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[A S](#page-8-0)ervicing Strategy Involving Imperfect Repair 1 **For Products Sold with One-Dimensional Warranties**

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Abstract

The warranty period offered by a manufacturer tends to be longer ranging fr[om 3](#page-8-0) to 7 year[s. Of](#page-8-0)fering a product with a longer warranty period increases the warranty cost and this needs an effort to reduce it. For a repairable product, servicing strategies which combine minimal repair and imperfect repair can reduce the warranty cost significantly. In these servicing strategies, the number of imperfect repairs is only one over the warranty period. For a longer warranty period, more imperfect repairs would be needed in order to reduce the number of failures over the warranty period. Varnosafaderani and Chukova [1] studied a servicing strategy which can carry out imperfect repairs more than one for pr[oduct](#page-8-0)s sold with two-dimensional warranties. In this strategy, imperfect repairs are restricted in the middle regions of warranty period. In this paper we study servicing strategy, where imperfect repairs are unrestricted by middle regions (middle intervals for one-dimensional warranties) but dependent on the age of failure under warranty. A numerical example is given to illustrate the optimal solution and compare this strategy with the existing similar servicing strategy that has been studied previously. 1

Keywords

Servicing strategy, imperfect repair, one-dimensional warranty, expected warranty cost

1. Introduction

In most market place, the warranty peri[od of](#page-8-0)fered by a manufacturer tends to be lon[ger](#page-8-0) for example products of electronics and automotives are sold with warranty period ranging from 3 to 7 years. Offering a product with a longer warranty period increases the warranty cost to the manufacturer and this becomes a major interest to reduce it. For a repairable product, an appropriate servicing strategy can signifantly reduce the warranty cost [4].

Servicing strategies which have been developed in the literature can be categorized into products sold with onedimensional warranties e.g. Jack and Van der Duyn Schouten [2], Jack and Murthy [3] and Yun et al. [4] and twodimensional warranties e.g. Varnosafaderani and Chukova [1] and Iskandar and Jack [5]. Yun et al. [4] and Iskandar and Jack [5] have shown that servic[ing s](#page-8-0)trategies which involve minimal repair and imperfect repair can reduce the warranty cost significantly. In these servicing strategies, the number of imperfect repairs is only one over the warranty period. For a longer warranty period, more imperfect repairs would be needed in order to reduce the number of failures over the warranty period.

Varnosafaderani and Chukova [1] studied a servicing strategy allowing more than one imperfect repairs for products sold with two-dimensional warranties. The warranty period is divided by several regions (consisting of first region, middle regions, and last region) and each first failure occurring in a region belonging to the middle regions is fixed $\frac{17}{12}$ $\frac{17}{12}$ $\frac{17}{12}$ by imperfect repair while all other failures are fixed by minimal repai[r. Fo](#page-9-0)r the case of a product sold with a onedimensional warranty, the warranty period is divided by several intervals and imperfect repairs are done with the same fashion. In this strategy, imperfect repairs are restricted in the middle regions or intervals (i.e. the second

and/or the third intervals) of warranty period. An alternative servicing strategy is the one where imperfect repairs are based on the age at failure.

[In](#page-8-0) this paper we study a servicing strateg[y fo](#page-8-0)r a repairable product sold with a one-dimensional warranty where imperfect repair can be done more than one time under warranty. This can be viewed as the extension of the servicing strategy developed by Iskandar et al. [5] to the case of imperfect repair instead of replacement. Under this strategy, imperfect repair is done at failure if the elapsed time since the last imperfect repair (or the beginning of the operation, $t = 0$) is greater than τ (a threshold value).

The outline [of th](#page-9-0)e paper is as follows. Section 2 describes of the model formulation. Section 3 deals with the model analysis. In section 4, we giv[e a n](#page-8-0)umerical example to illustrate the optimal solution and comp[are t](#page-9-0)he solution of this strategy with those of similar servicing strategies have been studied in the literature. Finally, we conclude with a brief discussion of a few topics for future research. 1 15

2. Model Formulation

The following notation is used in model formulation.

