

# Chapter 8: Reasoning with Knowledge

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# Muddy Children Puzzle: Scenario A Proof

First  $k - 1$  times the father asks "Do you have mud on your forehead?", all say "No".

$k$ th time: the  $k$  muddy children say "Yes"

Proof by induction

- $k = 1$ : The muddy child, seeing no other muddy child, and knowing  $\psi$ , can answer "Yes"
- $k = 2$ : The first round, neither answers "Yes".  
 $d1$  concludes that were he clean,  $d2$  would have answered "Yes"  
 $\Rightarrow d1$  must be muddy.  
 $\Rightarrow$  In round 2,  $d1$  answers "Yes"  
 (likewise reasoning for  $d2$ )
- $k = x$ : Assume hypothesis is true.
- $k = x + 1$ : Each muddy child reasons as follows.  
 "If there were  $x$  muddy children, then they would all have answered 'Yes' when the question is asked for the  $x^{th}$  time. As that did not happen, there must be more than  $x$  muddy children. As I can see only  $x$  other muddy children, I myself must also be muddy. So I will answer 'Yes' when the question is asked the  $x + 1^{th}$  time."

# Muddy Children Puzzle (Scenario B)

- $n$  children, all intelligent, can see others but not their own faces
- $k$  ( $\leq n$ ) have mud on their forehead

Scenario B: Father does not say  $\psi$ .

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# Muddy Children Puzzle: Scenario B Proof

Every time the father asks "Do you have mud on your forehead?", all say "No".  
 Proof by induction on  $\#$  times  $q$  the father asks the question.

- $q = 1$ : each child answers "No" because he cannot distinguish the two cases: he has and does not have mud on his forehead.
- $q = x$ : Assume hypothesis is true.
- $q = x + 1$ : the situation is unchanged because each child has no further knowledge to distinguish the two cases.

Why is Scenario B different from A?

- A: Father announcing  $\phi$  introduces "common knowledge" of  $\psi$ , i.e., everyone knows everyone knows ... (infinitely often) everyone knows  $\psi$  is true  
 This allows children to reason and reach correct answer.
- B: Father does not announce  $\phi$ . No common knowledge of  $\psi$ .  
 Children have no basis to start their reasoning process.

# Logic of Knowledge

- Identify set of possible worlds (possible universes) and relationships between them
- At a process (in any global state): possible worlds are the global states which the process thinks consistent with its local state
- States expressible as logical formulae over facts  $\phi$ 
  - ▶ primitive proposition or formula including  $\wedge, \vee, \neg$ , knowledge operator  $K$ , everybody knows operator  $E$
  - ▶  $K_i(\phi)$ : process  $P_i$  knows  $\phi$
  - ▶  $E^1(\phi) = \bigwedge_{i \in N} K_i(\phi)$ , every process knows  $\phi$
  - ▶  $E^2(\phi) = E(E^1(\phi))$ , i.e., every process knows  $E^1(\phi)$ .
  - ▶  $E^k(\phi) = E^{k-1}(E^1(\phi))$  for  $k > 1$ .
- hierarchy of levels of knowledge  $E^j(\phi)$  ( $j \in Z^*$ ), where  $Z^*$  is  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ .
- $E^{k+1}(\phi) \implies E^k(\phi)$ .
- Common knowledge  $C(\phi)$ : a state of knowledge  $X$  satisfying  $X = E(\phi \wedge X)$ . Captures notion of agreement.
- $C(\phi) \implies \bigwedge_{j \in Z^*} E^j(\phi)$ .

