Today: More Canonical Problems

- Distributed Snapshots
- Termination Detection
- Leader election
- Mutual exclusion

Global State

- Global state of a distributed system
  - Local state of each process
  - Messages sent but not received (state of the queues)
- Many applications need to know the state of the system
  - Failure recovery, distributed deadlock detection
- Problem: how can you figure out the state of a distributed system?
  - Each process is independent
  - No global clock or synchronization
- Distributed snapshot: a consistent global state
Global State (1)

(a) A consistent cut
(b) An inconsistent cut

Distributed Snapshot Algorithm

• Assume each process communicates with another process using unidirectional point-to-point channels (e.g., TCP connections)
• Any process can initiate the algorithm
  – Checkpoint local state
  – Send marker on every outgoing channel
• On receiving a marker
  – Checkpoint state if first marker and send marker on outgoing channels, save messages on all other channels until:
  – Subsequent marker on a channel: stop saving state for that channel
Distributed Snapshot

• A process finishes when
  – It receives a marker on each incoming channel and processes them all
  – State: local state plus state of all channels
  – Send state to initiator

• Any process can initiate snapshot
  – Multiple snapshots may be in progress
    • Each is separate, and each is distinguished by tagging the marker with the initiator ID (and sequence number)

Snapshot Algorithm Example

(a) Organization of a process and channels for a distributed snapshot
**Snapshot Algorithm Example**

b) Process Q receives a marker for the first time and records its local state

c) Q records all incoming message

d) Q receives a marker for its incoming channel and finishes recording the state of the incoming channel

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**Termination Detection**

- Detecting the end of a distributed computation
- Notation: let sender be predecessor, receiver be successor
- Two types of markers: Done and Continue
- After finishing its part of the snapshot, process Q sends a Done or a Continue to its predecessor
- Send a Done only when
  - All of Q’s successors send a Done
  - Q has not received any message since it check-pointed its local state and received a marker on all incoming channels
  - Else send a Continue
- Computation has terminated if the initiator receives Done messages from everyone
Election Algorithms

• Many distributed algorithms need one process to act as coordinator
  – Doesn’t matter which process does the job, just need to pick one
• Election algorithms: technique to pick a unique coordinator (aka leader election)
• Examples: take over the role of a failed process, pick a master in Berkeley clock synchronization algorithm
• Types of election algorithms: Bully and Ring algorithms

Bully Algorithm

• Each process has a unique numerical ID
• Processes know the IDs and address of every other process
• Communication is assumed reliable
• Key Idea: select process with highest ID
• Process initiates election if it just recovered from failure or if coordinator failed
• 3 message types: election, OK, I won
• Several processes can initiate an election simultaneously
  – Need consistent result
• $O(n^2)$ messages required with $n$ processes
Bully Algorithm Details

- Any process $P$ can initiate an election
- $P$ sends *Election* messages to all processes with higher IDs and awaits *OK* messages
- If no *OK* messages, $P$ becomes coordinator and sends *I won* messages to all processes with lower IDs
- If it receives an *OK*, it drops out and waits for an *I won*
- If a process receives an *Election* msg, it returns an *OK* and starts an election
- If a process receives a *I won*, it treats sender an coordinator

Bully Algorithm Example

- The bully election algorithm
- Process 4 holds an election
- Process 5 and 6 respond, telling 4 to stop
- Now 5 and 6 each hold an election
Bully Algorithm Example

d) Process 6 tells 5 to stop

(e) Process 6 wins and tells everyone

Ring-based Election

- Processes have unique IDs and arranged in a logical ring
- Each process knows its neighbors
  - Select process with highest ID
- Begin election if just recovered or coordinator has failed
- Send *Election* to closest downstream node that is alive
  - Sequentially poll each successor until a live node is found
- Each process tags its ID on the message
- Initiator picks node with highest ID and sends a coordinator message
- Multiple elections can be in progress
  - Wastes network bandwidth but does no harm
A Ring Algorithm

Comparison

- Assume $n$ processes and one election in progress

- Bully algorithm
  - Worst case: initiator is node with lowest ID
    - Triggers $n-2$ elections at higher ranked nodes: $O(n^2)$ msgs
  - Best case: immediate election: $n-2$ messages

- Ring
  - $2 \times (n-1)$ messages always
• Election algorithm in a wireless network, with node a as the source. (a) Initial network. (b)–(e) The build-tree phase
Elections in Large-Scale Systems

• Requirements for superpeer selection:
  1. Normal nodes should have low-latency access to superpeers.
  2. Superpeers should be evenly distributed across the overlay network.
  3. There should be a predefined portion of superpeers relative to the total number of nodes in the overlay network.
  4. Each superpeer should not need to serve more than a fixed number of normal nodes.

