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Ranking of Trapezoidal Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers Based on a New Improved Score Function

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> **Abstract.** Bipolar fuzzy numbers plays a vital role in any Decision-making problem modelled under a bipolar fuzzy environment. In 2018, Akram and Arshad [1] introduced a new ranking function on the class of Trapezoidal Bipolar fuzzy numbers based on the area of the left and right membership function of a TrBFN, and they have discriminated any two TrBFNs by using it. The ranking principle introduced by Akram and Arshad [1] works better only when two bipolar fuzzy numbers have different rankings. We describe that the ranking function does not work with counterexamples when two or more bipolar fuzzy numbers have the same rankings. In this paper, we improve the ranking principle introduced in [1] by introducing a new Improved Score function. Firstly, we discuss the drawbacks and limitations of the ranking function introduced by Akram and Arshad [1]. Secondly, we introduce a new ranking function and study its properties. Thirdly, we introduce a new ranking principle by combining Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function and the proposed ranking function. Finally, we show the efficiency of the proposed ranking principle in comparing arbitrary TrBFNs.

> Keywords. Trapezoidal Bipolar fuzzy number, Ranking, Triangular Bipolar fuzzy number, Improved score function

1. Introduction

Fuzzy numbers play a major in solving problems involving imprecise numerical quantity. Further, it has been generalized to various forms such as intuitionistic fuzzy numbers, Pythagorean fuzzy numbers, Fermatean fuzzy numbers, Bipolar fuzzy numbers, etc. Various ranking procedures are available on the different classes of fuzzy and intuitionistic fuzzy numbers [1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11]. Bipolar fuzzy numbers are very much valuable for modelling problems with imprecise and incomplete information. Especially, Trapezoidal (Triangular) Bipolar Fuzzy numbers (TrBFN) are widely used in the literature [1,4,12,13] for uncertainty modelling, and sometimes it performs better than the trapezoidal fuzzy numbers and trapezoidal intuitionistic fuzzy numbers. Ranking of Trapezoidal Bipolar fuzzy numbers plays a vital role in any Decision-making problem mod-

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elled under a bipolar fuzzy environment. Reza et al. [11] discussed the idea of duality in Linear programming problems. Rayappan and Mohana discuss the applications of spherical fuzzy sets in solving the MCDM problem. Akram and Arshad [1] has derived a new ranking principle for ordering any two Trapezoidal (Triangular) Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers (TrBFN), and they have compared any two Trapezoidal (Triangular) Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers by using the same ranking principle. They have also developed a group decision-making method based on trapezoidal bipolar fuzzy TOPSIS. Using the formula (3.3) and formula (3.4) on page number 574 (of Akram and Arshad [1]), they have shown that they can compare any two Trapezoidal (Triangular) Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers utilizing proposed ranking function R_{f1} , R_{f2} . However, their method does not compare any two arbitrary TrBFNs effectively. Highly motivated by the work of Akram and Arshad [1], firstly, we introduce a new improved score function on the class of TrBFNs and study its properties. Then, we present a new ranking principle by combining Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function and the proposed ranking function. Finally, we show the efficiency of the proposed ranking principle in comparing arbitrary TrBFNs.

2. Preliminaries

Here we give some of the basic definitions defined on the class of TrBFNs.

Definition 2.1. Akram and Arshad [1].

A Bipolar Fuzzy Number (BFN) $A = \langle I, K \rangle = \langle [t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4], [k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4] \rangle$ is a Trapezoidal Bipolar Fuzzy Number (TrBFN), denoted by $\langle (t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4), (k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4) \rangle$, if its satisfaction degree λ_I and dissatisfaction degree λ_K are given as:

$$\lambda_{I} = \begin{cases} \frac{x-t_{1}}{t_{2}-t_{1}} & \text{if } x \in [t_{1}, t_{2}] \\ I & \text{if } x \in [t_{2}, t_{3}] \\ \frac{t_{4}-x}{t_{4}-t_{3}} & \text{if } x \in [t_{3}, t4] \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases} \text{ and } \lambda_{K} = \begin{cases} \frac{k_{1}-x}{k_{2}-k_{1}} & \text{if } x \in [k_{1}, k_{2}] \\ -I & \text{if } x \in [t_{2}, t_{3}] \\ \frac{x-k_{4}}{k_{4}-k_{3}} & \text{if } x \in [k_{3}, k4] \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Note: Here, $t_1 \le t_2 \le t_3 \le t_4$ *and* $k_1 \le k_2 \le k_3 \le k_4$.

Definition 2.2. Akram and Arshad [1].

