Fault-Tolerant Computer System Design ECE 60872/CS 590001

Topic 6: Distributed Algorithm Primitives: Broadcast & Agreement

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Outline

- Specific issues in design and implementation of networked/distributed systems
- Broadcast protocols
- Agreement protocols
- Commit protocols

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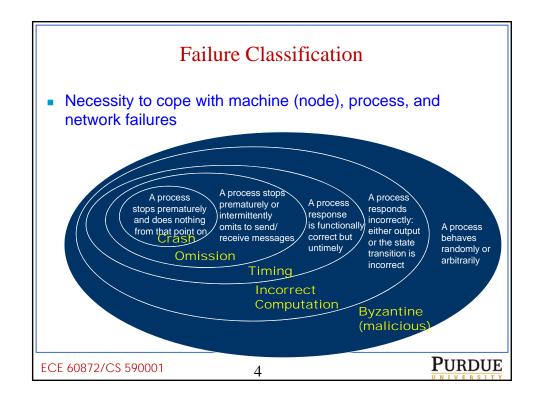
Networked/Distributed Systems Key Questions

How do we integrate components (often heterogeneous) with varying fault tolerance characteristics into a coherent high availability networked system?

- How do you guarantee reliable communication (message delivery)?
- How do you synchronize actions of dispersed processors and processes?
- How do you ensure that replicated services with independently executing components have a consistent view of the overall system?
- How do you contain errors (or achieve fail-silent behavior of components) to prevent error propagation?
- How do you adapt the system architecture to changes in availability requirements of the application(s)?

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What Do We Need in Approaching the Problems?

- Understand and provide solution to replication problem (in its broad meaning)
 - process/data replication
 - replica consistency and replica determinism
 - replica recovery/reintegration
 - redundancy management
- Provide efficient techniques capable of supporting a consistent data and coherent behavior between system components despite failures

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What Do We Need in Approaching the Problems?

- Problems posed by replication
 - Replication of processes
 - Replication of data
- Techniques include:

We will cover

- Broadcast protocols (e.g., atomic broadcast, causal broadcast), which ensure reliable message delivery to all participants (replicas)
- Agreement protocols, which ensures all participants have a consistent system view
- Commit protocols, which implement atomic behavior in transactional types of systems

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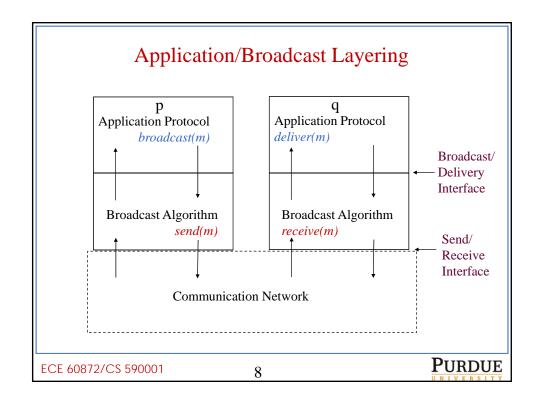
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Broadcast Protocols

- Cooperating processes in networked /distributed systems often communicate via broadcast
- A failure during a broadcast can lead to inconsistency and can compromise the integrity of the system
- Need for supporting reliable broadcast protocols that provide strong guarantee on message delivery
- Example protocols include
 - reliable broadcast
 - FIFO broadcast
 - causal broadcast
 - atomic broadcast

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What Do We Assume?

- The system consists of a set of sites interconnected through a communication network
- Computation processes communicate with each other by exchanging messages
- Process failures can be detected by timeouts
 - Processes suffer crash or omission failures
 - Communication is synchronous and each message is received within a bounded time interval

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What Do We Assume?

