A DISTRIBUTION-AGNOSTIC AND CORRELATION-AWARE ANALYSIS OF PERIODIC TASKS

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THE RISE OF PROBABILISTIC ANALYSIS

Many modern systems **fail** to meet their timing requirements

Expert Opinion on Tesla Model S with Autopilot, 2016

NHTSA Recall notice 1

NHTSA Recall notice 2

NHTSA Recall notice 3

NHTSA Recall notice 4

VW/Audi / Nov. 2022



Many safety standards are defined in terms of failure probability

SIL	Low demand mode	Continuous/High demand mode
	prob. failure on demand	prob. failure per hour
1	$\geq 10^{-2}$ to < 10^{-1}	$\geq 10^{-6}$ to < 10^{-5}
2	$\geq 10^{-3}$ to < 10^{-2}	$\geq 10^{-7}$ to < 10^{-6}
3	$\geq 10^{-4}$ to < 10^{-3}	$\geq 10^{-8}$ to < 10^{-7}
4	$\geq 10^{-5}$ to < 10^{-4}	$\geq 10^{-9}$ to < 10^{-8}



 Table 1: IEC 61508: Permitted Failure Probabilities [1]

[1] "The safe and effective application of probabilistic techniques in safety-critical systems", Agrawal et al. ICCAD (2020)

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Surviving an In-Flight Anomaly: What Happened on Ingenuity's Sixth Flight,

NASA, Håvard Grip. 2021



Many modern systems are **not statically** analyzable but rather **statistically**

DEPENDENCE – A MAJOR OBSTACLE

There are several **open problems** in the field of probabilistic analysis



CORRELATION-TOLERANT ANALYSIS [3]

Sound, irrespective of **any** potential dependence

Inputs:

- \hat{e}_i : upper bound on the **mean** execution time (ET) of any job of task τ_i
- \hat{s}_i : upper bound on the **standard deviation** of the ET of any job of τ_i



[3] "CTA: A Correlation-Tolerant Analysis of the Deadline-Failure Probability of Dependent Tasks" Marković et al. RTSS (2023)

DEPENDENCE – A MAJOR OBSTACLE

However, these open problems remain **unaddressed**



THIS PAPER (PART 1) A CORRELATION-AWARE ANALYSIS

HOW TO MODEL DEPENDENCE?

"How to handle ... dependences between the execution times of (i) jobs of **the same task**, and (ii) jobs **of different tasks**?" [2]

HOW TO QUANTIFY DEPENDENCE?

"The impact of these dependences may vary based on how strong they are." [2]

[2] "A survey of probabilistic schedulability analysis techniques for real-time systems" Davis and Cucu-Grosjean LITES (2019)

HOW TO USE IT IN RT ANALYSIS?

"Analyses are needed that can address dependencies."

[2]

CORRELATION AWARENESS How do we model various types of dependence?



Covariance – a measure of the degree to which two random variables fluctuate together.



[2] "A survey of probabilistic schedulability analysis techniques for real-time systems" Davis and Cucu-Grosjean LITES (2019)

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Covariance of $C_{A,1}$ *and* $C_{B,1}$ $Cov[C_{A,1}, C_{B,1}] = 1 \dots Cov[C_{A,1}, C_{B,1}] = -1$



CORRELATION-AWARE ANALYSIS

An **efficient** way to analyse deadline-failure probability using **covariances**

Inputs:

- \hat{e}_i : upper bound on the **mean** execution time (ET) of any job of task τ_i
- \hat{s}_i : upper bound on the **standard deviation** of ET of any job of τ_i
- $\hat{v}_{i,i}$: upper bound on the ET **intra**-task **covariance** between any two jobs of τ_i
- $\hat{v}_{i,k}$: upper bound on the ET **inter**-task **covariance** between any two jobs of two distinct tasks τ_i and τ_k



[2] "A survey of probabilistic schedulability analysis techniques for real-time systems" Davis and Cucu-Grosjean LITES (2019)

CAA IN A NUTSHELL The **goal** is to express everything in terms of CAA inputs





CAA IN A NUTSHELL

CAA rests on ...

all covariance pairs



EVALUATION How do CAA results compare to CTA in general?



