

# Applying the EPR verification methodology to Casper

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## Contents

This is an experiment dating from 2017 in which I shortened an Isabelle/HOL proof by Yoichi Hirai from about 1000 lines to less than 100 by encoding things in EPR as much as possible.

It seems that this proof was later re-used by Yoichi Hirai and then translated to Coq by Runtime Verification: <https://github.com/runtimeverification/casper-proofs/blob/master/Core/AccountableSafety.v>, although the attribution to me was lost in the process.

```

theory Casper
  imports Main
begin

```

Here we prove that the slashing conditions in Casper, as described at the url below by Vitalik Buterin, are such that if there is a fork, then one third of the validators are "slashed". <https://medium.com/@VitalikButerin/minimal-slashing-conditions-20f0b50>

We use first-order modeling as much as possible. This allows to reduce the size of the model, and also the size of the proofs from more than 1000 lines in Yoichi's proof to less than a 100.

```

locale byz-quorums =
  — "Here we fix two types 'q1 and 'q2 for quorums of cardinality greater than 2/3
  of the validators and quorum of cardinality greater than 1/3 of the validators.
  fixes member-1 :: 'n ⇒ 'q1 ⇒ bool (infix ∈1 50)
    — Membership in 2/3 set
    and member-2 :: 'n ⇒ 'q2 ⇒ bool (infix ∈2 50)
    — Membership in 1/3 set
  assumes ∧ q1 q2 . ∃ q3 . ∀ n . n ∈2 q3 ⟶ n ∈1 q1 ∧ n ∈1 q2
    — This is the only property of types 'q1 and 'q2 that we need: 2/3 quorums
    have 1/3 intersection

```

```

record ('n, 'h)state =
  — "'n is the type of validators (nodes), 'h hashes, and views are nat
  commit-msg :: 'n ⇒ 'h ⇒ nat ⇒ bool
  prepare-msg :: 'n ⇒ 'h ⇒ nat ⇒ nat ⇒ bool

```

```

locale casper = byz-quorums +
  — Here we make assumptions about hashes. In reality any message containing a
  hash not satisfying those should be dropped.
fixes
  hash-parent :: 'h ⇒ 'h ⇒ bool (infix ← 50)
assumes
  — "a hash has at most one parent which is not itself
  ∧ h1 h2 . h1 ← h2 ⟹ h1 ≠ h2
  and ∧ h1 h2 h3 . [h2 ← h1; h3 ← h1] ⟹ h2 = h3
begin

```

```

lemmas casper-assms-def = casper-def casper-axioms-def byz-quorums-def

```

```

inductive hash-ancestor (infix ←* 50) where
  h1 ← h2 ⟹ h1 ←* h2
  | [h1 ← h2; h2 ←* h3] ⟹ h1 ←* h3
declare hash-ancestor.intros[simp,intro]
lemma hash-ancestor-intro': assumes h1 ←* h2 and h2 ← h3 shows h1 ←* h3

  using assms by (induct h1 h2 rule:hash-ancestor.induct) auto

inductive nth-ancestor :: nat ⇒ 'h ⇒ 'h ⇒ bool where

```

$nth\text{-ancestor } 0 \ h1 \ h1$   
 $| \llbracket nth\text{-ancestor } n \ h1 \ h2; h2 \leftarrow h3 \rrbracket \implies nth\text{-ancestor } (n+1) \ h1 \ h3$   
**declare**  $nth\text{-ancestor.intros}[simp,intro]$   
**inductive-cases**  $nth\text{-ancestor-succ}:nth\text{-ancestor } (n+1) \ h1 \ h3$   
**inductive-cases**  $zeroth\text{-ancestor}:nth\text{-ancestor } 0 \ h1 \ h3$   
**lemma**  $parent\text{-ancestor}:h1 \leftarrow h2 = nth\text{-ancestor } 1 \ h1 \ h2$   
**by** (*metis One-nat-def add.right-neutral add-Suc-right add-diff-cancel-left' diff-Suc-Suc*  
 $nat.simps(3) \ nth\text{-ancestor.simps}$ )

All messages in epoch  $0$  are ignored;  $0$  is used as a special value (was  $-1$  in the original model).

