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**Abstract:** With the rapid development of urban modernization, traffic congestion, travel delays, and other related inconveniences have become central features in people's daily lives. The development of subway transit systems has alleviated some of these problems. However, numerous underground subway stations lack adequate fire safety protections, and this can cause rescue difficulties in the event of fire. Once the fire occurs, there will be huge property losses and casualties. In addition, this can have a vicious impact on sustainable development. Therefore, in order to make prevention in advance and implement targeted measures, we should quantify the risk and calculate the fire risk value. In this study, through consulting experts and analysis of data obtained from Changzhou Railway Company and the Emergency Management Bureau, the fire risk index system of subway stations was determined. We calculated the index weight by selecting the combination weighting method of game theory to eliminate the limitations and dependence of subjective and objective evaluation methods. The idea of relative closeness degree in TOPSIS method iwas introduced to calculate the risk value of each subway station. Finally, the subway station risk value model was established, and the risk values for each subway station were calculated and sorted. According to expert advice and the literature review, we divided the risk level into five levels, very high; high; moderate; low and very low. The results shown that 2 subway stations on Line 1 have very high fire risk, 2 subway stations on Line 1 have high fire risk, 2 subway stations on Line 1 have moderate fire risk, 8 subway stations on Line 1 have low fire risk, and 13 subway stations on Line 1 have very low fire risk. We hope that through this evaluation model method and the results to bring some references for local rail companies. Meanwhile, this evaluation model method also promotes resilience and sustainability in social development.

**Keywords:** subway station fire; risk assessment; game theory combination weighting; problems caused by construction quality; relative closeness

# **1. Introduction**

With the rapid development of China's economy in recent years, China has become one of the fastest growing countries in the world. By 2030, the number of vehicles in China will reach 363.8 million according to the Hao [\[1\]](#page-21-0) prediction model, which is a huge number. This trend not only appears in China, but also the world's total number of vehicles will exceed 2 billion [\[2\]](#page-21-1). These vast amounts of data mean rapid growth in petroleum demand, which poses great challenges to sustainable development.

Nowadays, an increasing number of cities have begun to build subway systems. According to recent statistics, China will add 62 new subway lines in 2021, with a total mileage of 1281.59 km. Urban rail transit has enhanced travel convenience for the public, effectively mitigated urban road congestion, optimized how residents travel, and played a role in energy conservation. However, the marked increase in the construction of new subway systems have also resulted in some drawbacks. For example, the underground



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space typical of subway systems presents difficulties to fire rescue personnel that do not exist for aboveground fire rescue; such difficulties have placed fire rescue personnel under substantial additional strain. Subway fire accidents can cause tremendous loss of life and destruction of property. Special attention should be paid to the serious consequences of subway station accidents, such as the king's cross railway station accident (in 1987, more than 31 causalities) and Daegu, Korea (in 2003, more than 198 causalities) [\[3\]](#page-21-2). These tragic casualties are caused by fires in subway stations  $[4–6]$  $[4–6]$ . There are many such accidents around the world. The main problem is that no correct and reasonable fire risk assessment has been conducted. There are no specific risk levels and corresponding fire protection measures. Therefore, to reduce the risk of accidents, it is a very important issue to carry out fire risk assessment.

Fire risk value is the specific value that should be calculated after the risk assessment. These specific values are used to reflect the current risk level of the evaluation target. Firstly, a large amount of primary data is needed to calculation the fire risk value. Secondly, experts are invited to score and consult. Finally, a huge number of mathematical calculations are carried out on the data and scoring results. Due to the frequent fire accidents in subway stations in recent years, in order to prevent more scientifically in advance, specific fire risk values are needed as a reference. When evaluation objectives emerge, we need to consider their risks.

