

# Quantifying the Resiliency of Fail-Operational Real-Time Networked Control Systems

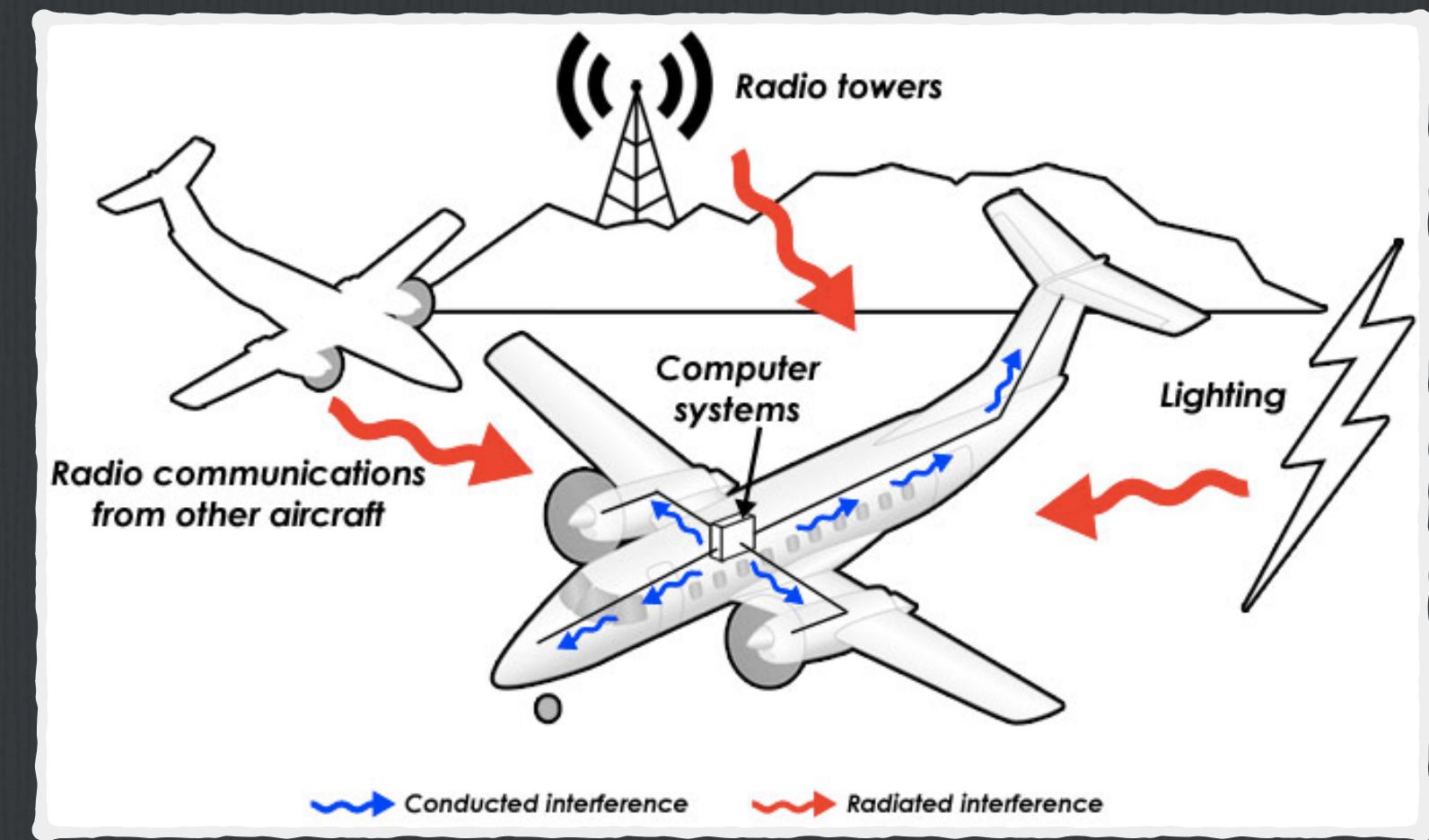
*Arpan Gujarati, Mitra Nasri,  
Björn B. Brandenburg*



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

# Embedded systems are susceptible to environmentally-induced transient faults

- Harsh environments
  - Robots operating under **hard radiation**
  - Industrial systems near **high-power machinery**
  - **Electric motors** inside automobile systems
- Bit-flips in registers, buffers, network



## Example\*

- One bit-flip in a 1 MB SRAM every  $10^{12}$  hours of operation
- 0.5 billion cars with an average daily operation time of 5%
- **About 5,000 cars are affected by a bit-flip every day**

\*Mancuso R. Next-generation safety-critical systems on multi-core platforms. PhD thesis, UIUC, 2017.

# Failures and errors due to transient faults in distributed real-time systems

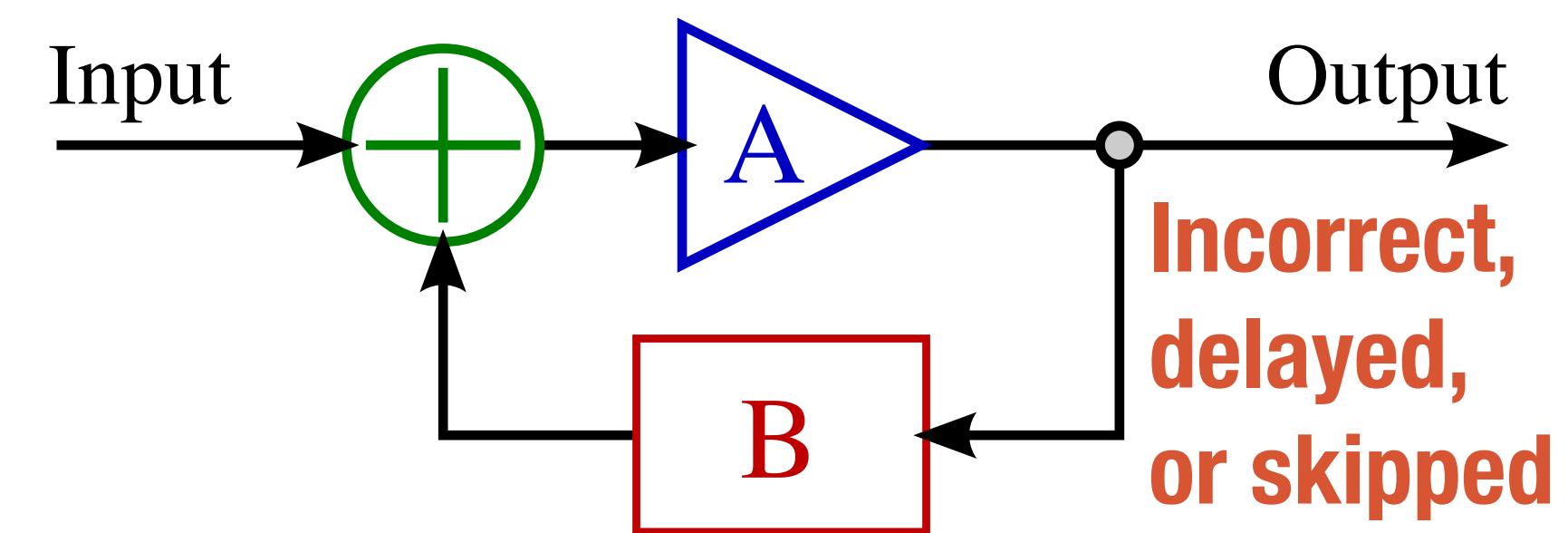
- Transmission errors
  - Faults on the network
- Omission Errors
  - Fault-induced kernel panics
- Incorrect computation Errors
  - Faults in the memory buffers



## Failures in:

- value domain (incorrect outputs)
- time domain (deadline violations)

## E.g., safety-critical control system



# Mitigating the effects of transient faults in distributed real-time systems

---

- **Transmission errors**
  - **Faults on the network**
  
- **Omission Errors**
  - **Fault-induced kernel panics**
  
- **Incorrect computation Errors**
  - **Faults in the memory buffers**

**Retransmissions at the network layer**

**Dual modular redundancy (DMR)**

**Triple modular redundancy (TMR)**

# Mitigating the effects of transient faults in distributed real-time systems

**How can we objectively compare  
the reliability offered by different  
mitigation techniques?**

- Omission Errors**
  - Fault-induced kernel panics
- Incorrect computation Errors**
  - Faults in the memory buffers

**Retransmissions at the network layer**

**Dual modular redundancy (DMR)**

**Triple modular redundancy (TMR)**

# Mitigating the effects of transient faults in distributed real-time systems

- The system must meet strict timing requirements
  - This leads to a high number of constraints
- How does the real-time requirement affect system reliability?  
When does it really become a bottleneck?
- Omission Errors
  - Fault-induced kernel panics
- What if the system is weakly-hard real-time,  
i.e., it can tolerate a few failures?

Dual modular redundancy (DMR)

Triple modular redundancy (TMR)

# Problem: Reliability analysis of networked control systems

---

Given

- 1 Networked control system (messages, period)
- 2 Robustness specification (weakly-hard constraints)
- 3 Active replication scheme (DMR, TMR, others)
- 4 Peak transient fault rates (for the network and the hosts)

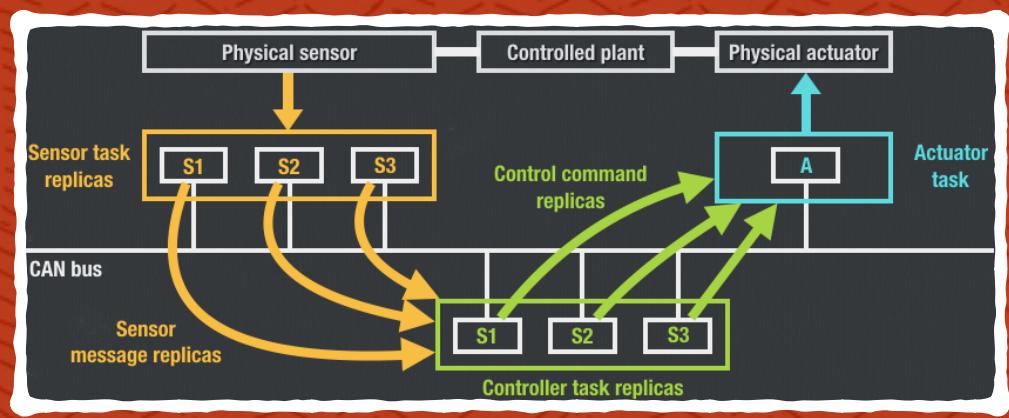
Objective

A safe upper bound on the failure rate of the networked control system

Failures-In-Time (FIT) = Expected # failures in one billion operating hours

# Outline

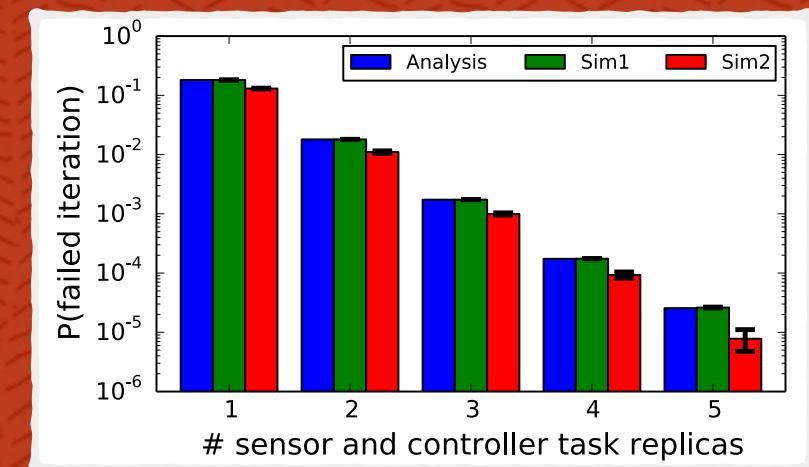
## Analysis of a Controller Area Network (CAN) based networked control system



