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AFATS : Adaptive Failure-Aware Task Scheduling for Reliable Edge–Cloud Distributed Systems

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Abstract : Edge–cloud distributed systems increasingly support real-life applications such as remote health monitoring, smart surveillance, and industrial IoT, where low latency and high reliability are critical. However, edge nodes are inherently unstable due to mobility, intermittent connectivity, and limited resources. Existing scheduling approaches rely on static fault-tolerance mechanisms such as fixed replication or checkpointing, which introduce unnecessary overhead and fail to adapt to dynamic failure conditions.

This paper proposes AFATS (Adaptive Failure-Aware Task Scheduling), a lightweight and dynamic scheduling framework that continuously estimates node failure probability using runtime system indicators such as task execution delay, resource fluctuation, and communication loss. Based on the predicted failure risk, AFATS adaptively decides task placement and redundancy levels while respecting latency constraints. Unlike traditional schedulers, the proposed approach selectively applies fault tolerance only when and where required.

AFATS is evaluated using a simulated edge–cloud testbed with workloads modelled on real-time IoT data processing. Experimental results show that AFATS improves task completion rate by up to 23%, reduces recovery latency by 31%, and lowers redundancy overhead by 19% compared to static scheduling approaches. These results demonstrate that adaptive failure-aware scheduling is an effective and practical solution for reliable real-world edge–cloud systems.

IndexTerms **- Distributed Systems, Edge Computing, Fault Tolerance, Task Scheduling, Failure Prediction, Cloud Computing**

I. Introduction

Distributed systems form the backbone of modern computing infrastructures, supporting applications ranging from cloud services to Internet of Things (IoT) platforms [1], [2]. Recently, edge–cloud computing has emerged as a dominant paradigm to meet the latency and bandwidth requirements of real-time applications such as smart healthcare, traffic monitoring, and industrial automation [1], [2], [5]. Despite these advantages, edge–cloud environments suffer from frequent node failures and unpredictable network behaviour due to resource constraints, mobility, and intermittent connectivity [5], [6]. Traditional fault-tolerance mechanisms—such as task replication, periodic checkpointing, or re-execution—are typically static in nature and assume uniform failure probability across nodes [3], [4]. Recent research has explored intelligent scheduling and predictive failure handling; however, many existing solutions rely on heavyweight monitoring infrastructures or complex machine learning models, making them unsuitable for resource-constrained edge environments [8], [11].

To address these challenges, this paper introduces AFATS, an adaptive and failure-aware task scheduling framework designed specifically for dynamic edge–cloud systems.

The main contributions of this work are:

1. A lightweight failure probability estimation model based on runtime execution delay, resource variation, and communication reliability.
2. An adaptive scheduling strategy that dynamically adjusts task placement and redundancy levels according to predicted failure risk and application latency requirements.
3. A realistic experimental evaluation using edge–cloud workloads inspired by real-time IoT applications, demonstrating significant improvements in reliability and efficiency.

By jointly addressing reliability, latency, and overhead, AFATS advances the design of practical scheduling mechanisms for real-world distributed edge–cloud systems.

II. System Design

The objective of the scheduling problem is to assign tasks to edge or cloud nodes in a manner that maximizes reliability while minimizing latency and redundancy overhead.

In this paper we propose a heuristic-based adaptive scheduling framework (AFATS**)** that makes near-optimal decisions using real-time failure probability estimation.

Algorithm : AFATS(Task Ti)
Input: Task Ti, Edge nodes E, Cloud C
Output: Execution decision
1. For each Ej in E:
2. Estimate Pf(Ej, Ti)
3. Estimate latency Lij
4. If Lij ≤ Li:
5. Compute Cost ij
6. Select Ej* with minimum Cost
7. If Pf(Ej*, Ti) ≥ θ(t):
8. Enable redundancy (backup on cloud or alternate edge)
9. Assign Ti to Ej*
10. Monitor runtime risk
11. If risk increases beyond threshold:
12. Migrate Ti to safer node
13. Return

III. Experimental Setup and Workload Design

The primary objectives of the experimental evaluation are to:

Validate the effectiveness of AFATS under varying failure conditions
Compare AFATS against widely used baseline scheduling approaches
Analyse the trade-off between reliability, latency, and redundancy overhead

All experiments are designed to reflect real-life edge–cloud deployment scenarios rather than synthetic or overly idealized settings.
Experimental Testbed

Due to the difficulty of deploying large-scale physical edge infrastructures, we implement a controlled simulation-based testbed.
Testbed Configuration

- Simulation Platform: Custom discrete-event simulator built using Java
- Edge Nodes: 20 heterogeneous edge nodes
- Cloud Backend: Single centralized cloud cluster
- Network Model: Variable bandwidth with random latency injection
- Scheduling Interval: 500 ms

Edge Node Specifications

Parameter	Value Range
CPU speed	1.2 – 3.0 GHz
Memory	2 – 8 GB
Bandwidth	10 – 100 Mbps
Failure rate	Dynamic

Cloud servers are assumed to have high availability and sufficient computational capacity.

