Introduction to fuzzy sets

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A bit of history

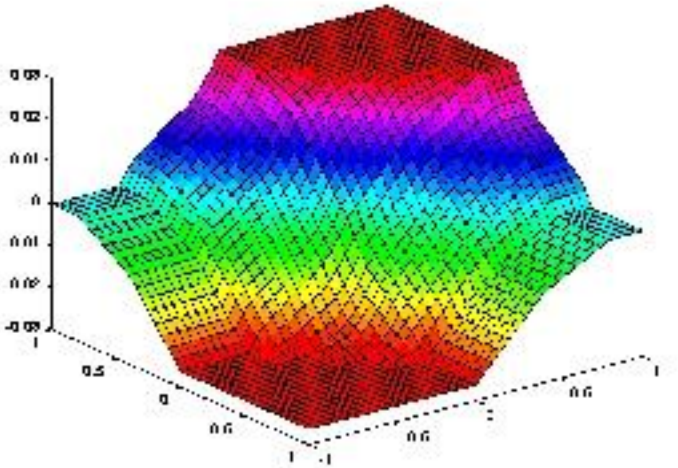
- **Fuzzy sets have been defined by Lotfi Zadeh in 1965, as a tool to model approximate concepts**
- **In 1972 the first “linguistic” fuzzy controller is implemented**
- **In the Eighties of last century boom of fuzzy controllers first in Japan, then in USA and in Europe**
- **In the Nineties applications in many fields: fuzzy data bases, fuzzy decision making, fuzzy clustering, fuzzy learning classifier systems, neuro-fuzzy systems…**
  Massive diffusion of fuzzy controllers in end-user goods
- **Now, fuzzy systems are the kernel of many “intelligent” devices**

Main characteristics

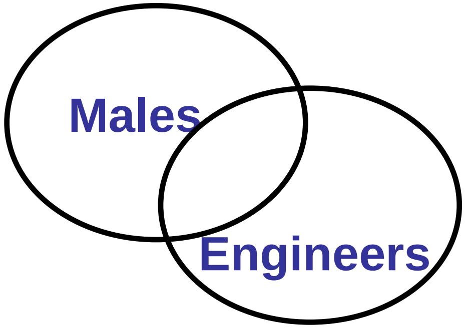
Fuzzy sets:
precise model in a finite number of points, smooth transition (approximation) among them.

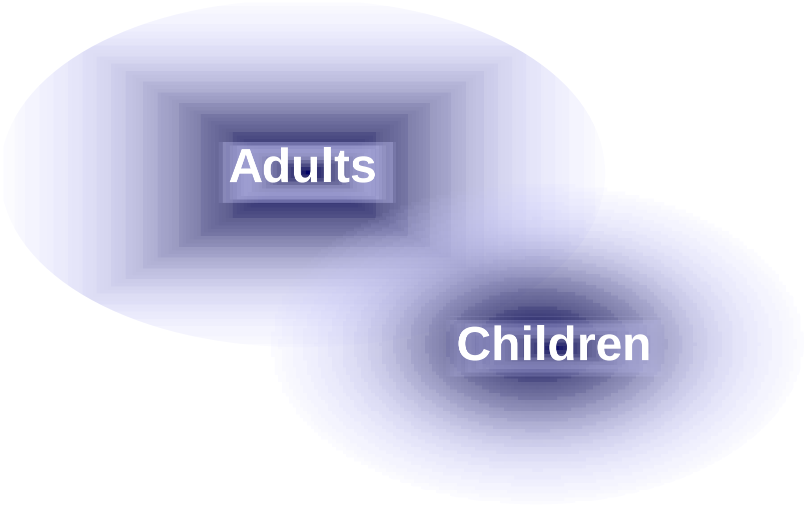
E.g.: **control of a power plant**

We can define what to do at the regimen (e.g., steam temperature =120°, steam pressure 3 atm), and when in critical situations (e.g., steam temperature= 100°), and design a model that smoothly goes from one point to the other.



A fuzzy set is a set whose membership function may range on the interval [0,1].





Crisp sets **Fuzzy sets**

Fuzzy membership functions

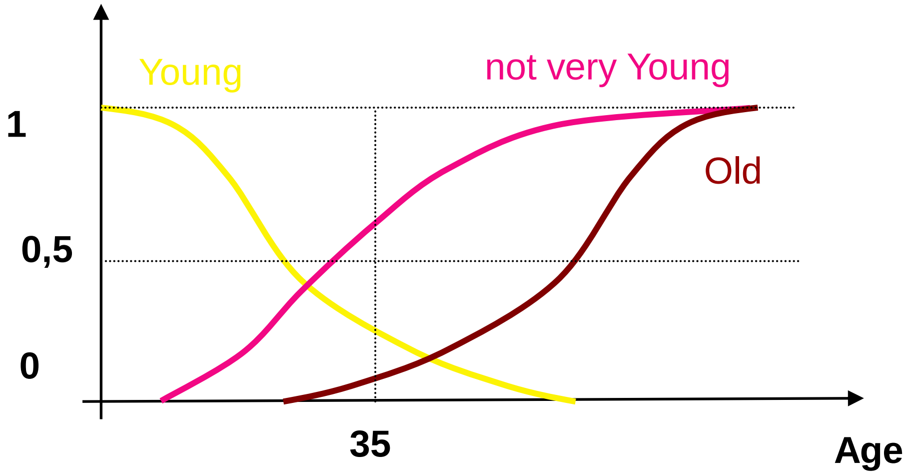
A membership function defines a set

Defines the degree of membership of an element to the set

μ: U → [0, 1]

