A new type of nilpotent BCI-algebras

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Abstract In this paper we introduce a new notion of nilpotent BCI-algebras based on commutators rather than using nilpotent elements. To be specific and different from the old one (if we may, nilpotent algebras of type 1), call nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2. We prove that every nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 is solvable. Also, we show that any finite BCI-algebra is solvable but is not nilpotent of type 2, generally. It is shown that every p-semisimple, associative and commutative BCI-algebras is solvable and nilpotent of type 2. Finally, the relationships between characteristic subalgebras, derived subalgebras and (K-)nil radical of BCI-algebras are investigated.

Keywords (K-)nil radical · commutators · characteristic subalgebra · nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2

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1 Introduction

The notion of BCI-algebras was introduced by K. Isčki in 1966 as a generalization of BCK-algebras [9]. BCK and BCI-algebras are algebraic models of non-classical logics BCK and BCI-logics respectively. It is known that the class of associative BCI-algebras coincides with the class of Boolean groups [8]. The relation between p-semisimple BCI-algebras and abelian groups was presented by T. Lei and C. Xi in [11]. Nilpotent elements and order of elements in BCI-algebras are introduced by K. Isčki and Lin Dahua respectively [15]. Nil BCI-algebras are defined as BCI-algebras in which all elements are nilpotent [6]. There are some papers [10,15] in which such BCI-algebras are called nilpotent algebras. It is well-known that in algebraic structures including groups, rings and Lie algebras the notion of nilpotency is defined based on commutators [3,5] rather than on nilpotent elements. These motivate us to introduce a new notion of nilpotent BCI-algebras without using nilpotency of the elements. This concept is different from the nil (nilpotent)
BCI-algebras previously defined but it is consistent with the nilpotency of other mentioned algebras. To be specific we call such new BCI-algebras, nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2.

We use the notion of nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2 to develop other new concepts such as component series in these structures. We can also investigate the variety and some subvarieties of these specific type of BCI-algebras. Since nilpotency and solvability are two important notions, we extend these two notions to these BCI-algebras. The aim of the paper is to expound the relation between solvable and nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2, and to discuss further properties of this concepts.

2 Preliminaries

Definition 2.1 A BCI-algebra is a structure \((X, \rightarrow, 1)\), where \(\rightarrow\) is a binary operation on \(X\) and 1 is an element of \(X\), verifying, the axioms: for all \(x, y, z \in X\),

(I) \((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow ((y \rightarrow z) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow z)) = 1\),

(II) \(x \rightarrow ((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y) = 1\),

(III) \(x \rightarrow x = 1\),

(IV) \(y \rightarrow x = 1\) and \(x \rightarrow y = 1\) imply \(x = y\).

In any BCI-algebra \((X, \rightarrow, 1)\) the natural order can be defined by putting \(x \leq y\) if and only if \(x \rightarrow y = 1\), for all \(x, y \in X\). If in a BCI-algebra \((X, \rightarrow, 1)\) the condition \(x \rightarrow 1 = 1\), for all \(x \in X\) holds, then it is a BCK-algebra. In BCI-algebra \(X\) for all \(x, y, z \in X\) we have \(((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y = x \rightarrow y\) and \(x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z) = y \rightarrow (x \rightarrow z)\) \([4, 8]\). A BCI-algebra \(X\) is called proper if it is not a BCK-algebra. A non-empty subset \(S\) of a BCI-algebra \(X\) is called a subalgebra of \(X\), if \(x \rightarrow y \in S\) whenever \(x, y \in S\). Also a non-empty subset \(F\) of a BCI-algebra \(X\) is called a filter if: (i) \(1 \in F\), (ii) \(x \rightarrow y \in F\) and \(x \in F\) imply \(y \in F\), for all \(x, y \in X\). An element \(x\) in a BCI-algebra \(X\) is called a positive element if it satisfies \(x \rightarrow 1 = 1\). Let \(F\) be a filter of a BCI-algebra \(X\). Then the relation \(\theta_F\) defined by \((x, y) \in \theta_F\) if and only if \(x \rightarrow y \in F\) and \(y \rightarrow x \in F\) is a congruence relation on \(X\). If \(C_x\) denote the class of \(x \in X\), then \(C_1 = F\). Assume that \(X/F = \{C_x : x \in X\}\). Then \((X/F, \rightarrow, C_1)\) is a BCI-algebra, where \(C_x \rightarrow C_y = C_{x \rightarrow y}\), for all \(x, y \in X\). A mapping \(f : X \rightarrow Y\) from BCI-algebras is called a homomorphism, if for any \(x, y \in X\), \(f(x \rightarrow y) = f(x) \rightarrow f(y)\) holds. The BCI-algebra \(X\) is called commutative if \(x \leq y\) implies \(y = x \lor y\), where \(x \lor y = (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y\). In any commutative BCI-algebra \(X\) for all \(x, y \in X\) we have \((x \lor y) \rightarrow (y \lor x) = (y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow 1\). A BCI-algebra \(X\) is called \(p\)-semisimple if \((x \rightarrow 1) = 1\), for all \(x \in X\). In any \(p\)-semisimple BCI-algebra \(X\) for all \(x, y \in X\) we have \((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow 1 = y \rightarrow x\) and \((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y = x\). A BCI-algebra \(X\) is called associative if \((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow z = x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z)\), for all \(x, y, z \in X\) \([4, 7, 8, 9]\).

From now on, in this paper, \((X, \rightarrow, 1)\) or simply \(X\) is a BCI-algebra, unless otherwise specified.
Definition 2.2 [6] An element $x$ of $X$ is a nilpotent element if $x^n \rightarrow 1 = 1$ for some positive integer $n$, where $x^n = x \rightarrow (x \rightarrow (x \rightarrow \cdot \cdot \cdot )_{n\text{-times}}$.  

A filter $F$ of $X$ is called a nil filter of $X$ if every element of $F$ is nilpotent. In particular, if every $x$ in $X$ is nilpotent, then $X$ is called a nilpotent BCI-algebra [4] or a nil BCI-algebra [6].

For every positive integer $k$, we define 

$$N_k(X) = \{x \in X : x^k \rightarrow 1 = 1\}$$

$$N(X) = \{x \in X : x \text{ is a nilpotent element}\}$$

The set $N(X)$ is called the nil-radical of $X$, and $N_k(X)$ is called the $k$-nil radical set of $X$ [4].