A BFN, $A = \langle I, K \rangle = \langle [t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4], [k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4] \rangle$ is a Triangular Bipolar Fuzzy Number (TBFN), denoted by $\langle (t_1, t_2, t_3), (k_1, k_2, k_3) \rangle$, if its satisfaction degree λ_I and dissatisfaction degree λ_K are given as:

$$\lambda_{I} = \begin{cases} \frac{x-t_{1}}{t_{2}-t_{1}} & if x \in [t_{1},t_{2}] \\ \frac{t_{3}-x}{t_{3}-t_{2}} & if x \in [t_{2},t_{3}] \text{ and } \lambda_{K} = \begin{cases} \frac{k_{1}-x}{k_{2}-k_{1}} & if x \in [k_{1},k_{2}] \\ \frac{x-k_{3}}{k_{3}-k_{2}} & if x \in [k_{2},k_{3}] \\ 0 & Otherwise \end{cases}$$
Note: Here, $t_{1} \leq t_{2} \leq t_{3}$ and $k_{1} \leq k_{2} \leq k_{3}$.

Definition 2.3. Akram and Arshad [1].

Ranking Function R_{f1} for TrBFN

Let $A = \langle I, K \rangle = \langle (t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4), (k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4) \rangle$ be the TrBFN. Then by using Definition 2.1, they have derived the ranking function R_{f1} of TrBFN as $R_{f1}(A) = (m(I) + \sigma(I) - (m(K) + \sigma(K)))$, where the means (m(I), m(K)) are defined as $m(I) = \frac{t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4}{4}$, $m(K) = \frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4}{4}$ and the areas $(\sigma(I), \sigma(K))$ are defined as $\sigma(I) = \frac{t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4}{4}$.

$$\frac{-t_1-t_2+t_3+t_4}{2}$$
 and $\sigma(K) = \frac{-k_1-k_2+k_3+k_4}{2}$

Therefore,
$$R_{f1}(A) = \frac{(-t_1 - t_2 + 3t_3 + 3t_4) - (-k_1 - k_2 + 3k_3 + 3k_4)}{4} = \frac{-t_1 - t_2 + 3t_3 + 3t_4 + k_1 + k_2 - 3k_3 - 3k_4}{4}$$
.

If $\sigma(I), \sigma(K) \ge 1$, then the ranking function R_{f2} for TrBFNs can also be defined as, $R_{f2}(A) = m(I)\sigma(I) - m(K)\sigma(K) = \frac{(t_1+t_2+t_3+t_4)(-t_1-t_2+t_3+t_4)}{8} - \frac{(k_1+k_2+k_3+k_4)(-k_1-k_2+k_3+k_4)}{8}$

Definition 2.4. Akram and Arshad [1].

Ranking Function R_{f1} *for TBFN*

Let $A = \langle I, K \rangle = \langle (t_1, t_2, t_3), (k_1, k_2, k_3) \rangle$ be the TBFN. Then by using Definition 2.2, they have derived the ranking function R_{f1} of TBFN as $R_f(A) = (m(I) + \sigma(I) - (m(K) + \sigma(K)))$, where the means (m(I), m(K)) are defined as $m(I) = \frac{t_1 + t_2 + t_3}{3}$, $m(K) = \frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3}{3}$ and the areas $(\sigma(I), \sigma(K))$ are defined as $\sigma(I) = \frac{t_3 - t_1}{2}$, $\sigma(K) = \frac{k_3 - k_1}{2}$.

Therefore,
$$R_{f1}(A) = \frac{(-t_1+2t_2+5t_3)-(-k_1+2k_2+5k_3)}{6} = \frac{-t_1+2t_2+5t_3+k_1-2k_2-5k_3}{6}$$

If $\sigma(I), \sigma(K) \ge 1$, then the ranking function R_{f2} for TBFNs can also be defined as, $R_{f2}(A) = m(I)\sigma(I) - m(K)\sigma(K) = \frac{(t_1+t_2+t_3)(t_3-t_1)}{6} - \frac{(k_1+k_2+k_3)(k_3-k_1)}{6}$

Definition 2.5. Ranking of Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers. Akram and Arshad [1]. Let $H = \{h_1, h_2, h_3, ..., h_n\}$ be the set of BFNs then for any distinct $h_i, h_j \in H$, the ranking function R_{f1} from H to real line \Re is mapping satisfying the following characteristics,

- If $R_{f1}(h_i) < R_{f1}(h_i)$, then $h_i < h_i$,
- If $R_{f1}(h_i) = R_{f1}(h_i)$, then $h_i = h_i$,
- If $R_{f1}(h_i) > R_{f1}(h_i)$, then $h_i > h_i$,

The ranking function for a BFN $h_i = \langle I_i, K_i \rangle = \langle (t_{i1}, t_{i2}, t_{i3}, t_{i4}), (k_{i1}, k_{i2}, k_{i3}, k_{i4}) \rangle$ as, $R_{f1}(h_i) = [m(I_i) + \sigma(I_i)] - [m(K_i) + \sigma(K_i)], k = 1, 2, 3, 4.$ Where $m(I_i)$ and $m(K_i)$ denote the mean of I_i and the mean of K_i respectively, $\sigma(I_i)$ represents the area of I_i and $\sigma(K_i)$ represents the area of K_i .

