Distributed Systems

◆ Distributed versus Parallel
  – Loosely coupled vs. tightly coupled
    » shared memory
    » synchronized clocks, global clocks
    » network topology
      ■ fully connected,
      ■ partially connected, e.g. ring, tree, star, k-connected
    » network communication
      ■ point-to-point
      ■ CSMA/CD (Carrier Sense Multiple Access, Collision Detect)
Distributed Systems

- Reliability of Distributed/Parallel Systems
  - Harper and Lala 1991
    » The assertion is often made that parallel processors are intrinsically reliable, fault tolerant, and reconfigurable due to their multiplicity of processing resources. In fact, the only intrinsic attribute guaranteed by multiple processors is a higher total failure rate.
  - We will investigate this especially with respect to RAID systems
  - Individual workstation MTBF (Pra96, table 3.2, pg 136)
    » (this info is dated, but gives you an idea...)
    » DEC  35,872h  35h
    » HP  58,700h  58h
    » SUN  40,601h  40h
    » IBM AP101S  20,000h  20h
Unreliability in the absence of FT

Computation on Cluster
MTBF = 2000 days (48,000h, approx. 5 1/2 years)
Unreliability of one node: \( F(t) = 1 - R(t) = 1 - e^{-t} \)
Figure source: Jafar, Krings, Gautier and Roch, EIT 2005
Distributed Systems

- Design Issues
  - circuit and technology level
    » radiation robust components, gallium arsenide chips
    » circuit designed for testability and reliability
  - node-level architecture
    » design of VLSI
  - internode architecture
    » node connections and configurations, reconfiguration in the presence of faults
  - operating system
    » fault recovery, e.g. rollback procedure
    » load balancing
  - application level
    » checks on results, signatures, bounds
Distributed Systems

- Asynchronous Message Passing
  - `send(data, destination)`
  - `receive(data, source)`
  - `receive(message)`
    » source is extracted from message itself
  - queuing messages => finite buffers
    » in reality no pure asynchronous message passing exists
    » with finite buffer receiver may block
Distributed Systems

- Synchronous Message Passing
  - no buffering
  - guards
    » execute statements if the guards are “true”
  - alternative construct
    » list of guarded statements
    » non-determinism
  - CSP (Communicating Sequential Processes)
    » to send a message:
      P ! message
    » to receive a message:
      P ? message
Remote Procedure Call (RPC)
- the service to be provided by the server is treated as a procedure that resides on the machine on which the server is located.
- failure during communication
  » unwanted executions called orphans
    ■ a client that crashes during an RPC and restarts on recovery may reissue the call to the server, even though the earlier call is still being executed by the server.
**Ordering -- Synchronizing**

- Which event happened first?
  - When events happen on distributed systems it is often not clear which events happened first.

- Partial Order
  - A partial order is a Relation $R$, that is
    » irreflexive, i.e. $(a, a) \not\in R$ for any $a$ and
    » transitive, i.e. $(a, b)(b, c) \Rightarrow (a, c)$

- Partial Order and Total Order
Ordering -- Synchronizing

- Define “happened-before” as partial order

\[ \begin{align*}
    a \rightarrow b & \equiv a \text{ happened before } b \\
    a \rightarrow b \quad b \rightarrow c & \Rightarrow a \rightarrow c \\
    a \leftarrow b \quad b \leftarrow c & \Rightarrow \text{ events are concurrent}
\end{align*} \]

- Note, PO does not define a total order
Ordering -- Synchronizing

- Logical Clock
  Let $C_i$ denote the logical clock for process $P_i$
  $C_i(a)$ is the value associated with event $a$ of $P_i$

- Clock Conditions
  - C1: if $a$ & $b$ are events in process $P_i$,
    » and $a$ comes before $b$,
    » then $C_i(a) < C_i(b)$
  - C2: if $a$ is the sending of a message by process $P_i$ and $b$ is the receipt
    of that message by process $P_j$,
    » then $C_i(a) < C_j(b)$
Ordering -- Synchronizing

- **Satisfy C1:**
  - each $P_i$ increments $C_i$ between any two successive events

- **Satisfy C2:**
  - if event $a$ is the sending of a message $m$ by $P_i$, then $m$ contains a time-stamp $T_m$, with $T_m = C_i(a)$
  - upon receiving of $m$, process $P_j$ sets $C_j$ greater than or equal to its present value and greater than $T_m$.

- Logical clocks have no relationship to actual, physical clocks