

**ON SOFT  $\gamma$ -CONNECTED SPACES IN SOFT TOPOLOGICAL SPACES**

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**Abstract:** In this paper, based on the concept of soft  $\gamma$ -operations on soft topological spaces , the notions of soft  $\gamma$ -connected spaces in soft topological spaces are introduced and the related properties are studied.

**Keywords:** soft set, soft topology, soft  $\gamma$ -operation, soft  $\gamma$ -open set, soft connected space soft  $\gamma$ -connected space.

**1. Introduction:** The soft set theory is introduced by Molodtsov [1] in 1999, as a new mathematical tool and shown how soft set theory is better than fuzzy set theory, rough set theory and game theory. Further, Maji et al [2] introduced and studied several basic definitions and basic operations of soft sets. Soft topological spaces are introduced by Shabir and Naz [3] , which are defined over an initial universe with a fixed set of parameters and studied the basic notions such as soft open sets, soft closed sets, soft closure, soft separation axioms. Sabir and Bashir [4] and Naim Cagman et al [5] continued the study of properties of soft topological spaces. The study of soft sets and related aspects was also undertaken in [6],[7],[8],[9]. Recently, many researchers have introduced various weaker forms of soft open sets and soft closed sets in soft topological spaces and studied their properties in [10], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17]. The concept of soft  $\gamma$ -operations, soft  $\gamma$ -compact and soft  $\gamma$ -normal spaces in soft topological space are introduced and studied by S.S.Benchalli et al [18], [19]. In this paper, based on the concept of soft  $\gamma$ -operations on soft topological spaces , the notions of soft  $\gamma$ -connected spaces in soft topological spaces are introduced and the related properties are studied.

**2.Preliminaries:** The following preliminaries are required for subsequent work.

**Definition 2.1.**[1]: Let  $U$  be an initial universe and  $E$  be a set of parameters. Let  $P(U)$  denote the power set of  $U$  and  $A$  be a non-empty subset of  $E$ . A pair  $(F, A)$  is called a soft set over  $U$  ,where  $F$  is a mapping given by  $F: A \rightarrow P(U)$ .

In other words, a soft set over  $U$  is a parameterized family of subsets of the universe  $U$ . For  $e \in A, F(e)$  may be considered as the set of  $e$ -approximate elements of the soft set  $(F, A)$  . Clearly, every set is a soft set but not conversely.

**Definition 2.2.** [2]: For two soft sets  $(F, A)$  and  $(G, B)$  over a common universe , we say that  $(F, A)$  is a soft subset of  $(G, B)$  if (i) $A \subset B$  and (ii) for all  $e \in A, F(e)$  and  $G(e)$  are identical approximations.

**Definition 2.3.**[3]: Let  $\tau$  be the collection of soft sets over  $X$ . Then  $\tau$  is said to be a soft topology on  $X$  if

- (1)  $\emptyset, \tilde{X}$  belongs to  $\tau$ .
- (2) The union of any number of soft sets in  $\tau$  belongs

to  $\tau$ .

- (3) The intersection of any two soft sets in  $\tau$  belongs to  $\tau$ .

The triplet  $(X, \tau, E)$  is called a soft topological space.

Here the members of  $\tau$  are called soft open sets in  $X$  and the relative complements of soft open sets are called soft closed sets.

**Theorem 2.4.** [3]: Arbitrary union of soft open sets is a soft open set and finite intersection of soft closed sets is a soft closed set.

**Definition 2.5.**[3]: Let  $(X, \tau, E)$  be a soft space over  $X$  and  $(F, E)$  be a soft set over  $X$ . Then, the soft closure of  $(F, E)$  denoted by  $\overline{(F, E)}$  is the intersection of all soft closed super sets of  $(F, E)$ . Clearly,  $\overline{(F, E)}$  is the smallest soft closed set over  $X$  containing  $(F, E)$ .

The soft neighborhood, soft relative topology, soft  $T_0$  – spaces, soft  $T_1$  – spaces and soft  $T_2$  – spaces are defined and studied by Shabir and Naz in [6].

