

Principles of Distributed Computing

Exercise 7

The following question appeared on last year's exam.

1 Sorting Networks

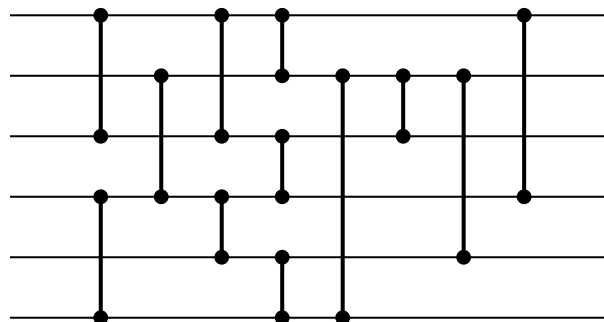


Figure 1: A Sorting Network?

For each of the following questions, prove or disprove the given claim.

- a) The network of 6 wires and 12 comparators in Figure 1 above is a sorting network, that is, it sorts each input sequence of numbers correctly.
- b) Given any correct sorting network, adding another comparator at the end destroys the sorting property.
- c) Given any correct sorting network, adding another comparator at the front does **not** destroy the sorting property.
- d) Every correct sorting network needs to have at least one comparator between each two consecutive wires.
- e) A network which contains all $\binom{n}{2}$ comparators between any two of the n wires, in whatever order they are placed, is a correct sorting network.
- f) Given any correct sorting network, adding another comparator anywhere does not destroy the sorting property. (Hint: Study examples with a small number of wires.)