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### ADDRESSING AMBIGUITY IN LEGAL SYSTEMS: A FUZZY LOGIC-BASED APPROACH TO LEGAL INTERPRETATION

#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research is to address the ambiguity and inconsistencies in legal interpretations caused by the vague and complex language of legal texts. By introducing a fuzzy logic-based model, the research aims to provide a more structured and flexible approach to legal interpretation, improving consistency, fairness, and transparency in judicial decision-making.

The methodology of the research - using MATLAB's Fuzzy Toolbox, the study defines input variables such as ambiguity in legal language, consistency in prior judgments, and complexity of legal principles. The output variable is the interpretability of legal judgments.

The practical importance of the research - the practical significance lies in improving the consistency and transparency of legal judgments, which enhances public trust in the judicial process.

The results of the research - the research demonstrates that the fuzzy logic model successfully captures uncertainties in legal language and improves the interpretability of legal judgments.

The originality and scientific novelty of the research - the study's originality stems from its innovative application of fuzzy logic to legal interpretation, a domain traditionally dominated by rigid, rule-based approaches. By modeling legal language uncertainties through fuzzy sets, the research introduces a more nuanced method for handling legal ambiguities, contributing to the fields of legal reasoning and decision-making models with a novel scientific framework.

**Keywords:** fuzzy logic, legal interpretation, ambiguity, judicial consistency, legal reasoning, decision-making models.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The legal system, by its very nature, is tasked with interpreting complex statutes and precedents that often contain ambiguous language. Legal practitioners are frequently confronted with the challenge of navigating uncertainties and vagueness inherent in legal texts, leading to varied and sometimes inconsistent judicial outcomes [1]. Ambiguity in legal language can arise from evolving social norms, the broad applicability of laws [2], or the inherent complexity of legal principles [3]. As a result, different interpretations can create confusion and inconsistency in judgments, ultimately affecting the fairness and transparency of the legal process [4].

Traditional methods of legal interpretation, such as formalism and legal positivism, often fall short in addressing the nuanced, contextual, and sometimes subjective nature of legal language [5]. These methods aim for rigid, rule-based interpretations, which can oversimplify the uncertainties and ambiguities present in real-world cases. In recent years, there has been growing interest in more flexible, adaptive approaches to legal interpretation that can account for these complexities and enhance the consistency of judgments [6].

Fuzzy logic, a mathematical framework designed to model uncertainty and imprecision, offers a promising solution for addressing these challenges. Originally developed by Lotfi Zadeh in 1965 [7], fuzzy logic extends traditional binary logic to handle varying degrees of truth, making it particularly well-suited for domains where clear boundaries between categories are difficult to define—such as legal interpretation. By representing legal principles and linguistic ambiguities through fuzzy sets [8], this approach allows for more nuanced and context-sensitive decision-making, offering a structured yet flexible method for interpreting legal texts.

This article explores the application of fuzzy logic to the field of legal interpretation, proposing a fuzzy logic-based model that aims to capture the uncertainties in legal language while enhancing the interpretability and fairness of judicial decisions. By incorporating factors such as ambiguity, consistency, and complexity into the decision-making process, this model addresses the need for a more robust and transparent framework for legal reasoning. Through this approach, we demonstrate how fuzzy logic can provide a valuable tool for improving legal judgments, ensuring greater consistency, transparency, and fairness in the interpretation of laws.

#### **Problem Statement**

Ambiguity in legal language presents a significant challenge in the judicial system, where the clarity and consistency of interpretations are critical to fair and transparent decision-making. Legal texts often contain vague or imprecise terms that lead to multiple interpretations, resulting in inconsistent rulings across similar cases. This lack of uniformity undermines public trust in the legal process, as individuals and entities may receive differing legal outcomes based on subjective interpretations of the same laws.

Traditional methods of legal interpretation, such as literalism or formalism, attempt to impose rigid structures on inherently flexible legal language, often leading to oversimplified or inaccurate readings. These methods struggle to adequately capture the nuances of evolving social norms, the varied contexts in which laws are applied, and the subjective nature of legal reasoning. Consequently, there is a growing demand for more adaptable and transparent

approaches that account for the complexities of legal interpretation.

Fuzzy logic [9] offers a mathematical framework that can model uncertainty and ambiguity, making it an ideal tool for legal interpretation. By incorporating fuzzy sets to represent varying degrees of legal ambiguity, complexity, and consistency, this approach can provide a more nuanced and flexible method for legal decision-making [10]. A fuzzy logic-based model has the potential to enhance both the interpretability of legal judgments and the consistency of rulings, thereby addressing the core problem of ambiguity in legal systems.

This research aims to develop a fuzzy logic-based model [11] for legal interpretation that not only captures the uncertainties inherent in legal language but also improves fairness and transparency in judicial outcomes. By doing so, it addresses the pressing need for a more sophisticated and adaptable framework for resolving ambigui ties in legal reasoning.

#### Methodology

To define the input and output variables for a fuzzy logic-based legal interpretation model in MATLAB, we need to consider the factors that affect legal judgments and uncertainties in interpretation. Here is a detailed setup using MATLAB's Fuzzy Toolbox (See Fig.1).

#### **Input Variables:**

- Ambiguity in Legal Language (AmbiguityLevel)
- Consistency in Prior Judgments (ConsistencyLevel)
- Complexity of Legal Principles (ComplexityLevel)

#### **Outout Variables:**

Interpretability of Legal Judgment (Interpretability)

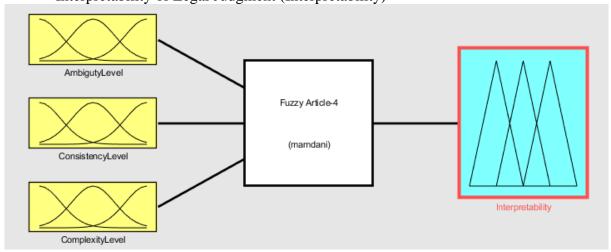


Fig. 1. Graph of input variables.

#### **Input Variables:**

- 1. Ambiguity in Legal Language (AmbiguityLevel) (See Fig.2).
- **Description**: Represents the degree of vagueness or ambiguity in legal texts.
- Range: 0 to 10 (0 = clear, 10 = highly ambiguous)

– Membership Functions:

Low Ambiguity: Triangular [0 0 3]
Medium Ambiguity: Triangular [2 5 8]
High Ambiguity: Triangular [7 10 10]

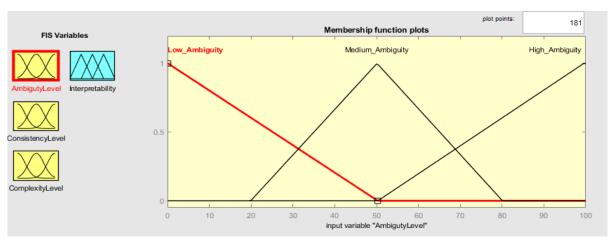


Fig. 2. Fuzzy sets and membership functions for AmbiguityLevel.

- 2. Consistency in Prior Judgments (ConsistencyLevel) (See Fig.3).
- Description: Measures the consistency of past legal rulings related to the case.
- Range: 0 to 10 (0 = very inconsistent, 10 = very consistent)
- Membership Functions:
- Low Consistency: Triangular [0 0 4]
- **Medium Consistency**: Triangular [3 5 7]
- **High Consistency**: Triangular [6 10 10]

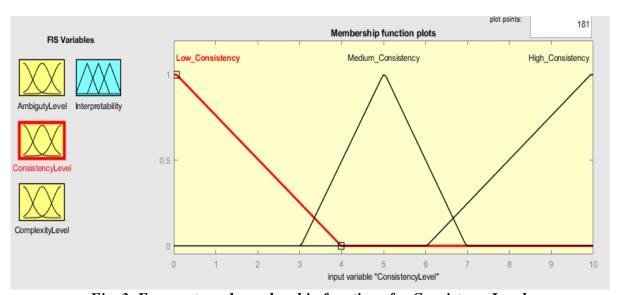


Fig. 3. Fuzzy sets and membership functions for ConsistencyLevel.

- 3. Complexity of Legal Principles (ComplexityLevel) (See Fig.4).
- Description: Assesses the complexity of legal principles involved in the case.
- Range: 0 to 10 (0 = simple, 10 = highly complex)
- Membership Functions:
- Low Complexity: Triangular [0 0 3]
  Medium Complexity: Triangular [2 5 8]
  High Complexity: Triangular [7 10 10]

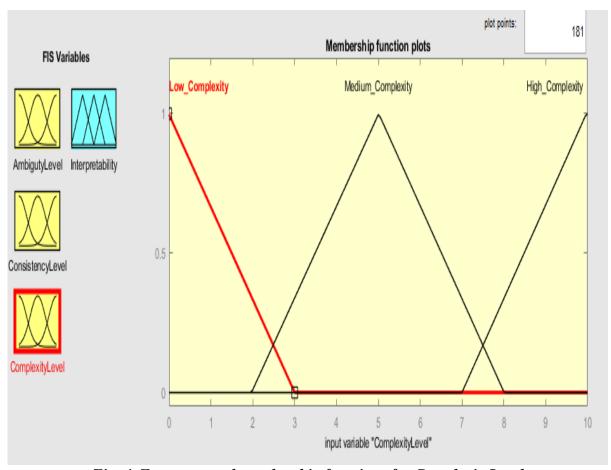


Fig. 4. Fuzzy sets and membership functions for ComplexityLevel.

#### **Output Variable:**

- 1. Interpretability of Legal Judgment (Interpretability) (See Fig.5).
  - Description: Indicates how clear and interpretable the final legal decision is
  - **Range**: 0 to 10 (0 = unclear, 10 = highly interpretable)
  - **■ Membership Functions**:
  - **Low Interpretability**: Triangular [0 0 3]
  - **Medium Interpretability**: Triangular [2 5 8]
  - **High Interpretability**: Triangular [7 10 10]

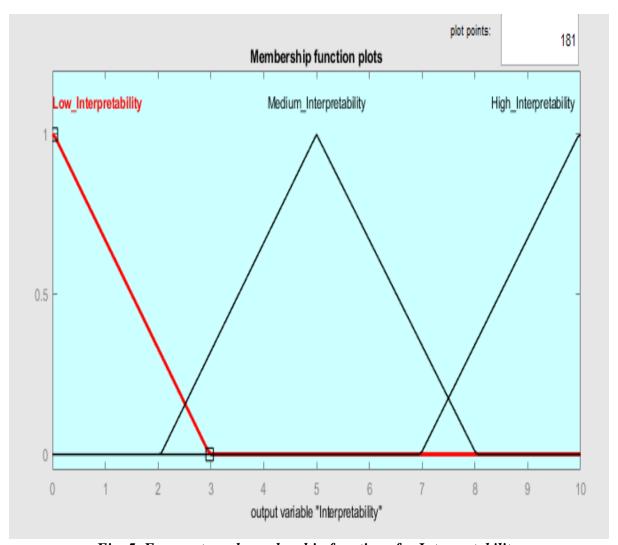


Fig. 5. Fuzzy sets and membership functions for Interpretability.

#### **Fuzzy Rules:**

In a fuzzy logic system, fuzzy rules are at the core of decision-making. These rules are designed to model real-world uncertainties by capturing the relationships between input variables and determining the output based on these relationships. For the legal interpretation model, the fuzzy rules are constructed using input variables such as AmbiguityLevel, ConsistencyLevel, and ComplexityLevel, and they dictate how these factors influence the output variable, Interpretability.

- 1. If **AmbiguityLevel** is **High** and **ConsistencyLevel** is **Low**, then **Interpretability** is **Low**.
- 2. If AmbiguityLevel is Medium and ConsistencyLevel is Medium, then Interpretability is Medium.
- 3. If **AmbiguityLevel** is **Low** and **ConsistencyLevel** is **High**, then **Interpretability** is **High**.
  - 4. If **AmbiguityLevel** is **High** and **ComplexityLevel** is **High**, then **Interpretability** is **Low**.

- 5. If **AmbiguityLevel** is **Low** and **ComplexityLevel** is **Low**, then **Interpretability** is **High**.
- 6. If ConsistencyLevel is High and ComplexityLevel is Medium, then Interpretability is High.

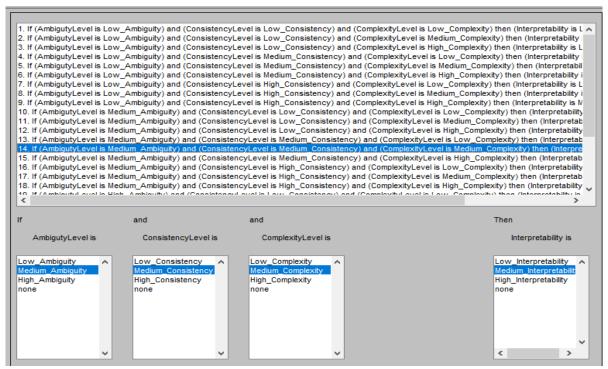


Fig. 6. Fuzzy rules.

Figure 7 provides an overview of the logical inference rules that govern the fuzzy logic system for legal interpretation. These rules form the core of decision-making within the model by determining how input variables such as ambiguity, consistency, and complexity interact to produce the final output, which is the interpretability of a legal judgment. Each rule reflects a real-world legal scenario, where varying degrees of ambiguity and consistency can influence how clear and interpretable a judgment will be.

For example, when the ambiguity level is high and prior judgments are inconsistent (low consistency), the model infers that the interpretability of the decision will be low, aligning with the challenges judges face when confronted with unclear laws and inconsistent case precedents. Conversely, when ambiguity is low and consistency is high, the model predicts high interpretability, demonstrating how clear laws and consistent rulings result in more understandable judgments.

The rules are structured to account for multiple combinations of inputs, creating a flexible and adaptable framework for legal reasoning. By defining these rules, the fuzzy logic system can simulate a range of legal interpretations, allowing for more nuanced and context-sensitive decisions. This ability to model and reason through complex, ambiguous legal scenarios illustrates the power of fuzzy logic in bridging the gap between rigid rule-based systems and the fluidity of real-world legal interpretation.

These logical inference rules enhance the model's capacity to mimic human-like reasoning in legal contexts, allowing for better handling of the complexities and uncertainties present in legal language.

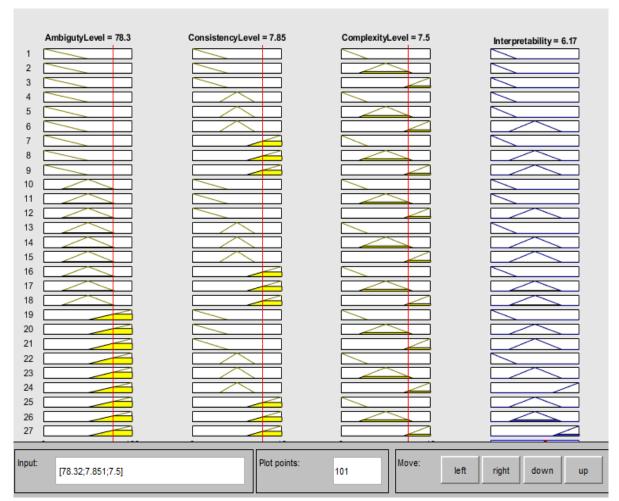


Fig. 7. Description of logical inference rules.

The Surface Viewer in MATLAB allows us to visualize the relationship between input variables and the output variable in a fuzzy inference system. When we examine the surface between ConsistencyLevel and AmbiguityLevel with respect to the output, Interpretability, the plot provides valuable insights into how different combinations of these two factors influence the clarity of legal judgments.

- High Ambiguity, Low Consistency: This combination generally results in a low Interpretability score, indicating that when legal texts are highly ambiguous and past rulings are inconsistent, legal decisions are difficult to interpret.
- Low Ambiguity, High Consistency: The surface viewer will likely show that this leads to high Interpretability, signifying clear and consistent legal judgments when ambiguity is minimal and rulings are consistent.

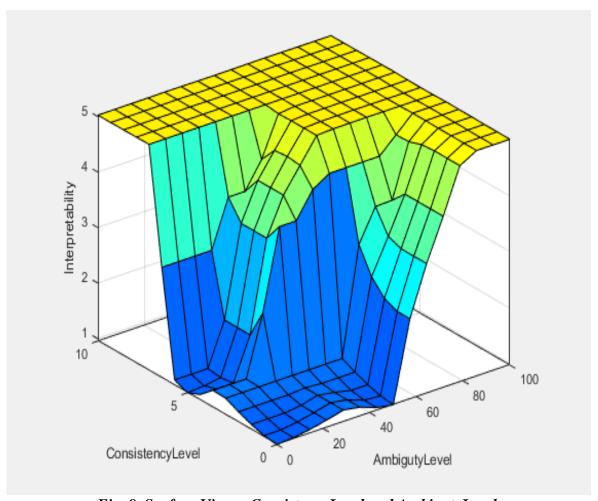


Fig. 8. Surface Viewer ConsistencyLevel and AmbigutyLevel.

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- High Ambiguity, Low Consistency: This combination generally results in a low Interpretability score, indicating that when legal texts are highly ambiguous and past rulings are inconsistent, legal decisions are difficult to interpret.
- Low Ambiguity, High Consistency: The surface viewer will likely show that this leads to high Interpretability, signifying clear and consistent legal judgments when ambiguity is minimal and rulings are consistent.

The surface plot helps identify trends in how ambiguity and consistency interact, showing, for example, that high ambiguity can overpower consistency, resulting in unclear judgments even if prior rulings are consistent.

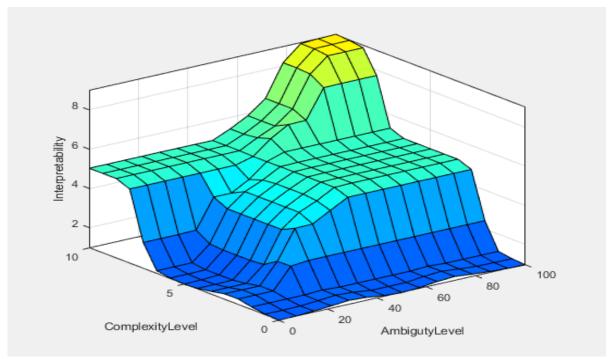


Fig. 9. Surface Viewer ComplexityLevel and AmbigutyLevel.

Similarly, the Surface Viewer can be used to analyze the impact of ComplexityLevel and AmbiguityLevel on Interpretability. The following insights can be gathered:

- High Complexity, High Ambiguity: This combination generally results in low Interpretability because highly complex legal principles paired with ambiguous language create significant uncertainty in legal judgments.
- Low Complexity, Low Ambiguity: The viewer will likely show that this combination leads to high Interpretability, as clear and simple legal texts result in more straightforward and understandable legal outcomes.

In this surface, you can observe how increasing legal complexity reduces the interpretability of judgments, especially when coupled with high ambiguity, emphasizing the need for structured reasoning frameworks like fuzzy logic in legal interpretation.

By analyzing these surface views, the fuzzy logic-based model for legal interpretation provides a clearer understanding of how different legal factors influence the interpretability of judgments, leading to more consistent and fair legal outcomes.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The results of this study demonstrate the effectiveness of a fuzzy logic-based approach in addressing ambiguity and improving consistency in legal interpretation. By modeling legal concepts such as ambiguity, consistency, and complexity as input variables, the fuzzy logic system successfully captures the inherent uncertainties in legal language, providing a more structured and nuanced decision-making framework. The surface viewer analysis of the relationships between these variables shows that high ambiguity and complexity generally

reduce the interpretability of legal judgments, while low ambiguity and high consistency contribute to clearer and more consistent outcomes.

This fuzzy logic model offers a promising solution for handling the vagueness and imprecision often encountered in legal texts, leading to more transparent, fair, and interpretable judicial decisions. The approach not only enhances the clarity of legal reasoning but also addresses the inconsistencies in traditional methods of legal interpretation, providing a flexible tool for legal practitioners in complex and ambiguous cases. Ultimately, this model paves the way for more reliable and equitable legal judgments by offering a structured method to deal with legal ambiguities.

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## HÜQUQ SİSTEMLƏRİNDƏ QEYRİ-MÜƏYYƏNLİYİN HƏLL EDİLMƏSİ: HÜQUQİ ŞƏRHƏ QEYRİ-SƏLİS MƏNTİQƏ ƏSASLANAN YANAŞMA

#### XÜLASƏ

**Tədqiqatın məqsədi -** hüquqi mətnlərin qeyri-müəyyən və mürəkkəb dilinin səbəb olduğu hüquqi şərhlərdəki qeyri-müəyyənlik və uyğunsuzluqları aradan qaldırmaqdır. Qeyri-səlis məntiqə əsaslanan modeli təqdim etməklə tədqiqat hüquqi şərhə daha strukturlaşdırılmış və çevik yanaşma təmin etmək, məhkəmə qərarlarının qəbulunda ardıcıllıq, ədalətlilik və şəffaflığı artırmaq məqsədi daşıyır.

**Tədqiqatın metodologiyası** – MATLAB-ın Qeyri-səlis alətlər qutusundan istifadə etməklə, tədqiqat hüquqi dildə qeyri-müəyyənlik, əvvəlki mühakimələrdə ardıcıllıq və hüquqi prinsiplərin mürəkkəbliyi kimi giriş dəyişənlərini müəyyən edir. Çıxış dəyişəni hüquqi mühakimələrin şərh oluna bilməsidir.

**Tədqiqatın praktiki əhəmiyyəti** - məhkəmə prosesinə ictimaiyyətin inamını artıran hüquqi qərarların ardıcıllığının və şəffaflığının təkmilləşdirilməsindədir.

**Tədqiqatın nəticələri** - tədqiqat nümayiş etdirir ki, qeyri-səlis məntiq modeli hüquqi dildə qeyri-müəyyənlikləri uğurla tutur və hüquqi mühakimələrin şərh oluna bilənliyini artırır.

**Tədqiqatın orijinallığı və elmi yeniliyi -** onun qeyri-səlis məntiqin hüquqi şərhə innovativ tətbiqindən irəli gəlir, bu sahə ənənəvi olaraq sərt, qaydalara əsaslanan yanaşmaların üstünlük təşkil etdiyi sahədir. Qeyri-səlis çoxluqlar vasitəsilə hüquqi dil qeyri-müəyyənliklərini modelləşdirməklə, tədqiqat hüquqi qeyri-müəyyənlikləri idarə etmək üçün daha nüanslı bir metod təqdim edir, yeni elmi çərçivə ilə hüquqi əsaslandırma və qərar qəbuletmə modelləri sahələrinə töhfə verir.

**Açar sözlər:** qeyri-səlis məntiq, hüquqi şərh, qeyri-müəyyənlik, məhkəmə ardıcıllığı, hüquqi əsaslandırma, qərar qəbuletmə modelləri.

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# УСТРАНЕНИЕ НЕОДНОЗНАЧНОСТИ В ПРАВОВЫХ СИСТЕМАХ: ПОДХОД К ПРАВОВОЙ ИНТЕРПРЕТАЦИИ, ОСНОВАННЫЙ НА ТЕОРИИ НЕЧЕТКОЙ ЛОГИКИ

#### **РЕЗЮМЕ**

**Целью исследования** является устранение неоднозначности и непоследовательности в юридических толкованиях, вызванных неопределенным и сложным языком юридических текстов. Вводя модель на основе нечеткой логики, исследование направлено на обеспечение более структурированного и гибкого подхода к юридической интерпретации, улучшая согласованность, справедливость и прозрачность в принятии судебных решений.

**Методология исследования** - с помощью инструментария Fuzzy Toolbox MAT-LAB исследование определяет входные переменные, такие как неоднозначность юридического языка, согласованность предыдущих судебных решений и сложность правовых принципов. Выходной переменной является интерпретируемость юридических решений.

**Практическая значимость исследования -** заключается в улучшении согласованности и прозрачности юридических решений, что повышает доверие общественности к судебному процессу.

**Результаты исследования** - исследование демонстрирует, что модель нечеткой логики успешно фиксирует неопределенности в юридическом языке и улучшает интерпретируемость юридических решений.

Оригинальность и научная новизна исследования - оригинальность исследования проистекает из его новаторского применения нечеткой логики к юридической интерпретации, области, в которой традиционно доминируют жесткие подходы, основанные на правилах. Моделируя неопределенности юридического языка с помощью нечетких множеств, исследование представляет более тонкий метод обработки юридических неопределенностей, внося вклад в области юридических рассуждений и моделей принятия решений с новой научной основой.

**Ключевые слова:** нечеткая логика, юридическая интерпретация, неоднозначность, судебная последовательность, юридические рассуждения, модели принятия решений.

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