

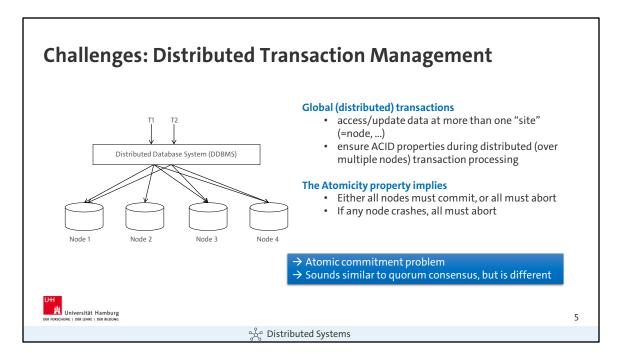
OLTP = **O**n**L**ine **T**ransaction **P**rocessing (not to be confused with OTP)

#### Scenario

- Both clients want to withdraw money at the same time from the same account but at different locations
- Since the balance is not enough to satisfy both requests, one should be denied
- If there was enough to satisfy both requests, both amounts would have to be subtracted from the account balance

Consistency can have different meanings in different contexts, e.g.

- Are distributed replicas of data in the same state?
- Do read operations on distributed data return the same result?
- Are application specific invariants met?



# Recall atomicity in the context of ACID transactions

- A transaction either commits or aborts → Atomicity
- If it commits, its updates are durable → Durability
- If it aborts, it has no visible side-effects → Atomicity

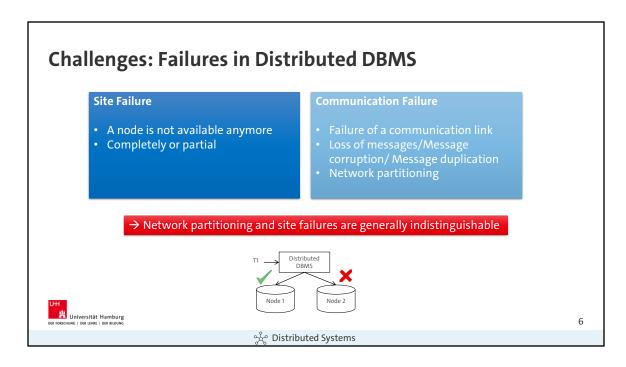
#### Atomic commit vs. Consensus

### Consensus

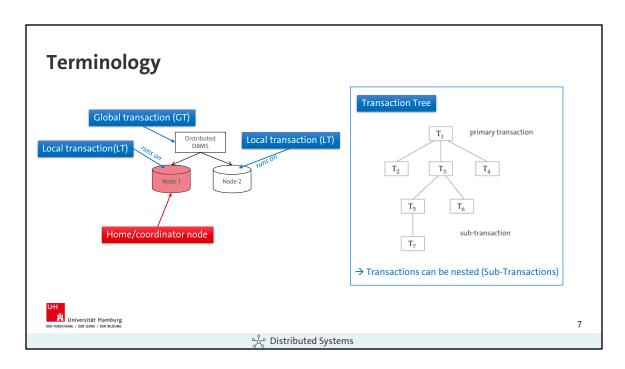
- One or more nodes propose a value
- Any of the proposed values is decided
- Crashed nodes can be tolerated as long as a quorum is working
- There can be different quorum for read and write
- Quorum = Minimum number of nodes in the system that have committed

#### Atomic commit

- Every node votes whether to commit or abort
- Must commit if all nodes vote to commit, must abort if at least one node votes abort or a participating node crashes



