

# On Object-oriented Concepts in a Soft Context Defined by a Soft Set

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## ABSTRACT

We have combined the formal contexts with the soft sets to form so-called soft contexts and introduced the notion of soft concepts. The purpose of this work is to introduce a new type of soft concept (called  $m$ -concept or object oriented soft concept) based on soft sets, which is independent of the notion of soft concepts in a soft context but they are closely related to each other and the object oriented concept in formal context. In particular, we study the basic properties of the  $m$ -concept and the structure of the set of all  $m$ -concepts. Finally, we study how to find all the  $m$ -concepts in a soft context.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

FCA (formal concept analysis) was introduced by Wille in 1982 [9], which is an important theory for the research of information structures induced by a binary relation between the set of attributes and objects attributes. The three basic notions of FCA are formal context, formal concept, and concept lattice. A formal context is a kind of information system, which is a tabular form of an object-attribute value relationship [2, 3, 8]. A formal concept is a pair of a set of objects as called the extent and a set of attributes as called the intent.

The concept of soft set was introduced by Molodtsov in 1999 [7], to deal complicated problems and uncertainties. The operations for the soft set theory was introduced by Maji et al. in [4]. In [1], Ali et al. proposed new operations modified some concepts introduced by Maji. We have formed a soft context by combining the concepts of the formal context and the soft set defined by the set-valued mapping in [6]. And we introduced and studied the new concepts named soft concepts and soft concepts lattices.

In [10], Yao introduced a new concept called *an object oriented formal concept* in a formal context by using the notion of approximation operations.

We recall that: Let  $(U, A, I)$  be a formal context in formal concept analysis, where  $U$  is a finite nonempty set of objects,  $A$  is a finite nonempty set of attributes and  $I$  is a binary relation

between  $U$  and  $A$ . For  $x \in U$  and  $y \in A$ , if  $(x, y) \in I$ , also written as  $xIy$ . We will denote  $xI = \{y \in A | xIy\}$ ; and  $Iy = \{x \in U | xIy\}$ .

And, let us consider two set-theoretic operators,

$$\square : P(U) \rightarrow P(A): X^\square = \{y \in A | \forall x \in U (xIy \Rightarrow x \in X)\};$$

$$\diamond : P(A) \rightarrow P(U): Y^\diamond = \{x \in U | \exists y \in A (xIy \wedge y \in Y)\}.$$

Then a pair  $(X, Y)$ ,  $X \subseteq U, Y \subseteq A$ , is called *an object oriented formal concept* if  $X = Y^\diamond$  and  $Y = X^\square$ .

Based on the above facts, we are trying to study a new type derived from a soft concept based on soft-sets. So, in this paper, we are going to introduce and investigate the new notions of object-oriented soft concepts (simply,  $m$ -concepts) which is related closely each other and the object oriented concept in formal context. Firstly, we study the notion of  $m$ -concepts and basic properties.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

A formal context is a triplet  $(U, A, I)$ , where  $U$  is a non-empty finite set of objects,  $A$  is a nonempty finite set of attributes, and  $I$  is a relation between  $U$  and  $A$ . Let  $(U, A, I)$  be a formal context. For a pair of elements  $x \in U$  and  $y \in A$ , if  $(x, y) \in I$ , then it means that object  $x$  has attribute  $y$  and we write  $xIy$ . The set of all attributes with a given object  $x \in U$  and the set of all objects with a given attribute  $y \in A$  are denoted as the following [8,9]:

$$x^* = \{y \in A | xIy\}; \quad y^* = \{x \in U | xIy\}.$$

And, the operations for the subsets  $X \subseteq U$  and  $Y \subseteq A$  are defined as:

$$X^* = \{y \in A | \text{for all } x \in X, xIy\}; \quad Y^* = \{x \in U | \text{for all } y \in Y, xIy\}.$$

In a formal context  $(U, A, I)$ , a pair  $(X, Y)$  of two sets  $X \subseteq U$  and  $Y \subseteq A$  is called a *formal concept* of  $(U, A, I)$  if  $X = Y^*$  and  $Y = X^*$ , where  $X$  and  $Y$  are called the *extent* and the *intent* of the formal concept, respectively.

Let  $U$  be a universe set and  $A$  be a collection of properties of objects in  $U$ . We will call  $A$  *the set of parameters* with respect to  $U$ .

