

## 1 Introduction, Definitions & Overview

### Reliability

- ... is a characteristic of an item, expressed by the probability that the item performs its required function under given conditions during a stated time interval, i.e.  $(0, t]$
- Item = entity for investigation, i.e. component, assembly, equipment, subsystem, system
- from a **qualitative** point of view, reliability is defined as the ability of an item to **remain functional**
- from a **quantitative** point of view, reliability is defined as the probability that **no operational interruptions** will occur during a stated time interval  $R(t)$

### Availability

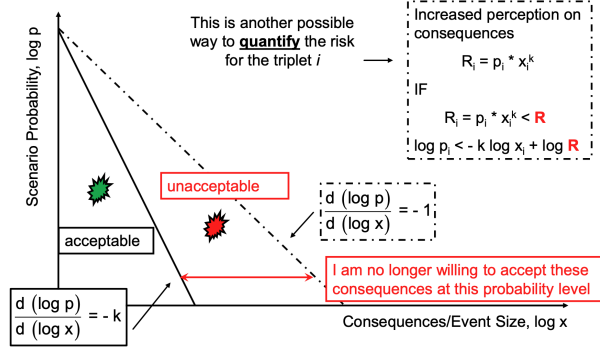
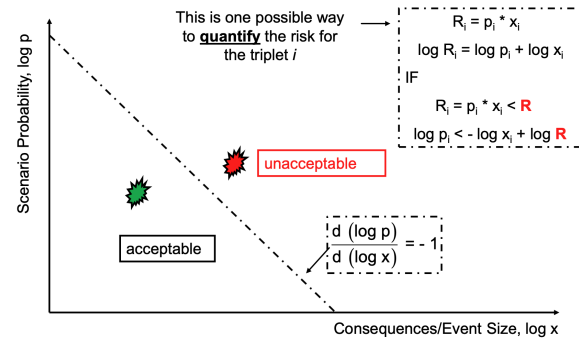
- Point Availability (PA) is a characteristic of an item expressed by the probability that the item performs its function **at an instant of time  $t$**
- Qualitatively, it can be described as the dependability
- Average Availability (AA), is the expected time at which the item can perform its required function
- Availability is used to express Point Availability in a sloppy way or Average Availability

In comparison to Availability, the Reliability analysis includes the fact that no item is allowed to fail. This means, the function performed cannot be interrupted (redundant system however can be repaired). Availability incurs that failures can happen on the item level.

### Risk

- RISK = POTENTIAL DAMAGE x UNCERTAINTY
- Dictionary: RISK = probability of damage to a person or an object
- We define RISK as a function of an...
  - Accident Scenario,  $S$
  - Probability,  $p$
  - Consequence,  $x$

- We can quantify RISK on the so-called "Farmer's Curve"



The total Risk can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Total Risk} = \sum p_i x_i^k, k \geq 1 \quad (1)$$

It is entirely possible that the risk of different events can be dominated by either its probability or its consequence.

- A large probability  $p$  is prevented of (minimisation based on high probability)
- A large consequence  $x$  is mitigated, protected (minimisation given its large impact)

## 2 Probability Theory and Reliability Analysis

Definitions:

- Experiment  $\epsilon$
- Sample space  $\Omega$
- Event  $E$

An event  $E$  is a subset of the sample space  $\Omega$  and the experiment  $\epsilon$  yields a set of possible outcomes ( $= E$ ) of the experiment

Certain Events follow Boolean Logic, an event  $E$  can occur or not occur, meaning an Indicator Variable  $X_E$  is 0 when  $E$  does not occur and 1 if  $E$  occurs

Uncertain Events follow can either be true or false, with each a probability associated to it. Event  $E$  in sample space  $\Omega$  is triggered with a probability that the outcome has happened or not

### Classical Probability

- The experiment  $\epsilon$  has  $N$  possible, elementary, mutually exclusive and equally probable outcomes  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N \in \Omega$
- The event  $E = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_M, M \leq N$
- The probability of event  $E$  is defined as  $p(E) = M/N$

### Kolmogorov Axioms

- $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
- $P(\Omega) = 1, P(\emptyset) = 0$
- Mutually exclusive events:  $P(\cup_i E_i) = \sum p(E_i)$
- Non-mutually exclusive events:  
 $P(A \cup B) = P_A + P_B - P(A \cap B)$
- Conditional probability:  $P(A|B) = P(A \cap B)/P(B)$
- Theorem of total probability: Given an event  $A$  in  $\Omega$  where the space is consisting of exclusive and exhaustive events  $\cup_j E_j = \Omega$ :  $P(A) = \sum_i (P(A|E_i)P(E_i))$

