Raft

Mar 16th&17th, 2022

Raft

System for enforcing strong consistency (linearizability)

Similar to Paxos and Viewstamped Replication, but much simpler Clear boundary between *leader election* and *consensus* Leader log is ground truth; log entries only flow in one direction (from leader to followers)

Assignment 3 hints

You will implement the *leader election* portion of Raft in assignment 3 You will implement the *log replication* portion of Raft in assignment 4

Use time.Timer and select statements to implement timeout

- Need to time out on heartbeats \rightarrow Start election
- Need to time out on waiting for majority of votes

Raft logs are 1-indexed; add a dummy entry in the first slot to enforce this

When voting for yourself, you can skip the RPC

Importance of readability

A luxury for small projects, but a necessity for large and complex projects

HW4 will build on top of your solution for HW3 HW3 only accounts for about 20% of the work

Some tips:

Duplicate code is *really* bad; avoid at all costs If a function is more than 30 lines, it is too long \rightarrow split! Avoid nested if-else's; use returns and continues where possible

Raft Leader election

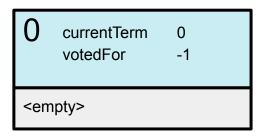
0	currentTerm	0	
	votedFor	-1	
	commitIndex	0	
	lastApplied	0	
	nextIndex	[]	
matchIndex []			
(log entries here)			

currentTerm	latest term server has seen
votedFor	candidate ID that received vote in current term, or -1 if none
commitIndex	index of highest log entry known to be committed
lastApplied	index of highest log entry applied to state machine

Logs are 1-indexed

(Only on leader)

nextIndexfor each server, index of the next log entry to send
to that servermatchIndexfor each server, index of highest log entry known to
be replicated on the server



currentTermlatest term server has seenvotedForcandidate ID that received vote in current term,
or -1 if none

State required for election

Leader election

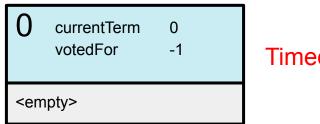
Everyone sets a randomized timer that expires in [T, 2T] (e.g. T = 150ms)

When timer expires, increment term and send a RequestVote to everyone

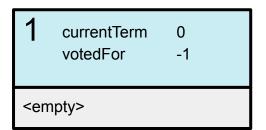
Retry this until either:

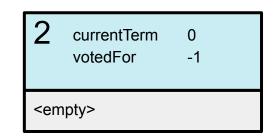
You get majority of votes (including yourself): become leader

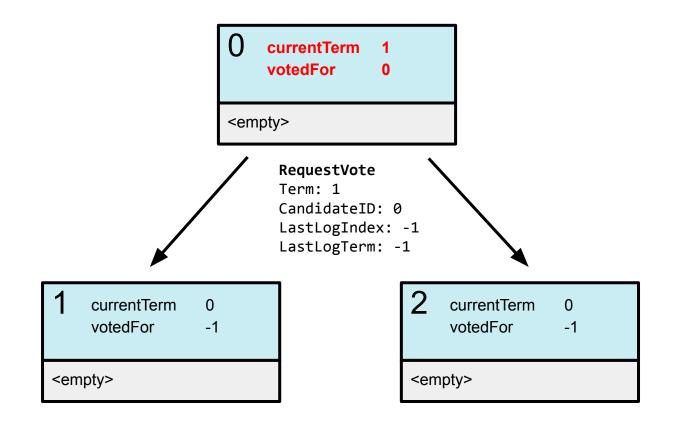
You receive an RPC from a valid leader: become follower again

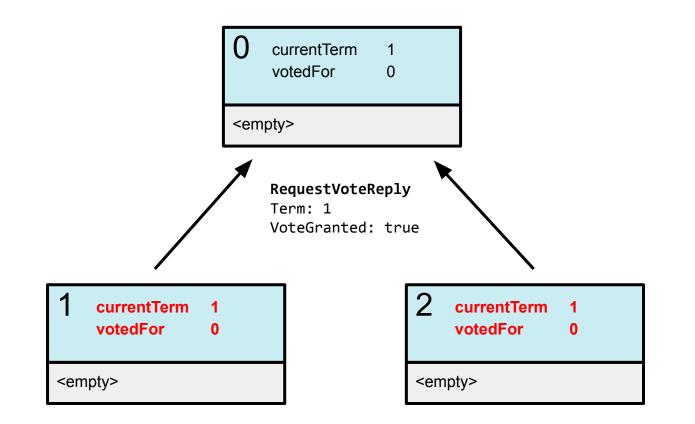


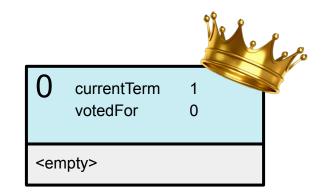


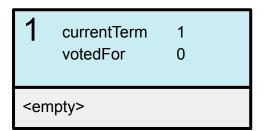


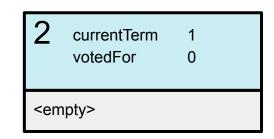




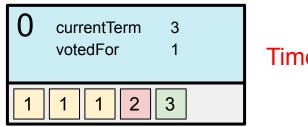




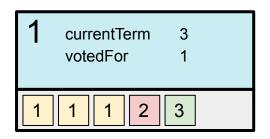


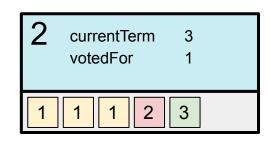


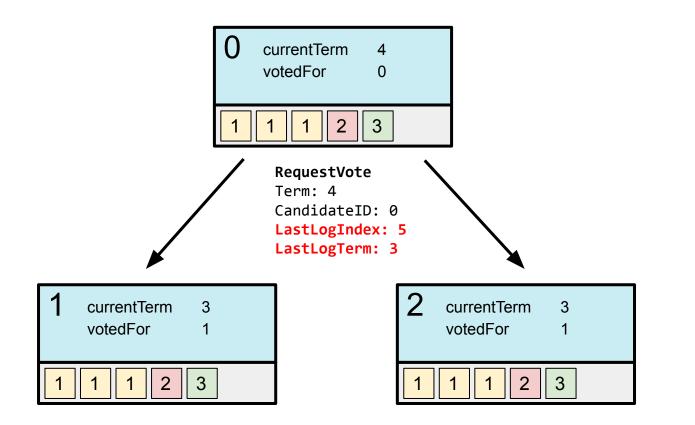
Suppose there are existing log entries...

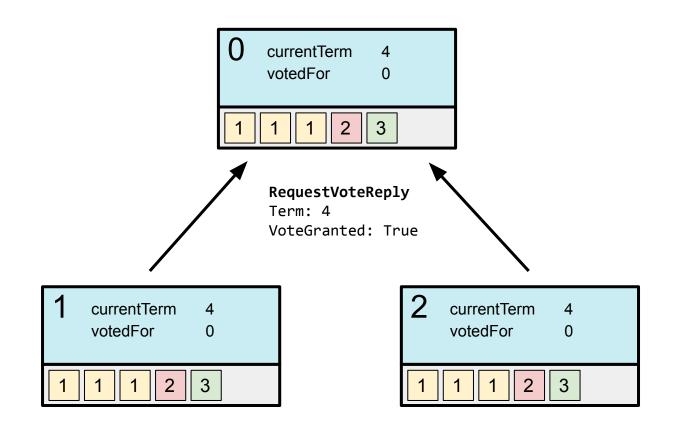


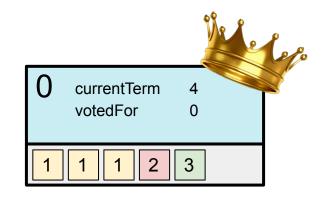


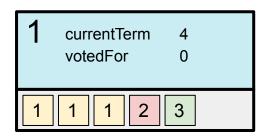


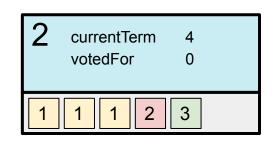








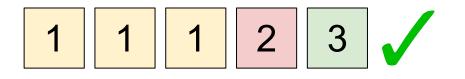




Conditions for granting vote

- 1. We did not vote for anyone else in this term
- 2. Candidate term must be >= ours
- 3. Candidate log is at least as *up-to-date* as ours
 - a. The log with higher term in the last entry is more up-to-date
 - b. If the last entry terms are the same, then the longer log is more up-to-date

Which one is more *up-to-date*?



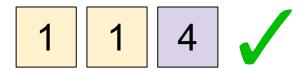


Which one is more *up-to-date*?



Which one is more *up-to-date*?





Why reject logs that are not *up-to-date*?

