

# 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  $f(x) = |g(x) - \exp(-1)(2 - x)|$ .

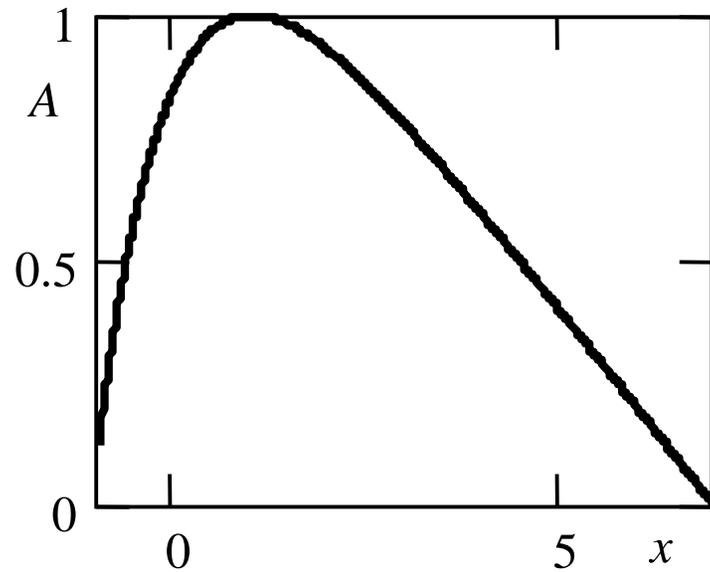


$$A(x) = 1 - \frac{f(x) - f_{\min}}{f_{\max} - f_{\min}}$$

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

# Fuzzy sets as descriptors of feasible solutions

## Example

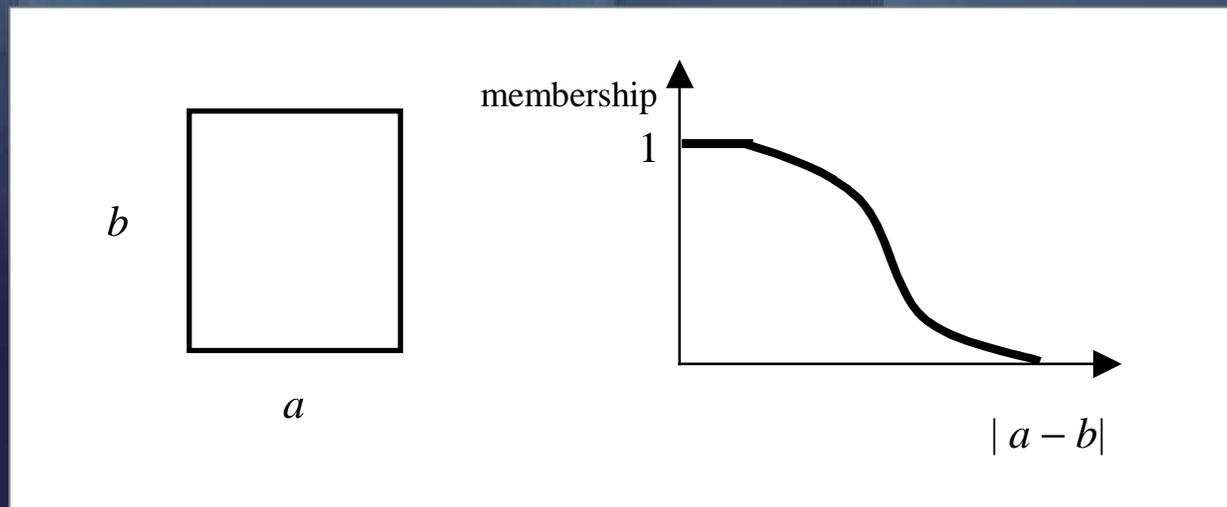


$$A(x) = 1 - \frac{f(x) - f_{\min}}{f_{\max} - f_{\min}}$$

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

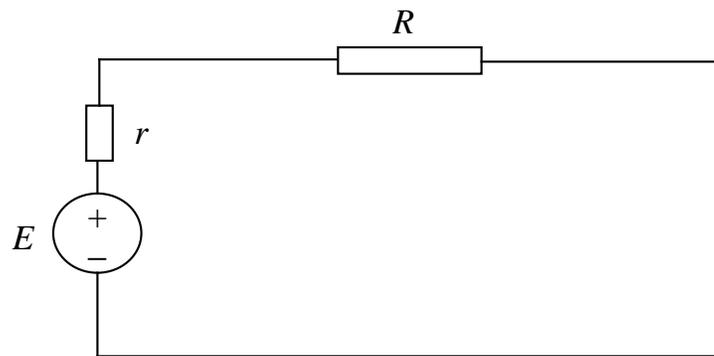
