

*2024 Specialists Workshop*

*Specialists Workshop on Advanced Human-Machine  
Systems Studies for Complex Energy Systems*

*Reliability/Availability evaluation of  
Heliotron by GO-FLOW*

*March 27, 2024, Uji, Kyoto, Japan*

*Takeshi Matsuoka (Utsunomiya University)*

*mats@cc.utsunomiya-u.ac.jp*

*T.Matsuoka (Utsunomiya University)*

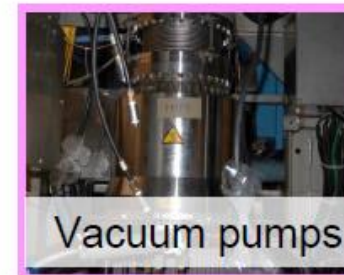
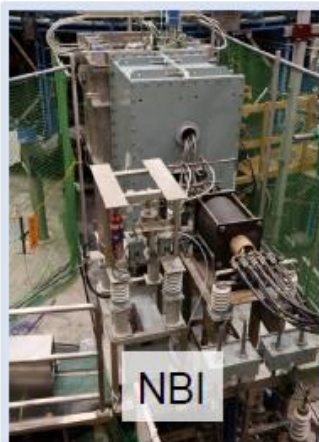
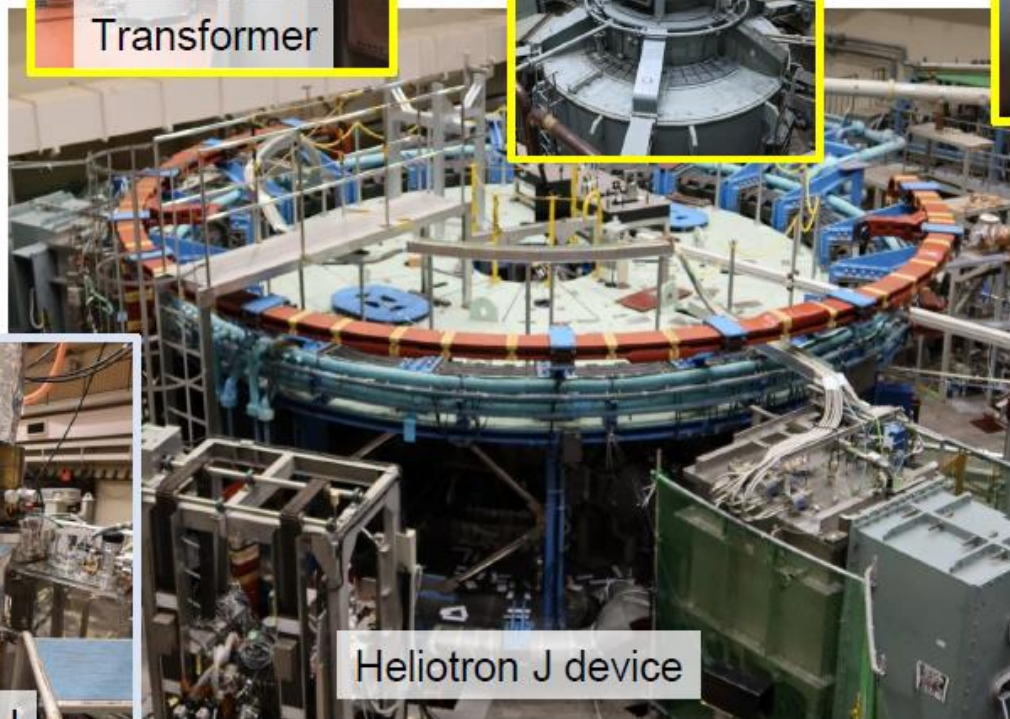
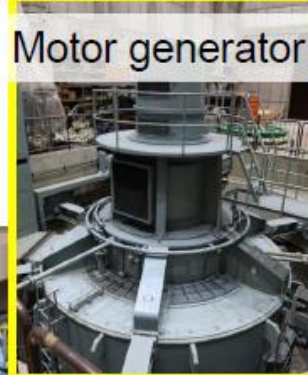
## Contents of the presentation

- ◆ *Heliotron J is a fusion research device located at the Institute of Advanced Energy, Kyoto University.*
- ◆ *Experiments by Heliotron J are continuously performed during half year and rest of the period is used for the maintenance of the system.*
- ◆ *For the successful operation of the system, availability of the water-cooling systems in the Heliotron J is essential matter.*
- ◆ *Reliability/availability of the cooling systems have been performed by the GO-FLOW methodology for possible maintenance schedules and methods.*

# *Heliotron J*

- ◆ *Heliotron J is a fusion research device, specifically a helical-axis heliotron designed to study plasma confinement.*
- ◆ *The first plasma has been produced in 1999. The purpose of the device is to demonstrate its improved helical confinement property in the helical-axis heliotron line.*
- ◆ *For the successful operation of the system, availability of the water-cooling systems in the Heliotron J is essential matter.*

