

# Fuzzy Ideals in Near-subtraction Semigroups

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**Abstract**—In this paper,we introduce a notion of fuzzy ideals in near-subtraction semigroups and study their related properties.

**Keywords**—subtraction algebra, subtraction semigroup, an ideal, near—subtraction semigroup, fuzzy level set, fuzzy ideal, fuzzy homomorphism.

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE systems of the form  $\Phi$ , where  $(\Phi; \circ, \backslash)$ , considered by B. M. Schein [7], is a set of functions closed under the composition “ $\circ$ ” of functions (and hence  $(\Phi; \circ)$  is a function semigroup) and the set theoretic subtraction “ $\backslash$ ” (and hence  $(\Phi; \backslash)$  is a subtraction algebra in the sense of [1]). He proved that every subtraction semigroup is isomorphic to a difference semigroup of invertible functions. B.Zelinka [9] discussed a problem proposed by B. M. Schein concerning the structure of multiplication in a subtraction semigroup. He solved the problem for subtraction algebras of a special type, called the atomic subtraction algebras. Y. B. Jun et al. [3] introduced the notion of ideals in subtraction algebras and discussed characterization of ideals. In [4], Y. B. Jun and H. S. Kim established the ideal generated by a set, and discussed related results.Near-ring theory has been developed by Pilz[6].Based on near-ring theory, Dheena at el. [2],introduced the near-subtraction semigroups and strongly regular near-subtraction semigroups.

The concept of fuzzy subset was introduced by L.A.Zadeh [8]. Fuzzy set theory is a useful tool to describe situations in which the data are imprecise or vague. Fuzzy sets handle such situation by attributing a degree to which a certain object belongs to a set.K.J. Lee and C.H. Park[5] introduced the notion of a fuzzy ideal in subtraction algebras, and give some conditions for a fuzzy set to be a fuzzy ideal in subtraction algebras.In this paper,we introduce the notion of fuzzy ideal in near-subtraction semigroup and have studied their related properties.

## II. PRELIMINARIES

**Definition 2.1:** A non-empty set  $X$  together with a binary operation “ $-$ ”is said to be a subtraction algebra if it satisfies the following:

- (1)  $x - (y - x) = x$ .
- (2)  $x - (x - y) = y - (y - x)$ .
- (3)  $(x - y) - z = (x - z) - y$ ,for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

**Example 2.2:** Let  $X = \{0, a, b, 1\}$  in which “ $-$ ” is defined by

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-	0	a	b	1
0	0	0	0	0
a	a	0	a	0
b	b	b	0	0
1	1	b	a	0

Then  $(X, -)$  is a subtraction algebra.

In a subtraction algebra the following holds:

- (P1)  $x - 0 = x$  and  $0 - x = 0$ .
- (P2)  $(x - y) - x = 0$ .
- (P3)  $(x - y) - y = x - y$ .
- (P4)  $(x - y) - (y - x) = x - y$ ,where  $0 = x - x$  is an element that does not depend on the choice of  $x \in X$ .

Following [9],we have the following definition of subtraction semigroup.

**Definition 2.3:** A non-empty set  $X$  together with the binary operations “ $-$ ” and “ $\cdot$ ” is said to be a subtraction semigroup if it satisfies the following:

- (SS1)  $(X; -)$  is a subtraction algebra.
- (SS2)  $(X; \cdot)$  is a semigroup.
- (SS3)  $x(y - z) = xy - xz$  and  $(x - y)z = xz - yz$ ,for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

**Example 2.4:** [2] Let  $X = \{0, a, b, 1\}$  in which “ $-$ ” and “ $\cdot$ ” are defined by

-	0	a	b	1	.	0	a	b	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	a	0	a	0	a	0	a	0	a
b	b	b	0	0	b	0	0	b	b
1	1	b	a	0	1	0	a	b	1

Then  $(X, -, \cdot)$  is a subtraction semigroup.

Now we have the following definition of near-subtraction semigroup.

**Definition 2.5:** A non-empty set  $X$  together with the binary operations “ $-$ ” and “ $\cdot$ ” is said to be a near-subtraction semigroup if it satisfies the following:

- (NS1)  $(X; -)$  is a subtraction algebra.
- (NS2)  $(X; \cdot)$  is a semigroup.
- (NS3)  $(x - y)z = xz - yz$ ,for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

It is clear that  $0x = 0$ ,for all  $x \in X$ .Similarly we can define a near-subtraction semigroup (left).Hereafter a near-subtraction semigroup means it is a near-subtraction semigroup(right) only.

**Example 2.6:** [2] Let  $X = \{0, a, b, 1\}$  in which “ $-$ ” and “ $\cdot$ ” are defined by

-	0	a	b	1	.	0	a	b	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	a	0	1	b	a	a	a	a	a
b	b	0	0	b	b	a	0	1	b
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	a	b	1

Then  $(X, -, \cdot)$  is a near-subtraction semigroup.

**Definition 2.7:** A near-subtraction semigroup  $X$  is said to be zero-symmetric if  $x0 = 0$  for every  $x \in X$ .

**Definition 2.8:** A near-subtraction semigroup  $X$  is said to have an identity if there exists an element  $1 \in X$  such that  $1.x = x.1 = x$ , for every  $x \in X$ .

