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1 The context

Platform

Platform : heterogeneous and distributed :

- processors with different capabilities ;
- communication links of different characteristics.

Applications

Application made of a very (very) large number of tasks, the tasks can be clustered into a finite number of types, all tasks of a same type having the same characteristics.

Principle

When we have a very large number of identical tasks to execute, we can imagine that, after some initiation phase, we will reach a (long) steady-state, before a termination phase.

If the steady-state is long enough, the initiation and termination phases will be negligible.

2 Routing packets with fixed communication routes

The problem

Problem : sending a set of message flows.

In a communication network, several flow of packets must be dispatched, each packet flow must be sent from a route to a destination, while following a given path linking the source to the destination.

Notations

- (V, A) an oriented graph, representing the communication network.
- A set of n_c flows which must be dispatched.
- The k -th flow is denoted (s_k, t_k, P_k, n_k) , where
 - s_k is the source of packets;
 - t_k is the destination;
 - P_k is the path to be followed;
 - n_k is the number of packets in the flow.We denote by $a_{k,i}$ the i -th edge in the path P_k .

Hypotheses

- A packet goes through an edge A in a unit of time.
- At a given time, a single packet traverses a given edge.

Objective

We must decide which packet must go through a given edge at a given time, in order to minimize the overall execution time.

Lower bound on the duration of schedules

We call **congestion** of edge $a \in A$, and we denote by C_a , the total number of packets which go through edge a :

$$C_a = \sum_{k \mid a \in P_k} n_k \quad C_{\max} = \max_a C_a$$

C_{\max} is a lower bound on the execution time of any schedule.

$$C^* \geq C_{\max}$$

A “fluid” (fractional) resolution of our problem will give us a solution which executes in a time C_{\max} .

3 Resolution of the “fluidified” problem

Fluidified (fractional) version : notations

Principle :

- we do not look for an integral solution but for a rational one.
- $n_{k,i}(t)$ (fractional) number of packets waiting at the entrance of the i -th edge of the k -th path, at time t .
- $T_{k,i}(t)$ is the overall time used by the edge $a_{k,i}$ for packets of the k -th flow, during the interval of time $[0; t]$.

Fluidified (fractional) version : writing the equations

1. Initiating the communications

$$n_{k,1}(t) = n_k - T_{k,1}(t), \quad \text{for each } k$$

2. Conservation law

$$n_{k,i+1}(t) = T_{k,i}(t) - T_{k,i+1}(t), \quad \text{for each } k$$

3. Resource constraints

$$\sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} T_{k,i}(t_2) - T_{k,i}(t_1) \leq t_2 - t_1, \forall a \in A, \forall t_2 \geq t_1 \geq 0$$

4. Objective

$$\text{MINIMIZE } C_{\text{frac}} = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{1} \left(\sum_{k,i} n_{k,i}(t) \right) dt$$

Lower bound

- $n_{k,1}(t) = n_k - T_{k,1}(t)$, for each k
- $n_{k,i+1}(t) = T_{k,i}(t) - T_{k,i+1}(t)$, for each k
- At any time t , $\sum_{j=1}^i n_{k,j}(t) = n_k - T_{k,i}(t)$
- For each edge a : $\sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} \sum_{j=1}^i n_{k,j}(t) = \sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} n_k - \sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} T_{k,i}(t) \geq C_a - t$

As long as $t < C_a$, there are packets in the system.

Therefore, $C_{\text{frac}} \geq \max_a C_a = C_{\text{max}}$

A candidate for the solution

- For $t \leq C_{\text{max}}$
- $T_{k,i}(t) = \frac{n_k}{C_{\text{max}}}t$, for each k and i .
 - $n_{k,1}(t) = n_k - T_{k,1}(t) = n_k - \frac{n_k}{C_{\text{max}}}t = n_k \left(1 - \frac{t}{C_{\text{max}}} \right)$, $\forall k$
 - $n_{k,i}(t) = 0$, for each k and $i \geq 2$.

For $t \geq C_{\text{max}}$

- $T_{k,i}(t) = n_k$
- $n_{k,i}(t) = 0$

This solution is a schedule of makespan C_{max} . We still have to show that it is feasible.

Checking the solution (for $t \leq C_{\max}$)

1. $n_{k,1}(t) = n_k - T_{k,1}(t)$, for each k

Satisfied by definition.

