

Multi-Criteria Decision Aiding in an industrial context

*C. Labreuche*¹

¹ Thales Research & Technology
Palaiseau, France
email: christophe.labreuche@thalesgroup.com

GdR RO-IA: journée Industrielle

Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 Decision Model
 - Additive Utility
 - Violation of independence
 - Weak independence
 - GAI model
- 3 Explanation
- 4 Synthesis

Decision

Decision Making:

- Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM),
- Decision under uncertainty (DUU),
- Group Decision Making (GDM).

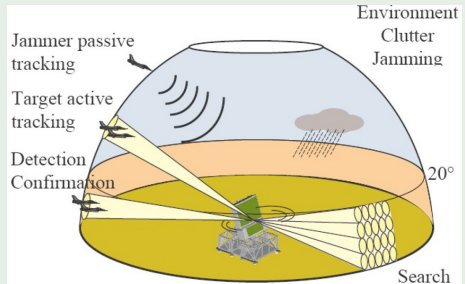
Example of applications at Thales

- Decision Aid for the Design of complex systems
- Decision function within an embedded system

Decision

Example of Decision function in embedded syst: radar management

- Too many tasks to be performed by a radar: search, tracking, ...
- Use of multi-criteria decision function to allocate a priority to each task.



Decision

Needs for the 2 types of decisions

		<i>Syst design</i>	<i>Runtime</i>
Model	Model expressiveness	++	+++
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Experts express complex and subtle decision strategies;</i> • <i>Need for expressive models</i> 		
Post-decision	Explanation of the decision	+++	+
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Very important for decision maker to understand the recommendation</i> 		

Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 Decision Model**
 - Additive Utility
 - Violation of independence
 - Weak independence
 - GAI model
- 3 Explanation
- 4 Synthesis

Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 **Decision Model**
 - **Additive Utility**
 - Violation of independence
 - Weak independence
 - GAI model
- 3 Explanation
- 4 Synthesis

Notation

MCDA setting

- $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$: index set of attributes, descriptors.
- X_i : set of values representing attribute i (for $i \in N$).
- $X = X_1 \times \dots \times X_n$: set of alternatives/acts.
- \succsim : preference relation of the DM over X

Notation

- $(x_A, y_{-A}) \in X$: compound alternative $z \in X$ such that $z_i = x_i$ if $i \in A$ and y_i otherwise

The leading model in MCDA: the additive utility

Additive Utility model

$$x \succsim y \iff U(x) \geq U(y) \quad , \quad U(x) = \sum_{i \in N} u_i(x_i)$$

The Additive Utility model is characterized by the Independence property.

Independence

$A \subseteq N$ is said to be **independent** for \succsim if for all $x_A, y_A \in X_A$ and all $z_{-A}, t_{-A} \in X_{-A}$

$$(x_A, z_{-A}) \succsim (y_A, z_{-A}) \iff (x_A, t_{-A}) \succsim (y_A, t_{-A}).$$

Interpretation: common values on other attributes do not affect preference on A .

The leading model in MCDA: the additive utility

Example (Choice of a car)

3 criteria:

- Colour,
- Type of the car,
- Price

The attributes are preferentially independent if

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{Red}, \text{Sport Car}, 50 \text{ k Euros}) \succ (\text{Gray}, \text{Vintage car}, 50 \text{ k Euros}) \\ \iff & (\text{Red}, \text{Sport Car}, 20 \text{ k Euros}) \succ (\text{Gray}, \text{Vintage car}, 20 \text{ k Euros}) \end{aligned}$$

(this relation shall be true for every subset of criteria, and every common values on the other attributes)

Hence **Red Sport Car** is intrinsically preferred to **Gray Vintage car** ceteris paribus (all else being equal)

Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 **Decision Model**
 - Additive Utility
 - **Violation of independence**
 - Weak independence
 - GAI model
- 3 Explanation
- 4 Synthesis

Violation of independence

Example (Investment selection)

Option	Investment profile	Age	Innovation
A	Niche	Old	Low
B	Niche	New	High
C	Competitive	Old	Low
D	Competitive	New	High

Decision strategies:

- $A \succ B$: for *niche* market, the *age* is the most important criterion;
- $C \prec D$: for *competitive* market, *innovation* is clearly a leading criterion.

⇒ **Violation of independence assumption**

Example of interaction among criteria

Engineering of complex system

Two types of criteria:

- *F*: functional criteria to measure Measures of Performance, Measures of Success. Use of simulation, system models, . . .
- *NF*: non-functional criteria, such as OpEx, CapEx, TRL, . . .

