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Interval-valued Pythagorean Fuzzy Frank Power Aggregation Operators based on An Isomorphic Frank Dual Triple

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Abstract

Interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy sets (PFSs), as an extension of PFSs, have strong potential in the management of complex uncertainty in real-world applications. This study aims to develop several interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy Frank power (IVPFFP) aggregation operators with an adjustable parameter via the integration of an isomorphic Frank dual triple. First, a special automorphism on unit interval is introduced to construct an isomorphic Frank dual triple; and this triple is further applied on the definition of interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy Frank operational laws. Second, two IVPFFP aggregation operators with the inclusion of an adjustable parameter are defined on the basis of the proposed operational laws, and several instrumental properties are then investigated. Furthermore, some limiting cases of the proposed IVPFFP operators are analyzed with respect to the varying adjustable parameter values. Finally, an IVPFFP aggregation operator-based multiple attribute group decision-making model is developed with a practical example furnished to demonstrate its feasibility and efficiency. The power that the adjustable parameter exhibits has been leveraged to affect the final decision results, and the proposed IVPFFP operators are compared with three selected aggregation operators to demonstrate their advantages provided with a practical example.

Keywords: Interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy numbers; Frank dual triple; Frank power operators.

1. Introduction

The term Pythagorean fuzzy set (PFS)\textsuperscript{1,2} was coined by Yager as a powerful extension of intuitionistic fuzzy set (IFS)\textsuperscript{3}. PFS, akin to IFS, is composed of membership grade $\mu$ and nonmembership grade $\nu$ and is further delivered to form a binary group representation. The core distinction between IFS and PFS is reflected in the constraint of the grade pairs, which is $\mu + \nu \leq 1$ for IFS and is $\mu^2 + \nu^2 \leq 1$ for PFS. PFSs include IFSs as a whole and pose few barriers of information representation. A plethora of practical applications of PFS have demonstrated its utility in addressing multiple attribute group decision-making.
(MAGDM) problems\textsuperscript{4–9,36}. The main characteristic of the membership and nonmembership degrees of PFS is that their values are often expressed as real numbers. However, in certain cases, decision makers (DMs) may only be able to provide a range of values for these grades. Consequently, PFS is not applicable to these cases. In view of this deficiency, the notion of interval-valued PFS (IVPFS) was further developed\textsuperscript{10,11}. IVPFS enables DMs to express their uncertainty via the provision of interval-valued membership and nonmembership values. Several researchers have conducted related studies on the application of IVPFS in MAGDM\textsuperscript{10–13}.

In developing various fuzzy sets such as IFS, hesitant fuzzy set (HFS) and hesitant-intuitionistic (or dual hesitant) fuzzy set, the basic operations for them play an indispensable role, which is also not an exception for IVPFS. However, few studies on the operations for IVPFS have been conducted\textsuperscript{10,11}, especially the generalized operations. In fact, some generalized operations on various types of extended fuzzy sets have been developed on the basis of the Frank dual triple, such as intuitionistic Frank operations\textsuperscript{14,15}, interval-valued intuitionistic Frank operations\textsuperscript{16}, hesitant Frank operations\textsuperscript{17}, triangular interval type-2 fuzzy Frank operations\textsuperscript{18}, interval intuitionistic linguistic Frank operations\textsuperscript{19} and dual hesitant fuzzy Frank operations\textsuperscript{20}. The Frank dual triple consists of a standard negation, Frank t-norm, and its dual s-norm\textsuperscript{21} with the adjustable parameter $\chi$. A desirable feature of this triple is that DMs can select different values to obtain various types of dual triple. In the cases of $\chi \to 1$ and $\chi \to \infty$, for example, then Frank dual triple will reduce to the algebraic dual triple and the Lukasiewicz dual triple, respectively. However, a numerical example will be provided to reveal that the Frank dual triple is not suitable for defining the generalized operations on IVPFSs. In view of the reasons mentioned before, an automorphism on $[0, 1]$ will be introduced in this study to develop an isomorphic Frank dual triple, which includes an isomorphic Frank t-norm, an isomorphic Frank s-norm and the Pythagorean negation\textsuperscript{11,12}. Then, this new dual triple can be used to define the Frank operations on IVPFSs.

A core step of MAGDM is to aggregate multiple assessment matrixes into a synthesis assessment matrix, which is often performed by appropriately selecting aggregation operators\textsuperscript{31,32}. Recently, some aggregation operators have been proposed to fuse multiple interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy numbers (IVPFN), such as IVPFWA and IVPFWG aggregation operators\textsuperscript{10,12,13}. To deal with the correlation among the input arguments in MAGDM problems, many studies\textsuperscript{22–25} have used power average (PA) to successfully model such situation\textsuperscript{26}. Thus, in this study, the PA and power geometric (PG) operators\textsuperscript{27} were extended to IVPFSs. Inspired by their research, the Frank operational laws will be used to propose the interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy Frank power weighted average (IVPFPPWAW) and interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy Frank power weighted geometric (IVPFPPWG) aggregation operators. A prominent feature of the aggregation weights for the two aggregation operators is that they not only consider the importance of experts but also depend upon the supports from the remaining input IVPFNs. Moreover, the relationships between the Pythagorean Frank aggregation operators and their related adjustable parameters will be analyzed, and some limiting cases of these operators will as well be investigated. Finally, by applying the proposed Frank aggregation operators, a novel decision-making approach is constructed to deal with the MAGDM problem with IVPFNs. With the numerical example provided, the relationship between the proposed aggregation operators and their adjustable parameters can be explained accordingly.

The rest of paper is structured as follows. Relevant definitions of IVPFSs are reviewed in Section 2. Section 3 proposes an isomorphic Frank dual triple, which is then used to define the Frank operations for IVPFSs. Subsequently, the IVPFPWA and IVPFWG aggregation operators are developed in Section 4. Section 5 applies the proposed aggregation operators to develop a simple decision-making approach to solving MAGDM with IVPFNs. An illustrative example is provided to verify the proposed approach in Section 6. Finally, section 7 concludes this paper.
2. Preliminaries

Relevant definitions of IVPFSs are reviewed and the dual triple, which consists of t-norm, s-norm, and negation, is introduced along with its components. Particular attention will be paid to the Frank dual. We then provide the definition of isomorphism dual triple, which is essential in this study.

2.1. Related definitions of IVPFSs

**Definition 1.** Let $K$ denote a finite universal set, and then a IFS $B$ on $K$ is provided as

$$B = \{ \langle q, \mu_B(q), v_B(q) \rangle | q \in K \},$$

where $\mu_B : K \to [0,1]$ is the membership function, $v_B : K \to [0,1]$ is the nonmembership function of $B,$ and $\mu_B(q) + v_B(q) \leq 1$. We call the two tuples $(\mu_B(q), \mu_B(q))$ as intuitionistic fuzzy number (IFN) and simply express it as $B = (\mu_B, v_B)$, where $\mu_B, v_B \in [0,1]$ and $\mu_B + v_B \leq 1$.

**Definition 2.** Given a finite universal set $K$, a PFS $P$ on $K$ is defined as

$$P = \{ \langle y, \mu_P(y), v_P(y) \rangle | y \in K \},$$

where $\mu_P : K \to [0,1]$ is the membership function, $v_P : K \to [0,1]$ is the nonmembership function of $P$ and $\mu_P^2(y) + \mu_P^2(y) \leq 1$. We call the two tuples $(\mu_P(y), v_P(y))$ as Pythagorean fuzzy number (PFN) and simply express it as $\beta = (\mu_p, \nu_p)$, where $\mu_p, \nu_p \in [0,1]$ and $\mu_p^2 + \nu_p^2 \leq 1$.

**Definition 3.** Given a finite universal set $K$, and IVPFS $\bar{P}$ on $K$ is provided by

$$\bar{P} = \{ \langle p, \bar{\mu}_p(p), \bar{v}_p(p) \rangle | p \in K \},$$

where $\bar{\mu}_p : K \to \varepsilon([0,1])$ and $\bar{v}_p : K \to \varepsilon([0,1])$ are the membership and nonmembership functions, respectively. In addition, $\sup(\bar{\mu}_p^2(p)) + \sup(\bar{v}_p^2(p)) \leq 1$. $\varepsilon([0,1])$ is the set of all closed intervals in $[0,1]$, and we call the two tuples $(\bar{\mu}_p, \bar{v}_p)$ as interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy number (IVPFN). If we let $\bar{\mu}_p(p) = [p^-, p^+]$ and $\bar{v}_p(p) = [q^-, q^+]$, then IVPFN can be expressed as $\bar{P} = ([p^-, p^+], [q^-, q^+])$, where $(p^+)^2 + (q^+)^2 \leq 1$.

**Definition 4.** Let $\bar{P}_1 = ([p_1^-, p_1^+], [q_1^-, q_1^+])$ ($l = 1, 2$) be two IVPFNs, and their natural partial order relation are provided as follows:

1. $\bar{P}_1 \preceq \bar{P}_2$ iff $p_1^- = p_2^-, p_1^+ = p_2^+, q_1^- = q_2^-$ and $q_1^+ = q_2^+$.
2. $\bar{P}_1 \preceq \bar{P}_2$ iff $p_1^- \leq p_2^-, p_1^+ \leq p_2^+, q_1^- \geq q_2^-$ and $q_1^+ \geq q_2^+$.

