

# Solving multi-class problems with linguistic fuzzy rule based classification systems based on pairwise learning and preference relations

Alberto Fernández<sup>a,\*</sup>, María Calderón<sup>b</sup>, Edurne Barrenechea<sup>b</sup>,  
Humberto Bustince<sup>b</sup>, Francisco Herrera<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Computer Science, University of Jaén, Spain

<sup>b</sup> Department of Automatic and Computation, Public University of Navarra, Spain

<sup>c</sup> Department of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, CITIC-UGR (Research Center on Information and Communications Technology), University of Granada, Spain

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## Abstract

This paper deals with multi-class classification for linguistic fuzzy rule based classification systems. The idea is to decompose the original data-set into binary classification problems using the pairwise learning approach (confronting all pair of classes), and to obtain an independent fuzzy system for each one of them. Along the inference process, each fuzzy rule based classification system generates an association degree for both of its corresponding classes and these values are encoded into a fuzzy preference relation.

Our analysis is focused on the final step that returns the predicted class-label. Specifically, we propose to manage the fuzzy preference relation using a non-dominance criterion on the different alternatives, contrasting the behaviour of this model with both the classical weighted voting scheme and a decision rule that combines the fuzzy relations of preference, conflict and ignorance by means of a voting strategy.

Our experimental study is carried out using two different linguistic fuzzy rule learning methods for which we show that the non-dominance criterion is a good alternative in comparison with the previously mentioned aggregation mechanisms. This empirical analysis is supported through the corresponding statistical analysis using non-parametrical tests.

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## 1. Introduction

Fuzzy rule based classification systems (FRBCSs) [27] are a popular tool among the computational intelligence techniques employed to solve classification problems, because of their interpretable models based on linguistic variables, which are easier to understand for the experts or end-users. They have been used in many real world

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\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +34953212444; fax: +34953212472.

*E-mail addresses:* [alberto.fernandez@ujaen.es](mailto:alberto.fernandez@ujaen.es) (A. Fernández), [María.CalderonTurullols@cajanavarra.es](mailto:María.CalderonTurullols@cajanavarra.es) (M. Calderón), [edurne.barrenechea@unavarra.es](mailto:edurne.barrenechea@unavarra.es) (E. Barrenechea), [bustince@unavarra.es](mailto:bustince@unavarra.es) (H. Bustince), [herrera@decsai.ugr.es](mailto:herrera@decsai.ugr.es) (F. Herrera).

classification problems such as medical applications [1], classification of battlefield ground vehicles [36] or intrusion detection [30,34]. Some of these problems present a high number of classes, which must be considered in the FRBCS analysis.

Multiclass problems imply an additional difficulty for FRBCSs, since the boundaries among the classes can be overlapped, which causes a decrease of the performance. In this situation, we can proceed by transforming the original multi-class problem into binary subsets, which are easier to discriminate, via a class binarization technique [3,8]. In this paper we study the extension of linguistic FRBCSs to a multi-classifier model considering the use of the pairwise learning approach [20] (also called pairwise classification, round robin learning, all-pairs or one-vs-one), which consists in training a classifier for each possible pair of classes ignoring the examples that do not belong to the related classes.

In order to aggregate the output for all binary classifiers, the simplest and most widely used method in pairwise learning is applying a weighted voting [25] so that the final class is assigned by taking the maximum vote among the summation of the scores for the binary classifiers associated to the same class. However, in this work we aim to benefit from the features of fuzzy classifiers and to make use of the framework of fuzzy preference relations for classification [23]. In this scheme, the classification problem is translated into a decision making problem for determining the output among all predictions for the binary classifiers. Specifically, in this paper we propose the use of a maximal non-dominance criterion [31] for the final decision process.

In our study, we will first determine the goodness of the pairwise learning approach for linguistic fuzzy systems analysing the differences in performance achieved by a basic FRBCS model and the multi-classification approach. Furthermore, we will analyse the mentioned non-dominance criterion that we propose in contrast with both the standard weighted voting and a voting strategy introduced by Hühn and Hüllermeier in [22].

Our aim is to develop a complete empirical study in order to show that the non-dominance approach achieves a very good synergy with the linguistic fuzzy classifiers selected in this paper, namely the fuzzy hybrid genetics-based machine learning (FH-GBML) [29] and the structural learning algorithm in vague environment (SLAVE) [18,19] methods. We have taken 14 multi-class data-sets from UCI repository [4] within the experimental framework. The measure of performance is based on accuracy rate and the significance of results is supported by the proper statistical analysis as suggested in the literature [7,15].

To do so, this paper is organised as follows. In Section 2 we present the concept of multi-classification, a brief introduction to linguistic FRBCS and the description of the fuzzy algorithm selected for our study. In Section 3 we present with detail the pairwise learning approach using fuzzy preference relations and the proposed methodology based on a non-dominance criterion to carry out the classification step. Section 4 includes the experimental framework, that is, the description of the two aggregation schemes used for comparison in the experimental study, the benchmark data-sets, configuration parameters and the statistical tests for the performance comparison. In Section 5 we present our empirical analysis. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper. Additionally, we have included an Appendix with the complete tables of results for the experimental study.

## 2. Basic concepts on multi-classification and linguistic fuzzy rule based systems

This section first introduces the concept of multi-class problems and the class binarization technique selected for this work. Then, we describe the main features of the linguistic FRBCSs. Finally, we describe the fuzzy rule learning approaches used in this paper for the experimental study, the FH-GBML [29] and SLAVE [18] algorithms.

### 2.1. Multi-class problems via pairwise learning

There are a high amount of applications which require multi-class categorization. To simplify the classification process, we can divide the initial problem into multiple two-class sets that can be solved separately. In this way, we transform the problem boundaries by distinguishing only between two classes.

Specifically, we have considered the pairwise learning approach [20], which consists in training a classifier for each possible pair of classes ignoring the examples that do not belong to the related classes. At classification time, a query instance is submitted to all binary models, and the predictions of these models are combined into an overall classification.

The advantages of this approach with respect to other techniques, such as confronting one class with the rest (“one-vs-rest” [3]), are detailed below:

- It was shown to be more accurate for rule learning algorithms [11].
- The computational time required for the learning phase is compensated by the reduction in size for each of the individual problems.
- The decision boundaries of each binary problem may be considerably simpler than the “one-vs-rest” transformation.
- The selected binarization technique is less biased to obtain imbalanced training-sets [10,33], which may suppose an added difficulty for the identification and discovery of rules covering the positive, and under-represented, samples.