2.1 Servicing Strategy

We consider a repairable produ[ct so](#page-8-0)ld with a one-dimensional free repair warranty with warranty period W. Two servicing strategies–namely Strategy 1 and Strategy 2 will be studied.

Strategy 1:

Imperfect repair is done at failure (at time $t, t \leq W' \leq W$) if the elapsed time since the last imperfect repair (or the beginning of the operation, $t = 0$) is greater than τ (a threshold value). All other failures are fixed by the minimal repair. As a result, this servicing strategy allows more than one imperfect repair.

Strategy 2:

The warranty period is divided by four intervals i.e. $(0, W_1]$, $(W_1, W_2]$, $(W_2, W_3]$ and $(W_3, W]$. Each first failure in interval $(W_1, W_2]$ and $(W_2, W_3]$ is imperfectly repaired with improvement level δ and all other failures are minimally repaired.

Strategy 2 is the servicing strategy by Varnosafaderani and Chukova [1] for the o[ne-di](#page-10-0)mensional case. Fig.1 gives the illustration of imperfect repairs do a under the two strategies. We consider that imperfect repair improves the reliability of the item–by reducing the age of the item. Each imperfect repair will result in reducing the age with improvement level δ . 22

Figure 1. Strategy 1 and 2 with two imperfect repairs

2.2 Effect of I[mper](#page-8-0)fect Repairs

Imperfect repairs improve the reliability of the repaired item in the sense that the hazard rate of the item after repair is smaller than that before failure. The effect of imperfect repair can be modelled through either hazard ste or age reduction models [6]. In this paper we use the age reduction model and it is described as follows. We model the effect of the imperfect repairs by reducing the virtu[al ag](#page-8-0)e of the repaired item. Let $A(t)$ be the virtual age of the item at time *t*. The hazard rate of the item is as function of $A(t)$, denoted by $h(A(t))$. If the imperfect repair is done at age s_1 with improvement level δ then the virtual age and the hazard ate after repair are given by $A_1(t) = t - \delta s_1$ and $h_1(t) = h(t - \delta s_1)$ for $t > s_1$. For the second imperfect repair occurring at age s_2 the virtual age and hazard rate are given by $A_2(t) = t - \delta s_1 + \delta^2 s_1 - \delta s_2$ and $h_2(t) = h(t - \delta s_1 + \delta^2 s_1 - \delta s_2)$ for $t > s_2$, respectively. For the case where all failures are rectified by minimal repairs then $A(t)$ is equal to t that is called actual age.

2.3 Modeling Failures for [Imp](#page-8-0)erfect Repairs

We consider the case where the number of imperfect repairs over the warranty period is at most two times. Let S₁ and S_2 denot[e th](#page-9-0)e first failure after τ and the first failure after $S_1 + \tau$, respectively. The distribution functions for S_1 and S_2 [$F_1(s_1)$ and $F_2(s_2)$] are given as follows. As failures occurring in $(0, \tau]$ and $(S_1, S_1 + \tau]$ are fixed by minimal repair, then

$$
F_1(s_1) = 1 - \exp[H(\tau) - H(s_1)] \tag{1}
$$

where $H(t) = \int h(u) du$ 0 $(t) = \int h(u) du$.

Differentiating (1) with respect to s_1 yields

$$
f_1(s_1) = h(s_1) \exp[H(\tau) - H(s_1)].
$$
\n(2)

Conditioning on
$$
S_1 = s_1
$$
 and then unconditioning it, we have $F_2(s_2)$ given by
\n
$$
F_2(s_2) = \int_{\tau}^{W'} \{1 - \exp[H_1(\tau + s_1) - H_1(s_2)]\} h(s_1) \exp[H(\tau) - H(s_1)] ds_1
$$
\n(3)

where $H_1(t) = \int_0^t h_1(u) du$

where
$$
H_1(t) = \int_0^t h_1(u) du
$$
 and its density function is given by
\n
$$
f_2(s_2) = \int_{\tau}^W h_1(s_2) \exp[H_1(\tau + s_1) - H_1(s_2)] h(s_1) \exp[H(\tau) - H(s_1)] ds_1.
$$
\n(4)

Distribution functions of S_1 and S_2 for Strategy 2 can be obtained by converting the corresponding distribution functions in Varnosafaderani and Chukova [1] into one-dimensional case.