# Muddy Children Puzzle: Using Knowledge

- Each child sees at least  $k - 1$  muddy children  $\implies E^{k-1}(\psi)$
- A muddy child does not see  $k$  muddy children  $\implies \neg E^k(\psi)$
- Above is Scenario B.  $E^{k-1}(\psi)$  not adequate for muddy children to ever answer "Yes"
- To answer "Yes,"  $E^k(\Psi)$  is required so that the children can progressively reason and answer correctly in the  $k^{th}$  round.
- In Scenario A: Father announcing  $\psi$  provided  $C(\psi)$  which implied  $E^k(\Psi)$

# Kripke Structures (informal)

Labeled graph with labeled nodes

- set of nodes is the set of states
- label of a node  $s$ : set of propositions that are true and false at  $s$
- label of edge  $(s, t)$ : ID of each process that cannot distinguish between  $s$  and  $t$
- Assume bidirectional edges and reflexive graph

## Reachability of states

- 1 State  $t$  is reachable from state  $s$  in  $k$  steps if there exist states  $s_0, s_1, \dots, s_k$  such that  $s_0 = s$ ,  $s_k = t$ , and for all  $j \in [0, k - 1]$ , there exists some  $P_i$  such that  $(s_j, s_{j+1}) \in \mathcal{K}_i$ .
- 2 State  $t$  is reachable from state  $s$  if  $t$  is reachable from  $s$  in  $k$  steps, for some  $k > 1$ .

# Muddy Children Puzzle: Using Kripke Structures

Assume  $n = 3, k = 2$ , actual state is  $(1, 1, 0)$

- $(1, 1, 0) \models \neg E^2(\psi)$  because world  $(0, 0, 0)$  is 2-reachable and  $\psi$  is false here
  - ▶ Child 2 believes  $(1, 0, 0)$  possible; here child 1 believes  $(0, 0, 0)$  possible
- $E^{k-1}(\psi)$  is true: each world reachable in  $k - 1$  hops has at least one '1'
- $E^k(\psi)$  is false: world  $(0, \dots, 0)$  reachable in  $k$  hops

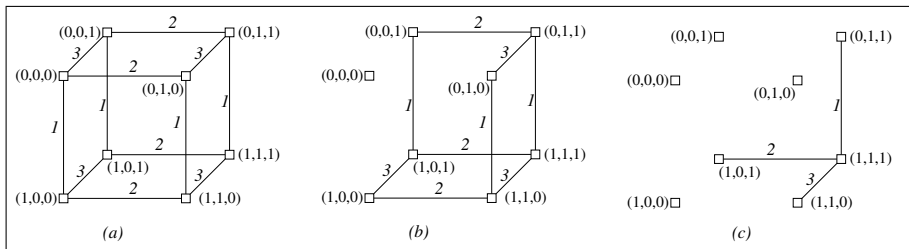


Fig 6.2: (a) Kripke structure. (b) After father announces  $\psi$  (Scenario A) (c) After round one (Scenario A)

# Muddy Children Puzzle: Scenario A

Father announces  $\psi$  means common knowledge that 1 child has mud on his face

- $\Rightarrow$  delete all edges connecting  $(0,0,0)$  (change in group knowledge)
- After round 1 where all children say "No": all edges to all possible worlds with a single '1' get deleted
  - ▶ if there were a single muddy child, he would have answered "Yes" in round 1
  - ▶ now common knowledge that  $\geq 2$  muddy children
- After round  $x$  where all children say "No": all edges to all possible worlds with  $\leq x$  '1's get deleted
  - ▶ now common knowledge that  $\geq x + 1$  muddy children
- if there were  $x$  muddy children, they would have answered "Yes" in round  $x$  because they see  $x - 1$  muddy children and rule out a world in which they are clean

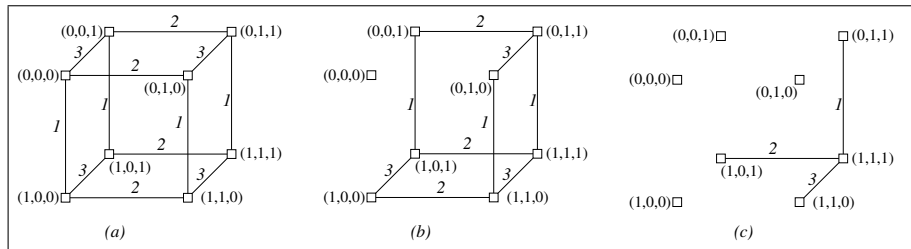


Fig 6.2: Actual state  $(1,0,0)$ . (a) Kripke structure. (b) After father announces  $\psi$  (Scenario A)

