

# The Atomic Distributed Object Model for Distributed System Verification

PhD Dissertation Defense

Wolf Honoré

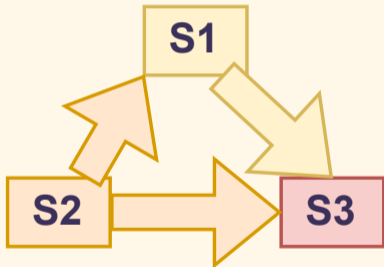
Yale University

August 19, 2022

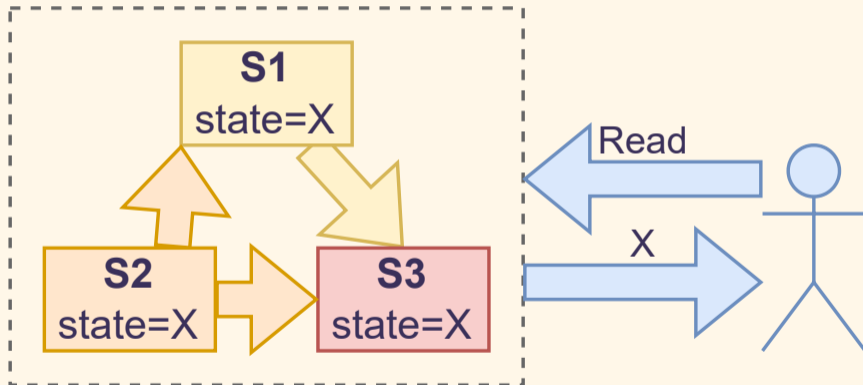
# Roadmap

- ▶ **Motivation**
  - ▶ What is a distributed system?
  - ▶ What is formal verification?
  - ▶ Why are they important?
- ▶ ADO Overview
- ▶ Case Study: Advert
- ▶ Case Study: Adore
- ▶ Case Study: AdoB
- ▶ Conclusions

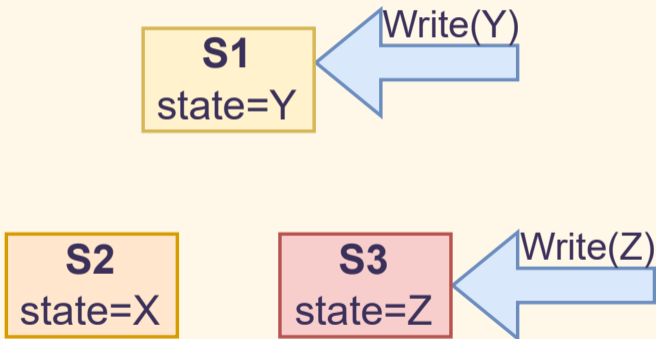
# What is a Distributed System?



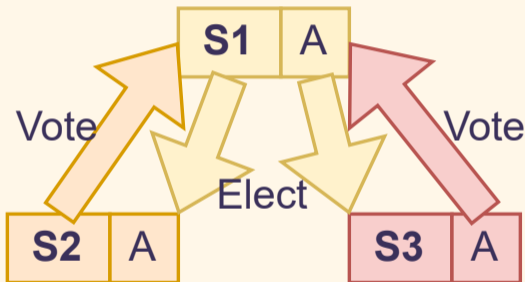
# What is a Distributed System?



# Replication: Challenges

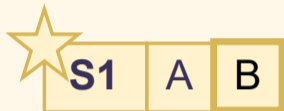


# Consensus: Reaching Agreement

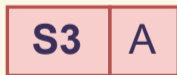


election:  
**S1** collects  
votes

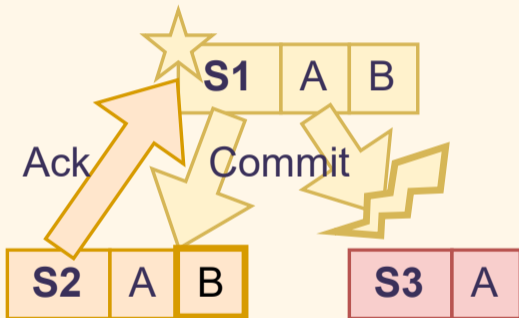
# Consensus: Reaching Agreement



local update:  
**S1** applies B



# Consensus: Reaching Agreement



commit:  
**S1** replicates B

2 out of 3 is  
sufficient



# What Can Go Wrong?

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Today's outage for several Google services

Jan 24, 2014 · 1 min read

**B** Ben Treynor  
VP, Engineering

CRYPTO WORLD

## Hackers have stolen \$1.4 billion this year using crypto bridges. Here's why it's happening

PUBLISHED WED, AUG 10 2022-4:36 PM EDT | UPDATED WED, AUG 10 2022-5:25 PM EDT

POSTED ON OCTOBER 4, 2021 TO NETWORKING & TRAFFIC

Update about the October 4th outage

Dropbox.Tech Topics Developers Jobs

Outage post-mortem

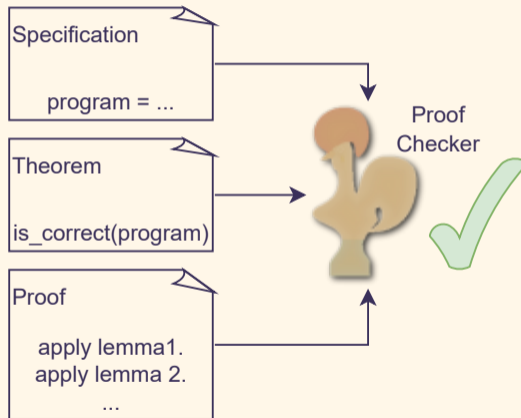
// By Akhil Gupta · Jan 12, 2014

Summary of the Amazon EC2 and Amazon RDS Service Disruption in the US East Region

April 29, 2011

FACEBOOK     

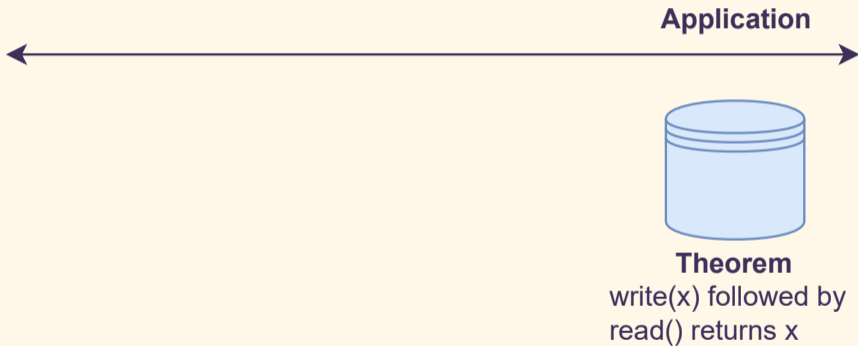
# Formal Verification: Proving Correctness



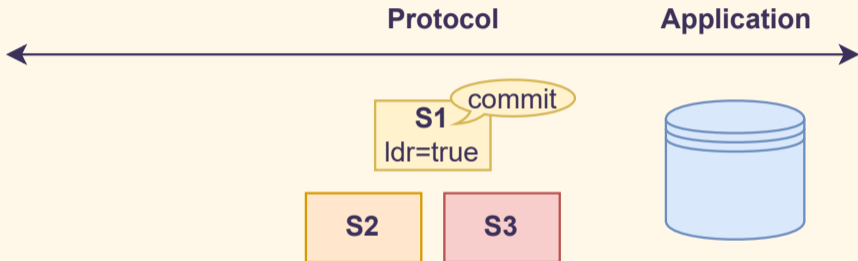
# Abstraction Layers



# Abstraction Layers

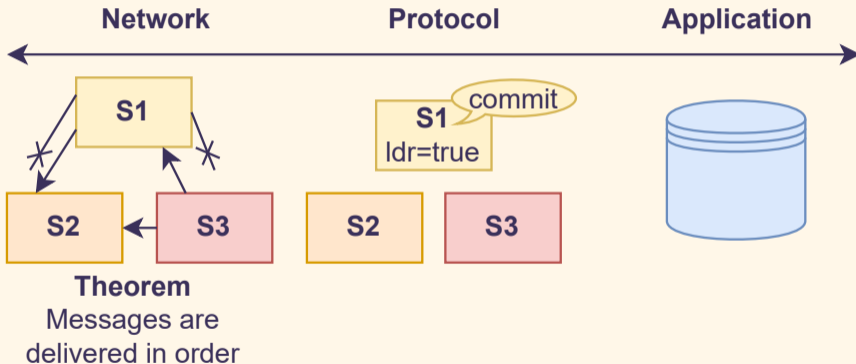


# Abstraction Layers

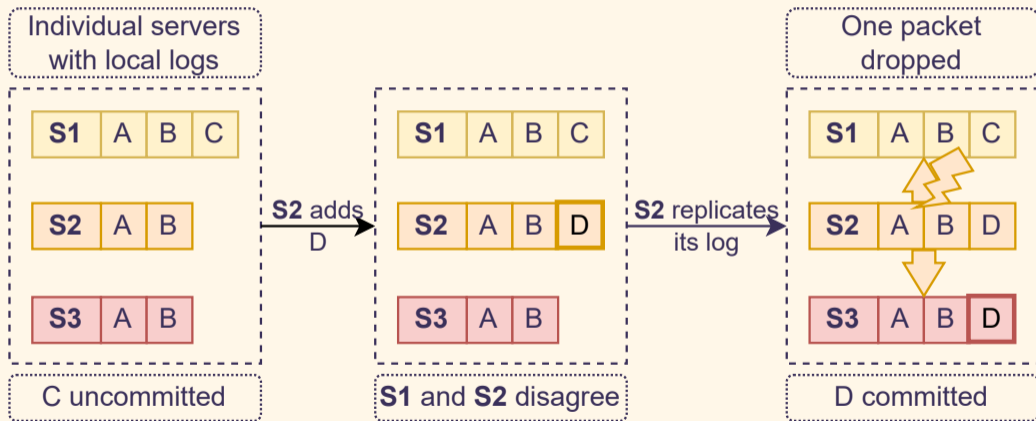


**Theorem**  
Only leaders can commit

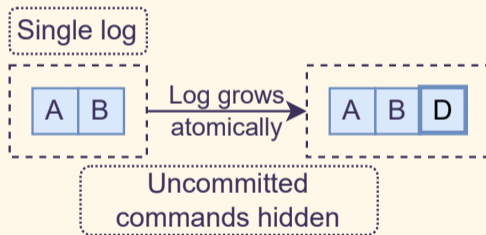
# Abstraction Layers



# Network-Based Models

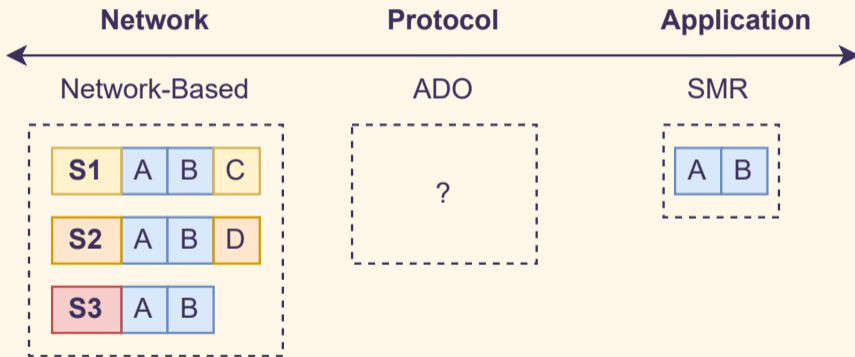


# State Machine Replication (SMR)





# Abstraction Spectrum



# Prior Consensus Verification Work

IronFleet (SOSP '15)    Semi-automates refining network-level specifications with SMT.

