



A Novel Method of Decision Making Based on Plithogenic Contradictions

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Abstract: Plithogenic decision-making models are evolved integrating the Plithogenic modelling approach with various methods of multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM). The earlier Plithogenic based decision methods are primarily based on the degrees of appurtenance. This paper introduces a novel Plithogenic ranking genre of decision-making paradigm based on degrees of contradiction. The method of Decision Making on Plithogenic Contradictions (DMPC) developed in this research work is indigenous and unique as the modeling procedure doesn't resemble any of the decision methods. This simple and logical approach proposed in this paper is applied in making optimal decisions on supplier selection. The proposed contradiction based Plithogenic model shall be integrated with other decision methods and this will certainly create a breakthrough in framing contradictions based combined Plithogenic decision-making models.

Keywords: Plithogenic Sets; Plithogenic Contradiction; MCDM; Decision Making on Plithogenic Contradictions.

1. Introduction

The everlasting conflict of choosing the optimal alternatives satisfying all the criteria to the expected extent is motivating the researchers to develop new methods. This has led to the expansion of the theoretical aspects of decision-making with the development of scientific and algorithmic approaches to decision-making methods. The construction of any decision-making problem comprises certainly an elementary decision-making matrix with values matching the alternatives and criteria. The two prime objectives of the decision methods are to find the criterion weights and ranking of the alternatives. The decision-making methods are classified based on information availability, decision timeline, domain, level, structure, outcome, approach, and process.

The circumstances of making decisions are influenced by several factors affecting the deterministic nature of decision-making. The representations using crisp sets are replaced with the extension of fuzzy sets developed by Zadeh [1] to handle impreciseness and uncertainty. These fuzzy sets are further extended to intuitionistic sets [2] and neutrosophic sets to deal the situations of decision-making with hesitancy and indeterminacy. The decision-making methods developed in crisp sense are discussed by the researchers in the extended version of sets. However, these different representations of set are unified under one roof of Plithogeny by Smarandache [3] in the year 2018. The origin and development of Plithogenic sets has made novel plithogenic decision-making methods to evolve. Smarandache has contributed a lot to the field of Plithogeny, especially to the development of fundamental concepts of the Plithogenic sets [4-6]. Smarandache has also contributed

to Plithogenic algebraic structures [7-8]. Nivetha and Smarandache have together initialized the conceptualization of Plithogenic based hypergraphs and super hypergraphs [9-10].

A plithogenic set is basically a 5-tuple set that deals with attributes. This set comprises attribute values, degrees of appurtenance, and contradiction. The degrees of appurtenance decide the nature of the Plithogenic sets and it assumes any of the set representations such as crisp, fuzzy, intuitionistic, and neutrosophic. The Plithogenic decision-making methods primarily involve plithogenic operators to obtain a unified decision-making matrix based on the expert's opinion. The literature on Plithogenic based multi criteria decision making (MCDM) methods is limited. Some of the most commonly applied conventional decision-making methods are discussed in Plithogenic environment only with the inclusion of the Plithogenic operators of union and intersection and degrees of appurtenance. This has motivated the authors to develop a new genre of decision-making method based on the degrees of contradiction. The method of making decisions with a contradiction degree is proposed as a method of ranking the alternatives. This method is very simple in its formulation and the logical approach makes the method more rational.

The paper is organized as follows: section 2 sketches out the contributions in the domain of Plithogenic decision-making. Section 3 presents the proposed method of Decision Making on Plithogenic Contradictions. Section 4 applies the proposed method to the supplier selection problem. Section 5 discusses the results under different cases and section 6 concludes the work with future directions.

2. Literature review

The theory of Plithogeny is applied in MCDM integrating a wide range of different concepts of soft sets, Hypersoft sets, cognitive maps, hypergraphs, and many others. Plithogenic decision-making models are developed based on these concepts to design solutions to real-life problems. Plithogenic based MCDM are either the extensions or the generalizations of the existing mathematical concepts. The Plithogenic logic, probability statistics, and optimization assist in obtaining optimal solutions to decision-making problems. The contributions of researchers towards the formulation of Plithogenic decision-making models are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Contributions of Plithogenic based decision making.

