Advanced Course

Distributed Systems

Basic Abstractions

Paris Carbone

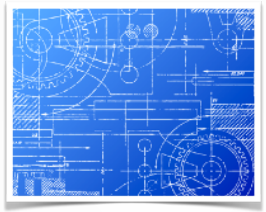
A System's Roadmap

I- Specification

The 'WHAT'

- *Assumptions*
- *Goals*
- *Set of Properties*

II- Solution Design



The 'HOW'

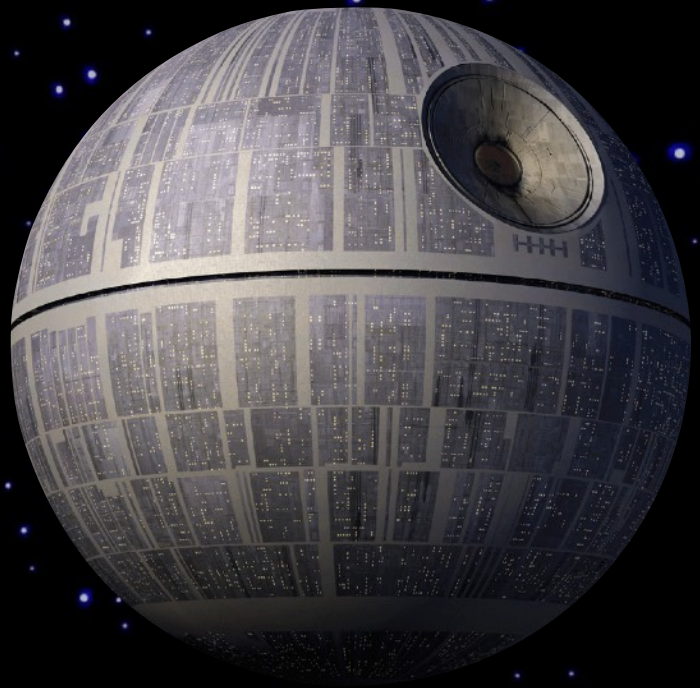
- *Satisfies Properties*
- *Abstract yet Accurate Representation*

III- Implementation

- *Execution*
- *Development*

Let’s take a closer look into
…one of the biggest systems of all time

The Death Star

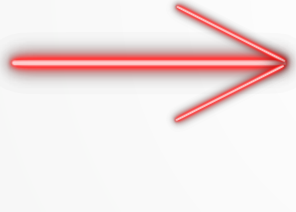


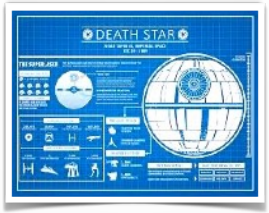
Death Star Roadmap

I- Specification

II- Solution Design

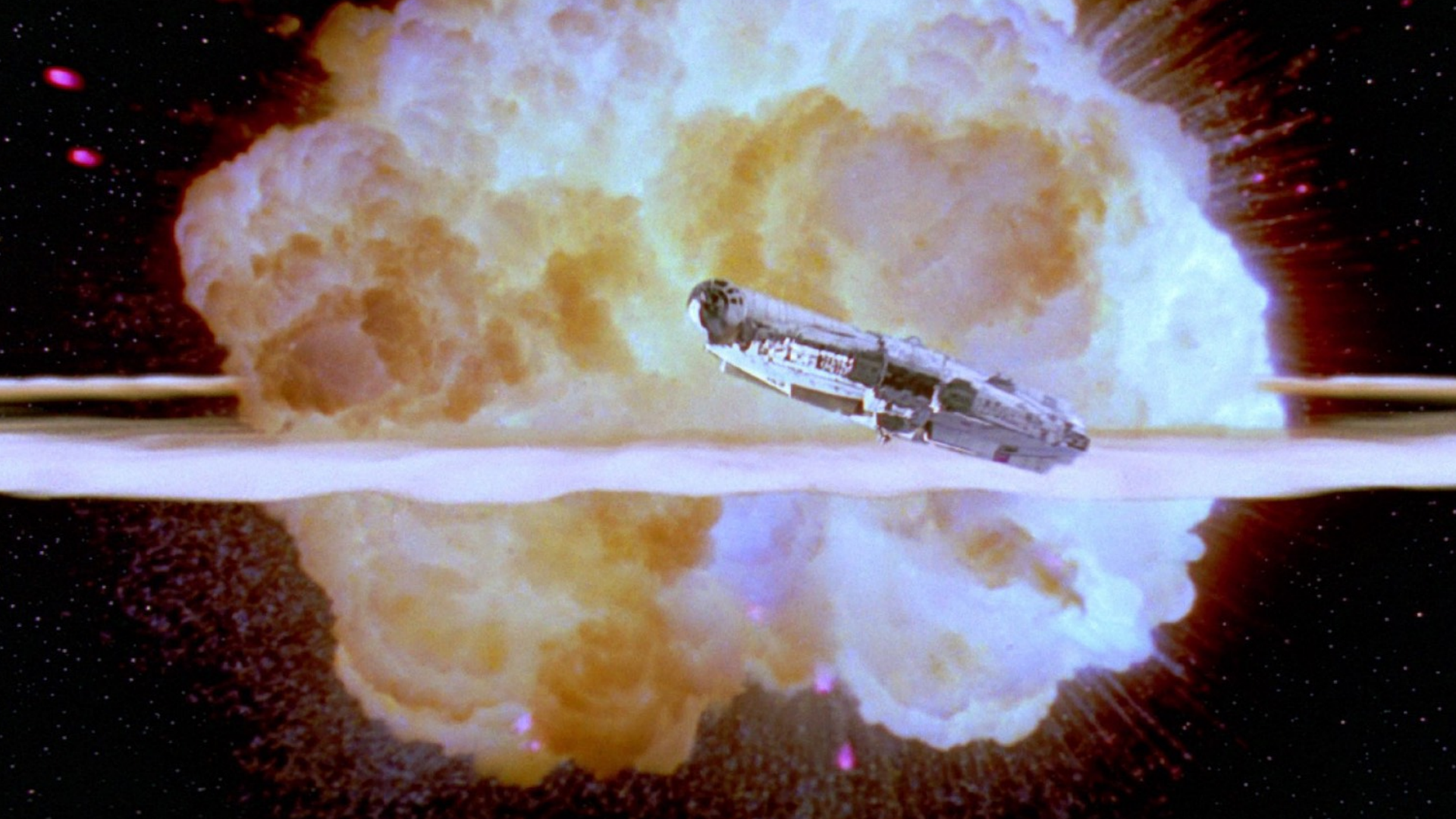
III- Implementation





- Gargantuan Scale/Storage
- Indestructible
- Ultra High-Speed (>light)
- Massive Power Projection

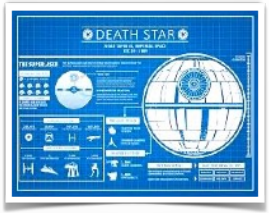
- Moon-Size Model
- Stainless Steel Plates
- Hyperdrive, Thermal Reactors
- Superlaser Module Design



The Issue

I- Specification

II- Model (Blueprint)



shoot here to detonate

- Gargantuan Scale/Storage
- ~~**Indestructible**~~
- Ultra High-Speed (>light)
- Massive Power Projection

- Moon-Size Model
- Stainless Steel Plates
- Hyperdrive, **Thermal Reactors**
- Superlaser Module Design

We could have saved Death Star

- As with every type of reliable system
    1. A correct, careful specification of its properties is crucial.
    2. A solution design (algorithm) needs to:
        1. Provably satisfy all properties and
        2. Not violate any property (duh).

Let's see how this can be done with some core abstractions!

Course Topics

- Intro to Distributed Systems
- Fundamental Abstractions and Failure Detectors
- Reliable and Causal Order Broadcast
- Distributed Shared Memory-CRDTs
- Consensus (Paxos)
- Replicated State Machines (OmniPaxos, Raft, Zab etc.)
- Time Abstractions and Interval Clocks (Spanner etc.)
- Consistent Snapshotting (Stream Data Management)
- Distributed ACID Transactions (Cloud DBs)

Need of Distributed Abstractions

Reliable applications need underlying services stronger than network protocols (e.g. TCP, UDP)

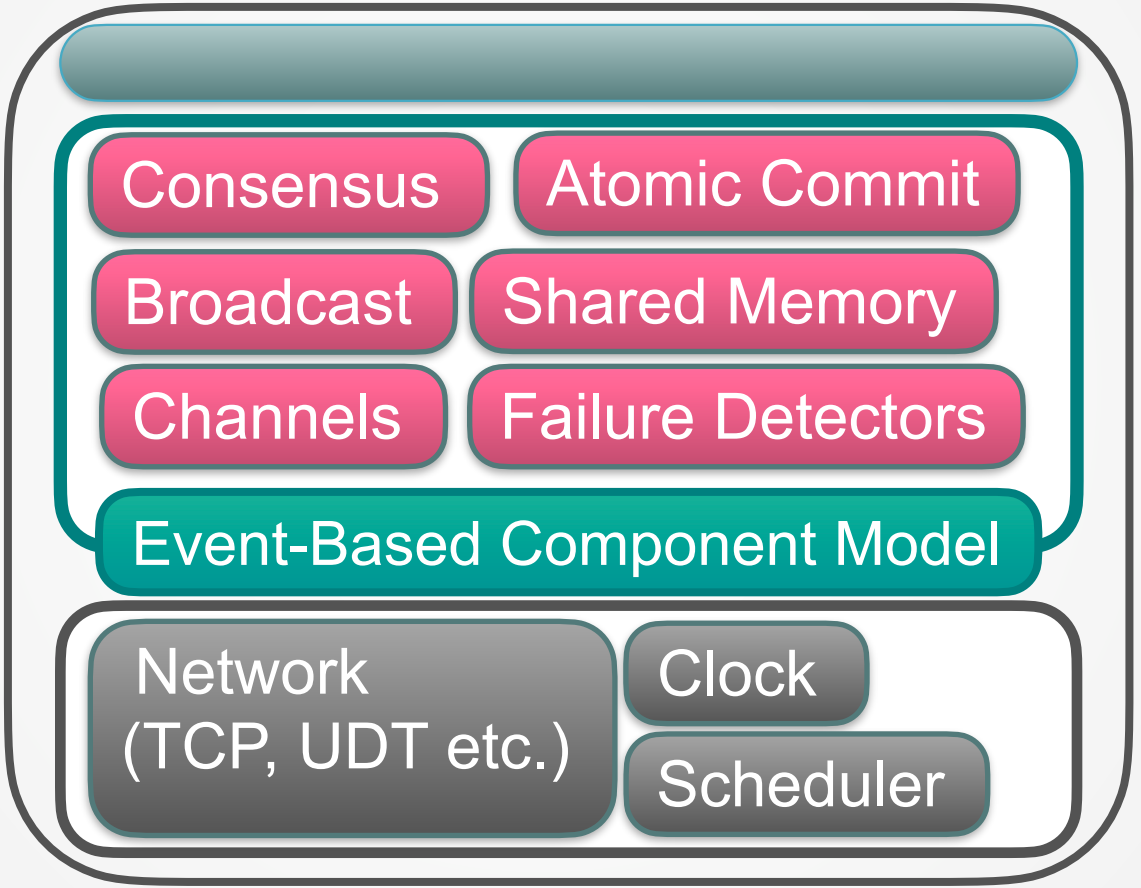
- The basic building blocks of **any** distributed system is a **set of distributed algorithms**.
- Implemented as a **middleware** between network (OS) and the application.

Anatomy of a Distributed System

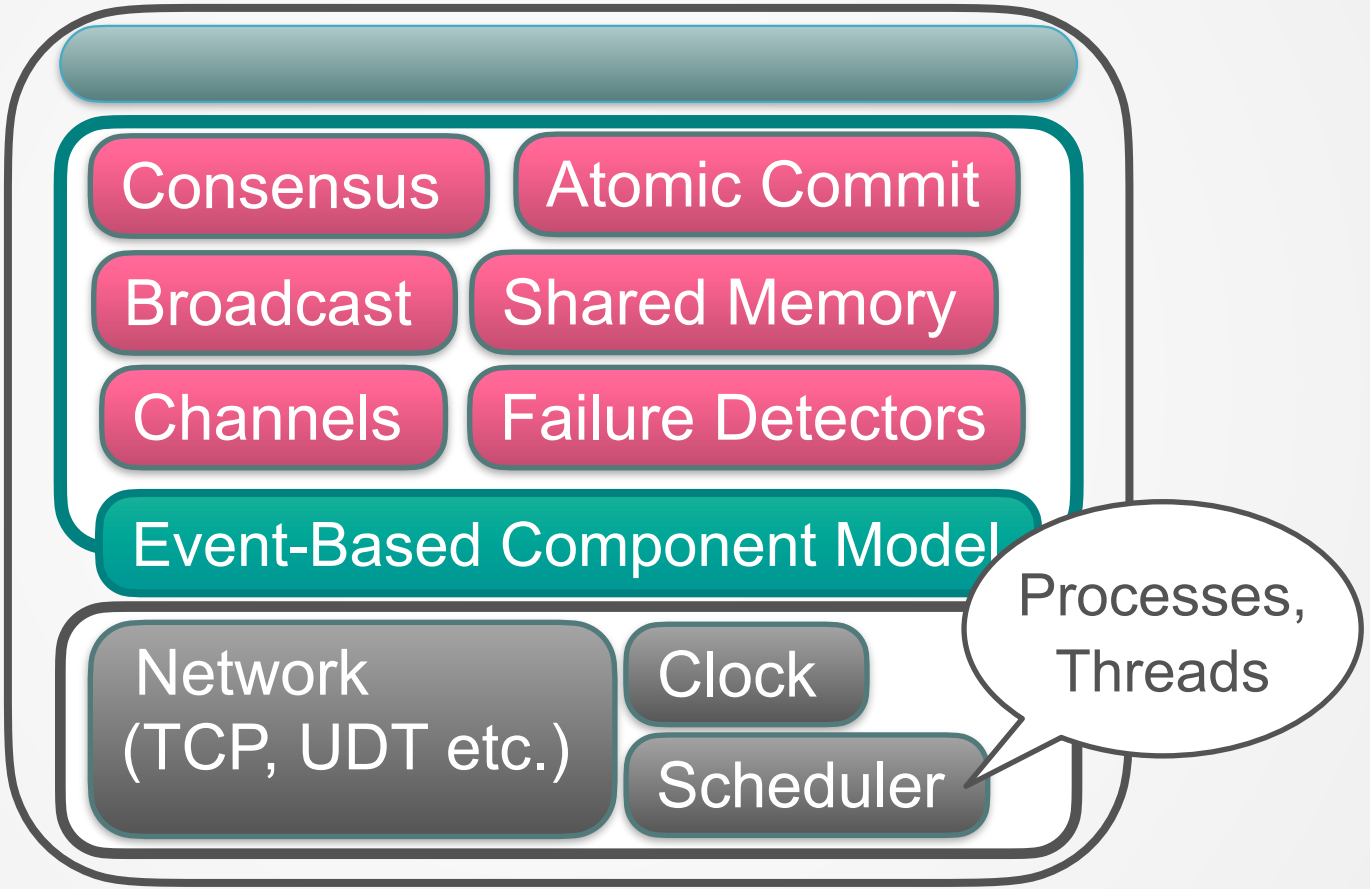
Distributed Applications

Middleware

OS



Anatomy of a Distributed System



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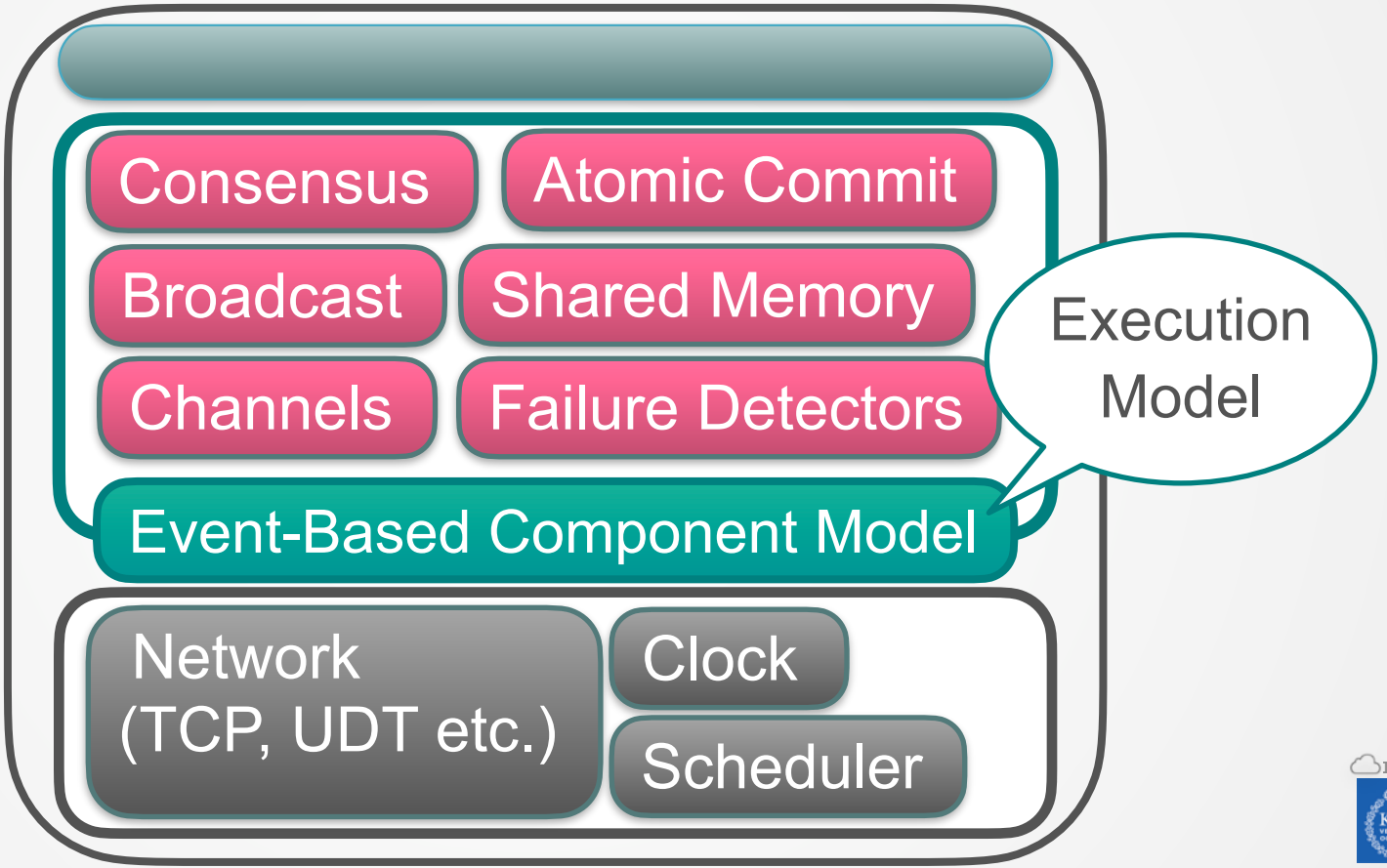

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Distributed Applications

Middleware

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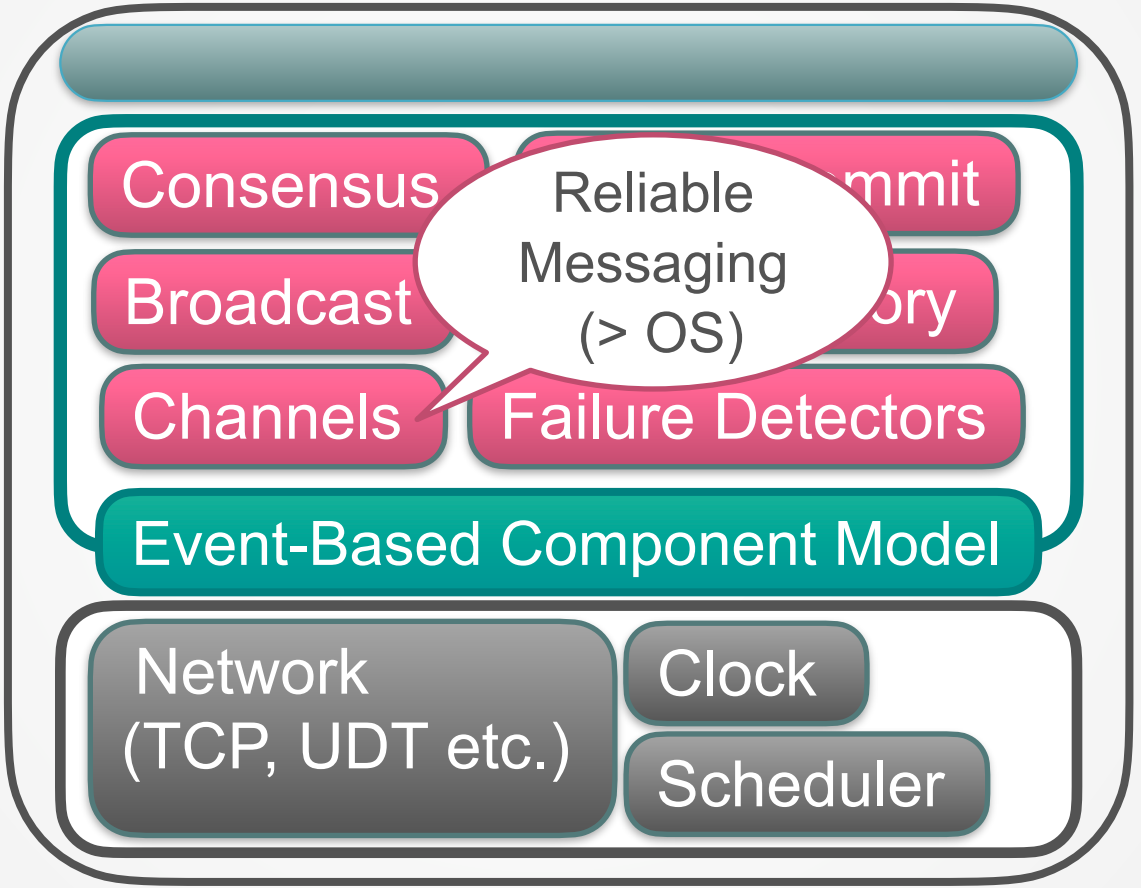