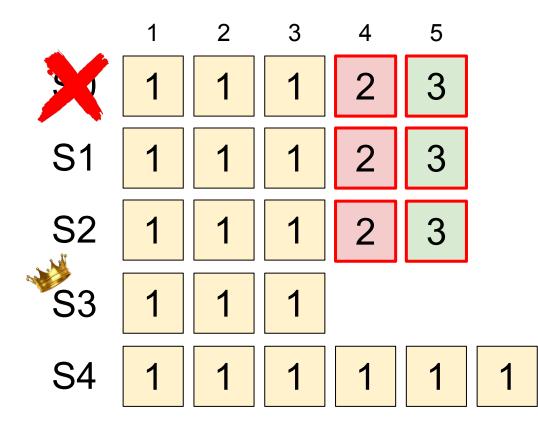
Leader log is always the ground truth

Once someone is elected leader, followers must throw away conflicting entries

Must NOT throw away committed entries!

Note: Log doesn't need to be the MOST up-to-date among all servers

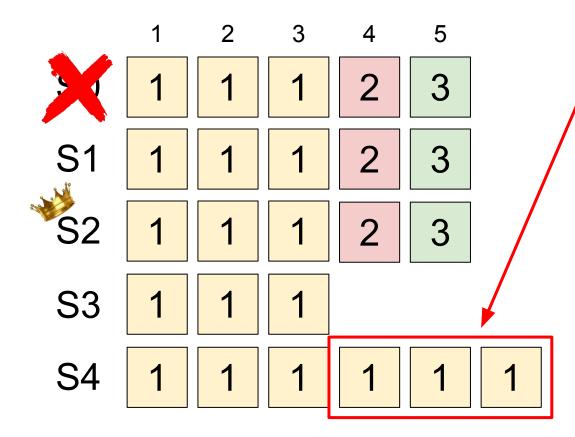
What if we accept logs that are not as up-to-date as ours?



Suppose entries 4-5 have already been committed

Then previous leader S0 crashes and S3 times out

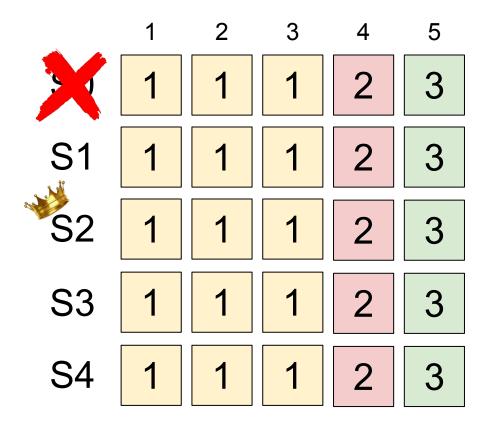
If S3 becomes leader then committed entries 4 and 5 may be overwritten!



Why is it OK to throw away these entries?

If these entries had been committed, then it means they must exist on a majority of servers

In that case S4 could receive votes from the same majority and become a valid leader



One caveat with entries from old terms... (later)

Raft Normal operation

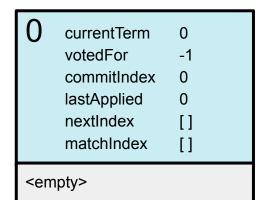
0	currentTerm	0	
	votedFor	-1	
	commitIndex	0	
	lastApplied	0	
	nextIndex	[]	
	matchIndex	[]	
<em< td=""><td>pty></td><td></td><td></td></em<>	pty>		

lastApplied	index of highest log entry applied to state machine
commitIndex	index of highest log entry known to be committed
votedFor	candidate ID that received vote in current term, or -1 if none
currentTerm	latest term server has seen

Logs are 1-indexed

(Only on leader)

nextIndexfor each server, index of the next log entry to send
to that servermatchindexfor each server, index of highest log entry known to
be replicated on the server



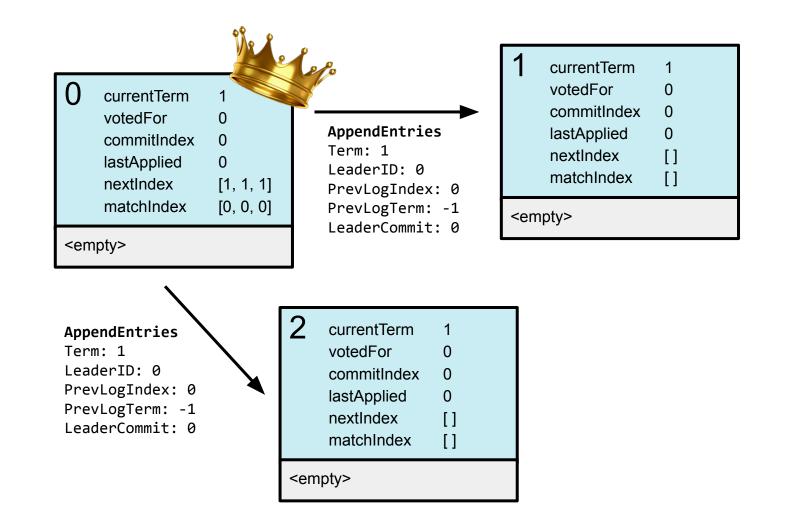
1 currentTerm	0	
votedFor	-1	
commitInde	x 0	
lastApplied	0	
nextIndex	[]	
matchIndex	[]	
<empty></empty>		

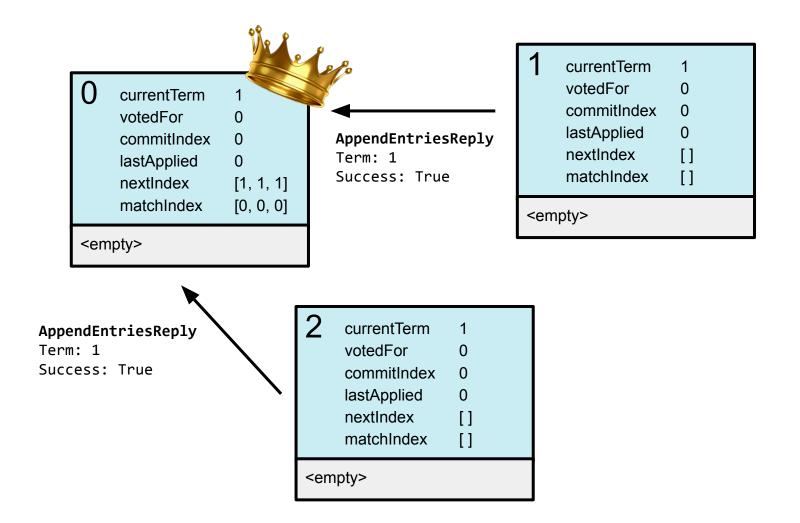
2	currentTerm votedFor commitIndex lastApplied nextIndex	0 -1 0 0 []
	matchIndex	[]
<em< th=""><td>pty></td><td></td></em<>	pty>	

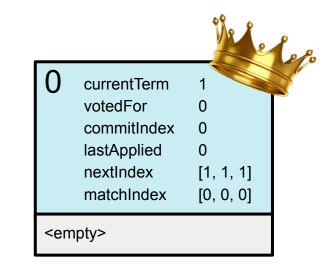
		<u>k</u>	ler.
0	currentTerm	1	
	votedFor	0	
	commitIndex	0	
	lastApplied	0	
	nextIndex	[1, 1, 1]	
	matchIndex	[0, 0, 0]	
<err< td=""><td>ipty></td><td></td><td></td></err<>	ipty>		

1	currentTerm	1
	votedFor	0
	commitIndex	0
	lastApplied	0
	nextIndex	[]
	matchIndex	[]
<empty></empty>		

2	currentTerm votedFor	1 0
	commitIndex	0
	lastApplied	0
	nextIndex	[]
	matchIndex	[]
<em< th=""><td>pty></td><td></td></em<>	pty>	



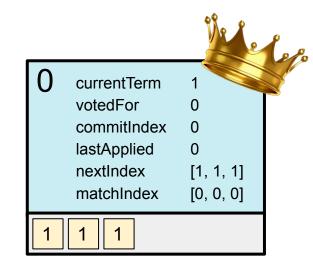




1 currentTerm	1	
votedFor	0	
commitIndex	0	
lastApplied	0	
nextIndex	[]	
matchIndex	[]	
<empty></empty>		

