Seminar Report: Paxy

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May 20, 2019

Introduction

This seminars purpose is to explore and explain the Paxos algorithm, which is useful to have consensus in a distributed system. Paxos is a fault tolerant method to solve the consensus problem where participant have to agree on a single chosen value.

The algorithm has three roles for processes: proposers, acceptors and learners; all three role can be contained in a single process. Learner is not necessary to reach a consensus, hence it is not implemented for this seminar.

Main objective for this seminar report is to investigate the mechanism of having a consensus in a distributed fashion with faulty processes.

Experiments & Open questions

Experiment 1: Try introducing different delays in the acceptor (for instance, just after receiving prepare and/or accept messages).



(c) Test: paxy:start([45,40,80]). (d) Test: paxy:start([2250,1200,2500]).

Figure 1: Uniform Random Delay at 2000ms.



party issuar ([10,10,00]). (a) 1000 party issuar ([1200,1200,2000]

Figure 2: Uniform Random Delay at 4000ms.

• Does the algorithm still terminate?

Yes, it still terminate, but there are some interesting things to discuss, if the gap on the delay time between the timeout and the acceptor is to big, the convergence of the algorithm relays on 2 main things, 1)the probability in long term tends to the average which means that in many rounds the random delay of the acceptor will be short enogh to make possible the correct reception of a proposer that can complete his round, 2) The backoff time doubles every round which make the proposer sleeps more time, this is helpful when the delay in the reception is to big because at some point will be enogh time to the acceptor can receive all the messages. In a real aproach maybe is better to consider that in a very big gap of timeout and response time, the system will not end, but in a teorical point of view, in very long term you could always thing that is posible the algorithm will achive agreemment.

• Does it require more rounds?

In general yes but not necessarily, the behavior is also strong related with the delay time of proposers when they are initialize and also with the timeout of the round if the delay in the aceptor is above the time out achive the consensus definitely will take more rounds.

• How does the impact of adding delays depend on the value of the timeout at the proposer?

As we comment in the last questions the timeout is strong related because if the delay in the reception of the acceptors is above the timeout this cause the algorithm take more rounds to finish, one future work idea to try to do the convergence more quick, is try to control the backoff time and the timeout of the proporser dynamicly, by measuring the reponse time of the acceptor and with this infomation change the backoff time and the timeout, now the algorithm always do a 2x growing in the backoff time and the timeout is constant.

Experiment 2: Avoid sending sorry messages by commenting the corresponding sen-tences in the acceptor.

```
{prepare, Proposer, Round} ->
   ose order:gr(Round, Promised) of
 Proposer ! {promise, Round, Voted, Value},
io:format("[Acceptor -w] Phase 1: promised -w voted -w colour -w-n",
[Name, Round, Voted, Value]),
      Colour =
     PanelId
     acceptor(Name, Round, Voted, Value, PanelId);
     % Proposer ! {sorry, {prepare, Round}},
acceptor(Name, Promised, Voted, Value, PanelId) %
{accept, Proposer, Round, Proposal} ->
case order:goe(Round, Promised) of
     Proposer ! {vote, Round}, case order:goe(Round, Voted) of
       true ->
 acceptor(Name, Promised, Voted, Value, PanelId)
   false ->
     acceptor(Name, Promised, Voted, Value, PanelId)
```

Figure 3: Code modifications.

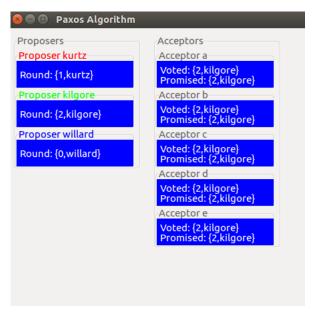


Figure 4: Test: paxy:start([1000,1000,1000]).

• Could you even come to an agreement when sorry messages are not sent?

Yes, because the system is synchronus and the missing of sorry messages does not afect the convergence of the algorithm, the proposer is specting to recive promise or vote message, if not recives enogh to have a majority simply will abort so, in this implementation sending sorry message is precindable.

Experiment 3: Try randomly dropping promise and/or vote messages in the acceptor.