**Definition 2.6.**[9] : The soft interior of  $(G, E)$  is the soft set defined as

$(G, E)^o = \text{Int}(G, E) = \cup \{(S, E) : (S, E) \text{ is soft open and } (S, E) \subseteq (G, E)\}$ . Here  $(G, E)^o$  is largest soft open set contained in  $(G, E)$ .

**Definition 2.7.**[18]: Let  $(X, \tau, E)$  be a soft topological space. An operation  $\gamma$  on the soft topology  $\tau$  is a mapping from  $\tau$  into the power set  $P(X)$  of  $X$  such that  $(V, E) \subset (V, E)^\gamma$  , for each  $(V, E) \in \tau$ , where  $(V, E)^\gamma = \gamma(V, E)$ . It is denoted by  $\gamma: \tau \rightarrow P(X)$ .

**Definition 2.8.**[18]: A subset  $(A, E)$  of a soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  is called a soft  $\gamma$ -open set of  $(X, \tau, E)$ , if for each  $x \in (A, E)$  there exists a soft open set  $(U, E)$  such that  $x \in (U, E) \subset (U, E)^\gamma \subset (A, E)$ .  $\tau_\gamma$  will denote the set of all soft  $\gamma$ -open sets. Clearly, we have  $\tau_\gamma \subset \tau$ .

A subset  $(B, E)$  of  $(X, \tau, E)$  is called soft  $\gamma$ -closed if  $(B, E)'$  is soft  $\gamma$ -open in  $(X, \tau, E)$ .

**Definition 2.9.**[18]: A point  $x \in X$  is called a soft  $\gamma$ -closure point of  $(A, E)$ , if  $(U, E)^\gamma \cap (A, E) \neq \emptyset$  for each soft open neighbourhood(nbd)  $(U, E)$  of  $x$ . The set of soft  $\gamma$ -closure points is called the soft  $\gamma$ -closure of  $(A, E)$  and is denoted by  $Cl_\gamma(A, E)$ .

For the family  $\tau_\gamma$ , we define a soft set  $\tau_\gamma - Cl(A, E)$  as  $\tau_\gamma - Cl(A, E) =$

$$\cap \{(F, E)/(F, E) \supset (A, E) \text{ and } (F, E)' \in \tau\}$$

**Definition 2.10.** [18]: An operation  $\gamma$  on  $\tau$  is said to be soft open if for every soft nbd  $(U, E)$  of each of

$x \in X$ , there exists a soft  $\gamma$ -open set  $(B, E)$  such that  $x \in (B, E) \subseteq (U, E)^\gamma$ .

**Definition 2.11.** [18]: An operation  $\gamma$  on  $\tau$  is said to be soft regular if for any soft nbds  $(U, E)$  and  $(V, E)$  of  $x \in X$ , there exists soft open nbd  $(W, E)$  of  $x$  such that  $(W, E)^\gamma \subseteq (U, E)^\gamma \cap (V, E)^\gamma$ .

**Definition 2.12.** [3]: A soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  is called soft  $\gamma$ -regular if for each soft open nbd  $(U, E)$  of  $x$  in  $X$ , there exists a soft open nbd  $(V, E)$  of  $x$  such that  $(V, E)^\gamma \subseteq (U, E)$ .

**Theorem 2.13.**[3]: For any soft sets  $(A, E), (B, E)$  in soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  the following hold:

- (a)  $Cl_\gamma[(A, E) - (B, E)] \supseteq Cl_\gamma(A, E) - Cl_\gamma(B, E)$
- (b)  $Int_\gamma[(A, E) - (B, E)] \subseteq Int_\gamma(A, E) - Int_\gamma(B, E)$
- (c) If  $(A, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -open, then  $(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(B, E) \subseteq Cl_\gamma(B, E) \subseteq Cl_\gamma((A, E) \cap (B, E))$

**Proposition 2.14.** [3]: If  $\gamma$  is soft regular then  $Cl_\gamma((A, E) \cup (B, E)) = Cl_\gamma(A, E) \cup Cl_\gamma(B, E)$ .