Accordingly, many scholars have analyzed subway fires. Luo [\[7\]](#page-21-5) evaluated the construction cross risk of subway transfer stations from two aspects: existing subway stations and new subway stations. Gao  $[8]$  applied the fuzzy consistent matrix and AHP to analyze risk factors for tunnel fire management, subway tunnel fire extinguishing systems, and crowd evacuation system indicators. Liu [\[9\]](#page-21-7) used probability analysis method to analyze the structural vulnerability of subway station. Liu [\[10\]](#page-21-8) applied AHP method and experts grading method to evaluate the risk of subway stations. Wu [\[11\]](#page-21-9) used Bayesian network analysis to evaluate the risk of subway station fires. Zhang [\[12\]](#page-21-10) proposed a simulation method for the most serious subway fire scenarios. Different fire scenarios were examined by using Fire Dynamics Simulator software, and the simulation results were used as a reference for evacuation scenarios. Peng [\[13\]](#page-21-11) conducted an experimental study on the fire plume characteristics of subway car doors. A set of small-scale experiments was performed in a subway car with both ends open to examine the characteristics of fire smoke columns at different fire location. Lan [\[14\]](#page-21-12) established a subway fire risk assessment model from four aspects: human factors, equipment-related factors, environmental factors, management factors. Wang [\[15\]](#page-21-13) used the fuzzy AHP and set pair analysis to assess the risks for the construction environments of subway stations. The research showed that evaluating the fire risk of subway stations through the construction of fire risk evaluation index systems for subway stations is crucial. In the analysis of traditional fire characteristics, many scholars have also conducted simulation analysis [\[16](#page-21-14)[–23\]](#page-21-15). Roh [\[24\]](#page-21-16) used FDS software to study the impact of installation platform screen doors on passengers' emergency evacuation time. The experimental results showed that the subway stations with platform screen doors have more possible evacuation time than that without installation, which is about 350 s. In addition, Corri [\[25\]](#page-21-17) assessed the terrorist incidents in crowded places. Mehmet [\[26\]](#page-21-18) proposed a stop safety index to evaluate pedestrian safety around bus stations. Margarita [\[27\]](#page-21-19) studied safety management of the light rail transit in Spain and other countries.

However, these scholars have overlooked the effectiveness of objective data and scientific comprehensive evaluation through their complete reliance on computer simulations to assess the risk of subway fires. Traditional subjective and objective weighting evaluation methods, such as analytic hierarchy process, the entropy weight method and the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method have subjective and objective limitations. The subjective evaluation method needs to rely too much on the experience and professional knowledge of experts, while the objective evaluation method has a strong requirement for the primary data. Once the change of the index value is small or the fluctuation is large, this kind of data is not suitable for the objective evaluation weighting method. Moreover, the objective

weighting method conforms to the mathematical rule and has strict mathematical significance. But it often ignores the subjective intention of decision makers and cannot truly achieve comprehensive evaluation. In order to solve the limitations of previous scholars' work, we propose an evaluation theory based on a game theory combined weighting-TOPSIS model. The game theory combination weighting method is a process of linear

combination of weights obtained by different methods to seek the most reasonable index weight. This method obtains the final weight by solving mathematical equations with the idea of game, which not only takes into account the experience and professional knowledge of subjective experts, but also takes into account the standardization of objective data. This model effectively solves the limitations of previous work. The TOPSIS method is a commonly used and effective method in multi-objective decision analysis, also known as the distance method of superior and inferior solutions. It sorts according to the closeness between the limited evaluation objects and the idealized targets. It has applied the combination weighting method of game theory and the TPSIS method to the fire risk assessment of subway stations, which is a new attempt. We hope to effectively evaluate the fire risk of subway stations by using reasonable and scientific mathematical models. On this basis, it is expected to achieve the goal of reducing risks, enhancing fire safety awareness and improving the emergency rescue system.

This study proceeds as follows. Section [2](#page-2-0) analyzes the risk assessment indicators and methods and introduces the technical route of the research. Section [3](#page-10-0) introduces an engineering example and calculates its risk value. Section [4](#page-16-0) analyzes the results of risk value and puts forward some suggestions.

# <span id="page-2-0"></span>**2. Methodology**

In this study, with the aim of establishing a fire risk assessment index system, we analyzed previous domestic and foreign subway fire accident causes, investigation reports, relevant laws and regulations. In addition, we invited experts to consult and obtained internal daily inspection report data from Changzhou Rail Company. After an extensive literature review, the AHP and entropy weight method were selected as the subjective and objective evaluation methods, respectively. The concept of game theory was introduced to reduce the error between the two methods. We combined the results of two evaluation methods to obtain the final comprehensive weight, which ensures that the results are accurate and reliable. The risk value model was established by calculating the numerical product of the comprehensive weighting of each index and its corresponding data. Finally, leveraging the opinions of experts and relevant literature, we established the risk level model. Subsequently, we determined the risk level for each subway station in the rail network. An overview of the research concept is shown in Figure [1.](#page-4-0) The assessment methods used in this article are compared with previous work, as shown in Table [1.](#page-3-0)

The research was conducted in three stages, with specific procedures as follows:

Stage 1: We collected the fire accident data of subway stations and consulted experts to analyze risks. The causes of disasters were analyzed, and relevant laws and regulations were scrutinized for the establishment of a subway station fire risk assessment index system.

