

Objectives

- To discuss the different message ordering paradigms.
- To discuss Raynal-Schiper-Toueg algorithm for causal ordering.
- To discuss 3-phase distributed algorithms for total ordering.

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Message ordering paradigms

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The order of delivery of messages in a distributed system is an important aspect of system executions.

- Because it determines the messaging behavior that can be expected of the distributed program.

1. Async / Non-FIFO
2. FIFO
3. Causal Order
4. Synchronous order

Group Communication

1. Causal Order
2. Total Order

$\text{Sync} \subset \text{CO} \subset \text{FIFO} \subset \text{Async}$

Implementing message ordering

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- Summary of approaches to implement different message ordering paradigms.

Ordering Paradigm	Implementation approach
Async order	Lamport's Scalar clock
FIFO order	Sequence numbering along each channel
Causal order	Raynal-Schiper-Toueg algorithm*
Sync order	Mutual exclusion, agreement algorithms
Total order	Three Phase Distributed algorithm*

* Will be dealt next.

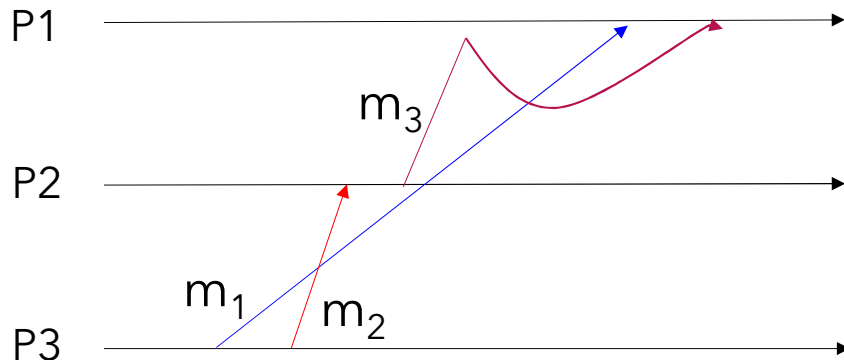
Implementing Causal Ordering

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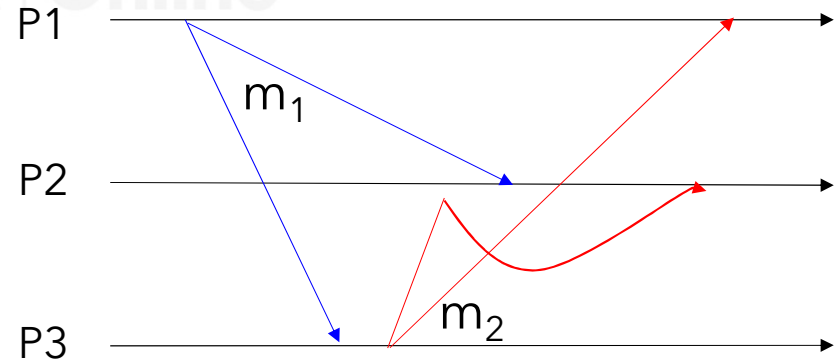
Recall **causal order** definition:

- Two causally related messages, arriving at the **same destination**, although along **different links**, are received in the **correct order**.

