

## FUZZY PRIME SPECTRUM OF C-ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we define fuzzy prime ideals of  $C$ -algebras and investigate some of their properties. Furthermore, we study the topological properties of the space of fuzzy prime ideals of  $C$ -algebra equipped with the hull-kernel topology.

### 1. Introduction

Guzman and Squier [9] introduced the variety of  $C$ -algebras as the variety generated by the three-element algebra  $C = \{T, F, U\}$  with the operations " $\wedge$ "; " $\vee$ " and " $\rightarrow$ " of type  $(2, 2, 1)$ , which is the algebraic form of the three-valued conditional logic. They proved that  $C$  and the two element Boolean algebra  $B = \{T, F\}$  are the only subdirectly irreducible  $C$ -algebras and that the variety of  $C$ -algebras is a minimal cover of the variety of Boolean algebras. Many more results on the structure of  $C$ -algebras can be found in literature (see [12, 13, 15, 16, 18–20]).

The concept of fuzzy sets was first introduced by Zadeh [22] and this concept was adapted by Rosenfeld [14] to define fuzzy subgroups. Since then, many authors have been studying fuzzy subalgebras of several algebraic structures (see [1–6, 10, 11, 17]). In [1], we have introduced the notion of fuzzy ideals of  $C$ -algebras and investigate some of their properties. In the present paper, we continue our study and define fuzzy

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prime ideals in  $C$ -algebras. Mainly, we give an internal characterization for fuzzy prime ideals of  $C$ -algebras analogous to the well known characterization theorem of Swamy and Swamy [17] in the case of rings. In addition, we study the topological properties of the space of fuzzy prime ideals of  $C$ -algebra equipped with the hull-kernel topology, which we call it the fuzzy prime spectrum.

## 2. Preliminaries

In this section, we recall some definitions and basic results which will be used in the paper.

**DEFINITION 2.1.** [9] An algebra  $(A, \vee, \wedge, ')$  of type  $(2, 2, 1)$  is called a  $C$ -algebra, if it satisfies the following axioms:

- (1)  $a'' = a$ ,
- (2)  $(a \wedge b)' = a' \vee b'$ ,
- (3)  $(a \wedge b) \wedge c = a \wedge (b \wedge c)$ ,
- (4)  $a \wedge (b \vee c) = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$ ,
- (5)  $(a \vee b) \wedge c = (a \wedge c) \vee (a' \wedge b \wedge c)$ ,
- (6)  $a \vee (a \wedge b) = a$ ,
- (7)  $(a \wedge b) \vee (b \wedge a) = (b \wedge a) \vee (a \wedge b)$  for all  $a, b, c \in A$ .

Throughout this paper  $A$  denotes a  $C$ -algebra  $(A, \vee, \wedge, ')$  unless and otherwise stated.

**EXAMPLE 2.2.** [9] The three element algebra  $C = \{T, F, U\}$  with the operations given by the following tables is a  $C$ -algebra.

|        |     |     |     |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| $\vee$ | $T$ | $F$ | $U$ |
| $T$    | $T$ | $T$ | $T$ |
| $F$    | $T$ | $F$ | $U$ |
| $U$    | $U$ | $U$ | $U$ |

|          |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| $\wedge$ | $T$ | $F$ | $U$ |
| $T$      | $T$ | $F$ | $U$ |
| $F$      | $F$ | $F$ | $F$ |
| $U$      | $U$ | $U$ | $U$ |

|     |      |
|-----|------|
| $x$ | $x'$ |
| $T$ | $F$  |
| $F$ | $T$  |
| $U$ | $U$  |

**Note:** [9] The identities 2.1(1) and 2.1(2) imply that the variety of  $C$ -algebras satisfies all the dual statements of 2.1(2) to 2.1(7).

**DEFINITION 2.3.** [9] An element  $z$  of a  $C$ -algebra  $A$  is called a left zero for  $\wedge$  if  $z \wedge x = z$  for all  $x \in A$ .

**DEFINITION 2.4.** [18] A nonempty subset  $I$  of a  $C$ -algebra  $A$  is called an ideal of  $A$ , if

1.  $a, b \in I \Rightarrow a \vee b \in I$  and

2.  $a \in I \Rightarrow x \wedge a \in I$ , for each  $x \in A$ .

It is observed that  $a \wedge b \in I$  if and only if  $b \wedge a \in I$  for all  $a, b \in A$ . For any subset  $S \subseteq A$ , the smallest ideal of  $A$  containing  $S$  is called the ideal of  $A$  generated by  $S$  and is denoted by  $\langle S \rangle$ . Note that:

$$\langle S \rangle = \{\bigvee(y_i \wedge x_i) : y_i \in A, x_i \in S, i = 1, \dots, n \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$$

If  $S = \{a\}$  then we write  $\langle a \rangle$  for  $\langle S \rangle$ . In this case  $\langle a \rangle = \{x \wedge a : x \in A\}$ . Moreover, it is observed in [18] that the set  $I_0 = \{x \wedge x' : x \in A\}$  is the smallest ideal in  $A$ .

