

Advanced Course

Distributed Systems

Omni-Paxos



COURSE TOPICS



- Intro to Distributed Systems
- Basic Abstractions and Failure Detectors
- Reliable and Causal Order Broadcast
- Distributed Shared Memory, CRDTs
- Consensus, RSMs (Omni-Paxos, Raft, etc.)
- Dynamic Reconfiguration
- Time Abstractions and Interval Clocks (Spanner etc.)
- Consistent Snapshotting (Stream Data Management)
- Distributed ACID Transactions (Cloud DBs)

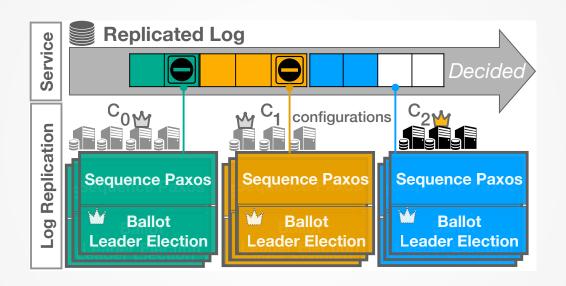


RECAP

- From Paxos to naïve Sequence Paxos
 - no pipelining
 - too much IO
 - redundancy of local state
- Liveness
 - what makes a server a "good" candidate?
- The final assembly Omni-Paxos:
 - Sequence Paxos: log replication
 - Ballot Leader Election: liveness
 - Reconfiguration: parallel log migration



OMNI-PAXOS OVERVIEW







Sequence Paxos

The final version

SEQUENCE CONSENSUS PROPERTIES

- Validity
 - If process p decides v then v is a sequence of proposed commands (without duplicates)
- Uniform Agreement
 - If process p decides u and process q decides v then one is a prefix of the other
- Integrity
 - If process p decides u and later decides v then u is a strict prefix of v
- Termination (liveness)
 - If command C is proposed by a correct process then eventually every correct process decides a sequence containing C



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- We want to replicate a growing log.
 - Proposers should only send the new entries, rather than the whole log every time
- Assume there is a **single** proposer running for a longer period of time as a **leader**.
 - Will not be aborted for a while.
 - If aborted, safety must still be guaranteed.



ASSUMPTIONS

- FIFO perfect link
- Ballot Leader Election abstraction:

Events:

```
Indication (out): \langle \text{Leader } | \text{ n, p}_i \rangle
Notify that p, is elected as leader with ballot n.
```

Properties:

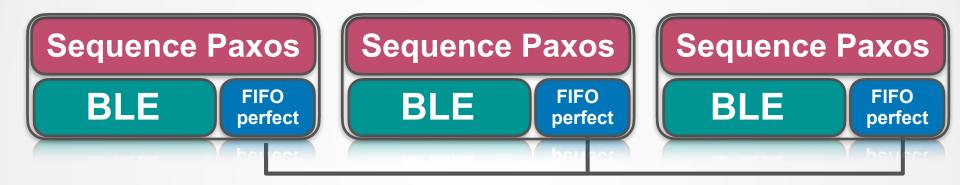
BLE1. Completeness: Eventually, every correct process elects some correct process, if a majority of processes is correct.

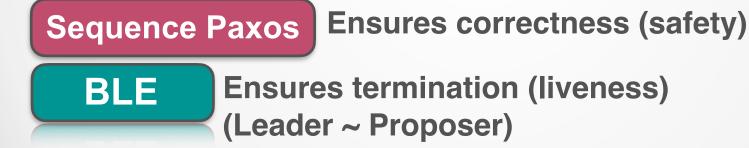
BLE2. Eventual Accuracy: Eventually, no two correct processes elect different correct processes.

BLE3. Monotonically Increasing Unique Ballots: If a process p_i with ballot n is elected as leader by a process p_j , then all previously elected leaders by p_j have ballot numbers m < n, and the pair (n, p_i) is unique.