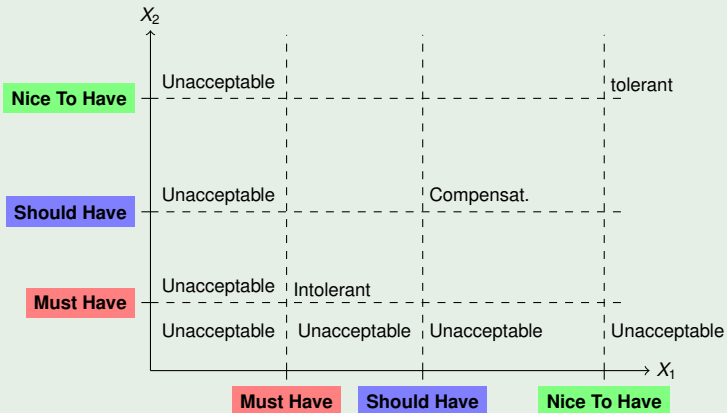
Decision maker's preferences:

- If the functional criteria are not met, then the customer will find the solution unacceptable
 - A very good performance on the non-functional criteria cannot compensate a bad assessment on the functional criteria
- When functional criteria are met, the customer looks carefully at price.

This cannot be represented by an additive model.

Violation of independence

Example (Engineering problem)



Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 **Decision Model**
 - Additive Utility
 - Violation of independence
 - **Weak independence**
 - GAI model
- 3 Explanation
- 4 Synthesis

Towards the definition of partial preference over X_i

Weak independence

\succsim is said to be **weakly independent** if $\{i\}$ is independent for \succsim , for all $i \in N$.

Hence, for all $i \in N$, all $x_i, y_i \in X_i$ and all $z_{-i}, t_{-i} \in X_{-i}$

$$(x_i, z_{-i}) \succsim (y_i, z_{-i}) \iff (x_i, t_{-i}) \succsim (y_i, t_{-i}).$$

Partial preference \succsim_i

If \succsim is weakly independent, then we define \succsim_i by: for all $x_i, y_i \in X_i$

$$x_i \succsim_i y_i \quad \text{if} \quad (x_i, z_{-i}) \succsim (y_i, z_{-i}) \quad \forall z_{-i} \in X_{-i}.$$

Remark: then x_i is at least as good as y_i ceteris paribus.

Towards the definition of partial preference over X_i

Violation of weak independence: car example

3 criteria:

- Colour,
- Type of the car,
- Price

Preferences of the expert:

(**Red** , Sport Car, 50 k Euros) \succ (**Gray** , Sport Car, 50 k Euros)

\iff (**Red** , Family car, 20 k Euros) \prec (**Gray** , Family car, 20 k Euros)

Hence **Red** color is not intrinsically preferred to **Gray** color ceterus paribus (all else being equal)!

Hence weak independence is not satisfied for attribute X_1 .

Towards the definition of partial preference over X_i

Proposition

Let \succsim be a weakly independent weak order on X . Then:

- \succsim_i exists and is a weak order,
- $[x_i \succsim_i y_i \forall i \in N] \Rightarrow x \succsim y$

Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 Decision Model**
 - Additive Utility
 - Violation of independence
 - Weak independence
 - GAI model**
- 3 Explanation
- 4 Synthesis

Generalized Additive Independence (GAI) model

car example

Preferences of the expert:

(**Red** , *Sport Car* , 50 k Euros) \succ (**Gray** , *Sport Car* , 50 k Euros)

\iff (**Red** , *Family car* , 20 k Euros) \prec (**Gray** , *Family car* , 20 k Euros)

- This cannot be represented by an additive utility:

$u_1(\text{Red}) > u_j(\text{Gray})$ by the 1st relation and $u_1(\text{Red}) < u_j(\text{Gray})$ by the 2nd relation.

Generalized Additive Independence (GAI) model

Car Example revisited

- What would do a specialist in Additive Utility to solve this problem?

Group some attributes together: Attributes 1 and 2 interact together.

