Study on corrosion rate of buried gas steel pipeline in Nanjing based on the GM(1,N) optimization model

Di Liao, Lijing Zhang* and Gang Tao
School of Nanjing Tech University, Nanjing, China

*Corresponding author e-mail: zhanglj@njtech.edu.cn

Abstract. In view of the complex and fuzzy corrosion mechanism of buried gas steel pipelines, the grey correlation analysis method is used to find out the main factors affecting the corrosion rate and sort them by association degree. And then the corrosion rate model of buried natural gas steel pipeline is established based on GM (1, N) model and OGM (1, N) (an optimization method for the GM (1, N)) model. Results show the main factors affecting the corrosion rate of buried steel pipelines in Nanjing are service life, pipeline protection measures, soil resistivity and stray current. Compared with the GM (1, N) model, the accuracy of OGM (1, N) model is greatly improved. OGM (1, N) model can effectively simulate pipeline corrosion rate considering multiple factors, which has a certain reference value for the study on residual life of buried gas steel pipelines.

1. Introduction

According to the statistics of Sichuan gas pipeline accidents from 1969 to 2003, the proportion of pipeline accidents caused by corrosion accounts for 39.5%, which is much larger than other accident causes such as material defects and external force damage [1]. Therefore, it is important to build a reliable prediction model for corrosion rate of buried pipelines for formulating reasonable pipeline maintenance, replacement cycle and safe and effective management measures.

Grey system theory is widely used in pipeline corrosion prediction because of its strong advantage in modeling and analysis of small sample data. Chen Dianbin used GM (1,1) model based on VB and MATLAB software to study on predicting the residual life of steel pipelines and analysed the structural reliability [2]; Wang Qingfeng used unbiased grey (GM (1,1) and Markov chain combination prediction model to predict the residual corrosion life of pipelines [3]; Zheng Ruyan predicted the corrosion rate of carbon steel in seawater environment based on GM (1,N) model [4]. In summary, most domestic scholars used GM (1,1) or its optimization model based on time series to predict the corrosion rate, without considering the relevant factors. The GM(1,N) model can simulate
the multi-variable model, but its accuracy needs to be improved.

In this paper, the influence factors of corrosion are ranked by grey relational degree method. On this basis, the OGM (1, N) model proposed by Bo Zeng is used to predict the corrosion rate of pipelines [5], and the simulated results of OGM (1, N) model with the simulated results of the GM (1, N) model make the comparison.

2. Calculate the degree of grey incidence

Grey correlation analysis method is an important method to measure the correlation degree among factors on the basis of similarity or difference of the development trend among factors, namely "grey relational degree" [6].

The following table 1 shows the corrosion date of different buried gas steel pipelines measured in Nanjing.

| Steel pipe number | Relative wall thinning/% | Service life /a | Stray Current Forward Potential/mv | Soil resistivity/Ω | Protective measures level | Pipe pressure/KPa |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1                 | 22                       | 31             | 840                               | 14.23            | 2                        | 2.31            |
| 2                 | 13                       | 17             | 3530                              | 16.67            | 2                        | 2.31            |
| 3                 | 9                        | 17             | 1740                              | 19.23            | 2                        | 242.89          |
| 4                 | 8.25                     | 11             | 520                               | 6.8              | 1                        | 250             |
| 5                 | 5.5                      | 10             | 70                                | 8.66             | 1                        | 70              |
| 6                 | 3.25                     | 8              | 20                                | 13.89            | 1                        | 20              |

2.1. Doing non-dimensional treatment.

Let $Y_i$ be the mean sequence, (when $i=1$, $Y_i$ is the independent variables; when $i=2,...,N$, $Y_i$ is the dependent variables), $X_i(k)$ be the original sequence. (when $i=1$, $X_i(k)$ is the independent variables; when $i=2,...,N$, $X_i(k)$ is the dependent variables.)

$$Y_i = \frac{x_i(k)}{\sum_{k=1}^{m} x_i(k)}$$ (1)

Where $i$ is the factor position, $N$ is the number of sub-factors, $k$ is the serial number of variables and $m$ is the number of sequences contained in each factor.

