CS5320

ASSIGNMENT 3

Solving Byzantine Agreement

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Introduction

In fault-tolerant computer systems, and in particular distributed computing systems, Byzantine fault tolerance (BFT) is the characteristic of a system that tolerates the class of failures known as the Byzantine Generals' Problem. In fault-tolerant computer systems, and in particular distributed computing systems, Byzantine fault tolerance (BFT) is the characteristic of a system that tolerates the class of failures known as the Byzantine Generals' Problem. The problem is unsolvable in asynchronous system. In this assignment, a synchronous system is considered and Phase king algorithm is implemented to solve Byzantine generals' problem.

Few salient features of the implementation:

1. The algorithm is implemented in MS Azure to simulate true distributed nature.
2. The byzantine nature of a process is simulated as follows: A byzantine process can send 0,1 or 2. 2 can be considered as equivalent to not sending any value which is one of the property of a byzantine process.
3. The default value is taken to be 0
4. The initial **pref** value is supplied in input file. Whether a process is faulty or non-faulty is inputted as command line argument.
5. Each process will wait until it gets messages from all the other processes in the system to go to next round. Since '2' is being used to mimic a byzantine process not sending any value, waiting till all the messages received make sense. This also helps maintaining the underlying assumption of synchronous system.

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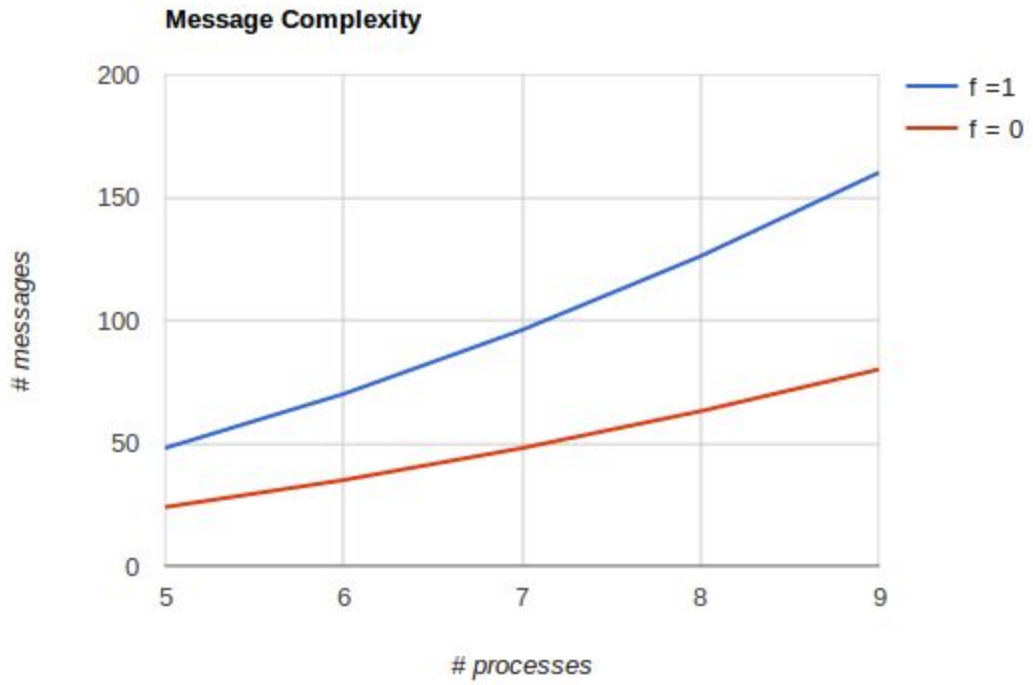
Explanations:

The experiment is done by varying total number of processes and number of byzantine processes.

n	f	#messages
5	1	48
6	1	70
7	1	96
8	1	126
9	1	160
9	2	240



From the table and corresponding graph, it is clearly seen that the growth rate is polynomial and not exponential as in the case of EIG.

Also it can be noted that the experiment is limited to 9 processes only because of the limitation imposed by MS Azure.

Screenshot of the trail run with n = 5 and f = 1 is as follows: