Monitoring Multithreaded Distributed Computations

Vijay K. Garg
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
email: garg@ece.utexas.edu
Motivation: Software Faults

- Software faults are dominant reasons for system outages
- Approx 2 to 3 bugs per 1000 lines of code! [Gray and Reuter 93]

Testing and Debugging:
- Distributed programs are prone to errors.
- Traces need to be analyzed to locate bugs.

Software Fault-Tolerance:
- Software fault detection
- Rollback Recovery
Our Approach

- Three abstractions defined: predicate detection, predicate control and slicing.
Talk Outline

- Motivation
- Predicate Detection
- Computation Slicing
- Predicate Control
- Ongoing and Future Work
**computation**: a set of events ordered by “happened before” relation

**consistent cut**: subset of events that have been executed so far

e.g., $X$ is a consistent cut but $Y$ is not
**Predicate Detection Problem**

**Predicate**: A global condition expressed using variables on processes e.g., more than one process is in critical section, there is no token in the system

**Problem**: find a consistent cut that satisfies the given predicate

Exponential algorithm for general predicate [Cooper and Marzullo 91]
Polynomial algorithm for conjunctive predicate [Garg and Waldecker 91]
Dear Watson, you see but you do not observe...

- Distributed Debugging, Testing
  - stop when the predicate q is true
    predicate q = (P1 is in critical section) and (P2 is in critical section).
  - Detect if the program violates any invariant

- Fault-tolerance
  - Monitoring while the program is operational

- Distributed Active Rules
  - On global condition $p$, trigger rule $a$

- General paradigm for observing Distributed Algorithms
  - Termination detection, deadlock detection, loss of token
The Main Difficulty

Too many consistent cuts:

A computation may contain as many as $O(k^n)$ consistent cuts

$k$: maximum number of events on a process

$n$: number of processes
Predicate Detection for Special Cases

Exploit the structure of the predicate:

- **stable predicate**: [Chandy and Lamport 85]
  once the predicate becomes true, it stays true
  e.g., deadlock

- **unstable predicate**:
  - *observer independent predicate* [Charron-Bost et al 95]
    occurs in one interleaving \( \Rightarrow \) occurs in all interleavings
    e.g., any local predicate
  - *relational predicate*: \( x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n \geq k \) [Chase and Garg 95]
    e.g., violation of mutual exclusion
  - *linear predicate* [Chase and Garg 95]
    closed under intersection, e.g., conjunctive predicates such as there is
    no leader in the system
Conjunctive Predicates

A predicate that can be expressed as $l_1 \land l_2 \land \ldots \land l_n$, where $l_i$ is local to $P_i$.

Examples:

- mutual exclusion problem: (P1 in CS) and (P2 in CS)
- missing primary: (P1 is secondary) and (P2 is secondary) and (P3 is secondary)

Detect errors that may be hidden in some run due to race conditions.
Importance of Conjunctive Predicates

Sufficient for detection of any global

- **boolean expression of local predicates** which can be expressed as a
disjunction of a small number of conjunctions.

\[ \text{Example: } x, y \text{ and } z \text{ are in three different processes. Then,} \]
\[ \text{even}(x) \land ((y < 0) \lor (z > 6)) \]
\[ \equiv \]
\[ (\text{even}(x) \land (y < 0)) \lor (\text{even}(x) \land (z > 6)) \]

- **predicate satisfied by only a small number of values** \text{Example: } x \text{ and } y
are in different processes.
\[(x = y) \text{ is not a local predicate but } x \text{ and } y \text{ are binary.}\]
Possibly \((l_1 \land l_2 \land \ldots \land l_n)\) is true \textit{iff} there exist \(s_i\) in \(P_i\) such that \(l_i\) is true in state \(s_i\), and \(s_i\) and \(s_j\) are incomparable for distinct \(i, j\).
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Tracking Causality: Clocks in a Distributed System

Result: \( s \) happened before \( t \) iff the vector at \( s \) is less than the vector at \( t \).

Vector Clocks [Fidge 89, Mattern 89]
Problem with vector clocks: scalability

Idea: Computing the “chains” in an online fashion [Aggarwal and Garg 04]

Figure 1: (a) A computation with 4 processes (b) The relevant subcomputation
Experimental Results

Simulation of a computation with 1% relevant events

Measured

- number of components vs number of threads
- total time overhead vs number of threads
[Garg and Waldecker 92] Each non-checker process maintains its local vector and sends to the checker process the chain clock whenever

- local predicate is true
- at most once in each message interval.
Overhead: Checker processes

Space complexity: \( n \) queues, each containing at most \( m \) vectors

Time complexity:

- The algorithm for checker requires at most \( O(n^2m) \) comparisons.
- Any algorithm which determines whether there exists a set of incomparable vectors of size \( n \) in \( n \) chains of size at most \( m \), makes at least \( mn(n - 1)/2 \) comparisons. [Garg and Waldecker 94]
Predicate Detection in General

Construct the state-space (need to examine all consistent cuts)

- breadth first manner [Cooper and Marzullo 91]
  space-complexity: number of consistent cuts

- depth first manner [Alagar and Venkatesan 94]
  space-complexity: number of events

- lexical order [Garg 03]
  space-complexity: number of processes
Talk Outline

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The Main Idea of Computation Slicing

computation

slicing

slice

retain all red consistent cuts

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How does Computation Slicing Help?

- **computation**
  - detect $b_1 \land b_2$

- slicing

- slice for $b_1$
  - detect $b_2$

- retain all consistent cuts that satisfy $b_1$
Example

Detect predicate \((x_1 \times x_2 + x_3 < 5) \land (x_1 \geq 1) \land (x_3 \leq 3)\)

Slice with respect to \((x_1 \geq 1) \land (x_3 \leq 3)\)
computation slice: a sub-computation such that: [Mittal and Garg 01]

(1) it contains all consistent cuts of the computation satisfying the given predicate, and

(2) it contains the least number of consistent cuts
Example: Conjunctive Predicate

\[(x \geq 0) \land (y \geq 0)\]
Example: Channel Predicate

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- $f_d; f_g$
- $slicing$
- no messages in transit

$p_1$: $a \rightarrow b$
$p_2$: $c \rightarrow d$
$p_3$: $e \rightarrow f$

Slicing: $\{a, c\} \rightarrow \{b\}$
$\{e\} \rightarrow \{d, f\}$
**Regular Predicate**

**regular predicate**: the set of consistent cuts satisfying the predicate is closed under intersection and union  
[Garg and Mittal 01]

Examples:

- conjunctive predicate—conjunction of local predicates
- there are at most (or at least) $k$ messages in transit from process $i$ to process $j$
- every “request” message has been “acknowledged” in the system

The class of regular predicates is *closed* under conjunction:

If $b_1$ and $b_2$ are regular predicates then so is $b_1 \land b_2$
Computing the Slice for Regular Predicate

Algorithm:

Step 1: Compute the least consistent cut $L$ that satisfies $b$

$L = \{\}$

Step 2: Compute the greatest consistent cut $G$ that satisfies $b$

$G = \{u, v, w, x, y, z\}$

$b = \text{"no messages in transit"}$
Algorithm:
Step 3: For every event $e \in G - L$, compute $L(e)$ defined as:
(1) $L(e)$ contains $e$
(2) $L(e)$ satisfies $b$
(3) $L(e)$ is the least consistent cut satisfying (1) and (2)

$L(u) = L(w)$

$L(u) = \{u, w\}$
$L(v) = \{u, v, w\}$
$L(w) = \{u, w\}$ (duplicate)
$L(x) = \{u, w, x, y, z\}$
$L(y) = \{y\}$
$L(z) = \{u, w, x, y, z\}$ (duplicate)
Efficient polynomial-time algorithms for computing the slice for:

- **regular predicate**: [Garg and Mittal 01]
  - time-complexity:
    - general: $O(n^2m)$
    - special cases (e.g., conjunctive predicate): $O(m)$

- **general predicate**: 
  **Theorem**: Given a computation, if a predicate $b$ can be detected efficiently then the slice for $b$ can also be computed efficiently. [Mittal, Sen and Garg 02]

$n$: number of processes
$m$: number of events
Experimental Evaluation: Dining Philosophers Verification

**POTA:** Partial Order Trace Analyzer (based on slicing) [Sen and Garg 03]

**SPIN:** A widely used model checking tool [Holzmann 97]

![Graphs showing comparison between POTA and SPIN for different numbers of processes and time/memory usage.]

- **SPIN:** 250 seconds for $n = 6$, runs out of memory for $n > 6$.
- **POTA:** can handle $n = 200$. Used 400 seconds.

**Predicate:** Two neighboring dining philosophers do not eat concurrently
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Motivation for Control

Who controls the past controls the future, who controls the present controls the past...

George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four.

- maintain global invariants or proper order of events
  Examples: Distributed Debugging
  - ensure that \( busy_1 \lor busy_2 \) is always true
  - ensure that \( m_1 \) is delivered before \( m_2 \)
- Resource Allocation
  - maintain \( \neg C\bar{S}_1 \lor \neg C\bar{S}_2 \)
- Fault tolerance
  - On fault, rollback and execute under control
- Adaptive policies
Rollback Recovery for Software Faults

Re-execution Problem:

To re-execute in order to avoid a recurrence of a previously detected failure

- Progressive Retry [Wang et al 97]
- Controlled Re-execution [Tarafdar and Garg 98]
Add the synchronization necessary to maintain safety property

e.g., mutual exclusion
The Main Difficulty

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Results

Efficient algorithms for computing the synchronization for:

- **Locks** [Tarafdar and Garg 98]
  - \textit{time-complexity}: $O(nm)$

- **disjunctive predicate** [Mittal and Garg 00]
  - Example: $(n - 1)$-mutual exclusion
    - \textit{time-complexity}: $O(m^2)$
    - minimizes the number of synchronization arrows

- **region predicate** [Mittal and Garg 00]
  - Example: virtual clocks of processes are “approximately” synchronized
    - \textit{time-complexity}: $O(nm^2)$
    - maximizes the concurrency in the controlled computation

$n$: number of processes, $m$: number of events
Ongoing and Future Work

- **Predicate Detection**: Temporal logic predicates (**Anurag Agarwal**), Online relational predicates (**Selma Ikiz**)
- **Slicing**: Distributed and online algorithms (**Vinit Ogale**)
- **Predicate Control**: Controlling message order (**Arindam Chakraborty**)
- **Model Checking**: Based on predicate detection and slicing (**Sujatha Kashyap**)
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