# Elements of fuzzy arithmetic Chapter 7

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#### Confidence intervals

#### Fuzzy numbers

#### Operations with fuzzy numbers

Addition of fuzzy numbers Subtraction of fuzzy numbers Multiplication of fuzzy numbers Division of fuzzy numbers Examples of operations with fuzzy numbers

## Sources

This lecture contains text, figures, formulae, etc, taken (and adapted) from the book Arnold Kaufmann, Madan M. Gupta, "Introduction to fuzzy arithmetic: theory and applications", Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1991, [KG91].

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## Confidence intervals: definitions

- In many practical situations we can say about a value only that it is situated inside a closed interval in ℝ, i.e., between two values, a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub> ∈ ℝ, a<sub>1</sub> ≤ a<sub>2</sub>
- Definition: such an interval of real numbers is called confidence interval or interval of confidence, and is denoted A = [a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>]
- A confidence interval can be open at left (e.g., A = (a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>]), open at right, or open at left and right (i.e., open, e.g., A = (a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>))

• or it is possible that  $a_1 = -\infty$  and/or  $a_2 = +\infty$ 

# Operations with confidence intervals: addition and subtraction

- If we know that x ∈ [a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>], y ∈ [b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>] (where A = [a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>] and B = [b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>]), what can we say about x + y, x y, x ⋅ y, x/y? (about x ⋅ y and x/y) we can discuss only in ℝ<sup>+</sup>)
- Evidently,  $x + y \in [a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2], x y \in [a_1 b_2, a_2 b_1]$
- ► Notations:  $A(+)B = [a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2],$  $A(-)B = [a_1 - b_2, a_2 - b_1]$
- ► A particular case of subtraction is the image (the opposite) of a confidence interval A, given by A<sup>-</sup> = [-a<sub>2</sub>, -a<sub>1</sub>]
- ▶ We note that  $A(+)A^- = [a_1 a_2, a_2 a_1] \neq 0$  in general, where the interval 0 is defined 0 = [0, 0]
- ▶ In general any real number  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  can be represented as a confidence interval in the form [t, t]
- ► The set of the interval of confidence in R is associative, commutative and has a neutral element (0 = [0,0]) for addition, but the image is not symmetrical.

# Operations with confidence intervals: multiplication and division

 The multiplication and division of intervals of confidence in R<sup>+</sup> are defined as:

$$\begin{array}{l} A(\cdot)B = [a_1, a_2] \cdot [b_1, b_2] = [a_1 \cdot b_1, a_2 \cdot b_2] \\ A(:)B = [a_1, a_2](:)[b_1, b_2] = [\frac{a_1}{b_2}, \frac{a_2}{b_1}], \text{ where } b_1, b_2 \neq 0 \end{array}$$

- ▶ The inverse of the interval  $A = [a_1, a_2]$  is defined as  $A^{-1} = [\frac{1}{a_2}, \frac{1}{a_1}]$ , where  $a_1, a_2 \neq 0$
- The set of confidence intervals in ℝ<sup>+</sup> is associative, commutative, has a neutral element (1 = [1, 1]) for multiplication, but it is not symmetrical because A(:)A = A(·)A<sup>-1</sup> = [a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>](:)[a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>] = [a<sub>1</sub>/a<sub>2</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>/a<sub>1</sub>] ≠ [1, 1] = 1

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## Fuzzy numbers: definitions

### Definition

A *fuzzy number*, or *uncertain number*, in  $\mathbb{R}$  is a fuzzy subset in  $\mathbb{R}$  which is normal and convex.

- Kaufmann and Gupta consider a fuzzy number as the association between confidence intervals and *presumption levels*, (*levels of presumptions*):
- It is considered that for α = 1 we have the maximum presumption about the value of the fuzzy number, and for α = 0 we have the minimum level of presumption.
- $\forall \alpha \in [0, 1]$  it is possible to establish a level of presumption  $A^{\alpha} = [a_1^{(\alpha)}, a_2^{(\alpha)}]$
- ▶ It must be fulfilled the condition that if  $\alpha$  increases, the interval of confidence never increases, i.e., if  $\alpha_1 \leq \alpha_2$  then  $[a_1^{(\alpha_2)}, a_2^{(\alpha_2)}] \subseteq [a_1^{(\alpha_1)}, a_2^{(\alpha_1)}]$

