PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF A COMPLEX REPAIRABLE SYSTEM WITH
TWO SUBSYSTEMS IN SERIES CONFIGURATION WITH AN IMPERFECT
SWITCH

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Abstract: This paper presents the study of reliability measures of a complex system consisting of two subsystems, subsystem-1, and subsystem-2, in a series configuration with switching device. The subsystem-1 has five units that are working under 2-out-of-5: G policy and the subsystem-2 has two units that are working under 1-out-of-2: G policy. Moreover, the switching device in the system is unreliable, and as long as the switch fails, the whole system fails immediately. Failure rates of units of subsystems are constant and assumed to follow the exponential distribution. Still, their repair supports two types of distribution, namely general distribution and Gumbel-Hougaard family copula distribution. Using the supplementary variable technique, Laplace transformations, and copula approach differential equations developed. Important reliability characteristics such as availability of the system, reliability of the system, MTTF, profit analysis, and sensitivity analysis for MTTF have computed for fixed values of failure and repair rates. Particular cases corresponding to the switching device have also considered. Graphs demonstrate results, and consequently, conclusions have done.

Keywords: k-out-of-n: G system; availability; reliability; MTTF; cost analysis; Gumbel-Hougaard family-copula distribution.

2010 AMS Subject Classification: 90B25.

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Received November 28, 2019
1. Introduction

Complicated systems such as computers, automobiles industry, telephone networks, and various electronic networks are becoming a prevalent feature and essential requirements of our society. The systems are built with multiple components/parts to perform specified tasks adequately. It is often difficult to assure that the systems will perform particular tasks efficiently for which they designed. Due to various causes, it is difficult to anticipate the failure of a component and sometimes impossible to prevent the failure of the entire system. Reliability is a vital need for proper uses and repair of any engineering system. Achieving a high or required level of reliability and availability of the system is often an essential requisite based on system designed structure. The importance and utility of a system depend on its successful performance, and its performance depends on its design. The availability and reliability of an industrial system may be enhancing using a highly reliable structural design of the system or subsystem of higher reliability. The best way to improve system reliability is to add redundant components in the design. A constructive and common form of redundancy is a k-out-of-n configuration. Many researchers have brought their attention to the study of k-out-of-n: G systems and k-out-of-n: F systems. The k-out-of-n: G system is good if and only if at least k of its n components is good, while k-out-of-n: F system fails if and only if at least k of its n components fails. For example, an airplane with four engines can be modeled as a 3-out-of-4: G system. Furthermore, consider a large truck with ten tires is an example of 6-out-of-10: G system. Although the system performance may be degraded if less than ten tires are operational, rearrangement of the tire configuration will result in adequate performance as long as at least six tires are operational. In nuclear power plant system 2-out-of-4: G; system can perform adequate power supply. Conclusively a k-out-of-n system plays a very crucial role in system reliability theory to the proper operation of the system.

In the past decade, many researchers have focused on k-out-of-n-type systems mainly because such systems are more general than pure parallel or pure series systems, and they frequently come across in practice. There is an extensive literature available for reliability analysis of k-out-of-n-type systems under various situation such as [10], repairable systems with different failure modes [25], three-unit series system under warm standby [15], consecutive k-out-of-n system using standby with multiple working vacations [19], generalized block replacement policy with respect to a threshold number of failed components and risk costs [13], non-identical components subject to repair priorities [1] and non-identical components considering shut-off rules using quasi-birth-death process [18] among others. There are some real systems such as
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satellites, transmission systems, or computer systems where some new equipment groups need to add because of the requirement for better output of the system. Realizing this fact, authors like Alka and Singh [3] analyzed reliability analysis of a complex repairable system composed of two 2-out-of-3: G subsystems connected in a parallel configuration. They analyzed the system by using the supplementary variable technique and obtain various measures such as mean time to failure, steady-state probability, availability, and cost analysis. Yusuf et al. [7] focus on the comparative study of 2-out-of-3: G system for the different situations under the concept of general repair analyzed using Kolmogorov's forward equations method. The objective of this study is to see the effect of preventive maintenance and system design of 2-out-of-3. In addition, Yusuf et al. [8, 9] developed an explicit expression for mean time to system failure for a 3-out-of-5 warm standby system involving common cause failure and ensured the maximum overall MTSF of the system.

Considering one type of repair/general repair to a totally failed system may cause a massive loss due to the non-operation of the system, and the industry/organization may drop its market reputation. Several authors, including El-Said and EL-Sherbeny [11], Bulama et al. [12], Gupta et al. [16, 17] and Malik et al. [20] examined the reliability characteristics under the presumption that the failed unit can be repaired by employing only one type of repair. There are many situations in real life where more than one repair is possible between two adjacent transition states for quick repair of the failed system. When such type of possibility exists, the system is repaired using the Gumbel-Hougaard family copula; it couples the two distributions, namely general distribution and exponential distribution. Therefore, in contrast to this, authors have considered models in which they tried to address a problem where two different repair facilities are available between adjacent states, i.e., the initial state and totally failed state. Ram and Singh [14] have studied availability and cost analysis of a parallel redundant complex system with two types of failure under preemptive-resume repair discipline using the Gumbel-Hougaard family copula in repair. Singh et al. [21] have studied cost analysis of an engineering system involving two subsystems in a series configuration with controllers and human failure under the concept of k-out-of-n: G policy using Gumbel-Hougaard family copula distribution. Also, in [22, 23], Singh et al. have studied the performance analysis of the complex system in the series configuration under different failure and repair disciplines using copula and controllers. Bona et al. [5] have discussed the reliability allocation based integrated factor method (IFM) approach to the aerospace system. The consequence of the study of reliability allocation method Di, Bona, Forcina, A, and Silvestri, A, [6] have proposed a new reliability allocation method as a critical flow method (CFM) for the
thermonuclear system. Recently Lado et al. [2] analyzed two subsystems connected in a series configuration and operated by a human operator. In this study, they concluded that copula repair is more reliable compared to general repair. Also, Babu et al. [4] studied a δ-shock maintenance model for a deteriorating system with an imperfect delayed repair under partial process. In addition, Singh and Poonia [24] studied two units parallel system with correlated lifetime under inspection using regenerative point technique.

