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# Solving a Joint Availability-Redundancy Optimization Model with Multistate Components and Metaheuristic Approach

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#### Abstract

Redundancy allocation problem (RAP) is one of the most important and applicable problems in reliability area. This problem aims to find the optimal configuration of system components in order to optimize system reliability under some constraints. In classical model, the system component states are binary, i.e., each component is whether working or failed. In new research studies, the components are considered as multistate components, i.e., each component may have some working states ranging from full performance to completely fail. In this paper, we work on an RAP with multistate components and the performance rate of each working state may increase by spending technical and organizational activities costs. Because RAP belongs to Np-hard problems, we used Genetic Algorithm (GA) and Simulated Annealing (SA) for solving the presented problem and the Universal Generating Function (UGF) for calculating system reliability.

*Keywords* : Reliability optimization; Redundancy allocation problem; Multistate components; universal generating function; Genetic algorithm.

## 1 Introduction

 ${\rm R}^{\rm AP^1}$  was introduced by Fyffe et al. [6] in 1968. In their model, the system has series-parallel configuration with active redundancy strategy and each subsystem possesses identical components. Table 1 contains some research studies in this area. In this paper, we presented an RAP with multistate components. The performance rate of component working states may increase by some technical activities. These activities change the component specifications and increase the probability of working state and decrease the probability of failed state. For calculating system reliability, we used UGF<sup>2</sup>. In 1992, Chern [2] proved that RAP belongs to Np-hard problems, so we used GA<sup>3</sup> and SA<sup>4</sup> for solving the presented problem. This paper was divided into five sections. The model is presented in the second section. The third sections deals with the solving method. A numerical example is presented in the fourth section and the final section is devoted to conclusion and further studies.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Redundancy Allocation Problem

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Universal Generating Function

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  Genetic Algorithm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Simulated Annealing

Fault	Penalty	Objective type	Parameter	Cost availability
Garg et al. [8]	Binary	Heterogeneous	Bee colony	No
Khalili et al. [11]	Binary	Heterogeneous	e-constraint	No
Chambari et al. [1]	Binary	Heterogeneous	SA	No
Gago et al. [7]	Binary	Heterogeneous	Greedy, Walk back	No
Ebrahimipour et al. [4]	Binary	Heterogeneous	Fuzzy inference system (FIS)	No
Liu et al. [18]	Multistate	Heterogeneous	Imperfect repair model	Yes
Ding et al. [3]	Multistate	Heterogeneous	GA	No
Ouzineb et al. [22]	Multistate	Heterogeneous	GA	No
Sharma et al. [24]	Multistate	Heterogeneous	ACO	No
Ouzineb et al. [23]	Multistate	Homogeneous	TS	No
Levitin et al. [13]	Multistate	Heterogeneous	GA	No
Liu [19]	Binary	Heterogeneous	TS-GA	No
Lins et al. [14]	Binary	Heterogeneous	GA	No
Lins et al. [15]	Binary	Heterogeneous	ACO	No
Maatouk et al. [20]	Multistate	Heterogeneous	GA	No
Garg et al. [9]	Binary	Heterogeneous	GA	No
Ebrahimipour et al. [5]	Binary	Heterogeneous	PSO	Yes
Lins et al. [16]	Binary	Heterogeneous	GA	No
Mousavi et al. [21]	Multistate	Homogeneous	CE-NRGA	Yes

Table 1: Some Related Research Studies on RAP.

# 2 Problem definition

In this paper, we work on an RAP with subsystems that are serially connected together. The problem aims to attribute the optimal allocated components to each subsystem under budget and weight constraints. The components are multistate and the probability of the working states can be increased by spending money.

### 2.1 Assumptions

- The system contain S subsystems that are connected serially,
- The components of each subsystem are parallel,
- The components are multistate,
- The components are nonreplicable,

- The system parameters are deterministic,
- The components failures are independent and the failure of one component has no effect on system performance individually,
- Different types of components are available for allocating to each subsystem,
- The components of each subsystem are identical, and
- The components states p.d.f can be changed.

