(a, \eta)$$

Now we can rewrite the definition in H_9 , and derive that there exists b such that:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{10} &: \text{trunc}(R)'(a, b) \\ H_{11} &: vis'(b, \eta) \end{aligned}$$

Now using a similar argument, from H_8 and H_{11} we get:

$$H_{12} : b \in V'$$

Now by applying the lemma 1 on H_{10} we get:

$$H_{13} : \text{trunc}(R)(a, b)$$

since we have $V' \in [V]$, we get the following:

$$H_{14} : \forall(x \in V').(\text{trunc}(R))_{E.A}^{-1}(V') \Rightarrow x \in V'$$

which yields the following from H_{12} and H_{13} :

$$H_{15} : a \in V'$$

which proves the goal G_7 .

Case2 (LB exec):

We prove this case by induction on the length of the given relation R . We have the followings, from the premises of the reduction rule:

$$\begin{aligned} H_1 &: r_k = \mathbf{so} \\ H_2 &: V \subseteq E.A \\ H_3 &: R_V^{-1}(\eta) = R_{E.A}^{-1}(\eta) \\ H_4 &: R_V^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq V \\ H_5 &: V \vdash (\mathbf{E}, op_{<s,i>}) \hookrightarrow (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \end{aligned}$$

Using the same argument as the previous section, we get the following new goal and hypotheses:

$$\begin{aligned} H_6 &: a \in E'.A \\ H_7 &: R'(a, \eta) \\ G_1 &: \mathbf{vis}'(a, \eta) \end{aligned}$$

We now destruct R to get H_8 from H_7 , and rewrite the definition in it to get the next two hypotheses. Note that by destructing R , there are only two non-trivial cases $R = \text{trunc}(R); \mathbf{so}$ and $R = \mathbf{so}$, which we are only considering the former, since the latter can be proved similarly.

$$\begin{aligned} H_8 &: (\text{trunc}(R); \mathbf{so})'(a, \eta) \\ H_9 &: \text{trunc}(R)'(a, b) \\ H_{10} &: \mathbf{so}'(b, \eta) \end{aligned}$$

Now, from the previous section we know that $(\mathbf{so}')^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq V$ which yields the following from H_{10} :

$$H_{11} : b \in V$$

The goal is proved by the induction hypothesis, H_9 and H_{11} .

QED.

A.2 Proof of Theorem 2

We prove the theorem by contradiction:

$$\begin{aligned} H_0 &: (\mathbf{E}, op_{<s,i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \\ H_1 &: a \in V \\ H_2 &: (a, \eta) \notin E'.\mathbf{vis} \\ H_3 &: (E'.A, E'.\mathbf{vis} \cup \{(a, \eta)\}, E'.\mathbf{so}) \models \psi[\eta/\hat{\eta}] \\ H_4 &: (\text{trunc}(R)_V^{-1}(a) = \text{trunc}(R)_{E.A}^{-1}(a)) \\ G_0 &: \perp \end{aligned}$$

Now we call $(E'.A, E'.\mathbf{vis} \cup \{(a, \eta)\}, E'.\mathbf{so})$ as E'' and derive the following from H_3 :

$$H_5 : E'' \models \forall x.x \xrightarrow{R} \eta \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{\mathbf{vis}} \eta$$

because E'' defines the universe of quantification (and since $E''.A = E'.A$), we get the following:

$$H_6 : \forall (x \in E'.A). E'' \models x \xrightarrow{R} \eta \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{\mathbf{vis}} \eta$$

and is rewritten as the following:

$$H_7 : \forall (x \in E'.A). (E'' \models x \xrightarrow{R} \eta) \Rightarrow (E'' \models x \xrightarrow{\mathbf{vis}} \eta)$$

Now by inversion on H_0 we get two cases, one of which is trivial. We skip the formal proof for it but it is easy to see that in [LB exec] case, ALL effects in V are made

visible to η , so the set is trivially maximal, i.e. H_1 and H_2 yield \perp . For the other case (UB exec), we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned} H_8 : V' &= \lfloor V \rfloor_{\max} \\ H_9 : V' &\vdash (\mathbf{E}, op_{<s, i>}) \hookrightarrow (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \end{aligned}$$

by inversion on H_9 we get H_{10} and from that and from H_2 , following a similar argument from the proof of theorem 1, we get H_{11} :

$$\begin{aligned} H_{10} : \mathbf{vis}' &= \mathbf{vis} \cup V' \times \{\eta\} \\ H_{11} : a &\notin V' \end{aligned}$$

Now by denoting the interpretation of R under E'' as R'' , H_7 can be rewritten as follows:

$$H_{12} : \forall (x \in E'.A). R''(x, \eta) \Rightarrow \mathbf{vis}''(x, \eta)$$

