



A generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm on a product network [☆]

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Abstract

A product network defines a class of topologies that are very often used such as meshes, tori, and hypercubes, etc. This paper proposes a generalized algorithm for fault-tolerant parallel sorting in product networks. To tolerate $r - 1$ faulty nodes, an r -dimensional product network containing faulty nodes is partitioned into a number of subgraphs such that each subgraph contains at most one fault. Our generalized sorting algorithm is divided into two steps. First, a single-fault sorting operation is presented to correctly performed on each faulty subgraph containing one fault. Second, each subgraph is considered a supernode, and a fault-tolerant multiway merging operation is presented to recursively merge two sorted subsequences into one sorted sequence. Our generalized sorting algorithm can be applied to any product network only if the factor graph of the product graph can be embedding in a ring. Further, we also show the time complexity of our sorting operations on a grid, hypercube, and Petersen cube. Performance analysis illustrates that our generalized sorting scheme is a truly efficient fault-tolerant algorithm.

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1. Introduction

A product network defines a class of topologies that are very often used. Much research on product networks has been reported in the recent literature [6,8,10,12,13]. These networks have interesting topological properties that make it especially suitable for parallel algorithms. Examples of product networks include hypercubes,

grids, and tori. Many other product networks have been recently proposed, such as products of de Bruijn networks [10,18], products of Petersen graphs [14], and mesh-connected trees. A considerable amount of research has been done on product networks. Routing properties of product networks were studied in [3,5]. Topological and embedded properties of product networks were analyzed in [10]. Further, a reliable routing problem was proposed in [13]. Optimal fault-tolerant communication in a product network was considered in [12]. In addition, the VLSI complexity of product networks was analyzed in [9].

Many algorithms have been developed for the special case of product networks. Examples can be found in hypercubes and grids. The drawback of these algorithms is that there is no portability for different topologies. For example, a fault-tolerant sorting algorithm developed for a hypercube in [4,19] will not work on a grid, even though both hypercubes and grids are product networks. Recently, Fernández and Efe [8] proposed a generalized sorting algorithm for product networks. The main function of their algorithm is to propose a multiway-merging operation. However, their algorithm does not have fault-tolerant capability. The main contribution of this paper is to develop a generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm for product networks. Our fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is developed, which is based on Fernández and Efe's sorting algorithm [8]. The fault-tolerant sorting operation is achieved by offering a new fault-tolerant multiway-merging operation. By using this fault-tolerant multiway-merging operation, the fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is thus developed for product networks.

Our generalized sorting algorithm is divided into two steps. First, a single-fault sorting operation is presented to be correctly performed on each faulty subgraphs, each of which contains at most one fault. Second, each subgraph is considered a supernode. A fault-tolerant multiway merging operation is presented to recursively merge two sorted subsequences into one sorted sequence. Our generalized sorting algorithm can be applied to any product network under the constraint that the *factor graph* of the product graph can at least be embedding in a ring. Two basic sorting opera-

tions, odd–even and bitonic sorting operations, are used as the primitive operations. Note that using odd–even or bitonic sorting operations as primitive operations depends on the ability of embedding the factor graph of the product graph in a ring or hypercube. Let N be the number of nodes of the factor graph and L the number of elements that each nonfaulty node contains. For any r -dimensional product graph with N^r nodes, the time complexity is bounded by $O(r^2N^2L\log L)$, when using the odd–even sorting as the primitive operation. In the case when each node contains only one key ($L = 1$), the time complexity is $O(r^2N^2)$. When using bitonic sorting as the primitive operation, the time is bounded by $O(r^2L\log L(\log_2N^2)^2 + r^2N^2 + rNL\log L(\log_2N)^2)$. In the case when each node contains only one key ($L = 1$), the time complexity is $O(r^2(\log_2N^2)^2 + r^2N^2 + rN(\log_2N)^2)$. The performance study on hypercubes and Petersen cubes illustrates that the time complexity of our generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is the same as that of the generalized sorting algorithm proposed by Fernández and Efe's [8] when $L = 1$. Observe that Fernández and Efe's sorting algorithm [8] does not provide the fault-tolerant capability. This indicates that our proposed fault-tolerant scheme is a truly efficient algorithm.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we describe the definitions and notations used in this paper. In Section 3, we present our fault-tolerant sorting algorithm. In Section 4, the time complexity of the proposed algorithm is analyzed using several well-known product networks. The conclusions of this paper are drawn in Section 5.

2. Preliminary

In this section, we first define some notations. In Section 2.1, we formally define the product network. In Section 2.2 we define the partitioning property of a product network. Finally, we present the snake ordering method for a product network in Section 2.2.

The assumption here logically treats some processors as faulty nodes and assigns no unsorted

element to them; the faulty nodes, as a result, can run idle. The fault model can be classified into two types. The most serious fault would be one that completely destroys a processor and all links incident to it. Hastad et al. [11] called such faults *total*. A less-serious fault, named a *partial fault* [11], is one that destroys just the computational portion of a processor, leaving the communication portion of the processor as well as the incident links intact. The faults total properties can be achieved by rewriting a router to handle the fault-tolerant routing of message passing. The execution time will exceed that of the partial fault. Observe that, for simplicity, this paper assumes the partial-fault model.

2.1. Product network

An interconnected network is usually modeled as an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ with the node-set V and edge-set E . $|G|$ (or $|V|$) denotes the number of nodes in G . Let $G_0 = (V_0, E_0)$ and $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$ be two finite undirected graphs. The *product* of G_1 and G_0 is defined as $G = (V, E) = G_1 \times G_0$ with the node-set $V = V_1 \times V_0 = \{(x, y) | x \in V_1, y \in V_0\}$. There is an edge $\{(x, y), (u, v)\}$ in E if either $x = u$ and $\{y, v\} \in E_0$, or $\{x, u\} \in E_1$ and $y = v$. The graphs G_1 and G_0 are called the *factors* or component network of G . The product network G consists of $|V_0|$ copies of G_1 , namely subgraphs of $G_1 y$ with the node-set $\{(x, y) | x \in V_1\}$ and edge-set $\{\{(x, y), (x', y)\} | \{x, x'\} \in E_1\}$. Analogously, G has $|V_1|$ copies xG_0 of G_0 induced by the node-set $\{(x, y) | y \in V_0\}$. For instance, Fig. 1(a) and (b)

illustrate two product networks constructed by the product of G_0 and G_1 and that of G_0 and G_0 , respectively.

Definition 1. [8] The product network $G = G_1 \times G_0$ of two undirected connected graphs $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$ and $G_0 = (V_0, E_0)$ is the undirected graph $G = (V, E)$, where V and E are given by:

- (1) $V = V_1 \times V_0 = \{(x, y) | x \in V_1, y \in V_0\}$, and
- (2) an edge $\{(x, y), (u, v)\}$ in E if either $x = u$ and $\{y, v\} \in E_0$, or $\{x, u\} \in E_1$ and $y = v$.

This definition can be generalized to a product of n graphs as $G = (V, E) = G_{n-1} \times \dots \times G_0$, where $G_i = (V_i, E_i)$, $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$, such that $V = V_{n-1} \times \dots \times V_0$; $E = \{((x_{n-1} \dots x_0), (y_{n-1} \dots y_0)) | (x_i, y_i) \in E_i \text{ and } x_j = y_j, \exists i \in \{0, \dots, n - 1\}, \text{ for } i \neq j\}$. The value i is called the *dimension* of the edge $\{(x_{n-1}, \dots, x_0), (y_{n-1}, \dots, y_0)\}$. An interconnected topology derived from several factor networks by the product operation will henceforth be called a *product network*. In this paper, we consider only one-factor graphs under the self-product operation since most popular networks, such as grids, tori, and cubes, are generated by one-factor graphs. This is because the popular interconnected graphs have regular topologies and properties to design efficient parallel algorithms.

Let $PG_1 = G$. We can use the lower-dimensional product graph PG_{r-1} to construct the higher-dimensional product graph PG_r . The construction of PG_r from PG_{r-1} , where $PG_1 = G$, is shown in Fig. 2. Let x be a node of PG_{r-1} , l_x be the label

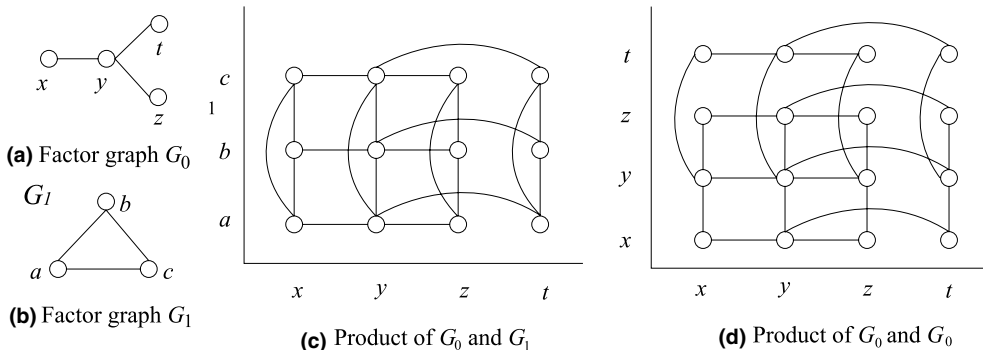


Fig. 1. Examples of product graphs.

