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**ON  $I$ -LIMIT SUPERIOR AND  $I$ -LIMIT INFERIOR  
OF SEQUENCES OF FUZZY NUMBERS**

ABSTRACT. In this article we introduce the notions of  $I$ -limit superior and  $I$ -limit inferior for sequences of fuzzy real numbers . We prove fuzzy analogue of some results on  $I$ -limit superior and  $I$ -limit inferior for real sequences.

KEY WORDS: fuzzy real numbers,  $I$ -convergence,  $I$ -limit superior,  $I$ -limit inferior.

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**1. Introduction**

The notion of  $I$ -convergence of real valued sequence was studied at the initial stage by Kostyrko, Šalát and Wilczyński [3]. It generalizes and unifies different notions of convergence of sequences. Generalizing the concepts of limit superior and limit inferior for real sequences, Demirci [1] introduced the concepts of  $I$ -limit superior and  $I$ -limit inferior for sequences of real numbers.

The concepts of fuzzy sets was first introduced by Zadeh [9]. Bounded and convergent sequences of fuzzy numbers are studied by Matloka [4]. Later on sequences of fuzzy numbers have been discussed by Nanda [5], Nuray and Savas [7], Nuray [6], Fang and Huang [2], Tripathy and Nanda [8] and many others.

**2. Definitions and background**

Throughout  $N$  and  $R$  denote the sets of natural and real numbers respectively.

If  $X$  is a non empty set, then a non-void class  $I \subseteq 2^X$  is called an ideal if  $I$  is additive (i.e.  $A, B \in I \Rightarrow A \cup B \in I$ ) and hereditary (i.e.  $A \in I$  and  $B \subseteq A \Rightarrow B \in I$ ). An ideal  $I \subseteq 2^X$  is said to be non-trivial if  $I \neq 2^X$ . A non-trivial ideal  $I$  is said to be admissible if  $I$  contains every finite subset of  $X$ . A non-trivial ideal  $I$  is said to be maximal if there does not exist any non-trivial ideal  $J \neq I$  containing  $I$  as a subset.

**Example.** (a) Let  $I = I_f$ , class of all finite subsets of  $N$ . Then  $I_f$  is a non-trivial admissible ideal.

(b) Let  $A \subset N$ . Put  $d(A) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \chi_A(k)$  and  $\delta(A) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{S_n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\chi_A(k)}{k}$ , where  $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$ . The class  $I_d(I_\delta)$  of all  $A \subset N$  with  $d(A) = 0$  ( $\delta(A) = 0$ ) forms a non-trivial admissible ideal.

(c) The uniform density of a set  $A \subset N$  is defined as follows. For integers  $t \geq 0$  and  $s \geq 1$ , let  $A(t+1, t+s) = \text{card} \{n \in A : t+1 \leq n \leq t+s\}$ . Put  $\beta_s = \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A(t+1, t+s)}{s}$ ,  $\beta^s = \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A(t+1, t+s)}{s}$ . If  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\beta_s}{s} = \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\beta^s}{s}$  ( $= u(A)$ , say), then  $u(A)$  is called the uniform density of  $A$ . The class  $I_u$  of all  $A \subset N$  with  $u(A) = 0$  forms a non-trivial ideal.

For any ideal there is a filter  $\mathfrak{S}(I)$  corresponding to  $I$ , given by

$$\mathfrak{S}(I) = \{K \subseteq N : N \setminus K \in I\}.$$

Let  $D$  denote the set of all closed bounded intervals  $X = [a_1, a_2]$  on the real line  $R$ . For  $X = [a_1, a_2] \in D$  and  $Y = [b_1, b_2] \in D$ , we define  $X \leq Y$  if and only if  $a_1 \leq b_1$  and  $a_2 \leq b_2$ .

$$d(X, Y) = \max(|a_1 - b_1|, |a_2 - b_2|)$$

It is known that  $(D, d)$  is a complete metric space and  $\leq$  is a partial order on  $D$ .

A fuzzy real number  $X$  is a fuzzy set on  $R$  i.e. a mapping  $X : R \rightarrow L$  ( $= [0, 1]$ ) associating each real number  $t$  with its grade of membership  $X(t)$ . Every real number  $r$  can be expressed as a fuzzy real number  $\bar{r}$  as follows:  $\bar{r}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t = r \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ . A fuzzy real number  $X$  is called convex, if  $X(t) \geq X(s) \wedge X(r) = \min(X(s), X(r))$ , where  $s < t < r$ . If there exists  $t_0 \in R$  such that  $X(t_0) = 1$ , then the fuzzy real number  $X$  is called normal. The  $\alpha$ -level set of a fuzzy real number  $X$ ,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  denoted by  $X^\alpha$  is defined as  $X^\alpha = \{t \in R : X(t) \geq \alpha\}$ . A fuzzy real number  $X$  is said to be upper semi-continuous if for each  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $X^{-1}([0, a + \epsilon))$ , for all  $a \in L$  is open in the usual topology of  $R$ . We denote the set of all upper semi-continuous, normal, convex fuzzy numbers by  $L(R)$ . A fuzzy real number  $\eta$  is said to be non-negative if  $\eta(t) = 0$  for all  $t < 0$ .

Arithmetic operations  $\oplus$  and  $\ominus$  on  $L(R) \times L(R)$  can be defined as follows:

$$(\eta \oplus \delta)(t) = \sup_{s \in R} \{\eta(s) \wedge \delta(t - s)\}, \quad t \in R$$

$$(\eta \ominus \delta)(t) = \sup_{s \in R} \{\eta(s) \wedge \delta(s - t)\}, \quad t \in R.$$

Let  $\bar{d} : L(R) \times L(R) \rightarrow R$  be defined by

$$\bar{d}(X, Y) = \sup_{0 \leq \alpha \leq 1} d(X^\alpha, Y^\alpha) \quad \text{for } X, Y \in L(R).$$

Then  $\bar{d}$  defines a metric on  $L(R)$ .

We define  $X \leq Y$  if and only if  $X^\alpha \leq Y^\alpha$  for any  $\alpha \in L$ . The additive identity and multiplicative identity in  $L(R)$  are denoted by  $\bar{0}$  and  $\bar{1}$  respectively.

**Definition 1.** A sequence  $X = (X_n)$  of fuzzy numbers is said to be  $I$ -convergent if there exists a fuzzy numbers  $X_0$  such that for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , the set  $\{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, X_0) \geq \epsilon\} \in I$ . We write  $I - \lim X_n = X_0$ . Throughout the paper  $I$  will be an admissible ideal.

### 3. $I$ -limit superior and $I$ -limit inferior of sequences of fuzzy numbers

In this section we introduce the notions of  $I$ -limit superior and  $I$ -limit inferior for sequences of fuzzy real numbers.

A subset  $E$  of  $L(R)$  is said to be bounded above if there exists a fuzzy number  $\mu$ , called an upper bound of  $E$ , such that  $X \leq \mu$ , for all  $X \in E$ .  $\mu$  is called the least upper bound (lub or sup) of  $E$  if  $\mu$  is an upper bound and is the smallest of all upper bounds. A lower bound and the greatest lower bound (glb or inf) are defined similarly.  $E$  is said to be bounded if it is bounded above and bounded below.

For a fuzzy real valued sequence  $X = (X_n)$  let  $B_X$  denotes the set:

$$B_X = \{\mu \in L(R) : \{n \in N : X_n > \mu\} \notin I\}.$$

Similarly,

$$A_X = \{\lambda \in L(R) : \{n \in N : X_n < \lambda\} \notin I\}.$$

**Definition 2.** For  $X = (X_n)$  a fuzzy real valued sequence and  $I$  an admissible ideal, the  $I$ -limit superior of  $(X_n)$  is given by

$$I - \limsup X = \begin{cases} \sup B_X, & \text{if } B_X \neq \emptyset \\ -\infty, & \text{if } B_X = \emptyset \end{cases}$$

Also , the  $I$ -limit inferior of  $X$  is given by

$$I - \liminf X = \begin{cases} \inf A_X, & \text{if } A_X \neq \emptyset \\ +\infty, & \text{if } A_X = \emptyset \end{cases}$$

**Remark 1.** For  $I = I_d$ , from the above definition we get the statistical limit superior and statistical limit inferior. For  $I = I_d$ , we get the notions of logarithmic limit superior and logarithmic limit inferior. Similarly we can get the other notions of  $I$ -limit superior and  $I$ -limit inferior for different ideals.

From definition we can easily prove the following two theorems.

**Theorem 1.** *If  $\beta = I$ -limit sup  $X$  is finite, then for every positive fuzzy number  $\eta$*

$$(1) \quad \{n \in N : X_n > \beta \ominus \eta\} \notin I \quad \text{and} \quad \{n \in N : X_n > \beta \oplus \eta\} \in I$$

*Conversely if (1) holds for every positive fuzzy number  $\eta$ , then  $\beta = I$ -limitsup  $X$ .*

**Theorem 2.** *If  $\gamma = I$ -limit inf  $X$  is finite, then for every positive fuzzy number  $\eta$*

$$(2) \quad \{n \in N : X_n < \gamma \oplus \eta\} \notin I \quad \text{and} \quad \{n \in N : X_n < \gamma \ominus \eta\} \in I$$

*Conversely if (2) holds for every positive fuzzy number  $\eta$ , then  $\gamma = I$ -limit inf  $X$ .*

**Theorem 3.** *For every fuzzy real valued sequence  $X$ ,*

$$I - \text{limit inf } X \leq I - \text{limit sup } X.$$

**Proof.** First we consider the case in which  $I$ -limitsup  $X = -\infty$ . Then  $B_X = \emptyset$ . So for every  $\mu$  in  $L(R)$ ,  $\{n \in N : X_n > \mu\} \in I$ . This implies that  $\{n \in N : X_n \leq \mu\} \in \mathfrak{F}(I)$ . Hence for every in  $\lambda \in L(R)$ , the set  $\{n \in N : X_n \leq \lambda\} \notin I$ . So  $I$ -limit inf  $X = -\infty$ .

If  $I$ -limit sup  $X = \infty$ , then the result follows immediately.

Now we assume that  $\beta = I$ -limit sup  $X$  be finite and  $\gamma = I$ -limit inf  $X$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be real. We show that  $\beta \oplus \bar{\epsilon} \in A_X$ . Since  $\beta = I$ -limitsup  $X$ , by Theorem 1, the set  $\{n \in N : X_n > \beta \oplus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in I$  which implies that  $\{n \in N : X_n \leq \beta \oplus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in \mathfrak{F}(I)$ . Since  $\{n \in N : X_n \leq \beta \oplus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \subseteq \{n \in N : X_n < \beta \oplus \bar{\epsilon}\}$  and  $\mathfrak{F}(I)$  is a filter on  $N$ , so  $\{n \in N : X_n < \beta \oplus \bar{\epsilon}\} \in \mathfrak{F}(I)$ . Thus  $\{n \in N : X_n < \beta \oplus \bar{\epsilon}\} \notin I$ . Hence  $\beta \oplus \bar{\epsilon} \in A_X$  and so from definition of  $I$ -limit inferior  $\gamma \leq \beta \oplus \bar{\epsilon}$ . Since  $\bar{\epsilon}$  is arbitrary, so  $\gamma \leq \beta$ . From definition and Theorem 3, it can be easily shown that

$$\text{limit inf } X \leq I - \text{limit inf } X \leq I - \text{limit sup } X \leq \text{limit sup } X.$$

■

**Definition 3.** A fuzzy real valued sequence  $X = (X_n)$  is said to be  $I$ -bounded if there exists a real numbers  $B > 0$  such that  $\{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, \bar{0}) > B\} \in I$ .

**Note.** Suppose there exists a real number  $B > 0$  such that

$$(3) \quad \{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, \bar{0}) > B\} \in I$$

Then we can easily check that the set  $\{n \in N : X_n > \bar{B}\} \in I$  which implies that  $I$ -limit sup  $X \leq \bar{B}$ . Also from (3) we have  $-\bar{B} \leq I$ -limit inf  $X$ . Hence  $I$ - boundedness of a fuzzy real valued sequence  $X = (X_n)$  implies  $I$ - limit inf  $X$  and  $I$ - limit sup  $X$  are finite and so properties (1) and (2) of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 hold.

