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Dynamic prediction of building subsidence deformation with data-based mechanistic self-memory model

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This paper describes a building subsidence deformation prediction model with the self-memorization principle. According to the non-linear specificity and monotonic growth characteristics of the time series of building subsidence deformation, a data-based mechanistic self-memory model considering randomness and dynamic features of building subsidence deformation is established based on the dynamic data retrieved method and the self-memorization equation. This model first deduces the differential equation of the building subsidence deformation system using the dynamic retrieved method, which treats the monitored time series data as particular solutions of the nonlinear dynamic system. Then, the differential equation is evolved into a difference-integral equation by the self-memory function to establish the self-memory model of dynamic system for predicting nonlinear building subsidence deformation. As the memory coefficients of the proposed model are calculated with historical data, which contain useful information for the prediction and overcome the shortcomings of the average prediction, the model can predict extreme values of a system and provide higher fitting precision and prediction accuracy than deterministic or random statistical prediction methods. The model was applied to subsidence deformation prediction of a building in Xi'an. It was shown that the model is valid and feasible in predicting building subsidence deformation with good accuracy.

data-based mechanistic, self-memorization equation, building subsidence deformation, retrieved modeling, dynamic prediction

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The fast development of economics promotes the urbanization of China. More and more high-rises appear in our cities [1–16]. In order to ensure the service life and security of constructional works, it is necessary to monitor the constructional work systematically during its building and operating. Due to the diversity, complexity and non-deterministic characters of inducing factors of the building subsidence deformation, the mechanical behavior and deformation trend of building subsidence also reflect non-linear characteristics with the coexistence of the uncertainty and randomness [17–34]. Existing methods for building subsidence deformation prediction usually establish the time series analysis model by utilizing monitored data [35–40]. How-

ever, most of these models are of the "parameter model" class which may not have clear physical meaning of parameters and discard effective parts of monitoring data. On the basis of the retrieved modeling, self-memorization principle has been recently developed based on the mechanism of time series data. As a mathematic realization on integration of deterministic and random theory, the self-memory model is a statistical-dynamical method to solve problems in nonlinear dynamic systems [41–43]. The core method of the model is to transform differential equations into difference-integral equations by introduction of the self-memory function. For dynamic systems described by differential equations, prediction model can be established directly by self-memorization equation. As for dynamic systems which cannot be described by differential equations, as long as the

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system has a certain length of time series data which can be treated as particular solutions of the nonlinear dynamic system, the approximate nonlinear differential equation describing the dynamic system can be deduced by retrieved modeling. With the help of differential equation, system prediction can be easily conducted then. Turbulence and explosion [44–46] are rapid and intense mechanical process different from slowly sinking activities in this paper, but they can also be described by the dynamical evolution. Some micro-activities, such as unsaturated soil volume change will have an impact. Therefore, to improve the accuracy of prediction, the self-memory model not only combines dynamics calculations and estimate parameters of historical data, but also utilizes the strength of extracting information from historical data in statistics [47–49].

In view of advantages of the self-memorization principle in prediction, this study established a building subsidence deformation prediction model with the self-memory function. The model takes the evolution of building subsidence deformation as that of dynamical systems and utilizes the self-memorization equation and its prediction model of dynamic system to conduct the non-linear displacement time series analysis and prediction. As an illustration, the subsidence deformation of a building in Xi'an was predicted in case study. It was shown that the prediction results are consistent with the monitored data; the proposed model is valid and feasible in predicting building subsidence deformation.

1 Establish the differential equation for the dynamic prediction of building subsidence deformation by bi-directional difference method

If the time series of building subsidence deformation are x(t), and $x_t=x(t)$, then the time-varying differential equation can be described as [47,48]

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = a_1 x_t + a_2 x_{t-1} + \dots + a_p x_{t-p+1} + b_1 x_t^2 + b_2 x_{t-1}^2 + \dots + b_p x_{t-p+1}^2, \tag{1}$$

where a_1 , a_2 ,… a_p , b_1 , b_2 ,… b_p are undetermined coefficients; x denotes the building subsidence deformation, x_t , x_{t-1} ,… x_{t-p+1} are the values of x at time t, t-1,…t-p+1, respectively; p is the retrospective order of the equation, which denotes that the change of x is related to the values at time t, t-1,…t-p+1.

