

Contrasting Singleton Type-1 and Interval Type-2 Non-singleton Type-1 Fuzzy Logic Systems

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Abstract—Most applications of both type-1 and type-2 fuzzy logic systems are employing singleton fuzzification due to its simplicity and reduction in its computational speed. However, using singleton fuzzification assumes that the input data (i.e., measurements) are precise with no uncertainty associated with them. This paper explores the potential of combining the uncertainty modelling capacity of interval type-2 fuzzy sets with the simplicity of type-1 fuzzy logic systems (FLSs) by using interval type-2 fuzzy sets solely as part of the non-singleton input fuzzifier. This paper builds on previous work and uses the methodological design of the footprint of uncertainty (FOU) of interval type-2 fuzzy sets for given levels of uncertainty. We provide a detailed investigation into the ability of both types of fuzzy sets (type-1 and interval type-2) to capture and model different levels of uncertainty/noise through varying the size of the FOU of the underlying input fuzzy sets from type-1 fuzzy sets to very “wide” interval type-2 fuzzy sets as part of type-1 non-singleton FLSs using interval type-2 input fuzzy sets. By applying the study in the context of chaotic time-series prediction, we show how, as uncertainty/noise increases, interval type-2 input fuzzy sets with FOU of increasing size become more and more viable.

I. INTRODUCTION

Uncertainty exists in almost all real life applications and their performance can be affected when facing high level of uncertainties. Therefore, it is crucial for these application systems to have the ability to handle these uncertainties. Fuzzy sets (FSs) and fuzzy logic systems (FLSs) are established concepts and techniques that have been accepted as methodologies for building systems that can deliver excellent performance in the face of uncertainty and imprecision [1]–[4]. There are many sources of uncertainty facing FLSs such as the presence of noise in the training data, the noise affecting inputs and outputs and the linguistic uncertainty associated with the linguistic terms in the antecedents of the rule base [5] [6].

Non-singleton fuzzy logic systems (NSFLSs) [7] [8] were introduced to model the uncertainty of input signals as an extension to singleton fuzzy logic systems (SFLSs) which are not adequate when input data is corrupted by measurement noise [9]. In NSFLSs, the inputs are modelled as fuzzy sets and are no longer as crisp values. NSFLSs have been used successfully in a variety of applications [10]–[23] and new advancements in developing new types of NSFLS have shown superior results (e.g., in [24]).

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The modelling processes of various sources of uncertainties in NSFLSs can be systematically achieved as follows:

- The input uncertainties of an FLS are modelled using input FSs, for example the uncertainties from the sensor readings that provide the inputs to an FLS.
- The control output uncertainties of an FLS are modelled using output FSs. These result for example from the changes in the actuators or motor characteristics due to environmental conditions.
- The uncertainties in linguistic labels which are the ambiguity in the meanings of the words used to label the antecedents and the consequent FSs used in fuzzy logic rules, for example the labels ‘left’ or ‘fast’.

From the above step-by-step uncertainty modelling approach, it can be recognised that, the input uncertainties are modelled using input FSs (in case of NSFLSs) then they are combined with antecedent FSs that are used to model the uncertainties of the linguistic labels for the inputs in the fuzzy rules. In this process, the input uncertainties are modelled separately from the uncertainties of antecedent terms and then combined afterwards.

However, in our previous works [25], [26], the modelling of uncertainty affecting the FLS inputs is conducted as part of the antecedent FSs. In principle however, established FLS methodology foresees the use of the input FSs for the modelling of input uncertainty while antecedent FSs model uncertainty in the linguistic antecedent terms. While in most singleton FLS applications, uncertainty in input and antecedent terms is “mixed” in the antecedent FSs, for the step-by-step modelling approach put forward in [25], exploring the application with a non-singleton fuzzification approach would be highly valuable. In such an approach, the proposed methodology in [25] to determine an appropriate footprint of uncertainty (FOU) for the antecedent FSs would be adjusted in this paper to generate appropriate FOU for the input FSs based on input uncertainties, achieving potentially a more efficient FLS design.

In this paper, we use the application domain of time series prediction (TSP) to investigate the performance of the different generated type-1 fuzzy logic systems (T1 FLSs) with different input fuzzy sets by transitioning from inputs employing type-1 fuzzy sets (T1 FSs) to inputs employing interval type-2 fuzzy sets (IT2 FSs) with varying sizes of FOU in the face of different inputs with varying signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs).

