

# Life Cycle Costs and Weibull Go Together Like PB&J

**Abstract:** Weibull details are needed to predict end of life for components and systems. When the failures/replacements occur will drive costs during specific project intervals. The cost details from Weibull analysis drive life cycle cost decisions for calculating a key performance indicator represented by a single number for net present value (NPV).

Paul Barringer, P.E.  
**Barringer & Associates, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 3985  
Humble, TX 77347-3985

Phone: 281-852-6810  
FAX: 281-852-3749

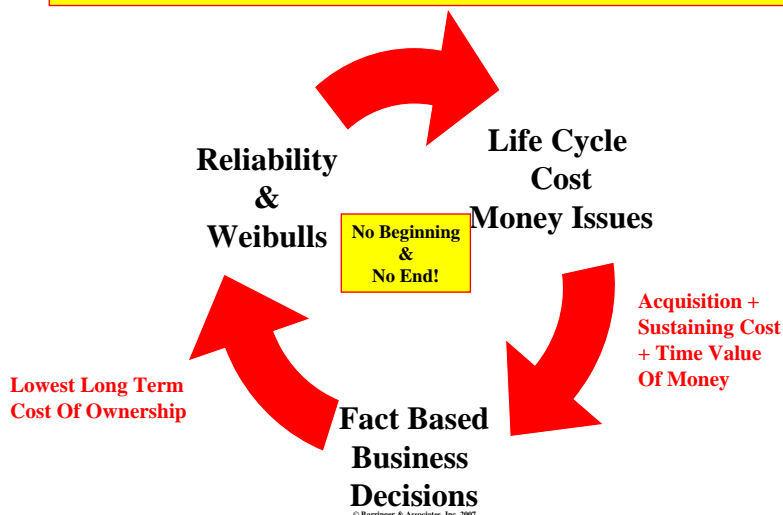
Email: hpaul@barringer1.com  
Web: <http://www.barringer1.com>

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

1

## Why Do Life Cycle Cost Together and Weibull Distributions Go Together?

Facts About How Things Live and Die → Weibull Distributions → Money Issues



2

## Life Cycle Cost Definitions

- ◆ **Life Cycle Costs**--All costs associated with the acquisition and ownership of a system over its full life. **The usual figure of merit is net present value.**
- ◆ **Net Present Value**-- NPV is a financial tool for evaluating economic value added. **The present value of an investment's future net cash flows (a measure of a company's financial health) minus the initial investment for a given hurdle discount rate (the interest rate used in discounting future cash flows) are summed for the net**

Need a life cycle cost Excel work sheet to calculate NPV?  
See: <http://www.barringer1.com/Anonymous/lcc.xls>

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

3

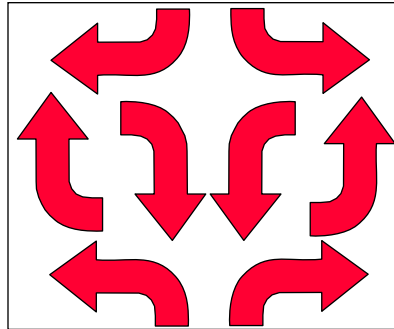
## Conflicting Issues--What To Do?

