



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***ESTIMATION METHOD OF MINIMUM PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
INTERVAL FOR AVIONICS SYSTEM***

AISYAH RAZANA BINTI MAHAYUDIN

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**ESTIMATION METHOD OF MINIMUM PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
INTERVAL FOR AVIONICS SYSTEM**

By

AISYAH RAZANA BINTI MAHAYUDIN

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of
Science**

February and 2014

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science.

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**Chair: Assoc. Prof. Lt. Col. (R)Mohamed Tarmizi Ahmad
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Maintenance simulation is important to foresee the impact on the availability percentage and maintenance cost before actual maintenance is done. Therefore, it is important to simulate a maintenance activity as close as possible to real life. The maintenance simulation requires a preset preventive maintenance interval (PMI). The thesis analyzes simulation for many PMIs at various maintenance types which are perfect, imperfect and minimal maintenance. Since the most realistic maintenance simulation is the main focus, imperfect maintenance is the best routine to simulate the maintenance activity. However, previous data of the maintenance activity are needed in order to simulate imperfect maintenance. Thus, in the thesis also proposes a way to simulate imperfect maintenance without having previous data of the maintenance activity. In order to prove the simulation procedure, the same maintenance activity is simulated with different types of maintenance degree which are perfect maintenance and minimal maintenance. Then, the simulation of imperfect maintenance is then compared with simulations of perfect and minimal maintenance. The simulation methodologies used are Monte Carlo simulation and Discrete Event simulation. For a case study of the simulation, two subsystems of avionics system are used. The subsystems are Flight Instruments and Engine Indication System. The avionics systems used is from Cirrus SR20 with Perspective Avionics. From the simulation, perfect maintenance has the highest availability percentage and minimal maintenance always has the lowest availability percentage. Meanwhile imperfect maintenance's availability percentage are in between perfect and imperfect maintenance. As for maintenance cost, minimal maintenance has the highest maintenance cost and perfect maintenance has the lowest maintenance cost. Meanwhile imperfect maintenance has a maintenance cost in between perfect and minimal maintenance. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that the methodology to simulate imperfect maintenance is relevant. Then, the relationship between maintenance cost and availability percentage is discussed

for each maintenance type. From the discussion, the minimum PMI is proposed based on preset criteria.



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Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master of Sains

**KAEDAH ANGGARAN SELANG MASA PENYELENGGARAAN MINIMA
UNTUK SISTEM AVIONIK**

Oleh

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Simulasi penyelenggaraan penting untuk meramal impak ke atas peratusan kesediaan dan kos penyelenggaraan sebelum penyelenggaraan sebenar dilakukan. Oleh itu, amat penting untuk melakukan simulasi aktiviti penyelenggaraan yang paling hampir dengan kehidupan sebenar. Simulasi penyelenggaraan memerlukan satu pratetap selang masa pencegahan penyelenggaraan (SPP). Tesis ini menganalisa simulasi untuk banyak SPP pada bermacam jenis penyelenggaraan iaitu kesempurnaan penyelenggaraan, ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan dan minima penyelenggaraan. Oleh kerana fokus utama adalah simulasi penyelenggaraan yang paling realistic, ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan adalah rutin terbaik untuk melakukan simulasi aktiviti penyelenggaraan. Walaubagaimanapun, maklumat aktiviti penyelenggaraan terdahulu diperlukan untuk melakukan simulasi ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan. Disebabkan itu, tesis ini turut menawarkan kaedah untuk melakukan simulasi ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan tanpa memperolehi maklumat aktiviti penyelenggaraan terdahulu. Untuk membuktikan prosedur simulasi ini, aktiviti penyelenggaraan yang sama disimulasikan dengan jenis-jenis penyelenggaraan yang berlainan. Jenis-jenis penyelenggaraan yang berlainan adalah kesempurnaan penyelenggaraan dan minima penyelenggaraan. Kemudian, simulasi ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan dibandingkan dengan simulasi kesempurnaan penyelenggaraan dan minima penyelenggaraan. Kaedah simulasi digunakan adalah mengikut kaedah simulasi Monte Carlo dan simulasi Discrete Event. Dua sub-sistem daripada system avionik digunakan sebagai kajian kes bagi simulasi ini. Dua sub-sistem berikut adalah Flight Instruments dan Engine Indication System. Sistem avionik ini adalah dari Cirrus SR20 dengan Perspective Avionik. Daripada simulasi tersebut, kesempurnaan penyelenggaraan mempunyai peratusan kesediaan tertinggi manakala minima penyelenggaraan mempunyai peratusan kesediaan terendah. Manakala peratusan kesediaan bagi ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan terletak di