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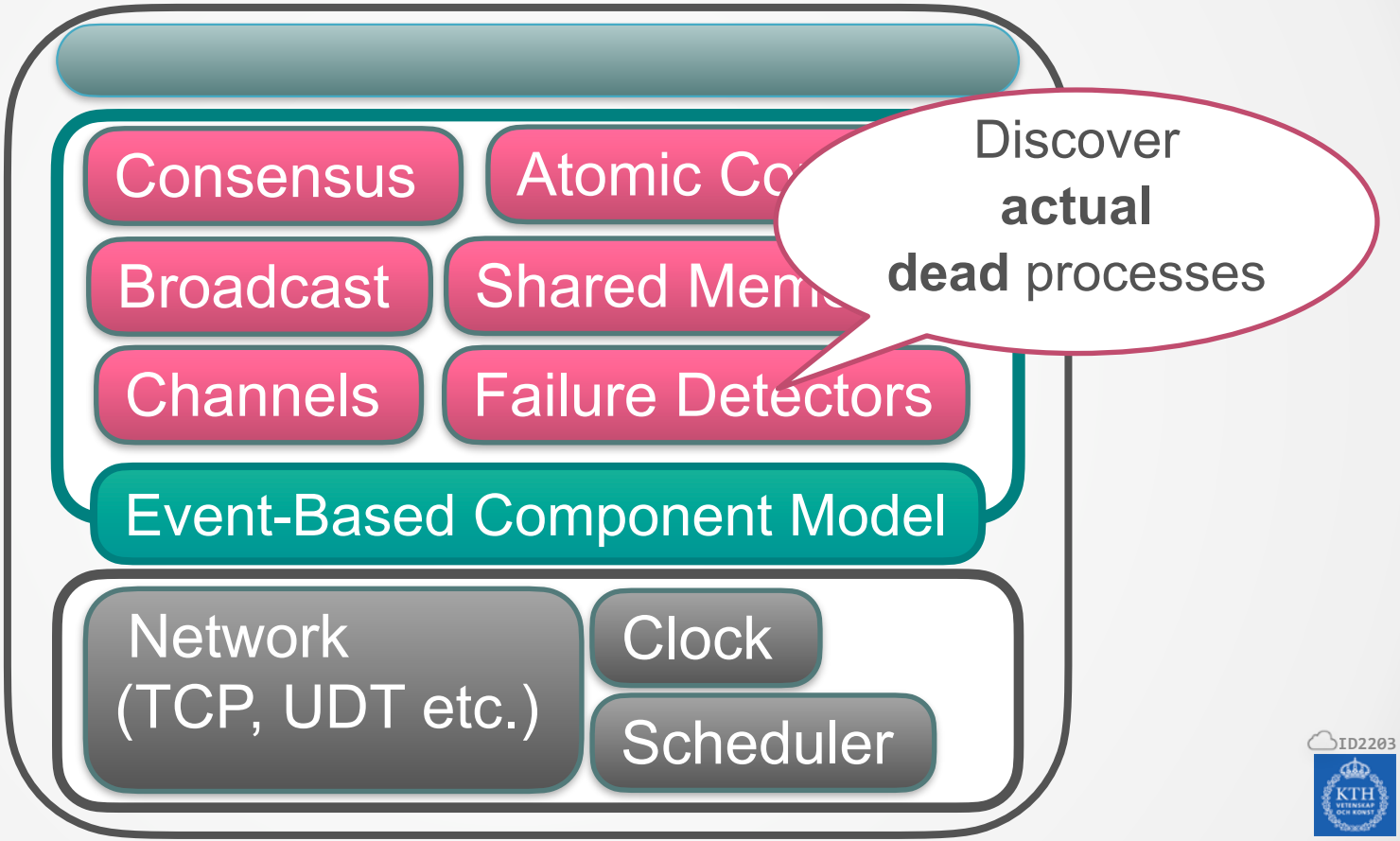
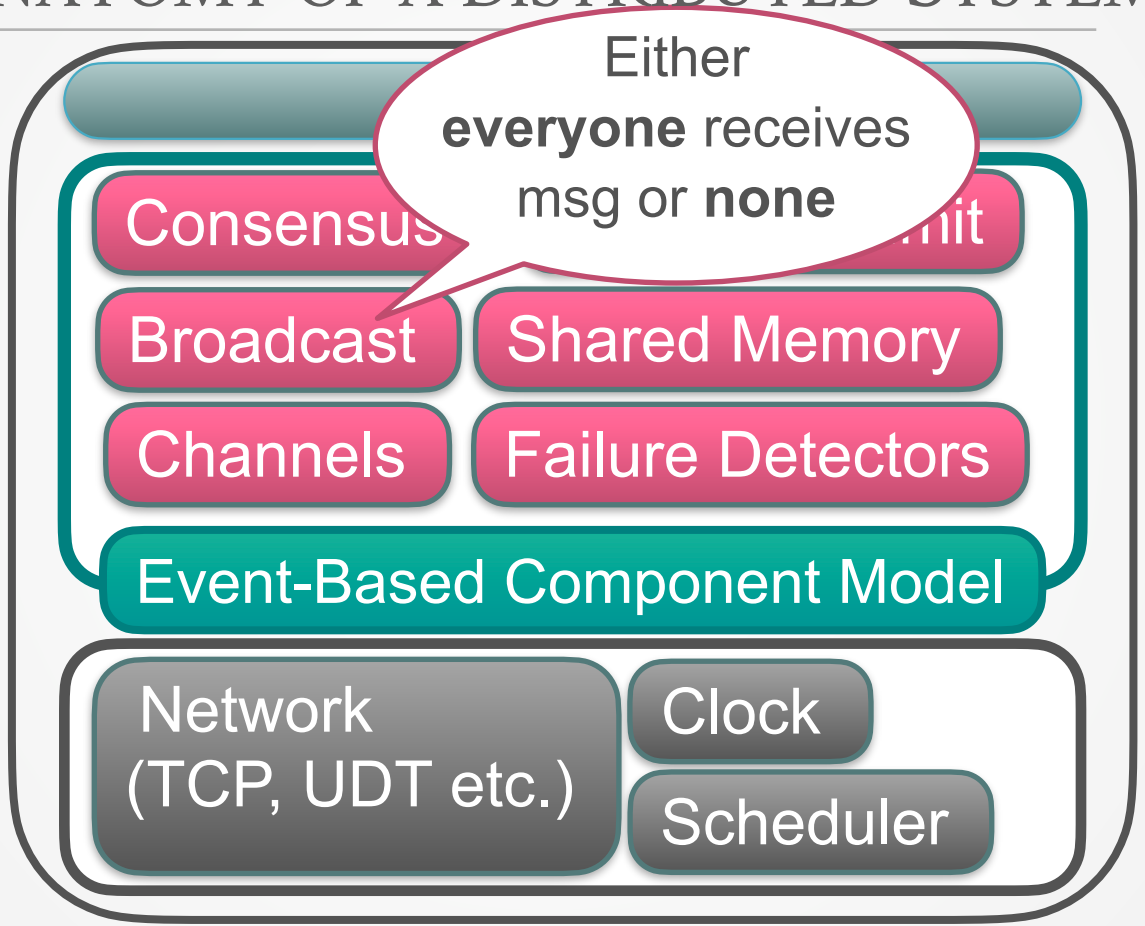