If x(t) is a sample of same time interval, and if $\Delta t = (t+1)-t=1$, then the errors of bi-directional in eq. (1) can be expressed respectively as

$$\varepsilon_{bk} = (x_k - x_{k-1}) - (a_1 x_{k-1} + \dots + a_p x_{k-p} + b_1 x_{k-1}^2 + \dots + b_p x_{k-p}^2),$$
 (2)

$$\varepsilon_{fk} = (x_{k+1} - x_k) - (a_1 x_k + \dots + a_n x_{k-n+1} + b_1 x_k^2 + \dots + b_n x_{k-n+1}^2).$$
 (3)

Then the objective function to get the minimum of eqs. (2) and (3) can be expressed as

$$\min \ \varepsilon^2 = \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\varepsilon_{bk}^2 + \varepsilon_{fk}^2 \right), \tag{4}$$

where n=m-p-1, m is the time-series length that will be used to solve relevant parameters.

The coefficients a_1 , a_2 , $\cdots a_p$ and b_1 , b_2 , $\cdots b_p$ in eq. (4) are evaluated by the least squares method. The retrospective order p should be a smaller value to ensure the robustness of the model. Meanwhile, the number of terms in the right-hand side of eq. (1) can be reduced by the size of relative variance. Let $c_k = [a_k b_k]$; the criterion can be expressed as

$$\sigma_k = c_k^2 / \sum_k c_k^2 \,. \tag{5}$$

When σ_k is less than the specified value σ_c (σ_c is a pregiven smaller value and assumed to be 0.01 in this paper), this term plays a minor role in eq. (1) and can be deleted. Then, the term numbers and coefficients in eq. (1) can be determined.

2 Dynamic prediction with data-based mechanistic self-memory model

Introducing a memory function into a differential equation will produce a difference-integral equation, that is, the self-memorization equation [47–50]. The differential equation dx/dt, which has been determined by solving eqs. (1)–(5), is considered to be the system dynamic equation of building subsidence deformation:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = F\left(x, \lambda, t\right),\tag{6}$$

where λ is a parameter, t is time interval series, and $F(x, \lambda, t)$ is the dynamic kernel. Introduce a memory function $\beta(t)$, and define an inner product in the Hilbert space:

$$(f,g) = \int_{a}^{b} f(\xi)g(\xi)d\xi \quad (f,g \in L^{2}). \tag{7}$$

Applying the above inner product operation to eq. (6) and supposing variables x, β are continuous, differentiable and integrable, we can obtain the analytic formula of eq. (6) as

$$\int_{t_{-p}}^{t_{-p+1}} \beta(t) \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} dt + \int_{t_{-p+1}}^{t_{-p+2}} \beta(t) \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} dt + \dots + \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \beta(t) \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} dt$$

$$= \int_{t_{-p}}^{t} \beta(t) F(x, \lambda, t) dt. \tag{8}$$

For every integral term in the left-hand side of eq. (8), after following calculus, making an integration by parts, applying the median theorem, and performing algebra operation, we can obtain a difference-integral equation which is

called a self-memorization equation with the retrospective order p:

 $x_{t} = \frac{1}{\beta_{t}} \left[\beta_{-p} x_{-p} + \sum_{i=-p}^{0} x_{i}^{m} \left(\beta_{i-1} - \beta_{i} \right) + \int_{t_{-p}}^{t} \beta(\tau) F(x, \lambda, \tau) d\tau \right], \tag{9}$

where $\beta_t \equiv \beta(t)$, $x_t = x(t)$, $\beta_i \equiv \beta(t_i)$, $x_i = x(t_i)$; i = -p, -p + 1,...0; $x_i^m \equiv x(t_m)$, $t_i < t_m < t_{i+1}$.

