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## ON FUZZY POINTS IN TERNARY SEMIGROUPS

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**Abstract.** We consider the ternary semigroup  $\underline{S}$  of the fuzzy points of a ternary semigroup  $S$ , and discuss the relation between some fuzzy ideals of a ternary semigroup  $S$  and the subsets of  $\underline{S}$ .

**Keywords:** Fuzzy set; fuzzy point; fuzzy ideal; ternary semigroup.

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### 1. Introduction

The concept of fuzzy set was initiated by L. Zadeh [1]. The study of fuzzy algebraic structures started with the introduction of the concepts of fuzzy groups in the pioneering paper of Rosenfeld [2]. Kuroki [3, 4, 5, 6] defined a fuzzy semigroup and various kinds of fuzzy ideals in semigroups and characterized them. M. Santiago and S. Bala developed the theory of ternary semigroups[7]. Recently, S. Kar and P. Sarkar defined fuzzy left (right, lateral) ideals of ternary semigroups and characterize regular and intra-regular ternary semigroups by using the concept of fuzzy ideals of ternary semigroups[8]. Kim in [9], considered the semigroup  $\underline{S}$  of the fuzzy points of a semigroup  $S$ , and discussed the relation between some fuzzy ideals of a semigroup  $S$  and the subsets of  $\underline{S}$ . In the present paper, we consider the ternary semigroup  $\underline{S}$  of the fuzzy points of a ternary semigroup  $S$ , and discuss the relation between some fuzzy ideals of a ternary semigroup  $S$  and the subsets of  $\underline{S}$ .

## 2. Preliminaries

**Definition 2.1** [7] A ternary semigroup is a nonempty set  $S$  together with a ternary operation  $(a, b, c) \rightarrow abc$  satisfying  $(abc)de = a(bcd)e = ab(cde)$  for all  $a; b; c; d; e \in S$ .

**Example 2.2** [8] Let  $\mathbb{Z}^-$  be the set of all negative integers. Then with the usual ternary multiplication,  $\mathbb{Z}^-$  forms a ternary semigroup.

**Definition 2.3** [7,10] A non-empty subset  $A$  of a ternary semigroup is called

- 1) A ternary subsemigroup if  $A^3 = AAA \subseteq A$ .
- 2) A left ideal of  $S$  if  $SSA \subseteq A$ .
- 3) A lateral ideal of  $S$  if  $SAS \subseteq A$ .
- 4) A right ideal of  $S$  if  $ASS \subseteq A$ .
- 5) An ideal of  $S$  if  $A$  is a left ideal, a lateral ideal and a right ideal of  $S$ .

**Definition 2.4** [10] A ternary subsemigroup  $B$  of a ternary semigroup  $S$  is said to be a bi-ideal of  $S$  if  $BSBSB \subseteq B$ .

**Definition 2.5** [11] A ternary subsemigroup  $B$  of a ternary semigroup  $S$  is called an interior ideal of  $S$  if  $SSBSS \subseteq B$ .

**Example 2.6** Let  $S = \{(0,0), (0,1), (1,0), (1,1)\}$ . Then  $S$  is a ternary semigroup with respect to ternary multiplication defined by

$$(i, j)(k, l)(m, n) = (i, n).$$

Let  $A = \{(0,0), (0,1)\}$  be a subset of  $S$ . Then  $A$  is a right ideal of  $S$ , but not a lateral ideal nor a left ideal because

in  $SAS$ ,

$$(1,0)(0,1)(1,1) = (1,1) \notin A,$$

in  $SSA$ ,

$$(1,0)(1,1)(0,0) = (1,0) \notin A.$$

Let  $B = \{(0,1), (1,1)\}$  be a subset of  $S$ . Then  $B$  is a left ideal of  $S$ , but not a lateral ideal nor a right ideal because

in  $SBS$ ,

$$(1,0)(1,1)(1,0) = (1,0) \notin B,$$

in  $BSS$ ,

$$(0,0)(1,1)(0,0) = (0,0) \notin B.$$

A function  $f$  from  $S$  to the closed interval  $[0, 1]$  is called a *fuzzy set* in  $S$  [1]. The ternary semigroup  $S$  itself is a fuzzy set in  $S$  such that  $S(x) = 1$  for all  $x \in S$ , denoted also by  $C_S$ .

