Evaluation, Appraisal and Pliant Logic

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Abstract

In this paper we are analyzing the original concept of fuzzy sets and propose a new way handling problems arising on fuzzy field with introducing a consistent system called pliant logic. Not only fuzzy sets motivate us to find new structure, but problems of multicriteria decision making, where value, weight, decision level, threshold, many valued logic and aggregation plays an important role. On one hand we redefine the membership function and understood as evaluation relation (elementary preference relation, or soft open interval) and together with the special representation (see later) of the operators will be called it pliant logic, and on the other hand we settle an unique operator system based on the strict monotone t-norm called evaluation system. The particularity of the operators (conjunction, disjunction, negation and aggregation) is, that we use only one generator function. We are introducing two type of unary operators, one for transforming the decision level and one for the sharpness and here we use the same generator function. With this evaluation operators we can be build complex expression executing an evaluation process. We have to mentioned also that using Dombi operators as a particular representation of the system we get a very effective tool together with appraisal procedure and this representation called pliant logic. The backpropagation process, in the field of neural computing, can be interpreted with this approach and extended too. The article is summary of large concepts and the details can be find in special articles.

Keywords: Operator; Aggregation, Weight, Membership function; Evaluation relation, Multicrireria decision; Pliant logic; Dombi Operator; Evaluation concept, Appraisal process

1. Introduction

1.1. Critical remarks

Fuzzy theory has met interest in applications over the past 20 years. On one hand there are a number of reasons for the popularity of the word "fuzzy", on the other hand it is not clear what really fuzzy means and we can recognized also that the critical view of the fuzzy also not decrease. It is hard to find a congress on Artificial Intelligence with a fuzzy section, although fuzzy is for modeling human concepts and using computers the fuzzy algorithms runs on it well. Because of this out of consideration now fuzzy belongs to Computational Intelligence. Books on fuzzy theory have offered many divergent concepts developed since years, but no one can find summary of the theoretical basis of it. Fuzzy has many faces. Some directions are well established. One can find good theoretical results and successful applications are everywhere. Fuzzy needs more theoretical investigation and researchers have to find now a sound system. The state of the fuzzy world seems to be similar to the state of the probability theory before Kolmogorov had written his famous book on the basic term of probability theory. Maybe fuzzy theory has reached its own shadow line. One of the leading researchers Dubois and Prade also recognized this situation in their manifesto [4].

In this article we do not want to changed the fuzzy world and not want to solve all the problems (it is too large, too many people works on it, min and max operators in certain area works well) although we offer a special calculus with consistent operator system which could be gives answers for some problems of the fuzzy concept.

1.2. Zadeh's fuzzy concept

Lets go back to the original article of Zadeh. He introduced two basic terms: fuzzy set operators

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(min, max product etc.) and the membership function which is the extension of the classical characteristic function. The famous original example was the word “young”. Both of them causes a lot of confusion. Inquire people on a fuzzy congress about how they asses and understand membership function, we get dozen of answers and considering the operators we only have to mention more then 30 different kind from it exist now.

Besides intersection and union the inclusion (in fuzzy logic implication) also plays an important role (fuzzy control). Here the situation is similar to the case of connectives. Going further, we can mention the defuzzification method too, where also to much solution exist. Summarizing the above mentioned, everywhere are too much alternatives, freedom is high and this does not help for the unification efforts, to get a good system.

What did want to introduced Zadeh the fuzzy sets for? To support the human decision making, but there are only some articles dealing with multicriteria decision making. In this article our main objectives to go back to this idea.

To carry out successful a decision making process we have to deal with values, weights, threshold values, decision value, logical operators, aggregation and preference relation. Values are everywhere, important is to define a expectation levels and normalizing the range of the values (i.e. find membership function), so that the different expectation levels transformed into one common value (to constitute a common basis) called threshold (or decision) level.

2. Membership function

2.1. Zadeh’s view

Since Zadeh has introduced the notation of fuzzy sets one of the main difficulties has been with the meaning and assess the membership function. It is hard to find good solution , because the membership function is context dependent, it has a subjective nature, from the point of view of measurement theory a lot of condition should satisfy, empirically hard to verify etc. Let us analyze the example of the word “young”. Young depends only on one variable (although it depends on several, not only on ages). The membership function should be close to the characteristic function. Better to say it is a continuously approximation of the characteristic function. In this case the characteristic function is an inequality relation: to the class of young’s belong all of people who’s age is less then 25. (or people who’s birth date are not earlier then 1972).

2.2. Decision- and threshold value

The year 25 is a decision value (level). The membership function in this case is an S-shape function, and the function value at 25 is 0.5. The value 0.5 is an universal threshold value. If we want to make decision on the basis of the function value, then we have to compare with the this value and if it is less, than our decision is not young otherwise is young. The threshold value can be changed and with the help of an unary operator (see chapter 5)

The result of the comparison (it is distance like measure) indicate “how far” is a given people from the class of young people (if he/she not belongs to this class.) using the term of “not young” representing it with a similar function we can measure how far he/she from the not young people (i.e. how young he/she).

2.3. Fuziness measure, sharpness

The above mentioned measure essentially is not an other then the approximation accuracy of the characteristic function. The approximation can be characterized by the slope of the function at the decision value (the first deviate of the function at 25). In fuzzy theory we call it fuzziness, or sharpness and this value from case to case changes. For better controlling it, we will introduce the sharpness operator. To go back to the word young, on the x axis is the year, if we want modeling other concept, than the meaning of the axes changes. It can be probability, as utility, time etc. in our approach we do not care what is on the x axis, how can it be asses, so we avoid a lot of problems which concern other area of science, as psychology, sociology, measurement theory, human utility, risk perceptions. Our opinion: it is impossible to constitute theoretical framework on empirical evidence.

2.4. Evaluation relation

Summarizing the above mentioned considerations we give the following definition:

Definition: Evaluation relation is a function $\sigma(x)$ equipped with the following parameters: decision value (or level) a, sharpness λ, universal threshold value ν^0 which is usually *0.5* and

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty}\sigma_a^\lambda(x)=0,$$

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\sigma_a^\lambda(x)=1,$$

$$\lim_{\lambda\to\infty}\sigma_a^\lambda(x)=\begin{cases}0 & if\ x<a\\ \nu^0 & if\ x=a\\ 1 & if\ x>a\end{cases}$$

We show that satisfying some reasonable axioms the function has the following form:

$$\sigma_a^\lambda(x)=\frac{1}{1+e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\nu(1-\nu)}(x-a)}}$$

In fuzzy theory membership function usually represents an interval (middle ages). It has a definite upper and lower bound. With evaluation relations we can generate it using set operator (intersection). Approximating with evaluation relations young- and old people (threshold values are 25 and 55) one can get the middle ages people using the negation- and the intersection operators.

The most important step was here not to take into consideration the semantically meaning of the x axis, i.e. what over we define the evaluation relation.

We do not loose to much, because a membership function approximable with evaluation relations using a well established *l(x)* transformation on x,

$$|\mu(x)-\sigma(l(x))|<\varepsilon$$

l(x) is responsible for all other features of the membership function and so the pliant logic do not want to deal with task of other sciences.

All parameters of evaluation relations have a semantically meaning as threshold-, decision level and sharpness.

3. Motivation and the main idea

Zadeh in his first article introduces the min and max operators (and the product operator with its dual pairs) for intersection and union. During the years a lot of scientific investigations have been done to find good operators. Most important names in this field are Hamacher, Weber, Fodor, Mizomuto, Dombi. We concentrate on the result of Dombi.

The so called Dombi operators has the following forms [1]:

$$c(x,y)=\frac{1}{1+\left(\left(\frac{1-x}{x}\right)^{\lambda}+\left(\frac{1-y}{y}\right)^{\lambda}\right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}}}$$

$$d(x,y)=\frac{1}{1+\left(\left(\frac{1-x}{x}\right)^{-\lambda}+\left(\frac{1-y}{y}\right)^{-\lambda}\right)^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}}}$$

The most important fact is that the two operators has a common form. Only changing the sign of λ from one operator we can get the other. As a limit value we get the min and max operators.

An other interesting result on aggregation [2] is the rational form of the Dombi's aggregation operator:

$$a(x,y)=\frac{1}{1+\left(\frac{1-x}{x}\right)^{u}\left(\frac{1-y}{y}\right)^{v}}$$

where u and v the corresponding weights. In the same article one can find the special form of the negation:

$$n(x)=\frac{1}{1+\left(\frac{1-\nu}{\nu}\right)^{2}\left(\frac{x}{1-x}\right)}$$

where the ν value was interpreted as neutral value.

In the article [3] Dombi makes theoretical investigation to find good membership functions and the rational form of the function is:

$$\mu(x)=\frac{1}{1+\left(\frac{\nu}{1-\nu}\right)^{\lambda-1}\left(\frac{1-x}{x}\right)^{\lambda}}$$

where λ is the sharpness and ν is the decision level.

All above mentioned results formally are similar. On one hand in the next we will generalize and characterize this class of operators and on the other hand we will build up a consistent logical system equipped by unary operators. Until now there was not introduced theoretically well based unary operators in fuzzy theory.

