

# Automatic Clustering and Fuzzy Logical Relationship to Predict the Volume of Indonesia Natural Rubber Export

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## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history

Received July 5, 2022

Revised Jan 16, 2023

Accepted Feb 25, 2023

### Keywords

Automatic Clustering

Exports

Fuzzy Time Series

Predicting

Natural Rubber

## ABSTRACT

Natural rubber is one of the pillars of Indonesia's export commodities. However, over the last few years, the export value of natural rubber has decreased due to an oversupply of this commodity in the global market. To overcome this problem, it is possible to predict the volume of Indonesia natural rubber exports. Predicted values can also help the government to compile market intelligence for natural rubber commodities periodically. In this study, the prediction of the export volume of natural rubber was carried out using the Automatic Clustering as an interval maker in the Fuzzy Time Series or usually called Automatic Clustering and Fuzzy Logical Relationship (ACFLR). The data used is 51 data per year from 1970 to 2020. The purpose of this study is to predict the volume of Indonesia natural rubber exports and compare the prediction results between the Automatic Clustering and Fuzzy Logical Relationship (ACFLR) and Chen's Fuzzy Time Series. The results showed that there was a significant difference between the two methods, ACFLR got 0.5316% MAPE with  $p = 11$  and Chen's Fuzzy Time Series model got 8.009%. Show that the ACFLR method performs better than the pure Fuzzy Time Series in predicting volume of Indonesia natural rubber exports.

## 1. Introduction

As a developing country, Indonesia certainly participates in exports and imports in the international market to create stable national economic growth. Economic growth can occur when export demand increases, thereby triggering an increase in domestic production [1,2]. Indonesia's export commodities are divided into oil and gas; and non-oil and gas exports. Where non-oil and gas exports over the last few years experienced a surplus, which is a favorable situation for Indonesia [1]. Non-oil and gas sector has a plantation sub-sector, which contains palm oil, natural rubber, coffee, and others [4].

Natural rubber as one of Indonesia's leading export commodities controls 27.95% of the world's natural rubber market share [3]. The average development of natural rubber exports shows a positive number, namely 2.29% [4]. Even so, the export value continued to decline due to the oversupply of natural rubber in the international market. This incident resulted in the loss of the mutually beneficial nature of export and import activities [5]. Therefore, in 2019, Indonesia and the two largest natural rubber supplying countries in the world agreed to reduce the volume of natural rubber exports. It aims to increase its value in the global market and maximize the absorption of natural rubber commodities for local industries [6]. Prediction of the volume of exports of natural rubber can be done as a reference figure for the reduction in the volume of exports. The figures obtained can also help the authorities in conducting marketing intelligence for natural rubber commodities periodically [1, 7, 8].

fuzzy time series is a method that can do a prediction based on time series data. The fuzzy time series method is a simple method that can do a prediction with only one variable and few data [9]. However, the interval formed is an interval with a static length [10]. In fact, according to [11], the optimal interval can improve the level of prediction accuracy. In this study, automatic clustering<sup>1</sup> is used as an interval maker in the fuzzy time series to get the optimal interval so that the level of prediction accuracy can increase.

## 2. Literature Study

### a. Natural Rubber

Natural rubber is a processed product derived from thickening the sap of the rubber plant or commonly called latex [12, 15]. There are various kinds of rubber-producing plants, but *Havea brasiliensis* dominates the natural rubber market [13, 14, 15]. *Havea brasiliensis* or rubber plant was originally a wild plant that was first found among canopied tree groups in the Amazon river basin, South America [16]. In 1876, Henry A. Wickham, an English explorer, brought rubber seeds from South America for distribution to South Asia and Asia [17]. Significant growth of rubber plantations occurred in 1910 after planting in Southeast Asia including Bogor, Indonesia. Rubber plantations then developed commercially in 1918 on the East Coast of Sumatra along with the increasing demand for natural rubber in the market [16, 18].

Natural rubber processing begins with mixing the sap with chemicals to control viscosity and color in a large tank. Then to clot it, the sap is given a coagulant (formic acid). The solid latex resulting from the coagulation is then processed according to the desired semi-finished natural rubber form. Be it in the form of sheets, crepes, or rubber blocks [19]. In addition, there is also natural rubber with special technical specifications or commonly called Technically Specified Natural Rubber (TSNR). TSNR originated from the standards set by the International Standards Organization (ISO). The indicators assessed in determining the standard are dirt content, ash content, volatile matter, nitrogen content, initial Wallace plasticity (Po), plasticity retention index (PRI), and Mooney viscosity.