System Model

$$\int_0^\infty t \cdot f(t) dt$$

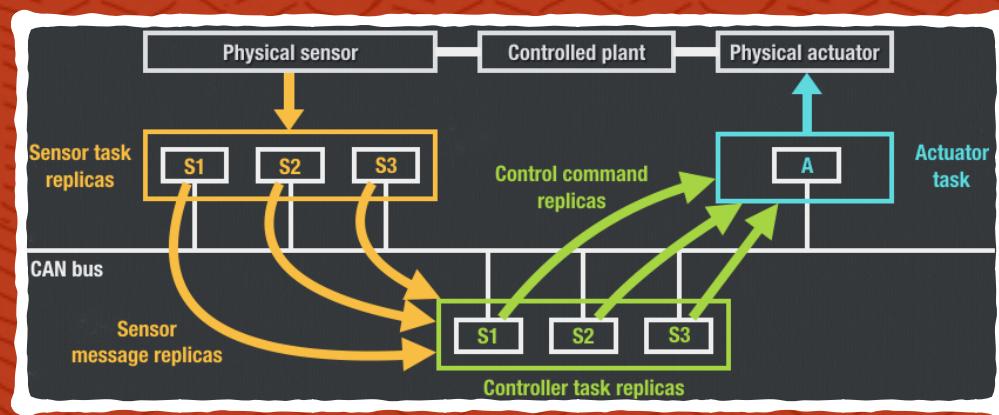
Analysis



Evaluation

# Outline

## Analysis of a Controller Area Network (CAN) based networked control system



System Model

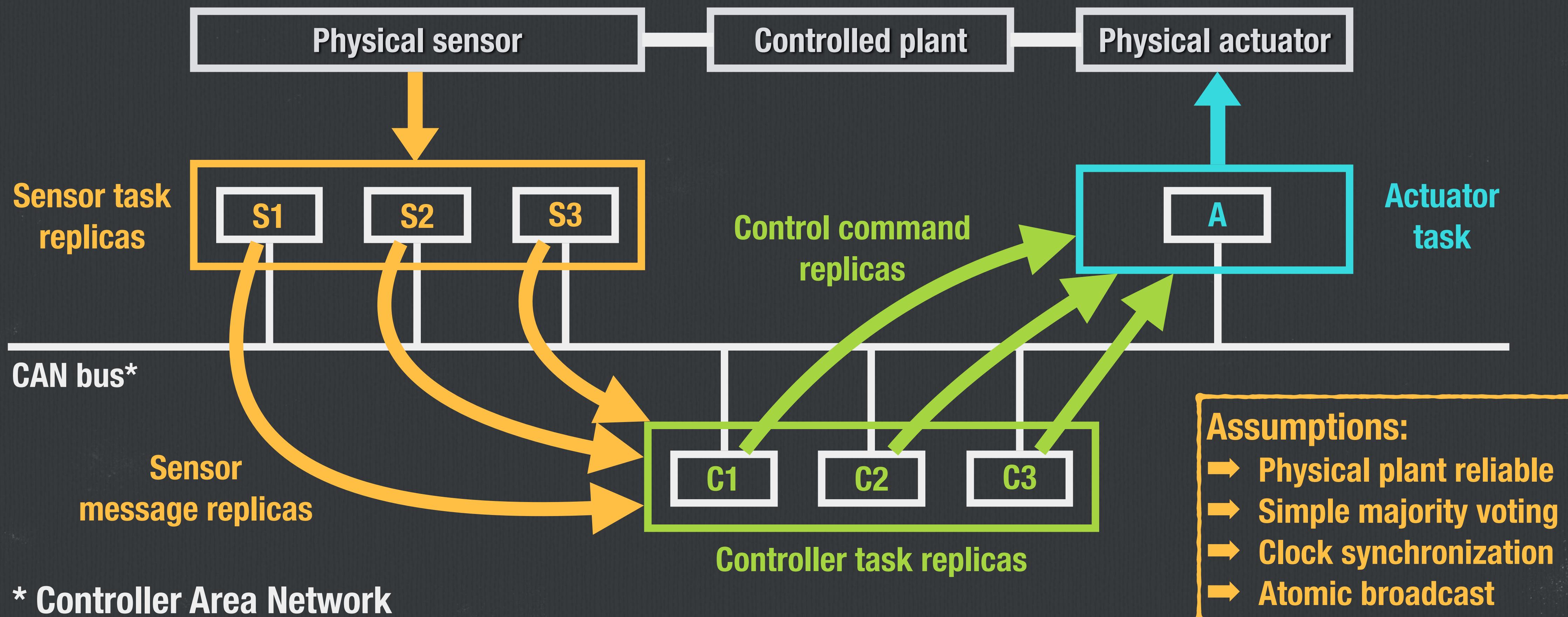
$$\int_0^\infty t \cdot f(t) dt$$

Analysis

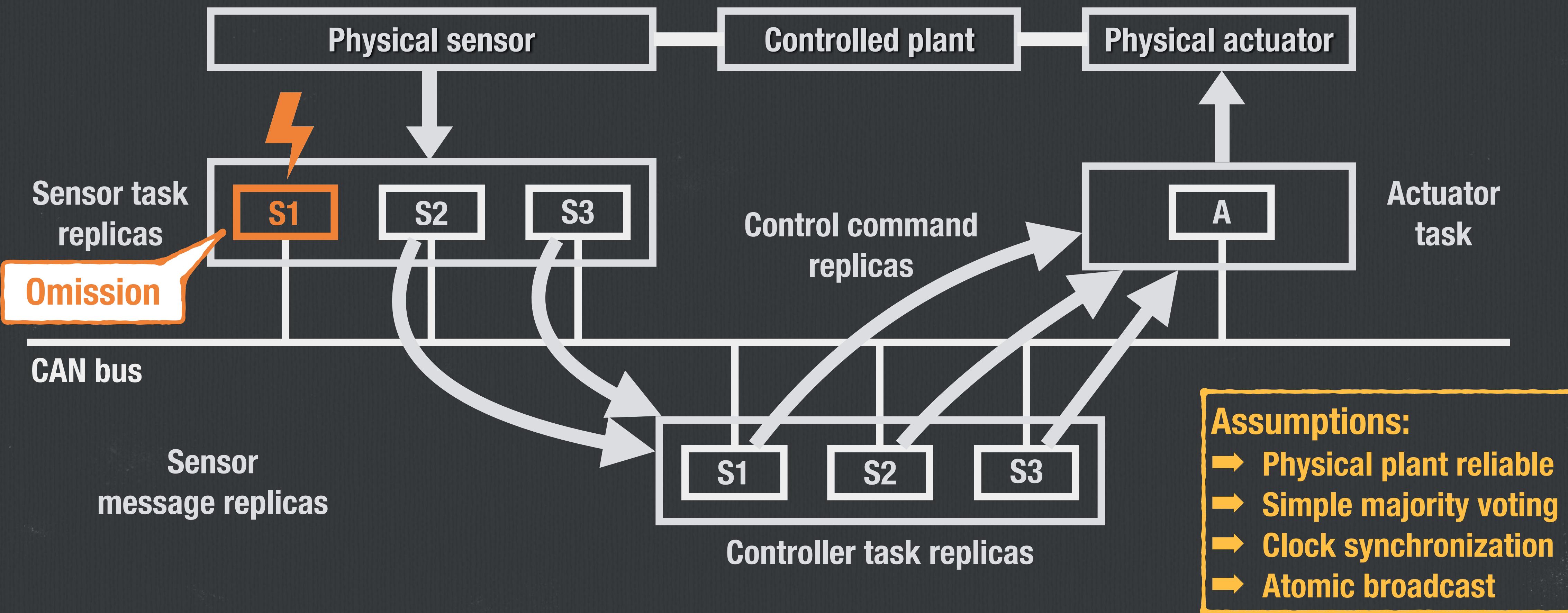


Evaluation

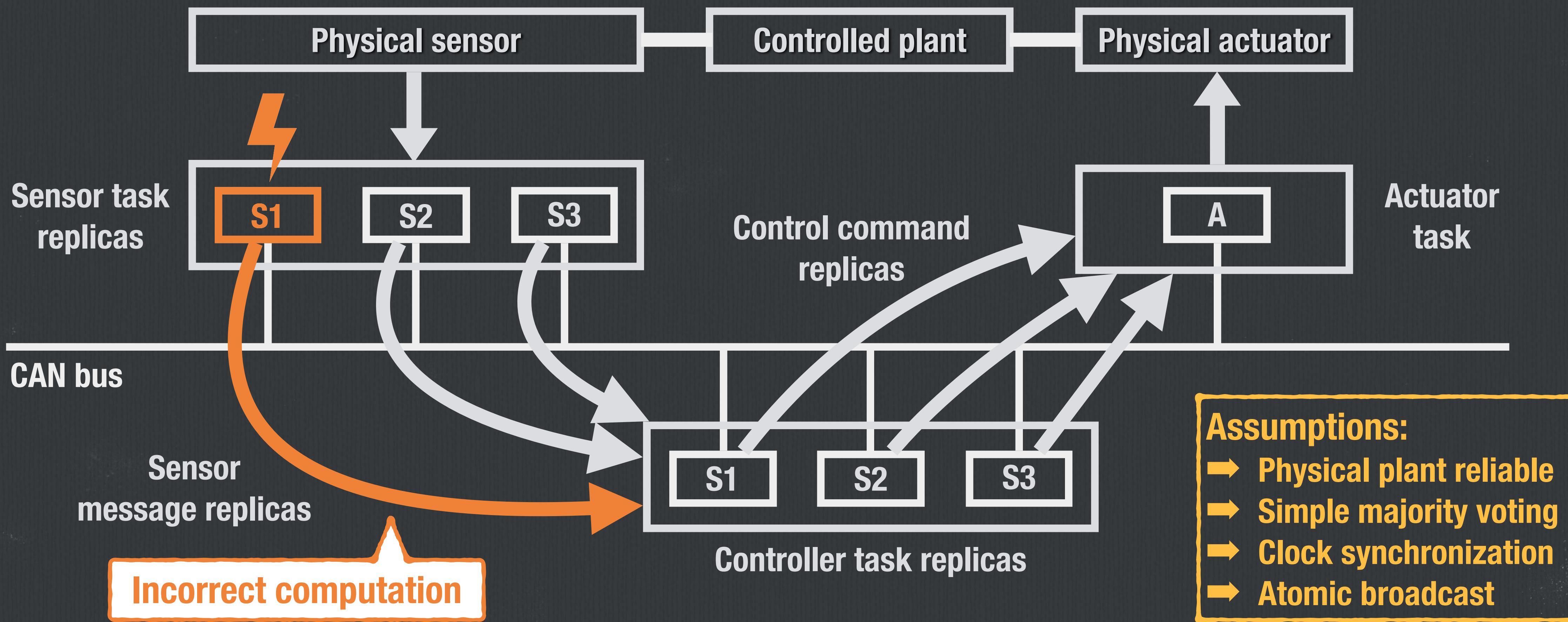
# Fault tolerant single-input single-output (FT-SISO) networked control loop



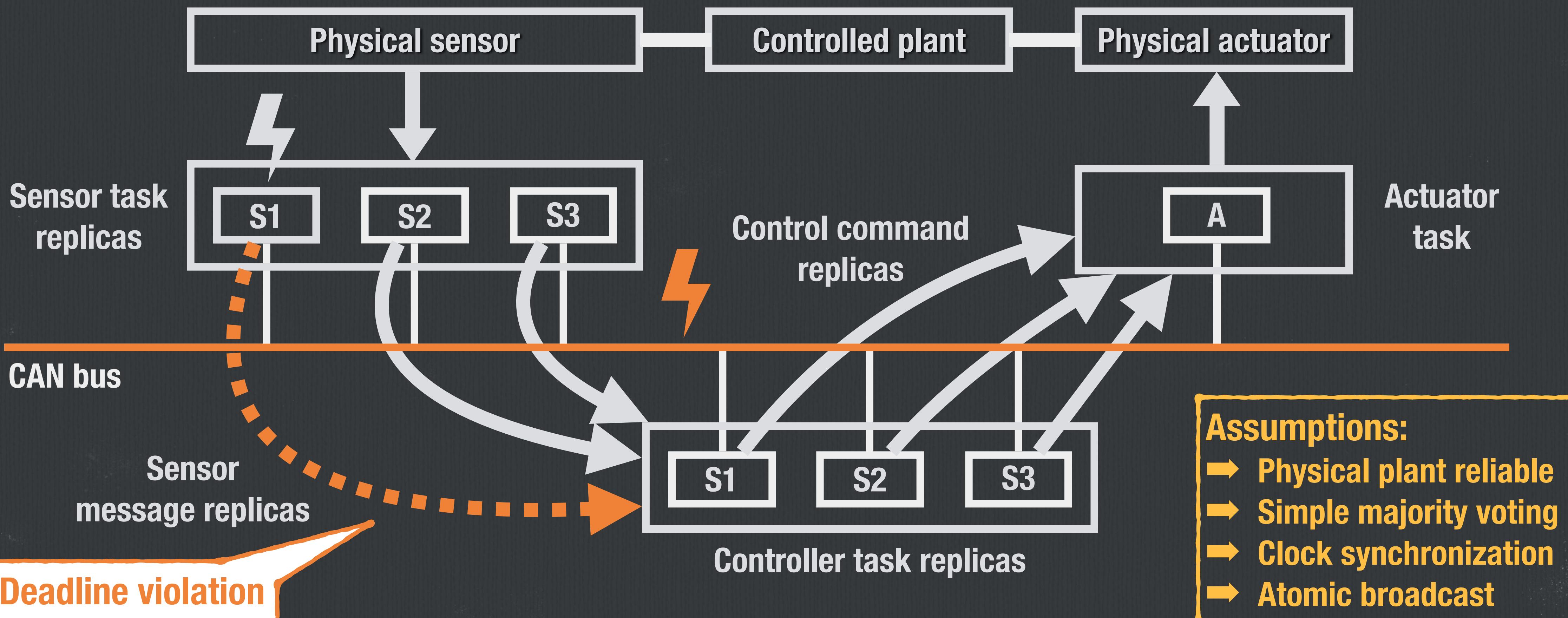
# Failures and errors in a FT-SISO networked control loop



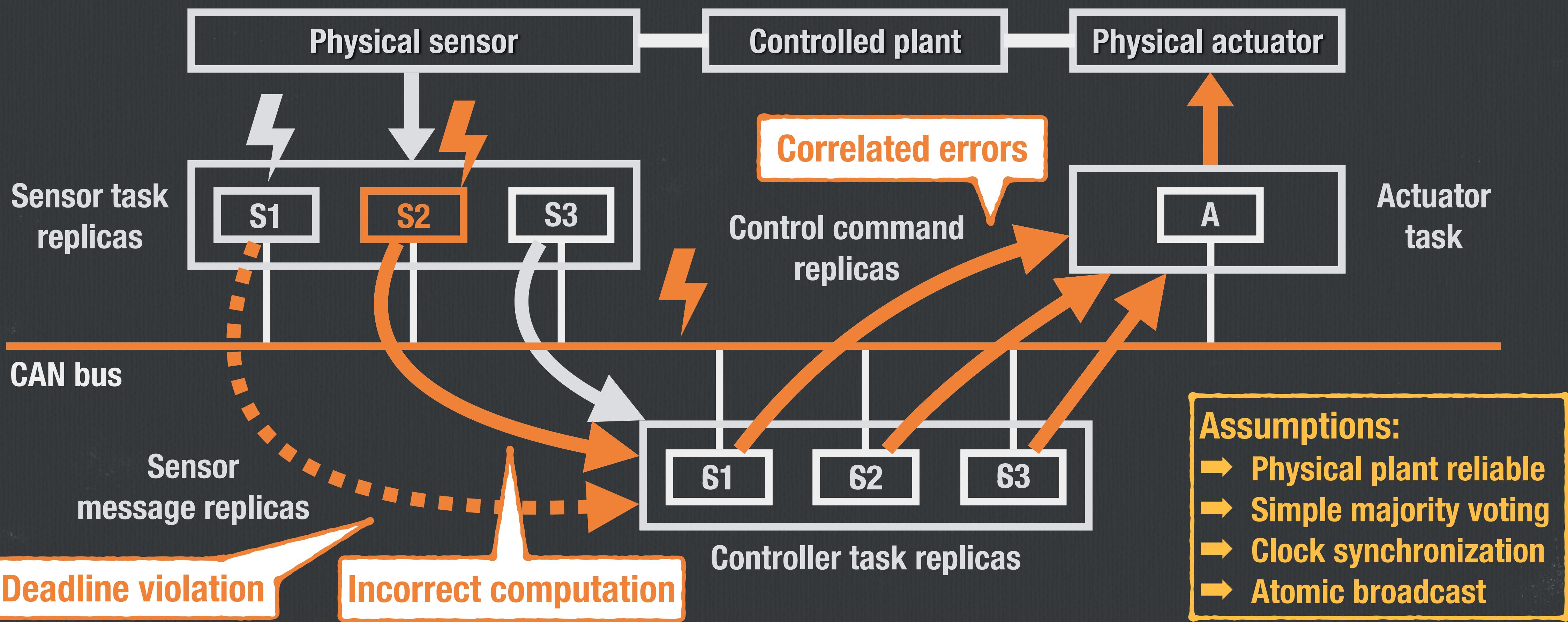
# Failures and errors in a FT-SISO networked control loop



