Last Class: Clock Synchronization

- Logical clocks
- Vector clocks
- Global state

Today: More Canonical Problems

- Distributed snapshot and termination detection
- Election algorithms
  - Bully algorithm
  - Ring algorithm

Global State

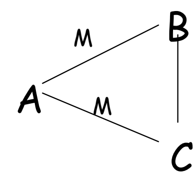
- Global state of a distributed system
  - Local state of each process
  - Messages sent but not received (state of the queues)
- Many applications need to know the state of the system
  - Failure recovery, distributed deadlock detection
- Problem: how can you figure out the state of a distributed system?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

Distributed Snapshot Algorithm

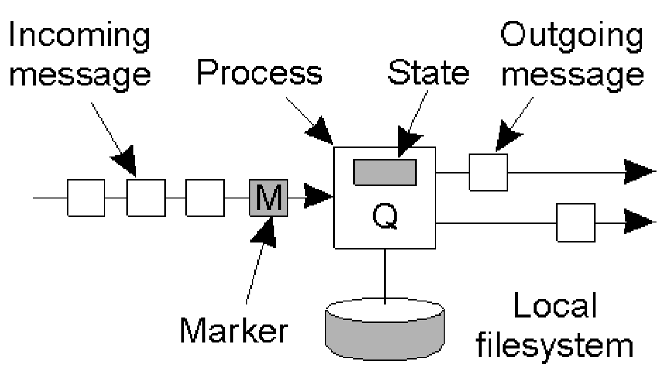
- Assume each process communicates with another process using unidirectional point-to-point channels (e.g, TCP connections)
- Any process can initiate the algorithm
  - Checkpoint local state
  - Send marker on every outgoing channel
- On receiving a marker
  - Checkpoint state if first marker and send 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)



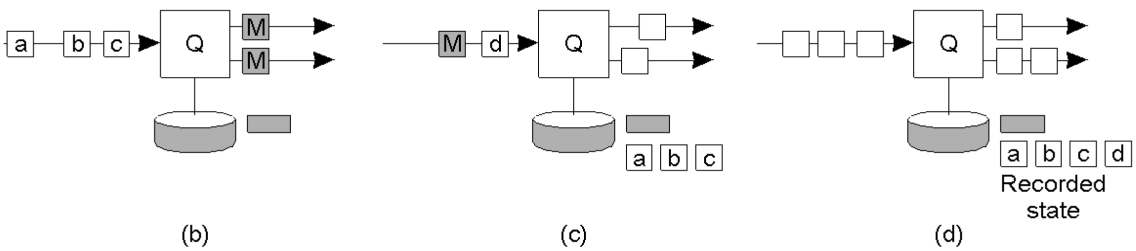
Snapshot Algorithm Example



(a)