**Definition 2.15.** [14]: A soft topological spaces  $(X, \tau, E)$  is called soft connected space if there do not exists a pair  $(A, E), (B, E)$  of non empty disjoint soft open subsets of  $(X, \tau, E)$  such that  $(X, E) = (A, E) \cup (B, E)$ , otherwise  $(X, \tau, E)$  is said to be soft disconnected space.

**Definition 2.16.** [3]: The soft  $\gamma$ -exterior of  $(A, E)$  is defined as the soft  $\gamma$ -interior of  $(A, E)'$ .

That is,  $ext_\gamma(A, E) = Int_\gamma(A, E)'$ .

**Definition 2.17.** [3]: The soft  $\gamma$ -boundary of  $(A, E)$  is denoted by  $bd_\gamma(A, E)$ , is defined as the set of all points which do not belongs to soft  $\gamma$ -interior or soft  $\gamma$ -exterior of  $(A, E)$ .

**Theorem 2.18.** [18]: In any soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  the following is true,

$$bd_\gamma(A, E) = Cl_\gamma(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(A, E)' = Cl_\gamma(A, E) - Int_\gamma(A, E).$$

**3. Soft  $\gamma$ -connected spaces:** Now we define and discuss a new space called soft  $\gamma$ -connected space in a soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$ . It is remarkable that the class of soft connected spaces is the subclass of soft  $\gamma$ -connected spaces.

**Definition 3.1.** A soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  is said to be soft  $\gamma$ -connected if there does not exist non empty soft  $\gamma$ -open sets  $(A, E), (B, E)$  of  $(X, \tau, E)$  such that  $(X, E) = (A, E) \cup (B, E)$ ,  $(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(B, E) = \emptyset, Cl_\gamma(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$ .

Here,  $((A, E), (B, E))$  is called soft  $\gamma$ -disconnection of  $(X, \tau, E)$ .

**Example 3.2.** Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$ ,  
 $E = \{e_1, e_2\}, \tau = \{\emptyset, X, (A, E), (B, E), (C, E), (D, E)\}$   
 where  $(A, E) = \{(e_1, \{a\}), (e_2, \{a\})\}$ ,  
 $(B, E) = \{(e_1, \{b\}), (e_2, \{b\})\}$   
 $(C, E) = \{(e_1, \{a, b\}), (e_2, \{a, b\})\}$ ,  
 $(D, E) = \{(e_1, \{a, c\}), (e_2, \{a, c\})\}$

For  $b \in X$ , define an operation  $\gamma: \tau \rightarrow P(X)$  as  $\gamma(A, E) = \begin{cases} Cl(A, E), & \text{if } b \in (A, E) \\ Cl(Int(A, E)), & \text{if } b \notin (A, E) \end{cases}$

We can verify that,  $\emptyset, (X, E), (D, E)$  are the only soft  $\gamma$ -open sets. Clearly,  $(X, \tau, E)$  is the soft  $\gamma$ -connected space but not soft connected space.

**Theorem 3.3.** A soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -disconnected if and only if there exists non empty proper subset  $(A, E)$  of  $(X, \tau, E)$  which is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed in  $(X, \tau, E)$ , where  $\gamma$  is regular operation.

**Proof.** Given  $(A, E)$  is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed. Now,  $(A, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -open, which implies  $(A, E)' = (B, E)$  (say) is soft  $\gamma$ -closed. Since  $(B, E)$  is soft complement of  $(A, E)$  in  $(X, \tau, E)$ , therefore  $(A, E) \cup (B, E) = (X, E)$  and also  $(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$ . Also,  $(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(B, E) = \emptyset, Cl_\gamma(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$ . Thus, by definition,  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -disconnected space.

