

This specification is discussed in “Two-Phase *Commit*”, Lecture 6 of the TLA+ Video Course. It describes the Two-Phase *Commit* protocol, in which a transaction manager (*TM*) coordinates the resource managers (*RM*s) to implement the Transaction *Commit* specification of module *TCommit*. In this specification, *RM*s spontaneously issue *Prepared* messages. We ignore the *Prepare* messages that the *TM* can send to the *RM*s.

For simplicity, we also eliminate *Abort* messages sent by an *RM* when it decides to abort. Such a message would cause the *TM* to abort the transaction, an event represented here by the *TM* spontaneously deciding to abort.

CONSTANT *RM* The set of resource managers

VARIABLES

<i>rmState</i> ,	<i>rmState</i> [<i>r</i>] is the state of resource manager <i>r</i> .
<i>tmState</i> ,	The state of the transaction manager.
<i>tmPrepared</i> ,	The set of <i>RM</i> s from which the <i>TM</i> has received “Prepared”
	messages.

msgs

In the protocol, processes communicate with one another by sending messages. For simplicity, we represent message passing with the variable *msgs* whose value is the set of all messages that have been sent. A message is sent by adding it to the set *msgs*. An action that, in an implementation, would be enabled by the receipt of a certain message is here enabled by the presence of that message in *msgs*. For simplicity, messages are never removed from *msgs*. This allows a single message to be received by multiple receivers. Receipt of the same message twice is therefore allowed; but in this particular protocol, that’s not a problem.

Messages \triangleq

The set of all possible messages. Messages of type “Prepared” are sent from the *RM* indicated by the message’s *rm* field to the *TM*. Messages of type “Commit” and “Abort” are broadcast by the *TM*, to be received by all *RM*s. The set *msgs* contains just a single copy of such a message.

$$[type : \{ \text{“Prepared”} \}, rm : RM] \cup [type : \{ \text{“Commit”, “Abort”} \}]$$

TPTYPEOK \triangleq

The type-correctness invariant

$$\begin{aligned} &\wedge rmState \in [RM \rightarrow \{ \text{“working”, “prepared”, “committed”, “aborted”} \}] \\ &\wedge tmState \in \{ \text{“init”, “done”} \} \\ &\wedge tmPrepared \subseteq RM \\ &\wedge msgs \subseteq Messages \end{aligned}$$

TPInit \triangleq

The initial predicate.

$$\begin{aligned} &\wedge rmState = [r \in RM \mapsto \text{“working”}] \\ &\wedge tmState = \text{“init”} \\ &\wedge tmPrepared = \{ \} \\ &\wedge msgs = \{ \} \end{aligned}$$

We now define the actions that may be performed by the processes, first the *TM*’s actions, then the *RM*s’ actions.

$TM\text{RcvPrepared}(r) \triangleq$

The TM receives a “Prepared” message from resource manager r . We could add the additional enabling condition $r \notin tm\text{Prepared}$, which disables the action if the TM has already received this message. But there is no need, because in that case the action has no effect; it leaves the state unchanged.

$\wedge tmState = \text{“init”}$
 $\wedge [type \mapsto \text{“Prepared”}, rm \mapsto r] \in msgs$
 $\wedge tm\text{Prepared}' = tm\text{Prepared} \cup \{r\}$
 $\wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle rmState, tmState, msgs \rangle$

$TM\text{Commit} \triangleq$

The TM commits the transaction; enabled iff the TM is in its initial state and every RM has sent a “Prepared” message.

$\wedge tmState = \text{“init”}$
 $\wedge tm\text{Prepared} = RM$
 $\wedge tmState' = \text{“done”}$
 $\wedge msgs' = msgs \cup \{[type \mapsto \text{“Commit”}]\}$
 $\wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle rmState, tm\text{Prepared} \rangle$

$TM\text{Abort} \triangleq$

The TM spontaneously aborts the transaction.

$\wedge tmState = \text{“init”}$
 $\wedge tmState' = \text{“done”}$
 $\wedge msgs' = msgs \cup \{[type \mapsto \text{“Abort”}]\}$
 $\wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle rmState, tm\text{Prepared} \rangle$

$RM\text{Prepare}(r) \triangleq$

Resource manager r prepares.

$\wedge rmState[r] = \text{“working”}$
 $\wedge rmState' = [rmState \text{ EXCEPT } ![r] = \text{“prepared”}]$
 $\wedge msgs' = msgs \cup \{[type \mapsto \text{“Prepared”}, rm \mapsto r]\}$
 $\wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle tmState, tm\text{Prepared} \rangle$

$RM\text{ChooseToAbort}(r) \triangleq$

Resource manager r spontaneously decides to abort. As noted above, r does not send any message in our simplified spec.

$\wedge rmState[r] = \text{“working”}$
 $\wedge rmState' = [rmState \text{ EXCEPT } ![r] = \text{“aborted”}]$
 $\wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle tmState, tm\text{Prepared}, msgs \rangle$

$RM\text{RcvCommitMsg}(r) \triangleq$

Resource manager r is told by the TM to commit.

$\wedge [type \mapsto \text{“Commit”}] \in msgs$
 $\wedge rmState' = [rmState \text{ EXCEPT } ![r] = \text{“committed”}]$
 $\wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle tmState, tm\text{Prepared}, msgs \rangle$

$RM\text{RcvAbortMsg}(r) \triangleq$

Resource manager r is told by the TM to abort.

$\wedge [type \mapsto \text{"Abort"}] \in msgs$
 $\wedge rmState' = [rmState \text{ EXCEPT } ![r] = \text{"aborted"}]$
 $\wedge \text{UNCHANGED } \langle tmState, tmPrepared, msgs \rangle$

$TPNext \triangleq$

$\vee TMCommit \vee TMAbort$
 $\vee \exists r \in RM :$
 $TM\text{RcvPrepared}(r) \vee RM\text{Prepare}(r) \vee RM\text{ChooseToAbort}(r)$
 $\vee RM\text{RcvCommitMsg}(r) \vee RM\text{RcvAbortMsg}(r)$

The material below this point is not discussed in Video Lecture 6. It will be explained in Video Lecture 8.

$TPSpec \triangleq TPInit \wedge \Box [TPNext]_{\langle rmState, tmState, tmPrepared, msgs \rangle}$

The complete spec of the Two-Phase *Commit* protocol.

THEOREM $TPSpec \Rightarrow \Box TPTYPEOK$

This theorem asserts that the type-correctness predicate $TPTYPEOK$ is an invariant of the specification.

We now assert that the Two-Phase *Commit* protocol implements the Transaction *Commit* protocol of module $TCommit$. The following statement imports all the definitions from module $TCommit$ into the current module.

INSTANCE $TCommit$

THEOREM $TPSpec \Rightarrow TCSpec$

This theorem asserts that the specification $TPSpec$ of the Two-Phase Commit protocol implements the specification $TCSpec$ of the Transaction *Commit* protocol.

The two theorems in this module have been checked with TLC for six RM s, a configuration with 50816 reachable states, in a little over a minute on a 1 GHz PC .

\ * Modification History
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