

## ON THE ORDERED $n$ -PRIME IDEALS IN ORDERED $\Gamma$ -SEMIGROUPS

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**ABSTRACT.** The motivation mainly comes from the conditions of the (ordered) ideals to be prime or semiprime that are of importance and interest in (ordered) semigroups and in (ordered)  $\Gamma$ -semigroups. In 1981, Sen [8] has introduced the concept of the  $\Gamma$ -semigroups. We can see that any semigroup can be considered as a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. The concept of ordered ideal extensions in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups was introduced in 2007 by Siripitukdet and Iampan [12]. Our purpose in this paper is to introduce the concepts of the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals and the ordered  $n$ -semiprime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and to characterize the relationship between the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals and the ordered ideal extensions in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.

### 1. Preliminaries

In 1981, the concept and notion of the  $\Gamma$ -semigroups was introduced by Sen [8]. In 1997, Kwon and Lee [5] introduced the concepts of the weakly prime ideals and the weakly semiprime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and gave some characterizations of the weakly prime ideals and the weakly semiprime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups analogous to the characterizations of the weakly prime ideals and the weakly semiprime ideals in ordered semigroups considered by Kehayopulu [3]. In 1998, Kwon and Lee [4] introduced the ideals and the weakly prime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and gave some characterizations of the ideals and the weakly prime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups analogous to the characterizations of the ideals and the weakly prime ideals in ordered semigroups considered by Kehayopulu [3]. In 1999, Lee and Kwon [6] gave two new characterizations of the weakly prime ideals in ordered semigroups. They proved two theorems as follow: Let  $a$  be a quasi-completely regular element of an ordered semigroup  $S$ . If there exists an ideal not containing  $a$ , then there exists a weakly prime ideal not containing  $a$ . Let  $P^*$  be the intersection of weakly prime ideals of an ordered semigroup  $S$ ,  $a \in P^*$  and  $I$  be any proper

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Received September 14, 2007.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 20M99, 06F99, 06B10.

*Key words and phrases.* (ordered) semigroup, (ordered)  $\Gamma$ -semigroup, (ordered) ideal, ordered ideal extension, (ordered) prime ideal, (ordered) semiprime ideal, ordered  $n$ -prime ideal and ordered  $n$ -semiprime ideal.

ideal of  $S$ . Then  $a^n \in I$  for some positive integer  $n$ .  $P^*$  is an archimedean subsemigroup of an ordered semigroup  $S$ . In 2004, Dutta and Adhikari [1] introduced the concepts of the ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and the intra-regular ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and the concepts of the left ideals and the right ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups. The main results of their paper are the following: They proved that for an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$ , the following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $(A\Gamma A) = A$  for each ideal  $A$  of  $M$ .
- (2)  $(A\Gamma B) = A \cap B$  for all ideals  $A$  and  $B$  of  $M$ .
- (3)  $a \in (M\Gamma a\Gamma M\Gamma a\Gamma M)$  for all  $a \in M$ .

Let  $M$  be an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. The ideals of  $M$  are weakly prime if and only if they form a chain and one of the three equivalent conditions (1), (2) and (3) mentioned above holds in  $M$ . The ideals of  $M$  are prime if and only if they form a chain and  $M$  is intra-regular. In 2006, Siripitukdet and Iampan [11] characterized the relationship between the (ordered)  $s$ -prime ideals and the (ordered) semilattice congruences in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups. They showed that for an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$ , the congruence  $n$  on  $M$  is the intersection of  $\sigma_I$  for all  $s$ -prime ideals  $I$  of  $M$  and the congruence  $\mathcal{N}$  on  $M$  is the intersection of  $\sigma_I$  for all ordered  $s$ -prime ideals  $I$  of  $M$ . In 2007, Siripitukdet and Iampan [12] introduced the concepts of the extensions of ordered  $s$ -prime ideals, prime ideals, ordered  $s$ -semiprime ideals and semiprime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and characterize the relationship between the extensions of ordered ideals and some congruences in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups. They defined the equivalence relations on an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_I &:= \{(x, y) \in M \times M : x, y \in I \text{ or } x, y \notin I\}, \\ \Phi_I &:= \{(x, y) \in M \times M : \ll x, I \gg = \ll y, I \gg\}, \\ \mathcal{N} &:= \{(x, y) \in M \times M : N(x) = N(y)\}\end{aligned}$$

and showed that if  $I$  is an ordered  $s$ -prime ideal of  $M$ , then  $\Phi_I = \sigma_I$  and  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \Phi_I$ . So the concept of prime is the really interested and important thing about (ordered) semigroups and (ordered)  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.