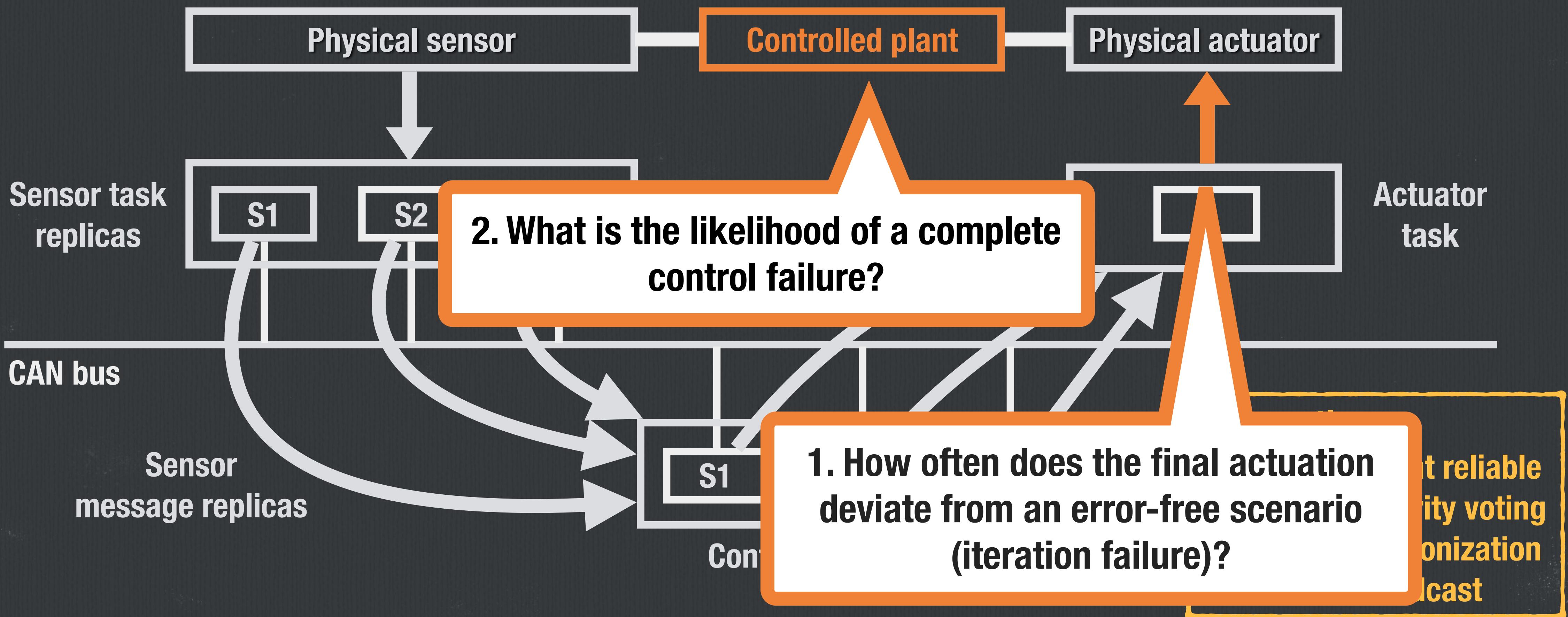
# Failures and errors in a FT-SISO networked control loop



# Failures and errors in a FT-SISO networked control loop



# Failures and errors in a FT-SISO networked control loop

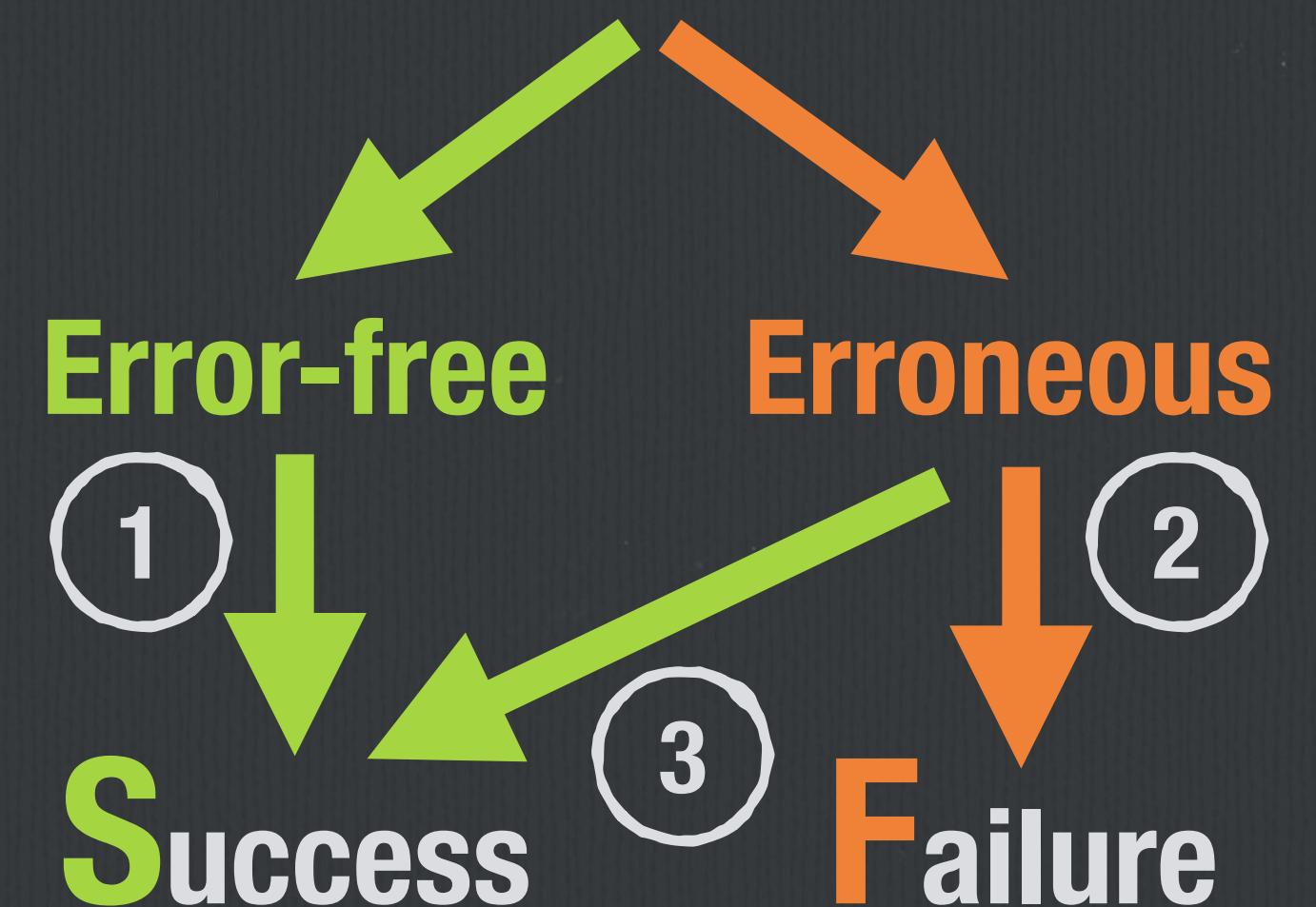


# 1. Modeling control loop iteration failures

## Control loop iterations

- ① Final actuation is successful
- ② Final actuation failed (different from ①)
- ③ Final actuation is successful (same as ①) despite the errors

$I_1 \ I_2 \ I_3 \ \dots \ I_{n-1} \ I_n \ I_{n+1} \ \dots$



Explicitly account for fault tolerance

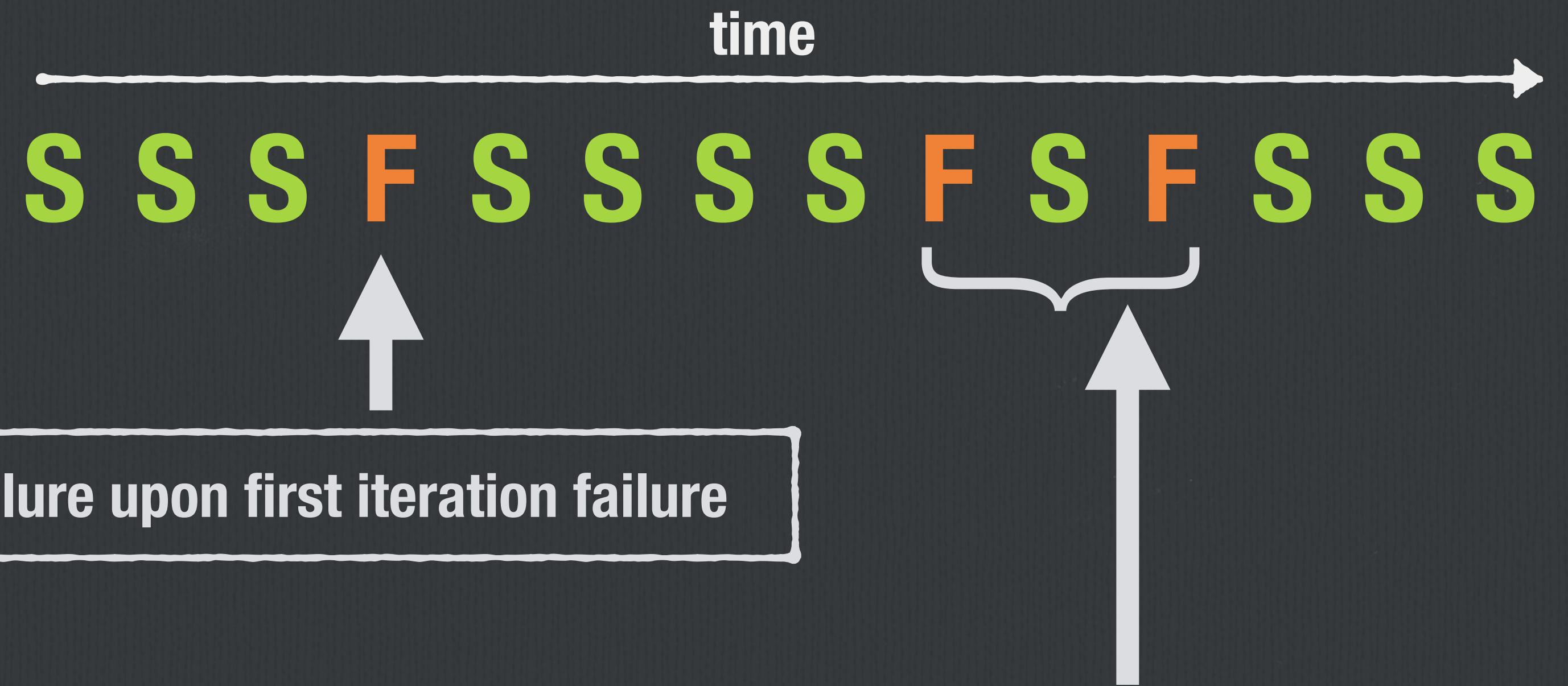
## 2. Modeling control failure based on the $(m, k)$ -firm constraint

