MEM6810 Engineering Systems Modeling and Simulation
工程系统建模与仿真

Theory | **Analysis**

Lecture 1: Introduction to Simulation

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上海交通大学
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董浩云智能制造与服务管理研究院
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（中美物流研究院）
(Sino-US Global Logistics Institute)

Contents

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- Simulation is EVERYWHERE!

Figure: Physical Simulation of Solid-Fluid Interaction (*from* Ruan et al. (2021))

Figure: Pilot Training in Boeing 787 Flat Panel Trainer (*from* Boeing)

Figure: Airport Simulation (*by Vancouver Airport Services*)

[Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuXwEbAvk2Q]

Figure: Typhoon Simulation (*image* by *Atmoz* / *CC BY 3.0*)
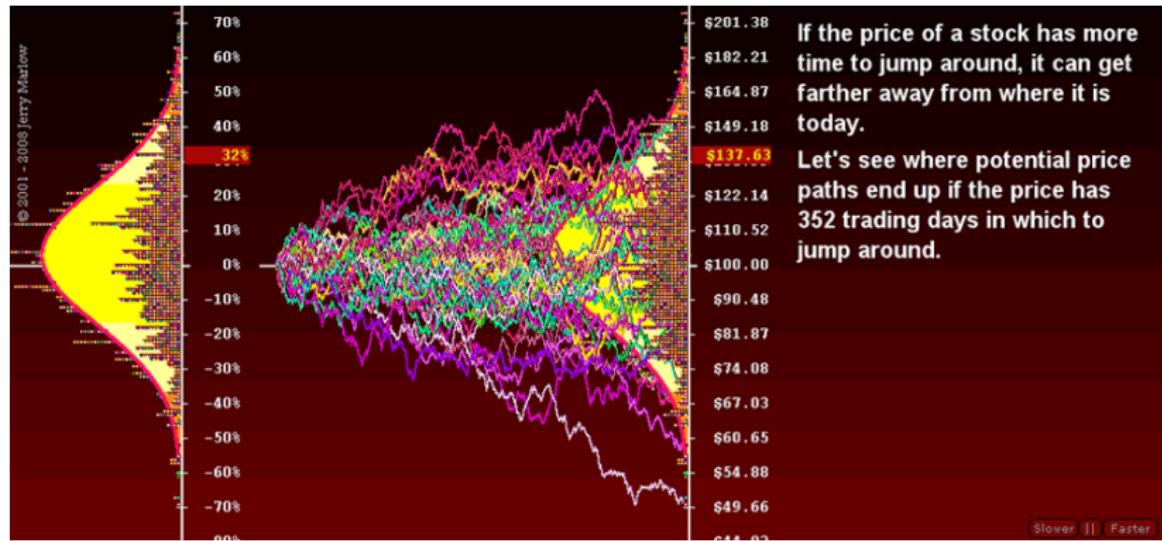
Figure: Financial Analysis

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- With simulation technique, we can easily make change and observe the effect, while keeping high fidelity.

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1. An analysis tool: To answer "what if" questions about the existing real-world system.
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- Simulation is also an important type of numerical methods.

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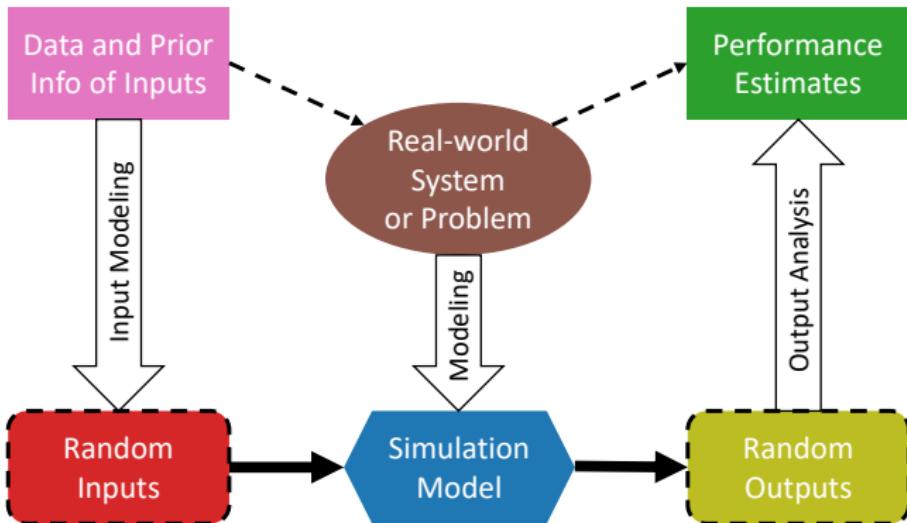
Figure: Basic Paradigm of A Simulation Study

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- A simulation model is a particular type of mathematical model.

