Research Article

On the Normed Space of Equivalence Classes of Fuzzy Numbers

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We study the norm induced by the supremum metric on the space of fuzzy numbers. And then we propose a method for constructing a norm on the quotient space of fuzzy numbers. This norm is very natural and works well with the induced metric on the quotient space.

1. Introduction

Since the concept of fuzzy numbers was firstly introduced in the 1970s, it has been studied extensively from many different aspects of the theory and applications such as fuzzy topology, fuzzy analysis, fuzzy logic, and fuzzy decision making (see, e.g., [1–6]). The operations in the set of fuzzy numbers are usually obtained by the Zadeh extension principle [7–9]. In the study of algebraic structures and topological structures for fuzzy numbers, many results have been obtained (see, e.g., [10–19]).

In the classical mathematics, if $X$ is a normed space with norm $\|\cdot\|$, it is readily checked that the formula $d(x, y) = \|x - y\|$, for $x, y \in X$, defines a metric $d$ on $X$. Thus a normed space is naturally a metric space and all metric space concepts are meaningful. However, we will show that such proposition does not hold true for the well known supremum metric on the space of fuzzy numbers. To overcome this weakness, we will consider the quotient space of fuzzy numbers up to an equivalence relation which is introduced by Mareš [20, 21] and is studied extensively by many researchers [4, 12, 22–24]. We will propose a method for constructing a norm on the quotient space of fuzzy numbers. This norm is very natural and works well with the induced metric on the quotient space.

2. Preliminaries

A fuzzy set of $\mathbb{R}$ is a function $\mu : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$. For each such fuzzy set $\mu$, we denote by $[\mu]^a = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \mu(x) \geq a\}$ for any $a \in (0, 1]$ its $a$-level set. We define the set $[\mu]^0 = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \mu(x) > 0\}$, where $\overline{A}$ denotes the closure of a set $A$. A fuzzy number $\mu$ is a fuzzy set with nonempty bounded closed level sets $[\mu]^a = [\mu_L(a), \mu_R(a)]$ for all $a \in [0, 1]$. We denote the class of fuzzy numbers by $\mathcal{F}$. Notice that the real numbers $\mathbb{R}$ can be imbedded in $\mathcal{F}$ by defining a fuzzy number as follows

$$a(x) = \begin{cases} 
1, & \text{if } x = a, \\
0, & \text{otherwise}, 
\end{cases}$$

for each $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

For any $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{F}$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, owing to Zadeh’s extension principle [7–9], scalar multiplication and addition are defined for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ by

$$(a \times \mu)(x) = (a\mu)(x) = \begin{cases} 
\mu\left(\frac{x}{\alpha}\right), & \text{if } \alpha \neq 0, \\
0, & \text{if } \alpha = 0, 
\end{cases}$$

and

$$(\mu + \nu)(x) = \sup_{x_1, x_2 : x_1 + x_2 = x} \min\{\mu(x_1), \nu(x_2)\}.$$
Lemma 1 (see [22]). Let μ, ν ∈ ℱ. We say that μ is equivalent to ν and write μ ∼ ν if and only if there exist symmetric fuzzy numbers s₁, s₂ ∈ ℳ such that

\[ μ + s₁ = ν + s₂. \]  

(4)

The equivalence relation defined above is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive [20]. Let ⟨μ⟩ denote the equivalence class containing the element μ and denote the set of equivalence classes by ℱ/ℳ. By the level set representations for fuzzy numbers, one can easily prove the following lemmas.

Lemma 2 (see [25]). For any μ ∈ ℱ, μ ∼ μ.

Lemma 3 (see [25]). For any μ, ν ∈ ℱ, μ ∼ ν if and only if μ − ν ∈ ℳ.

Definition 4 (see [26]). For a fuzzy number μ, we define a function μₓ : [0, 1] → ℝ by assigning the midpoint of each a-level set to μₓ(a) for all a ∈ [0, 1], that is,

\[ μₓ(a) = \frac{μ_L(a) + μ_R(a)}{2}. \]  

(5)

Lemma 5 (see [25]). For any μ, ν ∈ ℱ, μ ∼ ν if and only if μₓ = νₓ.

Lemma 6 (see [26]). (ℱ/ℳ, +, ⋄) is a real vector space.

3. Main Results

In this section, we will give a norm structure on ℱ/ℳ which is compatible with a metric. For the family of fuzzy numbers ℱ, the d∞,₁ metric is induced by the Hausdorff metric as [17]

\[ d_∞,₁(μ, ν) = \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} H \left( \left[ μ \right]^a, \left[ ν \right]^a \right) \]

\[ = \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \left\{ \left| μ_L(a) − ν_L(a) \right|, \left| μ_R(a) − ν_R(a) \right| \right\}, \]  

(6)

for all μ, ν ∈ ℱ.

Define a function \( \| \cdot \| : ℱ → ℝ \) as

\[ \| μ \| = d(μ, 0) = \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |μ_L(a)|, |μ_R(a)| \}. \]  

(7)

Theorem 7. The function \( \| \cdot \| \) in (7) is a norm on ℱ.