Request 1

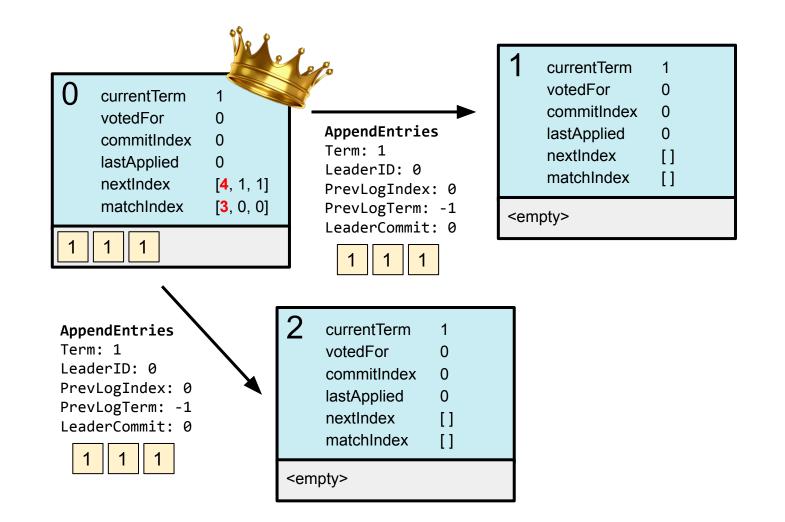
2	currentTerm	1
	votedFor	0
	commitIndex	0
	lastApplied	0
	nextIndex	[]
	matchIndex	[]
<err< th=""><th>ipty></th><th></th></err<>	ipty>	

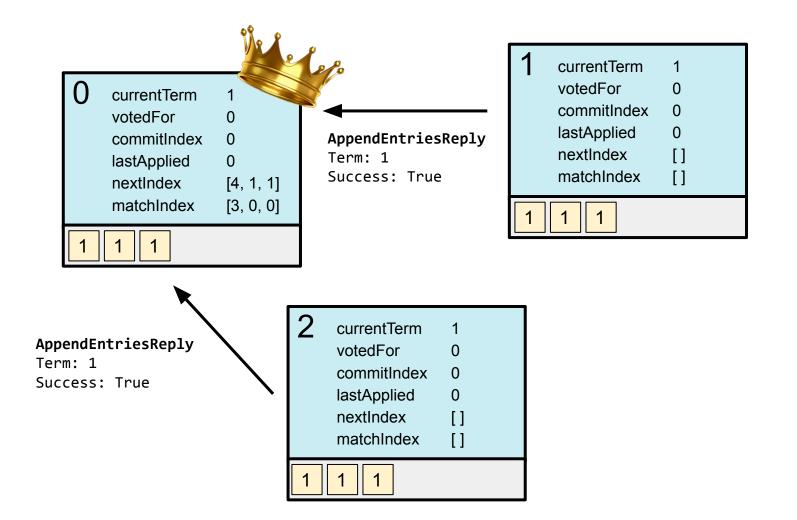


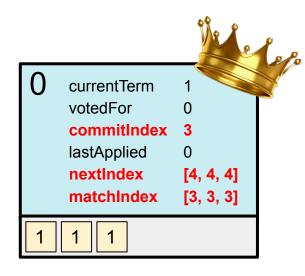
1	currentTerm votedFor commitIndex lastApplied nextIndex matchIndex	1 0 0 [] []
<empty></empty>		

Client Request 1 Request 2 Request 3

2 currentTerm	1	
votedFor	0	
commitIndex	0	
lastApplied	0	
nextIndex	[]	
matchIndex	[]	
<empty></empty>		

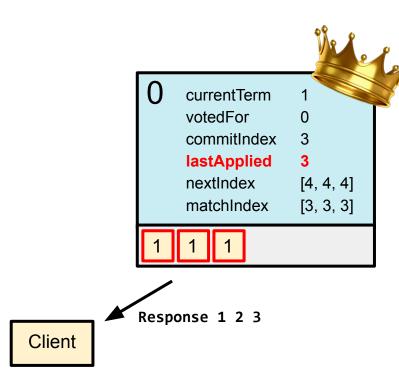






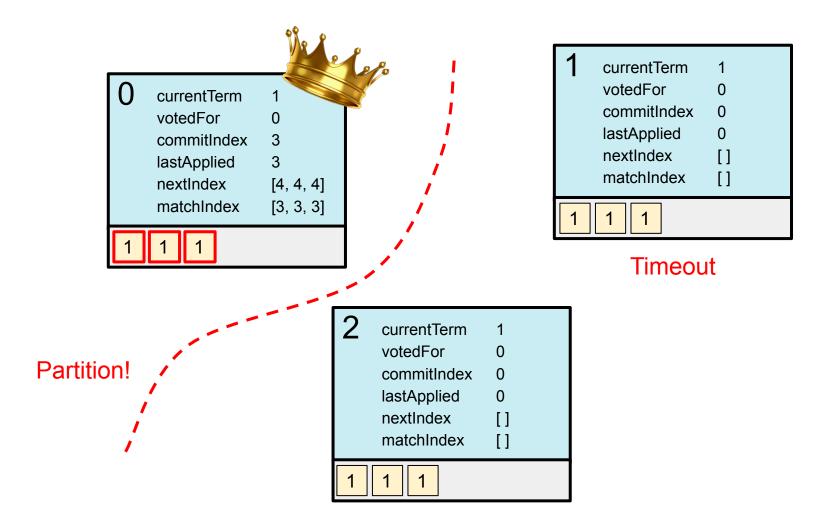
Entry 3 is now replicated on a majority, so we can commit it

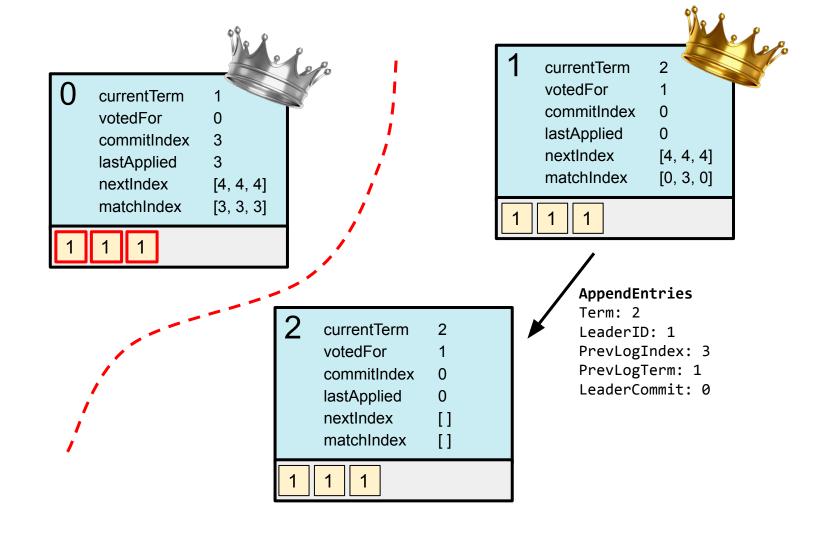
while commitIndex > lastApplied, apply commands to state machine

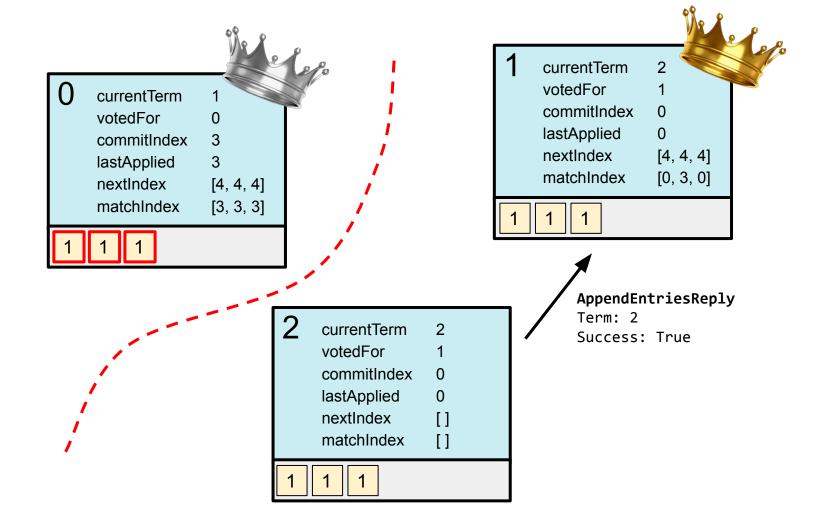


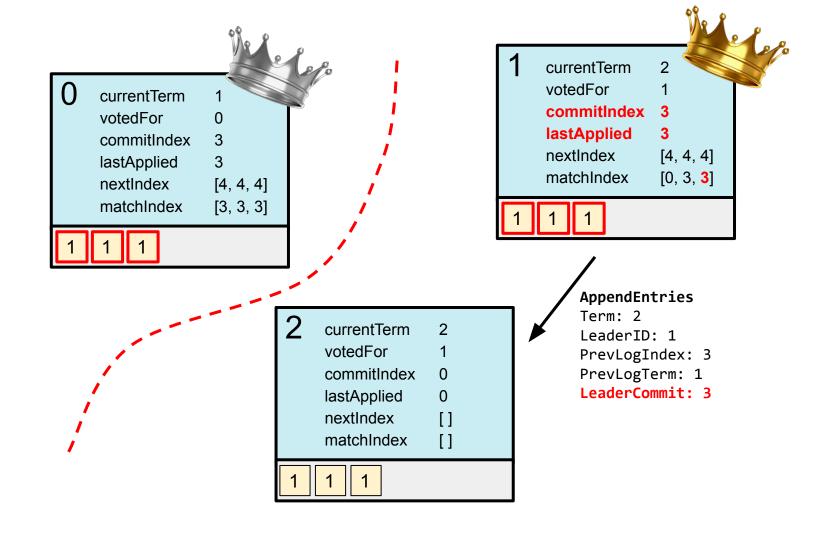
Once leader has applied an entry to state machine, it is safe to tell the client that the entry is committed