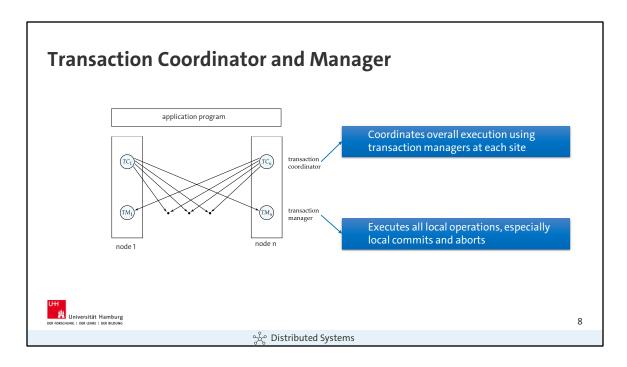
- A network is defined as being partitioned when it has been split into two or more subsystems that lack any connection between them
- Loss of messages/Message corruption/Message duplication → Handled by network transmission control protocols such as TCP-IP
- Failure of a communication link → Handled by network protocols, by routing messages via alternative links



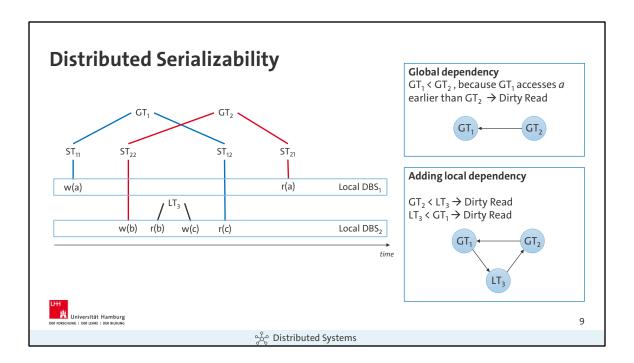
Home/Coordinator node: Node where transaction is started
Local Transaction: Transaction that is completely executed on home node
Global Transaction: Transactions that are executed on multiple nodes
Call Hierarchy: Transactions calling each other form a directed, acyclic graph →
Transaction tree

#### Rules for nested transactions

- A transaction may only end, after all sub-transactions are closed
- Every sub-transaction decides independently to finally abort or temporary commit
- In case of an abort of a transaction, all its sub-transactions are aborted as well
- In case a sub-transaction aborts, the parent transaction decides on the final outcome, i.e., may change an abort of a sub-transaction into a global commit
- Sub-transactions may only finally commit after all parent-transactions on the path to the root transaction have finally committed

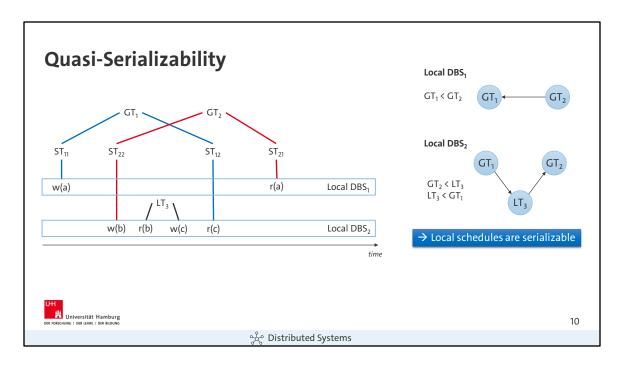


- Each site (node) has a transaction ccordinator and a local transaction manager
- Global transactions can be submitted to any transaction coordinator



