



Case Study

Comparison of artificial neural networks (ANN), support vector machine (SVM) and gene expression programming (GEP) approaches for predicting TBM penetration rate

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Abstract

The history of tunnel boring machine (TBM) tunnelling dates back to nearly 50 years ago. Due to high construction cost, the investigation on TBM performance is regarded as one of the crucial issues which should be considered from different aspects. The prediction of TBM penetration rate is one of the most important part of every mechanized tunnelling project which plays a key role in selecting the machine as well. One of the major difficulties and challenges in TBM performance prediction is to apply novel approaches to predict the TBMs penetration rate. Considering the importance of this issue, the objective of this research work is to attain more realistic models for predicting TBM penetration rate in Iranian water conveyance tunneling. With this respect, a database comprises field data and machine parameters in Chamshir water conveyance tunneling project were established. The data were then analyzed through artificial neural networks (ANN), support vector machine (SVM) and gene expression programming (GEP). Results demonstrated that obtained values of the coefficient of determination (R^2) and the root mean square error (RMSE) found to be 0.99 and 0.15 for ANN, 0.95 and 0.37 for SVM, 0.99 and 0.11 for GEP, respectively. These models can be applied to predict TBM penetration rate in the Chamshir water conveyance tunnel. Moreover, it can be concluded that the GEP method has the higher accuracy (maximum R^2 and minimum RMSE) among all predictive models.

Keywords Tunnel boring machine (TBM) · Chamshir water conveyance tunnel · Artificial neural networks (ANN) · Support vector machine (SVM) · Gene expression programming (GEP)

1 Introduction

TBMs are the most outstanding excavating machines in tunnels and underground spaces [1, 2]. One of the important tasks in mechanical excavation is to predict the penetration rate (PR) of the miner [3, 4]. Knowing the factors influencing the penetration rate is crucial because it can directly affect project's schedule, particularly cutting time, as well as operating costs [5, 6]. Penetration rate is the key factor through performance prediction of tunnel boring machines (TBMs) [7, 8].

There are various methods and equations to predict PR [9, 10], each has its own characteristics [11, 12] due to site specific rock mass parameters and machine specifications [13, 14]. TBMs penetration rate is the first and most important step in predicting the time of tunneling project [15, 16]. One of the major difficulties and challenges in TBM performance prediction is to find more precise approaches to predict the TBMs penetration rate. Considering the importance of this issue and existing site specific models, the aim of this study is to use modern methods and compare their results to yield more

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realistic models for predicting TBM penetration rate in Iranian water conveyance tunneling.

Oraee and Salehi [17] proposed a new model for advance rate in TBMs. Hassanpour et al. [18] calculated TBM performance based on experience of TBM tunneling. Mohammadi et al. [19] suggested the TBM penetration rate using intact and mass rock properties. Paltrinieri et al. [20] studied the analysis and estimation of gripper TBM performances. Salimi et al. [21] developed a model for TBM performance prediction by regression technique. Jakubowski et al. [22] proposed a new model for the tunnel boring machine performance by multivariate linear regression technique. Liu et al. [23] presented a model for TBM performance prediction using a rock mass classification system. Maji and Theja [24] measured TBMs performance for rock. Mikaeil et al. [25] proposed a model to predict the penetration rate by fuzzy technique. Yagiz et al. [26] presented a model for prediction of rock brittleness. Adoko and Yagiz [27] proposed a new model for TBM field penetration index. Namli and Bilgin [28] developed a model to predict daily advance rates of EPB-TBMs. Afradi et al. [29] suggested a new method for TBM penetration rate using ant colony optimization, bee colony optimization and the particle swarm optimization. The aim of this paper is to show the application of ANN, SVM and GEP for prediction of TBM penetration rate in Chamshir water conveyance tunnel which is considered as one the most important TBM tunneling projects in Iran. Furthermore, the capability of these approaches to attain the more realistic results is investigated.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 The study area

Chamshir water conveyance tunnel is located in the northwest of Bushehr Province and northeastern part of the

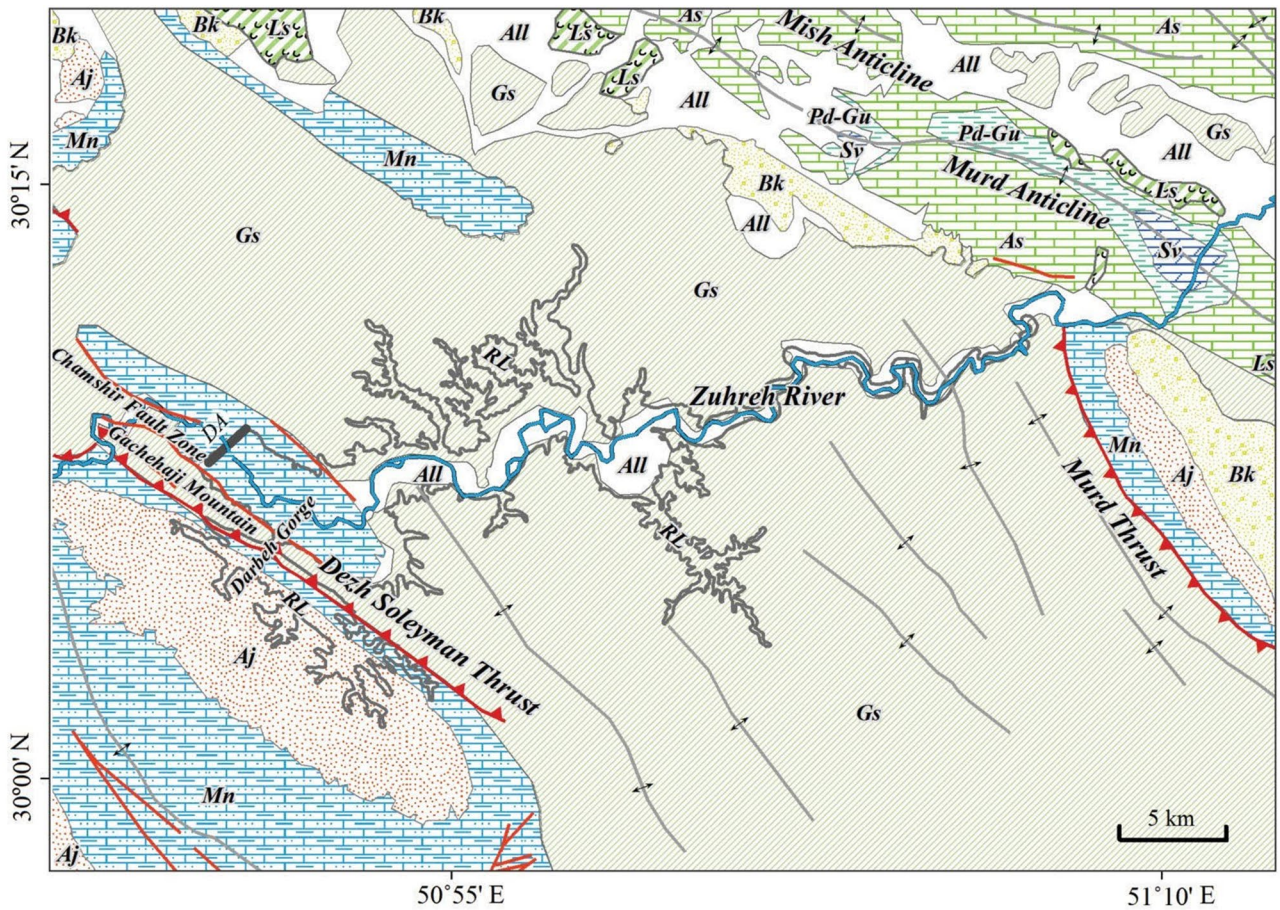
city of Dilam and has been implemented to transfer water to Chamshir dam in Kohgiluyeh province in Iran [30]. A comprehensive database is compiled from field data and machine parameters during tunnel construction. It should be stated that these parameters are the most influential parameters on TBM performance. The list of parameters and the statistical description of the data is presented in Table 1, and Fig. 1 shows the situation of the Chamshir water conveyance tunnel.

