



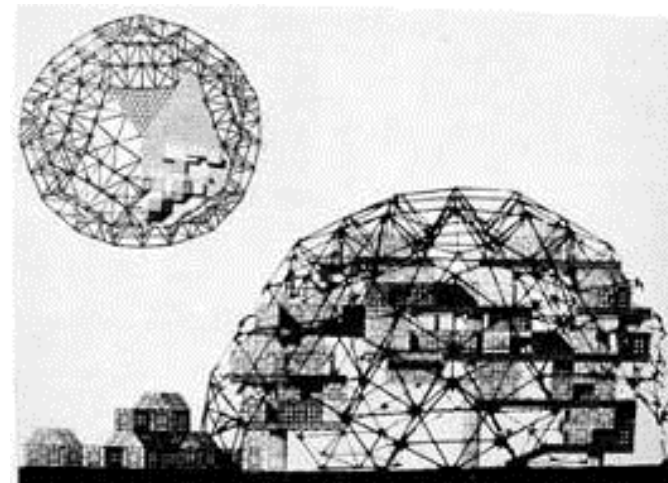
# Quantitative Risk Analysis using Engineering Reliability

**Subject Coordinator:**  
**Dr Lihai Zhang**

**CONTACT:**

**Department of Infrastructure  
Engineering (Room B307)**

**[lihzhang@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:lihzhang@unimelb.edu.au)**





- Why is **Reliability** important in Engineering?
  - Components in engineering systems are not perfect. Risk can be minimized but cannot be eliminated completely.
  - Practical and economical limitations lead to no-so-perfect designs.
  - Engineers must understand “**why**” and “**how**” failures occur.





- In conventional design approaches, the safety factors are used to estimate both the resistance and the loads
  - For example, in concrete design using load and resistance factor design (LRFD) concept.

**Nominal resistance ( $R_N$ ) > Nominal load ( $S_N$ )**

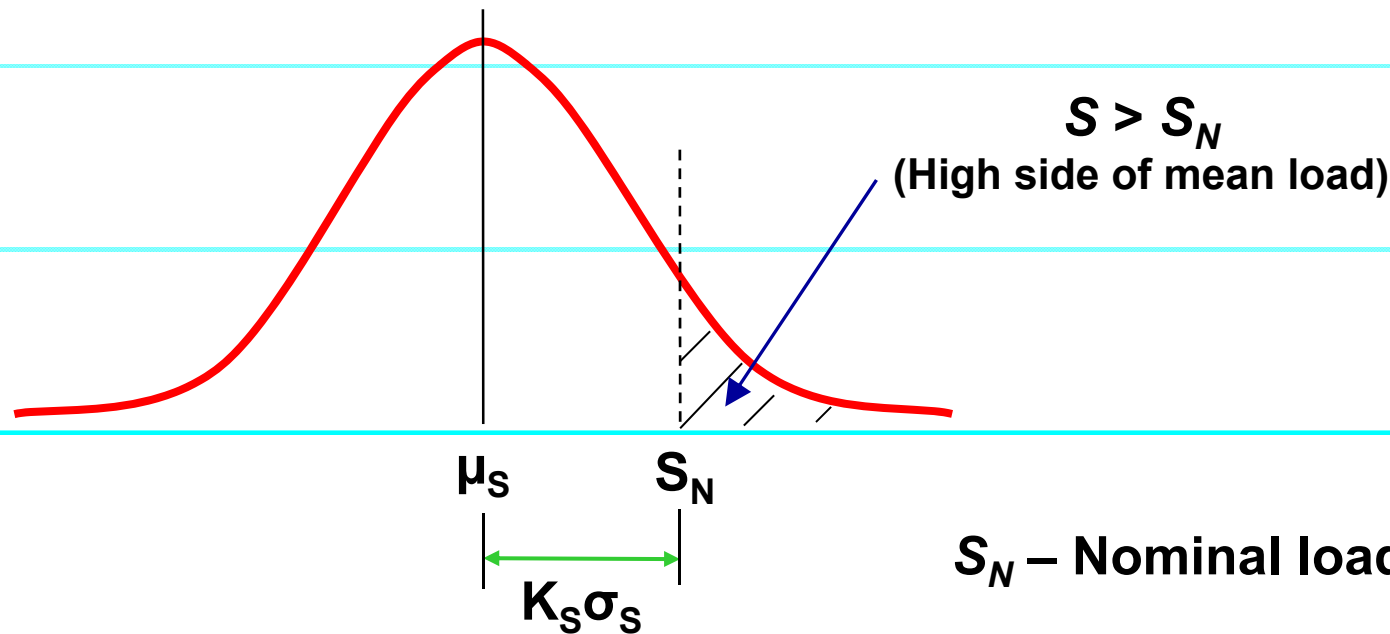


# Definition of Nominal Load

Probability density function

Load on the structure  
(e.g. bending moment)

