

# Fuzzy Ideal Extensions of $\Gamma$ -Semigroups

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## Abstract

In this paper the concept of the extensions of fuzzy ideals in a semigroup has been extended to a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. Among other results characterization of prime ideals in a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup in terms of fuzzy ideal extension has been obtained.

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** 20M12, 03F55, 08A72

**Keywords:**  $\Gamma$ -Semigroup, Fuzzy ideal extension, Fuzzy left(right) ideal, Fuzzy semiprime ideal

## 1 Introduction

$\Gamma$ -semigroup was introduced by Sen and Saha[9] as a generalization of semigroup and ternary semigroup. Many results of semigroups could be extended to  $\Gamma$ -semigroups directly and via operator semigroups[2] of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. Many results of semigroups have been studied in terms of fuzzy sets[11]. Kuroki[3,4] is the main contributor to this study. Motivated by Kuroki [3,4], Xie[10], Mustafa et all[5] we have initiated the study of  $\Gamma$ -semigroups in terms of fuzzy

sets. This paper is a continuation of [6],[7],[8]. In this paper, the concept of the extensions of fuzzy ideals in a semigroup, introduced by Xie, has been extended to the general situation of  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. We have investigated some of its properties in terms of fuzzy prime and fuzzy semiprime ideals of  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. Among other results we have obtained characterization of prime ideals in a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup in terms of fuzzy ideal extension.

## 2 Preliminaries

We recall the following definitions and results which will be used in the sequel.

**Definition 2.1** [2] *Let  $S$  and  $\Gamma$  be two non-empty sets.  $S$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup if there exist mappings from  $S \times \Gamma \times S$  to  $S$ , written as  $(a, \alpha, b) \longrightarrow a\alpha b$ , and from  $\Gamma \times S \times \Gamma$  to  $\Gamma$ , written as  $(\alpha, a, \beta) \longrightarrow \alpha a \beta$  satisfying the following associative laws  $(a\alpha b)\beta c = a(\alpha b\beta)c = a\alpha(b\beta c)$  and  $\alpha(a\beta b)\gamma = (\alpha a\beta)b\gamma = \alpha a(\beta b\gamma)$  for all  $a, b, c \in S$  and for all  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .*

**Definition 2.2** [11] *A fuzzy subset of a nonempty set  $X$  is a function  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ .*

**Definition 2.3** [10] *The set of all fuzzy subsets of a set  $X$  with the relation  $f \subseteq g \iff f(x) \leq g(x) \forall x \in X$  is a complete lattice where, for a non-empty family  $\{\mu_i : i \in I\}$  of fuzzy subsets of  $X$ , the  $\inf\{\mu_i : i \in I\}$  and the  $\sup\{\mu_i : i \in I\}$  are the fuzzy subsets of  $X$  defined by:*

$$\begin{aligned} \inf\{\mu_i : i \in I\} : X &\longrightarrow [0, 1], \quad x \longrightarrow \inf\{\mu_i(x) : i \in I\} \\ \sup\{\mu_i : i \in I\} : X &\longrightarrow [0, 1], \quad x \longrightarrow \sup\{\mu_i(x) : i \in I\} \end{aligned}$$

**Definition 2.4** [8] *A non-empty fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called a fuzzy left ideal(right ideal) of  $S$  if  $\mu(x\gamma y) \geq \mu(y)$ (resp.  $\mu(x\gamma y) \geq \mu(x)$ )  $\forall x, y \in S, \forall \gamma \in \Gamma$ .*

**Definition 2.5** [8] *A non-empty fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called a fuzzy ideal of  $S$  if it is both fuzzy left ideal and fuzzy right ideal of  $S$ .*

**Definition 2.6** [6] *A fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called fuzzy prime ideal if  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma y) = \max\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\} \forall x, y \in S$ .*

**Definition 2.7** [7] *A fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called fuzzy semiprime ideal if  $\mu(x) \geq \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma x) \forall x \in S$ .*

**Definition 2.8** [2] *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. Then an ideal  $I$  of  $S$  is said to be (i) prime if for ideals  $A, B$  of  $S$ ,  $A\Gamma B \subseteq I$  implies that  $A \subseteq I$  or  $B \subseteq I$ . (ii) semiprime if for an ideal  $A$  of  $S$ ,  $A\Gamma A \subseteq I$  implies that  $A \subseteq I$ .*

**Proposition 2.9** [6, 7] *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $\phi \neq I \subseteq S$ . Then  $I$  is an ideal (prime ideal, semiprime ideal) of  $S$  iff  $\mu_I$  is a fuzzy ideal (resp. fuzzy prime ideal, fuzzy semiprime ideal) of  $S$ , where  $\mu_I$  is the characteristic function of  $I$ .*