Now by inversion on H_8 , we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{13} : V' &\in \lfloor V \rfloor \\ H_{14} : \exists V'' \in \lfloor V \rfloor. |V''| &> |V'| \\ (\text{from } H_{13}) \quad H_{15} : V' &\subseteq V \wedge (\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V') \subseteq V' \wedge \\ &(\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V') = (\text{trunc}(R))_{E.A}^{-1}(V') \end{aligned}$$

Now we can destruct R , where we get multiple cases, only two of which are non-trivial, ($R = \mathbf{vis}$) and ($R = \text{trunc}(R); \mathbf{vis}$)

- **Case1**($R = \mathbf{vis}$):
 $\text{trunc}(R) = \mathbf{null}$, thus V itself satisfies the requirements in H_{15} and we get that ($V = \lfloor V \rfloor_{\max}$) and the following holds:

$$H_{16} : V = V'$$

which results in contradiction from H_1 and H_{11} .

- **Case2**($R = \text{trunc}(R); \mathbf{vis}$):
 Since $|V' \cup \{a\}| > |V'|$ we have the following:

$$H_{17} : (V' \cup \{a\}) \notin \lfloor V \rfloor$$

which based on the definition yields that the conditions for holding the above relation are not true, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} H_{18} : \neg((V' \cup \{a\}) &\subseteq V \wedge (\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V' \cup \{a\}) \subseteq (V' \cup \{a\}) \wedge \\ &(\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V' \cup \{a\}) = (\text{trunc}(R))_{E.A}^{-1}(V' \cup \{a\})) \end{aligned}$$

or equally:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{19} : (V' \cup \{a\}) &\not\subseteq V \vee \\ &(\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V' \cup \{a\}) \not\subseteq (V' \cup \{a\}) \vee \\ &(\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V' \cup \{a\}) \neq (\text{trunc}(R))_{E.A}^{-1}(V' \cup \{a\}) \end{aligned}$$

By inversion on the above, we get three cases, two of which are trivial. The last conjunct can't hold because of H_4 and the first one also contradicts with H_1 and H_{15} . Thus, we are left with only one case:

$$H_{20} : (\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V' \cup \{a\}) \not\subseteq (V' \cup \{a\})$$

Now, from the second conjunct in H_{15} we know that it should be the case that:

$$(\text{from } H_{15} : (\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(V') \subseteq V') \quad H_{21} : ((\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(a) \not\subseteq (V' \cup \{a\}))$$

The above hypothesis yields the existence of $c \neq a$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{22} &: c \in (\text{trunc}(R))_V^{-1}(a) \\ H_{23} &: c \notin V' \end{aligned}$$

Now, by rewriting $(R = \text{trunc}(R); \text{vis})$ in H_{12} we get H_{24} , which can be rewritten again into H_{25} from the definition:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{24} &: \forall(x \in E'.A).((\text{trunc}(R); \text{vis})''(x, \eta) \Rightarrow \text{vis}''(x, \eta)) \\ H_{25} &: \forall(x \in E'.A).(\exists b. \text{trunc}(R)''(x, b) \wedge \\ &\quad \text{vis}''(b, \eta) \Rightarrow \text{vis}''(x, \eta)) \end{aligned}$$

Now, we instantiate H_{25} with $x = c$:

$$H_{26} : \exists b. \text{trunc}(R)''(c, b) \wedge \text{vis}''(b, \eta) \Rightarrow \text{vis}''(c, \eta)$$

we can replace $\text{trunc}(R)''$ with $\text{trunc}(R)'$ in above definition, since from H_3 , the only difference in interpretation under E' and E'' is the extra element (a, η) in $E''.\text{vis}$ which does not effect $\text{trunc}(R)''(c, b)$:

$$H_{27} : \exists b. \text{trunc}(R)'(c, b) \wedge \text{vis}''(b, \eta) \Rightarrow \text{vis}''(c, \eta)$$

Moreover, since $c \neq a$, we can replace $\text{vis}''(c, \eta)$ with $\text{vis}'(c, \eta)$:

$$H_{28} : \exists b. \text{trunc}(R)'(c, b) \wedge \text{vis}''(b, \eta) \Rightarrow \text{vis}'(c, \eta)$$

From H_{15} and H_{22} we get H_{29} , and H_{30} also holds trivially from H_3 :

$$\begin{aligned} H_{29} &: \text{trunc}(R)'(c, a) \\ H_{30} &: \text{vis}''(a, \eta) \end{aligned}$$

which can be used in instantiation of H_{28} with $b = a$ and derive the following:

$$H_{31} : \text{vis}'(c, \eta)$$

However, we know -from the previously explained argument- that H_{31} results in H_{32} , which results in contradiction with H_{23} .

$$H_{32} : c \in V'$$

QED.