2.2 Artificial neural networks (ANN)

With the discovery that the human brain performs computations quite differently from conventional digital computers studies on artificial neural networks have grown [31, 32]. The brain is a very complicated and parallel structure [33, 34]. Due to the ability to organize the fundamental elements of neurons, the brain has the capability to perform many calculations (such as pattern recognition, perception, etc.) at a much faster rate than the fastest digital computer [35, 36]. For example, consider the visual process, which in fact is a kind of information processing [37, 38]. The brain can easily handle the visual perception process at a time of 100–200 ms [39, 40]. However, the ability to detect much simpler images for conventional computers is much lower [41, 42]. Another interesting example of the complex brain capabilities is the sound system of the bat [43, 44]. This system has the ability to provide information such as bat distance to the target [for example, a flying mosquito], as well as relative velocity, dimensions, azimuth and target height [45, 46]. However, all these very complex calculations occur in the brain rapidly [47, 48]. Today's most advanced radars are not capable of doing this. At birth, the brain has a huge building and it has the ability to build and develop itself according to what we call "experience." In fact, experience is built up over time, and the highest volume of brain changes occurs during the first 2 years of birth, although this evolution continues

Table 1 Parameters and the statistical description of the database

	Joint spacing(m)	Joint angle (Deg.)	Revolutions per minute (RPM) (cycle / min)	Uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) (MPa)	Poisson's ratio	Brazilian tensile strength (BTS) (MPa)	Thrust per cutter (KN)	Power(KW)	Penetration rate (PR) (m/h)
Mean	0.20	26.62	5.61	47.33	0.27	7.12	198.60	710.63	2.661
N	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Std. Deviation	0.22	6.55	2.23	23.95	0.06	1.66	34.05	204.32	1.66
Minimum	0.1	19	3	10	0.20	5.00	150	480	1.5
Maximum	1.6	50	10	90	0.40	10.00	250	1200	9.0
Variance	0.05	42.92	5.00	573.83	0.004	2.76	1159.47	41,748.70	2.77



LEGEND			
All	Alluvium		Reservoir Limit
Bk	Bakhtiyari Fm.		Dam Axis (DA)
Aj	Aghajari Fm.		Anticline
Mn	Mishan Fm.		Fault
Gs	Gachsaran Fm.		Thrust Fault
As	Asmari Fm.		River
Pb-Gu	Pabdeh-Gurpi Fm.		
Sv	Sarvak Fm.		
Ls	Landslide		

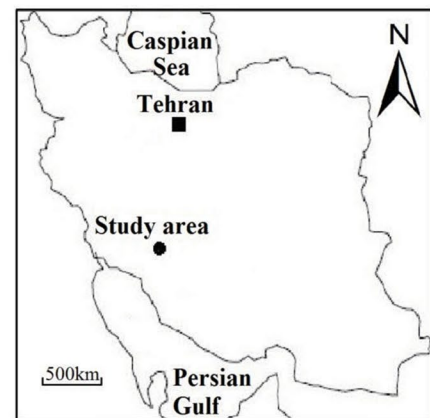


Fig. 1 Location of Chamshir water conveyance tunnel [30]

throughout life [49, 50]. On the other hand, the plasticity of the brain allows the neurons to adapt to the surrounding environment [51, 52]. Generally, a neural network is

a system designed to model brain function in a specific activity [53]. Neural networks are usually used as software in digital computers [54]. Also, for better performance,

these networks require a large amount of connections between "neurons" and "processing units" [55]. According to the above explanations, the following definition can be provided for neural networks: a very parallel and distributed neural network that consists of small processor units and has an inherent interest in storing empirical information and preparing it [56]. The neural network is similar to the brain in general:

1. Information is obtained in the same way as the brain through a learning process from the environment.
2. Synaptic weights are used to store information.

The steps are called the learning algorithm, which during this learning process weighs synaptically to correct an optimal response [57, 58]. The strength and ability of a neural network comes from two factors: first, a very parallel and scattered structure [59, 60]. The human nervous system is the same as a 3-step system. The first subsystem is the information receiver from the surrounding area [61, 62]. In the middle of this, brain system is the name of the neural network [63]. This section is constantly receiving information, understanding and decision making [64]. The final operator provides the answer after the decision stages in the final stage of the system [65, 66]. A neural network (artificial) is a network of simple elements called neurons that receive inputs and modify their internal status according to the same input (activation) and output according to input and activation [67, 68]. This network connects the output of some of the neurons to the input of other neurons and forms a directional and weighted graph [69, 70]. Weights, as well as the functions, that compute activation can be modified under a process called learning [71], which is managed by a learning rule [72].

A neuron labeled j that receives input $p_j(t)$ from its predecessor neurons consists of the following components [64]:

- A. An activator, which depends on a time discrete parameter.
- B. Probably a threshold θ_j , which is constant unless changed by the learner function.

