



Dependability Case of Funet's core network

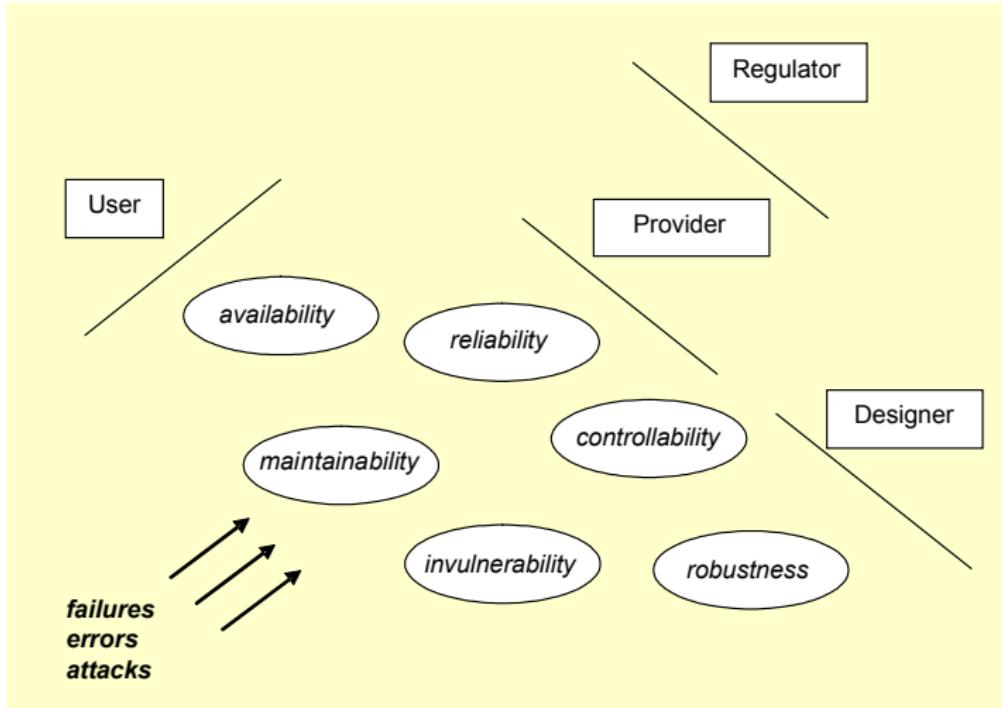
Ilkka Norros, Pirkko Kuusela and Ilkka Karanta
VTT, Technical Research Center of Finland
firstname.lastname@vtt.fi

Pekka Savola
CSC - Scientific Computing Ltd.
firstname.lastname@csc.fi

Outline

- Concept of dependability in IP networks
- Dependability case methodology
- Case study: dependability of Funet's core network
- Discussion

Actors and aspects of IP dependability



The concept of dependability in IP networks

Robustness of
basic protocols

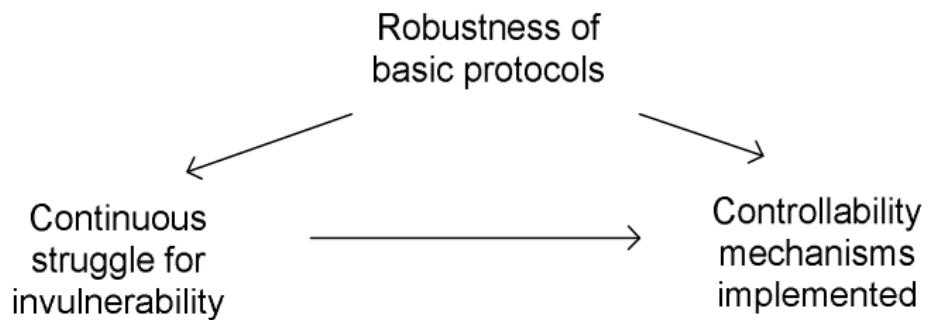
The concept of dependability in IP networks