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CTA: A Correlation-Tolerant Analysis of the Deadline-Failure Probability of Dependent Tasks

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Abstract—Estimating the worst-case deadline failure probability (WCDFP) of a real-time task is notoriously difficult, primarily ing remarks of their recent survey [19]: "Issues of dependence because a task's execution time typically depends on prior activations (*i.e.*, history dependence) and the execution of other tasks (*e.g.*, via shared inputs). Previous analyses have either assumed that execution times are probabilistically independent time (pWCET), which mask dependencies with pessimism. Explor-ing an analytically novel direction, this paper proposes the first closed-form upper bound on WCDFP that accounts for dependent based on Cantell's inequality, targets fixed-priority scheduling and requires only two basic summary statistics of each task's ground truth execution time distribution: upper bounds on the mean and standard deviation (for any possible job-arrival sequence). Notably, CTA does not use pWCET, nor does it require the full execution time distribution to be known. Core parts of the analysis have been verified with the Coq proof assistant. Empirical comparison with state-of-the-art WCDFP analyses reveals that CTA can yield icmifeentity immerced hound (icm o, larger WCDFT) and the analysis may model execution times with independent random variables is finite with the probability of the workload state of the probability of the probability of the workload state of the the probability of the workload state of the workload s pWCET-ba 90% pWCET utilization and 60% average utilization). Beyond accuracy gains, the favorable results highlight the potential of the previously unexplored analytical direction underlying CTA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Probabilistic analysis of real-time systems holds the promise of addressing the central challenge of modern hardware and software architectures: unavoidable uncertainty in the execution behavior of real-time tasks. Such uncertainty, deeply embedded in the fabric of modern computing systems, more often than not ways: first, CTA does not use pWCET, nor does it otherwise precludes meaningful (classical) worst-case analysis, leaving a stochastic perpettive as the out with the stription of the person of the stription of the person of the stription of the person of the stochastic perspective as the only viable option.

One of the most pressing open problems in this space is the issue of *dependent* execution times (also referred to as bounds on their means and standard deviations (under any bounds on their means and standard deviations). task's worst-case deadline-failure probability (WCDFP), it is rucial to account for possible dependencies on both previous crucial to account for possible dependencies on both previous activations (*intra-task dependence*) and other tasks in the system (*inter-task dependence*). If such dependencies are ignored, the WCDEP may be consult of the system in developing CTA, we make the following contributions: WCDFP may be severely under-approximated.

These observations are not new: the lack of independence • From Cantelli's inequality [9], we derive, and verify with in practice was recognized as a safety problem already more than 25 years ago by Tia et al. [49] in one of the first works on probabilistic schedulability analysis. Unfortunately, only • We formally model the execution of a stochastic sporadic little progress has been made on this issue since Tia et al.'s real-time workload under preemptive uniprocessor fixed

are of great importance in probabilistic schedulability analysis [...] Analyses are needed that can address dependencies".

Prior attempts at tackling dependence in state-of-the-art workich is unrealistic and unsafe), or relied on complex upper-bounding abstractions such as *probabilistic worst-case execution* WCDFP analyses have relied on over-approximation. The common idea in this line of work is to "pad" the groundcommon idea in this line of work is to "pad" the groundtruth execution-time distributions with "sufficient pessimism to the point that task behavior can be safely assumed to be indeexecution times. The proposed correlation-tolerant analysis (CTA), based on Cantelli's inequality, targets fixed-priority scheduling and in a sound manner is the concept of a probabilistic worst-case

> may model execution times with independent random variables following the pWCET distribution, provided the pWCET distribution is suitably determined [19]. However, a significant limitation of such independence-assuming analysis (IAA) lies in its inherent over-approximation of the ground truth, which can lead to considerable pessimism compared to actual behavior.

This paper. Exploring a fundamentally different direction, we under fixed-priority scheduling. CTA is based on Cantelli's inequality [9] and departs from the state of the art in three major knowledge of the ground-truth distributions, as it uses only execution-time correlation). Specifically, when bounding a tack's worst area deviations (inder any possible job-arrival sequence); and last but not least, CTA is

- We convey the core idea with a simple example (Sec. II). Coq [13, 41], an upper bound on the sum of random
- variables with unknown degrees of correlation (Sec. IV).



EVALUATION Synthetic task sets were randomly generated to highlight differences between CTA and CAA.

Four experiments were conducted to investigate:

- 1. Influence of the **task set size** on DFP,
- 2. The influence of the **total mean utilization** on DFP,
- 3. The influence of the **maximum standard deviation** on DFP,
- 4. The influence of the **maximum correlation** on DFP.

In this talk, we focus on (1).



BUT, HOW DO WE DERIVE CAA (AND CTA) INPUTS? THIS PAPER (PART 2)

HOW TO STATISTICALLY INFER DEPENDENCE?