antara peratusan kesediaan kesempurnaan penyelenggaraan dan peratusan kesediaan minima penyelenggaraan. Bagi kos penyelenggaraan, minimal penyelenggaraan mempunyai kos yang tertinggi dan kesempurnaan penyelenggaraan mempunyai kos yang terendah. Manakala ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan mempunyai kos di antara kos kesempurnaan penyelenggaraan dan kos minimum penyelenggaraan. Daripada keputusan tersebut, konklusi dapat dibuat bahawa kaedah untuk membuat simulasi ketidaksempurnaan penyelenggaraan adalah relevan. Kemudian, hubung kait antara kos penyelenggaraan dan peratusan kesediaan dibincangkan untuk setiap jenis penyelenggaraan. Daripada perbincangan tersebut, SPP yang paling minima diutarakan berdasarkan kriteria yg ditetapkan.



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From;
Aisyah Razana binti Mahayudin



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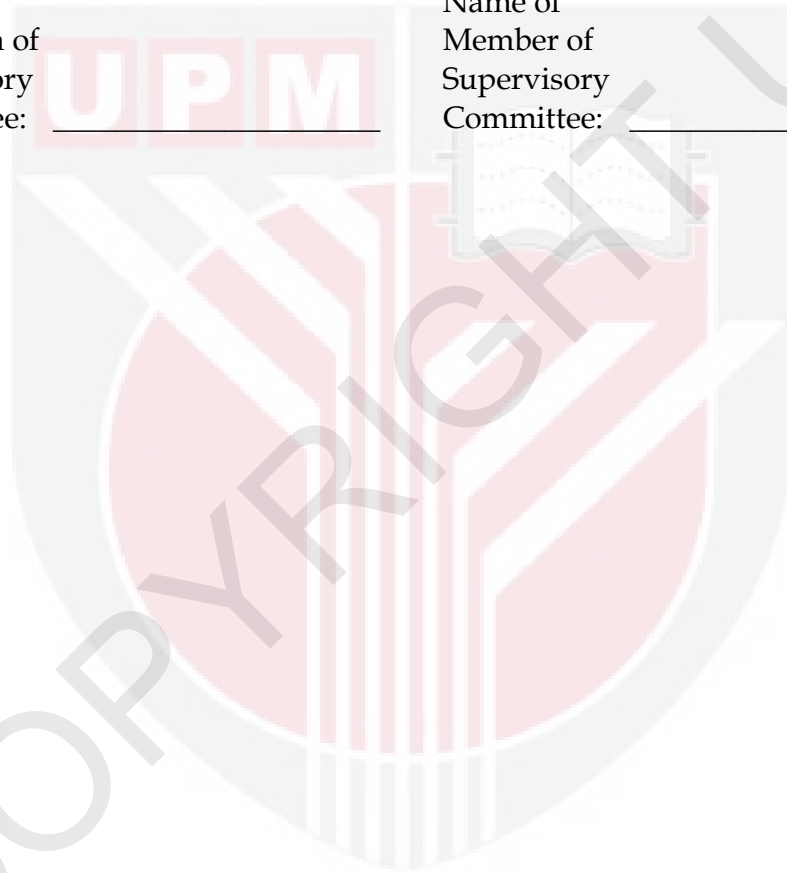