Stage 2: Combined with the selected risk assessment indicators and the support of Changzhou Railway Company, the objective primary data required for the assessment indicators were obtained. The fire risk value model for subway stations was constructed by selecting an evaluation method suitable for the research object.

Stage 3: Based on expert opinions and relevant literature, the risk value classification model was constructed. The aforementioned model and methods were applied to the research on the Changzhou Rail Company, and the reliability of the model was corroborated through comparisons with engineering studies.



<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Table 1.** Comparison with previous methods.

Establishment of an evaluation index system

To select the risk assessment indicators more accurately and scientifically, we conducted field research on the construction and the operation of branches of Changzhou Rail Company. We carefully considered their opinions and ideas, and comprehensively evaluated the fire risk during the all period. We ensured the inclusion of experts with diverse professional backgrounds, which included safety engineering, fire engineering, civil engineering, structural engineering, and municipal engineering. Thus, a favorable basis for selecting risk assessment indicators was established.

#### Analysis of the influencing factors for fires

In the analysis, multiple factors were considered, including the characteristics of the Changzhou Rail Company, field investigations, fire accident cause analyses, studies from the literature, and existing subway station fire risk assessment index systems. Some additional criteria were also considered, such as laws and regulations on fire protection in Changzhou: the building code for fire protection design (GB 50016-2014), the subway design code (GB50157-2013), the subway fire protection design code (GB51298-2018), the construction and acceptance of cable line electric equipment installation engineering standards (GB50168-2006), and the sprinkler system design code (GB50084-2017). The

influencing factors for subway station fires were divided into human factors, building characteristics, fire prevention facilities, management factors, and factors related to construction and materials. On this basis, 21 secondary indicators were expanded. The specific risk assessment indicators are presented in Table [2.](#page-5-0)

<span id="page-4-0"></span>

**Figure 1.** Overview of the research concept. **Figure 1.** Overview of the research concept.

workers, factors related to passenger flow, and the number of subway workers present in a given area. Zhu [\[28\]](#page-21-20) analyzed global subway fires from 2000 to 2019. Among the causes of subway fires in China, the number of fire accidents caused through electrical equipment subway fires in China, the number of the accidents caused through electrical equipment<br>failure was the largest, followed by inadequate fire safety management and passenger entropy. In China *b* starting method method is equipped with a certain hannel of security personnel. Passengers must pass subway security inspections of their belongings similar to analogous inspections conducted in airport facilities. No dangerous goods such as lighters, explosives, or combustibles can be brought into the subway station. For firstlevel indicators of human factors, we obtained information regarding passenger flow and the number of subway workers in each station of Metro Line 1 from the Changzhou Rail Company. The rail company provided data support for the objective weighting of the entropy weight method as subsequently outlined. Human factors mainly included the fire safety awareness of passengers and subway arson. In China's subway stations, each station is equipped with a certain number of entropy weight method as subsequently outlined.

Building characteristics are major indicating factors in subway station fire risk assess-<br>ment. A subway station is essentially an underground building. Therefore, we accounted ment. A subway station is essentially an underground building. Therefore, we accounted for four secondary indicators: subway station area B21, the station length B22, the station  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

width B23, the distance between the building and the nearest fire station B24. Subways are typically constructed at a depth of more than 10 m underground [\[29\]](#page-22-0). Large rescue equipment and fire engines encounter difficulty entering the area because of a lack of adequate entry channels. In addition, compared with aboveground buildings [\[30\]](#page-22-1), the environment in underground stations is closed and the space is narrow. When an accident occurs, rescue personnel must venture deep underground for rescue operations, which are limited by the narrow spaces. This results in the cross phenomenon of human flow, thereby affecting rescue efficiency. In this study, we considered the nearest fire station distance to each subway station for emergency rescue capabilities. According to the obtained data, the distance between each station of Changzhou Metro Line 1 and the nearest fire station does not exceed 3.5 km, which ensures that fires are extinguished promptly.



<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Table 2.** Evaluation of the index system for fire risk.