**Definition 2.7** [1] *Let  $f$  be a fuzzy set in a nonempty set  $S$ . For any  $t \in [0,1]$ ; the subset  $f_t = \{x \in S: f(x) \geq t\}$  of  $S$  is called a level subset of  $f$ .*

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two fuzzy sets in  $S$ . Then the inclusion relation  $A \subseteq B$  is defined by  $A(x) \leq B(x)$  for all  $x \in S$ .  $A \cap B$  and  $A \cup B$  are fuzzy sets in  $S$  defined by  $(A \cap B)(x) = \min\{A(x), B(x)\} = A(x) \wedge B(x)$ ,  $(A \cup B)(x) = \max\{A(x), B(x)\} = A(x) \vee B(x)$ , for all  $x \in S$ .

**Definition 2.8** [10] *Let  $S$  be a non-empty set and  $x \in S$ ,  $t \in (0,1]$ . A fuzzy point  $x_t$  of  $S$  is a fuzzy set in  $S$ , defined by,*

$$x_t(y) = \begin{cases} t & \text{if } x = y, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

for all  $y \in S$ .

*The fuzzy point  $x_t$  is said to be contained in a fuzzy set  $A$ , denoted by  $x_t \in A$ , iff  $t \leq A(x)$ .*

**Definition 2.9** [8] *A non-empty fuzzy set  $A$  in a ternary semigroup  $S$  is called a fuzzy ternary subsemigroup of  $S$  if  $A(xyz) \geq A(x) \wedge A(y) \wedge A(z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .*

**Definition 2.10** [8] *A non-empty fuzzy set  $A$  in a ternary semigroup  $S$  is called a fuzzy left (resp. lateral, right) ideal of  $S$  if  $A(xyz) \geq A(z)$  (resp.  $A(xyz) \geq A(y)$ ,  $A(xyz) \geq A(x)$ ) for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .*

*If  $A$  is a fuzzy left ideal, a fuzzy lateral ideal and a fuzzy right ideal of  $S$ , then  $A$  is called a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .*

It is clear that  $A$  is a fuzzy ideal of a ternary semigroup  $S$  if and only if  $A(xyz) \geq A(x) \vee A(y) \vee A(z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$ , and that every fuzzy left (lateral, right) ideal is a fuzzy ternary semigroup of  $S$ .

**Definition 2.11** [11] *A fuzzy ternary subsemigroup  $B$  in a ternary semigroup  $S$  is called a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$  if  $B(xsary) \geq B(a)$  for all  $x, a, r, s, y \in S$ .*

**Example 2.12** In example 2.6,  $S = \{(0,0), (0,1), (1,0), (1,1)\}$  is a ternary semigroup and  $A = \{(0,0), (0,1)\}$  is a right ideal of  $S$ . Define a fuzzy set  $f$  in  $S$  as follows:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0.6 & \text{if } x \in A; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It is clear that  $f$  is a fuzzy left ideal, not a fuzzy lateral ideal nor a fuzzy right ideal. Similarly, for the left ideal  $B = \{(0,1), (1,1)\}$  we can define a fuzzy right ideal  $f$  which is neither a fuzzy lateral ideal nor a fuzzy left ideal.

### 3. Some ideals of fuzzy points

Let  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  be the set of all fuzzy sets in a ternary semigroup  $S$ . For each  $A, B, C \in \mathcal{F}(S)$ , the product of  $A, B, C$  is a fuzzy set  $A \circ B \circ C$  defined as follows:

$$(A \circ B \circ C)(x) = \begin{cases} \bigvee_{x=abc} \{A(a) \wedge B(b) \wedge C(c)\} & \text{if } abc = x \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

for each  $x \in S$ . Since  $(A \circ B \circ C) \circ D \circ E = A \circ (B \circ C \circ D) \circ E = A \circ B \circ (C \circ D \circ E)$  [9], then  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  is a ternary semigroup with the product " $\circ$ ".