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	II
ABSTRAK	IV
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	V
APPROVAL	VII
DECLARATION	IX
LIST OF TABLES	XI
LIST OF FIGURES	XIII
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	XVIII
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	3
2.1 Availability And Maintenance Cost	3
2.1.1 System Configuration	3
2.1.2 Maintenance Policy	3
2.1.3 Relationship of Availability and Maintenance Cost	7
2.2 Existing Simulation Method of Availability and Maintenance Cost	10
2.2.1 Simulation Application	11
2.2.2 Evaluation Of Existing Simulation Method	11
2.3 Maintenance Types	12
2.3.1 Perfect Maintenance	12
2.3.2 Imperfect Maintenance	13
2.3.3 Minimal Maintenance	13
2.4 Avionics Maintenance	14
2.5 Summary	15
3. METHODOLOGY	16
3.1 Avionics System	16
3.1.1 Sub-System Avionics - Engine Indication System	19
3.1.2 Sub-System Avionics - Flight Instruments	22
3.2 Reliability Block Diagram	26
3.2.1 Minimum Equipment List	27
3.2.2 All Components	28
3.3 Mathematical Model	28
3.3.1 Reliability	28
3.3.2 Reliability Block Diagram (RBD) Calculation	31
3.3.3 Availability Calculation	32
3.3.4 Maintainability	33
3.3.5 Components' Age Calculation for Imperfect Maintenance	35
3.4 Estimating Components' Failure Rates	37

3.5	Estimating Cost	41
3.5.1	Cost for Maintenance	41
3.6	Monte Carlo and Discrete Event Simulation	45
3.6.1	Monte Carlo (MC) Simulation	45
3.6.2	Discrete Event Simulation (DES)	47
3.7	Summary	52
4.	RESULTS AND ANALYSIS	53
4.1	Validation on Monte Carlo Simulation	53
4.1.1	Monte Carlo Simulation for Exponential Distribution	53
4.1.2	Monte Carlo Simulation for Weibull Distribution	57
4.1.3	Monte Carlo Simulation for All Components in Avionics System	60
4.2	Validation on Discrete Event Simulation	67
4.3	Case Study: Simulation on Avionics System	79
4.3.1	Simulation at Different Preventive Maintenance Interval (PMI)	80
4.4	Summary	87
5.	SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	88
	REFERENCES	91
	APPENDICES	98
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	155
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	156

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1. Maintenance Degree Definition	12
3.1. List of Avionics Subsystems with Their General Function	17
3.2. List of LRU Components and Their Function for EIS	21
3.3. List of LRU and Their Functions for Flight Instruments	22
3.4. Summary of Mathematical Expression for Exponential and Weibull Distributions	30
3.5. List of LRU and Their Parameters	39
3.6. List of Maintenance Labor Cost for Each Component	43
3.7. List of Spare Part Price per Unit	44
4.1. Monte Carlo Simulation Parameters for Exponential Distribution	53
4.2. Monte Carlo Simulation Parameters for Weibull Distribution	57
4.3. Parameters for Simple Combination Series and Parallel System	67
4.4. Result Summary for Simple Combination Series and Parallel System	68
4.5. Result Summary for Simple Combination Series and Parallel System Per Component	69
D.1. Data for Component 2 in Detail	138
D.2. Result Summary of System Availability for Simple Combination Series and Parallel System at Different PMI for Corrective Maintenance Cost (A) and Spare Part Cost (A)	141
D.3. Result Summary of Maintenance Cost for Simple Combination Series and Parallel System at Different PMI for Corrective Maintenance Cost (A) and Spare Part Cost (A)	142

