A Review of The Research on the Index Weighting Method of Multi-Factor Evaluation Problem

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Abstract. This paper is based on a systematic study of subjective empowerment method, objective empowerment method and subjective and objective comprehensive empowerment method, and conducts in-depth analysis from method principles, applicable boundaries to practical selection strategies, providing theoretical basis and operational guidance for the selection of empowerment method in different scenarios. According to the research in this paper, when selecting multi-factor evaluation index empowerment methods, we must combine data characteristics, problem complexity and decision-making goals, rationally understand and grasp the advantages and disadvantages of each method to ensure the relative scientific and rationality of the evaluation results. In the future, it is necessary to integrate dynamic adjustment and machine learning technologies to optimize adaptability to promote the intelligentization of the evaluation system and interdisciplinary development.

Keywords: multi-factor evaluation, index weight, subjective weighting method, objective weighting method, comprehensive weighting method

1 Introduction

The determination of index weights is a key link in the comprehensive evaluation of multi-factors, and reasonable weight values are the key to ensuring the reliable and effective evaluation results [1]. Scholars at home and abroad have been conducting research on the acquisition of indicator weights of multi-factor evaluation issues, and have achieved a large number of valuable research results to this day. From the current research results, we can see that there are many ways to obtain indicator weights. According to the degree of dependence on the subjective wishes of decision makers when obtaining indicators, it can be divided into subjective empowerment method and objective empowerment method. Then, because there are certain defects in single use, a comprehensive empowerment method is proposed to comprehensively empower the two methods, namely the comprehensive empowerment method. This paper systematically sorts out the principles, application scenarios and limitations of different empowerment methods, and expands the details and cases of the method based on the latest research to provide scientific reference for actual evaluation.

A. Mallik et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2025 6th International Conference on Management Science and Engineering Management (ICMSEM 2025)*, Atlantis Highlights in Economics, Business and Management 4,
https://doi.org/10.2991/978-94-6463-845-5_65

2 Subjective Empowerment Law

The subjective empowerment method is a method in which decision makers or relevant experts judge the importance of evaluation indicators based on their knowledge, experience or preferences and calculate the weight value. The subjective empowerment method believes that the essence of the index weight is its quantitative expression of its importance relative to the evaluation target. Therefore, although the weight results obtained by this type of method are highly consistent with the actual situation. Currently, the most commonly used subjective empowerment methods are: Analytical Hierarchy Process, binomial coefficient method, month-on-month analysis method and Defill.

2.1 Analytical Hierarchy Process

AHP is the abbreviation of Analytical Hierarchy Process, which was proposed by T.L.Staty in the 1970s[2]. The basic idea of the AHP is to firstly build a multi-level index system, which decomposes from high to low level to several layers according to the mutual relationship decomposition system of influencing factors; then, use the 1-9 scale method to compare the influencing factors to determine the degree of relative importance and form a judgment matrix; finally, based on the comprehensive consideration of decision makers, select a comprehensive evaluation mathematical model to determine the relative importance of each index factor in the multi-level index system, so as to obtain the relative weight of each index factor.

The core advantage of AHP still lies in structured decomposition of complex problems, so it is widely used in the index empowerment of a variety of evaluation index systems. In 2023, some scholars proposed to use fuzzy AHP to deal with the uncertainty of expert language, evaluate wind farm site selection indicators, and apply it to Northwest China to increase the site selection accuracy by 20%[3]. Smith constructs ethical indicators such as “passenger safety”, “peeder safety”, and “legal compliance”. Through AHP empowerment and embedded autonomous driving algorithms, the case comparison between Tesla and Waymo in the article shows that the difference in weight allocation leads to different emergency avoidance strategies. This is the first time that AHP is applied to AI ethical decisions, which greatly promotes the transparency of algorithms, but does not cover cultural differences and ignores the different ethical priorities of the East and the West [4].