**Definition 2.9:** A non-empty subset  $S$  of a subtraction algebra  $X$  is said to be a subalgebra of  $X$ , if  $x - y \in S$ , whenever  $x, y \in S$ .

**Definition 2.10:** Let  $(X, -, \cdot)$  be a near-subtraction semigroup. A non-empty subset  $I$  of  $X$  is called

(I1) a left ideal if  $I$  is a subalgebra of  $(X, -)$  and  $xi - x(y - i) \in I$  for all  $x, y \in X$  and  $i \in I$ .

(I2) a right ideal if  $I$  is a subalgebra of  $(X, -)$  and  $IX \subseteq I$ .

(I3) an ideal if  $I$  is both a left and right ideal.  $IX \subseteq I$ .

**Remark 2.11:** (i) Suppose if  $X$  is a subtraction semigroup and  $I$  is a left ideal of  $X$ , then for  $i \in X$  and  $x, y \in X$ , we have  $xi - x(y - i) = xi - (xy - xi) = xi \in I$  by Property 1 of subtraction algebra. Thus we have  $XI \subseteq I$ .

(ii) If  $X$  is a zero symmetric near-subtraction semigroup, then for  $i \in I$  and  $x \in X$ , we have  $xi - x(0 - i) = xi - 0 = xi \in X$ .

For the sake of completeness, now we study some concepts of fuzzy theory.

A mapping  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called fuzzy set of  $X$  and the complement of a fuzzy set  $\mu$ , denoted by  $\mu'$  is the fuzzy set in  $X$  given by  $\mu'(x) = 1 - \mu(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . The level set of a fuzzy set  $\mu$  of  $X$  is defined as  $U(\mu; t) = \{x \in X | \mu(x) \geq t\}$ , for all  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ .

### III. FUZZY IDEALS

In what follows, let  $X$  denote a near-subtraction semigroup, unless otherwise specified.

**Definition 3.1:** A fuzzy set  $\mu$  in  $X$  is called a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  if it satisfies the following conditions:

(FI1)  $\mu(x - y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$  for all  $x, y \in X$ ,

(FI2)  $\mu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq \mu(x)$  for all  $a, b, x \in X$  and

(FI3)  $\mu(xy) \geq \mu(x)$ , for all  $x, y \in X$ .

Note that  $\mu$  is a fuzzy left ideal of  $X$  if it satisfies (FI1) and (FI2), and  $\mu$  is a fuzzy right ideal of  $X$  if it satisfies (FI1) and (FI3).

**Example 3.2:** Let  $X = \{0, a, b, 1\}$  in which “-” and “.” are defined by

-	0	a	b	.	0	a	b
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
a	a	0	a	a	0	a	0
b	b	b	0	b	a	0	b

Then  $(X, -, \cdot)$  is a near-subtraction semigroup. Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy set on  $X$  defined by  $\mu(0) = 0.8, \mu(a) = 0.5$  and  $\mu(b) = 0.3$ . Then by routine calculation, it is easy to prove that  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

**Theorem 3.3:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy left (resp. right) of  $X$ . Then the set

$$X_\mu = \{x \in X | \mu(x) = \mu(0)\}$$

is a left (resp. right) ideal of  $X$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $\mu$  is a fuzzy left ideal of  $X$  and let  $x, y \in X_\mu$ . Then

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\} = \mu(0).$$

Thus  $x - y \in X_\mu$ .

For every  $a, b \in X$  and  $x \in X_\mu$ , we have

$$\mu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq \mu(x) = \mu(0).$$

Thus  $ax - a(b - x) \in X_\mu$ . Hence,  $X_\mu$  is a left ideal of  $X$ . Similarly, we have the desired result for the right case. ■

**Theorem 3.4:** Let  $A$  be a non-empty subset of  $X$  and  $\mu_A$  be a fuzzy set in  $X$  defined by

$$\mu_A(x) = \begin{cases} s, & \text{if } x \in A, \\ t, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $s, t \in [0, 1]$  with  $s > t$ . Then  $\mu_A$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  if and only if  $A$  is an ideal of  $X$ . Moreover  $X_{\mu_A} = A$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $\mu_A$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . Let  $x, y \in A$ . Then

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\} = s.$$

Thus,  $x - y \in A$ .

For every  $a, b \in X$  and  $x \in A$ , we have

$$\mu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq \mu(x) = s.$$

Thus  $ax - a(b - x) \in A$ .

For all  $x, y \in A$ . Then

$$\mu(xy) \geq \mu(x) = s.$$

Thus,  $xy \in A$ . Hence,  $\mu_A$  is an ideal of  $X$ .

