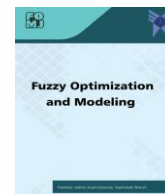




Contents lists available at FOMJ

# Fuzzy Optimization and Modelling

Journal homepage: <http://fomj.qaemiau.ac.ir/>

**Paper Type: Research Paper**

## Optimistic and Pessimistic Fuzzy Data Envelopment Analysis: Empirical Evidence from Tehran Stock Market

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 23 May 2021

Revised 26 June 2021

Accepted 3 July 2021

Available online 3 July 2021

#### Keywords:

Fuzzy DEA

Possibility Theory

Stock Market

Data Ambiguity

### ABSTRACT

In this paper, the fuzzy chance-constrained data envelopment analysis (FCCDEA) approach is presented for stock evaluation and portfolio selection under data ambiguity. To propose FCCDEA method, data envelopment analysis (DEA), possibilistic programming (PP), and chance-constrained programming (CCP) approaches are applied. It should be noted that FCCDEA models can be used by decision makers (DMs) under optimistic and pessimistic viewpoints. To show the applicability of the proposed fuzzy chance-constrained DEA approach, FCCDEA models based on possibility and necessity measures are implemented in a real-life case study from Tehran stock market. The results show the efficacy of the proposed FCCDEA approach for stock assessment in the presence of fuzzy data.

## 1. Introduction

Portfolio selection is one of the important and practical areas in financial market and investment issues. So far, numerous researchers and investors have attempted to present different models and approaches in this field [14, 15, 33, 44, 59, 66, 69]. One of the most important points in proposing models and approaches for stock portfolio selection is to pay attention to the multi-criteria feature of this issue. In other words, make a decision to identify and purchase good stocks can be difficult since there are many attributes from different financial perspectives including liquidity, asset utilization, valuation, leverage, profitability and growth must be considered simultaneously [20, 22, 28, 32, 36, 37, 39]. In recent years, multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) approaches are applied for portfolio selection problem by decision-makers (DMs) and investors. Data envelopment analysis (DEA) is one of the popular and applicable MCDM methods that is widely used in financial market and investment problems. DEA approach measures the relative efficiency of peer decision-making units (DMUs) considering the multiple inputs and multiple outputs [1, 2, 3, 6, 25, 24, 40, 43, 53, 70].

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As a result, DEA models can be employed in portfolio selection problem by calculating efficiency of stocks to identify good (desirable) stocks and filter bad (undesirable) stocks. Another important point that should be considered in the proposed approach for portfolio selection is the uncertainty of financial data. Because, financial data such as rate of return, rate of liquidity, and risk measures, most of the times are tainted by uncertainty and ambiguity [21, 27, 31, 35, 38, 42, 60]. Accordingly, it is essential to implement an extended DEA approach that can assess stocks in the presence of imprecise and vague data. Fuzzy chance-constrained data envelopment analysis (FCCDEA) is one of the applicable and popular approaches that is capable to be employed for performance measurement of DMUs under ambiguity [5, 8, 9, 19, 26, 41, 54, 55, 65, 67, 68].

Therefore, in this paper, two FCCDEA models based on optimistic and pessimistic viewpoints are implemented in a real-world case study from Tehran stock exchange for stock assessment in the presence of fuzzy data. It should be noted that possibilistic programming and chance-constrained programming approaches are used to deal with data ambiguity. Also, the experimental results are evaluated to show the efficacy and applicability of fuzzy DEA approach in stock market. The remainder of this study is organized as follows. The modeling of fuzzy data envelopment analysis approach based on possibility and necessity measures will be proposed in Section 2. Then, the implementation of fuzzy DEA models in real-life case study will be discussed in Section 3. Finally, conclusions as well as some directions for future research are introduced in Section 4.

## 2. Optimistic and Pessimistic Fuzzy DEA Models

Suppose that there are  $n$  homogenous decision-making units  $DMU_k$  ( $k=1, \dots, n$ ) that convert  $m$  inputs  $x_{ik}$  ( $i=1, \dots, m$ ) into  $s$  outputs  $y_{rk}$  ( $r=1, \dots, s$ ), and  $DMU_p$  is the DMU under evaluation. Also, the non-negative weights  $v_i$  ( $i=1, \dots, m$ ) and  $u_r$  ( $r=1, \dots, s$ ) are assigned to inputs and outputs, respectively. Model (1) presents classic DEA approach under constant return to scale assumption that inputs and outputs are tainted by ambiguity:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max} \quad \sum_{r=1}^s \tilde{y}_{rp} u_r & (1) \\ \text{S.t.} \quad & \sum_{r=1}^s \tilde{y}_{rk} u_r - \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{x}_{ik} v_i \leq 0, \quad \forall k=1, \dots, n \\ & \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{x}_{ip} v_i = 1 \\ & v_i, u_r \geq 0, \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m, \quad \forall r=1, \dots, s \end{aligned}$$

