## **RESEARCH PAPER**



# **Performance Assessment Framework and Deterioration Repairs Design for Highway Tunnel Using a Combined Weight‑Fuzzy Theory: A Case Study**

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to develop a method for highway tunnel performance evaluation using combined weight theory and fuzzy multi-criteria decision-making analysis (FMCDM). This study takes the MWP highway tunnel as the research object, and analytic hierarchy process (AHP), entropy theory (ET), game theory (GT), and FMCDM theory were used to study the tunnel performance. The evaluation index system and the classifcation value limits are determined, the key factors afecting the tunnel performance level were analyzed, and the subjective and objective weights of each index are calculated using AHP and ET. By applying the membership function of FMCDM theory to solve the single index membership of each index at diferent levels, and combining GT to obtain the comprehensive weights, and the weights of lining structure and Communication Systems is the largest among all index, 0.389 and 0.214, respectively, and in line with engineering practice. The multi-index comprehensive membership evaluation value and target comprehensive membership evaluation vector of the tunnels based on FMCDM theory at diferent levels are obtained. According to the principle that with the larger the value, the performance is better, the tunnel performance is comprehensively evaluated. Finally, the scientifc of the evaluation method is tested in combination with the MWP tunnel case, and the deterioration model of the tunnel performance is proposed based on the structure reliability theory, and the model results are compared with actual observations during tunnel inspection. The results show that the degradation model has strong operability and high accuracy and can efectively predict and ensure the safety of the tunnel structure. The performance evaluation method has objectivity, relevance, and intuitiveness. It can identify the key links of the evaluation and enable construction planners and managers to improve the robustness and safety of the tunnels.

**Keywords** Highway tunnel · Performance · AHP · Entropy theory · Game theory · Fuzzy theory · Structural deterioration model

# **1 Introduction**

At present, with the increasing investment and construction of infrastructure, the importance of the civil engineering industry is becoming increasingly prominent, especially the

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number of new tunnels. But at the same time, there are some new problems for the tunnels, which is to ensure the new tunnels with excellent structural quality and safe operation and requires that the tunnels with built for many years can operate normally. Therefore, the evaluation with performance of highway tunnel structures has become an important solution to this problem (Lai et al. [2017](#page-22-0); Xun [2006](#page-22-1); Menendez et al. [2018;](#page-22-2) Bhalla et al. [2005](#page-22-3); Wu et al. [2017](#page-22-4)).

In recent years, many scholars have conducted a lot of research on the health of highway tunnel structures and have achieved a series of results. Yuan et al. [\(2012](#page-22-5)), based on the idea with limit state design, analyzed the infuence of internal and external loads and environmental factors on the life of tunnel structures. Aldo Minardo et al. ([2018\)](#page-22-6) applied distributed optical fber strain sensing technology to tunnel



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structure monitoring and verifed the safety and stability of tunnel lining structures through real-time monitoring of tunnel linings deformation. Wu et al. ([2017\)](#page-22-4) proposed a method for evaluating the safety of tunnel linings based on the fractal dimension of cracks. Through the digital detection test of the Hidake tunnel in Japan, the fractal dimension of the tunnel lining cracks was obtained using statistical methods TCI to evaluate the health of the tunnels. Arends et al. ([2005](#page-22-7)) proposed a tunnel safety evaluation method based on risk assessment from the perspective of economic optimization. Maleki and Mousivand ([2014](#page-22-8)) evaluated the safety of the tunnels based on the elasto-viscoplastic constitutive model by defning two safety parameters related to the short-term and long-term behavior of the tunnels. Zhou et al. [\(2014](#page-22-9)) proposed a new structural health evaluation method based on torsional wave velocity. This method uses the torsional wave velocity to determine the Young's modulus of the tunnel structures, which provides a theoretical basis for future application in the health assessment of the shield tunnels. Jinxing Lai et al. [\(2017\)](#page-22-0) used crack width monitoring technology, concrete strength monitoring technology, electromagnetic wave nondestructive monitoring technology, and other modern detection technologies to comprehensively detect lining cracks, tunnel seepage, and lining voids. Through the statistical analysis of the test results, the distribution characteristics, development rules, and damage levels of structural defects are obtained, which provides some experience for the design and health evaluation of the existing multi-arch tunnel projects. Huang et al. [\(2019\)](#page-22-10) proposed a tunnel damage visualization evaluation method based on the cloud theory, which effectively considered the ambiguity and randomness of the evaluation system, and improved the accuracy of the structural damage evaluation results. Rao et al. ([2016\)](#page-22-11) established a fuzzy comprehensive evaluation model for the safety of in-service structures of highway tunnels in karst areas, based on the Huilongshan tunnel, and conducted a safety evaluation using the maximum membership method. Olsson and Sturk [\(1994\)](#page-22-12) evaluated the risks of the construction of particularly long highway tunnels, considered many uncertainties, analyzed the target's safety risks, investment, and environmental risks, and established the risks evaluation system. McFeat-Smith [\(2000,](#page-22-13) [2005\)](#page-22-14) studied the risk assessment of tunnel projects under complex geological conditions in Asia and proposed the risk grading Codes, and the risk is divided into 5 levels.

In addition, due to the increasingly prominent deterioration of the tunnel structures, a lot of Codes and standards have been carried out in the assessment of the safety of the tunnel structures during the operation period. The Japan Railway Tunnel proposes two inspection methods, general inspection and individual inspection. The "soundness" index is used to judge the safety level of the tunnels, and the criteria for the soundness of lining cracking,



deterioration, water leakage, and spalling are established, and the safety condition of the tunnels is divided into A (also divided into AA, A1, A2), B, C, S four levels. Diseases of Japanese highway tunnels were divided into external force, material degradation, and leakage water diseases. They, respectively, propose criteria for external force collapse, deformation, cracking, damage, stagger, material deterioration, strength reduction, rebar corrosion, and water leakage. According to the urgency priority of the measures during the inspection and the investigation, the safety levels of the tunnels are divided into three levels: inspection phase A, B, and C, and investigation phase 3A, 2A, A, and B. The German Railway Tunnel Design, Construction and Maintenance Code (DS853) stipulates the inspection period of the structural parts and electromechanical facilities of existing tunnels and newly built tunnels and divides the structural defects into three levels according to the damage of the tunnels. China's "Technical Codes for Maintenance of Highway Tunnels" will be divided into three categories according to tunnel defects: external force, material degradation, and water leakage diseases, and are divided into four safety levels of B, A, 2A, and 3A. The criteria for determining the deformation speed of the tunnel linings, the length and width of the cracks, layering and spalling, reduced strength of the lining through the cross section, rebar corrosion, and water leakage from the roadway is based on the Chinese standard (JTG H12-2015, [2015](#page-22-15)). The US "Highway and High-speed Railway Tunnel Inspection Manual" uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to divide the structural defects of the tunnels into 0–10 grades and gives the classifcation standards and judgment criteria for the relevant grades.

In summary, although there are many studies and Codes on the performance evaluation of highway tunnel structures, various assessment theories have diferences and advantages and disadvantages. However, there are still certain shortcomings. In the assessment steps, subjective factors and objective reality are rarely considered at the same time. For example, analytic hierarchy process (AHP) is highly subjective (Vladeanu and Matthews [2019](#page-22-16); Yuan et al. [2019;](#page-22-17) Wu et al. [2020](#page-22-18)), the sample size required by gray theory is large, and the optimal value of some indicators is difficult to determine (Li et al.  $2016$ ), while the calculation of cloud theory is more complicated (Huang et al. [2019](#page-22-10)). AHP can fully integrate the experience and opinions of experts (Lyu et al. [2020\)](#page-22-20), while entropy theory can make full use of actual test data to obtain objective weights of indicators (Huang et al. [2019](#page-22-10)), and game theory can fully combine the characteristics of these two weights (Wang et al. [2021](#page-22-21)), which can not only compensate for the subjectivity of AHP but also consider the objectivity of entropy theory. In addition, although some of the above-mentioned researchers use fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method or cloud model for evaluation, few researchers combine combined weight model with fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method to evaluate tunnel performance level. The fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method based on the combined weight model can reduce the infuence of subjective factors to a certain extent and efectively solve the defciency of fuzzy theory to make the fnal result more accurate (Zhou et al. [2021](#page-22-22)). The main purpose of this study is to propose a reasonable evaluation method that combines the combined weight model theory with the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method and apply it to the tunnel performance evaluation.

Based on the comprehensive weight-fuzzy theory, this study puts forward the performance evaluation framework of the highway tunnels. It fully combines the inspection data and expert opinions to achieve the objective of subjective and objective comprehensive evaluation, and the fuzzy membership function is adopted to determine the level of components, structures, and overall performance. Using the evaluation method proposed in this study, a Guizhou tunnel is tested and evaluated, and compared with the current Codes about tunnel maintenance performance, gray clustering method, etc., and the degradation model of the tunnel structures is proposed. The results show that the tunnel performance method and degradation model proposed in this study have sufficient stability and strong applicability, which can provide theoretical support and experience for the safe operation and daily maintenance of the tunnels.

# **2 Construction of a Tunnel Combined Weight‑fuzzy Evaluation Model**

## **2.1 Overview of Combined Weighting Methods**

The analytic hierarchy process is a simple and subjective decision-making method. The entropy theory is used to objectively evaluate problems with engineering. The combination of weights can link subjective and objective factors and comprehensively weight the evaluation indicators, so that the results' error is small and even omitted.

#### <span id="page-2-1"></span>**2.1.1 Calculation of Index Weights based on AHP**

The basic idea of the analytic hierarchy process (AHP) is to decompose and refne and then comprehensively analyze, to quantify the levels of the problems (Vladeanu and Matthews [2019](#page-22-16) ). And the detailed process of the AHP in this paper is as follows:

- (1) Establishing a hierarchical structure system, as shown in Fig. [1](#page-2-0).
- (2) Constructing judgment matrix: In order to quantify the important performance of each element and the specifc importance and quantifcation of the relative importance of factors, the method of matrix judgment scale is usually used to determine, that is, the 1–9 scale method, as shown in Table [1.](#page-3-0) Judgment matrix form is as follows:



<span id="page-2-0"></span>**Fig. 1** Evaluation system of tunnel technical and safety performance



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**Table 1** Matrix judgment scale

<span id="page-3-0"></span>

Table 1 Matrix judgment scale assignment	Scale assignment Meaning (comparison of importance)	
		$X_i$ and $X_i$ have the same importance
		Compared with $X_i$ and $X_j$ , $X_i$ is slightly more important
		Compared with $X_i$ and $X_i$ , $X_i$ is obviously important
		Compared with $X_i$ and $X_i$ , $X_i$ is obviously important
		Compared to $X_i$ and $X_i$ , $X_i$ is strongly important
	2, 4, 6, 8	The median value of the above adjacent judgment scale assignment
	Note	When $X_i$ and $X_i$ are compared, the scale value is the reciprocal of the above value

$$
X = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1n} \\ x_{22} & x_{22} & \cdots & x_{2n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ x_{m1} & x_{n2} & \cdots & x_{nn} \end{bmatrix}
$$

- (3) Solving the judgment matrix: each column vector of the judgment matrix *A* is normalized and summed, so as to calculate the eigenvector (weight coefficient) and maximum eigenvalue of each index
- (4) Consistency testing:

The judgment matrix usually has inconsistency, but in order to use the feature vector corresponding to the feature root as the full vector of the compared factors, the degree of inconsistency should be within the allowable range. CI is the consistency index of  $A$ , recorded as  $l_{\text{CI}}$ , and the calculation formula is as follows:

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

When CI is 0, the judgment matrix *A* is consistent; the greater the CI, the more signifcant the inconsistency of *A*.

The consistency ratio is recorded as  $l_{CR}$ ,

$$
l_{\rm CR} = \frac{l_{\rm CI}}{l_{\rm RI}} \tag{2}
$$

Among them, RI is the random consistency index of *A*, recorded as  $l_{\text{RI}}$ . For specific values, please refer to Table [2.](#page-3-1)

When  $l_{CR}$  < 0.1, the degree of inconsistency of *A* is within the allowable range; that is, the judgment matrix meets the consistency requirements. At this time, the feature vector of *A* is used as the weight vector; otherwise, the judgment matrix *A* needs to be readjusted until the consistency criterion is reached.

## <span id="page-3-5"></span>**2.1.2 Entropy Weight Theory**

Entropy was originally a thermodynamic concept. It was frst introduced by C. E. Shannon into information theory, which is called information entropy. It has some broader and universal meaning, so it is called generalized entropy (Yuan et al. [2019\)](#page-22-17). The general steps of calculating weights in the method of entropy weight are: (1). establishment of initial data matrix; (2). initial data processing; (3). determination of index entropy value; and (4). calculation of objective weights.

The calculation steps of this study are as follows:

## (1) Establishing the initial data matrix

The initial matrix consists of  $m \times n$  elements, of which *m* are evaluation objects and *n* are evaluation indicators.

<span id="page-3-3"></span>
$$
R = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \cdots & r_{1n} \\ r_{22} & r_{22} & \cdots & r_{2n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ r_{m1} & r_{n2} & \cdots & r_{mn} \end{bmatrix}
$$

<span id="page-3-4"></span>(2) Regularization of initial data standards In each indicator, it can be divided into a positive indicator (the larger, the better indicator) and a reverse indicator (the smaller, the better indicator). In addition, whether it is a quantitative index or a qualitative index, it can be converted into an index value within the range of 0–1 according to the calculation formulas ([3](#page-3-2)) and  $(4).$  $(4).$  $(4).$ 

<span id="page-3-2"></span>Calculation formula of positive index,

$$
t_{ij} = \frac{r_{ij} - \min\{r_{ij}\}}{\max\{r_{ij}\} - \min\{r_{ij}\}}\tag{3}
$$

<span id="page-3-1"></span>



Calculation formula of reverse index,

$$
t_{ij} = \frac{\max\{r_{ij}\} - r_{ij}}{\max\{r_{ij}\} - \min\{r_{ij}\}}\tag{4}
$$

In the formula,  $t_{ii}$  is the data after the range transformation,  $r_{ii}$  is the original data, and max $\{r_{ii}\}\$ , min $\{r_{ii}\}\$  are the maximum and minimum values of the data in the *i*-th row and *j*-th column of the initial matrix.

Finally, the standard matrix after standard normalization is obtained,

$$
T = \begin{bmatrix} t_{11} & t_{12} & \cdots & t_{1n} \\ t_{22} & t_{22} & \cdots & t_{2n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ t_{m1} & t_{m2} & \cdots & t_{mn} \end{bmatrix}_{m \times n}
$$

#### (3) Calculating the index entropy

According to the defnition of information entropy, for *m* samples and *n* indicators, formula [\(5](#page-4-1)) can be used to calculate the information entropy value of the *j*-th indicator,

$$
E_j = -K \sum_{i=1}^{m} y_{ij} \ln y_{ij}, \ j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m
$$
 (5)

Among them, since the range of  $t_{ij}$  is [0, 1], in order to ensure that  $\ln y_{ij}$  is meaningful, then amend  $y_{ij} = \frac{t_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} t_{ij}}$ as

 $y_{ij} = \frac{1+t_{ij}}{1+\sum_{i=1}^{m}t_{ij}}$ , and *k* = 1∕1*n m*.

(4) Determining the objective weight of the indicator

In accordance with the entropy value calculated in step (3), the objective weight of the *j*-th indicator is calculated according to Eq. [\(6](#page-4-2)).

$$
\lambda_j = (1 - E_j) / \sum_{j=1}^n (1 - E_j), \ j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \tag{6}
$$

## **2.1.3 Determination of Comprehensive Weights based on Game Theory**

To make the ranking results more reasonable and scientifc, the game theory is used to comprehensively assign weights.

This method determines the combined weights through the planning model (Zhou et al. [2015,](#page-22-23) [2018](#page-22-24)).

<span id="page-4-0"></span>The basic idea of game theory to calculate the comprehensive weights is: (1) determining the number of methods to solve the weights; (2) solving the linear combination of weight vectors;  $(3)$  optimizing the combination coefficient; (4) solving the linear equations; and (5) determining the comprehensive weight Value.

(1) By using *Q* methods to solve the weights of the evaluation indicators of the system layer and the factor layer, *Q* factor weight vectors can be obtained,

<span id="page-4-4"></span>
$$
\eta_k = (\eta_{k1}, \ \eta_{k2}, \ \eta_{k3}, ..., \ \eta_{kn}) \ (k = 1, \ 2, ..., \ q) \tag{7}
$$

Thus, a basic set of weights can be established:  $\eta_k = {\eta_{k1}, \eta_{k2}, \eta_{k3}, \dots, \eta_{kn}}$ .

(2) By performing any linear combination processing on the *Q* weight vectors, it can be expressed by Eq. ([8\)](#page-4-3),

<span id="page-4-3"></span>
$$
\eta = \sum_{1}^{q} \alpha_k \eta_k^T \tag{8}
$$

<span id="page-4-1"></span>*η* is a weight vector value that may appear after free combination of  $Q$  weight coefficients based on the basic weight set, and its weight set  $\{\eta \mid \eta = \sum_{i=1}^{q} \alpha_{k} \eta_{k}^{T}\}$  is expressed as a weight vector set that may become the target obtained in the evaluation.

(3) By performing data optimization processing on *Q* linear combination coefficients  $\alpha_k$ , the purpose of optimization is to minimize the dispersion between  $\eta$  and  $\eta_k$ . In this way, the game model can be derived,

$$
\min \left\| \sum_{j}^{q} \alpha_{j} \eta_{j}^{T} - \eta_{i} \right\| \ (i = 1, 2, ..., q)
$$
 (9)

<span id="page-4-2"></span>(4) Based on the diferential properties of the matrix, it is not difficult to understand that the optimal first derivative condition can be transformed into a linear system of Eq. ([10\)](#page-5-0),



$$
\begin{bmatrix}\n\eta_1 \eta_1^T & \eta_1 \eta_2^T & \cdots & \eta_1 \eta_q^T \\
\eta_2 \eta_1^T & \eta_2 \eta_2^T & \cdots & \eta_q \eta_q^T \\
\vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\
\eta_q \eta_1^T & \eta_q \eta_2^T & \cdots & \eta_q \eta_q^T\n\end{bmatrix}\n\begin{bmatrix}\n\alpha_1 \\
\alpha_2 \\
\vdots \\
\alpha_q\n\end{bmatrix}\n=\n\begin{bmatrix}\n\eta_1 \eta_1^T \\
\eta_2 \eta_2^T \\
\vdots \\
\eta_q \eta_q^T\n\end{bmatrix}
$$
\n(10)

(4)  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_n)$  are calculated and then normalized, i.e.,

$$
\alpha_k^* = \alpha_k / \sum_k^q \alpha_k \tag{11}
$$

The overall weight is,

$$
\lambda^* = \sum_k^q \alpha_k^* \eta_k^* \tag{12}
$$

# <span id="page-5-6"></span>**2.2 Fuzzy Theory**

The fuzzy evaluation method is based on fuzzy mathematics, comprehensively considering various factors that afect the fnal goal, and conducting a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of the evaluation object (Prakash and Barua [2017](#page-22-25); Karasan et al. [2018\)](#page-22-26). The steps of fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method are as follows.

#### (1) Constructing membership function

The membership values of various factors at diferent levels are obtained through membership functions. In this study, the cubic parabolic distribution is used as the membership function  $(k=3)$ . This function is continuous and simple to calculate and is suitable for engineering.

For the positive (with the larger the value, the better the performance is) factors, the large distribution in the membership function is used. All indicators in this study are positive factors. Let *x* be the index factor variable, then:  $100 \ge x \ge 80$  is rated as Class I;  $80 \ge x \ge 60$  is rated as Class II;  $60 > x \ge 40$  is rated as Class III;  $40 > x \ge 20$  is rated as Class IV; and  $20 > x \ge 0$  is rated as Class V. The membership functions  $U_I(x)$ ,  $U_{II}(x)$ ,  $U_{III}(x)$ ,  $U_{IV}(x)$ , and  $U_V(x)$  corresponding to each level of I, II, III, IV, and V are established. Considering the continuation of the distribution function, we can get the membership function Eqs. ([13\)](#page-5-1), ([14](#page-5-2)), ([15](#page-5-3)), ([16](#page-5-4)), ([17](#page-5-5)) corresponding to the levels of I, II, III, IV, and V.

<span id="page-5-1"></span>Class I membership function,

<span id="page-5-0"></span>
$$
U_{\rm I}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \le 80\\ \left(\frac{x-80}{20}\right)^k & 80 < x \le 100\\ 1 & x > 100 \end{cases}
$$
 (13)

<span id="page-5-2"></span>Class II membership function,

$$
U_{\rm II}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \le 60 \\ \left(\frac{x-60}{20}\right)^k & 60 < x \le 80 \\ 1 - \left(\frac{x-80}{20}\right)^k & 80 < x \le 100 \\ 0 & x > 100 \end{cases}
$$
(14)

<span id="page-5-3"></span>Class III membership function,

$$
U_{\rm III}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \le 40 \\ \left(\frac{x-40}{20}\right)^k & 40 < x \le 60 \\ 1 - \left(\frac{x-60}{20}\right)^k & 60 < x \le 80 \\ 0 & x > 80 \end{cases}
$$
(15)

Class IV membership function,

$$
U_{\text{IV}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \le 20 \\ \left(\frac{x-20}{20}\right)^k & 20 < x \le 40 \\ 1 - \left(\frac{x-20}{20}\right)^k & 40 < x \le 60 \\ 0 & x > 60 \end{cases}
$$
(16)

<span id="page-5-5"></span><span id="page-5-4"></span>Class V membership function,

$$
U_{\rm V}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \le 20 \\ \left(\frac{x-20}{20}\right)^k & 20 < x \le 40 \\ 0 & x > 40 \end{cases}
$$
 (17)

