

# Intuitionistic fuzzy k-ideals of a semiring

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## Abstract

We introduce the concepts of intuitionistic fuzzy  $k$ -ideals and intuitionistic fuzzy prime  $k$ -ideals of a semiring. And we investigate some properties of them.

**Keywords and phrases** : intuitionistic fuzzy ideal, intuitionistic fuzzy k-ideal, intuitionistic fuzzy prime k-ideal.

## 1. Introduction

As a generalization of fuzzy sets introduced by Zadeh[17], Atanassov [4] introduced the notion of intuitionistic fuzzy sets in 1986. After that time, Çoker [8] introduced the concept of intuitionistic fuzzy topology by using intuitionistic fuzzy sets. In 1989, Biswas [6] introduced the notion of intuitionistic fuzzy subgroups and studied some of it's properties. In 2003, Banerjee and Basnet [5], Hur et al. [10,11] applied the concept of intuitionistic fuzzy sets to algebra. Since then, Hur et.al. [1,2,12-14] have applied one to group theory, and ring theory.

In this paper, we introduce the concepts of intuitionistic fuzzy  $k$ -ideals and intuitionistic fuzzy prime  $k$ -ideals of a semiring. And we investigate some properties of them.

## 2. Preliminaries

We will list some concepts and results needed in the later sections.

For sets  $X, Y$  and  $Z, f = (f_1, f_2) : X \rightarrow Y \times Z$  is called a *complex mapping* if  $f_1 : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $f_2 : X \rightarrow Z$  are mappings.

Throughout this paper, we will denote the unit interval  $[0,1]$  as  $I$ .

**Definition 2.1** [4,8]. Let  $X$  be a nonempty set. A complex mapping  $A = (\mu_A, \nu_A) : X \rightarrow I \times I$  is

called *intuitionistic fuzzy set* (in short, *IFS*) in  $X$  if  $\mu_A(x) + \nu_A(x) \leq 1$  for each  $x \in X$ , where the mapping  $\mu_A : X \rightarrow I$  and  $\nu_A : X \rightarrow I$  denote the degree of membership (namely  $\mu_A(x)$ ) and the degree of non-membership (namely  $\nu_A(x)$ ) of each  $x \in X$  to  $A$ , respectively. In particular,  $0_{\sim}$  and  $1_{\sim}$  denote the *intuitionistic fuzzy empty set* and *intuitionistic fuzzy whole set* in  $X$  defined by  $0_{\sim}(x) = (0, 1)$  and  $1_{\sim}(x) = (1, 0)$  for each  $x \in X$ , respectively.

We will denote the set of all IFSs in  $X$  as  $IFS(X)$ .

**Definition 2.2** [4]. Let  $X$  be a nonempty sets and let  $A = (\mu_A, \nu_A)$  and  $B = (\mu_B, \nu_B)$  be IFSs on  $X$ . Then

- (1)  $A \subset B$  if and only if  $\mu_A \leq \mu_B$  and  $\nu_A \geq \nu_B$ .
- (2)  $A = B$  if and only if  $A \subset B$  and  $B \subset A$ .
- (3)  $A^c = (\nu_A, \mu_A)$ .
- (4)  $A \cap B = (\mu_A \wedge \mu_B, \nu_A \vee \nu_B)$ .
- (5)  $A \cup B = (\mu_A \vee \mu_B, \nu_A \wedge \nu_B)$ .

**Definition 2.3** [10]. Let  $(X, \cdot)$  be a groupoid and let  $A, B \in IFS(X)$ . Then the *intuitionistic fuzzy product* of  $A$  and  $B, A \circ B$  is defined as follows : for each  $x \in X$ ,

$$A \circ B(x) = \begin{cases} \bigvee_{x=yz} [\mu_A(y) \wedge \mu_B(z)], \\ \bigwedge_{x=yz} [\nu_A(y) \vee \nu_B(y)] & \text{if } x=yz, \\ (0, 1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

It is clear that  $A \circ B \in IFS(X)$ , i.e.,  $(IFS(X), \circ)$  is a groupoid.