When a fire occurs, the firefighting facilities at the scene should be employed to [\[31\]](#page-22-2) effectively slow down the development of the fire until the arrival of fire rescue personnel. Therefore, we accounted for fire facility-related factors in each station: automatic fire alarm system B31, fire extinguishing systems B32, fire separation facilities B33, smoke control facilities B34, fire accident broadcast communication facilities B35, fire emergency lighting and evacuation instructions B36. These fire prevention facilities ensure the safety of subway stations and play a key role in early fire monitoring and prevention. Therefore, factors related to fire prevention facilities must be carefully examined. The inspection of subway stations can be mainly divided into three categories. The first category is the self-examination of the staff in the subway station, which is also their daily work. Through daily inspection of the equipment and facilities inside the station, they record the inspection and write inspection reports. The second is the inspection of the subway company. The frequency of this examination is about 2–3 weeks. In addition to the way of inspection, some parameters that include the train-fire calorific value and the fire resistance limit of the fireproof coating are also measured by working instruments. On this basis, the

subway company will also regularly test the fire protection system to detect the stability and integrity of the fire system. The third category is government inspection. Such examinations are generally based on the above two examinations. Government departments will invite experts in the field of industry to form inspection teams. They checked the situation of fire equipment and facilities and evaluated the conditions of fire prevention and control at the scene. Finally, they put forward opinions. Within the specified time, the subway company is required to carry out rectification. For those that seriously do not meet the engineering is required to carry out rectification. For those that seriously do not meet the engineering standards, it is required to stop operation and organize re-inspection. standards, it is required to stop operation and organize re‐inspection.

> We conducted on-site inspections of fire prevention facilities and equipment. We also We conducted on‐site inspections of fire prevention facilities and equipment. We also examined the subway station fire equipment self-test reports and the relevant government examined the subway station fire equipment self‐testreports and the relevant government inspection reports. Pictures of on-site investigation are shown in Figure [2.](#page-6-0) The following inspection reports. Pictures of on‐site investigation are shown in Figure 2. The following systems were examined: automatic fire alarm systems, gas fire extinguishing systems, fire-systems were examined: automatic fire alarm systems, gas fire extinguishing systems, fire‐ proof doors, fireproof observation windows, ceiling screens, rail top air ducts, rail bottom proof doors, fireproof observation windows, ceiling screens, rail top air ducts, rail bottom air ducts, tunnel ventilation fans, jet fans, air valves, mufflers, wind pipes, evacuation air ducts, tunnel ventilation fans, jet fans, air valves, mufflers, wind pipes, evacuation lighting, and other fire prevention equipment. These objective assessment reports and lighting, and other fire prevention equipment. These objective assessment reports and field research surveys provided a realistic basis for us to assess the on-site factors in fire field research surveys provided a realistic basis for us to assess the on‐site factors in fire prevention facilities. prevention facilities.

<span id="page-6-0"></span>

Figure 2. On-site investigation: (a) tunnel ventilation fan, (b) smoke exhaust pipe and muffler, and (**c**) rail bottom air duct. (**c**) rail bottom air duct.

If the fire facility factor is a hard indicator of subway fire risk, then the management If the fire facility factor is a hard indicator of subway fire risk, then the management factor is a soft indicator of subway fire risk. Management activities require long-term input to have a favorable influence. According to data obtained from the Changzhou Metro Operations Branch, we considered four indicators: daily fire inspection B41, professional team building B42, emergency fire drills B43, and safety training B44. The subway operations branch conducts daily fire inspections and records the relevant inspection results. This requires the specific responsible person to address many types of dangerous incidents, record the closures and dates of rectification. This inspection report offers opportunities for guidance in our evaluation of management factors. According to the daily fire inspection reports of subway operations branches in 2020, the main problems were related to fire safety, education, training, risk management, external environment issues, equipment ment and facility problems. We found some examples in the inspection report, including and facility problems. We found some examples in the inspection report, including the the charging of security car batteries indoors, host failures of fire alarm system, leakage in charging of security car batteries indoors, host failures of fire alarm system, leakage in the equipment monitoring room, failure to perform safety training, platform door control the equipment monitoring room, failure to perform safety training, platform door control problems, and inadequate water supply in indoor control cable cabinet. Emergency drills problems, and inadequate water supply in indoor control cable cabinet. Emergency drills and safety training are effective means to prevent fires [32]. In the construction phase of and safety training are effective means to prevent fires [\[32\]](#page-22-3). In the construction phase of the weekly inspection report, we also found that there are many problems in the construction process, such as fire sealing being not standardized, exposed wiring on the fire damper, construction refuse not being removed, and fire hydrant pipeline leakage. These problems problems constitute unsafe factors for future fire risk. Pictures of on‐site investigation are constitute unsafe factors for future fire risk. Pictures of on-site investigation are shown in

Figure [3.](#page-7-0) In addition to ordinary fire emergency drills, Changzhou Metro also conducts other individual emergency drills, such as operation catenary disconnection emergency drills, earthquake emergency drills, operation train fault rescue emergency drills, and comprehensive antiterrorism attack emergency drills. More than 3000 subway workers receive fire safety training annually. These daily inspections and regular drills contribute to the overall readiness for the prevention of fires at key moments.