As the first and second terms in eq. (9) denote the relative contributions to the value of variable x, they are defined as the self-memory terms. The third term is the total contribution of the function $F(x, \lambda, t)$ in the retrospective time interval $[t_{-p}, t_0]$, and it is defined as the exogenous effect term. eq. (8) emphasizes serial correlation of the system by itself, i.e. the self-memorization of the system. Therefore eq. (9) is called the self-memory equation of the system.

If integral operation is substituted by summation and differential is transformed into difference in eq. (9), then the mean value x_i^m is replaced simply by two values of different times, namely

$$x_i^m = (x_{i+1} + x_i)/2 \equiv y_i. {10}$$

Take equidistance time interval $\Delta t_i = t_{i-1} - t_i = 1$, and merge β_t and β_i together. Letting $x_{-p} \equiv x_{-p-1}^m$ and $\beta_{-p-1} = 0$, we have a discrete-type of eq. (9) as

$$x_{t} = \sum_{i=-p-1}^{-1} \alpha_{i} y_{i} + \sum_{i=-p}^{0} \theta_{i} F(x, \lambda, i),$$
 (11)

where $\alpha_i = (\beta_{i+1} - \beta_i)/\beta_i$, $\theta_i = \beta_i/\beta_i$, $F(x, \lambda, t)$ is determined by eq. (1). The memory coefficients α_i and θ_i are estimated by least squares method [47,50]. Namely, eq. (11) may be used

to dynamically predict the building subsidence deformation.

3 Case study

To verify that the proposed model can be used for nonlinear subsidence deformation prediction of buildings, the subsidence data of a high-rise residential building in Chang'an University was selected for modeling and analysis. Table 1 lists the cumulative subsidence data [40] of monitoring point $3^{\#}$.

In the establishment of a self-memory model, intervals No. 1–26 were taken as the training samples, intervals No. 27–30 were chosen as the testing samples for prediction test. The retrospective order p was determined by trial calculation method. That is, p=2, 3, 4, 5 were selected respectively in turn to construct the prediction model. The smaller relative errors of fitting and multi-step extrapolation prediction were chosen as the criterion to filter the retrospective order p. The calculation results were shown in Table 2.

According to the relationship between the retrospective order p and errors of prediction in Table 2, it could be seen that the average relative error of prediction was reduced with the increase of retrospective order p, which is basically consistent with the modeling experience of trial calculation method. When the retrospective order p=2, the average relative error of prediction was the least, so the value of retrospective order was selected as p=2. Then, the time-varying differential equation of building subsidence deformation could be inversely derived as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = 0.5735x_t - 0.4862x_{t-1} + 0.0344x_t^2 - 0.0282x_{t-1}^2. \quad (12)$$

If the right-side terms of the inversely derived differential equation are regard as the dynamic kernel F, then dx/dt=F. The self-memorization equation of building subsidence

 Table 1
 Cumulative subsidence data

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Monitoring data (mm)	0.20	0.50	-0.10	-0.70	-0.90	-1.10	-1.20	-1.30	-1.80	-2.20
No.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Monitoring data (mm)	-2.40	-2.60	-3.10	-3.60	-3.80	-3.90	-4.00	-4.20	-4.70	-5.10
No.	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Monitoring data (mm)	-5.30	-5.40	-6.20	-6.80	-7.20	-7.20	-7.40	-7.80	-8.10	-8.20

Table 2 Relationship between the retrospective order p and errors of prediction and fitting

	p	2	3	4	5	
Eman of fitting	root mean square error (mm)	0.1711	0.1658	0.1617	0.1374	
Error of fitting	average relative error (%)	4.2700	4.4200	3.4200	2.6200	
The average relativ	ve error of prediction (%)	3.2200	6.9700	10.46	10.50	

deformation can be established. After the differential equation is discretely dealt with, the memory coefficients can be solved by least squares method. Then the prediction equation of building subsidence deformation can be expressed as

$$x_{i} = \sum_{-3}^{-1} \alpha_{i} y_{i} + \sum_{i=-2}^{0} \theta_{i} F(x, \lambda, i),$$
 (13)

where α_{-3} =0.1786, α_{-2} =-0.9301, α_{-1} =2.6195, θ_{-2} =-1.7527, θ_{-1} =-0.5815, and θ_0 =2.0125.