## Random Variables

- **CDF**: Is a non-decreasing function and returns the probability (state) from random variable  $X$  from 0 to a given point  $A$ :  $F_X(X = A) = P(0 < X \leq A)$
- **pdf**: Probability of per unit  $x$  (continuous)
- **pmf**: Histogram, it assigns the probability to discrete values  $x$

## Summary

- Distribution Percentile  $x_\alpha$ :
  - $F_X(x_\alpha) = \alpha/100 = \int_{-\infty}^{x_\alpha} f_X(x)dx$
- Median:
  - $F_X(x_{50}) = 0.5$
- Mean:
  - $\mu_X = E[X] = \langle X \rangle = \sum_i x_i p_i$  (discrete)
  - $= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x)dx$  (continuous)
- Variance:
  - $\sigma_X^2 = \sum (x_i - \mu_X)^2 p_i$  (discrete)
  - $= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu_X)^2 f_X(x)dx$  (continuous)

## Hazard Function (Failure Rate)

For risk and reliability analyses, we can use models whereas the time to failure of a component  $T$  can be expressed through a CDF  $F_T(t)$  and a pdf  $f_T(t)$ . The complementary, cumulative function is

$$R(t) = 1 - F_T(t) = P(T \geq t) \quad (2)$$

which is described as the **Reliability or Survival Function** of the component  $T$  at time  $t$  and gives the probability of it surviving up to time  $t$  without failures.

In order to monitor the failure evolution, given the component has survived up to time  $t$  in a time interval  $dt$ , one can define a so called **Hazard Function or Failure Rate**  $h_T(t)$ .

$$h_T(t)dt = P(t < T \leq t + dt | T > t) = \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{P(t < T \leq t + dt)}{P(T > t)} = \frac{f_T(t)dt}{R(t)} \quad (4)$$

The hazard function is depending on time, and is often described through the bathtub curve. The failure rate at the beginning is higher (infant mortality, burn in) and decreases after a certain time. The failure rate becomes constant  $\lambda$  and increases at the end through ageing.



Through the definition of  $R(t)$  and integrating the hazard function, we receive:

$$F_T(t) = 1 - e^{-\int_0^t h_T(\tilde{t})d\tilde{t}} \quad (5)$$

$$R(t) = e^{-\int_0^t h_T(\tilde{t})d\tilde{t}} \quad (6)$$

If our hazard function is in its constant phase (constant hazard rate), the failure evolution follows the **Exponential Distribution**:

$$h_T(t)\lambda, t > 0 \quad (7)$$

$$F_T(t) = P(T \leq t) = 1 - e^{-\lambda t} \quad (8)$$

$$R(t) = \begin{cases} f_T(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} & t \geq 0 \\ 0 & t < 0 \end{cases} \quad (9)$$



The mean time to failure (MTTF) can be found through the expectation value

$$E[T] = \frac{1}{\lambda} = MTTF \quad (10)$$

$$Var[T] = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \quad (11)$$

The failure process is memoryless. Given a component has survived at least until time  $t_1$ , the probability of it failing between time  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  is only depending on the time inbetween and not prior to time  $t_1$

$$P(t_1 < T < t_2) = \frac{P(t_1 < T < t_2)}{P(T > t_1)} = \frac{F_T(t_2) - F_T(t_1)}{1 - F_T(t_1)} = \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{e^{-\lambda t_1} - e^{-\lambda t_2}}{e^{-\lambda t_1}} = 1 - e^{-\lambda(t_2 - t_1)} \quad (13)$$

The influence of an ageing process of the components failure rate shows that is not constant through time and hence can be described through the **Weibull distribution**.