DEFINITION 2.5. [20] A proper ideal  $P$  of  $A$  is called a prime ideal, if for any  $a, b \in A$ ,

$$a \wedge b \in P \Rightarrow a \in P \text{ or } b \in P$$

It is observed in [20] that a proper ideal  $P$  of  $A$  is prime if and only if

$$I \cap J \subseteq P \Rightarrow I \subseteq P \text{ or } J \subseteq P$$

for all ideals  $I$  and  $J$  of  $A$ .

Remember that, for any set  $A$ , a function  $\mu : A \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called a fuzzy subset of  $A$ . For each  $t \in [0, 1]$  the set

$$\mu_t = \{x \in A : \mu(x) \geq t\}$$

is called the level subset of  $\mu$  at  $t$  [22]. For numbers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  in  $[0, 1]$  we write  $\alpha \wedge \beta$  instead of  $\min\{\alpha, \beta\}$  and  $\alpha \vee \beta$  for  $\max\{\alpha, \beta\}$ . We call a fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of  $A$ , nonzero if there is some  $x \in A$  such that  $\mu(x) \neq 0$ . We denote by  $0_A$  and  $1_A$ ; fuzzy subsets of  $A$  defined by:

$$0_A(x) = 0 \text{ and } 1_A(x) = 1 \text{ for all } x \in A.$$

DEFINITION 2.6. [1] A fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of  $A$  is called a fuzzy ideal of  $A$  if:

1.  $\mu(z) = 1$ , for all  $z \in I_0$
2.  $\mu(a \vee b) \geq \mu(a) \wedge \mu(b)$
3.  $\mu(a \wedge b) \geq \mu(b)$

for all  $a, b \in A$ .

We denote the class of all fuzzy ideals of  $A$  by  $FI(A)$ .

LEMMA 2.7. [1] Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $A$ . Then the following hold for all  $a, b \in A$ .

1.  $\mu(a \wedge b) \geq \mu(a)$
2.  $\mu(a \wedge b) = \mu(b \wedge a)$
3.  $\mu(a \wedge x \wedge b) \geq \mu(a \wedge b)$  for each  $x \in A$
4.  $\mu(a) \geq \mu(a \vee b)$  and hence  $\mu(a) \wedge \mu(b) = \mu(a \vee b) \wedge \mu(b \vee a)$
5. If  $x \in \langle a \rangle$ , then  $\mu(x) \geq \mu(a)$ .

It is also observed that the fuzzy subset  $\mu^0$  of  $A$  defined by:

$$\mu^0(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in I_0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for all  $x \in A$ , is the smallest fuzzy ideal of  $A$ . We refer to [7, 8] for the standard concepts on lattice theory and general universal algebras.

### 3. Fuzzy Prime Ideals

In this section, we define fuzzy prime ideals in  $C$ -algebras and investigate some of their properties.

**DEFINITION 3.1.** A fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $A$  is called a fuzzy prime ideal of  $A$  if the following holds for all fuzzy ideals  $\sigma$  and  $\theta$  of  $A$ :

$$\sigma \cap \theta \subseteq \mu \Rightarrow \sigma \subseteq \mu \text{ or } \theta \subseteq \mu.$$

We denote the class of all fuzzy prime ideals of  $A$  by  $FP(A)$ . The following lemmas immediately follow from the definition.

**LEMMA 3.2.** A non-constant fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $A$  is fuzzy prime if and only if it satisfies the following:

$$\sigma \cap \theta = \mu \Rightarrow \sigma = \mu \text{ or } \theta = \mu$$

for all  $\sigma, \theta \in FI(A)$ .

**LEMMA 3.3.** Let  $\mu$  and  $\theta$  be fuzzy prime ideals of  $A$ . Then  $\mu \cap \theta$  is a prime fuzzy ideal of  $A$  if and only if either  $\mu \subseteq \theta$  or  $\theta \subseteq \mu$ .

For each  $x \in A$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$  remember from [21] that, the fuzzy subset  $x_\alpha$  of  $A$  given by:

$$x_\alpha(z) = \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } z = x \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for all  $z \in A$ , is called a fuzzy point of  $A$ . In this case  $x$  is called the support of  $x_\alpha$  and  $\alpha$  its value. For a fuzzy point  $x_\alpha$  of  $A$  and a fuzzy

subset  $\mu$  of  $A$  we write  $x_\alpha \in \mu$  to say that  $\mu(x) \geq \alpha$ . Moreover, for fuzzy subsets  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  of  $A$ ,  $\mu \wedge \sigma$  is a fuzzy subset of  $A$  given by:

$$(\mu \wedge \sigma)(x) = \text{Sup}\{\mu(y) \wedge \sigma(z) : y \wedge z = x\}$$

for all  $x \in A$ . If  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  are fuzzy ideals, then  $\mu \wedge \sigma = \mu \cap \sigma$ . In the following we give an equivalent characterization for prime fuzzy ideals in terms of fuzzy points.