It seems to be reasonable, that the task of the unary operators is to change the parameter of the evaluation relation i.e. sharpness λ, threshold (decision) level ν.

4. General DeMorgan class

There are a lot of operators in the field of fuzzy set. What is important from the application point of view? The operator should be behave well, so not only the continuity is important but the good analytical property, as the existence of the deviates (not only the first). Why? Because of the leering aspects usually is an optimization procedure and to carry out it successfully we need such kind of property. We want also that the operators on the neuron computing aspects behave well.

It is known if c(x,y) and d(x,y) strict monotonously increasing associative archimedian t-norm and t-conorm., then *c(x,y)* and *d(x,y)* has the following form:

$$c(x,y) = f^{-1}(f(x) + f(y))$$

$$d(x,y) = g^{-1}(g(x) + g(y))$$

where *f* and *g* are the corresponding generator function of the operators.

Let generalize the operators:

$$c(x,y) = f^{-1}(af(x) + bf(y))$$

$$d(x,y) = g^{-1}(ag(x) + bg(y))$$

It can be shown the three operator are in DeMorgan class if the following conditions hold:

$$n(x) = f^{-1}\left(\frac{f(\nu^0)}{g(\nu\ )} g(x) \right)$$

where for ν^0 and ν are valid

$$n(\nu) = \nu^0$$

5. Dual system

The most interesting features of Dombi's operator was their common form. In this section we want to preserve this property for the general form of the operators. We define the dual system.

Definition: Let *f(x)* is the generator function of the conjunctive operator and *g(x)* the generator function of the disjunction operator. We call the two operator dual to each other if

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{g(x)}$$

It is easy to see that the definition is god and Dombi's operators are dual. The generator function is

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{1-x}{x} \right)^{\lambda}$$

6. Negation

From the result of section 4 it is easy to calculate the form of negation in a dual system .

$$n(x) = f^{-1}\left(\frac{f(\nu^0) f(\nu)}{f(x)} \right)$$

This negation is really a negation. The most important fact is that, we can build a whole system only using one generator function, i.e. we can get the disjunction and negation too. In fuzzy theory there was no tight correspondence between the operators. Negation is a kind of transformation of the threshold value. If $\nu = \nu^0$ then

$$n(x) = f^{-1}\left(\frac{f^2(\nu^0)}{f(x)} \right)$$

Using Dombi's generator functions we get back the negation developed in the article [2]

7 . Unary operators

In this section we will use the result of Dombi on membership function. Two type of operator will be examine here: one called hedges (changes the threshold value) and one responsible for the sharpness.

7.1. *Hedges*

Fuzzy sets is modeling for human expressions and an interface between the words and mathematical functions and operations. To go back to the word “young”, one can be transformed with a hedge “very”. The word “very young” is also an evaluation relation and differs only it’s decision level. The new evaluation relation one can get changing the decision value or transformed the threshold value. (Shifting or Transformation). We examine the latter one.
One way is to go back Dombi’s article on membership function. Denoting the hedges by $\tau(x)$ and let $\tau(x)$ continuously increasing with the following properties:

$$\tau_\nu(0) = 0$$
$$\tau_\nu(\nu) = \nu^0$$
$$\tau_\nu(1) = 1$$

From this comes

if $x < v$ then $\tau(x) < v^0$ and if
if $x > v$ then $\tau(x) > v^0$.

so v is now the new threshold.
Because of the general form of the membership is

$$\tau_\nu(x) = f^{-1}(af(x))$$

we can find a solution for a and the result is

$$.\ \tau_\nu(x) = f^{-1}\left(f(\nu^0)\frac{f(x)}{f(\nu)}\right)$$

The other way to find a good transformation function building hedges is using negations with different threshold values. This approach has a semantically meaning too.

$$n_{\nu^0}(n_\nu(x)) = f^{-1}\left(f(\nu^0)\frac{f(x)}{f(\nu)}\right)$$

The other parameter of the evaluation relation is the sharpness.

7.2. *Sharpness operator*

In the theory of fuzzy sets always plays an important role of the sharpness. It was introduced the fuzziness measure measuring the sharpness. But only in the first period of the fuzzy research researchers were dealing with this. Because of the membership is an approach of the characteristic function it is reasonable to express it’s efficiency. Let us denote the sharpness operator by $\chi^{(\lambda)}(x)$ and let $\chi^{(\lambda)}(x)$ continuously increasing with the following properties:

$$\chi^{(\lambda)}(0) = 0$$
$$\chi^{(\lambda)}(\nu^0) = \nu^0$$
$$\chi^{(\lambda)}(1) = 1$$
$$\left.\frac{d\chi^{(\lambda)}(x)}{dx}\right|_{\nu^0} = \lambda$$

It can be shown using Dombi’s result on that

$$\chi^{(\lambda)}(x) = f^{-1}(f^{1-\lambda}(\nu^0) f^{\lambda}(x))$$

It can be seen that using the generator function of Dombi then

$$\sigma_a^{(\lambda)}(x) = \chi_{\nu^0}^{(\lambda)}(\sigma_a^{(1)}(x))$$

Three different operator were introduced negation, hedges, and the sharpness operator.
In the next section we deal with this three operator together.