Anatomy of a Distributed System

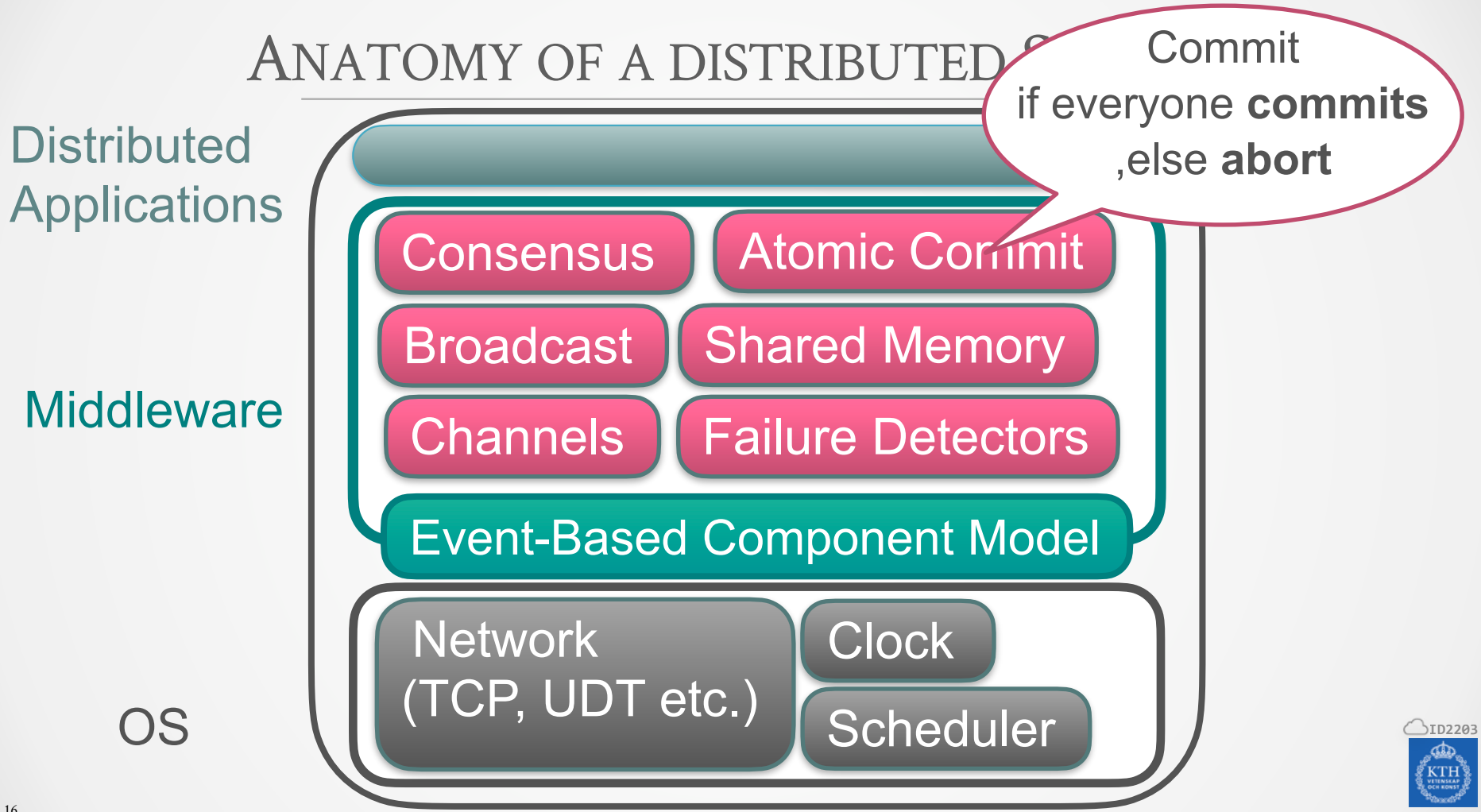
Distributed Applications

Middleware

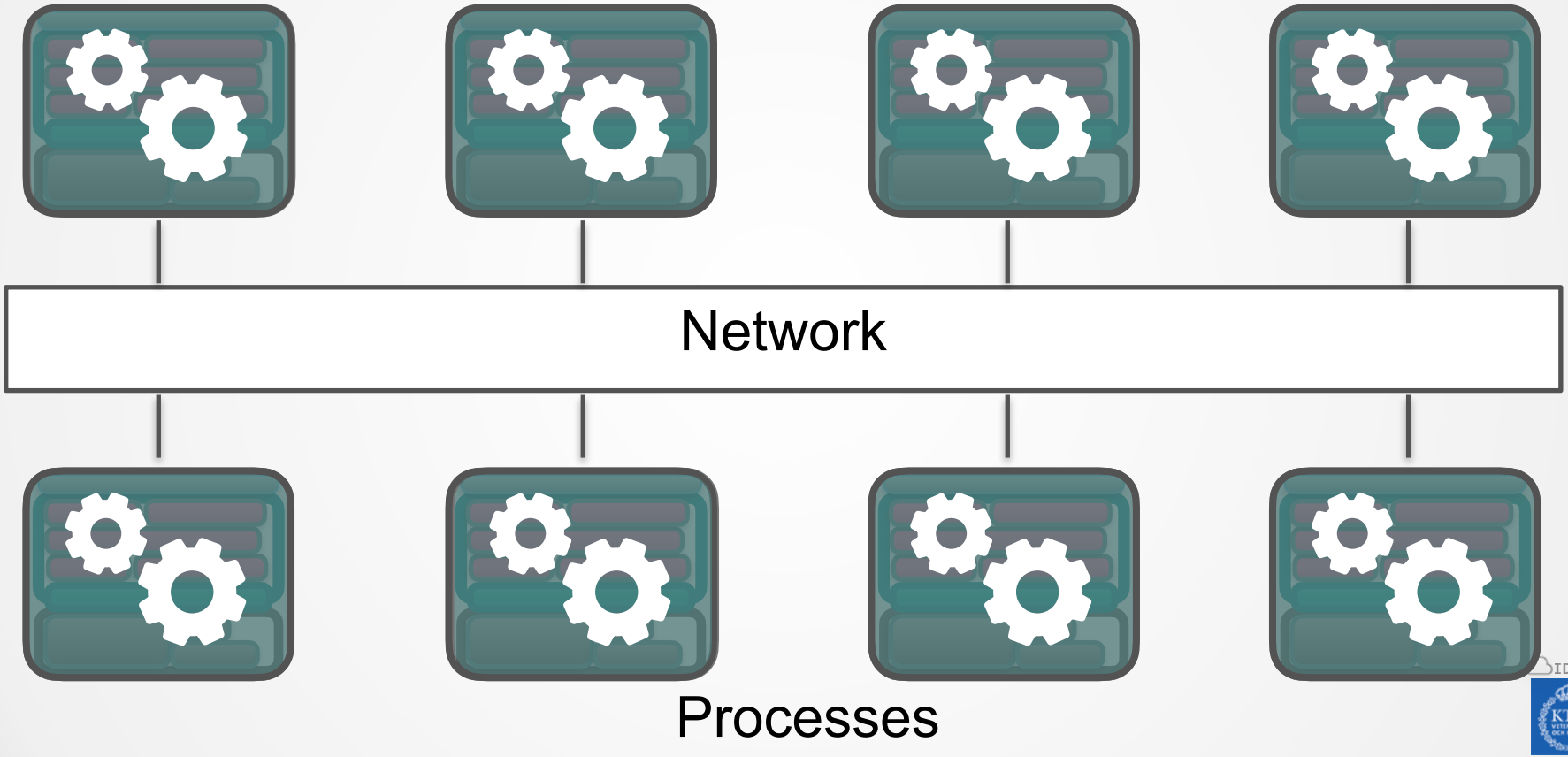
OS



Anatomy of a Distributed S

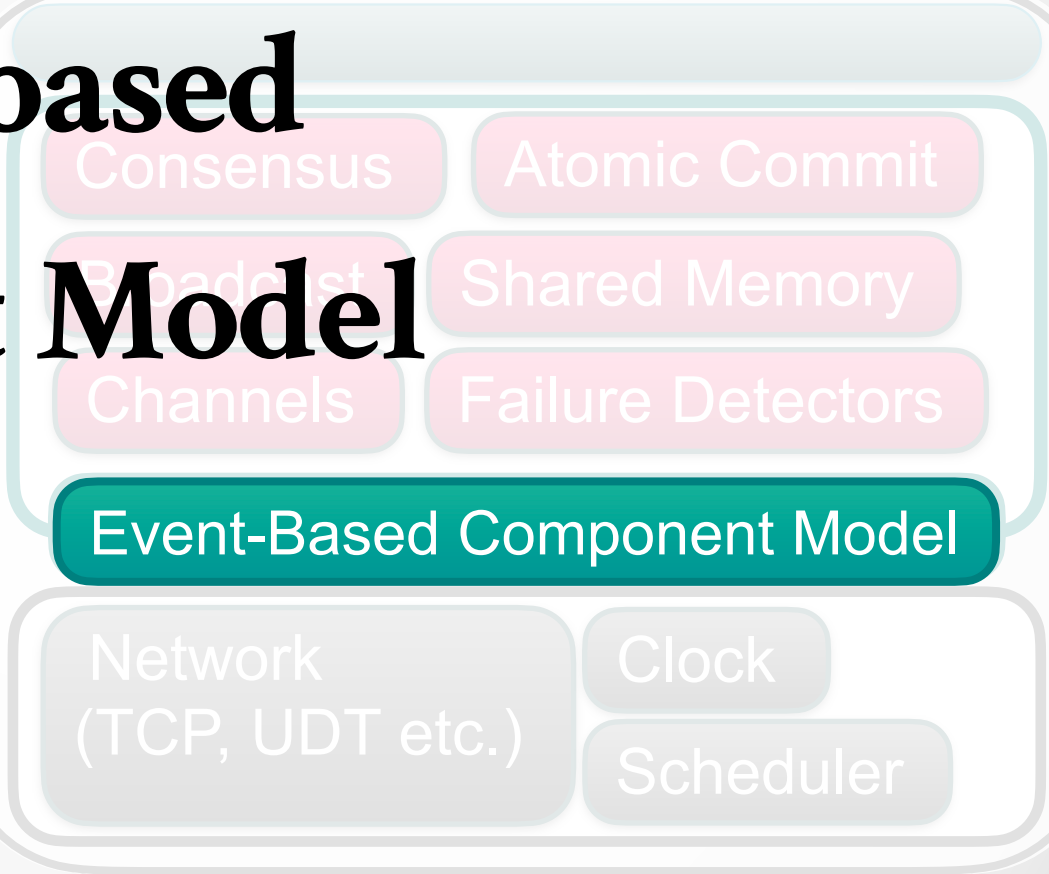


Anatomy of a distributed System



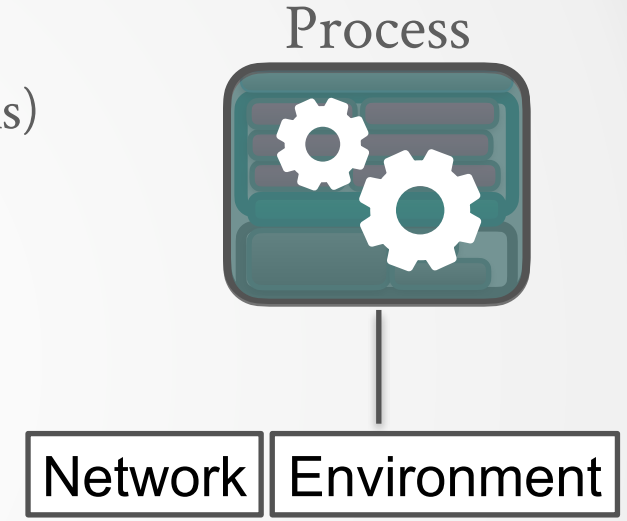
The Event-based Component Model

“the ruleset”



Distributed Computing Model

- Set of processes and a network (communication links)
- Each process runs a local algorithm (program)
- Each process makes computation steps

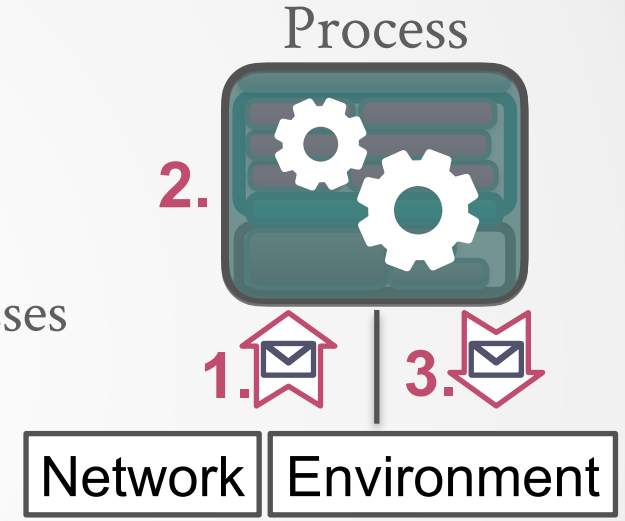


- The network makes computation steps
  - to store a message sent by a process
  - to deliver a message to a process

- Message delivery triggers a computation step at the receiving process

The Distributed Computing Model

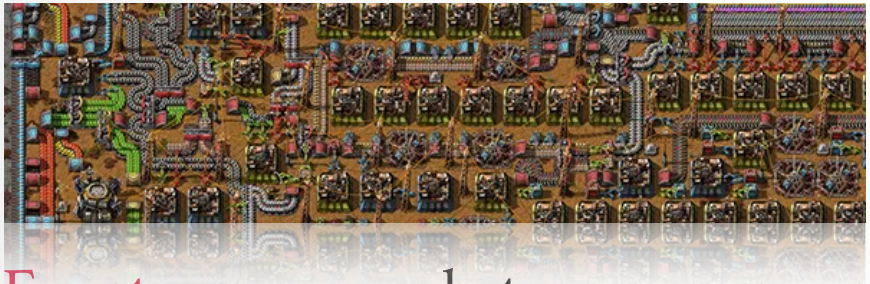
- Computation step at a process
  1. Receives a message
  2. Performs local computation and updates state
  3. Sends one or more messages to some other processes



