

## Interval-valued Fuzzy Ideals of Regular and Intra-regular Semigroups

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**Abstract.** Let  $S$  be a semigroup. A mapping  $\bar{A}: S \rightarrow D[0, 1]$  is called an interval-valued fuzzy subset of  $S$  where  $D[0, 1]$  denotes the family of all closed sub intervals of  $[0, 1]$ . A semigroup  $S$  is called an intra-regular semigroup if for each element  $a \in S$  there exist  $x, y \in S$  such that  $a = xa^2y$ . In this paper, intra-regular semigroups are characterized by means of interval-valued fuzzy left ideals (resp. right ideals, bi-ideals, interior ideals).

**Keywords:** Semigroup, Interval-valued fuzzy subsemigroup, Interval-valued fuzzy ideal, Interval-valued fuzzy bi-ideal, Interval-valued fuzzy interior ideal

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### 1. Introduction

L.A. Zadeh [11] made an extension of the concept of a fuzzy set by an interval-valued fuzzy set with an interval-valued membership function. Interval-valued fuzzy sets have many applications in several areas. For example, Zadeh [11] constructed a method of approximate inference using his interval-valued fuzzy set. Gorzalczany [3] studied the interval-valued fuzzy sets for approximate reasoning, Roy and Biswas [1] studied interval-valued fuzzy relations and applied these in Sanchez's approach for medical diagnosis. X.Y. Xie and J. Tang [10] studied regular and intra-regular semigroups in terms of fuzzy sets. Y. Hang and X. Fang [4] characterized intra-regular semigroups by intuitionistic fuzzy sets. In [8, 9] AL. Narayanan and T. Manikantan introduced the notions of interval-valued fuzzy subsemigroup and various kinds of interval-valued fuzzy ideals in semigroups. Kuroki [6] characterized regular semigroups, intra-regular semigroups that are semilattices of left (right) simple semigroups in terms of fuzzy ideals, fuzzy bi-ideals and fuzzy generalized bi-ideals. In this paper, we characterized the regular and intra-regular semigroups in terms of interval-valued fuzzy left, right, interior and bi-ideals.

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $S$  be a semigroup.

A non-empty subset  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *subsemigroup* of  $S$  if  $AA \subseteq A$  and is called a *left* (resp. *right*) *ideal* of  $S$  if  $SA \subseteq A$  (resp.  $AS \subseteq A$ ).

By *two sided ideal* or simply *ideal*, we mean a non-empty subset of  $S$  which is both a left and a right ideal of  $S$ .

A subsemigroup  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *bi-ideal* of  $S$  if  $ASA \subseteq A$ .

A non-empty subset  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *interior ideal* of  $S$  if  $SAS \subseteq A$ .

**Definition 2.1.** A semigroup  $S$  is called *regular* if for each element  $a \in S$  there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $a = axa$ . In other words  $S$  is regular if  $a \in aSa \quad \forall a \in S$ .

**Definition 2.2.** A semigroup  $S$  is called *intra-regular* if for each element  $a \in S$  there exist  $x, y \in S$  such that  $a = xa^2y$ . In other words  $S$  is intra-regular if  $a \in Sa^2S \quad \forall a \in S$ .

We now review some fuzzy concepts.

A *fuzzy subset*  $A$  of a non-empty set  $X$  is a mapping from  $X$  to  $[0, 1]$ .

Let  $S$  be a semigroup. A fuzzy subset  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *fuzzy subsemigroup* of  $S$  if  $A(xy) \geq \min\{A(x), A(y)\} \quad \forall x, y \in S$ . A fuzzy subset  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *fuzzy left* (resp. *right*) *ideal* of  $S$  if  $A(xy) \geq A(y)$  (resp.  $A(xy) \geq A(x)$ )  $\forall x, y \in S$ .

A fuzzy subset  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *fuzzy two-sided ideal* or simply *fuzzy ideal* of  $S$  if it is both a fuzzy left ideal and a fuzzy right ideal of  $S$ .

A fuzzy subsemigroup  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *fuzzy bi-ideal* of  $S$  if  $A(xyz) \geq \min\{A(x), A(z)\} \quad \forall x, y, z \in S$ .

An interval number on  $[0, 1]$ , say  $\bar{a}$  is a closed subinterval of  $[0, 1]$ , that is  $\bar{a} = [a^-, a^+]$  where  $0 \leq a^- \leq a^+ \leq 1$ . Let  $D[0, 1]$  denote the family of all closed subintervals of  $[0, 1]$ ,  $\bar{0} = [0, 0]$  and  $\bar{1} = [1, 1]$ .

