

# Research on BEV Taxi Model Selection

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**ABSTRACT.** *The development of BEV taxis in China is at an early stage. Operators and the government lack a suitable model selection strategy when facing so many BEV models. Therefore, this paper proposes a BEV taxi model selection method, which uses an improved EW-AHP comprehensive weighting method to empower the indicators, and uses the VIKOR multi-indicator decision-making method to evaluate the selected models. The case study shows that the method has high scientificity and practicability, and provides taxi operators with scientific theoretical guidance on BEV taxi selection.*

**KEYWORDS:** *BEV taxi, model selection, EW-AHP, VIKOR*

## 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of electric technologies and the promotion of China's electric vehicle industry, the electric vehicle industry has become an important part of Chinese automotive industry. Taxi plays an important part in the transportation field. And vigorously promoting the development of electric taxis can not only effectively optimize the transportation environment, but also become a booster for the NEV industry, and can also provide valuable experience for the promotion and development of China's private electric vehicles.

However, the current development of electric taxis is still in its infancy, and operators are faced with numerous models and lack suitable vehicle selection strategies. Based on this situation, this paper explores the most suitable BEV models for taxi business based on the needs of taxi passengers and taxi operators, and provides decision-making basis and theory support for taxi operators when purchasing BEV taxi.

## 2. Establishment of evaluation system

### 2.1 BEV taxi characteristics analysis

Taxi is one of the important means of transportation for residents. The passengers' requirements for the comprehensive performance of the vehicle are mainly reflected in the ride experience, safety, vehicle configuration, vehicle styling and so on. Taxi operators' requirements for the comprehensive performance of the vehicles mainly include basic performance, economy, safety, battery performance, etc. Therefore, the evaluation system must be comprehensively constructed.

### 2.2 Evaluation system

According to the five principles of establishing an evaluation system [1]: 1) comprehensive; 2) independent; 3) operable; 4) comparable; 5) systemic. Combined with the evaluation index of conventional vehicles [2], the technical characteristics of electric vehicles and the operational characteristics of taxis, and the availability of indicators, the evaluation system includes 7 primary indicators and 21 secondary indicators.

In terms of indicator calibration, some objective indicators can be obtained directly by querying the parameter table of the corresponding vehicle model. The other objective indicators can be obtained through third-party statistical data. Subjective indicators are based on the 10-point expert rating method.

*Table 1 Experimental data of sensor measurement accuracy*

Primary indicator	Secondary indicator	Specific indicator	Calibration method
Power	Maximum speed	Maximum speed (km/h)	Data review
	Acceleration	0-100km/h acceleration time (s)	Data review
Economy	Purchase price	Price of minimum allocation model (Yuan)	Official price
	Electricity consumption per 100 km	Electricity consumption per 100 km (kWh)	Data review
Safety	Braking performance	100-0km/h braking distance (m)	Data review
	Active safety device	Number of active safety devices (unit)	Data review
	Collision safety	C-NCAP evaluation star	Data review
	Power battery safety	Battery energy density (Wh/kg)	Data review
Battery	Mileage	NEDC mileage (km)	Data review
	Charing time	Fast charging time (h)	Data review
Internal space	Wheelbase	Wheelbase (mm)	Data review
	Body width	Body width (mm)	Data review
	Trunk volume	Trunk volume (L)	Data review
Configuration	Control	Number of control configurations (unit)	Third-party data
	External	Number of external configurations (unit)	Third-party data
	Internal	Number of internal configurations (unit)	Third-party data
	Seat	Number of seat configurations (unit)	Third-party data
	Media	Number of media configurations (unit)	Third-party data
	AC	Number of ac (unit)	Third-party data
Aesthetics	Exterior	Expert rating (10-point system)	Expert
	Interior	Expert rating (10-point system)	Expert

### 3. Model Selection Based on Improved EW-AHP and VIKOR Methods

In view of the selection strategy of BEV taxi models, this paper uses the VIKOR method to rank the selected models. The VIKOR (ViseKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Resenje) method is an objective comprehensive index algorithm proposed by Opricovic in 1998 for multi-attribute decision making [3-5]. Its basic idea is to determine the optimal data and the worst data based on the objective index data, and then determine the superiority of the candidate by determining the proximity between the evaluation value of the evaluation object and the optimal data under the indicator [6].

In the multi-objective decision analysis [7], the weight determination method can be divided into three categories according to the data source when the index weight is calculated: subjective weighting method, objective weighting method and subjective and objective comprehensive weighting method. This paper will adopt an improved EW-AHP comprehensive weighting method [8], that is, when determining the comprehensive weight of the index, the intermediate process of the subjective and objective methods is combined to calculate the comprehensive weight, rather than simply synthesizing the respective final weights. This method objectively reflects the role of the data itself, and in line with the actual engineering application.

#### 3.1 Determine evaluation indicator weight

There is an evaluation system, which includes  $l$  primary indicators and  $m$  secondary indicators. And each primary indicator includes  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_l$  secondary indicators.

##### 1. Entropy weight method to determine indicator weight

The entropy weight method is a widely used objective weighting method. The basic idea of the entropy weight method is to determine the objective weight according to the magnitude of the index variability [9].

According to related literature, the entropy weight of each secondary indicators is obtained.

$$\alpha_j = \frac{1 - e_j}{m - \sum_{j=1}^m e_j}, \quad (j=1, 2, \dots, m) \quad (1)$$

Therefore, the weight of the secondary indicators is  $A = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m\}$ .

##### 2. Analytic hierarchy process to determine indicator weight [10]

According to related literature, the weight of the primary indicators is  $B = \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_l\}$ . And the weight of the secondary indicators is  $\Phi = \{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_m\}$ .

##### 3. Determine comprehensive weights

According to the characteristics of the index system and related research, this paper adopts an improved EW-AHP comprehensive weighting method. Specific steps are as follows:

1) Calculate secondary indicator comprehensive weight

The primary indicator weight and the secondary indicator weight are integrated according to formula (2), then the secondary indicator comprehensive weight is obtained.

$$\tau_i = \frac{\phi_i \alpha_i}{\sum_{i=1}^m \phi_i \alpha_i} \tag{2}$$

2) Normalize secondary indicator comprehensive weight

According to the correspondence between the primary indicator and the secondary indicator, the comprehensive weight matrix of the secondary indicator is relabeled:

$$T = \{\tau_{11}, \tau_{12}, \dots, \tau_{1m_1}, \tau_{21}, \tau_{22}, \dots, \tau_{2m_2}, \dots, \tau_{l1}, \tau_{l2}, \dots, \tau_{lm_l}\}$$

Normalize it:

$$W^* = \{\omega_{11}^*, \omega_{12}^*, \dots, \omega_{1m_1}^*, \omega_{21}^*, \omega_{22}^*, \dots, \omega_{2m_2}^*, \dots, \omega_{l1}^*, \omega_{l2}^*, \dots, \omega_{lm_l}^*\}$$

Where  $\omega_{ij}^* = \tau_{ij} / \sum_{j=1}^k \tau_{ij}$ , ( $k = m_1, m_2, \dots, m_l; i = 1, 2, \dots, l$ ).

3) Calculate secondary indicator comprehensive weight and primary indicator weight

Multiplying the comprehensive weight  $W^*$  by the primary indicator weights  $B = \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_l\}$  one by one, then the comprehensive weight of the secondary indicator can be obtained:

$$W' = \{\omega'_{11}, \omega'_{12}, \dots, \omega'_{1m_1}, \omega'_{21}, \omega'_{22}, \dots, \omega'_{2m_2}, \dots, \omega'_{l1}, \omega'_{l2}, \dots, \omega'_{lm_l}\}$$

Where  $\omega'_{ij} = \beta_i \omega_{ij}^*$ , ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, l; j = 1, 2, \dots, k; k \in \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_l\}$ ).

4) Calculate comprehensive weight

Normalize  $W' = \{\omega'_1, \omega'_2, \dots, \omega'_m\}$ ,

$$W = \{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_m\}$$

Then the comprehensive weight of the evaluation indicator is:

$$\omega_i = \omega'_i / \sum_{i=1}^m \omega'_i, \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m) \tag{3}$$

**3.2 VIKOR comprehensive evaluation method**

The specific steps of VIKOR method are as follows:

1) Determine the ideal and critical evaluation values

Set the evaluation value of each model  $N_i (i=1,2,\dots,n)$  to be selected under the corresponding evaluation index  $M_j (j=1,2,\dots,m)$ , and use  $f_j^*$  and  $f_j^-$  to indicate the optimal and worst evaluation values respectively.

Benefit-oriented indicators:  $f_j^* = \max_i f_{ij}, f_j^- = \min_i f_{ij}$

Cost-oriented indicators:  $f_j^* = \min_i f_{ij}, f_j^- = \max_i f_{ij}$

2) Calculate the value of  $S_i$ ,  $R_i$  and  $Q_i$

According to the algorithm to calculate the value of  $S_i$ ,  $R_i$  and  $Q_i$ .

$$S_i = \sum_{j=1}^m \omega_j (f_j^* - f_{ij}) / (f_j^* - f_j^-) \tag{4}$$

$$R_i = \max_j [\omega_j (f_j^* - f_{ij}) / (f_j^* - f_j^-)] \tag{5}$$

$$Q_i = \nu (S_i - S^*) / (S^- - S^*) + (1 - \nu) (R_i - R^*) / (R^- - R^*) \tag{6}$$

Where  $S^* = \min_i \{S_i\}$ ,  $S^- = \max_i \{S_i\}$ ,  $R^* = \max_i \{R_i\}$ ,  $R^- = \min_i \{R_i\}$ . It is worth noting that their values are inverse to  $S_i$  and  $R_i$  [11].  $\omega_j$  is the comprehensive weight of each evaluation indicator.  $\nu \in [0,1]$  is the decision mechanism coefficient. And in this paper,  $\nu = 0.5$ .

3) Evaluate candidate models

Sort all models to be selected based on the values of  $S_i$ ,  $R_i$  and  $Q_i$ . When the evaluation value of a certain model is smaller, it means that the candidate is ranked higher.

4) Determine the final compromise [11, 12]

The models' ranking is obtained by increasing the  $Q_i$  value are sorted as  $N^{(1)} < N^{(2)} < \dots < N^{(n)}$ . When the following two conditions are met, then  $N^{(1)}$  is the stable optimal choice in the decision process [13]:

a)  $Q(N^{(2)}) - Q(N^{(1)}) \geq DQ$ , Where  $N^{(2)}$  is the second choice for the model based on the  $Q_i$  value, and  $DQ = 1/(n-1)$ .

b) When Ranking according to  $S_i$  and  $R_i$ , the model selection  $N^{(1)}$  is still the best choice.

If the above two conditions cannot be met at the same time, the final compromise is obtained:

- i. If condition a) is not satisfied, then the final compromise is  $N^{(1)}, N^{(2)}, \dots, N^{(j)}$ , where  $N^{(j)}$  is the maximized  $j$  value determined by  $DQ = 1/(n-1)$ .
- ii. If condition b) is not satisfied, then the final compromise is  $N^{(1)}, N^{(2)}$ .

#### 4. Case Study on BEV Taxi Model Selection

##### 4.1 Model primaries

According to the regulations of the operating model of BEV taxi and the survey results of taxi drivers and passengers, it can be concluded that the basic characteristics applicable to BEV taxis are:

- 1) 5-seat sedan
- 2) Over 300 kilometers recharge mileage
- 3) Over 2600 mm wheelbase
- 4) Over 400 liters luggage volume
- 5) Less than 60 minutes single fast charge time
- 6) After the subsidy, the price of the vehicle is less than 150,000 Yuan, and the power consumption per 100 kilometers is less than 20 kWh

According to these requirements, the basic information of 185 BEV models sold in the Chinese market was collected and sorted according to the characteristics 1)- 6), and 12 models which meet the requirements were obtained.

