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## **ON ANTIFUZZY NORMAL CLOSED b-IDEALS OF BCI-ALGEBRAS**

**ABSTRACT:** *The antifuzzification of normal b-ideal is considered and some related properties are investigated. A characterization of an antifuzzy normal closed b-ideal is given.*

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**Keywords:** *Normal b-ideal, lower level cut, antifuzzy normal closed b-ideal.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Y. Imai and K. Iseki introduced two classes of abstract algebras : BCKalgebras and BCI-algebras ([4, 5]). It is known that the class of BCK-algebra is a proper subclass of the class of BCI-algebra. Jun [6] defined a doubt fuzzy subalgebra, doubt fuzzy ideal and doubt fuzzy prime ideal in BCI-algebra. In this note, we define an antifuzzy normal closed b-ideal and normal b-ideal and consider the antifuzzification of (normal) b-ideals in BCI-algebras and investigate some related properties. We give a characterization of an antifuzzy normal closed b-ideal.

### **2. PRELIMINARIES**

We recall that a fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of a set  $X$  is a function  $\mu$  from  $X$  into  $[0, 1]$ . Let  $\text{Im}(\mu)$  denote the image set of  $\mu$ . We will write  $a \wedge b$  for  $\min\{a, b\}$ , and  $a \vee b$  for  $\max\{a, b\}$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are any real numbers. Given a fuzzy set  $\mu$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$  we define

$L(\mu, t) = \{x \in X \mid \mu(x) \leq t\}$ , which is called lower level cut of  $\mu$ . Let  $(X, *, 0)$  be an algebraic structure. We call it a BCI-algebra when it satisfies the conditions for any  $x, y, z \in X$ ,

- (1)  $(x * y) * (x * z) \leq z * y$ ,
- (2)  $x * (x * y) \leq y$ ,

- (3)  $x * x = 0$ ,
- (4) if  $x * y = y * x = 0$  then  $x = y$ .

The relation “ $\leq$ ” is defined as follows:  $x \leq y \Leftrightarrow x * y = 0$ . It is easy to show that  $(X, \leq)$  is a partially ordered set and the following proposition holds.

- (a)  $x * 0 = x$ ,
- (b)  $0 * (x * y) = (0 * x) (0 * y)$ ,
- (c)  $(x * y) * z = (x * z) * y$ ,
- (d)  $x \leq y$  implies  $x * z \leq y * z$  and  $z * x \leq z * y$ .

**Definition 2.1:** Any subset  $I$  of  $X$  is called closed  $b$ -ideal if

- (i)  $0 * x \in I$ , for all  $x \in X$
- (ii)  $x, y \in I$  implies  $x * (0 * y) \in I$ .

**Definition 2.2:** A non-empty subset  $N$  of BCI-algebra  $X$  is said to be normal if  $(x * a) * (y * b) \in N$  whenever  $x * y \in N$  and  $a * b \in N$ .

**Definition 2.3:** A fuzzy set  $\mu$  in  $X$  is called antifuzzy subalgebra of  $X$  if it satisfies the inequality:  $\mu(x * y) \leq \max\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .

**Example 2.4:** Let  $X = \{0, a, b, c, d, e\}$  be a set with the following table

$*$	$0$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$	$e$
$0$	$0$	$b$	$a$	$c$	$d$	$e$
$a$	$a$	$0$	$b$	$d$	$e$	$c$
$b$	$b$	$a$	$0$	$e$	$c$	$d$
$c$	$c$	$d$	$e$	$0$	$b$	$a$
$d$	$d$	$e$	$c$	$a$	$0$	$b$
$e$	$e$	$c$	$d$	$b$	$a$	$0$

Then  $(X, *, 0)$  is a BCI-algebra. Define  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by  $\mu(0) = \mu(c) = 0.1 < 0.5 = \mu(x)$  for all  $x \in X \setminus \{0, c\}$ . Then  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy subalgebra of  $X$ .

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

**Proposition 3.1:** Every antifuzzy subalgebra  $\mu$  satisfies the inequality

$$\mu(0) \leq \mu(x), \text{ for all } x \in X.$$

**Proof:** Since  $x * x = 0$  for all  $x \in X$ , we have

$$\mu(0) = \mu(x * x) \leq \max \{ \mu(x), \mu(x) \} = \mu(x).$$

For any elements  $x, y$  of  $X$ , let us write  $\prod^n x * y$  for  $x * (\cdot \cdot * (x * (x * y)))$ , where  $x$  occurs  $n$  times.

**Proposition 3.2:** Let a fuzzy set  $\mu$  in  $X$  be an antifuzzy subalgebra and let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then

(i)  $\mu(\prod^n x * x) \leq \mu(x)$ , whenever  $n$  is odd.

(ii)  $\mu(\prod^n x * x) = \mu(x)$ , whenever  $n$  is even.

for all  $x, y \in X$ .

**Proof:** Let  $x \in X$  and assume that  $n$  is odd. Then  $n = 2k - 1$  for some positive integer  $k$ . Observe that  $\mu(x * x) = \mu(0) \leq \mu(x)$ . Suppose that  $\mu(\prod^{2k-1} x * x) \leq \mu(x)$  for positive integer  $k$ . Then

$$\mu\left(\prod^{2(k+1)-1} x * x\right) = \mu\left(\prod^{2k+1} x * x\right) = \mu\left(\prod^{2k-1} x * x(x * x)\right) = \mu\left(\prod^{2k-1} x * x\right) \leq \mu(x)$$

which proves (i). Similarly we obtain the second part.

**Definition 3.3:** A fuzzy set  $\mu$  in  $X$  is called antifuzzy closed  $b$ -ideal of  $X$  if,

(i)  $\mu(0 * x) \leq \mu(x)$ ,

(ii)  $\mu(x * (0 * y)) \leq \max \{ \mu(x), \mu(y) \}$ ,

for all  $x, y \in X$ .

**Definition 3.4:** A fuzzy set  $\mu$  in  $X$  is said to be antifuzzy normal if it satisfies the inequality

$$\mu((x * a) * (y * b)) \leq \max \{ \mu(x * y), \mu(a * b) \}.$$

**Example 3.5:** If we define a fuzzy set  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by  $\mu(0) = \mu(a) = \mu(b) = 0.1$  and  $\mu(c) = \mu(d) = \mu(e) = 0.4$  in Example 2.4, then  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy normal set in  $X$ .

**Example 3.6:** Let  $X = \{0, a, b, c\}$  be a set with the following table.

*	0	a	b	c
0	0	c	b	a
a	a	0	c	b
b	b	a	0	c
c	c	b	a	0

Then  $(X, *, 0)$  is a BCI-algebra. If we define  $\mu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by

$\mu(0) < \mu(b) < \mu(a) = \mu(c)$ , then  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy normal set in  $X$ . Moreover, if we define  $\nu : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by  $\nu(0) = \nu(b) < \nu(a) = \nu(c)$ , then  $\nu$  is also an antifuzzy normal set in  $X$ .

**Theorem 3.7:** Every antifuzzy normal set  $\mu$  in  $X$  is an antifuzzy subalgebra of  $X$ .

**Proof:**  $\mu(x * y) = \mu((x * x) * (0 * 0)) \leq \max\{\mu(x * 0), \mu(y * 0)\} = \max\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$ , then  $\mu(x * y) \leq \max\{\mu(x), \mu(y)\}$ . Hence  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy subalgebra of  $X$ .

**Remark:** The converse of Theorem 3.7 is not true. For example, an antifuzzy subalgebra  $\mu$  in Example 2.4 is not an antifuzzy normal since

$$\mu((b * e) (d * a)) = \mu(b) > \mu(c) = \max\{\mu(b * d), \mu(e * a)\}.$$

**Definition 3.8:** A fuzzy set  $\mu$  in  $X$  is called an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal if it is an antifuzzy closed  $b$ -ideal which is antifuzzy normal.

**Example 3.9:** The fuzzy set discussed in Example 3.5 and 3.6 are indeed an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal.

**Proposition 3.10:** If a fuzzy set  $\mu$  in  $X$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal then  $\mu(x * y) = \mu(y * x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .

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

$$\mu(x * y) = \mu((x * y) * (x * x)) \leq \max\{\mu(x * x), \mu(y * x)\} = \mu(y * x).$$

Interchanging  $x$  with  $y$ , we obtain  $\mu(y * x) \leq \mu(x * y)$ , which proves the Proposition.

**Theorem 3.11:** Let  $\mu$  be an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal. Then the set  $X_\mu = \{x \in X \mid \mu(x) = \mu(0)\}$  is a normal closed  $b$ -ideal of  $X$ .

**Proof:** It is sufficient to show that  $X_\mu$  is antifuzzy normal. let  $a, b, x, y \in X$  be such that  $x * y \in X_\mu$  and  $a * b \in X_\mu$ . Then  $\mu(x * y) = \mu(0) = \mu(a * b)$ . Since  $\mu$  is antifuzzy normal it follows that

$\mu((x * a)(y * b)) \leq \max\{\mu(x * y), \mu(a * b)\} = \mu(0)$ . Applying Proposition 3.10, we conclude that  $\mu((x * a)(y * b)) = \mu(0)$ , which shows that  $(x * a)(y * b) \in X_\mu$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.12:** The intersection of any antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal is also an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal.

**Proof:** Let  $\{\mu_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Omega\}$  be a family of antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideals and let  $x, y, a, b \in X$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha\right)(x * a) * (y * b) &= \inf_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha((x * a) * (y * b)) \\ &\leq \inf_{\alpha \in \Omega} \max\{\mu_\alpha(x * y), \mu_\alpha(a * b)\} \\ &= \max\{\inf_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha(x * y), \inf_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha(a * b)\} \\ &= \max\left\{\left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha\right)(x * y), \left(\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha\right)(a * b)\right\} \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha$  is an antifuzzy normal set in  $X$ , using Theorem 3.7, we conclude that  $\bigcap_{\alpha \in \Omega} \mu_\alpha$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal.

The union of any set of antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideals need not be antifuzzy normal  $b$ -ideal. For example if we define a fuzzy set

$\delta : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by  $\delta(0) = \delta(d) = 0, 1 < 0.3 = \delta(a) = \delta(b) = \delta(c) = \delta(e)$  in Example 2.4,

then it is also an antifuzzy closed  $b$ -ideal. Since  $(\mu \cup \delta)(c * d) = 0.3$  and  $\max\{(\mu \cup \delta)(c), (\mu \cup \delta)(d)\} = 0.1$ ,  $\mu \cup \delta$  is not an antifuzzy closed  $b$ -ideals.

#### 4. ANTIFUZZY NORMAL CLOSED $b$ -IDEALS

**Theorem 4.1:** Let  $A$  be a non-empty subset of  $X$  and let  $\mu_A$  be a fuzzy set

$$\mu_A(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } x \in A, \\ \beta & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$  with  $\alpha > \beta$ . Then  $\mu_A$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal if and only if  $A$  is a normal subalgebra of  $X$ . Moreover, in this case  $X\mu_A = A$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $\mu_A$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal. Let  $a, b, x, y \in X$  be such that  $x * y \in A$  and  $a * b \in A$ . Then

$$\mu_A((x * a) (y * b)) \leq \max\{\mu_A(x * y), \mu(a * b)\} = \alpha$$

and so  $\mu_A((x * a) * (y * b)) = \alpha$ , which shows that  $(x * a) (y * b) \in A$ . Hence  $A$  is a normal subalgebra of  $X$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $A$  is a normal subalgebra of  $X$  and let

$a, b, x, y \in X$ . If  $x * y \in A$  and  $a * b \in A$ , then  $(x * a) (y * b) \in A$  and so  $\mu_A((x * a) (y * b)) = \alpha = \max\{\mu_A(x * y), \mu_A(a * b)\}$ . If  $x * y \notin A$  and  $a * b \notin A$ , then clearly

$$\mu_A((x * a) * (y * b)) \leq \beta = \max\{\mu_A(x * y), \mu_A(a * b)\}.$$

This shows that  $\mu_A$  is an antifuzzy normal set. It follows from Theorem 3.7 that  $\mu_A$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal. Moreover, using Theorem 3.11, we have

$$X_{\mu_A} = \{x \in X \mid \mu_A(x) = \mu_A(0)\} = \{x \in X \mid \mu_A(x) = \alpha\} = A.$$

This completes the proof.

**Theorem 4.2:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy set in  $X$ . Then  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal if and only if the set  $L(\mu, \alpha) = \{x \in X \mid \mu(x) \geq \alpha\}$ , is a normal subalgebra of  $X$  for all  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , where  $L(\mu, \alpha) \neq \emptyset$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\mu$  be an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal and assume that

$L(\mu, \alpha) \neq \emptyset$  for all  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . Let  $a, b, x, y \in X$  be such that  $x * y \in L(\mu, \alpha)$  and  $a * b \in L(\mu, \alpha)$ . Then

$$\mu((x * a) (y * b)) \leq \max\{\mu(x * y), \mu(a * b)\} \leq \alpha$$

and thus  $(x * a) (y * b) \in L(\mu, \alpha)$ . Hence  $L(\mu, \alpha)$  is a normal subalgebra of  $X$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $L(\mu, \alpha) \neq \phi$  is a normal subalgebra of  $X$  for every  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . Using Theorem 3.7, it is sufficient to show that  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy normal set in  $X$ . If there are  $a_0, b_0, x_0, y_0 \in X$  such that

$$\mu((x_0 * a_0) (y_0 * b_0)) > \max\{\mu(x_0 * y_0), \mu(a_0 * b_0)\}.$$

Then by taking

$$\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{2} [\mu((x_0 * a_0) (y_0 * b_0)) + \max\{\mu(x_0 * y_0), \mu(a_0 * b_0)\}]$$

we have

$$\mu((x_0 * a_0) (y_0 * b_0)) > \alpha_0 > \max\{\mu(x_0 * y_0), \mu(a_0 * b_0)\}.$$

It follows  $x_0 * y_0 \in L(\mu, \alpha_0)$  and  $a_0 * b_0 \in L(\mu, \alpha_0)$ , but  $(x_0 * a_0)(y_0 * b_0) \notin L(\mu, \alpha_0)$ , a contradiction. Hence  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy normal, which proves the theorem.

**Theorem 4.3:** Let  $\mu$  be an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal with  $\text{Im}(\mu) = \{\alpha_i \mid i \in \Omega\}$  where  $\Omega$  is an arbitrary index set. Then

- (i) there exists a unique  $t_0 \in \Omega$  such that  $\alpha_i \leq \alpha_{i_0}$  for all  $i \in \Omega$ ,
- (ii)  $X_\mu = \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} L(\mu, \alpha_i) = L(\mu, \alpha_{i_0})$ ,
- (iii)  $X = \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} L(\mu, \alpha_i)$ .

**Proof:** (i) Since  $\mu(0) \in \text{Im}(\mu)$ , there exists a unique  $t_0 \in \Omega$  such that  $\mu(0) = \alpha_{i_0}$ . It follows from Proposition 3.1, that  $\mu(0) = \alpha_{i_0} \leq \mu(x)$ , for all  $x \in X$  so that  $\alpha_{i_0} < \alpha_i$  for all  $i \in \Omega$ .

(ii) We have

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mu, \alpha_{i_0}) &= \{x \in X \mid \mu(x) \leq \alpha_{i_0}\} \\ &= \{x \in X \mid \mu(x) = \alpha_{i_0}\} \\ &= \{x \in X \mid \mu(x) = \mu(0)\} = X_\mu. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\alpha_i \leq \alpha_{i_0}$  for all  $i \in \Omega$ . It follows  $L(\mu, \alpha_{i_0}) = L(\mu, \alpha_i)$ , for all  $i \in \Omega$ . Hence  $L(\mu, \alpha_{i_0}) \subseteq \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} L(\mu, \alpha_i)$  and so  $L(\mu, \alpha_{i_0}) = \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} L(\mu, \alpha_i)$  because  $L_{i_0} \in \Omega$ .

(iii) Clearly  $\bigcap_{i \in \Omega} L(\mu, \alpha_i) \subseteq X$ . For every  $x \in X$  there exists  $i(x) \in \Omega$  such that  $\mu(x) = \alpha_{i(x)}$ . This implies  $x \in L(\mu, \alpha_{i(x)}) \subseteq \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} L(\mu, \alpha_i)$ , which proves (iii).

**Theorem 4.4:** Let  $\mu$  be an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal and  $A = \{L(\mu, \alpha_i) \mid i \in \Omega\}$  where  $\Omega$  is an arbitrary index set. Then  $A$  contains all lower level cuts of  $\mu$  if and only if  $\mu$  attains its supremum on all normal subalgebra of  $X$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $A$  contains all lower level cuts of  $\mu$  and let  $A$  be a normal  $b$ -ideal of  $X$ . If  $\mu$  is constant on  $A$ , then we are done. Assume  $\mu$  is not constant on  $A$ . We distinguish the following two cases : (1)  $A = X$  and (2)  $A \subset X$ . For the case (1), we let  $\beta = \sup\{\alpha_i \mid i \in \Omega\}$ . Then  $\alpha_i \leq \beta$  and so  $L(\mu, \alpha_i) \subseteq L(\mu, \beta)$  for  $i \in \Omega$ . Note that  $X = L(\mu, 1) \in A$  because  $A$  contains all lower level cuts of  $\mu$ . Hence, there exists  $j \in \Omega$  such that  $\alpha_j \in \text{Im}(\mu)$  and  $L(\mu, \alpha_j) = X$ . It follows that  $X = L(\mu, \alpha_j) \subseteq L(\mu, \beta)$  so that  $L(\mu, \beta) = L(\mu, \alpha_j) = X$  because every lower level cut of  $\mu$  is normal  $b$ -ideal of  $X$ . Now it is sufficient to show that  $\beta = \alpha_j$ . If  $\alpha_j < \beta$ , then there exist  $k \in \Omega$  such that  $\alpha_k \in \text{Im}(\mu)$  and  $\alpha_j < \alpha_k \leq \beta$ . This implies that  $X = L(\mu, \alpha_j) \subseteq L(\mu, \alpha_k)$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $\beta = \alpha_j$ . If the case (2) holds, consider the restriction  $\mu_A$  of  $\mu$  to  $A$ . By Theorem 4.1,  $\mu_A$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal.

Let  $\Omega_A = \{i \in \Omega \mid \mu(y) = \alpha_i, \text{ for some } y \in A\}$  and

$A_A = \{L(\mu_A, \alpha_i) \mid i \in \Omega_A\}$ . Noticing that  $A_A$  contains all lower level cuts of  $\mu_A$ , we conclude that there exists  $z \in A$  such that  $\mu(z) = \sup\{\mu_A(x) \mid x \in A\}$ , which implies that  $\mu(z) = \sup\{\mu(x) \mid x \in A\}$ .

Conversely, assume that  $\mu$  attains its supremum on all normal  $b$ -ideal of  $X$ . Let  $L(\mu, \alpha)$  be a lower level cut of  $\mu$ . If  $\alpha = \alpha_i$  for some  $i \in \Omega$ , then clearly  $L(\mu, \alpha) \in A$ . Assume that  $\alpha \neq \alpha_i$  for all  $i \in \Omega$ . Then there does not exist  $x \in X$  such that  $\mu(x) = \alpha$ . Let  $A = \{x \in X \mid \mu(x) < \alpha\}$ . Let  $a, b, x, y \in X$  be such that  $x * y \in A$  and  $a * b \in A$ . Then  $\mu(x * y) < \alpha$  and  $\mu(a * b) < \alpha$ . It follows that  $\mu((x * a) * (y * b)) \leq \mu\{\mu(x * y), \mu(a * b)\} < \alpha$ . So that  $(x * a) * (y * b) \in A$ . This show that  $A$  is a normal  $b$ -ideal of  $X$ . By hypothesis, there exists  $y \in A$  such that  $\mu(y) = \sup\{\mu(x) \mid x \in A\}$ . Now  $\mu(y) \in \text{Im}(\mu)$  implies  $\mu(y) = \alpha_i$  for some  $i \in \Omega$ . Hence we get  $\sup\{\mu(x) \mid x \in A\} = \alpha_i$ . Obviously,  $\alpha_i \leq \alpha$ , and so  $\alpha_i < \alpha$  by assumption. Note that there does not exist  $z \in X$  such that  $\alpha_i < \mu(z) \leq \alpha$ . It follows that  $L(\mu, \alpha) = L(\mu, \alpha_i) \in A$ . This concludes the proof.

**Theorem 4.5:** Let  $\mu$  be a fuzzy set in  $X$  with a finite image  $\text{Im}(\mu) = \{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}$  where  $\alpha_i < \alpha_j$  whenever  $i > j$ . Let  $\{N_n \mid n = 0, 1, \dots, k\}$  be a family of normal  $b$ -ideals of  $X$  such that

- (i)  $N_0 \subset N_1 \subset \dots \subset N_k = N$ ,
- (ii)  $\mu(\tilde{N}_n) = \alpha_n$  where  $\tilde{N}_n = N_n \setminus N_{n-1}$  and  $N_{-1} = \phi$  for  $n = 0, 1, \dots, k$ .

Then  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy normal closed  $b$ -ideal.



**Proof:** According to Theorem 3.7, it is sufficient to show that  $\mu$  is an antifuzzy normal set in  $X$ . Let  $a, b, x, y \in X$ . If  $x * y \in \tilde{N}_n$  and  $a * b \in \tilde{N}_n$  for every  $n$ , then  $(x * a) * (y * b) \in N$ . Since  $N_n$  is a normal  $b$ -ideals of  $X$ . Hence

$$\mu((x * a) * (y * b)) \leq \alpha_n = \max\{\mu(x * y), \mu(a * b)\}.$$

If  $x * y \in \tilde{N}_n$  and  $a * b \in \tilde{N}_m$  where  $0 \leq m < n \leq k$ , then  $x * y \in N_n$  and  $a * b \in N_m \subseteq N_n$ . It follows that  $(x * a) * (y * b) \in N_n$ . Therefore,  $\mu((x * a) * (y * b)) \leq \alpha_n = \mu(x * y)$ . Since  $m < n$  implies  $\alpha_n < \alpha_m$ , we have  $\mu(a * b) = \alpha_m < \alpha_n$ . Consequently,

$\mu((x * a) * (y * b)) \leq \alpha_n = \max\{\mu(x * y), \mu(a * b)\}$ . Similarly, for the case  $x * y \in \tilde{N}_m$  and  $a * b \in \tilde{N}_n$  for  $0 \leq m < n \leq k$ , proving the result.

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