Research report : renaming in Identifier-based Sequence Conflict-free Replicated Data Types (CRDTs)

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1 Context

1.1 System model

- Distributed large-scale system
- Asynchronous network
- Partition-tolerant
- Replicated sequence among nodes
- Eventual consistency
- Use a Identifier-based Sequence CRDT as the conflict resolution mechanism
- Intention preserving

1.2 Identifier-based Sequence Conflict-free Replicated Data Types (CRDTs)

1.2.1 State

Has a state S which represents the replicated sequence (use additional metadata to do so)

- Noted as [(id, elt)] in the following figures
- The function view(S) allows to retrieve the sequence represented by the state S
- Example: $view([(id_1, elt_1), (id_2, elt_2)]) = [elt_1, elt_2]$

1.2.2 Identifiers

Description

Associates an identifier id to each element elt of the sequence

- Unique (an identifier cannot be generated twice)
- Order relation (so that we can compare two identifiers)

- Allows to determine the order of elements of the sequence using their identifiers
- Belong to a dense set
 - Always able to add a new element (and thus a new identifier) between two other elements

The elements in the sequence are always ordered according to their identifiers: in a sequence $[(id_1, elt_1), ..., (id_3, elt_3), ..., (id_2, elt_2)]$ we always have $id_1 < ... < id_3 < ... < id_2$.

Details

An identifier is actually composed of a list of tuples. Each tuple is of the following form:

$$< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site} >$$

where

- pos: Int, allows to determine the position of this identifier compared to other ones.
- $id_{site}: Int$, refers to the site's identifier, assumed to be unique.
- clock_{site}: Int, refers to the site's logical clock, which increases monotonically with local operations.

We note the id_{site} and the $clock_{site}$ of the last tuple of id as $id.id_{site}$ and $id.clock_{site}$ respectively.

Generation

To generate a new identifier id_3 between two others $id_1 = [tuple_{1,1}, tuple_{1,2}, ..., tuple_{1,n}]$ and $id_2 = [tuple_{2,1}, tuple_{2,2}, ..., tuple_{2,n}]$, we use the algorithm 1:

We compare the identifiers' tuples in a pairwise manner. As soon as we are able to generate a new tuple $tuple_3$ such as $tuple_1 < tuple_3 < tuple_2$, we add it to id_3 and return the later.

If we cannot generate such a tuple, we add instead $tuple_1$ to id_3 and move to the next pair.

Note: If the identifiers id_1 and id_2 have different sizes, we use some default tuples to "fill" the shorter of the two:

- minTuple if it is id_1
- \bullet maxTuple otherwise

Comparison

To compare two identifiers, we use the algorithm 2:

When comparing two identifiers, we compare their tuples in a pairwise manner. As soon as we find one element which is different from its pair, we can determine the order between the two identifiers.

Algorithm 1 Identifier generation algorithm (simplified)

```
function GenerateIdentifier(id_1:Id,id_2:Id,id_{site}:Int,clock_{site}:Int): Id
Require: id_1 < id_2
Ensure: id_1 < id_3 < id_2
      id_3 \leftarrow [\ ]
       continue \leftarrow true
       i \leftarrow 0
       while continue do
           tuple_1 \leftarrow id_1[i]
           tuple_2 \leftarrow id_2[i]
           if tuple_2.pos - tuple_1.pos > 1 then
               newPos \leftarrow randomBetween(tuple_1.pos, tuple_2.pos)
               id_3 \leftarrow id_3 ::< newPos, id_{site}, clock_{site} >
               continue \leftarrow false
           else
               id_3 \leftarrow id_3 :: tuple_1
           end if
           i \leftarrow i + 1
       end while
       return id_3
   end function
```

1.2.3 Operations

For each operation to update the data structure, has two forms of it: the *local* form and the *remote* one

- The *local* operation is triggered by the node (by users' requests for example)
- Performing a local operation on a given state S returns the new state S' and the metadata needed to build an equivalent remote operation
- The remote operation is propagated to other nodes so they can also update their own state
- Given a state S and an operation localOp(S, data) = (S', metadata), we have remoteOp(S, metadata) = S'
- **Note:** given an *local* operation *localOp*, there may be several equivalent *remote* operations remoteOp, remoteOp', remoteOp'', ..., but only one is picked.

