COMPSCI 677: Distributed And Operating Systems

Lab 3: Asterix and Multi-Trader Trouble

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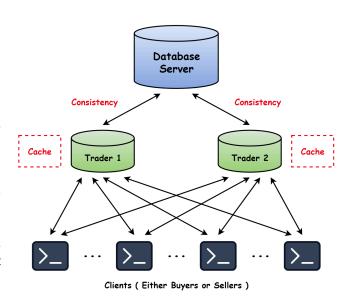
1. DESIGN DESCRIPTION

1.1. Peer Structure And Communication:

Peers run as isolated processes using Python's Multiprocessing module, ensuring no shared memory. Communication between peers occurs via interprocess messaging, simulating a distributed environment where peers interact as if they are running on separate machines.

1.2. Database Server Process:

The warehouse is implemented as a separate database server process, using a .json file to store inventory data (item names and quantities). Traders communicate with the warehouse to process buy and sell requests. Synchronous updates ensure consistency, and locks manage concurrent access to avoid race conditions.



1.3. Traders Electing Procedure:

Two traders are elected using the Bully algorithm as implemented in Lab 2. The first election determines the primary trader. The second election is triggered with the primary trader excluded, allowing the next highest-priority peer to be elected as the secondary trader. Both traders operate independently after elections.

1.4. Trading Process:

Buyers and sellers interact with traders based on their assigned roles:

- **Buy Requests**: Traders first check their local cache to determine availability and approve or deny the request. Transactions are logged in trader-specific .txt files.
- **Sell Requests**: Sellers deposit goods via traders, updating the local cache. Synchronization with the warehouse occurs to reflect updates in global inventory.

1.5. Cache Consistency Model:

A push and stateless model is implemented, where sell requests are cached by the trader and used to respond to subsequent buy requests. Both buy and sell requests are forwarded to the warehouse, which updates the inventory state and pushes the new state to active traders whenever a product is registered or sold. This approach ensures cache consistency between the warehouse and traders. Each product is managed with a priority queue ordered by Lamport clocks, allowing traders to handle buy and sell requests sequentially and in a globally consistent order.

1.6. Heartbeat Protocol:

Traders monitor each other's availability using a heartbeat protocol:

- Heartbeat messages are exchanged every 5 seconds.
- If no response is received within 5 seconds, the trader is marked as down, and peers update the failed trader's status to inactive. Active traders broadcast the failure status to ensure consistency.

1.7. Fault Tolerance:

When a trader fails, pending requests are reassigned to the active trader. The heartbeat protocol ensures quick detection and failover. When a trader fails, the remaining trader reads the queue of the failed trader and merges it with its own and starts serving the requests from the merged queue.

2. DESIGN TRADE-OFFS

• **Periodic (vs) On-Demand Synchronization :** Periodic synchronization reduces communication overhead but may lead to cache inconsistencies. On-demand synchronization would offer better accuracy but increase latency.

- Two Elections For Two Leaders: Using two elections simplifies implementation but increases message exchanges
 and election time. A single election could reduce time but would add significant complexity to handle dual leader
 selection.
- **Bully Algorithm For Elections :** The Bully algorithm is simple to implement but assumes reliable message delivery. More robust algorithms like the Ring algorithm may handle network failures more effectively in larger systems.

3. HOW TO EXECUTE MY SUBMISSION (also please go through README.md)

- Download and extract the provided zip file. Navigate to the project directory
- Ensure Python version >= 3.5 is installed on your system using 'python --version'
- Run 'pip install -r requirements.txt' to install the required dependencies
- For Windows users: Execute `python windows_run.py` and specify number of nodes: <value>
 For Mac or Linux users: Execute `python run_nodes.py` and specify number of nodes: <value>
- Note: For Mac users, Set up a virtual environment in the code directory, install dependencies from requirements.txt, and create directories named peer{i} (e.g., peer1, peer2, ...) for the number of peers, typically 6 and peer51 for the warehouse reflective of its port number.

4. POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Implementing dynamic trader replication based on workload (e.g., auto-scaling with cloud instances) to handle increased buyer or seller activity efficiently.
- Incorporating stronger consistency models, such as linearizability or quorum-based protocols, to further reduce overselling while maintaining performance.
- Adding mechanisms to replay or recover partially completed requests during trader failures to ensure no data or transaction is lost.

5. TESTS AND OUTPUTS

- **5.1. Tests:** We conducted several tests to verify the implementation's correctness. The codebase meets the following key requirements (most of the edge cases and error handling are covered):
 - Handling overselling when multiple buyers request the same product with outdated cache data.
 - Detecting false-positive trader failures due to network latency in the heartbeat protocol.
 - Reprocessing unhandled requests perfectly during trader failover without duplicates or data loss.
 - Preventing deadlocks in warehouse request queues under high-concurrency conditions.
 - Managing partial inventory fulfillment when only part of a buyer's requested quantity is available.