D.4. Result Summary of System Availability for Simple Combination Series and Parallel System at Different PMI for Corrective Maintenance Cost (B) and Spare Part Cost (B)	144
D.5. Result Summary of Maintenance Cost for Simple Combination Series and Parallel System at Different PMI for Corrective Maintenance Cost (B) and Spare Part Cost (B)	145
D.6. Result Summary of System Availability [%] at Different PMI	146
D.7. Result Summary of System Availability for MEL [%] at Different PMI	147
D.8. Result Summary of Total Maintenance Cost [USD] at Different PMI	148
D.9. Result Summary of Total Maintenance Cost per Hour [USD/hr] at Different PMI	149
D.10. Result Summary of Total Maintenance Cost [USD] Breakdown at Different PMI for Perfect Maintenance	150
D.11. Result Summary of Total Maintenance Cost [USD] Breakdown at Different PMI for Imperfect Maintenance	151
D.12. Result Summary of Total Maintenance Cost [USD] Breakdown at Different PMI for Minimal Maintenance	152
D.13. Result Summary of Total Failures Breakdown at Different PMI	153

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
2.1. Overview of Different Maintenance Type	9
2.2. Variation of Total Cost with MTBI	14
2.3. Variation of Availability with MTBI	14
2.4. Availability versus Inspection Durations	15
2.5. Average System Availability versus Number of PM Cycles	16
2.6. Optimal PM Interval versus PM Cycle	22
3.1. Perspective Integrated Avionics System Schematic	27
3.2. Schematic Diagram of Engine Indication System	28
3.3. Flight Display System Schematic	35
3.4. Pitot-Static System Schematic	36
3.5. System in Series Configuration	42
3.6. System in Parallel Configuration	43
3.7. System in Combination of Series and Parallel Configuration	43
3.8. RBD of Minimum Equipment List	44
3.9. RBD of All Components Functioning	45
3.10. Breakdown of Reliability Calculation for Combination of Series and Parallel System	52
3.11. Maintenance Downtime	55

3.12. Preventive Maintenance Activity	56
3.13. Diagram of RF Type I and II	59
3.14. Monte Carlo Simulation Process Flow	73
3.15. Overall Discrete Event Simulation Process Flow	75
3.16. Inside Process of "Calculate Availability for each component"	76
4.1. MC Simulation Results for Exponential Distribution at Failure Rate = 0.25 per hour	83
4.2. MC Simulation Results for Exponential Distribution at Failure Rate = 1.00 per hour	84
4.3. MC Simulation Results for Exponential Distribution at Failure Rate = 2.50 per hour	84
4.4. MC Simulation Results for Exponential Distribution at Failure Rate = 4.00 per hour	85
4.5. Exponential Distribution at Different Failure Rates	85
4.6. MC Simulation Results for Weibull Distribution at Shape Parameter = 0.5 and Scale Parameter = 500 hours	87
4.7. MC Simulation Results for Weibull Distribution at Shape Parameter = 1.5 and Scale Parameter = 500 hours	87
4.8. MC Simulation Results for Weibull Distribution at Shape Parameter = 2.0 and Scale Parameter = 500 hours	88

4.9. MC Simulation Results for Weibull Distribution at Shape Parameter = 4.0 and Scale Parameter = 500 hours	88
4.10. Weibull Distribution at Different Shape Parameters	89
4.11. MC Simulation for GEA 71 Engine Airframe Unit and GIA 63W Integrated Avionic Unit 1	90
4.12. MC Simulation for PFD, GARMIN, GDU 1240, 12 inch and MFD, GARMIN, GDU 1240, 12 inch	90
4.13. MC Simulation for Manifold Pressure Sensor (MAP Sensor) and Oil Pressure Sensor	91
4.14. MC Simulation for EGT Sensor w/ Perspective Avionics, CHT Sensor w/ Perspective Avionics and Oil Temperature Sensor w/ Perspective Avionics	91
4.15. MC Simulation for GCU 478 FMS Keyboard, Air Data Computer GDC 74 and Attitude Heading Reference System (AHRS) GRS 77	92
4.16. MC Simulation for Sensor Assembly w/ perspective avionics (RH Magneto for Techometer	92
4.17. MC Simulation for Fuel Flow Sensor Assembly	93
4.18. MC Simulation for Pitot System and Normal Static System	93
4.19. MC Simulation for Magnetometer GMU 44	94
4.20. MC Simulation for Altitude Encoder (Transponder) GTX 32	94
4.21. MC Simulation for GPS Receiver / Navigator (Antenna, WAAS GPS)	95
	xv