Eq. (13) was used to calculate and fit the monitoring data No. 5–26 of Table 1. There were not fitting values for intervals No. 1–4 because of the retrospective order. Meanwhile, the subsidence data of intervals No. 27–30 were predicted to test the prediction model. The contrast between the fitting results of self-memory model and observed values are shown in Figure 1. Figure 2 and Table 3 show the comparison of the prediction results and observed values.

It is shown in Figures 2, 3 and Table 3 that the fitted relative errors of 22 samples are from 1.26% to 18.86% with the average of 4.27%. There are 17 samples with the relative errors less than 5.00%, which account for 77.3% of the total; there is no sample with relative error greater than 10.00%. In the test calculation of four prediction steps, the minimum and maximum relative errors of the single-step prediction method are 0.58% and 2.39%, respectively, the average relative error is 1.76%. The minimum and maximum relative errors of the multi-step prediction method are 0.58% and 10.87%, respectively; the average relative error is 3.22%. In [40], the relative errors of prediction were 6.07%, 1.84% and 1.18% for the maximum Lyapunov index prediction method, first-order local prediction method and weighted first-order local prediction method, respectively. From the comparative analysis, it can be known that the prediction accuracy of the proposed self-memory model is higher than that of the maximum Lyapunov index prediction method and is similar to that of the weighted first-order local prediction method. In addition, the average relative error of the single-step prediction method is less than that of the multi-step prediction method, because the single-step prediction method makes full use of the latest monitoring information to improve the prediction accuracy. According to the prediction theory, error generally increases rapidly with the increase of prediction time steps. Compared with the single-step prediction method, the average relative error increase of the multi-step prediction method is only 1.46%, which is in the controllable range. The above analysis shows that a building subsidence deformation prediction model with the self-memory model has certain advantages and can well predict multi-step displacements to meet engineering requirements. The model can be applied to building subsidence deformation prediction, building construction

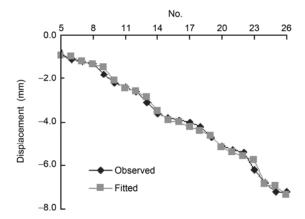


Figure 1 Comparison between fitted and observed values.

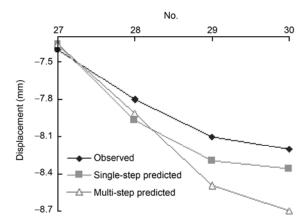


Figure 2 Comparison between predicted and observed values.

Table 3 Comparison between predicted and observed values

Nο	data (mm)	Multi-step prediction		Single-step prediction		The maximum Lyaunov index prediction method		The first-order local prediction method		Weighted first-order local prediction method	
		Prediction value (mm)	Relative error (%)	Prediction value (mm)	Relative error (%)	Prediction value (mm)	Relative error (%)	Prediction value (mm)	Relative error (%)	Prediction value (mm)	Relative error (%)
27	-7.40	-7.36	0.58	-7.36	0.58	-8.06	8.93	-7.57	2.29	-7.48	1.13
28	-7.80	-7.91	1.43	-7.97	2.16	-8.05	3.15	-7.76	0.48	-7.66	1.81
29	-8.10	-8.49	10.87	-8.29	2.39	-8.34	2.94	-8.21	1.31	-8.09	0.10
30	-8.20	-8.70	6.04	-8.36	1.91	-8.96	9.28	-8.47	3.28	-8.34	1.68
Ave	rage value	_	3.22	-	1.76	-	6.07	-	1.84	-	1.18

management and building safety warning.

4 Conclusion

The nonlinear time series of building subsidence deformation is regarded as the evolution of dynamic system in this paper, and building subsidence deformation dynamic prediction with data-based mechanistic self-memory model is established. Because the time series of building subsidence deformation reflect the nonlinear characteristics of the building subsidence trend, the self-memory equation is a dynamic equation and its memory coefficient is estimated by statistical methods. Therefore, the self-memory model can describe the nonlinear dynamic system of building subsidence deformation and analyze the sequential subsidence deformation effectively. Case study shows that the method has good prediction accuracy and superiority, and has important application value.

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