We note the identifier of the element targeted by an remote operation as remoteOp.id.

1.2.4 add

The operation add allows to insert an element into the sequence :

- addLocal(S, index, elt) = (S', (id, elt))
 - Update state S by adding an element elt at the position index in the sequence

Algorithm 2 Identifier comparison algorithm

```
function CompareIdentifiers(id_1: Id, id_2: Id): LESS \mid EQUALS \mid GREATER
   for i \leftarrow 0, min(id_1.length, id_2.length) do
       tuple_1 \leftarrow id_1[i]
       tuple_2 \leftarrow id_2[i]
       \mathbf{if} \ \mathit{tuple}_1.pos < \mathit{tuple}_2.pos \ \mathbf{then}
           {\bf return}\ LESS
       else if tuple_1.pos > tuple_2.pos then
           {\bf return}~GREATER
       else if tuple_1.id_{site} < tuple_2.id_{site} then
           return LESS
       else if tuple_1.id_{site} > tuple_2.id_{site} then
           {\bf return}~GREATER
       else if tuple_1.clock_{site} < tuple_2.clock_{site} then
           return LESS
       else if tuple_1.clock_{site} > tuple_2.clock_{site} then
           {\bf return}~GREATER
       end if
   end for
   if id_1.length < id_2.length then
       return LESS
   else if id_1.length > id_2.length then
       {\bf return}~GREATER
   end if
   {\bf return}\ EQUALS
end function
```

- Return the resulting state S' as well as the identifier id generated for this element
- The identifier id will be generated according to the identifiers of the elements previously at the positions index 1 and index
 - * **Example:** $addLocal([(id_1, elt_1), (id_2, elt_2)], 1, elt_3)$ will return id_3 such as $id_1 < id_3 < id_2$
- This identifier id will be used (and especially its order relation with other identifiers) to update correctly other nodes' state
- Note: When generating a new identifier between id_1 and id_2 , there may be several identifiers id_3 , id'_3 , id'_3 "... such as $id_1 < id_3 < id'_3 < id_3$ " $< id_2$. The returned identifier is chosen in a undeterministic manner.
- addRemote(S, id, elt) = (S', (index, elt))
 - Update state S by adding an element elt in the sequence
 - The position of insertion of this element will be determined using its id
 - Return the resulting state S' as well as the current index of the element in the sequence
- Given a state S, to one addLocal operation on S, many addRemote correspond (since the resulting id is generated in an undeterministic manner)
- Given a state S, to one addRemote operation on S, only one addLocal corresponds

1.2.5 *del*

The operation del allows to remove an element from the sequence :

- delLocal(S, index) = (S', id)
 - Update state S by removing the element at the position index in the sequence
 - Return the resulting state S' as well as the identifier id of the deleted element
- delRemote(S, id) = (S', index) allowing to remove the element identified by id
 - Update state S by removing the element identified by id
 - Return the resulting state S' as well as the position index of the deleted element in the sequence
- \bullet Given a state S, to one delLocal operation, only one delRemote corresponds
- \bullet Given a state S, to one delRemote operation, only one delLocal corresponds

1.2.6 Log of operations

Associates to a state S a log L

- Is a sequence of the *remote* operations observed
- ullet The sequence of remote operations, performed in order from a blank state S_{blank} , allows to recreate state S
- Each entry is represented as remoteOp in the following figures

1.2.7 Causal context

Associates to a state S a causal context cc

- \bullet Represents all operations known at state S
- Can use a version vector for example as an implementation

An example of the lifecycle of such a replicated data structure is shown in figure 1