Now suppose that inputs and outputs have a trapezoidal fuzzy distribution, and  $\delta$  is a confidence level for satisfying the fuzzy chance-constraints. Accordingly, fuzzy DEA models based on possibility and necessity approaches are presented as Models (2) and (3), respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Max} \quad F & (2) \\ \text{S.t.} \quad & \sum_{r=1}^s ((\delta) y_{rp}^3 + (1-\delta) y_{rp}^4) u_r \geq F \\ & \sum_{r=1}^s ((1-\delta) y_{rk}^1 + (\delta) y_{rk}^2) u_r - \sum_{i=1}^m ((\delta) x_{ik}^3 + (1-\delta) x_{ik}^4) v_i \leq 0, \quad \forall k=1, \dots, n \\ & \sum_{i=1}^m ((1-\delta) x_{ip}^1 + (\delta) x_{ip}^2) v_i \leq 1 \\ & v_i, u_r \geq 0, \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m, \quad \forall r=1, \dots, s \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Max } G \tag{3} \\
 \text{S.t. } & \sum_{r=1}^s ((\delta) y_{rp}^1 + (1-\delta) y_{rp}^2) u_r \geq G \\
 & \sum_{r=1}^s ((1-\delta) y_{rk}^3 + (\delta) y_{rk}^4) u_r - \sum_{i=1}^m ((\delta) x_{ik}^1 + (1-\delta) x_{ik}^2) v_i \leq 0, \quad \forall k = 1, \dots, n \\
 & \sum_{i=1}^m ((1-\delta) x_{ip}^3 + (\delta) x_{ip}^4) v_i \leq 1 \\
 & v_i, u_r \geq 0, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m, \quad \forall r = 1, \dots, s
 \end{aligned}$$

It is worth noting that Models (2) and (3) can be applied by decision makers (DMs) under optimistic and pessimistic viewpoints, respectively [4, 18, 29, 34, 58]. Also, above FDEA models can be presented to deal with triangular fuzzy distribution in a similar manner [57, 63, 64].

### 3. A Real-World Case Study

In this section, the real data set for 20 stocks are extracted from Tehran stock exchange (TSE). Accordingly, two inputs including quick ratio (QR) and leverage ratio (LR) as well as three outputs including rate of return (RoR), rate of liquidity (RoL), and earning per share (EPS) are considered for implementation of FDEA approach. Trapezoidal fuzzy data set for QR, LR, RoR, RoL, and EPS are presented in Tables 1 to 5, respectively:

**Table 1.** Data Set for Quick Ratio

Stocks	$x^1$	$x^2$	$x^3$	$x^4$
Stock 01	0.39	0.46	0.51	0.59
Stock 02	0.47	0.56	0.62	0.71
Stock 03	0.68	0.81	0.90	1.03
Stock 04	0.85	1.01	1.12	1.28
Stock 05	0.78	0.92	1.02	1.17
Stock 06	1.49	1.77	1.96	2.24
Stock 07	0.85	1.01	1.12	1.28
Stock 08	0.72	0.85	0.94	1.08
Stock 09	0.58	0.68	0.75	0.86
Stock 10	1.02	1.22	1.35	1.54
Stock 11	0.63	0.75	0.83	0.95
Stock 12	0.97	1.15	1.28	1.46
Stock 13	0.58	0.69	0.76	0.87
Stock 14	0.66	0.78	0.87	0.99
Stock 15	0.97	1.15	1.27	1.45
Stock 16	0.81	0.96	1.06	1.21
Stock 17	0.78	0.93	1.02	1.17
Stock 18	0.48	0.57	0.63	0.72
Stock 19	0.80	0.95	1.05	1.20
Stock 20	0.85	1.00	1.11	1.27

