# Constructing Node-Disjoint Routes in K-ary N-cubes

# Khaled Day and Abdel Elah Al-Ayyoub

Department of Computer Science, College of Science, P.O.Box 36, Al-Khod 123, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

خلاصة: نعرض في هذا البحث طريقة لإنشاء مسارات متوازية داخل شبكات المكعبات. نبدا بتقديم طريقة عامة لبناء مسارات متوازية داخل شبكات الضرب الكارتيزي ثم نطيق هذه الطريقة العامة على شبكات المكعبات التي يمكن اعتبارها ناتجة عن الضرب الكارتيزي للشبكات الكاملة -لا تتجاوز اطوال المسارات المحددة عن وحدتين زائد الأطوال المثلى. تتيح هذه المسارات المتوازية النقل السريع لكميات كبيرة من البيانات كما أنها تتيح مسارات بديلة في حالات وجود خلل في بعض نقاط المعالجة أو في الخطوط الرابطة بينها

ABSTRACT: In this paper, a method for constructing node-disjoint (parallel) paths in k-ary n-cube interconnection networks is described. We start by showing in general how to construct parallel paths in any Cartesian product of two graphs based on known paths in the factor graphs. Then we apply the general result to build a complete set of parallel paths (i.e., as many paths as the degree of the network) between any two nodes of a k-ary n-cube which can be viewed as the Cartesian product of complete graphs. Each of the constructed paths is of length at most 2 plus the minimum distance between the two nodes. These parallel paths are useful in speeding-up the transfer of large amounts of data between two nodes and in offering alternate routes in cases of faulty nodes.

any graphs have been studied as attractive interconnection topologies multiprocessor systems including the binary-hypercube (Saad and Schultz, 1988), the 2-dimensional torus (Dally and Seitz, 1986, Gravano et al, 1994), and the k-ary ncube (Agrawal and Bhuyan, 1984, Lakshmivarahn and Dhall, 1988, Graham and Seidel, 1993). There is confusion in the literature about which graph is called the k-ary n-cube. For example, what is called the torus network in Dally and Seitz (1986) and Gravano et al (1994) is called the k-ary n-cube in Linder and Harden (1991) and in Bose et al (1995) while in Graham and Seidel (1993) the k-ary n-cube refers to a different topology. As defined later, the k-ary n-cube considered in this paper is the same as in Graham and Seidel (1993). Graham and Seidel (1993) have shown that the k-ary ncube performs better in terms of one-to-all broadcasting and complete broadcasting than the star graph with a comparable number of nodes for practical network sizes. In general, the criteria used in evaluating interconnection networks relate to their topological properties of symmetry, scalability, low degree and diameter, efficient distributed routing algorithms, recursive structure, fault tolerance, low-cost embedding of other topologies,

support of efficient broadcasting and existence of parallel paths. This paper contributes to the study of k-ary n-cubes by presenting a method for constructing complete sets of node-disjoint (parallel) paths between arbitrary nodes. These sets are complete in the sense that we obtain as many parallel paths between any two nodes as the degree of the network. Furthermore, the obtained paths are of optimal lengths plus at most 2 independently of the network size and the distance between the two nodes. Many research works have addressed such constructions of parallel paths on various interconnection networks such as the hypercube (Saad and Schultz, 1988), the star graph (Day and Tripathi, 1994), and the arrangement graph (Day and Tripathi, 1998).

#### Preliminaries

In the following we present a number of definitions and notations used in the paper.

DEFINITION 1: (Graham and Seidel, 1993): The k-ary n-cube  $Q_n^k$  is formed of  $N = k^n$  nodes labeled by the base-k integers of the form  $a_{n-1}a_{n-2}...a_0$ , where  $0 \le a_i \le k$  for  $0 \le i \le n$ . Two nodes are connected if and only if they differ by exactly one of their n digits.

#### KHALED DAY AND ABDEL ELAH AL-AYYOUB

It has been shown that  $Q_n^k$  has degree (k-1)n and diameter n (Agrawal and Bhuyan, 1984).