## Major Components of composing Heliotron J system



# Main part of Heliotron J

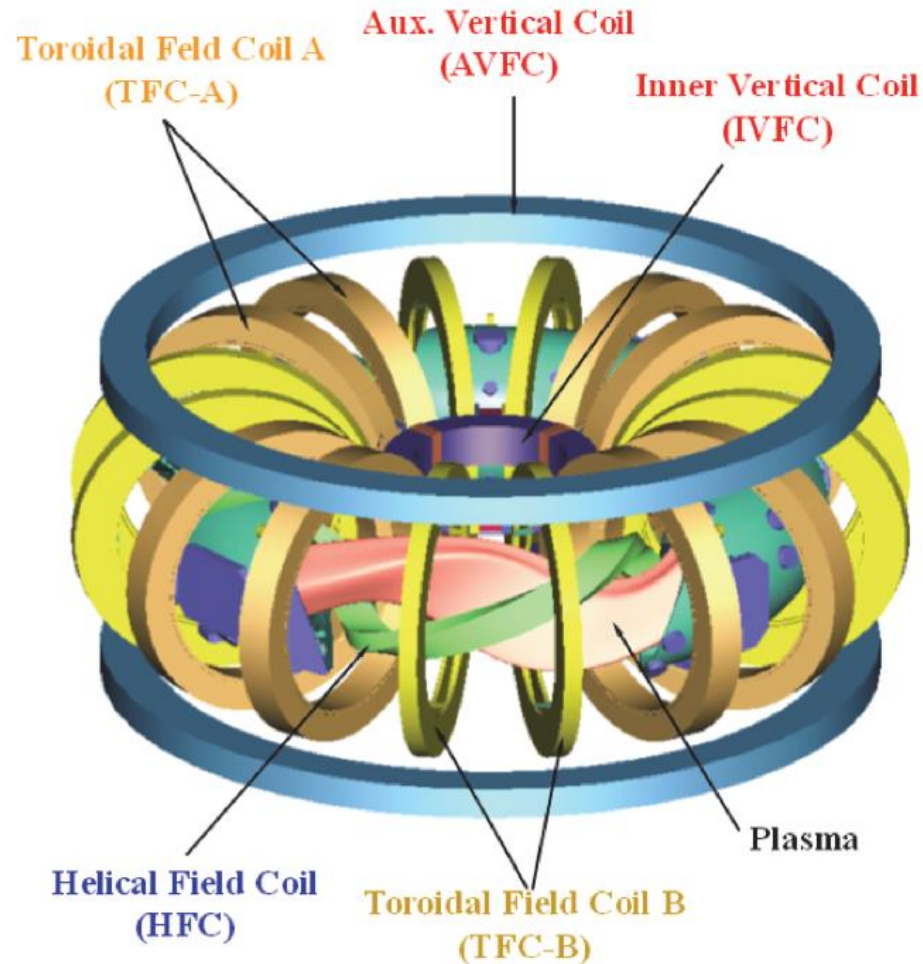


図 1 : Heliotron J 概要図

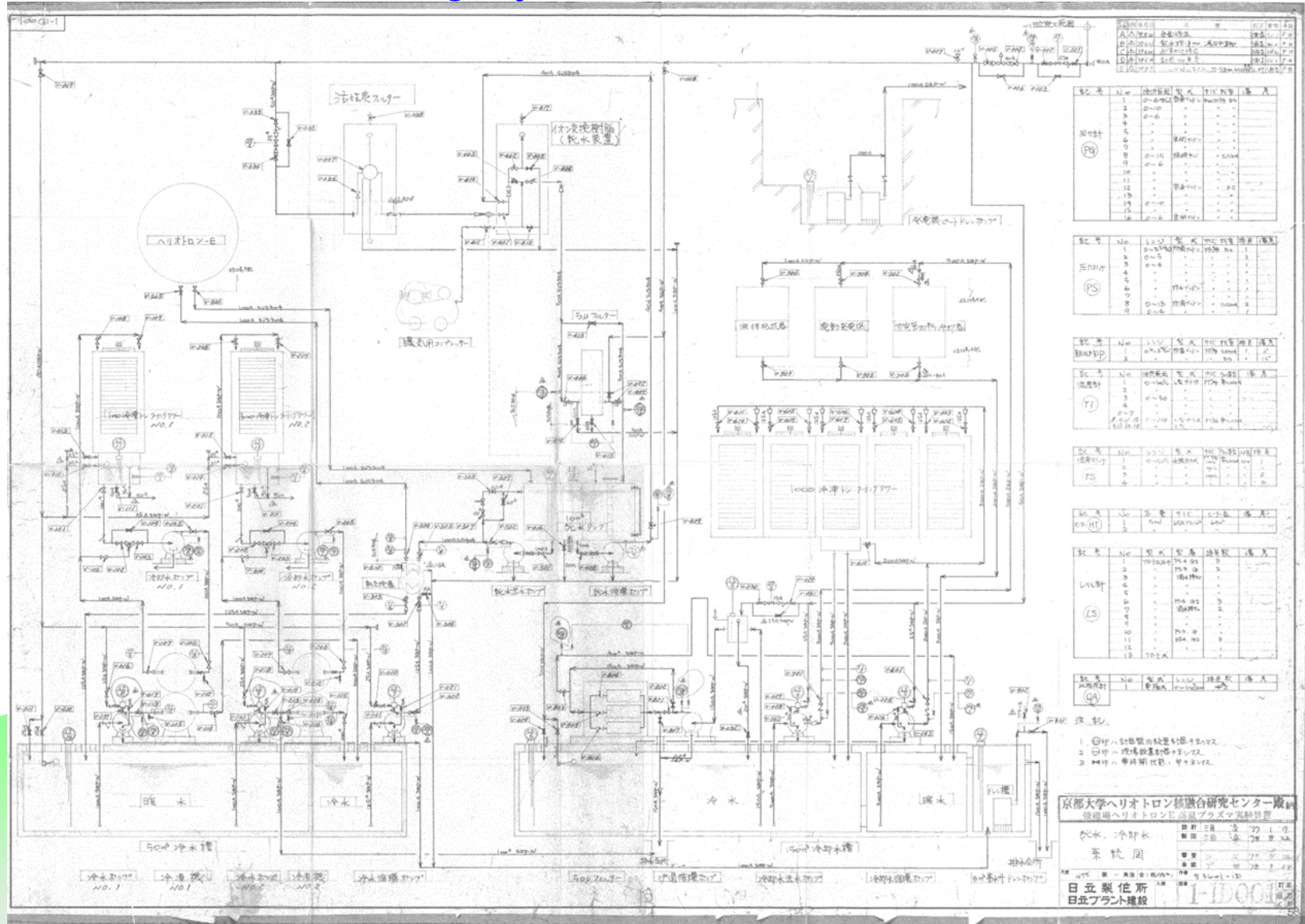
# Facility Operation Performance

- ◆ *Since 1980, it has been in operation for 23 years (with a few years of inactivity), so the actual operating time is about 20 years.*
- ◆ *The experiment was conducted for approximately 6 months per year, 28 hours operation per week.*
- ◆ *The annual operating hours would be  $28\text{h/week} \times 6\text{ months} = 28 \times 26\text{ weeks} = 728\text{h/year}$ .*