**Project Engineers:**  
Minimize capital expenditures

**Maintenance Engineers:**  
Minimize repair hours

**Shareholders**  
Maximize dividends  
and/or share price

**Production:**  
Maximize uptime hours



**Reliability Engineers:**  
Maximize equipment reliability  
to avoid failures

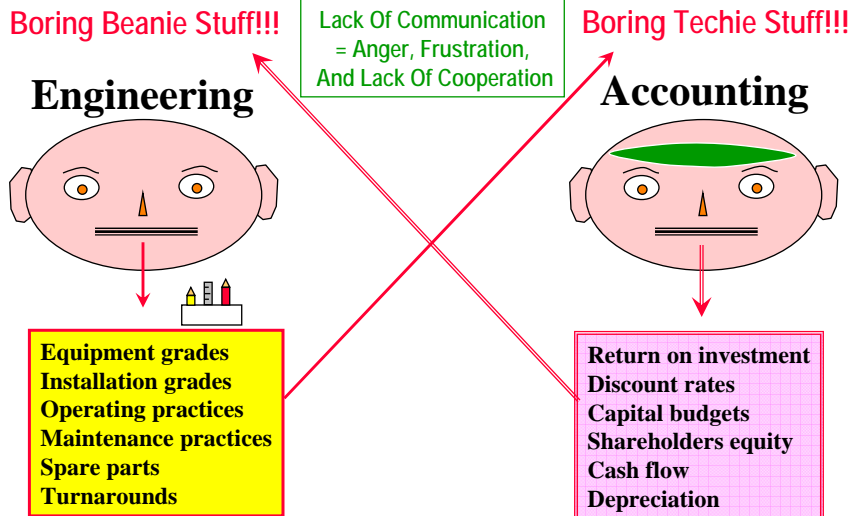
**Buy right? Or  
Buy Cheap?**

**Accounting:**  
Maximize project net present value

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

4

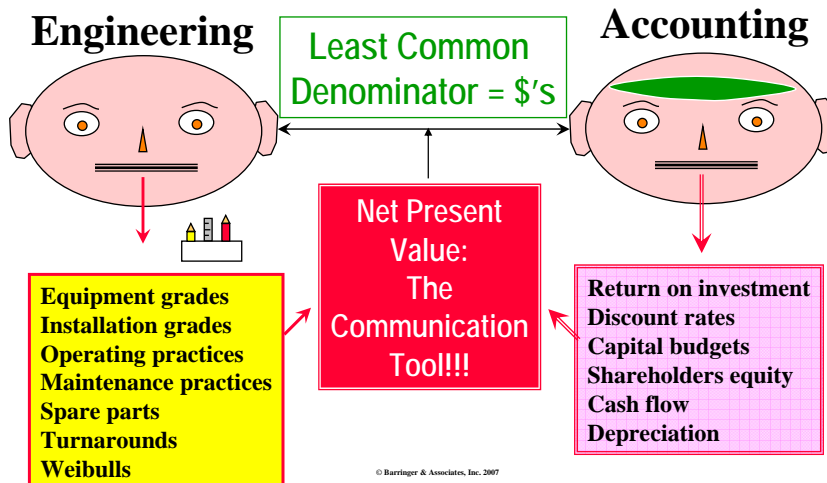
## Communication Problems--Boring!!



© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

5

## Communication--Money Speaks



© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

6

# The Time Value Of Money

Two views of money  
 1. Present value  
 2. Future Value

Time Aspects Of Money																	
Discount Rate = 12%																	
Years hence	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
Present value of US\$1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.64	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.32						
Future value of US\$1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.76	\$ 1.97	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.77	\$ 3.11						
Present value of US\$1.00 = $1/(1+i)^n$						and						Future value of US\$1.00 = $(1+i)^n$					
Years hence		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20						
Present value of US\$1.00		\$ 0.29	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.10						
Future value of US\$1.00		\$ 3.48	\$ 3.90	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.89	\$ 5.47	\$ 6.13	\$ 6.87	\$ 7.69	\$ 8.61	\$ 9.65						
where i = discount rate and n = number of years into the future																	

What is the present value (PV) of US\$1.00 today over time?  
 What is the future value (FV) of US\$1.00 received over time?

“A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.”  
 “Money is time and time is money.”

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

# Engineers Must Quantify All Costs

Can you calculate NPV?

Engineers Must **Think Like MBA's**  
 And  
**Act Like Engineers**  
 To Get  
**Lowest Long Term Cost Of Ownership**  
**Over The Entire Life Cycle**

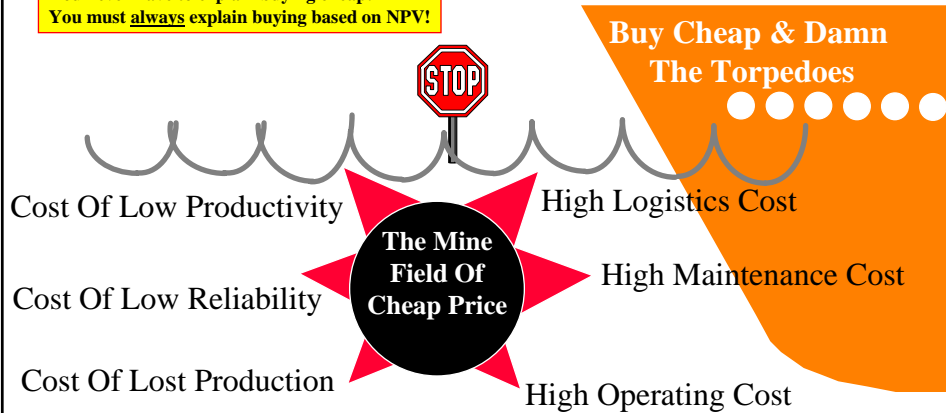
© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

8

## First Cost Is Not The Last Cost

- ◆ Watch out for the lure of cheap first cost!!!!

You never have to explain buying cheap!  
You must always explain buying based on NPV!



© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

9

## Why Use LCC

- ◆ Affordability studies
- ◆ Source selection studies
- ◆ Design trade-off studies
- ◆ Repair level analysis studies
- ◆ Warranty and repair cost studies
- ◆ Supplier sales strategies
- ◆ Configure for lowest long term cost of ownership

Most business are in for the long haul so the lowest cost of ownership (NPV) is best for the business.

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

10

## LCC Helps Change Perspectives

---

- ◆ Engineering--**show non-redundancy costs**
- ◆ Purchasing--**buy right rather than buy cheap**
- ◆ Process engineering--**show operating costs**
- ◆ Maintenance--**calculate maintenance costs**
- ◆ Reliability engineering--**define improvements**
- ◆ Management--**operate for lowest long term cost of ownership rather than cheapest first cost**

Everyone has tradeoffs to make.  
**Don't operate like ENRON.**  
Think about the lowest long term cost of ownership for the stockholders!

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

11

## LCC: A Management Decision Tool

---

- ◆ Provides a costing discipline
- ◆ Useful for procurement strategies
- ◆ Balances acquisition costs and operating costs
- ◆ Useful for trade-off studies based on facts
- ◆ Requires engineers to:
  - **Think like MBAs** for cost considerations
  - **Act like engineers** by using numbers for decisions
- ◆ Requires use of teamwork to generate numbers

Think smart. Act smart. Be responsible. No one has all the answers. Think and act with a conscience!

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

12

# Engineers And Spreadsheets

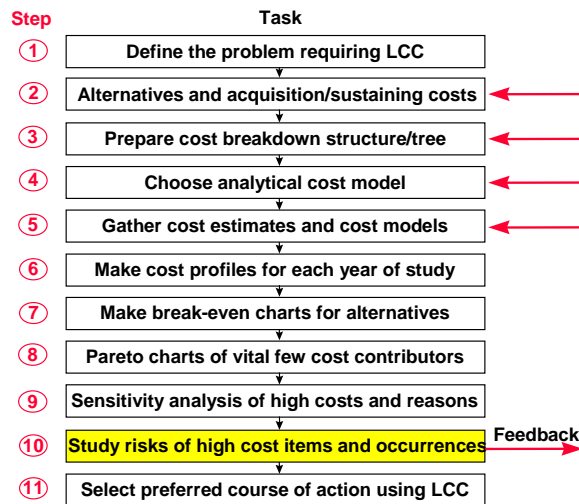
- ◆ Most financial spreadsheets are generalities because engineers do not give accountants specific equipment details for making accurate financial calculations
- ◆ Engineers must add many equipment details to help accountants arrive at the correct economic impact--"I don't have the information" is a void in decision process which drives poor decisions toward bad economic results

If you don't have the information do what they taught you at the university:  
 1. Make a hypothesis  
 2. Test the hypothesis  
 3. Use your head! "Common sense is an uncommon virtue." Don't wait!

# What Goes Into Life Cycle Costs?

- ◆ Everything goes into LCC and each case is tailored for individual circumstances
- ◆ LCC follows a process that fits a simple tree for acquiring data

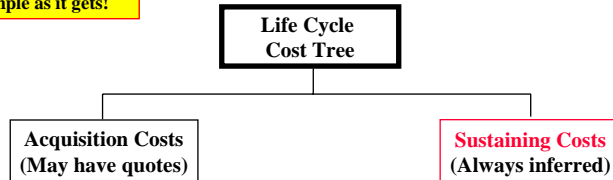
Management appreciates you following a process more than you as an engineer may appreciate it.



## Top Levels Of The LCC Tree

◆ **LCC = Acquisition Costs + Sustaining Costs**

This is as simple as it gets!



◆ Acquisition costs and sustaining costs are **not mutually exclusive**—find both by gathering correct inputs and identifying cost drivers

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

15

## Hidden Costs Found By LCC

◆ Often sustaining costs (including hidden costs) are **2-20** times acquisition costs (obvious costs)

Worry more about sustaining costs!!!

◆ About **65%+** of total LCC are fixed by the time equipment is specified (but only a few percent of funds have been expended at this point in time)

Wham! A key issue!

◆ Minimizing LCC pushes up NPV and builds stockholder wealth

Think long term!

