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# Design for maintenance: new algorithmic approach

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – This paper proposes a new simultaneous optimization model of the industrial systems design and maintenance. This model aims to help the designer in searching for technical solutions and the product architecture by integrating the maintenance issues from the design stage. The goal is to reduce the life-cycle cost (LCC) of the studied system.

**Design/methodology/approach** – Literature indicates that the different approaches used in the design for maintenance (DFM) methods are limited to the simultaneous characterization of the reliability and the maintainability of a multicomponent system as well as the modeling of the dynamic maintenance. This article proposes to go further in the optimization of the product, by simultaneously characterizing the design, in terms of reliability and maintainability, as well as the dynamic planning of the maintenance operations. This combinatorial characterization is performed by a two-level hybrid algorithm based on the genetic algorithms.

**Findings** – The proposed tool offers, depending on the life-cycle expectation, the desired availability, the desired business model (sales or rental), simulations in terms of the LCCs, and so an optimal product architecture.

**Research limitations/implications** – In this article, the term “design” is limited to reliability properties, possible redundancies, component accessibility (maintainability), and levels of monitoring information.

**Originality/value** – This work is distinguished by the use of a hybrid optimization algorithm (two-level computation) using genetic algorithms. The first level is to identify an optimal design configuration that takes into account the LCC criterion. The second level consists in proposing a dynamic and optimal maintenance plan based on the maintenance-free operating period (MFOP) concept that takes into account certain criteria, such as replacement costs or the reliability of the system.

**Keywords** Reliability, Maintainability, Simultaneous optimization, Dynamic maintenance, Design for maintenance (DFM), Life-cycle cost (LCC), hybrid optimization algorithm, Multicomponent industrial systems

**Paper type** Research paper

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Context

The effective maintenance planning is needed for any major industrial system, referred to large-scale systems, such as industrial vehicles, production systems, wind turbines, machine tools, aircraft, ships, and so on. And that’s because the operating and maintenance costs of these systems can represent up to 60 percent of their overall life-cycle costs (LCCs) (Dhillon, 2006). In addition, their failures can lead to significant downtime (Markeset and Kumar, 2003). For example, the failure of a \$ 5,000 wind turbine bearing could result in \$ 250,000 in maintenance because the replacement requires specific repair equipment and a specialized maintenance team (Kusiak and Li, 2011). The users of these systems know this, and they are increasingly considering the overall LCC and availability before committing to acquiring this type of equipment (Rawat and Lad, 2016). To meet the customers’ expectations, companies evolve and adopt the new economic model; thus, they pass from selling a manufactured system to the sale of global service, including the manufactured system (Lesobre, 2015; Markeset and Kumar, 2003). In this context, they propose to their customers to pay rent, including the provision of the industrial equipment, its maintenance, its evolution (update), and its withdrawal (recycling). As a result, the manufacturer is now responsible for the long-term availability



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of its equipment, which implies a deep issue related to the maintenance from the design stage.

### *1.2 Problematic*

The design of such systems or equipment has to deal with the product architecture first and choosing the components/units with the cost, the reliability, the weight, and some other attributes, corresponding to the scope statement specifications (Zoulfaghari *et al.*, 2014). On the other hand, the design has to facilitate the maintenance process by particularly improving the real-time monitoring of the equipment through integrating new technologies such as connected sensors, Internet of Things (IoT) systems, and intelligent actuators (Karre *et al.*, 2017).

Once the design is done, maintenance contracts will be defined to maintain the required system availability during the operational phase. The definition of a maintenance contract is based on the system configuration and the conditions of use specified by the user. To specify these conditions, manufacturers and users evaluate variables related in particular to the operational environment (climatic conditions, operational conditions, etc.), to the use of the system (number of hours per day, number of km per day ...) or the type of missions performed (Goel *et al.*, 2003). This information is then combined to select an optimal maintenance plan.

In terms of research, we find in the literature that issues related to design and maintenance are generally treated in a sequential or independent manner (Goel *et al.*, 2003; Rawat and Lad, 2016). However, the decisions made in these two sets influence each other. The design for maintenance is considered as an opportunity to optimize the costs that can be generated during the life of an industrial product (Markeset and Kumar, 2001), which can reach up to 60 percent of the LCCs, particularly in the nuclear or the aeronautical activities (Dhillon, 2010).

### *1.3 Objective*

This article presents a new **design for maintenance** (DFM) model that assists the designers in the stage of choosing the technical solutions for the large-scale industrial products. Large scale refers to the complex and the long-run multicomponent industrial systems, such as trains, aircraft, and so on. The goal is to minimize the LCC of this type of system. The proposed model is based on a two-level hybrid algorithm for simultaneous optimization (design and maintenance), using genetic algorithms. The first level is to determine the optimal design for a given system. For this purpose, the designer can act on various aspects, such as the choice between components with different reliability characteristics, the choice to invest in a more complete monitoring architecture, the choice to consider adding a redundant component, or still the choice to work on the components accessibility (maintainability). The second level aims to optimize the cost of the maintenance policy according to the level of reliability required. The proposed maintenance policy is dynamic and integrates different solutions offered by new connected and intelligent technologies.

The contribution of this research is to create a decision support tool by providing designers with LCC projections. Depending on the life-cycle expectation, the desired availability, and the desired business model (sales or rental), the tool offers a simulation in terms of the LCCs and so an optimal product architecture along with an adapted maintenance plan.

The rest of the article is organized as follow. After the introduction (section 1), section 2 reviews the design literature for the maintenance. Section 3 describes the joint modeling and optimization problem of the design and the maintenance and develops the mathematical models used to estimate the LCC. Section 4 presents the method of combinatorial resolution

based on genetic algorithms. The solution method and the results are presented in [section 5](#). [Section 6](#) concludes the paper and presents future research guidelines.

## 2. State of the art: design for maintenance (DFM)

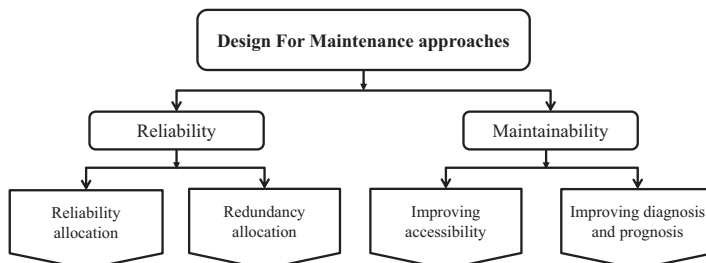
In spite of the fact that the research on the maintenance problems has been advanced significantly during the last decades, the maintenance still suffers from a gloomy image. It is often limited to the operational phase, which includes the development of the inspection plans ([Zhao and Nakagawa, 2012](#)), the preventive planning ([Zhang et al., 2002](#)), the execution of the diagnostic and/or the maintenance operations, and so on.

The literature shows that there are four approaches to design methods for maintenance ([Figure 1](#)). The first two approaches are concerned with the characteristics of the reliability and/or the availability of the industrial system ([Certa et al., 2011](#); [Long et al., 2009](#); [Moghaddam and Usher, 2011](#)). While the latter two are interested in the maintainability characteristics ([Chen and Cai, 2003](#); [Mulder et al., 2013](#); [Nishijima et al., 2009](#); [Wani and Gandhi, 1999](#)). The goal is to maximize or minimize certain parameters such as costs, reliability, availability, maintenance time, weight, and so on. According to ([de Almeida et al., 2015](#)), 68.3 percent of works under this theme aim to minimize the cost, 37.6 percent to maximize reliability, 17.2 percent to maximize availability, 11.8 percent to minimize maintenance time, and 15.7 percent to maximize remainder (weight, volume, . . .).

In order to increase the reliability of an industrial system, we can deal with the level of reliability of the components or the redundancy ([Zoufaghari et al., 2014](#)). The first approach considers the reliability of the components as a decision variable. It consists in finding the reliability values of each component of the system that best meet the required objectives and constraints ([Beurepaire et al., 2012](#)). The second approach, redundancy allocation, is to find the number of components to apply in each subsystem ([Ebrahimipour and Sheikhalishahi, 2011](#)). In the majority of cases, the goal of the redundancy is to maximize the reliability ([Nourelfath and Ait-Kadi, 2007](#); [Okasha and Frangopol, 2009](#); [Torres-Echeverría et al., 2012](#)). These two approaches, used separately or combined, can be grouped into the category of DFM in favor of reliability ([Amari and Pham, 2007](#)).

The third approach focuses on improving the accessibility to the failing components in particular and the maintainability in general. Several tools exist to improve system maintainability characteristics in the design phase, including detailed design, logistical support, and ergonomics ([Chen and Cai, 2003](#)).

The last approach, the improvement of diagnosis and prognosis, is to change the monitoring architecture, in order to continuously measure the performance gaps as well as to determine the right moment to perform the maintenance ([Lesobre et al., 2013](#)). This approach has received increasing attention in recent years, thanks to the development of connected sensors and information technology ([Mulder et al., 2013](#); [Olde Keizer et al., 2016](#); [Tian et al., 2011](#)). These systems make it possible to optimize the decision process by monitoring the system and the components degradation state. Nevertheless, it is necessary to evaluate



**Figure 1.**  
Design for maintenance approaches

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the potential gains in the maintenance compared to the investments in the design and the deployment of the connected monitoring systems.

