PROBABILISTIC COST MODEL FOR ANALYSIS OF OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY COSTS AND POTENTIAL

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Abstract

A computer program named OWECOP (Offshore Wind Energy Cost and Potential) has been developed by ECN in order to quantify the energy production costs of offshore wind energy. This program couples a Geographic Information System (GIS database) with an ExcelTM workbook.

This report describes a probabilistic analysis implemented into the OWECOP cost model. Therefore the @RISK software package for probabilistic analyses is implemented into the Excel workbook of OWECOP. The cost model obtained bears the name OWECOP-Prob.

Some typical results of the OWECOP-Prob model are: probabilistic distribution functions (PDF) for the energy yield, PDF's for overall offshore wind energy implementation costs and tornado diagrams showing the relative influence of the uncertain parameters. These results are obtained by Monte Carlo simulations.

After an introduction, chapter 2 of this report presents the deterministic and the probabilistic input parameters of the OWECOP-Prob model. In chapter 3 the different probabilistic distributions used are described. In chapter 4, the integration of the probabilistic cost model into OWECOP is presented.

An evaluation of the results is given in chapter 5 and some graphs obtained with the model are shown.

The conclusions and recommendations are given in chapter 5.4.

Keywords

Offshore, wind energy, cost model, probabilistic model, @RISK, OWECOP.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SUMMARY

ECN has developed a computer program named OWECOP (Offshore Wind Energy Costs and Potential) in order to quantify the energy production costs for offshore wind energy. This program couples a Geographic Information System (GIS database) with an Excel™ workbook.

An @RISK add-in is implemented in the Excel workbook to enable probabilistic analyses of the costs of offshore wind energy. This so-called OWECOP-Prob version of the cost model has been used to analyse the case of a 480 MW wind farm consisting of 80x 6 MW wind turbines on the NEEZ as an example.

The OWECOP-Prob model includes, like the deterministic OWECOP model, an input section, a calculation section, a database section and a result section. The latter includes analytical and graphical results. The model analyses all wind farm implementation costs, at a specified location on the Dutch Exclusive Economical Zone (NEEZ).

In expectation of results of the variability of Operation en Maintenance costs, a probabilistic analysis of O&M has not yet been performed with OWECOP-Prob.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objectives

ECN has developed a computer program named OWECOP (Offshore Wind Energy Costs and Potential) in order to quantify the investment costs of offshore wind energy [Refs. 1 and 2]. This program couples a Geographic Information System (GIS database) with an $\text{Excell}^{\text{TM}}$ workbook.

This report describes the implementation of a probabilistic cost model into OWECOP. The probabilistic analysis is realised with $@RISK$ add-in software for Microsoft® Excel [Ref. 3]. The probabilistic model implemented into OWECOP bears the name OWECOP-Prob.

To implement the probabilistic cost model, the following approach was followed:

- Identification of relevant parameters;
- Choice of the probability distribution type for the identified parameters;
- Implementation of the relative probability distribution parameters of each distribution.

Based on this approach, a cost model has been built into an Excel workbook. Where applicable all considered aspects and simplifications are mentioned.

1.2 Objectives of a Probabilistic Analysis

The OWECOP model is an EXCEL workbook program that enables an integrated analysis of the potential energy yield and the costs of wind energy exploitation in large water areas from a technical and market perspective. To this purpose, engineering cost models and information stored in a database are used.

The engineering models are deterministic. They give a result for a specified wind farm under specific conditions. Analysis of the influence of the input parameters on the results is achieved by variations of the input parameters.

However, some of the input parameters are uncertain or may change over the time. That's why some parameters should be better defined in a range. Examples are the rent prices of offshore equipment (which are the result of a balance between offer and demand) and annual wind speed.

A probabilistic analysis intends to account for these uncertainties and to quantify their influence on the results. To achieve this goal, the uncertain parameters of the engineering model must be provided with a probability distribution function (PDF) that shows the likelihood of occurrence for each possible outcome. Furthermore, each parameter must be associated with a well-defined range whereto the PDF is associated. In this report, the uncertain parameters are also referred to as 'unknowns'.

Examples of questions that the probabilistic analysis intends to answer are:

- What parameters have the largest influence on the uncertainty of the expected costs of wind energy?
- What is the probability that the estimated cost of wind energy is less than a certain value?
- What is the probability that the estimated investment cost of offshore wind energy is less than the expected nominal calculated value?

2. INPUT PARAMETERS FOR PROBABILISTIC ANALYSIS

2.1 General

The list of input parameters of the OWECOP cost model is extensive:

- GIS parameters, i.e. parameters that depend on the chosen wind farm location;
- Turbine parameters:
- Turbine foundation parameters;
- Wind farm parameters;
- Parameters for transport and installation analysis;
- Parameters for scour protection and cable installation analysis;
- Sea condition parameters;
- Electric infrastructure parameters;
- Offshore equipment prices:
- Soil research parameters;
- Economic parameters.

