UniStore: A Fault-tolerant Marriage of Causal and Strong Consistency

(submitted to ATC'2021)

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What is UNISTORE?

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Weak consistency: CausalConsistency
Strong consistency: Serializability

Weak consistency: low latency, high availability



Strong consistency: easy to preserve critical application invariants

DEPOSIT WITHDRAW QUERY INTEREST



Invariant: balance ≥ 0





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Causal consistency allows two concurrent WITHDRAW to execute without knowing each other.





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Causal consistency allows two concurrent WITHDRAW to execute without knowing each other.

Only WITHDRAW needs to use strong consistency.

UniStore implements a transactional variant of Partial Order-Restrictions (PoR) consistency [Li@ACT'2018]

- (I) transactional causal consistency by default
- (II) to specify conflicting transactions under strong consistency

Definition (Session Order)

A transaction t_1 precedes a transaction t_2 in the session order, denoted $t_1 \xrightarrow{so} t_2$, if they are executed by the same client and t_1 is executed before t_2 .

Definition (Conflict Relation)

The conflict relation, denoted \bowtie , between transactions is a symmetric relation.

$$t_1 \bowtie t_2 \iff t_2 \bowtie t_1.$$

Definition (PoR)

A set of transactions $T \triangleq T_{causal} \uplus T_{strong}$ committed by UNISTORE satisfies PoR if there exists a causal order \prec on T such that

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RETVAL: INTRETVAL ∧ EXTRETVAL

Consistency Model of UNISTORE

Consider a read r from key k in a transaction t.

Intreduced Interval: read from the latest update on k preceding r in t

 $RetVal = IntRetVal \wedge ExtRetVal$

EXTRETVAL : read from the last update on k of the latest transaction (in an order consistent with \prec) preceding t

DEPOSIT WITHDRAW QUERY INTEREST



Invariant: balance ≥ 0

Declaring that strong transactions including WITHDRAW on the same account conflict.

Design Challenge of UNISTORE

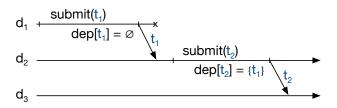
To satisfy liveness (Eventual Visibility) despite failures



A transaction $t \in T$ that is either strong or originates at a correct data center eventually become visible at all correct data centers.

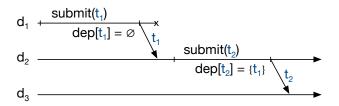
Design Challenge of UNISTORE (I)

Data center d_1 crashes before t_1 is replicated to correct data center d_3 .



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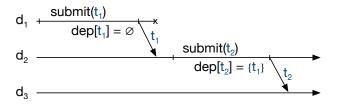
Data center d_1 crashes before t_1 is replicated to correct data center d_3 .



Transaction t_2 (at correct data center d_2) may never become visible at correct data center d_3 .

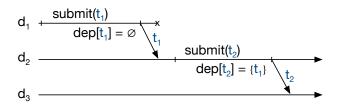
Fault-tolerance of UNISTORE (I)

Data center d_1 crashes before t_1 is replicated to correct data center d_3 .



Fault-tolerance of UNISTORE (I)

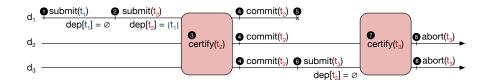
Data center d_1 crashes before t_1 is replicated to correct data center d_3 .



Data center d_2 need to forward causal transactions to other data centers.

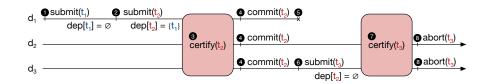
Design Challenge of UniStore (II)

Data center d_1 crashes before t_1 is replicated to correct data center d_3 .



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Data center d_1 crashes before t_1 is replicated to correct data center d_3 .



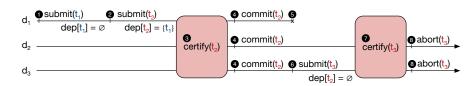
Transaction t_2 will never be visible at d_3 .

No transaction t_3 conflicting with t_2 can commit (by CONFLICTORDERING).

