

UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
PETRONAS

FINAL EXAMINATION JANUARY 2024 SEMESTER

COURSE : MEB4333 - ASSET RELIABILITY, AVAILABILITY AND
MAINTAINABILITY (RAM)
DATE : 18 APRIL 2024 (THURSDAY)
TIME : 2.30 PM - 5.30 PM (3 HOURS)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer **ALL** questions in the Answer Booklet.
2. Begin **EACH** answer on a new page in the Answer Booklet.
3. Indicate clearly answers that are cancelled, if any.
4. Where applicable, show clearly steps taken in arriving at the solutions and indicate **ALL** assumptions, if any.
5. **DO NOT** open this Question Booklet until instructed.

Note :

- i. There are **TWELVE (12)** pages in this Question Booklet including the cover page and appendix.
- ii. **DOUBLE-SIDED** Question Booklet.

1. A study has been conducted to estimate the life distribution of mechanical seals for pumps operated in highly corrosive and abrasive environment. The observation period of one year (8760 hours) for five new seals (for both at the drive end (DE) and non-drive end (NDE)) were performed and the failures for the seals were recorded. All the seals failed at 628, 3444, 822, 846 and 236 hours of operation. It is assumed that the failure data conforms well to the Exponential distribution, having the failure rate of 0.00065 failure/hour.
- a. The analysis must be presented to the management in order to project the number of spares needed in the warehouse. How would you justify that the selected Exponential distribution is the right distribution to represent the life of the seals at 90% confidence level?
- [8 marks]
- b. Estimate the upper and lower bounds for the mean time to failures (MTTF) of the seals at 90% confidence level.
- [8 marks]
- c. Evaluate the probability that the seal will fail within 1000 hours of operation
- [3 marks]
- d. The reliability characteristics of any item throughout its service life can be typically explained in 3 different stages. You are required to illustrate and discuss the 3 stages.
- [6 marks]

2. ChemInd Sdn. Bhd. is a chemical manufacturing plant producing speciality chemical used as detergents for high performance fuel or dispersants for lubricant. Due to past year's high maintenance cost and high breakdown time, the plant's general manager instructed the asset and reliability team to review all the equipment, as well as piping and instrumentation items in order to reduce the maintenance cost and breakdown time.

From the data collected by the asset and reliability team, they noticed that the mechanical seal equipped to five centrifugal pumps failed at 209, 163, 271, 196 and 188 days of operation. The failure data is assumed to fit well in the Weibull distribution.

- a. Weibull distribution has two parameters which are β , the shape parameter and η , the scale parameter. Prove that $m = \beta$ and $c = -\beta \ln(\eta)$ by performing the linearization steps of the Weibull cumulative distribution function,

$$F(t) = 1 - e^{-\left(\frac{t}{\eta}\right)^\beta}$$

so that you will get in term of a linear equation, $y = mx + c$.

[8 marks]

- b. Using the median ranking method and the rank regression method in **part (a)**, assess the parameters for Weibull distribution. Comment the β value.

[11 marks]

- c. Determine the upper and lower 90% confidence limits on the true value of β and η .

[6 marks]

3. A fluid dispensing system consists of a main valve and two pumps arranged in parallel configuration. The main valve is used to control the fluid flow from the two pumps. Both pumps are driven by electric motors. Because of the recent safety incident, you, as a reliability engineer, are tasked to study and to predict the reliability of the fluid dispensing system so that mitigation plans can be put in place to prevent unscheduled breakdown.

The analysis of the system indicates that pump is one of the critical equipment. **TABLE Q3** shows the time between failures data and the end of observation time is at 900 days.

TABLE Q3

No	Time between failures (days)
1	150
2	188
3	61
4	105
5	199
6	110

- Apply the Laplace trend test in your analysis and conclude your finding.
[6 marks]
- Assuming the pump went through minimal repair, estimate the expected number of failures and reliability, three years after the observation ended.
[14 marks]
- Discuss **THREE (3)** advantages and **TWO (2)** limitations of performing repairable system analysis using reliability block diagram.
[5 marks]

4. There has been a continuing and increasing interest in methods for power system reliability assessment and one of the methods used is fault tree analysis. **FIGURE Q4** shows one of the fault trees developed to estimate the risk for power system configuration.

