

Chapter 3

System Analysis

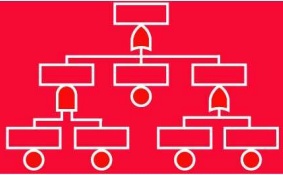
Failures and Failure Classification

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What is a Failure?

Introduction

● What is a Failure?

- Failure, Fault, and Error
- Functions
- Function Categories
- Failure Mode
- General Failure Modes
- Failure Modes of a Water Pump
- Failure Modes of a Water Tap
- Failure Classification
- Failure Classification
- Failure Cause Classification
- OREDA Failure Modes

A failure is defined as: “The termination of the ability of an item to perform a required function”

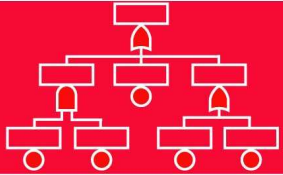
IEC60050(191)

- In other words: A failure is the non-fulfillment of a functional requirement

Example:

Consider a water pump.

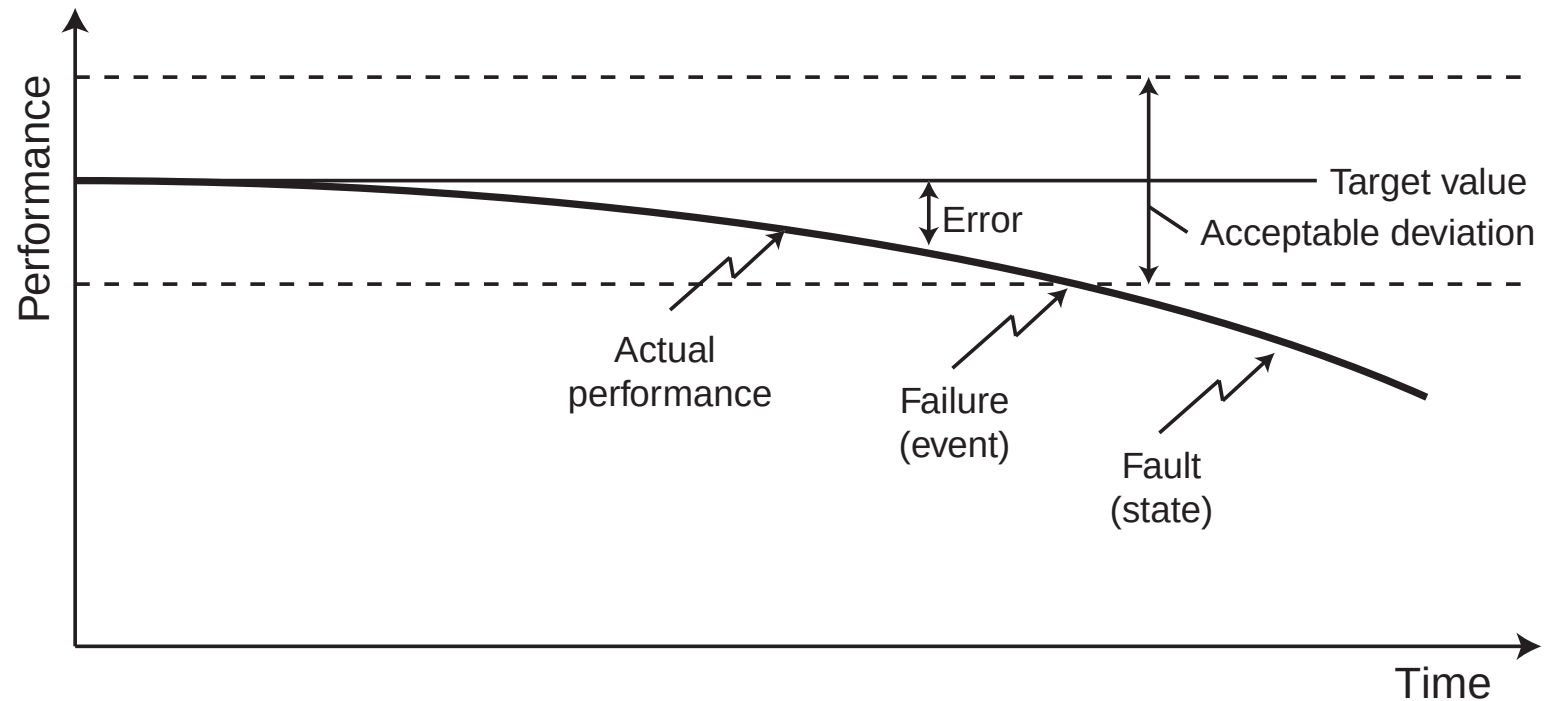
- A required function of the pump is to “pump water”
- The functional requirement related to this function is that the output of water should be between 100 and 110 liters of water per minute.
- The pump has a failure if the output of water is outside the interval



