DEPRECIATION AND FUNCTIONAL OBSELESCENCE

An important step in the appraisal of property using the cost approach is the
determination of the depreciation or condition of the property. Depreciation in this
appraisal was segregated into normal (mostly physical) depreciation and functional
obsolescence. The normal depreciation was determined based on the age of the
property and its normal service life; while, functional obsolescence was based on the
impact on the property’s remaining life caused by factors such as changing technology,
service requirements, and competition.

Depreciation - The depreciation was determined based on the property’s
age and its normal service life using the following formula:

\[
\text{Condition} = \frac{\text{Remaining Life}}{\text{Age} + \text{Remaining Life}}
\]

or

\[
\text{Depreciation} = \frac{\text{Age}}{\text{Age} + \text{Remaining Life}}
\]

Where: Remaining Life = \(f(\text{Age, Survival Characteristic, Normal Service life})\)

Functional Obsolescence - The obsolescence inherent in the property
was determined using the above described normal service life in
comparison to the property’s service life is adjusted for functional factors.
The obsolescence was quantified base on the difference between the
property’s normal service life and its functional service life. The following
formula was used to calculate the obsolescence:

\[
\text{Obsolescence} = \frac{\text{Normal Service Life} - \text{Functional Service Life}}{\text{Normal Service Life}}
\]

Service Lives - (normal versus functional) - The service life of property is that period of
time in which it provides the service to which it was designed and placed into service. In
most industrial properties there is a difference between a property’s normal or physical
life and its functional life. A piece of equipment may physically last for an extended
period; however, as that property ages changing technology, improvements or enhancement in similar equipment, functional and or service requirements change resulting in decreased utility of the existing equipment, and therefore decrease in value to it owner, this additional deterioration over that defined by the equipment’s normal life is functional obsolescence.

Wastewater Industry Service Lives

The service lives used in the depreciation and functional obsolescence calculations were developed based on the property and its use, AUS Consultants’ experience in developing depreciation studies for the water and wastewater industries. The following table details the lives used in the depreciation portion of the replacement cost new less depreciation analysis:

**Iowa Survivor Curves**

The Iowa Survivor Curves recommended in this appraisal are used to determine the remaining life of the property, and therefore its condition, recognizing the properties’ service life and age. The Iowa Survivor Curves allows the appraiser to recognize the property being studied (mains, treatment and pumping plant equipment etc placed in a particular year, say1985) is part of a larger group of property, i.e., all the property i.e., mains, treatment and pumping plant equipment, etc. As such, the service lives which we refer to in our appraisal are an average service lives for the group, i.e., the average life of all mains, treatment and pumping plant equipment, etc. The Iowa Survivor curve allows the appraiser to calculate the remaining life, and therefore condition, of a subset of the group (the mains placed in 1985) based on the groups’ (1) Iowa Survivor Curve,
Service Life and the age of property at the appraisal date. An Iowa Survivor Curves depicts how property from a group survives and retires about that groups' average life.

The above figure depicts a typical Iowa-type survivor curve, an S3.0 Iowa-type survivor curve. In this case the survivor curve has been generalized to a service life of 100% of the property's average life, in this generalized form the survivor curve statistics can be utilized with any individual service life in the age-life service life and depreciation calculations. There are four characteristics displayed in the above chart depicting the manner in which property survives and retires about the group's average life, those characteristics are: the retirement frequency (blue), the percent surviving (red), the percent condition (brown) and the percent depreciated (green). The retirement frequency represents the retirement of individual property items about the group's average service life. As can be seen the retirements are distributes about the group's average life with some items retiring before the average life and some items retiring at or after the group's service life. The group's survivor curve is developed from subtracting the retirements as they occur as the property ages. The depreciation curve depicts how much of the property group's life has been consumed; while, the condition curve depict how much of the property group's life remains. The condition and depreciation curves are complementary in that condition equals 100% minus depreciation and vice versa.

The theory of Iowa Survivor Curves was presented in the 1920s and 30s by Robley Winfrey based on research at Iowa State University (then the Iowa Engineering Experiment Station). Winfrey's research was first published in Bulletin 103 - Life Characteristics of Physical Property and Bulletin 125 - Statistical Analysis of Industrial Property Retirements. (Incidentally, both publications are out of print, I have a copy of Bulletin 125 but not Bulletin 103, I'm still trying to get a copy of that piece of depreciation literature.). Bulletin 125 was updated in 1967 by Professor Harold Cowles of Iowa State University's Department of Industrial Engineering. In conducting his research, Winfrey collected data on industrial property survival and retirement from various sources and
analyzed that data as a function of property’s age at retirement and ultimately the property groups’ service life when all the property in the group was fully retired.

Winfrey discovered the industrial property’s survival and retirement fits three basic patterns with relationship to the property’s average life:

**Dispersion in Iowa-type Survivor Curves**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retirements</th>
<th>Age as a % of Average Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O3.0 Ret. Freq.</td>
<td>0 100 200 300 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L3.0 Ret. Freq</td>
<td>0 100 200 300 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R3.0 Ret. Freq</td>
<td>0 100 200 300 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3.0 Ret. Freq</td>
<td>0 100 200 300 400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Symmetrically moded (S-type Iowa Survivor Curves) (green) – The S-type Iowa Survivor Curve is one wherein the property’s retirements are symmetrically distributed about the mode. Mode in statistics is defined as the highest frequency, in this case retirement frequency. Thus an S-type Iowa curve is like a normal curve; however, its shape is not identical to a normal distribution function.