**Definition 5.** Let $\bar{P}_1 = ([p_1^-, p_1^+], [q_1^-, q_1^+])$ ($l = 1, 2$) be two IVPFNs, some fundamental operations are provided:

1. $\bar{P}_1 \oplus \bar{P}_2 = \left( \sqrt{(p_1^-)^2 + (p_2^-)^2 - (p_1^- p_2^-)^2}, \sqrt{(p_1^+)^2 + (p_2^+)^2 - (p_1^+ p_2^+)^2} \right), [q_1^- q_2^-, q_1^+ q_2^+];$
2. $\bar{P}_1 \odot \bar{P}_2 = \left( \sqrt{(p_1^-)^2 + (q_1^+)^2 - (p_1^- q_1^+)^2}, \sqrt{(q_2^-)^2 + (q_2^+)^2 - (q_1^- q_2^+)^2} \right);$
3. $\kappa\bar{P}_1 = \left( \sqrt{1 - (1 - (p_1^-)^2)^2}, \sqrt{1 - (1 - (q_1^+)^2)^2} \right), [q_1^- q_1^+], \kappa > 0;$
4. $\bar{P}_1^\kappa = \left( \sqrt{(p_1^-)^2 + (q_1^-)^2}, \sqrt{1 - (1 - (q_2^+)^2)^2} \right), \kappa > 0.$

**Definition 6.** Let $\bar{P}_1 = ([p_1^-, p_1^+], [q_1^-, q_1^+])$ ($l = 1, 2$) be two IVPFNs, then their distance measure is provided as follows:

$$d(\bar{P}_1, \bar{P}_2) = \frac{1}{4} \left( (p_1^-)^2 - (p_2^-)^2 + (p_1^+)^2 - (p_2^+)^2 \right) + \frac{1}{4} \left( (q_1^-)^2 - (q_2^-)^2 + (q_1^+)^2 - (q_2^+)^2 \right) + \frac{1}{4} \left( (\pi_1^-)^2 - (\pi_2^-)^2 + (\pi_1^+)^2 - (\pi_2^+)^2 \right),$$

where $\mu_{\bar{P}} : K \to [0,1]$ and $\nu_{\bar{P}} : K \to [0,1]$ are the membership and nonmembership functions, respectively. In addition, $\sup(\mu_{\bar{P}}^2(p)) + \sup(\nu_{\bar{P}}^2(p)) \leq 1$. $\varepsilon([0,1])$ is the set of all closed intervals in $[0,1]$, and we call the two tuples $(\mu_{\bar{P}}, \nu_{\bar{P}})$ as interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy number (IVPFN). If we let $\mu_{\bar{P}}(p) = [p^-, p^+]$ and $\nu_{\bar{P}}(p) = [q^-, q^+]$, then IVPFN can be expressed as $\bar{P} = ([p^-, p^+], [q^-, q^+])$, where $(p^+)^2 + (q^+)^2 \leq 1$. 

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where

$$
\tilde{\pi} (\tilde{P}_l) = \left[ \sqrt{1 - (p_{l}^{+})^2 - (q_{l}^{+})^2}, \sqrt{1 - (p_{l}^{-})^2 - (q_{l}^{-})^2} \right]
$$

**Definition 7.** Given two IVPFNs \( \tilde{P}_l = ([p_{l}^{+}, [q_{l}^{+}]) \), \( l = 1, 2 \), a ranking method of them is provided as follows:

1. If \( Sco (\tilde{P}_1) < Sco (\tilde{P}_2) \), then \( \tilde{\alpha}_1 < \tilde{\alpha}_2 \).
2. If \( Sco (\tilde{P}_1) = Sco (\tilde{P}_2) \) and \( Acc (\tilde{P}_1) < Acc (\tilde{P}_2) \), then \( \tilde{P}_1 < \tilde{P}_2 \).
3. If \( Sco (\tilde{P}_1) = Sco (\tilde{P}_2) \) and \( Acc (\tilde{P}_1) = Acc (\tilde{P}_2) \), then \( \tilde{P}_1 \sim \tilde{P}_2 \).

where

$$
Sco (\tilde{P}_l) = \frac{1}{2} \left( (p_{l}^{-})^2 + (p_{l}^{+})^2 - (q_{l}^{-})^2 - (q_{l}^{+})^2 \right)
$$

is the score function of \( \tilde{P}_l \) \( (l = 1, 2) \), and

$$
Acc (\tilde{P}_l) = \frac{1}{2} \left( (p_{l}^{-})^2 + (p_{l}^{+})^2 + (q_{l}^{-})^2 + (q_{l}^{+})^2 \right)
$$

is the accuracy function of \( \tilde{P}_l \) \( (l = 1, 2) \).

2.2. Frank dual triple

**Definition 8.** A continuous function \( \varphi : [c, d] \rightarrow [c, d] \) is called an automorphism on \([c, d] \) iff the following conditions are satisfied:

1. \( \varphi \) is a strictly monotonic increasing function.
2. \( \varphi (c) = c \) and \( \varphi (d) = d \).

**Definition 9.** A mapping \( \eta \) is a mapping on the \([0, 1] \), which satisfies the following conditions:

1. \( \eta \) is a monotonic decreasing function;
2. \( \eta (0) = 1 \) and \( \eta (1) = 0 \).

In particular, a continuous negation that is a strictly decreasing function is called a strict negation, and a strict negation that satisfies \( \eta (\eta (x)) = x \) is called a strong negation.

**Remark 1.** The classical negation \( \eta (x) = 1 - x \), also known as Zadeh negation, is an important and frequently used negation. The Pythagorean negation \( \eta (x) = \sqrt{1 - x^2} \) is another negation, which is required and has been used in PFSs. It is worth mentioning that the Zadeh and Pythagorean negations both belong to the renowned Yager negation.

In the rest of this study, the classical negation and Pythagorean negation are simply denoted as \( \eta_t \) and \( \eta_p \), respectively.

**Remark 2.** To facilitate our further discussion, the following general symbols are employed throughout this study:

1. \( N = \{1, 2, \cdots, n\} \) and \( N_4 = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \).
2. \( M = \{1, 2, \cdots, m\} \) and \( M_4 = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \).
3. \( T = \{1, 2, \cdots, l\} \) and \( T_3 = \{1, 2, 3\} \).
4. \( \tilde{\Pi} = (\tilde{P}_1, \cdots, \tilde{P}_n) \), where

$$
\tilde{P}_l = ([p_{l}^{-}, [q_{l}^{+}]) \ (l \in N)
$$

are \( n \) IVPFNs.
5. \( \tilde{Q} = (\tilde{Q}_1, \tilde{Q}_2, \cdots, \tilde{Q}_n) \), where

$$
\tilde{Q}_l = ([m_{l}^{-}, [n_{l}^{+}]) \ (l \in N)
$$

are \( n \) IVPFNs.
6. \( W = (\omega_1, \omega_2, \cdots, \omega_n) \) is the weighting vector, where \( \sum_{l=1}^{n} \omega_l = 1 \) and \( \omega_l \geq 0 \ (l \in N) \).
7. \( U = (u_1, u_2, \cdots, u_n) \) is the weighting vector, where \( \sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l = 1 \) and \( u_l \geq 0 \ (l \in N) \).
8. \( \varphi \) is an automorphism on \([0, 1] \), and \( \varphi (x) = x^2 \).

**Theorem 1.** Let \( \eta \) be a negation. Then, \( \eta \) is a strong negation iff there exists an automorphism \( \phi \) from \([0, 1] \) to \([0, 1] \) such that

$$
\eta = \phi^{-1} \circ \eta_t \circ \phi.
$$

**Definition 10.** A t-norm \( X \) is a binary operation on the unit interval that satisfies at least the following axioms for any \( p_1, p_2, p_3 \in [0, 1] \):

1. \( X (p_1, 1) = 1 \).
2. If \( p_1 \leq p_2 \) then \( X (p_1, p_3) \leq X (p_2, p_3) \).
3. \( X (p_1, p_2) = X (p_2, p_1) \).
4. \( X (p_1, (p_2, p_3)) = X ((p_1, p_2), p_3) \).

An Archimedean t-norm \( T \) satisfies the following conditions:

1. \( X \) is an continuous function;
2. \( X (p_1, p_1) = p_1 \).

**Definition 11.** A s-norm \( Y \) is a mapping \( Y : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1] \) that satisfies the following conditions for any \( p_1, p_2, p_3 \in [0, 1] \):
(i) \( Y(p_1, 0) = 0 \);
(ii) if \( p_1 \leq p_2 \) then \( Y(p_1, p_3) \leq Y(p_2, p_3) \);
(iii) \( Y(p_1, p_2) = Y(p_2, p_1) \);
(iv) \( Y(p_1, (p_2, p_3)) = Y((p_1, p_2), p_3) \).

An Archimedean s-norm \( Y \) satisfies the following conditions:
(v) \( Y \) is an continuous function;
(vi) \( Y(p_1, p_1) > p_1 \).

**Definition 12.** \(^{28}\) A t-norm \( X \) and a s-norm \( Y \) are dual with respect to the negation \( \eta \), if the following conditions are satisfied:
(i) For any \( p, q \in [0, 1], Y(p, q) = \eta(X(\eta(p), \eta(q))) \).
(ii) For any \( p, q \in [0, 1], X(p, q) = \eta(Y(\eta(p), \eta(q))) \).

Moreover, the triple \((X, Y, \eta)\) is called a dual triple.

**Theorem 2.** \(^{28}\) Given a strong negation \( \eta \), then
(1) Let \( X \) be an Archimedean t-norm. If \( Y \) satisfies the condition (i) in Definition 12, then \((X, Y, \eta)\) is a dual triple;
(2) Let \( Y \) be an Archimedean s-norm. If \( X \) satisfies the condition (ii) in Definition 12, then \((X, Y, \eta)\) is a dual triple.

