4. Coordination and Agreement

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2018/2019 Q2



Introduction

- Problem: A set of processes coordinate their actions or agree on one or more values in a distributed system. This includes:
 - Achieve mutual exclusion among processes to coordinate their accesses to shared resources
 - Election of a new coordinator of a group of processes when the previous one has failed
 - Agree on which messages a group of processes receive and in which order
 - A set of processes agree on some value
 - Consensus not covered in this course





Contents

Mutual exclusion

Election algorithms

Multicast communication





- Problem: A set of processes in a distributed system want <u>exclusive access</u> to some <u>shared</u> <u>resource</u> (i.e. critical section problem)
 - Solutions based solely on message passing
- 1. Permission-based solutions
 - A. Centralized algorithm
 - B. Voting algorithms (Lin's and Maekawa's)
 - C. Ricart & Agrawala's algorithm
- 2. Token-based solutions
 - A. Token-ring algorithm





- Desired properties for mutual exclusion solutions:
 - **1. Safety:** At most one process may execute in the critical section at a time
 - 2. Liveness: Requests to enter and exit the critical section eventually succeed
 - Free from both <u>deadlock</u> and <u>starvation</u>
 - **3. Happened-before ordering:** If a request to enter the critical section happened-before another, then entry to the critical section is granted in that order





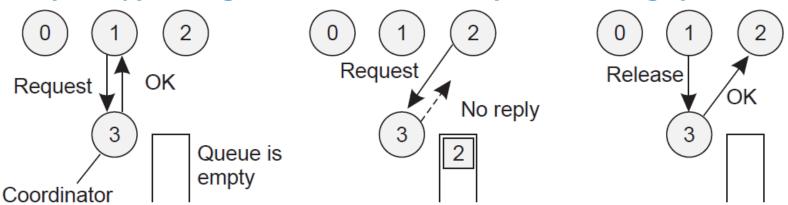
- Performance metrics for mutual exclusion solutions:
 - 1. Bandwidth: number of messages sent in each entry and exit operation
 - 2. Client delay, measured in message latencies, incurred by a process at each entry operation
 - When no other process is in the CS, or waiting
 - **3. Synchronization delay,** in message latencies, between a process exiting the critical section and the next process entering it
 - When there is only one process waiting





Centralized algorithm

- a) To enter the critical section (CS), a process sends a **Request** to <u>coordinator</u> and waits for permission
- b) If no other process is in the CS, coordinator grants access (**OK**); otherwise, it queues the request
- c) Send a **Release** to the coordinator to exit the CS
- d) Coordinator removes the oldest process in the queue (if any) and grants access to it (**OK** message)







Centralized algorithm

Problems:

- 1. What if coordinator crashes?
 - A process cannot distinguish between 'lock in use' and 'crashed coordinator': we have a single point of failure
 - Workaround: deny permission explicitly
- 2. Coordinator can be a performance bottleneck

Bandwidth	Client delay	Synch. delay	Safety (*)	Liveness (*)	Happened -before ordering
3 ({request + OK} + release)	round-trip (request + OK)	round-trip (release + OK)	Yes	Yes	No

(*) Assuming that processes do not fail and message delivery is reliable





- Decentralized algorithm with <u>N coordinators</u>
 - Using voting, gain <u>quorum</u> from the coordinators
 - a) Process sends **Request** to each coordinator
 - Including its current Lamport's clock and its process ID
 - b) Coordinator grants vote if it has not voted yet
 - Otherwise, it queues request (ordering by logical time)
 - In any case, it sends a **Response** message to requester including its current vote
 - c) Requester analyzes the votes in the responses:
 - 1. If the requester obtains a majority vote (M > N/2 coordinators), it can enter the critical section
 - 2. If someone else gets majority, the requester does nothing (it is already waiting in coordinators' queues)





- 3. If nobody gets majority, the requester ...
 - <u>OPTION A</u>: releases its votes (to avoid deadlocks), backs off and retries after a random period
 - This might cause starvation (liveness violated)
 - OPTION B: sends a **Yield** message (release+request) to all the coordinators that voted for him
 - Better performance and ensures liveness
- d) On receiving a **Yield** message, a coordinator ...
 - Removes its vote
 - Queues the request (<u>keeping the same time</u>)
 - Gets the head of queue and votes for him
 - Sends a Response message to the voted process
 - If vote has changed, it notifies also the former process





- e) To exit the critical section, requester sends a **Release** message to <u>all</u> the coordinators
 - Each coordinator that voted for him ...
 - Removes its vote
 - Gets the head of queue (if any) and votes for him
 - Sends Response message to the new voted process
 - The rest of coordinators simply dequeue the process





Problems:

- 1. Failure/recovery of coordinators
 - If a coordinator crashes, forgets previous votes. If there are f crashes and $N-M+f\geq M$ (i.e., $f\geq 2M-N$), the safety of algorithm will be violated
- 2. Low efficiency if many Yield rounds are needed

Bandwidth (k Yield rounds)	Client delay	Synch. Delay	Safety (*)	Liveness (*)	Happened -before ordering
$3N + f(k) (\{N \} $ request + N vote + $\sum_{i=1}^{k} {C_i \ yield + \choose [C_i, 2C_i] \ vote} + $ + N release)	round-trip (N request + N vote)	round-trip (N release + M vote)	Yes	Yes (using Yield)	Not guaranteed