**THEOREM 3.4.** *A non-constant fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $A$  is a fuzzy prime ideal if and only if for any fuzzy points  $x_\alpha$  and  $y_\beta$  of  $A$ :*

$$x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta \in \mu \Rightarrow x_\alpha \in \mu \text{ or } y_\beta \in \mu.$$

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\mu$  is fuzzy prime and let  $x_\alpha$  and  $y_\beta$  be fuzzy points of  $A$  such that  $x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta \in \mu$ . Then  $\langle x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta \rangle \subseteq \langle \mu \rangle = \mu$ . For each  $z \in A$ , we have

$$(x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta)(z) = \begin{cases} \alpha \wedge \beta & \text{if } z = x \wedge y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\langle x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta \rangle(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \in I_0 \\ \alpha \wedge \beta & \text{if } z \in \langle x \wedge y \rangle - I_0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Since  $\langle x \rangle \cap \langle y \rangle = \langle x \wedge y \rangle$  (see Lemma 3.4 of [18]), we get  $\langle x_\alpha \rangle \cap \langle y_\beta \rangle = \langle x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta \rangle$ ; that is,  $\langle x_\alpha \rangle \cap \langle y_\beta \rangle \subseteq \mu$ . Since  $\mu$  is fuzzy prime either  $\langle x_\alpha \rangle \subseteq \mu$  or  $\langle y_\beta \rangle \subseteq \mu$  which gives that either  $x_\alpha \in \mu$  or  $y_\beta \in \mu$ . Conversely, suppose that for any fuzzy points  $x_\alpha$  and  $y_\beta$  of  $A$ :

$$x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta \in \mu \Rightarrow x_\alpha \in \mu \text{ or } y_\beta \in \mu$$

Let  $\sigma$  and  $\theta$  be fuzzy ideals of  $A$  such that  $\sigma \cap \theta \subseteq \mu$ . Suppose on the contrary that  $\sigma \not\subseteq \mu$  and  $\theta \not\subseteq \mu$ . Then there exist  $x, y \in A$  such that  $\sigma(x) > \mu(x)$  and  $\theta(y) > \mu(y)$ . If we put  $\alpha = \sigma(x)$  and  $\beta = \theta(y)$ , then  $x_\alpha$  and  $y_\beta$  are fuzzy points of  $A$  such that  $x_\alpha \notin \mu$  and  $y_\beta \notin \mu$ . By our assumption we get  $x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta \notin \mu$ ; that is,  $\mu(x \wedge y) < \alpha \wedge \beta$ . Now consider the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(x \wedge y) &\geq (\sigma \cap \theta)(x \wedge y) \\ &= \sigma(x \wedge y) \wedge \theta(x \wedge y) \\ &\geq \sigma(x) \wedge \theta(y) \\ &= \alpha \wedge \beta \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction. Therefore  $\mu$  is fuzzy prime.  $\square$

In the following theorem we give an internal characterization for fuzzy prime ideals in  $C$ -algebra analogous to the well known characterization of Swamy and Swamy [17] in the case of rings.

**THEOREM 3.5.** *A non-constant fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $A$  is a prime fuzzy ideal if and only if  $Img(\mu) = \{1, \alpha\}$ , where  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  and the set  $\mu_* = \{x \in A : \mu(x) = 1\}$  is a prime ideal of  $A$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\mu$  is a prime fuzzy ideal. Clearly  $1 \in Img(\mu)$  and since  $\mu$  is non-constant there is some  $a \in A$  such that  $\mu(a) < 1$ . We show that  $\mu(a) = \mu(b)$  for all  $a, b \in A - \mu_*$ . Suppose not, then there exist  $a, b \in A - \mu_*$  such that  $\mu(a) \neq \mu(b)$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $\mu(b) < \mu(a) < 1$ . Define fuzzy subsets  $\sigma$  and  $\theta$  as follows:

$$\sigma(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in \langle a \rangle \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\theta(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in I_0 \\ \mu(a) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for all  $x \in A$ . Then it can be easily verified that both  $\sigma$  and  $\theta$  are fuzzy ideals of  $A$ . Let  $z \in A$ . If  $z \in I_0$ , then  $(\sigma \cap \theta)(z) = 1 = \mu(z)$ . If  $z \in \langle a \rangle - I_0$ , then  $z = x \wedge a$  for some  $x \in A$  and we have:

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma \cap \theta)(z) &= \sigma(z) \wedge \theta(z) \\ &= \mu(a) \\ &\leq \mu(z) \end{aligned}$$

Also if  $z \notin \langle a \rangle$ , then  $\sigma(z) = 0$ . So that  $\sigma \cap \theta(z) = 0 \leq \mu(z)$ . Therefore  $(\sigma \cap \theta) \subseteq \mu$ . But we have  $\sigma(a) = 1 > \mu(a)$  and  $\theta(b) = \mu(a) > \mu(b)$  which is a contradiction. Thus  $\mu(a) = \mu(b)$  for all  $a, b \in A - \mu_*$  and hence  $Img(\mu) = \{1, \alpha\}$ , for some  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ . Next we show that the set  $\mu_* = \{x \in A : \mu(x) = 1\}$  is a prime ideal. Clearly, it is a proper ideal. Now for any ideals  $I$  and  $J$  of  $A$  consider the following:

$$\begin{aligned} I \cap J \subseteq \mu_* &\Rightarrow \chi_{(I \cap J)} \subseteq \chi_{\mu_*} \subseteq \mu \\ &\Rightarrow \chi_I \cap \chi_J \subseteq \mu \\ &\Rightarrow \chi_I \subseteq \mu \text{ or } \chi_J \subseteq \mu \\ &\Rightarrow I \subseteq \mu_* \text{ or } J \subseteq \mu_* \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\mu_*$  is prime. Conversely, suppose that  $Img(\mu) = \{1, \alpha\}$ , where  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  and the set  $\mu_* = \{x \in A : \mu(x) = 1\}$  is a prime ideal of  $A$ . To show that  $\mu$  is fuzzy prime, Assume on the contrary that there exist fuzzy ideals  $\sigma$  and  $\theta$  of  $A$  such that  $\sigma \not\subseteq \mu$  and  $\theta \not\subseteq \mu$ . Then  $\sigma(x) > \mu(x)$  and  $\theta(y) > \mu(y)$  for some  $x, y \in A$ . Since  $Img(\mu) = \{1, \alpha\}$ , we get  $1 > \mu(x) = \mu(y) = \alpha$ . So,  $x \notin \mu_*$  and  $y \notin \mu_*$ , which gives  $x \wedge y \notin \mu_*$ ; that is,  $\mu(x \wedge y) = \alpha$ . Now consider the following;

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma \cap \theta)(x \wedge y) &= \sigma(x \wedge y) \wedge \theta(x \wedge y) \\ &\geq \sigma(x) \wedge \theta(y) \\ &> \mu(x) \wedge \mu(y) \\ &= \alpha \\ &= \mu(x \wedge y) \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction to our assumption  $\sigma \cap \theta \subseteq \mu$ . Therefore  $\mu$  is fuzzy prime.  $\square$

**DEFINITION 3.6.** For any subset  $H$  of  $A$  and each  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  define a fuzzy subset  $\alpha_H$  of  $A$  by:

$$\alpha_H(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in H \\ \alpha & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for all  $x \in A$ .

The above theorem confirms that fuzzy prime ideals of  $A$  are only of the form  $\alpha_P$  for some prime ideal  $P$  and some  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ . This establishes a one-to-one correspondence between the class of all fuzzy prime ideals of  $A$  and the collection of all pairs  $(P, \alpha)$ ; where  $P$  is a prime ideal in  $A$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ .

**COROLLARY 3.7.** *Let  $P$  be an ideal of  $A$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ . Then  $P$  is a prime ideal if and only if the fuzzy subset  $\alpha_P$  of  $A$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $A$ .*

**COROLLARY 3.8.** *A proper ideal  $P$  of  $A$  is prime if and only if its characteristic mapping  $\chi_P$  is a prime fuzzy ideal of  $A$ .*

**LEMMA 3.9.** *If  $\mu$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $A$ , then*

$$\mu(a) \vee \mu(b) \geq \mu(a \wedge b)$$

for all  $a, b \in A$ .

*Proof.* We use proof by contradiction. Suppose if possible that there exist  $a, b \in A$  such that

$$\mu(a) \vee \mu(b) < \mu(a \wedge b)$$

By Theorem 3.5,  $Im(\mu) = \{1, \alpha\}$  for some  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ . So  $\mu(a) \vee \mu(b) = \alpha < 1 = \mu(a \wedge b)$ . Then  $a \wedge b \in \mu_*$ ,  $a \notin \mu_*$  and  $b \notin \mu_*$ . Again by Theorem 3.5 this is a contradiction. This completes the proof.  $\square$

LEMMA 3.10. *Let  $x \in A$ . If  $\mu$  is a prime fuzzy ideal of  $A$ , then*

$$\text{either } \mu(x) = 1 \text{ or } \mu(x') = 1$$

LEMMA 3.11. *Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $A$ ,  $a \in A$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ . If  $\mu(a) \leq \alpha$ , then there exists a prime fuzzy ideal  $\theta$  of  $A$  such that  $\mu \subseteq \theta$  and  $\theta(a) \leq \alpha$ .*

*Proof.* Put  $\mathcal{P} = \{\theta \in \mathcal{FI}(A) : \mu \subseteq \theta \text{ and } \theta(a) \leq \alpha\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{P}$  is nonempty and it forms a poset together with the inclusion ordering of fuzzy sets. By applying Zorn's lemma we can choose a maximal element in  $\mathcal{P}$  and let  $\theta$  be maximal in  $\mathcal{P}$ ; that is,  $\theta$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $A$  and it is maximal with properties:  $\mu \subseteq \theta$  and  $\theta(a) \leq \alpha$ . It remains to show that  $\theta$  is a prime fuzzy ideal. We use contradiction. For; let  $\nu$  and  $\sigma$  be fuzzy ideals of  $A$  such that  $\nu \cap \sigma \subseteq \theta$ . Suppose if possible that  $\nu \not\subseteq \theta$  and  $\sigma \not\subseteq \theta$ . If we put  $\theta_1 = \theta \vee \nu$  and  $\theta_2 = \theta \vee \sigma$ , then both  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are fuzzy ideals of  $A$  properly containing  $\theta$ . It follows by the maximality of  $\theta$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  that  $\theta_1 \notin \mathcal{P}$  and  $\theta_2 \notin \mathcal{P}$ . So that  $\theta_1(a) > \alpha$  and  $\theta_2(a) > \alpha$  which implies that  $\theta(a) > \alpha$ . This is absurd. Therefore  $\theta$  is a prime fuzzy ideal of  $A$  satisfying the desired condition.  $\square$

COROLLARY 3.12. *Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $A$ ,  $a \in A$ . If  $\mu(a) = 0$ , then there exists a prime fuzzy ideal  $\theta$  of  $A$  such that  $\mu \subseteq \theta$  and  $\theta(a) = 0$ .*

DEFINITION 3.13. A fuzzy subset  $\lambda$  of  $A$  is said to be multiplicatively closed if:

$$\lambda(x \wedge y) \geq \lambda(x) \wedge \lambda(y)$$

for all  $x, y \in A$ .

