

A New Group Decision Making Method With Distributed Indeterminacy Form Under Neutrosophic Environment: An Introduction to Neutrosophic Social Choice Theory

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ABSTRACT We present a novel social choice theory based multi-criteria decision making method under neutrosophic environment and a new form of truth representation of neutrosophic theory called Distributed Indeterminacy Form (DIF). Our hybrid method consists of classical methods and an aggregation operator used in social choice theory. In addition to this, we also use DIF function to provide a more sensitive indeterminacy approach towards accuracy functions. We also consider reciprocal property for all individuals. This provides, as in intuitionistic fuzzy decision making theory, a consistent decision making for each individual. The solution approach presented in this paper in group decision making is treated under neutrosophic individual preference relations. These new approaches seem to be more consistent with natural human behaviour, hence should be more plausible and feasible. Moreover, the use of a similar approach to develop some *deeper soft* degrees of consensus is outlined. Finally, we give a Python implementation of our work in the Appendix section.

INDEX TERMS Neutrosophic logic, group decision making, neutrosophic preference relations, distributed indeterminacy form, social choice theory, neutrosophic social choice theory.

I. INTRODUCTION

In most cases, it is intricate for decision-makers to accurately reveal a preference when solving multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) problems with imprecise, vague or incomplete information. Under these conditions, fuzzy sets (fs) [1], where the membership degree is represented by a real number in $[0, 1]$, are viewed as a strong mechanism method for solving MCDM problems [2], as well as reasoning approximation and pattern recognition problems. However, fs cannot cope with particular situations where it is not easy to define the membership degree using a specific value. In order to obviate the absence of knowledge of non-membership degrees, Atanassov [3] introduced intuitionistic fuzzy sets (IFS), an extension of fs. IFS have been widely used in the solution of some significant MCDM problems [4]–[6],

including multigranulation [7]–[12], neural networks [13], [14], and medical diagnosis problems [15]. Smarandache [16] introduced neutrosophic logic and neutrosophic sets (NS) and Riveccio [17] later raised concern about that an NS is a set where each element of the universe has a degree of truth, indeterminacy and falsity and it lies within $]^{-0, 1^{+}[$, i.e. the non-standard unit interval. Clearly this is an extension of the standard interval $[0, 1]$. Furthermore, the uncertainty presented here, i.e. the indeterminacy factor, is dependent on the truth and falsity values, whereas the incorporated uncertainty is dependent on the degrees of belongingness and non-belongingness of IFS [18]. Recent studies show that neutrosophy can in fact be used in many applications. Ye [21]–[34], Lui and Wang [35], Lui *et al.* [36], Liu and Li [37], Liu and Shi [38], [39], Liu and Tang [40], Şahin and Liu [41], Chi and Liu [41], Biswas *et al.* [41], Biswas *et al.* [44]–[49], Monda and Pramanik [50]–[54], Peng *et al.* [55], Zhang *et al.* [56], [57], Peng *et al.* [58],

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Zhang et al. [59], [60], Tian et al. [61], [62], Ji et al. [63]–[65], Peng and Dai [66], Peng et al. [67], Peng and Liu [68], Peng and Dai [69], and Blin and Whinston [70] are some of the significant works on and introduced innovative methods on decision making under fuzzy and neutrosophic environments.

In this study, we propose to distribute the indeterminacy on truth and falsity to be aligned with real life applications and to take into consideration such situations in which uncertainty in social choices have an effective role in truth and falsity. We determine a rational social choice solely by the preferences of individuals in a society. A rational choice is possible only if every individual in the society is rational. Social choice theory investigates solutions to the problem of making a collective decision on a fair and democratic ground. The main purpose and subject area of social choice theory is to study the decision making problem for collectives to make a collective decision in a democratic manner. Of course our main concern will be to devise a method to make a cumulative decision rather than judging how fair the decisions of individuals are. The collective decision will manifest itself in neutrosophic values that the individuals give assignments to the preferences. Every individual is assumed to be able to assign to every preference some neutrosophic comparison value as pairs. We benefit from fuzzy and intuitionistic fuzzy social choice in solving the decision problems concerning neutrosophic social choice. Some well known works in fuzzy social choice and fuzzy decision making can be found in [70]–[75]. As for the intuitionistic fuzzy choice, we refer the reader to [76]–[78]. The advantage of our method is that we take care of Indeterminacy as well into neutrosophic social choice, while the previous methods involving fuzzy and intuitionistic fuzzy into social choice ignored the indeterminacy? which is not accurate. This paper is about not only a classical decision making paper but also has a paper that considers decision making, truth maker theory and a new accuracy function interpretation (DIF). Addition to these, on the other hand, social choice theory under neutrosophic environment is studied for the first time, so we cannot compare other existing methods to the method in our paper. The comparison method is to cite some papers related to decision making. Many of the computational social choice theories that have been studied are based on rational individuals and their consistent preferences. Knowing the fact that the consistency of these pairwise comparisons forms the main theme, such theories devise appropriate methods based on the winner of the consensus of the group or based on an ordering of the preferences with respect to a priority as a result of voting of each individual. In any social choice, the consensus winner is defined as the choice of the dominant individual or the collective decision of rational individuals. The goal is to determine the best preference picked by the group. For the fuzzy solutions of finding a consensus, we refer the reader to Kacprzyk et al. [79]. We introduce a mathematical model for determining a consensus winner as a result of a collective decision, and in case of otherwise, we present a model which orders the preferences with respect to their weights. We also

give an example in the last part of the paper to explain the model better. Compared with fuzzy and intuitionistic social choice theories, our model extends the social choice theory to neutrosophic based social choice theory in solving practical decision problems and present a richer language discourse.