3. Model Analysis

For an item covered by a longer warr, ty period (e.g. 5 to 7 years), it may requir[e a](#page-8-0) servicing strategy to involve more than one imperfect repair ver the warranty period in order to reduce the warranty cost. In the servicing strategy developed, we consid[er to](#page-8-0) the case where the number of imperfect repairs during the warranty period at most N times, where $N = 2$. 2 5 8

[3.1](#page-9-0) Expected Warranty Servicing Cost 13

The expression for the expected warranty servicing cost $J_1(\delta, \tau, W')$ for Strategy 1 is obtained by a conditional approach. Define S_1 and S_2 as in Section $2 \binom{28}{1}$ $2 \binom{28}{1}$ $2 \binom{28}{1}$ he number of imperfect repairs done in the warranty period depends on the values of S_1 and S_2 . It could be 0, 1 or 2 imperfect repairs over the warranty. As a result, conditional on $S_1 = s_1$ and $S_2 = s_2$, [th](#page-9-0)e expected warranty servicing cost for Strategy 1, J_1 , δ , τ , W' , $S_1 = s_1$, $S_2 = s_2$) is given by

$$
J_{1}(\delta, \tau, W^{*}|S_{1} = s_{1}, S_{2} = s_{2}) = \begin{cases} c_{m}[H(\tau) + H(W) - H(W^{*})] & \text{if } s_{1}, s_{2} > W^{*} \\ c_{i}(\delta) + c_{m}[H(\tau) + H_{1}(W^{*}) - H_{1}(s_{1})] & \text{if } s_{1}, s_{2} > W^{*} \end{cases}
$$

$$
C_{i}(\delta) + c_{m}[H(\tau) + H_{1}(S_{1} + \tau) - H_{1}(S_{1}) + H_{1}(W) - H_{1}(W^{*})] \quad \text{if } \tau < s_{1} \le W^{*} - \tau, s_{2} > W^{*} \tag{5}
$$

$$
2c_{i}(\delta) + c_{m}[H(\tau) + H_{1}(S_{1} + \tau) - H_{1}(S_{1}) + H_{2}(W) - H_{2}(S_{2})] \quad \text{if } \tau < s_{1} \le W^{*} - \tau, s_{2} \le W^{*}
$$

where $H_2(t) = \int_0^t h_2(u) du$ 0 $_2(t) = \int h_2(u) du$.

Removing the conditioning in (5) yields

$$
J_{1}(\delta, \tau, W') = c_{m} [H(\tau) + H(W) - H(W')] \exp[H(\tau) - H(W')] +
$$

\n
$$
\begin{aligned}\nW' &= \int_{W'-\tau}^{W'} \{c_{i}(\delta) + c_{m} [H(\tau) + H_{1}(W) - H_{1}(s_{1})] h(s_{1}) \exp[H(\tau) - H(s_{1})] ds_{1} + \\
W' &= \int_{\tau}^{W'-\tau} \{c_{i}(\delta) + c_{m} [H(\tau) + H_{1}(s_{1} + \tau) - H_{1}(s_{1}) + H_{1}(W) - H_{1}(W')] \} \} \\
&= \exp[H_{1}(s_{1} + \tau) - H(W')] h(s_{1}) \exp[H(\tau) - H(s_{1})] ds_{1} + \\
W' &= \int_{\tau}^{W'-\tau} \int_{\tau}^{W'} \{2c_{i}(\delta) + c_{m} [H(\tau) + H_{1}(s_{1} + \tau) - H_{1}(s_{1}) + H_{2}(W) - H_{2}(s_{2})] \} \tau_{s_{1} + \tau} \\
h_{1}(s_{2}) \exp[H_{1}(\tau + s_{1}) - H_{1}(s_{2})] h(s_{1}) \exp[H(\tau) - H(s_{1})] ds_{2} ds_{1}.\n\end{aligned} \tag{6}
$$

