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INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE EN INFORMATIQUE ET EN AUTOMATIQUE

*Lifetime and availability of data stored on a P2P  
system: Evaluation of recovery schemes*

Abdulhalim Dandoush — Sara Alouf — Philippe Nain

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## Lifetime and availability of data stored on a P2P system: Evaluation of recovery schemes

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**Abstract:** This report studies the performance of Peer-to-Peer storage and backup systems (P2PSS). These systems are based on three pillars: data fragmentation and dissemination among the peers, redundancy mechanisms to cope with peers churn and repair mechanisms to recover lost or temporarily unavailable data. We introduce two mechanisms for recovering lost data and evaluate their performance by modelling them through absorbing Markov chains. Specifically, we evaluate the quality of service provided to users in terms of durability and availability of stored data for each recovery mechanism and deduce the impact of its parameters on the system performance. The first mechanism is centralized and based on the use of a single server that can recover multiple losses at once. The second mechanism is distributed: reconstruction of lost fragments is iterated sequentially on many peers until that the required level of redundancy is attained. The key assumptions made in this work, in particular, the assumptions made on the recovery process and peer on-times distribution, are in agreement with the analysis in [8] and in [16] respectively. The models are thereby general enough to be applicable to many distributed environments as shown through numerical computations. We find that, in stable environments such as local area or research institute networks where machines are usually highly available, the distributed-repair scheme offers a reliable, scalable and cheap storage/backup solution. For the case of highly dynamic environments, in general, the distributed-repair scheme is inefficient, in particular to maintain high data availability, unless the data redundancy is high. P2PSS with centralized-repair scheme are efficient in any environment but have the disadvantage of relying on a centralized authority.

**Key-words:** Peer-to-Peer network, distributed storage system, performance evaluation, absorbing Markov chain, data availability, data durability, recovery process

## Disponibilité et longévité des données stockées dans les systèmes de pairs : Evaluation de mécanismes de recouvrement

**Résumé :** Ce rapport étudie les performances de systèmes pair-à-pair de stockage des données (P2PSS). Ces systèmes reposent sur trois piliers: la fragmentation des données et leur dissémination chez les pairs, la redondance des données afin de faire face aux éventuelles indisponibilités des pairs et l'existence d'un mécanisme de réparation ou de recouvrement des données perdues ou temporairement indisponibles. Nous introduisons deux mécanismes de recouvrement des données perdues et en évaluons les performances en les modélisant par des chaînes de Markov absorbantes. Plus précisément, nous évaluons la qualité du service rendu aux utilisateurs en terme de longévité et de disponibilité des données de chaque mécanisme et en déduisons l'impact de ses paramètres sur ses performances. Le premier mécanisme est centralisé et repose sur l'utilisation d'un unique serveur pour la reconstruction des fragments de donnée perdus. Le second mécanisme est distribué : la reconstruction des fragments perdus met en oeuvre, séquentiellement, plusieurs pairs et s'arrête dès que le niveau de redondance requis est atteint. Les principales hypothèses faites dans ce travail, notamment celles portant sur la distribution du processus de recouvrement et de disponibilité des pairs, sont en accord avec les hypothèses dans [8, 16]. Nos modèles, qui généralisent ceux dans [7], sont suffisamment génériques pour s'appliquer à différents environnements distribués, comme le montrent nos applications numériques. Nous constatons que dans des environnements stables comme les réseaux locaux des instituts de recherche, où les machines sont généralement très disponibles, le mécanisme de recouvrement distribué offre une solution de stockage fiable, évolutive et peu coûteuse. Pour des réseaux très dynamiques l'efficacité du mécanisme distribué est inversement proportionnelle au niveau de redondance des données, tout particulièrement pour ce qui concerne leur disponibilité. Les systèmes de stockage qui implémentent le mécanisme de recouvrement centralisé sont efficaces dans n'importe quel environnement, leur talon d'Achille étant les pannes du serveur qui rendent inopérantes la reconstruction des données perdues.

**Mots-clés :** systèmes pair-à-pair, évaluation de performance, chaîne de Markov absorbante, approximation champ moyen

## 1 Introduction

Conventional storage solutions rely on robust dedicated servers and magnetic tapes on which data are stored. These equipments are reliable, but they are also expensive and do not scale well. The growth of storage volume, bandwidth, and computational resources for PCs has fundamentally changed the way applications are constructed, and has inspired a new class of storage systems that use distributed peer-to-peer (P2P) infrastructures. Some of the recent efforts for building highly available storage system based on the P2P paradigm include Intermemory [10], Freenet [4], OceanStore [17], CFS [6], PAST [21], Farsite [9] and Total Recall [3]. Although scalable and economically attractive compared to traditional systems, these storage systems pose many problems such as reliability, confidentiality and availability.

In a P2P network, peers are free to leave and join the system at any time. As a result of the intermittent availability of peers, ensuring high availability of the stored data is an interesting and challenging problem. To ensure data reliability and availability in such dynamic systems, redundant data is inserted into the system. Redundancy can be achieved either by replication or by using erasure codes. For the same amount of redundancy, erasure codes provide higher availability of data than replication [25].

However, using redundancy mechanisms without repairing lost data is not efficient, as the level of redundancy decreases when peers leave the system. Consequently, P2P storage systems need to compensate the loss of data by continuously storing additional redundant data onto new hosts. Systems may rely on a central authority that reconstructs fragments when necessary; these systems will be referred to as *centralized-recovery systems*. Alternatively, secure agents running on new hosts can reconstruct by themselves the data to be stored on the hosts disks. Such systems will be referred to as *distributed-recovery systems*. A centralized server can recover at once multiple losses of the same document in the centralized-recovery scheme. This is not possible in the distributed case where each new host—thanks to its secure agent—recovers only one loss per document. Also, the distributed-recovery mechanism generates more management traffic than the centralized-recovery mechanism. However, the centralized solution poses the problem of a single-point of failure.

Regardless of the recovery mechanism used, two repair policies can be enforced. In the *eager* policy, when the system detects that one host has left the network, it immediately initiates the reconstruction of the lost data, and stores it on a new peer upon recovery. Using this policy, data only becomes unavailable when hosts fail more quickly than failures can be detected and repaired. This policy is simple but makes no distinction between permanent departures that need to be recovered, and transient disconnections that do not.

Having in mind that connections may experience temporary, as opposed to permanent, failures, one may want to deploy a system that defers the repair beyond the detection of a first loss of data. This alternative policy inherently uses less bandwidth than the eager policy. However, it is obvious that an extra amount of redundancy is necessary to mask and to tolerate host departures for extended periods of time. This approach is called *lazy* repair because the explicit goal is to delay repair work for as long as possible.

The aim of this report is to develop mathematical models to evaluate fundamental performance metrics (data lifetime and availability) of P2P storage systems. Our contributions are as follows:

- Analysis of centralized and distributed recovery mechanisms.
- Proposition of a general model that captures the behavior of both eager and lazy repair policies and both replication-based and erasure code-based systems, and accommodates both temporary and permanent disconnections of peers.
- Numerical investigation using realistic parameters values.
- Guidelines on how to engineer the P2PSS in order to satisfy given requirements.

In the following, Section 2 reviews related work and Section 3 introduces the assumptions and notation used throughout the report. Sections 4 and 5 are dedicated to the modeling of the centralized- and distributed-recovery mechanism, respectively. Section 6 validates one approximation done in the modeling. In Section 7, we provide some numerical results showing the performance of the centralized and decentralized schemes. Section 8 concludes the report.

## 2 Related Work and Background

The literature on the architecture and file system of distributed storage systems is abundant (see [21, 3]; non-exhaustive list), but only a few studies have developed analytical models with the goal of understanding the trade-offs between the availability and lifetime of files and the redundancy involved in storing the data.

In [25], Weatherspoon and Kubiatowicz characterize the availability and durability gains provided by an erasure-resilient system. They quantitatively compare replication-based and erasure-coded systems. They show that erasure codes use an order of magnitude less bandwidth and storage than replication for systems with similar durability. Utard and Vernois [24] perform another comparison between the full replication mechanism and erasure codes through a simple stochastic model for the node behavior. They observe that simple replication schemes may be more efficient than erasure codes in presence of very low peers availability. A thorough analysis of erasure codes under different scenarios is performed in [14], where Lin, Chiu and Lee consider two key parameters: the peer availability level and the storage overhead.

Characterizing machine availability both in local and wide area environments has been the focus of [16]. In this paper, Nurmi, Brevik and Wolski investigate three sets of data, each measuring machine availability in a different setting, and perform goodness-of-fit tests on each data set to assess which out of four distributions best fits the data. They have found that a hyper-exponential model fits more accurately the machine availability durations than the exponential, Pareto, or Weibull distribution. More recently, Ramabhadran and Pasquale analyzed the *All-pairs-ping* data set [23] that reports measures of both uptime and downtime

for PlanetLab [18] nodes. By plotting the cumulative distribution function of each duration (uptime/downtime), they conjecture in [19] that an exponential distribution is a reasonable fit for both uptime and downtime durations of the PlanetLab nodes. This conjecture comes to support one of the key assumptions of their model, namely that “node participation can be modeled by an exponential distribution.”

In fact, the main purpose of [19] is the analysis of a storage system using *full replication* for data reliability, so in this aspect, [19] is the closest work to ours even though their model and analysis do not apply for erasure-coded systems (we will see later that our models apply to either replicated or erasure-coded systems). The authors of [19] develop a Markov chain analysis, then derive an expression for the lifetime of the replicated state and study the impact of bandwidth and storage limits on the system. However—and these are major differences with the work presented here, transient disconnections are ignored in their model and only the distributed-repair scheme is considered.

Our first contribution to the analysis of data durability and availability in P2PSS is [1]. In this work, simplifying assumptions have been considered while modeling the P2PSS. Based on these assumptions, we evaluated data lifetime and data availability through a markovian analysis. We have mainly assumed in [1] that both peer on-times durations and the recovery process are exponentially distributed, following the assumptions and results of [19].

However, the recovery process in erasure-coded systems differs substantially from that in replicated systems. The implications of the exponential assumption on the recovery process are not the same in both systems. To understand how the recovery process could be better modeled, we performed a simulation analysis of the download and the recovery processes in erasure-coded systems; cf. [8]. After implementing these processes in the NS-2 network simulator, we ran several experiments and collected a large number of samples of these processes in a large variety of scenarios. We used expectation maximization and least square estimation algorithms to fit the empirical distributions and tested the goodness of our fits using statistical (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test) and graphical methods. We found that the download time of a fragment of data located on a single peer follows approximately an exponential distribution. We also found that the recovery time essentially follows a hypo-exponential distribution with many distinct phases.

