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Time-dependent reliability of the primary ship structure

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Abstract

A model is proposed to quantify the time variation of the reliability of the primary ship structure which results from the degrading effect of corrosion. The reliability function is calculated at discrete points during the ship's life, which are the basis to quantify the lifetime reliability. Example calculations are performed for a tanker and it is shown that, whenever strength degradation is present, the lifetime reliability calculated according to the present practice does not show the very distinct decrease of safety levels towards the end of the ship's lifetime.



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