

Comparative Analysis of Optimization Methods for Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problems in Logistics

Kenan Karagül **¹**

¹ Honaz Vocational School of Higher Education, Pamukkale University, Denizli, Türkiye

Abstract

This study examines the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem, which represents decision-making processes under uncertainty in the transportation problem, a significant issue in the logistics sector and academic studies. The study provides comprehensive analysis and recommendations that contribute to the effective solution of the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem and better management of uncertain transportation problems. The research compares four different optimization methods, Closed Path Method, Interval Optimization, Robust Optimization, and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function, for the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem (GFTP). The analyses were conducted on a total of 40 test problems across four different problem sizes: small, medium, large, and extra-large. The results showed that the Interval Optimization and Robust Optimization methods demonstrated the best performance in terms of solution quality and computation time. Specifically, detailed analyses of the Interval Optimization with Penalty Function method confirmed that this method provides an effective and consistent solution approach for the GFTP.

Keywords Julia, JuMP, SCIP, Grey Fuzzy Linear Programming, Transportation Problem

Jel Codes C61, C63, C65

Contents

2024.12.03.OR.01

C Correspondence

K. Karagül kkaragul@pau.edu.tr

Timeline

Copyright

2024. Karagül, K.

License

This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. @ 0 9

99 Citation

Karagül, K. (2024). Comparative Analysis of Optimization Methods for Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problems in Logistics, *alphanu meric*, 12 (3), 169-194. [https://doi.org/10.](https://doi.org/10.17093/alphanumeric.1503643) [17093/alphanumeric.1503643](https://doi.org/10.17093/alphanumeric.1503643)

1. Introduction

Logistics is an integrated system that manages the movement of products from raw materials to the final consumer. Emerging as physical distribution management in the 1960s, this field rapidly developed in the 1980s and 1990s due to globalization, technological advancements, and increasing competitive pressure [\(Christopher, 1992](#page-18-1)). Scientific Management, proposed by Taylor in the early 20th century, aims to systematically analyze and improve work processes to increase efficiency ([Taylor, 1911](#page-19-0)). Operations Research, developed during World War II for the optimization of military operations, began to rise academic and industrial applications in business management and deci-sion-making processes in the post-war period ([Gass & Assad, 2005](#page-18-2)).

Fuzzy Logic is a decision-making approach that mimics the human thought process using linguistic variables and membership functions ([Zadeh, 1965](#page-19-1)). Grey System Theory is a decision analysis approach developed to analyze systems that contain partially known, partially unknown, incomplete, or uncertain information [\(Deng, 1982](#page-18-3)). Both approaches have found widespread use in decisionmaking processes under uncertainty in both academic studies and industrial applications and have been extensively studied in the fields of Operations Research, Scientific Management, and Decision Making.

Transportation Problems are one of the oldest and most fundamental application areas of Operations Research. First formulated by Hitchcock in 1941, the Transportation Problem is a mathematical approach developed to determine how to transport goods from supply points to demand points at the lowest cost ([Hitchcock, 1941\)](#page-18-4). Decision Making under Uncertainty is a core focus of Operations Research and Scientific Management ([Simon, 1960](#page-19-2)). Grey System Theory and Fuzzy Logic are widely studied in modelling real industrial decision problems involving uncertain Transportation Problems ([Bai & Sarkis, 2010](#page-18-5)).

[Nasseri & Khabiri \(2019\)](#page-19-3) considered the cost coefficients of the Transportation Problem as grey numbers and the supply and demand quantities as fuzzy numbers. The problem is called the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem.

In this research, 40 test problems were generated randomly in four different dimensions depending on the parameters determined for the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem. The test problems were coded in Julia language to ensure that the test problems were generated according to the specified parameters. In this study, the initial solution algorithm proposed by [Nasseri & Khabiri \(2019\)](#page-19-3) for the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem and the Closed Path approach expressed as an improvement algorithm are coded in Julia language and analyzed on test problems. In addition, Interval Optimization and Robust Optimization algorithms used in the literature for different problems are adapted to solve the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem and the algorithms are coded in Julia language. In addition, a penalty function is added to the Interval Optimization approach and an approach that will enable intelligent positioning of optimization parameters is proposed for this problem type. In terms of the literature, the development of a test set for Grey Fuzzy Transportation problems proposed by [Nasseri & Khabiri \(2019\)](#page-19-3), the adaptation of the Interval and Robust Optimization approach to solve these problems, and the design of an intelligent and adaptive solution approach with the penalty function of the Interval Optimization approach can be stated as innovations.

The [second section](#page-2-0) of the study includes a literature review. The [third section](#page-4-0) provides basic information on Grey System Theory and Fuzzy Logic and explains the Grey Cost Fuzzy Transportation Problem. The [fourth section](#page-6-1) describes the solution approaches used. The [fifth section](#page-10-0) presents a set of test problems and analyses, and the [final section](#page-17-0) shares the discussion and conclusions.

2. Literature Review

Fuzzy and Grey analysis and solution approaches are widely used in optimization studies in fields such as artificial intelligence, production management, operations research, economics, and decision theory. Therefore, the development of general and applicable fuzzy and optimization methods is important both theoretically and practically.

Various approaches have been proposed in the literature for solving problems involving uncertainty. [Yu et al. \(2024\)](#page-19-4) developed an interval-constrained multi-objective optimization algorithm using a new penalty function to directly address problems with uncertain objectives and constraints. [Jayswal](#page-18-6) [et al. \(2022\)](#page-18-6) established robust sufficient optimality conditions for multi-time first-order partial differential equation-constrained control optimization problems in the face of data uncertainty. [Fu](#page-18-7) [& Cao \(2019\)](#page-18-7) proposed adaptive sub-interval decomposition analysis and interval differential evolution approaches to solve these uncertain optimization problems when the parameters of nonlinear optimization problems take interval values.

[Karmakar & Bhunia \(2014\)](#page-18-8) presented an interval-focused solution approach aimed at obtaining solutions with low cost and high efficiency for optimization problems where uncertainty is expressed in intervals. [Steuer \(1981\)](#page-19-5) proposed three different algorithms for linear programming problems where the objective function coefficients are expressed in intervals. [Guerra et al. \(2017\)](#page-18-9) developed linear programming solutions based on the Hukuhara difference for optimization problems where uncertainty is expressed as intervals.

Fuzzy logic and fuzzy set theory are important methods used to solve problems involving uncertainty. [Klir & Yuan \(1995\)](#page-18-10) highlighted theoretical advancements and application opportunities in the field of fuzzy set theory and fuzzy logic. [Zimmermann \(1996\)](#page-19-6) provided an instructive and guiding study on fuzzy set models, addressing linear programming, logistics, transportation problems, and their relationships with fuzzy logic.

[Fu et al. \(2006\),](#page-18-11) presented a framework where different heuristic algorithms can produce effective solutions for the rapid solution of transportation problems. [Aydemir \(2020\)](#page-18-12) proposed a new approach for determining and analyzing the nth degree of greyness for the characterization and dimension measurement of uncertain information. [Aydemir et al. \(2020\)](#page-18-13) examined the analysis of production planning under uncertainty conditions using fuzzy linear programming and four different grey linear programming models.

Grey system theory and fuzzy logic are also used in logistics and transportation. [Şahin & Karagül](#page-19-7) [\(2023\)](#page-19-7) examined the motivation for purchasing tractors in a company engaged in road transportation in the logistics sector using grey relational analysis. [Tokat et al. \(2022\)](#page-19-8) designed key performance indicators for warehouse loading operations using a fuzzy logic clustering approach. [Aydemir et al.](#page-18-14) [\(2023\)](#page-18-14) analyzed the relationships between customer expectations, requirements, and prices using grey system theory.

