
The Use of Distributed Computing for Dynamic PRA: The ADS Approach

Dongfeng Zhu*
Yung Hsien Chang
Ali Mosleh

Center for Risk and Reliability
University of Maryland



Currently affiliated with ITEM Software

Purpose

- Dynamic Probabilistic Risk Assessment
 - Discrete Dynamic Event Tree
 - Systematically explore all scenarios
 - Continuous Event Tree Simulation
 - Randomly selecting system states and the timing of events
- State Explosion
 - The exponential growth in possible risk scenarios

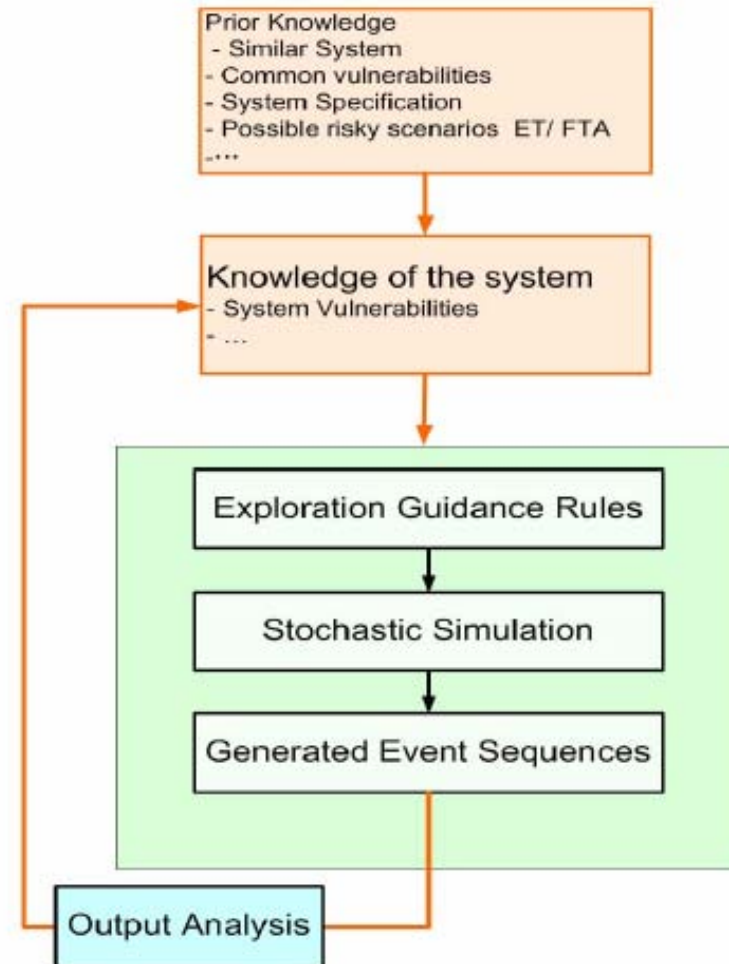
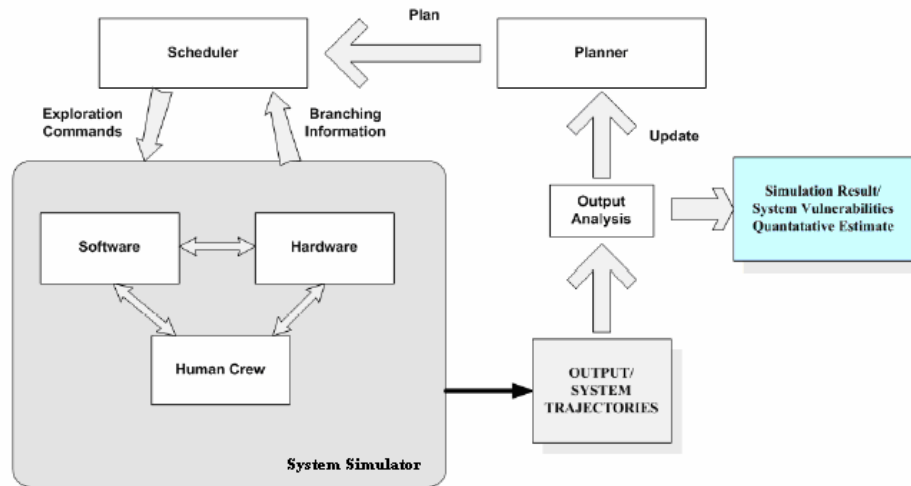


Current Approaches

- Reduce the number of risk scenarios
 - Combine system and operator states that lead to similar end states
- Bias the system and operator states toward interesting or risk significant events and end states
 - Reduces the computational effort expended on less important scenarios
 - Provides results for desired event sequences using less simulation effort