#### (2) Single-factor evaluation

According to the single index membership function above, the membership of the factors for each evaluation level is determined. Thus, the sub-factor  $u_{ii}$  ( $j = 1, 2, 3,...$ , *m*) of any index factor  $u_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3..., n$ ) in the factor set *U* is evaluated by a single factor, and the initial singlefactor evaluation matrix *A* is obtained. Then, the elements in the initial matrix are standardized, and the single-factor evaluation matrix *R* is calculated.

$$
A_{\mathbf{i}} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{i11} & a_{i12} & a_{i13} & a_{i14} \\ a_{i21} & a_{i22} & a_{i23} & a_{i24} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{im1} & a_{im2} & a_{im3} & a_{im4} \end{bmatrix}
$$



$$
R_{\rm i} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{i11} & r_{i12} & r_{i13} & r_{i14} \\ r_{i21} & r_{i22} & r_{i23} & r_{i24} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ r_{im1} & r_{im2} & r_{im3} & r_{im4} \end{bmatrix}
$$

Among them, the element  $r_{\text{tip}}$  in the single-factor evaluation matrix represents the degree of membership of the *j*-th underlying index under the *i*-th frst-level index in the *p*-th evaluation level  $v_p$ .

#### (3) Comprehensive evaluation

According to Eqs. ([18\)](#page-6-0), ([19\)](#page-6-1), the fnal evaluation results can be obtained according to the principle of maximum membership. Since the value is normalized in the process of fuzzy processing and reduced by 100 times, the fnal performance score is calculated based on Eq. ([20](#page-6-2)).

$$
S = \alpha \times R = \begin{bmatrix} S_1 \\ S_2 \\ \vdots \\ S_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_{11} & s_{12} & s_{13} & s_{14} & s_{15} \\ s_{21} & s_{22} & s_{23} & s_{24} & s_{25} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ s_{n1} & s_{n2} & s_{n3} & s_{n4} & s_{n5} \end{bmatrix}
$$
(18)

$$
M = \alpha \times S = (m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4, m_5)
$$
 (19)

$$
G_{\rm i} = m_{\rm i} \times 100\tag{20}
$$

# **3 Overview of Tunnel Technical Status and Performance Assessment**

#### **3.1 Constructing an Evaluation Index System**

According to the comprehensive performance characteristics of the tunnel structures and Code (JTG H12-2015 [2015](#page-22-15)), the tunnel structure is divided into civil building structures, electromechanical facilities (safety factors), and other projects. Among them, the civil engineering structure includes 9 parts of openings, doors, linings, pavements, access roads, drainage systems, suspended ceilings and various embedded parts, interior decoration, and signs; the electromechanical facilities include fve components: power supply and distribution facilities, lighting facilities, ventilation facilities, frefghting facilities, monitoring, and communication facilities, thus constructing the index system of tunnel performance evaluation (as shown in Fig. [1\)](#page-2-0) and the grade classifcation of each performance evaluation index (as shown in Table [3](#page-7-0)).

#### **3.2 Evaluation Process**

For the assessment of the performance of highway tunnels, the infrastructure to the overall structure is divided into individual facility evaluation indicators, structures (civil engineering, mechanical and electrical facilities, other facilities), and the overall assessment of the tunnels. The combined weight-fuzzy theory of tunnel performance and safety assessment is also carried out in this order.

First of all, according to the test data, the factor indicators of each detailed facility are expressed as membership degrees, and the combined weight theory is used to synthesize the evaluation indicator performance, and the structural performance and safety assessment membership matrix is calculated. Then, combined with the combined weight of the structures, the overall performance of the tunnels is expressed by the membership matrix, and the performance level of the tunnels is determined according to the principle of maximum membership. Combined weight-fuzzy theory of tunnel performance process is shown in Fig. [2.](#page-8-0)

#### <span id="page-6-0"></span>**3.3 Representation of Tunnel Performance Level**

<span id="page-6-2"></span><span id="page-6-1"></span>The performance of the overall tunnels is divided into I-V level, and the value range  $G_j$  corresponding to the performance is [0, 100]. According to the Codes or experts opinion to determine the value range of the index corresponding to each performance level, based on studies and "Technical Specifcations for Maintenance of Highway Tunnels" (Lai et al. [2017](#page-22-0); Menendez et al. [2018](#page-22-2); Bhalla et al. [2005](#page-22-3); Wu et al. [2017;](#page-22-4) JTG H12-2015 [2015\)](#page-22-15), the overall performance classifcation of the tunnels can be gotten, as shown in Table [4](#page-9-0). For the performance of the tunnel structures, 100 ≥  $G_i$  ≥ 80 is rated as Class I; 80 ≥  $G_i$  ≥ 60 is rated as Class II;  $60 > G_i \ge 40$  is rated as Class III;  $40 > G_i \ge 20$  is rated as Class IV; and  $G_i < 20$  is rated as Class V.

# **3.4 Tunnel Repair Measures under Diferent Performance Levels**

With reference to Codes and studies about the tunnel performance, the disease characteristics and maintenance measures of highway tunnel structures at diferent levels are summarized (Lai et al. [2017](#page-22-0); Xun [2006;](#page-22-1) Menendez et al. [2018](#page-22-2); Bhalla et al. [2005;](#page-22-3) Wu et al. [2017;](#page-22-4) JTG H12-2015 [2015\)](#page-22-15), as shown in Table [5](#page-10-0).



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





<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Fig. 2** The assessment process of tunnel performance based on combined weight-fuzzy theory





<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Table 4** Number feld change interval corresponding to the qualitative level of the tunnel performance



# **4 Case Study and Results Discussion**

## **4.1 Project Overview**

A highway tunnel is located in Guizhou Province, China, with a total length of 160 m, and the entrance stake of the Tunnel is  $K2504 + 950$ , the exit stake is  $K2505 + 110$ , and the center stake of the tunnel is  $K2505 + 030$ , and it is part of China's G210 national highway. It is the only road that passes through the main traffic between north and south China, and the road grade is level II, the calculated driving speed is 40 km/h, and the clear height of the tunnel is 4.5 m. The arc length of the tunnel is 18 m. The width of the tunnel road surface is 7.5 m. The tunnel pavement type is asphalt pavement. The tunnel lining form is spray anchor lining. The entrance and exit of the tunnel are end-wall entrances. The geomorphology of the tunnel is characterized by trough dissolution and erosion geomorphology, which is shallow, medium-cut ridged middle-low hills. The project area of the tunnel belongs to the subtropical southeast monsoon climate zone. It is mild and humid, and the four seasons are not clear. There are no severe cold in winter and no scorching heat in summer. The climate changes slightly with the elevation of the terrain. The mountainous area has lower temperature and abundant rain than the valleys and depressions. The average annual precipitation is 1448.1 mm, mostly in May–August, accounting for 55–60% of the whole year. The annual average temperature is 15.9 ℃, the hottest from June to August, the extreme maximum temperature is 34.4 ℃, and the extreme minimum temperature is  $-7.9$  °C. The average frost-free period is 294 days/year, and the average frozen area is 7 days/year. The exposed strata in the tunnel site are Quaternary alluvium, landslide accumulation, collapsed slope, residual slope accumulation of gravel soil, cohesive soil, etc., and the underlying strata are limestone of the Permian Wujiaping Formation. In addition, there are a large amount of loose layer pore water, bedrock fssure water, and carbonate karst water around the tunnel. The typical crosssectional view of the tunnel is shown in Fig. [3](#page-11-0).