A 35 years old person is:

- Young **with membership 0,3**
- Old **with membership 0,2**
- not very Young **with membership 0,6**

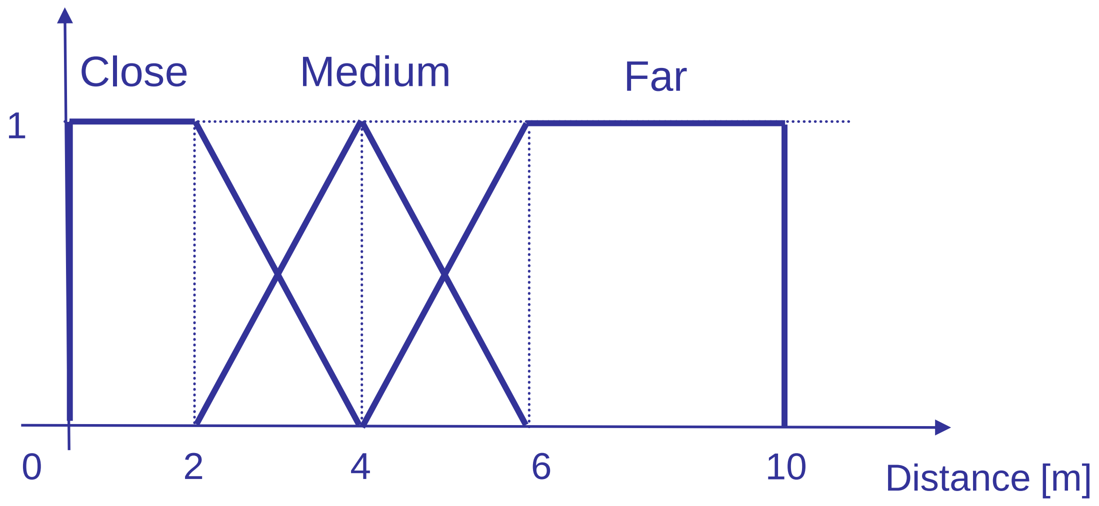


How to define MFs

1. **Select a variable**
2. **Define the range of the variable**
3. **Identify labels**
4. **For each label identify characteristic points**
5. **Identify function shapes**
6. **Check**

Let’s try to define some MFs

First of all, the variable…	→	**Distance**
Range of the variable	→	**[0..10]**
Labels	→	**Close, Medium, Far**
Characteristic points	→	**0, max, middle values, where MF=1, …**
Function shape	→	**Linear**



