A Guide to the `FuzzyNumbers` Package for `R`

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THIS IS A PRELIMINARY VERSION OF THE TUTORIAL
IT IS BASED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT BUILD OF THE PACKAGE AVAILABLE ON RForge

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Contents

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1 Getting started

Fuzzy set theory lets us effectively and quite intuitively represent imprecise or vague information. Fuzzy numbers (FNs), introduced by Dubois and Prade in [4], form a particular subclass of fuzzy sets of the real line. They play a significant role in many important theoretical and practical considerations since we often describe our knowledge about objects through numbers, e.g. "I'm about 180 cm tall" or "The rocket was launched between 2 and 3 p.m.".

`R` is a free, open sourced software environment for statistical computing and graphics, which includes an implementation of a very powerful and quite popular high-level language called `S`. It runs on all major operating systems, i.e. *Windows*, *Linux*, and *MacOS*. To install `R` and/or find some information on the `S` language please visit `R` Project's Homepage at www.R-project.org. Perhaps you may also wish to install *RStudio*, a convenient development environment for `R`. It is available at www.rsudio.org.

`FuzzyNumbers` is an Open Source (licensed under GNU LGPL 3) package for `R`$\geq$2.15 to which anyone can contribute. It has been created in order to deal with fuzzy numbers. To install its latest "official" release available on *CRAN* we type:

```
# ... TO DO ... | NOT YET AVAILABLE ON CRAN
```

Alternatively, we may fetch its current development snapshot (perhaps unstable) from *RForge*:

```
install.packages("FuzzyNumbers", repos = "http://R-Forge.R-project.org")
```

Fortunately, the installation process is done only once.

Each session with `FuzzyNumbers` should be preceded by a call to:

```
require("FuzzyNumbers")  # Load the package
```

To view the main page of the manual we type:

```
library(help = "FuzzyNumbers")
```

For more information please visit the package's homepage [6]. In case of any problems, comments, or suggestions feel free to contact the author. Good luck!

2 How to create instances of fuzzy numbers

2.1 Arbitrary fuzzy numbers

A fuzzy number A may be defined by specifying its core, support, and either its left/right side functions or lower/upper α-cut bounds. Please note that many algorithms assume we provide at least the latter, i.e. α-cuts.

2.1.1 Definition by side functions

A fuzzy number A specified by side functions has a membership function of the form:

$$\mu_A(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if} \quad x < \texttt{a1}, \\ \texttt{left}\left(\frac{x-\texttt{a1}}{\texttt{a2}-\texttt{a1}}\right) & \text{if } \texttt{a1} \leq x < \texttt{a2}, \\ 1 & \text{if } \texttt{a2} \leq x \leq \texttt{a3}, \\ \texttt{right}\left(\frac{x-\texttt{a3}}{\texttt{a4}-\texttt{a3}}\right) & \text{if } \texttt{a3} < x \leq \texttt{a4}, \\ 0 & \text{if } \texttt{a4} < x, \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

where $\texttt{a1}, \texttt{a2}, \texttt{a3}, \texttt{a4} \in \mathbb{R}$, $\texttt{a1} \leq \texttt{a2} \leq \texttt{a3} \leq \texttt{a4}$, $\texttt{left} : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ is a nondecreasing function (called *left side generator of* A), and $\texttt{right} : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ is a nonincreasing function (*right side generator of* A). In our package, it is assumed that these functions fulfill the conditions $\texttt{left}(0) = 0$, $\texttt{left}(1) = 1$, $\texttt{right}(0) = 0$, and $\texttt{right}(0) = 1$.

Please note that by using side generating functions defined on $[0,1]$ (instead of the most common approach, i.e. ordinary side functions such that $l_A(x) = \frac{x-\texttt{a1}}{\texttt{a2}-\texttt{a1}}$ and $r_A(x) = \frac{x-\texttt{a3}}{\texttt{a4}-\texttt{a3}}$) we really make (in author's humble opinion) the process of generating examples for our publications much easier.

An example: a fuzzy number A_1 with linear sides (a trapezoidal fuzzy number, see also Sec. 2.2).

```
A1 <- FuzzyNumber(1, 2, 4, 7,
    left=function(x) x,
   right=function(x) 1-x
)
```

This object is an instance of the following `R` class:

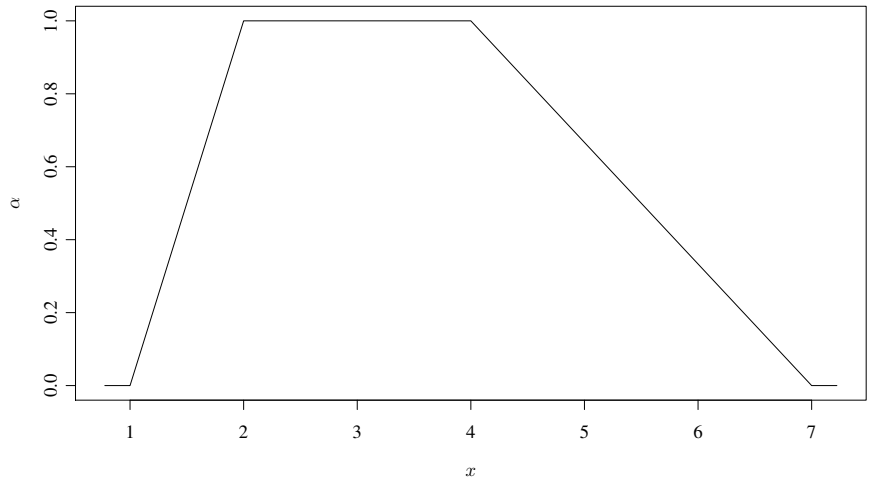
```
class(A1)

## [1] "FuzzyNumber"
## attr(,"package")
## [1] "FuzzyNumbers"
```

We may print some basic information on A_1 by calling `print(A1)` or simply by typing:

```
A1

## Fuzzy number with support=[1,7] and core=[2,4].
```

To depict A_1 we call:

```
plot(A1)
```



If we would like to generate figures for our publications then we will be interested in writing them to PDF files. This may be done by calling:

```
pdf("figure1.pdf", width=8, height=5); # create file
plot(A1);
dev.off(); # close graphical device and save the file
```

Postscript (PS) files are generated by substituting the call to `pdf()` for the call to the `postcript()` function.

2.1.2 Definition by α-cut bounds

Alternatively, a fuzzy number A may be defined by specifying its α-cuts. We have (for $\alpha \in (0,1)$ and $\texttt{a1} \le \texttt{a2} \le \texttt{a3} \le \texttt{a4}$):

$$A_\alpha := [A_L(\alpha), A_R(\alpha)] \tag{2}$$

$$= \big[\texttt{a1} + (\texttt{a2} - \texttt{a1}) \cdot \texttt{lower}(\alpha), \texttt{a3} + (\texttt{a4} - \texttt{a3}) \cdot \texttt{upper}(\alpha)\big], \tag{3}$$

where $\texttt{lower} : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ is a nondecreasing function (called *lower α-cut bound generator of A*), and $\texttt{upper} : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ is a nonincreasing function (*upper bound generator*). In our package, we assumed that $\texttt{lower}(0) = 0$, $\texttt{lower}(1) = 1$, $\texttt{upper}(0) = 0$, and $\texttt{upper}(0) = 1$.