Failure, Fault, and Error

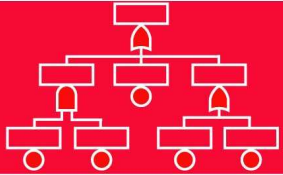
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An *error* is a “discrepancy between a computed, observed or measured value or condition and the true, specified or theoretically correct value or condition”

- IEC 60050(191)



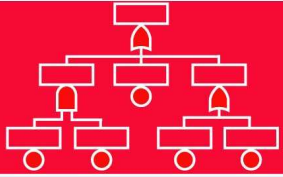
Functions

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- To identify all potential failure modes of an item, we need to identify all the functions of the item, and the associated functional requirements
- Even “simple” equipment will often have a high number of functions that may be difficult to identify
- Try, for example, to identify all the functions of a mobile phone





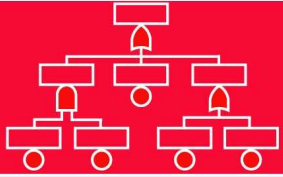
Function Categories

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It may sometimes be useful to have a list of general function categories (examples for a water pump):

- Essential functions (e.g., pump water)
- Auxiliary functions (e.g., contain water - prevent leakage out)
- Protective functions (e.g., prevent sparks from electro-motor)
- Information functions (e.g., measure internal pressure, temperature)
- Interface functions (e.g., connect to in/out pipes)
- Superfluous functions (e.g., functions remaining after the system has been modified)



Failure Mode

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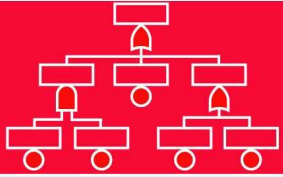
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A failure mode is defined as:

“The effect by which a failure is observed on a failed item”

This definition is not totally clear, but a failure mode should tell us in which way an item is no longer able to fulfill a required function.

Note that a failure mode is always related to one or more required functions. Sometimes failure mechanisms (e.g., corrosion) are erroneously used as failure modes. Corrosion is not a failure mode, but might be the cause of a failure mode.



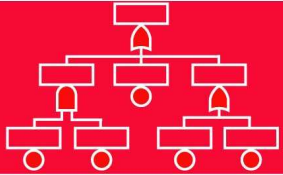
General Failure Modes

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Failure during operation |
| 2 | Failure to operate at a prescribed time |
| 3 | Failure to cease operation at a prescribed time |
| 4 | Premature (spurious) operation |
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- BS 5760-5

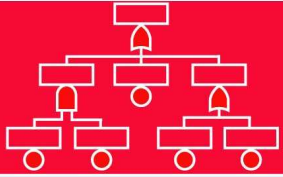


Failure Modes of a Water Pump

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- An essential function of a water pump is “*pump water*”. A functional requirement related to this function might be: “*water output must be between 100 and 110 liters per minute*”. Another possible functional requirement could be related to the smoothness of the flow out.
- A failure mode related to the function “pump water” is a specific deviation from the functional requirements. Examples of failure modes are:
 - ➔ No output from pump
 - ➔ The output is less than 100 liters per minute
 - ➔ The output is higher than 110 liters per minute
 - ➔ The flow is uneven (not smooth enough)



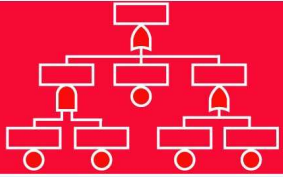
Failure Modes of a Water Tap

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- Fail to open (on demand)
- Fail to close (on demand)
- Cannot fully open
- Leakage through (dripping)
- Leakage out (from tap seals)
- Too high temperature
- Too low temperature
- Etc.



