

Structural Reliability
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Lecture –98
Representation of Systems (Part -02)

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Structural Reliability
Lecture 12
Representation
of systems

System representation - enumeration

State space

Let the system be composed of n elements, and let each element have a binary representation: (i) working or up (denoted by 1), and (ii) failed or down (denoted by 0):

$$X_i = \text{indicator fn for element } i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if element is working} \\ 0 & \text{if element not working} \end{cases}$$


The time dependence in element performance is implied:

$$\{X_i = 1 \text{ at time } t\} = \{T_i > t\}$$

The system can be represented by a point in n dimensional space, with axis i representing the state of the i^{th} element. There will be 2^n such distinct points, i.e., "states" of the system, and depending on the system's architecture, some of these will correspond to system failure, while the others will not.

For small systems, the state space representation can be listed out, i.e., "enumerated," for each state of the system.

Do the elements have to be binary? No. Items can have multiple failure modes.



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System representation through the method of enumeration: So, what we will talk about is the state space. The systems are composed of n elements and let us say; each element is binary in nature. So, let the state one be that it is working or in an upstate and let the state zero be for its failure or it is in the; So, I can have the performance indicated for each element X_i . So, that is equal to one if the element is working and zero every element is not the if time was an important aspect here which it often is so that is implied.

So, if X_i is one at time t that means the time to failure which we have not discussed we will in a week or two from now that is greater than small t . So, random time to failure of element i exceeds small t it is the same thing as saying X_i is equal to 1 at time T . So this we could do for all such elements of the system. So, if the elements are binary in nature then we would have 2^n to the power and the entire power set of such states and that would each of those points each of those 2^n points would give me a state for the system itself.

would have failed. If we look at row number four if the next slot fails the bridge has failed even if all the others are up. Likewise the next row, row number five if girder one has failed that means failure of the system the girders are numbered from left to right or end to end. So, if it's one of the end girders and it has failed then the bridge has failed for all practical purposes.

So, that is row number five but it could be and that is what I think is happening to the bridge here that is that is our understanding is if in row number six if girder two has failed and everything else is up then the bridge is able to take that loss and still function. So, even if girder 2 has failed but the others are up the bridge is up that is that is what we find here. Obviously it will depend on the bridge's behaviour on its design and construction but that is one of the things that will come out only from our understanding and analysis of the mechanics of the system.

The next row likewise we make the same argument that if girder three fails another interior girder and the others are all functioning then the bridge will still be okay again. The next row if the other four fails then the bridge has failed because it is one of the end curves. This way we could enumerate all the states of the system and if the number of states is small it is actually a feasible method until we have exhausted all the 128 possibilities. The last row being all of them is down and the bridge system is down as a result.