A fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic approach to multi-source fuzzy information systems

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A B S T R A C T

Decision-theoretic rough set theory (DTRS) is becoming one of the important research directions for studying set approximations using Bayesian decision procedure and probability theory in rough set community. In this paper, a novel model, fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set model (FM-DTRS), is proposed in terms of inclusion measure of fuzzy rough sets in the viewpoint of fuzzy multigranulation. Gaussian kernel is used to compute the similarity between objects, which induces a fuzzy equivalence relation, and then we make use of $T_f$-norm operator with the property of Hadamart product to aggregate the multiple induced fuzzy equivalence relations. We employ the aggregated relation to fuzzily partition the universe and then obtain multiple fuzzy granulations from the multi-source information system. Moreover, some of its properties are addressed. A comparative study between the proposed fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set model and Qian’s multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set model is made. An example is employed to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed method which may provide an effective approach for multi-source data analysis in real applications.

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1. Introduction

Rough set theory, originated by Pawlak [27, 28], is a mathematical tool to deal with uncertainty in a wide variety of applications [2–4, 18, 19, 29, 30, 42, 43, 50]. In the past 10 years, several extensions of Pawlak rough set model have been proposed in terms of various requirements, such as the decision-theoretic rough set model [43], the variable precision rough set (VPRS) model [56], the rough set model based on tolerance relation [12, 36], the Bayesian rough set model [39], the fuzzy rough set model [6] and the probabilistic rough sets [44]. The probabilistic rough sets, as an important research direction in rough set community, have been paid close attentions [10, 11, 13, 14, 44–47, 49]. Specially, Yao [44] presented a new rule induction method based on the decision-theoretic rough set allowing for error tolerance through setting the thresholds: $\alpha$ and $\beta$, which is constructed by positive region, boundary region and negative region, respectively. Since then, the decision-theoretic rough sets have attracted more and more concerns. Azam and Yao [1] proposed a threshold configuration mechanism for reducing the overall uncertainty of probabilistic regions in the probabilistic rough sets. Jia et al. [10] developed an optimization representation of decision-theoretic rough set model, and gave a heuristic approach and a particle swarm optimization approach for implementing an attribute reduction with a minimum cost. Liu et al. [13, 15] combined the logistic regression with the decision-theoretic rough set to form a new classification approach and investigated the three-way decision procedure with incomplete information combining the incomplete information table and loss function table together. Yu et al. [49] applied decision-theoretic rough set model to automatically determining the number of clusters with much smaller time cost. Li et al. [20] developed a sequential strategy in a decision process, which based on a formal description of granular computing.

In the view of granular computing (proposed by Zadeh [51]), in the existing rough set models, a concept described by a set is always characterized via the so-called upper and lower approximations under a single granulation, i.e., the concept is depicted by known knowledge induced from a single binary relation on the universe. Conveniently, this kind of rough set models is called single granulation rough sets. Based on a user’s different requirements, Qian et al. [32] developed the multigranulation rough set which provides a new perspective for decision making analysis based on the rough set theory. Since the multigranulation rough set was proposed, the theoretical framework has been largely enriched, and many extended...
multigranulation rough set models and relative applications have also been proposed and studied [17,21–24,32,33,38,40,41]. For example, Qian et al. [33] have first proposed a new multigranulation rough set model through combining MGRS and the decision-theoretic rough sets together, called a multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set model. Sang et al. [31] proposed a new decision-theoretic rough set model based on the local rough set and the dynamic granulation principle, called a decision-theoretic rough set under dynamic granulation (DG-DTRS) which satisfies the monotonicity of the positive region of a target concept (or decision).

However, the decision and most of knowledge in the real life applications are often fuzzy and one often encounters a kind of special information system in which data come from different sources, such an information system is called a multi-source information system. Therefore it is necessary to introduce the fuzzy rough methodology into the classical DTRS for wider applications. The researchers [4,6,16,52–55] dealt with the real-value data sets by applying a fuzzy rough technique to solving problem. For example, Chen et al. [4] and Zhao et al. [53] used fuzzy rough sets to propose novel methods for attribute reduction and rule induction. Liang et al. [16] has proposed the triangular fuzzy decision-theoretic rough set by considering the losses being expressed by triangular fuzzy numbers. However, they still cannot be used to analyze data in the context of fuzzy multigranulation, which limits its further applications in many problems under the framework of the fuzzy environment. This motivates us to develop a new approximate strategy based on decision-theoretic rough sets to analyze data from the multi-source fuzzy information system.

Kernel methods have been proven to be an important methodology which is widely discussed in pattern recognition and machine learning domains. It maps data into a higher dimensional feature space in order to simplify classification tasks and make them linearizable [37,42]. In the rough set field, Hu et al. [7,8] found a high level of similarity between kernel methods and rough sets and made use of kernel to extract fuzzy relations for rough sets based data analysis. As an example, in this paper, Gaussian kernel is used to generate a fuzzy binary relation which satisfies reflexive, symmetric and transitive. However, the existing study is based on data coming from only a single source and little attention was paid to deal with data which come from different sources. To address this issue, in this study, we will introduce Gaussian kernel to extract a fuzzy equivalence relation between objects from a multi-source information system. It can be proven that the similarity matrix induced by Gaussian kernel is both reflexive and positive semi-definitive. Then we employ the Tp-norm operator: \( T_p(a, b) = a \cdot b \) to aggregate multiple induced fuzzy relations to get an aggregation matrix which is called Hadamard product matrix [35]. It can induce a new fuzzy \( T_{\text{ASS}} \)-equivalence relation because it is still both reflexive and positive semi-definitive, and then it will be used to partition a universe into a family fuzzy information granules forming a fuzzy granular structure for one of the sources from the multi-source information system. By the same way, one can obtain multiple fuzzy granular structures which constitute the fundamentals of the novel model in the paper.

