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## **Assessment of Selection of Suitable for Spar of the Human-Powered Aircraft Using COPRAS Method**

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**Abstract.** Generally speaking, while making decisions, it is more customary to rely on intuition rather than any form of numerical technique. In areas where there are many options and many factors impacting the choice, such as the selection of materials, a more precise approach would be necessary. It is necessary to understand the material's characteristics, price, design principles, and interactions while making mechanical parts. Material science has not only produced traditional materials such as metals, ceramics, and polymers but has also given rise to various novel materials like composites, smart (intelligent) materials, and functionally graded materials.

A designer now has access to a wider range of materials than ever before thanks to the growth of knowledge. In these instances, a strategic choice must be made in order to satisfy all the functional specifications of the product while upholding client requests and preferences. The performance criteria of the component must be specified, along with a general description of the properties and processing needs of the primary material, as the first stage of the material selection process. Consequently, certain material types might be ruled out, while others are chosen as potential options for the component. The relevant material properties are subsequently listed and assigned a priority ranking. The best material can then be chosen using optimization techniques. The result of the COPRAS analysis is followed by Al 2024-T4 is the first rank, Carbon 63% Epoxy is last rank. Based on the analysis, the materials ranked highest for usage are as follows: Al 2024-T4 aluminum alloy, E-glass 73%-Epoxy, E-glass 56% Epoxy, and E-glass 65% Polyester. These selections have been carefully assessed and determined to be the most suitable options, taking into account their specific properties and how well they align with the intended application. The Al 2024-T4 aluminum alloy exhibits excellent strength-to-weight ratio and corrosion resistance, making it an ideal choice for structural components. E-glass 73%-Epoxy, E-glass 56% Epoxy, and E-glass 65% Polyester offer a combination of strength, flexibility, and durability, catering to various requirements within the application. The meticulous evaluation of these materials ensures that the chosen ones will deliver optimal performance and reliability in the designated context.

**Keywords:** Aircraft structures, neural network, MCDM.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

It is common knowledge that materials are crucial to engineering designs. Designers must always choose materials with specified attributes while satisfying all current restrictions. In many academic disciplines, material selection is a crucial task [1]. The process of choosing materials is challenging since there are many materials available and many of them have complicated interactions with different selection criteria. The process of choosing materials is frequently challenging as well as the intricate interactions between the various selection criteria. Additionally, it has become more difficult than before because of the wide variety of materials available, each of which has unique properties, uses, advantages, and restrictions [2,3]. Different methods for selecting materials have been proposed and used by various researchers, mostly based on the quantitative and qualitative qualities of materials. The fuzzy logic technique or neural network approach have been utilized to deal with qualitative material attributes [4]. The Daedalus from Massachusetts Institute of Technology is one of the most advanced HPAs (MIT). It was constructed in an effort to emulate the legendary flight of its namesake, who is claimed to have made his own wings out of feathers and wax [5]. In many industrial items, shape differences caused by flaws in the production process or damage are frequently seen. Strong design optimization is noteworthy. A good way to avoid the difference in performance. The strategy is because of the frequent changes in performance. Aggravating or impairing abilities does not have Strong Aerodynamic. The use of the design is widespread. however, Movement such as Mach number and angle of attack. They often account for changes in levels take, and they produce Defects, variations and tolerances are only occasionally taken into account [6]. Any aircraft's main wing component, the spar, serves as a beam. This component spans the whole span of the aircraft's wing

and can withstand all direct and indirect aerodynamic and static loads [7]. Because the permissible weight for an aircraft's construction is so limited, material choice and design are particularly crucial [8]. One of the more crucial glasses from a technological standpoint is definitely s-glass. Its strength, stiffness, and softening point are the highest of any commercially available reinforcement glass fiber. When compared to alternative reinforcements, the elastic moduli of e-glass fibers are comparably low. Additionally, E-glass fibers can creep and burst under stress [9,10]. The standard unit of measurement for tensile strength is the force in psi (pounds per square inch) or MPa (megapascals) required to pull a specimen until the material fails. A substance's elastic modulus, or Young's modulus, can be thought of as its resistance to elastic deformation; the stiffer a substance is, the greater its elastic modulus. [11]. The ability of a solid substance to resist "creep," which refers to the tendency of a material to slowly deform over time when exposed to high amounts of stress, is referred to as creep resistance [12].

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

COPRAS (COMplex PROportional ASsessment), selects the workable options by calculating a solution. Many scholars use this method to address decision-making challenges [13]. In 1994, the MCDM approach COPRAS was first introduced. This technique assumes that the set of criteria that adequately specifies the alternatives, as well as their weights and values, determine the relevance and usefulness level of the studied versions in a direct and proportionate manner [14].

**Step 1:** A decision matrix, denoted as X, is constructed to illustrate how different options perform concerning specific criteria.

$$x_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1n} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{m1} & x_{m2} & \dots & x_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

**Step 2:** The criteria's weights are given as

$$w_j = [w_1 \dots w_n], \quad (2)$$

$$\text{where, } \sum_{j=1}^n (w_1 \dots w_n) = 1$$

**Step 3:** The matrix  $x_{ij}$ 's normalized values are computed as

$$n_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{\sum_{j=1}^n x_{ij}} \quad (3)$$

**Step 4:** Weighted normalized matrix  $N_{ij}$  is calculated by following formula

$$N_{ij} = w_j \times n_{ij} \quad (4)$$

**Step 5:** sum of benefit criteria and the sum of cost criterion are calculated by following equations 5 and 6 respectively.

$$B_i = \sum_{j=1}^k N_{ij} \quad (5)$$

$$C_i = \sum_{j=k+1}^m N_{ij} \quad (6)$$

**Step 6:** Relative significance  $Q_i$  of each alternative is calculated using equation 5 and 6.

$$Q_i = B_i + \frac{\min(C_i) \times \sum_{i=1}^n C_i}{C_i \times \sum_{i=1}^n C_i} \quad (7)$$

**Step 7:** Next  $U_i$  is calculated.

$$U_i = \frac{Q_i}{\max(Q_i)} \times 100\% \quad (8)$$

The goal in developing a spar for a human-powered aircraft is straightforward: The spar needs to be as light as it can be while maintaining adequate stiffness to maintain the wings' aerodynamic efficiency. Other goals include cost, cost-effectiveness, and strength. Balsa, plywood, and aluminium were used to construct the first single-seat aircraft, which was then coated in nylon. The pilot pedalled bicycle pedals attached to the front of the aircraft to power it, giving it forward motion on the ground and powering the enormous propeller [15]. Tensile strength, often referred to as ultimate tensile strength, is a measure of the force required to pull a specimen until the material reaches the point of failure or rupture [16]. It is commonly used to represent the maximum stress that a material can withstand under tensile loading before it breaks or experiences permanent deformation. The stiffness of an elastic material measured in GPa. It's a term used to describe the behaviour of elastic materials such as wires, rods, and columns when they're compressed or tensed. [17]. The compressive strength (measured in MPa) of a plastic specimen refers to the highest compressive stress it can endure before rupturing or deforming by a specified amount, such as 1% or 10% deformation. This property indicates the material's ability to withstand compressive forces without experiencing failure or permanent deformation. Compressive strength has a specific value when failure by shattering fracture occurs, but it is arbitrary for polymers that do not fail by shattering fracture and is determined by the degree of distortion [18]. For structural materials with possible high temperature uses, such as in aircraft gas turbines and spacecraft airframes, creep resistance is a crucial quality to consider. According to a review of the literature, adding ceramic reinforcements to the matrix alters both the creep resistance and the creep mechanism, which in turn affects the creep behaviour in a complex way [19]. Material density (Mg/m<sup>3</sup>) is a key factor in determining the structural effectiveness of aero planes and spacecraft, along with the elastic modulus. The aerospace industries are using titanium alloys increasingly frequently as a result of their low density and strong strengths, particularly at high temperatures. moderate cost, great corrosion resistance, and high ductility are just a few of the characteristics that make polymers suitable for use as aviation materials (except thermosets) [20].

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1. Performance rating matrix

	Tensile strength (Mpa)	Young's modulus (GPa)	Compressive strength (Mpa)	Creep resistance	Density (Mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Price (₹/kg)
Al 7075-T6	572	71.7	572	4	3	600
Al 2024-T4	423.84	72.486	423.84	4	2.6	291.92
Ti-6Al-4V	950	113.8	950	5	4.43	2000
Ti-2Fe-3Al	1310	120	1310	5	4.5	3000
S-glass70%-Epoxy cont. fibers	2098.57	62.967	2098.57	3	2.11	990
S-glass70%-Epoxy fabric	678.68	21.896	678.68	3	2.11	880
Carbon 63%-Epoxy	1722.85	157.685	1722.85	3	1.61	4424
Aramid 62%-Epoxy	1308.67	82.689	1308.67	3	1.38	2400
E-glass73%-Epoxy	1641.58	55.967	1641.58	3	2.17	412
E-glass56%-Epoxy	1026.98	42.786	1026.98	2	1.97	430
E-glass65%-Polyester	338.97	19.567	338.97	2	1.8	420

Table 1 presents the dataset of performance ratings for materials utilized in the Spar of Human Powered Aircraft. The alternatives considered in this analysis include Al 7075-T6, Al 2024-T4, Ti-6Al-4V, Ti-2Fe-3Al, S-glass 70% Epoxy continuous fibers, S-glass 70% Epoxy fabric, Carbon 63% Epoxy, Aramid 62% Epoxy, E-glass 73%-Epoxy, E-glass 56% Epoxy, and E-glass 65% Polyester. The evaluation parameters employed in this study encompass Tensile strength (Mpa), Young's modulus (GPa), Compressive strength (Mpa), Creep resistance, Density (Mg/m<sup>3</sup>), and Price (₹/kg).



FIGURE 1. Performance ratings

The performance ratings of the materials used are represented graphically in this figure 1.

TABLE 2. Normalized matrix

Al 7075-T6	0.0474	0.005939	0.04738	0.00033	0.00025	0.0497
Al 2024-T4	0.0351	0.006004	0.03511	0.00033	0.00022	0.0242
Ti-6Al-4V	0.0787	0.009427	0.07869	0.00041	0.00037	0.1657
Ti-2Fe-3Al	0.1085	0.00994	0.10851	0.00041	0.00037	0.2485
S-glass70%-Epoxy cont. fibers	0.1738	0.005216	0.17384	0.00025	0.00017	0.082
S-glass70%-Epoxy fabric	0.0562	0.001814	0.05622	0.00025	0.00017	0.0729
Carbon 63%-Epoxy	0.1427	0.013062	0.14271	0.00025	0.00013	0.3665
Aramid 62%-Epoxy	0.1084	0.00685	0.1084	0.00025	0.00011	0.1988
E-glass73%-Epoxy	0.136	0.004636	0.13598	0.00025	0.00018	0.0341
E-glass56%-Epoxy	0.0851	0.003544	0.08507	0.00017	0.00016	0.0356
E-glass65%-Polyester	0.0281	0.001621	0.02808	0.00017	0.00015	0.0348

Table 2 above illustrates the normalized matrix of Performance Ratings of Materials Used in the Spar of Human Powered Aircraft. Equation 3 was employed to derive this matrix.

TABLE 3. Weight Distribution

Al 7075-T6	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
Al 2024-T4	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
Ti-6Al-4V	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
Ti-2Fe-3Al	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
S-glass70%-Epoxy cont. fibers	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
S-glass70%-Epoxy fabric	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
Carbon 63%-Epoxy	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
Aramid 62%-Epoxy	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
E-glass73%-Epoxy	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
E-glass56%-Epoxy	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16
E-glass65%-Polyester	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16

The preferred weight for the evaluation parameters is shown in Table 3. In this case, 0.17 kg and 0.16 is used.

**TABLE 4.** Weighted normalized decision matrix

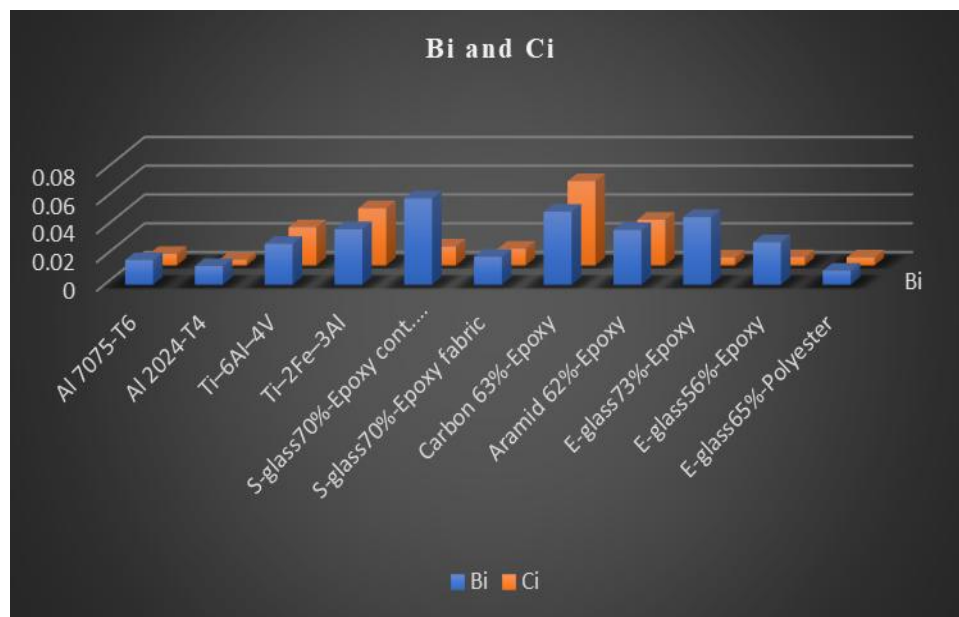
Al 7075-T6	0.008	0.00101	0.0081	5.63E-05	3.9761E-05	0.007952194
Al 2024-T4	0.006	0.00102	0.006	5.63E-05	3.446E-05	0.003869007
Ti-6Al-4V	0.013	0.0016	0.0134	7.04E-05	5.8714E-05	0.026507314
Ti-2Fe-3Al	0.018	0.00169	0.0184	7.04E-05	5.9641E-05	0.03976097
S-glass70%-Epoxy cont. fibers	0.03	0.00089	0.0296	4.22E-05	2.7965E-05	0.01312112
S-glass70%-Epoxy fabric	0.01	0.00031	0.0096	4.22E-05	2.7965E-05	0.011663218
Carbon 63%-Epoxy	0.024	0.00222	0.0243	4.22E-05	2.1338E-05	0.058634178
Aramid 62%-Epoxy	0.018	0.00116	0.0184	4.22E-05	1.829E-05	0.031808776
E-glass73%-Epoxy	0.023	0.00079	0.0231	4.22E-05	2.876E-05	0.005460507
E-glass56%-Epoxy	0.014	0.0006	0.0145	2.82E-05	2.611E-05	0.005699072
E-glass65%-Polyester	0.005	0.00028	0.0048	2.82E-05	2.3857E-05	0.005566536

The Performance Ratings of Materials Used in Spar of Human Powered Aircraft are shown in Table 4 as a normalized matrix. Equation 4 was used to calculate this matrix, which was produced by multiplying tables 2 and 3.

**TABLE 5.** Sum of benefit criteria and the sum of cost criterion

	Bi	Ci
Al 7075-T6	0.017176	0.007991955
Al 2024-T4	0.013014	0.003903467
Ti-6Al-4V	0.028429	0.026566027
Ti-2Fe-3Al	0.038655	0.039820612
S-glass70%-Epoxy cont. fibers	0.060033	0.013149085
S-glass70%-Epoxy fabric	0.019465	0.011691183
Carbon 63%-Epoxy	0.050785	0.058655516
Aramid 62%-Epoxy	0.038064	0.031827066
E-glass73%-Epoxy	0.047064	0.005489267
E-glass56%-Epoxy	0.029555	0.005725182
E-glass65%-Polyester	0.00985	0.005590392

Table 5 displays the total cost and total benefit criteria that were determined using equations 5 and 6.

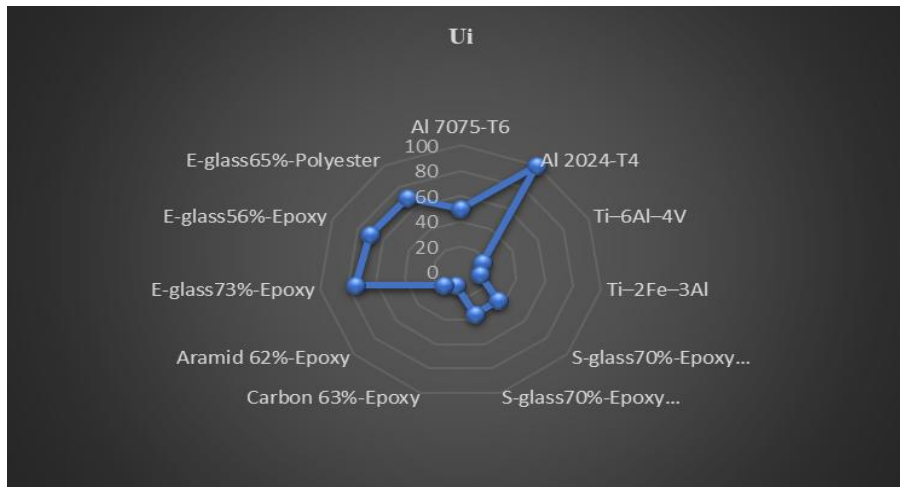
**FIGURE 2.** Bi and Ci

Equations 5 and 6 were used to calculate the total beneficial criteria and total cost criterion shown in Figure 2.

**TABLE 6.** Relative significance and Utility degree

	Qi	Ui
Al 7075-T6	0.5056	49.9105
Al 2024-T4	1.01301	100
Ti-6Al-4V	0.17536	17.31104
Ti-2Fe-3Al	0.13668	13.49255
S-glass70%-Epoxy cont. fibers	0.3569	35.23104
S-glass70%-Epoxy fabric	0.35335	34.88068
Carbon 63%-Epoxy	0.11733	11.58268
Aramid 62%-Epoxy	0.16071	15.86456
E-glass73%-Epoxy	0.75817	74.84326
E-glass56%-Epoxy	0.71136	70.22224
E-glass65%-Polyester	0.7081	69.89992

In Table 6, the utility degree values for each material have been calculated using equations 7 and 8, providing insights into their relative performance and suitability for the Spar of Human Powered Aircraft. Among the materials evaluated, Al 2024-T4 stands out with a perfect utility degree of 100, indicating its exceptional performance across the considered criteria. E-glass 73%-Epoxy follows closely behind, boasting a high utility degree of 74.84326, demonstrating its strong suitability for the application. E-glass 56% Epoxy and E-glass 65% Polyester also display favorable utility degree values of 70.22224 and 69.89992, respectively, positioning them as promising choices. On the other hand, Carbon 63% Epoxy exhibits a relatively lower utility degree of 11.58268, suggesting some limitations in its performance concerning the evaluation parameters. The utility degree analysis aids in identifying the most advantageous materials, assisting in the informed selection of materials for the optimal design and construction of the Spar in Human Powered Aircraft.

**FIGURE 3.** Utility Degree

The graphical representation in Figure 3 allows for a visual comparison of the materials' utility degrees, clearly indicating the varying degrees of suitability and performance. Al 2024-T4 is depicted as the most suitable material with a utility degree of 100, while Carbon 63% Epoxy shows the lowest utility degree of 11.58268, signifying its relatively weaker performance compared to other materials. This graphical analysis aids in better understanding and decision-making regarding the material selection process for the Spar in Human Powered Aircraft.

**TABLE 7.** Rank

	Rank
Al 7075-T6	5
Al 2024-T4	1
Ti-6Al-4V	8
Ti-2Fe-3Al	10
S-glass70%-Epoxy cont. fibers	6
S-glass70%-Epoxy fabric	7
Carbon 63%-Epoxy	11
Aramid 62%-Epoxy	9
E-glass73%-Epoxy	2
E-glass56%-Epoxy	3
E-glass65%-Polyester	4

Table 7 presents a comprehensive ranking of alternative materials, such as Al 7075-T6, Al 2024-T4, Ti-6Al-4V, Ti-2Fe-3Al, S-glass 70% Epoxy continuous fibers, S-glass 70% Epoxy fabric, Carbon 63% Epoxy, Aramid 62% Epoxy, E-



glass73%-Epoxy, E-glass 56% Epoxy, and E-glass 65% Polyester, based on their respective utility degree values derived from the COPRAS method (as seen in Table 6). Through this evaluation, a clear order of preference has emerged, aiding in the decision-making process for selecting the most suitable material for the Spar of Human Powered Aircraft. Al 2024-T4 claims the top position with the highest rank, underscoring its exceptional performance and desirability. Conversely, Carbon 63% Epoxy secures the last rank, signifying its relatively lower suitability compared to the other materials. The ranking provided by the COPRAS method offers valuable insights into the materials' relative strengths and weaknesses, guiding engineers and designers in making informed choices to optimize the Spar's performance and overall efficiency in the context of Human Powered Aircraft.

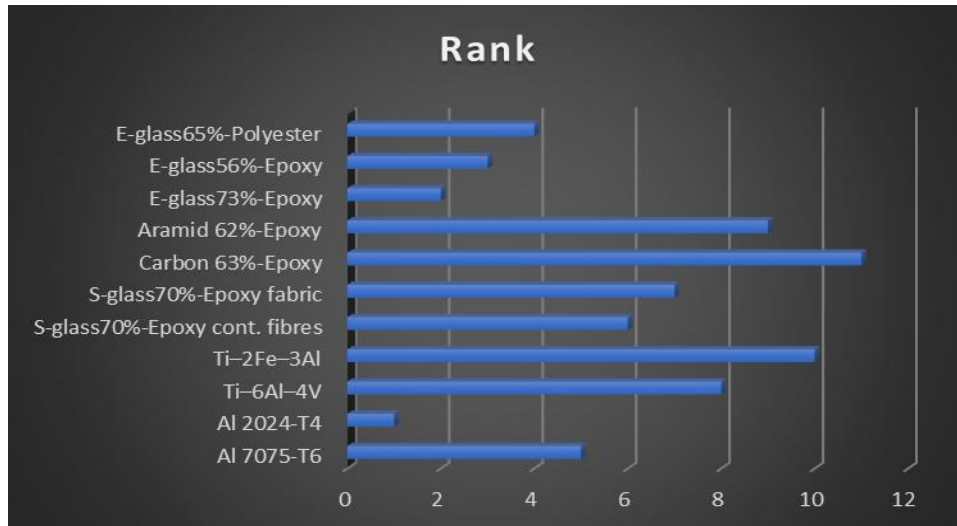


FIGURE 4. Rank

In Figure 4, Al 2024-T4 emerges as the top-ranked material, signifying its superiority and strong suitability for the application. Conversely, Carbon 63% epoxy ranks last among the materials evaluated, indicating its comparatively lower performance compared to the others. This visual representation of rankings offers a quick and intuitive understanding of the materials' relative positions, guiding decision-makers in selecting the most appropriate material for the Spar of Human Powered Aircraft.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

A specialized field within aerospace engineering is dedicated to studying aircraft with an extraordinary level of energy efficiency, enabling them to achieve continuous flight by relying solely on human-generated power. These aircraft are commonly known as human-powered airplanes or human-powered aircraft (HPA). The unique challenge of HPAs lies in their power limitations, which distinguish them as a distinct and complex type of aircraft. These engineering endeavors focus on developing innovative solutions to minimize weight, optimize aerodynamics, and maximize the mechanical advantage of human propulsion. The ultimate goal is to create lightweight and efficient structures, advanced wing designs, and propulsion systems that push the boundaries of human-powered flight, inspiring the advancement of sustainable and eco-friendly aviation technologies for the future. The materials for this can be divided into two categories: alloys and composites. The unobserved components in this case might be associated in a certain domain (say, alloys or composites). A designer must exercise judgement at every level of the design process. Different methods for selecting materials have been proposed and used by various researchers, mostly based on the quantitative and qualitative qualities of materials. A fundamental aspect of the design process involves making choices among various options. In addition to traditional materials such as metals, ceramics, and polymers, material science has continuously produced an extensive array of new materials, including composites, smart (intelligent), and functionally graded materials. These advancements have opened up exciting possibilities for engineers and designers, enabling them to explore innovative materials that possess unique properties and functionalities. The availability of these diverse materials offers a wealth of opportunities to tailor the design of products, structures, and systems to meet specific performance requirements, leading to advancements in various industries and technologies. With the expansion of knowledge, a designer today has access to a wider range of materials than ever before. Similar to the majority of instances, the material in our study is regarded as a pre-assigned design parameter. The COPRAS approach was utilized in this analysis. The analysis's findings indicate that Al 2024-T4 aluminium alloy, E-glass 73%-Epoxy, E-glass 56% Epoxy, and E-glass 65% Polyester are the optimum materials for human-powered aircraft spars.

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