Verdi (PLDI '15)    Transforms simplified network specifications into more fault-tolerant equivalents.

Paxos Made EPR (OOPSLA '17)    Reduces the safety of Paxos to a decidable first-order logic.

Velisarios (ESOP '18)    Proves PBFT's safety using happens-before relations on network events.

Aneris (ESOP '20)    Supports modular network-based specifications with thread-level concurrency.

# Contributions

- ▶ ADO Model: A novel, protocol-level model for consensus.

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- ▶ Compositional distributed application reasoning.

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- ▶ Compositional distributed application reasoning.
- ▶ Safety and liveness proofs.
  - ▶ First to support hot reconfiguration.
  - ▶ First to generically support benign and byzantine failures.

# Contributions

- ▶ ADO Model: A novel, protocol-level model for consensus.
- ▶ Compositional distributed application reasoning.
- ▶ Safety and liveness proofs.
  - ▶ First to support hot reconfiguration.
  - ▶ First to generically support benign and byzantine failures.
- ▶ Refinement with multiple protocols.
  - ▶ Paxos (single, multi, vertical, CAS)
  - ▶ Chain Replication
  - ▶ Raft
  - ▶ Jolteon

# Acknowledgments

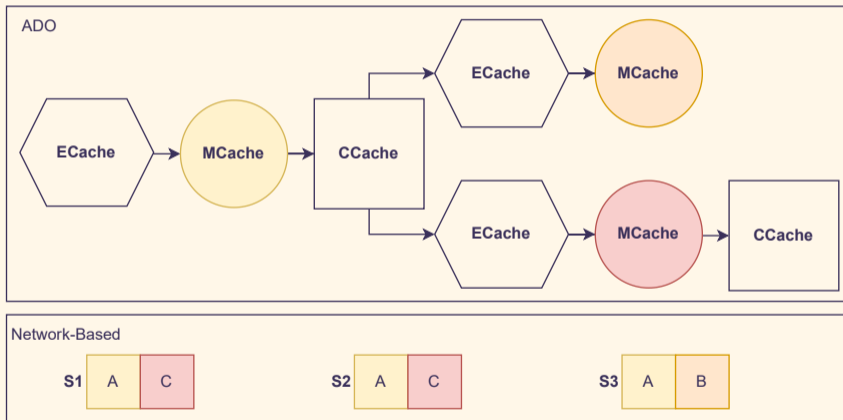
- ▶ Jieung Kim: Paxos safety and refinement.
- ▶ Ji-Yong Shin: Paxos refinement, OCaml extraction, performance experiments.
- ▶ Longfei Qiu: Jolteon refinement.
- ▶ Yoonseung Kim: Jolteon refinement.

# Roadmap

- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ **ADO Overview**
  - ▶ Atomic Distributed Objects
  - ▶ Global state representation (*cache tree*).
  - ▶ Atomic interface (*pull, invoke, push*).
- ▶ Case Study: Advert
- ▶ Case Study: Adore
- ▶ Case Study: AdoB
- ▶ Conclusions

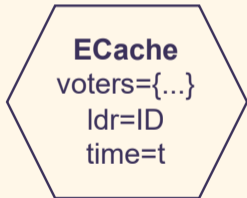


# ADO State — Cache Tree

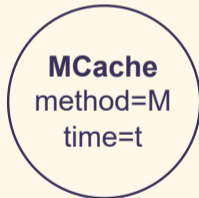


# ADO State — Cache Tree

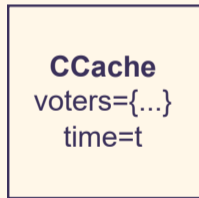
Created by **pull**  
(election)



Created by **invoke**  
(local log update)

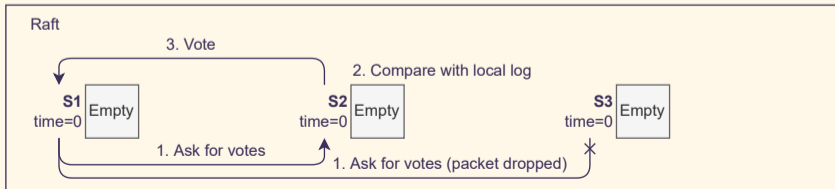


Created by **push**  
(commit)

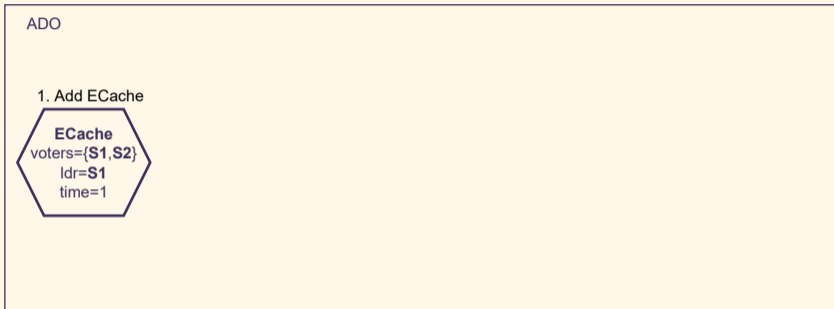


# ADO API — Pull

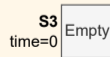
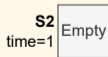
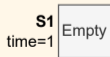
ADO



# ADO API — Pull

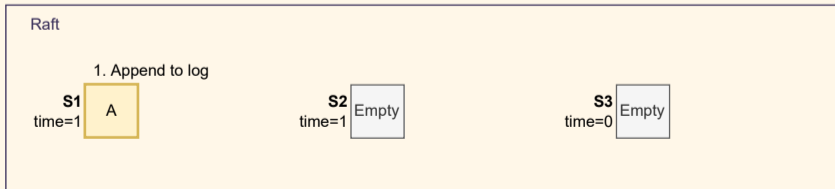
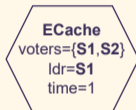


Raft



# ADO API — Invoke

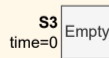
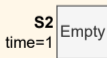
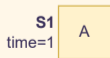
ADO



# ADO API — Invoke

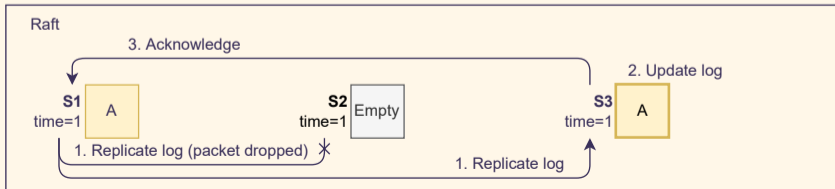


Raft

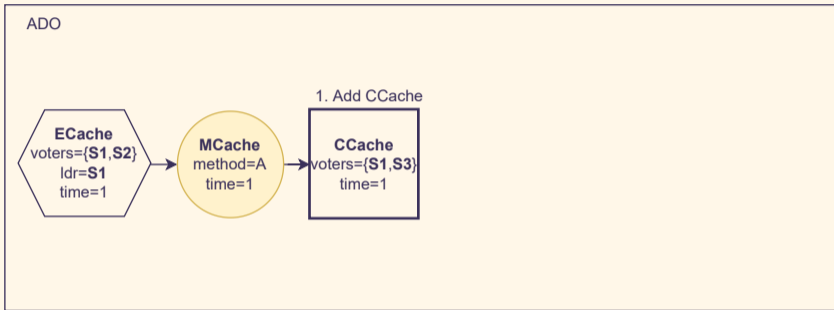


# ADO API — Push

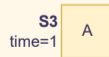
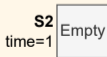
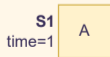
ADO



# ADO API — Push

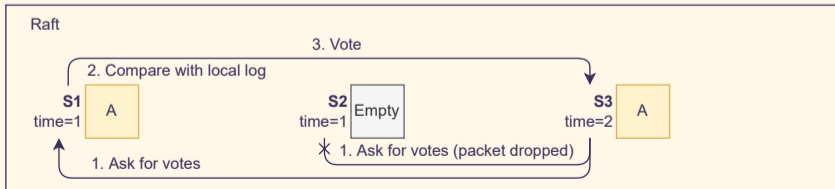
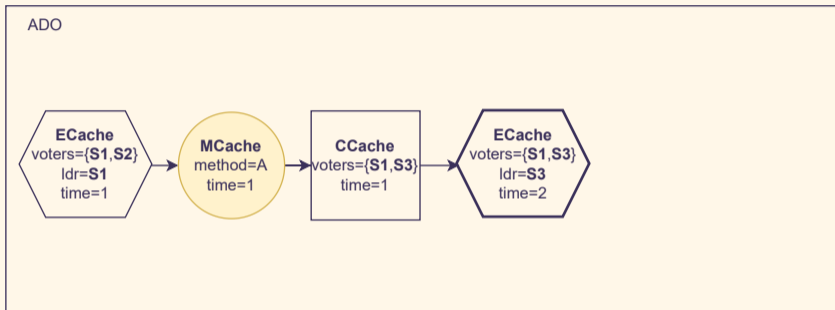


Raft

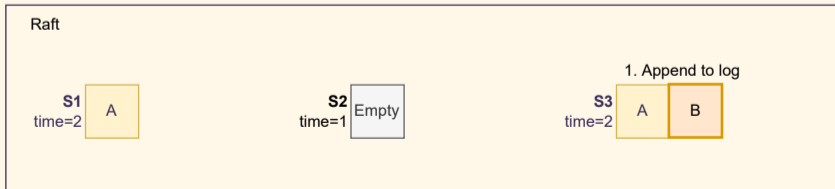
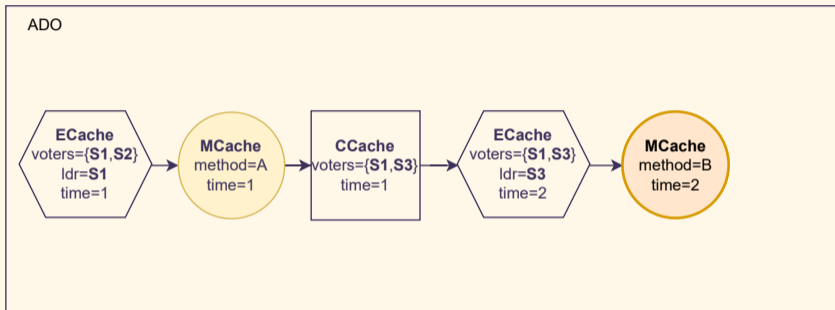




