

# Availability Enhancement and Analysis for Mixed-Criticality Systems on Multi-core

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**Abstract**—In the critical systems domain, Mixed Criticality Systems (MCS) improve considerably the usage of computation resources by running tasks with different levels of criticality on multi-core processors. To ensure the safety of MCS, services provided by low criticality tasks are degraded or stopped whenever high criticality tasks need more computation time than initially credited. The evaluation of this degradation is hardly considered in the literature although low criticality services are of prime importance for the quality of service (QoS) of critical systems.

In this paper, we propose a method to evaluate the availability of low criticality services, *i.e.* how often these services are delivered in MCS. We also propose a task model that improves this availability, demonstrated thanks to our evaluation method on an illustrative example of MCS.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Most critical systems are composed of tasks with different levels of criticality: high criticality tasks ensure the safety of the system, while low criticality tasks provide additional services with low impact on safety. These systems are monitored and controlled by real-time software applications to guarantee that high criticality tasks meet predefined deadlines even under pessimistic assumptions on their execution time. On the other hand, recent works on Mixed-Criticality Systems (MCS) advocate for resource sharing between low and high criticality tasks to improve performance while ensuring safety [1]. This improvement is more consequent on multi-core architectures thanks to parallelism of tasks' execution.

With MCS, tasks can be executed in different execution modes: in the nominal mode, high and low criticality tasks are both executed with an optimistic timing budget. When the system detects a timing failure event (TFE), *i.e.* a task did not complete its execution within its optimistic timing budget, the system switches to a degraded mode. In this mode, high criticality task are executed with their pessimistic timing budget, discarding [2] low criticality tasks or degrading them [3] (*i.e.* reducing their execution frequency). This difference in timing budgets is introduced due to the multi-core processor non-determinism: execution time of tasks greatly varies in function of the state of the processor (*i.e.* caches, memory bus, *etc.*).

Even if low criticality tasks have low or no impact on the system's safety, their execution is important for the system's usability. A satellite is an example of critical system with different execution modes. When the satellite has a major failure, it enters a survival mode where the solar panels are facing the sun to save energy and its software applications

execute maintenance operations in order to restart the remaining services. In this degraded mode, high criticality tasks ensure that the satellite remains in orbit and does not get lost. However, the low critical tasks (*e.g.* sending communication signals) are what is really useful and interesting in the satellite.

In this context, MCS raise an important problem: in order to ensure the schedulability of high criticality tasks, MCS degrade the availability of low criticality ones, where availability is defined as the ratio of completed against attempted executions of a task. Indeed most works on MCS ignore the **resilience** of the system to transient timing failures. In the seminal work of MCS [2], when a TFE occurs in a low criticality task, all the low criticality tasks are discarded even if the TFE does not impact high criticality tasks. In a recent study, authors of [4] propose a degree of *allowance* to mitigate small delays on tasks' execution. Other approaches advocate for the degradation of low criticality tasks by increasing their periods and/or reducing timing budgets on the high criticality mode [3]. The evaluation of these degradations in terms of availability of low criticality tasks is not considered by these works. In addition, MCS also neglect the fact that real-time systems are often composed of tasks with *weakly hard* real-time constraints: a number of deadline misses is allowed for a number of consecutive executions [5].

In this paper, we propose a Mixed-Criticality (MC) model to improve the availability of low criticality tasks. We also propose a method and tool to evaluate availability of these tasks. The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: our task and fault models are presented in Section II. Enhancements for the availability of low criticality services are described in Section III. Section IV presents the method used to compute the availability rates of MCS. Our contribution is evaluated in Section V. We discuss related works on Section VI and conclude in Section VII.

## II. TASK AND FAULT MODEL

In this section, we present the task model (subsection II-A) we rely on in order to improve and analyse the availability of low criticality tasks of a MCS. We also present our model for fault sources (subsection II-B).

### A. Task Model

We consider MCS with two operational modes noted HI (high criticality) and LO (low criticality). When the system

is in LO mode (initial mode), all HI and LO tasks can be executed on the platform until their optimistic timing budget in LO mode (noted  $C_i(LO)$  for a task  $\tau_i$ ). For each task  $\tau_i$ ,  $C_i(LO) \leq C_i(HI)$  ( $C_i(HI)$  is the timing budget of  $\tau_i$  in HI mode). A Timing Failure Event (TFE) occurs when a task  $\tau_i$  runs for its  $C_i(LO)$  but has not produced its results.