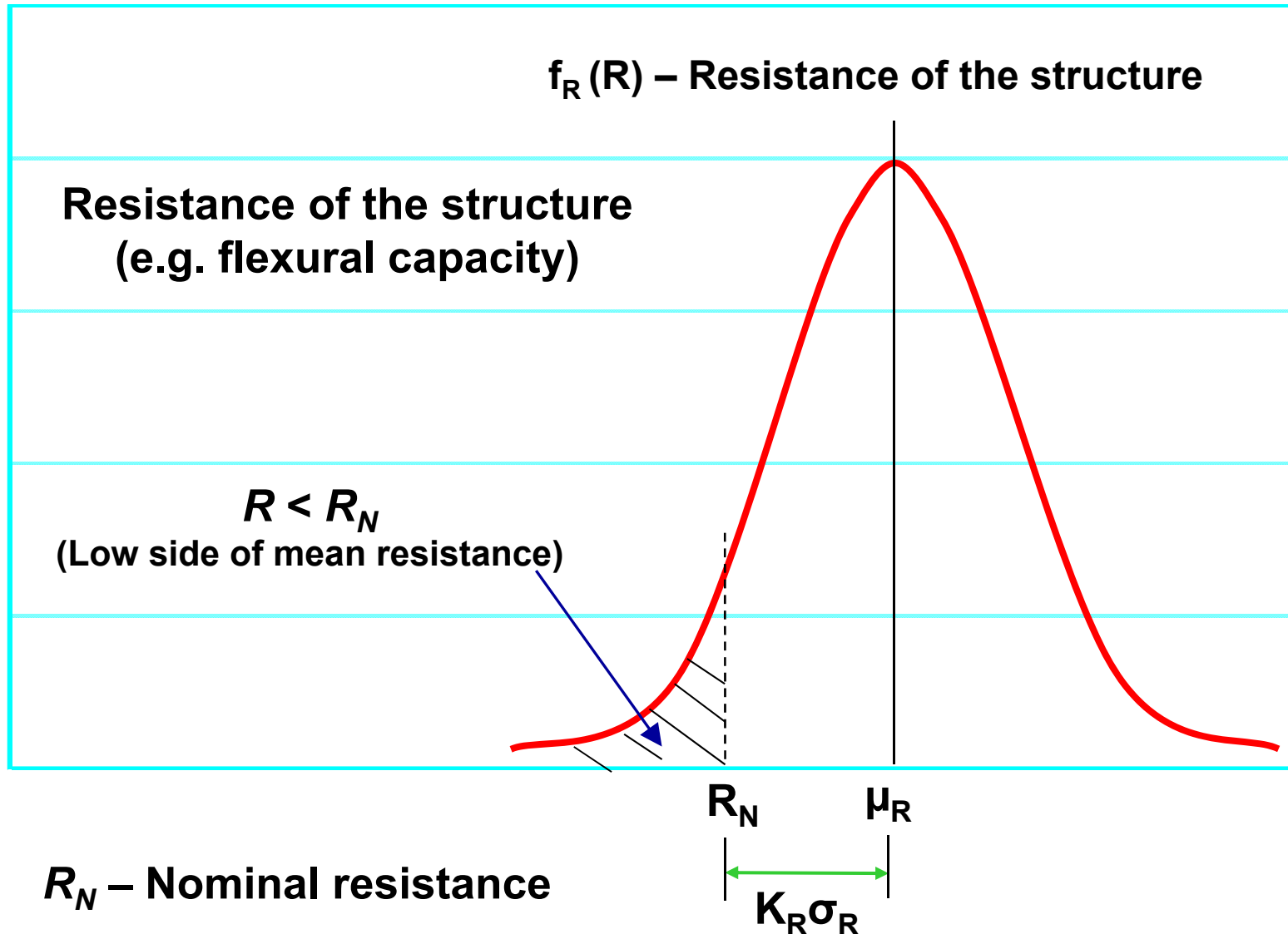
$f_s(S)$  – Load on the structure





# Definition of Nominal Resistance

Probability density function





- The deterministic approach

$$SF = \frac{R_N}{S_N} \geq 1$$

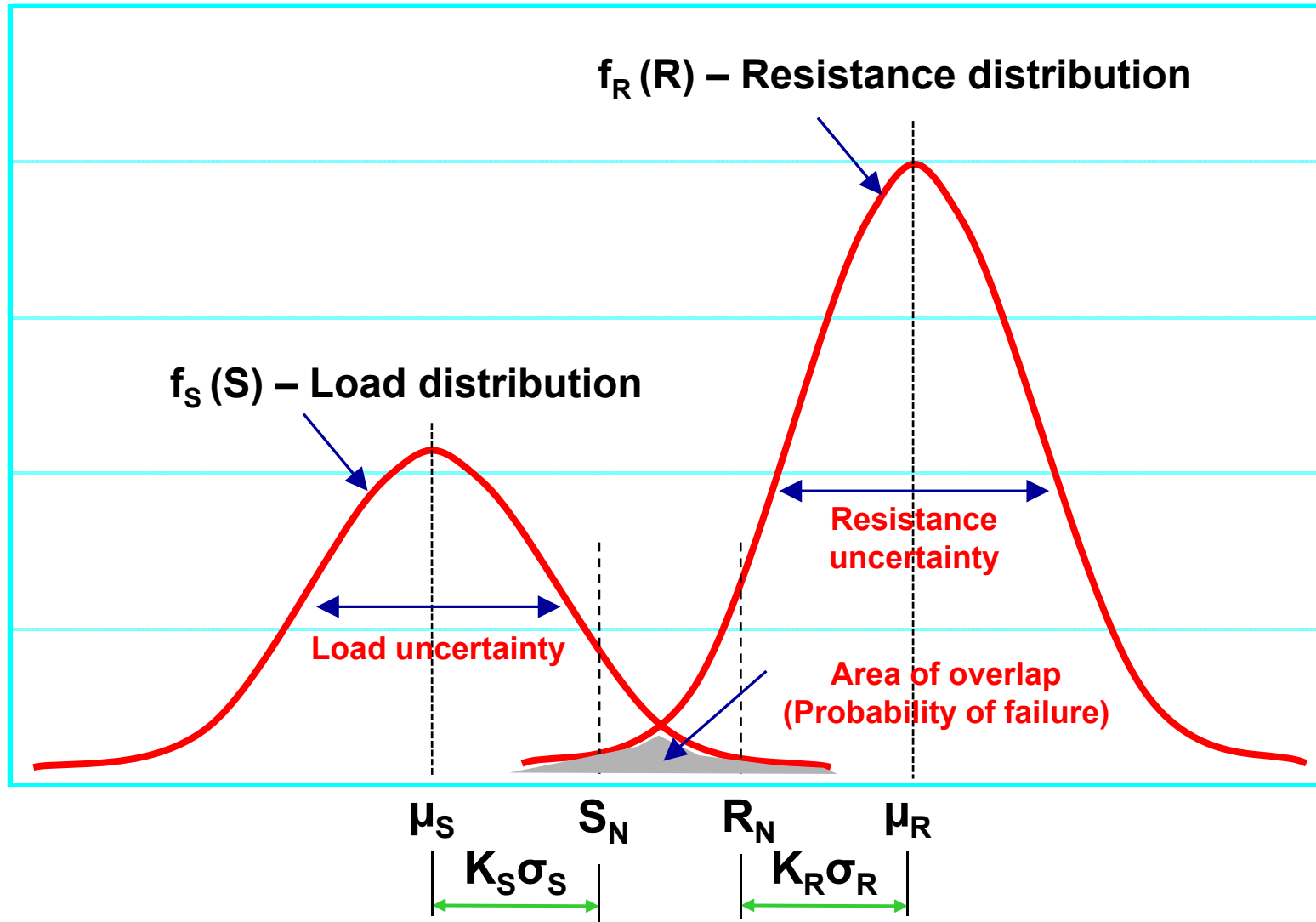
*SF* - the safety factor

- However, the actual  $f_R$  and  $f_S$  are difficult to obtain. Engineers normally use only means and standard deviations to formulate the acceptable design methodology.



# Probabilistic Approaches

Probability density function



**Probabilistic approaches are required to quantify the probability of failure !**



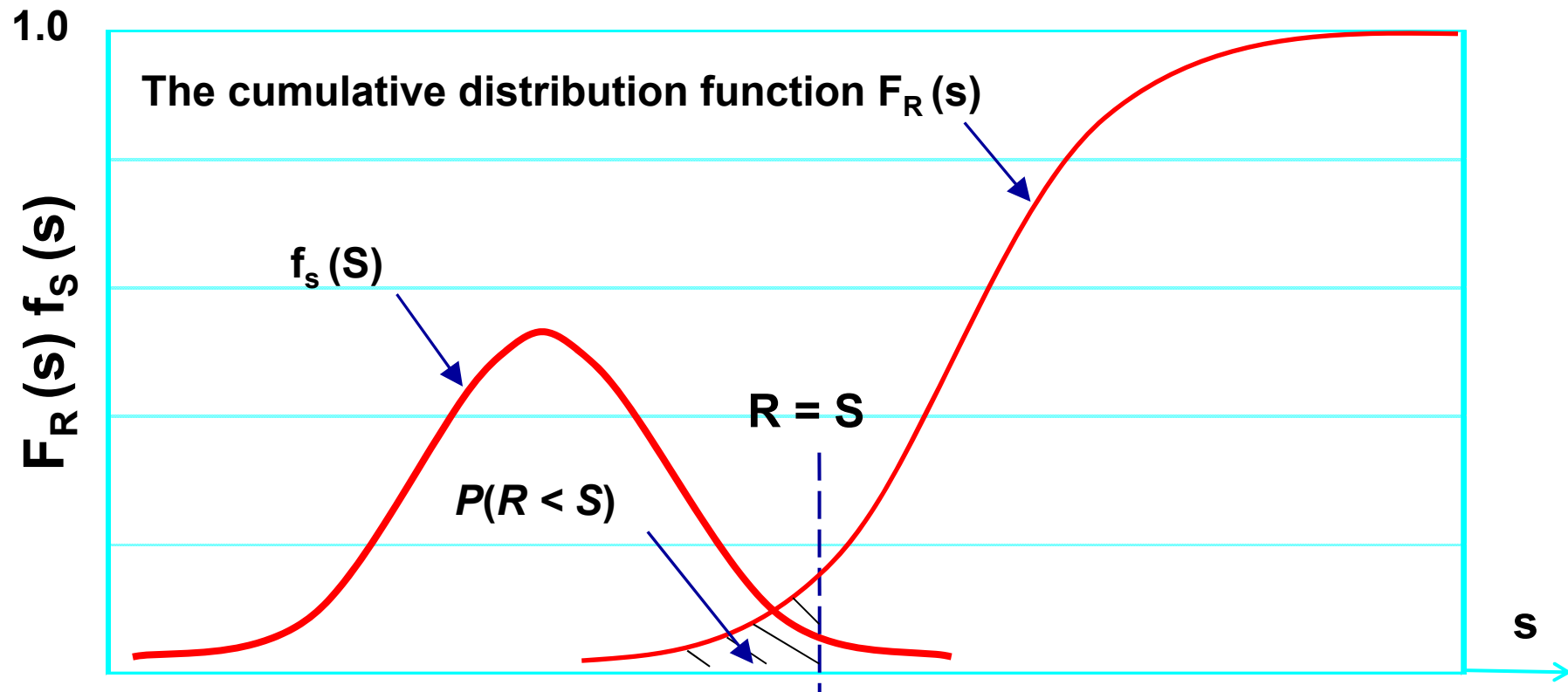
- The area of overlap depends on three factors
  - The relative position of the two curves represented by  $\mu_R$  and  $\mu_S$ .
  - The dispersion of the two curves characterized by the  $\sigma_R$  and  $\sigma_S$ .
  - The shapes of the two curves (*e.g.* skewness of two distribution curves)
- The objective of safe design - Select the design variables in such a way that the area of overlap as small as possible.





- Risk-based design concept
  - Measure the risk in terms of the probability of the failure event

$$p_f = P(\text{failure}) = P(R < S) = \int_0^{\infty} F_R(s) f_S(s) ds$$

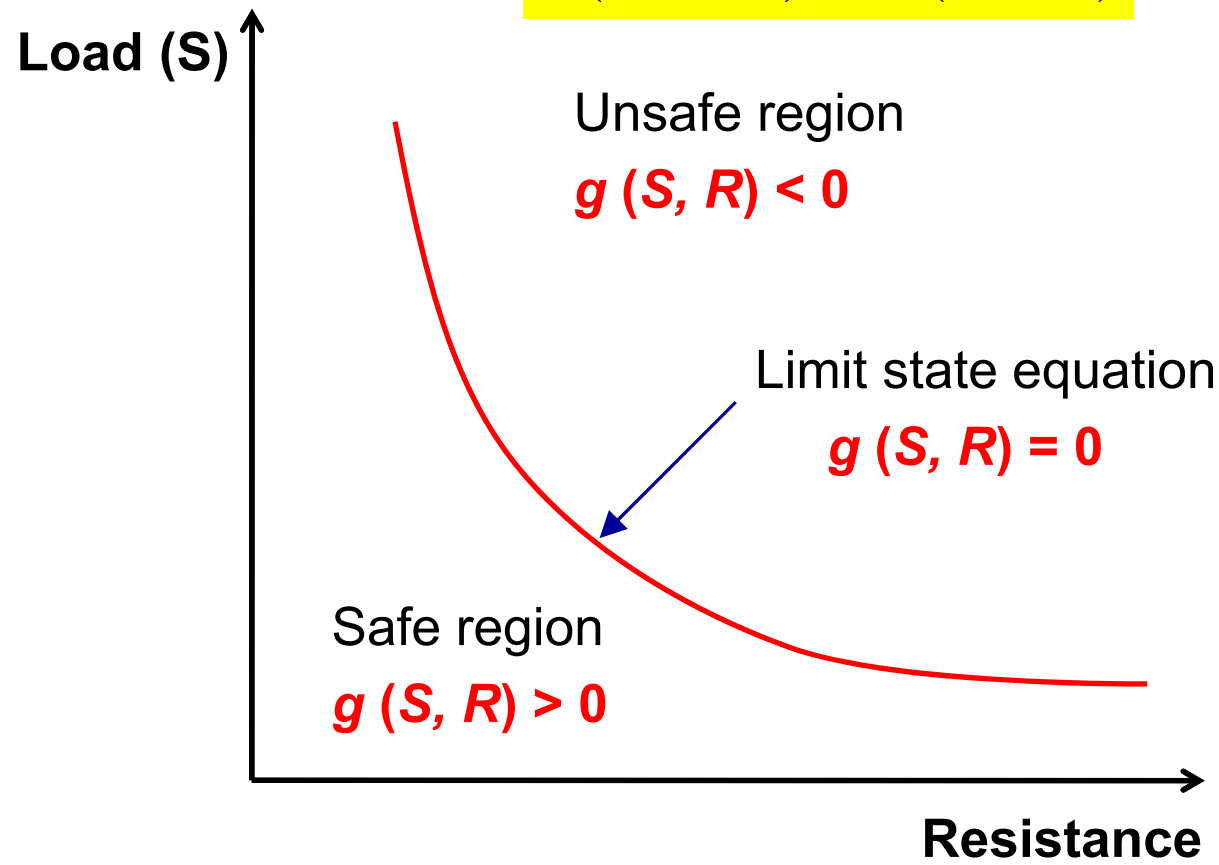




- Performance function:

$$Z = R - S = g(S, R) = g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$$

$$P(\text{failure}) = P(Z < 0)$$





$$P(\text{failure}) = P(Z < 0)$$

Probability of failure:

$$p_f = \int \cdots \int_{g(\mathbf{x}) < 0} f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_n$$