Conversely, assume that  $A$  is an ideal of  $X$ . Let  $x, y \in X$ . If at least one of  $x$  and  $y$  does not belong to  $A$ , then

$$\mu_A(x - y) \geq t = \min\{\mu_A(x), \mu_A(y)\}.$$

If  $x, y \in A$  then  $x - y \in A$ , we have

$$\mu_A(x - y) \geq s = \min\{\mu_A(x), \mu_A(y)\}.$$

Let  $a, b, x \in X$  and if  $x \in A$  such that  $ax - a(b - x) \in A$ , we have

$$\mu_A(ax - a(b - x)) \geq s = \mu_A(x).$$

If  $x \notin A$  such that  $ax - a(b - x) \notin A$ , we have

$$\mu_A(ax - a(b - x)) \geq t = \mu_A(x).$$

For all  $x, y \in A$  then  $xy \in A$ , we have

$$\mu_A(xy) \geq s = \mu(x).$$

Suppose  $x \notin A$  we have

$$\mu_A(xy) \geq t = \mu(x).$$

Hence  $\mu_A$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . Moreover

$$\begin{aligned} X_{\mu_A} &= \{x \in X | \mu_A(x) = \mu_A(0)\} \\ &= \{x \in X | \mu_A(x) = s\} \\ &= \{x \in X | x \in A\} \\ &= A. \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 3.5:** Let  $\chi_A$  be the characteristic function of a subset  $A \subseteq X$ . Then  $\chi_A$  is a fuzzy left (resp. right) ideal if and

only if  $A$  is a left(*resp.* right) ideal.

**Theorem 3.6:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset of  $X$ . Then  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  if and only if each non-empty level subset  $U(\mu; t)$  of  $\mu$  is an ideal of  $X$ .

*Proof:* Assume that  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  and  $U(\mu; t)$  is a non-empty level subset of  $X$ .

(i) Since  $U(\mu; t)$  is a non-empty level subset of  $\mu$ , there exists  $x, y \in U(\mu; t)$ ,  $\mu(x-y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\} = t$ . Thus  $x-y \in U(\mu; t)$ .

(ii) Let  $a, b, x \in U(\mu; t)$ , we have  $\mu(ax - a(b-x)) \geq \mu(x) \geq t$ . Thus  $ax - a(b-x) \in U(\mu; t)$ .

(iii) Let  $x, y \in U(\mu; t)$ , such that  $\mu(xy) \geq \mu(x) \geq t$ . Thus  $xy \in U(\mu; t)$ . Hence,  $L(\mu; t)$  is an ideal of  $R$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $U(\mu; t)$  is an ideal of  $X$ .

(i) Let if possible,  $\mu(x_0 - y_0) < \min\{\mu(x_0), \mu(y_0)\}$ , for some  $x_0, y_0 \in U(\mu; t)$ , then by taking

$$t_0 = \frac{1}{2} \{ \mu(x_0 - y_0) + \min\{\mu(x_0), \mu(y_0)\} \},$$

we have  $\mu(x_0 - y_0) > t_0$ , for  $\mu(x_0) \geq t_0, \mu(y_0) \geq t_0$ . Thus  $x_0 - y_0 \notin U(\mu; t)$ , for some  $x_0, y_0 \in U(\mu; t)$ . This is a contradiction, and so  $\mu(x-y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$ , for all  $x, y \in U(\mu; t)$ .

(ii) Let if possible, for some  $x_0 \in U(\mu; t)$   $\mu(ax - (a(b-x))) < \mu(x_0)$ , for all  $a, b \in X$  and, then by taking

$$t_0 = \frac{1}{2} \{ \mu(ax_0 - a(b-x_0)) + \mu(x_0) \},$$

we have  $\mu(ax_0 - a(b-x_0)) > t_0$ , for  $\mu(x_0) \geq t_0, \mu(y_0) \geq t_0$ . Thus  $ax_0 - a(b-x_0) \notin U(\mu; t)$ , for some  $x_0 \in U(\mu; t)$  and for all  $a, b \in X$ . This is a contradiction, and so  $\mu(ax - a(b-x)) \geq \mu(x)$ , for all  $x \in U(\mu; t)$  and  $a, b \in X$ .

(iii) Let if possible,  $\mu(x_0 y_0) < \mu(x_0)$ , for some  $x_0, y_0 \in U(\mu; t)$ , then by taking

$$t_0 = \frac{1}{2} \{ \mu(x_0 y_0) + \mu(x_0) \},$$

we have  $\mu(x_0 y_0) > t_0$ , for  $\mu(x_0) \geq t_0, \mu(y_0) \geq t_0$ . Thus  $x_0 y_0 \notin U(\mu; t)$ , for some  $x_0, y_0 \in U(\mu; t)$ . This is a contradiction, and so  $\mu(xy) \geq \mu(x)$ , for all  $x, y \in U(\mu; t)$ . Hence  $U(\mu; t)$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . ■

**Definition 3.7:** Let  $X$  be a near-subtraction semigroup and a family of fuzzy sets  $\{\mu_i | i \in I\}$  in  $X$ . Then the intersection

$\left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)$  of  $\{\mu_i | i \in I\}$  is defined by

$$\left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(x) = \inf \{ \mu_i(x) | i \in I \}$$

**Theorem 3.8:** If  $\{\mu_i | i \in I\}$  is a family of fuzzy ideal of  $X$ , then  $\left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(x)$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

*Proof:* Let  $\{\mu_i | i \in I\}$  be a family of fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

(i) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(x-y) &= \inf \{ \mu_i(x-y) | i \in I \} \\ &\geq \inf \{ \min(\mu_i(x), \mu_i(y)) | i \in I \} \\ &= \min \{ \inf(\mu_i(x) | i \in I), \inf(\mu_i(y) | i \in I) \} \\ &= \min \left\{ \left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(x), \left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(y) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