Let  $\underline{S}$  be the set of all fuzzy points in a ternary semigroup  $S$ . Then  $x_\alpha \circ y_\beta \circ z_\gamma = (xyz)_{\alpha \wedge \beta \wedge \gamma} \in \underline{S}$  [8] and  $(x_\alpha \circ y_\beta \circ z_\gamma) \circ w_\sigma \circ u_\tau = x_\alpha \circ (y_\beta \circ z_\gamma \circ w_\sigma) \circ u_\tau = x_\alpha \circ y_\beta \circ (z_\gamma \circ w_\sigma \circ u_\tau)$  for  $x_\alpha, y_\beta, z_\gamma, w_\sigma, u_\tau \in \underline{S}$ . Thus  $\underline{S}$  is a ternary subsemigroup of  $\mathcal{F}(S)$ . For any  $A \in \mathcal{F}(S)$ ,  $\underline{A}$  denotes the set of all fuzzy points contained in  $A$ , that is,  $\underline{A} = \{x_\alpha \in \underline{S} : A(x) \geq \alpha\}$ . for any  $A, B, C \subseteq \underline{S}$ , we define the product of  $A, B$  and  $C$  as  $A \circ B \circ C = \{x_\alpha \circ y_\beta \circ z_\gamma : x_\alpha \in A, y_\beta \in B, z_\gamma \in C\}$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $A, B$  and  $C$  be fuzzy sets in a ternary semigroup  $S$ . Then*

- a)  $\underline{A \cup B \cup C} = \underline{A} \cup \underline{B} \cup \underline{C}$ .
- b)  $\underline{A \cap B \cap C} = \underline{A} \cap \underline{B} \cap \underline{C}$ .
- c)  $\underline{A \circ B \circ C} \supseteq \underline{A} \circ \underline{B} \circ \underline{C}$ .

**Proof.** (a) Let  $z_\alpha \in \underline{A \cup B \cup C}$ , then

$$(A \cup B \cup C)(z) = A(z) \vee B(z) \vee C(z) \geq \alpha.$$

Hence,  $A(z) \geq \alpha$  or  $B(z) \geq \alpha$  or  $C(z) \geq \alpha$ , and consequently,  $z_\alpha \in \underline{A} \cup \underline{B} \cup \underline{C}$ . This implies that  $\underline{A \cup B \cup C} \subseteq \underline{A} \cup \underline{B} \cup \underline{C}$ . Let  $z_\alpha \in \underline{A} \cup \underline{B} \cup \underline{C}$ , then  $(z) \geq \alpha$  or  $B(z) \geq \alpha$ , or  $C(z) \geq \alpha$  and hence  $(A \cup B \cup C)(z) \geq \alpha$ . This implies that  $z_\alpha \in \underline{A \cup B \cup C}$  and consequently,  $\underline{A} \cup \underline{B} \cup \underline{C} \subseteq \underline{A \cup B \cup C}$ . Hence  $\underline{A \cup B \cup C} = \underline{A} \cup \underline{B} \cup \underline{C}$ .

(b) is similar to (a).

(c) Let  $z \in S$  and  $z_\omega \in \underline{A} \circ \underline{B} \circ \underline{C}$ , then  $z_\omega = a_\alpha \circ b_\beta \circ c_\gamma$  such that  $a_\alpha \in \underline{A}$ ,  $b_\beta \in \underline{B}$  and  $c_\gamma \in \underline{C}$ . If  $z = pqr$  for some  $p, q, r \in S$ , then  $A(p) \geq a_\alpha(p)$ ,  $B(q) \geq b_\beta(q)$  and  $C(r) \geq c_\gamma(r)$ . From the definition of fuzzy points we have  $A(p) \geq \bigvee_{a_\alpha \in \underline{A}} a_\alpha(p)$ ,  $B(q) \geq \bigvee_{b_\beta \in \underline{B}} b_\beta(q)$  and  $C(r) \geq \bigvee_{c_\gamma \in \underline{C}} c_\gamma(r)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} (A \circ B \circ C)(z) &= \bigvee_{z=pqr} A(p) \wedge B(q) \wedge C(r) \\ &\geq \bigvee_{z=pqr} \bigvee_{a_\alpha \in \underline{A}, b_\beta \in \underline{B}, c_\gamma \in \underline{C}} a_\alpha(p) \wedge b_\beta(q) \wedge c_\gamma(r) \\ &= \bigvee_{a_\alpha \in \underline{A}, b_\beta \in \underline{B}, c_\gamma \in \underline{C}} \bigvee_{z=pqr} a_\alpha(p) \wedge b_\beta(q) \wedge c_\gamma(r) \\ &= \bigvee_{a_\alpha \in \underline{A}, b_\beta \in \underline{B}, c_\gamma \in \underline{C}} (a_\alpha \circ b_\beta \circ c_\gamma)(z) = \bigvee_{a_\alpha \in \underline{A}, b_\beta \in \underline{B}, c_\gamma \in \underline{C}} z_\omega(z) = \omega. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that  $z_\omega \in \underline{A} \circ \underline{B} \circ \underline{C}$ , and hence  $\underline{A} \circ \underline{B} \circ \underline{C} \supseteq \underline{A} \circ \underline{B} \circ \underline{C}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $A$  be a fuzzy set in a ternary semigroup  $S$ . then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- a)  $A$  is a fuzzy left (lateral, right) ideal of  $S$ .
- b)  $\underline{A}$  is a left (lateral, right) ideal of  $\underline{S}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $A$  is a fuzzy left ideal in  $S$ , and let  $x_p \in \underline{A}$  and  $y_q, z_r \in \underline{S}$ . Then  $y_q \circ z_r \circ x_p = (yzx)_{q \wedge r \wedge p} \in \underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A}$ . Since  $A$  is a fuzzy left ideal, we have  $A(yzx) \geq A(x) \geq p \geq q \wedge r \wedge p$ . Hence  $y_q \circ z_r \circ x_p = (yzx)_{q \wedge r \wedge p} \in \underline{A}$ . This implies that  $\underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \subseteq \underline{A}$ , thus  $\underline{A}$  is a left ideal of  $\underline{S}$ . conversely, assume that  $\underline{A}$  is a left ideal of  $\underline{S}$ . Let  $x, y, z \in S$ , if  $A(z) = 0$ , then  $A(xyz) \geq 0 = A(z)$ . If  $A(z) \neq 0$ , then  $z_{A(z)} \in \underline{A}$  and  $x_{A(z)}, y_{A(z)} \in \underline{S}$ . Since  $\underline{A}$  is a left ideal of  $\underline{S}$ , we have  $x_{A(z)} \circ y_{A(z)} \circ z_{A(z)} = (xyz)_{A(z)} \in \underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \subseteq \underline{A}$ . This implies that  $A(xyz) \geq A(z)$ , and hence  $A$  is a fuzzy left ideal of  $S$ . By a similar argument, one can prove the other cases.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be any fuzzy interior ideals of a ternary semigroup  $S$ . Then*