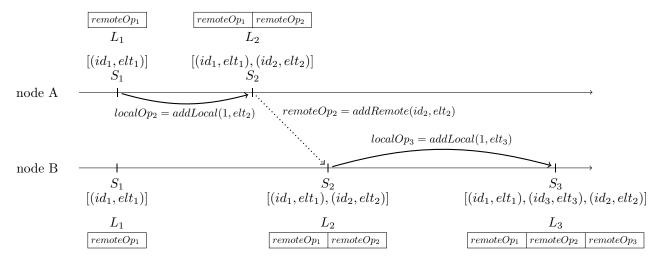


Figure 1: Insertion of elements in the replicated sequence

2 rename operations

2.1 Motivation

- Identifiers growing over time
- Performances of the data structure thus decreasing over time

2.2 renameLocal

Definition

- Add an operation $renameLocal(S) = (S', mapIds, cc_S)$
 - Replace each identifier attached to elements of S with new ones
 - Return a map mapIds of the previous identifiers to the new ones
 - Also need to return the causal context cc_S of the state S to indicate on which state has been performed the renaming operation
 - $-\ view(S) = view(S') \ \text{where} \ (S',_,_) = renameLocal(S)$

Algorithm

The renaming algorithm can be seen here as an algorithm to distribute evenly a number of values n over an interval range. Such an algorithm is described in 3:

Algorithm 3 Identifier renaming algorithm

```
      function RENAMEIDENTIFIER (id: Id, index: Int, n: Int): Id

      min \leftarrow MIN
      ▷ The minimum value of the range used

      max \leftarrow MAX
      ▷ The maximum value of the range used

      range \leftarrow max - min
      step \leftarrow range/(n+1)

      newPos \leftarrow (index+1) * step + min
      id' \leftarrow [< newPos, id.id_{site}, id.clock_{site} >]

      return id'
      end function
```

This algorithm can then be used to rename each identifier for a given state S and generate a mapping between the previous identifiers and the new ones as shown in 4:

Algorithm 4 Local renaming algorithm

```
function RENAMELOCAL(S:State): Map < Id, Id > mapIds \leftarrow Map()
n \leftarrow S.length
for all (id, elt, index) \in S do
id' \leftarrow renameIdentifier(id, index, n)
mapIds.set(id, id')
id \leftarrow id'
end for
return mapIds
end function
```

Limits

- Work only if n < range
 - Can assume it is generally the case

2.3 renameRemote

Definition

- Add an operation $renameRemote(S, L, mapIds, cc_{S'}) = (S", L")$
 - Replace current state S by equivalent state S" and current log L by equivalent log L"
 - Rename all identifiers $id \in S \cap S'$ using mapIds

- Also have to rename all identifiers $id \in S \cdot id \notin S'$ to preserve the current order of elements
- **Precondition:** $cc'_S \subset cc_S$ (S has seen all the operations seen by S' but may have seen more)
- view(S) = view(S") where $(S", _) = renameRemote(S, L, mapIds, cc_{S'})$

Algorithm

Given an operation $renameRemote(S, L, mapIds, cc_{S'})$, resulting from the execution of renameLocal(S') on another node, we have to perform the following algorithm 5 to apply it:

Algorithm 5 Remote renaming algorithm

```
procedure RENAMEREMOTE(S: State, L: Log, mapIds: Map < Id, Id >, cc_{S'}: StateVector)
   mapIds' \leftarrow mapIds
   for all remoteOp \in concurrentOps(cc_{S'}, L) do \triangleright Get concurrent operations to the renaming
       id \leftarrow remoteOp.id
       if id \notin mapIds' then
                                                                  \triangleright Get the predecessor of id in mapIds
           prevId \leftarrow prev(id, mapIds)
           prevId' \leftarrow mapIds.qet(prevId)
           id' \leftarrow prevId' :: id
                                      \triangleright Generate the new identifier by concatenating prevId' and id
           mapIds'.set(id, id')
       end if
   end for
   for all (id, elt) \in S do
       id \leftarrow mapIds'.qet(id)
   end for
end procedure
```

In this algorithm, we want to replace all identifiers from the current state S by the new ones using the renaming map mapIds provided by the node which performed the renaming.