2.2. Calculating Grey Relational Coefficient

Let $\delta_i(k)$ be the grey relational coefficient defined by grey theory. $\delta_i(k)$ is given by

$$\delta_i(k) = \frac{\min_{i} \min_{k} |Y_0(k) - Y_i(k)| + \alpha \max_{i} \max_{k} |Y_0(k) - Y_i(k)|}{|Y_0(k) - Y_i(k)| + \alpha \max_{i} \max_{k} |Y_0(k) - Y_i(k)|}$$ (2)

Where $\alpha$ is the resolution coefficient, which ranges from 0 to 1, and most are assigned as 0.5; $Y_0(k)$ is the mean series of independent variables; $Y_i(k)$ is the mean series of independent variables ($i \neq 0$).

2.3. Calculating Grey Relevance Degree

Let $\gamma_i$ be a grey correlation degree, and the sequence $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, ..., \gamma_N$ indicates the influence of
various dependent factors on the results. The greater the $γ_i$ is, the greater the influence is. The $γ_i$ is as follow

$$γ_i = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^{m} δ_i(k); i \neq 0$$

(3)

The results show that: $γ = (0.8855 \ 0.6174 \ 0.7493 \ 0.7988 \ 0.5373)$, that is, sorted according to the degree of grey association the order is: service life $>$ protection measures $>$ soil resistivity $>$ stray current $>$ pipeline pressure. That means the main corrosion factors of buried gas steel pipelines are service life, pipeline protection measures, soil resistivity and stray current.

3. building GM (1, N) model

3.1. GM (1, N) Model

GM (1, N) model is a grey system prediction model which can simulate the linear relationship between multiple independent variables and a dependent variable. The modeling steps are as follows.

3.1.1. Establishment of Initial Sequences.

Let $x_1^{(0)}$ be the Relative wall thickness reduction, $x_2^{(0)}$ be the service life, $x_3^{(0)}$ be the protective measure, $x_4^{(0)}$ be the soil resistivity and $x_5^{(0)}$ be the stray current, $x_i^{(0)} = (x_i^{(0)}(1), x_i^{(0)}(2), \ldots, x_i^{(0)}(m))$

3.1.2. Establish $x_j^{(0)} (j=2, \ldots, N)$ as the first order cumulative sequence. Let $x_j^{(1)}$ be the first order accumulating generating operator (1-AGO) of $x_j^{(0)}$ $j = 2, 3, \ldots, N$,

$$x_j^{(1)} = (x_j^{(1)}(1), x_j^{(1)}(2), \ldots, x_j^{(1)}(m))$$

Where

$$x_j^{(1)}(k) = \sum_{l=1}^{k} x_j^{(0)}(l), k = 1, 2, \ldots, m.$$  

(4)

3.1.3. Generate the $Z_1^{(1)}$.

Let $Z_1^{(1)} = (Z_1^{(1)}(1), Z_1^{(1)}(2), \ldots, Z_1^{(1)}(m))$,

where $Z_1^{(1)}(k) = (x_1^{(1)}(k) - x_1^{(1)}(k-1))/2$ $k = 2, 3, \ldots, m$,

Then $x_1^{(0)}(k) + aZ_1^{(1)}(k) = \sum_{l=2}^{N} b_l x_l^{(1)}(k)$ is called GM (1, N) model.

$a$ is the system development coefficient, $b_l x_l^{(1)}(k)$ is the driving term, and $b_l$ is the driving
3.1.4. Mean generation B and constant term vector Y for cumulative generated data.

Let \( \tilde{\alpha} = [a, b_1, b_2, ..., b_N]^T \) be the system parameter packet, where

\[
\tilde{\alpha} = (B^T B)^{-1} B^T Y
\]  

3.1.5. Construe whitenization equation.

\[
\frac{dx^{(1)}}{dt} + ax^{(1)} = \sum_{i=2}^N b_i x_i^{(1)}
\]  

3.1.6. Calculate the Grey Parameters. According to the above formulas, \( \hat{x}^{(1)}(k + 1) \) is given by

\[
\hat{x}^{(1)}(k + 1) = \left[ x_1^{(1)}(1) - \frac{1}{a} \sum_{i=2}^N b_i x_i^{(1)}(k + 1) \right] e^{-ak} + \frac{1}{a} \sum_{i=2}^N b_i x_i^{(1)}(k + 1)
\]

then the predicted value is given by

\[
\hat{x}^{(0)}(k + 1) = \hat{x}^{(1)}(k + 1) - \hat{x}^{(1)}(k)
\]

