

## Continuous R-implications

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**Abstract**— In this work we have solved an open problem related to the continuity of R-implications. We have fully characterized the class of continuous R-implications obtained from any arbitrary t-norm. Using this result, we also determine the exact intersection between the continuous subsets of R-implications and (S,N)-implications.

**Keywords**— R-implication, (S,N)-implication, Łukasiewicz implication, t-norm.

### 1 Introduction

R-implications and (S,N)-implications are two of the most established families of fuzzy implications. Still, many open problems remain unsolved, see [3, 4]. One of them is related to the continuous subsets of these families. Only recently a characterization of continuous (S,N)-implications was given by the authors in [2].

However, a similar complete characterization regarding the continuous subset of R-implications has not been available so far. It is only known that in the class of R-implications obtained from left-continuous t-norms, the only continuous elements are those that are isomorphic to the Łukasiewicz implication, i.e., those R-implications obtained as residuals of nilpotent t-norms. In particular, the following question has remained unanswered so far:

Does there exist a continuous R-implication obtained from a non-left continuous t-norm?

In this note we show that an R-implication  $I_T$  obtained from a t-norm  $T$  is continuous if and only if  $T$  is a nilpotent t-norm.

Using this result, we are also able to resolve another question related to the intersections between these two families, which is also a generalization of an original result of Smets and Magrez [13], see also [7, 9]. We show that the only continuous (S,N)-implication that is also an R-implication obtained from any t-norm, not necessarily left-continuous, is the Łukasiewicz implication up to an isomorphism.

### 2 Preliminaries

We assume that the reader is familiar with the classical results concerning basic fuzzy logic connectives, but to make this work more self-contained, we introduce basic notations used in the text and we briefly mention some of the concepts and results employed in the rest of the work.

**Definition 1** (cf. [7, 10, 9]).

- (i) A function  $N: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called a *fuzzy negation*, if it is decreasing and satisfies the boundary conditions  $N(1) = 0$  and  $N(0) = 1$ .

- (ii) A fuzzy negation  $N$  is called *strong*, if it is an involution, i.e.,  $N \circ N = \text{id}_{[0,1]}$ .
- (iii) A function  $T: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called a *t-norm*, if it is increasing in both variables, commutative, associative and has 1 as the neutral element.
- (iv) A function  $S: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called a *t-conorm*, if it is increasing in both variables, commutative, associative and has 0 as the neutral element.
- (v) A t-norm  $T$  is said to be *border continuous*, if it is continuous on the boundary of the unit square  $[0, 1]^2$ , i.e., on the set  $[0, 1]^2 \setminus (0, 1)^2$ .
- (vi) A t-norm  $T$  is said to be *left-continuous*, if it is left-continuous in each component.
- (vii) A t-norm  $T$  is said to be *nilpotent*, if it is continuous and if each  $x \in (0, 1)$  is a nilpotent element of  $T$ , i.e., if there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x_T^{[n]} = 0$ , where

$$x_T^{[n]} := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ x, & \text{if } n = 1, \\ T(x, x_T^{[n-1]}), & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

- (viii) A t-norm  $T$  is said to be *Archimedean* if for every  $x, y \in (0, 1)$  there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x_T^{[n]} < y$ .

**Remark 1** (see. [10, p. 17]). For the border continuity of a t-norm  $T$ , it is sufficient to require the continuity on the upper right boundary, since from the monotonicity we get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} T(x, y) \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} T(x, 1) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x = 0 = T(0, y),$$

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

**Remark 2.** From the commutativity, the left-continuity of a t-norm  $T$  is equivalent to the left-continuity of  $T$  with respect to the first or the second variable. Moreover,  $T(x, 1) = 1$  and  $T(x, 0) = 0$  for every  $x \in [0, 1]$ , thus a t-norm  $T$  is left-continuous if and only if for any  $y \in (0, 1)$  and every increasing sequence  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , where  $x_n \in [0, 1)$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T(x_n, y) = T(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n, y).$$