Definition 2.3 [14] Let $x_1, x_2$ be elements of $X$. The element $((x_2 \rightarrow x_1) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow ((x_1 \lor x_2) \rightarrow (x_2 \lor x_1))$ of $X$ is called a pseudo-commutator of $x_1$ and $x_2$ and is denoted by $[x_1, x_2]$, i.e.,

$$[x_1, x_2] = ((x_2 \rightarrow x_1) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow ((x_1 \lor x_2) \rightarrow (x_2 \lor x_1)).$$

Definition 2.4 [12, 13, 14] Suppose that $X_1, X_2$ are non-empty subsets of $X$. Define a commutator of $X_1$ and $X_2$ to be

$$[X_1, X_2] = \prod [x_1, x_2] : x_1 \in X_1, x_2 \in X_2.$$  

Where $\prod [x_1, x_2] = [a_1, b_1] \rightarrow [a_2, b_2] \rightarrow \cdot \cdot \cdot \rightarrow [a_n, b_n]$, for $a_i \in X_1$ and $b_i \in X_2$. $[X, X]$ is called the commutator subalgebra or the derived subalgebra of $X$ and is denoted by $X'$. Therefore $X' = \{x_1 \rightarrow x_2 \rightarrow \cdot \cdot \cdot \rightarrow x_n : n \geq 1, \text{ each } x_i \text{ is a pseudo-commutator in } X\}$.

Now, we give an explicit example of how obtain $[X_1, X_2]$ and $X'$.

Example 2.1 Let $X = \{0, a, b, c, d\}$. Define $\rightarrow$ on $X$ by

$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
\rightarrow & a & b & c & d \\
\hline
a & 1 & a & b & d \\
b & 1 & 1 & a & d \\
c & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
d & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & a & b & c & d
\end{array}$

Then $(X, \rightarrow, 1)$ is a BCK-algebra and so a BCI-algebra. Put $X_1 = \{a, c\}$ and $X_2 = \{d\}$. Therefore $[X_1, X_2] = \prod [x_1, x_2] : x_1 \in X_1, x_2 \in X_2 = \{[a, d] = a, [c, d] = c, [a, d] \rightarrow [c, d] = b, [c, d] \rightarrow [a, d] = 1, ([c, d] \rightarrow [a, d]) \rightarrow [c, d] = c, [c, d] \rightarrow ([a, d] \rightarrow [c, d]) = 1, \cdots \} = \{a, b, c, 1\}$. Also we obtain $X' = [X, X] = \{[1, a] = 1, [a, b] = 1, \cdot \cdot \cdot , [a, d] = a, [c, d] = c, [a, d] \rightarrow [a, d] = 1, [a, d] \rightarrow [c, d] = b, ([c, d] \rightarrow [a, d]) \rightarrow [c, d] = c, [c, d] \rightarrow ([a, d] \rightarrow [c, d]) = 1, \cdot \cdot \cdot \} = \{a, b, c, 1\}$.  

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Theorem 2.5 [12, 13, 14] Suppose that $F$ is a filter of $X$. Then
i) $X$ is commutative if and only if $X' = \{1\}$,
ii) $X'$ is a subalgebra of $X$,
iii) $[A/F, B/F] = [A, B]/F$ for two subsets $A, B$ of $X$,
iv) if $Y$ is a subalgebra of $X$, then $Y'$ is a subalgebra of $X'$.

Lemma 2.6 [13, 14] Let $f$ be a homomorphism from $X$ to a BCI-algebra $Y$. Then $f([x, y]) = [f(x), f(y)]$, for all $x, y \in X$.

Lemma 2.7 [4] For any $x, y \in X$ and $n \in N$, $(x \rightarrow y)^n \rightarrow 1 = (x^n \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (y^n \rightarrow 1)$.

Although not all of the finite groups are necessarily nilpotent, based on the Definition 2.2, every finite BCI-algebra and every BCK-algebra is nilpotent [4]. This is the main difference between the definitions of nilpotent BCI-algebras and nilpotent groups. In addition, since p-semisimple BCI-algebras are convertible to abelian groups [1], it is expected that similar to abelian groups, any p-semisimple BCI-algebra be nilpotent, but this is not always the case.

Example 2.2 Let $C^* = C \setminus \{0\}$, where $C$ is the set of all complex numbers. Then as it has been mentioned in [6], $(C^*, \div, 1)$ is an infinite p-semisimple BCI-algebra. Now it is easy to check that $z \in C^*$ is a nilpotent element iff $z^n = 1$ for some $n \in N$. Therefore $C^*$ is not a nilpotent BCI-algebra.

Notation 2.1 [14] We put $C^0(X) = X, C^1(X) = [X, X], \ldots, C^k(X) = [C^{k-1}(X), X]$ and $C^0(X) = X, C_1(X) = [X, X], \ldots, C_k(X) = [C_{k-1}(X), C_{k-1}(X)]$.

Definition 2.8 [14] $X$ is called solvable if there exists $n \in N$ such that $C_n(X) = \{1\}$. The smallest such $n$ is called the derived length of $X$.

Lemma 2.9 [2] Let $X$ be a BCK-algebra. Then $[x, y]$ is not a maximal element of $X$, for all $x, y \in X$.

3 Nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2

We have introduced and studied some properties of solvable BCI-algebras in [14]. In this section, we present some new results on solvable BCI-algebras. Also, we generalize the concept of nilpotency in groups theory into BCI-algebras and define the notion of nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2 and discuss it properties.

Definition 3.1 $X$ is called nilpotent of type 2 if there exists $n \in N$ such that $C_n(X) = \{1\}$. The least such $n$ is called the nilpotency class of $X$.

$C^m(X)$ and $C_m(X)$ are non-empty subsets of $X$ because $1 \in C_m(X)$ and $1 \in C^m(X)$, for all $m \in N$. 
Example 3.1 [4] Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, 1\}$. We define $→$ on $X$ by

$$
\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
 & a & b & c & d & 1 \\
\hline
a & 1 & b & b & b & 1 \\
b & b & 1 & a & a & b \\
c & b & 1 & 1 & a & b \\
d & b & 1 & 1 & 1 & b \\
1 & a & b & c & d & 1 \\
\end{array}
$$

$(X, →, 1)$ is a BCI-algebra. The pseudo-commutators of elements of $X$ are given by the following table

$$
\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
 & a & b & c & d & 1 \\
\hline
a & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
b & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
c & 1 & 1 & 1 & a & 1 \\
d & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
\end{array}
$$

Then $C^0(X) = C_0(X) = X, C^1(X) = C_1(X) = \{a, 1\}, C^2(X) = C_2(X) = \{1\}$. Therefore $X$ is solvable of length 2. Also $X$ is nilpotent of type 2 and the nilpotency class is 2.

By Theorem 2.5, we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.2** $X$ is commutative if and only if $C^1(X) = C_1(X) = \{1\}$.

**Proposition 3.3** If $A \subseteq B \subseteq X$, then $[C, A] \subseteq [C, B]$ and $[A, C] \subseteq [B, C]$ for any $C \subseteq X$.