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### 3. Intuitionistic fuzzy k- ideal

A *semiring* is defined by an algebra  $(S, +, \cdot)$  such that  $(S, +)$  and  $(S, \cdot)$  are semigroups connected by  $a(b + c) = ab + ac$  and  $(b + c)a = ba + ca$  for all  $a, b, c \in S$ . A semiring may have an identity 1, defined by  $1 \cdot a = a \cdot 1 = a$  and a zero 0 (which is an absorbing zero also), defined by  $0 + a = a + 0 = a$  and  $a \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot a = 0$  for all  $a \in S$ (see[7]).

A subset  $J (\neq \emptyset)$  of a semiring  $S$  is called a *left ideal* of  $S$ , if  $a + b \in J, sa \in J$  for all  $a, b \in J$  and all  $s \in S$ . Right ideal is defined dually and a *two sided ideal* or simply an *ideal* is both a left and a right ideal(see[7]).

**Definition 3.1 [15].** Let  $A$  be a nonempty intuitionistic fuzzy set in a semiring  $S$ . Then  $A$  is called an:

(1) *intuitionistic fuzzy left ideal* (in short, *IFLI*) of  $S$  if

$$\mu_A(x + y) \geq \mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y), \nu_A(x + y) \leq \nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y)$$

and

$$\mu_A(xy) \geq \mu_A(y), \nu_A(xy) \leq \nu_A(y), \text{ for any } x, y \in S.$$

(2) *intuitionistic fuzzy right ideal* (in short, *IFRI*) of  $S$  if

$$\mu_A(x + y) \geq \mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y), \nu_A(x + y) \leq \nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y)$$

and

$$\mu_A(xy) \geq \mu_A(x), \nu_A(xy) \leq \nu_A(x).$$

(3) *intuitionistic fuzzy ideal* (in short, *IFI*) of  $S$  if it is both an IFLI and an IFRI of  $S$ .

We will denote the set of all IFIs[resp. IFLIs and IFRIs] of  $S$  as  $IFI(S)$  [resp.  $IFLI(S)$  and  $IFRI(S)$ ], respectively.

It is clear that  $A \in IFI(S)$  if and only if for any  $x, y \in S$ .

$$\mu_A(x + y) \geq \mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y), \nu_A(x + y) \leq \nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y)$$

and

$$\mu_A(xy) \geq \mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y), \nu_A(xy) \leq \nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y).$$

Moreover, it is clear that if  $S$  is a semiring with zero 0 and  $A \in IFI(S)$ , then  $\mu_A(0) \geq \mu_A(x)$  and  $\nu_A(0) \leq \nu_A(x)$  for each  $x \in S$ .

A *left k-ideal*  $J$  of a semiring  $S$  is a left ideal such that if  $a \in J$  and  $x \in S$ , and if  $a + x \in J$  or  $x + a \in J$  then  $x \in J$ .

*Right k-ideal* is defined dually, and *two sided k- ideal* or simply a *k- ideal* is both a left and a right *k- ideal* (See[7]).

**Definition 3.2** Let  $A$  be a nonempty intuitionistic fuzzy set in a semiring  $S$  satisfying the following conditions : for any  $x, y \in S$ ,

$$\mu_A(x) \geq [\mu_A(x + y) \vee \mu_A(y + x)] \wedge \mu_A(y)$$

and

$$\nu_A(x) \leq [\nu_A(x + y) \wedge \nu_A(y + x)] \vee \nu_A(y).$$

If  $S$  is additively commutative, then the conditions reduce to

$$\mu_A(x) \geq \mu_A(x + y) \wedge \mu_A(y) \text{ and } \nu_A(x) \leq \nu_A(x + y) \vee \nu_A(y) \text{ for any } x, y \in S.$$

Then  $A$  is called an :

(1) *intuitionistic fuzzy left k-ideal*(in short, *IFLKI*) of  $S$  if  $A \in IFLI(S)$ .

(2) *intuitionistic fuzzy right k-ideal*(in short, *IFRKI*) of  $S$  if  $A \in IFRI(S)$ .

(3) *intuitionistic fuzzy k-ideal*(in short, *IFKI*) of  $S$  if  $A \in IFI(S)$ .

