Welcome seminar for new faculty

Composite indicators: open issues in weighting and aggregation

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Composite indicators (CI) have been increasingly recognized as a useful tool for performance monitoring, benchmarking comparisons and public communication in a wide range of fields, e.g., environment, economy, society or technological development. From a formal point of view, a composite indicator is the mathematical combination of variables that represent different dimensions of a concept. During this seminar, I will present a summary of several recent works made in this field of research, in particular with regard to the two main steps in the construction of a CI: choosing the weights of each variable and conducting the aggregation process. In the standard practice, a CI is very often constructed by using a weighted linear aggregation rule, so that complete compensability among the various components considered is always assumed. In this seminar, a new method for adjusting the level of compensability between components will be presented. Moreover, the attention will be focused on some methods for deriving weights from rankings provided by a sample of respondents of a survey.



