

# An Application of Generalized Fuzzy Soft Sets in a Social Decision Making Problem

Nisha Singhal, Usha Chouhan

**Abstract**—At present, application of the extension of soft set theory in decision making problems in day to day life is progressing rapidly. The concepts of fuzzy soft set and its properties have been evolved as an area of interest for the researchers. The generalization of the concepts recently got importance and a rapid growth in the research in this area witnessed its vital-ness. In this paper, an application of the concept of generalized fuzzy soft set to make decision in a social problem is presented. Further, this paper also highlights some of the key issues of the related areas.

**Keywords**— Soft set, Fuzzy Soft set, Generalized Fuzzy Soft set, Membership and Non-Membership Score.

## I. INTRODUCTION

IN real world, we face so many uncertainties in all walks of life fields. However, most of the existing mathematical tools for formal modeling, reasoning and computing are crisp deterministic and precise in character. There are many theories like theory of Probability, Fuzzy Set theory [1], Rough Set theory, Intuitionistic Fuzzy Set theory, Vague Set theory, Interval Mathematics for dealing with uncertainties. These theories have their own limitations as pointed out by [2]. Molodtsov [2] initiated the theory of soft sets as a new mathematical tool to deal with uncertainties while modeling the problems in Engineering, Computer Science, Physics, Social Sciences, and Medical Sciences.

Soft set is a parameterized general mathematical tool which deals with a collection of approximate descriptions of objects. Each approximate description has two parts, a predicate, and an approximate value set. Since initial description of the object has an approximate nature so, we do not need to introduce the notion of exact solution. The absence of any restrictions on the approximate description in soft set theory makes this theory very convenient and easily applicable in practice. Maji et al. [3] presented an application of soft sets in decision making problem and studied basic notions of Soft Set Theory [4]. In recent times, researches have contributed a lot towards fuzzification of Soft Set Theory. Maji et al. [5] introduced the concept of Fuzzy Soft Sets and some properties regarding Fuzzy Soft Sets. Some results were further revised and improved by [6] given by [7] have further generalized the concept of Fuzzy Soft Sets.

Nisha Singhal is with the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, India (corresponding author, Phone: 09406623060; fax: 07554051000; e-mail: nishasinghal@gmail.com).

Dr. Usha Chouhan is with Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, India (Phone: 09425773321; fax: 07554051000; e-mail: yechouhan@gmail.com).

## II. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we first recall the basic definitions related to soft sets and fuzzy soft sets which would be used in the sequel.

**Definition 1 - Soft Set [2]:** A pair  $(F, E)$  is called a soft set (over  $U$ ) if and only if  $F$  is a mapping of  $E$  into the set of all subsets of the set  $U$ . In other words, the soft set is a parameterized family of subsets of the set  $U$ . Every set  $F(e), e \in E$ , from this family may be considered as the set of  $e$ -approximate elements of the soft set.

**Example 1:** Let  $U$  be a set of four factories, say,  $U = \{f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4\}$  and

$$E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} e_1 (\text{costly}), e_2 (\text{excellent work culture}), \\ e_2 (\text{assured production}), \\ e_4 (\text{good location}), e_5 (\text{cheap}) \end{array} \right\}$$

(Let say) be a set of parameters. Let  $A = \{e_2, e_3, e_4\} \subseteq E$  then

$$(F, A) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} F(e_2) = \{f_1, f_4\}, \\ F(e_3) = \{f_1, f_2, f_4\} \\ F(e_4) = \{f_3\} \end{array} \right\}$$

is the soft set representing the “good choice of the factory”, Mr. X is going to buy? This soft set can be represented in a tabular form as in Table I.

	e2	e2	e4
f1	1	1	0
f2	0	1	0
f2	0	0	1
f4	1	1	0

This style of representation will be useful for storing a soft set in a computer.

**Definition 2: Fuzzy Soft Set [5]:** A pair  $(F, A)$  is called a fuzzy soft set over  $U$  where  $F: A \rightarrow \tilde{P}(U)$  is a mapping from  $A$  into  $\tilde{P}(U)$  where,  $A \subseteq E$ .