Robustness of
basic protocols

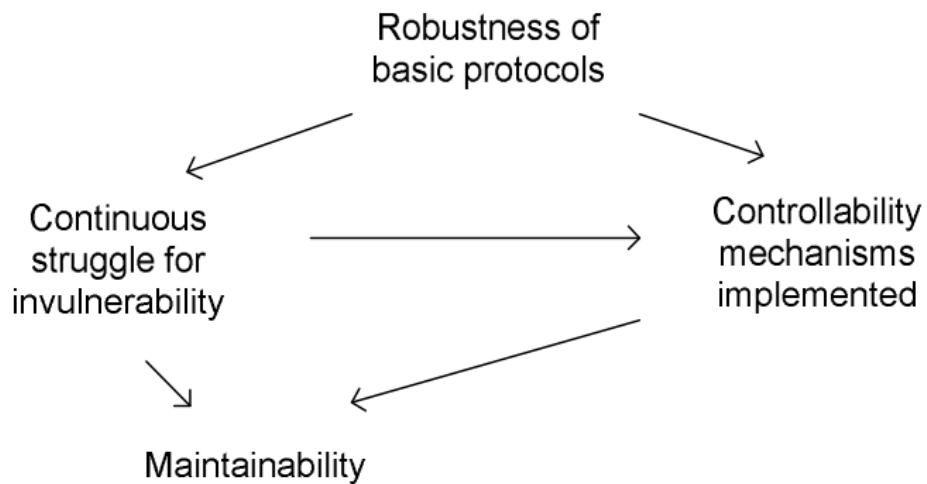


Continuous
struggle for
invulnerability

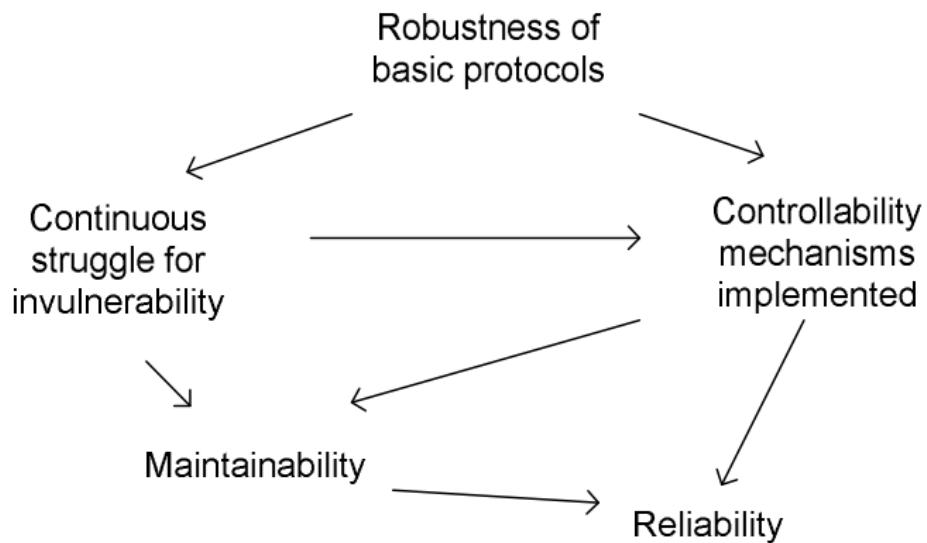
The concept of dependability in IP networks