**Theorem 4.** The fuzzy real valued  $I$ -bounded sequence  $X = (X_n)$  is  $I$ -convergent if and only if  $I$ - limit inf  $X = I$ - limit sup  $X$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\gamma = I$ - limit inf  $X$  and  $\beta = I$ - limit sup  $X$ .

Suppose  $I$ - lim  $X_n = X_0$ . Then given  $\epsilon > 0$ , the set  $\{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, X_0) \geq \epsilon\} \in I$ . Thus  $\{n \in N : X_n > X_0 \oplus \bar{\epsilon}\} \in I$  and so  $\beta \leq X_0$ . Also  $\{n \in N : X_n < X_0 \ominus \bar{\epsilon}\} \in I$ . Hence  $X_0 \leq \gamma$ . Thus  $\beta \leq \gamma$ . But from Theorem 3, we get  $\gamma \leq \beta$ . Hence  $\gamma = \beta$ .

Next we assume that  $\gamma = \beta$ . Let  $X_0 = \gamma$ . Then properties (1) and (2) of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 imply that the sets  $\{n \in N : X_n > X_0 \oplus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in I$  and  $\{n \in N : X_n < X_0 \ominus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in I$ . Thus the set  $\{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, X_0) \geq \epsilon\} \in I$ . Hence  $I$ - lim  $X_n = X_0$ . ■

**Theorem 5.** If  $(X_n)$  is a fuzzy sequence of real numbers, then  $I$ - limit inf  $(-X_n) = -(I$ -limit sup  $X_n)$ ,  $I$ -limit sup  $(-X_n) = -(I$ -limit inf  $X_n)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $Y_n = -X_n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} I - \text{limit inf}(-X_n) &= I - \text{limit inf} Y_n \\ &= \inf\{\lambda \in L(R) : \{n \in N : Y_n < \lambda\} \notin I\} \\ &= \inf\{\lambda \in L(R) : \{n \in N : X_n > -\lambda\} \notin I\} \\ &= \inf\{-\mu \in L(R) : \{n \in N : X_n > \mu\} \notin I\} \\ &= -\sup\{\mu \in L(R) : \{n \in N : X_n > \mu\} \notin I\} \\ &= -(I - \text{limit sup}(X_n)). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can show that  $I$ - limit sup  $(-X_n) = -(I$ - limit inf  $X_n)$ . ■

**Theorem 6.** If  $(X_n)$  and  $(Y_n)$  are  $I$ - bounded sequences, then

- (i)  $I$ - limit inf  $X_n \oplus I$ - limit inf  $Y_n \leq I$ - limit inf  $(X_n \oplus Y_n)$
- (ii)  $I$ - limit inf  $(X_n \oplus Y_n) \leq I$ - limit inf  $X_n \oplus I$ - limit sup  $Y_n$

- (iii)  $I$  - limit  $\inf X_n \oplus I$  - limit  $\sup Y_n \leq I$  - limit  $\sup(X_n \oplus Y_n)$   
 (iv)  $I$  - limit  $\sup(X_n \oplus Y_n) \leq I$  - limit  $\sup X_n \oplus I$  - limit  $\sup Y_n$  .

**Remark 2.** For (ii) and (iii)  $I$  should be a maximal ideal.

**Proof.** We will prove (i) and (iii). (ii) and (iv) will follow from (iii) and (i) respectively taking the sequences  $(-X_n)$  and  $(-Y_n)$  in places of  $(X_n)$  and  $(Y_n)$  and using Theorem 5.

(i) Let  $I$  -  $\lim \inf X_n = \alpha$  and  $I$  -  $\lim \inf Y_n = \beta$ .

Since  $(X_n)$  and  $(Y_n)$  are  $I$ - bounded, so  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are finite. Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be real. Then by Theorem 2,  $A = \{n \in N : X_n < \alpha \ominus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in I$  and  $B = \{n \in N : Y_n < \beta \ominus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in I$ . Now for each  $n \in A \cap B$ ,  $X_n \oplus Y_n < (\alpha \oplus \beta) \ominus \bar{\epsilon}$ . But  $A \cap B \in I$ .

Hence  $(\alpha \oplus \beta) \ominus \bar{\epsilon} \leq I$  - limit  $\inf(X_n \oplus Y_n)$ . Since  $\bar{\epsilon}$  is arbitrary, so  $(\alpha \oplus \beta) \leq I$  - limit  $\inf(X_n \oplus Y_n)$ .

