

## FULLY IDEMPOTENT $\Gamma$ -SEMIRING

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**Abstract:** In this paper we prove that fifteen classes of  $\Gamma$ -semirings coincide with the class of  $\Gamma$ -semiring named in the title. Then we characterize each such  $\Gamma$ -semiring by the property that each ideal is intersection of those prime ideals which contain it.

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**Key Words:** fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring, operator semiring, prime ideal, irreducible ideal

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### 1. Introduction

Nowadays semiring is a well known algebraic structure. It was introduced by Vandiver[8] as a generalization of ring. In algebra there is an another generalization of ring which is known as  $\Gamma$ -ring. It was introduced by N. Nobusawa[4]. M. M K. Rao[5] introduced the notion of  $\Gamma$ -semiring, which was a generalization of semiring and also a generalization of  $\Gamma$ -ring and hence a generalization of ring. Suppose  $(S,+)$  and  $(\Gamma,+)$  are two additive commutative monoids. If there exists a mapping  $S \times \Gamma \times S \rightarrow S$ , (with  $(m,\gamma,n) \rightarrow m\gamma n \in S$ ), satisfying the following conditions: for all  $m,n,p \in S$  and for all  $\gamma,\mu \in \Gamma$ ,  $m\gamma(n+p) = m\gamma n + m\gamma p$ ;  $(m+n)\gamma p = m\gamma p + n\gamma p$ ;  $m(\gamma+\mu)n = m\gamma n + m\mu n$ ;  $m\gamma(n\mu p) = (m\gamma n)\mu p$ ;  $m\gamma 0 = 0\gamma m = 0$ ,  $0$  is the zero element of  $S$  and  $m\theta n = 0$ ,  $\theta$  is the zero element of  $\Gamma$  then  $S$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -semiring. If  $A$  and  $B$  are subsets of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  and  $\Delta \subseteq \Gamma$ , we denote by  $A\Delta B$ , the subset of  $S$  consisting of all finite sums of the form  $\sum_i a_i \alpha_i b_i$  where  $a_i \in A, b_i \in B$  and  $\alpha_i \in \Delta$ . An additive submonoid  $I$  of

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a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is called a left(right) ideal of  $S$  if  $S\Gamma I \subseteq I$  ( $I\Gamma S \subseteq I$ ). If  $I$  is both a left ideal and right ideal then  $I$  is called ideal of  $S$ . A proper ideal  $P$  of  $S$  is said to be prime if for any two ideals  $H$  and  $K$  of  $S$ ,  $H\Gamma K \subseteq P$  implies either  $H \subseteq P$  or  $K \subseteq P$ .  $P$  is said to be semiprime if for any ideal  $A$  of  $S$ ,  $A\Gamma A \subseteq P$  implies  $A \subseteq P$ . An ideal  $I$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is called a  $k$ -ideal if  $s_1 + s_2 \in I$ ,  $s_1 \in S$ ,  $s_2 \in I$  imply  $s_1 \in I$ . A proper ideal  $I$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring is said to be irreducible if for ideals  $H$  and  $K$  of  $S$ ,  $I = H \cap K$  implies that  $I = H$  or  $I = K$ . A proper ideal  $I$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring is said to be strongly irreducible if for ideals  $H$  and  $K$  of  $S$ ,  $H \cap K \subseteq I$  implies that  $H \subseteq I$  or  $K \subseteq I$ . Clearly a strongly irreducible ideal is irreducible and a prime ideal is strongly irreducible. For a proper ideal  $A$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  the  $\Gamma$ -congruence on  $S$ , denoted by  $\rho_A$ , defined as  $s\rho_A s'$  if and only if  $s + a_1 = s' + a_2$  for some  $a_1, a_2 \in A$ , is called the Bourne  $\Gamma$ -congruence[1] on  $S$  defined by the ideal  $A$ . We denote the Bourne  $\Gamma$ -congruence( $\rho_A$ ) class of an element  $r$  of  $S$  by  $r/\rho_A$  or simply  $r/A$  and denote the set of all such  $\Gamma$ -congruence classes of the elements of the  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  by  $S/\rho_A$  or simply  $S/A$ . It should be noted here that for any  $s \in S$  and for any ideal of  $S$ ,  $s/A$  is not necessarily equal to  $s + A = \{s + a : a \in A\}$  but surely contains it. For any  $k$ -ideal  $A$  of  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  if the Bourne  $\Gamma$ -congruence  $\rho_A$  defined by  $A$ , is proper i.e.,  $0/A \neq S$  then we define on  $S/A$  the following operations:  $s/A + t/A = (s+t)/A$  and  $s/A\alpha t/A = (s\alpha t)/A$  for all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

