An earned schedule-based regression model to improve cost estimate at completion

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Abstract

Traditional Earned Value Management (EVM) index-based methods for Cost Estimate at Completion (CEAC) of an ongoing project have been known for their limitations inherent with both the assumption that past EVM data is the best available information and early-stage unreliability.

In an attempt to overcome such limitations, a new CEAC methodology is proposed based on a modified index-based formula predicting expected cost for the remaining work with the Gompertz growth model via nonlinear regression curve fitting. Moreover, the proposed equation accounts for the schedule progress as a factor of cost performance. To this end, it interpolates into its equation an Earned Schedule-based factor indicating expected duration at completion. The proposed model shows itself to be more accurate and precise in all early, middle, and late stage estimates than those of four compared traditional index-based formulae.

The developed methodology is a practical tool for Project Managers to better incorporate the progress status into the task of computing CEAC and is a contribution to extending EVM research to better capture the inherent relation between cost and schedule factors.

Keywords: Cost estimate at completion; Earned schedule; Earned value management; Regression analysis.

1. Introduction

Forecasting project cost at completion is of great importance to project management success.

It is a forward looking tool to assist Project Managers with the task of making timely and

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