If $\sigma(I_i), \sigma(K_i) \ge 1$ for each *i*, then the ranking function R_{f2} for TrBFNs can also be defined as,

 $R_{f2}(h_i) = m(I_i)\sigma(I_i) - m(K_i)\sigma(K_i)$

3. Limitations of the Ranking Functions *R*_{f1}, *R*_{f2} in ranking Trapezoidal Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers

In this section, we discuss some limitations of Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function in comparing different Trapezoidal Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers using numerical examples.

Definition 3.1. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle$ and $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{21}, t_{22}, t_{23}, t_{24}), (k_{21}, k_{22}, k_{23}, k_{24}) \rangle$ be any two TrBFN. Using Definition 2.3, we can rewrite the Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking principle (Definition 2.5) that utilizes R_{f1} and R_{f2} in the following way,

- 1. If $\frac{-t_{11}-t_{12}+3t_{13}+3t_{14}+k_{11}+k_{12}-3k_{13}-3k_{14}}{4} < \frac{-t_{21}-t_{22}+3t_{23}+3t_{24}+k_{21}+k_{22}-3k_{23}-3k_{24}}{4}$, then A < B.
- 2. If $\frac{-t_{11}-t_{12}+3t_{13}+3t_{14}+k_{11}+k_{12}-3k_{13}-3k_{14}}{4} = \frac{-t_{21}-t_{22}+3t_{23}+3t_{24}+k_{21}+k_{22}-3k_{23}-3k_{24}}{4}$, then A = B.
- $\begin{array}{l} A = B, \\ 3. \ If \ \frac{-t_{11} t_{12} + 3t_{13} + 3t_{14} + k_{11} + k_{12} 3k_{13} 3k_{14}}{4} > \frac{-t_{21} t_{22} + 3t_{23} + 3t_{24} + k_{21} + k_{22} 3k_{23} 3k_{24}}{4}, \ then \\ A > B. \end{array}$
- 4. If $\sigma(I_i), \sigma(K_i) \ge 1$, for each *i*, then the ranking function R_{f2} for TrBFNs can also be defined as, $\frac{(t_{11}+t_{12}+t_{13}+t_{14})(-t_{11}-t_{12}+t_{13}+t_{14})-(k_{11}+k_{12}+k_{13}+k_{14})(-k_{11}-k_{12}+k_{13}+k_{14})}{8}$

The limitations of Akram and Arshad's [1] Ranking function can be seen from the following Examples.

Example 3.1. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (10, 20, 30, 40), (10, 20, 30, 40) \rangle$, $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (90, 120, 150, 180), (90, 120, 150, 180) \rangle$, $C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (0, 0, 1, 1), (0, 0, 1, 1) \rangle$, $D = \langle I_4, K_4 \rangle = \langle (20, 30, 40, 50), (20, 30, 40, 50) \rangle$, $E = \langle I_5, K_5 \rangle = \langle (30, 50, 70, 90), (30, 50, 70, 90) \rangle$ be five different TrBFNs and their pictorial representation is given in Figure 1.

If we apply Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function R_f to the above five differ-



Figure 1. Pictorial representation of Example 3.1

ent TrBFNs, then we get $R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = 0$ and $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = 0$ which implies that (from Definition 3.1) A = B = C = D = E. But from Figure 1, it is very clear that all the given TrBFNs are different in nature and which does not favor the human intuition.

Example 3.2. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (0.10, 0.20, 0.30, 0.40), (0.50, 0.60, 0.70, 0.80) \rangle$, $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6), (0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1) \rangle$, be two different TrBFNs and their pictorial representation is given in Figure 2.

If we apply Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function R_f to the above two different TrBFNs, then we get $R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = -0.4$ which implies that (from Definition 3.1) A = B. This is an anti-intuitive case of Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function.



Figure 2. Pictorial representation of Example 3.2

Example 3.3. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (2, 4, 6, 8), (4, 5, 6, 7) \rangle$, $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (4, 6, 8, 10), (6, 7, 8, 9) \rangle$, $C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (82, 84, 86, 88), (84, 85, 86, 87) \rangle$, be three different TrBFNs and their pictorial representation is given in Figure 3.

If we apply Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function R_f to the above three differ-



Figure 3. Pictorial representation of Example 3.3

ent TrBFNs, then we get $R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = 1.5 \Rightarrow A = B = C$. Suppose if we consider the fourth formula (in Definition 3.1) then we get $R_{f2}(A) = 9, R_{f2}(B) =$ $13, R_{f2}(C) = 169$ (Since $\sigma(I_1), \sigma(I_2), \sigma(I_3), \sigma(K_1), \sigma(K_2), \sigma(K_3) > 1$) which implies that A < B < C. i.e., If we consider the second score function R_{f2} (once after the first score function R_{f1} fails), then we can rank the arbitrary TrBFNs effectively.