C. An activation function f that computes the new activator at given time $t + 1$ from $\theta_j, a_j(t)$, and net p_j input and obtains the following Eq. (1) [65, 66]:

$$a_j(t + 1) = f(a_j(t), p_j(t), \theta_j) \tag{1}$$

And an output function that calculates the output of the activator:

$$o_j(t) = f_{out}(a_j(t)) \tag{2}$$

The diffusion function calculates the input of $p_j(t)$ to neurons j from the outputs $o_i(t)$ of neurons before and is usually as follows [67, 68]:

$$p_j(t) = \sum_i o_i(t) w_{ij} \tag{3}$$

Mathematically, the function $f(x)$ of a neuron network is defined as a combination of other $g_i(x)$ functions that can themselves be decomposed into other functions. The following is a summary of g_i functions as a vector [69, 70]:

$$g = (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n) \tag{4}$$

This requires defining a cost function $C: F \rightarrow R$ so that for the optimal answer we have f^* [71]:

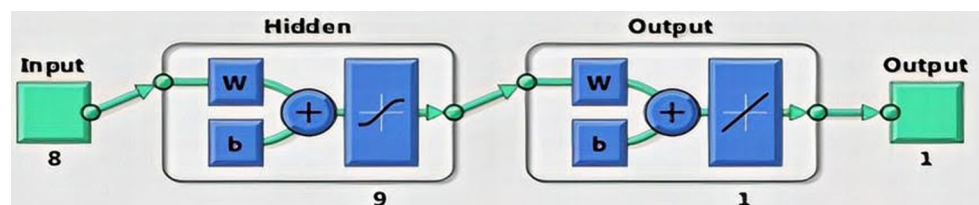
$$C(f^*) \leq C(f) \forall f \in F \tag{5}$$

As a simple example, consider finding the model f , which minimizes $C = E[(f(x) - y)^2]$ for ordered pairs of data (x, y) from a D distribution. In practice, we have only N instances of D , so for the above example, we minimize only the following statement [72]:

$$\hat{C} = \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N (f(x_i) - y_i^2) \right) \tag{6}$$

ANN structure of Chamshir water conveyance tunnel is shown in Fig. 2. It should be stated that several ANN structure has been made (in terms of different hidden and output layers with different nodes) and simplest structure with the lowest error was selected as ANN structure for Chamshir water conveyance tunnel.

Fig. 2 ANN structure of Chamshir water conveyance tunnel



2.3 Support vector machine (SVM)

At the beginning of the classification, we examine the data for a case. If the samples are linearly separable, you should look for the best line or super-plane that can split the two categories [73, 74].

In $w \cdot x + b = 0$, the vector w is called the weight, which is perpendicular to the separator superplane, and b is a bias value [75, 76]. Borders are defined as follows [Eq. (7)]:

$$\begin{aligned} H^+ &: w \cdot x + b = +1 \\ H^- &: w \cdot x + b = -1 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

The patterns on these pages have the closest distance to the optimal super-plane, which calls the support vector [77]. The region between the two hyperplanes H^+ and H^- is called the Margin.

The classification function in the SVM method is as follows [Eq. (8)]:

$$f(x) = \text{sign}(w \cdot x + b) \tag{8}$$

It is necessary to solve the problem of optimal super-conductivity as follows [Eq. (9)]:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } \frac{\|w\|^2}{2} &= \frac{1}{2}(w \cdot w) \\ \text{Subject to } &y_i(w \cdot x + b) \geq 1 \ \& \ y_i = \pm 1 \ \forall i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

The optimal superconducting objective is apart from all the superscripts that separate the convex corpuscles of the two classes, the best of them is the super-graph, which separates the convex corners of the two classes with the largest margin [78, 79]. To avoid scaling w and b , we conventionally consider the size of the decision function for the closest sample to be equal to 1 as follows [Eq. (10)]:

$$|w \cdot x_i + b| = 1 \tag{10}$$

In addition, the distance between each sample is as follows [Eq. (11)]:

$$\frac{|w \cdot x_i + b|}{\|w\|} \tag{11}$$

In this way, it can be seen the distance of the closest samples from each class is equal $\frac{1}{\|w\|}$ and the width of the margin is equal to $\frac{2}{\|w\|}$. So, we can minimize the value $\frac{\|w\|}{2}$ by maximizing the margin and by placing $\|w\|^2$ instead of $\|w\|$ an equation is obtained and its target function. Kernel functions are shown in Table 2, where γ, d, p , and r are kernel parameters.

SVM specifications of the Chamshir water conveyance tunnel are shown in Table 3, where C is a positive constant, and ϵ is the insensitive zone, both are chosen by the user.

Table 2 Kernel functions

Linear	$k(x_i, x_j) = x_i^T \cdot x_j$
Polynomial	$k(x_i, x_j) = (\gamma \langle x_i, x_j \rangle + r)^d \ \gamma > 0$
Gaussian	$k(x_i, x_j) = \exp\left(-\frac{x_i - x_j^2}{2p^2}\right)$
Radial basis function	$k(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\gamma x_i - x_j^2) \ \gamma > 0$
Sigmoid	$k(x_i, x_j) = \tanh(\gamma x_i \cdot x_j + r)$

Table 3 SVM specifications of the Chamshir water conveyance tunnel

Model	Kernel	Degree	ϵ	C	σ
ϵ -SVR	Radial basis function (RBF)	2	0.1	1000	0.5

C is also referred to as the regression parameter or penalty parameter and δ is an independent random noise.

2.4 Gene expression programming (GEP)

The program for gene expression was presented by Ferreira [80]. In this program, linear and simple constant-length chromosomes are used in the genetic algorithm and branch structures of different sizes and shapes are combined with expression trees in genetic planning [81]. The first step in the model algorithm is to generate the initial population of solutions, which can be done by random sampling or taking into information about the problem [82]. Chromosomes are expressed as expression tree and evaluated by fit function, if the desired solution or the arrival of generations, the evolution is stopped and the best solution is provided [83, 84]. If the conditions are not stopped, elitist will be done and the remaining solutions will be assigned to the selective process, which will be repeated for several generations and proceeded the generation to a superior quality of the population [85, 86]. In the planning of gene expression, various operators, such as mutation and combination, are used. The model uses the famous Roulette wheel for selecting individuals [87, 88]. The mutation operator is a random regeneration within certain chromosomes. The property of this operator to prevent the creation of defective individuals in terms of rules, the operation will run without defects. In this model, a single-point, two-point and gene combination are used. It is preferable that the two-point combination is able to turn the unencoded areas into chromosomes more extensively [89–91]. The general structure of the computation

performed in the GEP algorithm to arrive at the answer considers the following:

- At first, a generation (first generation) is created (produced).
- The population produced in the community (Hal field) is evaluated.
- The computational problem of the iterations begins to arrive at the answer.
- The next-generation number will be produced.
- The new generation is selected from the previous generation based on the evaluation and evaluation of the traits.
- If the new generation features are not suitable, each new member will be replaced.
- The new population in the community or field of settlement is evaluated.
- The computational loop is repeated long enough to satisfy the condition of generation evolution

Before implementing gene expression programming, consider the following:

1. Set of input variables (fixed numbers)
2. The set of mathematical operators used in the formulas
3. Selection of fit function for formulas fitting
4. Determine the parameters of the program controller (such as population, chromosomes created, etc.)
5. Completion criteria and presentation of program results (Determine a new value for fitting formulas if the fitness level is equal to or greater than that value, stop running.)

