



A New Method to Calculate the Appropriateness Measures of Label Expressions in Uncertainty Model

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Abstract

The appropriateness measure of label expression is a basal concept in uncertainty modelling based on label semantics theory for dealing with vague concepts. In the paper, the concept of disjunctive normal forms is presented. It is proved that each label expression is semantic equivalent to a disjunctive normal form. Further, a new method of calculating the appropriateness measures of label expressions is provided.

Keywords

Epistemic Vagueness, Label Semantics, Random Sets, Appropriateness Measure, Disjunctive Normal Form

Subject Areas: Mathematical Analysis

1. Introduction

It is well known that any concept in classical mathematics is established on a crisp set (*i.e.*, Cantor set). Suppose a concept Q is defined by a non-empty set D , then we say the statement that a is Q , is true (or its truth value is 1) if $a \in Q$; or else, it is false (or its truth value is 0). In other words, classical mathematics is established on classical logic or two-valued logic. However, for some propositions we cannot judge that they are true or false, such as the following propositions are not all classical propositions:

- 1) A coin tossed will be heads;
- 2) John will be in New York tomorrow;
- 3) John with 30 hairs is a bandicoot;

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4) John is a bandicoot.

There are various nonclassical propositions in real life. Lukasiewicz is first extended classical logic to three-valued logic as early as 1920. In 1933, A.N. Kolmogoroff presented the probability theory for dealing with a type of uncertainty called randomness [1] (such as the above nonclassical propositions (1) and (2)). Following that, probabilistic logic for dealing with random proposition was proposed by Nilsson [2] based on probability theory in 1986. The theory of fuzzy set was initialized by Zadeh via membership function in 1965 [3]-[5] for fuzzy concepts (such as concept of bandicoot in the above propositions (3) and (4)). Following that, many types of many-valued logic and fuzzy logic were presented, respectively, such as Lukasiewicz fuzzy logic [6] product fuzzy logic, L logic [7] [8], possibilistic logic [9], BL logic [10], and MTL logic [11].

Although multi-valued logics, fuzzy logic [12]-[19] and probabilistic logic are well developed in theory aspect, an actual interpretation of truth value of proposition is controversial. For example, Elkan and Watkins oppose fuzzy logics [20]-[22], and claim that fuzzy logics have some disadvantages, e.g., it does not hold the law of excluded middle (*i.e.*, $v(\neg\theta \vee \theta) \equiv 1$) in classical logic, where θ denotes a proposition; $\neg\theta$ denotes its negation of proposition θ ; \vee denotes disjunction; and $v(\neg\theta \vee \theta)$ denotes the truth value of proposition $\neg\theta \vee \theta$. Recently, the author of paper also discussed this problem [23].

In fact, Zadeh's approach is the extension of a concept by a fuzzy set which has a graded characteristic or membership function with values between 0 and 1. This allows for intermediate membership (values in $(0, 1)$) in vague concepts resulting in intermediate truth values for propositions involving vague concepts (fuzzy logic). The calculus for fuzzy set theory is truth-functional which means that the full complement of Boolean laws cannot all be satisfied [24]. Furthermore, fuzzy set theory and fuzzy logic adopt an epistemic view of vagueness. Considering the shortcoming of fuzzy logic, it was proposed to the probabilistic logic holding the law of excluded middle dealing with fuzzy (or vague) concepts from a point of view in these papers [25]-[29]. In 2004, Lawry also provided a framework for linguistic modelling for dealing with vague (*i.e.* fuzzy) concepts based on label semantics using probability theory and random set [30]. At present it has been well developed [31]-[35] which was called uncertainty modelling for vague concepts in the paper [34]. In the theory, the appropriateness measure of label expressions is a basal concept. Given the label expression, a pivotal step of calculating the appropriateness measures is to seek a set of subsets of label corresponding to the label expression. Note that it is complicated to the approach of calculating the appropriateness measures of label expression provided in these papers [31]-[35]. Therefore the paper will discuss this problem.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Some basic concepts on uncertainty modelling for vague concepts are recalled in Section 2. In Section 3, the concept of disjunctive normal forms is first presented; then it is proved that each label expression is semantic equivalent to a disjunctive normal form; finally, a new method of calculating the appropriateness measure of label expression is provided. At the end of this paper, a brief summary is given.