Using the similar approach as in Strategy 1 we have the expected warranty servicing cost for Strategy 2 $J_2(\delta, W_1, W_2, W_3)$ given by

$$
J_{2}(\delta, W_{1}, W_{2}, W_{3}) = c_{m1}^{\frac{27}{11}}(W_{1}) + H(W) - H(W_{3})\left[\exp[H(W_{1}) - H(W_{3})] + \frac{W_{3}}{\int_{W_{2}}^{3}}(c_{i}(\delta) + c_{m}[H(W_{1}) + H_{1}(W) - H_{1}(s_{1})]h(s_{1})\exp[H(W_{1}) - H(s_{1})]ds_{1} + \frac{W_{3}}{W_{2}}\right]
$$

$$
W_2
$$

\n
$$
\left\{\{c_i(\delta) + c_m[H(W_1) + H_1(W_2) - H_1(s_1) + H_1(W) - H_1(W_3)]\}\right\}
$$

\n
$$
\exp[H_1(W_2) - H_1(W_3)]h(s_1)\exp[H(W_1) - H(s_1)]ds_1 +
$$

\n
$$
W_2 W_3
$$

\n
$$
\int_{W_1 W_2} \left\{\{2c_i(\delta) + c_m[H(W_1) + H_1(W_2) - H_1(s_1) + H_2(W) - H_2(s_2)]\}\right\}
$$

\n
$$
h_1(s_2)\exp[-H_1(s_2) + H_1(W_2)]h(s_1)\exp[H(W_1) - H(s_1)]ds_2ds_1.
$$
\n(7)

[3.](#page-8-0)2 Optimization 8

For Strategy 1, the optimization problem is $\min_{\delta,\tau,W'} J_1(\delta,\tau,W')$ $\min_{\delta, \tau, W'} J_1(\delta, \tau, W')$ ubject to the constraints $0 \le \tau \le W'/2$ and $0 \leq W \leq W$, where $J_1(\delta, \tau, W')$ is given by the integral equation (6). We use a numerical searc[h to](#page-8-0) obtain the optimal values τ^* , W^* and δ^* . A numerical approach is also needed to obtain the optimal parameter values δ^* , W_1^* , W_2^* and W_3^* for Strategy 2.

4. Numeric[al E](#page-9-0)xample

We consider $F(x)$ is given by Weibull distribution with two parameters - α and β (representing scale and the shape parameters, respectively). We use the following nominal parameter values: $\alpha = 3(years)$, $\beta = 2$, $c_m = 1$, and *W* = 7 year[s. Th](#page-8-0)e cost of imperfect repair is considered as a function of δ given by $c_i(\delta) = c_m + (c_p - c_m)\delta^4$ as in [4]. Table 1 shows optimal solutions for Strategy 1 for a variety of c_p and a fixed value of δ .

c_p	$c_i(\delta)$	* τ	W^*	$J_1(\tau^*,W^*)$
2	1.06	0.77	6.89	3.760
4	1.19	0.84	6.66	3.993
6	1.31	0.94	6.41	4.220
8	1.44	1.06	6.14	4.440
10	1.56	1.22	5.86	4.649

Table 1. The optimal solutions for Strategy 1, $c_p = 2, 4, ..., 10$, and $\delta = 0.5$

Remarks: τ^* increases and W^* decreases as c_p increases. Meaning that increasing c_p (and hence $c_i(\delta)$) makes τ^* larger in order to gain a bigger benefits of imperfect repairs done.

Now we compare the performances of Strategy 1 and Strategy 2. Two conditions are considered. We first consider δ as a parameter (or a fixed value) and then δ as a decision variable. Tables 2 and 3 show the results for a fixed value of δ and for δ as a decision variable, respectively.

