

# Inclusion measure for intuitionistic fuzzy sets and embedding of intervals

Michaela Bruteničová<sup>1</sup> and Vladimír Janiš<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Mathematics, Matej Bel University  
Tajovského 40, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia  
e-mail: michaela.brutenicova@umb.sk

<sup>2</sup> Department of Mathematics, Matej Bel University  
Tajovského 40, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia  
e-mail: vladimir.janis@umb.sk

**Received:** 20 November 2024

**Accepted:** 7 December 2024

**Revised:** 5 December 2024

**Revised:** 13 December 2024

**Abstract:** Comparison of measuring the degree of inclusion for two intuitionistic fuzzy sets (IF-sets) and measuring the degree of embedding of two intervals is considered. Embedding is understood as the classical inclusion of intervals. Inclusion of IF-sets is based on a specific order. In case that the nonmembership function does not exceed the membership function in an IF set, and we replace formally the IF-set by an interval-valued fuzzy set, then the inclusion of IF-sets corresponds to an embedding of interval-valued sets. The embedding measure for interval-valued fuzzy sets was defined previously and we compare the concept of embedding with the inclusion of IF-sets.

**Keywords:** Inclusion measure, Embedding measure, Intuitionistic fuzzy sets.

**2020 Mathematics Subject Classification:** 03E72.

## 1 Introduction

Intuitionistic fuzzy sets and interval-valued fuzzy sets are two of many generalizations of fuzzy sets, which were introduced by Zadeh in 1965 (see [18]).



Intuitionistic fuzzy sets (IF-sets) were introduced by Atanassov in 1983 [1].

$$IFS(A) = \{ \langle x, \mu_A(x), \nu_A(x) \rangle : x \in X \},$$

where  $\mu_A, \nu_A : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  are functions determining the degrees of membership and of non-membership of element  $x \in X$  to  $A$  and

$$0 \leq \mu_A(x) + \nu_A(x) \leq 1.$$

The degree of uncertainty is denoted by  $\pi_A$  and  $\pi_A(x) = 1 - \mu_A(x) - \nu_A(x)$ .

Interval-valued fuzzy sets (IVF-sets) were introduced independently by Zadeh [19], Grattan-Guinness [8], Jahn [10], Sambuc [12], in the following way:

$$IVFS(X) = \{ \langle x, M_A(x) \rangle : x \in X \},$$

where  $M_A(x) \subseteq [0, 1]$  is a closed interval and expresses that the degree of membership of an element  $x \in X$  is included in that interval. The IVF-sets represent a special case of lattice-valued fuzzy sets. They were introduced by Goguen in 1967 (see [7]) and it is possible to describe them by a lattice  $(L^1, \leq_{L^1})$  where  $L^1 = \{ [\underline{a}, \bar{a}] : [\underline{a}, \bar{a}] \in [0, 1]^2 \text{ and } \underline{a} \leq \bar{a} \}$ ,  $[\underline{a}, \bar{a}] \leq_{L^1} [\underline{b}, \bar{b}]$  if and only if  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}$  and  $\bar{a} \leq \bar{b}$ ,  $[\underline{a}, \bar{a}] \wedge [\underline{b}, \bar{b}] = [\min(\underline{a}, \underline{b}), \min(\bar{a}, \bar{b})]$ ,  $[\underline{a}, \bar{a}]^c = [1 - \bar{a}, 1 - \underline{a}]$ , with  $0_{L^1} = [0, 0]$  and  $1_{L^1} = [1, 1]$ . The order  $\leq_{L^1}$  is known as the lattice order.