MFs and concepts

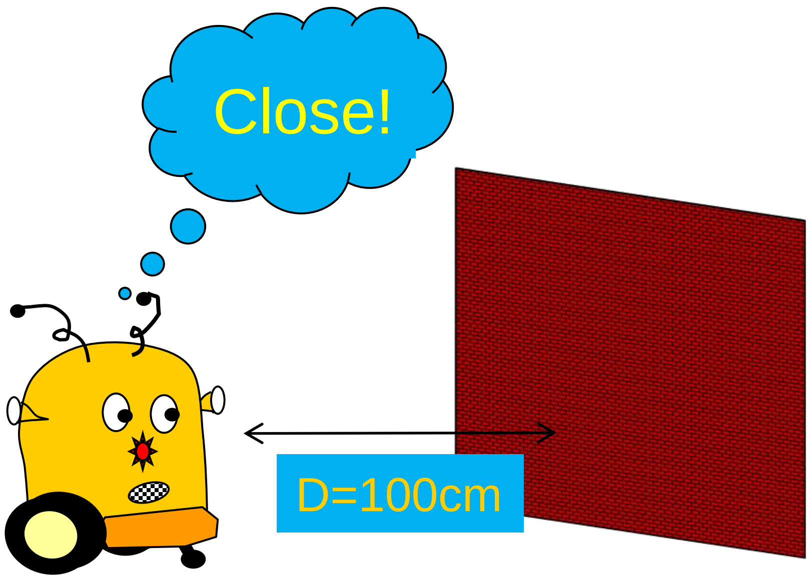
MFs define **fuzzy sets**

Labels denote **fuzzy sets**

Fuzzy sets can be considered as conceptual **representations**

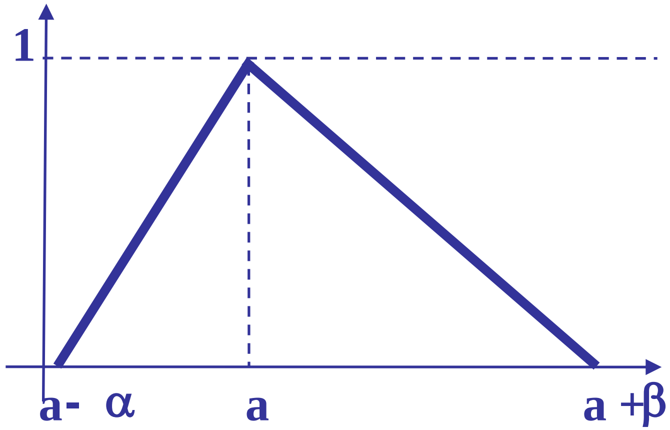
Symbol grounding**:**

reason in terms of concepts and ground them on objective reality

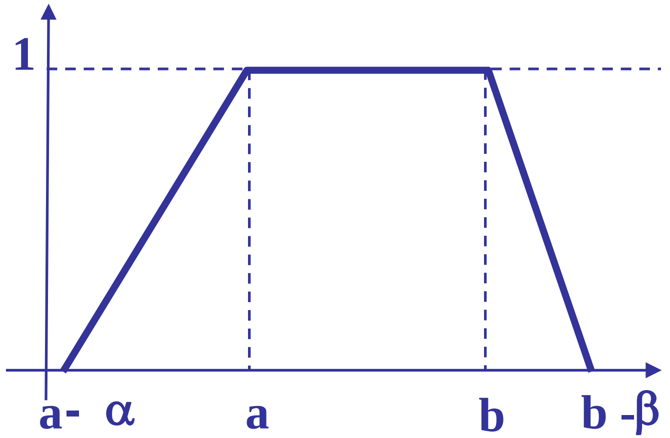


Some conceptual differences

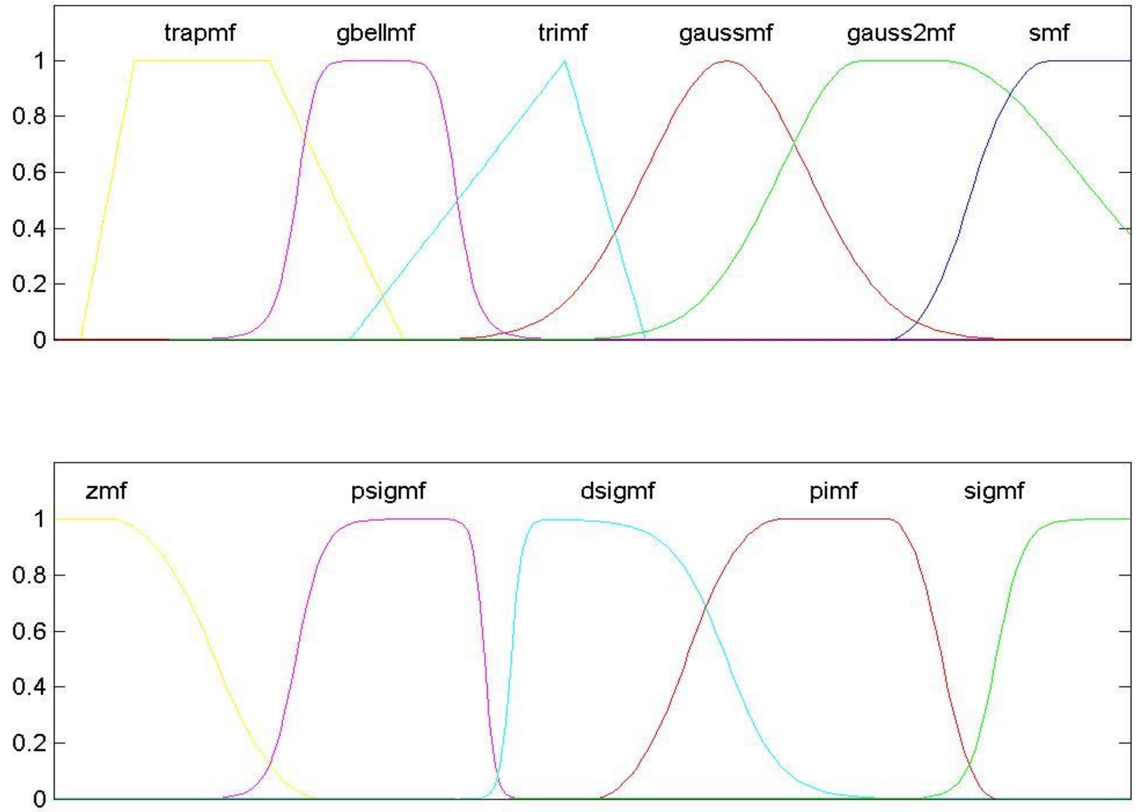
A fuzzy set with only one member with the maximum membership



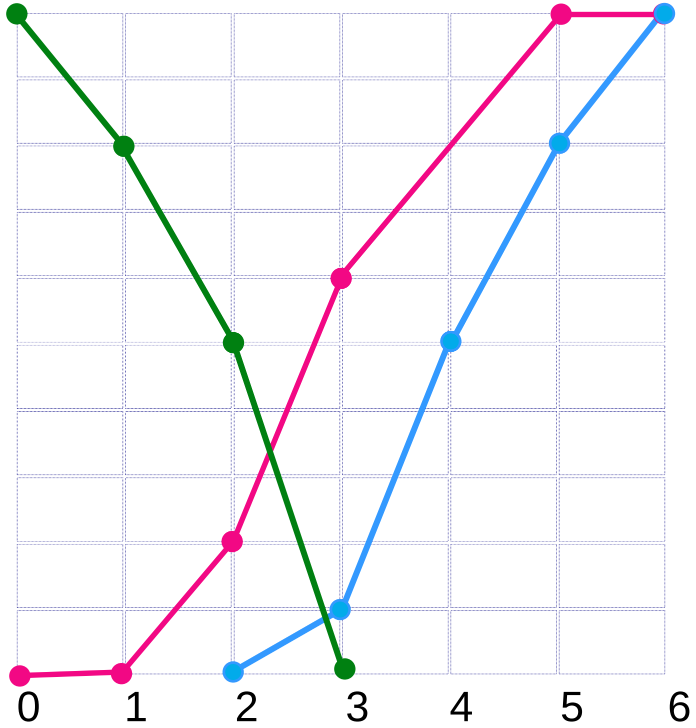
A fuzzy set with a set of members with the maximum membership