Authors & Year	Plithogenic Decision Making Method	Domain of Application	Highlights of the contribution
Ozcil et al. [11]	MAIRCA	Green Supplier selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimization of the gap between ideal and empirical values • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Abdel-Basset et al. [12]	VIKOR	Hospital medical care systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic contradiction degree for dominant attribute
Abdel-Basset et al. [13]	QFD	Selecting supply chain sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Rana et al. [14]	Plithogenic Hypersoft set, Plithogenic Whole Hypersoft set	Selecting faculty for the Engineering department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency matrix for final ranking

Abdel-Basset, & Mohamed, [15]	TOPSIS- CRITIC	Sustainable supply chain risk management	• Plithogenic aggregation operators
Abdel-Basset et al. [16]	BWM	Supply chain problem	• Plithogenic aggregation operators
Abdel-Basset et al. [17]	AHP,VIKOR, TOPSIS	Financial performance evaluation in manufacturing industries	• Plithogenic aggregation operators
Gómez et al. [18]	VIKOR	Pedagogical performance.	• Plithogenic aggregation operators
Grida et al. [19]	VIKOR,BWM	IoT based supply chain	• Plithogenic aggregation operators
Abdel-Basset et al. [20]	MABAC; BWM	Supplier selection	• Plithogenic aggregation
Ahmad et al. [21]	PHSS based TOPSIS	Parking spot choice problem	• Plithogenic aggregation
Smarandache, &Martin [22]	Plithogenic n- super hypergraph, Dominant enveloping vertex	E-learning system of education (Work from Home During Covid-19)	• Classification of Dominant Enveloping Vertex • Plithogenic Connectors
Gomathy et al. [23]	Plithogenic operator laws (fuzzy tnorm & tconorm)	Medical field	• Plithogenic aggregate operators
Martin et al. [24]	Plithogenic sociogram & Plithogenic number	Food processing industry	• Preferential ordering based on attributes
Öztaş et al. [25]	Plirhogeny, DEA	Tourist travelers performance (Accommodation for touristic travelers)	• Plithogenic aggregation operations
Korucuk et al. [26]	CRITIC	logistics sector	• Plithogenic aggregation operations
Sujatha, et al. [27]	FCM, Plithogenic operators	Corona virus (Covid- 19)	• Plithogenic aggregation of weights
Martin et al. [28]	PHS,DM	Covid- 19	• Extended combined plithogenic hypersoft sets

Hernández et al. [29]	Plithogenic logic, SWOT	Entrepreneurship competence in university students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Martin et al. [30]	PSCM	Factors in COVID-19 diagnostic model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of contradiction with respect to the factors
Ulutaş et al. [31]	PIPRECIA	Prioritization of logistics sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Ulutaş et al. [32]	SWARA	Logistics sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Singh. [33]	Plithogenic graph; Plithogenic set	Olympic Players performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Ansari & Kant. [34]	AHP	Supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Martin et al. [35]	PROMTHEE	Smart materials selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregation operators
Singh [36]	Plithogenic graphs	Dark data analysis (Performance of players in crickets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict situation
Singh [37]	Plithogenic graphs	Air Quality Index Analysis(Impact on human health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-valued Neutrosophic Plithogenic data visualization
Priyadharshini & Irudayam [38]	MCDM	Agriculture field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregate operators
Rodríguez et al. [39]	Plithogenic number, MCDM	Education and Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations using Plithogenic number
Priya & Martin [40]	PCM, IPCM, CCM	online learning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic sets in determining the association between the factors
Fernández et al. [41]	AHP, TOPSIS	Selection of Investment Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregate operators
Castro Sánchez et al. [42]	Plithogenic logics	Educational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic aggregate operators
Priyadharshini & Irudayam [43]	RPNS	Candidate’s selection in interview.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPNS Operators • Correlation measures and its properties
Bharathi & Leo [44]	PPfuzzy graph	Social Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discover the network's most outgoing, gregarious, powerful, and key figures.

Villacrés et al. [45]	AHP	Ergonomic Occupational Health Risks for teachers	• Instant solutions
Moncayo et al. [46]	SWOT, Plithogeny	Ecuadorian Hospital environment	• Plithogenic operators
Pai & Prabhu Gaonkar [47]	Plithogenic set	Risk Assessment due to accident	• Assessing risk and ranking of the criteria in a complex system
Romero et al. [48]	AHP, TOPSIS	Investment Projects selection problem	• Plithogenic aggregate operators
Antonio et al. [49]	Plithogenic logic	Electronic payment methods/Mechanism	• Plithogenic aggregate operators
Sultana et al. [50]	Plithogenic graphs	Spreading coronavirus disease (COVID-19)	• Plithogenic aggregate operators
Ahmad & Afzal [51]	PDM, PHSS, PSM	Mathematical modeling and AI (COVID-19 suspect)	• Plithogenic aggregate operators
Martin, N [52]	SWARA-TOPSIS	Food Processing Methods	• Plithogenic operators
Liang et al. [53]	CRITIC, Game theory, TOPSIS-GRA	Air traffic flow problem	• Plithogenic aggregation
Abdelfattah, W. [54]	DEA	University in Saudi Arabia	• Plithogenic aggregation
Wang et al. [55]	COPRAS, PNRN	Sustainable Financing Enterprise selection	• Extended Similarity Measures
Sudha & Martin [56]	BWM	Teaching methods	• Plithogenic Pythagorean set.
Sudha., Martin, & Broumi [57]	CRITIC-MAIRCA	Livestock Feeding Stuff problem	• Plithogenic aggregation
Ulutaş, & Topal [58]	PIPRECIA	Renewable energy industry	• Plithogenic aggregation
Seby, & Ravi [59]	Plithogeny	Supply chain	• Plithogenic aggregation
Priya,, Martin, & Kishore [60]	Plithogeny	Human's cognitive domain	• Contradiction degree in PCM
Zuñiga et al. [61]	Plithogenic number	Classifications of clays	• Representations using Plithogenic numbers
Tayal et al. [62]	TOPSIS, WSM	Business	• Plithogenic aggregation

Wang et al. [63]	VIKOR	Supply Chain Financial risk evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probabilistic Linguistic MAGDM
Sudha, & Martin [64]	PIPRECIA, AHP	Logistics selection sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plithogenic Operators

In the above mentioned Plithogeny based decision-making methods, the following research gaps are identified.

- The plithogenic operators based on degree of appurtenance are widely applied and only in few instances the contradiction degree is used.
- The plithogenic oriented decision-making methods lack the use of the aspect of contradiction degree in handling the alternatives and criteria.

Hence this research work designs a decision-making method purely based on the contradiction degrees with respect to the dominant attribute value of the alternatives. The novel attributes of this paper are as follows:

- A distinctive decision making approach based on contradictions degree.
- Simple and compatible method of finding the optimal alternatives.
- Flexible method which accommodates several alternatives and criteria.

3. Proposed Method of Decision making based on Plithogenic Contradictions

This section consists of the steps involved in the method of Decision Making on Plithogenic Contradictions (DMPC). The elementary steps of this method are similar to the general working principle of an MCDM method. Figure 1 presents the overall framework of the proposed method of DMPC.