<span id="page-7-0"></span>

**Figure 3.** On-site investigation: (**a**) fire blocking, (**b**) exposed wiring on the fire damper, (**c**) construction refuse not removed, and (**d**) fire hydrant leakage. tion refuse not removed, and (**d**) fire hydrant leakage.

Few researchers have studied the influence of construction problems and the flammability of construction materials. We examined the fire resistance limit  $B51$ , the cable fire resistance limit B52, the train‐fire calorific value B53, and the problem of construction resistance limit B52, the train-fire calorific value B53, and the problem of construction quality B54. The fire resistance limit for fireproof sealing materials, wiring, and cables quality B54. The fire resistance limit for fireproof sealing materials, wiring, and cables represents the maximum duration of normal operation for each component once a fire represents the maximum duration of normal operation for each component once a fire ig-nites [\[33\]](#page-22-4). In the construction materials used in the plugging of pipeline holes present in the subway system, a selection of fireproof glue, fireproof mud, fireproof coatings, and mineral wool board was examined [\[34\]](#page-22-5). The fire resistance of these materials largely determines the heat resistance of the wiring and exhaust pipes. Moreover, the fire resistance limit of wiring and cable directly determines the normal operation of both the fire extinguishing and automatic alarm systems. The reason is that these components require a circuit to operate. Train-fire heat is also a key parameter for investigating fire risk, and excessive<br> heat causes serious thermal radiation in the direction of surrounding combustibles [\[35\]](#page-22-6).<br>heat causes serious thermal radiation in the direction of surrounding combustibles [35]. It has aggravated the severity of the fire. Finally, the problem of construction quality is  $\frac{1}{10}$ a novel concept first proposed in this study. For the first time, the risk of potential fire<br>a fitted is real concept because a novel concept in the construction state is reaching the risk safety hazards caused by unapproved processes in the construction stages is considered in relation to the subway operation stage. Few studies have considered the problems remaining after construction when examining subway fires. These problems are often investigated by the operating branch and require the original construction personnel to investigated by the operating branch and require the original construction personnel to rectify them. The following scenarios serve as illustrations of this phenomenon. When proper construction technology standards are not adopted, sealing material may fall off experience technology standards are not adopted, sealing material may fall of and cannot effectively block leaks. Poor waterproofing treatment in the energy feed room.  $\frac{1}{2}$  began to the accumulation of water in the cable layer on rainy days. The manual fire may lead to the accumulation of water in the cable layer on rainy days. The manual fire safety hazards caused by unapproved processes in the construction stages is considered

valve may fail, causing the wiring to be exposed. The water gun head may be missing from the fire hydrant box in the station hall. The escalator evacuation indicator light may be dim. The maintenance mouth of the wall ditch in the comprehensive monitoring equipment room may not be blocked as required. Construction waste is not cleaned or removed, leaving the area prone to fire. Since the construction in these scenarios has already been completed, reworking a large area is difficult. With a lack of access to concealed works, only remedial measures can be implemented in some areas, which introduces uncertainty into the fire prevention capabilities of subway stations.

# *2.1. Risk Assessment Method*

# 2.1.1. Analytical Hierarchy Process

AHP is a subjective weighting analysis method [\[36](#page-22-7)[–40\]](#page-22-8). First, a hierarchical structure model is established, followed by experts scoring the relevant factors; subsequently, a judgment matrix is constructed. Finally, the weight of each index that meets the consistency standard is calculated by mathematical logic operation, and the consistency index (CI) and the consistency ratio (CR) were calculated based on Equations (1) and (2).

$$
CR = \frac{CI}{RI} < 0.10 \tag{1}
$$

$$
CI = \frac{\lambda_{\max} - n}{n - 1} \tag{2}
$$

Equation (1) is used to determine whether the matrix meets the consistency requirements; if not, the calculation is repeated. The RI values are listed in Table [3.](#page-8-0)

<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Table 3.** AHP weighting table.



# 2.1.2. Entropy Weight Method

The entropy weight method is an objective weighting evaluation method. The larger the information entropy value is, the lower the weighting is [\[41–](#page-22-9)[44\]](#page-22-10). The specific calculation process is as follows:

(1) The quantitative index values are forward or reverse processed.

positive indexes: 
$$
(X - Min)/(Max - Min)
$$
 (3)

$$
negative indexes: (Max - X)/(Max - Min)
$$
 (4)

Here,  $X$  is the primary data of each index, Max is the maximum value of the primary data of each index, and Min is the minimum value of the primary data of each index.