**Theorem 2.10** [6, 7] *Let  $I$  be an ideal of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $I$  is prime (semiprime).
- (ii) for  $x, y \in S, x\Gamma y \subseteq I \Rightarrow x \in I$  or  $y \in I$  (resp.  $x\Gamma x \subseteq I \Rightarrow x \in I$ ).
- (ii) for  $x, y \in S, x\Gamma S\Gamma y \subseteq I \Rightarrow x \in I$  or  $y \in I$  (resp.  $x\Gamma S\Gamma x \subseteq I \Rightarrow x \in I$ ).

### 3 Fuzzy Ideal Extensions

**Definition 3.1** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset of  $S$  and  $x \in S$ , then the fuzzy subset  $\langle x, \mu \rangle: S \rightarrow [0, 1]$  defined by  $\langle x, \mu \rangle(y) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma y)$  is called the extension of  $\mu$  by  $x$ .*

**Example (a):** Let  $S$  be the set of all non-positive integers and  $\Gamma$  be the set of all non-positive even integers. Then  $S$  is a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup where  $a\gamma b$  and  $\alpha a\beta$  denote the usual multiplication of integers  $a, \gamma, b$  and  $\alpha, a, \beta$  respectively with  $a, b \in S$  and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset of  $S$ , defined as follows

$$\mu(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 0.1, & \text{if } x = -1, -2 \\ 0.2, & \text{if } x < -2 \end{cases} .$$

Then the fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of  $S$  is a fuzzy ideal

of  $S$ .

For  $x = 0 \in S, \langle x, \mu \rangle(y) = 1 \forall y \in S$ . For all other  $x \in S, \langle x, \mu \rangle(y) = 0.2 \forall y \in S$ .

Thus  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy ideal extension of  $\mu$  by  $x$ .

**Proposition 3.2** *Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  and  $x \in S$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  and  $p, q \in S, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle(p\beta q) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma p\beta q) \geq \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma p) = \langle x, \mu \rangle(p)$ . Thus  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy right ideal of  $S$ . Hence  $S$  being commutative  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ . ■

**Remark 3.3** *Commutativity of  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is not required to prove that  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy right ideal of  $S$  when  $\mu$  is a fuzzy right ideal of  $S$ .*

**Proposition 3.4** *Let  $S$  be a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $\mu$  be a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$  for all  $x \in S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . Then by Proposition 3.2,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ . Let  $y, z \in S$ . Then  $\inf_{\beta \in \Gamma} \langle x, \mu \rangle (y\beta z) = \inf_{\beta \in \Gamma} \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma y\beta z)$  (cf. Definition 3.1)  $= \inf_{\beta \in \Gamma} \max\{\mu(x), \mu(y\beta z)\}$  (cf. Definition 2.6)  $= \max\{\mu(x), \inf_{\beta \in \Gamma} \mu(y\beta z)\} = \max[\mu(x), \max\{\mu(y), \mu(z)\}] = \max[\max\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}, \max\{\mu(x), \mu(z)\}] = \max\{\inf_{\delta \in \Gamma} \mu(x\delta y), \inf_{\varepsilon \in \Gamma} \mu(x\varepsilon z)\} = \max\{\langle x, \mu \rangle (y), \langle x, \mu \rangle (z)\}$ . Hence by Definition 2.6,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . ■

**Definition 3.5** Suppose  $S$  is a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $\mu$  is a fuzzy subset of  $S$ . Then we define  $\text{supp } \mu = \{x \in S : \mu(x) > 0\}$ .

**Proposition 3.6** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $S$  and  $x \in S$ . Then we have the following:

- (1)  $\mu \subseteq \langle x, \mu \rangle$ .
- (2)  $\langle (x\alpha)^n x, \mu \rangle \subseteq \langle (x\alpha)^{n+1} x, \mu \rangle \forall \alpha \in \Gamma, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- (3) If  $\mu(x) > 0$  then  $\text{supp } \langle x, \mu \rangle = S$ .

**Proof.** (1) Let  $y \in S$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle (y) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma y) \geq \mu(y)$  (since  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ ). Hence  $\mu \subseteq \langle x, \mu \rangle$ .

(2)  $\langle (x\alpha)^{n+1} x, \mu \rangle (y) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu((x\alpha)^{n+1} x\gamma y) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\alpha(x\alpha)^n x\gamma y) \geq \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu((x\alpha)^n x\gamma y)$  (since  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ )  $= \langle (x\alpha)^n x, \mu \rangle (y)$ . Hence  $\langle (x\alpha)^n x, \mu \rangle \subseteq \langle (x\alpha)^{n+1} x, \mu \rangle$ .

