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# Distributed Sudoku Solver Protocol

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# Protocol

## Overview

The distributed Sudoku solver is implemented as a peer-to-peer (P2P) network where each node can act as both a client and a server. The nodes collaborate to solve Sudoku puzzles by distributing parts of the puzzle among themselves. The key components include `SudokuNode`, `RequestHandler`, `Sudoku`, and `ServerState`.

## Components

### 1. `SudokuNode` Class

The `SudokuNode` class represents a node in the P2P network. Each node handles P2P communication, task distribution, and coordination of solving Sudoku puzzles.

- **Initialization:**
  - Sets up host, ports, peer connections, task storage, and server state.
  - Determines the host IP and binds the P2P server socket to the specified port.
  - If the node is an anchor node, it initializes the peer list with itself.
  - Non-anchor nodes attempt to connect to the anchor node and join the network.
- **Start Methods:**
  - Binds the P2P server socket and starts the HTTP server.
  - Connects to the anchor node and begins accepting connections.
- **Connection Handling:**
  - Accepts and handles incoming P2P connections, processes messages, and manages network state.
- **Message Processing:**
  - Handles different message types (`JOIN`, `UPDATE`, `LEAVE`, `REQUEST`, `PARTIAL_SOLUTION`, `SOLUTION`, `NETWORK`), updating peer lists, solving Sudoku parts, and coordinating the solution process.
- **Task Distribution:**

- Splits the Sudoku puzzle and distributes parts to peers. Each part is represented by a 3x3 grid of the sudoku puzzle.

- **Sudoku Solving:**

- Solves Sudoku parts and checks for solution completeness.

## 2. **RequestHandler** Class

The **RequestHandler** class handles HTTP requests for solving Sudoku puzzles and managing the network.

- **HTTP POST Requests:**

- **/solve**: Receives a Sudoku puzzle, assigns an ID, distributes parts, waits for the solution, and returns the solved puzzle or a status message.
  - **/check**: Receives a Sudoku puzzle and checks if it is solved.

- **HTTP GET Requests:**

- **/network**: Returns the current peer list.
  - **/stats**: Returns server statistics.

## 3. **Sudoku** Class

The **Sudoku** class represents a Sudoku puzzle and contains methods for solving and validating the puzzle.

## 4. **ServerState** Class

The **ServerState** class manages the state of the server, including statistics and other relevant data.

- **Initialization:**

- Initializes statistics for solved puzzles and validations.
  - Manages network state and flags for solving status.

- **Updating Statistics:**

- Updates statistics for nodes based on solved puzzles and validations.

- **Retrieving Statistics:**

- Retrieves current statistics for all nodes.

## Protocol Flow

### Node Initialization and Connection

1. Each node is initialized with HTTP and P2P ports, a handicap time, and an anchor node address.
2. Nodes determine their own host IP and bind the P2P server socket to the specified port.
3. If the node is an anchor node, it initializes the peer list with itself.
4. Non-anchor nodes attempt to connect to the anchor node and join the network.

### HTTP Server

1. Each node runs an HTTP server that handles requests via the `RequestHandler`.
2. The HTTP server processes POST requests to `/solve` and `/check`, and GET requests to `/network` and `/stats`.

### P2P Communication

1. Nodes accept incoming connections on the P2P port and process messages using the `process_message` method.
2. Messages can be of various types: `JOIN`, `UPDATE`, `LEAVE`, `REQUEST`, `PARTIAL_SOLUTION`, `SOLUTION`, `NETWORK`.

### Joining the Network (`JOIN`)

1. When a node wants to join the network, it sends a `JOIN` message to the anchor node.
2. The anchor node updates its peer list and informs all existing peers about the new node.
3. The new node receives the current network topology and updates its own peer list.

### Updating the Network (`UPDATE`)

1. When a new node joins, existing nodes are informed via `UPDATE` messages, ensuring all nodes have a consistent view of the network.

## Leaving the Network (**LEAVE**)

1. When a node leaves, it sends a **LEAVE** message, and other nodes remove it from their peer lists.

## Solving Sudoku Puzzles

1. **Distributing Tasks:** When a node receives a **REQUEST** message to solve a Sudoku puzzle, it splits the puzzle into 3x3 parts and distributes them among peers using **distribute\_sudoku\_task**.
2. **Solving Parts:** Each node that receives a part attempts to solve it and sends back a **PARTIAL\_SOLUTION**.
3. **Collecting Solutions:** The main node collects all partial solutions and attempts to solve the entire puzzle. If successful, it broadcasts a **SOLUTION** message.

## Example Protocol Flow

1. **Node Initialization:**
  - A node starts and checks if it's an anchor node.
  - If not an anchor, it sends a **JOIN** message to the anchor node.
2. **Joining the Network:**
  - Anchor node receives **JOIN**, updates peer list, and sends an **UPDATE** message to all peers.
  - New node receives network topology from the anchor and updates its peers.
3. **Solving a Sudoku Puzzle:**
  - A client sends a puzzle to a node via **/solve**.
  - The node splits the puzzle, assigns parts to peers using **REQUEST** messages.
  - Peers solve their parts and send **PARTIAL\_SOLUTION** messages back.
  - The main node collects parts, assembles them, checks for completeness, and returns the solved puzzle.

(Protocol diagram in the next page)

