



Notional 1FT Voting Architecture with Time-Triggered Ethernet

AES A&S Tag-Up Meeting
7 November 2016

Andrew Loveless (NASA JSC)
andrew.loveless@nasa.gov

General Overview



- 1-Byzantine resilient C&DH system (fail-operational).
 - Uses triplex onboard computers (OBCs) executing identical flight software.
 - >1FT relies on sparing and crew intervention (e.g. independent backup).
- Assumes classical reliability requirement of 10^{-9} failures/hour.
- Realizable with currently available COTS technology.*
 - E.g. Can be implemented using a variety of SBCs and real-time OSs.
- Scalable fault tolerance (both in classification and quantity).
 - E.g. Through additional network planes, high-integrity devices, etc.
- Assumes full cross strapping between OBCs, network switches, and end devices/subsystems (e.g. RIUs, IMUs, MBSUs).
 - Minimizes number of 2-fault combinations which can cause system failure.
 - Prioritizes high data availability and architectural flexibility over low SWaP.
- Redundant Time-Triggered Ethernet network used for data exchange and synchronization between computing platforms.
 - Eliminates need for independent Cross-Channel Data Link (CCDL).

* This presentation proposes the use of TTTech's rad-hard space ASIC (available Q3 2017).

Consensus Approach



Different Fault Classifications (there is overlap)

	Fault Type	Description	System
Less severe	Fail-Stop	The node does not produce any output. • E.g. Process halts before “send to all”.	Failover/Standby
	Crash	The node does not produce any output. • Can remain undetected by good nodes.	
More severe	Omission	Follows algorithm, but messages are lost.	N-Modular Redundancy (synchronized majority voting system)
	Value	Node produces incorrect computation result.	
	Timing	Outputs are delivered too early or too late. • I.e. Node does not meet temporal specifications.	
	Symmetric	Peers see the fault manifest in the same way. • E.g. Node send arbitrary data to all or nobody.	
	Byzantine	Peers see the fault manifest in different ways. • E.g. Node sends different data to different peers.	



- **Where does byzantine tolerance matter? Agreeing on input data**
 - **Problem:** single source (internal or external) distribution to multiple receivers.
 - In our case, the input seen by each redundant processor must be bitwise identical – i.e. have *interactive consistency*.
 - **Why?** If all processors get the same input, then all non-faulty processors are guaranteed to produce identical output.
 - Can be used to ID faulty processors and resolve commands sent by the OBCs.
- **Consensus versus Correctness**
 - A faulty input device may provide arbitrary input data to the OBCs.
 - The purpose is to guarantee all OBCs have the same view of the system, and can therefore decide on the same input value.
 - I.e. the IC exchange guarantees consensus, but not that the input is “correct”.
 - If an accurate input value is important, you need redundant input devices.
- **Avoiding hardware shortcuts**
 - It is tempting to try circumventing the problem through increased connectivity.
 - E.g. Trying to ensure all OBCs read some input data from the same shared wire.
 - However, a faulty device may transmit a marginal signal that may be interpreted as different values by different OBCs.



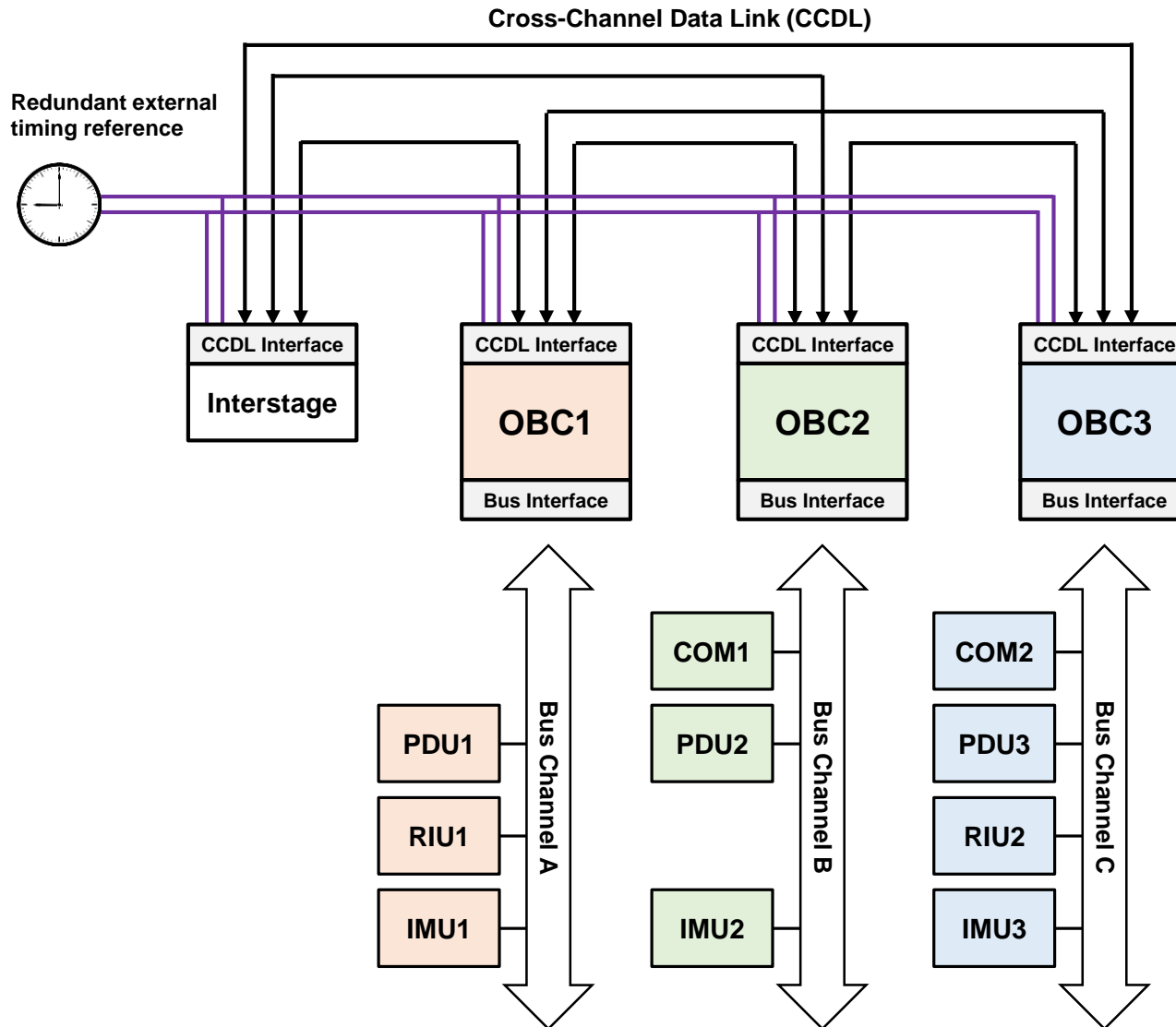
■ What is an interstage?

- An interstage is an FCR that participates in the interactive consistency exchange, but does not require consensus.
- The purpose of an interstage is to provide the necessary functionality to perform byzantine agreement algorithms without requiring all FCRs to be full processors.

■ Rules for interactive consistency in 1FT voting systems:

- Requires $\geq 3(1) + 1 = 4$ Fault Containment Regions (FCRs).
- Each interstage must receive data through ≥ 1 disjoint paths.
- Devices requiring consensus get data from $\geq 2(1) + 1 = 3$ disjoint paths.
- Above must be satisfied in $(1) + 1 = 2$ rounds of data exchange.
- After data exchange, devices requiring consensus perform an absolute majority vote of received messages.

Classical Approach – Channelized Bus

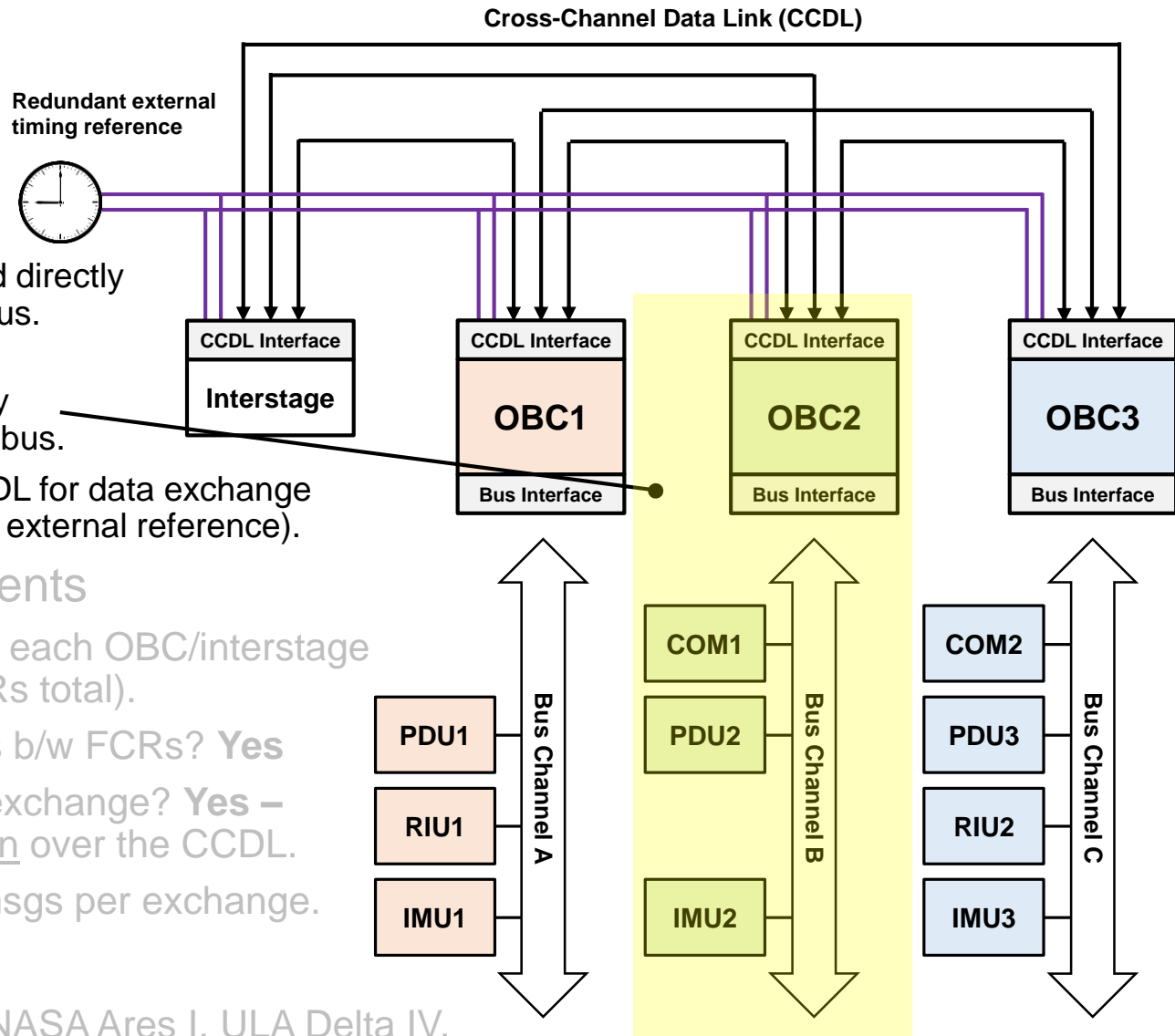


Classical Approach – Channelized Bus



General Overview

- A 1FT design can be realized with either:
 1. 4 full processors/OBCs
 2. 3 OBCs + 1 interstage
- End devices are networked directly to one of the OBCs via a bus.
- Fully channelized design – Each OBC has access only to devices on its own local bus.
- Requires independent CCDL for data exchange and synchronization (or an external reference).



Meeting Requirements

- $\geq 3(1) + 1$ FCRs? **Yes** - each OBC/interstage + its CCDL links (4 FCRs total).
- $\geq 2(1) + 1$ disjoint paths b/w FCRs? **Yes**
- $(1) + 1$ rounds of data exchange? **Yes** – performed in succession over the CCDL.
- $(4 - 1) + 4(4 - 1) = 15$ msgs per exchange.

Examples

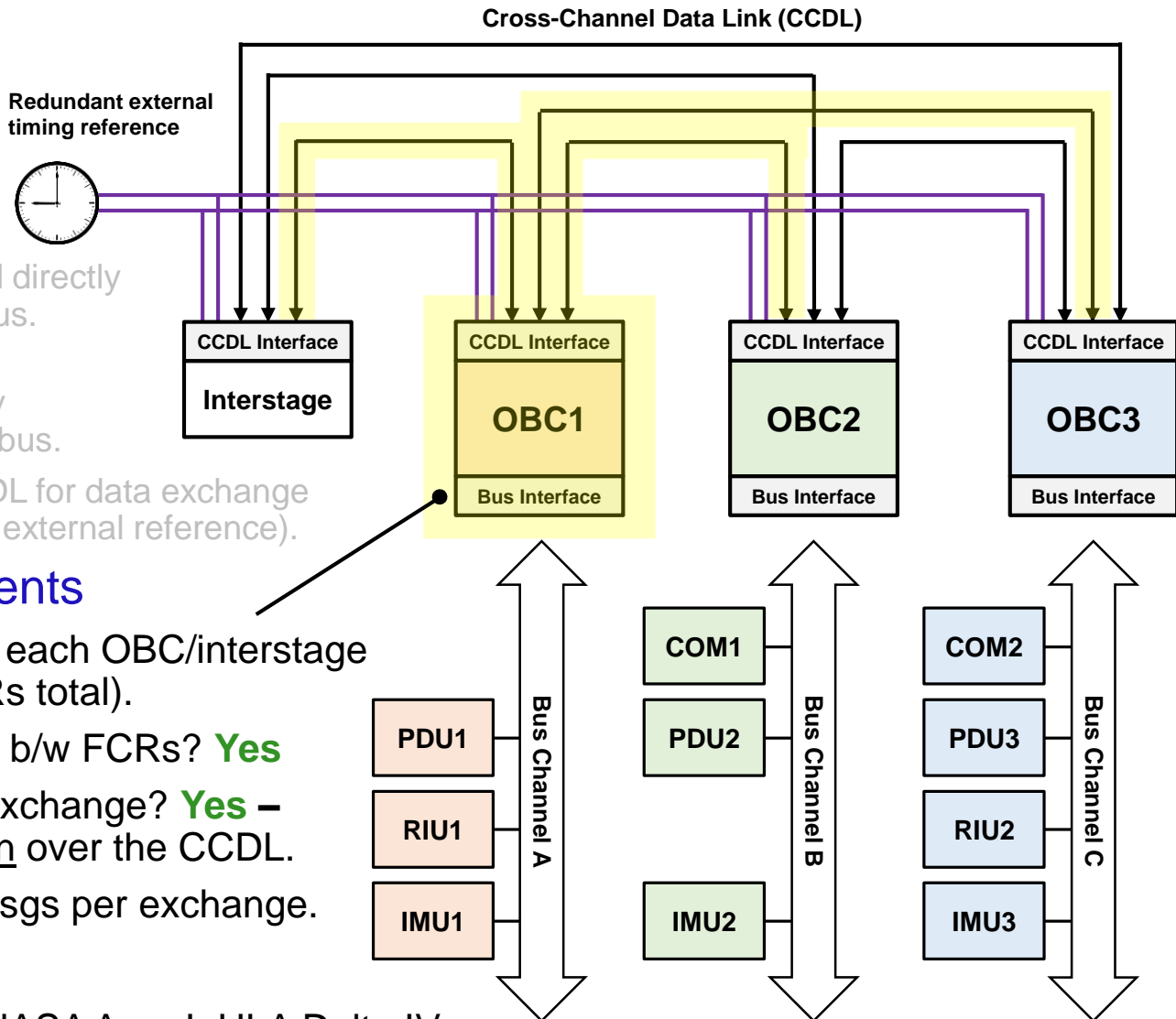
- NASA X-38, LM X-33, NASA Ares I, ULA Delta IV.

Classical Approach – Channelized Bus



General Overview

- A 1FT design can be realized with either:
 1. 4 full processors/OBCs
 2. 3 OBCs + 1 interstage
- End devices are networked directly to one of the OBCs via a bus.
- Fully channelized design – Each OBC has access only to devices on its own local bus.
- Requires independent CCDL for data exchange and synchronization (or an external reference).



Meeting Requirements

- $\geq 3(1) + 1$ FCRs? **Yes** - each OBC/interstage + its CCDL links (4 FCRs total).
- $\geq 2(1) + 1$ disjoint paths b/w FCRs? **Yes**
- $(1) + 1$ rounds of data exchange? **Yes** – performed in succession over the CCDL.
- $(4 - 1) + 4(4 - 1) = 15$ msgs per exchange.

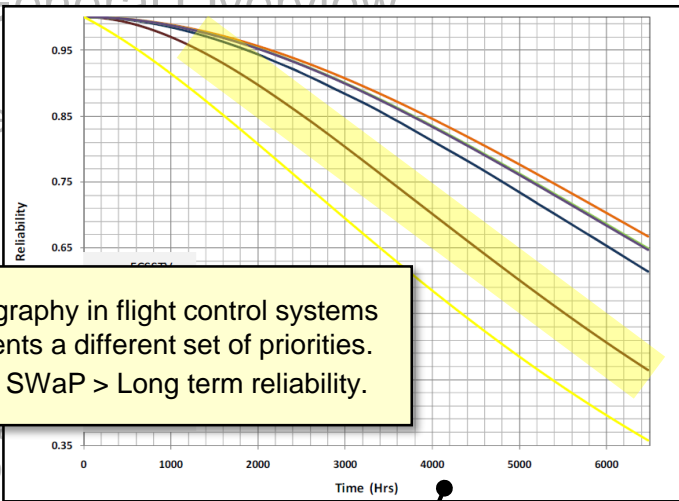
Examples

- NASA X-38, LM X-33, NASA Ares I, ULA Delta IV.

Classical Approach – Channelized Bus



General Overview

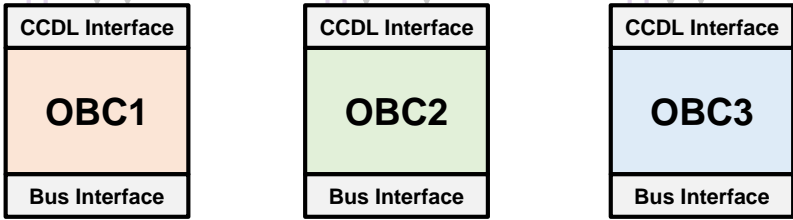
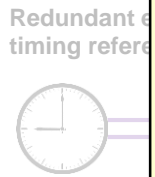


Cryptography in flight control systems represents a different set of priorities.

- Low SWaP > Long term reliability.

Certain BFT SM requirements are not fully realizable:

- I. A non-faulty OBC's signature cannot be forged.
 - Requires ≥ 60 -bit signatures – computationally expensive.
- II. Any alteration of a message can be detected.
 - Schrodinger's CRC – a single stuck-at-1/2 bit can result in different messages that look "correct" to multiple receivers.



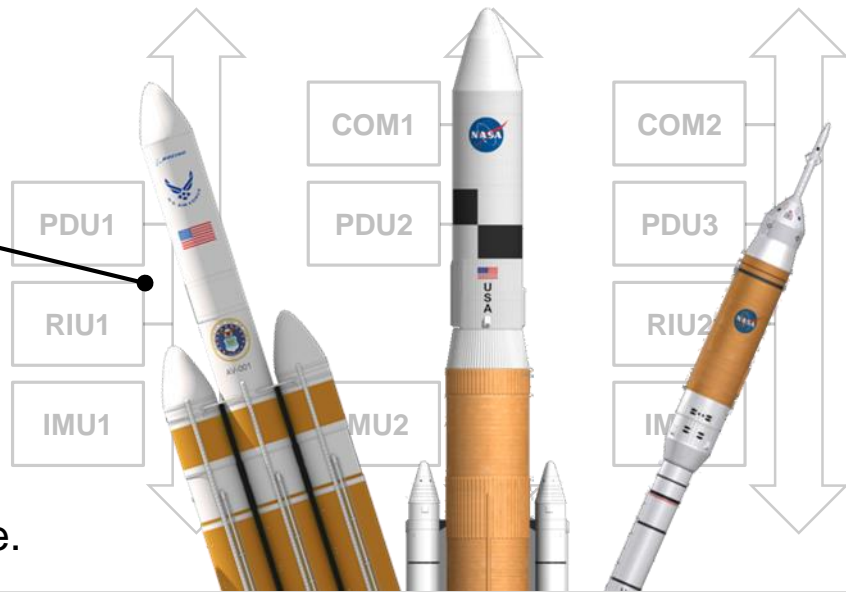
- Requires independent CCDL for data exchange and synchronization (or an external reference).

Detect lying using authentication

- Many launcher applications relax the requirement for 4 FCRs by using the idea of "unforgeable" signed messages.
- Insufficient reliability for long mission durations.

Relaxed Requirements

- $\geq 2(1) + 1 = 3$ FCRs - each OBC + links.
- $\geq (1) + 1 = 2$ disjoint paths between FCRs.
- $(3 - 1) + 3(3 - 1) = 8$ messages per exchange.



Channelized Bus – Reading Data (1)



Step 1: Read data

- OBCs 1-3 reads data from local input device.
- No guarantee data agrees.

Step 2: Exchange

- OBCs 1-3 send their initial values to OBCs 1-3 + interstage.
- An OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).

Step 3: Exchange (Rd 2)

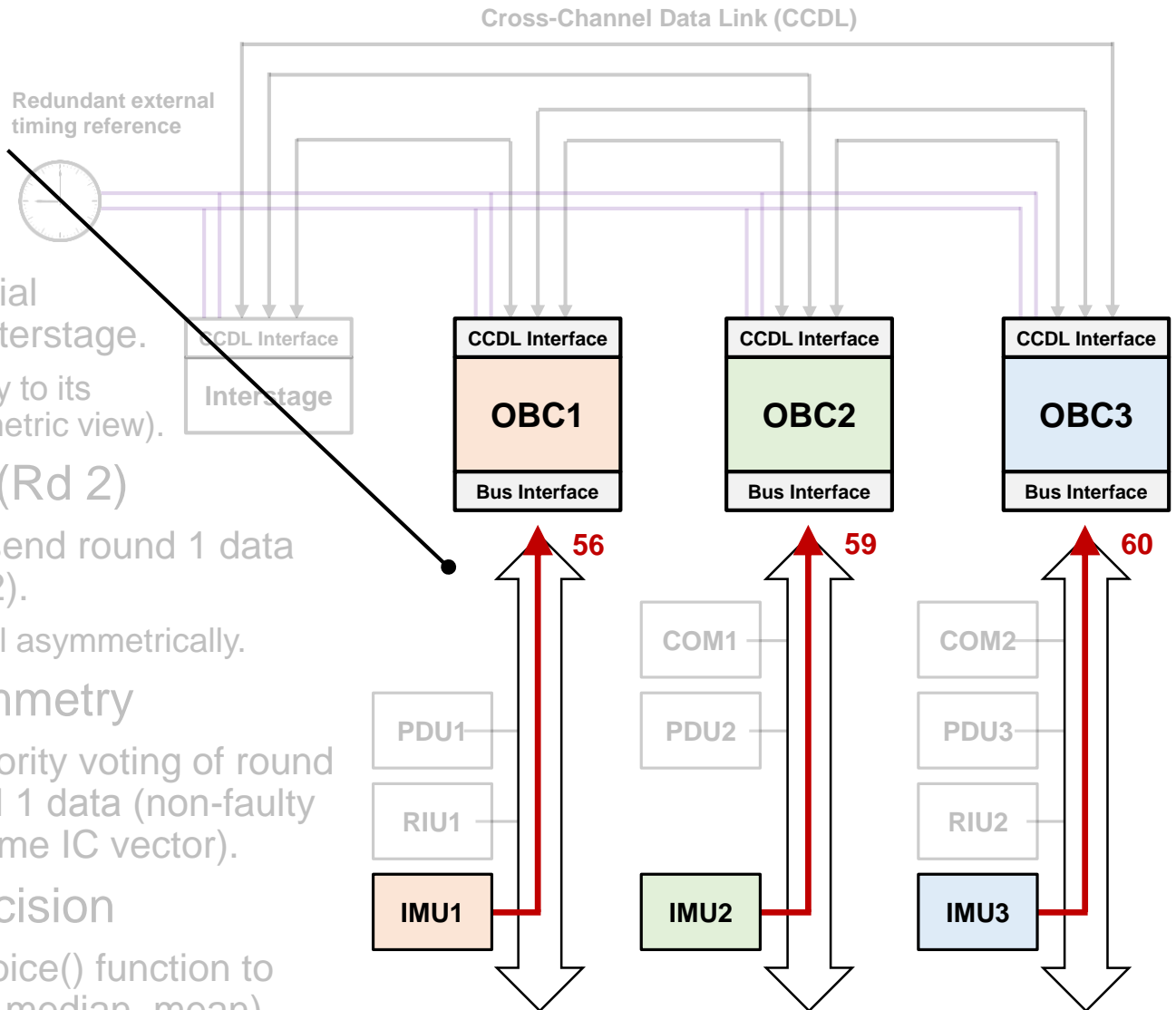
- OBCs 1-3 + interstage send round 1 data to all OBCs 1-3 (round 2).
- Still, any FCR 1-4 could fail asymmetrically.

