Looking for a definition for "Dynamic Distributed System" (Yet another holy grail quest?)

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- Real-time: masters On-time computing
- Parallelism: provides Efficiency
- Distributed computing:

masters Uncertainty

(We are -more or less- implicitly using a lot of heuristics!)



My view of distributed computing (2)

Uncertainty is created by:

- Multiple loci of control
- Asynchrony (vs Synchrony)
- Failures (Failure models)
- Locality
- Process mobility (and related stuff)
- Low computing capacity, bandwidth
- Dynamicity (and Self-*, and then *-*!)
- Etc., etc., ..., etc.!



 Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Survive by Jared Diamond, 593 pages, Viking Press, 2005 ISBN 0143036556



- Fixed number of processes
- Non-anonymous processes
- Communication model: Shared memory/message-passing
- Time model: synchronous/asynchronous
- Failure model: failure free/crash/omission/Byzantine
- Process initial knowledge



- Lots of constructive results (algorithms)
- Lots of impossibility results (wrt failure modes)

* Failure-free: leader election in anonymous systems
* Crash: consensus, k-set agreement, et cetera
* Omission, Byzantine

- Lower bounds, and lots of "best" solutions
- Nice tutorials, nice textbooks



• P2P

- * Originated from file sharing applications
- * Resource discovery
- * Best effort semantics
- * Towards full-fledged computing platforms?

-Liben-Nowell D., Balakrishnan H., and Karger D.R., Analysis of the Evolution of Peer-to-peer Systems. *Proc. 21th ACM PODC*, pp 233-242, 2002

- Grid computing, Clouds computing,
- Oportunistic computing, et cetera
- Lots of experimental results, but very few applications with proved deterministic properties

Please, have a look at "The future of computing: logic or biology" by Leslie Lamport, 2003



- Processes can enter and leave the system at will
- Enter/leave are (partially) uncontrolled
- Initial process knowledge is partial
- Locality is a basic principle
- Some applications (any non-trivial application?) require(s) some form of *stability* (that has to occur "often enough" in order to be able to do something)



- Large scale systems (e.g., some types of sensor networks) are not necessarily dynamic
- "Large scale" and "Dynamicity" seem to be two distinct concepts (that are often confused)



The most fundamental concept seems to be

Ability to adapt to the environment

- Large scale: adaptability wrt number of participants (well-known pb in classical computing: design an efficient *n*-mutex algorithm from a 2-mutex algorithm)
- **Dynamicity**: adaptability wrt enter/leave (time)
- Fault-tolerance: adaptability wrt failures
- Self-organization: adaptability wrt structure
- Et cetera



From a static to a dynamic system



- Understand the "nature" of Dynamicity
- Provide methodology elements to help "going" from algorithms designed for static systems to algorithms for dynamic systems
- Illustrate it with examples



- n processes, at most t < n may crash
- Each process has an id, all ids are known by each process
- Communication graph: fully connected
- Communication channels are (more or less) reliable
- No upper bound on computation time
- No upper bound on message transfer delay



- A process can benefit from the knowledge of n and t
- (n-t) is a key value when designing an algorithm: a process can wait for messages from n-t processes while being sure it will not be blocked forever
- The parameters n and t define a liveness guarantee



- Query/Response
 - * Broadcast a query
 - * Wait for the first n-t responses (winning responses)
- Reliable broadcast

-Hadzilacos V. and Toueg S., Reliable Broadcast and Related Problems. In *Distributed Systems*, ACM Press, pp. 97-145, 1993

- * Broadcast/Deliver
- * If a message is delivered by a process, it is delivered by all correct processes



- Same asynchrony assumptions as for the static model
- Finite arrival model:

The system has infinitely many processes, but each run has only finitely many

- Merritt M. and Taubenfeld G., Computing with Infinitely Many Processes. *Proc. 14th Int'l Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC'00)*, LNCS #1914, pp. 164-178, 2000

- Aguilera M.K., A Pleasant Stroll Through the Land of Infinitely Many Creatures. *ACM SIGACT News, Distributed Computing Column*, 35(2):36-59, 2004

- Processes may join and leave the system at any time
- The system parameters n and t no longer exist



- Stable instead of correct
 - * Replace the notion of correct process with the notion of stable process: a process that, once it has entered the system, neither crashes nor leaves
 - \star Let *STABLE* be the set of stable processes
- New progress condition
 - * Replace (n-t) by the system parameter α
 - * Progress is guaranteed as long as $STABLE \geq \alpha$



