

INTEGRATED REGRESSION AND FUZZY MODEL TO DETERMINE
REMAINING PROJECT DURATION

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ABSTRACT

Many attempts have been made by previous researchers to improve the monitoring process in engineering phase of a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) conversion project. Earned Value Method (EVM) has been used to monitor the engineering phase progress towards the completion of project with the emphasis on cost monitoring, but it lacks the ability to capture the changes of expected project remaining duration based on changes in engineering deliverables and manhours performance. This study aimed to analyse the correlation of engineering phase monitoring variables to provide a visual projection of expected project duration. A model was developed using fuzzy method to produce a surface plot of engineering phase remaining duration. Stepwise regression selection was done on sets of variables combinations of Master Deliverable Register, manhours and progress by comparing the adjusted R² values for each set. Regression coefficients from the selected set were extracted to form an algorithm to be implemented into fuzzy membership rule. Triangular membership is selected with each variables having seven linguistic terms ranging from 'Minimum' to 'Maximum'. Sensitivity analysis was conducted on the remaining duration plot to determine the impact of linguistic terms towards the extent changes of remaining duration. The model was validated by comparing it with the remaining duration determined using the EVM. It was found that the contour on fuzzy surface plot provides a visual forecast on expected project delays when a plateau is formed where events such as correction of documentations, manhours redundancies, re-work, restriction of manhours, resource levelling, review cycles, delay of Vendor Data Information and clashes with construction site are predicted. The remaining duration from the fuzzy model showed an overall improvement of accuracy when compared with calculated remaining duration from EVM method with 9% lower Mean Absolute Percentage Error and an average of Root Mean Square Error of 18 days as compared to EVM error of 31 days. It can be concluded that fuzzy surface plot enables prediction of the remaining duration and project stagnations from analysis on the surface contours and plateaus. Thus, the proposed model in this study serves as an alternative technique of top-down method for determining the remaining duration.

ABSTRAK

Pelbagai usaha telah diambil oleh penyelidik terdahulu untuk meningkatkan proses pemantauan dalam fasa kejuruteraan projek penukaran Penyimpanan Pemindahan Terapung (FPSO). Kaedah Nilai Terperoleh (EVM) telah digunakan untuk memantau kemajuan fasa kejuruteraan ke arah penyediaan projek dengan penekanan lebih kepada pemantauan kos, tetapi ia tidak berupaya menjangkakan perubahan jangka masa projek berdasarkan perubahan dalam penyampaian kejuruteraan dan prestasi waktu kerja. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis korelasi pembolehubah pemantauan fasa kejuruteraan untuk menyediakan unjuran gambaran tempoh projek yang dijangkakan. Model dibangunkan menggunakan dengan kaedah kabur untuk menghasilkan plot permukaan baki tempoh untuk fasa kejuruteraan. Pemilihan regresi langkah demi langkah telah dilakukan pada set gabungan pembolehubah Daftar Serahan Induk, jumlah kerja dan kemajuan dengan membandingkan nilai R2 yang diselaraskan untuk setiap set. Pekali regresi dari set yang dipilih telah diekstrak untuk membentuk algoritma untuk dilaksanakan ke dalam peraturan keahlian kabur. Keahlian segi tiga dipilih dengan setiap pemboleh ubah yang mempunyai tujuh istilah linguistik dari 'Minimum' hingga 'Maksimum'. Analisis sensitiviti dijalankan ke atas plot tempoh yang berbaki untuk menentukan kesan istilah linguistik ke arah perubahan tahap baki tempoh. Model ini disahkan dengan membandingkannya dengan tempoh baki yang ditentukan menggunakan kaedah EVM. Didapati bahawa kontur pada plot permukaan kabur menyediakan ramalan gambaran mengenai kelewatan projek yang dijangkakan apabila dataran tinggi dibentuk yang mana peristiwa seperti pembetulan dokumentasi, kelebihan waktu kerja, kerja semula, sekatan waktu kerja, kerja pelarasan sumber, kitaran semakan, kelewatan Maklumat Data Vendor dan pertembungan dengan tapak pembinaan diramalkan. Tempoh selebihnya dari model kabur menunjukkan peningkatan keseluruhan ketepatan keseluruhan jika dibandingkan dengan tempoh yang dikira menggunakan kaedah EVM dengan 9% Purata Peratusan Mutlak Ralat lebih rendah, dan purata Ralat Segi Empat Kali selama 18 hari berbanding dengan ralat EVM selama 31 hari. Dapat disimpulkan bahawa plot permukaan kabur dapat meramalkan tempoh yang berbaki dan genangan projek dari analisis pada kontur permukaan dan dataran tinggi. Oleh itu, model yang dicadangkan dalam kajian ini berfungsi sebagai kaedah alternatif pendekatan atas ke bawah untuk menentukan tempoh yang berbaki.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| AC | - | Actual Cost |
| AHP | - | Analytic Hierarchy Process |
| AT | - | Actual Time |
| BAC | - | Budget at Completion |
| BCWP | - | Budgeted Cost Work Performed |
| CCPM | - | Critical Chain Project Management |
| CI | - | Criticality Index |
| COG | - | Centre Of Gravity |
| CPI | - | Cost Performance Index |
| CPM | - | Critical Path Management |
| CRI(r) | - | Cruciality Index |
| CV | - | Cost Variance |
| DSM | - | Dependency Structure Matrix |
| ED | - | Earn Duration |
| ES | - | Earn Schedule |
| ESM | - | Earn Schedule Method |
| EV | - | Earn Value |
| EVM | - | Earn Value Method |
| FES | - | Fuzzy Expert System |
| FMCDM | - | Fuzzy multi-criteria decision-making |
| FPSO | - | Floating Production Storage Offloading |
| FTPSP | - | Fuzzy Time Dependent Project Scheduling Problem |
| GERT | - | Graphical Evaluation and Review Technique |
| IFA | - | Issue for Approval |
| IFC | - | Issue for Construction |
| IFR | - | Issue for Review |
| IT | - | Information Technology |
| MAPE | - | Mean Absolute Percentage Error |
| MATLAB | - | Matrix Laboratory |
| MCDA | - | Multi Criteria Decision Analysis |

