



New Software Reliability Growth Model: Piratical Swarm Optimization-Based Parameter Estimation in Environments with Uncertainty and Dependent Failures

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Abstract In this paper our software solutions are delivered and installed in field conditions that are either identical to or comparable to development and test environments. As a result, they can also be used in a variety of settings that differ from the ones in which they were created and tested. Software dependability can be difficult to increase for a variety of reasons, including a particular environment or a flaw in the code. In this research, we offer a novel software reliability model that considers operating environment unpredictability. It has been explained the proposed model and other models of the non-homogeneous Poisson process (NHPP) is demonstrated with examples. Has been used two sets of defect data from software applications. We estimated all models' parameters by using the Cuckoo Search algorithm (CS) technique. We also conducted a simulation process to determine the good model. Through the results and their comparison with other NHPP models used, the proposed model is better than the other models and fits the data better.

Keywords NHPP; SRGM; New Process; Cuckoo Search algorithm (CS); Simulation

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1. Introduction

Software reliability growth models (SRGMs) typically assume NHPP and identical testing and operating environments with independent failures [1, 2]. Studies like this address imperfect debugging in NHPP models. Researchers [3, 4] proposed SRGMs accounting for fluctuating error counts during debugging.

Uncertain operational environments comprise a range of potential situations and circumstances, encompassing elements like the operating system, ambient settings, and hardware requirements in which users utilize the program. A model that takes into account variable operating settings and incorporates a Testing coverage function's S-shaped inflection was presented by [5, 6, 7]. Both internal and exterior elements, including voltage, regulation, programming tools, test settings, and hardware requirements, are examples of Environmental Factors (EFs). As demonstrated by [8], who took into account variables such as testing effort, abilities, and coverage, testing environments might differ. Randomness in the effort was investigated by [9] under uncertain testing and operational

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conditions. Although NHPP SRGMs generally presume separate failures, software failures can happen in a dependent manner due to how EFs interact. Researchers [10, 11] considered dependent failure occurrences.

SRGMs inform release and warranty policies in addition to evaluating dependability. An ideal release strategy that takes into account poor debugging was presented by [12]. Release rules based on change-point models were presented by [13, 14]. Research such as [15, 16, 17] combined entropy principles with pre-existing measurements to generate criteria for evaluating the goodness of fit of SRGMs. [18] provided sophisticated reliability ideas for hardware and software systems and suggested maintenance plans, whereas [19], gave multi-criteria decision-making techniques for comparing SRGMs. Software reliability analysis has been used for machine learning and deep learning methods in recent work [20, 21, 22].

The proposed model effectively addresses key challenges by explicitly incorporating environmental unpredictability, leading to more accurate and realistic reliability predictions. It also accounts for dependent failures, providing a more comprehensive understanding of failure dynamics and improving risk management [23, 24, 25]. By utilizing the Cuckoo Search algorithm for parameter estimation, the model handles complex data sets with enhanced accuracy, even when data quality is limited. Its user-friendly design simplifies parameter application, encouraging adoption among practitioners [26, 27]. Furthermore, the empirical validation of the model with real software defect data demonstrates its effectiveness and reliability in practical scenarios [28].

This paper aims to accomplish two goals: first, it presents a unique SRGM that tackles dependent failures as well as unpredictable operating situations. Although previous studies have concentrated on fault dependency or unpredictable settings, our model combines the two for a more thorough examination. Second, we evaluate our model's performance using real-world datasets. Our suggested approach outperforms models that only take dependent failures or uncertain surroundings into account, according to numerical studies, and produces more accurate failure predictions. In Section 2, we provide an overview of the fundamentals of NHPP SRGMs, present the models that are already in use, and describe the model that is suggested in this work. In Section 3, the cuckoo search (CS) algorithm's process is explained. In Section 4, the datasets and benchmarks utilized for this numerical investigation are presented. The simulation research is presented in Section 5, and the specifics of the numerical example using actual data are shown in Section 6. Lastly, the study's conclusions are presented in Section 7.

2. SRGM

2.1. Non-homogeneous Poisson Process

The NHPP, which is assumed by the majority of SRGMs, is described by the following equation

$$p[N(t) = y] = \frac{[m(t)]^y e^{-m(t)}}{y!}, \quad y = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (1)$$

It describes the total number of failures up to a specific execution time t , shown as $N(t)$ ($t > 0$). The predicted cumulative number of failures at time t is represented by the mean value function $m(t)$. As follows:

$$m(t) = \int_0^t \lambda(u) du, \quad 0 < \tau < \infty \quad (2)$$

With $m(t)$ [23], the NHPP-based dependability function may be stated as follows. The likelihood of no failures in the time interval $(0, t)$ is defined as the reliability function $R(t)$, which is provided by:

$$R(t) = p\{N(t) = 0\} = e^{-m(t)} \quad (3)$$

Reliability $R(y/t)$ generally indicates the likelihood that there won't be any failures during the period. $[t, t + y]$ is given by:

$$R\left(\frac{y}{t}\right) = p\{N(t+y) - N(t) = 0\} = e^{-[m(t+y) - m(t)]} \quad (4)$$