In summary, in this paper, an FOU creation method is adopted here to model input uncertainties of T1 FLSs as part of their non-singleton fuzzification process. This approach is

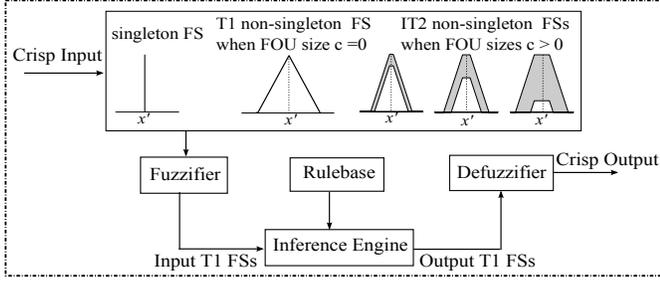


Fig. 1. The structure of the singleton and the type-1/interval type-2 non-singleton type-1 FLS

used to obtain an input IT2 FS of a given size around an input T1 FS with a constant FOU size over the ‘core’ of the input FS. This approach enables the transition from input T1 FSs to input IT2 FSs while maintaining a desired level of uncertainty in the primary memberships of the resulting input IT2 FSs over the domain of the lower MF of the input IT2 FS. It is worth noting that the main objective of this paper is not to achieve optimal performance in a given application such as TSP, but to explore the transitioning from input T1 to input IT2 FSs by selecting the optimal FOU size for given levels of uncertainty/noise.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. In Section II, a review of Non-singleton fuzzy logic system (NSFLS) and FOU creation method are provided. The proposed approach is applied to Mackey-Glass time series prediction and presented in Section III. The results of the study are presented and discussed in Section IV. The conclusion and future work appear in Section V.

II. BACKGROUND

This section provides a brief overview of the concepts used later in the paper. These concepts include singleton and non-singleton FLS and the FOU creation method with their use in different fuzzification types.

A. Singleton and Non-singleton Type-1 Fuzzy Logic System

According to the type of fuzzification [14], T1 FLSs can be divided into singleton fuzzy logic system (SFLS) and non-singleton fuzzy logic system (NSFLS), which are presented below. T1 FLS (as shown in Fig. 1) is described by T1 FSs and consists of four components, which are the fuzzifier, the rule base, the inference engine and the defuzzifier [14].

In singleton T1 FLS, crisp inputs are first fuzzified, usually into input T1 FSs. These activate the inference engine and the rule base to produce output T1 FSs which are then combined to produce an aggregated T1 output FSs. The defuzzifier finally defuzzifies the aggregated T1 fuzzy outputs to produce crisp outputs. Further detail on SFLSs can be found for example in [12] [14].

A T1 FLS whose inputs are modelled as T1/IT2 FSs is referred to as ‘T1/IT2 non-singleton T1 FLS’. A T1/IT2 non-singleton T1 FLS has the same structure as a singleton T1 FLS, see Fig. 1, and they share the same type of rules; the

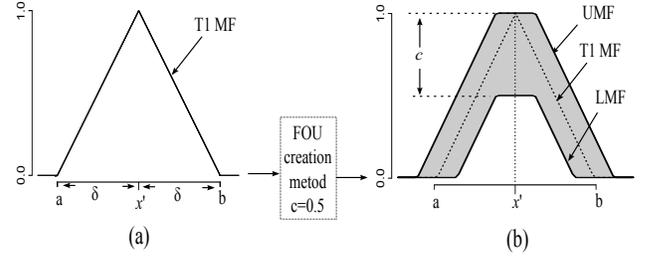


Fig. 2. Illustration example of the FOU creation of IT2 MF by transitioning from (a) initial T1 FS to (b) IT2 FS obtained using FOU size parameter $c = 0.5$.

major difference is the type of fuzzification. The majority of FLSs are using SFLS because the singleton fuzzification is simpler and faster to compute. In singleton fuzzification, inputs are considered to be singleton FSs, while the non-singleton fuzzification models the FLS inputs as FSs. More details on NSFLSs can be found for example in [12], [14], [20].

B. FOU Creation Method to represent the Input Value

As previously introduced in [25], this method is used to obtain an IT2 FSs with a uniform (constant) FOU over the ‘core’ of the FS. This method based on a fixed parameter c that is used to create an FOU of a given size around a principal (T1) MF. In order to create the IT2 FSs based on the uncertainty parameter c and the T1 MF, we employ (1) and (2) shown below to create the resulting upper membership function (UMF) and lower membership function (LMF) respectively.

$$\bar{\mu}_{x_i}(x_i) = \min\left(\mu_{x_i}(x_i) + \frac{c}{2}, 1.0\right) \quad (1)$$

$$\underline{\mu}_{x_i}(x_i) = \min\left(\max\left(\mu_{x_i}(x_i) - \frac{c}{2}, 0\right), 1.0 - c\right), \quad (2)$$

where $\mu_{x_i}(x_i)$ relates to the T1 MFs such as the triangular FS shown in (4) and c is the FOU size parameter. For more details on this method we refer the reader to [25]. A more detailed illustration of the FOU design of the IT2 FS is depicted in Fig. 2. In Fig. 2(a) the possible range which the triangular T1 MF center (mean) can vary is considered to be $\pm\delta$ (will be detailed in II-B2)

1) *Singleton Type-1 FLS with Singleton Fuzzy Sets to Represent the Input Value*: In singleton T1 FLS, the fuzzifier converts the crisp inputs into linguistic terms with given membership value to activate the rule base and inference engine. The fuzzification between singleton fuzzy input and antecedent T1 FS to obtain the membership values of input i within rule r can be found as follows:

$$\mu_i^r(x_i) = \mu_{F_r^i}(x_i), \quad (3)$$

where x_i is the i^{th} input value and $\mu_{F_r^i}(x_i)$ is the membership value of the antecedent T1 FS.

