Prediction of Failure Rate in Long Distance Oil and Gas Pipelines Using Soft Computing Techniques

Tahyr Garlyyev, Srinivasa Rao Pedapati, and K. Venkateswara Rao

Abstract—Long distance oil and gas pipelines are the major transporters of crude oil and other petroleum products which are highly expensive and earning millions of dollars’ income. Considered that they are the secure way of transporting those products pipelines fail leaving catastrophic consequences behind. The aim of this study was to build a fuzzy-based model to forecast the type of failure in the future utilizing the historical data of the pipeline records. This paper presents the fuzzy risk analysis method proposed which is the IS appraisal, the LIF evaluation, and the risk analysis. Fuzzy model showed that all inputs and factors have significant influence on the output results. Results obtained using this model exhibits more accurate prediction compared to other methods.

Index Terms—Oil and gas, pipelines, failure rate prediction, fuzzy logic.

I. INTRODUCTION

Numerous tries performed in the past 20 years for oil and gas pipelines corrosion rate, seepage, flaw type, and dud possibility predictions. Transport of oil and gas products through pipelines takes a major role in various branches of industry and manufacturing. Pipelines known as the safest, economical and yet efficient way of transporting oil and gas products comparing to other methods, like rail and road [1]. For example, pipelines transport most of oil and gas. As oil and gas transporting pipelines are buried subversive and various tainted elements influence them. some of the major causes consist of corrosion, third party intrusion, material fault, natural hazard and malfunction [2,3]. The elimination or loss of such structures would have attenuate brunt on economic and national safety, community health and several combos of those things [4]. Thus, appraisal of risk can aid establishments to resolve dangerous mechanisms and construct an applicable response and approach to decrease and/or discard it. Accomplishing the target, an appropriate approach needs that could help the current hazards and risks more accurate, precise and clear. Considering the interest and usefulness of pipelines, some studies are conducted to identify risks issued through pipelines. A methodology connected with transiting unsafe materials in long distance was presented by Dziubinski et.al [5]. Han & Weng [6] presented a cohesive significant risk appraisal technique for gas pipeline system. The technique consists of possible estimation of mishaps, consequences analysis and appraisal of risk.

A. Fuzzy Logic Tool Modelling

The fuzzy logic tool method should aim to achieve the close values for the results but should not complicate too much on the process as this will take additional simulation time. In numerous practical issues, the experts face with lack of data or inadequate information in demonstrating actual world phenomena; nebulosity and vulnerability are indivisible parts of information. Fuzzy logic, presented by Zadeh [7], a strong instrument to handle such cases. This system implements linguistic styles to give a conclusion structure to displaying practical and complicated edifices. A fuzzy set is an over-all procedure of a crisp set that fits to the closed interval 0 to 1; in order to, 1 shows full membership and 0 indicates non-membership [8]. When in fact, crisp sets only allow 0 or 1. The tool will be to aid engineers to ascertain riskier parts and make a suitable reaction based on the situation and strategize to decrease or even eliminate it. To achieve the goal, a necessary method is needed to evaluate the subsisting hazards more accurately and precisely. However, some errors might occur during the building this tool from the results of human error, variable input errors or lack of information. Poor understanding of the failure mechanism can cause several problems at some stage of this project. Difficulties might occur during the modelling of the system due to the deficiency of dependable fundamental data for calculation. Big amount of inter-related variables influencing the modelling procedure. Low accuracy of field data can play big role in identifying problems. One of the problems might occur is the poor record of operating conditions.

B. Fuzzy Tool Application

By applying the data from the pipeline inspection records, one believes that after inserting variables into fuzzy logic model can give us precise results. For example, gathering data about types of failures occur in long distance oil and gas pipelines tool can predict the failure type might be occurring in future. However, it is taken into consideration that some data might be not as good to be simulated. In this paper, long distance oil and gas failure type forecast using fuzzy logic tool are critically reviewed and analyzed for their viability and steps for effective implementation suggested.