Causal Order in Unicast



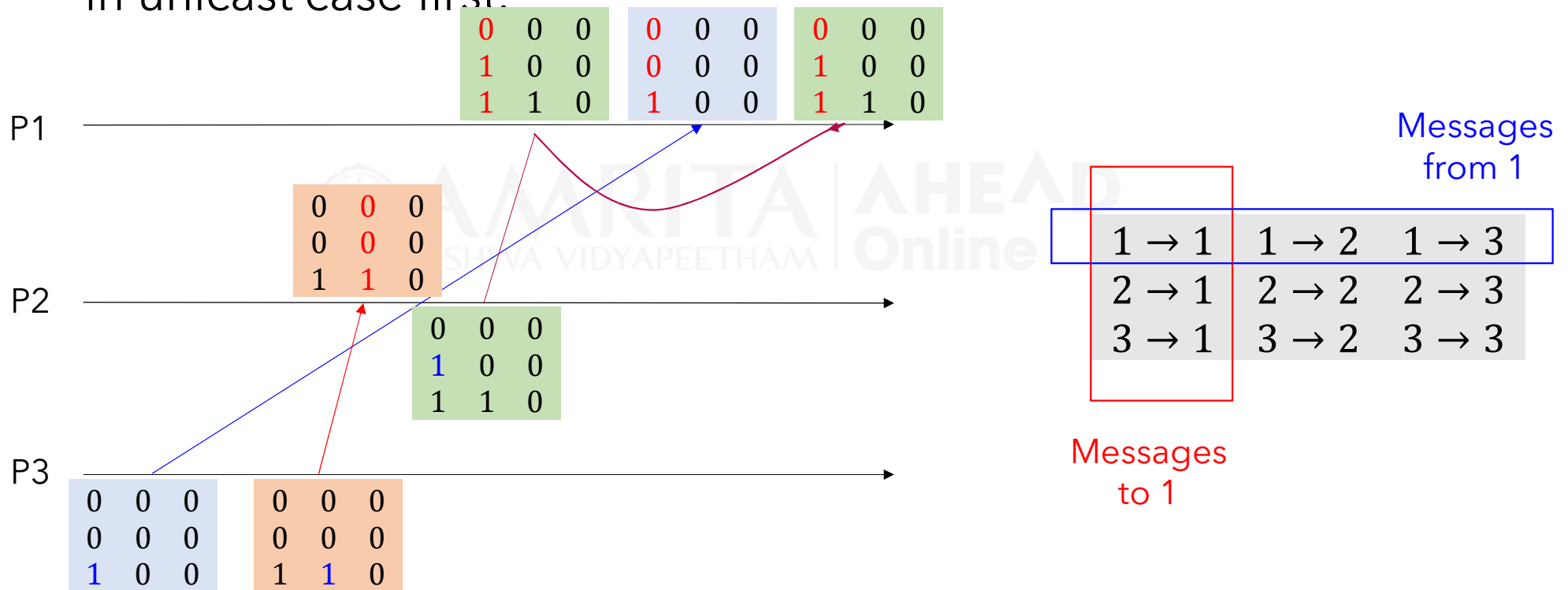
Causal Order in Multicast



Raynal-Schiper-Toueg Algorithm

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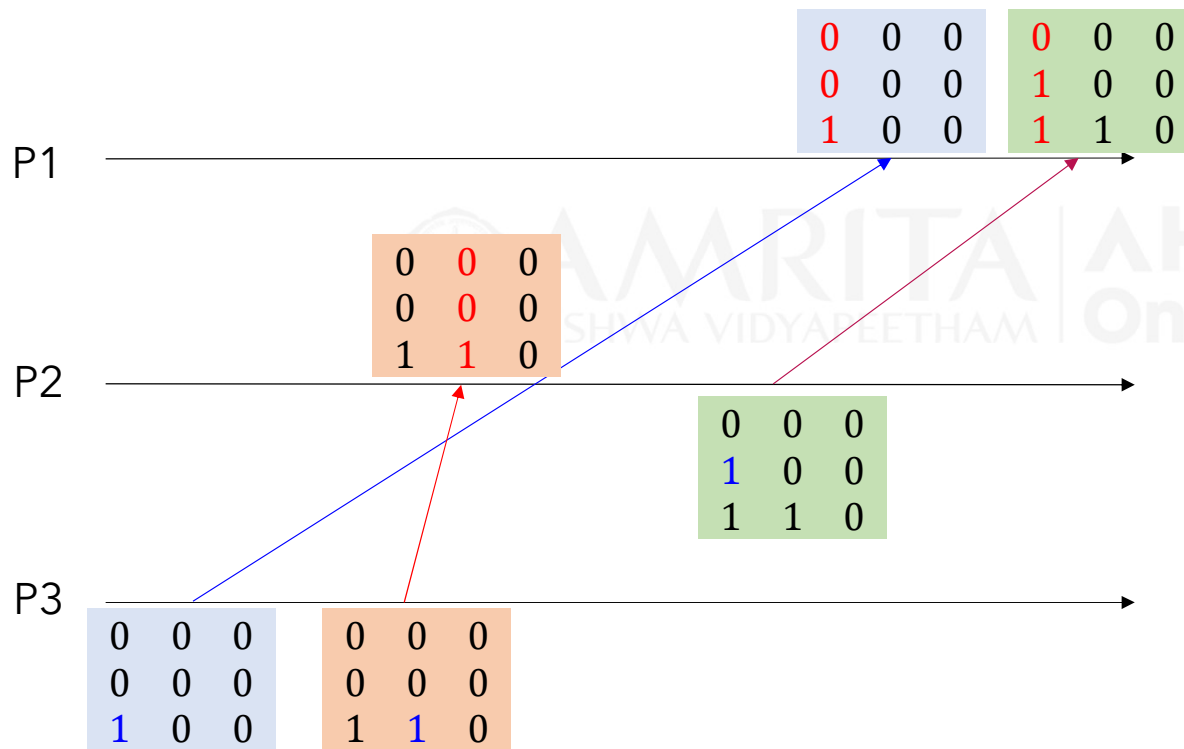
- How it works when messages arrive in **wrong order** in unicast case first.



Raynal-Schiper-Toueg Algorithm

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- How it works when message arrive in **correct order**.