### 2.2 Nomenclatures

- i: Subsystems index,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, S$
- S: Number of subsystems,
- j: Components type index,  $j = 1, 2, \ldots, T_i$ ,
- k: System state index,  $k = 1, 2, \ldots, M_i$ ,

Fault elements	Penalty function	Objective	Parameter setting	Cost discount strategy
Non-repairable	Yes	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Multiple	No	No
Non-repairable	Yes	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Single	No	No
Repairable	No	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Single	No	AUD
Non-repairable	No	Single	No	No
Repairable	No	Single	No	No
Repairable	No	Multiple	No	No
Repairable	No	Multiple	No	No
Repairable	No	Single	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Multiple	No	No
Non-repairable	No	Multiple	0	AUD
Repairable	Yes	Multiple	No	No
Non-repairable	Yes	Multiple	Taguchi	AUD and IQD

Table 1. Continue

Table 2: GA parameter levels and optimal solutions.

Optimal solution	Upper bound	Lower bound	Parameters
50	100	50	npop
0.5697	0.7	0.4	$p_c$
0.2051	0.3	0.1	$p_m$

Table 3: SA parameter levels and optimal solutions.

Optimal solution	Upper bound	Lower bound	Parameters
16	20	10	nMove
10	100	10	$T_0$
0.1	0.3	0.1	$Mu_0$

 $x_{ij}$ : Number of j <sup>st</sup> component type allocated to  $z_{ijk}$ : Binary variables: if in subsystem i, for component type j, in state k apply decreasing

Table 4: Price of components.

	Component types					
		1	2	3	4	
Subsystems	1	18	13	20	18	
	2	19	16	15	20	
	3	11	20	18	17	
	4	20	20	11	10	
	5	16	11	14	19	
	6	11	20	20	20	

Table 5: Weight of components.

		Component typ	es		
		1	2	3	4
Subsystems	1	8	5	8	7
	2	5	6	6	8
	3	6	8	9	9
	4	7	9	6	5
	5	9	8	9	10
	6	5	7	6	9

performance level is equal 1,

- $\alpha_{ijk}$ : Decreasing amount of state probability in subsystem *i*, for component type *j*, in state *k*,
- $\beta_{ijk}$ : Increasing amount of state probability in subsystem *i*, for component type *j*, in state *k*,
- $f_{ijk}^{\alpha}$ : Cost of decreasing state probability in subsystem *i*, for component type *j*, in state *k*,
- $f_{ijk}^{\beta}$ : Cost of increasing state probability in subsystem *i*, for component type *j*, in state *k*,
- $\gamma_{jk}$ : Maximum amount of decreasing state probability for component type j, in state k,
- $\varphi_{jk}$ : Maximum amount of increasing state probability for component type j, in state k,
- $c_{ij}$ : Cost of component type j in subsystem i,

- C: Available budget,
- $w_{ij}$ : Weight of component type j in subsystem i,
- C: Total acceptable system weight,
- $P_{ijk}$ : Probability of state k for the component type j in subsystem k.

#### 2.3 Mathematical model

Max 
$$R(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{s} R_i(t)$$
 (2.1)

S.t:

$$\sum_{i} \sum_{j} c_{ij} \cdot x_{ij} + \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \sum_{k=1}^{m(j)} \alpha_{ijk} \cdot f_{ijk}^{\alpha}$$
$$+ \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \sum_{k=1}^{m(j)} \beta_{ijk} \cdot f_{ijk}^{\beta} + \leq C \qquad (2.2)$$
$$(2.3)$$

 Table 6: Weight of components

	State										
		1				2			:	3	
C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4	C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4	C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4
4	4	4	4	4	1	4	3	5	4	5	1
4	1	2	4	4	3	2	1	2	3	2	1
4	2	5	1	2	5	3	1	5	2	4	3
2	1	1	3	4	2	4	2	2	5	4	4
4	1	3	3	4	3	5	5	1	3	2	5
1	5	2	4	1	2	5	2	2	3	3	1

Table 7: Cost of increasing the probability of the states

	State										
		1				2				3	
C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4	C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4	C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4
3	2	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	2
3	3	4	5	5	2	2	1	1	1	5	3
1	1	3	3	1	2	1	5	2	5	2	1
2	4	1	5	4	5	1	4	1	5	1	1
1	2	2	1	5	3	5	2	1	3	4	5
4	4	5	3	5	5	3	3	2	3	2	5

$$\sum_{i} \sum_{j} w_{ij} . x_{ij} \le W \tag{2.4}$$

$$P'_{ijk} = P_{ijk} \cdot (1 + \alpha_{ijk} - \beta_{ijk}); \quad \forall i, j, k \quad (2.5)$$