The resolutions for Soft Computing (SC) are indistinct and random, between 0 and 1. In the early 1990s, Soft Computing became an official field of study in Computer Science. Prior computational approaches could model and
accurately analyse only relatively straightforward systems. Further multifaceted systems arise in biology, medicine, the humanities, management sciences, and alike fields often continued to be intractable to conservative mathematical and analytical methods. However, straightforwardness and complexity of systems are comparative, and several conservative mathematical models have been both problematic and extremely constructive. Elusiveness, doubts, incomplete truth, estimation to attain feasibility, heftiness and low solution cost are approximately the things that Soft Computing deals with. Amongst soft computing and possibility, there are main highlighted differences. It is important to notify that less sufficient of data was obtained to solve the problem when the possibility was used, moreover, minimum information of the problem itself upon used of soft computing. Zadeh [7] was the first to present fuzzy logic that is a capable modelling method intended to knop natural language and inexact reasoning. Processing linguistic inputs to create output or decision can be dealt with fuzzy logic-based systems. A compilation of fuzzy membership functions and rules are utilized by fuzzy expert systems (FES), rather than to reason about information by Boolean logic [9]. The way of building FES comprises the subsequent steps as illustrated in Fig. 1:

**Fuzzification:** this step in fuzzy logic tool changes the crisp input to a linguistic value by adopting and using the membership functions held in the fuzzy knowledge base. It determines the degree of truth for each fuzzy rule;

**Inference Engine:** utilizing if-then type of fuzzy logic rules it converts all fuzzy inputs to fuzzy outputs. It computes the true values for each fuzzy rule and applies to the concluded part of each rule;

**Composition:** integrate all of fuzzy subgroups to each output variable to arrange a single subset for all output variables;

**Defuzzification:** changes the fuzzy set output sets to a crisp value.

This paper consists of several objectives corresponding to the problem statement of the research. Firstly, to design a condition appraisal and forecast archetype and develop anticipated deterioration curves for long/short distance oil and gas pipelines. Besides, to have aptitude to handle inaccurate and vague information about the phenomenon. Furthermore, to not depend on comprehensive understanding of the problem and to assist human operators, taking additional consistent and reproducible verdict by simulating their expert knowledge.

The predominant focus of this paper is on the failure predicting in the future for long/short distance oil and gas pipelines. Research will be split into 4 stages. The first stage will include itself literature review and data collection. In this stage it will be worked on literature review and collection of data for our project which will be used later. Data collection stage will include itself identifying factors which affect oil and gas pipelines stipulation and collection of past inspection data for oil and gas pipelines. Next stage will take model development where we will need to build models with respect to diameter and product type. Third stage will take place when the model will be tested and validated. This stage is very important as it consists of the main scope of this project. The last stage will be conclusion and recommendation base on deterioration curves obtained from the tested results of the model. The data from respected company need to be analysed and studied. The reason why it needs to be studied so that datum for this project can be set.

**II. METHODOLOGY**

**A. Research Framework**

As mentioned before that there are stages in this paper. Herein study includes the three stages of fuzzy risk analysis method proposed which is the IS appraisal, the LIF evaluation, and the risk analysis. The first two stages are shaped founded on notions of fuzzy logic. To handle the hesitation entailed in the procedure of modelling, fuzzy logic is applied. A desegregated archetype founded on qualitative and quantitative methods for pipeline risk appraisal is a feature of the suggested archetype. A comprehensive and more precise appraisal of risks linked with dangerous sources can be resulted in this. Fuzzy logic tool doesn’t limit the number of inputs and outputs. The focal indicators or contributions of the fuzzy model are the components that affect the prediction of oil pipeline failure sorts. Recognized as: (1) sort of outcome transmitted by pipeline (service), (2) site of pipeline (facility), (3) pipeline service period, (4) land use, and (5) diameter of pipeline. Then again, the output will be anticipated type of failure, as appeared in Fig. 3. The methodology which will be operated construct the fuzzy model is explained in Fig. 2.