[Li & Jin \(2008\)](#page-19-9) proposed a fuzzy optimization approach based on a comparison of indices and developed a new solution approach by integrating it with genetic algorithms. [Teodorović \(1999\)](#page-19-10) modelled traffic and transportation processes using fuzzy logic approaches and argued that fuzzy logic is a universal structure for solving engineering problems in this field.

[Voskoglou \(2018\)](#page-19-11), solved different linear programming examples structured with grey numbers using the simplex algorithm. [Moore et al. \(2009\)](#page-19-12) provided an important and fundamental resource for interval numbers. [Pourofoghi et al. \(2019\)](#page-19-13) defined the transportation problem as a grey transportation problem when transportation costs, supply, and demand data are interval grey numbers and proposed a new solution approach using the concepts of center and width of grey numbers. Ben-Tal [& Nemirovski \(1998](#page-18-15); [2002\)](#page-18-16) proposed the Robust Optimization approach to formulate optimization problems where data is uncertain and belongs to a certain uncertainty set. [Nasseri & Khabiri \(2019\)](#page-19-3), considered the cost coefficients of the Transportation Problem as grey numbers and the supply and demand quantities as fuzzy numbers and proposed improving the solution using the closed path approach with classical Transportation Problem initial solutions.

When the recent literature was searched with the keywords Grey, fuzzy, and transportation problem, no studies that directly correspond to the subject of this study were found. However, indirectly related studies are summarized below.

As can be seen from the literature review, the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem emerges as a relatively new logistics problem. The solution approaches proposed and developed for this problem also indicate a new break in the literature. Although the solution approaches proposed in this research are used in different problem areas, they can be considered as new solution approaches for Grey Fuzzy Transportation. From this point on, we will continue to explain the approaches that introduce the concept of uncertainty to reveal the details of the research.

3. Approaches Under Uncertainty

In classical optimization problems, parameters take on specific values, and in such cases, exact solutions can be obtained using classical optimization methods. However, real industrial applications do not always meet this certainty condition, and therefore, uncertainties arise due to incomplete, incorrect, or insufficient information. In this case, scientific management requires new approaches for the process of compiling and modeling problem data under these uncertainties. Approaches that can be proposed for decision problems where uncertainty arises can be grouped under three headings:

- ‣ Probabilistic approach: Uncertain parameters are designed as random variables with probability distributions.
- ‣ Fuzzy approach: Uncertain parameters are designed as fuzzy sets and/or fuzzy numbers.
- ‣ The grey system approach: Uncertain parameters are designed as grey numbers using the Grey System Theory.

For decision problems under uncertainty conditions that arise in the industry, these approaches can be used individually or in various combinations. In this study, the Grey System Theory approach and Fuzzy Logic approaches will be considered together to define the optimization problem and seek solution approaches. In this context, basic information about Fuzzy Logic and Grey System Theory will be provided within the scope of the article.

3.1. Grey Numbers and Operations

A grey number is a number whose exact value is unknown but is known to lie within a certain interval. It is usually denoted by the symbol (⊗). It is expressed as follows ([Aydemir et al., 2020;](#page-18-13) [Liu & Lin,](#page-19-19) [2006](#page-19-19); [Nasseri & Khabiri, 2019](#page-19-3)):

$$
\otimes x = [\underline{x}, \overline{x}] = t \in x : \underline{x} \leqslant x \leqslant \overline{x} \tag{1}
$$

Here, (x) is the lower bound, and (\overline{x}) is the upper bound.

An interval grey number is denoted as $\otimes x = [a, b]$ and is a grey number with a lower and upper bound. If $\otimes x = [a, a]$, it is called a white number, and if $\otimes x = [-\infty, \infty]$, it is called a black number.

Every real number (a) can be expressed as a grey number ($\otimes a = [a, a]$).

The grey zero is $(\otimes 0 = [0, 0])$.

The set of all grey numbers is denoted by ($\Re(\otimes)$). Let $(\otimes a = [a, \overline{a}])$ and $(\otimes b = [b, \overline{b}])$ be two grey numbers.

The addition operation is as follows: $\otimes a + \otimes b = [a + b, \overline{a} + \overline{b}]$

The multiplication of two grey numbers (⊗ $a = [\underline{a}, \overline{a}]$) and (⊗ $b = [\underline{b}, \overline{b}]$) is:

 $\otimes a * \otimes b = [\min P, \max P]$ Here, $(P = \underline{a} * \underline{b}, \underline{a} * \overline{b}, \overline{a} * \underline{b}, \overline{a} * \overline{b})$ contains the products. The multiplication of the grey number (⊗ $a = [a, \bar{a}]$) by a positive real number (k) is: $k \otimes a = [ka, k\bar{a}]$ For the grey number $(\otimes x = [x, \overline{x}])$, the whitenization is:

 $x = \alpha x + (1 - \alpha)\overline{x}, \alpha \in [0, 1]$

is converted to a white number. Typically, ($\alpha = 0.5$) is used. For the grey number ($\otimes x = [x, \overline{x}]$), the kernel (center) is: $\hat{x} = \frac{1}{2}(\underline{x} + \overline{x})$

The whitening function is used to rank grey numbers. $(G : \mathfrak{R} \otimes) \to \mathfrak{R}$ assigns a real number value to each grey number. Accordingly:

- \triangleright $G(\otimes x) < G(\otimes y) \Rightarrow \otimes x < \otimes y$
- \blacktriangleright $G(\otimes x) = G(\otimes y) \Rightarrow \otimes x = \otimes y$
- \triangleright $G(\otimes x) > G(\otimes y) \Rightarrow \otimes x > \otimes y$

3.2. Fuzzy Sets and Fuzzy Numbers

The definitions related to fuzzy sets and fuzzy numbers are provided at a very basic level below ([Nasseri & Khabiri, 2019](#page-19-3); [Zimmermann, 1996](#page-19-6)).

Let X be a universal set, and A be a fuzzy set on X defined by the membership function $\mu_A(x), x \in X$. The value $\mu_A(x)$ represents the degree of membership of x in A within the interval [0, 1]. For the fuzzy set A, the λ -cut is defined as $\lambda \in [0,1]$ and $A_\lambda = x \in X : \mu_A(x) \geq \lambda$. The support set of the fuzzy set A is defined as $S(A) = x \in X : \mu_A(x) > 0$. A fuzzy set is called a fuzzy number if it is convex, normal, and bounded. A triangular fuzzy number is usually expressed as $\bm{a} = (a^L, a, a^U).$ The membership function is:

$$
\mu_{\mathcal{A}}(X) = \begin{cases}\n\frac{x - a^L}{a - a^L}, & \text{if } a^L \leq x \leq a \\
\frac{a^U - x}{a^U - a}, & \text{if } a \leq x \leq a^U \\
0, & \text{otherwise}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(2)

is as follows a^L : lower bound, a : peak value, a^U : upper bound. The set of fuzzy numbers is denoted by $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{R})$. For ranking, the Yager index is:

$$
R(\mathcal{A})=\tfrac{1}{4}\big(a^L+2a+a^U\big)
$$

Defuzzification: The process of converting a fuzzy number into a single number. Usually, the center of gravity method is used. For $a = (a^L, a, a^U) \Rightarrow a^R = \frac{(a^L + 2a + a^U)}{4}$ 4

3.3. Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem

Let there be m supply points $(A_1,...,A_m)$ and n demand points $(B_1,...,B_n)$. The supplies and demands are given by the triangular fuzzy numbers (a_i , $i=1,...,m$) and (ℓ_j , $j=1,...,n$), respectively, and the transportation costs are given by the grey numbers \otimes $c_{ij}, i=1,...,m, j=1,...,n.$ By defuzzifying the fuzzy values and whitening the grey values, we will transform the problem into a classical transportation problem ([Nasseri & Khabiri, 2019](#page-19-3)).

Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem (GFTP):

$$
\min Z = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \otimes c_{ij} x_{ij}
$$

s.t.
$$
\sum_{j=1}^{n} x_{ij} \le a_i, i = 1, 2, 3, ..., m
$$

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{m} x_{ij} \ge \theta_j, j = 1, 2, 3, ..., n
$$

$$
x_{ij} \ge 0, i = 1, 2, 3, ..., m; j = 1, 2, 3, ..., n
$$

$$
(3)
$$

Here, x_{ij} is the quantity to be transported from point A_i to point B_j

4. Solution Approaches for the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem

This section of the research includes the Closed Path Approach proposed by [Nasseri & Khabiri \(2019\)](#page-19-3), the Interval Optimization Approach, the Robust Optimization, and the Interval Optimization with Penalty Function methods.

4.1. Closed Path Method

[Algorithm 1](#page-7-1) step-by-step explanations summarize the main steps of the "Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem Solver" approach. The code is created by implementing the approach proposed by [Nasseri](#page-19-3) [& Khabiri \(2019\)](#page-19-3). The authors find the initial solution by transforming the structure into a classical Transportation problem and using the North-West Corner Method or the Least Cost Cell method. Then, the Closed Path Approach is applied to the initial solution, and in each iteration, the improvement index for the Transportation Problem with uncertainty conditions is calculated to check if the solution has improved. The least-cost cell method is used as the initial solution method.

Algorithm 1. Closed Path Method Step-by-Step Explanation

- 1. Load the test data from the "testset.json" file.
- 2. Create an empty dictionary to store the results.
- 3. For each problem group:
	- ‣ Get the problem list.
	- ‣ Create an empty list to store the solutions.
	- ‣ For each problem:
		- \cdot Create the transportation data.
		- \rightarrow Solve the fuzzy situation and calculate the crisp supply/demand values.
		- ‣ Solve the grey situation and calculate the whitenized costs.
		- ‣ Find the initial solution.
		- $\overline{}$ Calculate the initial cost.
		- \cdot Find the optimal solution.
		- $\overline{}$ Calculate the optimal cost.
		- ‣ Calculate the improvement ratio.
		- ‣ Create the solution object.
		- ‣ Add the solution to the solutions list.
		- ‣ Generate a report.
	- ‣ Add the solutions to the results dictionary.
- 4. Return the results.

4.2. Interval Optimization

The mathematical model defining the Interval Optimization approach for the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem is provided. This model is designed to be solved using the Julia JuMP and SCIP open-source solvers. The detailed explanation of the Interval Optimization model for the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem is as follows:

Interval Optimization Mathematical Model:

- ‣ Decision Variables:
	- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ $\,x_{ij}$: The quantity transported from supply point i to demand point j
	- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ α_{ij} : The weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the transportation cost from supply point *i* to demand point j ($0 \leq \alpha_{ij} \leq 1$)
	- \star $\ \beta_i$: The weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of supply point i ($0\leq\beta_i\leq1)$
	- $\star \; \gamma_j$: The weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of demand point j ($0 \leq \gamma_j \leq 1)$
- ‣ Constraints:
	- ‣ Supply Constraint: For each supply point, the total quantity transported cannot exceed the weighted sum of the lower and upper bounds of the supply quantity

 $\sum_j x_{ij} \leq \beta_i * \text{supply}_i[3] + (1 - \beta_i) * \text{supply}_i[1], \forall i$

‣ Demand Constraint: For each demand point, the total quantity transported must be greater than or equal to the weighted sum of the lower and upper bounds of the demand quantity

 $\sum_i x_{ij} \ge \gamma_j * \text{demand}_j[1] + (1 - \gamma_j) * \text{demand}_j[3], \forall j$

‣ Objective Function:

‣ To minimize the total transportation cost:

 $\min \sum_i \sum_j (\alpha_{ij} * \mathrm{costs}_{ij}[1] + \big(1-\alpha_{ij}\big) * \mathrm{costs}_{ij}[2]\big) * x_{ij}$

In the interval optimization model, lower and upper bounds are used for supply and demand quantities, as well as transportation costs. Values between these bounds are selected using weighting factors (α, β, γ) . The objective is to minimize the total transportation cost.

Below is the formal structure of the mathematical model for the Interval Optimization approach:

Nomenclature:

- ► I: Supply points set $(i \in I)$
- \rightarrow *J*: Demand points set (*i* ∈ *J*)
- $\;\;\vdash\; \left| \underline{S}_i, S_i \right|$: i -th supply point's lower and upper bounds
- $\;\widehat{\;} \; [\underline{D}_j,\overline{D}_j]$: j -th demand point's lower and upper bounds
- $\blacktriangleright~\left| \underline{C_{ij}}, \overline{C}_{ij} \right|$: The lower and upper bounds of the unit transportation cost from the i -th supply point to the i -th demand point
- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ $\,x_{ij}$: The quantity transported from the i -th supply point to the j -th demand point
- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ α_{ij} : The weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the transportation cost from the *i*-th supply point to the j-th demand point (0≤ α_{i} ≤1)
- $\star \,\, \beta_i$: The weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the i -th supply point ($0\leq \beta_i\leq 1)$
- \star γ_j : The weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the j -th demand point ($0 \leq$ $\gamma_i \leq 1$

Interval Optimization Formal Model:

- ‣ Objective Function:
	- ► min $\sum_i \sum_j \alpha_{ij} * \underline{C}_{ij} + (1 \alpha_{ij}) * C_{ij} * x_{ij}$
- ‣ Constraints:
	- ‣ Supply Constraint: $\sqrt{2}$

$$
\textstyle \sum_j x_{ij} \leqslant \beta_i * S_i + (1-\beta_i) * \underline{S}_i, \forall i \in I
$$

- ‣ Demand Constraint: $\sum_i x_{ij} \ge \gamma_j \ast \underline{D}_j + (1-\gamma_j) \ast \overline{D}_j, \forall j \in J$
- \cdot Non-negativity Constraints:
	- $x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall i \in I, \forall j \in J$
- ‣ Weighting Factors Constraints:
	- $0 \leq \alpha_{ij} \leq 1, \forall i \in I, \forall j \in J$ $0 \leq \beta_i \leq 1, \forall i \in I$ $0 \leq \gamma_i \leq 1, \forall j \in J$

In the interval optimization model, lower and upper bounds are used for supply and demand quantities as well as transportation costs. By using weighting factors $(\alpha_{ij},\beta_i,\gamma_j)$, a value is selected within these bounds. The objective function aims to minimize the total transportation cost.

4.3. The Robust Optimization Model

- ‣ Decision Variables:
	- x_{ij} : The quantity transported from supply point i to demand point j

 α_{ij} : The weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the transportation cost from supply point *i* to demand point j ($0 \leq \alpha_{ij} \leq 1$)

‣ Constraints:

‣ Supply Constraint: For each supply point, the total quantity transported cannot exceed the weighted sum of the lower and upper bounds of the supply quantity

 $\sum_j x_{ij} \leqslant$ supply_i[3], $\forall i$

- ‣ Demand Constraint: For each demand point, the total quantity transported must be greater than or equal to the weighted sum of the lower and upper bounds of the demand quantity $\sum_i x_{ij} \geq \text{demand}_j[1], \forall j$
- ‣ Objective Function: To minimize the total transportation cost:

 $\min \sum_i \sum_j (\alpha_{ij} * \mathrm{costs}_{ij}[1] + \big(1-\alpha_{ij}\big) * \mathrm{costs}_{ij}[2]\big) * x_{ij}$

In the robust optimization model, upper bounds are used for supply quantities and lower bounds are used for demand quantities. A weighting factor $(α)$ is again used for transportation costs. The objective is to minimize the total transportation cost even in the worst-case scenario.

