

# 4 Design of Fuzzy Sets

*Fuzzy Systems Engineering  
Toward Human-Centric Computing*

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# 4.1 Semantics of fuzzy sets: General observations

# Semantics of fuzzy sets

- Generic constructs/building conceptual blocks to describe systems in a meaningful way
- Each fuzzy set comes with a well-delineated semantics (meaning)
  - Example: *small* – *medium* – *large* error
- Limited number of fuzzy sets
  - “magic” number of 7 +/- 2 (*Miller, 1956*) (short –term memory)

- Fuzzy sets require calibration
  - determination of their membership functions
- Two main approaches to the problem:
  - Expert –driven (designer, user, decision-maker...)
  - Data driven (from data to fuzzy sets)

## 4.2 Fuzzy sets as a descriptor of feasible solutions

# Fuzzy sets as descriptor of feasible solutions (1)

Consider some function  $f(x)$  defined in  $\Omega$ ,

$$f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}. \text{ where } \Omega \subset \mathbf{R}$$

Determine its maximum

$$x^{\text{opt}} = \arg \max_x f(x).$$

Fuzzy set  $A$  of *optimal* solutions  $\equiv$  a collection of feasible solutions that could be labeled as *optimal* with some degrees of membership.

$$A(x) = \frac{f(x) - f_{\min}}{f_{\max} - f_{\min}}$$



# Fuzzy sets as descriptor of feasible solutions (2)

Consider some function  $f(x)$  defined in  $\Omega$ ,

$$f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}, \text{ where } \Omega \subset \mathbf{R}$$

Determine its minimum

$$x^{\text{opt}} = \arg \max_x f(x).$$

Fuzzy set  $A$  of *optimal* solutions  $\equiv$  a collection of feasible solutions that could be labeled as *optimal* with some degrees of membership.

$$A(x) = 1 - \frac{f(x) - f_{\min}}{f_{\max} - f_{\min}}$$

# Fuzzy sets as descriptors of feasible solutions

## Example

### Linearization error

Linearize function  $y = g(x) = \exp(-x)$  around  $x_0=1$  and assess the quality of this linearization in the range  $[-1, 7]$ .

Linearization formula:  $y - y_0 = g'(x_0)(x - x_0)$

$y_0 = g(x_0)$  and  $g'(x_0)$  is the derivative of  $g(x)$  at  $x_0$ .

Linearized version of the function  $\exp(-1)(2 - x)$ .

Quality of linearization  $f(x) = |g(x) - \exp(-1)(2 - x)|$ .