2) *Type-1 Non-Singleton Type-1 FLS with Triangular Fuzzy Sets to Represent the Input Value*: In type-1 non-singleton type-1 FLSs, the fuzzy inputs can be modelled using triangular, Gaussian or any other MF shape. The considered non-singleton fuzzy inputs employ triangular MF, and are centred at the given input value. The spread of the FS is related to the amount of uncertainty facing the FLS (e.g., the additive noise standard deviation). In our case the possible range which each triangular center (mean) can vary is considered to be $\pm\delta$, where δ is related to the additive noise standard deviation.

The membership value of the triangular T1 fuzzy inputs in a T1 non-singleton type-1 FLS can be written as:

$$\mu_{x_i}(x_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & x_i \leq a \\ \frac{x_i-a}{x'_i-a} & a \leq x_i \leq x'_i \\ \frac{b-x_i}{b-x'_i} & x'_i \leq x_i \leq b \\ 0 & x_i \geq b \end{cases}, \quad (4)$$

where, x_i is the i^{th} input value, x'_i is the input value, $a = (x'_i - \delta)$ is the left endpoint, and $b = (x'_i + \delta)$ is the right endpoint.

The fuzzifier converts the fuzzy input into linguistic terms with given membership value to activate the rule base and inference engine. The composition between type-1 fuzzy input and antecedent T1 FS to obtain the membership values of input i within rule r can be found as follows:

$$\mu_i^r(x_i) = \sup_{x_i \in X_i} (\mu_{x_i}(x_i) * \mu_{F_i^r}(x_i)), \quad (5)$$

where $\mu_{x_i}(x_i)$ is the membership value of the T1 fuzzy input and $\mu_{F_i^r}(x_i)$ is the membership value of the antecedent T1 FS. In this paper, the ‘sup’ operation is considered to be maximum t-conorm and the * operation is considered to be the product. The antecedent/consequent type-1 fuzzy sets are shown in Fig. 3 whereas the triangular type-1 fuzzy input when x'_i is the i^{th} input value is shown in Fig. 2 (a).

3) *Interval Type-2 Non-Singleton Type-1 FLS with Triangular Fuzzy Sets to Represent the Input Value*: In the literature considering the application of IT2 FLSs, the mostly considered are the use of singleton T2 FLSs in which the inputs are crisp values. Also, few papers considered the use of T2 non-singleton T2 FLSs [14]–[17] where the uncertainty in inputs are modelled using type-2 fuzzy inputs. However, to the best of our knowledge, no work presented so far considering the use of IT2 non-singleton T1 FLSs where the uncertainty in inputs to a T1 FLS are modelled using IT2 fuzzy inputs. The later approach as well as the previous two (in subsections II-B1 and II-B2) will be adopted in this paper.

Our previous work in [25] (summarised above in Section II-B) is adjusted to be used here to generate appropriate FOU for the input FSs based on input uncertainty. In order to create the IT2 version of each initial T1 set, the FOU size is specified using the parameter $c \in [0, 1]$. Note that $c = 0$ results in an input T1 FS with the original MF while $c = 1.0$ results in an input IT2 set with a very wide FOU.

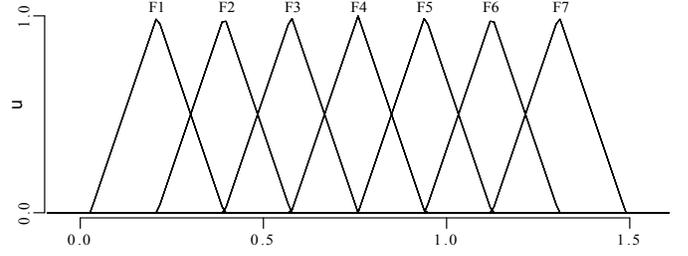


Fig. 3. The antecedent/consequent type-1 fuzzy sets

The upper membership value of the IT2 fuzzy input $\bar{\mu}_{x_i}(x_i)$ and the lower membership value of the IT2 fuzzy input $\underline{\mu}_{x_i}(x_i)$ can be obtained from (1) and (2) respectively.