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| MCDM | - | Multi Criteria Decision Making |
| MDR | - | Master Deliverable Register |
| NWRT | - | Node-Weighted Rooted Tree |
| PERT | - | Project Evaluation and Review Technique |
| PV | - | Planned Value |
| QFD | - | Quality Function Deployment |
| RCPS | - | Resource Constrained Project Schedule |
| RMSE | - | Root Mean Square Error |
| ROF | - | Regular Objective Function |
| SI | - | Sensitivity Index |
| SPI | - | Schedule Performance Index |
| SPSS | - | Statistical Package for the Social Sciences |
| SRA | - | Schedule Risk Analyses |
| SSI | - | Schedule Sensitivity Index |
| WBS | - | Work Breakdown Structure |

LIST OF SYMBOLS

| | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------|
| μ_A | - | Fuzzy triangular membership |
| C_i | - | Rating Criteria |
| w | - | Weightage Criteria |
| R_{mi} | - | Profile value |
| ε | - | Regression error |
| θ | - | Regression constant |
| \oplus | - | Fuzzy number addition |
| \otimes | - | Fuzzy multiplication |
| \ominus | - | Fuzzy number subtraction |
| \oslash | - | Fuzzy number division |
| t | - | Time instance |
| \bar{A} | - | Fuzzy triangular number |
| F^{-1} | - | Fuzzy region |

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This current study examines dynamic project scheduling with the application of fuzzy method as well as regression studies. The knowledge application of fuzzy method was applied into scheduling aspect in a dynamic project environment. The term 'dynamism' is used to refer to a sudden transition in the sense of project management. A central unsolved project management problem is the difficulty posed by projects undertaken in complex and unpredictable settings (Collyer and Warren, 2009). The research covers application of dynamic scheduling in detailed engineering of Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) project.

The background and problems associated with the dynamic nature of project scheduling as well as the purpose and clarifications on the implementation of fuzzy method in this study are presented in this chapter. Subsequently, the research background, the problem of which this research is based, the overall research objective, explanation of the significance of the study, and finally the outline of the overall thesis structure is elaborated.

