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EECE499 Computers and Nuclear Energy

Howard University

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Chapter 6: Design of Fail-Operate Computer Systems



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Overview



- Section 6.3.5: Dual Redundancy
- Section 6.3.6: Triplex Architecture
- Section 6.3.7: Quadruplex Architecture
- Section 6.3.8: Defining Custom Hardware

Dual Redundancy



Dual Architecture

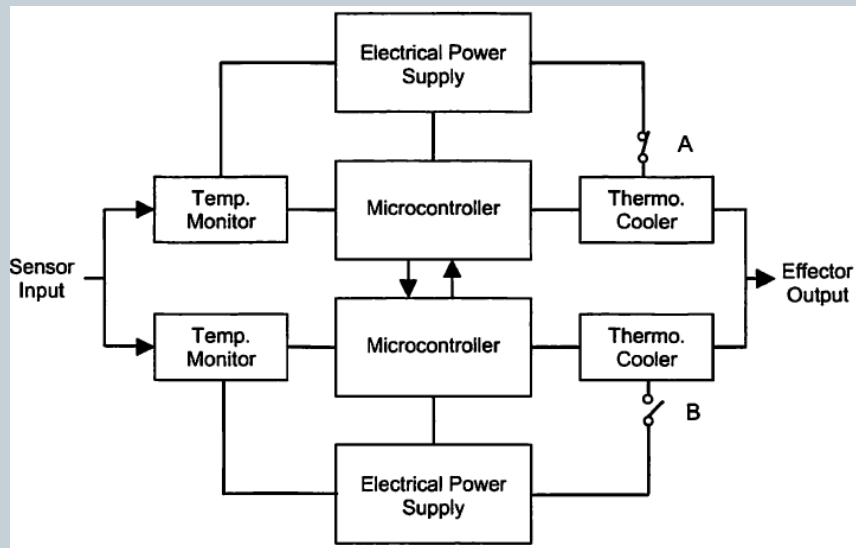
- Primary and Back-up computers are physically separated
- Computer Communicate with one another to check for failures within sensors and data

Dual-Dual Architecture

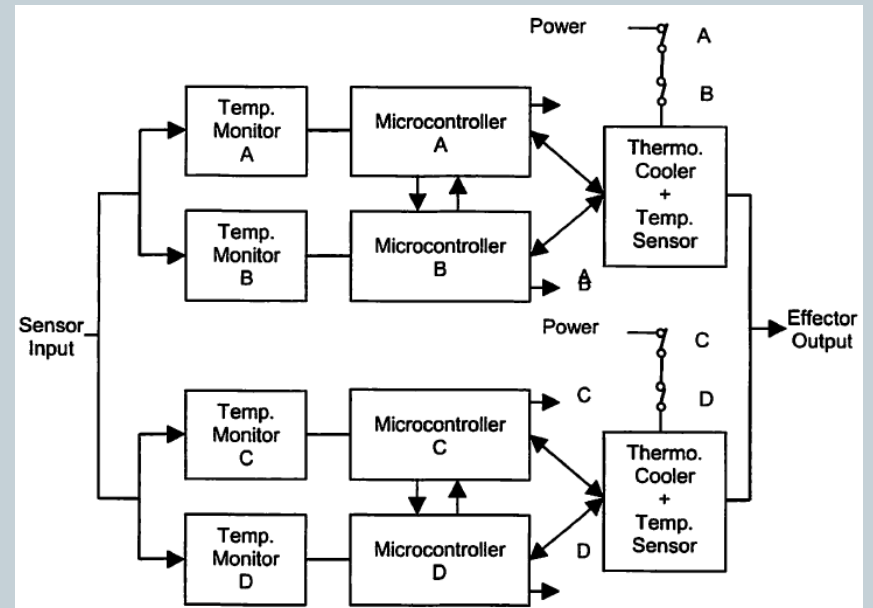
- combining two dual systems
- Both Systems are active and operating