From the above, based on different fuzzy granular structures generating from a multi-source fuzzy information system, the aim of this paper is to present a new approach to approximate the decision class with a certain level of tolerance for errors through inclusion measure between two fuzzy granules. This approach called fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets (FM-DTRS) combines the multigranulation decision-theoretic idea with fuzzy set theory. Some of its properties are addressed. A comparative study between the proposed and Qian’s multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set model is made.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Some basic concepts of classical rough sets, variable precision fuzzy rough sets, and multigranulation rough sets are briefly reviewed in Section 2. In Section 3, we first investigate two fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set forms that include the optimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets, and the pessimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets. Then, we analyze the loss function and the entire decision risk in the context of fuzzy multigranulation. When the thresholds have a special constraint, the multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets will produce one of various variables of multigranulation rough sets. In Section 4, an example is used to illustrate our method. Finally, Section 5 concludes this paper by bringing some remarks and discussions.

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we introduce some basic notions and redescribe some related rough set models by inclusion degree, which are Pawlak rough sets, variable precision fuzzy rough sets, and multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets, repsectively [7,27,34,52,56]. Throughout this paper, let \( U \) be a finite non-empty set called the universe of discourse. The class of all fuzzy sets in \( U \) will be denoted as \( F(U) \). For a set \( A \), \( |A| \) denotes the cardinality of the set \( A \).

**Definition 1.** Assumed \( \tilde{R} \) is a fuzzy equivalence relation induced by a numerical attribute or fuzzy attribute. For any \( x, y, z \in U \), it satisfies:

1. Reflexivity: \( \tilde{R}(x, y) = 1 \);
2. Symmetry: \( \tilde{R}(x, y) = \tilde{R}(y, x) \); and
3. Transitivity: \( \tilde{R}(x, z) \geq \min(\tilde{R}(x, y), \tilde{R}(y, z)) \).

The relation can be written as a matrix as:

\[
M(\tilde{R}) = (\tilde{r}_{ij})_{n \times n} = \begin{bmatrix}
\tilde{r}_{11} & \tilde{r}_{12} & \cdots & \tilde{r}_{1n} \\
\tilde{r}_{21} & \tilde{r}_{22} & \cdots & \tilde{r}_{2n} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\tilde{r}_{n1} & \tilde{r}_{n2} & \cdots & \tilde{r}_{nn}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

where \( \tilde{r}_{ij} \) is the similarity degree between \( x_i \) and \( x_j \).

If condition (3) is replaced by \( T(\tilde{R}(x, y), \tilde{R}(y, z)) < T(\tilde{R}(x, y), \tilde{R}(x, z)) \) (T-transitivity), then \( \tilde{R} \) is said to be a fuzzy \( T \)-equivalence relation Kerre and Ovchinnikov where \( T \) is some triangular norm.

**Definition 2.** The fuzzy equivalence class \( S_{\tilde{R}}(x_i) \) of \( x_i \) induced by a fuzzy equivalence relation \( \tilde{R} \) is defined as:

\[
S_{\tilde{R}}(x_i) = \frac{r_{1i}}{\tilde{r}_{11}} + \frac{r_{2i}}{\tilde{r}_{22}} + \cdots + \frac{r_{ni}}{\tilde{r}_{nn}},
\]

where \( \tilde{r}_{ij} \) means the union operation. Obviously, \( S_{\tilde{R}}(x_i) \) is a fuzzy information granule containing \( x_i \), \( r_{ij} \) is the degree of \( x_i \) equivalent to \( x_j \). Obviously, a crisp equivalence class \( [x_i]_\tilde{R} \) is a special fuzzy granule with \( \tilde{R}(x, y) = 1, x, y \in [x_i]_{\tilde{R}} \).

As we know, a fuzzy equivalence relation generates a family of fuzzy information granules from the universe, which possesses a fuzzy equivalence granular structure, written by \( K(\tilde{R}) = \{ S_{\tilde{R}}(x_1), S_{\tilde{R}}(x_2), \ldots, S_{\tilde{R}}(x_n) \} \). Particularly, if \( \tilde{r}_{ii} = 1 \) and \( \tilde{r}_{ij} = 0, i \neq j \), then \( S_{\tilde{R}}(x_i) = 1, i \leq n \), and \( \tilde{R} \) is called a fuzzy identity relation, and we write it as \( \tilde{R} = \tilde{\psi} \); if \( \tilde{r}_{ij} = 1, i < j < n \), then \( S_{\tilde{R}}(x_i) \leq |U|, i \leq n \) and \( \tilde{R} \) is called a fuzzy universal relation, which is written as \( \tilde{R} = \tilde{b} \).

**Definition 3.** [7] Let \( A \) and \( B \) be two fuzzy granules in the universe \( U \), the inclusion measure \( I(A, B) \) is defined as

\[
I(A, B) = \frac{|A \cap B|}{|A|}.
\]

where ‘\( \cap \)’ means the operation ‘min’ and \( |A| = \sum_{x \in U} \mu_A(x) \).

We denote \( A \subseteq B \), meaning \( I(A, B) \geq \epsilon \).