**Table 2.** Data Set for Leverage Ratio

	Stocks	$x^1$	$x^2$	$x^3$	$x^4$
Second Input (I2)	Stock 01	3.09	3.67	4.06	4.64
	Stock 02	2.28	2.71	3.00	3.42
	Stock 03	1.82	2.16	2.39	2.73
	Stock 04	1.47	1.75	1.93	2.21
	Stock 05	1.09	1.29	1.43	1.63
	Stock 06	0.21	0.25	0.27	0.31
	Stock 07	0.98	1.17	1.29	1.47
	Stock 08	4.76	5.65	6.24	7.14
	Stock 09	2.40	2.85	3.15	3.60
	Stock 10	0.97	1.15	1.27	1.45
	Stock 11	3.54	4.21	4.65	5.32
	Stock 12	0.75	0.89	0.99	1.13
	Stock 13	1.82	2.16	2.39	2.73
	Stock 14	4.12	4.90	5.41	6.19
	Stock 15	0.67	0.79	0.88	1.00
	Stock 16	0.76	0.90	1.00	1.14
	Stock 17	1.16	1.38	1.52	1.74
	Stock 18	3.85	4.57	5.05	5.77
	Stock 19	1.55	1.83	2.03	2.32
	Stock 20	1.25	1.49	1.65	1.88

**Table 3.** Data Set for Rate of Return

	Stocks	$y^1$	$y^2$	$y^3$	$y^4$
First Output (O1)	Stock 01	164.60	195.46	216.03	246.89
	Stock 02	54.87	65.16	72.02	82.31
	Stock 03	218.11	259.01	286.27	327.17
	Stock 04	162.98	193.54	213.91	244.47
	Stock 05	211.30	250.92	277.33	316.95
	Stock 06	13.79	16.37	18.09	20.68
	Stock 07	153.97	182.84	202.09	230.96
	Stock 08	58.79	69.82	77.17	88.19
	Stock 09	126.93	150.73	166.59	190.39
	Stock 10	199.12	236.45	261.34	298.67
	Stock 11	201.73	239.55	264.76	302.59
	Stock 12	250.84	297.87	329.23	376.26
	Stock 13	459.50	545.66	603.10	689.26
	Stock 14	251.42	298.56	329.98	377.12
	Stock 15	144.00	171.01	189.01	216.01
	Stock 16	116.85	138.76	153.36	175.27
	Stock 17	332.15	394.43	435.95	498.22
	Stock 18	176.92	210.09	232.21	265.38
	Stock 19	119.35	141.72	156.64	179.02
	Stock 20	212.11	251.88	278.39	318.16

**Table 4.** Data Set for Rate of Liquidity

	Stocks	$y^1$	$y^2$	$y^3$	$y^4$
Second Output (O2)	Stock 01	146.79	174.31	192.66	220.18
	Stock 02	88.22	104.76	115.79	132.33
	Stock 03	98.21	116.62	128.90	147.31
	Stock 04	131.25	155.86	172.27	196.88
	Stock 05	183.10	217.44	240.32	274.66
	Stock 06	33.48	39.76	43.95	50.23
	Stock 07	135.76	161.21	178.18	203.63
	Stock 08	182.29	216.47	239.25	273.43
	Stock 09	150.39	178.59	197.39	225.58
	Stock 10	164.17	194.96	215.48	246.26
	Stock 11	141.66	168.22	185.93	212.49
	Stock 12	175.49	208.40	230.33	263.24
	Stock 13	117.81	139.90	154.63	176.72
	Stock 14	158.69	188.44	208.28	238.03
	Stock 15	139.52	165.67	183.11	209.27
	Stock 16	21.09	25.05	27.69	31.64
	Stock 17	130.97	155.52	171.89	196.45
	Stock 18	145.12	172.33	190.48	217.69
	Stock 19	182.74	217.00	239.85	274.11
	Stock 20	177.38	210.64	232.81	266.07

**Table 5.** Data Set for Earning per Share

	Stocks	$y^1$	$y^2$	$y^3$	$y^4$
Third Output (O3)	Stock 01	170.40	202.35	223.65	255.60
	Stock 02	639.20	759.05	838.95	958.80
	Stock 03	554.40	658.35	727.65	831.60
	Stock 04	1021.60	1213.15	1340.85	1532.40
	Stock 05	96.80	114.95	127.05	145.20
	Stock 06	413.60	491.15	542.85	620.40
	Stock 07	797.60	947.15	1046.85	1196.40
	Stock 08	422.40	501.60	554.40	633.60
	Stock 09	244.80	290.70	321.30	367.20
	Stock 10	764.80	908.20	1003.80	1147.20
	Stock 11	532.80	632.70	699.30	799.20
	Stock 12	527.20	626.05	691.95	790.80
	Stock 13	181.60	215.65	238.35	272.40
	Stock 14	1026.40	1218.85	1347.15	1539.60
	Stock 15	977.60	1160.90	1283.10	1466.40
	Stock 16	104.80	124.45	137.55	157.20
	Stock 17	556.80	661.20	730.80	835.20
	Stock 18	323.20	383.80	424.20	484.80
	Stock 19	334.40	397.10	438.90	501.60
	Stock 20	524.00	622.25	687.75	786.00