It is possible to describe IF-sets by the lattice  $(L^*, \leq_{L^*})$  where  $L^* = \{ [\underline{a}, \bar{a}] \in [0, 1]^2 : \underline{a} + \bar{a} \leq 1 \}$ ,  $[\underline{a}, \bar{a}] \leq_{L^*} [\underline{b}, \bar{b}] \Leftrightarrow \underline{a} \leq \underline{b} \text{ and } \bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$ ,  $[\underline{a}, \bar{a}] \wedge [\underline{b}, \bar{b}] = [\min(\underline{a}, \underline{b}), \max(\bar{a}, \bar{b})]$ ,  $[\underline{a}, \bar{a}]^c = [\bar{a}, \underline{a}]$ , with  $0_{L^*} = [0, 1]$  and  $1_{L^*} = [1, 0]$ . The IF-sets  $\emptyset_{IFS}$  and  $X_{IFS}$  are defined as  $\emptyset_{IFS} = \{ \langle x, 0, 1 \rangle : x \in X \}$  and  $X_{IFS} = \{ \langle x, 1, 0 \rangle : x \in X \}$ . Every IF-set  $\langle x, \mu_A(x), \nu_A(x) \rangle$  can be represented as an IVF-set (see [3, 6]) for every  $x \in X$  such as

$$\langle x, [\mu_A(x), 1 - \nu_A(x)] \rangle.$$

In general the inclusion of fuzzy sets  $A, B$  is defined as

$$A \subseteq_F B \Leftrightarrow A(x) \leq_F B(x), \text{ for all } x \in X$$

where  $\leq_F$  is the corresponding order for fuzzy sets. In our case

$$A \subseteq_{IVF} B \Leftrightarrow A(x) \leq_{L^1} B(x), \text{ for all } x \in X,$$

$$A \subseteq_{IF} B \Leftrightarrow A(x) \leq_{L^*} B(x), \text{ for all } x \in X.$$

## 2 Inclusion measures

There are more approaches to measuring the degree of inclusion for fuzzy sets. In the original works by Atanassov (see e.g. [2]) an IF-set  $\langle x, \mu_A(x), \nu_A(x) \rangle$  is a subset of  $\langle x, \mu_B(x), \nu_B(x) \rangle$  if and only if for any  $x$  there is  $\mu_A(x) \leq \mu_B(x)$  and  $\nu_A(x) \geq \nu_B(x)$ . This relation is obviously crisp. Later some generalizations appeared, allowing it to obtain more degrees than just 0 or 1. The best known axiomatizations were presented by Kitainik [11], Sinha and Dougherty [13], or Young [16].

Cornelis and Kerre [5] extended one of the approaches and proposed the axioms for the inclusion measure  $Inc$  what is a mapping  $IFS(X) \times IFS(X) \rightarrow L^*$ .

**Definition 1.** The mapping  $Inc : IFS(X) \times IFS(X) \rightarrow L^*$  is an inclusion measure in the sense of Cornelis and Kerre, if the following properties hold:

(CK1)  $Inc(A, B) = Inc(B^c, A^c)$ ;

(CK2)  $Inc(A, B \cap C) = \inf(Inc(A, B), Inc(A, C))$ ;

(CK3)  $Inc(A, B) = Inc(P(A), P(B))$ , where  $P$  is a  $IFS(X) \rightarrow IFS(X)$  mapping defined for  $x \in X$  as  $P(A)(x) = A(p(x))$ , and  $p$  is a permutation of  $X$  ;

(CK4a)  $Inc(A, B) = [1, 0]$  if and only if  $A \subseteq_{IFS} B$ ;

(CK4b)  $Inc(A, B) = [0, 1]$  if and only if  $(\exists x \in X : A(x) = [1, 0] \text{ and } B(x) = [0, 1])$ ;

(CK4c) If  $A, B \in F(X)$ , then  $Inc(A, B) \in D$  ( $D = \{[a, b] \in L^* : a + b = 1\}$ ).

Despite the intuition that the values of the degree of the inclusion measure should be also uncertain enough, namely the element of  $L^*$ , the inclusion measure  $Inc : IFS(X) \times IFS(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is preferred. The following axiomatization based on axioms of Young was proposed by Vlachos and Sergiadis [14], and Xie, Han and Mi [15].

**Definition 2.** The mapping  $Inc : IFS(X) \times IFS(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is an inclusion measure in the sense of Young, if the following properties hold:

(Y1)  $Inc(A, B) = 1$  if and only if  $A \subseteq_{IFS} B$

(Y2) If  $A^c \subseteq_{IFS} A$  (i.e.  $\mu_A(x) \geq \nu_A(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ ), then  $Inc(A, A^c) = 0$  if and only if  $A = X_{IFS}$  ]

(Y3a) If  $A \subseteq_{IFS} B \subseteq_{IFS} C$ , then  $Inc(C, A) \leq Inc(B, A)$ ]

(Y3b) if  $A \subseteq_{IFS} B$ , then  $Inc(C, A) \leq Inc(C, B)$ .