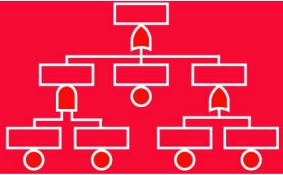


Failure Classification

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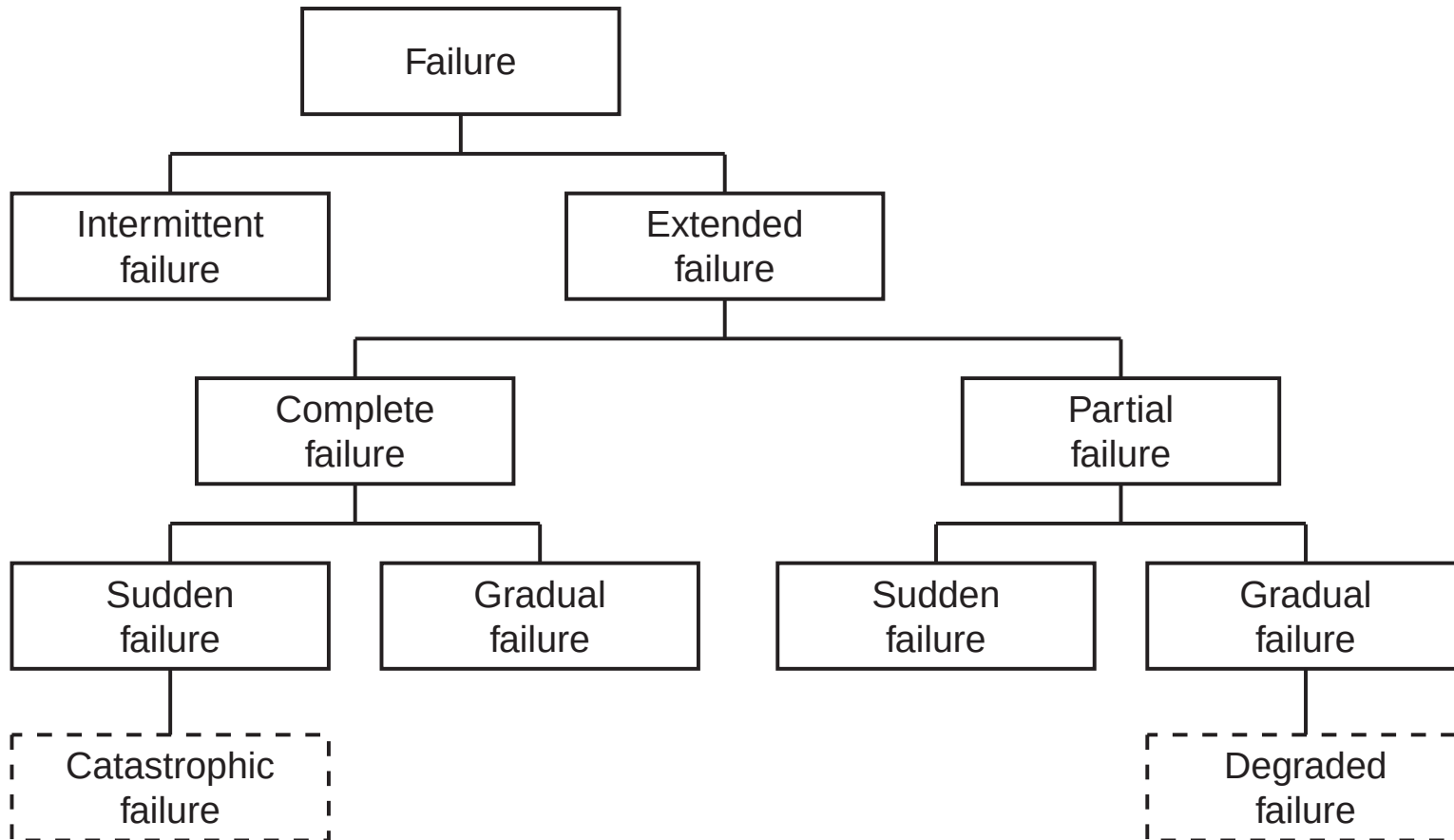
- Failure causes
 - Primary failure (inherent weakness failure)
 - Secondary failure (overstress or misuse failure)
 - Command fault
- Time of failure
 - Sudden failure
 - Gradual failure
- Detectability
 - Evident failure
 - Hidden failure
- Degree of failure
 - Partial failure
 - Complete failure

