

# On Starshaped Intuitionistic Fuzzy Sets

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## Abstract

Intuitionistic fuzzy starshaped sets (i.f.s.) is a generalized model of fuzzy starshaped set. By the definition of i.f.s., the intuitionistic fuzzy general starshaped sets (i.f.g.s.), intuitionistic fuzzy quasi-starshaped sets (i.f.q.s.) and intuitionistic fuzzy pseudo-starshaped sets (i.f.p.s.) are proposed and the relationships among them are studied. The equivalent discrimination conditions of i.f.q.s. and i.f.p.s. are presented on the basis of their properties which are meaningful for the research of the generalized fuzzy starshaped sets. Moreover, the invariance of the two given fuzzy sets under the translation transformation and linear reversible transformation are discussed.

**Keywords:** Intuitionistic Fuzzy Starshaped Sets, Cut Sets, Starshapedness, Convex Sets

## 1. Introduction

Since the theory of fuzzy set was proposed by Zadeh in 1965, it has been widely used such as fuzzy control, fuzzy recognition, fuzzy evaluation, system theory, information retrieval and so on. The intuitionistic fuzzy set theory, proposed by Atanassov [1], is an extension of the fuzzy set theory. The core idea of intuitionistic fuzzy sets is added a non-membership functions in the basis of membership functions, which can cooperate with the membership function and describe the fuzzy object of the world more exquisitely. At present, the research of intuition fuzzy set theory is more active in international, especially the research of some similar problems in fuzzy set. Through more than 20 years of development, the intuitionistic fuzzy set has made a lot of important achievements [2-9].

With the deepening of the research work and expansion, another more worthy of concern is the emergence of fuzzy starshaped set theory [10] and its applications. Fuzzy starshaped sets have more abundant properties and characteristics, it is a directly extension of the fuzzy set theory and convex set, many useful results have been obtained.

In this paper, we define a new kind of fuzzy set which is intuition fuzzy set, by combining the fuzzy starshaped set and intuition fuzzy set. By the basic definition of intuitionistic fuzzy starshaped set, we introduce some new different types of starshapedness. We discuss the relationships among these different types of starshapedness,

and obtain some important properties.

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $x, y \in R^n$ ,  $\overline{xy} = \{z \mid z = \alpha x + \beta y\}$  is a line segment, where  $\alpha \geq 0, \beta \geq 0, \alpha + \beta = 1$ . A set  $S$  is simply said to be starshaped relative to a point  $x \in R^n$ , if  $\overline{xy} \subseteq S$  for any point  $y \in S$ . A set  $S$  is simply said to be starshaped, which means that there exists a point  $x$  in  $R^n$  such that  $S$  is starshaped relative to  $x$ . The kernel  $\ker S$  of  $S$  is the set of all points  $x \in S$  such that  $\overline{xy} \subseteq S$  for any  $y \in S$ .

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $R^n$  denote an universe of discourse. An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A}$  is an object having the form

$$\tilde{A} = \{(x, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \mid x \in R^n)\}$$

where  $\mu_{\tilde{A}} : R^n \rightarrow [0, 1], \nu_{\tilde{A}} : R^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$  satisfy  $0 \leq \mu_{\tilde{A}} + \nu_{\tilde{A}} \leq 1$  for all  $x \in R^n$ ,  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}$  are called the degree of membership and the one degree of non-membership of the element  $x$  to  $\tilde{A}$  respectively. Let  $F(R^n)$  be the classes of normal intuitionistic fuzzy sets on  $R^n$ , that is  $\{x \in R^n \mid \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = 1, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = 0\}$  is non-empty.

**Example 2.1.** Let  $\tilde{A} = \{(x, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \mid x \in R)\}$ , where

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} x+1 & x \in [-1, 0] \\ -x+1 & x \in (0, 1] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} -x & x \in [-1, 0] \\ x & x \in (0, 1] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then  $\tilde{A} \in F(R)$ .