To represent parallelism and execution dependencies among tasks, we consider applications of our MCS are modeled by Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAG). Our model, noted MC-DAG, is composed of tasks represented by vertices in the graph. Each task  $\tau_i$  is characterized by a criticality level  $\chi_i \in LO, HI$ , a timing budget in LO mode  $C_i(LO)$  and a timing budget in HI mode  $C_i(HI)$  ( $C_i(HI) = 0$  if  $\chi_i \in LO$ ). Edges in the DAG materialize precedence constraints among tasks.

Some tasks of the DAG are identified as *output tasks*: they produce the external outputs of the DAG. We consider a service is delivered when the corresponding external output task of the DAG has finished its execution. We note *LO outputs* the outputs produced by LO tasks. Thus, computing the availability of low criticality services (noted *LO services*) boils to compute the availability of LO outputs.

### B. Modeling Fault Sources

To evaluate the availability of low criticality services in MCS, we need to quantify the occurrence of TFEs in terms of probabilities and time. In our study, we assume that probabilities of TFEs are provided: for each task  $\tau_i$ , a TFE probability  $p_i$  is given. Measured Based Time Analysis (MBTA) can be used to obtain a distribution of the execution time for a task, as it is shown in [6]. This technique, among others ([7], [8]) can be used to compute the probability of a TFE. When no fault resilience is considered for LO tasks of the MCS, (*i.e.* considering MCS as defined in the seminal work on this topic [2]) obtaining an availability rate for LO tasks could be straightforward. Considering the TFE probabilities of tasks and a predefined termination order of these tasks, the availability  $A(\tau_i)$  of a task  $\tau_i$  is defined by the following formula, where  $pred(\tau_i)$  is the set of tasks terminating before  $\tau_i$ :

$$A(\tau_i) = 1 - (p_{\tau_i} + \sum_{\tau_j \in pred(\tau_i)} p_{\tau_j}). \quad (1)$$

This statement advocates for the use of static scheduling tables in order to have a unique execution order of tasks. Indeed, with a dynamic scheduling algorithm on a multi-core architecture the number of execution orders among tasks grows rapidly and makes the availability computation impractical. Static scheduling also facilitates the certification of the execution environment, *e.g.* the ARINC653 avionic standard uses static scheduling tables to ease the certification process. For these reasons, we limit the scope of our study to static scheduling algorithms: tasks are dispatched according to predefined scheduling tables (one for each execution mode). Each task  $\tau_i$  is dispatched in predefined windows with a start date and end date. If task  $\tau_i$  is able to complete its execution before the end of its time window, the remaining of the window is not re-allocated, *i.e.* the core executing  $\tau_i$  would be idle until the end of the time window. Static tables

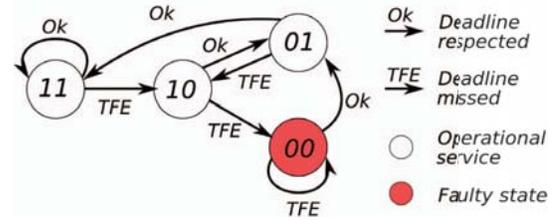


Fig. 1: (1 – 2)-firm task representation

also justify the adoption of the discard approach for LO tasks: varying periods and budgets for LO tasks would require to compute a large number of scheduling tables. We assume the static scheduling tables are also given as an input for our method. Results presented in [9], [10] can be used to obtain such scheduling tables.

Even under these hypotheses, computing the availability of LO services is not trivial: the resilience of tasks to transient timing failures has to be considered. In addition, faults propagation must be controlled in order to enhance availability of LO services. For this reason, we propose the fault propagation model described in the next section.

## III. ENHANCING AVAILABILITY ON LO TASKS

To enhance the availability of LO services we propose to apply three improvements: 1) As long as they appear in LO tasks, **TFEs are only propagated to compromised tasks in the MC-DAG**. 2) A recovery mechanism reintroduces LO tasks in the next iteration of the scheduling table, so the scheduler always (re)starts in LO mode. 3) Resilience of tasks to TFE is modeled using **weakly hard real-time constraints**.

### A. Modeling Faults Propagation

When a TFE occurs in a HI task, the system switches to the HI mode. LO tasks are discarded and the timing budget of HI tasks is extended to complete their execution.

