



# THE REASONS BEHIND TEA'S POPULARITY USING TRIANGULAR FUZZY COGNITIVE MAP

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## ABSTRACT

Tea is one of the most widely consumed beverages globally, with a rich cultural and historical significance. Despite its popularity, the motivations behind tea consumption are complex and multifaceted, involving a range of Psychological, Social and Cultural factors. This study employs a novel approach, utilizing triangular fuzzy cognitive maps (TFCMs), to model and analyse the relationships between various factors influencing tea consumption. TFCMs are a type of fuzzy cognitive map that can effectively capture the uncertainty and ambiguity inherent in human decision-making processes. Our results reveal a complex network of causal relationships between factors such as stress relief, social bonding flavour preference, and health benefits, which collectively contribute to an individual's decision to drink tea. The TFCM model is validated through a survey of tea consumers, demonstrating its ability to accurately predict tea consumption behaviour. This study provides new insights into the cognitive and emotional processes underlying tea consumption, with implications for the tea industry, public health initiatives, and marketing strategies. The use of TFCMs in this context highlights the potential of this methodology for modelling complex human behaviours and decision-making process in various domains.

**KEYWORDS:** Triangular Fuzzy Cognitive Maps, Tea Consumption, Decision – Making.

This study aims to explore “the reasons behind tea's popularity”.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tea is one of the most widely consumed beverages globally with a rich history and cultural significance that spans thousands of years. Despite its popularity, the reasons behind tea's enduring appeal are complex and multifaceted, involving a range of Psychological, Social and Cultural factors. Understanding the motivations and behaviours of tea consumers is essential for the tea industry, Policymakers, and public health professionals seeking to promote healthy beverage choices and support sustainable agriculture.

Traditional methods for analyzing consumer behaviour, such as surveys and focus groups, often rely on simplistic and deterministic models that fail to capture the complexity and uncertainty of human decision-making. In contrast, fuzzy cognitive maps (FCMs) offer a powerful tool for modelling complex systems and capturing the nuances of human behaviour. Triangular fuzzy cognitive maps (TFCMs), in particular, have been shown to be effective in modelling complex systems with uncertain and ambiguous relationships.

This study aims to investigate the reasons behind tea's popularity using a TFCM approach. By constructing a TFCM model of tea consumption, we seek to identify the key factors that contribute to tea's enduring appeal and understand the complex relationships between these factors. The TFCM model will be developed based on a comprehensive review of the literature and expand knowledge, and will be validated using a survey of tea consumers.

The use of TFCMs in this study offers several advantages over traditional methods, including the ability to capture non-linear relationships, handle uncertainty and ambiguity, and provide a nuanced understanding of complex systems. The findings of this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the reasons behind tea's popularity and provide insights for the tea industry, policymakers, and public health professionals seeking to promote healthy beverage choices and support sustainable agriculture.

## 2. TRIANGULAR FUZZY COGNITIVE MAPS (TRFCM)

Triangular Fuzzy cognitive Maps (TrFCM) are more applicable when the data in the first place is an unsupervised one. The TrFCM works on the opinion of three experts. TrFCM models the world as a collection of classes and causal relations between classes. It is a



different process when the compare to FCM. Usually the FCM gives only the ON-OFF position. But this Triangular Fuzzy Cognitive Maps is more precise and it gives the ranking for the causes of the problem by using the weightage of the attribute.

### 3. BASIC NOTIONS OF TrFCMs

**Definition 3.1.** When the nodes of the TrFCM are fuzzy sets then they are called as fuzzy triangular nodes.

**Definition 3.2.** Triangular FCM with edge weights or causalities from the set  $\{-1, 0, 1\}$  are called simple Triangular FCMs.

**Definition 3.3.** A Triangular Fuzzy Cognitive maps (TrFCM) is a directed graph with concepts like policies, events etc, as nodes and causalities as edges, It represents causal relationships between concepts.