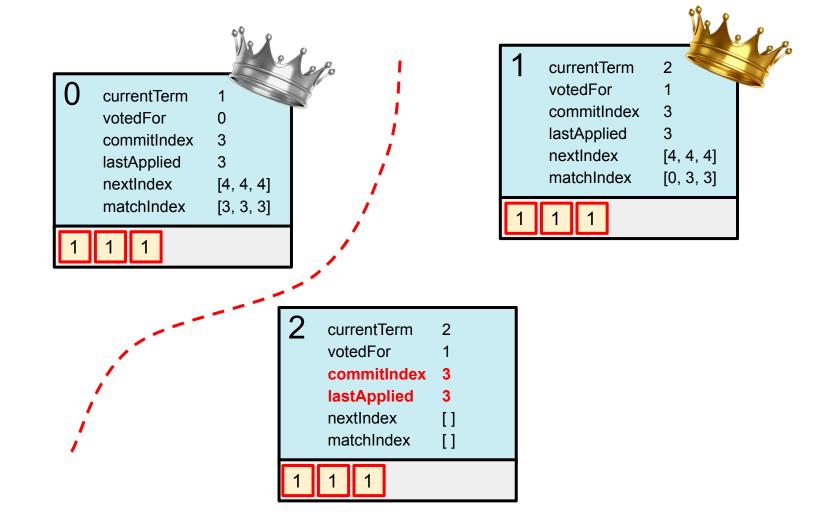
Raft After new leader election

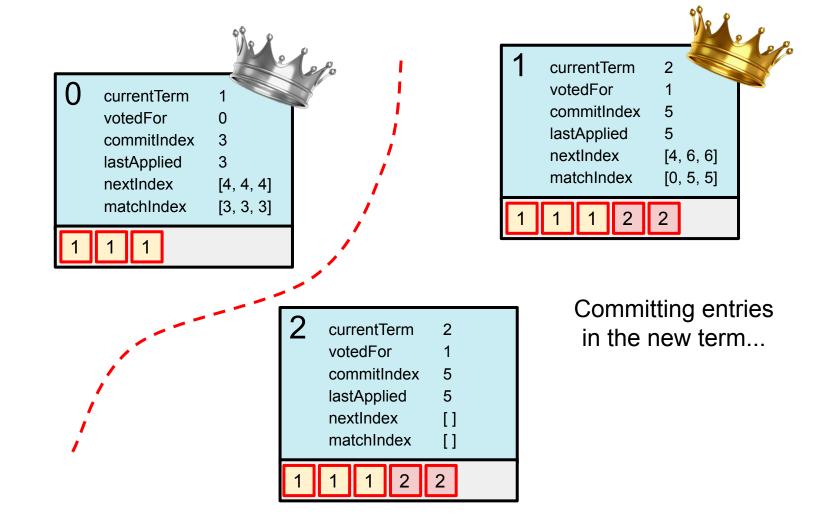




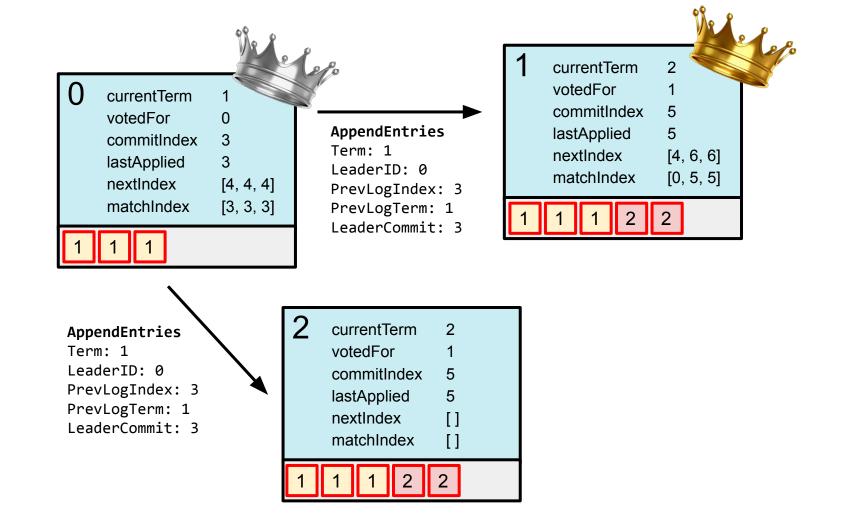


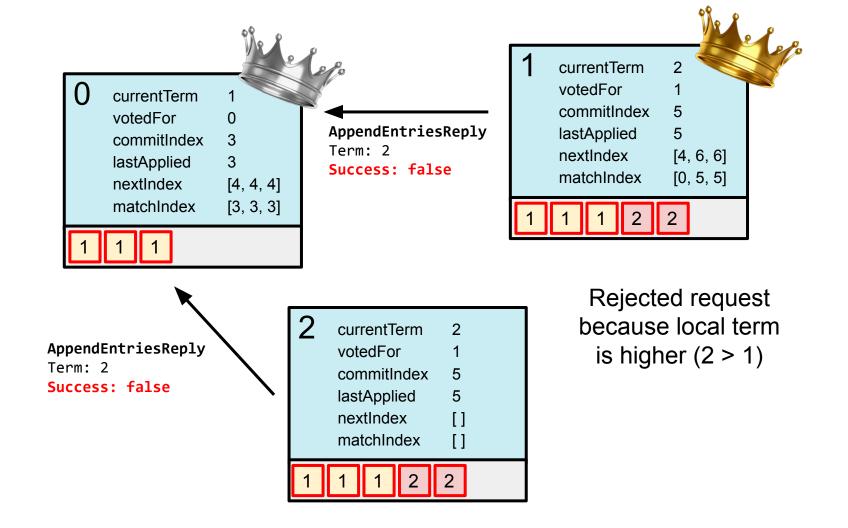


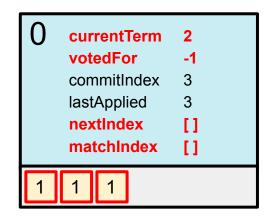


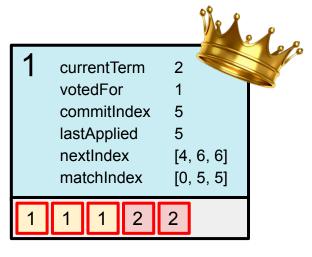


Let's fix the partition...



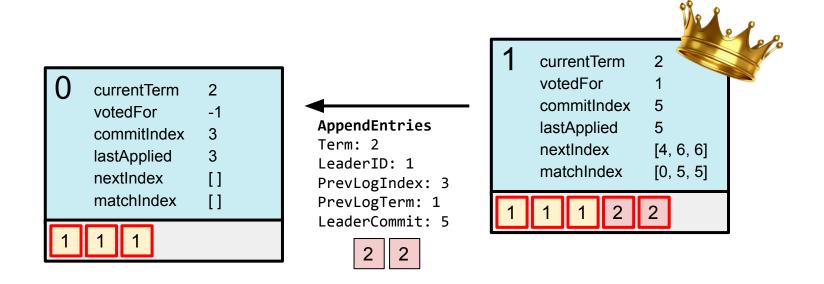


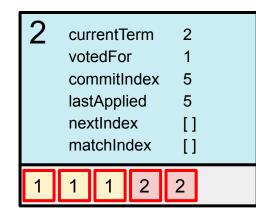


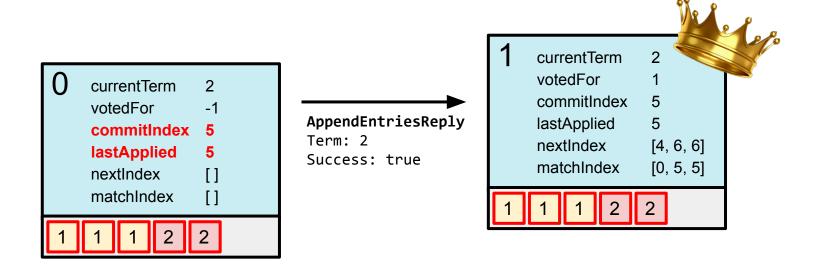


Old leader is dethroned!