- a)  $A \cap B$  is also a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$  ( provided  $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$  ).
- b)  $\underline{A} \cap \underline{B}$  is also an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ .

**Proof.** a) Since  $A$  and  $B$  are fuzzy ternary subsemigroups of  $S$ ,  $A \cap B$  is a fuzzy ternary subsemigroup of  $S$  [8, lemma 2.3]. Let  $x, a, r, s, y \in S$ , be arbitrary elements of  $S$ . Since  $A$  and  $B$  are fuzzy interior ideals of  $S$ , then

$$(A \cap B)(xsary) = A(xsary) \wedge B(xsary)$$

$$\geq A(a) \wedge B(a) = (A \cap B)(a).$$

Hence  $A \cap B$  is a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ .

b) At first, it is an easy exercise to show that:  $A$  is a fuzzy ternary subsemigroup of  $S$  if and only if  $\underline{A}$  is a ternary subsemigroup of  $\underline{S}$ . From lemma 3.1, we have  $\underline{A \cap B} = \underline{A} \cap \underline{B}$  and so it is a ternary subsemigroup of  $\underline{S}$ . Let  $a_\alpha \in \underline{A \cap B}$  and  $x_p, x_r, y_s, y_q \in \underline{S}$ , then

$$(x \acute{x} a \acute{y} y)_{p \wedge r \wedge \alpha \wedge s \wedge q} = x_p \circ x_r \circ a_\alpha \circ y_s \circ y_q \in \underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A \cap B} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{S}.$$

Since  $A \cap B$  is a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (A \cap B)(x \acute{x} a \acute{y} y) &\geq (A \cap B)(a) = A(a) \wedge B(a) \geq \alpha \wedge \alpha = \alpha \\ &\geq p \wedge r \wedge \alpha \wedge s \wedge q. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that

$$x_p \circ x_r \circ a_\alpha \circ y_s \circ y_q = (x \acute{x} a \acute{y} y)_{p \wedge r \wedge \alpha \wedge s \wedge q} \in \underline{A \cap B}.$$