**Definition 2.2.** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is called quasi-convex if

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

for all  $x, y \in R^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $\tilde{A}, \tilde{B} \in F(R^n)$ , the union, intersection and complement of  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$  are defined as follows,

$$\tilde{A} \cup \tilde{B} = \{(x, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \vee \mu_{\tilde{B}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \wedge \nu_{\tilde{B}}(x)) \mid x \in R^n\}$$

$$\tilde{A} \cap \tilde{B} = \{(x, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \wedge \mu_{\tilde{B}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \vee \nu_{\tilde{B}}(x)) \mid x \in R^n\}$$

$$\tilde{A}^c = \{(x, 1 - \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), 1 - \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)) \mid x \in R^n\}$$

**Definition 2.4.** [11] Let  $\tilde{A}, \tilde{B} \in F(R^n), \alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$ , the  $[\alpha, \beta]$ -cut,  $[\alpha, \beta]$ -cut,  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -cut and  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -cut of  $\tilde{A}$  are defined as follows:

$$\tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]} = \{x \mid x \in X, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \alpha, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \leq \beta\}$$

$$\tilde{A}_{(\alpha, \beta)} = \{x \mid x \in X, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \alpha, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) < \beta\}$$

$$\tilde{A}_{(\alpha, \beta]} = \{x \mid x \in X, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) > \alpha, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \leq \beta\}$$

$$\tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta)} = \{x \mid x \in X, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) > \alpha, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) < \beta\}$$

### 3. Starshaped Intuitionistic Fuzzy Sets

**Definition 3.1** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is said to be i.f.s. relative to  $y \in R^n$  if

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,

**Proposition 3.1** Let  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , then

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0$$

**Proof.** Let  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ , then for all  $x \in R^n$ ,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

are true for  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ . Thus, only take  $\lambda = 0$ , it can be found that  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$  are true for all  $x \in R^n$ .

Hence

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0 \quad \square$$

**Example 3.1.** The intuitionistic fuzzy  $\tilde{A} \in F(R)$  with

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} e^x & x \in (-\infty, 0] \\ e^{-x} & x \in (0, +\infty) \end{cases}$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^x & x \in (-\infty, 0] \\ 1 - e^{-x} & x \in (0, +\infty) \end{cases}$$

is i.f.s. relative to  $y = 0$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. respect to  $y \in R^n$  iff its level sets are starshaped relative to  $y$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $\tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$  is starshaped relative to  $y \in R^n$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$ . For  $x \in R^n$ , let  $\alpha = \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \beta = \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$ , then  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ . That is, for any  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \alpha = \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \beta = \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

Conversely, if for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

hold. Since  $\tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]} \neq \emptyset$ , there exists  $x \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ , that means  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \alpha$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \leq \beta$ . Hence,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \alpha$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \leq \beta$$

for any  $\lambda \in [0,1]$ .

So  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha,\beta]}$ . Thus  $\tilde{A}_{[\alpha,\beta]}$  is starshaped relative to  $y$ .  $\square$

**Definition 3.2.** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is said to be i.f.g.s. if all level sets are starshaped sets in  $R^n$ .

**Definition 3.3.** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is said to be i.f.q-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$  if for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0,1]$ , the following hold,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \end{aligned}$$

**Definition 3.4** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is said to be i.f.p-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$  if for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0,1]$ , the following are true,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\geq \lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\leq \lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \end{aligned}$$

**Definition 3.4.** Let  $\ker(\tilde{A})$  (respectively,  $q-\ker(\tilde{A}), p-\ker(\tilde{A})$ ) be the totality of  $y \in R^n$  such that  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. (respectively, i.f.q-s., i.f.p-s.) relative to  $y$ .

**Definition 3.5.** The intuitionistic fuzzy hypograph of  $\tilde{A}$  denoted by  $f.hpy(\tilde{A})$ , is defined as

$$f.hpy(\tilde{A}) = f.hpy(\mu) \cup f.hpy(\nu)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}}) &= \{(x,t) \mid x \in R, t \in [0, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)]\} \\ f.hpy(\nu_{\tilde{A}}) &= \{(x,s) \mid x \in R, s \in [\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), 1]\} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.g.s. and  $\exists y \in \cap \ker \tilde{A}_{[\alpha,\beta]}$  iff  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ .

**Proof.** “ $\Rightarrow$ ” Since  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.g.s. and  $\cap_{\alpha,\beta} \ker \tilde{A}_{[\alpha,\beta]} \neq \emptyset$ , that is  $\exists y \in \cap_{\alpha,\beta} \ker \tilde{A}_{[\alpha,\beta]}$ . Then  $\tilde{A}_{[\alpha,\beta]}$  is starshaped relative to  $y$ . By Proposition 3.1 we get that  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ .

“ $\Leftarrow$ ” it follows directly from Definition 3.2 and Proposition 3.1.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.p-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , then it is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y$ .

**Proof.** Since for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0,1]$ , the following hold,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\geq \lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \\ &\geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\leq \lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \\ &\leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.1.** The inverse statements do not hold in general as shown in the following example.