ABSTRACTIONS







SEQUENCE PAXOS

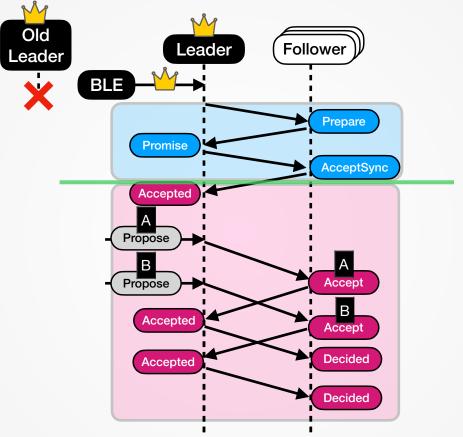
- Each process acts in all roles as proposer, acceptor and learner
 - Every process maintains a single log: v_a
 - Use decided index l_d s.t. the decided sequence is $prefix(v_a, l_d)$
- A process acts as the *leader* or a *follower* in a round *n*
 - The leader acts as the sole proposer for round n
 - Until aborted by another leader n' > n
- A round has a *Prepare* and an *Accept* phase
 - Log synchronization in the Prepare phase
 - Replicate new entries in the Accept phase



PREPARE PHASE

- Initiated by the leader in a new round *n*
- Objective: prepare once, pipeline accepts
 - Leader sends (Prepare) to all followers.
 - Followers responds with $\langle Promise \rangle$ if not already promised n' > n.
 - Also includes the log suffix that the leader is missing.
 - Upon majority of promises: the leader adopts the most updated log and synchronizes it with the promised followers.
 - After the Prepare phase, any new entry <u>extends</u> the synchronized log
 - Allows multiple outstanding (Accept)
 - Decision in a single round-trip





The leader and all promised followers have identical logs



LOG SYNCHRONIZATION

- For safety, the leader must adopt all chosen entries
 - Must be among at least one process in any majority
 - Adopt the log with highest n_a , or longest log if equal
- In (Prepare), the leader includes:
 - current round: *n*
 - accepted round: n_a
 - log length: $|v_a|$
 - decided index: l_d
- A follower responds with $\langle Promise \rangle$ only if its $n_{prom} < n$ and includes:
 - n and its own n_a , $|v_a|$, l_d
 - sfx: the log entries that the leader is missing

 - If greater n_a : $suffix(v_a, l_{d,leader})$ If same n_a and but longer log: $suffix(v_a, |v_a|_{leader})$
 - Else: []

more updated than leader



ACCEPTSYNC

- Upon majority of (Promise) adopt the sfx from the maximum promise:
 - If greater n_a : $v_a = prefix(v_a, l_d) \oplus sfx$
 - If same n_a : $v_a = v_a \oplus sfx$
- Synchronize updated log with all promised followers using (AcceptSync) including:
 - n
 - *sfx*: the log entries that the follower is missing
 - If greater n_a : $suffix(v_a, l_{d,follower})$
 - If same n_a and but longer log: $suffix(v_a, |v_a|_{follower})$
 - l_{sync} : the index to append sfx at in v_a

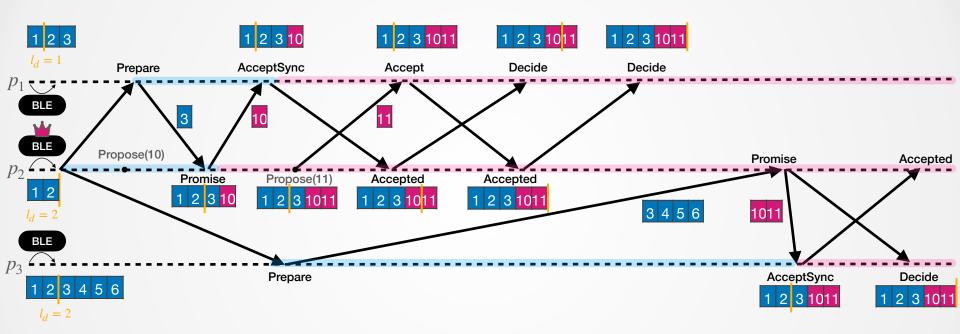


ACCEPT PHASE

- After the Prepare phase, the leader and all promised followers have the same common log prefix with all chosen entries.
- Leader replicates new command C with \langle Accept $| n, C \rangle$ to all promised followers.
 - Followers respond with accepted index $|v_a|$
 - When a majority has $\langle Accepted | n, idx \rangle$, send $\langle Decide | n, idx \rangle$
- Leader handles late (Promise) by synchronising that follower with its current log using (AcceptSync)