Each solution of the population is evaluated by considering Eqs. (12), (13) and (14) and the fitness function is obtained.

$$if(x = X_1 \ \& \ G(x) \geq 0) \tag{12}$$

$$fitness1(i) = \min |G(x)| \tag{13}$$

$$if(x = X_1 \ \& \ G(x) < 0) \tag{14}$$

$$fitness2(i) = \min |G(x)| \tag{15}$$

$$best_fitness = \arg \max [fitness1(i) + fitness2(i)] \tag{16}$$

In order to create a network for entering primary data for predicting the penetration rate, there is a need for input variables in programming. Genetic programming takes three steps (A, B, C) to solve the problem.

- A. Training
Learning is a process in which the network learns how to recognize the pattern in the input. For this purpose, each initial assumption is generated from a set of learning rules defining the mode of learning.
- B. Validation
Assessment is the ability of the network to provide acceptable responses to inputs that are not included in the training set.
- C. Testing
Implementation is the ability of the network to provide an acceptable answer to the inputs in the training set.

The values of the parameters used in GEP to predict the penetration rate in the Chamshir water conveyance tunnel are shown in Table 4. In Fig. 3, flowchart of GEP algorithm is shown.

2.5 Evaluation criteria

In this research, for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy and efficiency of the models, the coefficient of determination (R^2) and root mean square error (RMSE) factors are used according to the following Eqs. (17) and (18).

$$R^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \sum_{i=1}^N (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2}} \tag{17}$$

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - Y_i)^2} \tag{18}$$

X_i and Y_i are the computational and observational values of the time step i , N is the number of time steps. \bar{X} and \bar{Y}

Table 4 The values of the parameters used in GEP

Parameter value	Parameter description
10	(Head size)
30	(Chromosomes)
4	(Number of gene)
0.00138	(Mutation rate)
0.1	(Inversion rate)
0.00277	(One-point recombination rate)
0.00277	(Two-point recombination rat)
0.00277	(Gene recombination rate)
0.00546	(IS transposition rate)
0.00546	(RIS transposition rate)
0.00546	(Gene transposition rate)
RMSE	(Fitness Function)
(+)	(Linking Function)

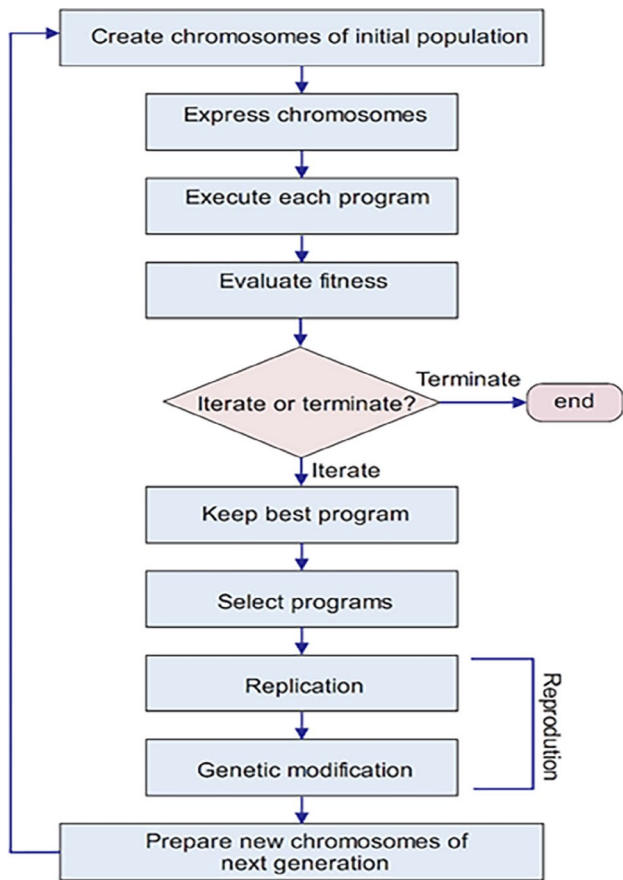


Fig. 3 Flowchart of GEP algorithm [92, 93]

are the average of computational and observational values, respectively.

2.6 Parameters

In studies of the main factors influencing penetration rate, we deal with variables that are in some way associated with several other variables. Since the task of science is to predict and explain phenomena, regression analysis can play an important role in research. As a result, to better and more accurately respond to the evaluation of TBM penetration rates in excavating projects, ANN, SVM and GEP be used to establish a relationship between these variables. Input and output parameters used in research are shown in Table 5.

As shown in Table 5, input and output parameters are presented, the penetration rate is considered as the output

Table 5 Input and output parameters

Input	Output
Joint spacing(m), Joint Angle (Deg.), RPM (cycle / min), UCS(MPa), Poisson’s Ratio, BTS(MPa), Thrust Per cutter (KN), Power (KW)	PR(m/h)

parameter and joint spacing (m), joint angle (Deg.), RPM (cycle/min), UCS (MPa), Poisson’s Ratio, BTS (MPa), Thrust Per Cutter (KN) and Power (KW) were considered as input parameters. In order to evaluate the effect of each variable on increasing or decreasing the penetration rate and establishing a meaningful relationship between them, the steps are entered into the software and each of the variables is added to the regression analysis to create a new model, respectively.

3 Results of modeling

3.1 Modeling results using ANN

At this point, we evaluate the performance of the network. You can see the results obtained from the network and the best performance of the network in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. The distribution diagram and the fitting diagram of penetration rates by the predictive model are shown in Figs. 6 and 7, respectively.

3.2 Modeling results using support vector machine (SVM)

At this point, using the data in prediction of the TBM penetration rate, we perform modeling using SVM and examine the results. R^2 and RMSE of the support vector machine model (SVM) are presented in Fig. 8 for predicting the penetration rate of the TBM. The fitting model of PR by SVM is shown in Fig. 9.

3.3 Modeling results using gene expression programming (GEP)

At this point, using the data in prediction of the TBM penetration rate, we perform modeling using GEP and examine the results. R^2 and RMSE of the GEP model for predicting