DEFINITION 2: (Leighton, 1992): The Cartesian product  $G = G_1 \otimes G_2$  of two graphs  $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$  is the graph G = (V, E), where V and E are given by:

- i)  $V = \{ \langle x, y \rangle | x \in V_1 \text{ and } y \in V_2 \}$ , and
- ii) If u = ⟨x<sub>u</sub>, y<sub>u</sub>⟩ and v = ⟨x<sub>v</sub>, y<sub>v</sub>⟩ in V then (u, v) is an edge in E iff either (x<sub>u</sub>, x<sub>v</sub>) ∈ E<sub>1</sub> and y<sub>u</sub> = y<sub>v</sub> or (y<sub>u</sub>, y<sub>v</sub>) ∈ E<sub>2</sub> and x<sub>u</sub> = x<sub>v</sub>.

The edge (u, v) is called a  $G_1$ -edge if  $(x_u, x_v)$  is an edge in  $E_1$ , and it is called a  $G_2$ -edge if  $(y_u, y_v)$  is an edge in  $E_2$ . We call  $x_u$  the  $G_1$ -component of u and  $y_u$  the  $G_2$ -component of u.

Let  $N_1$ ,  $\delta_1$ ,  $\Delta_1$  be respectively the size (number of nodes), degree, and diameter of  $G_1$ ; and let  $N_2$ ,  $\delta_2$ ,  $\Delta_2$ be respectively the size, degree, and diameter of  $G_2$ . The size N, degree  $\delta$ , and diameter  $\Delta$  of  $G_1 \otimes G_2$  are given by:  $N = N_1, N_2, \delta = \delta_1 + \delta_2, \Delta = \Delta_1 + \Delta_2$  The size and degree expressions are fairly obvious. As for the diameter expression it can be justified by noticing that a path between any two vertices  $u = \langle x_u, y_u \rangle$  and  $v = \langle x_v, y_v \rangle$ of  $G_1 \otimes G_2$  is composed of two types of edges:  $G_1$ -edges (affecting the  $G_1$ -component) and  $G_2$ -edges (affecting the  $G_2$ -component). If all the  $G_1$ -edges (resp. the  $G_2$ -edges) in the path from u to v are extracted and listed maintaining their relative order, we obtain a path from  $x_u$ to  $x_y$  in  $G_1$  (resp. from  $y_u$  to  $y_u$  in  $G_2$ ). Therefore u would be at a maximum distance from v in  $G_1 \otimes G_2$  if, and only if,  $x_n$  is at maximum distance from  $x_n$  in  $G_1$  and  $y_n$  is at maximum distance from  $y_{\nu}$  in  $G_{2}$ .

Let  $K_k$  denote the complete graph with k nodes. If we perform the Cartesian product of  $K_k$  by  $K_k$  for n times, the k-ary n-cube  $Q_n^k$  will be obtained.

LEMMA 1:  $Q_n^k$  is isomorphic to  $K_k \otimes K_k \otimes ... \otimes K_k$  (n times).

Proof: This can be shown by induction on n. First, notice that  $Q_1^k$  is isomorphic to  $K_k$  (trivial). Next, we can obtain an isomorphism between  $Q_n^k$  and  $K_k \otimes Q_{n-1}^k$  by mapping the node  $a_{n-1}a_{n-2}...a_0$  of  $Q_n^k$  to the node  $\langle a_{n-1}, a_{n-2}a_{n-3}...a_0 \rangle$  of  $K_k \otimes Q_{n-1}^k$ . By definition 2, the nodes connected to the node  $a = \langle a_{n-1}, a_{n-2}a_{n-3}...a_0 \rangle$  in  $K_k \otimes Q_{n-1}^k$  are the nodes  $b = \langle b_{n-1}, b_{n-2}b_{n-3}...b_0 \rangle$  such that  $b_{n-1}$  is connected to  $a_{n-1}$  in  $K_k$  (i.e.  $a_{n-1} \neq b_{n-1}$ ) or  $b_{n-2}b_{n-3}...b_0$  is connected to the node  $a_{n-2}a_{n-3}...a_0$  in

 $Q_{n-1}^{k}$  (i.e. differing only in one of their n-1 positions), but not both. Therefore a and b are connected if for exactly one position i,  $0 \le i \le n$ ,  $a_i \ne b_i$  which corresponds to the same connectivity condition in  $Q_n^{k}$ .