In our contribution we are interested in providing a degree of allowance on the system and mitigate faults occurring in LO tasks. For this reason, when a TFE occurs in a LO task, we limit its propagation in the MCS. Instead of performing a mode transition to the HI criticality mode, only the faulty task is canceled and its successors in the MC-DAG are not executed. Since the application is modeled by a DAG, we are able to determine which LO tasks are affected by the TFE: we know which part of the graph will not be able to execute. As opposed to existing works on MCS, tasks that do not depend on the failing task are allowed to complete their execution.

To enhance even further the availability of LO services, we model the resilience of real-time systems to transient timing failures thanks to weakly hard real-time tasks [5]. These are often modeled with a  $(m - k)$  firm constraint: TFEs can occur without interrupting the services as long as  $m$  out of  $k$  consecutive executions do not miss their deadlines. Fig. 1 illustrates on a state machine the behavior of an (1 – 2) firm task: out of two consecutive executions, at least one needs to respect the deadline, the service can rely on produced or existing results. On this figure, the history of two consecutive

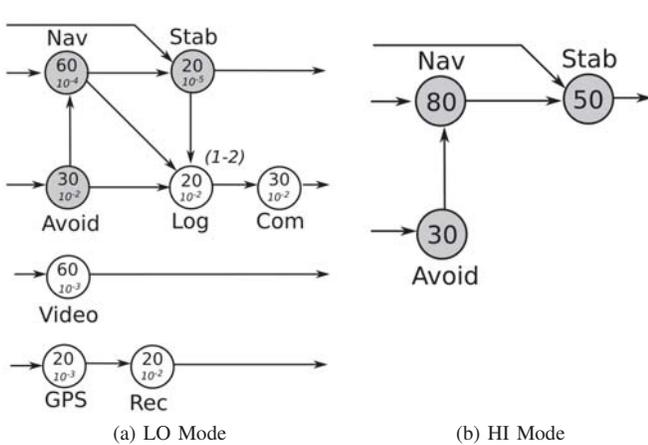


Fig. 2: Architecture example

executions is represented with a binary encoding for each state. Correct executions are marked with a 1, and deadline misses are marked with a 0: 11 means that both the  $i^{th}$  and  $(i+1)^{th}$  iterations were non-faulty while 01 means that the  $i^{th}$  iteration was faulty while the  $(i+1)^{th}$  iteration was non-faulty. The status of task executions is represented by transitions among states. In the remainder of this paper, LO tasks enhanced with  $(m-k)$  firm constraints are referred as **LO\*** tasks.

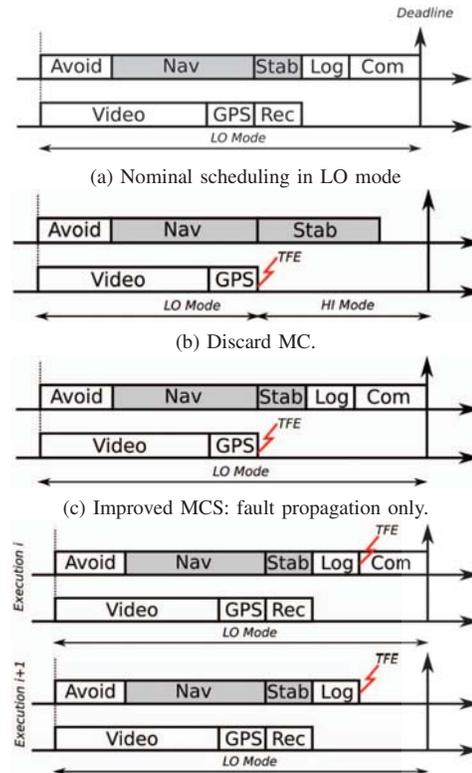
If the system switched to HI mode, the recovery of LO tasks is performed: once the system has finished executing the scheduling table in HI mode, at the next execution of the scheduling table, the system goes back to LO mode. Safe mode transitions from the LO to the HI mode are ensured using scheduling methods of [9], [10], *i.e.* the system is capable of switching to the HI mode if a TFE occurs and HI tasks do not miss their deadlines during the transition. Therefore, reallocating LO tasks on the next execution of the MC-DAG is possible and does not compromise the execution of HI tasks.

