# Heuristic algorithm for multi-index fixed charge fuzzy transportation problem 

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## Keywords

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#### Abstract

This paper develops a heuristic algorithm for the multi-index fixed charge transportation problem. The efficiency of this algorithm for solving the multi-index fixed charge transportation problem has been proved by comparing the results obtained by using this algorithm with the existing exact method of solving multi-index fixed charge transportation problem. Further the proposed algorithm is extended to multi-index fixed charge fuzzy transportation problem in which all the parameters are considered as trapezoidal fuzzy numbers. A numerical example is presented to illustrate the proposed method.


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## Introduction

As supply chain management becomes increasingly important in global economics, knowledge of the transportation system is fundamental to the efficient and economical operation of a company's responsibility. Transportation models play an important role in logistics and supply chain management for reducing cost and improving service.

Multi-index transportation problems are the extension of conventional transportation problems and are appropriate for solving transportation problems with multiple supply points, multiple demand points as well as problems using diverse modes of transportation demands or delivering different kinds of merchandises. Thus, the forward problem would be more complicated than conventional transportation problems. Hayley,1962; considered the multi-index transportation problem and presented an algorithm to solve multi-index transportation problem. Junginer ,1993; who proposed a set of logic problems to solve multi-index transportation problems, has also conducted a detailed investigation regarding the characteristics of multiindex transportation model. Rautman et al,1993; used multiindex transportation model to solve the shipping scheduling and suggested that the employment of such transportation problems model would not only enhance the entire transportation efficiency but also optimize the integral system. Anu Ahuja and S.R. Arora ,2001; presented an algorithm for identifying the efficient cost - time trade off pairs in a multi-index fixed charge bi-criterion transportation problem. This is an exact method of finding solution to this problem.

The fixed charge problem is a non-linear programming problem of practical interest to business and industry. The existence of fixed charges in its objective function has prevented the development of any extensive theory, for solution of the fixed charge problem. Since the problems with fixed charges are usually NP-hard (non deterministic polynomial time), the computational time to obtain exact solutions increases in a polynomial fashion and very quickly becomes extremely long as the dimensions of the problem increases.

The fixed charge problem was originally formulated by G.B. Dantzig and W. Hirsch in 1954. The literature provides only a few exact methods for solving the fixed charge problem. Steinberg ,1970; provided an exact algorithm based on branch and bound method. But, the exact branch and bound method is applicable to small problems only. Since the effort to solve an FCP grows substantially with the size of the problem as explained in Walker ,1976;A good deal of effort has been devoted to finding approximate solutions to fixed charge problems. The heuristic methods try to reach the optimum through simplex like iterations. Copper and Drebes,1967; Denzler,1969; Steinberg ,1970; and Walker,1976; have developed heuristic adjacent - extreme - point algorithms for the general FCP. Salkin ,1975;presented the capacities plant location problem as an FCP model and discussed the heuristic branch and bound algorithm proposed by Efroymson and Ray ,1966;. Adalakha and Kowalski ,2003; developed a heuristic algorithm for the fixed charge problem.

Some algorithms that purport to be FCP algorithms are in fact algorithms for fixed charge transportation problems (FCTPs), which are only a subset of FCPs. The total value of the charges / loads varies for an FCP, making it significantly harder to solve than an FCTP where the total value of the charges / loads is fixed. In a classical transportation problem the cost of transportation is directly proportional to the number of units transported. But the transportation cost may not be linear on account of price - break quantity discounts etc. Thus in real world situation when a commodity is transported, a fixed cost is incurred in the objective function. It may represent the cost of hiring a vehicle, landing fee in an airport, setup costs for machines in a manufacturing environment etc. Many distribution problems in practice can be modeled as fixed charge transportation problems. For example, rail, roads and trucks have invariably used freight rate which consists of a fixed cost and variable cost. Therefore, most of the recent efforts are concentrated on finding solution methods for FCTPs.

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The most widely known methods for FCTP are ranking the extreme points method. (Murthy,1968; Sadagopan and Ravindran, 1982;) and the branch and bound method. Hirsch and Dantzig,1968; established that the feasible region of an FCTP is a bounded convex set and that the objective function is concave. An optimal solution occurs at an extreme point of the constraint set, and for a non-degenerate problem with all positive fixed costs, every extreme point of the feasible region is a local minimum. Gray, 1971 ; attempted to find an exact solution to the FCTP by decomposing it into a master integer program and a series of transportation subprograms. In contrast, Palekar et al ,1990; and Steinberg 1970; provided exact algorithms based on branch and bound method applicable to small problems only.

Since the available exact algorithms generally require long computation times and large amounts of storage, many authors have turned to efficient heuristic algorithms for solving FCTP. The well known heuristic approaches are presented by Diaby ,1991; and Sun et al ,1998;Kuhn and Baumol 1962; suggested that an approximate solution maybe found by forcing a highly degenerated solution which is accomplished by making small adjustments to the demand and supply quantities.