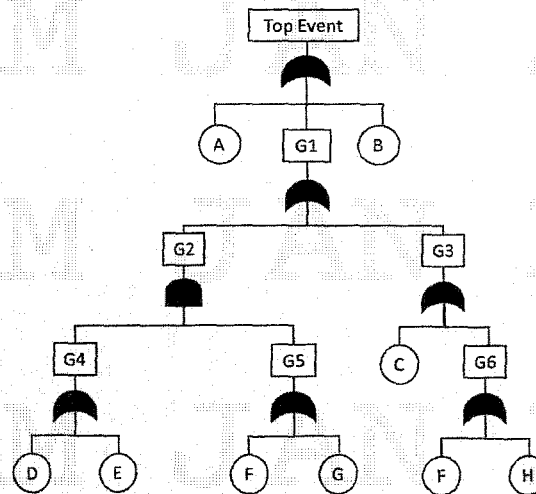


FIGURE Q4

- a. By using bottom-up approach **ONLY**, propose the minimal cut set for the fault tree and draw the simplified fault tree. [12 marks]
- b. Then, by using **ONLY** the simplified fault tree, determine the probability of the top event to occur by employing the probabilities of occurrence of basic events as shown in **TABLE Q4**.

TABLE Q4: Probabilities of occurrence of basic events

Event	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Probability	0.15	0.18	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.11	0.09	0.02

- [8 marks]
- c. Discuss **FIVE (5)** key features of cut set and minimal cut set with regards to fault tree analysis. [5 marks]

- END OF PAPER -

FORMULA SHEET

Normal distribution :

Sample standard deviation

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

Standardized normal variate (Z Table)

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

Adjust rank

$$i = \text{Adjusted Rank} = \frac{\text{Reverse Rank} \times \text{Previous adjusted Rank} + (N+1)}{1 + (\text{Reverse Rank})}$$

Median rank (Bernard's approximation):

$$\text{Median Rank } r_j = \frac{j - 0.3}{N + 0.4}$$

j = Failure order number (rank number)

N = sample size

Two-Parameter Weibull:

$$f(t) = \frac{\beta}{\eta} \left(\frac{t}{\eta} \right)^{\beta-1} e^{-\left(\frac{t}{\eta} \right)^{\beta}}$$

$$F(t) = 1 - e^{-\left(\frac{t}{\eta} \right)^{\beta}}$$

Confidence bounds for Weibull Parameters:

$$\hat{\beta} \exp\left(\frac{-0.78z_{1-\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}}\right) \leq \beta \leq \hat{\beta} \exp\left(\frac{0.78z_{1-\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

$$\hat{\eta} \exp\left(\frac{-1.05z_{1-\alpha/2}}{\hat{\beta}\sqrt{n}}\right) \leq \eta \leq \hat{\eta} \exp\left(\frac{1.05z_{1-\alpha/2}}{\hat{\beta}\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

Exponential Distribution

$$f(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} = \frac{1}{m} e^{-\frac{1}{m}t}$$

$$F(t) = 1 - e^{-\lambda t} = 1 - e^{-\frac{1}{m}t}$$

Linearizing Exponential:

$$\ln\left[\frac{1}{1-F(t)}\right] = \lambda t$$

$$y = \ln\left[\frac{1}{1-F(t)}\right]$$

$$y = Bx + C$$

x: t

B: Slope = λ

Confidence bounds for exponential

$$MTBF_U = \frac{2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{\chi^2_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k}}$$

$$MTBF_L = \frac{2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{\chi^2_{\frac{\alpha}{2}, k}}$$

Where $k = \begin{cases} 2(r+1) & \text{for Type I data} \\ 2r & \text{for Type II or completed data} \end{cases}$

Lognormal Distribution

$$F(x) = \Phi\left(\frac{\ln x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

$$f(t') = \frac{1}{\sigma' \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{t' - \mu'}{\sigma'}\right)^2}$$

$$A_A = \frac{MTBMA}{MTBMA + MMT}$$

$$MTBMA = \frac{1}{\lambda + f_{PM}}$$

λ = the failure rate (assuming all failures are repaired).

