

Determining the Most Habitable Planet Using Multi-Criteria Decision Making Techniques

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Abstract

Every planet in the universe has its own characteristics. These features make the planets different among themselves. For this reason, all the different properties of the planets must be evaluated at the same time in determining habitable planets. This situation requires a multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) approach. In this study, a list of habitable planets (nine planets and the Moon) has been considered. Seventeen different criteria such as mass, gravity, diameter, density, escape velocity, rotation time, day of length, distance from sun, perihelion, aphelion, orbital period, orbital velocity, orbital inclination, orbital eccentricity, obliquity to orbit, mean temperature and number of satellites are taken into account. The weights of criteria are determined with DEMATEL (The Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory) by analyzing the interactions among criteria. Orbital inclination is the criterion with the highest weight and the criterion with the lowest weight is the number of satellites. After weighting the criteria with DEMATEL, VIKOR (VIseKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Resenje) and TOPSIS (Technique for Order Preference to Similarity to Ideal Solution) approaches are used to rank the planets. According to the TOPSIS, Earth is ranked first, Venus ranked second and Mercury ranked third in the order of the most habitable planets. According to the VIKOR method, Earth is ranked first, Mars ranked second and Mercury ranked third in the order of the most habitable planets. Finally, the same calculations are done considering with equal weights and the results are discussed.

Keywords

Habitable Planets, DEMATEL, TOPSIS, VIKOR.

1. Introduction

There are many planets in the solar system. Although Earth is currently known as the only planet with life, people have sought different habitats for many years. Whether there is life on the moon and other planets has always been a matter of wonder. Certain criteria Earth has for the existence of life is important. Many criteria such as a planet's mass, gravity, distance from the sun, and period speed are criteria that affect life. These criteria that every planet has are unique. The multi criteria decision making (MCDM) methods should be used to analyze the planets in terms of habitability according to these criteria.

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Moon are taken into consideration as alternatives in this study. A total of 17 different criteria such as mass, diameter, distance to the sun, average temperature, gravity, orbital velocity were weighted using the DEMATEL method. Using these weights, TOPSIS and VIKOR methods were applied and the planets were ranked. At the same time, the same procedures were done by taking the weights equal.

1.1 Objectives

This study has 4 main objectives. The first aim is to weight the criteria that affect the habitability of planets with the DEMATEL method. The second aim is to rank the planets by using TOPSIS and VIKOR methods using the calculated weights. The third goal is to take the weights of the criteria equally and analyze them to observe the effects of the criteria weights. The last aim is to show the applicability of MCDM methods in these areas.

2. Literature Review

MCDM methods are used in many different areas. Some of these are given in Table 1. However, MCDM studies on space and planets are rarely encountered. One of the MCDM applications in space problems is done by Yücenur and Subaşı (2019). They select the most appropriate city in Turkey for space shuttle launching ramp. In their integrated approach, the SWARA method is used in the first phase of the solution for determining criteria's importance weights; and the WASPAS method is used for selecting the best alternative. However, a paper that uses MCDM approaches regarding the ranking of the habitability of the planets has not been observed.

Table 1. Literature Review

Method	Reference	Problem
DEMATEL	Shieh et al. (2010)	Identifying the key success factors of hospital service quality.
	Abbasi et al. (2013)	Evaluation of risks in knowledge-based networks.
	Ada et al. (2011)	Evaluation of factors affecting flexible production systems.
	Aksakal and Dağdeviren (2010)	Personnel selection.
	Dey et al. (2012)	Supplier selection.
TOPSIS	Karaahtı et al. (2016)	Performance appraisal in human resources.
	Ömürbek and Kınay (2013)	Financial performance assessment in airline transport sector.
	Uygurtürk and Korkmaz (2012)	Financial performance assessment in metal industry.
	Yurdakul and İç (2003)	Performance measurement and analysis of Turkish automotive companies.
	Boran et al. (2009)	Supplier selection.
	Türmüçioğlu (2010)	Establishment selection in banking sector.
VIKOR	Kahriman et al. (2015)	Selection of a communication satellite manufacturer using MCDM methods
	Tadić et al. (2014)	City logistics concept selection.
	Hsu et al. (2012)	Vendor selection for conducting the recycled material.
	Görener (2011)	Selection of ERP software.
	Diğer and Görener (2011)	Performance evaluation in service industry.