Balinski ,1961; replaced the non-linear fixed - charge objective function with an approximate linear objective function and solved the resulting problem using the standard transportation algorithm. Sandrock ,1988; provided a heuristic simplex type algorithm for a source - induced FCTP where the fixed charge is associated with the supply points instead of the routes. Adlakha and Kowalski ,2004; presented a simple algorithm for the source - induced FCTP. Adlakha et al,2006;presented a heuristic algorithms for the fixed charge transportation problem. Veena Adlakha et al,1999; presented an approximation methods for regular FCTP. However, the above exact and approximate solution methods for solving FCTP are useful only for conventional (ie two dimensional) transportation problems.

In this paper we develop a heuristic algorithm for the multiindex fixed charge transportation problems.

There are cases that the parameters in the multi-index fixed charge transportation problem can't be presented in a precise manner. For example, the unit shipping cost and fixed cost may vary in a time frame. The supplies and demands may be uncertain due to uncontrollable factors. Fuzzy numbers introduced by Zadeh, 1965; may represent this data. So, fuzzy decision making method is needed here.

Zimmerman, 1978; showed that solutions obtained by fuzzy linear programming are always efficient subsequently. Zimmerman's fuzzy linear programming has developed into several fuzzy optimization methods for solving the transportation problems. Oheigeartaigh ,1982; proposed an algorithm for solving transportation problems where the capacities and requirements are fuzzy sets with linear or triangular membership functions. Chanas et al, 1993; presented a fuzzy linear programming model for solving transportation problems with crisp cost coefficients and fuzzy supply and demand values. Chanas et al ,1984; formulated the fuzzy transportation problems in three different situations and proposed method for solving the formulated fuzzy transportation problems. Chanas ad Kuchta ,1996; proposed the concept of the optimal solution for the transportation problem with fuzzy coefficients expressed as fuzzy numbers, and developed an algorithm for obtaining the optimal solution. Chanas and Kuchta ,1998; proposed a new method for solving fuzzy integer
transportation problem by representing the availability and demand parameters as L-R type fuzzy numbers. Liu and Kao ,2004; described a method for solving fuzzy transportation problems based on extension principle. Chiang ,2005; proposed a method to find the optimal solution of transportation problems with fuzzy demand and fuzzy product. Lie et al ,2008; proposed a new method based on goal programming for solving fuzzy transportation problems with fuzzy costs. Chen et al ,2008; proposed the methods for solving transportation problems on a fuzzy network. Lin ,2009; used genetic algorithm for solving transportation problems with fuzzy coefficients. Stephen Dineger and Palanivel ,2009; investigated fuzzy transportation problem, with the aid of trapezoidal fuzzy numbers and proposed fuzzy modified distribution method to find the optimal solution interms of fuzzy numbers. Amitkumer et al ,2011; proposed fuzzy linear programming approach for solving fuzzy transportation problems with transshipment. Ojhe et al, 2010; investigated solid transportation problem for an item with fixed charge via genetic algorithm. Lixing Yang et al, 2007; discussed the solution algorithm for solving bi-criteria fixed charge solid transportation problem under stochastic environment. In the above transportation models the optimal solutions are crisp value.

In this paper we develop a heuristic algorithm for the multiindex fixed charge transportation problem. This algorithm is an extension work of Veena Adlakha et al, 2010; for fixed charge problems. The obtained results by using this algorithm are compared with the existing exact method of solving multi-index fixed charge transportation problem (Anu Ahuja and S.R. Arora ,2001;). Further the proposed algorithm is extended to multiindex fixed charge fuzzy transportation problem on which all the parameters are considered as trapezoidal fuzzy numbers.

This paper is organized as follows.. In section 2, the formulation of MIFCTP is given and the heuristic algorithm to solve MIFCTP is proposed. In section 3, the preliminaries of fuzzy set theory are reviewed. In section 4, the formulation of MIFCFTP is given and the heuristic algorithm to solve MIFCFTP is proposed. The numerical example is also given in this section to illustrate the proposed method. In section 6, conclusion is given.

## Multi-Index Fixed Charge Transportation Problem (MIFCTP)

The general model of the problem considered is as follows: $\mathrm{P}: \operatorname{Minimize}\left\{\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1 \mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{i} j \mathrm{k}}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}+\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1 \mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{p}}\right\}$ subject to

$$
\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}
$$

$$
\sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}
$$

$$
\sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}
$$

$$
\text { and } \left.x_{i j k} \geq 0 ; i=1,2, \ldots, m ; j=1,2, \ldots, n ; k=1,2, \ldots p .\right\}
$$

where $\sum_{j=1}^{n} A_{j k}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}, \sum_{k=1}^{p} B_{k i}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}$,

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{m} E_{i j}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k} .
$$