(i) For all  $a, b, x \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(ax - a(b-x)) &= \inf \{ \mu_i(ax - a(b-x)) | i \in I \} \\ &\geq \inf \{ \mu_i(x) | i \in I \} \\ &= \{ \inf(\mu_i(x) | i \in I) \} \\ &= \left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(x). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(xy) &= \inf \{ \mu_i(xy) | i \in I \} \\ &\geq \inf \{ \min(\mu_i(x)) | i \in I \} \\ &= \left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)(x) \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\left(\bigwedge_{i \in I} \mu_i\right)$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . ■

**Definition 3.9:** Let  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  be a mapping, where  $X$  and  $X'$  are non-empty sets and  $\mu$  is a fuzzy subset of  $X$ . The preimage of  $\mu$  under  $f$  written  $\mu^f$ , is a fuzzy subset of  $X$  defined by  $\mu^f = \mu(f(x))$ , for all  $x \in X$ .

**Theorem 3.10:** Let  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  be a homomorphism of near-subtraction semigroups. If  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X'$ , then  $\mu^f$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

*Proof:* Suppose  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X'$ , then

(i) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^f(x-y) &= \mu(f(x-y)) = \mu(f(x) - f(y)) \\ &\geq \min \{ \mu(f(x)), \mu(f(y)) \} \\ &= \min \{ \mu^f(x), \mu^f(y) \}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) For all  $a, b, x \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^f(ax - a(b-x)) &= \mu(f(ax - a(b-x))) \\ &= \mu(f(ax) - f(a(b-x))) \\ &= \mu(f(a)f(x) - f(a)(f(b) - f(x))) \\ &\geq \mu(f(x)) \\ &= \mu^f(x). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^f(xy) &= \mu(f(xy)) \\ &= \mu(f(x)f(y)) \\ &\geq \mu(f(y)) \\ &= \mu^f(y). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mu^f$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

**Theorem 3.11:** Let  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  be a homomorphism of near-subtraction semigroup. If  $\mu^f$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ , then  $\mu$  is fuzzy ideal of  $X'$ .

*Proof:* Suppose  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X'$ , then

(i) Let  $x', y' \in X'$ , there exists  $x, y \in X$  such that  $f(x) = x'$  and  $f(y) = y'$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(x' - y') &= \mu(f(x) - f(y)) \\ &= \mu(f(x - y)) \\ &= \mu^f(x - y) \\ &\geq \min\{\mu^f(x), \mu^f(y)\} \\ &= \min\{\mu(f(x)), \mu(f(y))\} \\ &= \min\{\mu(x'), \mu(y')\}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Let  $a', b', x' \in X'$ , there exists  $a, b, x \in X$  such that  $f(a) = a'$ ,  $f(b) = b'$  and  $f(x) = x'$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(a'x' - b'(a' - x')) &= \mu(f(a)f(x) - f(b)(f(a) - f(x))) \\ &= \mu(f(ax) - f(b)f(a - x)) \\ &= \mu(f(ax) - f(b(a - x))) \\ &= \mu(f(ax - b(a - x))) \\ &= \mu^f(ax - b(a - x)) \\ &\geq \mu^f(x) \\ &= \mu(f(x)) \\ &= \mu(x'). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Let  $x', y' \in X'$ , there exists  $x, y \in X$  such that  $f(x) = x'$  and  $f(y) = y'$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(x'y') &= \mu(f(x)f(y)) = \mu(f(xy)) \\ &= \mu^f(xy) \\ &\geq \mu^f(x) \\ &= \mu(f(x)) \\ &= \mu(x'). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X'$ . ■

**Definition 3.12:** Let  $f$  be a mapping defined on  $X$ . If  $\nu$  is a fuzzy subset in  $f(X)$ , then the fuzzy subset  $\mu = \nu \circ f$  in  $X$  (i.e., the fuzzy subset defined by  $\mu(x) = \nu(f(x))$  for all  $x \in X$ ) is called the *preimage* of  $\nu$  under  $f$ .

**Proposition 3.13:** An onto homomorphic preimage of a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  is a fuzzy ideal.

*Proof:* Straight forward. ■

Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset in  $X$  and  $f$  be a mapping defined on  $X$ . Then the fuzzy subset  $\mu^f$  in  $f(X)$  defined by  $\mu^f(y) = \sup_{x \in f^{-1}(y)} \mu(x)$  for all  $y \in f(X)$  is called the *image*

of  $\mu$  under  $f$ . A fuzzy subset  $\mu$  in  $X$  is said to have an *sup property* if for every subset  $N \subseteq X$ , there exists  $n_0 \in N$  such that  $\mu(n_0) = \sup_{n \in N} \mu(n)$ .

**Proposition 3.14:** An onto homomorphic image of a fuzzy ideal with sup property is fuzzy ideal.

*Proof:* Let  $f : X \rightarrow X'$  be an onto homomorphism of near-subtraction semigroup and let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  with the sup property.