**B. Fuzzy Inputs and Output**

The linguistic variables of inputs such as land use, service and facility deprived of containing a palpable mean of measure, they can only be expressed as categories will be signified by crisp value as illustrated in Table 1. For example, an input like facility is expressed by either subservive, airborne, or pump station; which there is no possible additional significances in between. The linguistic variables of the output failure type are used by the same concept, as illustrated in Table I.

**C. Data Collection**

Since 1971 CONCAWE Oil Management Group (OPMG) has composed data on the environmental and safety performance of oil pipelines in Europe. Using on-line questionnaires Concawe has collected spillage incidents, traffic and annual throughput.

The results studied and put out every year. After 20 and 30 years total summary reports were composed. The report includes 44 years of European cross-country oil pipelines data, containing volume of spill, recovery and clean up,
environmental affects, and root of incidents. Over period of 44 years it studied many ways including large and net spillage volumes and spillage root. The pipeline failures were gathered into five fundamental classifications, mechanical, operational, corrosion, natural hazard, and third party. For 2015 63 operators gave data representing more than 141 pipeline systems and joined length of 33, 900 km (report no. 7/17; Performance of European cross- country oil pipelines; Statistical summary of reported incidents in 2015 and since 1971). The revealed volume transported in 2015 was 765 Mm3 of unrefined petroleum and refined products, higher than the 2012 figure. The summary of traffic volume in 2015 was reported at 121× 109.m3.km.

TABLE I: INPUTS AND OUTPUT LINGUISTIC VARIABLES AND FUZZY/CRISP VALUES

| Input/output       | Linguistic var.          | Crisp value |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Product (service)  | Crude-oil                | 1.5         |
|                    | White prod.              | 2.5         |
|                    | Fuel oil                 | 3.5         |
|                    | Crude prod.              | 4.5         |
|                    | Lubes                    | 5.5         |
| Facility           | Underground              | 1.5         |
|                    | Above-ground             | 2.5         |
|                    | Pump station             | 3.5         |
| Land use           | Res-ival high density    | 1.5         |
|                    | Res-ival low density     | 2.5         |
|                    | Agricultural             | 3.5         |
|                    | Indust-commercial       | 4.5         |
|                    | Jungle hills             | 5.5         |
| Pipeline age       | New                      | 1.5         |
|                    | Medium                   | 2.5         |
|                    | Old                      | 3.5         |
| Pipeline diameter  | Small                    | 1.5         |
|                    | Medium                   | 2.5         |
|                    | Old                      | 3.5         |
| Failure type       | Mechanical               | 1.5         |
|                    | Operational              | 2.5         |
|                    | Corrosion                | 3.5         |
|                    | Natural hazard           | 4.5         |
|                    | Third party              | 5.5         |

D. Fuzzy Rules

Fuzzy Expert System (FES) should have a group of rules which will define the value or level of a prediction-maker encountering uncertain results. Total group of rules is generally accepted as a rule base or awareness base, which must screen the full universe of discourse of input and crop fuzzy membership variables. The fuzzy rules utilized are in the style of if-then rules:

\[
\text{IF } Q \text{ is } q_n \text{ AND } W \text{ is } w_n \text{ AND } E \text{ is } e_n \text{ AND } R \text{ is } r_n \text{ AND } U \text{ is } u_n \text{ THEN } FT \text{ is } f_{tn}\]

where \( Q = \text{service}; \ W = \text{facility}; \ E = \text{age}; \ R = \text{land use}; \ U = \text{diameter}; \ FT = \text{failure category}; \ q_n = \text{service category } n \) (e.g., crude oil, white product, fuel product, crude product, or lubes); \( w_n = \text{facility category } n \) (e.g., underground, above ground, or pump station); \( e_n = \text{age category } n \) (e.g., new, medium and old); \( r_n = \text{land use type } n \) (e.g., residential low density, res. High density, agronomic, manufacturing/commercial and jungle hills); \( u_n = \text{diameter category } n \) (e.g., small, medium and large); and \( f_{tn} = \text{failure type } n \) (e.g., mechanical, operational, corrosion, natural hazard and third party).