Control loop iterations

Success Failure

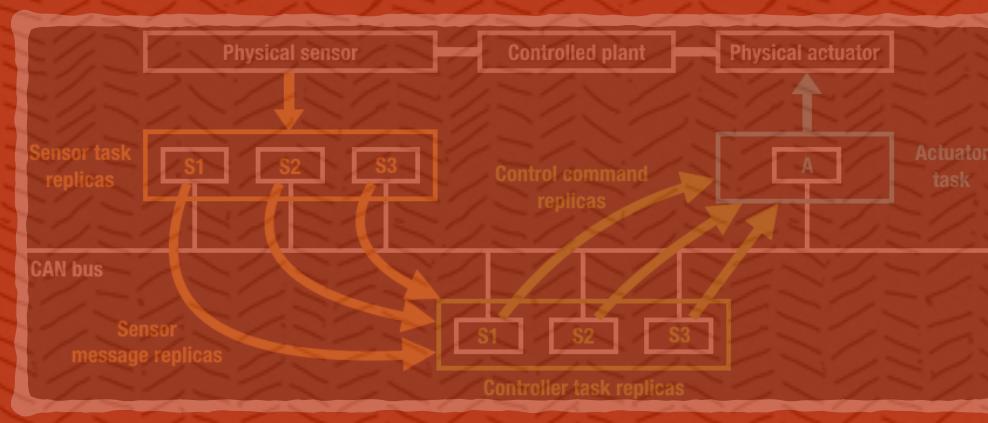
Hard constraint

$(2, 3)$  constraint



# Outline

## Analysis of a Controller Area Network (CAN) based networked control system



System Model

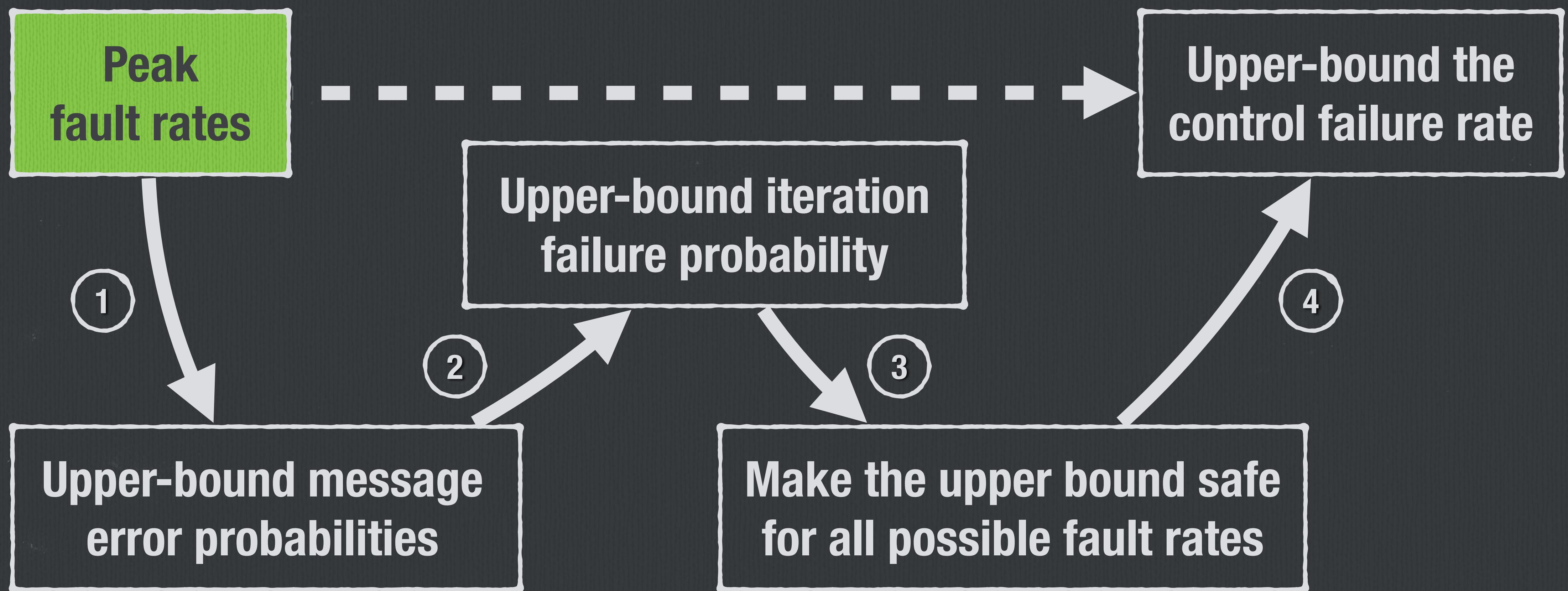
$$\int_0^\infty t \cdot f(t) dt$$

Analysis



Evaluation

# Analysis steps



# Upper-bounding the message error probabilities

Peak fault rates

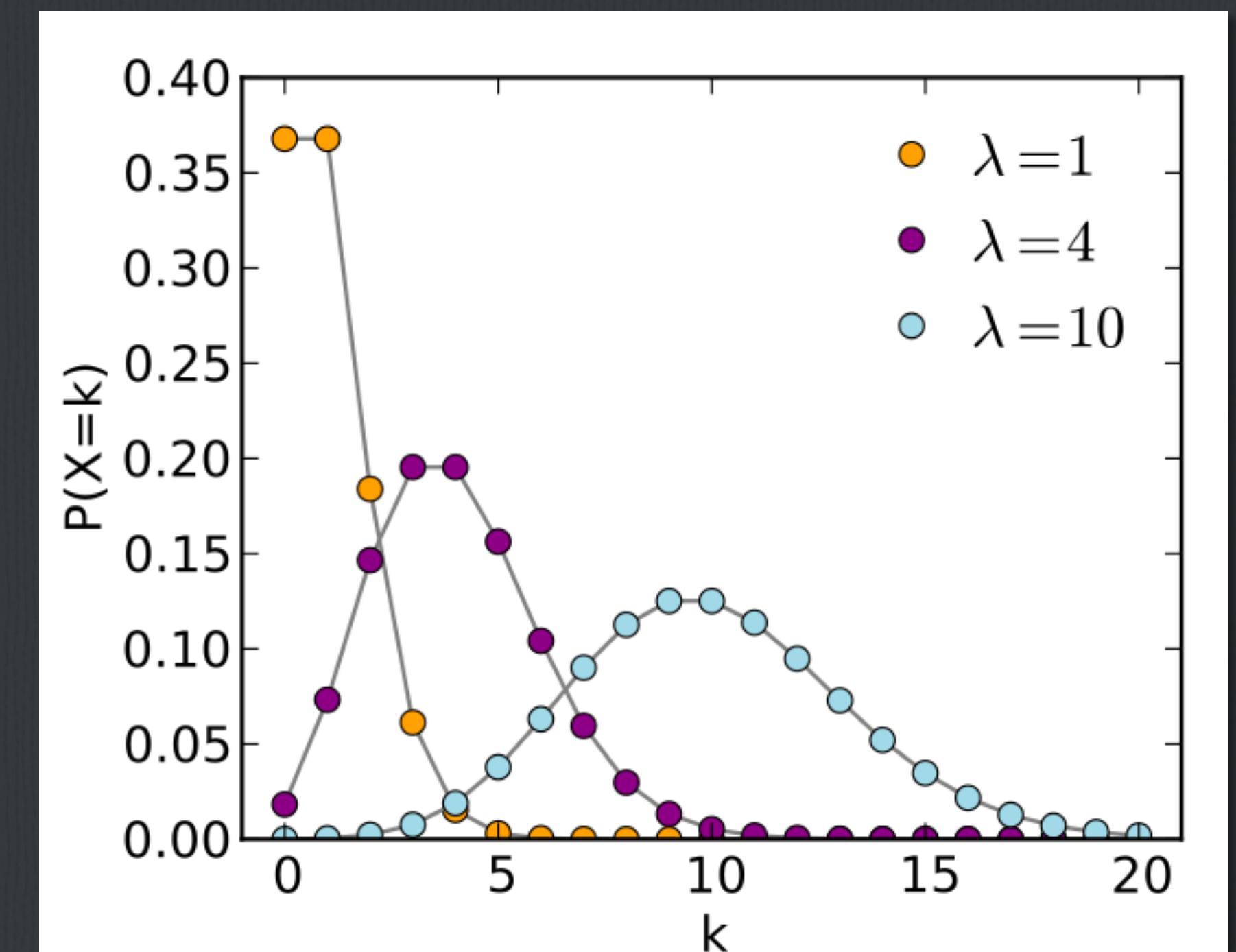
Based on the message parameters

$P_1 \geq P(\text{msg. is omitted at time } t)$

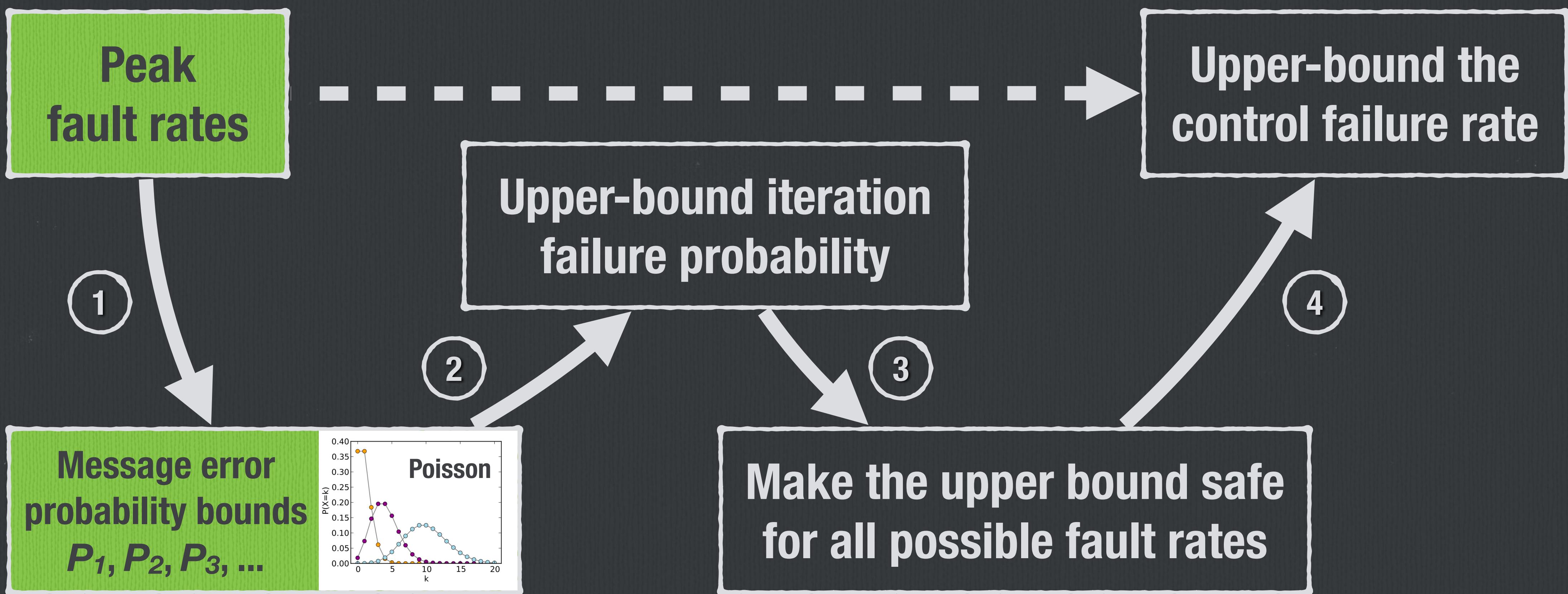
$P_2 \geq P(\text{msg. is incorrectly computed})$

$P_3 \geq P(\text{msg. misses its deadline})$

Using poisson model for fault arrivals



# Analysis steps



# Upper-bounding the iteration failure probabilities

Accounting for

- all possible error scenarios
- error propagation and correlation
- voting protocol

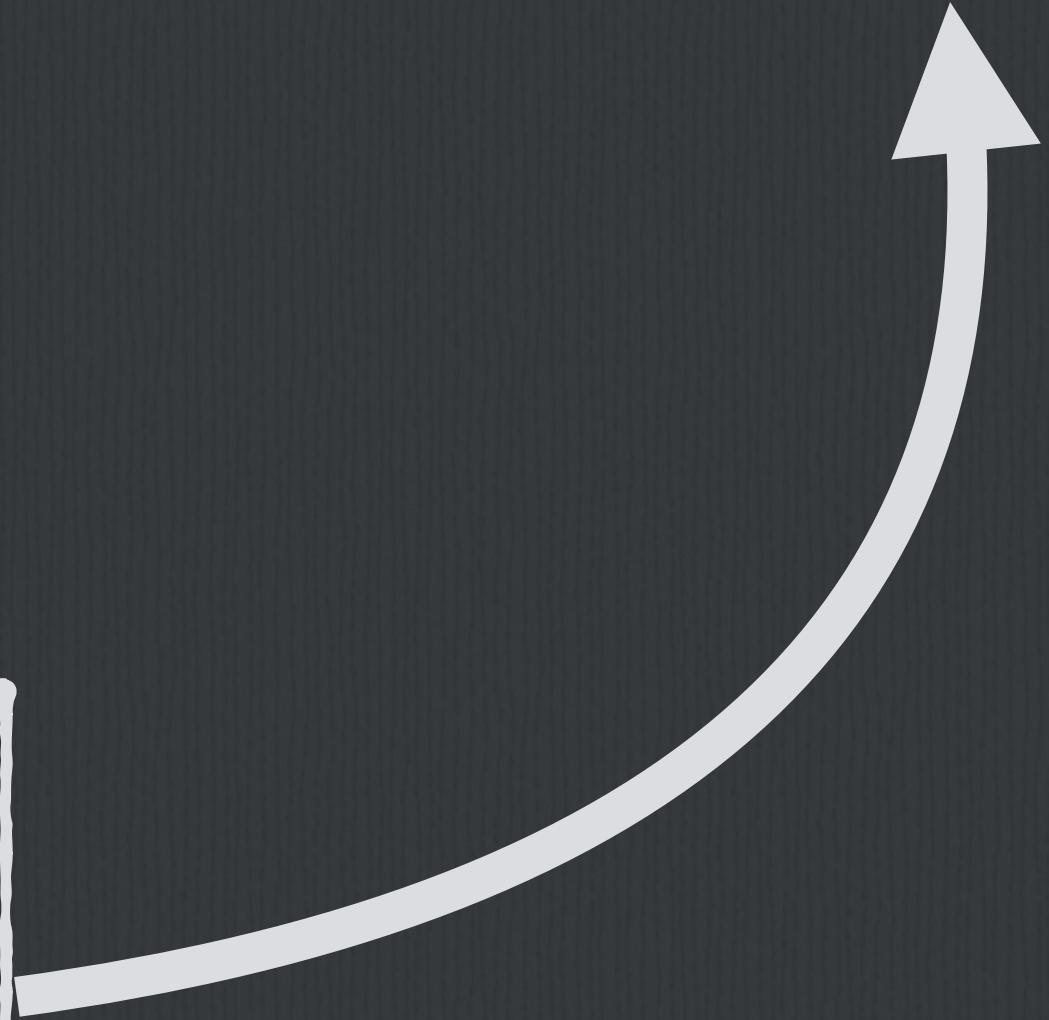
Upper bounds on message error probabilities

$$P_1 \geq P(\text{msg. is omitted at time } t)$$

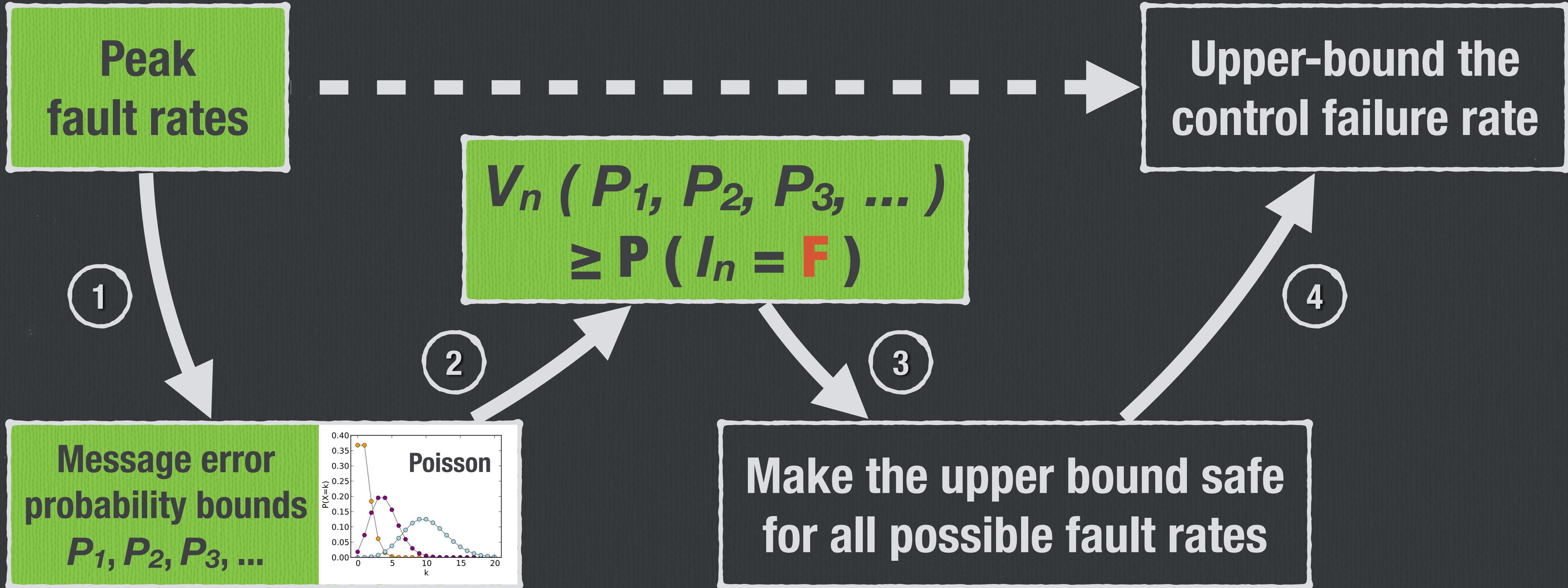
$$P_2 \geq P(\text{msg. is incorrectly computed})$$

$$P_3 \geq P(\text{msg. misses its deadline})$$

$$V_n(P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots) \geq P(I_n = F)$$



# Analysis steps

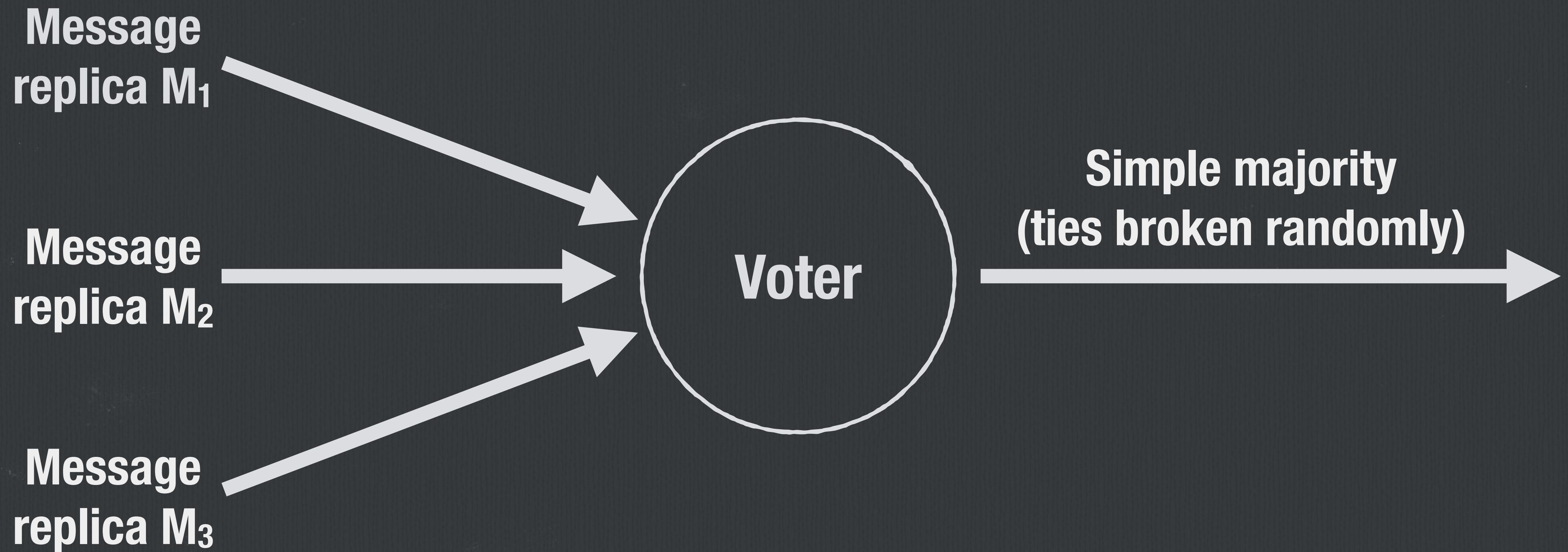


Is the upper bound  $V_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots )$   
**safe** for all possible fault rates?