It is easily seen that for $\alpha \in (0,1)$ we have the following relationship between generating functions:

$$\texttt{lower}(\alpha) = \inf\{x : \texttt{left}(x) \ge \alpha\}, \tag{4}$$

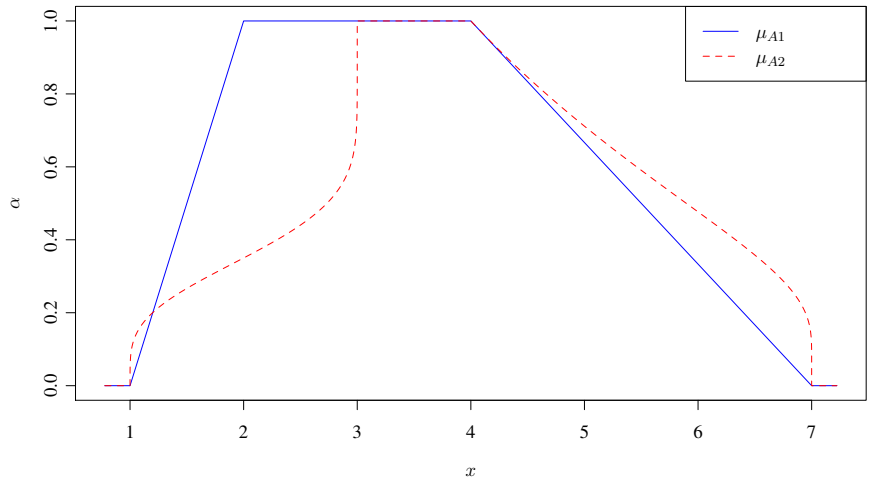
$$\texttt{upper}(\alpha) = \sup\{x : \texttt{right}(x) \ge \alpha\}. \tag{5}$$

Moreover, if side generating functions are continuous and strictly monotonic then α-cut bound generators are their inverses.

An example:

```
A2 <- FuzzyNumber(1, 3, 4, 7,
         lower=function(alpha) pbeta(alpha, 5, 9), # CDF of a beta distr.
         upper=function(alpha) pexp(1/alpha-1) # transformed CDF of an exp. distr.
)
```

```
plot(A1, col="blue")
plot(A2, col="red", lty=2, add=TRUE)
legend("topright", c(expression(mu[A1]), expression(mu[A2])),
   col=c("blue", "red"), lty=c(1,2));
```



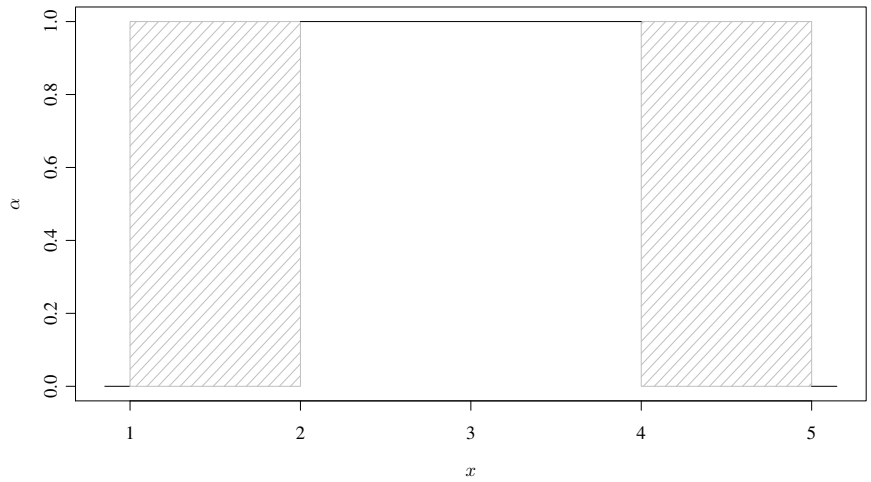
2.1.3 Definition with generating functions omitted

Please note that in the above examples we passed to the constructor of each `FuzzyNumber` class instance either side generating functions or α-cut generators. Let us study what happens if we omit both of them.

```
A3 <- FuzzyNumber(1, 2, 4, 5)
A3

## Fuzzy number with support=[1,5] and core=[2,4].
```

The object seems to be defined correctly: `R` does not make any complaints. However...

```
plot(A3)
```



It turns out that we have obtained a *shadowed set*! Indeed, this behavior is quite reasonable: we have provided no information on the "partial knowledge" part of our fuzzy number. If fact, the object has been initialized as:

```
A3 <- FuzzyNumber(1, 2, 4, 5,
          left=function(x) NA,
         right=function(x) NA,
         lower=function(x) NA,
         upper=function(x) NA
)
```

that is, with functions always returning `NA` (*Not-Available* or *any* value). Does it mean that when we define a FN solely by side generators, we cannot compute its α-cuts? Indeed!

```
alphacut(A2, 0.5)  # A2 has alpha-cut generators defined

## [1] 2.733 5.896

alphacut(A1, 0.5)  # A1 has not

## [1] NA NA
```

Another example: evaluation of the membership function.

```
evaluate(A1, 6.5)  # A1 has side generators defined

## [1] 0.1667

evaluate(A2, 6.5)  # A2 has not

## [1] NA
```

The reason for setting `NA` as return values of generators by default (when omitted) is simple. Finding a function inverse numerically requires lengthy computations and is always done locally (for a given point, not for "whole" the function at once). `R` is not a symbolic mathematical solver. If we had defined such procedures (it is really easy to do by using the `uniroot()` function) then an inexperienced user would have used it in his/her algorithms and wondered why everything runs so slow. To get more insight, let us look at the internals of `A2`:

```
A2["lower"]

## function(alpha) pbeta(alpha, 5, 9)
## <environment: 0x311bac8>

A2["upper"]

## function(alpha) pexp(1/alpha-1)
## <environment: 0x311bac8>

A2["left"]

## function (x)
## NA
## <environment: 0x1884240>

A2["right"]

## function (x)
## NA
## <environment: 0x1884240>
```

Thus, general rules are as follows. If you want α-cuts (e.g. for finding trapezoidal approximations of FNs) — specify them. If you would like to access side functions (what for? luckily, the `plot()` function automatically detects what kind of knowledge we have) — assure they are provided.

2.2 Trapezoidal fuzzy numbers

A trapezoidal fuzzy number (TFN) is a FN which has linear side generators and linear α-cut bound generators. To create a trapezoidal fuzzy number T_1 with, for example, $\mathrm{core}(T_1) = [2, 4]$ and $\mathrm{supp}(T_1) = [1, 7]$ we call:

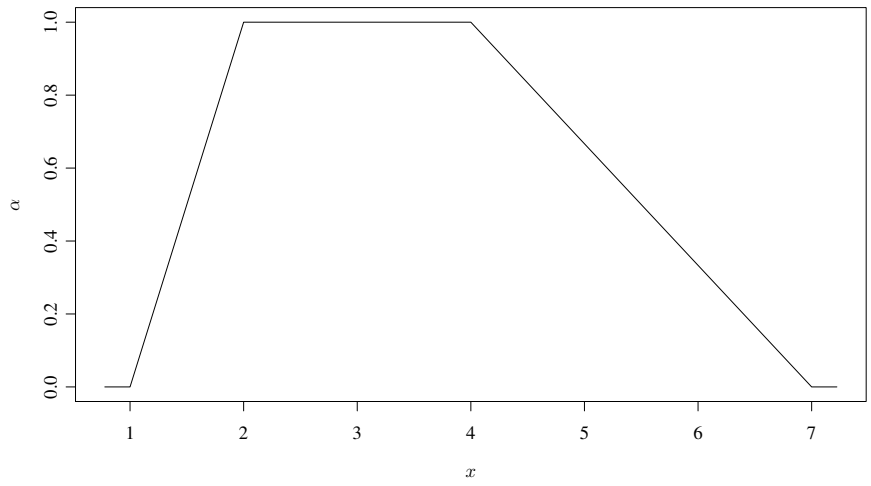
```
T1 <- TrapezoidalFuzzyNumber(1, 2, 4, 7)
```

This object is an instance of the following `R` class:

```
class(T1)

## [1] "TrapezoidalFuzzyNumber"
## attr(,"package")
## [1] "FuzzyNumbers"
```

To depict T_1 we call:

```
plot(T1)
```



T_1 is (roughly) equivalent to the trapezoidal fuzzy number A_1 defined in the previous subsection. The `TrapezoidalFuzzyNumber` class inherits all the goodies from the `FuzzyNumber` class, but is more specific (guarantees faster computations, contains more detailed information, etc.). Of course, in this case the generating functions are known *a priori* (A_1 had no α-cut generators) so there is no need to provide them manually (what is more, this has been disallowed for safety reasons). Thus, is we wanted to define a trapezoidal FN next time, we would rather not do it like with A_1 but as with T_1.

```
T1["lower"]
```

```
## function (alpha)
## alpha
## <environment: namespace:FuzzyNumbers>

T1["upper"]

## function (alpha)
## 1 - alpha
## <environment: namespace:FuzzyNumbers>

T1["left"]

## function (x)
## x
## <environment: namespace:FuzzyNumbers>

T1["right"]

## function (x)
## 1 - x
## <environment: namespace:FuzzyNumbers>
```

Trapezoidal fuzzy numbers are among the simplest FNs. Despite their simplicity, however, they include triangular FNs, "crisp" real intervals, and "crisp" reals. Please note that currently no separate classes for these particular TFNs types are implemented in the package.

```
TrapezoidalFuzzyNumber(1, 2, 2, 3)  # triangular FN

## Trapezoidal fuzzy number with support=[1,3] and core=[2,2].

TrapezoidalFuzzyNumber(2, 2, 3, 3)  # `crisp' interval

## Trapezoidal fuzzy number with support=[2,3] and core=[2,3].

TrapezoidalFuzzyNumber(5, 5, 5, 5)  # `crisp' real

## Trapezoidal fuzzy number with support=[5,5] and core=[5,5].
```

2.3 Piecewise linear fuzzy numbers

Trapezoidal fuzzy numbers are generalized by piecewise linear FNs (PLFNs), i.e. fuzzy numbers which side generating functions and α-cut generators are piecewise linear functions. Each PLFN is given by:

- four coefficients $\texttt{a1} \leq \texttt{a2} \leq \texttt{a3} \leq \texttt{a4}$ defining its support and core,
- the number of "knots", $\texttt{knot.n} \geq 0$,
- a vector of α-cut coordinates, `knot.alpha`, consisting of `knot.n` elements $\in [0, 1]$,
- a nondecreasingly sorted vector `knot.left` consisting of `knot.n` elements $\in [\texttt{a1}, \texttt{a2}]$, defining interpolation points for the left side function, and
- a nondecreasingly sorted vector `knot.right` consisting of `knot.n` elements $\in [\texttt{a2}, \texttt{a3}]$, defining interpolation points for the right side function.

If `knot.n`≥ 1 then the membership function of a piecewise linear fuzzy number P is defined as:

$$\mu_P(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if} \quad x < \texttt{a1}, \\ \alpha_i + (\alpha_{i+1} - \alpha_i)\left(\frac{x-l_i}{l_{i+1}-l_i}\right) & \text{if} \quad l_i \leq x < l_{i+1} \\ & \text{for some } i \in \{1,\ldots,n+1\}, \\ 1 & \text{if } \texttt{a2} \leq x \leq \texttt{a3}, \\ \alpha_{n-i+2} + (\alpha_{n-i+3} - \alpha_{n-i+2})\left(1 - \frac{x-r_i}{r_{i+1}-r_i}\right) & \text{if} \quad r_i < x \leq r_{i+1} \\ & \text{for some } i \in \{1,\ldots,n+1\}, \\ 0 & \text{if } \texttt{a4} < x, \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

and its α-cuts for $\alpha \in [\alpha_i, \alpha_{i+1}]$ (for some $i \in \{1,\ldots,n+1\}$) are given by:

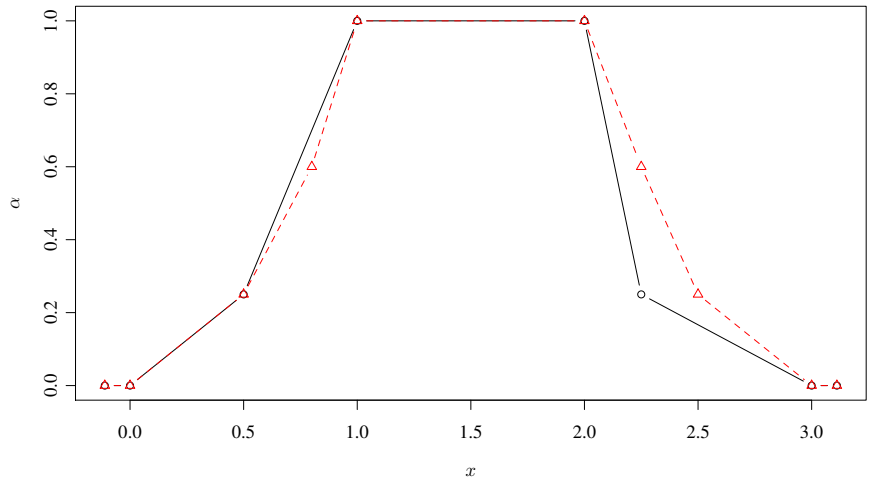
$$P_L(\alpha) = l_i + (l_{i+1} - l_i)\left(\frac{\alpha - \alpha_i}{\alpha_{i+1} - \alpha_i}\right), \tag{7}$$

$$P_R(\alpha) = r_{n-i+2} + (r_{n-i+3} - r_{n-i+2})\left(1 - \frac{\alpha - \alpha_i}{\alpha_{i+1} - \alpha_i}\right), \tag{8}$$

where $n =$ `knot.n`, $(l_1,\ldots,l_{n+2}) =$ (`a1`, `knot.left`, `a2`), $(r_1,\ldots,r_{n+2}) =$ (`a3`, `knot.right`, `a4`), and $(\alpha_1,\ldots,\alpha_{n+2}) = (0,$ `knot.alpha`$, 1)$.

PLFNs in our package are represented by the `PiecewiseLinearFuzzyNumber` class.

```
P1 <- PiecewiseLinearFuzzyNumber(0, 1, 2, 3,
   knot.n=1, knot.alpha=0.25, knot.left=0.5, knot.right=2.25)
class(P1)

## [1] "PiecewiseLinearFuzzyNumber"
## attr(,"package")
## [1] "FuzzyNumbers"

P1

## Piecewise linear fuzzy number with 1 knot(s), support=[0,3] and core=[1,2].

P2 <- PiecewiseLinearFuzzyNumber(0, 1, 2, 3,
   knot.n=2, knot.alpha=c(0.25,0.6),
   knot.left=c(0.5,0.8), knot.right=c(2.25, 2.5))
P2

## Piecewise linear fuzzy number with 2 knot(s), support=[0,3] and core=[1,2].

plot(P1, type='b')
plot(P2, type='b', col=2, lty=2, pch=2, add=TRUE)
```

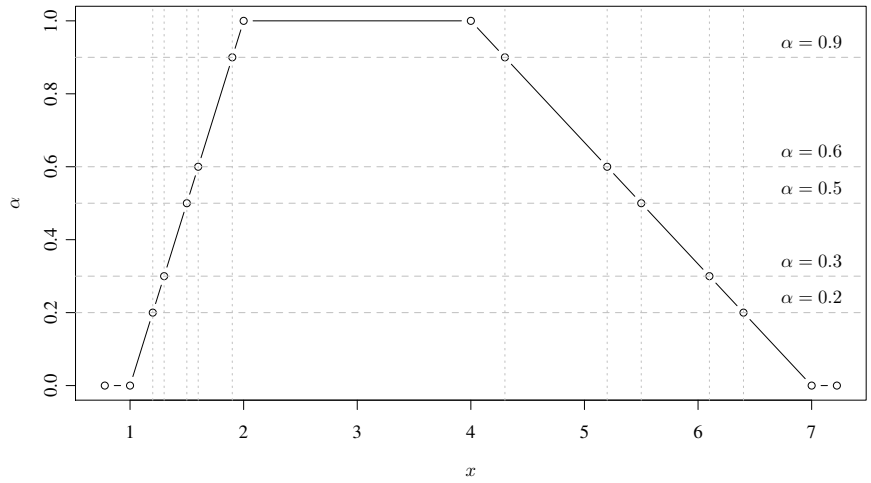


The following operators return matrices with all knots of a PLFN. Each of them have three columns, in order: α-cuts, left side coordinates, and right side coordinates.

```
P2["knots"]

##         alpha left right
## knot_1   0.25  0.5  2.50
## knot_2   0.60  0.8  2.25

P2["allknots"]  # including a1,a2,a3,a4

##         alpha left right
## supp     0.00  0.0  3.00
## knot_1   0.25  0.5  2.50
## knot_2   0.60  0.8  2.25
## core     1.00  1.0  2.00
```

If `knot.n` is equal to 0 or all left and right knots lie on common lines then a PLFN reduces to a TFN. Please note that, however, the `TrapezoidalFuzzyNumber` class does not inherit from `PiecewiseLinearFuzzyNumber` for efficiency reasons. If, however, we wanted to convert an object of the first mentioned class to the other, we would do that by calling:

```
alpha <- c(0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 0.6, 0.9);
P3 <- as.PiecewiseLinearFuzzyNumber(T1,
         knot.n=5, knot.alpha=alpha);
P3

## Piecewise linear fuzzy number with 5 knot(s), support=[1,7] and core=[2,4].

plot(P3)
abline(h=alpha, col="gray", lty=2)
abline(v=P3["knot.left"], col="gray", lty=3)
abline(v=P3["knot.right"], col="gray", lty=3)
text(7, alpha, sprintf("a=%g", alpha), pos=3)
```



More generally, each PLFN or TFN may be converted to a direct `FuzzyNumber` class instance if needed (hope we will newer not).

```
(as.FuzzyNumber(P3))

## Fuzzy number with support=[1,7] and core=[2,4].
```

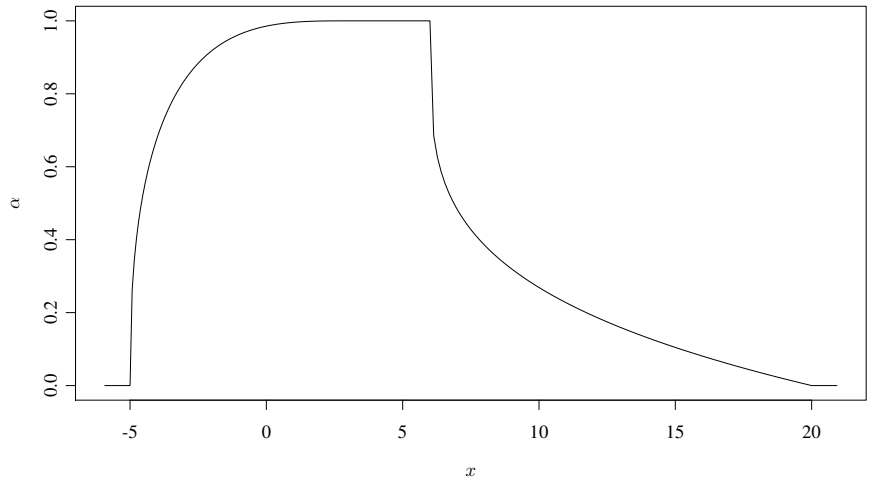
On the other hand, to "convert" (with possible information loss) more general FNs to TFNs or PLFNs, we may use the approximation procedures described in Sec. 5.

3 Depicting fuzzy numbers

To depict FNs we use the `plot()` method, which uses similar parameters as the `R`-built-in `curve()` function. If you are new to `R` you may wish to read the manual on the most popular graphical routines by calling `?plot`, `?plot.default`, `?curve`, `?abline`, `?par`, `?lines`, `?points`, `?legend`, `?text` (some of these functions have already been called in this tutorial).

In this and subsequent sections we consider the following fuzzy number for the sake of illustration:

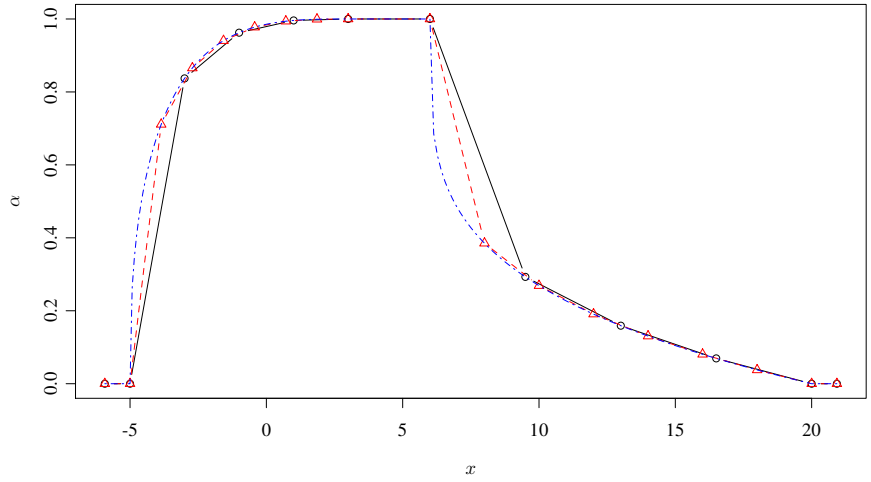
```
A <- FuzzyNumber(-5, 3, 6, 20,
    left=function(x) pbeta(x,0.4,3),
   right=function(x) 1-x^(1/4),
   lower=function(alpha) qbeta(alpha,0.4,3),
   upper=function(alpha) (1-alpha)^4
)
plot(A)
```



Side functions or α-cut bounds of objects of the `FuzzyNumber` class (not including its derivatives) when plotted are naively approximated by piecewise linear functions with equidistant knots at one of the axes. Therefore, if we probe them at too few points, we may obtain very rough graphical representations. To control the number of points at which the interpolation takes place, we use the `n` parameter (which defaults to `101` = quite accurate).

All three calls to the `plot()` method below depict the membership function of the same fuzzy number, but with different accuracy.

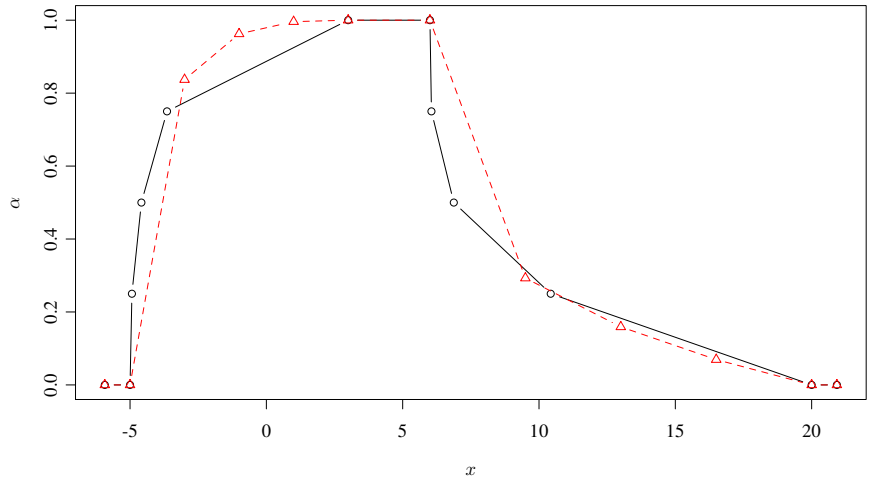
```
plot(A, n = 3, type = "b")
plot(A, n = 6, add = TRUE, lty = 2, col = 2, type = "b", pch = 2)
plot(A, n = 101, add = TRUE, lty = 4, col = 4)  # default n
```



Please note (if you have not already) that to draw the membership function we do not need to provide necessarily the FN with side generators: the α-cuts will also suffice. The function is smart enough to detect the internal representation of the FN and use the kind representation it has. It both types of

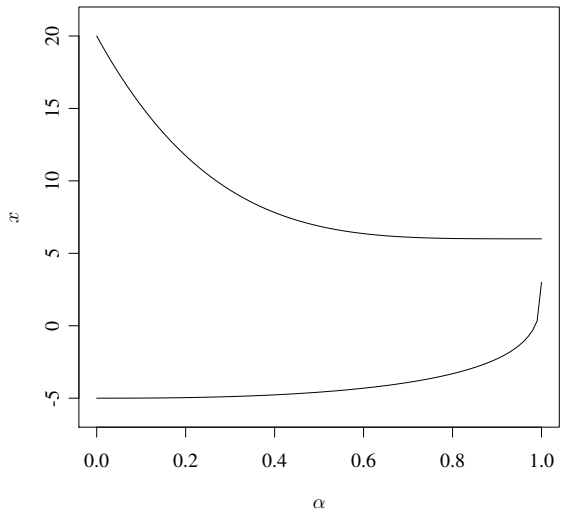
generators are given then side functions are used. If we want to, for some reasons, use α-cuts then we may do as follows:

```
plot(A, n = 3, at.alpha = numeric(0), type = "b")  # use alpha-cuts
plot(A, n = 3, type = "b", col = 2, lty = 2, pch = 2, add = TRUE)  # use sides
```



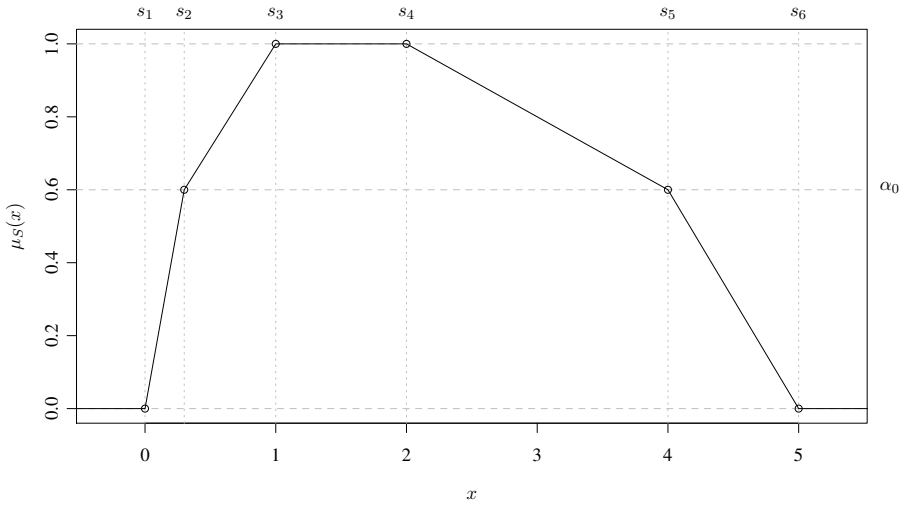
We may also illustrate an α-cut representation of a fuzzy number:

```
plot(A, draw.alphacuts = TRUE)
```



Finally, we leave you with a quite complex example from one of our papers:

```
X <- PiecewiseLinearFuzzyNumber(0, 1, 2, 5, knot.n=1,
   knot.alpha=0.6, knot.left=0.3, knot.right=4)

plot.default(NA, xlab="$x$", ylab="$\\mu_S(x)$",
   xlim=c(-0.3,5.3), ylim=c(0,1)) # empty window

xpos <- c(X["a1"], X["knot.left"],  X["a2"],
          X["a3"], X["knot.right"], X["a4"]);
xlab <- c("$s_1$", "$s_2$", "$s_3$",
          "$s_4$", "$s_5$", "$s_6$");
abline(v=xpos, col="gray", lty=3)
text(xpos, 1.05, xlab, pos=3, xpd=TRUE)

abline(h=c(0, X["knot.alpha"], 1), col="gray", lty=2)
text(5.55, X["knot.alpha"], sprintf("$\\alpha_0$"), pos=4, xpd=TRUE)

plot(X, add=TRUE, type='l', from=-1, to=6)
plot(X, add=TRUE, type='p', from=-1, to=6)
```



Please note that we use TEX commands in plot labels. They are interpreted by the `tikzDevice` package for `R` to generate beautiful figures, but setting this all up requires higher level of skills... and patience.

4 Basic computations on and characteristics of fuzzy numbers

4.1 Support and core, and other α-cuts

The support of A, i.e. $\mathrm{supp}(A) = [\mathtt{a1}, \mathtt{a4}]$, may be obtained by calling:

```
supp(A)

## [1] -5 20
```

We get the core of A, i.e. $\mathrm{core}(A) = [\mathtt{a2}, \mathtt{a3}]$, with:

```
core(A)

## [1] 3 6
```

To compute arbitrary α-cuts we use:

```
alphacut(A, 0)  # same as supp(A) (if alpha-cut generators are defined)

## [1] -5 20

alphacut(A, 1)  # same as core(A)

## [1] 3 6

alphacut(A, c(0, 0.5, 1))

##        [,1]   [,2]
## [1,] -5.000 20.000
## [2,] -4.584  6.875
## [3,]  3.000  6.000
```

Note that if we request to compute more than one α-cut at once then a matrix with 2 columns (instead of a numeric vector of length 2) is returned. The `alphacut()` method may only be used when α-cut generators are provided by the user during the declaration of A, even for $\alpha = 0$ or $\alpha = 1$.

4.2 Evaluation of the membership function

If side generators are defined, we may calculate the values of the membership function at different points by calling:

```
evaluate(A, 1)

## [1] 0.996

evaluate(A, c(1, 5, 10))

## [1] 0.9960 1.0000 0.2689

evaluate(A, seq(1, 3, by = 0.5))

## [1] 0.9960 0.9984 0.9995 0.9999 1.0000
```

4.3 "Typical" value

Let us first introduce the notion of the *expected interval* of A [5].

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{EI}(A) &:= [\mathrm{EI}_L(A), \mathrm{EI}_R(A)] && (9)\\ &= \left[\int_0^1 A_L(\alpha)\,d\alpha, \int_0^1 A_R(\alpha)\,d\alpha\right]. && (10) \end{aligned}$$

To compute the expected interval of A we call:

```
expectedInterval(A)

## [1] -4.059  8.800
```

Please note that in case of objects of the `FuzzyNumber` class the expected interval is approximated by numerical integration. This method calls the `integrate()` function and its accuracy (quite fine

by default) may be controlled by the `subdivisions`, `rel.tol`, and `abs.tol` parameters (call `?integrate` for more details). On the other hand, for TFNs and PLFs this method returns exact results.

The midpoint of the expected interval is called the *expected value* of a fuzzy number. It is given by:

$$\mathrm{EV}(A) := \frac{\mathrm{EI}_L(A) + \mathrm{EI}_R(A)}{2}. \tag{11}$$

Let us calculate $\mathrm{EV}(A)$.

```
expectedValue(A)

## [1] 2.371
```

Note that this method uses a call to `expectedInterval(A)`, thus in case of `FuzzyNumber` class instances it also uses numerical approximation.

Sometimes a generalization of the expected value, called *weighted expected value*, is useful. For given $w \in [0, 1]$ it is defined as:

$$\mathrm{EV}_w(A) := (1 - w)\mathrm{EI}_L(A) + w\mathrm{EI}_R(A). \tag{12}$$

It is easily seen that $\mathrm{EV}_{0.5}(A) = \mathrm{EV}(A)$.
Some examples:

```
weightedExpectedValue(A, 0.5)  # equivalent to expectedValue(A)

## [1] 2.371

weightedExpectedValue(A, 0.25)

## [1] -0.8441
```

The *value* of A [3] is defined by:

$$\mathrm{val}(A) := \int_0^1 \alpha \left(A_L(\alpha) + A_R(\alpha)\right) d\alpha. \tag{13}$$

It may be calculated by calling:

```
value(A)

## [1] 1.736
```

Please note that the expected value or value may be used for example to "defuzzify" A.

4.4 Measures of "nonspecificity"

The *width* of A [2] is defined as:

$$\mathrm{width}(A) := \mathrm{EI}_R(A) - w\mathrm{EI}_L(A). \tag{14}$$

An example:

```
width(A)
```

```
## [1] 12.86
```

The *ambiguity* of A [3] is defined as:

$$\mathrm{amb}(A) := \int_0^1 \alpha \left(A_R(\alpha) - A_L(\alpha)\right)\, d\alpha. \tag{15}$$

```
ambiguity(A)
```

```
## [1] 5.197
```

Additionally, to express "nonspecificity" of a fuzzy number we may use e.g. the width of its support:

```
diff(supp(A))
```

```
## [1] 25
```

5 Approximation of fuzzy numbers

5.1 Metrics in the space of fuzzy numbers

It seems that the most suitable metric for approximation problems is an extension of the Euclidean (L_2) distance (cf. [7]), d, defined by the equation:

$$d^2(A,B) = \int_0^1 \left(A_L(\alpha) - B_L(\alpha)\right)^2\, d\alpha + \int_0^1 \left(A_R(\alpha) - B_R(\alpha)\right)^2\, d\alpha. \tag{16}$$

TO BE DONE...

```
distance(A, T1, type = "Euclidean")  # L2 distance (default)
```

```
## [1] 7.202
```

TO BE DONE... `type`: `Euclidean`, `EuclideanSquared`...

5.2 Approximation by trapezoidal fuzzy numbers

TO BE DONE... Problem statement... Given a fuzzy number A we seek for a trapezoidal fuzzy number $\mathcal{T}(A)$....

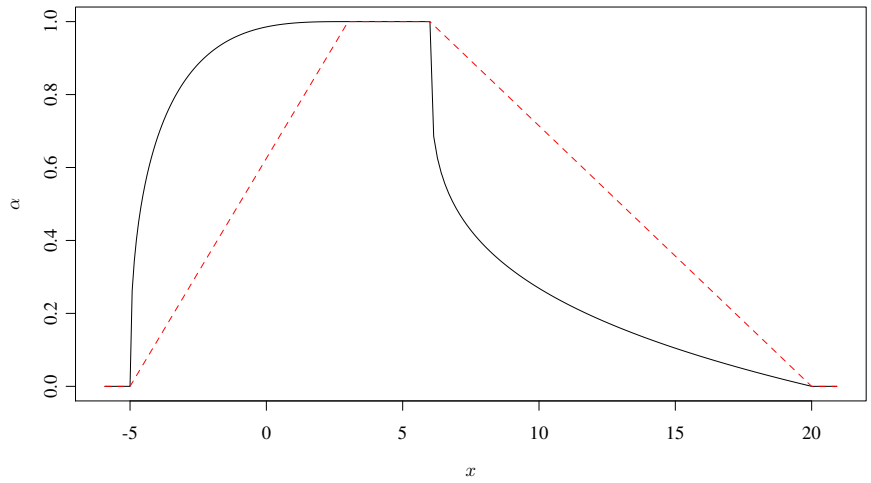
5.2.1 Naïve approximation

The `"Naive"` method generates a trapezoidal FN with the same core and support as A.

```
(T1 <- trapezoidalApproximation(A, method="Naive"))
```

```
## Trapezoidal fuzzy number with support=[-5,20] and core=[3,6].
```

```
distance(A, T1)

## [1] 5.761


plot(A)
plot(T1, col="red", lty=2)
```



