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A Categorical Approach to L-fuzzy Relations

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To my family

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INTRODUCTION

In a wide variety of problems one has to treat uncertain or incomplete information. Some kind of exact science is needed to describe and understand existing methods, and to develop new attempts. Especially in applications of computer science, this is a fundamental problem. To handle such information, Zadeh [44], and simultaneously Klaua [22, 23], introduced the concept of fuzzy sets and relations. In contrast to usual sets, fuzzy sets are characterized by a membership relation taking its values from the unit interval $[0,1]$ of the real numbers. After its introduction in 1965 the theory of fuzzy sets and relations was ranked to be some exotic field of research. The success during the past years even with consumer products involving fuzzy methods causes a rapidly growing interest of engineers and computer scientists in this field. Nevertheless, Goguen [12] generalized this concept in 1967 to $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy sets and relations for an arbitrary complete Brouwerian lattice $\mathcal{L}$ instead of the unit interval $[0,1]$ of the real numbers. He described one of his motivating examples as follows:

> A housewife faces a fairly typical optimization problem in her grocery shopping: she must select among all possible grocery bundles one that meets as well as several criteria of optimality, such as cost, nutritional value, quality, and variety. The *partial ordering* of the bundles is an intrinsic quality of this problem. (Goguen [12] 1967)

It seems to be unnatural – comparing apples to oranges – to describe the criteria of optimality by a linear ordering as the unit interval. Why should the nutritional value of a given product be described by 0.6 (instead of 0.65, or any other value from $[0,1]$), and why should a product with a high nutritional value be better than a product with high quality since those criteria are usually incomparable?

This observation has led to the theory of *multiobjective* or *multicriteria* optimization problems (cf. [13]). Instead of combining several criteria into a single number, and choosing the highest value, the concept of *Pareto optimailty* is used. In this approach the elements that are not dominated are taken for further considerations. Here an element x is said to dominate an element y if the value x_i for each objective i is greater than or equal to the corresponding value y_i of y. Traditional techniques of optimization and search have been applied in this area. Recently, even genetic algorithms have been used to search for multicriteria optima (e.g., [30, 31]).

One important notion within fuzzy theory is 0-1 crispness. A 0-1 crisp set or relation is described by the property that their characteristic function supplies either the least element 0 or the greatest element 1 of the unit interval $[0, 1]$ or more general the complete Brouwerian lattice $\mathcal{L}$. The class of 0-1 crisp fuzzy sets or relations may be seen as the subclass of regular sets or relations within the fuzzy world. Especially in applications, this notion is fundamental. We want to demonstrate this by considering two examples.

In fuzzy decision theory the basic problem is to select a specific element from a fuzzy set of alternatives. Therefore, several cuts are used [9, 24]. Basically, an α-cut of a fuzzy set M is a set N such that an element x is in N if, and only if, x is in M with a degree $\geq \alpha$. Analogously, an α-cut of a fuzzy relation R is a crisp relation S such that a pair of elements is related in S if, and only if, they are related in R with a degree $\geq \alpha$. Some variants of this notion may also be used. By definition, these cut operations are strongly connected to the notion of crispness. In particular, using the notion of crispness, one may define cut operations, and a cut operation naturally implies a notion of crispness.

Another example might be the development of a fuzzy controller. Usually the output of the controller has to be a 0-1 crisp value since it is used to control some nonfuzzy physical or software system. Therefore, a procedure, called defuzzification, is applied to transform the fuzzy output into some 0-1 crisp value. This list of examples may be continued. The bottom line is that a convenient theory for $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy relations should be able to express the notion of crispness.

Today, fuzzy theory as well as its application is usually formulated as a variation of set theory or some kind of many-valued logic (e.g., cf. [2, 14, 26]). Although many algebraic laws are developed, these formalizations are not algebraic themselves. But an algebraic description would have several advantages. Applications of fuzzy theory may be described by simple terms in this language. In this way, we get in some sense a denotational semantics of the application, and, hence, a mathematical theory to reason about notions as correctness. One may prove such properties using the calculus of the algebraic theory, which is quite often more or less equational. Furthermore, this denotational semantics may be used to get a prototype of the application.

On the other hand, the calculus of binary relations has been investigated since the middle of the nineteenth century as an algebraic theory for logic and set theory [36, 37]. A first adequate development of such algebras was given by de Morgan and Peirce. Their work has been taken up and systematically extended by Schröder in [34]. More than 40 years later, Tarski started with the exhaustive study of relation algebras [35], and more generally, Boolean algebras with operators [17].