Authors who studied k-out-of-n systems have put attention toward the operation of units in parallel/series configuration or in a circular arrangement with catastrophic failure and preventive maintenance but did not consider transfer switch and its failure. Therefore, realizing the fact and necessity of such type of configuration, we in the present analyzing a complex system having two subsystems viz. subsystem-1 and subsystem-2 under k-out-of-n: G configuration. Both subsystems connected in series, and each linked with a switching device for the proper functioning of the system, which may be perfect or imperfect at the time of need. The subsystem-1 follows 2-out-of-5: good configuration, and subsystem-2 follows 1-out-of-2: good configuration. All the units in both the subsystems are in a parallel configuration. The system has three possible transition states: Good, partially failed and complete failed. The system may move to the failed state as per the following options:

(i) More than three units of subsystem-1 fail, but both units of subsystem-2 are in good working condition.
(ii) Both of the units of the subsystem-2 fail.
(iii) The switching device of the subsystem-1 / subsystem-2 fails.

In addition to this, the system will be in a partially failed state in the following situations:

(i) At least one and maximum up to 3 units of subsystem-1 failed, and all the units of subsystem-2 are good.
(ii) All units of subsystem-1 are good, and anyone unit of subsystem-2 fails.

To carry out performance analysis, the authors have evaluated the expressions for the availability of the system, reliability of the system, MTTF, profit analysis, and sensitivity analysis corresponding to MTTF using the supplementary variable technique. All the results analyzed in the model using maple17. This paper is planned in various sections. Section 1 describes the brief introduction of the paper, which focuses on the relevant literature reviewed for the study of
the proposed design. Section 2 to 6 covers the state description, assumptions, nomenclature of notation used for the study of a mathematical model, and transition diagram. Section 7 and 8 cover the analytical part of the paper in which some particular cases are taken for discussion and elaboration. Section 8 describes the conclusion of the study with results.

2. State Description

The description of the various possible state of the model after failing the units in both the subsystems, including transfer switch failure, is given in Table 1. The states \( S_0, S_1, S_2, S_3, \text{ and } S_5 \) are operative states, and \( S_4, S_6, S_7, \text{ and } S_8 \) are inoperative states of the system.

| State | State description |
|-------|-------------------|
| \( S_0 \) | This is a perfect state, and all units of subsystem-1 and subsystem-2 are in good working condition. |
| \( S_1 \) | The indicated state represents that the system is degraded but is in operational mode after the failure of any one unit in subsystem-1, but both units of subsystem-2 are in a good operational state. The system is under repair. |
| \( S_2 \) | The indicated state represents that the system is degraded but is in operational mode after the failure of any two units in subsystem-1, but both units of subsystem-2 are in a good operational state. The system is under repair. |
| \( S_3 \) | The indicated state represents that the system is degraded but is in operational mode after the failure of any three units in subsystem-1. Still, both units of subsystem-2 are in a good operational state. The system is under repair. |
| \( S_5 \) | The indicated state represents that the system is degraded but is in operational mode after the failure of anyone unit in subsystem-2, but all the units of subsystem-1 are in a good operational state. The system is under repair. |
| \( S_4 \) | The states represent that the system is in totally failed mode after failing more than three units in the subsystem 1. The system is under repair using the Gumbel-Hougaard family copula distribution. |
| \( S_6 \) | The states represent that the system is in a complete failed state after failing both units in subsystem 2. The system is under repair using employing copula distribution. |
| \( S_7 \) | It is a complete failed state due to switch failure in the subsystem-1. |
| \( S_8 \) | The state \( S_8 \) represents a complete failed state by failing switch device in subsystem-2. |
3. **Assumptions**

The following assumptions have been made throughout the study of the model:

1. Initially, the system is in the state $S_0$, and all the units of subsystem-1 and subsystem-2 are in good working conditions.
2. The subsystem-1 works successfully until three or more than three units are in good working condition, i.e., 2-out-of-5:G policy.
3. The subsystem-2 works successfully if one or both units are in good working condition, i.e., 1-out-of-2:G policy.
4. Both the subsystems having switching devices, which may be unreliable at the time as long as the switch fails, the whole system fails immediately.
5. The units in both the subsystems are in parallel mode and hot standby and ready to start within a negligible time after the failure of any unit in the subsystems.
6. Repairperson is available to full time with the system and maybe called as soon as the system reaches to partially or totally failed state.
7. All failure rates are constant and follow the exponential distribution.
8. The complete failed system needs repair immediately. For this, copula can be employed to restore the system.
9. No damage reported due to the repair of the system.
10. As soon as the failed unit repaired, it is ready to perform the task as good as new.
4. Notations