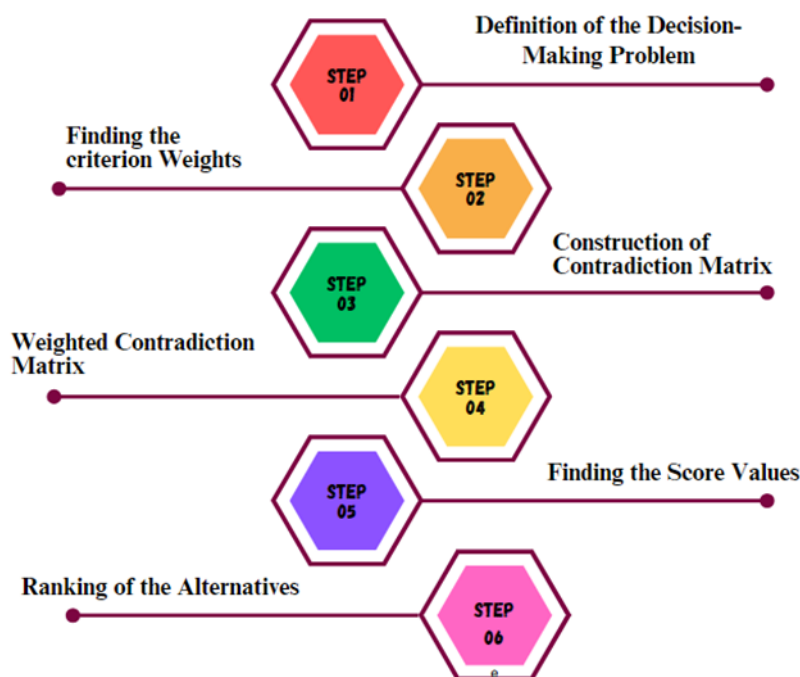


Figure 1. Overall framework of DMPC.

Step 1: Definition of the decision-making problem

It is the initial step in which the problem is well defined with alternatives and criteria. The criteria are classified into benefit and non-benefit based on the nature of the problem. Each of the criterion has

sub-values. The decision making matrix with initial values is constructed especially with linguistic variables.

$$D_L = \begin{bmatrix} X_{L11} & \cdots & X_{L1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ X_{Lm1} & \cdots & X_{Lmn} \end{bmatrix}$$

The decision making matrix is with m alternatives and n criteria.

Step 2: Finding the Criterion Weights

The criterion weights say W_k are determined using any of the methods. Each of the criterion has criterion values say C_{ki} .

Step 3: Construction of contradiction matrix

The dominant criterion value say C_{kD} among the criterion values of each criteria is identified. The contradiction degree among the criterion values is determined. Based on the contradiction degree, the contradiction matrix is constructed with contradiction degrees pertaining to the dominant criterion value with respect to the values assumed by each alternative with respect to the criterion value in the initial matrix.

$$C_D = \begin{bmatrix} C_{D11} & \cdots & C_{D1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ C_{Dm1} & \cdots & C_{Dmn} \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 4: Weighted contradiction matrix

The weighted contradiction matrix $[WC_D]$ is obtained by multiplying the criterion weights with the values of contradiction matrix.

Step 5: Finding the score values

The score values of each of the alternative with respect to both benefit and cost criteria say BS_j and CS_h is first calculated. The difference between the values is determined, say $BS_j - CS_h = D_f$

Step 6: Ranking of the alternatives

The alternatives are ranked based on the difference values D_f . The alternative with maximum difference value is ranked first and so on.

4. Application of DMPC in supplier selection

In this section, a decision-making problem is solved using the proposed method of DMPC. Let us consider a logistic supplier selection problem with five alternatives and four criteria say C_1 – Price, C_2 – Time span of delivery, C_3 – Flexibility, and C_4 – Reliability.

The criteria C_1 and C_2 are considered to be cost criteria and the criteria C_3 and C_4 are considered as benefit criteria.

Each criteria presumed to be the attribute possess the attribute values of {L, M, H} i.e. {Low, Moderate, High}.

For the cost criteria, the dominant attribute value is certainly LOW & for the benefit criteria it is HIGH.

Contradiction degree with respect to dominant attribute value (LOW) of the cost criteria (C_1 & C_2).

$C(L,L) = 0$

$C(L,M) = 1/3$

$C(L,H) = 2/3$

Contradiction degree with respect to dominant attribute value (HIGH) of the benefit criteria.

$C(H,H) = 0$

$C(H,M) = 1/3$

$C(H,L) = 2/3$

$C(M,M) = 0$

The initial decision making matrix with linguistic values is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Initial decision making matrix.

Alternatives /Criteria	C1	C2	C3	C4
	Cost Criteria		Benefit Criteria	
A1	L	H	L	M
A2	H	M	L	M
A3	M	L	H	M
A4	L	L	M	H
A5	L	H	M	L

The assumed criterion weights and the dominant attribute value with respect to each of criterion are presented as follows in Table 3.

Table 3. Decision matrix with criterion description.