SimPRA



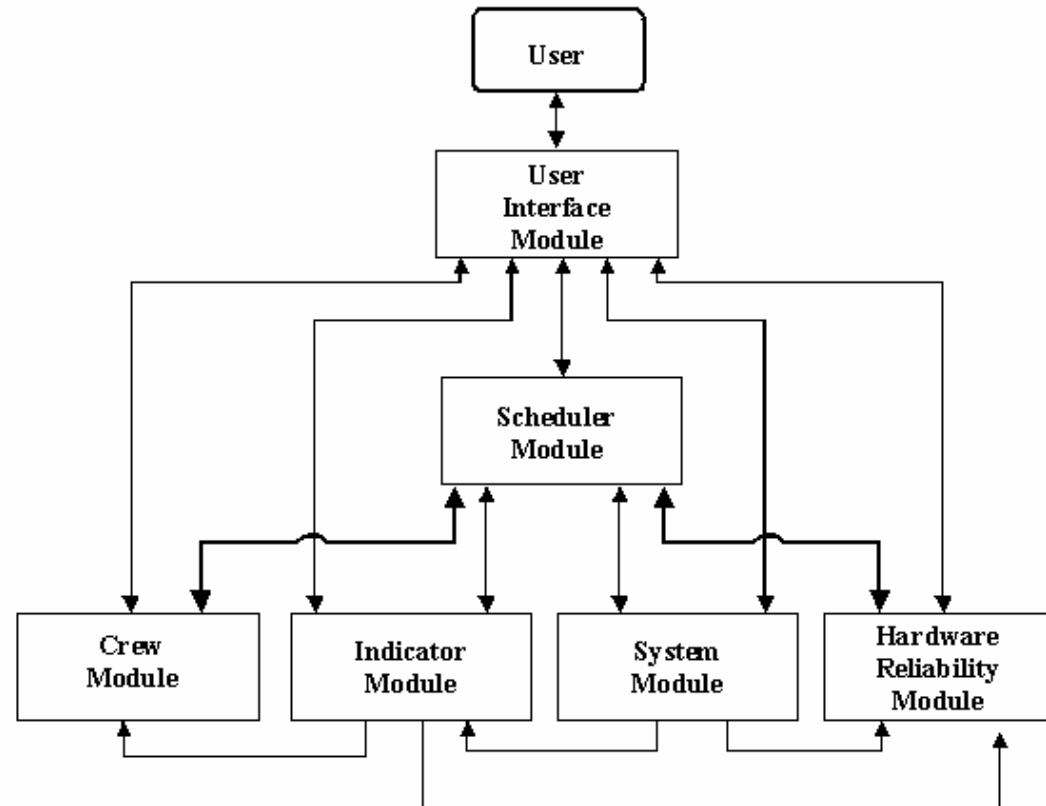
Distributed Computing

- Distributed Computing
 - Does not reduce the size of the state-space
 - Improves the efficiency of state-space exploration
- Key Challenges
 - Divide a simulation into small segments that can run simultaneously
 - DDET
 - Reduce the size of the task information sent between the client and server
 - CET
 - Synchronization of biasing information

