# A Study on the Application of Choosing Online Lending Platforms by the Grey Clustering Method-Based on the Sight of Investors

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*Abstract*—In recent years, online lending platforms grow explosively. Recently, the number of online lending platforms is above 500, online lending has become a measure for trendy to manage finances. The paper is based on 20 network lending companies from www.wangdaizhijia.com for research, constructing a clustering index system with returns, liquidity and the popularity of nine indicators. And it is helpful for investors to rationally select network lending platform when we can know the level of every platform by analyzing each platform with grey clustering method. The study found that, in the financing Guarantee Corporation guarantee way, Lu Jin is the best choice for investors ; in the risk reserve guarantee way, Lego box, pleasant loan, red hill VC are good choices.

*Index Terms*—Online lending platform, the grey clustering method, operational models, investors.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The rise of online lending is not an accident, as early as 1976, Mohammed Yunus founded the Grameen Bank, the first rural bank in Bangladesh. Since the first online lending company, Zopa established in England in 2005, then truly Opened the curtain of the development of online lending. This creation overturned the traditional lending model with the mediation of bank, under the traction of online platform, lending can be conducted directly between individuals. Soon after, this model is followed and varied by large numbers of countries in the world, and then large numbers of famous online lending companies appeared, whose form is diverse. Online lending entered China formally in 2007. PPDai is the first online lending company registered in China, CreditEase, HongLing Capital and other platforms appeared at the same time. However, because our market's condition is not mature, some relevant laws and statutes are not regular, credit system is not perfect and so on, the development of online lending is experiencing setbacks. For example, the setbacks consist of online lending sharper and collapse of some online lending companies.

Therefore, this paper expect to base on the sight of investors, put 20 online lending platforms like PPDai, Lufax as analysis purposes, analyze invest value of the platforms by using grey clustering method. According to the analyzing results, we can give advice for investors to choose an online lending platform.

#### II. ONLINE LENDING PLATFORM

#### A. Relevant Definition of Online Lending Platform

Online lending platform, we also call it P2P, is a kind of online lending platform for service between individuals. It mainly use online platform to collect, arrange and release demand information for borrowers, some individuals who have small cap holdings and ideas of investment can choose relevant demand to procedure according to the actual conditions. By using online lending platform, on one part, we can get financial support, on another part, we can get considerable interest income. During the lending process, online lending platform plays the role of the information mediator. It profits mainly by taking service fees and account management fees of borrowers, not by taking interest spreads. This is the biggest difference between online lending platforms and traditional financial institutions.

# B. Present Situation of Online Lending Platform at Home and Abroad

Currently, the market of lending platform is developing fast, it is becoming the competitor of traditional financial lending model. The largest is Prosper, built in America in 2006. Prosper, as the mediator of borrowing transaction, profits by taking service fees between traders. Apart from Prosper, there are several other companies for the purpose of loan and in the form of online lending in the area of online loan, like Leading Club, Zopa, and Kiva.

In our country, PPDai, Hongling Capital, and CreditEase is the examples of websites of small amount credit loans which were taking sharp and influential [1]. A miniature of platform has been built in online lending. Nevertheless, online lending platform in China is difficult to match the platforms in developed countries like Zopa, Prosper at present, but the online lending platforms in the form of innovative financing in credit markets began to search for perfect operational models in the early stage. It standardize in every area of qualification review, credit rating, risk avoidance and so on. The influence of online lending covers the whole country since it landed in Shanghai in 2007 [2].

# C. Operational Models of Online Lending Platform at Home and Abroad

Numerous online lending platforms at home and abroad can be divided into the following kinds according to different

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classifications. According to the interest rate of loan, it can be divided into for-profit and public online lending platforms. Presently, most of the online lending platforms in China belong to for-profit online lending platforms. According to different borrowing objects, it can be divided into farmers in rural areas, micro business, micro business credit, personal consumption credit, individuals or small businesses regionally or nationally [3]. According to degrees of relationship between business activities and network, online lending platforms can be mainly divided into three models like offline, online and combining. At present, most of them are combining. It can be divided into unsecured and secured according to whether it is sucured. According to different forms of sucurity, it can be divided into forms of guarantor or enterprise guarantee, collateral and collateral guarantee. According to the difference of guarantor enterprises, it can be divided into guarantee by guarantee companies, small loan companies and risk deposit accounts.

|                      |                     |                                      | TABLE I: CLASSIFICATION OF PLATFORM   | OPERATIONAL N    | 10DELS                 |  |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------|--|
| Platform<br>name     | Established<br>time | Registed<br>capital(million<br>yuan) | Whether secured and its form  | Online or offlin | e For-profit or public | Borrowing objects                                  |
| Lufax                | 2012                | 83667                                | financing guarantee companies   | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, SMEs, non-bank financial institutions |
| Renrendai            | 2010                | 10000                                | platforms, risk deposits  | combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, micro business                        |
| Yirendai             | 2012                | 1000                                 | non-financing guarantee companies, risk deposits                                      | Offline          | For-profit             | Individuals  |
| PPDai                | 2007                | 1000                                 | Unsecured   | Online           | For-profit             | individuals  |
| Zhao Cai Bao         | 2014                | 1000                                 | financial institutions, large guarantee companies                                     | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, SMEs, financial institutions          |
| YOOLI                | 2013                | 1700                                 | small loan companies, financing guarantee companies                                   | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals  |
| Jimubox              | 2013                | 2400                                 | financing guarantee companies,<br>non-financing guarantee companies, risk<br>deposits |                  | For-profit             | Individuals  |
| Touna                | 2012                | 5000                                 | financing guarantee companies, risk deposits  | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals  |
| Weidai               | 2011                | 3100                                 | risk deposits   | Online           | For-profit             | Individuals, companies                             |
| HongLing<br>Capital  | 2009                | 5000                                 | risk deposits   | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals  |
| Gkkxd                | 2012                | 1000                                 | guarantee agencies, risk deposits   | Combining        | Public                 | Individuals, companies                             |
| Niwodai              | 2011                | 10500                                | non-financing guarantee companies, risk deposits                                      | combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, micro business                        |
| Eloancn              | 2011                | 100                                  | risk deposits   | Combining        | For-profit             | Agriculture, rural areas and farmers               |
| Xinhehui             | 2013                | 1000                                 | Secured by financing guarantee companies  | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, institutions, corporate investors     |
| PPmoney              | 2012                | 3000                                 | Secured by financing guarantee companies  | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, companies, financial institutions     |
| Edai                 | 2013                | 10000                                | Secured by risk deposits  | Combining        | For-profit             | Micro, small and medium enterprises                |
| 91 prosperous wealth | <sup>8</sup> 2014   | 5000                                 | Secured by collateral   | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, micro, small and medium enterprises   |
| Hexindai             | 2013                | 10001                                | companies, fisk deposits  | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, micro businesses                      |
| CreditFinance        | 2012                | 5000                                 | companies, nisk deposits  | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, companies, financial institutions     |
| Xiaoniu88            | 2013                | 10000                                | Secured by risk mutual aid money, cooperations, risk deposites                        | Combining        | For-profit             | Individuals, companies, financial institutions     |

#### TABLE I: CLASSIFICATION OF PLATFORM OPERATIONAL MODELS

# III. APPLICATION OF CHOOSING ONLINE LENDING PLATFORMS BY THE GREY CLUSTERING METHOD

## A. The Principle of Grey Clustering Method

In 1982, Chinese famous scholar Professor Deng Julong founded the grey system theory. The grey clustering analysis is one of the contents of the grey system theory and is based on grey albino function. According to the basic ideas of grey fixed weight clustering, it is a grey statistic that judes the type of Clustering objects by inducing and arranging whiting values of clustering objects to different indicators according

## to N grey classes.

#### B. Sample Selection for Online Lending Platform

In order to make the sample data true and correct and the results of the analysis has certain reference significance for investors, we put forward the following principles to select the sample credit platforms:

1) The website must be true, and there is a higher trading volume [4]. The number of investors shall not be less than 100, while the number of borrowers shall not be less than 5 each month.

- 2) Running steadily. Currently, online lending have sprung up in the Chinese market. The quality is spotty, among which there is no lack of the websites of vicious incidents like Voluming model and escaping. Therefore, sample platforms must be online more than 3 months and there are not any great Integrity problems in the past 2 years.
- 3) Representative websites. The chosen platforms should be the symbol of online platform. Its models, trading volume, popularity are representative.
- 4) The quantity of the samples should be appropriate. The less quantity of the samples, the results of the analysis is

more incomparable. As a result, we can't determine the availability of application methods.

Follow the principles above, we choose the following 20 online lending platforms as the sample. Their trading volumes are in front of all online lending platforms, and their overall levels are relatively well.

| TABLE II: CLUSTERING OBJECTS (THE SAMPLES OF ONLINE LENDING PLATFORM) |
|---|
|---|

|                  | 1     | 2             | 3            | 4            | 5               | 6     | 7                       | 8            | 9                 | 10                  |
|------------------|-------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Platform<br>name | Lufax | Renrenda<br>i | Yirenda<br>i | PPDai        | Zhao Cai<br>Bao | YOOLI | Jimubox                 | Touna        | Eloancn           | HongLing<br>Capital |
|                  | 11    | 12            | 13           | 14           | 15              | 16    | 17                      | 18           | 19                | 20                  |
| Platform<br>name | Gkkxd | Niwodai       | Weidai       | Xinhehu<br>i | PPmoney         | Edai  | 91 Prosperous<br>Wealth | Hexinda<br>i | CreditFinanc<br>e | Xiaoniu88           |

C. The Construction of Gray Clustering Classes and Clustering Index System

# 1) The determination of grey clustering classes

Grey clustering classes can be divided into three categories according to the grades of evaluation: Level 1, level 2, and level 3, corresponding to optimal, good and general platform.

#### 2) The choice of clustering index

The selection of clustering index directly determines the result of the gray clustering evaluation. A reasonable selection of online lending platform evaluation can improve the scientification and accuracy of platform evaluation, and help investors to make the choice. Therefore, the selection of evaluation indexes should follow the following principles:

#### a) Scientific principles

The evaluation system of online lending platform should be able to reflect the platform objectively from the perspective of investors. The index system should widely coveraged and be able to reflect the strength of the various factors from online lending platform.

#### b) Operability principles

We should use existing statistical data as far as possible to set indicators. And it should be measurable and comparable, and also easy to quantify. It will substantially reduce the pressure of data processing by selecting operable indicators.

## c) Relative completeness principles

As an organic whole, the indicator system should be able to reflect and measure the main conditions of evaluation platform comprehensively.

#### d) Relative independence principles

There is always overlap information between each index of the index system. Therefore, in the selection of indicators, we should select relative independent indicators as far as possible to improve the accuracy and scientification of evaluation.

Combining the investment behavior of investors and the evaluation system of Net Loan House Institute, we select income, liquidity and other 9 clustering indexes to construct the evaluation index system of gray clustering method. The index value is based on the published information and data, a set of open and transparent approach and quantitative calculation. For quantitative indicators which data are available, we take the logarithm first, and then get scores by standardized method.

## **Income Indexes**

Income indexes are concluded from the comprehensive rate of return of the platform, and deduce appropriately for not securing the principal and having interest management fees or other fees [5]. The higher the score of reture is, the more income we may gain.

## Liquidity indicators

Liquidity indicators are concluded from rapidity of withdrawing the principal and interest. According to the underlying average loan time limit and interest rate of platform and whether there is a circulation or an innovation of the debt, we can adjust appropriately. The higher the score of liquidity is, the faster we may withdraw the principal and interest.

## **Risk indexes**

Risk indexes are composed of three clustering indexes, dispersions, uncollected leverage and transparency.

- Dispersions: Comes from borrowing amount of a person, invest amount of a person, borrowing concentration and weigh of return of top10 borrowers taken in total return. At the same time, to the platforms secured by guanrantee companies, we set the requist that the largest percent to be collected should not be more than 10% of the registed capital of a guarantee company. The part above the percentage should be deduced. The high the score of the dispersions is, the more dispersing the investors of platforms are and the lower risk is.
- 2) Uncollected leverage: To platforms of promise to secure the principal, leverage points consist of uncollected leverage and regional leverage. Recently, we can difine uncollected leverage of the platform=to be collected of the platforms/(registed capital xsit compaction degree+risk deposits+registed capital of guarantee companies x0.5% xsit compaction degree). To a part of borrowing comes from uncorrelated small loan

companies or guanrantee companies the platforms themselves, we do some adjustments. For the platforms whose uncollected leverage is above 10 times, we deduce score, the higher times, the more deduction is. The higher the score of the leverage is, means that the smaller the leverage of capital may be, the lower operational risk will be undertaken.

- 3) Transparency: Give scores according to whether platforms announced company certificates, overdue records, photographs of borrowing data and mortgage data, operational data, basic information of borrowers and credit rating. Owing to the transparency of the information of platforms is controversy, we view that highest score of transparency integral is 80. The higher the score of transparency is, means that the more information of the platforms is and more transparent.
- 4) Operating income: Borrowing management fees of online lending platforms are one of the most major incomes [6]. Generally, borrowing management fees=borrowing amount ×borrowing time ×rate (always is 0.2%-0.5%), so there has positive correlation between time weighted volume and borrowing management fees of platforms. Recently, we use time weighted volume to give score to operational index, and make adjustments

according to the models of platforms, whether having interest management fees, VIP annual fees or charging fees. The higher the score of time weighted volume is, the score the operational income is, the platform may gain more operational income. As a result, it reduces the risk of the platform, and it is benefit for investors.

## **Popularity Index**

The value of popularity index is based on the number of borrowers, investors and the coefficient of risk. The score of popularity is higher, it shows that the number of borrowers and investors on the platform is more.

# **Investment Scale**

Volume: it's based on the weight of actual volume and time-weighted volume during the month. The volume gets more scores, it shows that the volume is higher.

## **Platform's Situation**

Brand image: get scores according some information of platform, such as money recognition, online time, the city of the headquarter, shareholders' background, team background, the mode of platform advance, events effect, risk actor and so on. Money recognition=time weighted volume (million)/comprehensive returns ratio (%). The score is higher, and the visibility of platform is higher. (The data is from the website:www.wangdaizhijia.com)

| Number Platform |                | Investment<br>scale |                   | ty Return                 | Risk                      |                  | Mobility     | Platform's<br>Situation |       |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------|
|                 |                | Volume              | Populari<br>Index | ty Comprehensive<br>ratio | returns Lever n Dispersio | Operation income | Transparency | Liquidit<br>y           | Brand |
| 1               | Lufax          | 98.72               | 100               | 34.42                     | 37.67 82.92               | 92.74            | 26.03        | 45.8                    | 88.57 |
| 2               | Renrendai      | 88.57               | 82.56             | 44.45                     | 41.07 83.03               | 79               | 51.09        | 46.73                   | 82.14 |
| 3               | Yirendai       | 82.47               | 79.81             | 46.41                     | 75.34 77.51               | 72.46            | 29.76        | 45.68                   | 77.81 |
| 4               | PPdai          | 72.13               | 82.31             | 38.43                     | 59.29 66.84               | 66.6             | 38.48        | 79.14                   | 70.2  |
| 5               | ZhaoCaiBa<br>o | 82.97               | 93.06             | 17.77                     | 64.38 40.54               | 92.54            | 25.39        | 58.16                   | 74.5  |
| 6               | YOOLI          | 84.04               | 86.38             | 40.58                     | 54.67 55.78               | 58.48            | 40.72        | 55.37                   | 74.41 |
| 7               | Jimubox        | 81.71               | 87.2              | 39.64                     | 47.87 39.19               | 56               | 61.63        | 67.04                   | 72.75 |
| 8               | Touna          | 71.95               | 72.66             | 46.85                     | 54.83 48.99               | 53.9             | 59.71        | 91.19                   | 70.24 |
| 9               | Weidai         | 78.21               | 73.45             | 52.36                     | 44.86 58.32               | 44.43            | 56.83        | 58.97                   | 70.72 |
| 10              | HongLing       | 87.22               | 80.82             | 44.63                     | 14.84 32.82               | 78.5             | 51.76        | 100                     | 68.68 |

#### TABLE III: INDEX VALUE OF SAMPLE PLATFORMS

## D. Determine the Weight

We use the gray analysis method of fixed weight, because of different index and dimension. The weight is determined by the research institute of net credit home with AHP. First, set up the hierarchical structure like tree between level one and level two. Then the experts score by comparing it, constructing judgment matrix, and check the consistency of judgment matrix. At last, they calculates the weight. Following is the proportion.

|--|

| Volume | Operation income | Popularity | Return ratio | Lever | Liquidity | Dispersion | Transparency | Brand |
|--------|------------------|------------|--------------|-------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------|
| 8%     | 10%              | 16%        | 4%           | 10%   | 5%        | 15%        | 14%          | 18%   |

## E. Determine the Critical Value of Sub Gray Class

According to the need of research and the actual situation of qualitative analysis and various factors, we determine the

critical value from the investor point of view. The results are in Table V.

The three gray levels are numbered 1, 2, 3. The following is the typical definite weighted functions: fjk[Xjk(1), Xjk(2), Xjk(3), Xjk(4)].

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| Number | Clustering index | Level one (very good) | Level two (good) | Level three (ordinary) |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1      | Volume           | 84-100                | 77-84            | 55-77                  |
| 2      | Popularity       | 86-100                | 76-86            | 52-76                  |
| 3      | Return ratio     | 52-60                 | 44-52            | 17-44                  |
| 4      | Lever            | 60-91                 | 44-60            | 11-44                  |
| 5      | Dispersion       | 68-84                 | 40-68            | 25-40                  |
| 6      | Operation income | 78-93                 | 58-78            | 39-58                  |
| 7      | Transparency     | 56-62                 | 48-56            | 25-48                  |
| 8      | Mobility         | 89-100                | 58-89            | 30-58                  |
| 9      | Brand            | 77-89                 | 70.2-77          | 52-70.2                |

#### TABLE VI: GRAY FIXED WEIGHT CLUSTERING COEFFICIENT

| Number | Platform   | 1        | 2        | 3        | Number | Platform             | 1        | 2        | 3        |
|--------|------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1      | Lufax      | 0.489541 | 0        | 0.268718 | 11     | Gkkxd                | 0.174974 | 0        | 0.323893 |
| 2      | Renrendai  | 0.197217 | 0.237875 | 0.059902 | 12     | Niwodai              | 0        | 0.158228 | 0.244836 |
| 3      | Yirendai   | 0.091382 | 0.296857 | 0.18055  | 13     | Eloancn              | 0.08123  | 0.182155 | 0.231954 |
| 4      | PPdai      | 0        | 0.279394 | 0.112805 | 14     | Xinhehui             | 0.14     | 0.073193 | 0.282618 |
| 5      | ZhaoCaiBao | 0.104547 | 0.157638 | 0.30289  | 15     | PPmoney              | 0        | 0.355073 | 0.116571 |
| 6      | YOOLI      | 0.00291  | 0.242752 | 0.080893 | 16     | Edai                 | 0        | 0.227723 | 0.129279 |
| 7      | Jimubox    | 0.00857  | 0.307504 | 0.036505 | 17     | 91 prosperous wealth | 0.002032 | 0        | 0.286866 |
| 8      | Touna      | 0.120619 | 0.22431  | 0.04311  | 18     | Hexindai             | 0.256405 | 0        | 0.345293 |
| 9      | Weidai     | 0.027945 | 0.158682 | 0.04634  | 19     | CreditFinance        | 0.071008 | 0.137494 | 0.31515  |
| 10     | HongLing   | 0.157769 | 0.27173  | 0.098244 | 20     | Xiaoniu88            | 0        | 0.159727 | 0.351549 |

# F. The Calculation of Gray Fixed Weight Clustering Coefficient

Calculate gray fixed weight clustering coefficient by using the definite weighted function and weight above determined [7].

ent by using determined

| $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_1^k \right\} = \delta_1^1 = 0.489541$           | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_2^k \right\} = \delta_2^2 = 0.237875$           | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_3^k \right\} = \delta_3^2 = 0.296857$       | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_4^k \right\} = \delta_4^2 = 0.279394$           | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_5^k \right\} = \delta_5^3 = 0.30289$        |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_6^k \right\} = \delta_6^2 = 0.242752$           | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_7^k \right\} = \delta_7^2 = 0.307504$           | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_8^k \right\} = \delta_8^2 = 0.22431$        | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_9^k \right\} = \delta_9^2 = 0.158682$           | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{10}^k \right\} = \delta_{10}^2 = 0.27173$  |
| $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{11}^k \right\} = \delta_{11}^3 = 0.323893$     | $\max_{1 \le k \le s} \left\{ \delta_{12}^k \right\} = \delta_{12}^3 = 0.244836$ | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{13}^k \right\} = \delta_{13}^3 = 0.231954$ | $\max_{1 \le k \le s} \left\{ \delta_{14}^k \right\} = \delta_{14}^3 = 0.282618$ | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{15}^k \right\} = \delta_{15}^3 = 0.355073$ |
| $\max_{1 \le k \le s} \left\{ \delta_{16}^k \right\} = \delta_{16}^2 = 0.227723$ | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{17}^k \right\} = \delta_{17}^3 = 0.286866$     | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{18}^k \right\} = \delta_{18}^3 = 0.345293$ | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{19}^k \right\} = \delta_{19}^3 = 0.31515$      | $\max_{1 < k < s} \left\{ \delta_{20}^k \right\} = \delta_{20}^3 = 0.351549$ |

followings.

The following is the result of platform classification. (The order in the same level is in accordance with the size of clustering coefficient.)

Level1: Lufax

Level2: Jimubox, Yirenda, PPdai, HongLing, YOOLI, Renrendai, Edai, Touna, Weidai

Level3: PPmoney, Xiaoniu88, Hexindai, Gkkxd, CreditFinance, ZhaoCaiBao, 91 prosperous wealth, Xinhehui. Niwodai, Eloancn

# IV. ANALYSIS OF THE GREY CLUSTERING'S RESULT

According to the classification results, Lufax is belonging to the level 1 exclusively in the 20 sample platforms. The platform in the volume, popularity, liquidity and other aspects are relatively good, and it is popular with investors. Nine platforms including PPdai, HongLing, YOOLI, and Renrendai are belong to level 2, because the development of indexes are not their indexs are comprehensive. For example, PPdai's indexes are relatively balanced, but each index is almost belonging to level 2. Although the liquidity of HongLing is best in all sample platforms, the lever level is ordinary. In addition, the remaining 10 platforms are belonging to level 3.

According to the clustering coefficient, you can get

The classification results are based on all platforms, but investors tend to choose platform from a kind of platforms. Therefore, the further analysis will continue in accordance with the different classifications.

A. Results Analysis in Accordance with Network Connection Extent

#### TABLE VII: THE CLASSIFICATION TABLE OF ONLINE AND OFFLINE

| Classify method | Oneline       | Offline | Combination   |
|-----------------|---------------|---------|---|
| Name            | PPdai, Weidai | Yirenda | Lufax, Renrendai, ZhaoCaiBao, YOOLI, Jimubox, Touna, HongLing, Gkkxd, Niwodai, Eloancn, Xinhehui, PPmoney, Edai, 91 prosperous wealth, Hexindai, CreditFinance, Xiaoniu88 |

According to the connection extent between network and platforms, the network lending platforms are divided into three categories. At present, online platform and offline platform is few, because the online platforms have higher risk, and the offline platforms have more procedures. So, most of them use the mode that is combined with two modes. In the 20 sample platforms, there are PPda and Weidai using online mode, Yirenda using offline mode and rest using the combined mode. According to the analysis results, the Weidai and PPdai are belong to level 2, but the clustering coefficient, 0.279394, of PPdai is higher than the clustering coefficient, 0.158682, of Weidai. It shows PPdai has more investment value. In fact, the index value except comprehensive income and transparency index are better than Weidai. In the Other 17 platforms which use combined mode, Lufaxis the best platform, and Jimubox, HongLing, YOOLI, Renrenda, Edai, Touna are belong to the level 2 platform. Relatively speaking, Jimubox and HongLing have better investment's value than other platforms. In the left platforms that they are belong to level 3 platform, the best is PPmoney.

TABLE VIII: CLASSIFICATION WITH GUARANTEED WAYS

| Classify<br>method | Guarantee with risk reserve   | Guarantee with the financing guarantee corporation                  | Guarantee with the non financing guarantee corporation |  |
|--------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Name               | Renrendai, Yirenda, Jimubox, Touna, Weidai,<br>HongLing, Gkkxd, Niwodai, Eloancn, Edai,<br>Hexindai, CreditFinance, Xiaoniu88 | Lufax,YOOLI, Jimubox, Touna,<br>Xinhehui, PPmoney,<br>CreditFinance | Yirendai,Jimubox, Niwodai,<br>Hexindai                 |  |

#### B. The Results Analysis under Different Guaranteed Ways

According to the connection extent between network and platforms, the network lending platforms are divided into three categories. At present, online platform and offline platform is few, because the online platforms have higher risk, and the offline platforms have more procedures. So, most of them use the mode that is combined with two modes. In the 20 sample platforms, there are PPda and Weidai using online mode, Yirenda using offline mode and rest using the combined mode. According to the analysis results, the Weidai and PPdaiare belong to level 2, but the clustering coefficient, 0.279394, of PPdai is higher than the clustering coefficient, 0.158682, of Weidai. It shows PPdai has more investment value. In fact, the index value except comprehensive income and transparency index are better than Weidai. In the Other 17 platforms which use combined mode, Lufaxis the best platform, and Jimubox, HongLing, YOOLI, Renrenda, Edai, Touna are belong to the level 2 platform. Relatively speaking, Jimubox and HongLing have better investment's value than other platforms. In the left platforms that they are belong to level 3 platform, the best is PPmoney.

#### C. The Results Analysis under Different Management Time

The management time is longer, which shows it has the ability of sustainable development and is stable [8]. So, classified according to the operation time, It is useful for investors to make a better choice from the similar operation time platform. 3 platforms including PPdai, HongLin, and Renrendai were founded before 2010, which have different operating model. Now, it has been proved that the platform develops well, and they are belong to level 2 with high popularity with investors; the three platforms was established in 2011, which are level 3 platform and need to improve; Another six platform were founded after 2012, and, the development is not balanced. There are Lufax, which is a level 1 platform, Yirend and Touna which are level 2 platform, and the another three platforms which are level 3 platform, and each has features. Some platforms are newly established, but they develop well. For example, Jimubox was founded in 2013, but it is a level 2 platform, which has the highest clustering coefficient. The second is YOOLI, and another platforms are level 3 platform.

|               |       |          | TABLE     | IX: CLASSIFIC.                | ATION WITH MANAGEMENT 'I                                 | IME  |                                    |
|---------------|-------|----------|-----------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Founding time | 2007  | 2009     | 2010      | 2011                          | 2012   | 2013   | 2014                               |
| Name          | PPdai | HongLing | Renrendai | Weidai,<br>Niwodai<br>Eloancn | Lufax, Yirenda<br>Touna, Gkkxd, PPmoney<br>CreditFinance | YOOLI, Jimubox, Xinhehui,<br>Edai, Hexindai, Xiaoniu88 | ZhaoCaiBao,91<br>prosperous wealth |

# V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, choosing scientific and independent nine indexes make a comprehensive strength assessment from the perspective of investors for network lending platform. Then, construct the gray cluster analysis model with scientific evaluation results and scientific quantitative index weigh by AHP. At last, getting the clustering vector and making sure the category of 20 platforms, it is helpful for investors to make investment choices. Taking into account the needs of investors, classify twenty platforms according to different ways (network connection extent, guarantee way and management time), and analyse deeply how to choose a better platform for investors under different classification. If the

investors are favor of guaranteeing with a financing Guarantee Corporation, Lufax is a better choice. If they tend to choose some platforms which use risk reserve as guarantee, I will suggest they choose Jimubox, Yirenda, and HongLing. According to the evaluation results, investors can make a more rational choice. Network lending platforms also can improve the relevant aspects based on their own situation, which is conducive to the future survival and development.

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