(i) Given  $x', y' \in X'$ , we let  $x_0 \in f^{-1}(x')$  and  $y_0 \in f^{-1}(y')$  be such that

$$\mu(x_0) = \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(x')} \mu(n), \quad \mu(y_0) = \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(y')} \mu(n)$$

respectively. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^f(x' - y') &= \sup_{z \in f^{-1}(x' - y')} \mu(z) \\ &\geq \min\{\mu(x_0), \mu(y_0)\} \\ &= \min\left\{ \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(x')} \mu(n), \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(y')} \mu(n) \right\} \\ &= \min\{\mu^f(x'), \mu^f(y')\} \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Given  $a', b', x' \in X'$ , we let  $a_0 \in f^{-1}(a')$ ,  $b_0 \in f^{-1}(b')$ ,  $x_0 \in f^{-1}(x')$  be such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^f(a'x' - a'(b' - x')) &= \sup_{z \in f^{-1}(a'x' - a'(b' - x'))} \mu(z) \\ &\geq \mu(x_0) \\ &= \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(x')} \mu(n) \\ &= \mu^f(x'). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Given  $x', y' \in X'$ , we let  $x_0 \in f^{-1}(x')$  and  $y_0 \in f^{-1}(y')$  be such that

$$\mu(x_0) = \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(x')} \mu(n), \quad \mu(y_0) = \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(y')} \mu(n)$$

respectively. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^f(x'y') &= \sup_{z \in f^{-1}(x'y')} \mu(z) \\ &\geq \mu(x_0) \\ &= \sup_{n \in f^{-1}(x')} \mu(n) \\ &= \mu^f(x') \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\mu^f$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X'$ . ■

#### IV. CHAIN CONDITIONS

**Proposition 4.1:** Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be a fuzzy subset of  $X$ . If they are fuzzy ideal of  $X$ , then so  $\mu \cap \nu$ , where  $\mu \cap \nu$  is defined by

$(\mu \cap \nu)(x) = \min\{\mu(x), \nu(x)\}$  for all  $x, \in X$ .

*Proof:* (i) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\mu \cap \nu)(x - y) &= \min\{\mu(x - y), \nu(x - y)\} \\ &\geq \min\{\min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}, \\ &\quad \min\{\nu(x), \nu(y)\}\} \\ &= \min\{(\mu \cap \nu)(x), (\mu \cap \nu)(y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &(\mu \cap \nu)(ax - a(b - x)) \\ &= \min\{\mu(ax - a(b - x)), \nu(ax - a(b - x))\} \\ &\geq \min\{\mu(x), \nu(x)\} \\ &= (\mu \cap \nu)(x). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\mu \cap \nu)(xy) &= \min\{\mu(xy), \nu(xy)\} \\ &\geq \min\{\mu(y), \nu(y)\} \\ &= (\mu \cap \nu)(y). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\mu \cap \nu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

**Theorem 4.2:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset in  $X$  and  $Im(\mu) = \{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}$ , where  $\alpha_i < \alpha_j$  whenever  $i > j$ . Let  $\{A_n | n = 0, 1, \dots, k\}$  be a family of ideals of  $X$  such that

(i)  $A_0 \subseteq A_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq A_k = X$ ,  
 (ii)  $\mu(A_n^*) = \alpha_n$ , where  $A_n^* = A_n \setminus A_{n-1}$ ,  $A_{-1} = \phi$  for all  $n = 0, 1, \dots, k$ .  
 Then  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

*Proof:* Suppose  $\{A_n | n = 0, 1, \dots, k\}$  be a family of ideals of  $X$ .  
 (i) For all  $x, y \in X$ , Then we discuss the following cases: If  $x \in A_n$  and  $y \in A_n$  such that  $x - y \in A_n$ , since  $A_n$  is an ideal of  $X$ . thus

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \alpha_n = \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}.$$

If  $x \notin A_n^*$  and  $y \notin A_n^*$ , then the following four cases arise:

- 1)  $x \in X \setminus A_n$  and  $y \in X \setminus A_n$
- 2)  $x \in A_{n-1}$  and  $y \in A_{n-1}$
- 3)  $x \in X \setminus A_n$  and  $y \in A_{n-1}$
- 4)  $x \in A_{n-1}$  and  $y \in R \setminus A_n$

But, in either cases, we know that

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}.$$

If  $x \in X \setminus A_n^*$  and  $y \notin A_n^*$  then either  $y \in A_{n-1}$  or  $y \in X \setminus A_n$ . It follows that either  $x \in A_n$  or  $x \in X \setminus A_n$ . Thus

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}.$$

If  $x \notin X \setminus A_n^*$  and  $y \in A_n^*$  then by similar process we have

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}.$$

(ii) If  $a, b \in X$  and  $x \in A_n$  then  $ax - a(b - x) \in A_n$ . Then

$$\mu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq \min\{\mu(a), \mu(b)\}.$$

If  $a, b \in X$  and  $x \notin A_n$  then, we have

$$\mu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq \alpha_n = \mu(x).$$

(iii) Similarly, for  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\mu(xy) \geq \mu(y).$$

Hence  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . ■

**Theorem 4.3:** Let  $\{A_n | n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  be a family of ideals of  $X$  which is nested, that is,  $X = A_1 \supseteq A_2 \supseteq \dots$ . Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset in  $X$  defined by

$$\mu(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{n}{n+1} & \text{if } x \in A_n \setminus A_{n+1}, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n. \end{cases}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Then  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

*Proof:* Let  $x, y \in X$ .

(i) Suppose that  $x \in A_k \setminus A_{k+1}$  and  $y \in A_r \setminus A_{r+1}$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots; r = 1, 2, \dots$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $k \leq r$ . Then  $x - y \in A_k$  and so

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \frac{k}{k+1} = \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$$

If  $x, y \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  then  $x - y \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  and thus

$$\mu(x - y) = 1 = \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$$

■ If  $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  and  $y \notin \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ , then there exists  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $y \in A_i \setminus A_{i+1}$ . It follows that  $x - y \in A_i$  so that

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \frac{i}{i+1} = \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$$

Similarly, we can prove that

$$\mu(x - y) \geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$$

for all  $x \notin \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  then  $y \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ .

(ii) Now, let  $a, b \in X$ . If  $x \in A_r \setminus A_{r+1}$  for some  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , then  $ax - a(b - x) \in A_k$ . Thus

$$\mu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq \frac{k}{k+1} = \mu(x)$$

If  $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  then  $ax - a(b - x) \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  for all  $a, b \in X$ . Thus

$$\mu(ax - a(b - x)) = 1 = \mu(x).$$

Assume that  $a \in A_r \setminus A_{r+1}$  for some  $r = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , and  $b \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  (or,  $a \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  and  $b \in A_r \setminus A_{r+1}$  for some  $r = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ). Then  $x \in A_r$  and so

$$\mu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq \frac{r}{r+1} = \mu(x)$$

(iii) Now, if  $x, y \in A_k \setminus A_{k+1}$  for some  $r = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , then  $y \in A_r$  as  $A_r$  is an ideal of  $X$ . Thus

$$\mu(xy) \geq \frac{r}{r+1} = \mu(y).$$

If  $x, y \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  then  $y \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$  and so

$$\mu(xy) = 1 = \mu(y).$$

Hence,  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . ■

Let  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be a fuzzy subset of  $X$ . The smallest fuzzy ideal containing  $\mu$  is called the fuzzy ideal generated by  $\mu$ , and  $\mu$  is said to be  $n$ -valued if  $\mu(X)$  is a finite set of  $n$  elements. When no specific  $n$  is intended, we call  $\mu$  a finite-valued fuzzy subset.

**Theorem 4.4:** A fuzzy ideal  $\nu$  of  $X$  is finite valued if and only if a finite-valued fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of  $X$  is generated by  $\nu$ .

*Proof:* If  $\nu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a finite-valued fuzzy ideal of  $X$ , then one may choose  $\mu = \nu$ . Consequently, assume that  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a  $n$ -valued fuzzy subset with  $n$  distinct values  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n$ , where  $t_1 > t_2 > \dots > t_n$ . Let  $G^i$  be the inverse image of  $t_i$  under  $\mu$ , that is,  $G^i = \mu^{-1}(t_i)$ . Obviously,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^j G^i \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^r G^i$  when  $j < r$ . We denote by  $A^j$  the ideal of  $X$  generated by the set  $\bigcup_{i=1}^j G^i$ . Then we have the following chain of ideals:

$$A^1 \subseteq A^2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq A^n = X.$$

Define a fuzzy  $\nu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$$\nu(x) = \begin{cases} t_n & \text{if } x \in A^n, \\ t_j & \text{if } x \in A^j \setminus A^{j-1}; j = 1, 2, \dots, n-1. \end{cases}$$

We claim that  $\nu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  and  $\mu$  is generated by  $\nu$ . Let  $x, y \in X$  and let  $i$  and  $j$  be the smallest integer such that  $x \in A^i$  and  $y \in A^j$ . We may assume that  $i > j$  without loss of generality. Then  $x - y \in A^i$  and  $xy \in A^i$  and so

$$\nu(x - y) \geq t_j = \min\{t_i, t_j\} = \min\{\nu(x), \nu(y)\}$$

and

$$\nu(xy) \geq t_j = \nu(y).$$

Now, let  $a, b \in X$ . If  $x \in A^i$  for some  $i < j$ , then  $x \in A^i$  as  $A^i$  is an ideal of  $X$ . Thus

$$\nu(ax - a(b - x)) \geq t_j = \nu(x).$$

Hence,  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

If  $x \in X$  and  $\mu(x) = t_j$ , then  $x \in G^j$  and so  $x \in A^j$ . But we get  $\nu(x) \geq t_j = \mu(x)$ . Consequently,  $\mu \subseteq \nu$ . Let  $\gamma$  be any fuzzy ideal of  $X$  which is a subset of  $\mu$ . Then,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^j G^i \subseteq U(\mu; t_j) \subseteq U(\gamma; t_j)$ , and thus  $A^j \subseteq U(\gamma; t_j)$ . Hence,  $\gamma \subseteq \mu$  and  $\mu$  is generated by  $\nu$ . Note that  $|Im\mu| = n = |Im\nu|$ . This completes the proof. ■

A near-subtraction semigroup  $X$  is said to be *Noetherian* (see [9]) if it satisfies the ascending chain condition on ideals of  $X$ .