II. FUNDAMENTAL DEFINITIONS

In classical set (cs) theory, an element either belongs to a set or not. The membership of elements in a set is interpreted in binary terms according to a divalent case. In fuzzy set theory, introduced by Zadeh [1], a gradual assessment of the membership of elements in a set is permitted by a membership function which takes values in the real unit interval $[0, 1]$. In fuzzy set theory, classical divalent sets are usually called crisp sets. Fuzzy set theory is a generalization of the classical set theory. IFS are sets whose elements have degrees of membership and non-membership. IFS have been introduced by Atanassov [3] as an extension of the notion of fuzzy set, which itself extends the classical notion of a set. Neutrosophic set theory is a generalization of IFS, CS, FS, paraconsistent set, dialetheist set, paradoxist set, tautological set based on Neutrosophy [16]. An element $x(T, I, F)$ belongs to the set in the following way: it is true in the set with a degree of $t \in [0, 1]$, indeterminate with a degree of $i \in [0, 1]$, and it is false with a degree of $f \in [0, 1]$.

We will now give some definitions of the fundamental concepts related to our study.

Definition 1 [1]: Given a universal set U and a generic element, denoted by x , a *fuzzy set* X in U is a set of ordered pairs defined as

$X = \{(x, \mu_X(x)) | x \in U\}$, where $\mu_X : U \mapsto [0, 1]$ is called the *membership function* of A and $\mu_X(x)$ is the *degree of membership* of the element x in X .

Definition 2 [3]: An *intuitionistic fuzzy set* X over a universe of discourse U is represented as

$X = \{(x, \mu_X(x), \nu_X(x)) | x \in U\}$, where $\mu_X : U \mapsto [0, 1]$ and $\nu_X : U \mapsto [0, 1]$ are called respectively the *membership function* of A and the *non-membership function* of A for x in X . The *degree of non-membership* of the element x in X is defined as $\mu_X(x) = 1 - \nu_X(x)$.

Definition 3 [16], [19]: Let U be a universe of discourse. A *neutrosophic set* is defined as

$$N = \{(x, T(x), I(x), F(x)) : x \in U\},$$

which is identified by a *truth-membership function* $T_N : U \mapsto]0^-, 1^+[$, *indeterminacy-membership function* $I_N : U \mapsto]0^-, 1^+[$ and *falsity-membership function* $F_N : U \mapsto]0^-, 1^+[$.

Definition 4 [16], [19]: Let U be a universe of discourse. A *single valued neutrosophic set* is defined as

$$N = \{(x, T(x), I(x), F(x)) : x \in U\},$$

which is identified by a *truth-membership function* $T_N : U \mapsto [0, 1]$, *indeterminacy-membership function* $I_N : U \mapsto [0, 1]$ and *falsity-membership function* $F_N : U \mapsto [0, 1]$ with $0 \leq T_N(x) + I_N(x) + F_N(x) \leq 3$. A *single-valued neutrosophic number* (SVNN) is denoted by $a = (T, I, F)$.

Definition 5 [20]: Let a be a single-valued neutrosophic number. An accuracy function H of a single-valued neutrosophic number is represented as follows.

$$H(a) = \frac{1 + T_a - I_a(1 - T_a) - F_a(1 - I_a)}{2}, \quad (1)$$

where for all a , $H(a) \in [0, 1]$. H is an order relation which gives an accuracy score of information of a . If $H(a_1) = H(a_2)$, then $a_1 = a_2$, that is, they have the same information. If $H(a_1) < H(a_2)$, then a_2 is larger than a_1 .

III. ACCURACY FUNCTION AND DISTRIBUTED INDETERMINACY FORM

For a neutrosophic value, the accuracy function H is calculated by the values T , I and F . However, in the process of making a decision, such independent values may not yield results consistent with the decision-making process on objects. Suppose, one has truth, falsity and indeterminacy values applied on a concept. We cannot speak about truth by ignoring indeterminacy. The reason is that we make a decision on the basis of including indeterminacy and the truth-maker gives the values by taking into account the indeterminacy. Sorensen [80]–[82] who published many papers on truth-maker theory, buries the theory of indeterminacy in the truth-maker theory. By a similar approach, we desire to calculate the the accuracy function dependent on T and F , taking the indeterminacy into consideration. The direct application of this idea to neutrosophic decision making helps us to approximate the outcomes with a better precision by distributing the indeterminacy on neutrosophic values. Let H be an accuracy function. This time we reflect the indeterminacy value on the truth and falsity values in the following way: Let $a = (T_a, I_a, F_a)$ be a single valued neutrosophic number with truth value T_a , indeterminacy value I_a , and falsity value F_a . *Distributed Indeterminacy Form* (DIF) of a is defined as $a_{DIF} = (T_a - T_a I_a, 0, F_a - F_a I_a)$. Here, we distribute indeterminacy effect on truth and falsity. In other words, we decrease the power of truth and falsity in proportion to the magnitude of indeterminacy. Our aim here is to determine how the value of truth and falsity is affected by the degree of growth of indeterminacy. Consider the following case for the accuracy function H . Despite that $H(0.5, 0.5, 0.6) = 0.475$, we have that $H(0.5, 0.6, 0.6) = 0.48$. In other words, even though the precision should have been decreased when the indeterminacy increases, we observe the opposite here. This, at first might, may seem contradictory but the case will become clear in a moment. So DIF gives us a method to keep a neutrosophic number as small as possible in the ordering of the preferences in proportional to the increment of the indeterminacy value, provided that the truth or falsity values are fixed.

