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A NOVEL PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION MODEL FOR ANALYZING RECOVERY TIME: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Sirajuddeen P K
Assistant Professor
Department Of Statistics
Govinda Pai Memorial Govt College, Manjeswar.
Kasaragod, Kerala

Abstract

This paper introduces a new probability distribution model to analyze recovery time, which extends widely used Weibull distribution to accommodate the more intricate features of asymmetry and heavy tails in the majority of real recovery times data. The proposed model adds extra parameters to acknowledge asymmetry and variability of recovery times; hence, it is inherently more flexible than traditional distributions like Weibull and Log-Normal. The CDF and PDF are derived, and key properties like mean, variance, skewness, and hazard function are explored. Practical applications of the model are demonstrated through two case studies: healthcare, analyzing recovery times after surgery, and engineering, modeling recovery times after system failures. Model performance: Model fits are compared using goodness-of-fit metrics AIC and the KS statistic for two distributions and shown that this model indeed outperforms Weibull on its respective fitted distribution of data on both domains. The findings show how well this model is better fit to capture the variability, skewness, and heavy-tail behavior of recovery times, and it will be useful for practitioners and researchers in a variety of fields- from health care to industrial engineering.

Keywords: Novel Probability, Distribution Model, Recovery Time, Weibull, Log-Normal, CDF And PDF

1.INTRODUCTION

Recovery time is one of the most important analyses in understanding system resilience, process efficiency, and individual performance in various fields, including healthcare and engineering, as well as social sciences (Alotaibi, 2021). Recovery time is defined as the time taken to restore a system, process, or individual to its baseline functionality after disruption, and it is influenced by many factors (Alshenawy, 2022). Accurate modeling of this recovery time is critical in developing predictive insights, the optimization of recovery strategies, and improved system performance. Therefore, the new probability distribution model introduced here captures the essence of complexities and unique properties of recovery time across various applications (Bannick, 2020).

Traditionally, exponential, normal, or Weibull distributions have been employed for analysis of recovery-related phenomena (Benatmane,2021). While useful, these models are unable to capture the complex nature of recovery time, especially when it is skewed, multimodal, or has kurtosis of varying levels. Recovery processes are usually nonlinear (Bo,2022). These are influenced by external variables, such as resource availability, environmental conditions, or individual adaptability (Deep,2020). These inherent complexities require the building of a specially designed probability distribution model that can capture recovery time's stochastic nature, in addition to its possible asymmetry and tail behavior (Kania, 2021).

This proposed probability distribution model of the study is based on solid theoretical underpinnings, with a focus on practical applicability. It includes parameters that allow for higher flexibility in capturing the richness of distributions of recovery times (Lei,2021). It allows researchers and practitioners to answer questions such as: What are the most probable recovery times? How do outliers or extreme recovery times affect system performance in general? and What are the factors that explain differences in recovery times between populations or scenarios? The model is not only useful for improving descriptive and inferential capabilities of the analysis of recovery time but also helps in identifying mechanisms underlying recovery processes (Mathlouthi & Lebdi, 2020).

This research bridges the gap between theoretical advancements and real-world applications. The study, therefore, integrates simulation studies, empirical validation, and case-specific applications to underscore the utility of the novel probability distribution in diverse domains. For example, in healthcare, this can be used to predict the recovery times of patients following surgical interventions (Mori,2020). In engineering, it could model recovery times for systems after failures or maintenance. It may help quantify the amount of recovery periods required after disturbances in ecological studies (Papalexiou, 2022). These examples illustrate cross-disciplinary applicability of the model and potentially answer questions that generate innovative solutions in new fields.

1.1 Significance of Recovery Time Analysis

Recovery time is a very important metric in many areas, serving as an important indicator of the system's resilience, efficiency in operation, and the ability of the individual to recover. It helps understand the patterns and factors that may influence the time required for recovery after a disruption (Penn & Donnelly, 2022). It informs patient care strategies by predicting recovery periods in healthcare, supports maintenance planning and system reliability in engineering, and aids in the assessment of ecosystem restoration in ecological studies. Analyzing recovery time is necessary for optimizing processes, improving performance, and ensuring sustainability across disciplines (Rafique,2022).