Building on the findings of [8], we developed in [7] markovian models to study data lifetime and availability in P2PSS assuming that the *fragment* download/upload time is exponentially distributed. The models in [7] are therefore more realistic than those in [1].

In light of the conclusions of [16], namely, that machine availability is better modeled with a hyper-exponential distribution than with an exponential, Pareto, or Weibull distribution, we will extend in this paper the models of [7] by assuming that peer on-times durations are hyper-exponentially distributed. Doing so, our modeling is valid under different distributed environments.

### 3 System Description, Assumptions and Notation

In the following, we will distinguish the *peers*, which are computers where data is stored and which form a storage system, from the *users* whose objective is to retrieve the data stored in the storage system.

We consider a distributed *storage* system which peers randomly join and leave. The following assumptions on the P2PSS design will be enforced throughout the report:

- A block of data  $D$  is partitioned into  $s$  equally sized fragments to which, using erasure codes (e.g. [20]),  $r$  redundant fragments are added. The case of replication-based redundancy is equally captured by this notation, after setting  $s = 1$  and letting the  $r$  redundant fragments be simple replicas of the unique fragment of the block. This notation—and hence our modeling—is general enough to study both replication-based and erasure code-based storage systems.
- Mainly for privacy issues, a peer can store at most one fragment of any data  $D$ .
- We assume the system has perfect knowledge of the location of fragments at any given time, e.g. by using a Distributed Hash Table (DHT) or a central authority.
- The system keeps track of only the *latest* known location of each fragment.
- Over time, a peer can be either *connected* to or *disconnected* from the storage system. At reconnection, a peer may or may not still store its fragments. We denote by  $p$  the probability that a peer that reconnects still stores its fragments.
- The number of connected peers at any time is typically much larger than the number of fragments associated with  $D$ , i.e.,  $s+r$ . Therefore, we assume that there are always at least  $s+r$  connected peers—hereafter referred to as *new* peers—which are ready to receive and store fragments of  $D$ .

We refer to as *on-time* (resp. *off-time*) a time-interval during which a peer is always connected (resp. disconnected). During a peer's off-time, the fragments stored on this peer are momentarily unavailable to the users of the storage system. At reconnection, and according to the assumptions above, the fragments stored on this peer will be available only with a *persistence* probability  $p$  (and with probability  $1-p$  they are lost). In order to improve data availability and increase the reliability of the storage system, it is therefore crucial to recover from losses by continuously monitoring the system and adding redundancy whenever needed.

We will investigate the performance of two different repair policies: the *eager* and the *lazy* repair policies. In the eager policy, a fragment of  $D$  is reconstructed as soon as it has become unavailable due to a peer disconnection. In the lazy policy, the repair is delayed until the number of unavailable fragments reaches a given threshold, denoted  $k$ . In the latter case, we must have  $k \leq r$  since  $D$  is lost if more than  $r$  fragments are missing from the storage system. Both repair policies can be represented by the threshold parameter

$k \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$ , where  $k$  can take any value in the set  $\{2, \dots, r\}$  in the lazy policy and  $k = 1$  in the eager policy. Any repair policy can be implemented either in a centralized or a distributed way. In the following description, we assume that the system misses  $k$  fragments so that lost fragments have to be restored.

In the centralized implementation, a central authority will: (1) download *in parallel*  $s$  fragments from the peers which are connected, (2) reconstruct at once all the unavailable fragments, and (3) upload the reconstructed fragments *in parallel* onto as many new peers for storage. The central authority updates the database recording fragments locations as soon as all uploads terminate. Step 2 executes in a negligible time compared to the execution time of Steps 1 and 3 and will henceforth be ignored in the modeling. Step 1 (resp. Step 3) ends executing when the download (resp. upload) of the last fragment is completed.

In the distributed implementation, a secure agent on one new peer is notified of the identity of *one* out of the  $k$  unavailable fragments for it to reconstruct it. Upon notification, the secure agent (1) downloads  $s$  fragments of  $D$  from the peers which are connected to the storage system, (2) reconstructs the specified fragment and stores it on the peer's disk; (3) subsequently discards the  $s$  downloaded fragments so as to meet the privacy constraint that only one fragment of a block of data may be held by a peer. This operation iterates until less than  $k$  fragments are sensed unavailable and stops if the number of missing fragments reaches  $k - 1$ . The recovery of one fragment lasts mainly for the execution time of Step 1. We will thus consider the recovery process to end when the download of the last fragment (out of  $s$ ) is completed.

In both implementations, once a fragment is reconstructed, any other copy of it that "reappears" in the system due to a peer reconnection is simply ignored, as only one location (the newest) of the fragment is recorded in the system. Similarly, if a fragment is unavailable, the system knows of only one disconnected peer that stores the unavailable fragment.

Given the system description, data  $D$  can be either *available*, *unavailable* or *lost*. Data  $D$  is said to be available if any  $s$  fragments out of the  $s + r$  fragments can be downloaded by the users of the P2PSS. Data  $D$  is said to be unavailable if *less than*  $s$  fragments are available for download, however the missing fragments to complete  $D$  are located at a peer or a central authority on which a recovery process is ongoing. Data  $D$  is said to be lost if there are *less than*  $s$  fragments in the system including the fragments involved in a recovery process. We assume that, at time  $t = 0$ , at least  $s$  fragments are available so that the document is initially available.

We now introduce the assumptions considered in our models.

**Assumption 1: (off-times)** We assume that successive durations of off-times of a peer are independent and identically distributed (iid) random variables (rvs) with a common exponential distribution function with parameter  $\lambda > 0$ .

Assumption 1 is in agreement with the analysis in [19].

**Assumption 2: (on-times)** We assume that successive durations of on-times of a peer are iid rvs with a common hyper-exponential distribution function with  $n$  phases; the

parameters of phase  $i$  are  $\{p_i, \mu_i\}$ , with  $p_i$  the probability that phase  $i$  is selected and  $1/\mu_i$  the mean duration of phase  $i$ . We naturally have  $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$ .

Assumption 2, with  $n > 1$ , is in agreement with the analysis in [16]; when  $n = 1$ , it is in agreement with the analysis in [19]. According to Assumption 2, each time a peer rejoins the system, it picks its on-time duration from an exponential distribution having parameter  $\mu_i$  with probability  $p_i$ , for  $i \in [1..n]$ . In other words, a peer can stay connected for a short time in a session and for a long time in another one.

**Assumption 3: (independence)** Successive on-times and off-times are assumed to be independent. Peers are assumed to behave independently of each other.

**Assumption 4: (download/upload durations)** We assume that successive download (resp. upload) durations of a fragment are iid rvs with a common exponential distribution function with parameter  $\alpha$  (resp.  $\beta$ ). We further assume that concurrent fragments downloads/uploads are not correlated.

Assumption 4 is supported by our findings in [8]. As already mentioned, the fragment download/upload time was found to follow approximately an exponential distribution. As for the concurrent downloads/uploads, we have found in simulations that these are weakly correlated and close to be “independent” as long as the total workload is equally distributed over the active peers. There are two main reasons for the weak correlation between concurrent downloads/uploads as observed in simulations: (i) the good connectivity of nowadays core networks and (ii) the asymmetry in peers upstream and downstream bandwidths, as on average, a peer tends to have higher downstream than upstream bandwidth [22, 12]. So, as the bottleneck would be the upstream capacity of peers, the fragment download times are close to be iid rvs.

A consequence of Assumption 4 is that each of the block download time and the durations of the centralized and the distributed recovery processes is a rv following a hypo-exponential distribution [13]. Indeed, each of these durations is the summation of *independently* distributed exponential rvs ( $s$  for the block download and in the distributed scheme, and  $s + k$  in the centralized scheme if  $k$  fragments are to be reconstructed) having each its own rate. This is a fundamental difference with [1] where the recovery process is assumed to follow an exponential distribution.

It is worth mentioning that the simulation analysis of [8] has concluded that in most cases the recovery time follows roughly a hypo-exponential distribution. This result is expected as long as fragments downloads/uploads are exponentially distributed and very weakly correlated. It was also found in [8] that a hypo-exponential model gives a more reasonable approximation of the recovery process than an exponential model even in cases when the null hypothesis is rejected.

Given Assumptions 1–5, the models developed in this report are more general and/or more realistic than those in [19, 1, 7]. Table 1 recapitulates the parameters introduced in this section. We will refer to  $s$ ,  $r$  and  $k$  as the *protocol* parameters,  $p$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\{p_i, \mu_i\}_{i=1, \dots, n}$  as the *peers* parameters, and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  as the *network* parameters.

Table 1: System parameters.

$D$	Block of data
$s$	Original number of fragments for each block of data
$r$	Number of redundant fragments
$k$	Threshold of the recovery process
$p$	Persistence probability
$\lambda$	Rate at which peers rejoin the system
$\{p_i, \mu_i\}_{i=1, \dots, n}$	Parameters of the peers failure process
$\alpha$	Download rate of a piece of data (fragment)
$\beta$	Upload rate of a fragment in the centralized-repair scheme

We conclude this section by a word on the notation: a subscript “ $c$ ” (resp. “ $d$ ”) will indicate that we are considering the centralized (resp. distributed) recovery scheme. The notation  $\vec{e}_j^i$  refers to a *row* vector of dimension  $j$  whose entries are null except the  $i$ -th entry that is equal to 1; the notation  $\vec{1}_j$  refers to a *column* vector of dimension  $j$  whose each entry is equal to 1; and the notation  $\vec{0}$  refers to a null *row* vector of appropriate dimension.  $\mathbb{1}\{A\}$  is the characteristic function of event  $A$ . The notation  $[a]^+$  refers to  $\max\{a, 0\}$ . The set of integers ranging from  $a$  to  $b$  is denoted  $[a..b]$ . Given a set of  $n$  rvs  $\{B_i(t)\}_{i \in [1..n]}$ ,  $\vec{B}(t)$  denotes the vector  $(B_1(t), \dots, B_n(t))$  and  $\vec{B}$  denotes the stochastic process  $\{\vec{B}(t), t \geq 0\}$ . For later use, we introduce functions  $S$  and  $f$  such that for a given  $n$ -tuple  $\vec{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ ,  $S(\vec{a}) := \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$  and  $f_i(\vec{a}) := a_i/S(\vec{a})$ .