In terms of numerical optimization methods, we found that the heuristic and the meta-heuristic methods such as genetic algorithm (GA), simulated annealing (SA), and particle swarm optimization (PSO) have been widely applied in this area. (Okasha and Frangopol, 2009) proposed a multiobjective model including redundancy, reliability, and LCC simultaneously as objective functions. (Wang *et al.*, 2009) examined the problem of multiple objective redundancy allocation in serial-parallel systems. The developed model uses the system reliability and the design cost as objective functions and the system weight as a constraint. (Suman, 2003) investigated three types of multiobjective optimization problems, including cost, reliability, and weight factors. They applied the simulated annealing method to solve these problems.

To conclude, the different approaches used in the DFM methods are limited to the simultaneous characterization of the reliability and the maintainability of a multicomponent system as well as the modeling of the dynamic maintenance. The term “dynamic” refers to a policy capable of integrating available monitoring information to adapt the maintenance decision in real time (Lesobre *et al.*, 2014a). This article proposes to go further in the optimization of the product, by simultaneously characterizing the design, in terms of reliability and maintainability, as well as the dynamic planning of the maintenance operations. This combinatorial characterization is performed by a two-level hybrid algorithm based on the GAs. The detailed problem is discussed in the next section.

### 3. Description and modeling

For the same specifications, designers can offer several technological solutions in terms of the choice of components, product architecture, assembly process, and so on. As a result, they lead to similar products from the operational point of view but can be differentiated in terms of reliability and design costs. In order to maintain the same level of operational performance for all the proposed solutions, the designers compensate for the unreliability of a strengthened maintenance plan, resulting in increased LCCs. In this work, we propose a new approach to optimize design and maintenance in the same time phase. The designer will then have a decision support tool that will allow him to find the configuration that best fits his business model because the tool offers a LCC profile for each configuration.

The modeling of the design and maintenance is formalized in detail in the following subsections, as well as their combination.

#### 3.1 Design modeling

During the design phases, the designers define all the hardware devices (elementary component, subsystem, sensor, etc.) required for the realization of the functions described by the functional architecture (phase of the hardware architecture projection on the software architecture), as well as their characteristics. For example, a temperature probe may be suitable for a redundant approach, while a pump may be monitored for degradation (use of the prognosis) (Relf, 1999). In this work, four design parameters for maintenance are taken into consideration when defining a device  $i$  of a multicomponent system. Among these parameters, we can mention the choice of its reliability level ( $R_i$ ), the choice to invest in a more efficient monitoring instrumentation by the implementation of a sensor ( $S_i$ ), the choice to consider putting a component with redundancy ( $P_i$ ), or the choice of its level of accessibility ( $MTTR_i$ ).

However, it may be impossible, for example, to install a sensor on a given component or to make it more accessible in the system. Therefore, the designer must first evaluate the

technical viability of these four parameters regarding each component. Then, based on the results of this technical analysis, the designer defines the number of design parameters available according to each component. In the end, he obtains several solutions of the system  $Sl_1, Sl_2, \dots, Sl_N$ , which vary according to their reliability or their LCC. The goal is to select the  $Sl_x$  system solution capable of performing missions at the lowest cost over its entire life cycle. We define a design solution as a particular choice of design parameters. The problem can be defined as follows:

$$\begin{array}{lll} Sl_1 & LCC_1 & R_{sys}^1/tm \\ Sl_2 & LCC_2 & R_{sys}^2/tm \\ & \dots & \dots \\ Sl_N & LCC_N & R_{sys}^N/tm \end{array}$$

$$\text{Optimal solution} = \min(LCC_x) \text{ et } R_{sys}^x/tm > = NF \quad (1)$$

where  $N$  represents the number of solutions,  $R_{sys}^x$  is the reliability of the solution,  $NF$  is the level of reliability required,  $tm$  is the duration of an operation.