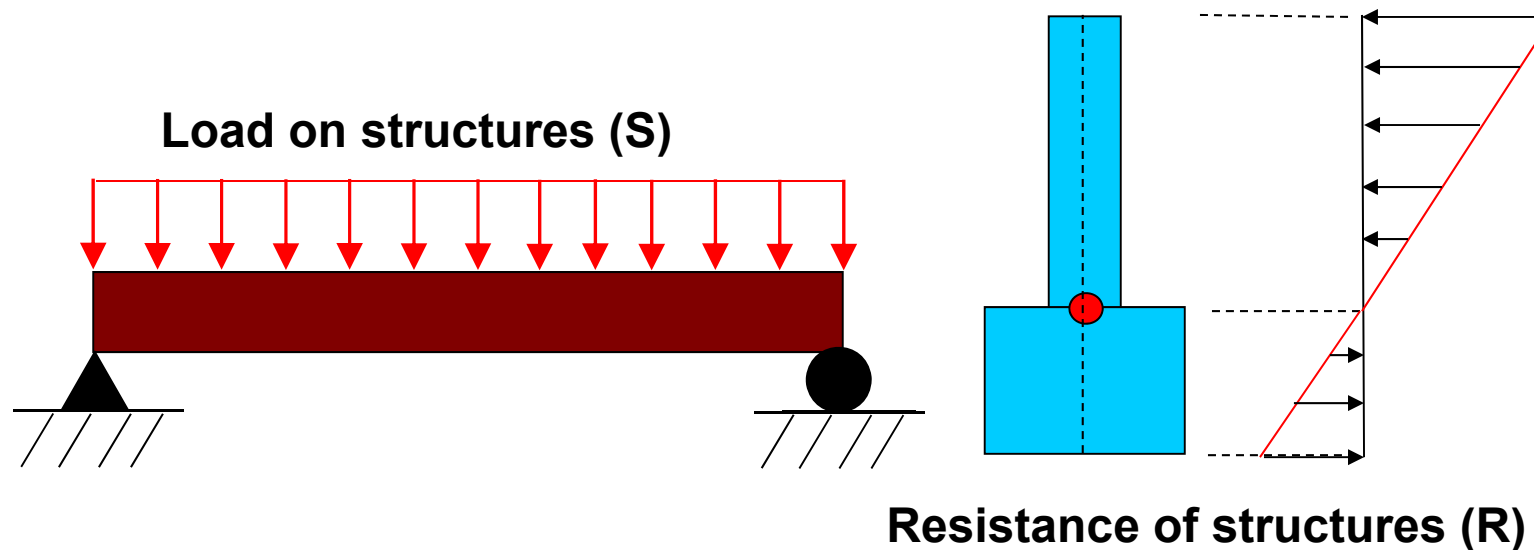
- Two types of analytical approximate approaches
  - First-order reliability methods (FORM)
  - Second-order reliability methods (SORM)



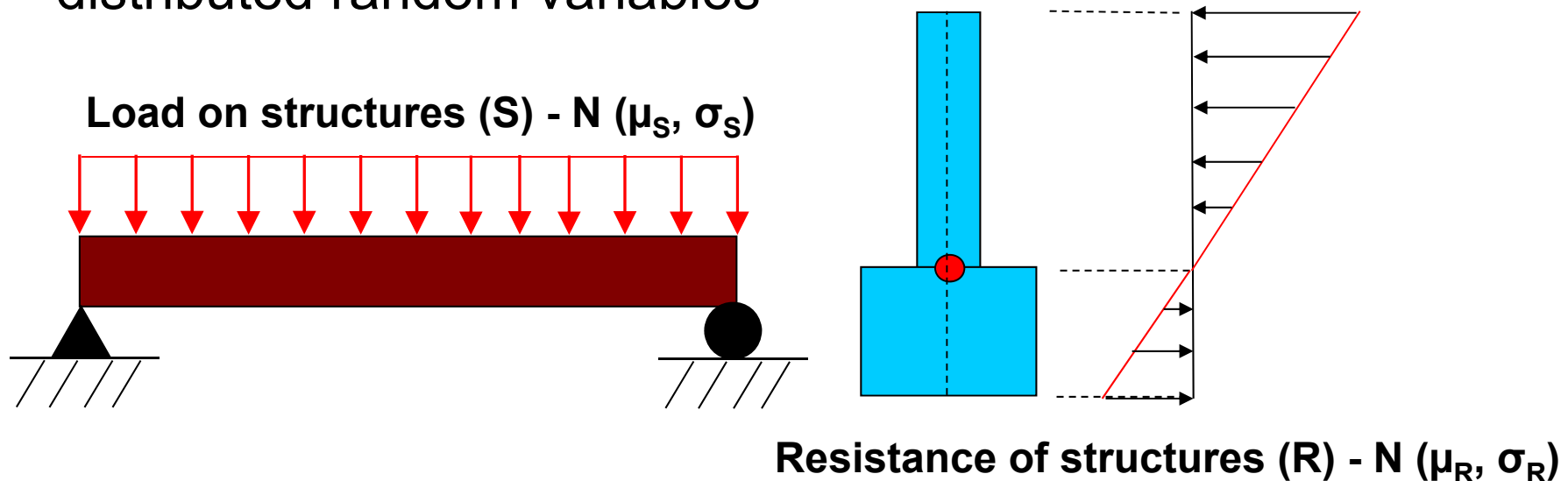
- Second moment concept

Performance function:  $Z = R - S$

Probability of failure:  $p_f = P(Z < 0)$



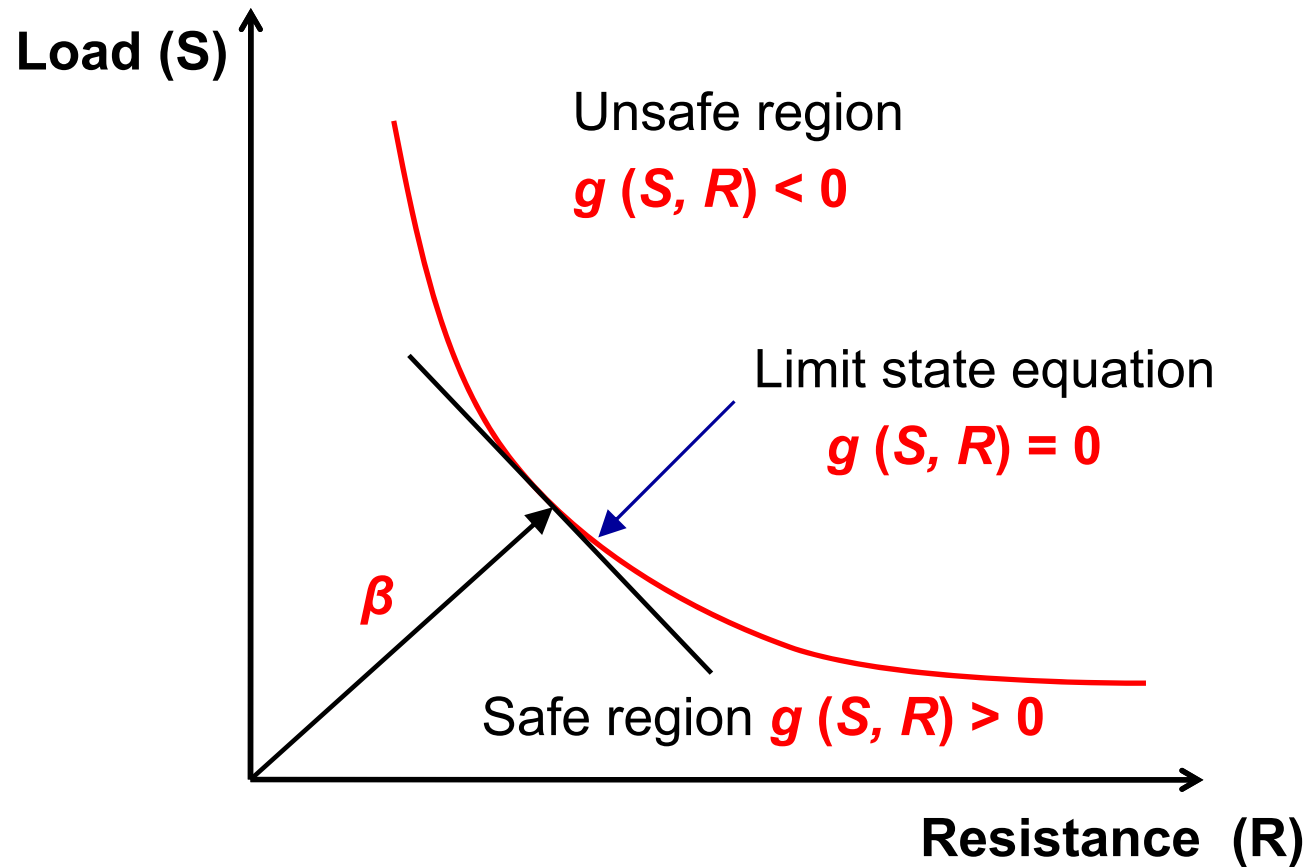
- Special case:  $R$  and  $S$  are independent normally distributed random variables



$$p_f = P(Z < 0) = 1 - \Phi(\beta)$$

$\Phi(\bullet)$  - Standard normal distribution function (zero mean and unit variance)

Safety Index (Reliability index): 
$$\beta = \frac{\mu_Z}{\sigma_Z} = \frac{\mu_R - \mu_S}{\sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_S^2}}$$





# First-order reliability methods (FORM)

A tension member in a truss has an ultimate tensile strength  $R$  with  $\mu_R = 120 \text{ kN}$  and  $\sigma_R = 10 \text{ kN}$ . The tension load  $P$  in this member has a mean value of  $\mu_P = 80 \text{ kNm}$  and standard deviation  $\sigma_P = 20 \text{ kN}$ . Assuming that the normal distribution of  $R$  and  $P$ , evaluate the probability of failure.