We will denote the set of all IFKIs[resp. IFLKIs and IFRKIs ] of  $S$  as  $IFKI(S)$  [resp.  $IFLKI(S)$  and  $IFRKI(S)$  ].

**Example 3.2.** (1) In a ring, every intuitionistic fuzzy ideal is an intuitionistic fuzzy *k-ideal*.

(2) Let  $A$  be an intuitionistic fuzzy set in the semiring  $\mathbb{N}$  defined by : for any  $x \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} A(x) &= (0.3, 0.6) && \text{if } x \text{ is odd,} \\ &= (0.5, 0.4) && \text{if } x \text{ is non-zero even,} \\ &= (1, 0) && \text{if } x=0. \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbb{N}$  denotes the semiring of non-negative integers under the usual operations. Then  $A \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})$ .

(3) Let  $B$  be an intuitionistic fuzzy set in  $\mathbb{N}$  denoted by : for any  $x \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} B(x) &= (1, 0) && \text{if } x \geq 7, \\ &= (0.5, 0.4) && \text{if } 5 \leq x < 7, \\ &= (0, 1) && \text{if } 0 \leq x < 5. \end{aligned}$$

Then it can be easily verified that  $B \in IFI(\mathbb{N})$  but  $B \notin IFKI(\mathbb{N})$ .

**Result 3.A[10, Proposition 3.8].** Let  $A$  be a non-empty subset of a semigroup  $S$ . Where  $\chi_A$  denotes the characteristic function of  $A$ .

(1)  $A$  is a left [resp. right] ideal of  $S$  if and only if  $(\chi_A, \chi_{A^c}) \in IFLI(S)$  [resp.  $IFRI(S)$ ].

(2)  $A$  is an ideal of  $S$  if and only if  $(\chi_A, \chi_{A^c}) \in IFI(S)$ .

The following is the immediate result of Result 3.A and Definition 3.2 :

**Propositi 3.3.** Let  $A$  be a nonempty subset of a semiring  $S$ . Then  $A$  is a *k-ideal* of  $S$  if and only if  $(\chi_A, \chi_{A^c}) \in IFKI(S)$ .

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $S$  be a semiring with zero  $0$  and let  $A \in IFKI(S)$ . If  $x + y = 0$ , then  $A(x) = A(y)$  for any  $x, y \in S$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $A \in IFKI(S)$ ,

$$\mu_A(x) \geq [\mu_A(x + y) \vee \mu_A(y + x)] \wedge \mu_A(y) = [\mu_A(0) \vee \mu_A(y + x)] \wedge \mu_A(y).$$

and

$$\nu_A(x) \leq [\nu_A(x + y) \wedge \nu_A(y + x)] \vee \nu_A(y) = [\nu_A(0) \wedge \nu_A(y + x)] \vee \nu_A(y).$$

Since  $A \in IFI(S)$ ,

$$\mu_A(0) \geq \mu_A(x) \text{ and } \nu_A(0) \leq \nu_A(x), \text{ for each } x \in S.$$

Thus  $\mu_A(x) \geq \mu_A(y)$  and  $\nu_A(x) \leq \nu_A(y)$ . By the similar arguments,  $\mu_A(x) \leq \mu_A(y)$  and  $\nu_A(x) \geq \nu_A(y)$ . So  $\mu_A(x) = \mu_A(y)$  and  $\nu_A(x) = \nu_A(y)$ .

Hence  $A(x) = A(y)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 3.5.** *Let  $S$  be a semiring with zero  $0$ , let  $A \in IFKI(S)$  and let  $S_A = \{x \in S : A(x) = A(0)\}$ . Then  $S_A$  is a  $k$ -ideal of  $S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $x, y \in S_A$ . Then

$$\mu_A(x + y) \geq \mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y) \quad [\text{Since } A \in IFI(S)] \\ = \mu_A(0) \quad [\text{By the definition of } S_A]$$

and

$$\nu_A(x + y) \leq \nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y) = \nu_A(0).$$

On the other hand, since  $A \in IFI(S)$ ,

$$\mu_A(0) \geq \mu_A(x + y) \text{ and } \nu_A(0) \leq \nu_A(x + y).$$

Thus  $A(x + y) = A(0)$ . So  $x + y \in S_A$ . Now let  $s \in S$  and let  $x \in S_A$ .