Pawlak rough set is based on the two fundamentals concepts: an equivalence relation \( R \) and a family of equivalence classes which is a partition of a finite non-empty universe \( U \). If \( U = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n\} \) is characterized with a collection of attribute, each attribute generates an indiscernible relation \( R \) on \( U \). Then \( \prec U, R \succ \) is called an
approximation space. The family of the equivalence classes \([x]_R\) are called elemental information granules in the approximation space. They form a family of concepts to approximate arbitrary subset of objects. Based on the inclusion measure, the lower, upper approximations and boundary region of \(X \subseteq U\) can also be defined as
\[
\bar{R}(X) = \{x \in U | I([x]_R, X) = 1\},
\]
\[
\overline{R}(X) = \{x \in U | I([x]_R, X) > 0\},
\]
\[
B(X) = \{x \in U | 0 < I([x]_R, X) < 1\}.
\]

Since the equivalence relation appears to be too strict, which limits the applicability of Pawlak rough set model, Ziarko [56] first introduced an error-tolerance level with set inclusion [52] to propose the concept of variable precision rough set model (VPRS). It is important to extend VPRS to capture the applicability of Pawlak rough set model. Ziarko [56] first introduced an error-tolerance level with set inclusion [52] to propose the concept of variable precision rough set model (VPRS). For convenience, in the Bayesian decision-theoretic rough set, a finite set of states can be written as
\[
\tilde{A} = \{\tilde{a}_1, \tilde{a}_2, \ldots, \tilde{a}_M\},
\]
where \(\tilde{a}_i \subseteq A\) and \(\tilde{a}_i \neq \tilde{a}_j\) if \(i \neq j\). Based on Yao's study, the minimum-risk decision rules (P),(N),(D) is defined as follows:
\[
\text{If } P(\tilde{a}_i|x) \geq \alpha \text{ and } P(\tilde{a}_i|x) \geq \gamma; \\
\text{If } P(\tilde{a}_i|x) < \beta \text{ and } P(\tilde{a}_i|x) < \gamma; \\
\text{If } P(\tilde{a}_i|x) \leq \alpha \text{ and } P(\tilde{a}_i|x) \leq \beta.
\]

Through using the conditional probability \(P(\tilde{a}_i|x)\), the Bayesian decision procedure can decide how to assign \(x\) into these three disjoint regions [44].

If one takes multiple binary equivalence relations into problem solving, the multigranulation rough set will be proposed. According to two different approximation strategies, Qian et al. [32,33] developed two different multigranulation rough sets (MGRS) including the optimistic and pessimistic ones.

**Definition 4.** Let \(I = (U, A, T, f)\) be a complete information system, \(A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_m \subseteq A\), and \(X \subseteq U\). The optimistic lower and upper approximations of \(X\) with respect to \(A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_m\) are denoted by
\[
\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} A_i^L(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{i=1}^{m} A_i^U(x).
\]

Then \((\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} A_i^L(x), \bigcup_{i=1}^{m} A_i^U(x))\) is called the classical optimistic MGRS [32].

In addition, the definition of the classical pessimistic MGRS [33] is defined as follows:
\[
\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} A_i^P(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{i=1}^{m} A_i^N(x).
\]

**3. Fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets**

Let us consider a scenario where one obtains information regarding a set of objects from different sources. Each source is regarded as a classical information system which has some attributes with fuzzy attribute values. Thus, such an information system is called a multi-source fuzzy information system.

**Definition 5.** A multi-source information system is \(MS = \{I_S | I_S = (U, A_T, \{V_{a(T)}\}_{a \in A_T}\})\), where,
\[
(1) \text{ } U \text{ is a finite non-empty set of objects, called the universe}; \\
(2) \text{ } A_T \text{ is a non-empty finite set of attributes of each subsystem}; \\
(3) \text{ } V_{a(T)} \text{ is the value of the attribute } a \in A_T; \text{ and} \\
(4) \text{ } f: U \times A_T \rightarrow \{V_{a(T)}\}_{a \in A_T} \text{ such that for all } x \in U \text{ and } a \in A_T, f(x, a) \in V_a.
\]

Particular, if the attribute value is fuzzy, we call \(MS = \{I_S | I_S = (U, A_T, \{V_{a(T)}\}_{a \in A_T}\})\) a multi-source fuzzy information system. In this paper, we suppose MS is composed of \(m\) single-source information systems. Similar to the granulation method for the single-source information system, one gets \(m\) fuzzy granular structures: \(K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)\), where \(K(\tilde{R}_j) = (S_j(\tilde{a}_1), S_j(\tilde{a}_2), \ldots, S_j(\tilde{a}_n))\) and \(S_j(\tilde{a}_j)\) is \(j = 1, 2, \ldots, n\) are fuzzy granules. As a result, one obtains a fuzzy multigranulation approximation space, denoted as \((U, \tilde{K}(\tilde{R}_1), \tilde{K}(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, \tilde{K}(\tilde{R}_m))\).

In this section, how to approximate \(X\) through \(m\) fuzzy condition granular structures and how to extract fuzzy decision rules in a given multi-source fuzzy system are two important problems in the process of multi-source data analysis. It has been proven that a fuzzy
binary relation over $U$ with Gaussian kernel satisfies reflexive, symmetric and $T_{\cos}$-transitive, called a fuzzy $T$-equivalence relation over $U$ [25]. In the following, Gaussian kernel is introduced to acquire a fuzzy $T$-equivalence relation which will partition a universe into a family of fuzzy information granules.

Suppose $U$ is a finite set of objects, $x_i \in U$ is described by a vector $< x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \ldots, x_{in} > \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Thus, $U$ is viewed as a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

The similarity between two objects is computed by Gaussian kernel $K(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\sigma^2})$, where $||x_i - x_j||$ is the Euclidean distance between $x_i$ and $x_j$ and $K(x_i, x_j)$ satisfies

1. $K(x_i, x_j) \in [0, 1]$;
2. $K(x_i, x_j) = K(x_j, x_i)$; and
3. $K(x_i, x_i) = 1$.

**Lemma 1** ([25]). A fuzzy binary relation induced by Gaussian kernel is $T_{\cos}$-equivalence relation, where $T_{\cos}(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_{ij}(x_i, x_j)$.

**Proof.** Suppose $A_n$ is the crisp concept's approximation through $m$ fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$. Let $A \circ B = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$, $B = (b_{ij})_{n \times n}$ be two reflexive (i.e., $a_{ii} = 1, i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$) and positive semi-definite matrices, then Hadamard product $A \circ B$ is reflexive and positive semi-definite, where $A \circ B = (a_{ij} \cdot b_{ij})_{n \times n}$.