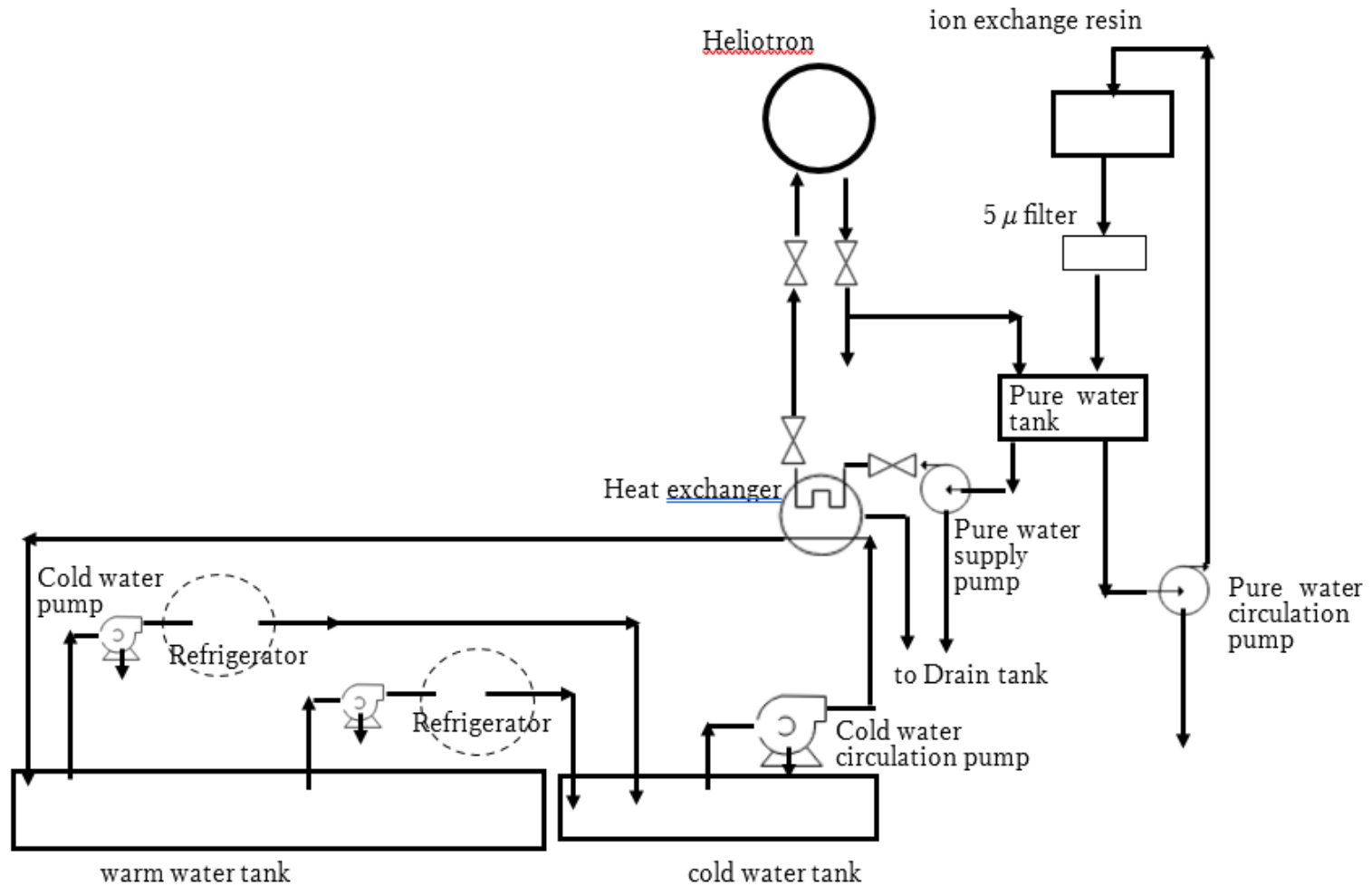
➔ *Hence, the total operating time is 14,560 hours.*

*The elapsed time for the facility is  $24 \times 365 \times 23 = 201,480$  hours.*

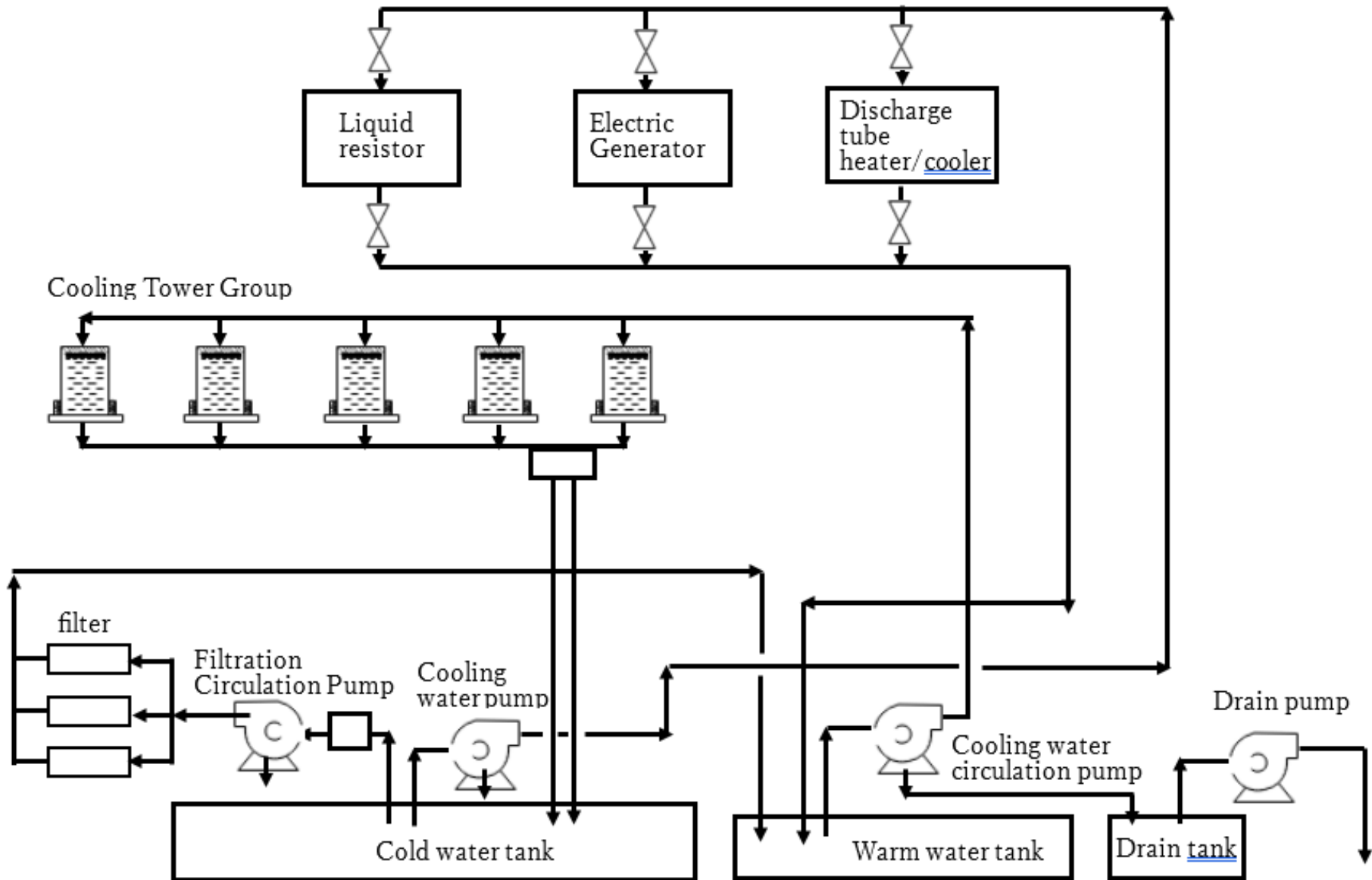
## Water-cooling systems in the Heliotron J



The following two diagrams can be created as a configuration diagram with the main equipment taken from the diagram on the previous page.







## *Operating conditions of the water cooling system*

- *Inspection is performed once a year*
- *Water cooling system can be operated with one refrigeration unit.*
- *The cooling function can be maintained with three of the five cooling towers.*

## *Estimation of Equipment Failure Rates*

- ✓ The total operating time is 14,560 hours and no failure has occurred in the 10 pumps installed during that time, the failure rate during pump operation is  
 $1 \div (10 \times 14,560) = 6.9 \times 10^{-6} / \text{h}$  or less.
- ✓ Since the total elapsed time is 201,480 hours, the standby failure rate during that time is obtained with the same consideration,  
 $1 \div (10 \times 201,480) = 5 \times 10^{-7} / \text{h}$  or less.