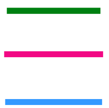
Some variations



Fuzzy sets on ordinal scales



0 - no education
1 - elementary school
2 - high school
3 - two year college
4 - bachelor's degree
5 - master's degree
6 - doctoral degree

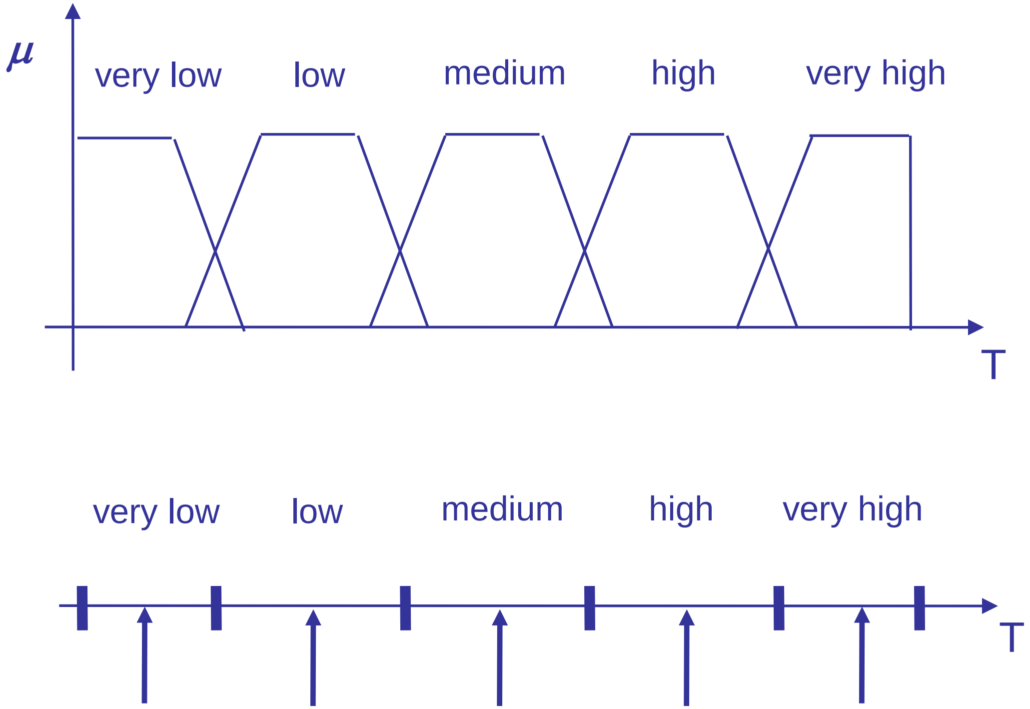


poorly educated
highly educated
very highly educated

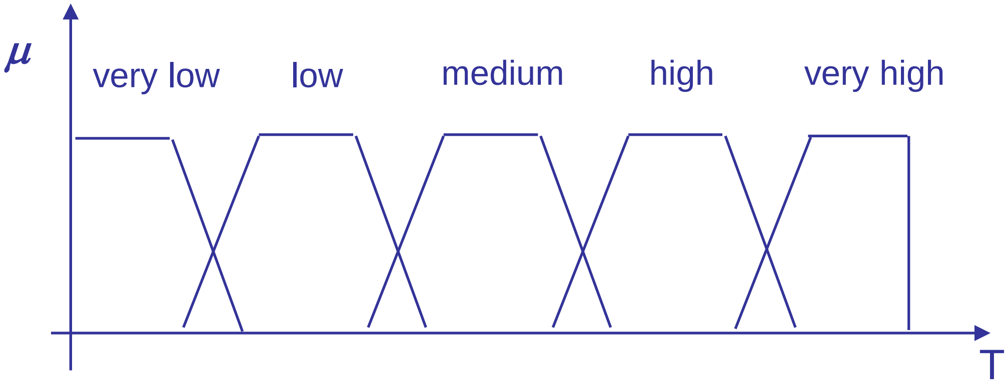
Fuzzy sets and intervals

Smoother transition

in labeling a value



Fuzzy sets covering the universe of discourse



Each fuzzy set is a *granule*

Properties of a frame of cognition

Coverage

Each element of the universe of discourse is assigned to at least a granule with membership > 0

Unimodality **of fuzzy sets**

There is a unique set of values for each granule with maximum membership

Fuzzy partition**:**

for each value of the universe of discourse the sum of membership degrees to the corresponding granules is 1