## **4.2 Tunnel Inspection Results**

Based on the literature (Lai et al. [2017](#page-22-0); Xun [2006](#page-22-1); Menendez et al. [2018](#page-22-2); Bhalla et al. [2005](#page-22-3); Wu et al. [2017](#page-22-4); JTG H12-[2015](#page-22-15) 2015), through the organization of experts and inspection professional and technical personnel, the tunnel



deterioration in Guizhou Province was evaluated in detail. The main diseases of the tunnel are: ① Cracks in the retaining wall, the presence of subsurface fow gushing, serious clogging of the drain hole, the existence of staggered gaps in the foundation, and slope protection and subsidence; ② there are many cracks in the wall of the door, the concrete is slightly peeled off, and the structure is slightly inclined; ③ there are many long and thin penetrating cracks in the lining, the surface of the lining is peeled, there is serious water leakage, the water infow on the surface of the lining can be clearly seen, and the steel bars in the lining structure are exposed to corrosion; ④ the road surface is arched and settlement, and there is serious water accumulation; ⑤ the maintenance road is damaged, the ceiling is leaking, the interior decoration is dirty, the sign is seriously dirty, and the appearance is damaged; ⑥ the lighting fxture is seriously damaged, and the circuit is abnormal; and  $\odot$  imperfect monitoring equipment, frefghting facilities, etc. The on-site inspection is shown in Fig. [4](#page-12-0), and the test results are shown in Fig. [5.](#page-13-0)

# **4.3 Theoretical Results Based on Current Tunnel Code**

Case studies include discussion of utility data and evaluation of performance models (Angkasuwansiri [2013](#page-22-27)). The purpose of the meeting is to promote the exchange and learning of tunnels management experience, and to obtain important feedback on the proposed performance indicators, and then discuss the current performance of tunnel infrastructure data management in each community. A total of 5 public utilities participated in this study, but for security reasons, the specifc fles and data in these case studies were manipulated, and only part of the data can be disclosed, as shown in Figs. [4,](#page-12-0) [5,](#page-13-0) [6.](#page-13-1)

- (1) DuYung County Sanitation District, DuYung County
- (2) DuYung Tunnel Authority, DuYung
- (3) GUIZHOU Tunnel Resources Authority, GuiYang
- (4) GUIZHOU Public Utilities, GuiYang
- (5) GUIZHOU Infrastructure Commission, GuiYang

According to the papers (Lai et al. [2017](#page-22-0); Xun [2006](#page-22-1); Menendez et al. [2018](#page-22-2); Bhalla et al. [2005;](#page-22-3) Wu et al. [2017](#page-22-4); JTG H12-2015 [2015](#page-22-15)), the evaluation index system was constructed (as shown in Fig. [1\)](#page-2-0), and then, this project invited 4



<span id="page-10-0"></span>**Table 5** Repair measures for tunnels with diferent safety performance levels



<span id="page-11-0"></span>**Fig. 3** Typical section of the tunnel (The unit is cm, and scale is 1:100)

experts to evaluate and score various indicators of the tunnel structures, and the performance is scored to reveal the damage, defects, and deterioration of each part of the tunnel's hierarchy structure. The evaluation scores of various factors are shown in Fig. [6.](#page-13-1) The score of the test data is slightly higher than the expert's score. The expert is more conservative in evaluating the performance of the tunnel. The results are shown in Table [6.](#page-14-0) According to the Code (JTG H12-2015 [2015\)](#page-22-15), the overall performance score of the tunnels is 54.56.

#### **4.4 Evaluation Index System and Weights**

According to the evaluation process of the tunnel technical status assessment model described above, the assessment of the performance of tunnels in Guizhou Province is carried out using three levels: single index, structural level, and overall tunnel evaluation.

For the different evaluation layers and components of the Guizhou tunnel, the combination weight theory described above is used to determine the weights of each index. Limited to the length of the study, the following takes the 5 indicators in the structure of electromechanical facilities (safety factors in Fig. [2](#page-8-0)) as an example, based on



## (1) Subjective weight

According to Eqs.  $(1)$  $(1)$  $(1)$ – $(2)$  $(2)$  and calculation steps in Section [2.1.1,](#page-2-1) the judgment matrix is,

$$
A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1.4 & 1.1 & 1.1 & 1.1 \\ \frac{1}{1.4} & 1 & 0.95 & 0.9 & 0.9 \\ \frac{1}{1.1} & \frac{1}{0.95} & 1 & 0.9 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{1.1} & \frac{1}{0.9} & \frac{1}{0.9} & 1 & 0.9 \\ \frac{1}{1.1} & \frac{1}{0.9} & 1 & \frac{1}{0.9} & 1 \end{bmatrix}
$$





<span id="page-12-0"></span>**Fig. 4** The technical performance and safety assessment of the tunnel structure





 $(1)$ . Test results

(2). The Class of the test results of each index

<span id="page-13-0"></span>**Fig.5** Test results of each index. **a** Test results. **b** The class of the test results of each index



<span id="page-13-1"></span>**Fig. 6** The scores of each factor index of the tunnel

And  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 5.006$  is obtained, CI = 0.002, RI = 1.120,  $CR = 0.002 < 1$ , which meets the requirements. The subjective weights of safety factors in Fig.  $2 w_1 = [0.226, 0.177,$  $2 w_1 = [0.226, 0.177,$ 0.194, 0.2, 0.204] are solved.

(2) Objective weights

*R* =

According to the above and the expert score table, and based on Eqs. [\(3\)](#page-3-2)–([6\)](#page-4-0) and calculation steps in Sect. [2.1.2,](#page-3-5) the *R* matrix is,

$$
= \begin{bmatrix} 0.326 & 0.268 & 0.272 & 0.267 & 0.345 \\ 0.349 & 0.357 & 0.382 & 0.533 & 0.328 \\ 0.442 & 0.536 & 0.545 & 0.267 & 0.241 \\ 0.395 & 0.304 & 0.364 & 0.433 & 0.414 \\ 0.465 & 0.429 & 0.527 & 0.467 & 0.397 \\ 0.651 & 0.446 & 0.273 & 0.367 & 0.483 \end{bmatrix},
$$

*E*<sub>i</sub> = [−0.169, −0.194, −0.179, −0.186, −0.205] is calculated, and objective weights of safety factors in Fig. [2](#page-8-0) *w*<sub>2</sub> = [0.182, 0.208, 0.191, 0.2, 0.219] are obtained.