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## General considerations

- The operations with fuzzy numbers will be defined with two methods, which are equivalent:
  - Using the extension principles
  - Using the presumption levels, which are equivalent with the α-cuts (α-level sets) of a fuzzy number.
- It can be proved that the two approaches (methods) for the definition of the operations with fuzzy numbers are equivalent.
- ▶ In the proof it is used the fact that any fuzzy set is the union of all its  $\alpha$ -level sets, with  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$

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# Addition of fuzzy numbers

#### Definition

Given two fuzzy numbers  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , their sum  $\tilde{A} \oplus \tilde{B}$  is defined as:  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ 

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}\oplus\tilde{B}}(z) = \sup_{z=x+y} (\min(\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{B}}(y)))$$

, or, using the notations from [KG91],  

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}\oplus\tilde{B}}(z) = \bigvee_{z=x+y} (\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \wedge \mu_{\tilde{B}}(y))$$

#### Definition

Using  $\alpha$ -cuts, the addition of two fuzzy numbers is defined:  $A^{\alpha}(+)B^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha}](+)[b_1^{\alpha}, b_2^{\alpha}] = [a_1^{\alpha} + b_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha} + b_2^{\alpha}]$ 

The operations from the first definition are used for discrete fuzzy numbers (for example in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ), while the second definition is used for continuous fuzzy numbers (in  $\mathbb{R}$ ).

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Subtraction of fuzzy numbers

Is defined:  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ 

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}\ominus\tilde{B}}(z) = \sup_{z=x-y}(\min(\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x),\mu_{\tilde{B}}(y)))$$

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or:

$$\begin{array}{l} A^{\alpha}(-)B^{\alpha} = [a_{1}^{\alpha}, a_{2}^{\alpha}](-)[b_{1}^{\alpha}, b_{2}^{\alpha}] = [a_{1}^{\alpha} - b_{2}^{\alpha}, a_{2}^{\alpha} - b_{1}^{\alpha}] \text{ because} \\ B^{-} = [b_{1}^{\alpha}, b_{2}^{\alpha}]^{-} = [-b_{2}^{\alpha}, -b_{1}^{\alpha}] \end{array}$$

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# Multiplication of fuzzy numbers

Is defined in  $\mathbb{R}^+$ :  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^+$ 

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}\odot\tilde{B}}(z) = \sup_{z=x\cdot y} (\min(\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{B}}(y)))$$

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or:

$$A^{\alpha}(\cdot)B^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha}](\cdot)[b_1^{\alpha}, b_2^{\alpha}] = [a_1^{\alpha} \cdot b_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha} \cdot b_2^{\alpha}]$$

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## Division of fuzzy numbers

Is defined in  $\mathbb{R}^+$ :  $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^+$   $\mu_{\tilde{A} \otimes \tilde{B}}(z) = \sup_{z=x/y} (\min(\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{B}}(y)))$ or:  $A^{\alpha}(/)B^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha}](/)[b_1^{\alpha}, b_2^{\alpha}] = [\frac{a_1^{\alpha}}{b_2^{\alpha}}, \frac{a_2^{\alpha}}{b_1^{\alpha}}]$  because  $B_{\alpha}^{-1} = [b_1^{\alpha}, b_2^{\alpha}]^{-1} = [\frac{1}{b_{\alpha}^{\alpha}}, \frac{1}{b_1^{\alpha}}]$ 

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## Special fuzzy numbers and algebraic properties

- A singleton t can be extended to a fuzzy number t
- Special fuzzy numbers are 0 si 1
- The set of fuzzy numbers in ℝ is associative and commutative for addition, there is a neutral (the number 0), but the image is not symmetric because in general Ã ⊖ Ã ≠ 0

The multiplication of fuzzy numbers in ℝ<sup>+</sup> is associative, commutative, there is a neutral (the number 1), but the inverse is not symmetric, because in general à ⊘ Ã ≠ 1

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## Operations with discrete fuzzy numbers

- For operations with discrete fuzzy numbers it is applied the first set of formulae (the first method) and we work based on *extension principle* (like in the exemple from Chapter 3, from the Extension principle).
- For addition and subtraction we do like in that example: we look for all pairs of numbers x and y whose sum or difference is equal with z, and we apply the extension principle
- For multiplication (only for positive numbers), at the left of the normal value (for which µ = 1) we take into account all couplets where x ⋅ y ≤ z, and at the right of the normal value we take into account all couplets for which x ⋅ y ≥ z. Also, we compute values of z for which µ = 1.
- It will result a number which is increasing (more precisely, non-decreasing) to the left of the normal value, and decreasing (non-increasing) to the right of the normal value.