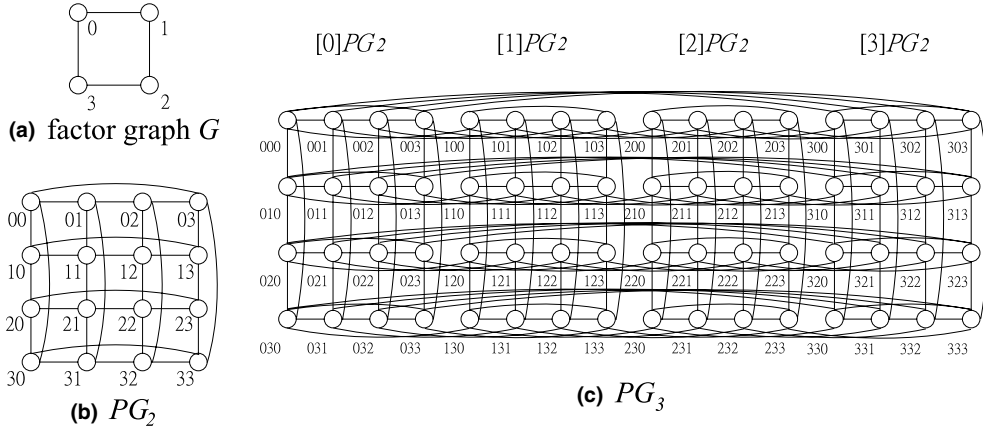


Fig. 2. Recursive construction of a multidimensional product network. (a) Factor graph; (b) two-dimensional product; (c) three-dimensional product.

of node x , and N be the number of nodes of PG_1 . Symbol $[u]PG_{r-1}$ denotes the product graph obtained by putting an additional digit u before the label l_x of every vertex $x \in PG_{r-1}$, for $u = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$. The label l_x of every vertex $x \in PG_{r-1}$ becomes ul_x . We logically describe the construction of PG_r from PG_{r-1} . First, arrange all vertices of PG_{r-1} one by one along the horizontal (or vertical) direction. Then, make N copies of PG_{r-1} along the vertical (or horizontal) direction such that vertices with identical labels fall in the same column. Next, relabel the u th copy of PG_{r-1} to obtain $[u]PG_{r-1}$, for $u = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$. Finally, connect the corresponding nodes of $[u]PG_{r-1}$ and $[u']PG_{r-1}$ if $(u, u') \in E_G$. Fig. 2 illustrates this construction process for two- and three-dimensional product graphs. The factor graph G is shown in Fig. 2(a). Nodes in the i th row of Fig. 2(b) are labeled by putting an additional digit i before their labels. Thus, the i th row in Fig. 2(b) can be viewed as $[i]PG_1$. In a similar way, PG_3 is constructed in Fig. 2(c). Since the operations described above are logically the same as the product operation “ \times ” defined in Definition 1, the PG_r generated by PG_{r-1} is also a product network.

2.2. Network partitioning

To perform the fault-tolerant sorting operation on PG_r , we begin by describing the partitioning of

PG_r into N copies of PG_{r-1} . The j -split operation on PG_r is defined by partitioning PG_r along dimension j into N copies of PG_{r-1}^j . Let $D = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$, $n < r$. The D -split on PG_r is the operation to apply d_1 -split, d_2 -split, \dots , and d_n -split operations on PG_r . For instance, the six-dimensional hypercube is partitioned along dimensions 1, 4, and 5 by a D -split operation, where $D = (1, 4, 5)$.

Theorem 2. We can obtain N^k copies of $PG_{r-k}^{i_1, \dots, i_k}$ by partitioning PG_r along k dimensions i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k , where $k < r$, and N is the number of nodes of the factor graph.

The notation $[u]PG_{r-1}^i$ defines an ordering for subgraphs PG_{r-1} . In general, $[u]PG_{r-1}^i$ is the u th copy of the PG_{r-1} subgraph at dimension i . The subgraph ordering rule can be applied to the general case of $[u_1, \dots, u_k]PG_{r-k}^{i_1, \dots, i_k}$ in a number of different ways. We define a particular subgraph ordering method, say *snake ordering*, with certain useful properties for data sorting.

Definition 3. [8] The *snake order* for the r -dimensional product graph PG_r is defined as follows:

- (1) If $r = 1$, the snake order is the same as the order used for labeling the nodes of G .
- (2) Assume that the snake order has already been defined for PG_{r-1} , $r > 1$. Then

- (a) $[u]PG_{r-1}^r$ has the same order as PG_{r-1} if u is even, and the reverse order if u is odd; and
- (b) if $u < v$ then the order of all vertices in $[u]PG_{r-1}^r$ precedes the order of all vertices in $[v]PG_{r-1}^r$.

Example 4. Let $N = 4$. The snake order sequences Q_r of product graph PG_r , for $r = 1, 2$, and 3 are listed as follows:

- for $r = 1$, $Q_1 = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$,
- for $r = 2$, $Q_2 = \{00, 01, 02, 03, 13, 12, 11, 10, 20, 21, 22, 23, 33, 32, 31, 30\}$,
- for $r = 3$, $Q_3 = \{000, 001, 002, 003, 013, 012, 011, 010, 020, 021, 022, 023, 033, 032, 031, 030, 130, 131, 132, 133, 123, 122, 121, 120, 110, 111, 112, 113, 103, 102, 101, 100, 200, 201, 202, 203, 213, 212, 211, 210, 220, 221, 222, 223, 233, 232, 231, 230, 330, 331, 332, 333, 323, 322, 321, 320, 310, 311, 312, 313, 303, 302, 301, 300\}$.

Fig. 3 gives the snake order for product graph PG_3 considered in Fig. 2(c). As we mentioned before, if the factor graph of a product network can be embedded in a ring, the odd–even sorting operation is used as a single-fault algorithm executed on each PG_2 . This covers most cases. Further, if the factor graph can be embedded in a hypercube, then a bitonic-like sorting operation is adopted as a single-fault sorting algorithm executed on each PG_2 .

3. Generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm

In our algorithm, a faulty product graph PG_r is partitioned into several subgraphs PG_2 , where each PG_2 contains at most one faulty node. This is helpful for carrying out executing the single-fault sorting algorithm. In this section, we offer a generalized partition scheme for a faulty PG_r . The partition scheme partitions the faulty PG_r into N^{r-2} copies of PG_2 in which each PG_2 contains at most one faulty node. To tolerate one faulty node, we propose two single-fault sorting operations for each PG_2 to ensure to obtain the correct sorting order for elements on each PG_2 . However, we still need to merge all elements node by node. For this purpose, we modified the well-known multiway merging operation [2] which originally had no fault-tolerant capability. By putting together the proposed single-fault sorting operation and the modified multiway merging operation as a basic operation, we developed a generalized multi-fault sorting algorithm for a faulty product network. We outline our generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm in Fig. 4.

3.1. Partitioning scheme for faulty product networks

To tolerate up to $r - 1$ faults, we partition faulty PG_r into N^{r-2} copies of PG_2 by executing a feasible D -split operation on PG_r , such that each PG_2 contains at most one faulty node. Based on a similar partition scheme in a star graph [20], we have the following property.

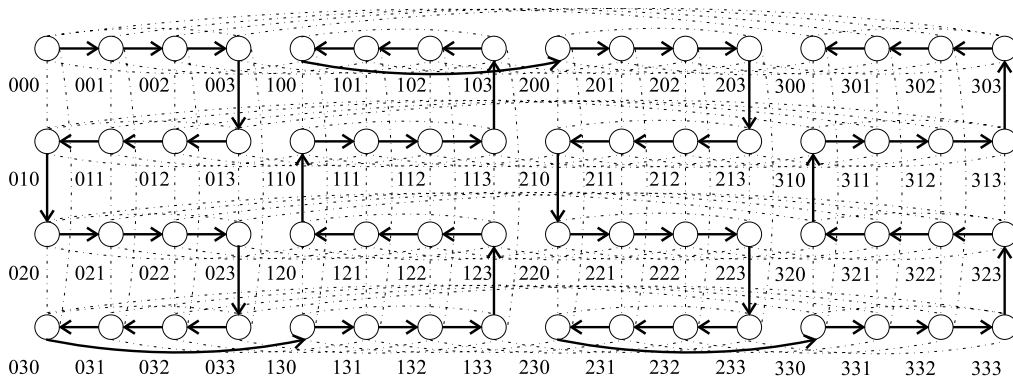


Fig. 3. The snake order of the product network PG_3 whose factor graph is a 4-node ring.

