

Risk Decision Analysis of Logistics Purchasing Based on Mathematical Expectation

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Abstract

The mathematical expectation value method is a commonly used method in risk decision-making. This paper studies the problem of how to arrange the purchase plan in order to get the maximum expected profit; considering the applicable principles of mathematical expectation, the decision method for getting the optimal decision scheme is given. Finally, we do simulation and stability analysis on an example and obtain the reasonable result. This result shows that mathematical expectation value method is effective in solving the problem of risk decision.

Keywords

Mathematical Expectation, Logistics Purchasing, Risk Decision, Stability

1. Introduction

Purchasing, as the very beginning of logistic activities, covers every steps from suppliers to demanders regarding products, technique, information and service. The logistical purchasing of modern companies is no longer the simple supply of production material. Instead of the most reasonable price, the least consumption and risk as well as the largest insurance are the main parts of supplying. Through the effective planning, organization and control of purchasing management activity, companies will choose the suitable purchasing method, style, quantity, frequency and location to ensure the normal process of business activity with limited source. Therefore, it is necessary to build the scientific, systematic, effective optimized logistics purchasing model to reduce costs for enterprises, accelerate capital turnover and improve enterprise management quality so as to gain power for sustainable development [1]. Wang [2] discussed the inventory cost control of enterprises with respect to supplier and inventory information management.

In the process of logistics purchasing, purchasing risk cannot be avoided absolutely. For example, the supplier risk, order quantity risk, quality risk, delivery risk and transportation risk can all be regarded as the potential risks in the logistics purchasing. Therefore, people in charge need to make all kinds of risk decisions to reduce and control the potential risks and optimize logistics purchasing.

Risk decision is the one with incomplete information. It is based on the scientific analysis of risk and lost to choose the proper and satisfying techniques and methods from the many alternative solutions [3]. The main characters of the risk decision are: 1) there is a clear goal, such as profit or loss, that the decision maker is expected to achieve; 2) there are more than two natural states (such as the market), and the possibilities of a variety of natural states can be estimated or calculated; 3) there are more than two action options for decision making, and only one is selected; 4) the profit or loss values of various action plans in different natural states can be calculated.

Mathematical expectation is one of the important characters in probability theory. It plays a very important role in the economic management [4] [5]. Deng [6] and Wen *et al.* [7] resolved the economical decision questions by using the mathematical expectation, including investment decision and profit on sales. Zhang [8] studied the quantitative analysis of the risk system by the use of probability and statistics. Xu [9] introduced the application of mathematical expectation in logistics management such as making decisions, choosing the optimal purchase batch size and the optimal stock quantity. Peng [10] established principles of risk decision-making by the state probability and program expectations and obtained the stability analysis for risk decision-making program by the character of transfer probability.

In this paper, we will study the applicable principles of mathematical expectation value method in risk decision-making. We will do simulation and stability analysis on an example. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the applicable principles of expectation value method. The simulation and stability analysis on an example are given in Section 3. Section 4 contains the conclusions of this work.

2. Applicable Principle of Mathematical Expectation Value Method

Taking into account that the ultimate goal of risk decision-making is to protect the economic benefits of enterprises, people can use the expectation value method, combined with the probabilities of the natural states in the logistical purchasing to analyze risks and choose solution.

Generally, in the problem of risk decision-making, a decision maker often faced a number of possible states, recorded as $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$. They also have many choices, recorded as a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m . For each solution program a_i and each state θ_j , there is the profit v_{ij} , so as to form the m row n column matrix $V = (v_{ij})$, which is called payoff matrix. Due to the random occurrence of various states, before deciding the decision makers need to make reasonable estimates of the probability of the various state θ_j , recorded as $P(\theta_j) = p_j$. Therefore, the expected revenue of the corresponding decision a_i is $\sum_j p_j v_{ij}$. In this way, the risk decision problem can be concluded as: confirm the a_k , which makes

$$\sum_j p_j v_{kj} = \max_i \left(\sum_j p_j v_{ij} \right). \quad (1)$$

This is the maximum expected profit criterion in risk decision problems.