5.2. Output:

| C\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - python E\PyEnv\677Lab3\Lab3\cs677-lab3-temp2\peer.py 1 buyer 8 |
|--|
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 46, product: salt, quantity: 1 at time 2024-12-10 19:42:54.562954 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:47, product;fish, quantity:3, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:42:58.620993 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer_id: 1, request_no: 47, product: fish, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:42:59.617995 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:48, product:boar, quantity:3, trader:7 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:04.406992 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 48, product: boar, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:07.291992 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:49, product:salt, quantity:3, trader:7 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:11.605548 |
| fransaction: message: Available buyer id: 1. request no: 49, product: salt, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:13,143549 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:50, product:salt, quantity:3, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:17.845553 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 50, product: salt, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:19.597551 |
| Request: buver id:1, request no:51, product:salt, quantity:3, trader:7 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:24, 362177 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 51, product: salt, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:27.017178 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:52, product:salt, quantity:2, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:31.184177 |
| Transaction: message: Available buyer id: 1, request no: 52, product: salt, quantity: 2 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:32.436179 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:53, product:boar, quantity:3, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:36,985181 |
| ransaction: message: Available, buyer_id: 1, request_no: 53, product: boar, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:39.350177 |
| Request: buver id:1, request no:54, product:salt, quantity:2, trader:7 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:43, 305178 |
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| Transaction: message: Available buyer id: 1, request no: 55, product: fish, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:51.666756 |
| Request: buver id:1, request no:56, product:boar, quantity:2, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:43:55, 922790 |
| ransaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 56, product: boar, quantity: 2 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:00.360758 |
| Hanisaction, message Available, hower late 1, request no. 50, product boar, quantity, 2 at time 2021-12-10 19.44:03.920338 |
| fransaction: message: Available buyer id: 1. request no: 57, product: boar, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:05.291339 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:58, product:boar, quantity:2, trader:7 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:99.895339 |
| ransaction: message: Available buyer id: 1, request no: 58, product: boar, quantity: 2 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:12.049339 |
| Request: buver id:1, request no:59, product;fish, quantity:2, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:16.334428 |
| ransaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 59, product: fish, quantity: 2 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:17.527428 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:60, product:fish, quantity:2, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:22.221429 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 50, product: fish, quantity: 2 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:24.372428 |
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| ransaction: message: Available, buyer_id: 1, request_no: 61, product: salt, quantity: 2 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:30.075014 |
| Request: buver id:1. request no:62, product:salt, quantity:3, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:34.428016 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 62, product: salt, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:36.798014 |
| Request: buyer id:1, request no:63, product:salt, quantity:3, trader:7 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:41.296015 |
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| Request: buyer id:1, request no:64, product:boar, quantity:3, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:47.159020 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 64, product: boar, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:44:49.721014 |
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| Request: buyer id:1, request no:66, product; fish, quantity:3, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:45:00.644071 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 66, product: fish, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:45:04.900072 |
| Request: buyer_id:1, request_no:67, product:salt, quantity:3, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:45:09.390072 |
| Transaction: message: Available, buyer id: 1, request no: 67, product: salt, quantity: 3 at time 2024-12-10 19:45:12.362074 |
| Request: buyer_id:1, request_no:68, product:fish, quantity:1, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:45:16-121639 |
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| Request: buyer id:1, request no:69, product:salt, quantity:2, trader:8 at time 2024-12-10 19:45:23.02.036 |
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5.3. Known Issues:

- Traders' caches may become outdated between synchronization intervals, leading to overselling or under-selling in high-demand scenarios.
- The heartbeat protocol may falsely mark a trader as inactive due to minor network delays, leading to unnecessary failovers
- The use of a single .json file for warehouse storage poses a reliability risk and must be addressed with redundant or distributed storage.
- Lack of proper time ordering in distributed queues can cause some requests to be delayed indefinitely, leading to potential starvation and inefficiencies in request processing.
- Requires a lot of manual configuration to execute and check performance of multiple experiments.

6. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND EVALUATION

6.1. Throughput of the Cache-less and Cache-based Approach:

 $Throughput = \frac{Total\ number\ of\ requests\ processed\ by\ warehouse}{Total\ time\ taken\ (in\ seconds)}$

Number of Peers = 8 Number of Buyers = 4 Number of Sellers = 2 Buyer : Seller Ratio = 2:1 Number of Traders = 2

| | Cache-less Approach | Cache-based Approach |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Requests Processed = 50*4 = 200 | Time Taken : 550.3216 Throughput = 0.36342 | Time Taken: 377.4255 Throughput = 0.5299 |
| Requests Processed = 60*4= 240 | Time Taken : 652.3600 Throughput = 0.36789 | Time Taken : 450.4124 Throughput = 0.53284 |

Analysis on the system: The throughput of the system in the cache-based approach is higher. According to the definition, this implies that the total time taken for processing is lower in the cache-based approach, making it more efficient.