Step 4: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs majority voting of round 2 data to “correct” round 1 data (non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector).

Step 5: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value (e.g. median, mean).



Channelized Bus – Reading Data (2)

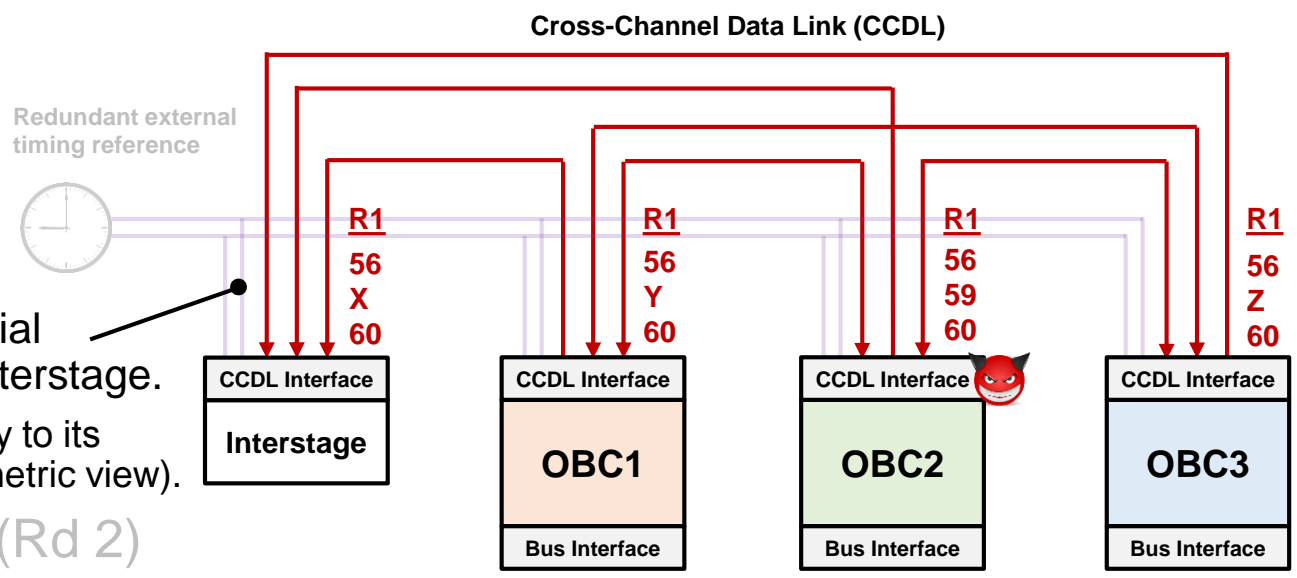


Step 1: Read data

- OBCs 1-3 reads data from local input device.
- No guarantee data agrees.

Step 2: Exchange

- OBCs 1-3 send their initial values to OBCs 1-3 + interstage.
- An OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).



Step 3: Exchange (Rd 2)

- OBCs 1-3 + interstage send round 1 data to all OBCs 1-3 (round 2).
- Still, any FCR 1-4 could fail asymmetrically.

Step 4: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs majority voting of round 2 data to “correct” round 1 data (non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector).

Step 5: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value (e.g. median, mean).

Channelized Bus – Reading Data (3)



Step 1: Read data

- OBCs 1-3 reads data from local input device.
- No guarantee data agrees.

Step 2: Exchange

- OBCs 1-3 send their initial values to OBCs 1-3 + interstage.
- An OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).

Redundant external timing reference



Step 3: Exchange (Rd 2)

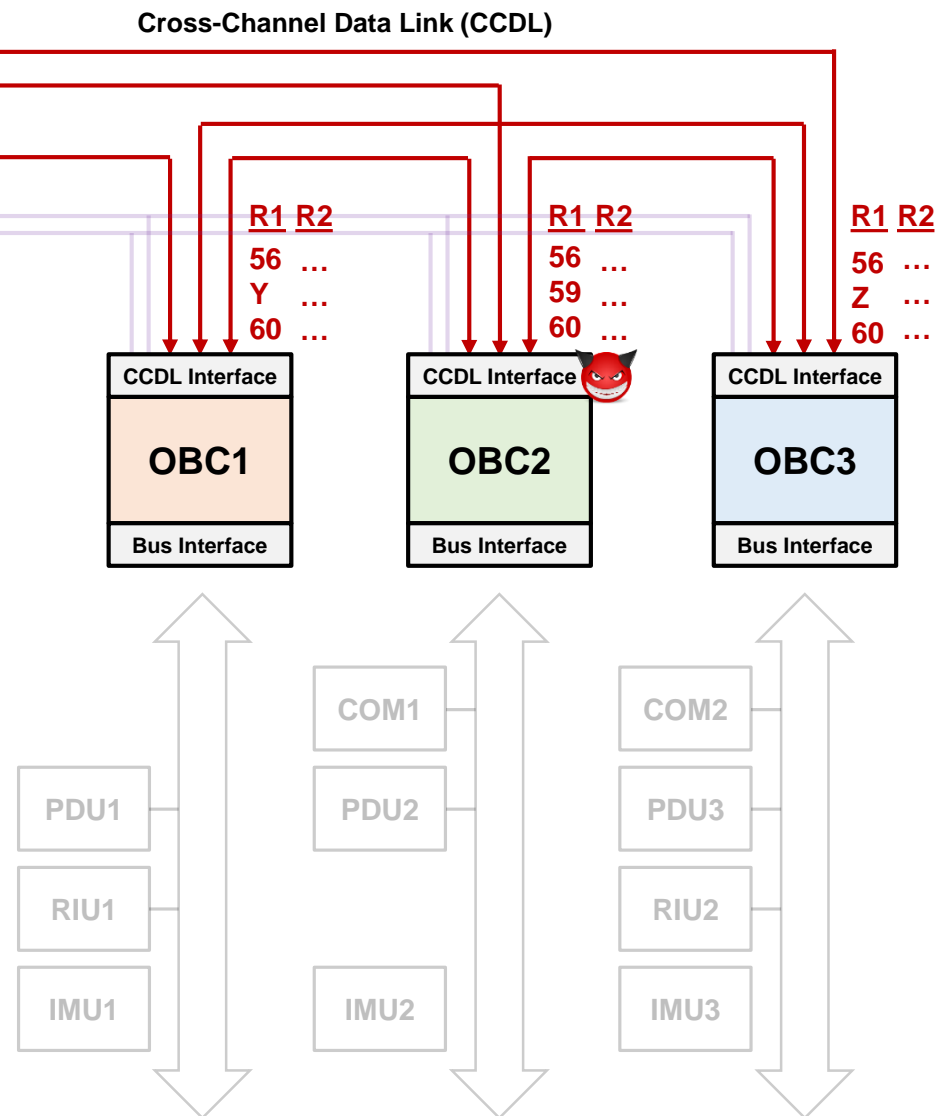
- OBCs 1-3 + interstage send round 1 data to all OBCs 1-3 (round 2).
- Still, any FCR 1-4 could fail asymmetrically.

Step 4: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs majority voting of round 2 data to “correct” round 1 data (non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector).

Step 5: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value (e.g. median, mean).



Channelized Bus – Reading Data (4)



Step 1: Read data

- OBCs 1-3 reads data from local input device.
- No guarantee data agrees.

Step 2: Exchange

- OBCs 1-3 send their initial values to OBCs 1-3 + interstage.
- An OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).

Step 3: Exchange (Rd 2)

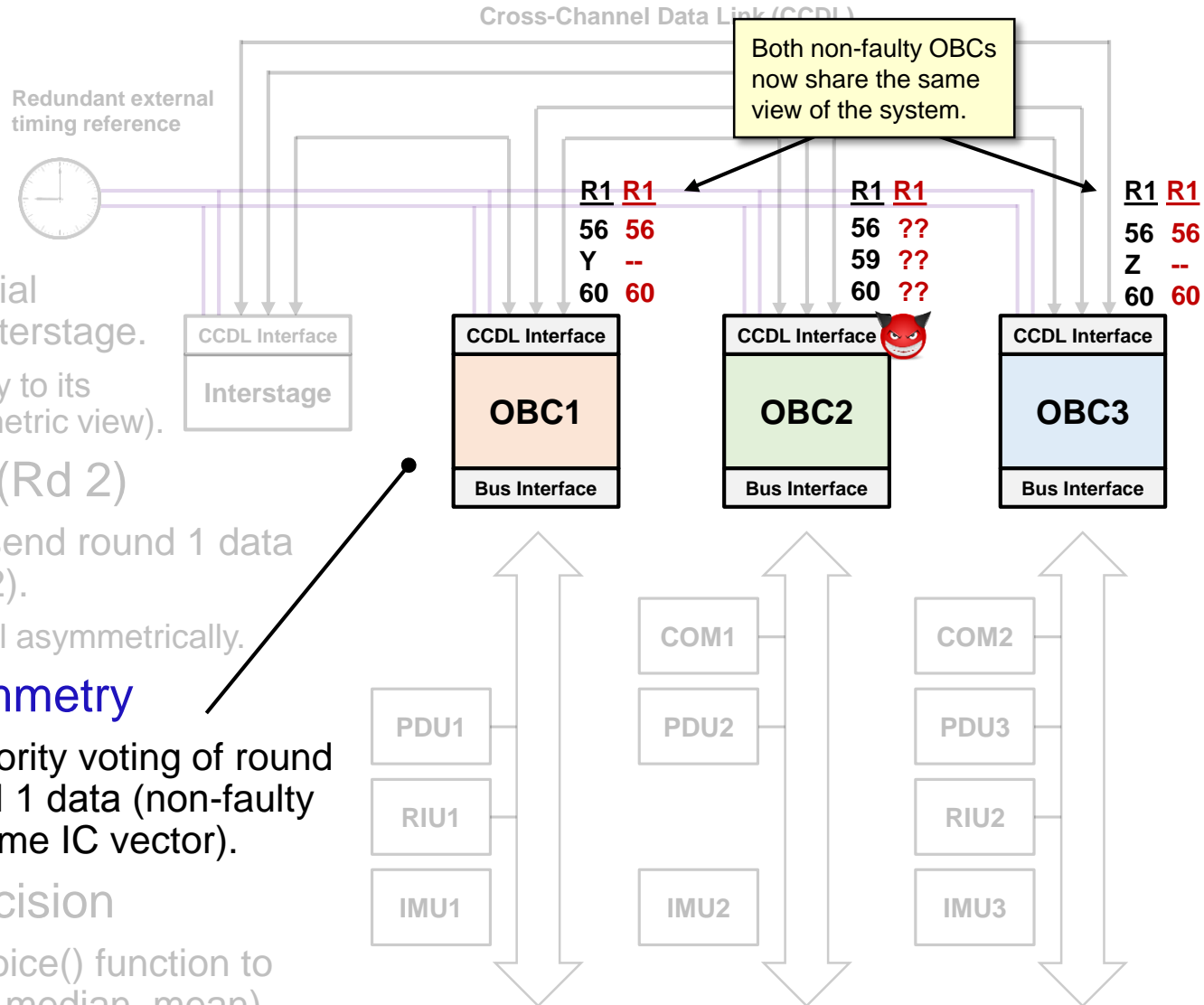
- OBCs 1-3 + interstage send round 1 data to all OBCs 1-3 (round 2).
- Still, any FCR 1-4 could fail asymmetrically.

Step 4: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs majority voting of round 2 data to “correct” round 1 data (non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector).

Step 5: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value (e.g. median, mean).



Channelized Bus – Reading Data (5)



Step 1: Read data

- OBCs 1-3 reads data from local input device.
- No guarantee data agrees.

Step 2: Exchange

- OBCs 1-3 send their initial values to OBCs 1-3 + interstage.
- An OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).

Step 3: Exchange (Rd 2)

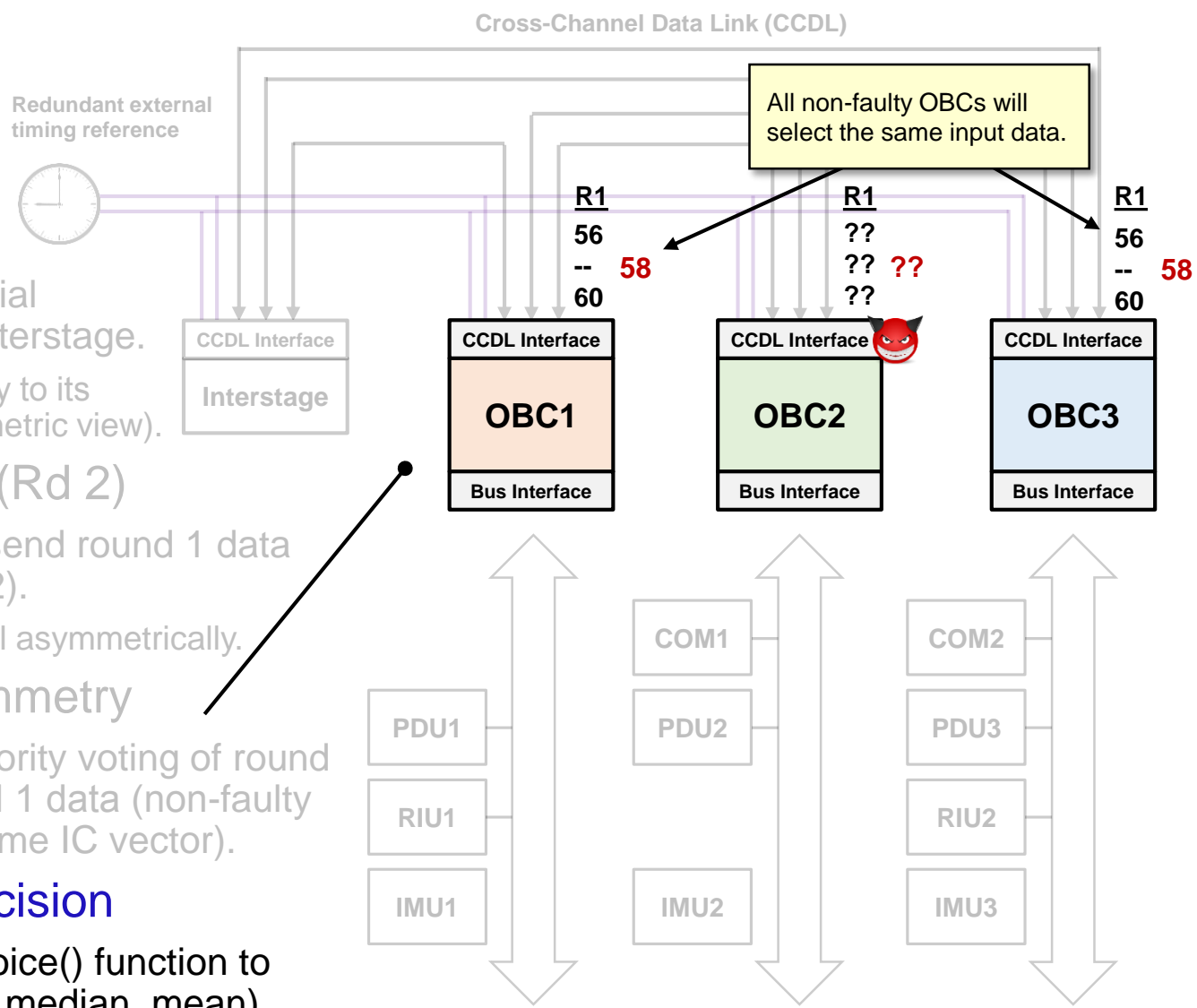
- OBCs 1-3 + interstage send round 1 data to all OBCs 1-3 (round 2).
- Still, any FCR 1-4 could fail asymmetrically.

Step 4: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs majority voting of round 2 data to “correct” round 1 data (non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector).

Step 5: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value (e.g. median, mean).



Channelized Bus – Commanding (1)



Step 1: Prepare Command

- After computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
- All non-faulty OBCs agree.

Step 2: Exchange

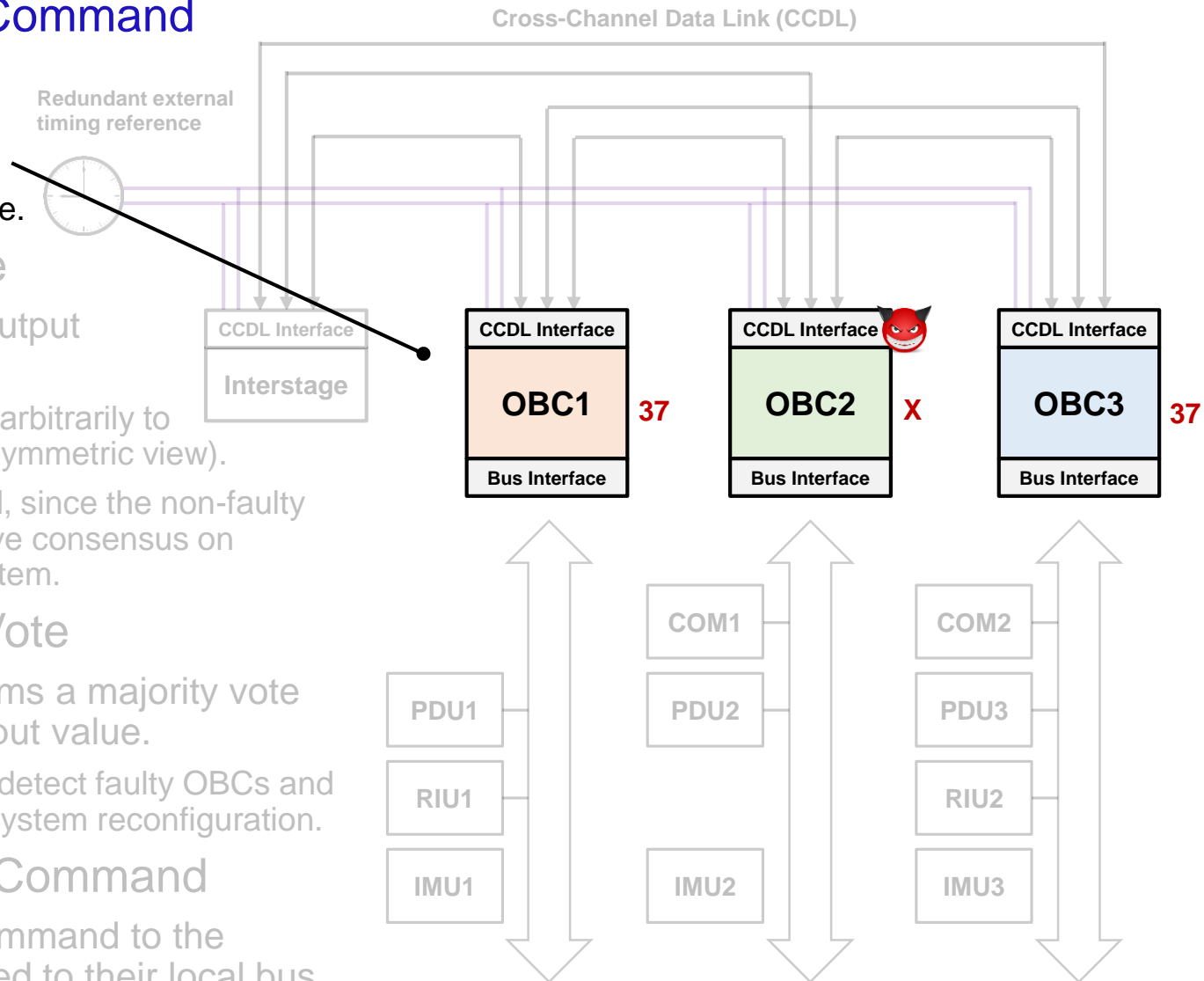
- OBCs 1-3 send their output values to OBCs 1-3.
- Again, an OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).
- This behavior is tolerated, since the non-faulty OBCs do not need to have consensus on the entire view of the system.

Step 3: Majority Vote

- Each OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote to correct its initial output value.
- .Process can be used to detect faulty OBCs and initiate fault recovery or system reconfiguration.

Step 4: Transmit Command

- OBCs 1-3 send the command to the output device connected to their local bus.



Channelized Bus – Commanding (2)



Step 1: Prepare Command

- After computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
- All non-faulty OBCs agree.

Step 2: Exchange

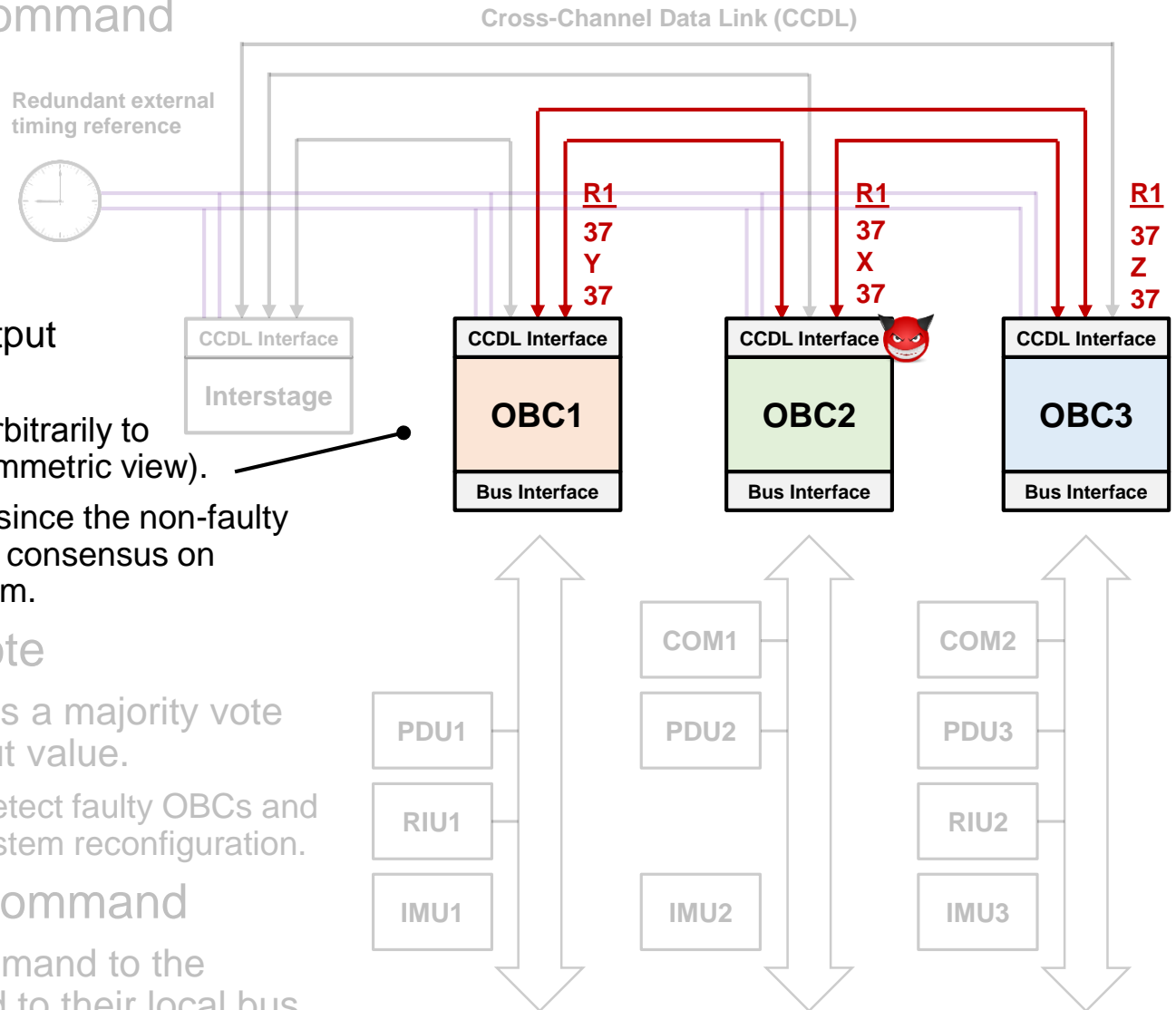
- OBCs 1-3 send their output values to OBCs 1-3.
- Again, an OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).
- This behavior is tolerated, since the non-faulty OBCs do not need to have consensus on the entire view of the system.