$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}$.
Here $\quad i=1,2, \ldots, m$ are the origins.
$j=1,2, \ldots, m$ are the destinations.
$\mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{p}$ are the various types of commodities.
$\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ij} \mathrm{k}}=$ the amount of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type of commodity transported from the $i^{\text {th }}$ origin to the $j^{\text {th }}$ destination $c_{i j k}=$ the variable cost per unit amount of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type of commodity from the $\mathrm{i}^{\text {th }}$ origin to the $\mathrm{j}^{\text {th }}$ destination which is independent of the amount of commodity transported, so long as $\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}>0$.
$\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{ik}}=$ the fixed cost associated with origin i and commodity k .
$\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{ik}}=\sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{ijk}}, \mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{p}$.
where $\quad S_{i \mathrm{ijk}} \quad=1$ if $\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}>0$.

$$
=0 \text { if } \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=0 .
$$

$\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}=$ the total quantity of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type of commodity to be sent to the $\mathrm{j}^{\text {th }}$ destination.
$\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}=$ the total quantity of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type of commodity available at the $\mathrm{i}^{\text {th }}$ origin.
$E_{i j}=$ the total quantity to be sent from $i^{\text {th }}$ origin to the $j^{\text {th }}$ destination.

## Finding upper and lower bounds of the decision variables

Now extending the procedure of veena Adlakha,2010; to MIFCTP
For each $\mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{p}$.
Consider the following Max $\mathrm{LP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.
Maximize $\mathrm{Z}=\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$
Show that $\quad \sum_{i=1}^{m} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}$

$$
\begin{align*}
& \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}} \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}} \tag{2.2}
\end{align*}
$$

and $\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \geq 0, \mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{p}$.
where $\sum_{j=1}^{n} A_{j k}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}, \sum_{k=1}^{p} B_{k i}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}, \sum_{i=1}^{m} E_{i j}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}$.
$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}$.
Let $\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}{ }^{\text {max }}$ denote the optimal solution of problem Max $\mathrm{LP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$. Now consider the following $\operatorname{Min} \mathrm{LP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.
Minimize $\mathrm{z}=\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$
Subject to (2.1)
Let $\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}{ }^{\text {min }}$ denote the optimal solution of problem Min $\mathrm{LP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.

## Approximation method to find the solution of MIFCTP

Now consider the relaxed version of problem p.
Minimize $\mathrm{z}=\left\{\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1 \mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}+\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1 \mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{i}}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{ij}} \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$
Show that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_{i j k}=A_{j k} \\
& \sum_{j=1}^{n} x_{i j k}=B_{k i} \\
& \sum_{k=1}^{p} x_{i j k}=E_{i j}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\sum_{j=1}^{n} A_{i j k}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}, \sum_{k=1}^{p} B_{k i}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}, \sum_{i=1}^{m} E_{i j}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j} \tag{2.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

$0 \leq \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}} \leq 1, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ integer.
$0 \leq \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \leq \mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}} \mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots$,
p.

Set $\mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}{ }^{\text {max }}$ for all $\mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=1,2$, ..., p.

As demonstrated in Balinski,1961, $\left\{\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$ is a solution of the above problem with the integer constraint ignored only if $\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ $=\mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}$
Now consider the following problem $\mathrm{P}^{\prime}$ where
$\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}}+\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{ijk}} / \mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.
$P^{\prime}: \operatorname{Minimize} z=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} C_{i j k} x_{i j k}$
Show that $\quad \sum_{i=1}^{m} X_{i j k}=A_{j k}$
$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}$
$\sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}$
where $\sum_{j=1}^{n} A_{i j k}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}, \sum_{k=1}^{p} B_{k i}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}, \sum_{i=1}^{m} E_{i j}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}$.
$\sum_{\mathrm{j}=1 \mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{j} k}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}=\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}$.
$0 \leq x_{i j k} \leq m_{i j k}, i=1,2, \ldots, m, j=1,2, \ldots, n, k=1,2, \ldots, p$.
Theorem 2.2.1:
The optimal value of $\mathrm{P}^{\prime}, \mathrm{Z}\left(\mathrm{P}^{\prime}\right)$ provides a lower bound to the optimal value $Z^{*}(P)$ of the corresponding MIFCTP, Problem $P$.
Remark 1: The optimal solution $\left\{\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$ of problem $\mathrm{P}^{\prime}$ can be used to create an upper bound to the optimal value $Z^{*}(P)$. Note that the solution $\left\{\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$ is easily modified into a feasible solution of $\left\{\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$ of P as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}=0 \text { if } \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}=0 \\
& \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}=1 \text { if } \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}>0
\end{aligned}
$$

Solution $\left\{\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}, \mathrm{y}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$ being a feasible solution provides an upperbound on $\mathrm{Z}^{*}(\mathrm{P})$. Consequently the optimal solution $\left\{\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$ can be used to provide a lower and upper bound for the optimal value of problem P as follows :
$\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime} \leq \mathrm{Z}^{*}(\mathrm{P}) \leq \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1 \mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{p}}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}+\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}} \ldots$
Remark 2: If the lower bound is equal to the upper bound in Equation 2.7, then $\left\{\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$ is the optimal solution of problem P with optimal value of $\mathrm{Z}^{*}(\mathrm{P})$.

