# L-MULTIFUNCTIONS AND THEIR PROPERTIES

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**Abstract:** In this paper a concept of *L*-multifunction is introduced and other related objects are defined. Next their properties are presented.

#### 1. Introduction

The notion of Cartesian product plays an important role in the usual theory of functions and multifunctions. The Cartesian product of two fuzzy subsets  $A \in I^X$  and  $B \in I^Y$  may be defined as the subset  $A \times B$  of  $X \times Y$  characterized by  $(A \times B)(x,y) = \min(A(x),B(y))$ . This definition has the inconvenience that when  $A \times B$  is known and  $A \times B \neq \emptyset$ , it is impossible to retrieve again the subsets A and B. The notion of fuzzy Cartesian product which is introduced in paper [1] is free from this inconvenience. The L-multifunctions which are introduced in this paper are the subsets of a special case of Cartesian product and also free from this inconvenience. We will introduce and develop basic ideas of the L-multifunction theory, necessary for our further considerations on economical systems.

#### 2. Introduction and general properties of L-multifunctions

Let X, Y and Z denote arbitrary but for further considerations fixed reference spaces. Next  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(Y)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(Z)$  denote respectively the families of all non-void subsets of X, Y and Z.

**Definition 2.1.** An *L*-multifunction,  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  say, is a subset of the Cartesian product  $X \times \mathcal{P}(Y) \times I \times I^Y$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) if  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$ , then supp f = B,
- (ii) if  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$ , then r = 0 implies  $B = \emptyset$  and r = 1 implies f(y) = 1 for any  $y \in B$ ,
- (iii) if  $(x, B, r_1, f_1) \in F$  and  $(x, B, r_2, f_2) \in F$ , then  $r_1 > r_2$  implies  $f_1 \ge f_2$ .

Let  $\{x, r\}$  denote a fuzzy singleton in X with support x and value r. This fuzzy singleton is now transformed by F to a family of the fuzzy subsets in Y.

**Definition 2.2.** A converse L-multifunction,  $F^{-1}$  say, to an L-multifunction  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  is a subset of the Cartesian product  $Y \times \mathcal{P}(X) \times I \times I^X$  satisfying the following condition:

—  $(y, A, t, h) \in F^{-1}$  if there exists  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$  such that  $x \in A$ ,  $y \in B$ , f(y) = t, h(x) = r.

**Definition 2.3.** A composite,  $G \circ F : X \to \mathcal{P}(Z)$  say, of two L-multifunctions  $F : X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  and  $G : Y \to \mathcal{P}(Z)$  is an L-multifunction such that

 $(x, C, r, h) \in G \circ F$  iff there exist  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$  and  $(y, C, t, h) \in G$  such that  $Y \in B$ , f(y) = t.

Let X, Y and Z denote the linear spaces.

**Definition 2.4.** An *L*-multifunction,  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  say, is called *conical* iff for any  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$  and for any  $\alpha > 0$   $(\alpha x, \alpha B, r, \alpha f) \in F$ , where  $(\alpha f)(y) = f(\frac{1}{\alpha}y)$  for any  $y \in Y$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** If an L-multifunction is conical, then its converse L-multifunction is conical too.

**Proof.** As a matter of fact, let F be a conical L-multifunction. Let  $(y,A,t,h) \in F^{-1}$ . So, taking into account Def. 2 there exists  $(x,B,r,f) \in F$  such that  $x \in A$ ,  $y \in B$ , f(y) = t, h(x) = r. So, with respect to Def. 4 for any  $\alpha > 0$  we have  $(\alpha x, \alpha B, r, \alpha f) \in F$ .

Moreover  $\alpha x \in \alpha A$ ,  $\alpha y \in \alpha B$ ,  $\alpha f(\alpha y) = f(y) = t$ ,  $\alpha h(\alpha x) = h(x) = r$ . This means that  $(\alpha y, \alpha A, t, \alpha h) \in F^{-1}$ . So,  $F^{-1}$  is a conical L-multifunction.  $\Diamond$ 