Fig. 4 Results obtained from artificial neural network

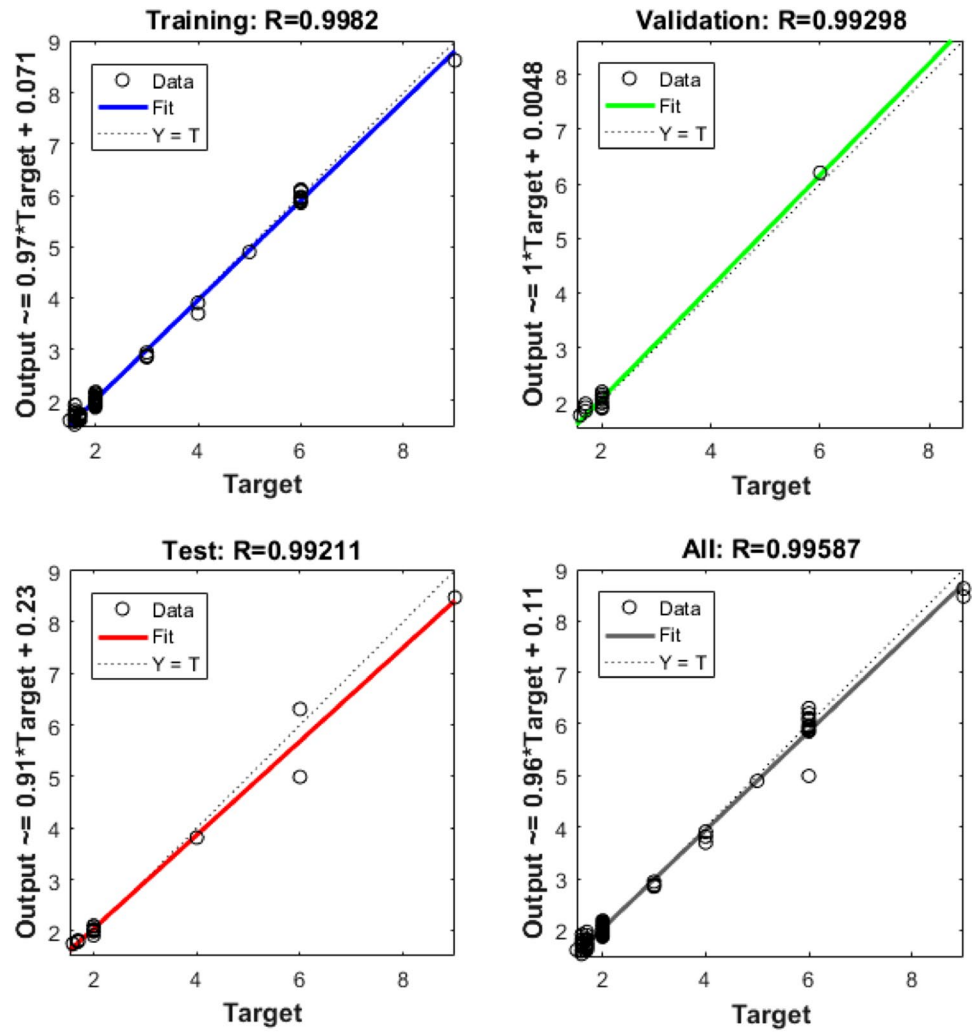
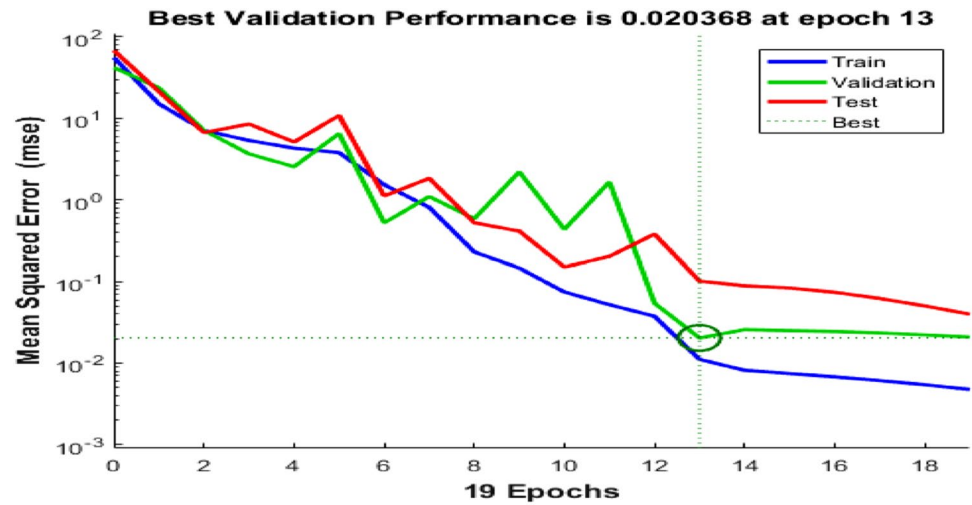


Fig. 5 Best network performance using artificial neural network



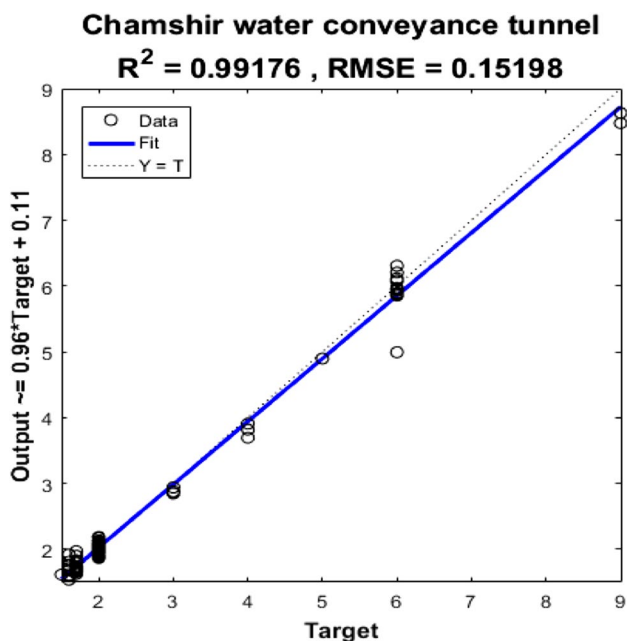


Fig. 6 Distribution diagram of penetration rate by ANN

the TBM penetration rate are shown in Fig. 10. The fitting diagram of PR by GEP in Fig. 11 is displayed. Expression Tree of predictive relation of the penetration rate in this database, created by the GEP model, is shown between input variables and penetration rates in Fig. 12. The

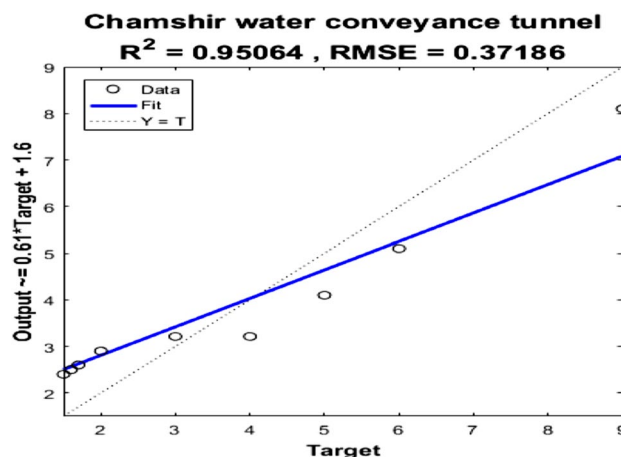


Fig. 8 Distribution diagram of penetration rate by SVM

mathematical expression of this equation is also described in relation to [(Eq. (19)].

$$\begin{aligned}
 ET1 &= -3.01 - \ln(\text{RPM}) + 0.230 - \ln(\text{thrustpercutter})^2 \\
 ET2 &= 8.87 - \frac{1}{(\text{RPM} - 6.38)^3 - 2.2} \\
 ET3 &= \ln(\text{UCS} - \text{RPM} - \text{Thrustpercutter} \\
 &\quad - \text{Power} + 4.21) + \frac{1}{\text{Thrustpercutter}}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19}$$

