Zadeh L.A., Tufiş D., Filip F.G., Dziţac I.(Eds.), From Natural Language to Soft Computing: New Paradigms in Artificial Intelligence, Editing House of Romanian Academy, Bucharest, ISBN 978-973-27-1678-6, 2008, pp. 227-267

### APPENDIX 1

# Slides of PowerPoint Presentation of Workshop's Keynote Lecture

# A New Frontier in Computation—Computation with Information Described in Natural Language

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• Science deals not with reality but with models of reality. In large measure, scientific progress is driven by a quest for better models of reality.

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• The real world is pervaded with various forms of imprecision and uncertainty. To construct better models of reality it is essential to develop a better understanding of the remarkable human capability to converse, communicate and make rational decisions in an environment of imprecision, uncertainty, incompleteness of information, partiality of truth and partiality of possibility.

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• Formalization/mechanization of this capability is the principal motivation for the development of NL-Computation—computation with information described in natural language. NL-Computation/Computing with Words opens the door to a wide-ranging enlargement of the role of natural languages in scientific theories, especially in the realms of economics, medicine, biology, law, psychology and political science.

# **PREAMBLE**

• In conventional modes of computation, the objects of computation are values of variables. In computation with information described in natural language, or NL-Computation for short, the objects of computation are not values of variables but information about the values of variables, with the added assumption that information is described in natural language.

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# CONTINUED

 The role model for NL-Computation is the remarkable human capability to converse, reason and make rational decisions in an environment of imprecision, uncertainty, incompleteness of information or partiality of truth.

# **MODALITIES OF VALUATION**

valuation: assignment of a value to a variable

numerical: Vera is 48

linguistic: Vera is middle-aged

Computing with Words (CW): Vera is likely to be

middle-aged

NL-Computation: Vera has a teenager son and a daughter in mid-twenties

world knowledge: child-bearing age ranges from about 16 to about 42.

# granular

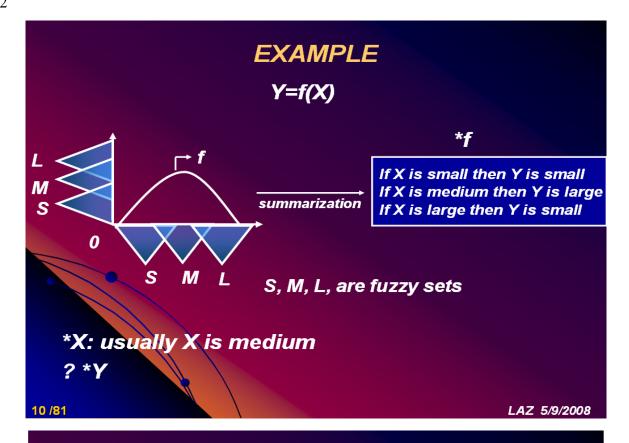
A concept which plays a key role in NL-Computation is that of precisiation

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# **NL-COMPUTATION—BASIC IDEA**

\*Y = \*f(\*X)

- given: \*X, information about the value of X described in natural language
- given: \*f, information about f described in natural language
- compute: \*Y, information about the value of Y described in natural language



# EXAMPLE (balls-in-box)

 A box contains about 20 black and white balls. Most are black. There are several times as many black balls as white balls. What is the number of white balls?

# EXAMPLE (chaining)

- Overeating causes obesity
- Overeating and obesity cause high blood pressure
- I overeat. What is the probability that I will develop high blood pressure?
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# EXAMPLE (flight delay)

- Usually most UA flights from San Francisco leave on time. What is the probability, p, that my UA flight will be delayed?
- f-valid solution: p is low
   Usually m-most are not precisiated in consequence, p is not precisiated.
- p-valid solution: p is? Usually m-most are precisiated, in consequence, p is precisiated.
- What is your answer?

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# **EXAMPLE (AGE DIFFERENCE)**

Z= Age(Vera) - Age(Pat)

- Age(Vera): Vera has a son in late twenties and a daughter in late thirties
- Age(Pat): Pat has a daughter who is close to thirty. Pat is a dermatologist. In practice for close to 20 years
- NL(W1): (relevant information drawn from world knowledge) child bearing age ranges from about 16 to about 42
- NL(W2): age at start of practice ranges from about 20 to about 40
- Closed (circumscribed) vs. open (uncircumscribed)
- Open: augmentation of information by drawing on world knowledge is allowed
- Closed: augmentation is not alliowed

# A SIMPLE EXAMPLE—A PREVIEW

 A small glass jar contains about 20 balls of various sizes. Most are small. A few are large. What is the average size of balls?