(3) Since  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy subset of  $S$ , by definition,  $\text{supp } \langle x, \mu \rangle \subseteq S$ . Let  $y \in S$ . Since  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ , we have,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle (y) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma y) \geq \mu(x) > 0$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle (y) > 0$  and so  $y \in \text{supp } \langle x, \mu \rangle$ . ■

**Remark 3.7** If we consider  $(x\alpha)^0 x = x$  then (2) is also true for  $n = 0$ .

**Definition 3.8** Suppose  $S$  is a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $A \subseteq S$  and  $x \in S$ . We define  $\langle x, A \rangle = \{y \in S \mid x\Gamma y \subseteq A\}$ , where  $x\Gamma y := \{x\alpha y : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ .

**Proposition 3.9** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $\phi \neq A \subseteq S$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu_A \rangle = \mu_{\langle x, A \rangle}$  for every  $x \in S$ , where  $\mu_A$  denotes the characteristic function of  $A$ .

**Proof.** Let  $x, y \in S$ . Then two cases may arise viz. Case (i)  $y \in \langle x, A \rangle$ . Case (ii)  $y \notin \langle x, A \rangle$ .

Case (i)  $y \in \langle x, A \rangle$ . Then  $x\Gamma y \subseteq A$ . Hence  $x\gamma y \in A \forall \gamma \in \Gamma$ . This means that  $\mu_A(x\gamma y) = 1 \forall \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Hence  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu_A(x\gamma y) = 1$  whence  $\langle x, \mu_A \rangle (y) = 1$ .

Also  $\mu_{\langle x, A \rangle}(y) = 1$ .

Case (ii)  $y \notin \langle x, A \rangle$ . Then there exists  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  such that  $x\gamma y \notin A$ . So  $\mu_A(x\gamma y) = 0$ . Hence  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu_A(x\gamma y) = 0$ . Thus  $\langle x, \mu_A \rangle (y) = 0$ . Again

$\mu_{\langle x, A \rangle}(y) = 0$ . Thus we conclude  $\langle x, \mu_A \rangle = \mu_{\langle x, A \rangle}$ . ■

**Proposition 3.10** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $\mu$  be a nonempty fuzzy subset of  $S$ . Then for any  $t \in \text{Im}(\mu)$ ,  $\langle x, \mu_t \rangle = \langle x, \mu \rangle_t$  for all  $x \in S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $y \in \langle x, \mu \rangle_t$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle(y) \geq t$ . Hence  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma y) \geq t$ . This gives  $\mu(x\gamma y) \geq t$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  and hence  $x\gamma y \in \mu_t$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Consequently,  $y \in \langle x, \mu_t \rangle$ . It follows that  $\langle x, \mu \rangle_t \subseteq \langle x, \mu_t \rangle$ . Reversing the above argument we can deduce that  $\langle x, \mu_t \rangle \subseteq \langle x, \mu \rangle_t$ . Hence  $\langle x, \mu \rangle_t = \langle x, \mu_t \rangle$ . ■

**Proposition 3.11** *Let  $S$  be a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup i.e.,  $a\alpha b = b\alpha a \forall a, b \in S, \forall \alpha \in \Gamma$  and  $\mu$  be a fuzzy subset of  $S$  such that  $\langle x, \mu \rangle = \mu$  for every  $x \in S$ . Then  $\mu$  is a constant function.*

**Proof.** Let  $x, y \in S$ . Then by hypothesis we have  $\mu(x) = \langle y, \mu \rangle(x) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(y\gamma x) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma y) = \langle x, \mu \rangle(y) = \mu(y)$ . Hence  $\mu$  is a constant function. ■

**Corollary 3.12** *Let  $S$  be a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\mu$  be a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . If  $\mu$  is not constant, then  $\mu$  is not a maximal fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . Then, by Proposition 3.4 for each  $x \in S$ ,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . Now by Proposition 3.6(1),  $\mu \subseteq \langle x, \mu \rangle$  for all  $x \in S$ . If  $\mu = \langle x, \mu \rangle$  for all  $x \in S$  then by Proposition 3.11,  $\mu$  is constant which is not the case by hypothesis. Hence there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $\mu \subsetneq \langle x, \mu \rangle$ . This completes the proof. ■