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/* Fault-Tolerant Sorting Algorithm on Product Network  $PG_r$  */

Fault_Tolerant_Sorting ( $G, r, F, M$ ) /* Sorts  $M$  keys on  $PG_r$  (or
 $r$ -dimensional product graph  $G$ ) with  $F$  faulty nodes */ {

    Partition_ $PG_r$  { /* Partitions  $PG_r$  into  $PG_2$  */

    Step 1. Perform a  $D$ -split operation to partition  $PG_r$  into  $N^{r-2}$  copies of
         $PG_2$  such that each  $PG_2$  contains at most one faulty node.

    Step 2. Assign one dangling node in each healthy  $PG_2$ . The
        dangling node is logically considered to be a faulty node. }

    Distribute_Data{ /* Distributes unsorted keys into all nonfaulty nodes
        */

        Distribute  $M$  elements to the nonfaulty nodes.

        Each nonfaulty node will thus contain  $L$  keys where
            
$$L = M / (N^r - N^{r-2}) = M / ((N^2 - 1)N^{r-2}).$$


    Single_Fault_Sorting{ /* Applying a single-fault-sorting algorithm to each
         $PG_2$  */

        For each  $PG_2$ ,

        if ( $G$  can be embedded in an  $n$ -cube structure) then
            { Step 1. Perform the processor numbering operation
                according to the original labeling order.

                Step 2. Execute the bitonic-like sorting operation. }
            else { Step 1. Perform the processor numbering operation
                according to the snake order.