Therefore,  $\underline{A} \cap \underline{B}$  is also an interior deal of  $\underline{S}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $A$  be a fuzzy set in a ternary semigroup  $S$ . Then  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$  if and only if  $A$  is a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $A$  is a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ , then  $\underline{A}$  is a ternary subsemigroup of  $\underline{S}$ . Suppose that  $x_p, x_r, y_s, y_q \in \underline{S}$  and  $z_\alpha \in \underline{A}$ . Then  $A(z) \geq \alpha$ , and  $A(x \acute{x} z \acute{y} y) \geq A(z) \geq \alpha \geq p \wedge r \wedge \alpha \wedge s \wedge q$ . Hence  $\underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \ni (x_p \circ x_r \circ z_\alpha \circ y_s \circ y_q) = (x \acute{x} z \acute{y} y)_{p \wedge r \wedge \alpha \wedge s \wedge q} \in \underline{A}$ . This implies that  $\underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{S} \subseteq \underline{A}$ , thus  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ . Conversely, suppose that  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ . For all  $x, y, z \in S$ , the elements  $x_{A(x)}, y_{A(y)}, z_{A(z)}$  belong to  $\underline{A}$ . Since  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ , we have

$$x_{A(x)} \circ y_{A(y)} \circ z_{A(z)} = (xyz)_{A(x) \wedge A(y) \wedge A(z)} \in \underline{A}.$$

Thus  $A(xyz) \geq A(x) \wedge A(y) \wedge A(z)$  and so  $A$  is a fuzzy ternary subsemigroup in  $S$ . Let  $x, x', z, y, y \in S$ , if  $A(z) \neq 0$ , then  $z_{A(z)} \in \underline{A}$  and  $x_{A(z)}, x'_{A(z)}, y_{A(z)}, y'_{A(z)} \in \underline{S}$ . Since  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ , we get  $(x \acute{x} z \acute{y} y)_{A(z)} = (x \acute{x} z \acute{y} y)_{A(z) \wedge A(z) \wedge A(z) \wedge A(z) \wedge A(z)} = x_{A(z)} \circ x'_{A(z)} \circ z_{A(z)} \circ y_{A(z)} \circ y'_{A(z)} \in \underline{A}$ . This implies that  $A(x \acute{x} z \acute{y} y) \geq A(z)$ , and hence  $A$  is a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ .  $\square$

Let  $S$  be a ternary semigroup. An element  $x \in S$  is called *regular* if there exists an element  $a \in S$  such that  $x = xax$ . A ternary semigroup is called *regular* if all its elements are regular [7].

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $A$  be a fuzzy set in a regular ternary semigroup  $S$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- a)  $A$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .
- b)  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $A$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ . Then  $A$  is a fuzzy ternary subsemigroup of  $S$ , and consequently  $\underline{A}$  is a ternary subsemigroup of  $\underline{S}$ . Since any fuzzy ideal of  $S$  is a fuzzy interior ideal of  $S$ [7], then theorem 3.4 implies that  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ . Assume that (b) holds. Let  $x \in S$ , then there exists  $a \in S$  such that  $x = xax$  (since  $S$  is regular). If  $A(x) = 0, A(xyz) \geq 0 = A(x)$ . If  $A(x) \neq 0$ , then  $x_{A(x)} \in \underline{A}$  and  $y_{A(x)}, z_{A(x)} \in \underline{S}$ . Since  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ , we have  $(xyz)_{A(x)} = (xaxyz)_{A(x)} = x_{A(x)} \circ a_{A(x)} \circ x_{A(x)} \circ y_{A(x)} \circ z_{A(x)} \in \underline{A}$ . This implies that  $A(xyz) \geq A(x)$ , and hence  $A$  is a fuzzy right ideal of  $S$ . In a similar argument we prove that  $A$  is a fuzzy left ideal of  $S$ . It remains to show that  $A$  is a fuzzy lateral ideal of  $S$ . For this purpose, assume that  $y, a \in S$  such that  $y = yay$  (since  $S$  is regular). By theorem,  $A(y) = A(yay) \geq A(y) \wedge A(a) \wedge A(y)$  which implies that  $A(a) \geq A(y)$ . If  $A(y) \neq 0$ , then  $y_{A(y)}, a_{A(y)} \in \underline{A}$  and  $x_{A(y)}, z_{A(y)} \in \underline{S}$ . Since  $\underline{A}$  is an interior ideal of  $\underline{S}$ , we have  $(xyz)_{A(y)} = (xyayz)_{A(y)} = x_{A(y)} \circ y_{A(y)} \circ a_{A(y)} \circ y_{A(y)} \circ z_{A(y)} \in \underline{A}$ . This implies that  $A(xyz) \geq A(y)$ , and hence  $A$  is a fuzzy lateral ideal of  $S$ . This completes that  $A$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .  $\square$

A ternary semigroup  $S$  is called *intra-regular* if for each element  $a \in S$ , there exist elements  $x, y \in S$  such that  $a = xa^3y$  [8]. For example, let  $S = \{i, 0, -i\}$ . Then  $S$  is a ternary semigroup under the multiplication over complex numbers. In  $S$ , we have  $(-i)(i^3)(-i) = i$ ,  $(i)(0^3)(-i) = 0$  and  $(i)(-i)^3(i) = -i$ . Therefore,  $S = \{i, 0, -i\}$  is intra-regular.