**Theorem 2.2.** If F and G are conical L-multifunctions then  $G \circ F$  is a conical L-multifunction too.

**Proof.** Let  $(x, C, r, h) \in G \circ F$ . So, taking into account Def. 3 there exist  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$  and  $(y, C, t, h) \in G$  such that  $y \in B$ , f(y) = t. F and G are conical L-multifunctions, so for any  $\alpha > 0$  we have  $(\alpha x, \alpha B, r, \alpha f) \in F$  and  $(\alpha y, \alpha C, t, \alpha h) \in G$ . Because  $y \in B$ , f(y) = t, so  $\alpha y \in \alpha B$ ,  $\alpha f(\alpha y) = f(y) = t$ . This means that  $(\alpha x, \alpha C, r, \alpha h) \in G \circ F$ .  $\Diamond$ 

**Definition 2.5.** An *L*-multifunction,  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  say, is called superadditive iff for any  $(x_1, B_1, r_1, f_1) \in F$  and  $(x_2, B_2, r_2, f_2) \in F$ , we have  $(x_1 + x_2, B_1 + B_2, \min(r_1, r_2), f_1 + f_2) \in F$ , where  $(f_1 + f_2)(y) = \sup_{y_1 + y_2 = y} \min(f_1(y_1), f_2(y_2))$  for any  $y \in Y$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** If an L-multifunction is superadditive then its converse L-multifunction is superadditive as well.

**Proof.** In point of fact, let an L-multifunction,  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  say, satisfy the assumption of the theorem. Let

$$(y_1, A_1, t_1, h_1) \in F^{-1}$$
 and  $(y_2, A_2, t_2, h_2) \in F^{-1}$ .

Then from the Def. 2 it follows that there exist

$$(x_1, B_1, r_1, f_1) \in F$$
 and  $(x_2, B_2, r_2, f_2) \in F$ 

such that

$$x_1 \in A_1, \quad y_1 \in B_1, \quad x_2 \in A_2, \quad y_2 \in B_2,$$
 $h_1(x_1) = r_1, \quad h_2(x_2) = r_2, \quad f_1(y_1) = t_1, \quad f_2(y_2) = t_2.$ 

We can assume that  $x_1, x_2, f_1$  and  $f_2$  are such that

$$h_1(x_1) = \sup_{x \in A_1} h_1(x) = r_1, \quad h_2(x_2) = \sup_{x \in A_2} h_2(x) = r_2$$

and

$$f_1(y_1) = \sup_{y \in B_1} f_1(y) = t_1, \quad f_2(y_2) = \sup_{y \in B_2} f_2(y) = t_2.$$

Because F is superadditive L-multifunction, so

$$(x_1 + x_2, B_1 + B_2, \min(r_1, r_2), f_1 + f_2) \in F.$$

Moreover

$$x_1 + x_2 \in A_1 + A_2, (h_1 + h_2)(x_1 + x_2) = \min(r_1, r_2)$$

and

$$y_1 + y_2 \in B_1 + B_2, (f_1 + f_2)(y_1 + y_2) = \min(t_1, t_2).$$

This means that

$$(y_1 + y_2, A_1 + A_2, \min(t_1, t_2), h_1 + h_2) \in F^{-1}$$
.

So,  $F^{-1}$  is a superadditive L-multifunction.  $\Diamond$ 

**Theorem 2.4.** If F and G are superadditive L-multifunctions then  $G \circ F$  is a superadditive L-multifunction too.

**Proof.** Let  $(x_1, C_1, r_1, h_1) \in G \circ F$  and  $(x_2, C_2, r_2, h_2) \in G \circ F$ . Then, from the Def. 3 it follows that there exist  $(x_1, B_1, r_1, f_1) \in F$ ,  $(y_1, C_1, t_1, h_1) \in G$  such that  $y_1 \in B_1$ ,  $f_1(y_1) = t_1$  and there exist  $(x_2, B_2, r_2, f_2) \in F$ ,  $(y_2, C_2, t_2, h_2) \in G$  such that  $y_2 \in B_2$ ,  $f_2(y_2) = t_2$ . We can assume that

$$f_1(y_1) = \sup_{y \in B_1} f_1(y) = t_1$$
 and  $f_2(y_2) = \sup_{y \in B_2} f_2(y) = t_2$ .

Because F and G are superadditive L-multifunctions, so

$$(x_1 + x_2, B_1 + B_2, \min(r_1, r_2), f_1 + f_2) \in F$$

and

$$(y_1 + y_2, C_1 + C_2, \min(t_1, t_2), h_1 + h_2) \in G.$$

Moreover

$$y_1 + y_2 \in B_1 + B_2$$
 and  $(f_1 + f_2)(y_1 + y_2) = \min(t_1, t_2)$ .