3. Applied MCDM Methodologies

Multi-criteria decision making (MCDM) is a sub-branch of decision sciences. It is based on the process of modeling and analyzing the decision process according to the criteria. Applied three MCDM approaches are described in this section.

3.1 DEMATEL Method

DEMATEL is a comprehensive method that establishes and analyzes the causality relationship between complex factors in a structural model (Wu and Lee, 2007) and was developed by the Genoa Battele Institute to analyze complex world problems. The steps of DEMATEL are given below (Karaoğlu, 2016).

Step 1: Relationships between criteria are determined by the expert group using the binary comparison scale in Table 2. The numerical values show to what extent one criterion affects another.

Table 2. Binary Comparison Scale

Numerical Value	Definition
0	Ineffective
1	Low Effective
2	Moderate Effective
3	High degree Effective
4	Very High Degree Effective

Step 2: In case the number of experts evaluating the criteria is more than one, the arithmetic average of the points awarded is taken. These values are then placed in the matrix (Eq. 1) and an asymmetric matrix with diagonals "0" is obtained.

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdots & X_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ X_{n1} & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Step 3: After the direct relationship matrix is obtained, the largest of each row and column sum is found as Eq. (2) is shown.

$$S = \max(\max \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij}, \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij}) \quad (2)$$

Then, the normalized direct relation matrix (C) is formed by dividing each element of the matrix by the value of "s" as shown in Eq. (3).

$$C = \frac{X}{S} \quad (3)$$

Step 4: As can be seen in Eq. (4), the matrix C is removed from the identity matrix, the inverse is taken and multiplied by the C matrix again.

$$\lim_{H \rightarrow \infty} C + C^2 + C^3 + \cdots + C^H \quad F = C + C^2 + C^3 + \cdots + C^H = C(1 - C)^{-1} \quad (4)$$

Thus, the total relationship matrix (F) equation (Eq. 4) is obtained.

Step 5: In this step, in order to determine the affecting and affected factor groups and to calculate the net effect degrees, the total relation matrix (F) is determined and the row and column totals are found. These values obtained for each criterion: Each row sum (D_i) means that the criterion affects other criteria directly or indirectly, each column sum (R_i), on the other hand, indicates the sum of direct or indirect effects of the criterion from other criteria. $D_i + R_i$ for each criterion, the total effect value sent and received, $D_i + R_i$ indicates the importance of criteria in the system. For each criterion, $D_i - R_i$ shows the total effect of the criterion on the system. $D_i - R_i$ value is defined as affecting if it is positive, affected as affected if it is negative.

Step 6: At this stage, after the threshold value of the matrix is determined, the effect-oriented scatter graph is drawn. Criteria above the threshold value are determined as affecting and the direction of impact is indicated by an arrow in the diagram. The situation that any criterion affects itself is also shown in the diagram.

Step 7: In order to obtain the criterion weights, the sum of $D_i + R_i$'s squared and $D_i - R_i$ squared is taken into the root (Eq. 5).

$$W_{ia} = \sqrt{(D_i + R_i)^2 + (D_i - R_i)^2} \quad (5)$$

Then each weight is divided by the sum of the weights in Eq. (6).

$$W_i = \frac{W_{ia}}{\sum_{i=1}^n W_{ia}} \quad (6)$$

Thus, the criterion weights are found.

3.2 TOPSIS METHOD

Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to an Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) method was developed by Hwang and Yoon (1981). TOPSIS is a MCDM technique that can be applied directly on data without qualitative conversion to a decision problem consisting of n alternatives and m criteria. The steps of TOPSIS approach are given below.

Step 1: The goals and evaluation criteria of the problem are determined.

Step 2: Decision matrix (Eq. 7) is created. N number of alternatives (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) are listed one under the other and the properties of the criteria alternatives ($y_{1k}, y_{2k}, \dots, y_{nk}$) are listed.

