

This is a formalization of SCP's abstract balloting protocol described in Section 3.5 of the IETF draft at:

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-mazieres-dinrg-scp-05#section-3.5>

The goal is to then refine this specification to one that closely matches the concrete SCP protocol.

We provide an inductive invariant showing that, by following the 2 “restrictions on voting” described in Section 3.5 of the above document, safety is guaranteed.

Note that it is not true that a validator never votes to commit and abort the same ballot. This can happen when a validator votes to commit a ballot, but then accepts to abort it because a blocking set accepted to abort it. Moreover, it is necessary for liveness to allow this.

EXTENDS *DomainModel*

VARIABLES

voteToAbort
 , *acceptedAborted*
 , *voteToCommit*
 , *acceptedCommitted*
 , *externalized*
 , *byz*

TypeOK \triangleq
 $\wedge \text{ voteToAbort} \in [N \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \textit{Ballot}]$
 $\wedge \text{ acceptedAborted} \in [N \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \textit{Ballot}]$
 $\wedge \text{ voteToCommit} \in [N \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \textit{Ballot}]$
 $\wedge \text{ acceptedCommitted} \in [N \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \textit{Ballot}]$
 $\wedge \text{ externalized} \in [N \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \textit{Ballot}]$
 $\wedge \text{ byz} \in \text{SUBSET } N$

Init \triangleq
 $\wedge \text{ voteToAbort} = [n \in N \mapsto \{\}]$
 $\wedge \text{ acceptedAborted} = [n \in N \mapsto \{\}]$
 $\wedge \text{ voteToCommit} = [n \in N \mapsto \{\}]$
 $\wedge \text{ acceptedCommitted} = [n \in N \mapsto \{\}]$
 $\wedge \text{ externalized} = [n \in N \mapsto \{\}]$
 $\wedge \text{ byz} \in \textit{FailProneSet}$

IsPrepared(*n*, *b1*) \triangleq
 $\vee \forall b2 \in \textit{Ballot} : \textit{LessThanAndIncompatible}(b2, b1) \Rightarrow$
 $\quad \exists Q \in \textit{Quorum} : \forall m \in Q \setminus \textit{byz} : b2 \in \textit{acceptedAborted}[m]$
 $\vee b1.\textit{counter} = 1$ Initially, we can skip the prepare phase
 $\vee \exists cnt \in \textit{BallotNumber} :$
 $\quad \wedge [counter \mapsto cnt, value \mapsto b1.value] \in \textit{acceptedCommitted}[n]$
 not necessary:
 $\quad \wedge cnt < b1.\textit{counter}$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Step}(n) \triangleq \\
& \wedge \text{ } \text{byz}' = \text{byz} \quad \text{Apalache does not like UNCHANGED here. TODO: report bug} \\
& \quad \text{NOTE for TLC, we must update } \text{acceptedAborted} \text{ before } \text{voteToAbort}, \\
& \quad \text{because updating } \text{voteToAbort} \text{ depends on } \text{acceptedAborted}': \\
& \wedge \exists B \in \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot} : \\
& \quad \wedge \forall b \in B : \\
& \quad \quad \wedge \forall \exists Q \in \text{Quorum} : \forall m \in Q \setminus \text{byz} : b \in \text{voteToAbort}[m] \cup \text{acceptedAborted}[m] \\
& \quad \quad \quad \vee \exists Bl \in \text{BlockingSet} : \forall m \in Bl \setminus \text{byz} : b \in \text{acceptedAborted}[m] \\
& \quad \quad \wedge \text{acceptedAborted}' = [\text{acceptedAborted} \text{ EXCEPT } ![n] = @ \cup B] \\
& \wedge \exists B \in \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot} : \\
& \quad \wedge \forall b \in B : b \notin \text{voteToCommit}[n] \vee b \in \text{acceptedAborted}'[n] \\
& \quad \wedge \text{voteToAbort}' = [\text{voteToAbort} \text{ EXCEPT } ![n] = @ \cup B] \\
& \quad \text{NOTE for TLC, we must update } \text{acceptedCommitted} \text{ before } \text{voteToCommit}, \\
& \quad \text{because updating } \text{voteToCommit} \text{ depends on } \text{acceptedCommitted}': \\
& \wedge \exists B \in \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot} : \\
& \quad \wedge \forall b \in B : \\
& \quad \quad \wedge \forall \exists Q \in \text{Quorum} : \forall m \in Q \setminus \text{byz} : b \in \text{voteToCommit}[m] \cup \text{acceptedCommitted}[m] \\
& \quad \quad \quad \vee \exists Bl \in \text{BlockingSet} : \forall m \in Bl \setminus \text{byz} : b \in \text{acceptedCommitted}[m] \\
& \quad \quad \wedge \text{acceptedCommitted}' = [\text{acceptedCommitted} \text{ EXCEPT } ![n] = @ \cup B] \\
& \wedge \exists B \in \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot} : \\
& \quad \wedge \forall b \in B : \\
& \quad \quad \wedge b.\text{counter} > 0 \quad \text{we start at ballot 1} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{if the ballot is already aborted, don't vote to commit} \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{(using the primed version ensures we don't vote to commit and abort at the same time):} \\
& \quad \quad \wedge b \notin \text{voteToAbort}'[n] \cup \text{acceptedAborted}'[n] \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{the prime allows us to consider prepared something we accepted committed in this very step:} \\
& \quad \quad \wedge \text{IsPrepared}(n, b)' \\
& \quad \quad \wedge \text{voteToCommit}' = [\text{voteToCommit} \text{ EXCEPT } ![n] = @ \cup B] \\
& \quad \quad \quad \text{we vote to commit at most one value per ballot number:} \\
& \quad \quad \wedge \forall b1, b2 \in \text{voteToCommit}'[n] : b1.\text{counter} = b2.\text{counter} \Rightarrow b1.\text{value} = b2.\text{value} \\
& \wedge \exists B \in \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot} : \\
& \quad \wedge \forall b \in B : \exists Q \in \text{Quorum} : \\
& \quad \quad \forall m \in Q \setminus \text{byz} : b \in \text{acceptedCommitted}[m] \\
& \quad \wedge \text{externalized}' = [\text{externalized} \text{ EXCEPT } ![n] = @ \cup B]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{ByzantineHavoc} \triangleq \\
& \wedge \exists x \in [\text{byz} \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot}] : \\
& \quad \text{voteToAbort}' = [n \in N \mapsto \text{IF } n \in \text{byz} \text{ THEN } x[n] \text{ ELSE } \text{voteToAbort}[n]] \\
& \wedge \exists x \in [\text{byz} \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot}] : \\
& \quad \text{acceptedAborted}' = [n \in N \mapsto \text{IF } n \in \text{byz} \text{ THEN } x[n] \text{ ELSE } \text{acceptedAborted}[n]] \\
& \wedge \exists x \in [\text{byz} \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot}] : \\
& \quad \text{voteToCommit}' = [n \in N \mapsto \text{IF } n \in \text{byz} \text{ THEN } x[n] \text{ ELSE } \text{voteToCommit}[n]] \\
& \wedge \exists x \in [\text{byz} \rightarrow \text{SUBSET } \text{Ballot}] : \\
& \quad \text{acceptedCommitted}' = [n \in N \mapsto \text{IF } n \in \text{byz} \text{ THEN } x[n] \text{ ELSE } \text{acceptedCommitted}[n]] \\
& \wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle \text{externalized}, \text{byz} \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Next &\triangleq \\
&\quad \vee \exists n \in N : Step(n) \\
&\quad \vee ByzantineHavoc \\
vars &\triangleq \langle voteToAbort, acceptedAborted, voteToCommit, acceptedCommitted, externalized, byz \rangle \\
Spec &\triangleq Init \wedge \Box [Next]_{vars} \\
Safety &\triangleq \\
&\quad \forall n1, n2 \in N \setminus byz : \forall b1, b2 \in Ballot : \\
&\quad \quad b1 \in externalized[n1] \wedge b2 \in externalized[n2] \Rightarrow b1.value = b2.value
\end{aligned}$$

