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# PREDICTION OF STUDENT SUCCESS WITH DECISION-MAKING METHODS

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ABSTRACT. Thanks to intuitionistic fuzzy sets, it has provided many benefits in application areas where the degree of precision is also taken into account. Education, one of these application areas, is an area where decision-making mechanisms play a very important role. Predicting student success and guiding the student in the future by taking into account every situation is an important step for decision makers and educators.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Researchers who think that binary logic is insufficient in combating uncertainty have tried to find new ways over time. As a result of these efforts, the concept of fuzzy logic emerged [1]. Over time, fuzzy logic has become the basis of much research, and intuitionistic fuzzy logic, an expansion of fuzzy logic that is still up to date, has also introduced the degree of sensitivity [3]. With the degree of sensitivity also in play, the results of many studies have become much more objective. Decision makers made clearer decisions thanks to intuitionistic fuzzy sets, where they could also indicate uncertainty in their decisions. Efficient results have emerged thanks to the combination of decision-making methods with intuitionistic fuzzy sets. Thanks to the PROMETHEE method used in this study, positive and negative results will be evaluated simultaneously and a clear result will be obtained [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 39, 26, 25]. Nowadays, intuitionistic fuzzy sets and decision-making methods attract the attention of many researchers [12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37].

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

**Definition 1.** ([3, 2])Let  $X \neq \emptyset$ . An intuitionistic fuzzy set A in X;

$$A = \{ \langle x, \mu_A(x), \nu_A(x) \rangle | \ x \in X \},\$$

$$\mu_A(x), \nu_A(x), \pi_A(x) : X \to [0, 1]$$

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defined membership, nonmembership and hesitation degree of the element  $x \in X$  respectively.

$$\mu_A(x) + \nu_A(x) + \pi_A(x) = 1.$$

Intuitionistic fuzzy value (IFV) defined by Xu ([36]). Intuitionistic fuzzy value (IFV) is shown as follows:  $\tilde{a} = (\mu_{\tilde{a}}, \nu_{\tilde{a}}, \pi_{\tilde{a}})$ , where  $\mu_{\tilde{a}}, \nu_{\tilde{a}}, \pi_{\tilde{a}} \in [0, 1]$ For each IFS  $\tilde{A}$ ;

$$\pi_{\tilde{A}} = 1 - \mu_{\tilde{A}} - \nu_{\tilde{A}} \tag{2.1}$$

For IFVs  $\tilde{a} = (\mu_{\tilde{a}}, \nu_{\tilde{a}})$  and  $\tilde{b} = (\mu_{\tilde{b}}, \nu_{\tilde{b}})$  the following operations have been carried out([36, 35]):

(1) 
$$\tilde{a} \oplus \tilde{b} = (\mu_{\tilde{a}} + \mu_{\tilde{b}} - \mu_{\tilde{a}}\mu_{\tilde{b}}, \nu_{\tilde{a}}\nu_{\tilde{b}})$$
 (2.2)

(2) 
$$\tilde{a} \otimes \tilde{b} = (\mu_{\tilde{a}} \mu_{\tilde{b}}, \nu_{\tilde{a}} + \nu_{\tilde{b}} - \nu_{\tilde{a}} \nu_{\tilde{b}})$$
 (2.3)

(3) 
$$\oplus_{j=1}^{m} \tilde{a}_j = (1 - \prod_{j=1}^{m} (1 - \mu_j), \prod_{j=1}^{m} \nu_j)$$
 (2.4)

(4) 
$$\otimes_{j=1}^{m} \tilde{a}_{j} = (\prod_{j=1}^{m} \mu_{j}, \prod_{j=1}^{m} (1 - \nu_{j}))$$
 (2.5)

This function is used to rank IFVs:

$$\rho(\alpha) = 0.5(1 + \pi_{\alpha})(1 - \mu_{\alpha})) \tag{2.6}$$

As the  $\rho(\alpha)$  value decreases, the preferred value  $\alpha$  increases.