Fault-tolerance of UNISTORE (II)

UNISTORE ensures that before a strong transaction commits, all its causal dependencies are uniform,

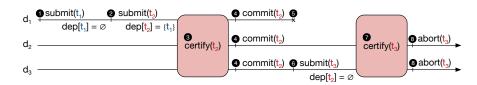
i.e., will eventually become visible at all correct data centers.



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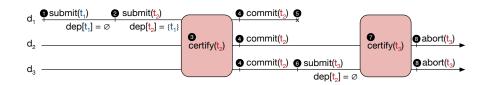
i.e., will eventually become visible at all correct data centers.



Transaction t_1 will eventually be visible at d_3 . Transaction t_2 will eventually be visible at d_3 . Transaction t_3 may be committed at d_3 .

Performance of UniStore

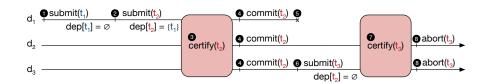
Causal transactions remain highly-available, i.e., committed locally.



A strong transaction may have to wait for some of its dependencies to become uniform before committing.

Performance of UNISTORE

Causal transactions remain highly-available, i.e., committed locally.



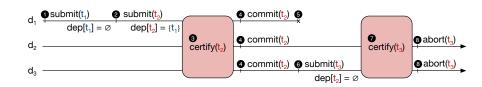
A strong transaction may have to wait for some of its dependencies to become uniform before committing.

However, this may cost too much.

Performance of UNISTORE

UNISTORE makes a remote causal transaction visible to clients only after it is uniform.

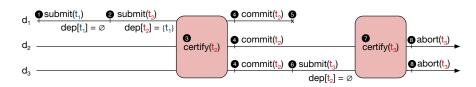
Causal transactions are executed on an (almost) uniform snapshot that may be slightly in the past.



Performance of UNISTORE

UNISTORE makes a remote causal transaction visible to clients only after it is uniform.

Causal transactions are executed on an (almost) uniform snapshot that may be slightly in the past.



A strong transaction only needs to wait for causal transactions originating at the local data center to become uniform.

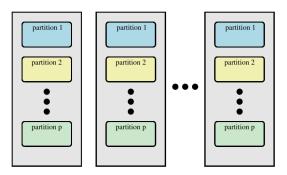
Scalability of UniStore

UniStore scales horizontally,

i.e., with the number of machines (partitions) in each data center.

System Model

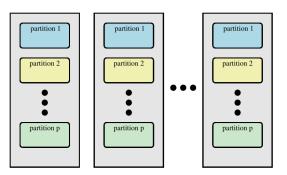
 $\mathcal{D} = \{1, \dots, D\}$: the set of data centers $\mathcal{P} = \{1, \dots, N\}$: the set of (logical) partitions



 p_d^m : the replica of partition m at data center d

System Model

D = 2f + 1 and $\leq f$ data centers may fail



Any two replicas are connected by a reliable FIFO channel. Messages between correct data centers will eventually be delivered.

System Model

Replicas have loosely synchronized physical clocks.



The correctness of UNISTORE does not depend on the precision of clock synchronization.

Fault-tolerant Causal Consistency Protocol

Requirement: Tracking Uniformity

UNISTORE makes a remote causal transaction visible to clients only after it is uniform.

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Definition (Uniform)

A transaction is <u>uniform</u> if both the transaction and its causal dependencies are guaranteed to be eventually replicated at all correct data centers.

Requirement: Tracking Uniformity

UNISTORE makes a remote causal transaction visible to clients only after it is uniform.

Definition (Uniform)

A transaction is uniform if both the transaction and its causal dependencies are guaranteed to be eventually replicated at all correct data centers.

A transaction is considered uniform once it is visible at f + 1 data centers.

Each transaction is tagged with a commit vector commit Vec.

$$\mathit{commitVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

For a transaction originating at data center d, we call commitVec[d] its local timestamp.

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Commit vectors are sent to sibling replicas via replication and forwarding.

Each replica p_d^m maintains the following three vectors:

$$\mathsf{knownVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

$$\mathsf{stableVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

$$\mathsf{uniformVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

$$\mathsf{knownVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

Property (Property of knownVec)

 $\label{eq:content} \text{For each data center } i,$ the replica p_d^m stores the updates to partition m by transactions originating at i with local timestamps $\leq \mathsf{knownVec}[i].$

$$\mathsf{stableVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

Property (Property of stableVec)

For each data center i,

the data center d stores the updates

by transactions originating at i with local timestamps \leq stableVec[i].