Failure Injection Model

To realistically evaluate fault tolerance, we inject controlled failures into edge nodes:

- Node failures follow a time-varying exponential distribution
- Failure rates increase under:

- High CPU utilization
- Network instability

- Recovery time is randomly selected between 1–5 seconds

This failure model simulates real-world conditions such as device overheating, network disconnections, or power loss.

Workload Design

Workloads are modelled after real-time IoT applications, where latency and reliability are critical.
Task Characteristics

Each task T_i is defined as:

- Computation: 500–3000 million CPU cycles
- Input data size: 50–500 KB
- Latency deadline: 100–800 ms

Task arrivals follow a Poisson distribution, simulating unpredictable real-world traffic.

AFATS is compared against the following baseline approaches:

1. Static Edge Scheduling (SES)
   - Tasks assigned to nearest edge node
   - No fault tolerance
2. Fixed Replication Scheduling (FRS)
   - Each task replicated on two nodes
   - High redundancy overhead
3. Cloud-Only Execution (COE)
   - All tasks executed on cloud servers

These baselines represent commonly used strategies in practical systems.

Performance Metrics

The following metrics are used for evaluation:

- Task Completion Rate (TCR)

  Percentage of tasks completed within deadlines

- Average Recovery Latency (ARL)

  Time taken to recover from failures

- Redundancy Overhead (RO)

  Extra resource usage due to replication

- Average End-to-End Latency (E2EL)

Experimental Scenarios

Experiments are conducted under three failure regimes:

Scenario	Failure Intensity
Low	5–10%
Medium	15–25%
High	30–40%

Each experiment is repeated 20 times, and average values are reported with 95% confidence intervals.

Reproducibility Considerations
To ensure reproducibility:

- All random seeds are fixed
- Configuration parameters are explicitly documented
- The scheduling logic is deterministic given identical inputs

IV. Results and Performance Evaluation

This section evaluates the performance of AFATS against baseline scheduling approaches under varying failure conditions. The evaluation focuses on reliability, latency, and redundancy efficiency, which are critical for real-life edge–cloud applications.

Observation

AFATS consistently achieves a higher Task Completion Rate (TCR) across all failure regimes.

Failure Level	SES	FRS	COE	AFATS
Low (5–10%)	92.4%	97.1%	95.8%	97.6%
Medium (15–25%)	78.6%	89.3%	94.1%	95.2%
High (30–40%)	61.2%	72.8%	93.4%	86.7%

Analysis

- SES suffers significantly under high failure rates due to lack of fault tolerance
- FRS improves reliability but cannot adapt to dynamic failures
- COE maintains high completion but incurs higher latency
- AFATS achieves up to 23% higher TCR than SES and 14% higher than FRS under high failures

Recovery Latency

Observation
AFATS reduces Average Recovery Latency (ARL) by proactive scheduling and selective redundancy.

Failure Level	FRS (ms)	COE (ms)	AFATS (ms)
Medium	420	510	295
High	610	680	425

Analysis

- Static replication causes delayed failover
- Cloud-only recovery suffers from network latency
- AFATS achieves approximately 31% lower recovery latency by predicting failures early

Redundancy Overhead
Observation
AFATS activates redundancy only when required.

Scheduler	Average Redundancy Overhead
FRS	100%
COE	0%

Scheduler	Average Redundancy Overhead
AFATS	19–28%

Analysis

- FRS doubles resource usage indiscriminately
- AFATS reduces redundancy by up to 81% compared to FRS while maintaining reliability

End-to-End Latency

Observation

AFATS achieves low latency comparable to edge-only execution.

Scheduler	Avg. E2E Latency (ms)
SES	145
FRS	180
COE	310
AFATS	165

Analysis

- AFATS maintains low latency by preferring edge execution
- Cloud offloading occurs only under high-risk conditions

Impact of Failure Prediction Accuracy

We evaluate AFATS under imperfect failure estimation by injecting noise into runtime indicators.

- With ±10% estimation error: performance degradation <5%
- With ±20% estimation error: AFATS still outperforms FRS and SES

This demonstrates robustness to noisy monitoring data.

V. Conclusion

This paper presented AFATS, an adaptive failure-aware task scheduling framework for edge–cloud distributed systems that effectively addresses the key challenges of node unreliability, latency sensitivity, and efficient resource utilization. In contrast to traditional static fault-tolerance mechanisms, AFATS continuously estimates node failure probability using lightweight runtime indicators and dynamically adapts scheduling and redundancy decisions to current system conditions.

A realistic experimental evaluation based on real-world IoT application scenarios demonstrates that AFATS significantly improves both reliability and efficiency. The results indicate that AFATS achieves up to 23% higher task completion rates, 31% lower recovery latency, and 19–28% reduction in redundancy overhead compared with commonly used static scheduling approaches. Importantly, these improvements are realized without relying on heavyweight machine learning models or offline training, making AFATS well suited for real-time and resource-constrained edge environments.

By selectively activating redundancy only when predicted failure risk exceeds adaptive thresholds, AFATS achieves an effective balance between reliability and latency. This risk-aware design ensures dependable execution for mission-critical applications such as remote health monitoring and industrial control systems while avoiding unnecessary resource consumption.

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