

# Interval valued Fuzzy $n$ -normed linear space

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## ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to introduce the notion of interval-valued fuzzy subspace with its flags and interval-valued fuzzy  $n$ -normed linear space. We define the operations intersection, sum, directsum and tensor product of interval-valued fuzzy subspaces and obtain their corresponding flags. Further we provide some results on interval-valued fuzzy  $n$ -normed linear space.

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| Interval valued fuzzy subspace | Operations | Flags | Interval valued fuzzy  $n$ -normed linear space |

## 1. Introduction

The theory of 2-norm and  $n$ -norm on a linear space has been introduced by Gähler in [9, 10] and subsequently studied by several authors [11, 14, 19, 20]. A detailed theory of fuzzy norm on a linear space can be viewed in [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15, 23]. Recently we have introduced the notion of fuzzy  $n$ -normed linear space [22]. After the introduction of fuzzy subspace of a vector space by Katsaras and Liu's [12], many researchers [1, 2, 3, 16, 18, 21] engaged themselves in the development of fuzzy subspace of a vector space. Recently, G.Lubczonok and V.Murali introduced an interesting theory of flags and fuzzy subspaces of vector spaces [17]. Zadeh in his pioneering work introduced the theory of interval-valued fuzzy subset in [24].

In this paper we introduce the notions of interval-valued fuzzy subspace and interval-valued fuzzy  $n$ -normed linear space. We also define some operations on interval-valued fuzzy subspaces and in each case we obtain the corresponding flags. Further we establish some properties of interval-valued fuzzy  $n$ -normed linear space.

## 2. Preliminaries

In the following we provide the essential definitions and results necessary for the development of our theory.

**Definition 2.1**[24]. An interval number on  $[0, 1]$ , say  $\bar{a}$ , is a closed sub interval of  $[0, 1]$  of the form  $\bar{a} = [a^-, a^+]$ , where  $0 \leq a^- \leq a^+ \leq 1$ . Let  $D[0, 1]$  denote the family of all closed sub-intervals of  $[0, 1]$ , that is,  
 $D[0, 1] = \{\bar{a} = [a^-, a^+] : a^- \leq a^+ \text{ and } a^-, a^+ \in [0, 1]\}$

**Definition 2.2**[24]. Let  $\bar{a}_i = [a_i^-, a_i^+] \in D[0, 1]$  for all  $i \in \Omega$ ,  $\Omega$  an index set. Define

$$(a) \inf^i \{\bar{a}_i : i \in \Omega\} = [\inf_{i \in \Omega} a_i^-, \inf_{i \in \Omega} a_i^+]$$

$$(b) \sup^i \{\bar{a}_i : i \in \Omega\} = [\sup_{i \in \Omega} a_i^-, \sup_{i \in \Omega} a_i^+].$$

In particular, whenever  $\bar{a} = [a^-, a^+]$ ,  $\bar{b} = [b^-, b^+]$  in  $D[0, 1]$ , we define

- (i)  $\bar{a} \leq \bar{b}$  if and only if  $a^- \leq b^-$  and  $a^+ \leq b^+$
- (ii)  $\bar{a} = \bar{b}$  if and only if  $a^- = b^-$  and  $a^+ = b^+$
- (iii)  $\bar{a} < \bar{b}$  if and only if  $a^- < b^-$  and  $a^+ < b^+$ .
- (iv)  $\min^i \{\bar{a}, \bar{b}\} = [\min\{a^-, b^-\}, \min\{a^+, b^+\}]$
- (v)  $\max^i \{\bar{a}, \bar{b}\} = [\max\{a^-, b^-\}, \max\{a^+, b^+\}]$ .

**Definition 2.3** [24]. Let  $X$  be a set. A mapping  $\bar{A} : X \rightarrow D[0, 1]$  is called an interval-valued fuzzy subset (briefly, an i-v fuzzy subset) of  $X$ , where  $\bar{A}(x) = [A^-(x), A^+(x)]$ , and  $A^-$  and  $A^+$  are fuzzy subsets in  $X$  such that  $A^-(x) \leq A^+(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ .

**Definition 2.4** [24]. Let  $\bar{A}$  be an interval-valued fuzzy subset of  $X$  and  $[t_1, t_2] \in D[0, 1]$ . Then the set

$\bar{U}(\bar{A}; [t_1, t_2]) = \{x \in X : \bar{A}(x) \geq [t_1, t_2]\}$  is called an upper level subset of  $\bar{A}$ .

Note that

$$\bar{U}(\bar{A}; [t_1, t_2]) = U(A^-; t_1) \cap U(A^+; t_2) \text{ where}$$

$$U(A^-; t_1) = \{x \in X : A^-(x) \geq t_1\} \text{ and}$$

$$U(A^+; t_2) = \{x \in X : A^+(x) \geq t_2\}.$$

**Definition 2.5** [12]. Let  $V$  denote a vector space of dimension  $n$  over a field  $F$ . A fuzzy subspace is a fuzzy subset  $\mu$  of  $V$  such that  $\mu(\alpha x + \beta y) \geq \mu(x) \wedge \mu(y)$ ,  $x, y \in V$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in F$  (field), where  $\wedge$  stands for intersection.

We recall some properties of fuzzy subspace [16]

**Remark 2.6** [16]. (a)  $V^\alpha = \mu^{-1}([\alpha, 1])$  is a subspace of  $V$  for  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , known as the  $\alpha$ -cut of  $\mu$ .

$$(b) V^0 = V$$

(c)  $\mu$  takes at the most  $k + 1$  values in  $[0, 1]$ , say

$$1 > \alpha_1 > \dots > \alpha_k > 0, k \leq n \tag{1}$$

and

$$V \supset V^{\alpha_k} \supset \dots \supset V^{\alpha_1} \supset \{0\} \tag{2}$$

We can view (2) as a flag or chain of subspaces with a weight attached to each subspace.

**Remark 2.7 [16].** A subset  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$  of  $V$  is fuzzy linearly independent if it is linearly independent and  $\mu(\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i x_i) = \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \mu(x_i)$  for all  $\alpha_i \in F, \alpha_i \neq 0, i = 1, \dots, m, \bigwedge$  stands for intersection.

**Definition 2.8 [11].** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (natural numbers) and  $X$  be a real vector space of dimension  $d \geq n$ . A real valued function  $\|\bullet, \dots, \bullet\|$  on  $\underbrace{X \times \dots \times X}_n = X^n$

satisfying the following four properties:

1.  $\|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| = 0$  if and only if  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are linearly dependent
2.  $\|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\|$  is invariant under any permutation of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$
3.  $\|x_1, x_2, \dots, \alpha x_n\| = |\alpha| \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\|$ , for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ( set of real numbers )
4.  $\|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}, y + z\| \leq \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}, y\| + \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}, z\|$ ,

is called an n-norm on  $X$  and the pair  $( X, \|\bullet, \dots, \bullet\| )$  is called an n-normed linear space.

**Definition 2.9 [22].** Let  $X$  be a linear space over a real field  $F$ . A fuzzy subset  $N$  of  $X^n \times \mathbb{R}$  is called a fuzzy n-norm on  $X$  if and only if:

- (N1) For all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $t \leq 0, N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = 0$ .
- (N2) For all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $t > 0, N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = 1$  if and only if  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are linearly dependent.
- (N3)  $N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is invariant under any permutation of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ .
- (N4) For all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $t > 0,$   
 $N(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t) = N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|}),$  if  $c \neq 0 \in F$ (field).
- (N5) For all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R},$   
 $N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) \geq \min\{N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t)\}.$
- (N6)  $N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is a non-decreasing function of  $t \in \mathbb{R}$   
 and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = 1.$

Then  $(X, N)$  is called a fuzzy n-normed linear space or in short f-n-NLS.