**Theorem 3.7.** *A ternary semigroup  $S$  is intra-regular if and only if  $\underline{S}$  is intra-regular.*

**Proof.** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $a_\alpha$  be an element in  $\underline{S}$ . Since  $S$  is intra-regular and  $a \in S$ , there exist  $x, y \in S$  such that  $a = xa^3y$ . Thus  $x_\alpha, y_\alpha \in \underline{S}$  and  $x_\alpha \circ a_\alpha \circ a_\alpha \circ a_\alpha \circ y_\alpha = (xa^3y)_\alpha = a_\alpha$ . Hence  $\underline{S}$  is intra-regular.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $\underline{S}$  is intra-regular and  $a \in S$ . Then for any  $\alpha \in (0,1]$ , there exist  $x_\beta, y_\gamma \in \underline{S}$  such that  $a_\alpha = x_\beta \circ a_\alpha \circ a_\alpha \circ a_\alpha \circ y_\gamma = (xa^3y)_{\beta \wedge \alpha \wedge \gamma}$ . This implies that  $a = xa^3y$  for  $x, y \in S$ , hence  $S$  is intra-regular.

A fuzzy ternary subsemigroup  $A$  of a ternary semigroup  $S$  is called a *fuzzy bi-ideal* of  $S$  if  $A(xaybz) \geq A(x) \wedge A(y) \wedge A(z)$  for all  $x; a; y; b; z \in S$ [10].

**Theorem 3.8** (see [10, Theorem 4.4]). *A fuzzy ternary subsemigroup  $B$  of a ternary semigroup  $S$  is a fuzzy bi-ideal of  $S$  if and only if  $(B \circ S \circ B \circ S \circ B) \subseteq B$ .*

**Theorem 3.9** (see [10, Theorem 4.5]). *A fuzzy ternary subsemigroup  $f$  of a semigroup  $S$  is a fuzzy bi-ideal of  $S$  if and only if the level set of  $f$ ,  $f_t$  is a bi-ideal of  $S$  for  $t \in \text{Im } f$ .*

**Theorem 3.10** *Let  $A$  be a fuzzy set in a ternary semigroup  $S$ . Then  $A$  is a fuzzy bi-ideal of  $S$  if and only if  $\underline{A}$  is a bi-ideal of  $\underline{S}$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $A$  be a fuzzy bi-ideal of  $S$ , then by theorem 3.8,  $A \circ S \circ A \circ S \circ A \subseteq A$ . This implies that  $\underline{A \circ S \circ A \circ S \circ A} \subseteq \underline{A}$  and by lemma 3.1,  $\underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \subseteq \underline{A \circ S \circ A \circ S \circ A} \subseteq \underline{A}$ . Since  $\underline{A}$  is a ternary subsemigroup of  $\underline{S}$ , we conclude that  $\underline{A}$  is a bi-ideal of  $\underline{S}$ . Conversely, let  $\underline{A}$  is a bi-ideal of  $\underline{S}$ , then  $\underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \subseteq \underline{A}$ . For some  $t \in \text{Im } A$ , let  $A_t = \{x \in S : A(x) \geq t\}$  be the level set of  $A$ . It is clear that  $x_t, y_t, z_t \in \underline{A}$ , for  $x, y, z \in A_t$ . Now let  $w_t = (xaybz)_t = x_t \circ a_t \circ y_t \circ b_t \circ z_t \in \underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A} \circ \underline{S} \circ \underline{A}$ , since  $\underline{A}$  is a bi-ideal of  $\underline{S}$ , then  $w_t \in \underline{A}$ . Hence,  $A(xaybz) \geq t$  and implies that  $(xaybz) \in A_t$  for  $a, b \in S$ . Then  $A_t S A_t S A_t \subseteq A_t$ , that is,  $A_t$  is a bi-ideal of  $S$ . Now by theorem 3.9 and the fact that  $A$  is a fuzzy ternary semigroup of  $S$ , it follows that  $A$  is a fuzzy bi-ideal of  $S$ .

### Conflict of Interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests.

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