Evidently, not all parameters are relevant for a probabilistic analysis. In fact, three main groups of parameters are identified:

- Wind farm design parameters:
- Wind farm unknowns;
- Cost model regulation parameters.

Wind farm design parameters are user input. These parameters determine the type and location of the wind farm to analyse. The parameters may be chosen arbitrarily between minimum and maximum values. Wind farm design parameters have no probabilistic distribution in OWECOP-Prob.

Wind farm unknowns represent the technical aspects of the design of the wind farm. In the OWECOP deterministic version of the cost model, the user chooses these parameters. In the probabilistic cost model, these parameters have a probabilistic distribution and therefore they are not user's input anymore.

The user may input cost model regulation parameters. These are fixed for proper functioning of the program. An example of this is the "wind speed bin" parameter, which regulates the plot settings of a PV-curve of the wind turbine. Cost model regulation parameters have no distribution.

In expectation of results of studies about the variability of Operation en Maintenance costs, a probabilistic analysis of O&M has not yet been performed with OWECOP-Prob.

The following sections clarify the choice of the parameters used for the probabilistic model. Parameters that have a PDF are described in section [3.3].

2.2 Wind Farm Design Parameters

From the overall list of input parameters of the OWECOP cost model, the following parameters are identified to be of the design type. Design parameters do not include a probabilistic distribution function.

GIS Parameters Depends on

Distance of grid cell to electrical grid on shore Farm location
Distance of grid cell to harbour Farm location Distance of grid cell to harbour Water depth, distance below MSL Farm location

Turbine Parameters Depends on

Robustness Specific user's choice Specific user's choice Cut in wind speed Turbine type Cut out wind speed

Maximum aerodynamic power coefficient

Turbine design

Turbine design Maximum aerodynamic power coefficient Nominal turbine power Specific user's choice Specific user's choice Rotor speed operation Turbine design Specific power Turbine type

Turbine Foundation Parameters

Minimum wall thickness monopile

Turbine design Minimum wall thickness monopile

Maximum wall thickness monopile

Turbine design

Turbine design

Turbine design Maximum wall thickness monopile Turbine design
Maximum pile diameter Turbine design
Turbine design Maximum pile diameter Corrosion excess Turbine design Annual average design wind speed Farm location Axial aerodynamic coefficient for 50 yr. extreme wind speed Turbine design Load factor Turbine design Yield stress (sigma 0.2) Turbine design Material density (rho steel) Turbine design Miscellaneous components weight factor Turbine design Rig slenderness (length / diameter) for jacket Turbine design

Wind Farm Parameters

Number of turbines in the farm

Specific user's choice Number of turbines in the farm Number of turbines in a group

Number of cable platforms present in the farm

Specific user's choice

Farm location Number of cable platforms present in the farm Spacing (x); distance in a line of turbines
Spacing (v); distance between turbine lines
Specific user's choice Spacing (y) ; distance between turbine lines Farm orientation (direction of line turbines) Farm location Air density Farm location and height

Parameters for Transport and Installation Analysis Depends on

Number of vessels used for transport Specific user's choice Number of vessels used for installation Specific user's choice Transport "fixed" time between turbines Turbine design Installation "fixed" time between turbines Turbine design

Parameters for Scour Protection and Cable Installation Costs Depends on

Number of mobilisation days Farm location Travelling speed of stone vessel Specific user's choice Maximum cargo of stones of stone vessel Specific user's choice Density of rocks used Wind farm design Layer thickness of applied scour protection Turbine design Number of days in one operational season Fixed Number of cable crossings (cable to shore) Farm location Quantity of rocks at each cable crossing Wind farm design Distance of horizontal drilling Farm location

Wave Parameters

Water density Farm location

Moment coefficient Turbine design Drag coefficient Turbine design

Electric Infrastructure Parameters Depends on

Factor direct distance/effective cable length Wind farm design Voltage of cable to shore Wind farm design Maximum current of HVAC cable Wind farm design Approximated value of cosine of electric phase Wind farm design

Soil Research Parameters

Number of points to be investigated Wind farm design

Economic Parameters Depends on

Preparation period Specific user's choice Construction period, following end of preparations Specific user's choice
Economic life time of the farm Specific user's choice Economic life time of the farm Percentage of equity capital Specific user's choice

Percentage of private capital Specific user's choice

Specific user's choice Percentage of private capital Percentage of capital loan Specific user's choice Interest rate on equity capital Specific user's choice Interest rate on private investment Specific user's choice Annual interest rate on debts Specific user's choice

2.3 Wind Farm Unknowns

Similar to the wind farm design parameters, the following wind farm unknowns are identified. All unknowns include a probabilistic distribution in the cost model.

