

CHARACTERIZING SOME COMPLETELY REGULAR SEMIGROUPS BY THEIR SUBSEMIGROUPS

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Abstract

We consider several familiar varieties of completely regular semigroups such as groups and completely simple semigroups. For each of them, we characterize their members in terms of absence of certain kinds of subsemigroups, as well as absence of certain divisors, and in terms of a homomorphism of a concrete semigroup into the semigroup itself. For each of these varieties $\mathcal{V}$ we determine minimal non- $\mathcal{V}$ varieties, provide a basis for their identities, determine their join and give a basis for its identities. Most of this is complete; one of the items missing is a basis for identities for minimal nonlocal orthogroups. Three tables and a figure illustrate the results obtained.

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1. Introduction and summary

The seminal example of characterizing modular (respectively, distributive) lattices by the absence of one (respectively, two) types of sublattice has been emulated in the study of other algebraic systems. For such a class C which is closed under taking of subalgebras, one arrives at ‘forbidden subalgebras’, namely those algebras which cannot occur as subalgebras of algebras in C . If the class of such forbidden objects is large, or unmanageable, and the class C is also closed under homomorphic images, we may consider ‘forbidden divisors’, that is, algebras that do not occur as homomorphic images of subalgebras of members of C . All this, of course, up to isomorphism. One then searches for the class of all forbidden subalgebras or divisors, which may characterize the class C . We apply these ideas to some of the following classes of semigroups.

A completely regular semigroup S (union of its subgroups) is enriched with the unary operation of inversion, that is, for any $a \in S$, a^{-1} is the inverse of a in the

maximal subgroup of S containing a . This makes it possible to consider the class $\mathcal{CR}$ of all such algebras as a variety.

Among the familiar subvarieties of $\mathcal{CR}$ are groups, completely simple semigroups, semilattices, semilattices of groups, cryptogroups (bands of groups), normal cryptogroups, orthogroups, and local orthogroups. Information on these varieties can be found in the book [6].

Some of the results for these varieties in the context of the first paragraph above are known. We complete the picture, with the exception of one case, by providing, for each of the above varieties, the following characterizations:

- (a) a list of forbidden completely regular subsemigroups;
- (b) a list of forbidden completely regular divisors;
- (c) a semigroup whose homomorphic images determine the classes under study.

For each of these varieties $\mathcal{V}$ we list the varieties of completely regular semigroups minimal relative to being non- $\mathcal{V}$ and find their join.

One of these results generalizes the main theorem in [3]. The main tool for treating cryptogroups is the construction of all completely regular monoids with two generators accomplished in [4].

Section 2 covers terminology and notation, and includes a complete list of varieties which occur in the paper with bases for their identities. The varieties of completely simple semigroups, Clifford semigroups, semilattices, and normal cryptogroups are treated in Section 3. The next three sections contain a treatment of orthogroups, local orthogroups, and cryptogroups, respectively. These results are applied to groups, rectangular groups, normal orthogroups, orthocryptogroups, and local orthocryptogroups in Section 7. Section 8 consists of a review of the results in the paper in the form of three tables and a figure.

2. Notation and terminology

For our notation and terminology we follow the book [6] with a few exceptions noted below. For the convenience of the reader or for emphasis, we list the most important ones. *Throughout the paper, S denotes an arbitrary completely regular semigroup unless stated otherwise.*

We work within the class $\mathcal{CR}$ of completely regular semigroups S considered as unary semigroups relative to the operation $a \mapsto a^{-1}$, where for $a \in S$, a^{-1} is the inverse of a in the maximal subgroup of S containing a . It follows that $\mathcal{CR}$ forms a variety, and thus all concepts on varieties apply to it. We will refer to varieties of completely regular semigroups simply as *varieties*. The lattice they form is denoted by $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{CR})$.

In particular, if $\emptyset \neq X \subseteq \mathcal{CR}$, then $\langle X \rangle$ denotes the variety generated by X . If $\mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{CR})$ and the set $\{u_\alpha = v_\alpha \mid \alpha \in A\}$ forms a basis for identities valid in $\mathcal{V}$, we write $\mathcal{V} = [u_\alpha = v_\alpha]_{\alpha \in A}$. If $\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{CR})$ are such that $\mathcal{U} \not\subseteq \mathcal{V}$, we say that $\mathcal{U}$ is a *non- $\mathcal{V}$ variety*.