                Step 2. Execute the odd-even-like sorting operation. }}

    Fault-Tolerant_Multiway_Merge_Operation{

        Recursively performs our fault-tolerant multiway merging
        operation to merge unmerged keys from  $PG_i$  into  $PG_{i+1}$ ,
        where  $2 \leq i \leq r - 1$ . } }

```

Fig. 4. Generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm for r -dimensional product network.

Lemma 5. *In a PG_r , $r \geq 4$, with $f \leq r - 1$ faulty nodes, there always exists a D -split, $|D| = r - 2$, such that PG_r can be partitioned into PG_2 by D -split and each partitioned PG_2 contains at most one faulty node.*

The maximum number of faults that can tolerated in this paper is $r - 1$. For the condition of $f \neq r - 1$, there exist some partitioned PG_2 with no faulty node. Due to the regular operation and

balancing of the workload of each PG_2 , we determine a *dangling node* [19] in each nonfaulty PG_2 . A node is said to be a dangling node if the node is a healthy node but is assigned to no job or data [19]. Nodes in a nonfaulty PG_2 with the same position of most faulty nodes in all other faulty PG_2 s will be selected as a dangling node. We logically consider the dangling node as a faulty node and assign no data to it. For example, assume that PG_3 , shown in Fig. 2(c), has the faulty set $F = \{023, 212\}$. A three-split operation is applied to PG_3 since the digit in dimension three of the address of faulty nodes differs. A D -split with $D = \{3\}$ will partition PG_3 with F into N copies of PG_2 , while two PG_2 's contain sets $F_1 = \{023\}$ and $F_2 = \{212\}$. The dangling node must be determined for every healthy PG_2 .

3.2. Distributing unsorted keys

The next step is to distribute unsorted keys into all nonfaulty nodes. Assume that there are $M \gg N^r$ unsorted elements. Since the total number of nonfaulty nodes is $N^r - N^{r-2}$, each nonfaulty node contains $M/(N^r - N^{r-2}) = M/((N^2 - 1)N^{r-2})$ keys. In the next subsection, we present the execution of the single-fault sorting operation for each PG_2 .

3.3. Single-fault sorting operation

Two single-fault sorting operation algorithms are given here for PG_2 to sort M/N^{r-2} keys into ASCEND/DESCEND order. If a hypercube, where $n = \log_2 |G|$, can be embedded into factor graph G , we perform the single-fault bitonic sort-

ing operation on each PG_2 . Otherwise, we perform the single-fault odd–even sorting operation on each PG_2 . For the ease of presentation, we first present the single-fault odd–even sorting operation. The single-fault bitonic sorting operation is then discussed.

Initially, a simple rotation operation is performed based on the address of the faulty node. The purpose of the rotation operation is to reset the logical address of nodes such that the logical address of the faulty node or dangling node can be considered P_0 . For example, consider PG_2 containing a faulty node whose label is 23 as shown in Fig. 5(a). After performing the rotation operation, the faulty node's address is 00 as shown in Fig. 5(b). Noted that the addresses of all nodes were changed by the rotation operation shown in Fig. 5(b). According to snake order, we assign each node a processor number as shown in Fig. 5(c). The rotation operation logically makes the faulty node of each PG_2 to be P_0 .

Before executing the single-fault sorting operation, all nodes in PG_2 should be assigned a processor number. If the odd–even sorting operation is determined to apply to PG_2 , which is dependent on the topology of the factor graph, the processor is numbered according to the snake order. On the other hand, if the bitonic sorting operation is determined to apply to PG_2 , the processor is numbered according to the original labels' order. Relabeling of the original order is the same as that for the snake order. We illustrate this with an example in Fig. 6. Fig. 6(a) displays the original label sequence. In Fig. 6(b), we treat the faulty node as

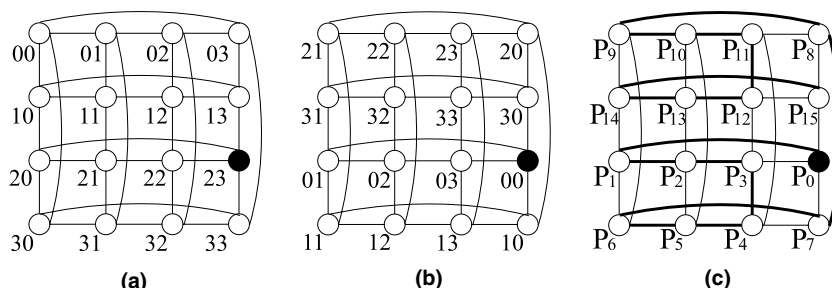


Fig. 5. Relabeling the processor number for a sub-product network according to the snake order. (a) The original labels of graph; (b) relabeling the faulty node to position 00; (c) relabeling the processor number for each node according to snake order.

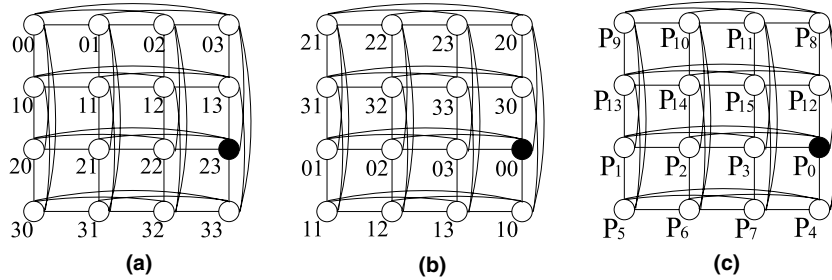


Fig. 6. Relabeling the processor number for a sub-product network according to the original order. (a) The original labels of graph; (b) relabeling the faulty node to 00; (c) relabeling the processor number according to the original labels' order.

having the logical address of P_0 . The labeling shown in Fig. 6(b) is the same as that shown in Fig. 5(b). Finally, we relabel each node with a processor number according to the original order of their labels. The processor number of each node is shown in Fig. 6(c).

3.3.1. Single-fault odd–even sorting operation

The single-fault odd–even sorting operation consists of n comparison–exchange stages for n adjacent elements. As mentioned before, we apply the single-fault odd–even sorting operation to each PG_2 if the factor graph G can be embedded in a Hamiltonian cycle. The proposed odd–even sorting algorithm with one fault is now described as follows. First, we apply the sequential sorting algorithm, e.g., quick sorting or heap sorting, on each node for sorting its $M/((N^2 - 1)N^{r-2})$ elements. Then, in the odd step of the odd–even sorting algorithm, each pair of nodes, P_n and P_{n-1} , where n is odd, is compared to its sorted sequence element by element. Since P_0 is the faulty node, there is not need for either P_0 or P_1 to undergo any comparison–exchange. In the even step, each pair of nodes P_n and P_{n-1} , where n is even, is compared to its sorted sequence element by element. No node will perform the comparison–exchange with P_0 . After each step of the odd–even sorting algorithm, we also need to apply the sequential sorting algorithm to each node. Because the faulty node P_0 is at the first position, we consider that the faulty node does not exist. The odd–even sorting algorithm is only performed for nodes from P_1 to P_{N^2-1} . After the odd–even sorting, the data will be kept in an ASCEND/DESCEND order from P_1 to P_{N^2-1} .

3.3.2. Single-fault bitonic sorting operation

The bitonic sorting algorithm [1,15–17] can also work correctly on PG_2 when the faulty node is at P_0 . This result was indicated by Sheu et al. [19]. If the number of the factor's node is $N = 2^k$ (k is a constant) and the factor graph contains a $\log_2 N$ -dimensional hypercube, then the bitonic sorting algorithm can be applied. The bitonic sorting algorithm consists of $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 n} i$ comparison–exchange stages for n elements.