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

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

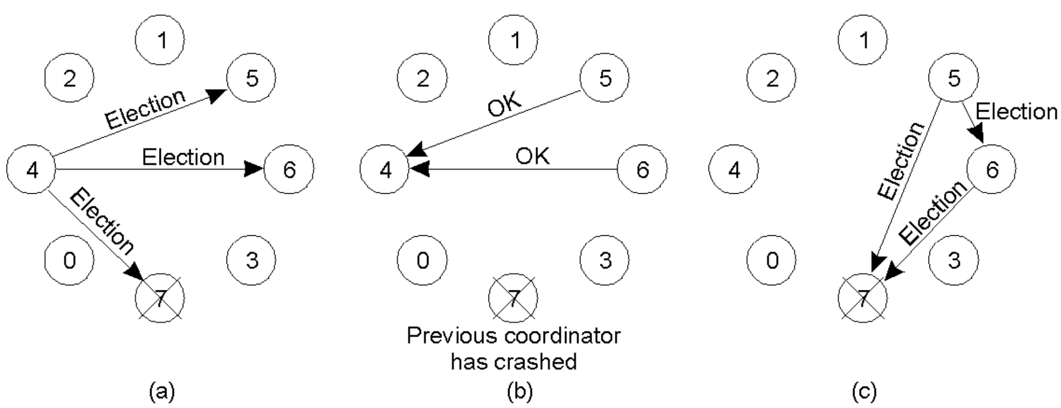
Bully Algorithm

- 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

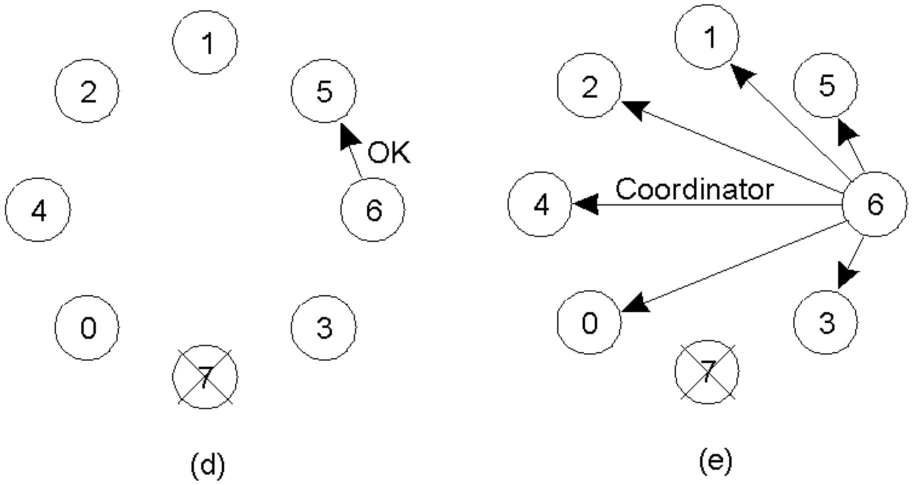
- Any process *P* can initiate an election
- *P* sends *Election* messages to all process with higher Ids and awaits *OK* messages
- If no *OK* messages, *P* becomes coordinator and sends *I won* messages to all process with lower Ids
- If it receives an *OK*, it drops out and waits for an *I won*
- 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

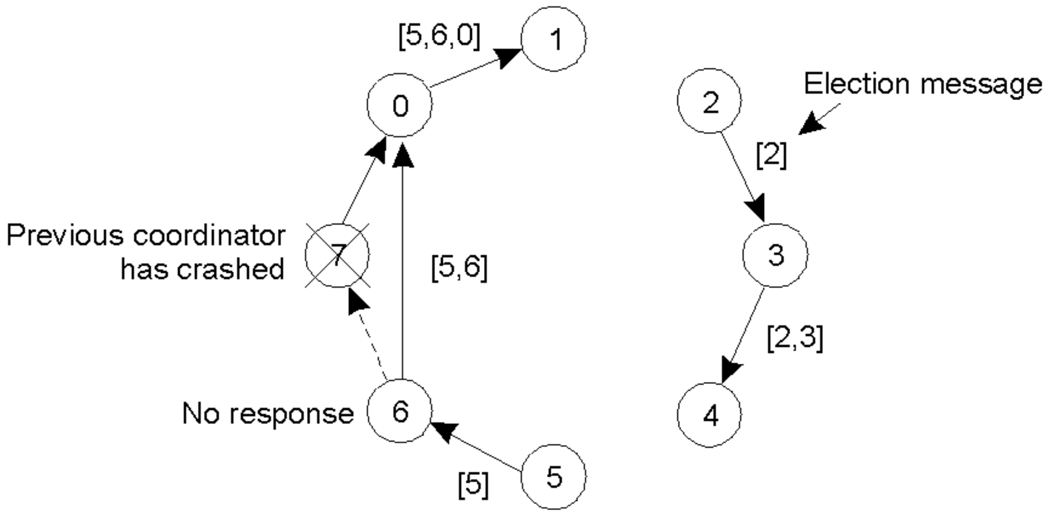


d) Process 6 tells 5 to stop
e) Process 6 wins and tells everyone

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 (n-1) messages always