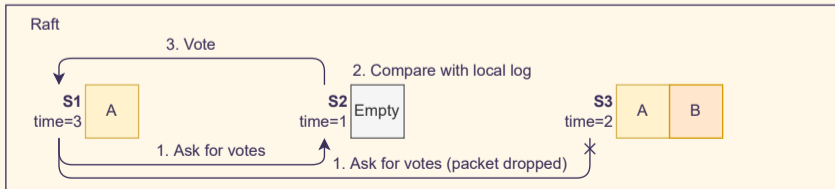
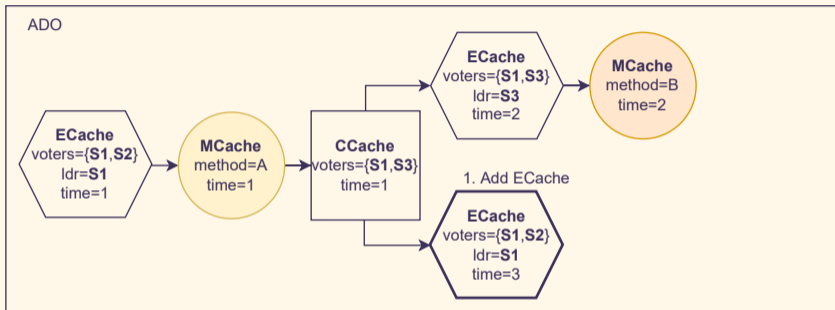
# ADO API — Steady State



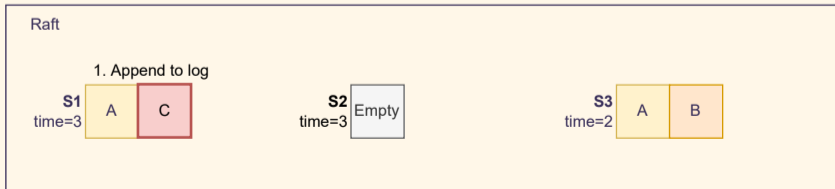
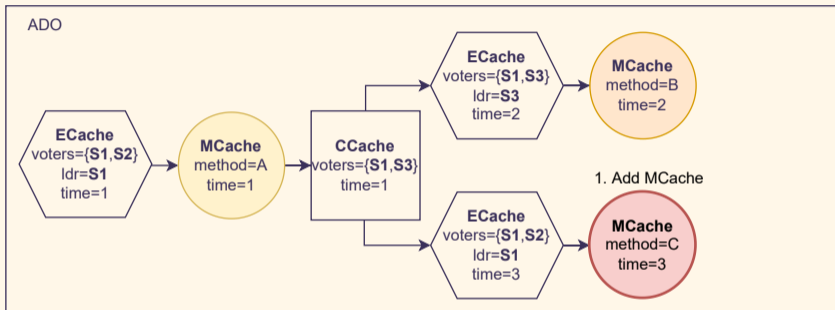
# ADO API — Steady State



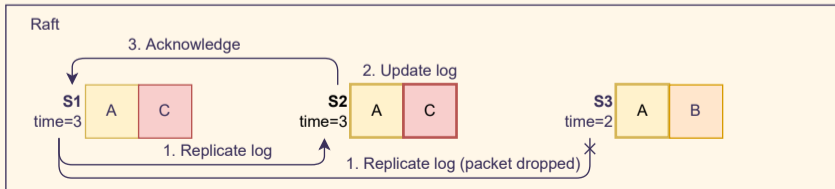
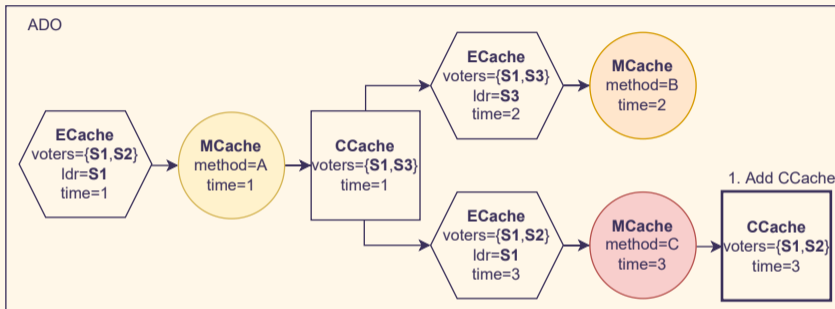
# ADO API — Branching



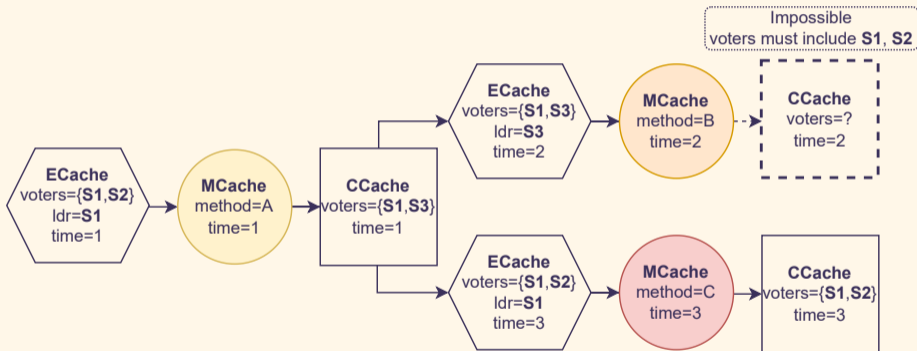
# ADO API — Branching



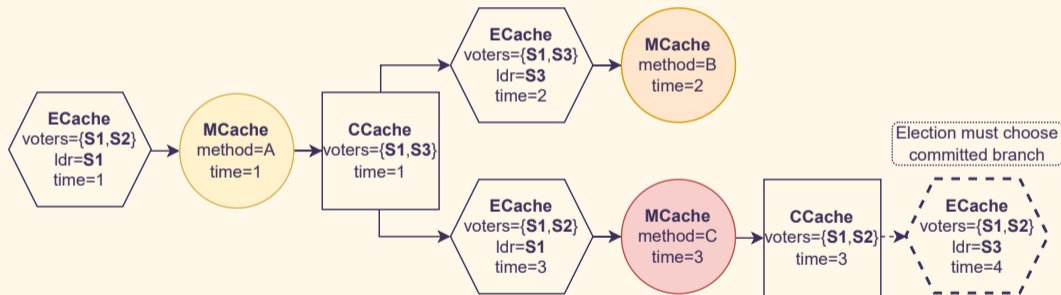
# ADO API — Branching



# Safety



# Safety



# Roadmap

- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ ADO Overview
- ▶ **Case Study: Advert**
  - ▶ Atomic Distributed Object Verification Toolchain
  - ▶ Expose partial failures for distributed application optimization.
  - ▶ Support ADO composition.
- ▶ Case Study: Adore
- ▶ Case Study: AdoB
- ▶ Conclusions



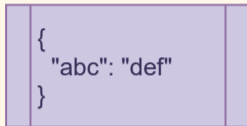
# Distributed Applications with Partial Failures

*Partial failure is a central reality of distributed computing. [...] Being robust in the face of partial failure requires some expression at the interface level.*  
(Jim Waldo. *A Note on Distributed Computing*. 1994)

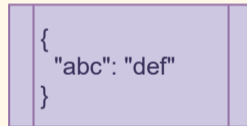
- ▶ Unavoidable feature unique to distributed systems.
- ▶ Interact with all aspects of distributed protocols (e.g., leader election and reconfiguration).
- ▶ Can be used for performance optimizations.
  - ▶ TAPIR (SOSP '15): Transactions with out-of-order commits.
  - ▶ Speculator (SOSP '05): Speculative distributed file system.

# Distributed Applications with Partial Failures

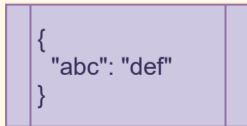
**S1**



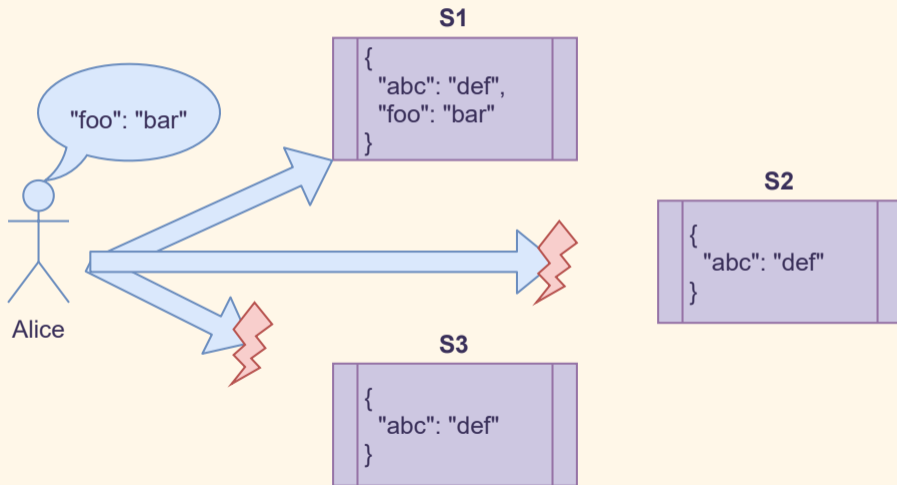
**S2**



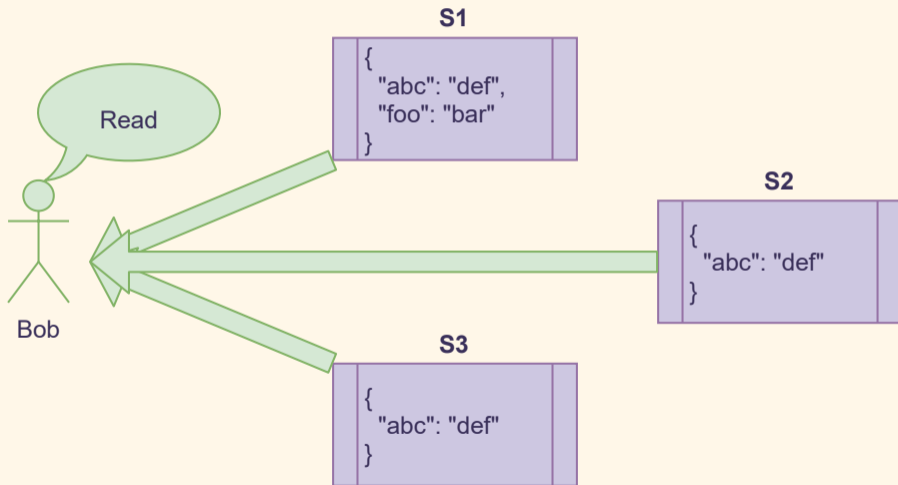
**S3**



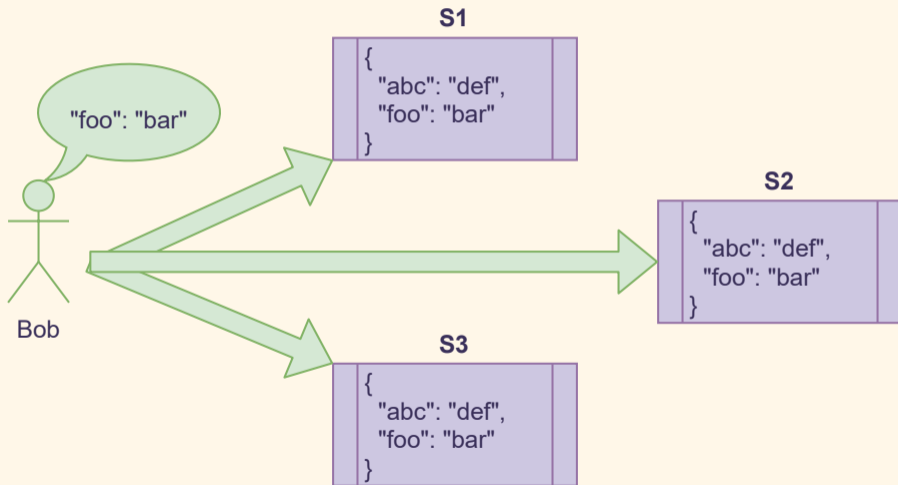
# Distributed Applications with Partial Failures