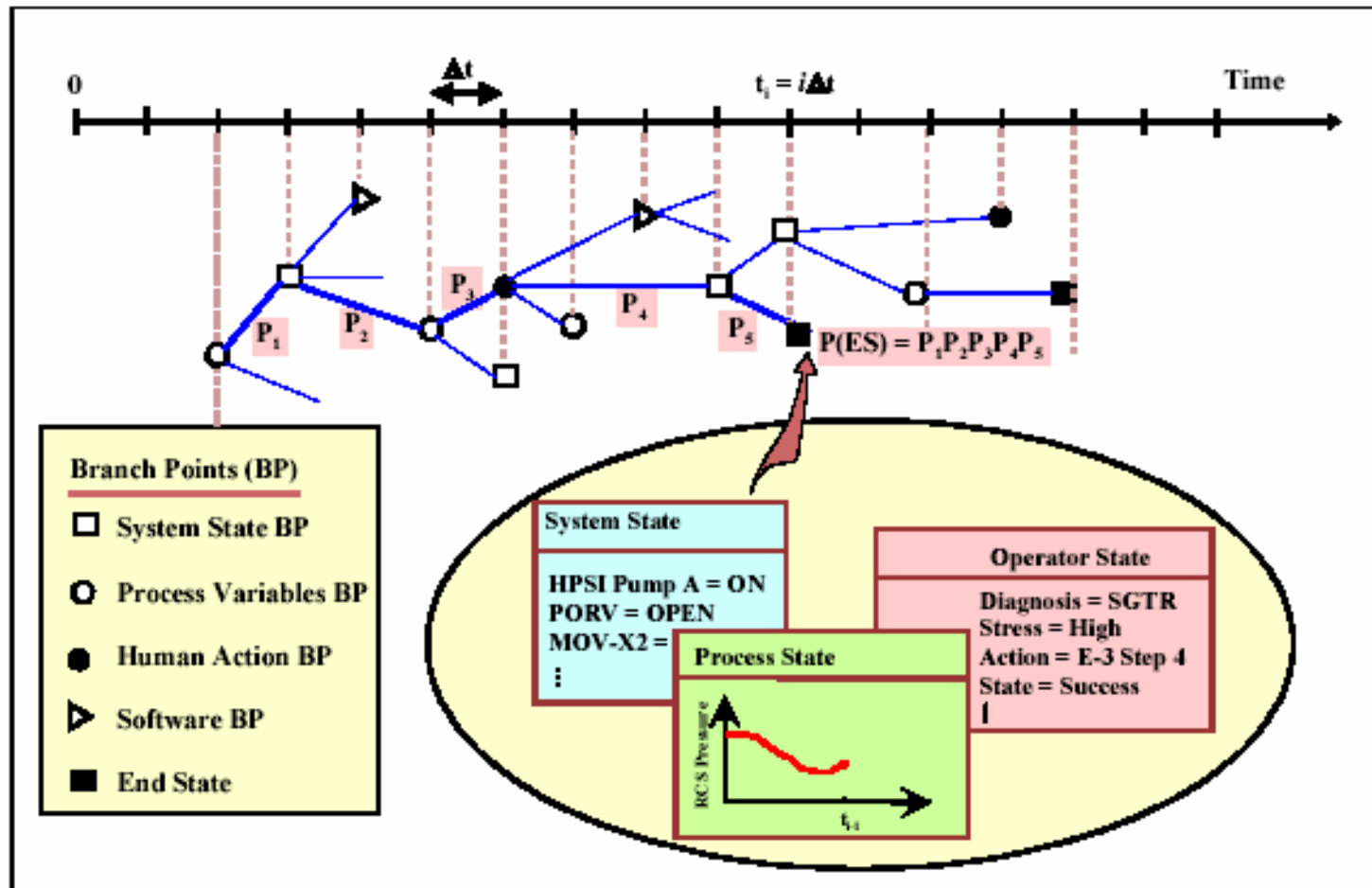


Accident Dynamic Simulator (ADS-IDAC)

- A simulation program designed to perform a dynamic PRA of nuclear power plants



ADS

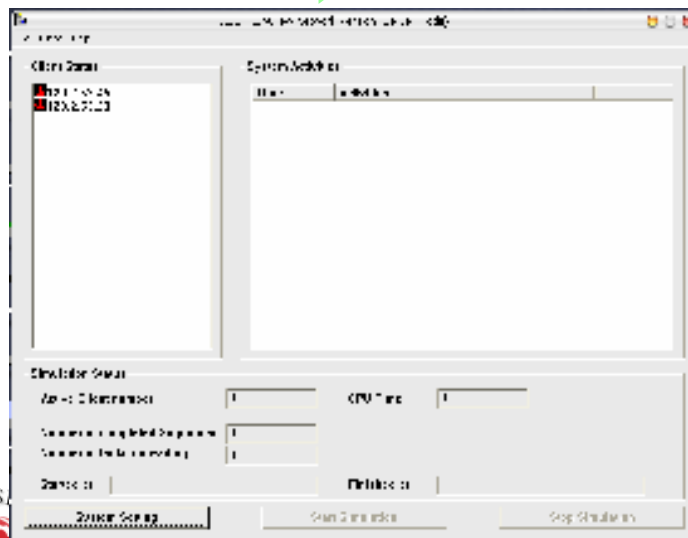
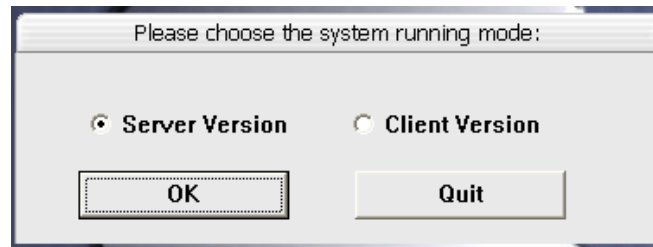


