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MIRCE SCIENCE: MANAGEMENT OF FUNCTIONABILITY EVENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF THE EXPECTED WORK

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Abstract

The main objective of this paper is to introduce the management community to the body of knowledge contained in MIRCE Science for the innovative approach to the management of functionability events for the provision of expected work. Thus, management manages the consequences of the complex interactions between potential occurrences of negative functionability events and positive functionability actions taken on the expected work to be done by a given functionable system. This work can be quantified by making the use of MIRCE Functionability Equation. Hence, in the future managers will be able to perform quantitative trade-off between feasible management options to determine one that would yield the greatest benefit measured through the expected work done in respect to the resources consumed. To illustrate the advantages of applying MIRCE Science to the management of negative functionability events a numerical example is provided, where several feasible management options are considered, and their consequences of expected work done quantified.

Keywords: *MIRCE Science, negative functionability events, positive functionability actions, MIRCE functionability equation, quantitative management of expected work.*

1 INTRODUCTION

The philosophy of MIRCE Science is based on the premise that the purpose of the existence of any functionable system[1] is to do a work. The work is done when the expected measurable function is performed through time. The best way to achieve that is to increase the revenue generating work done, while reducing the resources consumed for it. One way towards that target is to reduce the probability of occurrence of negative functionability event by using appropriate management/engineering methods. Another way is to reduce the amount of time a system spends in a negative functionability state by applying appropriate condition monitoring and data management technologies proposed by Industry 4.0. Although there are an infinite number of combinations between these two approaches it is necessary to recognize that the work done by a

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[1] Functionable system is operationally defined functional system. (Dubi, 2000)

functionable system is driven by their complex interactions. Their impact on the amount of work done by a functionable system could be quantified through the following two approaches:

- Measuring the work done during the operation process
- Predicting the work during the planning process.

Measuring the work done is a rather straight forward process where the operational hours are counted together with resources consumed[2]. However, collecting the data regarding the past performance of functionable systems does not have any impact on the past revenue, reputation, loyalty, and other measures of a functionable system's effectiveness.

Predicting the future performances, at the planning stage, gives an opportunity for any changes necessary to create functionable systems with desirable performance to be made, within the given budget. In return it will generate the expected return on their investment (e.g., profit, reputation, loyalty, public benefit and similar). However, to achieve that, it is necessary to have a mathematical model[3] that would facilitate that, as mathematics is the only body of knowledge that enables quantitative predictions to be made in all natural sciences, from quantum mechanics (the motions of subatomic particles) to astrophysics (the motion of spacecraft).

The main objective of this paper is to expose management community to MIRCE Science, a body of knowledge that enables quantitative prediction of the complex interactions between possible operational and maintenance strategies on the work done and resources required (Knezevic, 2017). Hence, by making use of the MIRCE Functionability Equation it is possible to perform quantitative trade-off between feasible management/engineering options to select the compromising solution that would yield the greatest effectiveness, measured through the work done or profit generated.

2 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF MIRCE SCIENCE

According to MIRCE Science, at any instant of calendar time, a given functionable system could be in one of the following two macro states Knezevic (2017):

- Positive Functionability State (PFS), a generic name for a state in which a functionable system can deliver the expected measurable function(s),
- Negative Functionability State (NFS), a generic name for a state in which a functionable system is unable to deliver the expected measurable function(s), resulting from any reason whatsoever.

In MIRCE Science work done by a functionable system is uniquely defined by the trajectory generated by its motion through MIRCE Space[4]. That motion is driven by functionability actions, which are classified as:

- Negative Functionability Action (NFA), is a generic name for any natural process or human activity that compels a system to move to the NFS. Typical examples are thermal ageing, actinic degradation, acid reaction, bird strike, warping, abrasive wear, suncups formation on the blue ice runway, fatigue, pitting, thermal buckling, photo-oxidation, production errors, strong wind, maintenance error, hail damage, lightning strike, COVID-19, quality problems, tsunami, hard landing, sandstorm and so forth.
- Positive Functionability Action (PFA), is a generic name for any natural process or human activity that compels a system to move to the PFS. Typical examples are servicing, lubrication, visual inspection, repair, replacement, final repair, examination, partial

[2] Boeing 747, registration number N747PA, which belonged to Pan Am airways, have delivered the work of 80,000 flying hours and received 806,000 maintenance man-hours, during the 22 years of in-service life. (Knezevic, Systems Maintainability, Analysis, Engineering and Management, 1997)

[3] Newton, Maxwell, Lagrange, Boltzmann and other well know and applied equations used as the mathematical models for the predictions of the physical behaviour of natural world.