7.3. Modifiers: Common form of the unary operators

The three operator has a common form:

$$\tau_\nu^{(\lambda)}(x) = f^{-1}\left(f(\nu^0)\frac{f^{\lambda}(x)}{f^{\lambda}(\nu)}\right)$$

If $\lambda = 1$ then we get the hedge,
If $\lambda = -1$ then we get the negation and denoted it by η
If $\nu = \nu^0$ then we get the sharpness operator.

In the following $\tau_\nu^{(\lambda)}(x)$ is called modifier operator.

7.4. Independence property

Until now we do not care with the generator function i.e. is the generator function of the conjunctive or disjunctive operator? It can be shown if the two operators are dual as we supposed, then the modifiers are the same and modifier operator is closed under composition and composition with evaluation relation.
Dombi's form of the modifier is

$$\tau_{\nu}^{(\lambda)}(x) = \frac{(1-\nu)^{\lambda}\nu^{0}x^{\lambda}}{(1-\nu)^{\lambda}\nu^{0}x^{\lambda} + \nu^{\lambda}(1-\nu^{0})(1-x)^{\lambda}}$$

If ν^0 as usual is 0.5 then

$$\tau_{\nu}^{(\lambda)}(x) = \frac{(1-\nu)^{\lambda}x^{\lambda}}{(1-\nu)^{\lambda}x^{\lambda} + \nu^{\lambda}(1-x)^{\lambda}}$$

and if $\nu = \nu^0$ then we get Dombi's membership function [3].
The modifiers are also evaluation relations. ν is the decision level, λ is the sharpness. The difference between the σ function and modifiers is only the domain of the two functions.

8. Threshold and logical operators

The main problem with the strict monotonous operator is that they are not idempotent. As in the modifiers the threshold will play an important role. We changes the operator system using on it unary operator.
Let us suppose that if all x_i are less then our ν^0 threshold level, it is reasonable to require that the result also has this properties and similar, if they are less then the threshold level the result also should be less. Our objectives to find an unary operator on conjunction and disjunction that this properties fulfills. The modifier in this case is

$$\tau(x) = f^{-1}(\tfrac{1}{n} f(x))$$

where n is the number of the arguments.
Using this modifiers to the operators we get

$$o(x_1, x_{2,} \ldots x_n) = f^{-1}(\tfrac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i)$$

where o is either conjunctive (ϕ) or disjunctive (ψ) operator. The operators do not loose the conjunctive and disjunctive characteristics with this modification and they are idempontent too. The form is equivalent with the mean operator. The specialty of this mean is that they behave conjunctive and disjunctive properties. In multicriteria decision making the weighting system is the most important question. In the next we summarized our results.

9. Weights and operators

Usually the problem to find weights in the decision process appears independent from the aggregation (operators used in the decision making). It can be shown that the weights and aggregation is closely related to each other. We show that the weighted aggregation is

$$o(x_1, w_1; x_1, w_1; \ldots; x_n, w_n) = f^{-1}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i f(x_i)\right)$$

where the sum of the weights are 1.
Operators with weight are the generalization of the operators of the previous section of the mean operator.

10. Aggregation

In the article of Dombi [2] was examined the aggregation concept. It is the general solution of associative functional equation under particular conditions. We show that this kind of operator naturally relate to the dual operators. It is known if f a generator function of a logical operator (conjunctive or disjunctive) then f^{γ} generator function too.
If $\gamma > 0$ then the operator is conjunctive
if $\gamma < 0$ then the operator is disjunctive
if γ goes to + infinity than the corresponding operator is min and
if γ goes to $-$infinity then the corresponding operator is max operator.
The main theory of this section is :
if $\gamma = 0$ then we get the weighted aggregation operator back i.e.

$$\theta(x_1, w_1; x_2, w_2; \ldots; x_n, w_n) = f^{-1}\left(\prod_{i=1}^{n} f^{w_i}(x_i)\right)$$

The parameter γ responsible for the type of the operator. The negation operator belonging to the aggregation operator also do not changes i.e. the same as derived at logical operators.