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A pair  $(F, A)$  is called a *soft set* [7] over  $U$  if  $F$  is a set-valued mapping of  $A$  into the set  $P(U)$  of all subsets of the set  $U$ , i.e.,

$$F : A \rightarrow P(U).$$

In other words, for  $a \in A$ , every set  $F(a)$  may be considered as the set of  $a$ -elements of the soft set  $(F, A)$ .

Let  $U = \{z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m\}$  be a non-empty finite set of *objects*,  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  a non-empty finite set of *attributes*, and  $F : A \rightarrow P(U)$  a soft set. Then the triple  $(U, A, F)$  is called a *soft context* [6].

And, in a soft context  $(U, A, F)$ , we introduced the following mappings: For each  $Z \in P(U)$  and  $Y \in P(A)$ ,

- (1)  $F^+ : P(A) \rightarrow P(U)$  is a mapping defined as  $F^+(Y) = \bigcap_{y \in Y} F(y)$ ;
- (2)  $F^- : P(U) \rightarrow P(A)$  is a mapping defined as  $F^-(Z) = \{a \in A : Z \subseteq F(a)\}$ ;
- (3)  $\Psi : P(U) \rightarrow P(U)$  is an operation defined as  $\Psi(Z) = F^+ F^-(Z)$ .

Then  $Z$  is called a *soft concept* [6] in  $(U, A, F)$  if  $\Psi(Z) = F^+ F^-(Z) = Z$ . The set of all soft concepts is denoted by  $sC(U, A, F)$ .

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context. Then for  $C \in P(A)$ ,  $X \in P(U)$ ,

an operator  $\mathbb{F} : P(A) \rightarrow P(U)$  is defined by  $\mathbb{F}(C) = \bigcup_{c \in C} F(c)$ ;

an operator  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}} : P(U) \rightarrow P(A)$  is defined by  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = \{c \in A : F(c) \subseteq X\}$ .

Simply, we denote: For  $c \in A$  and  $x \in U$   $\mathbb{F}(\{c\}) = F(c)$  and  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(\{x\}) = \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(x)$ . Obviously,  $\mathbb{F}(c) = F(c)$  for  $c \in A$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context,  $S, T \subseteq U$  and  $B, C \subseteq A$ . Then we have:

- (1) If  $S \subseteq T$ , then  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(S) \subseteq \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(T)$ ; if  $B \subseteq C$ , then  $\mathbb{F}(B) \subseteq \mathbb{F}(C)$ ;
- (2)  $\mathbb{F}\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(S) \subseteq S$ ;  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}\mathbb{F}(B) \subseteq B$ ;
- (3)  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(S \cap T) = \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(S) \cap \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(T)$ ,  $\mathbb{F}(B \cup C) = \mathbb{F}(B) \cup \mathbb{F}(C)$ ;
- (4)  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(S) = \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}\mathbb{F}\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(S)$ ,  $\mathbb{F}(B) = \mathbb{F}\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}\mathbb{F}(B)$ .

*Proof.* Obvious. □

**Example 3.3.** Let  $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ . Consider a soft context  $(U, A, F)$  as Table 1.

Then we can get the soft set  $(F, A)$  induced by a set-valued mapping  $F : A \rightarrow P(U)$  as follows:

$$F(a) = F(b) = \{1, 2, 3\}; F(c) = \{1, 2, 4\}; F(d) = \{1, 3\}; F(e) = \{1\}$$

So, the following things are obtained:

Table 1: A soft context

-	a	b	c	d	e
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	0	0
3	1	1	0	1	0
4	0	0	1	0	0

(1) For  $X = \{1, 3, 4\}$ ,  $\mathbb{F}\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = \mathbb{F}(\{d, e\}) = \{1, 3\}$ . So,  $\mathbb{F}\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) \neq X$ .

(2) For  $C = \{a, b\}$ ,  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}\mathbb{F}(C) = \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(\{1, 2, 3\}) = \{a, b, d, e\}$ . So,  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}\mathbb{F}(C) \neq C$ .

(3) For  $X = \{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $Y = \{1, 3, 4\}$ ,  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) \cup \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(Y) = \{c, d, e\}$  and  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X \cup Y) = U$ . So,  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) \cup \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(Y) \neq \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X \cup Y)$ .