# Operations with continuous fuzzy numbers in $\mathbb{R},$ respectively in $\mathbb{R}^+$

- For continuous fuzzy numbers we work with  $\alpha$ -level sets
- In general a fuzzy number is given as:

$$\mu_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \leq l_1 \\ f_1(x), & \text{if } l_1 \leq x \leq l_2 \\ f_2(x), & \text{if } l_2 \leq x \leq l_3 \\ 0, & \text{if } l_3 \leq x \end{cases}$$

, where  $f_1$  is an increasing function, and  $f_2$  is a decreasing function.

- Figure !
- We make  $\alpha = f_1(a_1^{\alpha})$  and it results  $a_1^{\alpha} = f_1^{-1}(\alpha)$ , and similar from  $\alpha = f_2(a_2^{\alpha})$  it results  $a_2^{\alpha} = f_2^{-1}(\alpha)$

Operations with continuous fuzzy numbers in  $\mathbb{R},$  respectively in  $\mathbb{R}^+$ 

The second fuzzy number is given as:

$$\mu_{\tilde{B}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \le m_1 \\ g_1(x), & \text{if } m_1 \le x \le m_2 \\ g_2(x), & \text{if } m_2 \le x \le m_3 \\ 0, & \text{if } m_3 \le x \end{cases}$$

, where  $g_1$  is an increasing, and  $g_2$  a decreasing function

- We make α = g<sub>1</sub>(b<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>) and it results b<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup> = g<sub>1</sub><sup>-1</sup>(α) and similar from α = g<sub>2</sub>(a<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>) it results b<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup> = g<sub>2</sub><sup>-1</sup>(α)
- ► Then we make A<sup>α</sup> ⊛ B<sup>α</sup> = [a<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>, a<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>] ⊛ [b<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>, b<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>] = [c<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>, c<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>], where the operation \* can be addition, subtraction, multiplication or division.
- From α = h<sub>1</sub>(c<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>) and from α = h<sub>2</sub>(c<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>) we obtain the membership functions of the resulted fuzzy number, on intervals: y = h<sub>1</sub>(x) and y = h<sub>2</sub>(x)

## Examples for triangular fuzzy numbers

- A triangular fuzzy number is denoted  $[m_1, m_2, m_3]$ , where  $m_1 \le m_2 \le m_3 \in \mathbb{R}$  (or  $\mathbb{R}^+$  for multiplication and division) are the vertices of the triangle  $(\mu(m_1) = \mu(m_3) = 0$  and  $\mu(m_2) = 1$
- The sum and the difference of 2 triangular fuzzy numbers give a triangular fuzzy number,
- For addition, the coordinates of the sum are the sum of the coordinates with the same index
- ► Subtraction means the addition with the opposite number (the image), which is [-m<sub>3</sub>, -m<sub>2</sub>, -m<sub>1</sub>]
- The coordinates for multiplication are computed similar to addition, i.e., by the multiplication of the coordinates with the same index, but the multiplication does not preserve the linearity.
- ▶ Division means the multiplication of the first number with the inverse of thhe second number, which is given by  $\begin{bmatrix} 1\\m_3, \frac{1}{m_2}, \frac{1}{m_1} \end{bmatrix}$

# Representation of triangular fuzzy numbers by membership functions

If a triangular fuzzy number A has the coordinates [m<sub>1</sub>, m<sub>2</sub>, m<sub>3</sub>], then its membership function is:

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \le m_1 \\ \frac{x - m_1}{m_2 - m_1}, & \text{if } m_1 \le x \le m_2 \\ \frac{m_3 - x}{m_3 - m_2}, & \text{if } m_2 \le x \le m_3 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \ge m_3 \end{cases}$$

• We want to obtain  $A^{\alpha}$ , where  $A^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha}]$ 

- From  $\frac{x-m_1}{m_2-m_1} = \alpha$  it results  $x = m_1 + \alpha \cdot (m_2 m_1)$
- Which means  $a_1^{lpha} = m_1 + \alpha \cdot (m_2 m_1)$
- Similar, from  $\frac{m_3-x}{m_3-m_2} = \alpha$  we obtain  $x = m_3 \alpha \cdot (m_3 m_2)$ which means  $a_2^{\alpha} = m_3 - \alpha \cdot (m_3 - m_2)$