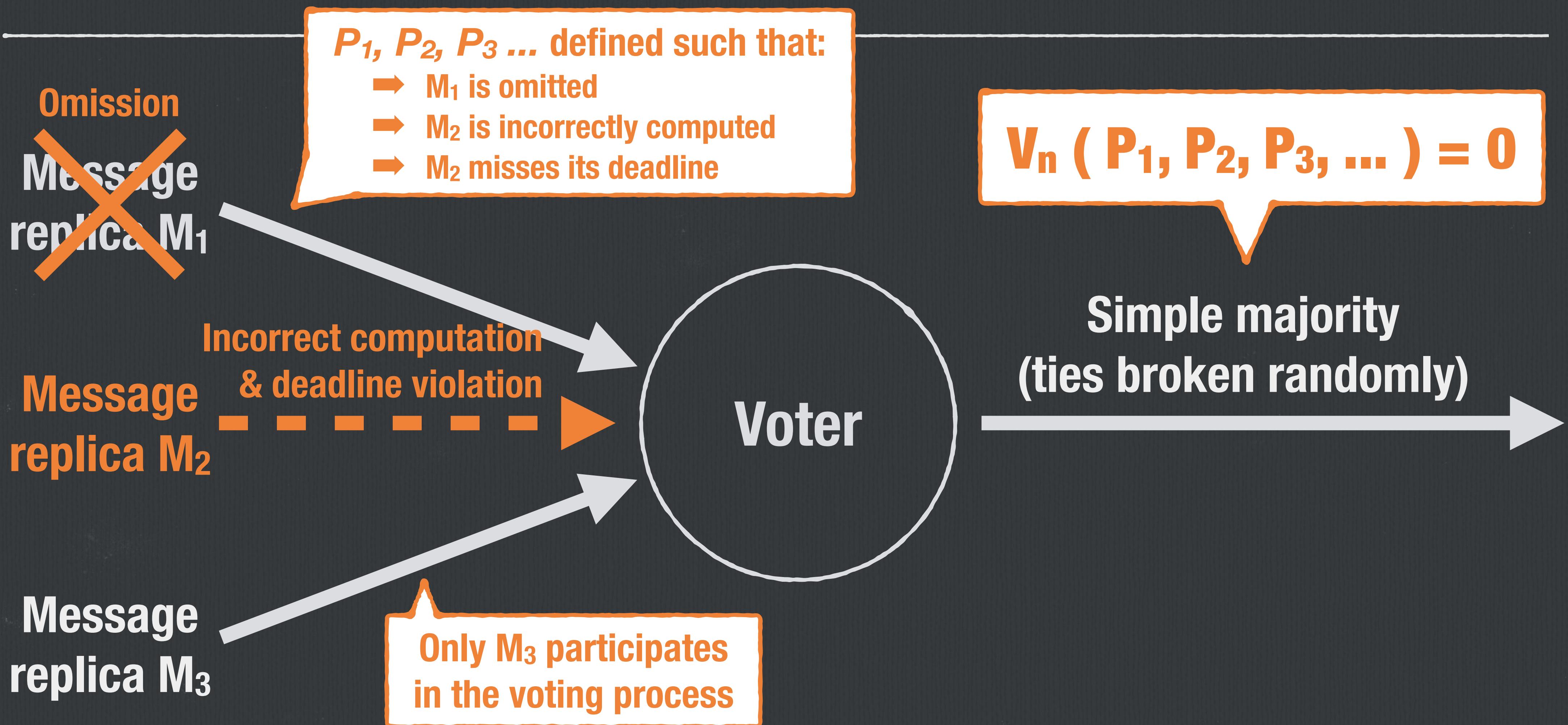
---

Let's look at a simple example!

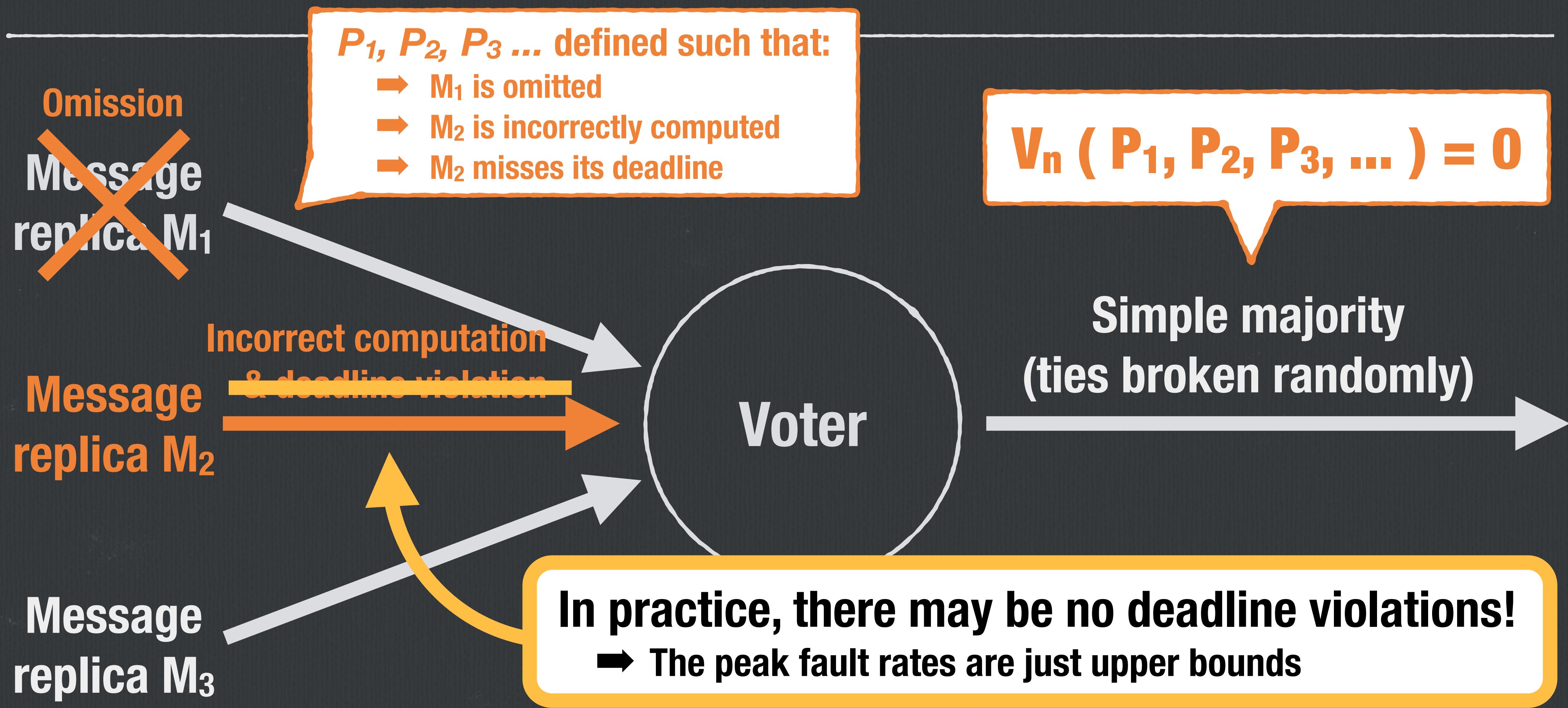
# Is the upper bound $V_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots )$ safe for all possible fault rates?



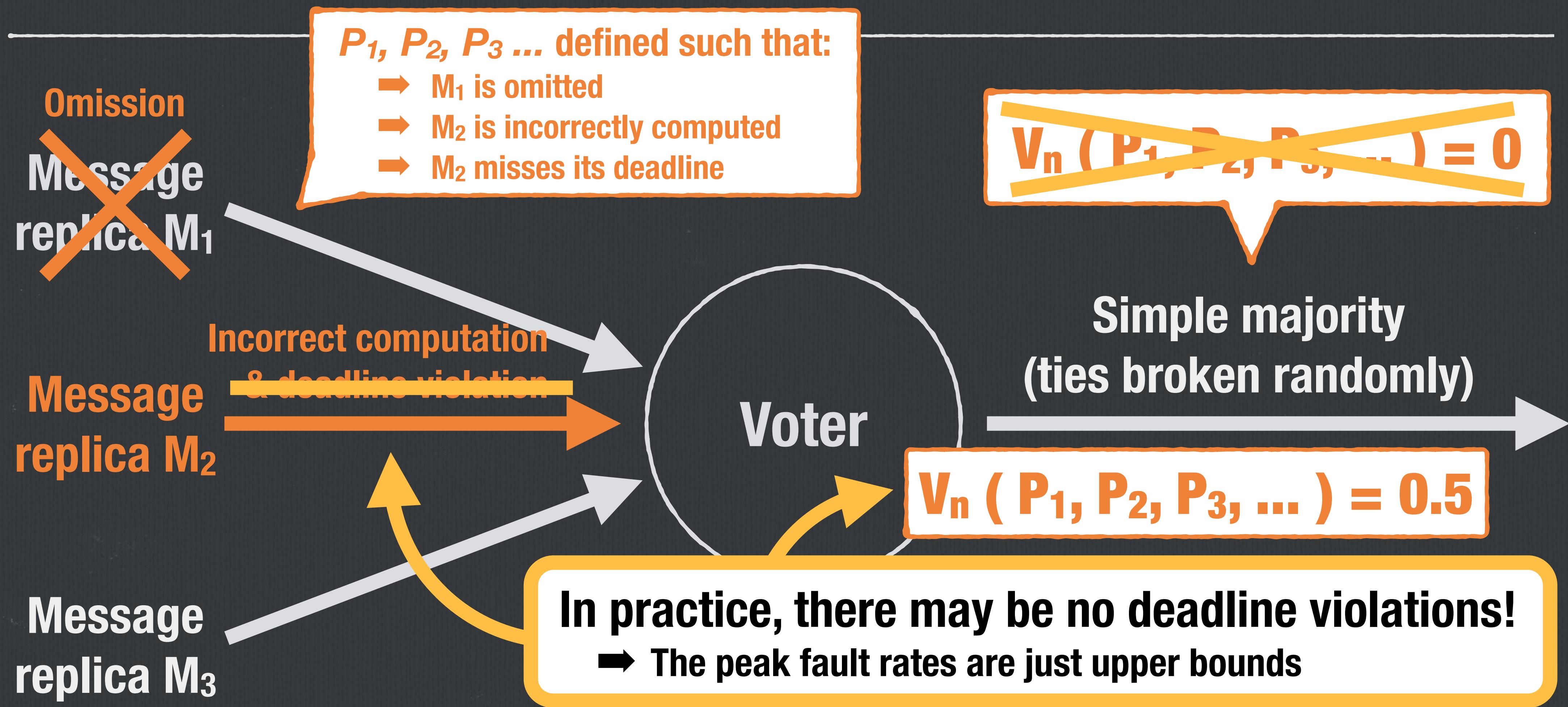
# Is the upper bound $V_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots )$ safe for all possible fault rates?



# Is the upper bound $V_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots )$ safe for all possible fault rates?



# Is the upper bound $V_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots )$ safe for all possible fault rates?



# Is the upper bound $V_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots )$ safe for all possible fault rates?

$$V_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots ) \geq P ( I_n = F )$$

+

A fudge factor  $\Delta$  is added to  
ensure monotonicity\*

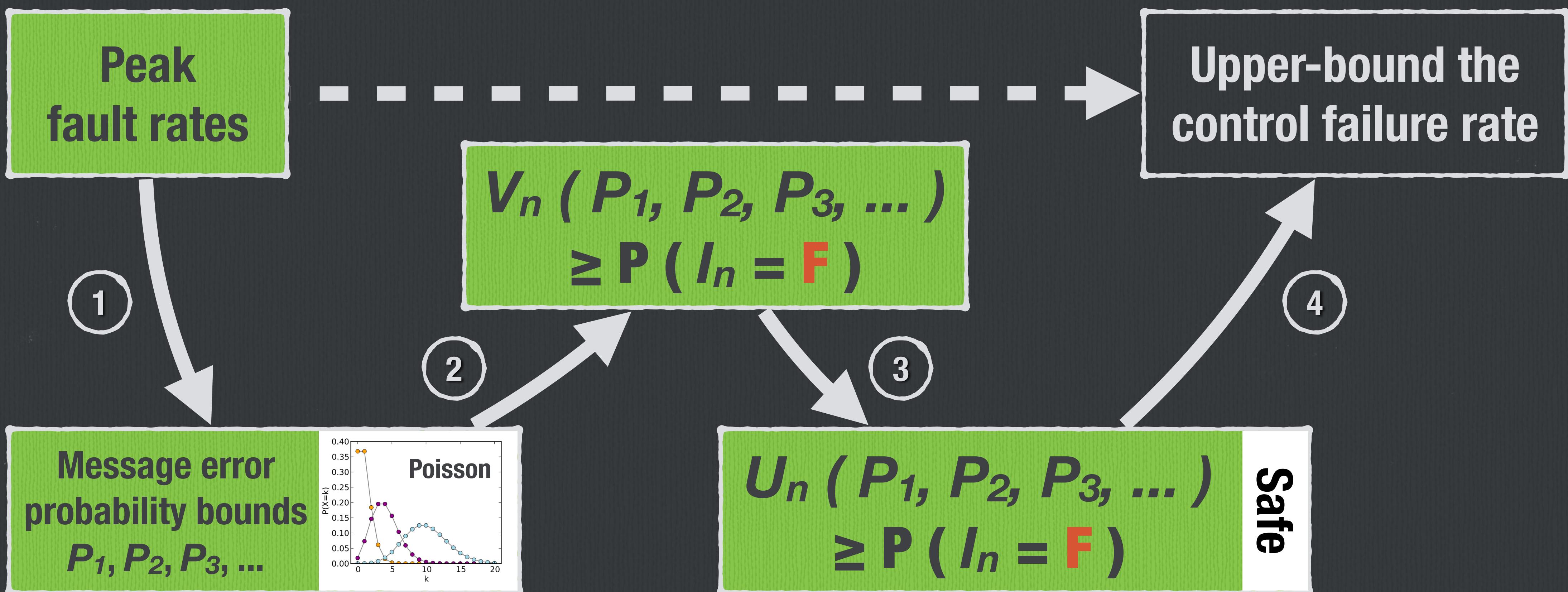
||

$$U_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots ) \geq P ( I_n = F )$$

Safe if  $V_n$  is monotonic  
in  $P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots$

\*Arpan Gujarati, Mitra Nasri, and Björn B Brandenburg. Quantifying the resiliency of fail-operational real-time networked control systems. Technical Report MPI-SWS2018-005, Max Planck Institute for Software Systems, Germany, 2018. URL: <http://www.mpi-sws.org/tr/2018-005.pdf>.