Inductive invariant proving safety:

$$\begin{aligned}
Invariant &\triangleq \\
&\quad \wedge TypeOK \\
&\quad \wedge byz \in FailProneSet \\
&\quad \wedge \forall n \in N \setminus byz : \\
&\quad \quad \wedge \forall b \in Ballot : \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge b \in voteToCommit[n] \Rightarrow b \notin voteToAbort[n] \vee b \in acceptedAborted[n] \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge b \in voteToCommit[n] \cup acceptedCommitted[n] \cup externalized[n] \Rightarrow b.counter > 0 \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge \forall b2 \in Ballot : \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad b \in voteToCommit[n] \wedge b2 \in voteToCommit[n] \wedge b \neq b2 \Rightarrow b.counter \neq b2.counter \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge b \in acceptedAborted[n] \Rightarrow \exists Q \in Quorum : \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \forall m \in Q \setminus byz : b \in voteToAbort[m] \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge b \in acceptedCommitted[n] \Rightarrow \exists Q \in Quorum : \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \forall m \in Q \setminus byz : b \in voteToCommit[m] \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge b \in externalized[n] \Rightarrow \exists Q \in Quorum : \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \forall m \in Q \setminus byz : b \in acceptedCommitted[m] \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge b \in voteToCommit[n] \Rightarrow \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \vee b.counter = 1 \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \vee \forall b2 \in Ballot : LessThanAndIncompatible(b2, b) \Rightarrow \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \exists Q \in Quorum : \forall m \in Q \setminus byz : b2 \in acceptedAborted[m] \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \vee \exists cnt \in BallotNumber : \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge cnt < b.counter \\
&\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \wedge [counter \mapsto cnt, value \mapsto b.value] \in acceptedCommitted[n] \\
&\quad \quad \quad \wedge b \in acceptedAborted[n] \Rightarrow \forall Q \in Quorum : \exists m \in Q \setminus byz : b \notin voteToCommit[m] \\
&\quad \wedge Safety
\end{aligned}$$