After more than 40 years of development, AHP has evolved from a single decision-making tool to a hybrid method framework of multidisciplinary fusion. It is particularly suitable for situations where there is a lack of sample data, the structure of the evaluation objectives is complex, and domain experts have a clear understanding of the relative importance of the indicators—especially when the number of indicators in the evaluation system is moderate. Research in the past three years shows that its core advantage is still structured decomposition of complex problems, but traditional limitations need to be made up for through technological integration, and it has great potential in the fields of intelligence and ethics in the future.

2.2 Binomial Coefficient Method

The binomial coefficient method is used to determine the weight of the index as early as 1983[5]. This method also compares the indicators in pairs through several experts, and then obtains the index weights representing priority order. According to the weight size, the indicators are arranged as sequences decreasing from the middle to both sides. Then the index sequence is numbered from left to right, and finally the final weight of the index is calculated using the principle of the binomial coefficient method. When using the binomial coefficient method, there is no need to quantify the evaluator's knowledge and experience in detail. As long as the relatively important situations between indicators are obtained, it reduces the difficulty of judging the importance of the indicators. Therefore, the difficulty of using this method is smaller than that of the AHP.

However, if the index priority sequence has a left-right symmetry, different priority indicators with the same weight will appear, that is, the calculation result of the index weight does not conform to the actual situation. In other words, this method ignores the difference in the relative importance of indicators.

The research on the binomial coefficient method in recent years has shown the characteristics of "optimization-fusion-expansion", and its scientificity and applicability are improved through fuzzy mathematics, mixed models and technical tools. For example, in 2022, Li et al. converted expert sorting languages into triangular fuzzy numbers, optimized weight calculations, solved the weight allocation problem of traditional methods in symmetric sequences, enhanced the processing ability of fuzzy information, and increased the weight distinction by 20%[6]. Although it still faces challenges in complex scenarios, its simplicity and efficiency make it continue to play its value in rapid decision-making and emerging field evaluation. In 2023, scholars such as Zhang proposed to determine the priority of AI ethical indicators through expert ranking and apply them to autonomous driving ethical decisions. The weight results show that "peeder safety" is higher than "passenger convenience". This method is not only low in operation cost, but also can quickly respond to the needs of emerging fields [7].

In general, this method has no restrictions on whether there is sample data, and its scope of application is wide, especially suitable for multi-factor evaluation issues that lack precedent and lack of quantitative empowerment experience. In the future, it is necessary to further combine intelligent technology to break through the limitations of static and symmetry.

2.3 Month-on-month Analysis

The month-on-month analysis[8] was first proposed in 1986, and since then, this method has been widely used in multi-factor evaluation issues. The advantage of the month-on-month analysis is that the evaluator needs to judge the value of the indicator importance evaluation value, which is simpler than when using the AHP. The judgment of the importance of the indicator is not prone to errors, and there is no need to conduct a consistency test of the judgment results. It is more effective in solving many complex evaluation problems. For example, scholar Wang Fang and others used this method to conduct monthly month-on-month evaluation of the urban air quality index (AQI) in cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, and then proposed the "pollution diffusion index" to guide environmental protection policies to make dynamic adjustments. After the policy adjustment, PM2.5 fell by 15% month-on-month[9].

However, this method has higher requirements for the evaluator's knowledge and experience than the first two methods. The evaluator has a more accurate understanding of the importance of each indicator in order to obtain more accurate quantitative results. If the selected judges' knowledge and experience are lacking in the evaluation experts during use, then there will be greater errors in the weight of the index, which will lead to errors in the evaluation results or the evaluation results are contrary to the actual situation. Therefore, in recent years, a large number of scholars have combined other methods to make up for the shortcomings of the month-on-month analysis to obtain more scientific and credible index weight values. For example, in 2022, Li and others dealt with the uncertainty of expert language by introducing triangular fuzzy numbers in the empowerment of green supply chain indicators, increasing the weight distinction by 15%[10].

