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# Introducing a new method to expand TOPSIS decision making model to fuzzy TOPSIS

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#### Abstract

Fuzzy TOPSIS is one of the various models of multiple attributes decision making with fuzzy values that so far diverse models have been introduced for it. In this paper, according to these models, a new method is presented for fuzzy TOPSIS with triangular fuzzy data. So, it has better and more accurate outputs in comparison with previous methods. At last, we solve a fuzzy multiple attributes decision making problem to demonstrate the proposed method.

**Keywords**: fuzzy TOPSIS, fuzzy number, linguistic variables, triangular fuzzy number.

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### 1. Introduction

TOPSIS method is one of the best grading methods of multi criteria decision making (MCDM) that is taken place in compromising –subgroup of compensating models of decision making. [1] As indicators are fuzzy in many decision making problems, scientists have tried to expand TOPSIS decision making model to fuzzy TOPSIS to solve such problems. (in the next part we are talking about some of these efforts),but in the models which have been introduced up to now, limits and problems have been seen that are due to characteristics of fuzzy numbers algebraic use such as multiple, division and so on.

In this paper in order to solve the problems of the presented models and by getting help from the definition (5).we present a new method to expand TOPSIS model to fuzzy TOPSIS that doesn't carry last problems and limits of last models and moreover, the proposed model is efficient in following three conditions:

- A: When decision making matrix data is combination of fuzzy and crisp Values.
- B: When decision making matrix data is just fuzzy value that can even consist of negative support
- C: When decision making matrix data is just crisp number, so, the proposed model accurately is changed to TOPSIS model.

# 2. Reviewing last models of fuzzy TOPSIS

As it has been said in introduction many scientists made some efforts to expand TOPSIS model to fuzzy TOPSIS that some of them are following:

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#### 3. TOPSIS DECISION MAKING METHOD

The TOPSIS (technique for order performance by similarity to idea solution) was first developed by Hwang & Yoon (1981). According to this technique, the best alternative would be the one that is nearest to the positive-ideal solution and farthest from the negative ideal solution (Ertugrul & Karakasoglu, 2007). The positive- ideal solution is a solution that maximizes the benefit criteria and minimizes the cost criteria, whereas the negative ideal solution maximizes the cost criteria and minimizes the benefit criteria (Wang & Elhag, 2006). In short, the positive-ideal solution is composed of all best values attainable from the criteria, whereas the negative ideal solution consists of all worst values attainable from the criteria (Wang, 2007). There have been lots of studies in the literature using TOPSIS for the solution of MCDM problems. (Chen, 2000; Chu & Lin, 2002; Wang et al., 2009; Boran et al., 2009).

The calculation processes of the method are as following:

**Step1**. Establish a decision matrix for ranking. A MCDM problem can be concisely expressed in matrix format

As:

where  $A_1,A_2,...,A_m$  are possible alternatives among which decision makers have to choose,  $C_1,C_2,...,C_n$  are criteria with which alternative performance are measured,  $x_{ij}$  is the rating of alternative  $A_i$  with respect to criterion  $C_i$ .

**Step 2.** Calculate the normalized decision matrix. The normalized value  $n_{ij}$  is calculated as:

$$n_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{m} x_{ij}^{2}}} , j = 1, \dots, n$$
 (2)

**Step 3.** Calculate the weighted normalized decision matrix. The weighted normalized value  $v_{ij}$  is calculated as:

$$v_{ij} = w_{ij} \times n_{ij}$$
,  $i = 1,..., m, j = 1,..., n$  (3)

Where  $w_j$  is the weight if the *i*th criterion, and  $\sum_{i=1}^n w_j = 1$ .