Then

$$\mu_A(sx) \geq \mu_A(x) = \mu_A(0)$$

and

$$\nu_A(sx) \leq \nu_A(x) = \nu_A(0).$$

Similarly,  $\mu_A(0) \geq \mu_A(sx)$  and  $\nu_A(0) \leq \nu_A(sx)$ .

Thus  $A(sx) = A(0)$ . So  $sx \in S_A$ . By the similar arguments, it can be shown that  $xs \in S_A$ . Hence  $S_A$  is an ideal of  $S$ .

Now suppose  $x \in S, a \in S_A$  and  $a + x \in S_A$  or  $x + a \in S_A$ .

Then

$$\mu_A(x) \geq [\mu_A(a + x) \vee \mu_A(x + a)] \wedge \mu_A(a) = \mu_A(0)$$

and

$$\nu_A(x) \leq [\nu_A(a + x) \wedge \nu_A(x + a)] \vee \nu_A(a) = \nu_A(0).$$

Similarly, we can see that  $\mu_A(0) \geq \mu_A(x)$  and  $\nu_A(0) \leq \nu_A(x)$ .

Thus  $A(x) = A(0)$ . So  $x \in S_A$ . Therefore  $S_A$  is a  $k$ -ideal of  $S$ .  $\square$

#### 4. Intuitionistic fuzzy prime $k$ -ideal of $\mathbb{N}$

An ideal  $P$  of a semiring  $S$  is said to be *prime* if and only if  $AB \subset P$  for any two ideals  $A, B$  of  $S$  implies that either  $A \subset P$  or  $B \subset P$ .

$P$  is defined to be *prime  $k$ -ideal* if  $P$  is a  $k$ -ideal satisfying the above condition (See[6]).

**Definition 4.1[14].** Let  $P$  be an IFI of a semiring  $S$ . Then  $P$  is said to be *prime* if  $P$  is not a constant mapping and for any  $A, B \in IFI(S)$ ,  $A \circ B \subset P$  implies either  $A \subset P$  or  $B \subset P$ .

We will denote the set of all intuitionistic fuzzy prime ideals of  $S$  as  $IFPI(S)$ .

**Result 4.A[14, Proposition 3.3].** *Let  $S$  be a semiring with zero and let  $P \in IFPI(S)$ . Then  $S_P$  is a prime ideal of  $S$ .*

**Definition 4.2.** Let  $P$  be an intuitionistic fuzzy set in a semiring  $S$ . Then  $P$  is called an *intuitionistic fuzzy prime  $k$ -ideal* (in short, *IFPKI*) of  $S$  if  $P \in IFPI(S) \cap IFKI(S)$ .

We will denote the set of all intuitionistic fuzzy prime  $k$ -ideals of  $S$  as  $IFPKI(S)$ .

The following is the immediate result of Result 4.A and Proposition 3.5 :

**Proposition 4.3.** *Let  $S$  be a semiring with zero and let  $P \in IFPKI(S)$ . Then  $S_P$  is a prime  $k$ -ideal of  $S$ .*

**Result 4.B[16].** *The semiring  $\mathbb{N}$  has exactly the  $k$ -ideal*

$$(a) = \{na : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \text{ for each } a \in \mathbb{N}.$$

*Consequently, the maximal  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$  are given by  $(p)$  for each prime number  $p$ .*

**Proposition 4.4.** *Let  $A \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})$ . Then there exists  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  such that*

$$\mathbb{N}_A = \{na : n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

**Proof.** Since  $A \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})$ , by Proposition 3.5,  $\mathbb{N}_A$  is a  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Thus, by Result 4.B, there exists  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mathbb{N}_A = \{na : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Hence this completes the proof.  $\square$

**Result 4.C[3].** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a \neq 0$  and  $b \neq 0$ . If  $d$  is the greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ , then there exist  $s, t \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $sa = tb + a$  or  $tb = sa + d$ .