In summary, the month-on-month analysis has the advantages of simple operation, unlimited sample data, and efficient empowerment, so it is continuously used in multi-factor evaluation problems with clear linear ordering. However, this method has led to problems such as linear sequence limitations and index weight symmetry. It can be compensated for its limitations by introducing fuzzy mathematics or dynamic adjustment of benchmark indicators, and improve the reliability and adaptability of the method.

2.4 Delphi

The Delphi is a group decision-making method that reaches consensus through multiple rounds of anonymous questionnaire surveys and expert feedback adjustments[11]. Its core is to reduce individual deviations through iterative convergence of expert opinions and improve the scientific nature of decision-making. Early applications were used to predict possible targets and technical paths of the Soviet nuclear strike, such as "In 1957, Helmer's team predicted technological breakthroughs in the next 50 years", and the results partially accurately predicted the development of computer and communication technology. In recent years, with the changes in technology and social needs, the Delphi will continue to evolve and become an important methodology for decision-making on complex issues. For example, Smith, J. et al. proposed the integration of opinions from experts in the fields of medicine, ethics and AI through the three-wheel Delphi, and the method of formulating AI medical ethics guidelines finally formed 12 core principles. This method covers ethical disputes through interdisciplinary experts' collaboration, avoiding the results of authoritative dominance influencing weights[12].

The advantages of the Delphi are mainly reflected in three aspects. First, reduce group pressure: anonymity avoids leading discussions by authoritative experts. Second, integrate multi-field perspectives: joint participation of interdisciplinary experts. Third, strong scientificity: verify consensus stability through statistical methods. Fourth, high flexibility: suitable for complex or controversial issues. This method also has certain shortcomings. First, it takes a long time, and multiple rounds of feedback take weeks to months. Second, it relies on the quality of experts, and the results are affected by the representativeness of experts. Third, the process is rigid, and the preset process may limit innovative ideas. Fourth, the cost is high, and expert time and resources are required.

The universal applicability of the Delphi method's subjective weighting results is generally affected by cultural or contextual differences, which primarily stem from variations in values, cognitive patterns, communication styles, and institutional backgrounds. These factors may lead to a localization tendency in weight allocation, thereby limiting their cross-cultural applicability.

3 Objective Empowerment Method

The objective empowerment method is based on data-driven and does not require decision makers to master comprehensive knowledge, and eliminates the interference of people's subjective preferences on weight calculations. The characteristics of this method coexist in actual evaluation issues, and there is a situation where the empowerment results are completely inconsistent with the importance of actual indicators. Common objective empowerment methods include entropy weight method, CRITIC, Principal component analysis and factor analysis.

3.1 Entropy Weight Method

The entropy weight method[13] is a method based on the differences in the initial data of each indicator as the weight of the indicator. The method is clearly mathematically logical and has strong objectivity. It will be processed without dimensions when used, which enhances the robustness of the method and makes the weighting results of the evaluation indicator more stable. The index weights calculated by the entropy weight method are the best weights obtained by using objective and true evaluation of the index data. Such empowerment results reflect the information carried by the index data. For example, in order to conduct financial risk warnings for listed companies, Smith and others collected annual report data of 100 listed companies, used the entropy weight method to determine the weight, and built a risk score model, with an accuracy of 85%[14]. In 2023, Wang Lei used the entropy weight method to calculate the weight, conducted a subway construction safety risk assessment, and proposed targeted improvement measures, and the ultimate subway construction accident rate dropped by 20% [15].

However, the selection of sample data will greatly affect the empowerment results. At the same time, the entropy weight method cannot reflect the correlation between the evaluation indicators, and the decision-maker's understanding of the importance of the evaluation indicators cannot be drawn from the empowerment results. Moreover, sometimes the empowerment results cannot truly represent the actual importance of the evaluation indicators. Therefore, in real life, if the evaluation indicators of the system to be evaluated have complete sample data information and a large sample data volume, we can use the entropy weight method to calculate the index weight, otherwise we should consider whether to use this method to empower the index.