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# First-order reliability methods (FORM)





## Solution:

Safety Index (Reliability index):

$$\beta = \frac{\mu_Z}{\sigma_Z} = \frac{\mu_R - \mu_S}{\sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_S^2}} = \frac{120 - 80}{\sqrt{10^2 + 20^2}} = 1.79$$

$$p_f = 1 - \Phi(1.79) = 0.03673$$



- Sums and differences of independent normal variables

$$Y = a_1 X_1 + a_2 X_2 + \dots + a_n X_n$$

$$\mu_Y = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \mu_{X_i}$$

$$\sigma_Y^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \sigma_{X_i}^2$$



- Sums and differences of independent normal variables
  - Example: Assume a random variable  $Y$  can be represented by the following relationship and  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$  and  $X_3$  are statistically independent normal variables

$$Y = X_1 + 2X_2 - 4X_3$$

	Mean	STD
$X_1$	1.0	0.1
$X_2$	1.5	0.2
$X_3$	0.8	0.15



## **Solution:**



## Solution:

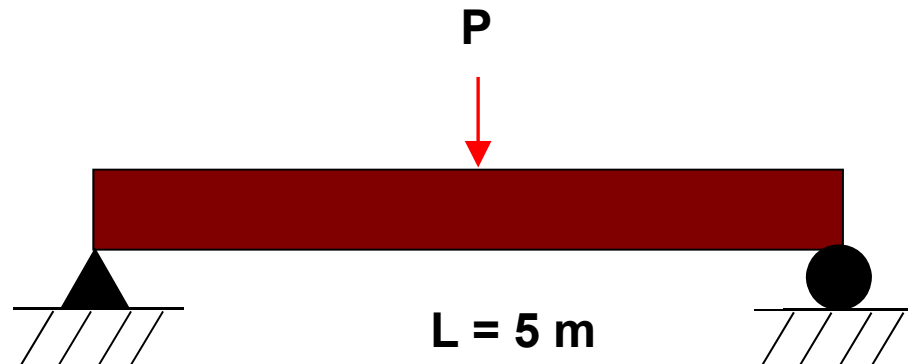
$$\mu_Y = 1.0 + 2 \times 1.5 - 4 \times 0.8 = 0.8$$

$$\sigma_Y = \sqrt{0.1^2 + 2^2 \times 0.2^2 + (-4)^2 \times 0.15^2} = 0.728$$



## Example - Single load case with normal variables

A simply supported timber beam of length  $5\text{ m}$  is loaded with a central load  $P$  with  $\mu_p = 3\text{ kN}$  and  $\sigma_p = 1\text{ kN}$ . The applied moment  $S = P \times L/4$ . The bending strength of similar beams has been found to have a mean strength  $\mu_R = 10\text{ kNm}$  with a coefficient of variation (COV) of  $0.15$ . Assuming that the beam self-weight and any variation in the length of beam can be ignored, evaluate the probability of failure.





### **Solution:**



### Solution:

The applied moment  $S = \frac{P \times L}{4}$

$$\mu_S = \frac{\mu_P \times L}{4} = \frac{3 \times 5}{4} = 3.75 \text{ kNm} \quad \sigma_S^2 = \left( \frac{\sigma_P \times L}{4} \right)^2 = 1.56 (\text{kNm})^2$$

$$\mu_R = 10 \text{ kNm}$$

$$\sigma_R^2 = [(\text{COV})\mu_R]^2 = [0.15 \times 10]^2 = 2.25 (\text{kNm})^2$$

$$\beta = \frac{\mu_Z}{\sigma_Z} = \frac{\mu_R - \mu_S}{\sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_S^2}} = 3.2$$

$$p_f = 1 - \Phi(\beta) = 7 \times 10^{-4} = 0.07\%$$

**The probability of failure is extremely low**



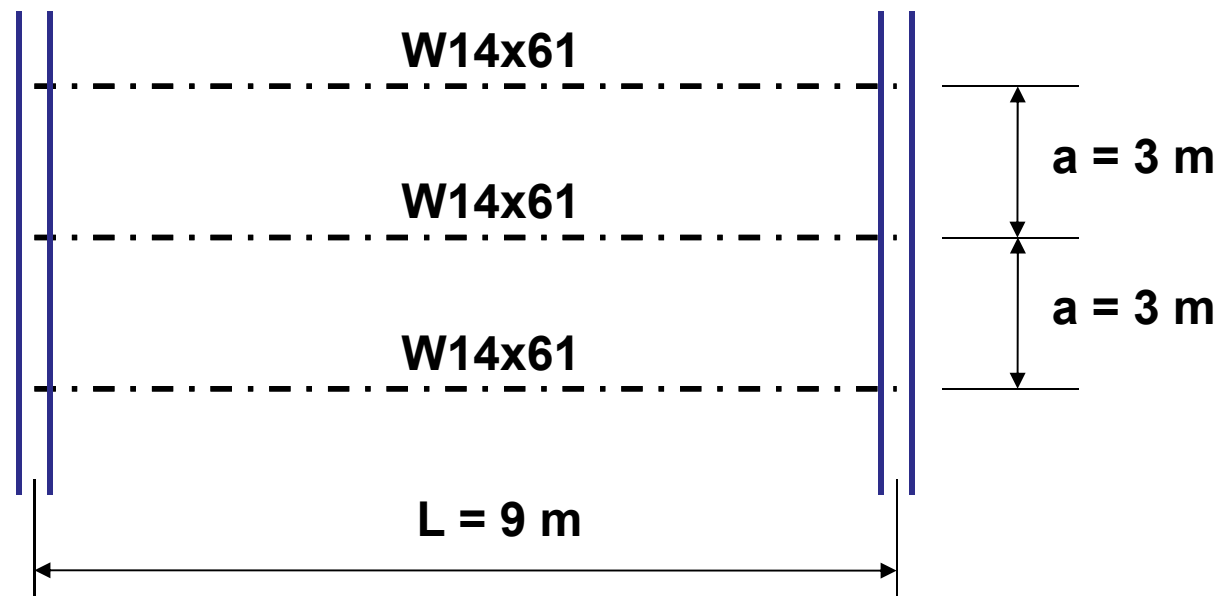


## Example - Multiple Load Case

A simply supported steel beam W14x61 (capacity  $\mu_R = 560.7$  kNm,  $\sigma_R = 72.9$  kNm) with a 9 m span has been designed to carry a dead load ( $\mu_D = 2.6$  kN/m<sup>2</sup>,  $\sigma_D = 0.35$  kN/m<sup>2</sup>) and a live load ( $\mu_L = 2.75$  kN/m<sup>2</sup>,  $\sigma_L = 1$  kN/m<sup>2</sup>). Assuming dead load ( $D$ ), live load ( $L$ ) and beam capacity ( $R$ ) are statistically independent normal variables, and the applied moment

$$M_a = \frac{S \times a \times L^2}{8}, S = D + L$$

Evaluate the probability of failure.





**Solution:**



### Solution:

$$\text{Total load } S = D + L$$

$$\mu_S = \mu_D + \mu_L = 2.6 + 2.75 = 5.35 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\sigma_S = \sqrt{(\sigma_D)^2 + (\sigma_L)^2} = \sqrt{0.35^2 + 1^2} = 1.06 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

$$\text{The applied moment } M_a = \frac{S \times a \times L^2}{8}$$

$$\mu_{M_a} = \frac{\mu_S \times a \times L^2}{8} = \frac{5.35 \times 3 \times 9^2}{8} = 162.5 \text{ kNm}$$

$$\sigma_{M_a} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{a \times L^2}{8}\right)^2 \sigma_S^2} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{3 \times 9^2}{8}\right)^2 1.06^2} = 32.2 \text{ kNm}$$



### Solution (continued):

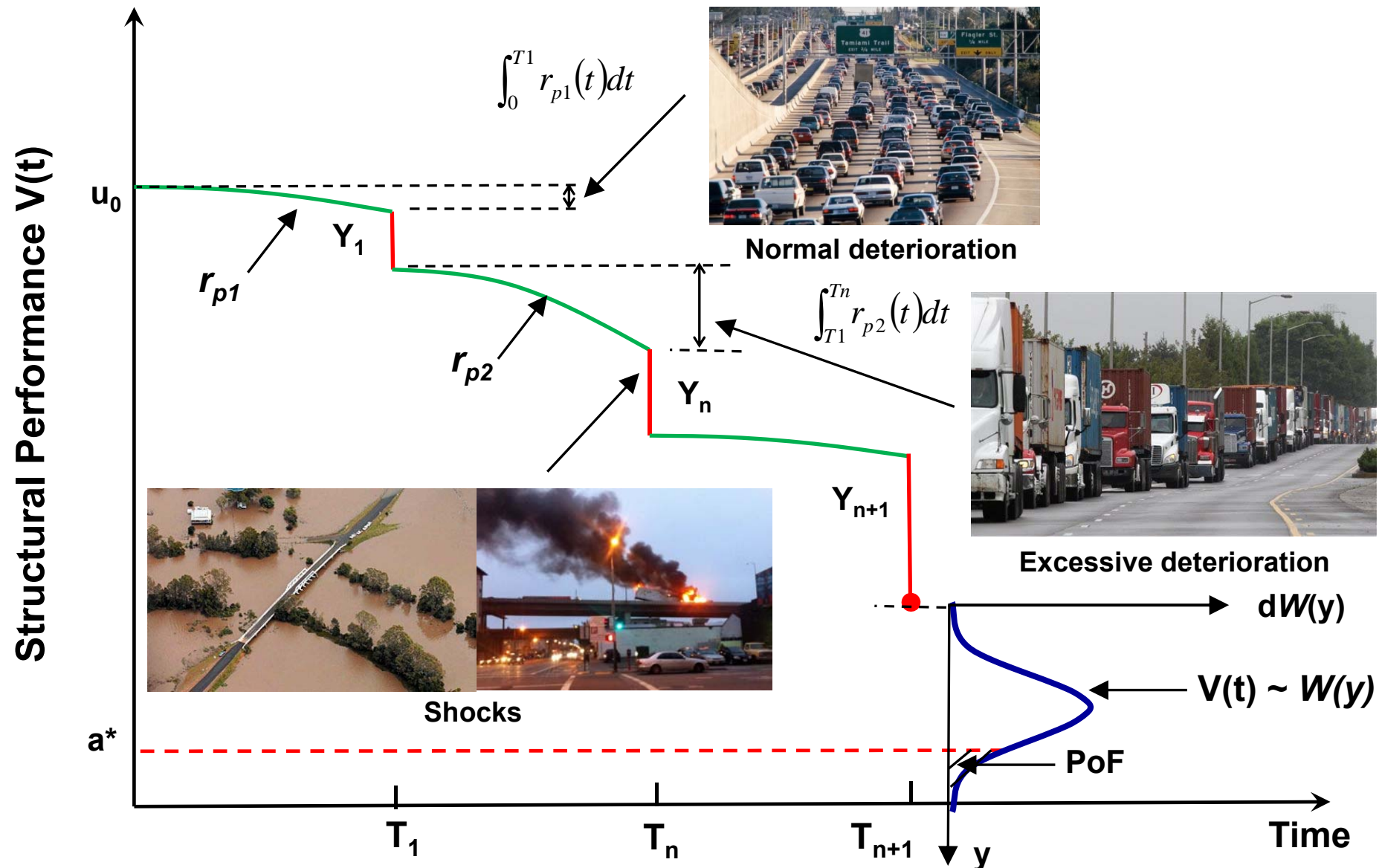
$$\beta = \frac{\mu_R - \mu_{M_a}}{\sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_{M_a}^2}} = \frac{560.7 - 162.5}{\sqrt{72.9^2 + 32.2^2}} = 5$$