◆ Finding the **lowest long term** LCC requires details for both acquisition costs and sustaining costs requires choices between alternatives

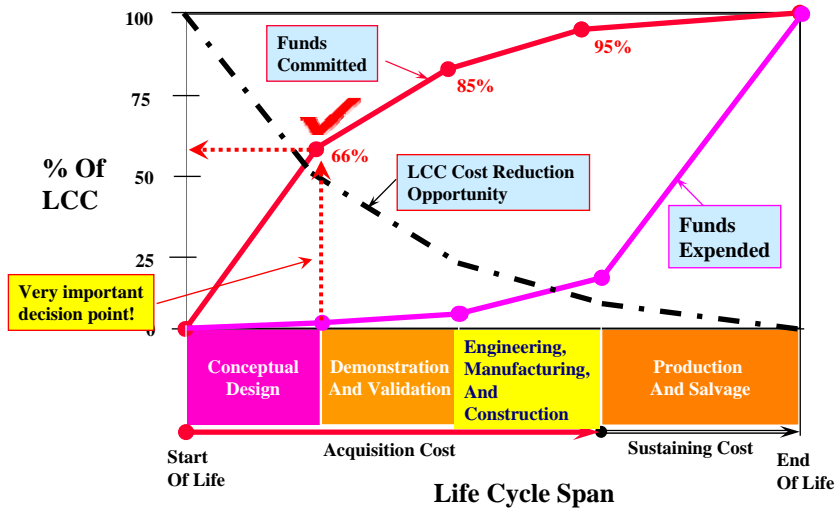
Say it in NPV

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

16



## Commitments And Expenditures

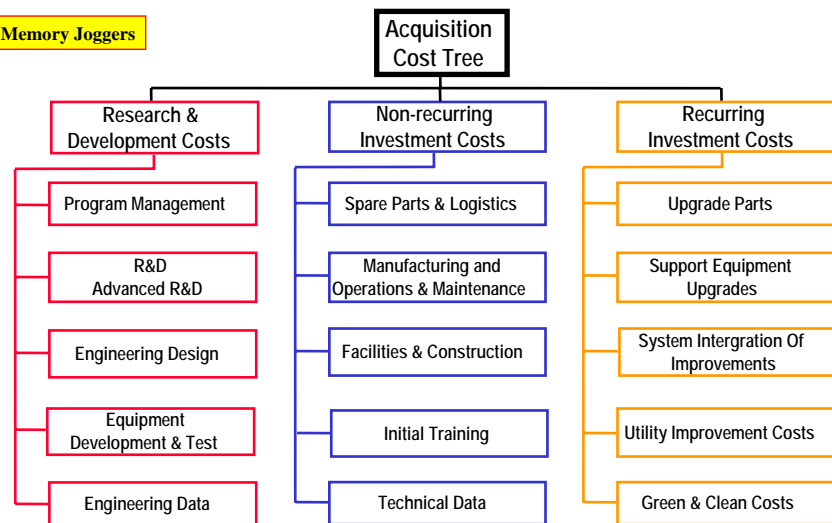


© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

17

## Branches For The Acquisition Tree

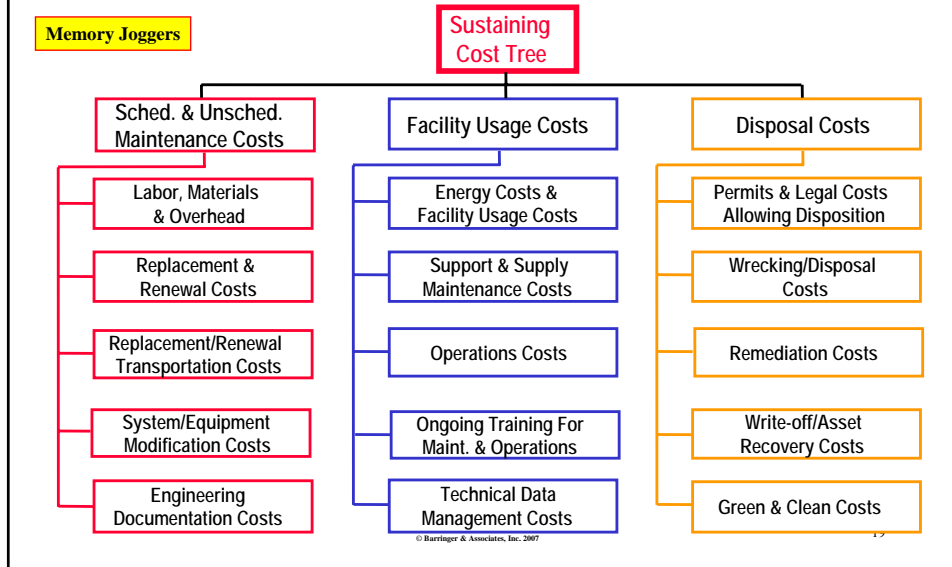
Memory Joggers



© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

18

## Branches For The Sustaining Tree



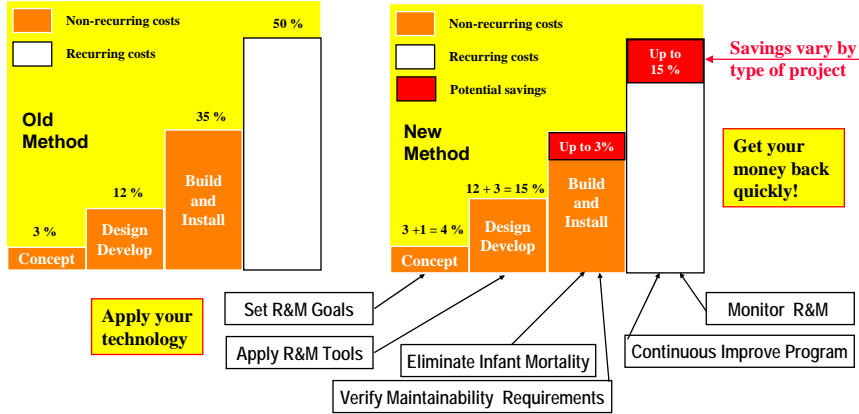
## What Costs Goes Where?

- ◆ Use common sense
  - ◆ Each case is special
  - ◆ Consider the details for **BOTH** acquisition and sustaining costs to develop the cost schedules
  - ◆ When in doubt, include the costs
  - ◆ Don't ignore obvious costs or include trivial costs
  - ◆ Include the appropriate cost elements and discard the trivial elements--use standard models
- Don't make this a career to complete the tasks!**

# A New View Of R&M Influence On LCC

Save up front and defer costs until later by holding down engineering costs

Use strong R&M engineering tools to reduce the largest cost components and reduce LCC



Source: SAE Reliability and Maintainability Guideline for Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, M-110.2

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

21

# The Big Picture For Each Phase

Short List Of Reliability & Maintainability Activities Over The Life Cycle Phases

The Big PictureTasks	Concept & Proposal Phase	Design & Development Phase	Build & Install Phase	Operation & Support Phase	Conversion Or Decomm. Phase