- The network is not partitioned
- Conventional Message-Passing Technologies
 - Unreliable datagrams (e.g., UDP)
 - Remote procedure call (RPC)
 - Reliable data streams (e.g., TCP)

Goal: Provide robust techniques/algorithms for supporting consistent data and reliable communications in a networked environment

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Reliable Broadcast

- Reliable broadcast guarantees the following properties:
 - Validity: if a correct process broadcasts a message m, then all correct processes eventually deliver m (all messages broadcast by correct processes are delivered)
 - Agreement: if a correct process delivers a message m, then all correct processes eventually deliver m (all correct processes agree on the set of messages they deliver),
 - Integrity: for any message m, every correct process delivers m at most once and only if m was previously broadcast by a sender (no spurious messages are ever delivered)
- Reliable broadcast imposes no restrictions on the order of messages delivery

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Reliable Broadcast by Message Diffusion

 Consider an asynchronous system where every two correct processes are connected via a path of processes and links that never fail

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Every process p executes the following:

To execute broadcast(R, m)

tag m with sender(m) and seq#(m) //these tags make m unique
send(m) to all neighbors including p

deliver(R, m) occurs as follows:
    upon receive(m) do
    if p has not previously executed deliver(R, m)
    then
    if sender(m)!= p then send(m) to all neighbors
    deliver(R, m)
```

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Reliable Broadcast by Message Forwarding

- Consider the network as a tree
 - Root is the initiator of the broadcast, call it S
 - If edge from node P to node Q in the tree, then P will forward the message to Q
 - Tree is a logical structure and has no relation to the physical structure of the network
- Upon receiving a message, node i sends the message to all $j \in CHILD(i)$
- 2. Node *j* sends ACK to node *i*
- 3. Node *j* sends message to all its children nodes
- If node i does not get an ACK from j, it assumes j has failed and takes over the responsibility of forwarding message to all k ∈ CHILD(j)
- 5. Each node eliminates duplicates using (*S*, *m*.seq_no)

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Reliable Broadcast by Message Forwarding (Cont'd)

- How to handle failure of root node S?
- Case 1: S fails after sending m to all its children
 - No problem protocol takes care of it
- Case 2: S fails before sending m to any of its children
 - No problem broadcast has not even started
- Case 3: S fails after sending m to some, but not all, of its children
 - A child of S has to take over responsibility
 - Multiple children can take over responsibility each node just eliminates duplicates
 - When S completes sending to all its children, it can inform its children
 - A child receiving the next broadcast message m_2 serves as indication that S has completed sending m_1 to all its children

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FIFO Broadcast

 FIFO Broadcast is a Reliable Broadcast that satisfies the following requirement on message delivery

FIFO order: if a process broadcasts a message m before it broadcasts a message m, then no correct process delivers m, unless it has previously delivered m (messages sent by the same sender are delivered in the order they were broadcast)

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Build FIFO Broadcast Using Reliable Broadcast