Dual Architecture vs Dual-Dual Architecture

Dual

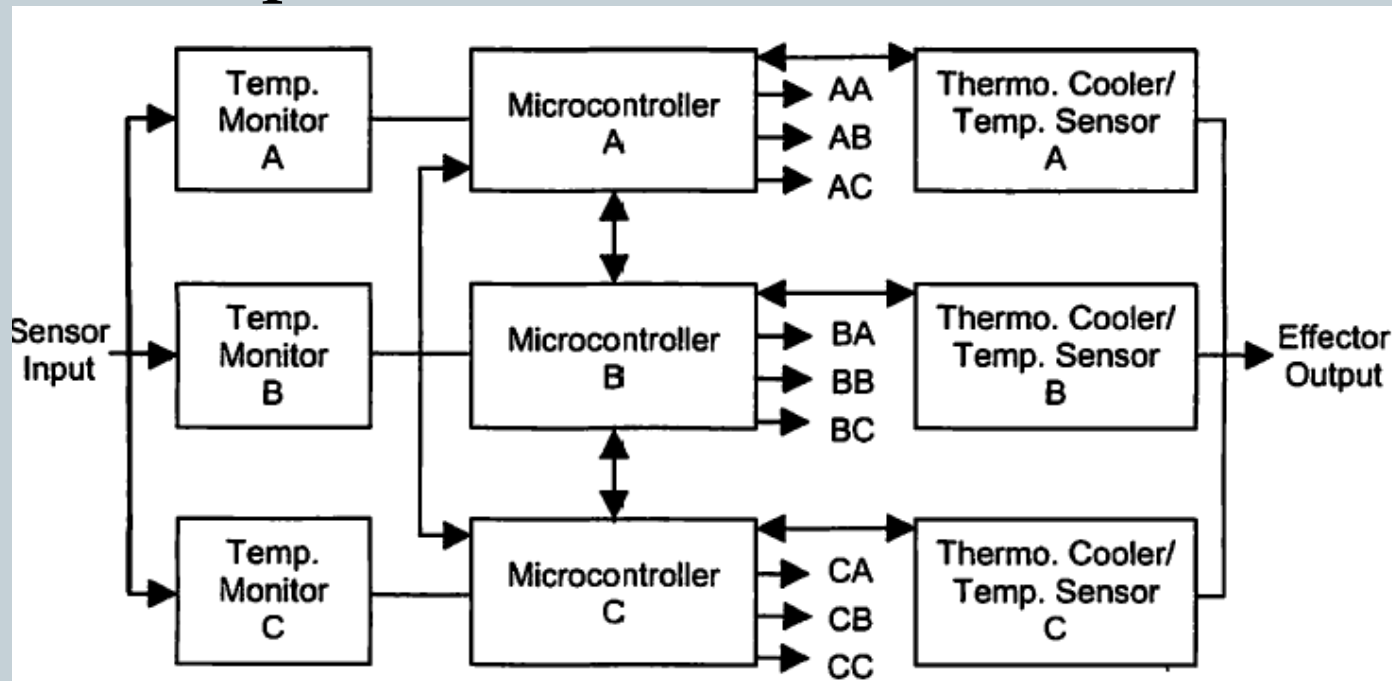


Dual-Dual



Triplex Architecture

- Three Redundant sets of components
- Less expensive, and still achieves single failure, fail-operational performance



Triplex Redundancy Management

1. Each computer controls separate Thermocooler
2. Results in 3 redundant temperature monitors
3. Computers communicate values & are synchronized