## Reformulation of MIFCTP by extracting fixed cost

"Extracting Constant Values" from any mathematical problem eases the optimization process and brings the solution closer to the optimal at a minimum expense. It is also done as
part of the Gradient Method. Some methods like Hungarian Method are totally based on 'extraction".
Now the problem P can be rewritten as follows :
$P^{*}:$ Minimize $Z=K \Delta+\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p}\left(C_{i j k} x_{i j k}^{\prime}+f_{i j k}^{*} \delta_{i j k}\right)$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Subject to } & \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}} \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}} \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}
\end{array}
$$

where $\sum_{j=1}^{n} A_{i j k}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}, \sum_{k=1}^{p} B_{k i}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}, \sum_{i=1}^{m} E_{i j}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}$.

$$
\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathrm{~A}_{\mathrm{jk}}=\sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{~B}_{\mathrm{ki}}=\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}} .
$$

where $\Delta=\min f_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ (the smallest fixed charge coefficient)
$\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{*}=\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\Delta$.
The variable K is a consolidation coefficient equal to the number of non-zero basic variables. In the case of MITP, the number of basic variables should be equal to mnp - $(\mathrm{m}-1)(\mathrm{n}-$ 1) $(p-1)$. This extraction simplifies the problem by eliminating atleast one $\delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ variable from problem P. Since the FCTP is NPhard, eliminating even one variable in a large size problem can bring significant savings in the computational time.

## The MIFCTP Heuristic Method

In this section we outline steps for solving the MIFCTP Problem P with cost coefficients $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ and fixed costs $\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.

## The Algorithm

Step 1: Formulate and solve the problems $\operatorname{Max} \mathrm{LP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ and $\operatorname{Min}$ $\mathrm{LP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ to determine lower and upper bounds $\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\min }$ and $\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\max }$, for all $i=1,2, \ldots, m, j=1,2, \ldots, n, \quad k=1,2, \ldots, p$.
Step 2 : Identify $\Delta=$ the smallest fixed charge coefficient.
Step 3 : Subract $\Delta$ from all the fixed charges. Extract Fixed cost $\mathrm{K} \Delta$. Corresponding to the number of non-zero basic variables.
Step 4 : Formulate the problem $\mathrm{P}^{\prime}$ with $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}}+\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{ijk}} / \mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.
Step 5 : Solve the problem $\mathrm{P}^{\prime}$ using LINDO Software and record solution $\left\{\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$.
Step 6 : Determine $\delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}$ values as outlined in Remark 1.
Step 7 : Stop. Record the solution for problem P as $\left\{\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$.

## Numerical Example

To explain the MIFCTP heuristic method the following example is presented.

Consider a $3 \times 3 \times 3$ multi-index fixed charge transportation problem (Anu Ahuja, Arora. S.R., 2001 )

The variable cost Cijk is given in Table 1 at the top left corner.
The fixed costs are
$F_{111}=10 \quad F_{121}=30 \quad F_{131}=20$
$\mathrm{F}_{112}=20 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{122}=20 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{132}=20$
$\mathrm{F}_{113}=30 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{123}=20 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{133}=10$
$\mathrm{F}_{211}=10 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{221}=20 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{231}=20$
$\mathrm{F}_{212}=10 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{222}=10 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{232}=30$
$\mathrm{F}_{213}=40 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{223}=10 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{233}=10$
$\mathrm{F}_{311}=10 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{321}=40 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{331}=20$
$\mathrm{F}_{312}=20 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{322}=10 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{332}=30$
$\mathrm{F}_{313}=20 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{323}=10 \quad \mathrm{~F}_{333}=10$
The above MIFCTP can be formulated as a linear programming problem and using the steps of the algorithm described in 3.3.1. we get the optimal solution to the problem $\mathrm{P}^{\prime}$ using LINDO is as follows :
$\mathrm{x}_{113}=10 \mathrm{x}_{122}=6 \quad \mathrm{x}_{131}=6 \quad \mathrm{x}_{132}=3$
$x_{211}=5 \quad x_{212}=14 x_{213}=2 \quad x_{221}=8$
$x_{223}=1 \quad x_{233}=14 x_{311}=10 x_{312}=3$
$x_{313}=8 \quad x_{322}=5 \quad x_{323}=8 \quad x_{331}=5$
$x_{332}=5 \quad x_{333}=2$
with $\mathrm{Z}\left(\mathrm{P}^{\prime}\right)=1126.02$

## Preliminaries of Fuzzy Set Theory

In this section some basic definitions and arithmetic operations are reviewed. ( Stephen Dinagar, S., Palanivel, K., 2009)

## Basic Definitions

In this section, some basic definitions are reviewed.
Definition 3.1: Trapezoidal Fuzzy Number
The fuzzy number $\mathscr{G}=\left[a_{1}, a_{2}, a_{3}, a_{4}\right]$ is a trapezoidal fuzzy number, denoted by $\left[a_{1}, a_{2}, a_{3}, a_{4}\right]$ its membership function $\mu_{a_{k}}$ is given in the figure below :