Robust Optimization Formal Model:

- ‣ Objective Function: $\min\sum_i\sum_j(\alpha_{ij}*\underline{C}_{ij}+\left(1-\alpha_{ij}*C_{ij}\right)*x_{ij}$
- ‣ Constraints:
	- ‣ Supply Constraint:

 $\sum_{j} x_{ij} \leqslant S_i, \forall i \in I$

‣ Demand Constraint:

$$
\textstyle\sum_i x_{ij} \geq \underline{D}_j, \forall j \in J
$$

 \cdot Non-negativity Constraints:

- $x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall i \in I, \forall j \in J$
- ‣ Weighting Factors Constraints:

$$
0\leq \alpha_{ij}\leq 1, \forall i\in I, \forall j\in J
$$

In the robust optimization model, upper bounds are used for supply quantities and lower bounds are used for demand quantities. A weighting factor α_ij is also used for transportation costs. The objective function aims to minimize the total transportation cost even in the worst-case scenario.

These models can be used to address transportation problems involving uncertainty. Interval optimization expresses uncertainty as intervals, while robust optimization offers a more protective approach against uncertainty.

4.4. Interval Optimization Approach with Penalty Function

This model defines the interval optimization approach with a penalty function. Here, the decision variables ($(x, α, β, γ)$), constraints, and objective function are provided. A term that penalizes deviations from the mid-interval values is added to the objective function.

Nomenclature:

- \rightarrow *J*: demandpointsset($i \in J$)
- \cdot *I*: supplypointsset($i \in I$)
- $\;\bm\cdot\; |\underline{S}_i, S_i|$: Lower and upper bounds of the i -th supply point
- $\;\widehat{} \quad [\underline{D}_j, \overline{D}_j] \colon$ Lower and upper bounds of the j -th demand point
- $\blacktriangleright~\left|\underline{C_{ij}},\overline{C}_{ij}\right|$: Lower and upper bounds of the unit transportation cost from the i -th supply point to the j -th demand point
- $\,\star\,$ x_{ij} : Quantity transported from the i -th supply point to the j -th demand point
- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ α_{ij} : Weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the transportation cost from the i -th supply point to the *j*-th demand point ($0 \le \alpha_{ij} \le 1$)
- \star β_i : Weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the i -th supply point ($0\leq\beta_i\leq1)$
- $\star \; \gamma_j$: Weighting factor between the lower and upper bounds of the j -th demand point ($0 \leq \gamma_j \leq 1)$
- $\rightarrow \lambda$: Penalty factor for deviations from the mid-interval values

Interval Optimization Approach with Penalty Function Mathematical Model:

- ▸ Objective Function: $\min_{i} \sum_i \sum_j \alpha_{ij} * \underline{C}_{ij} + (1-\alpha_{ij}*\overline{C}_{ij}*x_{ij} + \lambda * (\sum_i \sum_j \left(\alpha_{ij}-0.5\right)^2 + \sum_j \left(\alpha_{ij}-0.5\right)^2)$ $\sum_{i} (\beta_i - 0.5)^2 + \sum_{j} (\gamma_j - 0.5)^2$
- ‣ Constraints:
	- ‣ Supply Constraint:

 $\sum_j x_{ij} \leqslant \beta_i * S_i + (1-\beta_i) * \underline{S}_i, \forall i \in I$

- ‣ Demand Constraint:
- $\sum_i x_{ij} \ge \gamma_j \ast \underline{D}_j + (1-\gamma_j) \ast \overline{D}_j, \forall j \in J$
- ► Non-negativity Constraint: $x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall i \in I, \forall j \in J$
- \triangleright Weighting Factors Constraints: $0 \leq \alpha_{ij} \leq 1, \forall i \in I, \forall j \in J$ $0 \leq \beta_i \leq 1, \forall i \in I$ $0 \leq \gamma_i \leq 1, \forall j \in J$

The objective function consists of two components:

1. Total transportation cost:

 $\sum_i\sum_j(\alpha_{ij}*\underline{C}_{ij}+(1-\alpha_{ij}*C_{ij}*x_{ij})$

Here, each transportation cost is calculated by interpolating between the lower and upper bounds using the corresponding weighting factor ($\alpha^{}_{ij}$).

2. Penalty for deviations from the mid-interval values:

 $\lambda * (\sum_{i} \sum_{j} (\alpha_{ij} - 0.5)^2 + \sum_{i} (\beta_i - 0.5)^2 + \sum_{j} (\gamma_j - 0.5)^2)$

Here, the sum of the squares of the deviations of the weighting factors $(\alpha_{ij},\beta_i,\gamma_j)$ from 0.5 (the mid-value) is taken and multiplied by the penalty factor (λ). This term encourages the weighting factors to be close to the mid-interval values and prevents the selection of extreme values. The constraints ensure that the supply and demand remain within their bounds and guarantee that the weighting factors are between 0 and 1.

This model addresses transportation problems involving uncertainty by expressing transportation costs and supply/demand quantities as intervals. The objective is to minimize the total transportation cost while ensuring that the weighting factors are close to the mid-interval values. This balances the effect of uncertainty, resulting in more reliable solutions.

5. Computational Analysis

In this section, the analysis of the four proposed approaches for the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem will be conducted. All proposed algorithms were implemented using the Julia language, JuMP mathematical programming language, and the open-source solver SCIP. To analyze the algorithms, 40 synthetic Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problems were randomly generated. These problems were categorized into four groups: small, medium, large, and extra-large, with 10 problems in each

group. The computer used for analyzing the test set is described as having 8 GB RAM, an Intel(R) Core™ i7-3520M CPU @ 2.90GHz, and the operating system Linux Mint 21.3/Virginia.

[Table 2](#page-11-0) provides the design parameters for the test problems. When looking at the design parameters of the test problems, the problem group 'small' is planned to have 10 problems, with problem sizes of 2x3, a supply range of (10.0, 50.0), a demand range of (5.0, 30.0), and unit variable cost ranges of (1.0, 20.0).

Group	Number of Problems	Problem Size	Supply Range (Min, Max)	Demand Range (Min, Max)	Cost Range (Min, Max)
Small	10	2x3	(10.0, 50.0)	(5.0, 30.0)	(1.0, 20.0)
Medium	10	4x5	(50.0, 200.0)	(30.0, 100.0)	(10.0, 50.0)
Large	10	6x7	(200.0, 500.0)	(100.0, 300.0)	(20.0, 100.0)
Extra-large	10	8x10	(500.0, 1000.0)	(300.0, 800.0)	(50.0, 200.0)

Table 2. Designed test instances parameters

[Table 3](#page-11-1) provides the actual parameters for the generated test problems. When examining the generated test problems, the problem group 'small' has 10 problems, with problem sizes of 2x3, a supply range of (10.89, 49.97), a demand range of (6.26, 29.99), and a cost range of (1.43, 19.99).