**Definition 13.** \(^{21}\) The Frank t-norm \( X_F \) is provided as
\[
X_F(p, q) = h_F^{-1}(h_F(p) + h_F(q)) = \frac{\ln(1 + (\chi - 1)/(\chi^q - 1))/\chi}{\ln \chi}
\]
(6)

Then, \( h_F \) is the decreasing generator such that \( h_F(t) = \ln((\chi - 1)/(\chi^t - 1)) \) and \( \chi \in (1, \infty) \). \( h_F^{-1} \) is the pseudo-inverse of \( h_F \).

**Definition 14.** \(^{21}\) The Frank s-norm \( Y_F \) is provided as
\[
Y_F(p, q) = g_F^{-1}(g_F(p) + g_F(q)) = 1 - \frac{\ln(1 + (\chi^{1-p} - 1)/(\chi^{1-q} - 1))/\chi}{\ln \chi}
\]
(7)

where \( g_F \) is the increasing generator which is given by \( g_F = h_F \circ \eta \), \( g_F^{-1} \) is the pseudo-inverse of \( g_F \).

**Theorem 3.** Let \( X_F \) and \( Y_F \) be the Frank t-norm and s-norm, respectively. Then, the dual \((X_F, Y_F, \eta)\) is a dual triple which is called Frank dual triple.

Some limiting cases of the Frank dual triple are provided as following.

*Case 1.* If \( \chi \to 1 \), then the Frank dual triple reduces to Algebraic dual triple \((X_A, Y_A, \eta)\), where
\[
X_A(p, q) = pq
\]
(8)
is the Algebraic s-norm, and
\[
Y_A(p, q) = 1 - (1 - p)(1 - q)
\]
(9)
is the Algebraic s-norm.

*Case 2.* If \( \chi \to \infty \), then the Frank dual triple reduces to Lukasiewicz dual triple \((X_L, Y_L, \eta)\), where
\[
Y_L(p, q) = \min\{0, p + q - 1\}
\]
(10)
is called the Lukasiewicz s-norm, and
\[
X_L(p, q) = \min\{p + q, 1\}
\]
(11)
is called the Lukasiewicz t-norm.

**Definition 15.** \(^{29}\) Given a t-norm \( X \) and an automorphism \( \phi \) on \([0, 1]\), the function
\[
X_\phi(p, q) = \phi^{-1}(X(\phi(p), \phi(q)))
\]
(12)
is also a t-norm and is called as an isomorphic t-norm for \( X \) with respect to \( \phi \).

**Definition 16.** \(^{29}\) Given a s-norm \( Y \) and an automorphism \( \phi \) on \([0, 1]\), then the binary operation
\[
Y_\phi(p, q) = \phi^{-1}(Y(\phi(p), \phi(q)))
\]
(13)
is also a s-norm. \( Y_\phi \) can be called as an isomorphic s-norm of \( Y \) with respect to \( \phi \).

3. Frank operations for IVPFSs

In this section, based on the Frank dual triple \((X_F, Y_F, \eta)\) and a special automorphism \( \phi \) on \([0, 1]\), we propose the concept of isomorphic Frank dual triple \((X_{F\phi}, Y_{F\phi}, \eta_\phi)\). Then, we define the Frank operations for IVPFSs in the use of the proposed triple.
3.1. Isomorphic Frank dual triple

The operations for IVPFSs, which are based on the triple \((X_F, Y_F, \eta_I)\), do not satisfy the property of closure as can be demonstrated through the following example:

**Example 1.** Let \(\tilde{P}_1 = ([0.5, 0.6], [0.7, 0.8])\) and \(\tilde{P}_2 = ([0.6, 0.8], [0.5, 0.6])\) be two IVPFNs. If we define the addition operational law of IVPFNs based on the Frank dual triple \((X_F, Y_F, \eta_I)\), then we have

\[
\tilde{P}_1 \oplus \tilde{P}_2 = ([Y_F(p_1^-, p_2^-), Y_F(p_1^+, p_2^-)], [X_F(q_1^-, q_2^-), X_F(q_1^+, q_2^-)])
\]

If we let \(\chi = 1\), then

\[
\tilde{P}_1 \oplus \tilde{P}_2 = ([0.80, 0.92], [0.35, 0.48]).
\]

Evidently, \((0.92)^2 + (0.48)^2 > 1\), which implies that \(\tilde{P}_1 \oplus \tilde{P}_2\) is not an IVPFN.

Example 1 demonstrates that the preceding operational laws is not closed for some special IVPFNs. Next, we devise a special automorphism on the unit interval \([0, 1]\), which is rigid adherence to the relationship between IFSs and PFSs to be revealed.

Let \(I = (\mu_I, \nu_I)\) and \(P = (\mu_P, \nu_P)\) be an IFN and a PFN, respectively. From Definitions 1 and 2, we have \(\mu_I + \nu_I \leq 1\) and \((\mu_P)^2 + (\nu_P)^2 \leq 1\). By using the standard negation \(\eta_P\) and the Pythagorean negation \(\eta_P\)'s two inequalities can be replaced by \(\mu_I \leq \eta_I(\nu_I)\) and \(\mu_P \leq \eta_P(\nu_P)\), respectively. Furthermore, through Theorem 1, we obtain another alternative form of these inequalities as follows: \(\mu_I \leq \varphi(\eta_P(\varphi^{-1}(\nu_I)))\) and \(\mu_P \leq \varphi^{-1}(\eta_P(\varphi(\nu_P))),\) where \(\varphi(x) = x^2\) is an automorphism on \([0, 1]\).

From the aforementioned results, it is clear that the constraint for PFNs can be expressed by the automorphism \(\varphi\) and the standard negation \(\eta_I\). On the basis of Definitions 15 and 16, we develop an isomorphic Frank t-norm and an isomorphic Frank s-norm with the application of the automorphism \(\varphi\).

**Definition 17.** Given the Frank t-norm \(X_F\) and an automorphism \(\varphi(x) = x^2\) on the unit interval, then a binary operation \(X_F, \varphi\) on the unit interval satisfies the following condition:

\[
X_F, \varphi(p, q) = \varphi^{-1}(X_F(\varphi(p), \varphi(q))) \quad (14)
\]

is called an isomorphic Frank s-norm of \(X_F\) with respect to \(\varphi\).

**Theorem 4.** Given the isomorphic Frank t-norm \(X_F, \varphi\), then

\[
X_F, \varphi(p, q) = \frac{h_{F, \varphi}^{-1}(h_{F, \varphi}(p) + h_{F, \varphi}(q))}{\ln \chi}
\]

where \(h_{F, \varphi}\) is the decreasing generator of \(X_F, \varphi\), \(h_{F, \varphi} = h_F \circ \varphi\), and \(h_F\) is the decreasing generator of \(X_F\).

**Definition 18.** Given the Frank s-norm \(Y_F\) and an automorphism \(\varphi(x) = x^2\) on unit interval, if the operations \(Y_F, \varphi : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]\) satisfies

\[
Y_F, \varphi(p, q) = \varphi^{-1}(Y_F(\varphi(p), \varphi(q))),
\]

then it can be called as an isomorphic Frank s-norm of \(Y_F\) with respect to \(\varphi\).

**Theorem 5.** Given the isomorphic Frank s-norm \(Y_F, \varphi\), then

\[
Y_F, \varphi(p, q) = g_{F, \varphi}^{-1}(g_{F, \varphi}(p) + g_{F, \varphi}(q))
\]

where \(g_{F, \varphi}\) is the decreasing generator of \(Y_F, \varphi\) such that \(g_{F, \varphi} = g_F \circ \varphi\), and \(g_F\) is the decreasing generator of Frank s-norm \(Y_F\).

**Theorem 6.** The triple \((X_F, \varphi, Y_F, \varphi)\) is also a dual triple, which is called an isomorphic Frank dual triple.

**Proof.** See Appendix A. □

Then, the present isomorphic Frank triple is applied to define the interval-valued Pythagorean Frank operations.

**Definition 19.** Let \(\tilde{P}_l = ([p_l^-, p_l^+], [q_l^-, q_l^+])\) \((l = 1, 2)\) be two IVPFNs and \(\chi \in (1, \infty)\). Then, the operational rules based on Frank isomorphic dual triple are defined as follows:
Theorem 7. The operations in Definition 19 are closed. 

Proof. See Appendix B. \( \Box \)

Theorem 8. Given two IVPFNs \( \tilde{P}_1 = (p_1^-, p_1^+), (q_1^-, q_1^+) \) \( (l = 1, 2) \), and \( \kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa > 0 \), then \( (1) \tilde{P}_1 \oplus_{FI} \tilde{P}_2 = \tilde{P}_2 \oplus_{FI} \tilde{P}_1 \). (2) \( \tilde{P}_1 \otimes_{FI} \tilde{P}_2 = \tilde{P}_2 \otimes_{FI} \tilde{P}_1 \).
A function $\text{PA} : R^n \rightarrow R$ that satisfies

$$\text{PA}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n) = \sum_{l=1}^{n} \frac{(1 + \Gamma(p_l))}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} (1 + \Gamma(p_k))} p_l$$

(18)

is called the power average (PA) operator, where $\Gamma(p_l) = \sum_{l \neq k} \Delta(p_l, p_k)$, $\Delta(p_l, p_k)$ is the support from $p_l$ to $p_k$, and vice versa, which satisfies the following conditions:

(i) $0 \leq \Delta(p_l, p_k) \leq 1$. (ii) $\Delta(p_l, p_k) = \Delta(p_k, p_l)$.