f_{PM} = the frequency of preventive maintenance, the reciprocal of PM Cycle.

$$MMT = \frac{\lambda MTTR + f_{PM} MPMT}{\lambda + f_{PM}}$$

Where $MTTR$ is the mean CM time and $MPMT$ is the mean PM time.

$$L = \frac{\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{\hat{n}} T_j}{\hat{n}} - \frac{1}{2}(b+a)}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{12(\hat{n})}(b-a)^2}}$$

a – start of observation time

b – end of observation time

T_j – cumulative time between failure

\hat{n} – number of failure

Note: If the last failure occurs at the end of the observation period (i.e., $t_n = T$), then use $n - 1$ instead of n in the formula

$$\hat{\beta} = \frac{r}{r \ln(T) - \sum_{i=1}^r \ln(T_i)}$$

r - number of failure

T - observation time

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{r}{T^{\hat{\beta}}}$$

$$E\{N(T_2) - N(T_1)\} = \lambda(T_2^{\beta} - T_1^{\beta})$$

$$R(T_1, T_2) = e^{-\lambda(T_2^{\beta} - T_1^{\beta})}$$

$$R(t) = e^{-[\lambda(t+a)^{\beta} - \lambda t^{\beta}]}$$

$$MTBF(T_1, T_2) = \frac{(T_2 - T_1)}{\lambda(T_2^{\beta} - T_1^{\beta})}$$

Rank Regression, $y = bx + a$

$$\hat{a} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N y_i}{N} - \hat{b} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{N} = \bar{y} - \hat{b}\bar{x}$$

$$\hat{b} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i y_i - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \sum_{i=1}^N y_i}{N}}{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i\right)^2}{N}}$$

Correlation coefficient, r :

$$r = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][n\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i y_i - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \sum_{i=1}^N y_i}{N}}{\sqrt{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i\right)^2}{N}\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^N y_i^2 - \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N y_i\right)^2}{N}\right)}}$$

Coefficient of determination = r^2 **Boolean Algebra rules**

Rules	Expressions
1. Associative Law	$(A + B) + C = A + (B + C) = A + B + C$ $(AB)C = A(BC) = ABC$
2. Distributive Law	$X(Y + Z) = XY + XZ$ $X + YZ = (X + Y)(X + Z)$
3. Commutative Law	$AB = BA$ $A + B = B + A$
4. Absorption Law	$X + XY = X$ $X(X + Y) = X$
5. Idempotent Law	$A \cdot A = A$ $A + A = A$