4.22. MC Simulation for Outside Air Temperature Sensor (OAT)	95
4.23. Simple Combination Series and Parallel System	96
4.24. Graph of Actual Time to Failure during the Mission	102
4.25. Graph of Availability based on Total Uptime	103
4.26. Graph of Availability based on Actual Time to Failure	104
4.27. Graph of Total Failures versus Total Uptime in Hours	105
4.28. Graph of Total Failures versus Mission Duration in Hours	105
4.29. Graph of Maintenance Cost [USD] versus Total Failures	106
4.30. Graph of Total Maintenance Cost [USD] versus Total Failures	107
4.31. Graph of Mission Availability versus PMI [Hours] for Corrective Maintenance Cost (A) and Spare Part Cost (A)	112
4.32. Graph of Mission Availability versus PMI [Hours] for Corrective Maintenance Cost (B) and Spare Part Cost (B)	112
4.33. Graph of Maintenance Cost [USD] versus PMI [Hours] for Corrective Maintenance Cost (A) and Spare Part Cost (A)	113
Figure 4.34. Graph of Maintenance Cost [USD] versus PMI [Hours] for Corrective Maintenance Cost (B) and Spare Part Cost (B)	113
Figure 4.35. Graph of Maintenance Cost [USD] versus Availability for Corrective Maintenance Cost (A) and Spare Part Cost (A)	114
Figure 4.36. Graph of Maintenance Cost [USD] versus Availability for Corrective Maintenance Cost (B) and Spare Part Cost (B)	114

4.37. Graph of Achieved Availability versus Preventive Maintenance Interval	115
4.38. Graph of Cost versus Availability	115
4.39. Graph of System Availability in Percentage at Different PMI	119
4.40. Graph of System Availability in Percentage for MEL at Different PMI	120
4.41. Graph of Total Maintenance Cost at Different PMI (1)	124
4.42. Graph of Total Maintenance Cost at Different PMI (2)	124
4.43. Graph of Total Failures at Different PMI	125
4.44. Graph of Maintenance Cost versus Availability for Avionics System	125

Glossary of Terms

Definitions of Terms for Reliability and Maintainability as per MIL-STD-721C [61]:

- Achieved: Obtained as a result of measurement.
- Alignment: Performing the adjustments that are necessary to return an item to specified operation.
- Availability: A measure of degree to which an item is in an operable and committable state at the start of the mission when the mission is called for at an unknown (random) time. (Item state at start of mission includes the combine effects of the readiness-related system reliability and maintainability parameters, but excludes mission time; *see* Dependability.)
- Criticality: A relative measure of the consequence of a failure mode and its frequency of occurrences.
- Degradation: A gradual impairment in ability to perform.
- Demonstrated: That which has been measured by the use of objective evidence gathered under specified conditions.
- Dormant: *see* Not Operating.
- Environment: The aggregate of all external and internal conditions (such as temperature, humidity, radiation, magnetic and electric fields, shock vibration, etc.) either natural or man made, or self-induced, that influences the form, performance, reliability or survival of an item.
- Failure: The event, or inoperable state, in which any item or part of an item does not, or would not, perform as previously specified.
- Failure, Random: Failure whose occurrence is predictable only in probabilistic or statistical sense. This applies to all distributions.
- Failure Rate: The total number of failures within an item population, divided by the total number of life units expended by that population, during a particular measurement interval under stated conditions.
- Fault: Immediate cause of failure (e.g. , maladjustment, misalignment, defect, etc.)
- Inherent Reliability and Maintainability Value: A measure of reliability and maintainability that include only the effects of an item design and its application, and assumes an ideal operation and support environment.