- $t, s$: Time scale and Laplace transform variable
- $\lambda_1/\lambda_2$: The failure rate of each unit in the subsystem-1/subsystem-2.
- $\lambda_{s1}/\lambda_{s2}$: The failure rate of the switching devices between the units for subsystem-1/subsystem-2.
- $\phi_i(x)/\phi_l(y)$: The Repair rate of each unit in the subsystem-1/subsystem-2.
- $\mu_0(z)$: Repair rate of the switching device for both the subsystems.
- $P_0(t)$: The state transition probability that the system is in state $S_i$ at an instant $i = 0$.
- $P_s(s)$: Laplace transformation of the state transition probability $P(t)$.
- $P_i(x,t)$: The probability that the system is in the state $S_i$ for $i = 1$ to 8 and the system is under repair with elapsed repair time is $x,t$. $x$ is repaired variable and $t$ is time variable.
- $E_p(t)$: Expected profit in the interval $[0, t)$
- $K_1, K_2$: Revenue generated and service cost per unit time, respectively.
- $\mu_0(x)$: An expression of the joint probability from failed state $S_i$ to good state $S_0$ according to Gumbel-Hougaard family copula, is given

$$\mu_0(x) = \exp \left[ x^\alpha + \left\{ \log \phi(x) \right\}^\beta \right]^{1/\theta}$$

where $u_1(x) = \phi(x)$ and $u_2(x) = e^x$. Here $\theta$ is the parameter $1 < \theta < \infty$.

5. System Configuration and State Transition Diagram

System configuration is shown in Fig 1 (a) while the transition diagram in Fig 1 (b). In transition diagram, $S_0$ is perfect state, $S_1, S_2, S_3, \text{ and } S_5$ partial failed/degraded and $S_4, S_6, S_7, \text{ and } S_8$ are complete failed states. Due to failure in any unit in the subsystem-1 and in subsystem-2, the transitions approach to partially failed states $S_1, S_2, S_3, \text{ and } S_5$ respectively. The state $S_4$ and $S_6$ are complete failed states due to the failure of units in both the subsystems. The states $S_7$ and $S_8$ are complete failed states due to transfer switch failure.
Figure 1 (a) System configuration

Figure 1 (b) State transition diagram of the model
6. FORMULATION OF THE MODEL

By a probability of considerations and continuity arguments, we can obtain the following set of difference-differential equations associated with the present mathematical model:

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 5\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 + \lambda_{s_1} + \lambda_{s_2} \right] P_0(t) = \int_0^\infty \phi_1(x) P_1(x,t) \, dx + \int_0^\infty \phi_2(y) P_2(y,t) \, dy \\
+ \int_0^\infty \mu_0(x) P_4(x,t) \, dx + \int_0^\infty \mu_0(y) P_5(y,t) \, dy \\
+ \int_0^\infty \mu_0(z) P_{s_1}(z,t) \, dz + \int_0^\infty \mu_0(z) P_{s_2}(z,t) \, dz
\]

\(1\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 4\lambda_1 + \lambda_{s_1} + \lambda_{s_2} + \phi_1(x) \right] P_1(x,t) = 0
\]

\(2\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_{s_1} + \lambda_{s_2} + \phi_1(x) \right] P_2(x,t) = 0
\]

\(3\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_{s_1} + \lambda_{s_2} + \phi_1(x) \right] P_3(x,t) = 0
\]

\(4\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \exp\left[ x^\theta + \{\log \phi(x)\}^\gamma \right] \right] P_4(x,t) = 0
\]

\(5\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \lambda_2 + \lambda_{s_1} + \lambda_{s_2} + \phi_2(y) \right] P_5(y,t) = 0
\]

\(6\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \exp\left[ y^\theta + \{\log \phi(y)\}^\gamma \right] \right] P_6(y,t) = 0
\]

\(7\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \exp\left[ z^\theta + \{\log \phi(z)\}^\gamma \right] \right] P_{s_1}(z,t) = 0
\]

\(8\)

\[
\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \exp\left[ z^\theta + \{\log \phi(z)\}^\gamma \right] \right] P_{s_2}(z,t) = 0
\]

\(9\)

Boundary conditions

\[ P_1(0, t) = 5\lambda_1 P_0(t) \]

\(10\)
\[ P_2(0,t) = 4\lambda_1 P_1(0,t) = 20\lambda_1^2 P_0(t) \]  
\( \text{(11)} \)

\[ P_3(0,t) = 3\lambda_2 P_2(0,t) = 60\lambda_2^3 P_0(t) \]  
\( \text{(12)} \)

\[ P_4(0,t) = 2\lambda_3 P_3(0,t) = 120\lambda_3^5 P_0(t) \]  
\( \text{(13)} \)

\[ P_5(0,t) = 2\lambda_2 P_0(t) \]  
\( \text{(14)} \)

\[ P_6(0,t) = \lambda_2 P_4(0,t) = 2\lambda_2^2 P_0(t) \]  
\( \text{(15)} \)

\[ P_{x_1}(0,t) = \lambda_3 \left[ P_0(t) + P_1(0,t) + P_2(0,t) + P_3(0,t) + P_5(0,t) \right] \]  
\( \text{(16)} \)

\[ P_{x_2}(0,t) = \lambda_3 \left[ P_0(t) + P_1(0,t) + P_2(0,t) + P_3(0,t) + P_5(0,t) \right] \]  
\( \text{(17)} \)