## Boolean Logic - Fault Tree Analysis

Fault trees = set of Boolean algebraic equations (one for each gate)  $\rightarrow$  structure (switching) function  $\Phi$

$$X_T = \Phi(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_N) \quad (14)$$

The top event is connected by an OR-gate, hence if one of each events is true, then the top event will be true. Here some further rules:

- **Negation**: Given event  $E$ , given by the indicator variable  $X_E$ , its negation is described by  $\overline{X_E} = 1 - X_E$
- **Intersection**: The event  $A \cap B$  is true, if both  $A$  and  $B$  are simultaneously true:

$$X_{A \cap B} = X_A X_B \quad (15)$$

$$(X_{A \cap B} = 0 \text{ for mutually exclusive events})$$

- **Union**: The event  $A \cup B$  is true, if either  $A$  or  $B$  are true and false if both are false:

$$X_{A \cup B} = 1 - (1 - X_A)(1 - X_B) \quad (16)$$

$$= 1 - \Pi(1 - X_j) = \Pi X_j \quad (17)$$

$$= X_A + X_B - X_A X_B \quad (18)$$

- **Probability of event  $E$  with expected value Operator  $E(\cdot)$** :  $p(E) = E(X_E)$

$$p(E) = p(X_E = 1) \cdot 1 + p(X_E = 0) \cdot 0 = E(X_E) \quad (19)$$

- **Multiple, non-mutually exclusive events**:

$$X_{\cap} = \Pi X_i \quad (20)$$

- Probability of event  $E_{\cap}$  for the intersection of n events:

$$P(E_{\cap}) = E[X_{\cap}] = \Pi P(E_j) \text{ (if events are independant)} \quad (21)$$

- Union of event  $E_{\cup}$  for the union of n events:

$$X_{\cup} = 1 - \Pi(1 - X_j) = X_A + X_B + X_C \quad (22)$$

$$-X_A X_B - X_A X_C - X_B X_C - X_A X_B X_C \quad (23)$$

- Probability of even  $E_{\cup}$  for the union of n events:

$$P(E_{\cup}) = E[X_{\cup}] = \sum P(E_j) - \quad (24)$$

$$\sum \sum P(E_j \cap E_i) + (-1)^{n+1} P(\cap E_j) \quad (25)$$

### Structure Function and Minimal Cut Sets

- Cut Set: Is a logical combination of primary event (**combination of component failures**) which render true the top event (**system failure**)
- Minimal Cut Sets: Cut set that does not have another cut set as a subset. This means repairing one element of the set repairs the entire system. Therefore, removing one element of a MCS makes it no longer a cut set.

Any fault tree  $\Phi(X)$  can be equivalently written as an OR-gate in the first level below the top event combining the minimal cut sets, each in return represented by an AND-gate intersecting all elements comprising the given minimal cut set

$$\Phi(X) = 1 - (1 - M_1)(1 - M_2)(1 - M_3) \dots \quad (26)$$

$$\dots(1 - M_{mcs}) = \Pi_j^{mcs} M_j \quad (27)$$

$$P(\Phi(X) = 1) = E[\sum M_j - \sum \sum M_i M_j + \dots \quad (28)$$

$$\dots + (-1)^{mcs+1} \Pi M_j \quad (29)$$

$$= \sum P(M_j) - \sum \sum P(M_i M_j) + \dots \quad (30)$$

$$\dots + (-1)^{mcs+1} P(\Pi M_j) \quad (31)$$

- First event approximation:  $\sum P(M_j)$

- Second event approximation:  
 $\sum P(M_j) - \sum_i^{mcs-1} \sum_j^{mcs} P(M_i M_j)$

Important fact: Idempotent law follows for Boolean values -  $X * X = X$

$$P(M_1 M_2) = P(M_1 \cap M_2) = E[M_1 \cap M_2] = \quad (32)$$

$$E[X_1 X_2 \cap X_2 X_3 X_4] = E[X_1 X_2 X_2 X_3 X_4] \quad (33)$$

$$= E[X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4] \quad (34)$$

if both events M are independent, then

$$P(M_1 M_2) = P(X_1)P(X_2)P(X_3)P(X_4) = p_k(T_m)^4 \quad (35)$$

The occurrence probability of  $X_2$  will only be appearing once in the calculation of the intersection of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  and hence the Unreliability (Failure Rate) calculations become more exact through subtraction of the intersection (second event approximation) and will be bounded by both approximations:

$$\sum P(M_j) - \sum \sum P M_i M_j < U_{mcs}(T_m) < \sum P(M_j) \quad (36)$$

### Reliability Analysis

#### Series System

- All components must function in order of a functioning system

$$R(t) = \Pi R_i(t) \quad (37)$$

- For  $N$  exponential components:

$$R(t) = e^{-\lambda t} \quad (38)$$

$$\lambda = \sum \lambda_i \text{ (System Failure Rate)} \quad (39)$$

$$E[T] = 1/\lambda(\text{MTTF}) \quad (40)$$

#### Parallel System

- All components must fail in order the system to fail

$$R(t) = 1 - \Pi [1 - R_i(t)] \quad (41)$$

- For  $N$  exponential components:

$$R(t) = 1 - \Pi [1 - e^{-\lambda_i t}] \quad (42)$$

$$MTTF = \sum 1/\lambda_i \sum \sum 1/(\lambda_i + \lambda_j) + \dots \quad (43)$$

$$\dots + \sum \sum \sum 1/(\lambda_i + \lambda_j + \lambda_k) + \dots \quad (44)$$

$$\dots + (-1)^{N-1} 1/\sum \lambda_i \quad (45)$$

- Example with two exponential units of failure rates  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ :

$$MTTF = \frac{1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\lambda_2} - \frac{1}{[\lambda_1 + \lambda_2]} \quad (46)$$

- For  $N$  identical elements, compare series and parallel:

$$\text{parallel : } MTTF = \sum_n^N \frac{1}{n\lambda} \quad (47)$$

$$\text{series : } MTTF = \frac{1}{N\lambda} \quad (48)$$

$$MTTF_{\text{parallel}} < MTTF_{\text{series}} \quad (49)$$

## Markov Processes: Basic Elements

### System

- The system can occupy a finite/countable number of states  $N$
- The states are mutually exclusive, i.e. the system is in one state at each time
- The states are exhaustive, i.e. the system must be in one state at all times

**Transitions** between States occur **stochastically**, i.e. randomly in time

### Mathematical Representation

- The random process of the state transition can be described by an integer random variable, e.g.  $X(t) = 5$ , the system occupies state 5 at time  $t$
- The stochastic process can be observed at discrete times, and we assume that time intervals between states is such small that only one transition occurs between two states

### The conceptual Model: Discrete States

- The state transition will be described by an integer random variable  $X(n)$  is the system state at time  $t_n$ ,  $X(3) = 5$  means that the system occupies state 5 at time  $t_3$
- The objective is: Compute the probability that the system is in a given state at given time  $t$ , for all possible states and times
- **In general stochastic processes:** The probability of a future state depends on its entire life history

- **In Markov processes:** The probability of a future state only depends on the present state. The process has no memory

- The transition probability that the system in state  $i$  at time  $t_m$  moves to state  $j$  at time  $t_n$

$$p_{ij}(m, n) = P[X(n) = j | X(m) = i], n > m \geq 0 \quad (50)$$

$$i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (51)$$

#### Properties of Transition Probabilities

- Transition probabilities are greater or equal to 0
- Transitions must sum up to 1

$$p_{ij}(m, n) = p[X(n) = j, X(m) = i] \\ = \sum_k p_{ik}(m, r) p_{kj}(r, n), \\ i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$$

#### Stationary Transition Probabilities

- If the transition probability  $p_{ij}(m, n)$  depends on the time interval  $(t_n - t_m)$  and not on the individual times  $t_m$  and  $t_n$ , then

- The transition probabilities are stationary
- The Markov Process is homogeneous in time

$$p_{ij}(m, n) = p_{ij}(k), k \geq 0, i, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (52)$$

- We only need to know the **stationary one-step transition probabilities**  $p_{ij}(1) = p_{ij}$

#### The Transition Probability Matrix:

$$\underline{A}_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} p_{00} & p_{01} & \dots & p_{0N} \\ p_{10} & p_{11} & \dots & p_{1N} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ p_{N0} & p_{N1} & \dots & p_{NN} \end{pmatrix} \quad (53)$$

- $\dim(A) = (N + 1) \times (N + 1)$
- $0 \leq p_{ij} \leq 1, \forall i, j \in \{0, 1, \dots, N\}$
- $\sum_j p_{ij} = 1$ , hence only  $(N + 1) \times N$  elements must be known
- $\underline{A}$  is a stochastic Matrix

#### Unconditional State Probabilities:

$$\underline{P}(n) = [P_0(n), P_1(n), \dots, P_j(n), \dots, P_N(n)] = \quad (54)$$

$$\text{probabilities of being in state } 0, 1, \dots, N \text{ at time step } n \quad (55)$$

$$\underline{P}(0) = \underline{C} = [C_0, C_1, \dots, C_j, \dots, C_N] = \quad (56)$$

$$\text{initial vector at time step } n=0 \quad (57)$$

At the first time step  $n = 1$ :

$$P_j(1) = P[X(1) = j] \quad (58)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^N P[X(1) = j | X(0) = i] \cdot P[X(0) = i] \quad (59)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^N p_{ij} C_i, \text{ with } j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (60)$$