THEOREM 3.14. *Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy ideal of  $A$ ,  $\lambda$  a multiplicatively closed fuzzy subset of  $A$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . If  $\mu \cap \lambda \leq \alpha$ , then there exists a prime fuzzy ideal  $\theta$  of  $A$  such that:*

$$\mu \subseteq \theta \text{ and } \theta \cap \lambda \leq \alpha$$



*Proof.* Put  $\mathcal{P} = \{\theta \in \mathcal{FI}(A) : \mu \subseteq \theta \text{ and } \theta \cap \lambda \leq \alpha\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{P}$  is nonempty and it forms a poset together with the inclusion ordering of fuzzy sets. By applying Zorn's lemma we can choose a maximal element, say  $\theta$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ ; that is,  $\theta$  is a fuzzy ideal of  $A$  and it is maximal with properties:  $\mu \subseteq \theta$  and  $\theta \cap \lambda \leq \alpha$ . It remains to show that  $\theta$  is a fuzzy prime ideal. Let  $\nu$  and  $\sigma$  be fuzzy ideals of  $A$  such that  $\nu \cap \sigma \subseteq \theta$ . Suppose on contrary that  $\nu \not\subseteq \theta$  and  $\sigma \not\subseteq \theta$ . If we put  $\theta_1 = \theta \vee \nu$  and  $\theta_2 = \theta \vee \sigma$ , then both  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are fuzzy ideals of  $A$  properly containing  $\theta$  and  $\theta_1 \cap \theta_2 \subseteq \theta$ . By the maximality of  $\theta$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ , it follows that  $\theta_1 \notin \mathcal{P}$  and  $\theta_2 \notin \mathcal{P}$ . So that  $\theta_1 \cap \lambda \not\leq \alpha$  and  $\theta_2 \cap \lambda \not\leq \alpha$ . Then there exist  $a, b \in A$  such that  $(\theta_1 \cap \lambda)(a) > \alpha$  and  $(\theta_2 \cap \lambda)(b) > \alpha$ . Put  $x = a \wedge b$  and consider the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
(\theta \cap \lambda)(x) &= \theta(x) \wedge \lambda(x) \\
&= \theta(a \wedge b) \wedge \lambda(a \wedge b) \\
&\geq (\theta_1 \cap \theta_2)(a \wedge b) \wedge \lambda(a) \wedge \lambda(b) \\
&= \theta_1(a \wedge b) \wedge \theta_2(a \wedge b) \wedge \lambda(a) \wedge \lambda(b) \\
&\geq \theta_1(a) \wedge \theta_2(b) \wedge \lambda(a) \wedge \lambda(b) \\
&= \theta_1(a) \wedge \lambda(a) \wedge \theta_2(b) \wedge \lambda(b) \\
&= (\theta_1 \cap \lambda)(a) \wedge (\theta_2 \cap \lambda)(b) \\
&> \alpha
\end{aligned}$$

This is a contradiction. Therefore  $\theta$  is a fuzzy prime ideal of  $A$  satisfying the desired condition.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.15.** *For any non-constant fuzzy ideal  $\mu$  of  $A$ :*

$$\mu = \cap\{\theta : \theta \text{ is a fuzzy prime ideal of } A \text{ such that } \mu \subseteq \theta\}$$

*Proof.* Let us put  $\sigma = \cap\{\theta : \theta \text{ is a fuzzy prime ideal of } A \text{ such that } \mu \subseteq \theta\}$ . It is clear that  $\mu \subseteq \sigma$ . To prove the other inclusion, let  $x \in A$ . Put  $\mu(x) = \alpha$ . By Lemma 3.11 there exists a fuzzy prime ideal  $\theta$  of  $A$  such that  $\mu \subseteq \theta$  and  $\theta(x) \leq \alpha$ ; that is,  $\sigma \subseteq \theta$  and  $\theta(x) \leq \alpha$ . Thus  $\sigma(x) \leq \mu(x)$  and hence  $\sigma \subseteq \mu$ . Therefore the equality holds.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.16.** *The intersection of all prime fuzzy ideals of  $A$  coincides with  $\mu^0$ ; that is,*

$$\mu^0 = \cap\{\theta : \theta \text{ is a fuzzy prime ideal of } A\}$$

#### 4. Fuzzy Prime Spectrum of a C-algebra

In this section, we study the space of fuzzy prime ideals of  $C$ -algebra equipped with the hull-kernel topology. Consider the following notation

1.  $X = \{\mu : \mu \text{ is a prime fuzzy ideal of } A\}$
2. For any fuzzy subset  $\theta$  of  $A$ , let  $V(\theta) = \{\mu \in X : \theta \subseteq \mu\}$  and  $X(\theta) = \{\mu \in X : \theta \not\subseteq \mu\}$