Similarly, if it is easy to get cost w_{ij} from solution program a_i under θ_j condition, the commonly used decision criterion is the minimum expected cost criterion: confirm the solution program a_k , which makes

$$\sum_j p_j w_{kj} = \min_i \left(\sum_j p_j w_{ij} \right). \quad (2)$$

The method of decision making is generally applicable to the following situations: 1) the probability of emergence is obvious objective and stable; 2) the decision doesn't solve the problem once but to solve the problem of repeated repetition; 3) the results of the decision will not have serious consequences for the decision makers.

3. Simulation on an Example

In this section we do simulation on an example.

3.1. Example Description

One company produces and sells a health product. The storage cost is high and the producing material has a short quality guarantee period. In order to satisfy the producing need, ensure the material quality and save cost, this company decides to arrange the purchasing plan properly and enforce the management of raw material management. It makes an assumption according to the sales from last year (see **Table 1**).

It is assumed that the purchase price of raw materials is: 2200 Yuan per ton if purchased 5 ton once; 2000 Yuan per ton if purchased 8 ton once; 1900 Yuan per ton if purchased 10 ton once. The selling price of the product is 5000 Yuan/ton. If the product is not sold out the same day, 1000 Yuan per ton must be paid pay for the inventory costs.

For the raw material purchasing problems, the purchasers face 3 states, recorded as $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$, corresponding to the demands of 5, 8, 10 (ton) respectively. There are also three decisions for the purchasers, recorded as a_1, a_2, a_3 , corresponding to the purchase quantity of 5, 8, 10 (ton) respectively. After calculation, it is easy to get the payoff matrix

$$V = (v_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 14000 & 14000 & 14000 \\ 6000 & 24000 & 24000 \\ 1000 & 19000 & 31000 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

Since $p_1 = P(\theta_1) = 0.5$, $p_2 = P(\theta_2) = 0.3$, $p_3 = P(\theta_3) = 0.2$, then the expected profit of a_1, a_2, a_3 are $E(a_1) = \sum_{j=1}^3 p_j v_{1j} = 14000$, $E(a_2) = \sum_{j=1}^3 p_j v_{2j} = 15000$, $E(a_3) = \sum_{j=1}^3 p_j v_{3j} = 12400$.

Since $E(a_2) > E(a_1) > E(a_3)$, the revenue expectation of the program a_2 is the largest. So for this company, 8 ton raw material purchase is the best.

3.2. Other Decision-Making Principle

There is also a kind of decision-making principle, that is, to reduce the opportunity loss as much as possible. The so-called opportunity loss refers to: when the state θ_j occurs, we choose solution a_i , but we may not get the maxim profit. The difference between the benefit obtained by the decision a_i and the maximum benefit that may be obtained is the opportunity loss, recorded as

$$l_{ij} = \max_k v_{kj} - v_{ij}. \quad (4)$$

In this way, we can also use the minimum expected loss to make a loss principle, which is a_k , making

$$\sum_j p_j l_{kj} = \min_i \left(\sum_j p_j l_{ij} \right). \quad (5)$$

For the above logistical purchasing problem, it can be calculated that

$$L = (l_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 10000 & 17000 \\ 8000 & 0 & 7000 \\ 13000 & 5000 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

Table 1. Estimates of demand for a food company.

Daily demand (ton)	Probability
5	0.5
8	0.3
10	0.2

The expected losses of a_1 , a_2 and a_3 are $\sum_{j=1}^3 p_j l_{1j} = 6400$, $\sum_{j=1}^3 p_j l_{2j} = 5400$, $\sum_{j=1}^3 p_j l_{3j} = 8000$, respectively. So we should choose a_2 by the principle of minimum expected loss.