The operator semirings of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring, defined by Dutta and Sardar [2], turned out to be a very effective tool in transferring the notion of semirings to  $\Gamma$ -semirings. The relation  $\rho$  on  $F$ , defined by  $\sum_{i=1}^m (x_i, \alpha_i)\rho \sum_{j=1}^n (y_j, \beta_j)$  if and only if  $\sum_{i=1}^m x_i\alpha_i a = \sum_{j=1}^n y_j\beta_j a$  for all  $a \in S$  ( $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ) is a congruence on  $F$ . Congruence class containing  $\sum_{i=1}^m (x_i, \alpha_i)$  is denoted by  $\sum_{i=1}^m [x_i, \alpha_i]$ . Then  $F/\rho$  is an additive commutative semigroup. Now  $F/\rho$  forms a semiring with the multiplication defined by

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^m [x_i, \alpha_i]\right)\sum_{j=1}^n [y_j, \beta_j] = \sum_{i,j} [x_i\alpha_i y_j, \beta_j].$$

This semiring is denoted by  $L$  and called the left operator semiring of the  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$ . Dually the right operator semiring  $R$  of the  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  has been defined where  $R = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m [\alpha_i, x_i] : \alpha_i \in \Gamma, x_i \in S, i = 1, 2, \dots, m; m \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \right\}$  and

the multiplication on  $R$  is defined as  $(\sum_{i=1}^m [\alpha_i, x_i])(\sum_{j=1}^n [\beta_j, y_j]) = \sum_{i,j} [\alpha_i, x_i \beta_j y_j]$ .

If there exists an element  $\sum_{i=1}^m [e_i, \delta_i] \in L$  ( $\sum_{j=1}^n [\gamma_j, x_j] \in R$ ) such that  $\sum_{i=1}^m e_i \delta_i a = a$

( $\sum_{j=1}^n a \gamma_j x_j = a$ ) for all  $a \in S$  then  $S$  is said to have the left unity  $\sum_{i=1}^m [e_i, \delta_i]$

(respectively right unity  $\sum_{j=1}^n [\gamma_j, x_j]$ ). We refer the readers [1], [2], [3], [7] for more preliminaries.

### 2. Fully Idempotent $\Gamma$ -Semiring

An ideal  $I$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is said to be idempotent[3] if  $I\Gamma I = I$ . A  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is said to be fully idempotent if every ideal is idempotent. A  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is said to be regular[3] if  $a \in a\Gamma S\Gamma a$  for all  $a \in S$  where  $a\Gamma S\Gamma a$  denotes the finite sum of the elements of the form  $a\gamma s\gamma a$ ,  $s \in S$ .

**Proposition 1.** *If a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is regular then it is fully idempotent.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be an ideal of the regular  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$ . If  $I = \{0\}$  or  $S$  then  $I\Gamma I = I$ . Let  $I$  be a nontrivial ideal of  $S$ . Then  $I\Gamma I \subseteq I\Gamma S \subseteq I$ . Now let  $a \in I$ . Then  $a \in a\Gamma S\Gamma a \subseteq I\Gamma S\Gamma a \subseteq I\Gamma a \subseteq I\Gamma I$ . So  $I\Gamma I = I$ . Hence  $S$  is fully idempotent.  $\square$

A  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is said to be 0-simple[2] if  $S\Gamma S \neq \{0\}$  and  $S$  has no ideals other than  $\{0\}$  and  $S$ .

**Proposition 2.** *If a 0-simple  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is fully idempotent.*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a 0-simple  $\Gamma$ -semiring. Then it has only two ideals  $\{0\}$  and  $S$ . Now  $\{0\}\Gamma\{0\}$  and  $S\Gamma S = S$ . Hence  $S$  is fully idempotent.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.** *[3] A commutative fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is regular.*

**Note:** Proposition 1 and Proposition 3 can be combined as follows: “A commutative  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is regular if and only if  $S$  is fully idempotent.”