3.2 CRITIC

The CRITIC (Criteria Importance Though Intercrieria Correlation) is a method proposed by Diakoulaki[16]. The CRITIC proposes two attributes used to measure the evaluation indicators, namely the contrast intensity between indicators and the conflict between the two indicators. When empowering indicators, the final weight value of the evaluation indicator must be obtained after comprehensively considering these two attributes of the indicator.

The CRITIC is not a method to obtain index weights by simply comparing the size of the index data. This method is a weighting method that uses the objective attributes of the index data itself to scientifically evaluate the importance of the index. For example, in 2019, Chen et al. applied the CRITIC to the evaluation of wind farm site selection, determined that the weight of "wind speed and policy suppor" was the highest, and used the empowerment results to guide the construction of a wind farm in Inner Mongolia[17]. Gupta & Kuma uses the CRITIC to calculate objective weights, conduct performance evaluation of automobile manufacturing suppliers, and optimize supplier cooperation strategies after evaluation, reducing the quality complaint rate by 25%[18].

The CRITIC provides a more stable and scientific empowerment solution by integrating data volatility and indicator correlation, especially suitable for complex system evaluation. In the future, with the increase in data complexity, the CRITIC will continue to make breakthroughs in intelligence and interdisciplinary applications, providing better solutions to solve complex system problems.

3.3 Principal Component Analysis

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is an unsupervised multivariate statistical technology that aims to convert raw high-dimensional data into low-dimensional representations through linear transformation, while retaining the main information of the data as much as possible. Its core idea is dimensionality reduction and decorrelation[19]. This method replaces a large number of original variables with a few unrelated principal components. Through these principal components, the internal structure between multiple variables can be exposed. The selected representative principal component must be able to retain the information of the original variable to the greatest extent, but these principal component variables cannot be correlated. The essence of selecting these representative principal component variables is actually to reduce the dimensionality of the original variable.

Therefore, if the index sample data for the evaluation is complete, representative, and the indicators are basically linear, the PCA can be used to determine the weight of the evaluation index. In general, PCA projects high-dimensional data to low-dimensional space through orthogonal transformation, with the core lying on retaining the maximum variance and eliminating correlation. Despite the limitations of linear assumptions and interpretability, its efficiency and wide applicability make it a cornerstone tool for data preprocessing and exploratory analysis. In practical applications, When using PCA, you need to select the appropriate number of principal components based on the characteristics of the problem, and pay attention to the challenges of standardization and result interpretation.

3.4 Factor Analysis

The factor analysis[20] is similar to the PCA method, and is also a process of reducing the dimensionality of a large number of variables. However, the PCA combines the original indicators linearly, while the factor analysis combines the common factors and special factors of the indicators linearly. Compared with PCA, factor analysis has a deeper understanding of the information contained in indicators and can clearly explain the specific content of the evaluation indicators. Factor analysis is usually used in evaluation issues that require a deeper analysis of related evaluation objects such as socio-economic phenomena, but such evaluation issues must be complex evaluation issues with complete, large correlation and representativeness between indicators.

The advantages of factor analysis are mainly reflected in the following five aspects. First, it can simplify a large number of variables into a few common factors, reduce data complexity, and facilitate subsequent analysis and visualization. Second, the correlation between variables can be explained through common factors, revealing the potential dimensions behind the data. Third, the factor load matrix clearly defines the degree of correlation between variables and factors, and researchers can name common factors to enhance the practical significance of the results. Fourth, the verification factor analysis (CFA) can test whether the preset factor model matches the actual data, supporting the verification of theoretical hypotheses. Fifth, noise or redundant variables can be removed through data preprocessing to improve the efficiency and accuracy of subsequent modeling. However, this method also has the shortcomings of strict data requirements, large sample size requirements, and the naming of public factors depends on subjective interpretation and high computational complexity. Therefore, the rational application of this method requires balanced theoretical guidance and empirical testing, and carefully interpreting the significance of factors in combination with domain knowledge.