**Lemma 3** ([35]). Let $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$, $B = (b_{ij})_{n \times n} \in \mathbb{F}_{n \times n}$ be two reflexive (i.e., $a_{ii} = 1, i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$) and positive semi-definite matrices, then Hadamard product $A \circ B$ is reflexive and positive semi-definite, where $A \circ B = (a_{ij} \cdot b_{ij})_{n \times n}$.

**Proof.** Suppose $C = A \circ B = (c_{ij})_{n \times n}$. Based on the definition of Hadamard product $A \circ B$, we know that $c_{ii} = a_{ii} \cdot b_{ii} = 1$. Hence, $C$ is reflexive. And the matrix $C$ is positive semi-definite matrix in terms of Lemma 3. Therefore, it holds.

**Theorem 1.** A reflexive and positive semi-definite matrix is equivalent to a fuzzy $T_{\cos}$-equivalence relation.

**Proof.** It can be proved easily by Lemma 1, Lemma 2 and Lemma 3.

From the above discussions, we use $\tilde{R}(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\sigma^2})$ to compute the similarity of objects $x_i$ and $x_j$ with respect to an attribute of a single source information system and then obtains a corresponding similarity matrix which is both reflexive and positive semi-definite. In terms of Theorem 2, we use $T_{\cos}$-norm operator: $T_{\cos}(\alpha, \beta)$ to get a Hadamard product matrix which is still both reflexive and positive semi-definite. Therefore, an aggregated fuzzy equivalence relation will be induced by the Hadamard product matrix and then granulate the universe $U$ into a family of fuzzy equivalence information granules forming a fuzzy granular structure of a single information system. By using the same method, one obtains a family of fuzzy granular structures with respect to different sources from the multi-source information system.

### 3.1. Optimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets

Using the idea of the optimistic multigranulation rough sets: a target concept's multigranulation lower approximation only needs at least one granular structure to satisfy with the inclusion condition between an equivalence class and the approximation target, the equation $\tilde{R}(X) = 1 - \text{NEG}(X)$, and the breaking-criteria [44], we give a crisp concept's approximations through $m$ fuzzy granular structures in terms of fuzzy $T$-equivalence relations computed with Gaussian kernel.

**Definition 6.** Given $m$ fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and a crisp decision class $X \subseteq U$, the optimistic lower and upper approximations of $X$, denoted by $\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X)$ and $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X)$, respectively, are defined as

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X) = \{x \in U | I(S_{\tilde{R}_i}(x), X) \geq \alpha \lor I(S_{\tilde{R}_i}(x), X) \leq \beta \lor \cdots \lor I(S_{\tilde{R}_i}(x), X) \leq \beta\}$$

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X) = \{x \in U | I(S_{\tilde{R}_i}(x), X) > \beta \land \cdots \land I(S_{\tilde{R}_i}(x), X) > \beta\}$$

From the definition of optimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets, one can obtain the following propositions.

**Proposition 1.** Given $m$ fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and a crisp decision class $X \subseteq U$. Then the following properties hold.

1. $\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X) \supseteq \tilde{R}^{\alpha, \beta}(X)$;
2. $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X) \subseteq \tilde{R}^{\alpha, \beta}(X)$

**Proposition 2.** Given $m$ fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and a crisp decision class $X \subseteq U$. Then the following properties hold.

1. $\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X)$
2. $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X) = \bigcap_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(X)$

**Proposition 3.** Given $m$ fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and two crisp decision classes $X \subseteq Y \subseteq U$. Then the following properties hold.

1. $\bigcap_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(Y)$
2. $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} \tilde{R}_i^{\alpha, \beta}(Y)$
The optimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets are the rational extension of some models. Let us derive the other model from its definitions.

Case 1. If $X$ is a crisp subset and $\tilde{R}_i, (i = 1, 2, \ldots, m)$ are m crisp equivalence relations on $U$, the optimistic FM-DTRS is degenerated to $\text{DTRS}$. Here, it deserves special noting here that the equation (19) in [34] which is the upper optimistic multigranulation approximation of $X$, should be corrected as follows:

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{R_i} X = \{x \in U \mid I(S_{R_1}^1(x), X) > \beta \wedge I(S_{R_2}^1(x), X) > \beta \wedge \cdots \wedge I(S_{R_m}^1(x), X) > \beta\}.$$

Case 2. If $X$ is a crisp subset and $\tilde{R}_i, (i = 1)$ is a crisp equivalence relation on $U$, the optimistic FM-DTRS is degenerated to $\text{DTRS}$.

3.1. Optimistic fuzzy multigranulation loss function

Based on the Bayesian decision procedure and Yao’s decision-theoretic study, let $R_i(a_i|x)$ be kth expected loss under kth granular structure, then the optimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision’s expected loss associated with taking action $a_1, a_2, a_3$ is given by

$$R_{\sum_{k=1}^{R_i} R_i}^1 = \sum_{k=1}^{m} R_i(a_i|x). (i = 1, 2, 3).$$

3.2. Optimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision rules

Similar to the classical decision-theoretic rough sets, when the thresholds $1 \geq \alpha > \beta \geq 0$, we can get the following decision rules:

(OFMP1) if $\exists i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_i}^1(x), X) > \alpha$, decide $\text{POS}(X)$;

(OFMB1) if $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_i}^1(x), X) \leq \beta$, decide $\text{NEG}(X)$;

(OFMN1) otherwise, decide $\text{BND}(X)$.