GIS Parameters

Average annual wind speed at reference height Vertical wind shear exponent Weibull shape factor at hub height, wind 50 year return significant wave height

Turbine Foundation Parameters

Material cost factor for monopile and tower Material cost factor for tripod

Wind Farm Parameters

Farm availability Farm array efficiency Farm electric efficiency

Parameters for Transport and Installation Analysis

Probability of good weather for transport Probability of good weather for installation Percentage of waves below 1.0 m

Parameters for Scour Protection

Unit costs of scour protection rocks

Wave Parameters

Wave number Weibull shape factor for wave height Weibull scale factor for wave height

Electric Infrastructure parameters

AC power loss per km DC power loss per km

Prices of Offshore Equipment

2 tugs 1 cargo $+$ 1 tug Jack-up Construction vessel Sheer leg Crane barge Directional drill Pontoon $80x25 + \text{crane}$ Pontoon 60x20 2x trenching equipment 60 MT AHT 35 MT AHT Tow tug Divers Cargo barge (large working area) Cargo barge (normal working area) Submarine cutting equipment Supply vessel Stone vessel

Soil Research Parameters

Mobilisation costs Day-rate of equipment

Economic Parameters

Annual inflation rate

2.4 Cost Model Regulation Parameters

These parameters do not include a probabilistic distribution in the cost model. They are mentioned here for the sake of completeness:

GIS Parameters

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS

3.1 General

In this section, the type of the probability distribution functions and the choice of the distribution parameters are presented for each of the wind farm unknowns defined in section 2.3.

3.2 Used Probability Distributions Types

Three probabilistic distribution types are used:

- 1. Uniform distribution. See Appendix C for definition.
- 2. Normal distribution. See Appendix C for definition.
- 3. PERT distribution. See Appendix C for definition.
- ad 1) For all parameters that have an equal probability to get a value between a given range, a Uniform probability distribution is chosen. For the Uniform distribution, it is necessary to specify the minimum and maximum values. These minimum and maximum are "educated guesses".
- ad 2) For all parameters that have a big chance of getting a certain value, but (small) fluctuations around that value are expected, a Normal probability distribution is chosen. For the specification of a Normal distribution, it is necessary to estimate the mean value and its standard deviation.
- ad 3) For all parameters with more uncertain distributions, a PERT probability distribution is chosen. A PERT distribution is used as an approximation for sampled data. For the definition of a PERT distribution, a minimum, a maximum and a most likely value are needed. In the cost model, these values are derived from expert opinions and therefore no references are included in this report.

In some cases, the cost model requires an integer as input. Example of this is the construction time in years. When the required parameter is provided with a probability distribution, the outcome of the distribution function is rounded to the closest integer.

The above-presented guidelines for choosing a probability distribution have some exceptions. These exceptions are highlighted when necessary in the following paragraphs.

3.3 Probability Distribution Functions, Variables Used

All unknowns include a probabilistic distribution function. When not referred, the choice of the minimum, maximum, most likely and standard deviation values are derived from expert opinions.

GIS Parameters

a) Average wind speed at reference height. This parameter is assumed to distribute according to a Normal probability function. Its value is related to the parameter "Reference height for average wind speed", which is set at 85 [m]. Distribution: Normal; Mean value 9.35 [m/s] [ref. 11] and standard deviation set to σ = 0.6. Analysis of known data have shown that the average wind speed fluctuates from year to year between 9.35 m/s \pm 15% (9.35*0.85 = 7.95 [m/s] and 9.35*1.15=10.75 [m/s]). With the value of the standard deviation chosen, 98% of the probability of occurrence lies between the observed minimum and maximum values.

Figure 1. Normal probability distribution for the average wind speed at reference height.

b) Vertical wind shear exponent. This parameter is considered to distribute according to a truncated Normal function with a mean value of 0.08 [-] and standard deviation $\sigma = 0.01$; minimum value is set at 0.06 [-]; maximum value is set at 0.10 [-]. The mean, minimum and maximum values are taken from expert opinions. The standard deviation is taken to be equal to the half of the difference between the mean value and the lowest/upper limit (71.5% probability that the value lies between the mean $\pm 1\sigma$).

Figure 2. Truncated Normal distribution for wind shear exponent.

- c) Weibull shape factor at hub height, for wind. The lower limit of 1.88 [-] and the upper limit of 2.25 [-] are observed for the North Sea [ref. 12]. This parameter is assumed to distribute uniformly between these limits and it is applicable for a height of 85 m above MSL.
- d) 50-year return significant wave height. The distribution of this variable is not known. Therefore, a PERT distribution function is chosen with a minimum value of 8.0 [m], a maximum of 12.0 [m] and a most likely value of 9.0 [m]. These values have been derived from reference [10].

Figure 3. PERT distribution for Hs, 50-year return.

Turbine Foundation Parameters

- a) Material cost factor for monopile and tower. For this parameter, a PERT probability distribution function is assumed. The lower limit is set to 1.8 [ϵ /kg], the upper limit is set to 5.0 [ϵ /kg], and the most likely value is set to 2.0 [ϵ /kg]. These values have been derived from personal communication of the author of this report with experts in offshore engineering projects.
- b) Material cost factor for tripod. Similar to above. Distribution PERT; minimum value set to 3.0 [ϵ /kg], a maximum of 5.0 [ϵ /kg] and a most likely value of 3.5 [ϵ /kg]. These values have been derived from personal communication of the author of this report with experts in offshore engineering projects.