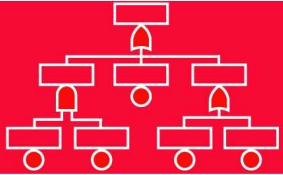


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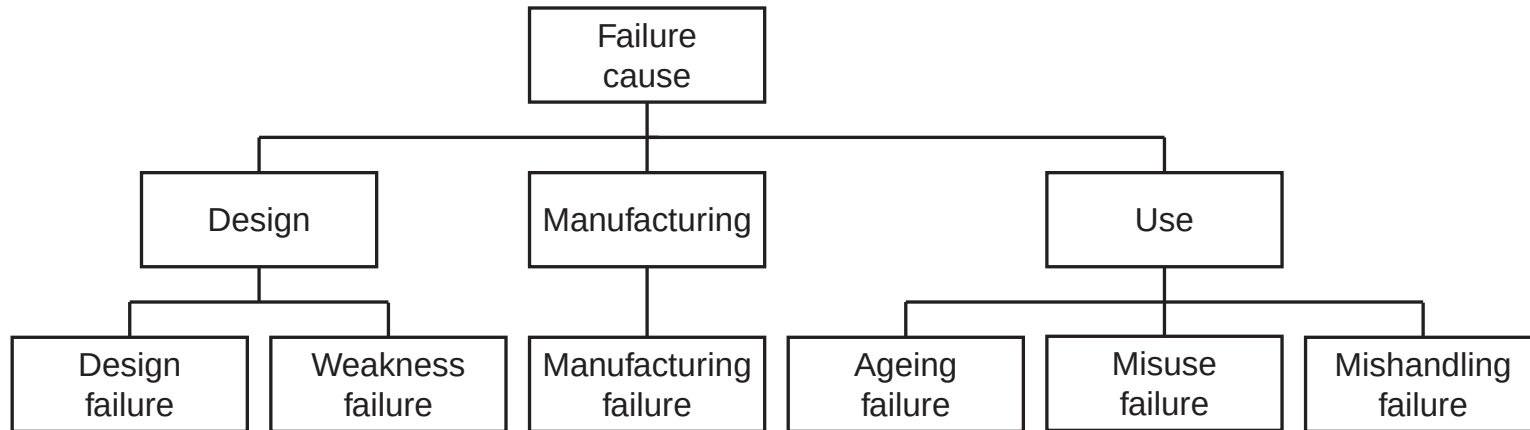


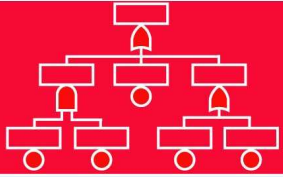


Failure Cause Classification

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OREDA Failure Modes

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- Critical failure
Sudden failure that causes termination of one or more fundamental functions
- Degraded failure
Gradual or partial failure. In time, such a failure may develop into a critical failure
- Incipient failure
An imperfection in the state or condition of an item so that a degraded or critical failure can be expected to result if corrective action is not taken