(2) The standardized data are combined to calculate the information entropy of each index  $(E_j)$ ; the formula is as follows:

$$
E_j = -\frac{1}{\ln(n)} \sum_{i=1}^n p_{ij} \ln p_{ij}, i = 1, 2 \cdots n
$$
 (5)

(3) The difference coefficient of each index $(g_j)$  is calculated according to the calculated information entropy, and the formula is as follows:

$$
g_i = 1 - E_i \tag{6}
$$

(4) The weighting  $W_j$  is calculated as follows:

$$
W_j = \frac{g_j}{\sum_{j=1}^m g_j} \tag{7}
$$

# 2.1.3. Game Theory Combination Weighting

The limitations of analytic hierarchy process and entropy weight method are obvious. The former relies heavily on the experience, age and professional knowledge of experts. The latter has strict requirements for data format, and often affects the evaluation results because of the data format problem. Therefore, in order to solve the limitations of the application of these two methods, we propose a game theory combination weighting method to solve this problem. Game theory combinatorial weighting involves the linear combination of weightings obtained by different methods to seek the most accurate index weighting [\[45](#page-22-11)[–48\]](#page-22-12). This study adopted a combination of the AHP and entropy weight method to avoid the deficiencies in either method alone, thus maximizing the accuracy of the estimation process. The specific steps of the game theory combinatorial weighting method are as follows:

(1) The system of linear equations is equivalently transformed into optimal first derivative conditions by the matrix differential property as follows:

$$
\begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \omega_1^T & \omega_1 \omega_2^T \\ \omega_2 \omega_1^T & \omega_2 \omega_2^T \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 \omega_1^T \\ \omega_2 \omega_2^T \end{bmatrix}
$$
 (8)

(2) After the optimal linear combination coefficient is obtained and normalized from Equation (8), the comprehensive weighting of game theory combinatorial weighting is finally obtained as follows:

$$
W = \alpha_1^* \omega_1^T + \alpha_2^* \omega_2^T, \alpha_1^* = \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}; \alpha_2^* = \frac{\alpha_2}{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}
$$
(9)

#### *2.2. Ranking Method*

Based on the relevant literature, we construct the fire risk value model of Changzhou subway stations. The corresponding risk value is obtained by introducing the concept of relative closeness in TOPSIS method [\[49–](#page-22-13)[51\]](#page-22-14). The specific steps of the relative closeness method are as follows:

(1) denote the combination weighting matrix as follows:

$$
\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_n \end{pmatrix} \tag{10}
$$

The matrix after data standardization as follows:

$$
X^{m} = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \end{pmatrix}
$$
 (11)

where *m* is the number of evaluation objects, *n* is the number of evaluation indicators.

(2) Construct a weighted standardized decision matrix as follows:

$$
Z^{m} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_1^{m} \\ Z_2^{m} \\ Z_3^{m} \\ \vdots \\ Z_k^{m} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 X_1 \\ \beta_2 X_2 \\ \beta_3 X_3 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_k X_k \end{pmatrix}
$$
(12)

(3) Determine the ideal solution and negative ideal solution with the following formula:

$$
Z^{m+} = \max\{Z_1^m, Z_2^m, \dots, Z_k^m\}, Z^{m-} = \min\{Z_1^m, Z_2^m, \dots, Z_k^m\} \tag{13}
$$

where *Z <sup>m</sup>*<sup>+</sup> and *Z <sup>m</sup>*<sup>−</sup> are positive and negative ideal solutions for each index of subway stations respectively.

(4) The distance *Dm*<sup>+</sup> and *Dm*<sup>−</sup> from the feasible solution of any index to the positive and negative ideal solution are calculated respectively as follows:

$$
D^{m+} = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{n} (Z_k^m - Z^{m+})^2}, D^{m-} = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{n} (Z_k^m - Z^{m-})^2}
$$
(14)

(5) The relative closeness *C <sup>m</sup>* is calculated, and the relative closeness is used to represent the fire risk value of each subway stations. The calculation formula as follows:

$$
C^m = \frac{D^{m-}}{D^{m+} + D^{m-}}
$$
 (15)

#### <span id="page-10-0"></span>**3. Case Study**

#### *3.1. Region of the Evaluation*

Changzhou is located in the south of Jiangsu Province, between  $31°09'$ – $32°04'$  N and 119°08′–120°12′ E, with an area of 4372 km<sup>2</sup>. The location map of Changzhou city is shown in Figure [4.](#page-11-0) We can clearly see the lakes around Changzhou. Changzhou is located in the Yangtze River Delta Economic Zone near Shanghai. The research target of this paper was the Changzhou Metro. The Changzhou Metro has two lines with a total length of 34.24 km. Lines 1 and 2 were opened on 21 September 2019, and 28 June 2021, respectively. Because Line 2 has been in operation for a relatively short period, the relevant data cannot constitute a scientific reference. Therefore, this study examined a total of 29 subway stations in Changzhou Metro Line 1 as the research area. The total length of the line is 34.24 km, including 31.635 km of underground track, 2.189 km of elevated track, 0.413 km of transition section, 27 underground stations, and 2 elevated stations. This study only analyzed underground stations; the two elevated stations in Line 1 were not considered within the scope of assessment.