A. SELF COMPARISON

All comparisons on the same alternative should be assigned a balanced value by rational individuals. The values 0.5, (0.5, 0.5), and (0.5, 0.5, 0.5) are assigned respectively for

self-comparison by individuals in fuzzy set, intuitionistic fuzzy set and neutrosophic set. Assigned self comparison of a neutrosophic value a is (0.5, 0.5, 0.5) and outcome of this number under H function is naturally $H(a) = 0.5$. The DIF of this value is $a_{DIF} = (0.25, 0, 0.25)$ and $H(0.25, 0, 0.25) = 0.375$. This in turn gives us a result quite different from self-comparison. One of the most important reasons that we introduce the distributed indeterminacy concept is the effect of indeterminacy over the other two values, i.e truth and falsity. Moreover, we would like to see this effect as a rational assignment in the self-comparison process, so we would like to use the triplet (0.5, 0, 0.5) instead of (0, 5, 0.5, 0.5). As it can be seen, we pull the indeterminacy factor down to zero. Moreover, the DIF of (0.5, 0, 0.5) is equal to itself, that is (0.5, 0, 0.5). Furthermore, the image of (0.5, 0, 0.5) under the function H takes the value 0.5, which is just the appropriate value for the self-comparison process.

IV. RECIPROCAL PROPERTY AND HESITATION FUNCTION

In this section, we will the define reciprocal property and hesitation function for neutrosophy theory by reviewing the properties and the functions in fuzzy and intuitionistic theories.

A. RECIPROCAL PROPERTY IN FUZZY THEORY

Reference [83] A *fuzzy preference relation* $R = (r_{ij})$ on a finite set of alternatives X is a relation in $X \times X$ which is characterised by the membership function $\mu_R : X \times X \mapsto [0, 1]$. Pairwise comparisons concentrate on two alternatives at a time which enable individuals when giving their preferences. If an individual prefers an alternative x_i to another alternative x_j , then she/he should not simultaneously prefers x_j to x_i . Then, the numerical representation of the comparison of two alternatives is denoted by a reciprocal preference relation R as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{ij} = 1 &\Leftrightarrow x_i \succ x_j \\ r_{ij} = 0 &\Leftrightarrow x_j \succ x_i \\ r_{ij} = 0.5 &\Leftrightarrow x_j \sim x_i \end{aligned}$$

In fuzzy social choice theory, we also see binary crisp preference relations or $[0, 1]$ -valued (fuzzy) preference relations. $x_{ij} = 1$ shows the absolute degree of preference for x_i over x_j . A definite preference for x_i over x_j is $r_{ij} \in (0.5, 1)$. Indifference between x_i and x_j is $r_{ij} = 0.5$. Reciprocal $[0, 1]$ -valued relations ($R = (r_{ij}; \forall i, j : 0 \leq r_{ij} \leq 1, r_{ij} + r_{ji} = 1)$) are widely used in fuzzy set theory for representing preferences.

B. RECIPROCAL PROPERTY AND HESITATION FUNCTION IN INTUITIONISTIC FUZZY THEORY

[76] An *intuitionistic fuzzy preference relation* P on a finite set of alternatives $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ is characterised by a membership function $\mu_P : X \times X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ and a non-membership function $\nu_P : X \times X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $0 \leq \mu_P(x_i, x_j) + \nu_P(x_i, x_j) \leq 1, \forall (x_i, x_j) \in X \times X$. As in

the case for fuzzy preference relation, an *intuitionistic fuzzy preference relation* is represented by the matrix $P = (p_{ij})$ with $p_{ij} = \langle \mu_{ij}, \nu_{ij} \rangle, \forall i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Obviously, when the hesitancy function is the null function we have that $\mu_{ij} + \nu_{ij} = 1 (\forall i, j)$, and the intuitionistic fuzzy preference relation $P = (p_{ij})$ is mathematically equivalent to the reciprocal fuzzy preference relation $R = (r_{ij})$, with $r_{ij} = \mu_{ij}$. An intuitionistic fuzzy preference relation is referred to as *reciprocal* when the following additional conditions are imposed:

- (i) $\mu_{ii} = \nu_{ii} = 0.5, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$
- (ii) $\mu_{ij} = \nu_{ji}, \forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

In intuitionistic fuzzy studies, the relations do not need to have reciprocity but must satisfy $r_{ij} \leq 1 - r_{ji}$ due to intuitionistic index. In other words, for an IFS $A, \pi_A(x)$ is determined by the following expression: $\pi_A(x) = 1 - \mu_A(x) - \nu_A(x)$ is called the *hesitancy degree* of the element $x \in X$ to the set A , and $\pi_A(x) \in [0, 1], \forall x \in X$.

C. RECIPROCAL PROPERTY AND HESITATION FUNCTION IN NEUTROSOPHY THEORY

Let $S = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_n\}$ be a set of alternatives (or options) and m be a set of individuals. Each individual declares his or her own preferences over S which are represented by an individual neutrosophic preference relation R_k such that

$$N_{R_k} : S \times S \mapsto [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$$

which is traditionally represented by a matrix $R_k = [r_{ij}^k = N_{R_k}(r_i^k, r_j^k)], i, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n; k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$.

$$R_k = \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0.5, 0.5) & r_{12}^k & r_{13}^k & r_{14}^k \\ r_{21}^k & (0.5, 0.5, 0.5) & r_{23}^k & r_{24}^k \\ r_{31}^k & r_{32}^k & (0.5, 0.5, 0.5) & r_{33}^k \\ r_{41}^k & r_{42}^k & r_{43}^k & (0.5, 0.5, 0.5) \end{bmatrix}$$

