



## *Dealing with pseudo-random software faults in complex critical driver assistance systems*

Dr. Rüdiger Nortmann (MCG Management Consult GmbH)

Stephen Cobeldick (FSQ Experts GmbH)

## Agenda

- Introduction
- Complex systems
- Non-linear and chaotic system behavior
- How to deal with random software faults

# Introduction

## Introduction

- ISO 26262: software faults are not random, but exclusively systematic
  - This holds only for low complex systems as is required by ISO 26262
- Highly complex software systems:  
e.g. automated driver assistance system according to SAE L3/L4
  - faults can occur that appear randomly
  - faults can only be detected by continuously monitoring safety mechanisms

# Types of Randomness

## Mild randomness

Subject to physics → restricted by physical constraints

Corresponds (in general) to the physical quantities

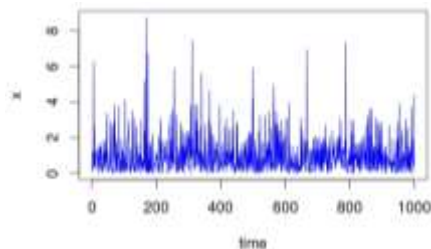
Total is not determined by a single case or observation

When you observe for a while, you can get to know what is going on

Easy to start from what you see and predict what you do not see

**Better presented by probabilistic distribution**

**Robust design can be verified by stress testing or worst-case scenarios**



## Wild randomness

Dependent on number space → no physical constraints

Corresponds to calculated numerical values

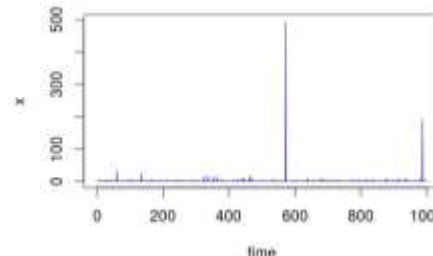
Total will be determined by a small number of extreme events

It takes a long time to know what is going on

Hard to predict from past information

**Better presented by fractal distribution**

**Antifragile design can be verified by simulation**



See  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven\\_states\\_of\\_randomness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_states_of_randomness)

## Reason for Random Software Failures

### Possible occurrences:

- Software in a complex system (e.g. chaotic system, stability)
- Software above a certain complexity (e.g. permutations not testable)
- Numeric computations (e.g. binary floating point, algorithm robustness)

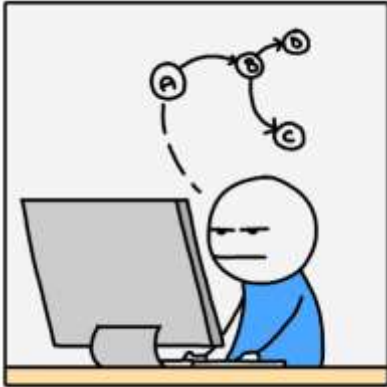
### Not in scope:

- Software design, software bugs, cosmic rays, etc.

# Complex systems

# Complex Systems: Types of Complexity

## Accidental



© Monkey User

Non-essential complexity introduced into the design by mistake

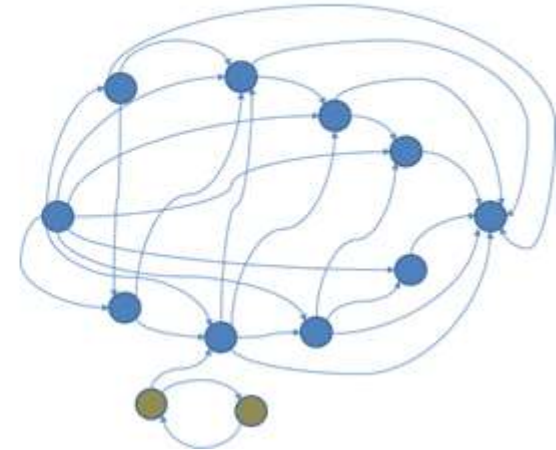
## Incidental



© Monkey User

Non-essential complexity introduced into the design out of ignorance or on purpose