Solution

Population= (b<sub>1</sub>, ..., b<sub>N</sub>)

d<sub>i</sub>= diameter of b<sub>i</sub>, i=1, ..., N

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# CONTINUED

- A glass jar contains about 20 balls mm-precisiation
   N is \*20
- Most are small  $(\mu_{small}(d_1)+...+\mu_{small}(d_N))/N$  is most  $\stackrel{mm-precisiation}{\longrightarrow}$
- A few are large  $\mu_{large}(d_1) + ... + \mu_{large}(d_N) \quad \text{is few} \xrightarrow{mm-precisiation}$
- What is the average size of balls?
- $(d_1 + ... + d_N)/N$  is ?A

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N is \*20  $(\mu_{small}(d_1) + ... + \mu_{small}(d_N))/N \text{ is most}$   $\mu_{large}(d_1) + ... + \mu_{large}(d_N) \text{ is few}$ 

$$(d_1 + ... + d_N)/N$$
 is ?A

Solution reduces to generalized constraint propagation

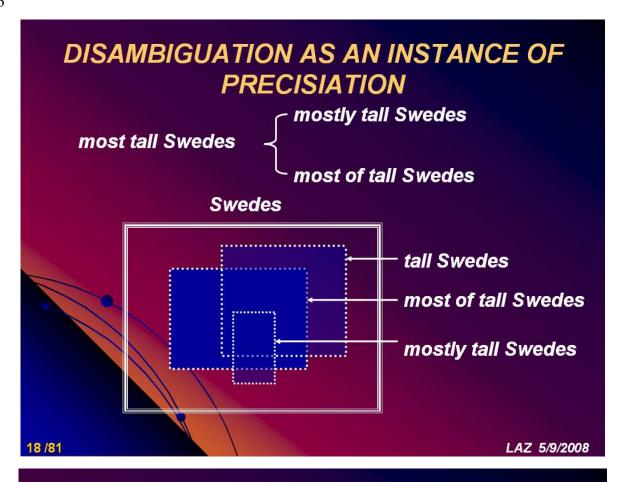
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# KEY OBSERVATIONS—COMPUTATION, PRECISIATION AND UNDERSTANDING

- As stated, the problems are not well posed.
   To make them well posed, what is needed is precisiation
- Precisiation is a prerequisite to computation
- Understanding is a prerequisite to precisiation

# Example:

p: Use with adequate ventilation I understand what you mean but can you be more precise?



# **NL-COMPUTATION AND FUZZY LOGIC**

- NL-Computation is based on fuzzy logic. Use of fuzzy logic in NL-Computation is a necessity rather than an option.
- Understanding of the role of fuzzy logic in NL-Computation is facilitated by taking a nontraditional view of fuzzy logic. This view highlights the role of precisiation in fuzzy logic.

# graduation FUZZY LOGIC generalized precisiation constraint The cornerstones of fuzzy logic are graduation, granulation, precisiation and granular constraint. One of the most important features of fuzzy logic is its high power of precisiation. (cointensive mm-precisiation) Details follow