Example 3.4. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (5, 20, 30, 40), (25, 35, 45, 60) \rangle$, $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (10, 15, 25, 45), (30, 30, 40, 65) \rangle$, $C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (0, 25, 25, 45), (30, 30, 35, 70) \rangle$, $D = \langle I_4, K_4 \rangle = \langle (12, 13, 13, 57), (15, 45, 50, 55) \rangle$, $E = \langle I_5, K_5 \rangle = \langle (2, 23, 27, 43), (27, 33, 43, 62) \rangle$ be five different TrBFNs and their pictorial representation is given in Figure 4.

If we apply Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function R_f to the above five different TrBFNs, then we get $R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = -17.5$ which implies that (from Definition 3.1) A = B = C. Suppose if we consider the fourth formula (in



Figure 4. Pictorial representation of Example 3.4

Definition 3.1), then we get $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = -393.75$ (Since $\sigma(I_i), \sigma(K_i) > 1$, for i = 1 to 5) which implies that A = B = C = D = E. i.e., In both the cases, ranking is same and it is anti-intuitive.

Example 3.5. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (5, 70, 90, 110), (70, 80, 110, 140) \rangle$, $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (10, 65, 70, 130), (60, 90, 120, 130) \rangle$, $C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (20, 55, 75, 125), (40, 110, 115, 135) \rangle$, be three different TrBFNs and their pictorial representation is given in Figure 5.

If we apply Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function R_f to the above five different



Figure 5. Pictorial representation of Example 3.5

TrBFNs, then we get $R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = -18.75$ which implies that (from Definition 3.1) A = B = C. Suppose if we consider the fourth formula (in Definition 3.1), then we get $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = -703.125$ (Since $\sigma(I_i), \sigma(K_i) > 1$, for i = 1 to 3) which implies that A = B = C. i.e., In both the cases, ranking is same and it is anti-intuitive.

3.1. Limitations of Ranking functions R_{f1} , R_{f2} of Triangular Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers

In this subsection, we discuss the various drawbacks of Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function in comparing different Triangular Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers using numerical examples. **Definition 3.2.** Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}) \rangle$ and $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{21}, t_{22}, t_{23}), (k_{21}, k_{22}, k_{23}) \rangle$ be any two TrBFN. Using Definition 2.4, we can rewrite the Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking principle (Definition 2.5) in the following way,

- 1. If $\frac{-t_{11}+2t_{12}+5t_{13}+k_{11}-2k_{12}-5k_{13}}{6} < \frac{-t_{21}+2t_{22}+5t_{23}+k_{21}-2k_{22}-5k_{23}}{6}$, then A < B. 2. If $\frac{-t_{11}+2t_{12}+5t_{13}+k_{11}-2k_{12}-5k_{13}}{6} = \frac{-t_{21}+2t_{22}+5t_{23}+k_{21}-2k_{22}-5k_{23}}{6}$, then A = B. 3. If $\frac{-t_{11}+2t_{12}+5t_{13}+k_{11}-2k_{12}-5k_{13}}{6} > \frac{-t_{21}+2t_{22}+5t_{23}+k_{21}-2k_{22}-5k_{23}}{6}$, then A > B. 4. If $\sigma(I_i), \sigma(K_i) \ge 1$, for each *i*, then the ranking function R_{f2} for TBFNs can also

- be defined as, $\frac{(t_{11}+t_{12}+t_{13})(t_{13}-t_{11})-(k_{11}+k_{12}+k_{13})(k_{13}-k_{11})}{6}$

Akram and Arshad [1] have introduced the ranking method without investigating its Mathematical Properties. Ranking principle of TBFN defined in [1] is not true for any two TBFNs which can be seen by using the following examples,

Example 3.6. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (3, 4.2, 4.8), (4.2, 5.1, 6) \rangle$, $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (3.6, 4.8, 4.92), (4.8, 5.7, 6.12) \rangle,$ $C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (4.8, 5.1, 5.16), (6, 6, 6.36) \rangle$, be three different TBFNs and their pictorial representation is given in Figure 6.

If we apply Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function R_f to the above 3 different



Figure 6. Pictorial representation of Example 3.6

TBFNs, then we get $R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = -1.1$, $R_{f2}(A) = -0.99$, $R_{f2}(B) = -0.99$, $R_{f2}($ -0.726, $R_{f2}(C) = -0.198$ which implies that (from Definition 3.2) A < B < C. i.e., If we consider the second score function R_{f2} (once after the first score function R_{f1} fails), then we can rank the arbitrary TBFNs effectively.