# Muddy Children Puzzle: Scenarios A and B

## Scenario A:

If in any iteration, it becomes common knowledge that world  $t$  is impossible, for each world  $s$  reachable from actual world  $r$ , edge  $(s, t)$  is deleted

## Scenario B:

Children's state of knowledge never changes

- After the first question, each child is unsure of he is in '0' or '1' state
- This was same before the first question
- First round adds no new knowledge
- Inductively, same for subsequent rounds

No change in Kripke structure

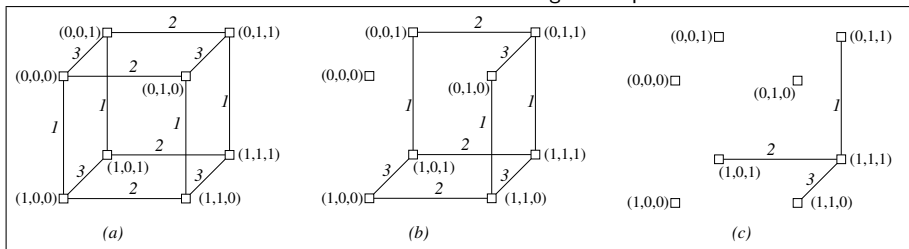


Fig 6.2: Actual state (1, 0, 0). (a) Kripke structure. (b) After father announces  $\psi$  (Scenario A) (c) After round one (Scenario A)

# Axioms of S5 Modal Logic

- Distribution Axiom:  $K_i\psi \wedge K_i(\psi \implies \phi) \implies K_i\phi$
- Knowledge Axiom:  $K_i\psi \implies \psi$   
If a process knows a fact, then the fact is true. If  $K_i\psi$  is true in a particular state, then  $\psi$  is true in all states the process considers possible.
- Positive Introspection Axiom:  $K_i\psi \implies K_iK_i\psi$
- Negative Introspection Axiom:  $\neg K_i\psi \implies K_i\neg K_i\psi$
- Knowledge Generalization Rule: For a valid formula or fact  $\psi$ ,  $K_i\psi$   
If  $\psi$  is true in all possible worlds, then  $\psi$  must be true in all the possible worlds with respect to any process and any given world.  
*Assumption:* a process knows all *valid* formulas, which are necessarily true.



# Knowledge in Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Systems

Thus far, synchronous systems considered.

How to attain common knowledge in synchronous systems?

- Initialize all with common knowledge of  $\phi$
- Broadcast  $\phi$  in a round of communication, and let all know that  $\phi$  is being broadcast. Each process can begin supporting common knowledge from the next round.

Asynchronous system:

- possible worlds: the consistent cuts of the set of possible executions.
- Let  $(a, c)$  denote a cut  $c$  in asynchronous execution  $a$ .
- $(a, c)$  also denotes the system state after  $(a, c)$ .
- $(a, c)_i$ : projection (i.e., state) of  $c$  on process  $i$ .
- Cuts  $c$  and  $c'$  are indistinguishable by process  $i$ , denoted  $(a, c) \sim_i (a', c')$ , if and only if  $(a, c)_i = (a', c')_i$ .
- The semantics of knowledge based on *asynchronous executions*, instead of timed executions.
- $K_i(\phi)$ :  $\phi$  is true in all possible consistent global states that include  $i$ 's local state.
- Similarly for  $E^k(\phi)$ .