Equation 4 is called the SRGM or software reliability based on a non-homogeneous Poisson process (NHPP). The probability density functions as follows:

$$f(y) = \lambda(t+y) e^{-[m(t+y)-m(t)]} \quad (5)$$

2.2. Current Software Reliability Growth Models (SRGMs)

When we solve a differential equation, we notice that its form changes depending on the assumptions specified, and this is done by creating the mean value function $m(t)$ in NHPP SRGM is generated. This is the expression of the differential equation in the following [24]:

$$\frac{d}{dt}m(t) = b(t) [a(t) - m(t)] \quad (6)$$

The function $b(t)$ represents the failure detection rate for each fault, and the function $a(t)$ also represents the expected number of original failures [24].

Generally, A well-known differential equation that is industry standard describes the NHPP SRGM. The following is the derivation of the suggested model's mean value function [25], in order to take into account, the unpredictable operating circumstances taken into consideration in this study:

$$\frac{d}{dt}m(t) = \gamma b(t) [a(t) - m(t)] \quad (7)$$

This equation takes into account the unpredictable working environment by including the random variable η , which follows a generalized Gamma distribution $\gamma(\alpha, \beta)$.

2.3. Proposed Model

Many existing NHPP SRGMs operate under the assumption of identical testing and operating environments, with failures occurring independently. However, in reality, software failures can be interdependent and operational settings often differ from testing conditions. For example, an error in one code segment may trigger issues in related components, and background processes might interfere with software functionality. These scenarios result in dependent failures. In addition, creating test environments that accurately mimic all operational conditions poses challenges for testers. The operating environment encompasses various factors like operating systems (Windows, Mac, Linux), and hardware specs (CPU, GPU, RAM), alongside concurrent background processes. Our proposed model addresses both dependent errors and erratic working conditions. Numerically quantifying these habitats is complex; hence **Equation 7** introduces the random variable η to represent uncertain operating conditions. We introduce NHPP reliability model that takes operational environment unpredictability into account. Additionally, the ensuing presumptions [26] suggested to be:

$$a(t) = N \ \& \ b(t) = \frac{1}{b^2}t, \ b > 0 \quad (8)$$

Where $b(t)$ is represented as the fault detection rate per fault unit of time. **Equation 7** may be used to derive the mean value function $m(t)$ in the following manner [16]:

$$m(t) = \int N \left(1 - e^{-\gamma \int_0^t b(x) dx} \right) dg(\gamma) \quad (9)$$

A thorough software reliability model that incorporates the uncertainty related to the defect detection rate per unit of time in operational settings was recently proposed [24]. In this case, the random variable is described by a generalized probability density function g which has two positive parameters: α and β . The **Equation 9** gives the mean value function, which may be represented as follows:

$$m(t) = N \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha + \int_0^t b(x) dx} \right)^\alpha = N \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha + \int_0^t \frac{1}{b^2} x dx} \right)^\alpha \quad (10)$$

By simplifying Equation 10, we obtain the proposed model:

$$m(t) = N \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha + \frac{1}{2b^2} t^2} \right)^\alpha \quad (11)$$

3. Cuckoo Search Algorithms (CS)

In this section, a new bio-inspired optimization algorithm, namely the Cuckoo Search (CS) algorithm is proposed in (2014) by [27, 29, 30]. It mimics the hierarchal order in the Cuckoo search and the Behaviour of the Cuckoo swarm. The Cuckoo Search algorithm is particularly effective for solving complex optimization problems due to its simplicity and efficiency. The algorithm operates based on key principles derived from the natural behaviors of cuckoos [31, 32].

Optimization can be defined as a branch of knowledge, dealing with the discovery or investigation of optimal solutions to a particular problem within a set of alternatives [33], or it can be considered one of the key quantitative tools in a decision-making network where decisions must be made to optimize one or more objectives in a specific set of Circumstances. The cuckoo i , a Levy flight is performed, [27]:

$$x_i^{(i+1)} = x_i^i + \beta * Levy(\lambda) \quad (12)$$

Here β is the step size that should be related to the scales. Cuckoo Search has been successfully applied to a wide range of optimization problems, including function optimization, parameter estimation, feature selection, and machine learning model tuning. Its simplicity, effectiveness, and ability to handle multimodal and non-convex optimization problems make it a popular choice for optimization tasks [34].