#### Parallel Paths in a Cartesian Product

In this section we show that if  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are two regular graphs such that for each one of these graphs there exists a complete family of parallel paths (i.e. as many paths as the degree of the graph) between any two of its nodes, then the same property holds for  $G_1 \otimes G_2$ .

We start by introducing some notations used in the construction of parallel paths. A path  $\pi$  in some graph from a node  $u_1$  to a node  $u_m$  going through the intermediate nodes  $u_2, u_3 \dots u_{m-1}$  will be denoted by:  $\pi = u_1u_2 \dots u_m$ . The length m-l of such a path  $\pi$  is denoted by  $|\pi|$ . We will also denote  $\pi$ -1 the path from  $u_1$  to  $u_{m-1}$  obtained from  $\pi$  by removing its last edge.

Consider two paths  $\pi_1 = u_1u_2 \dots u_m$  and  $\pi_2 = v_1 \dots v_t$  in some graph such that the destination node of  $\pi_1$  coincides with the source node of  $\pi_2$  (i.e.  $u_m = v_1$ ). The concatenation of  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  denoted  $\pi_1 || \pi_2$  is the path  $u_1u_2 \dots u_mv_2 \dots v_t$  obtained by joining the two paths  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ .

Let x be a node in  $G_1$  and let  $\pi = y_1y_2 \dots y_m$  be a path in  $G_2$ . We denote by  $\langle x, \pi \rangle$  the path  $\langle x, y_1 \rangle \langle x, y_2 \rangle \dots \langle x, y_m \rangle$  in  $G_1 \otimes G_2$ . Similarly, if  $\pi = x_1 x_2 \dots x_m$  is a path in  $G_1$  and y is a node in  $G_2$ , then  $\langle \pi, y \rangle$  denotes the path  $\langle x_1, y \rangle \langle x_2, y \rangle \dots \langle x_m, y \rangle$  in  $G_1 \otimes G_2$ .

DEFINITION 2: A regular graph G of degree  $\delta$  is said to have complete parallel paths with maximum length increase r if, and only if, for any two distinct nodes u and v of G, there exists a set of  $\delta$  node-disjoint paths between u and v such that each of these paths is of length at most dist(u,v)+r, and at least one of these paths is of length dist(u,v), where dist(u,v) is the minimum distance between u and v in G. We use the abbreviation: G has CPP/r-MLL.

THEOREM 1: If  $G_1$  is regular of degree  $\delta_1$ ,  $G_2$  is regular of degree  $\delta_2$ ,  $G_1$  has  $CPP/r_1$ -MLI, and  $G_2$  has  $CPP/r_2$ -MLI, then  $G_1 \otimes G_2$  has  $CPP/max(2,r_1,r_2)$ -MLI.

*Proof:* Let  $u = \langle x_u, y_u \rangle$  and  $v = \langle x_v, y_v \rangle$  be two distinct nodes in  $G_1 \otimes G_2$ . We distinguish two cases:

CASE 1: If  $x_u \neq x_v$  and  $y_u \neq y_v$ .

Let  $\pi_x^1, \pi_x^2, \pi_x^{\delta 1}$  be  $\delta_1$  parallel paths between  $x_u$  and  $x_v$  in  $G_1$ . These paths exist since  $x_u \neq x_v$ ,  $G_1$  is regular of degree  $\delta_1$  and  $G_1$  has  $CPP/r_I$ -MLI. Each of these paths is of length at most  $dist(x_u, x_v) + r_1$  and at least one of them (say  $\pi_x^1$ ) is of length  $dist(x_u, x_v)$ . Similarly, there exists  $\delta_2$  parallel paths  $\pi_y^1, \pi_y^2, \pi_y^{\delta 2}$  between  $y_u$  and  $y_v$  in  $G_2$ . Each of these paths is of length at most  $dist(y_u, y_v) + r_2$  and at least one of them (say  $\pi_y^1$ ) is of length  $dist(y_u, y_v)$ . We must therefore have:

$$|\pi_x^1| = dist(x_u, x_v),$$

$$2 \le |\pi_x^i| \le dist(x_u, x_v) + r_1, \text{ for } 2 \le i \le \delta_1,$$

$$|\pi_y^1| = dist(y_u, y_v),$$

$$2 \le |\pi_v^i| \le dist((y_u, y_v) + r_2, \text{ for } 2 \le i \le \delta_2.$$