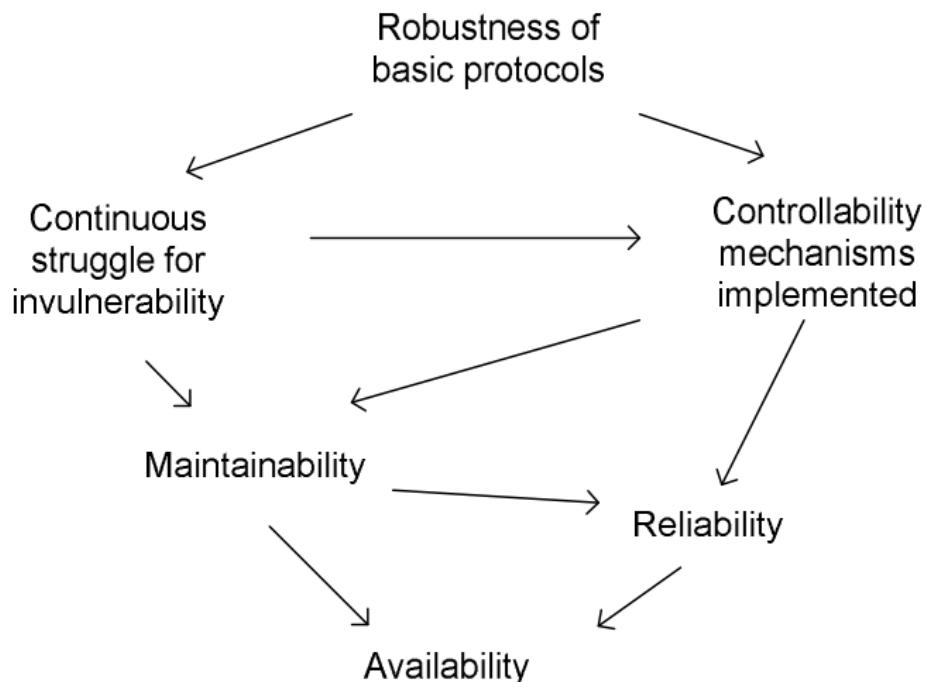
The concept of dependability in IP networks



The concept of dependability in IP networks



The concept of dependability in IP networks



Outline

- Concept of dependability in IP networks
- *Dependability case methodology*
- Case study: dependability of Funet's core network
- Discussion

Dependability case

- safety case → dependability case
- safety cases are standard tools in safety critical industries
- *A documented body of evidence that provides a convincing and valid argument that a system is adequately dependable for a given application in a given environment.*
- tool for assessment and approval, but also for taking care
- showing what depends on what is important
- meant to be living
- emphasis on understandability and traceability

Elements of dependability case

GRAPHICAL VISUALIZATION of argumentation structure

- *CLAIMS*
- *EVIDENCE*
- *ARGUMENTS*

Elements of dependability case

GRAPHICAL VISUALIZATION of argumentation structure

- **CLAIMS**
 - goals, or statements about system or subsystem
- **EVIDENCE**
 - facts about system: general knowledge, soft or hard data, test results
 - explicitly registered and available
- **ARGUMENTS**
 - provide support to claims based on evidence
 - deterministic, probabilistic, qualitative
 - give the meaning of the data in the context of claims

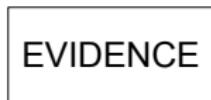
Evaluation process



How well does
the argument
support the
claim?



Is evidence of
high quality and
relevant to the
argument?



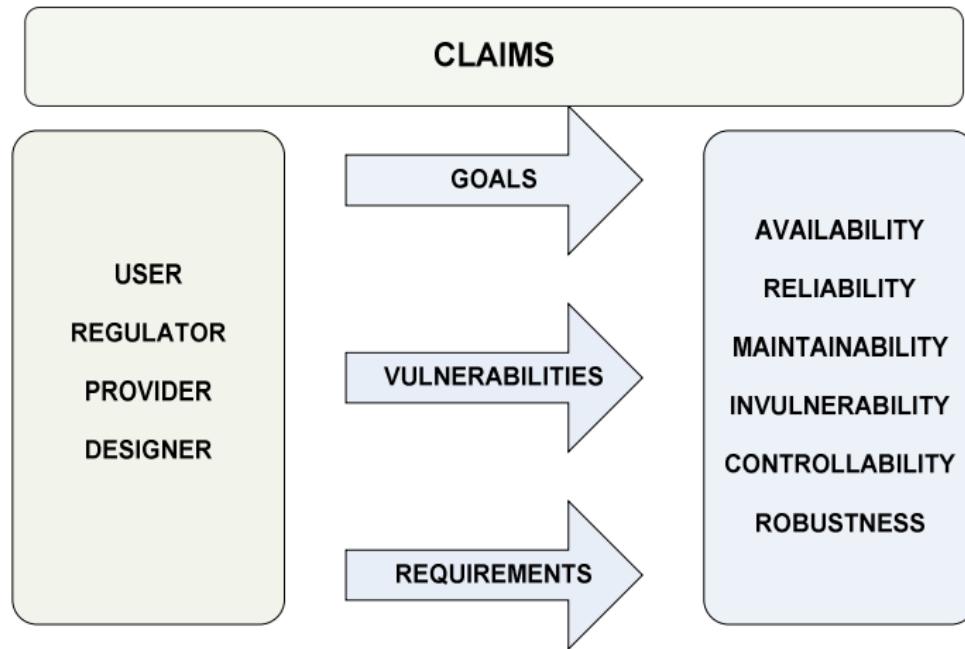
Outline

- Concept of dependability in IP networks
- Dependability case methodology
- *Case study: dependability of Funet's core network*
- Discussion