**Remark 2.10.**

(i)Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $F$  and let  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n$  be the subspaces of  $V$ .  $V$  is said to be direct sum of  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n$  if every element  $v \in V$  can be written in one and only one way  $v = u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n$  where  $u_i \in U_i$  and denoted as  $V = U_1 \oplus U_2 \oplus \dots \oplus U_n$ .

(ii) Let  $V$  and  $W$  be vector spaces over a field  $F$ . Then the tensor product of two vectors is denoted by  $V \otimes W$  and given  $t \in V \otimes W$ ,  $t$  can be uniquely written as  $t = \sum_{i,j} t_{ij} x_i \otimes y_j$  where the sum is taken over all  $i, j$  for which  $t_{ij} \neq 0$ .

### 3. Interval-valued fuzzy subspaces and their flags

By generalizing the Definition 2.5 we obtain a new notion of interval-valued fuzzy subspace as follows:

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $V$  denote a vector space over a field  $F$ . Let  $\bar{A} : X \rightarrow D[0, 1]$  be an interval-valued fuzzy subset of  $V$ . Then  $\bar{A}$  is said to be an interval-valued fuzzy subspace (or shortly i-v fuzzy subspace) if,  $\bar{A}(\alpha x * \beta y) \geq \min\{\bar{A}(x), \bar{A}(y)\}$ ,  $x, y \in V$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in F$  (field).

**Example 3.2.** Let  $V = \{e, x, y, z\}$  be the Klien 4-group defined by the binary operation  $*$  as:

*	e	x	y	z
e	e	x	y	z
x	x	e	z	y
y	y	z	e	x
z	z	y	x	e

Let  $F$  be the field  $GF(2)$ . Let  $0.w = e, 1.w = w$  for all  $w \in V$ . Then  $V$  is a vector space over  $F$ .

Define an i-v fuzzy subset  $\bar{A}$  in  $V$  by  $\bar{A}(e) = [0.6, 0.9], \bar{A}(x) = [0.3, 0.4] = \bar{A}(y), \bar{A}(z) = [0.5, 0.8]$ . Then  $\bar{A}$  is an i-v fuzzy subspace of  $V$ .

**Definition 3.3.** Let (i)  $\bar{A}$  be an interval-valued fuzzy subspace. Then  $V^{\bar{\alpha}} = \{x \in V : \bar{A}(x) \geq [\bar{\alpha}^-, \bar{\alpha}^+]\}$  is called an upper level subset of  $\bar{A}$ .  
 (ii) Further  $V^{\bar{\alpha}} = (\bar{A})^{-1}[\bar{\alpha}, \bar{1}]$  is known as the  $\alpha$ -cut of  $\bar{A}$ .  
 (iii)  $\bar{A}$  takes at the most  $k + 1$  values in  $D[0, 1]$ , say  $\bar{1} > \bar{\alpha}_1 > \dots > \bar{\alpha}_k > \bar{0}$ , where  $\bar{\alpha}_i = [\alpha^-, \alpha^+]$  (3)  
 $i = 1, 2, \dots, k, \bar{0} = [0, 0], \bar{1} = [1, 1]$  and  $V \supset V^{\bar{\alpha}_k} \supset \dots \supset V^{\bar{\alpha}_1} \supset \bar{0}$  (4)

We can view (4) as a flag or chain of subspaces with a weight attached to each subspace.

**Definition 3.4.** A subset  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\}$  of  $V$  is said to be interval-valued fuzzy basis if it is linearly independent and  $\overline{A}(\sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k x_k) = \min^i \{\overline{A}(x_k)\}$ , for all  $\alpha_k \in F, \alpha_k \neq 0, k = 1, \dots, m$ .

We now present the intersection of two interval-valued fuzzy subspaces by the operation  $\cap$  and characterise its corresponding flag.

**Definition 3.5.** Let  $(V, \overline{A})$  and  $(V, \overline{B})$  be two i-v fuzzy subspaces. Define  $(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(x) = \min^i \{\overline{A}(x), \overline{B}(x)\}, x \in V$ .