Conversely, let  $(X, \tau, E)$  be a soft  $\gamma$ -disconnected space, so that there exists two non empty proper subsets  $(A, E), (B, E)$  such that  $(A, E) \cup (B, E) = (X, E)$ ,  $(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(B, E) = \emptyset$ ,

$Cl_\gamma(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$ . We know that  $(A, E) \subset Cl_\gamma(A, E)$ . Thus,  $Cl_\gamma(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$

implies  $(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$ . As  $(A, E) \cup (B, E) = (X, E)$  and  $(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$ , we get  $(A, E) = (B, E)'$ . Thus,  $(A, E)$  is a proper subset of  $(X, \tau, E)$  which is non empty. Again,  $(B, E) \subset Cl_\gamma(B, E)$ , therefore

$(A, E) \cup (B, E) = (X, E)$  implies  $(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(B, E) = X$  and  $(A, E) \cap (B, E) = \emptyset$  implies  $(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(B, E) = \emptyset$ . Thus we get  $(A, E) = (Cl_\gamma(B, E))'$ . But as  $Cl_\gamma(B, E)$  is a soft  $\gamma$ -closed set, we have  $(A, E)$  is a soft  $\gamma$ -open set. In a similar manner, we can show that  $(B, E) = (Cl_\gamma(A, E))'$  is soft  $\gamma$ -open set. Now,  $(A, E) = (B, E)'$ ,

where  $(B, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -open set and hence  $(A, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -closed. Thus,  $(A, E)$  is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed set in  $(X, \tau, E)$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.4.** A soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected if and only if there exists a non empty subset of  $(X, E)$  which is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed in  $(X, E)$  itself.

**Proof:** Given  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected and  $(A, E)$  is non empty subset which is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed. Now, it is enough to prove that  $(A, E) = (X, E)$ . Since  $(A, E)$  is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed, then  $(A, E)'$  is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed. This implies  $(A, E) = Cl_\gamma(A, E), (A, E)' = Cl_\gamma(A, E)'$ . Also,  $(A, E) \cap (A, E)' = \emptyset$  and  $(A, E) \cup (A, E)' = (X, E)$ . Hence, we have  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -disconnected space. This contradicts the fact that  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected space. Therefore there must have either of  $(A, E)$  or  $(A, E)'$  as empty. But since  $(A, E)$  is chosen to be non empty, therefore  $(A, E)' = \emptyset$ . Thus

$(X, E) = (A, E) \cup (A, E)' = (A, E) \cup \emptyset = (A, E)$ . Hence, the non empty subset which is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed is  $(X, E)$  itself.

Conversely, given that only non empty subset which is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed is  $(X, E)$  itself. That is, there do not exist any proper subset of  $(X, E)$  which is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed and hence by theorem 3.3,  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected space. This completes the proof.

**Example 3.5.** Every soft indiscrete topological space  $(X, I, E)$ , where  $(X, E)$  is non empty, is soft  $\gamma$ -connected.

**Theorem 3.6.** A soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected if and only if every non empty proper subspace has a non empty soft  $\gamma$ -boundary.

**Proof:** Suppose that a non empty proper subspace  $(A, E)$  of a soft  $\gamma$ -connected space  $(X, \tau, E)$  has empty soft  $\gamma$ -boundary. Then, by theorem 2.22, we have  $bd_\gamma(A, E) = Cl_\gamma(A, E) - Int_\gamma(A, E) = \emptyset$ . This implies  $Cl_\gamma(A, E) = Int_\gamma(A, E)$  and we know that  $Int_\gamma(A, E) \subset (A, E)$ . Thus,  $Cl_\gamma(A, E) \subset (A, E)$ . But  $(A, E) \subset Cl_\gamma(A, E)$  is always true. Then,  $(A, E) = Cl_\gamma(A, E)$  and  $(A, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -closed. Further we have  $(A, E) \subset Cl_\gamma(A, E) = Int_\gamma(A, E)$ , which implies  $(A, E) \subset Int_\gamma(A, E)$ . But  $Int_\gamma(A, E) \subset (A, E)$  is always true. Thus, we have  $Int_\gamma(A, E) = (A, E)$  and  $(A, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -open. Hence,  $(A, E)$  is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed. By theorem 3.3,  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -disconnected space. Which is a contradiction. Thus,  $(A, E)$  has a non empty soft  $\gamma$ -boundary.