We use the drop code provided for interrup the vote message and the promise message.

```
-define(drop, 7).
start(Name, PanelId) ->
 spawn(fun() -> init(Name, PanelId) end).
init(Name, PanelId) -
 Promised = order:null(),
 Voted = order:null(),
Value = na,
 acceptor(Name, Promised, Voted, Value, PanelId).
acceptor(Name, Promised, Voted, Value, PanelId) ->
   {prepare, Proposer, Round} ->
     case order:gr(Round, Promised) of
        P = rand:uniform(10),
if P =< ?drop ->
         io:format("-nMessage dropped of Round: -w for promise of Acceptor -w-n-n",
                  [Round, Name]);
          Proposer ! {promise, Round, Voted, Value}
         io:format("[Acceptor ~w] Phase 1: promised ~w voted ~w colour ~w~n",
               [Name, Round, Voted, Value]),
        Proposer ! {sorry, {prepare, Round}},
        acceptor(Name, Promised, Voted, Value, PanelId) %
   {accept, Proposer, Round, Proposal} ->
     case order:goe(Round, Promised) of
        P = rand:uniform(10),
if P =< ?drop ->
         true ->
        Proposer ! {vote, Round}
```

Figure 5: Code modifications.

```
...a/Semestre_3/CPDS/distributed_systems/labs/Lab1_SRC/Experiments/paxy-ex3 ▼ □ ×

Message dropped of Round: {13,kilgore} for promise of Acceptor b

Message dropped of Round: {13,kilgore} for promise of Acceptor d

Message dropped of Round: {13,kilgore} for promise of Acceptor e

Message dropped of Round: {13,kilgore} for promise of Acceptor c

[Acceptor a] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

[Acceptor b] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

[Acceptor d] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

[Acceptor e] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

[Acceptor c] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

[Acceptor c] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

[Acceptor c] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

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[Acceptor c] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {255,0,0}

[Acceptor c] Phase 1: promised {13,kilgore} voted {11,willard} colour {11,will
```

Figure 6: Consol Output.

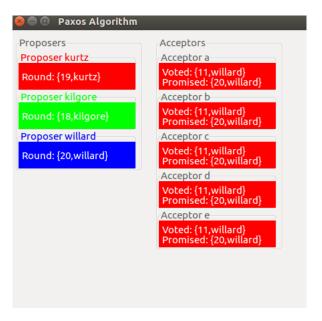


Figure 7: Test: paxy:start([1000,1000,1000]).

 What percentage of messages can we drop until consensus is not longer possible?

Despite probality tends to average, we can not say that the percentage is precise, because the average will be visible in so many tests, nevertheless

what we observe in the behavior is ok with the teory, when the drop constant in the code is greter or equal to 6 it seams that the algorithm have problems to end as is shown in the test picture.

Experiment 4: Try increasing the number of acceptors and proposers.

```
-module(paxy).
-export([start/1, stop/0, stop/1]).
-define(RED, {255,0,0}).
-define(RED, {0,255,0,0}).
-define(BLUE, {0,0,255,0}).
-define(BROWN, {103,47,24}).
-define(BROWN, {103,47,24}).
-define(BROWN, {103,47,24}).
-define(BROWN, {103,47,24}).
-define(R_ACCEPTOR8, ["Acceptor a", "Acceptor b", "Acceptor h"]).
-define(R_ACCEPTOR8, ["Acceptor a", "Acceptor b", "Acceptor c", "Acceptor d", "Acceptor e"]).
-define(R_ACCEPTOR8, ["Acceptor a", "Acceptor b", "Acceptor c", "Acceptor d", "Acceptor e"]).
-define(R_ACCEPTOR8, ["Acceptor a", "Acceptor b", "Acceptor c", "Acceptor d", "Acceptor e"]).
-define(R_ACCEPTOR8, ["Acceptor a", "Acceptor b", "Acceptor c", "Acceptor d", "Acceptor e"]).
-define(R_ACCEPTOR8, ["Acceptor a", "Acceptor b", "Acceptor c", "GREEN], ("Proposer willard", ?BLUE),
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer kilgore", ?GREEN], {"Proposer willard", ?BLUE},
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer kilgore", ?GREEN], {"Proposer willard", ?BLUE}]).
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer kilgore", ?GREEN], {"Proposer willard", ?BLUE}]).
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {kilgore, ?GREEN}, {willard, ?BLUE}]).
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {kilgore, ?GREEN}, {willard, ?BLUE}]).
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {kilgore, ?GREEN}, {willard, ?BLUE}]).
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}]).
-define(R_PROPOSERS, [{"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer kurtz", ?RED}, {"Proposer
```

Figure 8: Code modifications.