Standard Normal Table, Z

x	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
0.0	0.5000	0.5040	0.5080	0.5120	0.5160	0.5199	0.5239	0.5279	0.5319	0.5359
0.1	0.5398	0.5438	0.5478	0.5517	0.5557	0.5596	0.5636	0.5675	0.5714	0.5753
0.2	0.5793	0.5832	0.5871	0.5910	0.5948	0.5987	0.6026	0.6064	0.6103	0.6141
0.3	0.6179	0.6217	0.6255	0.6293	0.6331	0.6368	0.6406	0.6443	0.6480	0.6517
0.4	0.6554	0.6591	0.6628	0.6664	0.6700	0.6736	0.6772	0.6808	0.6844	0.6879
0.5	0.6915	0.6950	0.6985	0.7019	0.7054	0.7088	0.7123	0.7157	0.7190	0.7224
0.6	0.7257	0.7291	0.7324	0.7357	0.7389	0.7422	0.7454	0.7486	0.7517	0.7549
0.7	0.7580	0.7611	0.7642	0.7673	0.7704	0.7734	0.7764	0.7794	0.7823	0.7852
0.8	0.7881	0.7910	0.7939	0.7967	0.7995	0.8023	0.8051	0.8078	0.8106	0.8133
0.9	0.8159	0.8186	0.8212	0.8238	0.8264	0.8289	0.8315	0.8340	0.8365	0.8389
1.0	0.8413	0.8438	0.8461	0.8485	0.8508	0.8531	0.8554	0.8577	0.8599	0.8621
1.1	0.8643	0.8665	0.8686	0.8708	0.8729	0.8749	0.8770	0.8790	0.8810	0.8830
1.2	0.8849	0.8869	0.8888	0.8907	0.8925	0.8944	0.8962	0.8980	0.8997	0.9015
1.3	0.9032	0.9049	0.9066	0.9082	0.9099	0.9115	0.9131	0.9147	0.9162	0.9177
1.4	0.9192	0.9207	0.9222	0.9236	0.9251	0.9265	0.9279	0.9292	0.9306	0.9319
1.5	0.9332	0.9345	0.9357	0.9370	0.9382	0.9394	0.9406	0.9418	0.9429	0.9441
1.6	0.9452	0.9463	0.9474	0.9484	0.9495	0.9505	0.9515	0.9525	0.9535	0.9545
1.7	0.9554	0.9564	0.9573	0.9582	0.9591	0.9599	0.9608	0.9616	0.9625	0.9633
1.8	0.9641	0.9649	0.9656	0.9664	0.9671	0.9678	0.9686	0.9693	0.9699	0.9706
1.9	0.9713	0.9719	0.9726	0.9732	0.9738	0.9744	0.9750	0.9756	0.9761	0.9767
2.0	0.9772	0.9778	0.9783	0.9788	0.9793	0.9798	0.9803	0.9808	0.9812	0.9817
2.1	0.9821	0.9826	0.9830	0.9834	0.9838	0.9842	0.9846	0.9850	0.9854	0.9857
2.2	0.9861	0.9864	0.9868	0.9871	0.9875	0.9878	0.9881	0.9884	0.9887	0.9890
2.3	0.9893	0.9896	0.9898	0.9901	0.9904	0.9906	0.9909	0.9911	0.9913	0.9916
2.4	0.9918	0.9920	0.9922	0.9925	0.9927	0.9929	0.9931	0.9932	0.9934	0.9936
2.5	0.9938	0.9940	0.9941	0.9943	0.9945	0.9946	0.9948	0.9949	0.9951	0.9952
2.6	0.9953	0.9955	0.9956	0.9957	0.9959	0.9960	0.9961	0.9962	0.9963	0.9964
2.7	0.9965	0.9966	0.9967	0.9968	0.9969	0.9970	0.9971	0.9972	0.9973	0.9974
2.8	0.9974	0.9975	0.9976	0.9977	0.9977	0.9978	0.9979	0.9979	0.9980	0.9981
2.9	0.9981	0.9982	0.9982	0.9983	0.9984	0.9984	0.9985	0.9985	0.9986	0.9986
3.0	0.9987	0.9987	0.9987	0.9988	0.9988	0.9989	0.9989	0.9989	0.9990	0.9990
3.1	0.9990	0.9991	0.9991	0.9991	0.9992	0.9992	0.9992	0.9992	0.9993	0.9993
3.2	0.9993	0.9993	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995
3.3	0.9995	0.9995	0.9995	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9996	0.9997
3.4	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9998

Kolmogorov-Smirnov Table

SAMPLE SIZE (N)	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR $D = \text{MAXIMUM ABS}[F_0(X) - F(X)]$				
	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.01
1	0.900	0.925	0.950	0.975	1
2	0.684	0.726	0.776	0.842	0.93
3	0.565	0.597	0.642	0.708	0.83
4	0.494	0.525	0.564	0.624	0.73
5	0.446	0.474	0.510	0.565	0.67
6	0.410	0.436	0.470	0.521	0.62
7	0.381	0.405	0.438	0.486	0.58
8	0.358	0.381	0.411	0.457	0.54
9	0.339	0.360	0.388	0.432	0.51
10	0.322	0.342	0.368	0.410	0.49
11	0.307	0.326	0.352	0.391	0.47
12	0.295	0.313	0.338	0.375	0.45
13	0.284	0.302	0.325	0.361	0.43
14	0.274	0.292	0.314	0.349	0.42
15	0.266	0.283	0.304	0.338	0.40
16	0.258	0.274	0.295	0.328	0.39
17	0.250	0.266	0.286	0.318	0.38
18	0.244	0.259	0.278	0.309	0.37
19	0.237	0.252	0.272	0.301	0.36
20	0.231	0.246	0.264	0.294	0.36
25	0.210	0.220	0.240	0.270	0.32
30	0.190	0.200	0.220	0.240	0.29
35	0.180	0.190	0.210	0.230	0.27