## *Estimation of Equipment Failure Rates(2)*

- ✓ There is an adjustment for water leakage from the pump bearings about once a year. The probability of failure will be about
- ✓ Two cooling towers experienced water leaks. The total elapsed time is 201,480 hours, so the standby failure rate during that time will be about,

$$1 \div (10 \times 14,560) = 1.2 \times 10^{-5} / \text{h.}$$

$$2 \div (5 \times 201,480) = 2 \times 10^{-6} / \text{h.}$$

# Estimation of Equipment Failure Rates(3)

✓ Values adopted in other analysis cases

- (1) Motor/Air operated valve
  - failure of open/close action  $3.6 \times 10^{-3}/D$
  - failure during usage  $2.0 \times 10^{-7}/\text{hour}$
  - failure during standby  $2.0 \times 10^{-8}/\text{hour}$

- (2) Pump
  - fails to start  $2.7 \times 10^{-2}/D$
  - failure during operation  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}/\text{hour}$

- (3) Turbine
  - fails to start  $2.7 \times 10^{-2}/D$

---

failure during operation  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}/\text{hour}$

- (4) Turbine generator
  - fails to start  $1 \times 10^{-4}/D$
  - failure during operation  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}/\text{hour}$

- (5) Condensate water storage tank
  - failure during operation  $2.8 \times 10^{-8}/\text{hour}$

## RSS

$1 \times 10^{-3}$

$3 \times 10^{-5}$

$1 \times 10^{-3}$

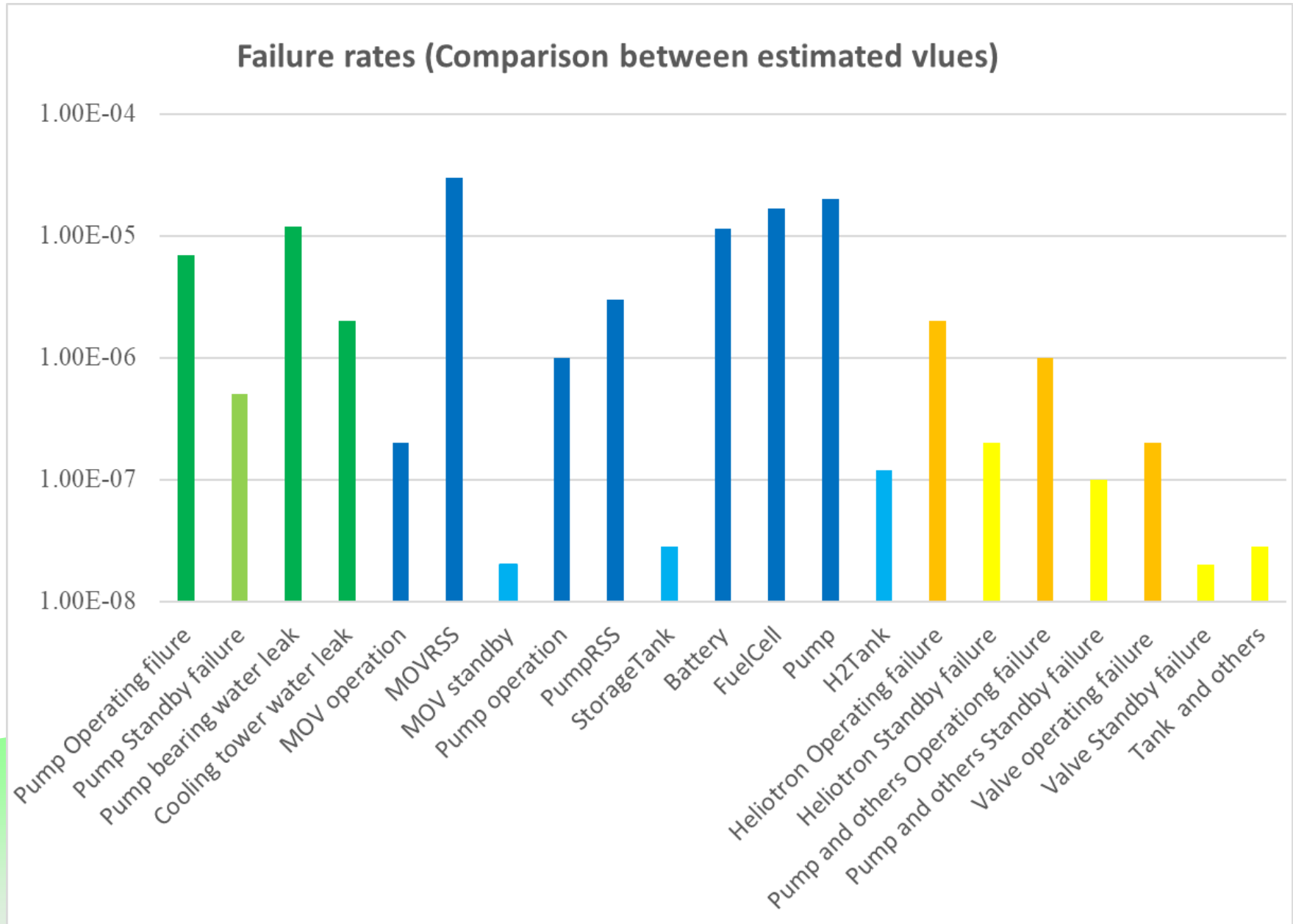
$3 \times 10^{-6}$

## ✓ Values adopted in other analysis cases (2)

Components	Capacity	Lifetime	Failure rate	
Solar panel	maximum 20kWh/day	30years	3.8E-6/h	Failure
Rechargeable battery	20kWh	10years	1.14E-5/h	Failure
Fuel cell	10kWh/day	60,000h	1.67E-5/h	Failure
Motor		50,000h	2E-5/h 1.1E-4/D	Failure to run Failure to start
Pump		50,000h	2E-5/h	Failure to run
H <sub>2</sub> tank			1.2E-7/h	Leak & Plug
O <sub>2</sub> flow			1E-8/h	Plug
DC-AC inverter			2.8E-7/h	Failure

## *Failure rates set in this analysis*

components	Failure mode	Failure rates	remarks
Pump,			
<b>Heliotron Main Part</b>	<b>Operating failure</b>	2.0E-6/h	
same as above	<b>Standby failure</b>	2.0E-7/h	
<b>Pump, Refrigerator, Cooling tower, Liquid resistor, Electric Generator, Discharge tube heater/cooler</b>	<b>Demand failure</b>	1.0E-3/D	not take into account
same as above	<b>Operating failure</b>	1.0E-6/h	
same as above	<b>Standby failure</b>	1.0E-7/h	
<b>valve</b>	<b>Operating failure</b>	2.0E-7/h	
same as above	<b>Standby failure</b>	2.0E-8/h	
<b>Tank and other components</b>	<b>Deterioration over time (aging)</b>	2.8E-8/h	














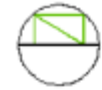




# *The GO-FLOW Methodology*

- ◆ GO-FLOW methodology is a success-oriented system analysis technique that is capable to evaluate reliability and/or availability of the systems with complex time-sequence and phased-mission problems.
- ◆ The GO-FLOW method can also deal with common cause failure (CCF) analysis with uncertainty. The modeling technique produces a chart which consists of signal lines and operators and represents the engineering function of the components/subsystems/system.