**Proposition 3.13** *Let  $S$  be a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. If  $\mu$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$ , then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$  for every  $x \in S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$  and  $x, y \in S$ . Then  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \langle x, \mu \rangle(y\gamma y) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \inf_{\delta \in \Gamma} \mu(x\delta y\gamma y) \leq \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \inf_{\delta \in \Gamma} \mu(x\delta y\gamma y\delta x)$  (since  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ ) =  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \inf_{\delta \in \Gamma} \mu(x\delta y\gamma x\delta y)$  (using commutativity of  $S$  and Definition 2.7) =  $\langle x, \mu \rangle(y)$ . Again by Proposition 3.2,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ . Consequently,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$  for all  $x \in S$ . ■

**Corollary 3.14** *Let  $S$  be a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\{\mu_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a non-empty family of fuzzy semiprime ideals of  $S$  and let  $\mu = \inf\{\mu_i : i \in I\}$ . Then for any  $x \in S$ ,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$ .*

**Proof.** Since each  $\mu_i (i \in I)$  is a fuzzy ideal,  $\mu_i(0) \neq 0 \forall i \in I$  (Each  $\mu_i$  is non-empty, so there exists  $x_i \in S$  such that  $\mu_i(x_i) \neq 0 \forall i \in I$ . Also  $\mu_i(0) = \mu_i(0\gamma x_i) \geq \mu_i(x_i) \forall i \in I$ . Hence  $\forall i \in I, \mu_i(0) \neq 0$ ). Consequently,  $\mu(0) \neq 0$ . Thus  $\mu$  is non-empty. Now let  $x, y \in S$ . Then  $\mu(x\gamma y) = \inf\{\mu_i : i \in I\}(x\gamma y) = \inf\{\mu_i(x\gamma y) : i \in I\} \geq \inf\{\mu_i(x) : i \in I\} = \mu(x)$ . Hence  $S$  being a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ .

Now if  $a \in S$  then  $\mu(a) = \inf\{\mu_i : i \in I\}(a) = \inf\{\mu_i(a) : i \in I\} \geq \inf\{\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu_i(a\gamma a) : i \in I\}$  (since each  $\mu_i$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal (cf. Definition 2.7))  $= \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} [\inf\{\mu_i : i \in I\}(a\gamma a)] = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(a\gamma a)$ . This means,  $\mu$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$ . Hence by Proposition 3.13, for any  $x \in S, \langle x, \mu \rangle$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$ . ■

**Remark 3.15** *The proof of the above Corollary shows that in a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup intersection of arbitrary family of fuzzy semiprime ideals is a fuzzy semiprime ideal.*

**Corollary 3.16** *Let  $S$  be a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\{S_i\}_{i \in I}$  a non-empty family of semiprime ideals of  $S$  and  $A := \bigcap_{i \in I} S_i \neq \phi$ . Then  $\langle x, \mu_A \rangle$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$  for all  $x \in S$  where  $\mu_A$  is the characteristic function of  $A$ .*

**Proof.** By supposition  $A \neq \phi$ . Then for any ideal  $P$  of  $S, P\Gamma P \subseteq A$  implies that  $P\Gamma P \subseteq S_i \forall i \in I$ . Since each  $S_i$  is a semiprime ideal of  $S, P \subseteq S_i \forall i \in I$  (cf. Definition 2.8). So  $P \subseteq \bigcap_{i \in I} S_i = A$ . Hence  $A$  is a semiprime ideal of  $S$  (cf. Definition 2.8). So the characteristic function  $\mu_A$  of  $A$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$  (cf. Proposition 2.9). Hence by Proposition 3.13,  $\forall x \in S, \langle x, \mu_A \rangle$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$ . ■

**Alternative Proof:**  $A = \bigcap_{i \in I} S_i \neq \phi$  (by the given condition). Hence  $\mu_A \neq \phi$ . Let  $x \in S$ . Then  $x \in A$  or  $x \notin A$ . If  $x \in A$  then  $\mu_A(x) = 1$  and  $x \in S_i \forall i \in I$ . Hence  $\inf\{\mu_{S_i} : i \in I\}(x) = \inf_{i \in I} \{\mu_{S_i}(x)\} = 1 = \mu_A(x)$ . If  $x \notin A$  then  $\mu_A(x) = 0$  and for some  $i \in I, x \notin S_i$ . It follows that  $\mu_{S_i}(x) = 0$ . Hence  $\inf\{\mu_{S_i} : i \in I\}(x) = \inf_{i \in I} \{\mu_{S_i}(x)\} = 0 = \mu_A(x)$ . Thus we see that  $\mu_A = \inf\{\mu_{S_i} : i \in I\}$ . Again  $\mu_{S_i}$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$  for all  $i \in I$  (cf. Proposition 2.9). Consequently by Corollary 3.14, for all  $x \in S, \langle x, \mu_A \rangle$  is a fuzzy semiprime ideal of  $S$ .