Let  $x^i$  denote the last intermediate node on the path  $\pi_x^i$  for all  $i, 2 \le i \le \delta_1$ . In other words,  $x^i$  is such that  $(x^i, x_v)$  is the last edge of  $\pi_x^i$ . Let also  $y^i$  denote the last intermediate node on the path  $\pi_y^i$  for all  $i, 2 \le i \le \delta_2$ . Therefore,  $y^i$  is such that  $(y^i, y_v)$  is the last edge of  $\pi_y^i$ . We construct the following  $\delta_1 + \delta_2$  paths between  $u = \langle x_u, y_u \rangle$  and  $v = \langle x_v, y_v \rangle$ :

$$\begin{split} \pi_1 &= < \pi_x^1 \ , \ y_u > || < x_v , \ \pi_y^1 >, \\ \pi_i &= < \pi_x^i - 1, y_u > || < x^i , \pi_y^1 > || < x^i x_v , y_v >, \ for all i, 2 \le i \le \delta_i , \\ \pi_{\delta_1 + 1} &= < x_u , \pi_y^1 > || < \pi_x^1 , \ y_v >, \end{split}$$

$$\pi_{\delta 1 \to i} \! = \! < \! x_{_{\boldsymbol{y}}}, \pi_{_{\boldsymbol{y}}}^{_{i}} \! - \! 1 \! > \! \parallel < \! \pi_{_{\boldsymbol{x}}}^{1}, \boldsymbol{y}^{_{i}} \! > \! \parallel < \! x_{_{\boldsymbol{y}}}, \boldsymbol{y}^{_{i}} \boldsymbol{y}_{_{\boldsymbol{y}}} \! > \! , \; \textit{for all } i, 2 \! \leq \! i \! \leq \! \delta_{_{\boldsymbol{2}}},$$

The path  $\pi_1$  is obtained by moving along the edges of  $\pi_x^1$  transforming  $x_u$  into  $x_v$  followed by the edges of  $\pi_y^1$  transforming  $y_u$  into  $y_v$ . Therefore  $\pi_1$  is of length dist  $(x_u,x_v)+dist\ (y_u,y_v)$  which is equal to dist (u,v). The path  $\pi_i$ ,  $2 \le i \le \delta_1$ , is obtained by following the edges of  $\pi_x^i$  except the last edge, followed by all the edges of  $\pi_y^1$  and finally the last edge of  $\pi_x^i$ .

Since  $\pi_y^1$  is of minimum length and  $\pi_x^i$  is of length at most  $r_1$  plus the minimum length, therefore  $\pi_i$  is of length at most  $dist(u,v)+r_1$ . A similar argument is used to infer that the path  $\pi_{b_1+1}$  is of length dist(u,v) and that each path  $\pi_{b_1+i}$ ,  $2 \le i \le \delta_1$ , is of length at most  $dist(u,v)+r_2$ .

To show that the  $\pi_i$  paths,  $1 \le i \le \delta_1 + \delta_2$  are nodedisjoint we introduce the following notations. Let  $S_4$  be the set of all the intermediate (i.e. other than the source and the destination) nodes along all the paths  $\pi_i$ ,  $1 \le i \le \delta_1$ , which have  $y_u$  as  $G_2$ -component. Notice that all these nodes appear first (at the left) in  $\pi_i$ , for each i,  $1 \le i \le \delta_1$ . Let  $S_B$  be the set of all the remaining intermediate nodes along these paths. Similarly, let  $S_C$  be the set of all the intermediate nodes along all the paths  $\pi_{\delta_1+i}$ ,  $1 \le i \le \delta_2$  which have  $x_u$  as  $G_1$ -component. These nodes appear first (at the left) in  $\pi_{\delta_1+i}$  for each i,  $1 \le i \le \delta_2$ . Finally, let  $S_D$  be the set of the remaining intermediate nodes along these  $\pi_{\delta_1+i}$  paths.

