Homework 32

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The outline for this algorithm is as follows: Since the input is a list of (possibly overlapping) integers $x_1...x_n$ between 1 and n, then each processor p_i of the n processors can look at its corresponding integer x_i and confirm that the number x_i is in the input by writing a 1 to an (originally 0) memory location IsInInput[i]. When IsInInput[i] = 1, the integer i is in the input. If no processor writes to IsInInput[i], then it stays 0, which means that the integer i is not in the input. This stage of the algorithm takes only constant time, since n processors working on n integers each do one read step and one write step.

Next, each processor p_i will read IsInInput[n-i+1]. If p_i finds a 1, then it will write n-i+1 to the memory location Maximum. Maximum will contain the maximum of $x_1...x_n$ after this step, since the lowest numbered processor will write the highest valued number. If p_i reads a 1 from IsInInput[n-i+1], then it will write n-i+1 to Maximum which will be the maximum if and only if all p_j , j < i read a 0 in IsInInput[n-j+1], which implies there are no higher numbers in the input. If there is a larger number, then a lower register (with a higher priority) will write to Maximum instead. This step also takes constant time, because each processor performs one read and one write.

Algorithm 1 CRCW Priority O(1) algorithm for maximum with n processors.

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Require: Input x_1...x_n, an n-sized memory location IsInInput, and a memory location Maximum.

IsInInput[i] \leftarrow 0 \triangleright First, zero out the IsInInput array.

IsInInput[x_i] \leftarrow 1 \triangleright This is a CRCW Common step, since all processors write the same number: 1.

if IsInInput[n-i+1] == 1 then

Maximum \leftarrow n-i+1 \triangleright This is the CRCW Priority step.

end if

if i == 0 then

Output Maximum \triangleright Designate one processor

\triangleright to output the maximum.

end if
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