

Contents

1 The Concept of Measurable Quality	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Is Conformity Synonymous with Reliability? Some Definitions.....	2
1.3 Failures, Faults and Their Classification	4
References	6
2 The Concept of “Statistical” Reliability.....	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Definition of Probability.....	8
2.2.1 Axioms of Probability	9
2.2.2 Law of Large Numbers	9
2.3 The Random Variables	10
2.4 Probability Distribution	11
2.5 The Characteristics of Reliability	14
2.5.1 Reliability.....	14
2.5.2 Failure Rate	17
2.6 The Frequency Approach.....	18
Example 1	20
2.7 Models of Failure Rate	23
Example 2.....	25
2.8 Other Laws	26
Exponential Law.....	27
Log-normal Distribution.....	29
Weibull Distribution.....	30
References	32
3 Reliability Analysis in the Design Phase	33
3.1 Introduction.....	33
3.2 Reliability Evaluation of Series, Parallel and Mixed Structures	34
3.2.1 The Series Functional Configuration	34
Example 1	35
Example 2.....	36
Example 3.....	36
3.2.2 The Concept of Redundancy: Parallel Functional	
Configuration	37
Example 4	38
Example 5.....	39

Example 6	40
Example 7	41
Example 8	42
3.3 Types of Redundancy	42
3.4 Functional Configuration k out of n	43
Example 9	43
Example 10	44
Example 11	46
Example 12	46
Example 13	46
Example 14	49
Example 15	50
Example 16	54
References	57
4 Experimental Reliability and Laboratory Tests	59
4.1 Introduction	59
4.2 Stress Factors	60
4.3 Component Degradation	64
4.4 The Prediction Approach	65
4.5 Failure Modes	70
4.6 Laboratory Tests on Components and Systems	71
References	76
5 Reliability Prediction Handbooks: Evaluation of the System	
Failure Rate	77
5.1 Introduction	77
5.2 Second Generation Handbooks	78
5.3 MIL-Handbook-217	78
5.4 Failure Rate Data Bank (FARADA)	79
5.5 Third Generation Data Banks	79
5.6 Calculation of the Failure Rate	81
Example 1	81
Example 2	82
5.7 FIT: A More Recent Unit	83
References	83
6 Repairable Systems and Availability	85
6.1 Introduction	85
6.2 Mean Time To Repair/Restore (MTTR)	86
6.2.1 A Particular Case	87
6.3 Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)	87
6.4 The Significance of Availability in the Life Cycle of a Product	88
6.5 Instantaneous Availability	89
6.6 Dependability: An Evaluation of the “Level of Confidence” in Reference to the Correct Functioning of the System	89

6.7 The Prerequisites of Dependability	91
References	92
7 Techniques and Methods to Support Dependability	93
7.1 Introduction	93
7.2 Introduction to Quantitative Techniques.....	94
7.3 Evaluation of Availability Using Analytical Models.....	95
7.4 Markov Models.....	95
7.5 Transition Matrix and Fundamental Equation	98
7.6 Diagrams of State	98
Case 1 – Analysis of a system with one element	98
a) Non-repairable element	98
b) Repairable element.....	99
Case 2 - Analysis of a system with two elements	100
7.7 Evaluation of Reliability.....	101
7.8 Calculation of Reliability, Unreliability and Availability.....	102
7.9 Markov Analysis of a System: Application Example	103
7.10 Numerical Resolution of the System	106
7.11 Possible Solutions to the Absence of Memory of the Markov Model	108
References	109
8 Qualitative Techniques.....	111
8.1 Introduction	111
8.2 Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA)	113
8.2.1 Operative Procedure.....	114
Step 1 – Definition of the System.....	114
Step 2 – Elaboration of Block Diagrams	115
Step 3 – Definition of Basic Principals.....	115
Step 4 – Definition of Failure Modes	115
Step 5 – Identifying the causes of failures.	118
Step 6 – Identifying the effects of failure modes.	118
Step 7 – Definition of measures and methods for identifying and isolating failures.....	119
Step 8 – Prevention of undesirable events	119
Step 9 – Classification of the severity of final effects.	119
Step 10 – Multiple failure modes.....	120
Step 11 – Recommendations	120
8.2.2 FMEA Typology	120
8.2.3 The Concept of Criticality.....	122
8.2.4 Final Considerations on FMEA Analysis.....	122
Example 1	122
8.2.4.1 Analysis of Failure Modes: Discussion and Exclusions	123
8.2.4.2 Drafting the FMEA Table	124
Example 2	124
Example 3	127

8.3 Failure Mode, Effects, and Criticality Analysis (FMECA)128

8.3.1 Failure Modes and Their Probability.....130

8.3.2 Evaluation of Criticality130

8.3.3 FMECA Based on the Concept of Risk.....130

8.3.4 FMECA Based on the Failure Rate135

8.3.4.1 Evaluation of the Criticality Coefficient of
a Component137

8.3.4.2 Failure Rate Evaluation138

8.3.5 Worksheet Examples.....139

8.4 Fault Tree Analysis (FTA).....144

Phase 1: Fault Tree logical construction.....145

Phase 2: Probability evaluation of fault tree.....145

8.4.1 Graphical Constructing of a Fault Tree.....147

8.4.2 Qualitative Analysis of a Fault Tree.....150

8.4.3 Quantitative Analysis of a Fault Tree.....151

8.4.4 Advantages and Disadvantages of Fault Tree Analysis (FTA)153

8.5 An Overview Example.....154

References158

Index159