# Knowledge in Asynchronous Systems: Logic, Definitions (1)

- $(a, c) \models \phi$  if and only if  $\phi$  is true in cut  $c$  of asynchronous execution  $a$ .
- $(a, c) \models K_i(\phi)$  if and only if  $\forall(a', c'), ((a', c') \sim_i (a, c) \implies (a', c') \models \phi)$
- $(a, c) \models E^0(\phi)$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models \phi$
- $(a, c) \models E^1(\phi)$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models \bigwedge_{i \in N} K_i(\phi)$
- $(a, c) \models E^{k+1}(\phi)$  for  $k \geq 1$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models \bigwedge_{i \in N} K_i(E^k(\phi))$ , for  $k \geq 1$
- $(a, c) \models C(\phi)$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models$  the greatest fixed point knowledge  $X$  satisfying  $X = E(X \wedge \phi)$ .  
 $C(\phi)$  implies  $\bigwedge_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^*} E^k(\phi)$ .

# Knowledge in Asynchronous Systems: Logic, Definitions (2)

- “ $i$  knows  $\phi$  in state  $s_i^x$ ”, denoted  $s_i^x \models \phi$ , is shorthand for  $(\forall(a, c)) ((a, c)_i = s_i^x \implies (a, c) \models \phi)$ .
- $s_i^x \models K_i(\phi)$  is shorthand for  $(\forall(a, c)) ((a, c)_i = s_i^x \implies (a, c) \models K_i(\phi))$ .
- Learning: Process  $i$  *learns*  $\phi$  in state  $s_i^x$  of execution  $a$  if  $i$  knows  $\phi$  in  $s_i^x$  and, for all states  $s_i^y$  in execution  $a$  such that  $y < x$ ,  $i$  does not know  $\phi$ .
- $i$  attains  $\phi$ : process learns  $\phi$  in the present or an earlier state.
- $\phi$  is attained in an execution  $a$ :  $\exists c, (a, c) \models \phi$
- Local fact:  $\phi$  is *local* to process  $i$  in system  $A$  if  $A \models (\phi \implies K_i \phi)$   
e.g., local state, clock value of a process, local component of vector clock
- Global fact: A fact that is not local, e.g., global state, timestamp of a cut

# Common Knowledge in Asynchronous Systems

Reaching consensus over  $\phi$  requires common knowledge of  $\phi$

## Impossibility Result

There does not exist any protocol for two processes to reach common knowledge about a binary value in an asynchronous message-passing system with unreliable communication.

- Justify:  $P_i$  and  $P_j$  need to send each other ACKs ... nonterminating argument
- or Let there be a *minimal* protocol that has  $k$  msgs. Then the  $k$ th msg is redundant  $\Rightarrow$  contradiction

Is common knowledge attainable in the async system with reliable communication without an upper bound on message transmission times?

- No. construct a similar argument

Is common knowledge attainable in the async system with reliable communication with an upper bound on message transmission times?

- No, for when does a process begin supporting that knowledge?

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# Variants of Common Knowledge for Asynchronous Systems

Common knowledge requires "simultaneity of actions" across processes.

Perfectly synchronized clocks not practical. But we can **weaken** common knowledge!

- Epsilon-common knowledge:  $C^\epsilon(\phi)$  is the greatest fixed point of  $X = E^\epsilon(\phi \wedge X)$ 
  - ▶  $E^\epsilon$  denotes "everyone knows within  $\epsilon$  time units"
  - ▶ Assumes timed runs
- Eventual common knowledge:  $C^\diamond(\phi)$  is the greatest fixed point of  $X = E^\diamond(\phi \wedge X)$ 
  - ▶  $E^\diamond$  denotes "everyone will eventually know (at some point in their execution)"
  - ▶ reach agreement at some (not necessarily consistent) global state
- Timestamped common knowledge:  $C^T(\phi)$  is the greatest fixed point of  $X = E^T(\phi \wedge X)$ 
  - ▶ processes reach agreement at local states having the same local clock value.
  - ▶ It is applicable to asynchronous systems
  - ▶  $E^T(\phi) = \bigwedge_i K_i^T(\phi)$ , where  $K_i^T(\phi)$ : process  $i$  knows  $\phi$  at local clock value  $T$
- Concurrent common knowledge  $C^C(\phi)$ : processes reach agreement at local states that belong to a consistent cut. When  $P_i$  attains  $C^C(\phi)$ , it also knows that each other process  $P_j$  has also attained the same concurrent common knowledge in its local state which is consistent with  $P_i$ 's local state.
  - ▶ Most widely used weakening of common knowledge; studied next