## 2.2. Linguistic fuzzy rule based classification systems

Consider  $m$  labeled patterns  $x_p = (x_{p1}, \dots, x_{pn})$ ,  $p = 1, 2, \dots, m$  where  $x_{pi}$  is the  $i$ th attribute value ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). We have a set of linguistic values describing each attribute, considering the use of triangular membership functions, in order to obtain fuzzy rules of the following form:

$$\text{Rule}_j : \text{ If } x_1 \text{ is } A_{j1} \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } x_n \text{ is } A_{jn} \text{ then Class} = C_j \text{ with } RW_j \quad (1)$$

where  $\text{Rule}_j$  is the label of the  $j$ th rule,  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is an  $n$ -dimensional pattern vector,  $A_{ji}$  is an antecedent fuzzy set representing a linguistic term,  $C_j$  is a class label, and  $RW_j$  is the rule weight [26]. Specifically, we compute the rule weight using the penalized certainty factor (PCF) defined in [28] as

$$PCF_j = \frac{\sum_{x_p \in \text{Class } C_j} \mu_{A_j}(x_p) - \sum_{x_p \notin \text{Class } C_j} \mu_{A_j}(x_p)}{\sum_{p=1}^m \mu_{A_j}(x_p)} \quad (2)$$

Considering a new pattern  $x$  and being  $L$  the number of rules in the rule base (RB) and  $M$  the number of classes of the problem, the steps of the fuzzy reasoning method [5] are the following:

1. *Matching degree.* To calculate the *strength of activation of the if-part for all rules in the RB with the pattern  $x_p$ , using a product or minimum T-norm.*

$$\mu_{A_j}(x_p) = T(\mu_{A_{j1}}(x_{p1}), \dots, \mu_{A_{jn}}(x_{pn})), \quad j = 1, \dots, L \quad (3)$$

2. *Association degree.* To compute the *association degree of the pattern  $x_p$  with the  $M$  classes according to each rule in the RB.* When using rules like (1) this association degree only refers to the consequent class of the rule:

$$b_j^k = \begin{cases} h(\mu_{A_j}(x_p), RW_j), & j = 1, \dots, L \text{ if } k = \text{Class}(\text{Rule}_j) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Function  $h$  is usually modeled as a product T-norm.

3. *Pattern classification soundness degree for all classes.* We use an aggregation function  $f$  (for example the *max* operator) that combines the positive degrees of association calculated in the previous step:

$$Y_k = f(b_j^k, j = 1, \dots, L \text{ and } b_j^k > 0), \quad k = 1, \dots, M \quad (5)$$

4. *Classification.* We apply a decision function  $F$  over the soundness degree of the system for the pattern classification for all classes. This function will determine the class label  $l$  corresponding to the maximum value:

$$F(Y_1, \dots, Y_M) = \arg \max_{k=1, \dots, M} \{Y_k\} \quad (6)$$

## 2.3. Linguistic fuzzy rule learning algorithms

Genetic fuzzy systems have been proposed in the specialized literature for designing fuzzy rule-based systems by means of genetic algorithms (GAs) [6,21]. This type of search mechanisms have the ability to find near optimal solutions in complex search spaces, which also have the advantage to provide a generic code structure and independent performance features, making them suitable candidates to incorporate a priori knowledge. In the case of FRBCSs, this

a priori knowledge may be in the form of linguistic variables, fuzzy membership function parameters, fuzzy rules, number of rules, etc.

Taken into account the previous fact, we have selected two linguistic fuzzy rule learning based on genetic fuzzy systems, namely the FH-GBML [29] and the SLAVE [18] algorithms, which are described in the remainder of this section. Both methods are available within the KEEL software tool [2] (<http://www.keel.es>).

2.3.1. Fuzzy hybrid genetics-based machine learning rule generation algorithm

The basis of the method described here, the FH-GBML algorithm [29], consists of a Pittsburgh approach where each rule set is handled as an individual. It also contains a genetic cooperative competitive learning (GCCL) approach (an individual represents an unique rule), which is used as a kind of heuristic mutation for partially modifying each rule set, because of its high search ability to efficiently find good fuzzy rules.

The system defines 14 possible linguistic terms for each attribute, as shown in Fig. 1, which correspond to Ruspini’s strong fuzzy partitions with two, three, four, and five uniformly distributed triangular-shaped membership functions. Furthermore, the system also uses “don’t care” as an additional linguistic term, which indicates that the variable matches any input value with maximum matching degree. We must point out that these fuzzy partitions are not modified during the evolutionary process.

The main steps of this algorithm are described below:

Step 1: Generate  $N_{pop}$  rule sets with  $N_{rule}$  fuzzy rules.

Step 2: Calculate the fitness value of each rule set in the current population.

Step 3: Generate  $(N_{pop} - 1)$  rule sets by selection, crossover and mutation in the same manner as the Pittsburgh-style algorithm. Apply a single iteration of the GCCL-style algorithm (i.e., the rule generation and the replacement) to each of the generated rule sets with a pre-specified probability.

Step 4: Add the best rule set in the current population to the newly generated  $(N_{pop} - 1)$  rule sets to form the next population.

Step 5: Return to Step 2 if the pre-specified stopping condition is not satisfied.

Next, we will describe every step of the algorithm:

- Initialization:  $N_{rule}$  training patterns are randomly selected. Then, a fuzzy rule from each of the selected training patterns is generated by choosing probabilistically (as shown in (7)) an antecedent fuzzy set from the 14 candidates  $B_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, 14$ ) (see Fig. 1) for each attribute. Then each antecedent fuzzy set of the generated fuzzy rule is replaced with *don't care* using a pre-specified probability  $P_{don't\ care}$ :

$$P(B_k) = \frac{\mu_{B_k}(x_{pi})}{\sum_{j=1}^{14} \mu_{B_j}(x_{pi})} \tag{7}$$

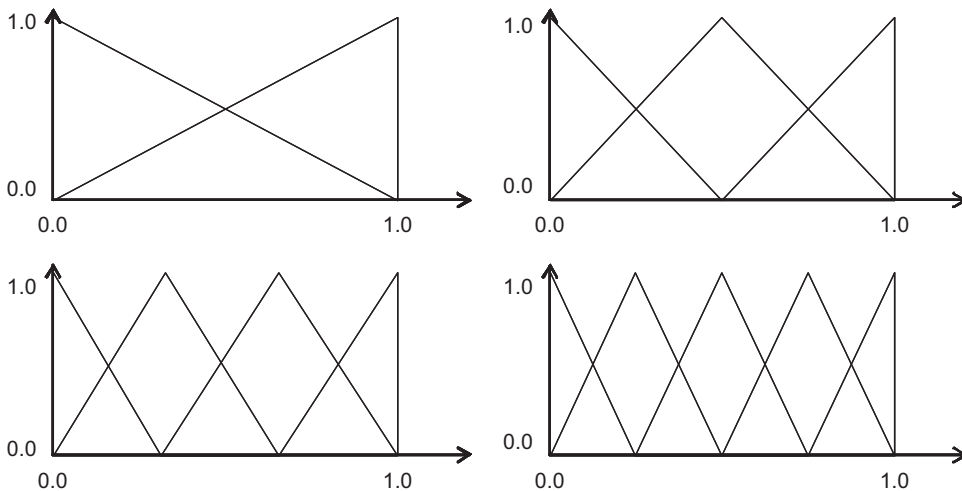


Fig. 1. Four fuzzy partitions for each attribute membership function.

- Fitness computation: The fitness value of each rule set  $S_i$  in the current population is calculated as the number of correctly classified training patterns by  $S_i$ . For the GCCL approach the computation follows the same scheme, counting the number of correct hits for each single rule.
- Selection: It is based on binary tournament in order to guarantee a good convergence of the population.
- Crossover: The substring-wise and bit-wise uniform crossover are applied in the Pittsburgh part. In the case of the GCCL part only the bit-wise uniform crossover is considered.
- Mutation: Each fuzzy partition of the individuals is randomly replaced with a different fuzzy partition using a pre-specified mutation probability for both approaches.

### 2.3.2. Structural learning algorithm in vague environment

SLAVE [18] is an iterative rule learning GA [35] which makes use of the disjunctive normal form for defining the antecedent of the rules, using the formulation described in [17].