# Distributed Applications with Partial Failures



# Distributed Applications with Partial Failures



# Distributed Applications

```
1 ADO KV {  
2   shared kv : [string * int] := [];  
3   method set(k, v) { this.kv[hash(k)] := (v, len(v)); }  
4   method get(k) { return this.kv[hash(k)][0]; }  
5   method getmeta(k) { return this.kv[hash(k)][1]; }  
6 }
```

# Distributed Applications

```
1 ADO DVec[T] {
2   shared data : [T] := [];
3   method insert(idx, x) { this.data[idx] := x; }
4   method get(idx) { return this.data[idx]; }
5 }
6 ADO DLock {
7   shared owner : option N := None;
8   method tryAcquire() { ... }
9   method release() { ... }
10 }
11 DApp KVLock(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {
12   proc set(k, v) {
13     ... /* acquire, set data, set meta, release */
14   }
15   ... /* get, getmeta */
16 }
```

# Distributed Applications

```
1 DApp KVLock(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {  
2   proc set(k, v) {  
3     lk.pull();  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8   }  
9 }
```



# Distributed Applications

```
1 DApp KVLock(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {  
2   proc set(k, v) {  
3     while (lk.pull() == FAIL) {}  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8   }  
9 }
```

# Distributed Applications

```
1 DApp KVLock(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {  
2   proc set(k, v) {  
3     while (lk.pull() == FAIL) {}  
4     ok := lk.invoke(tryAcquire());  
5  
6  
7  
8   }  
9 }
```

# Distributed Applications

```
1 DApp KVLock(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {
2   proc set(k, v) {
3     while (lk.pull() == FAIL) {}
4     ok := lk.invoke(tryAcquire());
5     while (lk.push() == FAIL) {}
6     if (!ok) { return; }
7     /* ... */
8   }
9 }
```

# Handling Failures

```
1 DApp KVLockAbort(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {  
2   proc set(k, v) {  
3     if (lk.pull() == FAIL) { return; }  
4     ok := lk.invoke(tryAcquire());  
5     if (lk.push() == FAIL) { return; }  
6     if (!ok) { return; }  
7     /* ... */  
8   }  
9 }
```

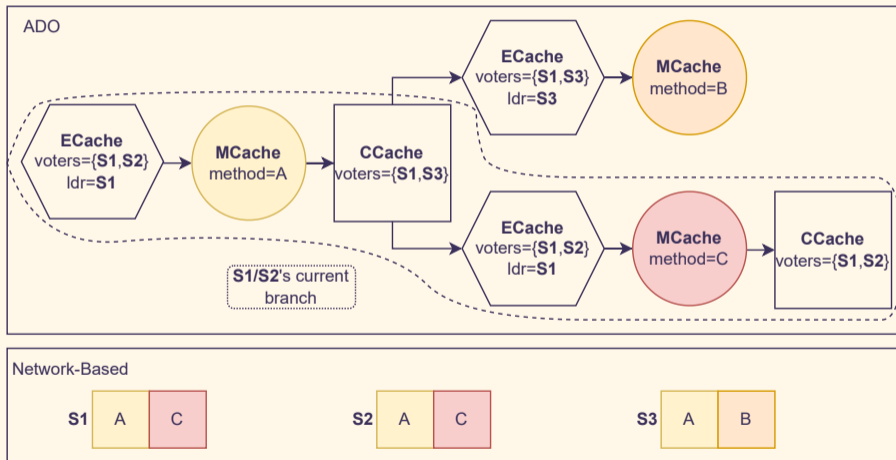
# Handling Failures

```
1 DApp KVLockRetry(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {
2   proc set(k, v) {
3     for retry in 0..N {
4       if (lk.pull() == FAIL) { continue; }
5       ok := lk.invoke(tryAcquire());
6       if (lk.push() == FAIL) { continue; }
7       if (!ok) { continue; }
8     }
9     if (retry == N) { return; }
10    /* ... */
11  }
12 }
```

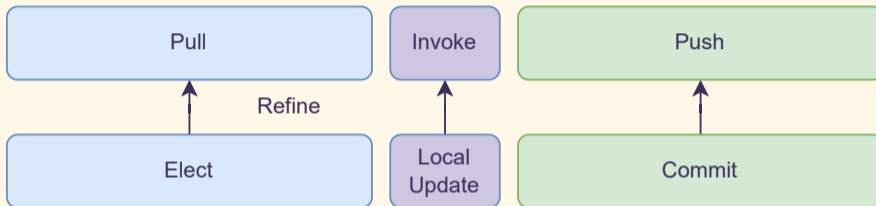
# Handling Failures

```
1 obj.m()! :=
2 while (obj.pull() == FAIL) {}
3 obj.invoke(m());
4 while (obj.push() == FAIL) {}
5
6 DApp KVLock(lk: DLock, data: DVec[string], meta: DVec[int]) {
7   proc set(k, v) {
8     ok := lk.tryAcquire()!;
9     if (!ok) { return; }
10    data.insert(hash(k), v)!;
11    meta.insert(hash(k), len(v))!;
12    lk.release()!;
13  }
14 }
```

# End-to-End Verification

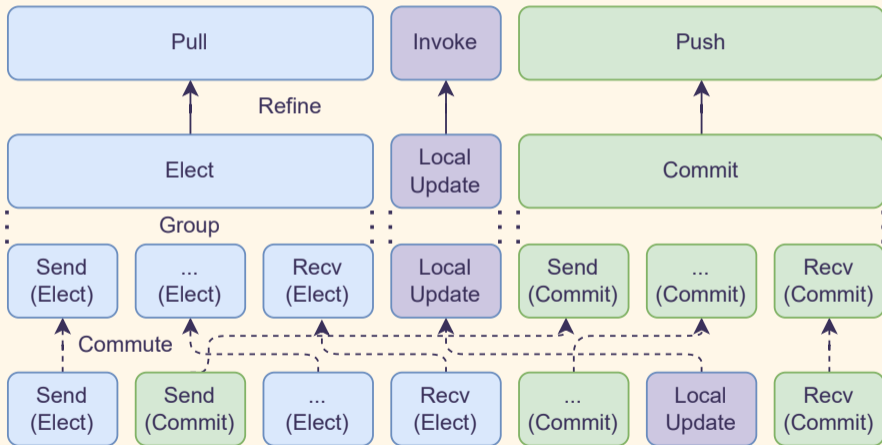


# End-to-End Verification

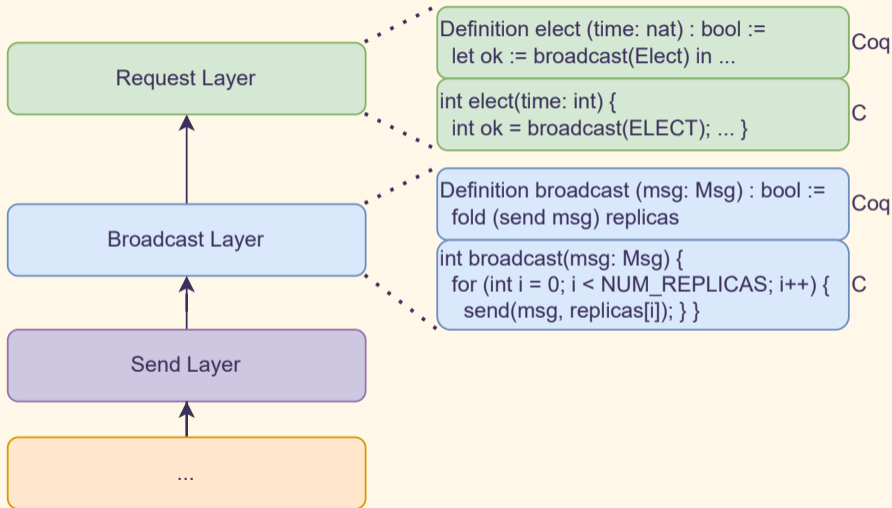




# End-to-End Verification



# End-to-End Verification



# Proof Effort

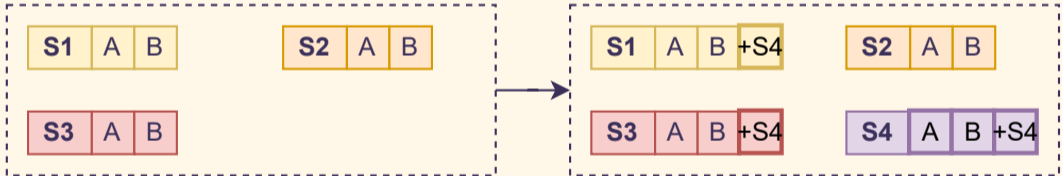
	<b>Proof LOC (Coq)</b>
KVLock DApp	~600
KVLockFree DApp	~300
2PC DApp	~600
Generic Paxos Refinement	~5k
Chain Replication Refinement	~2k
Shared Libraries	~11k
Multi Paxos C Refinement	~44k
Single Paxos	~80
Multi Paxos	~90
Vertical Paxos	~100
CASPaxos	~80