Nesting and Replacement: In the Cuckoo Search algorithm, each cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. The nests represent potential solutions to the optimization problem. If a host bird discovers an egg that is not its own (i.e., a poor solution), it may abandon that nest, allowing the cuckoo to take over. This process introduces a mechanism to replace the less optimal solutions with better ones.

Selection of Best Solutions: The algorithm iteratively evaluates the quality of the nests (solutions) based on a predefined fitness function. The best solutions are retained, while poorer solutions are replaced, leading to an overall improvement in the search for optimal parameters.

3.1. Application to the Proposed Model

In the context of the proposed software reliability growth model, the Cuckoo Search algorithm is utilized for parameter estimation. The methodology involves the following steps:

Step 1. Model Formulation: The proposed model is based on a non-homogeneous Poisson process (NHPP) that accounts for dependent failures and unpredictable operating conditions. The mean value function $m(t)$ is derived analytically, which serves as the foundation for parameter estimation.

Step 2. Parameter Estimation: The Cuckoo Search algorithm is employed to estimate the parameters of the proposed model. This involves:

- Initializing a population of nests (potential parameter sets).
- Evaluating the fitness of each nest using the root mean square error (RMSE) between the observed defect data and the predicted values from the model.
- Iteratively updating the nests based on the Cuckoo Search principles, where nests are replaced or improved based on their fitness scores.

Table 1. MVF for the suggested model as well as the current NHPP SRGMs

| No. | Model | $m(t)$ |
|-----|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | DPF1 [10] | $\frac{a}{1 + \left(\frac{a}{b} \left(\frac{b+c}{c+be^{bt}}\right)^{\frac{a}{b}}\right)}$ |
| 2 | DPF2 [11] | $\frac{a}{1 + \left(\frac{a}{b} \left(\frac{1+c}{c+e^{bt}}\right)^a\right)}$ |
| 3 | DS [28] | $a(1 - (1 + bt)e^{-bt})$ |
| 4 | GO [29] | $a(1 - e^{-bt})$ |
| 5 | IS [30] | $\frac{a(1 - e^{-bt})}{1 + \beta e^{-bt}}$ |
| 6 | YID [31] | $a(1 - e^{-bt})\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{b}\right) + \alpha a t$ |
| 7 | PNZ [24] | $\frac{a(1 - e^{-bt})\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{b}\right) + \alpha a t}{1 + \beta e^{-bt}}$ |
| 8 | PZ [32] (by Pham–Zhang) | $\frac{(c+a)(1 - e^{-bt}) - \left(\frac{ab}{b-a}\right)(e^{-at} - e^{-bt})}{1 + \beta e^{-bt}}$ |
| 9 | TC [33] | $N\left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\beta + (at)^b}\right)^\alpha$ |
| 10 | VTUB [25] (VTUB model) | $N\left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\beta + (at)^b - 1}\right)^\alpha$ |
| 11 | Suggested Model (New) | $N\left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha + \frac{1}{2b^2}t^2}\right)^\alpha$ |

Step 3. Simulation and Comparison: After estimating the parameters, the model’s performance is assessed through simulations. The results are compared against existing NHPP models using various goodness-of-fit metrics, such as MSE, SAE, PRR, and AIC. This comparison helps to validate the effectiveness of the proposed model in accurately predicting software reliability under uncertain conditions.

4. Comparing Models

A set of comparison standards is provided in this section. that we will use to objectively analyse the models in order to determine which one is the best.

4.1. Model Comparison Criteria

The model parameters are estimated using MATLAB software that applies the root mean square error (RMSE) method once the analytical formula for the mean function $m(t)$ has been derived. The five standard metrics (predictive power (PP), mean square error (MSE), absolute sum error (SAE), prediction risk ratio (PRR), and Akaike information criterion (AIC)) are used to test the recommended model for goodness of fit and to compare it with other models [24]. These criteria apply to the proposed model and some common NHPP models, such as those listed in Table 1. It is important to note that models 9 in Table 1 take into account the unpredictability of the environment. The names of the authors or the attributes of each model are abbreviated. Although the proposed model (New) takes into account dependent failures and unpredictable operational circumstances, VTUB assumes uncertain operating environments.

4.2. Limitations of the Proposed Model

The proposed model, while addressing dependent failures, makes certain assumptions about these dependencies, such as linear relationships, which may not always align with real-world scenarios. Although it considers environmental unpredictability, it might oversimplify the diverse factors affecting software performance, such as varying hardware, software configurations, and user interactions. The model’s accuracy is also contingent on the quality and availability of defect data; incomplete or biased data can significantly impact results. Additionally, the model may not fully account for the complexity of modern software systems, where interactions among numerous

components can lead to unpredictable behaviors. It assumes static parameters over time, potentially overlooking the dynamic nature of software development, which requires ongoing model updates. Finally, while validated with specific defect data, the model's generalizability to other software systems or domains may be limited.