## 4 Centralized Repair Systems

In this section, we address the performance of P2PSS using the centralized-recovery scheme. We will focus on a single block of data  $D$ , and pay attention only to peers storing fragments of this block.

At any time  $t$ , the state of a block  $D$  can be described by both the number of fragments that are available for download and the state of the recovery process. When triggered, the recovery process goes first through a “download phase” (fragments are downloaded from connected peers to the central authority) then through an “upload phase” (fragments are uploaded to new peers from the central authority).

More formally, we introduce  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $\vec{X}_c(t)$ ,  $\vec{Y}_c(t)$ ,  $\vec{Z}_c(t)$ ,  $\vec{U}_c(t)$ , and  $\vec{V}_c(t)$ , where  $n$  is the number of phases of the hyper-exponential distribution of peers on-times durations, and a  $5n$ -dimensional vector  $\vec{W}_c(t) = (\vec{X}_c(t), \vec{Y}_c(t), \vec{Z}_c(t), \vec{U}_c(t), \vec{V}_c(t))$ . Vectors  $\vec{Y}_c(t)$  and  $\vec{Z}_c(t)$  describe the download phase of the recovery process whereas  $\vec{U}_c(t)$  and  $\vec{V}_c(t)$  describe its upload phase. The formal definition of these vectors is as follows:

- $\vec{X}_c(t) := (X_{c,1}(t), \dots, X_{c,n}(t))$  where  $X_{c,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s+r]$ -valued rv denoting the number of fragments of  $D$  stored on peers that are in phase  $l$  at time  $t$ .

- $\vec{Y}_c(t) := (Y_{c,1}(t), \dots, Y_{c,n}(t))$  where  $Y_{c,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s-1]$ -valued rv denoting the number of fragments of  $D$  being downloaded at time  $t$  to the central authority from peers in phase  $l$  (one fragment per peer).
- $\vec{Z}_c(t) := (Z_{c,1}(t), \dots, Z_{c,n}(t))$  where  $Z_{c,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s]$ -valued rv denoting the number of fragments of  $D$  hold at time  $t$  by the central authority and whose download was done from peers in phase  $l$  (one fragment per peer). Observe that these peers may have left the system by time  $t$ .
- $\vec{U}_c(t) := (U_{c,1}(t), \dots, U_{c,n}(t))$  where  $U_{c,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s+r-1]$ -valued rv denoting the number of (reconstructed) fragments of  $D$  being uploaded at time  $t$  from the central authority to new peers that are in phase  $l$  (one fragment per peer).
- $\vec{V}_c(t) := (V_{c,1}(t), \dots, V_{c,n}(t))$  where  $V_{c,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s+r-1]$ -valued rv denoting the number of (reconstructed) fragments of  $D$  whose upload from the central authority to new peers that are in phase  $l$  has been completed at time  $t$  (one fragment per peer).

Given the above definitions, we necessarily have  $Y_{c,l}(t) \leq X_{c,l}(t)$  for  $l \in [1..n]$  at any time  $t$ . The number of fragments of  $D$  that are available for download at time  $t$  is given by  $S(\vec{X}_c(t))$  (recall the definition of the function  $S$  in Section 3). Given that  $s$  fragments of  $D$  need to be downloaded to the central authority during the download phase of the recovery process, we will have (during this phase)  $S(\vec{Y}_c(t)) + S(\vec{Z}_c(t)) = s$ , such that  $S(\vec{Y}_c(t)), S(\vec{Z}_c(t)) \in [1..s-1]$ . Once the download phase is completed, the central authority will reconstruct at once all missing fragments, that is  $s+r-S(\vec{X}_c(t))$ . Therefore, during the upload phase, we have  $S(\vec{U}_c(t)) + S(\vec{V}_c(t)) = s+r-S(\vec{X}_c(t))$ . Observe that, once the download phase is completed, the number of available fragments,  $S(\vec{X}_c(t))$ , may well decrease to 0 with peers all leaving the system. In such a situation, the central authority will reconstruct  $s+r$  fragments of  $D$ . As soon as the download phase is completed  $\vec{Y}_c(t) = \vec{0}$  and  $S(\vec{Z}_c(t)) = s$ . The end of the upload phase is also the end of the recovery process. We will then have  $\vec{Y}_c(t) = \vec{Z}_c(t) = \vec{U}_c(t) = \vec{V}_c(t) = \vec{0}$  until the recovery process is again triggered.

According to the terminology introduced in Section 3, at time  $t$ , data  $D$  is *available* if  $S(\vec{X}_c(t)) \geq s$ , regardless of the state of the recovery process. It is *unavailable* if  $S(\vec{X}_c(t)) < s$  but  $S(\vec{Z}_c(t))$ —the number of fragments hold by the central authority—is larger than  $s - S(\vec{X}_c(t))$  and at least  $s - S(\vec{X}_c(t))$  fragments out of  $S(\vec{Z}_c(t))$  are different from those  $S(\vec{X}_c(t))$  fragments available on peers. Otherwise,  $D$  is considered to be *lost*. The latter situation will be modeled by a single state  $a$ .

If a recovery process is ongoing, the exact number of *distinct* fragments of  $D$  that are in the system—counting both those that are available and those hold by the central authority—may be unknown due to peers churn. However, we are able to find a lower bound on it, namely,

$$b(\vec{X}_c(t), \vec{Y}_c(t), \vec{Z}_c(t)) := \sum_{l=1}^n \max\{X_{c,l}(t), Y_{c,l}(t) + Z_{c,l}(t)\}.$$

In fact, the uncertainty about the number of distinct fragments is a result of peers churn. That said, this bound is very tight and most often gives the exact number of distinct fragments since peers churn occurs at a much larger time-scale than a fragment download. In our modeling, we consider an unavailable data  $D$  to become lost when the bound  $b$  takes a value smaller than  $s$ . Observe that, if the recovery process is not triggered, then  $b(\vec{X}_c(t), \vec{0}, \vec{0}) = S(\vec{X}_c(t))$  gives the exact number of distinct fragments.

The system state at time  $t$  can be represented by the  $5n$ -dimensional vector  $\vec{W}_c(t)$ . Thanks to the assumptions made in Section 3, the multi-dimensional process  $\vec{W}_c := \{\vec{W}_c(t), t \geq 0\}$  is an absorbing homogeneous continuous-time Markov chain (CTMC) with a set of transient states  $\mathcal{T}_c$  representing the situations when  $D$  is either available or unavailable and a single absorbing state  $a$  representing the situation when  $D$  is lost. As writing  $\mathcal{T}_c$  is tedious, we will simply say that  $\mathcal{T}_c$  is a subset of  $[0..s+r]^n \times [0..s-1]^n \times [0..s]^n \times [0..s+r-1]^n \times [0..s+r-1]^n$ . The elements of  $\mathcal{T}_c$  must verify the constraints mentioned above.

Without loss of generality, we assume that  $S(\vec{X}_c(0)) \geq s$ . The infinitesimal generator has the following canonical form

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{T}_c \\ a \end{array} \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \vec{Q}_c & \vec{R}_c \\ \hline \vec{0} & 0 \end{array} \right) \begin{array}{c} a \\ \end{array}$$

where  $\vec{R}_c$  is a non-zero column vector of size  $|\mathcal{T}_c|$ , and  $\vec{Q}_c$  is  $|\mathcal{T}_c|$ -by- $|\mathcal{T}_c|$  matrix. The elements of  $\vec{R}_c$  are the transition rates between the transient states  $\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{T}_c$  and the absorbing state  $a$ . The diagonal elements of  $\vec{Q}_c$  are each the total transition rate out of the corresponding transient state. The other elements of  $\vec{Q}_c$  are the transition rates between each pair of transient states. The non-zero elements of  $\vec{R}_c$  are, for  $S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..S(\vec{x}_c)]$  and  $S(\vec{z}_c) = s - S(\vec{y}_c)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} r_c(\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}) &= \sum_{l=1}^n x_{c,l} \mu_l, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) = s. \\ r_c(\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}) &= \sum_{l=1}^n y_{c,l} \mu_l \cdot \mathbb{1}\{b(\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c) = s\}, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [1..s]. \end{aligned}$$

Let us proceed to the definition of the non-zero elements of  $\vec{Q}_c$ .

#### **The case when a peer leaves the system**

There are five different situations in this case. In the first situation, either the recovery process has not been triggered or it has but no download has been completed yet. In both the second and third situations, the download phase of the recovery process is ongoing and at least one download is completed. However, in the second situation, the departing peer does not affect the recovery process (either it was not involved in it or its fragment download is completed), unlike what happens in the third situation. In the third situation, a fragment download is interrupted due to the peer's departure. The central authority will then immediately start downloading a fragment from another available peer that is uniformly

selected among all available peers not currently involved in the recovery process. The fourth situation arises when a peer leaves the system at the end of the download phase. Last, the fifth situation occurs when a peer, to which the central authority is uploading a fragment, leaves the system. The central authority has then to upload again the given fragment to a new peer. This new peer would be in phase  $m$  with probability  $p_m$  for  $m \in [1..n]$ . The elements of  $\vec{Q}_c$  corresponding to these five situations are, for  $l \in [1..n]$  and  $m \in [1..n]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= x_{c,l}\mu_l, \\
&\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s + 1..s + r]. \\
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0})) &= [x_{c,l} - y_{c,l}]^+ \mu_l, \\
&\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s..s + r - 1], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..s - 1], \quad S(\vec{z}_c) = s - S(\vec{y}_c); \\
&\text{or } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [2..s - 1], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..S(\vec{x}_c) - 1], \quad S(\vec{z}_c) = s - S(\vec{y}_c). \\
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{y}_c - \vec{e}_n^l + \vec{e}_n^m, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0})) &= \frac{y_{c,l}\mu_l[x_{c,m} - y_{c,m} - z_{c,m}]^+}{\sum_{i=1}^n [x_{c,i} - y_{c,i} - z_{c,i}]^+}, \\
&\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s..s + r - 1], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..s - 1], \quad S(\vec{z}_c) = s - S(\vec{y}_c); \\
&\text{or } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [2..s - 1], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..S(\vec{x}_c) - 1], \quad S(\vec{z}_c) = s - S(\vec{y}_c). \\
\\
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0})) &= x_{c,l}\mu_l, \\
&\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [1..s + r - 1], \quad S(\vec{z}_c) = s. \\
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{u}_c, \vec{v}_c), (\vec{x}_c - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{u}_c + \vec{e}_n^m, \vec{v}_c)) &= x_{c,l}\mu_l p_m, \\
&\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [1..s + r - 2], \quad S(\vec{z}_c) = s, \quad S(\vec{u}_c) \in [1..s + r - S(\vec{x}_c) - 1], \\
&\quad S(\vec{v}_c) = s + r - S(\vec{x}_c) - S(\vec{u}_c).
\end{aligned}$$

### The case when a peer rejoins the system

Recall that the system keeps trace of only the latest known location of each fragment. As such, once a fragment is reconstructed, any other copy of it that “reappears” in the system due to a peer reconnection is simply ignored, as only one location (the newest) of the fragment is recorded in the system. Similarly, if a fragment is unavailable, the system knows of only one disconnected peer that stores the unavailable fragment. In the following, only relevant reconnections are considered. For instance, when the recovery process is in its upload phase, any peer that rejoins the system does not affect the system state since all fragments have been reconstructed and are being uploaded to their new locations.