Ricart & Agrawala's algorithm

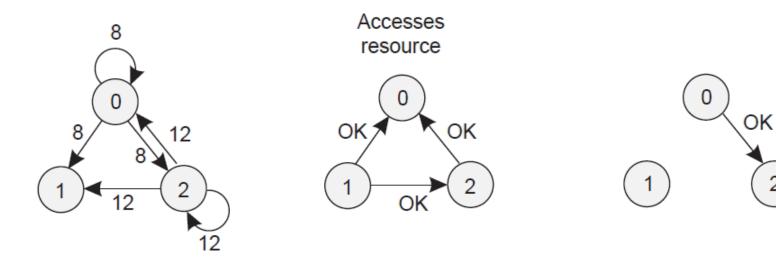
- Multicast with logical clocks
 - a) Process sends **Request** to <u>all</u> other processes
 - Message contains the requester's current <u>Lamport's</u> <u>logical time</u> and its process ID
 - Process ID used to break ties in logical time
 - Each process must know all processes in the group
 - b) When the requester receives **OK** messages from all processes, it can access the critical section
 - c) When a process receives a **Request** message:
 - 1. If it is not accessing the critical section and does not want to access: send back an **OK** message
 - 2. If it is accessing now: no reply and queue the request





Ricart & Agrawala's algorithm

- 3. If it wants to access as well, but has not yet done so...
 - If the incoming message has <u>a lower logical time</u>: send back an **OK** message
 - Otherwise: no reply and queue the request
- d) To exit the critical section, process sends an **OK** message to each process in its queue







Accesses resource

Ricart & Agrawala's algorithm

Problem:

- 1. What if any process fails?
 - Requester cannot distinguish between 'denial of permission' and 'crashed process':
 - Workaround: deny permission explicitly
 - Variant: Get permission from a majority of the other processes

Bandwidth	Client delay	Synch. delay	Safety (*)	Liveness (*)	Happened -before ordering
2(N-1) (N-1 request + N-1 OK)	round-trip (N-1 request + N-1 OK)	1 (OK)	Yes	Yes	Yes





SEMINAR PREPARATION – Muty

[Ricart81] Ricart, G., Agrawala, A.K., *An Optimal Algorithm for Mutual Exclusion in Computer Networks*, Communications of the ACM, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 9-17, January 1981





- Get permission to access the CS by obtaining votes from a subset of the rest of processes
 - Each process p_i gets access to CS
 by means of a unique voting set S_i
 - All the voting sets have the same size K
 - Each process p_i belongs to M sets:
 - Its own voting set: p_i ∈ S_i
 - M-1 of the other voting sets

S_0	=	$\{0, 1, 2\}$
S_1	=	$\{1, 3, 5\}$
S_2	=	$\{2, 4, 5\}$
S_3	=	$\{0, 3, 4\}$
S_4	=	$\{1, 4, 6\}$
S_5	=	$\{0, 5, 6\}$
S_6	=	$\{2, 3, 6\}$

Ex:
$$K=M=3$$

- Intersection of any two voting sets is <u>non-empty</u>
 - Processes in the intersection of two sets <u>ensure the</u> <u>safety property</u> by voting for only one candidate





- a) p_i sends **Request** messages to all K members of S_i
 - p_i needs **OK** from all of them to access the critical section
- b) When a process in S_i receives a **Request** message:
 - If it is not accessing the critical section and it has not already replied ('voted') since it last received a Release message, sends an **OK** message immediately
 - Otherwise, it queues the request (in the order of its arrival) but does not yet reply
- c) To exit the critical section, p_i sends **Release** messages to all K processes in S_i
- d) When a process in S_i receives a **Release** message:
 - It removes the head of its queue (if any) and sends an OK message (a 'vote') to it





Problems:

1. Liveness not guaranteed (system may deadlock)

– Example:

- S0 ={0, 1, 2}, S1 ={1, 3, 5}, S2 ={2, 4, 5}
- p0, p1, p2 send request to S0, S1, S2, respectively
- From S0, p0 & p2 send OK to p0, but p1 sends OK to p1
- From S1, p1 & p3 send OK to p1, but p5 sends OK to p2
- From S2, p4 & p5 send OK to p2, but p2 sends OK to p0
- \Rightarrow p0 waits for p1, p1 waits for p2, and p2 waits for p0





- Problems:
 - 2. Cannot tolerate failures within the required voting set, but can tolerate failures in other sets

Bandwidth	Client delay	Synch. delay	Safety (*)	Liveness (*)	Happened -before ordering
3K ({K request + K OK} + K release)	round-trip (K request + K OK)	round-trip (release + OK)	Yes	No	No

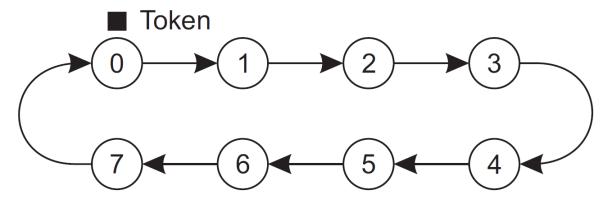
 Maekawa showed that K=M≈√N is the optimal solution that minimizes K while providing safety





Token ring algorithm

- Organize processes in a logical unidirectional ring (a process only knows its successor)
- A token message circulates around the ring
- Only the process holding the token can enter the critical section
- To exit the critical section or if the process does not want to enter, send the token to successor







Token ring algorithm

• Problems:

- 1. What if token is lost?
 - If the token is ever lost, it must be regenerated
 - Detecting token loss is difficult, requires coordination
- 2. What if a process crashes?
 - Send the token to the next member down the line
 - Each process must know all nodes in the ring

Bandwidth	Client delay	Synch. delay	Safety (*)	Liveness (*)	Happened -before ordering
1 (all enter) to ∞ (none enter)	0 (token just received) to N-1 (token just departed)	1 (successor will access) to N-1 (predecessor will access)	Yes	Yes	No





- None of these algorithms can tolerate process failures and network partitions well, and for this reason, they are not generally used in production systems
- How do production systems typically achieve mutual exclusion?
 - a) Some systems offer only eventual consistency (they favor availability over consistency), and do not need mutual exclusion
 - e.g. Amazon Dynamo