 $\begin{array}{lll} \text{1:} & \textbf{function} \ \text{BROADCAST_VECS()} \\ \text{2:} & \textbf{send} \ \text{KNOWNVEC_LOCAL} \ (m, \text{knownVec)} \ \textbf{to} \ p_d^l, \ l \in \mathscr{P} \\ \text{3:} & \textbf{send} \ \text{STABLEVEC} \ (d, \text{stableVec}) \ \textbf{to} \ p_i^m, \ i \in \mathscr{D} \\ \text{4:} & \textbf{send} \ \text{KNOWNVEC_GLOBAL} \ (d, \text{knownVec}) \ \textbf{to} \ p_i^m, \ i \in \mathscr{D} \end{array}$

$$\mathsf{stableVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

```
5: when received KNOWNVEC_LOCAL(l, known Vec)
6: localMatrix[l] \leftarrow known Vec
7: for i \in \mathcal{D} do
8: stableVec[i] \leftarrow \min\{localMatrix[n][i] \mid n \in \mathcal{P}\}
9: stableVec[strong] \leftarrow \min\{localMatrix[n][strong] \mid n \in \mathcal{P}\}
```

$$\mathsf{uniformVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

Property (Property of uniformVec)

All update transactions originating at i with local timestamps \leq uniformVec[i] are replicated at f + 1 data centers including d.

```
1: function BROADCAST_VECS()
2: send KNOWNVEC_LOCAL(m, knownVec) to p_d^l, l \in \mathscr{P}
3: send STABLEVEC d, stableVec) to p_i^m, i \in \mathscr{D}
4: send KNOWNVEC_GLOBAL(d, knownVec) to p_i^m, i \in \mathscr{D}
```

$\mathsf{uniformVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$

```
10: when received STABLEVEC(i, stableVec)

11: stableMatrix[i] \leftarrow stableVec

12: G \leftarrow all groups with f+1 replicas that include p_d^m

13: for j \in \mathscr{D} do

14: var ts \leftarrow \max\{\min\{\text{stableMatrix}[h][j] \mid h \in g\} \mid g \in G\}

15: uniformVec[j] \leftarrow max\{\text{uniformVec}[j], ts\}
```

$$\mathsf{uniformVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

Lemma

 $\label{eq:all update transactions} \textit{with } \textit{commit vectors} \leq \textit{uniformVec} \textit{ are uniform.}$

$$\mathsf{uniformVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

Lemma

 $\label{eq:all update transactions} \begin{tabular}{ll} \it with \ \it commit \ \it vectors \le uniform Vec \ \it are \ \it uniform. \end{tabular}$

UNISTORE makes a remote causal transaction visible to clients only after it is uniform.

Causal Consistency Protocol: Start

pastVec : causal past of client

- 1: function START()
- 2: $p \leftarrow a$ random partition in data center d
- 3: $\langle \mathsf{tid}, snap Vec \rangle \leftarrow \mathbf{send} \ \mathsf{START_TX}(\mathsf{pastVec}) \ \mathbf{to} \ \mathsf{p}$
- 4: $pastVec \leftarrow snap Vec$
- 5: return tid

 $\forall i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{d\}$, all transactions originating at i with local timestamps $\leq \mathsf{pastVec}[i]$ are already uniform.

Causal Consistency Protocol: Start

Causal transactions are executed on an (almost) uniform snapshot.

```
1: function START_TX(V)
2: for i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{d\} do
3: uniformVec[i] \leftarrow max{V[i], uniformVec[i]}
4: var tid \leftarrow generate_tid()
5: snapVec[tid] \leftarrow uniformVec
6: snapVec[tid][d] \leftarrow max{V[d], uniformVec[d]}
7: snapVec[tid][strong] \leftarrow max{V[strong], stableVec[strong]}
8: return \langle tid, snapVec[tid]\rangle
```

 $\mathsf{snapVec}[tid][d]$ ensures "read-your-writes".