$$p_f = 1 - \Phi(\beta) \approx 0.3 \times 10^{-6}$$

**The probability of failure is extremely low**

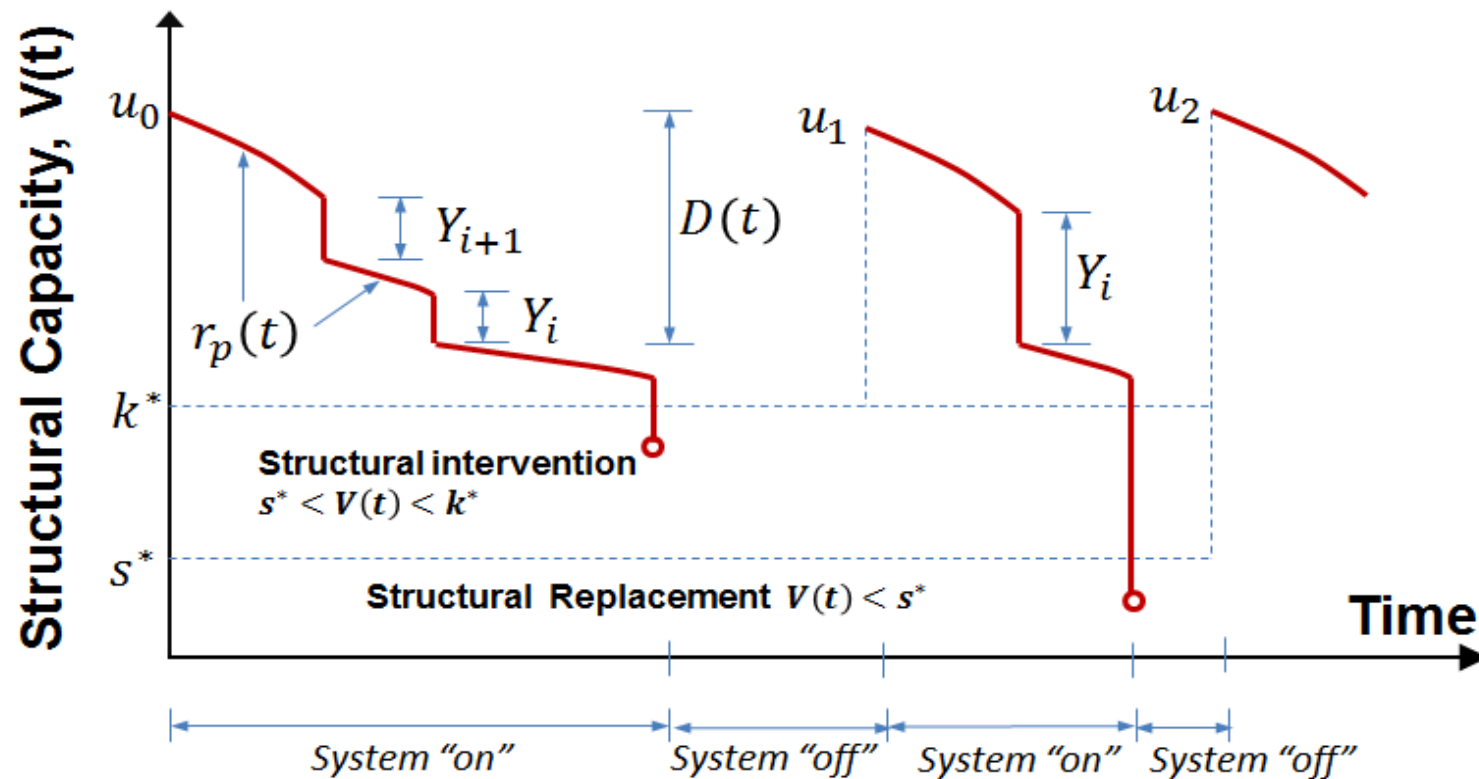


# Life-cycle deterioration of infrastructures





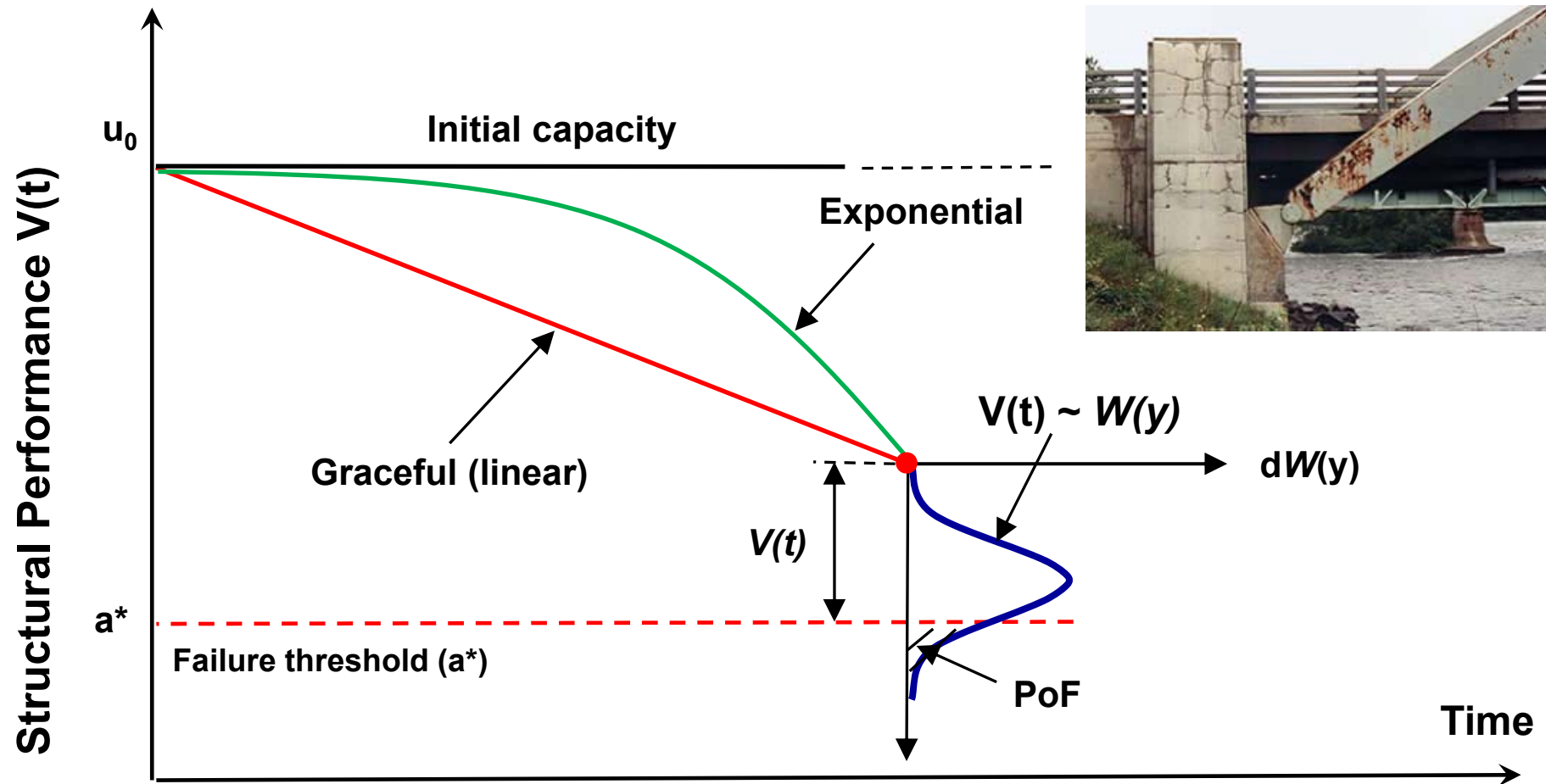
# Life-cycle deterioration of infrastructures



- Maintain the system operating in acceptable conditions during the maximum length of time.
- Maximize the system availability at minimum cost.