Let's consider a punctual error as the sum of the errors of interpretation by fuzzy sets due to imprecise measurements, noise, …

$$e(\hat{a}) = |\mu_1(\hat{a}) - \mu_1(a')| + \ldots + |\mu_n(\hat{a}) - \mu_n(a')|$$

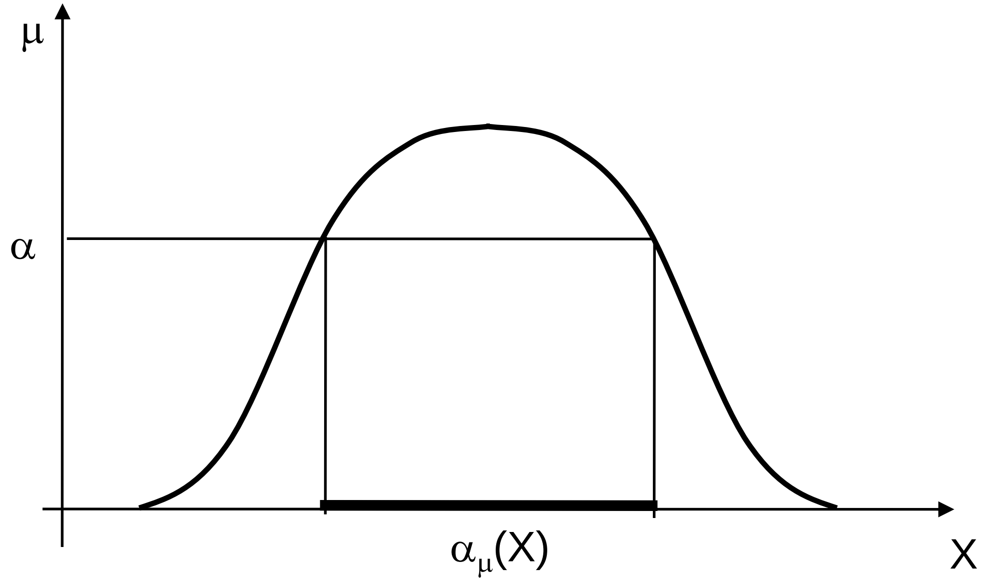
and the integral error, as the integral of e(a) over the range of a

$$e_i = \int e(a)\, da$$

It can be demonstrated that the integral error of a fuzzy partition is smaller than that of a boolean partition, and that it is minimum w.r.t. any other frame of cognition.

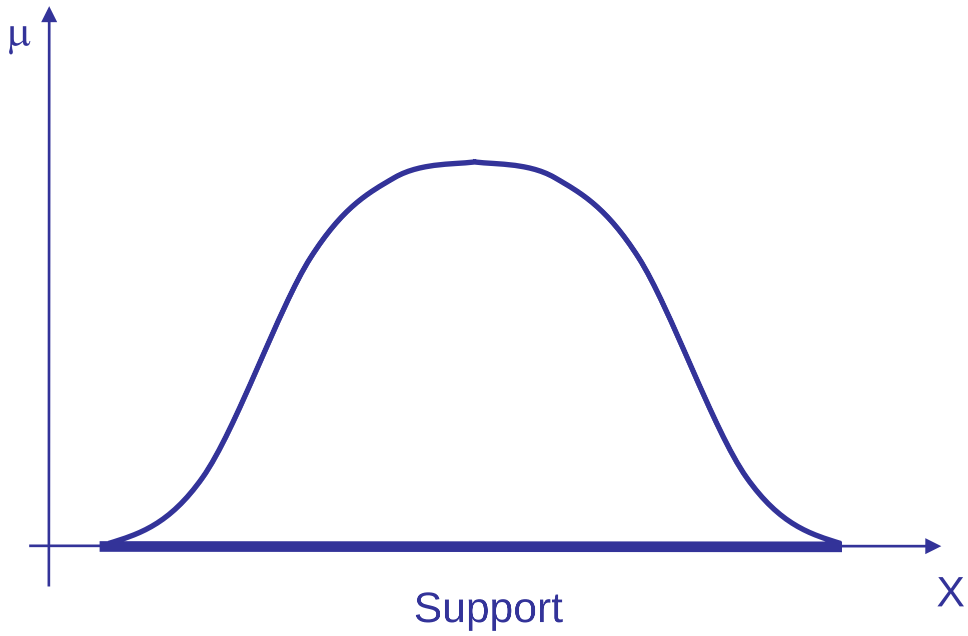
The α-cut of a fuzzy set is the crisp set of the values of x such that $\mu(X) \geq \alpha$

$$\alpha_\mu(X) = \{x \mid \mu(x) \geq \alpha\}$$

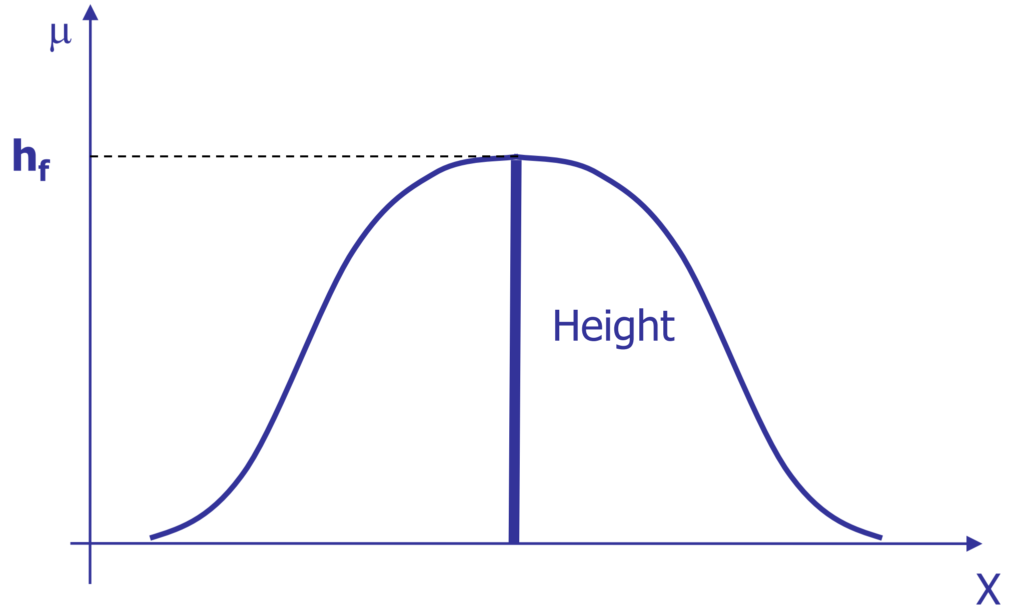


Support of a fuzzy set

The crisp set of values x of X such that $\mu_f(x) > 0$ is the support of the fuzzy set f on the universe X



The height *h(A)* of a fuzzy set A on the universe X is the highest membership degree of an element of X to the fuzzy set



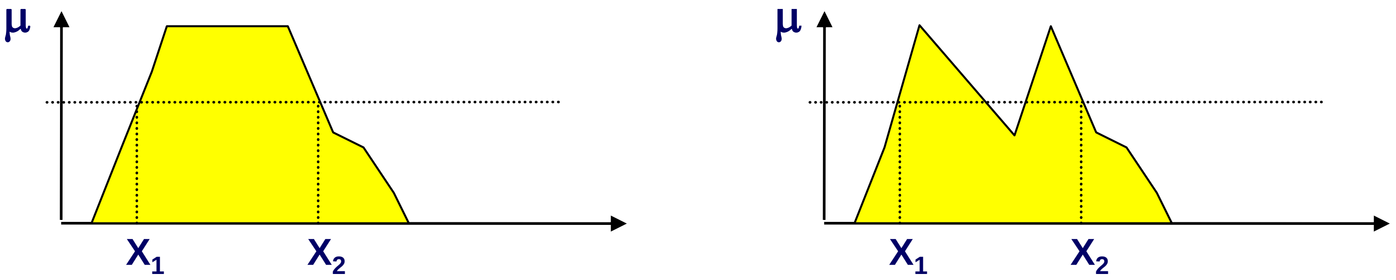
A fuzzy set f is *normal* iff $h_f(x)=1$

Convex fuzzy sets

A fuzzy set is *convex* iff

$$\mu(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)\, x_2) \geq \min\,[\mu(x_1), \mu(x_2)]$$

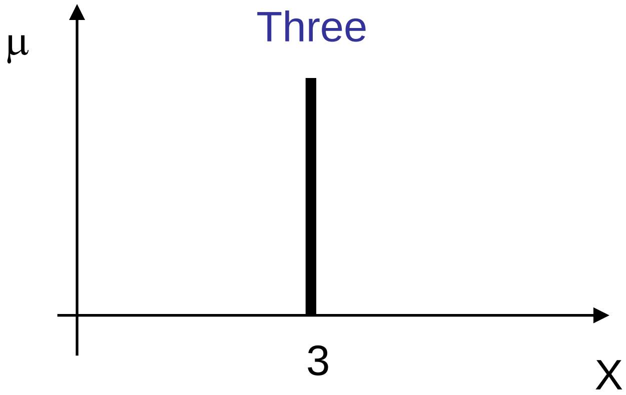
for any x_1, x_2 in $\Re$ and any λ belonging to [0,1]



"Strange" MFs

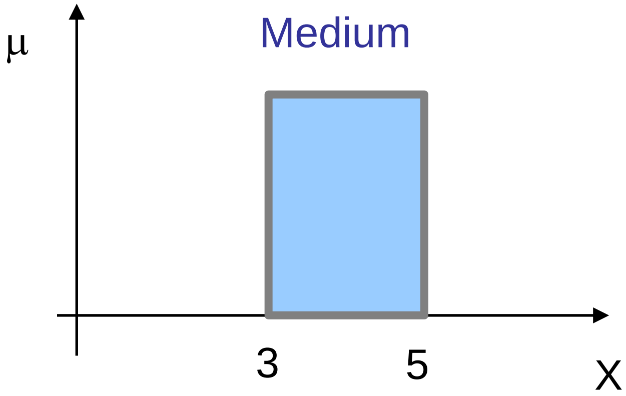
Singleton:

a fuzzy set with one member



Interval:

a fuzzy set whose members have all membership = 1



Standard operators on fuzzy sets

Complement

$$\mu_{\bar{f}}(x) = 1 - \mu_f(x)$$

Union

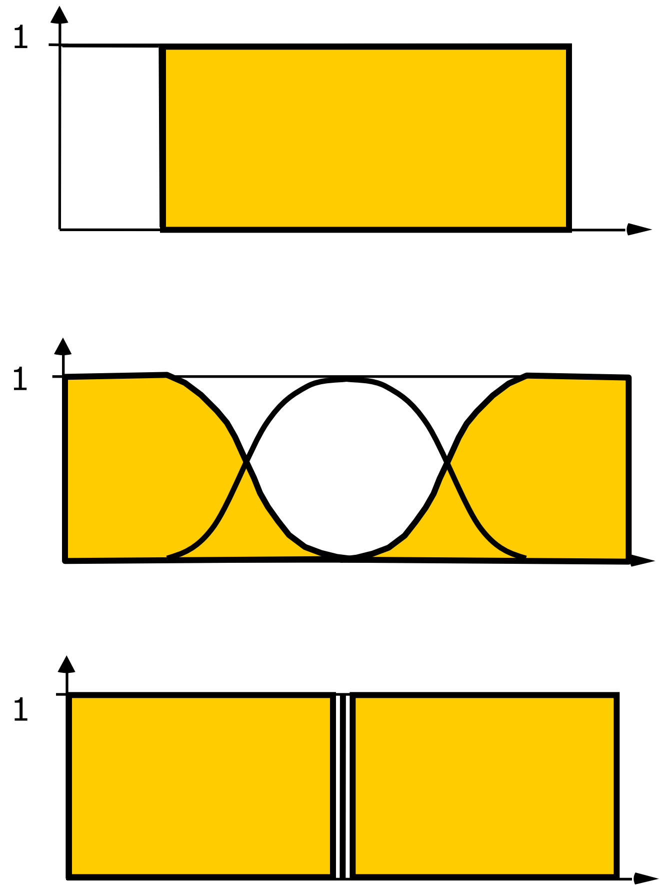
$$\mu_{f1 \cup f2}(x) = max[\mu_{f1}, \mu_{f2}]$$