**Proof.** Let $t \in [C, A]$. Then there exist $c_i \in C$ and $a_i \in A$, for $i \in I$ such that $t = \prod [c_i, a_i]$. Since $A \subseteq B$, $a_i \in B$ and $t = \prod [c_i, a_i] \in [C, B]$. Therefore $[C, A] \subseteq [C, B]$. The proof of the other statement is similar. □

In Example 3.1 if we put $A = \{a, 1\}$ and $B = \{b, 1\}$, then for every $C \subseteq X$ we have $[A, C] \subseteq [B, C]$ and $[C, A] \subseteq [C, B]$ but $A \notin B$. Therefore the converse of Proposition 3.3 is not true in general.

The above proposition leads to the following.

**Proposition 3.4** For any non-negative integer $m$, $C_m(X) \subseteq C^m(X)$.

**Proof.** By induction on $m$. For $m = 0$, we have $C^0(X) = X = C^0(X)$. Now assume that $C^m(X) \subseteq C^{m-1}(X)$, for some $m > 0$. Then $C^m(X) = [C^m(X), C^m(X)] \subseteq [C_{m-1}(X), X] \subseteq [C^{m-1}(X), X] = C^m(X)$, hence the result holds for $m$. □

Now we describe the relation between nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 and solvable BCI-algebra.

**Corollary 3.5** Every nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 is solvable.
Proof. Let $X$ be nilpotent of type 2. Then there exists $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $C^m(X) = \{1\}$. Since $C_m(X)$ is a non-empty set and $C_m(X) \subseteq C^m(X) = \{1\}$, therefore $X$ is solvable. \hfill \Box

**Theorem 3.6**

i) Every commutative BCI-algebra is nilpotent of type 2 and solvable.

ii) Every $p$-semisimple BCI-algebra is nilpotent of type 2 and solvable.

iii) Every associative BCI-algebra is nilpotent of type 2 and solvable.

**Proof.**

i) For any commutative BCI-algebra $X$, $C_1(X) = [X, X] = C^1(X) = \{1\}$. Hence $X$ is nilpotent of type 2 and solvable.

ii) Let $X$ be a $p$-semisimple BCI-algebra and $x, y \in X$. Then

$$[x, y] = ((y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow ((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow x))$$

$$= (y \rightarrow x \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow y)$$

$$= (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow y) = 1.$$ 

Therefore $C_1(X) = [X, X] = C^1(X) = \{1\}$. Hence $X$ is nilpotent of type 2 and solvable.

iii) Let $X$ be an associative BCI-algebra and $x, y \in X$. Then

$$[x, y] = ((y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y) \rightarrow ((y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x))$$

$$= (y \rightarrow (x \rightarrow 1)) \rightarrow ((x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow y)) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow (x \rightarrow x)))$$

$$= (y \rightarrow (x \rightarrow 1)) \rightarrow ((x \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow 1))$$

$$= ((y \rightarrow (x \rightarrow 1)) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow 1)) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow 1)$$

$$= (y \rightarrow ((x \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow 1))) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow 1)$$

$$= (y \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow 1) = 1.$$ 

Therefore $C_1(X) = C^1(X) = \{1\}$. Hence $X$ is nilpotent of type 2 and solvable. \hfill \Box

**Lemma 3.7** If $A \subseteq B \subseteq X$, then $C^m(A) \subseteq C^m(B)$ and $C_m(A) \subseteq C_m(B)$, for all $m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$.

**Proof.** We prove by induction on $m$. For $m = 0$, we have $C^0(A) = A \subseteq C^0(B) = B$ and $C_0(A) = A \subseteq C_0(B) = B$.

Now assume that $C^{m-1}(A) \subseteq C^{m-1}(B)$ and $C_{m-1}(A) \subseteq C_{m-1}(B)$, for some $m > 0$. Then $C^m(A) = [C^{m-1}(A), A] \subseteq [C^{m-1}(B), A] = C^m(B)$ and $C_m(A) = [C_{m-1}(A), C_{m-1}(A)] \subseteq [C_{m-1}(B), C_{m-1}(B)] = C_m(B).$ \hfill \Box

The following example shows that the converses of statements in Corollary 3.5, Theorem 3.6, as well as the equality of Proposition 3.4 may not hold.

**Example 3.2**

i) [4] Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, 1\}$. We define the operation $\rightarrow_{1}$ on $X$ by
Then \((X, \to, 1)\) is a BCI-algebra. It is easy to check that \(C^0(X) = C_0(X) = X, C^1(X) = C_1(X) = \{a, 1\}\) and \(C_2(X) = \{1\}\). Also \(C^2(X) = C^3(X) = C^4(X) = \ldots = \{a, 1\}\). Therefore \(X\) is solvable of length 2 but \(X\) is not nilpotent of type 2.

ii) The BCI-algebra \(X\) in Example 3.1 is nilpotent of type 2 and solvable. It is not commutative because \(d \lessdot c\) but \((c \to d) \to d = a \to d = b \neq c\). Since \((a \to 1) \to 1 = 1 \neq a\), \(X\) is not p-semisimple. Also \(b = a \to (1 \to d) \neq (a \to 1) \to d = d\). Then \(X\) is not an associative BCI-algebra.

**Open problem 1.** Under what suitable conditions is the converse of the Corollary 3.5 and Theorem 3.6 true?

**Theorem 3.8**

i) \(C_n(X)\) is a subalgebra of \(C_{n-1}(X)\), for any \(n \in N\).

ii) \(C^n(X)\) is a subalgebra of \(C^{n-1}(X)\), for any \(n \in N\).

**Proof.** i) We prove by induction on \(n\). For \(n = 1\), we have \(C_1(X) = X'\) is a subalgebra of \(C_0(X) = X\) by Theorem 2.5 (ii). Now assume that \(C_n(X)\) is a subalgebra of \(C_{n-1}(X)\), for some \(n \geq 1\). Then \(C_{n+1}(X) = (C_n(X))'\), which is a subalgebra of \((C_{n-1}(X))' = C_n(X)\) by Theorem 2.5 (iv).

ii) For \(n = 1\), we have \(C_1(X) = X'\) is a subalgebra of \(C_0(X) = X\). Now assume that \(C^n(X)\) is a subalgebra of \(C^{n-1}(X)\), for some \(n \geq 1\). Then \(C^{n+1}(X) = [C^n(X), X] \subseteq [C^{n-1}(X), X] = C^{n}(X)\), so \(C^{n+1}(X) \subseteq C^n(X)\).

Let \(x, y \in C^{n+1}(X)\), then there exist \(a_i, b_i \in C^n(X)\) and \(c_i, d_i \in X\) such that \(x = [a_1, c_1] \to [a_2, c_2] \to \ldots \to [a_n, c_n], y = [b_1, d_1] \to [b_2, d_2] \to \ldots \to [b_m, d_m]\). Therefore \(x \to y = ([a_1, c_1] \to [a_2, c_2] \to \ldots \to [a_n, c_n]) \to ([b_1, d_1] \to [b_2, d_2] \to \ldots \to [b_m, d_m])\). So \(x \to y \in C^{n+1}(X)\). Whence \(C^{n+1}(X)\) is a subalgebra of \(C^n(X)\). Hence the result holds for \(n\) in the both case. \(\square\)

**Theorem 3.9** Let \(X, Y\) be two BCI-algebras. Then for subsets \(A, C\) of \(X\) and \(B, D\) of \(Y\) we have \([A \times B, C \times D] = [A, C] \times [B, D]\).

**Proof.** Let \(t \in [A \times B, C \times D]\). Therefore \(t = [(a, b), (c, d)]\), where \((a, b) \in A \times B\) and \((c, d) \in C \times D\). Then

\[
\begin{align*}
t = [(a, b), (c, d)] &= (((c, d) \to (a, b)) \to (1, 1)) \\\n&\to(((a, b) \to (c, d)) \to (c, d)) \to (((c, d) \to (a, b)) \to (a, b)) \\\n&=(((c \to a) \to 1), ((d \to b) \to 1)) \to (((a \to c) \to c)
\end{align*}
\]
\[(b \rightarrow d) \rightarrow (((c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a), ((d \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b))) \]
\[=(((c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow 1), ((d \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b))) \]
\[=(((c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (((a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (d \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b))) \]
\[=(((c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (((a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a)) \rightarrow (d \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b))) \]
\[=(((c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (((b \rightarrow d) \rightarrow d) \rightarrow (c \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a))) \rightarrow (d \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b))) \]
\[=([a,c], [b,d]) \in [A,C] \times [B,D]. \]

Therefore \([A \times B, C \times D] \subseteq [A, C] \times [B, D].\)

Now, let \(t \in [A, C] \times [B, D].\) Then \(t = (x, y)\) for some \(x \in [A, C]\) and \(y \in [B, D].\) Then there exist \(a \in A, b \in B, c \in C\) and \(d \in D\) such that \(x = [a, c]\) and \(y = [b, d].\) So \(t = (x, y) = ([a, c], [b, d]) = ([a, b], (c, d)) \in [A \times B, C \times D].\)

Thus \([A, C] \times [B, D] \subseteq [A \times B, C \times D].\) Hence \([A \times B, C \times D] = [A, C] \times [B, D].\)

\[\Box\]

**Theorem 3.10** Let \(X\) and \(Y\) be two BCI-algebras. Then for all non-negative integer \(n,\) we have

i) \(C_n(X \times Y) = C_n(X) \times C_n(Y),\)

ii) \(C^n(X \times Y) = C^n(X) \times C^n(Y).\)

**Proof.** i) We prove by induction on \(n,\) for \(n = 0,\) \(C_0(X \times Y) = X \times Y = C_0(X) \times C_0(Y).\) Now assume that \(C_{n-1}(X \times Y) = C_{n-1}(X) \times C_{n-1}(Y),\) for some positive integer \(n.\) Then

\[C_n(X \times Y) = [C_{n-1}(X \times Y), C_{n-1}(X \times Y)] \]
\[= [C_{n-1}(X) \times C_{n-1}(Y), C_{n-1}(X) \times C_{n-1}(Y)] \]
\[= [C_{n-1}(X), C_{n-1}(X)] \times [C_{n-1}(Y), C_{n-1}(Y)] \]
\[= C_n(X) \times C_n(Y).\]

ii) We proceed by induction on \(n.\) For \(n = 0,\) \(C^0(X \times Y) = X \times Y = C^0(X) \times C^0(Y).\) Now assume that \(C^{n-1}(X \times Y) = C^{n-1}(X) \times C^{n-1}(Y),\) for some positive integer \(n.\) Then

\[C^n(X \times Y) = [C^{n-1}(X \times Y), X \times Y] \]
\[= [C^{n-1}(X) \times C^{n-1}(Y), X \times Y] \]
\[= [C^{n-1}(X), X] \times [C^{n-1}(Y), Y] \]
\[= C^n(X) \times C^n(Y).\]

Hence the result holds for \(n.\)

\[\Box\]

**Corollary 3.11** The product of nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2 (solvable) is a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 (solvable).

**Remark 3.1** We consider the BCI-algebra \(X = \{a, b, c, d, 1\}\) from Example 3.2 (i). \(X\) is nilpotent but is not nilpotent of type 2. Thus every nilpotent need not be a nilpotent of type 2 in general. Also the BCI-algebra \(C^n\) in Example 2.2 is nilpotent of type 2 but is not nilpotent, since \(1 \div x^n \neq 1\) for any positive integer \(n\) and any real number \(x \neq \pm 1.\)
Lemma 3.12 \([x,y]\) is a positive element of \(X\), for all \(x,y \in X\).

Proof.

\[
[x,y] \rightarrow 1 = (((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y) \rightarrow (y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x))) \rightarrow 1
\]

\[
=(((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (((x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow ((y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x))
\]

\[
=(((y \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow 1)) \rightarrow 1)
\]

\[
=(((y \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow ((y \rightarrow 1) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow 1)))
\]

Then \([x,y]\) is a positive element of \(X\). \(\Box\)

Lemma 3.13 \([x,y] \rightarrow 1 = [x \rightarrow 1, y \rightarrow 1] = 1\), for all \(x,y \in X\).
Proof. By Definition 2.3 and Lemma 2.7 we obtain
\[
(x \to 1, y \to 1) = (((y \to 1) \to (x \to 1)) \to 1) \to (((x \to 1) \to (y \to 1)) \\
(y \to 1)) \to (((y \to 1) \to (x \to 1)) \to (x \to 1)) \\
=(((y \to x) \to 1) \to (((x \to y) \to y) \to ((y \to x) \to x))) \to 1 \\
=|[x, y] \to 1 = 1. \]

Lemma 3.14 For all positive integers \(m, n\), we have
i) \(C_n(C_m(X)) = C_{n+m}(X)\),
ii) \(C^n(C_m(X)) = C_{n+m}(X)\).