**Step 4.** Determine the positive ideal solutions and negative ideal solutions respectively:

$$A^{+} = \left\{ \left( \left( \max_{i} v_{ij} \middle| j \in J \right), \left( \min_{i} v_{ij} \middle| j \in J' \right) \right) \middle| i = 1, 2, ..., m \right\} = \left\{ v_{1}^{+}, v_{2}^{+}, ..., v_{m}^{+} \right\}$$

$$(4)$$

$$A^{-} = \left\{ \left( \left( \min_{i} v_{ij} \middle| j \in J \right), \left( \max_{i} v_{ij} \middle| j \in J' \right) \right) \middle| i = 1, 2, ..., m \right\}, \left\{ v_{1}^{-}, v_{2}^{-}, ..., v_{m}^{-} \right\}$$
(5)

Where I is associated with the positive criteria, and J' is associated with the negative criteria.

**Step 5.**Calculate the separation measures using the n-dimensional Euclidean distance. The separation of each alternative from the ideal solution is given as:

$$d_{i}^{+} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(v_{j}^{+} - v_{ij}^{-}\right)^{2}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (6)

Similarly, the separation from the negative-ideal solution is given as

$$d_{i}^{-} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(v_{j}^{-} - v_{ij}\right)^{2}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (7)

**Step 6.**Calculate the relative closeness to the ideal solution. The relative closeness of the alternative  $A_i$  with respect to  $A^+$  is defined as:

$$cl_{i}^{+} = \frac{d_{i}^{+}}{d_{i}^{+} + d_{i}^{-}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (8)

**Step 7.**Rank the preference order. A large value of closeness coefficient  $cl_i^+$  indicates a good performance of the alternative Ai .The best alternative is the one with the greatest relative closeness to the ideal solution.

### 4. Definitions

## **Definition 1-** triangular fuzzy set:

A triangular fuzzy set is defined as following:

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases}
0 & \text{for } x \leq a \\
\frac{x-a}{m-a} & \text{for } a \leq x \leq m \\
\frac{b-x}{b-m} & \text{for } m\langle x \leq b \\
0 & \text{for } b \leq x
\end{cases} \tag{9}$$

# **Definition 2-** normal fuzzy set:

The fuzzy set which owns at least a member with the membership's rate of 1. [24]

### **Definition 3 –** convex fuzzy set:

The fuzzy set A is convex if:

$$\begin{cases} \forall x_1 \in X, \forall x_2 \in X, \forall \lambda \in [0,1] \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2 \ge \min(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x_1), \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\tilde{A}}(x_2)) \end{cases}$$
(10)

# Definition 4- fuzzy number:

We call the set A as a fuzzy number if:

- 1-it is normal
- 2-it is convex
- 3- Its membership's function is continuous fragmentarily
- 4. The support and the scope are limit and definite. [24]

For example: we can define the approximate number 1.3 as a triangular fuzzy number as following

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & for & x \le 1.2 \\ 10(x-1.2) & for & 1.2 \le x \le 1.3 \\ 10(1.4-x) & for & 1.3 \le x \le 1.4 \\ 0 & for & 1.4 \le x \end{cases}$$
(11)

Attention: if A is a triangular fuzzy number with following membership's functions:

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x \leq a \\ \frac{x-a}{m-a} & \text{for } a \leq x \leq m \\ \frac{b-x}{b-m} & \text{for } m \langle x \leq b \\ 0 & \text{for } b \leq x \end{cases}$$

$$(12)$$

$$1$$

$$a \quad m \quad b$$

The number is shown in the front form:  $\tilde{A} = (a, m, b)$ 

For instance the triangular fuzzy number 1.3 is shown below:

$$\tilde{A} = (1.2, 1.3, 1.4)$$

**Definition 5-**The distance of two triangular fuzzy numbers:

If  $\widetilde{A}=(a_1,a_2,a_3)$ ,  $\widetilde{B}=(b_1,b_2,b_3)$  are two triangular fuzzy numbers, then the distance of  $\widetilde{A}$  from  $\widetilde{B}$  is achieved by following relation:

Signature of the following relation: 
$$\mu = \frac{b_1 + 2b_2 + b_3 - (a_1 + 2a_2 + a_3)}{4}$$

$$(13)$$

$$a_1 \qquad a_2 \qquad b_1 \qquad b_2 \qquad a_3 \qquad b_3$$

It is clear that the distance of the triangular fuzzy number  $\widetilde{A}$  — the crisp number 0 equals following value:

$$S(\tilde{A},0) = \frac{\left(a_1 + 2a_2 + a_3\right)}{4} \tag{14}$$

## 5. The proposed fuzzy TOPSIS method

The steps of the proposed fuzzy TOPSIS method are following:

**Step1**. Establish a decision matrix for ranking. A MCDM problem can be concisely expressed in matrix format as:

where  $A_1,A_2,...,A_m$  are possible alternatives among which decision makers have to choose,  $C_1,C_2,...,C_n$  are criteria with which alternative performance are measured,  $\tilde{x}_{ij} = (x_{ij}^a, x_{ij}^b, x_{ij}^c)$  is the fuzzy rating of alternative  $A_i$  with respect to criterion  $C_i$ .

**Step 2.**Calculate the normalized decision matrix. The normalized value  $\tilde{n}_{ij} = (n_{ij}^a, n_{ij}^b, n_{ij}^c)$  is calculated as:

$$\tilde{n}_{ij} = \frac{\tilde{x}_{ij}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (s(\tilde{x}_{ij},0))^{2}}}, j = 1, \dots, n$$
Where  $s(\tilde{x}_{ij},0) = \frac{x_{ij}^{a} + 2x_{ij}^{b} + x_{ij}^{2}}{4}$  (16)

**Step 3.**Calculate the weighted normalized decision matrix. The weighted normalized value  $\tilde{v}_{ij} = (v^a_{ij}, v^b_{ij}, v^c_{ij})$  is calculated as:

$$\tilde{v}_{ij} = w_{j} \times \tilde{n}_{ij}$$
 ,  $i = 1,..., m$  ,  $j = 1,..., n$  (17)

Where  $w_j$  is the weight if the *i*th criterion, and  $\sum_{i=1}^n w_j = 1$ .

2-if w is a triangular fuzzy value:

$$\widetilde{v}_{ij} = (s(\widetilde{w}_{j}, 0)) \times \widetilde{n}_{ij} = ((s(\widetilde{w}_{j}, 0)) \times n_{ij}^{a}, (s(\widetilde{w}_{j}, 0)) \times n_{ij}^{b}, (s(\widetilde{w}_{j}, 0)) \times n_{ij}^{c}), i = 1, 2, ..., m, j = 1, 2, ..., n$$
(18)
Where w<sub>j</sub> is the weight if the *i*th criterion, and 
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} s(\widetilde{w}_{j}, 0) = 1; s(\widetilde{w}_{j}, 0) \ge 0, j = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

**Step 4.** Determine the positive ideal solutions and negative ideal solutions respectively:

$$A^{+} = \left\{ \widetilde{v}_{1}^{+}, \widetilde{v}_{2}^{+}, ..., \widetilde{v}_{n}^{+} \right\} = \left\{ \left( \widetilde{v}_{uj} \middle| j \in J \right), \left( \widetilde{v}_{dj} \middle| j \in J' \right) \right\}$$

$$(19)$$

$$A^{-} = \left\{ \widetilde{v}_{1}^{-}, \widetilde{v}_{2}^{-}, \dots, \widetilde{v}_{n}^{-} \right\} = \left\{ \left( \widetilde{v}_{dj} \left| j \in J \right. \right), \left( \widetilde{v}_{uj} \left| j \in J' \right. \right) \right\}$$

$$(20)$$

Where:

*J* is associated with the positive criteria

J' is associated with the negative criteria

U is the value between 1 to m that  $\tilde{v}_{ui}$  has the most distance from the crisp number 0,it means:

$$s(\widetilde{v}_{ui},0) \geq s(\widetilde{v}_{ii},0)$$
 ,  $i=1,2,...,m$ 

D is the value between 1 to m that  $\widetilde{v}_{\mathit{dj}}$  has the most distance from the crisp number 0,it means

$$s(\widetilde{v}_{di},0) \leq s(\widetilde{v}_{ii},0)$$
 ,  $i = 1,2,...,m$ 

**Step 5.**Calculate the separation measures using the n-dimensional Euclidean distance. The separation of each alternative from the positive-ideal solution is given as:

$$d_{i}^{+} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( s(\widetilde{v}_{j}^{+}, \widetilde{v}_{ij}) \right)^{2}, i = 1, 2, ..., m}$$
 (21)

Similarly, the separation from the negative-ideal solution is given as

$$d_{i}^{-} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( s(\widetilde{v}_{j}^{-}, \widetilde{v}_{ij}) \right)^{2}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (22)

**Step 6.**Calculate the relative closeness to the ideal solution. The relative closeness of the alternative  $A_i$  with respect to  $A^+$  is defined as:

$$cl_{i}^{+} = \frac{d_{i}^{+}}{d_{i}^{+} + d_{i}^{-}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$
 (23)

**Step 7.**Rank the preference order. A large value of closeness coefficient  $cl_i^+$  indicates a good performance of the alternative  $A_i$ . The best alternative is the one with the greatest relative closeness to the ideal solution.

### 6. Example

suppose that we grade three alternatives A,B,C according to the indicators  $I_1$ , $I_2$ , $I_3$  that their weights are respectively 0.25,0.5 and 0.25 and grade by the proposed fuzzy TOPSIS method , the indicators  $I_1$  and  $I_3$  are from income type and  $I_2$  from cost type , so, we do like following:

First step: Establish decision making Matrix: suppose that it is like below according to the information:

indicator alternative	$I_1$	$\mathbf{I}_2$	$I_3$
A	(-1,2,3)	(5,8,9)	(20,2,3)
В	(0,2,4)	(4,6,9)	(15,17,20)
С	(0,1,2)	(1,3,7)	(17,22,25)

Second step: making normalized matrix: we use following relation to get normalized matrix

$$\tilde{n}_{ij} = \frac{\tilde{x}_{ij}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (s(\tilde{x}_{ij},0))^{2}}}, j = 1, \dots, n$$

$$n_{11} = \frac{(-1,2,3)}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{-1+4+3}{4}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{0+4+4}{4}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{0+2+2}{4}\right)^{2}}} = \frac{(-1,2,3)}{2.69} = (-0.37,0.74,1.12)$$

Other methods of normalized matrix are computed in the same relation and so:

Indicator alternative	$I_1$	$I_2$	$I_3$
A	(0.37,0.74,1.12)	(0.77,0.48 ,0.87)	,0.71,0.68) (0.55
В	(0,0.74,1.48)	(0.39,0.58,0.87)	(0.41,.47,0.55)
С	(0,0.37, 0.74)	(0.1,0.29,0.68)	(0.47, 0.6, 0.68)

## **Third step:** making weighted matrix:

At this stage we can make weighted matrix according to the following relation:

$$\tilde{v}_{ij} = w_j \times \tilde{n}_{ij}$$
 ,  $i = 1,..., m$ ,  $j = 1,..., n$    
 $\tilde{v}_{12} = w_2 \times \tilde{n}_{12} = 0.5 \times (0.48, 0.77, 0.87) = (0.24, 0.39, 0.44)$ 

Others are computed in the same relation and so:

indicator	I <sub>1</sub>	$I_2$	$I_3$
alternative			
A	(-	(0.24, 0.39, 0.44)	(0.14,0.17,0.18)
	0.09,0.19,0.28)		
В	(0,0.19,0.38)	(0.2,0.29,0.44)	(0.1,0.12,0.14)
С	(0,0.09,0.19)	(0.05, 0.15, 0.34)	(0.12, 0.15, 0.17)

Fourth step: comparing negative and positive ideal solution:

As an example if we want to compute the positive ideal value of the indicator  $I_1$ , we do as following: First in the indicator  $I_1$ , we compute the distance of the values A, B and C from 0.