There are three situations where reconnections may be relevant. In the first, either the recovery process has not been triggered or it has but no download has been completed yet. In both the second and third situations, the download phase of the recovery process is ongoing and at least one download is completed. However, in the third situation, there is only one missing fragment, so when the peer storing the missing fragments rejoins the system, the recovery process aborts.

The elements of  $\vec{Q}_c$  corresponding to these three situations are, for  $l \in [1..n]$  and  $S(\vec{z}_c) = s - S(\vec{y}_c)$

$$\begin{aligned} q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= p_l(s + r - S(\vec{x}_c))p\lambda, \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s..s + r - 1]. \\ q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0})) &= p_l(s + r - S(\vec{x}_c))p\lambda, \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s..s + r - 2], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..s - 1]; \\ &\text{or } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [1..s - 1], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..S(\vec{x}_c)]. \\ q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= p_l p\lambda, \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) = s + r - 1, \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..s - 1]. \end{aligned}$$

### The case when one download is completed during the recovery process

When a recovery process is initiated, the system state verifies  $S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s..s + r - k]$  and  $\vec{y}_c = \vec{z}_c = \vec{u}_c = \vec{v}_c = \vec{0}$ . The central authority selects  $s$  peers out of the  $S(\vec{x}_c)$  peers that are connected to the system and initiates a fragment download from each. Among the  $s$  peers that are selected,  $i_l$  out of  $s$  would be in phase  $l$ , for  $l \in [1..n]$ . Let  $\vec{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ . We naturally have  $0 \leq i_l \leq x_{c,l}$ , for  $l \in [1..n]$ , and  $S(\vec{i}) = s$ . This selection occurs with probability

$$g(\vec{i}, \vec{x}_c) := \frac{\prod_{l=1}^n \binom{x_{c,l}}{i_l}}{\binom{S(\vec{x}_c)}{s}}.$$

The probability that the first download to be completed out of  $s$  was from a peer in phase  $l$  is equal to  $f_l(\vec{i}) = i_l/s$  (recall the definition of  $f$  in Section 3). Similarly, when the number of ongoing downloads is  $\vec{y}_c$ , the probability that the first download to be completed out of  $S(\vec{y}_c)$  was from a peer in phase  $l$  is equal to  $f_l(\vec{y}_c) = y_{c,l}/S(\vec{y}_c)$ .

The two possible transition rates in such situations are, for  $l \in [1..n]$ ,  $m \in [1..n]$  and  $S(\vec{z}_c) = s - S(\vec{y}_c)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c, \vec{i} - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0})) &= s\alpha g(\vec{i}, \vec{x}_c) f_l(\vec{i}), \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s..s + r - k], \quad i_m \in [0..x_{c,m}], \quad S(\vec{i}) = s. \\ q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{z}_c + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0})) &= S(\vec{y}_c)\alpha f_l(\vec{y}_c), \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [s..s + r - 1], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..s - 1]; \\ &\text{or } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [1..s - 1], \quad S(\vec{y}_c) \in [1..S(\vec{x}_c)]. \end{aligned}$$

### The case when one upload is completed during the recovery process

When the download phase is completed, the system state verifies  $S(\vec{z}_c) = s$  and  $\vec{y}_c = \vec{u}_c = \vec{v}_c = \vec{0}$ . The central authority selects  $s + r - S(\vec{x}_c)$  new peers that are connected to the system and initiates a (reconstructed) fragment upload to each. Among the peers that are selected,  $i_l$  out of  $s + r - S(\vec{x}_c)$  would be in phase  $l$ , for  $l \in [1..n]$ . Let  $\vec{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ . We naturally have  $0 \leq i_l \leq s + r - S(\vec{x}_c)$ , for  $l \in [1..n]$ , and  $S(\vec{i}) = s + r - S(\vec{x}_c)$ . This selection occurs with probability

$$h(\vec{i}, \vec{x}_c) := \binom{s + r - S(\vec{x}_c)}{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} \prod_{l=1}^n p_l^{i_l}$$

where the multinomial coefficient has been used. For  $l \in [1..n]$  and  $S(\vec{z}_c) = s$ , we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{i} - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{e}_n^l)) &= S(\vec{i})\beta h(\vec{i}, \vec{x}_c) f_l(\vec{i}), \\
\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [0..s+r-2], \vec{i} \in [0..s+r-S(\vec{x}_c)]^n, \quad S(\vec{i}) &= s+r-S(\vec{x}_c). \\
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{u}_c, \vec{v}_c), (\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{u}_c - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{v}_c + \vec{e}_n^l)) &= S(\vec{u}_c)\beta f_l(\vec{u}_c), \\
\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [0..s+r-2], \quad S(\vec{u}_c) \in [2..s+r-S(\vec{x}_c)-1], \\
S(\vec{v}_c) &= s+r-S(\vec{x}_c)-S(\vec{u}_c). \\
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{v}_c), (\vec{x}_c + \vec{v}_c + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= \beta, \\
\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) \in [0..s+r-2], \quad S(\vec{v}_c) &= s+r-S(\vec{x}_c)-1. \\
q_c((\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{z}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_c + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= p_l\beta, \\
\text{for } S(\vec{x}_c) &= s+r-1.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\vec{Q}_c$  is not an infinitesimal generator since elements in some rows do not sum up to 0. Those rows correspond to the system states where only  $s$  distinct fragments are present in the system. The diagonal elements of  $\vec{Q}_c$  are

$$q_c(\vec{w}_c, \vec{w}_c) = -r_c(\vec{w}_c) - \sum_{\vec{w}'_c \in \mathcal{T}_c - \{\vec{w}_c\}} q_c(\vec{w}_c, \vec{w}'_c), \quad \text{for } \vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{T}_c.$$

For illustration purposes, we depict in Fig. 1 some of the transitions of the absorbing CTMC when  $n = 2$ ,  $s = 3$ ,  $r = 1$ , and  $k = 1$ .

#### 4.1 Data Lifetime

This section is devoted to the analysis of the lifetime of  $D$ . It will be convenient to introduce sets

$$\mathcal{E}_I := \{(\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}) : \vec{x}_c \in [0..s+r]^n, S(\vec{x}_c) = I\} \text{ for } I \in [s..s+r].$$

The set  $\mathcal{E}_I$  consists of all states of the process  $\vec{W}_c$  in which the number of fragments of  $D$  currently available is equal to  $I$  and the recovery process either has not been triggered (for  $I \in [s+r-k+1..s+r]$ ) or it has but no download has been completed yet (for  $I \in [s..s+r-k]$ ). For any  $I$ , the cardinal of  $\mathcal{E}_I$  is  $\binom{I+n-1}{n-1}$  (think of the possible selections of  $n-1$  boxes in a row of  $I+n-1$  boxes, so as to delimit  $n$  groups of boxes summing up to  $I$ ).

Introduce  $T_c(\mathcal{E}_I) := \inf\{t > 0 : \vec{W}_c(t) = a | \vec{W}_c(0) \in \mathcal{E}_I\}$ , the time until absorption in state  $a$ —or equivalently the time until  $D$  is lost—given that the initial number of fragments of  $D$  available in the system is equal to  $I$ . In the following,  $T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)$  will be referred to as the *conditional block lifetime*. We are interested in the conditional probability distribution function,  $P(T_c(\mathcal{E}_I) \leq t)$ , and the conditional expectation,  $E[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)]$ , given that  $\vec{W}_c(0) \in \mathcal{E}_I$  for  $I \in [s..s+r]$ .

From the theory of absorbing Markov chains, we can compute  $P(T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\}) \leq t)$  where  $T_c^h(\{\vec{w}_c\})$  is the time until absorption in state  $a$  given that the system initiates in state

$\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{T}_c$ . We know that (e.g. [15, Lemma 2.2])

$$P(T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\}) \leq t) = 1 - \vec{e}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)} \cdot \exp(t\vec{Q}_c) \cdot \vec{1}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}, \quad t > 0, \vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{T}_c \quad (1)$$

where  $\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)$  refers to the index of state  $\vec{w}_c$  in the matrix  $\vec{Q}_c$ . Definitions of vectors  $\vec{e}_j^i$  and  $\vec{1}_j$  were given at the end of Section 3. Observe that the term  $\vec{e}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)} \cdot \exp(t\vec{Q}_c) \cdot \vec{1}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}$  in the right-hand side of (1) is nothing but the summation of all  $|\mathcal{T}_c|$  elements in row  $\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)$  of matrix  $\exp(t\vec{Q}_c)$ .