Example 3.7. Let $A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (30, 50, 60), (30, 50, 60) \rangle$, $B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (40, 60, 70), (30, 50, 60) \rangle$ (40,60,70), $C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (10,20,30), (10,20,30) \rangle$, $D = \langle I_4, K_4 \rangle = \langle (1,2,3), (1,2,3) \rangle$, $E = \langle I_5, K_5 \rangle = \langle (50, 70, 90), (50, 70, 90) \rangle, F = \langle I_6, K_6 \rangle = \langle (20, 50, 70), (20, 50, 70) \rangle$ be six different TBFNs and their pictorial representation is given in Figure 7. If we apply Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function R_f to the above five different



Figure 7. Pictorial representation of Example 3.7

TBFNs, then we get $R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = R_{f1}(F) = 0$ which implies that (from Definition 3.2) A = B = C = D = E = F. Suppose if we consider the fourth formula (in Definition 3.2), then we get $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = R_{f2}(F) = 0$ (Since $\sigma(I_i), \sigma(K_i) > 1$, for i = 1 to 6) which implies that A = B = C = D = E = F. i.e., In both the cases, ranking is same and it does not favor the human intuition.

3.2. Limitations of R_f

In this subsection, we discuss some limitations of the score functions R_{f1} and R_{f2} in a Mathematical way.

- 1. Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}) \rangle$, $A_2 = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{21}, t_{22}, t_{23}, t_{12}), (t_{21}, t_{22}, t_{23}, t_{24}) \rangle$ any two TrBFNs. Then $R_{f1}(A_1) = R_{f1}(A_2) = 0$ and $R_{f2}(A_1) = R_{f2}(A_2) = 0$. (Example 3.1 represents the numerical illustration of this Theoretical (Mathematical) drawback 1)
- 2. Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle$, $A_2 = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{11} + \varepsilon, t_{12} + \varepsilon, t_{13} + \varepsilon, t_{14} + \varepsilon), (k_{11} + \varepsilon, k_{12} + \varepsilon, k_{13} + \varepsilon, k_{14} + \varepsilon) \rangle$ any two TrBFNs and $\varepsilon \leq t_{11}, k_{11}$. Then $R_{f1}(A_1) = R_{f1}(A_2)$. (Example 3.2, Example 3.3 represent the numerical illustration of this Theoretical (Mathematical) drawback)
- 3. Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle$, $A_2 = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{11} \varepsilon_1, t_{12} + \varepsilon_2, t_{13} \varepsilon_1, t_{14} + \varepsilon_2), (k_{11} + \varepsilon_1, k_{12} \varepsilon_2, k_{13} + \varepsilon_1, k_{14} \varepsilon_2) \rangle$ any two TrBFNs and $\varepsilon_1 \le t_{11}, \varepsilon_2 \le k_{12}$ and $\varepsilon_1 \le \varepsilon_2$. Then $R_{f1}(A_1) = R_{f1}(A_2)$.
- 4. Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle$, $A_2 = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{11} \varepsilon, t_{12} + \varepsilon, t_{13} \varepsilon, t_{14} + \varepsilon), (k_{11} + \varepsilon, k_{12} \varepsilon, k_{13} + \varepsilon, k_{14} \varepsilon) \rangle$ any two TrBFNs and $\varepsilon \le t_{11}, k_{11}$. Then $R_{f1}(A_1) = R_{f1}(A_2)$ and $R_{f2}(A_1) = R_{f2}(A_2)$.
- 5. Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle$, $A_2 = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{11} \varepsilon, t_{12} + \varepsilon, t_{13} + \varepsilon, t_{14} \varepsilon), (k_{11} \varepsilon, k_{12} + \varepsilon, k_{13} + \varepsilon, k_{14} \varepsilon) \rangle$ any two TrBFNs and $\varepsilon \leq t_{11}, k_{11}$. Then $R_{f1}(A_1) = R_{f1}(A_2)$ and $R_{f2}(A_1) = R_{f2}(A_2)$. Note: Here, all the values of ε_i have been chosen without violating the conditions of TrBFNs (TBFNs). Numerical illustration of these theoretical drawbacks 3, 4, and 5 are given in the example 3.4, example 3.5, example 3.6 and example 3.7.

From the limitations of Akram and Arshad's [1] score functions, we can conclude that the score functions R_{f1} and R_{f2} are not sufficient for ranking any two TRBFNs (TBFNs). In order to improve the ranking principle, we define a new score function in the following section.

4. New Score function R_{f3}

In this section, first, we define a new score function on the class of TrBFNs (TBFNs) that can overcome the drawbacks of Akram and Arshad's ranking functions. Then we study some properties of the proposed score function, and finally, we discuss the efficiency of a score function in ranking TrBFNs that are not ranked by using R_{f1} and R_{f2} . From the previous limitations, we can conclude that if the mean and area of both the membership and non-membership functions of any two TrBFNs are equal, then they are ranked equal. In order to distinguish any two TrBFNs with same mean and area, here we made a small change in the score function R_f and defined a new score function R_{f3} on the class of Trapezoidal Bipolar Fuzzy Numbers as follows.