```
Every process p executes the following:
Initialization:
msgBag := \emptyset
                                          //set of messages that p R-delivered
                                          // but not yet F-delivered
                                          //sequence number of next message from q
next[q] := 1  for all q
                                          //that p will F-deliver
To execute broadcast(F, m)
     broadcast(R, m)
deliver(F, m) occurs as follows:
    upon deliver(R, m) do
        q := sender(m)
        msgBag := msgBag \cup \{m\}
        while (\exists m' \in msgBag: sender(m') == q \text{ and } seq\#(m') == next[q]) \text{ do}
                 deliver(F, m')
                 next[q] := next[q] + 1
                  msgBag := msgBag - \{m'\}
```

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FIFO Broadcast (cont.)

- The FIFO Order is not sufficient if a message m depends on messages that the sender of m delivered before broadcasting m, e.g., let consider a network news application where users distribute their articles with FIFO broadcast
 - user 1 broadcast an article
 - user_2 delivers that article and broadcasts a response that can only be properly handled by a user who has the original article
 - user_3 delivers user_2's response before delivering the original article from user_1 and consequently misinterprets the response
- Causal broadcast prevents the above problem by introducing the notion of a message depending on another one and ensuring that a message is not delivered until all the messages it depends on have been delivered

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Causal Broadcast

 Causal Broadcast is a Reliable Broadcast that satisfies the following requirement on message delivery

Causal Order: if the broadcast of message m causally precedes the broadcast of a message m', then no correct process delivers m' unless it has previously delivered m

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Causal Broadcast Using FIFO Broadcast

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Causal Broadcast (cont.)

- Causal Broadcast does not impose any order on those messages that are not causally related
 - consider a replicated database with two copies of a bank account client_account residing at different sites. Initially client_account has an amount of \$1000.
 - A user deposits \$150 triggering a broadcast of msg1 = {add \$150 to client_account} to the two copies of client_account.
 - At the same time, at other site, the bank initiates a broadcast of msg2 = {add 8% interest to client_account}
 - the two broadcasts are not causally related, the Causal Broadcast allows the two copies of *client_account* to deliver these updates in different order and creates inconsistency in the database
- Atomic Broadcast prevents such problem by providing strong message ordering or total order

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Atomic Broadcast

Atomic Broadcast is a Reliable Broadcast that satisfies the following condition

Total Order: if correct processes r and s both deliver messages m and m', then r delivers m before m' if and only if s delivers m before m' (messages sent concurrently are delivered in identical order to the selected destinations)

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Atomic Broadcast Protocol using Message Queues

- Two phase protocol
- Each process has a queue in which it stores received messages
- Phase I
- A sender has a group of receivers to send a message to. It multicasts the message to the group, with the receiver ids in the message.
- 2. On receiving a message, a receiver:
- Assigns a priority (highest among all buffered messages), marks it undeliverable, and buffers it in the message queue.
- Informs the sender of the message priority.

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Atomic Broadcast Protocol using Message Queues

- Phase II
- When sender receives responses from all receivers:
- Chooses the highest priority as the final message priority.
- Multicasts the final priority to all receivers.
- 2. When a receiver receives the final priority:
- Assigns priority to corresponding message.
- Marks the message as deliverable.
- Orders messages in increasing order of priorities.
- Message is delivered when it reaches head of the queue and is marked deliverable.

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Atomic Broadcast Protocol using Message Queues: Failure Scenario

- A receiver detects it has a message marked undeliverable and sender has failed. It becomes the new sender/coordinator.
- It asks all receivers about status of message. Three possible answers:
 - I. Message is marked undeliverable and its associated priority.
 - II. Message is marked deliverable and the final priority of the message.
 - III. It has not received the message.
- 2. After receiving responses from all receivers:
 - If message marked deliverable at any receiver, it assigns that as the final priority and multicasts it. On receiving this, receivers execute phase II.2 actions.
 - II. Otherwise, the coordinator reinitiates the protocol from phase I.

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Remarks on Broadcasts