- Static system: There is a finite time τ and a correct process p such that, after τ , all the invocations of leader() by any process returns always p
- Dynamic system: There is a finite time τ and a stable process p such that, after τ , all the invocations of leader() by any process returns always p



• Static system: There is a time τ , a correct process p, and a set Q such that $\forall \tau' \geq \tau$:

 $\star |Q| = t + 1$, and

- \star Each time a process $\in Q$ issues a Query/Response, it receives a winning response from p
- Dynamic system: There is a time τ , a stable process p, and a set Q such that $\forall \tau' \geq \tau$:
 - $\star Q \subseteq up(\tau')$, and
 - \star Each time a process $\in Q$ issues a Query/Response, it receives a winning response from p
 - ★ Each time a process $\notin Q$ issues a Query/Response, it receives a winning response from a process $\in Q$



- A Time-free Assumption to Implement Eventual Leadership. *Parallel Processing letters*, 16(2):189-208, 2006 (Mostefaoui, Mourgaya, Raynal and Travers.)
- From Static Distributed Systems to Dynamic Systems. 24th IEEE Symposium on Reliable Distributed Systems (SRDS'05), IEEE Computer Society Press, pp. 109-119, 2005 (Mostefaoui, Raynal, Travers, Peterson, El Abbadi and Agrawal)
- The second paper uses the previous methodology to extend the first one to dynamic systems



Atomic objects in a dynamic system

- Attiya H., Bar-Noy A. and Dolev D., Sharing Memory Robustly in Message-Passing Systems. *JACM*, 42(1):129-142, 1995

- Lynch, N. and Shvartsman A., RAMBO: A Reconfigurable Atomic Memory Service for Dynamic Networks. *Proc.* 16th Int'l Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC'02), Springer-Verlag LNCS #2508, pp. 173-190, 2002.

- Aguilera M.K., A Pleasant Stroll Through the Land of Infinitely Many Creatures. ACM SIGACT News, Distributed Computing Column, 35(2):36-59, 2004

- Friedman R., Raynal M., Travers C., Abstractions for Implementing Atomic Objects in Distributed Systems. *9th Int'l Conference on Principles of Distributed Systems (OPODIS'05)*, Springer Verlag LNCS #3974:73-87, 2005



• Computation model

* Infinite nb of clients* Atomic objects and infinite nb of servers

- Dynamic Read/Write quorums
- Persistent reliable broadcast
- Implementing read/write operations
- Practical instantiations



- Clients: sequential processes
 - * Infinite arrival process with finite concurrency
 - * Each client has a distinct identity
 - * Crash failure model (Recovery with a new id)
 - ★ Wait-free
- Shared object
 - * Read/write operations
 - * Correctness criterion: Linearizability



- Distributed message-passing system made up of servers
- Infinite arrival model with finite concurrency
- Server s_j can:
 - * Enter the system (event $init_j$)
 - * Crash (event $fail_j$) or leave (event $leave_j$)
- Each object: implemented by dynamic subset of servers
- Notation: $up(\tau)$ = the servers (implementing object x that have entered the system before time τ , and have neither crashed or left before τ
- Feasability condition: $\forall \tau$: $up(\tau) \neq \emptyset$



Shared memory





Looking for Appropriate Abstractions

- If servers enter and leave the system arbitrarily fast: nothing can be done
- Any dynamic system requires some form of eventual stability "during long enough periods" in order non-trivial computations can progress
- Here we consider <u>abstract properties</u> (instead of particular duration assumptions)
 - * Similarly to the failure detector approach, these properties are not related to specific synchrony or duration assumptions. This favors good software engineering practice (modularity, portability, proof)
 - * Two Abstractions
 - * Read/Write dynamic quorums
 - * Persistent reliable broadcast



- The *a*th execution of a read or write operation by a client p_i defines an interval I_i^a
- A run (or history h) is a totally ordered sequence of the events issued by the clients
- Partial order on intervals:
 - $\star~I1 \rightarrow_h I2$ if the last event of I1 precedes in h the first event of I2
 - * $im_pred(I1, I2)$ (immediate predecessor)

if
$$I1 \rightarrow_h I2$$
 and $\not\exists I: I1 \rightarrow_h I \land I \rightarrow_h I2$



- I an interval that starts at time au_b^I and ends at time au_e^I
- The following set of servers is assoc. with each inter. I:

STABLE(I) =

$$\{s \mid \exists \tau \in [\tau_b^I, \tau_e^I] : \forall \tau' : \tau \leq \tau' \leq \tau_e^I : s \in up(\tau') \}$$





• Feasibility condition necessary to obtain live quorums:

$$\forall I : STABLE(I) \neq \emptyset$$



Dynamic Read/Write Quorums (1)