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George E. P. Box (1919.10 – 2013.03) was a British statistician, who worked in the areas of quality control, time-series analysis, design of experiments, and Bayesian inference. He has been called "one of the great statistical minds of the 20th century".

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- Essentially, running simulation is still one type of numerical methods.
  - Real-world simulation models can be large, and such runs are usually conducted with the aid of a computer.

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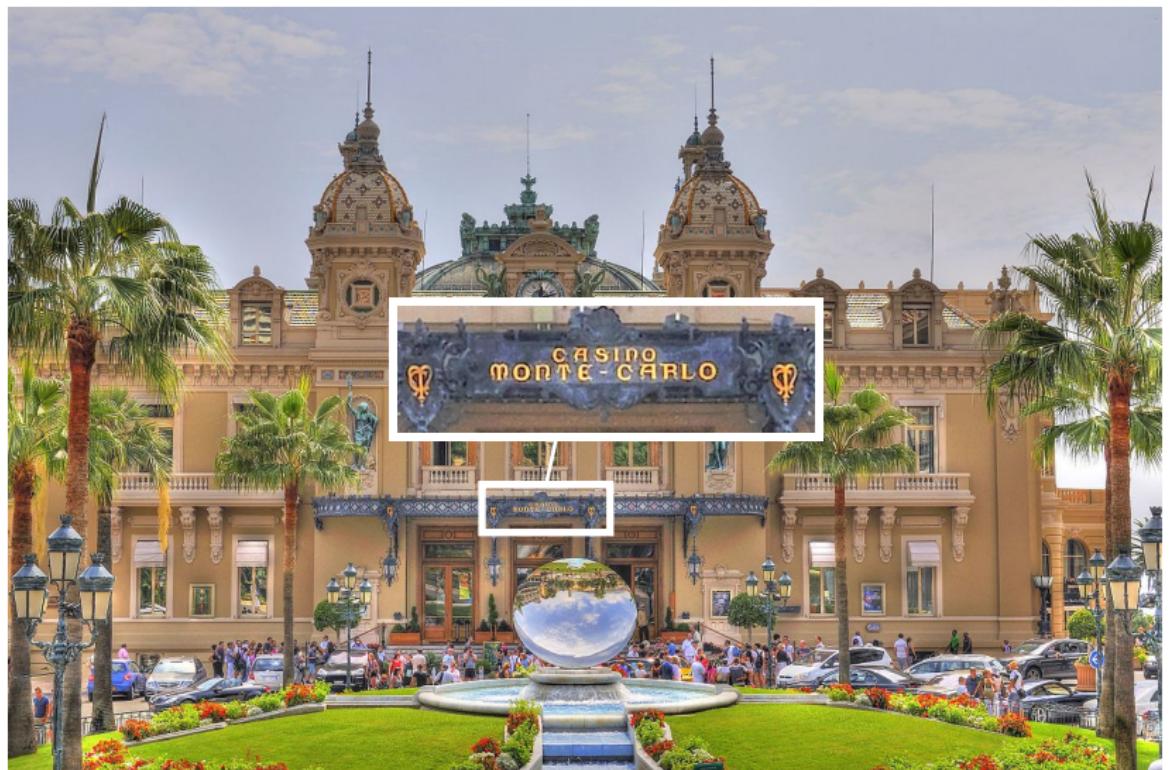
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  - Used much more often (uncertainty is more or less involved in a real-world system).

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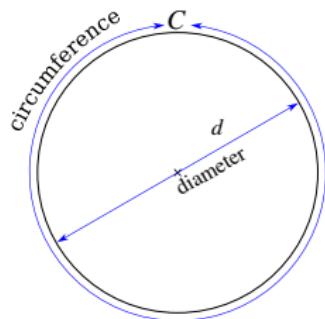
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- For most operational decision-making problems, the suitable simulation models are *dynamic*, *stochastic* and *discrete*.
  - The simulation is called Discrete-Event System Simulation (离散事件系统仿真).
  - It is the main **focus** of this course.

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- It was considered as a quite difficult problem in the history of mankind to find the value of π.