A.3 Proof of Theorem 3

Before proving the theorem, we first present and prove a useful lemma and then we will present a new definition, regarding sets of effects.

Lemma 2. *Under an execution state E and for a given set $S \subseteq E.A$, if S is ψ -consistent under E , then $\forall(x \in S).R_S^{-1}(x) \subseteq S$ under E .*

Proof. From ψ -consistency of S we have the following:

$$H_0 : \forall(x \in S). \forall(y \in E.A). R(y, x) \in S$$

Now based on the definition of R , we have the following:

$$H_1 : \forall(x \in S). R_{E.A}^{-1}(x) \subseteq S$$

However, since $S \subseteq E.A$ we have $R_S^{-1}(x) \subseteq R_{E.A}^{-1}(x)$ and the following will be derived:

$$H_2 : \forall(x \in S). R_S^{-1}(x) \subseteq S$$

which completes the proof of the lemma.

QED.

Definition 1. We define the complement of a given set of effects S (under an execution state E) as the super set of S , containing ALL the mid-level effects required to determine ALL the dependencies of the effects in S , i.e.

$$S' \in [S] \iff R_{S'}^{-1}(S) = R_{E.A}^{-1}(S)$$

Now, using the above theorem and lemma, we present the proof of the theorem 3, which starts by listing the following hypotheses and the goal:

$$\begin{aligned} H_0 &: S \vdash (\mathbf{E}, op_{<s,i>}) \hookrightarrow (\mathbf{E}', \eta) \\ H_1 &: S \cup \{\eta\} \text{ is } \psi\text{-consistent} \\ G_0 &: \exists E''. \exists \eta'. \exists V. ((\mathbf{E}, op_{<s,i>}) \xrightarrow{V} (\mathbf{E}'', \eta')) \end{aligned}$$

Now, by destructing R we get two non-trivial cases:

– **Case1**($R = \text{trunc}(R); \text{vis}$):

In this case, we generate the premises of the $[\text{UB EXEC}]$ to achieve the goal. We define the following:

$$\begin{aligned} H_3 &: S' = \lfloor S \rfloor_{\text{max}} \\ H_4 &: \eta' = F_{op}(S') \end{aligned}$$

We claim that the above theorem holds for any V that includes S , however, for the sake of the proof, we pick the smallest of such sets and derive the following:

$$\begin{aligned} H_2 &: V = S \\ G_1 &: \exists E''. \exists \eta'. ((\mathbf{E}, op_{<s,i>}) \xrightarrow{S} (\mathbf{E}'', \eta')) \end{aligned}$$

– **Case2**($R = \text{trunc}(R); \text{so}$):

B Operational Semantics of the Augmented algorithm

Here, we explain our detailed operational semantics, to maintain multi-consistent replicated stores. We assume a given function from operation names, to consistency contracts: $\Psi : op \mapsto \psi$ and for simplicity reasons (again, it can be easily generalized) we consider contracts made by a single prop:

$$\Psi(op) = \forall(a, b). a \xrightarrow{R_{op}} a \xrightarrow{vis} b.$$

For a given realtion R we also define $R[m]$ to refer to the m 'th relation seed in R :

$$(r_1; r_2; \dots; r_m; \dots; r_k)[m] = r_m$$

Each replica in this semantics, maintains a **pool** of available effects, and a **cache** of filtered effects for each operation, each of which is a subset of **pool** that is closed under its associated contract, i.e. $\forall \eta \in \text{cache}(op). (\text{trunc}(R_{op}))_{\text{pool}}^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq \text{cache}(op)$ We also define DDP of effects which is maintained according to section 6. Following is the formal definitions and the operation semantics.

$\delta \in \text{Replicated Data Type}$	$v \in \text{Value}$	$op \in \text{Operation Name}$
$s \in \text{Session Id}$	$i \in \text{Effect Id}$	$\rho \in \text{Replica Id}$
$\eta \in \text{Effect}$	$:= (s, i, op, v)$	
$\text{pool} \in \text{Pool}$	$:= (v, \mathcal{P}(\eta))$	
$\text{cache} \in \text{Cache}$	$:= op \mapsto (v, \mathcal{P}(\eta))$	
$\text{DDP} \in \text{Deps.Presence}$	$:= op \mapsto (\eta \mapsto \{0, 1, \dots, k-1\})$	
$F_{op} \in \text{Op.Def.}$	$:= v \rightarrow \eta$	
$A \in \text{Eff Soup}$	$:= \mathcal{P}(\eta)$	
$\text{vis, so} \in \text{Relations}$	$:= \mathcal{P}((\eta, \eta))$	
$E \in \text{Exec State}$	$:= (A, \text{vis}, \text{so})$	
$\Theta \in \text{Store}$	$:= \rho \mapsto (\text{pool}, \text{cache}, \text{DDP})$	
$\sigma \in \text{Session}$	$:= \cdot \mid op :: \sigma$	
$\Sigma \in \text{Session Soup}$	$:= \langle s, i, \sigma \rangle \parallel \Sigma \mid \emptyset$	