ADS Net Architecture

- Central Server
 - Scheduler
 - Communicator
 - Client Monitor
 - Simulation Task Manager
 - Simulation Result Repository
 - Post-simulation Processor
- Clients
 - Communicator
 - Simulation Task Manager
 - Simulator



ADS Net



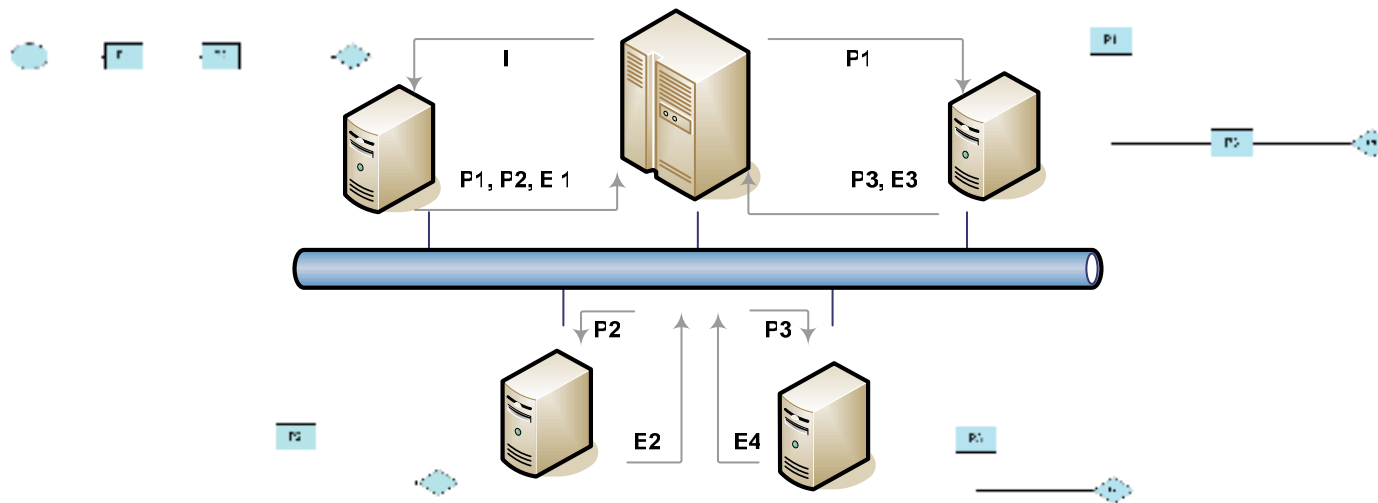
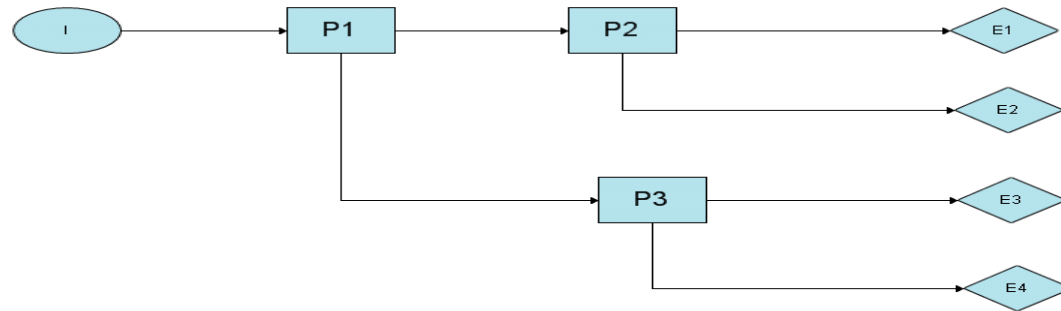
Server

```
Initialize client Monitor, update client Status
Load Input Data
Send the input data to first client
while (total number of tasks running on client side and pending in the task repository is greater than 0) {
    Wait for the client/ client status monitor to send a message {
        If (new tasks message received) {
            Add the new tasks to the task repository
            Update running task information for the client
            Check if (any clients available) {
                Send new tasks to next available clients
            }
        }
        else if (end state message received) {
            Save results in the result repository
            if (tasks pending in the task repository) {
                Send the next available task to the client
            }
        }
        else if (new client available message) {
            if (client is back online) {
                Notify client to clear all previous simulation
            }
            check if (tasks available in the repository) {
                Send next available task to the client
            }
        }
    }
}
Start post simulation processing
End simulation
```