- The earliest written approximations of π:
  - Babylon: A clay tablet (1900–1600 BC), $\pi \approx \frac{25}{8} = 3.125$;
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Figure: Archimedes of Syracuse (287–212 BC) (Source/Photographer)

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Figure: Zu Chongzhi (祖冲之, 南北朝时期, 429–500 AD) (statue image by 三猎 / CC BY 4.0)
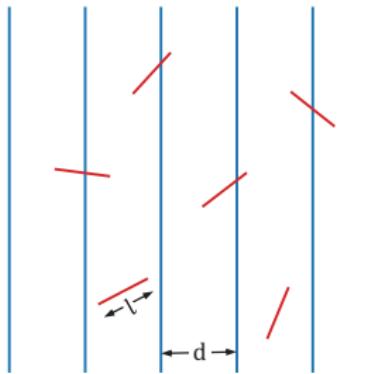
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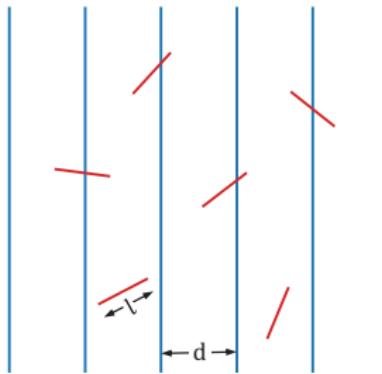
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- $\mathbb{P}(\text{needle crosses a line}) = \dfrac{2l}{\pi d}$.

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Pi approximation: 3.1555

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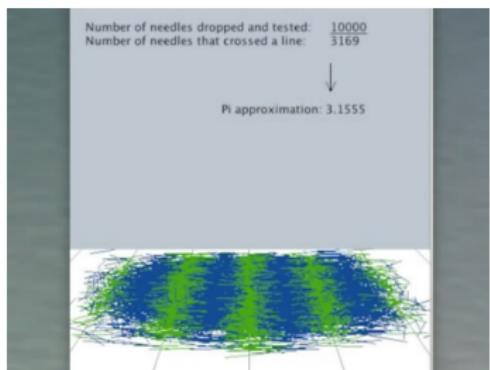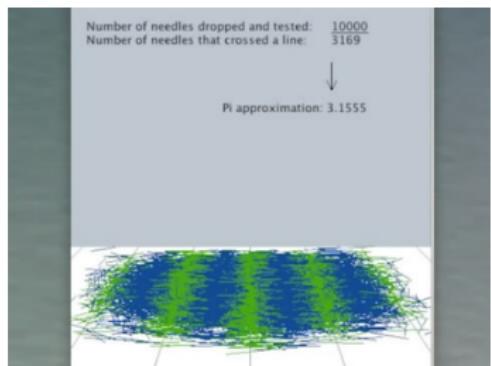
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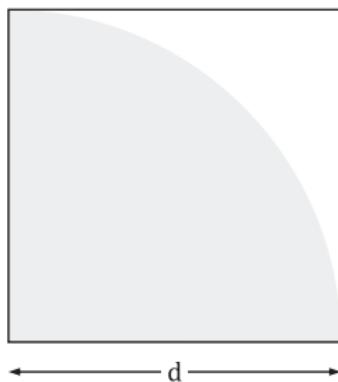
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- Now consider another simulation to estimate π.
  - Randomly throw n dots to a square.
  - Suppose the dots are *equally likely* to fall anywhere inside the square.
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Figure: Animation (image by nicoguaro / CC BY 3.0)

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- Visit `https://xiaoweiz.shinyapps.io/calPi` for interaction.