$$\sum_{j=i}^{i} N_{ij} \ge 1; \ \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, S$$
(2.6)

$$P_{ijk}^{\prime\prime} = \frac{P_{ijk}^{\prime}}{\sum_{k} P_{ijk}^{\prime}}; \quad \forall i, j, k$$
(2.7)

$$\alpha_{ijk} \le z_{ijk}.\gamma_{jk}; \quad \forall i, j, k \tag{2.8}$$

$$\beta_{ijk} \le (1 - z_{ijk}) \, .\varphi_{jk}; \, \forall i, j, k \tag{2.9}$$

$$x_{ij} \ge 0 \tag{2.10}$$

$$z_{ijk} = \{0, 1\} \tag{2.11}$$

$$0 \le \alpha_{ijk} \le 1 \tag{2.12}$$

$$0 \le \beta_{ijk} \le 1 \tag{2.13}$$

Eq. (2.1) is the objective function that maximizes system reliability. Eqs (2.2) and (2.3) are the system budget and weight constraints. Eq. (2.5) determines the effects of increasing and decreasing policies of system states probabilities. Eq. (2.6) ensures that each subsystem contains at minimum one component. Eq. (2.7) ensures that sum of the system states probabilities are equal one. Eqs (2.8) and (2.9) make a balance between increasing and decreasing state's probabilities and the Eqs (2.10) to (2.13) define the variables conditions.

## 3 Solving method

In this paper, UGF and GA have been used for calculating the system reliability, and for solving the presented model, respectivel.

### 3.1 UGF method

Ushakov [25] presented a method for calculating the reliability/availability of a MSS<sup>5</sup>, which is called UGF. This method aims to reduce the calculation complexity of MSS reliability. It has been used for calculating the reliability of the system in this paper. Lisniaski and Levitin [17] presented more information about this method.

#### 3.2 Genetic algorithm

In 1975, Holland [10] from Michigan University presented the basic ideas of GA. This algorithm is based on human genetic and its steps are as follows:

- 1. Producing n chromosomes (each chromosome represents a solution) called initial population,
- 2. Calculating the fitness function of each chromosome,
- 3. Producing the offspring by deploying three operators:

 $<sup>^5</sup>$ Multi State System

	State										
1					:	2				3	
C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4	C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4	C-type 1	C-type 2	C-type 3	C-type 4
0.6098	0.4709	0.3104	0.2607	0.283	0.2478	0.2284	0.2783	0.1071	0.2814	0.4612	0.4611
0.5015	0.5101	0.5946	0.2142	0.1964	0.1186	0.2588	0.0835	0.302	0.3713	0.1466	0.7024
0.3028	0.3607	0.4470	0.5848	0.1543	0.5065	0.3036	0.3684	0.5429	0.1328	0.2495	0.0469
0.3972	0.2083	0.3830	0.1607	0.5649	0.5392	0.1825	0.2222	0.0379	0.2525	0.4345	0.6171
0.2908	0.3666	0.3269	0.3870	0.1779	0.1983	0.3165	0.1944	0.5312	0.4351	0.3566	0.4186
0.2360	0.4475	0.3466	0.1299	0.4266	0.0933	0.4199	0.3388	0.3374	0.4592	0.2335	0.5312

Table 8: States probabilities

Table 9: Cost of decreasing the probability of the states (for all states are equal).

			Component types			
		1	2	3	4	
Subsystems	1	0.1099	0.1107	0.1891	0.1500	
	2	0.1262	0.1654	0.1334	0.1480	
	3	0.1335	0.1494	0.1699	0.1905	
	4	0.1680	0.1779	0.1198	0.1610	
	5	0.1137	0.1715	0.1031	0.1618	
	6	0.1721	0.1904	0.1744	0.1859	

Table 10: Cost of decreasing the probability of the states (for all states are equal).

	Component types						
		1	2	3	4		
Subsystems	1	0.1099	0.1107	0.1891	0.1500		
	2	0.1262	0.1654	0.1334	0.1480		
	3	0.1335	0.1494	0.1699	0.1905		
	4	0.1680	0.1779	0.1198	0.1610		
	5	0.1137	0.1715	0.1031	0.1618		
	6	0.1721	0.1904	0.1744	0.1859		

- (a) Crossover,
- (b) Mutation,
- (c) Elitism,
- 4. Replacing the offspring with parents

#### 3.3 Solution encoding

The problem chromosome contains four  $x_{i \times j}$ ,  $\alpha_{i \times j \times k}$ ,  $\beta_{i \times j \times k}$  and  $z_{i \times j \times k}$  matrixes. Definitions of these matrixes are the same as presented in 2.2. The pseudo-code of GA is presented in Fig. 1.