2. Preliminaries

Definition 1 (Label expressions). Given a finite set of labels LA the corresponding set of label expressions LE is defined recursively as follows:

- If $L \in LA$, then $L \in LE$;
- If $\theta, \varphi \in LE$ then $\neg\theta, \theta \wedge \varphi, \theta \vee \varphi \in LE$.

The mass function m_x on sets of labels then quantifies the agent's belief that any particular subset of labels contains all and only the labels with which it is appropriate to describe x *i.e.* $m_x(F)$ is the agent's subjective probability that $D_x = F$.

Definition 2 (Mass function on labels). $\forall x \in \Omega$ a mass function on labels is a function $m_x : 2^{LA} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $\sum_{F \subseteq LA} m_x(F) = 1$.

Definition 3 (λ -mapping). $\lambda : LE \rightarrow 2^{2^{LA}}$ is defined recursively as follows: $\forall \theta, \varphi \in LE$

- $\forall L_i \in LA, \lambda(L_i) = \{F \subseteq LA \mid L_i \in F\}$.
- $\lambda(\theta \wedge \varphi) = \lambda(\theta) \cap \lambda(\varphi)$.
- $\lambda(\theta \vee \varphi) = \lambda(\theta) \cup \lambda(\varphi)$.

- $\lambda(\neg\theta) = (\lambda(\theta))^c$.

Based on the λ mapping we then define $\mu_\theta(x)$ as the sum of m_x over those set of labels in $\lambda(\theta)$. The sum of m_x over those set of labels in $\lambda(\theta)$.

Definition 4 (Appropriateness measure). The appropriateness measure defined by mass function m_x is a function $\mu : LA \times \Omega \rightarrow [0,1]$ satisfying

$$\forall \theta \in LE, \forall x \in \Omega, \mu_\theta(x) = \sum_{F \in \lambda(\theta)} m_x(F).$$

Let Val be the set of valuation functions $v : LA \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ where for $L_i \in LA, v(L_i) = 1$ means that L_i is appropriate in the current context. In particular, the epistemic stance dictates that for each $x \in \Omega$ there would be a corresponding valuation v_x (partially unknown to the agent) determining which labels are appropriate to describe x . A valuation $v \in Val$ naturally determines an extension $v : LA \rightarrow 0,1$ defined recursively as follows: For $\theta, \varphi \in LE; v(\theta \wedge \varphi) = \min(v(\theta), v(\varphi)), v(\theta \vee \varphi) = \max(v(\theta)),$ and $v(\neg\theta) = 1 - v(\theta)$. We can now define \models and \equiv as follows:

Definition 5. $\forall \theta, \varphi \in LE$

- $\theta \models \varphi$ if $\forall v \in Val, v(\theta) = 1$ then $v(\varphi) = 1$.
- $\theta \equiv \varphi$ if $\forall v \in Val, v(\theta) = v(\varphi)$.
- θ is a tautology, if $\forall v \in Val, v(\theta) = 1$.
- θ is a contradiction, if $\forall v \in Val, v(\theta) = 0$.

Theorem 6 (General properties of appropriateness measures). $\forall \theta, \varphi \in LE$ the following properties hold:

- If $\theta \models \varphi$ then $\forall x \in \Omega, \mu_\theta(x) \leq \mu_\varphi(x)$.
- $\theta \equiv \varphi$ then $\mu_\theta(x) = \mu_\varphi(x)$.
- If θ is a tautology, then $\mu_\theta(x) = 1$.
- If θ is a contradiction, then $\mu_\theta(x) = 0$.
- If $\theta \wedge \varphi$ is a contradiction, then $\mu_{\theta \vee \varphi}(x) = \mu_\theta(x) + \mu_\varphi(x)$.
- $\forall \theta \in LA, \mu_{\neg\theta}(x) = 1 - \mu_\theta(x)$.
- For $F \subseteq LA$, let $\theta_F = (\bigwedge_{L_i \in F} L_i) \wedge (\bigwedge_{L_i \in F} \neg L_i)$, then $\mu_\theta(x) = m_x(F)$.