Definition 4.1. *Ranking Function R*_{3f} for *TrBFN*

Let $A = \langle I, K \rangle = \langle (t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4), (k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4) \rangle$ be any TrBFN. Then the new score function R_{f3} of TrBFN is defined as $R_{3f}(A) = \frac{(m(I) + \frac{-t_1 - t_2 + t_3 + t_4}{2})t_4 + (m(K) + \frac{-k_1 - k_2 + k_3 + k_4}{2})k_4}{1 + m(I) + m(K)}$, where $m(I) = \frac{t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4}{4}$ and $m(K) = \frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4}{4}$.

Therefore,
$$R_{f3}(A) = \frac{(-t_1 - t_2 + 3t_3 + 3t_4)t_4 + (-k_1 - k_2 + 3k_3 + 3k_4)k_4}{4 + t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4 + k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4}$$
.

Definition 4.2. Ranking Principle on the class of TrBFN (TBFN):

Let $A = \{A_1, A_2, ..., A_n\}$ be the set of TrBFNs (TBFNs) then for any distinct $A_i, A_j \in A$, the ranking functions $R_{fi}, i = 1, 2, 3$ from A to real line \Re is a mapping satisfying the following characteristics,

- If $R_{f1}(A_i) < R_{f1}(A_j)$, then $A_i < A_j$
- If $R_{f1}(A_i) > R_{f1}(A_j)$, then $A_i > A_j$ or
- If $R_{f1}(A_i) = R_{f1}(A_j)$, then * If $R_{f2}(A_i) < R_{f2}(A_j)$, then $A_i < A_j$ * If $R_{f2}(A_i) > R_{f2}(A_j)$, then $A_i > A_j$ or * If $R_{f1}(A_i) = R_{f1}(A_j)$, $R_{f2}(A_i) = R_{f2}(A_j)$, then * If $R_{f3}(A_i) < R_{f3}(A_j)$, then $A_i < A_j$ * If $R_{f3}(A_i) > R_{f3}(A_j)$, then $A_i > A_j$ or * If $R_{f1}(A_i) = R_{f1}(A_j)$, $R_{f2}(A_i) = R_{f2}(A_j)$ and $R_{f3}(A_i) = R_{f3}(A_j)$, then $A_i \approx A_j$.

4.1. Properties of R_{f1} , R_{f2} , R_{f3} and their comparison

In this subsection, we see the properties of different ranking functions R_{f1} , R_{f2} , R_{f3} .

1. The function R_f maps the set of TrBFNs (which are Symmetric about X-axis) to 0

Let $A = \{A_i | A_i = \langle I_i, K_i \rangle = \langle (t_{i1}, t_{i2}, t_{i3}, t_{i4}), (t_{i1}, t_{i2}, t_{i3}, t_{i4}) \rangle \}$ the set of TrBFNs. Then $R_{f1}(A_i) = 0$ and $R_{f2}(A_i) = 0$. This property is true for any TBFN. But R_{f3} is not mapping the set of TrBFNs (TBFNs) (that are symmetric about X-axis) to zero.

2. Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_1, t_2, t_3), (k_1, k_2, k_3) \rangle$ be any Triangular Bipolar fuzzy number (TBFN). Then $R_{f3}(A) = \frac{(m(I) + \frac{t_3 - t_1}{2})t_3 + (m(K) + \frac{k_3 - k_1}{2})k_3}{1 + m(I) + m(K)}$ = $\frac{(\frac{t_1 + t_2 + t_3}{3} + \frac{t_3 - t_1}{2})t_3 + (\frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3}{3} + \frac{k_3 - k_1}{2})k_3}{1 + \frac{t_1 + t_2 + t_3}{3}} = \frac{(\frac{-t_1 + 2t_2 + 5t_3}{6})t_3 + (\frac{-k_1 + 2k_2 + 5k_3}{6})k_3}{(3 + t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + k_1 + k_2 + k_3)}$

$$=\frac{(-t_1+2t_2+5t_3)t_3+(-k_1+2k_2+5k_3)k_3}{2(3+t_1+t_2+t_3+k_1+k_2+k_3)}.$$

- 3. Ranking function R_{f1} is Translation Invariant: Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle, A_2 = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (t_{11} + t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle$ $\varepsilon, t_{12} + \varepsilon, t_{13} + \varepsilon, t_{14} + \varepsilon), (k_{11} + \varepsilon, k_{12} + \varepsilon, k_{13} + \varepsilon, k_{14} + \varepsilon))$ any two TrBFNs. Then $R_{f1}(A_1) = R_{f1}(A_2)$. i.e., $R_f(A + \varepsilon) = R_f(A), \forall \varepsilon \ge 0$. This property holds for the set of TBFNs too. R_{f2} and R_{f3} are not Translation Invariant.
- 4. Let $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle [t_1, t_2], [k_1, k_2] \rangle \rangle$ be any interval-valued Bipolar fuzzy number (IVBFN). Then $R_{f1}(A) = t_2 k_2$, $R_{f2}(A) = \frac{t_2^2 t_1^2 k_2^2 + k_1^2}{4}$ and $R_{f3}(A) =$ $\frac{2(t_2^2+k_2^2)}{2+t_1+t_2+k_1+k_2}.$ Observation: For the interval-valued BFNs,