# Roadmap

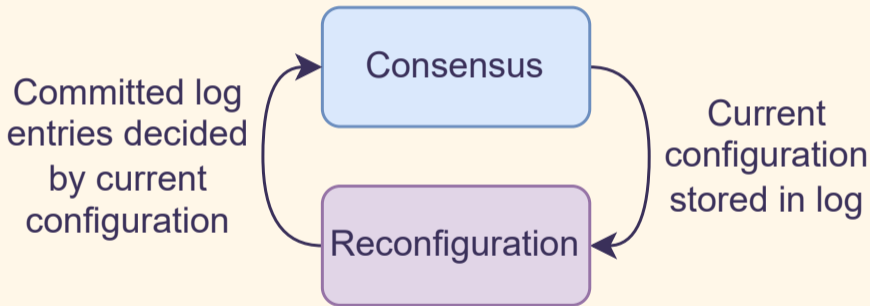
- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ ADO Overview
- ▶ Case Study: Advert
- ▶ **Case Study: Adore**
  - ▶ Atomic Distributed Objects with Certified Reconfiguration
  - ▶ Prove safety at the ADO level.
  - ▶ Support hot reconfiguration.
- ▶ Case Study: AdoB
- ▶ Conclusions

# Reconfiguration

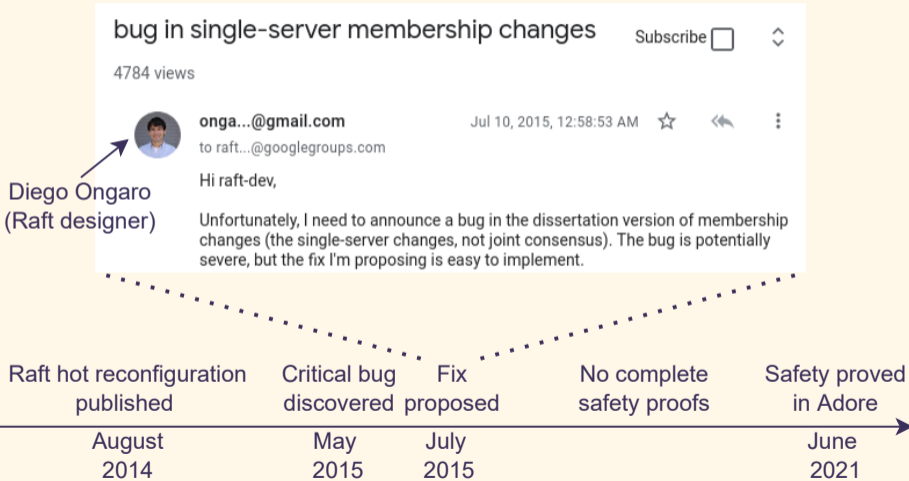
## Hot Reconfiguration



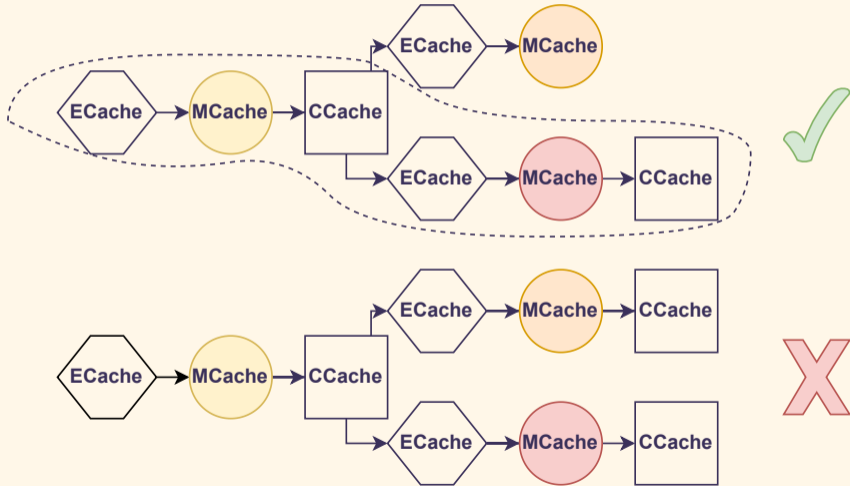
# Reconfiguration



# Reconfiguration

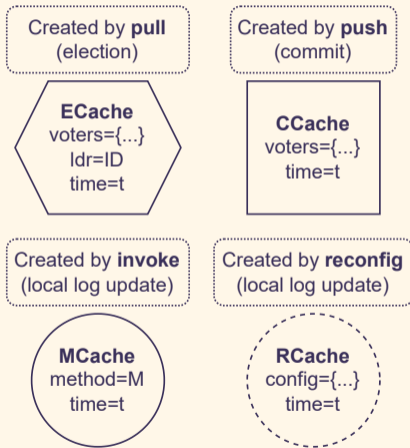


# Safety in Adore

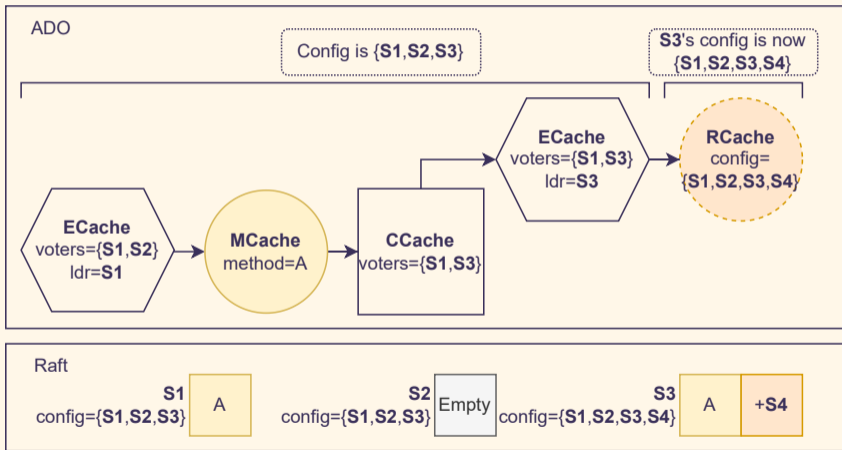




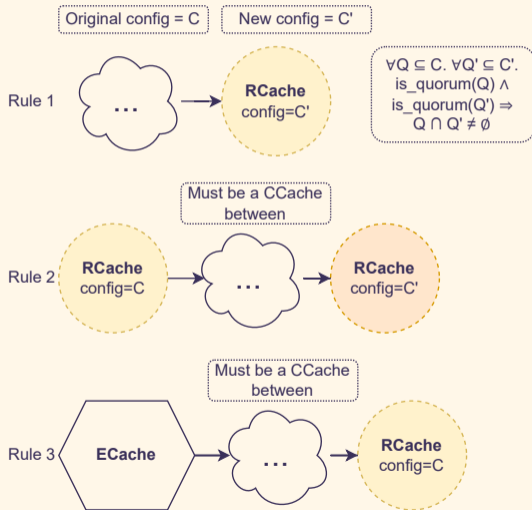
# Reconfiguration in Adore



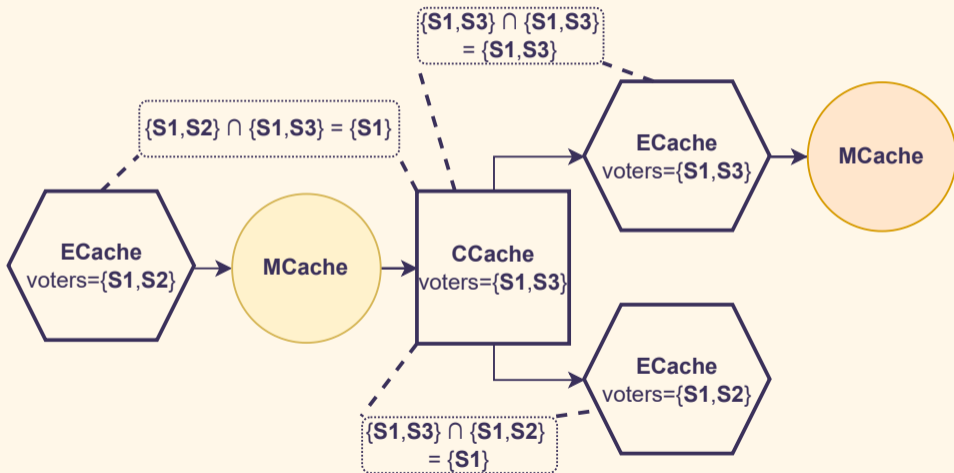
# Reconfiguration in Adore



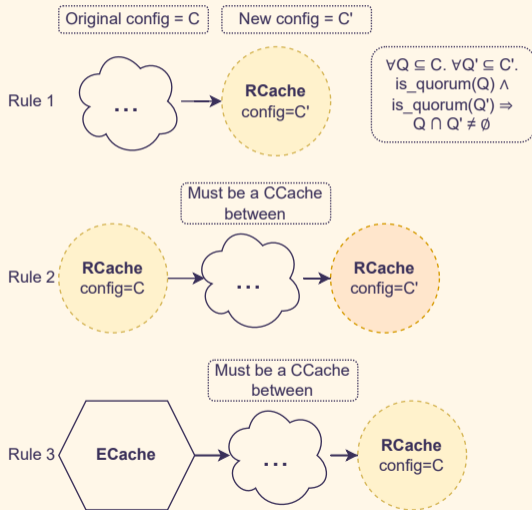
# Reconfiguration Rules



# Reconfiguration Rules



# Reconfiguration Rules



# Reconfiguration Rules

Original config =  
{S1,S2,S3,S4}

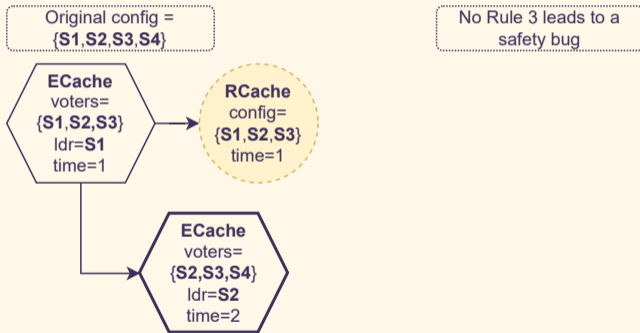
**ECache**  
voters=  
{S1,S2,S3}  
ldr=S1  
time=1



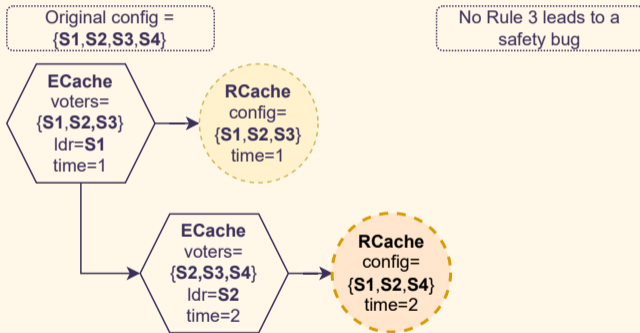
**RCache**  
config=  
{S1,S2,S3}  
time=1