4.3. Estimation of the Cuckoo Search Algorithm

In this section, we estimate the mean value function of the NHPP SRGM by using the Cuckoo Search (CS) method, taking into account all the evaluation criteria mentioned in Table 4. The suggested algorithm is defined as follows using Matlab2019a:

Step 1: Identify each of: the number of particles $N = 50$; the number of iterations with $i_{max} = 100$;

Step 2: The positions of each particle, representing estimations for all parameters, are randomly determined. Initially, these positions are generated from a uniform distribution within the range $[0,1]$.

Step 3: We define the objective function based on the models defined in Table 1.

Step 4: The fitness function is set as $RMSE$, in which $RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^Q (\hat{\gamma}_i - \gamma)^2}{Q}}$

Step 5: Generate the initial population randomly.

Step 6: Enter the main loop of the CS.

Step 7: The Cuckoo Search algorithm is based on the following equations:

Levy Flight: $s_i(t+1) = s_i(t) + aL(\lambda)(s_i(t) - s_j(t))$

Cuckoo's Nest Selection: $s_j(t+1) = s_i(t+1)$

Random walk: $s_i(t+1) = s_i(t) + aN(0,1)$

Step 8: By periodically replacing nests, the algorithm can explore the search space more effectively and potentially find better solutions.

Step 9: Perform Greedy selection.

Step 10: The estimators of parameters are adjusted based on the resultant value of the objective function RMSE.

Step 11: Steps 4 and 7 are repeated until i_{max} is reached.

5. Simulation

A study employing simulation techniques is conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of various estimation methods. Utilizing data generated through simulation algorithms, these methods are compared to determine the most effective approach. The algorithms for data generation are implemented in MATLAB, with the process outlined below:

Creating Random Variables: The following stages comprise the methods used to generate random variables from a given distribution function:

1. Determine the sample size n and the parameter values of the distribution;
2. Generate random observations from the distribution for the given n and parameter;
3. Calculate the parameter value using the random sample from step 2;
4. Again Steps 2 and 3 according to the specified replication number denoted by N ;

Process Simulation Guidelines: The following outline the primary steps involved in designing the experiments that are to be simulated under examination.

1. Sample Size Selection: Typically, three sample sizes (20, 50, 100) are selected to demonstrate how variations in sample size n affect the estimation of model parameters. The choice of sample size significantly impacts the efficiency and accuracy of the extracted results.

2. Setting the default values: Default values are chosen for the sample size and for the parameters of each model listed in Table 1.

3. Generating random variables that follow the distribution of each model listed in Table 1, particularly for NHPP models utilizing the Monte Carlo method;

Table 2. The Simulated RMSE of each model listed in Table 1. Estimating parameters with various sample sizes and estimation techniques when $a = b = 0.5$; $\alpha = \beta = 0.6$ & $N = c = 0.7$

| No. | Model | Sample size(n) | RMSE | Sample size(n) | RMSE | Sample size(n) | RMSE |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| 1 | DPF1 | 20 | 1.5095 | 50 | 0.9547 | 100 | 0.6751 |
| 2 | DPF2 | 20 | 1.0274 | 50 | 0.6498 | 100 | 0.4595 |
| 3 | DS | 20 | 1.0612 | 50 | 0.6711 | 100 | 0.4746 |
| 4 | GO | 20 | 1.2189 | 50 | 0.7709 | 100 | 0.5451 |
| 5 | IS | 20 | 0.8061 | 50 | 0.5098 | 100 | 0.3605 |
| 6 | YID | 20 | 8.1229 | 50 | 5.1374 | 100 | 3.6327 |
| 7 | PNZ | 20 | 6.7338 | 50 | 4.2588 | 100 | 3.0115 |
| 8 | PZ | 20 | 0.5791 | 50 | 0.3663 | 100 | 0.2590 |
| 9 | TC | 20 | 1.2867 | 50 | 0.8138 | 100 | 0.5754 |
| 10 | VTUB | 20 | 1.2349 | 50 | 0.7810 | 100 | 0.5522 |
| 11 | suggested model | 20 | 0.0637* | 50 | 0.0403* | 100 | 0.0285* |

