

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**AN INTEGRATED ENTROPY WEIGHT-DEMATEL METHOD BASED ON
THE INTERVAL NEUTROSOPHIC VAGUE SETS AND THEIR
APPLICATION**

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A decision-making trial and evaluation laboratory (DEMATEL) has been used to solve various multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) problems. Previously, fuzzy numbers were used to represent the scale in classical DEMATEL. However, fuzzy numbers are insufficient to solve the indeterminacy and uncertainty information. To manage such information, the new notion is developed by combining interval neutrosophic set (INS) and vague set (VS) called interval neutrosophic vague set (INVS) to enhance the judgment in DEMATEL involving multiple criteria. Then, the two aggregation operators (AOs) are established based on Heronian mean and Shapley fuzzy measure, namely interval neutrosophic vague Shapley improved generalized weighted Heronian mean (INV-SIGWHM) and interval neutrosophic vague Shapley improved generalized geometric weighted Heronian mean (INV-SIGGWHM) operators. These operators are proposed to improve the traditional operator that has neglected the overall interrelationship among input arguments. There are some deficiencies in the DEMATEL method where the criteria weight is neglected in the evaluation process. Hence, this study developed an integrated interval neutrosophic vague entropy weight DEMATEL method (INV-EWDEMATEL) where the weight of the criteria is specified using entropy weight (EW) to improve the final findings. The proposed method, INVS, INV-SIGWHM, INV-SIGGWHM and INV-EWDEMATEL, are applied to an illustrative example to validate their feasibility. An application to a case study of the COVID-19 pandemic is implemented in the proposed method to illustrate

its applicability. Three experts from medical departments were invited to evaluate the prevention factors of the COVID-19 virus based on the designed linguistic variable. According to the findings, “restriction of mass gathering” and “movement control order (MCO)” were the most essential factors in controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The comparative analysis revealed that the proposed method produces different ranking orders from the existing methods. This is due to the inclusion of EW and INVS in the DEMATEL method. In future research, the proposed method can be applied to other decision-making problems by considering different AO and weightage methods.

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**KAEDAH ENTROPI PEMBERAT-DEMATEL BERSEPADU
BERDASARKAN SET SAMAR NEUTROSOFIK SELANG
DAN APLIKASINYA**

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Ujian penilaian dan cubaan membuat keputusan (DEMATEL) telah digunakan untuk menyelesaikan pelbagai masalah dalam membuat keputusan pelbagai kriteria (MCDM). Sebelum ini, nombor kabur digunakan untuk mewakili skala dalam DEMATEL klasik. Walau bagaimanapun, nombor kabur tidak mencukupi untuk menyelesaikan maklumat ketidakpastian dan ketidaktentuan. Untuk mengurus maklumat sedemikian, definisi baru dikembangkan dengan menggabungkan set neutrosifik selang (INS) dan set samar (VS) yang disebut set samar neutrosifik selang (INVS) untuk meningkatkan penilaian dalam DEMATEL yang melibatkan pelbagai kriteria. Kemudian, dua jenis pengendali agregasi (AO) ditubuhkan berdasarkan min Heronian dan ukuran Shapley kabur iaitu selang neutrosifik samar Shapley meningkatkan min Heronian berwajaran umum (INV-SIGWHM) dan selang neutrosifik samar Shapley meningkatkan pengendali Heronian berwajaran geometri umum (INV-SIGGWHM). Pengendali ini dicadangkan untuk meningkatkan pengendali tradisional yang telah mengabaikan hubungan keseluruhan antara hujah input. Terdapat beberapa kekurangan dalam kaedah DEMATEL di mana berat kriteria diabaikan dalam proses penilaian. Oleh itu, kajian ini membangunkan kaedah DEMATEL berat entropi samar neutrosifik bersepadu (INV-EWDEMATEL) di mana berat kriteria ditentukan dengan menggunakan berat entropi (EW) untuk menambah baik penemuan akhir. Kaedah yang dicadangkan, INVS, INV-SIGWHM, INV-SIGGWHM dan INV-EWDEMATEL digunakan pada contoh ilustrasi untuk

menggambarkan kebolehgunaanya. Tiga orang pakar dari Jabatan Perubatan dijemput untuk menilai langkah pencegahan virus COVID-19 berdasarkan pembolehubah linguistik yang direka bentuk. Menurut penemuan, “larangan berkumpul secara beramai-ramai” dan “perintah kawalan pergerakan (PKP)” adalah faktor yang paling penting dalam mengawal penyebaran virus COVID-19. Analisis perbandingan menunjukkan kaedah yang dicadangkan menghasilkan susunan kaedah yang berbeza dari kaedah sedia ada. Ini disebabkan oleh kemasukkan EW dan INVS dalam kaedah DEMATEL. Dalam penyelidikan akan datang, kaedah yang dicadangkan boleh digunakan dalam masalah membuat keputusan lain dengan mempertimbangkan kaedah AO dan pemberat yang berbeza.