Initial conditions
\[ P_0(0) = 1, \text{ and other state probabilities are zero at } t = 0 \]  
\( \text{(18)} \)

Solution of the model

Taking Laplace transformation of equations (1) to (17) and using equation (18), we obtain

\[ \left[ s + 5\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 \right] \overline{P}_0(s) = 1 + \int_0^\infty \phi_1(x) \overline{P}_1(x,s) \, dx + \int_0^\infty \phi_2(y) \overline{P}_5(y,s) \, dy + \int_0^\infty \mu_0(x) \overline{P}_4(x,s) \, dx + \int_0^\infty \mu_0(y) \overline{P}_6(y,s) \, dy + \int_0^\infty \mu_0(z) \overline{P}_{x_1}(z,s) \, dz + \int_0^\infty \mu_0(z) \overline{P}_{x_2}(z,s) \, dz \]  
\( \text{(19)} \)

where \( \overline{P}_i(x,s) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\mu} P_i(x,t) \, dt \)

\[ \left[ s + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 4\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + \phi_1(x) \right] \overline{P}_1(x,s) = 0 \]  
\( \text{(20)} \)

\[ \left[ s + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + \phi_1(x) \right] \overline{P}_2(x,s) = 0 \]  
\( \text{(21)} \)

\[ \left[ s + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + \phi_1(x) \right] \overline{P}_3(x,s) = 0 \]  
\( \text{(22)} \)
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\[
\begin{align*}
\left[ s + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \exp \left[ x^\alpha + \{ \log (x) \}_\alpha \right] \right]^\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \bar{P}_4 (x, s) &= 0 \\
\left[ s + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \lambda_2 + \lambda_4 + \lambda_6 + \phi_2 (y) \right] \bar{P}_5 (y, s) &= 0 \\
\left[ s + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \exp \left[ y^\alpha + \{ \log (y) \}_\alpha \right] \right]^\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \bar{P}_6 (y, s) &= 0 \\
\left[ s + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \exp \left[ z^\alpha + \{ \log (z) \}_\alpha \right] \right]^\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \bar{P}_7 (z, s) &= 0
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\bar{P}_1 (0, s) = 5\lambda_4 \bar{P}_0 (s) \\
\bar{P}_2 (0, s) = 4\lambda_4 \bar{P}_1 (0, s) - 20\lambda_4^2 \bar{P}_0 (s) \\
\bar{P}_3 (0, s) = 3\lambda_4 \bar{P}_2 (0, s) - 60\lambda_4^3 \bar{P}_0 (s) \\
\bar{P}_4 (0, s) = 2\lambda_4 \bar{P}_3 (0, s) - 120\lambda_4^4 \bar{P}_0 (s) \\
\bar{P}_5 (0, s) = 2\lambda_2 \bar{P}_0 (s) \\
\bar{P}_6 (0, s) = \lambda_2 \bar{P}_3 (0, s) - 2\lambda_2^2 \bar{P}_0 (s) \\
\bar{P}_7 (0, s) = \lambda_4 \left[ \bar{P}_0 (s) + \bar{P}_1 (0, s) + \bar{P}_2 (0, s) + \bar{P}_3 (0, s) + \bar{P}_4 (0, s) \right] \\
&= \lambda_4 \left[ 1 + 5\lambda_4 + 20\lambda_4^2 + 60\lambda_4^3 + 2\lambda_2 \right] \bar{P}_0 (s) \\
\bar{P}_8 (0, s) = \lambda_4 \left[ \bar{P}_0 (s) + \bar{P}_1 (0, s) + \bar{P}_2 (0, s) + \bar{P}_3 (0, s) + \bar{P}_4 (0, s) \right] \\
&= \lambda_4 \left[ 1 + 5\lambda_4 + 20\lambda_4^2 + 60\lambda_4^3 + 2\lambda_2 \right] \bar{P}_0 (s)
\]

Laplace transformation of boundary conditions after repair

\[
\bar{P}_1 (0, s) = 5\lambda_4 \bar{P}_0 (s) + \int_0^\infty \phi_1 (x) \bar{P}_2 (x, s) dx = 5\lambda_4 \bar{P}_0 (s) + \int_0^\infty \phi_1 (x) e^{-s x + 3\lambda_4 + \lambda_6} \bar{P}_2 (x, s) dx
\]
\[= 5\lambda_1 \bar{P}_0(s) + \bar{S}_h \left(s + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right) \bar{P}_2(0, s)\]

\[= 5\lambda_1 \bar{P}_0(s) + \bar{S}_h \left(s + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right) 4\lambda_1 \bar{P}_1(0, s)\]

\[\bar{P}_1(0, s) = \frac{5\lambda_1}{1 - 4\lambda_1 \bar{S}_h \left(s + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right)} \bar{P}_0(s)\]  

(36)

Similarly

\[\bar{P}_2(0, s) = \frac{20\lambda_1^2}{1 - 3\lambda_1 \bar{S}_h \left(s + 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right)} \bar{P}_0(s)\]  

(37)

\[\bar{P}_3(0, s) = 3\lambda_1 \bar{P}_2(0, s) = \frac{60\lambda_1^3}{1 - 3\lambda_1 \bar{S}_h \left(s + 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right)} \bar{P}_0(s)\]  