In international trade, every year, around 70% of Indonesia's natural rubber production is diverted for export [19]. Natural rubber exports have been recorded since 1970 with an export volume of 581,190 tons and a value of 185,164 USD. This figure continues to increase until 2020, Indonesia's natural rubber export volume reaches 2,280,090 tons with a value of 3,010,245 USD [4]. Several factors that determine Indonesia's natural rubber exports are: the performance of domestic natural rubber production; absorption of natural rubber for domestic industry; exchange rate; inventory, price, and export volume of the previous period; the policy of the authorities; and domestic prices in importing countries [20].

### b. Fuzzy Time Series

In this section, the steps of Chen's fuzzy time series are described as follows [21, 22, 23]:

**Step 1.** Define Universe of Discourse ( $U$ ).

$$U = [D_{min} - d_1, D_{max} + d_2] \quad (1)$$

Where:

$U$  = universe of discourse

$D_{min}$  = smallest data

$D_{max}$  = largest data

$d_1, d_2$  = two proper positive numbers

**Step 2.** Determine the intervals and their length. The number of intervals is rounded off from the calculation result with the sturgess rule, namely:

$$k = (1 + 3,322 \times \log n) \quad (2)$$

Where:

<sup>1</sup> Chen, S. M., Wang, N. Y., & Pan, J. S. (2009). Forecasting Enrollments Using Automatic Clustering Techniques and Fuzzy Logical Relationships. *Expert Systems with Applications*, 36(8), 11070–11076. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2009.02.085>

k = number of interval  
n = amount of data

Then determine the length of each interval by:

$$i = \frac{(D_{max} - D_{min})}{k} \quad (3)$$

Where:

i = interval length  
 $D_{min}$  = smallest data  
 $D_{max}$  = largest data

**Step 3.** Data fuzzification. Based on interval formed  $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)$ , define each fuzzy set  $A_k$  where  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \frac{1}{u_1} + \frac{0,5}{u_2} + \frac{0}{u_3} + \frac{0}{u_4} + \frac{0}{u_5} + \dots + \frac{0}{u_{n-1}} + \frac{0}{u_n}, \\ A_2 &= \frac{0,5}{u_1} + \frac{1}{u_2} + \frac{0,5}{u_3} + \frac{0}{u_4} + \frac{0}{u_5} + \dots + \frac{0}{u_{n-1}} + \frac{0}{u_n}, \\ A_3 &= \frac{0}{u_1} + \frac{0,5}{u_2} + \frac{1}{u_3} + \frac{0,5}{u_4} + \frac{0}{u_5} + \dots + \frac{0}{u_{n-1}} + \frac{0}{u_n}, \\ A_4 &= \frac{0}{u_1} + \frac{0}{u_2} + \frac{0,5}{u_3} + \frac{1}{u_4} + \frac{0,5}{u_5} + \dots + \frac{0}{u_{n-1}} + \frac{0}{u_n}, \\ A_n &= \frac{0}{u_1} + \frac{0,5}{u_2} + \frac{0}{u_3} + \frac{0}{u_4} + \frac{0}{u_5} + \dots + \frac{0,5}{u_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{u_n} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

If the datum belongs to  $u_k$ , then the datum is fuzzified into  $A_k$

**Step 4.** Derive a fuzzy logical relationship (FLR). If  $(d)$  is fuzzified as  $A_i$  and  $(d + 1)$  fuzzified as  $A_j$ , then the fuzzy logical relationship is  $A_i \rightarrow A_j$ .

**Step 5.** Collect the same relations in one group. The group called fuzzy logical relationship group (FLRG).

**Step 6.** Calculate the prediction of data 'd' by following principle:

**Principle 1.** If the fuzzified of data 'd' is  $A_i$  and there is only one relation of  $A_i$  or known as  $A_i \rightarrow A_j$ , then the prediction of data '(d + 1)' is  $m_j$  or known as middle point of interval  $u_j$ .

**Principle 2.** If the fuzzified of data 'd' is  $A_i$  and there are more than one relations of  $A_i$  or known as:  $A_i \rightarrow A_{j_1}(x_1), A_{j_2}(x_2), A_{j_3}(x_3), \dots, A_{j_n}(x_n)$ , then the prediction of data '(d + 1)' shown as follows:

$$\frac{(x_1 \times m_{j_1} + x_2 \times m_{j_2} + x_3 \times m_{j_3} + \dots + x_n \times m_{j_n})}{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \dots + x_n} \quad (5)$$

**Principle 3.** If the fuzzified of data 'd' is  $A_i$  and there is no relations of  $A_i$  or known as  $A_i \rightarrow \#$ , then the prediction of data '(d + 1)' is  $m_i$  or known as middle point of interval  $u_i$ .