**Definition 3.4.** When there is a feedback in an TrFCM, i.e., when the causal relation flow through a cycle in a revolutionary way, the TrFCM is called a dynamical system.

**Definition 3.5.** If the equilibrium state of a dynamical system is a unique state vector, then it is called a fixed point. Consider a TrFCM with the TrFCM with TrC1, TrC2,.....,TrCn nodes.

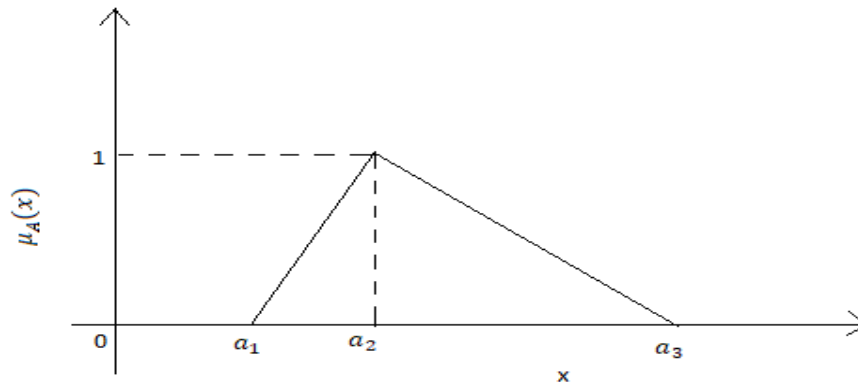
**Definition 3.6.** If the TrFCM settles down with a state vector repeating in the form  $A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \rightarrow \dots A_i \rightarrow A_1$  then this equilibrium is called a limit cycle.

#### Linguistic values of Triangular Fuzzy Number

**Table 1: The linguistic values**

Linguistic values	Weightage of TrFCM	Average of TrFCM
Very low	(0, 0, 0.25)	0.08
Low	(0, 0.25, 0.50)	0.25
Medium	(0.25, 0.50, 0.75)	0.50
High	(0.50, 0.75, 1)	0.75
Very High	(0.75, 1, 1)	0.92

### 4. MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION



**Figure1.1: Triangular Fuzzy number**

#### 4.1 Triangular Fuzzy number

A fuzzy number represented with three points as follows:  $\tilde{A} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$ . This representation is interpreted as membership functions and holds the following conditions

- (i)  $a_1$  to  $a_2$  is increasing function
- (ii)  $a_2$  to  $a_3$  is decreasing function
- (iii)  $a_1 \leq a_2 \leq a_3$ .



The membership function defined as

$$\mu_A(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } x < a_1 \\ \frac{x-a_1}{a_2-a_1}, & \text{for } a_1 \leq x \leq a_2 \\ \frac{a_3-x}{a_3-a_2}, & \text{for } a_2 \leq x \leq a_3 \\ 0, & \text{for } x > a_3 \end{cases}$$

#### 4.2 Arithmetic Operation of Triangular Fuzzy Number

For arbitrary triangular fuzzy numbers  $\tilde{A} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  and  $\tilde{B} = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$  and  $*$  = {+, -, ×, ÷} the arithmetic operations on the triangular fuzzy numbers are defined by  $\tilde{A} * \tilde{B} = \{a_i * b_j / a_i \in \tilde{A}, b_j \in \tilde{B}\}$ . In particular, for any two triangular fuzzy numbers  $\tilde{A} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  and  $\tilde{B} = (b_1, b_2, b_3)$ , we define

- (i) Addition (+) :  $\tilde{A} + \tilde{B} = (a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, a_3 + b_3)$
- (ii) Subtraction(-) :  $\tilde{A} - \tilde{B} = (a_1 - b_1, a_2 - b_2, a_3 - b_3)$
- (iii) Multiplication(⊗) :  $k \otimes A = (ka_1, ka_2, ka_3), k \in \mathbb{R}, k \geq 0$   
 $A \otimes b = (a_1b, a_2b, a_3b), a_1 \geq 0, a_2 \geq 0, a_3 \geq 0$
- (iv) Division (⊘) :  $A^{(-1)} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)^{-1} \cong (\frac{1}{c_1}, \frac{1}{b_1}, \frac{1}{a_1})$ ,  
 $a_1 > 0, a_2 > 0, a_3 > 0$   
 $A \oslash B \cong (\frac{a_1}{c_2}, \frac{b_1}{b_2}, \frac{c_1}{a_2}), a_1 \geq 0, a_2 \geq 0$