**Example 3.3.** The intuitionistic fuzzy  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  with

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} 2+x & x \in [-2, -1] \\ x^2 & x \in [-1, 1] \\ 2-x & x \in [1, 2] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) = \begin{cases} -x-1 & x \in [-2, -1] \\ 1-x^2 & x \in [-1, 1] \\ x-1 & x \in [1, 2] \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y = 0$ . But it is not i.f.p-s. relative to  $y = 0$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) &= \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1 \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) &= \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

iff  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ .

**Proof.** “ $\Rightarrow$ ” Since  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ ,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0$$

then for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0,1]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} = \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} = \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\tilde{A}$  it is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ .

“ $\Leftarrow$ ” Since  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ , that means  $\forall x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0,1]$ ,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x).$$

Take  $\lambda = 0$ , we get  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$  for all  $x \in R^n$ .

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \\ &\geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \\ &\leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) &= \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1 \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) &= \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.4.** Let  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.p-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , if

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0$$

then it is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ .

**Proof.** It follows from Theorem 3.2, Theorem 3.3.  $\square$

**Remark 3.2.** The inverse statements do not hold in general as shown in the following example.

**Example 3.4.** The intuitionistic fuzzy  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  with

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) &= \begin{cases} e^x & x \in (-\infty, 0] \\ e^{-x} & x \in (0, +\infty) \end{cases} \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) &= \begin{cases} 1 - e^x & x \in (-\infty, 0] \\ 1 - e^{-x} & x \in (0, +\infty) \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

is i.f.s. relative to  $y = 0$ . But it is not i.f.p-s. relative to  $y = 0$ .

#### 4. Basic Properties of Starshapedness of Intuitionistic Fuzzy Sets

**Proposition 4.1.** If  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , then

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0$$

**Proof.** Let  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ , then for all  $x \in R^n$ ,  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

Take  $\lambda = 0$ , we get  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$  for all  $x \in R^n$ .

So

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 1$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} = 0 \quad \square$$

**Proposition 4.2.** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y \in R^n$  iff for all  $x \in R^n$ ,  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , the following hold,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda x + y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x + y)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda x + y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x + y)$$

**Proof.** Supposed  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ , that is, for all  $x \in R^n$ ,  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $x+y$  in the above inequality, we can get the desired result. Similarly, we can get the converse.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.3.** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$  iff  $\tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$  is starshaped set relative to  $y$  for  $\alpha \in [0, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)]$ ,  $\beta \in [\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y), 1]$ .

**Proof.** “ $\Rightarrow$ ” Supposed  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y$ , that is for all  $x \in R^n$ ,  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

For any  $\alpha \in [0, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)]$ ,  $\beta \in [\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y), 1]$ , if  $x \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ , then we have that  $x, y \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ . From the above inequality we get that

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \alpha$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \beta$$

So  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ .

“ $\Leftarrow$ ”, For  $x \in R^n$ ,  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , if  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) > \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)$ , then let  $\alpha = \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)$ . Accordingly we have  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ , that is,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

If  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \leq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)$ , then let  $\alpha = \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$ . Accordingly we have  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ , that is,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

If  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) < \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)$ , then let  $\beta = \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)$ .

Accordingly we have  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ , that is,

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

If  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)$ , then let  $\beta = \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)$ . Accordingly we have  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ , that is,

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}.$$

Thus  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.q.s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ . □

**Proposition 4.4.** An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.p.s. relative to  $y$  iff  $f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}})$  is starshaped relative to  $(y, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y))$  and  $f.hyp(\nu_{\tilde{A}})$  is starshaped relative to  $(y, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y))$ .

**Proof.** “ $\Rightarrow$ ” If  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.p.s. relative to  $y$ ,  $(x, t) \in f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}})$  and  $(x, s) \in f.hyp(\nu_{\tilde{A}})$ . Since  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.p.s. relative to  $y$  for any  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\geq \lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \\ &\geq \lambda t + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) &\leq \lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \\ &\leq \lambda s + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\lambda(x, t) + (1-\lambda)(y, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)) \in f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}})$$

$$\lambda(x, s) + (1-\lambda)(y, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)) \in f.hyp(\nu_{\tilde{A}})$$

Hence,  $f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}})$  is starshaped relative to  $(y, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y))$  and  $f.hyp(\nu_{\tilde{A}})$  is starshaped relative to  $(y, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y))$ .

“ $\Leftarrow$ ” Assume that  $(x, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)) \in f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}})$  and

$(x, \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)) \in f.hpy(\nu_{\tilde{A}})$ . By the starshapedness of  $f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}})$  and  $f.hyp(\nu_{\tilde{A}})$  we can have

$$(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)(y), \lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)) \in f.hpy(\mu_{\tilde{A}})$$

$$(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)(y), \lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)) \in f.hyp(\nu_{\tilde{A}}).$$

for any  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ . Thus  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.p.s. relative to  $y$ . □

A path in a set  $S$  in  $R^n$  is a continuous mapping  $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow S$ . A set  $S$  is said to be path connected if, there exists a path  $f$  such that  $f(0) = x$  and  $f(1) = y$  for all  $x, y \in S$  [12]. An intuitionistic fuzzy set  $\tilde{A}$  is said to be a path connected intuitionistic fuzzy set if its level sets are path connected [13]. Since a star-shaped crisp set is path connected, one can easily prove the following proposition.

**Proposition 4.5.** If  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , or is i.f.g.s., then  $\tilde{A}$  is a path connected intuitionistic fuzzy set.

**Proof.** It follows from Definition 3.1, Definition 3.2. □

**Proposition 4.6.** If  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is an intuitionistic fuzzy quasi-convex set, then it is i.f.g.s.. Furthermore, if  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.g.s. then  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s., and is a fuzzy quasi-convex set.

**Proof.** If  $\tilde{A}$  is an intuitionistic fuzzy quasi-convex set, that for all  $x, y \in R^n$ ,  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\}$$

Then for all  $x, y \in R^n$ , the following hold,

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \geq \alpha$$

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x-y)+y) \leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y)\} \leq \beta$$

So,  $\overline{xy} \in \tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$ . In other words  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.g.s..

Additionally if  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.g.s., then  $\tilde{A}_{[\alpha, \beta]}$  is starshaped. Thus they are path convex. In other words, they are intervals and there is at least one point  $y$  in  $\tilde{A}_{[1, 0]}$ . It is well known that intervals are convex sets in  $R$ , so we have that  $\tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$  and is a fuzzy quasi-convex set. □

**Proposition 4.7.** If  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is an intuitionistic fuzzy and the point  $y \in R^n$  satisfies that

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\} \text{ and } \nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\}.$$

Then  $\tilde{A}$  is intuitionistic fuzzy quasi-starshaped set relative to  $y$ , that is,  $y \in q - \ker(\tilde{A})$ .

**Proof.** According to Definition 3.3, we have  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \inf_{x \in R^n} \{\mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\}$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}}(y) = \sup_{x \in R^n} \{\nu_{\tilde{A}}(x)\}$ . So this statement is true.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.8.** If  $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2 \in F(R^n)$  are i.f.q-s. (respectively, i.f.p-s.) relative to  $y \in R^n$ . Then  $\tilde{A}_1 \cap \tilde{A}_2$  is i.f.q-s. (respectively, i.f.p-s.) relative to  $y$ .

**Proof.** Because that  $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2 \in F(R^n)$  are i.f.q-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) &\geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y)\} \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) &\leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y)\}, i = 1, 2 \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} &(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \max\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\geq \min\{\max\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_1}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(x)\}, \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)\} \\ &= \min\{(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x), (\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y)\} \end{aligned}$$

and,

$$\begin{aligned} &(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\leq \max\{\max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y)\}, \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)\}\} \\ &= \max\{(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x), (\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y)\} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\tilde{A}_1 \cap \tilde{A}_2$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y$ .

If  $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2 \in F(R^n)$  are i.f.p-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ . Then all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda(x-y) + y) &\geq \lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y), \\ \nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda(x-y) + y) &\leq \lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y), i = 1, 2 \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} &(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\geq \min\{\lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\geq \lambda \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_1}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(x)\} + (1-\lambda) \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y), \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)\} \\ &= \lambda(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x) + (1-\lambda)(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\leq \max\{\lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\leq \lambda \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(x)\} + (1-\lambda) \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y), \nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)\} \\ &= \lambda(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x) + (1-\lambda)(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y) \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\tilde{A}_1 \cap \tilde{A}_2$  is i.f.p-s. relative to  $y$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.9.** If  $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2 \in F(R^n)$  are i.f.q-s. (respectively, i.f.p-s.) relative to  $y \in R^n$  and  $\mu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y) = \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y), \nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y) = \nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)$ . Then  $\tilde{A}_1 \cup \tilde{A}_2$  is i.f.q-s. (respectively, i.f.p-s.) relative to  $y$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2 \in F(R^n)$  are i.f.q-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y)\}$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \leq \max\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y)\}, i = 1, 2$$

By  $\mu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y) = \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y) = \nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)$ , we can get

$$\begin{aligned} &(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \max\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\geq \min\{\max\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_1}(x), \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(x)\}, \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)\} \\ &= \min\{(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x), (\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y)\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \min\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i = 1, 2\} \\ &\leq \max\{\min\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(x), \nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(x)\}, \nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y)\} \\ &= \max\{(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x), (\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y)\} \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\tilde{A}_1 \cup \tilde{A}_2$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y$ .