Fig. 1 : Membership function of a trapezoidal fuzzy number Definition: 3.2

Two trapezoidal fuzzy numbers $\AA_{1}^{o}=\left(a_{1}, b_{1}, c_{1}, d_{1}\right)$ and $A_{2}^{o}=\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}, \mathrm{~b}_{2}, \mathrm{c}_{2}, \mathrm{~d}_{2}\right)$ are said to be equal ie. $A_{1}^{o}=A_{2}^{o}$ if and only if $a_{1}=a_{2}, b_{1}=b_{2}, c_{1}=c_{2}, d_{1}=d_{2}$.
Definition : 3.3
A Ranking function is a function $\mathbb{R}: F(R) \rightarrow R$ where $F(R)$ is a set of fuzzy numbers defined on set of real numbers, which maps each fuzzy number into the real line. Let $\mathcal{A}^{c}=(\mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{c}, \mathrm{d})$ be a trapezoidal fuzzy number, then $\mathbb{R}:\left(\mathbb{R}^{c}\right)=\frac{\mathrm{a}+\mathrm{b}+\mathrm{c}+\mathrm{d}}{4}$.

## Arithmetic Operations on fuzzy numbers:

In this section addition, subtraction, multiplication and division operations of trapezoidal fuzzy numbers are reviewed.

$$
\text { Let } \AA_{1}^{0}=\left(\mathrm{a}_{1}, \mathrm{~b}_{1}, \mathrm{c}_{1}, \mathrm{~d}_{1}\right) \text { and } \AA_{2}^{6}=\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}, \mathrm{~b}_{2}, \mathrm{c}_{2}, \mathrm{~d}_{2}\right) \text { be two }
$$ trapezoidal fuzzy numbers, then

(ii) Subtraction: $\AA_{1}^{o}-\not \AA_{2}^{o}:\left(\mathrm{a}_{1}-\mathrm{d}_{2}, \mathrm{~b}_{1}-\mathrm{c}_{2}, \mathrm{c}_{1}-\mathrm{b}_{2}, \mathrm{~d}_{1}-\mathrm{a}_{2}\right)$
(iii) Multiplication : $\AA_{1}^{o} \cdot \AA_{2}^{0}:\left[\frac{\mathrm{a}_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)\right.$, $\frac{\mathrm{b}_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)$,
$\frac{c_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)$,
$\left.\frac{\mathrm{d}_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)\right]$ if $\mathbb{R}\left(\AA_{1}^{0}\right)>0 .=\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)\right.$,
$\frac{\mathrm{c}_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)$,
$\frac{\mathrm{b}_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)$,
$\left.\frac{\mathrm{a}_{1}}{4}\left(\mathrm{a}_{2}+\mathrm{b}_{2}+\mathrm{c}_{2}+\mathrm{d}_{2}\right)\right]$ if $\mathbb{R}\left(\mathcal{R}_{1}^{0}\right)<0$.
(iv)Division: $\AA_{1}^{0} / \AA_{2}^{0}:\left(\frac{\mathrm{a}_{1}}{\mathrm{~d}_{2}}, \frac{\mathrm{~b}_{1}}{\mathrm{c}_{2}}, \frac{\mathrm{c}_{1}}{\mathrm{~b}_{2}}, \frac{\mathrm{~d}_{1}}{\mathrm{a}_{2}}\right)$

Multi-index fixed charge fuzzy transportation problem
The general model of the problem is considered as follows :

Subject to

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}} \\
& \sum_{j=1}^{n} \ell_{6}=B_{k i} \\
& \sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{o}
\end{aligned}
$$

and $\mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{R}_{\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{j} k}}\right) \geq 0, \mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, m, j=1,2, \ldots, n, k=1,2, \ldots$, p.
where $\quad \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathscr{A}_{i \mathrm{ijk}}=\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o}, \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{o}, \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathscr{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}^{O}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathcal{E}_{i j}^{o} \tag{4.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here $\quad i=1,2, \ldots, m$ are the origins.
$\mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}$ are the destinations.
$\mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{p}$ are the various types of commodities.
Q $Q_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ - the fuzzy amount of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type of commodity transported from the $\mathrm{i}^{\text {th }}$ origin to the $\mathrm{j}^{\text {th }}$ destination.
EO ${ }_{1 \mathrm{jk}}$ - the fuzzy variable cost per unit amount of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type commodity from the $\mathrm{i}^{\text {th }}$ origin to the $\mathrm{j}^{\text {th }}$ destination.
$F_{i j k}^{\prime o}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} f_{i j k} \delta_{i j k}, i=1,2, \ldots, m, j=1,2, \ldots, n, k=1,2, \ldots$, p.
where $\delta_{\mathrm{ijk}} \quad=1$ if $\mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right)>0$

$$
=0 \text { if } \mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{X}_{i, \mathrm{k}}\right)=0
$$