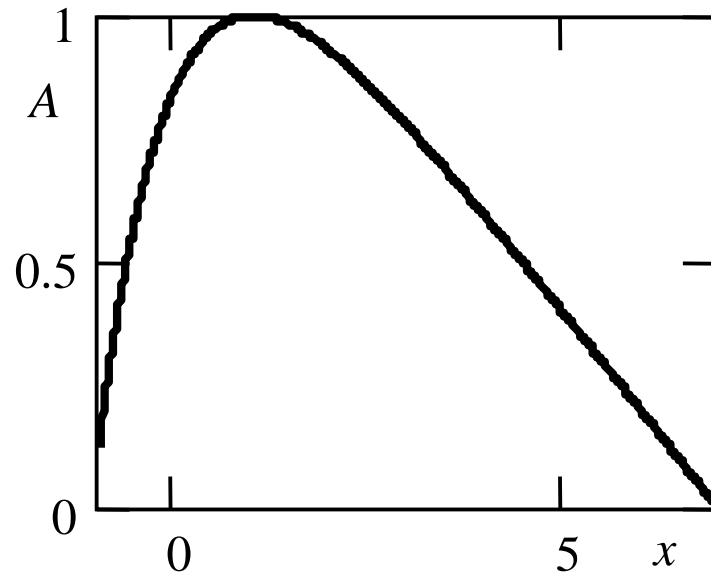


$$A(x) = 1 - \frac{f(x) - f_{\min}}{f_{\max} - f_{\min}}$$

$$f_{\max} = f(7) = 1.84 \text{ and } f_{\min} = 0.0$$

# Fuzzy sets as descriptors of feasible solutions

## Example

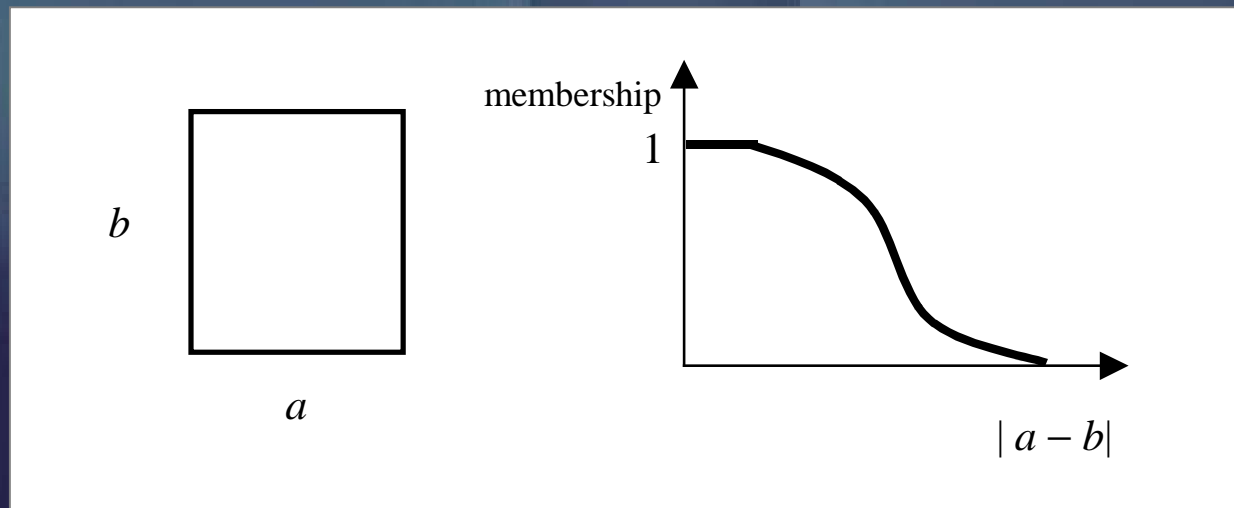


$$A(x) = 1 - \frac{f(x) - f_{\min}}{f_{\max} - f_{\min}}$$

## 4.3 Fuzzy sets as a descriptor of the notion of typicality

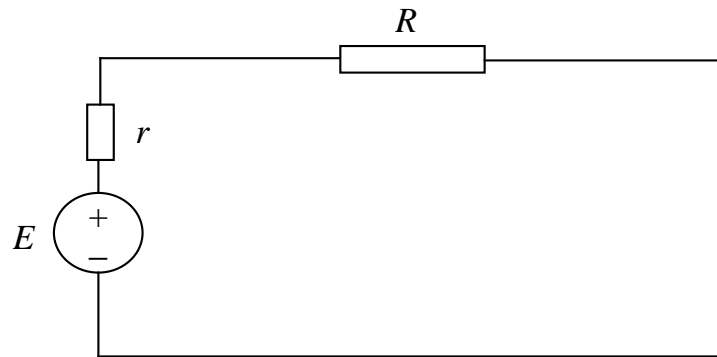
# Fuzzy sets as notions of typicality

- Fuzzy set as collection of elements of varying degrees of typicality
- Geometric figures : squares, circles....