In 2007, Zhang et al. [20] proposed another axiomatization, which is intended for IF-sets and also for IVF-sets. The axioms are formulated for a general case of a lattice  $L$ .

**Definition 3.** The mapping  $Inc : L \times L \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a hybrid monotonic inclusion measure on a lattice  $L$  in the sense of Zhang, if the following properties hold:

(Z1)  $0 \leq Inc(a, b) \leq 1$ , for all  $a, b \in L$

(Z2)  $Inc(a, b) = 0$  if  $a = 1_L$  and  $b = 0_L$

(Z3)  $Inc(a, b) = 1$  if and only if  $a \leq_L b$ , for all  $a, b \in L$

(Z4) if  $a \leq_L b$ , then  $Inc(c, a) \leq Inc(c, b)$  and  $Inc(b, c) \leq Inc(a, c)$  for all  $c \in L$

In 2008 Yu and Luo [17] proposed another axiomatization.

**Definition 4.** The mapping  $Inc : IFS(X) \times IFS(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is an inclusion measure in the sense of Yu and Luo, if the following properties hold:

(YL1) If  $A \subseteq_{IFS} B$ , then  $Inc(A, B) = 1$ ;

(YL2)  $Inc(X_{IFS}, \emptyset_{IFS}) = 0$ ;

(YL3) If  $A \subseteq_{IFS} B \subseteq_{IFS} C$ , then  $Inc(C, A) = \min(Inc(B, A), Inc(C, B))$ .

There exist also other approaches on how to measure inclusion of IF-sets. The one based on possible and necessary inclusion is given by Grzegorzewski in [9].

In 2023 Bouchet et al. [4] defined the measure of embedding for interval-valued fuzzy sets. Embedding of intervals is understood as classical inclusion of intervals, so

$$A \subseteq B \Leftrightarrow A(x) \subseteq B(x), \text{ for all } x \in X.$$

**Definition 5.** The mapping  $Emb : IVFS(X) \times IVFS(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is an embedding measure for interval-valued fuzzy sets, if the following properties hold:

(E1)  $Emb(A, B) = 1$  if and only if  $A \subseteq B$

(E2) If  $A(x) \cap B(x) = \emptyset$  for all  $x \in X$ , then  $Emb(A, B) = 0$

(E3) If  $Emb(B, C) = 1$ , then  $Emb(A, B) \leq Emb(A, C)$  for every  $A \in IVFS(X)$

(E4) If  $Emb(A, B) = Emb(B, C) = 1$ , then  $Emb(C, A) \leq Emb(B, A)$

One kind of construction of embedding, proposed in [4], is based on a mapping  $E : L([0, 1]) \times L([0, 1]) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  where  $L([0, 1])$  is the set of all closed subintervals of  $[0, 1]$ . The axioms for the measure  $E$  are analogous to the axioms for a measure  $Emb$ . The trivial embedding measure of intervals  $E_0 : L([0, 1]) \times L([0, 1]) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is defined as follows

$$E_0(a, b) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a \subseteq b, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The followings mappings are also embedding measures of intervals

$$E_w(a, b) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } w(a) = 0, a \cap b \neq \emptyset, \\ 0, & \text{if } w(a) = 0, a \cap b = \emptyset, \\ \frac{w(a \cap b)}{w(a)}, & \text{if } w(a) \neq 0, \end{cases}$$

$$E_\lambda(a, b) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } a \subseteq b, \\ 0, & \text{if } a \cap b = \emptyset, \\ \lambda, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $w(a)$  is the width of the interval  $a$  and  $\lambda \in [0, 1)$  is arbitrary.