(iii) If $|p_l - p_k| < |p_l - p_j|$, then $\Delta(p_l, p_k) \geq \Delta(p_l, p_j)$.

The input arguments usually come from different sources with different degrees of importance. Thus, each argument should be assigned with a weight as a reflection of diverse significance. The power weighted average (PWA) operator is defined as follows.

Definition 21. A function $\text{PWA} : R^n \rightarrow R$ that satisfies

$$\text{PWA}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n) = \sum_{l=1}^{n} \frac{\omega_l (1 + \Gamma(p_l))}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k (1 + \Gamma(p_k))} p_l$$

(19)

is called the PWA, and $\omega_l (l \in N)$ is the weighting vector of $p_l (l \in N)$.

Theorem 9. If $\Delta(p_l, p_k) = a$ for all $l, k (l \neq k)$, then the PWA operator reduces to the WA operator:

$$\text{PWA}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n) = \sum_{l=1}^{n} \omega_l p_l.$$ (20)

Motivated by the PA operator, the PG operator was further developed by Xu and Yager$^{27}$.

Definition 22. A function $\text{PG} : R^n \rightarrow R$ that satisfies

$$\text{PG}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n) = \prod_{l=1}^{n} \frac{p_l^{\omega_l (1 + \Gamma(p_l))}}{\prod_{k=1}^{n} p_k^{\omega_k (1 + \Gamma(p_k))}},$$ (21)

is called the called the PG operator.

Definition 23. A function $\text{PWG} : R^n \rightarrow R$ that satisfies

$$\text{PWG}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n) = \prod_{l=1}^{n} \frac{p_l^{\omega_l (1 + \Gamma(p_l))}}{\prod_{k=1}^{n} p_k^{\omega_k (1 + \Gamma(p_k))}},$$ (22)

is called the power weighted geometric (PWG) operator.

If $\omega_l = \frac{1}{n} (l \in N)$, then

$$\text{PWG}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n) = \text{PG}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n).$$

Theorem 10. If $\Delta(p_l, p_k) = a$ for all $l, k (l \neq k)$, then the PWG operator reduces to the WG operator:

$$\text{PWG}(p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n) = \prod_{l=1}^{n} p_l^{\omega_l}.$$ (23)

From Definitions 21 and 23, it is evident that the weight $\frac{\omega_l (1 + \Gamma(p_l))}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k (1 + \Gamma(p_k))}$ used for aggregation consists of $w_l$ and $\Gamma(p_l) (l \in N)$. If we let $u_l = \frac{\omega_l (1 + \Gamma(p_l))}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k (1 + \Gamma(p_k))} (l \in N)$, then we can easily obtain the aggregation weight $u_l$ increases with the increase of $w_l$ and $\Gamma(p_l) (l \in N)$.

4.2. IVPFFPWA and IVPFFPWG operators

Based on the PWA operator and the PWG operator, this section follows strictly the Frank operational laws to develop the IVPFFPWA and IVPFFPWG operators, and some properties of these operators are investigated.
4.2.1. IVPFPWA operator

According to the operational rules (1) and (3) in Definition 19, the IVPFPWA operator is provided as follows:

**Definition 24.** Given $n$ IVPFNs $\bar{P}_l = ([p^-_l, p^+_l], [q^-_l, q^+_l])$ ($l \in N$). The weights of $P_l$ ($l \in N$) are $\omega_l$ ($l \in N$). The IVPFPWA operator is given as

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = \frac{\sum_{l=1}^{n} \left( 1 + \Gamma \left( \bar{P}_l \right) \right)}{\sum_{l=1}^{n} \left( 1 + \Gamma \left( \bar{P}_l \right) \right)} \bar{P}_l,$$

where $\Gamma \left( \bar{P}_l \right) = \sum_{j \neq l} \Delta \left( \bar{P}_l, \bar{P}_j \right)$. (24)

Theorem 11. Given $n$ IVPFNs $\bar{P}_l = ([p^-_l, p^+_l], [q^-_l, q^+_l])$ ($l \in N$), then

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = ([P^-, P^+], [Q^-, Q^+]).$$

**Proof.** See Appendix C. \hfill \Box

Theorem 12. Given $n$ IVPFNs $\bar{P}_l = ([p^-_l, p^+_l], [q^-_l, q^+_l])$ ($l \in N$), then

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = \left( \sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l g_{F_\rho}(p^-_l) \right),$$

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = \left( \sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l g_{F_\rho}(p^+_l) \right),$$

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = \left( \sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l h_{F_\rho}(q^-_l) \right),$$

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = \left( \sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l h_{F_\rho}(q^+_l) \right),$$

**Proof.** See Appendix D. \hfill \Box

Theorem 13. (1) If $\omega_l = 1/n$ ($l \in N$), then $u_l = (1 + \Gamma \left( \bar{P}_l \right))$. Therefore, the IVPFPWA operator reduces to the IVPFFPA operator.

(2) If $\Delta \left( \bar{P}_l, \bar{P}_j \right) = a$ for all $l, j$ ($l \neq j$), then $u_l = \omega_l$ ($l \in N$). Therefore, the IVPFPWA operator reduces to the IVPFFWA operator.

Theorem 14. Given $n$ IVPFNs $\bar{P}_l = ([p^-_l, p^+_l], [q^-_l, q^+_l])$ ($l \in N$), the following properties hold.

(i) Commutativity: If $\bar{P}(l \in N)$ is any permutation of $\bar{P}(l \in N)$, then

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = \text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P}_1, \bar{P}_2, \ldots, \bar{P}_n \right).$$

(ii) Idempotency: If $\bar{P} = ([p^-, p^+], [q^-, q^+])$ ($l \in N$), then

$$\text{IVPFPWA} \left( \bar{P} \right) = \bar{P}.$$
(iii) Boundedness: If

\[ \tilde{P}_{\min} = \left( \left\{ \min_{l} \{ p_i^+ \} , \min_{l} \{ q_i^- \} \right\} , \left\{ \max_{l} \{ p_i^- \} , \max_{l} \{ q_i^+ \} \right\} \right) \]

\[ \tilde{P}_{\max} = \left( \left\{ \max_{l} \{ p_i^- \} , \max_{l} \{ q_i^+ \} \right\} , \left\{ \min_{l} \{ p_i^+ \} , \min_{l} \{ q_i^- \} \right\} \right) , \]

then

\[ \tilde{P}_{\min} \leq IVPFPPWA \left( \tilde{P} \right) \leq \tilde{P}_{\max} . \tag{29} \]

(iv) Monotonicity: Let \( \tilde{Q}_l = \left( [m_i^- , m_i^+] , [n_i^- , n_i^+] \right) (l \in N) \) be a family of IVPFNs. If \( \tilde{Q}_l \leq \tilde{P}_l (l \in N) \), and \( \Delta \left( \tilde{P}_l , \tilde{P}_j \right) = \Delta \left( \tilde{Q}_l , \tilde{Q}_j \right) \) for all \( l, j (l \neq j) \), then

\[ IVPFPPWA \left( \tilde{Q} \right) \leq IVPFPPWA \left( \tilde{P} \right) . \tag{30} \]

**Proof.** See Appendix E. \( \Box \)

### 4.2.2. IVPFPPWG operator

According to the operational rules (2) and (4) in Definition 19, the IVPFPPWG operator can be defined as follows:

\[ IVPFPPWG \left( \tilde{P} \right) = \left( \left\{ \sqrt{\ln \left( 1 + \prod_{l=1}^{n} \left( \chi^{(p_i^+)} - 1 \right)^{u_l} \right)} / \ln \chi , \sqrt{\ln \left( 1 + \prod_{l=1}^{n} \left( \chi^{(q_i^-)} - 1 \right)^{u_l} \right)} / \ln \chi \right\} \right) \]

\[ \left\{ \sqrt{\ln \left( 1 + \prod_{l=1}^{n} \left( \chi^{-(p_i^-)} - 1 \right)^{u_l} \right)} / \ln \chi , \sqrt{\ln \left( 1 + \prod_{l=1}^{n} \left( \chi^{-(q_i^+)} - 1 \right)^{u_l} \right)} / \ln \chi \right\} , \]

**Theorem 17.** (1) If \( u_l = 1 / n \ (l \in N) \), then \( u_l = \frac{1}{\left( 1 + \Gamma \left( \tilde{P}_l \right) \right)} (l \in N) \). Therefore, the IVPFPPWG operator reduces to the IVPFPPG operator.

(2) If \( \Delta \left( \tilde{P}_l , \tilde{P}_j \right) = a \) for all \( l, j \) (\( l \neq j) \), then \( u_l = a \ (l \in N) \). Therefore, the IVPFPPWG operator reduces to the IVPFPPG operator.

**Theorem 18.** Given \( n \) IVPFNs \( \tilde{P}_l = \left( [p_i^- , p_i^+] , [q_i^- , q_i^+] \right) (l \in N) \), the following properties hold.

