
MODULE *Sailfish*

Specification of the *Sailfish* consensus algorithm at a high level of abstraction.

EXTENDS *DomainModel*, *TLC*

CONSTANT

GST the first synchronous round (all later rounds are synchronous)

```

--algorithm Sailfish{
  variables
    vs = {}, the vertices of the DAG
    es = {}, the edges of the DAG
    no_vote = [n ∈ N ↦ {}]; no_vote messages sent by each node
  define {
    LeaderVertice(r)  $\triangleq$   $\langle \text{Leader}(r), r \rangle$ 
    VerticeQuorums(r)  $\triangleq$ 
      { VQ ∈ SUBSET vs :
        ∧ ∀ v ∈ VQ : Round(v) = r
        ∧ {Node(v) : v ∈ VQ} ∈ Quorum }
  }
  process ( correctNode ∈ N \ F )
    variables round = 0; current round
  {
l0: while ( TRUE )
    either with ( v =  $\langle \text{self}, \text{round} \rangle$  ) {
      add a new vertex to the DAG and go to the next round
      vs := vs ∪ {v};
      if ( round > 0 )
        with ( vg ∈ VerticeQuorums(round − 1) ) {
          from GST onwards, each node receives all correct vertices of the previous round:
          when round ≥ GST ⇒ (N \ F) ⊆ {Node(v2) : v2 ∈ vg};
          if ( Leader(round) = self ) {
            we must either include the previous leader vertice,
            or a quorum of no_vote messages.
            when
              ∨ LeaderVertice(round − 1) ∈ vg
              ∨ ∃ Q ∈ Quorum : ∀ n ∈ Q \ {self} : LeaderVertice(round − 1) ∈ no_vote[n];
            } ;
            es := es ∪ { $\langle v, pv \rangle$  : pv ∈ vg}; add the edges
            if ( LeaderVertice(round − 1) ∉ vg ) send no_vote if previous leader vertice not included
              no_vote[self] := no_vote[self] ∪ {LeaderVertice(round − 1)}
            } ;
            round := round + 1
          }
        or with ( r ∈ {r ∈ R : r > round} ) {

```

```

    go to a higher round
  when  $r \leq GST$ ; from  $GST$  onwards, correct nodes do not skip rounds
   $round := r$ 
}

```

Next comes our model of *Byzantine* nodes. Because the real protocol disseminates *DAG* vertices using reliable broadcast, *Byzantine* nodes cannot equivocate and cannot deviate much from the protocol (lest their messages be ignored).

```

process (  $byzantineNode \in F$  )
  variables  $round_ = 0$ ;
  {
l0: while ( TRUE ) {
    maybe add a vertices to the DAG:
    either with (  $v = \langle self, round_ \rangle$  ) {
       $vs := vs \cup \{v\}$ ;
      if (  $round_ > 0$  )
        with (  $vq \in VerticeQuorums(round_ - 1)$  ) {
           $es := es \cup \{\langle v, pv \rangle : pv \in vq\}$ 
        }
      } or skip;
      maybe send a no_vote messages:
      if (  $round_ > 0$  )
        either
           $no\_vote[self] := no\_vote[self] \cup \{LeaderVertice(round_ - 1)\}$ 
        or skip;
      go to the next round:
       $round_ := round_ + 1$ 
    }
  }
}

```

Next we define the safety and liveness properties

$$\begin{aligned}
 Committed(v) &\triangleq \\
 &\wedge v \in vs \\
 &\wedge Node(v) = Leader(Round(v)) \\
 &\wedge \exists Q \in Quorum : Q \subseteq \{Node(pv) : pv \in Parents(v, es)\} \\
 &\wedge \vee Round(v) = 0 \\
 &\quad \vee LeaderVertice(Round(v) - 1) \in Children(v, es) \\
 &\quad \vee \exists Q \in Quorum : \forall n \in Q : \\
 &\quad \quad LeaderVertice(Round(v) - 1) \in no_vote[n] \\
 Safety &\triangleq \forall v1, v2 \in vs : \\
 &\wedge Committed(v1) \\
 &\wedge Committed(v2) \\
 &\wedge Round(v1) \leq Round(v2) \\
 &\Rightarrow Reachable(v2, v1, es)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Liveness &\triangleq \forall r \in R : \\
&\wedge r \geq GST \\
&\wedge Leader(r) \notin F \\
&\quad \text{all correct } round - (r + 1) \text{ vertices are created:} \\
&\wedge \forall n \in N \setminus F : round[n] > r + 1 \\
&\Rightarrow Committed(LeaderVertex(r))
\end{aligned}$$