Let  $\pi_{\vec{x}_c}$  denote the probability that the system starts in state  $\vec{w}_c = (\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}) \in \mathcal{E}_I$  at time 0 given that  $\vec{W}_c(0) \in \mathcal{E}_I$ . We can write

$$\pi_{\vec{x}_c} := P(\vec{W}_c(0) = \vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I | \vec{W}_c(0) \in \mathcal{E}_I) = \begin{pmatrix} I \\ x_{c,1}, \dots, x_{c,n} \end{pmatrix} \prod_{l=1}^n p_l^{x_{c,l}}. \quad (2)$$

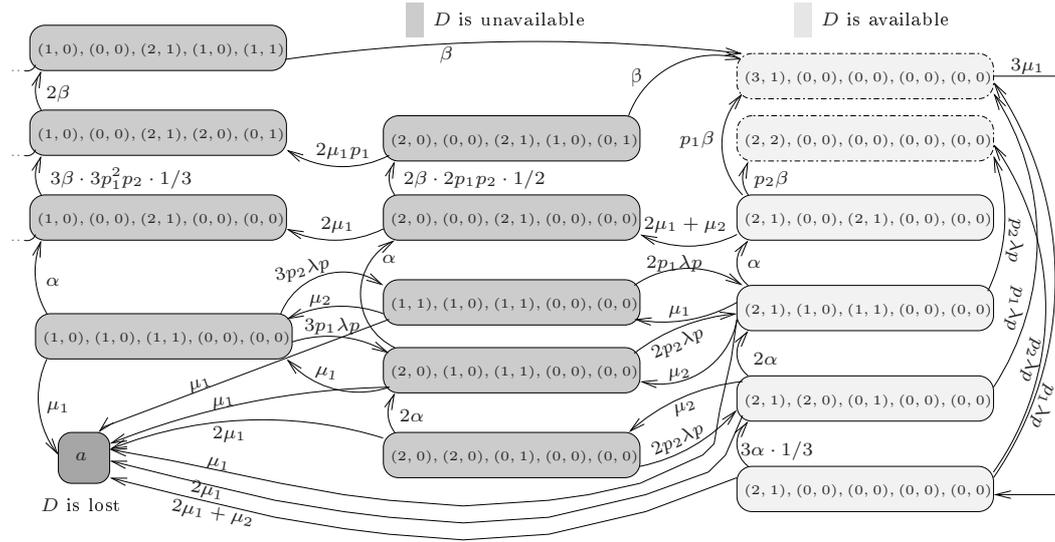


Figure 1: Some transitions of the Markov chain  $\vec{W}_c$  when  $n = 2$ ,  $s = 3$ ,  $r = 1$ , and  $k = 1$ .

Clearly  $\sum_{\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I} \pi_{\vec{x}_c} = 1$  for  $I \in [s..s+r]$ . Using (1) and (2) and the total probability theorem yields, for  $I \in [s..s+r]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} P(T_c(\mathcal{E}_I) \leq t) &= \sum_{\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I} \pi_{\vec{x}_c} P(T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\}) \leq t) \\ &= 1 - \sum_{\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I} \pi_{\vec{x}_c} \bar{e}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)} \cdot \exp\left(t\vec{Q}_c\right) \cdot \vec{1}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}, \quad t > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

We know from [15, p. 46] that the expected time until absorption given that the  $\vec{W}_c(0) = \vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{T}_c$  can be written as

$$\mathbb{E}[T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\})] = -\bar{e}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)} \cdot \left(\vec{Q}_c\right)^{-1} \cdot \vec{1}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}, \quad \vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{T}_c,$$

where the existence of  $\left(\vec{Q}_c\right)^{-1}$  is a consequence of the fact that all states in  $\mathcal{T}_c$  are transient [15, p. 45]. The conditional expectation of  $T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)$  is then (recall that the elements of  $\mathcal{E}_I$  are of the form  $(\vec{x}_c, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0}, \vec{0})$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)] &= \sum_{\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I} \pi_{\vec{x}_c} \mathbb{E}[T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\})] \\ &= - \sum_{\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I} \pi_{\vec{x}_c} \bar{e}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)} \cdot \left(\vec{Q}_c\right)^{-1} \cdot \vec{1}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}, \quad \text{for } I \in [s..s+r]. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

## 4.2 Data Availability

In this section we introduce different metrics to quantify the availability of  $D$ . But first, we will study the time during which  $J$  fragments of  $D$  are available in the system given that there were initially  $I$  fragments. To formalize this measure, we introduce the following subsets of  $\mathcal{T}_c$ , for  $J \in [0..s+r]$ ,

$$\mathcal{F}_J := \{(\vec{x}_c, \vec{y}_c, \vec{z}_c, \vec{u}_c, \vec{v}_c) \in \mathcal{T}_c : S(\vec{x}_c) = J\}$$

The set  $\mathcal{F}_J$  consists of all states of process  $\vec{W}_c$  in which the number of fragments of  $D$  currently available is equal to  $J$ , regardless of the state of the recovery process. The subsets  $\mathcal{F}_J$  form a partition of  $\mathcal{T}_c$ . We may define now

$$T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J) := \int_0^{T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)} \mathbb{1}\{\vec{W}_c(t) \in \mathcal{F}_J | \vec{W}_c(0) \in \mathcal{E}_I\} dt.$$

$T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)$  is the total time spent by the CTMC in the set  $\mathcal{F}_J$  before being absorbed in state  $a$ , given that  $\vec{W}_c(0) \in \mathcal{E}_I$ . Similarly,  $T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\}, \{\vec{w}'_c\})$  is the total time spent by the CTMC in state  $\vec{w}'_c$  before being absorbed in state  $a$ , given that  $\vec{W}_c(0) = \vec{w}_c$ . We know from [11, p. 419] that

$$\mathbb{E}[T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\}, \{\vec{w}'_c\})] = -\bar{e}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)} \cdot \left(\vec{Q}_c\right)^{-1} \cdot \bar{e}_{|\mathcal{T}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}'_c)}, \quad \vec{w}_c, \vec{w}'_c \in \mathcal{T}_c \quad (5)$$

where  $\vec{y}$  denotes the transpose of a given vector  $\vec{y}$ . In other words, the expectation  $\mathbb{E}[T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\}, \{\vec{w}'_c\})]$  is the entry of matrix  $(-\vec{Q}_c)^{-1}$  at row  $\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)$  and column  $\text{ind}(\vec{w}'_c)$ . Using (2) and (5), we derive for  $I \in [s..s+r]$  and  $J \in [0..s+r]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)] &= \sum_{\vec{w}'_c \in \mathcal{F}_J} \mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \{\vec{w}'_c\})] \\ &= \sum_{\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I} \sum_{\vec{w}'_c \in \mathcal{F}_J} \pi_{\vec{x}_c} \mathbb{E}[T_c(\{\vec{w}_c\}, \{\vec{w}'_c\})] \\ &= - \sum_{\vec{w}_c \in \mathcal{E}_I} \sum_{\vec{w}'_c \in \mathcal{F}_J} \pi_{\vec{x}_c} \bar{e}_{|\mathcal{I}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}_c)} \cdot (\vec{Q}_c)^{-1} \cdot \bar{e}_{|\mathcal{I}_c|}^{\text{ind}(\vec{w}'_c)}. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

We are now in position of introducing two availability metrics. The first metric, defined as

$$M_{c,1}(\mathcal{E}_I) := \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{J=0}^{s+r} J \frac{T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)}{T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)} \right], \quad \text{where } I \in [s..s+r],$$

can be interpreted as the expected number of fragments of  $D$  that are available for download—as long as  $D$  is not lost—given that  $I$  fragments are initially available. A second metric is

$$M_{c,2}(\mathcal{E}_I, m) := \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{J=m}^{s+r} \frac{T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)}{T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)} \right], \quad \text{where } I \in [s..s+r],$$

that we can interpret as the fraction of the lifetime of  $D$  when at least  $m$  fragments are available for download, given that  $I$  fragments are initially available. For instance,  $M_{c,2}(\mathcal{E}_{s+r}, s)$  is the proportion of time when data  $D$  is *available* for users, given that  $s+r$  fragments of  $D$  are initially available for download.

The expectations involved in the computation of the availability metrics are difficult to find in closed-form. Therefore, we resort to using the following approximation

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)}{T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)} \right] \approx \frac{\mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)]}{\mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)]}, \quad (7)$$

where the terms in the right-hand side have been derived in (6) and (4). We will come back to this approximation in Section 6. With this approximation in mind, the two availability metrics become

$$M_{c,1}(\mathcal{E}_I) = \sum_{J=0}^{s+r} J \frac{\mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)]}{\mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)]}, \quad \text{where } I \in [s..s+r], \quad (8)$$

$$M_{c,2}(\mathcal{E}_I, m) = \sum_{J=m}^{s+r} \frac{\mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)]}{\mathbb{E}[T_c(\mathcal{E}_I)]}, \quad \text{where } I \in [s..s+r]. \quad (9)$$

## 5 Distributed Repair Systems

In this section, we model P2P storage systems that implement a distributed recovery mechanism, as described in Section 3. The system at time  $t$  can be described by the number of fragments that are available for download and the state of the recovery process. Unlike the centralized case, the distributed recovery process consists of only a download phase at the end of which the secure agent running on the new peer reconstructs a *single* fragment and stores it on the peer's disk.

To model the system, we introduce  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $\vec{X}_d(t)$ ,  $\vec{Y}_d(t)$ ,  $\vec{Z}_d(t)$  and a  $3n$ -dimensional vector  $\vec{W}_d(t) = (\vec{X}_d(t), \vec{Y}_d(t), \vec{Z}_d(t))$ . Vectors  $\vec{Y}_d(t)$  and  $\vec{Z}_d(t)$  describe the recovery process. The formal definition of these vectors is as follows:

- $\vec{X}_d(t) := (X_{d,1}(t), \dots, X_{d,n}(t))$  where  $X_{d,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s+r]$ -valued rv denoting the number of fragments of  $D$  stored on peers that are in phase  $l$  at time  $t$ .  $\vec{X}_d(t)$  must verify  $S(\vec{X}_d(t)) \in [s-1..s+r]$ .
- $\vec{Y}_d(t) := (Y_{d,1}(t), \dots, Y_{d,n}(t))$  where  $Y_{d,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s-1]$ -valued rv denoting the number of fragments of  $D$  being downloaded at time  $t$  to the secure agent from peers in phase  $l$  (one fragment per peer).
- $\vec{Z}_d(t) := (Z_{d,1}(t), \dots, Z_{d,n}(t))$  where  $Z_{d,l}(t)$  is a  $[0..s-1]$ -valued rv denoting the number of fragments of  $D$  hold at time  $t$  by the secure agent and whose download was done from peers in phase  $l$  (one fragment per peer). Observe that these peers may have left the system by time  $t$ .