COCE PONCE TOUS

OF TREPOSO ACOOM

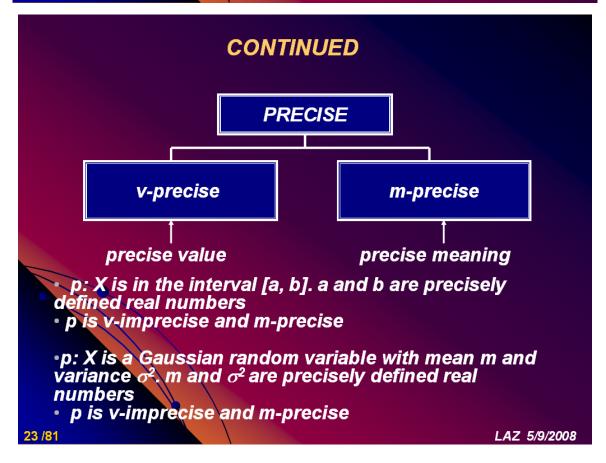
AND POON CENTRON

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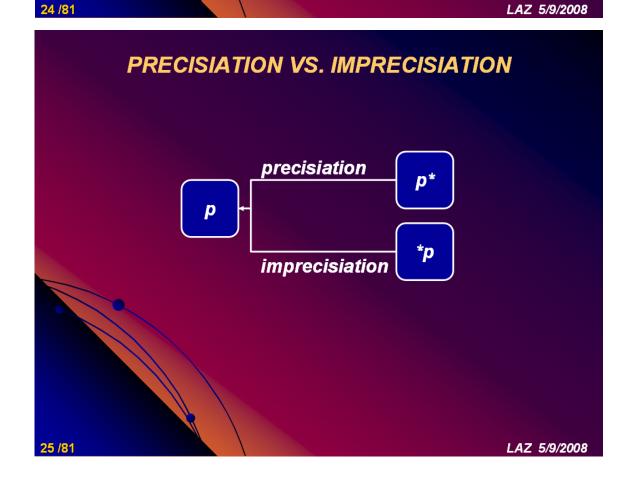
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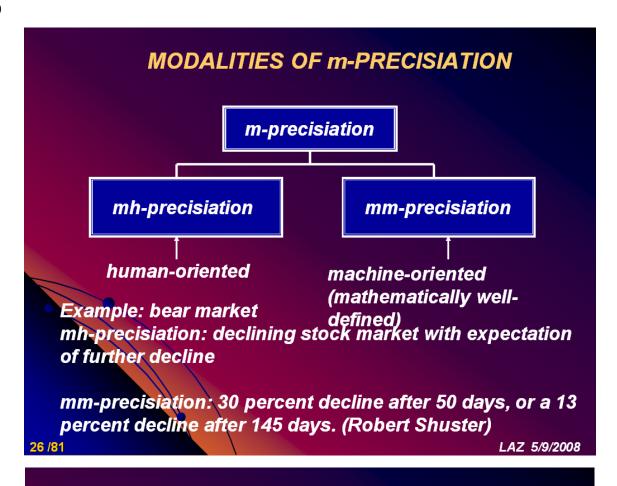
# PRECISION IN VALUE AND PRECISION IN MEANING

- The concept of precision has a position of centrality in scientific theories. And yet, there are some important aspects of this concept which have not been adequately treated in the literature. One such aspect relates to the distinction between precision in value (v-precision) and precision in meaning (m-precision).
- The same distinction applies to imprecision, precisiation and imprecisiation.

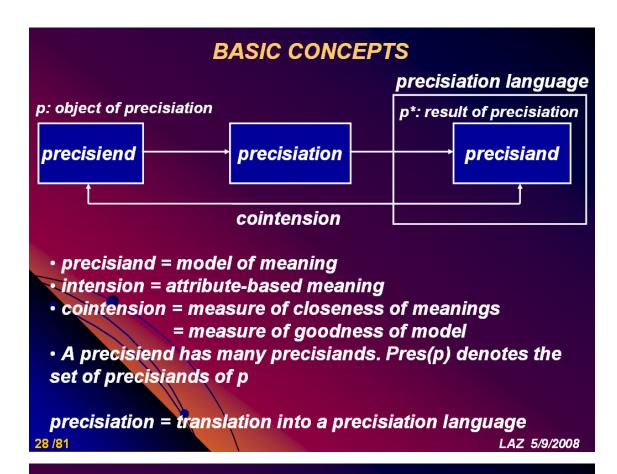


# PRECISIATION AND IMPRECISIATION • A proposition, predicate, query or command may be precisiated or imprecisiated • Definition is a form of m-precisiation Example young → m-precisiation → young young → V-imprecisiation m-imprecisiation → Lily is young Lily is young → V-precisiation m-precisiation m-precisiation m-precisiation → Lily is 25



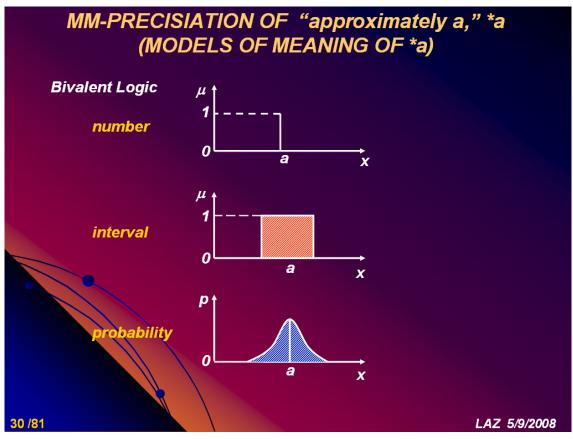


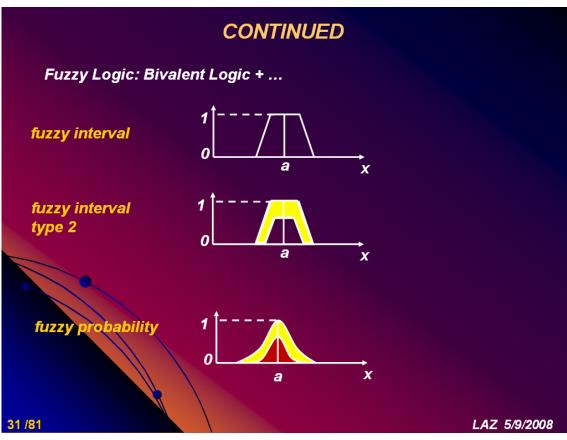
- Risk mh-precisiation exposure to the chance of injury or loss
- Risk mm-precisiation expected value of loss function

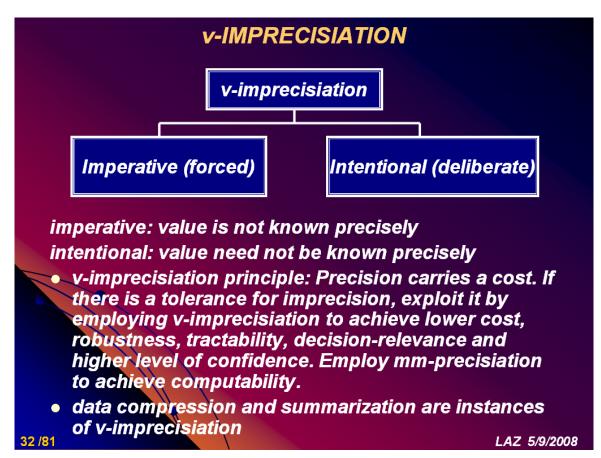


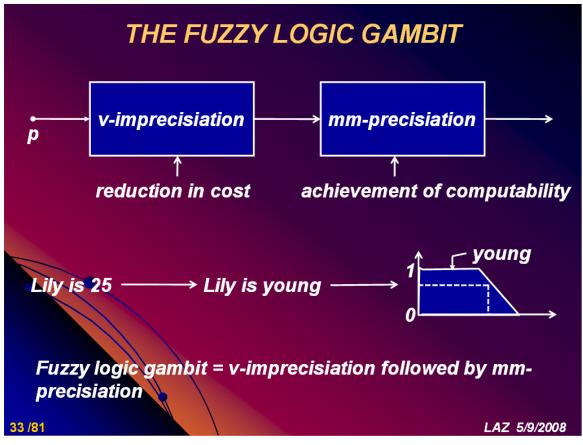
# PRECISIATION AND MODELING

- mm-precisiand = mathematical model
- mm-precisiation = construction of a mathematical model
- Unless stated to the contrary, precisiation should be interpreted as mm-precisiation









# THE CONCEPT OF COINTENSIVE PRECISIATION

 m-precisiation of a concept or proposition, p, is cointensive if p\* is cointensive with p.

Example: bear market

We classify a bear market as a 30 percent decline after 50 days, or a 13 percent decline after 145 days. (Robert Shuster)

This definition is clearly not cointensive

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# **EXAMPLE: IMPACT FACTOR**

- A = citations in 1992 to articles published in 1987-91
- B = articles published in 1987-91
- C = A/B = five-year impact factor
- Is the definition of impact factor cointensive?