# Analysis steps



# Upper-bounding the control failure rate (Failures-In-Time or FIT)

$$U_n(P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots) \geq P(I_n = F)$$

Using prior work\*

Scalable and numerical,  
but sound, analysis

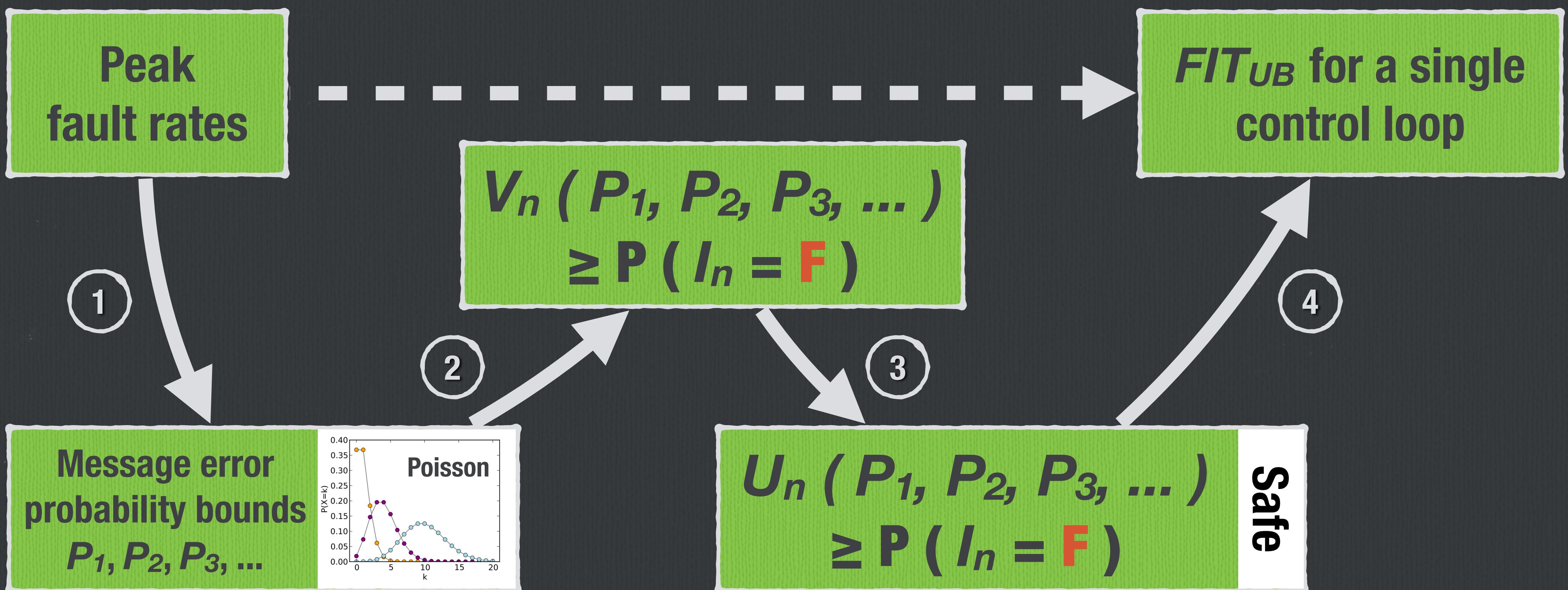
$$\begin{aligned} FIT &= 10^9 / MTTF \text{ (in hours)} \\ &= \frac{10^9}{\int_0^\infty t \cdot f(t) dt} \quad (\text{Mean Time To first control Failure}) \\ &\quad (\text{probability density function}) \end{aligned}$$

(probability density function)

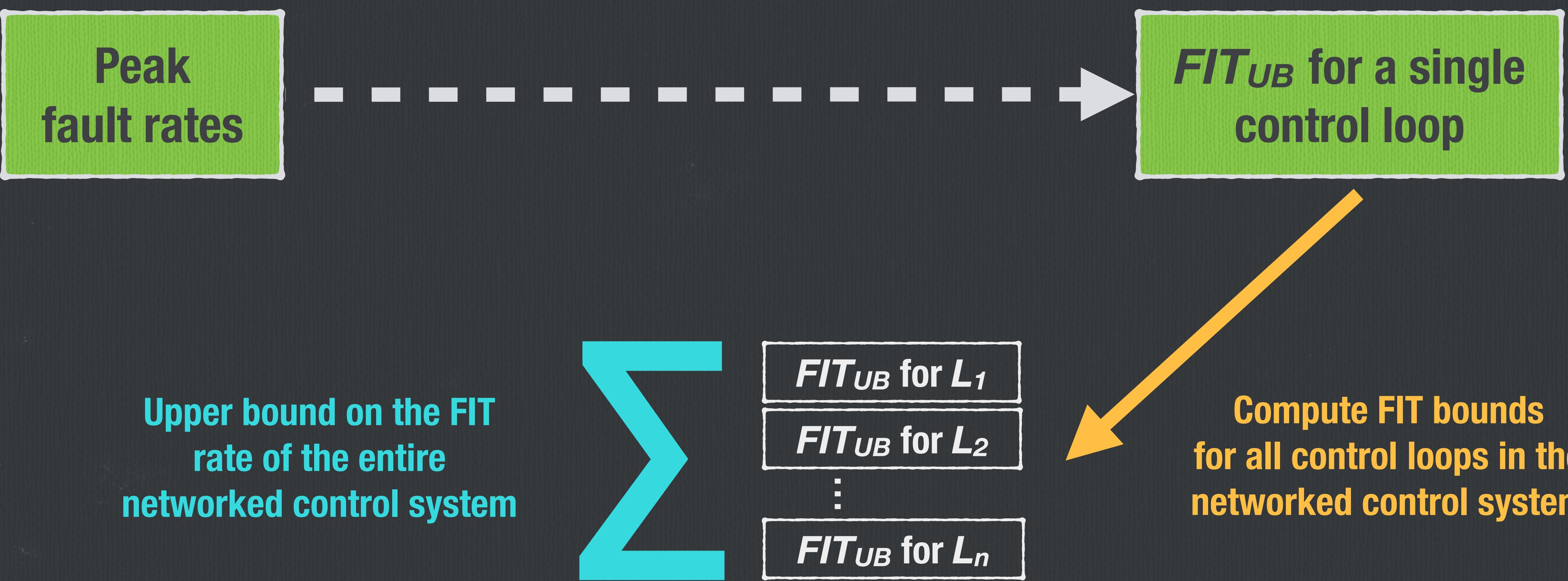
$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= P(\text{first control failure at time } t) \\ &= P(\text{first violation of (2, 3)-firm constraint at time } t) \\ &= P(\text{first instance of FSF | FFS | SFF | FF at time } t) \end{aligned}$$

\*M. Sfakianakis, S. Kounias, and A. Hillaris. "Reliability of a consecutive  $k$ -out-of- $r$ -from- $n$ : F system." *IEEE Transactions on Reliability* 41, no. 3 (1992): 442-447.

# Analysis steps

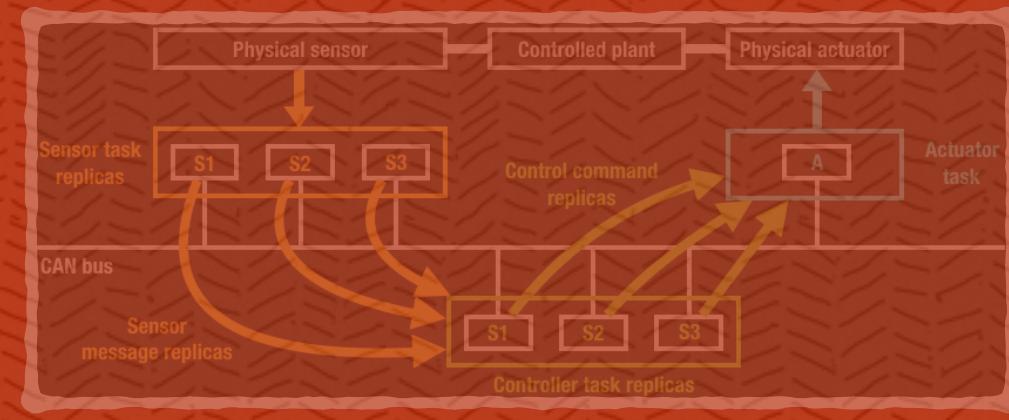


# Analysis steps



# Outline

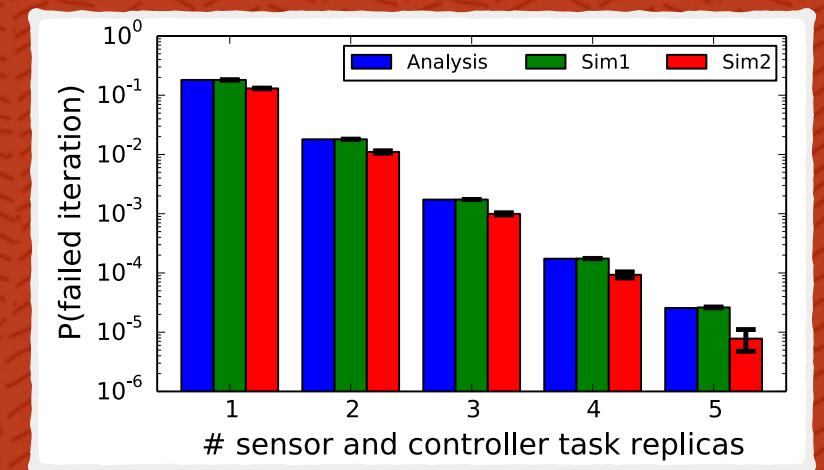
## Analysis of a Controller Area Network (CAN) based networked control system



System Model

$$\int_0^{\infty} t \cdot f(t) dt$$

Analysis



Evaluation

# Evaluation overview

---

- How accurate is the analysis?
  - Comparison with simulation results
  
- Case study: FIT vs.  $(m, k)$  constraints vs. replication schemes

# CAN-based active suspension workload\*

- Four control loops  $L_1, L_2, L_3, L_4$ 
  - to control the four wheels with magnetic suspension

This talk: Control loop  $L_1$ 's tasks were replicated

In the paper: Experiments with all replica schemes

Messages	Length	Period (ms)	Deadline (ms)	Priority
Clock sync.	1	50	50	High
Current mon.	1	4	4	
Temperature	1	10	10	
$L_1$ messages	3	1,75	1,75	
$L_2$ messages	3	1,75	1,75	
$L_3$ messages	3	1,75	1,75	
$L_4$ messages	3	1,75	1,75	
Logging	8	100	100	Low

\*Adolfo Anta and Paulo Tabuada. On the benefits of relaxing the periodicity assumption for networked control systems over CAN. In Proceedings of the 30th Real-Time Systems Symposium, pages 3–12. IEEE, 2009.

# How accurate is the analysis?

Iteration failure probability bound

$$U_n ( P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots ) \geq P ( I_n = F )$$