Right moded (R-type Iowa Curves) (brown) – the R-type Iowa curve has its mode skewed to the right of the property’s average life; therefore the retirements tend to be distributed later in the property’s life and there are less retirements earlier in the property’s life.

Left moded (L-type Iowa Curve) (red) – The L-type Iowa curve has its mode skewed to the left of the property’s average life; therefore the retirements tend to be distributed earlier in the property’s life and there are less retirements later in the property’s life.

In the utility industry, the plant, i.e., mains, treatment and pumping plant equipment tends to have a R-type survival/retirement dispersion as it is designed to provide service over extended periods, requiring little maintenance, and it designers have significant experience in designing and placing such property.

In conjunction with the above described R-, S-, and L-type survival/retirement patterns, Winfrey determine that there were several patterns of the manner in which the retirements’ peakedness occur around the average life. In this case, Winfrey described the peakedness of the property retirements with peakedness enumerations of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The low peakedness numbers 0 and 1 represent low levels of retirements being distributed over the property entire life, while high peakedness numbers, 5 and 6 represent retirement patterns where the majority or all the retirement occur tightly
grouped around the property’s average life. Peakedness numbers 2, 3, and 4 are middle of the road, so to speak, in terms of peakedness.

Mode in Iowa-type Survivor Curves

Origin moded (O-type) survivor curve (blue) – Harold Cowles in his 1967 update of Bulletin 125 introduced the O-type survivor curve with the mode of the curve at the origin or at age equal to zero (0) years. This class of Iowa curves was over looked by Winfrey possibly because it made little intuitive sense that industrial retirement of property would have their maximum retirement frequency at age equal to zero. However, Cowles felt for completeness they should be included. O-type survivor curves do reflect the survival pattern of intangible assets.

Iowa-type survivor curves are parametric, as opposed to formalistic, in that they were derived from empirical survival/retirement data which Winfrey collected. There are Iowa curve equations are presented in Bulletin 125; however in most cases users reference standardized Iowa Survivor Curve tables. The Iowa-type survivor curves used in this appraisal have been generalized to a service life of 100% of the property’s average life. By generalizing the service life to 100% of average life these tables can be used to generate survival and retirement statistics for property of any service life.

It should be apparent that Iowa-types survivor curves are valid for any type property as the curves only depict how that property survives and retires about the average life of a group of similar property.

Generalized Iowa-type Survivor Curves

As was discussed earlier, most users of the Iowa-type survivor curves use standardized tables of Iowa curves. The most usable form of these standardized tables are tables which have been generalized to a standard life of 100% of the property’s average life. Based on these generalized tables the user can determine the property’s remaining life by knowing the Iowa-type survivor curve (mode and peakedness characteristics), the property’s (group’s) service life, and the specific property’s (for which the remaining life
is desired) age. The following table reflects how the remaining life, as well as its condition, is determined:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Study Date</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Iowa Curve</th>
<th>Service Life</th>
<th>Age % of ASL</th>
<th>Iowa Lookup</th>
<th>Iowa Condition</th>
<th>Remaining Life</th>
<th>Total Life</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>142 R3.0142</td>
<td>0.066388</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>4.47%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>102 R3.0102</td>
<td>0.192543</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>15.88%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>62 R3.0062</td>
<td>0.442050</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>41.62%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22 R3.0022</td>
<td>0.787294</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>78.16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2 R3.0002</td>
<td>0.980320</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>98.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table was develop with reference to the standardized Iowa Survivor curves contained and represent a R3.0 25 year Iowa curve and life table. The standardized Iowa Curves are located in tab database. In order to reference the proper line of the Iowa Curve data the user looks up that data by reference to the property’s age as percent of the service life (age % of ASL column) and the Iowa Survivor curve (Iowa Curve column), combining these two criteria the Iowa Lookup column will get the user to the proper Iowa Curve data.

In the above calculation the Iowa-type survivor curve is R3, the service life of the group is 25 years, and its age is defined by property’s accounting records which specifies the investment in property by account (A group in service life terms) and by the year of installation of that property. The age is dependent upon the appraisal year (study date) and the year of placement. It is customary to assume that the property placed in any particular placement year was placed continuously during that year and therefore its age is best represented as if that investment was placed in the middle of the year, i.e., July 1; hence, the adoption of the “mid-year” convention where all property is treated as if placed the mid-year.

Service Life and Survival/retirement pattern

The service life and survival/retirement pattern are determined by an analysis of historical survival and retirement experience of the company’s property. This historical experience must be adjusted for factor which are known to be impacting the property’s service life but may not exhibited their effect on the property’s retirement. Here it is important that a distinction is made between industrial property’s physical service life and its functional service life. While physically a type of property may be deployed and remain in use for many years, over those years factors of changing technology, consumers demand and patterns, and even regulation, lessen the property functional life when compared to its physical life. In an industry such as the communications industry, function obsolescence is the primary driver of depreciation.

The following table details the impact of the above described lives on the condition calculations:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Study Date</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Iowa Curve</th>
<th>Service Life</th>
<th>Age % of ASL</th>
<th>Iowa Lookup</th>
<th>Iowa Condition</th>
<th>Remaining Life</th>
<th>Total Life</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>R3.0118</td>
<td>0.131771</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>R3.0088</td>
<td>0.264919</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>R3.0098</td>
<td>0.211333</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>R3.0066</td>
<td>0.411848</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>R3.0078</td>
<td>0.327281</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>R3.0028</td>
<td>0.731331</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>R3.0008</td>
<td>0.921605</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>R3.0</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>R3.0003</td>
<td>0.970499</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>