- Interchange: Removing the item that is to be replaced, and installing the replacement item.
- Item: A non-specific term used to denote any product, including systems, material parts, subassemblies, sets, accessories, etc.
- Maintainability: The measure of the ability of an item to be retained in or restored to specified condition when maintenance is performed by personnel having specified skill levels, using prescribed procedures and resources, at each prescribed level of maintenance and repair.
- Maintainability, Mission: The measure of the ability of an item to be retained in or restored to specified condition when maintenance is performed during a course of a specified mission profile. (The mission-related system maintainability parameter.)
- Maintenance: All actions necessary for retaining an item in or restoring it to a specified condition.
- Maintenance Action: An element of maintenance event. One or more tasks (i.e. fault localization, fault isolation, servicing and inspection) necessary to retain an item in or restore it to a specified condition.
- Maintenance, Corrective (CM): All actions performed as a result of failure, to restore an item to a specified condition. Corrective maintenance can include any of all following steps: Localization, Isolation, Disassembly, Interchange, Reassembly, Alignment and Checkout.
- Maintenance, Event: One or more maintenance actions required to effect corrective or preventive maintenance due to any type of failure or malfunction, false alarm or scheduled maintenance plan.
- Maintenance, Preventive (PM): All action performed in an attempt to retain an item in specified condition by providing systematic inspection, detection, and prevention of incipient failures.
- Maintenance, Scheduled: Preventive maintenance performed at prescribed points in the item's life.
- Maintenance Time: An element of down time which excludes modification and delay time.
- Maintenance, Unscheduled: Corrective maintenance required by item conditions.
- Malfunction: *see* Failure.

- Mean-Maintenance-Time: The measure of item maintainability taking into account maintenance policy. The sum of preventive and corrective maintenance times, divided by the sum of scheduled and unscheduled maintenance events, during a state of period of time.
- Mean-Time-Between-Failure (MTBF): A basic measure of reliability for repairable items: The mean number of life units during which all parts of the item perform within their specified limits, during a particular measurement interval under stated conditions.
- Mean-Time-Between-Maintenance (MTBM): The measure of reliability taking into account maintenance policy. The total number of life units expended by a given time, divided by the total number of maintenance events (scheduled and unscheduled) due to that time.
- Mean-Time-To-Failure (MTTF): A basic measure of reliability for non-repairable items: The total number of life units of an item divided by the total number of failures within that population, during a particular measurement interval under stated conditions.
- Mean-Time-To-Repair (MTTR): A basic measurement of maintainability: The sum of corrective maintenance times at any specific level of repair, divided by the total number of failures within an item repaired at that level, during a particular interval under stated conditions.
- Mission Profile: A time-phased description of the events and environments an item experiences from initiation to completion of a specified mission, to include the criteria of mission success or critical failures.
- Not Operating (Dormant): The state wherein an item is able to function but is not required to function. Not to be confused with Down-Time.
- Operable: The state of being able to perform the intended function.
- Predicted: That which is expected at some future time, postulated on analysis of past experience and tests.
- Reassembly: Assembling the items that were removed during the disassembly and closing the reassembled items.
- Redundancy: The existence of more than one means for accomplishing a given function. Each means of accomplishing the function need not necessarily be identical.
- Reliability:
 - (1) The duration of probability of failure-free performance under stated conditions.

(2) The probability that an item can perform its intended function for a specified interval under stated conditions. (For non-redundant items, this is equivalent to definition (1). For redundant item, this is equivalent to definition of Mission Reliability.)