Generally, the principle of minimum expected loss is equivalent to the principle of maximum expected benefit.

3.3. Stability Analysis

For the risk decision problem, the expected return value of each program is obtained based on the probability estimation of various natural states. This estimate is based on past experience estimates (or projections). Because the estimation of the probability of the state is affected by many factors, the expected return value based on the probability of the state is not the same as the actual. Once the probability value has changed, whether the decision has been determined is still valid, has become a problem worthy of attention. Therefore, it is necessary to understand how the probability value changes in the decision making process, so as to test the applicable scope of the selection program and the ability to resist risks. This is stability analysis or sensitivity analysis of the decision making problem.

For the above raw material purchasing problems, once the probability changes, the program a_2 may fail. Therefore, there must be a stability analysis. On the precondition of the stability of the optimal program a_2 , the allowable range of the probability of natural state must be calculated.

Suppose $P(\theta_1) = x_1$, $P(\theta_2) = x_2 = 1 - x_1 - x_3$, $P(\theta_3) = x_3$, then

$$E(a_1) = 14000x_1 + 14000(1 - x_1 - x_3) + 14000x_3 = 14000 \quad (7)$$

$$E(a_2) = 6000x_1 + 24000(1 - x_1 - x_3) + 24000x_3 = 24000 - 18000x_1 \quad (8)$$

$$E(a_3) = 1000x_1 + 19000(1 - x_1 - x_3) + 31000x_3 = 19000 - 18000x_1 + 12000x_3. \quad (9)$$

If program a_2 is still the best solution, then

$$\begin{cases} E(a_2) \geq E(a_1) \\ E(a_2) \geq E(a_3) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Namely, $x_1 \leq \frac{5}{9}$, $x_3 \leq \frac{5}{12}$, since $x_2 = 1 - x_1 - x_3$, so $x_2 \geq \frac{1}{36}$.

The results are as follows:

- 1) When $P(\theta_2) > \frac{1}{36}$, $E(a_2) > E(a_i) (i = 1, 3)$, a_2 is the best solution;
- 2) When $P(\theta_2) < \frac{1}{36}$, $E(a_2) < E(a_i) (i = 1, 3)$, a_2 is not the best solution;
- 3) When $P(\theta_2) = \frac{1}{36}$, $a_i (i = 1, 3)$, leads to $E(a_2) = E(a_i)$, program a_2 is the same with the others.

$P(\theta_2) = \frac{1}{36}$ is called critical probability.

The stability analysis provides a great convenience for the choice of decision scheme. As long as the probability value of p_2 is not less than the critical value, the original scheme a_2 is still valid. Actually, it will be better if the difference between the probability p_2 and the critical value $\frac{1}{36}$ is larger.

Because of the uncertainty of information and the change of objective conditions, there is still a large scope of application in the decision making of the p_2 . Then this program is with stronger stability.

4. Conclusions

Among the various activities of enterprises, purchasing is an important input link, which is of great significance

to the enterprise cost control. For average-tech industries, the cost of the logistics procurement should be between 30% and 50%. For high-tech industries, the proportion of the purchase cost is generally low. For the mature simple technology, procurement costs may be even higher. And the formation of the inventory of logistics is often the burden of enterprises. So we should use the scientific management method to further optimize the management of logistics purchasing. In this paper, we study the applicable principles of mathematical expectation under risk decision. Through a concrete example, we do simulation and get a reasonable purchase plan. The optimal plan can get the maximum expected profit or minimum expected loss.

Actually, the reality problem is more complex than our model since it has much more random events. In this paper we only use mathematical expectation to simplify the problem. But the market is changing; the demand is random and the probabilities of a variety of states are also changing. In the future, we will consider conditional probability and variance analysis for solving the risk-decision problem in logistics purchasing, and further consider the application in mathematics and system software, establish the database model, in order to do quantitative analysis of the common risks in logistics procurement.

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