**Example 2:** If we take Example 1 with

$$F(e_1) = \{f_1/0.9, f_2/0.2, f_3/0.4, f_4/0.8\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(e_2) &= \{f_1/0.8, f_2/0.3, f_3/0.2, f_4/0.7\} \\
 F(e_3) &= \{f_1/0.9, f_2/0.4, f_3/0.1, f_4/0.1\} \\
 F(e_4) &= \{f_1/0.3, f_2/0.2, f_3/0.6, f_4/0.1\} \\
 F(e_5) &= \{f_1/0.1, f_2/0.7, f_3/0.5, f_4/0.2\}, \text{ then}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(F, A) = \left\{ \begin{aligned} &F(e_2) = \{f_1/0.8, f_2/0.3, f_3/0.2, f_4/0.7\}, \\ &F(e_3) = \{f_1/0.9, f_2/0.4, f_3/0.1, f_4/0.8\} \\ &F(e_4) = \{f_1/0.3, f_2/0.2, f_3/0.6, f_4/0.1\} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Then it is the fuzzy soft set, representing the ‘great choice of the factory’ which Mr. X is going to buy. This fuzzy soft set can be represented in Table II.

TABLE II  
FUZZY SOFT SET

(F,A)	e2	e2	e4
f1	0.8	0.9	0.3
f2	0.3	0.4	0.2
f2	0.2	0.1	0.6
f4	0.7	0.8	0.1

**Definition 3** - Generalized fuzzy soft sets [7]: Let  $U = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n\}$  be the universal set of elements and  $E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_n\}$  be the universal set of parameters. The pair  $(U, E)$  will be called a soft universe. Let  $F: E \rightarrow I^U$  and  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset of  $E$ , i.e.  $\mu: E \rightarrow I = [0, 1]$ , where  $I^U$  is the collection of all fuzzy subsets of  $U$ .

Let  $F_\mu$  be the mapping  $F_\mu: E \rightarrow I^U \times I$  be a function defined as follows:  $F_\mu(e) = (F(e), \mu(e))$ , where  $F(e) \in I^U$ , then  $F_\mu$  is called generalized fuzzy soft sets the soft universe  $(U, E)$ . For each  $e_i, F_\mu(e_i) = (F(e_i), \mu(e_i))$  indicates not only the degree of belongingness of the elements of  $U$  in  $F(e_i)$  but also the degree of possibility of such belongingness which is represented by  $\mu(e_i)$ .

**Example 3:** We take fuzzy soft set (F, A) given in the Example 2 and Let  $\mu: E \rightarrow I = [0, 1]$ , be defined as:

$$\mu(e_2) = 0.7, \mu(e_3) = 0.6, \mu(e_4) = 0.8 .$$

We define a function -  $F_\mu: E \rightarrow I^U \times I$  as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_\mu(e_2) &= \{\{f_1/0.8, f_2/0.3, f_3/0.2, f_4/0.7\}, 0.7\}, \\
 F_\mu(e_3) &= \{\{f_1/0.9, f_2/0.4, f_3/0.1, f_4/0.8\}, 0.6\}, \\
 F_\mu(e_4) &= \{\{f_1/0.3, f_2/0.2, f_3/0.6, f_4/0.1\}, 0.8\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then  $F_\mu$  is a generalized fuzzy soft set over  $(U, E)$ , which can be expressed in Table III.

TABLE III  
GENERALIZED FUZZY SOFT SET  $F_\mu$

	e2	e2	e4	
$F_\mu =$	f1	0.8	0.9	0.3
	f2	0.3	0.4	0.2
	f2	0.2	0.1	0.6
	f4	0.7	0.8	0.1
$\mu(e_i)$		0.7	0.6	0.8

$\mu(e_i)$  is the degree of possibility of belongingness and  $\mu(e_2) = 0.7, \mu(e_3) = 0.6, \mu(e_4) = 0.8$

**Definition 4** - Generalized fuzzy soft subset [7]: Let  $F_\mu$  and  $G_\delta$  be two generalized fuzzy soft set over  $(U, E)$  then if

- i.  $\delta$  is a fuzzy subset of  $\mu$  and
- ii.  $G(e)$  is also a fuzzy subset of  $F(e)$ , i.e.  $G(e) \subseteq F(e), \forall e \in E$ .