Proof. i) Induction on \(n\). For \(n = 1\), \(C_1(C_m(X)) = [C_m(X), C_m(X)] = C_{m+1}(X) = C_{1+m}(X)\) by definition. Assume the result is true for all \(m\), and for a specific \(n\). Want \(C_{n+1}(C_m(X)) = C_{n+m+1}(X)\). But

\[
C_{n+1}(C_m(X)) = [C_n(C_m(X)), C_n(C_m(X))] \\
[C_{n+m}(X), C_{n+m}(X)] \\
[C_{n+m+1}(X).
\]

ii) We prove by induction on \(n\), for \(n = 1\), \(C_1(C_m(X)) = C_1(C_m(X)) = [C_m(X), C_m(X)] = C_{m+1}(X) = C_{1+m}(X)\).
Let \(C^{n-1}(C_m(X)) = C_{n-1+m}(X)\), for all \(m\) and for a specific \(n\). Then

\[
C^n(C_m(X)) = [C^{n-1}(C_m(X)), C_m(X)] \\
[C_{n-1+m}(X), C_m(X)] \\
[C_n(C_m(X), C_m(X)] \\
[C_n(C_m(X))] \\
[C_{n+m}(X)] = C_{n+m}(X).
\]

Remark 3.2 It is possible, for some positive integers \(m, n\), to have
i) \(C_{n+m}(X) \neq C_n(C^m(X)) \neq C^{n+m}(X)\),
ii) \(C^n(C_m(X)) \neq C^{n+m}(X)\),
iii) \(C_{n+m}(X) \neq C^n(C_m(X)) \neq C^{n+m}(X)\).
For example, if we consider the BCI-algebra \(X = \{a, b, c, d, 1\}\) from Example 3.2 (i), we have \(C_1(C^4(X)) = [C^4(X), C^4(X)] = \{[a, 1], [a, 1] = \{1\} \neq \{a, 1\} = C^5(X)\). Also \(C^2(C_2(X)) = \{1\} \neq C^4(X)\).

Any finite BCK-algebra is solvable [2]. In the following theorem we show that this statement holds for finite BCI-algebras.

Theorem 3.15 Any finite BCI-algebra is solvable.

Proof. Let \(X\) be a finite BCI-algebra and \(B\) be the set of all it positive elements. Suppose that \(|X| = n \geq 2\).
Case I: Let \(X\) be a BCK-algebra and \(M\) be the set of maximal elements of
A new type of nilpotent BCI-algebras

X. Then $C_1(X)$ is a subalgebra contained in $X \setminus M$ by Theorem 2.5 (ii) and Lemma 2.9. Hence $|X| > |C_1(X)|$. By induction $|X| > |C_1(X)| > |C_2(X)| > ... > |C_k(X)| = 1$ for some $k \leq n$ (for more details see [2]).

Case II: If $X$ is not a BCK-algebra, then there exists at least an element $x \in X$ such that $x \rightarrow 1 \neq 1$. Since $[x, y]$ is a positive element for every $x, y \in X$, $C_1(X)$ is a subalgebra contained in $B$. Since $B$ itself is a BCK-algebra, by case I, $B$ is solvable. Therefore $C_1(X)$ is solvable. Hence there exists $n \in N$ such that $C_n(C_1(X)) = \{1\}$. So $C_{n+1}(X) = \{1\}$. Therefore $X$ is solvable. □

The following example shows that there are finite BCK/BCI-algebras that are not nilpotent of type 2, in general.

Example 3.3 [4] Let $X = \{a, b, c, d, 1\}$. Define $\rightarrow$ on $X$ by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>→</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>d</td>
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<tr>
<td>b</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>d</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then $(X, \rightarrow, 1)$ is a BCK-algebra. We obtain $C^n(X) = \{a, b, c, 1\}$, for every $n \geq 1$. Therefore $X$ is not nilpotent of type 2.

Corollary 3.16 There are proper inclusions of classes:

\{commutative BCI–algebras\} ⊆ \{nilpotent BCI–algebras of type 2\} ⊆ \{solvable BCI–algebras\}

Proof. By Corollary 3.5, Theorem 3.6 and Example 3.2 is obvious. □

Corollary 3.17 Suppose that $X$ is nilpotent of type 2. Then the nilpotency class of $X$ is less or equal $n$ iff $[[x_1, x_2, ..., x_{n-1}], x_n] = 1$, for all $x_i \in X$.

Proof. $X$ is nilpotent of type 2 of class less or equal $n$ if and only if $C^n(X) = \{1\}$ if and only if $[C^{n-1}(X), X] = \{1\}$ if and only if $[[x_1, x_2, ..., x_{n-1}], x_n] = 1$, for all $x_i \in X$. □

4 Some properties of $C_n(X), C^n(X)$

In this section, we investigate more properties of $C_n(X), C^n(X)$.

Theorem 4.1 Let $A$ and $B$ are two subsets of $X$ and $f$ be a homomorphism of $X$ to a BCI-algebra $Y$. Then for every non-negative integer $n$, we have

i) $f([A, B]) = [f(A), f(B)]$,

ii) $f(C^n(A)) = C^n(f(A))$,

iii) $f(C_n(A)) = C_n(f(A))$. 

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Proof. i) Let \( y \in f([A, B]) \). Then there exists \( x \in [A, B] \) such that \( y = f(x) \).
So \( x = [a, b] \) for some \( a \in A \) and \( b \in B \) and hence \( y = f(x) = f([a, b]) = [f(a), f(b)] \in [f(A), f(B)] \).
Therefore \( f([A, B]) \subseteq [f(A), f(B)] \).

Conversely, let \( y \in [f(A), f(B)] \). Then there exist \( y_1 \in f(A) \) and \( y_2 \in f(B) \) such that \( y = [y_1, y_2] \). Thus, \( y_1 = f(a) \) and \( y_2 = f(b) \) for some \( a \in A \) and \( b \in B \). Hence \( y = [y_1, y_2] = [f(a), f(b)] = f([a, b]) \in f([A, B]) \).
Whence \( [f(A), f(B)] \subseteq f([A, B]) \).

ii) We prove by induction on \( n \). If \( n = 0 \), then \( f(C^0(A)) = f(A) = C^0(f(A)) \).
Now assume that \( f(C^{n-1}(A)) = C^{n-1}(f(A)) \), for some \( n \in N \).
Then
\[
f(C^n(A)) = f([C^{n-1}(A), A])
= [f(C^{n-1}(A)), f(A)]
= [C^{n-1}(f(A)), f(A)]
= C^n(f(A)).
\]

iii) We prove by induction on \( n \). If \( n = 0 \), then \( f(C_0(A)) = f(A) = C_0(f(A)) \).
Now assume that \( f(C_{n-1}(A)) = C_{n-1}(f(A)) \), for some \( n \in N \).
Then
\[
f(C_n(A)) = f([C_{n-1}(A), C_{n-1}(A)])
= [f(C_{n-1}(A)), f(C_{n-1}(A))]
= [C_{n-1}(f(A)), C_{n-1}(f(A))]
= C_n(f(A)). \quad \Box
\]

**Theorem 4.2** Let \( f \) be an isomorphism from \( X \) to a BCI-algebra \( Y \). Then \( X \) is nilpotent of type 2 if and only if \( Y \) is nilpotent of type 2.