Causal Consistency Protocol: Update

```
11: function UPDATE(k, v) 17: function DO_UPDATE(tid, k, v) 18: var \ l \leftarrow partition(k) 19: wbuff[tid][l][k] \leftarrow v 13: return ok 20: rset[tid][l] \leftarrow rset[tid][l] \cup \{k\}
```

 $\mathsf{wbuff}[tid][l]: \mathsf{buffer}$ for the latest local update on each key

Causal Consistency Protocol: Read

```
9: function DO_READ(tid, k, c)
 6: function READ(k)
                                                                                                         lc \leftarrow max\{lc, c\}
                                                                                             10:
 7:
             \langle v, c \rangle \leftarrow \text{send DO\_READ}(\text{tid}, k, | c) \text{ to p}
                                                                                                         var l \leftarrow \mathsf{partition}(k)
                                                                                             11:
            if c \neq \bot then
 8:
                                                                                                         if wbuff [tid][l][k] \neq \bot then
                                                                                             12:
                   lc \leftarrow max\{lc, c\}
                                                                                                               return \langle \mathsf{wbuff}[tid][l][k], \perp \rangle
 9:
                                                                                             13:
                                                                                             14:
                                                                                                         \langle v, c \rangle \leftarrow \mathbf{send} \ \mathsf{READ\_KEY}(\mathsf{snapVec}[tid], k) \ \mathbf{to} \ p_d^l
10:
             return v
                                                                                                         \mathsf{rset}[tid][l] \leftarrow \mathsf{rset}[tid][l] \cup \{k\}
                                                                                             15:
                                                                                                         return \langle v, c \rangle
                                                                                             16:
```

Causal Consistency Protocol: Read

Causal transactions are executed on an (almost) uniform snapshot.

```
1: when received READ_KEY(snap\ Vec, k) from p
2: for i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{d\} do
3: uniformVec[i] \leftarrow max{snap\ Vec[i], uniformVec[i]}
4: wait until knownVec[d] \succeq snap\ Vec[d] \wedge knownVec[strong] \succeq snap\ Vec[strong]
5: \langle v, commit\ Vec, c \rangle \leftarrow snapshot [opLog[k], snap\ Vec] \Rightarrow returns the latest commit\ Vec (in terms of Lamport clock order in Definition 50) such that commit\ Vec \le snap\ Vec
6: send \langle v, c \rangle to p
```

wait: ensure that it is as up-to-date as required by the snapshot

```
14: function COMMIT_CAUSAL_TX()
15: \langle vc, c \rangle \leftarrow send COMMIT_CAUSAL(tid, |c) to p
16: pastVec \leftarrow vc
17: |c \leftarrow c
18: return ok
```

Read-only transactions returns immediately.

```
22: function COMMIT_CAUSAL(tid, c)
         lc \leftarrow max\{lc, c\} + 1
23:
         if \forall l \in \mathscr{P}. wbuff [tid][l] = \emptyset then
24:
               return \langle \text{snapVec}[tid], |c\rangle
25:
          \mathbf{var}\ commitVec \leftarrow \mathsf{snapVec}[tid]
26:
          send PREPARE (tid, wbuff[tid][l], snapVec[tid]) to p_d^l, l \in \mathscr{P}
27:
         for all l \in \mathscr{P} do
28:
              wait receive PREPARE_ACK (tid, ts) from p_d^l
29:
               commitVec[d] \leftarrow \max\{commitVec[d], ts\}
30:
         send COMMIT (tid, commit Vec, |c) to p_d^l, l \in \mathscr{P}
31:
          return \langle commitVec, |c\rangle
32:
```

2PC protocol for update transactions

ts: prepare timestamp from its local clock

```
7: when received PREPARE(tid, wbuff, snap Vec) from p
8: for i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{d\} do
9: uniformVec[i] \leftarrow \max\{snap Vec[i], \text{uniformVec}[i]\}
10: var ts \leftarrow \text{clock}
11: preparedCausal \leftarrow preparedCausal \cup \{\langle tid, wbuff, ts \rangle\}
12: send PREPARE_ACK(tid, ts) to p
```