**Proposition 1.** If  $T$  is an Archimedean t-norm, then  $T(x, y) < \min(x, y)$ , for all  $x, y \in (0, 1)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be an Archimedean t-norm. If, on the contrary, there exist some  $x_0, y_0 \in (0, 1)$  such that  $x_0 \geq y_0$  and  $T(x_0, y_0) = y_0 = \min(x_0, y_0)$ , then we will prove, by induction, that for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$x_{0T}^{[n]} \geq y_0. \quad (1)$$

Indeed, firstly see that

$$\begin{aligned} x_{0T}^{[0]} &= 1 > T(x_0, y_0) = y_0, \\ x_{0T}^{[1]} &= x_0 \geq T(x_0, y_0) = y_0. \end{aligned}$$

Let us assume that (1) holds for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then by the monotonicity of  $T$  and our inductive assumption we get

$$x_{0T}^{[n+1]} = T(x_0, x_{0T}^{[n]}) \geq T(x_0, y_0) = y_0,$$

which implies that  $T$  is not Archimedean, a contradiction.  $\square$

By  $\Phi$  we denote the family of all increasing bijections  $\varphi: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ . We say that two functions  $f, g: [0, 1]^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , are  $\Phi$ -conjugate, if there exists  $\varphi \in \Phi$  such that  $g = f_\varphi$ , where

$$f_\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) := \varphi^{-1}(f(\varphi(x_1), \dots, \varphi(x_n))),$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in [0, 1]$ . Equivalently,  $g$  is said to be the  $\Phi$ -conjugate of  $f$ .

**Definition 2** ([7, 4]). A function  $I: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called a *fuzzy implication* if it satisfies the following conditions:

$$I \text{ is decreasing in the first variable,} \quad (11)$$

$$I \text{ is increasing in the second variable,} \quad (12)$$

$$I(0, 0) = 1, \quad I(1, 1) = 1, \quad I(1, 0) = 0. \quad (13)$$

The set of all fuzzy implications will be denoted by  $\mathcal{FI}$ .

### 3 R-implications

**Definition 3** (cf. [15, 7, 9]). A function  $I: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called an *R-implication*, if there exists a t-norm  $T$  such that

$$I(x, y) = \sup \{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(x, t) \leq y\}, \quad (2)$$

for all  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ . If an R-implication is generated from a t-norm  $T$ , then we will often denote this by  $I_T$ .

It is important to note that the name ‘R-implication’ is a short version of ‘residual implication’, and  $I_T$  is also called as the residuum of  $T$  (see e.g. [7, 9, 10]).

**Example 1.** The Łukasiewicz implication

$$I_{LK}(x, y) = \min(1, 1 - x + y), \quad x, y \in [0, 1],$$

is an R-implication obtained from the nilpotent (Łukasiewicz) t-norm

$$T_{LK}(x, y) = \max(x + y - 1, 0), \quad x, y \in [0, 1].$$

For more well-known R-implications along with their t-norms from which they have been obtained, we refer the readers to other sources, notably [7, 10, 4].

**Theorem 1** (cf. [7], [3, Theorem 5.5]). *If  $T$  is any t-norm, then  $I_T \in \mathcal{FI}$  and it satisfies the left neutrality property, i.e.,*

$$I_T(1, y) = y, \quad y \in [0, 1], \quad (\text{NP})$$

*and the identity principle, i.e.,*

$$I_T(x, x) = 1, \quad x \in [0, 1]. \quad (\text{IP})$$

*Moreover, if  $T$  is left-continuous, then  $I_T$  satisfies the exchange principle, i.e.,*

$$I_T(x, I_T(y, z)) = I_T(y, I_T(x, z)), \quad x, y, z \in [0, 1],$$

*and the ordering property, i.e.,*

$$x \leq y \iff I_T(x, y) = 1, \quad x, y \in [0, 1].$$

**Proposition 2** ([3, Proposition 5.8]). *For a t-norm  $T$  the following statements are equivalent:*

(i)  $T$  is border continuous.

(ii)  $I_T$  satisfies the ordering property.