Inconsistency and contamination

- suppose that a process p fails by omitting to deliver a message that is delivered by all the correct processes
- state of p might be inconsistent with other correct processes
- p continues to execute and p broadcasts a message m that is delivered by all the correct processes
- *m* might be corrupted because it reflects p's erroneous state
- correct processes get contaminated by incorporating p's inconsistency into their own state.

Observation: Broadcast can lead to the corruption of the entire system

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Remarks on Broadcasts (cont.)

- To prevent contamination a process can refuse to deliver messages from processes whose previous deliveries are not compatible with its own
 - a message must carry additional information, so that the receiving process can determine whether it is safe to deliver the message
- To prevent inconsistency requires techniques that ensure that the faulty process will immediately stop to execute (i.e., the process is fail-silent)

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Remarks on Broadcasts (cont.)

- A fault-tolerant broadcast is usually implemented by a broadcast algorithm that uses lower-level communication primitives, such as pointto-point message sends and receives
- The failure models are usually defined in terms of failures that occur at the level of send and receive primitives, e.g., omission to receive messages
- How do these failures affect the execution of higher-level primitives, such as broadcast and delivery? For example, if a faulty process omits to receive messages, will it simply omit to deliver messages?
- In general broadcasts algorithms are likely to amplify the severity of failures that occur at the low level communication primitives (sends and receives).
 - e.g., the omission to receive messages may cause a faulty process to deliver messages in the wrong order

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Primitives for Fault-Tolerance in Distributed/Networked Systems

- Techniques include:
 - Broadcast protocols (e.g., atomic broadcast, causal broadcast), which ensure reliable message delivery to all participants (replicas)
 - Agreement protocols, which ensures all participants have a consistent system view
 - Commit protocols, which implement atomic behavior in transactional types of systems

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Agreement Protocols

- In a distributed system, it is often required that processes reach a mutual agreement.
- Faulty processes can send conflicting values to other processors preventing them from reaching an agreement
- In the presence of faults, processes must exchange their values and relay the values received from other processes several times to isolate the effects of faulty processes.
- System model
 - There are n processes in the system and at most m of them can be faulty.
 - Processes communicate with one another by message passing and the receiver process always knows the identity of the sender process of the message.
 - The communication network is reliable, i.e., only processes are prone to failures.

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Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Computation

- In synchronous computation, processes in the system run in lockstep:
 - In each step/round, a process receives messages (sent to it in the previous step), performs computation, and sends messages to other processes (received in the next step).
 - A process knows all the messages it expects to receive in a step/round.
- In asynchronous computation, processes do not execute in lockstep:
 - A process can send and receive messages and perform computation at any time
- The synchronous model of computation is assumed in further discussion

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Model of Processor Failures

- Three modes of failures
 - Crash fault
 - Omission fault
 - Byzantine fault
- Crash fault: Processor stops functioning and never resumes operation
- Omission fault: Processor "omits" to send messages to some processors
- Malicious fault: Processor behaves randomly and arbitrarily (Byzantine fault)
- In synchronous model, omission can be detected

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Authenticated vs. Non-Authenticated Messages

- To reach an agreement, processes need to exchange their values and relay the received values to other processors.
- A faulty process can distort a message received from other processes.

Two Types of Messages:

- Authenticated (signed)
 - A faulty process cannot forge a message or change the contents of a received message (before it relays the message to other processes).
 - A process can verify the authenticity of the received message.
- Non-authenticated (oral)
 - A faulty process can forge a message and claim to have received it from another processor or change the contents of the received message before it relays it to other processes.
 - A process has no way to verify the authenticity of the received message.

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Agreement Problems - Classification

- The Byzantine Agreement Problem