No Rule 3 leads to a  
safety bug

# Reconfiguration Rules

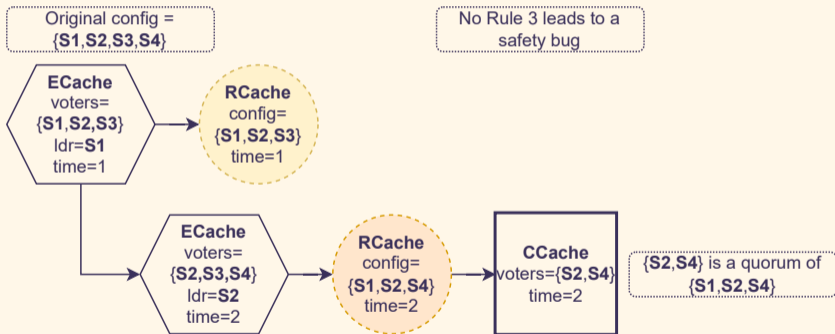


# Reconfiguration Rules

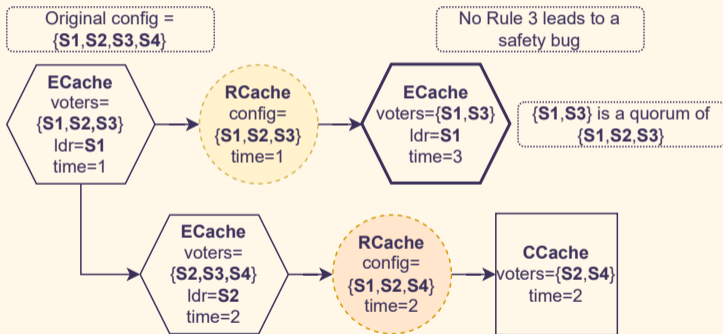




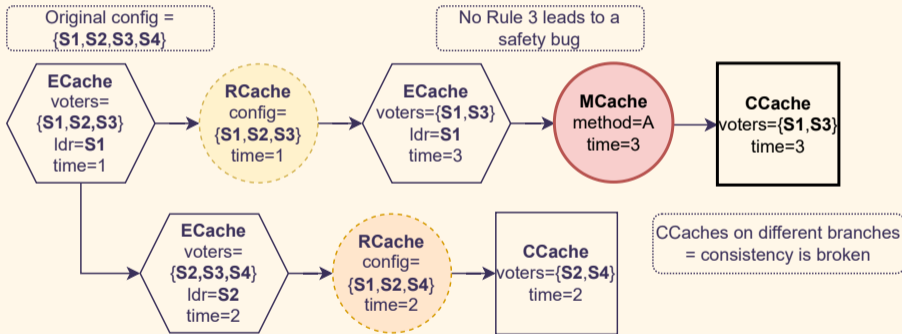
# Reconfiguration Rules



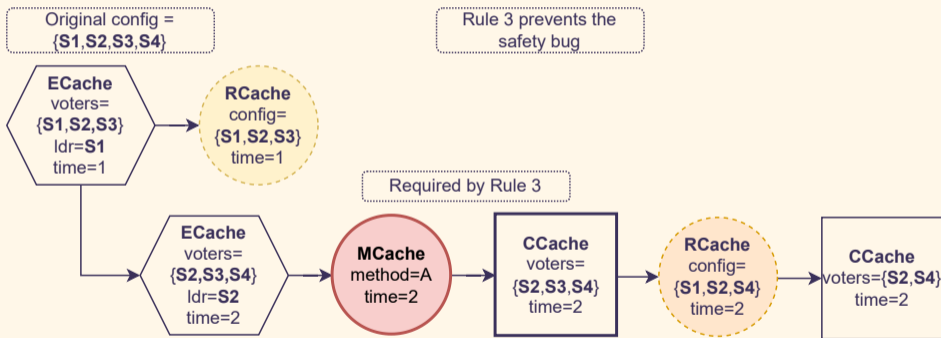
# Reconfiguration Rules



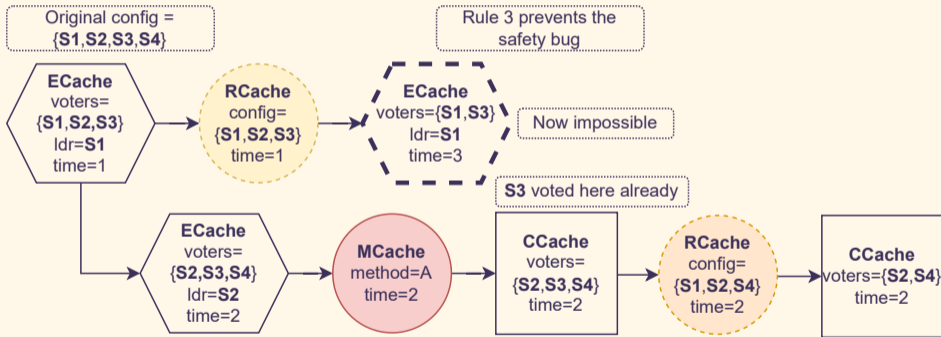
# Reconfiguration Rules



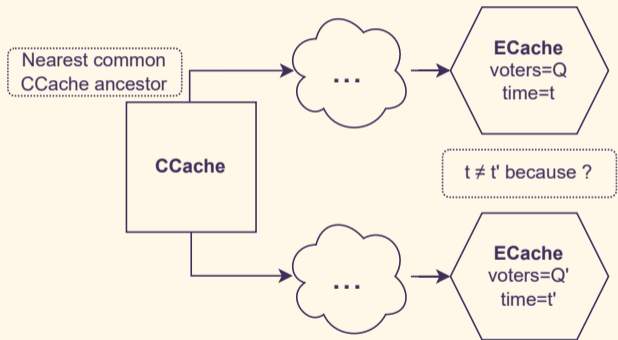
# Reconfiguration Rules



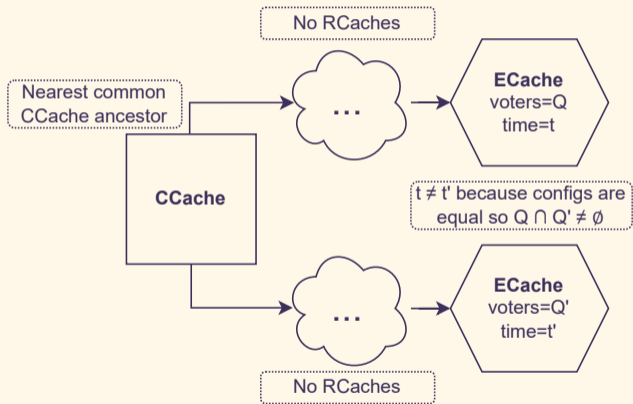
# Reconfiguration Rules



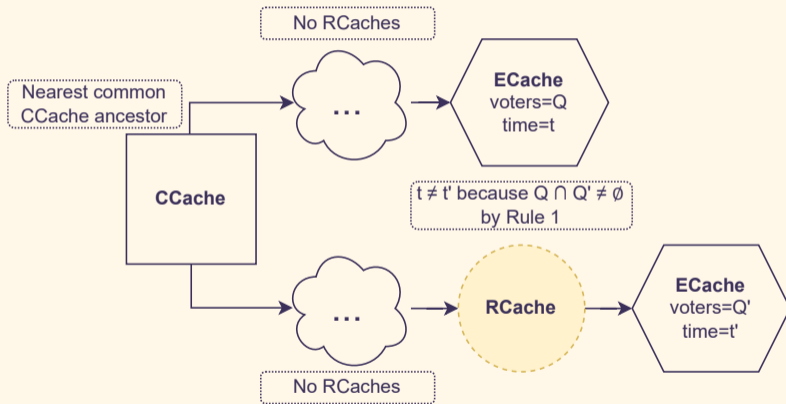
# Proving Safety



# Proving Safety

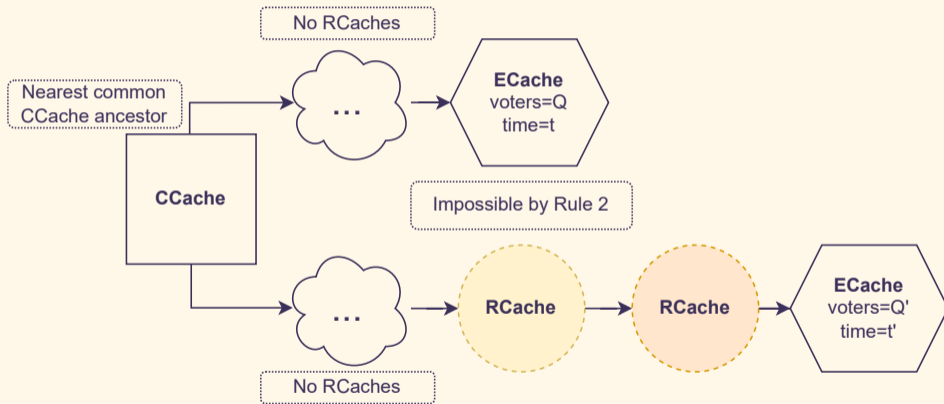


# Proving Safety

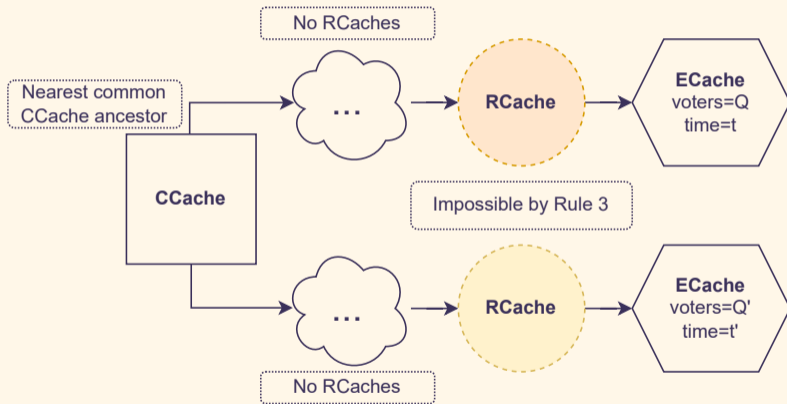




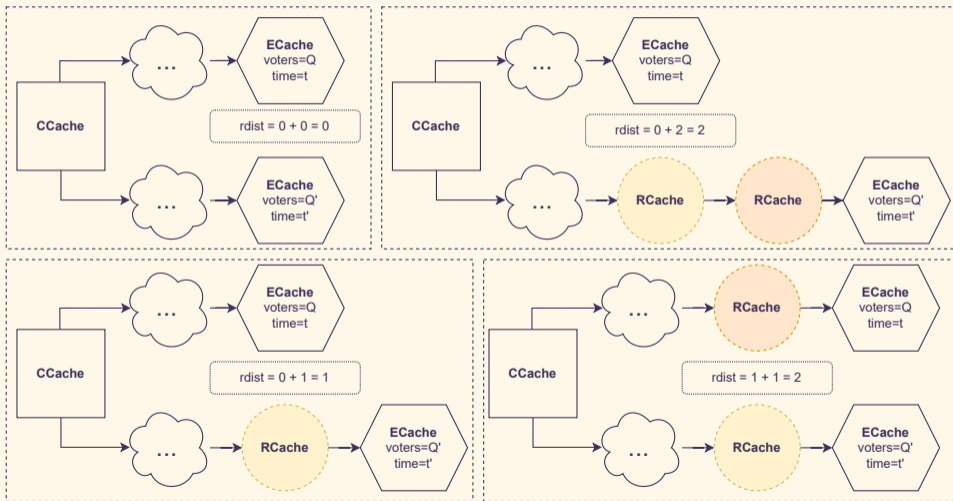
# Proving Safety



# Proving Safety

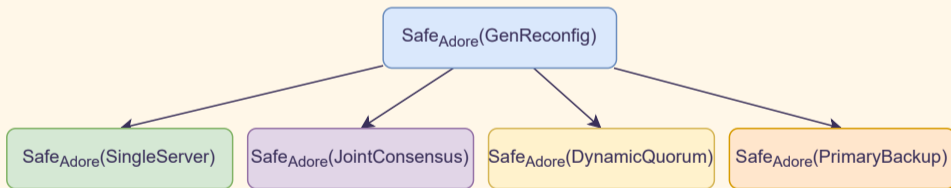


# Proving Safety



# Generalized Quorums

- ▶ Safety proved once for generic reconfiguration scheme.
- ▶ A quorum is any set that guarantees overlap.
- ▶ Can be instantiated many times with minimal proof effort.