As in the centralized case,  $Y_{d,l}(t) \leq X_{d,l}(t)$  for  $l \in [1..n]$  at any time  $t$ . The number of fragments of  $D$  that are available for download at time  $t$  is given by  $S(\vec{X}_d(t))$ . During the recovery process,  $S(\vec{Y}_d(t)) + S(\vec{Z}_d(t)) = s$ , such that  $S(\vec{Y}_d(t)), S(\vec{Z}_d(t)) \in [1..s-1]$ . Because the distributed scheme repairs fragments only one at a time, we have  $S(\vec{X}_d(t)) \in [s-1..s+r]$ . The end of the download phase is also the end of the recovery process. We will then have  $\vec{Y}_d(t) = \vec{Z}_d(t) = \vec{0}$  until the recovery process is again triggered.

$D$  is available when  $S(\vec{X}_d(t)) \geq s$ , unavailable when  $S(\vec{X}_d(t)) = s-1$  and  $b(\vec{X}_d(t), \vec{Y}_d(t), \vec{Z}_d(t)) \geq s$  (recall the lower bound on the number of distinct fragments in the system introduced in Section 4) and lost otherwise (situation modeled by a single absorbing state  $a$ ).

According to the description and assumptions listed in Section 3, the state of data  $D$  at time  $t$  can be represented by  $\vec{W}_d(t)$  and the multi-dimensional process  $\vec{\mathbf{W}}_d := \{\vec{W}_d(t), t \geq 0\}$  is an absorbing homogeneous CTMC with a single absorbing state  $a$ . The set of transient states  $\mathcal{T}_d$  is the set of elements of  $[0..s+r]^n \times [0..s-1]^n \times [0..s-1]^n$  that verify the constraints mentioned above.

The analysis of the absorbing Markov chain  $\vec{\mathbf{W}}_d$  that takes values in  $\mathcal{T}_d \cup \{a\}$  is very similar to the analysis of  $\vec{\mathbf{W}}_c$  in Section 4, we will then only sketch it. In particular,  $\vec{R}_d$  and  $\vec{Q}_d$  have similar definitions as  $\vec{R}_c$  and  $\vec{Q}_c$  after replacing the subscript “ $c$ ” with the

subscript “ $d$ ” whenever needed. The non-zero elements of  $\vec{R}_d$  are, for  $S(\vec{y}_d) \in [1..s-1]$  and  $S(\vec{z}_d) = s - S(\vec{y}_d)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} r_d(\vec{x}_d, \vec{0}, \vec{0}) &= \sum_{l=1}^n x_{d,l} \mu_l, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) = s. \\ r_d(\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d) &= \sum_{l=1}^n x_{d,l} \mu_l, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) = s-1. \\ r_d(\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d) &= \sum_{l=1}^n y_{d,l} \mu_l \cdot \mathbb{1}\{b(\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d) = s\}, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) = s. \end{aligned}$$

We next write the non-zero elements of  $\vec{Q}_d$ .

**The case when a peer leaves the system**

There are three situations in this case. In the first situation, either the recovery process has not been triggered or it has but no download has been completed yet. In the other two situations, the recovery process is ongoing and at least one download is completed. In the second situation, the departing peer does not affect the recovery process, which is not the case of the third situation, where the secure agent must start downloading a fragment from another available peer that is uniformly selected among all available peers not currently involved in the recovery process. This peer would be in phase  $m$  with probability  $p_m$  for  $m \in [1..n]$ . The elements of  $\vec{Q}_d$  corresponding to these three situations are, for  $l \in [1..n]$ ,  $m \in [1..n]$ ,  $S(\vec{y}_d) \in [1..s-1]$  and  $S(\vec{z}_d) = s - S(\vec{y}_d)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_d - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= x_{d,l} \mu_l, \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s+1..s+r]. \\ q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d), (\vec{x}_d - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d)) &= [x_{d,l} - y_{d,l}]^+ \mu_l, \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s..s+r-1]. \\ q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d), (\vec{x}_d - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{y}_d - \vec{e}_n^l + \vec{e}_n^m, \vec{z}_d)) &= \frac{y_{d,l} \mu_l [x_{d,m} - y_{d,m} - z_{d,m}]^+}{\sum_{i=1}^n [x_{d,i} - y_{d,i} - z_{d,i}]^+}, \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s..s+r-1]. \end{aligned}$$

**The case when a peer rejoins the system**

There are three situations in this case exactly like in Section 4. The elements of  $\vec{Q}_d$  corresponding to these three situations are, for  $l \in [1..n]$ ,  $S(\vec{y}_d) \in [1..s-1]$  and  $S(\vec{z}_d) = s - S(\vec{y}_d)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_d + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= p_l (s + r - S(\vec{x}_d)) p \lambda, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s..s+r-1]. \\ q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d), (\vec{x}_d + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d)) &= p_l (s + r - S(\vec{x}_d)) p \lambda, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s-1..s+r-2]. \\ q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d), (\vec{x}_d + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= p_l p \lambda, & \text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) = s+r-1. \end{aligned}$$

**The case when one download is completed during the recovery process**

There are three situations in this case, following which download has been completed. If it is the first or any of the  $s-2$  subsequent ones, then we obtain the two situations

described in Section 4. The third situation occurs when the last download is completed, which is essentially the end of the recovery phase. The elements of  $\vec{Q}_d$  corresponding to these three situations are, for  $l \in [1..n]$  and  $m \in [1..n]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{0}, \vec{0}), (\vec{x}_d, \vec{i} - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{e}_n^l)) &= s\alpha g(\vec{i}, \vec{x}_d) f_i(\vec{i}), \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s..s+r-k], \quad i_l \in [0..x_{d,l}], \quad S(\vec{i}) = s. \\ q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d, \vec{z}_d), (\vec{x}_d, \vec{y}_d - \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{z}_d + \vec{e}_n^l)) &= S(\vec{y}_d)\alpha f_l(\vec{y}_d), \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s-1..s+r-1], \quad S(\vec{y}_d) \in [2..s-1], \quad S(\vec{z}_d) = s - S(\vec{y}_d). \\ q_d((\vec{x}_d, \vec{e}_n^m, \vec{z}_d), (\vec{x}_d + \vec{e}_n^l, \vec{0}, \vec{0})) &= p_l\alpha, \\ &\text{for } S(\vec{x}_d) \in [s-1..s+r-1], \quad S(\vec{z}_d) = s-1. \end{aligned}$$

And last :

$$q_d(\vec{w}_d, \vec{w}_d) = -r_d(\vec{w}_d) - \sum_{\vec{w}'_d \in \mathcal{T}_d - \{\vec{w}_d\}} q_d(\vec{w}_d, \vec{w}'_d), \quad \text{for } \vec{w}_d \in \mathcal{T}_d.$$

For illustration purposes, we depict in Fig. 2 some of the transitions of the absorbing CTMC when  $n = 2$ ,  $s = 4$ ,  $r = 2$ , and  $k = 1$ .

We can now derive closed-form expressions for the distribution of the conditional block lifetime, its expectation, and the two availability metrics, as was done in Section 4.  $P(T_d(\mathcal{E}_I) \leq t)$ ,  $E[T_d(\mathcal{E}_I)]$ ,  $E[T_d(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)]$ ,  $M_{d,1}(\mathcal{E}_I)$  and  $M_{d,2}(\mathcal{E}_I, m)$  are given in (3), (4), (6), (8) and (9) respectively, after replacing the subscript “ $c$ ” with the subscript “ $d$ .” Alike for the centralized case, we will perform numerical computations as it is not tractable to explicitly invert  $\vec{Q}_d$ .

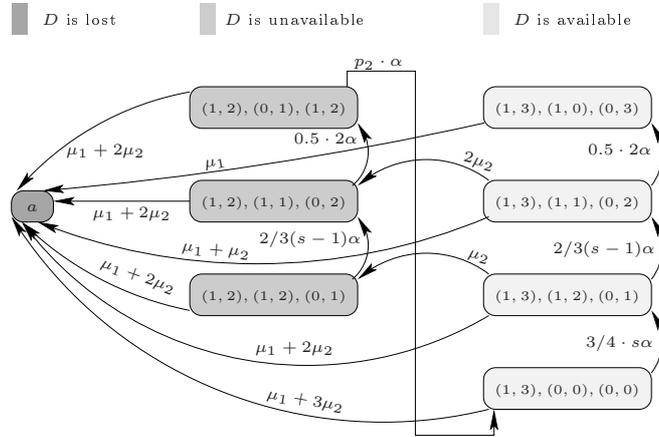


Figure 2: Some transition rates of the Markov chain  $\vec{W}_d$  when  $n = 2$ ,  $s = 4$ ,  $r = 2$ , and  $k = 1$ .

## 6 Validation of (7)

In this section, we validate the approximation made in (7) which has been made to compute the two availability metrics in both models presented in this report. In order to do that, we need to simulate the Markov chain until absorption, and measure  $T(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)$  and  $T(\mathcal{E}_I)$  (we dropped the subscript as this applies to both centralized and distributed schemes). The sample mean of their ratio should then be compared to the ratio of the analytical expression. Each simulation scenario should be repeated many times in order to have a good estimation of the mean with a good confidence interval.

We decided to simulate the Markov chain  $\vec{\mathbf{W}}_d$  as its state-space is smaller than that of  $\vec{\mathbf{W}}_c$ . To reduce even more the state-space, we set  $n = 1$ . In other words, peers on-times durations are exponentially distributed. The environment that we simulated has the following characteristics: the expected off-time is  $1/\lambda = 1$  hour; the expected on-time is  $1/\mu = 3$  hour; the persistence probability is  $p = 0.7$ ; the original number of fragments of  $D$  is  $s = 8$ ; the fragment size is 1MB. We simulated a total of 10 different scenarios, each having different values of  $r$  and  $k$ . We have varied  $r$  from 1 to 4 and  $k$  from 1 to  $r$ . We have a total of 320 different instances over all scenarios. In order to obtain a maximum estimation error of about 1% with 97% confidence interval, we need to have over 150 sampled values. Hence, each scenario is simulated 150 times.

For each instance, we collect the 150 simulated values of the ratio  $T(\mathcal{E}_I, \mathcal{F}_J)/T(\mathcal{E}_I)$  and compute their average. This is the estimation of the left-hand side of (7) and will be considered as the “correct” value. The right-hand side of (7) is computed using the simplified versions of (4) and (6) that appeared in [7], where  $n = 1$  (after replacing the subscript “c” with the subscript “d”). This is the “approximate” value. We compute the relative error between the correct value and the approximate value. Having collected all values of the relative error from all 320 instances, we derive the empirical complementary cumulative distribution function of the relative error, as depicted in Fig. 3.