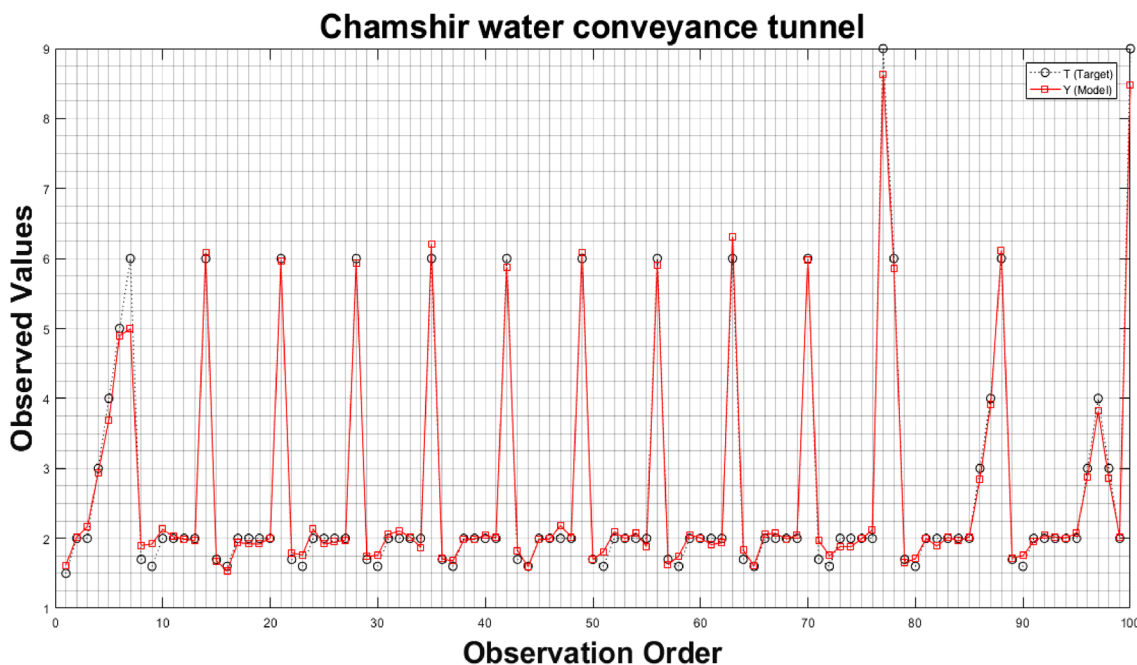


Fig. 7 Fitting diagram of penetration rate by ANN

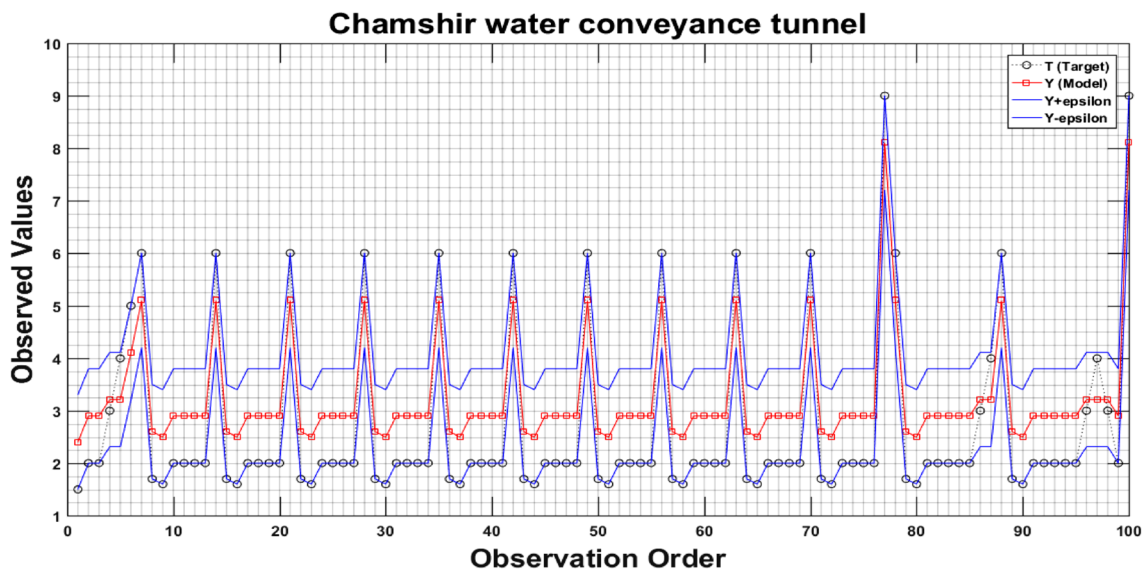


Fig. 9 Fitting diagram of penetration rate by SVM

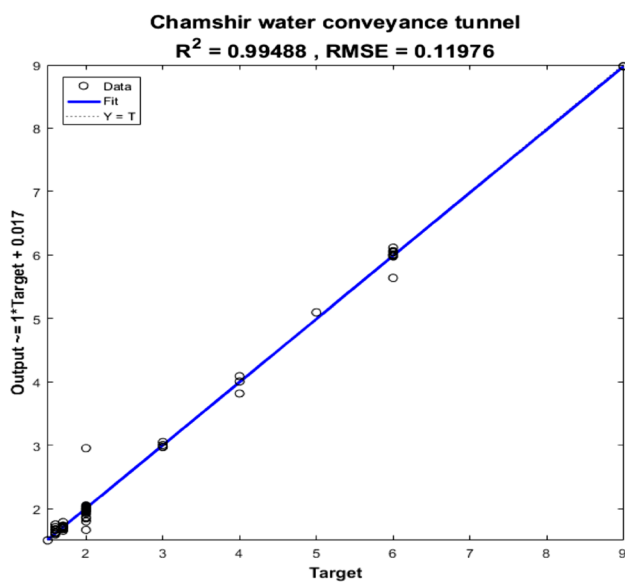


Fig. 10 Distribution diagram of the penetration rate by GEP

3.4 Comparison of the results

In this study, a database primarily established from machine parameters and field data for predicting PR in

Chamshir water conveyance tunneling project. With this regard, artificial neural networks (ANN), support vector machine (SVM) and gene expression programming (GEP) applied to the database. The results for predicting PR, as can be seen in Table 6 and Fig. 13. Based on Table 6 and Fig. 13, it can be concluded that all predictive models lead to acceptable results while GEP contributes to a more precise and realistic outcome with higher R^2 and lower values of RMSE. The results of sensitivity analysis of input parameters are given in Fig. 14. UCS is the most influential parameter in modeling, as can be seen in Fig. 14.