- Comparison of 3 Data Sets

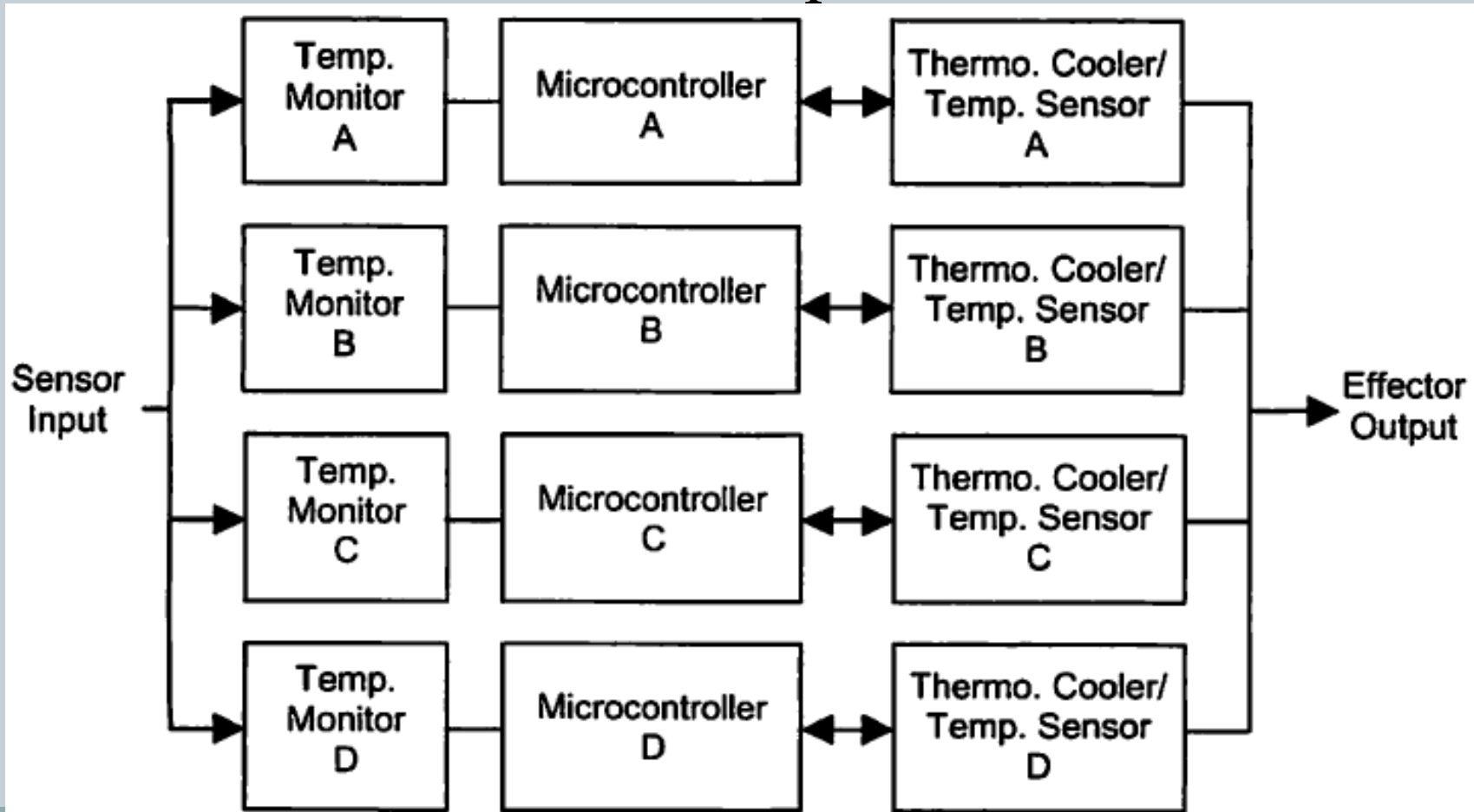
$$(T_{\max} - T_{\min}) \leq T_{\text{threshold}}$$

$$(T_{\max} - T_{\text{mid}}) \leq T_{\text{threshold}}$$

$$(T_{\text{mid}} - T_{\min}) \leq T_{\text{threshold}}$$

Quadruplex Architecture

- Can tolerate two or more sequential failures



Force Vote



- Failed computers or effectors remain in failed state while other computers in the system continue to operate normally, over powering the failed systems.