Table 3. The Simulated RMSE of each model listed in Table 1. Estimating parameters with various sample sizes and estimation techniques when $a = b = 0.6$; $\alpha = \beta = 0.5$ & $N = c = 0.7$

| No. | Model | Sample size(n) | RMSE | Sample size(n) | RMSE | Sample size(n) | RMSE |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| 1 | DPF1 | 20 | 1.5095 | 50 | 0.9547 | 100 | 0.6751 |
| 2 | DPF2 | 20 | 1.0274 | 50 | 0.6498 | 100 | 0.4595 |
| 3 | DS | 20 | 1.0770 | 50 | 0.6812 | 100 | 0.4817 |
| 4 | GO | 20 | 1.2189 | 50 | 0.7709 | 100 | 0.5451 |
| 5 | IS | 20 | 0.8065 | 50 | 0.5100 | 100 | 0.3607 |
| 6 | YID | 20 | 16.1644 | 50 | 10.2233 | 100 | 7.2289 |
| 7 | PNZ | 20 | 14.2315 | 50 | 9.0008 | 100 | 6.3645 |
| 8 | PZ | 20 | 0.5712 | 50 | 0.3612 | 100 | 0.2554 |
| 9 | TC | 20 | 1.2867 | 50 | 0.8138 | 100 | 0.5754 |
| 10 | VTUB | 20 | 1.2358 | 50 | 0.7816 | 100 | 0.5526 |
| 11 | suggested model | 20 | 0.0590* | 50 | 0.0373* | 100 | 0.0264* |

4. After determining the model parameter estimator by various techniques and utilizing the root mean square

error $RMSE$, contrasting various approaches takes the following form: $RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^Q (\hat{\gamma}_i - \gamma)^2}{Q}}$

5. Random generation for each model listed in Table 1.

Following the determination of the parameters' starting values, the values were methodically changed in conjunction with the sample size and evaluated by many program iterations. $n = 20, 50,$ and 100 sample sizes were used, along with other parameter value combinations, including $(a = b = 0.5; \alpha = \beta = 0.6; N = c = 0.7)$ and $(a = b = 0.6; \alpha = \beta = 0.5; N = c = 0.7)$. The findings displayed in Table 2 and Table 3 demonstrate that the RMSE value of the suggested model is consistently lower than that of the other models.

6. Numerical Examples

This section compares the goodness of fit of the proposed and current models by using real data to estimate their respective criteria. First, we fit each model (mean value function) to the dataset and use the Cuckoo search algorithm (CS) to estimate each model's parameters based on the root mean square error $RMSE$ performance. Next, we compute the criterion using the estimated values of the parameters $\hat{m}(t)$, and compare the models' goodness of fit.

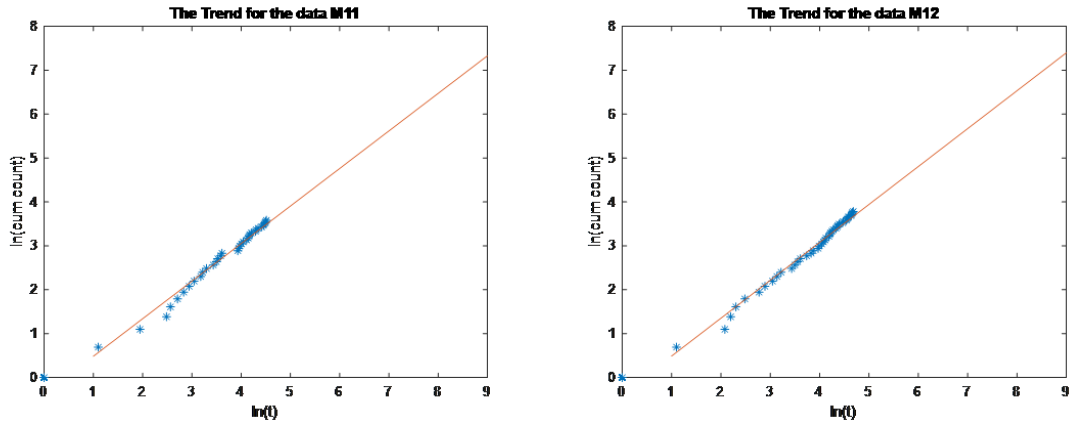


Figure 1. The cumulative data volume's logarithm is represented by the diffusive form.

6.1. Real Data

We utilized two datasets to assess the goodness of fit of various models. The first dataset $M11 = [10\ 2\ 4\ 6\ 6\ 8\ 4\ 3\ 1\ 6\ 1\ 4]$ data used to support the findings of this study have been deposited in [23, 24], was gathered by ABC Software Company. This dataset spans 12 weeks (with time units represented in weeks), during which 55 failures were observed. It gave the second dataset command and control system developed by Bell Laboratories; this dataset contains failure data seen during system testing; 136 failures were recorded during a 23-hour period which is $M12 = [27\ 16\ 11\ 10\ 8\ 1\ 5\ 3\ 1\ 4\ 7\ 5\ 5\ 6\ 0\ 5\ 1\ 1\ 2\ 1\ 2\ 1\ 1]$. Data used to support the findings of this study have been deposited in real-time [35, 36, 37].