### mm-PRECISIATION

# **Basic questions**

- a) Given a proposition, p, how can p be cointesively mm-precisiated?
- b) How can mm-precisiand of p be treated as an object of computation/deduction?
- In NL-Computation these questions are addressed through the use of fuzzy-logicbased computational semantics of natural languages.

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# FUZZY-LOGIC-BASED COMPUTATIONAL SEMANTICS OF NATURAL LANGUAGES

GCS

generalizedconstraint-based semantics (Zadeh 2006) TCS

test-score semantics (Zadeh 1982)

GCS: point of departure p is a proposition

X is a variable which is explicit or implicit in p p is interpreted as an answer to the question: What is the value of X and how is it derived?

TSS: point of departure

What is the truth value, t, of p, and how is it derived?

GCS and TSS are closely related. Underlying both is the concept of a generalized constraint. A brief outline of this concept is presented in the following.

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# PREAMBLE

- The concept of a generalized constraint is the centerpiece of generalized-constraintbased semantics. An outline of this concept if presented in the following.
- In scientific theories, representation of constraints is generally oversimplified.
   Oversimplification of constraints is a necessity because existing constrained definition languages have a very limited expressive power.

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# **CONTINUED**

 The concept of a generalized constraint is intended to provide a basis for construction of a maximally expressive constraint definition language which can also serve as a meaning representation/precisiation language for natural languages.

# **GENERALIZED CONSTRAINT (Zadeh 1986)**

Bivalent constraint (hard, inelastic, categorical:)

X ε C constraining bivalent relation

Generalized constraint on X: GC(X)

GC(X): X isr R

constraining non-bivalent (fuzzy) relation
index of modality (defines semantics)
constrained variable

r:  $\varepsilon = |\cdot| \ge |\cdot| = |\cdot|$  blank  $|\cdot| p \mid v \mid u \mid rs \mid fg \mid ps \mid ...$ bivalent

primary

- open GC(X): X is free (GC(X) is a predicate)
- closed GC(X): X is instantiated (GC(X) is a proposition)

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# GENERALIZED CONSTRAINT—MODALITY r

X isr R

r: = equality constraint: X=R is abbreviation of X is=R

r: ≤ inequality constraint: X ≤ R

r: $\subset$  subsethood constraint:  $X \subset R$ 

r: blank possibilistic constraint; X is R; R is the possibility

distribution of X

r: v veristic constraint; X isv R; R is the verity

distribution of X

r: p probabilistic constraint; X isp R; R is the

probability distribution of X

Standard constraints: bivalent possibilistic, bivalent veristic and probabilistic

- r: bm bimodal constraint; X is a random variable; R is a bimodal distribution
- r: rs random set constraint; X isrs R; R is the setvalued probability distribution of X
- r: fg fuzzy graph constraint; X isfg R; X is a function and R is its fuzzy graph
- r: u usuality constraint; X isu R means usually (X is R)
- r: g group constraint; X isg R means that R constrains the attribute-values of the group

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# PRIMARY GENERALIZED CONSTRAINTS

- Possibilistic: X is R
- Probabilistic: X isp R
- Veristic: X isv R
- Primary constraints are formalizations of three basic perceptions: (a) perception of possibility; (b) perception of likelihood; and (c) perception of truth
- In this perspective, probability may be viewed as an attribute of perception of likelihood

# **EXAMPLES: POSSIBILISTIC**

- most Swedes are tall
  - Count (tall.Swedes/Swedes) is most

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# **EXAMPLES: PROBABILISITIC**

- X is a normally distributed random variable with mean m and variance  $\sigma^2 \longrightarrow X$  isp N(m,  $\sigma^2$ )
- X is a random variable taking the values u<sub>1</sub>, u<sub>2</sub>, u<sub>3</sub> with probabilities p<sub>1</sub>, p<sub>2</sub> and p<sub>3</sub>, respectively —

 $X \text{ isp } (p_1 \setminus u_1 + p_2 \setminus u_2 + p_3 \setminus u_3)$ 

# **EXAMPLES: VERISTIC**

Robert is half German, quarter French and quarter Italian

Ethnicity (Robert) isv (0.5|German + 0.25|French + 0.25|Italian)

 Robert resided in London from 1985 to 1990

Reside (Robert, London) isv [1985, 1990]