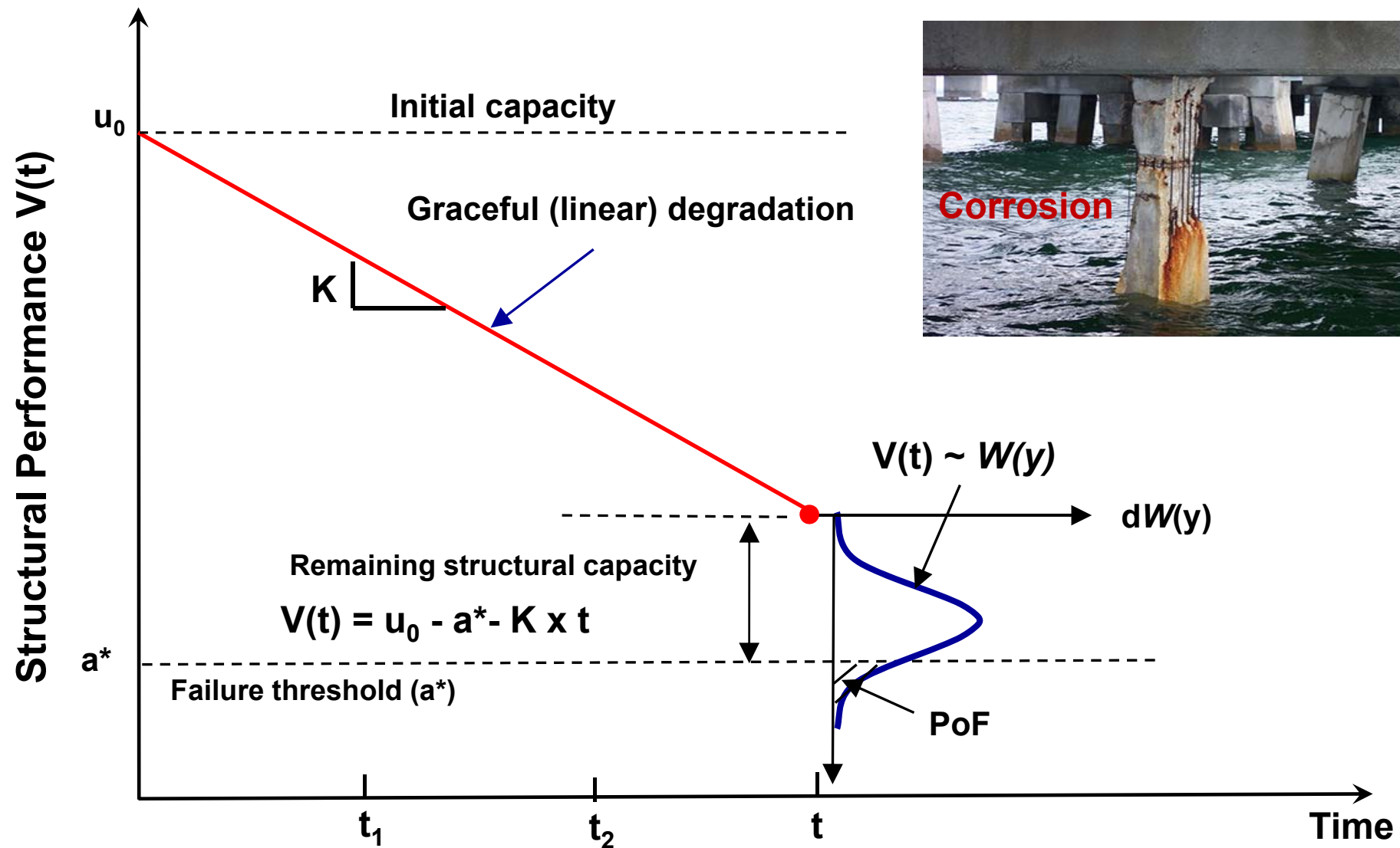


# Deterministic Progressive Deterioration





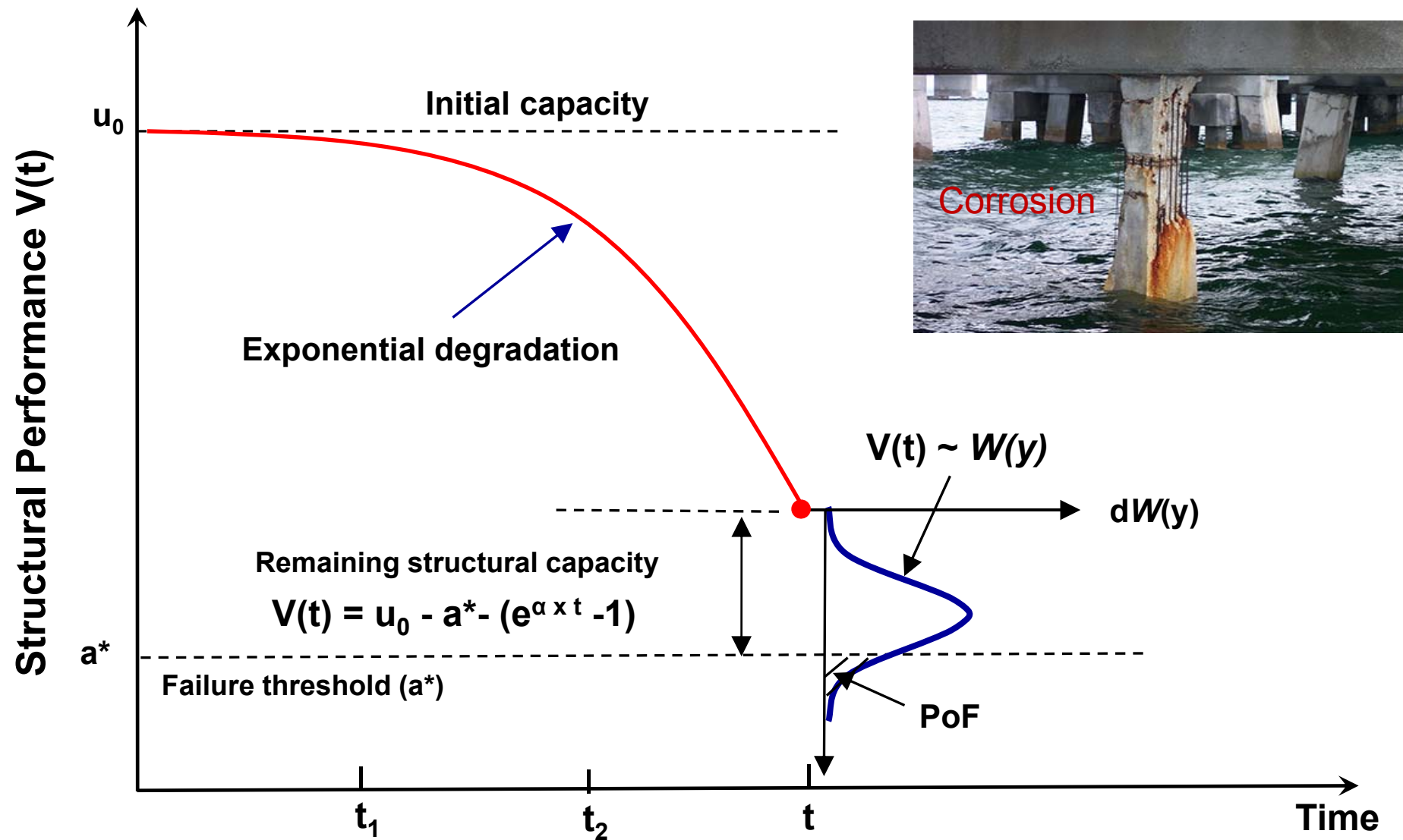
# Graceful (Linear) Deterioration







# Graceful (Linear) Deterioration





- The remaining structural capacity at a given time  $V(t)$  :

$$V(t) = u_0 - a^* - D(t)$$

The accumulated damage  $D(t)$  is given by:

- Graceful (linear) degradation

$$V(t) = u_0 - a^* - K \times t$$

- Exponential degradation

$$V(t) = u_0 - a^* - (e^{\alpha \times t} - 1)$$



# Deterministic Progressive Deterioration

- Probability of failure at time  $t$ :  $p(t) = \left[ \int_{V(t, a^*)}^{\infty} dW(y) \right] = \left[ 1 - \int_0^{V(t, a^*)} dW(y) dy \right]$

Distribution of  $W$  describes the probability of having a certain damage level as a result of progressive deterioration (e.g. loss of structural capacity due to corrosion).

If  $W$  is exponentially distributed,

Probability density function (PDF):

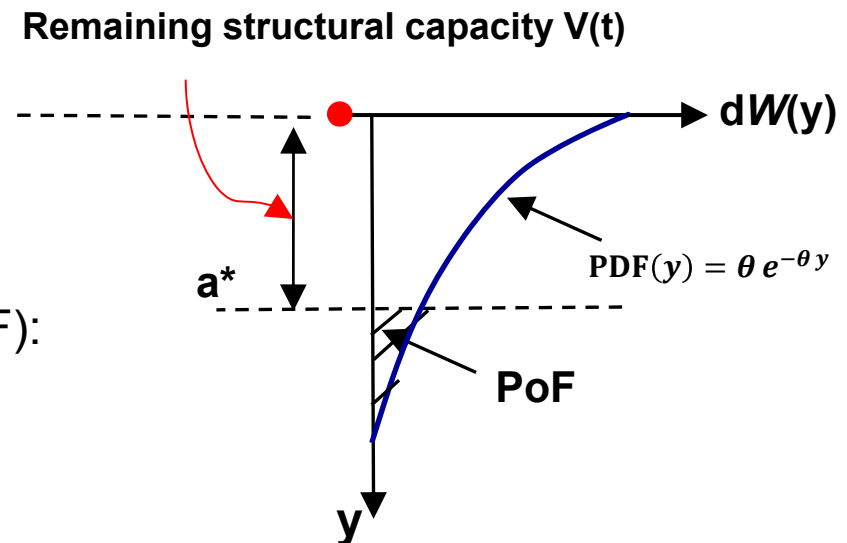
$$\text{PDF}(y) = \theta e^{-\theta y}$$

Cumulative distribution function (CDF):

$$\text{CDF}(y) = 1 - e^{-\theta y}$$

Probability of failure (PoF):

$$\text{PoF}(y) = 1 - \text{CDF}(y)$$





## Example 1 – Deterministic Progressive deterioration

Consider a case of a steel bridge that deteriorates continuously with time (e.g. corrosion). The initial structure performance is  $u_0 = 100\%$  with a threshold limit  $a^* = 25\%$ . Estimate the probability an intervention is required when  $t = 30$  years if the progressive deterioration of the bridge can be modelled as

(a) Graceful (linear) deterioration with a rate  $K = 0.75\%$  per year.

(b) Exponential deterioration with a rate  $\alpha = 0.046/\text{year}$ .

Assume the remaining structural capacity is governed by an exponential distribution  $W(y, \theta)$  with an average rate  $\theta = 0.05$ .





### Solution:

(a) Graceful (linear) deterioration with a rate  $K = 0.75/\text{year}$ .

$$V(t=30) = u_0 - a^* - K \times t = 100 - 25 - 0.75 \times 30 = 52.5$$

Cumulative distribution function (CDF):  $\text{CDF}(V) = 1 - e^{-\theta V}$

Probability of failure (PoF):

$$\text{PoF}(V) = 1 - \text{CDF}(V) = 1 - (1 - e^{-\theta V}) = 1 - (1 - e^{-0.05 \times 52.5}) = 7.24\%$$