EXAMPLE





FULL PSEUDO CODE - STATE AND BLE

① State and Functions

Persistent state on all servers:

log log with entries (0-indexed)

promisedRnd the round a server has promised to not accept

entries from any lower round

acceptedRnd the latest round a server has accepted entries in

decidedIdx the log index that a server has decided up to

Volatile state on all servers:

state the role and phase a server is in. Initially

(FOLLOWER, PREPARE)

Volatile state of leader:

currentRnd the round that this server is leading in

promises{} set of received promises

maxProm the highest promise received during the prepare

phase

accepted[] the accepted index per server.

Initialized to 0 for all servers

chosenIdx the highest index accepted by a majority. Initially

set to 0

buffer buffer for client requests received during the

prepare phase

Functions:

stopped() true if last entry in the log is SS else false (§5)
prefix (idx) the entries in the log with index {0..idx-1}

suffix(idx) if idx > |log| then [] else the entries in the log with

index {idx..|log|-1}

② 〈Leader〉 from BLE

Fields:

s the elected server

n the round s got elected in

Leader implementation (if s = self AND n > promisedRnd):

1. reset all volatile state of leader

2. state ← (LEADER, PREPARE),

currentRnd $\leftarrow n$, promisedRnd $\leftarrow n$,

insert own promise to promises:
(acceptedRnd, |log|, self, decidedIdx, suffix(decidedIdx))

send Prepare(currentRnd, acceptedRnd, |log|, decidedIdx)

send Prepare(currentHnd, acceptedHnd, |log|, decided) to all peers

Follower implementation: (if $s \neq self$):

1. state.role ← FOLLOWER



PREPARE PHASE

If state = (LEADER, PREPARE) then:

- P1. return if |promises| < majority
- P2. maxProm ← the value with highest accRnd in promises (and highest logIdx if equal)

insert (accRnd, logIdx, f, decIdx, sfx) to promises

- P3. if maxProm.accRnd ≠ acceptedRnd then log ← prefix(decidedIdx)
- P4. append maxProm.sfx to the log
- P5. if stopped() then clear buffer else append buffer to the log
- P6. acceptedRnd ← currentRnd, accepted[self] ← |log|, state ← (LEADER, ACCEPT)

foreach p in promises:

- let syncldx ← if p.accRnd = maxProm.accRnd then
- P7. p.logldx else p.decldx, send \(\text{AcceptSync, currentRnd, suffix(syncldx), syncldx} \) to p.f

If state = (LEADER, ACCEPT) then:

- A1. let syncldx ← if accRnd = maxProm.accRnd then maxProm.logIdx else decIdx
- $\textbf{A2.} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \text{send } \langle \text{AcceptSync, currentRnd, suffix(syncldx)}, \text{syncldx} \rangle \\ \text{to } f \end{array}$
- A3. let idx ← max(chosenIdx, decidedIdx), if idx > decIdx then send ⟨Decide, currentRnd, idx⟩ to f









③ **Prepare** from leader *I*

Fields:

n round of leader IaccRnd the acceptedRnd of I

logldx the length of the leader's log

decldx the decidedldx of I

Receiver implementation:

- **1.** return if promisedRnd > n
- 2. state ← (FOLLOWER, PREPARE)
- 3. promisedRnd $\leftarrow n$
- let sfx ← if acceptedRnd > accRnd then

 4. suffix(decldx) else if acceptedRnd =
 accRnd then suffix(logldx) else []
- send (Promise, n, acceptedRnd, |log|, decidedIdx. sfx) to l

(AcceptSync) from leader I

Fields:

n round of leader I

sfx entries to be appended to the log

syncldx the position in the log where sfx

should be appended at

Receiver implementation:

- if promisedRnd = n AND state = (FOLLOWER, PREPARE)
- **2.** acceptedRnd ← *n*, state ← (FOLLOWER, ACCEPT)
- 3. log ← prefix(syncldx), append sfx to the log
- 4. send (Accepted, n, |log|) to I



ACCEPT PHASE

6 Proposal C from client

Receiver implementation:

1. return if stopped()

If state = (LEADER, PREPARE) then:

P1. insert C into buffer

If state = (LEADER, ACCEPT) then:

A1. append C to the log, set accepted[self] \leftarrow |log|

A2. send (Accept, currentRnd, C) to all promised followers

(Accepted) from follower f

Fields:

n promised round

logIdx the position in the log f has accepted up to

Receiver implementation:

- 1. return if currentRnd $\neq n$ OR state \neq (LEADER, ACCEPT)
- 2. $accepted[f] \leftarrow logIdx$

if logIdx > chosenIdx AND a majority has accepted logIdx then chosenIdx $\leftarrow logIdx$, decidedIdx $\leftarrow logIdx$,

send \(\text{Decide, currentRnd, chosenIdx}\) to all promised followers









Fields:

n round of leader IC client request

Receiver implementation:

- return if promisedRnd ≠ n OR state ≠ (FOLLOWER, ACCEPT)
- append C to the log, send (Accepted, n, |log|) to I

Fields:

n round of leader I

decldx position in the log that has been

decided

Receiver implementation:

if promisedRnd = n AND

1. state = (FOLLOWER, ACCEPT) then

decidedIdx ← decIdx



CORRECTNESS

- We must guarantee that:
 - If a proposal (n, v) is chosen, then for every higher proposal (n', v') that is chosen, $v \le v'$
- We have two cases:
 - n = n': only successively longer sequences can be chosen within the same round since processes accept growing sequences.
 - n < n': the prepare phase guarantees that all chosen sequences will be adopted in n', and no new sequences can be chosen in round n after that.



SUMMARY

- Assume stable leader and FIFO perfect links.
 - Log synchronization in the Prepare phase
- Single round-trip to decide a command (most of the time)



- Only new commands are being sent
- Pipeline (Accept) without waiting for previous to be decided



- Multiple Proposers and FLP problem
 - Handled with BLE in the partially synchronous model (not solvable in async model) soon





Ballot Leader Election

REVISITING BLE

BLE1. Completeness: Eventually, <u>every correct process</u> elects some correct process, if a majority of processes is correct.

BLE2. Eventual Accuracy: Eventually, <u>no two correct processes elect different</u> correct processes.

BLE3. Monotonically Increasing Unique Ballots: If a process p_i with ballot n is elected as leader by a process p_j , then all previously elected leaders by p_j have ballot numbers m < n, and the pair (n, p_i) is unique.

For Sequence Paxos:

Which processes really need to elect and agree with each other?

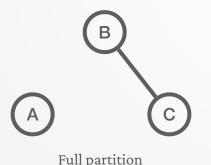


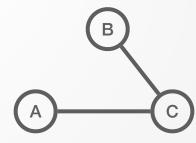


Partial Connectivity

THE PROBLEM OF PARTIAL CONNECTIVITY

- Thus far, we have assumed network failures to
 - In practice, network partitions can be more unpredictable.
- Partial connectivity
 - Failures at the link level.
 - Caused 6+ hours outage at Cloudflare in 2020





The Cloudflare Bloo

Tom Lianza Chris Snook

that redundancy is lost

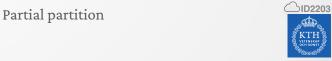
world

A Byzantine failure in the real

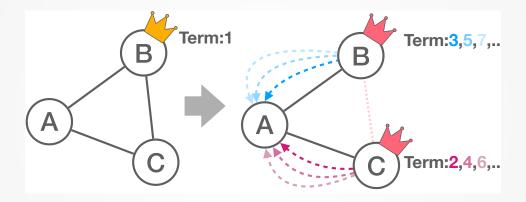
An analysis of the Cloudflare API availability incident on 2020-11-02

