

AN ANALYTICAL INSIGHT TO INVESTIGATE THE RESEARCH PATTERNS IN THE REALM OF TYPE-2 FUZZY LOGIC

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Abstract:

Fuzzy logic has always been one of the key research areas in the field of computer science as it helps in dealing with the real world vagueness and uncertainty. In recent years, a variant of it, Type-2 Fuzzy Logic has gained enormous popularity for research purposes. In this paper, an analytical insight is provided into the research patterns of Type-2 Fuzzy logic. Web of Science has been used as the data source which consists of Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCI-E), SSCI, A&HCI and ESCI indexed research papers. 600 research papers were extracted from it in the field of Type-2 fuzzy logic from the year 2000 to 2016, which are analyzed both manually and in an automated manner. The performed study is Scientometric in nature and helps in answering research questions like control terms and top authors in this field, the growth pattern in research publications, top funding agencies and countries etc. The major goal of this study is to analyze the research work in type-2 fuzzy logic so as to track the growth of this discipline through the years and envision future trends in this area.

Keywords: scientometric analysis, Type 2 fuzzy logic, Type 2 fuzzy systems, Type 2 fuzzy control, Type 2 fuzzy set

1. Introduction

Fuzzy logic (Type-1 Fuzzy Logic) caters to the multi-valued logic. It represents a novel concept in the sense that the “truth value” of any variable under consideration may lie from 0 to 1 [1]. Type-2 fuzzy logic is the generalization of type-1 fuzzy logic which has the capability to handle a higher level of uncertainty. This is established from the fact that since the invention of type-1 fuzzy logic, there was a speculation in researchers that it doesn’t have any uncertainty value associated with the corresponding membership function. The father of fuzzy logic, Zadeh, provided a solution to solve this issue by introducing the concept of type-2 fuzzy logic. He introduced the type-2 fuzzy sets which have a unique concept associated with it that is called the “Footprint of Uncertainty” [1]. This means that in order to classify any set as type-2 fuzzy set, an uncertainty value has to be associated with its membership function which would in turn help in dealing with the real world vagueness.

Type-2 fuzzy logic can help solving or improving solutions in many fields, as can be seen by the diversity of the papers covered in this review paper, and as such in theory it could be considered as a general form of modeling and coping with uncertainty in any area of application. However, there are limitations and challenges in this area, for example: how to optimally design the structure of the type-2 fuzzy systems, how to find the optimal parameter values for a particular application, when to apply modularity or granularity to improve results, just to mention a few. In addition, the particular form of type-2 fuzzy models could be application dependent, and if this is the case, finding these forms for particular classes of problems is a crucial task. In this sense, this paper is the first step in analyzing what has been achieved to the moment by the type-2 fuzzy research community, and then what can also be done in the future.

This paper presents an in-depth analysis to chart and map the progress of research work in the field of Type-2 fuzzy logic from the year 2000-2016 based on the research papers retrieved from web of science. The major goal of this study is to analyze the research work in type-2 fuzzy logic so as to track the growth of this discipline through the years. The study performed in this paper helps in answering the following imperative research questions:

- 1) What has been the growth rate in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic in terms of research publications?
- 2) Which journals account for the maximum publication in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic?
- 3) Which countries and institutes offer higher participation in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic?
- 4) Which authors have contributed significantly in the research publications pertaining to the field of type-2 fuzzy logic?
- 5) What has the ratio been of paid vs. open access publications in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic?
- 6) Which funding agencies have contributed the maximum in providing grants for the concerned research project based papers in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic?
- 7) What are the various types of research papers available in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic? Whether they are articles or proceeding papers or do they lie in any other category?
- 8) Which are the most cited research papers in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic and in which research domain do they lie?

Table 1. Details of the dataset

Data Source	Search Query	Time Period	Number of research papers extracted	Indexing
WOS (web of science)	TI=(Type 2 fuzzy logic OR type 2 fuzzy systems OR type 2 fuzzy control OR type 2 fuzzy pattern recognition OR type 2 fuzzy clustering OR type 2 fuzzy classification OR type 2 fuzzy set)	2000-2016	600	SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI

- 9) Which control terms are associated with type-2 fuzzy logic?
 10) What is the scenario regarding the inter country collaboration for research in type-2 fuzzy logic?

This paper assists in answering the above mentioned research questions, which would in turn help in understanding the discipline in a more elaborate manner. This type of work in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic is one of its kinds as it statistically highlights the various aspects related to it. Section 2 of the paper describes the data source and the methodology adopted for study in this paper, while Section 3 presents the results along with a detailed analysis. The work is concluded in Section 4.

2. Data and Methodology

The analysis is performed on a set of research papers obtained by using WOS (Web of Science) as the data source. WOS (Web of Science) is a database that consists of Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCI-E), SSCI, A&HCI and ESCI indexed research papers of various types (articles, reviews, proceeding papers etc.) in several languages. The details of the dataset used are given as in Table 1.

3. Detailed Analysis

This section presents the data collected through WOS [2-601] which is analyzed both manually and in an automated manner for studying the patterns of research in type-2 fuzzy logic.

a) Year-wise publication and growth pattern analysis:

The 600 research papers were analyzed to present the data about the number of research publications in each year from 2000 to 2016. It can be noted from Table 2 that recent years (2015 and 2016) have seen a boost in terms of type-2 fuzzy logic research publications. In order to track the growth in the number of research papers, we have calculated two scientometric measures namely Relative Growth Rate (RGR) and Doubling Time (DT). Figure 1 shows the number of research publications each year.

$$\text{RGR} = (\ln N_2 - \ln N_1)/T_2 - T_1 \dots \dots \dots \quad (1)$$

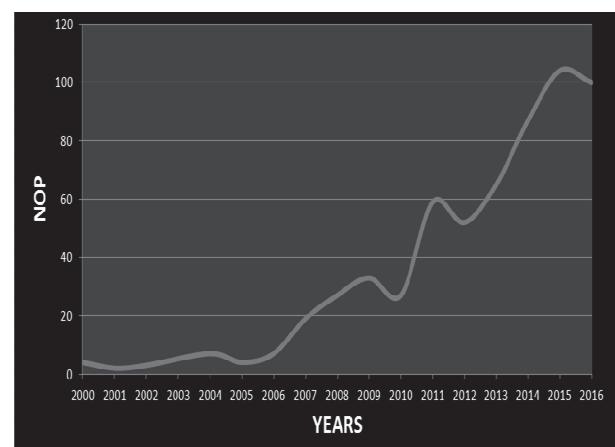
$$\text{DT} = \ln 2 / \text{RGR} \dots \dots \dots \quad (2)$$

RGR is a measure that represents the relative growth in the number of research publications with respect to time. On the other hand DT highlights the time that is needed for the number of research papers

in a particular year to become double of its current amount. From Figure 2 it can be seen that RGR and DT are inversely proportional to each other.

Table 2. NOP (Number of Papers) each year from 2000 to 2016 with DT and RGR

Year	NOP	CUM	RGR	DT
2000	4	4	0.000	0.000
2001	2	6	0.405	1.711
2002	3	9	0.405	1.711
2004	7	16	0.575	1.205
2005	4	20	0.223	3.107
2006	7	27	0.300	2.310
2007	19	46	0.532	1.302
2008	27	73	0.461	1.503
2009	33	106	0.372	1.862
2010	27	133	0.226	3.066
2011	59	192	0.367	1.888
2012	52	244	0.239	2.899
2013	65	309	0.236	2.936
2014	87	396	0.248	2.794
2015	104	500	0.233	2.974
2016	100	600	0.182	3.807

**Fig. 1. Number of research papers published in type-2 fuzzy logic from 2000 to 2016**

b) Country-wise contribution:

The top 30 countries contributing to the research publications in type-2 fuzzy logic are presented in Table 3 and illustrated pictorially as in Figure 3. For performing this type of analysis, the search query was further filtered to extract countries where the research publication record was greater than 1. It can

be observed that China accounts for the maximum number of research papers while USA gets the second rank. Iran and Taiwan also contribute significantly to the research publications in this field.

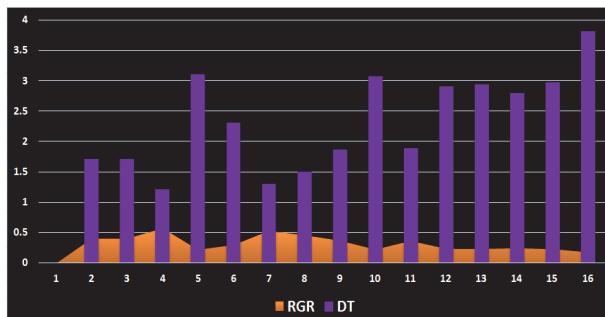


Fig. 2. RGR and DT for research papers published in type-2 fuzzy logic from 2000 to 2016

Table 3. Top 30 countries contributing to the research publication in type-2 fuzzy logic

S.No.	Country	Record Count
1	Peoples R China	117
2	USA	85
3	Iran	78
4	Taiwan	78
5	England	64
6	Turkey	49
7	Mexico	40
8	Canada	31
9	India	30
10	Australia	19
11	Saudi Arab	19
12	Italy	18
13	Singapore	17
14	Malaysia	14
15	South Korea	14
16	Poland	13
17	Algeria	11
18	Spain	9
19	Egypt	8
20	France	6
21	Vietnam	5
22	Belgium	4
23	Japan	4
24	Brazil	3
25	Lithuania	3
26	Slovakia	3
27	Czech Republic	2
28	Norway	2
29	Pakistan	2
30	Venezuela	2

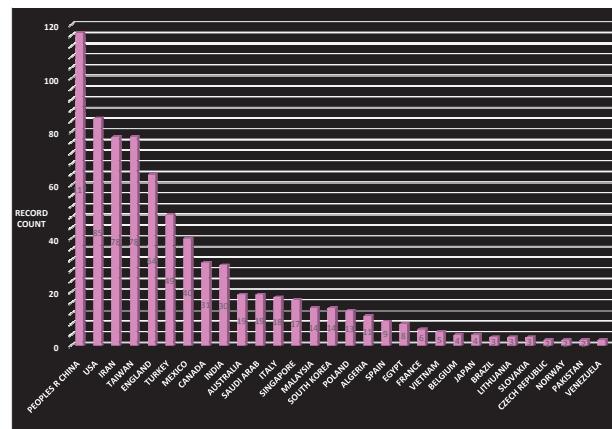


Fig. 3. Top 30 countries in terms of research publication count in type-2 fuzzy logic from 2000 to 2016

c) Top journals:

Table 4 and Figure 4 show the data for record count of research papers published in various journals. As far as the publication of research works for type-2 fuzzy logic is being concerned in WOS from the period of 2000 to 2016, the IEEE Transactions on fuzzy systems holds the top position. The second and third spots go to Information Sciences and Applied Soft Computing respectively. It is also worth observing that about 41.67% of the top 10 journals are from Elsevier publishers while 16.67% are from IEEE publishers.

Table 4. Record count of research papers published in various journals

S.No.	Journal	Record Count	Publication house
1	IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems	87	IEEE
2	Information Sciences	60	ELSEVIER
3	Applied Soft Computing	42	ELSEVIER
4	Expert Systems with Applications	24	ELSEVIER
5	Soft Computing	22	SPRINGER
6	Neuro computing	18	ELSEVIER
7	Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence	16	ELSEVIER
8	Journal of Intelligent Fuzzy Systems	14	IOS PRESS
9	IEEE Computational Intelligence Magazine, International Journal of Fuzzy Systems	11	IEEE, SPRINGER
10	International Journal of Innovative Computing Information And Control, International Journal of Uncertainty Fuzziness and Knowledge Based Systems	9	KYUSHU TOKAI UNIVERSITY, WORLD SCIENTIFIC

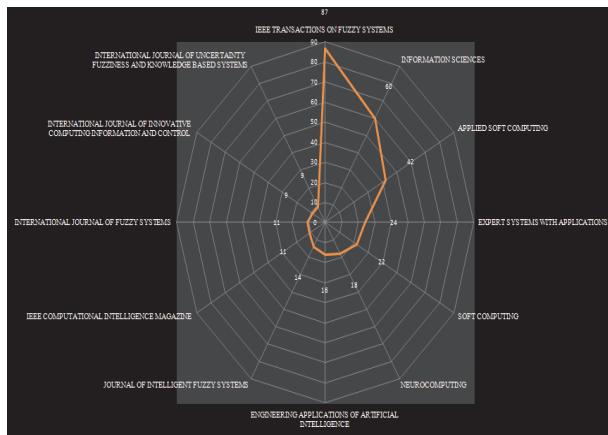


Fig. 4. Top 10 journals contributing to research publications in type-2 fuzzy logic from 2000 to 2016

d) Category wise growth:

Several categories are defined in the WOS Core, which help in determining the domain of the research papers. As far as the study is being concerned for type-2 fuzzy logic, it can be easily observed from Figure 5 and Table 5 that the topmost category i.e. the one having number of research papers is computer science artificial intelligence. It is well justified too since fuzzy logic itself is a part of artificial intelligence which is a branch of computer science.

Table 5. WOS category wise research paper count

S.No.	WOS Category	Record Count
1	Computer Science Artificial Intelligence	326
2	Engineering Electrical Electronic	190
3	Computer Science Interdisciplinary Applications	88
4	Automation Control Systems	88
5	Computer Science Information Systems	78
6	Engineering Multidisciplinary	46
7	Operations Research Management Science	38
8	Mathematics Applied	26
9	Computer Science Theory Methods	26
10	Instruments Instrumentation	19
11	Computer Science Cybernetics	18
12	Mathematics Interdisciplinary Applications	17
13	Mechanics	14
14	Engineering Mechanical	12
15	Engineering Chemical	10
16	Computer Science Software Engineering	10
17	Engineering Manufacturing	9
18	Others	115

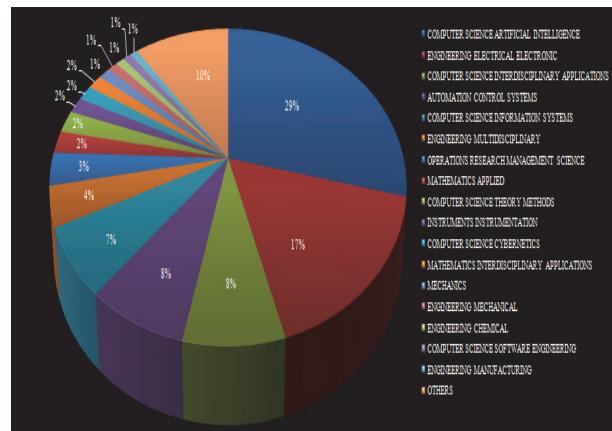


Fig. 5. Top WOS categories of research for type-2 fuzzy logic from 2000 to 2016

e) Research Domain:

All the 600 research papers that are under consideration for this study were analyzed to find in which research domain they lie. Table 6 presents the data for the same which is also visualized in Figure 6.

Table 6. Research area wise record count

S.No.	Research Area	Record Count
1	Computer Science	439
2	Engineering	260
3	Automation Control Systems	88
4	Mathematics	42
5	Operations Research Management Science	38
6	Instruments Instrumentation	19
7	Mechanics	14
8	Environmental Sciences Ecology, Science Technology Other Topics	8
9	Energy Fuels	7
10	Physics, Robotics	5
11	Business Economics, Metallurgy Metallurgical Engineering	4
12	Education Educational Research, Materials Science, Telecommunications	3
13	Medical Informatics	2

f) Type of access:

The papers under concern fall under two categories regarding the type of access: Open access and Paid access. Figure 7 helps in comprehending that 578 publications i.e. 96.3% of these research papers are having paid access while the rest 22 which constitute about 3.6% of the lot have open access.

g) Top authors according to record count:

The top authors were identified according to the record count. It can be noted that J.M. Mendel is the top author with 47 research papers from the year 2000 to 2016. O. Castillo holds the second position with 34 research papers. This data is recorded in Table 7.

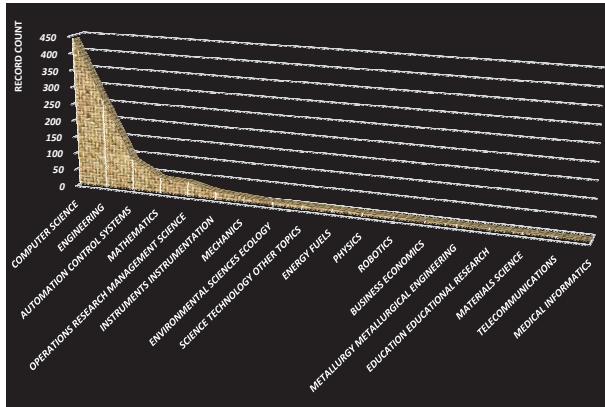


Fig. 6. Research area wise record count for research papers under consideration

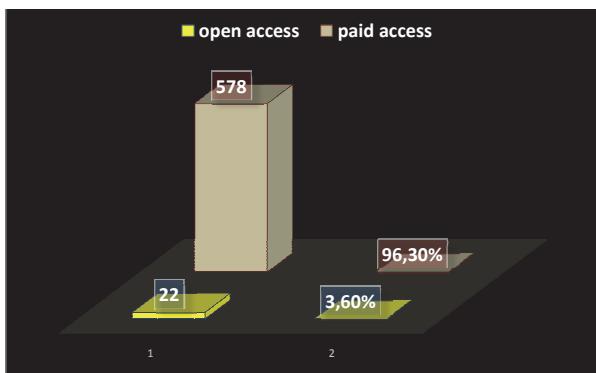


Fig. 7. Types of access of research publications in type-2 fuzzy logic from 2000 to 2016

Table 7. Top authors according to record count

S.No.	Author	Record count
1	MENDEL JM	47
2	CASTILLO O	34
3	MELIN P	25
4	HAGRAS H	20
5	ZARANDI MHF	17
6	KAYNAK O	13
7	LAM HK	13
8	LI HY	13
9	CHEN SM	11
10	JOHN RI	11
11	LIN TC	11
12	TURKSEN IB	11
13	KAYACAN E	10
14	ZHAO T	10

Table 8. Year wise record count of top 3 authors

Year/Author	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Mendel	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	8	0	3	3	6	3	3	3	2	3
CASTILLO	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	3	8	5	4
MELIN	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	4	1	2	2	3	5	1	3

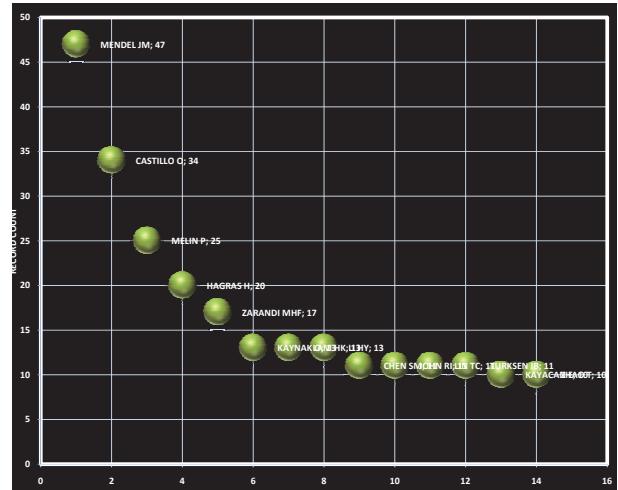


Fig. 8. Visualization of research paper record count for top authors

The year wise data for record count of the top 3 authors is recorded as in Table 8. Figure 9 visualizes this data, from which it can be concluded that J.M. Mendel published the maximum papers in 2007 while O. Castillo and P. Melin published their maximum papers in 2014.

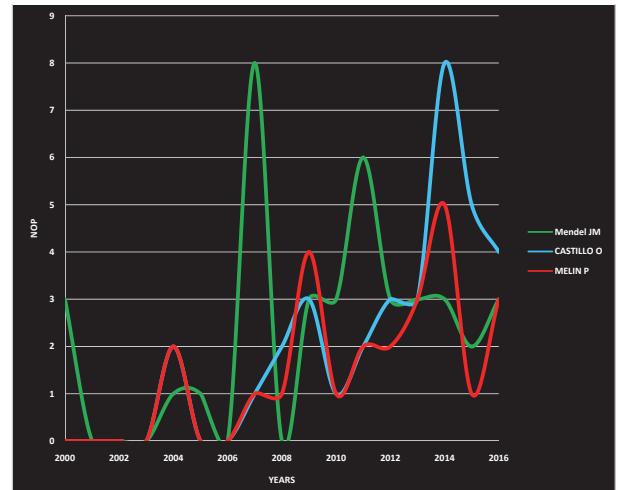


Fig. 9. Top 3 author's research publications from 2000 to 2016

h) Most cited research papers:

In this study, top 5 research publications have been identified according to the number of citations, as shown in Table 9. The research paper titled "Type-2 fuzzy sets made simple" is the most cited one (953 times). The average citation for this paper is 59.56. When analyzed, it was found that among all the papers that cited it, 355 belonged to the "Computer Science" research domain. Another research

domain catering to the citations of this research paper is "Engineering". This shows the popularity of this paper in various domains, as presented in Table 10. Tables 11–14 show the research areas corresponding to papers ranked 2–5. The data from these is used to map the research papers to various research domains as shown in Figure 10.

Table 9. Citation and average citation count for top 5 research papers

S.No.	Research Paper	Total Citation	Average Citation
1	Type-2 fuzzy sets made simple	953	59.56
2	Interval type-2 fuzzy logic systems: Theory and design	782	43.44
3	Interval type-2 fuzzy logic systems made simple	647	53.92
4	Centroid of a type-2 fuzzy set	496	29.18
5	A hierarchical type-2 fuzzy logic control architecture for autonomous mobile robots	456	32.57

Table 10. Top 5 research areas corresponding to paper titled "Type-2 fuzzy sets made simple"

S.No.	Research area	Record count
1	Computer Science	355
2	Engineering	187
3	Automation Control Systems	54
4	Mathematics	42
5	Operations Research Management Science	23

Table 11. Top 5 research areas corresponding to paper titled "Interval type-2 fuzzy logic systems: Theory and design"

S.No.	Research area	Record count
1	Computer Science	296
2	Engineering	185
3	Automation Control Systems	65
4	Mathematics	26
5	Instruments Instrumentation	18

Table 12. Top 5 research areas corresponding to paper titled "Interval type-2 fuzzy logic systems made simple"

S.No.	Research area	Record count
1	Computer Science	277
2	Engineering	154
3	Automation Control Systems	49
4	Mathematics	35
5	Operations Research Management Science	33

Table 13. Top 5 research areas corresponding to paper titled "Centroid of a type-2 fuzzy set"

S.No.	Research area	Record count
1	Computer Science	221
2	Engineering	122
3	Automation Control Systems	34
4	Mathematics	25
5	Operations Research Management Science	17

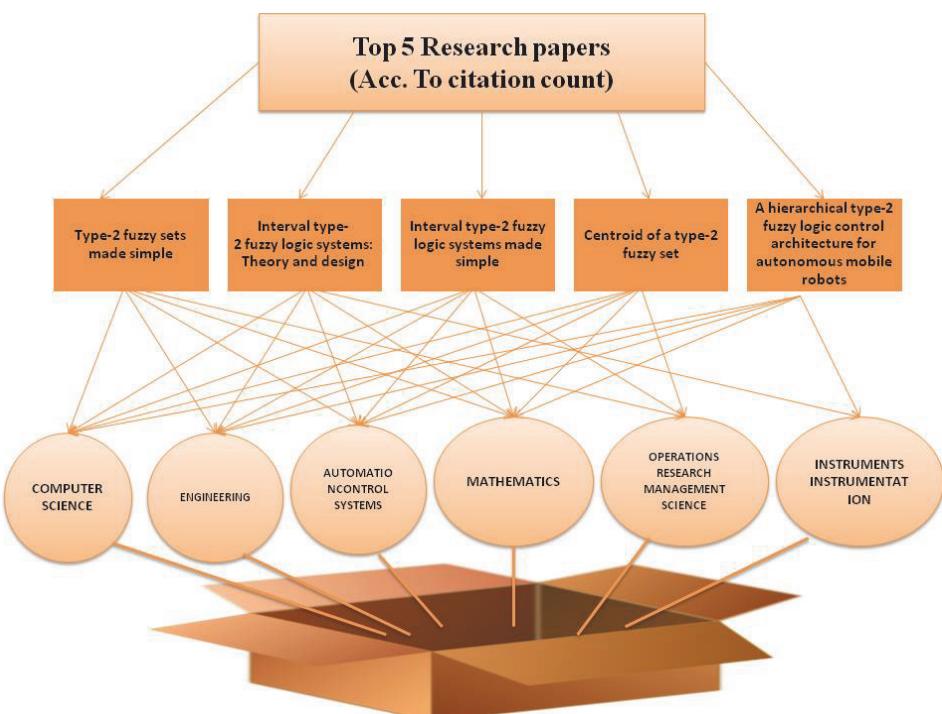


Fig. 10. Top 5 research publications from 2000 to 2016 mapped to their research areas

Table 14. Top 5 research areas corresponding to paper titled “A hierarchical type-2 fuzzy logic control architecture for autonomous mobile robots”

S.No.	Research area	Record count
1	Computer Science	174
2	Engineering	110
3	Automation Control Systems	47
4	Mathematics	12
5	Instruments Instrumentation	11

Table 15. Top 10 funding agencies

S.No.	Funding agencies	Record count
1	National Natural Science Foundation of China	65
2	National Science Council Taiwan	17
3	Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities	14
4	National Science Council Republic Of China	11
5	Program For New Century Excellent Talents In University	10
6	Australian Research Council, Bogazici University, Conacyt	8
7	Program for Liaoning Excellent Talents In University	7
8	National Nature Science Foundation of China, National Science Council Of Taiwan	6
9	Centre for Intelligent Systems Research Cisr At Deakin University, Tubitak	5
10	973 Program of China, Fok Ying Tung Education Foundation of China, Key Laboratory of Integrated Automation for The Process Industry Northeast University, Natural Science Foundation of Hebei Province of China, Program for Liaoning Innovative Research Team in University, Taiwan National Science Council, Zhujiang New Star	4

i) Top 10 Funding agencies:

Various research papers were found to be funded by some agencies that provided a research grant to carry out that research. These are listed in the table below. The top 4 countries corresponding to these agencies were analyzed and the mapped (in yellow color) on the world map as shown in Figure 11. It can be comprehended that China grants the maximum number of research grants in this aspect.



Fig. 11. World mapping of top 4 countries with maximum number of grants from funding agencies

j) Major Applications:

Type-2 fuzzy logic has always been associated with research applications catering to domains like classification, clustering, image processing etc. In our

Table 16. Major research applications of Type-2 fuzzy logic

S.No.	Application	Record count
1	Control	138
2	Clustering	27
3	Classification	18
4	Filtering	17
5	Image Processing, Image Segmentation	9

study, we evaluated the major research applications of type-2 fuzzy logic which are tabulated in Table 16. It can be inferred that control is the top most research application area, followed by clustering and classification.

k) Control terms and density plot:

In order to gain better understanding of the research topics in the field of Type-2 fuzzy logic, some control terms need to be identified. These terms are the most frequently occurring author keywords that are extracted using both the title and the abstract of the research articles. In this paper, the 600 research articles from 2000 to 2016 have been analyzed and the density plot for the same has been created, as shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12 shows the density plot for all the control terms, simulated on VOSviewer. Control terms are the most frequently occurring terms. There are various clusters in this figure like the one centered on the control term “controller”. The fact that the terms like fuzzy logic controller, feedback error, filter etc are centered around it helps in establishing a fact that research papers concerned with controller also deal with filters, feedback errors, tracking error, stability condition etc.

l) Inter-Country collaboration:

The research publication record of these 600 research papers was manually analyzed to find out the country of each author, which assisted in knowing

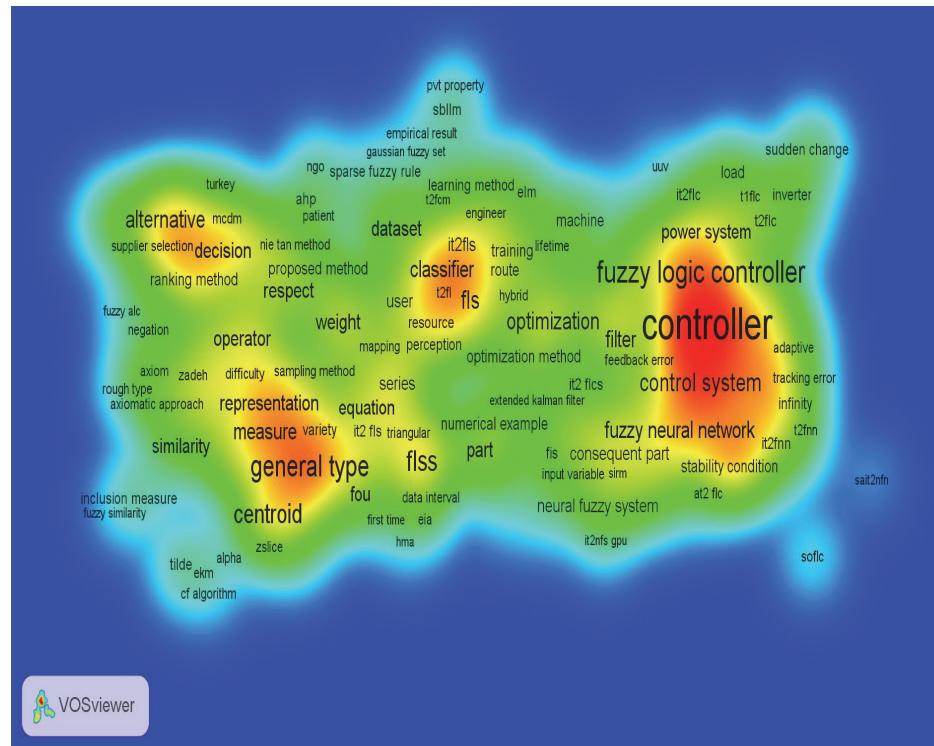


Fig. 12. Density plot for identifying the control terms in the field of Type-2 fuzzy logic

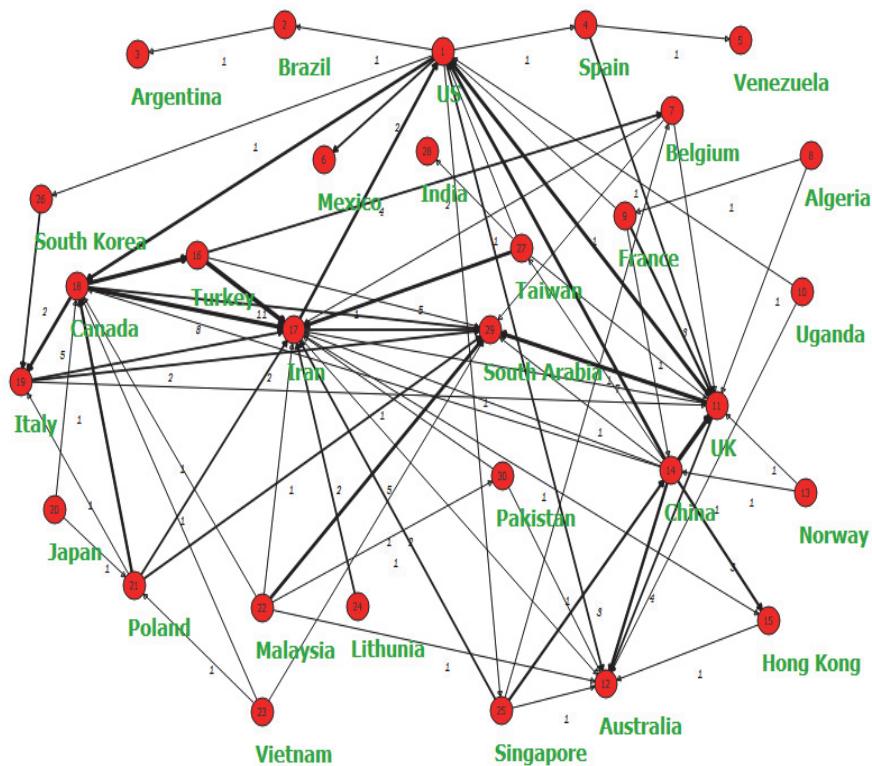


Fig. 13. Inter-Country collaboration pattern

about the inter-country collaboration which is visualized as in Figure 13. The nodes of this graph represent the countries that participate in inter-country collaboration and the edges represent the number of publications for the same. The inter-country collaboration was found to be the maximum between UK and China, Turkey and Iran. It can be observed that Turkey and Canada have also participated actively in such collaborations. As an individual country, USA, UK, China, Turkey, Canada and Iran have been dynam-

ically involved in such inter country collaborations for research publications.

Regarding this inter-country collaboration that is illustrated in Figure 13, it is our belief that it will grow a lot in future years, as the type-2 fuzzy community is growing in many more countries and also it is consolidating in countries that already have research on type 2. There are other publications too in 2017 (published and ongoing papers) where other collaborations are flourishing, but they could not be repre-

sented here due to the limitation of the time interval of 2000-2016 and the year 2017 is not complete to the moment.

4. Conclusion

This paper charted and mapped the progress of research work in the field of Type-2 fuzzy logic from the year 2000-2016 on the basis of 600 research papers retrieved from web of science. The primary aim of this study was to analyze the research work in type-2 fuzzy logic so that the growth of this discipline through the years is tracked. The study performed in this paper helps in answering various significant research questions like the growth rate of type-2 fuzzy logic in terms of research publications, top journals, authors, research grant agencies etc. The inter-country collaboration was also visualized to map the authorship patterns among various countries. All this would help the researchers in understanding the discipline in a more elaborate manner. This kind of work in the field of type-2 fuzzy logic is the only one of its kind as it statistically highlights the various aspects related to it. As future work we envision updating this information about type-2 research in a few more years to verify the evolution and growth of the type-2 fuzzy area.

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