This means that

$$(x_1 + x_2, C_1 + C_2, \min(r_1, r_2), h_1 + h_2) \in G \circ F$$

i.e.  $G \circ F$  is superadditive L-multifunction.  $\Diamond$ 

**Definition 2.6.** By the graph of L-multifunction,  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  say, it is understood a set  $W_F$  of the elements  $(x, y, r, t) \in X \times Y \times I \times I$  such that there exist  $B \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$  and  $f \in I^Y$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (i)  $y \in B$ ,
- (ii) t = f(y),
- (iii)  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$ .

**Definition 2.7.** Let  $\alpha, \beta \in I$ . An  $\alpha, \beta$ -cut of  $W_F$ ,  $W_F^{\alpha,\beta}$  in symbol, is a set of the elements  $(x,y) \in X \times Y$  such that for  $r \geq \alpha$  and  $t \geq \beta$   $(x,y,r,t) \in W_F$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** If  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  is a conical L-multifunction then for any  $\alpha, \beta \in I$ , the  $\alpha, \beta$ -cut of  $W_F$  is a cone.

**Proof.** Let  $(x,y) \in W_F^{\alpha,\beta}$ . Then for  $r \geq \alpha$  and  $t \geq \beta$ ,  $(x,y,r,t) \in M$ . This means that there exist  $B \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$  and  $f \in I^Y$  such that

 $y \in B$ , t = f(y) and  $(x, B, r, f) \in F$ . Because F is a conical L-multifunction, so for any  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $(\lambda x, \lambda B, r, \lambda f) \in F$ . Moreover  $\lambda y \in \lambda B$ ,  $t = \lambda f(\lambda y) = f(y)$ . This means that  $(\lambda x, \lambda y, r, t) \in W_F$  and finally  $(\lambda x, \lambda y) \in W_F^{\alpha, \beta}$ .  $\Diamond$ 

**Theorem 2.6.** If F is a conical and superadditive L-multifunction then for any  $\alpha, \beta \in I$ ,  $W_F^{\alpha,\beta}$  is a convex set.

**Proof.** Let  $(x_1, y_1)$ ,  $(x_2, y_2) \in W_F^{\alpha, \beta}$ . Then for any  $r_1, r_2 \geq \alpha$  and  $t_1, t_2 \geq \beta$ 

$$(x_1, y_1, r_1, t_1) \in W_F, \quad (x_2, y_2, r_2, t_2) \in W_F.$$

This means that there exist  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$  and  $f_1, f_2 \in I^Y$  such that  $y_1 \in B_1, t_1 = f_1(y_1), y_2 \in B_2, f_2(y_2) = t_2$  and  $(x_1, B_1, r_1, f_1) \in F$ ,  $(x_2, B_2, r_2, f_2) \in F$ . Because F is a conical and superadditive L-multifunction so for any  $\lambda > 0$ 

$$(\lambda x_1, \lambda B_1, r_1, \lambda f_1) \in F$$
,  $((1 - \lambda)x_2(1 - \lambda)B_2, r_2, (1 - \lambda)f_2) \in F$ , and

$$(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2, \lambda B_1 + (1-\lambda)B_2, \min(r_1, r_2), \lambda f_1 + (1-\lambda)f_2) \in F$$
. This means that

$$(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2, \lambda y_1 + (1-\lambda)y_2, \min(r_1, r_2), \min(t_1, t_2)) \in W_F$$
.

Because  $\min(r_1, r_2) \geq \alpha$  and  $\min(t_1, t_2) \geq \beta$  so

$$(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2, \lambda y_1 + (1-\lambda)y_2) \in W_F^{\alpha,\beta},$$

i.e. a set  $W_F^{\alpha,\beta}$  is convex.  $\Diamond$ 

## 3. Some topological properties of L-multifunctions

Now, let us assume that the reference spaces X, Y and Z are finite dimensional Euclidean spaces.

**Definition 3.1.** An L-multifunction,  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  say, is called *closed* iff its graph  $W_F$  is a closed set.

Corollary. For any closed L-multifunction its converse L-multifunction is closed.

**Definition 3.2.** An *L*-multifunction  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  say, is sequentially bounded iff for any bounded sequence  $S = \{x_n\}$  and any sequence  $R = \{r_n\}, x_n \in X, r_n \in (0,1)$ , the set

$$\{(y,t)\in Y\times I: (x_n,y,r_n,t)\in W_F, x_n\in S, r_n\in R\}$$

is bounded.

