

**$t$ -BEST APPROXIMATION IN FUZZY NORMED SPACES**

S. M. VAEZPOUR AND F. KARIMI

ABSTRACT. The main purpose of this paper is to find  $t$ -best approximations in fuzzy normed spaces. We introduce the notions of  $t$ -proximal sets and  $F$ -approximations and prove some interesting theorems. In particular, we investigate the set of all  $t$ -best approximations to an element from a set.

**1. Introduction**

The theory of fuzzy sets was introduced by L. Zadeh [9] in 1965. since then, many mathematicians have studied fuzzy normed spaces from several angles ([6], [1], [2]) and, in 2001, Veeramani introduced the concept of  $t$ -best approximations in fuzzy metric spaces. In this paper we consider the set of all  $t$ -best approximations on fuzzy normed spaces and prove several theorems pertaining to this set.

**Definition 1.1.** A binary operation  $*$  :  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1] \longrightarrow [0, 1]$  is said to be a continuous  $t$ -norm if  $([0, 1], *)$  is a topological monoid with unit 1 such that  $a * b \leq c * d$  whenever  $a \leq c$  and  $b \leq d$  ( $a, b, c, d \in [0, 1]$ ).

**Definition 1.2.** [6] The 3-tuple  $(X, N, *)$  is said to be a fuzzy normed space if  $X$  is a vector space,  $*$  is a continuous  $t$ -norm and  $N$  is a fuzzy set on  $X \times (0, \infty)$  satisfying the following conditions for every  $x, y \in X$  and  $t, s > 0$ ,

- (i)  $N(x, t) > 0$ ,
- (ii)  $N(x, t) = 1 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$ ,
- (iii)  $N(\alpha x, t) = N(x, t/|\alpha|)$ , for all  $\alpha \neq 0$ ,
- (iv)  $N(x, t) * N(y, s) \leq N(x + y, t + s)$ ,
- (v)  $N(x, \cdot) : (0, \infty) \longrightarrow [0, 1]$  is continuous,
- (vi)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} N(x, t) = 1$ .

**Lemma 1.3.** [6] Let  $N$  be a fuzzy norm. Then:

- (i)  $N(x, t)$  is nondecreasing with respect to  $t$  for each  $x \in X$ ,
- (ii)  $N(x - y, t) = N(y - x, t)$ .

**Remark 1.4.** As was shown in [6], every fuzzy normed space induces a fuzzy metric space on it and is therefore a topological space.

**Definition 1.5.** [6] Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space. The open ball  $B(x, r, t)$  and the closed ball  $B[x, r, t]$  with the center  $x \in X$  and radius  $0 < r < 1$ ,  $t > 0$  are

---

Received: March 2006; Revised: January 2007; Accepted: June 2007

*Key words and phrases:* Fuzzy normed space,  $t$ -best approximation,  $t$ -proximal set.

defined as follows:

$$B(x, r, t) = \{y \in X : N(x - y, t) > 1 - r\},$$

$$B[x, r, t] = \{y \in X : N(x - y, t) \geq 1 - r\}.$$

**Lemma 1.6.** [6] *If  $(X, N, *)$  is a fuzzy normed space. Then:*

- (i) *the function  $(x, y) \rightarrow x + y$  is continuous,*
- (ii) *the function  $(\alpha, x) \rightarrow \alpha x$  is continuous.*

## 2. *t*-best Approximation

**Definition 2.1.** [8] Let  $A$  be a nonempty subset of a fuzzy normed space  $(X, N, *)$ . For  $x \in X, t > 0$ , let

$$d(A, x, t) = \sup\{N(y - x, t) : y \in A\}.$$

An element  $y_0 \in A$  is said to be a *t*-best approximation of  $x$  from  $A$  if

$$N(y_0 - x, t) = d(A, x, t)$$

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $A$  be a nonempty set of a fuzzy normed space  $(X, N, *)$ . For  $x \in X, t > 0$ , we shall denote the set of all elements of *t*-best approximation of  $x$  from  $A$  by  $P_A^t(x)$ ; i.e.,

$$P_A^t(x) = \{y \in A : d(A, x, t) = N(y - x, t)\}.$$

If each  $x \in X$  has at least (respectively exactly) one *t*-best approximation in  $A$ , then  $A$  is called a *t*-proximal (respectively *t*-Chebyshev) set.

**Definition 2.3.** For  $t > 0$ , a nonempty closed subset  $A$  of a fuzzy normed space  $(X, N, *)$  is said to be *t*-boundedly compact if for each  $x$  in  $X$  and  $0 < r < 1, B[x, r, t] \cap A$  is a compact subset of  $X$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** (*Invariance by translation and scalar multiplication*)

*Let  $A$  be a nonempty subset of a fuzzy normed space  $(X, N, *)$ . Then:*

- (i)  *$d(A + y, x + y, t) = d(A, x, t)$ , for every  $x, y \in X$  and  $t > 0$ ,*
- (ii)  *$P_A^t(x + y) = P_A^t(x) + y$ , for every  $x, y \in X$  and  $t > 0$ ,*
- (iii)  *$d(\alpha A, \alpha x, t) = d(A, x, t / |\alpha|)$  for every  $x \in X, t > 0$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ ,*
- (iv)  *$P_{\alpha A}^{|\alpha|t}(\alpha x) = \alpha P_A^t(x)$ , for every  $x \in X, t > 0$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ ,*
- (v)  *$A$  is *t*-proximal (respectively *t*-chebyshev) if and only if  $A + y$  is *t*-proximal (respectively *t*-chebyshev), for any given  $y \in X$ ,*
- (vi)  *$A$  is *t*-proximal (respectively *t*-chebyshev) if and only if  $\alpha A$  is  $|\alpha|t$ -proximal (respectively  $|\alpha|t$ -chebyshev), for any given  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .*

*Proof.* (i) For any  $x, y \in X$  and  $t > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} d(A + y, x + y, t) &= \sup\{N((z + y) - (x + y), t) : z \in A\} \\ &= \sup\{N(z - x, t) : z \in A\} \\ &= d(A, x, t). \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Using (i),  $y_0 \in P_{A+y}^t(x+y)$  if and only if  $y_0 \in A+y$  and  $d(A+y, x+y, t) = N(x+y-y_0, t)$  if and only if  $y_0-y \in A$  and  $d(A, x, t) = N(x-(y_0-y), t)$  if and only if  $y_0-y \in P_A^t(x)$ ; i.e.,  $y_0 \in P_A^t(x)+y$ .

(iii) We have,

$$\begin{aligned} d(\alpha A, \alpha x, t) &= \sup\{N(\alpha x - \alpha z, t) : z \in A\} \\ &= \sup\{N(\alpha(x-z), t) : z \in A\} \\ &= \sup\{N(x-z, t/|\alpha|) : z \in A\} \\ &= d(A, x, t/|\alpha|). \end{aligned}$$

(iv) From (iii) it follows that  $y_0 \in P_{\alpha A}^{|\alpha|t}(\alpha x)$  if and only if  $y_0 \in \alpha A$  and  $d(\alpha A, \alpha x, |\alpha|t) = N(\alpha x - y_0, |\alpha|t)$  if and only if  $y_0/\alpha \in A$  and  $N(x - y_0/\alpha, t) = d(A, x, t)$ . However, this is equivalent to  $y_0/\alpha \in P_A^t(x)$ ; i.e.,  $y_0 \in \alpha P_A^t(x)$ .

(v) is an immediate consequence of (ii), and (vi) follows from (iv). □

**Corollary 2.5.** *Let  $M$  be a nonempty subspace of  $X$ . Then:*

- (i)  $d(M, x+y, t) = d(M, x, t)$ , for every  $t > 0$ ,  $x \in X$  and  $y \in M$ ,
- (ii)  $P_M^t(x+y) = P_M^t(x)+y$ , for every  $t > 0$ ,  $x \in X$  and  $y \in M$ ,
- (iii)  $d(M, \alpha x, |\alpha|t) = d(M, x, t)$ , for every  $t > 0$ ,  $x \in X$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ ,
- (iv)  $P_M^{|\alpha|t}(\alpha x) = \alpha P_M^t(x)$ , for every  $t > 0$ ,  $x \in X$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* (i) and (ii) follow from theorem (2.4)(i) and (2.4)(ii), and the fact that if  $M$  is a subspace and  $y \in M$ , then  $M+y = M$ .

(iii) and (iv) follow from Theorem 2.4 ((iii) and (iv)), and the fact that if  $M$  is a subspace and  $\alpha \neq 0$ , then  $\alpha M = M$ . □

**Definition 2.6.** For  $x \in X$ ,  $0 < r < 1$ ,  $t > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} S[x, r, t] &= \{y \in X : N(x-y, t) = 1-r\}, \\ e_A^t(x) &= 1-d(A, x, t). \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space,  $A$  be a subset of  $X$ ,  $x \in X \setminus \bar{A}$  and  $t > 0$ . Then we have,*

$$\begin{aligned} P_A^t(x) &= A \cap B[x, e_A^t(x), t] \\ &= A \cap S[x, e_A^t(x), t]. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

*Proof.* The inclusions

$$P_A^t(x) \subseteq A \cap S[x, e_A^t(x), t] \subseteq A \cap B[x, e_A^t(x), t] \tag{2}$$

are obvious by the definitions of  $P_A^t(x)$  and  $e_A^t(x)$ .

Conversely, let  $y \in A \cap B[x, e_A^t(x), t]$ , then we have,  $y \in A$  and

$$N(y-x, t) \geq 1 - e_A^t(x) = d(A, x, t) \geq N(y-x, t).$$

Therefore  $y \in A$  and

$$N(y-x, t) = d(A, x, t),$$

which implies that  $y \in P_A^t(x)$ . So,  $A \cap B[x, e_A^t(x), t] \subset P_A^t(x)$ , whence, by (2), we have (1), which completes the proof. □

**Remark 2.8.** Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space,  $A$  be a subset of  $X$ ,  $x \in X \setminus \bar{A}$  and  $t > 0$ . Then we have

$$A \cap B(x, e_A^t(x), t) = \emptyset, \tag{3}$$

because, if  $y_0 \in A \cap B(x, e_A^t(x), t)$  then  $d(A, x, t) \geq N(x - y_0, t) > d(A, x, t)$ , which is absurd.

**Corollary 2.9.** Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space,  $A$  be a subset of  $X$ ,  $x \in X \setminus \bar{A}$  with  $P_A^t(x) \neq \emptyset$  and  $0 < r < 1$  such that :

$$\emptyset \neq A \cap B[x, r, t] \subseteq S[x, r, t]. \tag{4}$$

Then we have

$$r = e_A^t(x),$$

and consequently  $A \cap B[x, r, t] = P_A^t(x)$ .

*Proof.* If  $r < e_A^t(x)$ , then by the definition of  $e_A^t(x)$  we have  $A \cap B[x, r, t] = \emptyset$ , which contradicts (4). If  $r > e_A^t(x)$ , since  $P_A^t(x) \neq \emptyset$ , then by (1) we have

$$\emptyset \neq P_A^t(x) = A \cap B[x, e_A^t(x), t] \subseteq A \cap B(x, r, t),$$

which contradicts (4), and this completes the proof. □

**Definition 2.10.** Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space,  $0 < r < 1$  and  $t > 0$ . We shall say that a set  $A \subset X$  supports the cell  $B[x, r, t]$ , or that  $A$  is a support set of the cell  $B[x, r, t]$ , if we have  $d(A, B[x, r, t], t) = 1$  and  $A \cap B(x, r, t) = \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 2.11.** Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space,  $A$  a non-void set in  $X$ ,  $x \in X \setminus \bar{A}$ ,  $a_0 \in A$  and  $t > 0$ . We have  $a_0 \in P_A^t(x)$  if and only if the set  $A$  supports the cell  $B = B[x, 1 - N(a_0 - x, t), t]$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $a_0 \in P_A^t(x)$ . Hence  $N(a_0 - x, t) = d(A, x, t)$ . Then by (3), we have  $A \cap B(x, 1 - N(a_0 - x, t), t) = \emptyset$ , on the other hand, since  $a_0 \in A \cap B[x, 1 - N(a_0 - x, t), t]$ , we have  $d(A, B, t) = 1$ . Consequently, the set  $A$  supports the cell  $B$ . Conversely, suppose  $a_0 \notin P_A^t(x)$ , hence  $N(a_0 - x, t) < d(A, x, t)$ , and let  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$  be such that  $N(a_0 - x, t) < d(A, x, t) - \varepsilon$ . Then there exists an  $a \in A$  such that  $N(a_0 - x, t) < d(A, x, t) - \varepsilon < N(a - x, t)$ , hence  $a \in B(x, 1 - N(a_0 - x, t), t)$ . Consequently,  $A$  does not support the cell  $B$ , which completes the proof. □

**Remark 2.12.** We recall that a set  $A$  in a topological space  $\tau$  is said to be countably compact, if every countable open cover of  $A$  has a finite subcover, or, what is equivalent, if for every decreasing sequence  $A_1 \supset A_2 \supset \dots$  of non-void closed subsets of  $A$  we have  $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \neq \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 2.13.** Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space,  $\tau$  be an arbitrary topology on  $X$  and  $t > 0$ . If  $A$  is a non-void set of  $X$  such that for  $A \cap B[x, r, t]$  is  $\tau$ -countably compact, then  $A$  is  $t$ -proximal.

*Proof.* For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $0 < 1 - d(A, x, t) + \frac{d(A, x, t)}{n+1} < 1$ . Put

$$A_n^t = A \cap B[x, 1 - d(A, x, t) + \frac{d(A, x, t)}{n+1}, t] \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Since for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $d(A, x, t)(1 - \frac{1}{n+1}) < d(A, x, t)$ , obviously  $A_1^t \supset A_2^t \supset \dots$  and each  $A_n^t$  is non-void. Hence there exists  $a_n^t \in A$  such that

$$d(A, x, t)(1 - \frac{1}{n+1}) < N(a_n^t - x, t)$$

It follows that  $a_n^t \in A_n^t$ . Now, since each  $A_n^t$  is  $\tau$ -countably compact and  $\tau$ -closed, we conclude that there exists an  $a_0 \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n^t$ . Then we have

$$d(A, x, t) \geq N(a_0 - x, t) \geq d(A, x, t)(1 - \frac{1}{n+1}) \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots),$$

whence  $a_0 \in P_A^t(x)$  which completes the proof. □

**Definition 2.14.** Let  $A$  be a nonempty subset of a fuzzy normed space  $(X, N, *)$ . An element  $y_0 \in A$  is said to be an  $F$ -best approximation of  $x \in X$  from  $A$  if it is a  $t$ -best approximation of  $x$  from  $A$ , for every  $t > 0$ , i.e.,

$$y_0 \in \bigcap_{t \in (0, \infty)} P_A^t(x).$$

The set of all elements of  $F$ -best approximations of  $X$  from  $A$  is denoted by  $FP_A(x)$ , i.e.,

$$FP_A(x) = \bigcap_{t \in (0, \infty)} P_A^t(x).$$

If each  $x \in X$  has at least (respectively exactly) one  $F$ -best approximation in  $A$ , then  $A$  is called a  $F$ -proximal (respectively  $F$ -chebyshev) set.

**Example 2.15.** Let  $X = \mathbb{R}^2$ . For  $a, b \in [0, 1]$ , let  $a * b = ab$ . Define  $N : \mathbb{R}^2 \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$N((x_1, x_2), t) = (\exp \frac{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}}{t})^{-1}.$$

Then  $(X, N, *)$  is a fuzzy normed space. Let  $A = \{(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid -1 \leq x_1 \leq 1, 0 \leq x_2 \leq x_1^2\}$  and  $x = (0, 2)$ . Then for every  $t > 0$ ,

$$N((-1, 1) - (0, 3), t) = N((1, 1) - (0, 3), t) = (\exp \frac{\sqrt{5}}{t})^{-1}.$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} d(A, (0, 3), t) &= \sup\{N((x_1, x_2) - (0, 3), t) \mid -1 \leq x_1 \leq 1, 0 \leq x_2 \leq x_1^2\} \\ &= \sup\{(\exp \frac{\sqrt{x_1^2 + (x_2 - 3)^2}}{t})^{-1} \mid -1 \leq x_1 \leq 1, 0 \leq x_2 \leq x_1^2\} \\ &= (\exp \frac{\sqrt{5}}{t})^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

So, for every  $t > 0$ ,  $y_0 = (-1, 1)$  and  $y_1 = (1, -1)$  are  $t$ -best approximations of  $(0, 3)$  from  $A$ . Therefore  $y_0 = (-1, 1)$  and  $y_1 = (1, -1)$  are  $F$ -best approximations of  $x = (0, 3)$  from  $A$ . Therefore  $A$  is not an  $F$ -Chebyshev set.