#### 3.4 Simulated Annealing

This algorithm has been created by Kirkpatrick [12] in 1983. It is a single point metaheuristic algorithm. In this algorithm, we initially obtain a random solution and introduce it to a predefined neighborhood and get another solution as the neighbor of the present solution. If the new solution has a better objective function than the old solution, the old solution will replace by new one. But if the new solution lacks a better objective function, it has still the opportunity of replacement under a certain probability. After this

	Component types						
		1	2	3	4		
Subsystems	1	0.1805	0.1490	0.1060	0.1818		
	2	0.1577	0.1168	0.1682	0.1818		
	3	0.1183	0.1979	0.1042	0.1722		
	4	0.1240	0.1713	0.1071	0.1150		
	5	0.1887	0.1500	0.1522	0.1660		
	6	0.1029	0.1471	0.1097	0.1519		

Table 11: Maximum acceptable increasing of states probabilities (for all states are equal).

 Table 12: Optimal solutions of the problems.

Problem	System reliability (GA)	System reliability (SA)	RS	
1	0.22218	0.28374	0.0019200	
2	0.21908	0.27601	0.0017000	
3	0.22788	0.25952	0.0014900	
4	0.20272	0.20977	0.0015600	
5	0.22914	0.2348	0.0011590	
6	0.22065	0.2607	0.0018889	
7	0.20991	0.27286	0.0015719	
8	0.21491	0.26616	0.0017350	
9	0.23276	0.25324	0.0015565	
10	0.22181	0.25849	0.0016049	
11	0.22634	0.2699	0.0015773	
12	0.22015	0.27529	0.00160350	
13	0.22556	0.26014	0.0016731	
14	0.24149	0.26158	0.00159780	
15	0.22191	0.24428	0.00161610	
15	0.22191	0.24428	0.00161610	

state, the old solution stays or is replaced by a new one. In both situations, the result again introduces it to a predefined neighborhood and be continued until algorithm meets stop condition. The pseudo-code of SA is presented in Fig. 2.

#### 3.5 Parameter tuning

For parameter tuning of GA, we used RSM<sup>6</sup>. The GA and SA parameter levels and optimal solutions of parameter are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

The non-linear regression model for GA and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Response Surface Methodology

Parameter Setting (number of iterations, Pop Size, Selection Strategy, Crossover Size, Mutation Size)

For I = 1 to number of Pop Size do Population (I) = Randomly

Best solution = []

Fitness Population (I) =evaluate (Population (I))

#### End

For it = 1 to number of iteration do

For I = 1 to number of Crossover Size do

Parents=Roulette wheel Selection (Population) Childs of Crossover = Crossover (Parents)

Fitness Childs of Crossover=evaluate (Childs of Crossover)

#### End

For I = 1 to number of Mutation Size do

x = Roulette wheel Selection (Population) Childs of Mutation = Mutation (x)

Fitness Childs of Mutation =evaluate (Childs of Mutation)

#### End

Population = merge (Population, Childs of Crossover, Childs of Mutation)

Update (Best solution)

End

Figure 1: Pseudo-code of Genetic Algorithm.

SA parameters are as follows:

 $R(t)_{GA} = 0.129724 - 0.00623639 \times npop$ 

 $+ 0.464773 \times pc + 1.91017 \times pm$ 

+ 3.63922 $e - 005 \times npop \times npop$ 

- $-0.246438 \times pc \times pc$
- $-\ 2.87848 \times pm \times pm$
- $+ 0.001307 \times npop \times pc$
- $-\ 0.0008845 \times npop \times pm$

 $-1.21258 \times pc \times pm$ 

Parameter Setting (number of iteration, To, rate of change) T=To Solution = Randomly Fitness solution = evaluate (solution) Best solution = solution For it = 1 to number of iterations do New solution= create neighbor (solution) Fitness new solution = evaluate (new solution) DC = (fitness new solution - fitness solution)/ fitness solution If DC<0 Then Solution = new solution Best solution = solution Else Generate y\* U (0, 1) Randomly Set Z=Exp(-DC/T) If y<z Then Solution =new solution Endif