There are some special semigroups which occur often in this context:

$$L_2 = \{\ell_1, \ell_2\}, \quad R_2 = \{r_1, r_2\}, \quad Y_2 = \{0, 1\}$$

with left zero, right zero, and the usual multiplication, respectively. The semigroups LG_n and RG_n are constructed in [6, page 238]; we will provide an alternative construction of these semigroups in Lemma 6.1.

By $E(X)$ we denote the set of all idempotents of a subset X of a semigroup. If S is a semigroup with identity, we write $S = S^1$; otherwise S^1 is S with an identity adjoined. If T is a semigroup which is not isomorphic to a subsemigroup of S , we say that T is a *forbidden subsemigroup* for S . A semigroup T is a *divisor* of S if T is a homomorphic image of a subsemigroup of S . If T is not isomorphic to a divisor of S , then T is a *forbidden divisor* for S . Since we are dealing only with completely regular semigroups, any subsemigroup or divisor or semigroup generated by a set will be tacitly assumed to be completely regular, occasionally specified as such for emphasis.

For $a \leq b$ in a lattice L , $[a, b]$ denotes the interval with lower end a and upper end b .

In the list below, we denote varieties by their standard acronyms, give bases for their identities, and in a few cases, their generators. These varieties occur frequently in the text, sometimes as parts of intersections. Hence the bases listed provide bases for other varieties. Most of these bases can be found in [6] and we list their exact references whenever possible. This makes it feasible to state only the acronyms; their bases can be readily read off from this list. Recall that L stands for the local operator.

Unlike in [6], in composite notation we write $\mathcal{A}$ instead of $H\mathcal{A}$; also we write $\text{Rec}\mathcal{A}$ for rectangular abelian groups while in [6] they are denoted by $\text{Re}\mathcal{A}$. The letter p always stands for a prime; let $\mathbb{P}$ denote the set of all positive prime integers. A rectangular band isomorphic to $L \times R$ where $L \in \mathcal{LZ}$ and $R \in \mathcal{RZ}$ with $|L|, |R| \leq 2$ we call *small*.

Glossary We do not list duals. The references generally contain more information about these varieties.

$$\mathcal{LZ} = [a = ax] = \langle L_2 \rangle,$$

$$\mathcal{RB} = [a = axa] = \langle L_2 \times R_2 \rangle,$$

$$\mathcal{S} = [ax = x^0a] = \langle Y_2 \rangle,$$

$$\mathcal{NB} = [axya = a^0yxa] = \langle L_2 \times Y_2 \times R_2 \rangle,$$

$$\mathcal{LRB} = [ax = axa] = \langle L_2^1 \rangle,$$

$$\text{Re}\mathcal{B} = [axya = axaya] = \langle (L_2 \times R_2)^1 \rangle, \quad \text{see [6, Theorem V.1.9],}$$

$$\mathcal{B} = [a = a^0].$$

$$\mathcal{G} = [a^0 = b^0],$$

$$\text{Re}\mathcal{G} = [a^0 = a^0x^0a^0], \quad \text{see [6, Corollary III.5.3],}$$

$$\mathcal{CS} = [a^0 = (axa)^0], \quad \text{see [6, Proposition III.1.1],}$$

$$\mathcal{SG} = [ax^0 = x^0a], \quad \text{see [6, Theorem IV.2.4],}$$

PROOF. (i) implies (ii). See the proof of Theorem 4.2.

(ii) implies (i). By contrapositive, assume that S is not locally orthodox. Then there exists $e \in E(S)$ such that eSe is not orthodox. By Theorem 4.2, eSe contains a subsemigroup T isomorphic either to D_∞ or to D_n for some $n > 1$. Clearly $e \notin T$, so that $T \cup \{e\}$ must be isomorphic either to D_∞^1 or to D_n^1 .

(i) implies (iii). Since the class of all locally orthodox groups is a variety and neither D_∞^1 nor D_n^1 is locally orthodox, S cannot have divisors isomorphic to D_∞^1 or to D_n^1 for any $n > 1$.

(iii) implies (iv). This follows from Lemma 5.1 and [2, Lemma 4.2].

