7.1 Basic Concepts

Software Reliability means Operational reliability. It is described as the ability of a system or component to perform its required functions under static conditions for a specific period.

Software reliability is also defined as the probability that a software system fulfills its assigned task in a given environment for a predefined number of input cases, assuming that the hardware and the input are free of error.

Software Reliability is an essential connect of software quality, composed with functionality, usability, performance, serviceability, capability, installability, maintainability, and documentation. Software Reliability is hard to achieve because the complexity of software turn to be high. While any system with a high degree of complexity, containing software, will be hard to reach a certain level of reliability, system developers tend to push complexity into the software layer, with the speedy growth of system size and ease of doing so by upgrading the software.

For example, large next-generation aircraft will have over 1 million source lines of software on-board; next-generation air traffic control systems will contain between one and two million lines; the upcoming International Space Station will have over two million lines on-board and over 10 million lines of ground support software; several significant life-critical defense systems will have over 5 million source lines of software. While the complexity of software is inversely associated with software reliability, it is directly related to other vital factors in software quality, especially functionality, capability, etc.

7.2 Software quality

Software quality product is defined in term of its fitness of purpose. That is, a quality product does precisely what the users want it to do. For software products, the fitness of use is generally explained in terms of satisfaction of the requirements laid down in the SRS document.

Example: Consider a functionally correct software product. That is, it performs all tasks as specified in the SRS document. But, has an almost unusable user interface. Even though it may be functionally right, we cannot consider it to be a quality product.

The modern view of a quality associated with a software product several quality methods such as the following:

Portability: A software device is said to be portable, if it can be freely made to work in various operating system environments, in multiple machines, with other software products, etc.

Usability: A software product has better usability if various categories of users can easily invoke the functions of the product.

Reusability: A software product has excellent reusability if different modules of the product can quickly be reused to develop new products.

Correctness: A software product is correct if various requirements as specified in the SRS document have been correctly implemented.

Maintainability: A software product is maintainable if bugs can be easily corrected as and when they show up, new tasks can be easily added to the product, and the functionalities of the product can be easily modified, etc.

Software Quality Management System

A quality management system is the principal methods used by organizations to provide that the products they develop have the desired quality.

A quality system subsists of the following:

Managerial Structure and Individual Responsibilities: A quality system is the responsibility of the organization as a whole. However, every organization has a several quality department to perform various quality system activities. The quality system of an arrangement should have the support of the top management.

Quality System Activities: The quality system activities encompass the following:

- Auditing of projects
- Review of the quality system
- Development of standards, methods, and guidelines, etc.
- Production of documents for the top management summarizing the effectiveness of the quality system in the organization.

7.3 Software reliability model

A software reliability model indicates the form of a random process that defines the behaviour of software failures to time.

Software reliability models have appeared as people try to understand the features of how and why software fails, and attempt to quantify software reliability.

Over 200 models have been established since the early 1970s, but how to quantify software reliability remains mostly unsolved.

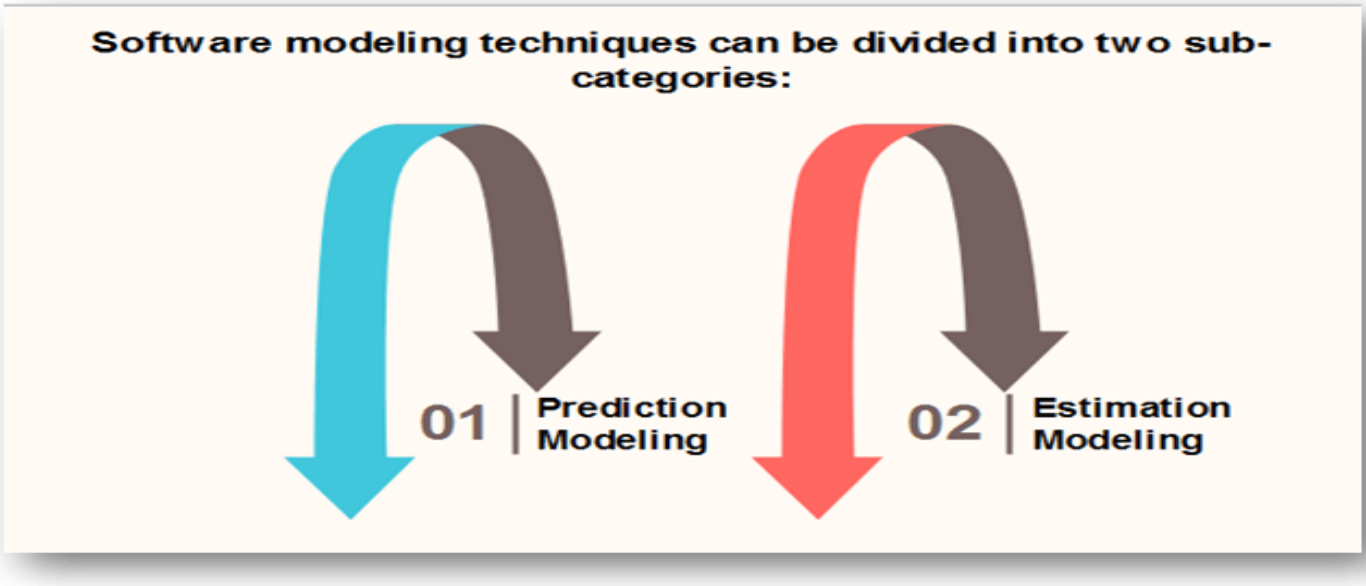
There is no individual model that can be used in all situations. No model is complete or even representative.

Most software models contain the following parts:

- Assumptions
- Factors

A mathematical function that includes the reliability with the elements. The mathematical function is generally higher-order exponential or logarithmic.

Software Reliability Modelling Techniques



Both kinds of modeling methods are based on observing and accumulating failure data and analyzing with statistical inference.

Differentiate between software reliability prediction models and software reliability estimation models

Basics	Prediction Models	Estimation Models
Data Reference	Uses historical information	Uses data from the current software development effort.
When used in development cycle	Usually made before development or test phases; can be used as early as concept phase.	Usually made later in the life cycle (after some data have been collected); not typically used in

		concept or development phases.
Time Frame	Predict reliability at some future time.	Estimate reliability at either present or some next time.

Reliability Models

A reliability growth model is a numerical model of software reliability, which predicts how software reliability should improve over time as errors are discovered and repaired. These models help the manager in deciding how much efforts should be devoted to testing. The objective of the project manager is to test and debug the system until the required level of reliability is reached.

Following are the Software Reliability Models are: