# MCDA/M Summer School 2018





# **Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding in action** Decision Deck & diviz

### Miłosz Kadziński

milosz.kadzinski@cs.put.poznan.pl

- 1: Institute of Computing Science, Poznan University of Technology, Poznań, Poland
- 2: Decision Deck Consortium
- 3: EURO Working Group on MCDA & International MCDM Society
- 4: Participant of MCDA/M Summer School in Paris (2010)

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# Essence of MCDA

# A = set of alternatives $g_1$ $g_2$

G = set of criteria

#### **INPUT**

**Alternatives** are evaluated on multiple preference dimensions (criteria, attributes)

#### OUTPUT

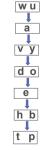
Help to work out the **recommendation**, i.e. to determine the best alternatives, rank them or assign to ordered classes

By taking into account the preferences of the decision maker

#### sorting



# ranking



# Agenda

#### How does software situation look in MCDA?

- many methods / software
- great need for unified software framework



#### Decision Deck - Decision what?

- XMCDA, MCDA web services, diviz
- diviz: design, execution and deployment tool
- live demo and "hands on training"



#### A bit of methodological summary for illustrative purpose

- focus on value- and outranking based methods
- "reinvent" methods on your own





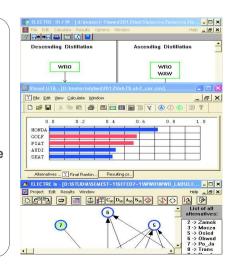
www.cs.put.poznan.pl/mkadzinski/MCDASummerSchool/

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# Software situation in MCDA

- · many different methods
- many **separate** software products
  - heteregeneous user interfaces
- no standard data format and unified software to test the same problem on various methods
- many algorithms not easily available
- often not free (financial and open source)
- existing MCDA methods cannot communicate





# MCDA software overview

#### UTA

UTA+, Visual UTA, Right Choice, DECERNS, UTADIS

#### ELECTRE

Electre Is. Electre III-IV. Electre Tri. IRIS. MCDA-ULaval

JSMAA VIP (MAVT) M-MACBETH iMAF (DRSA) 1000 minds Quantum-GIS

plugins

#### AHP/ANP

Make It Rational. Web HIPRE. Expert Choice, Decision Lens, Super Decision

#### **PROMETHEE**

Decision Lab. D-Sight. Smart Picker Pro, Visual Promethee, **DECERNS** 

Check software sections at the websites of EWG-MCDA and MCDM society:

- http://www.cs.put.poznan.pl/ewgmcda/
- http://www.mcdmsociety.org/



A. Ishizaka, P. Nemery, Multi-criteria Decision Analysis: Methods and Software, Wiley, 2013

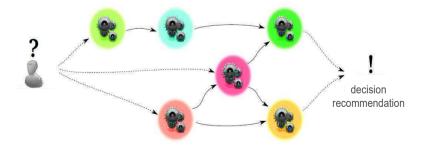
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# How are MCDA methods designed?

- MCDA methods are **sequences** of *elementary* algorithms
- MCDA methods share a lot of similarities
- MCDA methods need to be adaptable to the given practical case



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#### **Decision Deck project**

aims at collaboratively developing open source software tools implementing Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding methods and concepts

Its **purpose** is to provide effective tools to three types of users:

- practitioners (consultants / analysts) who use MCDA tools to support actual decision makers
- researchers who want to test, compare or develop methods
- teachers and students who present / use MCDA methods in courses

Promote MCDA research and make it more visible to the "outside" world

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# Focus on three initiatives from Decision Deck project

# **XMCDA** – to make algorithms interoperable

- a data standard for MCDA
- standardized format to represent objects and data structures issued from MCDA



#### XMCDA web services -

- to make algorithms easily available
- algorithmic components or complete MCDA methods accessible online
- reuse of existing implementations



# diviz - to create complex algorithmic workflows

- · open source Java client and server
- · web services compositions, workflow management and deployment

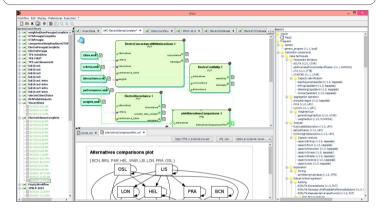




# diviz software

#### Just download it and run - www.diviz.org/download

- no need to install (although possible, for different operating systems)
- platform independent jar
- requirement for the Internet access and Java installed (=commonplace)



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# The data = Thierry's choice problem

- In 1993, **Thierry**, a student aged 21, is passionate about sports cars and wishes to buy a middle range 4 years old car with a powerful engine
- He selects three viewpoints related to cost (criterion  $q_1$ ), performance of the engine (criteria  $g_2$  and  $g_3$ ) and safety (criteria  $g_4$  and  $g_5$ )
- The cost criterion  $g_1(\mathbf{\xi})$  and the performance criteria acceleration  $g_2(\mathbf{\xi})$ (seconds) and pick up  $g_3$  (seconds) have to be minimized, whereas the safety criteria brakes  $g_4$  and road-hold  $g_5$  have to be maximized
- The values of the safety criteria are average evaluations obtained from multiple qualitative evaluations which have been re-coded as integers between 0 and 4



D. Bouyssou, T. Marchant, M. Pirlot, P. Perny, A Tsoukias, P. Vincke, Evaluation and Decision Model, A critical perspective, Kluwer, 2000

# Lecture aims

#### diviz

- open source Java client and server
- a tool for designing complex MCDA workflows via the XMCDA web-services



- study a *classical* multiple criteria decision problem: Thierry's car choice problem
- learn how to use the diviz software
- use diviz as a decision support tool

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# Thierry's choice - performance matrix

#### five criteria

	car ID	car name	cost	accel.	pick up	brakes	road-hold
			(g1, €)	(g2, s)	(g3, s)	(g4)	(g5)
fourteen alternatives	a01	Tipo	18342	30.7	37.2	2.33	3
	a02	Alfa	15335	30.2	41.6	2	2.5
	a03	Sunny	16973	29	34.9	2.66	2.5
	a04	Mazda	15460	30.4	35.8	1.66	1.5
	a05	Colt	15131	29.7	35.6	1.66	1.75
	a06	Corolla	13841	30.8	36.5	1.33	2
	a07	Civic	18971	28	35.6	2.33	2
	a08	Astra	18319	28.9	35.3	1.66	2
	a09	Escort	19800	29.4	34.7	2	1.75
	a10	R19	16966	30	37.7	2.33	3.25
	a11	P309-16	17537	28.3	34.8	2.33	2.75
	a12	P309	15980	29.6	35.3	2.33	2.75
	a13	Galant	17219	30.2	36.9	1.66	1.25
_	a14	R21t	21334	28.9	36.7	2	2.25

Table: Which car should Thierry buy?

# Multi-Atttribute Value Theory

Natural **extension of the weighted sum** which takes into acount the non-linearity of preferences:

$$aPb \leftrightarrow U(a) > U(b)$$
 where  $U(a) = f(u_1(g_1(a)), ..., u_n(g_n(a)))$ 



Various possible aggregation models, but here:

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# MAVT - weights

Step 2: determine the weights (scale coefficients)  $w_i$ 

For example: Rank Order Centroid (ROC) method

Order the criteria from the most to the least important

$$W_1 > W_2 > W_3 > W_4 > W_5$$

• Compute the weight for criterion with rank  $r_k$  as follows:

$$w(r_k) = 1/n \sum_{j=k...n} 1/j$$
  
 $w(r_1) = 1/5 \sum_{j=1...5} 1/j = 1/5 (1/1 + 1/2 + 1/3 + 1/4 + 1/5) = 0.457$   
 $w(r_2) = 1/5 \sum_{j=2...5} 1/j = 1/5 (1/2 + 1/3 + 1/4 + 1/5) = 0.257$   
 $w(r_3) = 0.157, w(r_4) = 0.09, w(r_5) = 0.04$ 

 Weights reflect the centroid (centre of mass) of the simplex defined by the ranking of the criteria; they are normalized to sum up to 1

Step 3: compute the comprehensive value of each alternative

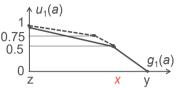
$$U(a) = \sum_{i} w_{i} \cdot u_{i}(g_{i}(a)) = w_{1} \cdot u_{1}(g_{1}(a)) + ... + w_{n} \cdot u_{n}(g_{n}(a))$$

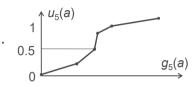
#### 

# MAVT - marginal (partial) value functions

#### Step 1:

- **Determine a value function**  $u_j$  for each criterion such that  $u_j(g_j(a))$  represents the value of a on criterion  $g_i$ , and read off  $u_i(g_i(a))$  for  $g_i(a)$
- The u<sub>j</sub> repesents the decision maker's preferences (and not a normalization of the data)





For example: bisection method

- Define the performances that correspond to values 0 and 1
- Indicate a performance x such that changing from the 0-value performance to x increases the value as much as changing from x to the 1-value performance - the selected midpoint corresponds to value 0.5
- Use **the same process** to bisect the interval of [0,0.5] and/or [0.5,1], etc.