Step 3: Majority Vote

- Each OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote to correct its initial output value.
- .Process can be used to detect faulty OBCs and initiate fault recovery or system reconfiguration.

Step 4: Transmit Command

- OBCs 1-3 send the command to the output device connected to their local bus.



Channelized Bus – Commanding (3)



Step 1: Prepare Command

- After computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
- All non-faulty OBCs agree.

Step 2: Exchange

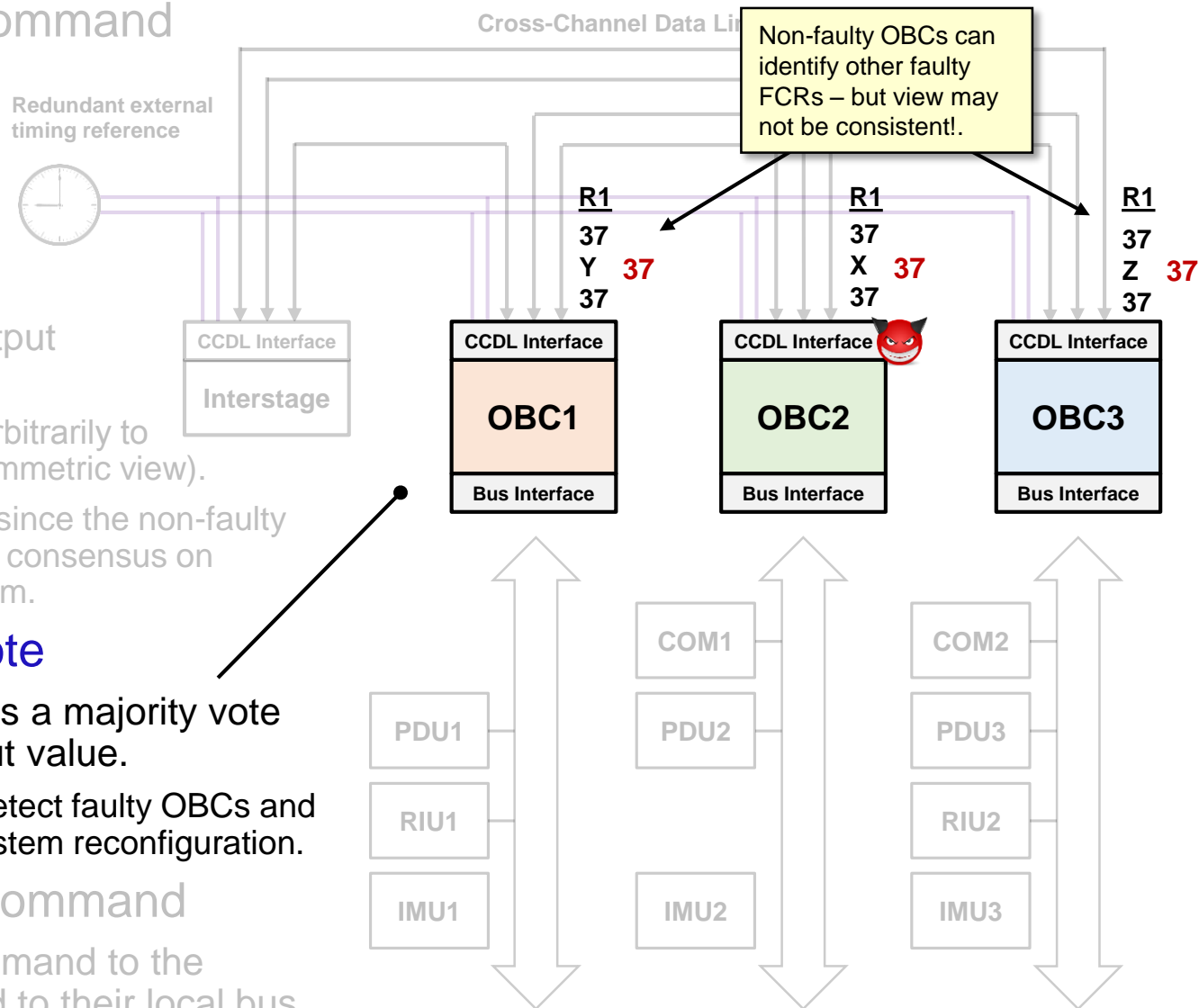
- OBCs 1-3 send their output values to OBCs 1-3.
- Again, an OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).
- This behavior is tolerated, since the non-faulty OBCs do not need to have consensus on the entire view of the system.

Step 3: Majority Vote

- Each OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote to correct its initial output value.
- .Process can be used to detect faulty OBCs and initiate fault recovery or system reconfiguration.

Step 4: Transmit Command

- OBCs 1-3 send the command to the output device connected to their local bus.



Channelized Bus – Commanding (4)



Step 1: Prepare Command

- After computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
- All non-faulty OBCs agree.

Step 2: Exchange

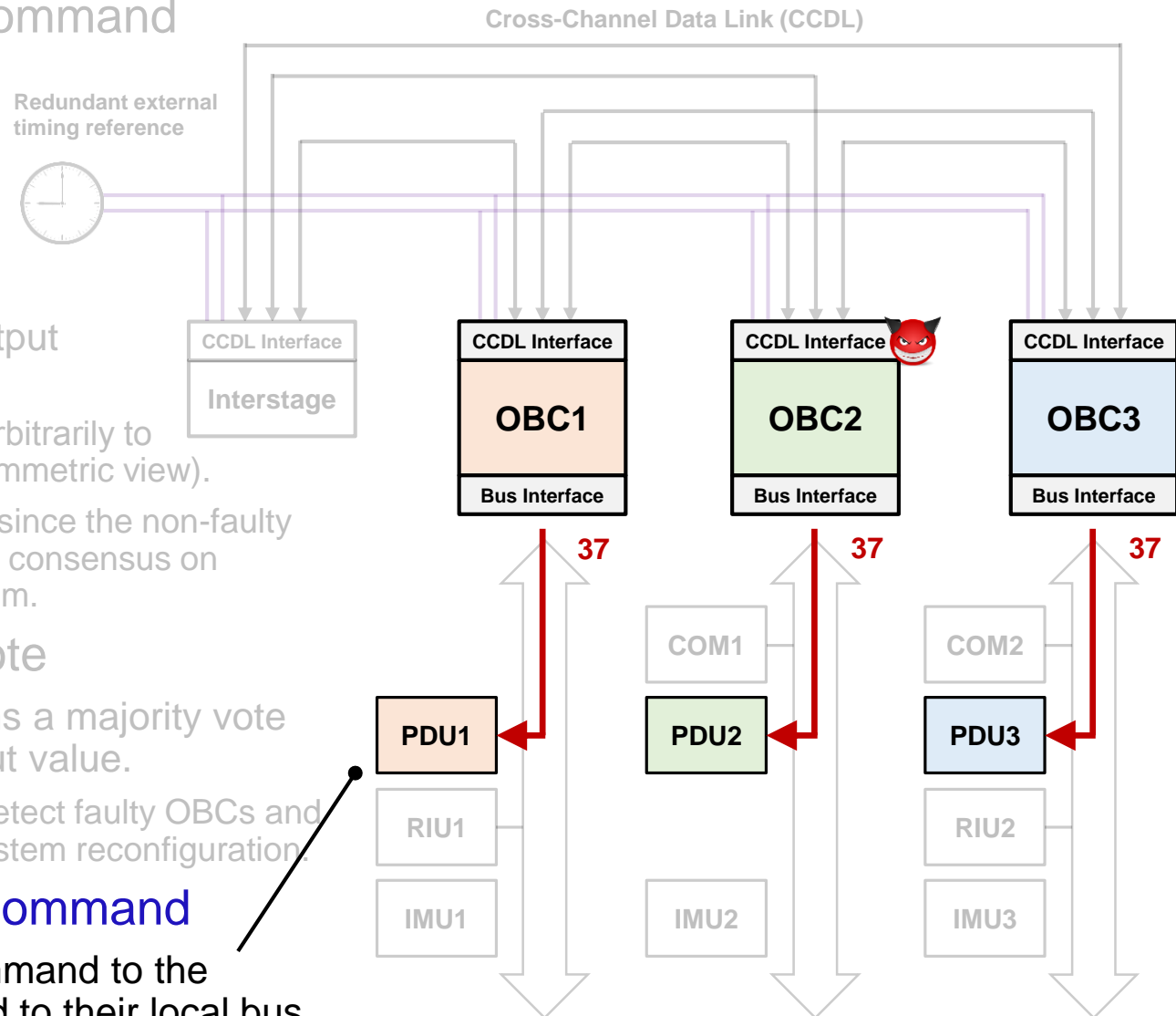
- OBCs 1-3 send their output values to OBCs 1-3.
- Again, an OBC may “lie” arbitrarily to its peers (results in an asymmetric view).
- This behavior is tolerated, since the non-faulty OBCs do not need to have consensus on the entire view of the system.

Step 3: Majority Vote

- Each OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote to correct its initial output value.
- .Process can be used to detect faulty OBCs and initiate fault recovery or system reconfiguration

Step 4: Transmit Command

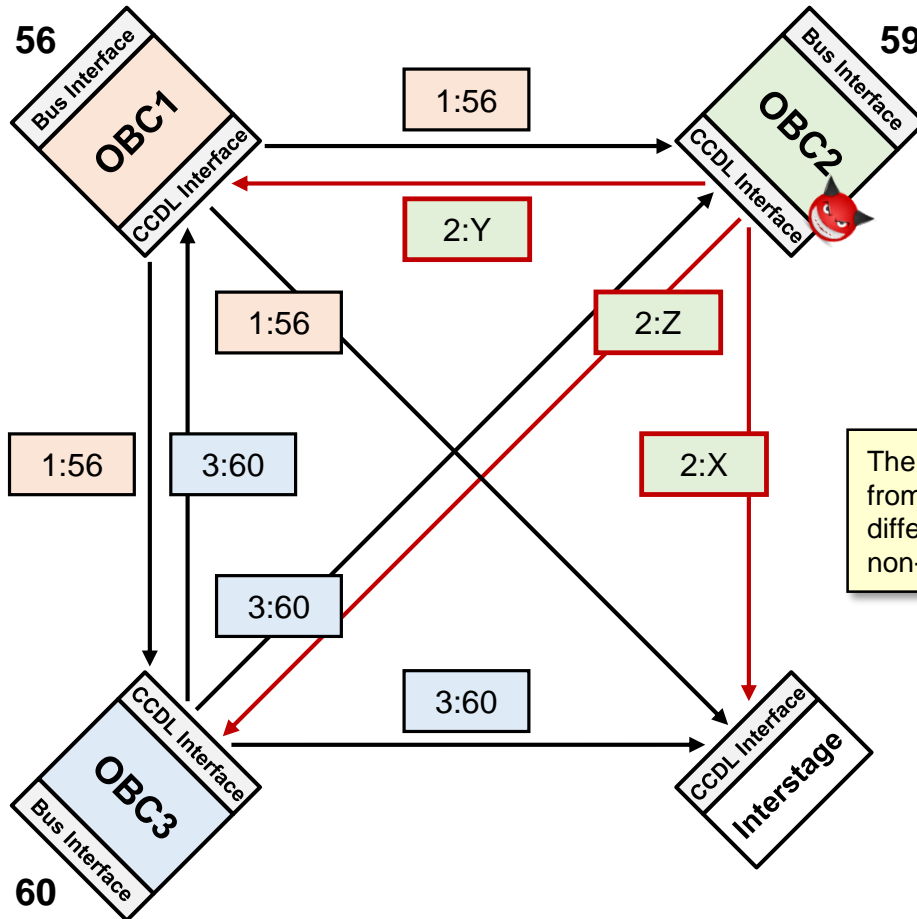
- OBCs 1-3 send the command to the output device connected to their local bus.



Channelized Bus – Detailed Exchange



Information Exchange – Round 1



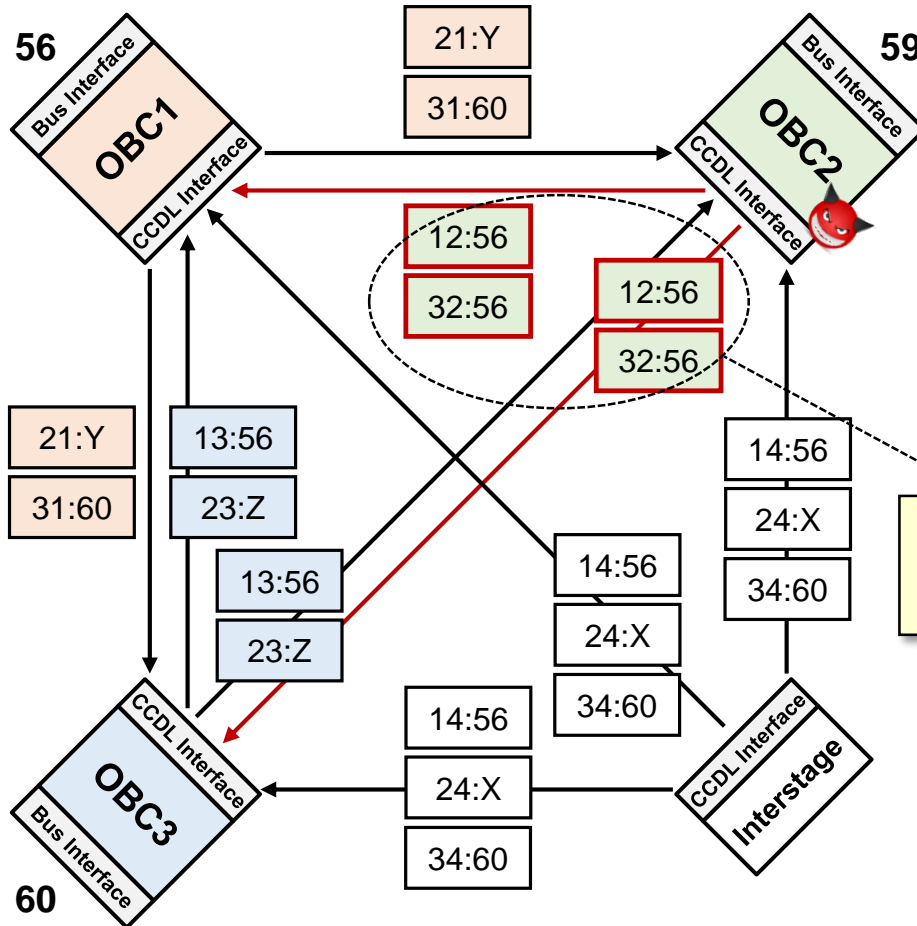
The value received from OBC2 is different for each non-faulty FCR.

	1	2	3	
IC Vector:	56	Y	60	
OBC1				1
				2
				3
				4
IC Vector:	56	Z	60	
OBC3				1
				2
				3
				4
IC Vector:	56	X	60	
Interstage				1
				2
				3
				4

Channelized Bus – Detailed Exchange



Information Exchange – Round 2



	1	2	3	
IC Vector:	56	Y	60	
		Y	60	1
OBC1	56		56	2
	56	Z		3
	56	X	60	4
IC Vector:	56	Z	60	
		Y	60	1
OBC3	56		56	2
	56	Z		3
	56	X	60	4
IC Vector:	56	X	60	
				1
Interstage				2
				3
				4

OBC2 tries to force consensus by agreeing with OBC1.

Channelized Bus – Detailed Exchange



Create Symmetry - Majority Voting

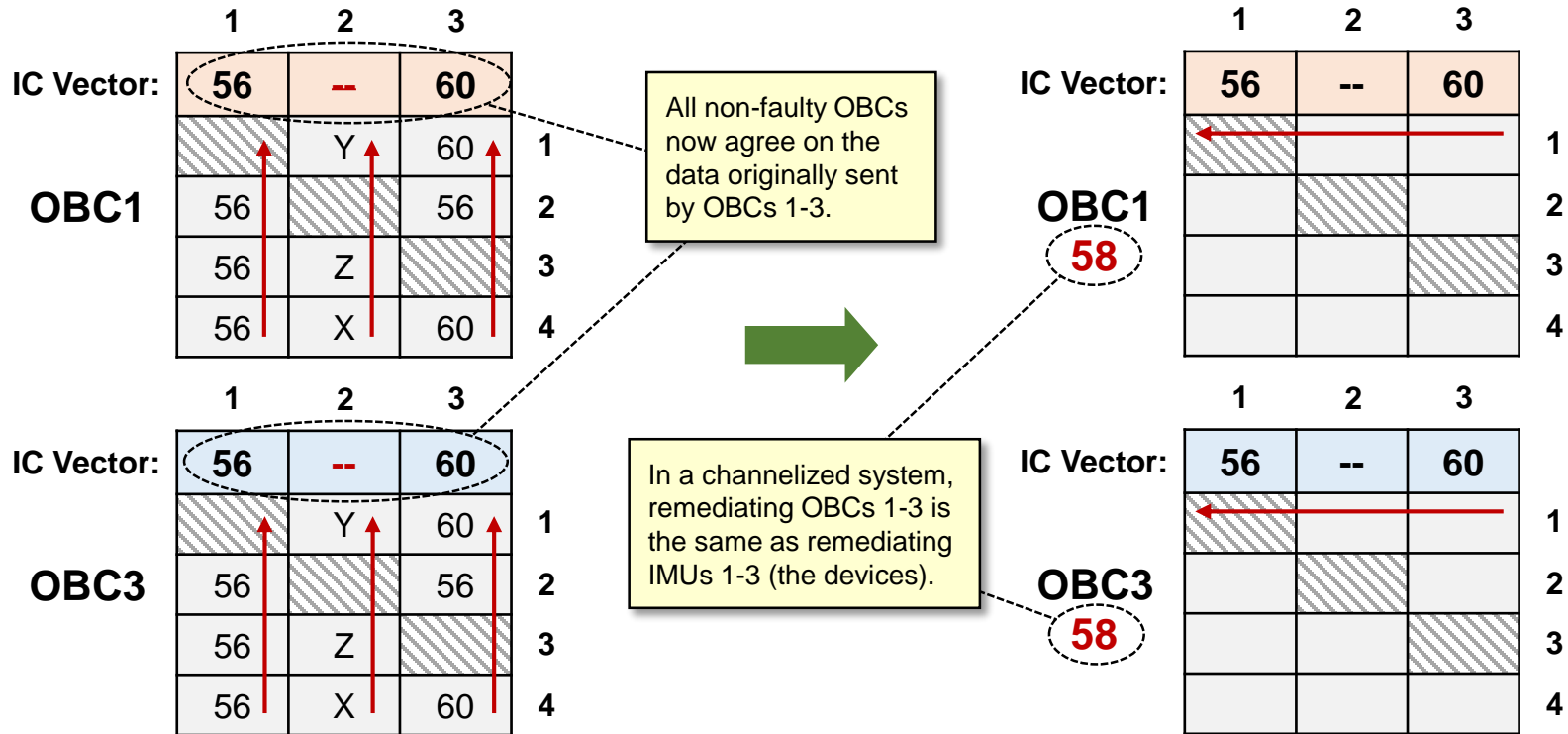
On OBCs 1-3, each element in the interactive consistency (IC) vector is set to the strict majority of its children.

→ I.e. OBCs 1,3 must agree on data from OBC 2.

Making a Decision

On OBCs 1-3, a choice() function is used to determine a final value from those contained in the IC vector.

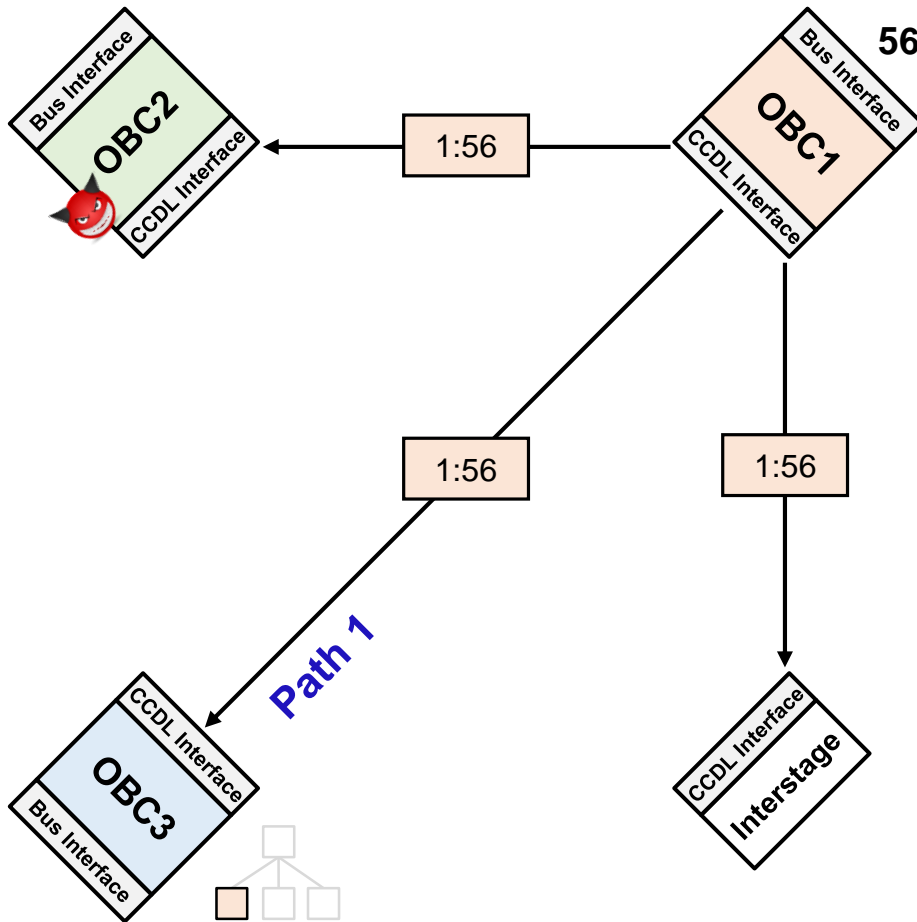
→ E.g. a mid-value selection.



IC Exchange – Alternate Viewpoint (1)



- “Flattening” the classical two-round exchange
 - Can be analyzed as messaging over redundant paths (from different FCRs).
 - Makes it easier to see why 4 FCRs and 3 disjoint paths are necessary.

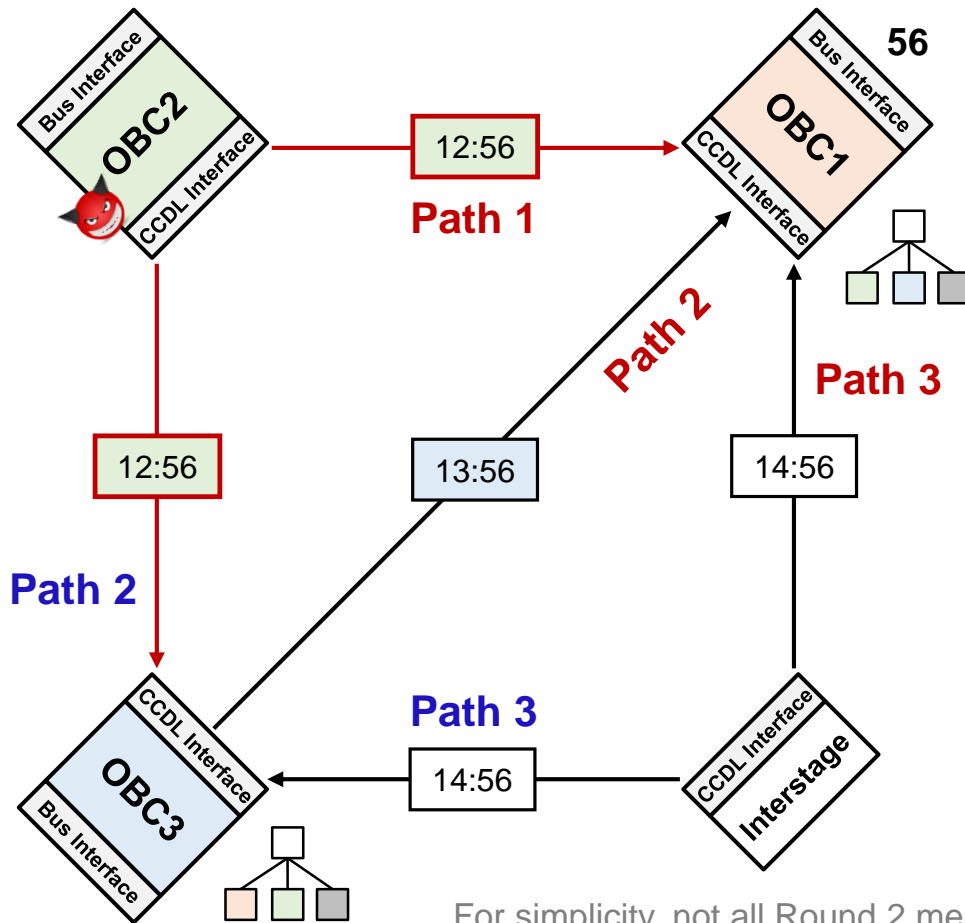


	1	2	3	
IC Vector:				
OBC1				1
				2
				3
				4
	1	2	3	
IC Vector:				
OBC3	56			1
				2
				3
				4

IC Exchange – Alternate Viewpoint (2)



- “Flattening” the classical two-round exchange
 - Can be analyzed as messaging over redundant paths (from different FCRs).
 - Makes it easier to see why 4 FCRs and 3 disjoint paths are necessary.