## Essential



Unavoidable complexity

The automated driving system is essential complex



# Complex Systems: Metric

## Cyclomatic complexity

$$M = E - N + 2P$$

E => The no. of edges of the graph

N => The no. of nodes of the graph

P => The no. of connected components

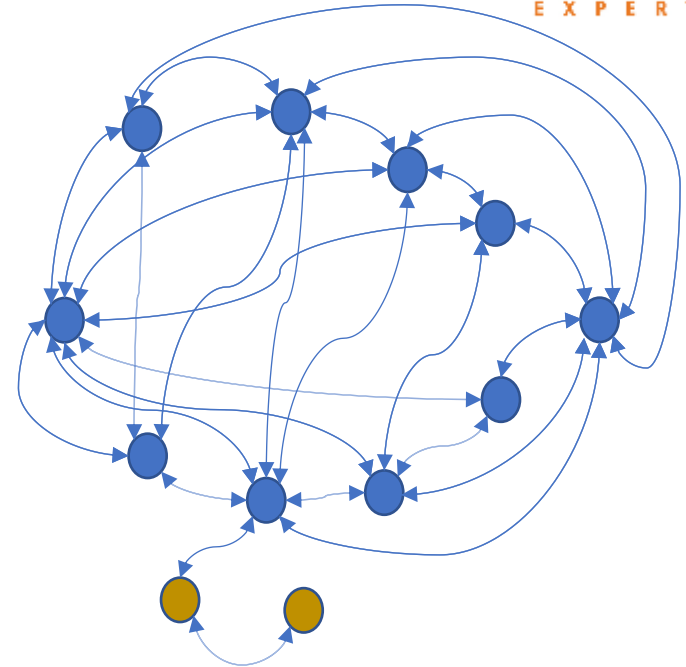
## Tom McCabe's categorization to interpret cyclomatic complexity:

1 – 10 -> Simple procedure, little risk -> low complexity

11 – 20 -> More complex, moderate risk-> not acceptable for ASIL D

21 – 50 -> Complex, high risk -> not acceptable for ASIL

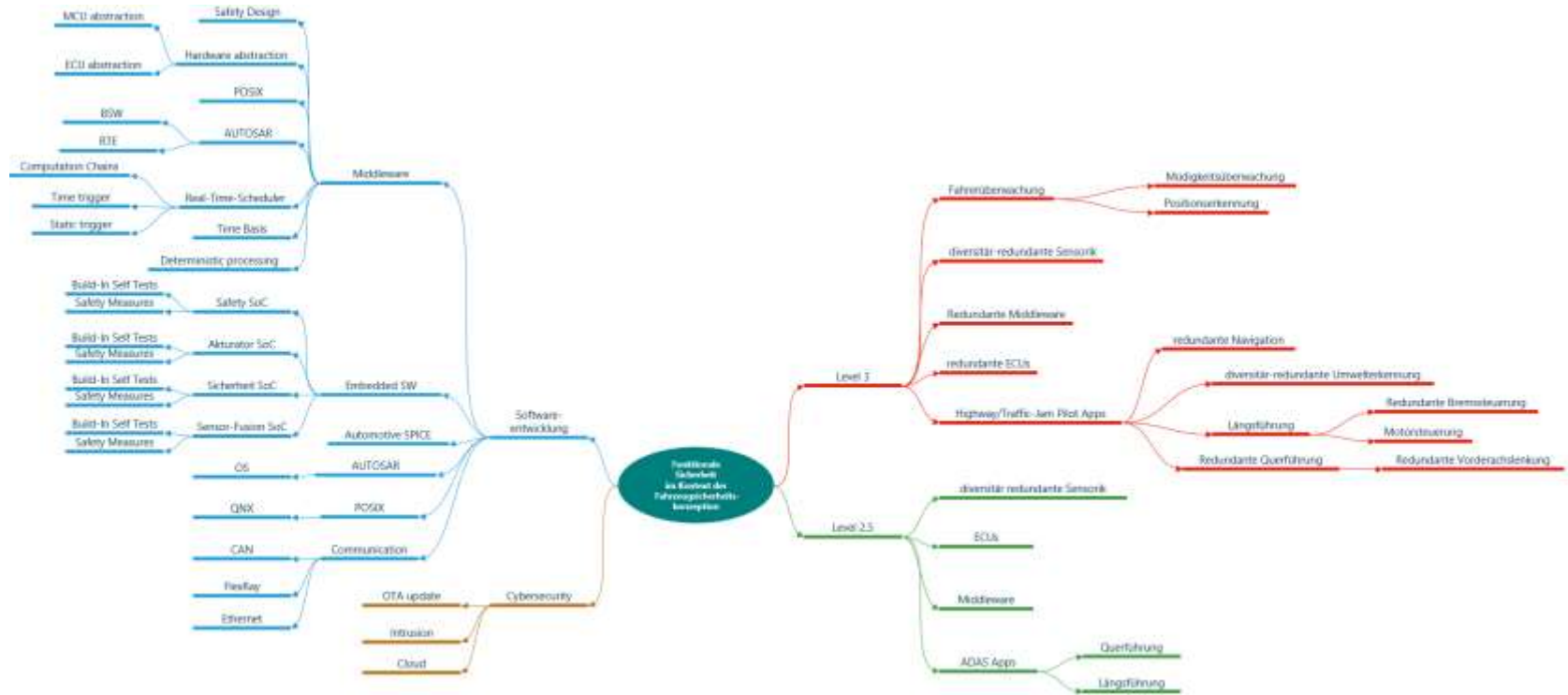
> 50 -> Untestable code, very high risk



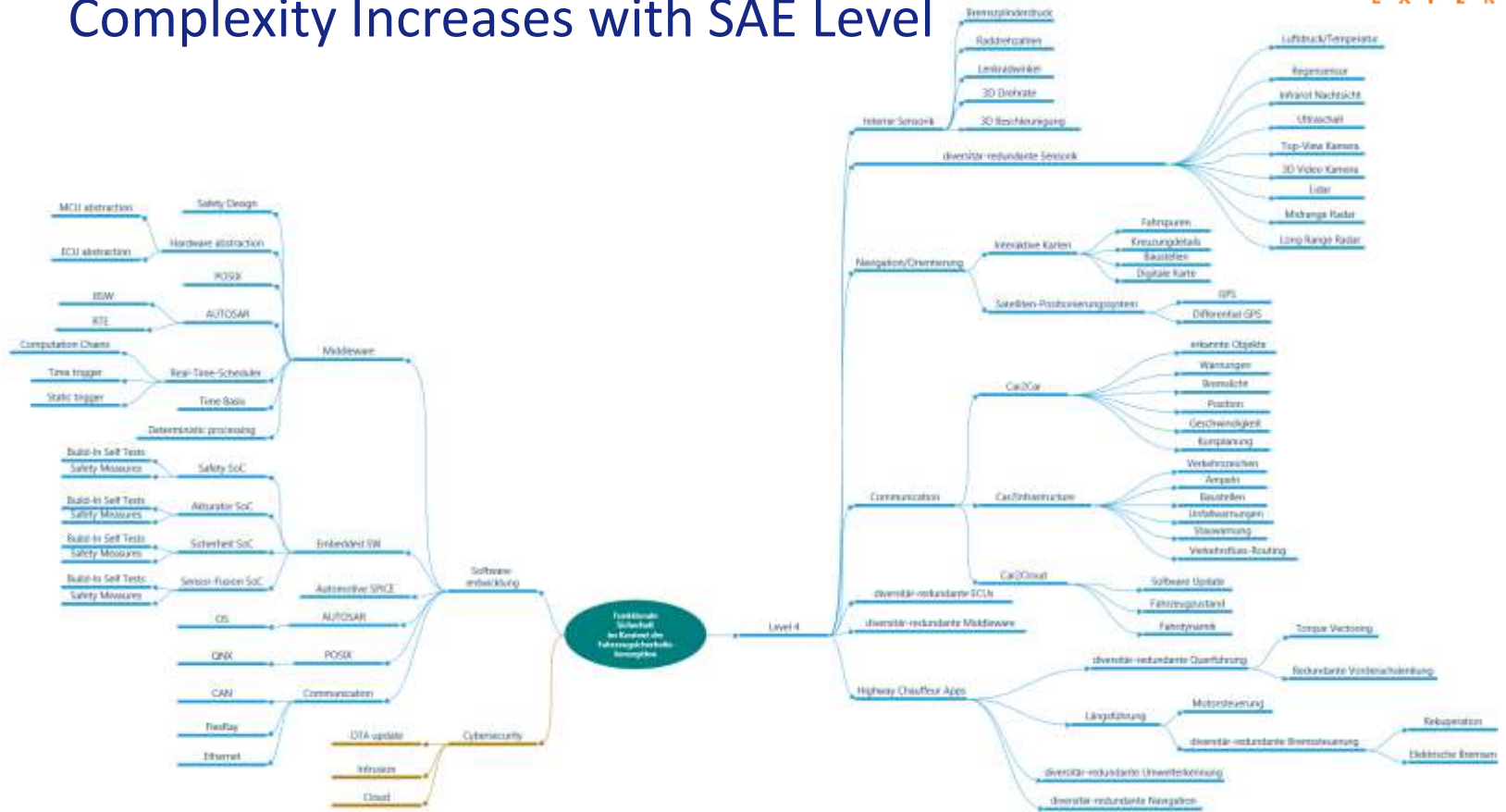
$$M = 56 - 12 + 2 \times 2 = 48$$

**N > 48x12 = 576 System testcases for binary decision**

# Complexity Increases with SAE Level



# Complexity Increases with SAE Level



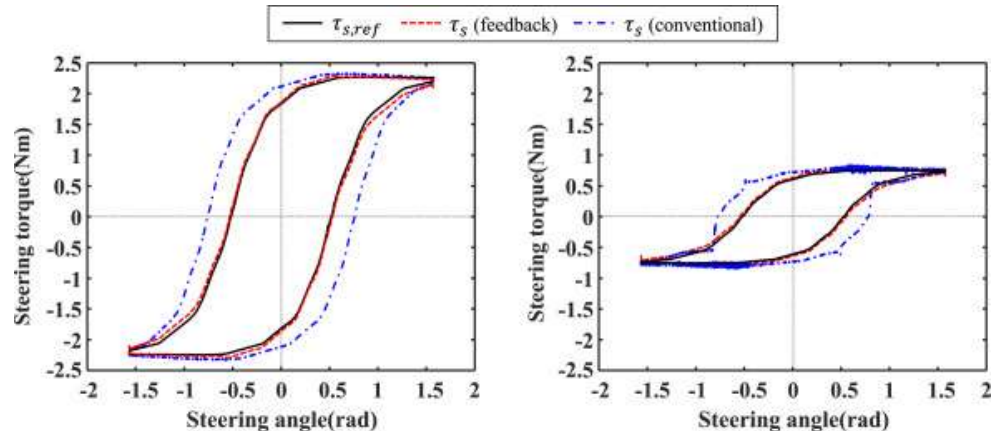
## Complex Systems: Test is Not Enough

- Challenges for testing of complex systems
  - Design cannot be fully verified by testing
  - Equivalence classes do not help against black swans
  - Safety can only be proven by simulation:  
-> First simulate a critical situation and then test it
  - Tests are not sufficient to protect against random failures, only against systematic errors (even with endurance tests)
  - Btw: This applies to both hardware and software

# Non-linear and chaotic system behavior

## How to Deal with Non-Linearities

- If an algorithm is supposed to control non-linear behavior over several calculation steps, a correct result can no longer be expected after just a few steps (approx. 7) and the result is incorrect in an apparently random way (faulty).