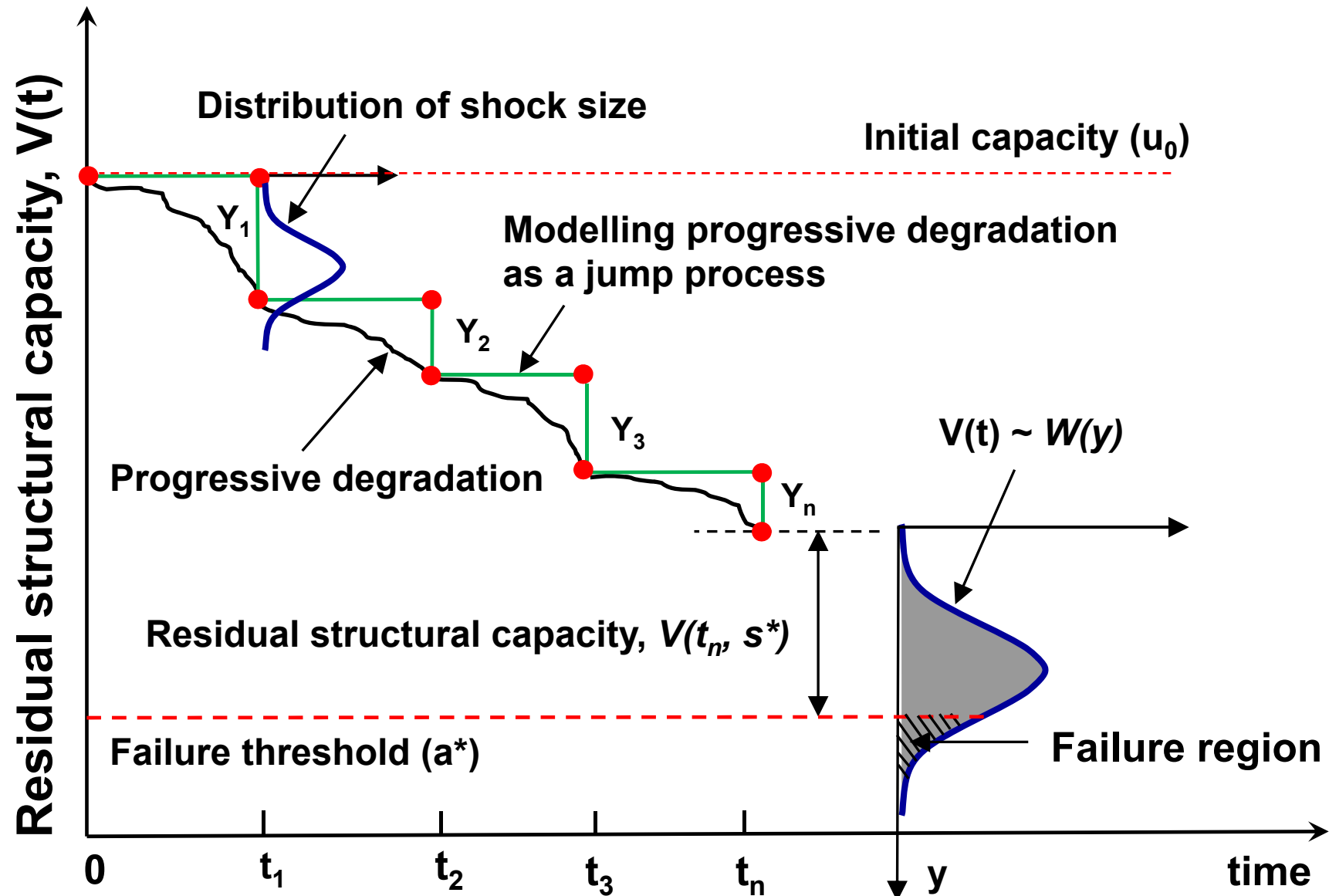
(b) Exponential deterioration with a rate  $\alpha = 0.046/\text{year}$ .

$$V(t=30) = u_0 - a^* - (e^{\alpha \times t} - 1) = 100 - 25 - (e^{0.0461 \times 30} - 1) = 72$$

$$\text{PoF}(V) = 1 - \text{CDF}(V) = 1 - (1 - e^{-\theta V}) = 1 - (1 - e^{-0.05 \times 72}) = 2.7\%$$



# Random Progressive deterioration





- Assume progressive deterioration is a jump process using small jumps in which the size of every jump is random, and jumps occur at fix time intervals (e.g. annual inspections).
- By assuming the damage caused by each shock is exponentially distributed, simulation process involves the following steps:

- (1) Set accumulated deterioration  $D = 0$ ; residual capacity  $V = u_0 - a^*$ ;
- (2)  $t_i = t_{i-1} + \Delta t$ ; obtain the damage size ( $Y_i$ ) from exponential distribution;
- (3) Compute damage accumulation  $D = D + Y_i$ ;
- (4) Compute residual capacity  $V = V - D$ ;
- (5) Goto Step (2) until reaching a particular time point ( $t_n$ );
- (6) Probability of failure at time  $t_n$  :

$$p(t) = \left[ \int_{V(t, a^*)}^{\infty} dW(y) \right] = \left[ 1 - \int_0^{V(t, a^*)} dW(y) dy \right]$$





## Example 2 – Random Progressive deterioration

Consider a case of a steel bridge that deteriorates continuously with time (e.g. corrosion). The initial structure performance is  $u_0 = 100\%$  with a threshold limit  $a^* = 25\%$ . Estimate the probability an intervention is required if the progressive deterioration of the bridge can be modelled as a jump process in which the size of every jump is exponentially distributed with an average rate  $\lambda = 0.75\%$ . Assume every jump is randomly distributed with fixed-time interval  $\Delta t = 1$  year.

Assume the remaining structural capacity is governed by an exponential distribution  $W(y, \theta)$  with an average rate  $\theta = 0.05$ ,



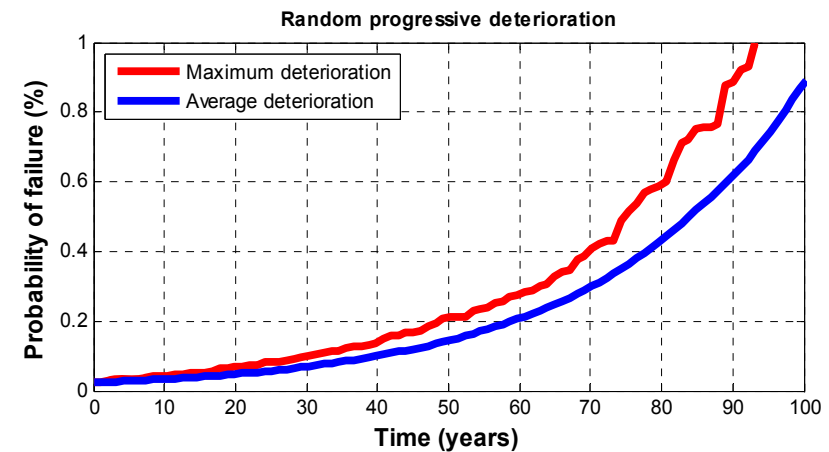
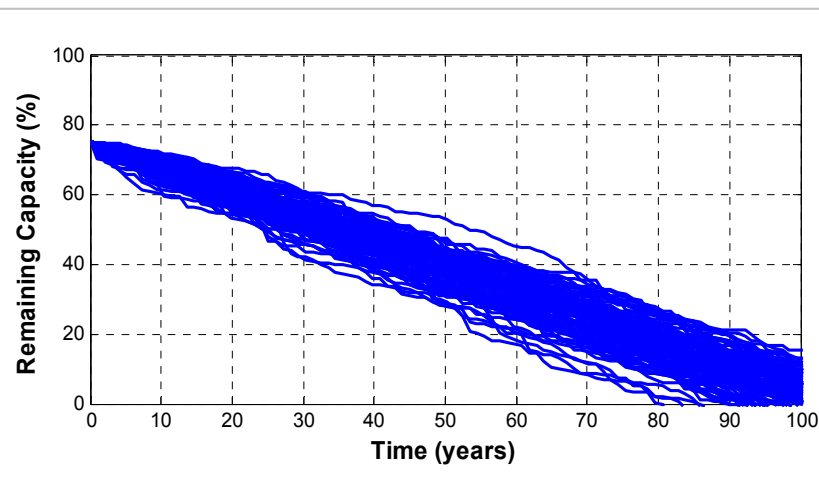




## Example 2 – Random Progressive deterioration

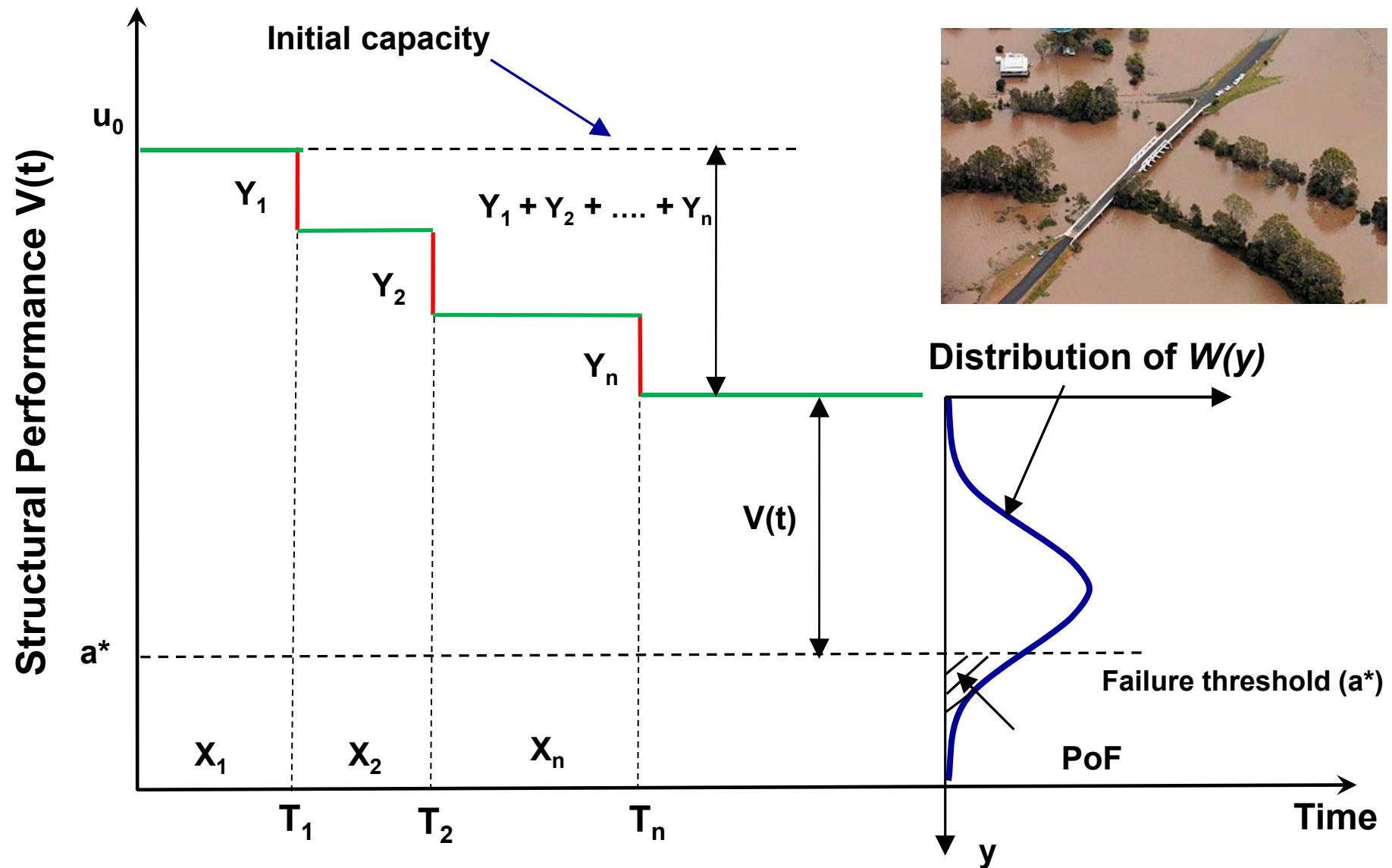
### Data used in the example:

- Initial capacity,  $u_0 = 100\%$  ;
- Threshold limit,  $a^* = 25\%$  ;
- Damage distributed exponentially with  $\theta = 0.05$  ;
- Jump size,  $\lambda = 0.75\%$  ;
- Number of random sample,  $n = 100$  -sample





# Failure after Shocks





- The cumulated deterioration ( $D_n$ )

$$D_n = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$$

- The total time ( $S_n$ )

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

- Two main challenges in modelling shock-based degradation
  - Not enough data to understand the distributions of the time between shocks  $X_i$ , and shock sizes  $Y_i$ .
  - The reliability estimation is numerically intractable.



