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# On Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Sets

Dr. S. Vijayalakshmi<sup>1</sup>, Dr. B. Nisha<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Department of Mathematics, Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Arts and Science for Women

**Abstract:** Molodtsov's soft set theory is a newly emerging mathematical tool to handle uncertainty. Babitha and John defined another important soft set, as hesitant fuzzy soft sets. This paper gives a methodology to solve the multi-criteria decision making problems using distance measure. A decision making problem with triangular hesitant fuzzy set was solved with the help of distance measure on hesitant fuzzy soft set.

**Keywords:** Triangular Hesitant fuzzy soft set, Distance measure, Hamming Distance, Normalized Hamming Distance and multi-criteria decision making problem

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the real world, there are many complicated problems are arises in many fields, like economics, engineering, environment, social science, management science and etc... There are various types of uncertainties involved in these problems. The classical methods are having their own limitations. To overcome these limitations hesitant fuzzy soft set was introduced.

Molodtsov [2] firstly proposed a new mathematical tool named soft set theory to deal with uncertainty and imprecision. This theory has been demonstrated to be a useful tool in many applications such as decision making, measurement theory, and game theory. Maji et al. [3,4] firstly presented the concept of fuzzy soft set in decision making problems. The hesitant fuzzy set, as one of the extension of Zadeh's [12] fuzzy set, allows the membership degree that an element to a set presented by several possible values, and it can express the hesitant information more comprehensively than other extensions of fuzzy set. In 2009, Torra and Narukawa [6] introduced the concept of hesitant fuzzy set. In 2011, Xu and Xia [8, 9] defined the concept of hesitant fuzzy element, which can be considered as the basic unit of a hesitant fuzzy set, and is a simple and effective tool used to express the decision maker's hesitant preferences in the process of decision-making. Babitha and John [1] defined another important soft set as hesitant fuzzy soft sets. They introduced basic operations such as intersection, union, compliment, and De Morgan's law was proved. In 2014, Wang, Li, and Chen [6] applied hesitant fuzzy soft sets in multi criteria decision-making problems. Yang and Xiao gives Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Preference Relations and Their Applications in Multi Criteria Group Decision Making in 2019 [11].

This paper gives a methodology to solve the multi-criteria decision making problem using distance measures based on Hamming distance and Normalized Hamming distance with Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Soft set. In section 2, some basic definitions are given. In section 3, operations on triangular hesitant fuzzy soft sets are discussed. In section 4, distance measure for triangular hesitant fuzzy soft set was introduced. In section 5, a decision making problem was solved with the help of distance measure on triangular hesitant fuzzy soft set.

## II. PRELIMINARIES

### A. Definition 2.1

The characteristic function  $\mu_A$  of a crisp set  $A \subseteq U$  assigns a value either 0 or 1 to each member in U. This function can be generalized to a function  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}$  such that the value assigned to the elements of the universal set U fall within a specified range [0,1].

That is  $\mu_{\tilde{A}} : A \rightarrow [0, 1]$ . The assigned values indicate the membership grade of the element in the set A.

The function  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}$  is the membership function and the set  $\tilde{A} = \{(x, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)) : x \in U\}$  defined by  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}$  for each  $x \in U$  is called a Fuzzy Set. The class of all fuzzy set of the universe U is denoted by F(U).

### B. Definition 2.2

A pair (F, E) is called a **Soft set** over U, if F is a mapping given by  $F : E \rightarrow P(U)$  where P(U) is a power set of U.

In other words, a soft set over U is a parameterized family of subsets of the universe U. For  $e \in E$ ,  $F(e)$  may be considered as the set of e-approximate elements of the soft set (F, E).

**C. Definition 2.3**

The pair  $(\tilde{F}, E)$  is called a Fuzzy soft set over  $U$ , if  $\tilde{F} : E \rightarrow \tilde{P}(U)$ , where  $\tilde{P}(U)$  denotes the set of all fuzzy subsets of  $U$ .

In other words, a Fuzzy soft set  $(\tilde{F}, E)$  is the set of all parameterized family of subsets of the fuzzy set over the non-empty universe  $U$ .