- b) Many systems use generic <u>consensus algorithms</u>, which can tolerate failures and network partitions
 - e.g. Paxos
 - Used by Google Chubby distributed lock service
 - » Part of Google software stack (GFS, BigTable, ...)
 - e.g. ZooKeeper Atomic Broadcast (ZAB)
 - Used by Apache ZooKeeper coordination service
 - » Used by Apache (Hadoop MapReduce & HBase, Solr, Kafka), Yahoo!, Rackspace
 - e.g. Raft
 - Used by HydraBase (i.e. evolution of Apache HBase)
 - » Used by Facebook
 - Used by Consul by HashiCorp





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Election algorithms

Multicast communication





Election algorithms

- Many distributed algorithms need one process to act as coordinator
 - e.g. centralized mutual exclusion, physical clock synchronization, primary-based replicated groups
 - No matter which process is, just need to pick one
 - Without loss of generality, we require that the elected process be chosen as the one with the largest identifier
- <u>Election algorithms:</u> technique to pick a unique coordinator (a.k.a. leader election)
 - Ensure that an election concludes with all the processes <u>agreeing</u> on who the new coordinator is





Election algorithms

- Desired properties for election algorithms:
 - 1. Safety: a participant is either non-decided or decided with the non-crashed process with the largest ID
 - 2. Liveness: all processes eventually participate & either decide on a elected coordinator or crash
- One could suggest to use a mutual exclusion algorithms to elect a leader, but:
 - Starvation is irrelevant in leader election
 - Exit from the critical section would be unnecessary
 - Leader needs to inform the rest about its identity





Election algorithms

- Any process P can initiate an election (several elections can run concurrently) but it can only initiate one at a time
 - When P notes that coordinator is not responding or P has just recovered from failure, it can initiate an election
- Algorithms assume that process identifiers are <u>unique</u> and <u>totally ordered</u>
- The goal is finding the process with largest ID that is up and make this the new coordinator





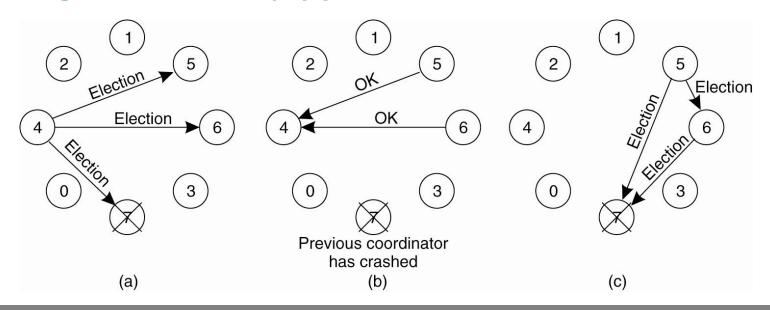
Assumptions:

- The system is <u>synchronous</u>
 - It can use timeouts to detect process failures and processes not responding to requests
- Topology is a strongly connected graph
 - There is a communication path between any two processes
- Message delivery between processes is reliable
- Every process knows the ID of every other process, but not which ones are now up and which ones are down





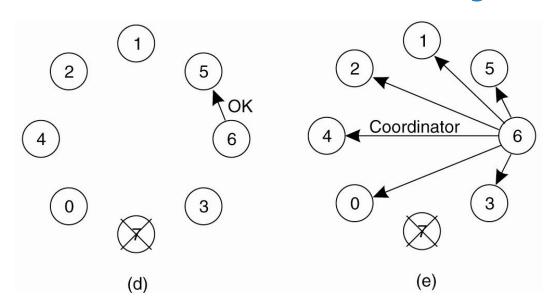
- a) P sends an **Election** message to all the processes with <u>higher IDs</u> and awaits **OK** messages
- b) If a process receives an **Election** message, it returns an **OK** and starts another election, unless it has begun one already (c)





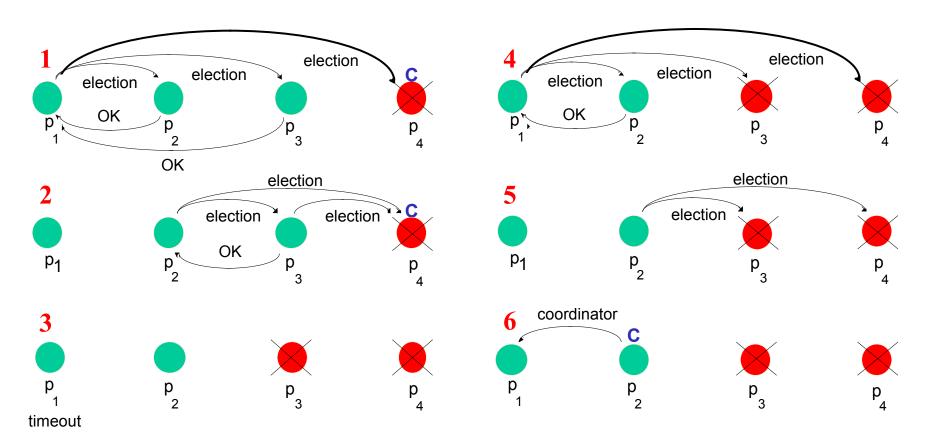


- d) If P receives an **OK**, it drops out the election and awaits a **Coordinator** message (also (b))
 - P reinitiates the election if this message is not received
- e) If P does not receive any **OK** before the timeout, it wins and sends a **Coordinator** message to the rest









It can violate the safety property if a crashed process with the highest ID restarts with an ongoing election (e.g. p₃ restarts during step 6)





- Processes are organized by ID in a logical unidirectional ring
 - Each process only knows its successor in the ring
- Assumes that system is asynchronous
- Multiple elections can be in progress
 - Redundant election messages are killed off
- 1. P sends an **Election** message (with its ID) to its successor, and becomes a participant
- 2. On receiving an **Election**, Q compares the ID in the message with its own ID