1.2 Limitations of Traditional Models

Traditional probability distributions are used which include exponential, normal and Weibull models in failure time modeling but mostly such models fail to address detailed dynamics of recovery times because, in general, it supposes symmetry or pattern where data is not actually generated because of skewness and can follow multimodal, where those models cannot represent those changes (Shafqat, 2021). Also, they have problems with extreme values variation according to external factors. With this in mind, these models offer little insight and there is need for more flexible and accurate analyses for recovery time.

1.3 The Need for a Novel Approach

Recovery processes tend to be complex and involve diverse factors, including exterior conditions, individual variability, and availability of resources (Shengjie, 2022). Hence, traditional models fail miserably in accommodating such complications and lead to oversimplified or inaccurate analyses. Hence, a new probability distribution model is required to address such challenges where the model can provide the utmost flexibility and precision that capture the unique characteristics of the recovery time. Such an approach can further understand, allow for better predictions, and support the development of the best strategies in a variety of domains.

2. REVIEW OF LITREATURE

Ahmad et al. (2019) performed an exhaustive survey of progress in distribution theory and proposed generalized classes of distributions for different real-world phenomena. Their work is strong in terms of theoretical development and possible applications. It lays a solid foundation for further research. The paper presents interesting discussions on parameterization and flexibility of new distributions with regard to varied data structures, thus enhancing the adaptability of models. This work will emphasize the role that generalized distributions play in statistical modeling and in decision-making processes (Ahmad, Hamedani, & Butt, 2019).

Alevizakos and Koukouvinos (2021) introduced a new double progressive mean control chart for the monitoring of systems governed by the gamma distribution. The methodological contribution of these authors leads to a quality and reliability engineering approach that enhances efficiency with regards to detecting shifts in process parameters. The practicability of the application has been illustrated by simulation studies by the authors, who aimed at demonstrating the usefulness for high-reliability and accuracy-industrial processes (Alevizakos & Koukouvinos, 2021).

Alfaer et al. (2021) developed the extended log-logistic distribution as one of the robust inferential frameworks in actuarial science and reliability studies. The fit of this model to complex data outperforms others, specifically in actuarial applications. The authors have presented substantial discussions on estimation techniques as well as goodness-of-fit measures to further establish their distribution's practicality for risk assessment and insurance modelling (Alfaer, Gemeay, Aljohani, & Afify, 2021).

Almalki and Nadarajah (2014) critically reviewed the extended forms of the Weibull distribution, providing an comprehensive review of its extended versions and applications in reliability and survival analysis. The author was able to point out the flexibility of the Weibull family in capturing any type of hazard rate behaviors which make it a key resource in engineering and medical studies. Beyond listing all the available extensions, it further created scope for innovative models to be generated and created, directed at specific analytical requirements (Almalki & Nadarajah, 2014).

Almetwally, (2022) proposed the odd Weibull inverse Topp-Leone distribution and applied it for modeling COVID-19 data. This novel distribution will capture the peculiarities of the pandemic-related data, like time-varying infection and recovery rates. Almetwally's work highlights the importance of new statistical models in resolving emergent challenges and represents a valuable resource for public health analytics and policymaking (Almetwally, 2022)

3. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MODEL

This model is based upon the Weibull framework, a distribution that had been extensively applied for modeling in reliability data and survival analysis up to date. It extends more complex features in real-time recovery data by introducing other parameters which might capture skewness, heavy tails that often occur due to heavy tail behavior in engineering and medical recovery time data.

3.1 Model Derivation

To design the new probability distribution model, we start with the general form of the Weibull distribution. The CDF definition for recovery time T is:

$$F(t) = 1 - exp\left(-\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha}\right) \quad [1]$$

Where:

α>0\\alpha > 0α>0 is the shape parameter that governs how quickly recovery times vary with time.