The matrix above shows that neutrosophic preferences of an individual k are among s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4 . Also that $N_{R_k}(s_1, s_1) = N_{R_k}(s_2, s_2) = N_{R_k}(s_3, s_3) = N_{R_k}(s_4, s_4) = (0.5, 0.5, 0.5), N_{R_k}(s_1, s_2) = r_{12}^k, N_{R_k}(s_3, s_4) = r_{34}^k$, etc. We require that there is no larger outcome when an alternative is compared to itself. Almost all studies in the literature on decision making assign no value or assign zero degree to their underlying discourse for self-comparisons. We follow a entirely computational approach here. On the other hand though, zeros given in other previous studies may lead us have a false perception to compare any s_i . For a neutrosophic preference function mu , if $mu(s_i, s_j) = 0$, then s_i is definitely larger than s_j . If we had a rational individual, $mu(s_i, s_i)$ would have been 0.5, since if we do self-comparison, an alternative can not have any advantage over itself. We use the H function in Definition 2.5 for preciseness and to act as a neutrosophic index of SVNNS. If $i = j$, then we take $N_{R_k}(s_i, s_j)$ to be $(0.5, 0.5, 0.5)$ without DIF, and $(0.5, 0, 0.5)$ with DIF.

So, we have the following matrix:

$$R_k = \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & r_{12}^k & r_{13}^k & r_{14}^k \\ r_{21}^k & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & r_{23}^k & r_{24}^k \\ r_{31}^k & r_{32}^k & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & r_{33}^k \\ r_{41}^k & r_{42}^k & r_{43}^k & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix}$$

The function H (called *neutrosophic index* or *neutrosophic hesitation function*) assigns each a_{ij} neutrosophic value to a number in $[0, 1]$.

We have that

$$H(a_{ij}) = \frac{1 + T(a_{ij}) - I(a_{ij})(1 - T(a_{ij})) - F(a_{ij})(1 - I(a_{ij}))}{2} \tag{2}$$

Now, we have a new matrix $R_k^H = [H(r_{ij}^k) = H^k(N_{R_k}(s_i, s_j))]$, where $i, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n; k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$. More explicitly,

$$R_k^H = \begin{bmatrix} H((0.5, 0, 0.5)) & H(r_{12}^k) & H(r_{13}^k) & H(r_{14}^k) \\ H(r_{21}^k) & H((0.5, 0, 0.5)) & H(r_{23}^k) & H(r_{24}^k) \\ H(r_{31}^k) & H(r_{32}^k) & H((0.5, 0, 0.5)) & H(r_{33}^k) \\ H(r_{41}^k) & H(r_{42}^k) & H(r_{43}^k) & H((0.5, 0, 0.5)) \end{bmatrix}$$

We find it more appropriate to use the notion of *hesitation* in order to have consistency between the choosers (individuals) and their preference. Here, we benefit from the IFS. In utilizing IFS, we provide a hybrid account of the neutrosophic accuracy function by hesitation. We adopt intuitionistic index in our study since we use the function H as a solid index throughout the paper. Not every $H^k(r_{ij})$ needs to be reciprocal, i.e. $H^k(r_{ij}) \neq 1 - H^k(r_{ji})$ but should be quasi-reciprocal. That is, $H(r_{ij}^k) \leq 1 - H(r_{ji}^k)$, for each $i, j = 1, \dots, n$. If k is not quasi-reciprocal, we call k an *irrational individual*. If $i = j$, then we just take $N_{R_k}(a_i, a_j) = (0.5, 0.5, 0.5)$ since $H((0.5, 0.5, 0.5)) = 0.5$ irrespective of DIF. Furthermore, when we consider DIF, the neutrosophic value of the assignment made by a rational individual on the same preference is $(0.5, 0, 0.5)$ from now on, and $H((0.5, 0, 0.5)) = 0.5$ as desired.

$$DIF(R_k) = \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & DIF(r_{12}^k) & DIF(r_{13}^k) & DIF(r_{14}^k) \\ DIF(r_{21}^k) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & DIF(r_{23}^k) & DIF(r_{24}^k) \\ DIF(r_{31}^k) & DIF(r_{32}^k) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & DIF(r_{33}^k) \\ DIF(r_{41}^k) & DIF(r_{42}^k) & DIF(r_{43}^k) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix}$$

R_i : preference matrix of the i th individual,

$DIF(R_i)$: DIF of preference matrix of the i th individual,

R_i^H : range of preference matrix of the i th individual under H function,

$r_k^H(ij)$: represents the element at the row i and column j of R_i^H for individual k ,

$h^k(ij)$: distribution of the k th individual's votes for each pairwise comparison of alternative's value is determined through 0.5 derived from R_i^H ,

$[[h^k]]$: the matrix obtained by each element of $h^k(ij)$,

$[[H_{ij}]]$: matrix of the group vote,

A_k : the degree for preference k assigned by the group,

a_{ij}^k : majority determination value for preference k of the group (the element at the row i and column j of $[[h^k]]$),

H_{ij}^k : majority determination value for preference k of the group under H function,

$$h^k(ij) = \begin{cases} 1, & r_k^H(ij) > 0.5 \\ 0, & otherwise \end{cases}$$

$H_{\pi_{ij}}$: average majority determination value of the group under H function,

H_{π} : consensus winner determination matrix,

$C(s_i)$: social aggregation function for the alternative (preference) s_i ,

Example 6: Suppose that there are three experts m_1, m_2, m_3 and four facilities s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4 in the same business industry. We assume that all experts are rational and so we assume all neutrosophic values satisfy quasi-reciprocal property. We also take the self-comparison value to be $(0.5, 0, 0.5)$. Each expert assigns some neutrosophic opinion value by comparing the facilities in pairs as follows:

R_{m_i} is the set of assigned values (preferences) by m_i to pairs in the facilities where $1 \leq i \leq 3$.