<span id="page-14-1"></span>**Fig. 7** Analysis of the weight values of 15 indicators

## (3) Comprehensive weights

According to Eqs. ([7](#page-4-4))–([12](#page-4-3)),  $\alpha_1 = 0.627$ ,  $\alpha_2 = 0.373$  are obtained, so that the comprehensive weights of safety factors in Fig. [2](#page-8-0), *w* = [0.198, 0.196, 0.192, 0.2, 0.214] are solved. The same method can be used to determine the objective, subjective, and comprehensive weight values of each level and index of the tunnel, as shown in Table [7.](#page-15-0)



<span id="page-14-2"></span>**Fig. 8** Weight values of tunnel overall structure

## (4) Weight analysis

In Figs[.7](#page-14-1) and [8](#page-14-2), the subjective weights, comprehensive weights, and weights in the standard (JTG H12-2015, [2015](#page-22-15)) are relatively small and almost identical. The difference between the objective weights and the other three weights is relatively large. In the four weight distributions,

<span id="page-14-0"></span>**Table 6** Summary of current technical conditions and safety assessment of the tunnel using JTG H12-2015, China

Structural layer	Factor layer	Evaluation index performance description	
$C_1(0.703)$	$C_{11}$ (0.143)	(1) Cracks in supporting structure; (2) blockage of drainage facilities	
	$C_{12}$ (0.054)	(1) Cracking damage to the wall; (2) exposed degree of reinforcement; and (3) water gushing from the wall	
	$C_{13}$ (0.389)	$(1)$ Deterioration of concrete carbonation; (2) corrosion of steel bars; (3) cracks in concrete; (4) thickness of concrete protective layer; (5) spalling of concrete; and (6) water seepage on lining surface	
	$C_{14}$ (0.143)	$(1)$ Pavement cracks; $(2)$ potholes; $(3)$ surface uplift; $(4)$ water accumulation; and $(5)$ pavement fracture	
	$C_{15}$ (0.027)	$(1)$ Deformation of guardial; $(2)$ damage of curb stone; and $(3)$ destruction of panel	
	$C_{16}$ (0.063)	$(1)$ Degree of siltation; $(2)$ smoothness of drainage	
	$C_{17}$ (0.101)	$(1)$ Deformation; $(2)$ water immersion area; and $(3)$ water gush	
	$C_{18}$ (0.027)	$(1)$ Deformation of decoration; $(2)$ damage and fall	
	$C_{19}$ (0.054)	$(1)$ Dirty situation; $(2)$ missing drop	
$C_2(0.238)$	$C_{21}$ (0.198)	(1) Operation of electrical equipment; (2) normal working condition of distribution box	
	$C_{22}$ (0.196)	(1) Breakage loss effect of lamps; (2) working status of street lamps	
	$C_{23}$ (0.192)	$(1)$ Fans are equipped; $(2)$ failure	
	$C_{24}$ (0.2)	$(1)$ Loss of hydrant; $(2)$ loss of sign; and $(3)$ effectiveness of breaking	
	$C_{25}$ (0.214)	(1) Normal operating conditions; (2) damage and failure	
$C_3(0.059)$	$C_{31}$ (1.0)	$(1)$ Damage to isolation facilities; (2) destruction of equipment caves; (3) deformation and destruction of silencing facilities; (4) greening effect of cave entrances; and (5) blockage of sewage ditches	

<span id="page-15-0"></span>**Table 7** Summary of combined weights

<span id="page-15-1"></span>**Table 8** Summary of Fuzzy Theory Membership Degree of Tunnel Technology Condition

Struc- tural layer	Factor layer	Various factors fuzzy membership vector		Fuzzy membership vector of structural layer Fuzzy membership vector of the whole tunnel
$C_1$	$C_{11}$	[0, 0, 0.9379, 0.0621, 0]	[0, 0, 0.3064, 0.0755, 0.6192]	[0, 0.039, 0.363, 0.073, 0.527]
	$C_{12}$	[0, 0, 0, 0.0621, 0.9379]		
	$C_{13}$	[0, 0, 0, 0.0527, 0.9473]		
	$C_{14}$	[0, 0, 0.8718, 0.1282, 0]		
	$C_{15}$	[0, 0, 0, 0.0481, 0.9519]		
	$C_{16}$	[0, 0, 0, 0, 1]		
	$C_{17}$	[0, 0, 0, 0.1338, 0.8662]		
	$C_{18}$	[0, 0, 0, 0.1174, 0.8826]		
	$C_{19}$	[0, 0, 0.8809, 0.1191, 0]		
$C_2$	$C_{21}$	[0, 0, 0.8826, 0.1174, 0]	[0, 0.163, 0.3943, 0.0577, 0.385]	
	$C_{22}$	[0, 0.8316, 0.1684, 0, 0]		
	$C_{23}$	[0, 0, 0.9714, 0.0286, 0]		
	$C_{24}$	[0, 0, 0, 0.0982, 0.9018]		
	$C_{25}$	[0, 0, 0, 0.0435, 0.9565]		
$C_3$	$C_{31}$	[0, 0, 0.9035, 0.0965, 0]	[0, 0, 0.9035, 0.0965, 0]	

<span id="page-15-2"></span>**Table 9** Comparison table of tunnel technical condition scores





the objective weights of indicators C11-C14 belong to the minimum value, while the weights of C15-C31 are the maximum values. The subjective weight of each indicator calculated by the analytic hierarchy process is basically the same as the standard weight (JTG H12-2015 [2015](#page-22-15)), both of which are derived from the experience evaluation of experts, with a certain degree of subjectivity.

Figure [7](#page-14-1) is the graph of the weights of the factor layer. It can be found that the subjective and weights based on Code are consistent, but the objective and comprehensive weights



<span id="page-16-0"></span>**Fig. 9** Comparison of the tunnel performance level. **a** Gray clustering. **b** Combined weight-fuzzy theory. **c** AHP-fuzzy theory

are diferent. In addition, the comprehensive weight values of various indicators are almost stable between the objective and subjective weights, which balance the subjectivity of subjective weights combined with the objective conditions of actual on-site testing.

# **4.5 Combined Weight‑fuzzy Theory to Evaluate Tunnel Performance**

According to the above combined weight-fuzzy theory evaluation method, even for each index, according to the equation in Sect. [2.2,](#page-5-6) the fuzzy membership degree of each hierarchy structure and factor evaluation index is obtained, as shown in Table [8](#page-15-1).

According to Table [8](#page-15-1), the performance deterioration of the overall tunnel is [0, 0.039, 0.363, 0.073, 0.527]. With reference to the principle of maximum membership, the overall performance of the tunnel is level III, and the calculated score is 52.70.

## **4.6 Discussion and Analysis of Evaluation Results**

#### **4.6.1 Comparative Analysis with Other Evaluation Methods**

To verify the feasibility and scientific of the combined weight-fuzzy theory to assess the performance of the tunnel, the performance value of the evaluation model in this study is compared with the current code evaluation value (JTG H12-2015) and gray clustering theory value.

Gray clustering is a commonly used efective method in multi-objective decision analysis in civil engineering. Gray clustering method ranks diferent samples according to the proximity between evaluation objects and the idealized objective and evaluates the relative merits of the existing evaluation objects (Golinska et al. [2015\)](#page-22-28). In general, the

traditional gray clustering method adopts the way of subjective empowerment based on uncertain AHP. Details are shown in Table [9](#page-15-2) and Fig. [9](#page-16-0).