We have found that only 10% of the values are larger than  $0.9 \times 10^{-3}$  and, most importantly, the maximum value of the relative error is 0.0028. *We conclude that the approximation (7) is very good.* This approximation has been validated also in our previous work [1] under different assumptions. Even though we have not simulated the Markov chain  $\vec{\mathbf{W}}_c$  presented in this report, we are convinced that the approximation will be equally good.

## 7 Numerical Results

The models presented in Sections 4 and 5 can be seen as a generalization of those presented in [7]. As a matter of curiosity, we will compare in this section the results obtained with all these models when considering an environment that is known to violate the exponential assumption on peers on-times made in [7]. This allows us to see whether the models in [7] are robust against a violation of this assumption. Once this question addressed, we solve numerically our models to evaluate the lifetime and availability of data stored on P2PSS

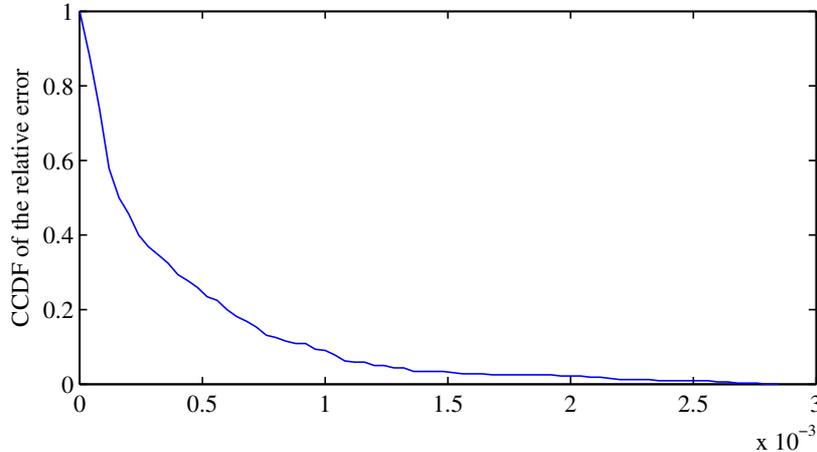


Figure 3: The CCDF of the relative error induced by the approximation (7).

running in different contexts. Throughout the numerical computations, we consider both centralized- and distributed-recovery implementations.

## 7.1 Parameter values

Our mathematical models have been solved numerically using a set of parameters values.

**Network parameters**  $\lambda$ ,  $\{p_i, \mu_i\}_{i=1, \dots, n}$  and  $p$ . We consider three sets of values that represent three different environments. These correspond to three data sets that have been studied in the literature. The sets *CSIL* and *Condor* have been collected by Nurmi, Brevik and Wolski [16]. The *CSIL* set reports uptime of machines in the Computer Science Instructional Laboratory (CSIL) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. As for the *Condor* set, it reports CPU idle times of peers in a Condor pool [5] at the University of Wisconsin, in other words, it reports the availability of peers to perform an external job (the Condor pool offers processing time to the whole Internet). This can be seen as the time during which a peer may participate in a storage system. The *All-pairs-ping* set has been obtained by Stribling [23] after the processing of ping requests between each pair of PlanetLab [18] nodes. Each node pings every other node roughly 4 times an hour. A 10-probes ping is considered successful only if at least one probe response was received.

The sets *CSIL* and *Condor* are best fit by a hyper-exponential distribution according to the analysis in [16], even though they report different flavors of peer “availability”. An exponential distribution is found to “reasonably” fit the *All-pairs-ping* data set in [19]. The basic characteristics of the three data sets considered here and the corresponding values of the peers parameters are reported in Table 2. Out of the three mentioned scenarios,

Table 2: Data sets characteristics and corresponding peers parameters values

Data set	<i>CSIL</i>	<i>Condor</i>	<i>All-pairs-ping</i>
Context	LAN	Internet	PlanetLab
Covered period	8 weeks	6 weeks	21 months
Number of peers	83	210	200–550
On-times distribution	$H_3$ [16] (best fit)	$H_2$ [16] (best fit)	Exp. [19] (reasonable)
On-times parameters			
$p_1$	0.464	0.592	1
$p_2$	0.197	0.408	—
$p_3$	0.339	—	—
$1/\mu_1$ (hours)	250.3	0.094	181
$1/\mu_2$ (hours)	1.425	3.704	—
$1/\mu_3$ (hours)	33.39	—	—
Mean on-time (hours)	127.7	1.567	181
Mean off-time (hours)	48	0.522	61
Percentage of on-times	0.727	0.75	0.750
Persistence probability $p$	0.3	0.8	0.3

*Condor* experiences the highest dynamics environment. This behavior has been reported elsewhere concerning peers on the Internet. For instance, it has been observed in [2, 3] that on average peers join/leave the Internet 6.4 times per day and that sessions times are typically on the order of hundreds of minutes on average. In this report, the *Condor* system will mirror the Internet context and *CSIL* and PlanetLab environments will mirror a stable environment such as local area or research laboratory networks where machines are usually highly available. As an exponential distribution is found to “reasonably” fit the peers availability in the *All-pairs-ping* data-set, PlanetLab-like systems can be studied using the models presented in [7] while the *CSIL* and *Condor* contexts need the more general models developed in this report. Justifying this last point is the objective of the next section.

The value of  $\lambda$ , or equivalently the mean off-time, has been set to have the same *peers availability* across all environments. This measure, given in row 16 of Table 2, is the probability of finding a peer connected or equivalently the percentage of on-times in a peer life cycle. We have set  $p = 0.8$  in the *Condor* scenario as peers churn rate is very high and  $p = 0.3$  otherwise, namely in the *CSIL* and *All-pairs-ping* scenarios. This is to reflect that disconnections in stable environments are likely due to software or hardware problems.

**Protocol parameters  $s$ ,  $r$  and  $k$ .** Nowadays, block sizes in P2P *storage* systems are usually set to either 4MB, 8MB or 9MB and fragment sizes are set somewhere between 256KB and 1MB. A helpful factor to choose from these values can be the average size of the stored files in the system, so that the fragmentation overhead associated with the transmission of data is still negligible with respect to the files sizes. Concerning *CSIL*- and *Condor*-like systems, we will consider block sizes of 4MB and fragment sizes of 1MB and

then  $s = 4$ . In [7] where results in the PlanetLab context are reported, we considered block sizes of 8MB and fragment sizes of 1MB and then  $s = 8$ . In the *CSIL* scenario where peers churn is low, we vary the redundancy  $r$  from 1 to  $1.5s = 6$ . In the high dynamic scenario (*Condor*), we vary the redundancy  $r$  from 1 to  $3s = 12$  (resp. to  $1.5s = 6$ ) when the recovery is distributed (resp. centralized). In all the considered scenarios, we vary the threshold  $k$  from 1 to  $r$ .

Observe that the optimal amount of redundancy  $r$  comes as a trade-off between high data availability and high storage efficiency and depends on the recovery threshold  $k$ . Smaller threshold values allow for smaller amounts of redundant data at the expense of higher bandwidth utilization. The trade-off here is between efficient storage use (small  $r$ ) and efficient bandwidth use (large  $k$ ).

**Recovery process parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .** Fragments download/upload times depend on the upload/download capacities of the peers and the central authority when needed. The measurement study [22] of P2P *file sharing* systems, namely Napster and Gnutella, shows that 78% of the users have downstream bottleneck of at least 100 Kbps. Furthermore, 50% of the users in Napster and 60% of the users in Gnutella use broadband connections (Cable, DSL, T1 or T3) having rate between 1Mbps and 3.5Mbps. Moreover, a recent experimental study [12] on P2P VoIP and file sharing systems shows that more than 90% of users have upstream capacity between 30 Kbps and 384 Kbps, where the downstream is of the order of some Mbps (like Cable/ADSL). Based on the two mentioned studies, we assume the peers' upload capacity that is dedicated to a single connection to be either 384 Kbps or 150 Kbps and the total upload capacity of the central authority to be 1.5 Mbps. Hence, considering fragments of size 1MB, we obtain  $1/\alpha = 22$  or 56 seconds and  $1/\beta = 6$  seconds.

## 7.2 Comparison with the models of [7]

As mentioned previously, the models presented in [7] are a special case of the models developed here, namely when the number of phases of the hyper-exponential distribution of on-times is  $n = 1$ . To avoid any ambiguity, the models presented in [7] will be referred to as "basic" models whereas the ones developed in Section 4 and 5 will be referred to as "general" models. Because of the reduced state-space, solving the basic models is much less time consuming than solving the general models. The basic models describe well PlanetLab-like environments. However, one question remains: do they model any environment?

To answer this question, we deliberately select a scenario in which peers have been identified to have a non-exponential on-times distribution, namely the *Condor* scenario, and evaluate the lifetime of a block of data  $D$  using both models and compare the results. In [16], a 2-stage hyper-exponential distribution is found to best fit the *Condor* data set, but the authors identify as well the parameter of the exponential distribution that best fits the same data.

Table 3 reports the expected data lifetime obtained with the distributed-recovery implementation for  $s = 4$ ,  $1/\lambda = 0.522$  hour,  $1/\alpha = 22$  seconds,  $p = 0.8$  and different amounts of redundancy  $r$  and recovery thresholds  $k$ . Results provided by the general model with  $1/\mu_1 = 0.094$  hours,  $1/\mu_2 = 3.704$  hours,  $p_1 = 0.592$  and  $p_2 = 1 - p_1$  are in column 3; those

given by the basic model with  $1/\mu = 1.543$  hours (best exponential fit found in [16]) and  $1/\mu = 1.567$  (first moment of the  $H_2$  distribution) can be found in columns 4 and 6 respectively. The relative error between  $E[T_d(\mathcal{E}_{s+r})]$  (general model; column 3) and  $E[T_d(s+r)]$  (basic model [7]; columns 4 and 6) are reported in columns 5 and 7.