For R-implications generated from left-continuous t-norms we have the following results.

**Proposition 3** (cf. [9, Proposition 5.4.2 and Corollary 5.4.1]). *For a t-norm  $T$  the following statements are equivalent:*

(i)  $T$  is left-continuous.

(ii)  $T$  and  $I_T$  form an adjoint pair, i.e., they satisfy the residuation property

$$T(x, t) \leq y \iff I_T(x, y) \geq t, \quad x, y, t \in [0, 1].$$

(iii) The supremum in (2) is the maximum, i.e.,

$$I_T(x, y) = \max\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(x, t) \leq y\},$$

where the right side exists for all  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ .

Using the above result we are able to obtain the following characterization.

**Theorem 2** (cf. [8, Corollary 2]). *For a function  $I: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  the following statements are equivalent:*

(i)  $I$  is a continuous R-implication based on some left-continuous t-norm.

(ii)  $I$  is  $\Phi$ -conjugate with the Łukasiewicz implication, i.e., there exists  $\varphi \in \Phi$ , which is uniquely determined, such that

$$I(x, y) = \varphi^{-1}(\min(1 - \varphi(x) + \varphi(y), 1)), \quad (3)$$

for all  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ .

For more facts related to R-implication see e.g. [7, 3, 4].

### 4 Continuous Partial Functions of R-implications

Note that from Theorem 1 we can consider, for any fixed  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , the decreasing partial function  $I_T(\cdot, \alpha): [\alpha, 1] \rightarrow [\alpha, 1]$ , which we will denote by  $g_\alpha^T$ . Observe that  $g_\alpha^T$  is decreasing and such that  $g_\alpha^T(\alpha) = 1$  and  $g_\alpha^T(1) = \alpha$ .

**Remark 3.** If the domain of  $g_\alpha^T$  is extended to  $[0, 1]$ , then this is exactly what are called contour lines by Maes and De Baets in [11, 5]. If  $\alpha = 0$ , then  $g_0^T$  is the natural negation associated with the t-norm  $T$  (see [3]).

**Theorem 3.** Let  $T$  be any t-norm and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . If  $g_\alpha^T$  is continuous, then  $g_\alpha^T$  is strictly decreasing.

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be any t-norm and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  be fixed. We know that  $g_\alpha^T$  is decreasing. On the contrary, let us assume that  $g_\alpha^T$  is constant on some interval  $[x_0, y_0]$  for some  $\alpha < x_0 < y_0 < 1$ , i.e., there exists  $p \in [\alpha, 1]$  such that

$$g_\alpha^T(x_0) = g_\alpha^T(y_0) = p.$$

Let us fix arbitrarily  $z \in (x_0, y_0)$ .

Firstly, consider the case  $p = 1$ . Then

$$g_\alpha^T(z) = I_T(z, \alpha) = \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(z, t) \leq \alpha\} = 1,$$

thus  $T(z, 1 - \varepsilon) \leq \alpha$  for any  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ . Hence

$$g_\alpha^T(1 - \varepsilon) = \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(1 - \varepsilon, t) \leq \alpha\} \geq z,$$

for all  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1 - \alpha)$ . However, by the continuity of  $g_\alpha^T$ , as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= g_\alpha^T(1) = g_\alpha^T(\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} 1 - \varepsilon) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} g_\alpha^T(1 - \varepsilon) \\ &\geq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} z = z, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction to the fact that  $\alpha < x_0 < z$ .

If  $p = \alpha$ , then

$$g_\alpha^T(z) = I_T(z, \alpha) = \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(z, t) \leq \alpha\} = \alpha,$$

thus  $T(z, \alpha + \varepsilon) > \alpha$  for all  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1 - \alpha)$ . Hence

$$g_\alpha^T(\alpha + \varepsilon) = \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(\alpha + \varepsilon, t) \leq \alpha\} \leq z,$$

for all  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1 - \alpha)$ . Once again, by the continuity of  $g_\alpha^T$  we have, as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ , that

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= g_\alpha^T(\alpha) = g_\alpha^T(\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \alpha + \varepsilon) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} g_\alpha^T(\alpha + \varepsilon) \\ &\leq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} z = z, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction to the fact that  $z < 1$ .

Finally, let  $p \in (\alpha, 1)$ . Then, by the definition of  $g_\alpha^T$ , we have

$$T(z, p + \varepsilon) > \alpha \geq T(z, p - \varepsilon),$$

for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $p + \varepsilon \leq 1$  and  $p - \varepsilon \geq \alpha$ . Therefore

$$I_T(p + \varepsilon, \alpha) \leq z \leq I_T(p - \varepsilon, \alpha),$$

hence

$$g_\alpha^T(p + \varepsilon) \leq z \leq g_\alpha^T(p - \varepsilon).$$

Since  $g_\alpha^T$  is continuous, we have, as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ , that

$$g_\alpha^T(p) = z.$$

Now this happens for every  $z \in (x, y)$ , which contradicts the fact that  $g_\alpha^T$  is a function itself. Hence  $g_\alpha^T$  is strictly decreasing.  $\square$

### 5 Main results: continuous R-implications

The main result of this work is the generalization of Theorem 2, viz., we show that the *left-continuity* of the underlying t-norm is implied and need not be assumed. Thus we give a complete characterization of the class of all continuous R-implications by showing that it is equivalent to the class of fuzzy implications which are  $\Phi$ -conjugate to the Łukasiewicz implication.

**Theorem 4.** Let  $T$  be a t-norm and  $I_T$  the R-implication obtained from it. If  $I_T$  is continuous, then  $T$  is border continuous.

*Proof.* On the contrary, let us assume that  $I_T$  is continuous and  $T$  is not border continuous. Then, by Remark 1, there exist  $y_0 \in (0, 1)$  and an increasing sequence  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , where  $x_n \in [0, 1]$ , such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 1$ , but

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T(x_n, y_0) = y' < y_0 = T(1, y_0).$$

This implies, in particular, that

$$I_T(y_0, y') = \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(y_0, t) \leq y'\} = 1.$$

Now, by (I1) and (IP) of  $I_T$  (cf. Theorem 1) we have that

$$1 = I_T(y_0, y') \leq I_T(y', y') = 1,$$

i.e.,  $I_T(x, y') = 1$  for all  $x \in [y', y_0]$ . Note that  $I_T(\cdot, y') = g_{y'}^T$ . Since  $I_T$  is continuous we have that  $g_{y'}^T$  is also continuous and from Theorem 3 we see that it is strictly decreasing. However, from the above, we see that  $g_{y'}^T$  is constant on  $[y', y_0]$ , a contradiction. Thus  $T$  is border continuous.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.** Let  $T$  be a t-norm and  $I_T$  the R-implication obtained from it. If  $I_T$  is continuous, then  $T$  is Archimedean.

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be a t-norm. On the contrary, let us assume that  $I_T$  is continuous and  $T$  is non-Archimedean. Then, by the Definition 1(viii) there exist  $x_0, y_0 \in (0, 1)$  such that for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we have that  $x_{0T}^{[n]} \geq y_0$ .

Let us denote

$$X_0 := \{z \in [0, 1] \mid x_{0T}^{[n]} > z \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Observe, that  $X_0 \neq \emptyset$  since for all  $y < y_0$  we have that  $x_{0T}^{[n]} > y$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Further, let

$$z_0 := \sup X_0.$$

See that  $0 < z_0 \leq x_0$  and  $z_0 - \varepsilon \in X_0$  for all  $\varepsilon \in (0, z_0]$ . Also, if  $t > z_0$ , then there exists  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $x_{0T}^{[m]} \leq t$ , which implies that

$$z_0 - \varepsilon < x_{0T}^{[m+1]} = T(x_0, x_{0T}^{[m]}) \leq T(x_0, t),$$

for any  $t > z_0$ . Hence

$$I_T(x_0, z_0 - \varepsilon) = \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(x_0, t) \leq z_0 - \varepsilon\} \leq z_0,$$

for all  $\varepsilon \in (0, z_0]$ . From the continuity of  $I_T$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} I_T(x_0, z_0) &= I_T(x_0, \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} z_0 - \varepsilon) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} I_T(x_0, z_0 - \varepsilon) \\ &\leq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} z_0 = z_0. \end{aligned}$$