Figure 9: Test: paxy:start([1000,1000,1000]).



 $\label{eq:Figure 10:Test: paxy:start ([1000,1000,1000,1000,1000]).}$

• What is the impact of having more acceptors while keeping the same number of proposers?

There is not a strong impact with more acceptor the algorithm finish in the same numer of rounds.

• What if we have more proposers while keeping the same number of acceptors?

When there are more proposers, takes more rounds to achieve consensus, this is because every of the proposer indirectly obstruct each other.

Experiment 5: Adapt the paxy module to create the proposers in a remote Erlang instance (named paxy-pro) and to ensure that they can connect correctly to the acceptors, which must be created in a different remote Erlang instance (named paxy-acc).

Figure 11: Code modifications.

Figure 12: Both terminals working together.



Figure 13: Test paxy:start_proposers([1000,555,666], 'paxy - acc@jhonnLatitude - 7490').

Fault tolerance: In order to make the implementation fault tolerant the acceptor needs toremember what it promises and what it votes for. If we use the module pers, that can be found in 'Appendix B', we can store state changes as we make promises and vote and we can recover our state to the state we had when we crashed.

The fault tolerance works fine we can recover the acceptor succesfully. In the code of the aceptors we use the delay code of the part one in order to guive time enogh to manualy insert a crash and see if recovers. In the following image we show how that goes.

```
Listing 1: Code Modfications for recover the acceptor.
```

```
-module(acceptor).
-export([start/2,startR/2]).
-define(delay,2800). %A Rand Range for delay

start(Name, PanelId) ->
    spawn(fun() -> init(Name, PanelId) end).

startR(Name, PanelId) ->
    spawn(fun() -> initR(Name, PanelId) end).

init(Name, PanelId) ->
    Promised = order:null(),
    Voted = order:null(),
    Value = na,
    acceptor(Name, PanelId) ->

initR(Name, PanelId) ->
```

```
pers: open (Name),
  {Promised, Voted, Value, PanelIdR}=pers: read(Name),
  pers: close (Name),
  io: format ("Recover\_Info\_: [Acceptor\_\~w]\_promised\_\~w\_voted\_\~w\_colour\_\~w\~n" \ ,
              [Name, Promised, Voted, Value]),
  if PanelIdR—na ->
      acceptor (Name, Promised, Voted, Value, Panelld);
    true ->
      acceptor (Name, Promised, Voted, Value, PanelIdR)
  end.
acceptor (Name, Promised, Voted, Value, Panelld) ->
  receive
    {prepare, Proposer, Round} ->
      R = rand: uniform(?delay),
      io: format ("\ \~nDelay \ \_of \ \~w \ \_in \ \_prepare \ \_message \ \_for \ \_Round: \ \~w\~n",
                  [R, Round]),
      timer: sleep (R),
      case order: gr(Round, Promised) of
        true \rightarrow
           pers: open (Name),
           pers: store (Name, Round, Voted, Value, Panelld),
           pers: close (Name),
           Proposer ! {promise, Round, Voted, Value},
      io:format("[Acceptor_~w]_Phase_1:_promised_~w_voted_~w_colour_~w~n",
                   [Name, Round, Voted, Value]),
           % Update gui
           Colour = case Value of na \rightarrow {0,0,0}; \rightarrow Value end,
           PanelId ! {updateAcc, "Voted: _" ++ io_lib:format("~p", [Voted]),
                       "Promised: _" ++ io_lib:format("~p", [Round]), Colour},
           acceptor (Name, Round, Voted, Value, Panelld);
        false ->
           Proposer ! {sorry, {prepare, Round}},
           acceptor (Name, Promised, Voted, Value, Panelld) %
      end:
    {accept, Proposer, Round, Proposal} ->
      R = rand:uniform(?delay),
      io:format("~nDelay_of_~w_in_vote_message_for_Round:_~w~n",
                   [R, Round]),
      timer: sleep(R),
      case order: goe (Round, Promised) of
           Proposer ! {vote, Round},
           case order: goe (Round, Voted) of
             true ->
             pers: open (Name),
             pers: store (Name, Promised, Round, Proposal, PanelId),
             pers: close (Name),
      io: format ("[Acceptor\_"w]\_Phase\_2: \_promised\_"w\_voted\_"w\_colour\_"w"n", \\
                   [Name, Round, Promised, Proposal]),
```