We not find the proof of last property in Theorem 6 in these papers [30]-[35]. Therefore, now we provide it.

Proof. Without loss of generality, suppose $F = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_j\}, \theta_F = L_1 \wedge L_2 \wedge \dots \wedge L_j \wedge \neg L_{j+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \neg L_n$. Since it follows from Definition 3 that

$$\lambda(\theta_F) = \lambda(L_1) \cap \lambda(L_2) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_j) \cap \lambda(\neg L_{j+1}) \cap \lambda(\neg L_{j+2}) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(\neg L_n).$$

Thus we only need to prove that

$$\lambda(L_1) \cap \lambda(L_2) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_j) \cap \lambda(\neg L_{j+1}) \cap \lambda(\neg L_{j+2}) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(\neg L_n) = \{F\}. \tag{2}$$

We first prove that

$$\{F\} \subseteq \lambda(L_1) \cap \lambda(L_2) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_j) \cap \lambda(L_{j+1}) \cap \lambda(L_{j+2}) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_n). \tag{3}$$

Since for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $\lambda(L_i) = \{E \subseteq LA \mid L_i \in E\}, \lambda(\neg L_i) = (\lambda(L_i))^c$, also, $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, j\}$, $L_i \in F$ and $\forall i \in \{j+1, j+2, \dots, n\}$, $L_i \in F$ not holds, it follows that $F \in \lambda(L_i)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$ and $F \in \lambda(\neg L_i)$, $i = j+1, j+2, \dots, n$. Therefore

$$F \in \lambda(L_1) \cap \lambda(L_2) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_j) \cap \lambda(L_{j+1}) \cap \lambda(L_{j+2}) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_n).$$

Thus the formula (3) is true.

Now we prove that for any $E \in LA$, if $E \neq F$, then $E \in \lambda(L_1) \cap \lambda(L_2) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_j) \cap \lambda(L_{j+1}) \cap \lambda(L_{j+2}) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_n)$ not holds. In fact, if E not contain L_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$ then $E \in \lambda(L_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, j$ not hold; if E contain $L_i, i = j+1, j+2, \dots, n$, then $E \in \lambda(\neg L_i)$,

$i = j + 1, j + 2, \dots, n$ not hold. In a word, $E \in \lambda(L_1) \cap \lambda(L_2) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_j) \cap \lambda(L_{j+1}) \cap \lambda(L_{j+2}) \cap \dots \cap \lambda(L_n)$ not holds.

Therefore $\lambda(\theta_F) = \{F\}$ is true. It follows that $\mu_\theta(x) = m_x(F)$.

The theorem is proved.

3. Calculating of the Appropriateness Measures

In the Section we first discuss the properties of valuation functions.

For convenience, we call each element in Label $LA = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n\}$ as atomic label expression. Let θ be a label expression containing atomic label expressions L_1, L_2, \dots, L_k , then we can be denoted by $\theta(L_1, L_2, \dots, L_k)$. Although it not contains atomic label expressions L_{k+1}, L_2, \dots, L_n , we also can write it as $\theta(L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n)$. The mapping $v: LA \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is denoted by v_{LA} , and write $v_{LA} = (v_{LA}(L_1), v_{LA}(L_2), \dots, v_{LA}(L_n))$. For example, if $LA = \{L_1, L_2, L_3\}$, and $v_{LA}(L_1) = 1, v_{LA}(L_2) = 0, v_{LA}(L_3) = 1$, then $v_{LA} = (1, 0, 1)$ is regard as a vector in $\{0, 1\}^n$.

Note that $v_{LA}^{-1}(1)$ is a subset of LA , and a relation of one to one from the set Val of all this mapping to $\{0, 1\}^n$ is gained, and the valuation function $v(\theta), v \in Val$, of θ is a Boolean function $f: \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$. Such function f is denoted by $f_\theta(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n), (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n$. Where ξ_i can be considered a random variable, $(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n)$ a n -dimensional random variable, and $f(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n)$ a function of n random variables.