For any two elements  $\bar{a} = [a^-, a^+]$  and  $\bar{b} = [b^-, b^+]$  in  $D[0, 1]$ , we define

- (i)  $\bar{a} \leq \bar{b}$  if and only if  $a^- \leq b^-$  and  $a^+ \leq b^+$ ,
- (ii)  $\bar{a} = \bar{b}$  if and only if  $a^- = b^-$  and  $a^+ = b^+$ ,
- (iii)  $\text{Min}^i\{\bar{a}, \bar{b}\} = [\min\{a^-, b^-\}, \min\{a^+, b^+\}]$ ,
- (iv)  $\text{Max}^i\{\bar{a}, \bar{b}\} = [\max\{a^-, b^-\}, \max\{a^+, b^+\}]$ .

Similarly we can define  $\text{Inf}^i$  and  $\text{Sup}^i$  in case of family of elements in  $D[0, 1]$ .

A mapping  $\bar{A}: X \rightarrow D[0, 1]$  is called an *interval-valued fuzzy subset* (briefly, an *i-v fuzzy subset*) of  $X$ , where  $\bar{A}(x) = [A^-(x), A^+(x)] \quad \forall x \in X$ ,  $A^-$  and  $A^+$  are fuzzy subsets in  $X$  such that  $A^-(x) \leq A^+(x) \quad \forall x \in X$ .

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $\bar{A}, \bar{B}$  be i-v fuzzy subsets of  $X$ . Then we have the following:

- (i)  $\bar{A} \leq \bar{B}$  if and only if  $\bar{A}(x) \leq \bar{B}(x) \quad \forall x$ .
- (ii)  $\bar{A} = \bar{B}$  if and only if  $\bar{A}(x) = \bar{B}(x) \quad \forall x$ .
- (iii)  $(\bar{A} \cup \bar{B})(x) = \text{max}^i\{\bar{A}(x), \bar{B}(x)\}$
- (iv)  $(\bar{A} \cap \bar{B})(x) = \text{min}^i\{\bar{A}(x), \bar{B}(x)\}$ .

**Definition 2.4.** Let ‘.’ be a binary composition in a set  $S$ . The product  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}$  of any two i-v fuzzy subsets  $\bar{A}, \bar{B}$  of  $S$  is defined by

$$(\bar{A} \circ \bar{B})(x) = \begin{cases} \sup^i_{x=a \cdot b} \{ \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{B}(b) \} \} & \text{if } x \text{ is expressible as } x = a \cdot b \\ \bar{0} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Since semigroup  $S$  is associative, the operation  $\circ$  is associative. We denote  $xy$  instead of  $x \cdot y$  and  $\bar{A}\bar{B}$  for  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}$ .

Let  $B$  be a subset of a set  $X$ . Define a function  $\bar{\chi}_B: X \rightarrow D[0,1]$  by

$$\bar{\chi}_B(x) = \begin{cases} \bar{1} & \text{if } x \in B \\ \bar{0} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \forall x \in X.$$

Clearly  $\bar{\chi}_B$  is an i-v fuzzy subset of  $X$ . Throughout this paper  $\bar{\chi}_S$  is denoted by  $\bar{S}$  and  $S$  will denote a semigroup unless otherwise mentioned.

An i-v fuzzy subset  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$  is called an *interval-valued fuzzy subsemigroup* (briefly, an *i-v fuzzy subsemigroup*) of  $S$  if  $\bar{A}(ab) \geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{A}(b) \} \forall a, b \in S$ .

An i-v fuzzy subset  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$  is called an *interval-valued fuzzy left* (resp. *right*) *ideal* (briefly, an *i-v fuzzy left* (resp. *right*) *ideal*) of  $S$  if  $\bar{A}(ab) \geq \bar{A}(b)$  (resp.  $\bar{A}(ab) \geq \bar{A}(a)$ ) for all  $a, b \in S$ .

Every i-v fuzzy right (left, two sided) ideal of  $S$  is an i-v fuzzy subsemigroup of  $S$ . However the converse is not true.

An i-v fuzzy subset  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$  is called an *interval-valued fuzzy two-sided ideal* or simply *i-v fuzzy ideal* of  $S$  if it is both an i-v fuzzy left ideal and an i-v fuzzy right ideal of  $S$ .