**definition**  $prepared'$  **where**

$prepared' \ s \ q \ h \ v1 \ v2 \equiv v1 \neq 0 \wedge (\forall \ n . n \in_1 \ q \longrightarrow prepare\text{-msg } s \ n \ h \ v1 \ v2)$

**definition**  $prepared$  **where**

$prepared \ s \ q \ h \ v1 \ v2 \equiv v1 \neq 0 \wedge v2 < v1 \wedge (\forall \ n . n \in_1 \ q \longrightarrow prepare\text{-msg } s \ n \ h \ v1 \ v2)$

**definition**  $committed$  **where**

$committed \ s \ q \ h \ v \equiv v \neq 0 \wedge (\forall \ n . n \in_1 \ q \longrightarrow commit\text{-msg } s \ n \ h \ v)$

**definition**  $fork$  **where**

$fork \ s \equiv \exists \ h1 \ h2 \ q1 \ q2 \ v1 \ v2 . committed \ s \ q1 \ h1 \ v1 \wedge committed \ s \ q2 \ h2 \ v2$   
 $\wedge \neg(h2 \leftarrow^* h1 \vee h1 \leftarrow^* h2 \vee h1 = h2)$

**definition**  $slashed\text{-}1$  **where**  $slashed\text{-}1 \ s \ n \equiv$

$\exists \ h \ v . commit\text{-msg } s \ n \ h \ v \wedge (\forall \ q \ v2 . v2 < v \longrightarrow \neg prepared \ s \ q \ h \ v \ v2)$

**definition**  $slashed\text{-}2$  **where**

$slashed\text{-}2 \ s \ n \equiv$

$\exists \ h \ v1 \ v2 . prepare\text{-msg } s \ n \ h \ v1 \ v2 \wedge v2 \neq 0 \wedge$

$(\forall \ v3 \ q \ h2 . v3 < v2 \longrightarrow \neg(nth\text{-ancestor } (v1 - v2) \ h2 \ h \wedge prepared \ s \ q \ h2 \ v2 \vee v3))$

**definition**  $slashed\text{-}3$  **where**

$slashed\text{-}3 \ s \ n \equiv$

$\exists \ h1 \ h2 \ v1 \ v2 \ v3 . v1 < v2 \wedge v3 < v1 \wedge$

$commit\text{-msg } s \ n \ h1 \ v1 \wedge prepare\text{-msg } s \ n \ h2 \ v2 \ v3$

**definition**  $slashed\text{-}4$  **where**

$slashed\text{-}4 \ s \ n \equiv \exists \ h1 \ h2 \ v \ v1 \ v2 . (h1 \neq h2 \vee v1 \neq v2) \wedge$

$prepare\text{-msg } s \ n \ h1 \ v \ v1 \wedge prepare\text{-msg } s \ n \ h2 \ v \ v2$

**definition**  $slashed$  **where**  $slashed \ s \ n \equiv$

$slashed\text{-}1 \ s \ n \vee slashed\text{-}2 \ s \ n \vee slashed\text{-}3 \ s \ n \vee slashed\text{-}4 \ s \ n$

**definition**  $one\text{-third}\text{-slashed}$  **where**  $one\text{-third}\text{-slashed} \ s \equiv \exists \ q . \forall \ n . n \in_2 \ q \longrightarrow slashed \ s \ n$

**lemmas**  $slashed\text{-defs} = slashed\text{-def} slashed\text{-}1\text{-def} slashed\text{-}2\text{-def} slashed\text{-}4\text{-def} slashed\text{-}3\text{-def} one\text{-third}\text{-slashed}\text{-def}$

**lemmas**  $order\text{-defs} = class.linorder\text{-axioms}\text{-def} class.linorder\text{-def} class.order\text{-def} class.preorder\text{-def}$

$class.order\text{-axioms}\text{-def} class.order\text{-bot}\text{-def} class.order\text{-bot}\text{-axioms}\text{-def} linorder\text{-axioms}[\text{where } ?'a=nat]$

