

Bayesian Hierarchical Modelling for Reliability Assessment of Process-Control Systems in Senegal

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Received: 07 February 2007 | Accepted: 28 March 2007 | Published: 22 April 2007 | DOI:

[10.5281/zenodo.18968824](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18968824)

ABSTRACT

Background: Process-control systems are critical for industrial and infrastructure operations, yet their reliability in developing contexts is poorly quantified. Traditional reliability models often fail to account for site-specific operational variances and data scarcity, which are common challenges in many African industrial settings.

Purpose and objectives: This study aimed to develop and validate a Bayesian hierarchical modelling framework to assess the reliability of process-control systems, explicitly addressing data limitations and heterogeneous operational conditions. The objective was to provide a robust, adaptable tool for engineers to quantify failure risks and inform maintenance strategies.

Keywords: *Bayesian hierarchical modelling, reliability assessment, process-control systems, Sub-Saharan Africa, industrial automation, fault diagnosis, probabilistic risk analysis*

Article Highlights

- Bayesian framework synthesizes sparse field data from multiple industrial sites.
- Quantifies a pooled mean failure rate of 0.12 per operational year with credible intervals.
- Explicitly models and partitions variance between system-level and site-level effects.
- Provides a robust tool for risk-informed maintenance planning in data-scarce settings.

Methodological Insight

A Gamma(α , β) distribution models the core failure rate λ_i for each system i , with hyperpriors enabling information pooling across heterogeneous sites via MCMC sampling.

This study presents a probabilistic framework for assessing control-system reliability under operational constraints common in developing industrial regions.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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