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# STANDARD CONSTRAINTS

- Bivalent possibilistic: X ε C (crisp set)
- Bivalent veristic: Ver(p) is true or false
- Probabilistic: X isp R
- Standard constraints are instances of generalized constraints which underlie methods based on bivalent logic and probability theory

# GENERALIZED CONSTRAINT LANGUAGE (GCL)

- GCL is generated by combination, qualification, propagation and counterpropagation of generalized constraints
- examples of elements of GCL
  - (X isp R) and (X,Y) is S)
  - (X isr R) is unlikely) and (X iss S) is likely
  - If X is A then Y is B
- the language of fuzzy if-then rules is a sublanguage of GCL

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# CLARIFICATION LANGUAGE VS. LANGUAGE SYSTEM

- Language= (description system)
- Description system= (syntax, semantics)
- Language system= (description system, computation/deduction system)

Examples: Java is a language; Prologue is a language system; probability theory is al language system; fuzzy logic is a system of language systems.

- Generalized Constraint Language (GCL) is a language system.
- The rules of deduction in GCL are the rules which govern propagation and counterpropagation of generalized constraints.

# **EXTENSION PRINCIPLE**

 The principal rule of deduction in NL-Computation is the Extension Principle (Zadeh 1965, 1975).

f(X) is A g(X) is B

 $\mu_{B}(v) = \sup_{u} \mu_{A}(f(u))$ 

subject to

v = g(u)

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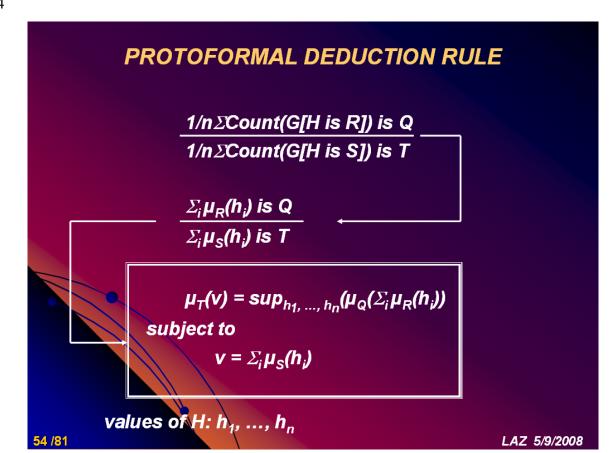
# PROTOFORMAL DEDUCTION RULE

Syllogism

 $Q_1$  A's are B's  $Q_2$  (A&B)'s are C's  $Q_1Q_2$ A's are (B&C)'s

# Example

- Overeating and obesity cause high blood pressure
   <u>precisiation</u>, most of those who overeat and are
   obese have high blood pressure
- I overeat and am obese. The probability that I will develop high blood pressure is most<sup>2</sup>



# GENERALIZED-CONSTRAINT-BASED SEMANTICS

- Generalized-constraint-based semantics suggests a novel, powerful approach to semantics of natural languages. It is generalized-constraint-based semantics that opens the door to computation with information described in natural language.
- The point of departure in generalized-constraintbased semantics is the fundamental thesis of fuzzy logic.

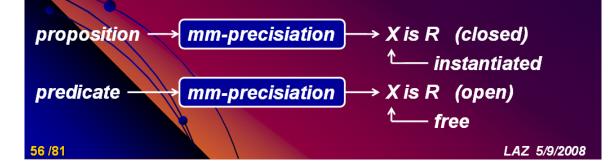
Information = generalized constraint

Basically, what this means is that information about a variable, X, may be viewed as a constraint on the values which X can take.

- A proposition, p, is a carrier of information.
- A consequence of the fundamental thesis is the meaning postulate.

meaning of p = generalized constraint

 In NL-Computation, the meaning of p is equated with its mm-precisiand. More specifically



# **MEANING POSTULATE—A RATIONALE**

- A proposition, p, may be viewed as an answer to a question, q.
- A question can be expressed as: What is the value of X? Where X is explicit or implicit in p.
- A generalized constraint may be interpreted as an answer to a question. From this it follows that the answer to q may be expressed as a generalized constraint.

### X isr R

- In general X and R are implicit in p. In this sense, the meaning of p may be expressed as a generalized constraint in which X and R are defined procedurely.
- Note that X is a variable that is focused on but is not uniquely determined by X. For this reason, X is referred to as a focal variable.