In addition, AHP-fuzzy evaluation method is widely used to evaluate the performance of engineering (Ebrahimiana et al. [2015;](#page-22-29) Lyu et al. [2019](#page-22-30)). According to the calculation steps of AHP-fuzzy method and taking the 5 indicators in the structure of safety factors in Fig. [2](#page-8-0) as an example, the weight of 5 factors is  $w1 = [0.226, 0.17]$ 7,0.194,0.2,0.204], and the judgment matrix is  $C_{21} = [0, 100]$ 0, 0.8826, 0.1174, 0],  $C_{22} = [0, 0.8316, 0.1684, 0, 0],$  $C_{23} = [0, 0, 0.9714, 0.0286, 0], C_{24} = [0, 0, 0, 0.0982,$ 0.9018],  $C_{25}$  = [0, 0, 0, 0.0435, 0.9565]. Then, the judge-ment matrix of safety factors in Fig. [2](#page-8-0) is [0, 0.1472, 0.4177, 0.0606, 0.3755] and the weight of safety factors in Fig. [2](#page-8-0) is 0.2320, so the fnal evaluation matrix of safety factors in Fig. [2](#page-8-0) is [0.0, 0.0341, 0.0969, 0.0141, 0.0871]. Similarly, the fnal evaluation matrix of civil structure factors (shown in Fig. [2](#page-8-0)) and other works factors (shown in Fig. [2](#page-8-0)) is [0.0, 0.0, 0.2319, 0.0554, 0.4477], [0.0, 0.0, 0.0298, 0.0032, 0.0], separately. As a result, the fnal evaluation matrix of tunnel is [0.0, 0.0341, 0.3586, 0.0726, 0.5348] and the final score is  $0.5348*100=53.48$ , so based on Table [4](#page-9-0), the tunnel performance is level III.

The evaluation result of the tunnel performance using combination weight-fuzzy theory is 52.70, which is almost the same as the evaluation score (54.56) (JTG H12-2015 [2015](#page-22-15)), gray cluster evaluation score (53.47), and AHPfuzzy evaluation score (53.48). The comparison of the evaluation results of the three methods shows that the result of the tunnel performance is reliable and effective. What's more, Table [7](#page-15-0) shows that the results of different evaluation cases calculated by the three methods are different, but the overall variation trend is same. The performance and safety assessment of tunnel is level III.



This is consistent with the test results, indicating that the performance of highway tunnels can be systematically evaluated by the four methods. However, the difference in the evaluation scores of the tunnel calculated by the combined weight-fuzzy method is lower than that calculated by the traditional gray clustering method, AHP-fuzzy method, and Code JTG H12-2015. This is because the traditional gray clustering method and AHP-fuzzy method focus on subjective regulation, but ignore the objective changes in the data itself. It affects the weight distribution of each index, which in turn interferes with the performance and safety assessment of tunnels. In some special cases, if the test values of the indicator change greatly, this has a significant effect on the objective weights of the indicators. At this time, the traditional gray clustering method, AHP-fuzzy method, and Code (JTG H12-2015) still use subjective weights, ignoring the importance of objective weights. This will lead to large deviations in the final results. What's more, the final evaluation score of combined weight-fuzzy method is the lowest, compared with the traditional gray clustering method, AHP-fuzzy method, and Code (JTG H12-2015), so this also provides timely warnings for tunnel maintenance which helps to ensure the safety of the tunnel structure. Therefore, the superiority of the combined weight-fuzzy theory is highlighted. To a certain extent, the combined weightfuzzy method is an improvement of the traditional gray clustering method, AHP-fuzzy method, and Code (JTG H12-2015).

#### **4.6.2 Discussion on Portability of Models**

In this study, based on the MWP highway tunnel, a performance level evaluation model for the highway tunnel was established. The model established in this study is only applicable to mountain highway tunnels for the following reasons. First, this study selects the factors that affect the performance of MWP highway tunnels. These factors may not be applicable to other tunnels (such as deep sea tunnels and tunnels in extreme environments). Then, this study classifes the tunnel performance based on the inspection data of the MWP highway tunnel, so the feasibility of this model for other tunnels has certain limitations. However, the methods, ideas, and conclusions of this study can provide certain references for other tunnel projects.

## **4.7 Determination of Tunnel Deterioration Model**

At present, the deterioration model of tunnel performance mainly focuses on the durability of concrete, and the research is not systematic. Therefore, this study builds a model of the deterioration of the tunnels,

<span id="page-17-0"></span>
$$
G(n) = \begin{cases} G(1) = G_c \\ G(n-1) \times \exp\left[ -\left(\frac{\lambda \times n}{N_d}\right)^T \right], \ n \ge 2, \ \lambda > 0 \end{cases}
$$
 (21)

The above model is suitable for various types of tunnel (railway tunnels, pedestrian tunnels, canal tunnels, mountain tunnels, underwater tunnels, underwater tunnels, etc.) aging. In the tunnel projects, the tunnel will be regularly inspected and the performance was assessed. If the tunnel has been tested and evaluated *k* times, the tunnel age sequence corresponding to the tunnel inspection and evaluation time is expressed as  $N = \{n_1, n_2, n_3, \ldots, n_k\}$ . The results of *K* times of inspection and evaluation obtained by the comprehensive weight-fuzzy theory are expressed as  $G = \{G_1, G_2, G_3, \ldots, G_n\}$  $G_k$ . In Eq. [\(21](#page-17-0)),  $\lambda$  and *T* are undetermined parameters of the degradation model. Using the results of the existing *N* evaluations, the generalized least squares method is used to find a set of optimal solutions,  $\lambda^*$  and  $T^*$ , and then, the deterioration model of the tunnels is determined. To solve *λ\** and  $T^*$ , constructing the following objective function  $F(\lambda, T)$ ,

$$
F(\lambda, T) = \sum_{j=1}^{k} [G(n_j) - G_j]^2
$$
 (22)

$$
G(n_j) = G_c \times \exp\left[ -\left(\frac{\lambda}{N_d}\right)^T \times (n_j^T + (n_j - 1)^T + \dots + 2^T) \right]
$$
\n(23)

The set of solutions when the objective function  $F(\lambda, T)$ obtains the minimum value is the optimal solution of  $\lambda^*$  and *T*\* .



<span id="page-17-1"></span>**Fig. 10** Deterioration model of the overall structure technical state of the MWP tunnel



$$
\frac{\partial F(\lambda, T)}{\partial T} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{k} \left[ G(n_j) - G_j \right] \times \frac{\partial G(n_j)}{\partial T} = 0 \tag{24}
$$

$$
\frac{\partial F(\lambda, T)}{\partial \lambda} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{k} \left[ G(n_j) - G_j \right] \times \frac{\partial G(n_j)}{\partial \lambda} = 0 \tag{25}
$$

Equations  $(24)$  $(24)$  and  $(25)$  $(25)$  $(25)$  are established at the same time, which can make the function  $F(\lambda, T)$  obtain the minimum value.

After decomposing the calculation, the binary linear equation can be obtained, and the unique solutions of *λ\**

<span id="page-18-0"></span>and  $T^*$  can be obtained by solving them simultaneously. Substituting the unique solutions of  $\lambda^*$  and  $T^*$  into Eq. [\(21](#page-17-0)), the deterioration model of the tunnel technical condition can be determined.

 $\overline{a}$ 

<span id="page-18-1"></span>
$$
G(n) = \begin{cases} G(1) = G_c \\ G(n-1) \times \exp\left[ -\left(\frac{\lambda^* \times n}{N_d}\right)^{T^*} \right] \end{cases}
$$
 (26)

Based on the above academic backgrounds, the Guizhou tunnel was built in 1995 and has a design life of 50 years. By 2017, only 6 times performance assessments



<span id="page-18-2"></span>**Fig. 11** Flowchart of tunnel lining reinforcement



were carried out. The age of the tunnel and the performance assessment results were [1a, 7a, 11a, 15a, 19a, 22a], [95, 85, 81, 75, 69, 57]. According to Eqs. ([21](#page-17-0))–[\(25](#page-18-1)), *λ*\* and *T*\* are 0.0023 and 0.5048, respectively. According to the detection score of 52.7, the initial performance score of the tunnel is 95, so that the degradation model of the tunnel in the natural condition is as follows:

$$
G(n) = \begin{cases} G(1) = 95 \\ G(n-1) \times \exp\left[-\left(\frac{\lambda^* \times n}{50}\right)^{T^*}\right] \end{cases}
$$

. According to the above equation, MATLAB calculation is performed, and the fnal performance deterioration function of the tunnel is  $G(n) = 9 - 50.926n - 0.032n^2$ ,  $R^2$  = 0.9635. And the deterioration curve of the tunnel performance with the previous 22 years is shown in Fig. [10.](#page-17-1) The tunnel management organization and technical personnel can efectively preventively maintain the tunnel according to the deterioration of the tunnel performance.