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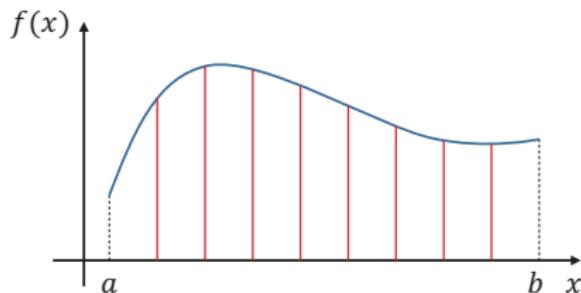
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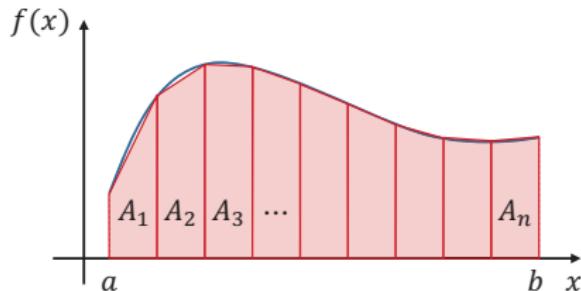
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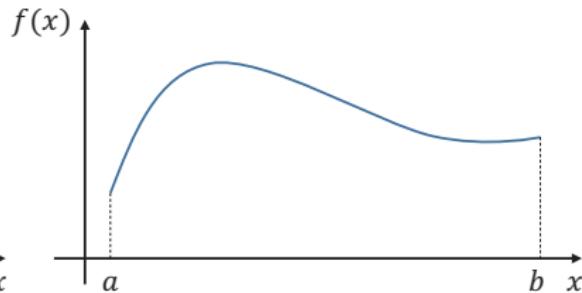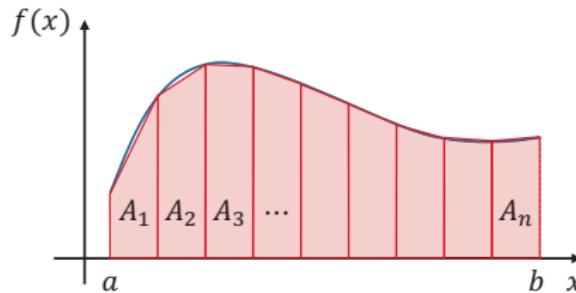
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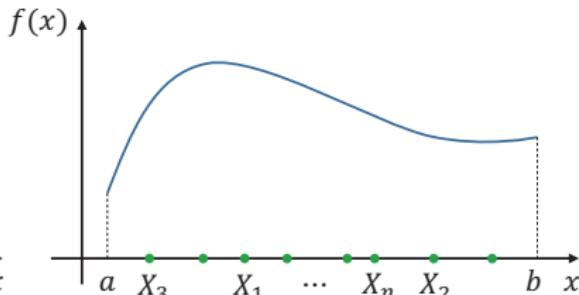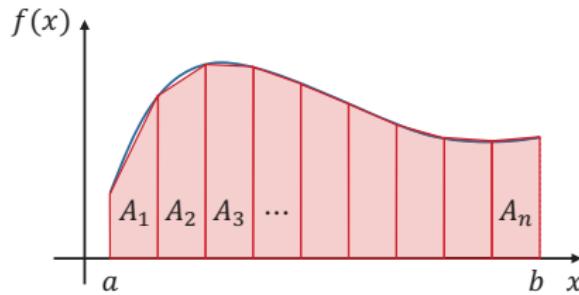
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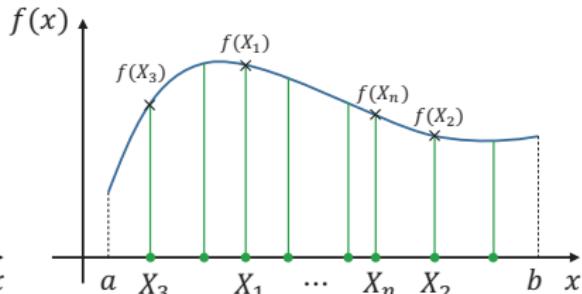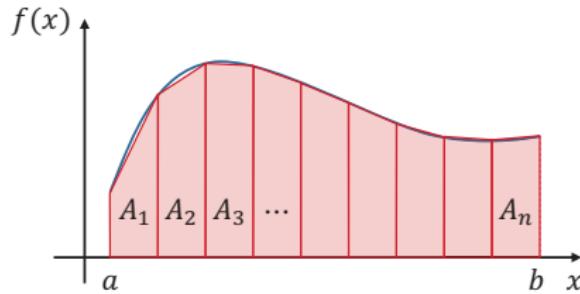
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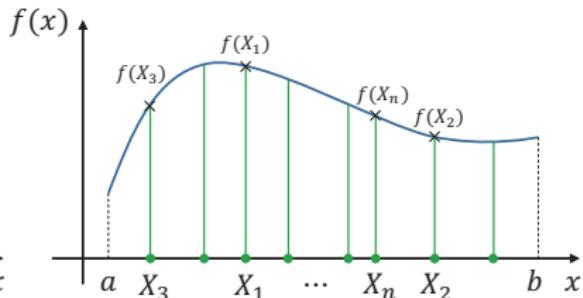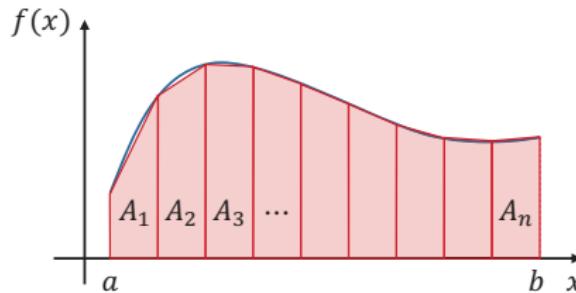
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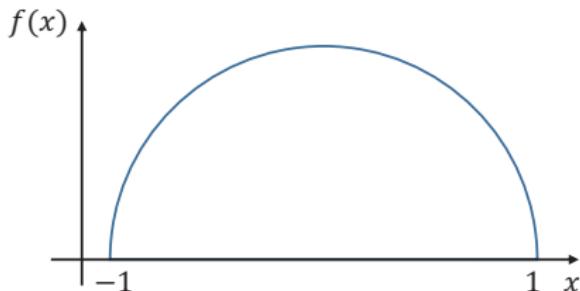
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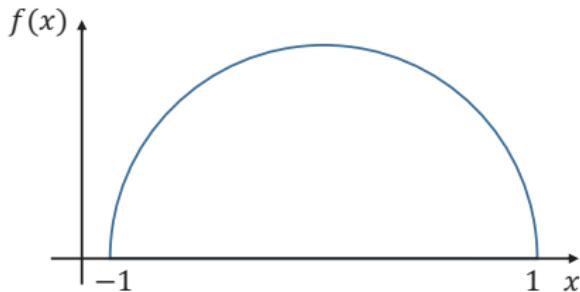
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  1 Randomly sample n points on $[a, b]$ from uniform(a, b).
  2 $\int_a^b f(x)\mathrm{d}x \approx \frac{b-a}{n}\left[f(X_1) + f(X_2) + \cdots + f(X_n)\right]$.