- Let Q(t) be the quorum (set of servers) returned by a quorum query issued at time t during an interval I
- Progress property:

$$\exists \tau \in [\tau_b^I, \tau_e^I] : \quad \forall \tau' : \tau \le \tau' \le \tau_e^I : \quad Q(t') \subseteq STABLE(I)$$



 This means that an operation can eventually obtain a quorum of alive servers: this property is a requirement to ensure the liveness of read and write operations

- A read/write op can invoke two types of quorums:
 - \star *cd* query: to obtain a control data
 - \star *val* query: to obtain a data
- Typed Bounded Lifetime Intersection property:

$$(Q_{val} \in I1) \land (Q_{cd} \in I2) \land im_pred(I1, I2)$$

 $\Rightarrow Q_{val} \cap Q_{cd} \neq \emptyset$

It is not required that any pair of quorums intersect It is <u>not required</u> that any pair of consecutive or concurrent quorums intersect



Intervals





- Extend Uniform Reliable Broadcast to dynamic systems
- Notion of persistence in message delivery
- Two primitives: prst_broadcast(m) and prst_deliver()
- Each message m has a type type(m) and a sequence number sn(m)
- Defined by four properties:
 - \star Validity: If a message m is delivered by a server, it has been broadcast by a read or write operation
 - * Uniformity: A message m is delivered at most once by a server



- Server/server Termination: If a message m, broadcast during an interval I, is delivered by a server, then any server $s \in STABLE(I)$ eventually delivers a message m' such that type(m) = type(m') and $sn(m') \ge sn(m)$
- Client/server Termination: If the client process does not crash while it is executing the read or write operation defining the interval I that gave rise to the broadcast of m, the message m is delivered by at least one server



- Associate a timestamp with each value (classical)
- A read or write operation: two steps [ABD 1995]

* Phase 1: Acquire the "last" timestamp

- * Phase 2: Ensure consistency of the read/write op
- Here we present only the write operation (read is similar)



operation write_i (x, v)

% Phase 1: synchro to obtain consistent information % $sn_i \leftarrow sn_i + 1$; $ans_i \leftarrow \emptyset$; prst_broadcast $cd_req(i, sn_i, no)$;

repeat

wait for a message $cd_ack(sn_i, ts)$ received from s; $ans_i \leftarrow ans_i \cup \{s\}$ until $(Q_{cd} \subseteq ans_i)$; $ts.clock \leftarrow max$ of the ts.clock fields received +1; $ts.proc \leftarrow i$;


% Phase 2 : synchro to ensure atomic consistency %

 $\begin{array}{l} \left| \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{prst_broadcast} \ write_req(i, sn_i, ts, v) \right|;\\ ans_i \leftarrow \emptyset;\\ \textbf{repeat}\\ \textbf{wait for a message} \ write_ack(sn_i) \ \texttt{received from } s;\\ ans_i \leftarrow ans_i \cup \{s\}\\ \textbf{until} \ \boxed{(Q_{val} \subseteq ans_i)};\\ \texttt{return()} \end{array}\right|;$



Server s maintains the value $value_s$ whose timestamp is ts_s

when $cd_req(i, sn, bool)$ is delivered: if (bool = yes)then $val_to_send \leftarrow value_s$ else $val_to_send \leftarrow \bot$ end_if; send $cd_ack(sn, ts, val_to_send)$ to i

when $write_req(i, sn, ts, v)$ is delivered: if $(ts > ts_s)$ then $ts_s \leftarrow ts$; $value_s \leftarrow v$ end_if; send $write_ack(sn)$ to i



• Theorem Read and write liveness

A read or write operation executed by a process $p_i \ {\rm that}$ does not crash terminates

The proof relies on the stability condition

- Definitions:
 - * Let an effective write be a write operation whose request has been delivered by at least one server

Let ts(w) be the timestamp associated with the effective write operation w

* Let an effective read be a read operation that does not crash

Let ts(r) be the timestamp associated with the effective read operation r



• Theorem Timestamp ordering property

Let op1 and op2 be two effective operations, I1 and I2 their intervals with $I1 \rightarrow_h I2$. We have:

(i) If op1 is a read or a write operation and op2 is a read operation then $ts(op1) \leq ts(op2)$

(ii) If op1 is a read or a write operation and op2 is a write operation then ts(op1) < ts(op2)

• Theorem Atomic consistency

There is a total order on all the effective operations that (1) respects their real-time occurrence order, and (2) such that any read operation obtains the value written by the last write that precedes it in this sequence