When we review design documents at Cloudflare, we are always on the lookout for

Single Points of Failure (SPOFs). Eliminating these is a necessary step in architecting a system you can be confident in. Ironically, when you're designing a system with built-in redundancy, you spend most of your time thinking about how well it functions when

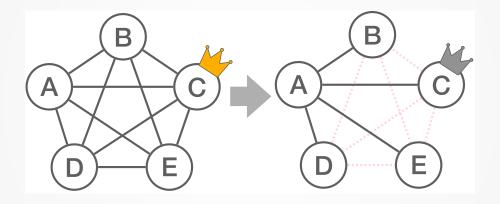


CHAINED SCENARIO



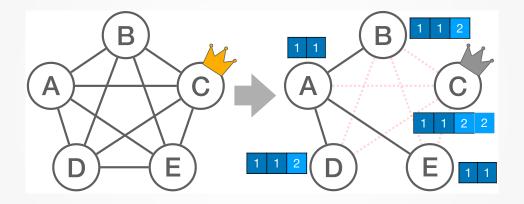


QUORUM-LOSS SCENARIO





CONSTRAINED ELECTION SCENARIO





TEASER: EXISTING ALGORITHMS CANNOT HANDLE THIS!

	Protocol Properties					Partial-Connectivity Scenarios		
	(QC= quorum-connected, EQC=elected by quorum-connected)					(✓:stable progress, X:unavailable)		
	Log Sync Phase	Candidate Requirements	Leader Vote Gossiping	QC Status Heartbeats	Guaranteed Progress Requirement (#QC servers)	Quorum-Loss Scenario	Constrained Election Scenario	Chained Scenario
Multi-Paxos [28, 37]	✓	QC	✓		$\geq \lceil N/2 \rceil$	×	✓	X
Raft [34]		QC + max log	✓		$\geq \lceil N/2 \rceil$	X *	Х	X *
VR [31]	√	QC + EQC	✓		$\geq \lceil N/2 \rceil$	Х	X	Х
Zab [25, 33]		QC + EQC + max log	1		$\geq \lceil N/2 \rceil$	×	×	X
Omni-Paxos	✓	QC		✓	≥ 1	✓	✓	✓



QUORUM-CONNECTED LEADER ELECTION

- **Observe**: In Sequence Paxos, only the leader must be connected to a majority for liveness.
 - Followers don't talk to each other!
- *Quorum-connected server*: a quorum-connected server is a server that is correct and has a direct link to at least a majority of correct servers (including itself).

QLE1. Quorum-Connected Completeness: Eventually, every quorum-connected server elects some quorum-connected server, if a quorum-connected server exists.

QLE2. Quorum-Connected Eventual Accuracy: Eventually, there is a majority of servers *S* where no two quorum-connected servers in *S* elect differently.

QLE3. Monotonically Increasing Unique Ballots: Unchanged.



BALLOT LEADER ELECTION

- A server has a ballot number b and a quorum-connected flag qc
- Periodically, all servers exchange heartbeats.
 - Broadcast $\langle HBRequest | r \rangle$
 - Reply (HBReply | *r*, *qc*, *b*)
- Servers can determine two things with the heartbeats:
 - 1. Am I quorum-connected?
 - 2. Which of my peers are alive and quorum-connected?
- Upon timeout:
 - If received a majority of (HBReply):
 - Check if leader is still alive and quorum-connected. If not, increment b.
 - Elect the server with highest *b* and *qc* = *true*
 - Else: set qc = false