- Monte Carlo method will be much more **efficient** when the dimension is high! (E.g., $\int_{[a, b]^d} f(\boldsymbol{x})\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}$ for large d.)

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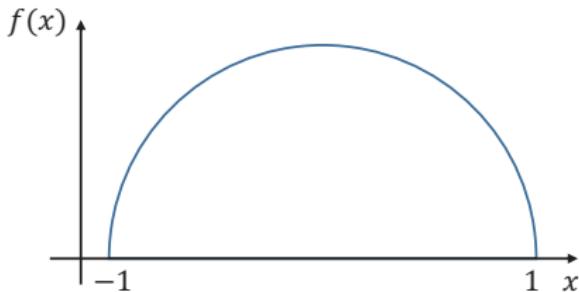
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- Then, $\int_{-1}^{1} \sqrt{1 - x^2}\mathrm{d}x = \pi/2$.

- So we have another way to estimate π using Monte Carlo simulation (provided we know how to compute square root).

- There is a system:
  - Two components work as active and spare, so the system fails if both components are failed.
  - Suppose the time to next component failure is random (when there is at least one functional components), which follows a known distribution, and we know how to generate it.
  - To make it simple, suppose the time to next failure is equally likely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 days (no memory).
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- Let's run a simulation by hand!
  - Let the system **state** denote the number of functional components.
  - The **events** are the failure of a component and the completion of repair.

| | | Event Calendar | |
Clock	System State	Next Failure	Next Repair
0	2		

| | | Event Calendar | |
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0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	

		Event Calendar	
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| | | Event Calendar | |
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0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	∞
5	1		

| | | Event Calendar | |
Clock	System State	Next Failure	Next Repair
0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	∞
5	1		$5 + 2.5 = 7.5$

		Event Calendar	
Clock	System State	Next Failure	Next Repair
0	2	$0 + 5 = 5$	∞
5	1	$5 + 3 = 8$	$5 + 2.5 = 7.5$

| | | Event Calendar | |
Clock	System State	Next Failure	Next Repair
0	2	$0 + \mathbf{5} = 5$	∞
5	1	$5 + \mathbf{3} = 8$	$5 + 2.5 = 7.5$
7.5	2		

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14	1	$14 + \mathbf{1} = 15$	$14 + 2.5 = 16.5$
15	**0**		

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- We can observe:
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  - Average number of functional components $=$
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- Some questions:
  - How to deal with the randomness?
  - How to generate the time interval of component failure?

Course Outline

- Introduction to Simulation
- Elements of Probability and Statistics
- Queueing Models
- Random Variate Generation
- Input Modeling
- Verification and Validation of Simulation Models
- Output Analysis I: Single Model
- Simulation in Excel and FlexSim
- Output Analysis II: Comparison
- Output Analysis III: Optimization