(4) For  $C = \{d, e\}$  and  $D = \{b, e\}$ ,  $\mathbb{F}(C) \cap \mathbb{F}(D) = \{1, 3\}$ ,  $\mathbb{F}(C \cap D) = \{1\}$ . So,  $\mathbb{F}(C) \cap \mathbb{F}(D) \neq \mathbb{F}(C \cap D)$ .

**Definition 3.4.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context. For each  $X \in P(U)$ ,

$\mathfrak{F} : P(U) \rightarrow P(U)$  is an operator defined by  $\mathfrak{F}(X) = \mathbb{F}\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X)$ ,

where

$$C = \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = \{c \in A : F(c) \subseteq X\}; \mathbb{F}(C) = \bigcup_{c \in C} F(c).$$

**Theorem 3.5.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context. Then we have:

- (1)  $\mathfrak{F}(X) \subseteq X$  for  $X \subseteq U$ .
- (2) If  $X \subseteq Y$ , then  $\mathfrak{F}(X) \subseteq \mathfrak{F}(Y)$ .
- (3)  $\mathfrak{F}(\mathfrak{F}(X)) = \mathfrak{F}(X)$  for  $X \subseteq U$ .

*Proof.* It is obvious from Theorem 3.2. □

**Remark 3.6.** Let  $(F, X)$  be a soft set over a universe set  $U$ . As shown in the next example, for  $X, Y \in P(U)$ ,

$$\mathfrak{F}(X \cap Y) \neq \mathfrak{F}(X) \cap \mathfrak{F}(Y); \quad \mathfrak{F}(X) \cup \mathfrak{F}(Y) \neq \mathfrak{F}(X \cup Y).$$

**Example 3.7.** Let  $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e, f\}$ . Consider a soft context  $(U, A, F)$  where a set-valued mapping  $F : A \rightarrow P(U)$  is defined by

$$F(a) = F(d) = \{1, 2, 4\}; F(b) = \{2, 4, 5\};$$

$$F(c) = \{2, 4\}; F(e) = F(f) = \{1, 3, 5\}.$$

(1) For  $X = \{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $Y = \{5\}$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}(X \cup Y) = \mathfrak{F}(\{1, 2, 4, 5\}) = \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}(X) \cup \mathfrak{F}(Y) = \{1, 2, 4\}$ . So,  $\mathfrak{F}(X \cup Y) \neq \mathfrak{F}(X) \cup \mathfrak{F}(Y)$ .

(2) For  $X = \{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $Y = \{1, 3, 5\}$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}(X \cap Y) = \mathfrak{F}(\{1\}) = \emptyset$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}(X) \cap \mathfrak{F}(Y) = \{1, 2, 4\} \cap \{1, 3, 5\} = \{1\}$ . So,  $\mathfrak{F}(X \cap Y) \neq \mathfrak{F}(X) \cap \mathfrak{F}(Y)$ .

In [10], Yao introduced a new concept called an *object oriented formal concept* in a formal context by using the notion of approximation operations.

We recall that: Let  $(U, A, I)$  be a formal context in formal concept analysis, where  $U$  is a finite nonempty set of objects,  $A$  is a finite nonempty set of attributes and  $I$  is a binary relation between  $U$  and  $A$ . For  $x \in U$  and  $y \in A$ , if  $(x, y) \in I$ , also written as  $xIy$ , we say that  $x$  has the property  $y$ , or the property  $y$  is possessed by object  $x$ .

For an object  $x \in U$ , the set of properties of  $x$  is denoted by:

$$xI = \{y \in A | xIy\}.$$

For a property  $y \in A$ , the set of objects of  $y$  is denoted by:

$$Iy = \{x \in U | xIy\}.$$

For the formal context  $(U, A, I)$ , let us consider two set-theoretic operators,  $\square : P(U) \rightarrow P(A)$  and  $\diamond : P(A) \rightarrow P(U)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} X^\square &= \{y \in A | \forall x \in U (xIy \Rightarrow x \in X)\} \\ &= \{y \in A | Iy \subseteq X\}; \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Y^\diamond &= \{x \in U | \exists y \in A (xIy \wedge y \in Y)\} \\ &= \{x \in U | xI \cap Y \neq \emptyset\} \\ &= \cup_{y \in Y} Iy. \end{aligned}$$

A pair  $(X, Y)$ ,  $X \subseteq U, Y \subseteq A$ , is called an *object oriented formal concept* if  $X = Y^\diamond$  and  $Y = X^\square$ . The set of objects  $X$  is called the extension of the concept  $(X, Y)$ , and the set of the properties  $Y$  is called the intension of the concept  $(X, Y)$ .