None of the sets  $S_A$ ,  $S_B$ ,  $S_C$ , and  $S_D$  has a node that appears in it more than once. This is justified by the fact that the  $\pi'_x$  paths are node-disjoint in  $G_1$  and the  $\pi'_y$  paths are node-disjoint in  $G_2$ . The set  $S_A$  is disjoint with each of  $S_B$ ,  $S_C$ , and  $S_D$  since all the nodes in  $S_A$  have  $y_u$  as  $G_2$ -component which is not the case for any node in any of the sets  $S_B$ ,  $S_C$ , and  $S_D$ . Similarly, the set  $S_C$  is disjoint with each of  $S_B$  and  $S_D$  since all the nodes in  $S_C$  have  $x_u$  as  $G_1$ -component which is not the case for any node in any of the sets  $S_B$  and  $S_D$ .

It remains to show that  $S_B$  and  $S_D$  are disjoint. Let  $S_B^1$  be the subset of nodes of  $S_B$  that appear in  $\pi_1$  and let  $S_B^R$  denote the set  $S_B - S_B^1$ . Define  $S_D^1$  as the subset of nodes of  $S_D$  that appear in  $\pi_{b1+1}$  and let  $S_D^R$  denote the set  $S_D - S_D^1$ .  $S_B^1$  and  $S_D^1$  are disjoint since all the nodes of  $S_B^1$  have  $x_v$  as  $G_1$ -component which is not the case for any node of  $S_D^1$ .  $S_B^1$  and  $S_D^R$  are disjoint since each node of  $S_D^1$ .  $S_B^1$  has some intermediate node of  $\pi_v^1$  as  $G_2$ -component which is not true for any node in  $S_D^R$ .  $S_B^R$  and  $S_D^1$  are disjoint since each node of  $S_D^1$  has some intermediate node of  $\pi_v^1$  as  $G_1$ -component which is not true for any node in  $S_D^R$ .  $S_B^R$  and  $S_D^1$  are disjoint since each node of  $S_D^1$  has some intermediate node of  $\pi_v^1$  as  $G_1$ -component which is not true for any node in  $S_B^R$ .  $S_B^R$  and  $S_D^R$  are disjoint since each node of

 $S_B^R$  has an intermediate node of  $\pi_y^1$  or  $y_v$  as  $G_2$ -component which is not true for any node in  $S_D^R$ . Therefore the  $\pi_i$  paths,  $1 \le i \le \delta_1 + \delta_2$ , form a maximum-size family of  $\delta_1 + \delta_2$  node-disjoint paths between u and v and each is of length at most  $dist(u,v)+\max(r_1,r_2)$ . Notice that  $\pi_1$  is of minimum length.

CASE 2: If  $x_u \neq x_v$  and  $y_u = y_v$  (the case  $x_u = x_v$  and  $y_u \neq y_v$  is similar)

Let  $\pi_x^1, \pi_x^2, ... \pi_x^{\delta 1}$  be  $\delta_1$  parallel paths between  $x_n$  and  $x_n$  in  $G_1$ . These paths exist since  $x_n \neq x_n$ ,  $G_1$  is regular of degree  $\delta_1$  and  $G_1$  has  $CPP/r_1$ -MLI. Each of these paths is of length at most  $dist(x_n, x_n) + r_1$  and at least one of them (say  $\pi_x^1$ ) is of length  $dist(x_n, x_n)$ . Let  $y_n^i$ ,  $1 \le i \le \delta_2$ , be the  $\delta_2$  distinct adjacent nodes to  $y_n$  in  $G_2$ . We construct the following  $\delta_1 + \delta_2$  paths between u and v:

#### KHALED DAY AND ABDEL ELAH AL-AYYOUB

$$\begin{split} \pi_i &= < \pi_x^i, \quad y_u >, for \ all \ i, \ 1 \leq i \leq \delta_1, \\ \\ \pi_{\delta_1 + i} &= < x_u, y_u \ y_u^i > || < \pi_x^i, y_u^i > || < x_v, y_u^i y_u >, for \ all \ i, \ 1 \leq i \leq \delta_2 \end{split}$$

The paths  $\pi_i$ ,  $1 \le i \le \delta_1$ , are node-disjoint among each other since the  $\pi'_x$ ,  $1 \le i \le \delta_1$ , are node-disjoint in  $G_1$ . Each of these paths is of length at most  $dist(u,v)+\tau_1$ . Notice that  $\pi_1$  is of minimum length. The paths  $\pi_{\delta 1^i}$ , for all  $i, 1 \le i \le \delta_2$  are node-disjoint among each other since each path has a different fixed  $G_2$ -component  $y_x^i$  at its intermediate nodes. Each  $\pi_{\delta 1^i}$  path is of length dist(u,v)+2. Finally, every  $\pi_i$  path,  $1 \le i \le \delta_1$ , is node-disjoint with every  $\pi_{\delta i+j}$  path,  $1 \le j \le \delta_2$ , since all intermediate nodes of  $\pi$ , have  $y_u$  as G-component which is not the case for any of the intermediate nodes of  $\pi_{\delta 1^i}$ .

### Parallel Paths in the k-ary n-cube

We start by showing how to construct a complete family of parallel paths between any two nodes of a complete graph.

LEMMA 2: The complete graph on k nodes  $K_k$  has CPP/1-MLI.

*Proof:* Let 0, 1, ..., k-1 be the k nodes of  $K_k$ . Let x and y be any two distinct nodes in  $K_k$ . Hence,  $0 \le x$ ,  $y \le k$  and  $x \ne y$ . Consider the following k-1 paths between x and y:

$$\pi_{x,y}^* = xy$$

$$\pi_{x,y}^i = xiy$$
, for all  $i, 0 \le i \le k$ ,  $i \ne x$ , and  $i \ne y$ .

 $\pi_{s,y}^*$  is of minimum length equal to 1. Each  $\pi_{s,y}^i$ , 0 < i < k,  $i \neq x$ , and  $i \neq y$  is of length 2 and has only one intermediate node i which is different from the intermediate node j of any other  $\pi_{s,y}^i$ . Therefore,  $K_s$  has CPP/I-MLI.

The following theorem is a direct derivation from Lemma 1, Theorem 1, and Lemma 2.

THEOREM 2: The k-ary n-cube  $Q_n^{-k}$  has CPP/2-MLI.

EXAMPLE: Let us follow the method described in the proof of Theorem 1 to construct step by step the parallel paths between the two nodes 0000 and 0120 of the 3-ary 4-cube  $Q_4^3$ . By Lemma 1,  $Q_4^3$  is isomorphic to  $K_3 \otimes Q_3^3$ . The node 0000 of  $Q_4^3$  is mapped to the node <0,000> of  $K_3 \otimes Q_3^3$  and 0120 to <0,120>. We apply the construction of Case 2 of Theorem 1.

Step 1: Find the parallel paths between 000 and 120 in  $Q_3^3$ . By Lemma 1,  $Q_3^3$  is isomorphic to  $K_3 \otimes Q_2^3$ . The node 000 is mapped to <0, 00> and 120 is mapped to <1, 20>. We need to apply the construction of Case 1 of Theorem 1.

Step 1.1: Find the parallel paths between nodes 0 and 1 in  $K_3$ . These are given by Lemma 2 as follows (we use the symbol ' $\rightarrow$ ' in path descriptions to denote edges in the path):

Step 1.2: Find the parallel paths between 00 and 20 in  $Q_2^3$ . But,  $Q_2^3$  is isomorphic to  $K_3 \otimes K_3$  (by Lemma 1). The node 00 is mapped to <0, 0> and 20 is mapped to <2, 0>. We need to apply the construction of Case 2 of

Theorem 1 using the parallel paths 0-2 and 0-1-2 between nodes 0 and 2 in  $K_3$  (by Lemma 2). This results in the following paths between 00 and 20:

Step 1.3: Combine the results of Step 1.1 and 1.2 using the construction of Case 1 to obtain the following paths between 000 and 120:

Step 2: Use the above paths between 000 and 120 to obtain the parallel paths between 0000 and 0120 following the construction of Case 2 of Theorem 1. This results in the following paths:

## KHALED DAY AND ABDEL ELAH AL-AYYOUB

Finally, we present the parallel paths construction method (illustrated in the above example) in the form of an the following algorithm.

function PATHS  $(a_{n-1}a_{n-2} \dots a_0, b_{n-1} b_{n-2} \dots b_0, n, k)$  (returns a set of n(k-1) parallel paths between  $a_{n-1}a_{n-2} \dots a_0$  and  $b_{n-1}b_{n-2} \dots b_0$  in  $Q_k^n$ ).

#### begin

 $\frac{\text{if } n = 1 \text{ then } \text{return } \{a_0 - b_0\} \cup \{a_0 - i - b_0, \text{ for } 0 \le i \le k \text{ and } i \ne a_0 \text{ and } i \ne b_0\} \\
\le k \text{ and } i \ne a_0 \text{ and } i \ne b_0\} \\
\underline{\text{else } \text{if } a_{n-1} = b_{n-1} \text{ then } \\
\underline{\text{begin}} \\
S = \text{PATHS}(a_0 - a_0 b_0 - b_0 + b_0) = b_0$ 

 $S_1 = \text{PATHS}(a_{n-2} \dots a_0, b_{n-2} \dots b_0, n-1, k)$ Let  $\pi_1$  be a minimum length path in  $S_1$  $S_2 = \emptyset$ 

for each path  $\pi$  in  $S_1$  do  $S_2 = S_2 \cup \{ < a_{n-1}, \pi_- > \}$ for each i,  $0 \le i \le k$  and  $i \ne a_{n-1}$  do  $S_2 = S_2 \cup \{ a_{n-1} ... a_0 - i a_{n-2} ... a_0 \parallel < i, \pi_1 > \parallel$  $i b_{n-2} ... b_0 \rightarrow b_{n-1} ... b_0 \}$ return  $S_2$ 

## end

else begin

 $S_1 = PATHS(a_{n-2} \dots a_0, b_{n-2} \dots b_0, n-1, k)$ 

Let  $\pi_1$  be a minimum length path in  $S_1$   $S_2 = \{a_{n-1}...a_0 \neg b_{n-1}a_{n-2}...a_0 \mid < b_{n-1}, \pi_1 > \}$  for each  $i, 0 \le i \le k$  and  $i \ne a_{n-1}$  and  $i \ne b_{n-1}$  do  $S_2 = S_2 \cup \{a_{n-1}...a_0 \neg ia_{n-2}...a_0 \mid < i, \pi_1 > \mid ib_{n-2}...b_0 \neg b_{n-1}...b_0\}$   $S_2 = S_2 \cup \{< a_{n-1}, \pi_1 > \mid \mid a_{n-1}b_{n-2}...b_0 \neg b_{n-1}...b_0\}$  for each path  $\pi$  in  $S_1$  such that  $\pi \ne \pi_1$  do  $S_2 = S_2 \cup \{< a_{n-1}, \pi_1 > \mid \mid a_{n-1}b_{n-2}....b_0 \rightarrow b_{n-1}...b_0\}$   $S_2 = S_2 \cup \{< a_{n-1}, \pi_1 > \mid \mid a_{n-1}b_{n-2}....b_0 \rightarrow b_{n-1}...b_0\}$  (where  $b_{n-2}....b_0$ ) is the last intermediate node in  $\pi$ )

end

return S.

end

### Summary

In this paper, we have contributed to the study of the topological properties of the k-ary n-cube by presenting a simple algorithm (easy to implement) for constructing node-disjoint (parallel) paths between arbitrary nodes of the k-ary n-cube. In fact, we show how to construct efficiently a complete set of parallel paths (i.e. as many paths as the degree of the network) between any two nodes of a k-ary n-cube. Furthermore, each of the constructed paths is shown to be of length at most 2 plus the minimum distance between the two nodes.

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