3.5 Vector Similarity Method

The vector similarity method used to determine index weights was originally proposed by Chinese scholar Jiao Liming et al.[21], and was subsequently applied to comprehensive evaluation by many scholars in China. For example, Smith et al. used vector similarity method to evaluate the service efficiency of 50 Grade A hospitals around the world, extracted 200 sets of operational data, eliminated dimension differences through Z-score standardization, used Euclidean distance to calculate the similarity between each indicator and the ideal reference vector, and determined the weight after normalization. The research results promote hospitals to optimize service processes, and the postoperative rehabilitation rate increases by 15%[22]. Li Qiang et al. used the vector similarity method to evaluate the urban air quality in the Yangtze River Delta region, extracted pollutant data from 30 groups of urban monitoring stations, standardized the data extremely poorly, and calculated the similarity between the data vectors of each index and the standardized ideal reference vector based on the cosine similarity. After normalization, the weight was obtained, and the evaluation results matched 88% with the actual policy effect [23].

This method is more suitable for a comprehensive evaluation system with appropriate amounts of and relatively complete sample data, and the sample data is typical and representative, and is relatively independent among evaluation indicators. When using it, you must carefully handle data standardization, reference vector definition and correlation between indicators to ensure that the results are scientific and reliable.

3.6 Rough Set Method

The basic idea of rough set method[24] for determining index weight is to first classify the evaluation objects based on all indicators in the system, and one indicator is reduced at a time, taking into account the degree of change of the reduced object classification compared with the original classification, and the importance of the indicator is proportional to the degree of change.

The rough set method is widely used in determining the index weight of various evaluation problems. For example, Liu et al. used the rough set method to analyze the factors influencing air quality in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. The data samples were PM2.5, SO_2, NO_2 concentrations and meteorological data of 30 monitoring stations. The missing values were processed through the tolerance relationship rough set model to determine “industrial emission intensity” and “inverse temperature frequency” as key factors. The evaluation results are consistent with the traceability report of the environmental protection department, verifying the reliability of this method in environmental science [25]. In 2023, Chen et al. used the rough set method in the evaluation of education quality in colleges and universities. The data sample was 8 indicators including faculty, scientific research output, and student employment rate of 100 universities. The rough set model based on attribute reduction eliminated redundant indicators. The final evaluation results are consistent with the discipline evaluation ranking of the Ministry of Education, verifying the effectiveness of the method[26].

The rough set method is an objective empowerment method with a wide range of applications. The advantage of this method is that it handles uncertainty and does not require external parameters, but there are challenges in continuous data discretization and computational efficiency. In practical applications, appropriate relationship models need to be selected according to the data type, and the rationality of the results should be verified based on domain knowledge.

4 Comprehensive Empowerment Law

Since subjective empowerment laws rely on experts’ knowledge and experience, the results are subjective arbitrary and uncertain[9]. The objective empowerment method ignores the decision makers' understanding of the importance of each indicator and only considers the objective data of the evaluating indicators. Therefore, using the objective empowerment method alone will produce indicator empowerment results that do not conform to the actual situation, and may even be completely opposite to the actual situation of the indicator. Therefore, in some studies, it is proposed to combine two different empowerment methods, subjective and objective, scientifically and rationally, so that the final evaluation results are more reliable, and the comprehensive empowerment method is thus born. The integrated integrated empowerment method gives weighting coefficients with different subjective and objective weight values, and then uses certain mathematical operations to effectively combine subjective and objective weights, so that their advantages complement each other, and ultimately obtains a comprehensive weighting result to make the evaluation result more accurate. At present, based on different integration principles, the comprehensive integration empowerment method can be roughly summarized into four categories: comprehensive integration empowerment methods based on addition or multiplication synthesis normalization, based on dispersion sum of squares, based on game theory and goal optimization.

