

# Why Sugeno $\lambda$ -Measures

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## 1. Traditional Approach: Probability Measures

- Traditionally, uncertainty has been described by probabilities.
- The probability  $p(A)$  of a set  $A$  is usually interpreted as the frequency with which events from the set  $A$  occur.
- In this interpretation:
  - if we have two disjoint sets  $A$  and  $B$  with  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ ,
  - then the frequency  $p(A \cup B)$  with which the events from  $A$  or  $B$  happen
  - is equal to the sum of the frequencies  $p(A)$  and  $p(B)$  corresponding to each of these sets.
- This property of probabilities measures is known as *additivity*: if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , then

$$p(A \cup B) = p(A) + p(B).$$

## 2. Need to Go Beyond Probability Measures

- To adequately describe expert knowledge, we often need to go beyond probabilities.
- In general, instead of probabilities, we have the expert's *degree of confidence*  $g(A)$  in  $A$ .
- Clearly,  $g(\emptyset) = 0$  and  $g(X) = 1$ .
- Also, clearly, the larger the set, the more confident we are that an event from this set will occur:

$$A \subseteq B \text{ implies } g(A) \leq g(B).$$

- Functions  $g(A)$  that satisfy these properties are known as *fuzzy measures*.

### 3. Sugeno $\lambda$ -Measures

- M. Sugeno introduced a specific class of fuzzy measures which are now known as *Sugeno  $\lambda$ -measures*.
- If we know  $g(A)$  and  $g(B)$  for two disjoint sets, we can still reconstruct the degree  $g(A \cup B)$ .
- For Sugeno measure,

$$g(A \cup B) = g(A) + g(B) + \lambda \cdot g(A) \cdot g(B).$$

- When  $\lambda = 0$ , this formula transforms into additivity.
- Sugeno  $\lambda$ -measures are among the most widely used and most successful fuzzy measures.

## 4. Problem

- The success of Sugeno measures is somewhat paradoxical:
  - The main point of using fuzzy measures is to go beyond probability measures.
  - On the other hand, Sugeno  $\lambda$ -measures are, in some reasonable sense, equivalent to probabilities.
- In this talk, we explain this seeming paradox: from the computational viewpoint,
  - processing Sugeno measure directly is much more computationally efficient
  - than using a reduction to a probability measure.
- We also analyze which other probability-equivalent fuzzy measures have this property.

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## 5. Sugeno $\lambda$ -Measure is Mathematically Equivalent to a Probability Measure

- In Sugeno measure, if we know  $a = g(A)$  and  $b = g(B)$  for  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , then we can compute  $c = g(A \cup B)$  as

$$c = a + b + \lambda \cdot a \cdot b.$$

- We would like to find a 1-1 function  $f(x)$  for which  $p(A) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f^{-1}(g(A))$  is a probability measure.
- This means that if  $c = a + b + \lambda \cdot a \cdot b$ , then  $c' = a' + b'$ , where  $a' = f^{-1}(a)$ ,  $b' = f^{-1}(b)$ , and  $c' = f^{-1}(c)$ .
- For  $\lambda > 0$ , this holds for  $f(x') = \frac{1}{\lambda} \cdot (\exp(x') - 1)$ .
- For  $\lambda < 0$ , this holds for  $f(x') = \frac{1}{|\lambda|} \cdot (1 - \exp(-x'))$ .
- So, a Sugeno  $\lambda$ -measure is indeed equivalent to a probability measure.

## 6. Processing Sugeno Measures Is More Computationally Efficient than Using Probabilities

- If we know  $g(A)$  and  $g(B)$ , then we can compute

$$g(A \cup B) = g(A) + g(B) + \lambda \cdot g(A) \cdot g(B).$$

- This computation uses only hardware supported (thus, fast)  $+$  and  $\cdot$ . Alternative is to:

- compute  $p(A) = f^{-1}(g(A))$  and  $p(B) = f^{-1}(g(B))$ ;
- add these probabilities  $p(A \cup B) = p(A) + p(B)$ ;
- finally, re-scale this resulting probability back into degree-of-confidence:  $g(A \cup B) = f(p(A \cup B))$ .

- In this approach, we compute logarithm (to compute  $f^{-1}(x)$ ) and exponential function (to compute  $f(x)$ ).
- These computations are much slower than  $+$  and  $\cdot$ .
- Thus, the direct use of Sugeno measure is definitely much more computationally efficient.

## 7. How to Explain the Use of Sugeno Measure in Probabilistic Terms

- We are interested in expert estimates of probabilities of different sets of events.
- It is known that expert estimates of the probabilities are biased:
  - the expert's subjective estimates  $g(A)$  of the corresponding probabilities  $p(A)$
  - are equal to  $g(A) = f(p(A))$  for an appropriate re-scaling function  $f(A)$ .
- In this case, a natural ideas seems to be:
  - to re-scale all the estimates back into the probabilities:  $p(A) = f^{-1}(g(A))$ , and
  - to use the usual algorithms to process these probabilities.

## 8. Sugeno Measure in Prob. Terms (cont-d)

- If we know the expert's estimates  $g(A)$  and  $g(B)$  for  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , to predict the  $g(A \cup B)$ , we:

– re-scale  $g(A)$  and  $g(B)$  into probabilities:

$$p(A) = f^{-1}(g(A)) \text{ and } p(B) = f^{-1}(g(B));$$

– compute  $p(A \cup B) = p(A) + p(B)$ ; and

– estimate  $g(A \cup B)$  as  $g(A \cup B) = f(p(A \cup B))$ .

- For some biasing functions  $f(x)$ , it is computationally more efficient
  - *not* to re-scale into probabilities,
  - but to store and process the original values  $g(A)$ .
- This is, in effect, the essence of applications of a Sugeno  $\lambda$ -measure are about.

## 9. Which Fuzzy Measures Have This Property

- If we know the expert's estimates  $a = g(A)$  and  $b = g(B)$  for  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , to predict the  $g(A \cup B)$ , we:

– re-scale  $a$  and  $b$  into probabilities:

$$p(A) = f^{-1}(a) \text{ and } p(B) = f^{-1}(b);$$

– compute  $p(A \cup B) = f^{-1}(a) + f^{-1}(b)$ ; and

– estimate  $g(A \cup B)$  as  $F(a, b) = f(f^{-1}(a) + f^{-1}(b))$ .

- One can check that  $F(a, b)$  is commutative, associative, and  $F(0, a) = a$ .
- We want to find all such  $F(a, b)$  for which direct computation is faster than this 3-stage approach.
- Computation is fast it consists of a sequence of hardware supported elementary operations:  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\cdot$ ,  $/$ .

## 10. Analysis of Fuzzy Measures (cont-d)

- We are interested in functions

$$F(a, b) = f(f^{-1}(a) + f^{-1}(b)).$$

- These functions are commutative, associative, and  $F(0, a) = a$ .
- We want to find all such  $F(a, b)$  for which direct computation is faster than this 3-stage approach.
- Computation is fast it consists of a sequence of hardware supported elementary operations:  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\cdot$ ,  $/$ .
- Functions computed by a sequence of such operations are *rational* – fractions of polynomials.
- Thus, we look for rational commutative associative functions  $F(a, b)$  for which  $F(0, a) = a$ .

## 11. Main Result

- We are looking for fuzzy measures:
  - which are equivalent to probability measures, but
  - for which direct computations are faster than reductions to probabilities.
- This leads to a search for rational commutative associative functions  $F(a, b)$  for which  $F(0, a) = a$ .
- We prove that each such operation has one of the two forms:

$$F(a, b) = \frac{a + b + 2B \cdot a \cdot b}{1 + B^2 \cdot a \cdot b};$$
$$F(a, b) = \frac{a + b + (2B + A) \cdot a \cdot b}{1 - B \cdot (B + A) \cdot a \cdot b}.$$

- For  $B = 0$ , the second formula leads to Sugeno measure.

## 12. Auxiliary Result

- We look for operations for which computing  $F(a, b)$  directly is faster.
- The requirement that  $F(a, b)$  is computable by elementary arithmetic operations leads to

$$F(a, b) = \frac{a + b + 2B \cdot a \cdot b}{1 + B^2 \cdot a \cdot b};$$

$$F(a, b) = \frac{a + b + (2B + A) \cdot a \cdot b}{1 - B \cdot (B + A) \cdot a \cdot b}.$$

- Out of elementary arithmetic operations, division is the slowest.
- Sugeno measure is the only one that does not use division and is, thus, the fastest.
- This explains why Sugeno measure is widely used.

## 13. Proof

- A classification of all possible rational commutative associative  $F(a, b)$  is known (Brawley et al. 2001).
- For each such  $F(a, b)$ , there exists a fractional-linear  $t(a)$  for which  $F(a, b) = t^{-1}(t(a) + t(b))$  or

$$F(a, b) = t^{-1}(t(a) + t(b) + t(a) \cdot t(b)).$$

- The requirement  $F(0, a) = a$  implies  $t(0) = 0$ .
- A general fractional-linear function has the form

$$t(a) = \frac{p + q \cdot a}{r + s \cdot a}.$$

- The fact that  $t(0) = 0$  implies that  $p = 0$ , so we get

$$t(a) = \frac{q \cdot a}{r + s \cdot a}.$$

## 14. Proof (cont-d)

- We have shown that  $t(a) = \frac{q \cdot a}{r + s \cdot a}$ .
- Here, we must have  $r \neq 0$ , because otherwise,  $t(a)$  is a constant.
- Dividing the numerator and the denominator of  $t(a)$  by  $r$ , we get:

$$t(a) = \frac{A \cdot a}{1 + B \cdot a}, \text{ where } A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{q}{r}, B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{s}{r}.$$

- We know that  $F(a, b) = t^{-1}(t(a) + t(b))$  or

$$F(a, b) = t^{-1}(t(a) + t(b) + t(a) \cdot t(b)).$$

- Substituting this expression for  $t(a)$  into the above formulas for  $F(a, b)$ , we get the desired expressions.

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