- Complex motor control must be protected against accidental errors in the algorithms by dynamic limiters (e.g. dynamic torque limiters).



## Deterministic, Yet Chaotic

- Simple systems may be deterministic, and yet demonstrate chaotic behavior.
- Systems which include feedback can be modelled by differential equations.
- Lorenz System was originally derived to model fluid convection system.

– Ordinary differential equation (ODE)

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sigma(y - x),$$

– Chaotic behavior for values around:

- $\sigma = 10$
- $\beta = 8/3$
- $\rho = 28$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x(\rho - z) - y,$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = xy - \beta z.$$

## Deterministic, Yet Chaotic

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \sigma(y - x),$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x(\rho - z) - y,$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = xy - \beta z.$$

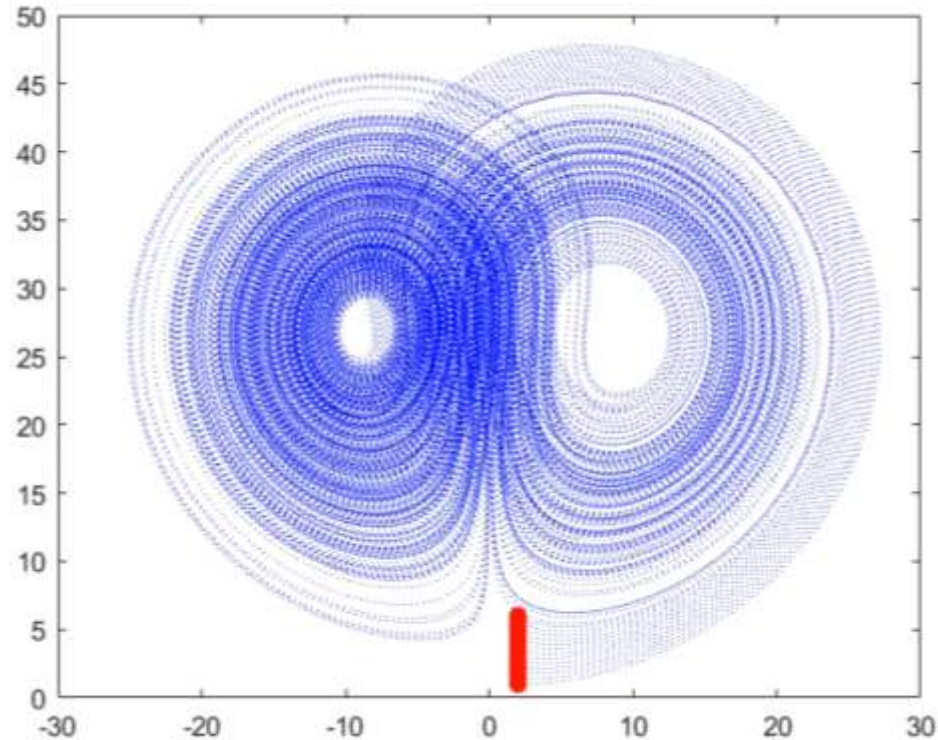
```
sigma = 10;
beta = 8/3;
rho = 28;
% ODE function:
fun = @(t,a)[...
    sigma*(a(2)-a(1));
    a(1)*(rho-a(3))-a(2);
    a(1)*a(2)-beta*a(3)];
% Runge-Kutta 4th/5th order ODE
solver:
t = linspace(0,23,2345);
[~,a] = ode45(fun,t,[1,2,3]);
```