The construction for  $Emb_{\mathcal{M}}^E : IVFS(X) \times IVFS(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is defined as follows

$$Emb_{\mathcal{M}}^E(A, B) = \mathcal{M}_{x \in X} E(A(x), B(x)),$$

where  $\mathcal{M} : [0, 1]^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a one-strict aggregation function, i.e., an increasing mapping in each argument with  $\mathcal{M}(0, 0, \dots, 0) = 0$  and  $\mathcal{M}(1, 1, \dots, 1) = 1$ , where  $\mathcal{M}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 1$  if and only if  $x_i = 1$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Examples of one-strict aggregation functions are the arithmetic mean, the geometric mean and the harmonic mean or any t-norm generated by their aggregation functions (for example the minimum t-norm or the product t-norm).

Similarly, we define the inclusion measure of intervals  $I : L^* \times L^* \rightarrow [0, 1]$ , where the axioms of  $I$  will be analogous to the corresponding axioms of the inclusion measure  $Inc : IFS(X) \times IFS(X) \rightarrow [0, 1]$ . Assume the following mapping  $I_0 : L^* \times L^* \rightarrow [0, 1]$

$$I_0(a, b) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \subseteq_{L^*} b, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

which is a candidate for trivial inclusion measure of intervals.

It is clear that  $I_0(a, b) = 1$  if and only if  $a \subseteq_{L^*} b$ , so the axioms (Y1) and (YL1) hold. Obviously  $I_0([1, 0], [0, 1]) = 0$ , so the axiom (YL2) is satisfied.

But  $I_0$  is not an inclusion measure in the sense of Young. For example we can take  $a^c = [0.6, 0.4]^c = [0.4, 0.6]$ ,  $[0.4, 0.6] \subseteq_{L^*} [0.6, 0.4]$  and  $I_0([0.6, 0.4], [0.4, 0.6]) = 0$  despite  $[0.6, 0.4] \neq [1, 0]$ , so the axiom (Y2) does not hold.

Assume  $a, b, c \in L^*$  where  $a \subseteq_{L^*} b \subseteq_{L^*} c$  and  $a = [\underline{a}, \bar{a}]$ ,  $b = [\underline{b}, \bar{b}]$ ,  $c = [\underline{c}, \bar{c}]$ . So  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b} \leq \underline{c}$  and  $\bar{a} \geq \bar{b} \geq \bar{c}$ . The case  $c \subseteq_{L^*} a$ , i.e.  $\underline{c} \leq \underline{a}$  and  $\bar{c} \geq \bar{a}$ , can occur when  $\underline{c} = \underline{a} = \underline{b}$  and  $\bar{c} = \bar{a} = \bar{b}$ , so  $b \subseteq_{L^*} a$  and  $c \subseteq_{L^*} b$ . The following holds

$$I_0(c, a) = 1 \Leftrightarrow I_0(b, a) = 1 \text{ and } I_0(c, b) = 1,$$

so  $I_0(c, a) = \min(I_0(b, a), I_0(c, b))$ . If  $c \not\subseteq_{L^*} a$ , then  $I_0(c, a) = 0$  and  $\underline{c} > \underline{a}$  or  $\bar{c} < \bar{a}$ . Assume the case  $\underline{c} > \underline{a}$ . Then there are cases

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \underline{a} < \underline{b} < \underline{c} \\ \underline{a} < \underline{b} = \underline{c} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow I_0(b, a) = 0$$

$$\underline{a} = \underline{b} < \underline{c} \Rightarrow I_0(c, b) = 0$$

and  $I_0(c, a) = \min(I_0(b, a), I_0(c, b))$ . Analogic result we can get for upper bounds. So the axiom (YL3) holds. We showed that  $I_0$  is the inclusion measure for intervals in the sense of Yu and Luo.

The consequence of the proof in the previous paragraph is that if  $a \subseteq_{L^*} b \subseteq_{L^*} c$  for  $a, b, c \in L^*$ , then  $I(c, a) \leq I(b, a)$ , then the axiom (Y3a) holds. Suppose that  $a \subseteq_{L^*} b$  for  $a, b \in L^*$ , so  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}$  and  $\bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$ . Assume  $c \in L^*$  such as  $I(c, a) = 0$ , then the inequality  $I(c, a) \leq I(c, b)$  always holds. Assume  $c \in L^*$  such as  $I(c, a) = 1$ , so  $\underline{c} \leq \underline{a}$  and  $\bar{c} \geq \bar{a}$ . Because  $I(A, B) = 1$ , then  $\underline{c} \leq \underline{a} \leq \underline{b}$  and  $\bar{c} \geq \bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$  and  $I(C, B) = 1$ , so the inequality of the axiom (Y3b) holds.