[4] MIRCE Space is a conceptual 3-dimensional space containing infinite set of possible discrete functionability states that a functionable system could be found in, at any instant of the calendar time, and corresponding probabilities. (Knezevic, The Origin of MIRCE Science, 2017)

restoration, inspection, storage, modification, transportation, sparing, cannibalization, refurbishment, health monitoring, restoration, packaging, diagnostics and similar

The time evolution of a functionable system through MIRCE Space is physically manifested through the occurrences of functionability events, which are classified as:

- Positive Functionability Event (PFE), a generic name for any physically observable occurrence in the calendar time that signifies the transition of a functionable system from a NFS to the PFS.
- Negative Functionability Event (NFE), a generic name for any physically observable occurrence in the calendar time that signifies the transition of a functionable system from a PFS to the NFS.

Consequently, the concept of the time evolution in MIRCE Science is conceptualized as the motion of a functionable system through functionality states, resulting from any functionability actions whatsoever and the actions required to generate any functionability motion.

3 MATHEMATICAL PRINCIPLES OF MIRCE SCIENCE

The ability to "normalize" all competing options of a functionable system enables comparisons to be made between them and finally select the best one, in accordance with a given criterion. Hence, MIRCE Science is a body of knowledge that enables quantitative assessment of the impact of the multidimensional interactions between:

- constituent components (mechanical, electrical, electronics and so forth)
- system architecture (active and passive redundancies)
- economic considerations (income, cost, revenue, investment, inflation, etc.)
- natural environment (temperature, wind, humidity, fog, and many others
- human rules regarding:
  - operation process (levels of stress, frequencies of use and similar)
  - maintenance policies: preventive, condition based, opportunistic etc.
  - support strategies: in house support, outsource, combined.

According to the MIRCE Science philosophia[5] positive work is done when a functionable system is delivering a functionality performance, which means that it must be in a PFS. According to Knezevic (2017) the expected positive work to be done by a functionable system during a given interval of calendar time *T*, $PFW_S(T)$, measured in calendar hours, Hr, can be calculated by making use of the following equation:

$$PFW_S(T) = \int_0^T y_S(t)dt \qquad [Hr] \tag{1}$$

where: $y_S(t)$ is MIRCE Functionability Equation (Knezevic, 2014) that quantifies the probability of the event *{system is being in a PFS at instant of calendar time t},* thus:

$$y_S(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[O_s^{i-1}(t) - F_s^i(t)\right] \tag{2}$$

where:

$O_s^{i-1}(t) = P(TPE_s^{i-1} \le t)$ and

$F_s^i(t) = P(TNE_s^i \le t)$.

It is necessary to point out that $O_{s,0}(0) = 1$, in accordance with the 1st axiom of MIRCE Science (Knezevic, 2017).

The infinite sum of positive and negative functions represents a mathematical scheme that in MIRCE Science defines the sequential occurrences of the functionability events in the direction of the calendar time, for each feasible variation of the functionable system considered. In the language of mathematics these are systems of the convolution integrals. Thus, the sequential positive functionability functions, $O_s^i(t)$, which defines the probability that the PFE_S^i in the life of a functionable system, will take place before or at

[5] In Greek, *philosophia* "love of knowledge, pursuit of wisdom; systematic investigation, from *philo*- 'loving' + *sophia* 'knowledge, wisdom' "

the instant of calendar time *t*, is defined by the following convolution integrals (Knezevic, 2017):

$$O_s^i(t) = \int_0^t F_s^i(x) dO_{s,i}(t-x) \quad (3)$$

For the ith sequential positive functionability event, PFE^i, to take place before, or at the instant of calendar time *t*, it is necessary that the previous functionability event, which in this case is NFE^i, take place sometime before time *t*, denoted by *x* in the above expression. Then, the sequential PFE_i must take place during the remaining interval of calendar time, which in this case is denoted with *t-x*.