	1	2	3	
IC Vector:	56			
				1
OBC1	56			2
	56			3
	56			4
IC Vector:	56			
	56			1
OBC3	56			2
				3
	56			4

For simplicity, not all Round 2 messages are shown.

Generalizing use of interstages (1)



Example 1:

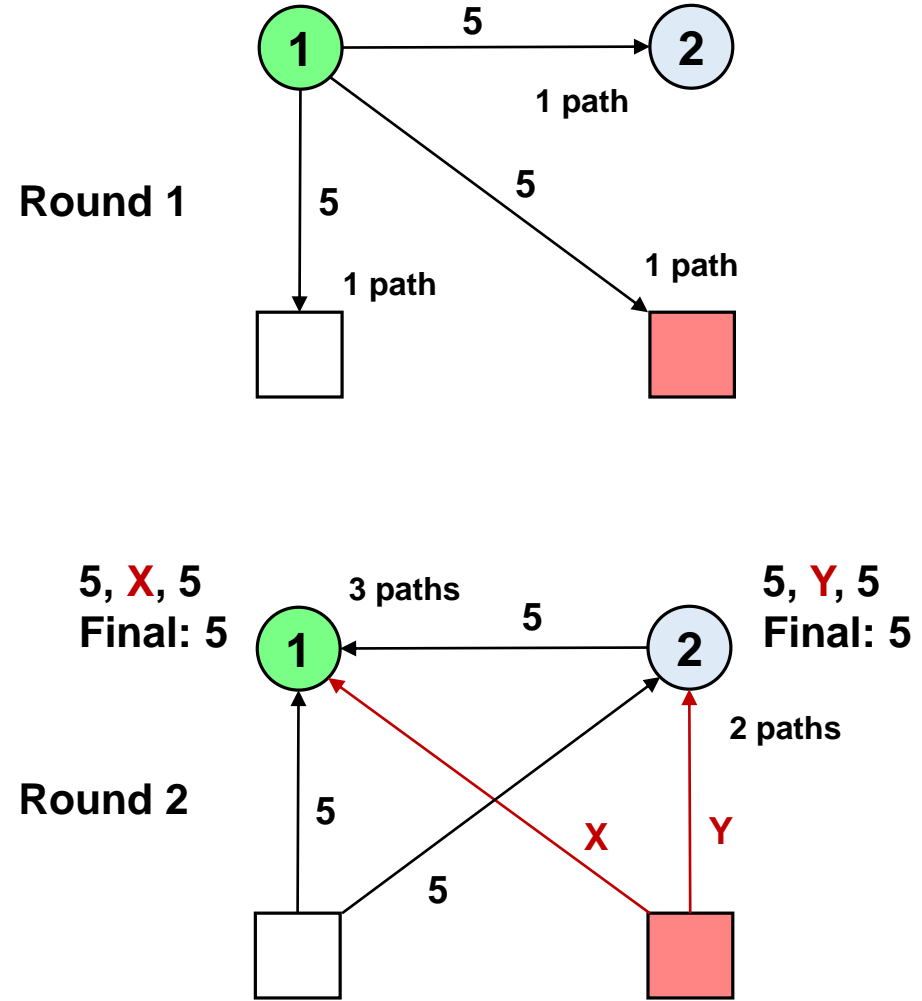
- Four total FCRs
- Two interstages
- Two devices require consensus

Rules for IC in 1FT voting systems:

- Requires $\geq 3(1) + 1 = 4$ FCRs.
- Interstages need data from ≥ 1 paths.
- Devices requiring consensus need data from $\geq 2(1) + 1 = 3$ disjoint paths.
- Two rounds of data exchange.
- Devices requiring consensus perform majority vote over received messages.

- Device requiring consensus
- Interstage (does not require consensus)
- Designates originating device
- Designates faulty device

Assumption: Any device may fail arbitrarily (omission, symmetric, asymmetric, byzantine).



Generalizing use of interstages (2)



Example 2:

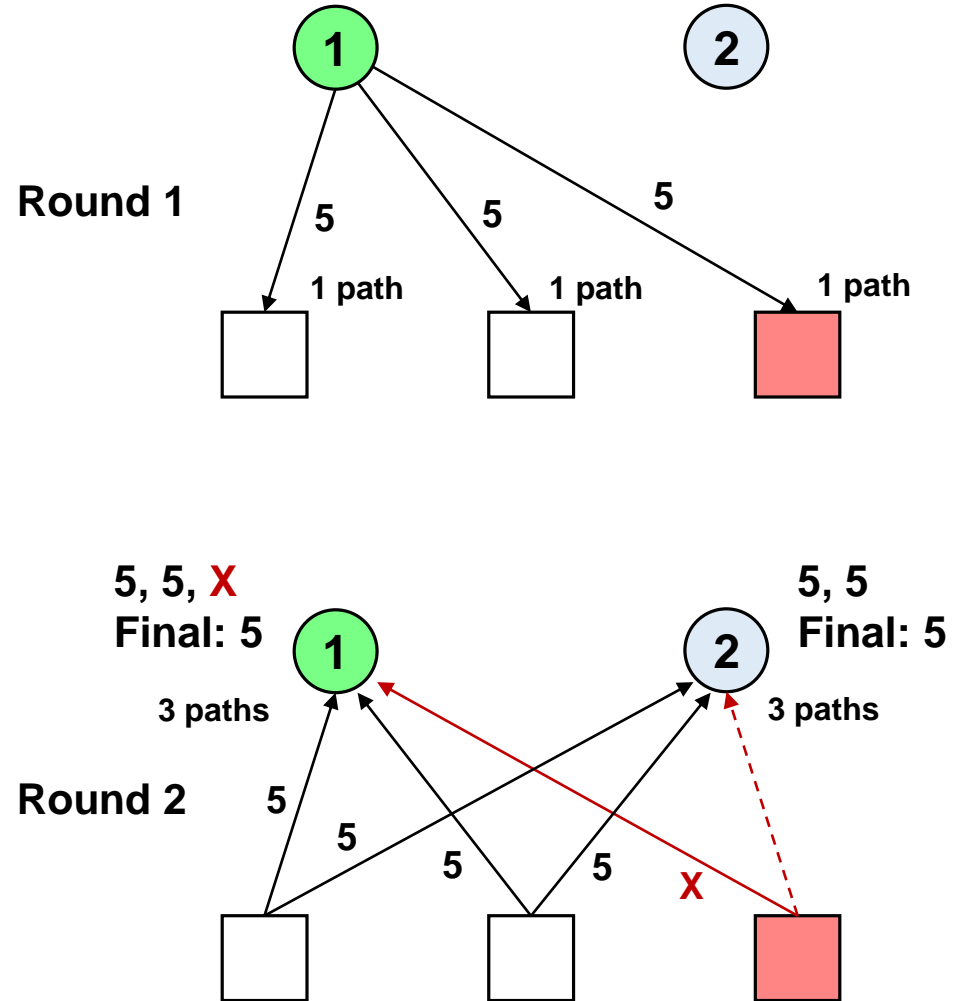
- Five total FCRs
- Three interstages
- Two devices require consensus

Rules for IC in 1FT voting systems:

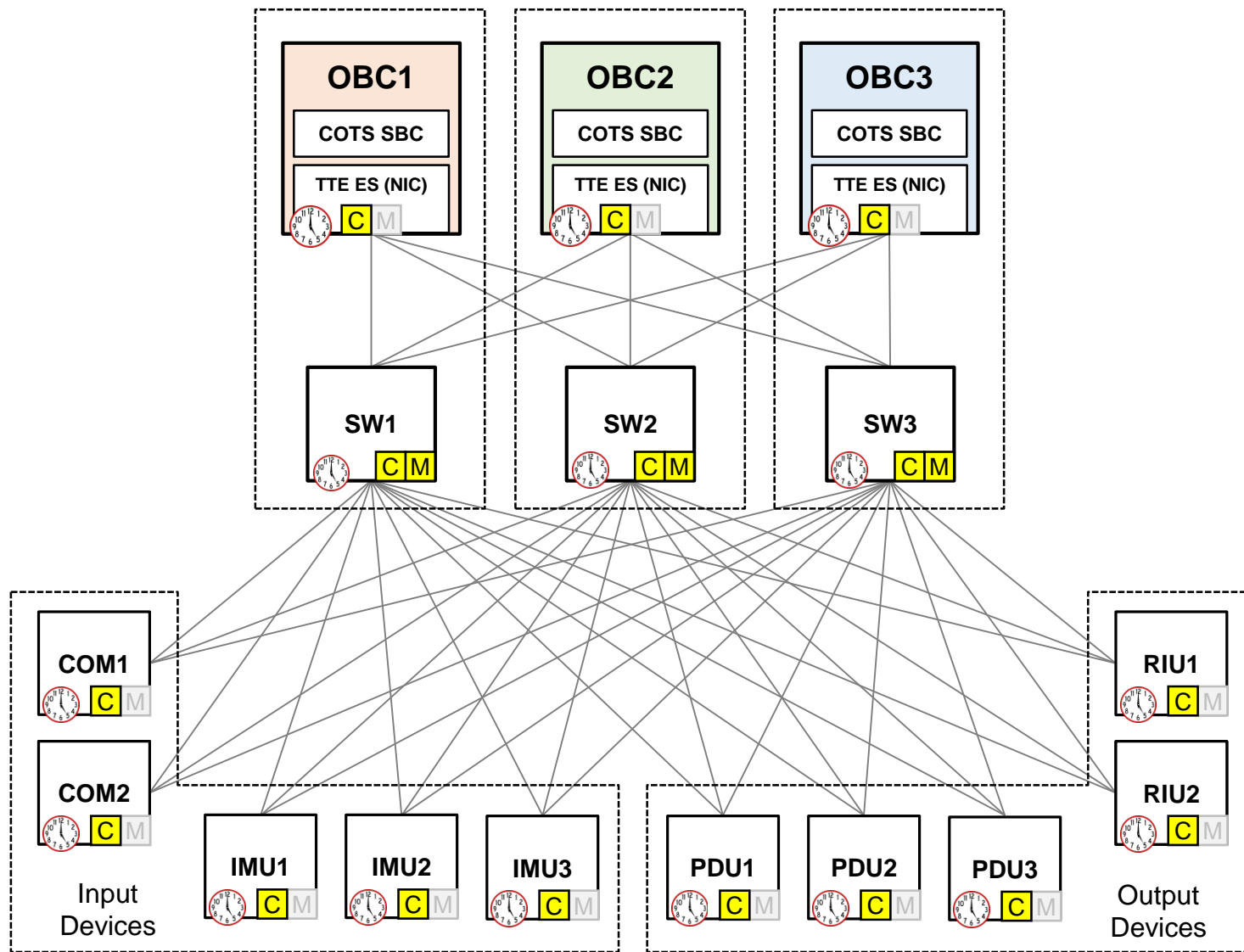
- Requires $\geq 3(1) + 1 = 4$ FCRs.
- Interstages need data from ≥ 1 paths.
- Devices requiring consensus need data from $\geq 2(1) + 1 = 3$ disjoint paths.
- Two rounds of data exchange.
- Devices requiring consensus perform majority vote over received messages.

- Device requiring consensus
- Interstage (does not require consensus)
- Designates originating device
- Designates faulty device

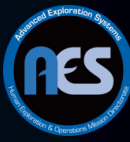
Assumption: Any device may fail arbitrarily (omission, symmetric, asymmetric, byzantine).



Switched Triplex (Fully Cross-strapped)



High-Integrity Devices in TTEthernet

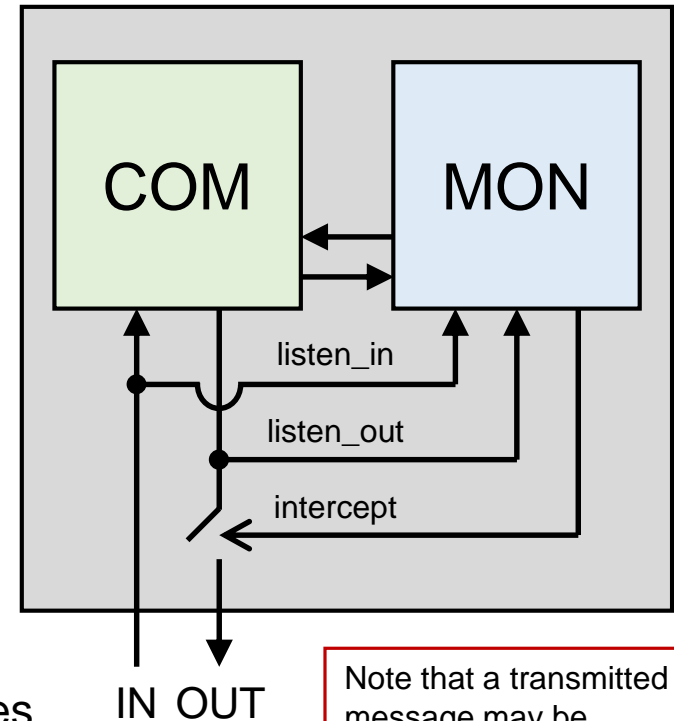


■ High-Integrity Design

- Command/Monitor (COM/MON) design aims for error containment within the device.
 - Contains two fault containment regions.
- Input is forwarded to both COM and MON.
- Congruency exchange ensures both COM and MON have identical input data (i.e. IC).
- Both COM and MON process data in parallel.
- Output from COM is forwarded to MON.
- If disagreement, MON terminates the transmission.

■ Device Failure Assumptions

- Standard devices may be subject to *byzantine* failures.
 - Device may send arbitrary messages (of any contents).
 - Device may transmit messages at arbitrary points in time.
 - Device may send different messages through different network planes (channels).
- High-Integrity devices may be subject to *inconsistent omission* failures.
 - Faulty device will not create (nor modify existing to produce) a new valid message.
 - Device may drop or fail to receive an arbitrary number of messages.
 - Device may fail to relay messages asymmetrically – some receivers may not get data.



Note that a transmitted message may be truncated – the receiver rejects the message.



■ What is an interstage?

- An interstage is an FCR that participates in the interactive consistency exchange, but does not require consensus.
- The purpose of an interstage is to provide the necessary functionality to perform byzantine agreement algorithms without requiring all FCRs to be full processors.

■ Rules for interactive consistency in 1FT voting systems:

- Requires $\geq 3(1) + 1 = 4$ Fault Containment Regions (FCRs).
- Each interstage must receive data through ≥ 1 disjoint paths.
- **Devices which require consensus must get data from:**
 - I. $\geq 2(1) + 1 = 3$ standard-integrity devices, or**
 - II. $\geq (1) + 1 = 2$ high-integrity devices, or**
 - III. A combination of the above**
- Above must be satisfied in $(1) + 1 = 2$ rounds of data exchange.
- After data exchange, devices requiring consensus perform an absolute majority vote of received messages.

Generalizing use of (HI) interstages



Example 3:

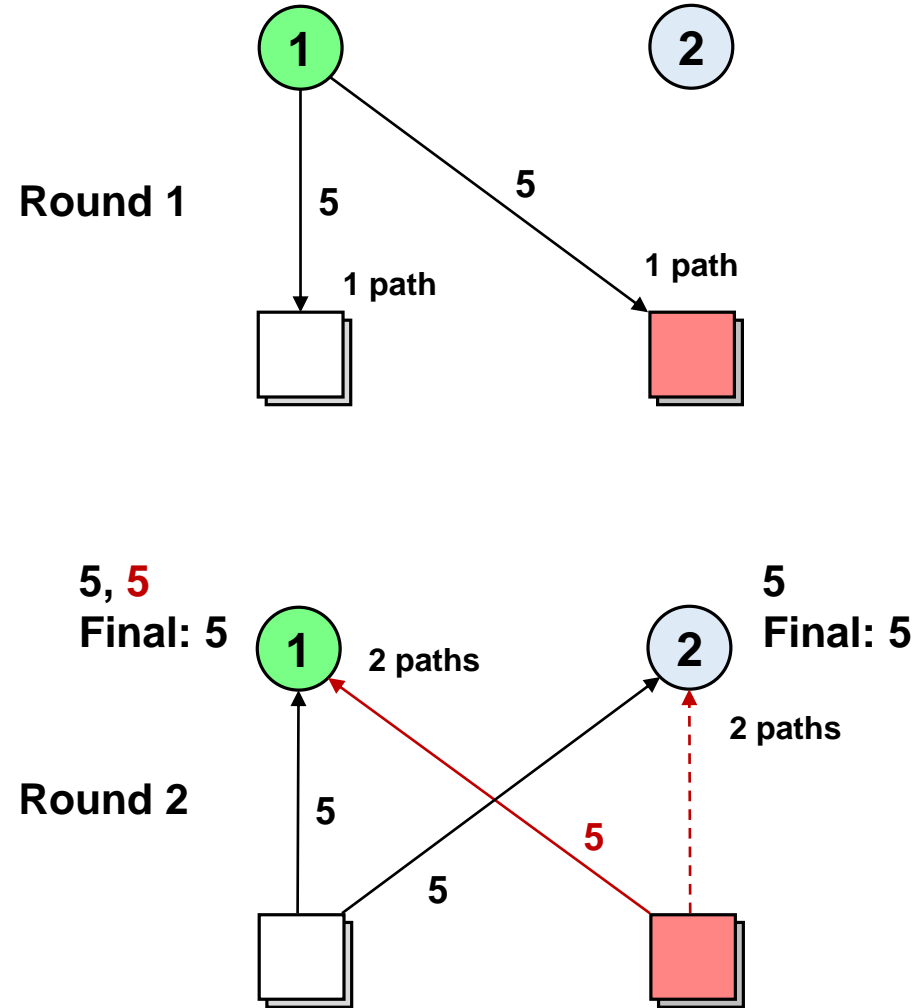
- Six total FCRs
- Two HI interstages
- Two devices require consensus

Rules for IC in 1FT voting systems:

- Requires $\geq 3(1) + 1 = 4$ FCRs.
- Interstages need data from ≥ 1 paths.
- Devices requiring consensus need data:
 - from $\geq 2(1) + 1 = 3$ LI devices
 - from $\geq (1) + 1 = 2$ HI devices
 - from a combination of the above
- Two rounds of data exchange.
- Majority vote used to reach consensus.

- Device requiring consensus
- LI Interstage (does not require consensus)
- ▣ HI interstage (does not require consensus)
- Designates originating device
- Designates faulty device

Assumption: LI devices may fail arbitrarily, HI devices may fail via inconsistent omission.



Generalizing use of (HI) interstages



Example 4:

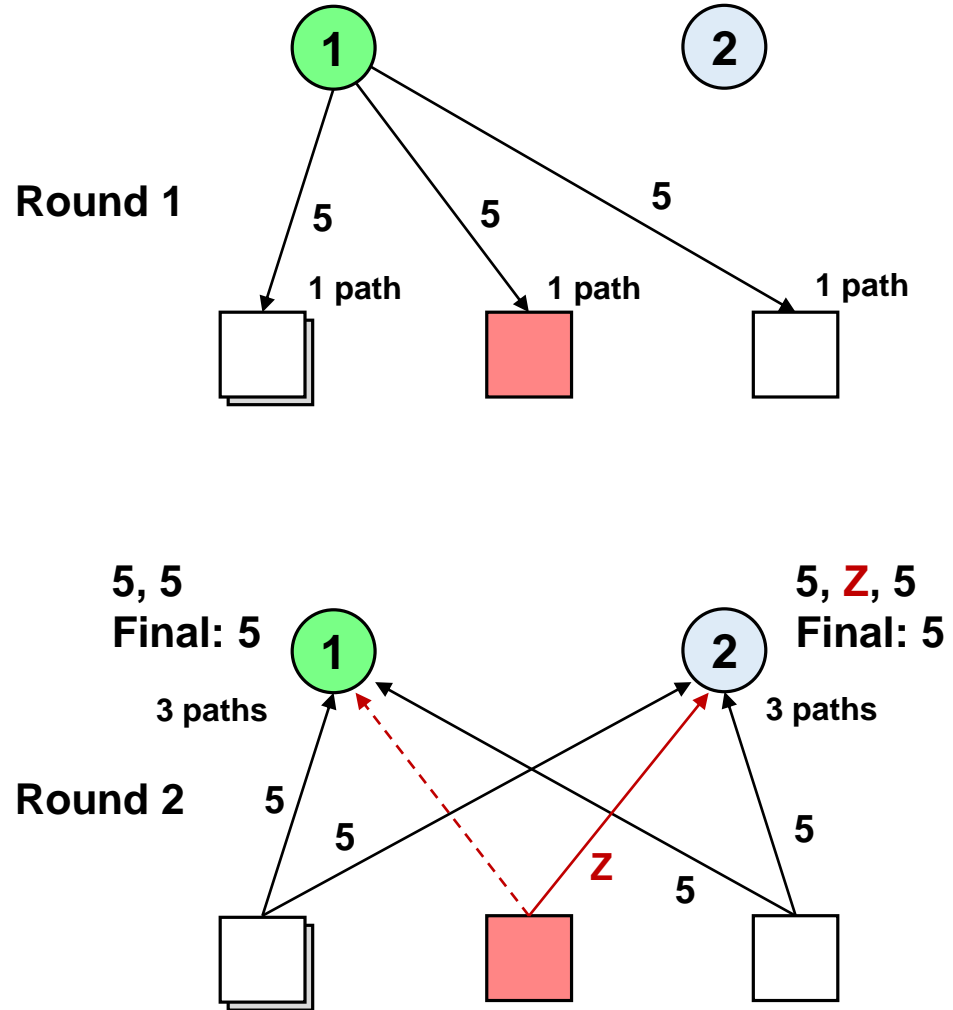
- Six total FCRs
- One HI + two LI interstages
- Two devices require consensus

Rules for IC in 1FT voting systems:

- Requires $\geq 3(1) + 1 = 4$ FCRs.
- Interstages need data from ≥ 1 paths.
- Devices requiring consensus need data:
 - from $\geq 2(1) + 1 = 3$ LI devices
 - from $\geq (1) + 1 = 2$ HI devices
 - from a combination of the above
- Two rounds of data exchange.
- Majority vote used to reach consensus.

- Device requiring consensus
- LI Interstage (does not require consensus)
- ▭ HI interstage (does not require consensus)
- Designates originating device
- Designates faulty device

Assumption: LI devices may fail arbitrarily, HI devices may fail via inconsistent omission.