The composition between IT2 fuzzy input and the antecedent T1 FS for finding the upper and lower membership values of input i within rule r can be obtained using the following equations, (6) and (7) respectively.

$$\bar{\mu}_i^r(x_i) = \sup_{x_i \in X_i} (\bar{\mu}_{x_i}(x_i) * \mu_{F_i^r}(x_i)), \quad (6)$$

$$\underline{\mu}_i^r(x_i) = \sup_{x_i \in X_i} (\underline{\mu}_{x_i}(x_i) * \mu_{F_i^r}(x_i)), \quad (7)$$

where $\bar{\mu}_i^r(x_i)$ and $\underline{\mu}_i^r(x_i)$ are the upper and lower membership values of fuzzy input, and $\mu_{F_i^r}(x_i)$ is the membership value of the antecedent T1 FS. In this paper, the ‘sup’ operation is considered to be maximum t-conorm and the * operation is considered to be the product. The antecedent/consequent type-1 fuzzy sets are shown in Fig. 3 whereas the IT2 fuzzy input when x'_i is the i^{th} input value is shown in Fig. 2(b).

After considering the proposed FOU creation technique for input fuzzy sets and their fuzzification process, we proceed to an experimental exploration of the different behaviour of IT2 input FSs created using FOU creation method when transitioning from an input T1 to an input IT2 FS.

III. EXPERIMENTS METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

A. Experimental Data

1) *Mackey-Glass Time Series*: FLSs have been successfully used in forecasting of time series [14], [27]–[29]. As the level of noise/uncertainty is easily controllable, we use time-series prediction here as a testbed to explore the different approaches to IT2 FLS generation. We use the Mackey-Glass (MG) time series which is a chaotic time series proposed in [30]. It is a first-order differential-delay equation originally used to model physiological systems. It is generated from the following non-linear differential equation:

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \frac{a * x(t - \tau)}{1 + x^n(t - \tau)} - b * x(t) \quad (8)$$

where a , b and n are constant real numbers, t is the current time and τ is the delay time. For $\tau \leq 17$, the system is known to exhibit a deterministic/periodic behaviour which turns chaotic with $\tau > 17$. To obtain simulation data, (8) is

used in this paper with the following parameters: $a = 0.2$, $b = 0.1$, $\tau = 30$ and $n = 10$ and solved using Euler's method [31] with a step size equal to 1.0. The initial values of $x(t)$ for all values of $t \leq \tau$ are set to 0.9.

2) *Additive Noise*: To make the prediction more challenging, noise can be added to the time series. The level of noise is commonly measured by the SNR where a high SNR refers to a more clear signal (low noise) and a low SNR refers to a more noisy signal (high amount of noise). The formula for the SNR (in dBs) [14] is:

$$\text{SNR (in dBs)} = 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left(\frac{\sigma_{\text{signal}}^2}{\sigma_{\text{noise}}^2} \right), \quad (9)$$

where σ_{signal}^2 is the variance of the signal and σ_{noise}^2 is the variance of the noise. To find σ_{noise} , we solve (9) for σ_{noise} as, i.e.:

$$\sigma_{\text{noise}} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{signal}}}{10^{\left(\frac{\text{SNR}}{20}\right)}} \quad (10)$$

Then, the additive noise can be generated, for example from a uniform distribution by using a uniform random variable with zero-mean in the interval $[-\delta, \delta]$, where $\delta = \sqrt{3}\sigma_{\text{noise}}$. (Note that the variance σ^2 of a uniform random variable in $[-\delta, \delta]$ is $\frac{\delta^2}{3}$) [28].

In order to explore the non-singleton fuzzification of T1 FLSs by transitioning from T1 to IT2 non-singleton input FSs subjected to various levels of uncertainty/noise, we conduct a series of experiments for forecasting of the noisy MG time series.

The steps that describe the initial design of the T1 non-singleton T1 FLSs for a given application and its subsequent transformation into one or more non-singleton IT2 T1 FLSs under different levels of uncertainty/noise can be summarized as follows.

- 1) Time series data generation.
- 2) T1 and IT2 non-singleton FSs creation.
- 3) Non-singleton T1 FLSs design and rule base creation.
- 4) T1/IT2 non-singleton T1 FLSs evaluation.

As discussed, we generate a data set (both training and testing data) from MG time series corrupted with different levels of noise as sources of uncertainty. Next, we start the design of input non-singleton T1 FS and a series of non-singleton IT2 input FSs by generating IT2 FSs using the FOU size parameter c to form the IT2 MFs of the input FSs. Then, we design T1 FLS employing evenly distributed T1 FSs and create the rule base by applying the Wang-Mendel (WM) method [32] using the noise free training data set. The actual number of FSs and the rules are maintained from the T1 system designed based on the NF training data. Finally, the performance of each of the T1 FLSs (with different T1/IT2 non-singleton input FSs) is evaluated for each of the testing data sets to determine the best mapping between the FLSs (with different input FOU sizes) and the noise levels.

B. Time Series Data Generation

Assume a time series $x(t)$, where $t = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N$. For a single stage prediction for x , we consider p past known data points of $x(t)$ to predict the future value $x(t+1)$. So, the past data of $x(t)$ time series: $x(t-p+1), x(t-p+2), x(t-p+3), \dots, x(t)$ are used to predict the future value $x(t+1)$. Further, if these points contain noise/uncertainty, we refer to the given value of the time series $x(t)$ as $s(t)$, where $s(t) = x(t) + n(t)$ and $n(t)$ is the noise [14]. The N given time series data samples are commonly split into D training points and $(N-D)$ testing points where one usually obtains the training data points as $(x(1), x(2), x(3), \dots, x(D))$ and testing data as $(x(D+1), x(D+2), x(D+3), \dots, x(N))$.