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# Concurrent Common Knowledge: Definition

- $(a, c) \models \phi$  if and only if  $\phi$  is true in cut  $c$  of execution  $a$ .
- $(a, c) \models K_i(\phi)$  if and only if  $\forall(a', c'), ((a', c') \sim_i (a, c) \implies (a', c') \models \phi)$
- $(a, c) \models P_i(\phi)$  if and only if  $\exists(a', c'), ((a, c') \sim_i (a, c) \wedge (a, c') \models \phi)$
- $(a, c) \models E^{C^0}(\phi)$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models \phi$
- $(a, c) \models E^{C^1}(\phi)$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models \bigwedge_{i \in N} K_i P_i(\phi)$
- $(a, c) \models E^{C^{k+1}}(\phi)$  for  $k \geq 1$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models \bigwedge_{i \in N} K_i P_i(E^{C^k}(\phi))$ ,  
for  $k \geq 1$
- $(a, c) \models C^C(\phi)$  if and only if  $(a, c) \models$  the greatest fixed point knowledge  $X$  satisfying  $X = E^C(X \wedge \phi)$ .  
 $C^C(\phi)$  implies  $\bigwedge_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^*} (E^C)^k(\phi)$ .

# Concurrent Knowledge

- Possibly operator  $P_i(\phi)$  means “ $\phi$  is true in *some* consistent state in the same asynchronous run, that includes process  $i$ ’s local state”.
- $E^C(\phi)$  is defined as  $\bigwedge_{i \in N} K_i(P_i(\phi))$ .
- $E^C(\phi)$ : every process at the (given) cut knows only that  $\phi$  is true in *some* cut that is consistent with its own local state.
- Concurrent knowledge is weaker than regular knowledge
  - ▶ But, for a *local, stable* fact, and assuming other processes learn the fact via message chains, the two are equivalent
- $C^C(\phi)$  is attained at a consistent cut:  
(informally speaking), each process at its local cut state knows that “in some state consistent with its own local cut state,  $\phi$  is true *and that* all other process know all this same knowledge (described within quotes)”.
- $C^C(\phi)$  underlies all protocols that reach agreement about properties of the global state



# Concurrent Common Knowledge: Snapshot-based Algorithm

## Protocol 1 (Snapshot-based algorithm).

- ① At some time when the initiator  $I$  knows  $\phi$ :
    - ▶ it sends a marker  $MARKER(I, \phi, CCK)$  to each neighbour  $P_j$ , and atomically reaches its *cut state*.
  - ② When a process  $P_i$  receives for the first time, a message  $MARKER(I, \phi, CCK)$  from a process  $P_j$ :
    - ▶ process  $P_i$  forwards the message to all of its neighbours except  $P_j$ , and atomically reaches its *cut state*.
- attains  $C^C(\phi)$  when it reaches its *cut state*.
  - Complexity:  $2I$  messages; time complexity:  $O(d)$

# Concurrent Common Knowledge: Three-phase Send Inhibitory Algorithm

## Protocol 2 (Three-phase send-inhibitory algorithm).

- ① At some time when the initiator  $I$  knows  $\phi$ :
  - ▶ it sends a marker  $PREPARE(I, \phi, CCK)$  to each process  $P_j$ .
- ② When a (non-initiator) process receives a marker  $PREPARE(I, \phi, CCK)$ :
  - ▶ it begins send-inhibition for non-protocol events.
  - ▶ sends a marker  $CUT(I, \phi, CCK)$  to the initiator  $I$ .
  - ▶ it reaches its *cut state* at which it attains  $C^C(\phi)$ .
- ③ When the initiator  $I$  receives a marker  $CUT(I, \phi, CCK)$  from each other process:
  - ▶ the initiator reaches its *cut state*
  - ▶ sends a marker  $RESUME(I, \phi, CCK)$  to all other processes.
- ④ When a (non-initiator) process receives a marker  $RESUME(I, \phi, CCK)$ :
  - ▶ it resumes sending its non-protocol messages which had been inhibited in step 2.