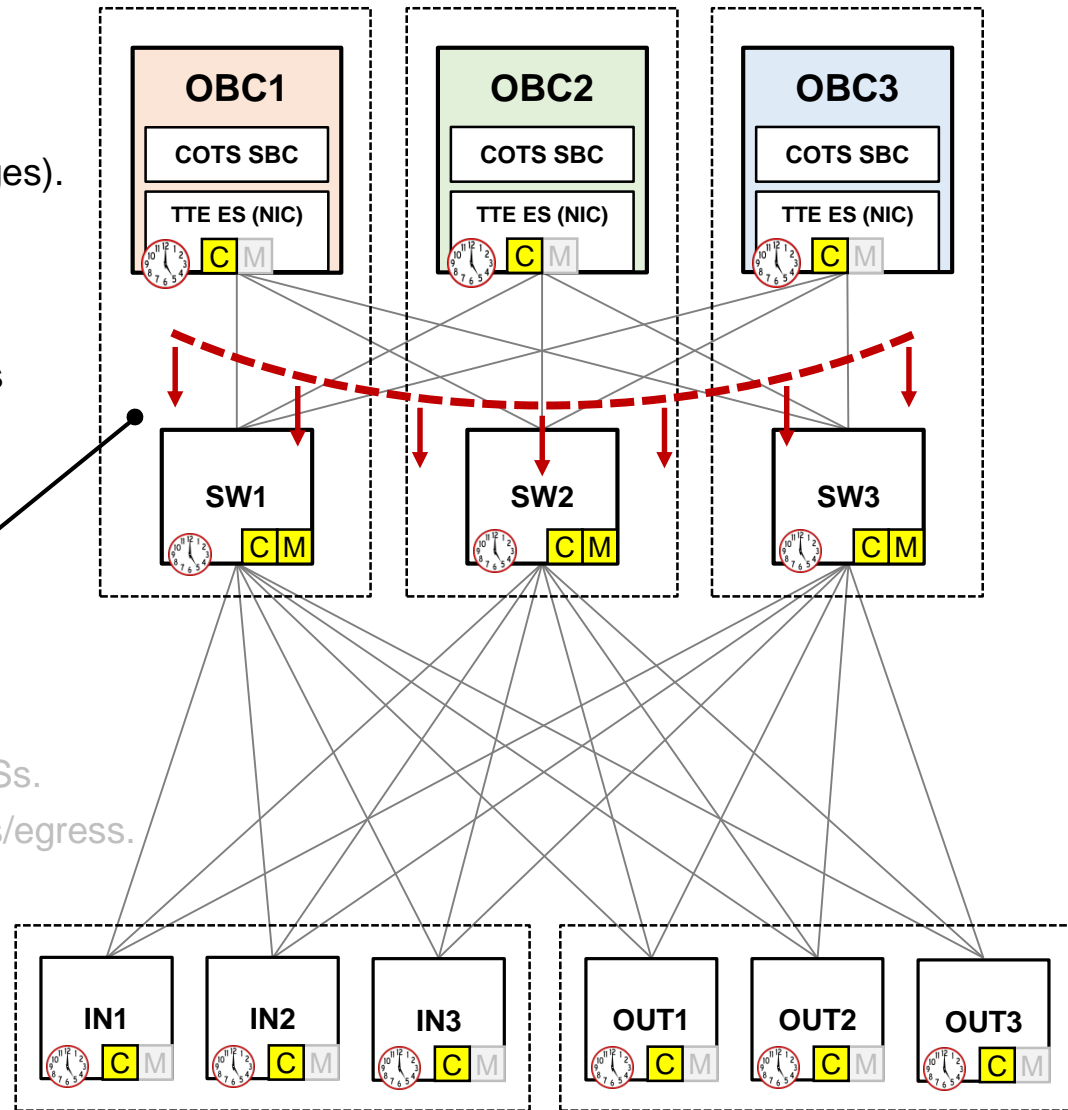


Switched Triplex (Fully Cross-strapped)



General Overview

- Scalable 1FT design can be realized with:
 - 3 full processors/OBCs
 - 2-3 redundant network planes (interstages).
 - Majority voting of redundant messages.
- Fully-cross strapped design – each OBC has access to any networked device.
- Time-Triggered Ethernet network provides data distribution and synchronization between platforms.
 - Does not require separate CCDL or timing/synchronization hardware.
- Triplex OBCs do not directly interface to any end devices (insulated by network).



Device Characteristics

- COM/MON switches, standard integrity ESSs.
- Error Containment Unit b/w switch ingress/egress.
- Switches provide 1FT or 2FT availability depending on number of channels.
- COM/MON switches required as trusted Compression Masters (CM) for sync.
- HI switches cannot protect against valid frames containing erroneous data.

Switched Triplex (Fully Cross-strapped)

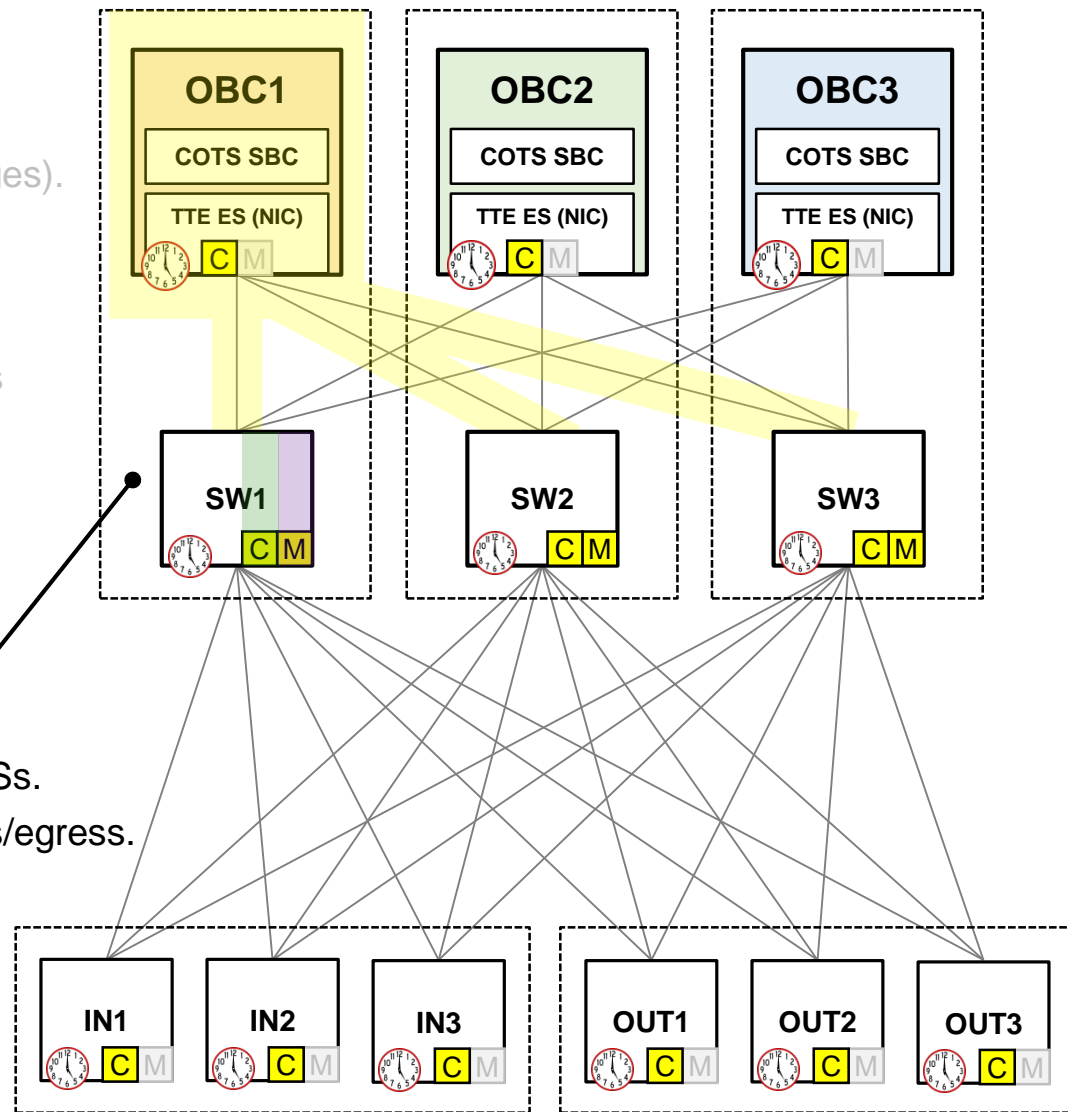


General Overview

- Scalable 1FT design can be realized with:
 - 3 full processors/OBCs
 - 2-3 redundant network planes (interstages).
 - Majority voting of redundant messages.
- Fully-cross strapped design – each OBC has access to any networked device.
- Time-Triggered Ethernet network provides data distribution and synchronization between platforms.
 - Does not require separate CCDL or timing/synchronization hardware.
- Triplex OBCs do not directly interface to any end devices (insulated by network).

Device Characteristics

- COM/MON switches, standard integrity ESSs.
- Error Containment Unit b/w switch ingress/egress.
- Switches provide 1FT or 2FT availability depending on number of channels.
- COM/MON switches required as trusted Compression Masters (CM) for sync.
- HI switches cannot protect against valid frames containing erroneous data



Switched Triplex (Dual-Channel)



Required redundant channels

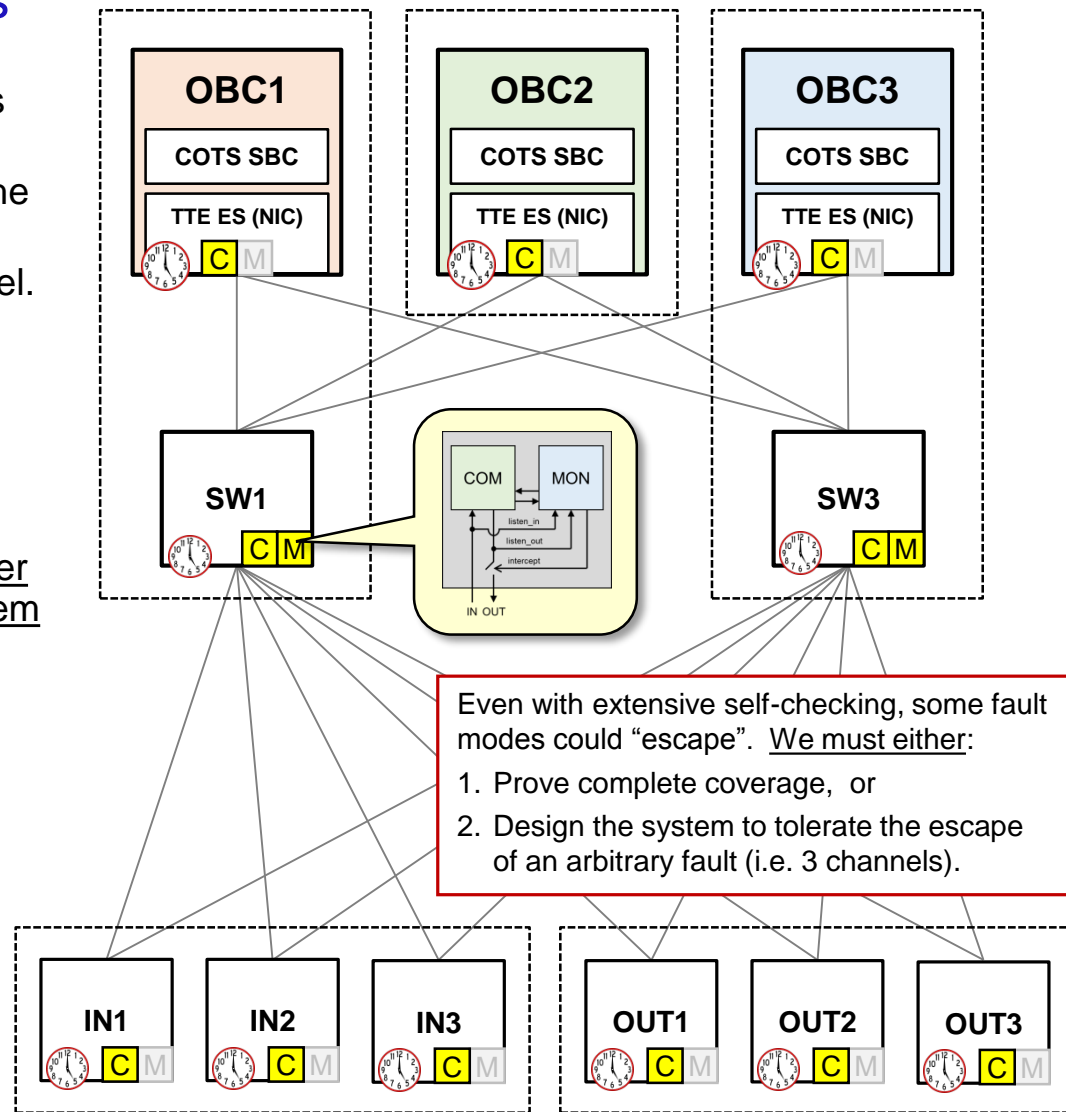
- A 1FT configuration requiring only two network planes is possible only if switches are fully self-checking (fail-silent).
- A restricted failure mode model requires the realization of two independent FCRs.
 - Inconsistent omission is a reduced model.
- Must eliminate common mode elements:
 - E.g. Shared timer, dielectric isolation, physical space, temperature.
- If the switch may fail arbitrarily, then three redundant channels are always required.
- In all cases, 3x channels minimizes number of two-fault combinations resulting in system failure over 2x channels.

Current Implementation

- TTTech COM/MON devices share power (with separate power monitor).
- A shared oscillator is used for COM/MON, with a dedicated clock monitor to prevent common mode clock failures.

Fault-propagation from switches theoretically requires dual-correlated simultaneous faults.

→ $1e-6 \times 1e-6 = \sim 1e-12$ failures/hour



Switched Triplex – Reading Data (1)



Step 1: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each redundant input device (any #) transmits its data to switches 1-3.
 - No guarantee non-faulty devices agree.
 - A failed device may transmit arbitrarily.

Step 2: Exchange (Round 2)

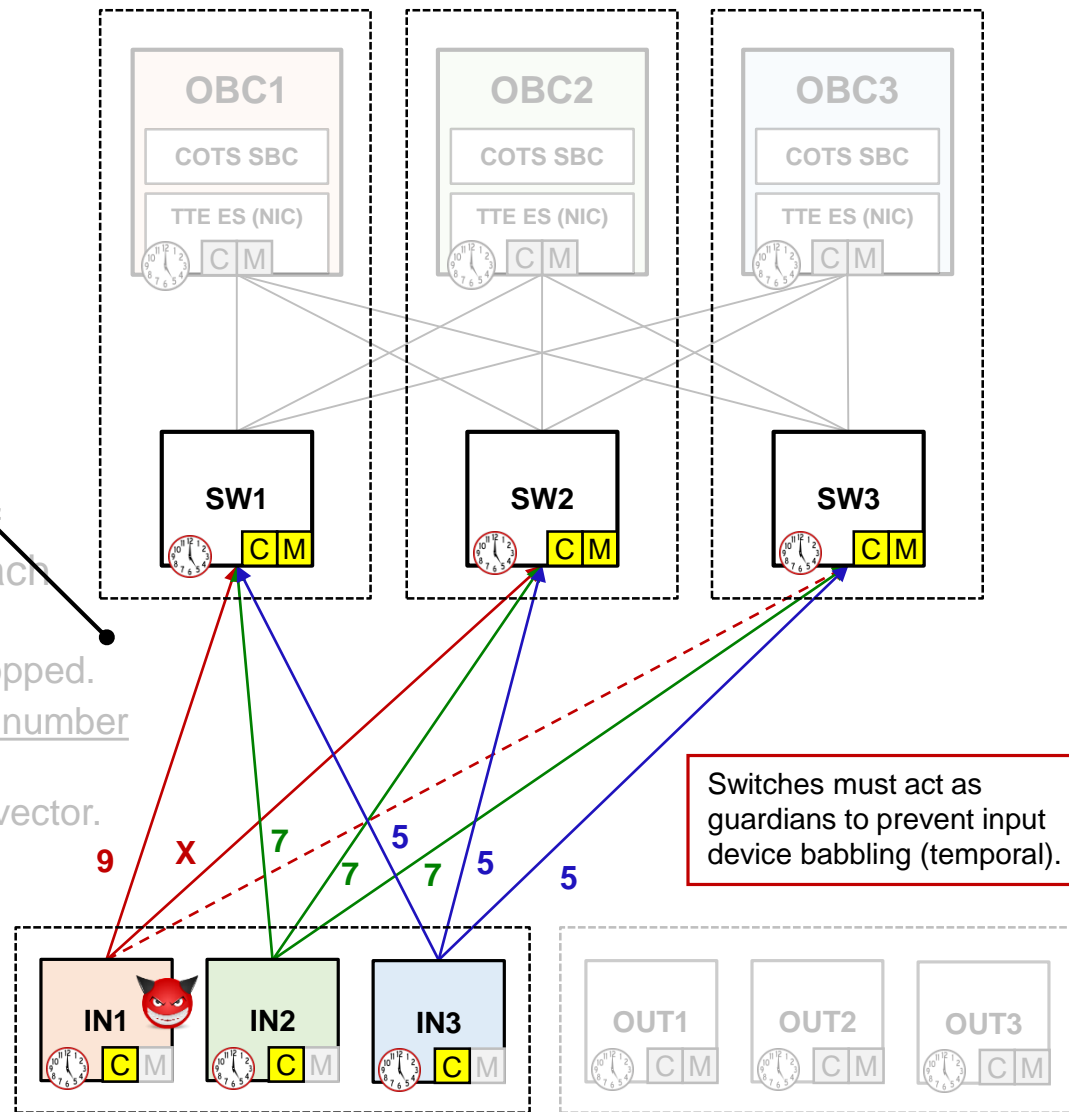
- Switches 1-3 send each redundant input message to all OBCs 1-3.

Step 3: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote of the message copies received from each redundant network channel.
 - Messages that violate the protocol are dropped.
 - Majority must be determined according to number of messages received (i.e. not static 2/3).
 - Non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector.

Step 4: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value from the redundant input devices (e.g. median, mean).



Switched Triplex – Reading Data (2)



Step 1: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each redundant input device (any #) transmits its data to switches 1-3.
 - No guarantee non-faulty devices agree.
 - A failed device may transmit arbitrarily.

Step 2: Exchange (Round 2)

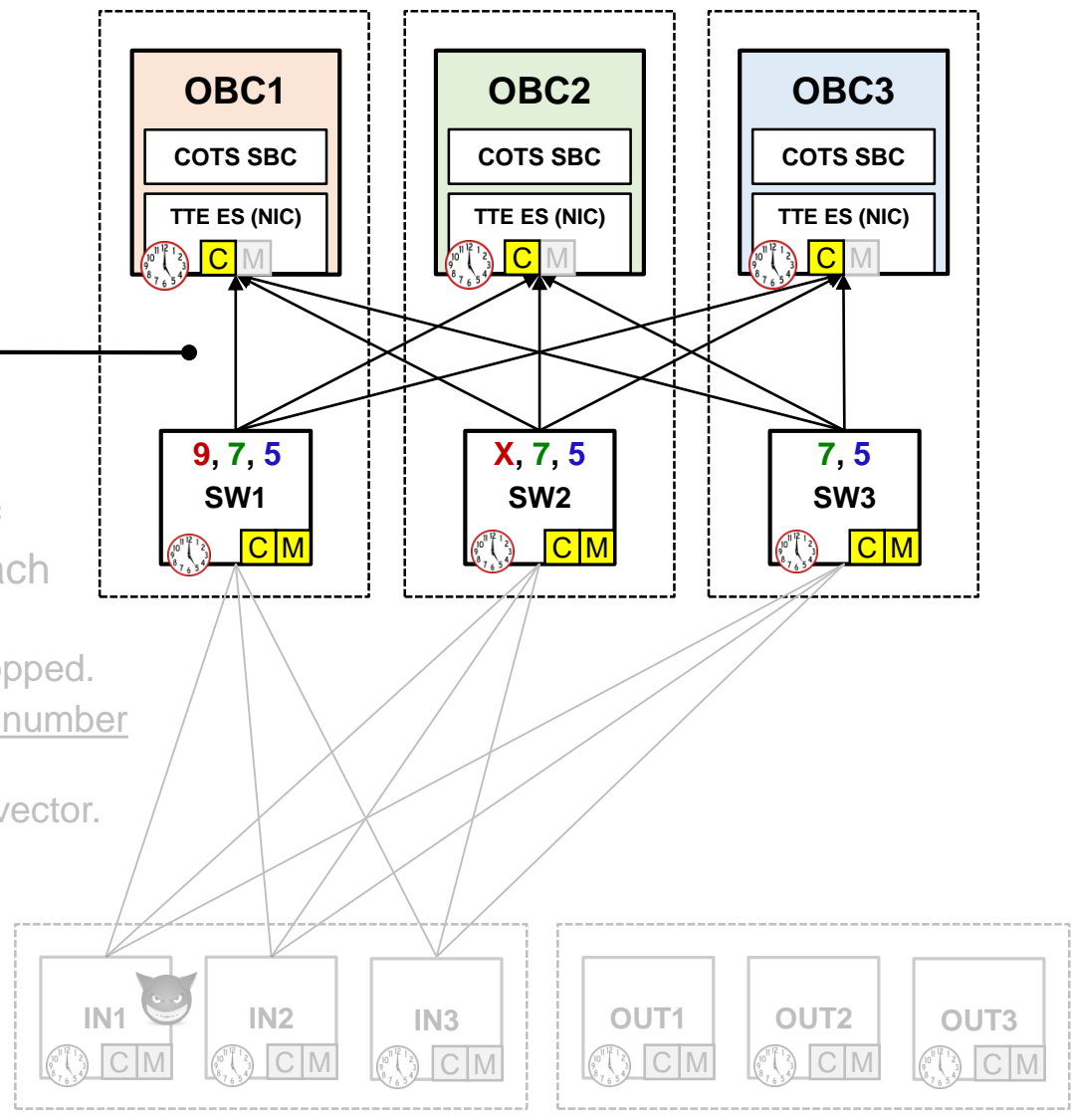
- Switches 1-3 send each redundant input message to all OBCs 1-3.

Step 3: Create symmetry

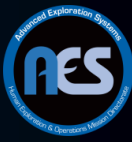
- OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote of the message copies received from each redundant network channel.
 - Messages that violate the protocol are dropped.
 - Majority must be determined according to number of messages received (i.e. not static 2/3).
 - Non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector.

Step 4: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value from the redundant input devices (e.g. median, mean).



Switched Triplex – Reading Data (3)



Step 1: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each redundant input device (any #) transmits its data to switches 1-3.
 - No guarantee non-faulty devices agree.
 - A failed device may transmit arbitrarily.

Step 2: Exchange (Round 2)

- Switches 1-3 send each redundant input message to all OBCs 1-3.

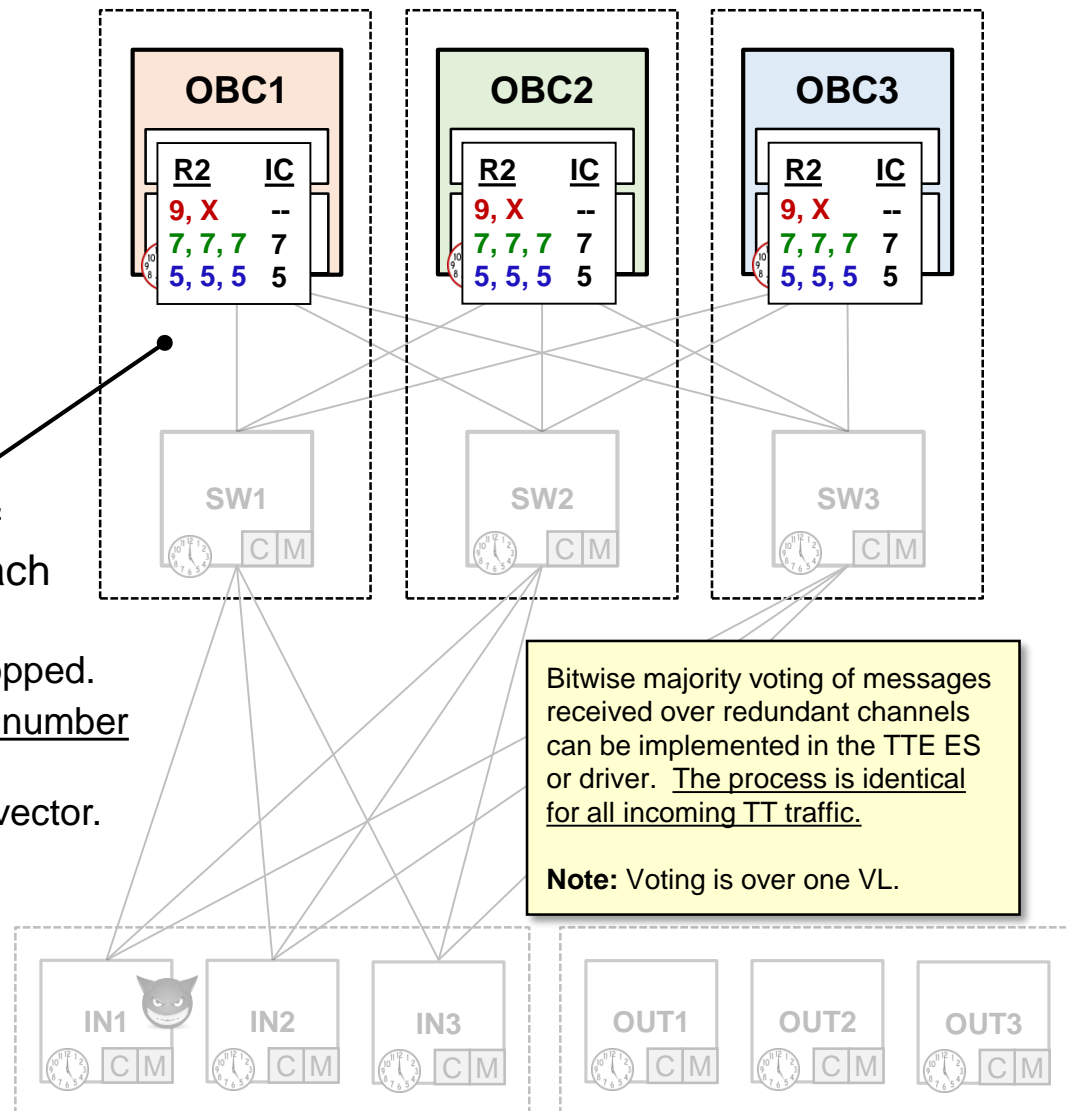
Step 3: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote of the message copies received from each redundant network channel.