(38)

\[\bar{P}_4(0, s) = 2\lambda_1 \bar{P}_3(0, s) = \frac{120\lambda_1^4}{1 - 3\lambda_1 \bar{S}_h \left(s + 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right)} \bar{P}_0(s)\]  

(39)

\[\bar{P}_5(0, s) = 2\lambda_2 \bar{P}_4(0, s)\]  

(40)

\[\bar{P}_6(0, s) = \lambda_{h_1} \bar{P}_5(0, s) = 2\lambda_2^2 \bar{P}_0(s)\]  

(41)

\[\bar{P}_{h_1}(0, s) = \lambda_{h_1} \left(1 + 5\lambda_1 + 20\lambda_1^2 + 60\lambda_1^3 + 2\lambda_2\right) \bar{P}_0(s)\]  

(42)

\[\bar{P}_{h_2}(0, s) = \lambda_{h_2} \left(1 + 5\lambda_1 + 20\lambda_1^2 + 60\lambda_1^3 + 2\lambda_2\right) \bar{P}_0(s)\]  

(43)

Now solving all the equations with the boundary conditions, one may get

\[\bar{P}_0(s) = \frac{1}{D(s)}\]  

(44)

\[\bar{P}_1(s) = \frac{5\lambda_1}{D(s) \left(s + 4\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right)} \left\{1 - \bar{S}_h \left(s + 4\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right) \right\}\]  

(45)

\[\bar{P}_2(s) = \frac{20\lambda_1^2}{D(s) \left(s + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right)} \left\{1 - \bar{S}_h \left(s + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right) \right\}\]  

(46)

\[\bar{P}_3(s) = \frac{60\lambda_1^3}{D(s) \left(s + 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right)} \left\{1 - \bar{S}_h \left(s + 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_{h_1} + \lambda_{h_2}\right) \right\}\]  

(47)
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\[ \overline{P}_s(s) = \frac{120 \lambda_1^4}{D(s)} \left\{ 1 - \overline{S}_{\mu_0}(s) \right\} \left\{ 1 - 3 \lambda_1 \overline{S}_{\phi_1}(s + 2 \lambda_1 + \lambda_s + \lambda_{s2}) \right\} \] (48)

\[ \overline{P}_s(s) = \frac{2 \lambda_2}{D(s)} \left\{ 1 - \overline{S}_{\phi_2}(s + \lambda_2 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2}) \right\} \] (49)

\[ \overline{P}_o(s) = \frac{2 \lambda_2^2}{D(s)} \left\{ 1 - \overline{S}_{\mu_0}(s) \right\} \] (50)

\[ \overline{P}_{s1}(s) = \frac{\lambda_1 (1 + 5 \lambda_1 + 20 \lambda_1^3 + 60 \lambda_1^3 + 2 \lambda_2)}{D(s)} \left\{ 1 - \overline{S}_{\mu_0}(s) \right\} \] (51)

\[ \overline{P}_{s2}(s) = \frac{\lambda_2 (1 + 5 \lambda_1 + 20 \lambda_1^3 + 60 \lambda_1^3 + 2 \lambda_2)}{D(s)} \left\{ 1 - \overline{S}_{\mu_0}(s) \right\} \] (52)

where \( D(s) = s + 5 \lambda_1 + 2 \lambda_2 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2} - \frac{5 \lambda_1 P}{1 - 4 \lambda_1 Q} - 2 \lambda_2 S - \frac{120 \lambda_1^4 T}{1 - 3 \lambda_1 R} - 2 \lambda_2^2 T \)

\(- \left( \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2} \right) \left( 1 + 5 \lambda_1 + 20 \lambda_1^2 + 60 \lambda_1^3 + 2 \lambda_2 \right) T\)

and \( P = \overline{S}_{\phi_1}(s + 4 \lambda_1 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2}) = \frac{\phi_1}{s + 4 \lambda_1 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2} + \phi_1} \)

\( Q = \overline{S}_{\phi_1}(s + 3 \lambda_1 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2}) = \frac{\phi_1}{s + 3 \lambda_1 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2} + \phi_1} \)

\( R = \overline{S}_{\phi_1}(s + 2 \lambda_1 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2}) = \frac{\phi_1}{s + 2 \lambda_1 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2} + \phi_1} \)

\( S = \overline{S}_{\phi_2}(s + \lambda_2 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2}) = \frac{\phi_2}{s + \lambda_2 + \lambda_{s1} + \lambda_{s2} + \phi_2} \)

\( T = \overline{S}_{\mu_0}(s) = \frac{\mu_0}{s + \mu_0} \)

Sum of Laplace transformations of the state transitions, where the system is in operational mode and failed state at any time, is as follows.

\[ \overline{P}_{up}(s) = \overline{P}_0(s) + \overline{P}_1(s) + \overline{P}_2(s) + \overline{P}_3(s) + \overline{P}_5(s) \]
7. Analytical Study