Wind Farm Parameters

a) Farm availability. The value of this parameter is derived from expert opinions taken out of reference [13]. The distribution used is a PERT, with lower limit set to 0.95 [-], upper limit set to 0.99 [-], and the most likely value at 0.985 [-].

Figure 4. Probability distribution of wind farm availability.

b) Farm array efficiency. The array efficiency of the farm is derived analytically based on an empirical model. This efficiency is tuned to the results obtained with verified software [7]. For the parameter "Wind Deficit", defined as the unity minus the array efficiency, a PERT distribution is used. For a given wind farm layout and size, the lower limit is set to 0.05 [-] and the upper limit is set to 0.30 [-]. The most likely value is calculated according to a verified algorithm.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of the wind deficit.

Figure 5. Pert distribution for the wind deficit (1-array efficiency) of the wind farm.

c) Farm electric efficiency. Similar to above. Distribution: PERT; lower limit set to 0.95 [-], upper limit set to 0.99 [-], and the most likely value is set to 0.98 [-]. Values are derived from expert opinions.

Parameters for Transport and Installation Analysis

- a) Probability of benign weather for transport. This parameter describes the probability of occurrence of a minimum weather-window length for a specified wave height. The weatherwindow length for the specified wave height determines if a transport vessel may operate. The distribution function used for this parameter is a symmetric PERT, with lower limit equal to 0.7 [-], upper limit equal to 0.9 [-] and most likely value equal to 0.8 [-]. These values have been derived by the author of this report, based on raw data from [16].
- b) Probability of benign weather for installation. Similar to the above parameter but for installation vessels. Distribution PERT, with lower limit equal to 0.7 [-], upper limit equal to 0.9 [-] and most likely value equal to 0.8 [-]. These values have been derived by the author of this report, based on raw data taken from [16].
- c) Percentage of waves below 1.0 m. For specific offshore rock transport vessels, a maximum wave height of 1.0 [m] limits their workability. The percentage of waves under this height is estimated to be about 66.5% [15]. For analysis purposes, a Normal probability distribution function, with a mean value of 66.5% and a standard deviation $\sigma = 2.5\%$ is assumed.

Parameters for Scour Protection and Cable Installation Costs

Scour protection costs of wind turbine foundations (approximately 2% of total investment costs) and cable installation costs (approximately 1% of total investment) are very small compared to other costs. Nevertheless, for the sake of completeness, the first parameter being part of the input of the cost model has a probability distribution function.

a) Unit costs of scour protection rock. Distribution: symmetric PERT. Lower limit equal to 20 [ϵ /MT]; upper limit equal to 30 [ϵ /MT]; most likely value equal to 25 [ϵ /MT]. Data taken from [15].

Wave Parameters

a) Weibull shape factor for wave height. For this parameter, a PERT distribution is assumed. The values of the upper and lower limits are derived from wave data found on Internet [Ref. 6]. The lower limit is set to 1.423 [-]; the upper limit is set to 1.605 [-]; most likely value equal to 1.4885 [-].

b) Weibull scale factor for wave height. Similar to above. For this parameter, a PERT distribution is assumed. The lower limit is set to 0.492 [-]; the upper limit is set to 1.01 [-]; most likely value equal to 1.840 [-].

Electric Infrastructure Parameters

In this section, only the estimated electric losses of the AC and DC cables (per km) include a probability distribution function. Both distributions are of the PERT type because these losses have been estimated based on expert opinions. By adding a relative probability distribution function to these parameters, their influence is determined.

In the following lines the used variables of the PERT distributions are given:

Prices of Offshore Equipment

All these distributions are of the PERT type, because only a range of prices is known. By adding a probability distribution function to these cost parameters, their influence is determined. The following estimation applies:

- The upper and lower limits of the mobilisation costs are estimated as the mean value ±€5,000.
- The upper and lower limits of the day-rates are estimated as the mean value $\pm 65,000$. For all prices under ϵ 20,000, the upper and lower limits of the day-rates are estimated as the mean value $\pm 2,000$.
- The upper and lower limits of the significant wave height at which the offshore equipment can perform its activities are estimated as the mean value $\pm 20\%$.

In the following lines the used most likely mean values of the symmetric PERT distributions are given.

Soil Research parameters

- a) Mobilisation costs. Similar to the prices of offshore equipment presented above, a PERT distribution is assumed with a mean value of ϵ 50,000. The lower and upper limits are set to the mean value $\pm \epsilon$ 5,000.
- b) Day-rate of equipment. Similar to the prices of offshore equipment presented above, a PERT distribution is assumed with a mean value of ϵ 50,000. The lower and upper limits are set to the mean value $\pm 65,000$.