Now, by (I1) and (NP) of  $I_T$  (cf. Theorem 1) we have that

$$z_0 \geq I_T(x_0, z_0) \geq I_T(1, z_0) = z_0,$$

i.e.,  $I_T(x, z_0) = z_0$  for all  $x \in [x_0, 1]$ . Note that  $I_T(\cdot, z_0) = g_{z_0}^T$ . Since  $I_T$  is continuous we have that  $g_{z_0}^T$  is also continuous and from Theorem 3 we see that it is strictly decreasing. However, from the above, we have that  $g_{z_0}^T$  is constant on  $[x_0, 1]$ , a contradiction. Thus  $T$  is Archimedean.  $\square$

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $T$  be a t-norm and  $I_T$  the R-implication obtained from it. If  $I_T$  is continuous, then  $T$  is left-continuous.*

*Proof.* Let  $T$  be a t-norm such that  $I_T$  is continuous. From Theorems 4 and 5 we see that  $T$  is border continuous and Archimedean.

On the contrary, let us assume that  $T$  is non-left-continuous. From Remark 2 there exist  $x_0 \in (0, 1]$ ,  $y_0 \in (0, 1)$  and an increasing sequence  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , where  $x_n \in [0, 1]$ , such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x_0$ , but

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T(x_n, y_0) = z' < z_0 = T(x_0, y_0).$$

Since  $T$  is border continuous it suffices to consider the case when  $x_0 \in (0, 1)$ .

Firstly observe that

$$I_T(y_0, z') = \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(y_0, t) \leq z'\} = x_0, \quad (4)$$

since from the monotonicity of  $T$  we have  $T(y_0, x_n) \leq z'$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $T(y_0, x_0) = z_0 > z'$ .

Next, from Proposition 1, by the Archimedeanity and monotonicity of  $T$ , we get that for any arbitrary  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1 - x_0)$  the following inequality holds

$$T(x_0, 1 - \varepsilon) < \min(x_0, 1 - \varepsilon) = x_0. \quad (5)$$

Now, by (4) and (5) we get

$$T(x_0, 1 - \varepsilon) < I_T(y_0, z'),$$

for any  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1 - x_0)$ , thus

$$T(x_0, 1 - \varepsilon) < \sup\{t \in [0, 1] \mid T(y_0, t) \leq z'\},$$

hence

$$T(y_0, T(x_0, 1 - \varepsilon)) \leq z'$$

By the associativity of  $T$  we get

$$T(T(x_0, y_0), 1 - \varepsilon) \leq z',$$

i.e.,

$$T(z_0, 1 - \varepsilon) \leq z'.$$

for any  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1 - x_0)$ . This implies that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} T(z_0, 1 - \varepsilon) \leq z' < z_0 = T(z_0, 1),$$

i.e.,  $T$  is not border continuous, a contradiction to Theorem 4 and hence  $T$  is left-continuous.  $\square$

From Theorems 2 and 6 we obtain the following result.

**Corollary 1.** *For a function  $I: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $I$  is a continuous R-implication based on some t-norm.
- (ii)  $I$  is  $\Phi$ -conjugate with the Łukasiewicz implication, i.e., there exists  $\varphi \in \Phi$ , which is uniquely determined, such that  $I$  has the form (3) for all  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ .

Let us denote the different families of fuzzy implications as follows:

- $\mathbb{I}_T$  – the family of all R-implications;
- $\mathbb{I}_{T_{LC}}$  – the family of all R-implications obtained from left-continuous t-norms;
- ${}^C\mathbb{I}_T$  – the family of all continuous R-implications;
- ${}^C\mathbb{I}_{T_{LC}}$  – the family of all continuous R-implications obtained from left-continuous t-norms;
- $\mathbb{I}_{LK}$  – the family of all fuzzy implications  $\Phi$ -conjugate with the Łukasiewicz implication  $I_{LK}$ .