The LCC of multicomponent industrial systems can be broken down into initial costs of the  $C_i$  system and  $C_{TM}$  maintenance costs (Hwang, 2005).

$$LCC(t)_{sys} = C_i + C_{TM}(t) \quad (2)$$

*3.1.1 Assessment of the initial costs of the system.* The initial costs of the system correspond to:

$$C_i = \sum_{i=1}^n C_i + C_{NI,i} \quad (3)$$

where  $n$  is the number of components in the system,  $C_i$  is the cost of component  $i$ , and  $C_{NI,i}$  represents the cost related to the information available on component  $i$  (e.g. cost of a sensor). Indeed, to improve the information on given component  $i$ , a more sophisticated monitoring architecture can be proposed. This choice leads, for example, to add sensors to access its operating state or if possible to its level of degradation. Incremental costs associated with the implementation of enhanced monitoring of certain components will impact the initial costs of the system through the  $C_{NI,i}$ .

The cost of equipment depends on several parameters, such as the materials selected, the manufacturing processes, the efforts made in the design, the technologies adopted, the repair time. Indeed, in this present research, we have considered that the cost of component  $i$  depends on its reliability  $R_i$  and  $MTTR_i$  replacement time. (Kumar *et al.*, 2012) have proposed a relationship between the reliability  $R_i$ (MTBF) of a component and its manufacturing cost; this mathematical formula can be given by:

$$C_i = \alpha_i R_i^{\beta_i} + \delta_i \quad (4)$$

where  $\alpha_i$ ,  $\beta_i$ , and  $\delta_i$  are constants, representing the physical property of component  $i$ . The relationship is graphically illustrated in Figure 2 (a).

Furthermore, we suggest a linear relationship between the  $MTTR$  of a component and its manufacturing cost, as proposed by (Kumar *et al.*, 2012) and which can be given by:

$$C_i = a_i - b_i \cdot MTTR_i \quad (5)$$

where  $a_i$  and  $b_i$  are constants. The relationship is graphically illustrated in Figure 2 (b).

The cost of each component  $i$  can be given mathematically by:

$$C_i = (\alpha_i R_i^{\beta_i} + \delta_i + a_i - b_i \cdot MTTR_i) \quad (6)$$

The evaluation of  $C_{TM}(t)$  maintenance costs requires simulating the behavior of the operating system in order to model its most appropriate maintenance policy. The following section details the maintenance policy introduced as well as the maintenance cost assessment model.

### 3.2 Maintenance modeling

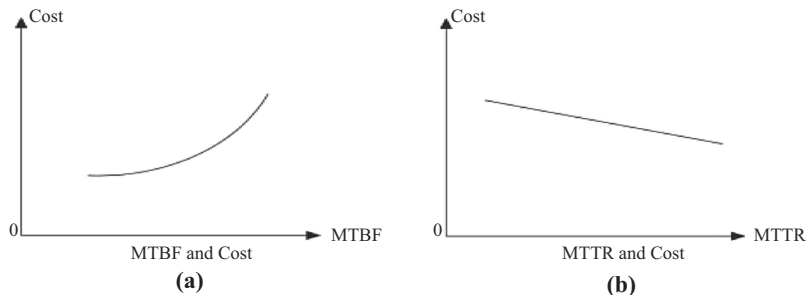
The modeling proposed here is based on the concept of the maintenance-free operation period (MFOP), developed by Hockley in 1998. Hockley defines the MFOP as a period of operation while the equipment must be able to carry out the assigned missions without maintenance action and without restricting the operator in any way due to the system failures or limitations (Hockley, 1998). Each MFOP (or MFOP cycle) is usually followed by a maintenance recovery period (MRP). MRP is defined as the period while the appropriate maintenance is performed on the system to enable it to successfully complete the next MFOP (Brown and Hockley, 2001; Dinesh Kumar *et al.*, 1999). The duration of the shutdown will depend on the extent of maintenance work to be performed (Al Shaalane and Vlok, 2013).

The benefits of using the MFOP concept are:

- (1) Allow clear specification of the client needs (Mitchell, 2000).
- (2) Allow autonomy of the systems over given periods of operations.
- (3) Limit the corrective maintenance to the planned maintenance.
- (4) Maximize the operational availability of the systems.
- (5) Allow for reduced system repair costs (Hockley, 1998).
- (6) Facilitate the management of the spare parts.
- (7) Allow integrating and updating at a time  $t$  the components status information.

**3.2.1 Dynamic maintenance plan.** A dynamic maintenance plan integrates the information available online to adjust the decisions in terms of maintenance operations. For this purpose, (Lesobre *et al.*, 2014b) propose a decision-making process that is useful for our approach.