First, the M/N^{r-2} unsorted elements are uniformly distributed to $N^2 - 1$ healthy nodes. The faulty node P_0 in PG_2 is treated as a dead node. We apply the sequential sorting algorithm, e.g., quick sorting or heap sorting, on each healthy node for sorting its $M/((N^2 - 1)N^{r-2})$ elements. By applying the bitonic sorting algorithm, all M/N^{r-2} unsorted elements will be sorted at each node of PG_2 in order of their the addresses. Because the factor graph has a hypercube structure, the bitonic sorting algorithm can work correctly. The key concept of the bitonic sorting algorithm is to recursively execute the comparison–exchange operations on each pair of sorted subcubes such that the first half of the elements are located in one subcube and the last half of the elements are located in another subcube. During execution of the bitonic sorting operation, no node needs to perform any operation to P_0 . One can assume that elements in PG_1 and PG'_1 are now respectively sorted in ascending and descending order after executing the bitonic sorting algorithm.

Now, we have proposed two sorting algorithms which can work correctly on PG_2 when the faulty node is P_0 . The odd–even sorting algorithm can be

performed when the factor graph contains a ring graph. The bitonic sorting algorithm can also be performed when the number of nodes $N = 2^k$ in the factor graph, and the factor graph has a $\log_2 N$ -dimension hypercube structure. However, irregardless of which of the proposed two single fault sorting operations are applied, we can only ensure that elements are sorted in order in each PG_2 . In the next step, we perform the fault-tolerant multiway merging operation such that elements can be sorted among all PG_2 s.

3.4. Fault-tolerant multiway merging operation

Fernández and Efe proposed a generalized parallel sorting algorithm in [8]. The kernel function is the multiway merging operation [2]. Before discussing the fault-tolerant multiway merging operation, we first define a fundamental operation, namely the fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation. Our fault-tolerant merging operation is built based on the fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation.

3.4.1. Fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation

Here we present the fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation between two adjacent sub-graphs, PG_i and PG'_i , where $i < r$. The main function of the fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation is to perform the comparison-exchange operation between each pair of adjacent nodes, x and y , when $x \in PG_i$ and $y \in PG'_i$, if PG_i and PG'_i are both faulty.

The fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation is a recursive operation. Let $FCE(PG_2)$ denote the fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation on any pair of copies of PG_2 . We describe the fault-tolerant comparison-exchange operation as follows. Every PG_2 has exactly one faulty or dangling node. Three possible cases are discussed depending on the location of the faulty nodes: $f \in PG_2$ and $f' \in PG'_2$. A column/row of a product network is said to be a *faulty column/row* if it contains a faulty node. Based on the property of the product network, each pair of nodes, x and y , located in the same location can logically

connect to each other by a path with length $\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor$, where $x \in PG_2$ and $y \in PG'_2$. Now we discuss these cases.

Case 1. *Nodes f and f' are located in the same physical location:* Each node $x \neq f$ sends its data to adjacent nodes $y \neq f'$ by a physical link and performs the comparison-exchange operation. The time complexity for sending data to adjacent node is $O(\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor)$.

Case 2. *Nodes f and f' are located in the same physical row:* Two phases are needed in this case.

1. *Data-moving phase:* Without loss of generality, let P_i in PG_2 and P'_j in PG'_2 be faulty nodes, where $i < j$. Processor sequence $P_{i+1}, P_{i+2}, \dots, P_j$ sends data to $P'_i, P'_{i+1}, \dots, P'_{j-1}$ by 2-hop steps as follows. Observe that this work can be correctly performed since our fault model is assumed to be the partial-fault one [19]. That is, a faulty node can still perform its communication operation, and only the computation operation is faulty. Each node P_k in $P_{i+1}, P_{i+2}, \dots, P_j$ communicates with P'_k , and then every P'_k shifts the received data to the neighboring processor P'_{k-1} . Therefore, $P'_i, P'_{i+1}, \dots, P'_{j-1}$ acquire data. If $i > j$, a similar way can be applied. Nodes P_i not located in the faulty row send data to node P'_i with the same processor number in PG'_2 . The time complexity of the data-moving phase is thus $O(\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor + 1)$. Fig. 7 illustrates this operation. Fig. 7(a) shows the processor numbering of PG_2 , and Fig. 7(d) illustrates the same PG_2 with data which have been sorted in PG_2 in an ascending snake order. Fig. 7(b) illustrates the data in nodes of the first row (the row is which the faulty node is located) moving from PG_2 to PG'_2 . Fig. 7(e) shows the data layout of PG'_2 after the data-moving operation is performed on each node.
2. *Rotation phase:* All nodes except the faulty node perform a rotation operation as follows. All nodes in each row repeatedly shift to the right one position until the node with the smallest processor number arrives at the position $j + 1$. The time complexity of the rotation phase is

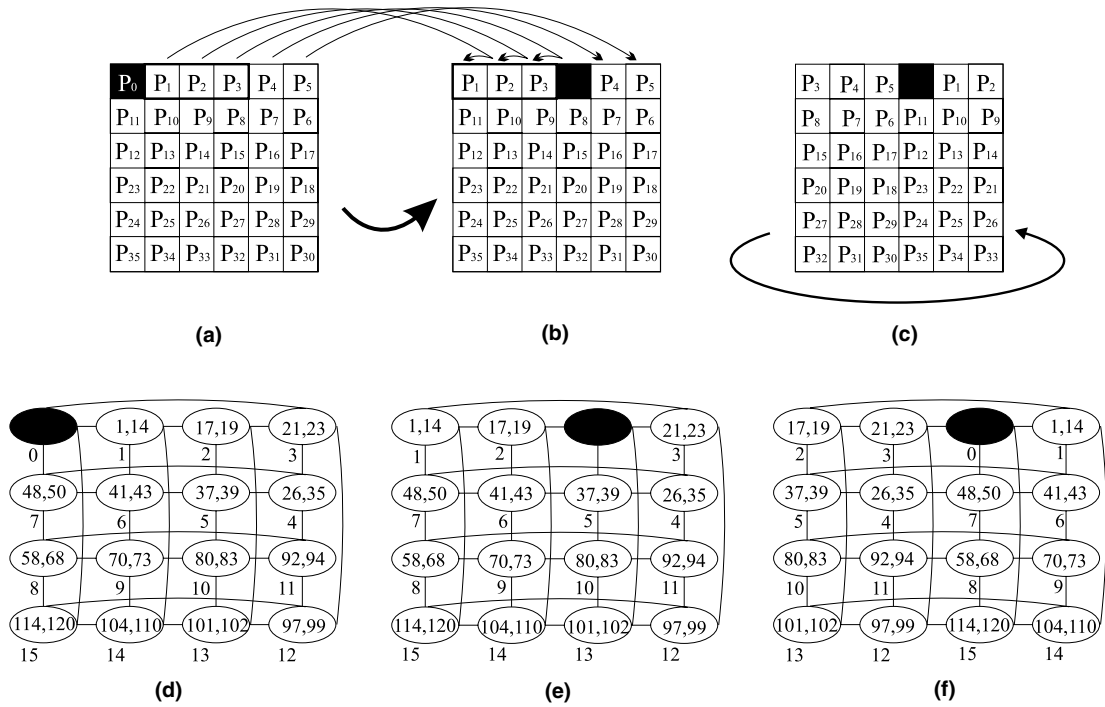


Fig. 7. The FCE(PG_2) operation executed on example of case 2 that faulty nodes of two PG_2 are located at the same row. The processor numbering is in snake order.

then $O(N)$. Fig. 7(c) illustrates the result of the rotation phase, and Fig. 7(f) illustrates the resultant data layout of Fig. 7(c).

Case 3. Nodes f and f' are located in different physical rows: Initially, a similar data-moving phase as in Case 2 is performed. The only difference is that the number of faulty rows is greater than one. Fig. 8(a) displays the processor number of PG_2 , and Fig. 8(b) shows the result of the data-moving operation performed from PG_2 to PG'_2 . The next task is to perform a rotation operation. This operation is divided into three phases.

1. *Horizontal-rotation phase:* Assume that the faulty node is located in the j th-column, and the row number of the first row is labeled 0. A horizontal-rotation operation is performed on each row as follows. For row numbers less than the faulty row, all nodes in the row repeatedly shift left/right one position until the node with the maximum processor number

arrives in the j th-column. If the faulty row number is odd/even, all nodes in the faulty row except for the faulty node repeatedly shift left/right one position until a node with the largest/smallest address arrives in the $(j + 1)$ th-column. For the remaining rows, if the row number is odd/even, all nodes in the row repeatedly shift left/right one position until the node with the maximum/minimum address arrives in the j th-column. The time complexity of the horizontal-rotation phase is $O(\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor)$. Fig. 8(c) shows the result of the horizontal-rotation operation.