# PRECISIATION AND DEDUCTION

 What should be stressed is that mmprecisiation is not the final goal. It is a preliminary to computation/deduction. The roles of mm-precisiation and computation/deduction are illustrated in the following.

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# PRECISIATION AND COMPUTATION/DEDUCTION—EXAMPLE

- p: most Swedes are tall
   p\*: ΣCount(tall.Swedes/Swedes) is most
- q: How many are short? further precisiation

X(h): height density function (not known) X(h)du: fraction of Swedes whose height is in [h, h+du],  $a \le h \le b$ 

 $\int_{a}^{b} X(h) du = 1$ 

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- fraction of tall Swedes:  $\int_a^b X(h) \mu_{tall}(h) dh$
- constraint on X(h)

granular value

$$\pi(X) = \mu_{most}(\int_a^b X(h)\mu_{tall}(h)dh)$$

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# **CONTINUED**

deduction:

$$\int_a^b X(h) \mu_{tall}(h) dh$$
 is most  $\longleftarrow$  given

$$\int_a^b X(h) \mu_{short}(h) dh$$
 is ? Q  $\longleftarrow$  needed

solution:

$$\mu_{\mathbf{Q}}(\mathbf{v}) = \sup_{X} (\mu_{most}(\int_{a}^{b} X(h)\mu_{tall}(h)dh))$$

subject to

$$V = \int_a^b X(h) \mu_{short}(h) dh$$

$$\int_a^b X(h)dh = 1$$

# **DEDUCTION PRINCIPLE**

- In a general setting, computation/deduction is governed by the Deduction Principle.
- Point of departure: question, q
- Data:  $D = (X_1/u_1, ..., X_n/u_n)$

u<sub>i</sub> is a generic value of X<sub>i</sub>

Ans(q): answer to q

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# CONTINUED

 If we knew the values of the X<sub>i</sub>, u<sub>1</sub>, ..., u<sub>n</sub>, we could express Ans(q) as a function of the u<sub>i</sub>

Ans(q)=
$$g(u_1, ..., u_n)$$
  $u=(u_1, ..., u_n)$ 

Our information about the u<sub>i</sub>, l(u<sub>1</sub>, ..., u<sub>n</sub>) is a generalized constraint on the u<sub>i</sub>. The constraint is defined by its test-score function

$$f(u)=f(u_1, ..., u_n)$$

Use the extension principle

$$\mu_{Ans(q)}(v) = sup_u(ts(u))$$

subject to

$$v = g(u)$$

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# **EXAMPLE**

p: Most Swedes are much taller than most Italians

q: What is the difference in the average height of Swedes and Italians?

# Solution

Step 1. precisiation: translation of p into GCL

$$S = \{S_1, ..., S_n\}$$
: population of Swedes

$$I = \{I_1, ..., I_n\}$$
: population of Italians

$$g_i$$
 = height of  $S_i$  ,  $g = (g_1, ..., g_n)$   
 $h_j$  = height of  $I_j$  ,  $h = (h_1, ..., h_n)$ 

$$h_i = height of I_i$$
,  $h = (h_1, ..., h_n)$ 

 $\mu_{ij} = \mu_{much.taller}(g_i, h_i) = degree to which <math>S_i$  is much taller than  $I_i$ 

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 $r_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_j \mu_{ij}$  = Relative  $\sum$  Count of Italians in relation to whom  $S_i$  is much taller

 $t_i = \mu_{most}$  ( $r_i$ ) = degree to which  $S_i$  is much taller than most Italians

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{m} \Sigma \mathbf{t}_i$$

 $v = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} t_{i} = Relative \sum_{i=1}^{m} Count of Swedes who are much taller than most Italians$ 

$$ts(g, h) = \mu_{most}(v)$$

generalized constraint on S and I

q: 
$$\mathbf{d} = \frac{1}{m} \Sigma_i \mathbf{g}_i - \frac{1}{n} \Sigma_j \mathbf{h}_j$$

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# CONTINUED

Step 2. Deduction via Extension Principle

$$\mu_q(d) = \sup_{g,h} ts(g,h)$$

subject to

$$d = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i} g_{i} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j} h_{j}$$



# THE NEED FOR PRECISIATION OF NATURAL LANGUAGE

• Natural languages are intrinsically imprecise. A prerequisite to computation with information described in natural language is mmprecisiation of meaning. Mmprecisiation of meaning is the first step in NL-Computation. The concept of generalized-constraint plays a key role in both precisiation and computation/deduction.