- Reliability Mission: The ability of an item to perform its required functions for the duration of specified “mission profile.”
- Repair: See Maintenance, Corrective.
- Repairable Item: An item which can be restored to perform all of its required functions by corrective maintenance.
- Screening: A process for inspecting items to remove those that are unsatisfactory or those likely to exhibit early failure. Inspection includes visual examination, physical dimension measurement and functional performance measurement under specified environmental conditions.
- Servicing: The performance of any act needed to keep an item in operating condition, (i.e. lubricating, fueling, oiling, cleaning, etc.), but not including preventive maintenance of parts or corrective maintenance tasks.
- Subsystem: A combination of sets, groups, etc. which performs an operational function within a system and is a major subdivision of the system.
- System: General - A composite of equipment and skills, and techniques capable of performing or supporting an operational role, or both. A complete system includes all equipment, related facilities, material, software, services, and personnel required for its operation and support to the degree that it can be considered self-sufficient in its intended operational environment.
- System Reliability and Maintainability parameter: A measure of reliability and maintainability in which the units of measurement are directly related to operational readiness, mission success, maintenance manpower cost, or logistic support cost.
- Time: The universal measure of duration. The general word ‘Time’ will be modified by an additional term when used in reference to operating time, mission time, test time, etc. In general expression such as “Mean-Time-Between-Failure (MTBF),” time stands for “life units” which must be more specifically defined whenever the general term refers to particular time.
- Time, Active: That time during which an item is in an operational inventory.

- Time, Administrative: That element of delay time, not included in the supply delay time.
- Time, Checkout: That element of Maintenance Time during which performance of an item is verified to be a specified condition.
- Time, Delay: That element of down time during which no maintenance is being accomplished on the item because of either supply or administrative delay.
- Time, Down (Downtime): That element of active time during which an item is not in condition to perform its required function. (Reduces Availability and Dependability)
- Time, Inactive: That time during which an item is in reserve. (In the Inactive Inventory)
- Time, Mission: That element of up time required to perform a stated mission profile.
- Time, Modification: The time necessary to introduce any specific change(s) to an item to improve its characteristics or to add new ones.
- Time, Not Operating: That element of up time during which the item is not required to operate.
- Time, Supply Delay: That element of Delay Time during which a needed replacement item is being obtained.
- Time, Turn Around: The element of Maintenance Time needed to replenish consumables and check out an item for recommitment.
- Time, Up (Uptime): That element of Active Time during which an item is in condition to perform its required functions. (Increase Availability and Dependability).
- Uptime Ratio: A composite measure of operational availability and dependability that includes the combined effects of item design, installation, quality, environment, operation, maintenance, repair and logistic support: The quotient of uptime divided by uptime plus downtime.
- Useful Life: The number of life units from manufacture to when the item has an unrepairable failure or unacceptable failure rate.
- Wearout: The process which results in an increase of the failure rate or probability of failure with increasing number of life units.

Other Definitions of Terms for Reliability and Maintainability:

- Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF): It provides a cumulative probability for discrete and continuous distributions. [48]
- Imperfect Maintenance: Restores the system operating state to somewhere between as good as new and as bad as at an older age [69].
- Inherent Availability: it is based solely on the failure distribution and repair-time distribution. It can therefore be viewed as an equipment design parameter, and reliability-maintainability trade-offs can be based on this interpretation. [48]
- Line Replaceable Unit (LRU): It refers to the highest level of modularization, in which a unit may be removed and replaced from its higher assembly. [48]
- Minimal Maintenance: Restores the system to failure rate it has when it failed [69].
- Mission Duration: Total time for a system under a mission. The time duration may include total uptime and total downtime.
- Mission Time (TM): Total of predicted or required time for a system to be in full operating condition. Mission time does not include the downtime of the system.
- Perfect Maintenance: Restores the system operating condition to as good as new. [69].
- Probability Density Function (PDF): It assigns a probability to an interval of values of a continuous random variable. [48]
- PMI: Preventive Maintenance Interval. It also means scheduled maintenance time.
- Reliability Block Diagram (RBD): Reliability block diagram (RBD) is a way of showing how the components connected with each other. [36]
- Restoration Factor (RF): A factor to determine the age of the component after imperfect maintenance / inspection. RF is defined between 0 to 1.
- TTF: Time to Failure