$\text{ssn}(s, _, _, _) = s \quad \text{id}(_, j, _, _) = j \quad \text{oper}(_, _, op, _) = op \quad \text{rval}(_, _, _, n) = n$

Auxiliary Reduction $\boxed{v \vdash (E, \langle s, i, op \rangle) \hookrightarrow (E', \eta)}$
 [OPER]

$$\begin{array}{c}
 F_{op}(v) = \eta \quad \text{ssn}(\eta) = s \quad \text{id}(\eta) = i \quad A' = A \cup \{\eta\} \\
 \text{vis}' = \text{vis} \cup S \times \{\eta\} \quad \text{so}' = \text{so} \cup \{(\eta', \eta) \mid \eta' \in A \wedge \text{ssn}(\eta') = s \wedge \text{id}(\eta') < i\} \\
 \hline
 v \vdash ((A, \text{vis}, \text{so}), \langle s, i, op \rangle) \hookrightarrow ((A', \text{vis}', \text{so}'), \eta)
 \end{array}$$

Operational Semantics $\boxed{(E, \Theta, \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\eta} (E', \Theta', \Sigma')}$
 [POOL REFRESH]

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \eta \in E.A \quad \Theta(\rho) = (\text{pool}, \text{cache}, \text{DDP}) \quad \eta \notin \text{pool}_e \\
 \text{pool}' = (\text{apply } \eta \text{ pool}_v, \text{pool}_e \cup \{\eta\}) \\
 \Theta' = \Theta[\rho \mapsto (\text{pool}', \text{cache}, \text{DDP})] \\
 \hline
 (E, \Theta, \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\eta} (E, \Theta', \Sigma)
 \end{array}$$

[DDP REFRESH]

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Theta(\rho) = (\text{pool}, \text{cache}, \text{DDP}) \quad \eta \in \text{pool}_e \quad \text{oper}(\eta) = op \\
 \text{DDP}(op)(\eta) = i \quad i < k \quad \text{DDP}'(op) = \text{DDP}(op)[\eta \mapsto i+1] \\
 \text{DDP}(op)((R_{op}[i+1])^{-1}(\eta)) \subseteq \text{DDP}^i \\
 \Theta' = \Theta[\rho \mapsto (\text{pool}, \text{cache}, \text{DDP}[op \mapsto \text{DDP}'(op)])] \\
 \hline
 (E, \Theta, \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\eta} (E, \Theta', \Sigma)
 \end{array}$$

[CACHE REFRESH]

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Theta(\rho) = (\text{pool}, \text{cache}, \text{DDP}) \quad \eta \in \text{pool}_e \quad \text{oper}(\eta) = op \\
 \eta \notin \text{cache}(op)_e \quad \text{cache}' = (\text{apply } \eta \text{ cache}(op)_v, \text{cache}(op)_e \cup \{\eta\}) \\
 \text{DDP}(op)(\eta) = k-1 \quad \Theta' = \Theta[\rho \mapsto (\text{pool}, \text{cache}', \text{DDP})] \\
 \hline
 (E, \Theta, \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\eta} (E, \Theta', \Sigma)
 \end{array}$$

[LB EXEC]

[UB EXEC]

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Theta(\rho) \vdash (E, \langle s, i, op \rangle) \hookrightarrow (E', \eta) \quad \Theta(\rho) = (\text{pool}, \text{cache}, _) \\
 \Theta(\rho) = (\text{pool}, \text{cache}, _) \quad \text{so}^{-1}(\eta) \subseteq \text{cache}(op)_e \quad \text{cache}(op) \vdash (E, \langle s, i, op \rangle) \hookrightarrow (E', \eta) \\
 \hline
 (E, \Theta, \langle s, i, op :: \sigma \rangle \parallel \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\eta} (E', \Theta, \langle s, i+1, op :: \sigma \rangle \parallel \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\eta} (E', \Theta, \langle s, i+1, \sigma \rangle \parallel \Sigma)
 \end{array}$$

Fig. 10: Operational semantics of a replicated data store.