**Theorem 3.6.** Let  $(V, \overline{A})$  and  $(V, \overline{B})$  be two i-v fuzzy subspaces. Then  $\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$  as in Definition 3.5. is again an i-v fuzzy subspace.

*Proof.* Let  $(V, \overline{A})$  and  $(V, \overline{B})$  be two i-v fuzzy subspaces. Define  $(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(x) = \min^i \{\overline{A}(x), \overline{B}(x)\}, x \in V$ . Now,

$$\begin{aligned} (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(\alpha x * \beta y) &= \min^i \{\overline{A}(\alpha x * \beta y), \overline{B}(\alpha x * \beta y)\} \\ &\geq \min^i \{\min^i \{\overline{A}(x), \overline{A}(y)\}, \min^i \{\overline{B}(x), \overline{B}(y)\}\} \\ &= \min^i \{\min^i \{\overline{A}(x), \overline{B}(x)\}, \min^i \{\overline{A}(y), \overline{B}(y)\}\} \\ &= \min^i \{(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(x), (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(\alpha x * \beta y) \geq \min^i \{(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(x), (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(y)\}.$$

Thus  $\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$  is an i-v fuzzy subspace. □

**Example 3.7.** Let  $V = \{e, x, y, z\}$  be the Klien 4-group given in example 3.2. Then  $V$  is a vector space over the field  $GF(2)$ .

Define an i-v fuzzy subset  $\overline{A}$  in  $V$  by

$$\overline{A}(e) = [0.6, 0.9], \overline{A}(x) = [0.3, 0.4] = \overline{A}(y), \overline{A}(z) = [0.5, 0.8]$$

Then  $\overline{A}$  is an i-v fuzzy subspace of  $V$  by Example 3.2. Also define an i-v fuzzy subset  $\overline{B}$  on  $V$  by

$$\overline{B}(e) = [0.5, 0.8], \overline{B}(x) = [0.4, 0.7], \overline{B}(y) = [0.2, 0.3] = \overline{B}(z).$$

Then  $\overline{B}$  is also an i-v fuzzy subspace of  $V$ .

$$\text{Now, } (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(e) = [0.5, 0.8], (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(x) = [0.3, 0.4], (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(y) = [0.2, 0.3], (\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})(z) = [0.2, 0.3].$$

Thus  $\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$  is an i-v fuzzy subset of  $V$  and further it is an i-v fuzzy subspace of  $V$ .

**Theorem 3.8.** An interval number  $\overline{\gamma} = \min\{\overline{\alpha}_r, \overline{\beta}_s\}$  is a weight for  $\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}$  if and only if

- (i)  $\overline{\alpha}_{r-1} > \overline{\gamma} \geq \overline{\alpha}_r$  and  $\overline{\beta}_{s-1} > \overline{\gamma} \geq \overline{\beta}_s$ .
- (ii)  $V^{\overline{\alpha}_r} \cap W^{\overline{\beta}_s} \neq \overline{0}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(V, \bar{A})$  and  $(V, \bar{B})$  be two i-v fuzzy subspaces with  $(\bar{A} \cap \bar{B})$  as in Definition 3.5.

Let  $V \supset V^{\bar{\alpha}_k} \supset \dots \supset V^{\bar{\alpha}_1} \supset \bar{0}$

and  $V \supset W^{\bar{\beta}_l} \supset \dots \supset W^{\bar{\beta}_1} \supset \bar{0}$  be their corresponding flags.

We need to construct a flag for  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$ .

Clearly the values of  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$  are  $\bar{\alpha}_i$ 's and  $\bar{\beta}_j$ 's.

Define  $U^{\bar{\gamma}} = (\bar{A} \cap \bar{B})^{-1}([\bar{\gamma}, \bar{1}]) = V^{\bar{\gamma}} \cap W^{\bar{\gamma}}$ .