In this paper, a single-stage prediction for the MG chaotic time series is used (i.e. to predict the future value $x(t+1)$). We have considered a uniform noise generated from a uniform random variable as discussed in Section (III-A2).

In this step, Noise-free (NF) data is generated using (8) for the MG time series with the parameters and the numerical solutions of the differential equations stated above.

Based on these data we proceed to design a four-input, one-output T1 FLS for the MG time series. Specifically, we extract 700 input-output data pairs as described above. The first 500 pairs (the training dataset) were used for training the FLSs by generating the rules and finding the values of δ at each noise level (i.e., $\delta = \sqrt{3}\sigma_{\text{noise}}$) using $x(1001)$ to $x(1504)$. The remaining 200 pairs (the data testing set) using $x(1505)$ to $x(1708)$ were used as basis for testing the systems.

In this work, different versions of the training and the testing data are generated, i.e. the data is corrupted with a zero-mean uniform noise for different SNRs. We use 12 noise levels in training and testing data. Specifically, we use discretized levels from 0dB to 20dB with increments of 2, as well as the original NF data set (noise-free). Fig. 4 shows examples of the training and the testing data of the the MG time series at NF data and two different SNR level (10 and 0 dBs). Table I shows the delta (δ) values for different noise levels from MG time series training data corrupted by different levels of noise. These values are used to design the T1 non-singleton inputs and will be detailed in the next subsection.

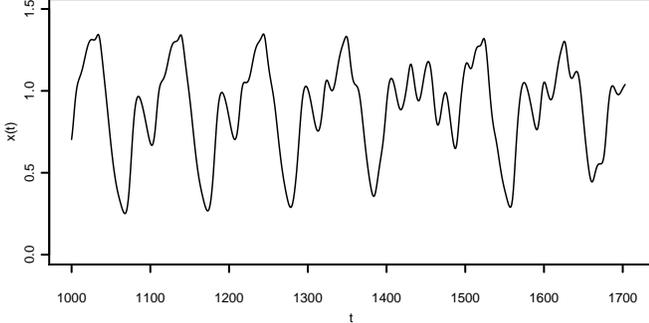
C. Type-1 and Interval Type-2 Non-singleton Fuzzy Sets Creation

In this step, first, the T1 non-singleton FS is initially designed by incorporating the information from the noise levels in each training data sets at different SNR level. From Table I, we can see that in NF data, the (δ) value is 0 by assuming that there is a relatively very small or no uncertainty/noise is present in the NF data. In this case the input is crisp value and modelled as a singleton FS as shown in Table II. Whereas, in the case shown in Table III, where value of delta (δ)= 0.159 at SNR = 10 dB, the input value is modelled as T1 non-singleton FS (see column 4). Note that the FOU size c in this case is equal to zero.

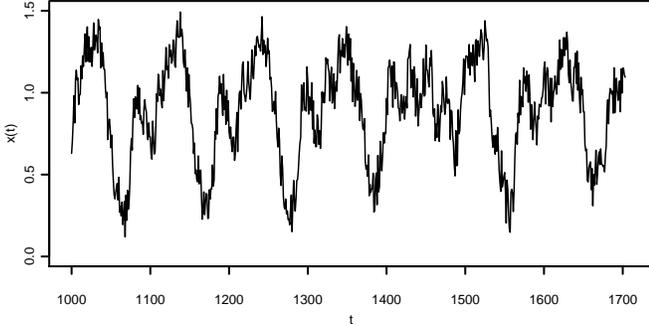
Then, we extend the non-singleton T1 FS into a series of non-singleton IT2 FSs using the FOU creation approach

TABLE I
DELTA VALUES FOR DIFFERENT NOISE LEVELS FROM MG TIME SERIES CORRUPTED BY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF NOISE

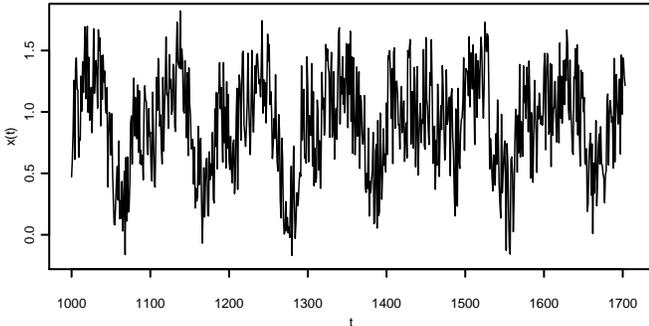
SNR (dB)	NF	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0
Delta (δ)	0	0.05	0.063	0.08	0.1	0.126	0.159	0.20	0.252	0.317	0.399	0.502