#### *3.2. Analysis Results for the AHP Method*

We invited experts from different industry backgrounds to evaluate the indicators. The weight of each index in the AHP method was calculated using MATLAB. The weight table of AHP for primary indicators are listed in Table [4.](#page-11-1)

<span id="page-11-0"></span>

# **Figure 4.** Location map of Changzhou city. **Figure 4.** Location map of Changzhou city.

<span id="page-11-1"></span>*3.2. Analysis Results for the AHP Method* **Table 4.** Weight table of primary indicators.



The judgment matrix and weight of human factor B1 are listed in Table [5.](#page-11-2)

<span id="page-11-2"></span>

 $\overline{a}$ 



The judgment matrix and weight of building factors B2 are listed in Table [6.](#page-12-0)



<span id="page-12-0"></span>**Table 6.** Weight of building characteristic B2.

The judgment matrix and weighting of fire prevention facilities factor B3 are listed in Table [7.](#page-12-1)

B <sub>3</sub>	<b>B31</b>	<b>B32</b>	<b>B33</b>	<b>B34</b>	<b>B35</b>	<b>B36</b>	CR
<b>B31</b>		7	4	5	3	6	
<b>B32</b>	1/7		1/5	1/4	1/6	1/3	
<b>B33</b>	1/4	5		2	1/3	4	
<b>B34</b>	1/5	$\overline{4}$	1/2		1/5	3	$CR = 0.073$ < 0.1
<b>B35</b>	1/3	6	3	5		6	
<b>B36</b>	1/6	3	1/4	1/3	1/6		
$\omega$	0.425	0.032	0.134	0.089	0.271	0.050	

<span id="page-12-1"></span>**Table 7.** Weight of fire prevention facilities factor B3.

The judgment matrix and weight of management factor B4 are listed in Table [8.](#page-12-2)



<span id="page-12-2"></span>**Table 8.** Weight of management factor B4.

The judgment matrix and weight of construction and material factor B5 are listed in Table [9.](#page-12-3)

<b>B4</b>	<b>B51</b>	<b>B52</b>	<b>B53</b>	<b>B54</b>	CR
<b>B51</b>		1/4	3	1/5	$CR = 0.063$ < 0.1
<b>B52</b>	4		5	1/3	
<b>B53</b>	1/3	1/5		1/7	
<b>B54</b>	5				
$\omega$	0.109	0.281	0.054	0.557	

<span id="page-12-3"></span>**Table 9.** Weight of construction and material factor B5.

After calculating the weights of criterion layer and indicator layer, we obtained the comprehensive weight of AHP. The comprehensive weights calculated by the AHP are listed in Table [10.](#page-13-0)



#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**Table 10.** Weight table of the AHP.

## *3.3. Analysis Results for the Entropy Weight Method*

The primary data and data standardization results are presented in Appendix [A,](#page-18-0) Tables [A1](#page-19-0) and [A2.](#page-20-0) We collated the data in the daily inspection report record of the operation branch of Changzhou Rail Company and regarded the unsafe behavior of passengers and subway workers in the record as the criterion of the B11 index.

The weight of each part of the entropy weight method is listed in Table [11.](#page-14-0)

# *3.4. Analysis Results for Game Theory Combined with the Weighting Method*

According to the subjective and objective weighting data in this study, the linear equations are as follows:

$$
\begin{pmatrix} 0.109 & 0.061 \\ 0.061 & 0.145 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.109 \\ 0.145 \end{pmatrix}, \alpha_1 = 0.577, \alpha_2 = 0.759,
$$

Introduce into the formula 9 to solve.  $\alpha_1^* = 0.432$ ,  $\alpha_2^* = 0.568$ . According to linear combination weighting, the final comprehensive weight is shown in Table [12.](#page-14-1) After reading a large number of previous references [\[52](#page-22-15)[–72\]](#page-23-0), we compare the results calculated by the analytic hierarchy process method (AHP); entropy weight method (EW); and game and theory combined weight (GTCW). A comparison of results calculated by three different methods is shown in Figure [5.](#page-15-0)



<span id="page-14-0"></span>**Table 11.** Entropy method weighting method.