4 Discussion

As cited before, mechanized tunneling has many advantages; hence, it is important to predict TBMs performance which is directly related to the prediction of TBM penetration rate. In recent years, many models have been proposed for predicting penetration rate. The aim of this research works is to find more precise predictive models using novel predictive approaches. Among modern techniques, ANN, SVM and GEP are more powerful approaches that are capable to result in more realistic findings in prediction process. Therefore, the authors tried to apply these methods for prediction of TBM performance. Another aspect of using these techniques is to compare the results

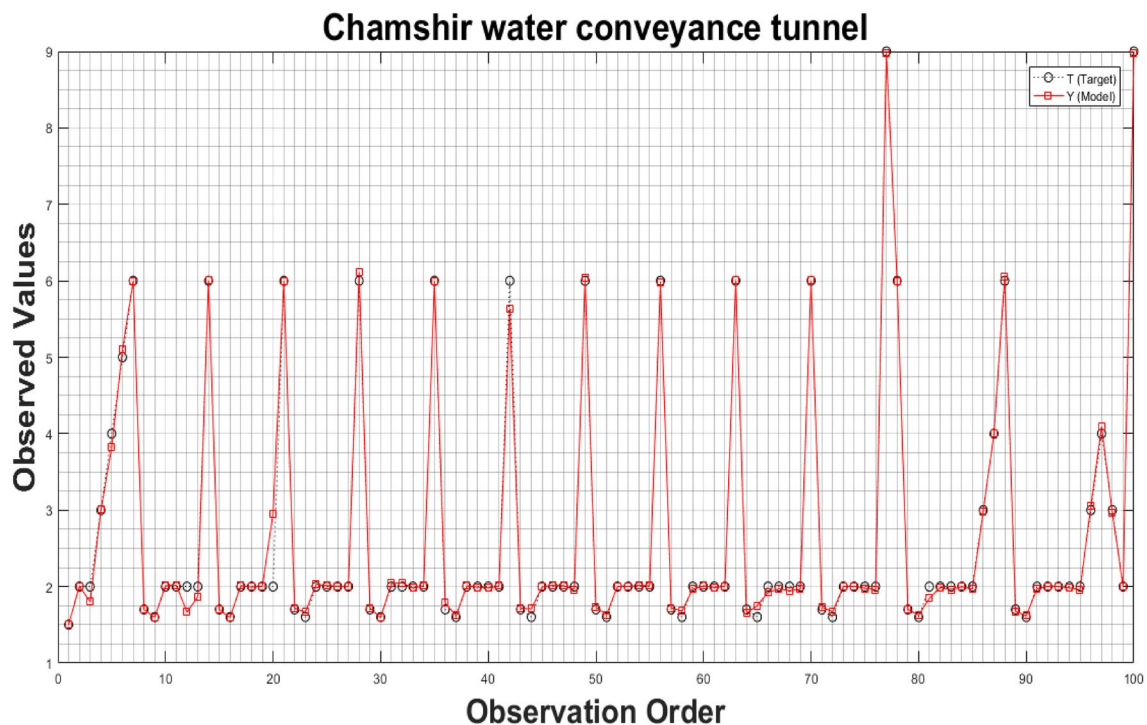


Fig. 11 Fitting diagram of penetration rate by GEP

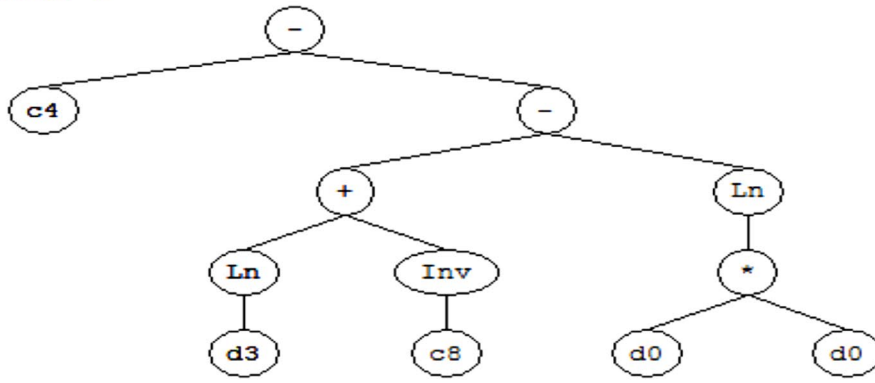
of this work, Chamshir water conveyance tunneling project as one the most important TBM tunneling projects in Iran, with other water conveyance tunneling projects inside and outside of Iran. Table 7 shows the analogy of the suggested model and the existing ones in terms of the TBM penetration rate. As it can be seen in Table 7, the model presented in this study has the highest R^2 and the lowest RMSE, which shows a tangible advantage over other models.

5 Conclusions

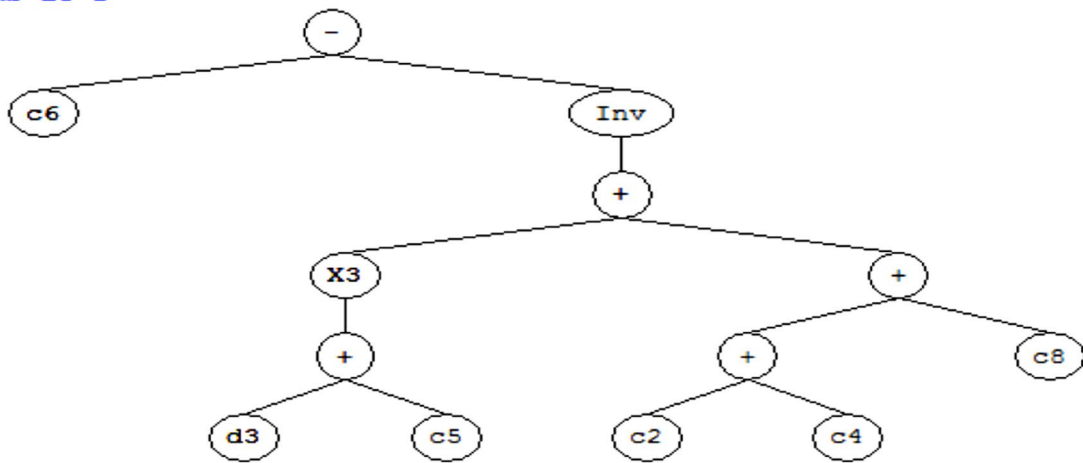
Penetration rate prediction is one of the important indicators of the performance of TBMs. In this study, primarily a database was provided from field data and machine parameters during excavation of Chamshir water conveyance tunnel in Iran. Parameters including joint spacing, Joint Angle, RPM, UCS, Poisson's ratio, BTS, thrust per cutter and power (KW) considered as input parameters and

Penetration Rate (PR) as output parameter through the analyses. The data were then analyzed through artificial neural networks (ANN), support vector machine (SVM) and gene expression programming (GEP). Results demonstrated that obtained values of R^2 and RMSE found to be 0.99 and 0.15 for ANN, 0.95 and 0.37 for SVM, 0.99 and 0.11 for GEP, respectively. These models are reliable to be applied to predict TBM penetration rate in the Chamshir water conveyance tunnel. Moreover, it can be concluded that the GEP method has the higher accuracy (maximum R^2 and minimum RMSE) among all predictive models. Gathering additional data such as number of consumed disc cutters could be considered a limitation for such study. For future works, it is suggested to use other novel heuristic algorithms such as shark smell optimization and shuffled frog leaping algorithm to predict the penetration rate of the tunnel boring machine.