The first step of the decision process is to define at the time  $t$  the need for a maintenance intervention of the multicomponent system. Note that the time  $t$  represents the end of an MFOP or the system failure. To make this decision, we seek to assess the conditional



**Figure 2.** Relationship between (a) R (MTBF) and component cost, (b) MTTR and component cost (Kumar *et al.*, 2012)

probability of the system operation until the end of the next MFOP, taking into account the information available at  $t$ . This conditional probability called maintenance-free operating period survivability (MFOPS) is given by:

$$MFOPS(t) = R_{sys} \left( t + \frac{t_{MFOP}}{H_{i,t(i=1 \text{ à } n)}} \right) / R_{sys} \left( \frac{t}{H_{i,t(i=1 \text{ à } n)}} \right) \quad (7)$$

where  $R(t)_{sys}$  is the reliability of the multicomponent system at time  $t$ . This reliability  $R(t)_{sys}$  at time  $t$  depends on its structure (series, parallel, parallel-series, etc.), the reliability of these components, and the monitoring information available online  $H_{i,t}$ .

The second step of the decision process is to compare the system's  $MFOPS(t)$  with a specified reliability level  $NF$ :

- (1) If the  $MFOPS(t) > NF$ , the decision process considers that the maintenance intervention is not necessary. The multicomponent system can be then deployed on the next MFOP without going through the workshop.
- (2) In the opposite case, if  $MFOPS(t) < NF$ , the maintenance intervention is considered essential.

When a maintenance intervention is required, a decision criterion makes it possible to select the actions to be performed on this occasion. In this paper, we introduce a maintenance decision rule based on maximizing the reliability/replacement cost ratio over the MFOP period. Mathematically, the problem can be formulated as follows:

$$MAX_{\{X\}} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \frac{\Delta R_i}{(C_i + MTTR_i * \tau_{MO})}$$

$$S.t \quad MFOPS(X, t) > NF \quad \text{et} \quad MRP(X, t) = \sum_{i=1}^n MTTR_i X_{ij} < MRP_{max} \quad (8)$$

where  $n$  represents the number of components in the system,  $\Delta R_i$  is the evolution of the MFOPS before and after the replacement of the component  $i$ ,  $C_i$  the cost of component  $i$ ,  $MTTR_i$  the replacement time of component  $i$ ,  $\tau_{MO}$  the hourly rate of the labor,  $X_i$  is a binary variable that takes the value of 1 if the maintenance operation on component  $i$  is well performed, 0 otherwise,  $MRP_{max}$  the maximum maintenance time allowed to perform  $\{X\}$  operations, and  $NF$  is the level specified reliability.

**3.2.2 Assessment of the total maintenance cost.** According to (Roda and Garetti, 2014), the maintenance costs are neither static nor easily quantifiable (unlike the acquisition or the installation costs), but rather dynamic and dependent on the levels of solicitations and failures encountered. In this context, we will use the Monte Carlo model for an accurate estimation. This model is recommended for predicting the maintenance cost in given circumstances (Thiede *et al.*, 2012).

The total maintenance cost  $C_{TM}(t_m)$  is given by:

$$C_{TM}(t_m) = C_{prv}(t_m) + C_{cor}(t_m) + C_{scor}(t_m) \quad (9)$$

where  $C_{prv}(t_m)$  represents the cost of preventive replacement of the system components on  $[0, t_m]$ ,  $C_{cor}(t_m)$  the replacement cost of the components that failed on  $[0, t_m]$ ,  $C_{scor}(t_m)$  the additional cost related to the production loss when the system is in the corrective maintenance.



Let us now detail the expression of each of these costs.

The cost of preventive maintenance  $C_{prv}(t_m)$  corresponds to:

$$C_{prv}(t_m) = \sum_{i=1}^n (C_i + MTTR_i * \tau_{MO}) * N_{i,prv} + C_{log,prv} * AM_{prv} \quad (10)$$

where  $N_{i,prv}$  is the number of preventive replacements of component  $i$  on  $[0, t_m]$ ,  $C_{log,prv}$  is the logistics cost related to the preventive maintenance stops, and  $AM_{prv}$  is the number of preventive maintenance stops of the system on  $[0, t_m]$ .

The corrective maintenance cost  $C_{cor}(t_m)$  is given by:

$$C_{cor}(t_m) = \sum_{i=1}^n (C_i + MTTR_i * \tau_0) * N_{i,cor} + (C_{log,cor} + C_{udig} * NSIS) * AM_{cor} \quad (11)$$

where  $N_{i,cor}$  represents the number of the corrective replacement of the component  $i$  on  $[0, t_m]$ ,  $C_{log,cor}$  the logistics cost related to the corrective maintenance stop on  $[0, t_m]$ ,  $C_{udig}$  unit cost of a component diagnosis,  $NSIS$  the number of components in the system for which monitoring information is not available, and  $AM_{cor}$  the number of the system corrective maintenance downtime on  $[0, t_m]$ .