The process of defining the negative sequential distribution Function, $F_s^i(t)$, which defines the probability that the ith sequential NFE_S of a functionable system will take place before or at an instant of calendar time *t*, follows the same mathematical principle. Thus, the sequential negative functionability functions are fully defined in the following way:

$$F_s^i(t) = \int_0^t O_s^{i-1}(x) dF_{s,i}(t-x) \quad (4)$$

This multidimensional set of convolution integrals defines the motion of a functionable system through MIRCE Space, depicting and passing through each sequential functionability state in the direction of calendar time, generating a trajectory unique to each functionable system. Thus, the same set of generic equations, when applied to different operational and maintenance policies generate different trajectories of the motion through MIRCE Space, which means different functionability performance, namely different work done, and different resources consumed. Hence, Knezevic (2017) has created a generic platform on which each feasible plan for the operation and maintenance policies and strategies would generate its own future "trajectory" for a system under consideration.

4 MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: AN ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

To illustrate the applicability of MIRCE Science to the quantitative assessment of the combined impact of management policies and strategies on the work done by a functionable system considered, a hypothetical example will be used.

The simplest possible functionable system consists of one component that exists in two functionable states, namely PFS and NFS. Even further, a single positive or negative action causes the occurrences of positive and negative events at which the functionable system changes its functionable states.

It is necessary to stress that this example is chosen, not because the real functionable systems consist of a single component, but because it is extremely useful for the understanding of the mathematical scheme that defines the motion of a functionable system through MIRCE Space. This knowledge, in turn, quantifies its expected functionability performance, namely the expected work done, and corresponding resources consumed.

To demonstrate the applicability of MIRCE Science mathematical scheme to the quantitative assessment of the combined impact of management/engineering decisions on the performance of a functionable system the following three options of the future system are addressed:

Option 1: Basic design; The functionable system under consideration is expected to experience occurrences of a NFE during a continuous operation with the expected value of $E[TNE_S]=1080\ Hr$. What is the amount of a positive work expected to be delivered during a calendar year of continuous operation, without performing any positive action?

Option 2: Adding positive actions; What would be the additional work done if the system is designed in the way that maintenance actions could be performed after occurrences of negative functionability events? Assume that the design-in maintenance action that returns a

functionable system to PFS has the expected value of $E[TPES,]=168\ Hr$.

If options 1 and 2 are not satisfying business requirements, an additional amount of money has been allocated to the project. Contributing departments have been asked to make the proposal for the increase of the expected work done, for a given extra budget. The following two proposals were made:

Option 3: The production department submitted a proposal in which they were stating that by investing the additional funds allocated into a new technology based on Industry 4.0 it would be possible to extend the basic design expected life of a system by 50%.

Option 4: The Maintenance Engineering department submitted a proposal in which they were stating that by investing the additional funds allocated into new testing and diagnostic equipment it is possible to reduce the time spend in NFS of a system 50%, in respect to the Option 2.

Which option should be adopted and why?

Best to the author's knowledge today there is no management body of knowledge that can provide quantitative justifiable answer to the above questions. In the remaining part of the paper, it will be shown how to apply MIRCE Science equations to provide the quantitative answer to the question posed, to maximize the return on investment like profit, reputation, loyalty, public benefit and so forth.

5 MIRCE SCIENCE BASED SOLUTION FOR ANALYSIS OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Option 1:

Based on the information available the only possible conclusion regarding the probability distribution of the TNE of a system is that it is fully defined by the exponential distribution, which is uniquely defined by the expected value, which in this case is $A_N = E[TNE_{S,}]=1080$ Hr. The expected positive functionability work from this management option could be determined by obtaining the numerical solution to the Eq. 1.

