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Environmentally Friendly Supplier Selection Using Prospect Theory

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Abstract: This paper proposes an optimal selection method to address the real-world problem of environmentally friendly supplier selection, based on prospect theory. This study adopted the manufacturer's point of view, and considered the manufacturer's psychological and behavioral factors in the process of choosing suppliers. The first step was to build supplier-selection indexes for manufacturers. Then, the study assessed the attribute of manufacturer expectations as a reference point. Next, index gains and losses were evaluated against the expectation reference point, yielding a payoff matrix and loss matrix. Finally, the study used prospect theory to calculate the comprehensive prospect value of each supplier; comprehensive prospect values were sorted in descending order to help manufacturers make the best choice.

Keywords: prospect theory; aspiration; gain matrix; loss matrix; comprehensive prospect value

1. Introduction

In the 1970s, T.L. Satty studied the problem of supplier evaluation and selection, proposing that supplier selection be based on analytic hierarchy process (AHP). This qualitative analysis involved a pairwise comparison of different evaluation factors, resulting in a judgment matrix. Second, a feature vector corresponding to the largest eigenvalue as a coefficient was used to evaluate each plan's weight. This enabled supplier evaluation and selection.

Degraeve et al. [1] studied the total cost of partner selection, proposing a cost analysis method based on activity (ABC analysis). This method analyzes the direct and indirect costs of enterprises based on procurement size; supplier selection is made by calculating the supplier's total cost. Arkan [2] used a multi-objective linear programming model to select the supplier. Ghodsypour et al. [3] selected suppliers using the method of combined AHP linear programming. Shiromaru et al. [4] used a selection based on fuzzy theory to select suppliers. Huang et al. [5] proposed a random data envelopment analysis (DEA) method with AHP to select suppliers; by introducing random variables, they addressed the shortcomings of weight selection in the DEA method. This method converted the subjective judgment of the supplier selection process into a credibility judgment, improving the reliability of supplier evaluation.

Xu et al. [6] introduced the grey clustering decision-making method into the supplier selection process. This allowed the quantitative appraisal of the clustering object and cluster index. Suppliers

are then ranked, providing a supplier selection reference for manufacturers. Zhang et al. [7] selected suppliers using AHP to determine the weight and to quantify qualitative problems; neural logic network was used to simulate logical reasoning, resulting in a supplier selection model. The model assigned different weights based on expert input for different field indices. This optimized the pure AHP research method, and used AHP to determine the weights of logical network levels, making the network structure more scientific and applicable.

In researching supplier selection methods, Wang et al. [8] proposed a supplier selection method that combined AHP, a preference order structure evaluation method, and an interaction method. They determined the structure of the supply selection problem and the evaluation criteria weights using AHP; evaluated the candidate suppliers in order of their preference structure method; and analyzed sensitivity using an interactive aided geometric analysis method. This resulted in a candidate supplier ranking.

Some scholars have used fuzzy mathematics methods to study the problem of project selection. Ruan et al. [9,10] studied the monitoring and evaluation of the freshness of fruits using an interval number method. They also optimized a medical supply multimodal transport problem using a balanced fuzzy clustering method, and optimized the allocation of disaster relief materials using interval and fuzzy number methods. Ruan et al. [11,12] summarized the application of cloud-computing algorithms over the past ten years. This provided new insights for subsequent scholars using cloud-computing algorithms to study the supplier selection problem. Zeydan et al. [13] used NGT (Nominal Group Technique) and fuzzy network analysis (Fuzzy ANP, FANP) to calculate the importance of determining the index, resulting in a supplier selection model. Kannan et al. [14] used the TOPSIS (Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution) method, geometric mean, and cascading average fuzzy ideal solution. This allowed them to rank alternative green suppliers in order of importance, and to test differences in project scheduling caused by using different methods associated with the Spearman rank correlation coefficient.

In their studies on optimal supplier determination, Sanayei et al. [15] converted the linguistic variables characterizing evaluation value and weight information with a triangular fuzzy number and trapezoid fuzzy number; they then used the fuzzy VIKOR method to establish an optimal supplier model. Shemshadi et al. [16] transformed the trapezoidal fuzzy number to an exact number, using the Shannon entropy weighting method combined with the improved VIKOR method. This created a new way to sort and select the most satisfactory supplier from many alternatives. Sahu et al. [17] converted evaluation information and attribute weights provided about green suppliers using the trapezoidal fuzzy number method, and selected the best supplier using the resulting scheme. Chung et al. [18] established a green supplier selection and guidance mechanism by integrating the features of an ANP (Analytic Network Process) and an IPA (Importance-Performance Analysis). This approach supports sustainable management for green supply chains.

In studying a logistics supplier selection decision model, Boran et al. [19] considered both expert preference and a related evaluation index. Considering the arbitrary selection of an evaluation standard by an expert group evaluating service providers, they evaluated data consistency using a transformation function of different evaluation scales. This yielded a group decision to select a logistics supplier using a maximum entropy configuration model and Choquet integral. Junior et al. [20] researched the selection of logistic suppliers by determining the weights of second level indexes using the TOPSIS method. They also adopted a qualitative AHP to determine the weights of the first-level indicators. This resulted in a fuzzy comprehensive evaluation model based on combining the TOPSIS method and AHP method. The result was an automobile reverse logistics supplier evaluation index system. Wu et al. [21] and Liu et al. [22] applied this same concept and fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method to model supplier selection. Once the qualitative factors and fuzzy factors were quantified, the fuzzy comprehensive supplier selection evaluation model was established. Kuo et al. [23] proposed a novel hybrid multiple-criteria decision-making (MCDM) method to evaluate green suppliers in an electronics company. The Decision-Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory (DEMATEL) applied the Analytic

Network Process (ANP) method (known as DANP) to determine both the importance of evaluation criteria in selecting suppliers and the causal relationships between them. Finally, the VIKOR method was used to evaluate the environmental performance of suppliers and to obtain a solution for each evaluation criterion.

In studying the supplier selection problem, scholars have also conducted qualitative and quantitative research based on expected utility theory. Research using this method is confined to the definite object and methods for using the associated certainty; there have been many research achievements in this area. However, in real life, supply chain systems are complex and changeable organisms [24]. There are also many risks associated with factors such as policy, environment, management, information asymmetry, and others. Research has revealed differences in information uncertainty; related studies using fuzzy mathematics, grey systems, and rough set methods have also been applied to the supplier selection problem. These studies have achieved good theoretical and practical results. The deterministic method associated with a specific object of study results in a deterministic numerical index to select suppliers in uncertain situations. The evaluation index developed using a fuzzy interval or numerical language form is more consistent with the fuzzy research paradigm. Further, the research conclusions are more representative and practical, as decision makers making actual decisions need a framework of limited rationality to select the most satisfactory solution [25–28].

Based on this, this paper proposes a new method to optimize decision analysis based on prospect theory, focusing on the problem of multiple-attribute decision making. This method has been used successfully in economics and finance. The theory has four key features that distinguish prospect theory from mean variance theory, which is the traditional approach to modelling decision making. First, traditional theory proposes that people choose among alternatives based on how the outcomes will affect their overall outlook. However, prospect theory proposes instead that people evaluate outcomes in terms of gains and losses relative to a reference point. Second, mean variance analysis assumes that people are risk averse in all their choices. In contrast, with prospect theory, agents are assumed to be risk averse with respect to gains, but seek risk when all changes in income are framed as losses. The third feature of prospect theory is “loss aversion.” Fourth, in utility theory, risk is treated objectively based on its probabilities. In contrast, the utility under prospect theory does not depend on the original probability, but rather on the transformed probability, also known as decision weights.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The first part of this study establishes a supplier selection evaluation index system. Next, parameter descriptions are constructed, yielding a decision model based on prospect theory. The third part of the paper considers the practical example of integrated circuit manufacturers that are selecting electronic component suppliers. The model is then applied and the results analyzed and compared, demonstrating the method’s effectiveness.

2. Supplier Selection Decision Model

Selecting criteria is a fundamental step in constructing a decision-making model, especially in supply chain selection. Companies should select suppliers based on the criteria that are effective and relative to the company’s activity, and that also conform to the environmental factors around them. Commonly used criteria include quality, delivery, cost/price, manufacturing capability, service, management, technology, research, flexibility, finance, reputation, relationship, risk and safety, and the environment [29]. Selecting a supplier evaluation index based on the prospect theory requires us to comprehensively capture the suppliers’ internal factors and related conditions. We must also consider the psychological behavior of manufacturers in making selections, and follow minimum risk and flexible operational principles. This means that the selected indicators must respond to the supplier’s ability to deal with risk, and also align with the manufacturer’s specific circumstances [27]. This results in appropriate changes and increases or decreases to the index system [28–30]. Therefore, based on the existing academic research, to start manufacturer optimization of supplier selection, we select ten evaluation indexes close to the manufacturer’s actual choices of reference indicators [30–35].

Figure 1 depicts the ten indicators of the hierarchical model based on profitability index and cost index. They include:

1. Cost index:

- 1.1. Product price (I1): the cost directly related to obtaining the corresponding supplier's product.
- 1.2. Product failure ratio (I2): the product's failure rate when environmentally friendly factors are considered. For the environmentally friendly supplier selection problem, the environmental performance index (EPI) is one method to quantify and numerically mark a supplier's environmental performance. If a product has environmentally friendly attributes, it can be accepted as a satisfactory product; this directly connects the product failure ratio to an index related to the environment.
- 1.3. Asset liability ratio (I3): the proportion of a company's assets that are being financed with debt, rather than equity. This ratio is used to determine the financial risk of a business.
- 1.4. Supply cycle (I4): the speed at which the supplier provides the ordered products.
- 1.5. Research and development (R & D) capital investment ratio (I5): the ratio of R & D investment divided by the revenues.

2. Profitability index:

- 2.1. The Quality of the Staff (I6): staff quality indicates employee quality.
- 2.2. Product market share (I7): percentage of a market (defined in terms of either units or revenue) accounted for by a specific entity.
- 2.3. Delivery accuracy (I8): an important operational performance measure that combines non-financial elements, namely time and quality.
- 2.4. Return on net assets (I9): a measure of financial performance, calculated as net income divided by fixed assets and net working capital.
- 2.5. Order Completion Rate (I10): percent of orders shipped containing all items of a sales order. It is calculated as the number of annual sales orders delivered as a complete shipment according to the sales order (with no items on back order), divided by the total number of annual sales orders.

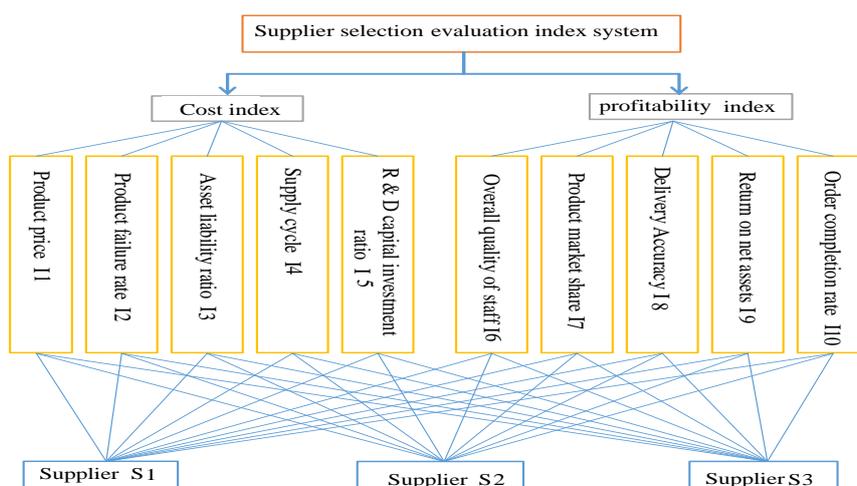


Figure 1. Supplier selection evaluation index.

This paper proposes a multi-attribute decision-making method based on prospect theory. Manufacturers are described using an indicator system, with established expectations as a reference

point. Relative to this reference point, gains and losses are calculated based on different supplier value indicators. This establishes a risk return and risk loss matrix. Using prospect theory, the study establishes a prospective decision matrix. Based on this, it is possible to sort through comprehensive values associated with the prospect of selecting each supplier. This leads to the optimal manufacturer selection, providing a reference. The following discussion provides the income and loss calculation methods, the future value of the calculation, and the supplier ranking method. Table 1 defines each variable.

Table 1. Variable definition.

Variable	Meaning
$S = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_i, \dots, S_m\}$	A collection of m supplier alternatives
m	Number of suppliers
$I = \{I_1, I_2, \dots, I_i, \dots, I_n\}$	A set of n indicators
$N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$	Subscripted collections of index
N_1, N_2 and $N_1 \cup N_2 = N, N_1 \cap N_2 = \emptyset$	Subscripted collections of profit index and cost index
$w = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n), w_j \geq 0$ and $\sum_{j=1}^n w_j = 1$	Weight vector of index
Y	The index of natural state
$A = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_t, \dots, A_y\}$	Natural state set
$Y = \{1, 2, \dots, y\}$	A collection of natural states of y
$p_t, p_t \geq 0$ and $\sum_{t=1}^y p_t = 1$	Probability of occurrence of state A_t
$E = (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)$	The desired vector of the index
$e_j = (e_j^1, e_j^2, \dots, e_j^y)$	The expectation of decision makers for attribute I_j
e_j^t	The status of A_t decision makers to target the expectations of I_j
$X = [x_{ij}^t]_{m \times n}$	Risk decision matrix
x_{ij}^t	The status of A_t , supplier S_i aims at decision results of I_j
x_{ij}^{t1}, x_{ij}^{tz}	Lower and upper bounds of interval numbers
$a_{ij}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij}^t, a_{ij1}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij1}^t$	Value of fuzzy number
$I^K = \{I_1, I_2, \dots, I_{J_1}\}$	Index value is the index set of clear number
$I^L = \{I_{J_1+1}, I_{J_1+2}, \dots, I_{J_2}\}$	Index value is the index set of interval number
$I^F = \{I_{J_2+1}, I_{J_2+2}, \dots, I_n\}$	Index value is the index set of intuitionistic trapezoidal fuzzy number
$N^K = \{1, 2, \dots, J_1\}$	Subscripted collections of index subset I^K
$N^L = \{J_1 + 1, J_1 + 2, \dots, J_2\}$	Subscripted collections of index subset I^L
$N^F = \{J_2 + 1, J_2 + 2, \dots, n\}$	Subscripted collections of index subset I^F

Assume that expectation e_j^t is a clear number; the type of index value x_{ij}^t has three forms: clear number, interval number, and trapezoid fuzzy numbers. The three types of index values are described as follows.

- (1) When the index $I_j \in I^K$, let $x_{ij}^t = x'_{ij}, x'_{ij}$ is a real number type, $i \in M, j \in N^K, T \in Y$.
- (2) When the index $I_j \in I^L$, let $x_{ij}^t = \bar{x}_{ij}$, is the number of intervals, that is $\bar{x}_{ij} = [x_{ij}^{t1}, x_{ij}^{tz}]$, $x_{ij}^{t1} < x_{ij}^{tz}, i \in M, j \in N^L, T \in Y$ is satisfied.

Because the number of intervals is derived from random sampling calculations, it can be assumed that interval $[x_{ij}^{t1}, x_{ij}^{tz}]$ is relatively immobile. The actual value of the index x in the $[x_{ij}^{t1}, x_{ij}^{tz}]$ interval is the random value, and is subject to a distribution. Zhang et al. note that the normal distribution and uniform distribution are the most commonly used distributions, so they are applied with the two cases [32]. If every interval is a random interval through the sampling calculations, however, the comprehensive evaluation value of the decision scheme is an objective value. This ensures that the objective value is included in the corresponding interval. At the same time, each point in the interval has the same probability of covering the comprehensive evaluation value. As such, we can assume the relative interval is relatively fixed; the comprehensive evaluation value is the random value; and the

evaluation value obeys a uniform distribution. When the probability density function is the uniform distribution, the probability density function is:

$$f_{ij}^t(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x_{ij}^{tz} - x_{ij}^{tl}}, x_{ij}^{tl} \leq x \leq x_{ij}^{tz} \\ 0, other \end{cases}, i \in M, j \in N^I, t \in Y \tag{1}$$

If every interval is a random interval through the sampling calculations, such as intervals $\tilde{a} = [a^L, a^U]$ and $\tilde{b} = [b^L, b^U]$, the intervals are random because of the random sampling, and there are cross-sections for the two interval numbers. The scheme's evaluation value has the probability of 99.73% in interval $\tilde{c} = [\min(a^L, b^L), \max(a^U, b^U)]$ (Following the 3σ principle). The evaluation value is covered by the random point, which can be considered as the "interval." The evaluation value is randomly placed in a certain position of the "interval," and obeys the normal distribution of $N(\mu_c, \sigma_c^2)$, $\mu_c = (\min(a^L, b^L) + \max(a^U, b^U))/2$, $\sigma_c = (\max(a^U, b^U) - \min(a^L, b^L))/6$.