**Theorem 3.1.** If  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  and  $G: Y \to \mathcal{P}(Z)$  are closed L-multifunctions and F is sequentially bounded, then  $G \circ F$  is a closed L-multifunction.

**Proof.** Let  $(x_n, z_n, r_n, p_n) \in W_{G \circ F}$  and let  $(x_n, z_n, r_n, p_n) \to (x_0, z_0, r_0, p_0)$  as  $n \to \infty$  (the convergence may be taken with respect to each coordinate separately),  $x_n \in X$ ,  $z_n \in Z$ ,  $r_n, p_n \in (0, 1)$ . We will prove that  $(x_0, z_0, r_0, p_0) \in W_{G \circ F}$ . In fact, for any n,  $(x_n, z_n, r_n, p_n)$  belongs to  $W_{G \circ F}$  iff there exist  $C_n \in Z$ ,  $h_n \in I^Z$  such that  $(x_n, C_n, r_n, h_n) \in G \circ F$  iff there exist  $(x_n, h_n(z_n) = p_n)$ . An element  $(x_n, h_n(z_n) \in G \circ F)$  iff there exist  $(x_n, h_n(z_n) \in F)$  and  $(x_n, h_n(z_n) \in G)$  such that  $(x_n, h_n(z_n) \in G)$  and  $(x_n, h_n(z_n) \in G)$ . From the above conditions it follows that

$$(x_n, y_n, r_n, t_n) \in W_F$$
 and  $(y_n, z_n, t_n, p_n) \in W_G$ .

Because F is a sequentially bounded and closed L-multifunction we observe that the sequences  $\{y_n\}$  and  $\{t_n\}$  are bounded and without losing generality we may assume that  $y_n \to y_0$  and  $t_n \to t_0$  as  $n \to \infty$ . Moreover

$$(x_0, y_0, r_0, t_0) \in W_F$$
 and  $(y_0, z_0, t_0, p_0) \in W_G$ .

This means that there exist  $B_0 \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$ ,  $f_0 \in I^Y$  such that  $y_0 \in B_0$ ,  $f_0(y_0) = t_0$ ,  $(x_0, B_0, r_0, f_0) \in F$  and there exist  $C_0 \in \mathcal{P}(Z)$ ,  $h_0 \in I^Z$  such that  $z_0 \in C_0$ ,  $h_0(z_0) = p_0$ ,  $(y_0, C_0, t_0, h_0) \in G$ . This means that  $(x_0, C_0, r_0, h_0) \in G \circ F$ . Because  $z_0 \in C_0$ ,  $h_0(z_0) = p_0$ , so  $(x_0, z_0, r_0, p_0) \in W_{G \circ F}$ .  $\Diamond$ 

**Theorem 3.2.** If an L-multifunction  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(Y)$  is closed and conical and for any  $r, t \in I$ ,  $(0, y, r, t) \notin W_F$  for  $y \neq 0$ , then F is a sequentially bounded L-multifunction.

**Proof.** According to Def. 3.2 it suffices to show that for any bounded sequence  $S = \{x_n\}$  and any sequence  $R = \{r_n\}$ ,  $x_n \in X$ ,  $r_n \in (0,1)$  the set  $T = \{(y,t) \in Y \times I : (x_n,y,r_n,t) \in W_F, x_n \in S, r_n \in R\}$  is bounded. Suppose that the set T is unbounded for some S and some R. Then there exist the sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{t_n\}$ ,  $(y_n,t_n) \in T$  such that  $||y_n|| \to \infty$  as  $n \to \infty$ . But  $(x_n,y_n,r_n,t_n) \in W_F$  and F is a conical L-multifunction, so  $(x_n/||y_n||,y_n/||y_n||,r_n,t_n) \in W_F$ . Hence, there exist subsequences  $x_{n_k}$   $y_{n_k}$ ,  $r_{n_k}$ ,  $t_{n_k}$  such that

$$(x_{n_k}/||y_{n_k}||, y_{n_k}/||y_{n_k}||, r_{n_k}, t_{n_k}) \to (0, y_0, r_0, t_0)$$

as  $k \to \infty$ , where  $y_0 \neq 0$  because  $\lim_n y_{n_k}/||y_{n_k}|| = 1 = y_0$ . Because F is a closed L-multifunction, so  $(0, y_0, r_0, t_0) \in W_F$  for  $y_0 \neq 0$ , a contradiction.  $\Diamond$ 

**Definition 3.3.** A fixed point of the L-multifunction  $F: X \to \mathcal{P}(X)$  is an element  $\overline{x} \in X$  such that there exist  $r, t \in I$  such that  $(\overline{x}, \overline{x}, r, t) \in W_F$ .