Proof. (i) It is obvious that \( \| μ \| ≥ 0 \) for all μ ∈ ℱ and \( \| μ \| = 0 \) if μ = 0. Conversely, if μ ≠ 0, then we have that there exists \( a₀ ∈ [0, 1] \) such that \( |μ_L(a₀)|, |μ_R(a₀)| ≠ 0 \). Thus we have \( \| μ \| > 0 \).

(ii) For all μ ∈ ℱ and b ∈ ℝ, we have

\[ \| bμ \| = \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |b| |μ_L(a)|, |b| |μ_R(a)| \} \]

\[ = |b| \| μ \|. \]  

(8)

(iii) For all μ, ν ∈ ℱ, we have that

\[ \| μ + ν \| = \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |μ_L(a) + ν_L(a)|, |μ_R(a) + ν_R(a)| \} \]

\[ ≤ \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |μ_L(a)| + |ν_L(a)|, |μ_R(a)| + |ν_R(a)| \} \]

\[ ≤ \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |μ_L(a)|, |μ_R(a)| \} \]

\[ + \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |ν_L(a)|, |ν_R(a)| \} \]

\[ = \| μ \| + \| ν \|. \]  

(9)

We conclude that \( \| \cdot \| \) is a norm on ℱ.

Although \( \| \cdot \| \) is a norm on ℱ, the function \( d : ℱ × ℱ → ℝ \) induced by \( \| \cdot \| \) as \( d(μ, ν) = \| μ − ν \| \) is not a metric on ℱ. Consequently, we get that \( d∞,₁(μ, ν) ≠ \| μ − ν \| \).

Theorem 8. The function d has the following properties:

(i) \( d(μ, ν) ≥ 0 \), for any μ, ν ∈ ℱ;

(ii) \( d(μ, ν) = d(ν, μ) \), for any μ, ν ∈ ℱ;

(iii) \( d(μ, ω) + d(ω, ν) ≤ d(μ, ν) \), for any μ, ν, ω ∈ ℱ;

(iv) \( d(μ, μ) = 0 \), for any fuzzy number μ ∈ ℝ.

Proof. (i) By the definition of d, it is obvious that \( d(μ, ν) ≥ 0 \), for any μ, ν ∈ ℱ.

(ii) For all μ, ν ∈ ℱ, we have that

\[ d(μ, ν) = \| μ − ν \| \]

\[ = \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |μ_L(a) − ν_L(a)|, |μ_R(a) − ν_R(a)| \} \]

\[ = \sup_{0 ≤ a ≤ 1} \max \{ |ν_L(a) − μ_R(a)|, |ν_R(a) − μ_L(a)| \} \]

\[ = \sqrt{\| ν − μ \|} \]

\[ = d(ν, μ). \]  

(10)

(iii) In order to prove the triangle inequality, for any fixed \( a ∈ [0, 1] \), and for any μ, ν, ω ∈ ℱ, we only proof the following six cases. Similarly, the others can be proved.

Case 1 (μ_L(a) ≤ ν_L(a) ≤ μ_R(a) ≤ ν_R(a) and ω_L(a) ≤ μ_L(a)). In this case we have that

\[ \max \{ |μ_L(a) − ν_R(a)|, |μ_R(a) − ν_L(a)| \} \]

\[ = |μ_L(a) − ν_R(a)| \]

\[ ≤ |ω_L(a) − ν_R(a)| \]

\[ ≤ \max \{ |μ_L(a) − ω_R(a)|, |μ_R(a) − ω_L(a)| \} \]

\[ + \max \{ |ω_L(a) − ω_R(a)|, |ω_R(a) − ν_L(a)| \}. \]  

(11)
Case 2 \((\mu_L(a) \leq \nu_L(a) \leq \nu_R(a) \leq \omega_L(a) \leq \omega_R(a))\). In this case we have that
\[
\begin{align*}
\max \{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} & = |\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| \\
& \leq |\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)| + |\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| \\
& \leq \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|\} + \max \{|\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\omega_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\}.
\end{align*}
\]

Case 3 \((\mu_L(a) \leq \nu_L(a) \leq \nu_R(a) \leq \mu_R(a) \text{ and } \omega_L(a) \leq \mu_L(a)).\) In this case we have that
\[
\begin{align*}
\max \{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} & \leq |\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| \\
& \leq \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|\} + \max \{|\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\omega_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\}.
\end{align*}
\]

Case 4 \((\mu_L(a) \leq \omega_L(a) \leq \nu_L(a) \leq \nu_R(a) \leq \mu_R(a)).\) If \max\{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} = |\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, then we have that
\[
\begin{align*}
\max \{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} & = |\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| \\
& = |\mu_L(a) - \omega_L(a)| + |\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| \\
& \leq |\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)| + |\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| \\
& \leq \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|\} + \max \{|\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\omega_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\}.
\end{align*}
\]

Otherwise, we have that
\[
\begin{align*}
\max \{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} & = |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)| \\
& \leq |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)| \\
& \leq \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|\} + \max \{|\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\omega_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\}.
\end{align*}
\]

Case 5 \((\mu_L(a) \leq \nu_L(a) \leq \omega_L(a) \leq \nu_R(a) \leq \mu_R(a)).\) In this case we have that
\[
\begin{align*}
|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| & \leq |\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)| + |\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, \\
|\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)| & \leq |\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| + |\omega_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|.
\end{align*}
\]

Consequently, we have that
\[
\max \{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} \leq \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|\} + \max \{|\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\omega_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\}.
\]

Case 6 \((\mu_L(a) \leq \nu_L(a) \leq \nu_R(a) \leq \omega_R(a) \leq \mu_R(a)).\) In this case we have that
\[
\begin{align*}
|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)| & \leq |\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, \\
|\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)| & \leq |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|.
\end{align*}
\]
Consequently, we have that
\[
\max \{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} \leq \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|\}.
\]

From what is proved above, we can get that
\[
\begin{align*}
\tilde{d}(\mu, \nu) & = \|\mu - \nu\| \\
& = \sup_{0 \leq c \leq 1} \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} \\
& \leq \sup_{0 \leq c \leq 1} \max \{|\mu_L(a) - \omega_R(a)|, |\mu_R(a) - \omega_L(a)|\} + \sup_{0 \leq c \leq 1} \max \{|\omega_L(a) - \nu_R(a)|, |\omega_R(a) - \nu_L(a)|\} \\
& = \|\mu - \omega\| + \|\omega - \nu\| \\
& = \tilde{d}(\mu, \omega) + \tilde{d}(\omega, \nu).
\end{align*}
\]

(iv) Since \(\mu \notin \mathbb{R}\), there exists \(a_0 \in [0, 1]\) such that \(\mu_R(a_0) - \mu_L(a_0) > 0\). Thus we have that
\[
\tilde{d}(\mu, \mu) = \|\mu - \mu\| \\
= \sup_{0 \leq c \leq 1} |\mu_L(a) - \mu_R(a)| \\
> \mu_R(a_0) - \mu_L(a_0) \\
> 0.
\]

In order to induce a metric which is compatible with the norm, we consider the quotient space of fuzzy numbers. It is very natural to define a function \(\|\cdot\|: \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \to \mathbb{R}\) as
\[
\|\mu\| = \inf_{\nu \in \mathcal{S}} \|\nu\|,
\]
for each \(\mu \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}\).
Theorem 9. The function \( \| \cdot \| \) in (22) is a norm on \( \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \).

Proof. (i) It is obvious that \( \|\langle \mu \rangle\| \geq 0 \) for all \( \mu \in \mathcal{F} \) and \( \|\langle \mu \rangle\| = 0 \) if \( \langle \mu \rangle = \langle 0 \rangle \). Conversely, if \( \langle \mu \rangle \neq \langle 0 \rangle \), from Lemma 5, it follows that the midpoint function \( \mu_M \neq 0 \). Thus we have

\[
\|\langle \mu \rangle\| = \inf_{\langle \nu \rangle} \|\langle \nu \rangle\|
\]

\[
= \inf_{\langle \nu \rangle} \left( \sup_{a \in [0, 1]} \left| v_L(a) + v_R(a) \right| \right)
\]

\[
\geq \inf_{\langle \nu \rangle} \left( \sup_{a \in [0, 1]} \left| v_L(a) + v_R(a) \right| \right) / 2.
\]

(ii) For all \( \langle \mu \rangle \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \) and \( b \in \mathbb{R} \), we have

\[
\|b\langle \mu \rangle\| = \|b\langle \mu \rangle\|
\]

\[
= \inf_{\langle \nu \rangle} \|\langle \nu \rangle\|
\]

\[
= \inf_{b \langle \nu \rangle} \|b\langle \nu \rangle\|
\]

\[
= \inf_{\langle \nu \rangle} \|b\langle \nu \rangle\|
\]

\[
= |b| \|\langle \mu \rangle\|.
\]

(iii) For all \( \langle \mu \rangle, \langle \nu \rangle \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \), we have that

\[
\|\langle \mu \rangle + \langle \nu \rangle\| = \|\langle \mu + \nu \rangle\|
\]

\[
= \inf_{\omega \in \langle \mu + \nu \rangle} \|\langle \omega \rangle\|
\]

\[
\leq \inf_{\mu' \in \langle \mu \rangle, \nu' \in \langle \nu \rangle} \|\langle \mu' + \nu' \rangle\|
\]

\[
\leq \inf_{\mu' \in \langle \mu \rangle} \|\langle \mu' \rangle\| + \inf_{\nu' \in \langle \nu \rangle} \|\langle \nu' \rangle\|
\]

\[
= \|\langle \mu \rangle\| + \|\langle \nu \rangle\|.
\]

We conclude that \( \| \cdot \| \) is a norm on \( \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \). \( \square \)

4. Conclusions

In this present investigation, we studied the norm induced by the supremum metric \( d_{\sup} \) on the space of fuzzy numbers. And then we proposed a method for constructing a norm on the quotient space of fuzzy numbers. This norm is very natural and works well with the induced metric on \( \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \). The works in this paper enable us to study the fuzzy numbers in the new environment. We hope that our results in this paper may lead to significant, new, and innovative results in other related fields.

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References