7.1 Availability Analysis

When repair follows general and Gumbel-Hougaard family copula distribution, we have

\[
\begin{align*}
\overline{P}_{down}(s) & = 1 - \overline{P}_{up}(s) \\
& = \frac{1}{D(s)} \left[ 1 + \frac{5\lambda_i \{1 - \overline{S}_\phi \left( s + 4\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2} \right) \}}{(s + 4\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2}) \{1 - 4\lambda_i \overline{S}_\phi \left( s + 3\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2} \right) \}} \\
& + \frac{20\lambda_i^2 \{1 - \overline{S}_\phi \left( s + 3\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2} \right) \}}{(s + 3\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2}) \{1 - 3\lambda_i \overline{S}_\phi \left( s + 2\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2} \right) \}} \\
& + \frac{60\lambda_i^3 \{1 - \overline{S}_\phi \left( s + 2\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2} \right) \}}{(s + 2\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2}) \{1 - 3\lambda_i \overline{S}_\phi \left( s + 2\lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2} \right) \}} \\
& + \frac{2\lambda_i \{1 - \overline{S}_\phi \left( s + \lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2} \right) \}}{(s + \lambda_i + \lambda_{i_1} + \lambda_{i_2})} \right]
\end{align*}
\]  

(53)

\[\overline{P}_{down}(s) = 1 - \overline{P}_{up}(s) \]  

(54)

Here we have considered the following three cases on switching device for the availability of the system:

Case I: When both the subsystems have switching device, the availability of the system by taking the values of different parameters as

\[
\lambda_i = 0.03, \lambda_2 = 0.02, \phi = 1, \theta = 1, x = 1, y = 1, z = 1, \alpha_i = 1 \left( i = 1, 2 \right), \text{ in (53)},
\]

then taking the inverse Laplace to transform, we obtain,

\[
P_{up}(t) = -0.003240e^{-1.1370t} + 0.022538e^{-2.7829t} - 0.035199e^{-1.3118t} + 0.098452e^{-1.0638t} \\
+ 1.012130e^{-0.01070t} - 0.000578e^{-1.1070t} - 0.094103e^{-1.0670t}
\]  

(55)

Case II: When subsystem-2 does not have switching device, then the availability of the system by taking the values of different parameters as \( \lambda_i = 0.03, \lambda_2 = 0.02, \phi = 1, \theta = 1, \)}
\[ x = 1, y = 1, z = 1, \alpha_i = 1(i = 1, 2), \text{ in (53), then taking the inverse Laplace to transform, we obtain,} \]

\[
P_{up}(t) = -0.003268e^{-1.1150t} - 0.0005880e^{-1.0850t} + 0.012383e^{-2.7532t} - 0.031792e^{-1.2960t} + 0.109886e^{-1.0421t} + 1.018479e^{-0.0119t} - 0.105102e^{-1.0450t} \tag{56}
\]

\textit{Case III:} When subsystem-1 and two both do not have switching device, the availability of the system by taking the values of different parameters as 
\[ \lambda_1 = 0.03, \lambda_2 = 0.02, \lambda_{x_1} = 0, \lambda_{x_2} = 0, \phi = 1, \theta = 1, x = 1, y = 1, z = 1, \alpha_i = 1(i = 1, 2), \text{ in (53), then taking the inverse Laplace to transform, we obtain,} \]

\[
P_{up}(t) = 0.000365e^{-2.7193t} - 0.027264e^{-1.2785t} + 0.125983e^{-1.0175t} + 1.025501e^{-0.0131t} - 0.003298e^{-1.0900t} - 0.1206870e^{-1.0200t} - 0.000598e^{-1.0600t} \tag{57}
\]

For \( t = 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 \) and 100 units of time, one may get different values \( P_{up}(t) \) with the help of (55-57), as shown in table-2 and figure-2.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\caption{Variation of availability with respect to time in various cases}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
Time (t) & Case-I & Case-II & Case-III \\
\hline
0 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 \\
10 & 0.9094 & 0.9045 & 0.8999 \\
20 & 0.8171 & 0.8032 & 0.7897 \\
30 & 0.7342 & 0.7133 & 0.6930 \\
40 & 0.6597 & 0.6335 & 0.6082 \\
50 & 0.5927 & 0.5626 & 0.5337 \\
60 & 0.5326 & 0.4996 & 0.4683 \\
70 & 0.4785 & 0.4437 & 0.4110 \\
80 & 0.4300 & 0.3941 & 0.3607 \\
90 & 0.3863 & 0.3500 & 0.3165 \\
100 & 0.3471 & 0.3108 & 0.2777 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
7.2 Reliability Analysis

In order to obtain system reliability, consider repair rates equal to zero. Like availability, the same three cases are discussed here.

Case I: When both the subsystems have a switching device, the reliability of the system by taking the values of different parameters as $\lambda_1 = 0.03, \lambda_2 = 0.02, \lambda_{s1} = 0.025, \lambda_{s2} = 0.022$ in (53), we obtain,

$$R(t) = 0.012465e^{-0.1070t} - 1.570613e^{-0.2370t} + 0.180000e^{-0.1370t} + 2.142857e^{-0.1670t}$$

$$+ 0.235294e^{-0.0670t}$$

(58)

Case II: When subsystem-2 does not have a switching device, the availability of the system by taking the values of different parameters as $\lambda_1 = 0.03, \lambda_2 = 0.02, \lambda_{s1} = 0.025, \lambda_{s2} = 0$ in (53), we obtain,

$$R(t) = -1.570613e^{-0.2150t} + 0.180000e^{-0.1150t} + 2.142857e^{-0.1450t} + 0.235294e^{-0.0450t}$$

$$+ 0.012462e^{-0.0850t}$$

(59)

Case III: When subsystem-1, as well as the subsystem-2, do not have a switching device, the availability of the system by taking the values of different parameters as $\lambda_1 = 0.03, \lambda_2 = 0.02, \lambda_{s1} = 0, \lambda_{s2} = 0$ in (53), we obtain,
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\[ R(t) = -1.570613e^{-0.1900t} + 2.142857e^{-0.1200t} + 0.180000e^{-0.0900t} + 0.012462e^{-0.0600t} + 0.235294e^{-0.0200t} \] (60)

For \( t = 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 \) and 100 units of time, one may get different values \( R(t) \) with the help of (58-60), as shown in table-3 and figure-3.

Table 3 Computed values of reliability corresponding to the different cases

| Time (t) | Case-I | Case-II | Case-III |
|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| 0       | 1.0000 | 1.0000  | 1.0000   |
| 10      | 0.4269 | 0.5320  | 0.6831   |
| 20      | 0.1369 | 0.2125  | 0.3504   |
| 30      | 0.0479 | 0.0928  | 0.1965   |
| 40      | 0.0196 | 0.0473  | 0.1286   |
| 50      | 0.0090 | 0.0270  | 0.0943   |
| 60      | 0.0044 | 0.0164  | 0.0736   |
| 70      | 0.0022 | 0.0102  | 0.0590   |
| 80      | 0.0011 | 0.0065  | 0.0478   |
| 90      | 0.0005 | 0.0041  | 0.0390   |
| 100     | 0.0002 | 0.0026  | 0.0319   |

Figure 3 Reliability as a function of time
7.3 Mean Time to Failure (MTTF)

Taking all repair rate to zero and the limit as $s$ tends to zero in (53) for the exponential distribution; we can obtain the MTTF as:

$$MTTF = \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{5\lambda_1}{4\lambda_1 + \mu} + \frac{20\lambda_1^2}{3\lambda_1 + \mu} + \frac{60\lambda_1^3}{2\lambda_1 + \mu} + \frac{2\lambda_2}{\lambda_2 + \mu} \right]$$  \hspace{1cm} (61)

where $\lambda = 5\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 + \lambda_{s_1} + \lambda_{s_2}$ and $\mu = \lambda_{s_1} + \lambda_{s_2}$

Now taking the values of different parameters as $\lambda_1 = 0.03, \lambda_2 = 0.02, \lambda_{s_1} = 0.025$ and $\lambda_{s_2} = 0.022$ and varying $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_{s_1}$ and $\lambda_{s_2}$ one by one respectively as 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04, 0.05, 0.06, 0.07, 0.08, 0.09, 0.10 in (61), the variation of MTTF, with respect to failure rates, can be obtained in table-4 and figure-4.

**Table 4 Computation of MTTF corresponding to the failure rates**

| Failure Rate | $\lambda_1$ | $\lambda_2$ | $\lambda_{s_1}$ | $\lambda_{s_2}$ |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0.01         | 16.0481     | 11.0396     | 13.1586         | 12.6936         |
| 0.02         | 13.1802     | 11.1466     | 11.7385         | 11.3754         |
| 0.03         | 11.1466     | 10.9881     | 10.6151         | 10.3212         |
| 0.04         | 9.7040      | 10.7013     | 9.6971          | 9.4528          |
| 0.05         | 8.6468      | 10.3557     | 8.9290          | 8.7221          |
| 0.06         | 7.8477      | 9.9880      | 8.2749          | 8.0970          |
| 0.07         | 7.2282      | 9.6181      | 7.7101          | 7.5552          |
| 0.08         | 6.7378      | 9.2565      | 7.2167          | 7.0806          |
| 0.09         | 6.3433      | 8.9087      | 6.7818          | 6.6611          |
| 0.10         | 6.0219      | 8.5775      | 6.3952          | 6.2875          |
7.4 Cost Analysis

Let the service facility be always available, then expected profit during $[0,t)$ is

$$E_p(t) = K_1 \int_0^t P_{up}(t) dt - K_2 t$$  \hspace{1cm} (62)$$

For the same set of parameters defined in (53), one can obtain (63). Therefore,

$$E_p(t) = K_1 \{0.002850 e^{-1.1370t} - 0.008099 e^{-2.7829t} + 0.026831 e^{-1.3119t} - 0.092545 e^{-1.0638t}$$

$$- 94.595676 e^{0.0107t} + 0.000523 e^{-1.1070t} + 0.088194 e^{-1.0670t} + 94.57792 \} - K_2 t$$  \hspace{1cm} (63)$$

Setting $K_1 = 1$, $K_2 = 0.6, 0.5, 0.4, 0.3, 0.2, 0.1$ respectively, and varying $t = 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90$ and 100 units of time, the results for expected profit can be obtained as per table-5 and figure-5.
### Table 5 Profit computation for different values of time

| Time (t) | $K_2 = 0.6$ | $K_2 = 0.5$ | $K_2 = 0.4$ | $K_2 = 0.3$ | $K_2 = 0.2$ | $K_2 = 0.1$ |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0        | 0.0000      | 0.0000      | 0.0000      | 0.0000      | 0.0000      | 0.0000      |
| 10       | 3.5808      | 4.5808      | 5.5808      | 6.5809      | 7.5809      | 8.5809      |
| 20       | 6.2056      | 8.2056      | 10.2056     | 12.2056     | 14.2056     | 16.2051     |
| 30       | 7.9551      | 10.9551     | 13.9551     | 16.9551     | 19.9551     | 22.9551     |
| 40       | 8.9182      | 12.9182     | 16.9182     | 20.9182     | 24.9182     | 28.9182     |
| 50       | 9.1748      | 14.1748     | 19.1748     | 24.1748     | 29.1748     | 34.1748     |
| 60       | 8.7966      | 14.7966     | 20.7966     | 26.7966     | 32.7986     | 38.7966     |
| 70       | 7.8479      | 14.8479     | 21.8479     | 28.8479     | 35.8479     | 42.8479     |
| 80       | 6.3867      | 14.3867     | 22.3867     | 30.3867     | 38.3867     | 46.3867     |
| 90       | 4.4649      | 13.4649     | 22.4649     | 31.4649     | 40.4649     | 49.4649     |
| 100      | 2.1293      | 12.1293     | 22.1293     | 32.1293     | 42.1293     | 52.1293     |