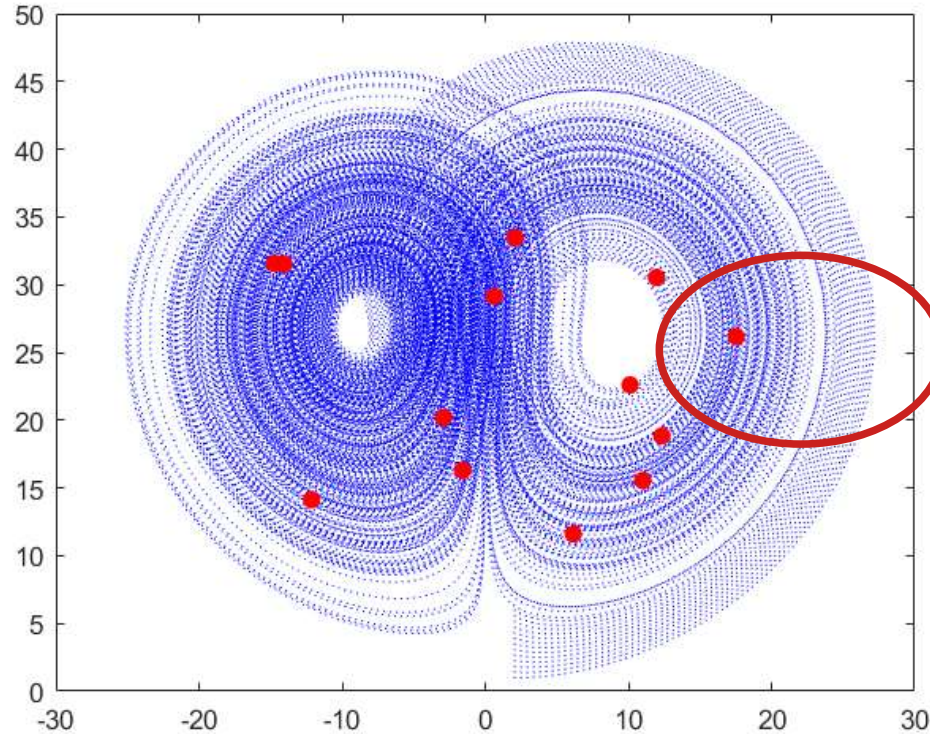
## Deterministic, Yet Chaotic

- Differential equations can be used to describe many systems which utilize feedback, for example:
  - Actuators,
  - Cameras, LIDAR, etc which compensate for lighting levels,
  - Decision-making algorithms based on prior states, etc.
- Small perturbations in the initial conditions can lead to very large differences in the later state.
- Impossible to simulate or test all permutations of any non-trivial system:
  - Later states may be sampled by distribution
  - Chaotic behavior may occur

## Deterministic, Yet Chaotic



## Deterministic, Yet Chaotic



Note the density, i.e. probability distribution

## Deterministic, Yet Chaotic

- Chaotic behavior may be sampled over repeated periods of time.
- Sufficient samples can fit a statistical probability distribution.
- Compare ISO 26262-1:2018 3.118:

### 3.118

#### random hardware failure

*failure (3.50)* that can occur unpredictably during the lifetime of a hardware *element (3.41)* and that follows a probability distribution

Note 1 to entry: Random hardware failure rates can be predicted with reasonable accuracy.

Note 2 to entry: Physical hardware *failures (3.50)* as defined by the *PoF (3.111)* methodology (SAE J1211, JEDEC JEP122, or similar) can be considered as random hardware failures for the purpose of this document.