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} y_{11} & \cdots & y_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ y_{n1} & \cdots & y_{nk} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Step 3: Normalization process is done. The normalized matrix (Eq. 8) is obtained by taking the sum of squares and roots of the criterion values in the created decision matrix.

$$r_{ij} = \frac{y_{ij}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n y_{ij}^2}} \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \quad j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & \cdots & r_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ r_{n1} & \cdots & r_{nk} \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{For the benefit criterion: } R_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij} - x_{jmin}}{x_{jmax} - x_{jmin}} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{For the cost criterion: } R_{ij} = \frac{x_{jmax} - x_{ij}}{x_{jmax} - x_{jmin}} \quad (10)$$

Step 4: Weighting the normal matrix (Eq. 11) creates the V matrix. V matrix is formed by multiplying the normalized matrix created for the purpose by w_j , which is the weight score of the criteria.

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} V_{11} & \dots & V_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ V_{n1} & \dots & V_{nk} \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

Step 5: After obtaining the weighted normalized matrix, action is taken in line with the purpose of the problem while determining the ideal solution values. If the goal is maximization, the maximum value in the column is the ideal solution value.

The minimum values for the same column are negative ideal solution values. If the aim is minimization depending on the criterion property, the values obtained will be the opposite. In other words, the positive ideal solution value according to the minimization problem will be the minimum values in each column. Negative ideal solution values are the maximum values in the column (Eq. 12).

Ideal solution values;

$$A^* = \{ \max_j V_{ij} | j = 1, \dots, p; i = 1, \dots, m \} \quad (12)$$

➤ $A^* = \{V_1^*, V_2^*, \dots, V_n^*\}$ shows the maximum values in each column.

Negative ideal solution values;

$$A^- = \{ \min_i V_{ij} \} \quad (13)$$

➤ $A^- = \{V_1^-, V_2^-, \dots, V_n^-\}$ shows (Eq. 13) in the minimum values in each column.

Step 6: The separation measures of the alternatives are calculated. The distance of each alternative to the ideal solution is calculated with the Euclidian approach (Eqs. 14 and 15).

$$S_i^* = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^n (V_{ij} - V_1^*)^2} \quad (14) \quad S_i^- = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^n (V_{ij} - V_1^-)^2} \quad (15)$$

Step 7: The decision to calculate the relative proximity to the ideal solution. The relative proximity of the points to the ideal solution is benefited from the distance from the ideal points.

Ideal solution C_i^* (Eq. 16) is indicated by;

$$C_i^* = \frac{S_i^-}{S_i^- + S_i^*} \quad (16)$$

calculated with C_i^* value takes value in the range of [0,1], and the closer to 1, the positive ideal indicates that it approaches the solution and approaches to the negative ideal solution as it approaches 0.

3.3 VIKOR METHOD

The VIKOR method, which consists of the initials of the Serbian phrase "VišeKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Resenje", means multi-criteria optimization and compromise solution (Dinçer and Görener, 2011; Kuru and Akın, 2012). It reached international recognition in 2004 thanks to the work of Opricovic and Tzeng (2004). The VIKOR method was developed for multi-criteria optimization of complex systems. The method mainly aims to find a compromise solution in the light of alternatives and within the scope of evaluation criteria (Görener, 2011). The steps of VIKOR are given below.

Step 1: Best for each criterion f_i^* and the worst f_i^- . Best values are determined and $i=1, 2, 3, n$. It is defined as. If i criterion is a utility criterion:

$$f_i^* = \max_j f_{ij} \quad f_i^- = \min_j f_{ij} \quad (17)$$

It is expressed in the (Eq. 17) form.

Step 2: Normalization process: Normalization process is performed in order to make sense and compare values in different units that make up the decision matrix. It is the normalization linear type used in the VIKOR method. The decision problem consisting of m alternatives and n criteria is transformed into an R normalization matrix of $m \times n$ type with the following formula (Eq. 18).

$$R_{ij} = \frac{f_j^* - x_{ij}}{f_j^* - f_j^-} \quad (18)$$

Step 3: Weighting the normalized matrix: If the decision maker attaches different importance to the criteria that make up the alternatives, multiply the columns of the R matrix obtained at this stage by the weights w_i , and the weighted normalized matrix V (Eq. 19) is obtained.

$$V_{ij} = r_{ij} * w_j \quad (19)$$

Step 4. Calculation of S_i and R_i values: S_i and R_i values are calculated for the criteria ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$). S_i is the i . the average score for the alternative (Eq. 20), R_i represents the worst score (Eq. 21).