6.2. Throughput for Buyer: Seller Ratio for Number of Requests Processed:

| Number of Traders = 2 | Cache-less Approach | Cache-based Approach |
|---|---|---|
| Number of Peers = 8 Number of Buyers = 4 Total Number of Requests = 50*4 = 200 | Time Taken : 550.3216 Throughput = 0.36342 | Time Taken : 377.4255 Throughput = 0.52990 |
| Number of Peers = 6 Number of Buyers = 2 Number of Sellers = 2 Total Number of Requests = 50 * 2 = 100 | Time Taken : 531.944465 Throughput = 0.18798 | Time Taken : 360.919311 Throughput = 0.2770702 |

6.3. Rate of Over-Selling for Cache-based Approach:

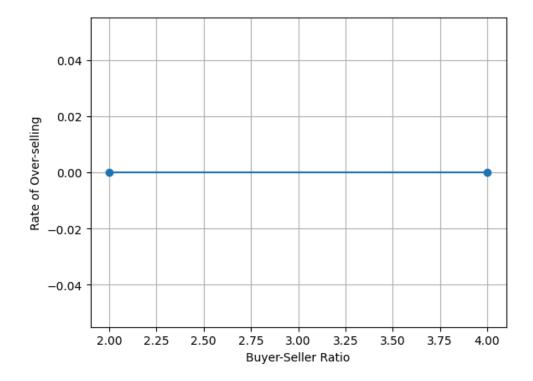
Rate of Overselling (%) =
$$(\frac{Number\ of\ buy\ requests\ denied\ by\ warehouse}{Total\ number\ of\ buy\ requests})$$
 * 100

Number of Peers = 8 Number of Buyers = 4 Number of Sellers = 2 Buyer : Seller Ratio = 2:1 Number of Traders = 2

| Total Buy Requests = 50*4 = 200 | Buy requests denied = 0 Rate of over-selling (%) = 0 |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Total Buy Requests = 60*4 = 240 | Buy requests denied = 0 Rate of over-selling (%) = 0 |

6.4. Impact of Buyers-to-Sellers Ratio on Over-Selling Incidence for Total Buy Requests:

In the below plot, we set X axis: Buyer: Seller Ratio and Y axis: Rate of Over-selling (%):



Analysis on the system: In our multiple runs, we hardly noticed any underselling or overselling. This is likely because requests for each product are maintained in a priority queue, ensuring consistency for each trader even before synchronization. Additionally, since the cache is updated every time a request is forwarded to the warehouse after being processed by the trader with respect to its local cache, the likelihood of stale caches is low.

6.5. Impact of Sellers deposit with Trader for Total Buy Requests:

| $N_g = 5$ and $T_g = 3$ | Buy requests denied by warehouse = 0 Rate of over-selling (%) = 0 |
|-------------------------|---|
| $N_g = 5$ and $T_g = 5$ | Buy requests denied by warehouse = 0 Rate of over-selling (%) = 0 |
| $N_g = 3$ and $T_g = 5$ | Buy requests denied by warehouse = 1 Rate of under-selling (%) = 1/100 |

Analysis on the system: In our multiple runs, we hardly noticed any underselling or overselling. This is likely because requests for each product are maintained in a priority queue, ensuring consistency for each trader even before synchronization. Additionally, since the cache is updated every time a request is forwarded to the warehouse after being processed by the trader with respect to its local cache, the likelihood of stale caches is low.

6.6. Impact of Trader on Throughput:

| | Number of Traders = 2 | Number of Traders = 1 (Trader failure) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Requests Processed = 50*4 = 200 | Time Taken : 377.4255 Throughput = 0.5299 | Time Taken : 1069.899 Throughput = 0.18693 |
| Requests Processed = 60*4 = 240 | Time Taken : 450.4124 Throughput = 0.53284 | Time Taken : 1437.317 Throughput = 0.16697 |

Analysis on the system: With 2 traders, throughput is higher as requests are distributed, ensuring faster processing. When one trader fails, throughput decreases as the remaining trader handles all requests, but seamless failover ensures minimal disruption.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1. Additional Research Questions:

- How does the buyers-to-sellers ratio impact the accuracy and reliability of cache-based system?
- What are the trade-offs between cache synchronization frequency and system throughput in reducing overselling?
- What is the optimal balance between synchronization frequency and scalability in distributed cache-based systems to ensure both consistency and performance under high demand?
- How effectively does the heartbeat protocol maintain fault tolerance in distributed trading systems during trader failures?

7.2. Hypothesis About Our System:

The system is designed to maintain high throughput and consistency under dynamic buyer-to-seller ratios by leveraging cache synchronization with Lamport clocks and robust fault tolerance via heartbeat protocols. It is hypothesized to effectively minimize overselling, underselling, and downtime while ensuring accurate inventory updates and seamless failover during trader failures.

7.3. Opinion And Conclusion:

Whether the Gauls should use the cache-less or cache-based approaches?

The Gauls should prefer the <u>cache-based approach</u> for its higher throughput and reduced latency, provided synchronization intervals are optimized to minimize overselling and underselling. Cache-less, while consistent, introduces significant delays due to warehouse dependency.

Is there an alternatively better cache consistency implementation?

A <u>quorum-based consistency model</u> or <u>versioning with vector clocks</u> could enhance cache-based implementation by providing stronger consistency while retaining high performance, especially in high-demand scenarios.