### c. Automatic Clustering

Algorithm of automatic clustering based on [10, 24, 25] shown as follows:

**Step 1.** Sort the data in an ascending sequence with no duplicate data. Then calculate the value of average\_dif. Where average\_dif is an average of differences between every pair of data. Average\_dif calculate by equation 6:

$$\text{average\_dif} = \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} d_{i+1} + d_i)}{n-1} \quad (6)$$

**Step 2.** First data (smallest data) is a member of first cluster. The cluster then known as current cluster. The determination of the next clusters is based on:

**Principle 1.** Assume that the current cluster is a first cluster and there is only one datum  $d_1$  in it.  $\{d_1\}, d_2, d_3, d_4, \dots, d_n$

If  $d_2 - d_1 \leq \text{average\_dif}$ , then  $d_2$  is belongs to current cluster. Otherwise, create a new cluster for  $d_2$  and this cluster is now a current cluster.

**Principle 2.** Assume that the current cluster is not the first cluster and there is only one datum  $d_j$  in it. Assume that  $d_i$  is the largest datum in the ‘before current cluster’ cluster and  $d_k$  is the datum to be clustered.

$$\{d_1, d_2\}, \{d_3, \dots, d_i\}, \{d_j\}, d_k, \dots, d_n$$

If  $d_k - d_j \leq \text{average\_dif}$  and  $d_k - d_j < d_j - d_i$ , then  $d_k$  is belongs to current cluster with  $d_j$ . Apart from that, create a new cluster for  $d_k$  and this cluster is now a current cluster.

**Principle 3.** Assume that the current cluster is not the first cluster and tere are more than one datum in it. Assume that  $d_i$  is the largest datum in current cluster and  $d_j$  is the datum to be clustered.

$$\{d_1, d_2\}, \{d_3, \dots, d_i\}, d_j, d_k, \dots, d_n$$

If  $d_j - d_i \leq \text{average\_dif}$  and  $d_j - d_i \leq \text{cluster\_dif}$ , then put  $d_j$  in current cluster. Otherwise, create a new cluster for  $d_j$  and this cluster is now a current cluster.  $\text{Cluster\_dif}$  denotes the average difference of the distances between every pair of adjacent data in the cluster or in other words,  $\text{cluster\_dif}$  is an  $\text{average\_dif}$  for cluster.

$$\text{cluster\_dif} = \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} c_{i+1} + c_i)}{n-1} \quad (7)$$

Where  $c_{i+1}$  and  $c_i$  denotes the data in the current cluster.

**Step 3.** Based on clustering result obtained in **step 2**, adjust the contents of clusters by following principles:

**Principle 1.** If there are more than two data in the cluster, then we keep the smallest datum, keep the largest datum and remove the others.

**Principle 2.** If the cluster has exactly two data, then leave it unchanged.

**Principle 3.** If there is only one datum  $d_j$ , then put the value of “ $d_j - \text{average\_dif}$ ” and “ $d_j + \text{average\_dif}$ ” to the cluster. After that, adjust the cluster by following conditions:

**Condition 1.** If this happen in the first cluster, then remove the value of “ $d_j - \text{average\_dif}$ ” from the cluster.

**Condition 2.** If this happen in the last cluster, then remove the value of “ $d_j + \text{average\_dif}$ ” from the cluster.

**Condition 3.** If the value of “ $d_j - \text{average\_dif}$ ” is smaller than the smallest value in its antecedent cluster, then undo all the action in **Principle 3**.

**Step 4.** Assume that the clusters obtain from **Step 3** is shown as follows:

$$\{d_1, d_2\}, \{d_3, d_4\}, \{d_5, d_6\}, \dots, \{d_i, d_j\}, \{d_k\} \dots, \{d_n\}$$

Transform these clusters into intervals by following sub-step:

**Step 4.1.** Transform the first cluster  $\{d_1, d_2\}$  into interval  $[d_1, d_2]_{\text{int}}$

**Step 4.2.** If the current interval  $[d_g, d_h]$  dan current cluster  $\{d_i, d_j\}$ , then adjust by following condition:

**Condition 1.** if  $d_h \geq d_i$ , then create an interval  $[d_h, d_j]$  as we know as current interval now and the next cluster  $\{d_k, d_l\}$  is current cluster.