**Proof.** Since \( f(X) = Y \), \( C^k(Y) = C^k(f(X)) = f(C^k(X)) \), for any \( k \in N \).
But \( X \) is nilpotent of type 2, then there exists \( n \in N \) such that \( C^n(X) = \{1\} \).
Therefore, \( \{1\} = f(\{1\}) = f(C^n(X)) = C^n(Y) \).
Hence, \( Y \) is a nilpotent of type 2.

Conversely, let \( Y \) be a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2. Then \( f(C^n(X)) = C^n(f(X)) = C^n(Y) = \{1\} \), for some \( n \in N \).
Therefore \( f(C^n(X)) = \{1\} = f(\{1\}) \).
Hence \( C^n(X) = \{1\} \), that is, \( X \) is nilpotent of type 2. \quad \Box

**Theorem 4.3** Let \( F \) be a filter of \( X \). Then \( C^n(X/F) = C^n(A)/F \) and \( C_n(X/F) = C_n(X)/F \), for any positive integer \( n \).

**Proof.** For \( n = 1 \), we have \( C^1(X/F) = [X/F, X/F] = [X, X]/F = C^1(X)/F \).
Also \( C_1(X/F) = [X/F, X/F] = [X, X]/F = C_1(X)/F \).
Now inductively assume that \( C^{n-1}(X/F) = C^{n-1}(X)/F \) and \( C_{n-1}(X/F) = C_{n-1}(X)/F \), for some \( n \geq 1 \).
Then
\[
C^n(X/F) = C^{n-1}(X/F), X/F
= C^{n-1}(X)/F, X/F
= C^n(X)/F.
\]

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and

\[ C_n(X/F) = [C_{n-1}(X/F), C_{n-1}(X/F)] = [C_{n-1}(X)/F, C_{n-1}(X)/F] = [C_{n-1}(X), C_{n-1}(X)]/F = C_n(X)/F. \]

**Lemma 4.4** The quotient of a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 (solvable) is a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 (solvable).

**Proof.** Let \( F \) be a filter of a nilpotent BCI-algebra \( X \) of type 2. Then for some \( n \in N, C^n(X) = \{1\} \). Hence \( C^n(X/F) = C^n(X)/F = \{1\}/F = \{F\} \). Therefore \( X/F \) is a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2.

Also, if \( X \) is a solvable, then for some \( n \in N, C_n(X) = \{1\} \). Hence \( C_n(X/F) = C_n(X)/F = \{1\}/F = \{F\} \). Therefore \( X/F \) is a solvable BCI-algebra. \( \Box \)

**Theorem 4.5** Subalgebras and homomorphic images of nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 are nilpotent of type 2.

**Proof.** Let \( Y \) be a subalgebra of \( X \). Then \( Y \subseteq X \) and so \( C^n(Y) \) is a subset of \( C^n(X) \), for all \( n \in N \). Since \( X \) is a nilpotent of type 2, there exists \( m \in N \) such that \( C^m(X) = \{1\} \) and so \( C^n(Y) = \{1\} \). Thus, \( Y \) is a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2. Now, let \( (X, \rightarrow, 1) \) and \( (Y, \rightarrow', 1') \) be two BCI-algebras and \( X \) is nilpotent of type 2, \( f : X \rightarrow Y \) be an epimorphism from \( X \) onto \( Y \). Then for any non-negative integer \( n \), we have \( f(C^n(X)) = C^n(Y) \). Hence \( \{1\} = f(\{1\}) = f(C^n(X)) = C^n(Y) \). So, \( f(C^n(X)) = C^n(Y) = \{1\} \). Thus \( Y \) is a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2. \( \Box \)

**Lemma 4.6** Let \( F \) be a filter of \( X \). Then \( F \) and \( X/F \) are solvable iff \( X \) is a solvable BCI-algebra.

**Proof.** Let \( f \) be the natural homomorphism from \( X \) onto \( X/F \). Since \( X/F \) is solvable, for some \( n \in N, f(C_n(X)) = C_n(f(X)) = C_n(X/F) = F \). Hence \( C_n(X) \) is a subalgebra of \( \text{Ker}(f) = F \). Since \( F \) is a solvable, there exists a positive integer \( m \) such that \( C_m(F) = \{1\} \). Therefore, \( C_m(C_n(X)) = C_{m+n}(X) \subseteq C_m(F) = \{1\} \). Hence \( C_{m+n}(X) = \{1\} \). i.e., \( X \) is solvable.

Conversely, let \( X \) be solvable. Therefore, for some \( n \in N, C_n(X) = \{1\} \). Since \( F \subseteq X, C_n(F) \subseteq C_n(X) = \{1\} \). Then \( C_n(F) = \{1\} \). Hence \( F \) is solvable, also \( X/F \) is a solvable by Lemma 4.4. \( \Box \)

**Remark 4.1** In Example 3.2 (i), \( F = \{a,1\} \) is a filter of \( X \) which is nilpotent of type 2. The quotient BCI-algebra induced by this filter is \( X/F = \{C_1, C_b, C_c, C_d\} \). We obtain \( C^1(X/F) = C^1(X)/F = \{C_1\} \). Therefore \( F \) and \( X/F \) are nilpotent of type 2, but \( X \) is not a nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2.
Theorem 4.7 Let $(X_i,→_i,1_i)$ be an indexed family of BCI-algebras. Then

1) $\prod_{i \in I} X_i$ is nilpotent of type 2 if and only if $X_i$ is nilpotent of type 2, for all $i \in I$.

2) $\prod_{i \in I} X_i$ is solvable if and only if $X_i$ is solvable, for all $i \in I$.

Proof. Let $\prod_{i \in I} X_i$ be nilpotent of type 2, then there exists $n \in N$ such that $C^n(\prod_{i \in I} X_i) = \{1\}$. The project mapping $p : \prod_{i \in I} X_i \to X_i$ is an epimorphism. Therefore $\{1\} = p(\{1\}) = p(C^n(\prod_{i \in I} X_i)) = C^n(p(\prod_{i \in I} X_i)) = C^n(X_i)$. Hence $X_i$ is nilpotent of type 2.