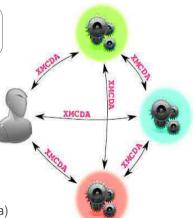
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# Goals of XMCDA standard

#### **XMCDA**

- a data standard for MCDA
- A unique communication language with and between MCDA algorithms
- Standarization and unification of multiple schools of thought
- Representation of MCDA data elements in XML according to a grammar (the XMCDA XML schema)



# How to define MCDA inputs in XMCDA?

#### **EXEMPLARY INPUTS**

MCDA concept = the list of alternatives

```
<alternatives>
    <alternative id="a01" name="TIPO">
       <type> real </type>
    </alternative>
    <alternative id="fictiveBest" name="IDEAL ALTERNATIVE">
        <type> fictive </type>
    </alternative>
                                    XMCDA types = structures created to
 </alternatives>
                                        represent MCDA concepts
• MCDA concept = criteria weights
 <criteriaValues mcdaConcept="Importance"/name="significance">
    <criterionValue>
       <criterionID> g1 </criterionID>
       <value>
           <real> 0.457 </real>
        </value>
    </criterionValue>
 </criteriaValues>
```

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# Quick guide to XMCDA

- Possible to store advanced preference information on alternatives, criteria, and classes as well results typical for MCDA applications
- For details, see <a href="http://www.decision-deck.org/xmcda">http://www.decision-deck.org/xmcda</a>
- In particular, have a look at the Quick guide to XMCDA
- Work with examples available on-line (whenever anyone is using XMCDA, (s)he is obliged to make the examples available for testing purposes)
- In order to avoid the writing of XMCDA, csvToXMCDA-\* converters are available (see practical work hereafter)

#### 

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# How are MCDA outputs represented in XMCDA?

#### **EXEMPLARY OUTPUTS**

MCDA concept = ranks of the alternatives

```
<alternativesValues mcdaConcept="alternativesRanks">
      <alternativeValue>
        <alternativeID> a01 </alternativeID>
        <value>
          <real> 3 </real>
        </value>
      </alternativeValue>
                                        XMCDA types = structures created to
                                            represent MCDA concepts
 </alternativesValues>

    MCDA concept = pair-wise (preference, outranking) relations

  <alternativesComparisons>
      <pairs>
        <pair>
          <initial> <alternativeID> a01 </alternativeID> </initial>
          <terminal> <alternativeID> a02 </alternativeID> </terminal>
        </pair>
     </pairs>
  </alternativesComparisons>
```

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# diviz demo (1)

Help Thierry to choose the car which is "best" for him



TIME FOR DEMO **MAVT** 

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# Motivation for XMCDA web services

#### XMCDA web-services

- MCDA algorithms which are made available for anybody over the Internet
- Reuse of existing implementations



#### **MCDA** researchers

- are often not computer scientists
- have programmed their algorithms in the programming language they know best

#### Idea

- allow researchers publishing their programs online
- require input / output in the XMCDA format

#### Maintained by the IMT Atlantique diviz team

Contributors: Poznań, Brest, Paris, Luxembourg, Tarragona, Mons, Rotterdam, Lyon, Coimbra, Brussels, you?



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# Why XMCDA web services are useful?

#### **MCDA** web services

- MCDA algorithms which are made available for anybody over the Internet
- reuse of existing implementations



- Elementary procedures/algorithms available as separate software pieces
- If properly chained, they would rebuild the original method
  - Remove the black box effect of certain software
  - Better understand the heart of the methods
  - Avoid repeated implementation of the same algorithms

#### 

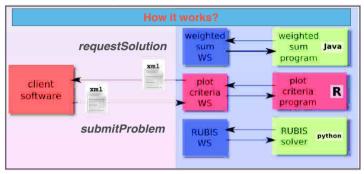
# How to use XMCDA web services?