It is easy to show that the axioms (Z1)–(Z4) also hold. In the following section, we will compare the measures  $E_0$  and  $I_0$ .

### 3 Main results

We study the relationship between  $I_0(a, b) = 1$  and  $E_0$  for  $a, b \in L^*$ . Since the value of  $E_0(a, b)$  is defined only for intervals  $a, b$ , i.e.,  $a, b \in L([0, 1])$ , we assume the following transformation

$$a^T = [\underline{a}, \bar{a}]^T = [\underline{a}, 1 - \bar{a}],$$

for the case when  $a$  is not an interval. It is based on the bijection between IF-sets and IVF-sets, see [3, 6]. We assume also a complement in the sense of IF-sets

$$a^c = [\underline{a}, \bar{a}]^c = [\bar{a}, \underline{a}].$$

It is clear that  $L([0, 1]) \subseteq L^*$ , so  $I_0(a, b)$  is defined also for  $a, b \in L([0, 1])$ .

**Proposition 1.** *If  $a, b \in L([0, 1])$ , then  $I_0(a, b) = 1$  if and only if  $E_0(b, a) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Assume  $a, b \in L([0, 1])$ , so  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{a}$  and  $\underline{b} \leq \bar{b}$ . If  $I_0(a, b) = 1$ , then  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}$  and  $\bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$ . It is

$$\underline{a} \leq \underline{b} \leq \bar{b} \leq \bar{a}$$

and  $E_0(b, a) = 1$ . □

**Proposition 2.** *If  $a, b \notin L([0, 1])$ , then  $I_0(a, b) = 1$  if and only if  $E(a^c, b^c) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Assume  $a, b \notin L([0, 1])$ , so  $\underline{a} > \bar{a}$  and  $\underline{b} > \bar{b}$ . If  $I_0(a, b) = 1$ , then  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}$  and  $\bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$ . It is

$$\bar{b} \leq \bar{a} < \underline{a} \leq \underline{b}$$

so  $[\bar{a}, \underline{a}] \subseteq [\bar{b}, \underline{b}]$  and  $E_0(a^c, b^c) = 1$ . □

The elements  $a \notin L([0, 1])$  and  $b \in L([0, 1])$  with  $I_0(a, b) = 1$  do not exist. Let  $a = [\underline{a}, \bar{a}]$  and  $b = [\underline{b}, \bar{b}]$  with  $\underline{a} > \bar{a}$  and  $\underline{b} \leq \bar{b}$ . If  $a \subseteq_{L^*} b$ , then  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b} \leq \bar{b} \leq \bar{a}$ , which is a contradiction with  $\bar{a} < \underline{a}$ .

Now assume  $a \in L([0, 1])$  and  $b \notin L([0, 1])$  with  $a \subseteq_{L^*} b$ , so  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}$ ,  $\bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$ ,  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{a}$  and  $\underline{b} > \bar{b}$ . There are several cases for the appropriate ordering of  $\underline{a}, \bar{a}, \underline{b}, \bar{b}$ , where  $\underline{b} \neq \bar{b}$ :

**C1**  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{b} < \underline{b} \leq \bar{a}$

**C2**  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{b} \leq \bar{a} \leq \underline{b}$

**C3**  $\bar{b} \leq \underline{a} \leq \underline{b} \leq \bar{a}$

**C4**  $\bar{b} \leq \underline{a} \leq \bar{a} \leq \underline{b}$

For the cases C1 and C4 there is a relationship with  $E_0$ .

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $a \in L([0, 1])$  and  $b \notin L([0, 1])$ . If  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{b} < \underline{b} \leq \bar{a}$ , then  $I_0(a, b) = 1$  and  $E_0(b^c, a) = 1$ . If  $\bar{b} \leq \underline{a} \leq \bar{a} \leq \underline{b}$ , then  $I_0(a, b) = 1$  and  $E_0(a, b^c) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Straightforward. □

For every case (C1)–(C4) there are some subcases, some of them coinciding. For example the subcase  $\underline{a} = \bar{b} < \underline{b} = \bar{a}$  is included in every case (C1)–(C4). We summarize these subcases in the Table 1. It is obvious that for these subcases it holds that  $E_0(b^c, a) = 0$  or  $E_0(a, b^c) = 0$ .