In this case, we write as  $G_\delta \subseteq F_\mu$ . In this case,  $G_\delta$  is said to be a generalized fuzzy soft subset of  $F_\mu$ .

**Example 4:** If we take generalized fuzzy soft subset  $F_\mu$  given in the Example 3 with another generalized fuzzy soft subset  $G_\delta$ . Over the same universe  $(U, E)$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_\delta(e_2) &= \{\{f_1/0.5, f_2/0.2, f_3/0.1, f_4/0.4\}, 0.6\} \\
 G_\delta(e_3) &= \{\{f_1/0.7, f_2/0.2, f_3/0.1, f_4/0.5\}, 0.3\} \\
 G_\delta(e_4) &= \{\{f_1/0.2, f_2/0.1, f_3/0.5, f_4/0.0\}, 0.1\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then  $G_\delta$  is a generalized fuzzy soft subset of  $F_\mu$  over  $(U, E)$ . This fuzzy soft set can be represented in Table IV.

TABLE IV  
GENERALIZED FUZZY SOFT SET  $G_\delta$

	e2	e2	e4	
$G_\delta =$	f1	0.5	0.7	0.2
	f2	0.2	0.2	0.1
	f2	0.1	0.1	0.5
	f4	0.4	0.5	0.0
$\mu(e_i)$		0.6	0.3	0.1

$\mu(e_i)$  is the degree of possibility of belongingness.

**Definition 5** - Complement of Generalized fuzzy soft sets [7]:

Let  $F_\mu$  is a generalized fuzzy soft set over  $(U, E)$ . Then  $F_\mu^c$  is said to be complement of  $F_\mu$  and is defined by

$$F_\mu^c(e_i) = (F^c(e_i), \mu^c(e_i)) \text{ for each } e_i .$$

**Example 5** - If we take generalized fuzzy soft set  $F_\mu$  given in the Example 3 then complement of  $F_\mu$  is defined as

$$F_\mu^c(e_2) = \{ \{f_1/0.2, f_2/0.7, f_3/0.8, f_4/0.3\}, 0.3 \},$$

$$F_\mu^c(e_3) = \{ \{f_1/0.1, f_2/0.6, f_3/0.9, f_4/0.2\}, 0.4 \},$$

$$F_\mu^c(e_4) = \{ \{f_1/0.7, f_2/0.8, f_2/0.4, f_2/0.9\}, 0.2 \}$$

whose tabular form is given in Table V.

TABLE V  
COMPLEMENT OF GENERALIZED FUZZY SOFT SET  $F_\mu^c$

	e2	e2	e4	
$F_\mu^c =$	f1	0.2	0.1	0.7
	f2	0.7	0.6	0.8
	f2	0.8	0.9	0.4
	f4	0.3	0.2	0.9
$\mu(e_i)$	0.3	0.4	0.2	

$\mu(e_i)$  is the degree of possibility of belongingness.

Now, we illustrate the approach by giving an application of generalized fuzzy soft set in social decision making problem.

### III. CASE STUDY

Suppose a working woman Miss G wishes to marry a man on the basis of some criteria\*. Our purpose is to find out the most appropriate partner for Miss G. Criteria are selected arbitrarily and can be varies as per the problem i.e. The Alternatives and Attributes. Suppose  $F_\mu$  is the generalized fuzzy soft set representing eligibility performance of candidates (alternatives).

Assume there are seven\* men in universal set U s.t.

$$U \{m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4, m_5, m_6, m_7\}$$

and the parameter\* set

$$E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8, e_9, e_{10}\}$$

Where each  $e_i, 1 \leq i \leq 10$  indicates an attributes of  $m_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq 7$ . (\*can be varied as per the problem)

Let  $e_1$  stand for “government employee”,  $e_2$  stand for “non-government employee”,  $e_3$  stand for “businessman”,  $e_4$  stand for “education qualification”,  $e_5$  stand for “expert in households”,  $e_6$  stand for “hard working”,  $e_7$  stand for “responsible”,  $e_8$  stand for “family status”,  $e_9$  stand for “spiritual and ideal”,  $e_{10}$  stand for “handsome”.