The papers above deal with relational algebras presented in their classical form. Elements of such algebras might be called *quadratic* or *homogeneous*; relations over a fixed universe. Usually a relation acts between two different kinds of objects, e.g., between customers and products. Therefore, a variant of the theory of binary relations has evolved that treats relations as *heterogeneous* or *rectangular*. A convenient framework to describe such kind of typing is given by category theory [3, 10, 27, 28, 32, 33].

There are some attempts to extend the calculus of relations to the fuzzy world. In [21] the concept of fuzzy relation algebras was introduced as an algebraic formalization of fuzzy relations with sup-min composition. These algebras are equipped with a semiscalar multiplication, i.e., an operation mapping an element from $[0,1]$ and a fuzzy relation to a fuzzy relation. In the standard model this is done by componentwise multiplication of the real values. Fuzzy relation algebras and their categorical counterpart [11], so-called Zadeh categories, constitute a convenient algebraic theory for fuzzy relations. Using the semiscalar multiplication it is also possible to characterize 0-1 crisp relations. Unfortunately, there is no way to extend or modify this approach for $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy relations since for an arbitrary complete Brouwerian lattice such a semiscalar multiplication may not exist.

Another approach is based on Dedekind categories and was introduced in [27]. It was shown that the class of $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy relations constitutes such a category. Unfortunately, the notion of 0-1 crispness causes some problems. Using the notion of scalar elements, i.e., a set of partial identities corresponding to the lattice $\mathcal{L}$, several notions of crispness in an arbitrary Dedekind category were introduced in [11, 20]. It was shown that the notion of s-crispness as well as the notion of l-crispness coincides with 0-1 crispness under an assumption concerning the underlying lattice. This assumption is fulfilled by all linear orderings, e.g., the unit interval. Unfortunately, it was also shown that both classes of crisp relations are trivial if the underlying lattice is a Boolean lattice. Actually, it can be shown (Theorem 5.1) that the notion of 0-1 crispness cannot be formalized in the language of Dedekind categories, i.e., this theory is too weak to express this property. Therefore, an extended theory is needed: the theory of Goguen categories.

In this book, we want to focus on Goguen categories introduced in [40] and some weaker structures as a convenient algebraic/categorical framework for $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy relations and their application in computer science. In particular, we are interested in the development process of fuzzy controllers using the method of Mamdani [25]. One major problem is to ensure totality of the controller, i.e., the controller should produce an output value for each input. If the controller is described by a relation R within a Goguen category, this property can be proved by showing $\mathbb{I} \sqsubseteq R;R^{\smile}$, where $\mathbb{I}$ is the identity relation, ; is composition of relations, and $R^{\smile}$ is the converse of R. In most applications the controller is constructed by several components, which are combined using t-norms and t-conorms. The actual choice of the norms and their parameters is often done by experts using their experiences. Especially in complex applications, such a development process might easily lead to "holes" in the domain of the controller, i.e., to a partially defined controller. On the other hand, the relational description R of the controller can be parametric in those norms. From a generic proof of R being total (which is necessarily parametric too) we can generate a set of conditions that have to be satisfied in order to ensure the totality of R. The expert may now select a convenient set of norms and parameters fulfilling these conditions. The controller generated is guaranteed to be total. We will give an example of the development process sketched above in Chapter 6.

This book is organized as follows. In Chapters 1 and 2, we will introduce several mathematical notions as sets and lattices. The basic properties of $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy relations are investigated in Chapter 3. Afterwards, we will concentrate on the categorical description of relations, i.e., we will introduce several categories of relations in Chapter 4. Furthermore, their basic properties are proved, and their connections to $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy relations are studied. Chapter 5 is dedicated to Goguen categories and several weaker structures. We will prove some basic properties of those kinds of categories, focus on their representation theory, concentrate on derived connectives from a generalized notion of t-norms and t-conorms, and investigate the validity of equations in the substructure of crisp relations. In the last chapter we will give an applications of Goguen categories in computer science. We want to construct an $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy controller with respect to a given set of rules. This controller is not based on the unit interval. Furthermore, we will construct the controller without deciding in advance which norms and parameters should be used. From a generic proof of the totality of the controller we derive properties that can be used by an engineer to finally decide about those parameters.

The writing of this book extended over almost 5 years. The early version grew out of the Habilitation thesis of the author in Munich, in 2003. In the following years several parts were revised and extended. In particular, Sections 5.1–5.4 were added in order to provide a more detailed overview of categories of $\mathcal{L}$-fuzzy relations.

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