Set Availability Requirements ✓✓✓	X				
Set Reliability Requirements ✓✓	X				
Set Maintainability Requirements ✓✓	X				
Define Functional Failures ✓✓	X				
Define Environment/Usage ✓✓	X				
Define Capital Budgets and Make TradeOff Decisions ✓✓	X	X			
Set Design Margins		X			
Design For Maintainability		X			
Make Reliability Predictions		X			
Do FMEA & Fault Tree Analysis		X			
Do Preliminary Cost Of Unreliability		X			
Conduct Design Reviews		X			
Make Machinery Parts Selections		X			
Do Tolerance/Process Studies		X			
Do Critical Parts Stress Analysis		X			
Do Reliability Qualification Testing			X		
Do Reliability Acceptance Testing			X		
Do Reliability/Maintainability Growth Improvement		X	X	X	
Collect Failure Reports & Analyze			X	X	
Provide Data Feedback	X	X	X	X	X

Tailor the matrix to avoid too little or too much emphasis on R&M but meet the needs of the business to make the effort cost effective

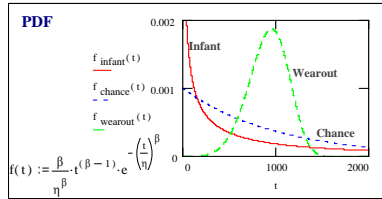
# LCC Requires Facts

- ◆ Based on “typical” equipment justifications, equipment “rarely fails”—as maintenance cost is not detailed and not preplanned
- ◆ Real equipment needs constant and expensive maintenance activities--CM, PM, and PdM
- ◆ Most engineers don’t acknowledge failure data exists and lack training in how to use the data
- ◆ LCC calculations depend on equipment facts--not opinions—and reliability/maintainability details can decrease life cycle cost per SAE

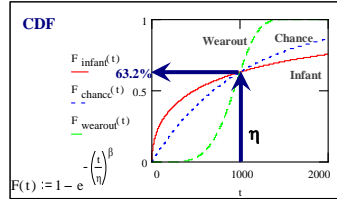
Get as many facts as you can gather and supplement them with your assumptions. Don't get bogged down in the trivia—keep some altitude!