Suppose the wishing parameter for Miss G is

$A \subseteq E$  where  $A = \{e_1, e_4, e_5, e_7, e_8, e_{10}\}$ . Let the preference of the criterions for miss G be described by the fuzzy subset  $\mu: A \rightarrow [0,1]$  of A as

$$\mu(e_1) = 0.6, \mu(e_4) = 0.7, \mu(e_5) = 0.3, \mu(e_7) = 0.6$$

$$\mu(e_8) = 0.4, \mu(e_{10}) = 0.3$$

Consider the generalized fuzzy soft set  $F_\mu$ ,

$$F_\mu(e_1) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.0, m_2/1.0, m_3/1.0, m_4/0.0, m_5/1.0, \right\}, 0.6 \right\},$$

$$\left\{ m_6/0.0, m_7/1.0 \right\}$$

$$F_\mu(e_4) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.1, m_2/0.6, m_3/0.7, m_4/0.2, m_5/0.9, \right\}, 0.7 \right\},$$

$$\left\{ m_6/0.3, m_7/0.8 \right\}$$

$$F_\mu(e_5) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.5, m_2/0.3, m_3/0.6, m_4/0.4, m_5/0.3, \right\}, 0.6 \right\},$$

$$\left\{ m_6/0.5, m_7/0.4 \right\}$$

$$F_\mu(e_7) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.6, m_2/0.8, m_3/0.5, m_4/0.6, m_5/0.3, \right\}, 0.6 \right\},$$

$$\left\{ m_6/0.5, m_7/0.4 \right\}$$

$$F_\mu(e_8) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.5, m_2/0.4, m_3/0.6, m_4/0.5, m_5/0.6, \right\}, 0.4 \right\},$$

$$\left\{ m_6/0.7, m_7/0.2 \right\}$$

$$F_\mu(e_{10}) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.3, m_2/0.2, m_3/0.4, m_4/0.5, m_5/0.6, \right\}, 0.3 \right\},$$

$$\left\{ m_6/0.3, m_7/0.4 \right\}$$

Comparison table is obtained by multiplying each entry of the table representing the generalized fuzzy soft set by corresponding values of  $\mu(e)$ .

Finally, we find the lowest value from the final score table which would corresponds to the best selection for Miss G.

If there are more than one values are lowest then one of  $m_i$  them may be chosen.

#### The Algorithm

Step 1: Input the generalized fuzzy soft set  $F_\mu$ .

Step 2: Write  $F_\mu$  in tabular form.

Step 3: Compute the complement of  $F_\mu$  i.e.  $F_\mu^c$ .

Step 4: Write  $F_\mu^c$  in tabular form.

Step 5: Compute the comparison table for  $F_\mu$  and  $F_\mu^c$  both.

Step 6: Compute the membership score “ $\alpha$ ” for  $F_\mu$  and “ $\beta$ ” for  $F_\mu^c$ .

Step 7: Compute the final score by " $\alpha + \beta - \alpha.\beta$ ".

TABLE VI  
F<sub>μ</sub> IN TABULAR FORM

(U,E)	e2	e4	e5	e7	e8	e10
m1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3
m2	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.2
m3	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4
m4	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
m5	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6
m6	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.3
m7	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4
μ(e2)	μ(e4)	μ(e5)	μ(e7)	μ(e8)	μ(e10)	
=0.6	=0.7	=0.3	=0.6	=0.4	=0.3	

TABLE VII  
COMPARISON TABLE FOR F<sub>μ</sub>

(U,E)	e2	e4	e5	e7	e8	e10
m1	0.00	0.07	0.15	0.36	0.20	0.09
m2	0.60	0.42	0.09	0.48	0.16	0.06
m3	0.60	0.49	0.18	0.30	0.24	0.12
m4	0.00	0.14	0.12	0.36	0.20	0.15
m5	0.60	0.63	0.09	0.18	0.24	0.18
m6	0.00	0.21	0.24	0.30	0.28	0.09
m7	0.60	0.56	0.06	0.24	0.08	0.12

TABLE VIII  
F<sub>μ</sub><sup>c</sup> IN TABULAR FORM

(U,E)	e2	e4	e5	e7	e8	e10
m1	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7
m2	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.8
m3	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
m4	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
m5	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4
m6	1.0	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.7
m7	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6
μ(e2)	μ(e4)	μ(e5)	μ(e7)	μ(e8)	μ(e10)	
=0.4	=0.3	=0.7	=0.4	=0.6	=0.7	