# Fuzzy sets as notions of typicality

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

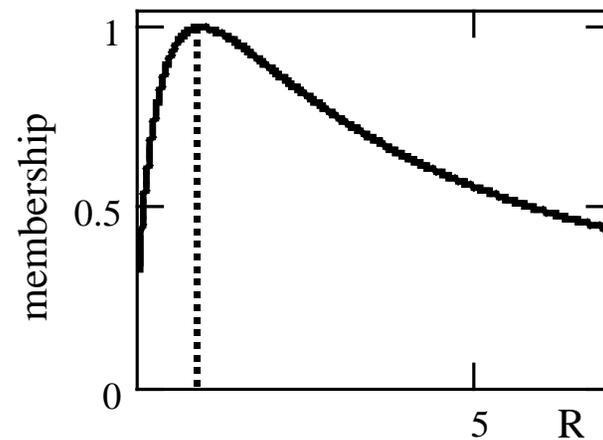


## **4.4 Membership functions in the visualization of preferences solutions**

# 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

- Experimental data

$$x_1 \text{ --- } \mu_1(1), \mu_2(1), \dots, \mu_c(1)$$

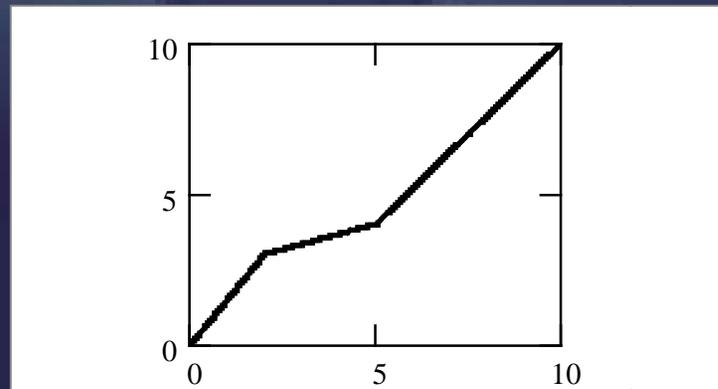
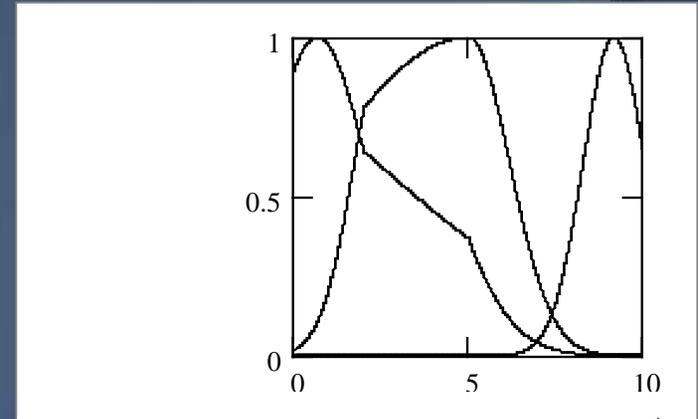
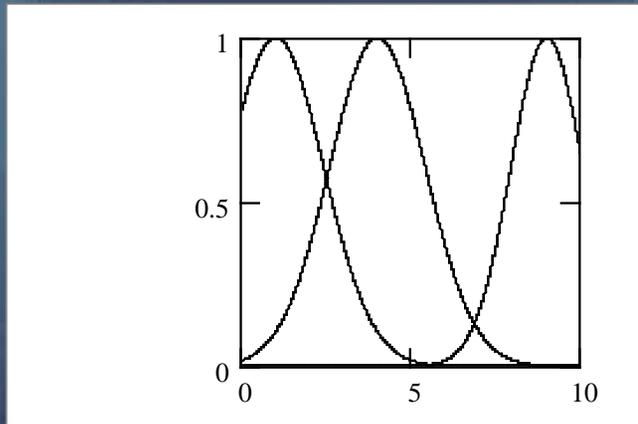
$$x_2 \text{ --- } \mu_1(2), \mu_2(2), \dots, \mu_c(2)$$