III. RESULTS

Throughout this project, the failure type prediction for oil and gas pipeline was obtained with the approach of mathematical modelling software MATLAB Simulink to estimate pipelines’ condition in the future. Model outcome mapping between 5 inputs which are service type, facility, land use, pipeline age and pipeline diameter and 1 output as shown in Fig. 3 and 4. Failure type will be based on the input values. In other words, based on the historical data we generated rules which makes decision. FIS editor was used for this model which handles the high-level issues for the system such as number of inputs and output variables names.
on 5 input values. It displays the surface that represents the
surface view of the shows the failure type output based
on input values. It shows high value and low values for output based
on input values.

By changing the trigger point (red line) on input variables,
the output numbers are not integer values. For each input values we
assigned membership functions for an input. For the service input we
ranged it from 1 to 5. For the output value we ranged it from 1 to 5.

Each row in Fig. 3 and 4 represents fuzzy rules developed
for failure prediction and each column shows the set of
membership functions for an input. For the service input we
ranged it from 1 to 5, land use and facility type to failure type. We can select any
2 inputs to view on one surface map. In this case we have 5
inputs and 1 output, and they are shown in Fig. 5. The
results obtained from this model met the expectations and
hence the model is viable and can be utilized in future
studies. It shows high value and low values for output based on input values.

| Rule No | IF service is | AND facility is | AND age is |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1       | White product | Above ground    | Medium      |
| 2       | White product | Pump station    | Medium      |
| 3       | Fuel oil      | Above ground    | Medium      |
| 4       | Fuel oil      | Underground     | Medium      |
| 5       | Crude oil     | Above ground    | Medium      |
| 6       | Crude oil     | Above ground    | New         |
| 7       | Lubes         | Underground     | New         |
| 8       | Crude product | Underground     | New         |
| 9       | Crude product | Underground     | New         |
| 10      | White product | Pump station    | New         |
| 11      | White product | Pump station    | Medium      |
| 12      | Fuel oil      | Above ground    | Medium      |
| 13      | Fuel oil      | Underground     | Medium      |
| 14      | Crude product | Underground     | New         |
| 15      | Crude product | Underground     | New         |
| 16      | Lubes         | Underground     | Medium      |
| 17      | Lubes         | Underground     | Medium      |
| 18      | Crude oil     | Above ground    | New         |
| 19      | Fuel oil      | Above ground    | Old         |
| 20      | Crude product | Above ground    | New         |
| 21      | White product | Pump station    | Medium      |
| 22      | Fuel oil      | Pump station    | Medium      |
| 23      | Crude oil     | Underground     | Old         |
| 24      | White product | Underground     | New         |
| 25      | Fuel oil      | Underground     | New         |
| 26      | Lubes         | Underground     | New         |
| 27      | Crude product | Medium          | New         |
| 28      | White product | Above ground    | Medium      |
| 29      | Fuel oil      | Underground     | New         |

| AND land use is | AND diameter is | THEN failure type is |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Industrial or commercial | Small | Third party |
| Industrial or commercial | Medium | Corrosion |
| Agricultural | Medium | Third party |
| Industrial or commercial | Medium | Operational |
| Industrial or commercial | Small | Corrosion |
| Residential high density | Medium | Third party |
| Industrial or commercial | Small | Mechanical |
| Residential low density | Medium | Third party |
| Residential high density | Medium | Natural hazard |
| Industrial or commercial | Small | Corrosion |
| Jungle hills | Medium | Operational |
| Industrial or commercial | Medium | Natural hazard |
| Industrial or commercial | Small | Operational |
| Agricultural | Small | Third party |
| Industrial or commercial | Large | Third party |
| Residential low density | Medium | Third party |
| Residential low density | Small | Operational |
| Industrial or commercial | Large | Mechanical |
| Industrial or commercial | Small | Natural hazard |
| Jungle hills | Small | Operational |
| Industrial or commercial | Large | Third party |
| Industrial or commercial | Medium | Third party |
| Residential low density | Medium | Corrosion |
| Residential low density | Medium | Operational |
| Residential high density | Medium | Mechanical |
| Industrial or commercial | Medium | Third party |
IV. MODEL VALIDATION

