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## Importance Index of Components in Uncertain Random Systems

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## Abstract

Importance measure is an index to describe the importance of an individual component or a group of components within a reliability system. Up to now, importance measures for components in stochastic reliability systems have been investigated. And importance index for a component and a group of components in an uncertain reliability system has also been studied. In the real world, components with samples and components without samples always coexist in a complex system which is actually an uncertain random reliability system. For describing the importance extent of an individual component and a group of components in an uncertain random reliability system, this paper aims at introducing a new concept of importance index and presenting some formulas to calculate the importance index. Furthermore, this paper takes several examples including uncertain random series, uncertain random parallel, uncertain random parallel-series, uncertain random series-parallel and uncertain random bridge systems to illustrate how to calculate an importance index.

**Keywords:** Uncertainty theory; chance theory; system reliability; importance index; uncertain random variable.

## 1 Introduction

Reliability of a stochastic system appeared in late 1940s and early 1950s. So far, it has been applied in some structure systems such as power systems, transportation systems and communication systems. With the development of system reliability, Birnbaum [2] proposed a concept of importance measure for a component in a coherent stochastic reliability system to describe the importance of an individual component. In reliability engineering, the importance measure is regarded as an index to evaluate the relative importance of an individual component or a group of components within a stochastic reliability system. Birnbaum [2] classified the importance measure of a component in a stochastic system into three types which are structure importance measure depending on the system structure, reliability importance measure depending on system structure and the reliabilities of components, and lifetime importance measure depending on the positions of Download English Version:

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