Subcase	C1	C2	C3	C4
$\underline{a} = \bar{b} < \underline{b} = \bar{a}$	✓	✓	✓	✓
$\bar{b} = \underline{a} < \underline{b} < \bar{a}$	✓	✓		
$\bar{b} < \underline{a} < \underline{b} = \bar{a}$		✓		✓
$\bar{b} < \underline{a} = \underline{b} = \bar{a}$		✓		✓
$\underline{a} = \bar{b} < \bar{a} < \underline{b}$			✓	✓
$\underline{a} < \bar{b} < \bar{a} = \underline{b}$	✓		✓	
$\underline{a} = \bar{b} = \bar{a} < \underline{b}$			✓	✓

Table 1. The subcases included in several cases

Few subcases are included only in (C2) or (C3):

(i)  $\bar{b} < \underline{a} < \underline{b} < \bar{a}$  in (C2)

(ii)  $\bar{b} < \underline{a} = \underline{b} < \bar{a}$  in (C2)

(I)  $\underline{a} < \bar{b} < \bar{a} < \underline{b}$  in (C3)

(II)  $\underline{a} < \bar{b} = \bar{a} < \underline{b}$  in (C3)

We provide some values of  $E_0$  for some pairs of elements of  $L^*$  belonging to the subcases mentioned above in the following Tables 2 and 3. In the columns with pairs there are corresponding values of  $E$  for some embedding measure of intervals. In the case where  $E = E_0$ , then  $? = \{.\} = 0$ . In the other case, 0 means that the intersection of intervals is empty,  $\{.\}$  means that the intervals have one common point and we assume some specific value of  $E$  for this situation, and the symbol ? means, that the value is not specific and depends on the chosen  $E$ . It can happen that  $\{.\} = 0$  or  $? = 0$ .

	$a, b \in L^*, a \subseteq_{L^*} b$	$(a, b^T)$	$(b^T, a)$	$(a, b^c)$	$(b^c, a)$	$(a^T, b^T)$	$(b^T, a^T)$	$(a^T, b^c)$	$(b^c, a^T)$
(i)	$[0.3, 0.5], [0.4, 0.1]$	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	$[0.3, 0.6], [0.5, 0.1]$	?	?	?	?	0	0	1	?
	$[0.3, 0.6], [0.4, 0.1]$	?	?	?	?	{.}	{.}	1	?
	$[0.2, 0.4], [0.3, 0.1]$	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	$[0.2, 0.7], [0.6, 0.1]$	?	?	?	?	0	0	1	?
(ii)	$[0.3, 0.5], [0.3, 0.2]$	1	?	{.}	{.}	1	?	{.}	{.}
	$[0.3, 0.6], [0.3, 0.2]$	1	?	{.}	{.}	1	?	{.}	{.}
	$[0.3, 0.7], [0.3, 0.2]$	1	?	{.}	{.}	1	?	?	1
	$[0.3, 0.4], [0.3, 0.2]$	1	?	{.}	{.}	1	?	{.}	{.}

Table 2. The subcases for (C2)

	$a, b \in L^*, a \subseteq_{L^*} b$	$(a, b^T)$	$(b^T, a)$	$(a, b^c)$	$(b^c, a)$	$(a^T, b^T)$	$(b^T, a^T)$	$(a^T, b^c)$	$(b^c, a^T)$
(I)	$[0.1, 0.3], [0.4, 0.2]$	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	1
	$[0.1, 0.5], [0.6, 0.3]$	0	0	?	?	0	0	?	?
	$[0.1, 0.5], [0.6, 0.4]$	0	0	?	?	0	0	?	?
	$[0.1, 0.4], [0.6, 0.3]$	0	0	?	?	{.}	{.}	?	1
	$[0.1, 0.3], [0.6, 0.2]$	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	1
(II)	$[0.2, 0.3], [0.4, 0.3]$	0	0	{.}	{.}	?	1	?	1
	$[0.2, 0.3], [0.6, 0.3]$	0	0	{.}	{.}	?	1	?	1
	$[0.2, 0.3], [0.7, 0.3]$	0	0	{.}	{.}	?	1	?	1