Beforehand we have to complete mapIds to also rename the identifiers of elements concurrently inserted to the renaming. Thus we have to generate a new identifier id' for each id concurrently inserted and add the mapping $id \to id'$ to mapIds. To do so, we browse each concurrent operation, retrieve the id of the targeted element and generate its new identifier id'.

To generate id', we retrieve prevId, the predecessor of id in mapIds. Since every node observes the same id and mapIds and thus prevId, we can use them to generate id' in a deterministic manner: we get it by concatenating prevId' and id. This allows us to generate deterministically a new identifier id' and also to preserve the order relation with other identifiers.

Limits

- Need a causal delivery of the rename operation
 - Actually not necessary
 - $-\,$ But would have to be able to transform operations from its causal context using mapIds
 - Thus require to keep a reference to mapIds

- Would be possible to receive an operation which is outdated of several renaming
- Would have to go through all its transformations
- Do not handle concurrent rename operations
 - For now, can assume that only one node can perform such operations
- renameRemote operation can be bandwidth-consuming (need to send old and new identifiers)
 - Can reduce its size but will require more computations
 - Using the causal context of the operation, we can regenerate original state (replay the log)
 - Since renameLocal is deterministic, can re-compute mapIds locally

3 Optimisation

3.1 Motivation

As stated previously, the presented mechanism's main flaw is the need to broadcast mapIds, a mapping between the old identifiers to the new ones. According to the size of the old identifiers, this map may be bandwidth-consuming.

3.2 Idea

The algorithm 3 is deterministic. Hence, as long as we provide to other nodes the required data (identifiers which are renamed, their index in the data structure, and the number of elements in the data structure), they will be able to compute the new identifiers.

All these data are actually contained in a sequence composed of the identifiers which are renamed. We can thus, instead of sending mapIds, send such a sequence.

Example

Instead of broadcasting $(id_1 \rightarrow id'_1, id_2 \rightarrow id'_2, id_3 \rightarrow id'_3)$, we only need to broadcast to other nodes $[id_1, id_2, id_3]$.

We were able to reduce the size of the data to broadcast, but can reduce it further. Indeed, each identifier is unique. But to refer to one identifier, we do not need all of its components: we only need two of them, $id.id_{site}$ and $id.clock_{site}$. Therefore, we are able to reduce again the data to broadcast to a fixed size per element by discarding every component of the identifier except $id.id_{site}$ and $id.clock_{site}$.

Example

Instead of broadcasting $[id_1, id_2, id_3]$, we only need to broadcast to other nodes $[(id_1.id_{site}, id_1.clock_{site}), (id_2.id_{site}, id_2.clock_{site}), (id_3.id_{site}, id_3.clock_{site})]$.

Algorithm 6 Map recomputation algorithm

```
function RECOMPUTEMAPIDS(S: State, L: Log, seq: (Int, Int > [], cc_{S'}: StateVector):
Map < Id, Id >
   mapIds \leftarrow Map()
   n \leftarrow seq.length
   ids \leftarrow S.map((id,elt) \rightarrow id)
                                                               ▶ Retrieve all identifiers from current state
   ids \leftarrow ids :: L
                                                    ▶ Retrieve all identifiers from concurrent operations
                   .filter(remoteOp \rightarrow remoteOp.isConcurrent(cc_{S'}))
                   .map(remoteOp \rightarrow remoteOp.id)
   for all (id_{site}, clock_{site}, index) \in seq do
       id \leftarrow ids.find(id \rightarrow id.id_{site} = id_{site} \text{ and } id.clock_{site} = clock_{site})
       id' \leftarrow renameIdentifier(id, index, n)
       mapIds.set(id, id')
   end for
   return mapIds
end function
```

3.3 Algorithm

Given such a sequence, we can then recompute mapIds using the following algorithm 6:

To recompute the renaming map mapIds from the received sequence seq, we have to retrieve all the renamed identifiers given their id_{site} and $clock_{site}$.