$$s((-0.09, 0.19, 0.28), 0) = \frac{-0.09 + 0.38 + 0.28}{4} = 0.142$$

$$s((0, 0.19, 0.38), 0) = \frac{0 + 0.38 + 0.38}{4} = 0.19$$

$$s((0, 0.09, 0.19), 0) = \frac{0 + 0.18 + 0.38}{4} = 0.14$$

Because in the indicator  $I_1$ ,(that  $I_1$  is positive's criteria)the distance of the alternative B from 0 is more than the alternatives A and C, the value of this alternative is chosen as ideal positive value in this indicator according to the indicator  $I_1$ .it means  $\tilde{v}_1^+ = (0,0.19,0.38)$ 

And like the same relation:

$$A^{+} = \left\{ \widetilde{v}_{1}^{+}, \widetilde{v}_{2}^{+}, ..., \widetilde{v}_{n}^{+} \right\} = \left\{ (0, 0.19, 0.38), (0.5, 0.15, 0.34), (0.14, 0.17, 0.18) \right\}$$

$$A^{-} = \left\{ \widetilde{v}_{1}^{-}, \widetilde{v}_{2}^{-}, ..., \widetilde{v}_{n}^{-} \right\} = \left\{ (0, 0.09, 0.19), (0.24, 0.39, 0.44), (0.1, 0.12, 0.14) \right\}$$

**Fifth step:** computing the distance of each alternative from positive and negative ideal: We do the following relations to compute them:

$$d_{i}^{-} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(s(\widetilde{v}_{j}^{-}, \widetilde{v}_{ij})\right)^{2}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$

$$d_{i}^{+} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(s(\widetilde{v}_{j}^{+}, \widetilde{v}_{ij})\right)^{2}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$

As an example: 
$$d_1^+ = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{0+0.38+0.38+0.09-0.38-0.28}{4}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{0.24+0.78+0.44+0.05+0.3+0.34}{4}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{0.14+0.34+0.18+0.14-0.34-0.18}{4}\right)^2} = 0.21$$
 Others are computed in the same way

$$d_2^+ = 0.15$$
 ,  $d_3^+ = 0.1$  ,  $d_1^- = 0.08$  ,  $d_2^- = 0.12$  ,  $d_3^- = 0.2$ 

**Sixth step:** computing the relative distance of each alternative from positive ideal: We compute them by following relation:

$$cl_{i}^{+} = \frac{d_{i}^{+}}{d_{i}^{+} + d_{i}^{-}}, i = 1, 2, ..., m$$

$$cl_{1}^{+} = \frac{0.21}{0.21 + 0.08} = 0.73$$

$$cl_{2}^{+} = 0.56 , cl_{3}^{+} = 0.33$$

## **Seventh step:** grading alternatives:

At this step we arrange the values respectively that are computed in the last step, so, the number with the lowest value of relative distance shows the first preference.

So, in this example, the alternative C is in the first preference, the alternative B second preference and A is the third preference.

### 7. Conclusion:

In this paper a new method has been presented to expand TOPSIS decision making model to fuzzy TOPSIS with triangular fuzzy data by considering computation mode of the distance between two fuzzy numbers which are brought in the definition [5].

Regarding the steps of the proposed model deeply and its results due to solve presented examples, clearly show efficiency and rationality of the proposed method.

From other considerable points in this proposed model we can say following issues:

- 1. Its simplicity and comprehensible mode for all
- 2. Big similarity of the proposed model to TOPSIS model
- 3. Solving the problems and limits of fuzzy TOPSIS last methods
- 4.its usage capability to solve decision making problems whose decision making matrix data consist of just crisp, just fuzzy, combination of fuzzy and crisp data.
- 5. Equal outputs of the proposed method with TOPSIS method when decision making data is crisp number in both models.
- 6. Expansion capability of the proposed model to other fuzzy numbers (such as trapezoidal, s-curve, etc)

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