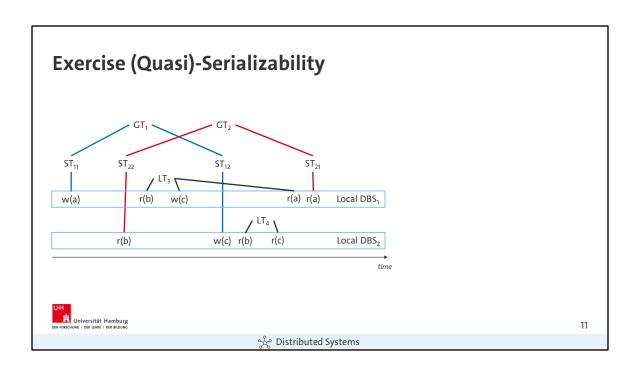
#### Some Solutions

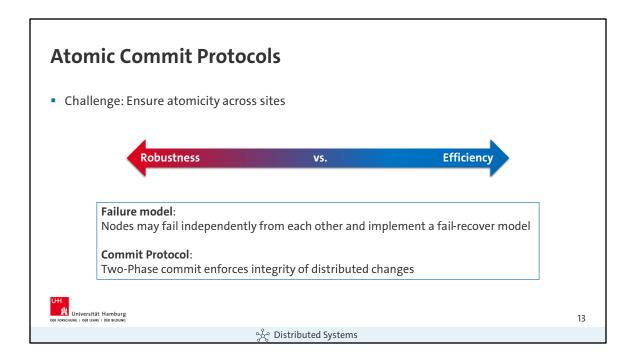
- · Implement functional limitations
  - Example: restricted set of update capabilities within global transactions
- Provide non-functional limitations
  - Example: relaxing ACID guarantees, e.g. no guarantee of global serializability
- Reduction of autonomy of local systems
  - Do not allow local transactions
  - Mark transactions as global and local and reflect this knowledge within the scheduler
- Reduction of heterogeneity
  - Agree on using compatible synchronization and commit protocols



# **Quasi-Serializability**

- · Implementation of weaker correctness criteria
- All local schedules are fully serializable
- Global transactions are executed sequentially





# **Challenge: Global Atomicity / Single Decision**

- All nodes participating in a distributed transaction have to come to a common decision: Either all commit or all abort the transaction
- Atomic commit protocols are used to ensure atomicity across sites → A
  transaction, which executes at multiple sites, must either be committed at all
  the sites, or aborted at all the sites
- COMMIT → global transaction is written back on all (relevant) nodes
- ABORT → global transaction is rolled back on all (relevant) nodes

# **Conflict: Robustness vs. Efficiency**

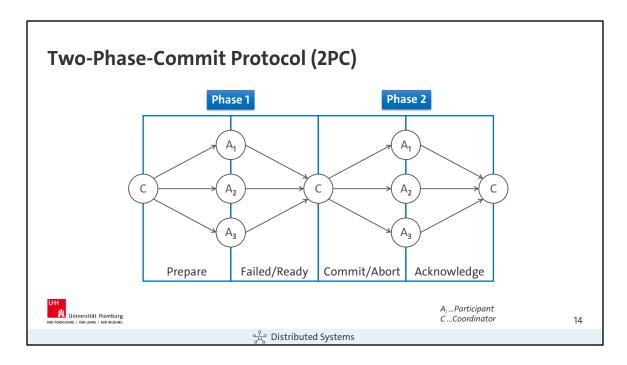
- Correctness
  - → Atomicity (all-or-nothing) and durability have to be guaranteed also in case of failure
- Efficiency
  - → Generate as few messages and log entries as possible
- Robustness
  - → Non-blocking
  - → Each node should be allowed to abort as long possible

#### Fail-recover model

- Nodes could crash and at some later date recover from the failure and continue executing normally
- Protocols able to tolerate multiple malicious sites are called byzantine faulttolerant protocols (which is a research area of its own)

### **Further reading:**

- An example for byzantine fault-tolerant middleware: Luiz, Aldelir Fernando, Lau Cheuk Lung, and Miguel Correia. "Mitra: Byzantine fault-tolerant middleware for transaction processing on replicated databases." ACM SIGMOD Record 43.1 (2014): 32-38.
- An early approach to Byzantine Fault-Tolerant Services (not database-specific): Abd-El-Malek, Michael, et al. "Fault-scalable Byzantine fault-tolerant services." ACM SIGOPS Operating Systems Review 39.5 (2005): 59-74.
- A recent approach on byzantine fault detection: Yamada, Hiroyuki, and Jun Nemoto. "Scalar DL: Scalable and practical Byzantine fault detection for transactional database systems." *Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment* 15.7 (2022): 1324-1336.