2. *Vertical-rotation phase:* All nodes repeatedly shift up/down one position until nodes in the first row arrive in the faulty row. If all nodes repeatedly shift up one position, then there is no need for nodes in the j th-column to shift up one position in the first step of the shift. The time complexity of the vertical-rotation phase is $O(\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor)$. An example of a vertical-rotation operation is shown in Fig. 8(d).

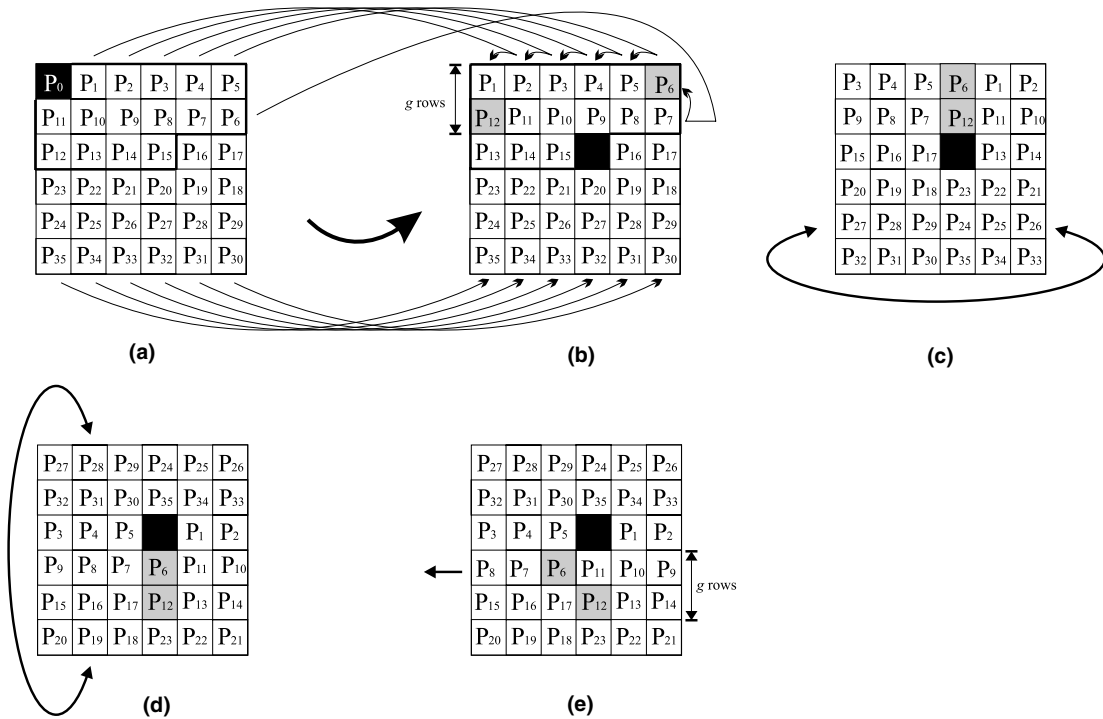


Fig. 8. The $FCE(PG_2)$ operation executed on example of case 3 that faulty nodes of two PG_2 are not at the same row. The processor numbering is in snake order.

3. *Tuning-rotation phase:* Let g denote the gap between the first row and the faulty row. A tuning operation must be performed in the next g rows beginning from the faulty row. The task is performed as follows. Assume that the faulty row is relabeled row 0. If the row number of each row of these g rows is odd, it shifts to the left one position. The time complexity of the tuning-rotation phase is $O(1)$. An example of the tuning-rotation phase is shown in Fig. 8(e).

Lemma 6. *The $FCE(PG_2)$ operation can be correctly executed within $O(\lfloor \frac{3}{2}N \rfloor + 2)$ time steps if the processor numbering sequence is in the snake order.*

Proof. The time complexity of one PG_2 sending data to another PG_2 is $O(\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor + 1)$. In Case 1, there is no rotation operation. The time complexities of

the rotation phases in Cases 2 and 3 are respectively $O(N)$ and $O(N + 1)$. In total, the time complexity of $FCE(PG_2)$ is $O(\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \rfloor + 2)$. \square

Now we consider the other case as follows. If the factor graph has a hypercube structure, the processor numbering operation will use the original order of each label for each node. In the following, we illustrate how the $FCE(PG_2)$ operation is applied to PG_2 if the processors are numbered in the original order. Similar to the $FCE(PG_2)$ operation using the snake order, we also use three cases to discuss $FCE(PG_2)$ using the original order. Basically, the operation in Cases 1 and 2 is the same as the operation in the snake order. In Case 3, the data-moving phase is the same as that in Case 2. Additionally, three rotation operation phases are described as follows.

1. *Horizontal-rotation phase:* Assume that the faulty node is located in the j th-column, and

the row number of the first row is labeled 0. A horizontal-rotation operation is performed on each row as follows. For those rows whose row number is less than that of the faulty row, all nodes in the row repeatedly shift left/right one position until the node with the maximum address arrives in the j th-column. All nodes in the faulty row except for the faulty node repeatedly shift left/right one position until the node with the smallest address arrives in the $j+1$ th-column. For the remaining rows, all nodes in the row repeatedly shift left/right one position until the node with the minimum address arrives in the j th-column. The time complexity of the horizontal-rotation phase is $O(\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor)$.

2. *Vertical-rotation phase:* All nodes repeatedly shift up/down one position until the first row arrives in the faulty row. The time complexity of the vertical-rotation phase is $O(\lfloor \frac{N}{2} \rfloor)$.
3. *Tuning-rotation phase:* The tuning rotation phase is the same as that for the snake order. The time complexity of the tuning-rotation phase is $O(1)$.

Lemma 7. *The $FCE(PG_2)$ operation can be correctly executed on PG_2 , and its time complexity is bounded by $O(\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \rfloor + 2)$ if the processor numbering is in the original order.*

The following theorem is derived based on results of Lemmas 6 and 7.

Theorem 8. *The $FCE(PG_k)$ operation can be correctly executed in $O(\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \rfloor + 2)$ time steps if the processor numbering uses the snake order or the original order, where $k < r$.*

Proof. Recall that the $FCE(PG_2)$ operation can work correctly on PG_2 . For the purpose of making this operation correctly run on PG_k , we partition PG_k and PG'_k into a number of PG_2 s. Then each PG_2 in PG_k performs $FCE(PG_2)$ with the corresponding PG_2 in PG'_k . Finally, merge PG_2 in PG_k (or PG'_k) into PG_k (or PG'_k). So $FCE(PG_k)$ can also be correctly executed in $O(\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \rfloor + 2)$ time steps. Fig. 9 illustrates this operation. \square

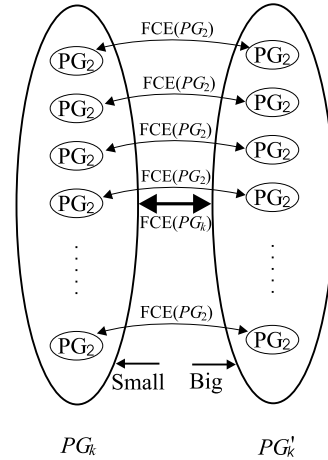


Fig. 9. The $FCE(PG_k)$ operation.

3.4.2. The fault-tolerant multiway merging operation

The multiway merging operation was originally used by Fernández and Efe [8] to perform a generalized sorting algorithm on a product network. The correctness can be verified by referring to [8]. However, their multiway merging operation does not have fault-tolerant capability. We present a fault-tolerant multiway merging operation here. By using the proposed fault-tolerant multiway merging operation as a basic operation, we thus develop a generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm. The fault-tolerant multiway merging operation is divided into four phases. The proposed multiway merging operation is a recursive algorithm. For ease of presentation, a dimension variable k , $2 < k < r$, is used to denote the current dimension in the recursive process.

We define the terms of a virtual PG_2 and a virtual PG_2 sequence as follows. The *virtual PG_2* consists of N copies of PG_1 . Any two PG_1 s in the virtual PG_2 may not be directly connected. The structure of the virtual PG_2 is similar to that of PG_2 except that communication of each pair of neighboring PG_1 s may require more than one step since a direct link might not exist between them. The *virtual PG_2 sequence* is the sequence of a number of virtual PG_2 s. Examples of a virtual PG_2 and a virtual PG_2 sequence are shown in Fig. 10(a) and (b).

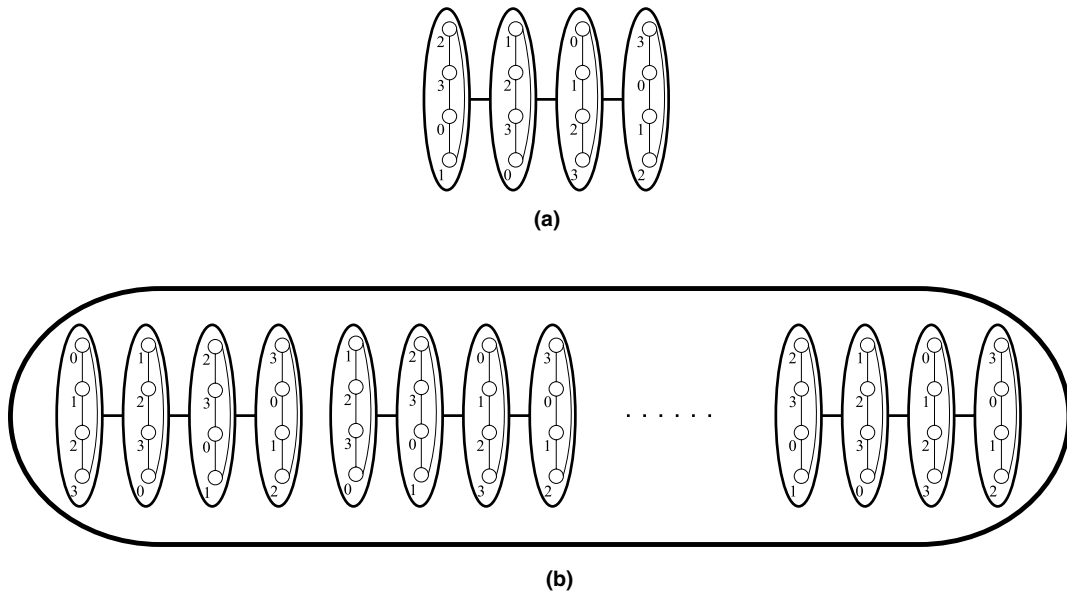


Fig. 10. (a) The virtual PG_2 ; (b) the virtual PG_2 sequence.

Now we present the fault-tolerant multiway merging operation here.

Fault-Tolerant_Multiway_Merge_Operation
(PG_k)

{/* The PG_k is partitioned into N copies of PG_{k-1} by applying a j -split operation, where $j \in D = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$.*/

1. *Redistribution step*: Basically, the redistribution process is the same as the function of the redistribution phase in [8] except for the operation of $k = 2$. The goal of the redistribution step is to collect unmerged data from different dimensions. In the case of $k = 2$, we are not only collecting unmerged data from different dimensions, but also collecting data from all of the faulty columns of every original PG_2 to organize a virtual PG_2 . All the remaining virtual PG_2 s are constructed according to order of the faulty columns. For example, in Fig. 11(a), the data layout shows that a PG_3 has been partitioned into four PG_2 s and a single-fault sorting operation has been performed on each PG_2 . We