Table 2. Results of Buarcey 1 and 2 for $\theta = 0.5$								
	Strategy 1				Strategy 2			
c_p	$c_i(\delta)$	* τ	W^*		W_1^*	W_2^*	W_3^*	$J^*_{\mathcal{D}}$
2	1.06	0.77	6.89	3.760	1.43	3.98	6.90	3.812
$\overline{4}$	1.19	0.84	6.66	3.993	1.49	3.90	6.70	4.026
6	1.31	0.94	6.41	4.220	1.57	3.82	6.47	4.235
8	1.44	1.06	6.14	4.440	1.66	3.73	6.34	4.438
10	1.56	1.22	5.86	4.649	1.78	3.63	5.98	4.634

Table 2. Results of Strategy 1 and 2 for $\delta = 0.5$

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-- Strategy 1					Strategy 2						
c_p	$c_i(\delta)$	s^*	*	${W^*}^*$		$c_i(\delta)$	δ^*	W_1	W_2	W_2	J_2
2	1.25	0.71	.01	6.62	3.536	1.28	0.73	1.38	3.80	6.65	3.559
4	1.20	0.51	0.86	6.63	3.992	1.22	0.52	1.49	3.88	6.64	4.021
6	1.19	0.44	0.81	6.63	4.175	1.21	0.45	1.54	3.90	6.64	4.205
8	1.18	0.40	0.77	6.63	4.286	1.18	0.40	1.56	3.91	6.64	4.315
10	1.17	0.37	0.75	6.63	4.363	1.17	0.37	1.58	3.92	6.63	4.393

Table 3. Results of Strategy 1 and 2 for δ as a decision variable

Table 2 shows that Strategy 1 is a better cost for $c_p = 2$, 4, and 6 and Strategy 2 is a better cost for $c_p = 8$, and 10. But if δ is viewed as a decision variable, then Strategy 1 always gives a lower cost (See Table 3). Table $\frac{24}{120}$ $\frac{24}{120}$ $\frac{24}{120}$ Table the effect of the scale parameter α (or the item reliability) and the length of the warranty period to the optimal solutions for the two strategies (note that $c_m = 1$, $\beta = 2$, and $c_p = 6$).

α	MTTF	W (year)						
1.0	0.89	$SS-2$	$SS-2$	$SS-2$				
1.5	1.33	$S-1$	$SS-2$	$SS-2$				
2.0	1.77	$SS-1$	$SS-1$	$SS-2$				
2.5	2.22	$SS-1$	$SS-1$	$SS-1$				
3.0	2.66	$SS-1$	$SS-1$	$SS-1$				
3.5	3.10	$SS-1$	$SS-1$	$SS-1$				
4.0	3.54	$SS-1$	$SS-1$	$SS-1$				

Table 4. The best strategy between Strategy 1 and 2 versus on α and W

Table 4³ dentifies the lowest cost strategy for different values of α and W. Strategy 2 (SS-2) is the best when the item reliability is low for each value of W. When the item reliability increases (as the value of α increases), the best strategy is Strategy 1 (SS-1).

In Strategy 2, the time between two imperfect repairs can be very small (less than τ) and this will give a better cost for an item with low reliability. For a high reliability item $(\alpha \ge 2.5)$, Strategy 1 is always the best strategy.

[5.](#page-8-0) Conclusions

In this paper we study a servicing strategy that involves imperfect repa[ir fo](#page-8-0)r a repairable product sold with a onedimensional warranty. Imperfect repair done is dependent on the age of failure in which the criteria used is different with that in Varnosafaderani and Chukova [1]. The strategy developed (Strategy 1) is always the best strategy for a high reliability whilst Strategy 2 for the low reliability. Moreover, Strategy 1 is easier to implement as it is only required to record the elapsed time since the last imperfect repair and τ (and hence a simple administrative work) in deciding an imperfect repair.

Topics for future research are described as foⁿ₂ ws. The servicing strategy developed allows at most two imperfect reprise for rature research are described as repairs. The servicing strategy developed also to an insect the imperfect repairs. The realistic servicing strategy is one which allows more than two imperfect repairs under war other topic is to extend the servicing strategy to the two-dimensional warranties. These topics are currently under investigation.

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