The rule selection process consists in obtaining the best rule in each execution of the GA depending on the examples of the training set. The concept of the best rule is based on the notions of consistency and completeness. The basic idea is to use the fuzzy cardinal of fuzzy sets “positive examples” and “negative examples” for a rule, which stands for the combination of the match degrees of the rule for the examples of its consequent class and for the examples of the remaining classes.

The iterative approach of SLAVE fixes a class and the GA selects a rule that simultaneously verifies the completeness and the soft consistency condition to a high degree. The rule selection in SLAVE can therefore be solved by the following optimization problem:

$$\max_{A \in D} \{A(R_B(A)) \times \Gamma_{k_1, k_2}(R_B(A))\} \quad (8)$$

where  $D = P(D_1) \times P(D_2) \times \dots \times P(D_n)$  with  $D_i$  being the fuzzy domain of  $X_i$  variable, and  $R_B(A)$  represents a rule with antecedent value  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_n) \in D$  and consequent value  $B$ , with  $B$  being fixed in the optimization problem.  $A(R_B(A))$  and  $\Gamma_{k_1, k_2}(R_B(A))$  represent the degree of completeness and the soft consistency degree of rule  $R_B(A)$ , respectively (details can be found at [18]). The iterative approach will change this consequent value to obtain the different values. Details of the GA used in this optimization process can be found in [16].

The implementation of the SLAVE considered in this paper considers the integration of a feature selection mechanism, which was proposed in [19]. The most important change with respect to the original version of SLAVE is the representation of the population, which simply includes a new binary value associated to each antecedent variable in order to discover if the variable will be considered as part of the antecedent of the rule or not.

## 3. Decision process for linguistic fuzzy rule based classification systems using preference relations for multi-class problems

In this section we will first describe in detail the learning scheme for a linguistic fuzzy system based on pairwise learning. Then, we will introduce our proposal to carry out the final classification using a non-dominance criterion.

### 3.1. Pairwise learning approach for a linguistic fuzzy rule based classification system

Following the pairwise learning approach, we start dividing the original training set into  $m(m-1)/2$  subsets, where  $m$  stands for the number of classes of the problem, in order to obtain  $m(m-1)/2$  different fuzzy classifiers. Every subset contains the examples for a different pair of classes and thus, the trained classifiers are devoted to discriminate between two specific classes of the initial data-set.

The knowledge base (KB) of each one of these fuzzy classifiers will be composed of a shared data base (DB) and a specific RB. We decided to obtain such an interpretable model rather than just contextualizing the fuzzy partitions for each sub-problem separately, with the aim of being able to analyse the different rule sets learnt by means of the binary classifiers in a uniform manner.

The RB for each classifier is learnt using a fuzzy learning method, which can be selected among the different approaches of the specialized literature. Once all KBs have been learnt, we proceed to the final inference step. When

a new input pattern is presented to the system, each FRBCS is fired in order to define the output degree for its pair of associated classes.

3.2. On the use of fuzzy preference relations for classification

In this subsection we describe how we compute the fuzzy preference relation with the use of the output degrees of the different FRBCSs that compose the system. Then, we detail the classification step using a maximal non-dominance criterion.

3.2.1. Computation of the fuzzy preference relation

We will consider the classification problem as a decision making problem, and we will define a fuzzy preference relation  $R^b$  [31] with the corresponding outputs of the FRBCSs. In this manner, the computation of each degree of preference is based on the aggregation function that combines the positive degrees of association between the fuzzy rules and the input pattern. This is known as fuzzy reasoning method:

$$R^b = \begin{bmatrix} - & r_{1,2} & \dots & r_{1,m} \\ r_{2,1} & - & \dots & r_{2,m} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ r_{m,1} & r_{m,1} & \dots & - \end{bmatrix} \tag{9}$$

We consider the maximum matching, where every new pattern  $x_p$  is classified as the consequent class of a single winner rule ( $Class(x_p) = C_w$ ) which is determined as

$$\mu_{A_w}(x_p) \cdot RW_w = \max\{\mu_{A_q}(x_p) \cdot RW_q, Rule_q \in RB\} \tag{10}$$

where  $\mu_{A_q}(x_p)$  is the membership degree of the pattern example  $x_p = (x_{p1}, \dots, x_{pn})$  with the antecedent of the rule  $R_q$  and  $RW_q$  is the rule weight [26].

Therefore,  $R^b(i, j)$  (the fuzzy degree of preference between classes  $i$  and  $j$ ) is the maximum association degree for all rules in RB that concludes class  $i$ .  $R^b(i, j)$  will be normalized to  $[0, 1]$  by expression (11), having the relation  $R(i, j) = 1 - R(j, i)$ :

$$R(i, j) = \frac{R^b(i, j)}{R^b(i, j) + R^b(j, i)} \tag{11}$$

In the possible case that  $R^b(i, j)$  and  $R^b(j, i)$  are equal to 0, because no rule for the binary classifier matches the example, we set  $R(i, j)$  and  $R(j, i)$  a 0.5 value so that the fuzzy preference relation remains reciprocal.

3.2.2. Classification process via a decision rule based on a non-dominance criterion

From the fuzzy preference relation we must extract a set of non-dominated alternatives (classes) as the solution of the fuzzy decision making problem and thus, our classification output. Specifically, the maximal non-dominated elements of  $R$  are calculated by means of the following operations, according to the non-dominance criterion proposed by Orlovsky [31]:

- First, we compute the fuzzy strict preference relation  $R'$  which is equal to

$$R'(i, j) = \begin{cases} R(i, j) - R(j, i) & \text{when } R(i, j) > R(j, i) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

- Then, we compute the non-dominance degree of each class  $ND_i$ , which is simply obtained as

$$ND_i = 1 - \sup_{j \in C} [R'(j, i)] \tag{13}$$

This value represents the degree to which the class  $i$  is dominated by no one of the remaining classes.  $C$  stands for the set of total classes in the data-set. The output class is computed as the index of the maximal non-dominance value:

$$Class(x_p) = \arg \max_{i=1, \dots, m} \{ND_i\} \quad (14)$$

The complete process is summarized in Algorithm 1

**Algorithm 1.** Procedure for the multi-classifier learning proposal with the non-dominance criterion

1. Divide the training set into  $m(m-1)/2$  subsets for all pair of classes.
2. For each training subset  $i$ :
  - 2.1. Build a fuzzy classifier composed by a local DB and an RB generated with any rule learning procedure
3. For each input test pattern:
  - 3.1. Build a fuzzy preference relation  $R$  as:
    - For each class  $i, i = 1, \dots, m$
    - For each class  $j, j = 1, \dots, m, j \neq i$
    - The preference degree for  $R(i, j)$  is the normalized association degree for the classifier associated to classes  $i$  and  $j$ .  $R(j, i) = 1 - R(i, j)$
  - 3.2 Transform  $R$  to the fuzzy strict preference relation  $R'$ .
  - 3.3 Compute the degree of non-dominance for all classes.
  - 3.4 The input pattern is assigned to the class with maximum non-dominance value.

In order to clarify this procedure, we use a pattern from the iris data-set (Table 1) to show an example which is depicted in Table 2. We also show, for the sake of determining the global interpretability of the output model, the whole RB obtained by the FH-GBML algorithm for this current example in Table 3.

Table 1  
Iris data-set pattern.