**Proposition 4.5.** Let  $A \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})$  with  $\mathbb{N}_A = n\mathbb{N} \neq (0)$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ). Then  $A$  takes almost  $r$  values, where  $r$  is the number of distinct divisors of  $n$ .

**Proof.** Let  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $a \neq 0$ . Suppose  $d$  is the greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $n$ . Then, by Result 4.C, there exist  $s, t \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $ns = at + d$  or  $at = ns + d$ .

Case1 :  $ns = at + d$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_A(at+d) &= \mu_A(ns) \geq \mu_A(n) \text{ [Since } A \in IFI(\mathbb{N})\text{]} \\ &= \mu_A(0) \text{ [Since } n \in n\mathbb{N} = \mathbb{N}_A\text{]} \\ &\geq \mu_A(at) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\nu_A(at+d) = \nu_A(ns) \leq \nu_A(n) = \nu_A(0) \leq \nu_A(at).$$

Thus

$$\mu_A(d) \geq \mu_A(at+d) \wedge \mu_A(at) \text{ [Since } A \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})\text{]} \\ = \mu_A(at) \geq \mu_A(a)$$

and

$$\nu_A(d) \leq \nu_A(at+d) \vee \nu_A(at) = \nu_A(at) \leq \nu_A(a)$$

Case2 :  $at = ns + d$ . Then, by the similar arguments of Case1,

$$\mu_A(d) \geq \mu_A(a) \text{ and } \nu_A(d) \leq \nu_A(a)$$

So, in both the cases,  $\mu_A(d) \geq \mu_A(a)$  and  $\nu_A(d) \leq \nu_A(a)$ .

Since  $d$  is a divisor of  $a$ , there exists  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a = dr$ .

Then, since  $A \in IFI(\mathbb{N})$ ,

$$\mu_A(a) = \mu_A(dr) \geq \mu_A(d)$$

and

$$\nu_A(a) = \nu_A(dr) \leq \nu_A(d)$$

Thus  $\mu_A(a) = \mu_A(d)$  and  $\nu_A(a) = \nu_A(d)$ . So  $A(a) = A(d)$ .

Hence for each  $0 \neq a \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a divisor  $d$  of  $n$  such that  $A(a) = A(d)$ .

Suppose  $a = 0$ . Since  $\mathbb{N}_A = n\mathbb{N}$ ,  $A(a) = A(0) = A(n)$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Result 4.D[9, Lemma 4.1].** In  $\mathbb{N}$ ,  $(P)$  is a prime  $k$ -ideal if and only if  $p$  is prime.

**Theorem 4.6.** Let  $A$  be a non null [i.e.,  $\mathbb{N}_A \neq (0)$ ] intuitionistic fuzzy prime  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Then  $A$  has two distinct values. Conversely, if  $A \in IFS(\mathbb{N})$  such that  $A(n) = (1, 0)$  when  $p|n$  and  $A(n) = (\lambda, \mu)$  when  $p \nmid n$ , where  $p$  is a fixed prime and  $(\lambda, \mu) \in [0, 1] \times (0, 1]$  and  $\lambda + \mu \leq 1$ , then  $A$  is a non null intuitionistic fuzzy prime  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**Proof.** Since  $A \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})$ , by Proposition 4.4, there exists  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mathbb{N}_A = \{na : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Then, by the hypothesis,  $\mathbb{N}_A = n\mathbb{N} \neq (0)$ . Since  $A \in IFPKI(\mathbb{N})$ ,

by Proposition 4.3,  $\mathbb{N}_A$  is a prime  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Thus, by Result 4.D,  $P$  is a prime number. So, by Proposition 4.5,  $A$  has almost two values. But,  $A$  is not a constant function, since  $A$  is an intuitionistic fuzzy prime  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Hence  $A$  has two distinct values.

Conversely, suppose  $A$  is an intuitionistic fuzzy set in  $\mathbb{N}$  satisfying the given conditions. Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Case1 :  $A(x) = (\lambda, \mu)$  or  $A(y) = (\lambda, \mu)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_A(x+y) &\geq \mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y) \text{ and } \nu_A(x+y) \leq \\ &\nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y). \end{aligned}$$

Case2 :  $A(x) = (1, 0)$  and  $A(y) = (1, 0)$ . Then  $p|x$  and  $p|y$ .