$$\begin{aligned} R_{m_1} &= \{(s_1, s_1) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), (s_1, s_2) = (0.45, 0.24, 0.27), \\ &(s_1, s_3) = (0.31, 0.14, 0.66), (s_1, s_4) = (0.8, 0.3, 0), \\ &(s_2, s_1) = (0.1, 0.45, 0.52), (s_2, s_2) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), \\ &(s_2, s_3) = (0.48, 0.26, 0.37), (s_2, s_4) = (0.2, 0.7, 0.8), \\ &(s_3, s_1) = (0.61, 0.43, 0.71), (s_3, s_2) = (0.31, 0, 0.71), \\ &(s_3, s_3) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), (s_3, s_4) = (0.76, 0.23, 0.27), \\ &(s_4, s_1) = (0.1, 0.6, 0.9), (s_4, s_2) = (0.81, 0.55, 0.33), \\ &(s_4, s_3) = (0.11, 0.32, 0.59), (s_4, s_4) = (0.5, 0, 0.5)\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_{m_2} &= \{(s_1, s_1) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), (s_1, s_2) = (0.2, 0.4, 0.7), \\ &(s_1, s_3) = (0.21, 0.55, 0.95), (s_1, s_4) = (0.4, 0.5, 0.3), \\ &(s_2, s_1) = (0.29, 0.53, 0.38), (s_2, s_2) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), \\ &(s_2, s_3) = (0.62, 0.45, 0.16), \\ &(s_2, s_4) = (0.2, 0.7, 0.8), (s_3, s_1) = (0.72, 0.15, 0.18), \\ &(s_3, s_2) = (0.11, 0.13, 0.79), (s_3, s_3) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), \\ &(s_3, s_4) = (0.51, 0.45, 0.53), (s_4, s_1) = (0.15, 0.35, 0.23), \\ &(s_4, s_2) = (0.81, 0.55, 0.33), (s_4, s_3) = (0.17, 0.57, 0.36), \\ &(s_4, s_4) = (0.5, 0, 0.5)\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_{m_3} &= \{(s_1, s_1) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), (s_1, s_2) = (0.3, 0.45, 0.7), \\ &(s_1, s_3) = (0.1, 0.85, 0.78), (s_1, s_4) = (0.4, 0.5, 0.3), \\ &(s_2, s_1) = (0.36, 0.51, 0.39), (s_2, s_2) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), \\ &(s_2, s_3) = (0.62, 0.45, 0.16), (s_2, s_4) = (0.1, 0.8, 0.21), \\ &(s_3, s_1) = (0.92, 0.1, 0.16), (s_3, s_2) = (0.11, 0.13, 0.79), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (s_3, s_3) &= (0.5, 0, 0.5), (s_3, s_4) = (0.23, 0.45, 0.74), \\ (s_4, s_1) &= (0.15, 0.35, 0.23), (s_4, s_2) = (0.6, 0.2, 0.1), \\ (s_4, s_3) &= (0.57, 0.57, 0.36), (s_4, s_4) = (0.5, 0, 0.5) \} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_{m_4} &= \{(s_1, s_1) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), (s_1, s_2) = (0.2, 0.4, 0.7), \\ &(s_1, s_3) = (0.25, 0.87, 0.38), (s_1, s_4) = (0.4, 0.5, 0.3), \\ &(s_2, s_1) = (0.29, 0.53, 0.38), (s_2, s_2) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), \\ &(s_2, s_3) = (0.62, 0.45, 0.16), (s_2, s_4) = (0.34, 0.66, 0.21), \\ &(s_3, s_1) = (0.73, 0.87, 0.56), (s_3, s_2) = (0.14, 0.19, 0.79), \\ &(s_3, s_3) = (0.5, 0, 0.5), (s_3, s_4) = (0.21, 0.45, 0.66), \\ &(s_4, s_1) = (0.16, 0.35, 0.23), (s_4, s_2) = (0.6, 0.4, 0.8), \\ &(s_4, s_3) = (0.68, 0.57, 0.36), (s_4, s_4) = (0.5, 0, 0.5) \} \end{aligned}$$

We now represent each R_{m_i} in matrix form and then calculate their distributed indeterminacy forms $DIF(R_{m_i})$.