BLE PSEUDO CODE

1	State and Functions	② Upon timeout of startTimer		
Persistent state of	on all servers:	Receiver implementation:		
1	ballot number of the current leader	1. insert (b, qc) into ballots		
Volatile state on a	all servers:	a. if ballots ≥ majority then checkLeader()		
r	current heartbeat round. Initially set to 0	else qc ← false		
b	ballot number. Initially set to (0, pid)	 clear ballots, r ← r + 1 send ⟨HBRequest, r⟩ to all peers, 		
qc	quorum-connected flag. Initially set to true	4. send (HBRequest, 17 to all peers, startTimer(delay)		
delay	the duration a server waits for heartbeat replies within a single round	③ 〈HBRequest〉 from server s Fields:		
ballots{}	set of ballots received in the current round	rnd the round of this request		
Functions:		Receiver implementation:		
	schedules a timeout event in d timeunits.	1. Send (HBReply, rnd, b, qc) to s		
startTimer(d)	When starting: send (HBRequest, r) to all peers and startTimer(delay)	④ ⟨HBReply⟩ from server s		
increment(b)	increment the sequence number of ballot b	Fields:		
max(ballots)	pick the maximum ballot based on	rnd the round this reply was sent in		
max (Dallots)	lexicographic order	ballot ballot number of s		
	1. let candidates ← the values in ballots	q qc of s Receiver implementation:		
	with quorumConnected = true	1. if rnd = r then insert (ballot, q) into ballots		
-11-71()	2. let max ←max(candidates)	-		
checkLeader()	if $max < l$ then increment(b) s.t. $b > l$,	 Upon Recovery Receiver implementation: reload I from persistent storage startTimer(delay) 		
	quorumConnected ← true 3.			
	else if <i>max</i> > I then I ← <i>max</i> , trigger 〈Leader, <i>max.pid</i> , <i>max</i> 〉			



CORRECTNESS

- Assuming we learn a time out s.t. no late (HBReply) is received.
 - A late heartbeat is ignored and does not affect correctness.
- QLE1. Quorum-connected Completeness
 - A server can only elect if it got a majority of $\langle HBReply \rangle$ i.e. is quorum-connected. The elected server must have qc = true.
- QLE3. Monotonically Increasing Unique Ballots
 - Each ballot (b, pid) is unique due to pid is unique. Servers only elect new leaders with higher ballot than previous leaders.

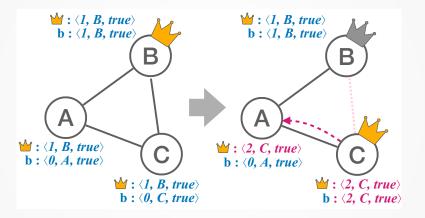


CORRECTNESS CONTINUED

- *QLE2. Quorum-Connected Eventual Accuracy*: Eventually, there is a majority of servers *S* where no two quorum-connected servers in *S* elect differently.
- Consider every possible case of connectivity between quorum-connected servers:
 - 1. Only one QC server in the cluster.
 - 2. Multiple QC servers:
 - A. That are connected to each other.
 - B. That are disconnected to each other.
- 1. That QC server will be the only one receiving a majority of $\langle HBReply \rangle$ and its own ballot will be the only with qc = true.
- 2A. All QC servers get each others (HBReply). They all elect the same leader with the highest ballot.
- 2B. As they are QC but disconnected, each of them is connected to a majority of servers. And any majority overlaps on at least one server.
 - That server is not QC: will not elect **in BLE**, but will follow (i.e. promise) the leader with the highest ballot **in Sequence Paxos**.
 - That server is QC: will elect the one with highest ballot (as in 2A)