**Theorem 3.17** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. If  $\mu$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$  and  $x \in S$  such that  $\mu(x) = \inf_{y \in S} \mu(y)$ , then  $\langle x, \mu \rangle = \mu$ . Conversely, if  $\mu$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $S$  such that  $\langle y, \mu \rangle = \mu \forall y \in S$  with  $\mu(y)$  not maximal in  $\mu(S)$  then  $\mu$  is prime.*

**Proof.** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$  and  $x \in S$  be such that  $\mu(x) = \inf_{y \in S} \mu(y)$  (it can be noted here that since each  $\mu(y) \in [0, 1]$ , a closed and bounded subset of  $R$ ,  $\inf_{y \in S} \mu(y)$  exists). Let  $z \in S$ . Then  $\mu(x) \leq \mu(z)$ . Hence  $\max\{\mu(x), \mu(z)\} = \mu(z)$ .....(\*). Now  $\langle x, \mu \rangle (z) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma z)$ . Since  $\mu$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ ,  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x\gamma z) = \max\{\mu(x), \mu(z)\} = \mu(z)$  (using (\*)). Hence  $\langle x, \mu \rangle (z) = \mu(z)$ . Consequently,  $\langle x, \mu \rangle = \mu$ .

Conversely, let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $S$  such that  $\langle y, \mu \rangle = \mu \forall y \in S$  with  $\mu(y)$  is not maximal in  $\mu(S)$  and let  $x_1, x_2 \in S$ . Then  $\mu$  being a fuzzy ideal of  $S$ ,  $\mu(x_1\gamma x_2) \geq \mu(x_1)$  and  $\mu(x_1\gamma x_2) \geq \mu(x_2) \forall \gamma \in \Gamma$ . This leads to  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x_1\gamma x_2) \geq \mu(x_1)$ .....(\*\*) and  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x_1\gamma x_2) \geq \mu(x_2)$ .....(\*\*\*)). Now two cases may arise viz. *Case (i)* Either  $\mu(x_1)$  or  $\mu(x_2)$  is maximal in  $\mu(S)$ . *Case (ii)* Neither  $\mu(x_1)$  nor  $\mu(x_2)$  is maximal in  $\mu(S)$ . *Case (i)* Without loss of generality, let  $\mu(x_1)$  be maximal in  $\mu(S)$ . Then  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x_1\gamma x_2) \leq \mu(x_1)$ . Consequently  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x_1\gamma x_2) = \mu(x_1) = \max\{\mu(x_1), \mu(x_2)\}$ . *Case (ii)* By the hypothesis  $\langle x_1, \mu \rangle = \mu$  and  $\langle x_2, \mu \rangle = \mu$ . Hence  $\langle x_1, \mu \rangle (x_2) = \mu(x_2) \Rightarrow \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mu(x_1\gamma x_2) = \mu(x_2) = \max\{\mu(x_1), \mu(x_2)\}$  (using (\*\*)). Thus we conclude that  $\mu$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . ■

To end this paper we get the following characterization theorem of a prime ideal of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup which follows as a corollary to the above theorem.

**Corollary 3.18** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $I$  be an ideal of  $S$ . Then  $I$  is prime iff for  $x \in S$  with  $x \notin I$ ,  $\langle x, \mu_I \rangle = \mu_I$ , where  $\mu_I$  is the characteristic function of  $I$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $I$  be a prime ideal of  $S$ . Then, by Proposition 2.9,  $\mu_I$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . For  $x \in S$  such that  $x \notin I$ , we have  $\mu_I(x) = 0 = \inf_{y \in S} \mu_I(y)$ . Then by Theorem 3.17,  $\langle x, \mu_I \rangle = \mu_I$ .

Conversely, let  $\langle x, \mu_I \rangle = \mu_I$  for all  $x$  in  $S$  with  $x \notin I$ . Let  $y \in S$  be such that  $\mu_I(y)$  is not maximal in  $\mu_I(S)$ . Then  $\mu_I(y) = 0$  and so  $y \notin I$ . So  $\langle y, \mu_I \rangle = \mu_I$ . So by the Theorem 3.17,  $\mu_I$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $S$ . So  $I$  is a prime ideal of  $S$  (cf. Proposition 2.9). ■

**Acknowledgement:** We are thankful to Prof. Xiang-Yun Xie of the Department of Mathematics and Physics, Wuyi University, P.R. China; for his co-operation and encouragement to write this paper.

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**Received: March, 2009**