Economic Parameters

a) Annual inflation rate (Netherlands). This parameter is assumed to distribute according to a truncated Normal function with a mean value of 3% and standard deviation $\sigma = 0.5\%$; The minimum value is set at 2%; the maximum value is set at 4%. See Figure 6.

Figure 6. Normal distribution for the inflation rate.

4. STRUCTURE OF OWECOP-PROB

4.1 General

The OWECOP-Prob cost model results from the implementation of probability distributions into an Excel[™] workbook using @RISK software.

In the cost model, the costs of all components defined in OWECOP are calculated and levelized to a LPC cost of energy. The LPC for wind energy is defined as the levelized costs (in ϵ or ϵ ct) divided by the delivered energy by the wind farm (in kWh). See reference [9] for a mathematical definition of this parameter.

Distribution functions are derived performing a certain number of Monte Carlo simulations. The following calculated parameters include a distribution function:

- LPC of wind energy;
- Gross annual electricity production (including turbine and wind farm array efficiency);
- LPC cost breakdown on level 1 (see Appendix A for wind farm components);
- Efficiency of power transport;
- Turbine availability:
- Wind farm accessibility;
- Mass of tower and monopile / tripod foundation.

In addition, for other OWECO-Prob calculated parameters, like the turbine load factor and electric infrastructure parameters, a PDF could be derived if desired.

4.2 Probabilistic Cost Model, Workbook Characteristics

The probabilistic cost model workbook consists of a number of sections organised as follows:

- An input section;
- A cost summary section;
- A calculation and database section;
- A results section, where numerical and graphical results are presented.

4.2.1 Input Section

In the input section, several types of input are required:

- GIS Parameters, i.e. parameters that depend on the chosen wind farm location;
- Turbine parameters;
- Turbine foundation parameters:
- Wind farm parameters:
- Parameters for transport and installation analysis;
- Parameters for scour protection;
- Parameters for cable installation analysis;
- Sea condition parameters;
- Electric infrastructure parameters;
- Offshore equipment prices;
- Soil research parameters;
- Economic parameters.

A snapshot of a part of the input section of the workbook is shown in Figure 7. A snapshot of a part of the section where the distribution functions are defined, is shown in Figure 8.

Moment coefficient cm_wave 1.93333 [-] **1.80 1.95 2.00** *WAVE PARAMETERS* Drag coefficient cd_wave 1.35000 [-] **1.00 1.40 1.50** Weibull shape factor for wave height Kweibull 1.49700 [-] **1.42 1.49 1.61** Weibull scale factor for wave height Cweibull 0.81033 [-] **0.49 0.84 1.01** AC power loss per km power_loss_AC 0.002175 [1 / km] **0.0022 0.0020 0.0024** *ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE* AC power loss per km
DC power loss per km power_loss_DC 0.000092 [1 / km] **0.00008 0.00009 0.00010**
DC power loss per km power_loss_DC 0.000092 [1 / km] **0.00008 0.00009 0.00010** *ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE PARAMETERS WAVE PARAMETERS*

Unit costs of scour protection rocks rock_price 25.00 [Euro/MT] **20 25 30**

25.00 [Euro/MT] 20 25 30

Figure 8. Snapshot of definition of distributions in OWECOP-Prob.

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4.2.2 Cost Summary Section

The cost summary section of the workbook is a compilation of the wind farm costs according to the following classification:

- Wind farm design;
- Hardware:
- Assembly, transport and installation;
- Annual operation and maintenance;
- Retrofit and overhaul;
- Decommissioning.

Each of these main groups is defined to be in level 1 of the cost breakdown. Subdivision in subsequent levels gives a more detailed cost breakdown into component level. A complete list of components according to their respective levels is presented in Appendix A.

4.2.3 Calculation and Database Section

In this section, all turbine component dimensions and weights and their respective costs are calculated. These costs are based on a price per kg of material used or are derived from empirical formulas from different sources.

Another type of calculation is the type and cost of electric infrastructure. These are optimised based on costs of electric hardware, installation costs of components and electric efficiencies of the cable types.

Finally, the wind distribution over the year, the energy yield of the wind farm and the turbine availability and accessibility are estimated. These results are further used to calculate the LPC of the wind farm.

4.2.4 Results Section

Results obtained with OWECOP-Prob are presented in section 5.

5. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

5.1 General

In this section, some results obtained with the model costs are presented. These results are derived for a wind farm design with characteristics as presented in 5.2.

It should be noticed that, if desired, other kind of probabilistic results are also possible with slight change(s) to the cost model. The results presented here must be considered as an example. Some typical results of the probabilistic analysis are presented in 5.3.

5.2 Characteristics of the Analysed Wind Farm

Only the most relevant parameters are presented in this section. A complete list of all input parameters is presented in Appendix B.

5.3 Some Output Obtained with the Probabilistic model

The results obtained with the probabilistic model follow after 3000 Monte Carlo simulations. The results have converged, that is, the results obtained from the statistics of the software changed less than 1.5% after the 3000 simulations. In this section the levelized production costs of wind energy (LPC) and the gross annual electricity production are analysed as an example.