- New model:

$$x \succsim y \iff u_{1,2}(x_1, x_2) + u_3(x_3) \geq u_{1,2}(y_1, y_2) + u_3(y_3)$$

- With values

$$\begin{array}{ll} u_{1,2}(\text{Red, Sport Car}) = 6 & u_{1,2}(\text{Gray, Sport Car}) = 5 \\ u_{1,2}(\text{Red, Family car}) = 3 & u_{1,2}(\text{Gray, Family car}) = 4 \\ u_3(20 \text{ k Euros}) = 2 & u_3(50 \text{ k Euros}) = 1 \end{array}$$

Then the previous preferences are met.

Generalized Additive Independence (GAI) model

Generalized Additive Independence (GAI) model [*Fishburn'67, Bacchus et al'95*]

The Generalized Additive Independence (GAI) model takes the form

$$U(x) = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{S}} u_S(x_S)$$

where

- \mathcal{S} is a set of subsets of N
- $u_S : X_S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Example

Car example: $\mathcal{S} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3\}\}$

Overlapping case: $\mathcal{S} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}\}$

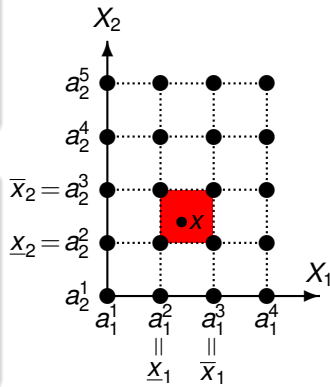
Unknowns of the GAI model

Definition

- Discretization of X_i :
 $\hat{X}_i = \{a_i^1, a_i^2, \dots, a_i^{p_i}\} \subseteq X_i$
- $\hat{X}_S = \prod_{i \in S} \hat{X}_i$
- $v := \{v_S(z_S) : S \in \mathcal{S}, z_S \in \hat{X}_S\}$

Definition (Interpolation)

$$u_S(x_S) = \sum_{A \subseteq S} \left[\prod_{i \in A} \frac{\bar{x}_i - x_i}{\bar{x}_i - \underline{x}_i} \times \prod_{i \in S \setminus A} \frac{x_i - \underline{x}_i}{\bar{x}_i - \underline{x}_i} \times v_S(\underline{x}_A, \bar{x}_{S \setminus A}) \right],$$



We write $u_S(x_S) = \sum_{\hat{x}_S \in \hat{X}_S} \text{coef}_{S, x_S}(\hat{x}_S) v_S(\hat{x}_S)$.

Learning setting

Definition (preferential information)

- $x^q \succeq y^q$, where $x^q, y^q \in X$ and $q \in Q$, means that x^q is judged at least as good as y^q

Learning datum $x^q \succeq y^q$ is transformed into the linear constraint

$$T_q(v) := \sum_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{\hat{x}_S \in \hat{X}_S} (\text{coef}_{S, x^q}(\hat{x}_S) - \text{coef}_{S, y^q}(\hat{x}_S)) v_S(\hat{x}_S) \geq 0$$

Definition (Learning setting)

Find v such that

U is monotone

$$T_q(v) \geq 0 \quad \forall q \in Q.$$

Monotonicity conditions

Definition (Monotonicity conditions)

$\forall x \in X \forall i \in N \forall y_i \in X_i$ with $y_i \succsim_i x_i$

$$U(y_i, x_{N \setminus \{i\}}) \geq U(x)$$

The number of elementary conditions is

$$\sum_{i \in N} \left[(p_i - 1) \times \prod_{j \in N \setminus \{i\}} p_j \right].$$

Example

- $n = 10$, 5 unknowns per attribute ($p_i = 5$)
- \mathcal{S} : all singletons and pairs of attributes.
- Overall number of unknowns is 1125
- Number of monotony constraints: 78 125 000.

Conditions on u_S

Definition (First condition)

In MCDM, we assume that $U(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in X$

In [Greco, Mousseau, Slowinski'2012], the terms u_S (with $|S| = 2$) can take both positive and negative signs.

Example

- Consider $U(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1 + x_2 - \max(x_1, x_2)$, which has a negative term.
- From the relation, $\min(x_1, x_2) + \max(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2$,
- Equivalent expression: $U(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + \min(x_1, x_2)$.

Conditions on u_S

Definition (First condition)

In MCDM, we assume that $U(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in X$

In [Greco, Mousseau, Slowinski'2012], the terms u_S (with $|S| = 2$) can take both positive and negative signs.

Example

- Consider $U(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1 + x_2 - \max(x_1, x_2)$, which has a negative term.
- From the relation, $\min(x_1, x_2) + \max(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2$,
- Equivalent expression: $U(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + \min(x_1, x_2)$.