A (really) non-exhaustive list

- Herlihy, M., Dynamic Quorum Adjustment for Partitioned Data. ACM Transactions on Database Systems, 12(2):170-194, 1987
- Lynch, N. and Shvartsman A., RAMBO: A Reconfigurable Atomic Memory Service for Dynamic Networks. *Proc. 16th Int'l Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC'02)*, Springer-Verlag LNCS #2508, pp. 173-190, 2002
- Nadav U. and Naor M., The Dynamic And-or Quorum System. *Proc. 19th Int'l Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC'05)*, Springer-Verlag LNCS #3724:472-486, 2005
- Abraham, I. and Malkhi, D., Probabilistic Quorum Systems for Dynamic Systems. *Distributed Computing*, 18(2):113-124, 2005.
- Gramoli V. and Raynal M., Timed Quorum Systems for Large-Scale and Dynamic Environments. *Proc. 11th Int'l Conf. on Principles of Distributed Systems* (*OPODIS'07*), Springer-Verlag, LNCS # 4878:429-442, 2007



Implementing a regular register in a dynamic system

- Implementing a Register in a Dynamic Distributed System. *IEEE Int'l Conf. on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS'09)*, Montréal (Canada), 2009 (Baldoni R., Bonomi S., Kermarrec A.-M. and Raynal M.)



- It is a very basic (primitive) object
- Assumption: no two writes are concurrent (hence the notion of last write is well-defined)
- Safety: A read returns the last value written before the read invocation or a value written by a concurrent write
- Liveness: If a process invokes a read or write operation and does not leave the system, it returns from that operation
- Lamport. L., On Interprocess Communication: Part 1: Models, Part 2: Algorithms. *Distributed. Computing.*, 1(2):77-101, 1986
- Shao C., Pierce E. and Welch J., Multi-writer consistency conditions for shared memory objects. *Proc. DISC'03*, LNCS #2848:106-120, 2003







 Some works require that a correct process remain forever in the system

Here any process can be replaced at any time according to the churn

- Works on MANET:
 - * Do not consider the churn parameter
 - * Based on a deterministic broadcast op (GeoCast)

- Dolev S., Gilbert S., Lynch N., Shvartsman A., and Welch J., Geoquorum: Implementing Atomic Memory in Ad hoc Networks. *Proc. DISC'03*, LNCS #2848:306-320, 2003

- Roy M., Bonnet F., Querzoni L., Bonomi S., Killijian M.O. and Powell D., Geo-Registers: an Abstraction for Spatial-Based Distributed Computing. *Proc. OPODIS'08*, LNCS #5401:354-357, 2008

- Infinite arrival model: a run can have an infinite nb of processes, but this nb is finite in any finite period
- Each process has its own id
- A process can re-enter with a new id (new process)
- A process first issue a join(), then it accesses the register and possibly leave the system
- Churn rate $c \in [0..1]$ (percentage of the processes that are "refreshed" per time unit): constant

- Ko S., Hoque I. and Gupta I., Using Tractable and Realistic Churn Models to Analyze Quiescence Behavior of Distributed Protocols. *Proc. 27th IEEE Int'l Symposium on Reliable Distributed Systems (SRDS'08)*, pp. 259-268, 2008

- Local computation: no duration
- $\bullet\,$ There is an upper bound δ for 1-to-1 and 1-to-* message transfer delays
- A process that enters the system becomes active only after some duration (δ or 3δ)

During that period it can receive and process messages

- Local variables
 - $\begin{array}{l} \star \ register_i \\ \star \ sn_i \end{array}$
- Fast read operation
 operation read(): return(register_i).

operation write(v): % issued only by the writer p_w % $sn_w \leftarrow sn_w + 1$; $register_i \leftarrow v$ broadcast write(v, sn_w); wait(δ); return(ok).

when write($\langle val, sn \rangle$) is delivered: % at any process p_i % if $(sn > sn_i)$ then $register_i \leftarrow val$; $sn_i \leftarrow sn$ end if.