$$S_i = \sum_{j=1}^n w_j \frac{f_j^+ - x_{ij}}{f_j^+ - f_j^-} \quad (20) \quad R_i = \max \left(w_j \frac{f_j^+ - x_{ij}}{f_j^+ - f_j^-} \right) \quad (21)$$

Step 5: Calculation of O_i values: Using S_i and R_i values calculated earlier in this step,

$$S^* = \min S_i \quad S^- = \max S_i \quad R^* = \min R_i \quad R^- = \max R_i \quad (22)$$

values are calculated (Eq. 22). Calculation of the value of Q_i is shown in Eq. (23).

$$Q_i = v \frac{(S_j - S^*)}{(S^- - S^*)} + (1 - v) \frac{(R_j - R^*)}{(R^- - R^*)} \quad (23)$$

It is calculated by equality. While the v parameter used in the equation shows the maximum group benefit, the value $(1 - v)$ indicates the minimum regret of opposing views ($v=0.5$).

Step 6: Listing the alternatives and checking the conditions: Q_i , S_i and R_i values are listed separately and three different ordered lists of alternatives are obtained. After this process, it is checked whether the alternative with the value of Q_i satisfies the following two conditions in order to check the accuracy of the ordering;

Condition 1: Acceptable Advantage: Among the alternatives listed according to Q_i values, the 1st place alternative A^1 and the second place being A^2 eligible advantage,

$$Q(A^2) - Q(A^1) \geq DQ \quad (24)$$

$$DQ = \frac{1}{m-1} \quad (25)$$

This parameter calculated with the Eq. (25) depends on the number of alternatives and m is the number of alternatives.

Condition 2. Acceptable Stability Condition: Q_i values are when ranked, A^1 alternative takes the first place and S is the best alternative that takes the minimum value according to R values. In this case, the consensus solution is stable in decision making.

4. Data Collection

Planets have unique properties for different criteria. By taking 9 planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) and Moon as alternatives, 17 (mass, diameter, density, gravity, escape velocity, rotation period, length of day, distance from sun, perihelion, aphelion, orbital period, orbital velocity, orbital inclination, orbital eccentricity, obliquity to orbit, mean temperature, number of moon) different criteria were evaluated and analyzed. Data on the planets are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Planetary Fact Sheet – Metric (NASA, 2021)

Criteria	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Moon	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune	Pluto
Mass (10 ²⁴) kg	0.330	4.87	5.97	0.073	0.642	1898	568	86.8	102	0.0146
Diameter (km)	4879	12.104	12.756	3475	6792	142.984	120.536	51.118	49.528	2370
Density (km/m ³)	5427	5243	5514	0.073	3933	1326	687	1271	1638	2095
Gravity (m/s ²)	3.7	8.9	9.8	3475	3.7	23.1	9.0	8.7	11.0	0.7
Escape Velocity (km/s)	4.3	10.4	11.2	3340	5.0	59.5	35.5	21.3	23.5	1.3
Rotation Period (hours)	1407.6	-5832.5	23.9	1.6	24.6	9.9	10.7	-17.2	16.1	-153.3
Length of Day (hours)	4222.6	2802.0	24.0	2.4	24.7	9.9	10.7	17.2	16.1	153.3
Distance from Sun (10 ⁶ km)	57.9	108.2	149.6	655.7	227.9	778.6	1433.5	2872.5	4495.1	5906.4
Perihelion (10 ⁶)	46.0	107.5	147.1	708.7	206.6	740.5	1352.6	2741.3	4444.5	5536.8
Aphelion (10 ⁶ km)	69.8	108.9	152.1	0.384	249.2	816.6	1514.5	3003.6	4545.7	7375.9
Orbital Period (days)	88.0	224.7	365.2	0.363	687.0	4331	10.747	30.589	59.800	90.560
Orbital Velocity (km/s)	47.4	35.0	29.8	0.406	24.1	13.1	9.7	6.8	5.4	4.7
Orbital Inclination (degree)	7.0	3.4	0.0	27.3	1.9	1.3	2.5	0.8	1.8	17.2
Orbital Eccentricity	0.205	0.007	0.017	1.0	0.094	0.049	0.057	0.046	0.011	0.244
Obliquity to Orbit (degree)	0.034	177.4	23.4	5.1	25.2	3.1	26.7	97.8	28.3	122.5
Mean Temperature	167	464	15	-20	-65	-110	-140	-195	-200	-225
Number of Moon	0	0	1	0	2	79	82	27	14	5

5. Results and Discussion

In this section, the results of DEMATEL, TOPSIS and VIKOR methods and the results of TOPSIS and VIKOR methods applied using equal weight are given.