- Communication step:
  - Depends on the network abstraction
  - Receives a message from a process, or
  - Delivers a message to a process

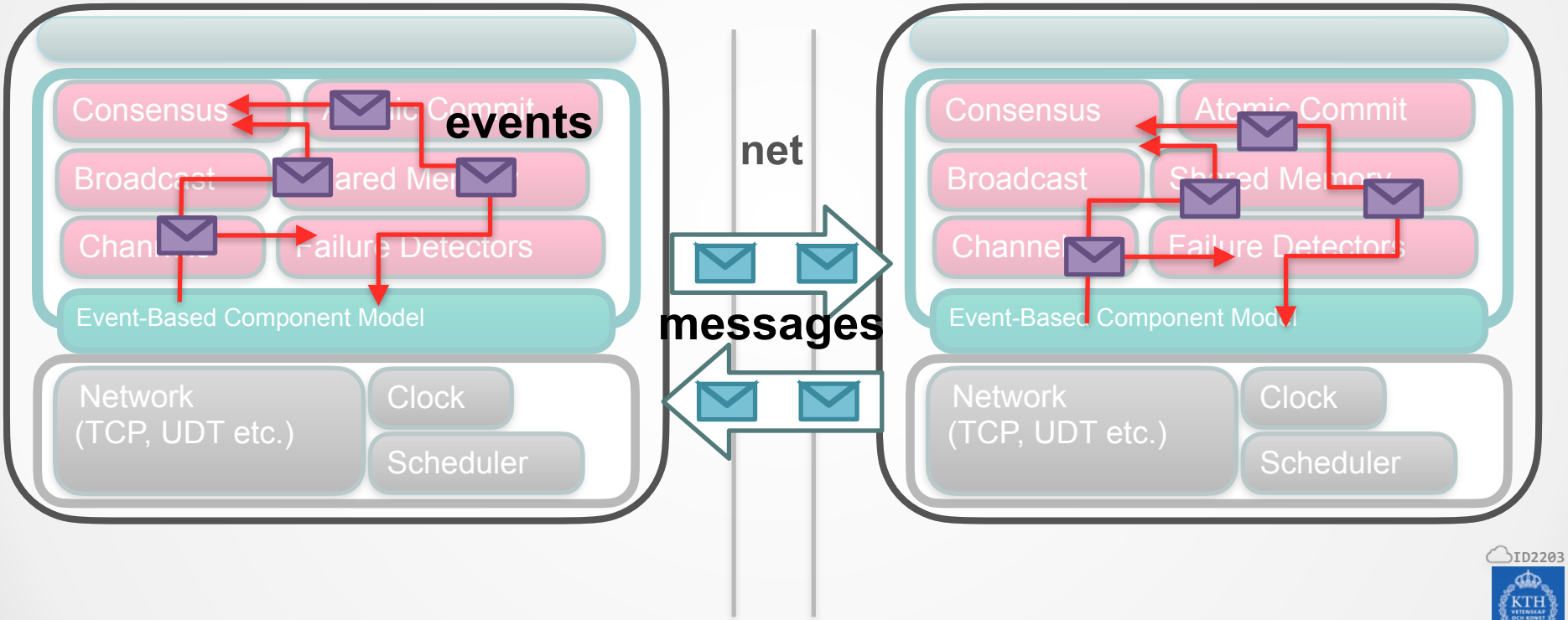
Inside a Process

- A process consists of a set of components (automata)
- Components are concurrent and access local state.
- Each component receives messages through an input FIFO buffer
- Sends messages to other components



- Events: messages between components in the same process
- Events are handled by procedures (actions) called Event Handlers

Events vs Messages



EVENT-BASED PROGRAMMING

- Process executes program
  - Each program consists of a set of modules or **component specifications**
  - At runtime these are deployed as **components**
  - The components in general form a software stack

Event-based Programming

Process executes program

Components interact via events (with attributes):

Handled **asynchronously** by Event Handlers

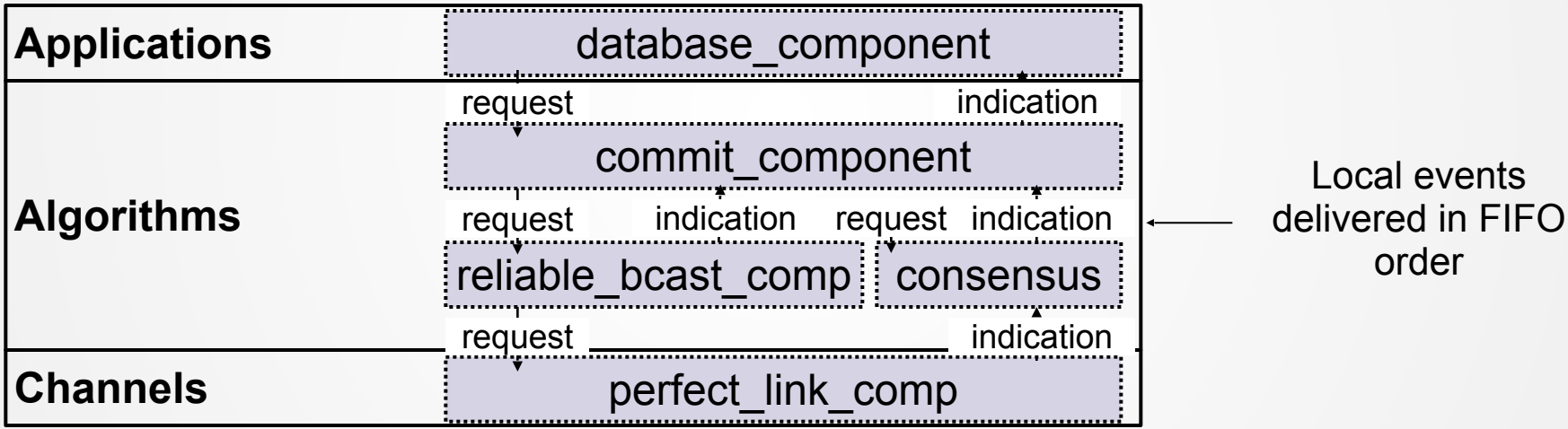
on event <co_i $Event_1$, *attr1*, *attr2*,...> **do**
    // local computation
    trigger <co_j $Event_2$, *attr3*, *attr4*,...>

EVENT-BASED PROGRAMMING

- Events include any scheduled action
  - New Message (most of the time)
  - A Timeout (internal event)
  - A State Condition (e.g. x==5 & y<9)
- Two types of events
  - Requests (incoming to component)
  - Indications (outgoing from component)

Components in a Process

Example stack of components in a single process



Channels as Components

Channels represented by components (too)

Request (input) event:

Send to destination some message (with data)

trigger <*send* | *dest*, [data1, data2, …] >

< header/type | parameters/payload >

Indication (output) event:

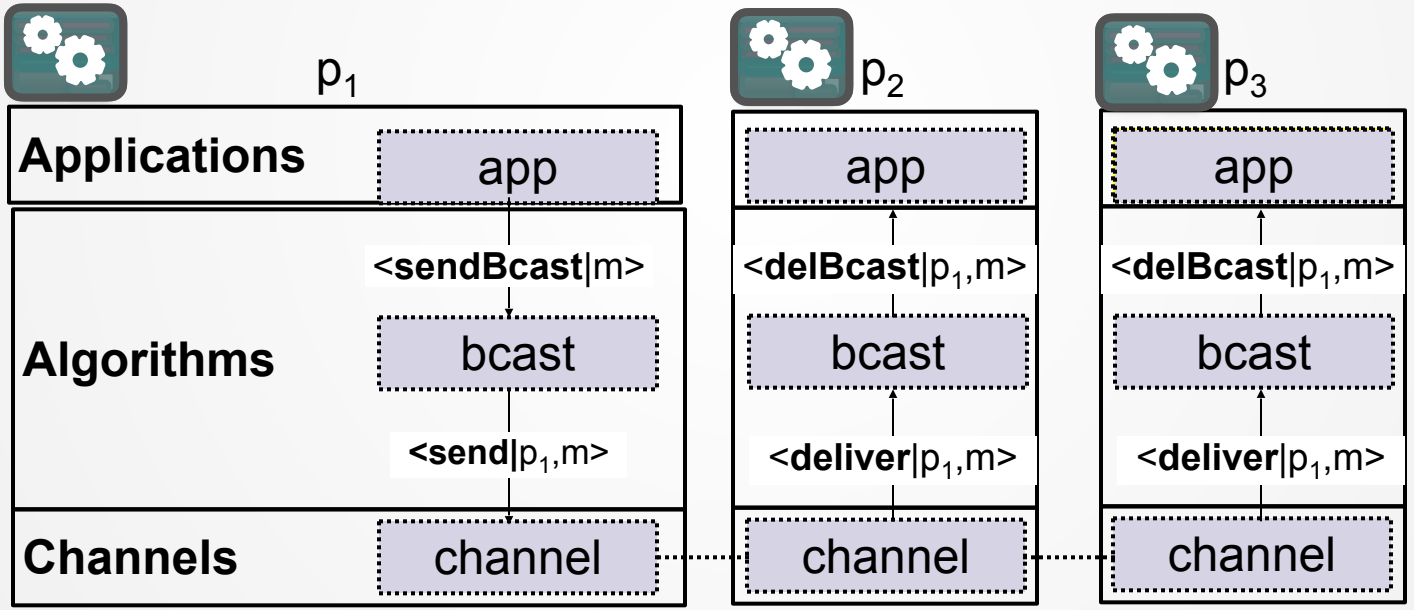
Deliver from source some message (with data)

upon event <*deliver* | *src,* [data1,data2, …]> **do**

EXAMPLE

Application uses a Broadcast component

which uses channel component to broadcast



Specifications

Specification of a Service

How to specify a distributed service (abstract)?