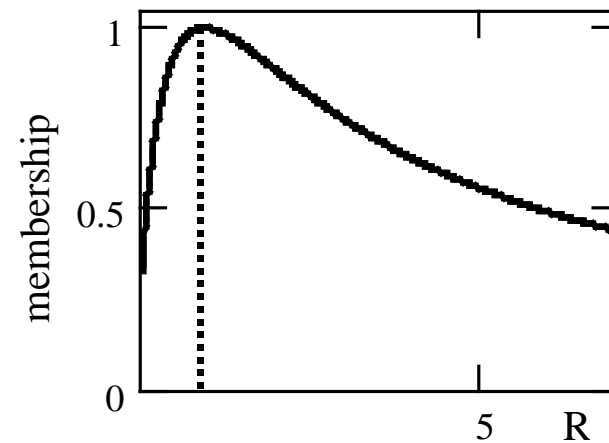


## **4.4 Membership functions in the visualization of preferences solutions**

# Fuzzy sets in visualization of preferences of solutions



$$P = i^2 R = \left( \frac{E}{R+r} \right)^2 R$$



# 4.5 Nonlinear transformations of fuzzy sets





## **4.6 Vertical and horizontal schemes of membership estimation**

# Horizontal scheme of membership estimation

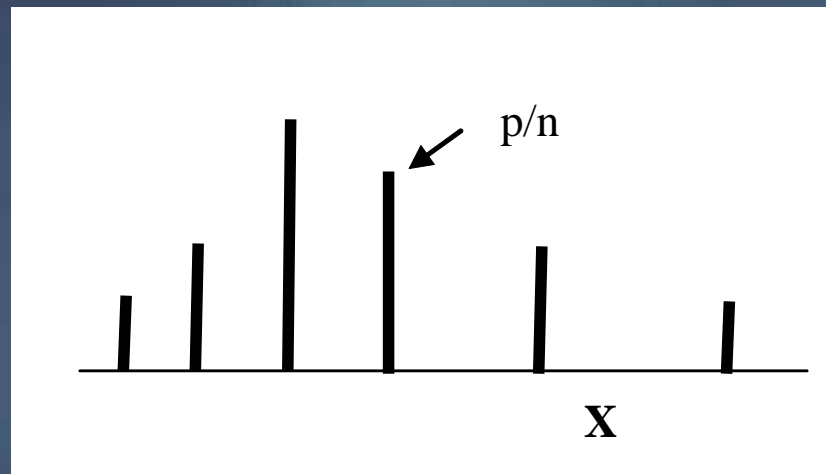
Finite elements of the universe of discourse  $X$   
Question of the form

-does  $x$  belong to concept  $A$ ?

Accepted are binary answers (yes-no)

“ $n$ ” experts – count of positive (yes) answers:  $p/n$

# Horizontal scheme of membership estimation



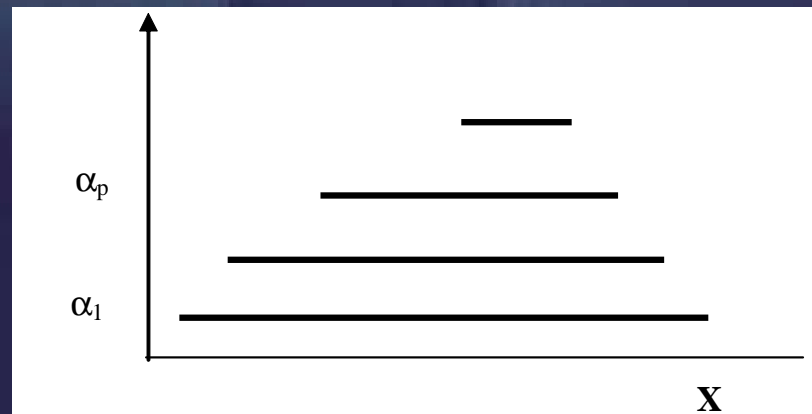
binary replies follow binomial distribution; we can determine confidence interval

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

# Vertical scheme of membership estimation

Estimation of membership function by determining  $\alpha$ -cuts and aggregating them (see representation theorem)

-What are the elements of  $X$  which belong to fuzzy set  $A$  at degree not lower than  $\alpha$ ?



# Horizontal and vertical schemes of membership estimation

Simple and intuitively appealing

Reflective of domain knowledge

Lack of continuity – elements of **X** considered independently

# Saaty's priority method of pairwise comparison

Collection of elements  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$

Membership degrees are given  $A(x_1), A(x_2), \dots, A(x_n)$

Reciprocal matrix R

$$R = [r_{ij}] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_n)} \\ \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_n)} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_n)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_n)} \\ \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_1)} & 1 & \dots & \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_n)} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Saaty's priority method of pairwise comparison

$$R = [r_{ij}] = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_n)} \\ \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_n)} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_n)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_1)}{A(x_n)} \\ \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_1)} & 1 & \dots & \frac{A(x_2)}{A(x_n)} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_n)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

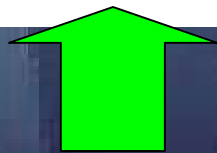
Reciprocal matrix R –main properties:

- (a) reflexivity
- (b) reciprocity
- (c) transitivity



# Saaty's priority method of pairwise comparison: computing

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{A(x_i)}{A(x_1)} & \frac{A(x_i)}{A(x_2)} & \dots & \frac{A(x_i)}{A(x_n)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A(x_1) \\ A(x_2) \\ \dots \\ A(x_n) \end{bmatrix}$$



i-th row of R

$$RA = nA$$

n-the largest eigenvalue of R

# Saaty's priority method of pairwise comparison

Estimation of reciprocal matrix:

Scale (typically 1-7 range, could be larger, 1-9)

- strong preference: high values on the scale (7-9)
- preference: 4-7
- weak preference or no preference 1-3

Solving the eigenvalue problem for R, max eigenvalue,  
 $\lambda_{\max}$

# Saaty's priority method : consistency of results

$$v = (\lambda_{\max} - n)/(n-1)$$

lack of consistency  $v > 0.1$

# Saaty's priority method : Example

*high temperature*

Universe of discourse: 10, 20, 30, 40, 45

Scale 1-5

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1/2 & 1/4 & 1/5 \\ 2 & 1 & 1/3 & 1/4 \\ 4 & 3 & 1 & 1/3 \\ 5 & 4 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

max eigenvalue = 4.114    eigenvector [0.122 0.195 0.438 0.869]  
after normalization [0.14 0.22 0.50 1.00].

# Fuzzy sets as granular representation of numeric data

## The principle of justifiable granularity

experiment-driven and intuitively appealing rationale:

- (a) we expect that A reflects (or matches) the available experimental data to the highest extent, and
- (b) second, the fuzzy set is kept specific enough so that it comes with a well-defined semantics.

# The principle of justifiable granularity

(a) we expect that A reflects (or matches) the available experimental data to the highest extent, and

**Maximize “coverage” of data**

(b) second, the fuzzy set is kept specific enough so that it comes with a well-defined semantics.

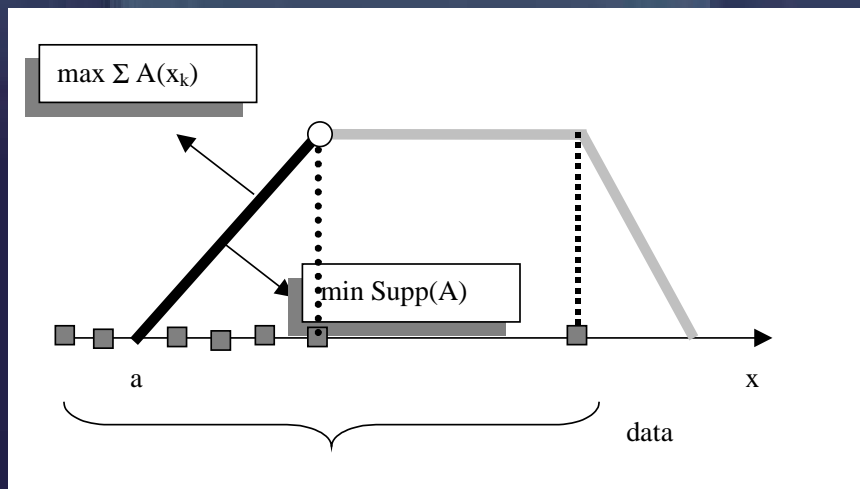
**Minimize spread of fuzzy set**

# The principle of justifiable granularity: unimodal fuzzy set

Numeric data  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$

Determine its “modified” median

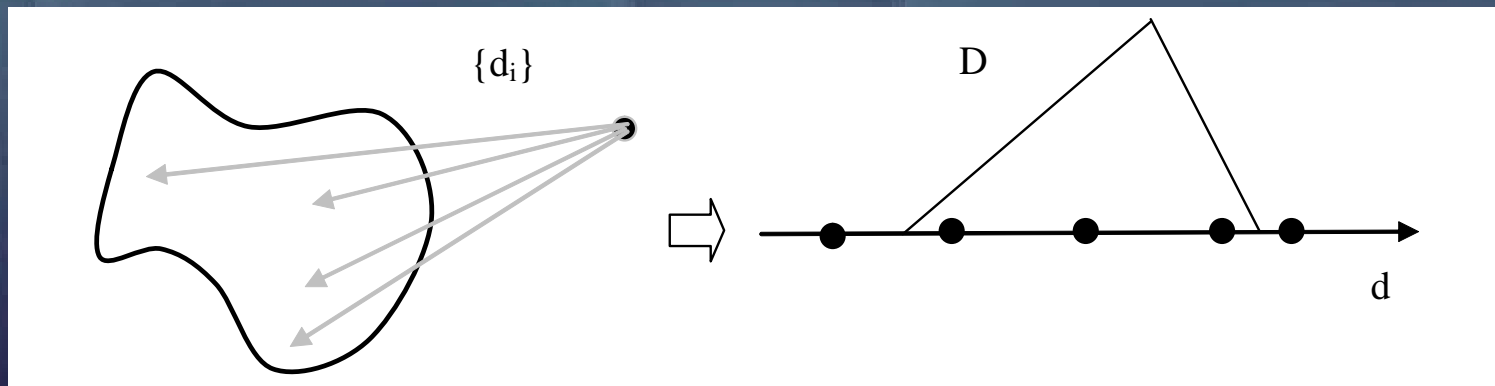
Consider separately data to the left and right from the median