- The score function R_{f1} represents the length between the supremum of membership function and supremum of the non-membership function. R_{f1} does not consider the other two legs t_1, k_1 in the score function which is a limitation for the score function R_{f1} . But the score function R_{f2} overcomes this limitation.
- The score function R_{f2} has the drawback that, if $t_1 = k_1$, $t_2 = k_2$, then $R_{f2}(A) =$ 0. However, this drawback has been overcome by R_{f3} . In this way, a sequential ordering in the Definition 4.2 performs better.
- 5. For any $A_1 = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{13}, t_{14}), (k_{11}, k_{12}, k_{13}, k_{14}) \rangle$ TrBFN (where all $t_{1k}, k_{1k} \in [0, 1], k = 1, 2, 3, 4.$, $R_{f1}(A) \in [-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}].$
 - If $A = \langle (0,0,0,0), (0,0,1,1) \rangle$, then $R_{f1}(A) = -\frac{3}{2}$.
 - If $A = \langle (0,0,1,1), (0,0,0,0) \rangle$, then $R_{f1}(A) = \frac{3}{2}$.

Definition 4.3. Let $\zeta = \{A_i | A_i = \langle (t_{i1}, t_{i2}, t_{i3}, t_{i4}), (k_{i1}, k_{i2}, k_{i3}, k_{i4}) \rangle \}$ be the subset of the set of TrBFNs. Then the subset relation \subseteq is defined as, $A_1 \subseteq A_2$, if $t_{11} \ge t_{21}, t_{12} \ge$ $t_{22}, t_{13} \leq t_{23}, t_{14} \leq t_{24}$ and $k_{11} \leq k_{21}, k_{12} \leq k_{22}, k_{13} \geq k_{23}, k_{14} \geq k_{24}$.

From the above properties and the limitations, we can conclude that Arshad and Akram's ranking principle alone cannot discriminate any two TrBFNs (TBFNs). That is, Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking principle does not define Total ordering on the entire class of TrBFNs (TBFNs). However, Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function (R_f) can define Total ordering in the subset ζ which can be proved using the following theorem.

Theorem 4.1. Let $A_1, A_2 \in \zeta$. If $A_1 \subseteq A_2$, then $R_{fi}(A_1) \leq R_{fi}(A_2)$. **Proof:** Case 1: If $A_1 \subseteq A_2$, then $R_{f1}(A_1) \leq R_{f1}(A_2)$ We assume that $A_1, A_2 \in \zeta$ and $A_1 \subseteq A_2$ which imply that

 $t_{11} \ge t_{21}, t_{12} \ge t_{22}, t_{13} \le t_{23}, t_{14} \le t_{24} \text{ and } k_{11} \le k_{21}, k_{12} \le k_{22}, k_{13} \ge k_{23}, k_{14} \ge k_{24}$ (1)

Therefore from equation 1, we get

$$t_{11} + t_{12} \ge t_{21} + t_{22}, t_{13} + t_{14} \le t_{23} + t_{24}, \tag{2}$$

and

$$k_{11} + k_{12} \le k_{21} + k_{22}, k_{13} + k_{14} \ge k_{23} + k_{24} \tag{3}$$

By using Equation 2 and Equation 3, we get

$$-t_{11} - t_{12} + 3t_{13} + 3t_{14} \le -t_{21} - t_{22} + 3t_{23} + 3t_{24} \tag{4}$$

and

$$k_{11} + k_{12} - 3k_{13} - 3k_{14} \le k_{21} + k_{22} - 3k_{23} - 3k_{24}$$
(5)

By adding Equation 4 and Equation 5, we get

 $\begin{array}{c} -t_{11} - t_{12} + 3t_{13} + 3t_{14} + k_{11} + k_{12} - 3k_{13} - 3k_{14} \leq -t_{21} - t_{22} + 3t_{23} + 3t_{24} + k_{21} + k_{22} - 3k_{23} - 3k_{24} \\ (6) \\ \text{Dividing both the sides of Equation 6 by 4, we get } R_{f1}(A) \leq R_{f1}(B) \text{ (See Definition 2.3).} \\ \text{Hence the proof.} \end{array}$

Note: Proofs of other cases are similar to case 1 and hence they are omitted.

The ranking principle given in Definition 4.2 is an updated version of the ranking principle given by Akram and Arshad's [1] (Definition 2.3, 3.1). Adding a new score function R_{f3} to the ranking principle in Definition 2.3 gives a better ranking scenario which can be seen from the following Table 1.