1. Interface (aka Contract, API)
   - Requests
   - Indications/Responses
2. Correctness Properties
   - Safety
   - Liveness
3. Underlying Model
   - Assumptions on failures
   - Assumptions on timing (amount of synchrony)

declarative specification "what" aka problem

Implementation
- Composed of other services
- Adheres to interface and satisfies correctness
- Has internal events

imperative, many possible "how"

Simple Example: Job Handler

Module:

Name: JobHandler, instance *jh*

Events:

how to use

Request: ⟨*jh, Submit* | *job*⟩ *: Requests a job to be processed*

Indication: ⟨*jh, Confirm* | *job*⟩ *: Confirms that the given job has been (or will be) processed*

Properties:

conditions

Guaranteed response: Every submitted job is eventually confirmed

Solution Example

Synchronous Job Handler

Implements:

JobHandler, **instance *jh***

upon event ⟨*jh, Submit* | *job*⟩ ***do***

process(*job)*

trigger ⟨*jh, Confirm* | *job*⟩

Another Solution: Asynchronous Job Handler

Implements:

JobHandler, **instance *jh***

upon event ⟨*jh, Init*⟩ ***do***

buffer := ∅

upon event ⟨***jh, Submit | job***⟩ ***do***

buffer := buffer ∪ {job}

trigger ⟨***jh, Confirm | job***⟩

upon *buffer ≠ ∅* **do**

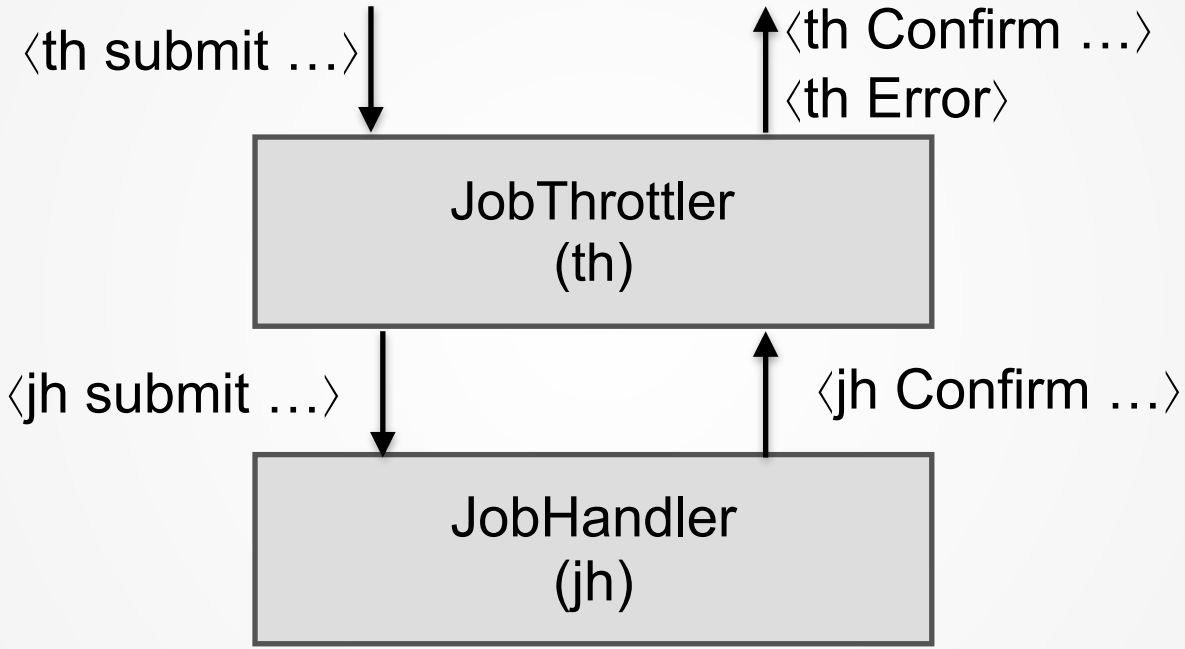
job := selectjob (buffer)

process(*job*)

buffer := buffer \ {job}

⟨..***Init***⟩ automatically generated upon component creation

Component Composition



Safety and Liveness Properties

Specification of a Service

How to specify a distributed service (abstract)?

- Interface (aka Contract, API)
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  - Liveness
- Model
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declarative specification "what" aka problem

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imperative, many possible "how"

Specifying Correctness

Safety

Properties that state that nothing bad ever happens

Liveness

Properties that state that something good eventually happens

Correctness Example

- Correctness of Yourself in ID2203

  Safety

  You should never fail the exam

  (marking exams costs money)

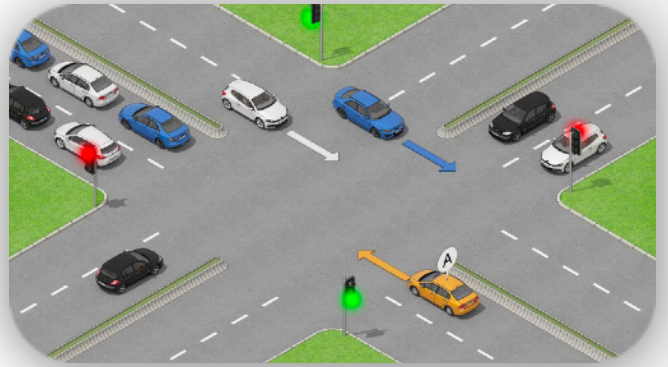
  Liveness

  You should eventually take the exam

  (university gets money when you pass)

Correctness Example (2)

- Correctness of traffic lights at intersection
  - Safety
    - Only one direction should have a green light
  - Liveness
    - Every direction should eventually get a green light



Execution and Traces

An execution fragment of algorithm A is sequence of alternating states and events

$s_0, \varepsilon_1, s_1, \varepsilon_2, \ldots, s_r, \varepsilon_r, \ldots$

$(s_k, \varepsilon_{k+1}, s_{k+1})$ transition of A for $k \geq 0$

An execution is execution fragment where s_0 is an initial state

A trace of an execution E, trace(E)

The subsequence of E consisting of all external events

$\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \ldots, \varepsilon_r, \ldots$

Safety & Liveness All That Matters

A trace property P is a function that takes a trace and returns true/false

i.e. P is a predicate

Any trace property can be expressed as the conjunction of a safety property and a liveness property”

Safety Formally Defined

The prefix of a trace T is the first k (for $k \geq 0$) events of T

I.e. cut off the tail of T

I.e. finite beginning of T

An extension of a prefix P is any trace that has P as a prefix

Safety Defined

Informally, property P is a safety property if

> Every trace T violating P has a bad event, s.t. every execution starting like T and behaving like T up to the bad event (including), will violate P regardless of what it does afterwards

Safety Defined

Formally, a property P is a safety property if

Given any execution E such that P(trace(E)) = false,

There exists a prefix of E, s.t. every extension of that prefix gives an execution F s.t. P(trace(F))=false

Safety Example

Point-to-point message communication

Safety P: “At most once delivery”

A message sent is delivered at most once

Safety Example

Point-to-point message communication

Safety P: “At most once delivery”

A message sent is delivered at most once

Take an execution where a message is delivered more than once

- Cut-off the tail after the second delivery
- Any continuation (extension) will give an execution which also violates the required property

Liveness Formally Defined

- A property P is a liveness property if

  Given any prefix F of an execution E,

  there exists an extension of trace(F) for which P is true

"As long as there is life there is hope"

Liveness Example

Point-to-point message communication

Liveness P: “At least once delivery”

A message sent is delivered at least once

Take the prefix of any execution

- If prefix contains delivery, any extension satisfies P
- If prefix doesn’t contain the delivery, extend it so that it contains a delivery, the prefix + extended part will satisfy P

More on Safety

Safety can only be

satisfied in infinite time (you're never safe)

violated in finite time (when the bad happens)

Often involves the word "never", "at most", "cannot",…

Sometimes called "partial correctness"

More on Liveness

Liveness can only be

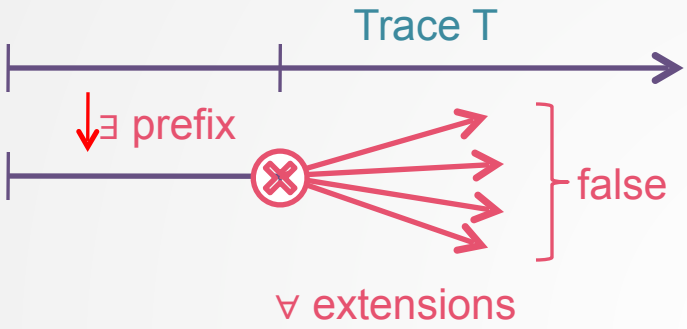
- satisfied in finite time (when the good happens)
- violated in infinite time (there's always hope)

Often involves the words eventually, or must

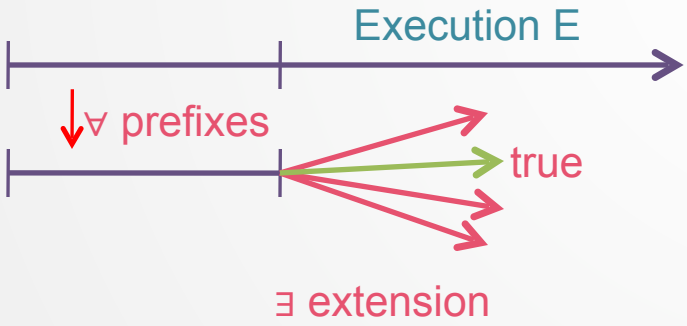
- Eventually means at some (often unknown) point in "future"

Liveness is often just "termination"

Formal Definitions Visually



- Safety can always be violated (false) in finite time
- Safety is violated for an execution E if there exists a prefix such that **all** extensions are false



- Liveness can always be made true in finite time
- Liveness is satisfied (true) for an execution E if for all prefixes there exists an extension that is true

Pondering Safety and Liveness

Is really every property either liveness or safety?

"Every message should be delivered exactly once"

Every message is delivered at most once and

Every message is delivered at least once

Process Failure Model

Specification of a Service

How to specify a distributed service (abstract)?

- Interface (aka Contract, API)
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  - Responses
- Correctness Properties
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  - Liveness
- Model
  - Assumptions on failures
  - Assumptions on timing (amount of synchrony)

declarative specification "what" aka problem

- Implementation
  - Composed of other services
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imperative, many possible "how"

Model/Assumptions

Specification needs to specify the distributed computing model

- Assumptions needed for the algorithm to be correct

Model includes assumptions on

- Failure behavior of processes & channels
- Timing behavior of processes & channel

Process failures

Processes may fail in four ways:

- Crash-stop
- Omissions
- Crash-recovery
- Byzantine/Arbitrary

- Processes that don't fail in an execution are correct

CRASH-STOP FAILURES

- Crash-stop failure
  - Process stops taking steps
    - Not sending messages
    - Nor receiving messages

- Default failure model is crash-stop
    - Hence, do not recover
    - But are processes not allowed to recover?