- Messages that violate the protocol are dropped.
- Majority must be determined according to number of messages received (i.e. not static 2/3).
- Non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector.

Step 4: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value from the redundant input devices (e.g. median, mean).



Switched Triplex – Reading Data (4)



Step 1: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each redundant input device (any #) transmits its data to switches 1-3.
 - No guarantee non-faulty devices agree.
 - A failed device may transmit arbitrarily.

Step 2: Exchange (Round 2)

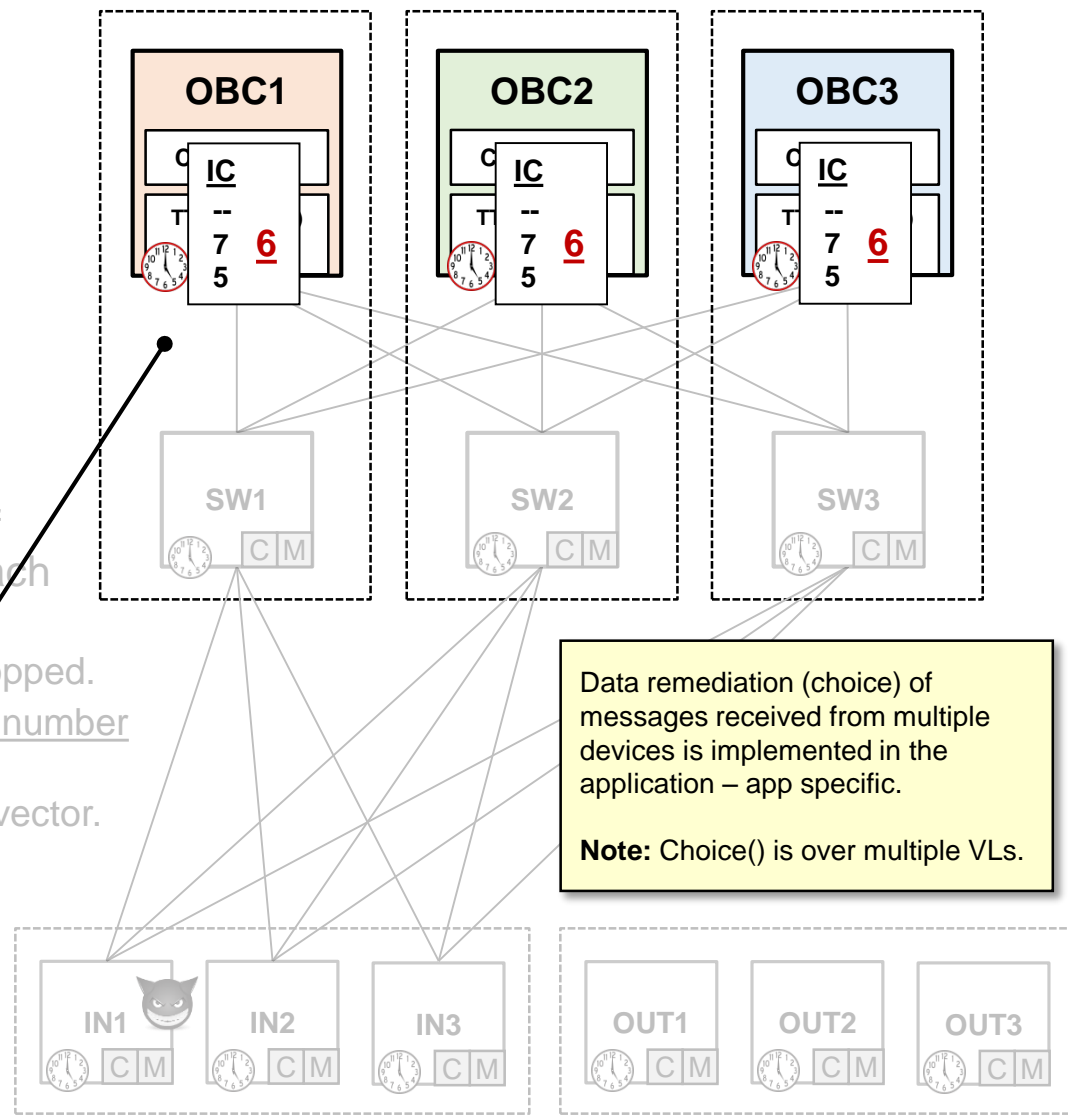
- Switches 1-3 send each redundant input message to all OBCs 1-3.

Step 3: Create symmetry

- OBCs 1-3 performs a majority vote of the message copies received from each redundant network channel.
 - Messages that violate the protocol are dropped.
 - Majority must be determined according to number of messages received (i.e. not static 2/3).
 - Non-faulty OBCs now share the same IC vector.

Step 4: Make a decision

- OBCs 1-3 execute a choice() function to select a final value from the redundant input devices (e.g. median, mean).



Switched Triplex – Commanding (1)



■ Step 1: Prepare Command

- After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
 - All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

■ Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each OBC 1-3 transmits its output value to all switches 1-3.

■ Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)

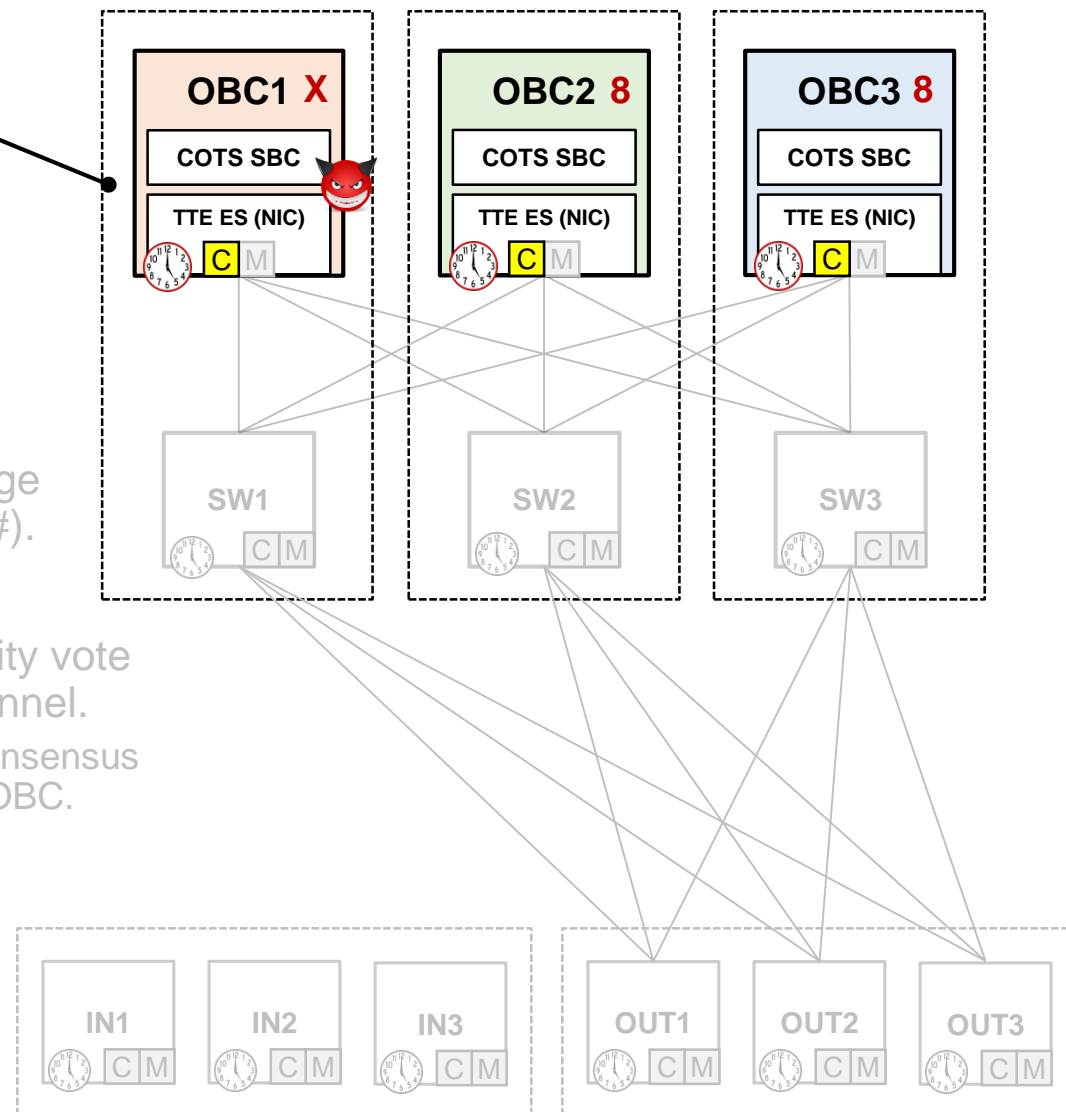
- Switches 1-3 send each input message to all redundant output devices (any #).

■ Step 4: Create symmetry

- Each output device performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.
 - This IC exchange is required to ensure consensus of multiple output devices in case of one OBC.

■ Step 5: Make a decision

- Each output device performs a second majority vote over the commands from each OBC.
 - I.e. the choice() function for output devices is always a bitwise majority.



Switched Triplex – Commanding (2)



■ Step 1: Prepare Command

- After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
- All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

■ Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each OBC 1-3 transmits its output value to all switches 1-3.

■ Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)

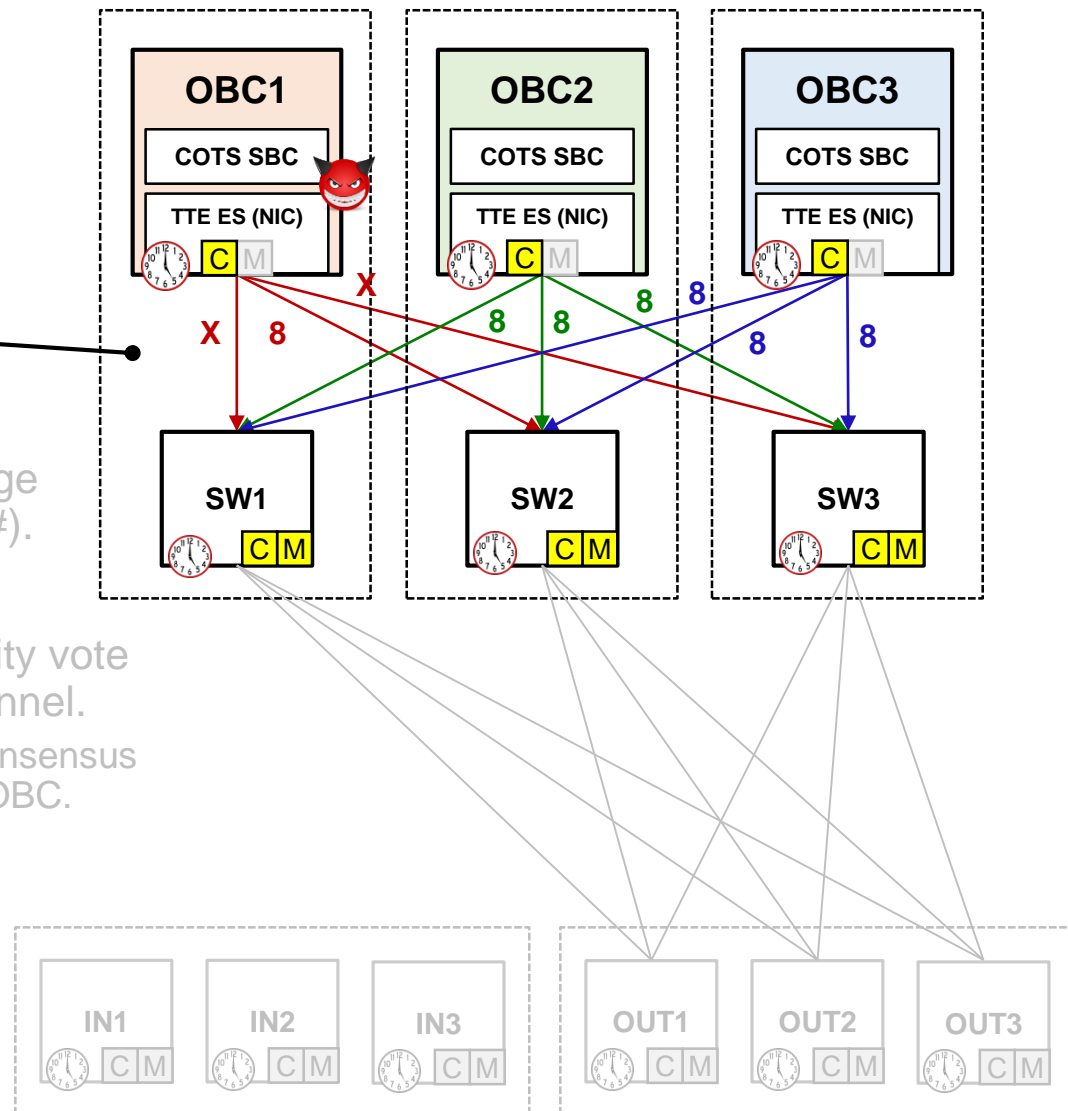
- Switches 1-3 send each input message to all redundant output devices (any #).

■ Step 4: Create symmetry

- Each output device performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.
- This IC exchange is required to ensure consensus of multiple output devices in case of one OBC.

■ Step 5: Make a decision

- Each output device performs a second majority vote over the commands from each OBC.
- I.e. the choice() function for output devices is always a bitwise majority.



Switched Triplex – Commanding (3)



■ Step 1: Prepare Command

- After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.

- All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

■ Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each OBC 1-3 transmits its output value to all switches 1-3.

■ Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)

- Switches 1-3 send each input message to all redundant output devices (any #).

■ Step 4: Create symmetry

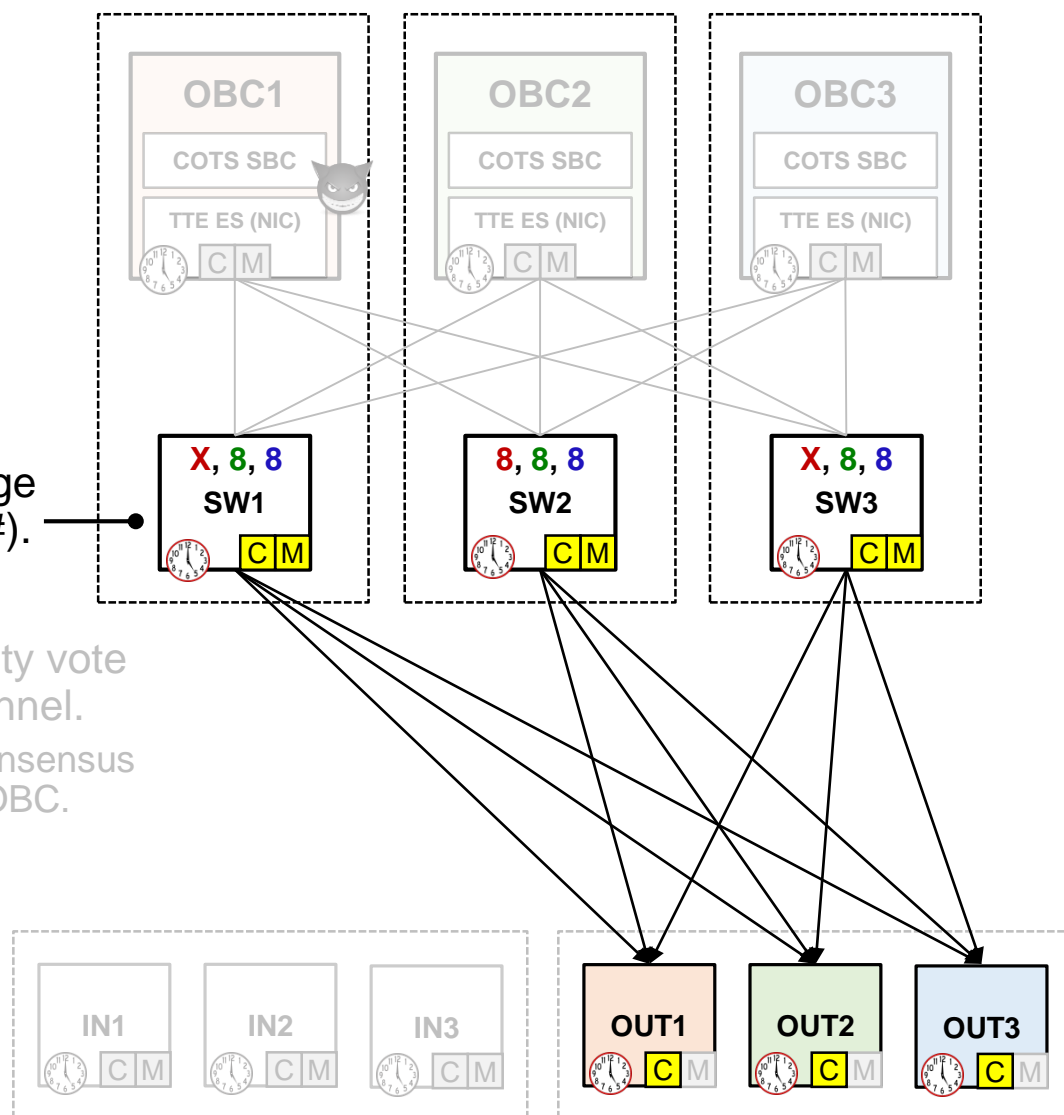
- Each output device performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.

- This IC exchange is required to ensure consensus of multiple output devices in case of one OBC.

■ Step 5: Make a decision

- Each output device performs a second majority vote over the commands from each OBC.

- I.e. the choice() function for output devices is always a bitwise majority.



Switched Triplex – Commanding (4)



Step 1: Prepare Command

- After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
- All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each OBC 1-3 transmits its output value to all switches 1-3.

Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)

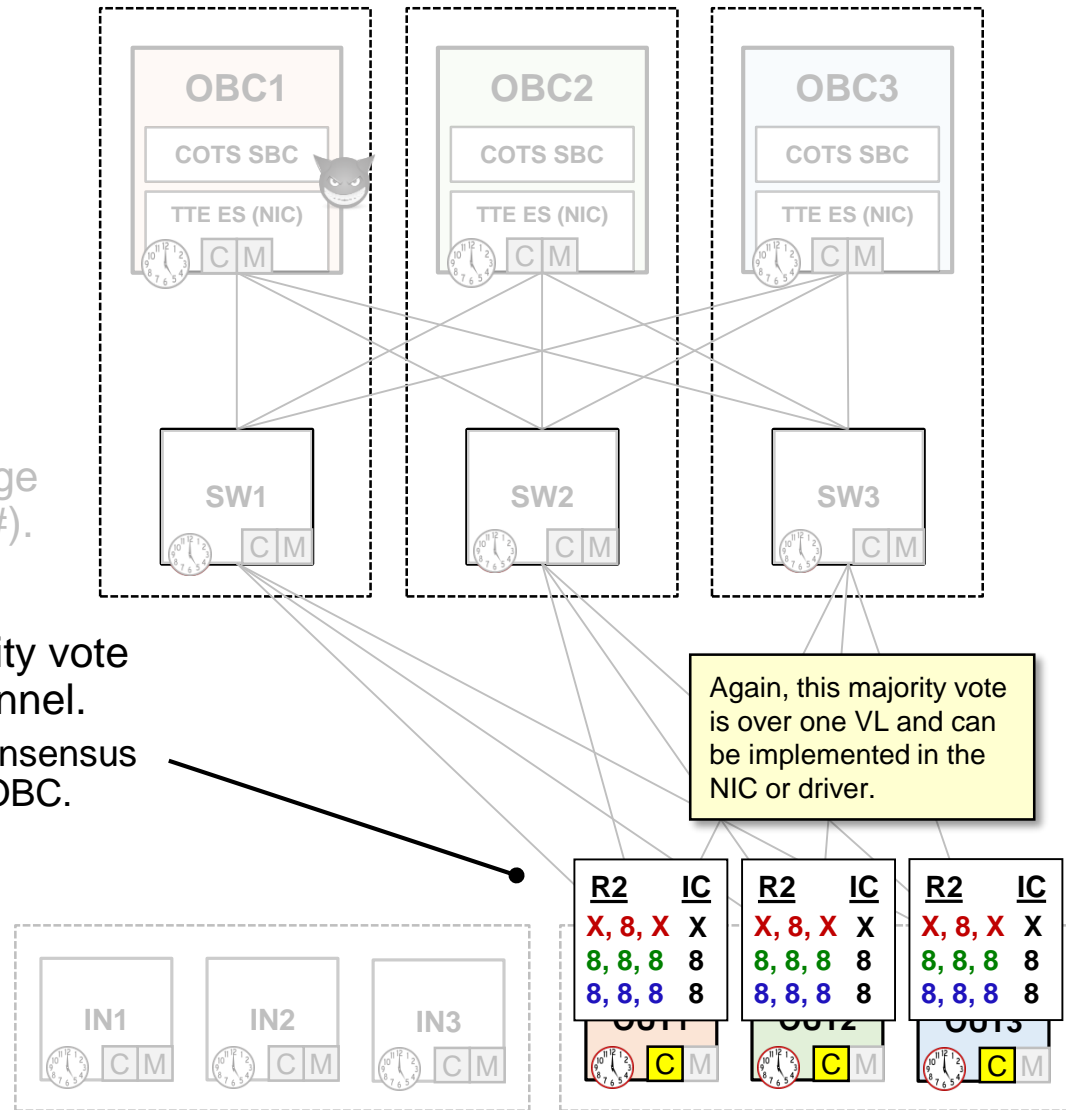
- Switches 1-3 send each input message to all redundant output devices (any #).

Step 4: Create symmetry

- Each output device performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.
- This IC exchange is required to ensure consensus of multiple output devices in case of one OBC.

Step 5: Make a decision

- Each output device performs a second majority vote over the commands from each OBC.
- I.e. the choice() function for output devices is always a bitwise majority.



Switched Triplex – Commanding (5)



■ Step 1: Prepare Command

- After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
- All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

■ Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

- Each OBC 1-3 transmits its output value to all switches 1-3.

■ Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)

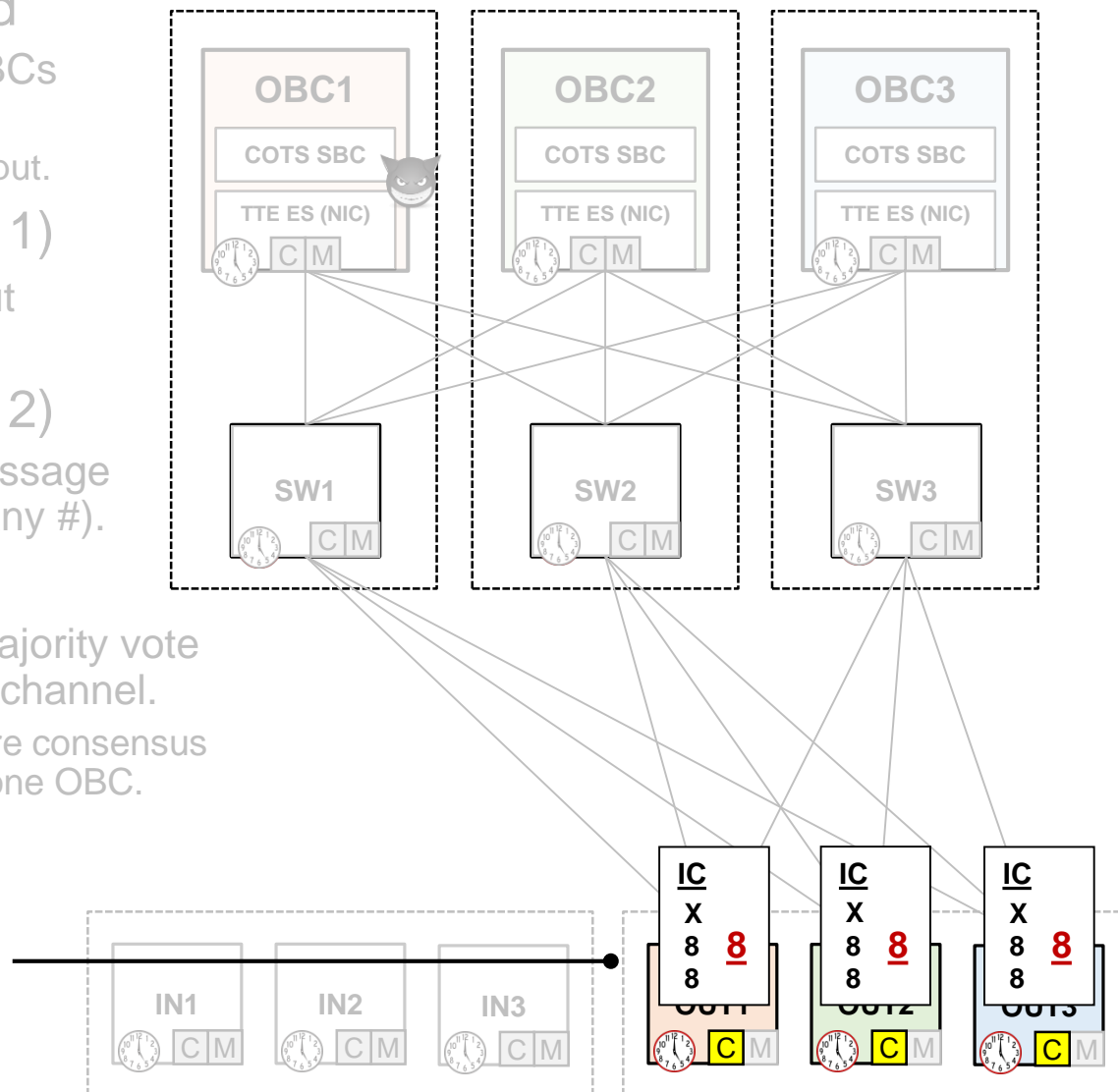
- Switches 1-3 send each input message to all redundant output devices (any #).

■ Step 4: Create symmetry

- Each output device performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.
- This IC exchange is required to ensure consensus of multiple output devices in case of one OBC.

■ Step 5: Make a decision

- Each output device performs a second majority vote over the commands from each OBC.
- I.e. the choice() function for output devices is always a bitwise majority.



Switched Triplex – Monitoring (1)



- Step 1: Prepare Command
 - After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
 - All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

- Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

↓ Happening Simultaneously

- Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)

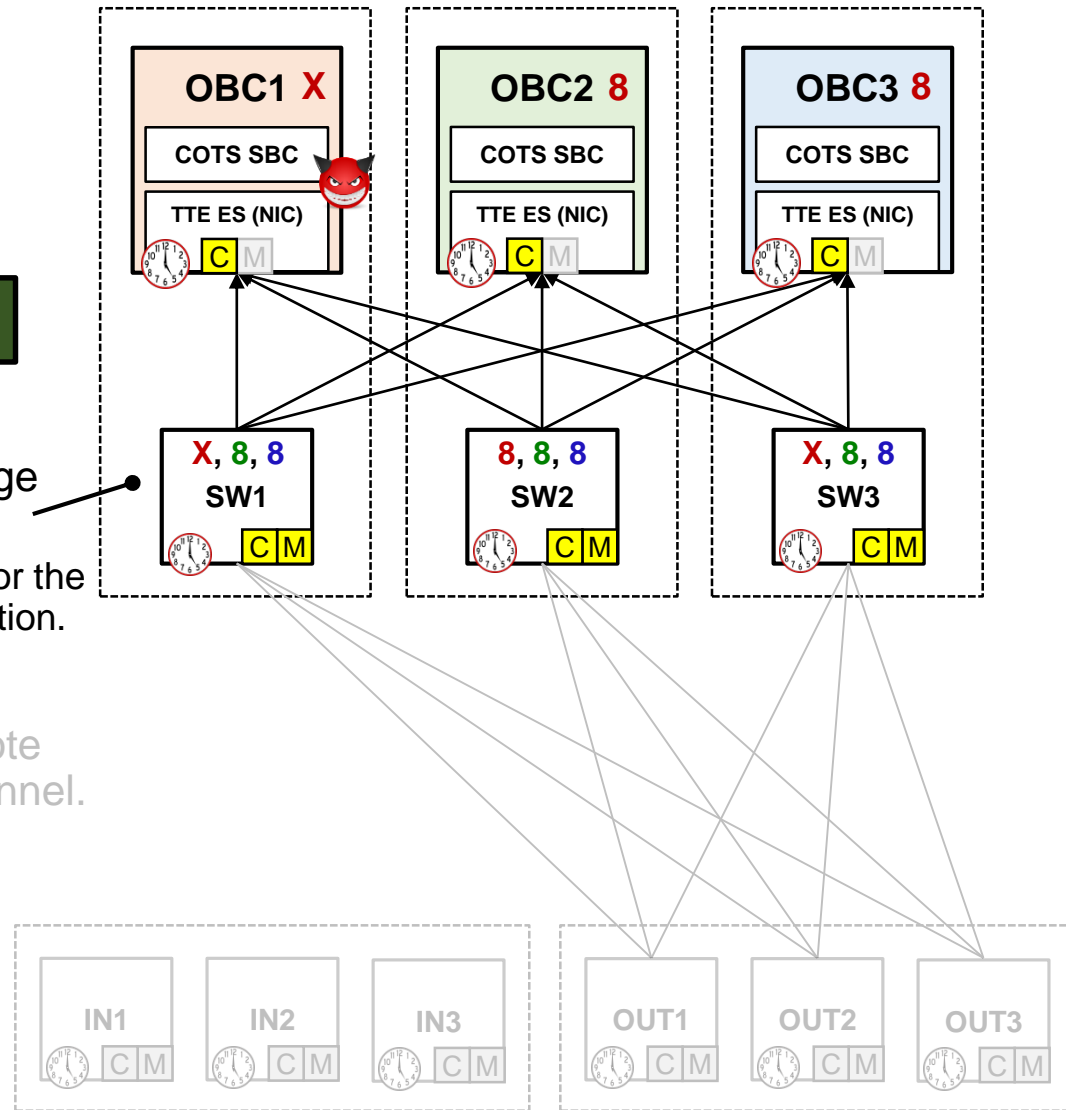
- Switches 1-3 send each input message “reflected” back to each OBC 1-3.
- **Why?** Allows CFS app to monitor OBCs for the purpose of fault detection and reconfiguration.

- Step 4: Create symmetry

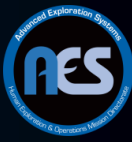
- Each OBC 1-3 performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.

- Step 5: Identify faulty OBC

- OBCs 1-3 perform a majority vote over the commands from each OBC.
- Identical to action performed by OUT 1-3.
- Can be used to identify OBCs that do not agree with the majority (for FDIR).



Switched Triplex – Monitoring (2)



- Step 1: Prepare Command
 - After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
 - All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

- Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

↓ Happening Simultaneously

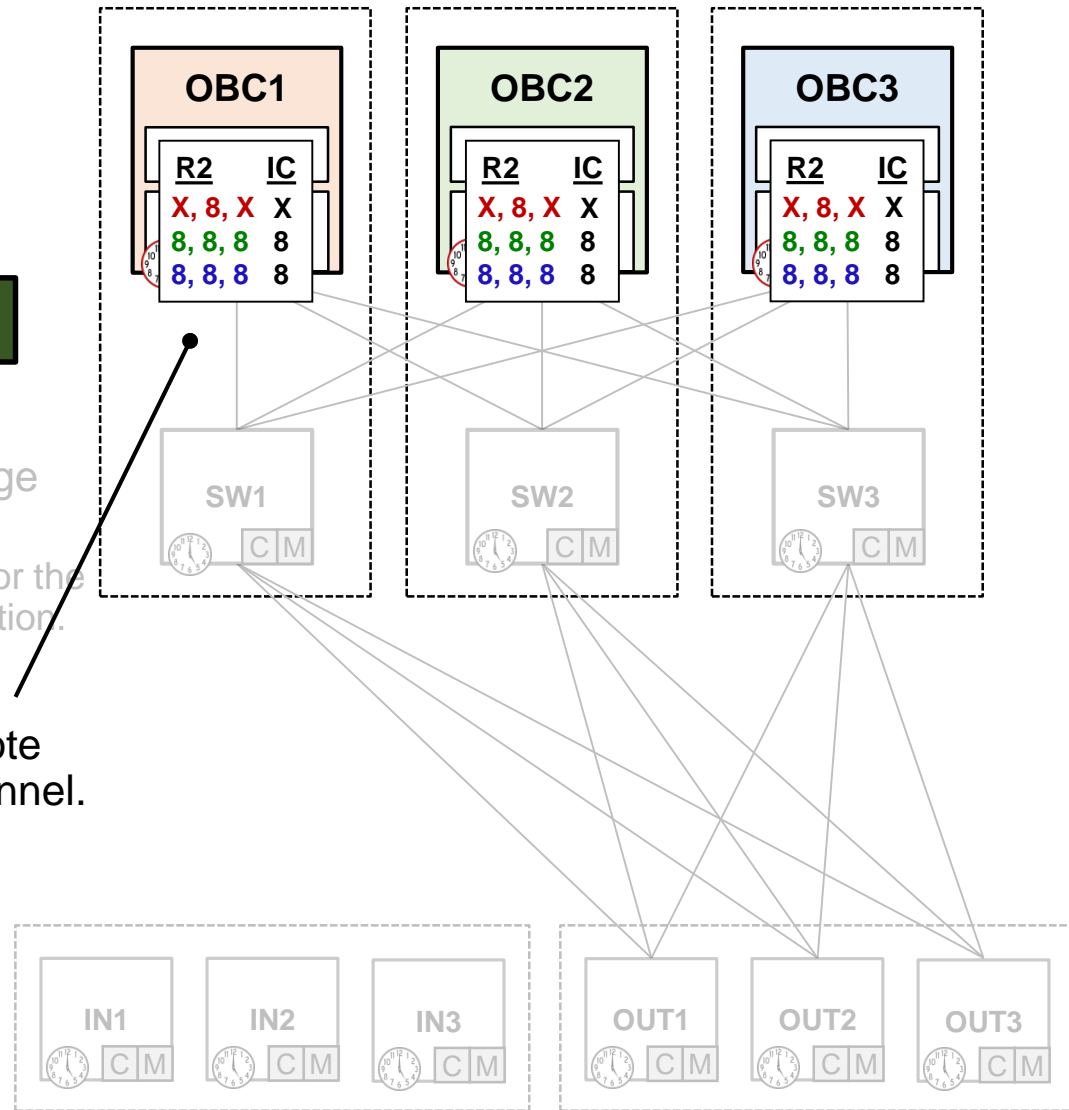
- Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)
 - Switches 1-3 send each input message “reflected” back to each OBC 1-3.
 - **Why?** Allows CFS app to monitor OBCs for the purpose of fault detection and reconfiguration.

- Step 4: Create symmetry

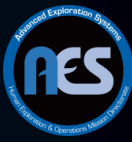
- Each OBC 1-3 performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.

- Step 5: Identify faulty OBC

- OBCs 1-3 perform a majority vote over the commands from each OBC.
 - Identical to action performed by OUT 1-3.
 - Can be used to identify OBCs that do not agree with the majority (for FDIR).



Switched Triplex – Monitoring (3)



- Step 1: Prepare Command
 - After performing computation, OBCs 1-3 each generate a command.
 - All non-faulty OBCs agree on the output.

- Step 2: Exchange (Round 1)

↓ Happening Simultaneously

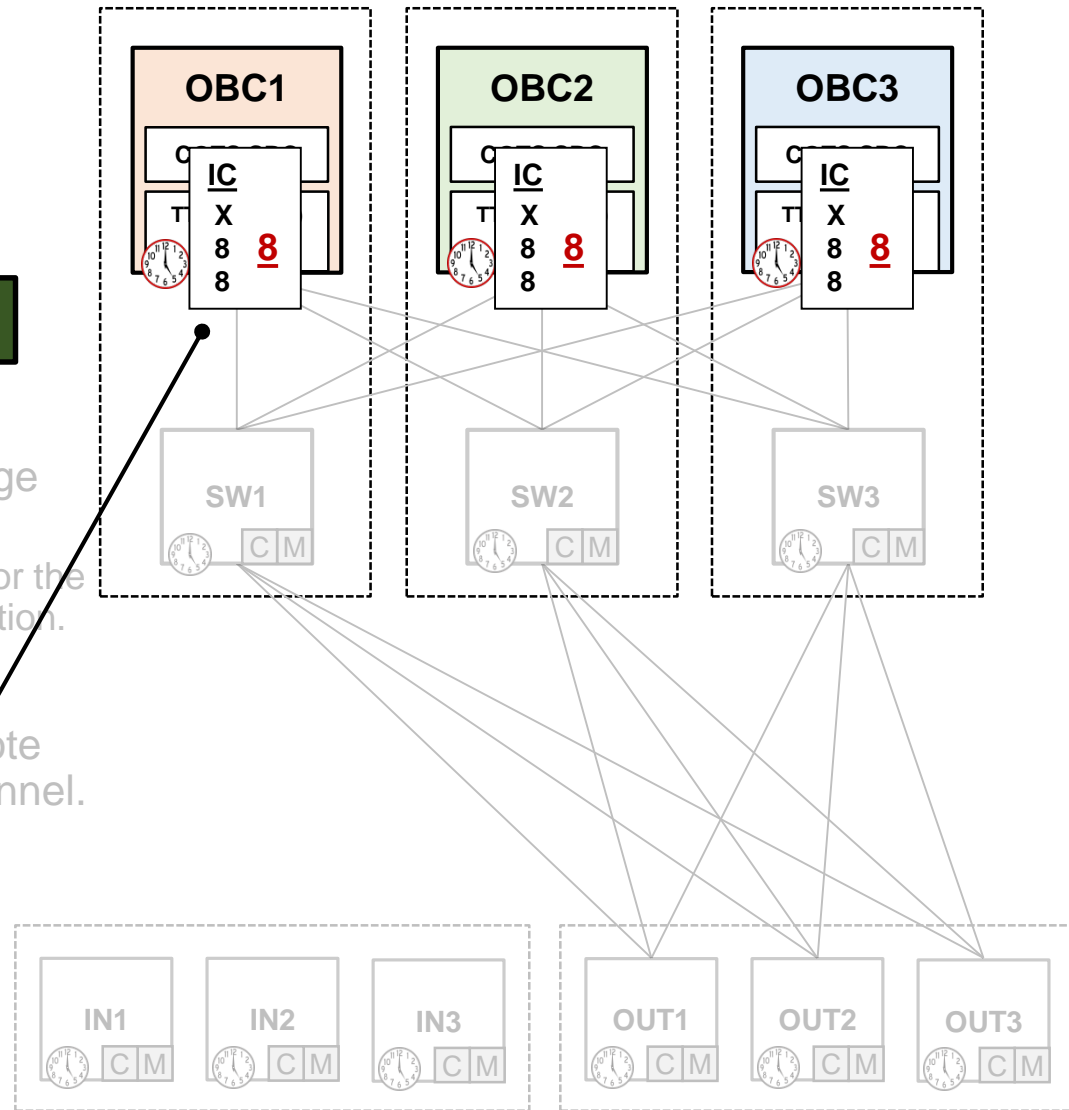
- Step 3: Exchange (Round 2)
 - Switches 1-3 send each input message “reflected” back to each OBC 1-3.
 - **Why?** Allows CFS app to monitor OBCs for the purpose of fault detection and reconfiguration.

- Step 4: Create symmetry

- Each OBC 1-3 performs a majority vote of messages received from each channel.

- Step 5: Identify faulty OBC

- OBCs 1-3 perform a majority vote over the commands from each OBC.
 - Identical to action performed by OUT 1-3.
 - Can be used to identify OBCs that do not agree with the majority (for FDIR).

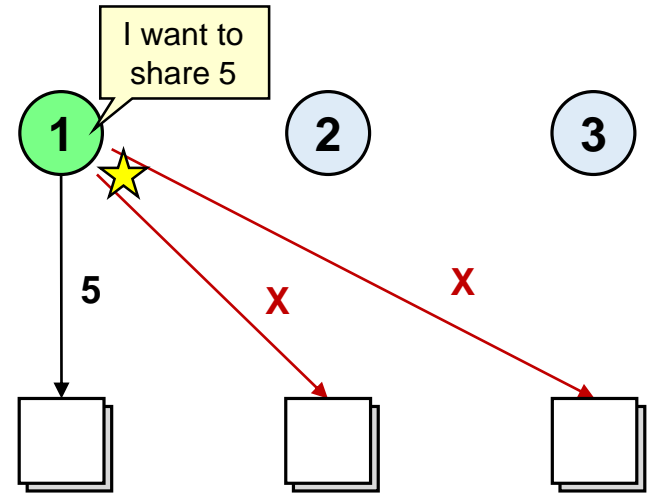


Side Note – Sharing between OBCs



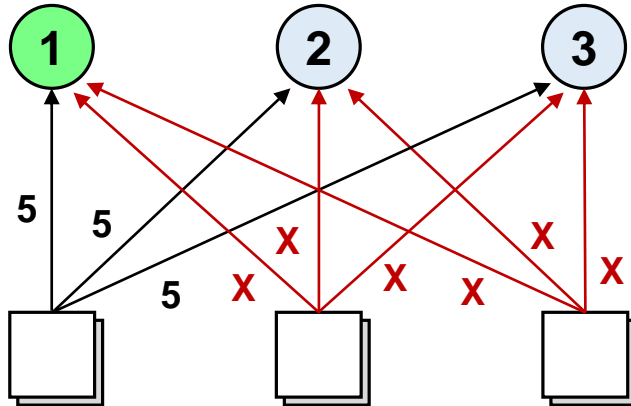
- When sharing a value between OBCs (e.g. output monitoring, shared state), the original sender cannot use its value directly.
- Instead, it performs a majority vote of the values reflected back from the switches (i.e. IC).
- This ensures consensus in case of an arbitrary transmission error.

Round 1



Good – Has Consistency

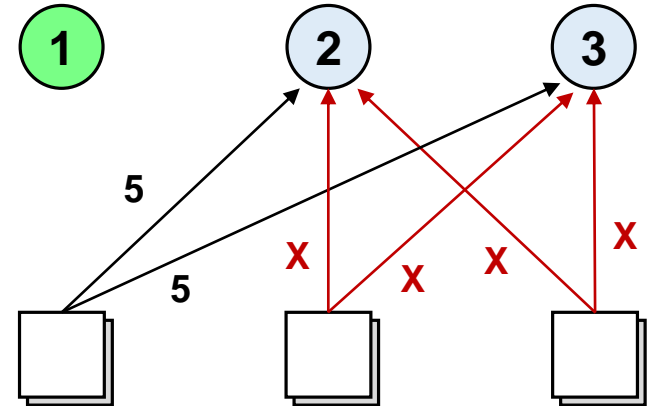
5, X, X 5, X, X 5, X, X
 Final: X Final: X Final: X



Bad – No Consistency

5 (original) 5, X, X 5, X, X
 Final: 5 Final: X Final: X

Round 2





■ Network-Level IC = no host blocking

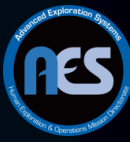
- Consensus between multiple receivers can be achieved transparent to the flight software (no impact on CFS).
- If you read a value, you already know it is the voted answer from a two round exchange – consistent across all receivers (1FT).
- Eliminates classical “acceptance window” for exchanges.
- No need for “read, send, wait ... read, send, etc.”
- Minimizes use of host resources (especially if in NIC).



■ The Role of the Remote Interface Unit (RIU)

- The RIU acts as a gateway between the TTE network, analog devices, and legacy buses (e.g. MIL-STD-1553, ARINC 429).
- Moves signal conditioning closer to sensor/actuators, reducing noise and wiring mass.
- Functions it may implement include A/D conversion, network formatting, range checking, scaling, linearization, and threshold/filter services specific to each subsystem.
- Uses configuration files to map local buffer data to TTE dataports.

RIUs and Distributed Intelligence



Approach 1:

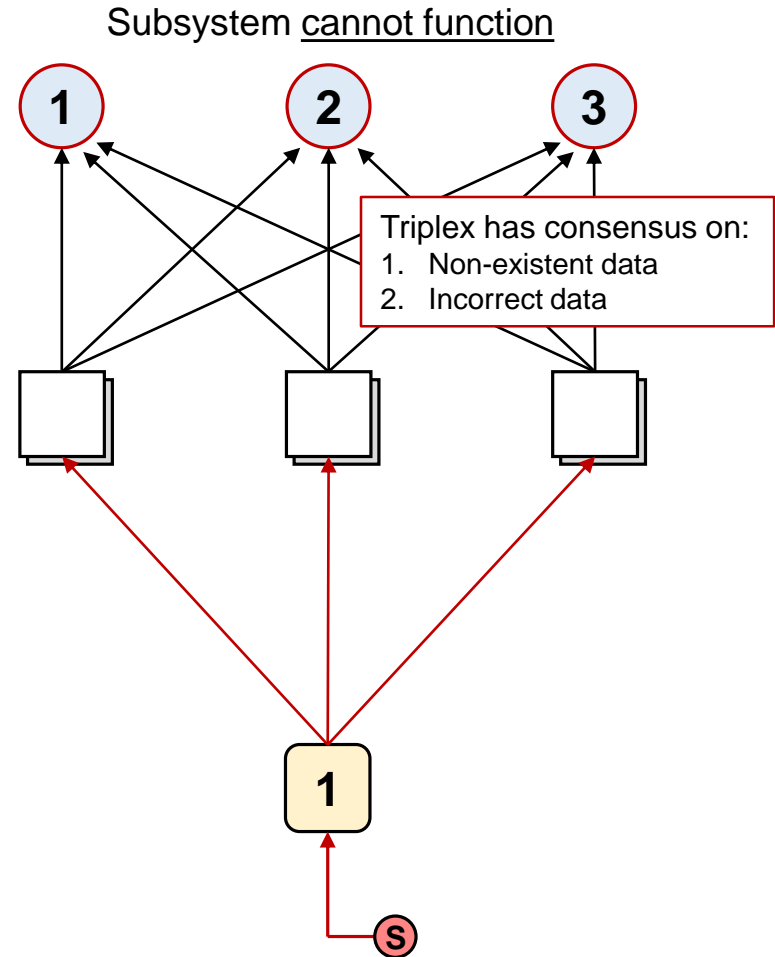
- One RIU
- One sensor

Problems?

- Sensor data sent to RIU may be wrong.

The Fix:

- Add redundant sensors and have RIU remediate between them.