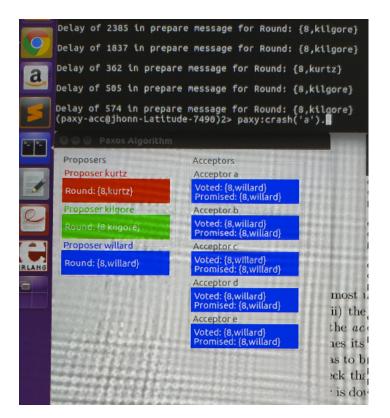


Figure 14: Test going.

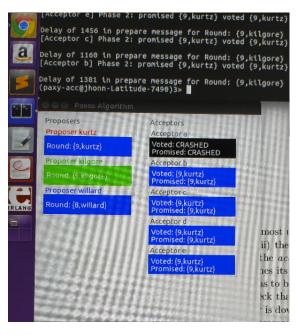


Figure 15: Introducing Crash.

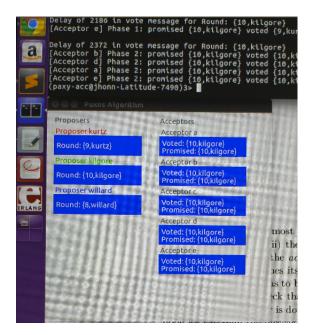


Figure 16: Acceptor Recovers.

Improvement based on sorry messages: There are some improvements that could be made in the implementation of the proposer. If we need three promises for a quorum and we have received three sorry messages from the in total five acceptors then we can abort the ballot.

The implementation works very good with this improve, it finish more fast, below is the code of the proposer implementation.