#### How to use XMCDA web services?

• Via various client softwares, in particular via diviz

#### What data is exchanged?

XML files respecting the XMCDA standard



#### What are the main advantages?

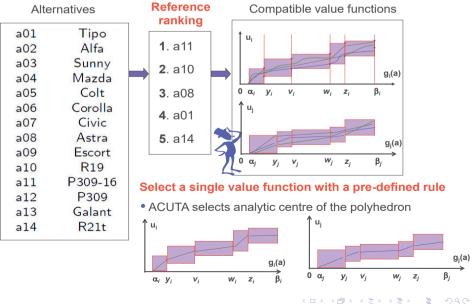
- Heavy calculations on a distant server in France
- Output of a web service can be reiniected into another web service



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# UTA-like methods



# UTA-like methods: step by step

#### Step 1: Provide preference information:

ranking (pairwise comparisons) of reference alternatives (e.g., a11 > a10 > a08 > a01 > a14)and number of segments for each marginal value function (e.g., all marginal functions are linear = 1 linear piece)

#### Step 2: Select a central value function according to a pre-defined rule

for example, ACUTA selects an analytic centre (UTAMP, UTASTAR, ...)

#### Step 3: Compute marginal values for all alternatives

for example,  $u_1(a01) = u_1(18323) = 0.16$ , etc.

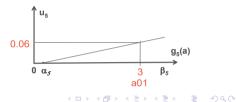
#### Step 4: Compute comprehensive values

for example,  $U(a01) = u_1(a01) + ... + u_5(a01) = 0.16 + ... + 0.06 = 0.45$ 

#### Step 5: Rank alternatives w.r.t. their comprehensive values

for example, 1. a03 - 0.73, 2. a11 - 0.71, ..., 12. a01 - 0.45, etc.





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# diviz demo (2)



# TIME FOR DEMO UTA & ACUTA

#### 

# More advanced preference information in XMCDA

#### **XMCDA**

- modeling reference ranking
- a11> a10 > a08 > ...

- · defining shape of marginal value functions
  - one segment for q<sub>1</sub> and q<sub>2</sub>

```
<alternativesValues>
<alternativeValue>
<alternativeID>a11</alternativeID>
  <value>
     <integer>1</integer>
  </value>
</alternativeValue>
<alternativeValue>
<alternativeID>a10</alternativeID>
  <value>
      <integer>2</integer>
  </value>
</alternativeValue>
```

```
<criteriaValues</pre>
    mcdaConcept="numberOfSegments">
     <criterionValue>
   <criterionID>q1</criterionID>
        <value>
        <integer>1</integer>
     </value>
    </criterionValue>
  <criterionValue>
    <criterionID>q2</criterionID>
        <value>
          <integer>1</integer>
        </value>
   </criterionValue>
<criteriaValues>
```

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# Essence of diviz software

#### diviz

</alternativesValues>

- open source Java client and server
- web services compositions, workflow management and deployment



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#### Available components = algorithmic elements available via XMCDA web services

- Calculation components, e.g. aggregation operators, post-analysis elements, etc.
- Components with full MCDA methods
- Visualization components
- Reporting/comparison components

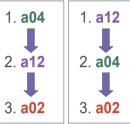
# What is nice about diviz (so far)?

- Access to multiple methods
- Interface and logic is the same, although methods may differ a lot
- Construction of MCDA workflows (=methods) from elementary components
- Comparing logic and outcomes of different approaches
  - compare rankings obtained with different methods by visual means or with Kendall's coefficient

how many pairwise comparisons agreed/not? 1 – full agreement, -1 – disagreement

• Easy to prepare input and share output

• workflow: import / export options

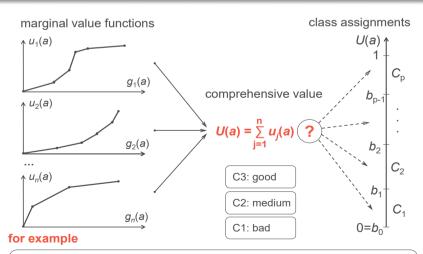


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# Threshold-based value driven sorting



- The lower and upper threshold for class *medium* (C2) are 0.4 and 0.7.
- If U(a10) = 0.5,  $(0.4 \le 0.5 < 0.7)$ , it would be assigned to class medium.

