Qualitative judgment

Qualitative judgments are subjective judgments based on factors or information that can't be easily or accurately quantified. The importance of objectives, which is by definition subjective, is a qualitative judgment.

The anticipated performance of alternatives with respect to objectives can be based on qualitative judgments and/or quantitative data.

The Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) is a structured technique for organizing and analyzing complex decisions, based on mathematics and psychology.² AHP synthesizes human judgment into accurate ratio scale data. This is significant because it avoids the common, and mathematically meaningless, use of ordinal scale numbers in multiplication.³

With **Pairwise Comparisons**, participants compare objectives or alternatives with respect to a parent objective. For example, "with respect to body style, which alternative is preferable, and by how much: Subaru Forrester or Ford Escape."



With **Rating Scales**, participants evaluate alternatives on a predefined scale where the value of the rating scale intensities are on the ratio scale level of measurement, having been derived with pairwise comparisons.



1 https://bizfluent.com/info-11384887-qualitative-judgment-method.html

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analytic_hierarchy_process

 $\label{eq:linear} 3\ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Level_of_measurement$

Next: Quantitative data