# Generalized Quorums

## Single-Server

$$\text{Config} \triangleq \text{Set}(\mathbb{N}_{nid})$$

$$\text{canReconfig}(C, C') \triangleq C = C' \vee$$

$$\exists s. C = C' \cup \{s\} \vee C' = C \cup \{s\}$$

$$\text{isQuorum}(S, C) \triangleq |C| < 2 * |S \cap C|$$

# Generalized Quorums

## Joint Consensus

$$\text{Config} \triangleq \text{Set}(\mathbb{N}_{nid}) * \text{Option}(\text{Set}(\mathbb{N}_{nid}))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{canReconfig}(C, C') \triangleq & \exists \text{old}. (C = (\text{old}, \perp) \wedge C' = (\text{old}, -)) \vee \\ & \exists \text{new}. (C = (-, \text{new}) \wedge C' = (\text{new}, \perp)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{isQuorum}(S, (\text{old}, \text{new})) \triangleq & |\text{old}| < 2 * |S \cap \text{old}| \wedge \\ & (\text{new} = \perp \vee |\text{new}| < 2 * |S \cap \text{new}|) \end{aligned}$$

# Generalized Quorums

## Dynamic Quorum Size

$$\text{Config} \triangleq \mathbb{N} * \text{Set}(\mathbb{N}_{nid})$$

$$\text{canReconfig}((q, C), (q', C')) \triangleq (C \subseteq C' \wedge |C'| < q + q') \vee \\ (C' \subseteq C \wedge |C| < q + q')$$

$$\text{isQuorum}(S, (q, C)) \triangleq q \leq |S \cap C|$$

# Generalized Quorums

## Primary Backup

$$\text{Config} \triangleq \mathbb{N}_{nid} * \text{Set}(\mathbb{N}_{nid})$$

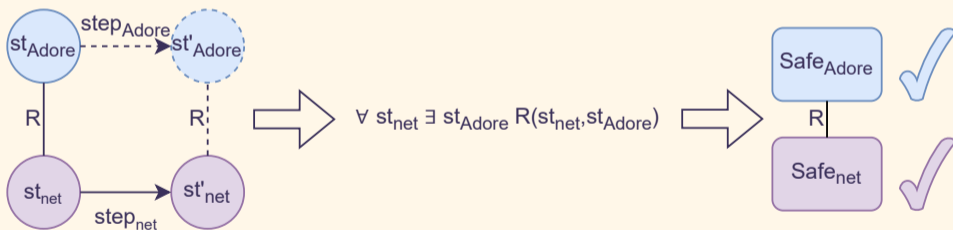
$$\text{canReconfig}((P, -), (P', -)) \triangleq P = P'$$

$$\text{isQuorum}(S, (P, -)) \triangleq P \in S$$



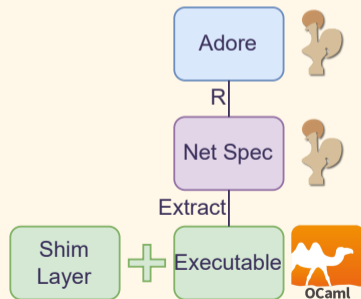
# Refinement

- ▶ Refinement between Raft network-based specification and Adore.
- ▶ Also generic with respect to reconfiguration scheme.



# Extraction

- ▶ Automated extraction from Coq specification to executable OCaml.
- ▶ Extracted code contains core logic, unverified shim layer handles network communication.
- ▶ Safety guaranteed through Adore and refinement.



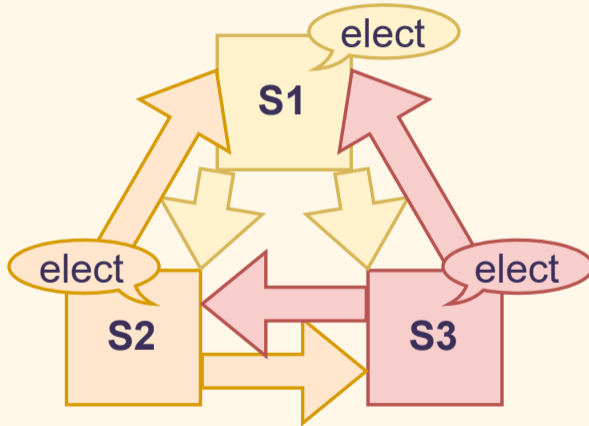
# Proof Effort

	<b>Proof LOC (Coq)</b>	<b>Proof Time</b>
Cache Tree Library/Properties	~6k	2 person-weeks
Safety Proof	~4k	3 person-weeks
Refinement Proof	~13k	9 person-weeks
Reconfiguration Schemes (6)	~300	<1 person-week

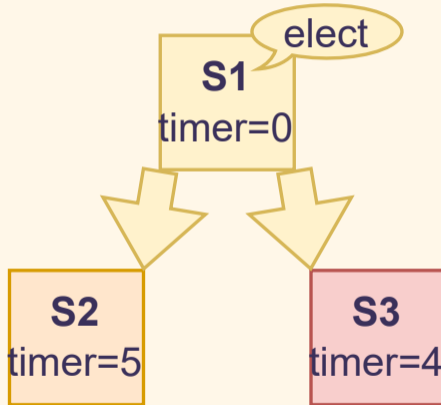
# Roadmap

- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ ADO Overview
- ▶ Case Study: Advert
- ▶ Case Study: Adore
- ▶ **Case Study: AdoB**
  - ▶ AtomDistributed Objects for Benign/Byzantine Consensus
  - ▶ Prove liveness at the ADO level.
  - ▶ Support benign and byzantine failures in a generic abstraction.
- ▶ Conclusions

# Liveness

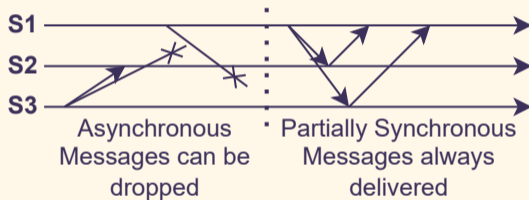


# Liveness



# Liveness Assumptions

► Partial synchrony



# Liveness Assumptions

- ▶ Partial synchrony
- ▶ Productive strategy

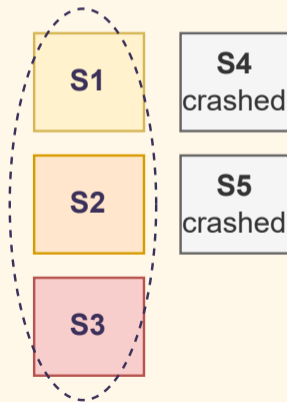
```
if not isLeader() and timer() == 0:  
    startElection()  
else if isLeader() and hasUncommitted():  
    startCommit()  
else if timer() == 0:  
    sendTimeout()
```



# Liveness Assumptions

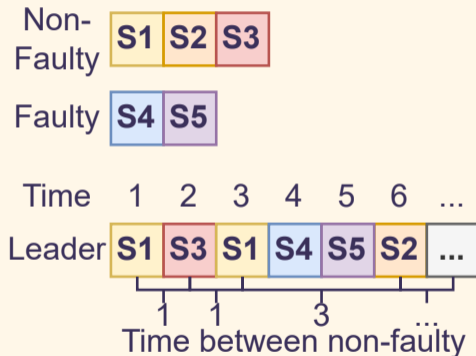
- ▶ Partial synchrony
- ▶ Productive strategy
- ▶ Non-faulty quorum

Quorum = majority = 3/5

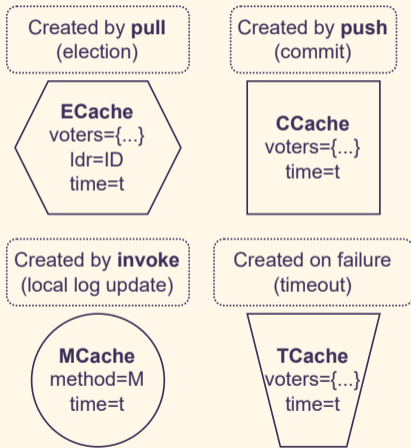


# Liveness Assumptions

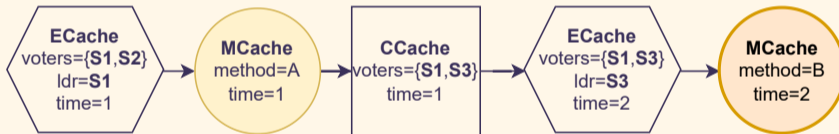
- ▶ Partial synchrony
- ▶ Productive strategy
- ▶ Non-faulty quorum
- ▶ Fair election rotation



