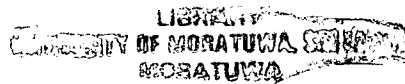


FUZZY EXPERT SYSTEM FOR ESTIMATING USAGE RATES FOR LABOUR, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL

BY

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THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL
ENGINEERING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE



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Dedication

To My Parents



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Declaration

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains neither materials previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma or a university or other institute of higher studies, except where an acknowledgment is made in the text.

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Acknowledgement

It is with great pleasure that I say a very special “Thanks” to the Vice Chancellor, Dean-Faculty of Engineering, Director-Post Graduate Studies and the Chairman and the members of the Senate Research Committee of the University of Moratuwa for offering me the privilege of doing my Master Degree. I should extend my thanks to my Financier, the ADB for entitling me for a scholarship to undergo this research study.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Head, Department of Civil Engineering for providing with all the necessary resources and support for successfully carrying out the study. I am grateful indeed to the Departmental Research Coordinator and the examination panel for their continuous assessment and advice.

I express my profound gratitude and thanks to my research supervisor Dr. Asoka Perera of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa for his advice, guidance and encouragement, which really strengthened me to go ahead with my research.



I say a big Thank you to the Faculty and staff of Construction Engineering and Management division of the Department of Civil Engineering for their support in carrying out this research work. I appreciate with Thanks the help provided by those who are engaged in the construction industry of Sri Lanka and abroad.

The last but not the least that I mention the word “thank you” to my family members and colleagues.

Once again thank you all.

May God bless us all.

R. Shiyamasuntharan

May 2005.

Abstract

The importance of cost estimating is well recognized as it predicts the costs of construction and provides a basis for the contractor to submit a bid for a project. As each project is unique and no two are quite alike, subjective judgments are needed to adjust the estimating norms, which are based on historical data and experience of estimators to suit the proposed site conditions. Hence, the estimating practice has large element of subjective process rather than a precise technical and analytical process.

The direct cost is established with two types of data namely factual and productivity. Factual data are fixed and can be determined with certainty. However, productivity data are not permanently fixed and need subjective judgments of estimators in determination. The established average norms of direct cost elements such as labour, equipment and material have to be adjusted to suit each project conditions.

This study aimed at developing a fuzzy expert model, which produces a deterministic output for productivity multiplier to adjust the standard rates. As a mode of approach factors, which include activity characteristics and project conditions, influencing resource usage are identified. Further, relationships among the factors and resource usage are quantified using generalized expert knowledge and an artificial intelligence technique called fuzzy logic. The use of fuzzy expert system removes the subjective questionable human factors as much as possible by providing a base with objective data and improves the efficiency of the estimating practice.

Keywords: Fuzzy Logic, Cost Estimating, Standard Norms, Activity Characteristics and Project Conditions

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Abbreviations

ANN	Artificial Neural Networks
BOQ	Bills of Quantities
BSR	Building Schedule of Rates
CIOB	Chartered Institute of Building
KMO	Kaiser- Meyer- Olkin measure of sampling accuracy



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