A generic expression for an exponentially distributed cumulative distribution function of a random variable TNE_i is

$$F_{S,i}(t) = P(NFE_{S,i} \le t) = 1 - e[-(t/A_N)],\quad i = 1, \infty$$

Based on the data available, the probability of the first negative functionability event of a system, NFE_S^1, taking place before of at a given instant of time t is:

$$F_S^1(t) = 1 - e[-(t/1080)],\quad 0 \le t \le \infty .$$

In this specific case, where it is decided that not to take any action after the occurrence of the first negative functionability event, MIRCE Functionability Equation is defined as:

$$y(t) = e\left[-\left(t/1080\right)\right].$$

Finally, by making use of the Eq. 1 it is possible to derive the expression for the expected work done, as follows (Knezevic, 2021):

$$PFW(T) = \int_o^T \left[e^{-\left(\frac{t}{A_N}\right)} \right] dt = A_N \left[1 - e^{-\left(\frac{T}{A_N}\right)} \right]$$

For the planned continuous operation of the functionable system during a calendar year, $T=24x365= 8760\ Hr$. Hence, the amount of expected positive functionability work to be done by the design option considered is:

$$PFW(8760) = 1080 \times \left[\left(1 - e^{\left(-\frac{8760}{1080}\right)} \right) \right] = 1079.68 \text{ Hr}$$

In summary, a functionable system defined with the available data is expected to deliver 1079.68 hours of work during the available 8760 calendar hours.

Option 2:

Following the logic used in the analysis of Option 1, in this example, the exponential theoretical distribution with the expected value of $E[TPE_{S,}]= A_P= 168$ Hr, is used to describe the motion of a system though NFS. Thus, according

to the data available, the cumulative distribution function for the time of occurrence of i_{th} positive functionability event is defined as:

$$O_{S,i}(t) = 1 - \exp(-t/A_P), \quad i = 1, \infty.$$

Thus, the MIRCE Functionability Equation (Eq. 2) becomes fully defined by the set of convolution integrals which are of the form of the Gamma probability distribution, as the convoluting functions are defined by the identical exponentially distributed random variables, $\mathrm{TNE}_{S,i}$ and $\mathrm{TPE}_{S,i}$ in the following way:

$$O_s^i(t) = \int_0^t \left[\frac{(1/A_P)(t/A_P)^{i-1} \mathrm{e}^{(-t/A_P)}}{(i-1)!} \right] dt$$

$$F_s^i(t) = \int_0^t \left[\frac{(1/A_N)(t/A_N)^{i-1} \mathrm{e}^{(-t/A_N)}}{(i-1)!} \right] dt$$

Dubi (2000) has proven that a generic expression for the MIRCE Functionability Equation (Eq. 2) for equally exponentially distributed time to negative and positive functionability events, as defined above, is equal to:

$$y_S(t) = \left[\frac{A_N}{A_P + A_N} + \frac{A_P}{A_P + A_N} \mathrm{e}^{-\left(\frac{A_P + A_N}{A_P A_N}\right)t} \right] \quad (5)$$

The amount of the expected positive work to be done by the system defined by option 2 could be calculated by substituting the function *y(t)* into Eq. 1, thus (Knezevic, 2021):

$$PFW(T) = \int_o^T y(t)dt = \int_o^T \left[\frac{A_N}{A_P + A_N} + \frac{A_P}{A_P + A_N} \mathrm{e}^{-\left(\frac{A_P + A_N}{A_P A_N}\right)t} \right] dt \quad (6)$$

$$= -\frac{A_N A_P}{A_P + A_N} \left[-\frac{T}{A_P} - \frac{A_P}{A_P + A_N} \left(1 - \mathrm{e}^{-\left(\frac{A_P + A_N}{A_P A_N}\right)T} \right) \right]$$

After substituting the values for the parameters in the above expression the expected positive functionability work will be 7600.34 Hr.

Thus, by managing the operation of a system in the way that it is possible to return it in PFS after the occurrence of NFE by performing specific maintenance activities, the expected work done by a system will increase by 6520.66 Hr, in respect to the expected work done by option 1.