## *The GO-FLOW Methodology(2)*

- ◆ The GOFLOW operators' type, number, shape and functions are summarized in the following slides.
- ◆ The operators model function or failure of the physical equipment, logical gates, and signal transmissions.
- ◆ Specific probabilities (point estimates) of component operation or failure are given to operators as input data.

Type	Shape	Main inputs	Sub inputs	Output
21		$S(t)$	-	$R(t) = S(t) \cdot P_g$
Two state operator				
22		$S_1(t), S_2(t)$ $\dots S_n(t)$	-	$R(t) = 1.0 - \prod_{i=1}^n [1.0 - S_i(t)]$
OR gate				
23		$S(t)$	-	$R(t) = 1.0 - S(t)$
NOT gate				
24		$S(t)$	-	$R(t) = 1.0 - S(t')$ $R(t_1) = 0.0$
Difference operator				
25		-	-	$S(t)$ or $P(t)$
Signal generator				
26		$S(t)$	$P(t)$	$R(t) = S(t) \cdot O(t), O(t_1) = P_p$ $O(t) = O(t') + [1.0 - O(t')] \cdot P(t) \cdot P_g$
Closed state operator				
27		$S(t)$	$P(t)$	$R(t) = S(t) \cdot O(t), O(t_1) = 1.0 - P_p$ $O(t) = O(t') \cdot [1.0 - P(t) \cdot P_g]$
Open state operator				
28		$S(t)$	-	$R(t) = S(t - k); (t - k) > 0$ $R(t) = S(t_1); (t - k) \leq 0$
Delay operator				
30		$S_1(t), S_2(t)$ $\dots S_n(t)$	■	$R(t) = \prod_{i=1}^n S_i(t)$
AND gate				

Type	Shape	Main inputs	Sub inputs	Output
35		$S(t_1), S(t_2)$ $\dots S(t_n)$	$P_1(t_1), P_1(t_2) \dots P_1(t_n);$ $P_2(t_1), P_2(t_2) \dots P_2(t_n); \dots$	$R(t) = S(t) \left[ \frac{\mu}{\lambda + \mu} + \frac{\lambda}{\lambda + \mu} \exp \left\{ -(\lambda + \mu) \sum_i \sum_{t_i \leq t} P_i(t_k) \min \left[ 1.0, \frac{S(t_k)}{S(t)} \right] \right\} \right]$
Aging work operator				
37		$S(t)$	$P_1(t_1), P_1(t_2) \dots P_1(t_n)$ $P_2(t_1), P_2(t_2) \dots P_2(t_n)$ $\dots$	$R(t) = S(t) \left[ \frac{\mu}{\lambda + \mu} + \frac{\lambda}{\lambda + \mu} \exp \left\{ -(\lambda + \mu) \sum_i \sum_{t_i \leq t} P_i(t_i) \right\} \right]$
Aging open state operator				
38		$S(t)$	$P_1(t_1), P_1(t_2) \dots P_1(t_n)$ $P_2(t_1), P_2(t_2) \dots P_2(t_n)$ $\dots$	$R(t) = S(t) \left[ 1.0 - \frac{\mu}{\lambda + \mu} - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda + \mu} \exp \left\{ -(\lambda + \mu) \sum_i \sum_{t_i \leq t} P_i(t_i) \right\} \right]$
Aging closed state operator				
39		$S(t)$	$P_1(t)$ $P_2(t)$	$R(t) = S(t) \cdot O(t), \quad O(t_1) = P_p$ $O(t) = O(t') + [1.0 - O(t')] \cdot P_1(t) \cdot P_o$ $O(t) = O(t') \cdot [1.0 - P_2(t) \cdot P_c]$
Open/Close action operator				
40		$S(t)$	-	$R(t) = 1.0 ; (t < t_i)$ $R(t) = S(t) ; (t_i \leq t \leq t_j)$ $R(t) = S(t_j) ; (t_j < t)$
Phased mission operator				

In this Figure,

$S(t)$  = main input signal S at time point t,

$P(t)$  = sub input signal at time point t,

$R(t)$  = output signal at time point t,

$O(t)$  = probability for valve in open state at time point t,

$t'$  = time point immediately before the time point t,

$t_i, t_j$  = start time point and end time point of a specific phase,

$k$  = number of time points delayed,

$P_g$  = probability for successful operation,

$P_p$  = probability for premature operation,

$P_o$  = probability for valve successful open,

$P_c$  = probability for valve successfully close,

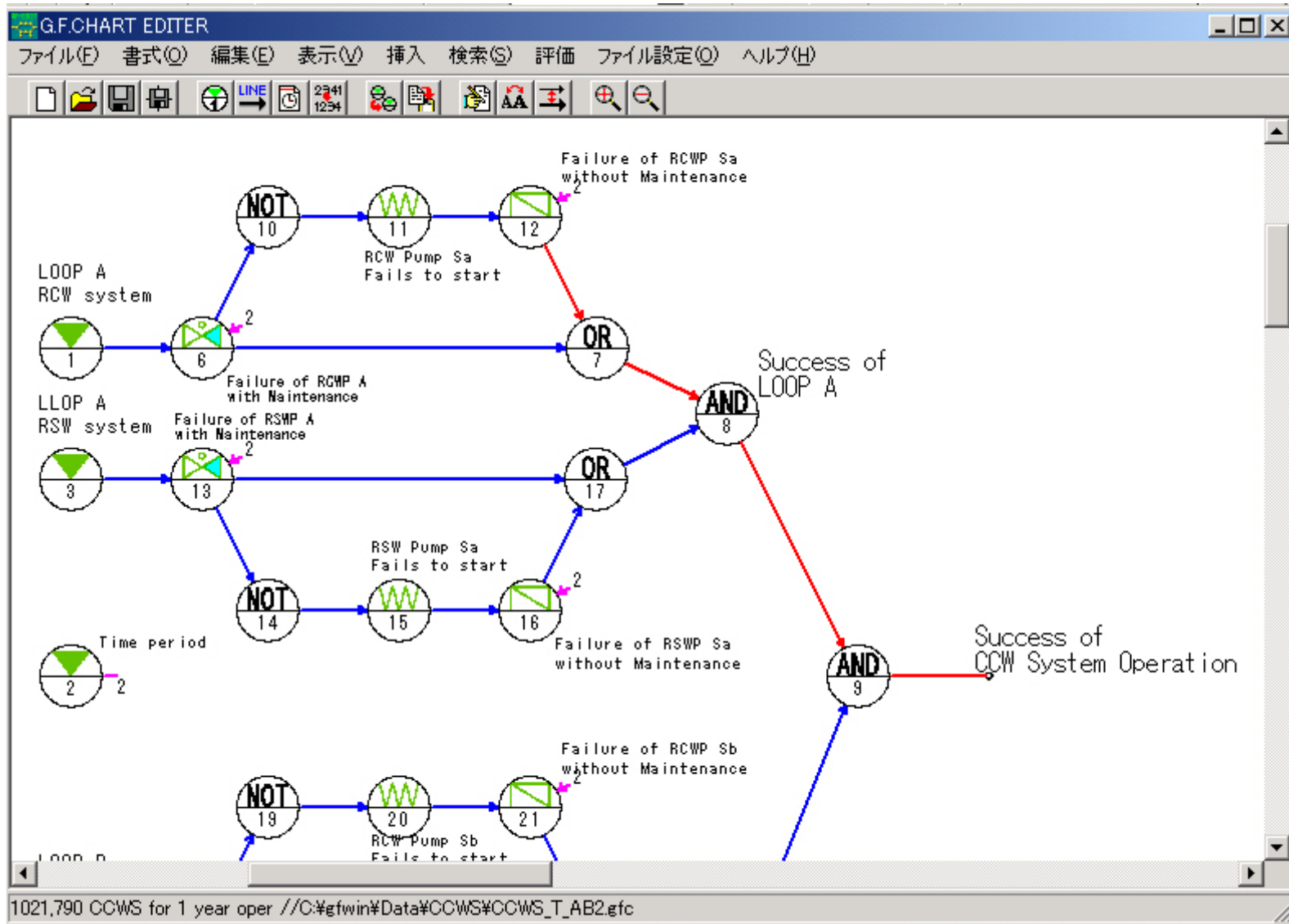
$\lambda$  = failure rate of a component,