First, we generate the list ids of all potentially renamed identifiers. This list contains all identifiers from the current state S but also the identifiers of concurrent operations to the renaming, since some renamed identifiers may have been deleted concurrently.

Then using this list, we can for each entry of seq find the original identifier id, compute its new one id' and add the mapping $id \rightarrow id'$ to mapIds.

After recomputing mapIds, we can resume the renaming using algorithm 5.

Notes:

- Able with this solution to get a fixed size per element in the data broadcasted (instead of broadcasting unbounded identifiers).
- Need to browse both the state and the concurrent operations
 - A renamed identifier may have been deleted concurrently
 - Thus it won't be in the state
 - But still need it to properly rename concurrently inserted elements
- Cannot factorise this algorithm with the generation of new identifiers for concurrent operations
 - We need the full mapIds to generate them

4 Discussion

• The size of identifiers from concurrent operations to the *renaming* operation will increase

- Can argue that they will shrink at next renaming
- Can use a mechanism of epoch
 - Each rename increase the epoch counter
 - Each operation is labelled with its *epoch* of generation
 - Allow us to reject obsoletes operations
- Do not require to add other causality information on all operations, only on the renaming one
 - The *epoch* mechanism and the *renaming*'s causal context are sufficient to determine the concurrency of operations to the *renaming* operation
 - If the epoch is the same as the one before the renaming and if this operation does not belong to the renaming's causal context, this operation is a concurrent one
- Performances of the *renaming* operations depend on the number of elements of the data structure, the number of elements of the map and the number of concurrent operations
- Should be able to adapt the algorithms 4 and 5 to blockwise Identifier-based Sequence CRDTs
 - Here, each element is manipulated one by one (with add and delete, but also during search)
 - In some algorithms like LogootSplit, we actually group elements using blocks
 - It allows us to:
 - * Factorise the identifiers of contiguous elements
 - * Reduce the size of the collection by storing the blocks instead of elements directly (thus speed up search)
 - We could adapt the algorithms for these data structures
 - The *renaming* operations would thus help us to reduce the number of blocks too (could regroup all elements in one new block)

5 Adaptation to blockwise CRDTs

5.1 Identifier

In blockwise CRDTs, identifiers have one more component in their tuples, the *offset*. The identifiers are thus of the following form:

$$[< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, offset >]$$

where

 \bullet of fset:Int, represents the index of this identifier in an identifier interval

We note the offset of the last tuple of id as id.offset.

5.2 IdentifierInterval

It represents an interval of several contiguous identifiers. It allows to factorise their representation. An identifier interval is of the following form:

where

- idBegin: Id, is the first identifier of this interval.
- ullet end: Int, is the offset of the last identifier of this interval.

We define:

- idInterval.get(offset), the function which returns the identifier id from the interval idInterval such as offset = id.offset.
- \bullet idInterval.begin, an alias for idInterval.idBegin.offset

Example

The identifier interval idInterval

$$([< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 0>], 5)$$

represents the following identifiers:

- $[< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 0 >]$
- $[< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 1 >]$
- $[< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 2 >]$
- $[< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 3 >]$
- $[< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 4 >]$
- $[< pos, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 5 >]$

5.3 renameLocal

Algorithm

5.4 renameRemote

Algorithm

Algorithm 7 Blocks mapping algorithm

```
function MAPBLOCKS(S:State):< Int, Int, Int, Int > []
seq \leftarrow []
for all (idInterval, elt) \in S do
id \leftarrow idInterval.idBegin
begin \leftarrow idInterval.begin
end \leftarrow idInterval.end
seq \leftarrow seq :: < id.id_{site}, id.clock_{site}, begin, end >
end for
end function
```