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Sepal length=7.0,  
 Sepal width=3.2,  
 Petal length=4.7,  
 Petal width=1.4,  
 Class=Versicolor  
 {Setosa, Versicolor, Virginica}

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Table 2  
Example of the classification process by means of the use of the fuzzy preference relation with the non-dominance criterion.

Step 1. Obtain  $R^b$ :

$$R^b = \begin{bmatrix} - & 0.134 & 0.221 \\ 0.881 & - & 0.117 \\ 0.625 & 0.021 & - \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 2. Normalize  $R^b \rightarrow R$ :

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} - & 0.132 & 0.261 \\ 0.868 & - & 0.848 \\ 0.738 & 0.152 & - \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 3. Transform  $R$  to  $R'$ :

$$R' = \begin{bmatrix} - & 0.0 & 0.0 \\ 0.736 & - & 0.696 \\ 0.477 & 0.0 & - \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 4. Compute  $ND$ :

$$ND = \{0.264, 1.0, 0.304\}$$

Step 5. Get class index:

$$Class = \arg \max_{i=1, \dots, 3} \{ND_i\} = 2 \text{ (Versicolor)}$$


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Table 3

Example: rule base obtained by FH-GBML for the Iris data-set.

Rule base for Setosa vs. Versicolor (20 rules):

- 1: IF SL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND SW IS  $L_0(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(2)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(2)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.99374
- 2: IF SW IS  $L_1(3)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.04848
- 3: IF SW IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(2)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.08015
- 4: IF PL IS  $L_2(4)$ : Versicolor with RW: 1.0
- 5: IF SW IS  $L_1(2)$  AND PL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(2)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.76967
- 6: IF PL IS  $L_0(2)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.35933
- 7: IF PL IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_2(4)$ : Versicolor with RW: 1.0
- 8: IF SL IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_2(4)$ : Versicolor with RW: 1.0
- 9: IF SL IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PL IS  $L_2(4)$ : Versicolor with RW: 1.0
- 10: IF SW IS  $L_0(2)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.23791
- 11: IF SL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND SW IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(4)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 12: IF SL IS  $L_2(5)$  AND PW IS  $L_2(4)$ : Versicolor with RW: 1.0
- 13: IF SL IS  $L_1(3)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.32779
- 14: IF SL IS  $L_1(3)$  AND SW IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PL IS  $L_0(2)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.27949
- 15: IF SL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(3)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.73807
- 16: IF SL IS  $L_1(5)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(3)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.32608
- 17: IF SL IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(2)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.00806
- 18: IF SL IS  $L_1(4)$  AND SW IS  $L_1(2)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.39224
- 19: IF SL IS  $L_0(4)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PL IS  $L_0(3)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 20: IF SW IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(3)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.93428

Rule base for Setosa vs. Virginica (19 rules):

- 1: IF SL IS  $L_1(5)$  AND PL IS  $L_0(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(3)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 2: IF SL IS  $L_1(5)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.83333
- 3: IF SL IS  $L_1(4)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.39642
- 4: IF PW IS  $L_2(4)$ : Virginica with RW: 1.0
- 5: IF SL IS  $L_0(3)$  AND SW IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(4)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 6: IF SL IS  $L_1(5)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(5)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 7: IF SL IS  $L_1(4)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(4)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.79288
- 8: IF PW IS  $L_0(3)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 9: IF SL IS  $L_2(4)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(5)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(2)$ : Virginica with RW: 1.0
- 10: IF SL IS  $L_0(4)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(5)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 11: IF SL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PL IS  $L_4(5)$ : Virginica with RW: 1.0
- 12: IF SL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND SW IS  $L_1(4)$  AND PL IS  $L_2(4)$ : Virginica with RW: 1.0
- 13: IF PL IS  $L_1(5)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(2)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 14: IF SW IS  $L_1(3)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.02945
- 15: IF PL IS  $L_0(2)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.59342
- 16: IF SW IS  $L_1(3)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.02945
- 17: IF SL IS  $L_1(5)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(5)$  AND PL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(2)$ : Setosa with RW: 0.99290
- 18: IF PL IS  $L_0(3)$ : Setosa with RW: 1.0
- 19: IF SW IS  $L_1(4)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(3)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.75813

Rule base for Versicolor vs. Virginica (14 rules):

- 1: IF SW IS  $L_2(5)$  AND PL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PW IS  $L_3(5)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.28547
- 2: IF SL IS  $L_2(5)$  AND PL IS  $L_3(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_2(4)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.90616
- 3: IF SL IS  $L_2(5)$  AND SW IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_2(3)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.43896
- 4: IF SW IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PL IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_3(5)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.28434
- 5: IF SL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_2(3)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.59015
- 6: IF SL IS  $L_3(5)$  AND SW IS  $L_0(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_3(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_3(5)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.99083
- 7: IF SL IS  $L_2(4)$  AND SW IS  $L_0(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_0(2)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.26959
- 8: IF SL IS  $L_3(5)$  AND PL IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(2)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.28869
- 9: IF SL IS  $L_0(3)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PL IS  $L_3(5)$  AND PW IS  $L_0(3)$ : Versicolor with RW: 1.0
- 10: IF SL IS  $L_3(5)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_3(5)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(4)$ : Versicolor with RW: 1.0
- 11: IF SL IS  $L_1(2)$  AND SW IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_2(4)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.90929
- 12: IF SL IS  $L_0(2)$  AND SW IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_2(4)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(3)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.38662
- 13: IF SL IS  $L_3(4)$  AND SW IS  $L_0(4)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(3)$ : Versicolor with RW: 0.39577
- 14: IF SL IS  $L_2(3)$  AND SW IS  $L_2(3)$  AND PL IS  $L_1(3)$  AND PW IS  $L_1(2)$ : Virginica with RW: 0.86992



## 4. Experimental framework

In this section, we will first introduce the two aggregation schemes used for comparison with our non-dominance criterion (Section 4.1). Then, we will provide details of the real-world multi-class problems chosen for the experimentation and the configuration parameters of the FRBCSs (Sections 4.2 and 4.3, respectively). Finally, we will introduce the statistical tests applied to compare the results obtained along the experimental study (Section 4.4).

### 4.1. Mechanisms for combining predictions in pairwise classification used for comparison

In this part of the section we introduce two classification process for combining the predictions in the pairwise learning scheme that we have selected for contrasting the behaviour of the non-dominance criterion, namely a weighted voting scheme and a decision rule based on a voting strategy.

#### 4.1.1. Classification process via a weighted voting scheme

The first technique is one of the simplest and most widely used aggregation method in pairwise learning [25]. The final class is assigned by computing the maximum vote by rows from the values of the fuzzy preference relation  $R$ :

$$Class(x_p) = \arg \max_{i=1, \dots, m} \left\{ \frac{\sum_{j=1; j \neq i}^m R(i, j)}{m-1} \right\} \quad (15)$$

We must point out that in this case  $R$  is a normalised reciprocal matrix which means that whenever a binary classifier is not able to determine the association degree for a given instance, it outputs a 0.5 value for both classes. In spite of its simplicity, it has been determined to obtain a very good precision for pairwise classification [24,25].