$$\begin{aligned} R_{m_1} &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.45, 0.24, 0.27) & (0.31, 0.14, 0.66) & (0.8, 0.3, 0) \\ (0.1, 0.45, 0.52) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.48, 0.26, 0.37) & (0.2, 0.7, 0.8) \\ (0.61, 0.43, 0.71) & (0.31, 0, 0.71) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.76, 0.23, 0.27) \\ (0.1, 0.6, 0.9) & (0.81, 0.55, 0.33) & (0.11, 0.32, 0.59) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \\ DIF(R_{m_1}) &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.342, 0, 0.2052) & (0.2666, 0, 0.5676) & (0.56, 0, 0) \\ (0.055, 0, 0.286) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.3552, 0, 0.2738) & (0.06, 0, 0.24) \\ (0.3477, 0, 0.4047) & (0.31, 0, 0.71) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.5852, 0, 0.2079) \\ (0.04, 0, 0.36) & (0.3645, 0, 0.1485) & (0.0748, 0, 0.4012) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \\ R_{m_2} &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.2, 0.4, 0.7) & (0.21, 0.55, 0.95) & (0.4, 0.5, 0.3) \\ (0.29, 0.53, 0.38) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.62, 0.45, 0.16) & (0.2, 0.7, 0.8) \\ (0.72, 0.15, 0.18) & (0.11, 0.13, 0.79) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.51, 0.45, 0.53) \\ (0.15, 0.35, 0.23) & (0.81, 0.55, 0.33) & (0.17, 0.57, 0.36) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \\ DIF(R_{m_2}) &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.12, 0, 0.42) & (0.0945, 0, 0.4275) & (0.2, 0, 0.15) \\ (0.1363, 0, 0.1786) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.341, 0, 0.088) & (0.06, 0, 0.24) \\ (0.612, 0, 0.153) & (0.0957, 0, 0.6873) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.2805, 0, 0.2915) \\ (0.0975, 0, 0.1495) & (0.3645, 0, 0.1485) & (0.0731, 0, 0.1548) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \\ R_{m_3} &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5), (0.3, 0.45, 0.7), (0.76, 0.35, 0.38), (0.4, 0.5, 0.3) \\ (0.36, 0.51, 0.39), (0.5, 0, 0.5), (0.62, 0.45, 0.16), (0.46, 0.46, 0.21) \\ (0.92, 0.86, 0.35), (0.11, 0.13, 0.79), (0.5, 0, 0.5), (0.23, 0.45, 0.74) \\ (0.15, 0.35, 0.23), (0.6, 0.4, 0.8), (0.57, 0.57, 0.36), (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \\ DIF(R_{m_3}) &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.165, 0, 0.385) & (0.494, 0, 0.247) & (0.2, 0, 0.15) \\ (0.1764, 0, 0.1911) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.341, 0, 0.088) & (0.2484, 0, 0.1134) \\ (0.1288, 0, 0.049) & (0.0957, 0, 0.6873) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.1265, 0, 0.407) \\ (0.0975, 0, 0.1495) & (0.36, 0, 0.48) & (0.2451, 0, 0.1548) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \\ R_{m_4} &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5), (0.2, 0.4, 0.7), (0.51, 0.35, 0.38), (0.4, 0.5, 0.3) \\ (0.29, 0.53, 0.38), (0.5, 0, 0.5), (0.62, 0.45, 0.16), (0.34, 0.66, 0.21) \\ (0.73, 0.87, 0.56), (0.14, 0.19, 0.79), (0.5, 0, 0.5), (0.21, 0.45, 0.66) \\ (0.16, 0.35, 0.23), (0.6, 0.4, 0.8), (0.68, 0.57, 0.36), (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \\ DIF(R_{m_4}) &= \begin{bmatrix} (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.12, 0, 0.42) & (0.3315, 0, 0.247) & (0.2, 0, 0.15) \\ (0.1363, 0, 0.1786) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.341, 0, 0.088) & (0.1156, 0, 0.0714) \\ (0.0949, 0, 0.0728) & (0.1134, 0, 0.6399) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) & (0.1155, 0, 0.363) \\ (0.104, 0, 0.1495) & (0.36, 0, 0.48) & (0.2924, 0, 0.1548) & (0.5, 0, 0.5) \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Now we apply the H function to $DIF(R_i)$ and then obtain R_i^H .

$$\begin{aligned} R_{m_1}^H &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.5684 & 0.3495 & 0.78 \\ 0.3844 & 0.5 & 0.5407 & 0.41 \\ 0.4715 & 0.3 & 0.5 & 0.6886 \\ 0.34 & 0.608 & 0.3368 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \\ h^{m_1}(ij) &= \begin{cases} 1, & r_{m_1}^H(ij) > 0.5 \\ 0, & otherwise \end{cases} \\ [[h^{m_1}]] &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ R_{m_2}^H &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.35 & 0.3335 & 0.525 \\ 0.4788 & 0.5 & 0.6265 & 0.41 \\ 0.7295 & 0.2041 & 0.5 & 0.4945 \\ 0.474 & 0.474 & 0.4591 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 h^{m_2}(ij) &= \begin{cases} 1, & r_{m_2}^H(ij) > 0.5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 [[h^{m_2}]] &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 R_{m_3}^H &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.39 & 0.6234 & 0.525 \\ 0.4926 & 0.5 & 0.6265 & 0.5675 \\ 0.5399 & 0.2041 & 0.5 & 0.35975 \\ 0.474 & 0.4399 & 0.54515 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \\
 h^{m_3}(ij) &= \begin{cases} 1, & r_{m_3}^H(ij) > 0.5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 [[h^{m_3}]] &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 R_{m_4}^H &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.35 & 0.5422 & 0.525 \\ 0.4788 & 0.5 & 0.6265 & 0.5221 \\ 0.511 & 0.2367 & 0.5 & 0.3762 \\ 0.477 & 0.439 & 0.5688 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \\
 h^{m_4}(ij) &= \begin{cases} 1, & r_{m_4}^H(ij) > 0.5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 [[h^{m_4}]] &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

The next step is to collect and compare the preferences. To do this, we add the columns of $[[H_{ij}]]$ and divide it to number of the alternatives.

$$A_k = \frac{1}{m} \sum [[H_{ik}]]$$

such that $1 \leq k \leq m$

$$H_{\pi_{ij}} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m a_{ij}^k, & i \neq j \\ 0, & i = j \end{cases}$$

such that $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{\pi_{12}} &= \frac{a_{12}^{m_1} + a_{12}^{m_2} + a_{12}^{m_3} + a_{12}^{m_4}}{4} = \frac{1 + 0 + 0 + 0}{4} = \frac{1}{4}, \\
 H_{\pi_{13}} &= \frac{1}{2}, \quad H_{\pi_{14}} = 1, \quad H_{\pi_{21}} = 0, \quad H_{\pi_{23}} = 1, \quad H_{\pi_{24}} = \frac{1}{2}, \\
 H_{\pi_{31}} &= \frac{1}{4}, \quad H_{\pi_{32}} = 0, \quad H_{\pi_{34}} = \frac{1}{4}, \quad H_{\pi_{41}} = 0, \quad H_{\pi_{42}} = \frac{1}{4}, \\
 H_{\pi_{43}} &= \frac{1}{2} \\
 H_{\pi} &= \begin{bmatrix} - & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ 0 & - & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{3}{4} & 0 & - & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & - \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

We now define the notion of a consensus winner.