2. $n_{k,i+1}(t) = T_{k,i}(t) - T_{k,i+1}(t)$, for each k

$$T_{k,i}(t) - T_{k,i+1}(t) = \frac{n_k}{C_{\max}}t - \frac{n_k}{C_{\max}}t = 0 = n_{k,i+1}(t)$$

3. $\sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} T_{k,i}(t_2) - T_{k,i}(t_1) \leq t_2 - t_1, \forall a \in A, \forall t_2 \geq t_1 \geq 0$

$$\sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} T_{k,i}(t_2) - T_{k,i}(t_1) = \sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} \frac{n_k}{C_{\max}}(t_2 - t_1) = \frac{C_a}{C_{\max}}(t_2 - t_1) \leq t_2 - t_1$$

4 Building a schedule

Definition of a round

– $\Omega \approx$ duration of a round (will be defined later).

– m_k : number of packets of k -th flow distributed in a single round.

$$m_k = \left\lceil \frac{n_k \Omega}{C_{\max}} \right\rceil.$$

– $D_a = \sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} 1 = |\{k \mid a \in P_k\}|$

$$D_{\max} = \max_a D_a \leq n_c$$

– Period of the schedule : $\Omega + D_{\max}$.

Schedule

During the time interval $[j(\Omega + D_{\max}); (j+1)(\Omega + D_{\max})]$:

The link a forwards m_k packets of the k -th flow if there exists i such that $a_{k,i} = a$.

The link a remains idle for a duration of :

$$\Omega + D_{\max} - \sum_{(k,i) \mid a_{k,i}=a} m_k$$

(If less than m_k packets are waiting in the entrance of a at time $j(\Omega + D_{\max})$, a forwards what is available and remains idle longer.)

Feasibility of the schedule

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{(k,i)|a_{k,i}=a} m_k &= \sum_{(k,i)|a_{k,i}=a} \left\lceil \frac{n_k \Omega}{C_{\max}} \right\rceil \\
&\leq \sum_{(k,i)|a_{k,i}=a} \left(\frac{n_k \Omega}{C_{\max}} + 1 \right) \\
&\leq \frac{C_a}{C_{\max}} \Omega + D_a \\
&\leq \Omega + D_{\max}
\end{aligned}$$

Behavior of the sources

- $N_{k,i}(t)$: number of packets of the k -th flow waiting at the entrance of the i -th edge, at time t .
- $a_{k,1}$ sends m_k packets during $[0, \Omega + D_{\max}]$.
 $N_{k,1}(\Omega + D_{\max}) = n_k - m_k$
- $a_{k,1}$ sends m_k packets during $[\Omega + D_{\max}, 2(\Omega + D_{\max})]$.
 $N_{k,1}(2(\Omega + D_{\max})) = n_k - 2m_k$
- We let $T = \left\lceil \frac{C_{\max}}{\Omega} \right\rceil (\Omega + D_{\max})$

$$N_{k,1}(T) \leq n_k - \frac{T}{\Omega + D_{\max}} m_k \leq n_k - \frac{n_k \Omega}{C_{\max}} \frac{C_{\max}}{\Omega} = 0$$

Propagation delay

- $a_{k,1}$ sends m_k packets during $[0, \Omega + D_{\max}]$.
 $N_{k,1}(\Omega + D_{\max}) = n_k - m_k$ $N_{k,2}(\Omega + D_{\max}) = m_k$
 $N_{k,i \geq 3}(\Omega + D_{\max}) = 0$
- $a_{k,1}$ sends m_k packets during $[\Omega + D_{\max}, 2(\Omega + D_{\max})]$.
 $N_{k,1}(2(\Omega + D_{\max})) = n_k - 2m_k$ $N_{k,2}(2(\Omega + D_{\max})) = m_k$
 $N_{k,3}(2(\Omega + D_{\max})) = m_k$ $N_{k,i \geq 4}(2(\Omega + D_{\max})) = 0$
- The delay between the time a packet traverses the first edge of the path P_k and the time it traverses its last edge is, at worst :
 $(|P_k| - 1)(\Omega + D_{\max})$
We let $L = \max_k |P_k|$.

Makespan of the schedule

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{\text{total}} &\leq T + (L - 1)(\Omega + D_{\text{max}}) \\
&= \left\lceil \frac{C_{\text{max}}}{\Omega} \right\rceil (\Omega + D_{\text{max}}) + (L - 1)(\Omega + D_{\text{max}}) \\
&\leq \left(\frac{C_{\text{max}}}{\Omega} + 1 \right) (\Omega + D_{\text{max}}) + (L - 1)(\Omega + D_{\text{max}}) \\
&= C_{\text{max}} + LD_{\text{max}} + \frac{D_{\text{max}}C_{\text{max}}}{\Omega} + L\Omega
\end{aligned}$$