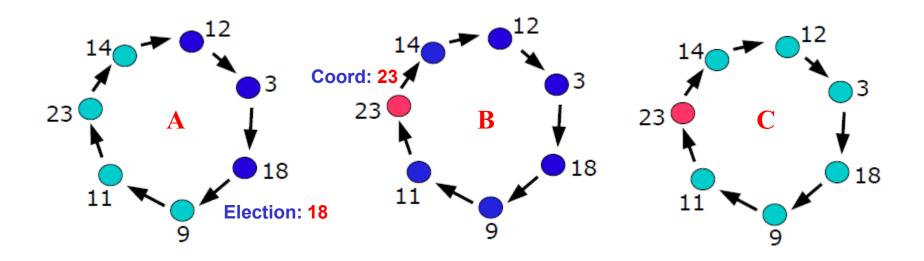


- a) If the arrived ID is greater, Q forwards the message to its successor
- b) If the arrived ID is smaller ...
 - If Q is not a participant yet, Q replaces the ID in the message with its own ID and forwards it
 - If Q is already a participant, message is not forwarded
- c) If the arrived ID is Q's ID, Q wins and sends a **Coordinator** message to its successor
- Q becomes a participant on forwarding an Election
- 3. When Q gets a **Coordinator** message, it forwards it to successor (unless Q is the new coordinator) and becomes a non-participant





• Example: one election in progress

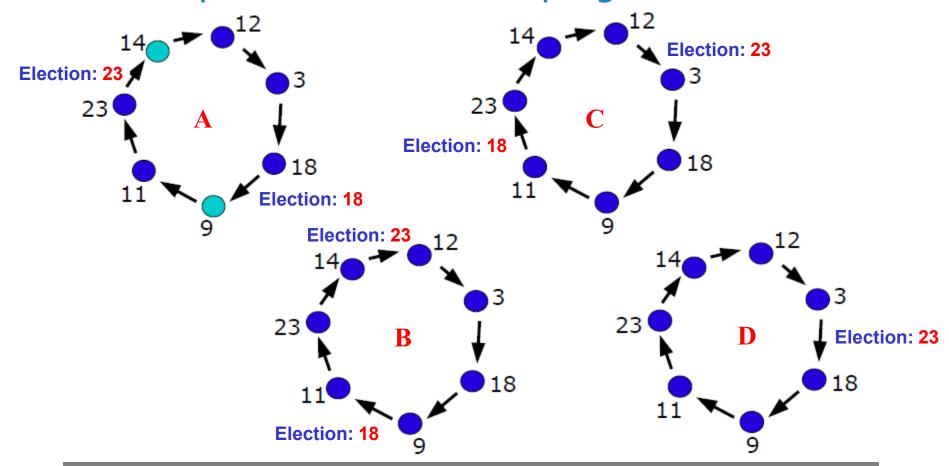


- process is not yet a participant
- process is already a participant





Example: two elections in progress

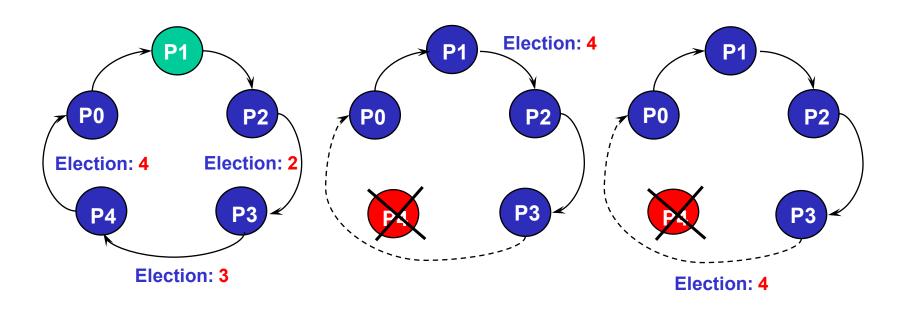






Chang and Roberts' ring algorithm

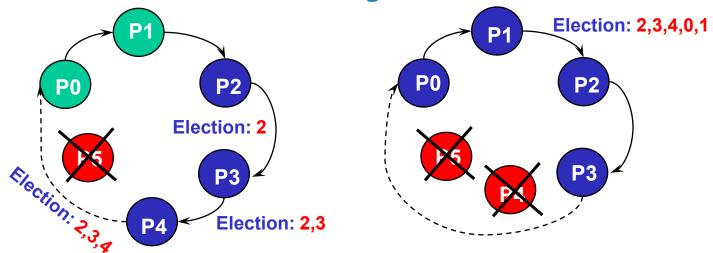
- ↓ Liveness violated when process failure occurs during the election
 - Ex: Which node will recognize 'Election: 4'?







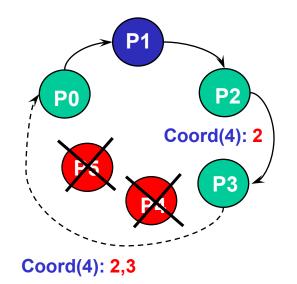
- a) P sends an **Election** message (with its process ID) to its <u>closest alive</u> successor
 - Sequentially poll successors until one responds
 - Each process must know all nodes in the ring
- b) At each step along the way, each process adds its ID to the list in the message

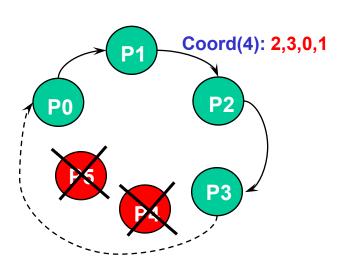






- c) When the message gets back to the initiator (i.e. the first process that detects its ID in the message), it elects as coordinator the process with the highest ID and sends a **Coordinator** message with this ID
- d) Again, each process adds its ID to the message