Table 3. The subcases for (C3)

We can notice that if  $E(x, y) = 1$  and  $E(y, x) = ?$ , then  $x \subset y$ . For the subcase (ii) it is obvious that  $a \subset b^T$  and  $a^T \subset b^T$ . For the subcase (II) there is  $b^T \subset a^T$  and  $b^c \subset a^T$ . We can notice that in the subcases (I) and (II) there is  $a \cap b^T = \emptyset$ . However, it is not possible to characterize cases (C1)–(C4) in one way.

Similarly, we obtain the relationships between  $I_0(a, b) = 0$  and  $E_0$ .

**Proposition 4.** *If  $a, b \in L([0, 1])$ , then  $I_0(a, b) = 0$  if and only if  $E_0(b, a) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Assume  $a, b \in L([0, 1])$ , so  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{a}$  and  $\underline{b} \leq \bar{b}$ . If  $I_0(a, b) = 0$ , then one of the following cases holds:

- $\underline{a} > \underline{b}, \bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$ , specifically  $\underline{b} < \underline{a} \leq \bar{b} \leq \bar{a}$  or  $\underline{b} \leq \bar{b} < \underline{a} \leq \bar{a}$
- $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}, \bar{a} < \bar{b}$ , specifically  $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b} \leq \bar{a} < \bar{b}$  or  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{a} < \underline{b} \leq \bar{b}$
- $\underline{a} > \underline{b}, \bar{a} < \bar{b}$ , specifically  $\underline{b} < \underline{a} \leq \bar{a} < \bar{b}$

In all cases  $E_0(b, a) = 0$ . □

**Proposition 5.** *If  $a, b \notin L([0, 1])$ , then  $I_0(a, b) = 0$  if and only if  $E_0(a^c, b^c) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Analogous to the Proof of Proposition 4. □

**Proposition 6.** *If  $a \notin L([0, 1])$  and  $b \in L([0, 1])$ , then  $I_0(a, b) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* We have shown that there are no elements  $a \notin L([0, 1])$  and  $b \in L([0, 1])$  such as  $I_0(a, b) = 1$ . □

**Proposition 7.** *Let  $a \in L([0, 1])$  and  $b \notin L([0, 1])$ . Then  $I_0(a, b) = 0$  if and only if  $E_0(a, b^c) = E_0(b^c, a) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Assume  $a \in L([0, 1])$  and  $b \notin L([0, 1])$ , so  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{a}$  and  $\underline{b} > \bar{b}$ . If  $a \not\subseteq_{L^*} b$ , then one of the following cases holds:

- $\underline{a} \leq \underline{b}, \bar{a} < \bar{b}$ , then  $\underline{a} \leq \bar{a} < \bar{b} < \underline{b}$  and  $E_0(a, b^c) = E_0(b^c, a) = 0$
- $\underline{a} > \underline{b}, \bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$ , then  $\bar{b} < \underline{b} < \underline{a} \leq \bar{a}$  and  $E_0(a, b^c) = E_0(b^c, a) = 0$
- $\underline{a} > \underline{b}, \bar{a} < \bar{b}$ , then  $\underline{b} < \underline{a} \leq \bar{a} < \bar{b}$  and it is a contradiction with  $\underline{b} > \bar{b}$ . □



## 4 Conclusions

We have presented an overview of inclusion measures for intuitionistic fuzzy sets and studied some properties of these measures. There are two general attitudes to this topic – either an inclusion or an embedding. Each of these can be used in different circumstances and reflects a different aspect. This is usually dependent on the context in which the fuzzy set is used and so the proper embedding also depends on this context.

## Acknowledgements

Vladimír Janiš thanks for the support to the grant 1/0124/24 by Slovak grant agency VEGA. Michaela Bruteničová thanks Susana Montes and Agustina Bouchet for the introduction to the problem of embedding measures.