"Appropriate statistical studies are needed to investigate the **types of dependences** and their impact on probabilistic schedulability analysis" [2]

[2] "A survey of probabilistic schedulability analysis techniques for real-time systems" Davis and Cucu-Grosjean LITES (2019)



ANOTHER PROBLEM: DISTRIBUTION MISCLASSIFICATION

Incorrectly assuming the **wrong** underlying distribution can lead to **unsound** results



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Cambridge Series in Statistical and Probabilistic Mathematics

The Fundamentals of Heavy Tails

Properties, Emergence, and Estimation

Jayakrishnan Nair Adam Wierman **Bert Zwart**

GOAL: DISTRIBUTION-AGNOSTIC STATISTICAL INFERENCE

We use Nonparametric Bootstrap

A random variable with an **unknown** distribution and **unknown** expectation

Step 1. Draw an initial sample *I* of *n* independent observations of *X*

Step 2. Generate *b* bootstrap samples (by randomly resampling with replacement from the initial sample I)

Step 3. Compute the bootstrap statistic on each bootstrap sample **B**



Output: Bootstrap distribution of the expectation

But how do we obtain sound upper bounds from the bootstrap distribution?

CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

The key to deriving **upper bounds** on parameters from an unknown distribution

A random variable X with an **unknown** distribution and **unknown** expectation



Bootstrap distribution of the expectation

Step 4. Compute the confidence interval with a given level of confidence γ

Output: The **upper bound** of the confidence interval.



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sound but overly pessimistic upper bound

WHAT ARE THE GUARANTEES? How should we interpret the derived results?



- **No** statistical inference method can provide absolute certainty
- There is always a minuscule but **non-zero chance** that a ground-truth parameter **lies outside** the statistically estimated range



[5] "The correct interpretation of confidence intervals" Tan and Tan. Proceedings of Singapore Healthcare (2010)

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Correct confidence interval intepretation

• "A 95% CI simply means that if the study is conducted multiple times (multiple sampling from the same population) with corresponding 95% CI for the mean constructed, we expect 95% of these CIs to contain the true population mean"

• Bootstrapped CIs provide an excellent means of

estimating ground truth that is

- statistically rigorous
- distribution-agnostic
- sample-efficient
- mathematically well-understood



[5]

CONFIDENCE-BASED TASK PARAMETERS

All CAA and CTA inputs are obtained with bootstrapping from bounds on confidence intervals

- \hat{e}_i : upper bound on the **mean** execution time (ET)
- \widehat{s}_i : upper bound on the **standard deviation** of ET
- $\hat{v}_{i,i}$: upper bound on the ET **intra**-task **covariance**
- $\hat{v}_{i,k}$: upper bound on the ET **inter**-task **covariance**

Important tuning knobs



CASE STUDY How do CAA results compare to CTA **when using statistical inference**?

Three experiments on a **proof-of-concept** case study from WATERS 2017 workloads were conducted to investigate:

- 1. Influence of the **initial sample size** on DFP,
- 2. Influence of the **level of confidence** on DFP,





Initial sample size (**n**)









All DFP estimates **are sound**.

Both CAA and CTA tend towards their respective optimal DFP estimates as the initial sample size increases.

CASE STUDY Investigating the influence of the **level of confidence**



Level of confidence (γ)

All DFP estimates **are sound**.

Increasing the level of **confidence** leads to **more conservative** results for both analyses.

SUMMARY



CONTRIBUTIONS

HOW TO MODEL DEPENDENCE?

"How to handle ... dependences between the execution times of (i) jobs of the same task, and (ii) jobs of different tasks?"

HOW TO QUANTIFY DEPENDENCE?

"The impact of these dependences may vary based on how strong they are."

HOW TO USE THESE IN RT ANALYSIS?

"Analyses are needed that can address dependencies."

HOW TO STATISTICALLY INFER DEPENDENCE?

"Appropriate statistical studies are needed to investigate the types of dependences and their impact on probabilistic schedulability analysis"

BONUS: COMPUTATION EFFICIENCY!

"ensuring that they [analyses] can be applied to problems of a practical size."





[2] "A survey of probabilistic schedulability analysis techniques for real-time systems" Davis and Cucu-Grosjean LITES (2019)

2. Solved Problems

GOAL: DISTRIBUTION-AGNOSTIC STATISTICAL INFERENCE We use Nonparametric Bootstrap

A random variable with an **unknown** distribution

1. Draw an initial sample *I* of *n independent observations of X*

2. Generate **b** bootstrap samples (by randomly resampling with replacement from the initial sample *I*)

3. Compute the bootstrap statistic on each bootstrap sample **B**

Output: Bootstrap distribution of θ