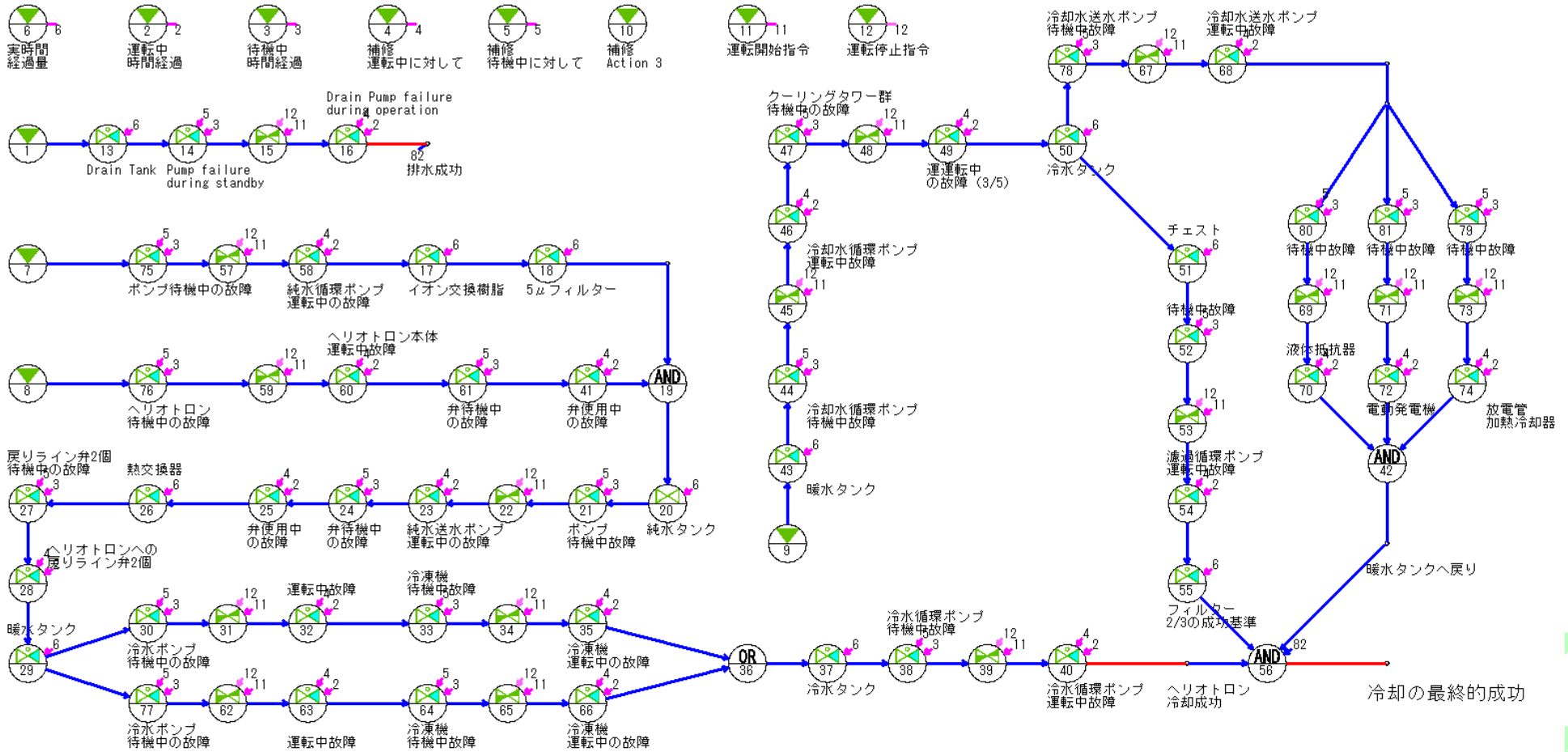
$\mu$  = recovery rate of a component.

## *Modeling to the GO-FLOW chart*

- ◆ The first step of the analysis is to construct a GO-FLOW chart which consists of signal lines and operators to represent the engineering function of the components/subsystems/system composes the engineering system under consideration.
- ◆ GO-FLOW chart is constructed by using the Chart Editor as shown in the next slide.
- ◆ The GO-FLOW chart taking into account the system diagram, equipment operation, and maintenance and inspection.

# GO-FLOW chart editor





## *Conditions for inspection and repair*

- ◆ There are so many components in the cooling systems, and it is very difficult to maintain all the components at every year.
- ◆ Important active components like pump, valve, motor are checked and repaired every year.
- ◆ Less important components as passive components like filter, pipes are checked once every two years or three years.
- ◆ Inspection and maintenance will not be conducted for other static equipment in some analysis case.
- ◆ The perfect maintenance; after the repair, components become as good as new.
- ◆ Less perfect maintenance is a graded recovery with considering different degree of restoration.