Definition 7. A label expression θ is said to be a disjunctive normal form, if its form is

$$(Q_{11} \wedge Q_{12} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{1n}) \vee (Q_{21} \wedge Q_{22} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{2n}) \vee \dots \vee (Q_{m1} \wedge Q_{m2} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{mn}),$$

where Q_{ij} is L_j or $\neg L_j$, for $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and

$(Q_{11} \wedge Q_{12} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{1n}), (Q_{21} \wedge Q_{22} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{2n}), \dots, (Q_{m1} \wedge Q_{m2} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{mn})$ are all different.

Let $G = \{(Q_{11} \wedge Q_{12} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{1n}) | Q_{11} \in \{L_1, \neg L_1\}, Q_{12} \in \{L_2, \neg L_2\}, \dots, Q_{1n} \in \{L_n, \neg L_n\}\}$, each $w \in G$ is called a conjoint atomic label expression.

Lemma 8. For each $v = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in Val$, then $v(w_0) = 1$, where $w_0 = (Q_{11} \wedge Q_{12} \wedge \dots \wedge Q_{1n}) \in G$ satisfy that if $\xi_i = 1; Q_{11} = \neg L_i$ if $\xi_i = 0$, and for $\forall w \in G - \{w_0\}$ we have $v(w) = 0$.

Proof. Let $v = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in Val$.

On the one hand, $v(L_i) = 1$ if $\xi_i = 1$; it follows from $v(L_i) = 0$ that $v(\neg L_i) = 1$, if $\xi_i = 0$. Thus

$$v(w_0) = \min\{v(Q_{11}), v(Q_{12}), \dots, v(Q_{1n})\} = 1.$$

On the other hand, let $w \in G - \{w_0\}$, then there exists $L_j \in LA$ or $\neg L_j$ is contained in w_0 and it is not contained in w . Suppose $L_j \in LA$ is contained in w_0 and it is not contained in w . Thus $\neg L_j$ is contained in w and $\xi_j = 1$. Thus $v(w) = 0$.

Lemma 9. Let label expression θ be a non-contradiction, and it contains atomic label expressions L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n . Then it is semantically equivalent to a disjunctive normal form as follows:

$$\bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n} \omega_v,$$

i.e.,

$$\theta \equiv \bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n} \omega_v,$$

where for each $v = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n, f_\theta(v) = 1$,

$$\omega_v = Q_{1v} \cap Q_{2v} \cap \dots \cap Q_{nv}$$

satisfies that Q_{iv} is L_i if $\xi_i = 1$; Q_{iv} is $\neg L_i$ if $\xi_i = 0$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

If

$$\theta \equiv \bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n} \omega_v,$$

we call

$$\bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n} \omega_v,$$

as disjunctive normal form of θ , and it is denoted by $D(\theta)$.

Proof. From Definition 5 we need to prove

$$f_\theta(v) = f_{D(\theta)}(v), v \in Val.$$

It is evident that we only need to prove $f_\theta(v) = 1$ iff $f_{D(\theta)}(v) = 1, v \in Val$.

For $\forall v = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in Val$, suppose $f_\theta(v) = f_\theta(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) = 1$, then by Lemma 8 we have $v(Q_{1v} \cap Q_{2v} \cap \dots \cap Q_{nv}) = 1$. It follows from conjoint atomic label expression $\omega_v = (Q_{1v} \cap Q_{2v} \cap \dots \cap Q_{nv})$ is contained in

$$\bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1} \omega_v,$$

that $v(\omega_v = Q_{1v} \cap Q_{2v} \cap \dots \cap Q_{nv}) = 1$, thus

$$v \left(\bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n} \omega_\xi \right) = 1.$$

Contrarily, for $\forall v_0 = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in Val$, suppose

$$v_0 \left(\bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n} \omega_v \right) = 1.$$

By Lemma 8 we known that $v_0(Q_{1v_0} \cap Q_{2v_0} \cap \dots \cap Q_{nv_0}) = 1$, $v(Q_{1v} \cap Q_{2v} \cap \dots \cap Q_{nv}) = 0$ if $v \in Val - \{v_0\}$. Thus $Q_{1v_0} \cap Q_{2v_0} \cap \dots \cap Q_{nv_0}$ is contain in

$$\bigvee_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n} \omega_\xi.$$

Thus $f_\theta(v_0) = 1$.

