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## Research Article

# On Fuzzy $Sp$ -Open Sets

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A new class of generalized fuzzy open sets in fuzzy topological space, called fuzzy  $sp$ -open sets, are introduced, and their properties are studied and the relationship between this new concept and other weaker forms of fuzzy open sets we discussed. Moreover, we introduce the fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous (resp., fuzzy  $sp$ -open) mapping and other stronger forms of  $sp$ -continuous (resp., fuzzy  $sp$ -open) mapping and establish their various characteristic properties. Finally, we study the relationships between all these mappings and other weaker forms of fuzzy continuous mapping and introduce fuzzy  $sp$ -connected. Counter examples are given to show the noncoincidence of these sets and mappings.

## 1. Introduction

In 1996, Dontchev and Przemski, [1] have introduced the concept of  $sp$ -open sets in general topology. In this paper, we extend the notion of  $sp$ -open sets to fuzzy topology space and study some notions based on this new concept. We further study the relation between fuzzy  $sp$ -open sets and other types of fuzzy open sets. We also introduce the concepts of fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous (resp., fuzzy  $sp$ -open) mapping, other stronger forms of fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous (resp., fuzzy  $sp$ -open) mapping, and discuss their relation with other weaker forms of fuzzy continuous mapping.

## 2. Preliminaries

Throughout this paper, by  $(X, \tau)$  or simply by  $X$  we mean a fuzzy topological space (fts, shorty) and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  means a mapping  $f$  from a fuzzy topological space  $X$  to a fuzzy topological space  $Y$ . If  $u$  is a fuzzy set and  $p$  is a fuzzy singleton in  $X$ , then  $N(p)$ ,  $\text{Int } u$ ,  $\text{cl } u$ ,  $u^c$  denote, respectively, the neighborhood system of  $p$ , the interior of  $u$ , the closure of  $u$ , and complement of  $u$ .

Now, we recall some of the basic definitions and results in fuzzy topology.

**Definition 2.1** (see [2]). A fuzzy singleton  $p$  in  $X$  is a fuzzy set defined by:  $p(x) = t$ , for  $x = x_0$  and  $p(x) = 0$  otherwise,

where  $0 < t \leq 1$ . The point  $p$  is said to have support  $x_0$  and value  $t$ .

**Definition 2.2.** A fuzzy set  $u$  in a fts  $X$  is called fuzzy  $\alpha$ -open [3] (resp., Fuzzy preopen [4], Fuzzy  $\beta$ -open [5]) set if  $u \leq \text{Int cl Int } u$  (resp.,  $u \leq \text{Int cl } u$ ,  $u \leq \text{cl Int cl } u$ ,  $u \leq \text{cl Int } u$ ). The family of all fuzzy  $\alpha$ -open (resp., fuzzy preopen, fuzzy  $\beta$ -open, fuzzy semiopen) sets of  $X$  is denoted by  $\text{F}\alpha\text{O}(X)$  (resp.,  $\text{FPO}(X)$ ,  $\text{F}\beta\text{O}(X)$ ,  $\text{FSO}(X)$ ).

**Definition 2.3** (see [4]). Let  $u$  be any fuzzy set. Then,

- (i)  $\text{pcl } u = \bigwedge \{v : v \geq u, v \text{ is a fuzzy preclosed set of } X\}$  is called preclosure,
- (ii)  $\text{pInt } v = \bigvee \{v : v \leq u, v \text{ is a fuzzy preopen set of } X\}$  is called pre-Interior.

The definitions of  $\text{scl}$ ,  $\text{sInt}$ ,  $\alpha\text{-cl}$ , and  $\alpha\text{-Int}$  are similar.

**Theorem 2.4.** For any fuzzy set  $u$  in a fts  $X$ , the following statements are true:

- (i)  $\text{scl } u = u \vee \text{Int cl } u$  and  $\text{sInt } u = u \wedge \text{cl Int } u$  [6],
- (ii)  $\text{pcl } u \geq u \vee \text{cl Int } u$  and  $\text{pInt } u \leq u \wedge \text{Int cl } u$  [7].

**Theorem 2.5** (see [3, 4]). *The arbitrary union of fuzzy preopen (resp., fuzzy semiopen) sets is a fuzzy preopen (resp., fuzzy semiopen) set.*

**Definition 2.6.** A mapping  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$  is said to be

- (i) fuzzy  $\alpha$ -continuous [3] if  $f^{-1}(v)$  is fuzzy  $\alpha$ -open set in  $X$  for each fuzzy open set  $v$  in  $Y$ ,
- (ii) fuzzy semi continuous [3] if  $f^{-1}(v)$  is fuzzy semiopen set in  $X$  for each fuzzy open set  $v$  in  $Y$ ,
- (iii) fuzzy  $\beta$ -continuous [5] if  $f^{-1}(v)$  is fuzzy  $\beta$ -open set in  $X$  for each fuzzy open set  $v$  in  $Y$ .

### 3. Fuzzy SP-Open Set

**Definition 3.1.** A fuzzy subset  $u$  of fuzzy space  $X$  is called fuzzy  $sp$ -open set if  $u \leq \text{Int cl } u \vee \text{cl Int } u$ . The class of all fuzzy  $sp$ -open sets in  $X$  will be denoted by  $\text{FSP} - O(X)$ .

It is obvious that  $\text{FPO}(X) \vee \text{FSO}(X) \leq \text{FSP} - O(X) \leq \text{F}\beta\text{O}(X)$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $u$  be fuzzy  $sp$ -open set such that  $\text{Int } u = 0$ . Then,  $u$  is fuzzy preopen.*

Using Theorem 2.5, we can easily prove the next corollary.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Any union of fuzzy  $sp$ -open sets is a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set.*

**Remark 3.4.** The intersection of fuzzy  $sp$ -open sets need not be fuzzy  $sp$ -open set. This is illustrated by the following example.

**Example 3.5.** Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ , and  $v_4$  be fuzzy sets of  $X$  defined as

$$\begin{aligned} v_1(a) = 0.0, & \quad v_1(b) = 0.0, & \quad v_1(c) = 0.4, \\ v_2(a) = 0.9, & \quad v_2(b) = 0.6, & \quad v_2(c) = 0.0, \\ v_3(a) = 0.0, & \quad v_3(b) = 0.3, & \quad v_3(c) = 0.4, \\ v_4(a) = 0.9, & \quad v_4(b) = 0.7, & \quad v_4(c) = 0.2. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Let  $\tau = \{o_x, v_1, v_2, v_1 \vee v_2, 1_x\}$ . Clearly,  $\tau$  is a fuzzy topology on  $X$ , and by easy computation, it follows that  $v_3$  and  $v_4$  are fuzzy  $sp$ -open sets. But  $(v_3 \wedge v_4)$  is not a fuzzy fuzzy  $sp$ -open set.

**Theorem 3.6.** *For any fuzzy subset  $u$  of a fuzzy space  $X$ , the following properties are equivalent:*

- (i)  $u$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open,
- (ii)  $u \geq \text{pInt } u \vee \text{sInt } u$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Let  $u$  be a fuzzy  $sp$ -open, that is,  $u \leq \text{Int cl } u \vee \text{cl Int } u$ . Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pInt } u \vee \text{sInt } u &\leq (u \wedge \text{Int cl } u) \vee (u \wedge \text{cl Int } u) \\ &\leq u \wedge (\text{Int cl } u \vee \text{cl Int } u) \\ &\leq u \wedge u = u. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

□

**Definition 3.7.** A fuzzy subset  $u$  of fuzzy space  $X$  is called fuzzy  $sp$ -closed set if  $\text{Int cl } u \wedge \text{cl Int } u \leq u$ . The class of all fuzzy  $sp$ -closed sets in  $X$  will be denoted by  $\text{FSP-C}(X)$ .

**Definition 3.8.** Let  $u$  any fuzzy set. Then,

- (i)  $sp\text{-cl } u = \wedge \{v : v \geq u, v \text{ is a fuzzy } sp\text{-closed set of } X\}$  is called fuzzy  $sp$ -closure,
- (ii)  $sp\text{-Int } v = \vee \{v : v \leq u, v \text{ is a fuzzy } sp\text{-open set of } X\}$  is called fuzzy  $sp$ -Interior.

By using Definitions 3.1, 3.7, and 3.8, we can prove the following theorems.

**Theorem 3.9.** *Let  $u$  and  $v$  be the fuzzy sets in fts  $X$ . Then, the following statements hold*

- (i)  $sp\text{-cl}(u)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -closed,
- (ii)  $u \subseteq \text{SP-C}(X) \Leftrightarrow u = sp\text{-cl}(u)$ ,
- (iii)  $u \leq v \Rightarrow sp\text{-cl}(u) \leq sp\text{-cl}(v)$ ,
- (iv)  $sp\text{-Int } u$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open,
- (v)  $u \subseteq \text{SP-O}(X) \Leftrightarrow u = sp\text{-Int}(u)$ ,
- (vi)  $u \leq v \Rightarrow sp\text{-Int}(u) \leq sp\text{-Int}(v)$ ,
- (vii)  $\text{Int } u \leq sp\text{-Int } u \leq u \leq sp\text{-cl}(u) \leq \text{cl } u$ .

**Theorem 3.10.** *For a fuzzy subset  $\lambda$  of a fuzzy space  $X$ , the following statements are holding:*

- (i)  $sp\text{-cl } u \geq u \vee (\text{Int cl } u \wedge \text{cl Int } u)$ ,
- (ii)  $sp\text{-Int } u \leq u \wedge (\text{Int cl } u \vee \text{cl Int } u)$ ,
- (iii)  $sp\text{-cl } u \geq \text{scl } u \wedge \text{pcl } u$ ,
- (iv)  $sp\text{-Int } u \leq \text{sInt } u \vee \text{pInt } u$ .

**Theorem 3.11.** *For any fuzzy subset  $u$  of a fuzzy space  $X$ , the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $u$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -closed,
- (ii)  $u^c$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open,
- (iii)  $u \geq \text{Int cl } u \wedge \text{cl Int } u$ , and
- (iv)  $u^c \leq \text{Int cl } u \vee \text{cl Int } u$ .

**Theorem 3.12.** *A fuzzy set  $u$  in a fuzzy topology space  $X$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open if and only if for every fuzzy point  $p \in u$ , there exists a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set  $v_p \leq u$  such that  $p \in v_p$ .*

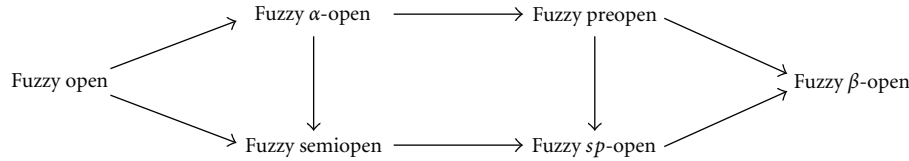


FIGURE 1

*Proof.* If  $u$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set, then we may take  $v_p = u$  for every  $p \in u$ .

Conversely, we have  $u = \cup_{p \in u} \{p\} \leq \cup_{p \in u} v_p \leq u$  and, hence,  $u = \cup_{p \in u} v_p$ . This shows that  $u$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set.  $\square$

From Definitions 2.2 and 3.1, the above “Implication Figure 1” illustrates the relation of different classes of fuzzy open sets.

*Remark 3.13.* The converse of these relations need not be true, in general as shown by the following examples.

*Example 3.14.* Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ , and  $v_4$  be fuzzy sets of  $X$  defined as

$$\begin{aligned} v_1(a) &= 0.5, & v_1(b) &= 0.3, \\ v_2(a) &= 0.5, & v_2(b) &= 0.6, \\ v_3(a) &= 0.6, & v_3(b) &= 0.3, \\ v_4(a) &= 0.6, & v_4(b) &= 0.7. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Let  $\tau = \{o_x, v_1, 1_x\}$ . Clearly,  $\tau$  is a fuzzy topological space on  $X$ , and by easy computation, we can see:

- (i)  $v_2$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open set which is neither fuzzy  $\alpha$ -open set nor fuzzy preopen,
- (ii)  $v_3$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open which is not semiopen,
- (iii)  $v_4$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open set which is not fuzzy open.

*Example 3.15.* Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $v_1, v_2$ , and  $v_3$  fuzzy sets of  $X$  defined as

$$\begin{aligned} v_1(a) &= 0.0, & v_1(b) &= 0.0, & v_1(c) &= 0.4, \\ v_2(a) &= 0.9, & v_2(b) &= 0.6, & v_2(c) &= 0.0, \\ v_3(a) &= 0.1, & v_3(b) &= 0.0, & v_3(c) &= 0.3. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Let  $\tau = \{o_x, v_1, 1_x\}$ . Clearly,  $\tau$  is a fuzzy topological space on  $X$ , and by easy computation, it follows that  $v_3$  is fuzzy  $\beta$ -open set which is not fuzzy  $sp$ -open.

### 4. Fuzzy SP-Continuous Mapping

*Definition 4.1.* A mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is said to be

- (i) fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous if  $f^{-1}(v)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open set in  $X$  for each fuzzy open set  $v$  in  $Y$ ,
- (ii) fuzzy  $sp^*$ -continuous if  $f^{-1}(v)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open set in  $X$  for each fuzzy  $sp$ -open set  $v$  in  $Y$ ,

- (iii) fuzzy  $sp^{**}$ -continuous if  $f^{-1}(v)$  is fuzzy open set in  $X$  for each fuzzy  $sp$ -open set  $v$  in  $Y$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** For a mapping  $f : (X, \tau) \rightarrow (Y, \sigma)$ , the following statements are equivalent:

- (i)  $f$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous;
- (ii) for every fuzzy singleton  $p$  in  $X$  and every open set  $v$  in  $Y$  such that  $f(p) \subseteq v$ , there exists a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set  $u \subseteq X$  such that  $p \subseteq u$  and  $u \leq f^{-1}(v)$ ;
- (iii) for every fuzzy singleton  $p$  in  $X$  and every open set  $v$  in  $Y$  such that  $f(p) \subseteq v$ , there exists a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set  $u \subseteq X$  such that  $p \subseteq u$  and  $f(u) \leq v$ ;
- (iv) the inverse image of each fuzzy closed set in  $Y$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -closed;
- (v)  $\text{Int cl}(f^{-1}(v)) \wedge \text{cl Int}(f^{-1}(v)) \leq (f^{-1}(\text{cl } v))$  for each  $v \subseteq Y$ ;
- (vi)  $f[\text{Int cl}(u) \wedge \text{cl Int}(u)] \leq \text{cl } f(u)$  for each  $u \subseteq X$ .

*Proof.* (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii) Let fuzzy singleton  $p$  be in  $X$  and every open set  $v$  in  $Y$  such that  $f(p) \subseteq v$ , there exists a fuzzy open set  $m$  be in  $Y$  such that  $f(p) \leq m \leq v$ . Since  $f$  is  $sp$ -continuous,  $u = f^{-1}(m)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open and we have  $p \leq f^{-1}(f(p)) \leq f^{-1}(m) \leq f^{-1}(v)$  or  $p \leq u = f^{-1}(m) \leq f^{-1}(v)$ .

(ii) $\Rightarrow$ (iii) Let singleton  $p$  be in  $X$  and every fuzzy open set  $v$  be in  $Y$  such that  $f(p) \subseteq v$ , there exists a fuzzy  $sp$ -open  $u$  such that  $p \leq u$  and  $u \leq f^{-1}(v)$ . So, we have  $p \leq u$  and  $f(u) \leq f^{-1}(f(v)) \leq v$ .

(iii) $\Rightarrow$ (i) Let  $v$  be a fuzzy open set in  $Y$  and let us take  $p \leq f^{-1}(v)$ . This shows that  $f(p) \leq f(f^{-1}(v)) \leq v$ . Since  $v$  is a fuzzy open set, then there exists a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set  $u$  such that  $p \leq u$  and  $f(u) \leq v$ . This shows that  $p \leq u \leq f^{-1}(f(u)) \leq f^{-1}(v)$ . By Theorem 3.12, it follows that  $f^{-1}(v)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open set in  $X$  and hence  $f$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous.

(i) $\Rightarrow$ (iv) Let  $v$  be a fuzzy closed in  $Y$ . This implies that  $I_Y - v$  is fuzzy open set. Hence,  $f^{-1}(I_Y - v)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open set in  $X$ , that is,  $(I_X - f^{-1}(v))$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open set in  $X$ . Thus,  $f^{-1}(v)$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -closed set in  $X$ .

(iv) $\Rightarrow$ (v) Let  $v \subseteq Y$ , then  $f^{-1}(\text{cl } v)$  is  $sp$ -closed in  $X$ , that is,  $\text{Int cl}(f^{-1}(v)) \wedge \text{cl Int}(f^{-1}(v)) \leq \text{Int cl}(f^{-1}(\text{cl } v)) \wedge \text{cl Int}(f^{-1}(\text{cl } v)) \leq f^{-1}(\text{cl } v)$ .

(v) $\Rightarrow$ (vi) Let  $u \subseteq X$ , put  $v = f(u)$  in (v), then  $\text{Int cl}(f^{-1}(f(u))) \wedge \text{cl Int}(f^{-1}(f(u))) \leq f^{-1}(\text{cl}(f(u)))$  so that  $\text{Int cl}(u) \wedge \text{cl Int}(u) \leq f^{-1}(\text{cl}(f(u)))$ . This gives  $f[\text{Int cl}(u) \wedge \text{cl Int}(u)] \leq \text{cl } f(u)$ .

(vi) $\Rightarrow$ (i) Let  $v \subseteq Y$ , be fuzzy open set. put  $u = I_Y - v$  and  $u = f^{-1}(v)$ , then  $f[\text{Int cl}(f^{-1}(v)) \wedge \text{cl Int}(f^{-1}(v))] \leq \text{cl } f(f^{-1}(v)) \leq \text{cl}(v) = v$ , that is,  $f^{-1}(v)$  is  $sp$ -closed set in  $X$ , so  $f$  is  $sp$ -continuous mapping.  $\square$

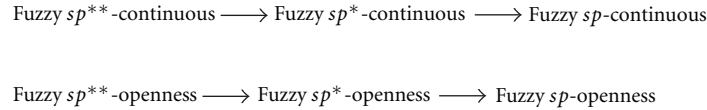


FIGURE 2

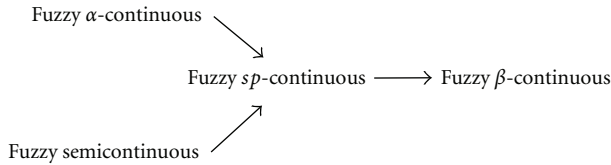


FIGURE 3

**Definition 4.3.** A mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is said to be

- (i) fuzzy  $sp$ -open (Fuzzy  $sp$ -closed) if  $f(u)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open (fuzzy  $sp$ -closed) set in  $Y$  for each fuzzy open (fuzzy closed) set  $u$  in  $X$ ,
- (ii) fuzzy  $sp^*$ -open (Fuzzy  $sp^*$ -closed) if  $f(u)$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open (fuzzy  $sp$ -closed) set in  $Y$  for each fuzzy  $sp$ -open (fuzzy  $sp$ -closed) set  $u$  in  $X$ ,
- (iii) fuzzy  $sp^{**}$ -open (Fuzzy  $sp^{**}$ -closed) if  $f(u)$  is fuzzy open (fuzzy closed) set in  $Y$  for each fuzzy  $sp$ -open (fuzzy  $sp$ -closed) set  $u$  in  $X$ .

**Remark 4.4.** If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping, then  $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$  may not be a fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping; this can be show by the following example.

**Example 4.5.** Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4$  and  $v_5$  be fuzzy sets of  $X$  defined as,

$$\begin{array}{lll} v_1(a) = 0.4, & v_1(b) = 0.6, & v_1(c) = 0.5, \\ v_2(a) = 0.6, & v_2(b) = 0.4, & v_2(c) = 0.4, \\ v_3(a) = 0.4, & v_3(b) = 0.6, & v_3(c) = 0.6, \\ v_4(a) = 0.7, & v_4(b) = 0.7, & v_4(c) = 0.8, \\ v_5(a) = 0.6, & v_5(b) = 0.4, & v_5(c) = 0.6. \end{array} \quad (5)$$

Consider, fts  $\tau_1, \tau_2$ , and  $\tau_3$  where  $\tau_1 = \{o_x, v_1, v_2, v_1 \cap v_2, v_1 \cup v_2, 1_x\}$ ,  $\tau_2 = \{o_x, v_4, 1_x\}$ , and  $\tau_3 = \{o_x, v_3, 1_x\}$  and the mapping  $f : (X, \tau_1) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_2)$  and  $g : (X, \tau_2) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_3)$  defined as  $f(a) = b, f(b) = a, f(c) = c$  and  $g(a) = a, g(b) = b, g(c) = c$ . It is clear that  $f$  and  $g$  are fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping. But  $g \circ f : (X, \tau_1) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_3)$  is not a fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping. This because  $(g \circ f)^{-1}(v_3) = v_5$  and  $v_5$  is not fuzzy  $sp$ -open set, and hence  $g \circ f$  is not fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping.

**Theorem 4.6.** If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  is fuzzy continuous mapping, then  $g \circ f : X \rightarrow Z$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping.

*Proof.* Let  $v$  be a fuzzy set of  $Z$ . Then,  $(g \circ f)^{-1}(v) = f^{-1}(g^{-1}(v))$ . And because  $g$  is fuzzy continuous this implies that  $g^{-1}(v)$  is a fuzzy open set of  $Y$  and hence  $f^{-1}(g^{-1}(v))$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -open set in  $X$ . Therefore,  $g \circ f$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping.  $\square$

From Definitions 4.1 and 4.3, we can have the above “Implication Figure 2” illustrates the relation between different classes of fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous (fuzzy semi  $sp$ -open) mappings.

The above “Implication Figure 3” illustrates the relation between fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous and different classes of fuzzy continuous mapping.

**Remark 4.7.** We can see the converse of these relations need not be true, in general as shown by the following examples.

**Example 4.8.** Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ , and  $v_4$  fuzzy sets of  $X$  defined as

$$\begin{array}{lll} v_1(a) = 0.4, & v_1(b) = 0.6, & v_1(c) = 0.5, \\ v_2(a) = 0.4, & v_2(b) = 0.4, & v_2(c) = 0.4, \\ v_3(a) = 0.6, & v_3(b) = 0.4, & v_3(c) = 0.6, \\ v_4(a) = 0.7, & v_4(b) = 0.7, & v_4(c) = 0.8. \end{array} \quad (6)$$

Consider fts  $\tau_1, \tau_2$ , and  $\tau_3$  where  $\tau_1 = \{o_x, v_1, v_2, v_1 \cap v_2, v_1 \cup v_2, 1_x\}$ ,  $\tau_2 = \{o_x, v_4, 1_x\}$ , and  $\tau_3 = \{o_x, v_3, 1_x\}$  and the mapping  $f : (X, \tau_1) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_2)$  and  $g : (X, \tau_2) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_3)$  defined as  $f(a) = a, f(b) = b, f(c) = c$  and  $g(a) = a, g(b) = b, g(c) = c$ . It is clear that:

- (i)  $f$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping which is neither fuzzy  $\alpha$ -continuous mapping nor fuzzy semi continuous mapping,
- (ii)  $g$  is a fuzzy  $\beta$ -continuous mapping which is not fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping,
- (iii)  $f$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous mapping which is neither fuzzy  $sp^*$ -continuous mapping nor fuzzy  $sp^{**}$ -continuous mapping, and this is because  $v_3$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -open in  $\tau_2$  which is neither fuzzy  $sp$ -open nor fuzzy open in  $\tau_1$ ,
- (iv) if  $h : (X, \tau_3) \rightarrow (Y, \tau_1)$  defined as:  $h(a) = a, h(b) = b, h(c) = c$ , it is clear that  $h$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -open mapping which is neither fuzzy  $sp^*$ -open mapping nor fuzzy  $sp^{**}$ -open mapping.

**Definition 4.9.** A fuzzy set  $u$  in an fts  $X$  is said to be fuzzy connected if  $u$  cannot be expressed as the union of two fuzzy separated sets.

Now, we can generalize the definition of fuzzy connected to define fuzzy  $sp$ -connected as follows.

**Definition 4.10.** A fuzzy set  $v$  in a fts  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be fuzzy  $sp$ -connected if and only if  $v$  cannot be expressed as the union of two fuzzy  $sp$ -separated sets.

**Theorem 4.11.** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous surjective mapping. If  $v$  is a fuzzy  $sp$ -connected subset in  $X$  then,  $f(v)$  is fuzzy connected in  $Y$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $f(m)$  is not connected in  $Y$ . Then, there exist fuzzy separated subsets  $u$  and  $v$  in  $Y$  such that  $f(m) = u \cup v$ .

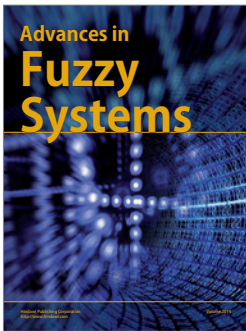
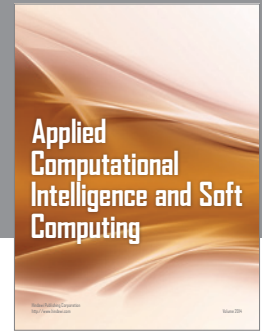
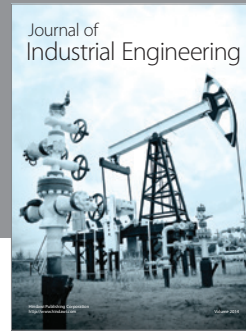
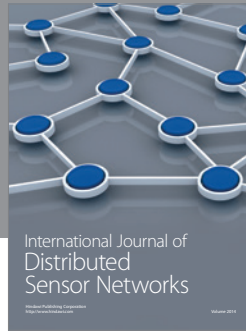
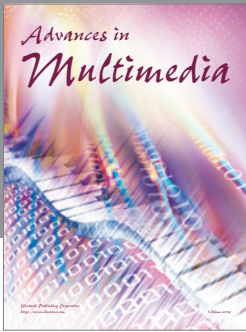
Since  $f$  is fuzzy  $sp$ -continuous surjective mapping,  $f^{-1}(u)$  and  $f^{-1}(v)$  are fuzzy  $sp$ -open set in  $X$  and  $m = f^{-1}(f(m)) = f^{-1}(u \cup v) = f^{-1}(u) \cup f^{-1}(v)$ .

It is clear that  $f^{-1}(u)$  and  $f^{-1}(v)$  are fuzzy  $sp$ -separated in  $X$ . Therefore,  $m$  is not fuzzy  $sp$ -connected in  $X$ , which is a contradiction!!

Hence,  $Y$  is fuzzy connected.  $\square$

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