*Table 2 BEV taxi model primaries*

No	OEM	Model
1	Dongfeng	Fengshen E70
2	Dongfeng Liuzhou	Fengxing S50 EV
3	BAIC BJEV	BJEV EU5 R500
4	Geely	Dihao EV450
5	BYD	BYD e5
6	Zotye	Zotye Z500EV
7	Changan	Yidong EV460
8	Chery	Arrizo 5e
9	SAIC	Roewe Ei5
10	Lifan	Lifan 650EV
11	JAC	JAC iEVA50
12	Haima	Haima E3

4.2 Indicator data acquisition

For each model to be selected, select the latest model and the minimum allocation model, and obtain the objective indicators data according to the calibration methods determined in Table 1. The subjective indicators data are evaluated by 10 experts in the automotive field and 10 passengers. The evaluation indicators data of the selected models is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Candidate model evaluation indicators data sheet

Primary indicator	Secondary indicator	Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6
Power	Maximum speed	Km/h	150	150	155	140	130	140
	Acceleration	s	9.9	11	7.8	9.3	7.37	10.5
Economy	Purchase price	Yuan	13.98	10.98	12.99	13.58	12.99	11.39
	Electricity consumption per 100 km	kWh	13.8	13.1	14.8	13.6	14.1	17.1
Safety	Braking performance	m	41.02	40.80	43.48	41.84	46.95	39.54
	Active safety device	Unit	9	9	7	8	10	5
	Collision safety	60 point	45.30	32.70	55.40	46.80	56.50	57.60
	Power battery safety	Wh/kg	153	112	144.4	144.1	143.9	140.5
Battery	Mileage	km	401	410	416	400	400	330
	Charing time	h	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.5
Internal space	Wheelbase	mm	2700	2610	2670	2650	2660	2750
	Body width	mm	1720	1735	1820	1789	1790	1810
	Trunk volume	L	502	500	570	680	450	500
Configuration	Control	Unit	3	3	4	3	5	4
	External	Unit	4	2	5	4	4	4
	Internal	Unit	3	2	6	2	4	4
	Seat	Unit	8	8	9	9	6	8
	Media	Unit	3	3	13	2	12	9
Aesthetics	AC	Unit	2	1	2	1	2	1
	Exterior	10 point	7.90	8.05	8.10	7.45	6.65	7.80
	Interior	10 point	6.20	8.25	8.40	8.60	6.40	7.80
Primary indicator	Secondary indicator	Unit	7	8	9	10	11	12
Power	Maximum speed	Km/h	120	152	150	140	130	130
	Acceleration	s	10.12	9.74	10.62	10.58	10.90	11.73
Economy	Purchase price	Yuan	11.79	10.98	13.38	7.99	12.25	8.38
	Electricity consumption per 100 km	kWh	13.5	14.6	13.2	13.3	16.5	13.2
Safety	Braking performance	m	38.82	42.17	41.96	42.84	40.52	41.59
	Active safety device	Unit	9	10	9	4	5	5
	Collision safety	60 point	52.9	56.2	53.7	33.4	46.00	46.10
	Power battery safety	Wh/kg	125	144.1	146	144.1	141.9	142.2
Battery	Mileage	km	405	401	420	305	310	315
	Charing time	h	0.83	0.5	0.67	0.5	0.67	1.5
Internal space	Wheelbase	mm	2660	2670	2665	2610	2710	2600
	Body width	mm	1820	1825	1818	1715	1765	1737
	Trunk volume	L	500 <sup>3</sup>	430 <sup>3</sup>	479	650	410 <sup>3</sup>	450
Configuration	Control	Unit	4	4	4	2	1	3
	External	Unit	2	3	4	4	2	2
	Internal	Unit	3	3	4	2	2	3
	Seat	Unit	8	7	10	9	8	6
	Media	Unit	6	7	4	3	2	1
Aesthetics	AC	Unit	1	2	2	1	2	1
	Exterior	10 point	8.25	7.20	7.05	6.90	6.60	6.45
	Interior	10 point	7.45	7.00	7.95	6.85	7.20	7.65

**4.3 Measurement accuracy experiment of ultrasonic sensor**

According to the entropy weight method and the analytic hierarchy process, the comprehensive weights of the indicators are calculated, as shown in Table 4.