6.2. Goodness of Fit Tests for Data Set

The goodness-of-fit test is an essential step in statistical analysis, especially when analysing lifetime data, to find the distribution that best matches the data. Graphical techniques are frequently used in classical tests to evaluate the appropriateness of the data. This part looks at the data graphically and evaluates how well it fits the mean value function. Plotting the cumulative failures against the logarithm of time allows for this to be achieved. The data fits the function for NHPP SRGMs well if the majority of these points form a straight line. Thus, we get the following equation by taking the natural logarithm and applying it to the cumulative function of the suggested model:

$$\ln [m (t)] = \ln (N) + \alpha \ln \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha + \frac{1}{2b^2}t^2} \right) \tag{13}$$

By using the programming language MATLAB, the following figure was obtained.

In Figure 1 the graphical distribution illustrates the cumulative failures of days on a logarithmic scale for the dataset under examination. It's noteworthy that the scatter plot depicts a linear relationship, suggesting the feasibility of modeling such data using a mean value function.

6.3. Criteria

Numerous standards have been put out in this study to evaluate how well a model fits the data [23]. In comparison the proposed model with ten NHPP SRGMs that already exist, nine evaluation criteria are specifically looked at. The many evaluation criteria used to assess the goodness of fit of various NHPP SRGMs in conjunction with the suggested model are compiled in Table 4, [37, 38]. These parameters measure the difference or gap between the expected number of failures as predicted by the MVF of the model, represented as $m(t_i)$, It is vital to compare the expected number of failures, represented as, $m(t_i)$, with the actual observed data, represented as y_i . In this case,

Table 4. Evaluation Criteria

| No. | | Criteria |
|-----|---------------------|--|
| 1 | MSE [23] | $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{m}(t_i) - y_i)^2}{n - m}$ |
| 2 | PRR [23] | $\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\hat{m}(t_i) - y_i}{\hat{m}(t_i)} \right)^2$ |
| 3 | PP [23] | $\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\hat{m}(t_i) - y_i}{y_i} \right)^2$ |
| 4 | SAE [25] | $\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{m}(t_i) - y_i $ |
| 5 | R-square R^2 [28] | $1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{m}(t_i) - y_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}$ |
| 6 | AIC [34] | $-2 \log MLF + 2m$ |
| 7 | PRV [30] | $\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{m}(t_i) - y_i - bias)^2}{n - 1}}$ |
| 8 | MAE [34] | $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{m}(t_i) - y_i }{n - m}$ |
| 9 | MEOP [31] | $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{m}(t_i) - y_i }{n - m + 1}$ |
| 10 | FPA [38] | $\frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \text{Correct Predictions at time } t}{\sum_{t=1}^T \text{Total Predictions at time } t} \times 100\%$ |

n represents the total number of data points and m for the total number of model parameters [39, 40]. A smaller difference between the expected and actual values indicates that the MVF of the model predicts the number of failures in the dataset more accurately [10, 37, 41].

A statistical metric called the AIC evaluates a model’s fit to the data. It accounts for the model’s parameter count and maximizes the probability function (L) of the model. Although models with more parameters often fit data better, overfitting is avoided by the AIC, which penalizes models with too many parameters. The log-likelihood function ($\log L$) plus a penalty term determined by the number of parameters is how the AIC is computed:

$$L = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{(\hat{m}(t_i) - \hat{m}(t_{i-1}))^{y_i - y_{i-1}}}{(y_i - y_{i-1})!} \tag{14}$$

$$\log L = \sum_{i=1}^n ((y_i - y_{i-1}) - \hat{m}(t_{i-1}) - \log (y_i - y_{i-1})!) \tag{15}$$

In conclusion, there are nine factors that may be used to assess a model’s goodness of fit. A higher R^2 value suggests that the model fits the data better. Compared to other models using the same dataset. Are smaller values for these parameters often indicating a better model fit.

6.4. Results

Table 5 and Table 6 show the estimated parameters of the models, which were obtained using the Cuckoo Search algorithm (CS) based on the root mean square error.

Table 5. Estimation of Dataset (M11) Parameters

| No. | Model | \hat{a} | \hat{b} | $\hat{\alpha}$ | $\hat{\beta}$ | \hat{N} | \hat{c} |
|-----|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | DPF1 | 9.4297 | 0.1140 | — | — | — | 10.3181 |
| 2 | DPF2 | 3.4596 | 3.2228 | — | — | — | 6.0154 |
| 3 | DS | -1.1208 | 0.3139 | — | — | — | — |
| 4 | GO | 3.1472 | 4.0579 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | IS | 4.7331 | 10.6038 | — | 10.7170 | — | — |
| 6 | YID | 5.2098 | 6.8974 | 5.3214 | — | — | — |
| 7 | PNZ | 7.0928 | 10.1743 | 0.0354 | 1.7601 | — | — |
| 8 | PZ | 3.3667 | 8.5408 | 0.9324 | 1.0074 | — | 2.7473 |
| 9 | TC | 1.8582 | 2.3261 | 4.6703 | 5.1124 | 3.4883 | — |
| 10 | VTUB | 2.4255 | 1.8028 | 2.6347 | 2.7264 | 9.4491 | — |
| 11 | NEW | — | 2.6124 | 40.6233 | 0.4187 | 4.7557 | — |

