

# Software Reliability and Safety

## CSE 8317 — Spring 2017

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### **SSE.3: Hazard and Risk Resolution**

- Hazard Resolution and Damage Control
- Hazard Resolution Techniques:  
Hazard Elimination/Reduction/Control
- Risk Resolution: Damage Reduction

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## Safety Techniques

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- Hazard and risk identification:
  - ▷ Accident scenarios: actual/hypothetical
    - starting points for safety
  - ▷ Focus: operations and operational env.
  
- Hazard analysis and assessment:
  - ▷ Fault trees: (static) logical conditions
  - ▷ Event trees: dynamic sequences
  - ▷ Other analyses/assessment techniques
  
- Hazard and risk resolution
  - ▷ Hazard elimination
  - ▷ Hazard reduction
  - ▷ Hazard control
  - ▷ Damage control

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## Hazard and Risk Resolution

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- Generic hazard resolution techniques (in order of their precedence):
  - ▷ Hazard elimination:
    - eliminate hazard sources
  - ▷ Hazard reduction:
    - reduce hazard likelihood/severity
  - ▷ Hazard control:
    - control hazard severity/scope
- Hazard resolution  $\Rightarrow$  prob(incident)  $\downarrow$
- Related issues:
  - ▷ Basis: hazard identification and analysis via FTA, ETA, CCA, etc.
  - ▷ Many specific techniques
  - ▷ Related to QA and SRE
  - ▷ Risk resolution: damage reduction too

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## Hazard Elimination

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- Elimination of hazard
  - ▷ Intrinsically safe (sub-)system
  - ▷ All eliminated: feasibility & cost?
  - ▷ Certain types of hazard eliminated
  - ▷ Direct use of hazard identification and analysis results.
  
- Specific techniques: “Good SE & SSE”
  - ▷ Component substitution ( $\Leftarrow$  FTA)
  - ▷ No single point of failure ( $\Leftarrow$  ETA)
  - ▷ Simplification of building blocks
  - ▷ Decoupling of system architecture
  - ▷ Human errors/hazardous material elim.
  - ▷ Component safety certification:
    - formal verification
    - components identified by FTA etc.
  - ▷ Link to testing/FT/QA activities

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## Hazard, Controllability, & Observability

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- Related to hazard resolution, particularly hazard reduction and control.
  
- Controllability:
  - ▷ Between any two system states
  - ▷ Desirable/safe states: maintain
  - ▷ Fail  $\Rightarrow$  action  $\Rightarrow$  safe (haz. control)
  - ▷ Controllability limits:
    - system design/structure limit
    - energy/capacity limit
  
- Observability: observation of system states (and failures), basis for control.

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## Design for Controllability

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- Maintain safe states
  - ▷ Use built-in control
  - ▷ Monitoring: observation  $\Rightarrow$  control
  - ▷ Multiple checks  $\Leftarrow$  monitoring
  - ▷ Mostly in hazard reduction
  
- Enhancing control opportunities:
  - ▷ Incremental control: more control points
  - ▷ Intermediate states: more obs. points  
( $\Rightarrow$  more control opportunities)
  - ▷ Decision aid: easier/more control points
  - ▷ Both in hazard reduction and especially  
in hazard control

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## Hazard Reduction

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- Hazard reduction:
  - ▷ Severity reduction:
    - change failure characteristics  
(failure  $\wedge$   $\neg$  hazard)
    - various locks/barriers
  - ▷ Likelihood reduction:
    - reduce failure probability
    - in combination with above
    - also: most QA/SRE related techniques
  
- Specific techniques:
  - ▷ Design for controllability
  - ▷ Barriers and locks (passive)
  - ▷ Failure/hazard probability/severity ↓  
(accident probability↓)

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## Hazard Reduction: Techniques

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- Monitoring and checks: Fig 16.2
  - ▷ Hardware checks: lowest level
  - ▷ Code-level checks: assertions
    - connection to PSC (SSE.4)
  - ▷ Audit checks: independent monitoring
  - ▷ Supervisory checks: system/highest level
  
- Locks and barriers (passive)
  - ▷ Lock-outs (preventing hazard)
  - ▷ Lock-ins (maintaining safety conditions)
  - ▷ Interlocks (correct order/combinations)
  - ▷ Other barriers (extra cap./redundancy/etc.)



