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IEC 61649:2008

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Weibull analysis

AS/NZS IEC 61649:2020

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The following are represented on Committee QR-005:

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Weibull analysis

First published as AS/NZS IEC 61649:2020.

Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee QR-005, Dependability.

The objective of this Standard is to provide methods for analysing data from a Weibull distribution using continuous parameters such as time to failure, cycles to failure, mechanical stress, etc.

This Standard is applicable whenever data on strength parameters, e.g. times to failure, cycles, stress, etc. are available for a random sample of items operating under test conditions or in-service, for the purpose of estimating measures of reliability performance of the population from which these items were drawn.

This Standard is applicable when the data being analysed are independently, identically distributed. This should either be tested or assumed to be true (refer to IEC 60300-3-5).

In this Standard, numerical methods and graphical methods are described to plot data, to make a goodness-of-fit test, to estimate the parameters of the two- or three-parameter Weibull distribution and to plot confidence limits. Guidance is given on how to interpret the plot in terms of risk as a function of time, failure modes and possible weak population and time to first failure or minimum endurance.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from IEC 61649:2008, *Weibull analysis*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard, a full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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WEIBULL ANALYSIS

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 61649 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 56: Dependability.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published in 1997, and constitutes a technical revision.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows:

– the title has been shortened and simplified to read “Weibull analysis”;
– provision of methods for both analytical and graphical solutions have been added.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
56/1269/FDIS	56/1281/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 maintenance result 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.

INTRODUCTION

The Weibull distribution is used to model data regardless of whether the failure rate is increasing, decreasing or constant. The Weibull distribution is flexible and adaptable to a wide range of data. The time to failure, cycles to failure, mileage to failure, mechanical stress or similar continuous parameters need to be recorded for all items. A life distribution can be modelled even if not all the items have failed.

Guidance is given on how to perform an analysis using a spreadsheet program. Guidance is also given on how to analyse different failure modes separately and identify a possible weak population. Using the three-parameter Weibull distribution can give information on time to first failure or minimum endurance in the sample.

WEIBULL ANALYSIS

1 Scope

This International Standard provides methods for analysing data from a Weibull distribution using continuous parameters such as time to failure, cycles to failure, mechanical stress, etc.

This standard is applicable whenever data on strength parameters, e.g. times to failure, cycles, stress, etc. are available for a random sample of items operating under test conditions or in-service, for the purpose of estimating measures of reliability performance of the population from which these items were drawn.

This standard is applicable when the data being analysed are independently, identically distributed. This should either be tested or assumed to be true (see IEC 60300-3-5).

In this standard, numerical methods and graphical methods are described to plot data, to make a goodness-of-fit test, to estimate the parameters of the two- or three-parameter Weibull distribution and to plot confidence limits. Guidance is given on how to interpret the plot in terms of risk as a function of time, failure modes and possible weak population and time to first failure or minimum endurance.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. 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 – Part 191: Dependability and quality of service*

IEC 60300-3-5:2001, *Dependability management – Part 3-5: Application guide – Reliability test conditions and statistical test principles*

IEC 61810-2, *Electromechanical elementary relays – Part 2: Reliability*

ISO 2854:1976, *Statistical interpretation of data – Techniques of estimations and tests relating to means and variances*

ISO 3534-1:2006, *Statistics – Vocabulary and symbols – Part 1: General statistical terms and terms in probability*

3 Terms, definitions, abbreviations and symbols

For the purposes of this document, the definitions, abbreviations and symbols given in IEC 60050-191 and ISO 3534-1 apply, together with the following.

3.1 Terms and definitions

3.1.1
censoring
terminating a test after either a given duration or a given number of failures

NOTE A test terminated when there are still unfailed items may be called a “censored test", and test time data from such tests may be referred to as “censored data”.