#### 4.1.2. Classification process via a decision rule based on a voting strategy

This voting strategy was proposed in [22] and starts from the obtention of  $R^b(i, j)$  and  $R^b(j, i)$  as the maximum association output degrees for the rule set for classes  $i$  and  $j$  and compute  $R$  as the normalised version of  $R^b$ . We must point out that in spite of in the original proposal of this voting strategy the values of  $R(i, j)$  and  $R(j, i)$  are non-normalised, in this paper we have taken a normalised reciprocal matrix (as in the weighted voting scheme) since it provides better results in practice with the fuzzy algorithms selected in our experimental framework. From here, the following values are derived:

$$\begin{aligned} P(i, j) &= R(i, j) - \min\{R(i, j), R(j, i)\} \\ P(j, i) &= R(j, i) - \min\{R(i, j), R(j, i)\} \\ C(i, j) &= \min\{R(i, j), R(j, i)\} \\ I(i, j) &= 1 - \max\{R(i, j), R(j, i)\} \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

$C(i, j)$  is defined as the degree of conflict, namely the degree to which both classes are supported. Likewise,  $I(i, j)$  is the degree of ignorance, namely the degree to which none of the classes is supported. Finally,  $P(i, j)$  and  $P(j, i)$  denote the strict preference for  $i$  and  $j$ , respectively. Note that at least one of these two degrees is zero, and that  $P(i, j) + P(j, i) + C(i, j) + I(i, j) = 1$ .

From these three relations, the following classification rule could be used:

$$Class(x_p) = \arg \max_{i=1, \dots, m} \sum_{1 \leq j \neq i \leq m} P(i, j) + \frac{1}{2} \cdot C(i, j) + \frac{N_i}{N_i + N_j} \cdot I(i, j) \quad (17)$$

where  $N_i$  is the number of examples from class  $i$  in the training data (and hence, an unbiased estimate of the class probability).

### 4.2. Data-sets

Table 4 summarizes the properties of the selected data-sets. It shows, for each data-set, the number of examples (#Ex.), the number of attributes (#Atts.), the number of numerical (#Num.) and nominal (#Nom.) features, and the

Table 4  
Summary description of the data-sets.

id	Data-set	#Ex.	#Atts.	#Num.	#Nom.	#Cl.
bal	balance scale	625	4	4	0	3
cle	cleveland	297	13	6	7	5
eco	ecoli	336	7	7	0	8
gla	glass identification	214	9	9	0	6
iri	iris	150	4	4	0	3
let	letter	2000	16	16	0	26
new	new-thyroid	215	5	5	0	3
pag	page-blocks	548	10	10	0	5
pen	pen-based recognition	1099	16	16	0	10
seg	segment	2310	19	19	0	7
shu	shuttle	2175	9	9	0	5
veh	vehicle	846	18	18	0	4
win	wine	178	13	13	0	3
yea	yeast	1484	8	8	0	10

number of classes (#Cl.). The *letter*, *penbased* and *page-blocks* data-sets have been stratified sampled at 10% in order to reduce their size for training. In the case of missing values (*cleveland*) we have removed those instances from the data-set.

Estimates of accuracy rate were obtained by means of a fivefold cross-validation. That is, we split the data set into five folds, each one containing the 20% of the patterns of the data-set. For each fold, the algorithm was trained with the examples contained in the remaining folds and then, tested with the current fold. Furthermore, we have run the algorithms three times in order to obtain a sample of 15 results, which have been averaged, for each data-set.

#### 4.3. Parameters

The selected configuration for the FH-GBML and SLAVE approaches has been set up according to the recommendations of the authors in the corresponding papers. Regarding the specific parameters for the genetic process, we have chosen the following values:

- FH-GBML:
  - Number of fuzzy rules:  $5 \cdot d$  rules.
  - Number of rule sets: 200 rule sets.
  - Crossover probability: 0.9.
  - Mutation probability:  $1/d$ .
  - Number of replaced rules: All rules except the best-one (Pittsburgh-part, elitist approach), number of rules/5 (GCCL-part).
  - Total number of generations: 1000 generations.
  - Don't care probability: 0.5.
  - Probability of the application of the GCCL iteration: 0.5.
- SLAVE:
  - Population size: 100 individuals.
  - Number of iterations allowed without change=500 iterations.
  - Mutation probability=0.01.
  - Crossover probability=1.0 (it is always applied)

where  $d$  stands for the dimensionality of the problem (number of variables). Whereas the mutation probability is originally taken from the recommendations given in Ishibuchi and Yamamoto's paper [29], the number of rules has been chosen heuristically after some preliminary experiments in order to obtain a good behaviour for all data-sets, also following the same scheme than in some of our previous works using this algorithm [9].

#### 4.4. Statistical tests for performance comparison

In this paper, we use the hypothesis testing techniques to provide statistical support to the analysis of the results [13,32]. Specifically, we will use non-parametric tests, due to the fact that the initial conditions that guarantee the reliability of the parametric tests may not be satisfied, making the statistical analysis to lose credibility with these type of tests [7].

We apply the Wilcoxon signed-rank test [32] as non-parametric statistical procedure for performing pairwise comparisons between two algorithms. We will also compute the  $p$ -value associated to each comparison, which represents the lowest level of significance of a hypothesis that results in a rejection. In this manner, we can know whether two algorithms are significantly different and how different they are.

Furthermore, we consider the average ranking of the algorithms in order to show graphically how good a method is with respect to its partners. This ranking is obtained by assigning a position to each algorithm depending on its performance for each data-set. The algorithm which achieves the best accuracy on a specific data-set will have the first ranking (value 1); then, the algorithm with the second best accuracy is assigned rank 2, and so forth. This task is carried out for all data-sets and finally an average ranking is computed as the mean value of all rankings.

These tests are suggested in the studies presented in [7,13–15], where its use in the field of machine learning is highly recommended. Any interested reader can find additional information on the Website <http://sci2s.ugr.es/sicidm/>, together with the software for applying the statistical tests.

### 5. Experimental analysis

The results of the experiments in the test partitions for the FH-GBML and SLAVE algorithms are shown in Tables 5 and 6 where, by columns, we can observe the accuracy performance for the basic algorithm and the pairwise-learning approaches, namely the non-dominance classification criterion (noted with suffix ND), the weighted voting scheme (noted with suffix WV) and the decision rule based on a voting strategy (noted with suffix VS). The complete tables of results with the training and test partitions are shown in the appendix of this paper.

We divide our experimental analysis into two parts:

- First, we want to determine whether the multi-classifier proposal enhances the performance of the linguistic FRBCS that manages all classes independently.
- Next, our aim is to analyse the behaviour of our proposal for the output decision process based on a non-dominance criterion versus the weighted voting and the voting strategy.

Table 5

Average accuracy results for the FH-GBML algorithm with the basic approach and the multi-classifier schemes.