(i) Commutativity: If \( \tilde{P}_l (l \in N) \) is any permutation of \( \tilde{P}_l (l \in N) \), then

\[ IVPFPPWG \left( \tilde{P} \right) = IVPFPPWG \left( \tilde{P}_l , \tilde{P}_2 , \ldots , \tilde{P}_n \right) . \tag{34} \]

(ii) Idempotency: If \( \tilde{P} = \tilde{P} = \left( [p_i^- , p_i^+] , [q_i^- , q_i^+] \right) (l \in N) \), then

\[ IVPFPPWG \left( \tilde{P} \right) = \tilde{P} . \tag{35} \]

(iii) Boundedness: Let \( \tilde{P}_{\min} \) and \( \tilde{P}_{\min} \) be the IVPFNs in Theorem 14, then

\[ \tilde{P}_{\min} \leq IVPFPPWG \left( \tilde{P} \right) \leq \tilde{P}_{\max} . \tag{36} \]

**Definition 25.** Given \( n \) IVPFNs \( \tilde{P}_l = \left( [p_i^- , p_i^+] , [q_i^- , q_i^+] \right) (l \in N) \). The IVPFPPWG operator is given as

\[ IVPFPPWG \left( \tilde{P} \right) = \left( \prod_{l=1}^{n} \tilde{P}_l^{u_l} , \right) . \tag{31} \]

where \( u_l = \frac{\alpha\left( 1 + \Gamma \left( \tilde{P}_l \right) \right)}{\sum_{l=1}^{n} \alpha \left( 1 + \Gamma \left( \tilde{P}_l \right) \right)} (l \in N) \).
Given $n$ IVPFNs $\tilde{P}_l = ([p_i^-,p_i^+], [q_i^-,q_i^+])$ $(l \in N)$, then

$$
\Delta(\tilde{P}_i,\tilde{P}_j) = \Delta(\tilde{Q}_i,\tilde{Q}_j) \quad \text{for all } l, j (l \neq j),
$$

then

$$
IVPFFPWG(\tilde{Q}) \leq IVPFFPWG(\tilde{P}). \tag{37}
$$

**Theorem 19.** Given $n$ IVPFNs $\tilde{P}_l = ([p_i^-,p_i^+], [q_i^-,q_i^+])$ $(l \in N)$, then

1. **IPFPPWG** $\big(\bar{P}\big) = \left(IVPFPFWA\left(\tilde{P}_1,\tilde{P}_2,\ldots,\tilde{P}_n\right)\right)^c$;
2. **IPPPWA** $\big(\bar{P}\big) = \left(IVPFPFWG\left(\tilde{P}_1,\tilde{P}_2,\ldots,\tilde{P}_n\right)\right)^c$.

**Proof.** We only prove (1). By Definition 5, $\tilde{P}_l = ([q_i^-,q_i^+], [p_i^-,p_i^+])$ $(l \in N)$. Then, from Theorem 7, we have

$$
\left(IVPFPFWA\left(\tilde{P}_1,\tilde{P}_2,\ldots,\tilde{P}_n\right)\right)^c
= \left(\left(\sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l g_{F,p}(q_i^-), g_{F,p}(p_i^-), h_{F,p}(p_i^-)\right)\right)^c
= \left(\left(\sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l g_{F,p}(q_i^-), g_{F,p}(p_i^-), h_{F,p}(p_i^-)\right)\right)^c
= \left(\left(\sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l g_{F,p}(q_i^-), g_{F,p}(p_i^-), h_{F,p}(p_i^-)\right)\right)^c
= \left(\left(\sum_{l=1}^{n} u_l g_{F,p}(q_i^-), g_{F,p}(p_i^-), h_{F,p}(p_i^-)\right)\right)^c
= IVPFPFWG\left(\bar{P}\right).
$$

**Definition 27.** A function $AF_X^d : [0,1]^n \to [0,1]$ that satisfies

$$
AF_X^d(p_1,\ldots,p_n) = \eta(\sum_{l=1}^{n} \chi^{p_i^+ - 1})/\ln \chi
$$

is called Pythagorean Frank aggregation function, and where $\chi \in (1,\infty)$ and $W$ is the aggregation weighting vector.

**Theorem 20.** Let $AF_X$ and $AF_X^d$ be the functions defined in Definitions 26 and 27, then

1. $\lim_{\chi \to 1} AF_X^d(p_1,\ldots,p_n) = \prod_{l=1}^{n} P_l^{\alpha_l};$
2. $\lim_{\chi \to \infty} AF_X^d(p_1,\ldots,p_n) = 1 - \lim_{\chi \to \infty} \left(1 - P_l^{-\alpha_l}\right)^{\alpha_l};$
3. $\lim_{\chi \to \infty} AF_X(p_1,\ldots,p_n) = \sum_{l=1}^{n} \alpha_l P_l^{\alpha_l};$
4. $\lim_{\chi \to \infty} AF_X^d(p_1,\ldots,p_n) = \sum_{l=1}^{n} \alpha_l P_l^{\alpha_l};$

**Proof.** See Appendix F.

**Theorem 21.** Given $n$ IVPFNs $\tilde{P}_l = ([p_i^-,p_i^+], [q_i^-,q_i^+])$ $(l \in N)$, then

1. **IPFPPWA** $\big(\bar{P}\big) = \left([AF_X(p_1,\ldots,p_n), AF_X^{p_1}(p_1,\ldots,p_n)]\right.$
2. **IPFPFWG** $\big(\bar{P}\big) = \left([AF_X(q_1,\ldots,q_n), AF_X^{q_1}(q_1,\ldots,q_n)]\right.$

and where $u_l = \frac{\alpha_l \Gamma(p_i^-)}{\sum_{l=1}^{n} \chi^{p_i^+ - 1} / \ln \chi}$ $(l \in N)$ is the aggregation weighting vector of $P_l (l \in N)$.

**Theorem 22.** Given $n$ IVPFNs $\tilde{P}_l = ([p_i^-,p_i^+], [q_i^-,q_i^+])$ $(l \in N)$, and if $\chi \to 1$, then
(1) the IVPFPWA operator reduces to the IVPF-PWA operator:
\[
\lim_{\chi \to 1} \text{IVPFPWA}(\overline{\mathbf{P}}) = \text{IVPFWA}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})
\]
\[
= \left( \left[ \sqrt{1 - \prod_{i=1}^{n} (1 - (p_i^-)^2)^{u_i}} \right], \left[ \sqrt{1 - \prod_{i=1}^{n} (1 - (q_i^-)^2)^{u_i}} \right] \right)
\]
(40)

(2) the IVPFPWG operator reduces to the IVPFWG operator:
\[
\lim_{\chi \to 1} \text{IVPFPWG}(\overline{\mathbf{P}}) = \text{IVPFWG}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})
\]
\[
= \left( \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{n} (p_i^-)^{u_i} \prod_{i=1}^{n} (p_i^+)^{u_i} \right], \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{n} (q_i^-)^{u_i} \prod_{i=1}^{n} (q_i^+)^{u_i} \right] \right)
\]
(41)

where \( u_l = \frac{\omega_l (1 + \Gamma(\tilde{P}))}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \omega_j (1 + \Gamma(\tilde{P}))} \) (\( l \in N \)).

**Theorem 23.** If \( \Delta(\tilde{P}_l, \tilde{P}_j) = a \) for all \( l, j (l \neq j) \), then \( u_l = \omega_l \) (\( l \in N \)). Therefore,
(1) The IVPFPWA operator reduces to the IVPFWA operator:
\[
\lim_{\chi \to 1} \text{IVPFPWA}(\overline{\mathbf{P}}) = \text{IVPFWA}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})
\]
\[
= \left( \left[ \sqrt{1 - \prod_{i=1}^{n} (1 - (p_i^-)^2)^{\omega_l}} \right], \left[ \sqrt{1 - \prod_{i=1}^{n} (1 - (q_i^-)^2)^{\omega_l}} \right] \right)
\]
(42)

This aggregation operator has been proposed in\(^{12,13}\).

(2) Then, the IVPFPWG operator reduces to the IVPFWG operator:
\[
\lim_{\chi \to 1} \text{IVPFPWG}(\overline{\mathbf{P}}) = \text{IVPFWG}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})
\]
\[
= \left( \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{n} (p_i^-)^{\omega_l} \prod_{i=1}^{n} (p_i^+)^{\omega_l} \right], \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{n} (q_i^-)^{\omega_l} \prod_{i=1}^{n} (q_i^+)^{\omega_l} \right] \right)
\]
(43)

This operator has been proposed in\(^{12,13}\).

**Theorem 24.** Given \( n \) IVPFNs \( \tilde{P}_l = ([p_i^-, p_i^+], [q_i^-, q_i^+]) (l \in N) \), and if \( \chi \to \infty \), then
(1) The IVPFPFWA operator reduces to the interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy Frank power weighted quadratic (IVPFPFWQ) operator:
\[
\lim_{\chi \to \infty} \text{IVPFPFWA}(\overline{\mathbf{P}}) = \text{IVPFPFWQ}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})
\]
\[
= \left( \left[ \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} u_i (p_i^-)^2} \right], \left[ \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} u_i (p_i^+)^2} \right] \right)
\]
(44)

(2) The IVPFPFWG operator reduces to the IVPFPFWQ operator:
\[
\lim_{\chi \to \infty} \text{IVPFPWG}(\overline{\mathbf{P}}) = \text{IVPFPFWQ}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})
\]
(45)

where \( u_l = \frac{\omega_l (1 + \Gamma(\tilde{P}))}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \omega_j (1 + \Gamma(\tilde{P}))} \) (\( l \in N \)).