Conversely, suppose  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -disconnected space. Then, by theorem 3.3,  $(X, \tau, E)$  has a proper subspace  $(A, E)$  which is both soft  $\gamma$ -open and soft  $\gamma$ -closed. Then,  $(A, E) = Cl_\gamma(A, E)$  and  $(A, E)' = Cl_\gamma(A, E)'$  and  $Cl_\gamma(A, E) \cap Cl_\gamma(A, E)' = \emptyset$ . So,  $(A, E)$  has a empty soft  $\gamma$ -boundary, which is a contradiction. Thus,  $(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$  is soft  $\mathbb{Q}$ -connected space. This completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $((A, E), (B, E))$  be a soft  $\gamma$ -disconnection of a soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  and

$(C, E)$  be a soft  $\gamma$ -connected subspace of  $(X, \tau, E)$ . Then,  $(C, E)$  is contained in  $(A, E)$  or  $(B, E)$ .

**Proof:** Suppose that  $(C, E)$  is neither contained in  $(A, E)$  nor in  $(B, E)$ . Then,  $(C, E) \cap (A, E)$  and  $(C, E) \cap (B, E)$  are both non empty soft  $\gamma$ -open subsets of  $(C, E)$  such that  $[(C, E) \cap (A, E)] \cap [(C, E) \cap (B, E)] = \emptyset$  and  $[(C, E) \cap (A, E)] \cup [(C, E) \cap (B, E)] = (C, E)$ . Thus,  $((C, E) \cap (A, E), (C, E) \cap (B, E))$  is soft  $\gamma$ -disconnection of  $(C, E)$ . This is a contradiction to the hypothesis that  $(C, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected. Hence, Then,  $(C, E)$  is contained in  $(A, E)$  or  $(B, E)$ .

**Theorem 3.8.** Let  $(X, E) = \cup_{\alpha \in I} (X, E)_\alpha$ , where each  $(X, E)_\alpha$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected and  $\cap_{\alpha \in I} (X, E)_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ . Then,  $(X, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected.

**Proof:** Consider the contradiction that  $((A, E), (B, E))$  is a soft  $\gamma$ -disconnection of  $(X, E)$ . Since, each  $(X, E)_\alpha$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected, therefore from theorem 3.7,  $(X, E)_\alpha \subset (A, E)$  or  $(X, E)_\alpha \subset (B, E)$ . Since,  $\cap_{\alpha \in I} (X, E)_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ , therefore all  $(X, E)_\alpha$  are contained in  $(A, E)$  or  $(B, E)$ . This implies if  $(X, E) \subset (A, E)$  then  $(B, E) = \emptyset$  or if  $(X, E) \subset (B, E)$  then  $(A, E) = \emptyset$ . But, it is a contradiction to the hypothesis that  $(X, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -disconnected. Thus,  $(X, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected. This completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.9.** A soft topological space  $(X, \tau, E)$  is soft  $\gamma$ -connected if and only if for every pair of points  $x, y$  in  $(X, \tau, E)$ , there is a soft  $\gamma$ -connected subspace of  $(X, \tau, E)$  which contains both  $x$  and  $y$ .

**Proof :** The necessary condition is straight forward since the soft  $\gamma$ -connected space itself contains these two points.

For sufficient condition, let us consider for two points  $x$  and  $y$ , there is a soft  $\gamma$ -connected subspace  $(C, E)_{xy}$  of  $(X, \tau, E)$  such that  $x, y \in (C, E)_{xy}$ . Let  $a \in (X, E)$  be a fixed point and  $\{(C, E)_{ax} : x \in X\}$  be a set of all soft  $\gamma$ -connected subsets of  $(X, \tau, E)$  which contains  $a, x \in (X, E)$ . Then,  $(X, E) = \cup (C, E)_{ax}$  and  $\cap_{x \in X} (C, E)_{ax} \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore, by theorem 3.8,  $(X, \tau, E)$  soft  $\gamma$ -connected space. This completes the proof.

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