IEC 62551

Edition 1.0 2012-10

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Analysis techniques for dependability – Petri net techniques

Techniques d'analyse de sûreté de fonctionnement – Techniques des réseaux de Petri

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

PRICE CODE
CODE PRIX XB

ICS 21.020

ISBN 978-2-83220-370-5

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ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES FOR DEPENDABILITY – PETRI NET TECHNIQUES

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62551 has been prepared by committee 56: Dependability.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
56/1476/FDIS	56/1484/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

This International Standard provides a basic methodology for the representation of the basic elements of Petri nets (PNs) [1][1] and provides guidance for application of the techniques in the dependability field.

The inherent power of Petri net modelling is its ability to describe the behaviour of a system by modelling the relationship between local states and local events. Against this background, Petri nets have gained widespread acceptance in many industrial fields of application (e.g. information, communication, transportation, production, processing and manufacturing and power engineering).

The conventional methods are very limited when dealing with actual industrial systems because they are neither able to handle multi-state systems, nor able to model dynamic system behaviour (e.g. fault tree or reliability Block diagrams), and can be subject to the combinatory explosion of the states to be handled (e.g. Markov process). Therefore, alternative modelling and calculating methods are needed.

Dependability calculations of an industrial system intend to model the various states of the system and how it evolves from one state to another when events (failures, repairs, periodic tests, night, day, etc.) occur.

Reliability engineers need a user-friendly graphical support to achieve their models. Due to their graphical presentation, Petri nets are a very promising modelling technique for dependability modelling and calculations.

Analytical calculations are limited to small systems and/or by strong hypothesis (e.g. exponential laws, low probabilities) to be fulfilled. A qualitative increase is needed to deal with industrial size systems. This may be done by going from analytical calculation to Monte Carlo simulation.

This standard aims at defining the consolidated basic principles of the PNs in the context of dependability and the current usage of Petri net PN modelling and analysing as a means for qualitatively and quantitatively assessing the dependability and risk-related measures of a system.

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1 Figures in square brackets refer to the bibliography.

ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES FOR DEPENDABILITY – PETRI NET TECHNIQUES

1 Scope

This International Standard provides guidance on a Petri net based methodology for dependability purposes. It supports modelling a system, analysing the model and presenting the analysis results. This methodology is oriented to dependability-related measures with all the related features, such as reliability, availability, production availability, maintainability and safety (e.g. safety integrity level (SIL) [2] related measures).

This standard deals with the following topics in relation to Petri nets:

a) defining the essential terms and symbols and describing their usage and methods of graphical representation;

b) outlining the terminology and its relation to dependability;

c) presenting a step-by-step approach for

   1) dependability modelling with Petri nets,

   2) guiding the usage of Petri net based techniques for qualitative and quantitative dependability analyses,

   3) representing and interpreting the analysis results;

d) outlining the relationship of Petri nets to other modelling techniques;

e) providing practical examples.

This standard does not give guidance on how to solve mathematical problems that arise when analysing a PN; such guidance can be found in [3] and [4].

This standard is applicable to all industries where qualitative and quantitative dependability analyses is performed.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60050-191:1990, *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary – Chapter 191: Dependability and quality of service*