$$\max_{a \neq m} \frac{\sum_k A(x_k)}{|m - a|}$$

# The principle of justifiable granularity: examples

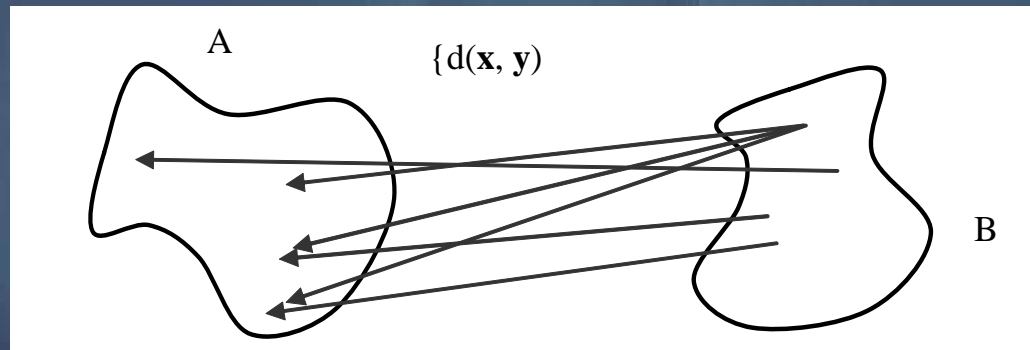
Distance of point from geometric figure





# The principle of justifiable granularity: examples

Distance between two geometric figures A and B



$$d_H(A, B) = \max\{\sup_{\mathbf{x} \in A} [\min_{\mathbf{y} \in B} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})], \sup_{\mathbf{y} \in B} [\min_{\mathbf{x} \in A} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})]\}$$

# Clustering: Fuzzy C-Means (FCM)

Given a collection of n-dimensional data set  $\{\mathbf{x}_k\}$ ,  $k=1,2,\dots,N$ ,

determine its structure – a collection of “c” clusters.

Minimize the following objective function (performance index) Q

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^c \sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m \|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{v}_i\|^2$$

# Fuzzy clustering: structure representation

Partition matrix  $U$

Prototypes  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_c$

$$\sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik} = 1, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

$$0 < \sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik} < N, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, c$$

# FCM – optimization procedure

Optimization with respect to

- Partition matrix  $U$ , and
- Prototypes  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_c$

# Optimization: partition matrix

use of Lagrange multipliers

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik}^m d_{ik}^2 + \lambda \left( \sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik} - 1 \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial u_{st}} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial \lambda} = 0$$

# Optimization: partition matrix

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik}^m d_{ik}^2 + \lambda \left( \sum_{i=1}^c u_{ik} - 1 \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial u_{st}} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial \lambda} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial u_{st}} = m u_{st}^{m-1} d_{st}^2 + \lambda$$



$$u_{st} = - \left( \frac{\lambda}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}} d_{st}^{\frac{2}{m-1}}$$



$$- \left( \frac{\lambda}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \sum_{j=1}^c d_{jt}^{\frac{2}{m-1}} = 1$$

$$- \left( \frac{\lambda}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}} = \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^c d_{jt}^{\frac{2}{m-1}}}$$



$$u_{st} = \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^c \left( \frac{d_{st}^2}{d_{jt}^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}}$$

# Optimization: prototypes

$$Q = \sum_{i=1}^c \sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m \sum_{j=1}^n (x_{kj} - v_{ij})^2$$