# Weibull Statistics: Important LCC Tools

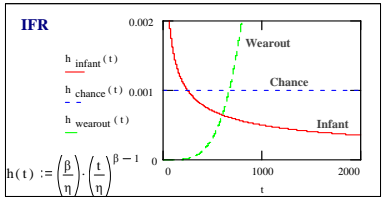
Probability distribution function, f(t)



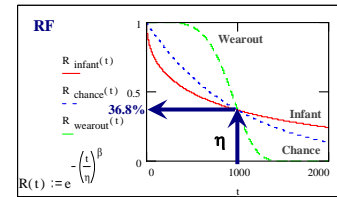
Cumulative distribution function, F(t)



Instantaneous failure rate, h(t)



Reliability function, R(t) = 1 - F(t)



$\eta = 1000$  ← Characteristic life  
 $\beta = 5$  ← Shape factor  
 $\beta$  has literal interpretations for individual component failures  
 MTBF or MTTF =  $\eta \Gamma(1/\beta + 1)$  and when  $\beta = 1$  then  $\eta = \Theta$   
 Values used for plots:  
 $\beta = 0.5$  for infant mortality,  
 $1.0$  for chance failures  
 $5.0$  for wear-out failures  
 $\eta = 1000$  for the characteristic life

← Weibull failure rates can represent:  
 infant failure modes,  
 chance failure modes, or  
 wearout failure modes.

See Weibull database at: <http://www.barringer1.com/wdbase.htm>

## Weibull Failure Databases

Item	Beta Values (Weibull Shape Factors)			Eta Values (Weibull Characteristic Life--hrs)		
	Low	Typical	High	Low	Typical	High
	Ball Bearings	0.7	1.3	3.5	14000	40000
Couplings	0.8	2	6	25000	75000	333000
Housing						
Impeller	0.5	2.5	6	125000	150000	1400000
Motors	0.5	1.2	3	1000	100000	200000
Seals	0.8	1.4	4	3000	25000	50000
Shafts	0.8	1.2	3	50000	50000	300000

- ◆ Use Weibull data and equations to find random times to failure using Monte Carlo methods

$$\text{Age-to-failure} = t = \eta * \{\ln(1/(1-\text{CDF}))\}^{1/\beta}$$

$$= \eta * \{-\ln(1-\text{CDF})\}^{1/\beta}$$

← Less computer intensive

substitute the Excel function **RAND()** for CDF

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

25

Download this Excel model from [http://www.barringer1.com/MC\\_files/LCC-Simple-Monte-Carlo-Model.zip](http://www.barringer1.com/MC_files/LCC-Simple-Monte-Carlo-Model.zip)

## Monte Carlo Failures Find Costs

Individual Failure Iteration-->

Cumulative Iterations-->

Annualized Failures-->

Costs Of Failures-->

Sole ANSI Pump Fix When Broken Life Cycle Cost Simulation In An Excel Spreadsheet													
Cost Element		n	β	Project Year And Cumulative Number Of Failures Reported									
η	β	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Ball	3	1.4	1987	3053	3469	3879	3817	3847	3581	3664	3839	3838	
Shaft	18	1.2	296	389	438	516	483	508	519	568	538	538	
Impeller	12	2.5	19	42	201	301	460	575	700	790	891	905	
Housing	18	1.3	220	293	396	498	417	462	498	528	548	512	
Pump Bearings	4	1.3	1803	2384	2529	2832	2859	2591	2730	2711	2688	2879	
Motors	12	1.2	1000	1601	1441	104	798	790	790	790	801	791	
Couplings	8	2.0	153	461	779	885	1158	1368	1381	1416	1421	1451	
Hours Cost/Year For This Rotation			0.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.00	
Number Of Failures For This Rotation			0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	
Cumulative Number Of Failures			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cost Element		n	β	Project Year And Cumulative Number Of Failures Reported									
η	β	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Ball	3	1.4	1987	3053	3469	3879	3817	3847	3581	3664	3839	3838	
Shaft	18	1.2	296	389	438	516	483	508	519	568	538	538	
Impeller	12	2.5	19	42	201	301	460	575	700	790	891	905	
Housing	18	1.3	220	293	396	498	417	462	498	528	548	512	
Pump Bearings	4	1.3	1803	2384	2529	2832	2859	2591	2730	2711	2688	2879	
Motors	12	1.2	1000	1601	1441	104	798	790	790	790	801	791	
Couplings	8	2.0	153	461	779	885	1158	1368	1381	1416	1421	1451	
Average Hours Cost/Year For All Rotations			0.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.00	
Average Number Of Failures/Year For All Rotations			0.47	0.72	0.85	0.91	0.96	0.98	1.02	1.04	1.05	1.06	
Cost Element		n	β	Project Year And Annual Costs Expended From Simulation									
η	β	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Electricity	--	--	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	
Ball	3	1.4	1885	1648	11305	12282	12413	12537	12310	12536	12509	12400	
Shaft	18	1.2	1246	1619	1869	2090	2192	2179	2219	2216	2252	2252	
Impeller	12	2.5	69	206	747	1087	1661	2076	2527	2816	3217	3292	
Housing	18	1.3	1351	1663	2431	3132	2560	2837	2918	3042	3334	3144	
Pump Bearings	4	1.3	1185	797	8390	9732	8821	8598	9057	8994	8917	8989	
Motors	12	1.2	1815	2287	2712	2598	2750	2827	2879	2968	2927	2871	
Couplings	8	2.0	513	257	600	633	683	682	702	703	707	707	
Maintenance PM costs			\$ 300	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	
Operators PM costs			\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	\$ 364	
Shutdown Cost			\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	
Training costs			\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	\$ 128	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 13,296</b>	<b>\$ 14,173</b>	<b>\$ 44,476</b>	<b>\$ 48,476</b>	<b>\$ 49,867</b>	<b>\$ 50,867</b>	<b>\$ 50,867</b>	<b>\$ 51,567</b>	<b>\$ 51,567</b>	<b>\$ 52,267</b>	
Approximate depreciation per failure			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Approximate system failure rate (failures/year)			0.72	1.19	1.17	1.09	1.05	1.02	0.98	0.96	0.95	0.94	
Approximate system MTF (years/failure)			2.11	1.39	1.17	1.09	1.05	1.02	0.98	0.96	0.95	0.94	
# of Rotations			10000	1 yr reliability, 80%	48.7%	42.5%	40.1%	38.5%	37.4%	36.2%	35.4%	34.5%	
PM When Broken Strategy			1 yr reliability, 80%	39.5%	39.5%	39.5%	39.5%	39.5%	39.5%	39.5%	39.5%	39.5%	