partition each PG_2 into N copies of PG_1 , and collect PG_1 in each PG_2 into a virtual PG_2 as shown in Fig. 11(b).

2. *Merging step*: If $3 \leq k < r$, for each PG_{k-1} among N copies of PG_{k-1} , perform the *Fault-Tolerant_Multiway_Merge_Operation* (PG_{k-1}). Note that if $k = 2$, single-fault sorting and $FCE(PG_2)$ are performed on the virtual PG_2 sequence. Fig. 12(a) illustrates the merging operation of PG_k when $3 \leq k < r$. Fig. 12(b) displays the construction of a number of virtual PG_2 s when $k = 2$. Fig. 12(c) displays the virtual PG_2 after executing the single-fault sorting and $FCE(PG_2)$.
3. *Interleaving step*: This task is a restoration operation which is opposite to the *Redistribution step*. After executing this operation on PG_2 as shown in Fig. 13(a), we have the result shown in Fig. 13(b).
4. *Clear-dirty step*: There are three parts of the clear-dirty step. (1) For each PG_2 , sort its keys. (2) Perform two odd-even transpositions among the PG_2 sequences. (3) For each PG_2 , sort the keys again. For the correctness of the clear-dirty step, refer to [8].

}

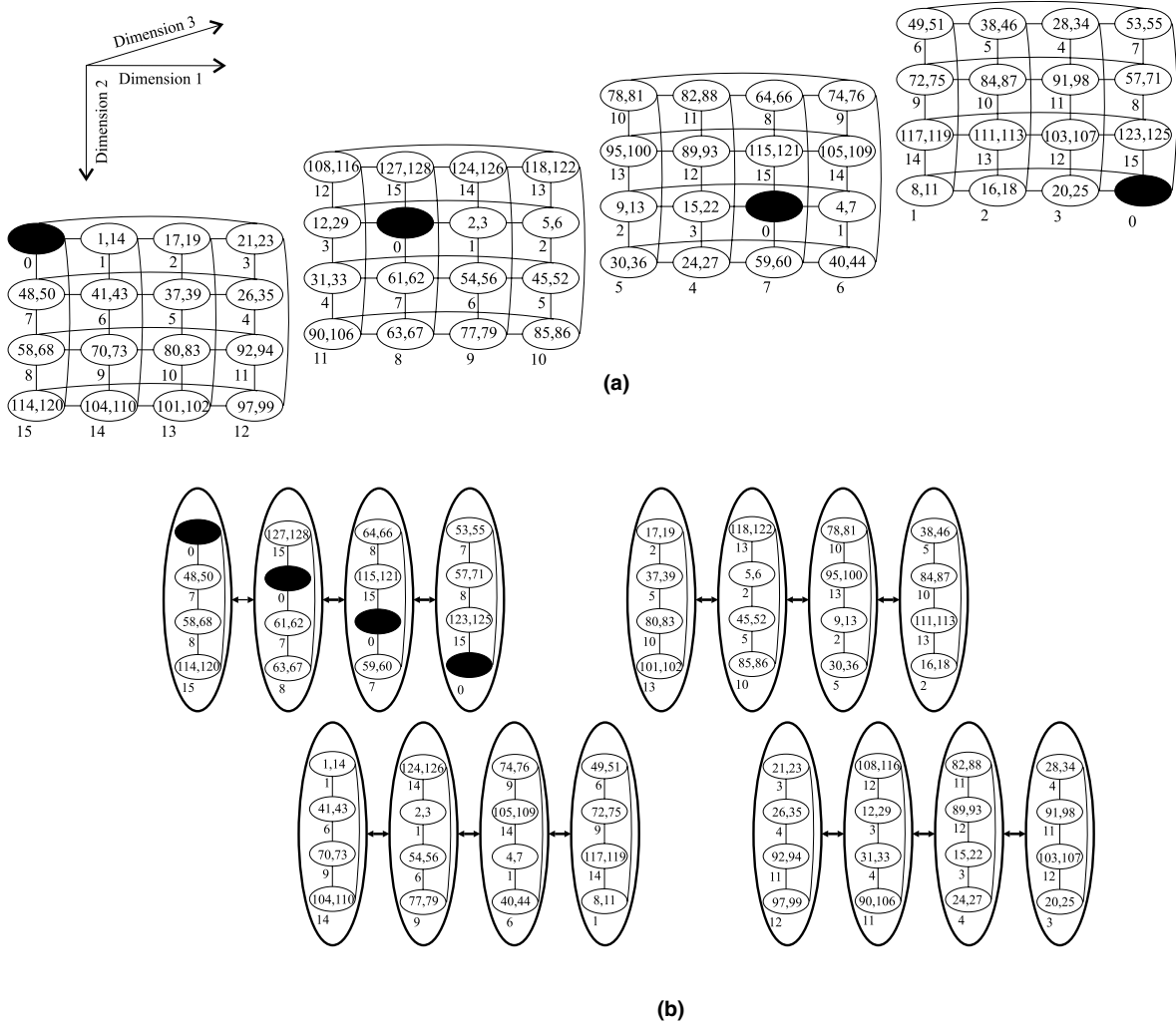


Fig. 11. Redistribution step. (a) Each PG_2 performing a single-fault sorting operation; (b) construction of virtual PG_2 from PG_2 .

4. Analysis of the time complexity of the generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm

In this section, the time complexity of the generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is given. Furthermore, we discuss the time complexity of a torus, grid, hypercube, and the Petersen cube using our generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm.

4.1. Generalized time complexity

To analyze the time complexity of generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm, we first study

the time complexity of the sequential sorting algorithm, the communication operation, and the merging process for a k -dimensional product network. We assume that each nonfaulty node contains L keys, where $L = M/(N^r - N^{r-2}) = M/((N^2 - 1)N^{r-2})$. The time cost for the sequential sorting algorithm to run on a node with L keys is denoted T_{ss} . Let T_{s_2} denote the time complexity required for sorting PG_2 , T_{s_1} represent the time complexity required for sorting PG in the virtual PG_2 , and T_{M_k} be the multiway merging process on a k -dimensional product network. We derive the following lemma.

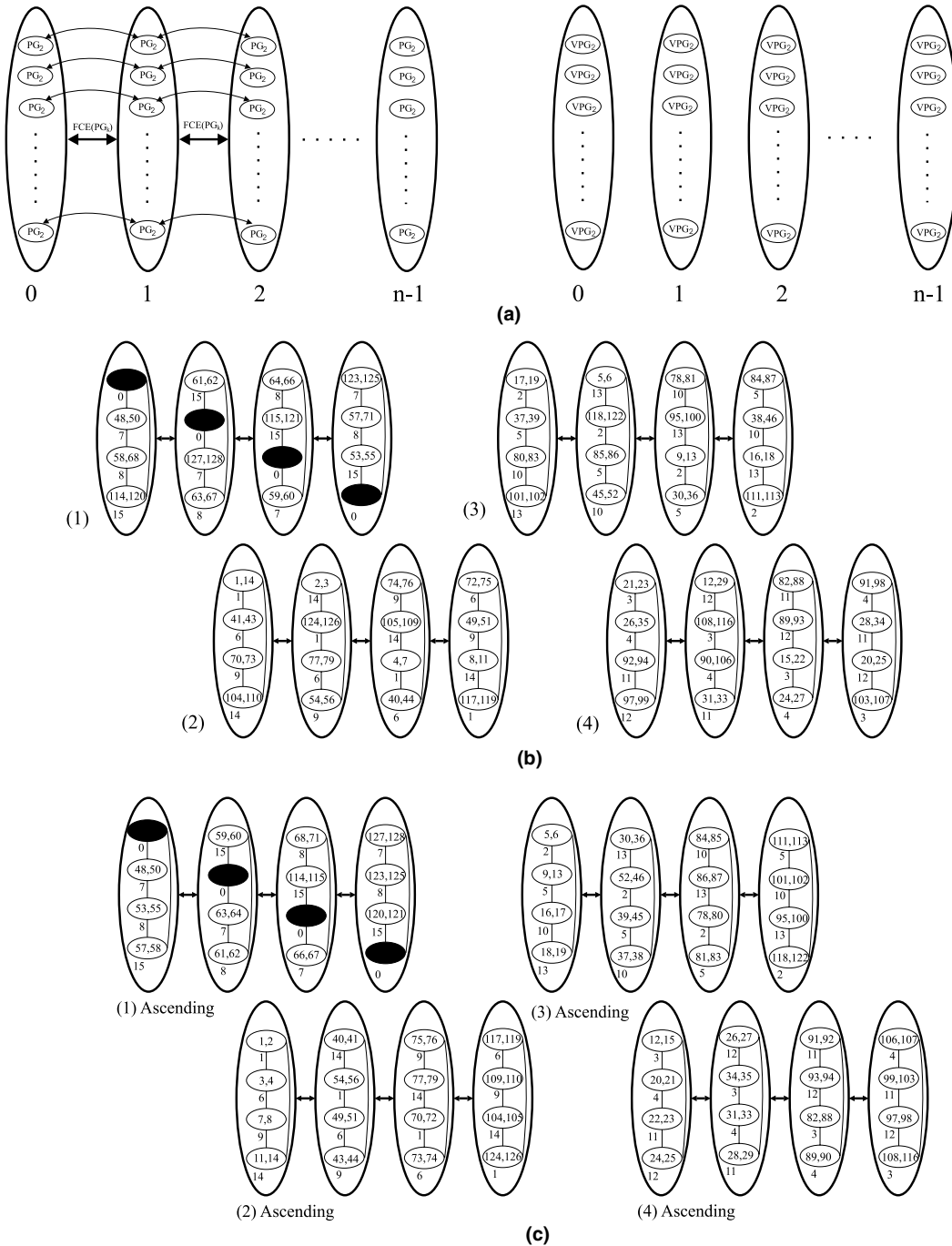


Fig. 12. The merge operation. (a) The merge operation performed on PG_k ; (b) construction of the virtual PG_2 sequence from PG_k ; (c) sorting and $FCE(PG_2)$ operations performed on each virtual PG_2 .

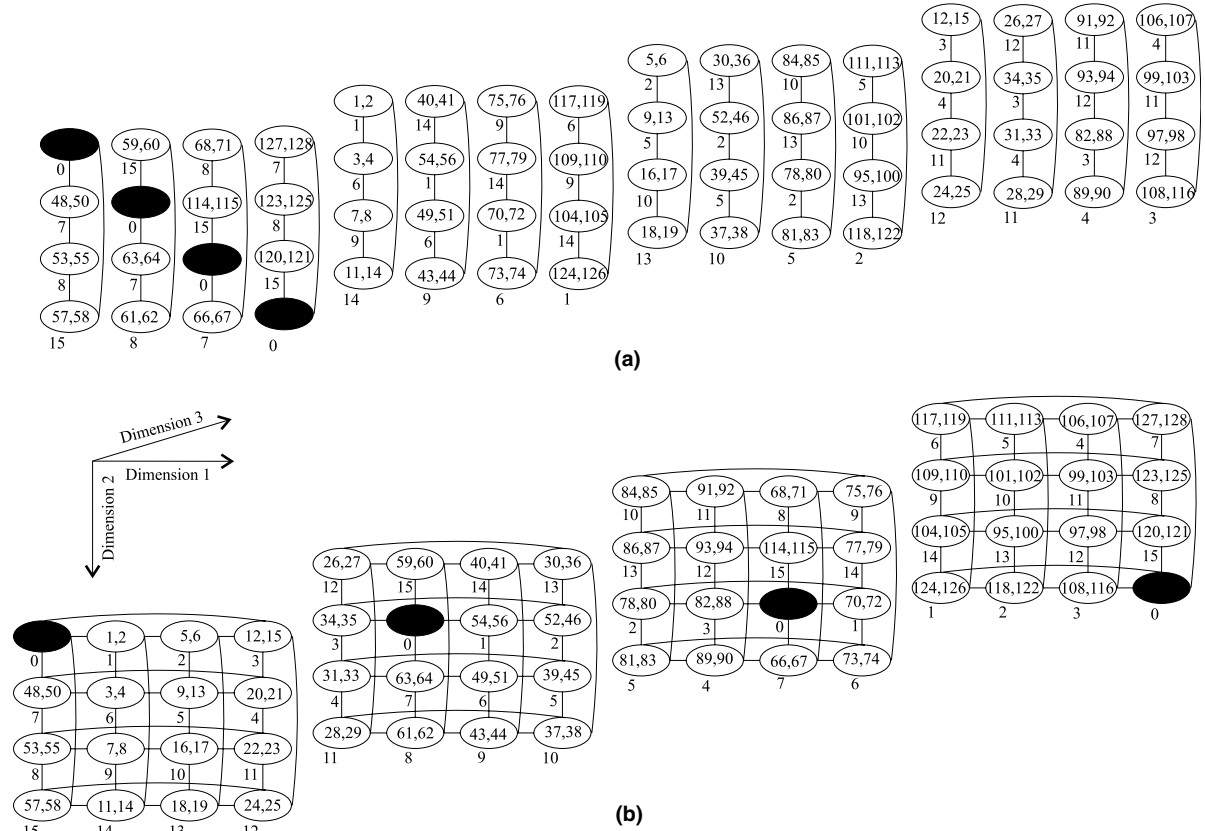


Fig. 13. Interleave step. (a) Snapshot of the virtual PG_2 after executing merge step; (b) snapshot of the virtual PG_2 after executing the interleave step.

Lemma 9. Merging N sorted sequences of N^{k-1} nodes on PG_k takes $T_{M_k} = T_{s_1}T_{ss}(N + 1) + (\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \rfloor + 2) \times N + 2(k - 2)(T_{s_2}T_{ss} + \lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \rfloor + 2)$ time steps.

Proof. Step 1 of the multi-fault sorting operation takes no computation time. Step 2 is a recursive call to the merging operation for $k - 1$ dimensions, and hence requires a time cost of $T_{M_{k-1}}$. Step 3 takes no computation time. Finally, step 4 requires the time for one sorting operation on PG_2 , two communication operations for PG_2 (the time for $FCE(PG_2)$), and one more sorting operation for PG_2 . Every time the keys are sorted, we need to perform a sequential sorting algorithm which takes T_{ss} time steps. Therefore, the value of T_{M_k} can be recursively expressed as:

$$T_{M_k} = T_{M_{k-1}} + 2 \left(T_{s_2}T_{ss} + \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \right).$$

In the initial condition, for the two-dimensional PG_2 , we perform the sorting operation in PG $N + 1$ times, and comparison-exchange in the virtual PG_2 N times. Therefore, T_{M_2} will be

$$T_{M_2} = T_{s_1}T_{ss}(N + 1) + \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \times N.$$

This yields

$$T_{M_k} = T_{s_1}T_{ss}(N + 1) + \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \times N + 2(k - 2) \left(T_{s_2}T_{ss} + \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \right).$$

The time complexity of the fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is $FS_r(N)$. \square

Theorem 10. For any factor graph G , the time complexity of the proposed fault-tolerant sorting algorithm on PG_r with $f \leq r - 1$ faulty nodes is $FS_r(N) = O(r^2 T_{s_2} L \log L + r^2 N^2 + r N T_{s_1} L \log L)$, where L is the number of elements distributed on each node.

Proof. By the algorithm of Section 3.3.2, the time complexity for sorting PG_r with $f \leq r - 1$ faulty nodes is the sum of the time complexities for sorting a two-dimensional subgraph and the recursive merging of N sorted sequences into a higher-dimensional product network in PG_r . The derivation of time complexity is as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} FS_r(N) &= T_{s_2} T_{ss} + T_{M_3} + T_{M_4} + \cdots + T_{M_{r-1}} + T_{M_r} \\ &= T_{s_2} T_{ss} + (r - 2) \left(T_{s_1} T_{ss} (N + 1) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \times N \right) \\ &\quad + 2 \left(T_{s_2} T_{ss} + \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \right) \\ &\quad \times \sum_{i=3}^r (i - 2) = ((r - 1)(r - 2) + 1) T_{s_2} T_{ss} \\ &\quad + (r - 2)(r + N - 1) \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \\ &\quad + (r - 2)(N + 1) T_{s_1} T_{ss}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the heap sorting algorithm in the worst case takes $(L - 1) \log L + 1$ time steps, the time complexity of $S_r(N)$ becomes

$$\begin{aligned} FS_r(N) &= ((r - 1)(r - 2) + 1) T_{s_2} ((L - 1) \log L + 1) \\ &\quad + (r - 2)(r + N - 1) \left(\left\lfloor \frac{3N}{2} \right\rfloor + 2 \right) \\ &\quad + (r - 2)(N + 1) S(N) ((L - 1) \log L + 1) \\ &= O(r^2 T_{s_2} L \log L + r^2 N^2 + r N T_{s_1} L \log L). \end{aligned}$$

□

Corollary 11. The time complexity of odd–even sorting is $O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$. If each nonfaulty node contains only one key, the complexity is $O(r^2 N^2)$.

Proof. In Theorem 10, we know that the time complexity of our algorithm is $O(r^2 T_{s_2} L \log L + r^2 N^2 + r N T_{s_1} L \log L)$. We spent $T_{s_2} = O(N^2)$ time steps to perform odd–even sorting in PG_2 with the snake order, and $T_{s_1} = O(N)$ time steps to perform odd–even sorting in PG . Therefore, the time complexity is bounded by $O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$. Note that if $L = 1$, the time cost becomes $O(r^2 N^2)$. □

Corollary 12. The time complexity of bitonic sorting is $O(r^2 L \log L (\log_2 N^2)^2 + r^2 N^2 + r N L \log L (\log_2 N)^2)$. If each nonfaulty node contains only one key, the complexity is $O(r^2 (\log_2 N^2)^2 + r^2 N^2 + r N (\log_2 N)^2)$.

Proof. To perform a bitonic sorting on PG_2 , we need

$$T_{s_2} = \sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 N^2} i \text{ steps, and } T_{s_1} = \sum_{i=1}^{\log_2 N} i$$