$\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}^{0}$ - the total fuzzy quantity of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type of commodity to be sent to the $\mathrm{j}^{\text {th }}$ destination.
$\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{0}$ - the total fuzzy quantity of $\mathrm{k}^{\text {th }}$ type of commodity available at the $\mathrm{i}^{\text {th }}$ origin.
$\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{0}$ - the total fuzzy quantity to be sent from $\mathrm{i}^{\text {th }}$ origin to the $\mathrm{j}^{\text {th }}$ destination.
Finding upper and lower bounds of the fuzzy decision variables

Solving the following two FLPP using the methodology proposed in Amit Kumar et.al, 2011, will yield the upper and lower bounds of the fuzzy decision variables.
For each $\mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{p}$.
Consider the following Max $\mathrm{FLP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$
Maximize $\mathcal{Z} /=\mathcal{X}_{\mathrm{Ij} \mathrm{k}}$
Subject to

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}} \\
& \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathbb{C}_{0, k}=B_{k i}^{o} \\
& \sum_{k=1}^{p} X_{i, k}=E_{i j}^{o}
\end{aligned}
$$

and $\mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right) \geq 0, \mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots$, p.


$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathbb{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{o} . \tag{4.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $\mathcal{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\max }$ denote the fuzzy optimal solution of the problem Max $\mathrm{FLP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.
Now consider the following Min $\mathrm{FLP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$
Minimize $\mathbb{Z}=\mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$
Subject to (4.1)
Let $\ell_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\min }$ denote the fuzzy optimal solution of the problem Min $\mathrm{FLP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.
Approximation method to find the solution of (MIFCFIP) Now consider the relaxed version of the problem FP
Minimise $\mathbb{Z} /=\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{j}, \mathrm{k}} \delta_{\ell_{j \mathrm{k}}}+\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathbb{F}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \delta_{i \mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Subject to } & \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathbb{Q}_{\mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{j}}}=\AA_{\mathrm{jk}}^{o} \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathbb{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=B_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o} \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathbb{Y}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=E_{\mathrm{ij}}^{o}
\end{array}
$$

where

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o}, \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}{ }^{o}, \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}^{o} \text {. } \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o}=\sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{o} \text {. } \\
& 0 \leq \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}} \leq 1, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}} \text { integer. }
\end{aligned}
$$

$0 \leq \mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right) \leq \mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{R} \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{ijk}} \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right), \mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=$ $1,2, \ldots, p$.
Set $\mathrm{VO}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathcal{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\max }$ for all $\mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{k}=1$, $2, \ldots$, p.
$\left\{\mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}, \mathrm{y}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$ is a solution of the above problem with the integer constraint ignored only if $\chi_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{r} 8 \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}} \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}$.
Now consider the problem FP' where
$8_{i j k}^{o}=8 O_{i j k}+F_{i j k}^{O} / 18 O_{i j k}$
$F P^{\prime}:$ Minimise $\mathbb{Z}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathbb{E} \mathbb{O}_{i j k} \mathbb{Z}_{i, k}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Subject to } \quad \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathbb{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\AA_{\mathrm{jk}} \\
& \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathscr{N}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{O_{i}} \\
& \sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathscr{Q}_{i j k}=E_{i j}^{o}
\end{aligned}
$$

where
$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathcal{A}_{i j k}^{o}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}^{o}, \sum_{k=1}^{p} B_{k i}^{o}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathcal{E}_{i j}^{o}, \sum_{i=1}^{m} \mathcal{E}_{i j}^{o}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathcal{A}_{j k}$.
$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} \mathcal{A}_{j k}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}^{o}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathcal{E}_{i j}^{o}$
$0 \leq \mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right) \leq \mathbb{R}\left(\mathrm{n} \mathrm{O}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right), \mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, m, j=1,2, \ldots, n, k=1$,

## $2, \ldots, p$.

## Theorem 4.2.1 :

The fuzzy optimal value of $\mathrm{FP}^{\prime}, \mathscr{Z}\left(\mathrm{FP}^{\prime}\right)$ provides a lower bound to the optimal value $\mathbb{Z}^{\circ}\left(\mathrm{FP}^{\prime}\right)$ of the corresponding MIFCFTP, Problem FP.

## Remark 3 :

The fuzzy optimal solution $\left\{\mathcal{W}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$ of problem FP can be used to create an upperbound to the optimal value $\mathscr{Z}(\mathrm{FP})$. Note that the solution $\left\{\mathcal{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$ is easily modified into a fuzzy feasible solution of $\left\{\mathcal{N}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\} \mathrm{FP}$ as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}=0 \text { if } \mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right)=0 . \\
& \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}=1 \text { if } \mathbb{R}\left(\mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right)>0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

Solution $\left\{\mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$ being a fuzzy feasible solution, provides an upperbound on ${ }^{\text {合 }}(\mathrm{FP})$.

Consequently the optimal solution $\left\{\mathcal{X}_{\mathrm{l}, \mathrm{k}}\right\}$ can be used to provide a lower and upperbound for the fuzzy optimal value of problem FP as follows :


Remark 4 : If the lower bound is equal to the upperbound in equation (4.7), then $\left\{\mathcal{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$ is the fuzzy optimal solution of problem p, with fuzzy optimal value of $\mathbb{Z}^{\bar{\circ}}(\mathrm{FP})$.

