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## Reliability Theory Explains Human Aging

IEEE Spectrum, September 2004

Many scientists now believe that we have developed a sophisticated enough understanding of the **nature** of **human** aging to begin seriously planning ways to defeat it.

Reliability theory allows **researchers** to predict how a **system** with a specified **architecture** and level of reliability of its constituent parts will fail over **time**.

The theory is so general in scope that it can be applied to understanding aging in living **organisms** as well. In the ways that we age and die, we are not so different from the **machines** we build. We are like **machines** made up of redundant **components**, many of which are defective right from the start.

In this view, we can be further improved through genetic engineering and be better maintained through preventive, regenerative, and antiaging **medicine** and by repairing and replacing worn-out body parts.

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