**Condition 2.** If  $d_h < d_i$ , then create an interval  $[d_i, d_j]$  as we know as current interval now and one another interval before that as  $[d_h, d_i]$ . If the cluster after current interval  $\{d_k\}$ , then create a new interval  $[d_i, d_k]$ , let it be the current interval and let the next cluster be current cluster.

**Condition 3.** Let the last interval be  $[d_m, d_n]$ .

**Step 4.3.** Repeatedly do the step until all clusters have been transformed into intervals.

**Step 5.** Divide each obtained interval into  $p$  sub-intervals, where  $p \geq 1$ .

### 3. Methodology

#### a. Data Collection

The data used for this research is in the form of annual time series data on the volume of Indonesian natural rubber exports. The primary data was collected as many as 51 data, of which the data from 1970 to 2019 came from the publications of the Central Statistics Agency which were summarized by the Directorate General of Plantation, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia in the plantation statistics book and for 2020 it was taken from the publication of the

Central Statistics Agency<sup>2</sup> entitled “Statistical Bulletin Export Foreign Trade According to HS, December 2020” because it has not been summarized in the plantation statistics book. The data obtained are in the form of the year and volume of Indonesia's natural rubber exports in tons.

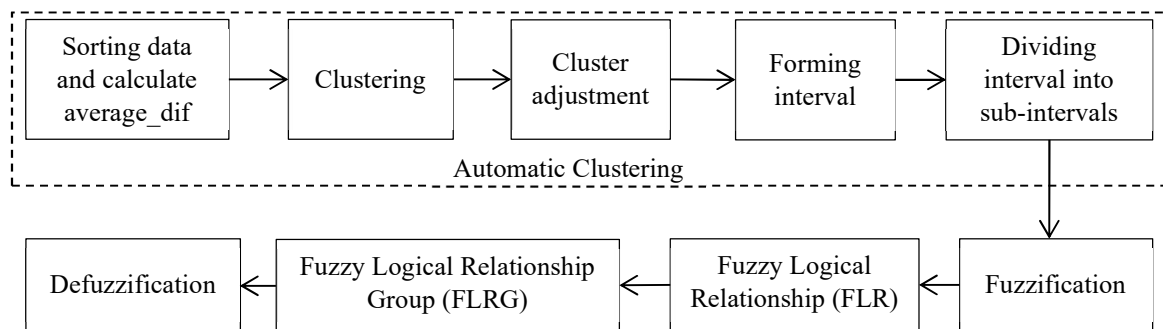
**b. Data Processing**

Table 1 shows the data used in this research, followed by steps in automatic clustering and fuzzy logical relationship applied to the data.

**Table 1.** Actual data

Year	Data	Year	Data	Year	Data	Year	Data	Year	Data
1970	581,190	1981	812,800	1992	1,267,605	2003	1,662,210	2014	2,623,471
1971	580,232	1982	797,608	1993	1,214,568	2004	1,874,261	2015	2,630,313
1972	755,960	1983	938,032	1994	1,244,950	2005	2,024,593	2016	2,578,791
1973	866,638	1984	1,009,558	1995	1,324,295	2006	2,286,897	2017	2,991,909
1974	794,741	1985	987,771	1996	1,434,285	2007	2,407,972	2018	2,812,105
1975	788,292	1986	958,692	1997	1,404,010	2008	2,283,158	2019	2,503,671
1976	789,892	1987	1,092,525	1998	1,641,186	2009	1,991,533	2020	2,280,090
1977	781,967	1988	1,132,132	1999	1,494,543	2010	2,351,915		
1978	865,960	1989	1,151,409	2000	1,379,612	2011	2,556,233		
1979	865,321	1990	1,077,331	2001	1,453,382	2012	2,444,503		
1980	976,131	1991	1,220,020	2002	1,495,987	2013	2,701,995		

Automatic Clustering and Fuzzy Logical Relationship Algorithm is applied by combining automatic clustering algorithm and fuzzy time series (step 3 – step 6) or shown by “Fig. 1”.



**Fig. 1.** Automatic Clustering and Fuzzy Logical Relationship Algorithm

**[Step 1]** Sorting data to the ascendant and calculate the average\_diff“(6)”. If there is duplicate data, remove one of them.

$$average_{dif} = \frac{(581190 - 580232) + \dots + (2991909 - 2812105)}{51 - 1} = \frac{2411677}{50} = 47286.784$$

**[Step 2]** Do the clustering process based on principles of **Step 2**.

**[Step 3]** Adjust the content of clusters obtained from **[Step 2]** based of three principles of **Step 3**. Results shows as follows:

- {580232, 581190}, {755960, 797608}, {812800}, {865321, 865960}, {866638}, {938032, 987771}, {1009558}, {1077331, 1092525}, {1132132, 1151409}, {1214568, 1220020}, {1244950, 1267605}, {1277008.216, 1371581.784}, {1379612, 1404010}, {1434285, 1453382}, {1494543, 1495987}, {1641186, 1662210}, {1826974.216, 1921547.784}, {1991533, 2024593}, {2280090, 2283158}, {2286897}, {2304628.216, 2399201.784}, {2407972, 2444503}, {2456384.216, 2550957.784}, {2556233, 2578791}, {2623471, 2630313}, {2654708.216, 2749281.784}, {2764818.216, 2859391.784}, {2944622.216, 2991909}

<sup>2</sup> www.bps.go.id

[**Step 4**] Forming the intervals and the mid point of the interval based on **Step 4**. The intervals obtained shown as follows:

$$\begin{array}{llll}
 u_1 = [580232, 581190) & m_1 = 580711 & u_{44} = [2749281.784, 2764818.216) & m_{44} = 2757050 \\
 u_2 = [581190, 755960) & m_2 = 668575 & u_{45} = [2764818.216, 2859391.784) & m_{45} = 2812105 \\
 u_3 = [755960, 812800) & m_3 = 784380 & u_{46} = [2859391.784, 2944622.216) & m_{46} = 2902007 \\
 u_4 = [865321, 866636) & m_4 = 865979.5 & u_{47} = [2944622.216, 2991909) & m_{47} = 2968265.608 \\
 \dots & & & 
 \end{array}$$

[**Step 5**] Divide each obtained interval into  $p$  sub-intervals, where  $p \geq 1$ . If the value of  $p$  is two, then we divide one interval into two intervals.

E.g.  $u_1 = [580232, 581190)$   $m_1 = 580711$ , become  $u_1 = [580232, 580471.5)$   $m_1 = 580351.5$  and  $u_2 = [580471.5, 581190)$   $m_2 = 580830.75$  and so on. We use  $p = 11$  because based on MAPE value in **Table 2** and **Table 3**,  $p = 11$  produce the smallest MAPE value out of 12 sub-intervals ( $p$ ). In addition, too many intervals causes complexity and reduces the essence of fuzzy time series [26, 27, 28, 29].

**Table 2.** Prediction based on Value of  $p$

Year	Actual Data	Value of $p$					
		$p=1$	$p=2$	$p=3$	$p=4$	$p=5$	$p=6$
1970	581190	-	-	-	-	-	-
1971	580232	580711	580471.4	580391.5	580351.8	580237.8	580311.8
1972	755960	784380	770170	765433.3	763065	761644	760696.7
1973	866638	849208.3	875068.4	878537	875562.3	873777.4	872587.5
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2017	2991909	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6
2018	2812105	2812105	2812105	2796342.7	2800283.3	2793190.3	2796342.7
2019	2503671	2503671	2503671	2487908.7	2491849.3	2484756.3	2487908.7
2020	2280090	2283493	2281791.8	2281224.5	2280940.9	2280770.7	2280657.3
<b>MAPE</b>		2.5352%	1.7640%	1.2767%	1.3017%	1.0785%	0.8555%

**Table 3.** Prediction based on Value of  $p$  - continued

Year	Actual Data	Value of $p$					
		$p=7$	$p=8$	$p=9$	$p=10$	$p=11$	$p=12$
1970	581190	-	-	-	-	-	-
1971	580232	580300.4	580291.9	580285.2	580279.9	580275.6	580271.9
1972	755960	760020	759512.5	759117.8	758802	758543.6	758328.3
1973	866638	871737.6	871100.1	870604.3	870207.7	869883.2	869612.8
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2017	2991909	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6	2968265.6
2018	2812105	2791839.2	2794372.5	2791088.7	2793190.3	2790611	2792402.2
2019	2503671	2483405.2	2485938.5	2482654.7	2484756.3	2482177	2483968.2
2020	2280090	2280576.2	2280515.4	2280468.2	2280430.4	2280399.4	2280373.6
<b>MAPE</b>		0.7155%	0.8467%	0.8470%	0.5409%	<b>0.5316%</b>	0.8202%