LPC of Wind Energy

From the samples taken from the results, a probability distribution function can be fitted for the LPC. As an example, Figure 9 shows an Extreme Value approximation to this PDF and Figure 10 shows a Gamma PDF of the same.

Note that every time a new run with @RISK software is performed, (slightly) different results and figures may be obtained. This is due to the nature of Monte Carlo simulations.

From Figure 9 it can be seen that the probability of LPC being lower than ϵ 0.10087 is 95%.

For this distribution, this probability could also be calculated as follows: The distribution of an Extreme Value distribution is given by the next formula (see Appendix C).

$$
F(x) = \exp\left[-\exp\left(-\frac{x-a}{b}\right)\right]
$$

This means that with the parameters $a = 7.45152$ and $b = 0.88731$ of the Extreme Value distribution, the probability of LPC being smaller than $0.1 \in \text{may}$ be approximated by:

$$
p(LPC \le 10) = F(10) = \exp\left[-\exp\left(-\frac{10 - 7.45152}{0.88731}\right)\right]
$$

\n
$$
\Rightarrow p(LPC \le 10) = \exp[-\exp(-2.8721)] = 0.9450 = 94.5\%
$$

Figure 9. Example of "Extreme Value" PDF for LPC.

Figure 10. Example of "Gamma" PDF for LPC.

There is no analytical representation for a Gamma distribution function. Therefore, the probability of exceeding with the Gamma distribution cannot be calculated with an algorithm.

Another way of presentation of the results may be done through a cumulative distribution. An example of a cumulative distribution for the LPC of wind energy is given in Figure 11.

Figure 11. Example of cumulative distribution for LPC.

From the above graph, it can be seen for instance, that there is a probability of 90% that the LPC adopt a value between 6.16 €ct and 10.20 €ct.

From the obtained graph with the @RISK software, it can also be calculated that the probability of the LPC lying between 7.0 ϵ ct and 9.0 ϵ ct equals 56.7%. The probability of LPC being higher than 8 ϵ ct equals 61.5%.

Another result that can be obtained with the analysis is the so-called tornado diagram. An example of this diagram is presented in Figure 12.

Figure 12. Tornado diagram for LPC of wind energy.

In this diagram, the influence of the defined input parameters of the cost model on the LPC is quantified. This diagram reads as follows: a positive unit change of one of the input parameters of the left column causes an increase of the LPC. If the value plotted is negative, an increase of the input variable causes a decrease of the LPC.

To understand the significance of the values, the inflation rate is chosen as an example. If the inflation rate increases by one standard deviation (of its own distribution), the value of the LPC decreases by the factor 0.139 times the standard deviation of LPC.

In our example, the standard deviation of the inflation rate is obtained from its distribution. The estimated value of the standard deviation of the inflation rate is 0.0044. The estimated standard deviation of the LPC equals to 1.2455. An increase of the inflation rate from 0.03 to 0.0344 $(3.44\%$ instead of 3%) means that the LPC value will change from 7.84 ϵ ct (its mean value) to 7.84 - 0.137 x 1.2455 = 7.669 ϵ ct.

From the tornado diagram, it can also be read that the influence of the inflation rate is larger than the influence of for instance the farm availability.

Note that the presented tornado diagram is just an example. Tornado diagrams of other defined outputs may also be obtained when these outputs get a probabilistic distribution function. An example of another tornado diagram is given by Figure 13.

Figure 13. Tornado diagram for assembly costs

Gross Annual Electricity Production

From the cumulative distribution obtained for the gross annual electricity production (see Figure 14), it can be seen that there is a chance of 90% that the realised electricity production lies between $15.37*10^6$ and $25.13*10^6$ kWh. This production range is valid for one (average) turbine, in the defined wind farm, in one year. From this graph, it is also possible to derive what the possibility is that a minimum specified electric production is achieved by this turbine.

The probability that the electricity production becomes more than $25.13*10^6$ kWh is just 5%.

Figure 14. Cumulative distribution for electricity production.

For all other parameters where a probabilistic distribution function is derived, similar questions to those presented for the LPC and the gross electric production could be answered. These analyses are not presented here.

5.4 Analysis of Obtained Output

An analysis of some results is presented in this section. Analysis of other output variables can be achieved similarly by coupling the desired output calculation to the defined PDF's. The results presented here are based on the tornado diagram obtained in the previous section. They are intended as an example.

The four parameters that have the largest influence on the LPC of wind energy, as calculated in the cost model for the wind farm design as presented in section 5.2 (see Figure 12) are:

- Wind speed at reference height;
- Wind deficit:
- Inflation rate:
- Material cost of piles and tower;

The influence of these parameters is explained here briefly. The calculated standard deviation of the distribution function for LPC used for this analysis is 1.2926, while the mean value is 7.987. These values may change slightly every time a ω RISK simulation is run, although the results will be very similar.