## References

- [1] Atanassov, K. T. (1983). Intuitionistic Fuzzy Sets. *VII ITKR Session*, Sofia, 20-23 June 1983 (Deposited in Centr. Sci.-Techn. Library of the Bulg. Acad. of Sci., 1697/84) (in Bulgarian). Reprinted in: *Int. J. Bioautomation*, 2016, 20(S1), S1–S6. (in English).
- [2] Atanassov, K. T. (2012). *On Intuitionistic Fuzzy Sets Theory*. Studies in Fuzziness and Soft Computing 283, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2012.
- [3] Atanassov, K., & Gargov, G. (1989). Interval valued intuitionistic fuzzy sets. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, 31(3), 343–349.
- [4] Bouchet, A., Sesma-Sara, M., Ochoa, G., Bustince, H., Montes, S., & Díaz, I. (2023). Measures of embedding for interval-valued fuzzy sets. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, 467, 108505.
- [5] Cornelis, C., & Kerre, E. (2003). Inclusion Measures in Intuitionistic Fuzzy Set Theory. In: *Nielsen, T. D., & Zhang, N. L. (Eds.). ECSQARU 2003*, LNAI 2711, pp. 345–356. Berlin, Springer.
- [6] Deschrijver, G., & Kerre, E. (2003). On the relationship between some extensions of fuzzy set theory. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, 133, 227–235.
- [7] Goguen, J. A. (1967). *L*-fuzzy sets. *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, 18(1), 145–174.
- [8] Grattan-Guinness, I. (1976). Fuzzy membership mapped onto interval and many-valued quantities. *Mathematical Logic Quarterly*, 22, 149–160.
- [9] Grzegorzewski, P. (2011). On possible and necessary inclusion of intuitionistic fuzzy sets. *Information Sciences*, 181, 342–350.

- [10] Jahn, K.-U. (1975). Intervall-wertige Mengen. *Mathematische Nachrichten*, 68, 115–132.
- [11] Kitainik, L. (1987). Fuzzy inclusions and fuzzy dichotomous decision procedures. In: *Kacprzyk, J., & Orlovski, S. A. (Eds.). Optimization Models Using Fuzzy Sets and Possibility Theory*, Springer Netherlands, Dordrecht, 154-170.
- [12] Sambuc, R. (1975). *Fonctions  $\phi$ -floues: Application a l'aide au diagnostic en pathologie thyroïdienne*. Ph.D. Thesis, University of Marseille, France.
- [13] Sinha, D., & Dougherty, E. R. (1993) Fuzzification of set inclusion: Theory and applications. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, 55, 15–42.
- [14] Vlachos, I. K., & Sergiadis, G. D. (2007). Subsethood, entropy, and cardinality for interval-valued fuzzy sets - An algebraic derivation. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, 158, 1384–1396.
- [15] Xie, B., Han, L-W., & Mi, J.-S. (2009). Inclusion measure and similarity measure of intuitionistic fuzzy sets. *Proceedings of Eighth International Conference on Machine Learning and Cybernetics*, 12-15 July 2009, Baoding, China, 700–705.
- [16] Young, V. R. (1996). Fuzzy subsethood. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, 77, 371–384.
- [17] Yu, C., & Luo, Y. (2008). A fuzzy optimization method for multi-criteria decision-making problem based on the inclusion degrees of intuitionistic fuzzy sets. In: *Huang, D. S., Wunsch, D. C., Levine, D. S., & Jo, K. H. (Eds.). Advanced Intelligent Computing Theories and Applications. With Aspects of Artificial Intelligence. ICIC 2008. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, Vol. 5227, pp. 332–339. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.
- [18] Zadeh, L. (1965). Fuzzy sets. *Information and Control*, 8(3), 338–353.
- [19] Zadeh, L. (1975). The concept of a linguistic variable and its application to approximate reasoning I. *Information Sciences*, 8, 199–249.
- [20] Zhang, H., Dong, M., Zhang, W., & Song, X. (2007). Inclusion measure and similarity measure of intuitionistic and interval-valued fuzzy sets. *Proceedings of the 2007 International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Knowledge Engineering (ISKE 2007)*, 15-16 October 2007, Chengdu, P.R. China.