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Maintenance activity is necessary in order for a system to keep running without failure. However, maintenance activity is a cost for the owner of the system. For airline industry, aircraft maintenance is important not only for the availability of the aircraft, but also to adhere to the regulations set up by the aviation authority and flight safety.

The maintenance activity could be either to prevent the failure before it happens or to amend the failure after it happens. The preventive action is called Preventive Maintenance (PM) whereas amending action is called Corrective Maintenance (CM). There are also a few assumptions of maintenance actions. One could assume that the maintenance is perfect, minimal or imperfect. Perfect maintenance means after the maintenance, the aircraft or the system is assumed to perform as brand new (i.e. as good as new) whereas minimal maintenance means after the maintenance, the aircraft or the system is assumed to perform no better than before failure (i.e. as bad as old). Imperfect maintenance means the aircraft or the system is assumed to perform not as a brand new but better than before failure. In reality, maintenance effect is in between as bad as old and as good as new. The maintenance is called imperfect maintenance [34, 71].

1.2 Problem Statement

Understanding maintenance activities for any aircraft is important. The importance is not merely on the technical aspect of the maintenance activities and adherence to regulatory, but also how to relate the maintenance activities with availability and maintenance cost. Preventive maintenance interval (PMI) can affect the availability and maintenance cost. For the purpose of this studies, an Avionic system is chosen. It is because avionics is important equipment in aircraft for flight crew to fly the aircraft. Moreover, the avionics equipment cost is about 30% of the aircraft total cost [30]. Almost all of components in avionics system are electronic components. Although electronic component's useful life can be very long, the complexity of the overall avionics system could shorten the useful life of whole system due to interactions of every component in the system [33]. Thus for the thesis, the most realistic Avionics maintenance simulation is needed and imperfect simulation is assumed. Restoration factor (RF) is required to be known to simulate imperfect maintenance. Previous researchers either retrieved RF from historical data mining or assumed it to any constant value between 0 to 1 [15, 21, 41, 54, 59, 67]. Recent published article in 2013 has assumed the restoration factor to be constant and did not explain in details how the assumption was done [41]. This thesis proposes method for system's end user to calculate RF for imperfect maintenance simulation with

assumption that the system's historical data is insufficient. The simulation is also run for both perfect and minimal maintenance for comparison. From these simulations run in Matlab, minimum PMI for avionics system can be estimated.

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based from the problem statement, the followings are the objectives of the thesis:

1. To comprehend the practice of perfect maintenance, imperfect maintenance and minimal maintenance.
2. To simulate maintenance activities of the system as realistic as possible at different Preventive Maintenance Interval (PMI).
3. To estimate optimum value of PMI.

1.4 Scope of the Thesis and Limitations

The data and analysis for the research are specific to Cirrus SR-20 aircraft with Perspective Avionics. The research is only focus on two sub-systems of avionics system which are Engine Indication System and Flight Instruments.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

The thesis will be divided into five main chapters. Chapter 1 is an introductory of the research. In this chapter, background of reliability, maintainability and availability of a system are discussed. Also, problem statement, objectives and scope and limitations of the research are mentioned and explained in this chapter. On the other hand, Chapter 2 mentions about previous researches and findings related to this study. In the next chapter which is Chapter 3, materials, steps and methods required for the research are explained in detail. Then, the result of the research is presented and discussed in the upcoming chapter which is Chapter 4. Lastly, the work of this research is summarized and concluded in Chapter 5.

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