.....

$$x_N \text{ --- } \mu_1(N), \mu_2(N), \dots, \mu_c(N)$$

$$\min \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^c (A_i(\Phi(x_1, \mathbf{p}) - \mu_i(1)))^2 + \dots + \sum_{i=1}^c (A_i(\Phi(x_N, \mathbf{p}) - \mu_i(N)))^2$$

# Example

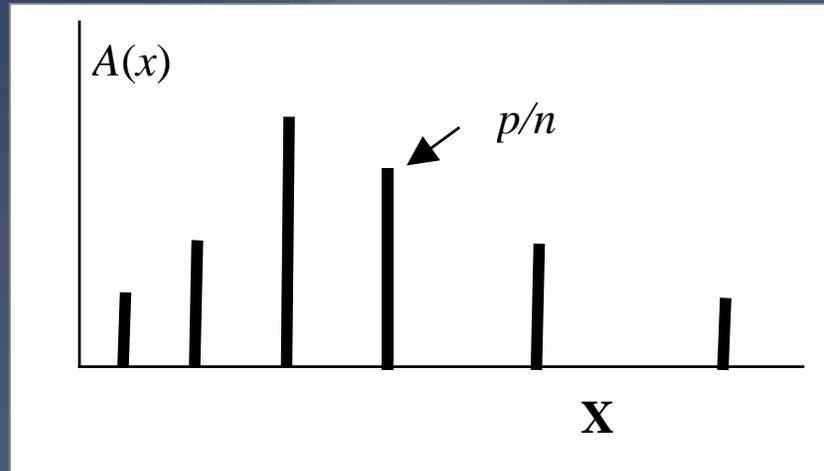


## **4.6 Vertical and horizontal schemes of membership estimation**

# 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

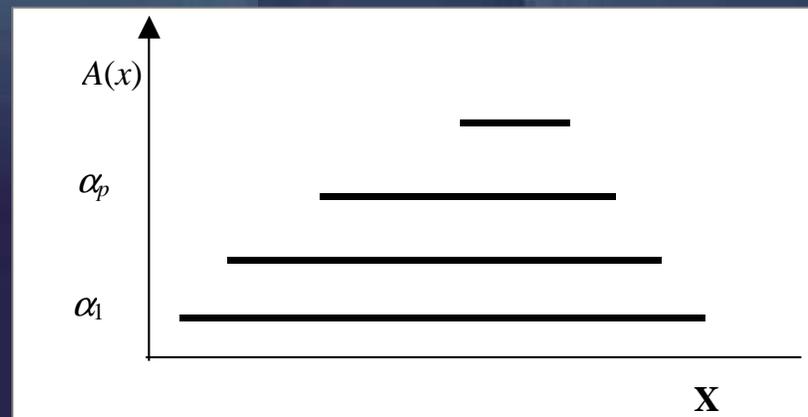


- Binary replies follow binomial distribution
- We can determine confidence interval

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

# Vertical scheme of membership estimation

- Estimation of membership function by determining  $\alpha$ -cuts and aggregating them (see representation theorem)
- What are the elements of  $\mathbf{X}$  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

## **4.7 Saaty's priority method of pairwise membership function estimation**

# 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*-th 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].

## **4.8 Fuzzy sets as granular representatives of granular data**

# 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

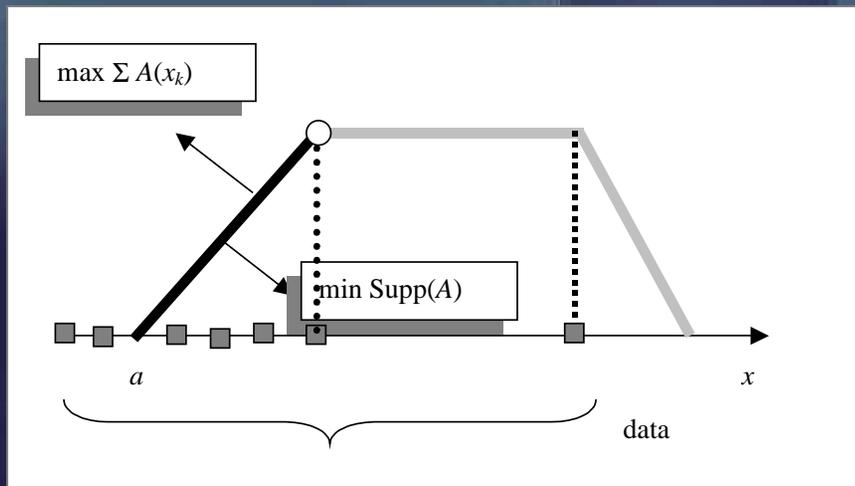
**Maximize “coverage” of data**

- (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

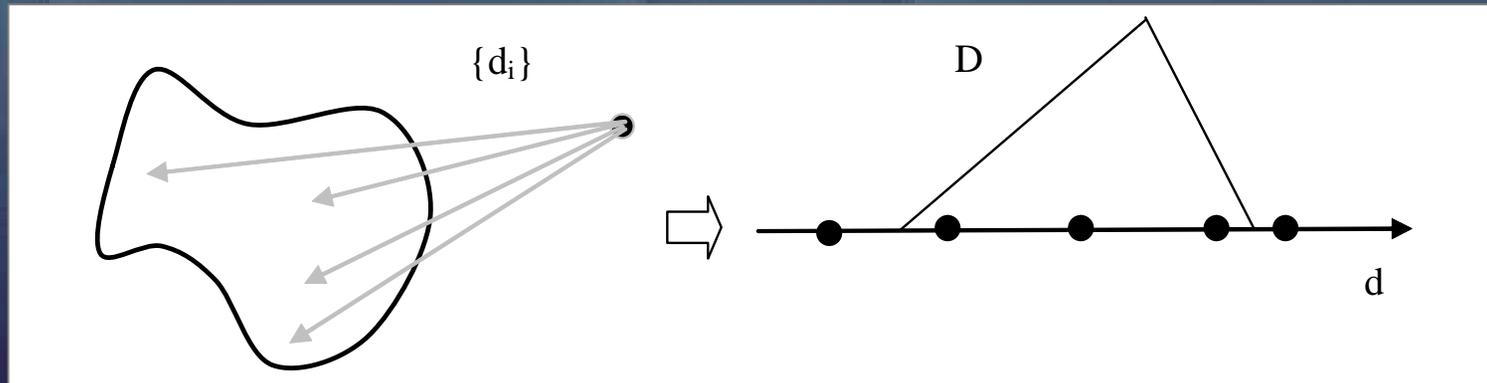
- Numeric data  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$
- Determine its “modified” median
- Consider separately data to the left and right from the median



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

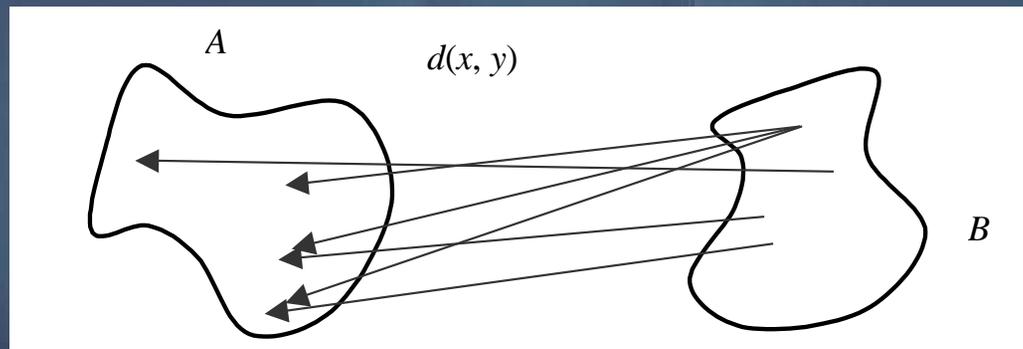
# Principle of justifiable granularity: examples

Distance of point from geometric figure



# Principle of justifiable granularity: examples

Distance between two geometric figures  $A$  and  $B$



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

# Clustering: Fuzzy C-Means (FCM)

- Given a  $n$ -dimensional data set  $\{\mathbf{x}_k\}$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, N$
- Determine a structure with  $c$  clusters

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

# 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  $U$
- 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

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



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



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

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



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

# 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  $v_s$

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

$$\mathbf{v}_{st} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m \mathbf{x}_{kt}}{\sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m}$$

# FCM: 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:  $\varepsilon$

norm:  $\|\cdot\|$

INITIALIZE-PARTITION-MATRIX

$t \leftarrow 0$

**repeat**

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

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

compute prototypes

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

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

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

update partition matrix

$t \leftarrow t + 1$

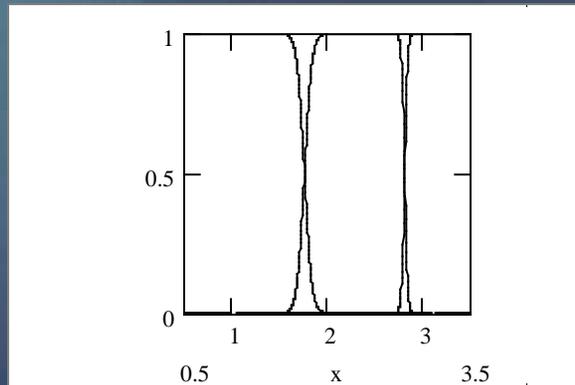
**until**  $\|U(t+1) - U(t)\| \leq \varepsilon$

**return**  $U, V$

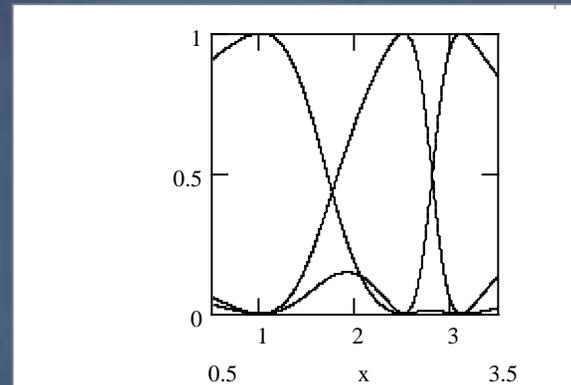
# FCM and its parameters

- Number of clusters ( $c$ )
- Objective function  $Q$
- Distance function  $\|\cdot\|$
- Fuzzification coefficient ( $m$ )
- Termination criterion

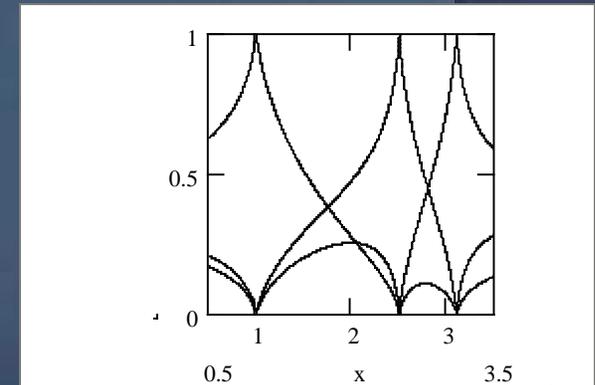
# Geometry of clusters and fuzzification coefficient