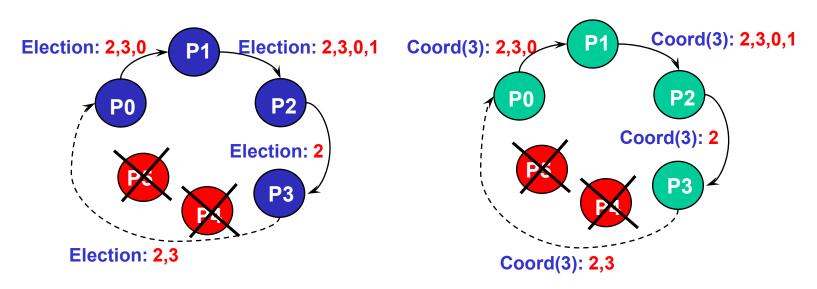








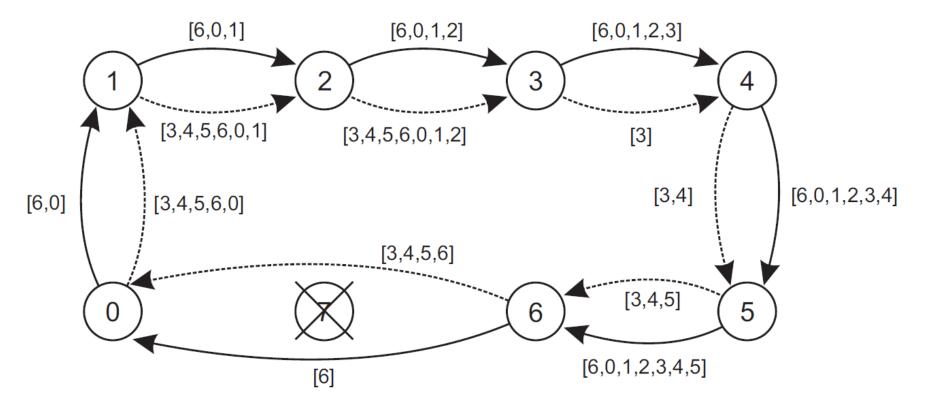
- e) Once Coordinator message gets back to initiator
 - If elected process is in the ID list, election is over
 - Everyone knows who the coordinator is and who the members of the new ring are
 - Otherwise, the election is re-initiated







- ↑ Algorithm can support failures during the election
- ↓ Redundant election messages are not killed off







Comparison of election algorithms

Bully algorithm

- (*) Assuming N processes, no failures, and a sole election in progress
- Worst case: initiator has the lowest ID: $\Theta(N^2)$ messages
 - Triggers N-1 elections: $\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} ((N-i) \ Election + (N-i) \ OK) + (N-1) \ Coordinator$
- Best case: initiator has the highest ID: N-1 Coordinator messages, which can be sent in parallel
- Chang and Roberts' ring algorithm
 - Worst case: initiator succeeds the node with the highest ID:
 3N-1 (2N-1 Election + N Coordinator) sequential messages
 - Best case: initiator has the highest ID: 2N (N Election + N Coordinator) sequential messages
- Enhanced ring algorithm
 - 2N (N Election + N Coordinator) sequential messages always





Election algorithms

- Some of the presented algorithms can tolerate failures to some extent, but none of them can deal with network partitions
 - Multiple nodes (one for each network segment)
 may decide they are the leader
- As with mutual exclusion, production systems typically use generic consensus algorithms for leader election (refer to slide 24)
 - They tolerate failures and network partitions
 - They provide a single framework for all the agreement problems





Contents

Mutual exclusion

Election algorithms





- Important service in distributed systems to:
 - Disseminate data reliably to large number of users
 - Implement collaborative applications where a common user view must be preserved
 - Implement consistency models of replicated data
 - Implement fault-tolerant (replicated) services
 - Monitor process groups and manage membership
 - e.g. JGroups (used for session replication and clustering in JBoss and JOnAS J2EE servers)
 - e.g. Isis (used by NY and Swiss Stock Exchange,
 French Air Traffic Control System, US Navy AEGIS)





- Multicast: send a message to a process group
- Reliable multicast: deliver messages to all processes in a group or to none at all
 - Distinguish when the operating system receives a message and when is delivered to the application
- Ordered multicast: deliver messages while fulfilling ordering requirements
- Atomic multicast: deliver messages in the same order to all processes and any process can fail





- Desired properties for reliable multicast:
 - **1. Integrity:** A correct process delivers every message at most once
 - **2. Validity:** If a correct process multicasts message m, then it will eventually deliver m
 - **3. Agreement:** If a correct process delivers message m, then all other correct processes in the group will eventually deliver m
 - ⇒ Sounds simple, but what happens ...
 - ... if a message is lost?
 - ... if the sender crashes half-way sending the multicast?
 - ... if a process joins the group during communication?