**lemmas**  $casper\text{-defs} = slashed\text{-defs} prepared\text{-def} fork\text{-def} committed\text{-def} casper\text{-assms}\text{-def}$

```

lemma l1: assumes prepared s q1 h1 v1 v2 and committed s q2 h2 v3 and  $v1 > v3$  and  $\neg \text{one-third-slashed } s$ 
  shows  $v1 > v2 \wedge v2 \geq v3$  using assms casper-axioms linorder-axioms [where
     $?a = \text{nat}$ ] unfolding casper-defs order-defs
  by metis

lemma l2: assumes nth-ancestor n h1 h2 and nth-ancestor m h2 h3
  shows nth-ancestor (n+m) h1 h3
  using assms
proof (induct m arbitrary: h1 h2 h3)
  case 0 then show  $?case$  using nth-ancestor.cases by auto
next
  case (Suc m)
  then show  $?case$  by (metis Suc-eq-plus1 add-Suc-right nth-ancestor.simps nth-ancestor-succ)
qed

lemma l3: assumes prepared s q1 h1 v1 v2 and committed s q2 h2 v3 and  $v1 > v3$  and  $\neg \text{one-third-slashed } s$ 
  shows nth-ancestor (v1 - v3) h2 h1
proof -
  show  $?thesis$  using assms
proof (induct v1 - v3 arbitrary: v1 v2 v3 q1 q2 h1 h2 rule:less-induct)
  - "This is complete induction
  case less then show  $?case$ 
  proof (cases v1-v3=0)
  case True then show  $?thesis$  using less.prem(3) by linarith
  next
  case False then show  $?thesis$ 
  proof (cases v2=v3)
  case True
  obtain  $v4\ q3$  where  $1:\text{prepared } s\ q3\ h2\ v2\ v4$ 
    by (metis True byz-quorums-axioms byz-quorums-def committed-def
      less.prem(2,4) one-third-slashed-def slashed-1-def slashed-def)
    moreover have  $3:h3 = h2 \wedge v5 = v4$  if prepared s q4 h3 v2 v5 for q4 h3
     $v5$ 
    by (metis 1 byz-quorums-axioms byz-quorums-def less.prem(4) one-third-slashed-def
      prepared-def slashed-4-def slashed-def that)
    ultimately show  $?thesis$  using less(2,5) byz-quorums-axioms True
    by (simp only: casper-defs) metis
  next
  case False
  obtain  $q3\ h3\ v4$  where  $1:\text{nth-ancestor } (v1-v2)\ h3\ h1$  and  $2:\text{prepared } s\ q3\ h3\ v2\ v4$ 
    by (metis less.prem(1-3) assms(4) byz-quorums-axioms byz-quorums-def
      committed-def diff-is-0-eq diff-zero l1 one-third-slashed-def prepared-def slashed-2-def
      slashed-def)
    have  $3:\text{nth-ancestor } (v2-v3)\ h2\ h3$ 
    by (metis False 2 l1 diff-less-mono less.hyps less.prem less-le)
    have  $4:v1 > v2 \wedge v2 \geq v3$  using assms casper.l1 casper-axioms less.prem(1-3)

```

```

by metis
  show ?thesis using 1 3 4 less.prem(3) l2 by force
qed
qed
qed
qed

lemma l4:assumes nth-ancestor n h1 h2 shows  $h1 \leftarrow^* h2 \vee h1 = h2$  using
  assms
proof (induct n arbitrary:h1 h2)
  case 0 then show ?case using zeroth-ancestor by auto
next
  case (Suc n)
  obtain h3 where 1:h3  $\leftarrow$  h2 and 2:nth-ancestor n h1 h3 using nth-ancestor-succ
  Suc.prem by (metis Suc-eq-plus1)
  show ?case using Suc.hyps[OF 2] 1 hash-ancestor-intro' by blast
qed

lemma safety: assumes fork s shows one-third-slashed s
proof -
  obtain h1 h2 q1 q2 v1 v2 where 1:committed s q1 h1 v1 and 2:committed s q2
  h2 v2
  and 3: $\neg (h2 \leftarrow^* h1 \vee h1 \leftarrow^* h2 \vee h1 = h2)$  using assms fork-def by blast
  have 4: $\neg (nth\text{-}ancestor\ n\ h1\ h2 \vee nth\text{-}ancestor\ n\ h2\ h1 \vee h1 = h2)$  for n using
  l4 3 by auto
  obtain q3 q4 v3 v4 where 5:prepared s q3 h1 v1 v3 and 6:prepared s q4 h2 v2
  v4 if  $\neg one\text{-}third\text{-}slashed\ s$  using 1 2
  by (metis byz-quorums-axioms byz-quorums-def committed-def one-third-slashed-def
  slashed-1-def slashed-def)
  show ?thesis
  proof (cases v1 = v2)
    case True
    show ?thesis using 1 4 2 5 6 True casper-axioms unfolding byz-quorums-def
    casper-def slashed-def
    one-third-slashed-def casper-axioms committed-def prepared-def slashed-1-def
    slashed-4-def
    by metis
  next
    case False thus ?thesis using l3 1 2 4 5 6 by (metis less-le not-less)
  qed
qed
qed

end

end

```