### 5. A RANKING ANALYSIS OF REASON FOR DRINKING TEA USING TrFCM METHOD

A field study was conducted to find out “The reasons behind Tea’s popularity using Triangular Fuzzy Cognitive Map”. The following data are taken from individuals of different age peoples.

#### 5.1 The following 10 concepts are taken based on survey and interview

- $TrC_1$  – Tea contains antioxidants
- $TrC_2$  – Stressless
- $TrC_3$  – Boosts energy
- $TrC_4$  – Reduce Headache
- $TrC_5$  – Weight loss
- $TrC_6$  – Tea may reduce the risk of cancer
- $TrC_7$  – Herbal tea may help the digestive system
- $TrC_8$  – Boosts brain health
- $TrC_9$  – Skin saver
- $TrC_{10}$  – Tradition and Habit

#### 5.2 Algorithm for Triangular Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (TRFCM) Method

**Step 1:** Prepare a n x n connection matrix.

**Step 2:** Prepare the maximum weightage of the matrix using  $T_r(M)$

**Step 3:** Find the limit cycle.

Let  $T_rC_1, T_rC_2 \dots T_rC_{10}$  be the nodes of a TrFCM. Here  $T_r(M)$  be an adjacency matrix.

Consider the instantaneous state vector as  $A_1 = (1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$  for  $A_1 T_r(M)$  is switched ON.

$A_1 T_r(M) = a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  will get a Triangular vector.

The threshold operation is denoted by  $(\rightarrow) A_1 T_r(M)$  Max (weight).

Suppose  $A_1 T_r(M)$  Max (weight) =  $A_2$  then consider  $A_2 T_r(M)$  weight is the ON attribute Triangular vector.

Find  $A_2 T_r(M)$ .

This procedure is repeated till we get a limit cycle or a fixed point.



**5.3 Methods of Determination of the Hidden Pattern of Triangular Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (TRFCM):**

**Step 1:** In this step prepare a fuzzy matrix is called the Connection matrix by using linguistic variables “ Very Low” (VL), “ Low” (L), “ Medium” (M), “Very High” (VH) and “High” (H) respectively.

**Matrix 1.1: Connection matrix of Tr (M)**

0	M	H	VH	VL	M	H	L	M	H
M	0	H	VH	L	VL	M	H	L	M
L	H	0	VH	L	L	M	VL	VL	L
VL	VH	H	0	M	L	H	H	L	H
L	VH	M	H	0	VL	H	M	L	L
M	H	H	VH	M	0	H	M	VL	L
M	H	H	VH	L	M	0	H	VL	L
L	VH	L	H	VL	L	L	0	M	L
L	H	M	VH	VL	VL	H	M	0	L
M	VH	H	H	VL	L	H	M	VL	0