## Hazard Reduction: Techniques

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- Hazard probability minimization:
  - ▷ Design with extra capacity:
    - safety factors/margins example
    - melt temp.  $T_m$  and margin  $M$
    - $\Rightarrow$  safety bound  $T_s = T_m - M$
  - ▷ Redundancy: similar
  - ▷ QA and SRE: failure  $\downarrow$ 
    - focused hazard probability min.
    - with FTA/ETA/etc. help
  
- Redundancy (FT etc.)  $\Rightarrow$  prob(hazard)  $\downarrow$ :
  - ▷ Hardware redundancy/backup
  - ▷ Software redundancy:
    - fault tolerance (NVP, & (?) RB)
    - anticipated input/env. enlargement
    - “fool-proof” software
  - ▷ Recovery: similar to RB in FT
  - ▷ Hardware/software interlocks

## Hazard Resolution: Hw/Sw Interlock

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- Interlock software
  - ▷ Software used as safety interlock
    - (s/w usage: data/control/safety)
    - example: emergency shut-down s/w
  - ▷ More stringent safety requirement:
    - most s/w function safety-related
    - should not rely solely on s/w
    - Therac-25 accident lessons
  
- Hardware/software interlock
  - ▷ Limitation of s/w backups:
    - diversity and independence problems
  - ▷ Hardware backups and interlocks:
    - different characteristics
    - different failure mechanisms
    - more likely to be *independent*
    - passive/active safety devices
  - ▷ Combine the advantages  $\Rightarrow$  safety  $\uparrow$

## Hazard Control

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- Hazard control:
  - ▷ Detecting hazard, then control it
  - ▷ Built-in control: by design
  - ▷ Change after detection:
    - (passive) limits  
(mostly outside system)
    - (active) control devices/sub-systems
  
- Specific techniques:
  - ▷ Limiting exposure (duration↓)
  - ▷ Isolation and containment
  - ▷ Protection systems
  - ▷ Fail-safe design

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## Hazard Control: Techniques

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- Internal system change:
  - ▷ Isolation of hazard event
  - ▷ Containment around hazard event
  - ▷ Fail-safe design (passive)
  
- System augmentation:
  - ▷ Protection system (PS) added on:
    - hazard  $\Rightarrow$  PS action  $\Rightarrow$  safe
    - shut-down or partial shut-down
    - e.g., automatic coolant injection or pressure relief
  - ▷ Controllability limit (earlier)
  - ▷ Partial solution may be necessary:
    - reduce the severity
    - bring to a neighboring state

## Risk Resolution: Damage Reduction

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- Damage reduction: Why?
  - ▷ Risk factors:  
 $f(\text{prob}(\text{haz}), \text{prob}(\text{haz} \rightarrow \text{acc}), \text{damage})$
  - ▷ All the hazard resolution techniques  
 $\Rightarrow$  risk  $\neq$  0 still!
  - ▷ Damage reduction needed
  - ▷ Passed “point of no return”
  
- Specific techniques:
  - ▷ Escape routes (lifeboats, fire escapes, evacuation plans, etc.)
  - ▷ Safe abandonment (haz. waste disposal)
  - ▷ Devices for limiting damage:
    - auto safety devices
    - limited melt-down
    - collapsible signpost, etc.

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## Perspectives

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- SSE: Augment S/w Eng.
  - ▷ Analysis to identify hazard
  - ▷ Design for safety
  - ▷ Verify safety constraints (next module)
  - ▷ Leveson's s/w safety program
  
- Dealing with hazard/risk in SSE:
  - ▷ Hazard identification and analysis
  - ▷ Design for safety/hazard resolution:
    - Hazard elimination/reduction/control
  - ▷ Damage reduction
  - ▷ Safety verification
  - ▷ All in SSE context: hazard focus.