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PHM for safety barriers in infrastructures: opportunities and challenges

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Background

- Safety barriers applied widely
- > The failure of components follow exponential distribution
- The item is `as good as new` after a repair



Figure: Automatic fire sprinkler system



Can we predict degradation and failures of safety barriers?



PHM

PHM can used for: (Haddad et al. 2012)

- > evaluating the reliability of systems of their life cycle;
- determining the possible occurrence of failures and risk reduction;
- highlighting the remaining useful lifetime(RUL) estimation.



Figure: Examples of PHM application



PHM process



Figure: General process of PHM. Correlation with ISO 13374 (Guillen, 2016)

PHM attempts to answer several questions:

- How is the status of system now?(Performance assessment)
- When will the system fail?(Remaining useful lifetime)
- What will the primary faults that cause system failue?
- > Why does the incipient fault occur?



Safety barriers



subsystem

Figure: Main parts of a technological barrier

subsystem



Main function and potential benefits:

- Advance warning of failures
- Optimized maintenances
- Logistic support and cost reduction

Challenges of PHM on barriers:

design and operational characteristics of barriers

1 Operational modes of barriers

Operational modes: Low-demand mode High-demand mode Continuous mode



- Degradation mechanisms in different states are varied
- Degradation prediction with state transitions
- > Parameters to predict the performance during the durations of demands



2 Structures of barriers: K-o-o-N



> effects of degradation in one channel on the entire barrier system



3 Failure modes and tests of barriers



Link the incipient failures or deviations with dangerous(D) failures

Data-driven \longrightarrow historical/training data Model-driven \longrightarrow DU failures

Hybrid Approaches??

Identify the causes and potential influences of common cause failures(CCF)



Application PHM for Safety Critical systems

4 Measures of technological barriers

Safety Integrity Level	low-demand operation mode	high-demand operation mode
4	> 10 ⁻⁵ to < 10 ⁻⁴	> 10 ⁻⁹ to < 10 ⁻⁸
3	> 10 ⁻⁴ to < 10 ⁻³	> 10 ⁻⁸ to < 10 ⁻⁷
2	> 10 ⁻³ to < 10 ⁻²	> 10 ⁻⁷ to < 10 ⁻⁶
1	> 10 ⁻² to < 10 ⁻¹	> 10 ⁻⁶ to < 10 ⁻⁵

(Reference IEC 61508)

- Build a relationship between SILs and indicators of PHM
- 5 Cost-benefit analysis of PHM

Cost: sensors, re-design the host product

Benefit: decrease of proof tests and maintenance, downtime loss

choose the indicators to calculate the ROI of a PHM program



Conclusion

Researcher topics in the future:

- New approaches for predicting degradations of a component with state transitions;
- Mechanism of incorporating redundancy structures and varied configurations in degradation modelling and analysis;
- Models to link the effectiveness of PHM with SILs;
- Methods to optimize tests and maintenance activities under the constraints of SIL requirements.



Thanks for your attention!