1.2 Research Background

Project planning and scheduling is a crucial part of project management where scope of work, costing and schedule baseline are managed while considering management of risk, resources and communications. From the planning point of view, the aim is for each project to be completed as scheduled and under the budget, with the desired features and an appropriate level of quality. In a perfect environment, projects meet early finishes and early completions, float is not absorbed, deadlines are

fulfilled, time delay charges are never filed by the employer, and liquidated losses are never evaluated by the owner.

The project manager uses the project schedule to assist with the preparation, execution, and management of project tasks and to track and monitor project progress. Therefore, project control and tracking are necessary to measure the project progress and performance throughout the project. In this study, dynamic project scheduling refers to project tracking at each time interval, with corrective rescheduling required if the targeted dateline is not longer realistic.

The application of the research focuses primarily on engineering phase of an FPSO project. An FPSO is a vessel that facilitates with crude oil processing by allowing separation, storage, and offloading from subsea oil wells or other platforms through risers. The processed hydrocarbon will be delivered to ships through offloading hoses from the FPSO's crude oil tanks. The construction of the FPSO allows for hydrocarbon extraction from remote oil and gas fields in deeper water, as well as a more cost-effective solution for subsea oil pipelines to land.

This research considers fuzzy method as well as linear regression to develop a tool with FPSO CENDOR project as a base case for future project monitoring. In an FPSO conversion project, engineering is the first phase to start before procurement and construction activities. Therefore, any delay in engineering will significantly cause over delays to both procurement and construction phases in the project.

FPSO CENDOR is a Floating Production Storage and Offloading unit which operates in the CENDOR field in Terengganu waters. The FPSO will stabilize crude received from well head and store it into cargo tanks. The crude in cargo tanks will then be offloaded into shuttle tanker using floating hoses. Gas from well head will either be used as fuel gas or gas injection via fuel gas compressor skid and gas injection skid respectively. FPSO project consists of engineering work on vessel demolition, hull conversion, topside design, and integration works.

1.3 Problem Statement

Uncertainty and risk frequently result in project delays and cost overruns. As a result, project forecasting is a critical component of the project control phase since it allows for the prediction of the final project duration and cost (Andrade et al., 2019). Numerous projects deviate from their estimated durations, taking longer or requiring more resources than anticipated, because of poor estimation and unforeseeable occurrences encountered during execution (Hazir and Ulusoy, 2020).

In real world applications, project scheduling problem under a dynamic environment comes from unstable resource availability, time varying resource demands and stochastic activity durations for each of the project activities (Chakraborty et al., 2020). Gondia et. al (2022) highlighted that project performance targets are inextricably linked and execution errors, quality deficiencies, and approval delays are likely to proliferate, resulting in multiple rework, disrupted resource allocation, and cost overruns.

A well-known technique to monitor the progress of projects and to forecast project cost and duration is Earned Value Method (EVM). While EVM provides performance metrics for both the cost performance and schedule performance of projects, all EVM metrics are cost based. As a result, it is known that the EVM schedule performance indicators are less reliable towards the end of a project (Andrade et al., 2019).

In an FPSO engineering phase, engineering changes are considered unavoidable as the project progresses. The changes are required to satisfy new requirements and error correction. These adjustments will impact the overall project's progress and schedule, particularly in terms of the Master Deliverable Register (MDR), manhours, and progress percentage, which will eventually affect the project's estimated remaining duration. Constraints and events such as document rejection, significant redesign, and late vendor data submission are ambiguous and typically unaccounted for in standard project scheduling methods.

1.4 Objective of Study

The main aim for this research is to develop a scheduling monitoring model for detailed engineering of an FPSO. To achieve this aim, the objectives of this research are as follows:

- i. To investigate the correlation of variables linked to detailed engineering phase in FPSO delays by providing a visual projection of project duration expectation.
- ii. To analyse and develop a model which determines the estimated remaining duration for FPSO detailed engineering.