- Here we present the example 1.5, pp. 15–16, from [KG91]
- We add the triangular fuzzy numbers A = [−5, −2, 1] and B = [−3, 4, 12] and we will obtain the triangular fuzzy number C = A(+)B = [−8, 2, 13]
- The fuzzy number A can be written:

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \le -5 \\ \frac{x}{3} + \frac{5}{3}, & \text{if } -5 \le x \le -2 \\ -\frac{x}{3} + \frac{1}{3}, & \text{if } -2 \le x \le 1 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \ge 1 \end{cases}$$

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- Making  $\mu_A(x) = \alpha$  we obtain for  $a_1^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = \frac{a_1^{\alpha}}{3} + \frac{5}{3}$  $\Rightarrow a_1^{\alpha} = 3 \cdot \alpha - 5$
- Similar, for  $a_2^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = -\frac{a_2^{\alpha}}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \Rightarrow a_2^{\alpha} = -3 \cdot \alpha + 1$ Hence  $A^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha}] = [3\alpha - 5, -3\alpha + 1]$

The fuzzy number B can be written:

$$\mu_{\tilde{B}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \leq -3 \\ \frac{x}{7} + \frac{3}{7}, & \text{if } -3 \leq x \leq 4 \\ -\frac{x}{8} + \frac{12}{8}, & \text{if } 4 \leq x \leq 12 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \geq 12 \end{cases}$$

• Making 
$$\mu_B(x) = \alpha$$
 we obtain for  $b_1^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = \frac{b_1^{\alpha}}{7} + \frac{3}{7}$   
 $\Rightarrow b_1^{\alpha} = 7 \cdot \alpha - 3$ 

- Similar, for  $b_2^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = -\frac{b_2^{\alpha}}{8} + \frac{12}{8} \Rightarrow b_2^{\alpha} = -8 \cdot \alpha + 12$
- Hence  $B^{\alpha} = [b_1^{\alpha}, b_2^{\alpha}] = [7\alpha 3, -8\alpha + 12]$
- ► Then:  $A^{\alpha}(+)B^{\alpha} = [3\alpha 5, -3\alpha + 1](+)[7\alpha 3, -8\alpha + 12]$
- Hence  $C^{\alpha} = A^{\alpha}(+)B^{\alpha} = [10\alpha 8, -11\alpha + 13]$

From C<sup>α</sup> = (c<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>, c<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>) = [10α − 8, −11α + 13] we obtain the membership function µ<sub>C</sub>(x) of the fuzzy number C

From 
$$x = c_1^{\alpha} = 10\alpha - 8$$
 it results  $\mu_C(x) = \alpha = \frac{x}{10} + \frac{8}{10}$  for  $-8 \le x \le 2$ 

- From  $x = c_2^{\alpha} = -11\alpha + 13$  it results  $\mu_C(x) = \alpha = -\frac{x}{11} + \frac{13}{11}$ for  $2 \le x \le 13$
- Hence, the fuzzy C can be written:

$$\mu_{\tilde{C}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \le -8 \\ \frac{x}{10} + \frac{8}{10}, & \text{if } -8 \le x \le 2 \\ -\frac{x}{11} + \frac{13}{11}, & \text{if } 2 \le x \le 13 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \ge 13 \end{cases}$$

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- Comment: The vertices of the triangular fuzzy number C = A(+)B are obtained by making α equal with 0, respectively with 1 in the relations which describe c<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup> and c<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>:
- Making  $\alpha = 0$ ,  $10\alpha 8$  becomes -8, and  $-11\alpha + 13$  is equal with 13;
- For  $\alpha = 1$  we obtain  $10\alpha 8 = -11\alpha + 13 = 2$
- Hence, as expected, the result of the addition is the triangular fuzzy number [-8, -2, 13]

► Based on the example 1.9, pp. 25–27, from [KG91], we multiply the triangular fuzzy numbers A = [2, 3, 4] and B = [3, 5, 6] and we will obtain the fuzzy number C = A(·)B = (6, 15, 24), which is not triangular (the membership function is not piecewise linear).