From now on, based on the above facts about the object-oriented concepts studied by Yao, we are trying to study a new type derived from a soft concept based on soft-sets by using two operators defined in Definition 3.1.

We assume that a soft set  $(F, A)$  is *pure* [5], that is,  $\cup_{a \in A} F(a) = U, \cap_{a \in A} F(a) = \emptyset, F(a) \neq \emptyset$  and  $F(a) \neq U$  for each  $a \in A$ .

**Definition 3.8.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context and  $X \in P(U)$ . Then  $X$  is called an *object oriented soft concept* (simply, *m-concept*) in  $(U, A, F)$  if  $\mathfrak{F}(X) = \mathbb{F}(X) = X$ . The set of all *m-concepts* is denoted by  $m(U, A, F)$ .

Let  $(U, A, I)$  be a formal context in formal concept analysis, where  $U$  is a finite nonempty set of objects,  $A$  is a finite nonempty set of attributes and  $I$  is a binary relation between  $U$  and  $A$ . Naturally, we can define a soft set  $F_I : A \rightarrow P(U)$  as follows  $F_I(a) = \{x \in U : (x, a) \in I\}$ . Then  $(U, A, F_I)$  is the associated soft context induced by a formal context  $(U, A, I)$  (See Remark 3.3 in [6]).

**Lemma 3.9.** Let  $(U, A, I)$  be a formal context. Then for the associated soft context  $(U, A, F_I)$  induced by a formal context  $(U, A, I)$ ,

- (1)  $xI = \{a \in A | xIa\} = \{a \in A | x \in F_I(a)\}$  for  $x \in U$ .
- (2)  $Ia = \{x \in U | xIa\} = F_I(a)$  for  $a \in A$ .

**Theorem 3.10.** Let  $(U, A, I)$  be a formal context. Then for the associated soft context  $(U, A, F_I)$  induced by a formal context  $(U, A, I)$ ,

- (1)  $X^\square = \mathbb{F}_I(X)$ ;
- (2)  $Y^\diamond = \mathbb{F}_I(Y)$ ;
- (3) moreover, for an object oriented formal concept  $(X, Y)$ ,  $X$  is an *m-concept* in the associated soft context  $(U, A, F_I)$  induced by  $(U, A, I)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $X \subseteq U$  and  $Y \subseteq A$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (1) X^\square &= \{a \in A | \forall x \in U (xIa \Rightarrow x \in X)\} \\ &= \{a \in A | Ia \subseteq X\} \\ &= \{a \in A | F_I(a) \subseteq X\} \\ &= \mathbb{F}_I(X). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2) Y^\diamond &= \{x \in U | \exists a \in A (xIa \wedge a \in Y)\} \\ &= \{x \in U | xI \cap Y \neq \emptyset\} \\ &= \cup_{a \in Y} Ia \\ &= \cup_{a \in Y} F_I(a) \\ &= \mathbb{F}_I(Y). \end{aligned}$$

(3) For an object oriented formal concept  $(X, Y)$ , from  $X = Y^\diamond = \mathbb{F}_I(Y)$  and  $Y = X^\square = \mathbb{F}_I(X)$ , it follows that  $X = \mathbb{F}_I(\mathbb{F}_I(X)) = \mathfrak{F}_I(X)$ , and so  $X$  is an *m-concept* in the associated soft context  $(U, A, F_I)$  induced by  $(U, A, I)$ . □

For a soft context  $(U, A, F)$ , we can define a binary relation  $I_F \subseteq U \times A$  as follows  $(x, a) \in I_F \Leftrightarrow x \in F(a)$ . Then obviously,  $(U, A, I_F)$  is the associated formal context induced by a soft context  $(U, A, F)$  (See Remark 3.3 in [6]).

**Theorem 3.11.** For an *m-concept*  $X$  in a soft context  $(U, A, F)$ , let  $Y = \mathbb{F}(X)$ . Then

- (1)  $X^\square = Y$ ; (2)  $Y^\diamond = X$ ;
- (3) the pair  $(X, Y)$  is an *object oriented formal concept* in the associated formal context  $(U, V, I_F)$ .

*Proof.* First, from  $x \in F(a) \Leftrightarrow (x, a) \in I_F \Leftrightarrow x \in F_{I_F}$ , it is obviously that  $(U, A, I_F)$  is the associated formal context of  $(U, A, F)$ .

$$(1) X^\square = \{a \in A \mid I_F a \subseteq X\} = \{a \in A \mid F_{I_F}(a) \subseteq X\} = \{a \in A \mid F(a) \subseteq X\} = \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = Y.$$

$$(2) Y^\diamond = \cup_{a \in Y} I_F a = \cup_{a \in Y} F_{I_F}(a) = \cup_{a \in Y} F(a) = \mathbb{F}(Y) = \mathbb{F}(\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X)) = X.$$

(3) By (1) and (2), the pair  $(X, Y) = (X, \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X))$  is an object oriented formal concept in the associated formal context  $(U, V, I_F)$ .

□

For this reason, an  $m$ -concept is also called an object oriented soft concept.

**Remark 3.12.** In a soft context  $(U, A, F)$ , the notion of  $m$ -soft concepts is independent of the notion of soft concepts to each other, because two notions are induced by two different operations as the following:

- For each  $X \in P(U)$  and  $B \in P(A)$ ,
- (1)  $\mathbf{F}^+ : P(A) \rightarrow P(U)$  is a mapping defined as  $\mathbf{F}^+(B) = \cap_{b \in B} F(b)$ ;
  - (2)  $\mathbf{F}^- : P(U) \rightarrow P(A)$  is a mapping defined as  $\mathbf{F}^-(X) = \{a \in A : X \subseteq F(a)\}$ ;
  - (3)  $\Psi : P(U) \rightarrow P(U)$  is an operation defined as  $\Psi(X) = \mathbf{F}^+ \mathbf{F}^-(X)$ .
  - (4)  $X$  is a soft concept [6] if  $\Psi(X) = \mathbf{F}^+ \mathbf{F}^-(X) = X$ .

- (1)  $\mathbb{F} : P(A) \rightarrow P(U)$  is a mapping defined by  $\mathbb{F}(B) = \cup_{b \in B} F(b)$ .
- (2)  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}} : P(U) \rightarrow P(A)$  is a mapping defined by  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = \{a \in A : F(a) \subseteq X\}$ .
- (3)  $\mathfrak{F} : P(U) \rightarrow P(U)$  is an operation defined by  $\mathfrak{F}(X) = \mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X)$ .
- (4)  $X$  is an  $m$ -concept if  $\mathfrak{F}(X) = \mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = X$ .

**Example 3.13.** Let  $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ . Consider a soft context  $(U, A, F)$  where a set-valued mapping  $F : A \rightarrow P(U)$  is defined by

$$F(a) = \{1, 2, 4\}; F(b) = \{2, 4, 5\};$$

$$F(c) = \{2, 4\}; F(d) = \{1, 3\}; F(e) = \{1, 5\}.$$

Then

$$\mathfrak{F}(\{1, 3, 5\}) = \mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(\{1, 3, 5\}) = \mathbb{F}(\{d, e\}) = \{1, 3, 5\};$$

$$\Psi(\{1, 3, 5\}) = \mathbf{F}^+ \mathbf{F}^-(\{1, 3, 5\}) = \mathbf{F}^+(\emptyset) \neq \{1, 3, 5\},$$

So,  $\{1, 3, 5\}$  is an  $m$ -concept but not a soft concept.

And

$$\mathfrak{F}(\{1\}) = \mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(\{1\}) = \mathbb{F}(\emptyset) \neq \{1\}; \quad \Psi(\{1\}) = \mathbf{F}^+ \mathbf{F}^-(\{1\}) = \mathbf{F}^+(\{a, d, e\}) = \{1\},$$

So,  $\{1\}$  is soft concept but not an  $m$ -concept.

**Theorem 3.14.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context. Then we have:

- (1)  $\mathfrak{F}(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ .
- (2)  $\mathfrak{F}(X)$  is an  $m$ -concept.

(3) For  $B \subseteq A$ ,  $\mathbb{F}(B)$  is an  $m$ -concept.