### 3.119

#### random hardware fault

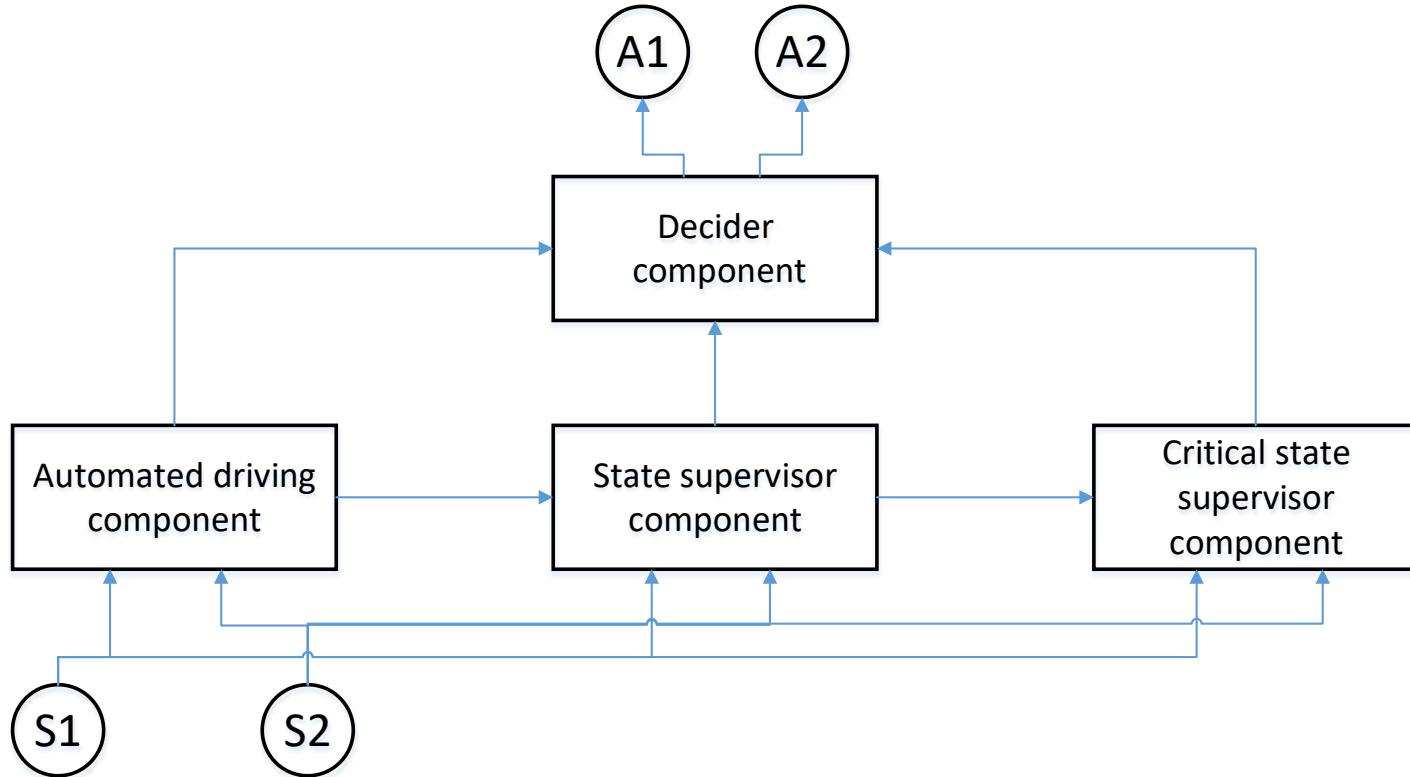
hardware *fault (3.54)* with a probabilistic distribution

# How to deal with random software faults

# Complex Systems: Dealing with Random SW Faults

- Modelling
  - Robust design (control theory)
  - Antifragile design
  - Fault tolerant design
  - STAMP Model
- Analysis
  - State transition model
  - Markov-Chain Analysis
  - Petri Net Analysis
  - STPA Analysis
- Simulation
  - Simulink
  - Rhapsody
  - dSPACE