- attains  $C^C(\phi)$  when it reaches its *cut state*. Needs FIFO.
- Complexity:  $3(n - 1)$  messages; time complexity: 3 hops; send-inhibitory

# Concurrent Common Knowledge: Three-phase Send Inhibitory Tree Algorithm

## Protocol 3 (Three-phase send-inhibitory tree algorithm).

**Phase I (broadcast):** The root initiates *PREPARE* control messages down the ST; when a process receives such a message, it inhibits computation message sends and propagates the received control message down the ST.

**Phase II (convergecast):** A leaf node initiates this phase after it receives the *PREPARE* control message broadcast in phase I. The leaf reaches and records its *cut state*, and sends a *CUT* control message up the ST. An intermediate (and the root) node reaches and records its *cut state* when it receives such a *CUT* control message from each of its children, and then propagates the control message up the ST.

**Phase III (broadcast):** The root initiates a broadcast of a *RESUME* control message down the ST after Phase II terminates. On receiving such a *RESUME* message, a process resumes inhibited computation message send activity and propagates the control message down the ST.

- attains  $C^C(\phi)$  when it reaches its *cut state*. non-FIFO.
- Complexity:  $3(n - 1)$  messages; time complexity:  $O(\text{depth})$  hops; send-inhibitory

# Concurrent Common Knowledge: Inhibitory Ring Algorithm

## Protocol 4 (Send-inhibitory ring algorithm).

- 1 Once a fact  $\phi$  about the system state is known to some process, the process atomically reaches its *cut state* and begins supporting  $C(\phi)$ , begins send inhibition, and sends a control message  $CUT(\phi)$  along the ring.
  - 2 This  $CUT(\phi)$  message announces  $\phi$ . When a process receives the  $CUT(\phi)$  message, it reaches its *cut state* and begins supporting  $C(\phi)$ , begins send inhibition, and forwards the message along the ring.
  - 3 When the initiator gets back  $CUT(\phi)$ , it stops send inhibition, and forwards a *RESUME* message along the ring.
  - 4 When a process receives the *RESUME* message, it stops send-inhibition, and forwards the *RESUME* message along the ring. The protocol terminates when the initiator gets back the *RESUME* it initiated.
- attains  $C^C(\phi)$  when it reaches its *cut state*. FIFO.
  - Complexity:  $2n$  messages; time complexity:  $O(2n)$  hops; send-inhibitory

# Knowledge Transfer (1)

## Message chain and Process chain

A *message chain* in an execution is a sequence of messages  $\langle m_{i_k}, m_{i_{k-1}}, m_{i_{k-2}}, \dots, m_{i_1} \rangle$  such that for all  $0 < j \leq k$ ,  $m_{i_j}$  is sent by process  $i_j$  to process  $i_{j-1}$  and  $\text{receive}(m_{i_j}) \prec \text{send}(m_{i_{j-1}})$ . The message chain identifies *process chain*  $\langle i_0, i_1, \dots, i_{k-2}, i_{k-1}, i_k \rangle$ .

- If  $\phi$  is false and later  $P_1$  knows that  $P_2$  knows that  $\dots P_k$  knows  $\phi$ , then there must exist a process chain  $\langle i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k \rangle$ .
- Indistinguishability of cuts  $(a, c) \sim_i (a', c')$  is expressible in the interleaving model using isomorphism of executions. Let:
  - ▶  $x, y, z$  denote executions or execution prefixes in interleaving model.
  - ▶  $x_p$ : projection of execution  $x$  on process  $p$ .