- Local variables
 - * $active_i$: Boolean that becomes true at the end of the join() operation (p_i becomes active)
 - $\star \ replies_i$: a set that keeps the replies < j, value, sn > received by p_i during its waiting period (while it is joining)
 - * $reply_to_i$: a set that keeps the set of processes that are currently joining and asked p_i to send them its current sate $< i, register_i, sn_i >$ (as soon as it is active)

operation join(i): $register_i \leftarrow \bot; sn_i \leftarrow -1; active_i \leftarrow false;$ $replies_i \leftarrow \emptyset; reply_to_i \leftarrow \emptyset;$ wait(δ); if $(register_i = \bot)$ then $replies_i \leftarrow \emptyset;$ broadcast inquiry(i); wait (2δ) ; let $\langle id, val, sn \rangle \in replies_i$ such that $(\forall < -, -, sn' > \in replies_i : sn > sn');$ if $(sn > sn_i)$ then $sn_i \leftarrow sn$; $register_i \leftarrow val$ end if end if; $active_i \leftarrow true;$ for each $j \in reply_to_i$ do send reply $(\langle i, register_i, sn_i \rangle)$ to p_i ; return(*ok*).

when inquiry(j) is delivered: if $(active_i)$ then send reply $(\langle i, register_i, sn_i \rangle)$ to p_j else $reply_to_i \leftarrow reply_to_i \cup \{j\}$ end if.

when reply $(\langle j, value, sn \rangle)$ is received: $replies_i \leftarrow replies_i \cup \{\langle j, value, sn \rangle\}.$

Remark:

For people familiar with Ricart-Agrawala 1981 Mutex algorithm: the proposed algorithm is very close...

More personal remark:

I do not think that there are plenty of basic principles and basic mechanisms... Computer science is a science of abstraction...

Why "wait(δ)"?

- Theorem: If $c < 1/(3\delta)$ the algorithm implements a regular register in a synchronous distributed system
- Theorem: Such a construction is impossible in a pure asynchronous dynamic system
- Theorem: An algorithm exists in eventually synchronous dynamic systems when

 \star $c < 1/(3\delta n)$, and

 $\forall \tau : |A(\tau)| > n/2$ $(A(\tau) \text{ is the set of processes } active \text{ at time } \tau)$

- Is it possible to characterize the greatest value of c for a synchr system (as a function involving the bound δ)?
- \bullet Has c to depend on n in an eventually synch system?
- How to cope with the effect of dynamicity + failures?

- Dynamicity does modify our view of what is a system
- The important concept is Adaptability
- Today, we only have a few disparate elements, and are only in the infancy of dynamic systems (lots of applications, no strong theory)
- A global view and the associated underlying concepts are still to be discovered

Self-organizing systems

Large scale networked systems: from anarchy to geometric self-structuring. *Proc. 10th Int'l Conference on Distributed Computing and Networking (ICDCN'09)*, Springer Verlag LNCS #5408, pp. 25-36, 2009 (Kermarrec A.-M., Mostefaoui A., Raynal M., Viana A., Trédan G.)

- Self-structuring represents the ability of a system to let emerge a specific structure from scratch without requiring external intervention
- A key feature of autonomy
- In sensor networks: self-structuring represents an important requirement for operations such as forwarding, load balancing, leader election energy consumption management, etc.
- Example: Partitioning into several zones for monitoring purposes, or selection of sensors to ensure specific functions (and save energy)

- A network organization is based on an underlying structure that is geographical or functional
- Geographical example: sector-shaped clustering
- Functional example: awake and sleep entities

Example 1: North, South, and Equator zones

Example 2: Wake up/Sleep entities

What is a dynamic system?

Virtual coordinates: illustration

- Not directly related to "real geographic coordinates"
- Connectivity-based approach: the coordinates reflect only the underlying connectivity
- Can adapt to obstacles (mountains, underground, etc.)

- Geometric/Functional structuring
- Aim: associate a partition number p with each entity
- Use a mathematical function to define a structure

 \star Let an entity *i*, with coordinate c_i

 \star The function f()

$$\begin{array}{rcl} f:\mathcal{K} & \to & \{0,\ldots,p\}, \\ f(c_i) & \to & p_i. \end{array}$$

• North, South and Equator partitioning

•
$$d = 2, p = 3$$

• The function f()

$$f: \mathbb{N} * \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$1 \quad when \quad x_1 > x_2$$

$$f(x_1, x_2) \rightarrow 2 \quad when \quad x_1 = x_2$$

$$3 \quad when \quad x_1 < x_2$$

Geometric structuring (1.2)

- Target partitioning
- d = 1, p > 0
- "Wave" waking up
- The function f()

$$\begin{array}{rccc} f:\mathbb{N} & \to & \mathbb{N} \\ f(x_1) & \to & x_1 \end{array}$$

Geometric structuring (2.2)

Functional structuring (3): with a hole at the center

Functional structuring (4)

- From a static to a dynamic system
- Atomic objects in a dynamic system
- Scalability: geometric structuring
- implementation of a regular register in a dynamic system the churn of which

The churn is fixed and known
The churn can vary within some known range

• Distributed slicing (locality)

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