**Theorem 4.5:** If  $X$  is a Noetherian near-subtraction semigroup, then every fuzzy ideal of  $X$  is finite valued.

*Proof:* Let  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  which is not finite valued. Then, there exists a sequence of distinct numbers  $\mu(0) = t_1 > t_2 > \dots > t_n$ , where  $t_i = \mu(x_i)$  for some  $x_i \in R$ . This sequence induces an infinite sequence of distinct ideals of  $X$ :

$$U(\mu; t_1) \subset U(\mu; t_2) \subset \dots \subset U(\mu; t_n) \subset \dots$$

This is a contradiction. ■

Combining Theorem 4.4 and Theorem 4.5, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.6:** If  $X$  is a Noetherian near-subtraction semigroup, then every fuzzy ideal of  $X$  is generated by a finite fuzzy subset in  $X$ .

## V. NORMAL FUZZY IDEALS

**Definition 5.1:** A fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $X$  is said to be *normal* if there exists  $a \in X$  such that  $\mu(a) = 1$ .

We note that if  $\mu$  is a normal fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $X$  is normal if and only if  $\mu(1) = 1$ . Let  $\mathbb{F}_N(X)$  denote the set of all normal fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

**Theorem 5.2:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  and let  $\mu^+$  be a fuzzy set in  $X$  given by  $\mu^+(x) = \mu(x) + 1 - \mu(1)$ , for all  $x \in X$ . Then  $\mu^+ \in \mathbb{F}_N(X)$  and  $\mu \subseteq \mu^+$ .

*Proof:* For any  $x, y, z \in X$  we have  $\mu^+(1) = \mu(1) + 1 - \mu(1) = 1 \geq \mu^+(x)$  and

(i) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^+(x - y) &= \mu(x - y) + 1 - \mu(1) \\ &\geq \min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\} + 1 - \mu(1) \\ &= \min\{\mu(x) + 1 - \mu(1), \mu(y) + 1 - \mu(1)\} \\ &= \min\{\mu^+(x), \mu^+(y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) For all  $x, a, b \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^+(ax - a(b - x)) &= \mu(ax - a(b - x)) + 1 - \mu(1) \\ &\geq \mu(x) + 1 - \mu(1) \\ &= \mu^+(x). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^+(xy) &= \mu(xy) + 1 - \mu(1) \\ &\geq \mu(y) + 1 - \mu(1) \\ &= \mu^+(y). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mu^+ \in \mathbb{F}_N(X)$ . Obviously,  $\mu \subseteq \mu^+$ . ■

**Corollary 5.3:** If  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  satisfying  $\mu^+(a) = 0$  for some  $a \in X$ , then  $\mu(a) = 0$ .

It is clear that fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $X$  is normal if and only if  $\mu^+ = \mu$ , and for any fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $X$  we have  $(\mu^+)^+ = \mu^+$ . Hence if  $\mu$  is a normal fuzzy ideal of  $X$ , then  $(\mu^+)^+ = \mu$ .

**Theorem 5.4:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  and let  $\phi : [0, \mu(0)] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be an increasing function. Let  $\mu_\phi$  be a fuzzy set in  $X$  defined by  $\mu_\phi(x) = \phi(\mu(x))$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then  $\mu_\phi$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . Moreover, if  $\phi(\mu(0)) = 1$  then  $\mu_\phi \in \mathbb{F}_N(X)$ , and if  $\phi(t) \geq t$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]$  then  $\mu \subseteq \mu_\phi$ .

*Proof:* (i) Let  $x, y \in X$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_\phi(x - y) &= \phi(\mu(x - y)) \\ &\geq \phi(\min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}) \\ &= \min\{\phi(\mu(x)), \phi(\mu(y))\} \\ &= \min\{\mu_\phi(x), \mu_\phi(y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Let  $a, b, x \in X$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_\phi(ax - a(b - x)) &= \phi(\mu(ax - a(b - x))) \\ &\geq \phi(\mu(x)) \\ &= \mu_\phi(x). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) Let  $x, y \in X$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_\phi(xy) &= \phi(\mu(xy)) \\ &\geq \phi(\mu(y)) \\ &= \mu_\phi(y). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mu_\phi$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . If  $\phi(\mu(0)) = 1$  then obviously  $\mu_\phi$  is normal, and so  $\mu_\phi \in \mathbb{F}_N(X)$ . Assume that  $\phi(t) \geq t$  for all  $t \in [0, \mu(0)]$ . Then  $\mu_\phi(x) = \phi(\mu(x)) \geq \mu(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ , which proves that  $\mu \subseteq \mu_\phi$ . ■

**Theorem 5.5:** Let  $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_N(X)$  be a non-constant maximal element of the poset  $(\mathbb{F}_N(X), \subseteq)$ . Then  $\mu$  takes only the values 0 and 1.

*Proof:* Since  $\mu$  is normal, we have  $\mu(0) = 1$ . Let  $\mu(x) \neq 1$  for some  $x \in X$ . We claim that  $\mu(x) = 0$ . If not, then there exists  $x_0 \in X$  such that  $0 < \mu(x_0) < 1$ . Define on  $X$  a fuzzy set  $\nu$  putting  $\nu(x) = \frac{\mu(x) + \mu(x_0)}{2}$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then, clearly  $\nu$  is well-defined.