Our aim in this paper is fourfold.

- (1) To generalize the definitions of the ordered prime ideal and the ordered semiprime ideal in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.
- (2) To introduce the concept of the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and to study the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.
- (3) To generalize the ordered prime ideals in commutative ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.
- (4) To characterize the relationship between the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals and the ordered ideal extensions in commutative ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.

To present the main theorems we first recall the definition of the  $\Gamma$ -semigroup which is important here.

Let  $\Gamma$  be any nonempty set. A nonempty set  $M$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup [7, 8, 9] if for all  $a, b, c \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ , we have (i)  $a\alpha b \in M$  and (ii)  $(a\alpha b)\beta c = a\alpha(b\beta c)$ . A  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called a *commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup* if  $a\gamma b = b\gamma a$  for all  $a, b \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . A nonempty subset  $K$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called a *sub- $\Gamma$ -semigroup* of  $M$  if  $a\gamma b \in K$  for all  $a, b \in K$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

For examples of  $\Gamma$ -semigroups, see [2, 10, 11, 12].

A partially ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called an *ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup* (some author called *po- $\Gamma$ -semigroup*) [5] if for any  $a, b, c \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ ,  $a \leq b$  implies  $a\gamma c \leq b\gamma c$  and  $c\gamma a \leq c\gamma b$ . An ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called a *commutative ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup* if  $M$  is a commutative  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. For any nonempty subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  and any nonempty subset  $\Gamma'$  of  $\Gamma$ , let  $A\Gamma'B := \{a\gamma b : a \in A, b \in B \text{ and } \gamma \in \Gamma'\}$ . If  $A = \{a\}$ , then we also write  $\{a\}\Gamma'B$  as  $a\Gamma'B$ , and similarly if  $B = \{b\}$  or  $\Gamma' = \{\gamma\}$ . A nonempty subset  $I$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called an *ordered ideal* of  $M$  if  $M\Gamma I \subseteq I$ ,  $I\Gamma M \subseteq I$  and for all  $a \in I$  and  $b \in M$ ,  $b \leq a$  implies  $b \in I$ . An ordered ideal  $I$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called an *ordered prime ideal* of  $M$  if for any  $a, b \in M$ ,  $a\Gamma b \subseteq I$  implies  $a \in I$  or  $b \in I$ . Equivalently, for any subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of  $M$ ,  $A\Gamma B \subseteq I$  implies  $A \subseteq I$  or  $B \subseteq I$ . An ordered ideal  $I$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called an *ordered semiprime ideal* of  $M$  if for any  $a \in M$ ,  $a\Gamma a \subseteq I$  implies  $a \in I$ . Equivalently, for any subset  $A$  of  $M$ ,  $A\Gamma A \subseteq I$  implies  $A \subseteq I$ . Let  $n$  be any integer such that  $n \geq 2$ . For any subsets  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n-1}$  and  $A_n$  of  $M$  and let  $i$  be an integer such that  $2 \leq i \leq n-1$ . We define the symbol as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{A}_{(1;n)} &:= A_2\Gamma A_3 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n, \\ \widehat{A}_{(i;n)} &:= A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{i-1}\Gamma A_{i+1}\Gamma A_{i+2} \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n, \\ \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} &:= A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-2}\Gamma A_{n-1}.\end{aligned}$$

An ordered ideal  $I$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called an *ordered  $n$ -prime ideal* of  $M$  if for any subsets  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n-1}$  and  $A_n$  of  $M$ ,  $A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I$  implies that there exists an integer  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) such that

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(i-1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I.$$

An ordered ideal  $I$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  is called an *ordered  $n$ -semiprime ideal* of  $M$  if for any subsets  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n-1}$  and  $A_n$  of  $M$  with  $A_1 = A_2 = \cdots = A_n$ ,  $A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I$  implies  $\widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$ . Hence we have the following statements for ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.

- (1) Every ordered prime ideal is an ordered semiprime ideal.
- (2) Every  $n$ -ordered prime ideal is an  $n$ -ordered semiprime ideal.
- (3) The ordered prime ideals and the 2-ordered prime ideals coincide.

- (4) The ordered semiprime ideals and the 2-ordered semiprime ideals coincide.