**Notation:** Let  $U$  and  $V$  be two subsets of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$ . Then we put  $(U : V) = \{s \in S : v\alpha s \in U \text{ for all } v \in V \text{ and } \alpha \in \Gamma\}$  and  $(U : V)' = \{s \in S : s\alpha v \in U \text{ for all } v \in V \text{ and } \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ .

**Proposition 4.** *If  $U$  and  $V$  be two subsets of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  and  $(U : V)$  and  $(U : V)'$  are nonempty then they are ideals of  $S$ .*

A proper ideal  $I$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is said to be nilpotent if  $(I\Gamma)^{n-1}I = \{0\}$  for some positive integer  $n$ . A  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is said to be semiprime if  $\{0\}$  is a semiprime ideal.

**Proposition 5.** *A  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is semiprime if and only if no nonzero ideal is nilpotent.*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a semiprime  $\Gamma$ -semiring. If possible let  $I$  be a nonzero nilpotent ideal of  $S$ . Then for some positive integer  $n$ ,  $(I\Gamma)^{n-1}I = \{0\}$ . Since  $\{0\}$  is a semiprime ideal and  $(I\Gamma)^mI$  is an ideal of  $S$ , this implies that  $I = \{0\}$ . This is a contradiction. Hence  $S$  can not have any no nonzero nilpotent ideal.

Conversely, let  $I$  be an ideal of  $S$  such that  $I\Gamma I = \{0\}$ . Since  $S$  has no nonzero nilpotent ideal, this implies that  $I = \{0\}$ . Thus  $\{0\}$  is a semiprime ideal of  $S$ . Hence  $S$  is semiprime  $\Gamma$ -semiring.  $\square$

**Proposition 6.** *Every Bourne factor  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S/I$  of a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  is a fully idempotent.*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be a  $k$ -ideal of  $S$ . Let  $P/I$  be an ideal of  $S/I$ . Then  $P$  is an ideal of  $S$ . So  $P\Gamma P = P$ . Now  $(P/I)\Gamma(P/I) = (P\Gamma P)/I = (P/I)$ . Hence  $S/I$  is a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring.  $\square$

**Proposition 7.** *A fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  has no nonzero nilpotent ideal.*

*Proof.* If possible let  $I$  be a nonzero nilpotent ideal of  $S$  with  $(I\Gamma)^{n-1}I = \{0\}$  for some positive integer  $n$ . Since  $S$  is fully idempotent, this implies that  $I = \{0\}$ . This is a contradiction. Hence  $S$  has no nonzero nilpotent ideal.  $\square$

### 3. Main Result

**Theorem 8.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semiring with unities. Then following assertions on  $S$  are equivalent:*

1.  $S$  is fully idempotent.
2. For each pair of ideals  $I, J$  of  $S$ ,  $I \cap J = I\Gamma J$ .
3. For each pair of ideals  $I, J$  of  $S$ ,  $(I : J) \cap J = J \cap I$ .
4. For each pair of ideals  $I, J$  of  $S$ ,  $(I : J)' \cap J = J \cap I$ .
5. If  $K \subseteq J$  then  $(I : J) \cap K = I \cap K$  where  $I, J, K$  are ideals of  $S$ .

6. If  $K \subseteq J$  then  $(I : J)' \cap K = I \cap K$  where  $I, J, K$  are ideals of  $S$ .
7. For each right ideal  $A$  and ideal  $I$  of  $S$ ,  $A \cap I \subseteq I\Gamma A$ .
8. For each left ideal  $B$  and ideal  $I$  of  $S$ ,  $I \cap B \subseteq B\Gamma I$ .
9. For each right ideal  $A$  and ideal  $I$  of  $S$ , if  $A \subseteq I$  then  $A \subseteq I\Gamma A$ .
10. For each left ideal  $B$  and ideal  $I$  of  $S$ , if  $B \subseteq I$  then  $B \subseteq B\Gamma I$ .
11. For each right ideal  $A$  and ideal  $I$  of  $S$   $(A : I) \cap I \subseteq I \cap A$ .
12. For each left ideal  $B$  and ideal  $I$  of  $S$   $(B : I)' \cap I \subseteq B \cap I$ .
13. If  $A \subseteq I$  then  $(A : I) \cap I \subseteq A$  where  $A$  is a right ideal and  $I$  is an ideal of  $S$ .
14. If  $B \subseteq I$  then  $(B : I)' \cap I \subseteq A$  where  $B$  is a left ideal and  $I$  is an ideal of  $S$ .
15. Every Bourne factor  $\Gamma$ -semiring of  $S$  is a semiprime  $\Gamma$ -semiring.