Simulation is  
not safe

Discrete event simulation of  
a CAN-based system

Poisson process for CAN bus faults

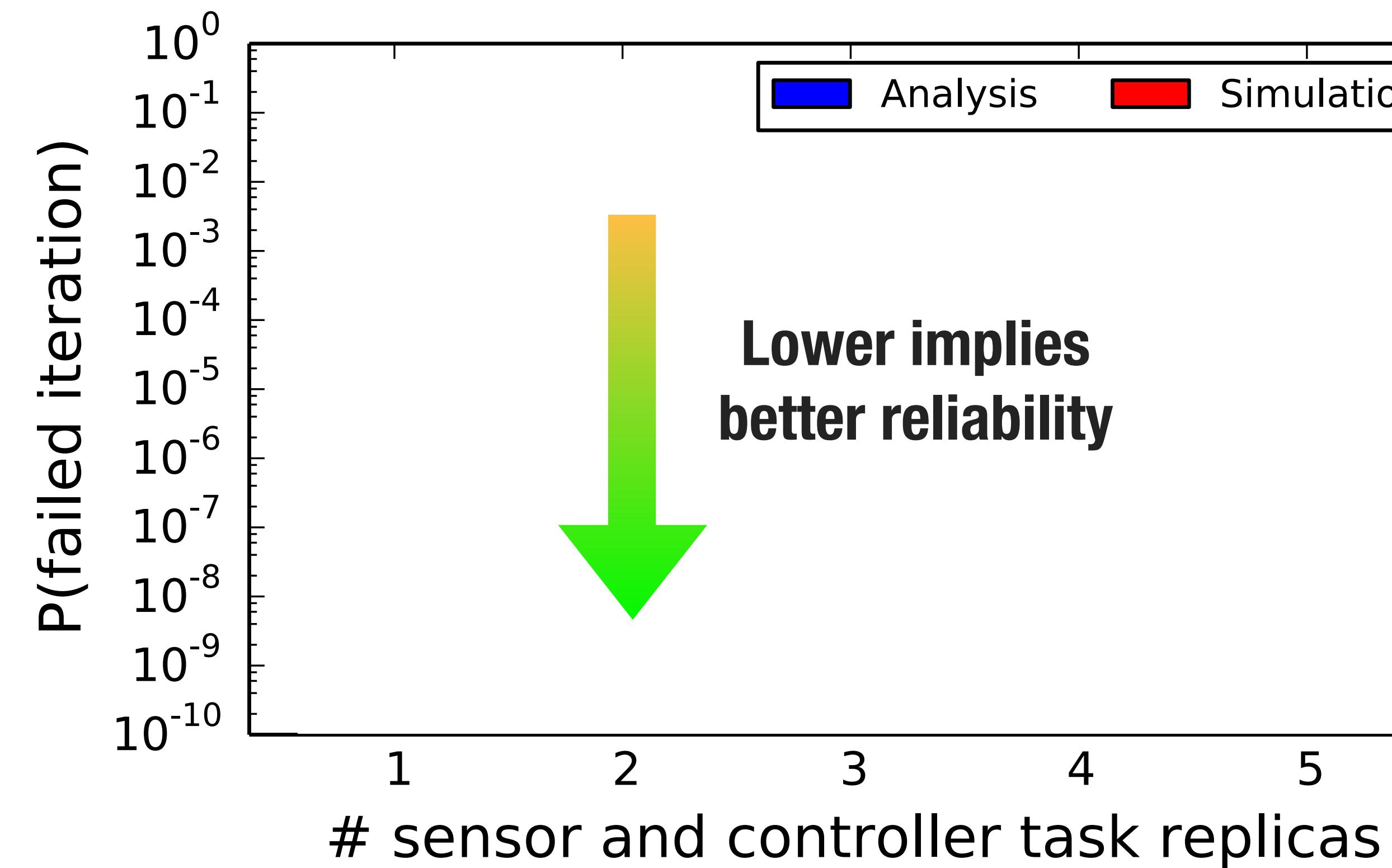


Poisson process for faults on Host 1

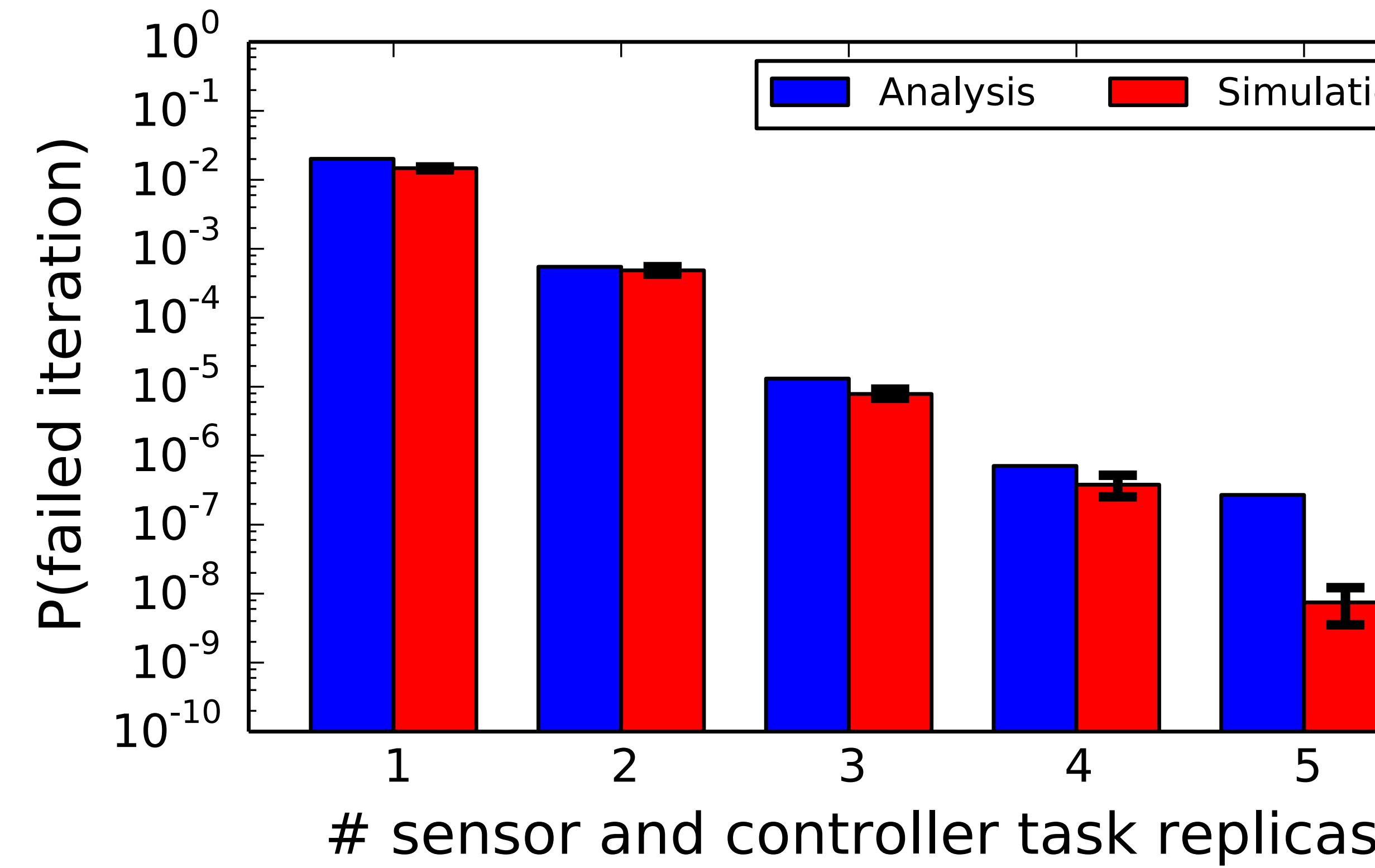


... and so on

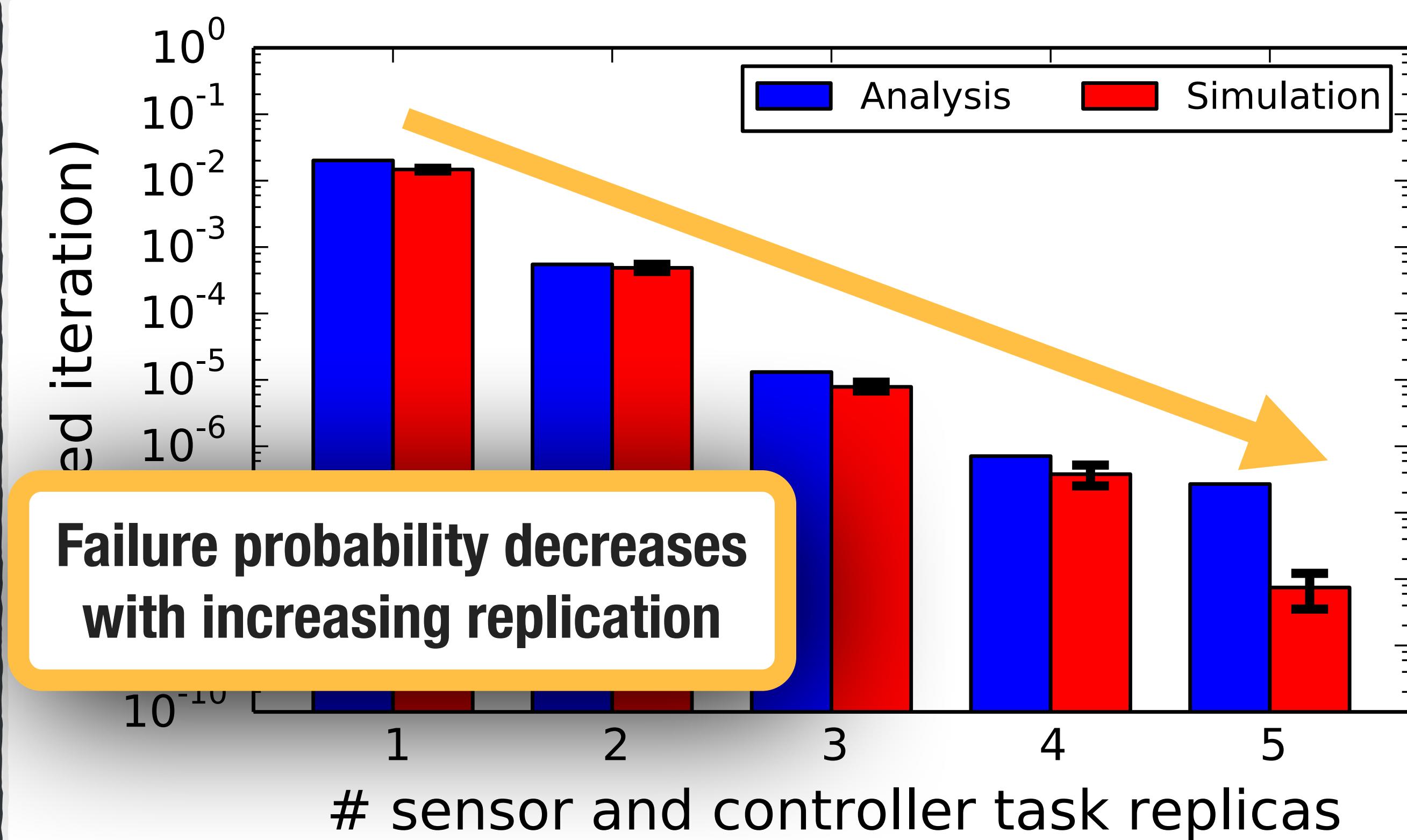
# Analysis versus simulation



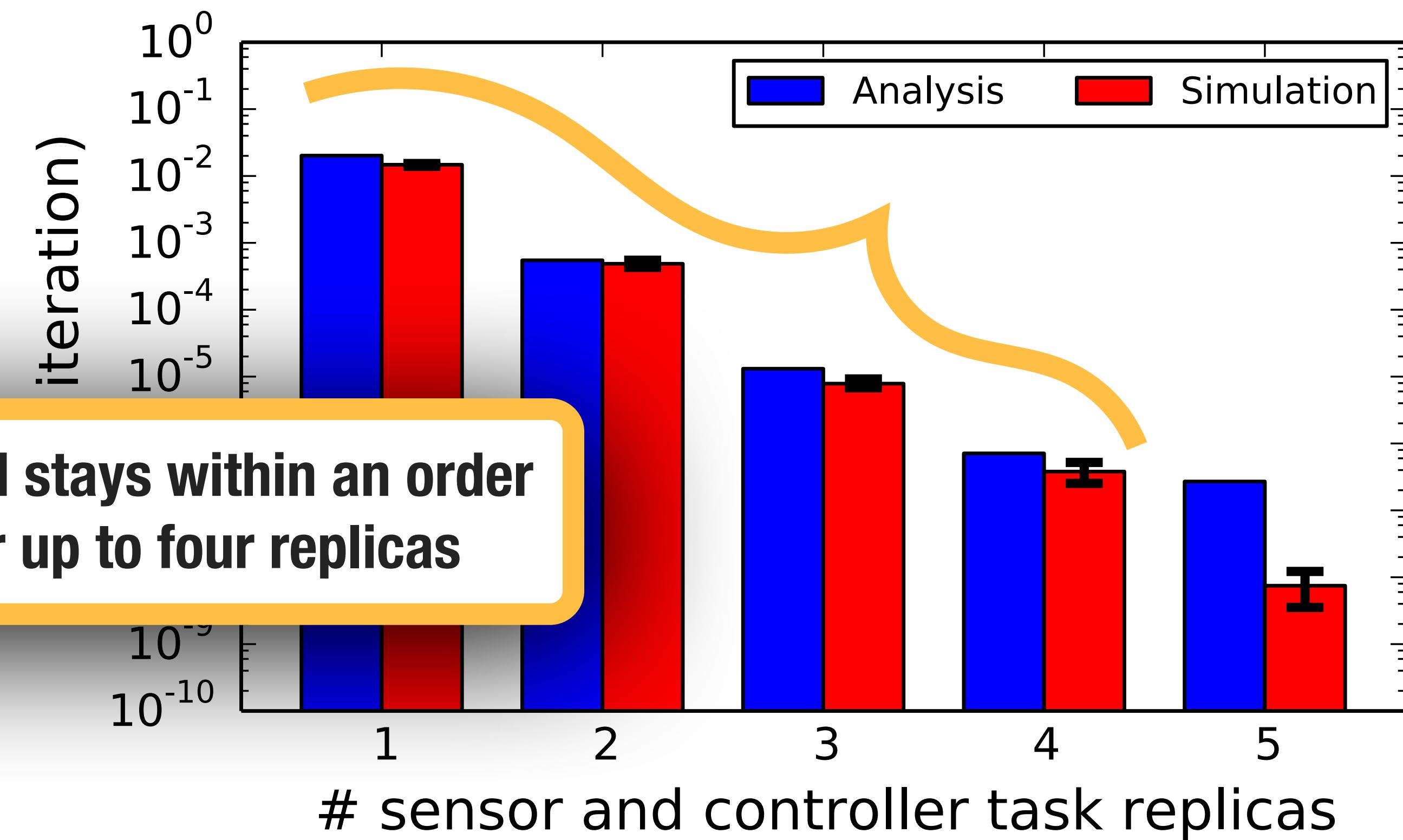
# Analysis versus simulation



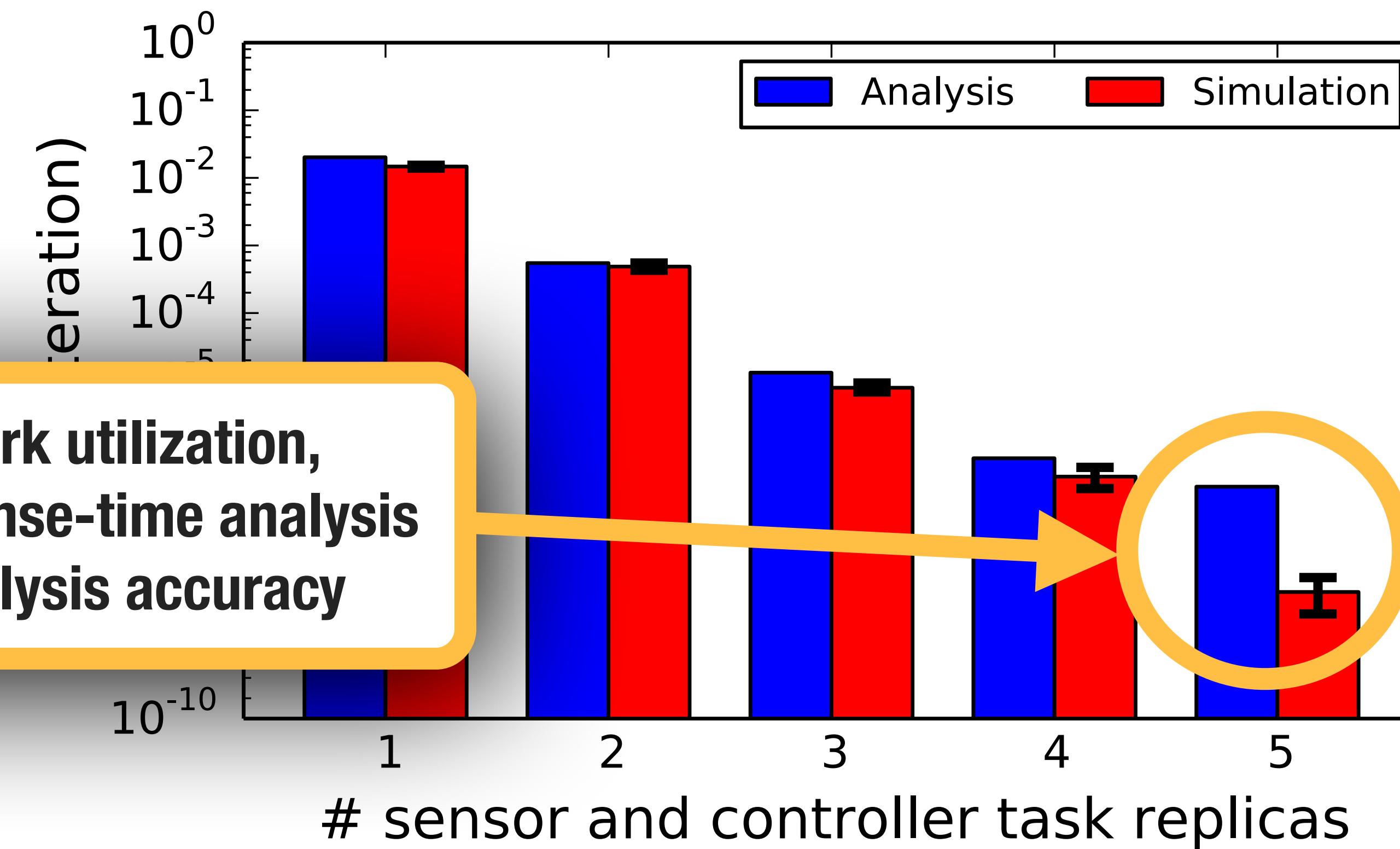
# Analysis versus simulation



# Analysis versus simulation



# Analysis versus simulation



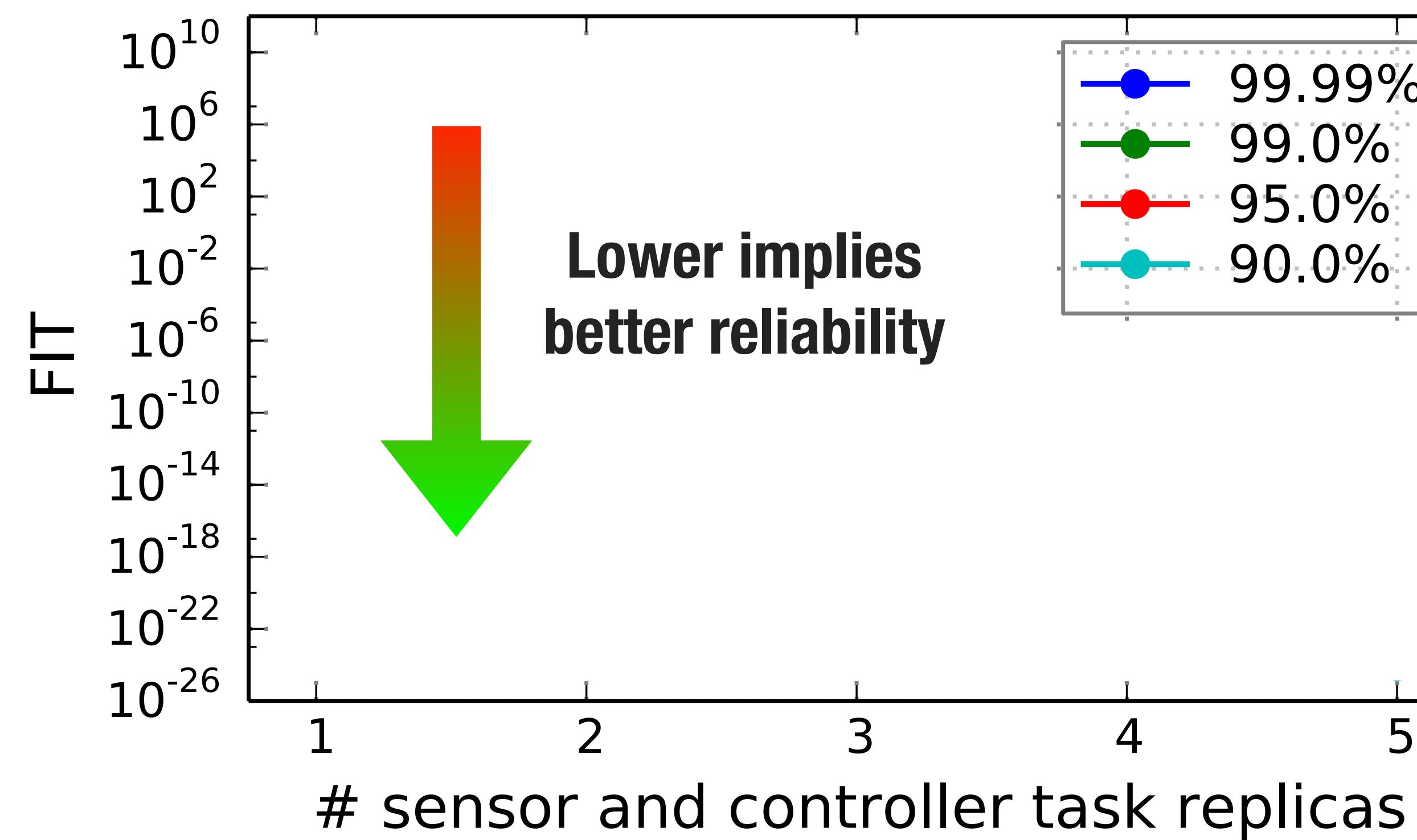
At high network utilization,  
worst-case response-time analysis  
affects the analysis accuracy

# Case study

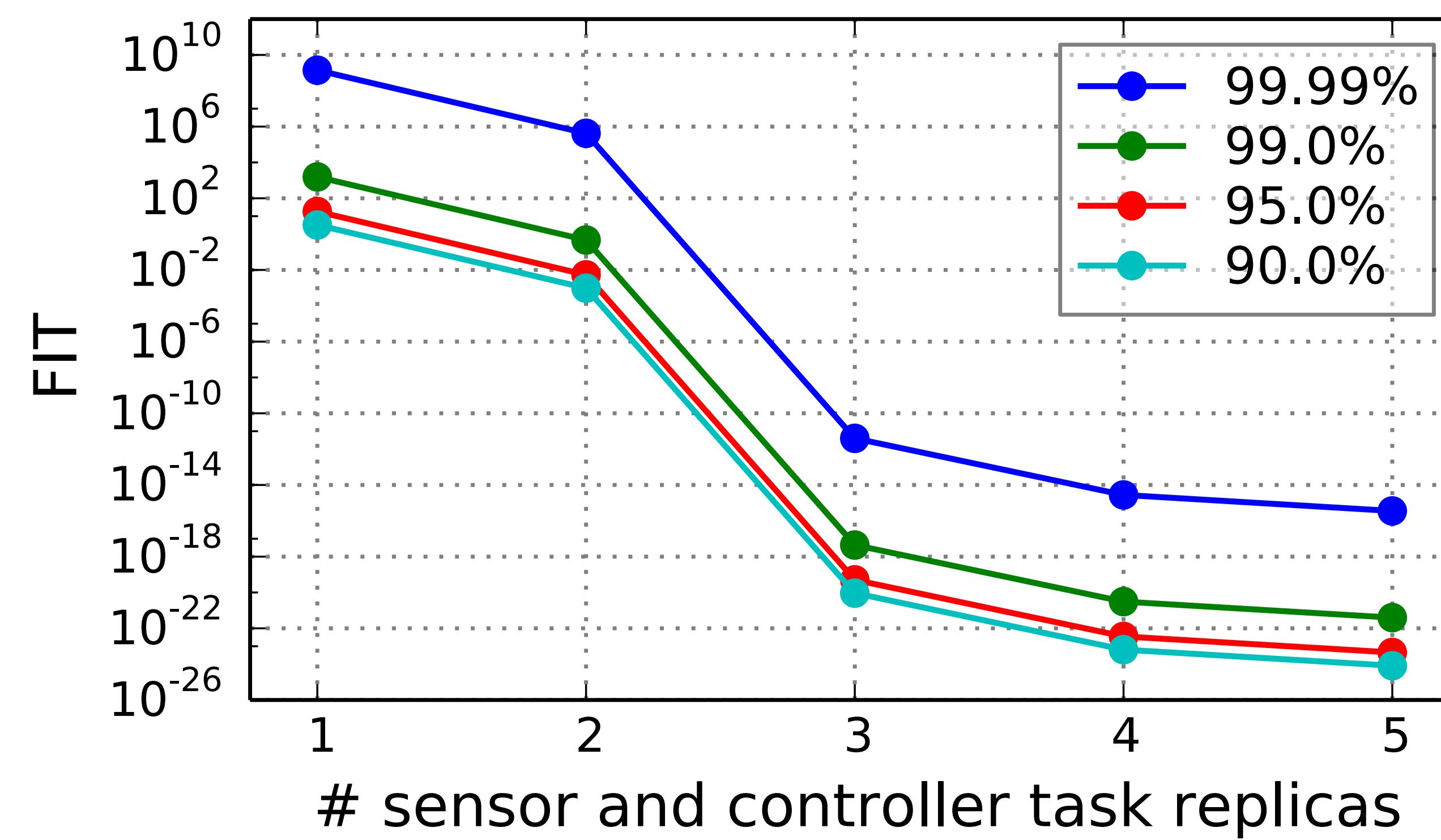
---

- FIT analysis for different  $(m, k)$ -firm constraints
  - $(9, 100) \sim 9\%$
  - $(19, 20) \sim 95\%$
  - $(99, 100) \sim 99\%$
  - $(9999, 10000) \sim 99.99\%$
- Replication factor of loop  $L_1$ 's tasks varied from 1 to 5