OMISSION FAILURES

- Process omits sending or receiving messages
  - Some differentiate between
    - Send omission
      - Not sending messages the process has to send according to its algorithm
    - Receive omission
      - Not receiving messages that have been sent to the process
  - For us, omission failure covers both types

Crash-recovery Failures

The process might crash

- It stops taking steps, not receiving and sending messages

It may recover after crashing

- Special <Recovery> event automatically generated
- Restarting in some initial recovery state

Has access to stable storage

- May read/write (expensive) to permanent storage device
- Storage survives crashes
- E.g., save state to storage, crash, recover, read saved state

Crash-recovery Failures

- Failure is different in crash-recovery model
  - A process is faulty in an execution if
    - It crashes and never recovers, or
    - It crashes and recovers infinitely often (unstable)
  - Hence, a correct process may crash and recover
    - As long as it is a finite number of times

Byzantine failures

- Byzantine/Arbitrary failures
  - A process may behave arbitrarily
    - Sending messages not specified by its algorithm
    - Updating its state as not specified by its algorithm
  - May behave maliciously, attacking the system
    - Several malicious processes might collude

Fault-tolerance Hierarchy

Fault-tolerance Hierarchy

- Is there a hierarchy among the failure types
  - Which one is a special case of which?
  - An algorithm that works correctly under a general form of failure, works correctly under a special form of failure

- Crash special case of Omission
  - Omission restricted to omitting everything after a certain event

Fault-tolerance Hierarchy

- In Crash-recovery
  - Under assumption that processes use stable storage as their main memory

- Crash-recovery is identical to omission
  - Crashing, recovering, and reading last state from storage
  - Just same as omitting send/receiving while being crashed

Fault-tolerance Hierarchy

- In crash-recovery it is possible to use volatile memory
  - Then recovered nodes might not be able to restore all of state
  - Thus crash-recovery extends omission with amnesia
- Omission is special case of Crash-recovery
    - Crash-recovery , not allowing for amnesia

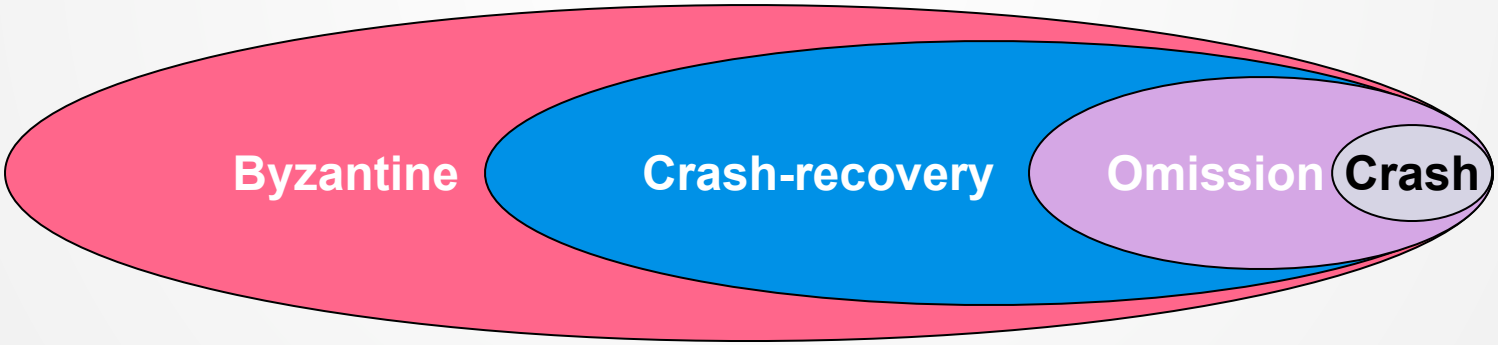
Fault-tolerance Hierarchy

Crash-recovery special case of Byzantine

Since Byzantine allows anything

Byzantine tolerance → crash-recovery tolerance

Crash-recovery → omission, omission → crash-stop



Channel Behavior (failures)

Specification of a Service

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imperative, many possible "how"

Channel failure modes

- Fair-Loss Links
  - Channels delivers any message sent with non-zero probability (no network partitions)
- Stubborn Links
  - Channels delivers any message sent infinitely many times
- Perfect Links
  - Channels that delivers any message sent exactly once

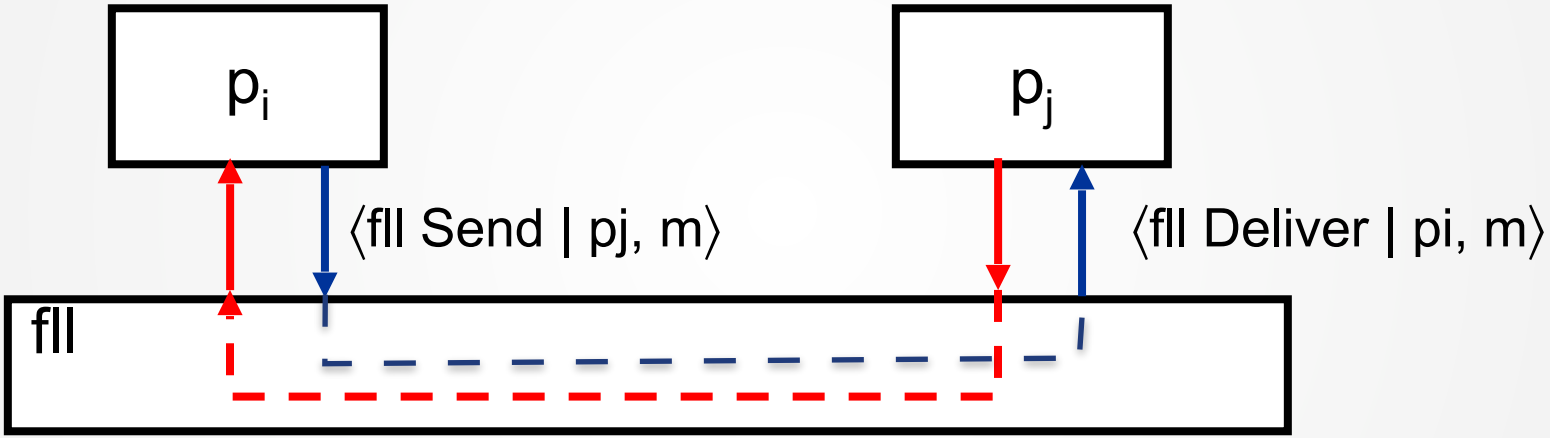
Fair-Loss (Hopeful) Links

Channel failure modes

Fair-Loss Links

Channels delivers any message sent with non-zero probability (no network partitions)

Fair Loss Links (FLL)



FAIR-LOSS LINKS: INTERFACES

Module:

Name: FairLossPointToPointLink **instance** fll

Events:

Request: ⟨fll, Send | dest, m⟩

Request transmission of message m to process dest

Indication:⟨fll, Deliver | src, m⟩

Deliver message m sent by process src

Properties:

FL1, FL2, FL3.

FAIR-LOSS LINKS

Properties

FL1. Fair-loss: If m is sent infinitely often by p_i to p_j, and neither crash, then m is delivered infinitely often by p_j

FL2. Finite duplication: If a m is sent a finite number of times by p_i to p_j, then it is delivered at most a finite number of times by p_j

I.e. **a message cannot be duplicated infinitely many times**

FL3. No creation: No message is delivered unless it was sent

Stubborn Links

CHANNEL FAILURE MODES

Stubborn Links

Channels delivers any message sent infinitely many times

STUBBORN LINKS: INTERFACE

Module:

Name: StubbornPointToPointLink **instance** sl

Events:

Request: ⟨sl, Send | dest, m⟩

Request the transmission of message m to process dest

Indication:⟨sl, Deliver src, m⟩

deliver message m sent by process src

Properties:

SL1, SL2

Stubborn Links

- Properties
  - ***SL1. Stubborn delivery***: if a correct process p_i sends a message m to a correct process p_j, then p_j delivers m an infinite number of times
  - ***SL2. No creation:*** if a message m is delivered by some process p_j, then m was previously sent by some process p_i

Implementing Stubborn Links

- Implementation
  - Use the Lossy (fair-loss) link
  - Sender stores every message it sends in **sent**
  - It periodically resends all messages in **sent**

Algorithm (sl)

Implements: StubbornLinks **instance** sl
Uses: FairLossLinks, **instance** fll

- **upon event** ⟨sl, Init⟩ **do**
  sent := ∅
  startTimer(TimeDelay)

- **upon event** ⟨Timeout⟩ **do**
  forall (dest, m) ∈ sent **do**
  trigger ⟨fl, Send | dest, m⟩
  startTimer(TimeDelay)

- **upon event** ⟨sl, Send | dest, m⟩ **do**
  trigger ⟨fll, Send | src, m⟩
  sent := sent ∪ { (dest, m) }

- **upon event** ⟨fll, Deliver | src, m⟩ **do**
  trigger ⟨sl Deliver | src, m⟩

Implementing Stubborn Links

- Implementation
  - Use the Lossy link
  - Sender stores every message it sends in **sent**
  - It periodically resends all messages in **sent**
- Correctness
  - ***SL1. Stubborn delivery***
    - If process doesn't crash, it will send every message infinitely many times. Messages will be delivered infinitely many times. Lossy link may only drop a (large) fraction.
  - ***SL2. No creation***
    - Guaranteed by the Fair-Lossy link

Perfect Links

Channel failure modes

- Perfect Links
  - Channels that deliver any message sent exactly once

PERFECT LINKS: INTERFACE

- **Module:**
  - Name: PerfectPointToPointLink, **instance** pl
- **Events:**
  - **Request**: ⟨pl, Send | dest, m⟩
    - Request the transmission of message m to node dest
  - **Indication**: ⟨pl, Deliver | src, m⟩
    - deliver message m sent by node src
- **Properties:**
  - ***PL1, PL2, PL3***

PERFECT LINKS (RELIABLE LINKS)

Properties

- ***PL1. Reliable Delivery (at least once)***: If p_i and p_j are correct, then every message sent by p_i to p_j is eventually delivered by p_j
- ***PL2. No duplication:*** Every message is delivered <u>at most once</u>
- ***PL3. No creation:*** No message is delivered unless it was sent

Perfect links (Reliable links)

Which one is safety/liveness/neither

(liveness) ***PL1. Reliable Delivery***: If neither p_i nor p_j crashes, then every message sent by p_i to p_j is eventually delivered by p_j

(safety) ***PL2. No duplication:*** Every message is delivered at most once

(safety) ***PL3. No creation:*** No message is delivered unless it was sent

PERFECT LINK IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation
  - Use Stubborn links
  - Receiver keeps a log of all received messages in **Delivered**
    - Only deliver (perfect link Deliver) messages that weren't delivered before
- Correctness
  - *PL1. Reliable Delivery*
    - Guaranteed by Stubborn link. In fact the Stubborn link will deliver it infinite number of times
  - *PL2. No duplication*
    - Guaranteed by our log mechanism
  - *PL3. No creation*
    - Guaranteed by Stubborn link (and its lossy link?)

FIFO Perfect links (Reliable links)

Properties

PL1. Reliable Delivery:

PL2. No duplication:

PL3. No creation: No message is delivered unless it was sent

FFPL. Ordered Delivery**:** if m_1 is sent before m_2 by p_i to p_j and m_2 is delivered by p_j then m_1 is delivered by p_j before m_2

Internet TCP vs. FIFO Perfect Links

- TCP provides reliable delivery of packets
- TCP reliability is so called “session based”
- Uses sequence numbers
  - ACK: “I have received everything up to byte X”
- Implementing Perfect Link abstraction on TCP requires reconciling messages between the sender and receiver when reestablishing connection after a session break

Default Assumptions in Course

- We assume perfect links (aka reliable) most of time in the course (unless specified otherwise)
- Roughly, reliable links ensure messages exchanged between correct processes are delivered exactly once
- Messages are uniquely identified and
  - the message identifier includes the sender's identifier
  - i.e. if "same" message sent twice, it's considered as two different messages

- Many algorithm for crash-recovery process model assume either a Stubborn link, or (Logged) perfect link

Timing Assumptions

Specification of a Service

How to specify a distributed service (abstract)?