## Isomorphism of executions

- 1 For  $x$  and  $y$ , relation  $x[p]y$  is true iff  $x_p = y_p$ .
- 2 For  $x$  and  $y$  and a process group  $G$ , relation  $x[G]y$  is true iff, for all  $p \in G$ ,  $x_p = y_p$ .
- 3 Let  $G_i$  be process group  $i$  and let  $k > 1$ . Then,  $x[G_0, G_1, \dots, G_k]z$  if and only if  $x[G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{k-1}]y$  and  $y[G_k]z$ .

Exercise: Examine isomorphism (items 1,2,3 each) using Kripke structures!

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  - ▶  $x_p$ : projection of execution  $x$  on process  $p$ .

## Isomorphism of executions

- 1 For  $x$  and  $y$ , relation  $x[p]y$  is true iff  $x_p = y_p$ .
- 2 For  $x$  and  $y$  and a process group  $G$ , relation  $x[G]y$  is true iff, for all  $p \in G$ ,  $x_p = y_p$ .
- 3 Let  $G_i$  be process group  $i$  and let  $k > 1$ . Then,  $x[G_0, G_1, \dots, G_k]z$  if and only if  $x[G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{k-1}]y$  and  $y[G_k]z$ .

Exercise: Examine isomorphism (items 1,2,3 each) using Kripke structures!

# Knowledge Transfer (1)

## Message chain and Process chain

A *message chain* in an execution is a sequence of messages  $\langle m_{i_k}, m_{i_{k-1}}, m_{i_{k-2}}, \dots, m_{i_1} \rangle$  such that for all  $0 < j \leq k$ ,  $m_{i_j}$  is sent by process  $i_j$  to process  $i_{j-1}$  and  $\text{receive}(m_{i_j}) \prec \text{send}(m_{i_{j-1}})$ . The message chain identifies *process chain*  $\langle i_0, i_1, \dots, i_{k-2}, i_{k-1}, i_k \rangle$ .

- If  $\phi$  is false and later  $P_1$  knows that  $P_2$  knows that  $\dots P_k$  knows  $\phi$ , then there must exist a process chain  $\langle i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k \rangle$ .
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# Knowledge Transfer (2)

## Knowledge operator in the interleaving model

$p$  knows  $\phi$  at execution  $x$  if and only if, for all executions  $y$  such that  $x[p]y$ ,  $\phi$  is true at  $y$ .

When a message is received, set of isomorphic executions can only decrease.

## Knowledge transfer theorem

For process groups  $G_1, \dots, G_k$ , and executions  $x$  and  $y$ ,  
 $(K_{G_1} K_{G_2} \dots K_{G_k}(\phi) \text{ at } x \text{ and } x[G_1, \dots, G_k]y) \implies K_{G_k}(\phi) \text{ at } y$ .

Proof by induction.

- Trivial for  $k = 1$ .
- $k, k > 1$ : We infer  $\exists$  some  $z \mid x[G_1, \dots, G_{k-1}]z$  and  $z[G_k]y$ .  
 From  $K_{G_1} K_{G_2} \dots K_{G_{k-1}}[K_{G_k}(\phi)]$  at  $x$ , and from the induction hypothesis:  
 infer that  $K_{G_{k-1}}[K_{G_k}(\phi)]$  at  $z$ .  
 Hence,  $K_{G_k}(\phi)$  at  $z$ . As  $z[G_k]y$ ,  $K_{G_k}(\phi)$  at  $y$ .

I.t.o. Kripke structures, there is a path from state node  $x = s_0$  to state node  $y = s_k$ , via state nodes  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{k-1}$ , such that the  $k$  edges  $(s_i, s_{i+1})$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq k-1$  are labeled by  $G_{i+1}$ .



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# Knowledge Transfer (3)

## Knowledge gain theorem

For processes  $P_1, \dots, P_k$ , and executions  $x$  and  $y$ , where  $x$  is a prefix of  $y$ , let

- $\neg K_k(\phi)$  at  $x$  and  $K_1 K_2 \dots K_k(\phi)$  at  $y$ .

Then there is a process chain  $\langle i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}, i_k \rangle$  in  $(x, y)$ .