When the thresholds $1 \geq \alpha = \gamma = \beta \geq 0$, we can get the following decision rules:

(OFMP1) if $\exists i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_i}^1(x), X) \geq \alpha$, decide $\text{POS}(X)$;

(OFMB1) if $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_i}^1(x), X) \leq \alpha$, decide $\text{NEG}(X)$;

(OFMN1) otherwise, decide $\text{BND}(X)$.

3.2. Pessimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets

Definition 7. Given m fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and a crisp decision class $X \subseteq U$, the pessimistic lower and upper approximations of $X$, denoted by $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$, respectively, are defined as

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{R_i^1} X = \{x \in U \mid I(S_{R_1}^1(x), X) \geq \alpha \wedge I(S_{R_2}^1(x), X) \geq \alpha \wedge \cdots \wedge I(S_{R_m}^1(x), X) \geq \alpha\}.$$

By the lower and upper approximations, the fuzzy pessimistic multigranulation decision-theoretic boundary region of $X$ is defined as

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{R_i^1} X = \{x \in U \mid I(S_{R_1}^1(x), X) \geq \alpha \wedge I(S_{R_2}^1(x), X) \geq \alpha \wedge \cdots \wedge I(S_{R_m}^1(x), X) \geq \alpha\}.$$

Then, we call $\bigwedge_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{R_i^1} X, \bigwedge_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{R_i^1} X$ pessimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets, and $\alpha, \beta$ are two probability constraints with $0.5 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ and $0 \leq \beta < 0.5$.

Theorem 4. Given m fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and a crisp decision class $X \subseteq U$, the pessimistic upper approximation of $X$ of the fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set is also represented as

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{R_i^1} X = \{x \in U \mid I(S_{R_1}^1(x), X) > \beta \vee I(S_{R_2}^1(x), X) > \beta \vee \cdots \vee I(S_{R_m}^1(x), X) > \beta\}.$$

From the definition of fuzzy pessimistic multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets, one can obtain the following propositions.

Proposition 4. Given m fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and a crisp decision class $X \subseteq U$. Then the following properties hold.

(1) $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$;

(2) $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$.

Proposition 5. Given m fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and a crisp decision class $X \subseteq U$. Then the following properties hold.

(1) $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x) = \bigcap_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$.

(2) $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x) = \bigcap_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$.

Proposition 6. Given m fuzzy granular structures: $K(\tilde{R}_1), K(\tilde{R}_2), \ldots, K(\tilde{R}_m)$, and two crisp decision classes $X \subseteq Y \subseteq U$. Then the following properties hold.

(1) $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$;

(2) $\sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m} R_i^1(x)$.

The pessimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough sets are the rational extension of some models. Let us derive the other model from its definitions.

Case 1. If $X$ is a crisp subset and $\tilde{R}_i, (i = 1, 2, \ldots, m)$ are m crisp equivalence relation on $U$, the pessimistic FM-DTRS is degenerated to $\text{DTRS}$.
3.2.1. Pessimistic fuzzy multigranulation loss function

Based on the Bayesian decision procedure and Yao’s decision-theoretic study, let $R_k(a_i|X)$ be $k$th expected loss under $k$th granular structure, then the pessimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision’s expected loss associated with taking action $a_1, a_2, a_3$ is given by

$$R_{m}^{n}R_{k}(a_i|X) = \prod_{k=1}^{m} R_{k}(a_i|X), \quad (i = 1, 2, 3).$$

3.2.2. Pessimistic fuzzy multigranulation decision rules

Similar to the classical decision-theoretic rough sets, when the thresholds $1 \geq \alpha > \beta \geq 0$, we can get the following decision rules:

(PFM1) if $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_k}(x), X) \geq \alpha$, decide POS(X);

(PFM2) if $\exists i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_k}(x), X) \leq \beta$, decide NEG(X);

(PFM1) otherwise, decide BND(X).

When the thresholds $1 \geq \alpha = \gamma = \beta \geq 0$, we can get the following decision rules:

(PFM1) if $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_k}(x), X) \geq \alpha$, decide POS(X);

(PFM2) if $\exists i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ such that $I(S_{R_k}(x), X) \leq \alpha$, decide NEG(X);

(PFM1) otherwise, decide BND(X).

Based on the above discussions, we can gain a structure of FM-DTRS, which is shown as Fig. 1.

4. Example

In this section, we employ an example to illustrate our proposed method [5, 48].

**Example 1.** Let us consider an evaluation problem of a credit card applicants depicted by a fuzzy multi-source decision information system. Suppose that $U = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_9\}$ is a set of nine applicants. Every applicant in each sub-information (source) system, denoted by $EC_1$, $EC_2$, and $EC_3$, is described by three fuzzy conditional attributes. They are $c_1 = best\ education$, $c_4 = high\ salary$, $c_7 = older\ age$, $c_2 = better\ education$, $c_5 = middle\ salary$, $c_8 = middle\ age$, $c_3 = good\ education$, $c_6 = low\ salary$, and $c_9 = young\ age$, respectively. The membership degrees of every applicant are given in Table 1. A decision partition is $D_1 = \{x_1, x_2, x_4, x_7\}$ and $D_2 = \{x_3, x_5, x_6, x_8, x_9\}$.

In what follows, we will describe the process of computing in detail.

1. We make use of Gaussian kernel with an assumption $\delta = 0.3$ to compute the similarity degree to induce a fuzzy $T$-equivalence relation between $x_i$ ($i = 1, 2, \ldots, 9$) and $x_j$ ($j = 1, 2, \ldots, 9$) by each attribute of every source. Then for a source $EC_1$ of the multi-source information

Table 1: A multi-source fuzzy information system of an evaluation problem of a credit card applicant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$EC_1$</th>
<th>$EC_2$</th>
<th>$EC_3$</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$c_1$</td>
<td>$c_4$</td>
<td>$c_7$</td>
<td>$c_1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_1$</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_2$</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_3$</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_4$</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_5$</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_6$</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_7$</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_8$</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$x_9$</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We use system, one obtains three similarity matrix induced from conditional attributes: $c_1$, $c_4$, and $c_7$, respectively, which are as follows:

$$(R^c_1(x_i, x_j) = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0000 & 0.2494 & 0.1353 & 0.8007 & 0.4111 & 0.1353 & 0.2494 & 0.2494 & 0.2494 \\ 0.2494 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 \\ 0.1353 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 0.4111 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 \\ 0.8007 & 0.6065 & 0.4111 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 & 0.4111 & 0.6065 & 0.6065 & 0.6065 \\ 0.4111 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 \\ 0.1353 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 0.4111 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 \\ 0.2494 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 \\ 0.2494 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 \\ 0.2494 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(R^c_2(x_i, x_j) = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0000 & 0.4111 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 & 0.6065 & 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 \\ 0.4111 & 1.0000 & 0.4111 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 \\ 1.0000 & 0.4111 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 & 0.6065 & 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 \\ 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 \\ 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 \\ 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(R^c_3(x_i, x_j) = \begin{bmatrix} 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 0.4111 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.4111 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 \\ 1.0000 & 1.0000 & 0.4111 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.4111 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 \\ 0.4111 & 0.4111 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 0.6065 & 0.8007 \\ 0.6065 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 \\ 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 \\ 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 \\ 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 0.8007 & 0.9460 & 0.9460 & 1.0000 \end{bmatrix}$$

(2) We use $T_p$-norm: $T_p(a, b) = a * b$ to aggregate the three similarity degrees and gets a similarity matrix on three attributes of $EC_1$, which generates a fuzzy partition called a fuzzy granular structure on $U$ as follows:
From the granular structure \( (R_{EC_i}^{\delta}(x_i, x_j)) \), one can get nine fuzzy information granules on \( U \) as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
S_{EC_1}(x_1) & = \begin{bmatrix} 1.000 & 0.1025 & 0.0556 & 0.3889 & 0.2359 & 0.0657 & 0.0821 & 0.1431 & 0.1889 \\
0.1025 & 1.000 & 0.1599 & 0.2946 & 0.8465 & 0.4594 & 0.3292 & 0.8948 & 0.4857 \\
0.0556 & 0.1599 & 1.000 & 0.3114 & 0.2946 & 0.7575 & 0.7575 & 0.3480 & 0.7165 \\
0.3889 & 0.2946 & 0.3114 & 1.000 & 0.6065 & 0.4111 & 0.5738 & 0.4594 & 0.5427 \\
0.2359 & 0.8465 & 0.2946 & 0.6065 & 1.000 & 0.6065 & 0.5427 & 0.9460 & 0.7165 \\
0.0657 & 0.4594 & 0.7575 & 0.6065 & 0.5427 & 1.000 & 0.8948 & 0.7165 & 0.8465 \\
0.0821 & 0.3292 & 0.5738 & 0.5427 & 0.8948 & 0.8948 & 1.000 & 0.5738 & 0.7575 \\
0.1431 & 0.8948 & 0.3480 & 0.4594 & 0.9460 & 0.7165 & 0.5738 & 1.000 & 0.7575 \\
0.1889 & 0.4857 & 0.7165 & 0.5427 & 0.7165 & 0.7165 & 0.7575 & 0.7575 & 1.000 \\
\end{bmatrix},
\end{align*}
\]

Based on the inclusion measure of fuzzy sets, we get that

\[
I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_1), D_1) = 0.70, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_2), D_1) = 0.38, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_3), D_1) = 0.29,
\]

\[
I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_4), D_1) = 0.49, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_5), D_1) = 0.39, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_6), D_1) = 0.32.
\]

\[
I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_7), D_1) = 0.36, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_8), D_1) = 0.35, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_9), D_1) = 0.33.
\]

Similarly, one gets

\[
I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_1), D_2) = 0.30, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_2), D_2) = 0.62, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_3), D_2) = 0.71,
\]

\[
I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_4), D_2) = 0.51, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_5), D_2) = 0.61, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_6), D_2) = 0.68,
\]

\[
I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_7), D_2) = 0.64, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_8), D_2) = 0.65, I_{\delta=0.3}(S_{EC_1}(x_9), D_2) = 0.67.
\]

By using the same method, one obtains the other two similarity matrices induced by the attributes of \( EC_2 \) and \( EC_3 \). Accordingly, one gets two other fuzzy granular structures on \( U \) as follows, respectively.
Similarly, based on the inclusion degree, we have that
\[\delta_{SRG} = 0.3\]

\[
(R_{EC}^G(x_i, x_j)) = \begin{bmatrix}
1.0000 & 0.5134 & 0.1211 & 0.5427 & 0.3889 & 0.7165 & 0.2946 & 0.4594 & 0.4594 \\
0.5134 & 1.0000 & 0.1512 & 0.2231 & 0.3889 & 0.8948 & 0.2359 & 0.2359 & 0.5738 \\
0.1211 & 0.1512 & 1.0000 & 0.3889 & 0.5427 & 0.1690 & 0.5738 & 0.5738 & 0.4594 \\
0.5427 & 0.2231 & 0.3889 & 1.0000 & 0.7165 & 0.3889 & 0.7575 & 0.9460 & 0.6065 \\
0.3889 & 0.5427 & 0.7165 & 1.0000 & 0.5427 & 0.9460 & 0.7575 & 0.9460 & 0.1625 \\
0.7165 & 0.8948 & 0.1690 & 0.3889 & 0.5427 & 1.0000 & 0.3679 & 0.3679 & 0.7165 \\
0.2946 & 0.2359 & 0.5738 & 0.7575 & 0.9460 & 0.3679 & 1.0000 & 0.8007 & 0.8007 \\
0.4594 & 0.2359 & 0.5738 & 0.9460 & 0.7575 & 0.3679 & 0.8007 & 1.0000 & 0.6412 \\
0.4594 & 0.5738 & 0.4594 & 0.6065 & 0.9460 & 0.7165 & 0.8007 & 0.6412 & 1.0000 \\
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Moreover, based on the inclusion degree, we compute that
\[\delta_{SRG} = 0.3\]

\[
(R_{EC}^G(x_i, x_j)) = \begin{bmatrix}
1.0000 & 0.4857 & 0.3679 & 0.5738 & 0.7575 & 0.7165 & 0.7165 & 0.5134 & 0.4594 \\
0.4857 & 1.0000 & 0.3114 & 0.3889 & 0.5738 & 0.6065 & 0.8465 & 0.3114 & 0.7575 \\
0.3679 & 0.3114 & 1.0000 & 0.8948 & 0.3114 & 0.8007 & 0.5738 & 0.4594 & 0.6412 \\
0.5738 & 0.3889 & 0.8948 & 1.0000 & 0.5427 & 0.8948 & 0.7165 & 0.7165 & 0.7165 \\
0.7575 & 0.5738 & 0.3114 & 0.5427 & 1.0000 & 0.6065 & 0.7575 & 0.7575 & 0.6065 \\
0.7165 & 0.6065 & 0.8007 & 0.8948 & 0.6065 & 1.0000 & 0.8948 & 0.5738 & 0.8007 \\
0.7165 & 0.8465 & 0.5738 & 0.7165 & 0.7575 & 0.8948 & 1.0000 & 0.5738 & 0.8948 \\
0.5134 & 0.3114 & 0.4594 & 0.7165 & 0.7575 & 0.5738 & 0.5738 & 1.0000 & 0.5738 \\
0.4594 & 0.7575 & 0.6412 & 0.7165 & 0.6065 & 0.8007 & 0.8948 & 0.5738 & 1.0000 \\
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Based on the above three fuzzy granular structures and the inclusion degree between fuzzy granules $S_{EC}^G(x_i)$ and $S_{EC}^G(x_j)$ and assume that $\alpha = 0.6, \beta = 0.35$ and $\delta = 0.30$, one can get the lower and upper optimistic/pessimistic approximations of the decision concepts $D_1$ and $D_2$, respectively.
An optimistic fuzzy lower approximation of $D_1$: $\sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{O,\alpha}(D_1) = \{x_1\};$

An optimistic fuzzy upper approximation of $D_1$: $\sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{O,\alpha}(D_1) = \{x_1, x_2, x_4, x_5, x_7\}.$

A pessimistic fuzzy lower approximation of $D_1$: $\sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_1) = \emptyset.$

A pessimistic fuzzy upper approximation of $D_1$: $\sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_1) = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8, x_9\}.$

A pessimistic fuzzy lower approximation of $D_2$: $\sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_2) = \emptyset.$

A pessimistic fuzzy upper approximation of $D_2$: $\sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_2) = \{x_3\}.$

A pessimistic fuzzy lower approximation of $D_2$: $\sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_2) = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8, x_9\}.$

(3) Decision rules

a. Optimistic decision rules:

(OFMP1) if $x \in \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{O,\alpha}(D_1)$ or $x \in U - \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{O,\alpha}(D_2)$, then decide Accept;

(OFMB1) if $x \in U - \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{O,\alpha}(D_1)$ or $x \in \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{O,\alpha}(D_2)$, then decide Decline;

(OFMN1) otherwise, decide Retard.

b. Pessimistic decision rules:

(PFMP1) if $x \in \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_1)$ or $x \in U - \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_2)$, then decide Accept;

(PFMB1) if $x \in U - \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_1)$ or $x \in \sum_{i=1}^{3} R_{i}^{P,\alpha}(D_2)$, then decide Decline;

(PFMIN1) otherwise, decide Retard.

(4) We can use the triangular number employed in [16] to compute the expected loss, which is omitted here.

Similarly, we compute with assumptions $\delta = 0.2$ and $\delta = 0.1$, respectively. But we only display the results for the case of $\delta = 0.2$ as follows.

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
1.0000 & 0.0059 & 0.0015 & 0.1194 & 0.0388 & 0.0022 & 0.0036 & 0.0126 & 0.0235 \\
0.0059 & 1.0000 & 0.0162 & 0.0639 & 0.6873 & 0.1738 & 0.0821 & 0.7788 & 0.1969 \\
0.0015 & 0.0162 & 1.0000 & 0.0724 & 0.0639 & 0.5353 & 0.5353 & 0.0930 & 0.4724 \\
0.1194 & 0.0639 & 0.0724 & 1.0000 & 0.3247 & 0.1353 & 0.2865 & 0.1738 & 0.2528 \\
0.0388 & 0.6873 & 0.0639 & 0.3247 & 1.0000 & 0.3247 & 0.2528 & 0.8825 & 0.4724 \\
0.0022 & 0.1738 & 0.5353 & 0.3247 & 1.0000 & 0.7788 & 0.4724 & 0.6873 \\
0.0036 & 0.0821 & 0.5353 & 0.2865 & 0.2528 & 0.7788 & 1.0000 & 0.2865 & 0.5353 \\
0.0126 & 0.7788 & 0.0930 & 0.1738 & 0.8825 & 0.4724 & 0.2865 & 1.0000 & 0.5353 \\
0.0235 & 0.1969 & 0.4724 & 0.2528 & 0.4724 & 0.6873 & 0.5353 & 0.5353 & 1.0000
\end{bmatrix}
$$