**Theorem 25.** If \( \Delta(\tilde{P}_l, \tilde{P}_j) = a \) for all \( l, j (l \neq j) \), then \( u_l = \omega_l \) (\( l \in N \)), and therefore the IVPFPFWQ operator reduces to IVPFWQ operator:
\[
\lim_{\chi \to \infty} \text{IVPFPFWA}(\overline{\mathbf{P}}) = \text{IVPFPFWQ}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})
\]
\[
= \left( \left[ \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_l (p_i^-)^2} \right], \left[ \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_l (p_i^+)^2} \right] \right)
\]
(46)

From the theorems mentioned, some limiting cases of IVPFPFWA and IVPFPFWG operators are summarized in Table 1 with different choices of parameter \( \chi \) and aggregation weights \( u_l \), where
\[
v_l = \frac{1 + \Gamma(\tilde{P}_l)}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(1 + \Gamma(\tilde{P}_j)\right)} (l \in N).
\]
5. A novel decision-making approach for MAGDM with IVPFNs

Let sets of $m$ alternatives and $n$ attributes be $A L_i (i \in M)$ and $C_j (j \in N)$, respectively. Let $a o_j (j \in N)$ be the weights for $C_j (j \in N)$. Let $d_k (k \in T)$ be a set of $t$ DMs, and their weights are $\lambda_k (k \in T)$. The alternatives $A L_i (i \in M)$ are assessed by the DMs with IVPFNs $\tilde{P}_{ij} = \left( \left[ p_{ij}^{-k}, p_{ij}^{+k} \right], \left[ q_{ij}^{-k}, q_{ij}^{+k} \right] \right)$ based on $C_j (j \in N)$.

The decision matrices are expressed as $D^k = (\tilde{P}_{ij})_{m \times n} (k \in T)$. One method developed to obtain the best solution to this problem is based on the proposed Frank aggregation operators. The steps of the decision-making method are provided as follows:

**Step 1.** Following Definition 6, the supports between $\tilde{P}_{ij} (k \in T)$ and $\tilde{P}_{ij} (l \in T)$ can be calculated as:

$$\Delta \left( \tilde{P}_{ij}, \tilde{P}_{ij} \right) = 1 - d \left( \tilde{P}_{ij}, \tilde{P}_{ij} \right), \quad (47)$$

**Step 2.** Utilize the weights $\lambda_k (k \in T)$ of the DMs $d_k (k \in T)$ to obtain the support $\Gamma \left( \tilde{P}_{ij} \right) (k \in T)$ of the IVPFN $\tilde{P}_{ij} (k \in T)$ by the other IVPFNs $\tilde{P}_{ij} (l \in T; l \neq k)$:

$$\Gamma \left( \tilde{P}_{ij} \right) = \sum_{l \neq k} \Delta \left( \tilde{P}_{ij}, \tilde{P}_{ij} \right) = \sum_{l \neq k} \left( 1 - d \left( \tilde{P}_{ij}, \tilde{P}_{ij} \right) \right), \quad (48)$$

and obtain the weights $\xi_{ij}^k (k \in T)$ associated with the IVPFN $\tilde{P}_{ij} (k \in T)$:

$$\xi_{ij}^k = \frac{\lambda_k \left( 1 + T \left( \alpha_{ij}^k \right) \right)}{\sum_{k=1}^{l} \lambda \left( 1 + T \left( \alpha_{ij}^k \right) \right)}. \quad (49)$$

**Step 3.** Use the IVPFPWA operator (51) or the IVPFPFWG operator (52) to aggregate the decision matrices $D^k = (\tilde{P}_{ij})_{m \times n} (k \in T)$ to the collective matrix $D = (\tilde{P}_{ij})_{m \times n}$, and $\tilde{P}_{ij} = \left( \left[ p_{ij}^{-k}, p_{ij}^{+k} \right], \left[ q_{ij}^{-k}, q_{ij}^{+k} \right] \right)$.

$$\tilde{P}_{ij} = IVPFPWA \left( \tilde{P}_{ij}, \tilde{P}_{ij}, \cdots, \tilde{P}_{ij} \right) \quad (50)$$

$$\tilde{P}_{ij} = IVPFPWG \left( \tilde{P}_{ij}, \tilde{P}_{ij}, \cdots, \tilde{P}_{ij} \right) \quad (51)$$

**Step 4.** To obtain the comprehensive preference value $P_i (i \in M)$ of the alternative $A L_i (i \in M)$, we fuse all the values $\tilde{P}_{ij} (j \in N)$ in $D = (\tilde{P}_{ij})_{m \times n}$ by applying the IVPFPWA operator (53) or the IVPFPFWG operator (54).

$$\tilde{P}_{i} = IVPFPWA \left( \tilde{P}_{1}, \tilde{P}_{2}, \cdots, \tilde{P}_{n} \right) \quad (52)$$

$$\tilde{P}_{i} = IVPFPWG \left( \tilde{P}_{1}, \tilde{P}_{2}, \cdots, \tilde{P}_{n} \right) \quad (53)$$

**Step 5.** From Definition 4, obtain the score values $S co \left( \tilde{P}_{i} \right) (i \in M)$. Then, we obtain the ranking of $\tilde{P}_{i} (i \in M)$.

**Step 6.** According to the ranking of $\tilde{P}_{i} (i \in M)$, we obtain the ranking of $A L_i (i \in M)$.

$$d \left( \tilde{P}_{ij}, \tilde{P}_{ij} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left( \left( p_{ij}^{-k} - p_{ij}^{-l} \right)^2 + \left( p_{ij}^{+k} - p_{ij}^{+l} \right)^2 \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4} \left( \left( q_{ij}^{-k} - q_{ij}^{-l} \right)^2 + \left( q_{ij}^{+k} - q_{ij}^{+l} \right)^2 \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4} \left( \left( \pi_{ij}^{-k} - \pi_{ij}^{-l} \right)^2 + \left( \pi_{ij}^{+k} - \pi_{ij}^{+l} \right)^2 \right)$$

$$\text{(54)}$$
6. Numerical examples

6.1. A GDM problem of investment selection

The background regarding an investment selection problem in the implementation of the proposed decision-making approach is illustrated in the previous section. In this problem, firstly, four essential attributes \( C_j (j \in N_4) \) have to be analyzed, which are risk management, growth ability, social and political influence, and environmental protection strategy analysis. Considered here are four candidate alternatives \( A_i (i \in M_4) \): automotive enterprises, food enterprise, computer enterprise, and arms enterprise. The evaluation information is provided by the three experts \( d_k (k \in T_3) \) on the four alternatives \( A_i (i \in M_4) \) under \( C_j (j \in N_4) \) in the manifestation of IVFPNs \( \tilde{P}_{ij} (i \in M_4, j \in N_4, k \in T_3) \). The decision matrices can be denoted by \( D^k = (\tilde{a}_{ij}^k)_{4 \times 4} (k \in T_3) \), and the weighting vector of \( C_j (j \in N_4) \) is \( \omega = (0.2, 0.15, 0.35, 0.3)^T \), and the weighting vector of \( d_k (k \in T_3) \) is \( \lambda = (0.5, 0.3, 0.2)^T \).

\[
D^1 = \begin{pmatrix}
(0.30.5), & (0.30.6), & (0.20.7), & (0.30.4), \\
(0.30.6), & (0.40.7), & (0.40.7), & (0.20.5), \\
(0.40.6), & (0.30.6), & (0.50.7), & (0.20.6), \\
(0.50.6), & (0.30.7), & (0.50.7), & (0.30.5), \\
(0.20.4), & (0.40.7), & (0.10.3), & (0.50.8), \\
(0.20.5), & (0.30.8), & (0.40.5), & (0.40.7), \\
(0.30.6), & (0.30.5), & (0.20.3), & (0.40.6), \\
(0.30.5), & (0.20.4), & (0.50.5), & (0.40.4),
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
D^2 = \begin{pmatrix}
(0.10.4), & (0.40.7), & (0.20.5), & (0.30.8), \\
(0.40.6), & (0.30.6), & (0.20.8), & (0.30.5), \\
(0.30.5), & (0.30.6), & (0.20.6), & (0.20.3), \\
(0.30.6), & (0.40.5), & (0.20.6), & (0.40.6), \\
(0.30.7), & (0.10.7), & (0.10.2), & (0.30.4), \\
(0.20.4), & (0.20.4), & (0.20.6), & (0.30.5), \\
(0.30.5), & (0.20.6), & (0.20.3), & (0.30.4), \\
(0.40.7), & (0.10.4), & (0.50.6), & (0.60.7),
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
D^3 = \begin{pmatrix}
(0.30.4), & (0.40.6), & (0.20.5), & (0.30.6), \\
(0.30.3), & (0.40.6), & (0.20.6), & (0.60.7), \\
(0.30.4), & (0.30.5), & (0.20.5), & (0.20.4), \\
(0.30.6), & (0.10.7), & (0.20.6), & (0.20.4), \\
(0.20.4), & (0.20.5), & (0.20.3), & (0.70.8), \\
(0.10.4), & (0.30.5), & (0.20.4), & (0.30.6), \\
(0.20.3), & (0.30.4), & (0.10.3), & (0.40.6), \\
(0.50.8), & (0.10.3), & (0.40.7), & (0.30.5),
\end{pmatrix}
\]

The developed decision-making approach in this study is applied to derive the ordering relation of \( A_i (i \in M_4) \). The decision matrices are listed as following and the implementation steps with details are provided subsequently.