**Theorem 3.3** (Fixed point theorem). Let C be a nonempty, convex and compact subset of X. If  $F: C \to \mathcal{P}(C)$  is a closed, conical and superadditive L-multifunction, then F has a fixed point in C.

**Proof.** Let us consider a point-to-set mapping  $\hat{F}: C \to \mathcal{P}(C)$  such that for any  $x \in C$ 

$$\hat{F}(x) = \{ y \in C : \exists r, t, \in I, (x, y, r, t) \in W_F \}.$$

First we will prove that  $\overline{x}$  is a fixed point of F iff  $\overline{x}$  is a fixed point of  $\hat{F}$ . If  $\overline{x}$  is a fixed point of  $\hat{F}$ , then  $\overline{x} \in \hat{F}(\overline{x})$ . This means that there exist  $r, t \in I$  such that  $(\overline{x}, \overline{x}, r, t) \in W_F$ , i.e.  $\overline{x}$  is a fixed point of F. Now, if  $\overline{x}$  is a fixed point of F then from Def. 3.3 it follows that there exist  $r, t \in I$  such that  $(\overline{x}, \overline{x}, r, t) \in W_F$ . This means that  $\overline{x} \in \hat{F}(\overline{x})$ , i.e.  $\overline{x}$  is a fixed point for  $\hat{F}$ .  $\Diamond$ 

Now, we will show that  $\hat{F}$  satisfies the hypothesis of Kakutani fixed point theorem, i.e. that  $\hat{F}$  is a closed mapping and for any  $x \in C$   $\hat{F}(x)$  is a convex set.

Let  $y_1, y_2$  be elements from  $\hat{F}(x)$ . From the definition of  $\hat{F}$  it follows that there exist elements  $r_1, r_2, t_1, t_2 \in I$  such that  $(x, y_1, r_1, t_1) \in W_F$  and  $(x, y_2, r_2, t_2) \in W_F$ . This means that there exist  $B_1, B_2 \in \mathcal{P}(C)$  and  $f_1, f_2 \in I^C$  such that

$$(x, B_1, r_1, f_1) \in F$$
,  $(x, B_2, r_2, f_2) \in F$ 

and

$$y_1 \in B_1$$
,  $y_2 \in B_2$ ,  $f_1(y_1) = t_1$ ,  $f_2(y_2) = t_2$ .

Because F is a conical and superadditive L-multifunction, so for any  $\alpha \geq 0$ 

$$(x, \alpha B_1 + (1-\alpha)B_2, \min(r_1, r_2), \alpha f_1 + (1-\alpha)f_2) \in F$$
.

This means that

$$(x, \alpha y_1 + (1 - \alpha)y_2, \min(r_1, r_2), t) \in W_F$$

where

$$t = (\alpha f_1 + (1 - \alpha) f_2)(\alpha y_1 + (1 - \alpha) y_2),$$

i.e.  $\alpha y_1 + (1 - \alpha)y_2 \in \hat{F}(x)$ .

Now, let us consider a sequence  $\{x_n\}$ ,  $x_n \in C$  such that  $x_n \to x_0$  as  $n \to \infty$ . Let  $y_n \in \hat{F}(x_n)$  and  $y_n \to y_0$  as  $n \to \infty$ . We will prove that  $y_0 \in \hat{F}(x_0)$ . If  $y_n \in \hat{F}(x_n)$  then for any n there exist  $r_n, t_n \in I$  such

that  $(x_n, y_n, r_n, t_n) \in W_F$ . Without losing generality we may assume that  $r_n \to r_0$ ,  $t_n \to t_0$  as  $n \to \infty$ . Because F is a closed L-multifunction, so  $(x_0, y_0, r_0, t_0) \in W_F$ . This means that  $y_0 \in \hat{F}(x_0)$ , i.e.  $\hat{F}$  is a closed mapping. So, according to the Kakutani theorem there exists  $\overline{x} \in C$  such that  $\overline{x} \in \hat{F}(\overline{x})$ . This means that an L-multifunction F has a fixed point  $\overline{x}$  in C.  $\Diamond$ 

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