The fundamental equation follows:

$$\underline{P}(n) = \underline{P}(0) \cdot \underline{A}^n = \underline{C} \cdot \underline{A}^n \quad (61)$$

$$\underline{A}^n = \begin{pmatrix} p_{00}(n) & p_{01}(n) & \dots & p_{0N}(n) \\ p_{10}(n) & p_{11}(n) & \dots & p_{1N}(n) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ p_{N0}(n) & p_{N1}(n) & \dots & p_{NN}(n) \end{pmatrix} \quad (62)$$

$$p_{ij}(n) = P[X(n) = j | X(0) = i] \quad (63)$$

The probability of arriving in state  $j$  after  $n$  steps given the initial state was  $i$

#### General Solution of the Fundamental Equation

1. Solve the eigenvalue ( $\omega$ ) problem:  $\underline{V} \cdot \underline{A} = \omega \cdot \underline{V}$
2. With the eigenvectors:  $\underline{V}_j \cdot \underline{A} = \omega_j \cdot \underline{V}_j$
3.  $\underline{P}(n) = \sum_{j=0}^N \alpha_j \cdot \underline{V}_j$  and  $\underline{C} = \sum_{j=0}^N c_j \cdot \underline{V}_j$  are linear combinations of the eigenvectors
4. The coefficients can be found through the adjoint eigenvalue problem

$$5. \text{ The general solution yields: } \underline{P}(n) = \sum_{j=0}^N c_j \cdot \omega_j^n \cdot \underline{V}_j$$

$$6. \text{ The availability at time } k: A(k) = \sum_{j \in \text{success states}} P_j(k)$$

#### Steady State Probabilities:

1. Solve  $\underline{\Pi} = \underline{\Pi} \cdot \underline{A}$  with  $\sum_{j=0}^N \Pi_j = 1$  (2 equations)

#### First-passage Probabilities

- Probability that the system arrives **for the first time** in state  $j$  **after  $n$  steps**, given that it was in state  $i$  at the initial time 0

$$f_{ij}(n) = P[X(n) = j \text{ for the first time} | X(0) = i] \\ f_{ij}(n) = P[X(n) = j, X(m) \neq j, 0 < m < n | X(0) = i]$$

- Notice that  $f_{ij}(n) \neq p_{ij}(n)$  = probability that the system reaches state  $j$  **after  $n$  steps** starting from state  $i$ , but **not necessarily for the first time**

#### General Formula for the first-passage probability

$$f_{ij}(k) = \underbrace{p_{ij}(k)}_{(I)} - \underbrace{\sum_{l=1}^{k-1} f_{ij}(k-l) p_{jj}(l)}_{(II)} \quad (64)$$

$$R(k) = 1 - \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{j \in \text{failed states}} f_{ij}(l) \quad (65)$$

The probability of passing the state  $j$  from  $i$  is the transition probability at time step  $k$ , given it was in  $i$  at 0 ( $I$ ) whereas ( $II$ ) is the probability of staying in  $j$  as it reached the state prior to time step  $k$

The reliability is defined as the probability at time  $k$  where the system has not yet failed, hence we subtract all first passage probabilities of all failed states up to time  $k$

#### Recurrent, Transient and Absorbing States

- Recurrent: The system at state  $i$  will surely return to  $i$  **sooner or later**:

$$\Pi_i \neq 0 \quad (66)$$

- Transient: The system at state  $i$  has a **finite probability** of **never** returning to it:

$$\Pi_i = 0 \quad (67)$$

### Average Occupation Time of a State

- The average occupation time of a state  $i$  for  $l_i$  steps = Average number of steps before the system exits the state  $i$ :

$$l_i[\text{steps}] = \frac{1}{P(\text{System exits state } i)} \quad (68)$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 - P(\text{System remains in } i)} = \frac{1}{1 - p_{ii}} \quad (69)$$

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### Continuous-time Discrete-state Markov Processes

What are they useful for?

- Model the evolution of one component or system as a structure of components
- To find the probability that the system will be functioning at time  $t^*$