*Table 4 Comprehensive weight of evaluation indicator*

Primary indicator		Secondary indicator	
Indicator	Wight $\beta$	Indicator	Comprehensive weight $\omega$
Power	0.0420	Maximum speed	0.0151
		Acceleration	0.0269
Economy	0.1450	Purchase price	0.1310
		Electricity consumption per 100 km	0.0140
Safety	0.5128	Braking performance	0.0394
		Active safety device	0.3244
		Collision safety	0.0372
		Power battery safety	0.1118
Battery	0.1095	Mileage	0.0645
		Charing time	0.0450
Internal space	0.0776	Wheelbase	0.0287
		Body width	0.0072
		Trunk volume	0.0417
Configuration	0.0749	Control	0.0144
		External	0.0072
		Internal	0.0162
		Seat	0.0093
		Media	0.0091
Aesthetics	0.0383	AC	0.0187
		Exterior	0.0184
		Interior	0.0199

**4.4 Comprehensive evaluation result**

According to the comprehensive weights of each evaluation index obtained in Table 4 and the VIKOR comprehensive evaluation method, the 12 models are comprehensively evaluated and ranked.

Then, calculate the value of  $S_i$ ,  $R_i$  and  $Q_i$ . The results are shown in Table 5.



*Table 5 Value of  $S_i$ ,  $R_i$  and  $Q_i$*

Model	$S_i$	$R_i$	$Q_i$	Rank by $Q_i$	Rank by $S_i$	Rank by $R_i$
Fengshen E70	0.4720	0.1310	0.3415	6	7	7
Fengxing S50 EV	0.3124	0.0654	0.0310	1	2	1
BJEV EU5 R500	0.4214	0.1622	0.3434	7	5	8
Dihao EV450	0.5047	0.1223	0.3624	8	8	6
BYD e5	0.4243	0.1094	0.2448	4	6	4
Zotye Z500EV	0.6101	0.2703	0.7696	9	9	9
Yidong EV460	0.3206	0.0831	0.0747	3	3	2
Arrizo 5e	0.2855	0.0875	0.0426	2	1	3
Roewe Ei5	0.4127	0.1179	0.2479	5	4	5
Lifan 650EV	0.7194	0.3244	1.0000	12	12	12
JAC iEVA50	0.6879	0.2703	0.8593	10	10	10
Haima E3	0.6998	0.2703	0.8730	11	11	11

According to the comprehensive evaluation value obtained in Table 5, combined with the ranking method and conditions, the 12 candidate models are ranked comprehensively, and the final compromise scheme is determined.

*Table 6 Comprehensive evaluation result of 12 candidate models*

Rank	Model	Evaluation value
1	Fengxing S50 EV	0.0310
	Arrizo 5e	0.0426
	Yidong EV460	0.0747
	BYD e5	0.2448
2	Roewe Ei5	0.2479
	Fengshen E70	0.3415
3	BJEV EU5 R500	0.3434
	Dihao EV450	0.3624
	Zotye Z500EV	0.7696
4	JAC iEVA50	0.8593
	Haima E3	0.8730
5	Lifan 650EV	1.0000

As can be seen from Table 6, according to the comprehensive evaluation value and the compromise scheme, 12 models of BEV taxis can be divided into five grades.

#### **4.5 Result analysis**

In China, Dongfeng Fengxing S50 EV has been favored by many taxi drivers. Changan Yidong EV460 is about to be put into the Chongqing taxi market on a large scale. BYD e5 is gradually replacing BYD e6 as an important taxi model. Roewe

Ei5 has also been operating in a small area in Shanghai and so on. These statuses are highly coincident with the model selection results obtained in this study. It can be seen that the BEV taxi model selection method has very important reference value and practical significance.

## 5. Conclusion

At present, China's BEV taxi industry is in the stage of promotion and development. However, due to the large number of electric vehicle products and the uneven quality, there is a lack of suitable model selection guidance strategies for the government and taxi operators. Therefore, this paper conducts an in-depth study on the BEV taxi model selection problem, provides strategic advice for taxi operators' model selection, and provides theoretical guidance for the promotion and development of BEV taxis.

In this study, an improved EW-AHP comprehensive weighting method is innovatively used. When determining the comprehensive weight of the indicator, the intermediate process of objective and subjective calculation methods is combined to calculate the comprehensive weight, which objectively reflects the data itself and is also in line with practical engineering application.

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