Thus  $p|(x+y)$ . So  $A(x+y) = (1, 0) = (\mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y), \nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y))$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_A(x+y) &\geq \mu_A(x) \wedge \mu_A(y) \text{ and } \nu_A(x+y) \leq \\ &\nu_A(x) \vee \nu_A(y) \end{aligned}$$

Case3 :  $A(x) = (1, 0)$ . Then  $p|x$ . Thus  $p|xy$ . So  $A(xy) = (1, 0) = A(x)$ .

Hence

$$\mu_A(xy) \geq \mu_A(x) \text{ and } \nu_A(xy) \leq \nu_A(x).$$

Case4 :  $A(x) = (\lambda, \mu)$ , Then clearly

$$\mu_A(xy) \geq \mu_A(x) \text{ and } \nu_A(xy) \leq \nu_A(x).$$

Therefore  $A \in IFI(\mathbb{N})$ .

Now we will prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_A(x) &\geq \mu_A(x+y) \wedge \mu_A(y) \text{ and } \nu_A(x) \leq \\ &\nu_A(x+y) \vee \mu_A(y). \end{aligned} \quad (4.6.1)$$

Case1 :  $A(x+y) = (\lambda, \mu)$  or  $A(y) = (\lambda, \mu)$ . Then there is nothing to prove.

Case2 :  $A(x+y) = (1, 0)$  and  $A(y) = (1, 0)$ . Then  $p|(x+y)$  and  $p|y$ . Thus  $p|x$ . So  $A(x) = (1, 0)$ . Hence (4.6.1) holds. Therefore  $A \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})$ .

By proposition 3.5,  $\mathbb{N}_A$  is a  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Next we prove that  $\mathbb{N} = p\mathbb{N} \neq (0)$  is a prime  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Let  $x \in \mathbb{N}_A$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} A(x) = A(0) &= (1, 0) \Leftrightarrow p|x \Leftrightarrow x = pn \\ \text{for some } n \in \mathbb{N} &\Leftrightarrow x \in p\mathbb{N}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\mathbb{N}_A = p\mathbb{N} \neq (0)$ , where  $p$  is a fixed prime. So, by Result 4.D,  $\mathbb{N}_A$  is a prime  $k$ -ideal of  $\mathbb{N}$ . Since  $A$  has two distinct values  $(1, 0)$  and  $(\lambda, \mu)$ ,  $A$  is not a constant function. Now assume that  $A_1, A_2 \in IFKI(\mathbb{N})$  such that  $A_1 \circ A_2 \subset A$  and  $A_1 \not\subset A$  and  $A_2 \not\subset A$ . Then there exist  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\mu_{A_1}(x) > \mu_A(x), \nu_{A_1}(x) < \nu_A(x)$$

and

$$\mu_{A_2}(y) > \mu_A(y), \nu_{A_2}(y) < \nu_A(y).$$

Thus  $A(x) = A(y) = (\lambda, \mu)$ . So  $x, y \notin \mathbb{N}_A$ . Since  $\mathbb{N}_A$  is a prime  $k$ -ideal of commutative semiring  $\mathbb{N}$ ,  $xy \notin \mathbb{N}_A$ .

Then  $A(xy) = (\lambda, \mu)$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{A_1 \circ A_2}(xy) &\leq \mu_A(xy) = \lambda \text{ and } \nu_{A_1 \circ A_2}(xy) \geq \\ &\nu_A(xy) = \mu. \end{aligned} \quad (4.6.2)$$

But  $\mu_{A_1 \circ A_2}(xy) \geq \mu_{A_1}(x) \wedge \mu_{A_2}(y) > \lambda$  and  $\nu_{A_1 \circ A_2}(xy) \leq \nu_{A_1}(x) \vee \nu_{A_2}(y) < \mu$ .

This contradicts (4.6.2). Hence  $A_1 \subset A$  or  $A_2 \subset A$ . Therefore  $A \in IFPKI(\mathbb{N})$ . This completes the

proof.  $\square$

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