An experimental dependability case of Funet

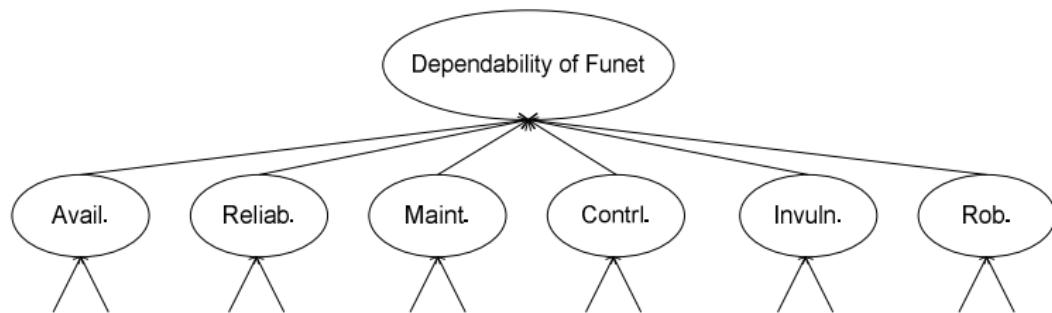
- Testing the idea with a real network
- What evidence is available?
 - Does it provide needed information?
- How easily do network structures adapt for classical reliability analysis?
- Generality over speciality, wide coverage
- *NOT* the real dependability assessment, but possibly a way to make one

Where do claims come from?