When x follows the normal distribution of $N(\mu_{ij}^t, (\sigma_{ij}^t)^2)$, the probability of x is 99.73%, covered by the interval $[x_{ij}^{tl}, x_{ij}^{tz}]$, $\mu_{ij}^t = \frac{x_{ij}^{tl} + x_{ij}^{tz}}{2}$, $\sigma_{ij}^t = \frac{|x_{ij}^{tl} - x_{ij}^{tz}|}{6}$. The probability is:

$$f_{ij}^t(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{ij}^t} e^{-\frac{(x - \mu_{ij}^t)^2}{2(\sigma_{ij}^t)^2}}, i \in M, j \in N^I, t \in Y \tag{2}$$

(3) When the index is $I_j \in I^F$, let $x_{ij}^t = \tilde{x}_{ij}^t$, and \tilde{x}_{ij}^t is the intuitionistic trapezoidal fuzzy number. That is:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}_{ij}^t &= \left\langle \left([a_{ij}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij}^t]; \varphi_x \right), \left([a_{ij1}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij1}^t]; \tau_x \right) \right\rangle, \\ 0 &\leq \varphi_x \leq 1, 0 \leq \tau_x \leq 1, \varphi_x + \tau_x \leq 1, \\ a_{ij}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij}^t, a_{ij1}^t, d_{ij1}^t &\in R, \end{aligned}$$

Its membership is:

$$\varphi_{ij}^t(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x - a_{ij}^t}{b_{ij}^t - a_{ij}^t}, a_{ij}^t \leq x \leq b_{ij}^t \\ \varphi_{ij}^t, b_{ij}^t \leq x \leq c_{ij}^t \\ \frac{d_{ij}^t - x}{d_{ij}^t - c_{ij}^t}, c_{ij}^t \leq x \leq d_{ij}^t \\ 0, other \end{cases}, i \in M, j \in N^F, t \in Y \tag{3}$$

In general, in the intuitionistic trapezoidal fuzzy number \tilde{x}_{ij}^t , there is $[a_{ij}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij}^t] = [a_{ij1}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij1}^t]$, recorded as $\tilde{x}_{ij}^t = ([a_{ij}^t, b_{ij}^t, c_{ij}^t, d_{ij}^t]; \varphi_x, \tau_{ij}^t)$. This study evaluates the fuzzy number of this type. The $\delta_{ij}^t(x) = 1 - \varphi_{ij}^t - \tau_{ij}^t$ indicates the degree of hesitation: the smaller the value, the more definitive the fuzzy number.

2.1. Calculation of Gain and Loss

The first step in calculating gain and loss is to determine the reference point of each index. The expectations given by the manufacturer are accepted as the reference point; as such, this study used the manufacturer's expectation of $e_j = (e_j^1, e_j^2, \dots, e_j^d)$ as the reference point of each index.

The next step was to calculate the profit and loss of each supplier index value relative to the reference point.

(1) When the index is $I_j \in I^K$, there are two possible relationships between the index value x_{ij}^t and the reference point e_j^t . $x_{ij}^t < e_j^t$ and $x_{ij}^t \geq e_j^t$. The following two situations inform the income and loss calculation formula.

(a) When $x_{ij}^t < e_j^t$, the formula for calculating the value of the profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 0, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ e_{ij}^t - x_{ij}^t, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

The formula for calculating the loss of L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} x_{ij}^t - e_{ij}^t, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ 0, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

(b) When $x_{ij}^t \geq e_j^t$, the formula for calculating the value of the profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} x_{ij}^t - e_{ij}^t, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ 0, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

The formula for calculating the loss of L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 0, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ e_{ij}^t - x_{ij}^t, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

(2) When the index is $I_j \in I^I$, in the three considered cases, the relationship between the index value \bar{x}_{ij}^t and the reference point e_j^t is: $x_{ij}^{tz} \leq e_j^t$, $x_{ij}^{t1} \leq \bar{x}_{ij}^t \leq x_{ij}^{tz}$ and $x_{ij}^{t1} \geq e_j^t$. In this case, the calculation formula for the gain and loss are, respectively:

(a) When $x_{ij}^{tz} \leq e_j^t$, $\bar{x}_{ij}^t < e_j^t$, the profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 0, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{x_{ij}^{t1}}^{x_{ij}^{tz}} (e_j^t - x) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{8}$$

Loss L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{x_{ij}^{t1}}^{x_{ij}^{tz}} (x - e_j^t) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ 0, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

(b) When $x_{ij}^{t1} \leq \bar{x}_{ij}^t \leq x_{ij}^{tz}$, e_j^t will be divided into two sub-ranges, recorded as $\bar{x}_{ij}^{t*} = [x_{ij}^{t1}, e_j^t]$ and $\bar{x}_{ij}^{t**} = [e_j^t, x_{ij}^{tz}]$, then $\bar{x}_{ij}^{t*} < e_j^t$ and $\bar{x}_{ij}^{t**} > e_j^t$. Therefore, the profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{e_j^t}^{x_{ij}^{tz}} (x - e_j^t) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{x_{ij}^{t1}}^{e_j^t} (e_j^t - x) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, & i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