**THEOREM 4.1.** *The collection*

$$\mathcal{T} = \{X(\theta) : \theta \text{ is a fuzzy ideal of } A\}$$

*is a topology on  $X$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $X(\mu_0) = \emptyset$  and  $X(1_A) = X$ ,  $\mathcal{T}$  contains both  $\emptyset$  and  $X$ . Also for any fuzzy ideals  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  of  $A$ , we have  $X(\theta_1) \cap X(\theta_2) = X(\theta_1 \cap \theta_2)$ . This shows that  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under finite intersections. Further, let  $\{\theta_i : i \in I\}$  be any family of fuzzy ideals of  $A$ . We verify that  $\cup_{i \in I} X(\theta_i) = X(\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle)$ . Let  $\mu \in X(\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle)$ . Then  $\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle \not\subseteq \mu$  which implies that  $\theta_i \not\subseteq \mu$  for some  $i \in I$ . Otherwise if  $\theta_i \subseteq \mu$  for each  $i \in I$ , then it would be true that  $\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle \subseteq \mu$ . So that  $\mu \in \cup_{i \in I} X(\theta_i)$  whence  $X(\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle) \subseteq \cup_{i \in I} X(\theta_i)$ . To prove the other inclusion, let  $\mu \in \cup_{i \in I} X(\theta_i)$ . Then  $\mu \in X(\theta_i)$  for some  $i \in I$ ; that is,  $\theta_i \not\subseteq \mu$  for some  $i \in I$ . Since  $\theta_i \subseteq \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \subseteq \langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle$ , we get  $\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle \not\subseteq \mu$ . So that  $\mu \in X(\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle)$ . Whence  $\cup_{i \in I} X(\theta_i) \subseteq X(\langle \cup_{i \in I} \theta_i \rangle)$  and hence the equality holds. Therefore  $\mathcal{T}$  is closed under arbitrary union and hence it is a topology on  $X$ .  $\square$

**DEFINITION 4.2.** The topological space  $(X, \mathcal{T})$  is called the fuzzy prime spectrum of  $A$  and it is denoted by  $F\text{-spec}(A)$ .

**LEMMA 4.3.** *For any fuzzy subset  $\lambda$  of  $A$ :*

$$X(\lambda) = X(\langle \lambda \rangle)$$

*Proof.* As  $\lambda \subseteq \langle \lambda \rangle$ , it follows that  $X(\lambda) \subseteq X(\langle \lambda \rangle)$ . If  $\mu \in X(\langle \lambda \rangle)$ , then  $\langle \lambda \rangle \not\subseteq \mu$  which implies that  $\lambda \not\subseteq \mu$ . Otherwise, if  $\lambda \subseteq \mu$  then  $\langle \lambda \rangle \subseteq \mu$  which is impossible. So that  $\mu \in X(\lambda)$  and hence  $X(\lambda) = X(\langle \lambda \rangle)$ .  $\square$

**LEMMA 4.4.** *For any fuzzy subsets  $\lambda$  and  $\nu$  of  $A$*

$$X(\lambda) = X(\nu) \Rightarrow \langle \lambda \rangle = \langle \nu \rangle$$

*Proof.* We use contradiction. Suppose if possible that  $\langle \lambda \rangle \neq \langle \nu \rangle$ . Then there exists  $x \in A$  such that  $\langle \lambda \rangle(x) > \langle \nu \rangle(x)$ . Let say  $\langle \nu \rangle(x) = t$ . Then by Lemma 3.11 there exists a prime fuzzy ideal  $\theta$  of  $A$  such that  $\langle \nu \rangle \subseteq \theta$  and  $\theta(x) = t < \langle \lambda \rangle(x)$ . So  $\theta \in X(\lambda)$  and  $\theta \notin X(\nu)$ . Therefore  $X(\lambda) \neq X(\nu)$  and this completes the proof.  $\square$

LEMMA 4.5. For any fuzzy points  $x_\alpha, y_\beta$  of  $A$ .

$$X(x_\alpha) \cap X(y_\beta) = X(x_\alpha \wedge y_\beta)$$

LEMMA 4.6. For any  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ ;  $X(x_\alpha) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $x$  is a left zero for  $\wedge$ .

LEMMA 4.7. The subfamily  $\mathcal{B} = \{X(x_\alpha) : x \in A, \alpha \in (0, 1]\}$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  is a base for  $\mathcal{T}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\theta$  be any fuzzy ideal of  $A$  and  $\mu \in X(\theta)$ . Then  $\mu$  is a prime fuzzy ideal of  $A$  such that  $\theta \not\subseteq \mu$ . There exists  $x \in A$  such that  $\theta(x) > \mu(x)$ . If we put  $\beta = \theta(x)$ , then  $x_\beta$  is a fuzzy point of  $A$  such that  $x_\beta \in \theta$  and  $x_\beta \notin \mu$ . So that  $\mu \in X(x_\beta) \subseteq X(\theta)$ . Thus  $\mathcal{B}$  is a base for  $\mathcal{T}$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 4.8. If  $A$  has a meet identity element  $T$ , then for each  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ , the set

$$A_\alpha = \{\mu \in X : Im(\mu) = \{1, \alpha\}\}$$

is a compact subspace of  $X$ .