Since  $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2 \in F(R^n)$  are i.f.p-s. relative to  $y \in R^n$ , for all  $x \in R^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \geq \lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y)$$

and

$$\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda(x-y) + y) \leq \lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y), i = 1, 2$$

From  $\mu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y) = \mu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)$  and  $\nu_{\tilde{A}_1}(y) = \nu_{\tilde{A}_2}(y)$  we can find

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \max\{\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i=1,2\} \\ &\geq \max\{\lambda\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\mu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y), i=1,2\} \\ &= \lambda(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x) + (1-\lambda)(\mu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cup \mu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & (\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &= \min\{\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y), i=1,2\} \\ &\leq \min\{\lambda\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(x) + (1-\lambda)\nu_{\tilde{A}_i}(y), i=1,2\} \\ &= \lambda(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(x) + (1-\lambda)(\nu_{\tilde{A}_1} \cap \nu_{\tilde{A}_2})(y) \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\tilde{A}_1 \cup \tilde{A}_2$  is i.f.p-s. relative to  $y$ . □

Let  $x_0 \in R^n$ ,  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$ , then the translation of  $\tilde{A}$  by  $x_0$  is the intuitionistic fuzzy  $x_0 + \tilde{A}$  defined as  $(x_0 + \tilde{A})(x) = \tilde{A}(x - x_0)$ .

**Proposition 4.10.** If  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. (respectively, i.f.p-s., i.f.q-s.) relative to  $y$  and  $x_0 \in R^n$ . Then  $x_0 + \tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. (respectively, i.f.p-s., i.f.q-s.) relative to  $x_0 + y$ .

**Proof.** We only give the proof for the case of intuitionistic fuzzy starshapedness. Similarly, the others can be proved.

For any  $x \in R^n$ , since  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. relative to  $y$ . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_0 + \mu_{\tilde{A}})(\lambda(x - y - x_0) + y + x_0) \\ &= \mu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x - y - x_0) + y) \geq \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x - x_0) \\ &= (x_0 + \mu_{\tilde{A}})(x) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & (x_0 + \nu_{\tilde{A}})(\lambda(x - y - x_0) + y + x_0) \\ &= \nu_{\tilde{A}}(\lambda(x - y - x_0) + y) \leq \nu_{\tilde{A}}(x - x_0) \\ &= (x_0 + \nu_{\tilde{A}})(x) \end{aligned}$$

So,  $x_0 + \tilde{A}$  is i.f.s. relative to  $x_0 + y$ . □

**Let**  $T$  be a linear invertible transformation on  $R^n$ ,  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$ . Then by the Extension Principle we have that  $(T(\tilde{A}))(x) = \tilde{A}(T^{-1}(x))$ .

**Proposition 4.11** If  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.s. (respectively,

i.f.p-s., i.f.q-s.) relative to  $y$  and  $T$  is a linear invertible transformation on  $R^n$ . Then  $T(\tilde{A})$  is i.f.s. (respectively, i.f.p-s., i.f.q-s.) relative to  $T(y)$ .

**Proof.** We only give the proof for the case of intuitionistic fuzzy quasi-starshapedness. Similarly, the others can be proved.

For any  $x \in R^n$ , since  $\tilde{A} \in F(R^n)$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $y$ . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} (T(\tilde{A}))(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)T(y)) &= A(\lambda T^{-1}(x) + (1-\lambda)y) \\ &\geq \min\{\tilde{A}(T^{-1}(x)), \tilde{A}(y)\} \\ &= \min\{(T\tilde{A})(x), T(\tilde{A})(T(y))\} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $T(\tilde{A})$  is i.f.q-s. relative to  $T(y)$ . □

### 5. Conclusions

Intuitionistic fuzzy set and fuzzy starshaped set are some special fuzzy sets. In this article, we introduce some new different types of intuitionistic fuzzy starshaped set. By discussing the relationships among these different types of starshapedness, and obtained some important properties. Deepening people's understanding of intuitionistic fuzzy sets, enrich and perfect the theories of fuzzy sets.

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