Data-set	#Cl.	FH-GBML	FH-GBML-ND	FH-GBML-WV	FH-GBML-VS
Bal	3	82.24 ± 2.85	84.80 ± 2.83	84.32 ± 2.86	<b>84.96 ± 2.55</b>
Iri	3	93.33 ± 4.08	<b>94.67 ± 2.98</b>	94.00 ± 2.79	94.00 ± 2.79
New	3	91.16 ± 3.03	<b>95.35 ± 2.33</b>	94.42 ± 2.65	94.42 ± 1.27
Win	3	92.70 ± 4.21	<b>96.08 ± 3.75</b>	94.38 ± 3.96	93.83 ± 4.58
Veh	4	58.15 ± 3.47	<b>66.67 ± 4.37</b>	66.20 ± 3.81	66.08 ± 4.57
Cle	5	50.84 ± 6.14	57.24 ± 2.45	57.58 ± 2.33	<b>57.92 ± 1.96</b>
Pag	5	94.53 ± 0.91	<b>95.62 ± 1.20</b>	<b>95.62 ± 1.77</b>	<b>95.62 ± 1.77</b>
Shu	5	95.22 ± 1.43	97.70 ± 0.83	<b>97.79 ± 1.33</b>	95.40 ± 2.16
Gla	6	60.29 ± 6.30	62.19 ± 7.58	<b>64.04 ± 8.84</b>	63.59 ± 6.90
Seg	7	78.70 ± 2.27	<b>93.29 ± 1.73</b>	89.26 ± 2.41	89.26 ± 2.41
Eco	8	76.19 ± 5.04	<b>81.55 ± 4.63</b>	79.77 ± 3.04	76.80 ± 6.48
Pen	10	69.82 ± 1.84	91.09 ± 1.14	<b>92.18 ± 1.97</b>	<b>92.18 ± 1.97</b>
Yea	10	51.22 ± 4.54	<b>58.96 ± 1.53</b>	58.42 ± 2.41	57.21 ± 2.00
Let	26	16.35 ± 1.58	71.20 ± 2.35	<b>72.75 ± 1.88</b>	72.55 ± 2.02
Mean	X	72.20 ± 3.41	<b>81.89 ± 2.84</b>	81.48 ± 3.00	80.99 ± 3.10

Table 6

Average accuracy results for the SLAVE algorithm with the basic approach and the multi-classifier schemes.

Data-set	#Cl.	SLAVE	SLAVE-ND	SLAVE-WV	SLAVE-VS
Bal	3	<b>77.76 ± 2.07</b>	75.20 ± 4.12	75.36 ± 3.85	75.36 ± 3.85
Iri	3	96.00 ± 3.65	96.67 ± 2.36	<b>97.33 ± 2.79</b>	<b>97.33 ± 2.79</b>
New	3	90.70 ± 2.85	<b>91.16 ± 6.02</b>	90.23 ± 6.02	80.93 ± 3.03
Win	3	93.78 ± 3.77	<b>96.05 ± 3.24</b>	88.71 ± 9.52	87.05 ± 7.33
Veh		<b>64.07 ± 2.17</b>	60.87 ± 5.59	58.03 ± 3.89	58.03 ± 3.34
Cle	5	52.84 ± 6.25	54.92 ± 5.40	55.24 ± 3.67	<b>56.59 ± 4.30</b>
Pag	5	<b>93.61 ± 1.74</b>	<b>93.61 ± 1.96</b>	93.42 ± 1.53	93.24 ± 1.42
Shu	5	85.70 ± 0.50	<b>94.76 ± 2.91</b>	91.77 ± 1.24	90.76 ± 1.02
Gla	6	<b>61.20 ± 3.78</b>	56.07 ± 3.88	54.65 ± 5.07	52.79 ± 6.76
Seg	7	89.26 ± 1.27	<b>90.04 ± 1.32</b>	75.24 ± 3.53	75.24 ± 3.53
Eco	8	<b>85.41 ± 6.29</b>	79.46 ± 6.04	77.09 ± 4.89	77.38 ± 2.88
Pen	10	88.73 ± 2.44	<b>89.18 ± 2.17</b>	59.36 ± 4.33	59.73 ± 3.86
Yea	10	50.74 ± 4.28	<b>56.13 ± 1.56</b>	50.41 ± 2.29	49.40 ± 1.96
Let	26	41.85 ± 2.11	<b>68.80 ± 2.39</b>	51.00 ± 1.96	51.05 ± 2.15
Mean	X	76.55 ± 3.08	<b>78.78 ± 3.50</b>	72.70 ± 3.90	71.78 ± 3.44

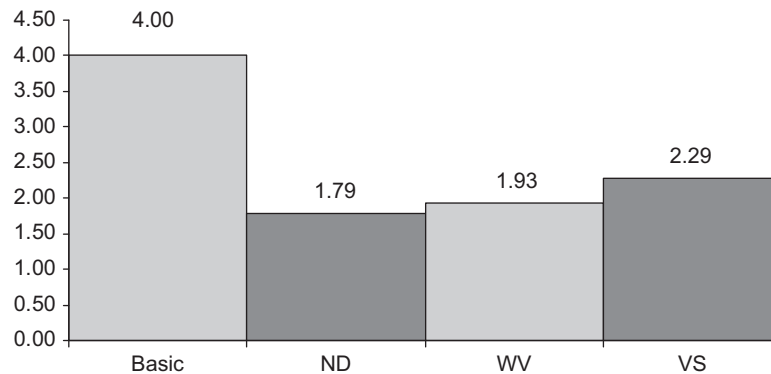


Fig. 2. Ranking in accuracy for the different FH-GBML approaches: basic scheme, multi-classifier with non-dominance criterion and multi-classifier with voting strategy.

### 5.1. Analysis on the usefulness of the pairwise learning approach for linguistic fuzzy rule based classification systems

In order to carry out the first study, we show the ranking of the FH-GBML and SLAVE approaches by means of the procedure described in Section 4.4. Figs. 2 and 3 show the average ranking computed for the four different alternatives: basic approach and the three multi-classification techniques. We can observe that for the FH-GBML algorithm all the multi-classification schemes obtain a higher average result and ranking than the basic methodology, whereas in the case of the SLAVE algorithm only the non-dominance criterion is competitive with the basic approach.

In order to determine with a statistical support that the non-dominance criterion outperforms the basic linguistic FRBCS approach, we will carry out a Wilcoxon test for both algorithms (FH-GBML and SLAVE), which is shown in Table 7. The result of this test is in concordance with our previous hypothesis for which the multiclassifier version of the FRBCSs derives in a benefit in performance.

### 5.2. Analysis of the decision process methodology

The next objective of this empirical analysis is to study the three alternatives selected for the decision process among all predictions for the fuzzy classifiers. With this aim, we have carried out a Wilcoxon test, shown in Table 8, in which we compare the non-dominance criterion versus the weighted voting and the voting strategy.

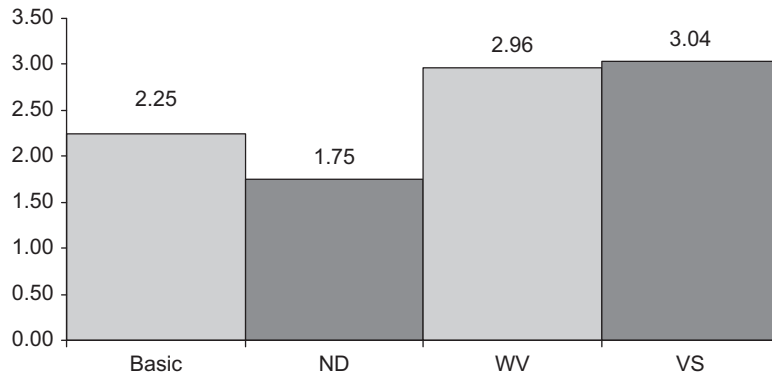


Fig. 3. Ranking in accuracy for the different SLAVE approaches: basic scheme, multi-classifier with non-dominance criterion and multi-classifier with voting strategy.