# Automated Driving – 3-Components and 2-Channels

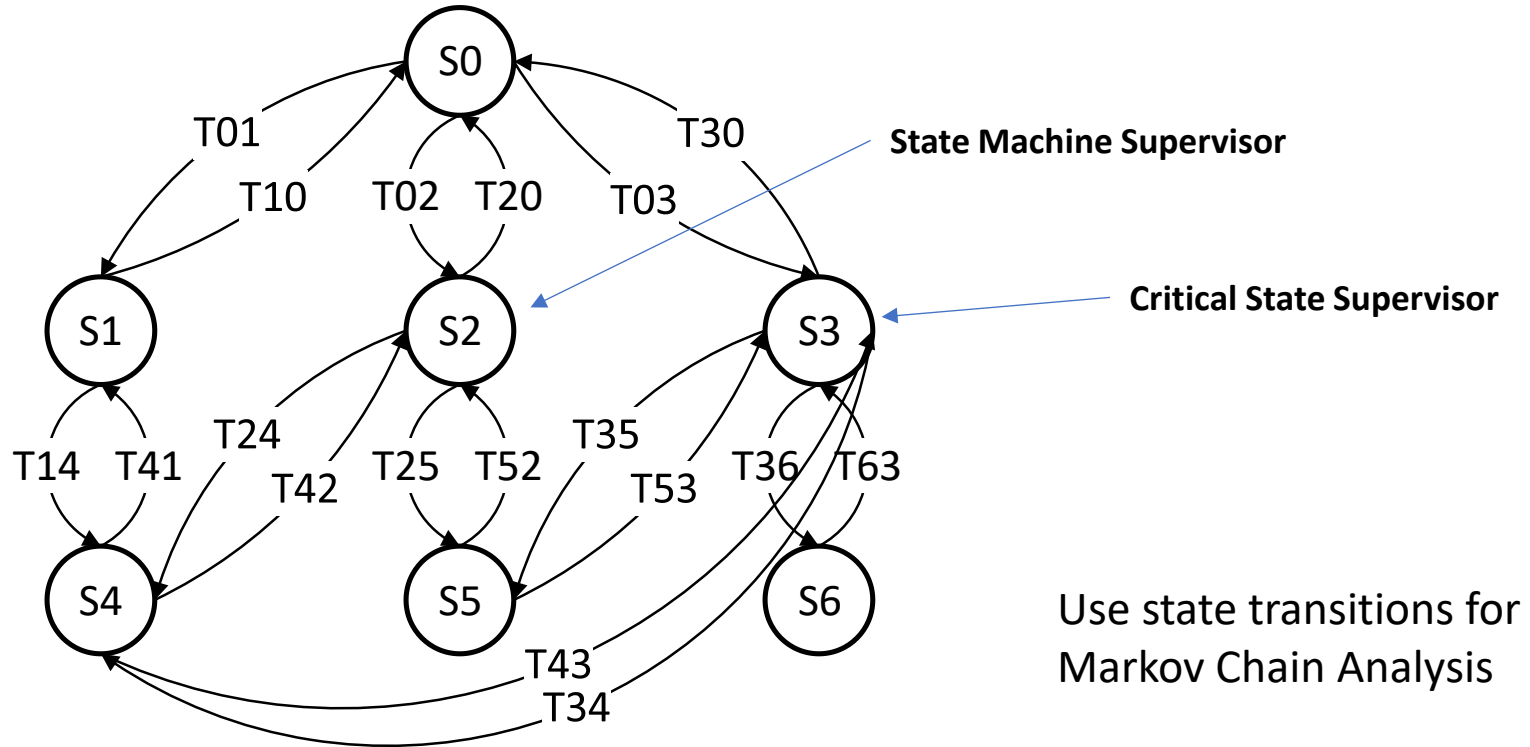


## Complex Systems: Build Up Safety Mechanism

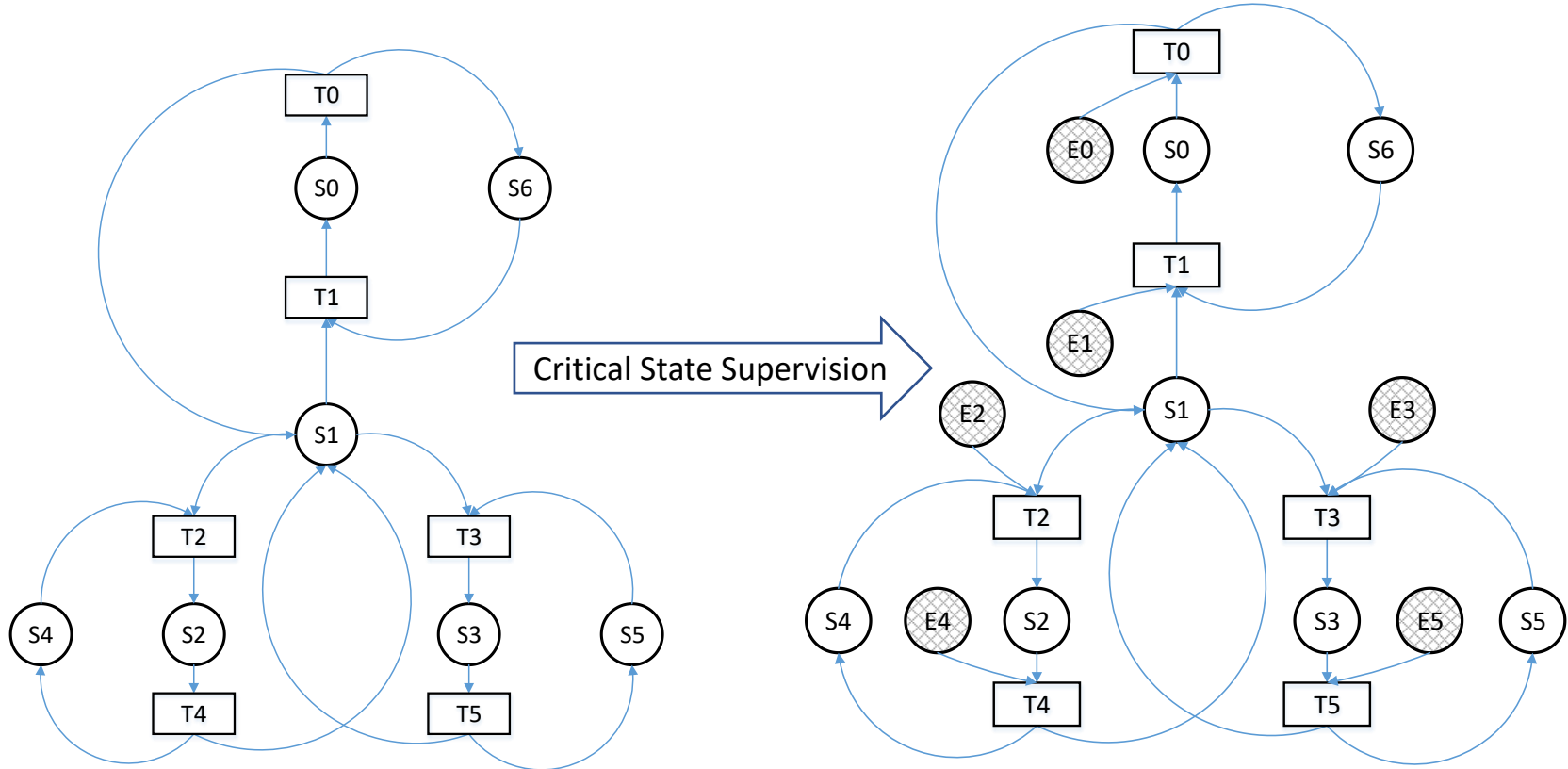
- Understand state transitions and their safety relevance
- Define signal supervision
- Define **State Machine Supervisor** to check correct state transition at runtime
  - Reduce complexity with respect to safety  $CC < 20$
- Define **Critical State Supervisor** to check correctly taken safe states at runtime
  - Reduce complexity with respect to safety  $CC < 10$
- Analyze the probability of faults and ISO 26262 compliance with **Markov Chain and Petri Net analyses**
- **Simulate** the state machine with simulation tool
- **Test** critical state transitions