![Expected profit as a function of time](image)

**Figure 5** Expected profit as a function of time

#### 7.5 Sensitivity Analysis corresponding to MTTF

The sensitivity in MTTF of the system can be studied through the partial differentiation of MTTF with respect to the failure rates of the system. By applying the set of parameters as
\( \lambda_1 = 0.3, \lambda_2 = 0.2, \lambda_{s_1} = 0.25 \) and \( \lambda_{s_2} = 0.22 \) in the partial differentiation of MTTF, one can calculate MTTF sensitivity, as shown in table-6 and figure-6.

### Table 6 MTTF sensitivity as a function of failure rates

| Failure Rate | \( \frac{\partial(MTTF)}{\partial \lambda_1} \) | \( \frac{\partial(MTTF)}{\partial \lambda_2} \) | \( \frac{\partial(MTTF)}{\partial \lambda_{s_1}} \) | \( \frac{\partial(MTTF)}{\partial \lambda_{s_2}} \) |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0.01         | -326.7760                        | 31.5790                          | -161.4625                        | -148.8523                        |
| 0.02         | -241.9781                        | -5.7094                          | -125.2098                        | -116.9666                        |
| 0.03         | -169.5936                        | -23.8210                         | -100.9229                        | -95.1384                         |
| 0.04         | -122.3188                        | -32.4317                         | -83.5807                         | -79.3132                         |
| 0.05         | -91.1812                         | -36.0978                         | -70.6214                         | -67.3551                         |
| 0.06         | -69.9076                         | -37.1163                         | -60.6048                         | -58.0337                         |
| 0.07         | -54.8285                         | -36.7045                         | -52.6592                         | -50.5901                         |
| 0.08         | -43.7890                         | -35.5322                         | -46.2253                         | -44.5304                         |
| 0.09         | -35.4802                         | -33.9767                         | -40.9280                         | -39.5191                         |
| 0.10         | -29.0776                         | -32.2544                         | -36.5055                         | -35.3198                         |

**Figure 6 MTTF sensitivity as a function of failure rates**
8. Conclusion

In this paper, the reliability analysis of a complex system consisting of two subsystems, subsystem-1 and subsystem-2 in a series configuration with the switching device, is studied. The subsystems have five and two units, respectively. Furthermore, the switching device in the system is unreliable, and the function of the switch is: "as long as the switch fails, the whole system fails immediately." Using the supplementary variable technique and the Laplace transform various measures like availability of the system, reliability of the system, MTTF, profit analysis, and sensitivity analysis for MTTF are derived in this model.

Table-2 and corresponding figure-2 give the analysis of availability in three different cases on the switching device. In case I, $\lambda_i = 0.025, \lambda_{s2} = 0.022$ i.e., both subsystems have a switching device, in case II, $\lambda_i = 0.025, \lambda_{s2} = 0$ i.e., only the first subsystem has switching device, while in case III, $\lambda_i = 0, \lambda_{s2} = 0$ i.e., no subsystem have switching device. It reveals from the graph that availability constantly decreases as time increases in all the three cases. The reliability of the system is evaluated in three different cases, like availability and shown in table-3 and figure-3. It concludes that reliability decreases significantly in the beginning, and thereafter it decreases approximately in a constant manner. Thus, both the availability and reliability decrease with an increase in time. Investigation through figure 2 and figure 3 concludes that availability values are greater than reliability for the same values of failure rates. Thus, one can understand the need for repair for repairable systems for better performance.

Table-4 and figure-4 yield the MTTF of the system with respect to variation in failure rate $\lambda_i, \lambda_{s2}, \lambda_{s1}$ and $\lambda_{s2}$, respectively, when other parameters have been kept constant. MTTF of the system is decreasing concerning different failure rates. MTTF of the system is highest for the failure rate of subsystem-1 and is lowest concerning the failure rate of subsystem-2. The MTTF of switching devices and subsystem-1 are almost the same on failure rate variation value after 0.03.

When revenue cost per unit time fixed at $K_1 = 1$ and service costs at $K_2 = 0.6, 0.5, 0.4, 0.3, 0.2$ and $0.1$, the expected profit has been calculated (Table 5), and the results are demonstrated by the graph (Figure 5). It reveals that expected profit increased as time increased for lower values of $K_2$ while it is decreased for higher values of service cost. Thus, for low service costs,
the profit is higher as compared to the high service cost. The sensitivities of the system MTTF concerning the system parameter $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$, and $\lambda_4$ shown in table-6 and figure-6. The sensitivity of MTTF for system parameters becomes constant for higher values. Thus, in general, with the study, the behavior of such systems can be analyzed and prognosticate in advance. This paper may be important to engineers, maintenance managers, and plant management for proper maintenance analysis, decision, and for the safety of the system as a whole.

**CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

The author(s) declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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