Definition 7 [74]: $s_i \in W$ is called a consensus winner if and only if $\forall s_j \neq s_i : r_{ij} > 0.5$, where $r_{ij} \in H_{\pi}$.

In our example above, there is no winner because there are multiple numbers greater than 0.5. If there is a consensus winner, it must be unique and the set W must be a singleton since the reciprocal property must hold. Of course, it is easy to define that α -consensus winner for different α -values. So we define a social aggregation average function C to calculate the order of s_i in the group to the extent that individuals are not against option s_i .

$$C(s_i) = \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{i \neq j} r_{ij}, \tag{3}$$

where $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

$$C(s_1) = \frac{7}{12}, \quad C(s_2) = \frac{6}{12}, \quad C(s_3) = \frac{5}{12}, \quad C(s_4) = \frac{3}{12}.$$

So, $C(s_1) > C(s_2) > C(s_3) > C(s_4)$.

V. CONCLUSION

The main aim of this paper is to bring into attention the interplay between neutrosophy and social choice theory. Within the framework of this intention, we have taken inheritance from studies on fuzzy and intuitionistic fuzzy social choice theory and developed the neutrosophic based social choice theory. First we defined the DIF, which was used in Sorensen's truth-maker theory to distribute the indeterminacy on truth and falsity values for certain neutrosophic calculations. We believe that the notion of DIF gives a new insight, breath and different perspectives for neutrosophic studies. Through DIF, we emphasize hesitation and reciprocal characteristics in self-comparisons and other pairwise comparisons to define a consistent decision maker. We determine a consensus winner if exists. In case of otherwise, we obtain orders of the given alternatives by defining a social aggregation average function. Finally we give in the Appendix, a Python implementation of an algorithm computing the output in the order of $\frac{n}{11}$ seconds, where n is the input size (the number of matrices), when executed in a mid-end computer.

A. FURTHER RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Some future researches to extend and diversify this work may include the following ideas:

- studying the quantifiers *most*, *at most*, etc [86],
- considering interval valued neutrosophic sets [87],
- considering bipolar valued neutrosophic sets [88],
- introducing different forms of DIF depending on underlying models,
- presenting several forms of aggregation operators [89],
- applications on plithogenic sets [90],
- applications on Maclaurin symmetric mean, q -rung orthopair 2-tuple linguistic aggregation and continuous interval-valued Pythagorean operators [91]- [93].

B. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, S.T.; Methodology, S.T.; Validation, S.T., A.C., F.S.; Investigation, S.T.; Resources, S.T., A.C., F.S.; Writing-Original Draft Preparation, S.T. and A.C; Writing-Review and Editing, S.T., A.C., F.S.; Supervision, F.S.