An i-v fuzzy subsemigroup  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$  is called an *i-v fuzzy bi-ideal* of  $S$  if  $\bar{A}(xyz) \geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(x), \bar{A}(z) \} \forall x, y, z \in S$ .

An i-v fuzzy subset  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$  is called an *i-v fuzzy interior ideal* of  $S$  if  $\bar{A}(xay) \geq \bar{A}(a)$ .

### 3. Results

In this section, we obtained the structure of i-v fuzzy interior ideal of an intraregular semigroup and obtained equivalent conditions for a semigroup to be intraregular and showed that in an intraregular semigroup the concept of an i-v fuzzy ideal and an i-v fuzzy interior ideal are identical.

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $S$  be an intraregular semigroup. Then  $\bar{A} = \bar{S}\bar{A}\bar{S}$  for every i-v fuzzy interior ideal  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\bar{A}$  be an i-v fuzzy interior ideal of an intraregular semigroup  $S$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{S}\bar{A}\bar{S}(a) &= \sup^i_{a=xy} \{ \min^i \{ (\bar{S}\bar{A})(x), \bar{S}(y) \} \} \\ &= \sup^i_{a=xy} \{ (\bar{S}\bar{A})(x) \} \\ &= \sup^i_{a=xy} \left\{ \sup^i_{x=uv} \{ \min^i \{ \bar{S}(u), \bar{A}(v) \} \} \right\} \\ &= \sup^i_{a=xy} \left\{ \sup^i_{x=uv} \{ \bar{A}(v) \} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sup_{a=uvy}^i \{\bar{A}(v)\} \\
 &\leq \sup_{a=uvy}^i \{\bar{A}(uvy)\} \\
 &= \sup^i \{\bar{A}(a)\} \\
 &= \bar{A}(a).
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\bar{S}\bar{A}\bar{S} \leq \bar{A}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{S}\bar{A}\bar{S}(a) &= \sup_{a=pq}^i \{ \min^i \{ \bar{S}(p), (\bar{A}\bar{S})(q) \} \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \bar{S}(xa), (\bar{A}\bar{S})(ay) \} \\
 &= (\bar{A}\bar{S})(ay) \\
 &= \sup_{ay=uv}^i \{ \min^i \{ \bar{A}(u), \bar{S}(v) \} \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(xaa), \bar{S}(y^2) \} \\
 &= \bar{A}(xaa) \\
 &= \bar{A}(a), \text{ since } \bar{A} \text{ is an interior ideal.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\bar{A} = \bar{S}\bar{A}\bar{S}$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** [5] For a semigroup  $S$ , the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $S$  is intra-regular
- (ii)  $A \cap B \subseteq AB$  holds for every left ideal  $A$  and every right ideal  $B$  of  $S$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** For a semigroup  $S$ , the following conditions are equivalent

- (i)  $S$  is intra-regular
- (ii)  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{A} \circ \bar{B}$  holds for every i-v fuzzy left ideal  $\bar{A}$  and every i-v fuzzy right ideal  $\bar{B}$  of  $S$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $S$  is intra-regular. Therefore  $\forall a \in S, \exists x, y \in S$  such that  $a = xa^2y$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Then we have } (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B})(a) &= \sup_{a=uv}^i \{ \min^i \{ \bar{A}(u), \bar{B}(v) \} \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(xa), \bar{B}(ay) \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{B}(a) \} \\
 &= (\bar{A} \cap \bar{B})(a) \quad \forall a \in S
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence by Definition 2.3(i)  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B} \geq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$ .

Conversely assume that  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{A} \circ \bar{B}$  for every left ideal  $\bar{A}$  and every right ideal  $\bar{B}$  of  $S$ .

Let  $R$  be a right ideal and  $L$  be a left ideal of  $S$  respectively.

Then  $\overline{\chi_R}$  is an i-v fuzzy right ideal of  $S$  and  $\overline{\chi_L}$  is an i-v fuzzy left ideal of  $S$ .

By our assumption,  $\overline{\chi_L} \cap \overline{\chi_R} \subseteq \overline{\chi_L} \circ \overline{\chi_R}$ .

Since  $\overline{\chi_L} \cap \overline{\chi_R} = \overline{\chi_{L \cap R}}$ , (lemma 2.3.12[2]) we have  $\overline{\chi_{L \cap R}} \subseteq \overline{\chi_L} \circ \overline{\chi_R}$ .

Now, let  $a \in L \cap R$ .