Chi-Square Table

Chi-Square Right-Tail Probability ($\geq \chi^2$)										
DF	0.995	0.99	0.975	0.95	0.9	0.1	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005
1	---	---	0.001	0.004	0.016	2.706	3.841	5.024	6.635	7.879
2	0.010	0.020	0.051	0.103	0.211	4.605	5.991	7.378	9.210	10.597
3	0.072	0.115	0.216	0.352	0.584	6.251	7.815	9.348	11.345	12.838
4	0.207	0.297	0.484	0.711	1.064	7.779	9.488	11.143	13.277	14.860
5	0.412	0.554	0.831	1.145	1.610	9.236	11.070	12.833	15.086	16.750
6	0.676	0.872	1.237	1.635	2.204	10.645	12.592	14.449	16.812	18.548
7	0.989	1.239	1.690	2.167	2.833	12.017	14.067	16.013	18.475	20.278
8	1.344	1.646	2.180	2.733	3.490	13.362	15.507	17.535	20.090	21.955
9	1.735	2.088	2.700	3.325	4.168	14.684	16.919	19.023	21.666	23.589
10	2.156	2.558	3.247	3.940	4.865	15.987	18.307	20.483	23.209	25.188
11	2.603	3.053	3.816	4.575	5.578	17.275	19.675	21.920	24.725	26.757
12	3.074	3.571	4.404	5.226	6.304	18.549	21.026	23.337	26.217	28.300
13	3.565	4.107	5.009	5.892	7.042	19.812	22.362	24.736	27.688	29.819
14	4.075	4.660	5.629	6.571	7.790	21.064	23.685	26.119	29.141	31.319
15	4.601	5.229	6.262	7.261	8.547	22.307	24.996	27.488	30.578	32.801
16	5.142	5.812	6.908	7.962	9.312	23.542	26.296	28.845	32.000	34.267
17	5.697	6.408	7.564	8.672	10.085	24.769	27.587	30.191	33.409	35.718
18	6.265	7.015	8.231	9.390	10.865	25.989	28.869	31.526	34.805	37.156
19	6.844	7.633	8.907	10.117	11.651	27.204	30.144	32.852	36.191	38.582
20	7.434	8.260	9.591	10.851	12.443	28.412	31.410	34.170	37.566	39.997
21	8.034	8.897	10.283	11.591	13.240	29.615	32.671	35.479	38.932	41.401
22	8.643	9.542	10.982	12.338	14.041	30.813	33.924	36.781	40.289	42.796
23	9.260	10.196	11.689	13.091	14.848	32.007	35.172	38.076	41.638	44.181
24	9.886	10.856	12.401	13.848	15.659	33.196	36.415	39.364	42.980	45.559
25	10.520	11.524	13.120	14.611	16.473	34.382	37.652	40.646	44.314	46.928
26	11.160	12.198	13.844	15.379	17.292	35.563	38.885	41.923	45.642	48.290
27	11.808	12.879	14.573	16.151	18.114	36.741	40.113	43.195	46.963	49.645
28	12.461	13.565	15.308	16.928	18.939	37.916	41.337	44.461	48.278	50.993
29	13.121	14.256	16.047	17.708	19.768	39.087	42.557	45.722	49.588	52.336
30	13.787	14.953	16.791	18.493	20.599	40.256	43.773	46.979	50.892	53.672
40	20.707	22.164	24.433	26.509	29.051	51.805	55.758	59.342	63.691	66.766
50	27.991	29.707	32.357	34.764	37.689	63.167	67.505	71.420	76.154	79.490
60	35.534	37.485	40.482	43.188	46.459	74.397	79.082	83.298	88.379	91.952
70	43.275	45.442	48.758	51.739	55.329	85.527	90.531	95.023	100.425	104.215
80	51.172	53.540	57.153	60.391	64.278	96.578	101.879	106.629	112.329	116.321
90	59.196	61.754	65.647	69.126	73.291	107.565	113.145	118.136	124.116	128.299
100	67.328	70.065	74.222	77.929	82.358	118.498	124.342	129.561	135.807	140.169