Alternatives/ Criteria	C1	C2	C3	C4
	Cost Criteria		Benefit Criteria	
	0.35	0.25	0.20	0.20
A1	L	H	L	M
A2	H	M	L	M
A3	M	L	H	M
A4	L	L	M	H
A5	L	H	M	L
Dominant Value	L	L	H	H

The contradiction matrix with the contradiction degree of each criterion values with respect to the dominant criterion value is presented as follows in Table 4 using step 3.

Table 4. Contradiction matrix.

Alternatives/ Criteria	C1	C2	C3	C4
	Cost Criteria		Benefit Criteria	
	0.35	0.25	0.20	0.20
A1	0	2/3	2/3	1/3
A2	2/3	1/3	2/3	1/3
A3	1/3	0	0	1/3
A4	0	0	1/3	0
A5	0	2/3	1/3	2/3

The weighted contradiction matrix is computed using step 4 as follows in Table 5.

Table 5. Weighted contradiction matrix.

Alternatives /Criteria	C1	C2	C3	C4
	Cost Criteria		Benefit Criteria	
A1	0.00	0.17	0.13	0.07
A2	0.23	0.08	0.13	0.07
A3	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.07
A4	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00
A5	0.00	0.17	0.07	0.13

The score values of the benefit and cost criteria with respect to each alternative are calculated as presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Score values of criteria.

Alternatives	Cost Criteria	Benefit Criteria
A1	0.17	0.20
A2	0.31	0.20
A3	0.12	0.07
A4	0.00	0.07
A5	0.17	0.20

The differences between the benefit and the cost criteria score values are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Difference in score values.

Alternatives	Differences in the score values
A1	0.03
A2	-0.11
A3	-0.05
A4	0.07
A5	0.03

Based on the difference values the alternatives are ranked as follows as in Table 8.

Table 8. Ranking of the alternatives.

Alternatives	Ranking
A1	2
A2	4
A3	3
A4	1
A5	2

5. Discussion

The above ranking of the alternatives is obtained with assumed criterion weights. The same ranking procedure based on contradictions is repeated with different criterion weights obtained using various methods such as the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP), Entropy, and the method of CRITIC (CRiteria Importance through Intercriteria Correlation). Table 9 and Figure 2 represent the rankings of the alternatives using different criterion weights.

Table 9. Ranking of alternatives based on different criterion weights.

Alternatives	Rankings based on diverse criterion weights		
	AHP	CRITIC	Entropy
A1	2	2	2
A2	5	4	5
A3	4	5	4
A4	1	1	1
A5	3	3	3

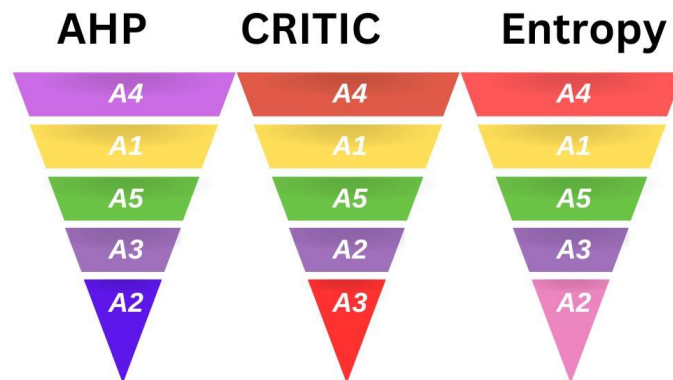


Figure 2. Graphical representation of diverse ranking of the alternatives.

6. Conclusions

This research work proposes a new genre of Plithogenic based decision-making method based on contradictions. The proposed method stands distinct in comparison with other methods as it streamlines a new modality of making optimal decisions. This method will definitely lessen the hurdles in choosing the alternatives based on cost and benefit criteria. The ranking obtained using the Plithogenic method based on contradictions is compared with different criterion weights. This method shall be dealt with extended Plithogenic sets. Also, the method of Plithogenic Cognitive Maps shall be associated with the proposed method as a means of developing several hybrid decision-making methods. This method is highly adaptable and flexible in nature and hence it shall be blended with other decision-making models to evolve new hybrid decision-making systems.

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Data availability

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due to the privacy-preserving nature of the data but are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in the research.

Ethical approval

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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