5.1 DEMATEL Result

Step 1: Using the binary comparison scale in Table 2, it was determined to what extent one criterion affected another.

Step 2: Given values are then placed in the matrix (Eq. 1) and an asymmetric matrix with diagonals "0" is obtained.

Step 3: Once the direct relationship matrix is obtained, the largest and column sum of each row is found as shown in Eq. (2). Then, the normalized direct relationship matrix (C) is formed by dividing each element of the matrix by the value "s" as shown in Eq. (3).

Step 4: By using the formula in Eq. (4), the total relation matrix (F) is obtained.

Step 5: In this step, the total relationship matrix (F) was determined to determine the affecting and affected factor groups and to calculate their net effect degrees, and the row (D_i) and column (R_i) totals were found.

Step 6: At this stage, the threshold value of the matrix is determined. Then the scatter plot for the effect is drawn and criteria above the threshold were determined as affecting, the situation where any criterion affects it is also shown in the graphic.

The threshold value was found to be 0.15088539. Criteria above this value were effectively identified and the situation affected by any criteria is shown in Figure 1.

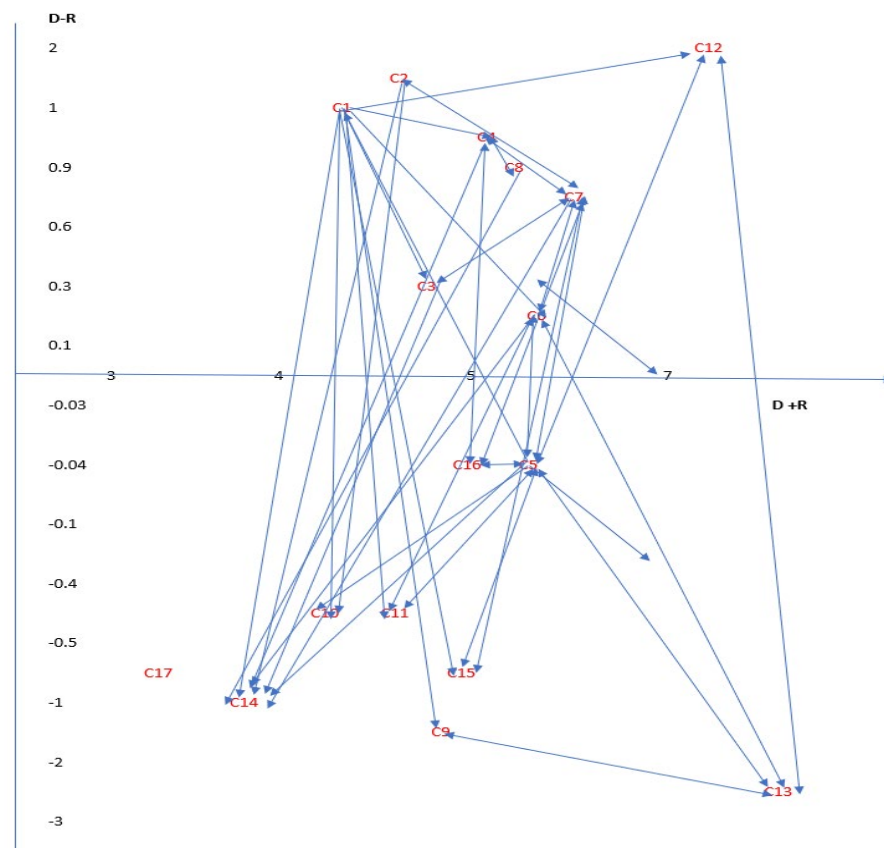


Figure 1. Effect-Direction Graph Diagram Result in DEMATEL

Based on Eq. (2), the sum of i columns in the matrix S created (R) is expressed as the sum of rows in the S matrix (D), and using the D- R and D + R values, the level of influence of each criterion on the others and the level of relationship with the others are determined. Criteria with negative values for D-R value were affected more than other criteria. These criteria, which are considered to have lower priority, are named buyers. C17, C14, C10, C11, C9, C16, C15, C5, C13 criteria were affected more than other criteria. On the other hand, D + R values show the relationship between each criterion and other criteria, and criteria with a high D + R value are more related to other criteria, while low ones are less related to others. C12 and C13 criteria are criteria with high D + R values and are more related to other criteria.

