ASSIGNMENT 3
Due: Tuesday 4/16 by class time
Preferred hand-in method: email document to {franklin,kkeeton}@cs.berkeley.edu

Unlike previous assignments, assignment 3 has two parts: the normal summary and discussion section, as well as an open-ended question we’d like you to answer.

Part 1: Write a 3-5 page summary sharing your evaluation, insights and conclusions on the parallelism papers covered in class. This set includes the papers on parallel databases, benchmarking, sorting, clusters (a la NOW), Rivers, and scalable network services, etc. As with the previous assignments, we are looking for a combination of original thoughts and synthesis, as well as evidence that you’ve read the papers. The format of this part of the assignment is fairly unrestricted. You should address interesting and relevant issues raised by the papers and the class discussion. Again, we encourage you to discuss the material and your ideas with your fellow students, but we ask that each of you write and submit your own summary.

Part 2: During “great debate week,” we discussed the relative merits of strict guarantees vs. looser semantics for transactions and for messages. In both discussions, we described two ends of a spectrum for the desired goal, noting that there were several reasonable gradations in between. Your assignment is to propose (for transactions and/or messages) a reasonable taxonomy for the gray area in between the endpoints of the spectrum.