When a replacement occurs on the system in operation, additional costs related to the immobilization of the system will be added to the replacement cost. These are taken into account via cost  $C_{scor}(t_m)$ , which given by:

$$C_{scor}(t_m) = \sum_{i=1}^n MTTR_i * N_{i,cor} * \tau_{immob} + (D_{log,cor} + D_{udig} * NSIS) * AM_{cor} * \tau_{immob} \quad (12)$$

where  $\tau_{immob}$  represents the cost of the operating loss per system downtime,  $D_{log,cor}$  is the logistic duration related to the corrective maintenance downtime, and  $D_{udig}$  the unit diagnostic duration for a component.

### 3.3 Simultaneous modeling of design and maintenance

In general, design and maintenance decisions are made sequentially. Often, manufacturers face significant maintenance costs due to the design choices and relatively low-reliability levels of certain components. As mentioned before, we propose an approach that considers design and maintenance simultaneously. In concrete terms, the goal is to enable designers to visualize the consequences of their design choices in terms of LCCs. Thus, depending on the business model of the company, designers can prioritize low-cost design and low maintenance cost design. For example, if the designed product is for rental then, designers may favor a low LCC design to maximize the margin in the operating phase. However, if the product is designed for sale, designers should focus on low-cost design to maximize the margin for sale.

*3.3.1 Simultaneous design and maintenance problem.* The problem of simultaneous design and maintenance decisions discussed earlier can be formulated as follows:

Objective:

$$\text{Minimise LCC} = \text{MIN}(C_I + C_{TM}(t)) \quad (13)$$

Constraint:

$$\text{System reliability level } NF: MFOPS > NF \quad (14)$$

$$\text{Cost } C_i \text{ of component } i: C_{mini} \leq C_i \leq C_{maxi} \quad (15)$$

$$\text{Maintenance Time MRP: MRP} < \text{MRP}_{max} \quad (16)$$

3.3.2 *Assumption*. The optimization problem dealt with here also requires some reasonable assumptions:

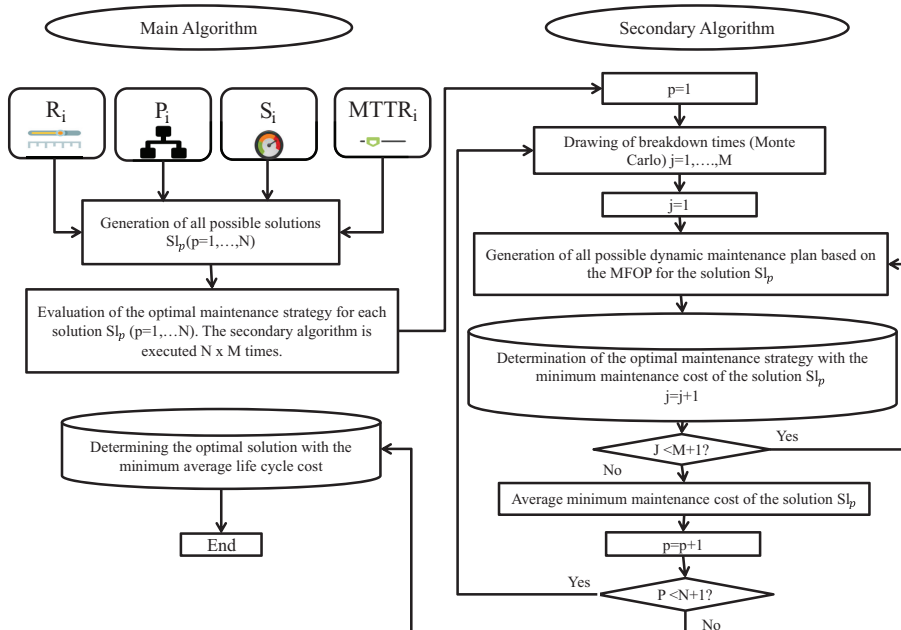
- (1) The list of usable components is previously known
- (2) The characteristics of the components (cost, failure rate) are known.
- (3) Only the failure of known components is considered.
- (4) The cost of the system, which is the sum of the costs of its components, is known.
- (5) The state of each component is independent of other components.

#### 4. Global resolution method (developed algorithm)

In the present research, we have chosen the GA as a method of resolution, which is able to solve optimization problems having several objectives and/or constraints and to effectively handle different variables (Deb and Jain, 2003).