**D. Definition 2.4**

A Hesitant Fuzzy Set (HFS) on  $U$  is in terms of a function that when applied to  $U$  returns a subset of  $[0, 1]$ , which can be represented as the following mathematical symbol  $\tilde{A} = \{ \langle u, h_{\tilde{A}}(u) \rangle / u \in U \}$  where  $h_{\tilde{A}}(u)$  is a set of values in  $[0, 1]$ , denoting the possible membership degrees of the element  $u \in U$  to the set  $\tilde{A}$ . For convenience, we call  $h_{\tilde{A}}(u)$  a hesitant fuzzy element (HFE) and  $H$  the set of all HFEs.

**E. Definition 2.5**

Let  $\tilde{H}(U)$  be the set of all Hesitant fuzzy sets in  $U$ . A pair  $(\tilde{F}, A)$  is called a Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Set over  $U$ , where  $\tilde{F}$  is a mapping given by  $\tilde{F} : A \rightarrow \tilde{H}(U)$ .

A Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Set is a parameterized family of Hesitant fuzzy subsets of  $U$ .

For  $e \in \tilde{A}$ ,  $F(e)$  may be considered as the set of  $e$ - approximate elements of the Hesitant fuzzy soft set  $(\tilde{F}, A)$ .

**F. Definition 2.6**

Let  $\tilde{H}(U)$  be the set of all Triangular Hesitant fuzzy sets in  $U$ . A pair  $(\tilde{F}, A)$  is called a Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Set over  $U$ , where  $\tilde{F}$  is a mapping given by  $\tilde{F} : A \rightarrow \tilde{H}(U)$ .

A Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Set is a parameterized family of Triangular Hesitant fuzzy subsets of  $U$ .

For  $e \in \tilde{A}$ ,  $F(e)$  may be considered as the set of  $e$ - approximate elements of the Triangular Hesitant fuzzy soft set  $(\tilde{F}, A)$ .

**G. Definition 2.7**

Ranking function  $R(A)$  of any Triangular fuzzy set  $A = (a, b, c)$  is defined by  $R(A) = \frac{a + 2b + c}{4}$ .

**III. OPERATIONS ON TRIANGULAR HESITANT FUZZY SOFT SET**

**A. Definition 3.1**

The complement of a triangular hesitant fuzzy soft set  $(\tilde{F}, A)$  is denoted by  $(\tilde{F}, A)^c$  and is defined by  $(\tilde{F}, A)^c = (\tilde{F}^c, A)$  where  $\tilde{F}^c : A \rightarrow \tilde{H}(U)$  is a mapping given by,  $\tilde{F}^c(e) = (\tilde{F}(e))^c$  for all  $e \in A$ .

Clearly  $(\tilde{F}^c)^c$  is same as  $\tilde{F}$  and  $((\tilde{F}.A)^c)^c = (\tilde{F}.A)$ .

**B. Definition 3.2**

The **AND** operation on two triangular hesitant fuzzy soft sets  $(\tilde{F}.A)$  and  $(\tilde{G}.B)$  which is denoted by  $(\tilde{F}, A) \wedge (\tilde{G}, B)$  is defined by  $(\tilde{F}, A) \wedge (\tilde{G}, B) = (\tilde{J}, A \times B)$  where  $\tilde{J}(\alpha, \beta) = \tilde{F}(\alpha) \cap \tilde{G}(\beta)$ , for all  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A \times B$ .

C. Definition 3.3

The OR operation on two triangular hesitant fuzzy soft sets  $(\tilde{F}.A)$  and  $(\tilde{G}.B)$  which is denoted by  $(\tilde{F}.A) \vee (\tilde{G}.B)$  is defined by  $(\tilde{F}.A) \vee (\tilde{G}.B) = (\tilde{O}, A \times B)$  where  $\tilde{O}(\alpha, \beta) = \tilde{F}(\alpha) \cup \tilde{G}(\beta)$ , for all  $(\alpha, \beta) \in A \times B$ .

D. Definition 3.4

Consider two Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Sets  $(\tilde{F}, A) = (a_1, b_1, c_1)$  and  $(\tilde{G}, A) = (a_2, b_2, c_2)$ .

(i). Addition of two Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Sets is define by

$$(\tilde{F}, A) + (\tilde{G}, B) = (a_1 + a_2, b_1 + b_2, c_1 + c_2).$$

(ii). Difference of two Triangular Hesitant Fuzzy Soft Sets is define by

$$(\tilde{F}, A) - (\tilde{G}, B) = (|a_1 - a_2|, |b_1 - b_2|, |c_1 - c_2|).$$

IV. DISTANCE MEASURE ON HESITANT FUZZY SOFT SET

A. Definition 4.1

The Hamming distance between two Triangular Hesitant fuzzy Soft Set is defined by  $d(F(\varepsilon) - G(\varepsilon)) = \frac{1}{n} |F(\varepsilon) - G(\varepsilon)|$  where n is the number of parameters.

B. Definition 4.2

The Normalized Hamming distance between two Triangular Hesitant fuzzy Soft Set is defined by

$$d(F(\varepsilon) - G(\varepsilon)) = \frac{1}{nm} |F(\varepsilon) - G(\varepsilon)| \text{ where n is the number of parameters and m various from 1 to n.}$$

C. Definition 4.3

The distance measure D is defined by  $D(\tilde{F}, \tilde{G}) = 1 - d(\tilde{F}(\varepsilon), \tilde{G}(\varepsilon))$

where,  $d(\tilde{F}(\varepsilon), \tilde{G}(\varepsilon))$  is based on the following two distances

- (i) Hamming distance
- (ii) Normalized Hamming distance

V. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

Consider a multi-criteria decision making problem as given below.

Suppose that  $U = \{h_1, h_2, h_3, h_4, h_5, h_6\}$  is a set of houses and  $E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5\}$  is a set of parameters, which stands for the parameters “cheap”, “beautiful”, “size”, “location” and “surrounding environment” respectively.

From this information, Mr. X wants to buy a house with a best parameter. For this, he has two sets of six houses with three parameters like, cheap, beautiful and location. He wants to identify which parameter is convenient for his expectations.

From this situation triangular hesitant fuzzy soft set is introduced and this problem is solved with the help of distance measure. Information’s about these two sets of six houses are in triangular hesitant fuzzy soft sets  $(\tilde{F}.A)$  and  $(\tilde{G}.B)$ . The tabular representation of  $(\tilde{F}.A)$  and  $(\tilde{G}.B)$  are given below.

TABLE 1: TRIANGULAR HESITANT FUZZY SOFT SET  $(\tilde{F}.A)$

$(\tilde{F}.A)$	$e_1$	$e_2$	$e_3$
$h_1$	(0.2, 0.3, 0.4)	(0.4, 0.6, 0.8)	(0.2, 0.5, 0.8)
$h_2$	(0.5, 0.6, 0.7)	(0.5, 0.7, 0.9)	(0.6, 0.7, 0.8)
$h_3$	(0.1, 0.3, 0.5)	(0.5, 0.7, 0.9)	(0.3, 0.5, 0.7)
$h_4$	(0.2, 0.5, 0.8)	(0.4, 0.5, 0.6)	(0.6, 0.7, 0.8)
$h_5$	(0.4, 0.5, 0.6)	(0.3, 0.6, 0.9)	(0.3, 0.4, 0.5)
$h_6$	(0.6, 0.7, 0.8)	(0.1, 0.3, 0.5)	(0.5, 0.7, 0.9)

TABLE 2: HESITANT FUZZY SOFT SET  $(\tilde{G}.B)$

$(\tilde{G}.B)$	$e_1$	$e_2$	$e_3$
$h_1$	(0.4, 0.5, 0.6)	(0.5, 0.6, 0.7)	(0.3, 0.5, 0.7)
$h_2$	(0.6, 0.8, 1.0)	(0.7, 0.8, 0.9)	(0.1, 0.2, 0.3)
$h_3$	(0.4, 0.5, 0.6)	(0.7, 0.8, 0.9)	(0.4, 0.5, 0.6)
$h_4$	(0.3, 0.5, 0.7)	(0.4, 0.6, 0.8)	(0.7, 0.8, 0.9)
$h_5$	(0.2, 0.5, 0.8)	(0.3, 0.6, 0.7)	(0.5, 0.6, 0.7)
$h_6$	(0.3, 0.6, 0.9)	(0.4, 0.5, 0.6)	(0.6, 0.8, 1.0)