 - A single value is initialized by any arbitrary process, and all nonfaulty processes have to agree on that value
- The Consensus Problem
 - Every process has its own initial value, and all correct processes must agree on a single, common value.
- The Interactive Consistency Problem
 - Every process has its own initial value, and all nonfaulty process must agree on a set of common values.

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The Byzantine Agreement Problem

- An arbitrarily chosen process the source process broadcasts its initial value to all other processes.
- Agreement All nonfaulty processes agree on the same value.
- Validity If the source process is nonfaulty then the common value agreed on by all nonfaulty processes should be the initial value of the source.

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The Consensus Problem

- Every process broadcasts its initial value to all other processes.
 - Initial values of the processes may be different.
- Agreement All nonfaulty processes agree on the same single value.
- Validity if the initial value of every nonfaulty process is υ , then the common value agreed upon by nonfaulty processes must be υ .

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The Interactive Consistency Problem

- Every process broadcasts its initial value to all other processes.
 - Initial values of the processes may be different.
- Agreement All nonfaulty processes agree on the same vector:

 $(v_1, v_2, ..., v_n)$

• Validity - If the ith process is nonfaulty and its initial value is υ_i , then the ith value to be agreed on by all nonfaulty processes must be υ_i

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Relations Among the Agreement Problems

- Given an algorithm to solve Byzantine agreement, how would you solve Interactive Consistency?
- 2. Given an algorithm to solve Interactive Consistency, how would you solve Consensus?
- Given an algorithm to solve Consensus, how would you solve Byzantine Agreement?

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Byzantine Agreement Problem: Solution

The upper bound on the number of faulty processes

- It can be shown that in a fully connected network it is impossible to reach a consensus if the number of faulty processes, m, exceeds $\lfloor (n-1)/3 \rfloor$,
 - For example, if n=3, than m=0, i.e., having three processes, we cannot solve the Byzantine agreement problem even in the event of a single error.
 - The protocol requires m+1 rounds of message exchange (m is the maximum number of faulty processes)
 - This is also the lower bound on the number of rounds of message exchanged.
- Using authenticated messages, this bound is relaxed, and a consensus can be reached for any number of faulty processes.

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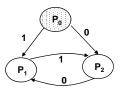
Impossibility Results

- Consider a system with three processes p₁, p₂, p₃
- There are two values, 0 and 1, on which processes agree.
- p₀ initiates the algorithm.
 Case one p₀ is not faulty

1 P₁ 1 P₂

assume p_2 is faulty suppose p_0 broadcast 1 to p_1 and p_2 p_2 acts maliciously and sends 0 to p_1 p_1 must agree on 1 if algorithm is to be satisfied p_1 receives two conflicting values no agreement is possible

Case one - p₀ is faulty



 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{suppose p}_0 \text{ sends 1 to p}_1 \text{ and } 0 \text{ to p}_2 \\ p_2 \text{ communicates 0 to p}_1 \\ p_1 \text{ receives two conflicting values} \\ \textbf{no agreement is possible} \end{array}$

 No solution exists for the Byzantine agreement problem for three processes, which can work under a single failure

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Oral Messages Algorithm OM(m)

- A recursive algorithm solves the Byzantine agreement problem for 3m+1 or more processes in the presence of at most m faulty processes.
- Algorithm OM(0)
- 1. The source process sends its value to every process.
- 2. Each process uses the value it receives from the source (if it receives no value, then it uses a default value of 0).

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Oral Messages Algorithm OM(m)

- Algorithm OM(m), m > 0
- 1. The source process sends its value to every process.
- 2. For each i, let v_i be the value processor i receives from the source.
 - Process *i* acts as a new source and initiates *Algorithm OM(m-1)* wherein it sends the value v_i to each of the n-2 other processes.
- 3. For each i and each $j \neq i$ let v_j be the value process i received from j in step (2) using Algorithm OM(m-1). (If no value is received then default value 0 is used). Process i uses the value majority $(v_1, v_2, ..., v_{n-1})$.
- The algorithm is complex
 - Message complexity?
 - Time complexity?

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Oral Messages Algorithm OM(m): An Example Consider a system with four processes p₀, p₁, p₂, p₃ p₀ initiate the algorithm; p₂ is faulty To initiate the agreement p₀ executes OM(1) wherein it sends 1 to all processes At step 2 of the OM(1) algorithm, p_1 , p_2 , p_3 execute the algorithm OM(0) p_1 and p_3 are nonfaulty and p_1 sends 1 to $\{p_2, p_3\}$ p₃ sends 1 to {p₁, p₂} p₂ is faulty and sends 1 to p₁ and 0 to p₃ After receiving all messages p₁, p₂, p₃ execute step 3 of the OM(1) to decide the majority value p_1 received $\{1, 1, 1\} \Rightarrow 1$ p_2 received $\{1, 1, 1\} \Rightarrow 1$ p_3 received $\{1, 1, 0\} \Rightarrow 1$ Both conditions of the Byzantine agreement are satisfied **PURDUE** ECE 60872/CS 590001 42