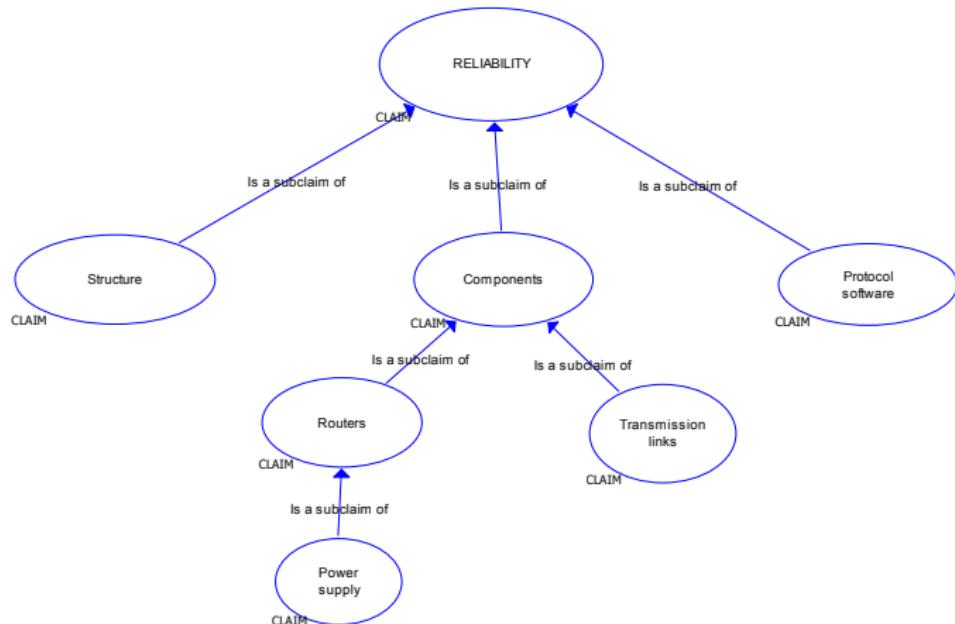
Chosen claim structure

according to aspects of dependability

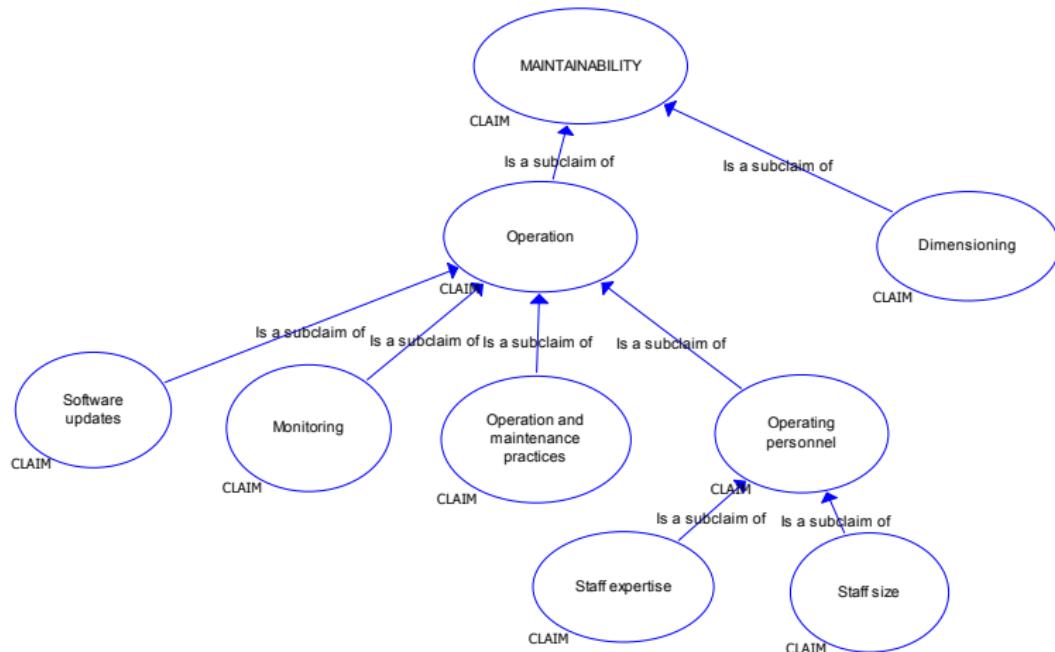


- General high-level claims, e.g., “Availability is high”
- 4 levels of sub-claims, more specific
- Real case would have explicit target values