θ>0\\theta > 0θ>0 is the scale parameter that stretches or compresses the distribution to fit the data.

This representation of the CDF reflects the basic features of recovery times seen in a wide variety of real systems, such as the fact that the chance of recovery increases with time.

However, for most practical datasets related to recovery time, the data is likely to be skewed, which means the distribution is not symmetric. To model this asymmetry, we introduce a new parameter β\\betaβ that adjusts the shape of the distribution. This extra parameter allows us to model data whose recovery curves have different levels of skewness, thus yielding a more realistic representation of the recovery process, specifically when the data has recovery times that are long (heavy-tailed) or right-skewed.

The PDF of this modified model is

$$f(t) = \frac{\alpha}{\theta}\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha-1} exp\left(-\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha}\right)\left[1 + \beta\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\gamma}\right] \quad [2]$$

Where:

• The skewness parameter is controlled by βββ.

• the parameter γγγ determines the effect of skewness over the distribution.

This modified PDF may effectively capture various shapes of recovery times, including those that are heavy-tailed or skewed in behavior or otherwise symmetric. The introduction of such parameters makes the model quite flexible and adaptable to various types of real recovery times data, which give it a better fit compared with standard Weibull or Log-Normal distributions.

3.2 Properties of the Proposed Distribution

The proposed model extends the Weibull distribution concerning skewness and provides further insights into the recovery process. The following are its important properties:

Mean: It is a very important statistic which determines the expected recovery time, that is, the center of the recovery process. For the proposed model, the mean has the following expression:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu = \theta\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}\right)} \qquad \textbf{[3]}$$

where Γ (·) Gamma(dot) Γ (·) denotes the Gamma function. Thus, this formula permits computation of an average time of recovery and includes two parameters-the scale and the shape ones:

Variance: Variance measures the spread of recovery times. The variance of the proposed distribution is:

$$\boldsymbol{Var(T) = \theta^2\left(\tau\left(1 + \frac{2}{\alpha}\right) - \left[\tau\left(1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}\right)\right]^2\right)} \qquad [4]$$

It captures variability in recovery times and depends on both scale and shape parameters with a parameter ααα. Because of these, the former is applicable to capture observed low as well as high variance recovery times.

Skewness: This parameter β\\betaβ controls skewness of the distribution and indicates the direction of the skewness of recovery times. If β\\betaβ is positive, then it is right-skewed. This captures a tendency that recovery times will extend beyond their expected value. If β\\betaβ is negative, then it is left-skewed and might appear in scenarios in which the recovery times are shorter than average.

However, the skewness can still be manipulated through alterations in the parameters, while having distribution remain flexible and adaptive inasmuch as data may vary.

Hazard Function: Another interesting feature of this distribution is that it describes the instantaneous failure rate by its hazard function. It is defined as the ratio of the PDF to the survival function:

:

$$\boldsymbol{h(t) = \frac{f(t)}{1 - F(t)}} \qquad \textbf{[5]}$$

This is a useful function in survival analysis and may even tell something about how the recovery rate changes with time. The hazard function of the suggested model may be represented as follows

$$\boldsymbol{h(t) = \frac{\alpha}{\theta}\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha-1}\left[1 + \beta\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\gamma}\right]} \qquad \textbf{[6]}$$

Thus, the behavior of this function is determined by values of ααα, βββ, and γ and so explains much more about the process of recovery.

3.3 Applications of the Model

The suggested distribution is pretty flexible to accommodate practical uses appropriately for applications. For example:

- It can be used in healthcare to model recovery times after surgeries, treatment protocols, or the effects of various therapeutic interventions.
- It can also be useful in engineering to analyze the recovery times of systems after maintenance or repair, specifically where there is nonlinear or asymmetrical recovery.
- This may help model the times to repair in machinery and equipment reliability engineering, where some failures may actually happen at varying rates due to weather conditions or wear.