- 2PC can be seen as a special case of 2PL for distributed systems
- Global commit is initiated by the transaction coordinator after the last operation of the transaction has been executed
- The protocol involves all the local sites at which the transaction is executed

## Phase 1 (PREPARE)

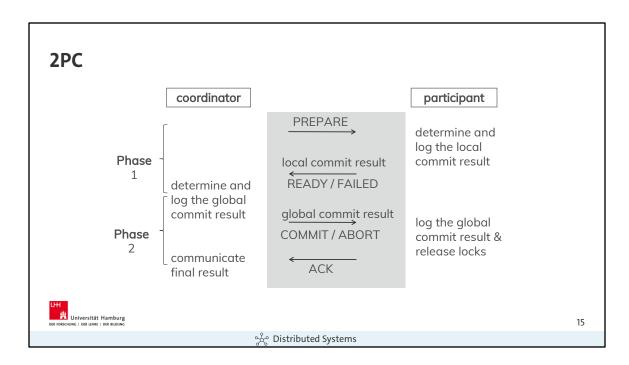
- Assure ability to execute a transaction
- Log changes and commit (After-Image)

# Phase 2 (COMMIT)

- Make changes visible (free locks, delete temp log (UNDO))
- After phase 1, the transaction has a guaranteed outcome

#### **Illustrated Example**

- n=4 Participants (includes the coordinator)
- → 4 messages per participant
- → 4(n-1) messages in total



## **Step 1: PREPARE**

 Coordinator sends PREPARE message to all participants to find out if they can commit the transaction

# Step 2: READY/FAILED

 Each participant receives the PREPARE message and sends one of the two messages back

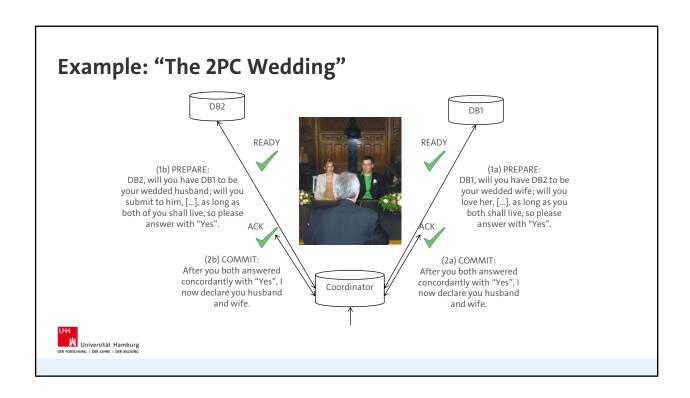
READY  $\rightarrow$  If participant is able to commit the transaction, locally FAILED  $\rightarrow$  If participant is not able to commit the transaction, locally (because of failure, consistency, ...)

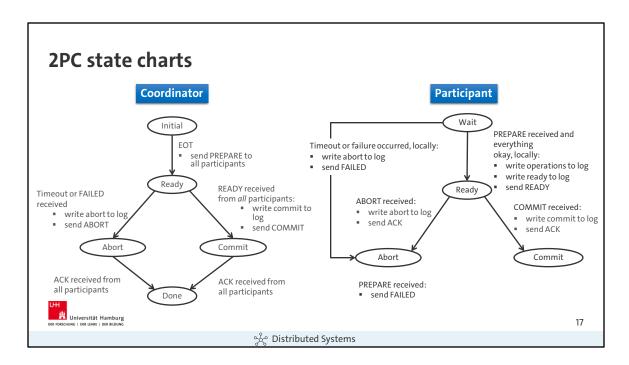
# Step 3: COMMIT/ABORT

- If coordinator receives READY back from all participants, the coordinator decides for global COMMIT
- If one of participants answers FAILED or does not answer in time (timeout), coordinator must decide for ABORT
- Coordinator sends decision to all participants for them to COMMT/ABORT locally

