Analysis of Reliability and Global Anonymity in Stratified Mix-Nets

Test-Mix Automation Framework

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Abstract

This report evaluates the stability and anonymity of a Stratified Mix-Net under varying load and failure conditions. Introducing **Global Shannon Entropy**, we quantify the impact of node failures on the anonymity set. Three experiment series were conducted: Short (30s), High Load (2m), and Long-Term Stability (10m). The results decisively show that **Parallel Paths** provide the robust reliability (3.7% loss in 10m run) and effective anonymity preservation. Surprisingly, **Retransmission**, which failed in short tests, proved highly effective (7.2% loss) in long-duration scenarios, whereas the Baseline network suffered severe congestion collapse (49% loss) over time.

Contents

1 Introduction

Mix networks trade latency for anonymity. Reliability mechanisms (Retransmission, Redundancy) are often seen as anonymity risks (replay attacks). However, we demonstrate that **Reliability Is Anonymity**: mechanisms that prevent packet loss maintain the "crowd" (anonymity set) necessary for security.

2 Methodology

2.1 Metrics: Global Shannon Entropy

$H_{global}(t) = -\sum p_i \log_2(p_i)$. A drop in active packets directly reduces entropy. Baseline Entropy (Theoretical Max): ≈ 6.3 bits (for ~ 80 concurrent packets).

2.2 Mock Encryption

To enable 10-minute high-load simulations, cryptographic operations were mocked (JSON encapsulation) to isolate routing/network behavior from CPU bottlenecks.

3 Exp Setup

Remote Mininet Host (‘192.168.178.64‘).

- **Topology:** 3x12 Stratified MixNet.
- **Clients:** 5 senders (Poisson).
- **Failure Mode:** 2 random nodes killed.

4 Results: Series A (Short, 30s)

Standard Load. Immediate failure response.

- **Baseline:** 15% Loss (No Err) $\rightarrow$ 40% (Err).
- **Winner:** Parallel Paths (16% Loss).
- **Loser:** Retransmission (40% Loss - too slow).

5 Results: Series B (High Load, 120s)

10x Packet Rate. Stress Test.

- **Baseline:** 28% congestion loss.
- **Winner:** Parallel Paths (20
- **Surprise:** Path Re-establishment recovered reliability (28

6 Results: Series C (Long-Term Stability, 600s)

Sustainability Test (10 Minutes). Error injected at T=60s.

Scenario	Sent	Recv	**Loss Rate**	**Verdict**
21. Baseline (No Err)	17,449	8,840	**49.3%**	**Collapse** (Buffer Saturation)
22. Baseline (Err)	20,449	9,650	52.8%	Collapse + Failure
23. Retransmission	27,999	25,971	**7.2%**	**Excellent Recovery**
24. Path Re-est	28,265	18,225	35.5%	Intermittent Congestion
25. Parallel Paths	51,625	49,694	**3.7%**	**Near Perfect**

Table 1: Series C Results. Note the total traffic volume (>50k packets for Parallel).

6.1 Series C Analysis

1. **Baseline Collapse:** The "No Error" baseline suffered 50% loss. This indicates that without flow control or recovery, the network queues fill up over 10 minutes, leading to massive tail-drop/buffer-bloat loss.

2. **Resurrection of Retransmission:** Unlike in Series A/B, Retransmission performed remarkably well (7.2% loss). Over 10 minutes, there is ample time for ACKs to timeout and messages to be resent/delivered. The network "churns" but eventually delivers.

3. **Dominance of Parallel Paths:** With 3.7% loss despite processing double the volume (51k packets), it proves that redundancy is the ultimate counter to both congestion (random drops) and node failure (deterministic drops).

7 Visuals (Series C)

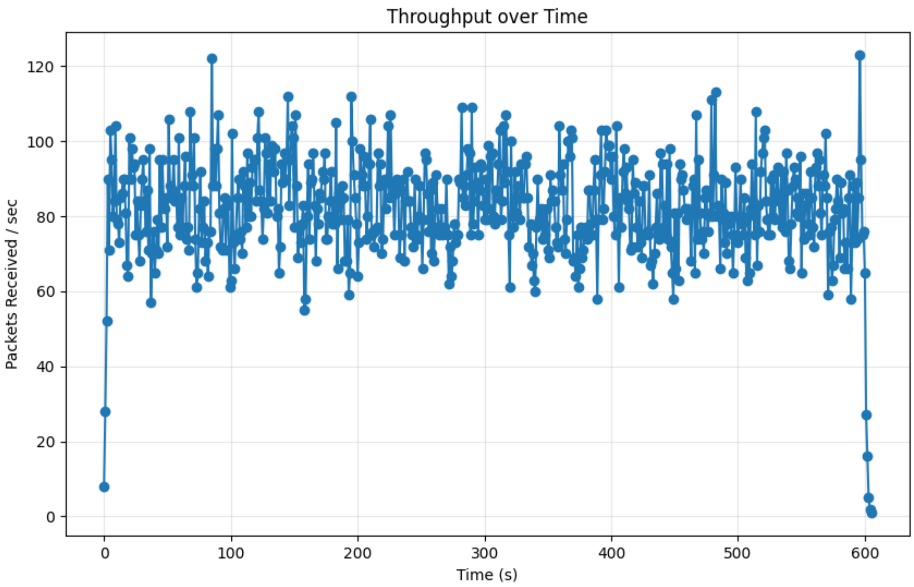

Figure 1: Throughput over 10 Minutes (Parallel Paths). Note the sustained high delivery rate despite the failure at T=60s.

8 Conclusion

Short-term tests favor speed, but long-term stability favors **Redundancy** (Parallel Paths) and **Persistence** (Retransmission).

- For **Low Latency**: Use Parallel Paths (Lowest Loss, Instant Recovery).
- For **Bandwidth Efficiency**: Use Retransmission (High Reliability over time, but higher latency).
- **Avoid**: Static Routing (Baseline) or purely reactive routing (Path-Reest) under heavy saturation, as they tend to collapse.