# **4.8 Reinforcement and Maintenance of MWP Tunnel**

According to the performance, class of the MWP tunnel is level III, and the measures for maintenance of the tunnel are as follows: carrying out grouting to fll the voids and hollow sections behind the tunnel lining, and applying the method of chiseling and burying pipes for the seepage area, and then adopting shotcrete concrete (or impermeable concrete) with rebar mesh hanging, and replacing the road surface, and reducing the road elevation by 15 cm.

# **4.8.1 Reinforcement and Maintenance Measures for the Lining and Surrounding Rock**

Grouting is used for the location of the void, and the rock drill is used to accurately drill the hole where the initial support exists and then install the grouting pipe. The grouting pipe needs to be equipped with a valve so that the second grouting can be performed in real time when the grouting is not dense. The operation process is shown in Fig. [11.](#page-18-2) In addition, the supporting parameters of reinforced mesh shotcrete was C25 shotcrete (thickness: 8 cm), and wet shotcrete technology was applied. Reinforced mesh specifcations were 6 mm diameter rebar, single-layer layout, and grid 10 cm $\times$  10 cm. Anchor rod was as follows: 22 mm diameter screw steel was used, and additional backing plate screw anchor was selected, and it's length 3 m and spacing  $200 \text{ cm} \times 200 \text{ cm}$ , plum blossom arrangement was designed, and connected with steel mesh. Reinforced mesh



anchoring bars were as follows: diameter was 12 mm, length was 20 cm, implanted with the existing lining length 15 cm, the exposed part is welded frmly to the rebar mesh, and the anchoring bar layout is 50 cm $\times$  50 cm, as shown in Fig. [11.](#page-18-2)

## **4.8.2 Maintenance Measures for Road Pavement**

Subgrade cavities and void sections are treated with grouting. As the tunnel pavement disease is more and more serious, the entire tunnel subgrade pavement was renovated and the asphalt layer was re-paved. At the same time, because the tunnel needs to be reinforced with steel–concrete combined lining, and the 25 cm curb in the original design has not been implemented in practice. To ensure the building boundary requirements, the original road marking will be reduced by 15 cm. A 100-m transition section is set at both ends of the tunnel to connect the original road to ensure driving safety and comfort, as shown in Fig. [12](#page-20-0).

## **4.8.3 Maintenance Measures for Drainage Ditch**

Weeds in the side drain and silt in the drainage side ditch are removed. The connection section outside the tunnel also considers the setting of the side ditch, which is gradually transitioned according to the reduced 15 cm elevation and the height of the side ditch, in order to follow the original side ditch. At the same time, due to the need to use W-shaped steel–concrete combined lining to strengthen the tunnel, the side drain cover also needs to be redesigned and manufactured, as shown in Fig. [12.](#page-20-0)

The overall layout of the MWP tunnel after reinforcement is shown in Fig. [13.](#page-21-0) It can be seen from Fig. [13](#page-21-0) that the leaking pores of the tunnel lining structure have been blocked, and the lining cracks have been repaired, and the tunnel doorway cracks have also been repaired. The MWP tunnel is now officially in operation.

# **5 Conclusions**

This study optimizes the tunnel performance assessment system for the random ambiguity of tunnel information, the diversity of performance indicators, and the complexity of the evaluation process. And the qualitative and quantitative evaluation indicators were combined, uncertain AHP is used to determine subjective weights, entropy theory is used to calculate objective weights, and game theory is applied to determine the comprehensive weights, and combined with the fuzzy theory to calculate the membership of each level of the index, the performance of each structural component of the tunnel is calculated layer by layer, so that the combined weight-fuzzy theory evaluation model is constructed. The conclusions of this study are as follows,



(1) Sprayed concrete treated with steel mesh



(2) Sprayed concrete protection with barbed wires

<span id="page-20-0"></span>**Fig. 12** Reinforcement layout drawing of tunnel lining structure (cm). **a** Sprayed concrete treated with steel mesh. **b** Sprayed concrete protection with barbed wires





<span id="page-21-0"></span>**Fig. 13** Overall layout drawing of the MWP tunnel after reinforcement



- (1) The evaluation model based on the combined weightfuzzy theory can analyze the weight change of each index and combine the feld test data and experts' experience in detail, which can efectively and accurately evaluate the performance of the tunnels.
- (2) Based on the on-site inspection results, it is possible to efectively establish the deterioration model of the performance of the tunnel and the deterioration function of operation ages and performance, thereby avoiding the mutual infuence of the subjectiveness with the code evaluation process and the evaluation indicators complexity. By comparing the performance and safety assessment of a tunnel in Guizhou, China, the evaluation results of the four assessment methods are consistent. Most importantly, the method in this study considers the problems of random ambiguity of evaluation information, rough evaluation steps, and strong subjectivity.
- (3) The tunnel degradation prediction model is very important for predicting the safety of the tunnels. Based on the tunnel performance evaluation level and deterioration model, this study proposes the maintenance and reinforcement measures for the MWP tunnel. First, the tunnel should be repaired by low-pressure injection method. In addition, for the severely diseased areas such as wide cracks, open, dense distribution, unfavorable combination, or staggered longitudinal rings, carbon fber should be pasted on the surface for reinforcement. All cracks with a width  $\geq 0.5$  mm are first repaired by injection, and a high-strength repair glue is injected into the crack cavity with a certain pressure

to reduce the viscosity. All leaking water cracks are slotted, the leaking water channels around the cracks are dredged, and the water in and around the tank is introduced into the drain pipe buried in the tank by the method of "water cut and water absorption."

- (4) Drawing on the concrete structure deterioration model, based on the tunnel inspection results, the tunnel deterioration model is determined, and the application evaluation of the performance of a tunnel in Guizhou is carried out. According to the tunnel's performance and safety condition deterioration function, the tunnel management agency and relevant technical personnel can make timely maintenance, repair, and reinforcement decisions for the tunnel.
- (5) In general, the analysis of this evaluation method provides new ideas for tunnel performance evaluation. This method not only takes into account the professional level of the evaluators, but also helps local, national, private, and urban planners make decisions. Expert opinion, as an indispensable tool in the decision-making of many tunnel performance indicators, can play a role, but it often carries certain subjective deviations. This research shows that fuzzy models can systematically and mathematically simulate human reasoning and allow expert knowledge to be incorporated into the evaluation process. To achieve this, the evaluation information was implicitly obtained through questionnaires, expert meetings, and other means.
- (6) The tunnel evaluation method introduced for tunnel project planners and stakeholders helps to prioritize diferent tunnel structural indicators that afect tunnel



performance when designing the tunnels. Although this research is carried out on the scale of important transportation hubs such as highway tunnels, it may have important uses on a smaller level, such as ordinary road tunnels and mountain tunnels.

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