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig. 4. Examples of the training and the testing data of the the MG time series. (a) NF data, where training is performed with 500 input-output pairs in $x(1001), x(1002), \dots, x(1504)$ and testing is done with 200 input-output pairs in $x(1505), x(1506), \dots, x(1708)$. (b) Training and testing data are corrupted with noise at SNR level 10dB and (c) at SNR level 0dB.

presented in Section II-B. First, the FOU size parameter $c \in [0, 1]$ is discretized to a set of 11 values starting at 0 (T1 FS) and increasing to a maximum of 1.0 in increments of 0.1. For the FOU size parameter $c = 0.0$, the IT2 FSs reduce to the original T1 FSs, whereas for $c = 1.0$, the IT2 FS reaches the maximum amount of their width (i.e. the FOU covers the entire primary membership). Thus, we design 11 IT2 FSs, where each T1 FLS was designed using specific

TABLE II
ILLUSTRATION OF INPUT AT GIVEN x' WITH NF DATA

	input	δ	singleton FS
NF	x'	0	

modelled input FS with non-singleton T1/IT2 FSs with the given FOU size parameter c .

To construct the UMF and LMF of the input IT2 FSs, we use the FOU creation method detailed in Section II-B and apply equations (1) and (2) respectively by combining the T1 FSs with the chosen FOU size represented by the FOU size parameter c . An example of input FSs design using the FOU creation method at given x' with MG time series data corrupted with 10db SNR level are shown in Table III.

D. Non-singleton Type-1 FLS Design and Rule Base Creation

In this step, the number of triangular MFs assigned to each input and output of the T1 FLS was chosen to be seven (see Fig. 3). While a higher number of MFs would enable a better performance, seven proved a good compromise for readability (in figures) and reasonable performance – in particular as optimal prediction performance is not a primary aim in this paper. First, we defined the FSs to evenly cover the input and output spaces. Then, we apply the WM method [32] in order to generate the rules from the given input-output pairs (noise-free training data).

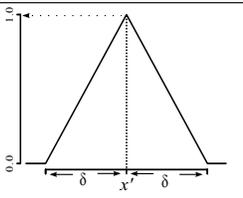
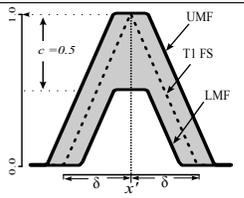
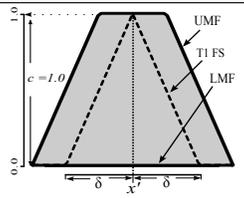
The actual number of FSs and the rules are maintained from the T1 system designed based on the NF training data. All the common parameters of the SFLSs and NSFLSs are the same. For all experiments, σ_x in the NSFLS case is set equal to the standard deviation of the additive noise. In a noise free situation for which $\sigma_x = 0$, the performance of the NSFLS is identical to that of the SFLS.

In the current paper, it is the input FSs only that are later modified to generate different T1 FLSs. The same rule base is employed for all FLSs in order to enable the comparison of all FLSs with a sole focus on their input FSs (rather than having differences differences in the rules). The resulting rules are used for all FLSs used in our experiments in order to enable a comparison which focuses on the inputs FSs.

E. T1/IT2 Non-Singleton T1 Fuzzy Logic Systems Evaluation

After finishing the design of the T1/IT2 non-singleton T1 FLSs with the chosen FOU sizes, in this step, the testing data

TABLE III
AN EXAMPLE OF INPUT FS DESIGN AT GIVEN x' WITH MG TIME SERIES DATA CORRUPTED WITH 10DB SNR LEVEL

			input IT2 FSs at different FOU size c		
SNR (dB)	input	δ	$c = 0$	$c = 0.5$	$c = 1.0$
10	x'	0.159			

sets are used to test the performance of the individual non-singleton T1 FLSs when faced the different uncertainty/noise levels. Now that we have 11 T1 FLSs, each using different FOU sizes determined by the given c , we test each of the FLSs against 12 levels of noise in order to determine which input FOU size results in the best performance for each given noise level. Each test is repeated 30 times to account for the random generation of the noise.

The performances of all the designs are evaluated using their root mean square error (RMSE) [14] based on (11), i.e.,

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{200} \sum_{k=1508}^{1707} [s(k+1) - f(\mathbf{s}^{(k)})]^2} \quad (11)$$

where, $s(k+1)$ is the output of the noisy testing data and $f(\mathbf{s}^{(k)})$ is the crisp output of the FLS, and, $\mathbf{s}^{(k)} = [s(k-3), s(k-2), s(k-1), s(k)]^T$.

The RMSE results are averaged over 30 runs and are depicted in Table IV showing the results of the MG time series. Each column (except the 1st one that is showing singleton results) represents FLS design with a given FOU size parameter c whereas the rows show the average RMSE values for uniform noise at the different SNR values for all FOU sizes/FLSs. The bold values are the minimum of each average RMSE representing the best T1 FLS (based on the respective FOU size) at a particular SNR level.

IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the experiment results are analysed and discussed. The presented experiments investigate modelling uncertainty in the input FSs using non-singleton fuzzification applied to the MG time series prediction.

The average RMSE values for the MG TSP using singleton and T1/IT2 (with different FOU sizes) non-singleton T1 FLS at different noise levels are depicted in Table IV. For a better illustration of the results in Table IV, we show a visual representation of the results in Fig. 5. This figure shows the RMSE values of SFLSs and NSFLSs using different noise levels (different SNR values) of testing data corrupted with different levels of noise for the MG time series. Fig. 5 illustrates the RMSE value of one singleton and 11 T1/IT2 non-singleton T1 FLSs using different noise levels at different SNR values

starting from noise free data (NF) and ending with the highest noise level (0dB) of the MG time series testing data. The eleven chosen FOU sizes in these experiments appear in the graph x axis and each is tested at different noise level from NF to 0 dB. From Fig. 5, it is clear that there is a direct relationship between the input FOU size and the noise level in relation to the achieved performance. As the uncertainty/noise level increases (SNR decreases), the FOU size of the input FSs with best performance (i.e. giving the minimum RMSE value) increases.

The first column of Table IV contains the performance results of the singleton T1 FLS. The second column contains the results of T1 non-singleton T1 FLSs (designed using FOU size parameter $c = 0.0$ which reduces to the original T1 FS) tested at different noise levels. From these results, we can see that T1 non-singleton is outperforming singleton T1 FLS at all noise levels.

Moving to the right in Table IV, the FOU size parameter c is increasing and the inputs modelling are transitioning from T1 ($c = 0$) to IT2 FSs that designed using the proposed FOU creation method with constant FOU size over the core of the primary membership domain. The performance clearly increases with the increased FOU size at each noise level. The reduction of the performance is started at $c = 1.0$ where the FOU covers the entire primary membership (i.e., LMF is entirely on the primary variable x -axis) [33], and only the UMF of the IT2 input FS is used in the fuzzification and accordingly is considered as T1 non-singleton fuzzification case (see the last column of Table III).

Finally, Fig. 6 shows a sample output of MG TSP using singleton T1 FLS and T1 non-singleton / IT2 non-singleton T1 FLSs with two different FOU sizes tested at three different chosen SNR levels: 20, 10 and 0 dBs. From the figure, we can note that the non-singleton T1 FLSs are performing better than singleton FLS especially at the higher level of uncertainty/noise such as 0dB. As the the FOU size of the IT2 FS increase the performance of IT2 non-singleton increases as well.

V. CONCLUSION

As part of this paper, we presented an empirical approach for transitioning from T1 input FS to non-singleton IT2 input FSs for different levels of uncertainty (noise) in the context

TABLE IV

THE AVERAGE RMSE VALUES FOR THE MG TSP USING SINGLETON AND T1/IT2 (WITH DIFFERENT FOU SIZES) NON-SINGLETON T1 FLSs AT DIFFERENT NOISE LEVELS. THE VALUES IN BOLD INDICATE THE MINIMUM OF EACH AVERAGE RMSE REPRESENTING THE BEST FLS (BASED ON THE RESPECTIVE FOU SIZE) AT A PARTICULAR SNR LEVEL

SNR(dB)	Input FSs type and FOU size c											
	singleton	IT2 FSs										
		$c = 0$	$c = 0.1$	$c = 0.2$	$c = 0.3$	$c = 0.4$	$c = 0.5$	$c = 0.6$	$c = 0.7$	$c = 0.8$	$c = 0.9$	$c = 1.0$
NF*	0.031											
20	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.043	0.044	0.046	0.049	0.053	0.058	0.068
18	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.049	0.051	0.053	0.056	0.061	0.076
16	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.056	0.058	0.060	0.065	0.078
14	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.065	0.070	0.081
12	0.078	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.075	0.094
10	0.100	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.085	0.084	0.081	0.079	0.079	0.082	0.105
8	0.151	0.105	0.104	0.103	0.101	0.099	0.096	0.093	0.090	0.089	0.091	0.111
6	0.233	0.122	0.121	0.120	0.118	0.115	0.111	0.107	0.104	0.101	0.102	0.126
4	0.335	0.141	0.140	0.138	0.136	0.132	0.128	0.123	0.119	0.115	0.114	0.136
2	0.430	0.164	0.163	0.161	0.157	0.153	0.148	0.143	0.138	0.134	0.129	0.151
0	0.515	0.192	0.191	0.188	0.184	0.179	0.173	0.167	0.161	0.156	0.151	0.168

*NF: Noise Free Data

of a non-singleton FLS. The goal of this work is not to achieve the best performance in applications such as in time series prediction, but to study and present approaches for the modelling of uncertainty in FLS inputs using solely interval type-2 non-singleton fuzzification. The latter is valuable as the uncertainty in system inputs can directly be related to the FOU of the input FSs, while the rest of the FLS (antecedent and consequent FSs) can remain T1 FSs unless information on their respective uncertainty characteristics are known. This approach is adopting an FOU creation method initially designed to determine an appropriate antecedent FS FOU and adjusted in this paper to generate appropriate FOU for the input FSs based on input uncertainty, achieving potentially more efficient FLS design.