Listing 2: Code Modfications for improve the proposer.

```
-module(proposer).
-\mathbf{export}([\operatorname{start}/5]).
-define (timeout, 2000).
-define (backoff, 10).
start (Name, Proposal, Acceptors, Sleep, PanelId) ->
  spawn(fun() -> init(Name, Proposal, Acceptors, Sleep, PanelId) end).
init (Name, Proposal, Acceptors, Sleep, PanelId) ->
  timer: sleep (Sleep),
  Round = order: first (Name),
  round (Name, ?backoff, Round, Proposal, Acceptors, Panelld).
round(Name, Backoff, Round, Proposal, Acceptors, Panelld) ->
  io:format("[Proposer_~w]_Phase_1:_round_~w_proposal_~w~n",
              [Name, Round, Proposal]),
  % Update gui
  PanelId ! {updateProp, "Round: _" ++ io_lib:format("~p", [Round]), Proposal},
  case ballot (Name, Round, Proposal, Acceptors, Panelld) of
    {ok, Decision} ->
      io:format("[Proposer_w]_DECIDED_w_in_round_w^n",
                  [Name, Decision, Round]),
      PanelId ! stop,
      {ok, Decision};
    abort ->
      timer: sleep (rand: uniform (Backoff)),
      Next = order: inc(Round),
      round(Name, (2*Backoff), Next, Proposal, Acceptors, PanelId)
  end.
ballot (Name, Round, Proposal, Acceptors, Panelld) ->
  prepare (Round, Acceptors),
  Quorum = (length(Acceptors) div 2) + 1,
                                                   %The\ majority,\ half + 1
  N_{-}Sorry = Quorum, \% ???
  MaxVoted = order: null(),
  case collect (Quorum, N_Sorry, Round, MaxVoted, Proposal) of
    {accepted, Value} ->
      io: format ("[Proposer\_~w]\_Phase\_2:\_round\_~w\_proposal\_~w\_(was\_~w)~n",
                  [Name, Round, Value, Proposal]),
      % update qui
      PanelId ! {updateProp, "Round: _" ++ io_lib:format("~p", [Round]), Value},
```

```
accept (Round, Value, Acceptors),
      case vote (Quorum, N_Sorry, Round) of
        ok ->
           \{ok, Value\};
         abort ->
           abort
      end;
    abort ->
      abort
  end.
collect(0, -, -, -, Proposal) \rightarrow
  {accepted, Proposal};
collect(_, 0, _, _, Proposal) ->
   io:format("~nAborted_proposer_in_Phase_1,_to_many_sorries_~n~n"),
                                            % Impruve of sorry counting
   abort;
collect (N, N_Sorry, Round, MaxVoted, Proposal) ->
  receive
    \{\text{promise}, \text{Round}, \text{\_}, \text{na}\} \rightarrow
       collect (N-1, N_Sorry, Round, MaxVoted, Proposal);
    {promise, Round, Voted, Value} ->
      case order:gr(Voted, MaxVoted) of
         true \rightarrow
           collect (N-1, N_Sorry, Round, Voted, Value);
         false ->
           collect (N-1, N_Sorry, Round, MaxVoted, Proposal)
      end;
    \{ \text{promise} \; , \; \ \_, \; \ \_, \; \ \_ \} \; -\!\!\!> \;
      collect(N, N_Sorry, Round, MaxVoted, Proposal);
    {sorry, {prepare, Round}} ->
      collect (N, N_Sorry -1, Round, MaxVoted, Proposal);
    {sorry , _} ->
      collect (N, N_Sorry-1, Round, MaxVoted, Proposal)
  after ?timeout ->
    abort
  end.
vote(0, -, -) ->
  io:format("~nAborted_proposer_in_Phase_2,_to_many_sorries_~n~n"),
  ok;
vote(_{-}, 0,_{-}) \rightarrow
  abort;
vote(N, N_Sorry, Round) ->
  receive
    {vote, Round} ->
      vote(N-1, N_Sorry, Round);
    {vote, _} ->
      vote(N, N_Sorry, Round);
```

```
vote (N, N_Sorry -1, Round);
          {sorry , _} ->
               vote(N, N_Sorry-1, Round)
     after ?timeout ->
          abort
     end.
prepare(Round, Acceptors) ->
     Fun = fun(Acceptor) \rightarrow
          send(Acceptor, {prepare, self(), Round})
     end.
     lists: foreach (Fun, Acceptors).
accept (Round, Proposal, Acceptors) ->
     Fun = fun(Acceptor) ->
          send(Acceptor, {accept, self(), Round, Proposal})
     end,
     lists: foreach (Fun, Acceptors).
send (Name, Message) ->
     Name! Message.
.../jhonn/WINDATA/Google_Drive/Tareas_Maestria/Semestre_3/CPDS/distributed_systems/labs/Lab1/Lab
[Acceptor c] Phase 2: promised {1,kilgore} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor e] Phase 2: promised {1,kilgore} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255]
[Acceptor d] Phase 2: promised {1,kilgore} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255}
Aborted proposer in Phase 2, to many sorries
[Proposer kilgore] DECIDED {0,0,255} in round {1,kilgore}
[Proposer kurtz] Phase 1: round {1,kurtz} proposal {255,0,0}
[Acceptor a] Phase 1: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor d] Phase 1: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor b] Phase 1: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor e] Phase 1: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor c] Phase 1: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kilgore} colour {0,0,255}
[Proposer kurtz] Phase 2: round {1,kurtz} proposal {0,0,255} (was {255,0,0})
[Acceptor c] Phase 2: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kurtz} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor a] Phase 2: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kurtz} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor d] Phase 2: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kurtz} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor b] Phase 2: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kurtz} colour {0,0,255}
[Acceptor e] Phase 2: promised {1,kurtz} voted {1,kurtz} colour {0,0,255}
[Proposer kilgore] DECIDED {0,0,255} in round {1,kilgore}
Aborted proposer in Phase 2, to many sorries
[Proposer kurtz] DECIDED {0,0,255} in round {1,kurtz}
```

{sorry, {accept, Round}} ->

Figure 17: Terminal output of test.

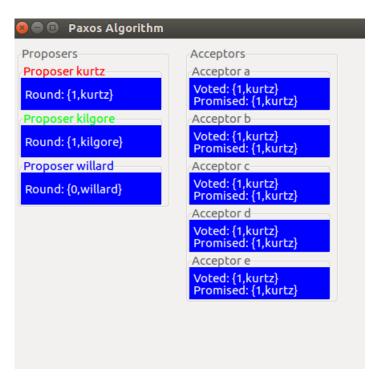


Figure 18: Test: paxy:start([1,1,1]).

Personal opinion

 ${\it Jonnatan: The seminar is nice and complete, maybe a little bit more of talk for real applications using this algorithm.}$