### B. Illustrative Example

An example of a MC-DAG is illustrated in Fig. 2. The system represents an Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV). HI tasks are illustrated by gray vertices while LO tasks are the white vertices. Each node is annotated with its timing budget for the LO and HI modes. In Fig. 2a the system in LO mode is represented. For example task *GPS* has a  $C_i(LO) = 20 TU$  with a TFE probability of  $10^{-3}$ . Some of these tasks can also be  $(m-k)$  firm: task *Log* in the example is an  $(1-2)$  firm as identified by its label. The HI mode is illustrated by Fig. 2b.

The navigation system of the UAV is composed of tasks *Avoid* (Avoidance), *Nav* (Navigation) and *Stab* (Stability) which are HI tasks. These ensure that the UAV will not crash. Nonetheless, if the UAV is used on an exploration mission, what is interesting for the end users is the record *Rec* of the *GPS* coordinates and the *Video* transmissions: it would be interesting to deliver them whenever it is possible.

The following scenarii show how the MCS reacts to TFE that occur on different tasks of the MCS in Fig. 2. For space limitation we assume there is only one DAG in the MCS



(d)  $(1-2)$  firm: mode transition in the second execution.

Fig. 3: Examples of TFE MC on different tasks.

with a single period/deadline. As long as scheduling tables are provided, the analysis remains the same even with various DAGs and different periods/deadlines, since we consider the hyper-period for the analysis. Fig. 3a shows the nominal scheduling tables of the MC-DAG in LO mode. When a TFE occurs on task *GPS* in a discard MC model, a mode transition occurs, as shown in Fig. 3b. A TFE in the *GPS* task provokes a mode switch and discards the execution of the *Log* and *Com* tasks. However, there is no dependency between the *GPS* task on the one hand, and the *Log* or *Com* task on the other hand. With our fault propagation model (Fig. 3c) this is no longer the case, and tasks *Log* and *Com* can complete their execution. Finally, Fig. 3d shows how the system is able to tolerate a TFE on the *Log* task if it is  $(1-2)$  firm: two consecutive faults on the task need to take place to discard its successors.

As shown on these scenarii, we expect our fault propagation model to enhance the availability of LO services in MCS. To determine if these enhancements are significant in terms of availability, we propose a method to compute availability in the next section.

## IV. COMPUTING AVAILABILITY RATES

We consider that services of the MC-DAG are delivered when output tasks are executed. We thus focus on the availability of LO outputs of the MC-DAG. To compute this availability, when LO\* tasks are deployed in the MCS, Eq. 1 does not hold: the availability analysis is too complex due

to the behavior of  $LO^*$  tasks. By using Eq. 2, the availability value can be obtained: counting the number of times an output was produced, divided by the total executions of the graphs in LO mode ( $LO_{exec}$ ) and HI mode ( $HI_{exec}$ ).

$$A(out_i) = Num\_prod_i / (LO_{exec} + HI_{exec}). \quad (2)$$

We propose a method to compute the availability of LO outputs by translating the MC-DAG and scheduling tables into probabilistic automata and evaluation formulas used by the PRISM simulator [11].

#### A. Probabilistic Automata (PA) in PRISM

PRISM is a probabilistic model checker capable of analyzing systems that exhibit complex probabilistic behaviors, e.g. security and embedded systems. Our fault model with TFEs being probabilistic justifies the utilization of this tool to perform our availability analysis. A PRISM model is made of a set of PA, and each automaton is characterized by: *states* to represent tasks' execution, *local variables* for our fault propagation model, *probabilistic transitions* to represent TFEs, *rewards* to count output productions and *deterministic transitions* to incorporate our recovery mechanism.

#### B. Probabilistic Automaton for Scheduling Tables

The idea behind the translation of scheduling tables to a PA is to represent the state of the processor, i.e. which task is running and in which mode. However, having parallel automata in PRISM increases significantly the simulation time due to the large number of possible states. Since all tasks need to be checked, doing it in a sequential manner does not change the final result but significantly reduces the simulation time.

To check completion of tasks, we sort the tasks of the MC-DAG by their end of time window in the LO scheduling table, and create an ordered list of tasks in LO mode. For each task  $\tau_i$  in this list (where  $i$  is the index of this task in the list) we create a state  $L_i$  and a boolean variable  $b_i$ . Due to parallelism obtainable thanks to multi-core processors, tasks can have the same end of time window. This has to be taken into consideration for the availability computation since mode transitions can be triggered by HI tasks but LO outputs can be available at the same time slot. Ties in the list need to be broken with the following rules: 1) LO tasks that are exit nodes of the graph go first: we need to know if their output is available. 2) HI tasks go afterwards, a mode transition occurs when they have a TFE. 3) Other LO tasks are checked at the end, no mode transition occurs even if they fail.