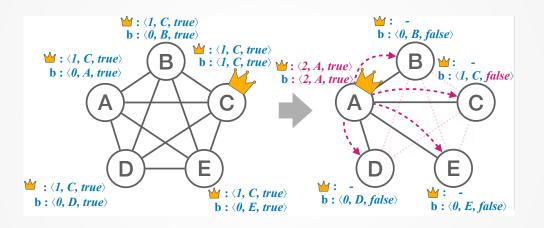


OMNI-PAXOS: CHAINED SCENARIO



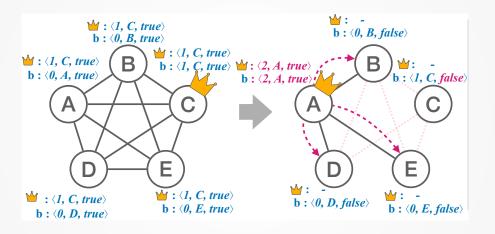


Omni-Paxos: Quorum-loss Scenario





CONSTRAINED ELECTION SCENARIO





OBSERVATIONS

- Omni-Paxos guarantees liveness as long as one quorum-connected server exists.
- BLE and its quorum-connected properties are **weaker** than a usual leader election. But it is **sufficient for Sequence Paxos**
 - Non QC servers do not elect (QLE1)
 - But if they are connected to the leader, they will get the (Prepare) to participate in Sequence Paxos anyway.
 - Different QC servers might elect different leaders (QLE2)
 - One of them will have the highest ballot. That leader will also be the only one making progress in Sequence Paxos.





Failure Recovery

OUTLINE

- At this point, we have an efficient and resilient algorithm.
- Fail recovery model
 - Recover from crashes.
- FIFO perfect link assumption is impractical.
 - Session-based FIFO perfect links
 - Handle session drops



FAIL RECOVERY

- A process is correct if it crashes and recovers a finite number of times.
 - By crashing and restarting, a process loses any arbitrary suffix of most recent messages in each FIFO perfect link.
- A recovered process must get its log synchronized to be up-to-date before doing anything further.



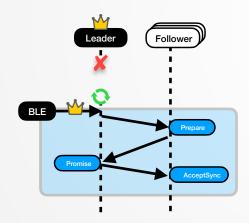
RECOVERY

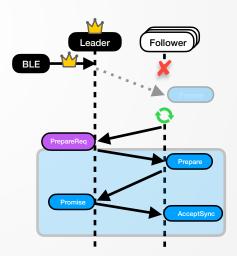
- Each process must store the following variables in persistent storage
 - v_a : the log.
 - l_d : the decided index.
 - n_{prom} : the promised round.
 - n_a : the latest round entries were accepted in.
- Upon recovery, restore these variables.
 - Load n_{prom} into BLE
 - Set own state into (FOLLOWER, RECOVER)
 - Send (PrepareReq) to all peers
 - If a receiving process is the leader, it replies with \ Prepare \>



RECOVER STATE

- In (FOLLOWER, **RECOVER**), a process can only handle:
 - (Leader): got elected as the leader, will get synchronized by performing the prepare phase.
 - (Prepare): leader will help us get synchronized.







SESSION-BASED FIFO PERFECT LINKS

- Assume FIFO perfect links once a session has been established.
 - e.g. TCP sessions
 - Need to handle session-drops.
- If disconnected to a peer... do nothing
- When reconnecting to a peer *p*:
 - Send (PrepareReq) to *p* because *p* might have become the new leader during our down-time.
 - If *p* is the leader we last promised:
 - Go into recover mode to avoid handling anything before being synchronized.



PSEUDO CODE

(10)

Upon Recovery

Receiver implementation:

- 1. reload: log, promiseRnd, acceptedRnd and decidedIdx from persistent storage
- state ← (FOLLOWER, RECOVER), send ⟨PrepareReq⟩ to all peers



(12)

⟨Reconnected⟩ to server s

Receiver implementation:

- **1.** if s is the current leader then state \leftarrow (FOLLOWER, RECOVER)
- 2. send (PrepareReq) to s

⟨PrepareReq⟩ from follower f

Receiver implementation:

- **1.** return if state ≠ (LEADER, _)
- 2. send Prepare(currentRnd, acceptedRnd, |log|, decidedIdx) to f



SUMMARY

- From naïve Sequence Paxos to Sequence Paxos
 - Log Synchronization in Prepare phase
 - Pipeline (Accept) in Accept phase.
- Liveness with Ballot Leader Election
 - Quorum-connected leader election properties
 - Resilient: guaranteed progress with a single quorum-connected node.
- Handling Failures:
 - Session-based FIFO perfect link
 - Always get synchronized first when recovering.



UP NEXT

- Reconfiguration: how to safely add/remove processes.
 - Parallel log migration
- Other replicated state machines
 - Raft and ZooKeeper (Zab)
 - Partial connectivity