This formalizes that there must exist a message chain  $\langle m_{i_k}, m_{i_{k-1}}, m_{i_{k-2}}, \dots, m_{i_1} \rangle$  in order that a fact  $\phi$  that becomes known to  $P_k$  after execution prefix  $x$  of  $y$ , leads to the state of knowledge  $K_1 K_2 \dots K_k(\phi)$  after execution  $y$ .

# Knowledge and Clocks

- Assumption: Facts are timestamped by the time of their becoming true and by PID at which they became true.
- *Full-information protocol* (FIP): protocol in which a process piggybacks all its knowledge on outgoing messages, & a process adds to its knowledge all the knowledge that is piggybacked on any message it receives.
- Knowledge always increases when a message is received.
- The amount of knowledge keeps increasing  $\Rightarrow$  impractical
- Facts can always be appropriately encoded as integers.
- *Monotonic facts*: Facts about a property that keep increasing monotonically (e.g., the latest time of taking a checkpoint at a process).
- By using a mapping between logical clocks and monotonic facts, information about the monotonic facts can be communicated between processes using piggybacked timestamps.
- Being monotonic, all earlier facts can be inferred from the fixed amount of information that is maintained and piggybacked.
- E.g.,  $Clk_i[j]$  indicates the local time at each  $P_j$ , and implicitly that all lower clock values at  $P_j$  have occurred.
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# Knowledge, Scalar Clocks, and Matrix Clocks (2)

- Vector clock:  $Clk_i[j]$  represents  $K_i K_j(\phi_j)$ , where  $\phi_j$  is the local component of  $P_j$ 's clock.
- Matrix clock:  $Clk_i[j, k]$  represents  $K_i K_j K_k(\phi_k)$ , where  $\phi_k$  is the local component  $Clk_k[k, k]$  of  $P_k$ 's clock.
- The  $j^{th}$  row of MC  $Clk_i[j, \cdot]$ : the latest VC value of  $P_j$ 's clock, as known to  $P_i$ .
- The  $j^{th}$  column of MC  $Clk_i[\cdot, j]$ : the latest scalar clock values of  $P_j$ , i.e.,  $Clk[j, j]$ , as known to each process in the system.
- Vector and matrix clocks: knowledge is imparted via the *inhibition-free ambient message-passing* that (i) *eliminates protocol messages* by using piggybacking, and (ii) *diffuses the latest knowledge* using only messages, whenever sent, by the underlying execution.
- VC provides knowledge  $E^0(\phi)$ , where  $\phi$  is a property of the global state, namely, the local scalar clock value of each process.
- MC at  $P_j$  provides knowledge  $K_j(E^1(\phi)) = K_j(\bigwedge_{i \in N} K_i(\phi))$ , where  $\phi$  is the same property of the global state.
- Matrix clocks: used to design distributed database protocols, fault-tolerant protocols, and protocols to discard obsolete information in distributed databases. Also to solve the distributed dictionary and distributed log problems.



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# Matrix Clocks

(local variables)

**array of int**  $Clk_i[1 \dots n, 1 \dots n]$

**MC0.**  $Clk_i[j, k]$  is initialized to 0 for all  $j$  and  $k$

**MC1.** Before process  $i$  executes an internal event, it does the following.  
 $Clk_i[i, i] = Clk_i[i, i] + 1$

**MC2.** Before process  $i$  executes a send event, it does the following:  
 $Clk_i[i, i] = Clk_i[i, i] + 1$   
 Send message timestamped by  $Clk_i$ .

**MC3.** When process  $i$  receives a message with timestamp  $T$  from process  $j$ , it does the following.  
 $(k \in N) \ Clk_i[i, k] = \max(Clk_i[i, k], T[j, k]);$   
 $(l \in N \setminus \{i\}) \ (k \in N), \ Clk_i[l, k] = \max(Clk_i[l, k], T[l, k]);$   
 $Clk_i[i, i] = Clk_i[i, i] + 1;$   
 deliver the message.

- Message overhead:  $O(n^2)$  space and processing time