

ACS Theory Assignment 3

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1 Question 1: Reliability

1.1 1

A daisy-chain network has a graph consisting of links:

$$l = n - 1 \quad (1)$$

The probability of a failure is p , the probability that there is no error is therefore $1 - p$. So all connecting also means no link failure and since we assume that a link failure is independent. we then get:

$$(1 - p)^{n-1} \quad (2)$$

1.2 2

In the fully connected network there are 3 links that can fail and as long as 2 links are still fully functioning then also all the building are still connected. That 1 link

fails we have the probability $p(1 - p)^2$ and when 0 links fail: $(1 - p)^3$. So we get that a fully-connected network is working is then:

$$3p(1 - p)^2 + (1 - p)^3 \quad (3)$$

1.3 3

For above we have now the 2 probabilities from which we can calculate which is the more reliable solution:

For Daisy Chain we get: $p_d = (1 - 0.000001)^{3-1} \approx 0.999998$

For fully connected we get: $p_f = 3 * 0.0001(1 - 0.0001)^2 + (1 - 0.0001)^3 \approx 0.99999997$

So we get that a fully connected with the less reliable links would offer a better solution for the town

2 Question 2: Vector Clock

3 Question 3: Distributed Coordination

While the 2-Phase commit protocol can't recover on a failure of both the coordinator and a participant the 3-phase commit protocol can, this because of it's asynchronous nature. The 3-phase protocol introduces for that the prepared for commit state. If a coordinator fails in 3-phase protocol before sending a `preCommit`, the participants will unanimously agree that the operation has been aborted. The coordinator will not send out `doCommit` messages until all prepared to commit haven been `acked`, this eliminates the possibility that any of the participants completed the transactions before all participants were aware of it (which is one of the reasons that there can appear infinite blocking).