We propose a hybrid optimization design and maintenance model based on GAs (MHAGs) (Figure 3). This model combines two dependent algorithms, the main algorithm and a secondary one. The main algorithm ensures the optimization of the design in terms of reliability ( $R_i$ ), redundancy ( $P_i$ ), monitoring architecture ( $S_i$ ), and finally accessibility characterized by the MTTR $_i$  (resolution of the problem described by the expression 1). The secondary algorithm focuses on the determination of a dynamic maintenance plan based on the MFOP (resolution of the problem described by expression 9). This second algorithm makes it possible to have a minimum  $C_{TM}$  maintenance cost under a reliability constraint.

The MHAGs process has been implemented as follows. In the beginning, the main algorithm starts, by generating all the possible design solutions ( $S_{1p}, \dots, S_{Np}$ ) by the adjustment of the parameters  $R_i$ ,  $P_i$ , MTTR $_i$ , and  $S_i$  of each component  $i$  (section 3.1), as well



**Figure 3.** The hybrid optimization process based on GAs

as evaluating their initial costs. Then, for each possible solution (Slp), the second algorithm is executed to obtain a dynamic maintenance plan while minimizing maintenance costs (section 3.2). In the end, the main algorithm classifies the different solutions according to their LCCs, in order to select the one that minimizes the LCC.

## 5. Numerical example

In order to demonstrate the relevance of the proposed model (MHAGs), we chose to apply the algorithm to an existing example from the literature (heavy vehicle industry). Using the same input data, we obtain consistent and very satisfactory results.

As shown in Figure 4, the multicomponent reference system consists of four (04) serial components, the data of which are a combination of those applied in (Lesobre *et al.*, 2014a, b; 2013). We choose here to take a series system with four components in order to easily illustrate and justify the results obtained by the proposed model (algorithm).

We also introduce assumptions about the reference system to define the parameters needed for the simulation:

- (1) The implementation and the adjustment of the four parameters ( $R_i, P_i, MTTR_i, S_i$ ) are possible for each component  $i$ .
- (2) The parameters  $R_i$  and  $MTTR_i$  are real and continuous with max and min values varying between  $-50$  percent and  $+50$  percent of the reference system values.
- (3) Parameters  $P_i$  and  $S_i$  are discrete integer parameters that can only take the value of 0 or 1.
- (4) The installation of a sensor on a component  $A_i$  will add a cost  $C_{Ni}$  corresponding to 10 percent of the cost of component  $A_i$ .
- (5) The cost of each component  $A_i$  must be between 100 and 1,000 euros.

Table I summarizes the design parameters ( $R_i, P_i, MTTR_i, S_i$ ) of each component of the reference system considered in this example, as well as their type, their maximum and minimum values.

Now, having a look at the different properties of this reference system (Lesobre *et al.*, 2014a,b; 2013), with five years' operating time, the MFOP is six (06) months, the MRP is 3h, and the NF is 0.8 (80 percent). It is also assumed that the maintenance operations are

**Figure 4.**  
Structure of the multicomponent reference system



**Table I.**  
Simulation data  
( $W =$  Weibull's Law)  
(Lesobre *et al.*,  
2014a,b; 2013)

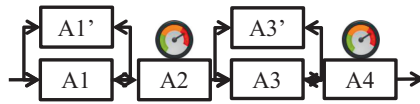
	A1	A2	A3	A4	Type	Min	Max
Reliability model	$W(3.5e5,2.0)$	$W(3.5e5,7.0)$	$W(4e5,3.0)$	$W(4.5e5,7.0)$	Continuous	$-50\%$ (MTBF)	$+50\%$ (MTBF)
$R_i$					Continuous	$-50\%$	$+50\%$
$MTTR_i(h)$	1	1	1	1	Continuous	$-50\%$	$+50\%$
Sensor	0	0	0	0	Discrete	0	1
Redundancy $P_i$	0	0	0	0	Discrete	0	1
$C_i(\text{en } \text{€})$	311	458	407	500	Continuous	100	1000

independent of each other. Thus, the hourly rate of labor is fixed at  $\tau_{MO} = 90\text{€}$  and the cost of the exploitation loss per hour of immobilization stays for  $\tau_{immob} = 100\text{€}$ . The logistics cost associated with the preventive and corrective maintenance shutdown is respectively  $C_{log,prv} = 100\text{€}$  and  $C_{log,cor} = 200\text{€}$  for a duration set at  $D_{log,cor} = 1\text{h}$ . Finally, the cost and the unit duration of diagnosis are respectively  $C_{udig} = 20\text{€}$  and  $D_{udig} = 5\text{min}$ .