**Step 2:** Prepare the maximum weightage of the matrix using the Linguistic table.

**Matrix 1.2: Average Matrix Tr(M)**

0	(0.50)	(0.75)	(0.92)	(0.08)	(0.50)	(0.75)	(0.25)	(0.50)	(0.75)
(0.50)	0	(0.75)	(0.92)	(0.25)	(0.08)	(0.50)	(0.75)	(0.25)	(0.50)
(0.25)	(0.75)	0	(0.92)	(0.25)	(0.25)	(0.50)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.25)
(0.08)	(0.92)	(0.75)	0	(0.50)	(0.25)	(0.75)	(0.75)	(0.25)	(0.75)
(0.25)	(0.92)	(0.50)	(0.75)	0	(0.08)	(0.75)	(0.50)	(0.25)	(0.25)
(0.50)	(0.75)	(0.75)	(0.92)	(0.50)	0	(0.75)	(0.50)	(0.08)	(0.25)
(0.50)	(0.75)	(0.75)	(0.92)	(0.25)	(0.50)	0	(0.75)	(0.08)	(0.25)
(0.25)	(0.92)	(0.25)	(0.75)	(0.08)	(0.25)	(0.25)	0	(0.50)	(0.25)
(0.25)	(0.75)	(0.50)	(0.92)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.75)	(0.50)	0	(0.25)
(0.50)	(0.92)	(0.75)	(0.75)	(0.08)	(0.25)	(0.75)	(0.50)	(0.08)	0

**Step 3:** Find the limit cycle.

**Case (i): Let the tea contain antioxidants is ON state.**

(i.e.) TrC<sub>1</sub> is ON state and other nodes in OFF state.

Let  $A^{(1)} = (1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0)$

$A^{(1)}Tr(M)_{weight} = \{0, (0.25, 0.50, 0.75), (0.50, 0.75, 1), (0.75, 1, 1), (0, 0, 0.25), (0.25, 0.50, 0.75), (0.50, 0.75, 1), (0.25, 0.50), (0.25, 0.50, 0.75), (0.50, 0.75, 1)\}$



$$A^{(1)}Tr(M)_{average} = (0, 0.50, 0.75, 0.92, 0.08, 0.50, 0.75, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75)$$

$$A^{(1)}Tr(M)_{max.weight} = (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) = A_1^{(1)}$$

$$A_1^{(1)}Tr(M)_{weight} = \{(0, 0, 0.25), (0.75, 1, 1), (0.50, 0.75, 1), 0, (0.25, 0.50, 0.75), (0, 0.25, 0.50), (0.50, 0.75, 1), (0.50, 0.75, 1), (0, 0.25, 0.50), (0.50, 0.75, 1)\}$$

$$A_1^{(1)}Tr(M)_{average} = (0.08, 0.92, 0.75, 0, 0.50, 0.25, 0.75, 0.75, 0.25, 0.75)$$

$$A_1^{(1)}Tr(M)_{max.weight} = (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) = A_2^{(1)}$$

$$A_2^{(1)}Tr(M)_{weight} = \{(0.25, 0.50, 0.75), 0, (0.50, 0.75, 1), (0.75, 1, 1), (0, 0.25, 0.50), (0, 0, 0.25), (0.25, 0.50, 0.75), (0.50, 0.75, 1), (0, 0.25, 0.50), (0.25, 0.50, 0.75)\}$$

$$A_2^{(1)}Tr(M)_{average} = (0.50, 0, 0.75, 0.92, 0.25, 0.08, 0.50, 0.75, 0.25, 0.50)$$

$$A_2^{(1)}Tr(M)_{max.weight} = (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) = A_3^{(1)}$$

$$\therefore A_3^{(1)} = A_1^{(1)}$$

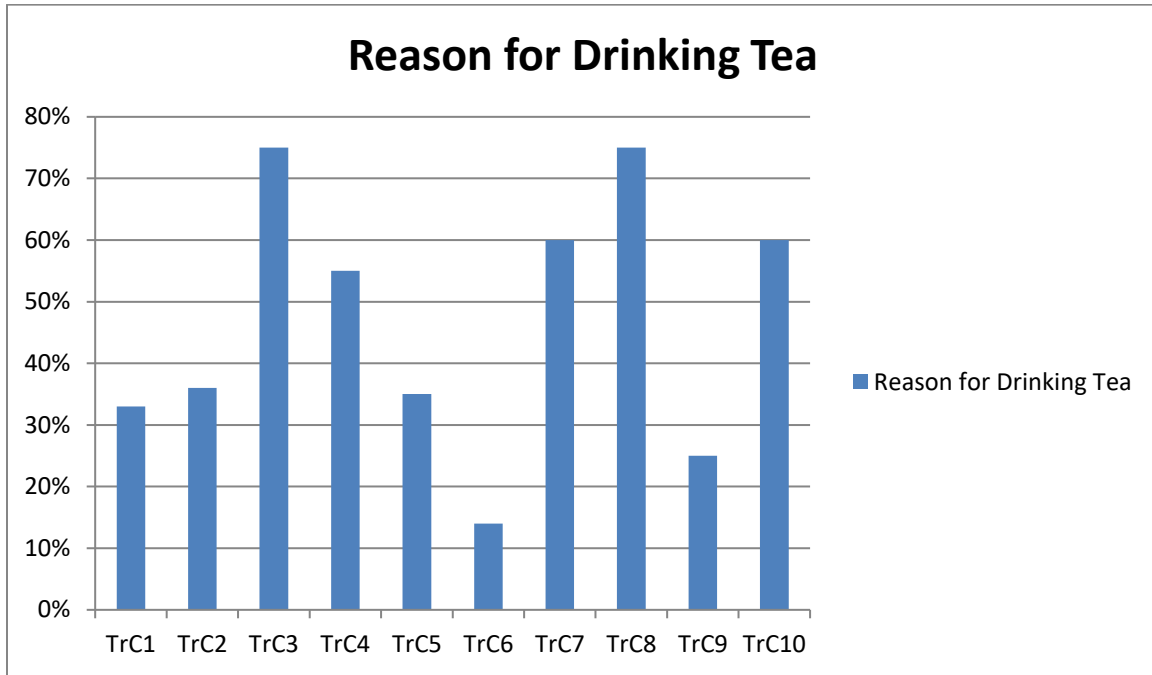
Do the process for all remaining attributes.

**Table 1.2: Total Weightage of the attributes**

ON state	$T_rC_1$	$T_rC_2$	$T_rC_3$	$T_rC_4$	$T_rC_5$	$T_rC_6$	$T_rC_7$	$T_rC_8$	$T_rC_9$	$T_rC_{10}$
1	0.50	0	0.75	0.92	0.25	0.08	0.50	0.75	0.25	0.50
2	0.50	0	0.75	0.92	0.25	0.08	0.50	0.75	0.25	0.50
3	0.50	0	0.75	0.92	0.25	0.08	0.50	0.75	0.25	0.50
4	0.08	0.92	0.75	0	0.50	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.75
5	0.08	0.92	0.75	0	0.50	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.75
6	0.50	0	0.75	0.92	0.25	0.08	0.50	0.75	0.25	0.50
7	0.50	0	0.75	0.92	0.25	0.08	0.50	0.75	0.25	0.50
8	0.08	0.92	0.75	0	0.50	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.75
9	0.50	0	0.75	0.92	0.25	0.08	0.50	0.75	0.25	0.50
10	0.08	0.92	0.75	0	0.50	0.25	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.75
Weight	3.32	3.68	7.5	5.52	3.5	1.48	6	7.5	2.5	6
Average	0.33	0.36	0.75	0.55	0.35	0.14	0.6	0.75	0.25	0.6
Rank	VI	IV	I	III	V	VIII	II	I	VII	II



## 5.4 RESULTS



**Figure1.2: Column-Chart for Ranking of TrFCM**

From the above table, the ranking for the major Reason for Drinking Tea as follows:

RANK I – Boosts energy (75%) and Boosts brain health (75%), RANK III – Herbal tea may help the digestive system (60%) and Tradition and habit (60%), RANK V – Reduce headache (55%), RANK VI – Streesless (36%), RANK VII – Weightloss (35%), RANK VIII – Tea contains antioxidants (33%), RANK IX – Skin saver (25%), RANK X – Tea may reduce the risk of cancer (14%).

## 6. CONCLUSION

The popularity of tea is a reflection of its numerous benefits, with boosting energy and brain health being two of the most significant reasons. As the world continues to evolve and become increasingly complex, the simple and natural benefits of tea make it an essential part of a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

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