As an additional validation for the modelled system, the results obtained from this simulation were compared to those which was obtained in previous studies by Senuoci et al [2]. Using linear regression, previous models were developed and tested by applying the same data which was used for this work. The total number of 40 accidents were used for model validation. As a result, fuzzy logic model can be considered best among other tools. The second reason is that the model is powerful in obtaining closest outputs especially in diameter and age inputs. The aim of stage is to assess and test the model which has predicted and to check the effectiveness of it using numerical validation. Overall 30 incidents extracted from the CONCAWE 1971-2015 report utilized to validate the model. Eqs. (1) and (2) show one way for determining the average validity and average invalidity ratios for predict the error percentage. The model is robust for an AIP value near to 0.1 and not applicable for an AIP value near to 99 [10]. Likewise, the RMSE is predicted using Eq. (3). If the value of the RMSE is near to 0, the validation is sound and the other way around. In Eq. (4) defined the MAE and it ranges from 0 to limitlessness. For good results MAE must be close to zero [11].

\[
AIP = \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} 1 - \left( \frac{E_i}{C_i} \right) \right)}{n} \times 100
\]  

(1)

\[
AVP = 100 - AIP
\]  

(2)

\[
RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (C_i - E_i^2)^2}{n}}
\]  

(3)

\[
MAE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} |C_i - E_i|}{n}
\]  

(4)

Developed fuzzy model predicted results with AVP percent = 82 %, MAE = 0.11 and RMSE = 0.15

Another way to calculate the AIP is applied to test. The approach is simply summing the number of wrong predictions \((n_{wp})\) and divide it by the sum of events \((n)\) as shown in Eq. (5). Then we can calculate the value of AVP referring to Eq. (2) as earlier mentioned.

\[
AIP = \frac{n_{wp}}{n}
\]  

(5)

This approach showed that AVP value of 70%. We shall take note that this approach gave AVP values lesser than achieved in the first way. This is because the second way takes that an event is totally wrong if its anticipated failure type was unlike from the real one.

V. CONCLUSION

This study shows the advancement of a fuzzy archetype to predict types of failures of oil and gas pipelines given many predictors especially the service type, land use, facility, location, age, and diameter of the pipe. The best in class in oil and gas pipeline failures was audited including the sorts of failures and the basic components influencing these failure sorts. Moreover, fuzzy rules of the archetype, fuzzy input and output variables will be constructed to cap
mainly the oil pipeline failure types. The industrialized archetype will be authenticated and certified. Results showed in this project were satisfactory due to the optimal validities. Obtained AVP, MAE, and RMSE equal to 70%, 0.11, and 0.15, respectively. Fuzzy model showed that all inputs and factors have significant influence on the output results. Results obtained using this model beat the results taken from other two methods (ANN and regression analysis). Service input values is the most sensitive factor in modelling this approach while facility was the slightest. In addition, model was not trained well enough to predict natural hazards failure type due to that actual results in CONCAWE report was limited to this failure type. Therefore, studies in the future for this project need to be done including pipeline material specifications for input variables. Another confinment is that demonstrate can't give yield an incentive in whole number qualities frame, which is imperative in choice yield number. Overall, this study helps the researchers and operators in the future to predict the condition of pipeline and failure types considering all inputs and giving precise output.

To get more accurate results it advisable to collect more data about the pipeline in further studies. Finally, simulation with Fuzzy logic approach is gave more accurate and good results compared to other models.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The authors declare no conflict of interest

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Tahyr Garlyyev conducted the research and prepared the manuscript; Srinivasa Rao supervised the research and verified the data; Venkateswara Rao analyzed the data; all authors had approved the final version.

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