Table 7

Wilcoxon test to compare the multiclassifier FBRCs (non-dominance approach) versus the basic approach for the FH-GBML and SLAVE algorithms.

Comparison	$R^+$	$R^-$	$p$ -value	Hypothesis ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )
FH-GBML-ND vs. FH-GBML	105.0	0.0	0.001	Rejected for FH-GBML-ND
SLAVE-ND vs. SLAVE	65.5	39.5	0.463	Not rejected

$R^+$  corresponds to the sum of the ranks for the multiclassifier approach and  $R^-$  to the basic approach.

Table 8

Wilcoxon test to compare the non-dominance approach versus the weighted voting and the decision rule with a voting strategy for the FH-GBML and SLAVE algorithms.

Comparison	$R^+$	$R^-$	$p$ -Value	Hypothesis ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )
FH-GBML-ND vs. FH-GBML-WV	67.5	37.5	0.345	Not rejected
FH-GBML-ND vs. FH-GBML-VS	73.5	31.5	0.173	Not rejected
SLAVE-ND vs. SLAVE-WV	97.0	8.0	0.005	Rejected for SLAVE-ND
SLAVE-ND vs. SLAVE-VS	97.0	8.0	0.005	Rejected for SLAVE-ND

$R^+$  corresponds to the sum of the ranks for the non-dominance criterion and  $R^-$  to the weighted voting (first and third row) and the voting strategy (second and fourth row).

We can conclude from the results of this table that the non-dominance criterion always obtains a higher rank than the weighted voting approach and decision rule alternative based on a voting strategy, and also the highest average performance (Tables 5 and 6) which supposes a clear advantage of the proposed approach for the decision process in linguistic fuzzy multi-classification systems. We must also highlight the good behaviour of the non-dominance criterion is stressed in the case of the SLAVE algorithm which statistically outperforms the decision methodologies used for comparison. Furthermore, we must emphasize another advantage of this aggregation model based on non-dominance is that a class will be always chosen as the winner when it is the best in all pairwise comparison, which for example may not be fulfilled for the weighted voting scheme. An example of this behaviour is shown in Table 9.

To sum up, we included a star plot representation in Fig. 4 for the three approaches studied in the case of the SLAVE, which includes more representative differences among them. This plot represents the performance as the distance from the center; hence a higher area determines the best average performance; furthermore, since the data-sets are ordered by the number of classes, we can also visualise the behaviour according to the “neighbours” problems. Specifically, from this figure we can observe that all methodologies (“non-dominance criterion”, “weighted voting” and “voting

Table 9

Example of the behaviour of the non-dominance criterion versus the weighted voting approach.

$R = \begin{bmatrix} - & 0.6 & 0.6 \\ 0.4 & - & 0.0 \\ 0.4 & 1.0 & - \end{bmatrix}$ $R' = \begin{bmatrix} - & 0.2 & 0.2 \\ 0.0 & - & 0.0 \\ 0.0 & 1.0 & - \end{bmatrix}$	
Non-dominance approach	Weighted voting approach
$ND = \{1.0, 0.0, 0.8\}$ $Class = \arg \max_{i=1,\dots,3} \{ND_i\} = 1$	$WV = \{0.6, 0.2, 0.7\}$ $Class = \arg \max_{i=1,\dots,3} \{WV_i\} = 3$

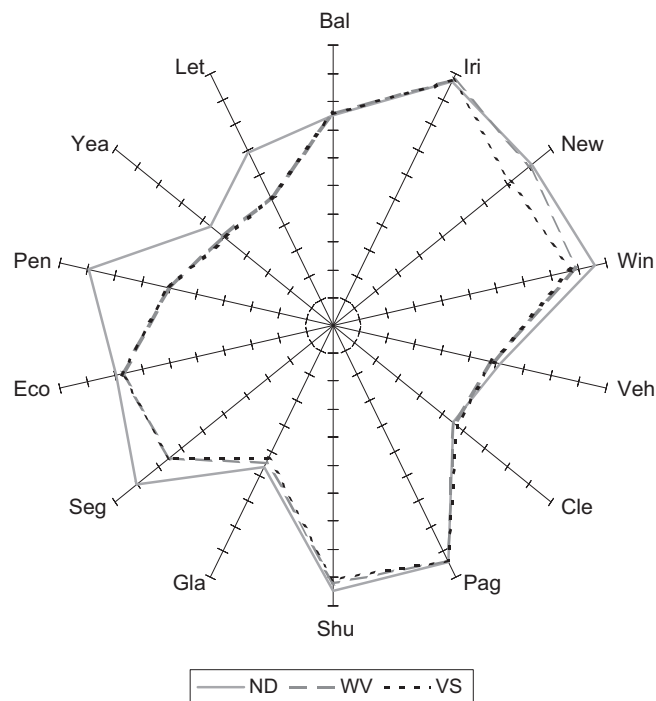


Fig. 4. Star plot representation for the two models of the decision process, “Non-dominance criterion” (ND) and “Voting strategy” (VS). The data-sets are ordered clockwise according to their number of classes.

strategy”) are very similar in performance for data-sets with a low number of classes (up to 6), but then the quality of the results for the weighted voting and voting strategy decrease in contrast to the non-dominance criterion. In any case, in order to find more consistent conclusions, it would be necessary to compare them with more data-sets and learning methods.

Finally, the results of this paper allow us the possibility of developing several further studies on the topic:

1. First, to make use of a specific DB in the binary classifiers that could be able to avoid the pressure of the non-competent examples [12], which are those instances that belong to a class for which the binary learner is not prepared.
2. Second, to analyse the specific features of the classification algorithms and/or data-sets in order to being able to select before-hand which aggregation mechanism is best suited for the multi-classification task.

3. Related to the previous issue, we are interested in proposing a kind of theoretical argument or explanation for why the “non-dominance criterion” is better than “weighted voting” and in which cases.
4. Finally, to study a way to unify the potential of the aggregation schemes compared in this paper so that, regarding the previous items, we could obtain an approach that shows a good synergy for different frameworks.

## 6. Concluding remarks

In this paper, we have applied a pairwise learning methodology for building a linguistic fuzzy multi-classifier system oriented to discriminate between pairs of classes and to obtain a better decision boundary in multiclass problems.

In order to aggregate the output for every single classifier, we have made use of a fuzzy preference relation translating the classification problem into a decision making problem. For obtaining the final output class, we have proposed the use of a decision rule based on a maximal non-dominance criterion, and we have contrasted the behaviour of this model with the classical weighted voting method and a new voting strategy based on the fuzzy relations of preference, ignorance and conflict.

The experimental study showed two main conclusions: First, the application of a pairwise learning approach using the non-dominance criterion improves the performance of the linguistic FRBCS methods. Second, we have found empirical evidences in favour of the non-dominance criterion for the final classification, being the best alternative in this context, especially when the number of classes of the problem is high.

Finally, we have pointed out some interesting issues as future work so that this paper can be taken as a starting point for carrying out several new studies on the topic.

## Acknowledgment

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## Appendix: Complete tables of results

The complete tables of results for the experimental study are shown in Tables 10 and 11.

Table 10

Average accuracy results in training and test for the FH-GBML algorithm with the basic approach and the multi-classifier schemes.