Figure 2: Pseudo-code of simulated annealing.

$$\begin{split} R\left(t\right)_{SA} = & 0.196733 - 0.0152087 \times Nmove \\ & - 0.00141701 \times T_0 \\ & - 0.32329 \times Mu_0 - 0.000396208 \\ & \times Nmove \times Nmove \\ & + 1.10607e - 006 \times T_0 \times T_0 + 1.70698 \\ & \times Mu_0 \times Mu_0 \\ & + 5.33389e - 005 \times Nmove \times T_0 \\ & - 0.0333775 \times Nmove \times Mu_0 \end{split}$$

$$-0.00124583 \times T_0 \times Mu_0$$

### 4 Numerical example

A numerical example has been solved in this section to show the performance of solving methods (GA and SA). Our example contains 6 subsystems and 4 different component types for subsystems. The components of each subsystem have three different working states. The upper bound of system weight considered 100 and the available budget is 1000. Also the minimum system performance was considered 10. The other parameters of example are presented in tables 4 to 10. Considering the presented parameters, 15 different problems are solved with GA and SA and the optimal solutions are presented in Table 11. In this 15 problem, the price of component type 1 for subsystem 1 is considered as different.

The optimal values of the problem number 10 are presented as follows:

x	$_{GA} = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\\1\\0\\0\\1\end{bmatrix}$	0       0       0         0       0       0         0       0       0         1       0       0         0       0       1         0       0       1         0       0       1	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} $		$z_{GA-state1} = $	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \end{array}$
$lpha_{GA-state}$	$\mathbf{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.1 \end{bmatrix}$	$egin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 \ 0 & 0 \ 1 & 0 \ 0 \ 0 & 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0$	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.128 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \end{array}$	33	$z_{GA-state2} =$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
$\alpha_{GA-state2} =$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0\\ 0\\ 0.1219\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0.1709 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.0456 \\ 0.1258 \\ 0 \\ 0.0691 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.0258 \\ 0.1031 \\ 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.1500 \\ 1 \\ 0.1123 \\ 0 \\ 0.0028 \\ 0 \end{array}$	$z_{GA-state3} =$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
$\alpha_{GA-state3} =$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0\\ 0.0545\\ 0.0548\\ 0\\ 0.389\\ 0.1423 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0868 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.1675 \\ 0.1027 \\ 0.0762 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0.615 \\ 0.1048 \\ 0.0699 \\ 0.0638 \\ 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.1268 \\ 0.1038 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.0016 \\ 0 \\ \end{array}$	$x_{SA} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
$\beta_{GA-state1} =$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.1759\\ 0.0751\\ 0.0618\\ 0.0724\\ 0\\ 0.0573 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0098\\ 0.1168\\ 0.1559\\ 0\\ 0.0139\\ 0.1471 \end{array}$	0.0281 0.0094 0.0247 0.1071 0.1196 0.0334	$\begin{array}{c} 0.1660\\ 0.1759\\ 0\\ 0.0290\\ 0.0327\\ 0.0066 \end{array}$	$\alpha_{SA-state1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.0813 \end{bmatrix}$	$0.0970 \\ 0.0618 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ $

0.0570

0.0126

0.1202

0.0684 0.0995

0.1426

0.0137

0.1040

0.0797

 $0.1404 \quad 0.1385 \quad 0.0914$ 

0.0416

0.1046

0.0340 0.1168

0.0190

0.1189

0.1692

0.0605

 $\beta_{GA-state2} =$ 

 $B_{GA-state3} =$ 

$$z_{SA-state3} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

And the convergence diagram of GA and SA for this solution is presented in Fig. 3 and 4.



**Figure 3:** Convergence diagram of GA for problem No. 10..



**Figure 4:** Convergence diagram of SA for problem No. 10.

# 5 Conclusion and further studies

In this paper, we worked on a redundancy allocation problem without component mixing (RAPCM) with MSS using UGF, GA and SA. It has been considered that working states probability may increase by technical and organizational activities. Also for GA and SA validation, a random search and 15 different problems have been used. We propose some topics for future studies:

- Presenting a multi-objective RAP,
- Solving the presented problem for timedependent component failure rate,
- Considering the components as repairable,
- Using other metaheuristic algorithm and comparing the results.

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