*Proof.* Remember that  $A_\alpha$  can be made to be subspace of  $X$  by the relativized topology  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha$  where

$$\mathcal{T}_\alpha = \{X(\theta) \cap A_\alpha : \theta \in \mathcal{FI}(A)\}$$

It is also clear that the family

$$\mathcal{B}_\alpha = \{X(x_t) \cap A_\alpha : x \in A \text{ and } t \in (\alpha, 1]\}$$

constitutes a base for  $\mathcal{T}_\alpha$ . Suppose that the family

$$\mathcal{C} = \{X((x_i)_t) \cap A_\alpha : i \in \Delta \text{ and } t \in K \subseteq (\alpha, 1]\}$$

is a basic open cover for  $A_\alpha$ . If we take  $r = \text{Sup}\{t : t \in K\}$ , then the family  $\{X((x_i)_r) \cap A_\alpha : i \in \Delta\}$  covers  $A_\alpha$ . That is;

$$\begin{aligned} A_\alpha &= \bigcup_{i \in \Delta} [X((x_i)_r) \cap A_\alpha] \\ &= A_\alpha \cap \bigcup_{i \in \Delta} [X((x_i)_r)] \\ &= A_\alpha \cap X[\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} (x_i)_r] \\ &= A_\alpha \cap [X - V[\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} (x_i)_r]] \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $A_\alpha \cap V[\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} (x_i)_r] = \emptyset$ . For any prime fuzzy ideal  $P$  of  $A$ , consider the fuzzy prime ideal  $\alpha_P$  of  $A$  given in lemma 3.7. We have  $\alpha_P \in A_\alpha$ . Since  $A_\alpha \cap V[\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} (x_i)_r] = \emptyset$ , it yields that  $\alpha_P \notin V[\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} (x_i)_r]$ . So that,  $\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} (x_i)_r \not\subseteq \alpha_P$ . If  $(x_i)_r \subseteq \alpha_P$  for all  $i \in \Delta$ , then  $\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} (x_i)_r \subseteq \alpha_P$  which is impossible. Thus, there exists  $j \in \Delta$  such that  $(x_j)_r \not\subseteq \alpha_P$  implying that  $\alpha_P(x_j) < r \leq 1$ . Then  $\alpha_P(x_j) = \alpha$  and hence  $x_j \notin P$ . That is; for each prime ideal  $P$  of  $A$ , there exists  $j \in \Delta$  such that  $x_j \notin P$ . Equivalently saying that every prime ideal  $P$  does not contain the ideal  $\langle \{x_i : i \in \Delta\} \rangle$ . So  $\langle \{x_i : i \in \Delta\} \rangle = A$ , and hence  $T \in \langle \{x_i : i \in \Delta\} \rangle$ . Then  $T = \bigvee_{i=1}^n (a_i \wedge x_i)$  for some  $a_i \in A, i = 1, 2, \dots, n \in \Delta$ . We show that  $V[\bigcup_{i=1}^n (x_i)_r] \cap A_\alpha = \emptyset$ . Suppose if possible that there is some  $\mu \in V[\bigcup_{i=1}^n (x_i)_r] \cap A_\alpha$  which implies that  $\mu(x_i) \geq r > \alpha$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . So  $\mu(x_i) = 1$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Now consider:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(T) &= \mu\left[\bigvee_{i=1}^n (a_i \wedge x_i)\right] \\ &\geq \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \mu(x_i) \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mu(T) \leq \mu(x)$  for all  $x \in A$ , it follows that  $\mu$  is constant which is a contradiction. Therefore  $V[\bigcup_{i=1}^n (x_i)_r] \cap A_\alpha = \emptyset$ . Hence the subfamily  $\{X((x_i)_r) : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  covers  $A_\alpha$  and therefore  $A_\alpha$  is compact.  $\square$

**Notation.** Let us denote the fuzzy point  $x_\alpha$  by  $x_*$  when  $\alpha = 1$ .

**THEOREM 4.9.** *The following are equivalent*

- (i)  $A$  is a Boolean algebra
- (ii)  $X - X(x_*) = X((x')_*)$
- (iii) For any  $\mu \in X$  and each  $x \in A; \mu(x) \neq \mu(x')$