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
1.0000 & 0.2231 & 0.0087 & 0.2528 & 0.1194 & 0.4724 & 0.0639 & 0.1738 & 0.1738 \\
0.2231 & 1.0000 & 0.0143 & 0.0342 & 0.1194 & 0.7788 & 0.0388 & 0.0388 & 0.2865 \\
0.0087 & 0.0143 & 1.0000 & 0.1194 & 0.2528 & 0.0183 & 0.2865 & 0.2865 & 0.1738 \\
0.2528 & 0.0342 & 0.1194 & 1.0000 & 0.4724 & 0.1194 & 0.5353 & 0.8825 & 0.3247 \\
0.1194 & 0.194 & 0.2528 & 0.4724 & 1.0000 & 0.2528 & 0.8825 & 0.5353 & 0.8825 \\
0.4724 & 0.7788 & 0.0183 & 0.1194 & 0.2528 & 1.0000 & 0.1054 & 0.1054 & 0.4724 \\
0.0639 & 0.0388 & 0.2865 & 0.5353 & 0.8825 & 0.1054 & 1.0000 & 0.6065 & 0.6065 \\
0.1738 & 0.0388 & 0.2865 & 0.8825 & 0.5353 & 0.1054 & 0.6065 & 1.0000 & 0.3679 \\
0.1738 & 0.2865 & 0.1738 & 0.3247 & 0.8825 & 0.4724 & 0.6065 & 0.6065 & 1.0000
\end{bmatrix}
$$
and

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
1.0000 & 0.1969 & 0.1054 & 0.2865 & 0.5353 & 0.4724 & 0.4724 & 0.2231 & 0.1738 \\
0.1969 & 1.0000 & 0.0724 & 0.1194 & 0.2865 & 0.3247 & 0.6873 & 0.0724 & 0.5353 \\
0.1054 & 0.0724 & 1.0000 & 0.7788 & 0.0724 & 0.6065 & 0.2865 & 0.1738 & 0.3679 \\
0.2865 & 0.1194 & 0.7788 & 1.0000 & 0.2528 & 0.7788 & 0.4724 & 0.4724 & 0.4724 \\
0.2528 & 0.7788 & 0.2865 & 0.4724 & 0.5353 & 0.7788 & 1.0000 & 0.2865 & 0.2865 \\
0.2865 & 0.2528 & 0.2865 & 0.3247 & 0.7788 & 1.0000 & 0.0724 & 0.5353 & 0.3679 \\
0.5353 & 0.3247 & 0.6065 & 0.7788 & 0.3247 & 0.5353 & 0.7788 & 1.0000 & 0.2865 \\
0.4724 & 0.6873 & 0.2865 & 0.4724 & 0.5353 & 0.7788 & 1.0000 & 0.2865 & 0.2865 \\
0.2231 & 0.0724 & 0.1738 & 0.4724 & 0.5353 & 0.2865 & 0.2865 & 1.0000 & 0.2865 \\
0.1738 & 0.3533 & 0.3679 & 0.4724 & 0.3247 & 0.6065 & 0.7788 & 0.2865 & 1.0000
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[(R^G_{EC}(x_1, x_j)) = \begin{pmatrix}
0.5353 & 0.2865 & 0.0724 & 0.2528 & 1.0000 & 0.3247 & 0.5353 & 0.5353 & 0.3247 \\
0.4724 & 0.3247 & 0.6065 & 0.7788 & 0.3247 & 1.0000 & 0.7788 & 0.2865 & 0.6065 \\
0.4724 & 0.6873 & 0.2865 & 0.4724 & 0.5353 & 0.7788 & 1.0000 & 0.2865 & 0.7788 \\
0.2231 & 0.0724 & 0.1738 & 0.4724 & 0.5353 & 0.2865 & 0.2865 & 1.0000 & 0.2865 \\
0.1738 & 0.3533 & 0.3679 & 0.4724 & 0.3247 & 0.6065 & 0.7788 & 0.2865 & 1.0000
\end{pmatrix}\]

So, we have

\[
I_{0.2}(S_{EC}(x_1), D_1) = 0.93, I_{0.2}(S_{EC}(x_2), D_1) = 0.38, I_{0.2}(S_{EC}(x_3), D_1) = 0.63,
\]

\[
I_{0.2}(S_{EC}(x_4), D_1) = 0.61, I_{0.2}(S_{EC}(x_5), D_1) = 0.32, I_{0.2}(S_{EC}(x_6), D_1) = 0.39.
\]

Here, if we also assume that $\alpha = 0.6$ and $\beta = 0.35$, one can get the optimistic/pessimistic lower approximation of the decision concept $D_1$.

That is, an optimistic fuzzy lower approximation of $D_1$:

\[
\bar{\delta}^O_{\alpha}(D_1) = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}.
\]

An optimistic fuzzy upper approximation of $D_1$:

\[
\bar{\delta}^U_{\alpha}(D_1) = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7\}.
\]

A pessimistic lower approximation of $D_1$:

\[
\bar{\delta}^P_{\alpha}(D_1) = \phi.
\]

A pessimistic upper approximation of $D_1$:

\[
\bar{\delta}^P_{\alpha}(D_1) = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8, x_9\}.
\]

In addition, the optimistic/pessimistic lower and upper approximations of $D_2$ can be gotten by the same process.

From the above, when $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are constant, the lower of the optimistic approximation of the decision concept is becoming larger by decreasing $\delta$. In other words, the approximate accuracy is becoming larger which is more proximate to the original data. Therefore, one can choose the reasonable parameter for higher approximate accuracy through a large of experiments which will be discussed in future.

5. Conclusion and discussion

In this paper, we have proposed a new model called the fuzzy multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set model and Qian’s multigranulation decision-theoretic rough set model is made. An example has been employed to illustrate our method’s effectiveness in real applications. It shows that the proposed approach will be helpful for dealing with multi-source data. Further research includes how to reduce redundant fuzzy granular structures in the process of rough data analysis under the fuzzy multigranulation environment and how to fuse multi-source fuzzy data with the proposed method.

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