← Metrics

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

26

## Recommended replacement item?

- ◆ We have three replacement components that we can use for a 10 year project life:

Weibull's	Expense
Item 1: $\beta = 0.8, \eta = 10$ years,	cost = \$10,000
Item 2: $\beta = 1.0, \eta = 10$ years,	cost = \$10,000
Item 3: $\beta = 3.5, \eta = 10$ years,	cost = \$10,000

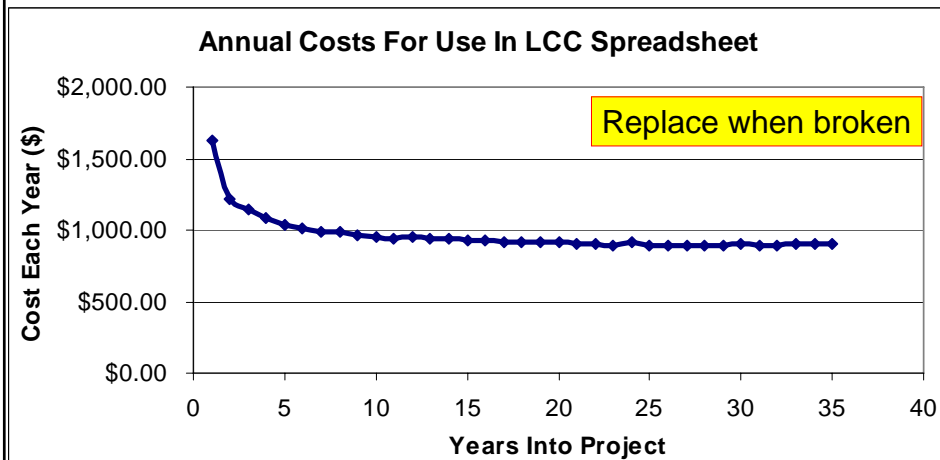
- ◆ Which component should we select and why?
- ◆ What typical costs should we expect each year for a **fix when broken replacement strategy**?

See: <http://www.barringer1.com/dec04.htm> ← fix when broken  
<http://www.barringer1.com/jan05.htm> ← periodic replacement  
 for Weibull MC cost simulations