3.2. OGM (1, N) Model. Let \( x_i^{(0)} \) be the relative wall thickness reduction, \( x_i^{(0)} \) is the influence factor of corrosion, \( x_j^{(1)}(k) \) be the 1-AGO of \( x_j^{(0)}(j = 1, 2, ..., N) \), then OGM(1, N) is given by

\[
\frac{d}{dt} \hat{x}_i^{(1)}(k) + a \hat{x}_i^{(1)}(k) = \sum_{j=2}^N b_j x_j^{(1)}(k) + (1 - k) h_1 + h_2
\]

Let \( \tilde{\alpha} = (B^T B)^{-1} B^T Y \), where

\[
B = \begin{bmatrix}
-x_2^{(1)}(2) & x_3^{(1)}(2) & \cdots & x_N^{(1)}(2) & Z_1^{(1)}(2) & 1 & 1 \\
-x_2^{(1)}(3) & x_3^{(1)}(3) & \cdots & x_N^{(1)}(3) & Z_1^{(1)}(3) & 2 & 1 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
x_2^{(1)}(m) & x_3^{(1)}(m) & \cdots & x_N^{(1)}(m) & Z_1^{(1)}(m) & m - 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
Y = \begin{bmatrix}
x_1^{(0)}(2) \\
x_1^{(0)}(3) \\
\vdots \\
x_1^{(0)}(m)
\end{bmatrix}
\]

let \( \mu_1 = \frac{1}{1 + 0.5a}, \mu_2 = \frac{1-0.5a}{1 + 0.5a}, \mu_3 = \frac{h_1}{1 + 0.5a}, \mu_4 = \frac{h_2 - h_1}{1 + 0.5a} \), then

\[
\hat{x}^{(1)}(k) = \sum_{t=1}^{k-1} \mu_1 \sum_{l=2}^N \mu_2^{l-1} b_l \hat{x}_i^{(1)}(k - t + 1) + \mu_2^{k-1} \hat{x}^{(1)}(1) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \mu_2^j [(k - j) \mu_3 + \mu_4], k = 2, 3, ..., m.
\]

The predicted value is given by

\[
\hat{x}^{(0)}(k + 1) = \hat{x}^{(1)}(k + 1) - \hat{x}^{(1)}(k)
\]

4. Result Analysis

Based on the data in Table 2, GM (1, N) model and OGM (1, N) model are established respectively.
after screening and sorting influencing factors according to the grey relational degree. The Simulation results and errors between two models and the measured date are shown in Table 2, the simulated curves of relative wall thickness reduction are shown in Figure 1.

| Sample number | Relative wall thickness reduction | GM (1, N) Model | OGM (1, N) Model |
|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|               | Simulated date/%                | Simulation date/% | Simulation error/% |
| 1             | 22                              | 22             | 0               |
| 2             | 13                              | 9.32           | 28.32           | 13.0458 | 0.3526 |
| 3             | 9                               | 10.13          | 12.59           | 9.0503  | 0.5587 |
| 4             | 8.25                            | 8.46           | 2.57            | 8.3000  | 0.6058 |
| 5             | 5.5                             | 6.28           | 14.16           | 5.5500  | 0.9091 |
| 6             | 3.25                            | 3.89           | 19.60           | 3.3000  | 1.5385 |
| Average Error | 15.45                           | 0.7929         |

Table 2. Simulated data and errors of relative wall thickness reduction

Figure 1. Simulated curves of relative wall thickness reduction

5. Conclusion

Through analysis, the main corrosion influencing factors of buried gas steel pipelines in Nanjing are service life, pipeline protection measures, soil resistivity and stray current. For pipelines with long service life and lack of effective protection measures, the management of inspection and maintenance should be strengthened.

Compared with the simulated errors of GM (1, N) model, the accuracy of the OGM (1, N) model has been greatly improved, which average error is only about 15.45%. OGM (1, N) model can effectively predict the corrosion rate of pipelines, meanwhile, it can provide reference for the study on predicting residual life of pipelines.
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