After generating the states representing the execution of tasks in LO mode, we connect them with the following rules:

1) From a state  $L_i$ : if it represents a LO task, we add to next state  $L_{i+1}$ . One representing the occurrence of a TFE (with a probability  $p_i$ ) and updates  $b_i$  to false, whereas the other (with a probability  $1 - p_i$ ) updates  $b_i$  to true.

2) If  $L_i$  is a  $LO^*$  task, we add an intermediary state  $L_i^*$  and a set of  $k$  variables to represent the execution history of  $k$  executions of  $\tau_i$ . We connect  $L_i^*$  to  $L_i$  with two probabilistic transitions. In each transition, the execution history is updated

to account for a new correct or incorrect execution of  $\tau_i$ .  $L_i^*$  is then connected to  $L_{i+1}$  thanks to two deterministic transitions. The guard of the first transition checks if at least  $m$  out of  $k$  executions of the  $LO^*$  task were correct. If that is the case boolean,  $b_i$  is set to true. The second transition represents a failure of the  $LO^*$  task (i.e. less than  $m$  out of  $k$  executions were correct), and boolean  $b_i$  is set to false.

3) If  $L_i$  is a LO output task, we also need an intermediary state, noted  $L_i^{out}$ , to check if all the predecessors of  $L_i$  executed normally. We also add a reward  $out_i$  to count for the number of cycles where the output is produced (used for Eq. 2). Then,  $L_i$  is connected to  $L_i^{out}$  with two probabilistic transitions. One with a probability  $p_i$  updates  $b_i$  to false, the other with a probability  $1 - p_i$  updates  $b_i$  to true.  $L_i^{out}$  is then linked to  $L_{i+1}$  with two deterministic transitions. The first one represents the production of the output (i.e. service delivery) and is guarded by a boolean conjunction of the boolean variables representing the execution of  $\tau_i$  and all its predecessors in the MC-DAG. When firing this transition, the reward  $out_i$  is incremented. For the output  $Rec$ , this transition is guarded by  $b_{GPS} \wedge b_{Rec}$  and reward  $out_{Rec}$  is incremented. The second transition represents the non production of the output (i.e. the conjunction is false).

4) If  $L_i$  is a HI task, we add a probabilistic transition from  $L_i$  to  $L_{i+1}$  with probability  $1 - p_i$ . This represents  $\tau_i$  executing within its timing budget. Since  $L_i$  is a HI task, the system switches to HI mode in case of TFEs. We explain how the execution in HI mode is represented in the generated PA in the remainder of this subsection.

Note that if  $L_i$  is a HI task and an output task, a combination of rules 1 and 3 is applied. This is not detailed for space limitation reasons. Besides, when  $L_i$  is the last state of the list,  $L_{i+1}$  becomes  $L_0$ : the execution of the MC-DAG is cyclic.

To translate the scheduling table in HI mode, we also sort the nodes of the MC-DAG by their end of time window in the HI scheduling table. For each task  $\tau_i$  in the ordered list we create a state  $H_i$  in the PA we generate.  $H_i$  represents the execution of  $\tau_i$  in HI mode. To represent a mode switch in case of TFEs in a HI task  $\tau_i$ , we add a probabilistic transition from  $L_i$  to  $H_i$  with a probability of  $p_i$  (probability of TFE in  $\tau_i$ ). We then connect each state  $H_i$  with its successor in the list using deterministic transitions. Note here that if  $H_i$  is the last state of the list, it is actually connected to  $L_0$  with a deterministic transition: this represents the recovery mechanism.

Fig. 4 illustrates the PA obtained by our translation algorithm with the MC-DAG of Fig. 2. Dotted lines represent probabilistic transitions. As we can see they are annotated with TFE probabilities:  $p_{\tau_i}$ . Intermediary states to account for the production of LO outputs are  $L_{Video}^{out}$ ,  $L_{Rec}^{out}$  and  $L_{Com}^{out}$  for tasks *Video*, *Rec* and *Com*. Deterministic transitions come from these states (full lines in the figure) and are guarded by the boolean conjunctions of the output's predecessors.  $L_{Log}^*$  is the intermediary state introduced in order to test the  $(m - k)$  firm behavior of task *Log*.

Once the PA is generated, we use a reward operator (noted  $R$  in PRISM) to compute the cumulative value, for a number

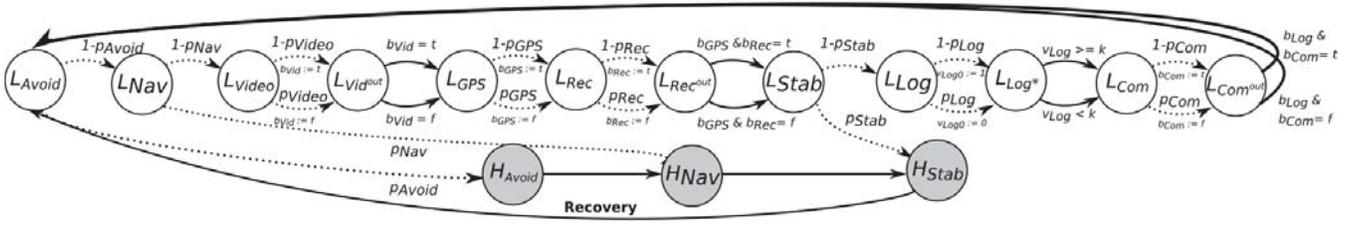


Fig. 4: Translation of the UAV system

of simulation steps (each step triggers one transition for the automaton), of rewards associated to outputs of the MC-DAG. A similar mechanism is used to compute the number of executions of the scheduling tables in LO and HI mode. This is finally translated in a formula to compute availability of outputs as expressed in Eq. 2.

We proceed to test our translation algorithm in the next section where we consider different architectures to compute their availability rate.

## V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An implementation of our translation of MC-DAG to PRISM automata is available as an open source project<sup>1</sup>. We present in this section the results we obtained when using this tool to analyse the availability of low criticality services of the UAV system illustrated on Fig. 2. We also present the threats to validity of these results.

### A. Experimental Setup and Results

We perform the availability analysis under three different execution models : (i) the discard MC one (a TFE triggers a mode transition), (ii) our enhanced MC model and (iii) our enhancement enriched with LO\* tasks.

We compute the availability rates for services *Video*, *Rec* and *Com* thanks to our tool. We set the maximum number of steps simulated in PRISM: each step triggers one transition of the automaton. We simulated the execution of our system for  $5 \times 10^6$  steps to obtain a stable value of availability with a precision of  $10^{-7}$ . Such precision is typically required when a system is supposed to be used for years: in this case, a difference of availability at scale  $10^{-7}$  can make a difference. For instance, an avionics function at level B of criticality (second most critical) must have a probability of failure of  $10^{-7}$  per hour of flight (and  $10^{-5}$  for level C). In our experiments, the number of steps we used to reach this precision was set experimentally, observing the stabilization of the availability value during the simulation of the model.

Table I provides the results obtained when computing availability rates of the UAV example. The availability values of outputs *Rec* and *Com* are improved when we consider allowance on the MCS. The first improvement can be seen when our enhanced mode transition condition is used: *Rec* and *Com* are more available than in the discard MC model. The fact that mode switches are not triggered at every TFE and that faults in LO tasks are only propagated to dependent

<sup>1</sup>[https://github.com/robertoxmed/l\\_s\\_mxc](https://github.com/robertoxmed/l_s_mxc)

TABLE I: Experimental results

Outputs	Availability Rate		
	Discard MC	Enhanced MC	Enhanced MC w/ WHRT
<i>Video</i>	98.90099%	98.90099%	98.90099%
<i>Rec</i>	97.80331%	97.90121%	97.90121%
<i>Com</i>	95.85703%	97.01922%	97.98941%

tasks has a positive impact on availability. This is improved even further for the *Com* output when the *Log* task is a LO\* task with an  $(1 - 2)$  firm behavior: the task is capable of mitigating some TFEs that can occur. We observe a significant gain of availability for the *Com* service: more than 2% when considering *Log* as an  $(1 - 2)$  firm task, and more than 1% otherwise. This is a very significant difference for a critical system, specially when a precision of  $10^{-7}$  is required.

These experimental results show the efficiency of our method, as well as the effectiveness of the fault propagation model we propose: it significantly improves the availability of low criticality services in critical systems.

### B. Threats to Validity

The threats to validity of our experimental results are formulated as follows: does the method scale for more complex systems? Is the availability improvement measured on the example repeatable?