Loss L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{x_{ij}^{t1}}^{e_j^t} (x - e_j^t) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{e_j^t}^{x_{ij}^{tz}} (e_j^t - x) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{11}$$

(c) When $x_{ij}^{t1} \geq e_j^t$, there is $\bar{x}_{ij}^t \succ e_j^t$. Make x any point within the range; x can be considered the random variable that obeys a certain distribution. (In the example, we assume that x follows a uniform distribution.) The profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{x_{ij}^{t1}}^{x_{ij}^{tz}} (x - e_j^t) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ 0, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

Loss L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 0, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{x_{ij}^{t1}}^{x_{ij}^{tz}} (e_j^t - x) f_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

When the index is $I_j \in I^F$, there are three possible relationships between the index value \bar{x}_{ij}^t and the reference point e_j^t , $e_j^t \leq a_{ij}^t$, $a_{ij}^t \leq e_j^t \leq d_{ij}^t$ and $e_j^t \geq d_{ij}^t$. For these three circumstances, the calculation formulas for the profit and loss are, respectively:

(a) When $e_j^t \leq a_{ij}^t$, there is $e_j^t \prec a_{ij}^t$. The profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{a_{ij}^t}^{d_{ij}^t} (x - e_j^t) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ 0, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

The formula to calculate the loss of L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 0, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{a_{ij}^{t1}}^{d_{ij}^{tz}} (e_j^t - x) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{15}$$

(b) When $a_{ij}^t \leq e_j^t \leq d_{ij}^t$, the profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{e_j^t}^{d_{ij}^t} (x - e_j^t) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{a_{ij}^t}^{e_j^t} (e_j^t - x) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{16}$$

Loss L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{a_{ij}^t}^{e_j^t} (x - e_j^t) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{e_j^t}^{d_{ij}^{tz}} (e_j^t - x) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{17}$$

(c) When $e_j^t \geq d_{ij}^t$, there is $e_j^t \succ d_{ij}^t$. Similar to the first cases, the profit G_{ij}^t of the index value x_{ij}^t relative to the reference point e_j^t is:

$$G_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} 0, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ \int_{a_{ij}^{t1}}^{d_{ij}^{tz}} (e_j^t - x) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \tag{18}$$

The formula for calculating the loss of L_{ij}^t is:

$$L_{ij}^t = \begin{cases} \int_{a_{ij}^t}^{d_{ij}^t} (x - e_j^t) \varphi_{ij}^t(x) dx, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^1, t \in Y \\ 0, i \in M, j \in N^K \cap N^2, t \in Y \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

In summary, on the basis of (4)–(19), the risk gain matrix can be obtained as $G_t = [G_{ij}^t]_{m \times n}$, $t \in Y$ and the risk loss matrix is $L_t = [L_{ij}^t]_{m \times n}$, $t \in Y$. By extension, $G_{ij}^t \geq 0$, $L_{ij}^t \leq 0$, $i \in M$, $j \in N$, $t \in Y$.

2.2. The Calculation of the Foreground Value and the Ranking of the Schemes

According to the risk return matrix $G_t = [G_{ij}^t]_{m \times n}$ and the risk loss matrix $L_t = [L_{ij}^t]_{m \times n}$, the different risk attitudes of the manufacturer with respect to income and loss must be considered to calculate the value of each supplier for each indicator. Here, we first calculate the value of each supplier for each revenue and loss indicator. Based on prospect theory, the profit G_{ij}^t of the value of $V_{ij}^{(+t)}$ is:

$$V_{ij}^{(+t)} = (G_{ij}^t)^\alpha, i \in M, j \in N, t \in Y \quad (20)$$

The value of the loss $V_{ij}^{(-t)}$ is:

$$V_{ij}^{(-t)} = -\lambda(-L_{ij}^t)^\beta, i \in M, j \in N, t \in Y \quad (21)$$

The formulas for α and β , respectively, indicate the loss of regional income level and uneven regional value function, $0 < \alpha < 1$, $0 < \beta < 1$, λ is an indicator of the manufacturer's loss aversion, $\lambda > 1$. The greater the α , β , the more likely manufacturers are to take risks. The greater the λ , the stronger the manufacturer's aversion to loss. The probability weight of each supplier's revenue and loss can then be calculated for each index. The formula to calculate the probability weight $q_{ij}^{(+t)}$ for the benefit G_{ij}^t is:

$$q_{ij}^{(+t)} = \frac{(p_t)^{\gamma^+}}{((p_t)^{\gamma^+} + (1 - p_t)^{\gamma^+})^{\frac{1}{\gamma^+}}}, i \in M, j \in N, t \in Y \quad (22)$$

The formula for the probability weight of loss of $q_{ij}^{(-t)}$ is:

$$q_{ij}^{(-t)} = \frac{(p_t)^{\gamma^-}}{((p_t)^{\gamma^-} + (1 - p_t)^{\gamma^-})^{\frac{1}{\gamma^-}}}, i \in M, j \in N, t \in Y \quad (23)$$

In Formulas (22) and (23), γ^+ and γ^- , respectively, represent the degree of bending of the probability weight function of the gain and loss, including $\gamma^+ > 0$, $\gamma^- > 0$.

The final priority of each alternative depends highly on parameter variations. Small changes in the relative parameter can cause major changes of the final ranking. These parameters are usually based on highly subjective judgments. Because of this, a sensitivity analysis is often introduced into the assessment and choice processes. The analysis can be performed based on scenarios that reflect alternative future developments, or different views on the relative importance of the criteria. The sensitivity analysis is usually performed by changing the different parameters related to the result; the analysis provides insights about the model and showcases the robustness of the model.