Oral Messages Algorithm OM(m): An Example (cont.) Consider a system with four processes p_0 , p_1 , p_2 , p_3 p₀ initiate the algorithm; p₀ is faulty P₀ send conflicting values to p₁, p₂, p₃ Under step 2 of OM(0) p_1 , p_2 , p_3 send the received values to the other two processes p₁, p₂, p₃ execute step 3 of OM(1) to decide on the majority value p_1 received $\{1, 0, 1\} \Rightarrow 1$ p_2 received $\{0, 1, 1\} \Rightarrow 1$ p_3 received $\{1, 1, 0\} \Rightarrow 1$ **Both conditions of the Byzantine** agreement are satisfied **PURDUE** ECE 60872/CS 590001 43

Protocol with Signed Messages

- Transmitter sends a "signed" message (use digital signature from asymmetric cryptography)
- If a node changes the content of message from transmitter before forwarding it, the receiver can detect the forgery
- With signed messages, agreement can be reached between n=m+2 processes, where m is the number of faulty processes
- Each process maintains a set V_i (for process i) that has all the unique values that it has received

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Protocol with Signed Messages

- Algorithm SM(m)
- 1. The transmitter (process 0) signs its value and sends to other nodes
- 2. For each process i:
 - A. If process *i* received message v: 0 (i) it sets V_i to $\{v\}$; (ii) it sends v: 0: i to every other process
 - B. If process i received message v: 0: j_1 : ...: j_k and $v \notin V_i$, then (i) it adds v to V_i ; (ii) if k < m, it sends v: 0: j_1 : ...: j_k : i to every process other than j_1 , ..., j_k
- For each process i, when it receives no more message, it considers the final value as $choice(V_i)$

Erratum:

In 2.B.

v \notin V_i condition controls (i) but not (ii). (ii) will execute regardless.

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Application of Agreement Algorithms

Fault-Tolerant Clock Synchronization Example

- In distributed systems, it is often necessary for processes to maintain synchronized physical clocks.
- Drift of the physical clock requires the clocks at different processes to be periodically resynchronized.
- It is assumed that
 - All clocks are initially synchronized to approximately the same value.
 - A nonfaulty process's clock runs approximately at the correct rate (i.e., one second of clock time per second of real time).
 - A nonfaulty process can read the clock value of another nonfaulty process with a small error $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$

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Fault-Tolerant Clock Synchronization

Interactive Convergence Algorithm

- The clocks are:
 - Initially synchronized
 - Resynchronized often enough so that two nonfaulty clocks never differ by more than $\boldsymbol{\delta}$
- Each process reads the value of all other processes' clocks and sets its clock value to the average of these values.
- If a clock value differs from a process's own value by more than δ, the process replaces that value by its own clock value when taking the average.

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Fault-Tolerant Clock Synchronization

Interactive Convergence Algorithm (cont.)

- Let two processes p and q, use c_{pr} and c_{qr} as the clock values of a third process r when computing their averages.
- If r is nonfaulty, then $c_{pr} = c_{qr}$. Actually $|c_{pr} c_{qr}| \le \varepsilon$
- If *r* is faulty then $|c_{pr} c_{qr}| \le 3\delta$
- If *p* and *q* computes their averages for the *n* clocks values:
 - use identical values for clocks of *n-m* nonfaulty processes.
 - The difference in the clock values of \emph{m} faulty processes used is bounded by 3δ
- The averages computed by p and q differ by at most $(3m/n)\delta$

$$n > 3m \Rightarrow (3m/n)\delta < \delta$$

Resynchronization brings the clocks closer by a factor of (3m/n)

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Fault-Tolerant Clock Synchronization

Interactive Convergence Algorithm (cont.)

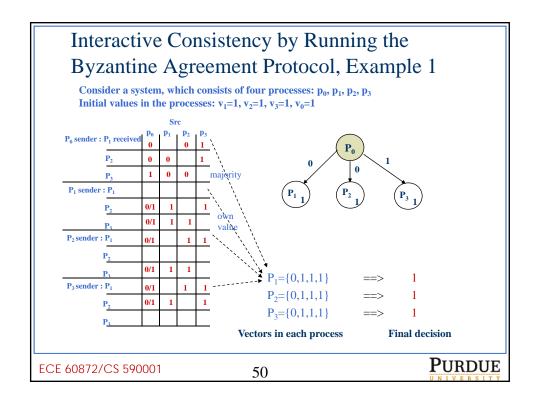
- In the algorithm, it was assumed that:
 - All processes execute the algorithm instantaneously at exactly the same time.
 - The error in reading another process's clock is zero.
- A process may read other processes' clocks at different time instances

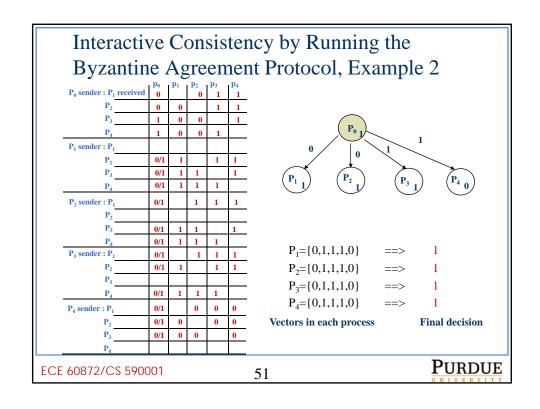
Solution:

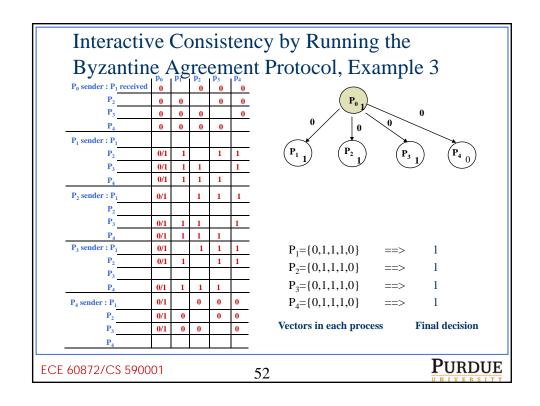
- A process computes the average of the difference in clock values and increments its clock by the average increment.
 - Clock differences larger than δ are replaced by 0.

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Reference

- Material for the topic from:
 - "Fault Tolerance in Distributed Systems" by Pankaj Jalote, Prentice Hall. Chapter 4 – Broadcast.
 - "Advanced Concepts in Operating Systems"
 by Singhal and Shivaratri, McGraw Hill.
 Chapter 8 Agreement.

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