**Example 2.16.** Let  $X = \mathbb{R}$ . For  $a, b \in [0, 1]$ , let  $a * b = ab$ . Define

$$N : \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, 1],$$

by

$$N(x, t) = \frac{t}{t + |x|}.$$

Then  $(X, N, *)$  is a fuzzy normed space. Let  $A = [0, 1]$ . Then, for every  $x > 1$ , 1 is an  $F$ -best approximation of  $x$  from  $A$  and for every  $x < 0$ , 0 is an  $F$ -best approximation of  $x$  from  $A$ . So  $A$  is an  $F$ -proximal set.

**Remark 2.17.** For an arbitrary set  $A \subset X$  we shall denote by  $\partial A$  the boundary of  $A$ , by  $IntA$  the interior of  $A$  (hence  $\partial A = \overline{A} \setminus IntA$ ), and by  $\mathcal{M}_A$  the set of all elements of the  $F$ -best approximation of the elements  $x \in X$  from  $A$ , i.e.

$$\mathcal{M}_A = \bigcup_{x \in X} FP_A(x).$$

**Theorem 2.18.** Let  $(X, N, *)$  be a fuzzy normed space and  $A$  be a  $F$ -best proximal set in  $X$ . Then

$$\partial A \subset \overline{\mathcal{M}_A}.$$

*Proof.* If  $\partial A = \emptyset$ , the statement is obvious. If  $\partial A \neq \emptyset$ , let  $a_0 \in \partial A$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$  and  $t > 0$  be arbitrary. Then there exists  $0 < \varepsilon' < 1$  such that  $(1 - \varepsilon') * (1 - \varepsilon') > 1 - \varepsilon$  and the cell  $B(a_0, \varepsilon', t/2)$  contains at least one element  $x \in X \setminus A$ . Let  $\pi_A(x) \in FP_A(x)$  (it exists, since by hypothesis,  $A$  is  $F$ -proximal). Then we have,

$$\begin{aligned} N(a_0 - \pi_A(x), t) &\geq N(a_0 - x, t/2) * N(x - \pi_A(x), t/2) \\ &= N(a_0 - x, t/2) * N(A, x, t/2) \\ &\geq N(a_0 - x, t/2) * N(a_0 - x, t/2) \\ &\geq (1 - \varepsilon') * (1 - \varepsilon') \\ &> 1 - \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

So,  $B(a_0, \varepsilon, t) \cap \mathcal{M}_A \neq \emptyset$  and since  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary, we obtain  $a_0 \in \overline{\mathcal{M}_A}$  which completes the proof. □

The authors would like to thank the referees for their helpful comments and a careful reading of the article.

## REFERENCES

- [1] T. Bag and S. K. Samanta, *Finite dimensional fuzzy normed linear spaces*, J. Fuzzy Math., **11(3)** (2003), 678-705.
- [2] S. C. Cheng and J. N. Mordeson, *Fuzzy linear operator and fuzzy normed linear spaces*, Bull. Calcutta Math. Soc., **86** (1994), 429-436.
- [3] F. Deutsch, *Best approximation in inner product spaces*, Springer-Verlag, 2001.
- [4] A. George and P. Veeramani, *On some results in fuzzy metric spaces*, Fuzzy Sets and Systems, **64** (1994), 395-399.
- [5] A. George and P. Veeramani, *On Some results of analysis for fuzzy metric spaces*, Fuzzy Sets and Systems, **90** (1997), 365-368.
- [6] R. Saadati and S. M. Vaezpour, *Some results on fuzzy Banach spaces*, J. Appl. Math. & Computing, **17(1-2)** (2005), 475-484.
- [7] I. Singer, *Best approximation in normed linear spaces by elements of linear subspaces*, Springer-Verlag, 1970.
- [8] P. Veeramani, *Best approximation in fuzzy metric spaces*, J. Fuzzy Math., **9(1)** (2001), 75-80.
- [9] L. A. Zadeh, *Fuzzy sets*, Inform. and Control, **8** (1965), 338-353.

S. M. VAEZPOUR\*, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, AMIRKABIR UNIVERSITY, TEHRAN, IRAN  
E-mail address: vaez@aut.ac.ir

F. KARIMI, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF YAZD, YAZD, IRAN  
E-mail address: fk-karimi@yahoo.com

\*CORRESPONDING AUTHOR