Gradient of  $Q$  w.r.t. prototype  $\mathbf{v}_s$

$$\sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m (x_{kt} - v_{st}) = 0$$

$$v_{st} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m x_{kt}}{\sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m}$$

# FCM: an overview of the algorithm

**procedure** FCM-CLUSTERING ( $\mathbf{x}$ ) **returns** prototypes and partition matrix

**input** : data  $\mathbf{x} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k\}$

**local**: fuzzification parameter:  $m$

threshold:  $\epsilon$

norm:  $\|\cdot\|$

INITIALIZE-PARTITION-MATRIX

$t \leftarrow 0$

**repeat**

**for**  $i=1:c$  **do**

$$\mathbf{v}_i(t) \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m(t) \mathbf{x}_k}{\sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m(t)} \quad \text{compute prototypes}$$

**for**  $i = 1:c$  **do**

**for**  $k = 1:N$  **do**

      update partition matrix

$$u_{ik}(t+1) = \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^c \left( \frac{\|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{v}_i(t)\|}{\|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{v}_j(t)\|} \right)^{2/(m-1)}} \quad \text{update partition matrix}$$

$t \leftarrow t + 1$

**until**  $\|U(t+1) - U(t)\| \leq \epsilon$

**return**  $U, V$



# FCM and its parameters

Number of clusters ( $c$ )

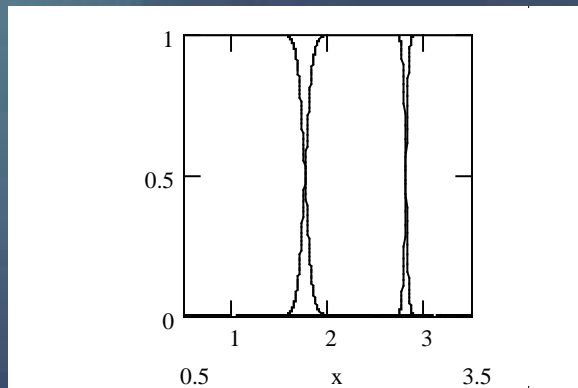
Objective function  $Q$

Distance function  $\|.\|$

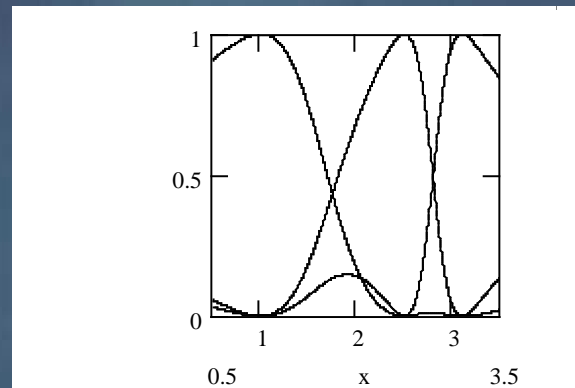
Fuzzification coefficient ( $m$ )

Termination criterion

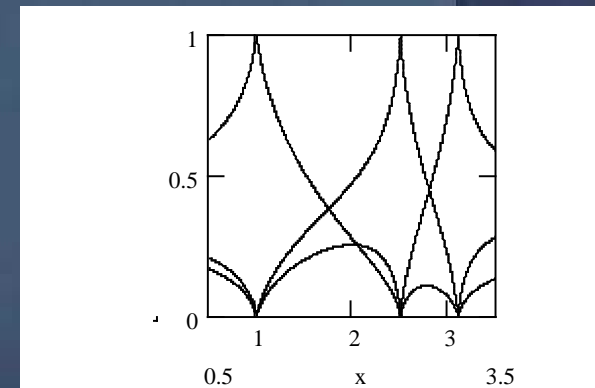
# Geometry of clusters and fuzzification coefficient (m)