## 6. Results and discussion

To solve the simultaneous design and maintenance optimization problem, we have programmed the algorithms proposed in MATLAB programming language. In both algorithms (main and secondary), the crossover rate and the mutation rate are respectively 0.5 and 0.2. Moreover, population size and maximum generation are 200 and 600, respectively. Thus, the number of Monte Carlo history is fixed at  $M = 1,000$ .

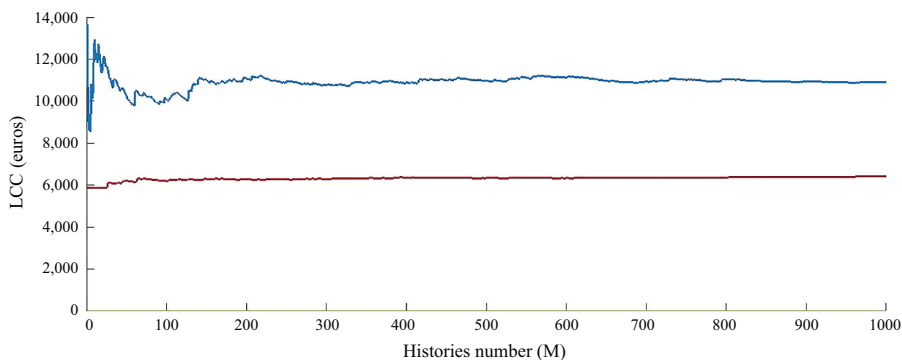
Figure 5 illustrates the structure of the new solution obtained by the proposed model (MHAGs). The design parameters  $(R_i, P_i, MTTR_i, S_i)$  of each component of this new solution are presented in Table II. Figure 6 presents the estimation of the average overall cost of the



**Figure 5.**  
The new configuration obtained by the proposed model

	A1 et A1'	A2	A3 et A3'	A4
$R_i$	$W(3.4e5, 2.8)$	$W(3.6e5, 8.4)$	$W(3.6e5, 3.4)$	$W(4.0e5, 8.1)$
$MTTR_i(h)$	0,71	1.14	0,98	0,51
$S_i$	0	1	0	1
$P_i$	1	0	1	0

**Table II.**  
Properties of the components of the new solution



**Figure 6.**  
The LCC of the reference system and the new solution according to the number of M histories

In euros	Initial costs $C_I$	Total maintenance cost $C_{TM}$	LCC
Reference system	1.703 e3	8.607 e3	10.310 e3
New solution	3.369 e3	3.848 e3	7.217 e3

**Table III.**  
Overall costs of the new solution and the reference system

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reference system (blue mark, LCC = 10.3104 e3) and of this new solution (red mark, LCC = 7.2173 e3). Note that, the new solution allows a decrease of 30 percent in the LCC compared to the reference system. However, the maintenance plan and the maintenance cost of the reference system are optimized, that is, the second algorithm is applied to the reference system.

Table III shows that the initial costs of the new solution are larger than the reference system, but there is a significant reduction in maintenance costs over the entire operating period. However, if we look at the costs of the entire life cycle, we note a drop of 30 percent in the reference system.

This is explained by the good choice of the design parameters that helps to reduce maintenance efforts and maintain the system as long as possible in good operating conditions. This shows the end of having a fun tool that provides a LCC projection in the design phase according to different configurations.

## 7. Conclusion and perspective

We have proposed and experimented a new algorithmic model of the simultaneous optimization for the design and maintenance of the large-scale multicomponent industrial systems.

Concerning the design, four decision variables are proposed for each component (its reliability, maintainability, redundancy, and monitoring information level). Regarding the maintenance, we proposed three decision variables (the NF, the MRP, and the reliability/replacement cost ratio) for each maintenance intervention (in case of failure or if MFOPS is estimated to be below the required level of reliability).

The proposed model is based on a two-level hybrid algorithm for simultaneous optimization (design and maintenance), using GAs. The first is to determine the optimal design for a given system based on the LCC. The second level aims to optimize the cost of the maintenance policy according to the level of reliability required. The proposed maintenance policy is dynamic and integrates different solutions offered by new connected and intelligent technologies.

The algorithm was confronted with an example from the literature consisting of four components in the series. The use of the proposed algorithm has resulted in a new (serial-parallel) configuration consisting of six new components and two sensors. This new solution has reduced the LCC about 30 percent compared to the reference system, under the same constraints imposed on the reference system.

This research has two major interests. The first is to find the optimal design under stress to minimize the LCC. The second interest is to allow designers to experiment with several possible architectures by adjusting design variables, objectives, and maintenance constraints.

In order to generalize and optimize the proposed model, several lines of research can be undertaken, in particular, to test the robustness of this model on new examples.

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