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Division of Risk Analysis

probabilistic risk analysis aims to quantify the risk caused by high technology installations increasingly such analyses are being applied to a wider class of systems in which problems such as lack of data complexity of the systems uncertainty about consequences make a classical statistical analysis difficult or impossible the authors discuss the fundamental notion of uncertainty its relationship with probability and the limits to the quantification of uncertainty drawing on extensive experience in the theory and applications of risk analysis the authors focus on the conceptual and mathematical foundations underlying the quantification interpretation and management of risk they cover standard topics as well as important new subjects such as the use of expert judgement and uncertainty propagation the relationship of risk analysis with decision making is highlighted in chapters on influence diagrams and decision theory finally the difficulties of choosing metrics to quantify risk and current regulatory frameworks are discussed

highlights the multi disciplinary nature of probabilistic risk and hazard assessment procedures topics covered include hazard scenario analyses e g hazop fmea probabilistic risk assessments consequence modelling structural reliability human error uncertainty analyses and risk assessment topics are related to the design construction operation of chemical process plants nuclear facilities bridges buildings offshore structures dams

contains references to documents in the nasa scientific and technical sti database

as the demands of government agencies and insurance companies escalate societal risk assessment and management become increasingly critical to the development and use of engineered systems in the full range of industrial installations

extreme weather and climate events interacting with exposed and vulnerable human and natural systems can lead to disasters this special report explores the social as well as physical dimensions of weather and climate related disasters considering opportunities for managing risks at local to international scales srex was approved and accepted by the intergovernmental panel on climate change ipcc on 18 november 2011 in kampala uganda

the technological age has seen a range of catastrophic and preventable failures often as a result of decisions that did not appropriately consider safety as a factor in design and engineering through more than a dozen practical examples

from the author's experience in nuclear power aerospace and other potentially hazardous facilities choosing safety is the first book to bring together probabilistic risk assessment and decision analysis using real case studies for managers project leaders engineers scientists and interested students michael v frank focuses on methods for making logical decisions about complex engineered systems and products in which safety is a key factor in design and where failure can cause great harm injury or death

this book develops an original theory of decision making based on the concept of plausibility the author advocates plausible reasoning as a general philosophical method and demonstrates how it can be applied to problems in argumentation theory scientific theory choice risk management ethics law economics and epistemology human decisions are conditioned by formidable uncertainty the standard resource for dealing rationally with uncertainty is the mathematical concept of probability the probability calculus is well known but since the numerical demands for applying it cannot usually be met it is not widely applicable by contrast the concept of plausibility is widely applicable but it is little known this book relies on a generalized concept of plausibility whose strength is its adaptability the adaptability is due to a novel form of decision theory that takes plausibilities as inputs this form of decision theory remains applicable to decisions informed by sharp probabilities and utilities but it can also be applied to decisions that must be made without them it can aid in the rationally critical enterprise of discriminating good arguments from bad and this can foster philosophical progress a plea for plausibility will be of interest to scholars and advanced students working in argumentation theory philosophy of science ethics epistemology economics law and risk management

probabilistic risk and hazard assessments are applied to a wide range of engineering systems mainly for regulatory reasons needed for development consent system certification and occupational health and safety issues the purpose of this book is to raise awareness of the limitations uncertainties and other issues inherent in probabilistic risk analysis procedures probabilistic risk assessment of engineering systems describes the importance of probabilistic risk assessment in decision making i.e. risk management types of risk and probabilistic risk analysis procedures data needed for the conduct of probabilistic risk analysis and acceptable tolerable risk and other risk acceptance criteria in essence the book provides a multi disciplinary and integrated explanation of risk assessment procedures that will enable the non specialist reader to gain valuable insights into the development of risk analysis procedures practising engineers and graduate engineering students across a range of disciplines will find this book immensely useful

explores methods for the representation and treatment of uncertainty in risk assessment in providing guidance for

practical decision making situations concerning high consequence technologies e g nuclear oil and gas transport etc the theories and methods studied in uncertainty in risk assessment have wide ranging applications from engineering and medicine to environmental impacts and natural disasters security and financial risk management the main focus however is on engineering applications while requiring some fundamental background in risk assessment as well as a basic knowledge of probability theory and statistics uncertainty in risk assessment can be read profitably by a broad audience of professionals in the field including researchers and graduate students on courses within risk analysis statistics engineering and the physical sciences uncertainty in risk assessment illustrates the need for seeing beyond probability to represent uncertainties in risk assessment contexts provides simple explanations supported by straightforward numerical examples of the meaning of different types of probabilities including interval probabilities and the fundamentals of possibility theory and evidence theory offers guidance on when to use probability and when to use an alternative representation of uncertainty presents and discusses methods for the representation and characterization of uncertainty in risk assessment uses examples to clearly illustrate ideas and concepts

a fully updated and expanded edition of the bestselling guide on toxicology and its practical application the field of toxicology has grown enormously since industrial toxicology safety and health applications in the workplace was first published in 1985 and while the original edition was hugely popular among occupational health professionals the time is ripe to address toxic agents not only in the industrial setting but also in the environment at large renamed principles of toxicology environmental and industrial applications this new edition provides health protection professionals as well as environmental scientists with precise up to date practical information on how to apply the science of toxicology in both the occupational and environmental setting through contributions from leading experts in diverse fields principles of toxicology second edition features clear explanations of the fundamentals necessary for an understanding of the effects of chemical hazards on human health and ecosystems coverage of occupational medicine and epidemiological issues the manifestation of toxic agents such as metals pesticides organic solvents and natural toxins special emphasis on the evaluation and control of toxic hazards specific case histories on applying risk assessment methods in the modern workplace ample figures references and a comprehensive glossary of toxicological terms

probabilistic risk assessment to inform decision making frequently asked questions

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