Table 6. Estimation of Dataset (M12) Parameters

| No. | Model | \hat{a} | \hat{b} | $\hat{\alpha}$ | $\hat{\beta}$ | \hat{N} | \hat{c} |
|-----|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | DPF1 | 7.2508 | 11.6045 | — | — | — | 7.9885 |
| 2 | DPF2 | 8.2236 | 7.6349 | — | — | — | 7.6659 |
| 3 | DS | 5.4424 | 2.0849 | — | — | — | — |
| 4 | GO | 5.9513 | 8.8399 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | IS | 4.1066 | 10.0008 | — | 12.8173 | — | — |
| 6 | YID | 9.3930 | 8.6980 | 5.7867 | — | — | — |
| 7 | PNZ | 3.3827 | 3.5073 | 3.4221 | 8.0882 | — | — |
| 8 | PZ | 7.6529 | 7.1750 | 13.6901 | 6.9477 | — | 6.3908 |
| 9 | TC | 7.0227 | 8.1639 | 13.6522 | 4.5633 | 8.2545 | — |
| 10 | VTUB | 4.9023 | 2.1408 | 5.9701 | 11.1018 | 6.0265 | — |
| 11 | NEW | — | 8.8733 | 6.9631 | 9.5829 | 7.2516 | — |

Estimated parameter values for the models across the two data sets will be presented in [Table 7](#) and [Table 8](#). It is shown that our proposed model has the lowest parameters on the dataset *M11*. Also, for the dataset, *M12* has the lowest parameters. Moreover, these results show that our proposed model outperforms other models in estimating the total number of failures across datasets.

The MVF for each of the 11 models across the datasets *M11* and *M12* is shown in [Figure 2](#).

7. Discussion

In summary, the proposed software reliability growth model offers valuable practical implications for software development practices, including enhanced reliability, risk mitigation, and improved resource management. However, organizations must also navigate challenges related to complexity, data requirements, and stakeholder resistance to fully realize the benefits of implementing the model. By addressing these challenges, the model can contribute significantly to the advancement of software reliability practices in diverse operational contexts.

Table 7. Model Criteria Value Comparison for Dataset (M11)

| Model | MSE | PRR | PP | SAE | R^2 | AIC | PRV | MAE | MEOP | FPA |
|-------|--------|----------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| DPF1 | 2.4568 | 81.0992 | 71.0598 | 5.4297 | 0.7650 | 38.6958 | 0.4177 | 0.4525 | 2.7975 | 27.9751 |
| DPF2 | 0.0243 | 5.3056 | 6.0496 | 0.5404 | 0.5124 | 37.7076 | 0.5797 | 0.1450 | 3.2950 | 32.9500 |
| DS | 2.1852 | 5.9932 | 4.4978 | 5.1208 | 0.4244 | 39.6251 | 1.8887 | 0.4267 | 3.6767 | 36.7671 |
| GO | 0.0606 | 3.5202 | 4.6105 | 0.8528 | 0.5526 | 30.1451 | 0.4254 | 0.1711 | 3.3211 | 33.2110 |
| IS | 0.0448 | 15.1165 | 13.9360 | 0.7331 | 2.4840 | 32.1389 | 0.8944 | 0.1611 | 3.1889 | 31.8890 |
| YID | 1.9304 | 2.3286 | 2.3256 | 1.5220 | 0.8139 | 34.1689 | 43.6975 | 0.8316 | 2.5816 | 25.8161 |
| PNZ | 1.1574 | 206.5067 | 0.5283 | 3.7268 | 0.8679 | 34.2519 | 1.4174 | 0.3106 | 3.5606 | 35.6061 |
| PZ | 0.3724 | 29.8090 | 26.1530 | 2.1140 | 0.5382 | 29.5514 | 0.9988 | 0.1762 | 3.0738 | 30.7380 |
| TC | 0.0228 | 5.4831 | 6.1916 | 0.5117 | 0.5479 | 28.6368 | 0.5912 | 0.1426 | 3.2926 | 32.9261 |
| VTUB | 2.4744 | 81.4647 | 71.3873 | 5.4491 | 0.8468 | 28.6284 | 0.4053 | 0.4541 | 2.7959 | 27.9590 |
| NEW | 0.0220 | 1.1802 | 2.6102 | 1.3844 | 0.3474 | 27.1866 | 0.3469 | 0.1154 | 2.3654 | 23.6540 |