Sub-ET 1



Sub-ET 2



Sub-ET 3

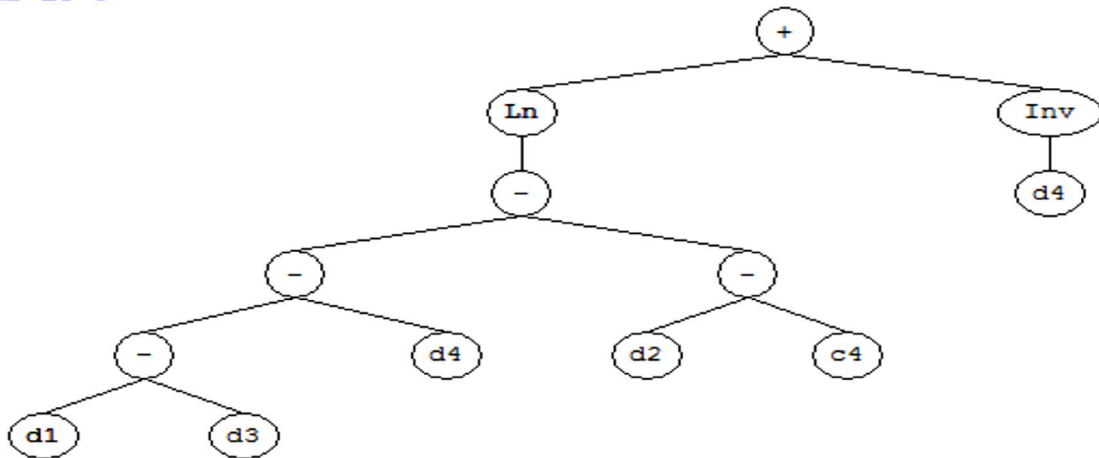


Fig. 12 Expression tree of predictive relation of the penetration rate

Table 6 Results for predicting PR

Model	R^2	RMSE
ANN	0.99	0.15
SVM	0.95	0.37
GEP	0.99	0.11

Fig. 13 Results of R^2 and RMSE

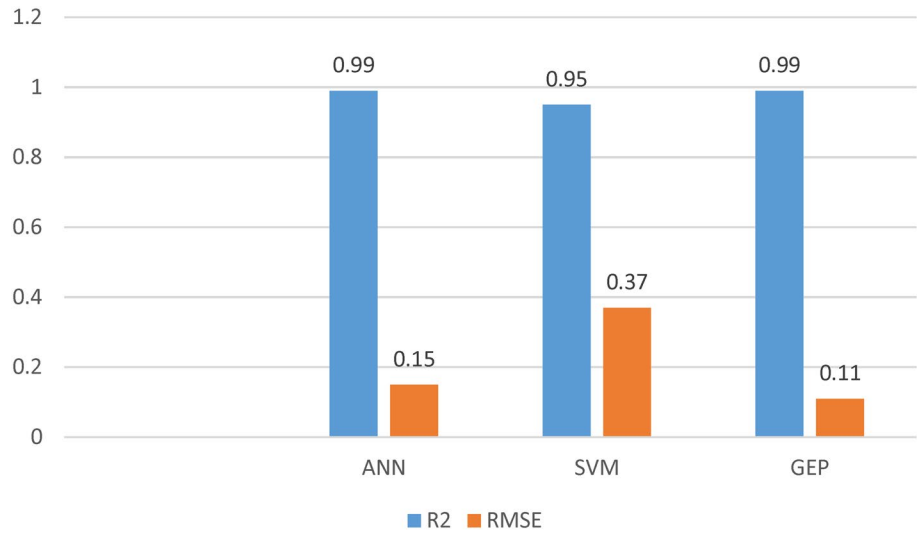


Fig. 14 Sensitivity analysis of input parameters

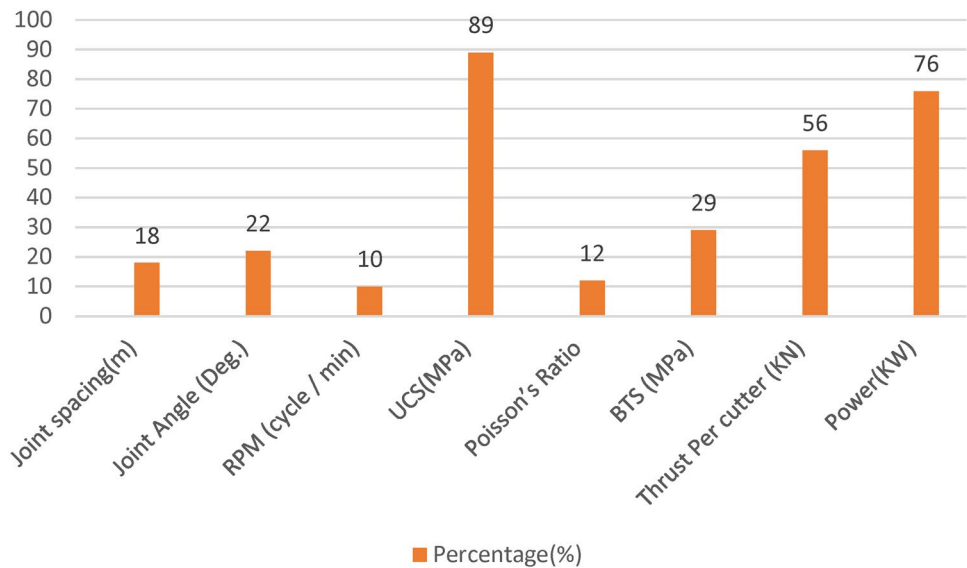


Table 7 The analogy of the suggested model and the existing ones in terms of the TBM penetration rate

Model	Output	R^2	RMSE	Case Study
(This study)	TBM penetration rate (m/h)	0.99	0.11	Chamshir water conveyance tunnel
Zare Naghadehi et al. [93]	TBM penetration rate (m/h)	0.72	0.18	Queens water tunnel
Yagiz and Karahan [14]	TBM penetration rate (m/h)	0.66	0.20	Queens water tunnel
Afradi et al. [91]	TBM penetration rate (m/h)	0.97	0.48	Beheshtabad water conveyance tunnel
Adoko et al. [1]	TBM penetration rate (m/h)	0.66	0.22	Queens water tunnel
Afradi et al. [29]	TBM penetration rate (m/h)	0.97	0.34	Sabzkooh water conveyance tunnel

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