Elections in Large-Scale Systems (2)

• Moving tokens in a two-dimensional space using repulsion forces.
Distributed Synchronization

- Distributed system with multiple processes may need to share data or access shared data structures
  - Use critical sections with mutual exclusion
- Single process with multiple threads
  - Semaphores, locks, monitors
- How do you do this for multiple processes in a distributed system?
  - Processes may be running on different machines
- Solution: lock mechanism for a distributed environment
  - Can be centralized or distributed

Centralized Mutual Exclusion

- Assume processes are numbered
- One process is elected coordinator (highest ID process)
- Every process needs to check with coordinator before entering the critical section
- To obtain exclusive access: send request, await reply
- To release: send release message
- Coordinator:
  - Receive request: if available and queue empty, send grant; if not, queue request
  - Receive release: remove next request from queue and send grant
Mutual Exclusion: 
A Centralized Algorithm

(a)

Process 1 asks the coordinator for permission to enter a critical region. Permission is granted

(b)

Process 2 then asks permission to enter the same critical region. The coordinator does not reply.

(c)

When process 1 exits the critical region, it tells the coordinator, when then replies to 2

Properties

- Simulates centralized lock using blocking calls
- Fair: requests are granted the lock in the order they were received
- Simple: three messages per use of a critical section (request, grant, release)
- Shortcomings:
  - Single point of failure
  - How do you detect a dead coordinator?
    - A process can not distinguish between “lock in use” from a dead coordinator
      - No response from coordinator in either case
    - Performance bottleneck in large distributed systems
Decentralized Algorithm

- Use voting
- Assume n replicas and a coordinator per replica
- To acquire lock, need majority vote $m > n/2$ coordinators
  - Non blocking: coordinators returns OK or “no”
- Coordinator crash => forgets previous votes
  - Probability that $k$ coordinators crash $P(k) = \binom{m}{k} p^k (1-p)^{m-k}$
  - Atleast $2m-n$ need to reset to violate correctness
    - $\sum_{2m-n} n P(k)$

Distributed Algorithm

- [Ricart and Agrawala]: needs 2(n-1) messages
- Based on event ordering and time stamps
  - Assumes total ordering of events in the system (Lamport’s clock)
- Process $k$ enters critical section as follows
  - Generate new time stamp $TS_k = TS_k + 1$
  - Send request($k, TS_k$) all other $n-1$ processes
  - Wait until reply($j$) received from all other processes
  - Enter critical section
- Upon receiving a request message, process $j$
  - Sends reply if no contention
  - If already in critical section, does not reply, queue request
  - If wants to enter, compare $TS_j$ with $TS_k$ and send reply if $TS_k < TS_j$, else queue
A Distributed Algorithm

a) Two processes want to enter the same critical region at the same moment.
b) Process 0 has the lowest timestamp, so it wins.
c) When process 0 is done, it sends an OK also, so 2 can now enter the critical region.

Properties

- Fully decentralized
- \(N\) points of failure!
- All processes are involved in all decisions
  - Any overloaded process can become a bottleneck
A Token Ring Algorithm

(a)

(b)

a) An unordered group of processes on a network.
b) A logical ring constructed in software.

- Use a token to arbitrate access to critical section
- Must wait for token before entering CS
- Pass the token to neighbor once done or if not interested
- Detecting token loss in non-trivial

Comparison

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<th>Messages per entry/exit</th>
<th>Delay before entry (in message times)</th>
<th>Problems</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Distributed</td>
<td>2(n – 1)</td>
<td>2(n – 1)</td>
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<td>1 to ∞</td>
<td>0 to n – 1</td>
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- A comparison of four mutual exclusion algorithms.