Iddie 3. Floudced test instances parameters									
Group	Number of Problems	Problem Size	Supply Range (Min, Max)	Demand Range (Min, Max)	Cost Range (Min, Max)				
Small	10	2x3	(10.89, 49.97)	(6.16, 29.99)	(1.43, 19.99)				
Medium	10	4x5	(54.87, 199.94)	(30.04, 100.0)	(10.0, 50.0)				
Large	10	6x7	(200.25, 499.97)	(102.19, 299.69)	(20.44, 99.99)				
Extra-large	10	8x10	(500.87, 999.99)	(302.46, 799.43)	(50.02, 199.99)				

Table 3. Produced test instances parameters

[Table 4](#page-12-0) provides the solutions for 10 problems in the 'small' problem group. When examining the solutions for this group, the initial solutions and the closed path approaches are listed with the same results. This indicates that the closed path approach did not improve any solutions in this problem group. When looking at the mathematical programming approaches, it can be asserted that the Interval Optimization (IO), Robust Optimization (RO), and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function (IOWPF) approaches yielded the same results.

Table 4. Small size problems solutions with algorithms

[Table 5](#page-12-1) provides the solutions for 10 problems in the 'medium' problem group. When examining the solutions for this group, it is observed that the closed path approach improved the solutions for all, but four problems compared to the initial solutions. When looking at the mathematical programming approaches, it can be asserted that the Interval Optimization (IO), Robust Optimization (RO), and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function (IOWPF) approaches yielded the same results. Additionally, these methods have produced significantly superior solutions compared to the closed path approach.

No of	Problem	Initial Cost	CP Cost	Imp(%)	IO Cost	RO Cost	IOWPF
Problem	Size						Cost
1	4x5	10043.9	10011.2	0.33	4447.03	4447.03	4447.28
2	4x5	12796.85	12639.8	1.23	5854.59	5854.59	5854.89
3	4x5	12318.45	12318.45	$\mathbf 0$	5844.04	5844.04	5844.29
4	4x5	11253.65	10749.95	4.48	6241.67	6241.67	6241.97
5	4x5	13164.85	13066.4	0.75	6728.95	6728.95	6729.25
6	4x5	12736.5	12736.5	0	6800.01	6800.01	6800.31
7	4x5	14480.85	14466.9	0.1	8307.64	8307.64	8307.99
8	4x5	11465.55	10796.7	5.83	6369	6369	6369.25
9	4x5	10947.55	10865.05	0.75	5845.73	5845.73	5845.98
10	4x5	11493.55	11493.55	0	6217.61	6217.61	6217.86

Table 5. Medium size problems solutions with algorithms

[Table 6](#page-13-0) provides the solutions for 10 problems in the 'large' problem group. When examining the solutions for this group, it is observed that the closed path approach improved all solutions compared to the initial solutions. When looking at the mathematical programming approaches, it can be asserted that the Interval Optimization (IO), Robust Optimization (RO), and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function (IOWPF) approaches yielded the same results. Additionally, these methods have produced significantly superior solutions compared to the closed-path approach.

Table 6. Large size problems solutions with algorithms

[Table 7](#page-13-1) provides the solutions for 10 problems in the 'extra large' problem group. When examining the solutions for this group, it is observed that the closed path approach improved all solutions except for one problem compared to the initial solutions. When looking at the mathematical programming approaches, it can be asserted that the Interval Optimization (IO), Robust Optimization (RO), and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function (IOWPF) approaches yielded the same results. Additionally, these methods have produced significantly superior solutions compared to the closedpath approach.

No of	Problem	Initial Cost	CP Cost	Imp(%)	IO Cost	RO Cost	IOWPF
Problem	Size						Cost
$\mathbf{1}$	8x10	686598.85	686150.85	0.07	305855.81	305855.81	305856.38
2	8x10	672057.2	663530.3	1.27	403755.99	403755.99	403756.73
3	8x10	618454.3	610538.35	1.28	353941.8	353941.8	353942.44
4	8x10	679429.8	664164.45	2.25	322422.59	322422.59	322423.28
5	8x10	612326.95	610274.95	0.34	346980.83	346980.83	346981.52
6	8x10	678037.85	678037.85	$\mathbf 0$	380024.59	380024.59	380025.28
7	8x10	741827.65	717347.3	3.3	401703.37	401703.37	401704.12
8	8x10	621685.5	616008.3	0.91	334730.08	334730.08	334730.73
9	8x10	751334.95	723157.25	3.75	322584.71	322584.71	322585.45
10	8x10	631604.15	610758.7	3.3	355147.62	355147.62	355148.31

Table 7. Extra large size problems solutions with algorithms

The variables used in [Table 8](#page-14-0) are defined as follows:

- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ T_0 : Initial Solution Time (seconds)
- $\;\star\; T_1$: Closed Path Solution Time (seconds)
- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ T_2 : Interval Optimization Solution Time (seconds)
- $\,\bm{\cdot}\,$ T_3 : Robust Optimization Solution Time (seconds)
- $\, \overline{ } \, T_4$: Interval Optimization with Penalty Function Solution Time (seconds)

The maximum value for Initial Solution Time, T_0, has been determined as 0.0001 seconds in 40 problems. The remaining times have been recorded as 0.0000 seconds. Therefore, it has been

excluded from [Table 8.](#page-14-0) [Table 8](#page-14-0) is presented in four groups as (a), (b), (c), and (d). Each group shows the solution times in seconds for small (a), medium (b), large (c), and extra-large (d), respectively.

	Problem	Problem Size	T ₁	T ₂	T ₃	T4
	$\mathbf{1}$	2x3	0.0072	0.0091	0.0072	0.049
	$\sqrt{2}$	2x3	0.0058	0.0103	0.0068	0.1027
	$\ensuremath{\mathsf{3}}$	2x3	0.0028	0.0158	0.0061	0.0697
	4	2x3	0.008	0.0075	0.0063	0.0487
	$\mathbf 5$	2x3	0.0082	0.0105	0.0079	0.0778
(a)	$\,6\,$	2x3	0.0049	0.0083	0.0096	0.0848
	$\overline{7}$	2x3	0.003	0.0093	0.0076	0.0635
	$\,$ 8 $\,$	2x3	0.0037	0.0141	0.0074	0.0662
	9	2x3	0.0049	0.0128	0.0191	0.0741
	10	2x3	0.0076	0.0066	0.0278	0.0773
	$\mathbf{1}$	4x5	0.0147	0.012	0.0065	0.2199
	$\sqrt{2}$	4x5	0.0188	0.0162	0.0133	0.1479
	$\mathsf 3$	4x5	0.0078	0.0175	0.0167	0.1161
	4	4x5	0.0209	0.0185	0.0105	0.1354
	$\mathbf 5$	4x5	0.0137	0.0167	0.0075	0.1018
(b)	$\,6\,$	4x5	0.0037	0.0099	0.0119	0.144
	$\overline{7}$	4x5	0.0206	0.0074	0.0101	0.2113
	$\,$ 8 $\,$	4x5	0.0359	0.009	0.0083	0.1382
	9	4x5	0.0166	0.0075	0.0229	0.1258
	10	4x5	0.0067	0.0078	0.0145	0.1216
	$\mathbf{1}$	6x7	0.0357	0.0127	0.0231	0.3654
	$\sqrt{2}$	6x7	0.187	0.0171	0.0093	0.2758
	$\ensuremath{\mathsf{3}}$	6x7	0.0992	0.0109	0.0209	0.2788
	4	6x7	0.0481	0.0181	0.0114	0.2593
	$\mathbf 5$	6x7	0.0489	0.025	0.007	0.2382
(c)	$\,6$	6x7	0.0783	0.0065	0.0145	0.3185
	$\boldsymbol{7}$	6x7	0.0495	0.0105	0.0227	0.2721
	8	6x7	0.0589	0.0178	0.0203	0.2874
	9	6x7	0.1604	0.0161	0.0112	0.7377
	10	6x7	0.0582	0.0224	0.0064	0.1988
	$\mathbf{1}$	8x10	1.475	2.2918	0.0078	3.645
	$\sqrt{2}$	8x10	0.2461	0.0066	0.0074	0.8444
	3	8x10	0.4781	0.0107	0.0129	1.0813
	4	8x10	0.1551	0.0378	0.0366	0.9456
(d)	5	8x10	0.0689	0.0246	0.0271	0.6429
	6	8x10	0.0451	0.0181	0.0118	0.6398
	$\overline{7}$	8x10	0.1862	0.0173	0.014	0.7765
	8	8x10	0.1479	0.0083	0.0238	0.7431

Table 8. Solution times of algorithms by problem groups (seconds)

[Table 9](#page-15-0) provides solutions for Problem 5 in the large problem group regarding the behavior of parameters in mathematical models. Additionally, [Appendix 2](#page-21-0) shares the detailed solution records for all solutions obtained with the Interval Optimization with Penalized Function algorithm concerning the α , β , and γ parameters on a problem-by-problem basis.