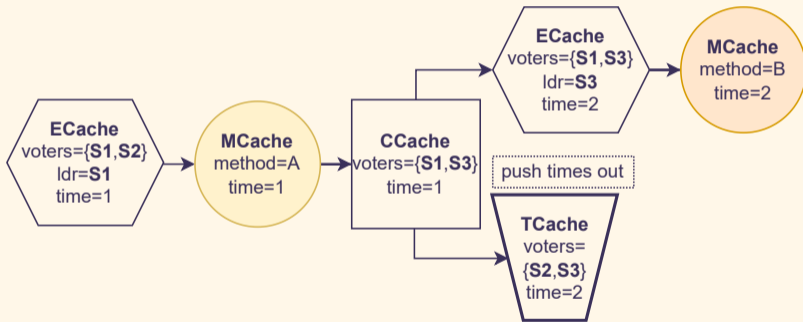
# Time in AdoB



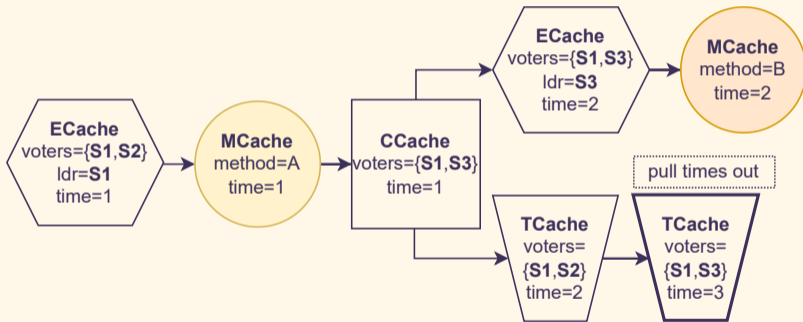
# Liveness in AdoB



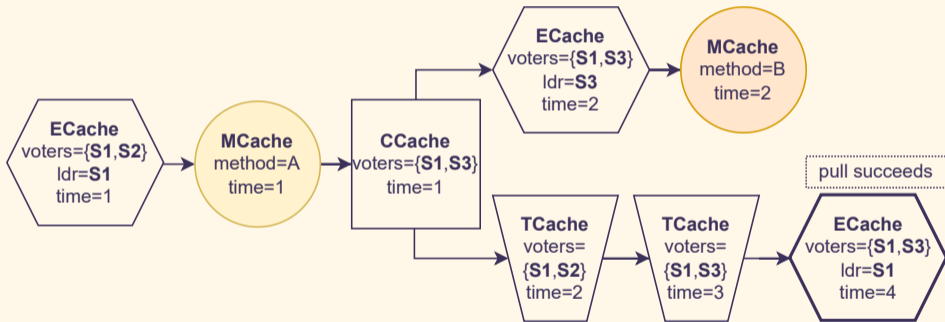
# Liveness in AdoB



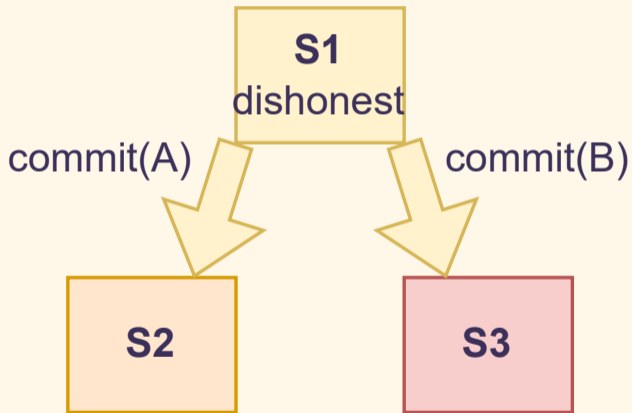
# Liveness in AdoB



# Liveness in AdoB

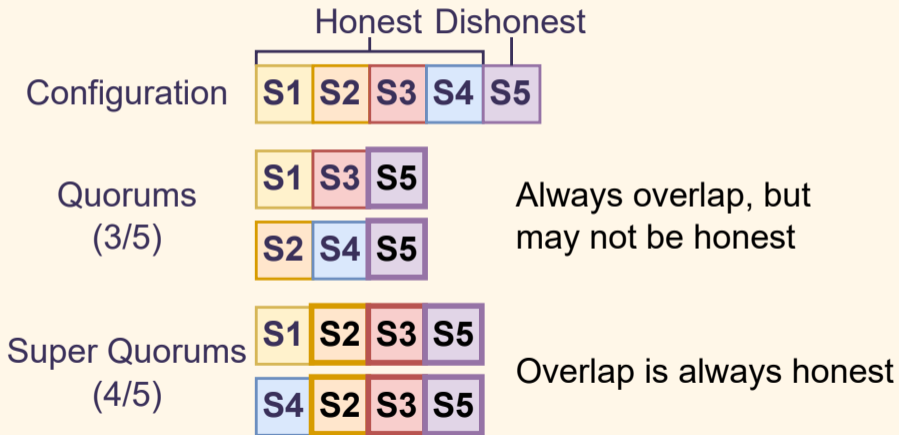


# Byzantine Failures

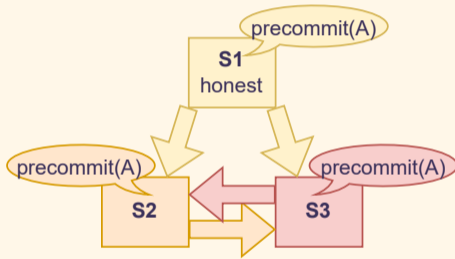




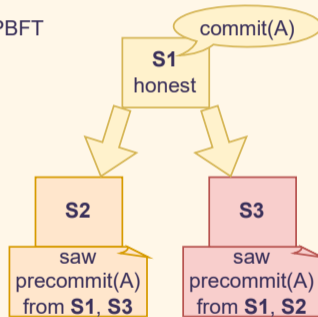
# Byzantine Failures



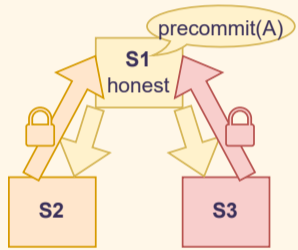
# Byzantine Failures



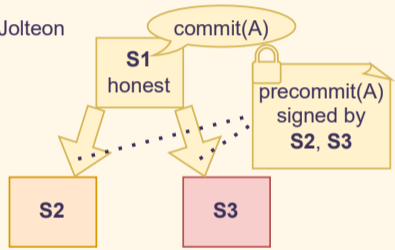
PBFT



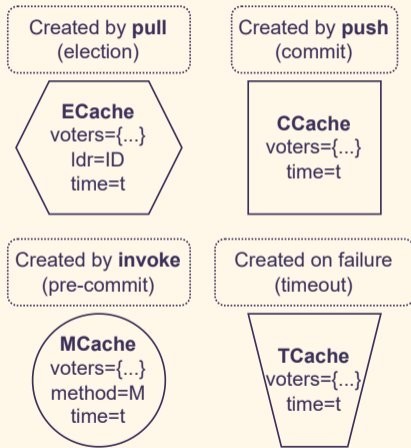
# Byzantine Failures



HotStuff/Jolteon

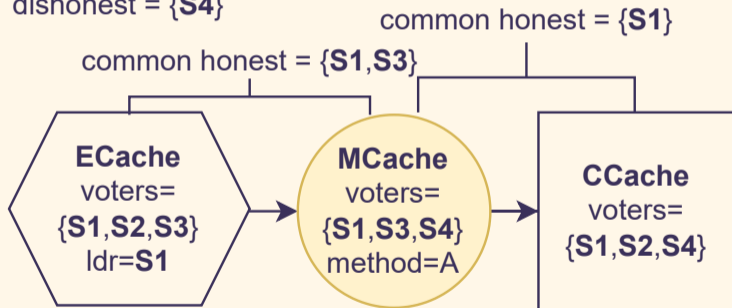


# Byzantine Failures in AdoB



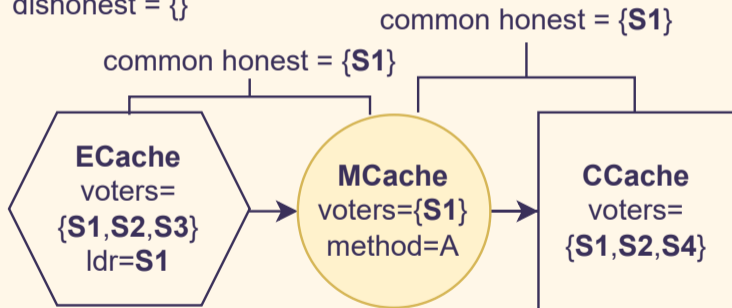
# Generalizing Benign and Byzantine Failures

honest = {**S1, S2, S3**}  
dishonest = {**S4**}



# Generalizing Benign and Byzantine Failures

honest = {**S1**, **S2**, **S3**, **S4**}  
dishonest = {}



# Generalizing Benign and Byzantine Failures

Failure Model	Required Number of Votes		
	pull	invoke	push
Benign	Quorum	Only leader	Quorum
Byzantine	Super Quorum	Super Quorum	Super Quorum
Generalized	Super Quorum	MQuorum	Super Quorum

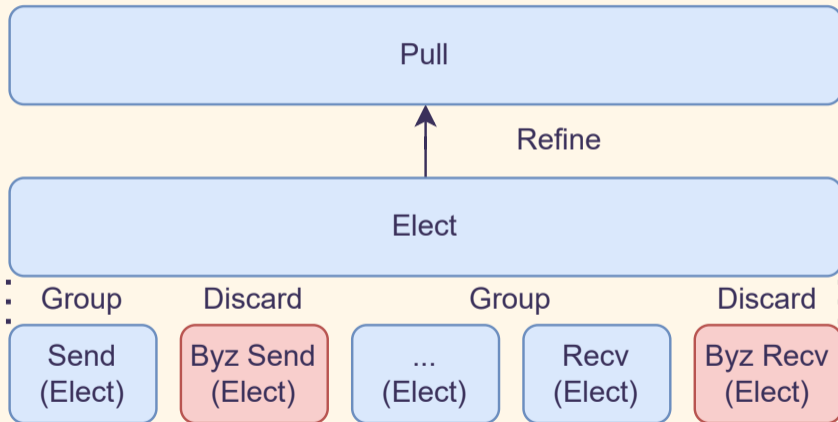
## Definition

Two quorums have a common voter (e.g.,  $> 1/2$  of configuration).

Super quorums have a common honest voter (e.g.,  $> 2/3$  of configuration).

An MQuorum and super quorum with the same leader have a common honest voter.

# Refinement





# Proof Effort

	<b>Proof LOC (Coq)</b>	<b>Proof Time</b>
Safety Proof	~3k	2 person-weeks
Liveness Proof	~3k	2 person-weeks
Refinement Proof	~4k	6 person-weeks

# Roadmap

- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ ADO Overview
- ▶ Case Study: Advert
- ▶ Case Study: Adore
- ▶ Case Study: AdoB
- ▶ **Conclusions**
  - ▶ Summary of results.
  - ▶ Future work.

# Summary

It facilitates formal verification by hiding network-level details behind a global tree-based state representation and atomic interface.

- ▶ ADO model: novel protocol-level abstraction for consensus.
- ▶ Atomic tree-based representation of replicated state.
- ▶ Exposes partial failures to distributed applications (Advert).
- ▶ Enables safety and liveness reasoning (Adore, AdoB).
- ▶ Correctly models a wide range of consensus protocols both benign (Advert, Adore) and byzantine (AdoB).
- ▶ Supports practical extensions like reconfiguration (Adore).

# Future Work

- ▶ Automate refinement.
  - ▶ Verdi verified system transformers (PLDI '15).
  - ▶ CSPEC (OSDI '18), pretend synchrony (POPL '19), inductive sequentialization (PLDI '20).
- ▶ Generate code from ADO specification.
  - ▶ DeepSEA (OOPSLA '19).
- ▶ Expand beyond consensus.
  - ▶ Conflict-free replicated data types.
  - ▶ Causal consistency.