For a subset  $H$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$ , we denote  $(H] := \{t \in M : t \leq h \text{ for some } h \in H\}$ . If  $H = \{a\}$ , then we also write  $(\{a\}]$  as  $(a]$ . We see that  $H \subseteq (H]$ ,  $((H]) = (H]$  and for any subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of  $M$  with  $A \subseteq B$ , we have  $(A] \subseteq (B]$ . For an ordered ideal  $I$  of an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $M$  and a subset  $A$  of  $M$ . The set  $\ll A, I \gg := \{x \in M : A\Gamma x \subseteq I\}$  is called the *extension* [12] of  $I$  by  $A$ . If  $A = \{a\}$ , then we also write  $\ll \{a\}, I \gg$  as  $\ll a, I \gg$ .

We shall assume throughout this paper that  $M$  stands for a commutative ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. Before the characterizations of the relationship between the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals and ordered ideal extensions in  $M$  for the main theorems, we give auxiliary results which are necessary in what follows.

**Lemma 1.1** ([12]). *Let  $I$  be an ordered ideal of  $M$ ,  $A \subseteq M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Then we have the following statements.*

- (a)  $\ll A, I \gg$  is an ordered ideal of  $M$ .
- (b)  $I \subseteq \ll A, I \gg \subseteq \ll A\Gamma A, I \gg \subseteq \ll A\gamma A, I \gg$ .
- (c) If  $A \subseteq I$ , then  $\ll A, I \gg = M$ .

**Lemma 1.2** ([12]). *Let  $I$  be an ordered ideal of  $M$  and  $A \subseteq M$ . Then*

$$\ll A, I \gg = \bigcap_{a \in A} \ll a, I \gg = \ll A \setminus I, I \gg.$$

## 2. Main theorems

In this section, we give the relationship between the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals and ordered ideal extensions in ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups.

The following theorem shows the important property that hold in every integer  $n \geq 3$ , the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals of  $M$  are a generalization of ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideals.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Every ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideal of  $M$  is an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$  for all integers  $n \geq 3$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $I$  is an ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideal of  $M$ . Now, let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n \subseteq M$  be such that  $A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I$ . Let  $B_1 = A_1\Gamma A_2$  and  $B_i = A_{i+1}$  for all  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-1$ . Then  $B_1\Gamma B_2 \cdots B_{n-2}\Gamma B_{n-1} \subseteq I$ . By hypothesis, it implies that there exists an integer  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ ) such that

$$\widehat{B}_{(1;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(i-1;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(i+1;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(i+2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq I.$$

**Case 1:**  $\widehat{B}_{(1;n-1)} \not\subseteq I$ .

Then  $\widehat{B}_{(2;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(3;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq I$ , so  $\widehat{A}_{(3;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(4;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$ . It follows from hypothesis that there exists an integer  $j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n-1$ ) such that

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(j-1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(j+1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(j+2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq I.$$

since  $A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-2}\Gamma A_{n-1} = \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} A_2\Gamma A_3 \cdots A_{n-2}\Gamma A_{n-1} &= \widehat{A}_{(1;n-1)} \subseteq I \text{ or} \\ A_1\Gamma A_3 \cdots A_{n-2}\Gamma A_{n-1} &= \widehat{A}_{(2;n-1)} \subseteq I. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, since  $I$  is an ordered ideal of  $M$ ,

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n)} = A_2\Gamma A_3 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I \text{ or } \widehat{A}_{(2;n)} = A_1\Gamma A_3 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I.$$

Hence  $\widehat{A}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(3;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(4;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$  or  $\widehat{A}_{(2;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(3;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$ .

**Case 2:**  $\widehat{B}_{(1;n-1)} \subseteq I$ .

Then there exists an integer  $j$  ( $2 \leq j \leq n-1$ ) such that

$$\widehat{B}_{(2;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(3;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(j-1;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(j+1;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(j+2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq I.$$

Thus

$$\widehat{A}_{(3;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(4;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(j;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(j+2;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(j+3;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I.$$

Since  $A_3\Gamma A_4 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n = \widehat{B}_{(1;n-1)} \subseteq I$ ,

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n)} = A_2\Gamma A_3 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I \text{ and } \widehat{A}_{(2;n)} = A_1\Gamma A_3\Gamma A_4 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I.$$

Thus  $\widehat{A}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(j;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(j+2;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(j+3;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$ .