# diviz demo (3)



# **TIME FOR DEMO**

# COMPARING RESULTS OF DIFFERENT METHODS

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# Basic Robust Ordinal Regression for sorting

#### preference information

#### assignment examples

- a12 should be assigned to class good: a12  $\rightarrow$  C3
- a04 should not be assigned to class bad: a04 → [C2, C3]

#### preference model

set of all value functions and class thresholds compatible with DM's preference



#### results

#### assignments

- necessary assignment confirmed by all compatible models
- possible assignment confirmed by at least one compatible model

exploitation with

linear programming

# Different types of input preference information

# assignment examples

a12 should be assigned to class good: a12 → C3

a04 should not be assigned to class bad: a04  $\rightarrow$  [C2, C3]

#### assignment-based pairwise comparisons

a03 is better than a05 by at least one class

The class difference between a07 and a01 is at most one

a11 and a12 should be assigned to the same class

#### desired class cardinalities

At most 5 cars can be assigned to class good

At least 40% of cars should be assigned to class bad

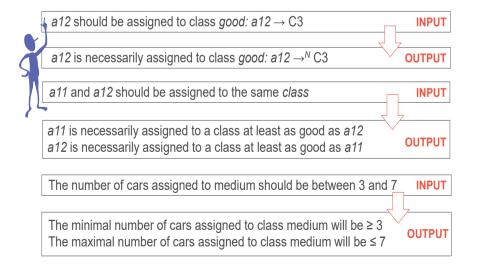
The number of cars assigned to class *medium* should be between 3 and 7



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# Preference information reflected in results



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# Different types of output sorting results

assignment examples assignment-based pair-wise comparisons desired class cardinalities

preference information

set of all value functions and class thresholds compatible with DM's preference

recommendation

exploitation with linear programming

assignments

assignment-based class preference relations cardinalities

#### variety of results

necessary = for all, possible = for at least one extreme = the most and the least advantageous

#### for example:

- necessary assignment-based preference relation: a05 is necessarily assigned to a class at least as good as a06
- · extreme class cardinalities: the minimal/maximal number of cars assigned to class medium is 5

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# Results motivate enrichment of preference information

Possible assignment too wide **OUTPUT** Add more precise assignment example **INPUT** Alternatives incomparable in terms of the necessary assignment-based relation Add additional assignment-based pairwise comparison **INPUT** Class cardinalities very imprecise **OUTPUT** Add more precise requirements on desired class cardinalities **INPUT EVOLUTION OF RESULTS WITH GROWTH OF PREFERENCE INFORMATION** Possible assignments become more precise Necessary assignment-based preference relation is enriched Extreme class cardinalities get closer to each other

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# diviz demo (4)



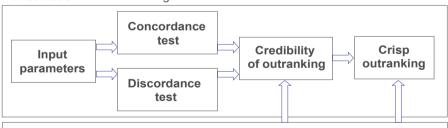
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# ELECTRE methods: step by step

Construction of an outranking relation



Exploitation of outranking relation in a way specific for ranking, choice or sorting

#### **CHOICE**

- ELECTRE I
- ELECTRE Iv
- ELECTRE Is

• ...

#### **RANKING**

- ELECTRE II
- ELECTRE III
- ELECTRE IV
- ...

# SORTING

ELECTRE TRI-B

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- ELECTRE TRI-C
- ELECTRE TRI-rC
- MR-SORT
- THESEUS

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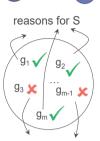
# Outranking preference model

a outranks b (aSb) if the arguments of a decision maker in favour
of the statement "a is at least as good as b" are strong enough
and there arguments oppposite to this statements are weak





- These arguments are based on:
  - The evaluations of a and b on the various criteria
  - Information on the preference of the decision maker: criteria weight (w<sub>j</sub>), indifference (q<sub>j</sub>), preference (p<sub>j</sub>), pre-veto (discordance) (pv<sub>j</sub>) and veto (v<sub>j</sub>) thresholds for each criterion, and cutting level (λ)
- Remark: if no argument can be found neither in favour of aSb nor in favour of bSa → incomparability



reasons against S

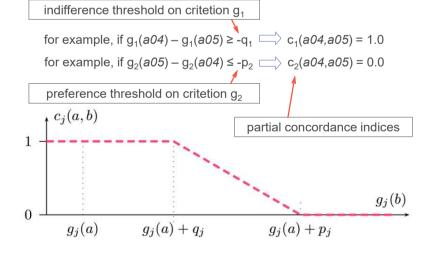
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# Partial concordance indices