The lower bound is minimized by $\Omega = \sqrt{\frac{D_{\text{max}}C_{\text{max}}}{L}}$

$$C_{\text{total}} \leq C_{\text{max}} + 2\sqrt{C_{\text{max}}D_{\text{max}}L} + D_{\text{max}}L$$

Asymptotic optimality

$$C_{\text{max}} \leq C^* \leq C_{\text{total}} \leq C_{\text{max}} + 2\sqrt{C_{\text{max}}D_{\text{max}}L} + D_{\text{max}}L$$

$$1 \leq \frac{C_{\text{total}}}{C_{\text{max}}} \leq 1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{D_{\text{max}}L}{C_{\text{max}}}} + \frac{D_{\text{max}}L}{C_{\text{max}}}$$

$$\text{With } \Omega = \sqrt{\frac{D_{\text{max}}C_{\text{max}}}{L}}$$

Resources needed

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{(k,i)|a_{k,i}=a,k \geq 2} m_k &\leq \sum_{(k,i)|a_{k,i}=a,k \geq 2} \left(\frac{n_k}{C_{\text{max}}} \sqrt{\frac{D_{\text{max}}C_{\text{max}}}{L}} + 1 \right) \\
&\leq \sqrt{\frac{D_{\text{max}}C_{\text{max}}}{L}} + D_{\text{max}}
\end{aligned}$$

Conclusion

- We forget the initiation and termination phases
- Rational resolution of the steady-state
- Round whose size is the square-root of the solution :
 - Each round “loses” a constant amount of time
 - The sum of the waisted times increases less quickly than the schedule
 - Buffers of size the square-root of the solution

5 Routing packets with freedom on the communication paths

Problem

- Same problem than previously, but the communication paths are not fixed.
- A set of n_c collection of packets which must be dispatched.
- Each collection of packets is dispatched through a *set* of flows (the packets of a same collection may follow different paths).
- $n^{k,l}$ the total number of packets to be dispatched from k to l .
- $n_{i,j}^{k,l}$: the total number of packets to be dispatched from k to l and which go through the edge (i, j) .

$$\text{Congestion : } C_{i,j} = \sum_{(k,l) | n^{k,l} > 0} n_{i,j}^{k,l} \quad C_{\max} = \max_{i,j} C_{i,j}.$$

Writing the equations (1)

1. Initiating the communications

$$\sum_{j | (k,j) \in A} n_{k,j}^{k,l} = n^{k,l}$$

2. Receiving the messages sent

$$\sum_{i | (i,l) \in A} n_{i,l}^{k,l} = n^{k,l}$$

3. Conservation law

$$\sum_{i | (i,j) \in A} n_{i,j}^{k,l} = \sum_{i | (j,i) \in A} n_{j,i}^{k,l} \quad \forall (k,l), j \neq k, j \neq l$$

Writing the equations (2)

4. Congestion

$$C_{i,j} = \sum_{(k,l) | n^{k,l} > 0} n_{i,j}^{k,l}$$

5. Defining the objective

$$C_{\max} \geq C_{i,j}, \quad \forall i, j$$

6. Objective function

$$\text{Minimiser } C_{\max}$$

Linear program in rational numbers : can be solved in polynomial time by any linear program solver.

Routing algorithm

1. Compute the optimal value C_{\max} of the previous linear program.

2. Let Ω be some value later defined.

During the interval $[p\Omega, (p+1)\Omega]$, the edge (i, j) forwards :

$$m_{i,j}^{k,l} = \left\lfloor \frac{n_{i,j}^{k,l}\Omega}{C_{\max}} \right\rfloor$$

packets which go from k to l .

3. Starting at time :

$$T \equiv \left\lceil \frac{C_{\max}}{\Omega} \right\rceil \Omega \leq C_{\max} + \Omega$$

we process the M remaining sequentially, which takes a time ML (at worst) where L is the maximal length of a simple path in the network.

The schedule is feasible

$$\sum_{(k,l)} m_{i,j}^{k,l} \leq \sum_{(k,l)} \frac{n_{i,j}^{k,l}\Omega}{C_{\max}} = \frac{C_{i,j}\Omega}{C_{\max}} \leq \Omega$$

Makespan

- We define Ω by : $\Omega = \sqrt{C_{\max}n_c}$.
- The total number of packets remaining in the network at time T is at worst :

$$2|A|\sqrt{C_{\max}n_c} + |A|n_c$$

- The makespan is then

$$C_{\max} \leq C^* \leq C_{\max} + \sqrt{C_{\max}n_c} + 2|A|\sqrt{C_{\max}n_c}|V| + |A|n_c|V|$$