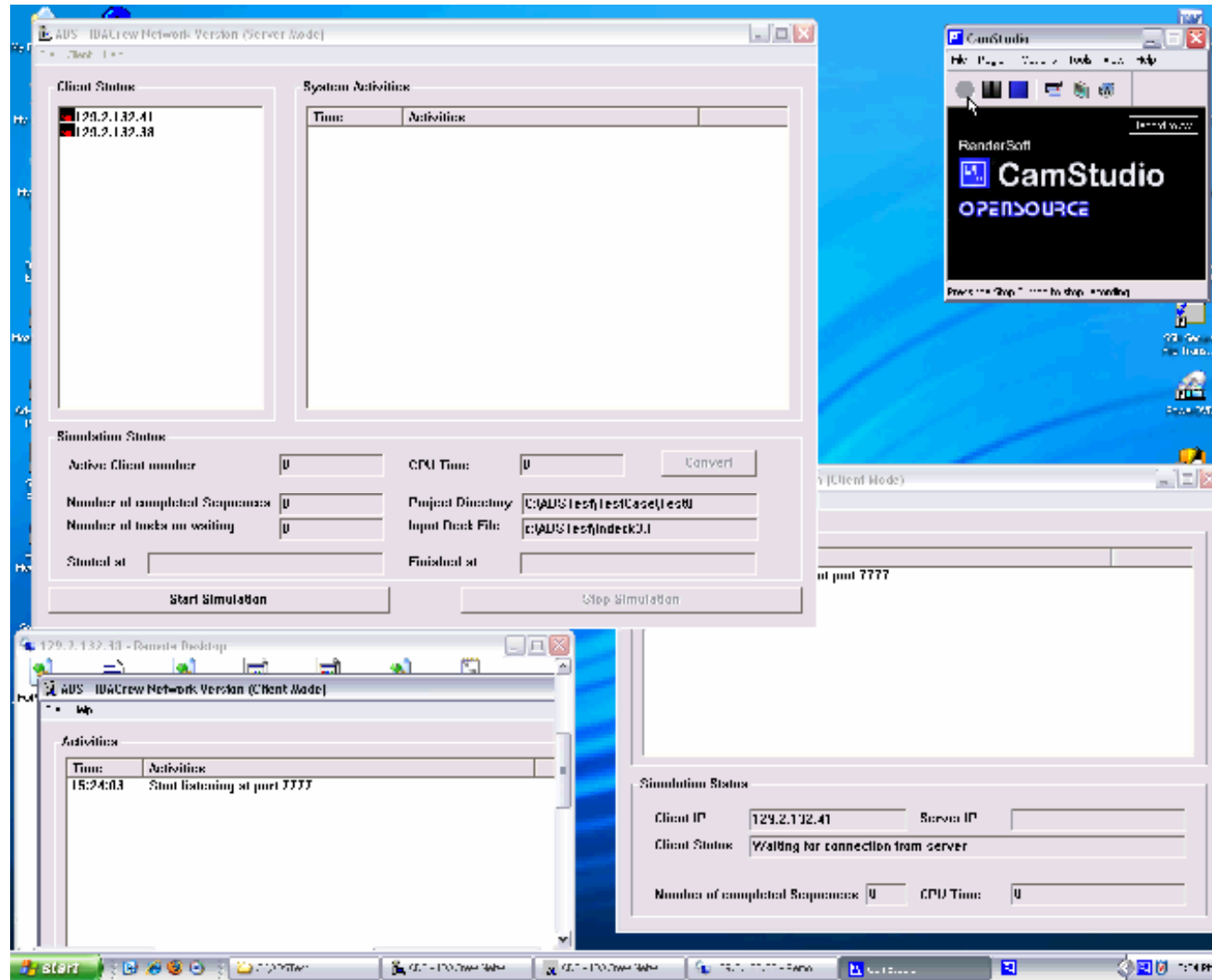
Client

```
Initialize client communicator
Open a port and wait for server to establish connection
if (connection established) {
  while (connection is active and exit command != false) {
    Wait for the new task from server {
      If (new tasks received) {
        Load the task information using simulation task manager
        Start simulation
        while (end state not reached) {
          continue simulation
          if (branch point reached) {
            Save system status
            Create new task for each additional branch
            Send system status and branch information back to server
          }
        }
        Send the system status and end state back to server
        clean memory
      }
      else if (reset message received) {
        stop the current simulation
        clean memory
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Computational Task Distribution



Video



Example

- United States Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) nuclear power plant model
 - Initiating Event: SGTR event with a rupture size of two centimeters in diameter
 - 32 sequences and 305 pivotal events
- Environment
 - Intel Pentium Duo processor running at 2.8 GHZ
 - 1GB Memory
 - A network setting with connection of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 client computers



Example Results