Conversely, let $X_i$ be nilpotent of type 2. If $C^1(X_i) = \{1\}$, then we show that $C^1(\prod_{i \in I} X_i) = \{1\}$. Suppose that $t \in C^1(\prod_{i \in I} X_i)$, then there exist sequences $(a_i)_{i \in I}$ and $(b_i)_{i \in I}$ in $\prod_{i \in I} X_i$ such that

$$t = [(a_i)_{i \in I}, (b_i)_{i \in I}] = [(a_1, b_1), (a_2, b_2), ...] = (1, 1, 2, ...) = 1.$$

Thus, $t = 1$ and hence $C^1(\prod_{i \in I} X_i) = \{1\}$. By induction we can show that if $C^n(X_i) = \{1\}$, then $C^n(\prod_{i \in I} X_i) = \{1\}$. So $\prod_{i \in I} X_i$ is nilpotent of type 2. The proof (ii) is similar. □

Lemma 4.8 For every $k \in N$, $N_1(X) \subseteq N_k(X) \subseteq N(X)$ and $N(X) = \bigcup_{k \in N} N_k(X)$.

Proof. Let $x \in N_1(X)$. Then $x \to 1 = 1$. Since $x^k \to 1 = x \to (x \to (x \to 1))$... $= x \to 1 = 1$, $x \in N_k(X)$. Therefore $N_1(X) \subseteq N_k(X)$. If $x \in N_k(X)$ for $k \in N$, then $x^k \to 1 = 1$. Therefore $x$ is a nilpotent element of $X$, i.e., $x \in N(X)$. So, $N_k(X) \subseteq N(X)$ for any positive integer $k$.

Obviously, $\bigcup_{k \in N} N_k(X) \subseteq N(X)$. Let $x \in N(X)$. Then there exists $k \in N$ such that $x^k \to 1 = 1$. Then $x \in N_k(X)$, hence $x \in \bigcup_{k \in N} N_k(X)$. Therefore $N(X) \subseteq \bigcup_{k \in N} N_k(X)$. □

Lemma 4.9 Let $f : X \to Y$ be a monomorphism from $X$ to a BCI-algebra $Y$. Then $f(N_k(X)) = N_k(f(X))$ for all $k \in N$ and $f(N(X)) = N(f(X))$.

Proof. Let $y \in f(N_k(X))$. Then there exists $x \in N_k(X)$ such that $y = f(x)$. Since $x \in N_k(X)$, $x^k \to 1 = 1$. Hence $f(1) = f(x^k \to 1) = f(x^k) \to f(1) = (f(x))^k \to f(1)$. Therefore $y = f(x) \in N_k(f(X))$. So, $f(N_k(X)) \subseteq N_k(f(X))$.

Conversely, let $y = f(x) \in N_k(f(X))$. Then $(f(x))^k \to f(1) = f(1) = f(x^k \to 1)$. Since $f$ is one to one, $x^k \to 1 = 1$. Whence $x \in N_k(X)$, so $f(x) \in f(N_k(X))$. Thus $N_k(f(X)) \subseteq f(N_k(X))$. Then $f(N_k(X)) = N_k(f(X)).$ Since, $N(X) = \bigcup_{k \in N} N_k(X)$, $f(N(X)) = f(\bigcup_{k \in N} N_k(X)) = \bigcup_{k \in N} f(N_k(X)) = \bigcup_{k \in N} N_k(f(X)) = N(f(X))$. □
Theorem 4.10 Let \( \{A_i : i \in I\} \) be a family of BCI-algebras. Then 
\( N(\prod_{i \in I} A_i) = \prod_{i \in I} N(A_i) \).

Proof. Suppose that \( x \in \prod_{i \in I} N(A_i) \). Then \( x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \) where \( x_i \) is nilpotent in \( A_i \). Thus, for each \( 1 \leq i \leq n \), there exists \( m_i \in N \) such that \( x_i^{m_i} \to 1_i = 1 \). Put \( m = m_1m_2\ldots m_n \). Then \( x^m \to 1 = 1 \), that is \( x \in \prod_{i \in I} N(A_i) \).

Conversely, let \( x \in N(\prod_{i \in I} A_i) \). Then \( x^m \to 1 = 1 \) for some \( m \in N \).

But \( x^m \to 1 = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)^m \to (1_1, 1_2, \ldots, 1_n) = (1_1, 1_2, \ldots, 1_n) \). Hence \( x_i^m \to 1_i = 1_i \), for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \). Therefore \( x_i \in N(A_i) \) and consequence \( x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \in \prod_{i \in I} N(A_i) \). \( \square \)

5 Characteristic subalgebras

In this section, we introduce the notion of characteristic subalgebra of BCI-algebras and investigate the relation between this concept and the derived subalgebras, nil radicals and \( k \)-nil radicals.

Definition 5.1 A subalgebra \( Y \) is called characteristic subalgebra of \( X \) if every automorphism of \( X \) maps \( Y \) to itself. That is, if \( f \in \text{Aut}(X) \), then \( f(Y) \subseteq Y \).

Obviously, \( X, \{1\} \) are characteristic subalgebras of \( X \).

Example 5.1 Let \( X = \{a, b, c, 1\} \). Define \( \rightarrow \) on \( X \) as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\rightarrow & a & b & c & 1 \\
\hline
a & 1 & b & b & 1 \\
b & a & 1 & a & 1 \\
c & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & a & b & c & 1
\end{array}
\]

Then \( (X, \rightarrow, 1) \) is a BCK-algebra and so a BCI-algebra. The functions \( f_1(x) = x \) and \( f_2 \) defined by

\[
f_2(x) = \begin{cases} 
  b & \text{if } x = a \\
  a & \text{if } x = b \\
  x & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

are all automorphisms of \( X \). Then \( Y = \{a, b, 1\} \) is a subalgebra of \( X \). These automorphisms map \( Y \) to itself. Therefore, \( Y \) is a characteristic subalgebra of \( X \). Also \( Z = \{a, 1\} \) is a subalgebra of \( X \). \( f_2 \) maps \( Z \) to \( \{b, 1\} \). Therefore \( Z \) is not a characteristic subalgebra of \( X \).

Theorem 5.2 The derived subalgebra of \( X \) is a characteristic subalgebra.

Proof. Obviously, \( X' \) is a subalgebra of \( X \). Let \( f \) be an automorphism of \( X \). Then \( f([X, X]) = [f(X), f(X)] \), thus \( f(X') = (f(X))' = X' \). It follows that \([X, X]\) is a characteristic subalgebra of \( X \). \( \square \)
Theorem 5.3  For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $N_k(X)$ is a characteristic subalgebra of $X$.