For this study, a series of sensitivity analyses was conducted using the logical decision program [33–35]. Parameter values that are consistent with the experimental results are: $\alpha = \beta = 0.88$, $\lambda = 2.25$, $\gamma^+ = 0.61$, $\gamma^- = 0.69$. Abdellaoui [36] and Xu et al. [37] also conducted experiments that studied these parameter values, and obtained similar results.

Next, we calculate the value of each supplier for each indicator. The formula for the future value of the supplier A_i for the index I_j is:

$$V_{ij} = \sum_{t=1}^y V_{ij}^{(+t)} q_{ij}^{(+t)} + \sum_{t=1}^y V_{ij}^{(-t)} q_{ij}^{(-t)}, i \in M, j \in N \tag{24}$$

According to Formula (24), we obtain the foreground decision matrix $V = [V_{ij}]_{m \times n}$.

To eliminate the influence of different physical dimensions on the selection results, the $V = [V_{ij}]_{m \times n}$ of the decision matrix is normalized to a matrix $V^* = [V_{ij}^*]_{m \times n}$. The normalized formula is:

$$V_{ij}^* = \frac{V_{ij}}{V_j^{\max}}, i \in M, j \in N \tag{25}$$

Among these:

$$V_j^{\max} = \max_{i \in M} \{ |V_{ij}| \}, j \in N \tag{26}$$

Based on the simple weighted principle, the comprehensive prospect value of each supplier is calculated as U_i . The formula is:

$$U_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \omega_j V_{ij}^*, i \in M, j \in N \tag{27}$$

The greater the U_i , the better the supplier A_i . Therefore, based on the size of the U_i value, the program can be sorted [29].

Based on the description above, the steps needed to calculate the supplier multi-index selection method based on prospect theory are as follows:

- (1) Based on (4)–(19): Establish risk return matrix $G_t = [G_{ij}^t]_{m \times n}$ and risk loss matrix $L_t = [L_{ij}^t]_{m \times n}$
- (2) Based on (20)–(24): Establish decision matrix $V = [V_{ij}]_{m \times n}$
- (3) Based on (25) and (26): Establish a standardized decision-making matrix
- (4) Based on (27): Calculate the overall outlook for each vendor U_i , and based on the U_i value, determine the size of all suppliers using a row sort.

3. Example Analysis

An integrated circuit manufacturer in Shenzhen, China needs to select an electronic component supplier that can maximize its requirements to provide a certain number of components. Meanwhile, the manufacturer wants to select environmentally friendly enterprises to provide raw materials, with the goal of developing an eco-friendly enterprise. Based on this, five environmentally friendly enterprises become alternatives in considering an integrated circuit manufacturer.

There are five suppliers to choose from: S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5 . To select a supplier, the integrated circuit manufacturers use the evaluation index system established above; there are ten indicators to assess the five suppliers against: $I = \{I_1, I_2, \dots, I_{10}\}$. Of these indicators, $\{I_1, I_2, I_3, I_4, I_5\}$ is the cost index, and $\{I_6, I_7, I_8, I_9, I_{10}\}$ is a profitability index. When considering the actual situation, the index value of I_6 is given by the supplier in the form of linguistic variables; this requires the expression of the intuitionistic trapezoidal fuzzy numbers. Table 2 shows the corresponding relationship. In the selection process, consider five possible natural states $\{A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, A_5\}$, respectively expressed as $\{\text{Very good, good, general, poor, very poor}\}$. The analysis process indicates that the data for the five kinds of natural conditions are insufficient. As such, assume that the probability of each state’s occurrence is the same: 0.2. Suppose the manufacturer defines the weight vector of the ten indicators as $\omega = (0.15, 0.15, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.05, 0.05, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1)^T$. Table 2 lists the manufacturer’s expectations for each supplier indicator.

Table 2. Supplier index matrix and manufacturer expectation vector.