(iv) implies (i). The argument here is similar to that in '(ii) implies (i)' above. $\square$

THEOREM 5.3. For every prime p , let $\mathcal{D}_p^1 = \langle D_p^1 \rangle$ and $\mathcal{D}_\infty^1 = \langle D_\infty^1 \rangle$.

- (i) $\mathcal{D}_p^1$ is a minimal non-LO variety.
- (ii) Every non-LO variety contains $\mathcal{D}_p^1$ for some prime p .
- (iii) If $\mathcal{D}_p^1 = \mathcal{D}_q^1$ for some primes p and q , then $p = q$.
- (iv) $\mathcal{D}_\infty^1 = \bigvee_p \mathcal{D}_p^1$.

PROOF. Parts (i) and (ii) were proved in [2, Theorem 4.5], while the argument for part (iii) is the same as in Theorem 4.4(iv).

(iv) We have seen in the proof of Theorem 4.4 that D_∞ can be embedded into $\prod_p D_p$. In $\prod_p D_p^1$, the identity element has all coordinates equal to 1, so we may embed D_∞^1 into $\prod_p D_p^1$ by mapping 1 to $(1)_p$, and the rest of the elements of D_∞^1 as for D_∞ . This gives $\mathcal{D}_\infty^1 \subseteq \bigvee_p \mathcal{D}_p^1$.

Since D_p is a homomorphic image of D_∞ , it follows easily that D_p^1 is a homomorphic image of D_∞^1 . But then $\mathcal{D}_p^1 \subseteq \mathcal{D}_\infty^1$ for all primes p , and thus $\bigvee_p \mathcal{D}_p^1 \subseteq \mathcal{D}_\infty^1$. $\square$

In [2] we did not have a basis for $\mathcal{D}_p^1$. In this paper also a basis for $\mathcal{D}_\infty^1$ is missing.

6. Variety $\mathcal{BG}$

We continue here with the pattern of the preceding three sections, now for cryptogroups (bands of groups). Our statements and notation rely heavily on the paper [4] where arbitrary completely regular monoids with two generators were constructed. We start with the devices needed from that paper.

From [4, Construction 3.1] we borrow the following. Let G be a group generated by the set $\{g_n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, where we allow that $g_m = g_n$ if $m \neq n$. Let $P = (p_{nm})$ be a $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ matrix with

$$p_{nm} = \begin{cases} g_0^{-1} \cdots g_{n-1}^{-1} g_{m+n-1} \cdots g_m & \text{if } n > 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ g_{-1} \cdots g_n g_{m+n}^{-1} \cdots g_{m-1}^{-1} & \text{if } n < 0, \end{cases}$$

and let

$$\Gamma^* = \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{Z}, G, \mathbb{Z}; P).$$

- (ii) $S \in \text{ReG}$ if and only if whenever $\chi : D_\infty^{(e)} \rightarrow S$ is a homomorphism, then the image of χ is a small rectangular band.
- (iii) $S \in \text{NO}$ if and only if whenever $\chi : D_\infty^1 \rightarrow S$ is a homomorphism, then the image of χ is a one- or two-element semilattice.

PROOF. (i) Straightforward.

(ii) Necessity. The image of χ is a subsemigroup of a rectangular group and thus must itself be a rectangular group. Clearly $e\chi = (0, 0, 0)\chi$ and $\chi|_{D_\infty}$ is a homomorphism of D_∞ into S . By Lemma 4.1, its image must be a small rectangular band. But $D_\infty^{(e)}\chi = D_\infty\chi$ so the same holds for $D_\infty^{(e)}$.

Sufficiency. The argument is by contrapositive. Hence assume that S is not a rectangular group. First assume that S is completely simple. Then S is not orthodox, and by Theorem 4.2, there is a homomorphism $\varphi : D_\infty \rightarrow S$ whose image is not a small rectangular band. Using the retraction ψ in (7.10), the composition $\psi\varphi : D_\infty^{(e)} \rightarrow S$ is a homomorphism whose image is not a small rectangular band. Suppose next that S is not completely simple. Then it contains idempotents $f > g$. Defining a mapping

$$\chi : \begin{cases} e \mapsto f \\ (m, k, n) \mapsto g \end{cases} \quad ((m, k, n) \in D_\infty),$$

we obtain a homomorphism $\chi : D_\infty^{(e)} \rightarrow S$ whose image is a nontrivial semilattice, and is thus not a rectangular band.