### 3. The Intuitionistic Fuzzy PROMETHEE Method

The criteria's weights could be depicted as IFVs:  $\tilde{w}_j$  where  $\mu_{\tilde{w}_j} \in [0,1], \nu_{\tilde{w}_j} \in [0,1], \mu_{\tilde{w}_j} \leq 1, j = 1, 2, ..., m$ . According to the weights,  $\mu_{\tilde{\omega}_j}$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{\omega}_j}$  demonstrate the membership and non-membership degrees of the alternative  $x_i$  respectively. Some methods can help decision makers in determining intuitionistic fuzzy weights ([18, 19, 34, 38, 11, 13]). In this study, linguistic terms were used to make the evaluation more accurate. Also, V shape criterion type has been used:

$$P(d) = \begin{cases} 0, & d \le q \\ \frac{d-q}{p-q}, & q < d \le p \\ 1, & d > p \end{cases}$$
(3.1)

Parameter thresholds q and p are indicated as indifference and strict preference, respectively. Evaluate the alternatives  $x_i (i = 1, 2, ..., n)$  with respect to the criteria  $c_j (j = 1, 2, ..., m)$  and determine the deviations based on pairwise comparisons:

$$d_j(x,y) = c_j(x) - c_j(y)$$
(3.2)

where  $d_j(x, y)$  shows the distinction between the alternatives' the assessments x and y on the criterion  $c_j$ .

**Definition 2.** ([37]) An intuitionistic fuzzy preference relation R on the set  $X = x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$  is represented by a matrix  $R = (r_{ik})_{n \times n}$ , where  $r_{ik} = \langle (x_i, x_k), \mu(x_i, x_k), \nu(x_i, x_k) \rangle$  for all i, k = 1, 2, ..., n. For convenience, we let  $r_{ik} = (\mu_{ik}, \nu_{ik})$  where  $\mu_{ik}$  denotes the degree to which the object  $x_i$  is preferred to the object  $x_k, \nu_{ik}$  indicates the degree to which the object  $x_i$  is not preferred to the object

 $x_k$ , and  $\pi(x_i, x_k) = 1 - \mu(x_i, x_k) - \nu(x_i, x_k)$  is interpreted as an indeterminacy degree or a hesitancy degree, with the condition:

$$\mu_{ik}, \ \nu_{ik} \in [0,1], \ \mu_{ik} + \nu_{ik} \le 1, \ \mu_{ik} = \nu_{ki}, \ \mu_{ki} = \nu_{ik}, \mu_{ii} = \nu_{ii} = 0.5, \ \pi_{ik} = 1 - \mu_{ik} - \nu_{ik}, for all \ i, k = 1, 2, ..., n$$
(3.3)

The preferences  $\mu_{ik}$  between the alternatives  $x_i$  and  $x_k$  according to the criterion  $c_j$  could be calculated by Equations (3.2) and (3.1), and then the preference matrix according to the criterion  $c_j$  is obtained as follows ([20]):

$$U^{(j)} = (\mu_{ik}^{(j)})_{n \times n} = \begin{bmatrix} - & \mu_{12}^{(j)} & \dots & \mu_{1n}^{(j)} \\ \mu_{21}^{(j)} & - & \dots & \mu_{2n}^{(j)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & - & \vdots \\ \mu_{n1}^{(j)} & \mu_{n2}^{(j)} & \dots & - \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.4)

Matrix of the intuitionistic fuzzy preference relation is obtained:

$$R^{(j)} = (r_{ik}^{(j)})_{n \times n} = \begin{bmatrix} - & (\mu_{12}^{(j)}, \nu_{12}^{(j)}) & \dots & (\mu_{1n}^{(j)}, \nu_{1n}^{(j)}) \\ (\mu_{21}^{(j)}, \nu_{21}^{(j)}) & - & \dots & (\mu_{2n}^{(j)}, \nu_{2n}^{(j)}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & - & \vdots \\ (\mu_{n1}^{(j)}, \nu_{n1}^{(j)}) & (\mu_{n2}^{(j)}, \nu_{n2}^{(j)}) & \dots & - \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.5)