The theorem is proved.

By Lemma 9 and Definition 3 we easily gained the following Lemma.

Lemma 10. Let $\forall x \in \Omega$ a mass function on labels LA is a function $m_x : 2^{LA} \rightarrow [0,1]$ such that $\sum_{F \subseteq LA} m_x(F) = 1$. Then

$$\mu_\theta(x) = \sum_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n} \mu_{\omega_v}(x),$$

if

$$D(\theta) = \bigcup_{f_\theta(v)=1, \xi=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n} \omega_v,$$

where for each $v = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n, f_\theta(v) = 1$,

$$\omega_v = Q_{1\xi} \cap Q_{2\xi} \cap \dots \cap Q_{n\xi}$$

satisfies that $Q_{i\xi}$ is L_i if $\xi_i = 1$; $Q_{i\xi}$ is $\neg L_i$ if $\xi_i = 0$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Theorem 11. Let $\forall x \in \Omega$ a mass function on labels LA is a function $m_x : 2^{LA} \rightarrow [0,1]$ such that $\sum_{F \subseteq LA} m_x(F) = 1$. For any $\theta \in LE$,

$$\mu_\theta(x) = \sum_{f_\theta(\xi)=1, \xi=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n} m_x(v_{LA}^{-1}(1)).$$

Proof. By Lemma 10 we have

$$\mu_\theta(x) = \sum_{f_\theta(v)=1, v=(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n} \mu_{\omega_v}(x).$$

It follows from Theorem 6 and the meaning of mapping v_{LA} , foe each $v = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \in \{0,1\}^n, f_\theta(v) = 1, \mu_{\omega_v}(x) = m_x(v_{LA}^{-1}(1))$, thus the theorem is true.

Exempla 12. Suppose $LA = \{L_1, L_2, L_3\}$, $x \in \Omega$, and $m_x : 2^{LA} \rightarrow [0,1]$ is a mass function on labels LA satisfying:

$$\begin{aligned}
m_x(\{L_1\}) &= m_x(\{L_3\}) = \frac{1}{10} \\
m_x(\{L_2\}) &= \frac{2}{5} \\
m_x(\{L_1, L_2\}) &= m_x(\{L_2, L_3\}) = \frac{1}{5} \\
&= m_x(\{L_1, L_3\}) = m_x(\{L_2, L_2, L_3\}) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

For $\theta = \neg(L_1 \vee \neg L_2) \vee L_3$, note that

$$\{v = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) \mid f(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) = 1\} = \{(0, 1, 1), (0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 1), (1, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1)\}.$$

If we write $v_1 = (0, 1, 1), v_2 = (0, 1, 0), v_3 = (0, 0, 1), v_4 = (1, 1, 1), v_5 = (1, 0, 1)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
v_1^{-1}(1) &= \{L_2, L_3\} \\
v_2^{-1}(1) &= \{L_2\} \\
v_3^{-1}(1) &= \{L_3\} \\
v_4^{-1}(1) &= \{L_1, L_2, L_3\} \\
v_5^{-1}(1) &= \{L_1, L_3\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mu_{\neg(L_1 \vee \neg L_2) \vee L_3}(x) \\
&= m_x(\{L_2, L_3\}) + m_x(\{L_2\}) + m_x(\{L_3\}) + m_x(\{L_1, L_3\}) + m_x(\{L_1, L_2, L_3\}) \\
&= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{7}{10}.
\end{aligned}$$

4. Conclusion

The paper mainly provided a new method for calculating the appropriateness measures of label expressions. Based on the fact, each label expression is semantic equivalent to a disjunctive normal form.

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