Proof. Clearly, $1 \in N_k(X)$, then $N_k(X)$ is non-empty. Put $x, y \in N_k(X)$, then $x^k \to y^k \to 1$. Hence, $(x \to y)^k \to 1 = (x^k \to 1) \to (y^k \to 1) = 1 \to 1 = 1$. Therefore $x \to y \in N_k(X)$ and $N_k(X)$ is a subalgebra of $X$. Now, suppose that $f$ is an automorphism of $X$ and $x \in N_k(X)$, then $x^k \to 1 = 1$. Hence $1 = f(1) = f(x^k \to 1) = f(x^k) \to f(1) = (f(x))^k \to 1$. Therefore $f(x) \in N_k(X)$. It follows that $N_k(X)$ is a characteristic subalgebra of $X$. □

Theorem 5.4  The nil-radical $N(X)$ is a characteristic subalgebra of $X$.

Proof. Since 1 is nilpotent, $N(X)$ is non-empty. Let $x, y \in N(X)$. Then there exist $m, n \in N$ such that $x^m \to 1 = 1$ and $y^n \to 1 = 1$. Then $x^{mn} \to 1 = (x^m \to 1) \to (x^{n(m-1)} \to 1) = 1 = \ldots = x^m \to 1 = 1$. Likewise, $y^{mn} \to 1 = 1$. By Lemma 2.7, we get that $(x \to y)^{mn} \to 1 = (x^m \to 1) \to (y^{n-1} \to 1) = 1 \to 1 = 1$. Hence $x \to y \in N(X)$. Thus $N(X)$ is a subalgebra of $X$. Suppose that $f$ is an automorphism of $X$ and $x \in N(X)$, then $x^k \to 1 = 1$ for some $k \in N$. Hence $1 = f(1) = f(x^k \to 1) = f(x^k) \to f(1) = (f(x))^k \to 1$. Therefore $f(x) \in N(X)$. It follows that $N(X)$ is a characteristic subalgebra of $X$. □

Example 5.2  i) In Example 5.1, $N_k(X) = X$, for any $k \geq 1$ and $N(X) = X$. Also $C(X) = C_n(X) = \{1\}$, for any $n \geq 1$. Thus $C_n(X) \neq N_k(X)$, $C_n(X) \neq N_k(X)$ and $C_n(X) \neq N(X)$, $C_n(X) \neq N(X)$ for every $k, n \in N$.

ii) Let $X = [0, 1]$. Define $\to$ on $X$ by

$$x \to y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \leq y \\ y & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then $(X, \to, 1)$ is a BCI-algebra. $C^1(X) = X = [0, 1], C^2(X) = [X, C^1(X)] = [0, 1]$ for any $k \in N$ and $C_1(X) = X, C_2(X) = [X, X] = \ldots = C_k(X) = [C_{k-1}(X), C_{k-1}(X)] = [0, 1]$. Since, $x \to 1 = 1$ for any $x \in X$, $X$ is nilpotent. But $X$ is not nilpotent of type 2, because $C^k(X) = [0, 1] \neq \{1\}$ for any $k \in N$.

Theorem 5.5  $C_n(X)$ and $C_n(X)$ are characteristic subalgebras of $X$.

Proof. We prove by induction on $n$. If $n = 0$, then $C_0(X) = X$ that is a subalgebra of $X$. Now assume that $C_k(X)$ for any $k < n$ is a subalgebra of $X$. Therefore, $C_n(X) = C_1(C_{n-1}(X))$, which is a subalgebra of $C_1(X)$. Since $C_1(X)$ is a subalgebra of $X$, $C_n(X)$ is a subalgebra of $X$. Clearly, $0 \in C_n(X)$, then $C_n(X)$ is non-empty. Let $x, y \in C_n(X)$. Then there exist $a_1, b_1, c_1, d_1 \in C_{n-1}(X)$ such that $x = \prod [a_1, b_1] = x_1 \to \ldots \to x_m$ and $y = \prod [c_1, d_1] = y_1 \to \ldots \to y_l$. Hence, $x \to y = \prod [a_1, b_1] \to \prod [c_1, d_1] = (x_1 \to \ldots \to x_m) \to (y_1 \to \ldots \to y_l)$. Therefore $x \to y \in C_n(X)$. Hence $C_n(X)$ is a subalgebra of $X$.

Now, suppose that $f$ is an automorphism of $X$. Since $f(C_n(X)) = C_n(f(X))$
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= C^n(X) and f(C^n(X)) = C_n(f(X)) = C_n(X), for every n ∈ N, then f maps C^n(X) to C^n(X) also f maps C_n(X) to itself. Hence C^n(X) and C_n(X) are characteristic subalgebras of X. □

The following example shows that the converse of Theorems 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 may not always hold.

Example 5.3 i) In Example 5.1, Y is a characteristic subalgebra of X, but it is not a commutator subalgebra of X, since C^n(X) = C_n(X) = {1}, for every positive integer n.

ii) Consider the BCI-algebra C* in Example 2.2. It is clear that C* is a characteristic subalgebra. We obtain that N_1(C*) = {1}, N_2(C*) = {-1, 1},..., N_n(C*) = {z ∈ C* : z^n = 1}. Thus C* ⊆ N_k(C*) for any k ∈ N, also C* ⊆ C^n(X).

iii) In Example 5.1 consider Y = {a, b, 1}. Y is a characteristic subalgebra of X, but {1} = C^n(X) = C_n(X) ≠ Y for all n ∈ N.

Theorem 5.6 If A is a characteristic subalgebra of X, then C^n(A), C_n(A) and N(A) are characteristic subalgebras of X.

Proof. Let A be a characteristic subalgebra of X. Then C^n(A), C_n(A) and N(A) are subalgebras of X. Suppose that f ∈ Aut(X), then f(A) ⊆ A. Therefore f(C^n(A)) = C^n(f(A)) ⊆ C^n(A). Also f(C_n(A)) = C_n(f(A)) ⊆ C_n(A), for any n ∈ N. Hence C^n(A) and C_n(A) are characteristic subalgebras of X. Since f(N_k(A)) ⊆ N_k(f(A)) ⊆ N_k(A) and f(N(A)) ⊆ N(f(A)) ⊆ N(A), C^n(A) and C_n(A) are characteristic subalgebras of X. □

6 Conclusion

The notion of nilpotent BCI-algebras was formulated first by W. Huang. In this paper, we characterized the notion of nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2 and we studied relationships between nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2 and nilpotent BCI-algebras. The results of this paper show that:
(1) Every nilpotent BCI-algebra of type 2 is solvable.
(2) Any finite BCI-algebra is solvable but is not nilpotent of type 2 in general.
(3) Commutative BCI algebras ⊆ nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2 ⊆ solvable BCI-algebras.
(4) C^n(X), C_n(X), N_k(X) and N(X) are characteristic subalgebras of X.

Some important issues for future work are:

i) Considering concept nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2 in simple BCI-algebras and other specific BCI-algebras.

ii) Making Engle BCI-algebras similar with Engle groups by using nilpotent BCI-algebras of type 2.

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