$m = 1.2$



$m = 2.0$



$m = 3.5$

# Cluster sharing: a separation measure

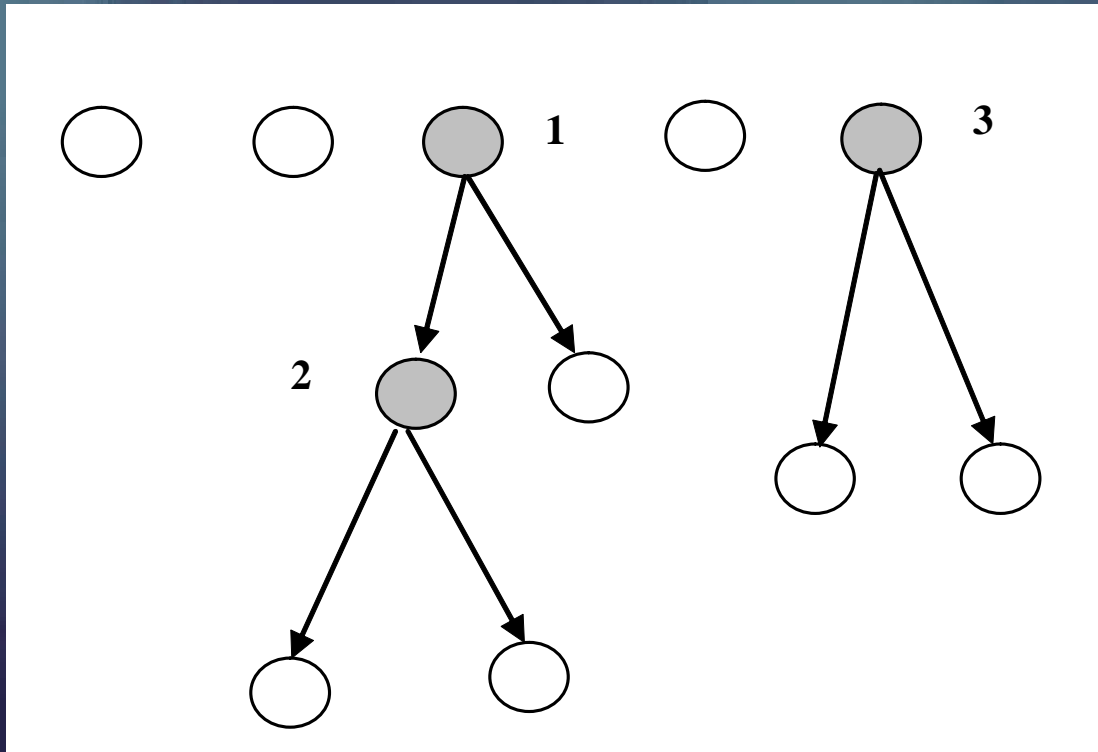
$$\varphi(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_c) = 1 - c^c \prod_{i=1}^c u_i$$

Data fully belongs to a single cluster (1- 0)



Data belongs to all clusters at the same level (1/c)

# Hierarchical format of FCM: Successive refinements of clusters

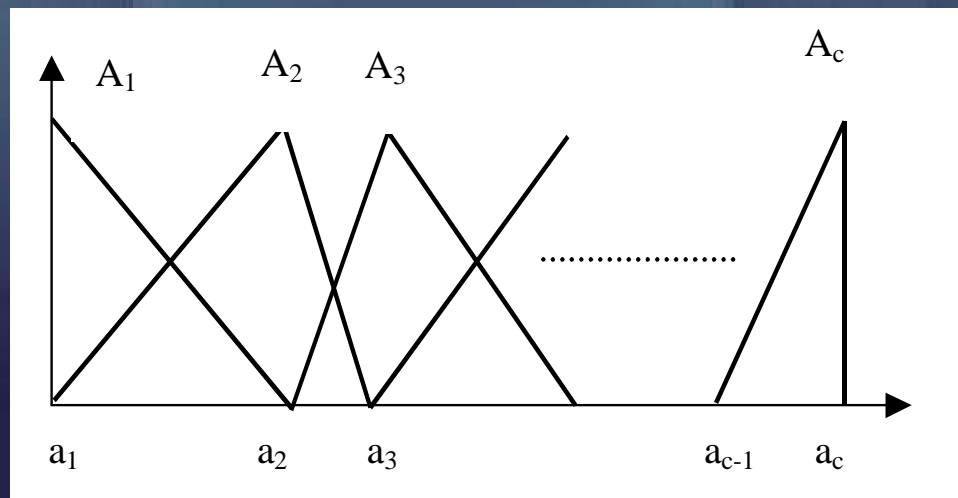


$$V_i = \sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m \| \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{v}_i \|^2$$

$$\mathbf{X}(i_0) = \{ \mathbf{x}_k \in \mathbf{X} \mid u_{i_0 k} = \max_i u_{ik} \}$$