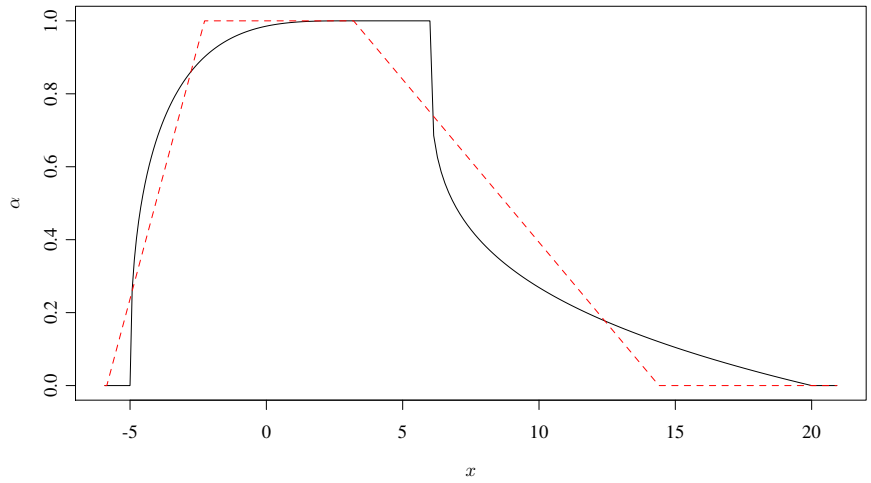
5.2.2 Expected interval preserving approximation

L_2 distance....

The `"ExpectedIntervalPreserving"` method gives the nearest L_2-approximation of A preserving the expected interval [8, 1, 10].

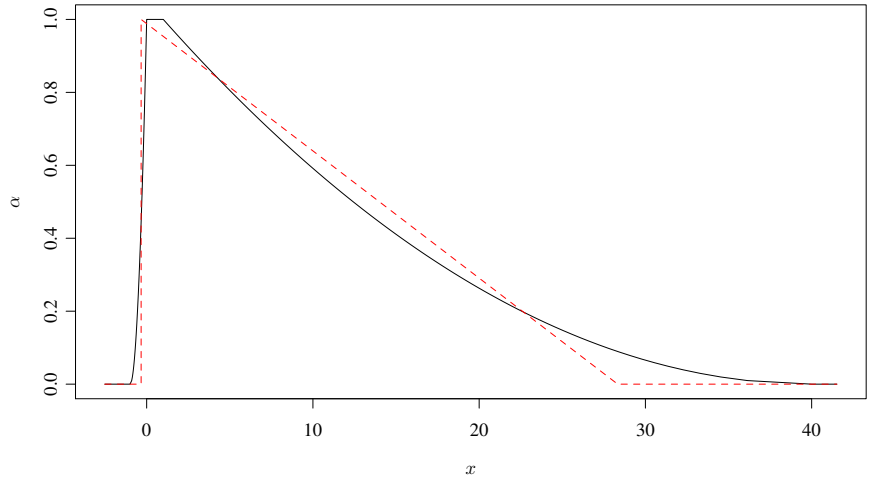
TO BE DONE...

```
(T2 <- trapezoidalApproximation(A, method="ExpectedIntervalPreserving"))

## Trapezoidal fuzzy number with support=[-5.85235,14.4] and core=[-2.26529,3.2].

distance(A, T2)

## [1] 1.98

expectedInterval(A)

## [1] -4.059  8.800

expectedInterval(T2)

## [1] -4.059  8.800

plot(A)
plot(T2, col="red", lty=2)
```



Unfortunately, for highly skewed membership functions this method reveals sometimes quite unfavorable behavior. E.g. if B is a FN such that $\mathrm{Val}(B) < \mathrm{EV}_{1/3}(B)$ or $\mathrm{Val}(B) > \mathrm{EV}_{2/3}(B)$ then it may happen that the core of the output and the core of the original fuzzy number B are disjoint, cf. [9].

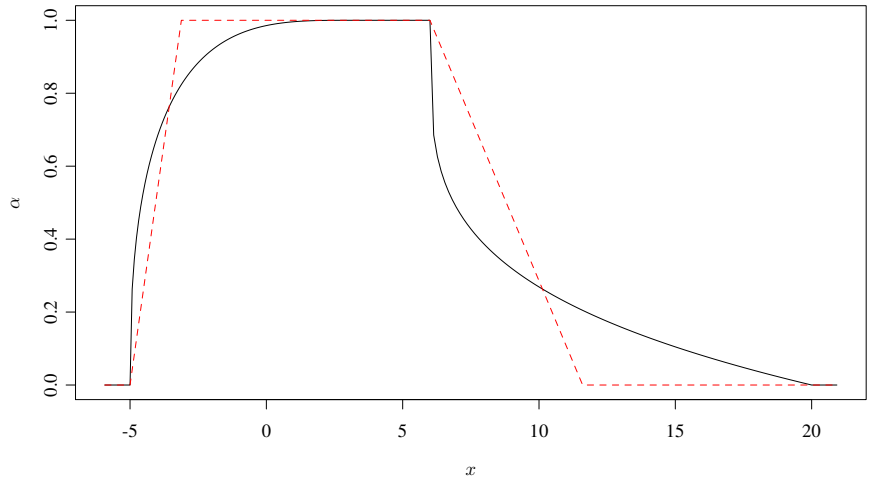
```
(B  <- FuzzyNumber(-1, 0, 1, 40,
   lower=function(x) sqrt(x),
   upper=function(x) 1-sqrt(x)))

## Fuzzy number with support=[-1,40] and core=[0,1].

(TB <- trapezoidalApproximation(B, "ExpectedIntervalPreserving"))

## Trapezoidal fuzzy number with support=[-0.333333,28.3333] and core=[-0.333333,-0.333333].

plot(B)
plot(TB, col="red", lty=2)
```



5.2.3 Approximation with restrictions on support and core

The `"SupportCoreRestricted"` method was proposed in [9]. It gives the L_2-nearest trapezoidal approximation with constraints $\mathrm{core}(A) \subseteq \mathrm{core}(\mathcal{T}(A))$ and $\mathrm{supp}(\mathcal{T}(A)) \subseteq \mathrm{supp}(A)$, i.e. for which each point that surely belongs to A also belongs to $\mathcal{T}(A)$, and each point that surely does not belong to A also does not belong to $\mathcal{T}(A)$.

```
(T3 <- trapezoidalApproximation(A, method="SupportCoreRestricted"))

## Trapezoidal fuzzy number with support=[-5,11.6] and core=[-3.11765,6].

distance(A, T3)

## [1] 2.603

plot(A)
plot(T3, col="red", lty=2)
```



5.3 Approximation by piecewise linear fuzzy numbers

TO BE DONE... Problem statement... Given a fuzzy number A we seek for a piecewise linear fuzzy number $\mathcal{P}(A)$....

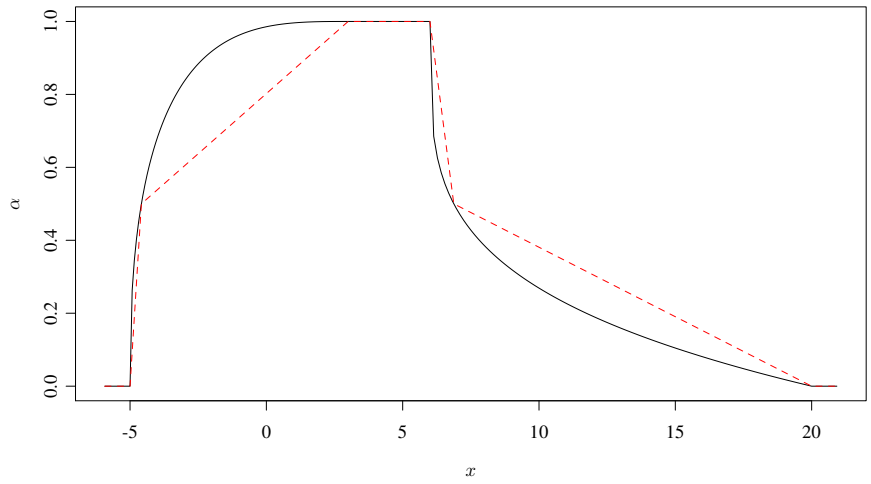
Currently only fixed `knot.alpha` allowed.... TO BE DONE....

5.3.1 Naïve approximation

The `"Naive"` method generates a PLFN with the same core and support as A and with sides interpolating the membership function of A at given α-cuts.

```
P1 <- piecewiseLinearApproximation(A, method="Naive",
        knot.n=1, knot.alpha=0.5)
P1["allknots"]

##         alpha   left  right
## supp      0.0 -5.000 20.000
## knot_1    0.5 -4.584  6.875
## core      1.0  3.000  6.000
```

```
print(distance(A, P1), 8)

## [1] 2.4753305

plot(A)
plot(P1, col="red", lty=2)
```

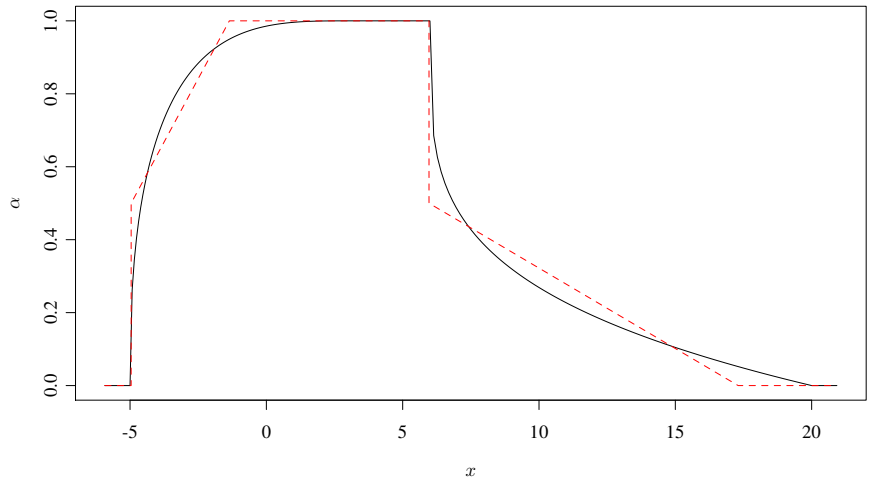


5.3.2 L_2-nearest approximation

Exact algorithm. TO BE DONE...

For `knot.n==1`... Method proposed by (Coroianu, Gagolewski, Grzegorzewski - preprint, 2012)...

```
system.time(P2 <- piecewiseLinearApproximation(A,
   method="BestEuclidean", knot.n=1, knot.alpha=0.5))

##    user  system elapsed
##   0.009   0.000   0.009

print(P2["allknots"], 6)

##         alpha     left  right
## supp      0.0 -4.95920 17.305
## knot_1    0.5 -4.95920  5.965
## core      1.0 -1.35769  5.965

print(distance(A, P2), 12)

## [1] 0.837361269482

plot(A)
plot(P2, col="red", lty=2)
```



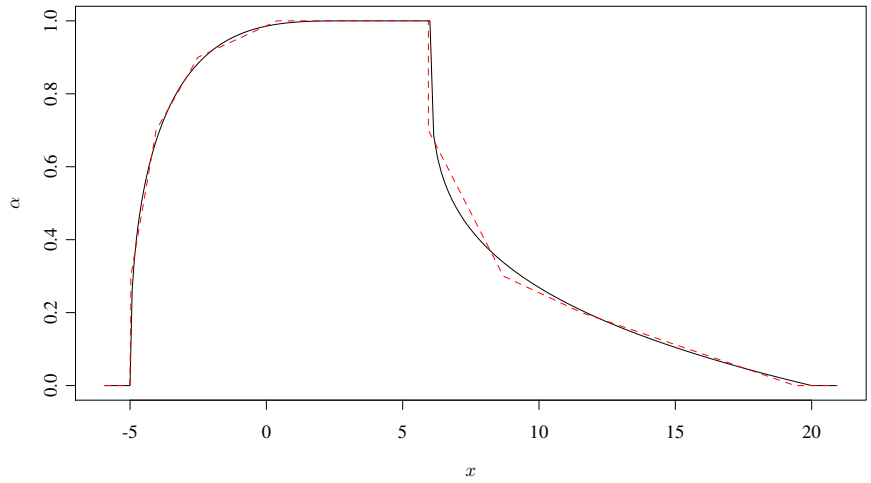
Approximate algorithm. This method uses a constrained version of the Nelder-Mead algorithm. The procedure minimizes the target function numerically by calling the `optim()` function. There is thus no guarantee that it will find to the global minimum (it may fall into a neighborhood of a local minimum or even fail to converge to it). However, this approach may be used for any number of knots.

TO BE DONE...

```
system.time(P3 <- piecewiseLinearApproximation(A,
   method="ApproximateBestEuclidean", knot.n=1, knot.alpha=0.5))

##    user  system elapsed
##   1.281   0.011   1.324

print(P3["allknots"], 6)

##         alpha     left    right
## supp      0.0 -4.95921 17.30510
## knot_1    0.5 -4.95921  5.96493
## core      1.0 -1.35761  5.96493

print(distance(A, P3), 12)

## [1] 0.837361274848
```

Please note that a call to this method may be time-consuming.

```
system.time(P4 <- piecewiseLinearApproximation(A,
   method="ApproximateBestEuclidean", knot.n=4,
   knot.alpha=c(0.2, 0.3, 0.7, 0.9), verbose=TRUE))

## Pass 1a,1b,DONE.
##    user  system elapsed
##  24.915   0.104  25.665

plot(A)
plot(P4, col="red", lty=2)
```



If the method fails to converge you may try to call it e.g. with the `optim.control=list(maxit=5000)` parameter to allow for greater number of iterations.

TO BE CONTINUED

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