The IFWA operator is used in this paper. The all intuitionistic fuzzy preference index of the alternative  $x_i$  to  $x_k$  on all criteria can be derived as:

$$r(x_i, x_k) = r_{ik} = \bigoplus_{j=1}^m \left( \tilde{w}_j \bigotimes r_{ik}^{(j)} \right)$$
(3.6)

where  $r(x_i, x_k) = r_{ik}$  shows the degree to which the alternative  $x_i$  is preferred to the alternative  $x_k$  all criteria. Also,  $r_{ik}$  is an IFV.  $\tilde{w}_j = (\mu_{\tilde{w}j}, \nu_{\tilde{w}j})$ , then according to Equation (2.2), (2.3):

$$\tilde{w}_{j} \bigotimes r_{ik}^{(j)} = \left(\mu_{ik}^{(j)} \mu_{\tilde{w}j}, \nu_{ik}^{(j)} + \nu_{\tilde{w}j} - \nu_{ik}^{(j)} \nu_{\tilde{w}j}\right)$$
(3.7)

If Equations (2.4), (3.6) and (3.7) are combined;

$$r(x_{i}, x_{k}) = \bigoplus_{j=1}^{m} \left( \tilde{w}_{j} \bigotimes r_{ik}^{(j)} \right)$$
  
$$= \left( 1 - \prod_{j=1}^{m} (1 - \mu_{ik}^{(j)} \mu_{\tilde{w}j}), \prod_{j=1}^{m} (\nu_{ik}^{(j)} + \nu_{\tilde{w}j} - \nu_{ik}^{(j)} \nu_{\tilde{w}j}) \right)$$
(3.8)

Overall intuitionistic fuzzy preference relationship is obtained:

$$R = (r_{ik})_{n \times n} = \begin{bmatrix} - & (\mu_{12}, \nu_{12}) & \dots & (\mu_{1n}, \nu_{1n}) \\ (\mu_{21}, \nu_{21}) & - & \dots & (\mu_{2n}, \nu_{2n}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & - & \vdots \\ (\mu_{n1}, \nu_{n1}) & (\mu_{n2}, \nu_{n2}) & \dots & - \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.9)

Every alternative is compared to option (n-1). As a result of intuitionistic fuzzy positive and negative outranking flow are achieved:

(1) The intuitionistic fuzzy positive outranking flow:

$$\tilde{\varphi}^{+}(x_{i}) = \frac{1}{n-1} \bigoplus_{k=1, k \neq i}^{n} r(x_{i}, x_{k}) = \frac{1}{n-1} \bigoplus_{k=1, k \neq i}^{n} r_{ik}$$
(3.10)

(2) The intuitionistic fuzzy negative outranking flow:

$$\tilde{\varphi}^{-}(x_{i}) = \frac{1}{n-1} \bigoplus_{k=1, k \neq i}^{n} r(x_{k}, x_{i}) = \frac{1}{n-1} \bigoplus_{k=1, k \neq i}^{n} r_{ki}$$
(3.11)

### 4. Student Success Prediction

A total of 15 students were evaluated based on 9 criteria to estimate student success. The first four of these criteria are Turkish, Mathematics, Science and Social courses, and the others are Anxiety, Attitude Toward Turkish, Attitude Toward Mathematics, Attitude Toward Science, Attitude Toward Social Studies, respectively. Student evaluations were graded with guidance counselors and Table 1 was created. Students were evaluated according to the scales determined by the guidance counselor. The values in Table 1 were determined according to the evaluation results.

The alternatives and criteria that form the basis of our algorithm are as follows:  $A = \{A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, A_5, A_6, A_7, A_8, A_9, A_{10}, A_{11}, A_{12}, A_{13}, A_{14}, A_{15}\}$  being set of alternatives, each alternative represents a student.  $K = \{K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8, K_9\}$  being set of criteria.