## Reformation of MIFCFTP by extracting fixed costs

Now the problem FP can be rewritten as follows :


$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Subject to } & \sum_{\mathrm{i}=1}^{\mathrm{m}} \mathbb{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}=\mathbb{A}_{\mathrm{jk}} \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{j}=1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{O}, \mathrm{k}}=\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}^{o} \\
& \sum_{\mathrm{k}=1}^{\mathrm{p}} \mathbb{X}_{\mathrm{O}, \mathrm{k}}=\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{ij}}^{O}
\end{array}
$$

where

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{j=1}^{n} A_{i j k}^{o}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}^{o}, \sum_{k=1}^{p} B_{k i}^{o}=\sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}^{o}, \sum_{i=1}^{m} E_{i j}^{o}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}^{o} \\
& \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{p} A_{j k}^{o}=\sum_{k=1}^{p} \sum_{i=1}^{m} B_{k i}^{o}=\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i j}^{o}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $Z^{c}=\min \left\{f_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$ (the smallest fuzzy fixed charge coefficient)

The variable K is a consolidation coefficient equal to the number of non-zero basic variables. In the case of MIFTP, the number of basic variables should be equal to $\mathrm{mnp}-(\mathrm{m}-1)(\mathrm{n}-$ 1) $(\mathrm{p}-1)$.

## The MIFCFTP Heuristic Method

In this section, we outline steps for solving the MIFCFTP, problem FP, with fuzzy cost coefficient $\mathcal{E O}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ and fuzzy fixed costs $f / 0$

## The Algorithm

Step 1 : Formulate and the problems Max $\mathrm{FLP}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ and Min $\mathrm{FLP}_{\mathrm{ij} \mathrm{k}}$ to determine lower and upper bounds $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\min }$ and $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\max }$ for $\mathbb{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\infty}$, $\mathrm{i}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{~m} ; \mathrm{j}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{n} ; \quad \mathrm{k}=1,2, \ldots, \mathrm{p}$.
Step 2 : Identify $\mathbb{Z}^{c}=$ the smallest fuzzy fixed charge coefficient.
Step 3 : Subtract $\mathbb{Z}^{c}$ from all the fixed charges. Extract fixed cost $\mathrm{K} \mathbb{Z}^{c}$. Corresponding to the number of non-zero basic variables.
Step 4 : Formulate the problem $\mathrm{FP}^{\prime}$ with

Step 5 : Solve the problem $\mathrm{FP}^{\prime}$ using LINDO software and record solution $\left\{\mathcal{Q}_{\mathrm{ijk}}\right\}$.
Step 6 : Determine $\delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}$ values as outlines in Remark 3.
Step 7 : Step Record the solution for problem FP as $\left\{\mathcal{X}_{\mathrm{ijk}}, \delta_{\mathrm{ijk}}^{\prime}\right\}$.

## Numerical Example

Consider a 3 x 3 x 3 fixed charge multi-inter fuzzy transportation problem FP. The fuzzy variable cost $\mathcal{C}_{\mathrm{ijk}}$ are given at the top left corner in Table Ii.
The fuzzy fixed costs are

$$
\begin{aligned}
& f_{313}^{f / o}=\left(\begin{array}{lll}
18 & 19 & 21
\end{array} 22\right) \quad f_{323}=\left(\begin{array}{lll}
8 & 9 & 11
\end{array} 12\right) \quad f_{333}=\left(\begin{array}{lll}
8 & 9 & 11
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

The above MIFCFTP can be formulated as a fuzzy linear programming problem. Using the methodology proposed in Amit Kumar et.al, 2011 to solve the fuzzy linear programming problem and the steps of the algorithm described in 5.3.1, we get the optimal solution to the problem $\mathrm{FP}^{\prime}$ using LINDO is as follows :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& Q_{13}=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
8 & 9 & 11 & 12
\end{array}\right) \\
& R_{92}=(4578) \\
& \ell_{191}=(4578) \\
& \mathbb{R}_{Q_{32}}=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
3 & 3 & 3 & 3
\end{array}\right) \\
& Q_{Q_{11}}=\left(\begin{array}{l}
5 \\
5
\end{array} 5\right. \text { 5) } \\
& \&_{Q_{13}}=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
2 & 2 & 2 & 2
\end{array}\right) \\
& \mathbb{Z}_{Q_{23}}=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{array}\right) \\
& \ell_{Q_{11}}=(891112 \\
& X_{Q 12}=(12131516) \\
& \mathbb{X}_{Q_{21}}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
6 & 7 \\
10
\end{array}\right) \\
& \mathbb{R}_{233}=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
12 & 13 & 15 & 16
\end{array}\right) \\
& \ell_{13}=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
8 & 8 & 8 & 8
\end{array}\right) \\
& Q_{612}=\left(\begin{array}{llll}
3 & 3 & 3 & 3
\end{array}\right) \\
& X_{323}=\left(\begin{array}{lll}
6 & 7 & 10
\end{array}\right) \\
& X_{322}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
5 & 5 \\
5 & 5
\end{array}\right) \\
& \mathbb{X}_{332}=(3467) \\
& \ell_{331}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
5 & 5 \\
5 & 5
\end{array}\right) \\
& { }_{332} \quad \text { ใ }_{33}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
2 & 2
\end{array} 2\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