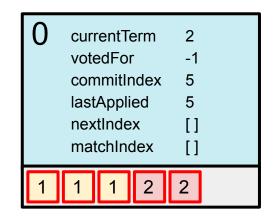
2	currentTerm	2
	votedFor	1
	commitIndex	5
	lastApplied	5
	nextIndex	[]
	matchIndex	[]
1	1 1 2	2

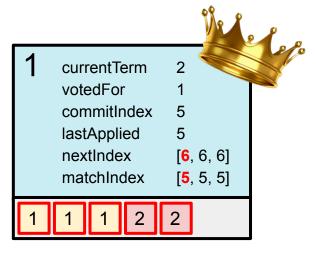






2	currentTerm	2
	votedFor	1
	commitIndex	5
	lastApplied	5
	nextIndex	[]
	matchIndex	[]
1	1 1 2	2





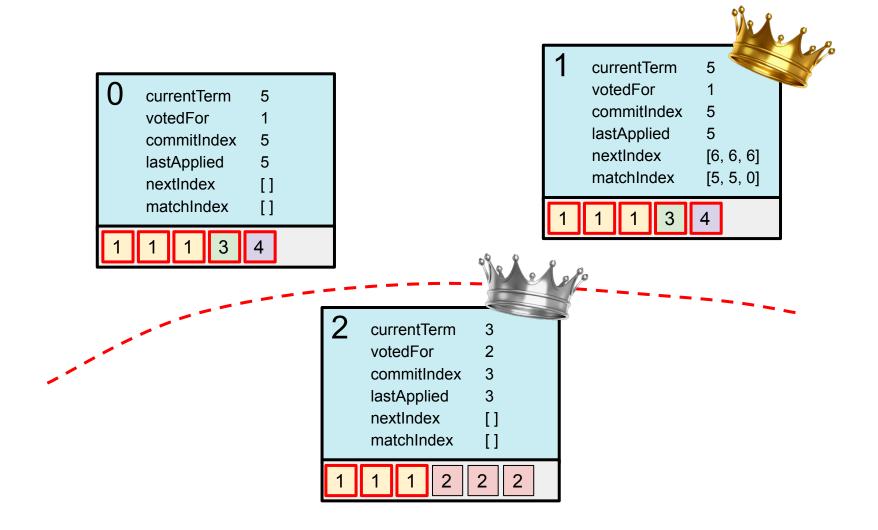
Everyone is on the same page again

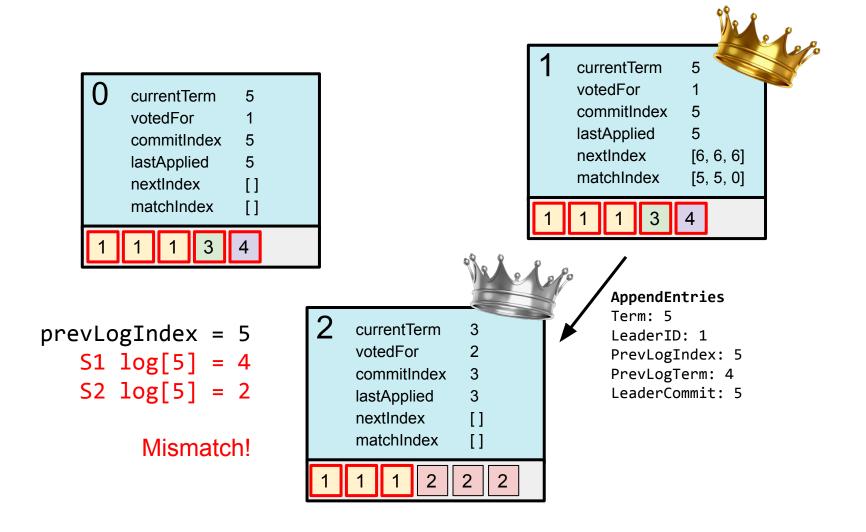
2	currentTerm	2
	votedFor	1
	commitIndex	5
	lastApplied	5
	nextIndex	[]
	matchIndex	[]
1	1 1 2	2

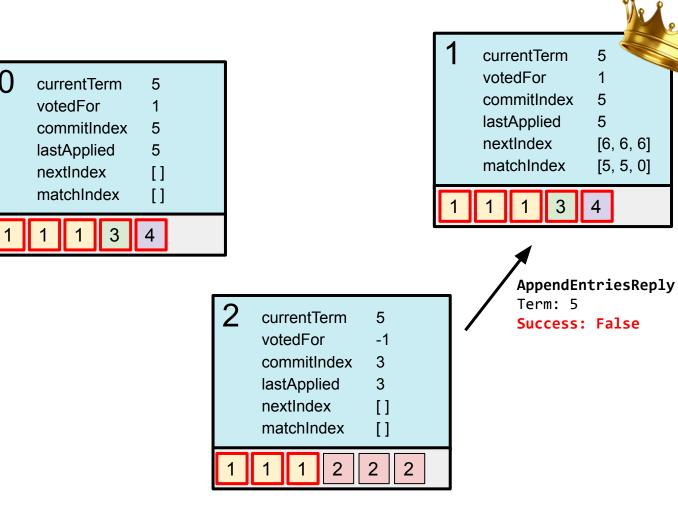
When log entries don't match...

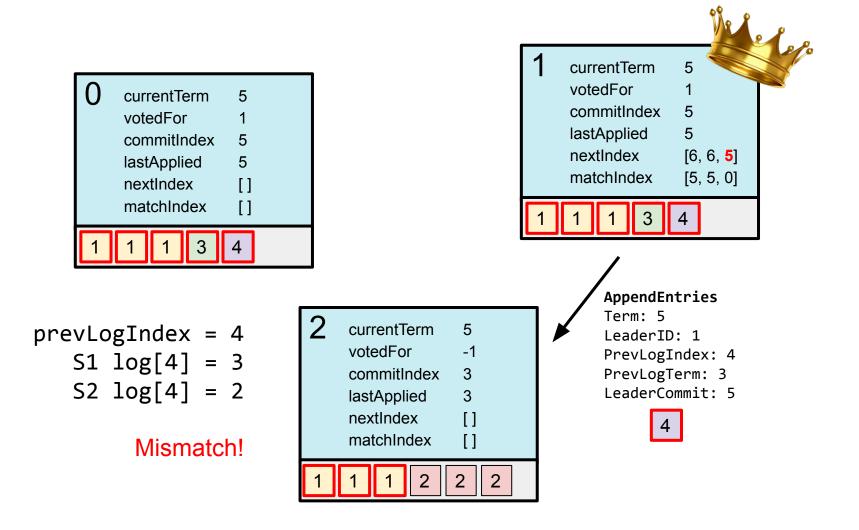
When log entries don't match...

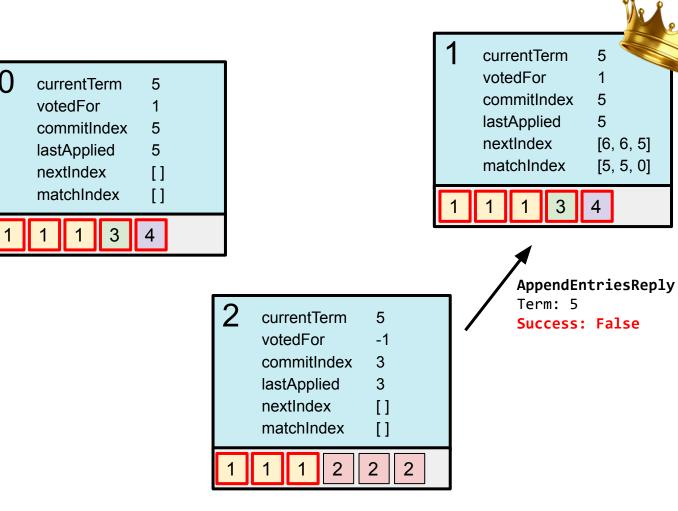
- The leader will find the latest log entry in the follower where the two logs agree
- At the follower:
 - Everything after that entry will be deleted
 - The leader's log up to that point will be replicated on the follower