# NL-INCAPABILITY

- NL-capability = capability to operate on information described in natural language
- Existing scientific theories are based for the most part on bivalent logic and bivalent-logic-based probability theory
- Bivalent logic and bivalent-logic-based probability theory do not have NL-capability
- For the most part, existing scientific theories do not have NL-capability

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# **NL-CAPABILITY**

- NL-Computation serves to add NL-capability to existing scientific theories and thereby opens the door to a wide ranging enlargement of the role of natural languages in scientific theories, especially in human-centric theories such as economics, linguistics, law and psychology.
- An important application of NL-Computation relates to computation with imprecise probabilities and probability distributions described in natural language.
- Generally, real-world probabilities and probability distributions are not known precisely.

# A KEY OBSERVATION

• The concept of a set has a position of centrality in mathematics. A set is a special set of a fuzzy set. Generalization of the concept of a set is the point of departure in fuzzy logic and underlies its generality and power. More generally, the concept of a fuzzy set opens the door to generalization of many branches of mathematics, among them topology, algebra, functional analysis and theory of relations.

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# CONTINUED

 More over, it serves as a basis for upgrading or, more concretely, FL enhancement, of bivalent-logic-based scientific theories through addition of concepts and techniques drawn from fuzzy logic. In the limit, FL enhancement leads to a shift in the foundations of a scientific theory from bivalent logic to fuzzy logic.

 A shift from bivalent logic to fuzzy logic results in a theory which has an enhanced capability to model reality. The enhanced capability to model reality is one of the main contributions of fuzzy logic.

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# RELATED PAPERS BY L.A.Z IN REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

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- Generalized theory of uncertainty (GTU)—principal concepts and ideas, Computational Statistics and Data Analysis 51, 15-46, 2006.
- Precisiated natural language (PNL), Al Magazine, Vol. 25, No. 3, 74-91, 2004.
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# Factual Information About the Impact of Fuzzy Logic

# **PATENTS**

- Number of fuzzy-logic-related patents applied for in Japan: 17,740
- Number of fuzzy-logic-related patents issued in Japan: 4,801
- Number of fuzzy-logic-related patents issued in the US: around 1,700

# **PUBLICATIONS**

Count of papers containing the word "fuzzy" in title, as cited in INSPEC and MATH.SCI.NET databases. Compiled by Camille Wanat, Head, Engineering Library, UC Berkeley, March 13, 2007.

Number of papers in INSPEC and MathSciNet which have "fuzzy" in title:

INSPEC - "fuzzy" in title

1970-1979: 569 1980-1989: 2,403 1990-1999: 23,214 2000-present: 24,910

Total: 51,096

MathSciNet - "fuzzy" in title

1970-1979: 443 1980-1989: 2,465 1990-1999: 5,487 2000-present: 6,217

Total: 14,612

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# JOURNALS ("fuzzy" in title)

- 1. Fuzzy in title
- 2. Fuzzy Sets and Systems
- 3. IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems
- 4. Fuzzy Optimization and Decision Making
- 5. Journal of Intelligent & Fuzzy Systems
- 6. Fuzzy Economic Review
- 7. International Journal of Uncertainty, Fuzziness and Knowledge-Based Systems
- 8. Journal of Japan Society for Fuzzy Theory and Systems
- 9. International Journal of Fuzzy Systems
- 10. International Review of Fuzzy Mathematics
- 11. Fuzzy Systems and Soft Computing

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# APPENDIX 2

# **PICTURES FROM EWNLC 2008**



Picture 1. Lotfi A. Zadeh





Picture 5. Dan Tufiş, Ioan Dziţac, Lotfi A. Zadeh, Mişu-Jan Manolescu, Florin Gheorghe Filip



Picture 2. Dan Tufiş



Picture 4. Ioan Dziţac



Picture 6. Lotfi A. Zadeh presenting workshop's keynote lecture