(iii) Let  $I$  -  $\lim \inf X_n = \alpha$  and  $I$  -  $\lim \sup Y_n = \beta$ . Then  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are finite. Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be real. Then by Theorem 1 and Theorem 2,  $\{n \in N : X_n < \alpha \ominus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in I \Rightarrow \{n \in N : X_n \geq \alpha \ominus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in \mathfrak{S}(I)$ . Also  $\{n \in N : Y_n > \beta \ominus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \notin I \Rightarrow \{n \in N : Y_n > \beta \ominus \frac{1}{2}\bar{\epsilon}\} \in \mathfrak{S}(I)$ , as  $I$  is maximal. Hence  $\{n \in N : X_n \oplus Y_n > (\alpha \oplus \beta) \ominus \bar{\epsilon}\} \notin I$ . Hence  $(\alpha \oplus \beta) \ominus \bar{\epsilon} \leq I$  - limit  $\sup(X_n \oplus Y_n)$ . Since  $\bar{\epsilon}$  is arbitrary, so  $(\alpha \oplus \beta) \leq I$  - limit  $\sup(X_n \oplus Y_n)$ . Hence the theorem. ■

#### 4. $I$ -limit points and $I$ -cluster points

**Definition 4.** A fuzzy real valued number  $\mu$  is said to be  $I$ -limit point of the fuzzy real valued sequence  $X = (X_n)$  provided that there exists a set  $M = \{m_1 < m_2 < \dots\} \subset N$  such that  $M \notin I$  and  $\lim_k X_{m_k} = \mu$ .

**Definition 5.** A fuzzy real valued number  $\mu$  is said to be  $I$ -cluster point of the fuzzy real valued sequence  $X = (X_n)$  if and only if for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , the set  $\{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, \mu) < \epsilon\} \notin I$ .

Let  $\Lambda_X^I$  and  $\Gamma_X^I$  denotes the set of all  $I$ -limit points and  $I$ -cluster points of  $X$  respectively.

From the definition of  $I$  - cluster point of fuzzy real valued sequence and from Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 we can interpret that  $I$  - limit  $\sup X$  and  $I$  - limit  $\inf X$  are the greatest and the least  $I$ - cluster points of  $X$ . The following result follows easily from Theorem 4.

**Theorem 7.** A necessary and sufficient condition for the  $I$ - convergence of a fuzzy real valued sequence is that it is  $I$ - bounded and has a unique cluster point.

**Theorem 8.** If  $I$  is an admissible ideal, then for each fuzzy real valued sequence  $X = (X_n)$  of elements of  $L(R)$ , we have  $\Lambda_X^I \subset \Gamma_X^I$  .

**Proof.** Let  $\mu \in \Lambda_X^I$ . Then there exists a set  $M = \{m_1 < m_2 < \dots\} \notin I$  such that  $\lim_k X_{m_k} = \mu$ .

So given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $k_0 \in N$  such that  $\bar{d}(X_{m_k}, \mu) < \epsilon$  for all  $k \geq k_0$ .

But the set  $A = \{k \in N : \bar{d}(X_k, \mu) < \epsilon\} \supset M \setminus \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{k_0}\}$ . So  $A \notin I$ . Hence  $\mu \in \Gamma_X^I$ . ■

**Theorem 9.** *The set  $\Gamma_X^I$  is closed in  $L(R)$  for each sequence  $X = (X_n)$  of elements of  $L(R)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $Y$  be a limit point of  $\Gamma_X^I$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then every open ball  $\bar{B}(Y, \epsilon)$  with centre at  $Y$  and radius  $\epsilon$  must contain a point of  $\Gamma_X^I$  different from  $Y$ .

Let  $Y_0 \in \Gamma_X^I \cap \bar{B}(Y, \epsilon)$ . Choose  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\bar{B}(Y_0, \delta) \subset \bar{B}(Y, \epsilon)$ . Then we have,  $\{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, Y) < \epsilon\} \supset \{n \in N : \bar{d}(X_n, Y_0) < \delta\} \notin I$ . Hence  $Y \in \Gamma_X^I$ . ■

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