These objectives are the foundation of the development of research methodology and subsequently result in the following chapters.

1.5 Scope of Research

This research in general encompasses the features of project management in FPSO construction industry. The scope of the study is contained within the following knowledge boundary:

- i. Project scheduling, in particular, the study of dynamism in project scheduling. The element of study in this research is on project duration which is a crucial part of the scheduling procedure. This research analyses on effect of man-hours, project progress percentage and Master Deliverable Register (MDR) towards the remaining duration on FPSO engineering phase. The strategy of top-down method of project monitoring is utilised to acquire projected remaining duration to be applied in schedule revision and updates.

- ii. Surface plots were be used to represent the remaining time remaining on the project using a fuzzy method approach. The components of the fuzzy method are implemented, including the membership function, fuzzy inference, fuzzy set aggregation, and defuzzification. The variables' inputs are converted to membership function linguistic terms, and fuzzy inference is the method of converting a given input to an output using fuzzy logic and a set of rules.

- iii. Engineering phase of FPSO conversion project. Engineering phase comprises of the execution activities of technical knowledge of the FPSO design. These operations produce documented outputs for drawings, computation, procedures, datasheets, specification and analysis for construction and procurement phase. The technical discipline engaged in the conversion deliverables include Naval Architecture, Marine, Mechanical, Structural, Piping, Electrical, Instrumentation, Telecom, Safety and Process. The list of these deliverables is compiled into a Master Deliverable Register (MDR) where the progress of each deliverable is recorded based on review and approval milestones.

- iv. Stepwise regression method were be applied in this research to obtain a set of independent variables from a selection of variables and its multiplication. This method involves adding or removing potential explanatory variables in succession and testing for statistical significance after each iteration.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research was aimed to develop a better project scheduling method and project control and tracking. Once a schedule is developed, forecast scenario

conditioning and resource planning of the project can be conducted at any particular time of the project.

In project control, project schedule forms the basis for progress monitoring whereby once the baseline schedule is established, the plan progress over the project lifespan is identified. In this research the application of project control was mainly focused on detailed engineering work on FPSO.

This research contribution to the detailed engineering community is focused towards achieving simplicity of obtaining detailed estimation of project completion. With this research model, users can estimate the required completion date of overall detailed engineering work. Fuzzy set theory is applied in this research to solve the decision making problems in which descriptions of observations are imprecise, vague and uncertain during detailed engineering project execution. By managing the vagueness and uncertainties present in detail engineering phase, cascading effect of subsequent delay in procurement, construction and commissioning phases can be minimized which will eventually prevent unexpected project delay and project penalty payment.

1.7 Thesis Outline

This thesis consists of five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 is the introduction which addresses general introduction of the research comprising of background of the research, problem statement, research objective, scope and significance of the research.

Chapter 2 provides the description on the framework and review of the literature and past researches whose topics are significant for understanding the research details, providing a basis for designing the research methodology and possessing knowledge for discussing the research result and findings. The literature includes theory of project management and project schedule along with fuzzy method

and application. Literature on regression and sensitivity analysis method is also covered in this chapter. Besides, researches on project issues and limitations are further elaborated in this chapter.

Chapter 3 is the research methodology which describes all methods employed in the analytical process towards achieving the research objectives. Methodology system is represented in workflow charts. Details on identification of variable and method on variable correlation are further described in this chapter. Moreover, the application of fuzzy method implementation in correlation with the variable MDR, man-hours and percentage against remaining duration will also be elaborated in this chapter.

In Chapter 4, the results obtained are presented and their salient features are highlighted. The fuzzy surface plot is further explored and explained in this chapter in relation to the regression plot. Plot contour analysis and the sensitivity analysis of the research result model are also discussed.

Chapter 5 concludes this research followed by the explanation of the innovative contributions, areas of application and the limitations of the research. The chapter ends by highlighting several recommendations for further studies and concluding remarks.

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Scully, C. C., and Zamani, M. (2019). Dynamic project scheduling and progress monitoring of engineering phase in FPSO conversion project with fuzzy method. *Open International Journal of Informatics (OIJI)*, 7(1), 113-122.