

Lab "write-up"

I'm listing one example from the plots but we are to justify the statement "The shorter and more symmetric the round-trip time, the more accurate the estimate of the current time". I argue (M. Alexander of the group) the question is ill-posed in my understanding of distributed systems.

The requested task is to verify the fact given by the (in)equalities from lecture 4,

$$T_{i-2} = T_{i-3} + t + o, \text{ where } o \text{ is the true offset}$$

$$T_i = T_{i-1} + t' - o$$

$$d_i = t + t' = T_{i-2} - T_{i-3} + T_i - T_{i-1}$$

$$o = (T_{i-2} - T_{i-3} - T_i + T_{i-1}) / 2 + (t' - t)/2$$

$$o_i = (T_{i-2} - T_{i-3} - T_i + T_{i-1}) / 2$$

$$o_i - d_i/2 \leq o \leq o_i + d_i/2$$

- Delay d_i is a measure of the accuracy of the estimate of offset
- The shorter and more symmetric the round-trip time, the more accurate the estimate of the current time

The estimate is given by, if T is the local time of the client, $T \leftarrow (T - o_i)$ or $T \leftarrow (T - \theta_i)$ with θ_i the offset with the minimal delay (the latter being optimal is a result of the theorem/fact we are to corroborate with the experiment)

of course, this is crude, one is best off using a filter (e.g. that of Kalman).

We want to verify *both* the following statements and their mathematical counterpart:

(1) "Shorter round trip time implies more accurate estimate" $\rightsquigarrow d_i$ is small implies o_i is close to o .

There is no way to have o (i.e. $t - t'$) – due to the linear algebraic fact pointed out by the expression in red above, therefore there is nothing to be done except to observe the fact given by the inequality in the blue box.

(2) "the more symmetric the round trip time is, the more accurate the estimate of the current time" $\rightsquigarrow o \rightarrow o_i$ as $\frac{t'-t}{2} \rightarrow 0$

Again, there is no way to have o (else, we would have a global clock), there is no way to corroborate the data here unless pulling more assumptions. There is nothing to be done except observe that fact on the right-hand-side of " \rightsquigarrow " above is given by the equalities from lecture 4.

You would have *assume* that for example the offset between two servers in the same datacenter is smaller than that between a datacenter and our local machine or that at nist. This is a reasonable assumption, and would take some inequality manipulation for the theoretical resultant, and some chosen plots to make a pretty report afterwards.

Here are some plots you can make from the output of our code.