Wind Speed at Reference Height

The wind speed at reference height depends on the location of the wind farm. At different locations, different roughness of the seawater surface may be found, influencing the wind speed at a certain height. At a determined location, the wind speed may vary during the day or season of the year due to changes in, for instance, the ambient temperature. In other words, the wind speed is a stochastic variable that influences the LPC of wind energy by its variability. For this parameter, a Normal PDF is used (see section 3.3).

From the wind speed at the reference height, the speed at hub height is calculated. An increase of the mean wind speed at hub height level (taken over the whole year) will mean that the total delivered energy of the wind turbine will increase over a year. Increasing of the delivered energy of the turbine without increasing the total costs will reduce the LPC of wind energy.

The amount of reduction of the LPC, can be estimated from the tornado diagram:

- Std. deviation for wind speed distribution = 0.5962 [m/s];
- Mean wind speed at reference height = 9.35 [m/s];
- Change of reference wind speed from 9.35 to 9.41 [m/s] results in a change of LPC from 7.987 [ϵ ct/kWh] to 7.987 – 0.715*1.2926 = 7.063 [ϵ ct/kWh].

Wind Deficit

The wind deficit is caused by the mutual interference of the wind turbines. It depends among other factors, on the way the wind turbines are distributed in the farm and the magnitude of the wind speed direction distribution during the year. The wind deficit is a stochastic parameter. By giving a distribution function to this parameter, the influence of its uncertainty on the LPC can be quantified. The PDF used for this parameter is a PERT distribution, see section 3.3.

The influence of the wind deficit into the LPC is similar to the influence of the reference wind speed discussed above. The array efficiency is defined as $\{1\text{-wind}$ deficit $\}$. The array efficiency of the wind farm is directly related to the mean wind speed at hub height level. The last one is a function of the reference speed, the hub height, the wind shear exponent and the array efficiency.

An increase in wind deficit means that the array efficiency will decrease, decreasing in return the wind speed at hub level and the delivered energy of the wind turbine. This will cause the LPC to increase.

The amount of increase of the LPC, can be estimated from the tornado diagram:

- Std. deviation for wind deficit = 0.0465 [-] (= 4.65%);
- Mean wind deficit = 0.1510 [-] (= 15.1%);
- Change of wind deficit from 15.1% to 19.75% results in a change of LPC from 7.987 $[6ct/kWh]$ to $7.987 + 0.621 * 1.2926 = 8.790$ $[6ct/kWh]$.

Inflation Rate

The inflation rate is an economic parameter that changes depending on the economic market. For the cost model, it is a parameter with an unknown value. For this parameter, a Normal PDF is used in the cost model, see section 3.3 for details.

The inflation rate influences the real interest rate at which a loan is issued. By an increase of the inflation rate, the real interest rate decreases, decreasing the relative value of the loan. By a rise of the inflation rate over the years, the LPC will decrease.

The amount of reduction of the LPC, was already estimated from the tornado diagram in section 5.3:

- Std. deviation for inflation rate distribution $= 0.0044$ [-];
- Mean inflation rate $= 0.03$ [-];
- Change of inflation rate from 3% to 3.44% [-] results in a change of LPC from 7.987 $[6ct/kWh]$ to $7.987 - 0.139 * 1.2926 = 7.807$ $[6ct/kWh]$.

Material Cost of Piles and Tower

The cost of material directly influences the LPC of wind energy. The value of this parameter is derived from past projects and the expected upper and lower limits of it are estimated based on expected market variability. The used PDF for this parameter is a PERT distribution, see section 3.3 for details.

By increasing the cost of materials, the LPC of wind energy will increase. The amount of increase of the LPC, can be estimated from the tornado diagram:

- Std. deviation for material cost parameter $= 0.4912$ [-];
- Mean material cost parameter $= 2.4667$ [-];

- Change of material cost parameter from 2.47 to 2.96 results in a change of LPC from 7.987 [fct/kWh] to 7.987 + 0.081*1.2926 = 8.092 [fct/kWh].

Note that depending on the characteristics of the wind farm to be analysed, the parameters having the largest influence on the LPC of wind energy may vary.

For a wind farm located for instance at a long distance from shore, costs of cable laying equipment become more significant for the LPC costs than for a wind farm located near shore. The same conclusion is applicable for other input parameters like for instance the economic lifetime of the wind farm.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