(4) For  $a \in A$ ,  $F(a)$  is an  $m$ -concept.

(5)  $X$  is an  $m$ -concept if and only if there is some  $B \subseteq A$  such that  $X = \mathbb{F}(B)$ .

*Proof.* (1) Obvious.

(2) It follows from (4) of Theorem 3.2.

(3) By Theorem 3.2,  $\mathfrak{F}(\mathbb{F}(B)) = (\mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}})(\mathbb{F}(B)) = (\mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}} \mathbb{F})(B) = \mathbb{F}(B)$ , so  $\mathbb{F}(B)$  is an  $m$ -concept.

(4) Since  $\mathbb{F}(\{a\}) = F(a)$ , it is obvious.

(5) Let  $X$  be an  $m$ -concept and  $X \neq \emptyset$ . Put  $\overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = B$ . Then  $B$  is a nonempty subset of  $A$ , and since  $X$  is an  $m$ -concept, we have that  $\mathbb{F}(B) = \mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = \mathfrak{F}(X) = X$ . For the proof of the another part, for any nonempty subset  $X$  of  $U$ , suppose that there exists  $B \subseteq A$  such that  $\mathbb{F}(B) = X$ . Then  $\mathfrak{F}(X) = \mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}}(X) = \mathbb{F} \overleftarrow{\mathbb{F}} \mathbb{F}(B) = \mathbb{F}(B) = X$  and so  $X$  is an  $m$ -concept.

□

**Theorem 3.15.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context and  $\mathbf{Im}(\mathbb{F}) = \{\mathbb{F}(C) \mid \mathbb{F} : P(A) \rightarrow P(U), C \in P(A)\}$ . Then

- (1)  $\mathbf{Im}(\mathbb{F}) = m(U, A, F)$ ;
- (2) For  $C_1, \dots, C_n \subseteq A$ ,  $\mathbb{F}(C_1) \cup \mathbb{F}(C_2) \cup \dots, \mathbb{F}(C_n) \in \mathbf{Im}(\mathbb{F})$ .

*Proof.* (1) It is obtained from (5) of Theorem 3.14.

(2) By (3) of Theorem 3.2,  $\mathbb{F}(C_1) \cup \mathbb{F}(C_2) \cup \dots, \mathbb{F}(C_n) = \mathbb{F}(C_1 \cup C_2 \cup \dots, \cup C_n) \in \mathbf{Im}(\mathbb{F})$ .

□

**Theorem 3.16.** Let  $(U, A, F)$  be a soft context and  $\mathcal{F} = \{F(a) \mid a \in A\}$ . Then

- (1)  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq m(U, A, F)$ ;
- (2) For each  $X \in m(U, A, F)$ , there exist  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  satisfying  $X = \cup B_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

*Proof.* (1) Obviously it follows from (1) of Theorem 3.15.

(2) Let  $X \in m(U, A, F)$ . Then there is  $B \in P(A)$  such that  $X = \mathbb{F}(B)$  by (5) of Theorem 3.14. From  $\{\{b\} \mid b \in B\} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ , it follows that  $X = \mathbb{F}(B) = \cup_{b \in B} \mathbb{F}(\{b\})$ . So, the statement (2) is obtained. □

By using Theorem 3.15 and 3.16, we can easily construct the set  $m(U, A, F)$  of all  $m$ -concepts in a given soft context:

**Example 3.17.** Let  $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ . Consider a soft context  $(U, A, F)$  where the set-valued mapping  $F : A \rightarrow P(U)$  is defined as follows:

$$F(a) = \{1, 2, 4\}; F(b) = \{1, 2, 4, 5\};$$

$$F(c) = \{2, 4\}; F(d) = \{1, 3\}; F(e) = \{1, 5\}.$$

Then,

$$m(U, A, F) =$$

$$\{\emptyset, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 5\}, \{2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 4, 5\}, U\}.$$

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#### 4. CONCLUSION

We introduced the notion of  $m$ -concept in a soft context induced by a soft set. Then we showed that the class of all the  $m$ -concepts is a image of some subset of attributes on a given soft set. In the next research, we will study the special properties of the  $m$ -concept related with the topological structure, and characterizations for  $m$ -concepts by using a nonempty finite set of attributes on a given soft set.

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