Claims on reliability



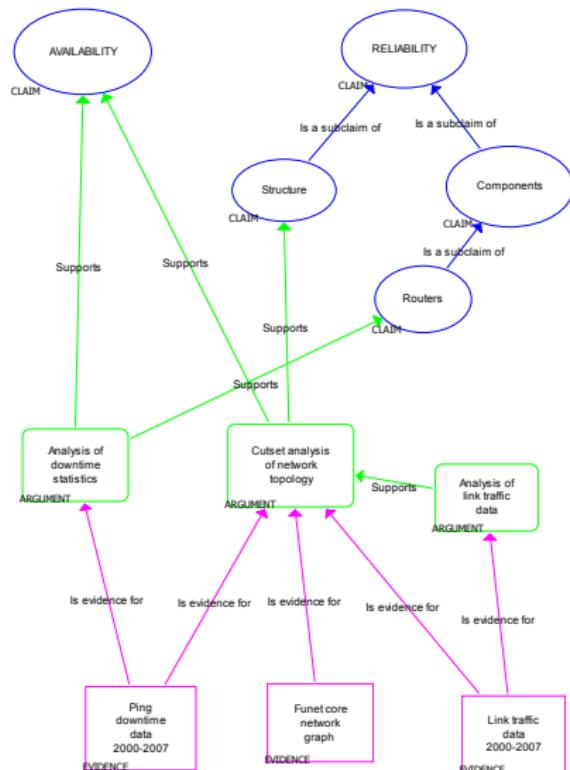
Claims on maintainability



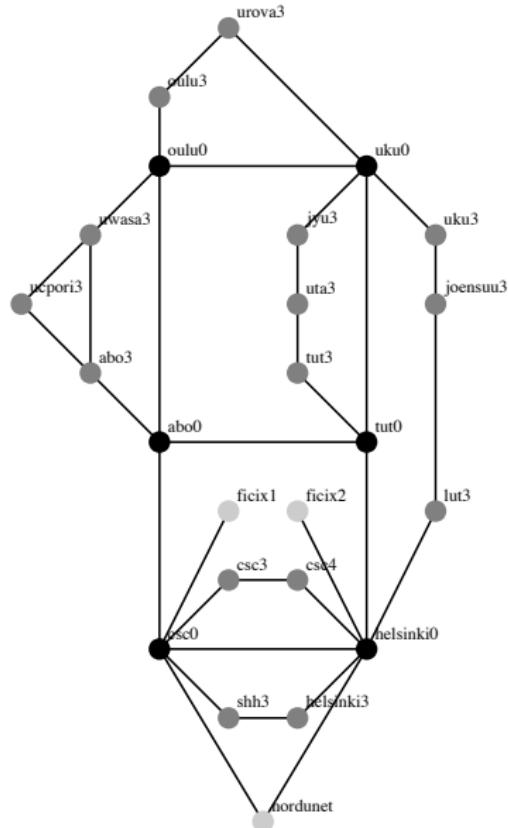
Evidence and arguments

- Evidence:
 - 3 interviews
 - core network topology
 - ping data
 - link traffic data
- Arguments:
 - qualitative argumentation (most common)
 - analysis of downtime statistics
 - cutset analysis of network topology
 - analysis of link traffic data
- What was not available:
 - Service Level Agreements
 - other non-public information

Illustration of reliability argumentation



Cutset analysis, idea



- topology (physical = logical)
- routing rules
- chosen structure function:
Funet OK if
 1. connected
 2. link to Ficix
 3. link to NorduNet

Cutset analysis, example of results

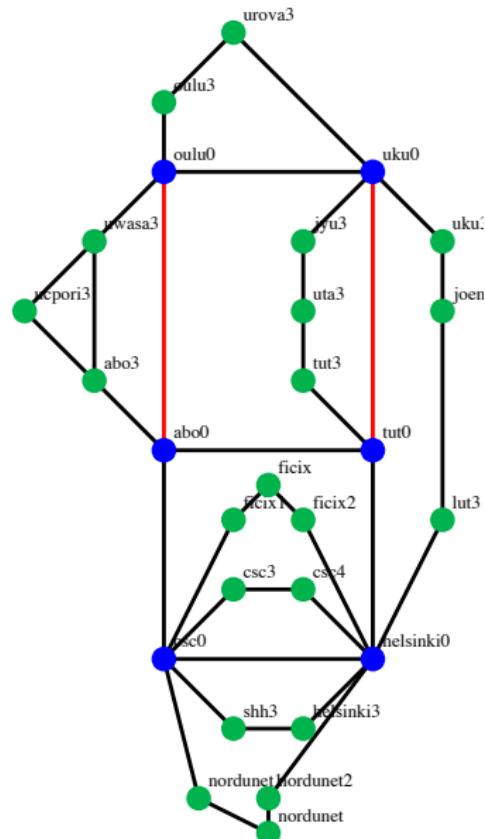
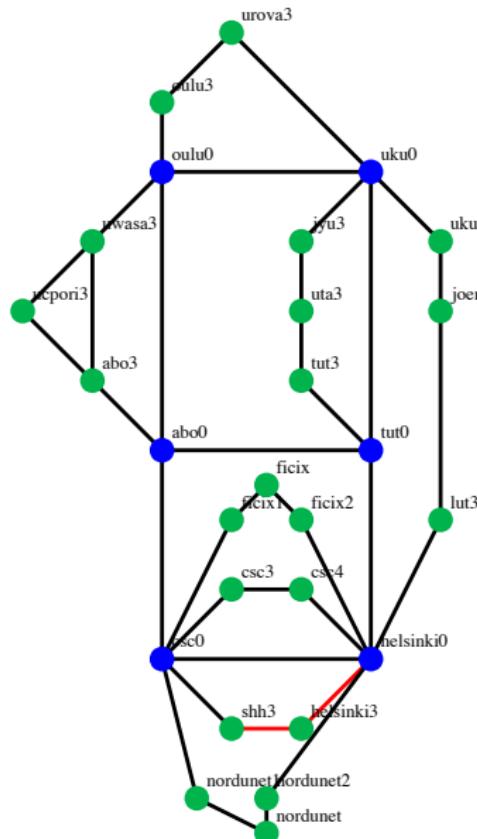
theoretical failure cases, 2 links or nodes fail