Step 7: Eq. (5) is used to obtain the criterion weights.

Step 8: Then each weight is divided by the sum of the weights in Eq. (6) and the weights of the criteria are found (Table 4).

Table 4. Criteria weights using DEMATEL

		Weight	Criteria			Weight	Criteria
1	C13	0.090	Orb. inclination	10	C16	0.054	Mean temperatures
2	C12	0.086	Orb. velocity	11	C15	0.054	Obliquity to orbit
3	C7	0.067	Length of day	12	C3	0.053	Density
4	C8	0.062	Distance from Sun	13	C11	0.052	Orb. period
5	C4	0.061	Gravity	14	C1	0.051	Mass
6	C5	0.060	Escape velocity	15	C10	0.048	Aphelion
7	C6	0.060	Rotation period	16	C14	0.046	Orb.eccentricity
8	C9	0.056	Perihelion	17	C17	0.036	Number of moons
9	C2	0.055	Diameter				

As can be seen in Table 4 above; The criterion with the highest weight is the orbital inclination. Orbital velocity is the criterion with the second highest weight and is ranked third in importance in the day length criterion of the planet. As a result of the DEMATEL technique that is applied, the criterion with the lowest weight is also determined. For a planet to be habitable, it is determined that the number of moon has the lowest weight and this criterion is followed by orbital eccentricity and aphelion criteria, respectively.

5.2 TOPSIS Result

Step 1: At this stage, the purpose of the problem and the evaluation criteria were determined. Among the seventeen criteria, mass, escape velocity, rotation period, length of distance, distance from sun, aphelion, orbital inclination, orbital eccentricity, and obliquity to orbit and number of moons were determined as cost criteria. Among the seventeen criteria, diameter, gravity, density, perihelion, orbital period, orbital velocity, mean temperature were determined as benefit criteria.

Step 2: Decision matrix (Eq. 7) is created.

Step 3: Normalization is done according to the benefit criterion (Eq. 9) and the cost criterion (Eq. 10). The normalized matrix (Eq. 8) is created.

Step 4: Weighting the normal matrix (Eq. 11) creates the V matrix.

Step 5: While determining the ideal solution values, action was taken in line with the purpose of the problem. Eq. (12) is used for positive ideal solutions and Eq. (13) is used for negative ideal solutions.

Step 6: The separation measures of the alternatives were calculated using Eqs. (14) and (15).

Step 7: Using Eq. (16), the approximation to the ideal solution is calculated.

Using the TOPSIS approach that includes the weights obtained by DEMATEL, it is determined that Earth is the first, Venus is the second and Mercury is the third habitable planet among others. The planets that are not suitable for life are found as Pluto, Saturn and Jupiter, respectively (Table 5).

Table 5. Ranking by TOPSIS

Score	Rank	Planet
0.410028	10	Pluto
0.498498	9	Moon
0.509996	8	Saturn
0.515575	7	Uranus
0.524425	6	Jupiter
0.535503	5	Neptune
0.564921	4	Mars
0.573476	3	Mercury
0.575747	2	Venus
0.612021	1	Earth

5.3 VIKOR Result

Step 1: Once the criteria weights are determined, the best and worst values are determined according to Eq. (17) to evaluate alternatives.

Step 2: The decision problem consisting of M alternative and n criteria is transformed into a $m \times n$ type R normalization matrix according to Eq. (18).

Step 3: Using Eq. (19), the normalized matrix is multiplied by the criterion weights.

Step 4: S_i is the i. the mean score for the alternative, R_i represents the worst score, Eqs. (20) and (21) are used to calculate the values of S_i and R_i .

Step 5: In this step, Q_i is calculated using the values of S_i and R_i calculated earlier (Eq. 23). These values are shown in Table 6.