Unreliability

- Dual

$$Q_{\text{single}} = 1.26 \times 10^{-4}$$

- Dual-Dual

$$Q_{\text{dual-dual}} = [Q_{\text{single}}]^2 = 1.58 \times 10^{-8}$$

- Triplex

$$Q_{\text{triplex}} = 1.19 \times 10^{-8}$$

- Quadraplex

$$Q_{\text{quadraplex}} = 4 \times [Q_{\text{sim}}]^3 - 3 \times [Q_{\text{sim}}]^4$$

- Protection

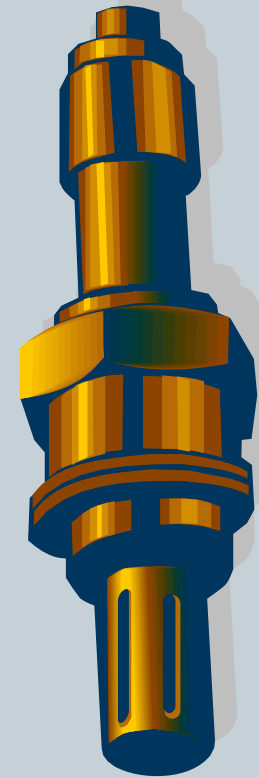
- Diversity in Component Design

$$(\lambda'_{\text{sim}} = 1.26 \times 10^{-3}/\text{hr})$$

Exposure Time (T)	Unreliability		
	Simplex (Q_{sim})	Triplex (Q_{triplex})	Quadraplex ($Q_{\text{quadraplex}}$)
1 minute	2.10×10^{-7}	1.32×10^{-13}	3.70×10^{-20}
1 hour	1.26×10^{-5}	4.76×10^{-10}	8.00×10^{-15}
10 hour	1.26×10^{-4}	4.76×10^{-8}	8.00×10^{-12}
1 day	3.02×10^{-4}	2.74×10^{-7}	1.11×10^{-10}
1 week	2.11×10^{-3}	1.34×10^{-5}	3.78×10^{-8}
1 month	9.16×10^{-3}	2.50×10^{-4}	3.06×10^{-6}

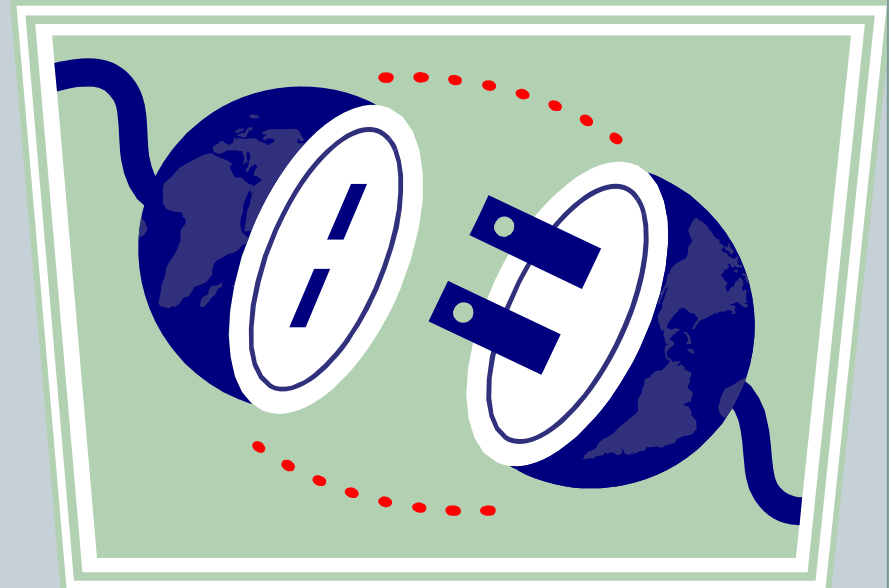
Redundancy Management: Sensors

1. Each computer gathers information from sensor
2. Computers share readings
3. Compare if values are within predetermined threshold
4. Yes -> System is Functioning
No -> System Failure



Redundancy Management: Computers

- Method of Failure Detection: Comparison of Results
 - If results do not match, computer with irregular values loses power
 - Other computer continues operation



Redundancy Management: Equalization



- Equalization: process of establishing a common input value
 - Sensors have standardized starting point
 - Computers are more likely to produce similar outputs
 - Less likely to detect errors