From Corollary 1 we have the following equalities between the above sets:

$${}^C\mathbb{I}_{T_{LC}} = {}^C\mathbb{I}_T = \mathbb{I}_{LK}.$$

## 6 (S,N)-implications

**Definition 4** (cf. [15, 7, 1, 2]). A function  $I: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called an  $(S,N)$ -implication, if there exist a t-conorm  $S$  and a fuzzy negation  $N$  such that

$$I(x, y) = S(N(x), y), \quad x, y \in [0, 1].$$

If  $N$  is a strong negation, then  $I$  is called an  $S$ -implication. Moreover, if an  $(S,N)$ -implication is generated from  $S$  and  $N$ , then we will often denote this by  $I_{S,N}$ .

Firstly note that  $I_{S,N} \in \mathcal{FI}$  for any t-conorm  $S$  and any fuzzy negation  $N$ . In the class of continuous  $(S,N)$ -implications we have the following important result.

**Proposition 4** ([2, Proposition 5.4]). *For a function  $I: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $I$  is a continuous  $(S,N)$ -implication.
- (ii)  $I$  is an  $(S,N)$ -implication generated from some continuous t-conorm  $S$  and some continuous fuzzy negation  $N$ .

Let us denote the different families of fuzzy implications as follows:

- $\mathbb{I}_{S,N}$  – the family of all  $(S,N)$ -implications;
- ${}^C\mathbb{I}_{S,N}$  – the family of all continuous  $(S,N)$ -implications;
- $\mathbb{I}_{S_C, N_C}$  – the family of all  $(S,N)$ -implications obtained from continuous t-conorms and continuous negations.

Observe, that from Proposition 4 we get

$${}^C\mathbb{I}_{S,N} = \mathbb{I}_{S_C, N_C}.$$

## 7 Intersection between continuous R- and (S,N)-implications

The intersections between the families and subfamilies of R- and (S,N)-implications have been studied by many authors, see e.g. [6, 13, 7, 3]. As regards the intersection between their continuous subsets only the following result has been known so far.

**Theorem 7.** *The only continuous (S,N)-implications that are also R-implications obtained from left-continuous t-norms are the fuzzy implications which are  $\Phi$ -conjugate with the Łukasiewicz implication, i.e.,*

$${}^C\mathbb{I}_{S,N} \cap \mathbb{I}_{T_{LC}} = \mathbb{I}_{LK}.$$

Now, from Corollary 1, we can prove the following equivalences.

**Theorem 8.** *For a function  $I: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i) *I is a continuous (S,N)-implication that is also an R-implication obtained from a left-continuous t-norm.*
- (ii) *I is a continuous (S,N)-implication that is also an R-implication.*
- (iii) *I is an (S,N)-implication that is also a continuous R-implication.*
- (iv) *I is  $\Phi$ -conjugate with the Łukasiewicz implication, i.e., there exists  $\varphi \in \Phi$ , which is uniquely determined, such that I has the form (3) for all  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ .*

In summary, we have

$${}^C\mathbb{I}_{S,N} \cap \mathbb{I}_{T_{LC}} = {}^C\mathbb{I}_{S,N} \cap \mathbb{I}_T = \mathbb{I}_{S,N} \cap {}^C\mathbb{I}_T = {}^C\mathbb{I}_T = \mathbb{I}_{LK}.$$

## 8 Conclusions

In this paper, we have shown that continuous R-implications cannot be obtained from purely non-left-continuous t-norms and that the only continuous R-implications are those that are  $\Phi$ -conjugate with the Łukasiewicz implication. Using this result we have been able to answer another question related to the intersection between the continuous sub-families of (S,N)- and R-implications. We believe that this work will further help in solving some of the open problems still remaining with regards these two basic families of fuzzy implications.

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