*Proof.* (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Clearly for any two ideals  $I, J$  of  $S$   $I\Gamma J \subseteq I \cap J$ . Again by (1)  $I \cap J = (I \cap J)\Gamma(I \cap J) \subseteq I\Gamma J$ . Hence (2) follows.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1) Putting  $J = I$  we get the result.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (3) Let  $I$  and  $J$  be two ideals of  $S$ . Two cases may arise. Case(i)  $(I : J) = \Phi$ . Then for any  $x \in S$  there exists  $j \in J$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  such that  $j\alpha x \notin I$ . This implies that  $I \cap J = \Phi$  (otherwise  $x \in I \cap J$  would imply  $J\Gamma x \subseteq J\Gamma I \subseteq S\Gamma I \subseteq I$  whence  $j\alpha x \in I$  for all  $j \in J$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ ) and hence (3) follows. Case(ii)  $(I : J) \neq \Phi$ . Then  $(I : J)$  is an ideal of  $S$  (cf. Proposition 4). So by (2),  $J \cap (I : J) = J\Gamma(I : J) \subseteq J \cap I$  [ $J\Gamma(I : J) \subseteq J\Gamma S \subseteq J$  and for  $j \in J, \alpha \in \Gamma, x \in (I : J), j\alpha x \in I$ . So  $J\Gamma(I : J) \subseteq I$ ]. Conversely, let  $x \in J \cap I$ . Then  $J\Gamma x \subseteq J\Gamma I \subseteq S\Gamma I \subseteq I$ . So  $x \in (I : J)$ . Hence  $x \in J \cap (I : J)$  whence  $J \cap I \subseteq J \cap (I : J)$ . Hence  $(I : J) \cap J = J \cap I$ .

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (4) Similar as above.

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Let  $I, J$  be two ideals of  $S$ . Clearly  $I\Gamma J \subseteq I \cap J$ . Let  $x \in I \cap J$ . Since  $I\Gamma J$  is an ideal of  $S$ , this implies that  $i\alpha x \in I\Gamma J$  for all  $i \in I, \alpha \in \Gamma$ . So  $x \in (I\Gamma J : J) \cap I$  (by assumption  $x \in I$ ) =  $I \cap (I\Gamma J)$  [by (3)] =  $I\Gamma J$  (since  $I\Gamma j \subseteq I\Gamma S \subseteq I$ ). Hence  $I \cap J \subseteq I\Gamma J$  and so  $I \cap J = I\Gamma J$ .

(4) $\Rightarrow$ (2) Similar as above.

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (5) Let  $I, J, K$  be three ideals of  $S$  with  $K \subseteq J$ . Let  $x \in (I : J) \cap K$  and  $x \in K \subseteq J$ . So  $x \in (I : J) \cap J \Rightarrow x \in K \cap (I : J) \cap J$ . Hence  $(I : J) \cap K \subseteq K \cap (I : J) \cap J = K \cap J \cap I$  [by (3)] =  $K \cap J$ . Conversely, let  $x \in K \cap I$ . Then  $x \in K$  and  $x \in I$ . Since for  $j \in J, \alpha \in \Gamma, j\alpha x \in J\Gamma x \subseteq J\Gamma I \subseteq S\Gamma I \subseteq I$ . Therefore  $x \in (I : J)$  and so  $x \in (I : J) \cap K$ . Hence  $K \cap I \subseteq (I : J) \cap K$ . Thus  $(I : J) \cap K = K \cap I$ .

(5) $\Rightarrow$ (3) Putting  $K = J$  we get the result.

Considering the symmetry of (3) and (4), (5) and (6) we have that the statements from (1) to (6) are equivalent.

(9) $\Rightarrow$ (1) Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $S$ . Then by (9),  $I \subseteq I\Gamma I$  (taking  $A = I$ ). Hence  $I\Gamma I = I$ . Thus (1) follows.

Consequently, (9) implies all the statements from (1) to (6).