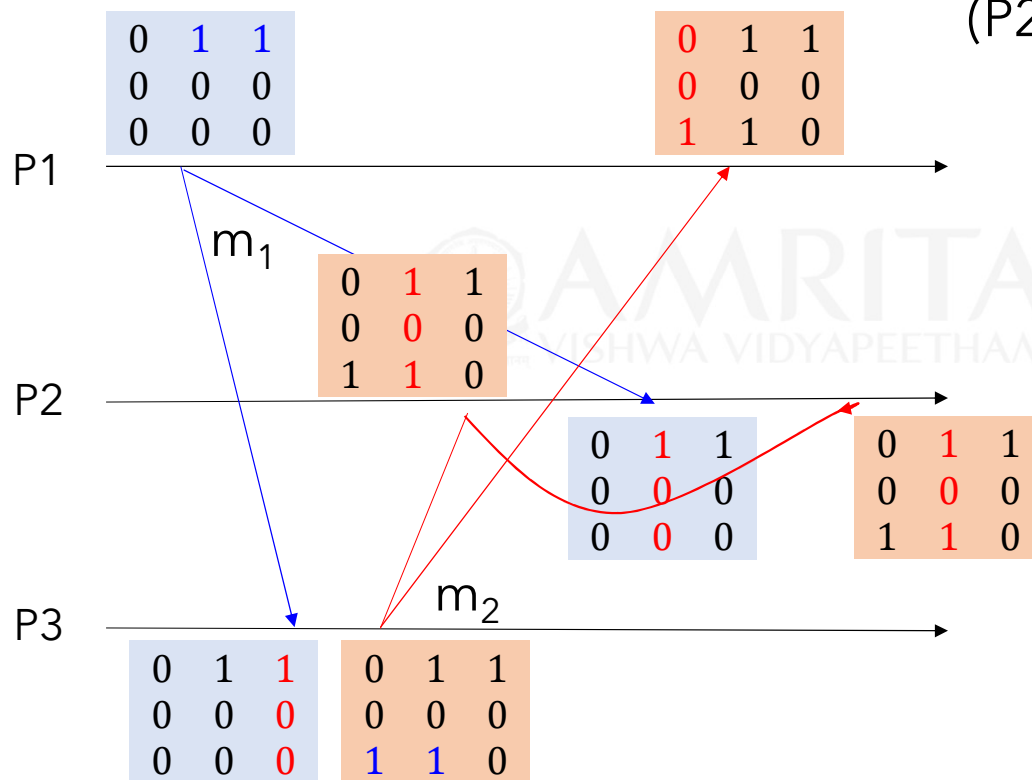


Apply R-S-T Algorithm for Multicast

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- Consider the case of **not causally ordered multicast**.

(P2 receives m_2 before m_1)



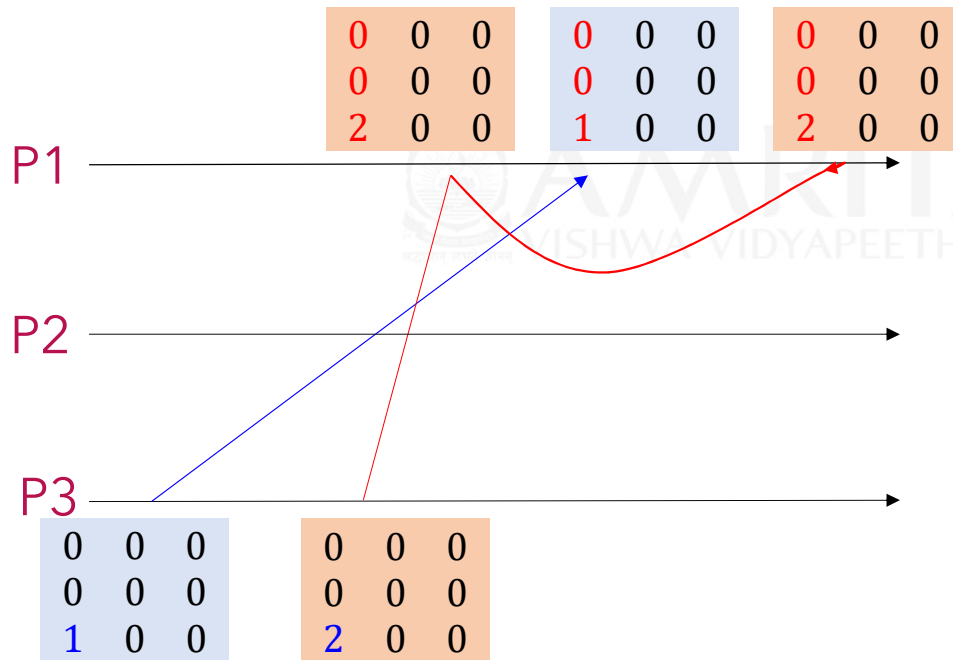
Bottomline

Raynal-Schiper-Toueg
algorithm ensures
causal order is
maintained.

R-S-T Algorithm ensures FIFO

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- Two messages along the same channel arrive out of order. Sent order: m1, m2. Received order: m2, m1.



Bottomline

- If you need CO, implement R-S-T algorithm. FIFO is taken care automatically.
- If you need only FIFO, go for sequence number as it involves less work.

Applications of Causal Order

- Replicated data
- Allocating requests in fair manner
- Synchronizing multi-media streams

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Conclusion

- We discussed different message ordering paradigms.
 - Async, FIFO, Causal, Sync
- Multicast communication
 - Causal order, Total order
- Causal ordering by Raynal-Schiper-Toueg algorithm.
- Three phase total ordering algorithm.

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