**Step 1.** Utilize (47)–(50) to obtain the weighting matrices \( \Phi^k = (\tilde{r}^k_{ij})_{4 \times 4} (k \in T_3) \) for the decision matrices \( D^k = (\tilde{p}^k_{ij})_{4 \times 4} (k \in T_3) \):

\[
\Phi^1 = \begin{pmatrix}
0.5013 & 0.4949 & 0.4873 & 0.5027 \\
0.5009 & 0.4097 & 0.4796 & 0.4847 \\
0.4954 & 0.4800 & 0.4995 & 0.5064 \\
0.5040 & 0.4984 & 0.4921 & 0.5026
\end{pmatrix},
\]

\[
\Phi^2 = \begin{pmatrix}
0.2981 & 0.2975 & 0.3049 & 0.2980 \\
0.3039 & 0.2972 & 0.3096 & 0.3076 \\
0.3071 & 0.3134 & 0.3058 & 0.2910 \\
0.2940 & 0.3053 & 0.3102 & 0.2947
\end{pmatrix},
\]

\[
\Phi^3 = \begin{pmatrix}
0.2005 & 0.2075 & 0.2078 & 0.1993 \\
0.1952 & 0.1932 & 0.2108 & 0.2077 \\
0.1974 & 0.2066 & 0.1947 & 0.2026 \\
0.2020 & 0.1963 & 0.1976 & 0.2027
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

**Step 2.** Use the IVPFFPW A operator (51) (let \( \chi = 2 \)) to fuse all the matrices \( D^k = (\tilde{p}^k_{ij})_{4 \times 4} (k \in T_3) \) to the collective matrix \( D = (\tilde{P}_{ij})_{4 \times 4} \):

\[
D = \begin{pmatrix}
0.2582 & 0.4540 & 0.3466 & 0.6281 \\
0.2582 & 0.4540 & 0.3466 & 0.6281 \\
0.2582 & 0.4540 & 0.3466 & 0.6281 \\
0.2582 & 0.4540 & 0.3466 & 0.6281
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
D = \begin{pmatrix}
0.1837 & 0.4518 & 0.2648 & 0.5912 \\
0.1837 & 0.4518 & 0.2648 & 0.5912 \\
0.1837 & 0.4518 & 0.2648 & 0.5912 \\
0.1837 & 0.4518 & 0.2648 & 0.5912
\end{pmatrix}
\]

Step 3. Aggregate all the values \( \tilde{P}_{ij} (j \in N_4) \) in matrix \( D \) based on the IVPFFWA operator (53). Then obtain the overall values \( \tilde{P}_i (i \in M_4) \) corresponding to the alternative \( A_i (i \in M_4) \):

\[
\tilde{P}_1 = (0.2961, 0.5015, 0.2726, 0.5087),
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_2 = (0.2826, 0.5301, 0.3185, 0.5403),
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_3 = (0.2969, 0.4994, 0.2870, 0.5025),
\]

\[
\tilde{P}_4 = (0.4246, 0.6206, 0.2507, 0.4438).
\]

**Step 4.** By Definition 2, we calculate the score values \( Sco(\tilde{P}_i) (i \in M) \) for \( \tilde{P}_i (i \in M_4) \):

\[
Sco(\tilde{P}_1) = 0.0031, Sco(\tilde{P}_2) = -0.0163,
\]

\[
Sco(\tilde{P}_3) = 0.0013, Sco(\tilde{P}_4) = 0.1528.
\]
Since $Sco\left(\tilde{P}_4^4\right) > Sco\left(\tilde{P}_1^1\right) > Sco\left(\tilde{P}_3^3\right) > Sco\left(\tilde{P}_2^2\right)$, then $\tilde{P}_4 > \tilde{P}_1 > \tilde{P}_3 > \tilde{P}_2$. Therefore, we have $A_4 > A_1 > A_3 > A_2$. Thus, the best alternative is $A_4$.

From Step 1, it is convenient to find that different attribute values $P^k_{ij} (i \in M_4, j \in N_4, k \in T_3)$ have different associated weights $\zeta^k_{ij} (i \in M_4, j \in N_4, k \in T_3)$, which is consists of the expert weight $\lambda_k$ and the support $\Delta\left(\tilde{P}^k_{ij}\right) (i \in M_4, j \in N_4, k \in T_3)$. Then, the associated weight $\zeta^k_{ij}$ increases as the values of $\lambda_k$ or $\Delta\left(\tilde{P}^k_{ij}\right)$ increase.

If we use the IVPFFPW operator (52) (let $\chi = 2$) instead of the IVPFFPW to solve the above decision problem, then we obtain the collective values $\tilde{P}_i (i \in M_4)$ corresponding to $A_i (i \in M_4)$ as follows:

$\tilde{P}_1 = (0.2620, 0.4838], [0.3066, 0.5594])$,
$\tilde{P}_2 = (0.2454, 0.4954], [0.3374, 0.5981])$,
$\tilde{P}_3 = (0.2620, 0.4492], [0.3080, 0.5199])$,
$\tilde{P}_4 = (0.3998, 0.6008], [0.3294, 0.5076])$.

Therefore, by Definition 2, we obtain the score values of $\tilde{P}_i (i \in M_4)$, respectively:

$Sco\left(\tilde{P}_1\right) = -0.0523$, $Sco\left(\tilde{P}_2\right) = -0.0830$,
$Sco\left(\tilde{P}_3\right) = -0.0484$, $Sco\left(\tilde{P}_4\right) = 0.0785$.

$Sco\left(\tilde{P}_4\right) > Sco\left(\tilde{P}_3\right) > Sco\left(\tilde{P}_1\right) > Sco\left(\tilde{P}_2\right)$,
so $\tilde{P}_4 > \tilde{P}_3 > \tilde{P}_1 > \tilde{P}_2$. Therefore $A_4 > A_3 > A_1 > A_2$. Thus, the best alternative is $A_4$.

From these results, with the same value of parameter $\chi = 2$, we find that the IVPFFWA and IVPFFWG operators lead to different ranking positions of $A_1$ and $A_3$. However, the best alternative is always $A_4$. By comparing the score values $Sco\left(\tilde{P}_i\right) (i \in M_4)$ with $Sco\left(\tilde{P}_i\right) (i \in M_4)$, a useful observation is that the values $\tilde{P}_i (i \in M_4)$ aggregated from the IVPFFWA operator are greater than those aggregated from IVPFFWG operator.

6.2. Influence of Parameter on Aggregation Operators

An investigation on how the decision result changes with different choices of parameter $\chi$ in the above decision problem is offered in this section, and then, four descriptive figures will be provided to intensify the understanding of our proposal. For the sake of convenience, if the IVPFFFPWA operator is used as the aggregation tool for the decision process, then we denote $\tilde{P}^A_i (i \in M_4)$ as the collective values of $A_i (i \in M_4)$. Similarly, if the used tool is the IVPFFPW operator, then $\tilde{P}^G_i (i \in M_4)$ is denoted as the collective values.

![Fig. 1. Score values obtained in the use of the IVPFFPW operator.](image1)

![Fig. 2. Score values of $A_1$ and $A_2$ obtained in the use of the IVPFFPW operator.](image2)

Figure 1 shows how the score values given by IVPFFPW operator decrease according to the increasing $\chi$. Moreover, from Figure 1, the following cases can be obtained:

1. If $\chi \in (1, 12.88)$, then the order relation of alternatives $A_i (i \in M_4)$ is $A_4 > A_1 > A_3 > A_2$ and the best alternative is $A_4$. If $\chi \in (12.88, 50)$, then we obtain the ordering relation of $A_i (i \in M_4)$ as $A_4 > A_3 > A_1 > A_2$.

2. The score values $Sco\left(\tilde{P}^A_i\right) (i \in M_4)$ for the alternatives $A_i (i \in M_4)$ decrease with respect to $\chi$.

The score value $Sco\left(\tilde{P}^A_1\right)$ and that of $Sco\left(\tilde{P}^A_3\right)$ are pretty close, therefore, we provide more details for them, which are shown in Figure 2.

(i) If $\chi \in (1, 12.88)$, then $Sco\left(\tilde{P}^A_1\right) > Sco\left(\tilde{P}^A_3\right)$. Thus, $\tilde{P}^A_1 > \tilde{P}^A_3$.
(ii) If $\chi = 12.88$, then $Sco(\tilde{P}_1^A) = Sco(\tilde{P}_3^A) = -0.0038$ and $Acc(\tilde{P}_1^A) = 0.3396 > Acc(\tilde{P}_3^A) = 0.3352$. Thus, $\tilde{P}_1^A \succ \tilde{P}_3^A$.

(iii) If $\chi \in (12.88, 50)$, then $Sco(\tilde{P}_1^A) < Sco(\tilde{P}_3^A)$. Thus, $\tilde{P}_1^A \prec \tilde{P}_3^A$.

Figures 4 and 5 show the deviations between the score values obtained by the IVPFPFWG operator and those obtained by the IVPFPFWA operator, from which we obtain $Sco(\tilde{P}_i^G) < Sco(\tilde{P}_i^A) (i \in M_4)$. In addition, the values of $Sco(\tilde{P}_i^A) - Sco(\tilde{P}_i^G) (i \in M_4)$ become smaller as the value of $\chi$ increases. It illustrates that the aggregation result calculated by the IVPFPFWG operator is smaller than the result obtained from the IVPFPWA operator. Therefore, the IVPFPWA operator is suitable for modeling optimistic DMs, whereas the IVPFPFWG operator is considered to be useful in reflecting pessimistic DMs. According to Figures 1 and 3, we obtain that the smaller $\chi$ gets, the greater the level of optimism and pessimism will be.