# Failure after Shocks

- By assuming  $X_i$  and  $Y_i$  are independent and identically distributed (iid), as well as exponentially distributed, simulation process involves the following steps:
  - (1) Set accumulated deterioration  $D = 0$ ; total time  $S_n = 0$ ; residual capacity  $V = u_0 - a^*$ ;
  - (2) Obtain the time between shocks ( $X_i$ ) from exponential distribution; total time  $S_i = S_{i-1} + X_i$ ;
  - (2) obtain the damage size ( $Y_i$ ) at total time  $S_i$  from exponential distribution;
  - (3) Compute damage accumulation  $D = D + Y_i$ ;
  - (4) Compute residual capacity  $V = V - D$ ;
  - (5) Goto Step (2) until reaching a particular time point ( $t_n$ );
  - (6) Probability of failure at time  $t_n$  :

$$p(t) = \left[ \int_{V(t, a^*)}^{\infty} dW(y) \right] = \left[ 1 - \int_0^{V(t, a^*)} dW(y) dy \right]$$



## Example 3 - Failure after Multiple Shocks

Consider a case of a bridge that is subject to shock-based degradation (e.g. earthquake) that occur randomly in time. The inter-arrival times of disturbances are exponentially distributed with mean  $\mu = 2 \text{ years}$ . Suppose the initial capacity of a bridge is  $u_0 = 100\%$  with a threshold limit  $a^* = 25\%$ . Estimate the probability an intervention is required if the shock size is exponentially distributed with an average rate  $\lambda = 2\%$ .

Assume the remaining structural capacity is governed by an exponential distribution  $W(y, \theta)$  with an average rate  $\theta = 0.05$

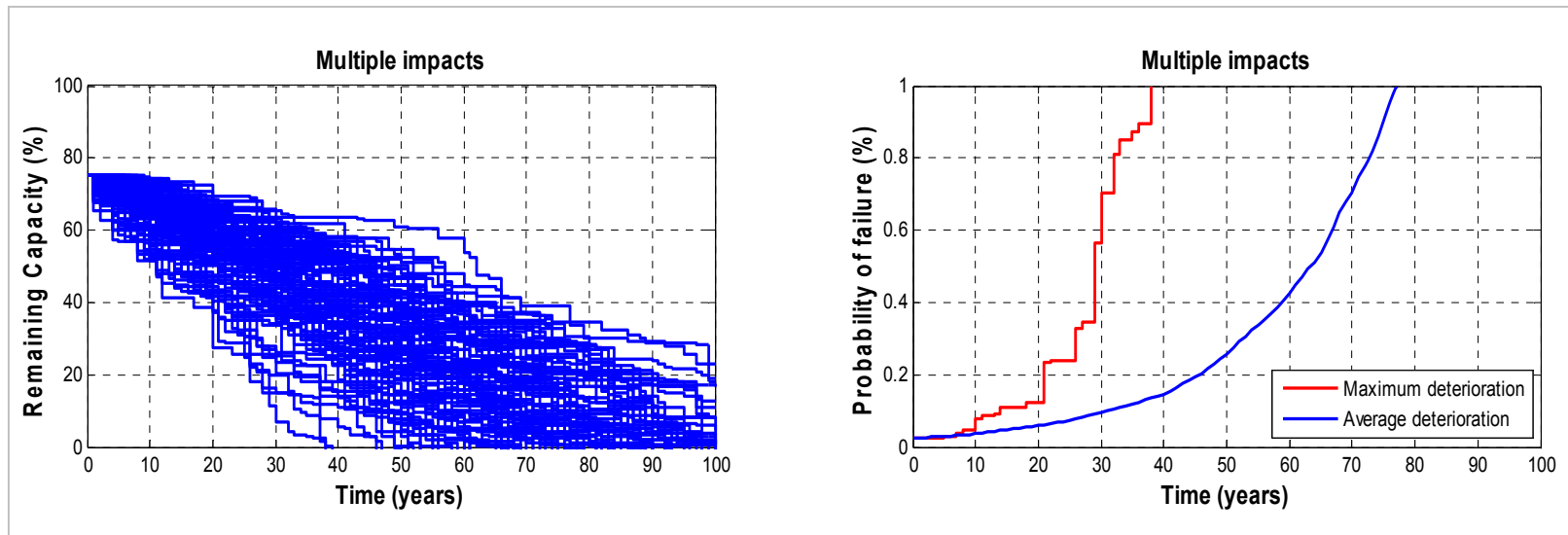




## Example 3 – Failure after Multiple Shocks

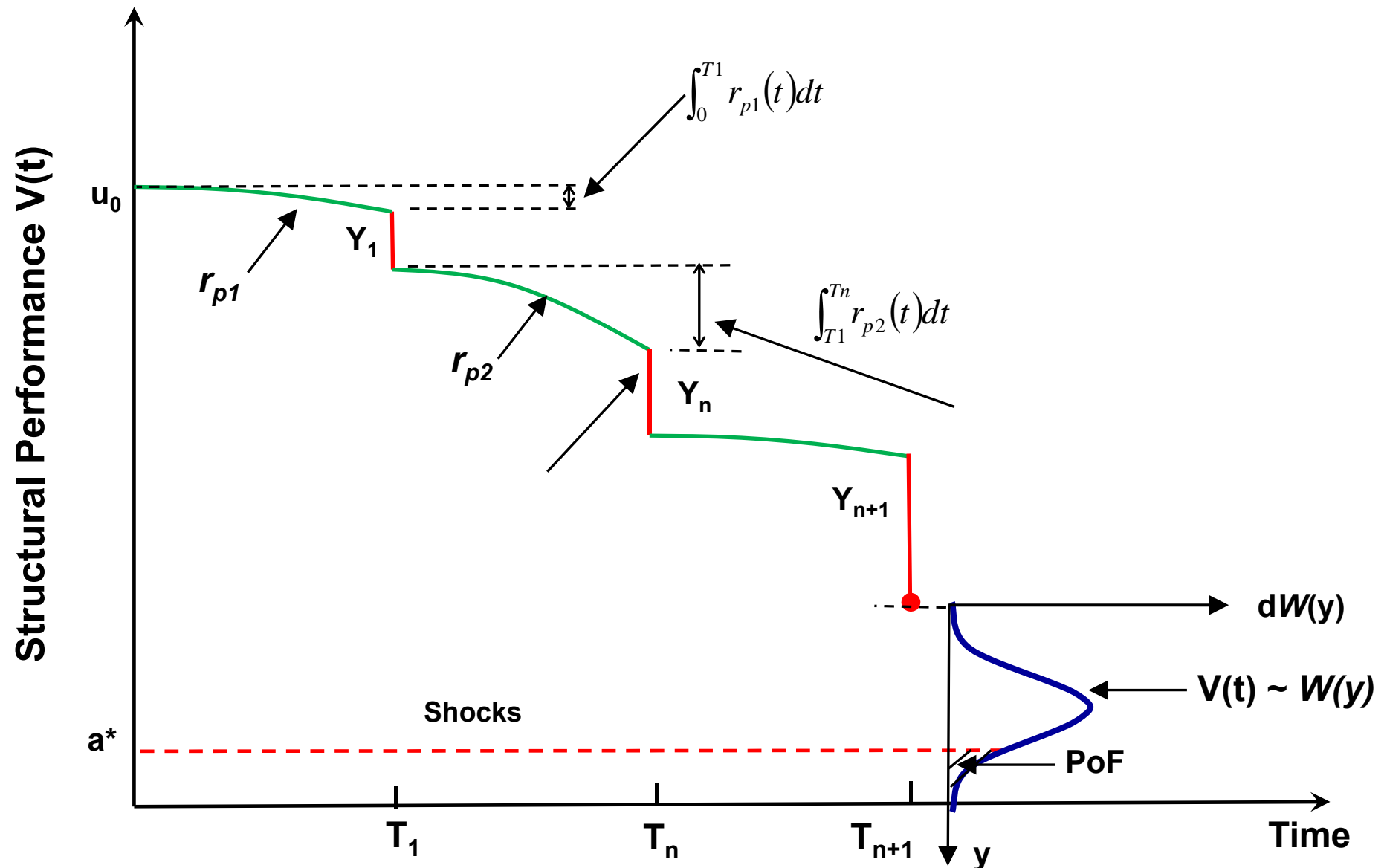
### Data used in the example:

- Initial capacity,  $u_0 = 100\%$  ;
- Threshold limit,  $a^* = 25\%$  ;
- Damage distributed exponentially with  $\theta = 0.05$  .
- Shock size,  $\lambda = 2\%$  ;
- The inter-arrival times with mean  $\mu = 2 \text{ years}$
- Number of random sample,  $n = 100 \text{ -sample}$





# Combined Deterioration





## Example 4 – Combined Deterioration

Estimate the probability an intervention is required for a steel bridge that is subject to both progressive and shock-based degradation. Suppose the initial capacity of bridge is  $u_0 = 100\%$  with a threshold limit  $a^* = 25\%$ . The progressive deterioration of the bridge can be modelled as a jump process in which the size of every jump is exponentially distributed with an average rate  $\lambda = 0.75\%$ . Assume every jump is randomly distributed with fixed-time interval.

The shocks that occur randomly in time can be modelled as a Poisson process in which the inter-arrival times are exponentially distributed with mean  $\mu = 2 \text{ years}$  and the average shock size  $\delta = 4\%$ .

Finally, assume the remaining structural capacity is governed by an exponential distribution  $W(y, \theta)$  with an average rate  $\theta = 0.05$





## Example 4 – Combined deterioration

### Data used in the example:

- Jump size,  $\lambda = 0.75\%$  ;
- Initial capacity,  $u_0 = 100\%$  ;
- Threshold limit,  $a^* = 25\%$  ;
- Damage distributed exponentially with  $\theta = 0.05$  .
- Shock size,  $\lambda = 2\%$  ;
- The inter-arrival times with mean  $\mu = 2 \text{ years}$
- Number of random sample,  $n = 100\text{-sample}$