11. Preference operator

Besides weights the preference relation is the most important question in multicriteria decision making. Usually fuzzy preference relation is based on implication operators. Because of the importance of threshold in pliant system we build it using aggregation. *(p(x,y)* stands for the evaluation of $x < y$)

$$\pi(x,y) = \theta(n_{\nu^0}(x), y)$$

Utilize the aggregation property we get

$$\pi(x,y) = f^{-1}\left(f(\nu^0)\left(\frac{f(y)}{f(x)}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

It is important to mention here, that preference relation is consistent with the evaluation relation using Dombi operators and the transitivity also holds together with the aggregation.

12. Appraisal process

In fuzzy theory reasoning manly based on implication and minmax composition with membership function. On control field defuzzification also is needed. Although there exist a lot of procedure, we do not see really good solution. Reasoning is for modeling modus ponens i.e.

x
and$_0$
if x **then$_1$** y
then$_2$
y

The word **and$_0$, then$_2$** are different from the **then$_2$.** The **then$_2$** is on the object level opposite to **and$_0$, then$_2$** which are on the meta level. Fuzzy do not distinguish with the two level.
In appraisal process the object level is represented by inequality (describing the statement by evaluation relation) and for the meta level we use the evaluation operators.

The conclusion is the result an optimization process.

13. Pliant logic based on Dombi operators

In the following we summarized the special realization of the evaluation concept using Dombi operators and evaluation relations. The logic with the notation system is:

values	$x, y, \quad x_i$
decision level	$a, b, \quad a_i$
threshold value	ν, ν°, ν^*
$n(\nu^*) = \nu^* \quad n(\nu) = \nu^{\circ}$	
importance, weight	u, v, w, w_i
sharpness	λ
type of the operator	γ
$\gamma = +1$ conjunction	
$\gamma = -1$ disjunction	
$\gamma = 0$ aggregation	
$\gamma = +\infty$ min	
$\gamma = -\infty$ max	

Evaluation operators

Unary operators

$\sigma_a(x)$	evaluation relation
$\eta_\nu(x)$	negation
$\tau_\nu(x)$	modifiers
$\chi^\lambda(x)$	sharpness
$\omega_w(x)$	weighting

Operators

ϕ (x,y)	conjunctiva
ψ(x,y)	disjunctive
θ(x, y)	aggregation
π(x,y)	preference

Notation of Pliant logic:

Unary operators

$\{a < x\}$	evaluation relation
$\{\nu \succ x\}$	negation
$\{x^{\sim}\}$	
$\{\nu \prec x\}$	modifiers
$\{x\}^\lambda$	sharpness
(w □ x)	weighting

Operators

$x\{\Delta\}^\gamma y$	conjunctiva
$x\{\nabla\}^\gamma y$	disjunctive
$\{x \Diamond y\}^\lambda$	aggregation

Example for the weighted aggregation:

$\{(u$ □ $x) \Diamond (v$ □ $y)\}^\lambda$

We show only some expression as an example:

conjunction:

$$\{a_1 < x_1\}^{\lambda_1} \Delta \{a_2 < x_2\}^{\lambda_2} .... \Delta \{a_n < x_n\}^{\lambda_n} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} e^{-\lambda_i (x_i - a_i)}}$$

disjunction:

$$\{a_1 < x_1\}^{\lambda_1} \nabla \{a_2 < x_2\}^{\lambda_2} .... \nabla \{a_n < x_n\}^{\lambda_n} = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} e^{\lambda_i (x_i - a_i)} \right)^{-1}}$$

Very important result is the aggregation;

$\{(w_1 \square \{a_1<x_1\}) \Diamond (w_2 \square \{a_2<x_2\})....$

$..... (w_n \square \{a_n<x_n\}^{\lambda}))\}^{\lambda} =$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i (x_i - a_i)}}$$

Aggregation is in pliant logic is not an other then neural approach.

14. Application.

All result of this pliant logic is very useful. We developed a natural language query system . We extended the neural network models. Continuously ID3 is also realizable with this approach. In multicriteria decision making where the people until now first of all concentrate on aggregation now the possibilities are much more far

15. About the terminology

Dual system is logical operators with reciprocal property of the generator function.
Evaluation system are weighted operators together with modifiers, negation, aggregation, preference relations.
Appraisal process is reasoning process, based on inequality relation. Appraisal is for a complex reasoning process.
Pliant logic is a special realization of evaluation operators and appraisal process using Dombi operators. The name pliant logic is chosen because the parameters of the system is easy to validate it and also to make identification with the real word problem. The system because it is plaint, therefore it is submissive.

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