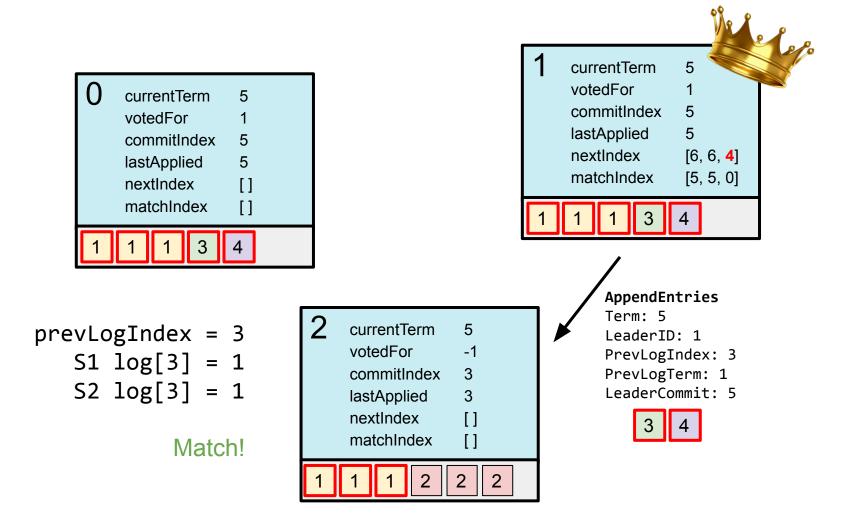


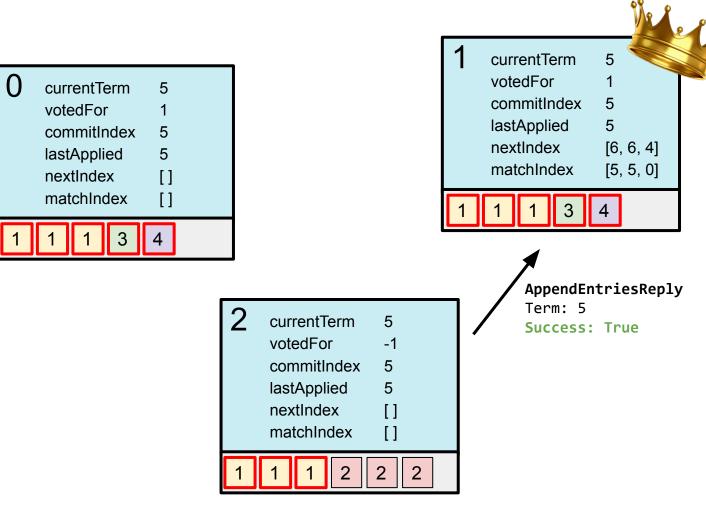


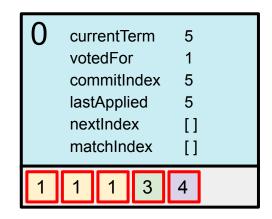


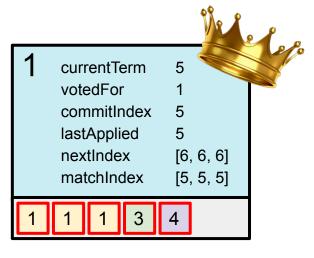










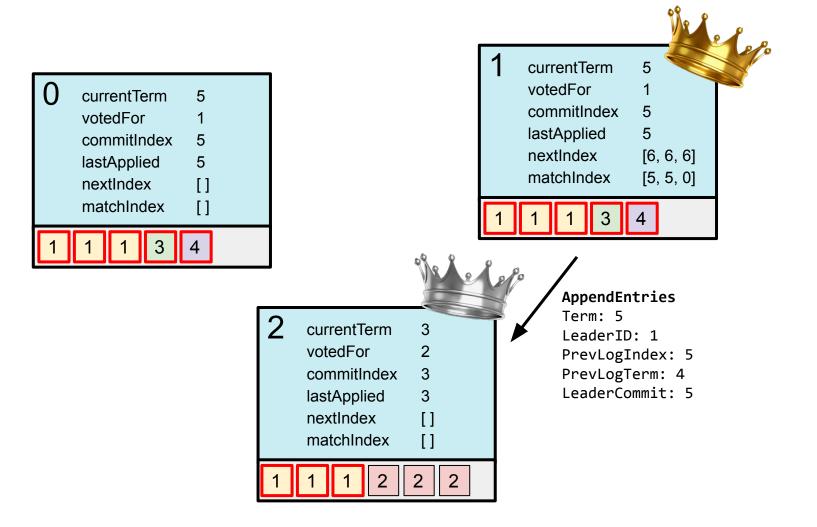


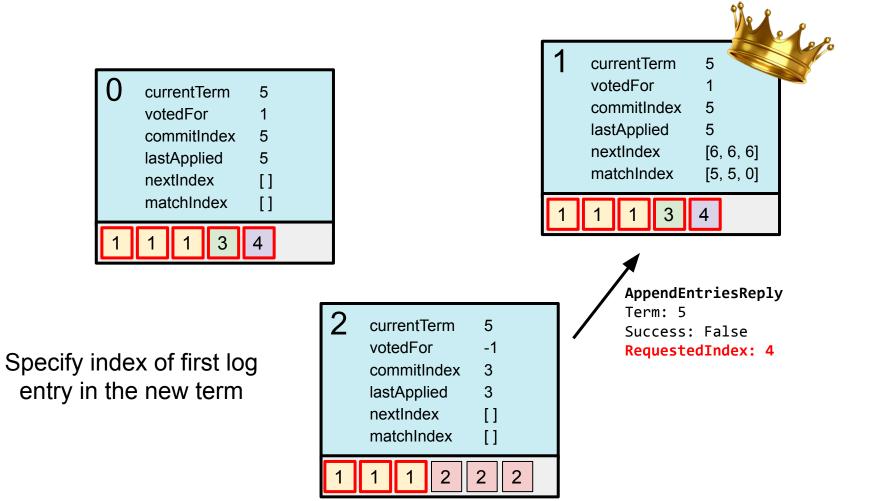
Everyone is on the same page again

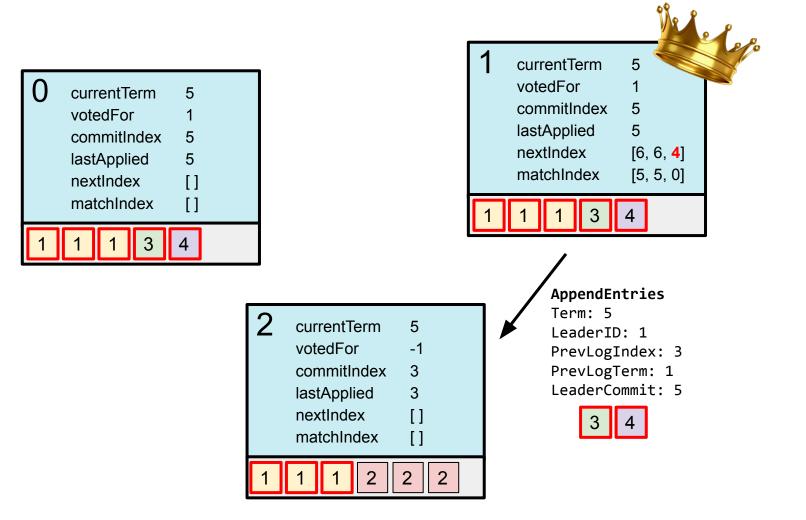
2	currentTerm			5	
	votedFor			-1	
	commitIndex			5	
	last	Appli	ed	5	
	nextIndex			[]	
	mat	chlno	dex	[]	
1	1	1	3	4	

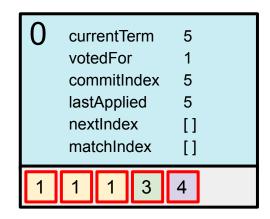
When log entries don't match...

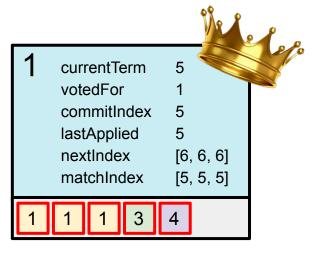
Optimization to reduce number of messages?