Redundancy Management: Effectors



- Temperature decreases when Microcontroller command is on
- Temperature increases when Microcontroller command is off
- Temperature Value lies within pre-specified Range

Safety Failure Analysis



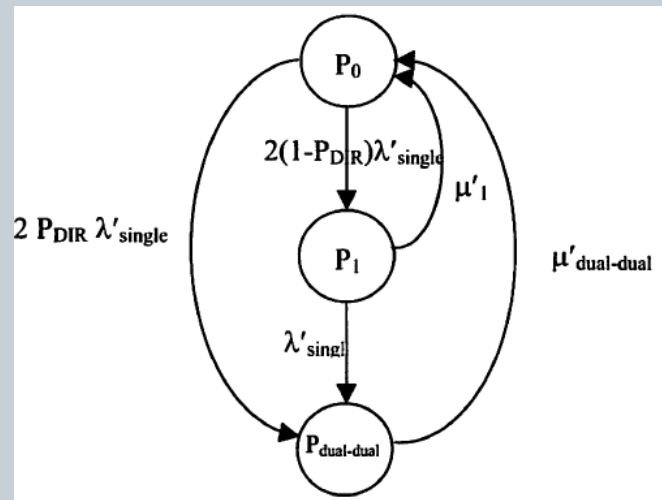
- Both computer systems experience independent critical failures
- Computer System Fails followed by FDIR failure
- Common-Cause Failure

Markov Models

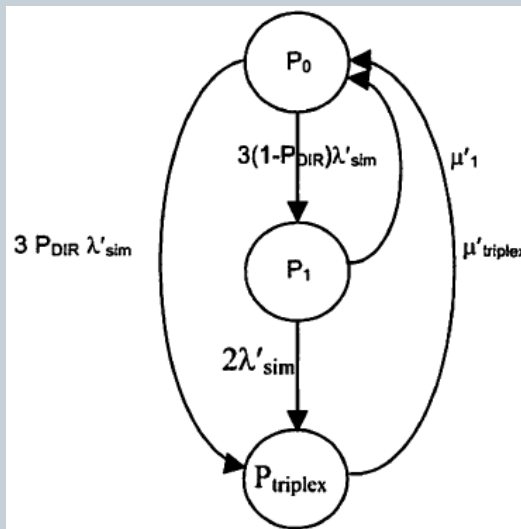


Probability Theory: Models system with random variable through time

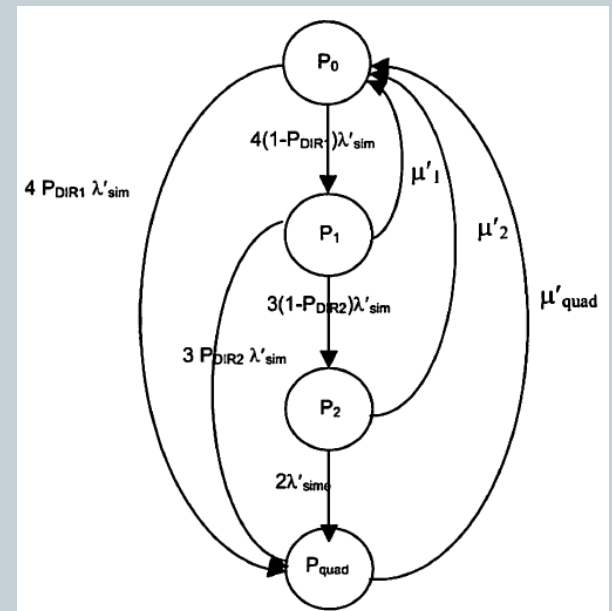
- Dual-Dual



- Triplex



- Quadraplex



- P_0 = No Critical Failures
- P_n = Probability n computers have failed, detected fault, isolated, and reconfigured
- μ_n = Average Rate Failures P_n are repaired

Defining Custom Hardware



- System Level Redundancy
- Component Level Redundancy
- System Decomposition
- Independent Safety Back-ups