4.1 Comprehensive Integrated Empowerment Method based on Addition or Multiplication Synthesis Normalization

The comprehensive integrated empowerment method based on addition or multiplication synthesis normalization is to directly add or multiply the index weights obtained by the subject and objective empowerment method directly in the form of equal preferences, and normalize to obtain the comprehensive weights of each index. For example, in 2020, Chen et al. used additive synthesis of comprehensive AHP and PCA weights to evaluate the comprehensive performance of 10 new energy vehicle technologies. The results are correlated with the market share data to reach 0.82, guiding enterprises to give priority to improving "battery life"[27]. In 2023, Wang et al. synthesized the weight multiplication of the Delphi and the CRITIC in the regional medical resource fairness assessment. The data sample is 8 indicators including the number of beds per 1,000 people and the density of doctors in 31 provinces in China. The results show that the weight of "primary medical coverage" is significantly higher than other indicators, and the fairness of resource allocation after policy optimization has increased by 20% [28].

In short, the comprehensive integrated empowerment method improves the scientific nature of weight distribution through subjective and objective complementarity, and is widely used in supply chain, medical care, finance and other fields. In practical applications, flexibly select synthesis strategies based on data characteristics and decision-making goals, and verify the rationality of the results based on domain knowledge. In the future, the integration of dynamic weight adjustment and machine learning can be explored to further enhance model adaptability.

4.2 Maximization Method of Square Sum of Dispersion

The integrated integrated empowerment method based on the sum of dispersion squares is to solve the subjective and objective weight allocation coefficient that can maximize the sum of the total dispersion squares between the comprehensive evaluation values of each plan from the perspective of distinction advantageousness of the decision-making plan. For example, Chen et al. used the difference square sum method to comprehensive subjective and objective weights in urban subway line planning, and the comprehensive score division of the optimal solution was increased by 25% compared with the single empowerment method, and the final decision was consistent with the expert voting results[29]. Zhang et al. used this method for regional medical resource fairness assessment, and used the maximization of the squared square of the difference to calculate the index weights to guide the policy optimization of regional medical resource allocation. After policy optimization, the fairness of resource allocation increased by 18%[30]. Wang et al. used the difference square sum method to evaluate the quality of education in 100 universities, and the evaluation results matched 85% with the discipline evaluation ranking of the Ministry of Education[31].

The integrated integrated empowerment method based on the sum of dispersion squares provides a high-precision weight allocation solution for complex decision-making problems by enhancing the solution distinction. The key is to build scientific objective functions and optimization strategies. In actual applications, we need to pay attention to data standardization and algorithm selection. In the future, machine learning can be combined with machine learning to improve the solution efficiency, or fuzzy mathematics can be introduced to process uncertain data.

4.3 Game Theory Integration Method

The comprehensive integrated empowerment method based on game theory is to seek compromise or consistency between different weights of subjective and objective weights, maintain the original information of subjective and objective weights as much as possible, and solve the weight allocation coefficient that is minimized from the subjective and objective weights. For example, in the evaluation of the green supply chain of the automobile manufacturing industry, Zhang et al. used game theory to combine AHP and CRITIC to determine the weight. The data sample is 12 indicators such as carbon emission intensity, recycling rate, and logistics energy consumption of 30 suppliers. The evaluation results match the enterprise ESG ratings at 88%, an increase of 12% compared with the single empowerment method[32]. The advantages of the comprehensive integrated empowerment method based on game theory are mainly reflected in three aspects. One is to achieve weight compromise through mathematical optimization, avoid extreme deviations, and balance subjective and objective conflicts. Second, this method integrates multi-source information, improves the robustness of evaluation, and therefore has strong stability in its empowerment results. The third is that it has a wide range of applicability and is suitable for scenarios where data is highly heterogeneous and subjective and objective differences. In the future, weight allocation can be dynamically optimized in combination with machine learning algorithms, or fuzzy mathematics can be introduced to process uncertainty information.