wait: ensure that its local clock is up-to-date

```
 \begin{array}{lll} \text{13:} & \textbf{when received } \operatorname{COMMIT}(tid, commit Vec, c) \\ \text{14:} & \textbf{wait until } \operatorname{clock} \geq commit Vec[d] \\ \\ \text{15:} & \langle tid, wbuff, \_ \rangle \leftarrow \operatorname{find}(tid, \operatorname{preparedCausal}) \\ \text{16:} & \operatorname{preparedCausal} \leftarrow \operatorname{preparedCausal} \setminus \{\langle tid, \_, \_ \rangle\} \\ \\ \text{17:} & \textbf{for all } \langle k, v \rangle \in wbuff \ \textbf{do} \\ \text{18:} & \operatorname{opLog}[k] \leftarrow \operatorname{opLog}[k] \cdot \langle v, commit Vec, c \rangle \\ \\ \text{19:} & \operatorname{committedCausal}[d] \leftarrow \operatorname{committedCausal}[d] \cup \{\langle tid, wbuff, commit Vec, c \rangle\} \\ \\ \end{array}
```

committedCausal[d] : for replication

Causal Consistency Protocol: Replication

Property (Property of knownVec)

For each data center i,

the replica p_d^m stores the updates to partition m

by transactions originating at i with local timestamps $\leq \mathsf{knownVec}[i]$.

```
1: function PROPAGATE_LOCAL_TXS()
          if prepared Causal = \emptyset then
                knownVec[d] \leftarrow clock
 3:
 4:
          else
                knownVec[d] \leftarrow min\{ts \mid \langle \_, \_, ts \rangle \in preparedCausal\} - 1
 5:
          \mathbf{var}\ txs \leftarrow \{\langle -, -, commitVec, c \rangle \in \mathsf{commitTecCausal}[d] \mid commitVec[d] \leq \mathsf{knownVec}[d] \}
 6:
          if txs \neq \emptyset then
 7:
               send REPLICATE(d, txs) to p_i^m, i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{d\}
               \mathsf{committedCausal}[d] \leftarrow \mathsf{committedCausal}[d] \setminus txs
10:
          else
                send HEARTBEAT(d, knownVec[d]) to p_i^m, i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{d\}
11:
```

Adding Strong Transactions

Requirement: ConflictOrdering

$$\forall t_1, t_2 \in T_{strong}. \ t_1 \bowtie t_2 \implies t_1 \prec t_2 \lor t_2 \prec t_1.$$

Each strong transaction is assigned a scalar strong timestamp.

$$commitVec \in [\mathcal{D} \cup \{strong\} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

Metadata for Strong Transactions

$$\mathsf{knownVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \cup \{\mathit{strong}\} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

Property (Property of knownVec[strong])

Replica p_d^m stores the updates to m by all strong transactions with $commitVec[strong] \leq knownVec[strong]$.

Metadata for Strong Transactions

$$\mathsf{stableVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \cup \{\mathit{strong}\} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

- 5: when received KNOWNVEC_LOCAL(l, known Vec)
- 6: $localMatrix[l] \leftarrow knownVec$
- 7: **for** $i \in \mathcal{D}$ **do**
- 8: stableVec $[i] \leftarrow \min\{ localMatrix[n][i] \mid n \in \mathscr{P} \}$
- 9: stableVec[strong] $\leftarrow min\{localMatrix[n][strong] \mid n \in \mathscr{P}\}$

Property (Property of stableVec[strong])

Data center d stores the updates by all strong transactions with $commitVec[strong] \leq knownVec[strong]$.

Metadata for Strong Transactions

$$\mathsf{uniformVec} \in [\mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{N}]$$

```
 \begin{array}{ll} \text{10: } \textbf{when received} \ \text{STABLEVEC}(i, stable \ Vec) \\ \text{11: } & \text{stableMatrix}[i] \leftarrow stable \ Vec \\ \text{12: } & G \leftarrow \text{all groups with } f+1 \ \text{replicas that include } p_d^m \\ \text{13: } & \textbf{for } j \in \mathscr{D} \ \textbf{do} \\ \text{14: } & \textbf{var } ts \leftarrow \max\{\min\{\text{stableMatrix}[h][j] \mid h \in g\} \mid g \in G\} \\ \text{15: } & \text{uniformVec}[j] \leftarrow \max\{\text{uniformVec}[j], \ ts\} \\ \end{array}
```

The commit protocol for strong transactions guarantees their uniformity.