We can write the fuzzy number A as:

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \leq 2 \\ x - 2, & \text{if } 2 \leq x \leq 3 \\ 4 - x, & \text{if } 3 \leq x \leq 4 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

• Making  $\mu_A(x) = \alpha$  we obtain for  $a_1^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = a_1^{\alpha} - 2$  $\Rightarrow a_1^{\alpha} = \alpha + 2$ 

For  $a_2^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = 4 - a_2^{\alpha} \Rightarrow a_2^{\alpha} = 4 - \alpha$ Hence  $A^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha}] = [\alpha + 2, 4 - \alpha]$ 

▶ We can write the fuzzy number *B* as:

$$\mu_{\tilde{B}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \leq 3 \\ \frac{x}{2} - \frac{3}{2}, & \text{if } 3 \leq x \leq 5 \\ -x + 6, & \text{if } 5 \leq x \leq 6 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \geq 6 \end{cases}$$

• Making 
$$\mu_B(x) = \alpha$$
 we obtain for  $b_1^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = \frac{b_1^{\alpha}}{2} - \frac{3}{2}$ ,  
 $\Rightarrow b_1^{\alpha} = 2 \cdot \alpha + 3$ 

• For 
$$b_2^{\alpha}$$
:  $\alpha = -b_2^{\alpha} + 6 \Rightarrow b_2^{\alpha} = -\alpha + 6$ 

- Hence  $B^{\alpha} = [b_1^{\alpha}, b_2^{\alpha}] = [2\alpha + 3, 6 \alpha]$
- ► Then:  $A^{\alpha}(\cdot)B^{\alpha} = [\alpha + 2, 4 \alpha](\cdot)[2\alpha + 3, 6 \alpha]$

• Hence 
$$C^{\alpha} = A^{\alpha}(\cdot)B^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha} \cdot b_1^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha} \cdot b_2^{\alpha}]$$

- $C^{\alpha} = [c_1^{\alpha}, c_2^{\alpha}] = [(\alpha + 2) \cdot (2\alpha + 3), (-\alpha + 4) \cdot (-\alpha + 6)]$
- $[c_1^{\alpha}, c_2^{\alpha}] = [2\alpha^2 + 7\alpha + 6, \alpha^2 10\alpha + 24]$

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- In order to express α as a function of c<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>, we denote c<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup> with x and we make 2α<sup>2</sup> + 7α + 6 = x, i.e., we solve the second degree equation in α: 2α<sup>2</sup> + 7α + 6 − x = 0
- We recall that the second degree equation in x,  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  has the solutions  $x_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a}$ , where  $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$

• In our case 
$$\Delta = 7^2 - 4 \cdot 2 \cdot (6 - x) = 49 - 48 + 8x = 1 + 8x$$

• Hence 
$$\alpha_{1,2} = \frac{-7 \pm \sqrt{1+8x}}{4}$$

Since we discuss about fuzzy membership functions (with values in the interval [0, 1], we consider only the solution situated in the real numbers interval [0, 1], which is α = <sup>−7+√1+8x</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, for 6 ≤ x ≤ 15

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- In order to express α as a function of c<sup>α</sup><sub>2</sub>, we denote c<sup>α</sup><sub>2</sub> with x and we make α<sup>2</sup> − 10α + 24 = x, i.e., we solve the second degree equation in α: α<sup>2</sup> − 10α + 24 − x = 0
- The solution is  $\alpha_{1,2} = 5 \pm \sqrt{1+x}$
- We chose the solution situated in the interval [0, 1], which is  $\alpha = 5 \sqrt{1+x}$ , where  $15 \le x \le 24$
- In conclusion, the result of the multiplication is the fuzzy number (fuzzy set) C:

$$\mu_{\tilde{C}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \le 6\\ -\frac{7}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{1+8x}}{4}, & \text{if } 6 \le x \le 15\\ 5 - \sqrt{1+x}, & \text{if } 15 \le x \le 24\\ 0, & \text{if } x \ge 24 \end{cases}$$

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► We show example 1.11, pp. 32–33, from [KG91], where the triangular fuzzy number A = [18, 22, 33] is divided to the triangular fuzzy number B = [5, 6, 8], and we obtain the fuzzy number C = A(:)B = [18/8, 22/6, 33/5], which is not a triangular fuzzy number (its membership function is not piecewise linear)

The fuzzy number A can be written:

$$\mu_{\tilde{\mathcal{A}}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \le 18\\ \frac{x}{4} - \frac{18}{4}, & \text{if } 18 \le x \le 22\\ -\frac{x}{11} + \frac{33}{11}, & \text{if } 22 \le x \le 33\\ 0, & \text{if } x \ge 33 \end{cases}$$