Assertion

- Is it possible that $u_S(x_S) \geq 0$ for each $S \in \mathcal{S}$?
- Is it possible that each u_S is monotone?

2-additive GAI model

Definition (2-additive GAI model)

The GAI model is said to be 2-additive if \mathcal{S} is composed of only singletons and pairs.

Theorem [*Labreuche, Grabisch. MSS, 2017*]

Let us consider a 2-additive GAI model U that is monotone and non-negative.

Then there exists non-negative and monotone functions $u_{i,j} : X_i \times X_j \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (for every $\{i, j\} \subseteq N$) and non-negative and monotone functions $u_i : X_i \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (for every $i \in N$) such that for all $x \in X$

$$U(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n U_i(x_i) + \sum_{i,j} U_{i,j}(x_i, x_j).$$

2-additive GAI model

Consequence of the Theorem

Instead of enforcing monotonicity condition on U , it is sufficient to impose monotonicity conditions on each term u_S .

For every $S \in \mathcal{S}$ we assume that

- (i) $\forall x_S \in \hat{X}_S, u_S(x_S) \geq 0$,
- (ii) u_S is monotonic w.r.t. \succsim_i for all $i \in S$.

Assumption on u_S

Example

Consider $p_i = 4$ and a 2-additive GAI model. The following chart give the number of monotonicity constraints.

n	4	6	8	10	12
# of monotonicity constraints with U	2 000	75 000	2 500 000	78 125 000	2 343 750 000
# of monotonicity constraints with Th.	256	624	1 152	1 840	2 688
n	14		16		18
# of monotonicity constraints with U	68 359 375 000		1.95313E + 12		5.49316E + 13
# of monotonicity constraints with Th.	3 696		4 864		6 192

Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 Decision Model
 - Additive Utility
 - Violation of independence
 - Weak independence
 - GAI model
- 3 Explanation
- 4 Synthesis

Why shall we explain decisions?

Needs

- EU “General Data Protection Regulation” (2016):
 - ask the “right to explanation” for algorithmic decision-making
 - Due date: May 2018
- Interpretation of the model:
 - increase acceptance of user
- Explanation of a particular decision:
 - Defend the decision to stakeholders

Explanation of the Additive Utility Model

Existing works

Reference	Description
[<i>Klein. 1994</i>] [<i>Carenini, Moore. Artificial Intelligence, 2006</i>]	Compute the degree of influence of each criterion in the decision; and select the most appropriate ones according to this index
[<i>Labreuche. Artificial Intelligence, 2011</i>]	Identify predefined situations and create dedicated explanation schemas in each situation
[<i>Belacene, Labreuche, Maudet, Mousseau, Ouerdane. T&D, 2017</i>]	Transform the comparison by a equivalent sequence of simplest comparisons

Definition of an explanation

Definition [*Belacene, Labreuche, Maudet, Mousseau, Ouerdane. T&D, 2017*]

An explanation of $z \succ z'$ is a sequence

$$z = z[1] \succ z[2] \succ \dots \succ z[q] = z'$$

s.t. for each k : $z[k]$ and $z[k + 1]$ are equal on all attributes except 2.

Remark

This is close to even swap [*Hammond, Keeney, Raiffa'98*].

Additive Utility model

car example

$(Red, Sport Car, 50 k Euros) \succ (Gray, Family car, 25 k Euros)$

because

(i) $(Red, Sport Car, 50 k Euros) \succ (Gray, Sport Car, 45 k Euros)$ as

$(Red, *, 50 k Euros) \succ (Gray, *, 45 k Euros)$

(ii) $(Gray, Sport Car, 45 k Euros) \succ (Gray, Family car, 25 k Euros)$ as

$(*, Sport Car, 45 k Euros) \succ (*, Family car, 25 k Euros)$

Outline

- 1 Context & Motivations
- 2 Decision Model
 - Additive Utility
 - Violation of independence
 - Weak independence
 - GAI model
- 3 Explanation
- 4 **Synthesis**

Synthesis

Critical points for MCDA

- Why using MCDA tools?:
 - Why not simply using Excell?
 - Why not using spider radars?



MCDA added-value

- Methodology:
 - Frame the problem
 - Find the finite set of relevant attributes
 - Take the heat out of the debate among several decision makers
 - Set “rules of the game”; make the assessment method explicit and transparent
 - Why not using spider radars?