Therefore  $I$  is an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$ . Hence we complete the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

The ordered  $n$ -prime ideals are not ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideals in general for ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroups and integers  $n \geq 3$ . We prove it by the following examples:

**Example 1** ([11]). Let  $M = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and  $\Gamma = \{\gamma\}$  with the multiplication and the relation  $\leq$  on  $M$  defined by

$$x\gamma y = \begin{cases} b & \text{if } x, y \in \{a, b\}, \\ c & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\leq := \{(a, a), (b, b), (c, c), (d, d), (b, c), (b, d), (c, d)\}.$$

Then  $M$  is an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $\{b, c\}$  is an ordered ideal of  $M$ . We can prove that  $\{b, c\}$  is a 3-prime ideal of  $M$  but not a 2-prime ideal of  $M$  since  $\{a\}\Gamma\{d\} \subseteq \{b, c\}$  while  $\{a\} \not\subseteq \{b, c\}$  and  $\{d\} \not\subseteq \{b, c\}$ .

**Example 2.** Let  $S = \{a, b, c, d\}$  be the ordered semigroup defined by the following multiplication and relation  $\leq$  on  $S$  as follows:

*	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$
$a$	$b$	$b$	$d$	$d$
$b$	$b$	$b$	$d$	$d$
$c$	$d$	$d$	$c$	$d$
$d$	$d$	$d$	$d$	$d$

$$\leq := \{(a, a), (b, b), (c, c), (d, d), (a, b), (d, b), (d, c)\}.$$

Let  $M = S$  and  $\Gamma = \{*\}$ . Then  $M$  is an ordered  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $\{d\}$  is an ordered ideal of  $M$ . We can prove that  $\{d\}$  is a 3-prime ideal of  $M$  but not a 2-prime ideal of  $M$  since  $\{b\}\Gamma\{c\} \subseteq \{d\}$  while  $b \neq d$  and  $c \neq d$ .

Immediately from Theorem 2.1, we have Corollary 2.2.

**Corollary 2.2.** *Every ordered prime ideal of  $M$  is an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$  for all integers  $n \geq 2$ .*

**Theorem 2.3.** *An ordered ideal  $I$  of  $M$  is an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$  if and only if any extension of  $I$  is an ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideal of  $M$  for all integers  $n \geq 3$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $I$  is an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$ . By Lemma 1.1 (a), we have that for any subset  $A$  of  $M$ ,  $\ll A, I \gg$  is an ordered ideal of  $M$ . For any subset  $B$  of  $M$ , let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n-1} \subseteq M$  be such that  $A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-2}\Gamma A_{n-1} \subseteq \ll B, I \gg$ . Then  $B\Gamma A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-2}\Gamma A_{n-1} \subseteq I$ . Let  $B_1 = B$  and  $B_i = A_{i-1}$  for all  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ . Then  $B_1\Gamma B_2 \cdots B_{n-1}\Gamma B_n \subseteq I$ . Since  $I$  is an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$ , there exists an integer  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) such that

$$\widehat{B}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{B}_{(2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(i-1;n)}, \widehat{B}_{(i+1;n)}, \widehat{B}_{(i+2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I.$$

Thus there exists an integer  $j$  ( $2 \leq j \leq n$ ) such that

$$\widehat{B}_{(2;n)}, \widehat{B}_{(3;n)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(j-1;n)}, \widehat{B}_{(j+1;n)}, \widehat{B}_{(j+2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I.$$

This implies that there exists an integer  $k = j - 1$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$ ) such that

$$B\Gamma \widehat{A}_{(1;n-1)}, B\Gamma \widehat{A}_{(2;n-1)}, \dots, B\Gamma \widehat{A}_{(k-1;n-1)}, B\Gamma \widehat{A}_{(k+1;n-1)}, \\ B\Gamma \widehat{A}_{(k+2;n-1)}, \dots, B\Gamma \widehat{A}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq I.$$

Hence

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(k-1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(k+1;n-1)}, \\ \widehat{A}_{(k+2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq \ll B, I \gg.$$

Therefore  $\ll B, I \gg$  is an ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideal of  $M$ .