The value of each criterion for each alternative is calculated as follows in Table 1:

|     | K1 | K2 | K3 | K4 | K5 | K6 | K7 | K8 | K9 |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A1  | 10 | 11 | 9  | 9  | 11 | 5  | 4  | 5  | 7  |
| A2  | 15 | 13 | 6  | 6  | 9  | 8  | 8  | 9  | 8  |
| A3  | 11 | 6  | 9  | 8  | 5  | 4  | 7  | 7  | 7  |
| A4  | 16 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 4  | 5  | 9  | 8  | 8  |
| A5  | 18 | 8  | 14 | 5  | 3  | 9  | 9  | 7  | 9  |
| A6  | 20 | 6  | 6  | 10 | 5  | 8  | 8  | 6  | 10 |
| A7  | 15 | 5  | 8  | 7  | 6  | 9  | 6  | 5  | 10 |
| A8  | 21 | 5  | 14 | 12 | 9  | 10 | 7  | 8  | 7  |
| A9  | 16 | 5  | 3  | 13 | 10 | 5  | 5  | 7  | 9  |
| A10 | 11 | 10 | 5  | 7  | 8  | 6  | 6  | 6  | 8  |
| A11 | 12 | 2  | 4  | 5  | 7  | 7  | 9  | 10 | 10 |
| A12 | 10 | 1  | 6  | 6  | 9  | 8  | 6  | 8  | 9  |
| A13 | 15 | 1  | 3  | 6  | 4  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 8  |
| A14 | 15 | 6  | 8  | 4  | 3  | 6  | 9  | 7  | 7  |
| A15 | 29 | 5  | 20 | 7  | 8  | 5  | 8  | 6  | 6  |

TABLE 1. Values of Alternatives by Criteria

In this study, criterion weights were calculated in linguistic terms. The weights of the criteria are as follows: Criterion 1 and Criterion 2 are very important, Criterion 3, Criterion 4, Criterion 5 are important, Criterion 6 and Criterion 7 are medium, Criterion 8 and Criterion 9 are important.

Net outranking flow values are specified as follows:

| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_1)) =$    | -0,00000040 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_2)) =$    | -0,00122824 |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_3)) =$    | 0,00216354  |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_4)) =$    | -0,00005168 |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_5)) =$    | -0,00000404 |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_6)) =$    | -0,00004886 |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_7)) =$    | 0,00007390  |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_8)) =$    | -0,00103610 |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_9)) =$    | -0,00002359 |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_{10})) =$ | 0,00006432  |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_{11})) =$ | 0,00000052  |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_{12})) =$ | 0,00004843  |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_{13})) =$ | 0,00252585  |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_{14})) =$ | 0,00145190  |
| $\rho(\tilde{\varphi}(x_{15})) =$ | -0,00000940 |

TABLE 2. Intuitionistic Fuzzy Net Outranking Flow Values

To compare the values in Table 2, the order should be made from smallest to largest. It has been stated above that after sorting, the alternative with the lowest value is the best alternative. In addition, the alternative with the highest value in this table will be the last preferred alternative. When the students evaluated with the system created in our study are ranked according to their net flow values, the most successful student is  $A_2$  and the least successful student is  $A_{13}$ . Students' achievements can be based on intuitionistic fuzzy net flow values. The lower the net flow value, the higher the student achievement.Thanks to the PROMETHEE method, which evaluates students by ranking them both positively and negatively, researchers are offered the opportunity to make bilateral observations, not onesided.

# 5. Conclusion

The main goal of this study, in which intuitionistic fuzzy sets and decisionmaking methods are used together, is to create a system that takes both course success and psychological characteristics into consideration when evaluating student success. This study, conducted in the field of education where the decision-making mechanism plays an important role, will offer a new way to researchers who want to evaluate student achievements and guide students.

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# The Declaration of Conflict of Interest/ Common Interest

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This study does not be necessary ethical committee permission or any special permission.

#### The Declaration of Research and Publication Ethics

The authors declared that they comply with the scientific, ethical, and citation rules of Journal of Universal Mathematics in all processes of the study and that they do not make any falsification on the data collected. Besides, the authors declared that Journal of Universal Mathematics and its editorial board have no responsibility for any ethical violations that may be encountered and this study has not been evaluated in any academic publication environment other than Journal of Universal Mathematics.

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