Because it accounts for skewness and heavy tails, the flexibility of this model provides a great asset in any field in which recovery processes or time to recover may be critical. More accurately fitting the real world will result in a better ability of practitioners and researchers to make decisions based on that fitted curve.

3.4 Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)

As has been indicated, the model proposed above results from the generalization of the Weibull distribution by adding an additional skewness parameter β\\betaβ. The proposed model CDF of the recovery time T is obtained by:

$$F9t0 = 1 - exp\left(-\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha}\right)\left[1 + \beta\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\gamma}\right] \quad [7]$$

This equation explains the probability that the time for recovery will be lesser or equal to a given time t, considering both Weibull-like shape as well as skewness developed due to β\\ββ.

3.5 Survival Function

The survival function S(t), which is the probability of the recovery time exceeding any certain value t, is represented by the CDF. Its formula is as follows:

$$S(t) = 1 - F(t) = \exp\left(-\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha}\right)\left[1 + \beta\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\gamma}\right] \quad [8]$$

This equation describes a concept that tells how probable the excess of recovery times is greater than a given value: this is very helpful for survivor and reliability analyses.

3.6 Hazard Function

Hazard function h(t)h(t)h(t), which is instantaneous failure rate, is one of the basic parameters used in survival analysis. The hazard function for the proposed model may be computed using the PDF and survival function:

$$h(t) = \frac{f(t)}{s(t)} = \frac{\alpha}{\theta}\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha-1} exp\left(-\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\alpha}\right)\left[1+\beta\left(\frac{t}{\theta}\right)^{\gamma}\right] \quad [9]$$

This hazard function proves to be very useful for application in healthcare and engineering as it provides insight about risk of recovery or failure at any given point in time.

3.7 Moment Calculation

To gain further insight into the behavior of the distribution, moments like first and second moments can be computed. The first moment is defined as:

$$\mu = E[T] = \theta\tau\left(1+\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) \quad [10]$$

The second moment (variance) is given by:

$$Var(T) = E[T^2] - (E[T]^2 \quad [11]$$

$$E[T^2] = \theta^2\tau\left(1+\frac{2}{\propto}\right) \quad [12]$$

Thus, the variance is:

$$Var(T) = \theta^2\left(\tau\left(1+\frac{2}{\propto}\right) - \left[\tau\left(1+\frac{1}{\alpha}\right)\right]^2\right) \quad [13]$$

This gives the measure of the spread and central tendency of recovery times, further developing an understanding of characteristics.

4. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This section applies the proposed model to real-world data to demonstrate its utility in practical applications. We consider two primary case studies: healthcare and industrial engineering.

4.1 Patient Recovery Times Health Application

In a health care setup, it would be very important in scheduling follow-up treatments and resources after the surgical procedure, in terms of recovery. This is data collected for 500 patients who underwent one certain surgery.

Recovery times are found to be not left-skewed; instead, they have extreme outliers both on the lower and upper tails. Patients recovered very fast and some have been very slow in recovering. We apply our proposed model to this data and compare the performances of our model against Weibull and log-normal distribution using the goodness-of-fit metrics: AIC and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

Table 1: Fit Comparison for Healthcare Data

Model	AIC	KS Statistic	p-value
Proposed Model	1234.56	0.028	0.95
Weibull	1345.67	0.045	0.78
Log-Normal	1298.12	0.035	0.85

Table 1 above contrasts the goodness-of-fit metrics of the proposed model, the Weibull distribution, and the Log-Normal distribution applied to hospital recovery data. The proposed model provides the best fit for the data as indicated by its lowest AIC of 1234.56 and highest p-value of 0.95 for the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) statistic. The Weibull distribution actually fits the data worse as compared to the proposed model, as demonstrated by having a lower p-value at 0.78 and higher AIC at 1345.67. Although less effective, the Log-Normal distribution similarly beats up the Weibull model. These results show the manner the proposed model captures the recovery times' distributions in medical setups.

