

# On the Equivalence of Single Input Type Fuzzy Inference Methods

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**Abstract**—This paper addresses equivalence of fuzzy inference methods. It first presents single input type fuzzy inference methods: the single input rule modules connected type fuzzy inference method (SIRMs method) and single input connected fuzzy inference method (SIC method). Secondly, the equivalence conditions of the SIRMs method and SIC method are shown. Finally, this paper also discusses the equivalence conditions between the single input type fuzzy inference methods and the conventional fuzzy inference methods like the simplified fuzzy inference method, product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method which are all widely used as fuzzy control methods.

**Index Terms**—Fuzzy inference, single input type fuzzy inference method, simplified fuzzy inference method, product–sum–gravity method, fuzzy singleton-type inference method, equivalence.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Since this paper is a continuation of [1], we assume that the readers are already familiar with [1]. In this paper, we focus on equivalence of fuzzy inference methods [1]–[10].

This paper shows that the single input rule modules connected fuzzy inference method (SIRMs method) [11]–[16] can be reduced to the single input connected fuzzy inference method (SIC method) [17]–[19]. Moreover, it is shown that the SIC method is reduced to the simplified fuzzy inference method [20]–[22] is a special case of the T–S inference method [23], [24] in which the consequent part of the T–S inference method is replaced to constant. Similarly, it is shown that the SIC method is reduced to the product–sum–gravity method [25]–[29] whose consequent parts consist of fuzzy sets and fuzzy singleton-type inference method [30] by multiplying fuzzy sets in the antecedent part of the each inference method by the area and weight of the product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method, respectively.

Furthermore, from these results, this paper also shows the SIRMs method and SIC method are special case of the above conventional fuzzy inference methods.

## II. FUZZY INFERENCE METHODS

In this section we review the SIRMs method, SIC method and simplified fuzzy inference method.

### A. SIRMs Connected Fuzzy Inference Method

We briefly review the single input rule modules connected fuzzy inference method (SIRMs method) [11]–[16]. The SIRMs method has  $n$  rule modules, and final inference result by the SIRMs method is obtained by the weighted sum of  $n$  inference results from rule modules and  $n$  weights. Rule modules of the SIRMs method are given as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Rules-1} : \{x_1 = A_j^1 \longrightarrow y_1 = y_j^1\}_{j=1}^{m_1} \\ \vdots \\ \text{Rules-}i : \{x_i = A_j^i \longrightarrow y_i = y_j^i\}_{j=1}^{m_i} \\ \vdots \\ \text{Rules-}n : \{x_n = A_j^n \longrightarrow y_n = y_j^n\}_{j=1}^{m_n} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where Rules- $i$  stands for the  $i$ th single input rule module, the  $i$ th input item  $x_i$  is the sole variable of the antecedent part of the Rules- $i$ , and  $y_i$  stands for the variable of its consequent part.  $A_j^i$  means the fuzzy set of the  $j$ th rule of the Rules- $i$ ,  $y_j^i$  is real value of consequent part, and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m_i$ .  $m_i$  is the number of rules in Rules- $i$ .

The degree of the antecedent part in the  $j$ th rule of Rules- $i$  is obtained by (2) for input  $x_i^0$ , and the inference result  $y_i^0$  from Rules- $i$  is given as (3) (see Fig. 1).

$$h_j^i = A_j^i(x_i^0) \quad (2)$$

$$y_i^0 = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m_i} h_j^i y_j^i}{\sum_{j=1}^{m_i} h_j^i} \quad (3)$$

The final inference result  $y_0$  of the SIRMs method is given by (4), where importance degree of each input item  $x_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) is set as  $v_i$ . That is,

$$y_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i y_i^0 \quad (4)$$

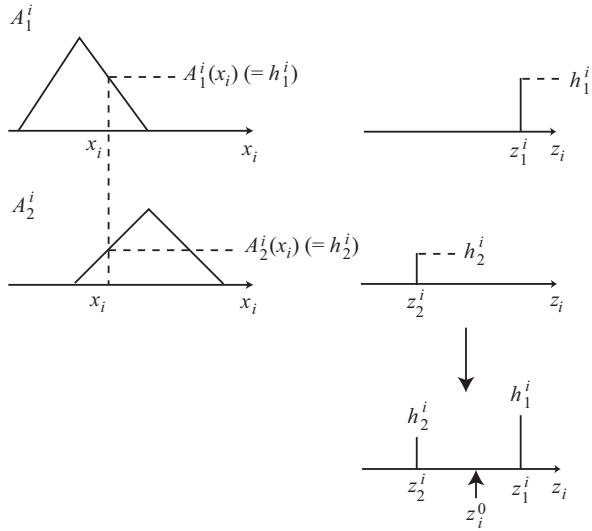


Fig. 1. Fuzzy inference method in Rules- $i$ .

### B. Single Input Connected (SIC) Fuzzy Inference Method

In this paper we tentatively call “Single Input Connected (SIC) fuzzy reasoning method” for single input type fuzzy reasoning method proposed by Hayashi et al. [17]–[19]. The SIC method sets up rule modules to each input item as well as SIRMs method. The final inference result of SIC method is obtained by the weighted average of the degrees of the antecedent part and consequent part of each rule module.

Namely, rule modules and degree  $h_j^i$  of the antecedent part of SIC method are given as those of SIRMs method in (1) and (2), respectively. The final inference result  $y^0$  is given as follows by using degrees of antecedent part and consequent part from each rule module.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y^0 &= \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{m_1} h_j^1 y_j^1 + \cdots + \sum_{j=1}^{m_n} h_j^n y_j^n}{\sum_{j=1}^{m_1} h_j^1 + \cdots + \sum_{j=1}^{m_n} h_j^n} \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} h_j^i y_j^i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} h_j^i} \quad (5)
 \end{aligned}$$

### III. EQUIVALENCE OF SIRMS METHOD AND SIC METHOD

*Example 1:* We consider the following rule modules as a simple example.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Rules-1} &= \begin{cases} x_1 = A_1^1 \rightarrow y_1 = 1 \\ x_1 = A_2^1 \rightarrow y_1 = 2 \\ x_1 = A_3^1 \rightarrow y_1 = 1 \end{cases} \\
 \text{Rules-2} &= \begin{cases} x_2 = A_1^2 \rightarrow y_2 = 1 \\ x_2 = A_2^2 \rightarrow y_2 = 3 \\ x_2 = A_3^2 \rightarrow y_2 = 5 \end{cases}
 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where fuzzy sets  $A_1^i, A_2^i, A_3^i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) in Fig. 2 are used. The inference results of (6) in the SIRMs method and SIC method is obtained as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, respectively, where  $v_1 = v_2 = 0.5$ .  $\square$

As mentioned above, generally, the inference results of the SIRMs method and SIC method do not obtain even if these methods use same rules. Therefore, in this section, in order to clarify the property between the SIRMs method and SIC method, we discuss the equivalent condition between SIRMs method and SIC method.

We have the following theorem on the SIRMs method and SIC method.

*Theorem 1:* Let each weight of SIRMs method be obtained from the following equation.

$$v_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i} \quad (7)$$

Then, the inference results by SIRMs method and SIC method are equivalent.  $\square$

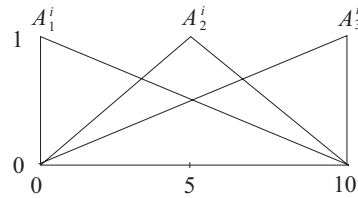


Fig. 2. Fuzzy sets (1)

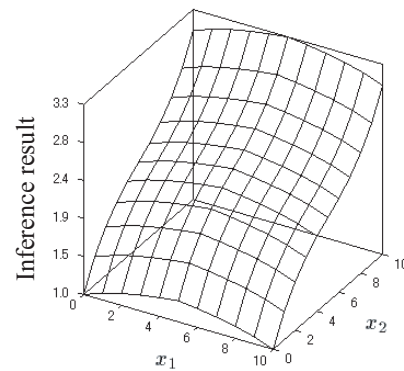


Fig. 3. Inference result by the SIRMs method

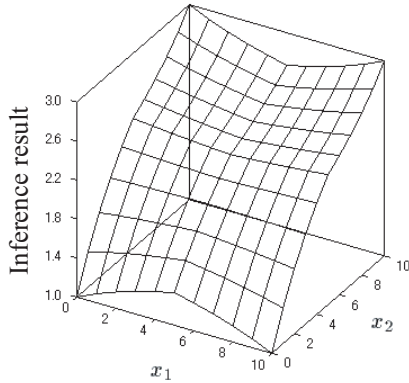


Fig. 4. Inference result by the SIC method

*Proof:* We show that the inference results by the SIRMs method and SIC method are equal if each weight of SIRMs method is assumed as in (7).

The inference result by the SIC method is obtained from (1) and (5) as follows.

$$y^0 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i y_k^i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i} \quad (8)$$

On the other hand, the inference result by SIRMs method is obtained from (1), (3), (4) as follows.

$$y' = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( v_i \cdot \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i y_k^i}{\sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i} \right) \quad (9)$$

(9) can be expanded to

$$y' = v_1 \cdot \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_1} h_k^1 y_k^1}{\sum_{k=1}^{m_1} h_k^1} + \dots + v_n \cdot \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_n} h_k^n y_k^n}{\sum_{k=1}^{m_n} h_k^n} \quad (10)$$

Since each weight of SIRMs method is assumed in (7), (10)

is transformed to

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_1} h_k^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i} \cdot \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_1} h_k^1 y_k^1}{\sum_{k=1}^{m_1} h_k^1} + \dots + \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_n} h_k^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i} \cdot \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_n} h_k^n y_k^n}{\sum_{k=1}^{m_n} h_k^n} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{m_1} h_k^1 y_k^1 + \dots + \sum_{k=1}^{m_n} h_k^n y_k^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i y_k^i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} h_k^i} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Therefore, (9) is shown to be equal to (8), and thus Theorem 1 holds.  $\square$

*Example 2:* We consider the inference result under rules of (6) and fuzzy sets in Fig. 5, where weights of SIRMs method are  $w_1 = w_2 = 0.5$ . These fuzzy sets satisfy the following condition:

$$A_1^i(x) + A_2^i(x) + A_3^i(x) = 1 \quad (12)$$

i.e. “fuzzy partition”. Therefore, (12) satisfies condition (7).

From (6), the inference results by the SIRMs method and SIC method are obtained as shown in Fig. 6. Therefore, the

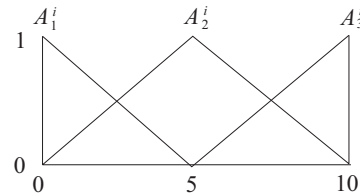


Fig. 5. Fuzzy sets (2)

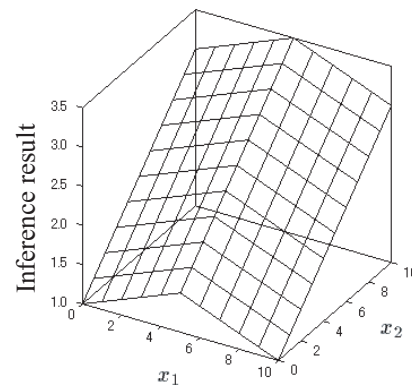


Fig. 6. Inference result (SIRMs, SIC)

inference results by two inference methods are same.  $\square$

As mentioned above, it turns out that the inference results by the SIRMs method and SIC method are equivalent if each weight of the SIRMs method satisfies the condition (7).

*Remark 1:* Generally, the SIRMs method and SIC method are not equivalent if each weight of the SIRMs method does not satisfy the condition (7).

#### IV. EQUIVALENCE OF SINGLE INPUT TYPE AND CONVENTIONAL FUZZY INFERENCE METHOD

In this section, we clarify the equivalence conditions of the SIC method and conventional fuzzy inference methods like the simplified fuzzy inference method, product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method.

We have the following theorem regarding the simplified fuzzy inference method and SIC method.

*Theorem 2:* The inference results by simplified fuzzy inference method and SIC method are equivalent when the rules of simplified fuzzy inference method obtained by SIC method are used.  $\square$

*Proof:* In order to distinguish subscript  $j$  of Rules- $i$  in (1),  $j_i$  is used, and thus (1) is rewritten as

$$\text{Rules-}i : \{x_i = A_{j_i}^i \rightarrow y_i = y_{j_i}^i\}_{j_i=1}^{m_i}. \quad (13)$$

We can obtain the following rules of the simplified fuzzy inference method which corresponds to (13) of the rules of the SIC method by

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 = A_{j_1}^1, x_2 = A_{j_2}^2, \dots, x_n = A_{j_n}^n \\ \rightarrow y = \frac{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \dots + \frac{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where  $j_i = 1, 2, \dots, m_i$ .

Inference result  $y'$  of the simplified fuzzy inference method becomes as follows from (14):

$$y' = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^M \left\{ h_j \left( \frac{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \dots + \frac{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \right) \right\}}{\sum_{j=1}^M h_j} \quad (15)$$

where  $M$  is the total number of rules.

On the other hand, the conclusion  $y'$  by the SIC method becomes as follows from (5) and (13):

$$y' = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i y_{j_i}^i}{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \right) \quad (16)$$

(16) can be expanded to

$$\begin{aligned} y' = & \frac{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot \frac{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1 y_{j_1}^1}{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1} + \dots \\ & + \frac{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot \frac{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n y_{j_n}^n}{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

When reducing (17) to a common denominator, the numerator of (17) is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot \sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1 y_{j_1}^1 \cdot \prod_{i=2}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i + \dots \\ & + \frac{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot \sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n y_{j_n}^n \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

After (18) is expanded and rearranged, we find that it contains the following common item

$$(h_{j_1}^1 \dots h_{j_n}^n) \left( \frac{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \dots + \frac{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \right) \quad (19)$$

Since it has  $M = \prod_{i=1}^n m_i$  kind of rules in total number, (19) becomes as follows :

$$\sum_{j=1}^M \left\{ h_j \left( \frac{\sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} h_{j_1}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \dots + \frac{\sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_n}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \right) \right\} \quad (20)$$

Moreover, the denominator of (17) is transformed to (21)

$$\begin{aligned} & \prod_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i \\ & = \sum_{j_1=1}^{m_1} \dots \sum_{j_k=1}^{m_k} \dots \sum_{j_n=1}^{m_n} h_{j_1}^1 \dots h_{j_k}^k \dots h_{j_n}^n \\ & = \sum_{j=1}^M h_j. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Therefore, (16) becomes as follows and it is exactly the same as (15)

$$y' = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^M \left\{ h_j \left( \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_1} h_{j_i}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \cdots + \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_n} h_{j_i}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \right) \right\}}{\sum_{j=1}^M h_j} \quad (22)$$

Therefore, Theorem 2 holds.  $\square$

Next, we show the equivalence conditions of the SIC method, product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method.

We have the following theorem regarding the product–sum–gravity method and SIC method.

*Theorem 3:* Let the area of the consequent part of the product–sum–gravity method be the weight for the antecedent part of the SIC method. Then, the SIC method is equivalent to the product–sum–gravity method.  $\square$

*Proof:* In order to prove Theorem 3, we use the equivalence in [1] and Theorem 2.

We can obtain the following rules of the product–sum–gravity method which corresponds to (13) of the rules of the SIC method:

$$x_1 = A_{j_1}^1, x_2 = A_{j_2}^2, \dots, x_n = A_{j_n}^n \longrightarrow y = B_j \quad (23)$$

where  $B_j$  is fuzzy set. Moreover, let the center of gravity of fuzzy set  $B_j$  of consequent part in the product–sum–gravity method be

$$c_j = \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_1} h_{j_i}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \cdots + \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_n} h_{j_i}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \quad (24)$$

[1] shows the inference result by the product–sum–gravity method can be obtained from the area as inference result of each rule and center. Therefore, the inference result  $y'$  of the product–sum–gravity method is obtained as follows:

$$y' = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^M \left\{ h_j S_j \left( \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_1} h_{j_i}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \cdots + \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_n} h_{j_i}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \right) \right\}}{\sum_{j=1}^M h_j S_j} \quad (25)$$

where  $S_j$  is the area of fuzzy sets in  $j$ th rule.

On the other hand, the inference result by the SIC method is (15). Here, let the area  $S_i$  of the product–sum–gravity method be the weight for the antecedent part of the SIC method. Then, the SIC method is equivalent to the product–sum–gravity method. Therefore, Theorem 3 holds.  $\square$

By the same token, we have the following theorem on the fuzzy singleton-type inference method and SIC method.

*Theorem 4:* Let the weight of the fuzzy singleton-type inference method be the weight for the antecedent part of the SIC method. Then, the SIC method is equivalent to the fuzzy singleton-type inference method.  $\square$

*Proof:* The consequent parts in rules of fuzzy singleton-type inference method assume as in (14). Then, the inference result by the fuzzy singleton-type inference method is obtained as follows:

$$y' = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^M \left\{ h_j w_j \left( \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_1} h_{j_i}^1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_1}^1 + \cdots + \frac{\sum_{j_i=1}^{m_n} h_{j_i}^n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j_i=1}^{m_i} h_{j_i}^i} \cdot y_{j_n}^n \right) \right\}}{\sum_{j=1}^M h_j w_j} \quad (26)$$

Let the weight  $w_j$  of the fuzzy singleton-type inference method be the weight for the antecedent part of the SIC method as same as Theorem 3. Then, the SIC method is equivalent to the fuzzy singleton-type inference method. Therefore, Theorem 4 holds.  $\square$

*Remark 2:* As mentioned above, the SIC method can be transformed to the simplified fuzzy inference method, product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method, but not vice versa.  $\square$

*Remark 3:* The SIC method is not necessarily equivalent to the product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method if the fuzzy sets are limited as normal fuzzy sets.  $\square$

## V. CONCLUSION

This paper has shown the equivalence of the fuzzy inference methods. At first, the equivalence of single input type fuzzy inference methods is shown. Next, the equivalence of the SIC method, simplified fuzzy inference method, product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method as conventional fuzzy inference methods.

From above results, the SIC method can be transformed to the simplified fuzzy inference method, product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method, but not vice versa. Moreover, the SIC method is not necessarily equivalent to the product–sum–gravity method and fuzzy singleton-type inference method if the fuzzy sets are limited as normal fuzzy sets. Therefore, it turns out that the SIRM method

and SIC method are special case of the conventional fuzzy inference methods.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was partially supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Project No. 20-797) from the Japan Society for the Promotion Science (JSPS).

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