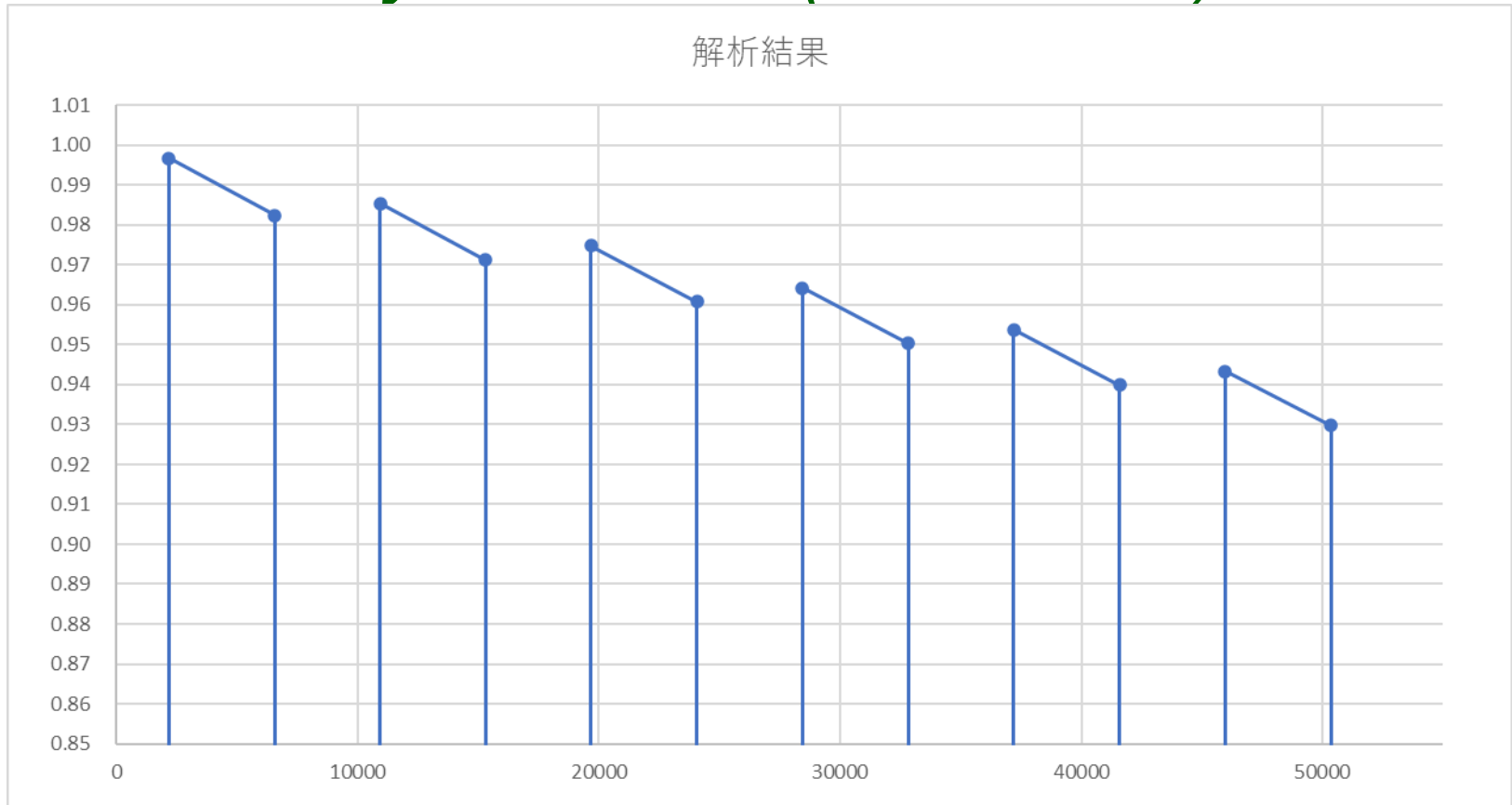
## Time points defined in the analysis

Time point	meaning	month/day (weeks)	elapsed time	Operation time	Sandby time	Start of Operation	End of Operaion	Repair for operating Failure	Repair for standby Failure
1	<b>First year</b>	! (1/1)	0	0	0				
2		4/1(13週)	2160	0	2160				
3	start of operation	4/1(13週)	2160	0	2160	1			
4		9 /30(40週)	6552	728	5824				
5	end of operation	9 /30(40週)	6552	728	5824		1		
6	repair	10/1(41週)	6576	0	5848			-728	-5848
7	<b>Secconf year</b>	! (1/1)	8760	0	8032				
8		4/1(13週)	10920	0	10192				
9	start of operation	4/1(13週)	10920	0	10192	1			
10		9 /30(40週)	15312	728	13856				
11	end of operation	9 /30(40週)	15312	728	13856		1		
12	repair	10/1(41週)	15336	0	13880			-728	-8032
13	<b>Third year</b>	! (1/1)	17520	0	16064				
14		4/1(13週)	19680	0	18224				
15	start of operation	4/1(13週)	19680	0	18224	1			
16		9 /30(40週)	24072	728	21888				
17	end of operation	9 /30(40週)	24072	728	21888		1		
18	repair	10/1(41週)	24096	0	21912			-728	-8032
19	<b>4th year</b>	! (1/1)	26280	0	24096				
20		4/1(13週)	28440	0	26256				

## Time points defined in the analysis (Cont.)

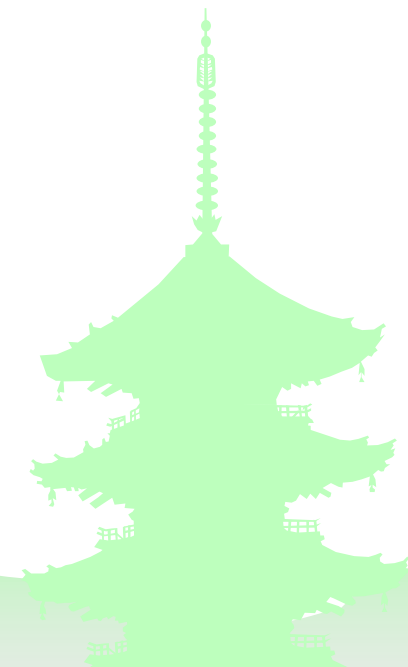
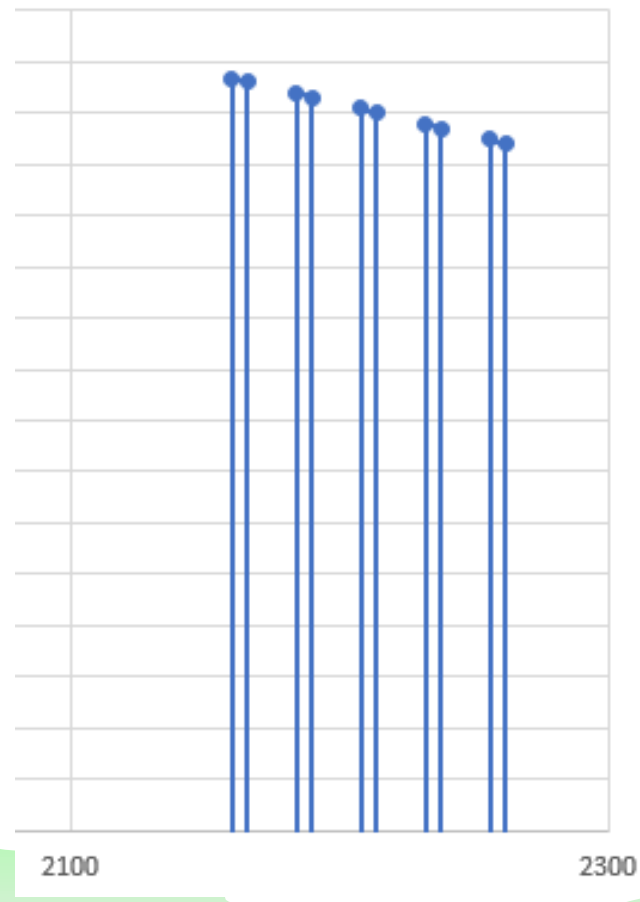
Time point	meaning	month/day (weeks)	elapsed time	Operation time	Sandby time	Start of Operation	End of Operaion	Repair for operating Failure	Repair for standby Failure
21	start of operation	4/1(13週)	28440	0	26256	1			
22		9 /30(40週)	32832	728	29920				
23	end of operation	9 /30(40週)	32832	728	29920		1		
24	repair	10/1(41週)	32856	0	29944			-728	-8032
25	<b>5th year</b>	! (1/1)	35040	0	32128				
26		4/1(13週)	37200	0	34288				
27	start of operation	4/1(13週)	37200	0	34288	1			
28		9 /30(40週)	41592	728	37952				
29	end of operation	9 /30(40週)	41592	728	37952		1		
30	repair	10/1(41週)	41616	0	37976			-728	-8032
31	<b>6th year</b>	! (1/1)	43800	0	40160				
32		4/1(13週)	45960	0	42320				
33	start of operation	4/1(13週)	45960	0	42320	1			
34		9 /30(40週)	50352	728	45984				
35	end of operation	9 /30(40週)	50352	728	45984		1		
36	repair	10/1(41週)	50376	0	46008			-728	-8032
37	<b>End of 6th year</b>	12 · 31(52週)	52560	0	48192				