Index	State	State Probability	Supplier					Mean Vector
			S ₁	S ₂	S ₃	S ₄	S ₅	
I ₁	A ₁	0.2	15	16	16	17	14	15
	A ₂	0.2	13	15	14	16	13	
	A ₃	0.2	12	14	11	15	12	
	A ₄	0.2	11	13	10	13	11	
	A ₅	0.2	10	12	9	9	10	
I ₂	A1	0.2	0.95	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.90	0.90
	A2	0.2	0.93	0.90	0.80	0.91	0.88	
	A3	0.2	0.90	0.85	0.75	0.90	0.85	
	A4	0.2	0.88	0.82	0.72	0.85	0.83	
	A5	0.2	0.85	0.80	0.70	0.80	0.80	
I ₃	A ₁	0.2	0.55	0.60	0.50	0.55	0.50	0.60
	A ₂	0.2	0.58	0.62	0.60	0.58	0.57	
	A ₃	0.2	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.60	0.60	
	A ₄	0.2	0.62	0.67	0.66	0.65	0.62	
	A ₅	0.2	0.65	0.70	0.68	0.70	0.65	
I ₄	A ₁	0.2	15	16	14	15	16	15
	A ₂	0.2	18	18	20	16	18	
	A ₃	0.2	20	22	21	18	20	
	A ₄	0.2	21	24	22	19	21	
	A ₅	0.2	22	25	23	20	22	
I ₅	A ₁	0.2	0.25	0.25	0.20	0.30	0.25	0.20
	A ₂	0.2	0.23	0.22	0.18	0.22	0.22	
	A ₃	0.2	0.20	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.20	
	A ₄	0.2	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.15	0.18	
	A ₅	0.2	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.10	0.15	
I ₆	A ₁	0.2	([5,6,7,8]; 0.7,0.3)	([6,7,8,9]; 0.8,0.1)	([4,6,7,8]; 0.6,0.3)	([6,7,8,9]; 0.8,0.2)	([6,7,8,9]; 0.8,0.1)	6
	A ₂	0.2	([4,5,6,7]; 0.7,0.2)	([5,7,8,9]; 0.8,0.2)	([3,4,7,8]; 0.6,0.4)	([5,6,8,9]; 0.8,0.2)	([5,6,7,8]; 0.8,0.2)	
	A ₃	0.2	([3,4,5,6]; 0.6,0.2)	([4,5,6,7]; 0.8,0.2)	([3,4,5,6]; 0.6, 0.4)	([5,6,7,8]; 0.8,0.2)	([4,5,7,8]; 0.8,0.2)	
	A ₄	0.2	([2,4,5,6]; 0.6,0.3)	([3,4,5,6]; 0.8,0.2)	([2,3,4,5]; 0.6,0.3)	([4,5,6,7]; 0.8,0.2)	([4,5,6,7]; 0.8,0.2)	
	A ₅	0.2	([2,3,5,6]; 0.6,0.3)	([2,4,6,7]; 0.8,0.2)	([1,3,4,5]; 0.6,0.3)	([3,4,6,7]; 0.8,0.2)	([3,5,6,7]; 0.8,0.2)	
I ₇	A ₁	0.2	0.25	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.22
	A ₂	0.2	0.22	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.23	
	A ₃	0.2	0.20	0.22	0.20	0.23	0.22	
	A ₄	0.2	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.19	
	A ₅	0.2	0.18	0.20	0.18	0.18	0.18	
I ₈	A ₁	0.2	0.90	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.90	0.90
	A ₂	0.2	0.88	0.90	0.92	0.92	0.88	
	A ₃	0.2	0.85	0.85	0.90	0.90	0.85	
	A ₄	0.2	0.82	0.83	0.85	0.88	0.83	
	A ₅	0.2	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.85	0.80	
I ₉	A ₁	0.2	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.13
	A ₂	0.2	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.14	
	A ₃	0.2	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.12	
	A ₄	0.2	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.11	
	A ₅	0.2	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.10	
I ₁₀	A ₁	0.2	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.93
	A ₂	0.2	0.93	0.95	0.90	0.95	0.92	
	A ₃	0.2	0.90	0.90	0.88	0.90	0.90	
	A ₄	0.2	0.88	0.85	0.86	0.89	0.89	
	A ₅	0.2	0.85	0.80	0.85	0.88	0.88	

Note: The different types of indicators generate different values.

The following data were calculated using Lingo11 software. The gain matrix and loss matrix are shown in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

Table 3. Gain matrix.

Index	State	Supplier				
		S ₁	S ₂	S ₃	S ₄	S ₅
I ₁	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
	A ₂	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	2.00
	A ₃	3.00	1.00	4.00	0.00	3.00
	A ₄	4.00	2.00	5.00	2.00	4.00
	A ₅	5.00	3.00	6.00	6.00	5.00
I ₂	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.02
	A ₃	0.00	0.05	0.15	0.00	0.05
	A ₄	0.02	0.08	0.18	0.05	0.07
	A ₅	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.10	0.10
I ₃	A ₁	0.05	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.10
	A ₂	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₄	A ₁	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₅	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
	A ₃	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.02
	A ₅	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.05
I ₆	A ₁	4.00	12.83	4.00	12.83	12.83
	A ₂	0.17	12.83	4.00	15.83	4.00
	A ₃	0.00	0.17	0.00	4.00	4.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.17
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.17
I ₇	A ₁	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03
	A ₂	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₈	A ₁	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₉	A ₁	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
	A ₂	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
	A ₃	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₁₀	A ₁	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
	A ₂	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 4. Loss matrix.

Index	State	Supplier				
		S ₁	S ₂	S ₃	S ₄	S ₅
I ₁	A ₁	0.00	−1.00	−1.00	−2.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	0.00	−1.00	0.00
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₂	A ₁	−0.05	−0.03	−0.05	−0.03	0.00
	A ₂	−0.03	0.00	0.00	−0.01	0.00
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₃	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	−0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₃	0.00	−0.05	−0.05	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	−0.02	−0.07	−0.06	−0.05	−0.02
	A ₅	−0.05	−0.10	−0.08	−0.10	−0.05
I ₄	A ₁	0.00	−1.00	0.00	0.00	−1.00
	A ₂	−3.00	−3.00	−5.00	−1.00	−3.00
	A ₃	−5.00	−7.00	−6.00	−3.00	−5.00
	A ₄	−6.00	−9.00	−7.00	−4.00	−6.00
	A ₅	−7.00	−10.00	−8.00	−5.00	−7.00
I ₅	A ₁	−0.05	−0.05	0.00	−0.10	−0.05
	A ₂	−0.03	−0.02	0.00	−0.02	−0.02
	A ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I ₆	A ₁	−0.17	0.00	−1.33	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	−3.33	−0.17	−10.50	−0.17	−0.17
	A ₃	−8.17	−3.33	−8.17	−0.17	−3.33
	A ₄	−24.33	−8.17	−11.17	−3.33	−3.33
	A ₅	−34.67	−24.33	−16.83	−10.50	−6.00
I ₇	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₃	−0.02	0.00	−0.02	0.00	0.00
	A ₄	−0.03	−0.01	−0.03	−0.02	−0.03
	A ₅	−0.04	−0.02	−0.04	−0.04	−0.04
I ₈	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	−0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	−0.02
	A ₃	−0.05	−0.05	0.00	0.00	−0.05
	A ₄	−0.08	−0.07	−0.05	−0.02	−0.07
	A ₅	−0.10	−0.10	−0.10	−0.05	−0.10
I ₉	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₃	−0.01	0.00	0.00	−0.01	−0.01
	A ₄	−0.02	0.00	−0.01	−0.02	−0.02
	A ₅	−0.03	−0.01	−0.02	−0.03	−0.03
I ₁₀	A ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	A ₂	0.00	0.00	−0.03	0.00	−0.01
	A ₃	−0.03	−0.03	−0.05	−0.03	−0.03
	A ₄	−0.05	−0.08	−0.07	−0.04	−0.04
	A ₅	−0.08	−0.13	−0.08	−0.05	−0.05