2	currentTerm	5
	votedFor	-1
	commitIndex	5
	lastApplied	5
	nextIndex	[]
	matchIndex	[]
1	1 1 3	4

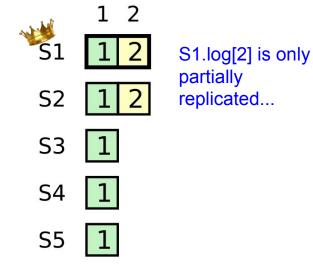
Decrement nextIndex one term at a time

Conditions for committing an entry

- 1. The entry exists on a majority AND it is written in the current term
- 2. The entry precedes another entry that is committed

Caveat for committing old entries

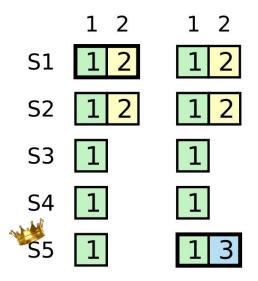
Can't assume an old entry has been committed even if it exists on a majority



S1 is the leader

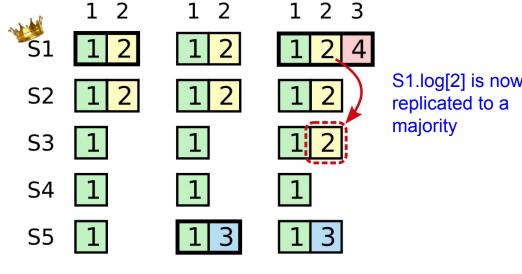
Caveat for committing old entries

Can't assume an old entry has been committed even if it exists on a majority



S1 crashes, S5 becomes leader

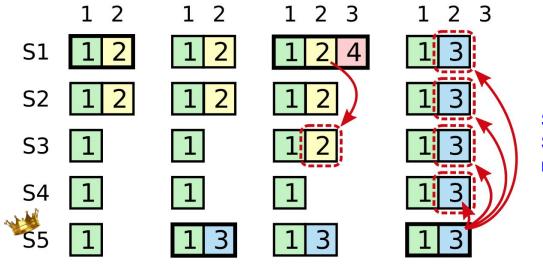
Can't assume an old entry has been committed even if it exists on a majority



S1.log[2] is now

S5 crashes, S1 becomes leader

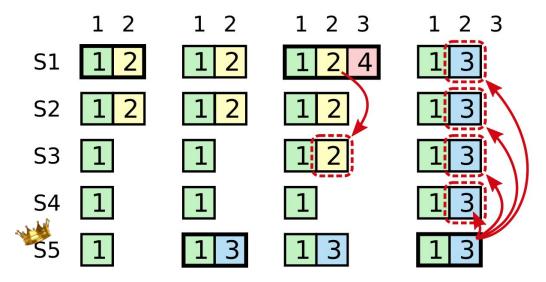
Can't assume an old entry has been committed even if it exists on a majority



S5 replicates S5.log[2] to all other nodes...

S1 crashes, S5 becomes leader

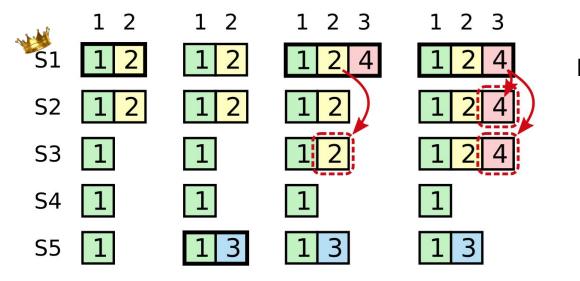
Can't assume an old entry has been committed even if it exists on a majority



Entry 2 was overwritten even though it was replicated on a majority!

Cannot assume entry 2 was committed

Can't assume an old entry has been committed even if it exists on a majority



Entry 2 is committed once entry 3 is committed

Commit old entries indirectly

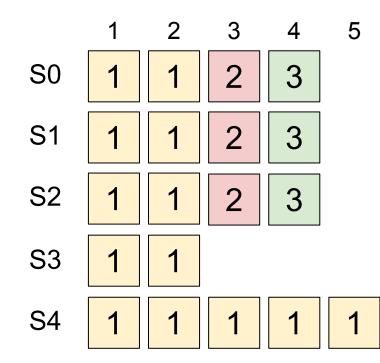
S1 commits entry 3

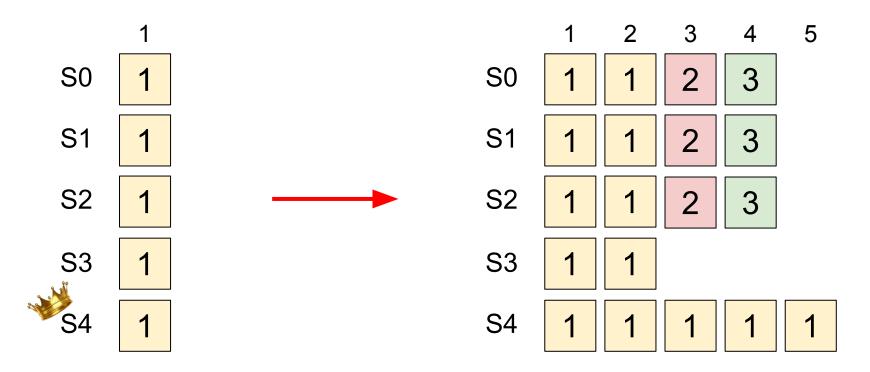
Exercise...

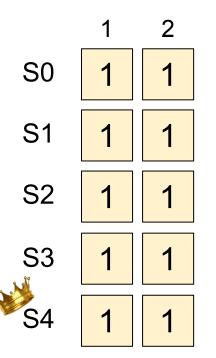
Exercise...

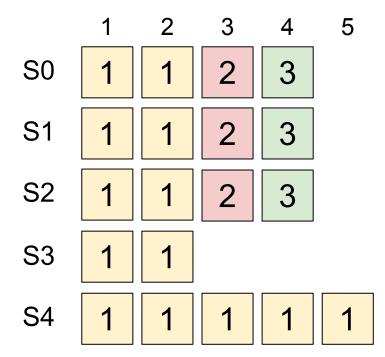
Rules for deciding which log is more up-to-date:

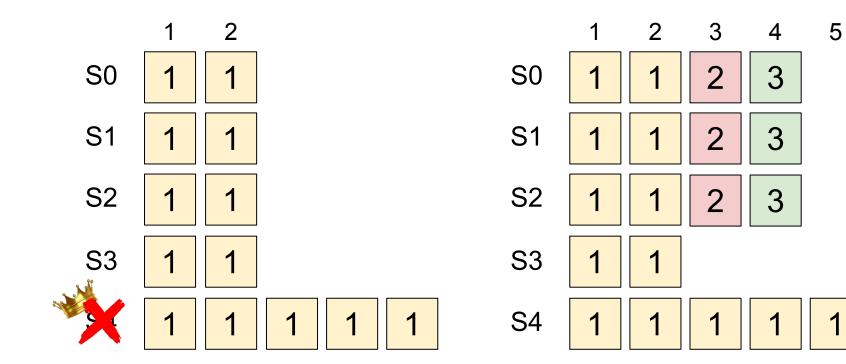
- Compare **index** and **term** of last entries in the logs
- If the terms are different: log with later term is more up-to-date
- If the terms are the same: **longer log is more up-to-date**