The results of stocks evaluation based on possibility and necessity approaches are presented in Tables 6 and 7, respectively:

**Table 6.** The Results of FDEA Model under Possibility Approach

Stocks	$\delta = 0\%$	$\delta = 25\%$	$\delta = 50\%$	$\delta = 75\%$	$\delta = 100\%$
Stock 01	2.269	1.942	1.664	1.427	1.225
Stock 02	2.119	1.814	1.556	1.336	1.149
Stock 03	1.863	1.594	1.367	1.174	1.009
Stock 04	2.258	1.933	1.658	1.424	1.225
Stock 05	2.249	1.928	1.656	1.424	1.225
Stock 06	2.228	1.905	1.633	1.401	1.204
Stock 07	2.201	1.885	1.617	1.389	1.194
Stock 08	1.790	1.533	1.315	1.130	0.971
Stock 09	2.067	1.773	1.523	1.310	1.128
Stock 10	2.120	1.813	1.554	1.333	1.146
Stock 11	1.881	1.609	1.380	1.185	1.018
Stock 12	2.260	1.936	1.662	1.429	1.230
Stock 13	2.250	1.927	1.654	1.421	1.222
Stock 14	2.252	1.931	1.661	1.430	1.233
Stock 15	2.242	1.923	1.656	1.427	1.231
Stock 16	1.095	0.938	0.806	0.693	0.596
Stock 17	2.250	1.925	1.650	1.416	1.217
Stock 18	2.028	1.733	1.484	1.273	1.093
Stock 19	2.222	1.902	1.632	1.402	1.205
Stock 20	2.245	1.926	1.655	1.424	1.226

**Table 7.** The Results of FDEA Model under Necessity Approach

Stocks	$\delta = 0\%$	$\delta = 25\%$	$\delta = 50\%$	$\delta = 75\%$	$\delta = 100\%$
Stock 01	0.817	0.702	0.603	0.517	0.442
Stock 02	0.765	0.658	0.566	0.485	0.416
Stock 03	0.672	0.578	0.497	0.426	0.365
Stock 04	0.817	0.703	0.603	0.517	0.443
Stock 05	0.816	0.703	0.604	0.519	0.445
Stock 06	0.838	0.719	0.617	0.528	0.452
Stock 07	0.797	0.686	0.590	0.506	0.434
Stock 08	0.649	0.558	0.479	0.411	0.352
Stock 09	0.755	0.649	0.558	0.479	0.411
Stock 10	0.765	0.659	0.567	0.487	0.417
Stock 11	0.679	0.584	0.502	0.431	0.370
Stock 12	0.813	0.700	0.602	0.517	0.443
Stock 13	0.821	0.706	0.606	0.519	0.444
Stock 14	0.815	0.702	0.603	0.518	0.444
Stock 15	0.819	0.705	0.606	0.520	0.447
Stock 16	0.397	0.342	0.294	0.252	0.216
Stock 17	0.824	0.708	0.607	0.520	0.444
Stock 18	0.729	0.628	0.540	0.464	0.398
Stock 19	0.804	0.693	0.596	0.512	0.440
Stock 20	0.816	0.702	0.604	0.520	0.446

As it can be seen from Tables 6 and 7, by increasing the confidence level from 0 to 1, the results of FDEA approach are decreased. Also, as expected, the optimistic and pessimistic results for stock evaluation are obtained from possibility and necessity approaches, respectively. The results indicate on the applicability and efficacy of fuzzy DEA method in stock market.

#### 4. Conclusions and Future Research Directions

In the current study, stocks are evaluated using possibilistic data envelopment analysis approach. It should be explained that possibilistic programming and chance-constrained programming approaches are applied to handle epistemic uncertainty. Finally, fuzzy data envelopment analysis models based on possibility and necessity measures are implemented in a real-world case study from Tehran stock exchange. For the future studies, robust optimization approach can be applied in order to deal with uncertainty of data [7, 10, 16, 17, 23, 30, 51, 52, 56, 61]. Additionally, machine learning models can be used for forecasting and prediction of financial data in portfolio selection problem [11, 12, 13, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 62].

**Conflict of interest:** The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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<https://doi.org/10.30495/fomj.2021.1931398.1028>

Received: 23 May 2021

Revised: 26 June 2021

Accepted: 3 July 2021



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