time steps to perform bitonic sorting in PG . Therefore, the time complexity is

$$O(r^2 L \log L (\log_2 N^2)^2 + r^2 N^2 + r N L \log L (\log_2 N)^2).$$

Note that if $L = 1$, the time complexity is bounded by $O(r^2 (\log_2 N^2)^2 + r^2 N^2 + r N (\log_2 N)^2)$. □

4.2. Time complexity of a torus

From Corollary 11, we know that the complexity of our fault-tolerant sorting on a torus is $O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$. Note that if $L = 1$, the time complexity on a torus is $FS_r(N) = O(r^2 N^2)$.

4.3. Time complexity of a grid

The following corollary measures the time complexity of our fault-tolerant sorting algorithm applied to a grid.

Corollary 13. If PG_r is a grid, the time complexity of sorting on PG_r is at most $O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$, where L is the number of elements each node contains.

Proof. We calculate the time complexity of our fault-tolerant sorting algorithm on an r -dimensional torus. Then, we refer to the result proposed in [7] which points out that if G is a connected graph, PG_r can emulate any computation on the N^r -node r -dimensional torus by embedding the torus into PG_r with a dilation of three and a congestion of two. Since this embedding undergoes constant dilation and congestion, the emulation has a constant slowdown. (In fact, the slowdown is no greater than six). We use the slowdown value to compute the exact running time for PG_r . The complexity of sorting on r -dimensional torus was previously proposed as $FS^r(N) = O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$. Since the emulation of our algorithm by PG_r requires a slowdown factor of at most six, elements of the grid can be sorted in a time complexity $6 \times S^r(N) = 6 \times O(r^2 N^2 L \log L) = O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$. Note that if $L = 1$, the time complexity for the grid is bounded by $FS_r(N) = O(r^2 N^2)$.

4.4. Time complexity of a hypercube

A hypercube has a constant $N = 2$. We are using the bitonic sorting operation in the single-fault sorting algorithm. From Corollary 13, we can measure the complexity $FS_r(N)$ of the fault-tolerant sorting of a hypercube:

$$FS_r(N) = O(r^2 L \log L + r^2 + rL \log L) = O(r^2 L \log L).$$

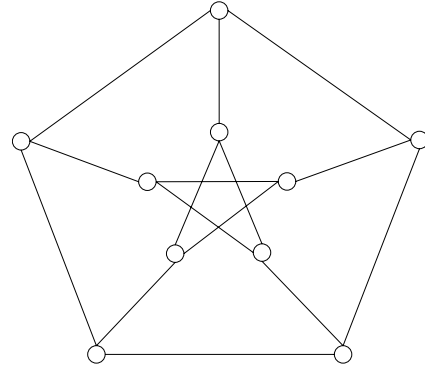


Fig. 14. Petersen graph.

Note that if $L = 1$, the time complexity on the hypercube becomes $FS_r(N) = O(r^2)$.

4.5. Time complexity of a Petersen cube

The Petersen cube is the r -dimensional product network of a Petersen graph, as shown in Fig. 14. The product graphs obtained from the Petersen graph are studied in [14]. Similar to a hypercube, the product of a Petersen graph has a constant N . Since the Petersen graph is Hamiltonian, its two-dimensional product network contains the 10×10 two-dimensional grid as a subgraph. Thus, we can use a grid algorithm for sorting 100 nodes on the two-dimensional product of a Petersen graph in constant time. Consequently, data in

Table 1
Time complexity comparison of existing sorting and fault-tolerant sorting algorithms

		Existing sorting	Fault-tolerant algorithms	Tolerant	Fernández and Efes [8] (without fault-tolerant)	Our scheme ($f \leq r - 1$)	
Torus		Unknown			$f = 0, L = 1$ $O(r^2 N)$	$f > 0, L = 1$ $O(r^2 N^2)$	$f > 0, L > 1$ $O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$
Grid		Unknown			$O(r^2 N)$	$O(r^2 N^2)$	$O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$
Hyper-cube	Sheu et al. [19] ($f \leq r - 1$)		Chen [4] ($f \leq \lfloor \frac{r}{2} \rfloor - 1$)				
	$f > 0,$	$f > 0,$	$f > 0,$	$f > 0,$			
Petersen cube	$L = 1$	$L > 1$	$L = 1$	$L > 1$	$O(r^2)$	$O(r^2)$	$O(r^2 L \log L)$
	$O(\log^2 2^r)$	$O(L \log L + L \log^2 2^r)$	$O(\log^2 2^r)$	$O(L \log L + L \log^2 2^r)$	$O(r^2)$	$O(r^2)$	$O(r^2 L \log L)$

f is the number of faulty nodes, L is the number of elements on each node, r is the dimension, and N is the number of nodes of the factor graph.

the r -dimensional product of a Petersen graph with 10^r nodes can be sorted in a time complexity of $O(r^2 L \log L)$. Note that if $L = 1$, the time complexity for executing the generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm on a Petersen cube is $FS_r(N) = O(r^2)$. Table 1 shows a comparison of time complexity of Fernández and Efes' sorting algorithm [8], Sheu et al.'s fault-tolerant sorting on a hypercube [19], Chen's fault-tolerant sorting on a hypercube [4], and our generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm on a product network. The proposed sorting algorithm is portable for a number of popular product networks. Note that if $L = 1$, the time complexity is bounded by $O(r^2 N^2)$ if the graph is a grid, and by $O(r^2)$ if the graph is a hypercube or a Petersen cube. Moreover, in the case of $L = 1$, the time complexities of hypercube and Petersen cube are the same with the result in Fernández and Efes' algorithm. From Table 1, Fernández and Efes' approach is more efficient when no faults are present. However, our generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is developed to tolerate faults in the product network. Observe that, Fernández and Efes' approach cannot work even if only one fault is occurred. This characteristic of the performance analysis illustrates the performance achievement of the generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we present the fault-tolerant sorting algorithm on an r -dimensional product network when the number of faulty nodes is $f \leq r - 1$. The proposed algorithm is generalized and portable for executing sorting operations on faulty product networks. We first presented the D -split partitioning scheme for partitioning PG_r into a number of PG_2 s such that each PG_2 contains at most one faulty node. To tolerate up to one faulty node, we proposed two single-fault sorting operations executed on each PG_2 . We combined the proposed single-fault sorting operations with the modified multi-way merging operation as the basic operation for tolerating multiple faults. The time complexity of the proposed fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is $O(r^2 L \log L (\log_2 N^2)^2 + r^2 N^2 +$

$rNL \log L (\log_2 N)^2$) when using bitonic sorting and is $O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$ when using odd–even sorting, where L is the number of data distributed on each node and $f \leq r - 1$. For particular networks, the time complexity for the grid is $O(r^2 N^2 L \log L)$ and for a hypercube and Petersen cube is $O(r^2 L \log L)$. Note that if $L = 1$, the time complexities of hypercube, and Petersen cube are the same as the result in Fernández and Efes' approach. From Table 1, Fernández and Efes' approach is more efficient when no faults are present. However, our generalized fault-tolerant sorting algorithm is developed to tolerate faults in the product network. Fernández and Efes' approach cannot work even if one fault is occurred. Consequently, the performance analysis indicates that our proposed generalized sorting scheme is a truly efficient fault-tolerant scheme.

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