Table 3 reveals that the basic model returns substantially different results than those of the general model. Since the distribution of peers on-times is hyper-exponential in the *Condor* scenario, the results obtained through the general model are the correct ones. We conclude that the basic model presented in [7] does not capture the essence of the system performance when peers on-times are not exponentially distributed. *Henceforth, we will use the basic model in scenarios with the All-pairs-ping characteristics, and the general model in scenarios with the characteristics of either CSIL, or Condor.*

### 7.3 Performance analysis

We have solved numerically (3), (4), (6), (8) and (9) given that all  $s+r$  fragments of  $D$  are initially available, considering either *Condor* or *CSIL* context, and either the centralized or distributed recovery scheme. Results are reported partially in Table 4. Results in PlanetLab (*All-pairs-ping*) context using the basic model can be found in [7].

It appears that, whichever the scenario or the recovery mechanism considered, the expected data lifetime increases roughly exponentially with  $r$  and decreases with an increasing  $k$ . Regardless of the context considered, the distributed scheme yields a significantly smaller expected data lifetime than the centralized scheme, especially when peers churn rate is high; cf. columns 3-4 in Table 4 where the performance in *Condor*-like systems with distributed repair is very poor. Observe also how the performance deteriorates as peer churn becomes more important: compare for instance in Table 4 rows 6 vs. 19, and 12 vs. 22; these correspond to the same storage overhead  $r/s = 1$  and the same value of recovery threshold  $k = 1$  and 2 respectively, but the context is different.

Table 3: Expected data lifetime (expressed in hours) in a *Condor* scenario using a distributed-recovery scheme. Comparison between  $E[T_d(\mathcal{E}_{s+r})]$  (general model) and  $E[T_d(s+r)]$  (basic model [7]).

$s = 4$		$H_2$ fit [16]	Exponential fit [16]		equating 1st moments	
		$E[T_d(\mathcal{E}_{s+r})]$	$E[T_d(s+r)]$	error	$E[T_d(s+r)]$	error
$k = 1$	$r = 2$	1.283	0.78	-39.2%	1.017	-20.73%
	$r = 4$	4.2	3.453	-17.79%	4.09	-2.62%
	$r = 6$	12.62	14.04	11.25%	14.44	14.42%
$k = 2$	$r = 2$	0.46	0.492	6.96%	0.633	37.61%
	$r = 4$	2.31	2.34	1.3%	2.74	18.61%
	$r = 6$	4.488	10.464	133.16%	10.732	139.13%

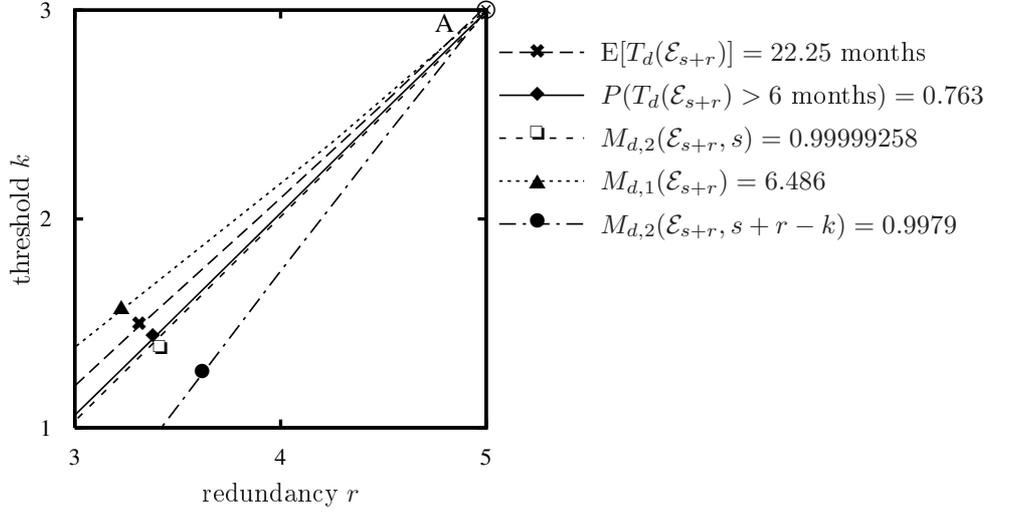
Table 4: Expected lifetime and first availability metric

Condor context		E[ $T(\mathcal{E}_{s+r})$ ] (in days)		$M_1(\mathcal{E}_{s+r})$	
		cent. repair	dist. repair	cent. repair	dist. repair
$s = 4$		$1/\alpha = 22$ sec	$1/\alpha = 22$ sec	$1/\alpha = 22$ sec	$1/\alpha = 22$ sec
		$1/\beta = 6$ sec	—	$1/\beta = 6$ sec	—
$k = 1$	$r = 2$	0.365	5.34e-02	5.786	5.662
	$r = 4$	20.769	0.175	7.680	7.244
	$r = 5$	129.551	0.305	8.627	7.980
	$r = 6$	730.132	0.526	9.574	8.679
	$r = 10$	—	3.933	—	11.104
	$r = 12$	—	9.558	—	12.117
$k = 2$	$r = 2$	0.123	1.92e-02	5.389	4.940
	$r = 4$	6.955	9.62e-02	7.339	6.519
	$r = 5$	45.901	0.187	8.311	7.290
$k = 4$	$r = 4$	0.222	1.86e-02	6.318	5.212
CSIL context		E[ $T(\mathcal{E}_{s+r})$ ] (in months)		$M_1(\mathcal{E}_{s+r})$	
		distributed repair		distributed repair	
$s = 4$		$1/\alpha = 22$ sec	$1/\alpha = 56$ sec	$1/\alpha = 22$ sec	$1/\alpha = 56$ sec
$k = 1$	$r = 2$	3.002	0.852	5.980	5.959
	$r = 4$	209.36	21.75	7.962	7.919
$k = 2$	$r = 2$	0.202	9.94e-02	5.011	5.000
	$r = 4$	24.42	4.097	6.985	6.952
$k = 4$	$r = 4$	0.162	7.878e-02	5.053	5.046

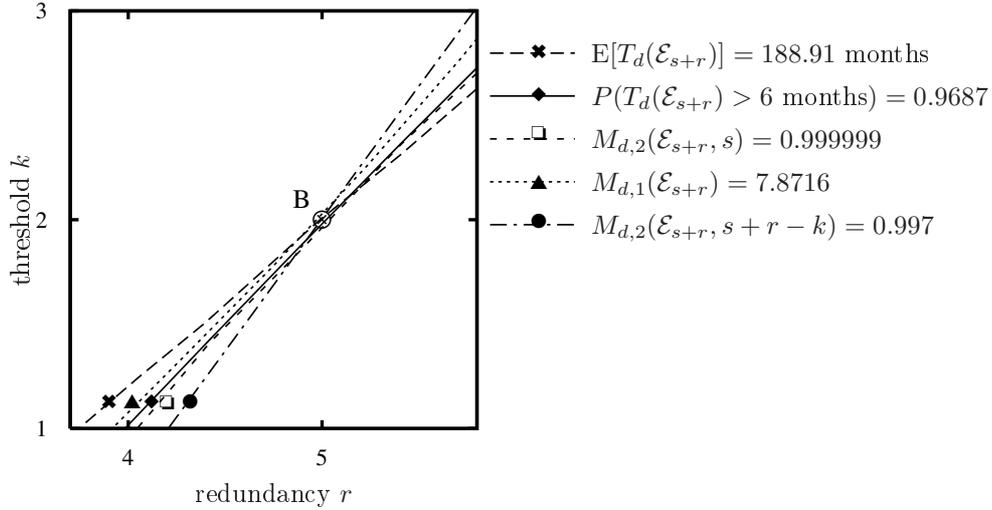
Regarding the expected number of available fragments, we again observe that the distributed scheme is less efficient than the centralized one; cf. columns 6-7 in Table 4 for *Condor*-like systems. We conclude that *when peers churn rate is high, only the centralized repair scheme can be efficient, should the storage overhead be kept within a reasonable value (that is  $r/s \leq 2$ )*. As the distributed repair scheme is more scalable than the centralized one, it will be a good implementation choice in large networks where hosts have a good availability.

#### Setting the system's key parameters.

We illustrate now how our models can be used to set the system parameters  $r$  and  $k$  such that predefined requirements on data lifetime and availability are fulfilled. We assume the recovery mechanism is distributed and the context is similar to CSIL. We have picked two contour lines of each of the performance metrics studied in this work and report them in Fig. 4. Consider point A (resp. B) which corresponds to  $r = 5$  and  $k = 3$  (resp.  $k = 2$ ). Recall that  $s = 4$  (for both points). Selecting point A (resp. B) as the operating point of the P2PSS ensures the following: given that each data is initiated with  $s + r = 9$  available fragments,



(a) Settings of point A:  $s = 4$ ,  $r = 5$  and  $k = 3$



(b) Settings of point B:  $s = 4$ ,  $r = 5$  and  $k = 2$

Figure 4: Contour lines of performance metrics (CSIL context, distributed repair).

then (i) the expected data lifetime is 22.25 (resp. 188.91) months; (ii) 23.7% (resp. 3.13%) of the stored data would be lost after six months; (iii) as long as  $D$  is not lost, 6.486 (resp.

7.871) fragments of  $D$  are expected to be available in the system; (iv) during 99.9992% (resp. 99.9999%) of its lifetime,  $D$  is available for download; and (v) during 99.79% (resp. 99.7%) of the lifetime of  $D$ , at least  $s+r-k=6$  (resp.  $s+r-k=7$ ) of its fragments are available. Observe that the storage overhead,  $r/s$ , is 1.25 for both operating points and it is the *lazy* policy that is enforced ( $k > 1$ ). Observe how the performance metrics improve when  $k$  is decreased, even by one. However, this incurs more bandwidth use because the recovery will be more frequently triggered.

## 8 Conclusion

We have proposed general analytical models for evaluating the performance of two approaches for recovering lost data in distributed storage systems. One approach relies on a central authority to recover the data; in the other approach, secure agents on new peers perform this task in a distributed way. We have analyzed the lifetime and the availability of data achieved by both centralized- and distributed-repair systems through markovian analysis considering realistic assumptions. Numerical computations have been performed to illustrate several issues of the performance. We conclude that, using our theoretical framework, it is possible to tune and optimize the system parameters for fulfilling predefined requirements. We find that, in stable environments such as local area or research laboratory networks where machines are usually highly available, the distributed-repair scheme offers a reliable, scalable and cheap storage/backup solution. This is in contrast with the case of highly dynamic environments, where the distributed-repair scheme is inefficient as long as the storage overhead is kept reasonable. P2PSS with centralized-repair scheme are efficient in any environment but have the disadvantage of relying on a centralized authority.

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