Table 8. Model Criteria Value Comparison for Dataset (M12)

| Model | MSE | PRR | PP | SAE | R^2 | AIC | PRV | MAE | MEOP | FPA |
|-------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| DPF1 | 42.2654 | 3.0607 | 2.3557 | 3.2215 | 0.2085 | 138.7791 | 169.6215 | 6.1393 | 127.8607 | 12.7860 |
| DPF2 | 40.8883 | 1.4577 | 1.0147 | 3.2743 | 0.6596 | 142.8089 | 171.5776 | 4.0293 | 129.9707 | 12.9970 |
| DS | 21.1744 | 11.6273 | 8.0294 | 3.2854 | 0.6971 | 208.6486 | 171.2299 | 3.6643 | 130.4157 | 13.0415 |
| GO | 55.3108 | 1.4650 | 1.3883 | 3.2572 | 0.5089 | 117.2816 | 170.7210 | 4.7930 | 129.2870 | 12.9287 |
| IS | 16.3276 | 1.4784 | 5.4082 | 3.3015 | 0.8062 | 122.8768 | 172.5658 | 3.0216 | 131.0584 | 13.1058 |
| YID | 6.3703 | 1.5784 | 2.9258 | 2.8341 | 0.6521 | 121.8758 | 205.3538 | 21.7162 | 112.3638 | 11.2363 |
| PNZ | 6.2979 | 1.0324 | 1.5742 | 2.9782 | 0.9415 | 116.4497 | 178.7504 | 15.9507 | 118.1293 | 11.8129 |
| PZ | 10.1581 | 1.4653 | 2.5790 | 3.3242 | 0.9055 | 126.0082 | 173.6287 | 2.1113 | 131.9687 | 13.1968 |
| TC | 89.1623 | 2.3183 | 1.7229 | 3.2437 | 0.4257 | 114.9172 | 170.4178 | 5.2504 | 128.7496 | 12.8749 |
| VTUB | 72.3238 | 1.0223 | 1.4308 | 3.2554 | 0.4940 | 141.8089 | 170.6458 | 4.8647 | 129.2153 | 12.9215 |
| NEW | 6.2978 | 1.0165 | 1.0146 | 2.3625 | 0.0156 | 114.7360 | 169.6055 | 1.4465 | 112.8311 | 11.2311 |

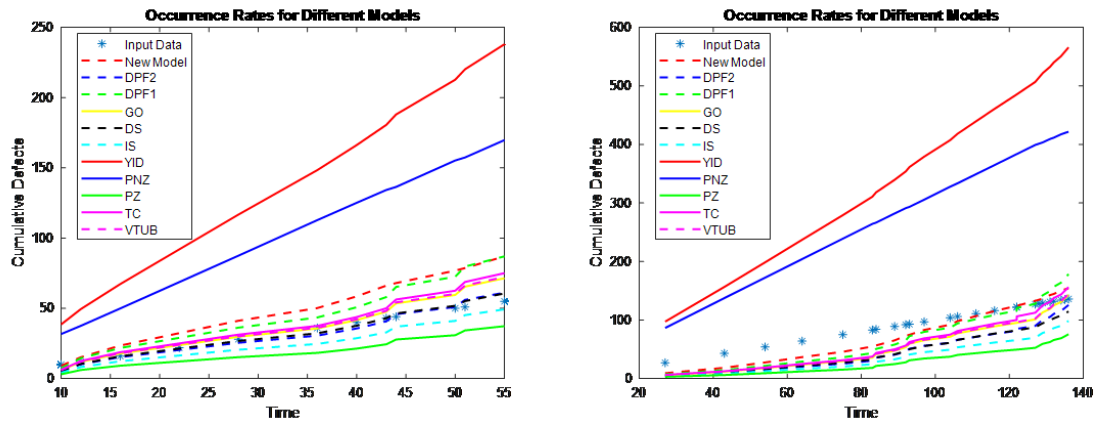


Figure 2. Average value functions for every model for datasets M11 and M12 (A) and (B).

8. Conclusions

This paper aims to propose a model that accounts for unexpected operating conditions and dependent failures. The results show that our model was better than those that considered unexpected operating conditions (VTUB) or dependent failures (DPF 1 and DPF 2). We also presented a method for evaluating the reliability of programs

using the Cuckoo search algorithm. This emphasizes the need to improve reliability. In this study, the Cuckoo search algorithm was used to achieve the objectives of early reliability evaluation. In operational contexts, pre-existing models are usually used to test data for predictions. However the difference between the operational and test settings means that the operating environment's unpredictability must be taken into account. Our new software dependability model is based on the use of RMSE, which is frequently used to simulate unpredictable operational situations. The superiority of our model was illustrated by the findings from **Table 7** and **Table 8**, which summarized the parameters calculated using the Cuckoo search method and showed reduced values of MSE, SAE and PRR compared to other models. These results demonstrate how well our model predicts software faults and how it can be used to increase dependability.

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