Option 3:

By implementing proposed manufacturing technology proposed the expected time to the occurrence of NFE, will increase from 1080 Hr to 1620 Hr, while maintaining the same characteristics of $TPE_{S,i}$, thus (Knezevic, 2021):

$$PFW(8760) = -\frac{A_N A_P}{A_P + A_N} \left[-\frac{T}{A_P} - \frac{A_P}{A_P + A_N} \left(1 - \mathrm{e}^{-\left(\frac{A_N + A_P}{A_P \times A_N}\right)T} \right) \right]$$

$$= -\frac{1620 \times 168}{1620 + 168} \left[-\frac{8760}{168} - \frac{168}{1620 + 168} \left(1 - \mathrm{e}^{-\left(\frac{1620 + 168}{1620 \times 168}\right)8760} \right) \right] = 7951.21\ Hr$$

Option 4:

As a result of improved testing and diagnostics equipment, proposed by the maintenance engineering department the expected time in NFS will be reduced to A_P=*84 Hr*, while maintaining the same probability distribution for $\mathrm{TNE}_{S,i}$, hence (Knezevic, 2021):

$$PFW(8760) = -\frac{A_N A_P}{A_P + A_N} \left[-\frac{T}{A_P} - \frac{A_P}{A_P + A_N} \left(1 - \mathrm{e}^{-\left(\frac{A_N + A_P}{A_P \times A_N}\right)T} \right) \right]$$

$$= -\frac{1080 \times 84}{1080 + 84} \left[-\frac{8760}{84} - \frac{84}{1080 + 84} \left(1 - \mathrm{e}^{-\left(\frac{1080 + 84}{1080 \times 84}\right)8760} \right) \right] = 8133.46\ Hr$$

Based on the predicted expected work done by the system under consideration, by applying the MIRCE Science equations the final solution to be recommended for the adoption for the future system is option 4. This feasible management solution provides additional work of 351 Hr in respect to option 3 and 533 Hr in respect to option 2, as illustrated by Figure 1.

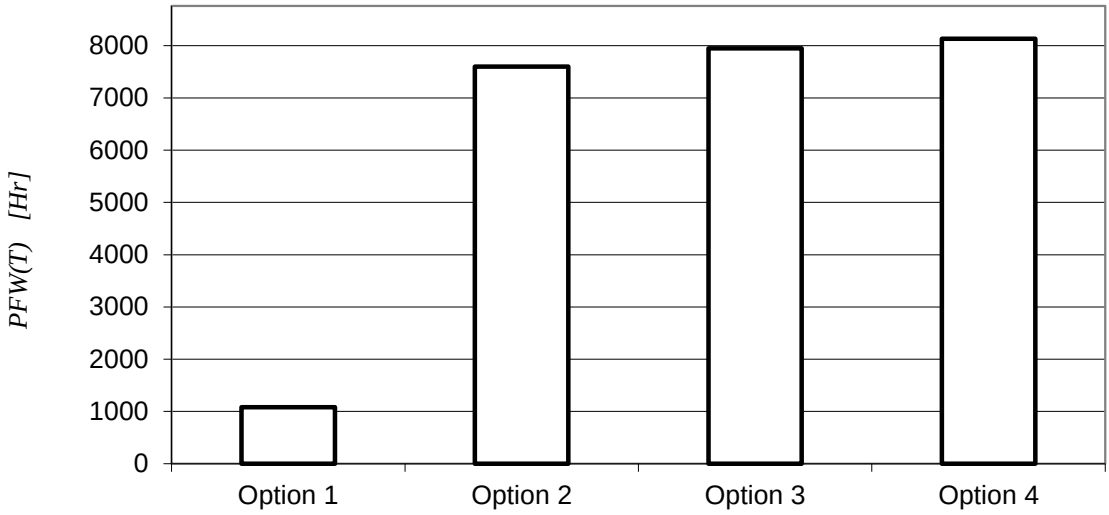

Figure 1: Expected work done by all four feasible maintenance management options

The impact of all feasible solutions presented above on revenue, cost and profit could be easily computed by making use of the MIRCE Profitability Equation presented in (Knezevic, 2016).

6 MIRCE SCIENCE BASED PHYSICAL ANALYSIS OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The mathematical analysis of the four feasible management options, considered above, has shown that is expected that option 4 will provide the highest amount of work done during the year of operation, with the same monetary value of resources investment in the other three. This conclusion was made by quantitatively evaluating the MIRCE Functionability Equation for each management option using the available input data.