Contents

Mutual exclusion

- Election algorithms
- Multicast communication
 - Basic reliable multicast
 - Scalable reliable multicast
 - Ordered multicast
 - Atomic multicast





Basic reliable multicasting

- Simple solution assuming that processes <u>do</u> not fail and do not join/leave the group
 - Sender P assigns a sequence number S_P to each outgoing message
 - Makes easy to spot when a message is missing
 - P stores a copy of each outgoing message in a <u>history buffer</u>
 - P removes a message from the history buffer when everyone has acknowledged receipt
 - Each process Q records the number of the <u>last</u> message it has delivered coming from any other process P $(L_0(P))$





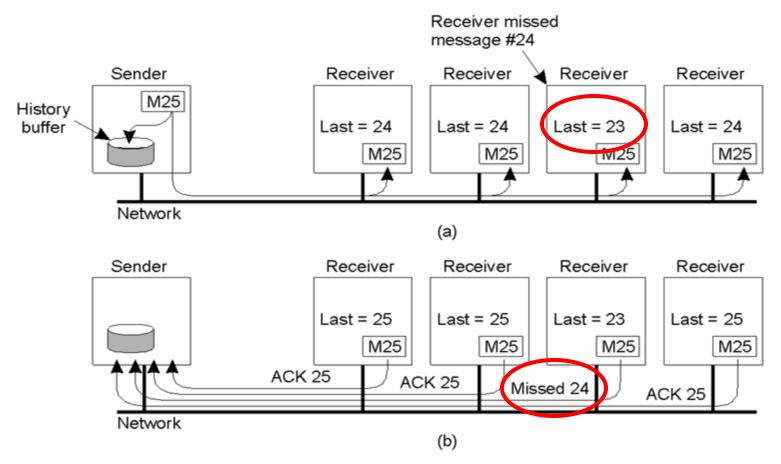
Basic reliable multicasting

- When process Q receives a message from P:
 - If $S_P = L_Q(P) + 1$: Q delivers the message, increases $L_O(P)$ and acknowledges the receipt to P
 - If $S_P > L_Q(P) + 1$: Q keeps the message in a *hold-back queue* and requests the retransmission of missing messages
 - Queued message will be delivered (and acknowledged)
 when its sequence number is the next expected number
 - Retransmissions are also multicast messages
 - If $S_P \ll L_Q(P)$: Q has already delivered the message before and thus it discards it





Basic reliable multicasting



Poor scalability: too many ACKs (feedback implosion)





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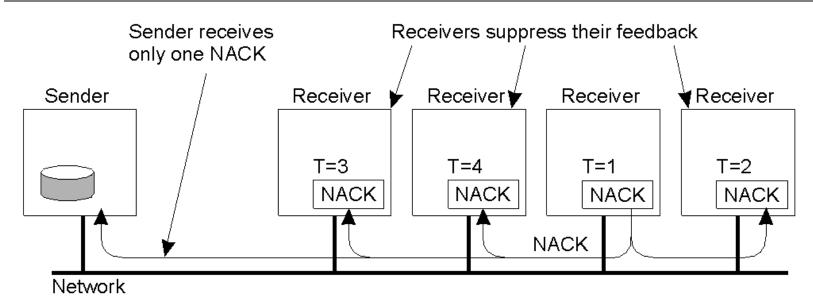
Scalable reliable multicasting

- Main idea: use sequence numbers but <u>reduce</u> the number of feedback messages to sender
- Only missing messages are reported (NACK)
 - NACKs are multicast to all group members
 - Successful delivery is never acknowledged
- Each process waits a random delay prior to send a NACK
 - If a process is about to NACK, this is suppressed as a result of the first multicast NACK
 - In this way, only one NACK is delivered to the sender





Scalable reliable multicasting



- † Better scalability
- ↓ Setting timers to ensure only one NACK is hard
- Sender should keep messages in the history buffer forever to guarantee all retransmissions
 - In practice, messages are deleted after some time





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Mutual exclusion

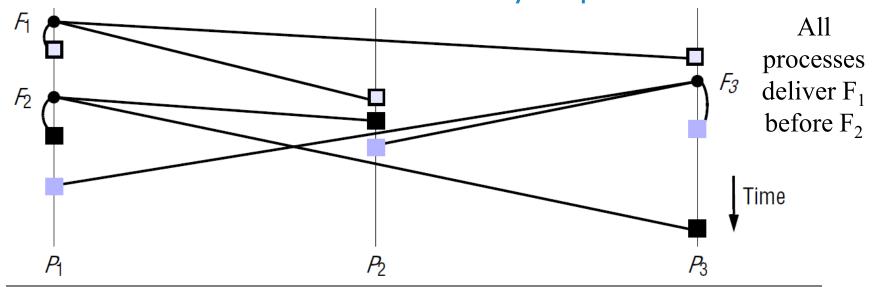
- Election algorithms
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Ordered multicast

- Due to the latency, messages might arrive in different order at different nodes
- Common ordering requirements:
 - A. <u>FIFO ordering</u>: messages from the same process delivered in the sent order by all processes

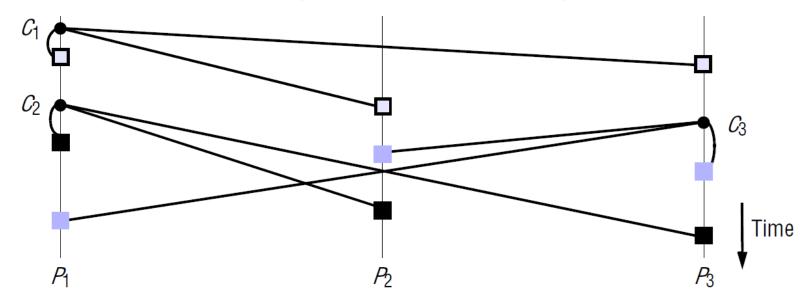






Ordered multicast

- B. <u>Causal ordering</u>: happened-before-related messages delivered in that order by all processes
 - Causal ordering implies FIFO ordering



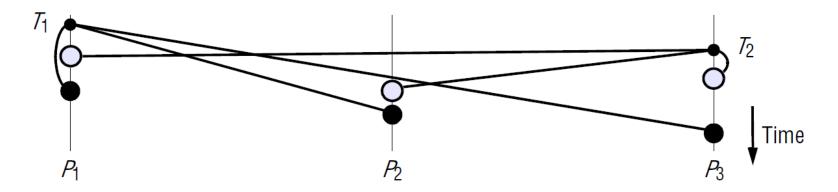
 C_1 and C_2 are FIFO related; C_1 and C_3 are causally related All processes deliver C_1 before C_2 and C_1 before C_3