TABLE IX  
COMPARISON TABLE FOR F<sub>μ</sub><sup>c</sup>

(U,E)	e2	e4	e5	e7	e8	e10
m1	0.40	0.27	0.35	0.16	0.30	0.49
m2	0.00	0.12	0.49	0.08	0.36	0.56
m3	0.00	0.09	0.28	0.20	0.24	0.42
m4	0.40	0.24	0.42	0.16	0.30	0.35
m5	0.00	0.03	0.49	0.28	0.24	0.28
m6	0.40	0.21	0.14	0.20	0.18	0.49
m7	0.00	0.06	0.56	0.24	0.48	0.42

Now we calculate the complement of generalized fuzzy soft set F<sub>μ</sub>, which is given by

$$F_{\mu}^c(e_1) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/1.0, m_2/0.0, m_3/0.0, m_4/1.0, m_5/0.0, \right\}, 0.4 \right\}$$

$$F_{\mu}^c(e_4) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.9, m_2/0.4, m_3/0.3, m_4/0.8, m_5/0.1, \right\}, 0.3 \right\}$$

$$F_{\mu}(e_3) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.5, m_2/0.7, m_3/0.4, m_4/0.6, m_5/0.7, \right\}, 0.7 \right\}$$

$$F_{\mu}(e_7) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.4, m_2/0.2, m_3/0.5, m_4/0.4, m_5/0.7, \right\}, 0.4 \right\}$$

$$F_{\mu}(e_8) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.5, m_2/0.6, m_3/0.4, m_4/0.5, m_5/0.4, \right\}, 0.6 \right\}$$

$$F_{\mu}(e_{10}) = \left\{ \left\{ m_1/0.7, m_2/0.8, m_3/0.6, m_4/0.5, m_5/0.4, \right\}, 0.7 \right\}$$

To find the Membership value 'α', we sum-up the row value of Table VII.

TABLE X  
MEMBERSHIP SCORE TABLE

Alternatives	Row sum
m1	0.87
m2	1.81
m3	1.93
m4	0.97
m5	1.92
m6	1.12
m7	1.66

To find then on-Membership value 'β', we sum up the row value of Table IX.

TABLE XI  
NON-MEMBERSHIP SCORE TABLE

Alternatives	Row sum
m1	1.97
m2	1.61
m3	1.23
m4	1.87
m5	1.32
m6	1.62
m7	1.76

TABLE XII  
FINAL SCORE TABLE

Alternatives	Membership Value 'α'	Non- Membership Value 'β'	Final Value "α + β - α.β"
m1	0.87	1.97	1.0291
m2	1.81	1.61	0.4171
m3	1.93	1.23	0.7585
m4	0.97	1.87	0.9565
m5	1.92	1.32	0.6864
m6	1.12	1.62	0.6864
m7	1.66	1.76	0.4680

In Table XII, the lowest value gives the best option among all the alternatives.

## IV. RESULT

Selection priorities based on the criteria decided by Miss  $G$  are  $m_2 > m_7 > m_5 > m_3 > m_6 > m_4 > m_1$ . It is clear that *Mr. m2 is the most eligible candidate for Miss G*.

## V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, concept of generalized fuzzy soft set and some of its properties are highlighted and presented. An application of this theory has been applied to solve a social decision making problem. The authors are hopeful that this approach will be useful in dealing with several problems related to uncertainty.

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Nisha Singhal is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics in Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal (M.P.), India. She has first class through her education. She is pursuing Ph.D. in the area of Fuzzy Soft Sets and its applications from Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal (M.P.), India. She has published more than eight research papers in national/international journals/conferences to her credit. She has more than Twenty two years of teaching experience and her specialization includes Fuzzy Soft Sets, AHP, Interpretive Structural Modeling and FMCDM.



Dr. Usha Chouhan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics in Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, India. She is a gold medalist in her master programme and has more than 14 years of teaching and research experience with more than 30 research papers published in International/National Journals to her credit. Her specialization includes Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, Fuzzy Soft Sets etc.