Strong Consistency Protocol: Commit

```
1: function COMMIT_STRONG(tid, c)
2: UNIFORM_BARRIER(snapVec[tid])
3: \langle d, vc, c \rangle \leftarrow CERTIFY [tid], wbuff[[tid], rset[[tid]], snapVec[[tid]], c)
4: |c \leftarrow \max\{|c, c\}| + 1
5: return \langle d, vc, |c \rangle
```

A strong transaction only needs to wait for causal transactions originating at the local data center to become uniform.

```
20: function UNIFORM_BARRIER(V, c)
21: c \leftarrow \max\{|c, c|\} + 1
22: wait until uniformVec[d] \ge V[d]
23: return |c|
```

Strong Consistency Protocol: Commit

```
1: function COMMIT_STRONG(tid, c)
2: UNIFORM_BARRIER(snapVec[tid])
3: \langle d, vc, c \rangle \leftarrow CERTIFY [tid, wbuff[tid], rset[tid], snapVec[tid], c)
4: \mathsf{lc} \leftarrow \mathsf{max}\{\mathsf{lc}, c\} + 1
5: return \langle d, vc, \mathsf{lc} \rangle
\langle d \in \{\mathsf{COMMIT}, \mathsf{ABORT}\}, vc \rangle \leftarrow \mathsf{CERTIFY}(t)
```

Strong Consistency Protocol: Commit

```
1: function COMMIT STRONG(tid, c)
         UNIFORM_BARRIER(snapVec[tid])
         \langle d, vc, c \rangle \leftarrow \text{CERTIFY}[tid, \text{wbuff}[tid], \text{rset}[tid], \text{snapVec}[tid], c)
3:
         lc \leftarrow max\{lc, c\} + 1
         return \langle d, vc, |c\rangle
5:
           \langle d \in \{\text{COMMIT}, \text{ABORT}\}, vc \rangle \leftarrow \text{CERTIFY}(t)
```

Multi-Shot Distributed Transaction Commit.

White-Box Atomic Multicast

Gregory Chockler Royal Holloway, University of London, UK Alexey Gotsman¹ IMDEA Software Institute, Madrid, Spain

Alexev Gotsman IMDEA Software Institute

Anatole Lefort Télécom SudParis

Gregory Chockler Royal Holloway, University of London

2PC across partitions + Paxos among replicas of each partition uses white-box optimizations that minimize the commit latency

January 29, 2021

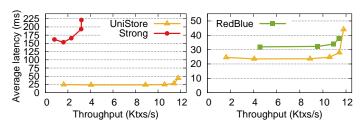
Strong Consistency Protocol: Deliver

```
 \begin{array}{lll} \text{6:} & \textbf{upon} \; \text{DELIVER\_UPDATES}(W) \\ \text{7:} & & \textbf{for} \; \langle k, v, commit Vec, c \rangle \in W \; \text{in} \; \underbrace{commit Vec[strong] \; \text{order}}_{\textbf{do}} \\ \text{8:} & & \text{opLog}[k] \leftarrow \text{opLog}[k] \cdot \langle v, commit Vec, c \rangle \\ \text{9:} & & \text{knownVec}[strong] \leftarrow commit Vec[strong] \\ \end{array}
```

Evaluation

Performance of UniStore

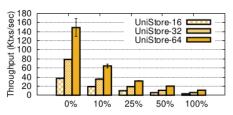
Throughput: 5% and 259% higher than REDBLUE and STRONG



RUBiS benchmark: throughput vs. average latency.

Latency: 24ms vs. 32ms of RedBlue and 162ms of Strong

Scalability of UniStore



Scalability when varying the ratio of strong transactions.

UniStore is able to scales almost linearly.

Evaluation

For more evaluations, please refer to the paper.

Conclusion

UNISTORE is a fast, scalable, and fault-tolerant transactional distributed key-value store that supports a combination of weak and strong consistency.

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UNISTORE is a fast, scalable, and fault-tolerant transactional distributed key-value store that supports a combination of weak and strong consistency.

"We expect the key ideas in UNISTORE to pave the way for practical systems that combine causal and strong consistency."



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