We use two generalized operators (IVPFPWA/IVPFPWG) and their limiting operators (IVPFPWA/IVPFPQ/IVPFPWG) to obtain the score values of alternative $A_1$. The details can be found in Figure 6. Consequently, the following ordering relation is obtained from Figure 6: $Sco(\tilde{P}_1^{IVPFPWG}) < Sco(\tilde{P}_1^G) < Sco(\tilde{P}_1^{IVPFPWQ}) < Sco(\tilde{P}_1^A) < Sco(\tilde{P}_1^{IVPFPWA})$.

Figure 6 illustrates the level of optimism and pessimism decreases when $\chi$ increases, and the decision maker’s attitude could be regarded as neutral when $\chi \to \infty$.

According to the previous analysis, it is observed that the associated parameter $\chi$ to the IVPFPWG and the IVPFPWA operators can be considered as a promising reflection of the attitude of DM. The DMs can obtain different score values of the collective overall preference values when different values of parameter $\chi$ are fixed in the sense that they can
obtain different rankings of alternatives indicating their preferences. Therefore, the decision-making approaches with the IVPFFPWG and the IVPFFPWA operators are highly flexible and can provide DMs with more choices in handling different real-life scenarios.

6.3. Comparative analysis

In the sequel, the proposed IVPFFP aggregation operators will be compared to several aggregation operators that were developed in $^{10,13,16}$ to evidence their superiority. Detailed analysis is provided in accordance with the performance of the compared aggregation operators given that they are used for the aggregation of individual decision matrices $D^k$ ($k \in T$) in the context of MAGDM.

The three selected aggregation operators for comparison are briefly introduced in the first place. In Peng and Yang $^{10}$, the weighted average (WA) and weighted geometric (WG) operators were accommodated to the Pythagorean fuzzy environment. The interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzyWA operator and WG operator, which are denoted separately by P-IVPFWA and the P-IVPFWG to distinguish themselves from the proposed ones, were developed to aggregate individual IVF decision matrices. In Liang et al. $^{13}$, based on the Algebraic operational laws $^{10,11}$, the IVPFWA operator and IVPFWG operator were defined to aggregate individual decision matrices into a collective decision matrix. In Zhang $^{16}$, the frank t-norm and s-norm were adopted as a basis for defining the interval-valued intuitionistic fuzzy frank weighted average (IVIFFWA) operator and the interval-valued intuitionistic fuzzy frank weighted geometric (IVIFFWG) operator, which were further used in the aggregation of individual IVIF decision matrices.

The first comparison is made between the P-IVPFWA and P-IVPFWG operators and the IVPFFP operator. Recall that the generalized Pythagorean fuzzy aggregation operator was defined by Yager$^{1,2}$ to gather a collection of PFNs satisfying the following characteristic: $\text{Agg} = \eta_p \circ \text{Agg}^d \circ \eta_p$, where $\text{Agg}$ and $\text{Agg}^d$ are dual with respect to the Pythagorean negation $\eta_p(x) = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$, and $\text{Agg}$ and $\text{Agg}^d$ are the membership and non-membership functions, respectively. According to Theorem 21, it is evident that the IVPFFP operator proposed in this paper satisfies this characteristic as well. However, the P-IVPFWA and P-IVPFWG operators fail to meet the dual property as their related aggregation functions were weighted average (WA) operator ($\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i$) and weighted geometric (WG) operator ($\prod_{i=1}^{n} x_i^{w_i}$). Subsection 6.1 is used as the background for case study, and applying the P-IVPFWA and P-IVPFWG operators derive the following decision results.

(i) In the case that the P-IVPFWA operator was applied we have $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_1) = -0.0226, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_2) = -0.0479$ and $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_3) = -0.0252, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) = 0.1156$. Therefore, $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_1) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_3) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_2)$. Thus, the ranking of alternatives is $A_4 > A_1 > A_3 > A_2$, which is consistent with the result obtained by IVPFFPWA operator ($\chi \in (1, 12.88)$) in subsection 6.2.

(ii) In the other case that the P-IVPFWG operator was applied we have $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_1) = -0.0221, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_2) = -0.0479$ and $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_3) = -0.0329, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) = 0.1287$. Therefore, $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_1) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_3) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_2)$. Thus, the ranking of alternatives is $A_4 > A_1 > A_3 > A_2$, which is consistent with the result obtained by IVPFFPWA operator ($\chi \in (1, 12.88)$) in subsection 6.2.

The second comparison will be conducted for the IVIFFWA and IVIFFWG operators. According to Theorem 23, the IVPFWA and IVPFWG operators are essentially the respective special cases of the IVPFFPW A and IVPFFPG operators. Likewise, the IVPFWA and IVPFWG operators are adopted to address the MAGDM problem in subsection 6.1 and the following decision results can be obtained.

(i) In the case that the IVPFWA operator was applied we have $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_1) = 0.0054, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_2) = -0.0134$, $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_3) = 0.0043, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) = 0.1556$. Therefore, $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_1) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_3) > \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_2)$. Thus, $A_4 > A_1 > A_3 > A_2$, which is consistent with the result obtained by IVPFFPWA operator ($\chi \in (1, 12.88)$) in subsection 6.2.

(ii) In the other case that the IVPFWG operator was considered we have $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_1) = -0.0562, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_2) = -0.0891$ and $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_3) = -0.0495, \text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) = 0.0721$. Therefore, $\text{Sco}(\tilde{P}_4) >$
Thus, \( A_3 \succ A_2 \succ A_1 \succ A_4 \), which is consistent with the result obtained by IVPFFPWG operator \( \chi \in (1, 50) \) in subsection 6.2.

The last comparison was made between Zhang and our proposal. Yager points out that all IFNs are PFNs, but not vice versa. Likewise, all IVIFNs are IVPFNs, but not the other way around. Therefore, the IVIFFWA and IVIFFWG operators in 16 can not be used to solve the aforementioned MAGDM problem. On the contrary, the IVPFFP operator proposed in this paper is capable of addressing the MAGDM problem provided as Example 5.1 in 16, and the following decision results can be obtained accordingly.

\( \text{The final score values changing with the varying parameter are shown in Figure } 8. \text{ Despite the ranking of alternatives } x_2 \text{ and } x_4 \text{ obtained using our approach is different from that derived from the IVIFFW operator, the best alternative selected is } x_3 \text{ in both cases. The reason that the ranking positions of } (x_2 \text{ and } x_4) \text{ get changed is because the IVPFFPWA and IVPFFPWG operators take into account the support function, and the scores of alternatives } x_2 \text{ and } x_4 \text{ are pretty close to each other. This is generally not the case for the IVIFFWA and IVIFFWG operators as the support function was not factored in.}

In comparison to the several existing aggregation operators described above, the proposed IVPFFP aggregation operators present the following benefits in its implementation process.

(1) The convenience of expert weight elicitation.

The IVPFFP operator can provide DM more flexibility in determining the weights of experts in the context of MAGDM. On the one hand, if the DM trusts the expert who provides evaluations completely and is allowed to determine the weight of the expert all on his/her own, then the support degree can be set as a constant, in which case the IVPFFPWA and IVPFFPWG operators degenerate to the IVIFFWA and IVIFFWG operator, respectively. This is a fact that can be reflected from Theorem 13(2) and Theorem 17(2). On the other hand, if the DM gets inadequate information at hand about the expert who provides evaluations, the expert weight elicitation depends entirely on the support function. In this case, the IVPFFPWA and IVPFFPWG operators reduce to the IVPFFPA and IVPFFPG operators, respectively, which can be observed in Theorem 13(1) and Theorem 17(1). Otherwise, the combination weight involving both subjective and objective approaches can be used to determine the aggregation weight of experts with the IVPFFWA and IVPFFWG operators.

(2) The variable parameter values indicating preference orientations.

Following the previous analysis conducted in subsection 6.2, it is observed that the adjustable parameter \( \chi \) conforms to the DM’s preferences in the sense that the DM can determine the appropriate values of \( \chi \) in accordance with their preference orien-
tations.

(3) The expansion of domain for evaluation.

The IVPFPWA and IVPFPWG operators are able to deal with MAGDM problems with interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy inputs, which is a benefit that the IVPFFWA and IVPFFWG operator do not share. It is as well convenient for DMs to adapt the IVPFPWA and IVPFPWG operators into MAGDM with interval-valued intuitionistic fuzzy inputs in the use of the idea raised in this paper.

7. Conclusions

In this study, we applied a special automorphism on the unit interval to construct an isomorphic Frank dual triple, which can be used to define the interval-valued Pythagorean Frank operations. We further revealed that these generalized operations include the existing operations for IVPFNs as special cases and discussed some fundamental properties of them. Subsequently, we proposed the IVPFPWA and IVPFPWG operators based on the proposed Frank operations and explored plenty of instrumental properties of the IVPFPWA and IVPFPWG operators. Several limiting cases of the proposed aggregation operators have as well been discussed in respect of the introduced adjustable parameter. We developed an IVPFPWA (or IVPFPWG) operator-based technique to deal with a classical MAGDM problem, provided an illustrative example to effectively verify the approach, and studied the influences of the adjustable parameter on the final aggregation results. The comparative analysis further demonstrated the superiority of the proposed aggregation techniques.

In future study, we are poised to pay more attention to the integration of IVPFNs with linguistic implication to foster their applications in the area of linguistic decision making. Investigation on how varying associated weighting vectors will impact the final decision outputs under the interval-valued Pythagorean fuzzy environment will as well be a promising endeavor for future research. Certain accuracy enhancements of the MAGDM with IVPFNs are expected to be achieved in the subsequent development of this study.

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