$$m = 1.2$$



$$m = 2.0$$



$$m = 3.5$$

# Cluster sharing: a separation measure

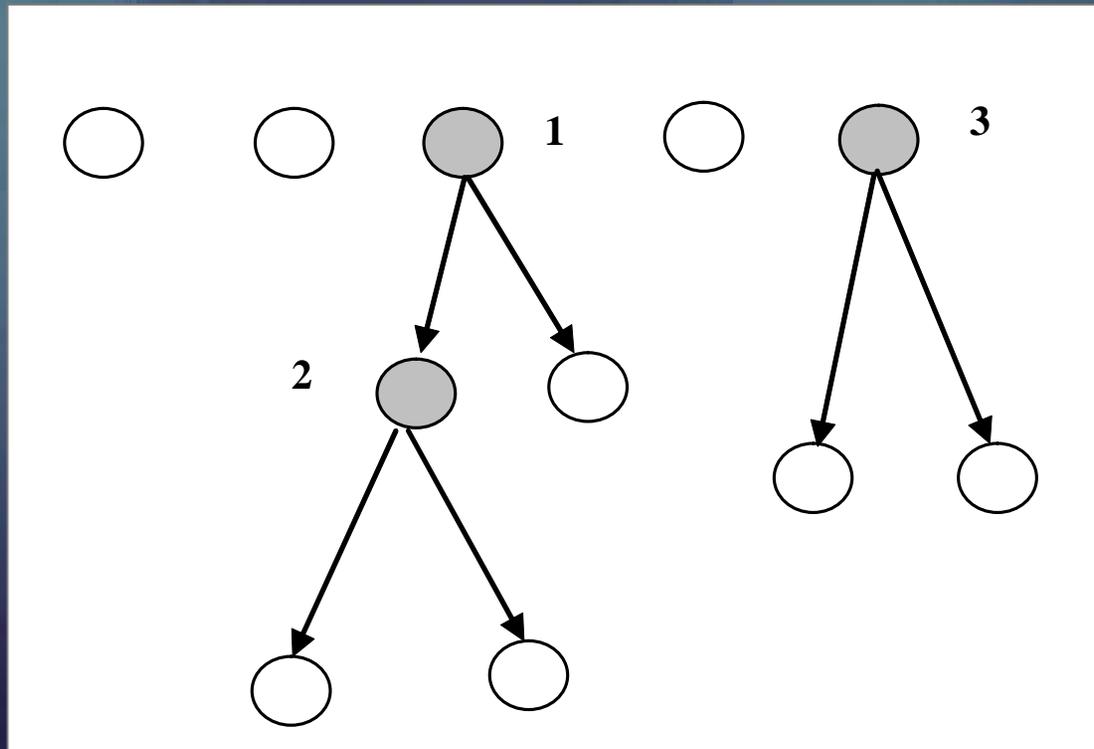
$$\varphi(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_c) = 1 - c^c \prod_{i=1}^c u_i$$

- 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



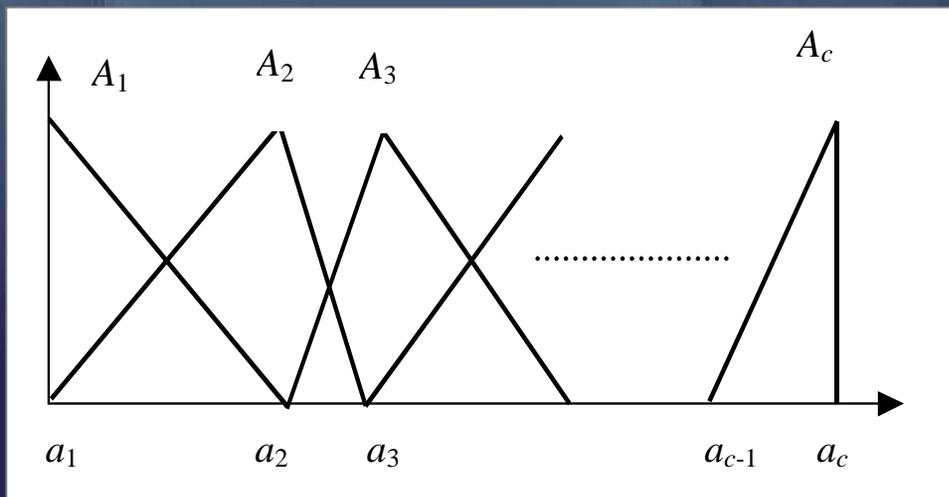
$$V_i = \sum_{k=1}^N u_{ik}^m / \|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{v}_i\|^2$$