Ordered multicast

- C. <u>Total ordering</u>: all messages delivered in the same order by all processes
 - Hybrid approaches such as FIFO+total ordering and causal+total ordering are also possible



All processes deliver T_2 before T_1

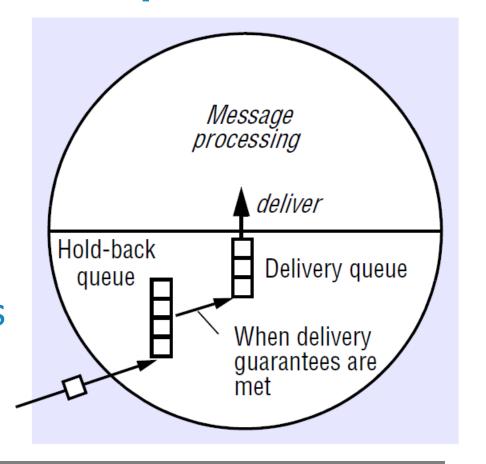




Implementing FIFO ordering

- Using sequence numbers per sender
- A message delivery is delayed (in a hold-back queue) until its sequence number is reached
- See <u>'basic reliable</u> <u>multicast'</u> for details

Incoming messages

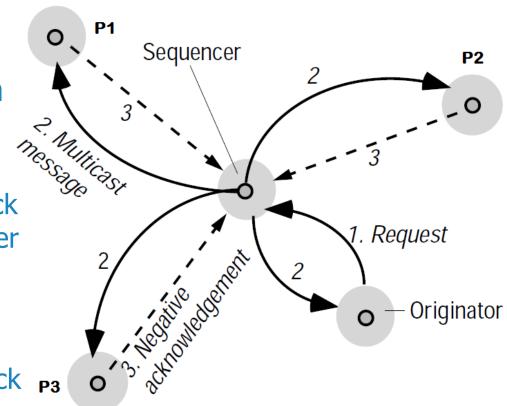






Implementing total ordering

- Using sequence numbers per group
- a) Send messages to a **sequencer**, which multicasts them with numbering
 - A message delivery is delayed (in a hold-back queue) until its number is reached
 - Sequencer is a single point of failure and a performance bottleneck P3

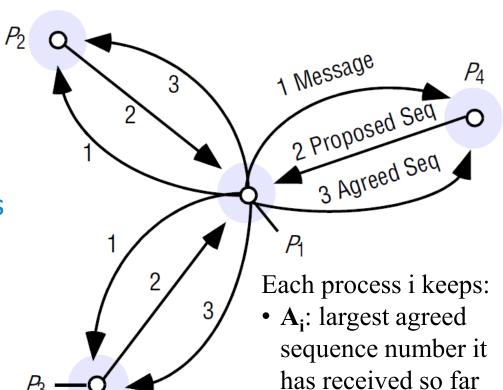






Implementing total ordering

- b) Processes jointly agree on sequence numbers
- 1. The sender multicasts message m
- 2. Each receiver j replies with a proposed sequence number for message m (including its process ID) that is $P_j = Max(A_j, P_j) + 1$ and places m in an ordered hold-back queue according to P_i





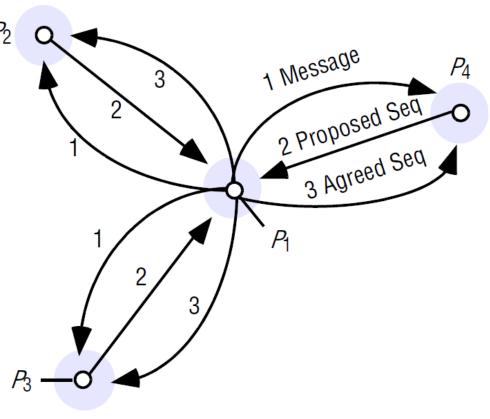


• P_i: its own largest

proposed number

Implementing total ordering

- b) Processes jointly agree on sequence numbers
- 3. The sender selects the largest of all proposals, N, as the agreed number for m and multicasts it
- 4. Each receiver j updates A_j =Max(A_j ,N), tags message m with N, and reorders the hold-back queue if needed
- 5. A message is delivered when it is at the front of the hold-back queue and its number is agreed







Implementing causal ordering

Using vector clocks

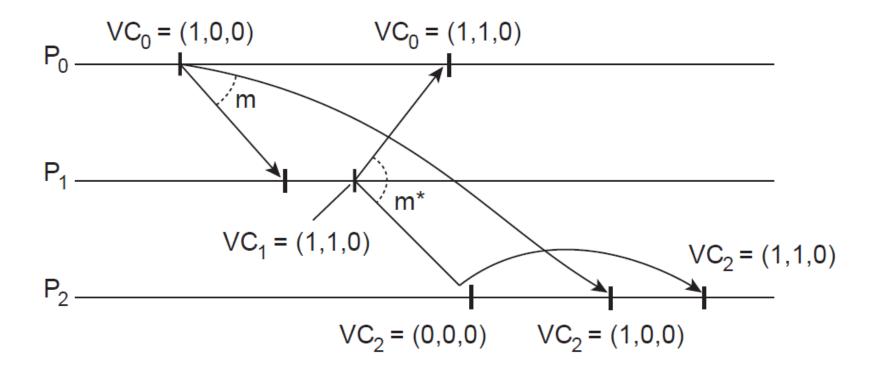
- A message is delivered only if all causally preceding messages have already been delivered
- 1. P_i increases VC_i[i] only when sending a message
- 2. If P_j receives message m from P_i, it postpones its delivery until the following conditions are met:
 - a. $ts(m)[i] = VC_i[i]+1$
 - m is the next expected message from P_i
 - b. $ts(m)[k] \leq VC_j[k] \forall k \neq i$
 - P_i has seen all the messages seen by P_i before m
- 3. P_i increases VC_i[i] after delivering m