Failures:

failed element		
links	nodes	how many cases
2	0	23
1	1	49
0	2	26
total		98

Cutset analysis, example

2 links fail, 23 cases



Cutset analysis, remarks

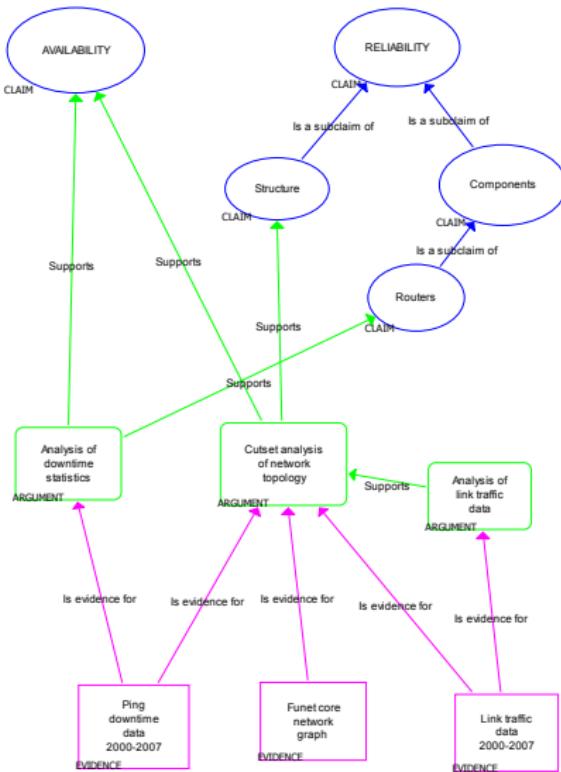
Can do more:

- combine probabilities & link loads \Rightarrow risk estimates
- risk = failure probability \times lost traffic

What if network is large?

- can not list all cases
- can use graph spectral theory to find the most vulnerable links for worst partitions of network
- huge networks??

Illustration of availability argumentation, downtime statistics



Analysis of downtime statistics

CSC ping data:

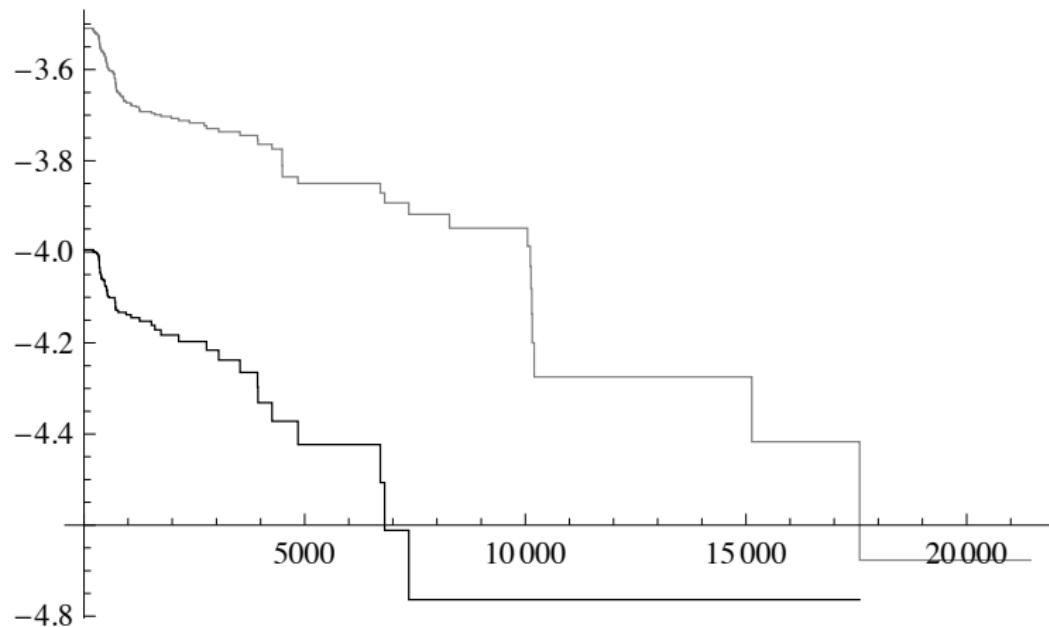
- 6 core routers and customer's sites
- 5 pings in 1 min intervals
- no response to any → site marked down
- August 1, 2000 – July 31, 2007
- 310 records, 55 marked planned → 255 in analysis
- downtime cluster = max continuous union of ≥ 2 downtimes
- 170 of 255 downtimes were in 35 clusters
- 2 clusters contained 14 downtimes