# Fuzzy equalization

Construct triangular fuzzy sets  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_c$  defined in  $\mathbf{R}$  such that they come with the same level of experimental evidence (support)



$$\sum_{k=1}^N A_1(x_k) = \frac{N}{2(c-1)}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^N A_2(x_k) = \frac{N}{(c-1)}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^N A_{c-1}(x_k) = \frac{N}{(c-1)}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^N A_c(x_k) = \frac{N}{2(c-1)}$$

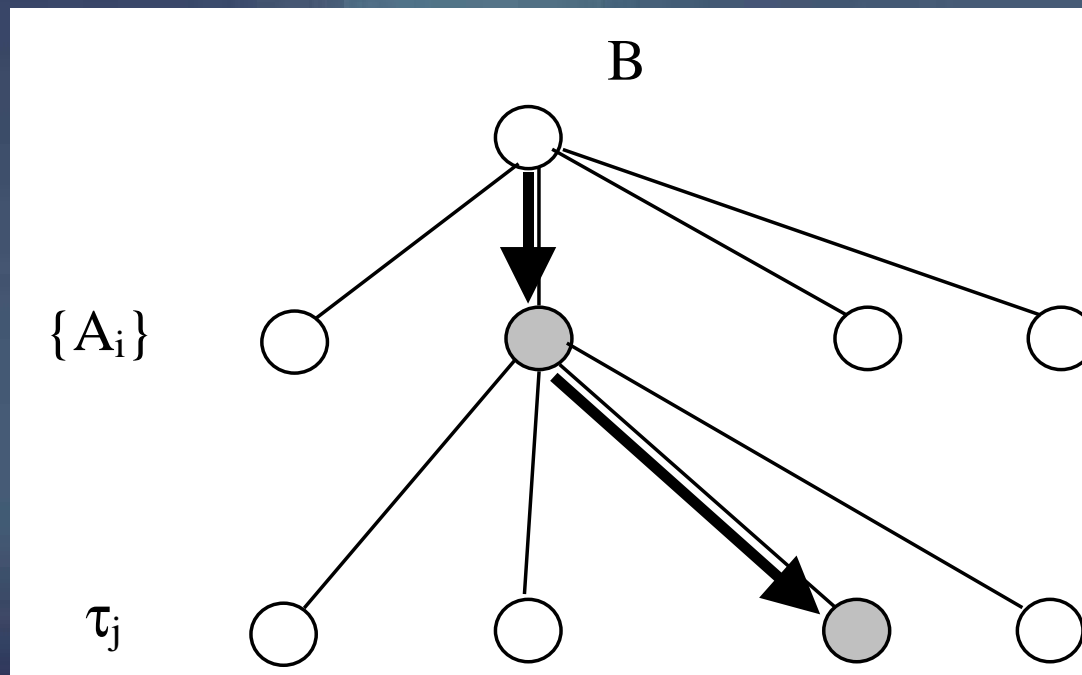
# Linguistic approximation

Given is a family of reference fuzzy sets  $\{A_i\}$  defined in some space  $X$

We have at disposal is a family of linguistic modifiers  $\tau_j$ , say  
*more or less* (dilution),  
*very* (concentration)

Represent (approximate)  $B$  in  $X$  with the use of reference fuzzy sets and linguistic modifiers == **linguistic approximation**

# Linguistic approximation: optimization



$$B \approx \tau_i(A_j)$$

# Construction of fuzzy sets: Design guidelines (1)

Strive for highly visible and well-defined semantics of information granules.

Keep the number of information granules quite low ( $7 \pm 2$  fuzzy sets).

There are several fundamental views at fuzzy sets and depending upon them, consider the use of various estimation techniques.

Fuzzy sets are context-sensitive constructs and require careful calibration. This

The calibration mechanisms being used in the design of the membership function are reflective of human-centricity of fuzzy sets.



# Construction of fuzzy sets: Design guidelines (2)

two major categories of approaches supporting the design of membership functions:  
data-driven and expert (user)-driven.

The user-driven membership estimation uses the statistics of data yet in an *implicit* manner.

The granular term – fuzzy sets come into existence once there is some experimental evidence behind them

the development of fuzzy sets can be carried out in an stepwise manner.