Table 9. Solution details and parameters for the algorithms

```
-----------------------------------------------------------
Interval Optimization Solution Report
-----------------------------------------------------------
Problem Group: large
Problem Size: 6x7
Problem No: 5
Best Objective Value: 42602.20999999999
Best Alpha: [1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
             1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0]
Best Beta: [1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0]
Best Gamma: [1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0]
Solution Time: 0.024971961975097656 seconds
---------------------------------------------------------
Robust Optimization Solution Report
---------------------------------------------------------
Problem Group: large
Problem Size: 6x7
Problem No: 5
Best Objective Value: 42602.20999999999
Best Alpha: [1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0;
              1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0]
Solution Time: 0.007044076919555664 seconds
 ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Interval Optimization with Penalized Function Solution Report
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Problem Group: large
Problem Size: 6x7
Problem No: 5
Best Objective Value: 42602.6
Best Alpha: [0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5;
              1.0 1.0 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5;
              0.5 1.0 0.5 0.5 0.5 1.0 1.0;
              0.5 0.5 0.5 1.0 0.5 0.5 0.5;
              0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5;
```
 0.5 0.5 1.0 0.5 1.0 0.5 0.5] Best Beta: [0.5, 1.0, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5] Best Gamma: [1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 1.0] Solution Time: 0.2382 seconds

Comparative comparison table according to T_3 solution time in [Table 10](#page-16-0). In this table, T_3 is considered as 1 unit; values less than 1 indicate better solution times, and values greater than 1 indicate higher solution times. A detailed comparative comparison table on a problem-by-problem basis is provided in [Appendix 1.](#page-20-1)

Experimental studies conducted on a test set of 40 problems have observed that all methods provided better results compared to the initial solution. Interval Optimization and Robust Optimization methods achieved the same optimal cost in most of the tested problems, while the Interval Optimization with Penalty Function method produced slightly higher-cost solutions compared to the other methods. The Closed Path Method showed improvements ranging from 0.0% to 3.75% compared to the initial solution in the extra-large problem group, with improvements of 0.0% to 4.48% in the medium group, and 0.03% to 10.03% in the large group.

In terms of computation time, the comparative time coefficients of the Robust Optimization algorithm varied depending on the problem size. For small and medium-sized problems, the Interval Optimization and Robust Optimization methods showed similar computation times, while for large and extra-large problems, the Robust Optimization method provided faster results. The Closed Path Algorithm and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function methods became computationally disadvantaged as the problem size increased. When compared to the Robust Optimization algorithm, the Closed Path Algorithm, Interval Optimization, Robust Optimization, and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function methods had comparative time coefficients of 0.5, 1.0, 1.0, and 6.7 for small problems, 1.3, 1.0, 1.0, and 12.0 for medium problems, 5.6, 1.1, 1.0, and 22.0 for large problems, and 20.6, 14.5, 1.0, and 65.1 for extra-large problems, respectively.

In conclusion, among the four methods examined, Interval Optimization and Robust Optimization methods were found to be more effective in solving the Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem (GFTP). However, it is thought that the performance of the Interval Optimization with Penalty Function method could be improved by dynamically adjusting the weight factors.

The Interval Optimization with Penalty Function method uses lower and upper bounds for supply and demand quantities and transportation costs to solve the GFTP. The effectiveness of the method

depends on the appropriate assignment of weight factors (α , β , γ). The method manages uncertainty by assigning weight factors (α , β , γ) and adds a term to the objective function that penalizes deviations from the middle interval values. In all problem sizes, the demand weight factor (γ) values were consistently set to 1.0, indicating that the method focuses on the upper bound of demand quantities. The transportation cost weight factor (α) values were balanced between 0.5 and 1.0 in all problem sizes, indicating that the method balances the lower and upper bounds of transportation costs. The supply weight factor (β) values were mostly set to 0.5 or 1.0, but some intermediate values such as 0.59, 0.65, 0.81, 0.92, and 0.99 were also observed, showing that the method adapts to the characteristics of the problems. In terms of solution time, it was observed that the computation time of the Interval Optimization with the Penalty Function method increased as the problem size increased. However, even for the largest problems, the average solution time was approximately 1 second, indicating that the method can solve large-scale problems in a reasonable time.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Grey Fuzzy Transportation Problem (GFTP) is a model developed to address transportation problems involving uncertainty. In this study, four different optimization methods (Closed Path Method, Interval Optimization, Robust Optimization, and Interval Optimization with Penalty Function) were used to solve the GFTP, and their performances were comprehensively analyzed. The analyses were conducted on a total of 40 test problems across four different problem sizes: small, medium, large, and extra-large. The results showed that the Interval Optimization and Robust Optimization methods demonstrated the best performance in terms of solution quality and computation time.

Detailed analyses focusing on the Interval Optimization with the Penalty Function method revealed that this method provides an effective and consistent solution approach for the GFTP. The method focuses on the upper bound of demand quantities while adopting a more balanced approach for supply quantities and transportation costs. In assigning weight factors (α , β , γ), the method adapts to the characteristics of the problems. Additionally, it consistently performs well across different problem sizes, successfully managing uncertainty. Although the solution times increase with problem size, even the largest problems can be solved in a reasonable time.

This study highlights the potential of the Interval Optimization with Penalty Function method for solving the GFTP, while also showing that other methods can be effective. Future research can focus on determining the optimal value of the penalty factor, exploring different weight factor assignment strategies, and applying the methods to real-world problems. Comparative analyses with other fuzzy optimization methods will also help determine the most suitable solution approaches for the GFTP. The comprehensive analysis and suggestions provided by this study will contribute to the effective solution of the GFTP and better management of uncertain transportation problems.

It can be argued that the solution approaches used in this study can be used for the Fixed-Charge Transportation Problem (FCTP) in addition to the Transportation Problem. Analyses can be improved by adapting the proposed solution approaches for FCTP.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. You may not use the material for commercial purposes. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>.