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (7) Let  $A$  be a right ideal and  $I$  be an ideal of  $S$ . Let  $x \in I \cap R$ . Now  $I\Gamma x \subseteq I\Gamma A$ . This implies that  $i\alpha x \in I\Gamma A$  for all  $i \in I, \alpha \in \Gamma$  hence  $x \in (I\Gamma A : I)$ . Thus  $I \cap A \subseteq (I\Gamma A : I) \cap I = I \cap I\Gamma A$  [since  $A$  is a right ideal of  $S$ ,  $I\Gamma A$  is an ideal of  $S$  and by using (3)] =  $I\Gamma A$  [since  $I\Gamma A \subseteq I$ ]. Hence (7) is proved.

(7) $\Rightarrow$ (9) is obvious.

Considering the symmetry of (7) and (8), (9) and (10) we have that the statements from (1) to (10) are equivalent.

(13) $\Rightarrow$ (9) Let  $I$  be an ideal and  $A$  be a right ideal of  $S$  with  $A \subseteq I$ . Let  $x \in A$ , then  $x \in I$ . Now for  $i \in I, \alpha \in \Gamma, i\alpha x \in I\Gamma A$ . This implies that  $x \in (I\Gamma A : I)$ . Hence  $A = A \cap I \subseteq (I\Gamma A : I) \subseteq I\Gamma A$  [since  $A$  is a right ideal of  $S$ ,  $I\Gamma A$  is also a right ideal of  $S$  and by using (13)]. Thus (9) is proved.

(7)  $\Rightarrow$  (11) Let  $I$  be an ideal and  $A$  be a right ideal of  $S$ . Then  $(A : I)$  is a right ideal of  $S$  and so by (7),  $(A : I) \cap I \subseteq I\Gamma(A : I)$ . Let  $i \in I, \alpha \in \Gamma, x \in (A : I)$ . Then  $i\alpha I\alpha x \in A$ . Also  $i\alpha x \in A$ . Also  $i\alpha x \in I\Gamma x \subseteq I\Gamma S \subseteq I$ . Hence  $I\Gamma(A : I) \subseteq I \cap A$  and so  $(A : I) \cap I \subseteq I \cap A$ . Thus (11) is proved. (11) $\Rightarrow$  (13) is obvious.

Considering the symmetries of (11) and (12), (13) and (14), the first fourteen statements have proved to be equivalent.

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (15) Let  $S$  be a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring and  $S/P$  be a Bourne factor  $\Gamma$ -semiring of  $S$ . Then by proposition 6,  $S/P$  is a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring. So by Proposition 7,  $S/P$  has no non-zero nilpotent ideal. hence by proposition 5,  $S/P$  is a semiprime  $\Gamma$ -semiring.

(15) $\Rightarrow$  (1) Let the  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  be not fully idempotent. Then there exists an ideal  $P$  such that  $P\Gamma P \neq P$ . Then the Bourne factor  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S/(P\Gamma P)$  is not semiprime. This is a contradiction to (15). Hence  $S$  is fully idempotent.  $\square$

**Remark:** Lattice of ideals of a  $\Gamma$ -semiring is not, in general, distributive, or even modular. This follows from the Theorem 6[2] But the following theorem shows that lattice of ideals of a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring is a complete Brouwerian and hence a distributive lattice.

Here we recall that (i) A lattice  $\Lambda$  is called Brouwerian if for any  $a, b \in \Lambda$ , the set of all  $x \in \Lambda$  satisfying  $a \wedge x \leq b$  contains the greatest element  $c$ . (ii) In a Brouwerian lattice meet is distributive over arbitrary join.

**Theorem 9.** *Let  $S$  be a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring unities. Then the lattice ideal  $\Lambda_S$  of  $S$  is a complete Brouwerian lattice.*

*Proof.* Clearly  $\Lambda_S$  is complete lattice under the sum and intersection of ideals. Let  $B$  and  $C$  be two ideals of  $S$ . Then by Zorn's lemma, there is an ideal  $M$  of  $S$  which is maximal in the family of ideals  $X$  satisfying  $B \cap X \subseteq C$ . Let  $I$  be an ideal of  $S$  with  $B \cap I \subseteq C$ . Since  $S$  is fully idempotent, by Theorem 8,  $B\Gamma I \subseteq C$ . Let  $b \in B, \alpha \in \Gamma, i + m \in I + M$ . Then  $b\alpha(i + m) = b\alpha i + b\alpha m$ . Since  $B\Gamma I \subseteq C$  and  $B\Gamma M \subseteq M$ ,  $b\alpha i + b\alpha m \in C$ . Hence  $B\Gamma(I + M) \subseteq C$ . So by Theorem 8,  $B \cap (I + M) \subseteq C$ . By the maximality of  $M$ ,  $I + M = M$  and therefore  $I \subseteq M$ . Hence  $\Lambda_S$  is a Brouwerian lattice  $\square$