• Making  $\mu_A(x) = \alpha$ , we obtain for  $a_1^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = \frac{a_1^{\alpha}}{4} - \frac{18}{4}$ ,  $\Rightarrow a_1^{\alpha} = 4\alpha + 18$ 

Similar, for a<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>: α = -a<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>/11 + 33/11 ⇒ a<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup> = -11α + 33
Hence A<sup>α</sup> = [a<sub>1</sub><sup>α</sup>, a<sub>2</sub><sup>α</sup>] = [4α + 18, -11α + 33]

▶ The fuzzy number *B* can be written:

$$\mu_{\tilde{B}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \leq 5\\ x - 5, & \text{if } 5 \leq x \leq 6\\ -\frac{x}{2} + \frac{8}{2}, & \text{if } 6 \leq x \leq 8\\ 0, & \text{if } x \geq 8 \end{cases}$$

- Making  $\mu_B(x) = \alpha$ , we obtain for  $b_1^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = b_1^{\alpha} 5$ ,  $\Rightarrow b_1^{\alpha} = \alpha + 5$
- Similar, for  $b_2^{\alpha}$ :  $\alpha = -\frac{b_2^{\alpha}}{2} + \frac{8}{2}$ ,  $\Rightarrow b_2^{\alpha} = -2\alpha + 8$
- Hence  $B^{\alpha} = [b_1^{\alpha}, b_2^{\alpha}] = [\alpha + 5, -2\alpha + 8]$
- Then:  $A^{\alpha}(:)B^{\alpha} = [4\alpha + 18, -11\alpha + 33](:)[\alpha + 5, -2\alpha + 8]$
- Hence  $C^{\alpha} = A^{\alpha}(:)B^{\alpha} = [a_1^{\alpha}: b_2^{\alpha}, a_2^{\alpha}: b_1^{\alpha}]$
- $C^{\alpha} = [c_1^{\alpha}, c_2^{\alpha}] = [\frac{4\alpha + 18}{-2\alpha + 8}, \frac{-11\alpha + 33}{\alpha + 5}]$

▶ In order to find the membership function of the fuzzy number *C*, we denote  $c_1^{\alpha} = x$  and make  $\frac{4\alpha+18}{-2\alpha+8} = x$ , then we express  $\alpha$  as a function of *x*:

$$= \frac{4\alpha + 18}{-2\alpha + 8} = x \Rightarrow 4\alpha + 18 = -2x\alpha + 8x \Rightarrow 4\alpha + 2x\alpha = 8x - 18$$

$$\bullet \ \alpha(2x+4) = 8x - 18$$

$$\bullet \ \alpha = \frac{8x - 18}{2x + 4}$$

Similar, we denote  $c_2^{\alpha} = x$  and it results  $\frac{-11\alpha+33}{\alpha+5} = x$  $\Rightarrow -11\alpha + 33 = \alpha \cdot x + 5x$ 

$$\blacktriangleright -\alpha x - 11\alpha = 5x - 33$$

• 
$$\alpha(x+11) = -5x+33$$
  
•  $\alpha = \frac{-5x+33}{x+11}$ 

• Hence, the fuzzy number C = A(:)B can be written:

$$\mu_{\tilde{C}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \le 9/4 \\ \frac{8x - 18}{2x + 4}, & \text{if } 9/4 \le x \le 11/3 \\ \frac{-5x + 33}{x + 11}, & \text{if } 11/3 \le x \le 33/5 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \ge 33/5 \end{cases}$$

- In order to obtain the left and right vertices of the triangular fuzzy number C we make α = 0 and we obtain: 8x − 18 = 0 ⇒ x = 18/8 = 9/4, respective −5x + 33 = 0 ⇒ x = 33/5
- In order to obtain the middle vertice of the triangular fuzzy number C we make α = 1, i.e. <sup>8x-18</sup>/<sub>2x+4</sub> = 1 ⇒ 8x - 18 = 2x + 4, ⇒ 6x = 22 ⇒ x = 22/6 = 11/3

   Verification: <sup>-5x+33</sup>/<sub>x+11</sub> = 1 ⇒ -5x + 33 = x + 11 ⇒ -6x =

 $-22 \Rightarrow x = 22/6 = 11/3$ , correct !

Arnold Kaufman and Madan M Gupta. Introduction to fuzzy arithmetic.

Van Nostrand Reinhold Company New York, 1991.