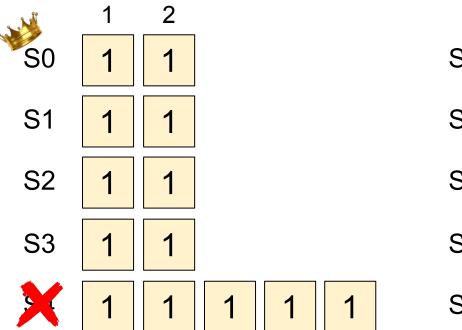


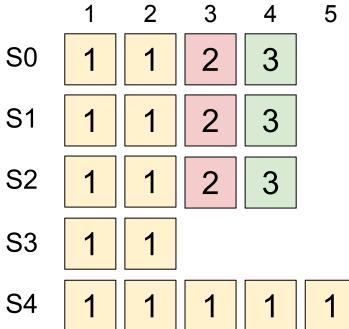


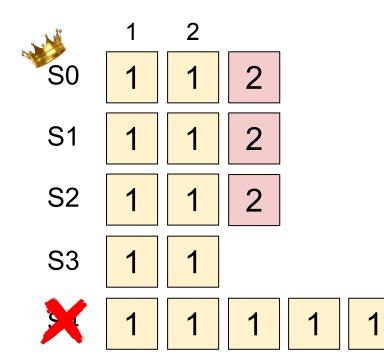


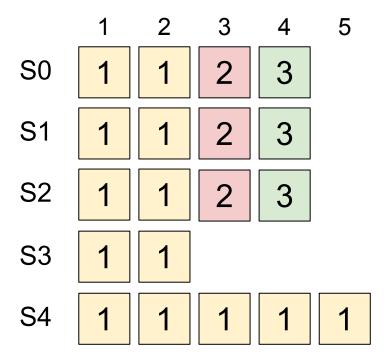


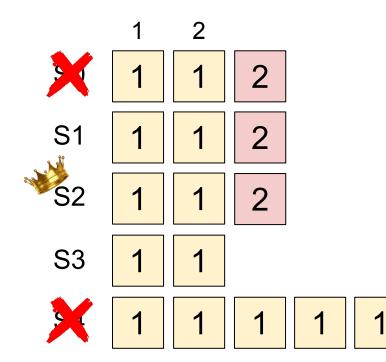


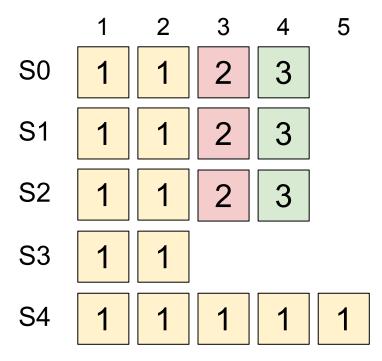


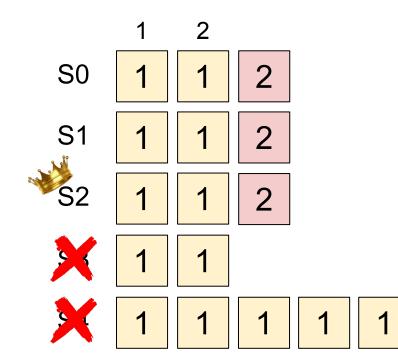


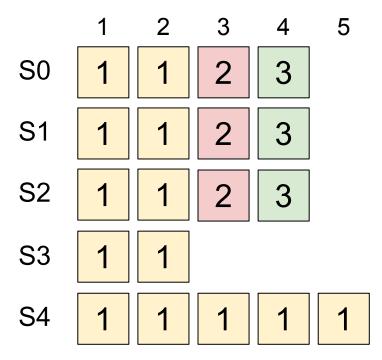


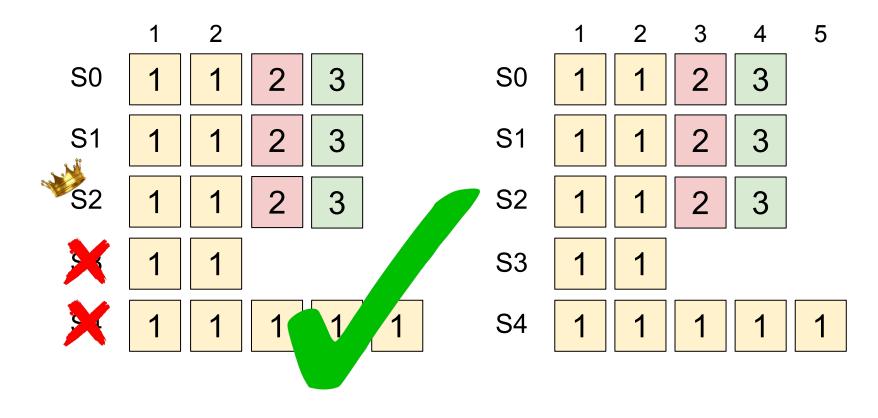


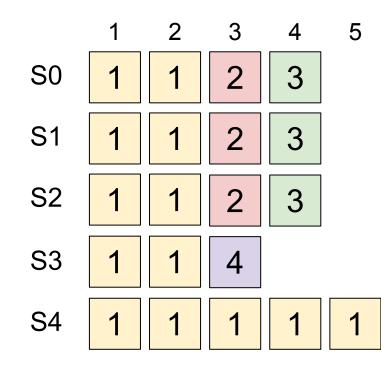






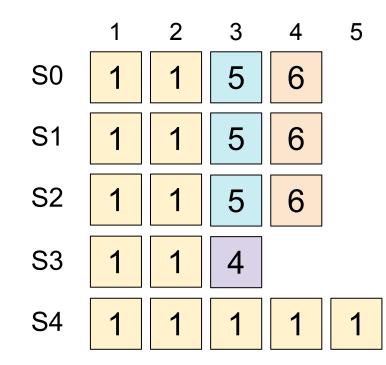






NO!

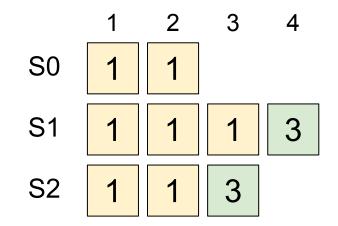
S3 cannot become leader in term 4 (Who's going to vote for him?)





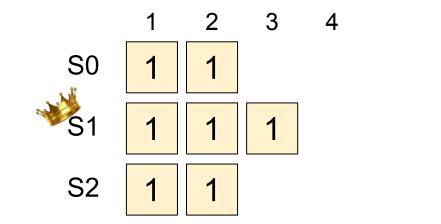
What happened to terms 2 and 3?

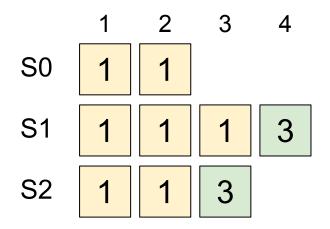
- 1. Split vote: no one became leader
- 2. Partitions: no one became leader
- 3. Simply no requests in these terms



NO!

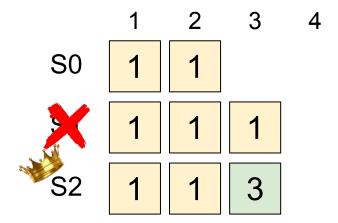
Let's try tracing the steps...

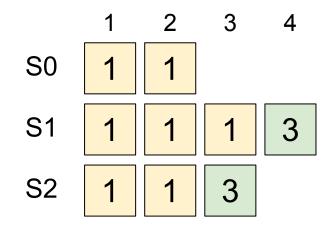


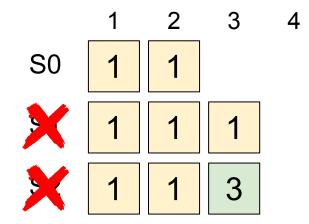


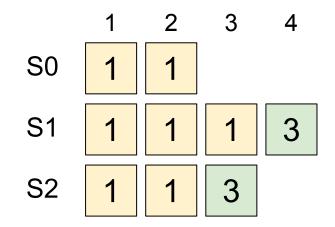


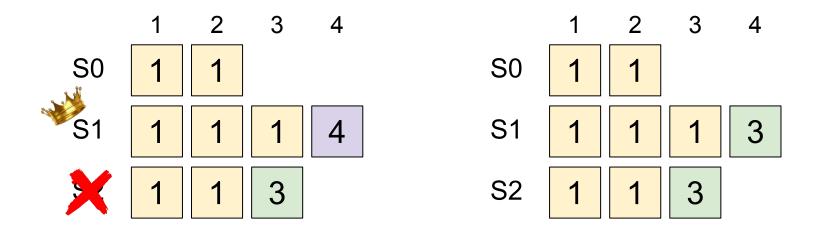
No one becomes leader in term 2...



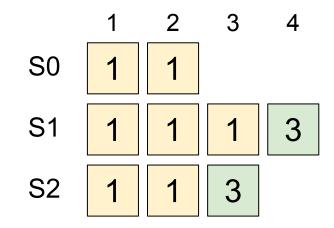








S0 previously voted for S2 in term 3 S0 can only vote for S1 for term 4!



The two entries in term 3 are in different positions

S1 and S2 could not have written these entries without being leaders

But they can't both be leaders in the same term!

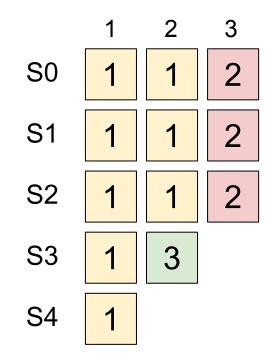
Q5: Is entry 2 (term 2) guaranteed to be committed?

Yes!

Entry 2 is on a majority of nodes

No one else has a more *up-to-date* log

Q6: Is entry 3 (term 2) guaranteed to be committed?

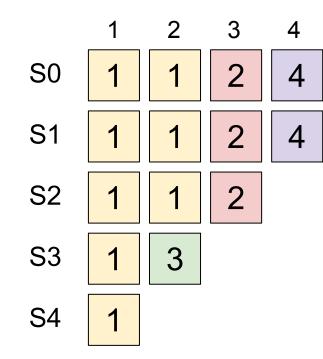


NO!

S3 could become leader if S0 crashes

Entry 3 is an entry from an old term (See Figure 8 in Raft paper)

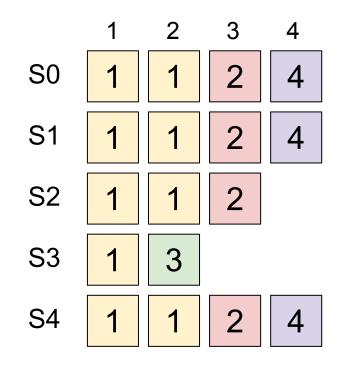
Q7: Is entry 3 (term 2) guaranteed to be committed?



NO!

S3 could still become leader if S0 crashes (votes from S2, S3 and S4)

Q8: Is entry 3 (term 2) guaranteed to be committed?



Yes!

Entry 4 is guaranteed to be committed because no one else has a more *up-to-date* log

All entries before entry 4 are safe