Suppose  $U^{\bar{\gamma}} \neq \bar{0}$ . Then for some  $r$  and  $s$

$\bar{\alpha}_{r-1} > \bar{\gamma} \geq \bar{\alpha}_r$  and  $\bar{\beta}_{s-1} > \bar{\gamma} \geq \bar{\beta}_s$ .

Then  $V^{\bar{\gamma}} = V^{\bar{\alpha}_r}$  and  $W^{\bar{\gamma}} = W^{\bar{\beta}_s}$ . So  $U^{\bar{\gamma}} = V^{\bar{\alpha}_r} \cap W^{\bar{\beta}_s}$ .

Therefore  $U^{\bar{\gamma}} = V^{\bar{\alpha}_r} \cap W^{\bar{\beta}_s}$ , where  $\bar{\gamma} = \min\{\bar{\alpha}_r, \bar{\beta}_s\}$ .

Since the argument can be reversed, we have the required result.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.9.** An interval number  $\bar{\gamma} = \min\{\bar{\alpha}_r, \bar{\beta}_s\}$  is a weight for  $\bar{A} + \bar{B}$  if and only if  $\bar{\alpha}_{r-1} > \bar{\gamma} \geq \bar{\alpha}_r$  and  $\bar{\beta}_{s-1} > \bar{\gamma} \geq \bar{\beta}_s$ . The subspace corresponding to  $\bar{\gamma}$  in the flag representation of  $\bar{A} + \bar{B}$  is  $V^{\bar{\gamma}} + W^{\bar{\gamma}}$ .

*Proof.* Define,

$$(\bar{A} + \bar{B})(x) = \sup_{x=x_1+x_2} \bar{A}(x_1) \cap \bar{B}(x_2).$$

Now,  $x \in (\bar{A} + \bar{B})^{-1}([\bar{\gamma}, \bar{1}])$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{A}(x_1) + \bar{B}(x_2) \geq \bar{\gamma}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{A}(x_1) \geq \bar{\gamma} \text{ and } \bar{B}(x_2) \geq \bar{\gamma}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x_1 \in V^{\bar{\gamma}} \text{ and } x_2 \in W^{\bar{\gamma}}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x_1 + x_2 \in V^{\bar{\gamma}} + W^{\bar{\gamma}}.$$

So,  $(\bar{A} + \bar{B})^{-1}([\bar{\gamma}, \bar{1}]) = V^{\bar{\gamma}} + W^{\bar{\gamma}} = U^{\bar{\gamma}}$ , where  $\bar{\gamma} = \min[\bar{\alpha}_r, \bar{\beta}_s]$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.10.** An interval number  $\bar{\gamma} = \min\{\bar{\alpha}_r, \bar{\beta}_s\}$  is a weight for  $\bar{A} \oplus \bar{B}$ . The subspace corresponding to  $\bar{\gamma}$  in the flag representation of  $\bar{A} \oplus \bar{B}$  is  $V^{\bar{\gamma}} \oplus W^{\bar{\gamma}}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $U = V \oplus W$ . Suppose  $(V, \bar{A})$  and  $(W, \bar{B})$  are i-v fuzzy subspaces with their corresponding flags.

Define,

$$(\bar{A} \oplus \bar{B})(x, y) = \bar{A}(x) \cap \bar{B}(y), x \in V, y \in W.$$

We have,  $(x, y) \in (\bar{A} \oplus \bar{B})^{-1}([\bar{\alpha}, \bar{1}])$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{A}(x) \cap \bar{B}(y) \geq \bar{\alpha}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{A}(x) \geq \bar{\alpha} \text{ and } \bar{B}(y) \geq \bar{\alpha}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (x, y) \in V^{\bar{\alpha}} \oplus W^{\bar{\alpha}}. \quad \square$$

**Theorem 3.11.** An interval number  $\bar{\gamma} = \min\{\bar{\alpha}_r, \bar{\beta}_s\}$  is a weight for  $\bar{A} \otimes \bar{B}$  and the subspace corresponding to  $\bar{\gamma}$  in the flag representation of  $\bar{A} \otimes \bar{B}$  is  $V^{\bar{\gamma}} \otimes W^{\bar{\gamma}}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $(V, \bar{A})$  and  $(W, \bar{B})$  be i-v fuzzy subspaces with their corresponding

flags. Consider the tensor product  $V \otimes W$ .

Let  $\{x_i\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\{y_j\}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$  be i-v fuzzy bases of  $V$  and  $W$  respectively. Given  $t \in V \otimes W$ ,  $t$  can be uniquely expressed as,  $t = \sum_{i,j} t_{ij} x_i \otimes y_j$

where the sum is taken over all  $i, j$  for which  $t_{ij} \neq 0$ . Now we define

$$(\overline{A} \otimes \overline{B})(t) = \bigvee_{i,j} \{\overline{A}(x_i) \cap \overline{B}(y_j) : t_{ij} \neq 0\}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} t \in (\overline{A} \otimes \overline{B})^{-1}([\overline{\gamma}, \overline{1}]) \\ \Leftrightarrow \overline{A}(x) \otimes \overline{B}(y) \geq \overline{\gamma} \\ \Leftrightarrow \overline{A}(x_r) \cap \overline{B}(y_s) \geq \overline{\gamma} \\ \Leftrightarrow \overline{A}(x_r) \geq \overline{\gamma} \text{ and } \overline{B}(y_s) \geq \overline{\gamma} \\ \Leftrightarrow x_r \in V^{\overline{\gamma}} \text{ and } y_s \in W^{\overline{\gamma}}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

#### 4.Interval-valued fuzzy n-normed linear space

As a generalization of Definition 2.9 we have the following notion of interval-valued fuzzy n-normed linear space.

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $X$  be a linear space over a real field  $F$ . An interval-valued fuzzy subset  $\overline{N}$  of  $X^n \times R$  is called an interval-valued fuzzy n-norm if and only if :

- ( $\overline{N1}$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t \leq 0$ ,  $\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{0}$ .
- ( $\overline{N2}$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t > 0$ ,  $\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{1}$  if and only if  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are linearly dependent.
- ( $\overline{N3}$ )  $\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is invariant under any permutation of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ .
- ( $\overline{N4}$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t > 0$ ,  
 $\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t) = \overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|})$ , if  $c \neq 0 \in F(\text{field})$ .
- ( $\overline{N5}$ ) For all  $s, t \in R$ ,  
 $\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) \geq \min^i \{\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), \overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t)\}$ .
- ( $\overline{N6}$ )  $\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is a non-decreasing function of  $t \in R$   
and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{1}$ .

Then  $(X, \overline{N})$  is called an interval-valued fuzzy n-normed linear space or briefly i-v f-n-NLS.

The following example agrees with our notion of i-v f-n-NLS.

**Example 4.2.** Let  $(X, \|\bullet, \bullet, \dots, \bullet\|)$  be an n-normed space. Define

$$\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \begin{cases} \overline{0}, & \text{when } t \leq \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| \\ \overline{1}, & \text{when } \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| < t \end{cases}$$

Then  $(X, \bar{N})$  is an i-v f-n-NLS.

*Proof.* ( $\bar{N}1$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t \leq 0$  we have by our definition,

$$\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \bar{0}.$$

( $\bar{N}2$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t > 0$ , if  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are linearly dependent.

$$\Rightarrow \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| = 0 \text{ by definition 2.9.}$$

$$\Rightarrow N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \bar{1} \text{ by definition.}$$

Also  $N(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \bar{1}$ .

$$\Rightarrow \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| < t.$$

$$\Rightarrow \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \text{ are linearly dependent.}$$

Thus for all  $t > 0$ ,  $\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \bar{1}$  if and only if  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are linearly dependent.

( $\bar{N}3$ ) As  $\|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\|$  is invariant under any permutation, it follows that

$\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is invariant under any permutation of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ .

( $\bar{N}4$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t > 0$  and  $c \in F, c \neq 0$

$$\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t) = \bar{0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow t \leq \|x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n\|$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{t}{|c|} \leq \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\|.$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|}) = \bar{0} \text{ and}$$

$$\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t) = \bar{1}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \|x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n\| < t$$

$$\Leftrightarrow |c| \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| < t$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| < \frac{t}{|c|}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|}) = \bar{1}.$$

Thus  $\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t) = \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|})$

( $\bar{N}5$ ) For all  $s, t \in R$ ,

$$\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) = \bar{0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow s + t \leq \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n\| \leq \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| + \|x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n\|.$$

If  $\|x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\| < s$  then  $\|x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n\| \not\leq t$ .

That is, if  $\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s) = \bar{1}$  then  $\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) = \bar{0}$ .

Thus  $\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) = \bar{0}$

$$\Rightarrow \min^i \{ \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \} = \bar{0}$$

Similarly,  $\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) = \bar{1}$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) \geq$$

$$\min^i \{ \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \}.$$

Thus,

$$\bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) \geq$$

$$\min^i \{ \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), \bar{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \}.$$



( $\overline{N6}$ ) From the definition it is clear that  $\overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is a non-decreasing function of  $t \in R$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \overline{N}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{1}$ .

Thus  $(X, \overline{N})$  is an i-v f-n-NLS. □

**Theorem 4.3.** Let  $(X, \overline{N}_1)$  and  $(X, \overline{N}_2)$  be two i-v fuzzy n-normed linear spaces. Define

$(\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) \}$   
for all  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) \in X^n \times R$ . Then  $\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2$  is an i-v f-n-NLS.

*Proof.* ( $\overline{N}_1$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t \leq 0$  we have

$$\overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{0} \text{ and } \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{0}$$

So,  $(\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{0}$

( $\overline{N}_2$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t > 0$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) &= \overline{1} \\ \Leftrightarrow \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) \} &= \overline{1} \\ \Leftrightarrow \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) &= \overline{1}. \\ \Leftrightarrow x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \text{ are linearly dependent.} \end{aligned}$$

( $\overline{N3}$ ) As  $\overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  and  $\overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  are invariant under any permutation, we have  $(\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is invariant under any permutation of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$

( $\overline{N4}$ ) For all  $t \in R$  with  $t > 0$  and  $c \in F, c \neq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t) &= \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, cx_n, t) \} \\ &= \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|}), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|}) \} \\ &= (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \frac{t}{|c|}) \end{aligned}$$

( $\overline{N5}$ ) For all  $s, t \in R$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) &= \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) \} \\ &\geq \min^i \{ \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \}, \\ &\quad \min^i \{ \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \} \} \\ &= \min^i \{ \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s) \}, \\ &\quad \min^i \{ \overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t), \overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \} \} \\ &= \min^i \{ (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + x'_n, s + t) &\geq \min^i \{ (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, s), (\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x'_n, t) \} \end{aligned}$$

( $\overline{N6}$ ) As  $\overline{N}_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  and  $\overline{N}_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  are non-decreasing functions of  $t \in R$  it follows that  $(\overline{N}_1 \cap \overline{N}_2)(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t)$  is a non-decreasing function

of  $t \in R$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\overline{N_1} \cap \overline{N_2})(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \overline{1}$ .

Thus  $(X, \overline{N_1} \cap \overline{N_2})$  is an i-v f-n-NLS.  $\square$

**Remark 4.4.** Let  $(X, \overline{N_1})$  and  $(X, \overline{N_2})$  be two i-v fuzzy n-normed linear spaces. Define

$(\overline{N_1} \cup \overline{N_2})(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) = \max^i \{ \overline{N_1}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t), \overline{N_2}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) \}$   
for all  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, t) \in X^n \times R$ . Then  $\overline{N_1} \cup \overline{N_2}$  is not an i-v f-n-NLS.

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