- Interface (aka Contract, API)
  - Requests
  - Responses
- Correctness Properties
  - Safety
  - Liveness
- Model
  - Assumptions on failures
  - Assumptions on timing (amount of synchrony)

declarative specification "what" aka problem

- Implementation
  - Composed of other services
  - Adheres to interface and satisfies correctness
  - Has internal events

imperative, many possible "how"

Timing Assumptions

- Timing assumptions
  - Processes
    - bounds on time to make a computation step
  - Network
    - Bounds on time to transmit a message between a sender and a receiver
  - Clocks:
    - Lower and upper bounds on clock rate-drift and clock skew w.r.t. real time

Recap - Models

- Synchronous (systems build on solid timed operations + clocks)
- Partially Synchronous (eventually every execution will exhibit period of synchrony - to make progress - satisfy liveness)
- Asynchronous (?)

Causality in the Asynchronous Model

Asynchronous Systems

- No timing assumption on processes and channels
  - Processing time is uncertain.
  - Network latency is uncertain.
  - No hardware clocks (that work) exist.
- Reasoning based only on which events may cause other events
  - We call this “Causality”

- Total order of events not observable locally, no access to global clocks

Causal Order (happen before)

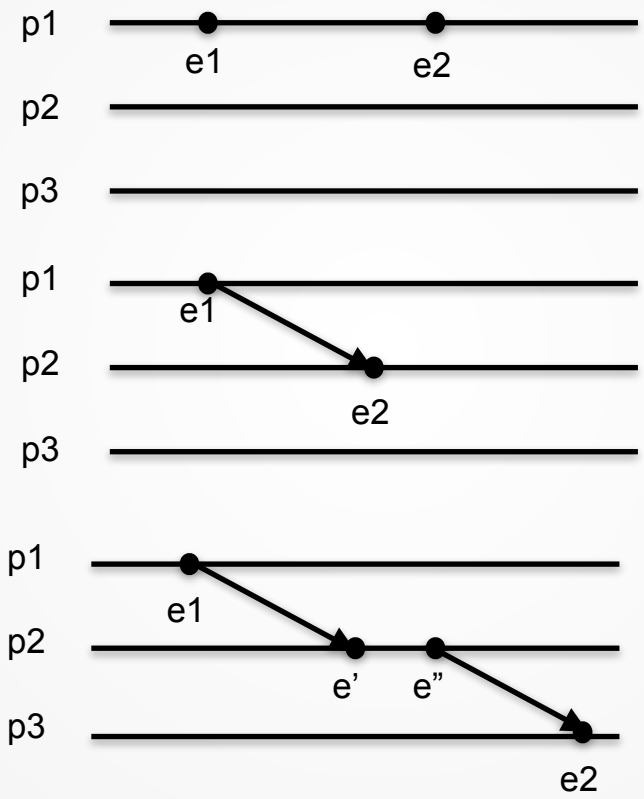
- Given an execution trace β,

  two events $a, b \in \beta$ are causally ordered ($a \rightarrow_\beta b$) iff either:

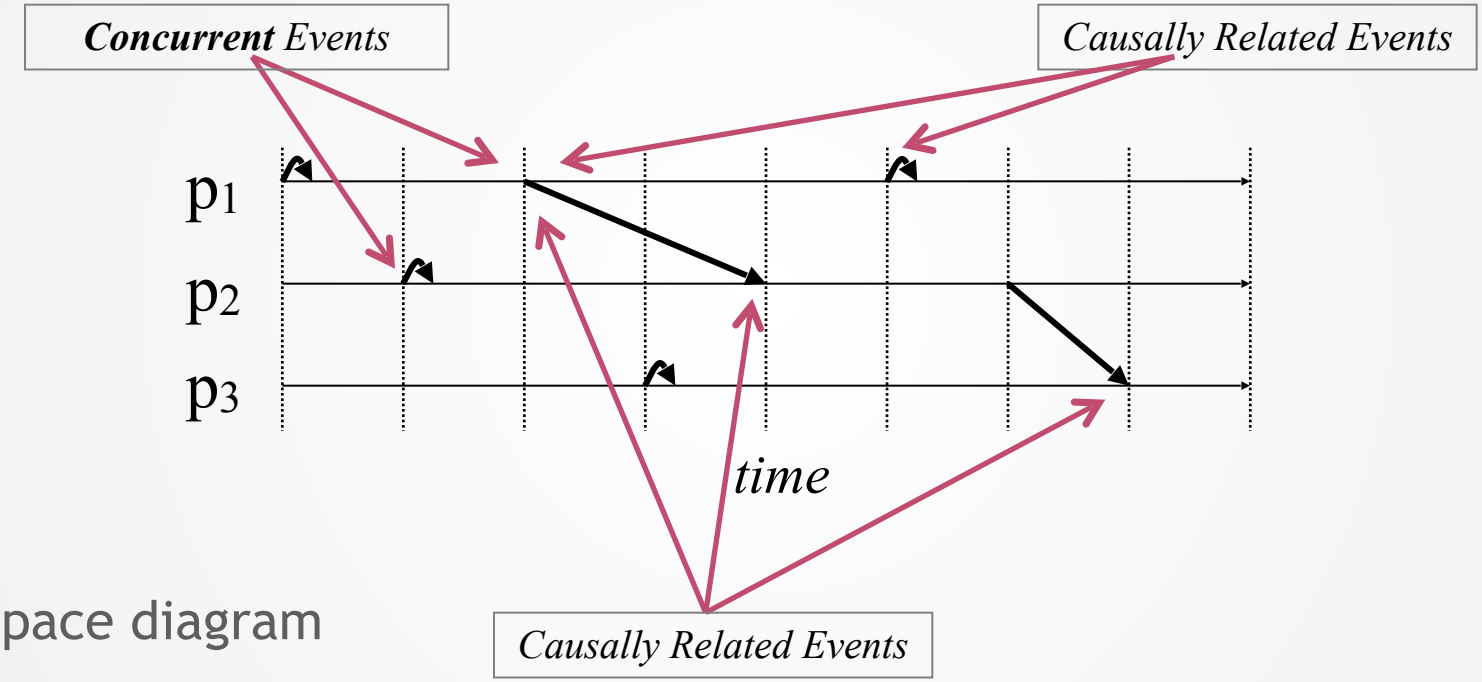
  - a occurs before b on the same process
  - a is a send(m) and b deliver(m) event
  - there exists a sequence of causally ordered events from a to b (transitive) e.g. If $a \rightarrow_\beta c$ and $c \rightarrow_\beta b$

- Two events, a and b, are concurrent if **not** a $\rightarrow_\beta$ b and **not** b $\rightarrow_\beta$ a
  - Concurrent events are denoted as such: $a \,||\, b$

Causal Order (happen before)



EXAMPLE



Time-space diagram

SIMILARITY OF EXECUTIONS

- The view of p_i in E, denoted $E|p_i$, is the subsequence of execution E restricted to events and state of p_i
- Two executions E and F are similar w.r.t p_i

  if $E|p_i = F|p_i$
- Two executions E and F are similar

  if $E|p_i = F|p_i$, $\forall p_i \in \Pi$

  (Π is the set of all processes)

The Computation Theorem

- Let E be an execution (c_0,e_1,c_1,e_2,c_2,...), and V the trace of events (e_1,e_2,e_3,...)
- Let P be a permutation of V, preserving causal order
  - P=(f_1, f_2, f_3...) preserves the causal order of V when for every pair of events $f_i \rightarrow_V f_j$ implies $f_i \rightarrow_P f_j$
- E is similar to the execution starting in c_0 with trace P

EXECUTION EQUIVALENCE

- If two executions F and E have the same collection of events, and their causal order is preserved, F and E are said to be similar executions, written F~E
  - F and E could have different permutation of events as long as causality is preserved!

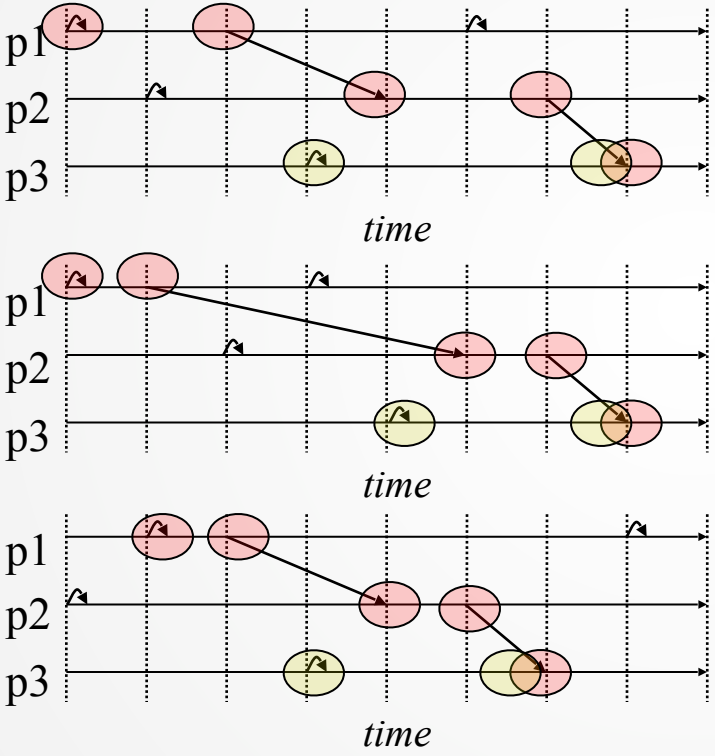
COMPUTATIONS

- Similar executions form equivalence classes where every execution in a class is similar to the other executions in the same class

- I.e. the following always holds for executions:
  - ~ is reflexive
    - I.e. a~ a for any execution
  - ~ is symmetric
    - I.e. If a~b then b~a for any executions a and b
  - ~ is transitive
    - If a~b and b~c, then a~c, for any executions a, b, c

- Equivalence classes are called computations of executions

EXAMPLE OF SIMILAR EXECUTIONS



Same color ~ Causally related

All three executions are part of the same computation, as causality is preserved

TWO IMPORTANT RESULTS

Computation theorem gives two important results

Result 1: There is no algorithm in the asynchronous system model that can observe the **global order** of the sequence of events (that can "see" the time-space diagram, or the trace) for all executions

Result 2: The computation theorem does not hold if the model is extended such that each process can read a local **hardware clock**

Two important results (1)

Proof of 1.

- Assume such an algorithm exists. Assume p knows the order in the final (repeated) configuration
- Take two distinct similar executions of algorithm preserving causality
- Computation theorem says their final repeated configurations are the **same**, then the algorithm cannot have observed the actual order of events as **they differ**

Two important results (2)

Proof of 2. :

- Similarly, assume a distributed algorithm in which each process reads the local clock each time a local event occurs
- The final (repeated) configuration of different causality preserving executions will have different clock values, which would contradict the computation theorem