(i) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(x - y) &= \frac{\mu(x - y) + \mu(x_0)}{2} \\ &\geq \frac{\min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\} + \mu(x_0)}{2} \\ &= \frac{\min\{\mu(x) + \mu(x_0), \mu(y) + \mu(x_0)\}}{2} \\ &= \min\left\{\frac{\mu(x) + \mu(x_0)}{2}, \frac{\mu(y) + \mu(x_0)}{2}\right\} \\ &= \min\{\nu(x), \nu(y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) For all  $a, b, x \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(ax - a(b - x)) &= \frac{\mu(ax - a(b - x)) + \mu(x_0)}{2} \\ &\geq \frac{\mu(x) + \mu(x_0)}{2} \\ &= \nu(x). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) For all  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(xy) &= \frac{\mu(xy) + \mu(x_0)}{2} \\ &\geq \frac{\mu(y) + \mu(x_0)}{2} \\ &= \nu(y). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\nu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . By Theorem 5.2,  $\nu^+$  is a maximal fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \nu^+(x_0) &= \nu(x_0) + 1 - \nu(0) \\ &= \frac{\mu(x_0) + \mu(x_0)}{2} + 1 - \frac{\mu(0) + \mu(x_0)}{2} \\ &= \frac{\mu(x_0) + 1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

and  $\nu^+(x_0) < 1 = \frac{\mu(0) + 1}{2} = \nu^+(0)$ . Hence  $\nu^+$  is non-constant, and  $\mu$  is not a maximal element of  $\mathbb{F}_N(X)$ . This is a contradiction. ■

**Definition 5.6:** A fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $X$  is said to be *maximal* if it satisfies:

- (M1)  $\mu$  is non-constant, and
- (M2)  $\mu^+$  is a maximal element of  $(\mathbb{F}_N(X), \subseteq)$ .

**Theorem 5.7:** If a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  is maximal, then

- (i)  $\mu$  is normal,
- (ii)  $\mu$  takes only the values 0 and 1,
- (iii)  $\chi_{\mu^0} = \mu$ , where  $\mu^0 = \{x \in X \mid \mu(0) = 1\}$ ,
- (iv)  $\mu^0$  is a maximal ideal of  $X$ .

*Proof:* Let  $\mu$  be a maximal fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . Then  $\mu^+$  is a non-constant maximal element of the poset  $(\mathbb{F}_N(X), \subseteq)$ . It follows from the Theorem 5.5 that  $\mu^+$  takes only two values 0 and 1. Note that  $\mu^+(x) = 1$  if and only if  $\mu(x) = \mu(0)$ , and  $\mu^+(0) = 0$  if and only if  $\mu(x) = \mu(0) - 1$ . By corollary 5.3, we have  $\mu(x) = 0$  and so  $\mu(0) = 1$ . Hence  $\mu$  is normal and  $\mu^+ = \mu$ . This proves (i) and (ii).

(iii) Obvious.

(iv) It is clear that  $\mu^0$  is a proper ideal of  $X$ . Obviously  $\mu^0 \neq X$  because  $\mu$  takes two values. Let  $A$  be an ideal containing  $\mu^0$ . Then  $\mu_{\mu^0} \subseteq \mu_A$ , and consequence,  $\mu = \mu_{\mu^0} \subseteq \mu_A$ . Since  $\mu$  is normal,  $\mu_A$  also is normal and takes only two values 0 and 1. But, by the assumption,  $\mu$  is maximal, so  $\mu = \mu_A$  or  $\mu = \phi$ , where  $\phi(x) = 1$  for all  $x \in X$ . In the last case  $\mu^0 = X$ , which is impossible. So,  $\mu = \mu_A$  i.e.  $\mu_A = \chi_A$ . Hence  $\mu^0 = A$ . ■

**Definition 5.8:** A fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $X$  is said to be *complete* if it is normal and there exists  $z \in X$  such that  $\mu(z) = 0$ .

**Theorem 5.9:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $X$  and let  $w$  be a fixed element of  $X$  such that  $\mu(1) = \mu(w)$ . Define a fuzzy set  $\mu^*$  in  $X$  by  $\mu^*(x) = \frac{\mu(x) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)}$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then  $\mu^*$  is a complete fuzzy ideal of  $X$ .

*Proof:* (i) For any  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^*(x - y) &= \frac{\mu(x - y) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)} \\ &\geq \frac{\min\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\} - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)} \\ &= \min\left\{\frac{\mu(x) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)}, \frac{\mu(y) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)}\right\} \\ &= \min\{\mu^*(x), \mu^*(y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) For any  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^*(ax - a(b - x)) &= \frac{\mu(ax - a(b - x)) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)} \\ &\geq \frac{\mu(x) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)} \\ &= \mu^*(x). \end{aligned}$$

(iii) For any  $x, y \in X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu^*(xy) &= \frac{\mu(xy) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)} \\ &\geq \frac{\mu(y) - \mu(w)}{\mu(1) - \mu(w)} \\ &= \mu^*(y). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\mu^* \in \mathbb{F}_N(S)$ . Since  $\mu^*(w) = 0$ , thus  $\mu^*$  is a complete fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . ■

*Theorem 5.10:* Every maximal fuzzy ideal of  $X$  is completely normal.

*Proof:* Let  $\mu$  be a maximal fuzzy ideal of  $X$ . Then by Theorem 5.7,  $\mu$  is a normal and  $\mu = \mu^+$  takes only two values 0 and 1. Since  $\mu$  is non-constant, it follows that  $\mu(0) = 1$  and  $\mu(x) = 0$  for some  $x \in X$ . Hence  $\mu$  is completely normal. ■

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