Finally we make a few auxiliary definitions used for model-checking with *TLC*

$$\begin{aligned}
Quorum1 &\triangleq \{Q \in \text{SUBSET } N : Cardinality(Q) \geq Cardinality(N) - Cardinality(F)\} \\
Blocking1 &\triangleq \{Q \in \text{SUBSET } N : Cardinality(Q) > Cardinality(F)\}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{The round of a node, whether Byzantine or not} \\
Round_ (n) &\triangleq \text{IF } n \in F \text{ THEN } round_ [n] \text{ ELSE } round[n]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{Basic typing invariant:} \\
TypeOK &\triangleq \\
&\wedge \forall v \in vs : Node(v) \in N \wedge Round(v) \in Nat \\
&\wedge \forall e \in es : \\
&\quad \wedge e = \langle e[1], e[2] \rangle \\
&\quad \wedge \{e[1], e[2]\} \subseteq vs \\
&\quad \wedge Round(e[1]) > Round(e[2]) \\
&\wedge \forall n \in N : \\
&\quad \wedge Round_ (n) \in Nat \\
&\quad \wedge no_vote[n] \subseteq \{\langle Leader(r), r \rangle : r \in R\}
\end{aligned}$$

Sequentialization constraints, which enforce a particular ordering of the actions. Because of how actions commute, the set of reachable states remains unchanged. This speeds up model-checking a lot.

Compared to the *Sailfish1* specification, we must always schedule the leader last because, due to its use of *no_vote* messages of other nodes, its action does not commute to the left of the actions of other nodes.

$$\begin{aligned}
SeqConstraints(n) &\triangleq \\
&\quad \text{wait for all nodes to finish previous rounds:} \\
&\wedge (Round_ (n) > 0 \Rightarrow \forall n2 \in N : Round_ (n2) \geq Round_ (n)) \\
&\quad \text{wait for all nodes with lower index to leave the round (leader index is always last):} \\
&\wedge \forall n2 \in N : NodeIndexLeaderLast(n2, Round_ (n)) < NodeIndexLeaderLast(n, Round_ (n)) \Rightarrow Round_ (n) > Round_ (n2)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
SeqNext &\triangleq (\exists self \in N \setminus F : SeqConstraints(self) \wedge correctNode(self)) \\
&\quad \vee (\exists self \in F : SeqConstraints(self) \wedge byzantineNode(self)) \\
SeqSpec &\triangleq Init \wedge \Box [SeqNext]_{vars}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{Example assignment of leaders to rounds:} \\
ModLeader(r) &\triangleq NodeSeq[(r \% Cardinality(N)) + 1]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{Constraint to stop the model checker:} \\
StateConstraint &\triangleq
\end{aligned}$$

LET $Max(S) \triangleq \text{CHOOSE } x \in S : \forall y \in S : y \leq x$ IN
 $\forall n \in N : Round_ (n) \in 0 \dots (Max(R) + 1)$

Some properties we expect to be violated:

$Falsy1 \triangleq \neg($
 $\quad \wedge Committed(\langle Leader(1), 1 \rangle)$
 $)$

$Falsy2 \triangleq \neg($
 $\quad \wedge Committed(\langle Leader(0), 0 \rangle)$
 $\quad \wedge \neg Committed(\langle Leader(1), 1 \rangle)$
 $\quad \wedge \neg Committed(\langle Leader(2), 2 \rangle)$
 $\quad \wedge Committed(\langle Leader(3), 3 \rangle)$
 $)$

$Falsy3 \triangleq \neg($
 $\quad \wedge Committed(LeaderVertice(0))$
 $\quad \wedge \exists Q \in Quorum : \forall n \in Q : LeaderVertice(0) \in no_vote[n]$
 $\quad \wedge round[Leader(1)] > 1$
 $\quad \wedge \langle LeaderVertice(1), LeaderVertice(0) \rangle \notin es$
 $)$