The prospect decision matrix is:

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} 3.124 & 0.848 & 2.902 & 0.099 & 3.384 \\ -0.041 & 0.055 & 0.163 & 0.017 & 0.087 \\ -0.033 & -0.192 & -0.118 & -0.091 & -0.014 \\ -9.908 & -13.689 & -11.731 & -6.441 & -10.486 \\ -0.015 & 0.021 & 0.077 & -0.042 & -0.033 \\ -27.216 & -10.072 & -19 & -0.068 & -1.917 \\ -0.067 & -0.012 & -0.052 & -0.021 & -0.044 \\ -0.199 & -0.155 & -0.091 & -0.033 & -0.192 \\ -0.047 & 0.015 & -0.016 & -0.050 & -0.042 \\ -0.122 & -0.165 & -0.178 & -0.082 & -0.104 \end{bmatrix}$$

This results in the standardized decision matrix are:

$$V^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0.115 & 0.062 & 0.153 & 0.015 & 0.323 \\ -0.002 & 0.004 & 0.009 & 0.003 & 0.008 \\ -0.001 & -0.014 & -0.006 & -0.014 & -0.001 \\ -0.364 & -1.000 & -0.617 & -1.000 & -1.000 \\ -0.001 & 0.002 & 0.004 & -0.006 & -0.003 \\ -1.000 & -0.736 & -1.000 & -0.011 & -0.183 \\ -0.002 & -0.001 & -0.003 & -0.003 & -0.004 \\ -0.007 & -0.011 & -0.005 & -0.005 & -0.018 \\ -0.002 & 0.001 & -0.001 & -0.008 & -0.004 \\ -0.004 & -0.012 & -0.009 & -0.013 & -0.010 \\ -0.071 & -0.130 & -0.089 & -0.102 & -0.063 \end{bmatrix}$$

Finally, Formula (27) was used to calculate the overall outlook for each provider as $U_1 = -0.071$, $U_2 = -0.130$, $U_3 = -0.089$, $U_4 = -0.102$, $U_5 = -0.063$. This results in the following ordering of available suppliers from best to worst based on overall outlook: $S_5 \succ S_1 \succ S_3 \succ S_4 \succ S_2$ (Table 5).

Table 5. Comparative analysis of different methods.

Method	Result
This paper's method	$S_5 \succ S_1 \succ S_3 \succ S_4 \succ S_2$
Yao [38]	$S_5 \succ S_1 \succ S_3 \succ S_4 \succ S_2$
Krohling [39]	$S_5 \succ S_1 \succ S_3 \succ S_4 \succ S_2$
Mahdavi [40]	$S_5 \succ S_1 \succ S_3 \succ S_2 \succ S_4$

Yao et al. [38] and Krohling et al. [39] obtained the same results as this paper. The analysis by Mahdavi et al. [40] resulted in the order $S_5 \succ S_1 \succ S_3 \succ S_2 \succ S_4$, which only differs from the other methods at points S_2 and S_4 . This demonstrates the validity of the comprehensive prospect value calculation method using supplier prospect theory, prospect theory based on fuzzy research, and the impact of psychological factors on real decision making. Compared with other methods, prospect theory has clear advantages. Factors are consistent when comparing model and decision-maker conclusions with the actual situation; the model answers specific requirements related to the practical application of the decision process; the model combines theoretical guidance with good practical significance; and the calculated results are accurate. These factors contributed to the better fit of the model to the actual values. In summary, the traditional maximum utility theory cannot reflect the actual decision-making behavior of the decision makers. In the actual decision-making process, the decision makers focus on the gains and losses. The prospect theory fully takes into account this demand, and considers the attitude of the decision maker towards the gains and losses, while the

computational complexity can be significantly reduced by using the programming language. These advantages make the application of prospect theory effective and easy.

4. Concluding Remarks

This paper proposed a decision analysis method based on prospect theory, using manufacturer expectations as a reference point to inform the multiple criteria used to select suppliers. Three gain and loss index values are given based on different characteristics and calculations using fuzzy numbers, interval numbers, and triangular forms. This approach optimizes supplier selection by calculating and ranking comprehensive prospect values. From a management viewpoint, careful modeling using prospect theory can ensure that resulting decisions are rational, even in the case of non-normally distributed returns.

There are many complex internal and external factors that impact the implementation of the method proposed in this paper [41], and supply chain decision makers may not be completely rational. However, the model provides a method with a high fit that is relatively simple to calculate. It can handle a variety of index values, has strong practicability and maneuverability, and can consider decision analysis and practices in the supply chain system from different perspectives. The approach can also provide the supply chain a comprehensive research and decision-making tool; future research will focus on developing this further.

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