4.4 Target Optimization Method

The comprehensive integrated empowerment method based on goal optimization is based on the principle of optimal comprehensive decision results. It uses the solution method with the largest comprehensive target value or the largest deviation from the negative ideal solution to calculate the allocation coefficient of subjective and objective weights. For example, Wang et al. used the target optimization empowerment method to evaluate the fairness of medical resources in western China. The data sample was eight indicators such as the number of beds per 1,000 people in 20 cities, the density of doctors, and the fiscal investment. The Delphi and the coefficient of variation method were integrated with the principle of maximizing comprehensive benefits. The results of this study are consistent with health department monitoring data[33]. In the performance evaluation of green buildings, Liu et al. adopted the principle of negative ideal solution deviation maximization combined with hierarchical analysis method and entropy weight method. The data sample is 15 indicators such as energy consumption intensity, material recovery rate, and indoor air quality of 50 buildings. The evaluation results match the LEED certification standards to 90% [34].

The core advantage of the integrated integrated empowerment method based on goal optimization is that first of all, it has decision-oriented nature, can clarify optimization goals, and enhance the practicality of the results; secondly, subjective and objective balance, mathematical optimization model can not only reduce artificial deviations, but also retain dual information of data and experience; finally, the evaluation results are highly consistent with authoritative standards or actual data. In the future, multi-objective optimization algorithms can be combined to handle more complex decision scenarios, or to introduce real-time data dynamic adjustment of weights.

In short, various comprehensive empowerment methods have certain theoretical basis and are specifically solved through mathematical ideas such as linear equation systems and matrix operations. Some methods are simple to integrate and calculate, while others bring a large amount of calculation to the evaluation process. However, there is no absolute difference between the methods, and rational cognition is still needed when applying them in practice.

5 Summary

In the multi-factor evaluation of complex systems, the scientific determination of index weights is the core guarantee for the rationality of evaluation results. Based on a systematic study of subjective empowerment method, objective empowerment method and subjective and objective comprehensive empowerment method, this paper conducts in-depth analysis from method principles, applicable boundaries to practical selection strategies, providing theoretical basis and operational guidance for the selection of empowerment methods in different scenarios. The study found that the selection of indicator empowerment methods is essentially a dynamic balance process between “data law”, “domain knowledge” and “evaluation goals”, but due to different focus, the scope of application varies.

The failed cases of the comprehensive weighting approach demonstrate that reliable evaluation of multi-factor problems depends not only on theoretical 'optimization' but also requires thorough consideration of evaluation model quality, data characteristics, computational feasibility, and generalization capacity. By learning from these lessons, researchers can make wiser choices in integrated strategies, avoid the 'over-complexification' trap, and thereby truly enhance evaluation model performance and improve the reliability of assessment outcomes in practical applications. Therefore, when selecting the multi-factor evaluation index empowerment method, we must analyze specific issues in detail, and select appropriate empowerment methods based on the evaluation object and the actual characteristics of the problem to ensure the relative scientific and rationality of the evaluation results.

At present, significant progress has been made in the research on the empowerment method of multi-factor evaluation indicators, but it still faces challenges such as subjective and objective contradictions, insufficient dynamic adaptability, and weak interpretation of complex scenarios. Future research can be further explored from the following directions to promote the innovative development of indicator empowerment theory and application system for multi-factor evaluation:

Dynamic empowerment technology: combine time series data for analysis, study the dynamic evolution model of weights, and realize dynamic adjustment of weights with data changes.

Multi-method fusion and optimization: Extend to a combination of more than three empowerment methods, such as AHP and entropy weight method and principal component analysis, and optimize weight allocation through intelligent algorithms.

Uncertainty processing: Introduce fuzzy mathematics and gray system theory to deal with the problems of fuzziness and data loss in expert judgments, and improve the robustness of weights.

Interdisciplinary technology application: Combining machine learning and big data analysis, we can realize weight self-learning and adaptive adjustment, and expand the evaluation to emerging fields such as public health, artificial intelligence ethic.

To sum up, the future research on index empowerment methods for multi-factor evaluation problems needs to further break through the limitations of a single method, build an adaptive empowerment framework through the integration of interdisciplinary technologies, and establish a full-process standardization system covering method selection, calculation implementation, and result verification, so as to provide a more accurate weight allocation plan for multi-factor evaluation in the era of smart decision-making.

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