## **Step 4: ACKNOWLEDGE**

Participants acknowledge reception of coordinator's global decision





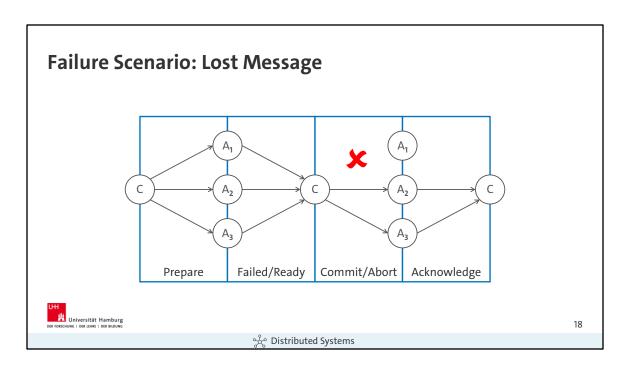
#### In case of Failures

Phase of uncertainty for participants

- From the point a participant replied with READY until the global decision is received
- Participant could actively try to get hold of global decision
  - → actively ask coordinator or other participants

# Reason of uncertainty situations

- Crash of coordinator
- Crash of other participant (coordinator waits for reply)
- Lost messages



### **Lost in Phase 1**

PREPARE message of coordinator gets lost

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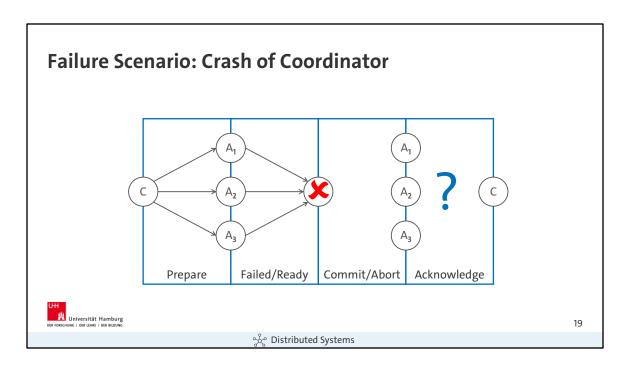
READY/FAILED message of a participant gets lost

→ after timeout coordinator assumes a participant crash and decides for ABORT

### **Lost in Phase 2**

ABORT/COMMIT message of coordinator is lost, while participants are in READY state

- → participants are blocked, cannot decide on their own
- → participants can only ask coordinator repeatedly for global decision



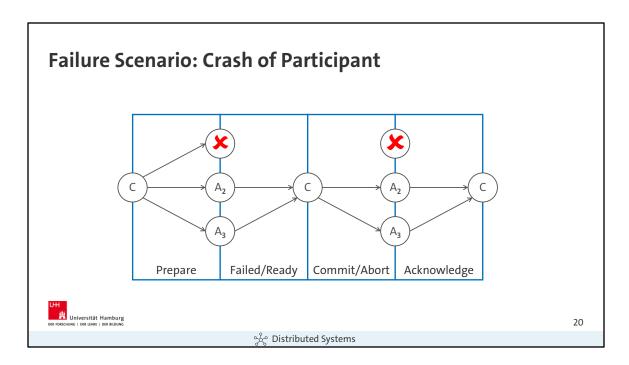
Participants need to block until the coordinator recovers or a back-up coordinator takes over

# Crash after a participant sent FAILED

- No problem
- ightarrow Participants know that coordinator must decide for global ABORT

# **Crash after participants sent READY**

- · Participants wait for global decision of crashed coordinator
- Participants are blocked → Main problem of 2PC-Protocol!
- · Availability of participants for other global and local transaction gets restricted
- Solution: 3PC → avoids blocking (but more messages)



## Participant involved in new transactions

 All new transactions that involve a crashed participant can not be executed (for now, we assume data is not replicated)

# Participant does not answer to PREPARE message in time

- Coordinator has sent PREPARE and waits for answers of participants
- After timeout participant is considered as crashed → Long blocking → Main problem of 2PC-Protocol!
- Coordinator decides for ABORT -> sends an abort to all participants (as well as to the failed node once it is recovered)

## **Crashed participant restarts**

- · Check log file for transaction T
- No READY entry → participant performs a local rollback and sends FAILED to coordinator
- READY entry but no COMMIT entry
  - → Participant asks coordinator for global decision
  - → Depending on coordinator's answer participant performs UNDO (Abort) or REDO (Commit)
- COMMIT entry → participant performs a local REDO of T