### Compute partial concordance index for each pair of alternatives



# Comprehensive concordance index

#### Compute comprehensive concordance index for each pair of objects:

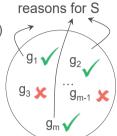
the contribution of all criteria to the proposition aSb

$$C(a,b) = \sum_{j} w_{j} \cdot c_{j}(a,b) = w_{1} \cdot c_{1}(a,b) + w_{2} \cdot c_{2}(a,b) + ... + w_{n} \cdot c_{n}(a,b)$$

weight associated with criterion  $g_j$  $\sum_{i=1...n} w_i = 1$ 

#### More adavanced options account for:

- Interactions between criteria (mutual strengthening, mutual weakening, antagonistic effect)
- Reinforced preference effect (very strong reasons for S)



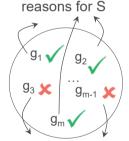
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# Credbility = valued outranking relation

The (valued) outranking relation can be defined by a **credibility index**  $\sigma(a,b)$ :

- if no criterion is discordant: σ(a,b) = C(a,b)
- if at least one criterion is discordant:  $\sigma(a,b) < C(a,b)$
- if  $d_i(a,b)=1$  for at least one criterion:  $\sigma(a,b)=0$



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other options (no denominator):

reasons against S

Formulation:

$$\sigma(a,b) = C(a,b) \prod_{j \in F} \frac{1-d_j(a,b)}{1-C(a,b)}$$

where  $F = \{j : d_j(a,b) > C(a,b)\}$ 

also computable without weights as in ELECTRE IV

instead of all sufficiently great arguments against outranking, account only for **the greatest (max) one** (not product, but max)

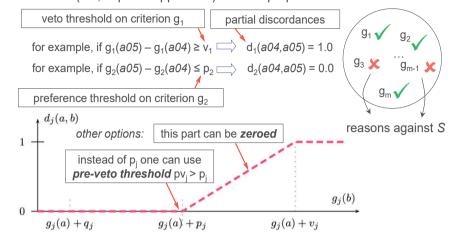
instead of all **sufficiently great** arguments against outranking, include **all** arguments againts (no j∈F)

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# Partial discordance indices

• Compute partial discordance: measures the degree to which a criterion is discordant (i.e., express opposition) with the proposition aSb



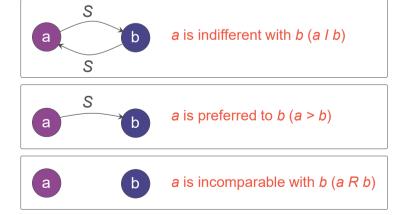
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# Crisp outranking relation

Comparison of a credibility index with **cutting level**  $\lambda$  (is it high enough?)

$$\sigma(a,b) \ge \lambda \Rightarrow aSb$$

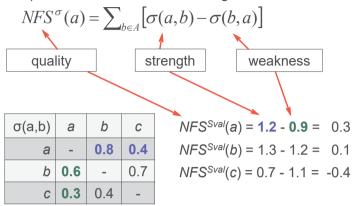


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# Net Flow Score procedure

#### NFS(a) = strength(a) - weakness(a)

• exploitation of a **valued** outranking relation



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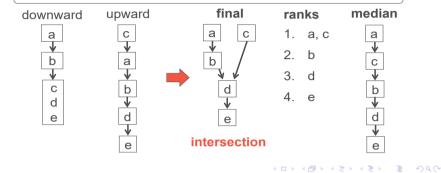
diviz demo (5)



# TIME FOR DEMO RANKING WITH ELECTRE

# **ELECTRE III** - distillation procedures

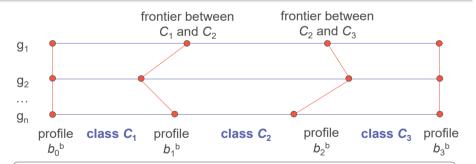
- distillation procedure exploiting a valued outranking relation
- downward pre-order (constructed top-down)
  - identify alternatives A₁ with the greatest quality
- put  $A_1$  at the top, and continue with  $A/A_1$ , etc.
- **upward** pre-order (constructed bottom-up)
  - identify alternatives A₁ with the least quality
  - put  $A_1$  at the bottom, and continue with  $A/A_1$ , etc.