Examples	Akram and Arshad Ranking Principle	Proposed Ranking Principle
$ \begin{array}{ l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l l$	$R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = 0,$ and $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = 0$ $\Rightarrow A = B = C = D = E.$	$\begin{split} R_{f1}(A) &= R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = 0\\ R_{f2}(A) &= R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = 0\\ R_{f3}(A) &= 17.64, R_{f3}(B) = 64.76, R_{f3}(C) = 0.375, \\ R_{f3}(D) &= 19.36, R_{f3}(E) = 37.19. \\ \Rightarrow C < A < D < E < B. \end{split}$
$ \begin{bmatrix} \text{Let } A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4), (0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8) \rangle, \\ B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6), (0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1) \rangle \\ \text{be two different TrBFNs.} \end{bmatrix} $	$R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = -0.4,$ and $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = -0.08 \Rightarrow A = B.$	$R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = -0.4, R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = -0.4,$ and $R_{f3}(A) = 0.113 < R_{f3}(B) = 0.156 \Rightarrow A < B.$
$ \begin{array}{l} \mbox{Let } A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (5, 20, 30, 40), (25, 35, 45, 60) \rangle, \\ B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (10, 15, 25, 45), (30, 30, 40, 65) \rangle, \\ C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (0, 25, 25, 45), (30, 30, 35, 70) \rangle, \\ D = \langle I_4, K_4 \rangle = \langle (12, 13, 13, 57), (15, 45, 50, 55) \rangle, \\ E = \langle I_5, K_5 \rangle = \langle (2, 23, 27, 43), (27, 33, 43, 62) \rangle \\ \mbox{be five different TrBFNs.} \end{array} $	$R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = -17.5,$ $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = -393.75$ $\Rightarrow A = B = C = D = E.$	$\begin{split} R_{f1}(A) &= R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = -17.5, \\ R_{f2}(A) &= R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = -393.75, \\ \text{and } R_{f3}(A) &= 21.49, R_{f3}(B) = 23.57, R_{f3}(C) = 24.78, \\ R_{f3}(D) &= 23.26, R_{f3}(E) = 22.50. \\ RightarrowA &< E < D < B < C. \end{split}$
$ \begin{array}{l} \mbox{Let } A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (5, 70, 90, 110), (70, 80, 110, 140) \rangle, \\ B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (10, 65, 70, 130), (60, 90, 120, 130) \rangle, \\ C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (20, 55, 75, 125), (40, 110, 115, 135) \rangle, \\ \mbox{be three different TrBFNs.} \end{array} $	$R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = -18.75,$ $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = -703.125,$ $\Rightarrow A = B = C.$	$\begin{split} R_{f1}(A) &= R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = -18.75, \\ R_{f2}(A) &= R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = -703.125, \text{ and} \\ R_{f3}(A) &= 52.19 < R_{f3}(B) = 53.84 < R_{f3}(C) = 53.98 \Rightarrow A < B < C \end{split}$
$ \begin{array}{l} \mbox{Let } A = \langle I_1, K_1 \rangle = \langle (30, 50, 60), (30, 50, 60) \rangle, \\ B = \langle I_2, K_2 \rangle = \langle (40, 60, 70), (40, 60, 70) \rangle, \\ C = \langle I_3, K_3 \rangle = \langle (10, 20, 30), (10, 20, 30) \rangle, \\ D = \langle I_4, K_4 \rangle = \langle (1, 2, 3), (1, 2, 3) \rangle, \\ E = \langle I_5, K_5 \rangle = \langle (50, 70, 90), (50, 70, 90) \rangle, \\ F = \langle I_6, K_6 \rangle = \langle (20, 50, 70), (20, 50, 70) \rangle \\ \mbox{be six different TBFNs.} \end{array} $	$R_{f1}(A) = R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = R_{f1}(F) = 0,$ $R_{f2}(A) = R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = R_{f2}(F) = 0$	$\begin{split} R_{f1}(A) &= R_{f1}(B) = R_{f1}(C) = R_{f1}(D) = R_{f1}(E) = R_{f1}(F) = 0, \\ R_{f2}(A) &= R_{f2}(B) = R_{f2}(C) = R_{f2}(D) = R_{f2}(E) = R_{f2}(F) = 0 \\ \text{and } R_{f3}(A) &= 78.44, R_{f3}(B) = 87.75, R_{f3}(C) = 43.90, \\ R_{f3}(D) &= 3.6, R_{f3}(E) = 114.89, R_{f3}(F) = 106.36. \\ \Rightarrow D < C < A < B < F < E. \end{split}$

Table 1. Efficiency of the proposed ranking function

5. Conclusion

In this paper, the shortcomings of a new ranking function introduced by Akram and Arshad [1] were discussed using various cases. Further, We proposed a new ranking function and studied its properties. Finally, we introduced a new ranking principle by combining Akram and Arshad's [1] ranking function and the proposed ranking function and also the efficiency of the proposed ranking principle in comparing arbitrary TrBFNs discussed. The proposed ranking principle can give better results for the decision-making problems under Bipolar fuzzy environment, which would be studied in future.

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