with $Z_{2}\left(\mathrm{FP}^{\prime}\right)=(831.24,976.74,1280.33,1441.78)$

## Conclusion

In this paper, a heuristic algorithm for multi-index fixed charge transportation problem is proposed. The optimal value obtained using the proposed algorithm is 1126.02 , where as the already existing exact method proposed by Anu Ahuja, Arora. S.R. ,2001, is 1185 which is more than the optimal value of the proposed method. More over,in the real world applications, the parameters in the transportation problem may not be known precisely due to uncontrollable factors. Therefore this algorithm is extended to solve MIFCFTP. Since the optimal value is expressed as fuzzy numbers rather than crisp value, more information is provided for decision making. The efficiency of this algorithm is proved by comparing the result obtained by using this algorithm with the already existing exact method of solving MIFCTP.

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Table 1

|  | $\mathrm{j}=1$ |  | $\mathrm{j}=2$ |  | $\mathrm{j}=3$ |  | $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{i}=1$ | 8 |  | 5 |  | 7 |  | $6{ }^{6}$ |  |  |
|  | 7 |  | 6 |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |
|  | $\mathrm{E}_{11}=10$ | 6 | $\mathrm{E}_{12}=6$ | 10 | $\mathrm{E}_{13}=9$ | 11 |  | 9 | 10 |
| $\mathrm{i}=2$ | 11 |  | 9 |  | 13 |  | 13 |  |  |
|  | 8 |  | 15 |  | 7 |  |  | 14 |  |
|  | $\mathrm{E}_{21}=21$ | 13 | $\mathrm{E}_{22}=9$ | 12 | $\mathrm{E}_{23}=14$ | 8 |  | 17 |  |
| $\mathrm{i}=3$ | 5 |  | 8 |  | 10 |  | 15 |  |  |
|  |  |  | 9 |  | 6 |  |  | 13 |  |
|  | $\mathrm{E}_{31}=21$ | 7 | $\mathrm{E}_{32}=13$ | 7 | $\mathrm{E}_{33}=12$ | 11 |  |  | 18 |
| $\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}$ | 15  <br>  17 |  | 8 |  | 11 |  | 34 |  |  |
|  |  |  | 11 |  | 8 |  |  | 36 |  |
|  |  | 20 |  | 9 |  | 16 |  |  | 45 |

Table 2

|  | $\mathrm{j}=1$ |  |  | $j=2$ |  |  | $j=3$ |  |  | $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{ki}}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{i}= \\ 1 \end{gathered}$ | (67910) |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (346 \\ 7) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | (5689) |  |  | (4578) |  |  |
|  | $E_{11}^{0}=(891112)$ |  |  | $\mathrm{E}_{12}=(4578)$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline 7810 \\ 11) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
|  |  |  | (4578) |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (8911 \\ 12) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (91012 \\ 13) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (8911 \\ 12) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{i}= \\ 2 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} (91012 \\ 13) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline 7810 \\ 11) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (111214 \\ 15) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (111214 \\ 15) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
|  | $\mathrm{E}_{21}=\left(\begin{array}{l}19202223)\end{array}\right.$ |  |  | $\mathrm{E}_{22}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}7810 & \left.\begin{array}{c}(1314 \\ 17\end{array}\right)\end{array}\right.$ |  |  | $\mathrm{E}_{23}=\left(\begin{array}{l}12131516\end{array}\right)$ |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (121315 \\ 16) \end{gathered}$ |  |
|  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (111214 \\ 15) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (101113 \\ 14) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | (67910) |  |  | $\begin{gathered} 151618 \\ 19) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{i}= \\ 3 \end{gathered}$ | (3467) |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (679 \\ 10) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | (8911 12) |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (131416 \\ 17) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
|  | $\mathrm{E}_{31}=\left(\begin{array}{r}19202223\end{array}\right)$ |  |  | $\mathrm{E}_{32}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}11 & 121415\end{array}\right)$ |  |  | $\mathrm{E}_{33}=\left(\begin{array}{l}10111314\end{array}\right)$ |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (111214 \\ 15) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
|  |  |  | (5689() |  |  | (5689) |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (101113 \\ 14) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} 161719 \\ 20) \end{gathered}$ |
| $\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{jk}}$ | $\left.\begin{array}{\|c\|c\|}\hline(131416 \\ 17)\end{array}\right)$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (679 \\ 10) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (91012 \\ 13) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline 283137 \\ 40) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (91012 \\ 13) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (679 \\ 10) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (303339 \\ 42) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
|  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (181921 \\ 22) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (7810 \\ 11) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (141517 \\ 18) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{gathered} (394248 \\ 51) \end{gathered}$ |


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