# <span id="page-14-1"></span>**Table 12.** Game theory combinatorial weighting.



<span id="page-15-0"></span>



### *3.5. Analysis Results for Ranking Method*

According to the risk distribution and the degree of possible harm, the risk level of each subway station is determined by referring to the weighted score ratio of each factor. As listed in Table [13,](#page-15-1) the security risk level was divided into five levels from 1 (*very high*) to As listed in Table 13, the security risk level was divided into five levels from 1 (*very high*) 5 (*very low*). to 5 (*very low*).

<span id="page-15-1"></span>**Table 13.** Risk levels for fires.



The fire risk values and ranking of each subway stations are listed in Table [14.](#page-16-1)

**Table 14.** Fire risk value of subway station.





<span id="page-16-1"></span>**Table 14.** *Cont.* 

We use ARCGIS software to display the calculated risk value on the map. According We use ARCGIS software to display the calculated risk value on the map. According to the risk level of each subway station, the corresponding colors in the table are marked. to the risk level of each subway station, the corresponding colors in the table are marked. The fire risk level of Changzhou Metro Line 1 is shown in Figure [6.](#page-16-2) The fire risk level of Changzhou Metro Line 1 is shown in Figure 6.

<span id="page-16-2"></span>

**Figure 6.** Fire risk grade diagram of Changzhou Metro Line 1. **Figure 6.** Fire risk grade diagram of Changzhou Metro Line 1.

# <span id="page-16-0"></span>**4. Conclusions**

To assess the risk of subway station fires, we proposed and analyzed the subway station fire risk assessment index system. Based on the combination weighting evaluation, the subway station fire risk value model was introduced. The final risk value was obtained and sorted using mathematical operations. The following conclusions were obtained regarding the combination weighting evaluation method:

(1) First, game theory combined weighting overcomes the limitations of subjective and objective evaluation methods. In the Figure [5,](#page-15-0) we can see clearly that the curve of game theory combination weighting method is in the middle of the other two curves. Whenever analytic hierarchy process or entropy weight method has a minimum or maximum weight, game theory combination weighting will correct it. The curve after linear weighting is closer to the real result, which effectively solves the limitations of analytic hierarchy process and entropy weight method. Meanwhile, the concept of relative closeness degree in TOPSIS method is introduced to represent the risk value, so that the risk value can be quantified and expressed more clearly.

(2) Second, according to the fire risk values for subway stations in Table [14,](#page-16-1) the two highest risk subway stations were CULTURAL PALACE and CHASHAN, and its risk level was very high. Four other subway stations also exhibited high and moderate risk, whereas eight subway stations had low risk levels, and 13 subway stations had very low risk levels. Regarding the weighting proportion of the evaluation index system, the top five factors were fire accident broadcasting and communication facilities B35, fire resistance limit B51, automatic fire alarm system B31, construction quality problems B54 and the width of stations B23. Among them, the remaining problems of construction quality remain a concern throughout the entire project life cycle. Therefore, more attention should be paid to the firefighting equipment, facilities of subway stations and the problems that occur in the facility construction stage. If the fire risk level of stations is very high, they should indeed close until the corresponding inspection meets the standard requirements. Moreover, if the fire risk level of stations is high, we believe that such subway stations should receive warnings. When the number of warnings reaches 3 or more, the site should be closed. Once the rectification is completed, the data in the Table [A1](#page-19-0) and the final risk value will change. To reduce the risk of fire, we offer some suggestions to the subway operation branch, which include strengthening the fire safety training awareness of personnel, increasing the number of emergency drills, handling security issues, and improving the emergency rescue system. The results of this assessment may serve as a reference for the local rail department and fire management department.

(3) Finally, although the risk value model was established through optimized combination weighting, the model still has several limitations. First, the legacy problem of construction quality is a novel concept, and accurately quantifying this factor through data indicators is challenging. Second, this study only examined and analyzed the subway station buildings, disregarding fires in the subway tunnels. Third, most of the subway stations are underground island buildings, and only a few are elevated platforms. Therefore, elevated platforms were not considered in this study. For a more comprehensive understanding of subway station fire risk, additional in-depth research is necessary.

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# **Appendix A**

**Table A1.** Primary data.

<span id="page-18-0"></span>

**Table A1.** *Cont.*



**Table A2.** Standardization of primary data.

<span id="page-19-0"></span>

**Table A2.** *Cont.*

<span id="page-20-0"></span>

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