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

27

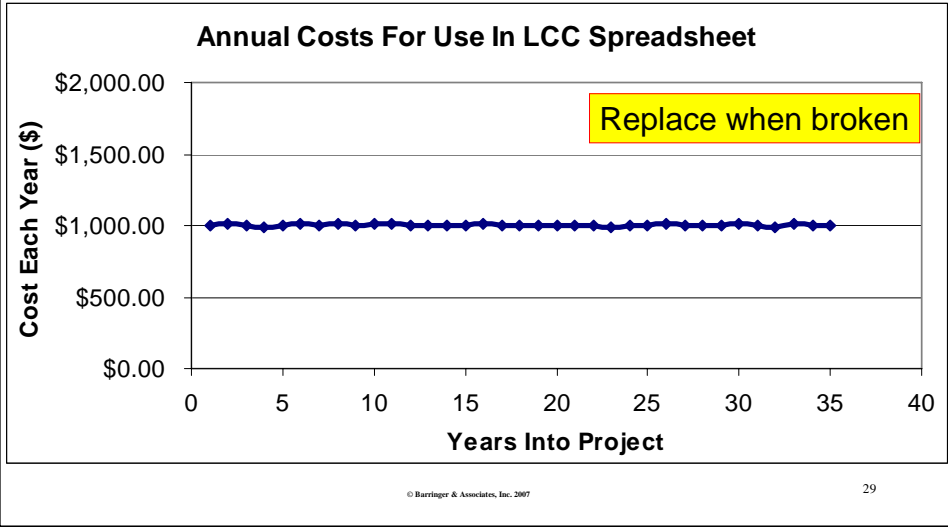
#1: Weibull:  $\beta = 0.8, \eta = 10$ , replacement expense costs = \$10,000,  
 Discount rate = 12%, tax rate = 38%, project = 10 years,  
**NPV = -\$4,050** where simulated expense cost each year is:  
 \$1624, \$1216, \$1146, \$1088, \$1039, \$1011, \$986, \$989, \$968, and \$957



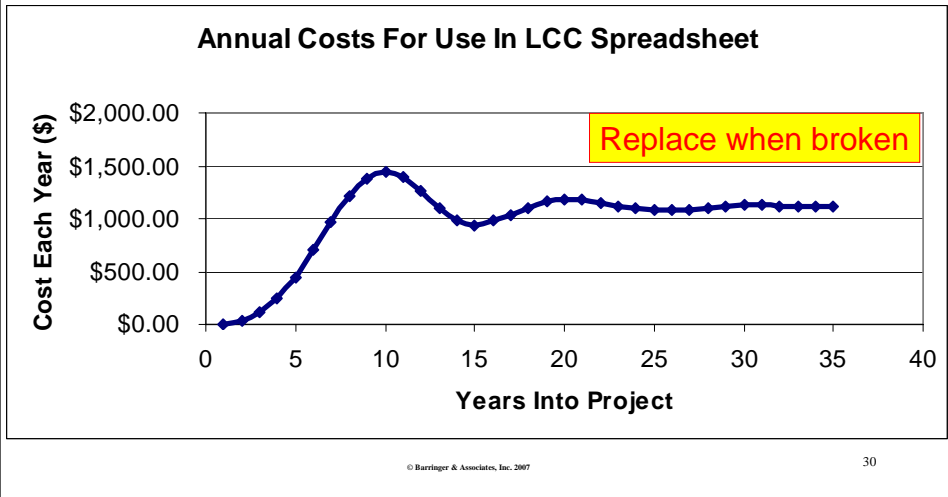
© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

28

#2: Weibull:  $\beta = 1.0$ ,  $\eta = 10$ , replacement expense costs = \$10,000, Discount rate = 12%, tax rate = 38%, project = 10 years, **NPV = -\$3,513** where simulated expense cost each year is: \$1003, \$1009, \$999, \$994, \$996, \$1012, \$997, \$1012, \$1001, and \$1011



#3: Weibull:  $\beta = 3.5$ ,  $\eta = 10$ , replacement expense costs = \$10,000, Discount rate = 12%, tax rate = 38%, project = 10 years, **NPV = -\$1,714** where the simulated expense cost each year is: \$3, \$32, \$110, \$251, \$450, \$700, \$967, \$1211, \$1379, and \$1441



## Monte Carlo Summary

---

◆ **The Results:**

	Weibull's	Expense	NPV
Item 1:	$\beta = 0.8, \eta = 10$ years, cost = \$10,000		-\$4,050
Item 2:	$\beta = 1.0, \eta = 10$ years, cost = \$10,000		-\$3,513
Item 3:	$\beta = 3.5, \eta = 10$ years, cost = \$10,000		✓ -\$1,714

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

31

## LCC Summary

---

Want more to read? See:  
<http://www.barringer1.com/lcctrng.htm>

- ◆ Life cycle costs include cradle to grave costs
- ◆ Including Weibull failures into LCC decisions permits engineering quantities of resources
- ◆ LCC provides a visualization technique for trade-off studies and uses NPV for sound decisions
- ◆ Monte Carlo models add realism to numbers
- ◆ Good engineering produces LCC alternatives to search for the lowest long term cost of ownership
- ◆ In the end, the effort is all about the money and Weibull analysis is a key tool to get to the money!
- ◆ Weibull distributions and LCC go together like peanut and jelly sandwiches for great results! ✓

© Barringer & Associates, Inc. 2007

32