From a mathematical point of view the obtained results are correct as none of the mathematical equations violate any mathematical laws. However, as these are production and maintenance management options, it is their duty to select the input data into mathematical predictions. This is primarily related to the selection of mathematical models that define physical mechanisms that generate the motion of functionable systems through functionability states, as the MIRCE Functionability Equation is presented in a generic form, suitable for any application. However, the specific probability functions must be selected by the managers of specific systems.

In the above example, exponential probability distributions are selected for random variables, TNE_i and $TPEi$, purely for the ease of the calculation of corresponding convolution integrals (Eq. 3 and 4).

From a scientific point of view the mathematical assumption made had the following physical consequences, thus a system cannot:

- experience any manufacturing, transportation and installation actions that would generate the NFE.
- experience any time or usage related degradation mechanisms, like corrosion, fatigue, thermal deformation, creep, wear and similar.
- experience any maintenance or storage induced action that would generate the NFE.
- be exposed to seasonal, operational or geographical variability.

From a maintenance point of view the mathematical assumption made had the following physical consequences; no maintenance action applied to the system can have fix duration of time required for its successful completion, like:

- 24 hours for a paint to dry
- 12 hours for a physical/chemical analysis used as a part of the troubleshooting process,
- 7 days contractual provisioning of spare parts

The above statements of a physical reality known and experienced by managers, engineers, technicians, and others involved with the operation process of functionable systems. Based on the above analysis of the observable physical reality excluded by mathematical assumptions of exponentially distributed times of the evolution of functionability of a system through MIRCE Space, presented in the numerical example used in this paper, the following two points must be made:

1. Equations 1 and 2 are generic expressions applicable to any functionable system, operating in any natural environment, exposed to any human imposed rules. To be utilized during the design process it is necessary that relevant professionals are involved to identify mathematical laws that adequately described the physical reality of their systems and then seek a method for evaluation of convolution integrals defined by Eq. 3 and 4.
2. Equations 5 and 6 provide accurate predictions of the expected work to be done during the in-service lives of functionable systems given that operational and maintenance limitations, some of which are listed above, and many others, are not applicable to their systems, otherwise the predictions would be incorrect.

7 A FEW WORDS MORE ABOUT THE USE OF MIRCE FUNCTIONABILITY EQUATION

The numerical example used in this paper is related to a system that consists of a single component, where both positive and negative functionability actions are mathematically represented by corresponding exponential probability distributions, for a very simple reason. This combination is the only case for which an explicit closed mathematical solution exists.

Because realistic systems involve more than a single component with more than one functionability event generating mechanisms the possibility of finding an analytical solution for multidimensional convolution integrals defined by Eq. 3 and 4 are seldom possible due to the inability of mathematics to deal with the large number of convolution functions and their interactions. These types of problems are not specifically related to MIRCE Science, they are common to all scientific disciplines of this nature, as it is a known mathematical fact that the integral equations do not have analytical solutions. (Knezevic, 2017)

The most suitable way forward for any real functionable systems, of any complexity of operational reality, is to apply the Monte Carlo method as the only viable approach with which solutions for the MIRCE Functionability Equation and thereby for the system performance may be obtained. It is applicable to systems with multiple interacting components, with ageing mechanisms and any operation, maintenance, and support rules. Thus, the Monte Carlo method provides the performance function of a system for any given scenario and with any form of resources, but it is beyond the scope of this paper.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The main objective of this paper is to introduce the management community to the body of knowledge contained in MIRCE Science for the innovative approach to a management of functionability events for the provision of the expected work. Thus, managers manage the consequences of the complex interactions between occurrences of negative functionability events and execution of positive functionability actions taken that drive the behavior of functionable systems, which is quantifiable the MIRCE Functionability Equation. Hence, in the future managers will be able to perform quantitative trade-off between feasible positive and negative functionability options to determine one that would yield the greatest benefit measured through the expected profit. To illustrate the advantages of applying MIRCE Science to the management process a numerical example is provided, where several feasible functionability options are considered and quantified.

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