Therefore  $\overline{\chi_{L \cap R}}(a) = \bar{1}$  and by our assumption  $\overline{\chi_L} \circ \overline{\chi_R}(a) = \bar{1}$  that is

$$\sup_{a=uv}^i \{ \min^i \{ \overline{\chi_L}(u), \overline{\chi_R}(v) \} \} = \bar{1}.$$

Therefore  $\exists x \in L$  and  $\exists y \in R$  such that  $a = xy$  which implies that  $a \in LR$ .

Therefore  $L \cap R \subseteq LR$  for every left ideal  $L$  and every right ideal  $R$  of  $S$ .

By Lemma 3.2, we have  $S$  is intra-regular.

**Theorem 3.4.** A semigroup  $S$  is intraregular if and only if  $(\forall a \in S) \bar{A}(a) = \bar{A}(a^2)$  for every i-v fuzzy ideal  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$ .

**Proof:**  $\Rightarrow$  Let  $\bar{A}$  be an i-v fuzzy ideal of  $S$ . And  $a \in S$ .

Then by hypothesis, as  $S$  is intraregular  $\exists x, y \in S$  such that  $a = xa^2y$ .

And  $\bar{A}(a) = \bar{A}(xa^2y) \geq \bar{A}(a^2y) \geq \bar{A}(a^2) \geq \bar{A}(aa) \geq \bar{A}(a)$ .

This implies that  $\bar{A}(a) = \bar{A}(a^2)$ .

$\Leftarrow I(a^2)$  is an ideal of  $S$  generated by  $a^2$ .

And  $I(a^2) = \{a^2\} \cup \{Sa^2\} \cup \{a^2S\}$ .

$\overline{\chi_{I(a^2)}}$  is an i-v fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .

By our assumption  $\overline{\chi_{I(a^2)}}(a^2) = \overline{\chi_{I(a^2)}}(a)$ .

We have  $\overline{\chi_{I(a^2)}}(a) = \bar{1}$ .

Hence  $a \in I(a^2) = \{a^2\} \cup \{Sa^2\} \cup \{a^2S\}$ .

Suppose  $a \in \{a^2\}$

Then  $a = a^2 = aa = a^2a^2 = aa^2a$ .

Therefore  $a \in Sa^2S$ .

If  $a \in \{Sa^2\}$ , then  $\exists x \in S$  such that  $a = xa^2 = xaa = x(xa^2)a = x^2a^2a$ .

Therefore  $a \in Sa^2S$ .

If  $a \in \{a^2S\}$ , then  $\exists x \in S$  such that  $a = a^2x = aax = a(a^2x)x = aa^2x^2$ .

Therefore  $a \in Sa^2S$ .

Thus in all the cases, by Definition 2.2,  $S$  is intraregular.

This completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.5.** Let  $S$  be an intraregular semigroup. Then for any i-v fuzzy ideal  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$ , we have,  $\bar{A}(ab) = \bar{A}(ba), \forall a, b \in S$

**Proof:** Let  $\bar{A}$  be any i-v fuzzy ideal of  $S$  and  $a, b \in S$ .

Then by theorem 3.4 and hypothesis, we have

$$\bar{A}(ab) = \bar{A}((ab)^2) = \bar{A}(a(ba)b) \geq \bar{A}(ba) = \bar{A}((ba)^2) = \bar{A}(b(ab)a) \geq \bar{A}(ab)$$

Thus we have  $\bar{A}(ab) = \bar{A}(ba)$ .

**Lemma 3.6.** A semigroup  $S$  is regular and intraregular if and only if every bi-ideal of  $S$  is idempotent, that is  $B = B^2$  for every bi-ideal  $B$  of  $S$ .

**Proof:** Let  $S$  be both regular and intraregular semigroup and  $B$  be a bi-ideal of  $S$ .

Since  $B$  is a bi-ideal, we have  $BSB \subseteq B$  and since  $S$  is both regular and intraregular, we have  $B \subseteq BSB$  and  $B \subseteq SB^2S$

Thus  $B \subseteq BSB$

$$\subseteq BSBSB$$

$$\subseteq BS(SB^2S)SB$$

$$\subseteq BS^2B^2S^2B$$

$$\subseteq BSB^2SB$$

$$\subseteq BSB BSB$$

$$\subseteq B B$$

$$= B^2$$

That is  $B \subseteq B^2$ .

On the other hand, since  $B$  is a bi-ideal of  $S$  we have  $B^2 \subseteq B$ .

Hence we have  $B = B^2$ .