In terms of complexity, we expect the scalability of our method to be influenced by the complexity of the input model (*i.e.* number of tasks, number of LO\* tasks, number of outputs, etc.) and the required precision of the availability: the number of simulation steps increases when high precision is required, but also when tasks have a high probability of failure. In order to evaluate the scalability of our approach with regards to the complexity of the input model, we measure the time required to obtain the availability of low criticality services in more and more complex examples.

For the UAV example of Fig. 2, computing the availability rate for each LO output after  $5 \times 10^6$  steps took 10-20 seconds with an Intel®Core™ i7-5600U CPU @ 2.60GHz. We produced more complex examples by replicating the UAV of Fig. 2 up to 5 times in a single MC-DAG. The computation of our availability rate grows rapidly: when 3 replicas of the DAG are considered the computation of an availability rate takes up to 4 hours. For 5 replicas the computation of the availability takes up to 26 hours. This model is made up of 40 tasks (20 LO tasks, 5 LO\* tasks, 15 HI tasks) and 20 outputs (5 HI, 15 LO), and failure probabilities vary from  $10^{-5}$  to  $10^{-2}$  (see Fig 2). We obtained an availability value with a precision of  $10^{-5}$ , which is quite high for low criticality services.

We believe that this example is representative of a complex system with pessimistic hypothesis for our method (high precision required with high probabilities of TFEs:  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-3}$  for most tasks). In this context, 26 hours is still acceptable for an early validation of the QoS of a complex and critical system. If quicker results must be obtained, for instance to compare architectures at early stages of the development process, the precision can be set to smaller values. For example, with 4 replicas of the UAV MC-DAG, TFE probabilities of  $10^{-4}$  for every task, and a precision of  $10^{-5}$ , we could obtain availability of outputs in 1 hour of simulation ( $2 \times 10^{-5}$  steps).

In terms of repeatability, the threat to validity concerns the gain of availability measured in our experiments. We have a significant gain of availability for the *Com* service on the UAV example. On the one hand, we expect this gain to be smaller with more realistic probabilities of TFEs. On the other hand, we expect this gain to grow if more LO tasks are added to the MC-DAG: if a discard MC model is adopted additional TFE points are introduced to the scheduler. To evaluate these statements, we performed new experiments and measured the improvement of availability for the *Com* service when using our approach versus discard MC model. First, using the UAV example with TFE probabilities to  $10^{-4}$  for all tasks, the gain was of 0.04% when considering *Log* as an (1 – 2) firm task, and 0.03% otherwise. Second, we increase the number of LO tasks by considering 4 replicas of the UAV, the gain was of 0.2% when considering *Log* as an (1 – 2) firm task, and 0.16% otherwise. Again, all these gains are very significant when a precision of  $10^{-5}$  or  $10^{-7}$  is required for a low criticality service, confirming our expectations and showing the repeatability of our results.

## VI. RELATED WORKS

Taking into account QoS for LO tasks has recently been tackled in the MC domain. The scheduling approach presented in [3] proposes to change periods of LO criticality tasks in order to have a minimum service of LO tasks: the period is incremented to have less activations of LO tasks but they are still executed in the HI mode. Adaptations to the discard MC model have also been proposed [12], where LO tasks also have a  $C_i(HI)$  smaller than their  $C_i(LO)$ . A scheduling algorithm is proposed in this contribution and proved to be dominant over other studies considering the same task model. Nonetheless these works consider independent task sets and mono-core architectures. Improving the QoS for LO tasks thanks to fault-tolerance for MCS has been studied in [13]. Authors consider a degraded LO mode when overruns and transient faults occur the system, allowing the execution of LO tasks even after failures. However, none of these works propose a method to measure the improvements on the QoS in terms of availability of low criticality services.

A method to compute an availability of LO tasks in MCS was proposed in [14]. To our knowledge this is the only existing contribution considering an availability analysis for MCS with task precedence constraints. Nonetheless, no enhancement of the discard MC model is proposed in this work.

## VII. CONCLUSION

This paper presents two contributions: a method to compute the availability of low criticality services in Mixed-Criticality Systems, and a model to improve this availability. Experimental results show the usability of our method, as well as the enhancement of this availability with the model we proposed. Last but not least, an open-source implementation of the proposed approach is available.

In the future, we plan to extend this work to support  $N$  levels of criticality. We also plan to extend our code generation framework to automate the generation of software applications with both immediate (*i.e.* modeled as MC-DAGs) and delayed deterministic communications [15].

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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