APPENDIX

A Python implementation [84], [85] of the group decision making method with distributed indeterminacy form under neutrosophic environment is as follows:

```

from __future__ import division
from collections import defaultdict
import math
import sys

R1=[ [ (0.5,0,0.5), (0.45,0.24,0.27), (0.31,0.14,0.66), (0.8,0.3,0)],
      [(0.1,0.45,0.52), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.48,0.26,0.37), (0.2,0.7,0.8)],
      [(0.61,0.43,0.71), (0.31,0,0.71), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.76,0.23,0.27)],
      [(0.1,0.6,0.9), (0.81,0.55,0.33), (0.11,0.32,0.59), (0.5,0,0.5)] ]

R2=[ [ (0.5,0,0.5), (0.2,0.4,0.7), (0.21,0.55,0.95), (0.4,0.5,0.3)],
      [(0.29,0.53,0.38), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.62,0.45,0.16), (0.2,0.7,0.8)],
      [(0.72,0.15,0.18), (0.11,0.13,0.79), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.51,0.45,0.53)],
      [(0.15,0.35,0.23), (0.81,0.55,0.33), (0.17,0.57,0.36), (0.5,0,0.5)] ]

R3=[ [ (0.5,0,0.5), (0.3,0.45,0.7), (0.1,0.85,0.78), (0.4,0.5,0.3)],
      [(0.36,0.51,0.39), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.62,0.45,0.16), (0.1,0.8,0.21)],
      [(0.92,0.1,0.16), (0.11,0.13,0.79), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.23,0.45,0.74)],
      [(0.15,0.35,0.23), (0.6,0.2,0.1), (0.57,0.57,0.36), (0.5,0,0.5)] ]

R4=[ [ (0.5,0,0.5), (0.2,0.4,0.7), (0.25,0.87,0.38), (0.4,0.5,0.3)],
      [(0.29,0.53,0.38), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.62,0.45,0.16), (0.34,0.66,0.21)],
      [(0.73,0.87,0.56), (0.14,0.19,0.79), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.21,0.45,0.66)],
      [(0.16,0.35,0.23), (0.6,0.4,0.8), (0.68,0.57,0.36), (0.5,0,0.5)] ]

AllTogether= {'R1': [( (0.5,0,0.5), (0.45,0.24,0.27), (0.31,0.14,0.66), (0.8,0.3,0)),
                    [(0.1,0.45,0.52), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.48,0.26,0.37), (0.2,0.7,0.8)],
                    [(0.61,0.43,0.71), (0.31,0,0.71), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.76,0.23,0.27)],
                    [(0.1,0.6,0.9), (0.81,0.55,0.33), (0.21,0.32,0.59), (0.5,0,0.5)]],
             'R2': [( (0.5,0,0.5), (0.2,0.4,0.7), (0.21,0.55,0.95), (0.4,0.5,0.3)),
                    [(0.29,0.53,0.38), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.62,0.45,0.16), (0.83,0.46,0.21)],
                    [(0.72,0.15,0.18), (0.11,0.13,0.79), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.51,0.45,0.53)],
                    [(0.15,0.35,0.23), (0.6,0.4,0.8), (0.47,0.57,0.36), (0.5,0,0.5)]],
             'R3': [( (0.5,0,0.5), (0.3,0.45,0.7), (0.1,0.85,0.78), (0.4,0.5,0.3)),
                    [(0.36,0.51,0.39), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.62,0.45,0.16), (0.46,0.46,0.21)],
                    [(0.92,0.86,0.35), (0.11,0.13,0.79), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.23,0.45,0.74)],
                    [(0.15,0.35,0.23), (0.6,0.4,0.8), (0.57,0.57,0.36), (0.5,0,0.5)]],
             'R4': [( (0.5,0,0.5), (0.2,0.4,0.7), (0.51,0.35,0.38), (0.4,0.5,0.3)),
                    [(0.29,0.53,0.38), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.62,0.45,0.16), (0.34,0.66,0.21)],
                    [(0.73,0.87,0.56), (0.14,0.19,0.79), (0.5,0,0.5), (0.21,0.45,0.66)],
                    [(0.16,0.35,0.23), (0.6,0.4,0.8), (0.68,0.57,0.36), (0.5,0,0.5)] ]

def AccuracyFunction(T,I,F):
    HV= (1+ T - I*(1-T) - F*(1-I))/2
    return HV

def DIF(T,I,F):
    T1=math.fabs(T-I*T)
    F1=math.fabs(F-I*F)

    DIFi= ('+str(T1)+'+', '+str(0)+'+', '+str(F1)+'+')
    return DIFi

def AccuracyIntedeteminacyDistubition(T,I,F):
    T1=math.fabs(T-I*T)
    F1=math.fabs(F-I*F)

    ID=AccuracyFunction(T1,I,F1)
    return ID

def RationalityChecker(R):
    columnR=len(R)
    idn=0

    rowR=len(R[0])
    for i in range(0,rowR-1):
        if R[i][i] != (0.5, 0, 0.5):
            print '(, , i, i, ) is not (0.5, 0, 0.5), so, s ", i, ' is not rational agent'
            idn=1

    for i in range(0,rowR):
        for j in range(0,rowR):
            if i !=j:
                t1=R[i][j][0]
                i1=R[i][j][1]
                f1=R[i][j][2]
                A1=AccuracyIntedeteminacyDistubition(t1,i1,f1)

                t2=R[j][i][0]
                i2=R[j][i][1]
                f2=R[j][i][2]
                A2=AccuracyIntedeteminacyDistubition(t2,i2,f2)

                if A1 > 1-A2 : # A1-must be less than-or-equal to 1-A2
                    idn=1

            print R[i][j], ' and ', R[j][i], ' does not satisfy hesitation property'

    return idn

def RHcreation(K):
    global RHtogether
    RHtogether= defaultdict()
    for i in K.keys():
        columnAll=len(K[i])
        rowAll1=len(K[i][0])
        rowAll2=len(K[i][0])

        for j in range(0,rowAll1):
            for k in range(0,rowAll2):
                t1=K[i][j][k][0]
                i1=K[i][j][k][1]
                f1=K[i][j][k][2]
                A=AccuracyIntedeteminacyDistubition(t1,i1,f1)

                if i not in RHtogether.keys():
                    RHtogether[i]=[A]
                else:
                    RHtogether[i].extend([A])

            number= int(math.sqrt(len(RHtogether[i])))
            m=0
            new_list=[]
            while m<len(RHtogether[i]):
                new_list.append( RHtogether[i][m:m + number])
                m+= number

            RHtogether[i]=new_list

    return RHtogether

def OneZero(K):
    global H
    H=defaultdict()
    for i in K.keys():
        columnAllin=len(K[i])
        rowAll=len(K[i][0])
        for j in range(0,columnAllin):

```

```

for k in range(0,rowAll):
    if K[i][j][k]>0.5:
        if i not in H:
            H[i]=[1]
        else:
            H[i].append(1)
    else:
        if i not in H:
            H[i]=[0]
        else:
            H[i].append(0)
number= int(math.sqrt(len(H[i])))
m=0
new_list=[]
while m<len(H[i]):
    new_list.append( H[i][m:m + number])
    m+= number

H[i]=new_list

return H

def H_pi_ij(K):
    global Hpij
    Hpij= defaultdict()
    columnAllin12=len(H)

    for i in range(0,columnAllin12):

        Topij=0

        for j in range(0,columnAllin12):
            Topij=0

            for k in H.keys():

                if i != j:

                    Topij = Topij + H[k][i][j]

                else:

                    Topij=0

            aij=str(i+1)+str(j+1)
            TopijAvarage= Topij/len(H)

            if aij not in Hpij.keys():
                TopijAvarage= Topij/len(H)
                Hpij[aij]=TopijAvarage
            else:
                Hpij[aij]=TopijAvarage

    return Hpij

def Alternative_Ordinary(Hpij):
    global ORD
    ORD= defaultdict()

    Number_Of_Alternatives=int(math.sqrt(len(Hpij)))
    for i in range(1,Number_Of_Alternatives+1):
        istr=str(i)

        Top=0
        for k in Hpij.keys():

            if istr==k[1]:

                Top=Top+Hpij[k]

        TopJavarage= Top/Number_Of_Alternatives

        if istr not in ORD.keys():
            istA='Alternative '+istr
            ORD[istA]=TopJavarage

        else:
            ORD[istA]=TopJavarage

    return ORD

def GroupDecisionWithID(m):

```

```

for i in AllTogether.keys():
    if RationalityChecker(AllTogether[i])==1:
        print 'inconsistent agent'

Step1=RRcreation(m)
Step2=OneZero(Step1)
Step3=H_pi_ij(Step2)
Step4=Alternative_Ordinary(Step3)
return Step4

```

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