Conversely, assume that any extension of  $I$  is an ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideal of  $M$ . Let  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n \subseteq M$  be such that  $A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-1}\Gamma A_n \subseteq I$ . Then we get  $A_1\Gamma A_2 \cdots A_{n-2}\Gamma A_{n-1} \subseteq \ll A_n, I \gg$ . By hypothesis, it implies that there exists an integer  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ ) such that

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(i-1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+1;n-1)}, \\ \widehat{A}_{(i+2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq \ll A_n, I \gg.$$

We consider the following  $(n-1)$  cases. Let  $\widehat{A}_{(i;n-1)} \not\subseteq \ll A_n, I \gg$ . Then

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(i-1;n-1)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+1;n-1)}, \\ \widehat{A}_{(i+2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq \ll A_n, I \gg.$$

Thus

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(i-1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n-1;n)} \subseteq I.$$

We now only prove that  $\widehat{A}_{(i;n)} \subseteq I$  or  $\widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$ . For any integer  $j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) and  $j \neq i$ , we have

$$A_1 \Gamma A_2 \dots A_{j-1} \Gamma A_{j+1} \Gamma A_{j+2} \dots A_{n-1} \Gamma A_n \subseteq \ll A_j, I \gg.$$

Let  $B_k = A_k$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, j-1$  and  $B_k = A_{k+1}$  for all  $k = j, j+1, \dots, n-1$ . Then

$$B_1 \Gamma B_2 \dots B_{n-2} \Gamma B_{n-1} \subseteq \ll A_j, I \gg.$$

Hence there exists an integer  $k$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ ) such that

$$\begin{aligned} &\widehat{B}_{(1;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(k-1;n-1)}, \widehat{B}_{(k+1;n-1)}, \\ &\widehat{B}_{(k+2;n-1)}, \dots, \widehat{B}_{(n-1;n-1)} \subseteq \ll A_j, I \gg. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that there exists an integer  $l$  ( $1 \leq l \leq n$ ) and  $l \neq j$  (assume  $l < j$ ) such that

$$\begin{aligned} &\widehat{A}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(l-1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(l+1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(l+2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(j-1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(j+1;n)}, \\ &\widehat{A}_{(j+2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $j \neq i$ , we get  $\widehat{A}_{(i;n)} \subseteq I$  or  $\widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I$ . Hence

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n-2;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(n-1;n)} \subseteq I$$

or

$$\widehat{A}_{(1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(i-1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+1;n)}, \widehat{A}_{(i+2;n)}, \dots, \widehat{A}_{(n;n)} \subseteq I.$$

Therefore  $I$  is an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$ . Hence the proof of the theorem is completed.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.4.** *If  $a \in (M\Gamma a]$  for all  $a \in M$ , then the ordered  $n$ -prime ideals and the ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideals of  $M$  coincide for all integers  $n \geq 3$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$ . By Theorem 2.3,  $\ll M, I \gg$  is an ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideal of  $M$ . Let  $a \in \ll M, I \gg$ . Then  $a \leq m\gamma a \in I$  for some  $m \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , so  $a \in I$ . Thus  $\ll M, I \gg \subseteq I$ . By Lemma 1.1 (b),  $\ll M, I \gg = I$ . By Lemma 2.1, the proof is completed.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** *If  $I$  is an ordered semiprime ideal of  $M$ , then  $I = \ll M, I \gg$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 1.1 (b),  $I \subseteq \ll M, I \gg$ . Let  $a \in \ll M, I \gg$ . Then  $a\Gamma a \subseteq M\Gamma a \subseteq I$ . Since  $I$  is an ordered semiprime ideal of  $M$ ,  $a \in I$ . Hence  $\ll M, I \gg \subseteq I$ , so we conclude that  $I = \ll M, I \gg$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6.** *For any integer  $n \geq 3$ , let  $I$  be an ordered semiprime ideal and an ordered  $n$ -prime ideal of  $M$  and let*

$$\mathcal{P} = \{T : T \text{ is an ordered } (n-1)\text{-prime ideal of } M \text{ and } I \subseteq T\}.$$

*Then  $I = \bigcap_{T \in \mathcal{P}} T$ .*

*Proof.* Clearly,  $I \subseteq \bigcap_{T \in \mathcal{P}} T$ . By Lemma 1.2 and Theorem 2.5,

$$I = \bigcap_{x \in M} \ll x, I \gg.$$

By Lemma 1.1 (b) and Theorem 2.3,  $I \subseteq \ll x, I \gg$  is an ordered  $(n-1)$ -prime ideal of  $M$  for all  $x \in M$ . Thus  $\ll x, I \gg \in \mathcal{P}$  for all  $x \in M$ . Hence  $\bigcap_{T \in \mathcal{P}} T \subseteq \bigcap_{x \in M} \ll x, I \gg = I$ . Therefore  $I = \bigcap_{T \in \mathcal{P}} T$ . Hence the theorem is now completed.  $\square$

**Acknowledgement.** The authors are very indebted to the referee, whose valuable comments and suggestions considerably increased the quality of this paper.

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