Algorithm 8 Local renaming algorithm

```
procedure RENAMELOCAL(S:State, id_{site}:Int, clock_{site}:Int)
S' \leftarrow State()
id' \leftarrow [<0, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 0>]
idInterval' \leftarrow (id', S.length)
S'.addBlock(idInterval', view(S))
S \leftarrow S'
end procedure
```

Algorithm 9 Blocks mapping recomputation algorithm

```
function RECOMPUTEMAPBLOCKS(S: State, seq: < Int, Int, Int, int > [], id_{site}: Int, clock_{site}:
Int): Map < IdInterval, IdInterval >
   mapBlocks \leftarrow Map()
   id' \leftarrow [\langle 0, id_{site}, clock_{site}, 0 \rangle]
   ids \leftarrow S.map((idInterval, elts) \rightarrow idInterval.idBegin)
   ids \leftarrow ids :: L
                   .filter(remoteOp \rightarrow remoteOp.isConcurrent(cc_{S'}))
                   .map(remoteOp \rightarrow remoteOp.idInterval.idBegin)
   currentOffset \leftarrow 0
   for all (id_{site}, clock_{site}, begin, end) \in seq do
        length \leftarrow end - begin + 1
        id \leftarrow ids.find(id \rightarrow id.id_{site} = id_{site} \text{ and } id.clock_{site} = clock_{site})
        idInterval \leftarrow (id, begin, end)
        idInterval' \leftarrow (id', currentOffset, currentOffset + length)
        mapBlocks.set(idInterval, idInterval')
        currentOffset \leftarrow currentOffset + length + 1
   end for
   return mapBlocks
end function
```

Algorithm 10 Remote renaming algorithm

```
\mathbf{procedure} \ \mathtt{RENAMEREMOTE}(S:State, mapBlocks:Map < IdInterval, IdInterval >, cc_{S'}:
StateVector)
   S' \leftarrow State()
   mapBlocks' \leftarrow mapBlocks
   for all remoteOp \in concurrentOps(cc_{S'}, L) do \triangleright Get concurrent operations to the renaming
       idInterval \leftarrow remoteOp.idInterval
       if idInterval \not\subset mapBlocks' then
           id \leftarrow idInterval.idBegin
           prevIdInterval \leftarrow prev(id, mapBlocks)
                                                             \triangleright Get interval containing predecessor of id
           prevId \leftarrow prev(id, prevIdInterval)
                                                            \triangleright Get predecessor of id in prevIdInterval
           prevIdInterval' \leftarrow mapBlocks.get(prevIdInterval)
           offset \leftarrow prevId.offset - prevIdInterval.begin
           offset' \leftarrow prevIdInterval'.begin + offset
           prevId' \leftarrow prevIdInterval'.get(offset')
           id' \leftarrow prevId' :: id
                                           \triangleright Generate new identifier by concatenating prevId' and id
           idInterval' \leftarrow (id', idInterval.end)
           mapBlocks'.set(idInterval,idInterval')
       end if
   end for
   for all (idInterval, elts) \in S do
       idInterval' \leftarrow mapBlocks.get(idInterval)
       S'.addBlock(idInterval', elts)
   end for
   S \leftarrow S'
end procedure
```

6 Questions

- How to deal with concurrent operations to *renaming* one when you already applied the *renaming*?
 - Can reject it and wait to receive its modified version
 - * The node which sent us the original version should be able to send us its modified one
 - * But induces some delay
 - Can use mapIds to compute its transformation
 - * Need to retrieve it or to compute it again
- Which version(s) of the operations to store in the log?
 - The original one?
 - The modified one?
 - A mix ?
 - Actually depends on the answer to the previous question
- When to trigger the renaming?
 - According to the size of the longer identifier?
 - According to the number of elements (in blockwise CRDTs)?
 - * What would be the thresholds in these cases?
 - According to the state of the collaboration?
 - * If the system is idle for example