The proposed approach enables both the adaptation of the non-singleton IT2 FS for known levels of uncertainty (i.e. by increasing FOU size with increasing uncertainty) and the systematic comparison of the original T1 non-singleton T1 FLS to the resulting new IT2 non-singleton T1 FLS(s). This method shows the transitioning between different non-singleton FSs employed in different T1 FLSs showing best performance as the FOU size of employed IT2 FSs increases in relation to the increase of uncertainty/noise levels.

In order to explore the behaviour of the proposed approach, we conducted detailed performance comparison and evaluation in the context of time series analysis. The results indicate in general that T1 FLSs based on IT2 non-singleton FSs outperform those based on non-singleton T1 FS and singleton fuzzification. However, as the FOU size of the employed IT2 FS reached $c = 1.0$ the fuzzification process is converted into T1 non-singleton case because the FOU covers the entire primary membership. Only the UMF of the IT2 input FS is used in the fuzzification and accordingly is considered as T1

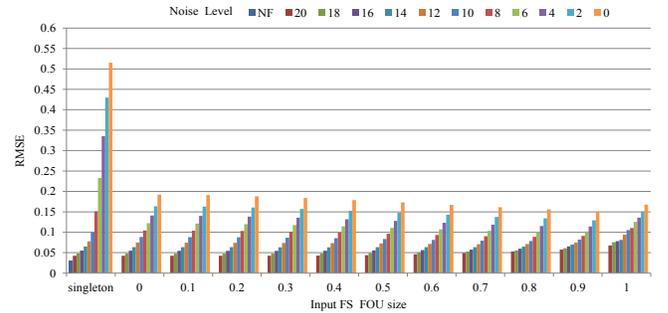


Fig. 5. RMSE value of one singleton and 11 T1/IT2 non-singleton T1 FLSs using different noise levels at different SNR values of the MG time series testing data

non-singleton fuzzification case resulting to reduction in the T1 FLS performance.

As part of future work, we will explore the methodological generation of both input FSs and the antecedents FSs of the system as an IT2 FSs to model both types of the uncertainties: uncertainty of the input data and the uncertainty associated with the linguistic terms of the FLS.

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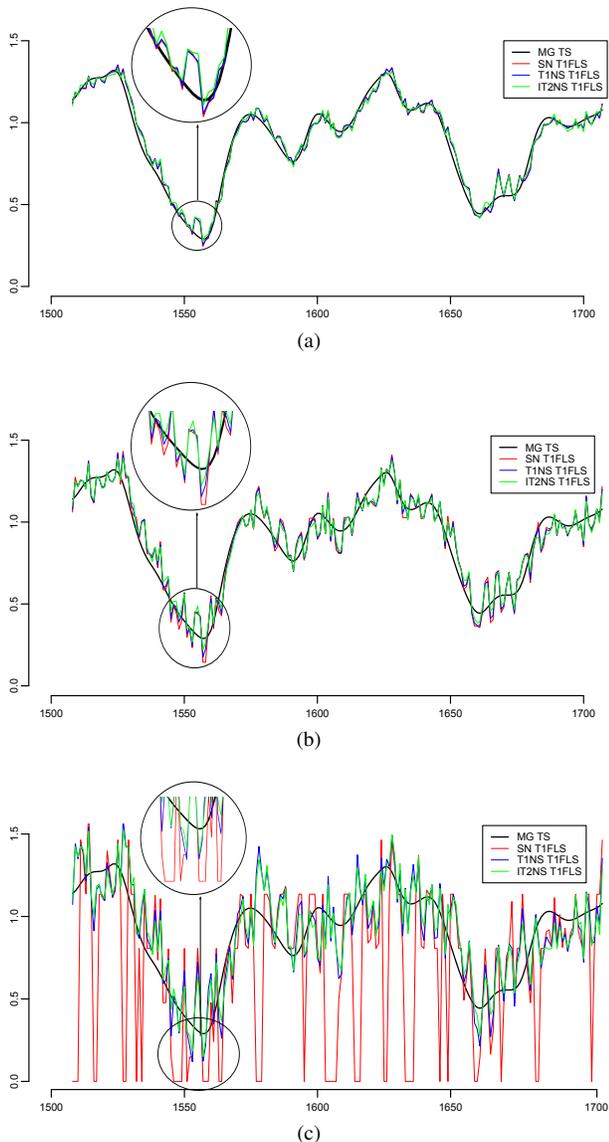


Fig. 6. Sample output of MG TSP using T1 FLS, T1NS T1 FLS (with $c = 0$) and IT2NS T1 FLS (with $c = 0.5$) at different SNR: (a) 20 dB, (b) 10 dB and (c) 0 dB.

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