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Conversely, let  $B = B^2$  for every bi-ideal of  $S$  and let  $a \in S$ .

But  $B(a) = \{a \cup a^2 \cup aSa\}$  is a bi-ideal.

Since  $a \in B(a)$ , by our assumption  $B(a) = B^2(a)$ ,  $a \in B^2(a) = \{a^2 \cup a^2Sa \cup aSa^2\}$ .

Therefore either  $a = a^2$  or  $a \in a^2Sa$  or  $a \in aSa^2$ .

In all the cases it can easily be seen that  $a \in aSa$  and  $a \in SaS$ .

This is true for any  $a \in S$ .

Therefore  $S$  is both regular and intra-regular.

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $S$  be an intra-regular semigroup. Then the following are equivalent.

(i)  $\bar{A}$  is an i-v fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .

(ii)  $\bar{A}$  is an i-v fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ .

**Proof:** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). By Lemma 2.4.9 [2] every i-v fuzzy ideal of a semigroup  $S$  is an i-v fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ .

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Assume that  $\bar{A}$  is an i-v fuzzy interior ideal of an intra-regular semigroup  $S$ .

Let  $a, b \in S$ . Then since  $S$  is intra-regular  $\exists x, y, x', y' \in S$  such that  $a = xa^2y$  and  $b = x'b^2y'$ .

Thus  $\bar{A}(ab) = \bar{A}(xa^2yb) = \bar{A}((xa)a(yb)) \geq \bar{A}(a)$  and

$$\bar{A}(ab) = \bar{A}(ax'b^2y') = \bar{A}((ax')b(by')) \geq \bar{A}(b).$$

This implies that  $\bar{A}$  is an i-v fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .

**Definition 3.8.** An i-v fuzzy subset  $\bar{A}$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called idempotent if  $(\bar{A}\bar{A})(x) = \bar{A}(x) \quad \forall x \in S$ .

**Theorem 3.9.** Let  $S$  be a semigroup. Then the following are equivalent.

(i)  $S$  is both regular and intra-regular semigroup

(ii) Every i-v fuzzy bi-ideal  $\bar{A}$  is idempotent.

**Proof:** Let  $\bar{A}$  be an i-v fuzzy bi-ideal of an regular and intra-regular semigroup  $S$ .

Since  $\bar{A}$  is an i-v fuzzy bi-ideal  $\bar{A}(xy) \geq \min^i\{\bar{A}(x), \bar{A}(y)\}$  and

$$\bar{A}(xyz) \geq \min^i\{\bar{A}(x), \bar{A}(z)\} \quad \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

First we will prove that  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{A} \subseteq \bar{A}$

Let  $a \in S$ . Since  $S$  is regular  $\exists x \in S$  such that  $a = axa$

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{A} \circ \bar{A})(a) &= \sup_{a=uv}^i \{ \min^i\{\bar{A}(u), \bar{A}(v)\} \} \\ &\leq \sup_{a=uv}^i \{ \bar{A}(uv) \} \\ &= \sup^i \{ \bar{A}(a) \} \\ &= \bar{A}(a) \end{aligned} \quad \text{by (1)}$$

That is  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{A} \subseteq \bar{A}$ .

Now we will prove that  $\bar{A} \subseteq \bar{A} \circ \bar{A}$ . Since  $S$  is regular  $\forall a \in S, \exists x \in S$  such that  $a = axa$ .

And since  $S$  is intra-regular  $\forall a \in S, \exists x', y' \in S$  such that  $a = x'a^2y'$ .

Therefore  $a = axa$

$$\begin{aligned} &= axaxa \\ &= (ax)(x'a^2y')(xa) \\ &= (axx'a)(ay'xa). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Now } (\bar{A} \circ \bar{A})(a) &= \sup_{a=uv}^i \{ \min^i \{ \bar{A}(u), \bar{A}(v) \} \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(axx'a), \bar{A}(ay'xa) \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{A}(a) \}, \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{A}(a) \} \} \quad \text{by (1)} \\
 &= \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{A}(a) \} \\
 &= \bar{A}(a)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{A} \circ \bar{A} \supseteq \bar{A}$$

Therefore  $\bar{A}$  is idempotent.

Conversely assume that any i-v fuzzy bi-ideal  $\bar{A}$  of  $S$  is idempotent. That is  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{A} = \bar{A}$ .

Now let  $B$  be any bi-ideal of  $S$ . Therefore  $B^2 \subseteq B$  and  $\bar{\chi}_B$  is an i-v fuzzy bi-ideal of  $S$ .