[**Step 6**] Fuzzify each datum into fuzzy sets they belong. The fuzzified data shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Fuzzification

Data	Fuzzy Set	Data	Fuzzy Set	Data	Fuzzy Set	Data	Fuzzy Set	Data	Fuzzy Set
581,190	A <sub>12</sub>	812,800	A <sub>34</sub>	1,267,605	A <sub>166</sub>	1,662,210	A <sub>276</sub>	2,623,471	A <sub>441</sub>
580,232	A <sub>1</sub>	797,608	A <sub>31</sub>	1,214,568	A <sub>133</sub>	1,874,261	A <sub>292</sub>	2,630,313	A <sub>452</sub>
755,960	A <sub>23</sub>	938,032	A <sub>67</sub>	1,244,950	A <sub>155</sub>	2,024,593	A <sub>320</sub>	2,578,791	A <sub>430</sub>
866,638	A <sub>56</sub>	1,009,558	A <sub>78</sub>	1,324,295	A <sub>182</sub>	2,286,897	A <sub>342</sub>	2,991,909	A <sub>517</sub>
794,741	A <sub>30</sub>	987,771	A <sub>74</sub>	1,434,285	A <sub>221</sub>	2,407,972	A <sub>375</sub>	2,812,105	A <sub>490</sub>
788,292	A <sub>29</sub>	958,692	A <sub>70</sub>	1,404,010	A <sub>210</sub>	2,283,158	A <sub>335</sub>	2,503,671	A <sub>402</sub>
789,892	A <sub>29</sub>	1,092,525	A <sub>100</sub>	1,641,186	A <sub>265</sub>	1,991,533	A <sub>309</sub>	2,280,090	A <sub>331</sub>
781,967	A <sub>28</sub>	1,132,132	A <sub>111</sub>	1,494,543	A <sub>243</sub>	2,351,915	A <sub>358</sub>		
865,960	A <sub>50</sub>	1,151,409	A <sub>122</sub>	1,379,612	A <sub>199</sub>	2,556,233	A <sub>419</sub>		
865,321	A <sub>45</sub>	1,077,331	A <sub>89</sub>	1,453,382	A <sub>232</sub>	2,444,503	A <sub>386</sub>		
976,131	A <sub>72</sub>	1,220,020	A <sub>144</sub>	1,495,987	A <sub>254</sub>	2,701,995	A <sub>468</sub>		

[Step 7] Denote the fuzzy logical relationship (FLR).

$A_{12} \rightarrow A_1, A_1 \rightarrow A_{23}, A_{23} \rightarrow A_{56}, A_{56} \rightarrow A_{30}, A_{30} \rightarrow A_{29}, A_{29} \rightarrow A_{28}, A_{28} \rightarrow A_{50}, A_{50} \rightarrow A_{45}, A_{45} \rightarrow A_{72}, A_{72} \rightarrow A_{34}, A_{34} \rightarrow A_{31}, A_{31} \rightarrow A_{67}, A_{67} \rightarrow A_{78}, A_{78} \rightarrow A_{74}, A_{74} \rightarrow A_{70}, A_{70} \rightarrow A_{100}, A_{100} \rightarrow A_{111}, A_{111} \rightarrow A_{122}, A_{122} \rightarrow A_{89}, A_{89} \rightarrow A_{144}, A_{144} \rightarrow A_{166}, A_{166} \rightarrow A_{133}, A_{133} \rightarrow A_{155}, A_{155} \rightarrow A_{182}, A_{182} \rightarrow A_{221}, A_{221} \rightarrow A_{210}, A_{210} \rightarrow A_{265}, A_{265} \rightarrow A_{243}, A_{243} \rightarrow A_{199}, A_{199} \rightarrow A_{232}, A_{232} \rightarrow A_{254}, A_{254} \rightarrow A_{276}, A_{276} \rightarrow A_{292}, A_{292} \rightarrow A_{320}, A_{320} \rightarrow A_{342}, A_{342} \rightarrow A_{375}, A_{375} \rightarrow A_{335}, A_{335} \rightarrow A_{309}, A_{309} \rightarrow A_{358}, A_{358} \rightarrow A_{419}, A_{419} \rightarrow A_{386}, A_{386} \rightarrow A_{468}, A_{468} \rightarrow A_{441}, A_{441} \rightarrow A_{452}, A_{452} \rightarrow A_{430}, A_{430} \rightarrow A_{517}, A_{517} \rightarrow A_{490}, A_{490} \rightarrow A_{402}, A_{402} \rightarrow A_{331}, A_{331} \rightarrow A_{\#}$ .

[Step 8] Collect the same relations in one group. The group called fuzzy logical relationship group (FLRG). The group obtained shown in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Fuzzy Logical Relationship Group

No	Fuzzy Set	No	Fuzzy Set	No	Fuzzy Set	No	Fuzzy Set	No	Fuzzy Set
1	$A_1 \rightarrow A_{23}$	11	$A_{56} \rightarrow A_{30}$	21	$A_{133} \rightarrow A_{155}$	31	$A_{254} \rightarrow A_{276}$	41	$A_{375} \rightarrow A_{335}$
2	$A_{12} \rightarrow A_1$	12	$A_{67} \rightarrow A_{78}$	22	$A_{144} \rightarrow A_{166}$	32	$A_{265} \rightarrow A_{243}$	42	$A_{386} \rightarrow A_{468}$
3	$A_{23} \rightarrow A_{56}$	13	$A_{70} \rightarrow A_{100}$	23	$A_{155} \rightarrow A_{182}$	33	$A_{276} \rightarrow A_{292}$	43	$A_{402} \rightarrow A_{331}$
4	$A_{28} \rightarrow A_{50}$	14	$A_{72} \rightarrow A_{34}$	24	$A_{166} \rightarrow A_{133}$	34	$A_{292} \rightarrow A_{320}$	44	$A_{419} \rightarrow A_{386}$
5	$A_{29} \rightarrow A_{28}(1), A_{29}(1)$	15	$A_{74} \rightarrow A_{70}$	25	$A_{182} \rightarrow A_{221}$	35	$A_{309} \rightarrow A_{358}$	45	$A_{430} \rightarrow A_{517}$
6	$A_{30} \rightarrow A_{29}$	16	$A_{78} \rightarrow A_{74}$	26	$A_{199} \rightarrow A_{232}$	36	$A_{320} \rightarrow A_{342}$	46	$A_{441} \rightarrow A_{452}$
7	$A_{31} \rightarrow A_{67}$	17	$A_{89} \rightarrow A_{144}$	27	$A_{210} \rightarrow A_{265}$	37	$A_{331} \rightarrow A_{\#}$	47	$A_{452} \rightarrow A_{430}$
8	$A_{34} \rightarrow A_{31}$	18	$A_{100} \rightarrow A_{111}$	28	$A_{221} \rightarrow A_{210}$	38	$A_{335} \rightarrow A_{309}$	48	$A_{468} \rightarrow A_{441}$
9	$A_{45} \rightarrow A_{72}$	19	$A_{111} \rightarrow A_{122}$	29	$A_{232} \rightarrow A_{254}$	39	$A_{342} \rightarrow A_{375}$	49	$A_{490} \rightarrow A_{402}$
10	$A_{50} \rightarrow A_{45}$	20	$A_{122} \rightarrow A_{89}$	30	$A_{243} \rightarrow A_{199}$	40	$A_{358} \rightarrow A_{419}$	50	$A_{517} \rightarrow A_{490}$

[Step 9] Defuzzification based on “(5)”. Assume that we want to to defuzzify A<sub>1</sub>, then based on Table 5, we can see that there is a A<sub>1</sub> → A<sub>23</sub> in group 1. Therefore, the value of A<sub>1</sub> can be calculated referring to principles in Step 6 FTS:

Known  $m_{23} = 758543.64$  so the value of A<sub>1</sub> is 758543.64

Calculate the value of every group in Table 5 then the result of this defuzzifications are intended with the results of the fuzzification of data per year in Table 4.

E.g. Assume we need to predict the data of year 1972 (3<sup>rd</sup> data), we need to see the fuzzified value of the year before 1972, which is 1971 (2<sup>nd</sup> data). Based on Table 4, data of year 1971 belongs to A<sub>1</sub> so the prediction of year 1972 is the defuzzification value of A<sub>1</sub> (i.e. 758543.64).

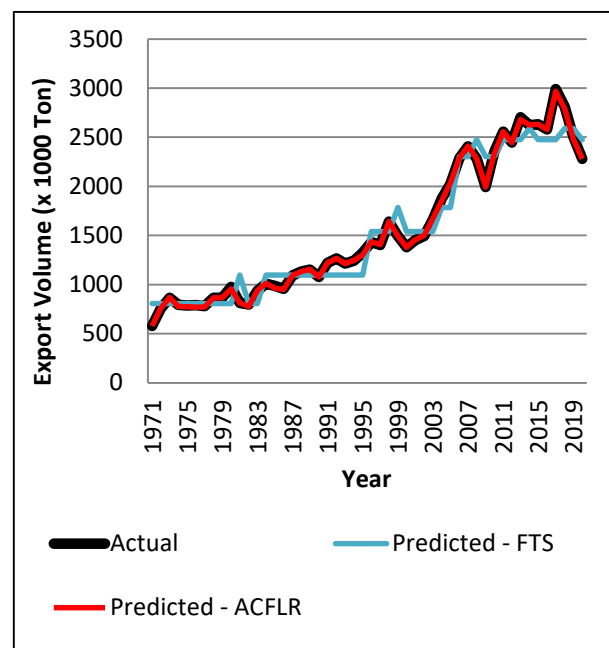
#### 4. Result and Discussion

Automatic clustering and fuzzy logical relationship was tested on 50 data (data from 1971 to 2020). The test results then are compared with the test result of Chen's Fuzzy Time Series as the basic method of automatic clustering and fuzzy logical relationship. The comparison between the error values will show the effect of automatic clustering as an interval maker in fuzzy time series. Table 6 shown the comparison between those two methods followed by the visualisation of it on "Fig.2". In order to calculate the error values, Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) is used, defined as follows:

$$MAPE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{|Actual_i - Predicted_i|}{Actual_i}}{n} \times 100 \quad (8)$$

**Table 6.** Predicted Value

Year	Actual Value	Predicted Value - FTS	Predicted Value - ACFLR ( $p = 11$ )
1970	581190	-	-
1971	580232	809915.52	580275.55
1972	755960	809915.52	758543.64
1973	866638	809915.52	869883.18
1974	794741	809915.52	776629.09
1975	788292	809915.52	774045.46
1976	789892	809915.52	772753.64
1977	781967	809915.52	865680.18
...	...	...	...
2013	270199	2475121.0	2680501.0
	5	7	1
2014	262347	2589962.8	2623782
	1	3	7
2015	263031	2475121.0	2631421.8
	3	7	7
2016	257879	2475121.0	2580821.9
	1	7	1
2017	299190	2475121.0	2968265.6
	9	7	1
2018	281210	2589962.8	2790611.0
	5	3	1
2019	250367	2589962.8	2482177.0
	1	3	1
2020	228009	2475121.0	2280399.4
	0	7	1
<b>MAPE</b>		<b>8,6009%</b>	<b>0.5316%</b>



**Fig. 2.** Comparison between actual and prediction

Based on Table 6, it can be seen that there is a significant difference between the FTS without automatic clustering and the FTS that uses automatic clustering as the interval maker. It can be seen that ACFLR produced smaller MAPE value than the Chen FTS with a large enough difference, 8.0693%. These results prove that ACFLR is better at predicting the volume of Indonesia's natural rubber exports. Based on these results, it is evident that the factors that influence the difference in MAPE values lie in the length of the interval in each method. In the ACFLR, interval formation is carried out from data clusters where data clusters are formed based on the level of proximity between data so that an effective interval is produced. In addition, the interval that has been formed can be further divided into several appropriate sub-intervals so that the fuzzification process can be carried out more optimally. In FTS, the interval formation is only based on the number of classes calculated



by equation (2), not measured by the proximity between the data. The number of intervals used in the FTS is 11 intervals, while the ACFLR uses 517 intervals.

In Fig.3 a line graph is presented to visualize the comparison of the data. The black line shows the actual data, the red line shows the predicted data using the ACFLR, and the blue line shows the predicted data using the Chen's FTS method. In Fig.3, the difference between the red line and the blue line is clearly visible, where the red line is the ACFLR's that almost coincides with the black line (actual data). This indicates that ACFLR is better at predicting the volume of Indonesian natural rubber exports due to the influence of the different interval formation processes between the two methods.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the tests carried out on 50 data, it can be seen that the Automatic Clustering and Fuzzy Logical Relationship methods are superior to the MAPE value compared to Chen's Fuzzy Time Series method in predicting the volume of Indonesian natural rubber export. The comparison of MAPE values for each method is 0.5316% and 8.6009%. Therefore, it can be concluded that the length of the interval can affect the Fuzzy Time Series method in making predictions so the use of the Automatic Clustering method optimization for interval formation is proven to reduce the MAPE value

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