Intersection

$$\mu_{f1 \cap f2}(x) = min[\mu_{f1}, \mu_{f2}]$$

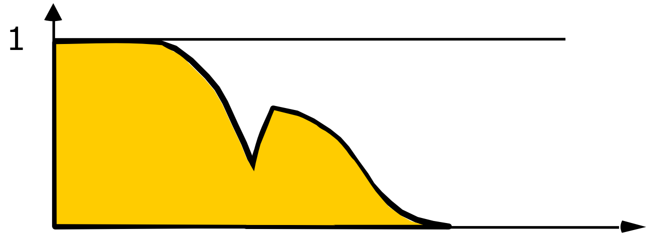
Examples of operator application

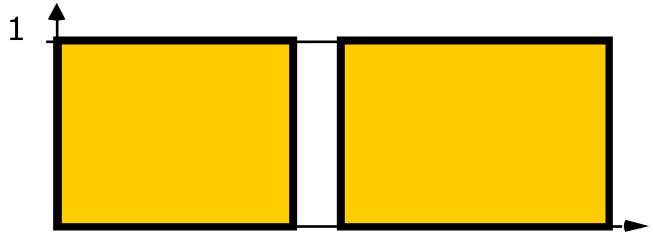
Complement



Examples of operator application

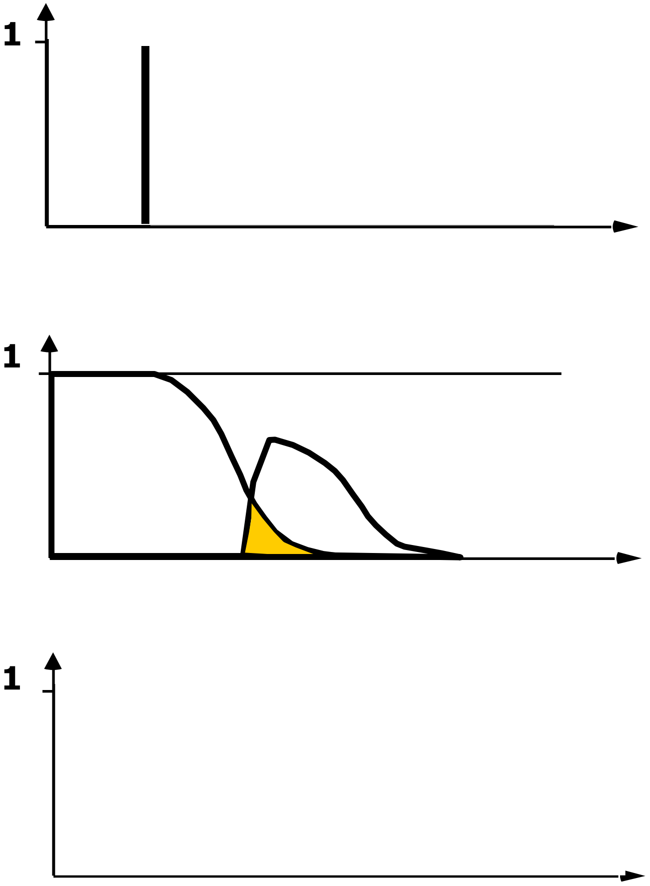
Union



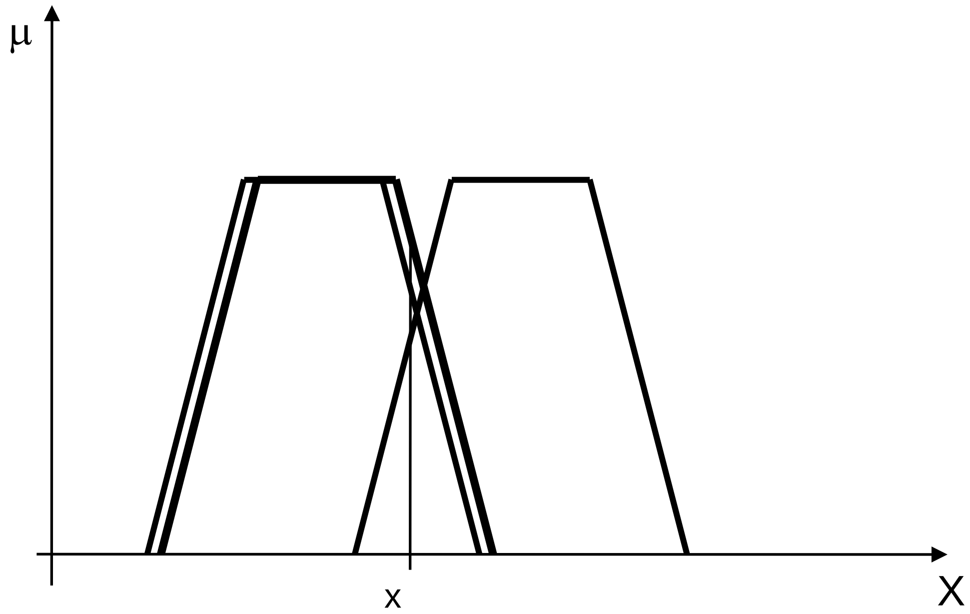


Examples of operator application

Intersection



Using the standard operators the maximum error is the one we have on the operand's MFs



Complement

$$c : [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$$

$$c(\mu_A(x)) = \mu_{\neg A}(x)$$

Axioms:

1. c(0)=1; c(1)=0 (*boundary conditions*)

2. For all a and b in [0,1], if a < b then c(a) $\geq$ c(b) (*monotonicity*)

3. c is a *continuous function*

4. c is *involutive*, i.e., c(c(a))=a for all a in [0,1]

$$\mu_{A \cap B}(x) = i[\mu_A(x), \mu_B(x)]$$

Axioms:

1. $i[a, 1]=a$ (*boundary conditions*)

2. $d \geq b$ implies $i(a,d) \geq i(a,b)$ (*monotonicity*)

3. $i(b,a) = i(a,b)$ (*commutativity*)

4. $i(i(a,b),d) = i(a,i(b,d))$ (*associativity*)

5. i is continuous

6. $a \geq i(a,a)$ (*sub-idempotency*)

7. $a_1 < a_2$ and $b_1 < b_2$ implies that $i(a_1,b_1) < i(a_2,b_2)$ (*strict monotonicity*)

T-norms: examples

Given the axioms, the intersection operator **i** is defined as a T-norm

A parametric formulation of a class of T-norms:

$$T_\alpha(a,b) = \frac{ab}{max[a,b,\alpha]}$$

for α=1 we have *ab*

for α=0 we have *min(a, b)*

Other T-norms:

$$T_1(a,b) = max(0, a+b-1)$$

$$T_{2.5}(a,b) = \frac{ab}{a+b-ab}$$

$$\mu_{A \cup B}(x) = u[\mu_A(x), \mu_B(x)]$$

Axioms:

1. u[a, 0]=a (*boundary conditions*)

2. $b \le d$ implies $u(a,b) \le u(a,d)$ (*monotonicity*)

3. u(a,b) = u(b,a) (*commutativity*)

4. u(a,u(b,d)) = u(u(a,b),d) (*associativity*)

5. u is continuous

6. $u(a,a) \ge a$ (*super-idempotency*)

7. $a_1 < a_2$ and $b_1 < b_2$ implies that $u(a_1,b_1) < u(a_2,b_2)$ (strict *monotonicity*)

The most common ones:

$$S_3(a,b) = max(a,b)$$

$$S_+(a,b) = a + b - ab$$

Other S-norms:

$$S(a,b) = min(1, a^p, b^p)^{1/p} \qquad p \geq 1$$

$$S_1(a,b) = min(1, a + b)$$

$$\mu_A(x) = h[\mu_{A1}(x), \ldots, \mu_{An}(x)]$$

Axioms:

1. **h[0,..., 0]=0, h[1,..., 1]=1 (*boundary conditions*)**
2. ***monotonicity***
3. **h is continuous**
4. **h(a,..,a) = a (*idempotency*)**
5. ***simmetricity***

Properties of aggregation

$$\min(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \leq h(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \leq \max(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$$

Example of aggregation operator: generalized average

$$h(a_1, \ldots, a_n) = (a_1^{\alpha} + \ldots + a_n^{\alpha})^{1/\alpha} / n$$

What to remember from these slides?

- **Definition of fuzzy set**
- **Definition of membership function, support, height, α-cut, convex fuzzy set**
- **Main operators**