# State Transition Model for 3-Component System

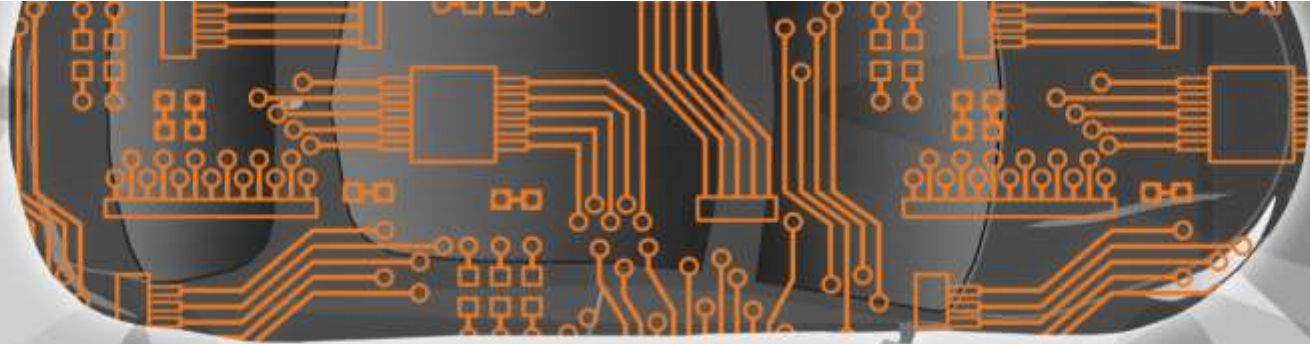


# Petri Net for Control of 3-Component System



## Conclusion

- Software can behave randomly although we might call this pseudo-random
- The random behavior of software is due to
  - design exceeding the reasonable values of complexity metrics
  - non-deterministic algorithms
  - non-linearity of the control problem
- Compliance of random fault-prone software with safety standards is rarely ensured by testing
- The compliance can be ensured by
  - Robust, antifragile and fault tolerant design, STAMP
  - Appropriate safety analysis methods like State Transition, Markov Chain, Petri Net, STPA
  - Simulation in Simulink, Rhapsody, dSPACE
  - Extensive test of critical situations identified in simulation



*Thank you for your attention*

FSQ Experts GmbH  
Balanstrasse 14  
81669 München  
+49 89 588087571  
info@fsq-experts.com  
www.fsq-experts.com

MCG Management Consult GmbH  
Waldstrasse 25  
30890 Barsinghausen  
+49 5105 585919  
mcg@mcgnet.de  
www.mcgnet.de