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# **ELECTRE TRI-B**

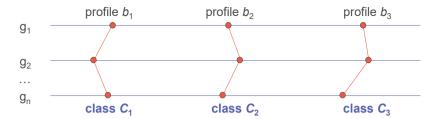


- **boundary profiles** used for modeling the frontiers between classes
- two disjoint assignment rules for assignment of alternative a
- pessimistic rule
  - start from the best profile
  - $\blacksquare$  find the first profile  $b_b{}^b$ :  $a S b_b{}^b$
  - select C<sub>h+1</sub>

#### **■** optimistic rule

- start from the worst profile
- $\blacksquare$  find the first profile  $b_b{}^b:b_b{}^b>a$
- select C<sub>h</sub>

# **ELECTRE TRI-rC**



- characteristic profiles formed from the class representative criteria values
- two **conjoint assignment rules** for assignment of alternative *a* indicating:
- **■** the worst class of a
- start from the second best profile
- $\blacksquare$  find the first profile  $b_h$ :

$$a > b_h$$
 and  $\sigma(a, b_{h+1}) > \sigma(b_h, a)$ 

■ select C<sub>h+1</sub>

- the best class of a
- start from the second worst profile
- $\blacksquare$  find the first profile  $b_h$ :

$$b_h > a$$
 and  $\sigma(b_{h-1}, a) > \sigma(a, b_h)$ 

- select C<sub>h-1</sub>
- indications of these two rules combined into a recommended class interval

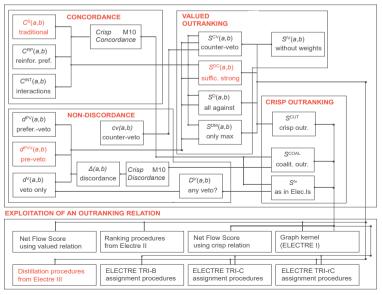
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# Construct your own ELECTRE

#### CONSTRUCTION OF AN OUTRANKING RELATION



#### 

# diviz demo (6)



# TIME FOR DEMO **SORTING WITH ELECTRE**



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# diviz in 2018

#### What diviz is?

- tool for MCDA component workflow
- simple data visualization tool
- platform independent and open source



UTA, UTASTAR, ACUTA, UTAMP, Robust Ordinal Regression (UTA-GMS), RUTA, Extreme Ranking Analysis, SMAA-2, Stochastic Ordinal Regression

**ROR-UTADIS** (including UTADIS-GMS)

Aggregation operators: weighted sum, OWA, Choquet integral, etc.

Visualisation, descriptive stats, reports, comparison methods, and many many more ©

"Construct your own Electre" "Construct your own Promethee" over 1000 variants of

Electre and Promethee

Rubis, MR-Sort, clustering

Data Envelopment Analysis: CCR and value-based model robust and stochastic analysis

# Summary (1)

#### Make MCDA software publicly available

- "I like the procedure described in this paper, where can I test it?"
- Both the traditional methods and brand new ones



#### Decompose the MCDA methods into elementary components

- Give the possibility to create workflow of such components
- MCDA methods, algorithmic components and data visualization modules are available as web services
- Components can interoperate via the XMCDA standard

Have you ever wished what would happen if...? How do the results of one methods differ from these of another one?



#### Expect more from us....

...on both visual and methodological sites



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#### Hands on exercises

- Construction of some of the previously presented "method" in diviz
- Help Thierry to choose the car which is "best" for him
- 2 roles in each group:
  - The analyst constructs the MCDA algorithmic workflows
  - The decision maker (Thierry) is guestioned by the analyst on his/her preferences

# **Practical work (see detailed instructions)**

- Multi-Attribute Value Theory Electre III (steps E) (steps V)
- - Promethee (steps P)

• UTA (steps U)

• Comparing results (steps C)



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# Summary (2)

#### How you can help the project?

- Join the Decision Deck Consortium
- Test the software & send us your opinion
- Let us know what you need



#### Important websites

- http://www.decision-deck.org
- http://www.diviz.org, @divizMCDA, +diviz all information on diviz
- getting help: http://www.diviz.org/contact
- S. Bigaret, P. Mever, M. Kadziński, V. Mousseau, M. Pirlot, ...



R. Bisdorff, L. Dias, P. Meyer, V. Mousseau, M. Pirlot, *Evaluation* and Decision Models with Multiple Criteria, Springer, 2015



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