References

- Aydemir, E. (2020). A New Approach for Interval Grey Numbers: n8th Order Degree of Greyness. *The Journal of Grey System*, *32*(2), 89–103.
- Aydemir, E., Sahin, Y., & Karagul, K. (2023). A Cost Level Analysis for the Components of the Smartphones Using Greyness Based Quality Function Deployment. In *Emerging Studies and Applications of Grey Systems* (pp. 313–330). Springer Nature Singapore. https://doi.org[/10.](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-3424-7_12) 1007/978-981-19-3424-7\12
- Aydemir, E., Yılmaz, G., & Oruc, K. O. (2020). A grey production planning model on a ready-mixed concrete plant. *Engineering Optimization*, *52*(5), 817–831. https://doi.org[/10.](https://doi.org/10.1080/0305215x.2019.1698034) [1080/0305215x.2019.1698034](https://doi.org/10.1080/0305215x.2019.1698034)
- Bai, C., & Sarkis, J. (2010). Integrating sustainability into supplier selection with grey system and rough set methodologies. *International Journal of Production Economics*, *124*(1), 252–264. https://doi.org[/10.1016/j.ijpe.2009.11.023](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpe.2009.11.023)
- Baidya, A. (2024). Application of grey number to solve multistage supply chain networking model. *International Journal of Logistics Systems and Management*, *47*(4), 494–518. https://doi.org/[10.1504/ijlsm.2024.138873](https://doi.org/10.1504/ijlsm.2024.138873)
- Ben-Tal, A., & Nemirovski, A. (1998). Robust Convex Optimization. *Mathematics of Operations Research*, *23*(4), 769–805. https://doi.org[/10.1287/moor.23.4.769](https://doi.org/10.1287/moor.23.4.769)
- Ben-Tal, A., & Nemirovski, A. (2002). Robust optimization ? methodology and applications. *Mathematical Programming*, *92*(3), 453–480. https://doi.org/[10.1007/s](https://doi.org/10.1007/s101070100286) [101070100286](https://doi.org/10.1007/s101070100286)
- Bilişik, Ö. N., Duman, N. H., & Taş, E. (2024). A novel intervalvalued intuitionistic fuzzy CRITIC-TOPSIS methodology: An application for transportation mode selection problem for a glass production company. *Expert Systems with Applications*, *235*, 121134. https://doi.org[/10.1016/j.eswa.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2023.121134) [2023.121134](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2023.121134)
- Christopher, M. (1992). *Logistics and supply chain manage ment*. Pitman Publishing.
- Deng, J.8L. (1982). Control problems of grey systems. *Systems & Control Letters*, *1*(5), 288–294. https://doi.org[/10.1016/](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0167-6911(82)80025-X) S0167-6911(82)80025-X
- Fu, C., & Cao, L. (2019). An uncertain optimization method based on interval differential evolution and adaptive

subinterval decomposition analysis. *Advances in En gineering Software*, *134*, 1–9. https://doi.org/[10.1016/j.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advengsoft.2019.05.001) [advengsoft.2019.05.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advengsoft.2019.05.001)

- Fu, L., Sun, D., & Rilett, L. (2006). Heuristic shortest path algorithms for transportation applications: State of the art. *Computers & Operations Research*, *33*(11), 3324–3343. https://doi.org/[10.1016/j.cor.2005.03.027](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cor.2005.03.027)
- Gass, S. I., & Assad, A. A. (2005). *An Annotated Timeline of Operations Research*. Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Ghosh, S., Küfer, K.-H., Roy, S. K., & Weber, G.-W. (2022). Type-2 zigzag uncertain multi-objective fixed-charge solid transportation problem: time window vs. preservation technology. *Central European Journal of Opera tions Research*, *31*(1), 337–362. https://doi.org/[10.1007/s](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10100-022-00811-7) 10100-022-00811-7
- Guerra, M. L., Sorini, L., & Stefanini, L. (2017). A new approach to linear programming with interval costs. *2017 IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy Systems (FUZZ-IEEE)*, 1-6. https://doi.org/10.1109/fuzz-ieee.2017.8015661
- Hitchcock, F. L. (1941). The Distribution of a Product from Several Sources to Numerous Localities. *Journal of Mathematics and Physics*, *20*(1–4), 224–230. https://doi. org/[10.1002/sapm1941201224](https://doi.org/10.1002/sapm1941201224)
- Jayswal, A., Preeti, & Arana-Jiménez, M. (2022). Robust penalty function method for an uncertain multi-time control optimization problems. *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, *505*(1), 125453. https://doi. org/[10.1016/j.jmaa.2021.125453](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmaa.2021.125453)
- Kacher, Y., & Singh, P. (2023). A generalized parametric approach for solving different fuzzy parameter based multi-objective transportation problem. Soft Computing, 28(4), 3187-3206. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00500-023-09277-4
- Karmakar, S., & Bhunia, A. K. (2014). Uncertain constrained optimization by interval-oriented algorithm. *Journal of the Operational Research Society*, *65*(1), 73–87. https:// doi.org[/10.1057/jors.2012.151](https://doi.org/10.1057/jors.2012.151)
- Klir, G. J., & Yuan, B. (1995). *Fuzzy sets and fuzzy logic: theory and applications*. Prentice Hall.
- Kumar, A., Singh, P., & Kacher, Y. (2023). Neutrosophic hyper8 bolic programming strategy for uncertain multi-objec-

tive transportation problem. *Applied Soft Computing*, *149*, 110949. https://doi.org[/10.1016/j.asoc.2023.110949](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asoc.2023.110949)

- Li, F.-C., & Jin, C.-X. (2008). Study on fuzzy optimization methods based on principal operation and inequity degree. *Computers & Mathematics with Applications*, *56*(6), 1545–1555. https://doi.org[/10.1016/j.camwa.2008.02.042](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.camwa.2008.02.042)
- Liu, S., & Lin, Y. (2006). *Grey Information Theory and Practical* Applications. Springer-Verlag. https://doi.org/10.1007/1-84628-342-6
- Mardanya, D., & Roy, S. K. (2023). New approach to solve fuzzy multi-objective multi-item solid transportation problem. *RAIRO Operations Research*, *57*(1), 99–120. https://doi.org/[10.1051/ro/2022211](https://doi.org/10.1051/ro/2022211)
- Moore, R. E., Kearfott, R. B., & Cloud, M. J. (2009). *Introduc tion to Interval Analysis*. Society for Industrial, Applied Mathematics. https://doi.org[/10.1137/1.9780898717716](https://doi.org/10.1137/1.9780898717716)
- Moslem, S., Saraji, M. K., Mardani, A., Alkharabsheh, A., Duleba, S., & Esztergar-Kiss, D. (2023b). A Systematic Review of Analytic Hierarchy Process Applications to Solve Transportation Problems: From 2003 to 2022. *IEEE Access*, *11*, 11973–11990. https://doi.org/[10.1109/access.](https://doi.org/10.1109/access.2023.3234298) [2023.3234298](https://doi.org/10.1109/access.2023.3234298)
- Moslem, S., Stević, Ž., Tanackov, I., & Pilla, F. (2023a). Sustainable development solutions of public transportation:An integrated IMF SWARA and Fuzzy Bon8 ferroni operator. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, *93*, 104530. https://doi.org/[10.1016/j.scs.2023.104530](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2023.104530)
- Nasseri, H., & Khabiri, B. a. (2019). A Grey Transportation Problem in Fuzzy Environment. *Journal of Operational Research and Its Applications*, *16*(3). [http://jamlu.liau.](http://jamlu.liau.ac.ir/article-1-1371-en.html) ac.ir/article-1-1371-en.html
- Pourofoghi, F., Saffar Ardabili, J., & Darvishi Salokolaei, D. (2019). A New Approach for Finding an Optimal Solution for Grey Transportation Problem. *International Journal of Nonlinear Analysis and Applications, 10(Special Is*sue (Nonlinear Analysis in Engineering and Sciences). https://doi.org/[10.22075/ijnaa.2019.4399](https://doi.org/10.22075/ijnaa.2019.4399)
- Simon, H. A. (1960). *The new science of management deci* sion. Harper & Brothers. https://doi.org/10.1037/13978-[000](https://doi.org/10.1037/13978-000)
- Steuer, R. E. (1981). Algorithms for Linear Programming Problems with Interval Objective Function Coefficients. *Mathematics of Operations Research*, *6*(3), 333–348. https://doi.org/[10.1287/moor.6.3.333](https://doi.org/10.1287/moor.6.3.333)
- Taylor, F. W. (1911). *The Principles of Scientific Management*. Harper & Brothers.
- Teodorović, D. (1999). Fuzzy logic systems for transportation engineering: the state of the art. *Transportation Re search Part A: Policy and Practice*, *33*(5), 337–364. https:// doi.org/10.1016/s0965-8564(98)00024-x
- Tokat, S., Karagul, K., Sahin, Y., & Aydemir, E. (2022). Fuzzy c-means clustering-based key performance indicator design for warehouse loading operations. *Journal of King Saud University Computer and Information Sci ences*, *34*(8), 6377–6384. https://doi.org[/10.1016/j.jksuci.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jksuci.2021.08.003) [2021.08.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jksuci.2021.08.003)
- Voskoglou, M. G. (2018). Solving Linear Programming Problems with Grey Data. *Oriental Journal of Physical Sci ences*, *3*(1), 17–23. https://doi.org/[10.13005/OJPS03.01.04](https://doi.org/10.13005/OJPS03.01.04)
- Yu, Q., Yang, C., Dai, G., Peng, L., & Li, J. (2024). A novel penalty function-based interval constrained multi-objective optimization algorithm for uncertain problems. *Swarm and Evolutionary Computation*, *88*, 101584. https://doi. org/[10.1016/j.swevo.2024.101584](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.swevo.2024.101584)
- Zadeh, L. (1965). Fuzzy sets. *Information and Control*, *8*(3), 338-353. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0019-9958(65)90241-x
- Zhang, H., Huang, Q., Ma, L., & Zhang, Z. (2024). Sparrow search algorithm with adaptive t distribution for multiobjective low-carbon multimodal transportation planning problem with fuzzy demand and fuzzy time. *Expert Systems with Applications*, *238*, 122042. https://doi.org/ [10.1016/j.eswa.2023.122042](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2023.122042)
- Zimmermann, H.-J. (1996). *Fuzzy Set Theory-and Its Applications*. Springer Netherlands. https://doi.org[/10.1007/](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-015-8702-0) 978-94-015-8702-0
- Çelikbilek, Y., Moslem, S., & Duleba, S. (2022). A combined grey multi criteria decision making model to evaluate public transportation systems. *Evolving Systems*, *14*(1), 1-15. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12530-021-09414-0
- Şahin, Y., & Karagül, K. (2023). Gri ilişkisel analiz tekniğiyle taşımacılık firması için treyler çekici araç seçimi. In S. Karaoğlan & T. Arar (Eds.), *Yönetim, Pazarlama ve Finans Uygulamalarıyla Çok Kriterli Karar Verme* (pp. 65–80). Nobel Akademik Yayıncılık.