## Analysis results (Base case)



- ◆ Complete annual inspection and maintenance of the main body of the heliotron.
- ◆ Pumps and valves were repaired for major failure modes for once a year.
- ◆ No inspection and maintenance was performed on other static equipment.

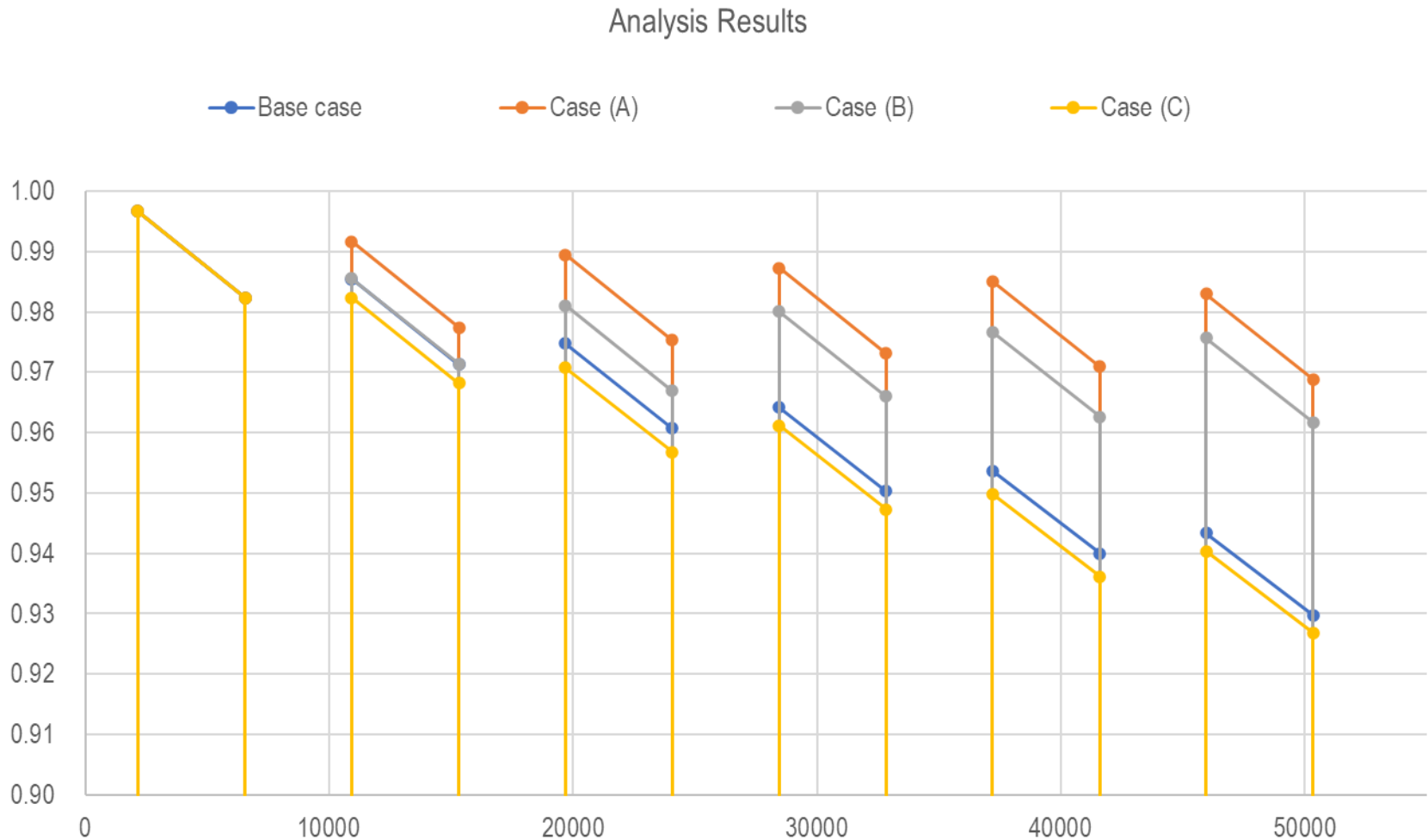
(attention) Actual graph style



# Analysis conditions for other cases

- A) **Careful inspection** and repair will be performed for pumps, refrigerators, cooling towers, liquid resistors, electric generators, discharge tube heat coolers, and valves, covering also failure modes in standby mode. Inspection and maintenance will **not** be conducted for other static components.
- B) Major components will be divided into two groups, each of which will be **carefully** inspected and repaired every other two years.
- C) Major components will be divided into two groups, each of which will be inspected and repaired every other two years in response to **operational failure modes**.

# Analysis results (2)



## *Discussions on the analysis results*

- ◆ A relatively high level of reliability can be achieved by dividing major equipment into **two groups**, each of which is **carefully inspected** and repaired every other **two years**.
- ◆ Since the modeling and analysis system to this GO-FLOW chart has been established, analysis of other cases with different maintenance and inspection conditions can be easily performed.
- ◆ The failure rate set at this time can also be easily changed.
- ◆ **Additions** of components and system **configuration changes** that require consideration can be easily handled by modifying the existing GO-FLOW chart.

# Conclusions

- ◆ *Reliability/availability analysis of the water cooling system, which plays an important role in the operation of Heliotron J, was performed using the GO-FLOW method.*
- ◆ *The results of the analysis provided useful knowledge.*
- ◆ *The GO-FLOW analysis is expected to be applied for further detailed analysis conditions.*
  - *Uncertainty analysis*
  - *Graded recovery*
  - *Analysis conditions for more realistic cases*