Step 6: The listed alternatives and conditions have been checked. For the Condition 1, Eqs. (24) and (25) are used. Condition 1 is satisfied. For Condition 2, the values, A^1 and A^2 are placed in the list. Condition 2 is not satisfied.

Table 6. Ranking by VIKOR

S_j	R_j	Q_j	S_j	R_j	Q_j
0.335	0.054	0.005	Earth	Mars	Earth
0.375	0.054	0.125	Venus	Earth	Mars
0.390	0.060	0.181	Mercury	Mercury	Mercury
0.408	0.064	0.248	Mars	Jupiter	Venus
0.439	0.067	0.384	Neptune	Venus	Jupiter
0.479	0.070	0.502	Jupiter	Saturn	Saturn
0.482	0.075	0.512	Moon	Uranus	Neptune
0.483	0.078	0.551	Uranus	Neptune	Uranus
0.498	0.086	0.680	Saturn	Moon	Pluto
0.627	0.090	0.697	Pluto	Pluto	Moon

As a result of the numerical table formed after the formulation processes of the VIKOR technique, there are two condition conditions at the last stage of the VIKOR technique. The results are determined according to the fulfillment or non-realization of these conditions. In the problem of the most habitable planet, it has been determined that the first condition is fulfilled and the second condition is not suitable. According to the VIKOR method, Earth ranked first, Mars ranked second and Mercury ranked third in terms of most habitable planets.

In addition to the weighted VIKOR and TOPSIS results, the weights of the criteria are considered equally and the TOPSIS and VIKOR techniques are applied again and the new results are given in Tables 7 and 8.

Table 7. TOPSIS results with equal weights

Score	Rank	Planet
0.443746	10	PLUTO
0.491344	9	SATURN
0.499698	8	JUPITER
0.511624	7	URANUS
0.523821	6	MOON
0.548625	5	NEPTUNE
0.556278	4	MARS
0.559077	3	MERCURY
0.575626	2	VENUS
0.600253	1	EARTH

It is found that the top three planets (Earth, Venus and Mercury) in the TOPSIS-DEMATEL solution are also in the top three in the equally weighted solution. Only the Saturn, Jupiter, and the Moon are replaced within the planets. In the VIKOR method with equal criterion weights, the best alternative could not be determined due to the unsatisfied conditions.

Table 8. VIKOR results with equal weights

S_j	R_j	Q_j	S_j	R_j	Q_j
0.337250138	0.056262	0.256978	Earth	Uranus	Neptune
0.367726761	0.056689	0.278674	Venus	Neptune	Uranus
0.396909493	0.058395	0.45714	Mercury	Mars	Earth
0.410157042	0.058604	0.554519	Mars	Earth	Mars
0.428857898	0.058824	0.557769	Neptune	Venus	Venus
0.459223337	0.058824	0.613085	Moon	Moon	Mercury
0.484267401	0.058824	0.731202	Uranus	Mercury	Moon
0.500513686	0.058824	0.809469	Jupiter	Jupiter	Jupiter
0.512581164	0.058824	0.832343	Saturn	Saturn	Saturn
0.601030182	0.058824	1	Pluto	Pluto	Pluto

When the space problems in the literature are examined, no study has been found with multi-criteria decision making methods. For this reason, it is thought that this study will contribute to the field by creating an alternative to the existing methods. Considering the factors that are effective in choosing the most habitable planet in future studies on the subject, continuity of studies can be ensured.

6. Conclusion

In this study, TOPSIS and VIKOR methods were used to evaluate habitable planets and the results were compared. DEMATEL method was used to determine the criterion weights. According to the DEMATEL-TOPSIS methods, Earth ranked first, Venus ranked second and Mercury ranked third in the ranking of the most habitable planets. With the DEMATEL-VIKOR method, Earth ranked first, Mars ranked second, and Mercury ranked third in the list of habitable planets. TOPSIS and VIKOR methods were also applied by taking the criterion weights equal. According to the TOPSIS method, Earth is in the first place, Venus is in the second and Mercury is in the third place. Since the first and second conditions could not be met in the VIKOR method with equal criteria weights, the best alternative could not be determined. After this study, MCDM methods can be used to analyze nutrients that can be grown on planets. These methods can also be applied in the selection of astronauts with different characteristics to be sent to space.

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