- Onboard Flight Computer
- Remote Interface Unit (RIU)
- Sensor or Actuator
- TTE network switch (COM/MON)
- Designates faulty device

RIUs and Distributed Intelligence



Approach 2:

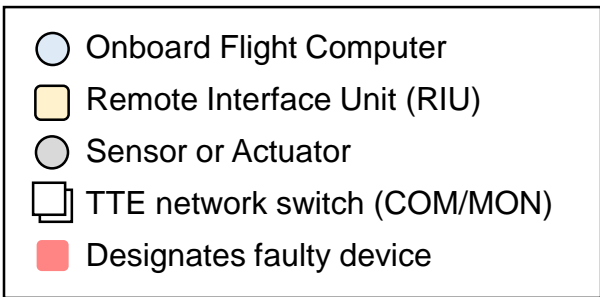
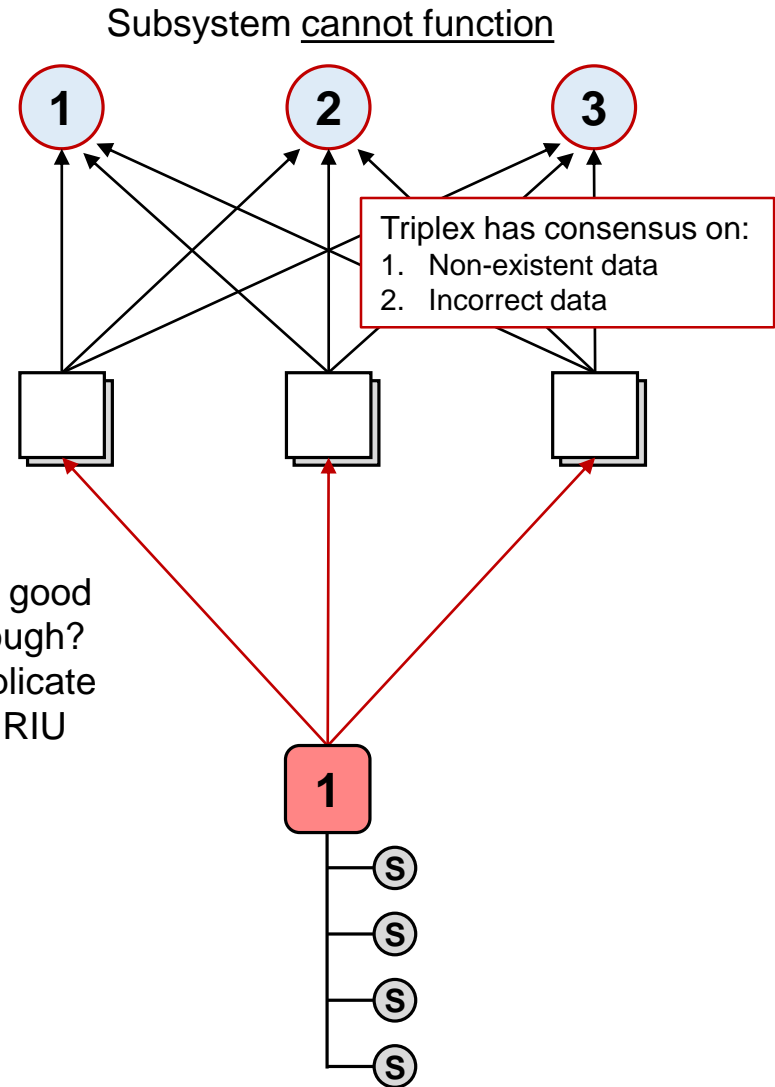
- One RIU
- Remediation b/w multiple sensors

Problems?

- RIU could fail internally, resulting in:
 1. No-transmission
 2. Symmetric faulty transmission

The Fix:

- Increase resilience of the RIU:
 1. TMR of processor elements (e.g. Maxwell SCS750 used on ESA Gaia satellite).
 2. True dual-core lock-step processor (i.e. fully isolated self-checking).
 - COTS products like ARM Cortex-R4/R5 not available in rad-tolerant variants.



RIUs and Distributed Intelligence



Approach 3:

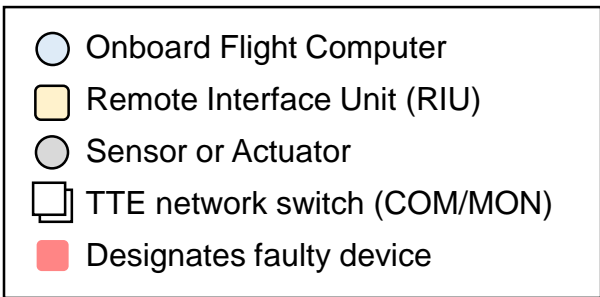
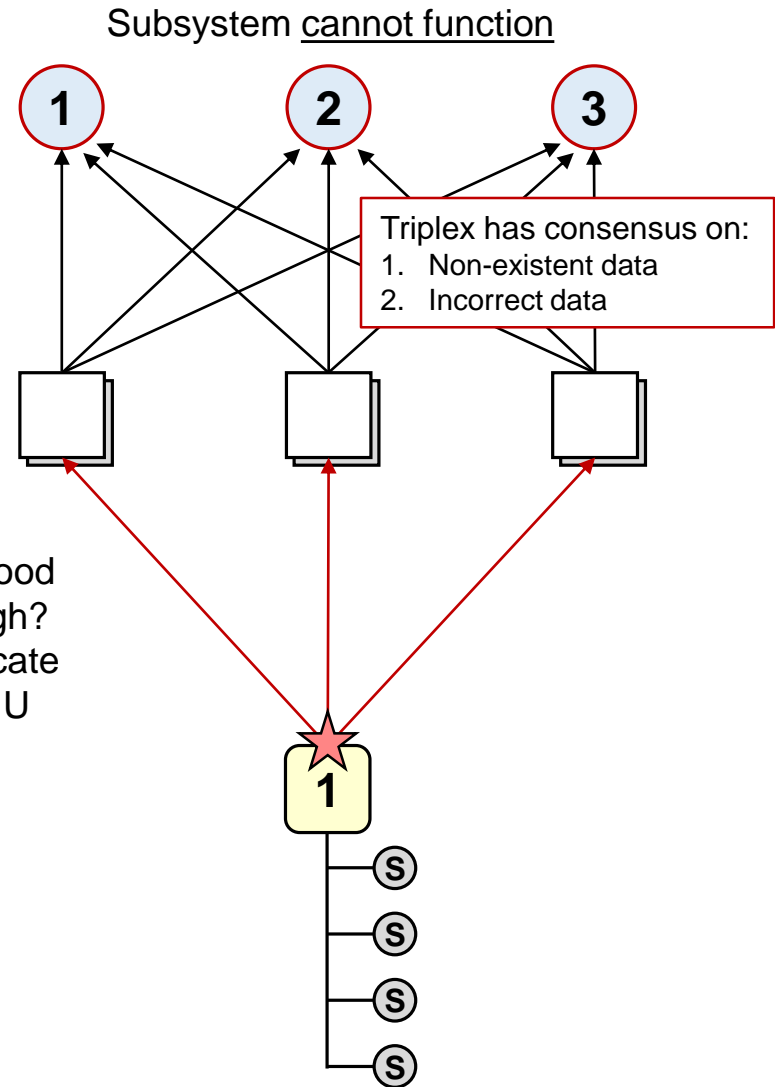
- One RIU with HI processor
- Remediation b/w multiple sensors

Problems?

- TTE ES could fail arbitrarily, resulting in:
 1. No-transmission
 2. Symmetric faulty transmission
 3. Byzantine transmission

The Fix:

- Increase resilience of the end system:
 1. TMR in the TTE Chip-IP MAC layer.
 2. Use a COM/MON HI end system.
 - Not available in TTEch Space ASIC.



RIUs and Distributed Intelligence



Approach 4:

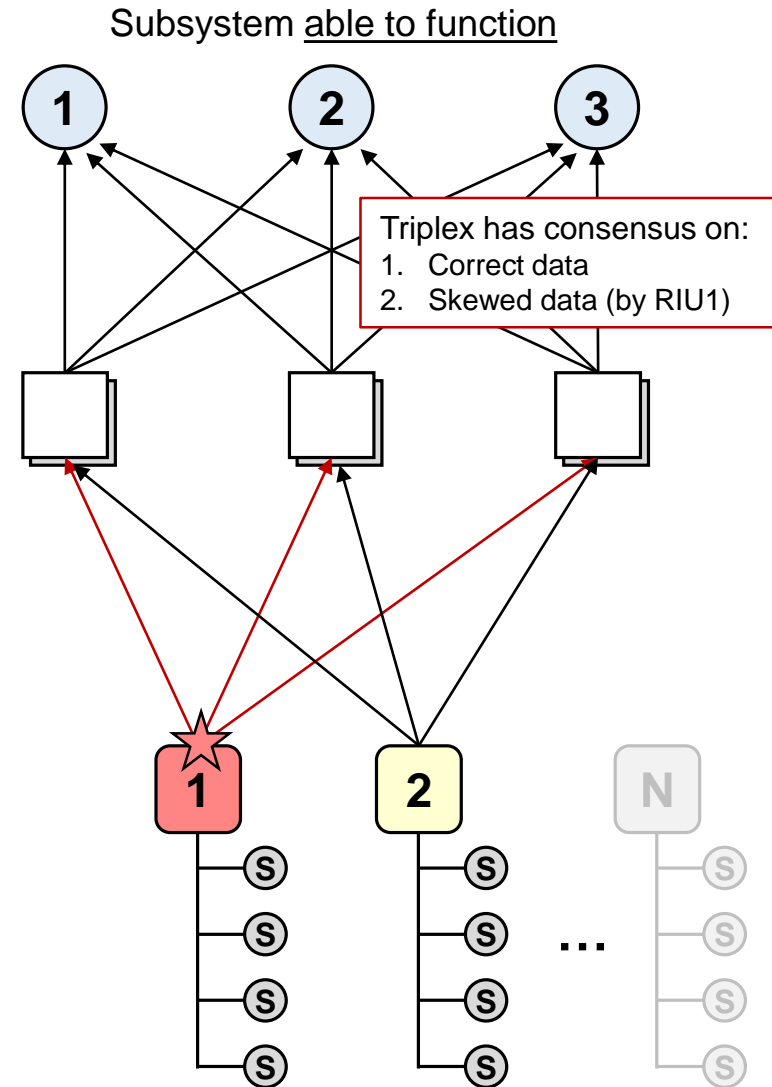
- Multiple RIUs
- Each reads redundant sensors

Problems?

- None. Any arbitrary failure of an RIU is tolerated by the Triplex computers:
 - Choice() function is application specific.

Caveats:

- Each RIU performs only minimal local processing (e.g. message packing).
- No consensus is required between RIUs before transmitting data.
 - Since OBCs make decisions, OBCs require the consistency.



- Onboard Flight Computer
- Remote Interface Unit (RIU)
- Sensor or Actuator
- TTE network switch (COM/MON)
- Designates faulty device

RIUs and Distributed Intelligence



Approach 5:

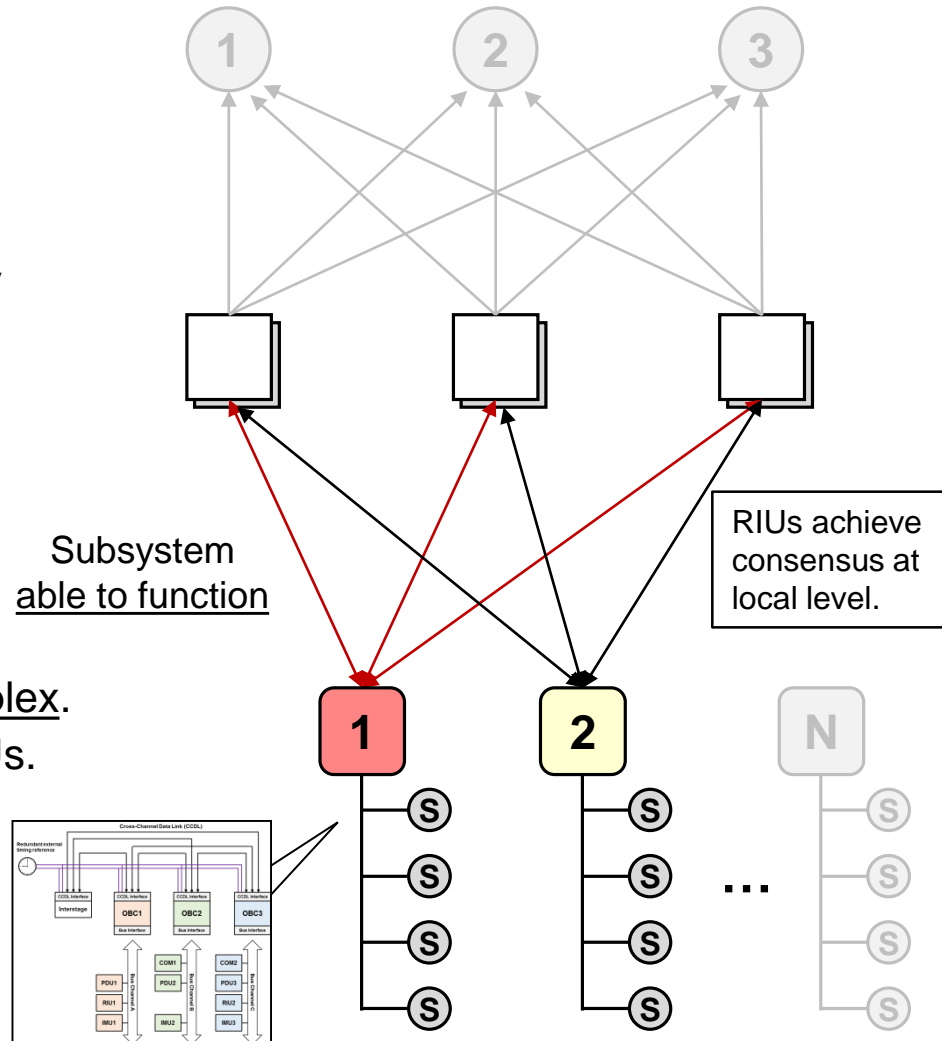
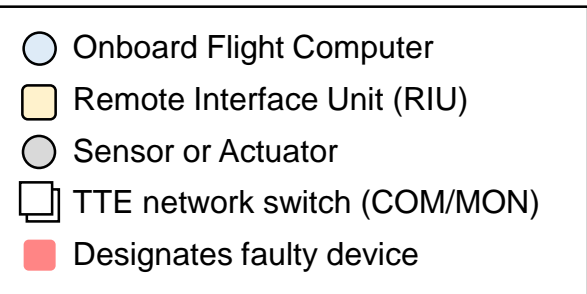
- Multiple RIUs
- Each reads redundant sensors
- RIUs require consensus

Description

- If consensus between RIUs is necessary without interacting with the OBCs, then IC can be performed between RIUs.
 - Uses redundant network channels to provide the necessary FCRs.
 - Process is similar to classical channelized bus voting approach.

Caveats:

- Can make architecture much more complex.
- 1FT bus commanding may require 3 RIUs.



Notional Onboard Traffic Flow



Best-Effort (IEEE 802.3) (Crew interfaces and science)

- Classical LANs can run isolated from or overlapping TT/RC network.
- COTS hardware easily upgraded.

IEEE 802.11n



RC frames can be generated by COTS devices

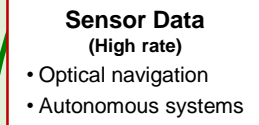
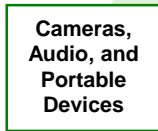


Rate-Constrained (A664-p7) (Asynchronous critical systems)

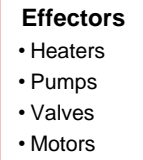
- Traffic shaping and policing ensures successful message delivery.
- Provides event-driven communication between synchronization domains.

Time-Triggered (SAE AS6802) (Vehicle Command and Control)

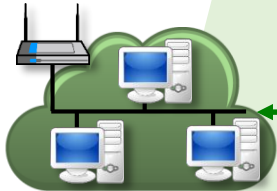
- All messaging is into/out of C&DH system.
- Periodic and generally low bandwidth.



< 5 Mbit/s

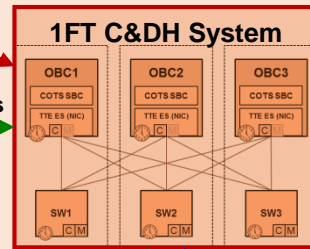
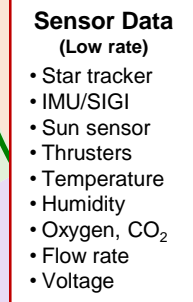


Docking Interface

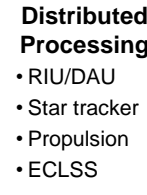


Classical Ethernet LAN

> 100 Mbit/s



< 10 Mbit/s



Direct audio/video signals

Onboard Gateway

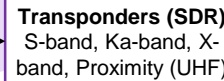


High Speed Serial (P2P, minimal networking)

- Provides >1Gbit/s point-to-point or (possibly) networked messaging.
- Mostly related to off-board communication.



Data Recorders



< 10 Mbit/s

[1] Rakow, Glenn *Spacecraft Crew-Vehicle Avionics Networks and Communication Flow*

Notional Onboard Traffic Flow



Best-Effort (IEEE 802.3) (Crew interfaces and science)

- Classical LANs can run isolated from or overlapping TT/RC network.
- COTS hardware easily upgraded.

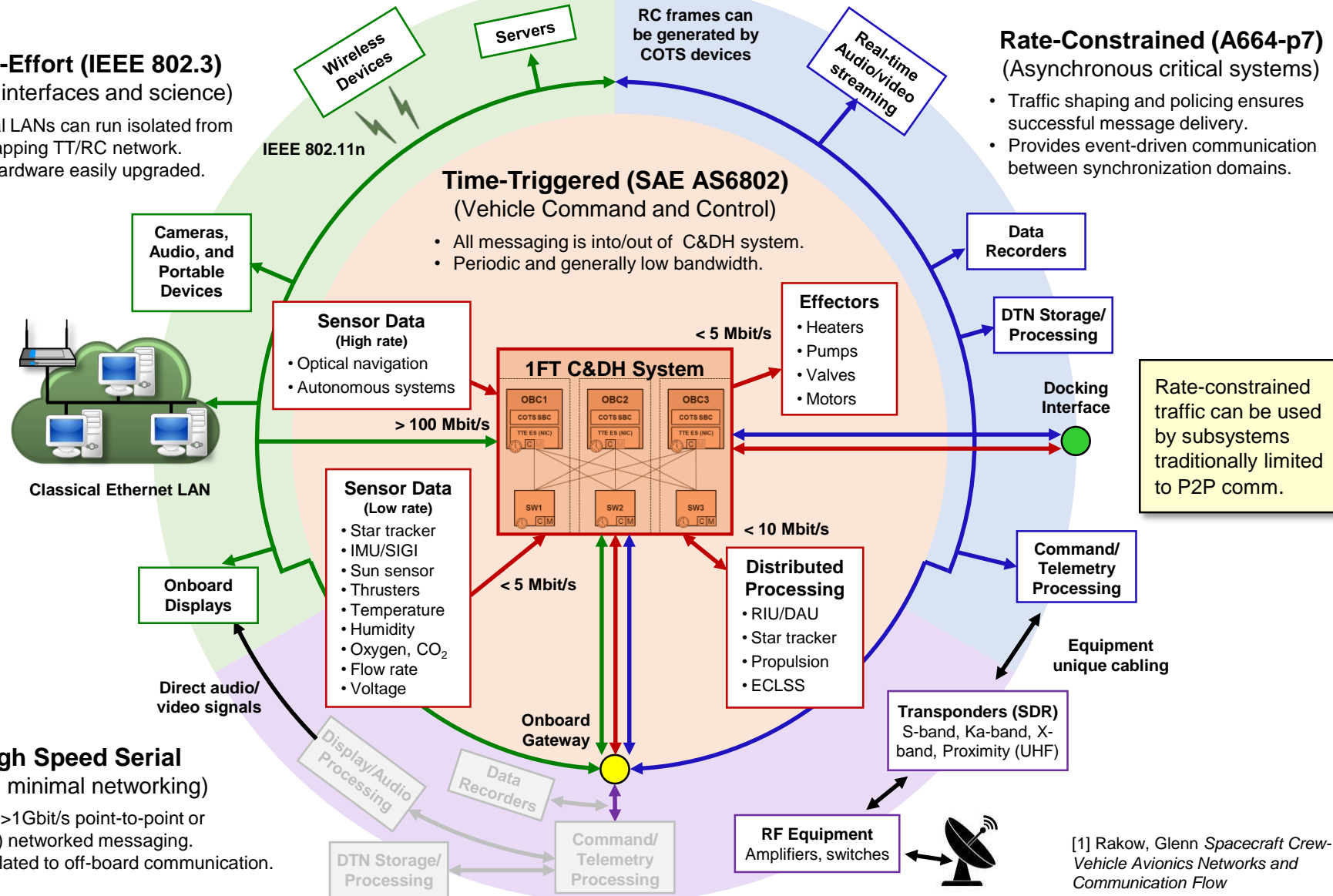
IEEE 802.11n

Time-Triggered (SAE AS6802) (Vehicle Command and Control)

- All messaging is into/out of C&DH system.
- Periodic and generally low bandwidth.

Rate-Constrained (A664-p7) (Asynchronous critical systems)

- Traffic shaping and policing ensures successful message delivery.
- Provides event-driven communication between synchronization domains.



Rate-constrained traffic can be used by subsystems traditionally limited to P2P comm.

High Speed Serial (P2P, minimal networking)

- Provides >1Gbit/s point-to-point or (possibly) networked messaging.
- Mostly related to off-board communication.

[1] Rakow, Glenn *Spacecraft Crew-Vehicle Avionics Networks and Communication Flow*

Notional Onboard Traffic Flow



Best-Effort (IEEE 802.3) (Crew interfaces and science)

- Classical LANs can run isolated from or overlapping TT/RC network.
- COTS hardware easily upgraded.

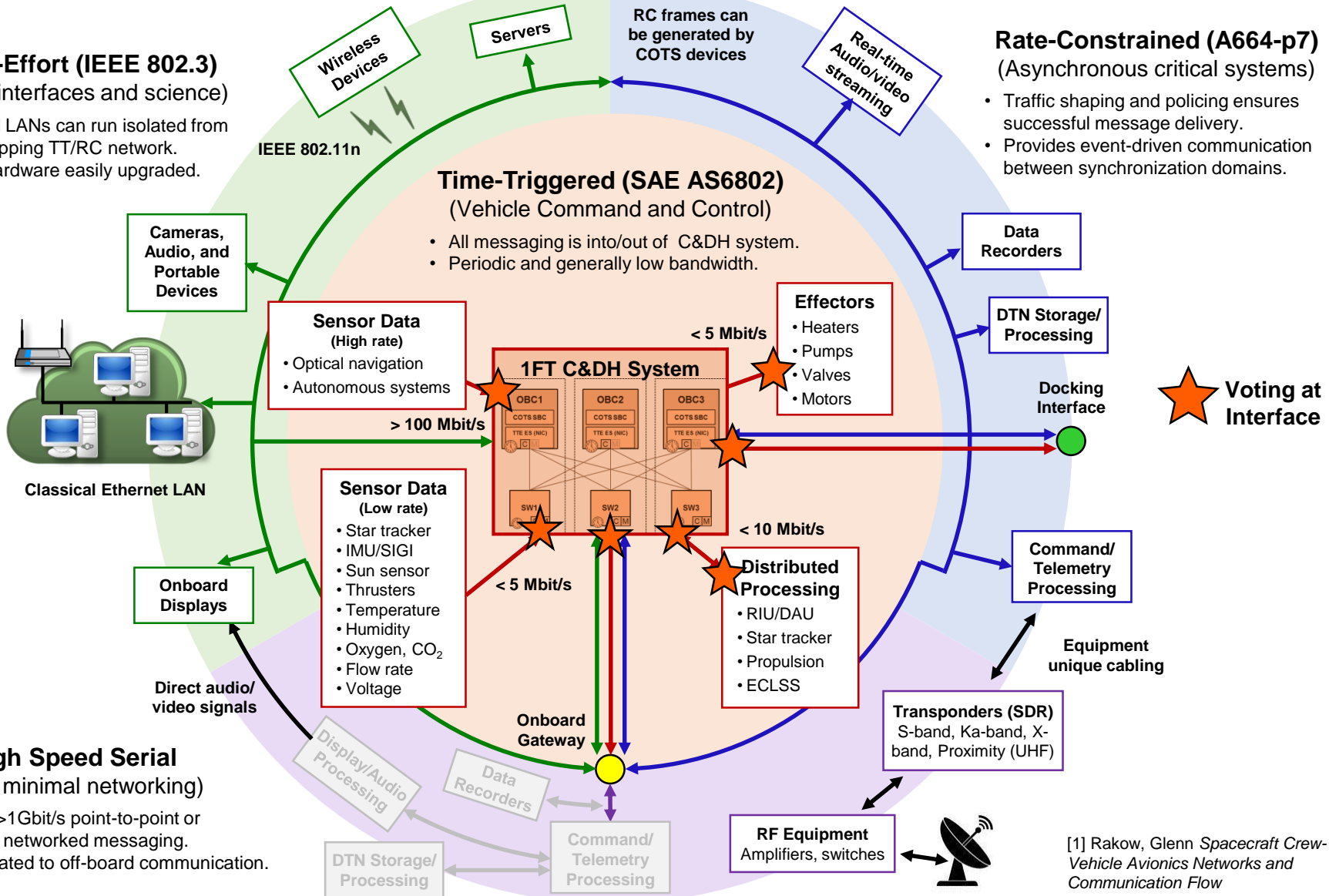
IEEE 802.11n

Time-Triggered (SAE AS6802) (Vehicle Command and Control)

- All messaging is into/out of C&DH system.
- Periodic and generally low bandwidth.

Rate-Constrained (A664-p7) (Asynchronous critical systems)

- Traffic shaping and policing ensures successful message delivery.
- Provides event-driven communication between synchronization domains.



[1] Rakow, Glenn *Spacecraft Crew-Vehicle Avionics Networks and Communication Flow*



Questions?