**Corollary 10.** *Lattice ideal  $\Lambda_S$  of fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring  $S$  satisfies arbitrary meet distributive law,  $P \cap (\sum_{\alpha} P_{\alpha}) = \sum_{\alpha} (P \cap P_{\alpha})$*

We know that in a  $\Gamma$ -semiring a prime ideal is strongly irreducible ideal and a strongly irreducible ideal is irreducible. But for a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring all the concepts coincide.

**Theorem 11.** *Let  $S$  be a fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring with unities and  $P$  be an ideal of  $S$ . Then the following assertions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $P$  is irreducible.
- (2)  $P$  is prime.

*Proof.* Suppose  $P$  is irreducible and  $I\Gamma J \subseteq P$  where  $I, J$  are ideals of  $S$ . Since  $S$  is fully idempotent, by Theorem 8,  $I \cap J \subseteq P$ . This implies that  $(I \cap J) + P = P$ . Hence by the above corollary  $(I + P) \cap (J + P) = P$ . Then by (1),  $I + P = P$  or  $J + P = P$ . This implies that  $I \subseteq P$  or  $J \subseteq P$ . Hence  $P$  is prime.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  is obvious.  $\square$

**Lemma 12.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semiring with unities and  $a (\neq 0) \in S$ . Let  $P$  be a nonzero proper ideal of  $S$  such that  $a \notin P$ . Then there exists a proper ideal  $Q$  of  $S$ , maximal in the class of all ideals each of which contains  $P$  and does not contain  $a$ . Moreover,  $Q$  is irreducible.*

*Proof.* By Zorn's lemma,  $Q$  exists. If possible, suppose that  $Q$  is not irreducible. Then there exists ideals  $H, K$  of  $S$  such that  $Q = H \cap K$  and both  $H$  and  $K$  properly contain  $Q$  and contain  $P$ . Hence by maximality of  $Q$ ,  $H, K$  both contain  $a$ . Then  $a \in H \cap K$ . This implies that  $a \in Q$ . This is a contradiction. Then  $Q = H$  or  $Q = K$ . Hence  $Q$  is irreducible.  $\square$

Now we have the following theorem characterizing fully idempotent  $\Gamma$ -semiring.

**Theorem 13.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semiring with unities and  $P$  be an ideal of  $S$ . Then the following assertions are equivalent:*

- (1)  *$S$  is fully idempotent.*
- (2) *Each proper ideal of  $S$  is the intersection of all prime ideals containing it.*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be fully idempotent. Let  $P$  be a proper ideal of  $S$  and  $\{P_\alpha : \alpha \in \Delta\}$  be a family of prime ideals of  $S$  each of which contains  $P$ . Clearly  $P \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Delta} P_\alpha \subseteq P$ . Suppose  $a \notin P$ . Then by the Lemma 12, there exists an irreducible ideal  $Q$  of  $S$  containing  $P$  and  $a \notin Q$ . By Proposition 11,  $Q$  is a prime ideal of  $S$ . Hence  $Q$  is a member of the family  $\{P_\alpha : \alpha \in \Delta\}$ . This implies that  $a \notin \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Delta} P_\alpha$ . Thus (2) is proved.

Conversely, let  $P$  be any ideal of  $S$ . If  $P\Gamma P = P$  then  $P = S$  and so  $P$  is idempotent. If  $P\Gamma P \neq S$  then  $P\Gamma P$  is a proper ideal of  $S$ . Then it is the intersection of all prime ideals  $\{P_\alpha : \alpha \in \Delta\}$  of  $S$  where  $P \subseteq P_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . Hence  $P\Gamma P = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Delta} P_\alpha \subseteq P_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . Since  $P_\alpha$  is a prime ideal of  $S$  for each  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . This implies that  $P \subseteq P_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . Thus  $P \subseteq \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Delta} P_\alpha = P\Gamma P$  and so  $P$  is idempotent. Hence  $S$  is fully idempotent.  $\square$

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