- What should be the replication factor to achieve FIT under  $10^{-6}$ ?

# FIT rate vs. replication factor vs. (m, k) parameters

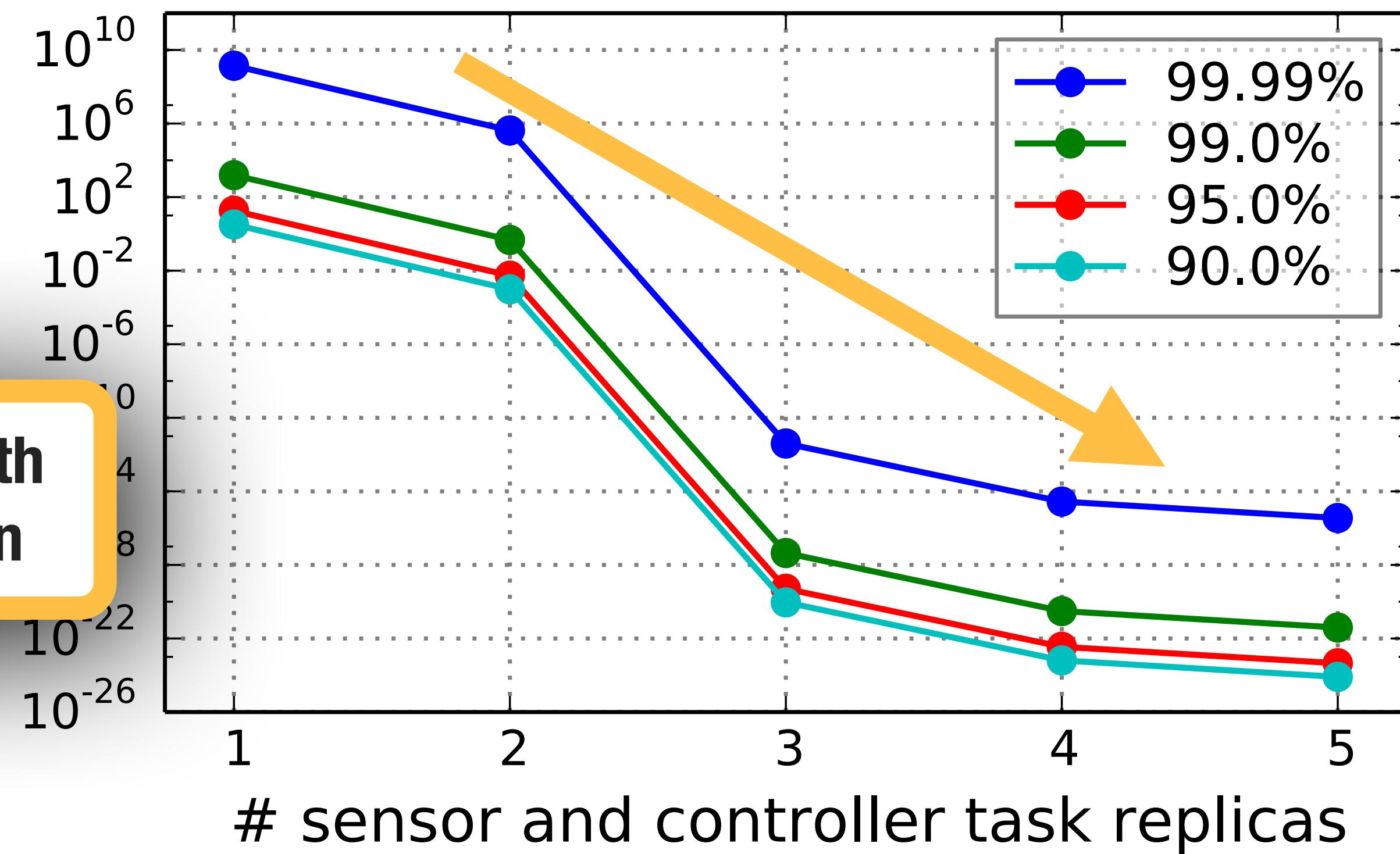


# FIT rate vs. replication factor vs. (m, k) parameters

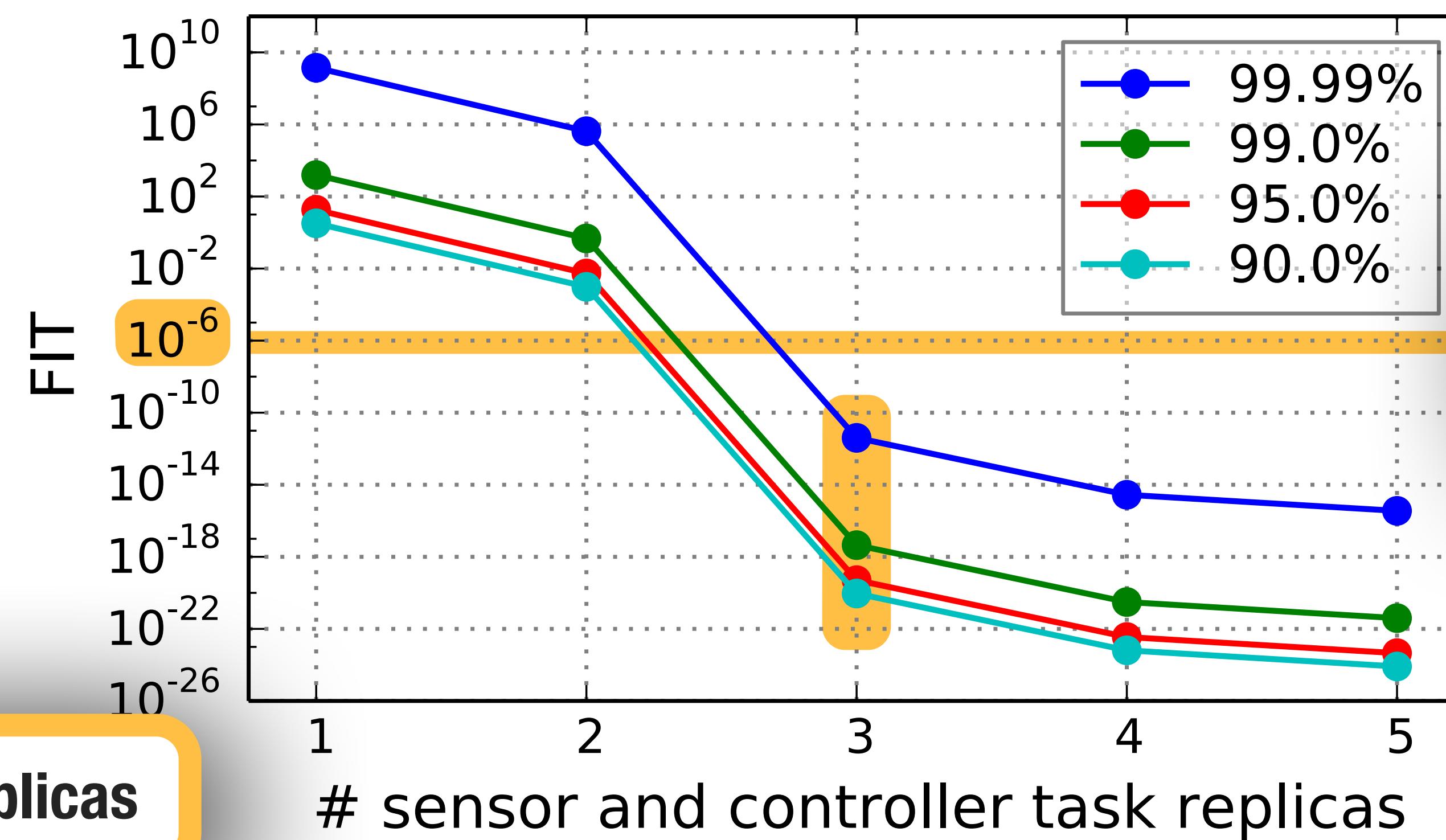


# FIT rate vs. replication factor vs. (m, k) parameters

FIT rate decreases with increasing replication



# FIT rate vs. replication factor vs. (m, k) parameters



Prefer three replicas

If the desired FIT  
rate is under  $10^{-6}$

# Summary

- A safe Failures-In-Time (FIT) analysis for networked control systems
  - CAN-based networked control system model
  
- Focus on failures and errors due to transient faults
  - omission errors
  - incorrect computation errors
  - transmission errors
  
- ... and on robust systems that can tolerate a few iteration failures
  - (m,k)-firm model for control failure

**Future work: Byzantine errors + BFT protocols**

**Accounting for other robustness criteria**