- 1. OWECOP-Prob enables a probabilistic analysis of the cost and potential of offshore wind energy as calculated by OWECOP. The implementation of this probabilistic model may replace all what-if analysis, by variation of the input parameters in OWECOP. The OWECOP-Prob model also gives a good insight of the relative effects of the input parameters.
- 2. OWECOP-Prob is especially suited for site-specific analysis of wind farms. A global approach for a sector of the Dutch EEZ, like for instance in the deterministic version, is not possible because the model is not coupled to a GIS database. OWECOP-Prob could however quantify some useful boundaries for the outcome of the GIS database approach.
- 3. To implement the probabilistic model into OWECOP, all user-defined variables were separated into wind farm design parameters and wind farm unknowns. All wind farm unknowns include a probabilistic distribution function.
- 4. If desired, other user-defined variables may easily be represented by a probabilistic distribution function. The same applies to other output variables, making OWECOP-Prob a flexible tool.
- 5. The probabilistic distribution functions have a shape that has been derived from expert opinions. The probabilistic model helps to visualise the influence of the variables on the results.
- 6. Depending on the characteristics of the wind farm to be analysed, the parameters having the largest influence on the LPC of wind energy may vary.
- 7. In expectation of results of studies about the variability of Operation en Maintenance costs, a probabilistic analysis of O&M has not yet been performed with OWECOP-Prob.
- 8. In this report, a 480 MW wind farm (80 x 6MW turbines) at a water depth of 20 metres has been used as an example. In the analysis performed, the uncertainty of the wind characteristics, the mutual influence of the wind turbines and the inflation rate have the major influence on the LPC calculation.

6.2 Recommendations

Based on the results presented in section 5 and the conclusions presented here above, the following recommendation is given:

- Introduce a probabilistic analysis of Operation and Maintenance costs.
- Search and implement a possible correlation between some defined parameters. Example of correlated parameters could be wind speed and Weibull factors for wind, and Wave height and Weibull factors for wave conditions.

7. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A. LIST OF COMPONENTS OF A WIND TURBINE FARM

APPENDIX B. COMPLETE INPUT LIST FROM THE COST MODEL

APPENDIX C. PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION FUNCTIONS

Normal PDF as stated in @RISK manual:

Normal

Page 1 of 1

Normal

 $NORMAL(\mu,\sigma)$

Applications

Distribution of characteristics of a population (height, weight); size of quantities that are the sum of other quantities (because of the central limit theorem).

Density

$$
f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)
$$

Distribution

No closed form

Parameters

 $\sigma>0$

Domain

 $-\infty < x < \infty$

Mean

 μ

Mode

 μ

Variance

 σ^2

Normal Graphs

mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files%202\Dtools\SYSTEM\pdf4.chm::/htm/normal.htm 3/14/02

Uniform PDF as stated in @RISK manual:

Uniform

Page 1 of 1

Uniform

UNIFORM(min, max)

Applications

Quantities that variy uniformly between two values.

Density

$$
f(x) = \frac{1}{max - min}
$$

Distribution

$$
F(x) = \frac{x - min}{max - min}
$$

Parameters

 $min \leq max$

Domain

 $min \le x \le max$

Mean

 $min + max$ \bar{z}

Mode

No unique mode

Variance

 $(max - min)^2$ 12

Uniform Graphs

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PERT PDF as stated in @RISK manual:

Pert

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Pert

PERT(min, most likely, max)

Applications

Rough modeling when actual data is absent, approximate activity time in a PERT network.

Density

$$
f(x) = f_{\hat{\alpha}}(x', \alpha, \alpha)
$$

where

 f_{B} is the density of a BETA distribution

$$
x' = \frac{x - \min}{\max - \min}
$$

 $\mu = \frac{min + 4 * most likely + max}{max}$ δ

$$
\alpha_1 = \frac{(\mu - min)(2 * most likely - min - max)}{(most likely - \mu)(max - min)}
$$

$$
\alpha_2 = \alpha_1 \frac{max - \mu}{\mu - min}
$$

Distribution

$$
F(x) = F_{\scriptscriptstyle B}(x',\alpha_{\scriptscriptstyle B},\alpha_{\scriptscriptstyle B})
$$

where $F_{\scriptscriptstyle{\text{B}}}$ is the distribution of a BETA function

Parameters

 $min <$ most likely $<$ max

Domain

 $m m \leq x \leq max$

Mean

μ

Mode

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most likely

Variance

Pert

$$
\frac{\alpha_1\alpha_2(max - min)^2}{(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)^2(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + 1)}
$$

PERT Graphs

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Extreme Value

Extreme Value

EXTVALUE(a,b)

Applications

The limit, as n tends to infinity, of the maximum value of n independent random variates
with the same continuous distribution. Also called the Gumbel distribution.

Density

$$
f(x) = \left(\frac{1}{b}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{x-a}{b}\right) \exp\left[-\exp\left(-\frac{x-a}{b}\right)\right]
$$

Distribution

$$
F(x) = \exp\left[-\exp\left(-\frac{x-a}{b}\right)\right]
$$

Parameters

 $b>0$

Domain

 $-\infty < \chi < \infty$

Mean

 $a-b\Gamma'(1)$

$$
_{where}\ \Gamma^{\prime\prime}\!\!\left(n\right)\!=\!\tfrac{\mathcal{A}\left(n\right)}{\mathcal{A}},\Gamma^{\prime}\!\left(1\right)\!\equiv\!-0.57721
$$

Mode

 α

Variance

 $b^2\pi^2$ $\overline{6}$

Extreme Value Graphs

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mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files%202\Dtools\SYSTEM\pdf4.ch.../extremevalue.ht 3/15/02