(iv)  $X(x_*) \cup X(y_*) = X((x \vee y)_*)$  for all  $x, y \in A$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Suppose that  $A$  is a Boolean algebra and let  $\mu \in X$ . Then consider the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu \in X - X(x_*) &\Leftrightarrow \mu \notin X(x_*) \\
 &\Leftrightarrow x_* \in \mu \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \mu(x) = 1 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow x \in \mu_* \\
 &\Leftrightarrow x' \notin \mu_* \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \mu(x') < 1 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow (x')_* \notin \mu \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \mu \in X((x')_*)
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $X - X(x_*) = X((x')_*)$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). Suppose that  $X - X(x_*) = X((x')_*)$  for all  $x \in A$ . Let  $\mu \in X$ . To prove (3) we use contradiction. Suppose if possible that there  $x \in A$  such that  $\mu(x) = \mu(x')$ . By Lemma 3.10 we get  $\mu(x) = \mu(x') = 1$ , which gives  $x_* \in \mu$  and  $(x')_* \in \mu$ . So,  $\mu \notin X(x_*)$  and  $\mu \notin X((x')_*) = X - X(x_*)$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $\mu(x) \neq \mu(x')$  for all  $x \in A$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (4). Suppose that  $\mu(x) = \mu(x')$  for all  $x \in A$ . Let  $x, y \in A$ . The inclusion  $X((x \vee y)_*) \subseteq X(x_*) \cup X(y_*)$  is clear and we proceed to show the other inclusion. Let  $\mu \in X(x_*) \cup X(y_*)$ . Then either  $\mu \in X(x_*)$  or  $\mu \in X(y_*)$ . So either  $x_* \notin \mu$  or  $y_* \notin \mu$ , which gives that either  $\mu(x) < 1$  or  $\mu(y) < 1$ . It follows from Lemma 3.10 that either  $\mu(x') = 1$  or  $\mu(y') = 1$ , which implies that  $\mu(x' \wedge y') = 1$ . By (3), we get  $\mu((x' \wedge y')') < 1$ ; that is  $\mu(x \vee y) < 1$ . This means  $(x \vee y)_* \notin \mu$  and that  $\mu \in X((x \vee y)_*)$ . Thus the equality holds.

(4)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Assume the condition in (4). To prove that  $A$  is a Boolean algebra it suffices to show that  $\langle x \vee y \rangle = \langle y \vee x \rangle$  for all  $x, y \in A$ . Let  $x, y \in A$ . By (4) we get  $X((x \vee y)_*) = X((y \vee x)_*)$ . It follows from Lemma 4.4 that  $\langle (x \vee y)_* \rangle = \langle (y \vee x)_* \rangle$ , which gives  $\langle x \vee y \rangle = \langle y \vee x \rangle$  and this completes the proof.  $\square$

**DEFINITION 4.10.** A topological space  $X$  is called a  $T_0$ -space if for each  $x \neq y \in X$ , there exists an open set  $H$  in  $X$  such that

$$x \in H \text{ and } y \notin H \text{ (or } y \in H \text{ and } x \notin H)$$

**THEOREM 4.11.** *The space  $X$  is a  $T_0$ -space.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mu$  and  $\theta$  be fuzzy prime ideals of  $A$  such that  $\mu \neq \theta$ . Then either  $\mu \not\subseteq \theta$  or  $\theta \not\subseteq \mu$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $\mu \not\subseteq \theta$ . Then there exists  $x \in A$  such that  $\mu(x) > \theta(x)$ . Let us put  $\alpha = \mu(x)$ . Then  $x_\alpha$  is a fuzzy point of  $A$  such that  $x_\alpha \in \mu$  and  $x_\alpha \notin \theta$ ; that is,  $\mu \notin X(x_\alpha)$  and  $\theta \in X(x_\alpha)$ . This means  $X(x_\alpha)$  is an open set in  $X$  containing  $\theta$  but not contain  $\mu$ . Therefore  $X$  is a  $T_0$  space.  $\square$

**THEOREM 4.12.** *For any  $\mu \neq \nu \in X$ ,  $\nu \in \overline{\{\mu\}}$  if and only if  $\mu \subseteq \nu$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mu \neq \nu \in X$ . Suppose that  $\nu \in \overline{\{\mu\}}$ . Then  $\mu \in U$  for each neighborhood  $U$  of  $\nu$  in  $X$ . Since neighborhoods of  $\nu$  in  $X$  are of the form  $X(\theta)$  for some fuzzy subset  $\theta$  of  $A$  with  $\theta \not\subseteq \nu$ , it is equivalent to say that  $\mu \in X(\theta)$ , and hence  $\theta \not\subseteq \mu$ , for all fuzzy subsets  $\theta$  of  $A$  with  $\theta \not\subseteq \nu$ . In other words, for any fuzzy subset  $\theta$  of  $A$  the following holds:

$$\theta \subseteq \mu \Rightarrow \theta \subseteq \nu$$

which gives that  $\mu \subseteq \nu$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $\mu \subseteq \nu$  and let  $U$  be a neighborhood of  $\nu$  in  $X$ . Then  $U = X(\theta)$  for some fuzzy subset  $\theta$  of  $A$  with  $\theta \not\subseteq \nu$ . Since  $\mu \subseteq \nu$ , we get  $\theta \not\subseteq \mu$ , which gives that  $\mu \in X(\theta) = U$ ; that is,  $\{\mu\} \cap U \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore  $\nu \in \overline{\{\mu\}}$ .  $\square$

**COROLLARY 4.13.** *For each  $\mu \in X$ ,*

$$V(\mu) = \overline{\{\mu\}}$$

**THEOREM 4.14.** *Suppose that  $A$  is a Boolean algebra,  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ . Let  $A_\alpha = \{\mu \in X : \text{Im}(\mu) = \{1, \alpha\}\}$ . For  $x, y \in A$  and  $\beta \in (0, 1]$  we have the following:*

1. *The set  $X(x_\beta) \cap A_\alpha$  is both open and closed in  $A_\alpha$ , provided that  $\beta > \alpha$ .*
2.  *$X(x_\beta) \cup X(y_\beta) = X(z_\beta)$  for some  $z \in A$ .*
3. *The space  $A_\alpha$  is Hausdorff.*

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