Data-set	#Cl.	FH-GBML		FH-GBML-ND		FH-GBML-WV		FH-GBML-VS	
		AccTr	AccTst	AccTr	AccTst	AccTr	AccTst	AccTr	AccTst
Bal	3	85.64 ± 2.49	82.24 ± 2.85	87.04 ± 1.97	84.80 ± 2.83	87.16 ± 1.91	84.32 ± 2.86	86.96 ± 1.95	84.96 ± 2.55
Iri	3	99.33 ± 0.70	93.33 ± 4.08	99.50 ± 0.46	94.67 ± 2.98	98.17 ± 1.09	94.00 ± 2.79	98.17 ± 1.09	94.00 ± 2.79
New	3	96.74 ± 0.66	91.16 ± 3.03	99.53 ± 0.49	95.35 ± 2.33	96.05 ± 1.26	94.42 ± 2.65	93.72 ± 1.26	94.42 ± 1.27
Win	3	97.61 ± 0.63	92.70 ± 4.21	100.00 ± 0.00	96.08 ± 3.75	98.74 ± 0.92	94.38 ± 3.96	98.31 ± 1.46	93.83 ± 4.58
Veh	4	62.44 ± 1.07	58.15 ± 3.47	74.50 ± 1.11	66.67 ± 4.37	73.82 ± 0.91	66.20 ± 3.81	73.79 ± 0.78	66.08 ± 4.57
Cle	5	63.05 ± 0.73	50.84 ± 6.14	75.59 ± 0.82	57.24 ± 2.45	75.93 ± 1.06	57.58 ± 2.33	74.07 ± 0.62	57.92 ± 1.96
Pag	5	95.67 ± 0.51	94.53 ± 0.91	98.17 ± 0.49	95.62 ± 1.20	97.08 ± 0.93	95.62 ± 1.77	96.49 ± 0.94	95.62 ± 1.77
Shu	5	95.52 ± 0.67	95.22 ± 1.43	98.45 ± 0.60	97.70 ± 0.83	98.34 ± 0.43	97.79 ± 1.33	95.54 ± 1.44	95.40 ± 2.16
Gla	6	70.44 ± 0.37	60.29 ± 6.30	82.48 ± 0.72	62.19 ± 7.58	74.88 ± 1.13	64.04 ± 8.84	73.83 ± 1.48	63.59 ± 6.90
Seg	7	79.82 ± 1.19	78.70 ± 2.27	94.96 ± 0.35	93.29 ± 1.73	90.78 ± 2.17	89.26 ± 2.41	90.78 ± 2.17	89.26 ± 2.41
Eco	8	79.76 ± 1.44	76.19 ± 5.04	92.34 ± 1.27	81.55 ± 4.63	88.39 ± 1.62	79.77 ± 3.04	84.75 ± 1.02	76.80 ± 6.48
Pen	10	71.93 ± 1.19	69.82 ± 1.84	96.41 ± 0.63	91.09 ± 1.14	96.84 ± 0.33	92.18 ± 1.97	96.82 ± 0.35	92.18 ± 1.97
Yea	10	53.84 ± 1.26	51.22 ± 4.54	65.47 ± 0.70	58.96 ± 1.53	62.35 ± 0.38	58.42 ± 2.41	61.19 ± 0.51	57.21 ± 2.00
Let	26	18.19 ± 1.64	16.35 ± 1.58	86.30 ± 0.31	71.20 ± 2.35	84.65 ± 0.93	72.75 ± 1.88	84.58 ± 1.02	72.55 ± 2.02
Mean	X	76.43 ± 1.04	72.20 ± 3.41	89.34 ± 0.71	81.89 ± 2.84	87.37 ± 1.08	81.48 ± 3.00	86.36 ± 1.15	80.99 ± 3.10

Table 11

Average accuracy results in training and test for the SLAVE algorithm with the basic approach and the multi-classifier schemes.

Data-set	#Cl.	SLAVE		SLAVE-ND		SLAVE-WV		SLAVE-VS	
		AccTr	AccTst	AccTr	AccTst	AccTr	AccTst	AccTr	AccTst
Bal	3	84.48 ± 0.59	77.76 ± 2.07	82.44 ± 2.36	75.20 ± 4.12	82.40 ± 2.37	75.36 ± 3.85	82.40 ± 2.37	75.36 ± 3.85
Iri	3	97.67 ± 0.70	96.00 ± 3.65	97.83 ± 0.75	96.67 ± 2.36	97.83 ± 0.75	97.33 ± 2.79	97.83 ± 0.75	97.33 ± 2.79
New	3	93.49 ± 0.49	90.70 ± 2.85	95.35 ± 1.88	91.16 ± 6.02	94.19 ± 1.30	90.23 ± 6.02	84.19 ± 5.57	80.93 ± 3.03
Win	3	97.05 ± 1.36	93.78 ± 3.77	98.59 ± 0.50	96.05 ± 3.24	91.45 ± 6.32	88.71 ± 9.52	90.75 ± 6.68	87.05 ± 7.33
Veh	4	77.16 ± 3.66	64.07 ± 2.17	72.19 ± 5.24	60.87 ± 5.59	64.72 ± 3.94	58.03 ± 3.89	63.89 ± 3.51	58.03 ± 3.34
Cle	5	87.37 ± 3.25	52.84 ± 6.25	81.73 ± 1.86	54.92 ± 5.40	77.44 ± 1.86	55.24 ± 3.67	75.25 ± 2.64	56.59 ± 4.30
Pag	5	95.89 ± 0.73	93.61 ± 1.74	96.21 ± 0.70	93.61 ± 1.96	96.17 ± 0.71	93.42 ± 1.53	95.98 ± 1.01	93.24 ± 1.42
Shu	5	85.70 ± 0.12	85.70 ± 0.50	95.05 ± 1.19	94.76 ± 2.91	91.89 ± 0.49	91.77 ± 1.24	90.84 ± 0.14	90.76 ± 1.02
Gla	6	76.17 ± 2.50	61.20 ± 3.78	77.92 ± 1.30	56.07 ± 3.88	65.66 ± 7.66	54.65 ± 5.07	65.08 ± 8.38	52.79 ± 6.76
Seg	7	90.79 ± 0.69	89.26 ± 1.27	92.91 ± 1.25	90.04 ± 1.32	77.41 ± 1.79	75.24 ± 3.53	77.41 ± 1.79	75.24 ± 3.53
Eco	8	89.88 ± 0.54	85.41 ± 6.29	88.24 ± 1.65	79.46 ± 6.04	83.33 ± 1.59	77.09 ± 4.89	83.26 ± 0.92	77.38 ± 2.88
Pen	10	94.77 ± 0.64	88.73 ± 2.44	96.18 ± 0.48	89.18 ± 2.17	64.09 ± 4.17	59.36 ± 4.33	64.50 ± 4.07	59.73 ± 3.86
Yea	10	53.76 ± 3.46	50.74 ± 4.28	60.92 ± 0.88	56.13 ± 1.56	54.83 ± 1.34	50.41 ± 2.29	53.57 ± 1.76	49.40 ± 1.96
Let	26	49.76 ± 2.04	41.85 ± 2.11	87.79 ± 1.39	68.80 ± 2.39	61.29 ± 2.77	51.00 ± 1.96	61.18 ± 2.77	51.05 ± 2.15
Mean	X	83.85 ± 1.48	76.55 ± 3.08	87.38 ± 1.53	78.78 ± 3.50	78.76 ± 2.65	72.70 ± 3.90	77.58 ± 3.03	71.78 ± 3.44

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