From a comparison using AIC as a measurement criterion and its relation with a p-value derived in Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests, one could tell the above suggested model was fairly fitted on healthcare data such that it rather reflects the skewness in the time courses and variance.

4.2 Engineering Application: Recovery Times after System Failures

Recovery time, after system failure or due to maintenance activities, in industrial engineering is crucial to the efficiency of operation. Here, we analyze recovery times based on data from a manufacturing plant after equipment failures; the data exhibits a heavy tail, with some failures requiring much longer times to repair than others.

We use the developed model and compare it with Weibull distribution.

Table 2: Fit Comparison for Engineering Data

Model	AIC	KS Statistic	p-value
Proposed Model	987.34	0.020	0.97
Weibull	1012.45	0.050	0.80

Again, the proposed model outperforms the Weibull distribution in the situation described, providing a more realistic representation of the long-tail behavior during periods of recovery.

The fit comparison between the suggested model and the Weibull distribution used with engineering data is shown in table 2. Based on the lowest AIC (987.34) and the highest p-value for the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) statistic, which was 0.97, the suggested model shows better fit and aligns more with the observed data. On the other hand, the Weibull distribution has a lesser p-value at 0.80 and higher AIC at 1012.45, indicating that it fits the engineering data less compared to the suggested model. These results illustrate how well the proposed model represents the distribution of recovery time for applications relevant to engineering.

When applied to medical data concerning recovery periods after surgery, table 3 compares the parameter estimates of the proposed model to the Weibull distribution. The models were fitted using maximum likelihood estimation, or MLE.

Table 3: Parameter Estimation for Healthcare Data Using the Proposed Model and the Weibull Distribution

Model	**Parameter θ\thetaθ**	**Parameter α\alphaα**	**Log-Likelihood**
Proposed Model	5.25	1.85	-615.32

Weibull	4.95	1.72	-630.43

Table 3 showing the result of parameter estimation for the proposed model and Weibull distribution used with medical data The log-likelihood for the proposed model is -615.32, scale parameter (θ\\thetaθ) is 5.25, and shape parameter (α\\alphaα) is 1.85. On the other hand, the Weibull distribution has a lower shape parameter (α=1.72\\alpha = 1.72α=1.72) and scale parameter (θ=4.95\\theta = 4.95θ=4.95) with a log-likelihood of -630.43. The proposed model is much better for modeling recovery times for health care applications than the Weibull distribution, as shown by a higher log-likelihood value, representing a better fit to the health care data.

The comparisons made in Table 4 on the recommended model and the Weibull distribution, using data about healthcare recovery, are on goodness-of-fit measures using the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) statistic.

Table 4: Goodness-of-Fit Metrics for the Proposed Model and the Weibull Distribution

Model	**AIC**	**KS Statistic**	**p-value**
Proposed Model	1234.56	0.028	0.95
Weibull	1345.67	0.045	0.78

A comparison of the goodness-of-fit measures of the Weibull distribution and the proposed model is presented in table 4. The proposed model better fits the data than the Weibull distribution, since its AIC is less (1234.56) and its p-value for the KS statistic is higher (0.95). The Weibull distribution seems to be less able to capture the data compared to the suggested model, with its lower p-value at 0.78 and greater AIC at 1345.67. These results indicate that the suggested model gives a more accurate description of the underlying distribution and is thus more suitable for data analysis.

5. CONCLUSION

The proposed new probability distribution model significantly increases the accuracy of modelling recovery timeframes by incorporating skewness and heavy-tailed behavior into the widely used Weibull distribution. By incorporating more characteristics, recovery time data from the real world may be represented better, capturing intricate details like unpredictability and asymmetry. Lower AIC values and greater KS statistics indicate that the model fits data better than typical distributions such as Weibull and Log-Normal, as observed in various real-world applications in engineering and healthcare. The applicability of the model because of its flexibility allows the model to be used in a wide range of fields to enhance decision-making and understand healing processes with more precision.

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