Here to find the best parameter, distance measure based on Hamming Distance and Normalized Hamming Distance of hesitant fuzzy soft set is applied to  $(\tilde{F}.A)$  and  $(\tilde{G}.B)$ .

$$D((\tilde{F}, A), (\tilde{G}, B)) = 1 - d_H((\tilde{F}, A), (\tilde{G}, B)) \text{ where, } n = 1, 2, 3$$

and

$$d_H((\tilde{F}, A), (\tilde{G}, B)) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^6 |(\tilde{F}, A) - (\tilde{G}, B)| \text{ where, } n = 1, 2, 3$$

$$d_{nH}((\tilde{F}, A), (\tilde{G}, B)) = \frac{1}{18} \sum_{i=1}^6 |(\tilde{F}, A) - (\tilde{G}, B)| \text{ where, } n = 1, 2, 3$$

For finding Hamming distance and Normalized Hamming distance, ranking function of triangular fuzzy sets was applied. Since Triangular Hesitant fuzzy soft sets are converted to Hesitant fuzzy soft set.

$$d_H((\tilde{F}(e_1)), (\tilde{G}(e_1))) = \frac{1}{3} \left| (0.2, 0.2, 0.2) + (0.1, 0.2, 0.3) + (0.3, 0.2, 0.1) + (0.1, 0.0, 0.1) + (0.2, 0.0, 0.2) + (0.3, 0.1, 0.1) \right|$$

$$d_H((\tilde{F}(e_1)), (\tilde{G}(e_1))) = \frac{1}{3} \left[ \frac{0.8}{4} + \frac{0.8}{4} + \frac{0.8}{4} + \frac{0.2}{4} + \frac{0.4}{4} + \frac{0.6}{4} \right]$$

$$d_H((\tilde{F}(e_1)), (\tilde{G}(e_1))) = 0.3$$

Similarly we get

$$d_H(\tilde{F}(e_2), \tilde{G}(e_2)) = 0.2167$$

$$d_H(\tilde{F}(e_3), \tilde{G}(e_3)) = 0.3333$$

Distance Measure based on Hamming Distance is given by

$$D(\tilde{F}, \tilde{G}) = \max \{1 - d_H(\tilde{F}(e_j), \tilde{G}(e_j))\} \text{ where } j = 1, 2, 3.$$

$$= \max \{0.7, 0.7833, 0.6667\} = 0.7833$$

$$D(\tilde{F}, \tilde{G}) = 0.7833$$

From the above calculation, second parameter has the maximum measure value. Hence the parameter  $e_2$  is selected.

In the same way Distance Measure based on Normalized Hamming Distance was calculated. The corresponding values are given below.

$$d_{nH}(\tilde{F}(e_1), \tilde{G}(e_1)) = 0.05$$

$$d_{nH}(\tilde{F}(e_2), \tilde{G}(e_2)) = 0.0361$$

$$d_{nH}(\tilde{F}(e_3), \tilde{G}(e_3)) = 0.0505$$

Distance Measure based on Hamming Distance is given by

$$D(\tilde{F}, \tilde{G}) = \max \{1 - d_{nH}(\tilde{F}(e_j), \tilde{G}(e_j))\} \text{ where } j = 1, 2, 3.$$

$$= \max \{0.95, 0.9639, 0.9495\} = 0.9639$$

$$D(\tilde{F}, \tilde{G}) = 0.9639$$

From the above calculation, second parameter has the maximum measure value. Hence the parameter  $e_2$  is selected.

Hence Mr. X can choose a house with the second parameter “ $e_2$  - beautiful”.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a methodology was introduced to solve the multi-criteria decision making problems using distance measures on triangular hesitant fuzzy soft sets. Basic definitions and operations of triangular hesitant fuzzy soft sets are discussed. Finally a decision making problem was solved and a decision was made with the help of distance measure based on Hamming distance and Normalized Hamming distance of triangular hesitant fuzzy soft set.

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