Appendix

Appendix 1. Detailed Solution Times of all test problems and Time Comparisons

Problem	Problem Size	T1	T ₂	T ₃	T4	T1/T3	T2/T3	T3/T3	T4/T3
$\mathbf{1}$	2x3	0.0072	0.0091	0.0072	0.049	$\mathbf{1}$	1.3	$\mathbf{1}$	6.8
$\overline{2}$	2x3	0.0058	0.0103	0.0068	0.1027	0.9	1.5	$\mathbf{1}$	15.1
3	2x3	0.0028	0.0158	0.0061	0.0697	0.5	2.6	$\mathbf{1}$	11.4
4	2x3	0.008	0.0075	0.0063	0.0487	1.3	1.2	$\mathbf{1}$	7.7
5	2x3	0.0082	0.0105	0.0079	0.0778	$\mathbf{1}$	1.3	$\mathbf{1}$	9.8
6	2x3	0.0049	0.0083	0.0096	0.0848	0.5	0.9	$\mathbf{1}$	8.8
$\overline{7}$	2x3	0.003	0.0093	0.0076	0.0635	0.4	1.2	1	8.4
8	2x3	0.0037	0.0141	0.0074	0.0662	$0.5\,$	1.9	$\mathbf{1}$	8.9
9	2x3	0.0049	0.0128	0.0191	0.0741	0.3	0.7	1	3.9
10	2x3	0.0076	0.0066	0.0278	0.0773	0.3	0.2	$\mathbf{1}$	2.8
	Average	0.0056	0.0104	0.0106	0.0714	0.5	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	6.7
$\mathbf{1}$	4x5	0.0147	0.012	0.0065	0.2199	2.3	1.8	$\mathbf{1}$	33.8
$\overline{2}$	4x5	0.0188	0.0162	0.0133	0.1479	1.4	1.2	$\mathbf{1}$	11.1
3	4x5	0.0078	0.0175	0.0167	0.1161	0.5	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$7\overline{ }$
4	4x5	0.0209	0.0185	0.0105	0.1354	$\overline{2}$	1.8	$\mathbf{1}$	12.9
5	4x5	0.0137	0.0167	0.0075	0.1018	1.8	2.2	$\mathbf{1}$	13.6
6	4x5	0.0037	0.0099	0.0119	0.144	0.3	0.8	$\mathbf{1}$	12.1
$\overline{7}$	4x5	0.0206	0.0074	0.0101	0.2113	$\overline{2}$	0.7	1	20.9
8	4x5	0.0359	0.009	0.0083	0.1382	4.3	1.1	$\mathbf{1}$	16.7
9	4x5	0.0166	0.0075	0.0229	0.1258	0.7	0.3	$\mathbf{1}$	5.5
10	4x5	0.0067	0.0078	0.0145	0.1216	0.5	0.5	1	8.4
	Average	0.0159	0.0123	0.0122	0.1462	1.3	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	12
$\mathbf{1}$	6x7	0.0357	0.0127	0.0231	0.3654	1.5	0.5	$\mathbf{1}$	15.8
$\overline{2}$	6x7	0.187	0.0171	0.0093	0.2758	20.1	1.8	1	29.7
3	6x7	0.0992	0.0109	0.0209	0.2788	4.7	0.5	$\mathbf{1}$	13.3
4	6x7	0.0481	0.0181	0.0114	0.2593	4.2	1.6	$\mathbf{1}$	22.7
5	6x7	0.0489	0.025	0.007	0.2382	$\overline{7}$	3.6	1	34
6	6x7	0.0783	0.0065	0.0145	0.3185	5.4	0.4	1	22
$\overline{7}$	6x7	0.0495	0.0105	0.0227	0.2721	2.2	0.5	$\mathbf{1}$	12
8	6x7	0.0589	0.0178	0.0203	0.2874	2.9	0.9	$\mathbf{1}$	14.2
9	6x7	0.1604	0.0161	0.0112	0.7377	14.3	1.4	$\mathbf{1}$	65.9
10	6x7	0.0582	0.0224	0.0064	0.1988	9.1	3.5	1	31.1
	Average	0.0824	0.0157	0.0147	0.3232	5.6	1.1	$\mathbf{1}$	22
1	8x10	1.475	2.2918	0.0078	3.645	189.1	293.8	$\mathbf{1}$	467.3
$\overline{2}$	8x10	0.2461	0.0066	0.0074	0.8444	33.3	0.9	1	114.1
3	8x10	0.4781	0.0107	0.0129	1.0813	37.1	$0.8\,$	$\mathbf{1}$	83.8

T1: Closed Path Solution Time (seconds) T2: Interval Optimization Solution Time (seconds) T3: Robust Optimization Solution Time (seconds) T4: Interval Optimization with Penalty

Function Solution Time (seconds)

T1: Closed Path Solution Time (seconds) T2: Interval Optimization Solution Time (seconds) T3: Robust Optimization Solution Time (seconds) T4: Interval Optimization with Penalty Function Solution Time (seconds)

Appendix 2. Behaviors of mathematical model parameters for the solutions of the test problem instances