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

## 4.10 Fuzzy equalization

# Fuzzy equalization

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



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

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

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

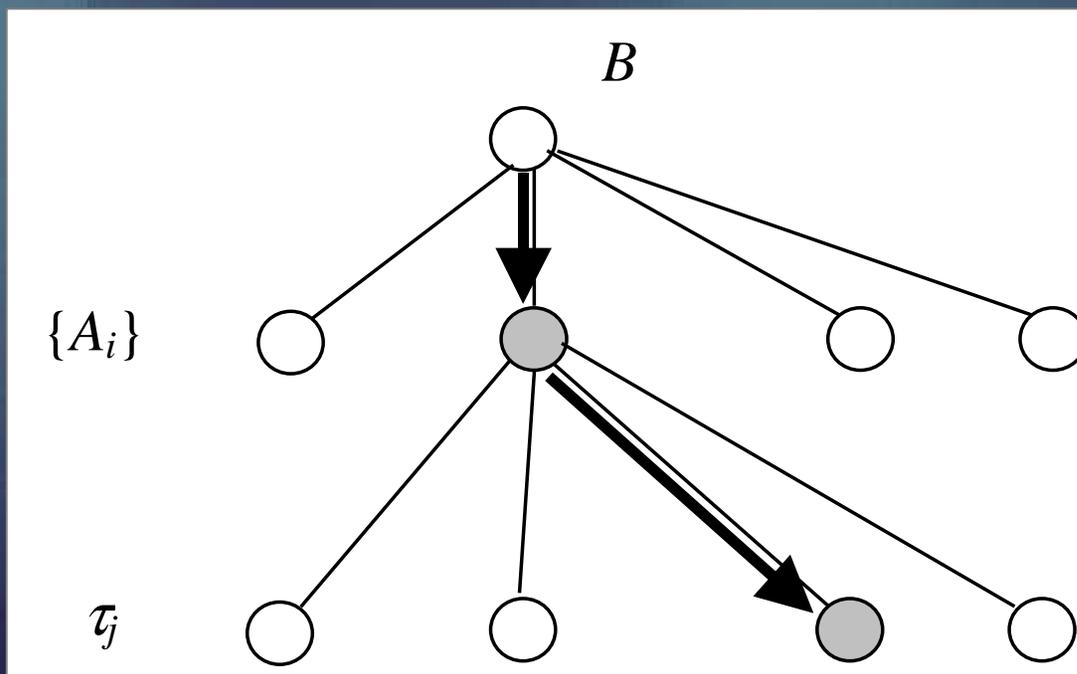
$$\sum_{k=1}^N A_c(x_k) = \frac{N}{2(c-1)}$$

## 4.11 Linguistic approximation

# Linguistic approximation

- Given is a family of reference fuzzy sets  $\{A_i\}$  defined in some space  $\mathbf{X}$
- We have at disposal is a family of linguistic modifiers  $\tau_j$ , say  
*more or less* (dilution),  
*very* (concentration)
- Represent (approximate)  $B$  in  $\mathbf{X}$  with the use of reference fuzzy sets and linguistic modifiers == **linguistic approximation**

# Linguistic approximation: optimization



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

## **4.12 Design guidelines for the construction of fuzzy sets**

# Construction of fuzzy sets: Design guidelines (1)

- Strive for highly visible and well-defined semantics of information granules
- Keep number of information granules low (  $7 \pm 2$  fuzzy sets)
- There are several views at fuzzy sets and, depending on them, consider the use of various estimation techniques
- Fuzzy sets are context-sensitive constructs and require careful calibration
- Calibration mechanisms are reflective of human-centric fuzzy sets

## Construction of fuzzy sets: Design guidelines (2)

- Major categories of approaches to design of membership functions are data-driven and expert(user)-driven
- User-driven membership estimation uses statistics of data implicitly
- Granular term-fuzzy sets exists once there is experimental evidence behind
- Development of fuzzy sets can be carried out in a stepwise manner