MYE017 Distributed Systems

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Total order multicasting

Updating a replicated database may leave it in an inconsistent state.



Totally ordering operations across replicas ensures consistency

- Senders timestamp message with physical timestamp
- Clocks synchronized within ε (skew)
- Communication delay at most δ
- Deliver a message *m* <u>only if</u> there is no possibility that another message with timestamp < *ts(m)* arrives

Node *i* multicasts message with timestamp C_i



 ε : max clock skew, δ : max communication delay

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Using logical clocks

- Senders timestamp message with their Lamport clock
- Receivers order by sender LC (lowest LC first)
- But: deliver a message <u>only if</u> there is no possibility that another message arrives with lower timestamp
- Deliver a message *m* when we know that the LC of all other nodes is > *ts(m)*
- Note: Assuming FIFO channels

Total order multicasting (1)

m, ts(m)'oLJ mitsim m CDEJ

Each node p maintains view of Lamport clocks at all nodes LC_p[]

On arrival of *m*, ts(m) at *p* : $LC_p[p] = max (ts(m), LC_p[p]) + 1$ $LC_p[sender(m)] = ts(m)$

m, ts(m)	
m', ts(m')	4
m", ts(m")	

if (ts(m') ≤ min_{q ∈ P} LC_p[q]) m' can be delivered
Deliver in increasing order of ts(m), sender(m)

But, what if some processes do not send messages?

Total order multicasting (2)

Request that nodes acknowledge (ACK to all) any message received



- ACKs carry timestamps too
- Taken into account in $LC_p[] \forall p$
- Safe to deliver *m* after receiving ACK(*m*) from all nodes

Example (1)

B multicasts msg-1 at t = 2.B (using that timestamp over all msg-1 messages)



ACK-1A assures C that no message with timestamp < t=2.B is expected from any node

Example (2)

B multicasts msg-1 at t = 2.B, A multicasts msg-2 at t = 1.A : *delivery order?*



Example (3)



Total order multicasting

- Group of N processes
 - Must be aware of each other
 - Each message from a process is multicast to the group
 - FIFO and loss-less communication channels
- Each process
 - Each message carries its Lamport clock
 - Build an ordered queue of messages based on timestamp
 - Acknowledge each message to the group (multicast ACK)
 - Deliver a message only when
 - Message has been acknowledged by all processes in group
 - Message is at the top of the queue