remarks

- individual downtimes \neq independent rare events
- not very good for evaluating availability

Downtime frequency curves for core routers

$\log_{10} P(\text{on-going downtime} > t \text{ sec})$



gray: all data, black: clusters censored

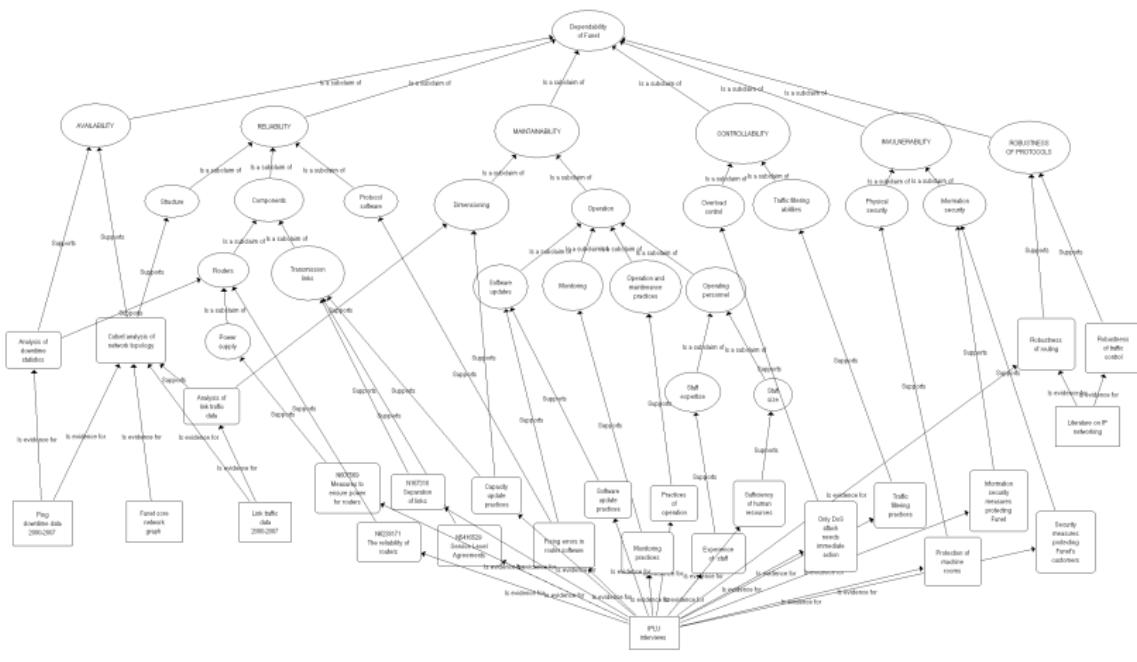
Qualitative argumentation

18 qualitative arguments

examples:

- meets dimensioning, controllability, maintainability claims well, availability high
- traffic well predictable
- CSC monitoring during office hours, automatic alarms
- no full own control on physical security

Complete dependability case



Created with 2022 Educational license - not for commercial learning and research purposes only

Perspectives of dependability case methodology

- Tool for taking care of dependability
- Good in visualizing dependability
- Technical arguments can be integrated into qualitative arguments
- Allows structuring

Will this work

- When the network is larger/ more complex?
- When assessment is more serious?
- Can monitoring be combined to dependability case? Some aspects are stable, some evolve all the time (network usage)

How to benefit from a dependability case?

- Communicating dependability
 - user – provider relation
 - provider – regulator relation
- Management of dependability
 - general picture, internal tool
 - can be used in training
- Improvement of dependability
 - showing weak and strong parts
 - change in time