Implementing causal ordering

Causal ordering example







SEMINAR PREPARATION – Ordy

[Birman91] Birman, K.P., Schiper, A., Stephenson, P., Lightweight Causal and Atomic Group Multicast, ACM Transactions on Computer Systems, Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 272–314, August 1991

[Dasser92] Dasser, M., TOMP: A Total Ordering Multicast Protocol, ACM SIGOPS Operating Systems Review, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 32-40, January 1992





Contents

Mutual exclusion

Election algorithms

- Basic reliable multicast
- Scalable reliable multicast
- Ordered multicast
- Atomic multicast



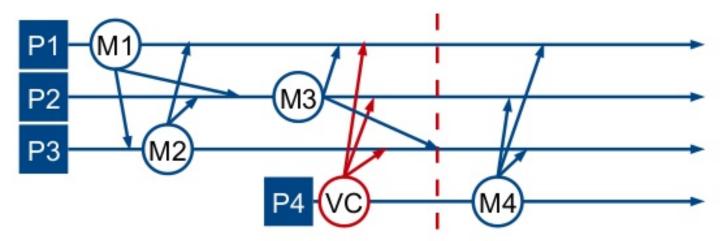


- Solution for reliable multicasting in open groups (with **faulty** processes)
- Guarantee that a message is delivered to either all processes or none at all
- A message is delivered only to the current non-faulty members of the group
 - Processes have to agree on the current group membership
- a.k.a. virtual synchrony or view-synchronous multicast





- A membership service keeps all members updated on who the current members of the group are
- Send view messages of group membership which must be delivered to members in total order
- View changes when processes join/leave the group



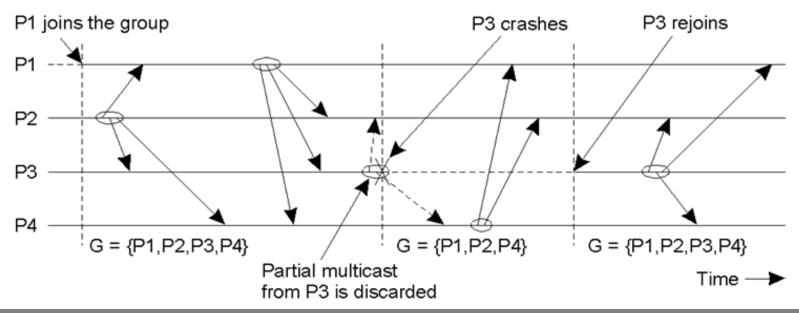
 $G1 = \{P1, P2, P3\}$

 $G2 = \{P1, P2, P3, P4\}$



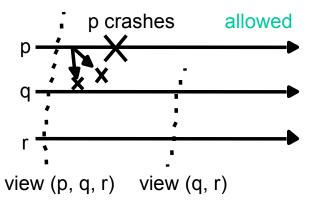


- Each message is associated with a group view
 - The one the sender had when transmitting
- Multicasts cannot pass across view changes
 - All multicasts that are in transit while a view change occurs must be completed before the new view comes into effect

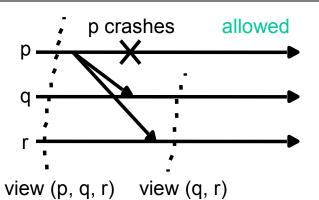




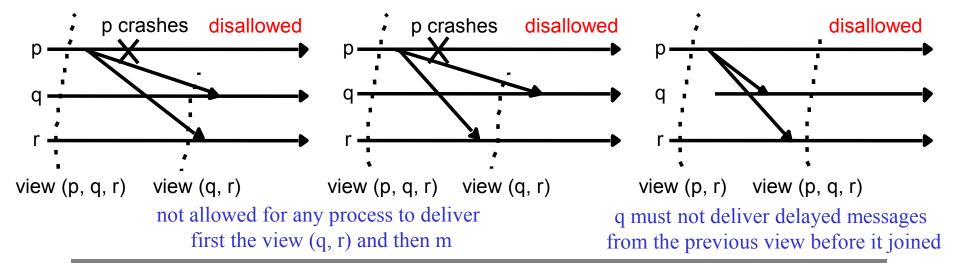




p crashes before m reaches any other process: none of them delivers m



m has reached at least 1 process when p crashes: both q and r deliver first m and then the view







SEMINAR PREPARATION – Groupy

[Kaashoek89] Kaashoek, M.F., Tanenbaum, A.S., Hummel, S.F., Bal, H.E., *An Efficient Reliable Broadcast Protocol*, ACM SIGOPS Operating Systems Review, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 5-19, October 1989

[Schiper93] Schiper, A., Sandoz, A., *Uniform Reliable Multicast in a Virtually Synchronous Environment*, 13th International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS'93), Pittsburgh, USA, May 25-28, 1993, pp. 561-568





Summary

- Mutual exclusion algorithms ensure that at most one process at a time has access to a shared resource
 - A. Centralized algorithm
 - B. Voting algorithms (Lin's and Maekawa's)
 - C. Ricart & Agrawala's algorithm
 - D. Token ring algorithm
- Election algorithms are primarily used in cases where the coordinator crashes
 - A. Bully algorithm
 - B. Ring algorithms (Chang & Roberts'; Enhanced)





Summary

- Multicast allows sending a message to a specified group of nodes
 - The message is delivered to all nodes in the group or to none at all
 - Even when there are faulty nodes in the group
 - Messages can have also ordering requirements
 - FIFO, causal, and total
- Further details:
 - [Tanenbaum]: chapters 6.3, 6.5, and 8.4
 - [Coulouris]: chapters 15 and 18.2