By our assumption  $\bar{\chi}_B \circ \bar{\chi}_B = \bar{\chi}_B$ .

Let  $a \in B$ . Therefore  $\bar{\chi}_B(a) = \bar{1}$  which implies  $(\bar{\chi}_B \circ \bar{\chi}_B)(a) = \bar{1}$  and therefore

$$\sup_{a=uv}^i \{ \min^i \{ \bar{\chi}_B(u), \bar{\chi}_B(v) \} \} = \bar{1}.$$

Thus there exist  $b, c \in B$  such that  $a = bc$ . Therefore  $a \in B^2$

Hence  $B \subseteq B^2$  and hence  $B = B^2$ .

Then by lemma 3.6  $S$  is both regular and intraregular.

**Lemma 3.10.** (Theorem 2.7.2 [2]) A semigroup is regular if and only if for every i-v fuzzy right ideal  $\bar{A}$  and every i-v fuzzy left ideal  $\bar{B}$  of  $S$ , we have  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$ .

**Theorem 3.11.** Let  $S$  be an ordered semigroup. Then the following are equivalent.

- (i)  $S$  is regular and intraregular
- (ii)  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}) \cap (\bar{B} \circ \bar{A})$  for any i-v fuzzy bi-ideals  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  of  $S$
- (iii)  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}) \cap (\bar{B} \circ \bar{A})$  for every i-v fuzzy bi-ideal  $\bar{A}$  and every i-v fuzzy left ideal  $\bar{B}$  of  $S$ .
- (iv)  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}) \cap (\bar{B} \circ \bar{A})$  for every i-v fuzzy right ideal  $\bar{A}$  and every i-v fuzzy bi-ideal  $\bar{B}$  of  $S$ .
- (v)  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}) \cap (\bar{B} \circ \bar{A})$  for every i-v fuzzy right ideal  $\bar{A}$  and every i-v fuzzy left ideal  $\bar{B}$  of  $S$ .

**Proof:** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). let  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  are i-v fuzzy bi-ideals of  $S$ . And  $a \in S$ .

Then since  $S$  is both regular and intraregular, there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $a = axa = axaxa$

And there exist  $y, z \in S$  such that  $a = ya^2z$ .

Thus  $a = axa = axaxa = ax(ya^2z)xa = (axy)(azxa)$ .

Since  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  are i-v fuzzy bi-ideals of  $S$ , we have

$\bar{A}(axy) \geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{A}(a) \} = \bar{A}(a)$  and

$\bar{B}(azxa) \geq \min^i \{ \bar{B}(a), \bar{B}(a) \} = \bar{B}(a)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Then } (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B})(a) &= \sup_{a=uv}^i \{ \min^i \{ \bar{A}(u), \bar{B}(v) \} \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(axy), \bar{B}(azxa) \} \\
 &\geq \min^i \{ \bar{A}(a), \bar{B}(a) \} \\
 &= (\bar{A} \cap \bar{B})(a)
 \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{A} \circ \bar{B}$ .

### Interval-valued Fuzzy Ideals of Regular and Intra-regular Semigroups

In the same way we can show that  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{B} \circ \bar{A}$ .

Hence  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}) \cap (\bar{B} \circ \bar{A})$ .

Since every i-v fuzzy left (right) ideal of  $S$  is a i-v fuzzy bi-ideal of  $S$ , we have

$(ii) \Rightarrow (iii)$ ,  $(ii) \Rightarrow (iv)$ ,  $(ii) \Rightarrow (v)$ ,  $(iii) \Rightarrow (v)$  and  $(iv) \Rightarrow (v)$  are clear.

$(v) \Rightarrow (i)$ . Let  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  are i-v fuzzy right ideal and a i-v fuzzy left ideal of  $S$  respectively.

By hypothesis,  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}) \cap (\bar{B} \circ \bar{A}) \subseteq \bar{B} \circ \bar{A}$

By Theorem 3.3  $S$  is intra-regular.

On the other hand,  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} \subseteq (\bar{A} \circ \bar{B}) \cap (\bar{B} \circ \bar{A}) \subseteq \bar{A} \circ \bar{B}$

But  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{A} \circ \bar{S} \subseteq \bar{A}$  and  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{S} \circ \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{B}$  implies  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

Thus  $\bar{A} \circ \bar{B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$

By Lemma 3.10  $S$  is regular.

Thus  $S$  is both regular and intra-regular.

This completes the proof.

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