(iii) From Lemma 5.1, we deduce that homomorphic images of D_∞^1 are, up to isomorphism,

$$D_\infty^1, D_n^1 \text{ for } n > 1, (L_2 \times R_2)^1, L_2^1, R_2^1, Y_2, \{0\}.$$

Only the last two of these are normal orthogroups. The assertion now follows from Theorem 5.2. $\square$

We do not have the corresponding statements for OBG and $LOBG$.

8. Review

Besides the intrinsic interest of some of our results as isolated statements, their comparison may even be more useful if we have in mind some general patterns. For this purpose, we now tabulate essential parts of our results for all varieties considered.

In Table 1 we exhibit the main results of Section 3. These are simple statements whose proofs are essentially omitted, and most of which are folklore.

Table 2 is a review of cases studied in Sections 4–6. This is the main part of the paper.

Table 3 reviews the varieties which can be obtained as intersections of some previously treated. These results rely heavily on previously proved statements, and are only briefly summarized.

We have not stated bases for these varieties since they follow immediately from the glossary of varieties and their bases are in Section 2.

TABLE 1. Varieties from Section 3.

Variety $\mathcal{V}$	CS	S	SG	NBG
See Theorem 3.6 and Proposition	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5
Forbidden subsemigroups	Y_2	$L_2, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}_n, R_2$	L_2, R_2	L_2^1, R_2^1
Forbidden divisors	Y_2	$L_2, \mathbb{Z}_p, R_2$	L_2, R_2	L_2^1, R_2^1
Minimal non- $\mathcal{V}$ varieties	S	$\mathcal{LZ}, \mathcal{A}_p, \mathcal{RZ}$	$\mathcal{LZ}, \mathcal{RZ}$	$\mathcal{LRB}, \mathcal{RRB}$
Their join	S	$Rec\mathcal{A}$	$\mathcal{RB}$	$Re\mathcal{B}$
Its generator	Y_2	$L_2 \times \mathbb{Z} \times R_2$	$L_2 \times R_2$	$(L_2 \times R_2)^1$
Test semigroup	Y_2	$L_2 \times \mathbb{Z} \times R_2$	$L_2 \times R_2$	$(L_2 \times R_2)^1$
Its image	trivial	trivial	trivial	trivial or Y_2

TABLE 2. Varieties from Sections 4–6.

Variety $\mathcal{V}$	O	LO	BG
See Theorems	4.2 and 4.4	5.2 and 5.3	6.3 and 6.5
Forbidden subsemigroups	$D_n, D_\infty, n > 1$	$D_n^1, D_\infty^1, n > 1$	$\Gamma, \Gamma_\ell, \Gamma'_\ell, \Gamma_{\ell rs}$
Forbidden divisors	D_p	D_p^1	LG_p, RG_p
Minimal non- $\mathcal{V}$ varieties	$CS\mathcal{A}_p$	$\mathcal{D}_p^1$	$\mathcal{LROA}_p, \mathcal{RROA}_p$
Their join	$CS\mathcal{A}$	$\mathcal{D}_\infty^1$	$RO\mathcal{A}$
Its generator	D_∞	D_∞^1	$LG_\infty \times RG_\infty$
Test semigroup	D_∞	D_∞^1	Γ_∞
Its image	Trivial or L_2 or R_2 or $L_2 \times R_2$	Trivial or L_2^1 or R_2^1 or $(L_2 \times R_2)^1$	Semilattice of one or two cyclic groups

TABLE 3. Some intersections of varieties from Sections 3–6.

Variety $\mathcal{V}$	Join of minimal non- $\mathcal{V}$ varieties	Test semigroup	Its image
See Theorem	7.4	7.5	7.5
$\mathcal{G} = CS \cap SG$	NB	$L_2 \times Y_2 \times R_2$	Trivial
$Re\mathcal{G} = CS \cap O$	NBA	$D_\infty^{(e)}$	Trivial or L_2 or R_2 or $L_2 \times R_2$
$NO = NBG \cap O$	$LO \cap RBG \cap HA$	D_∞^1	Trivial or Y_2
$OBG = BG \cap O$	$LO \cap (RO)^T \cap HA$		
$LOBG = BG \cap LO$	$ROA \vee \mathcal{D}_\infty^1$		

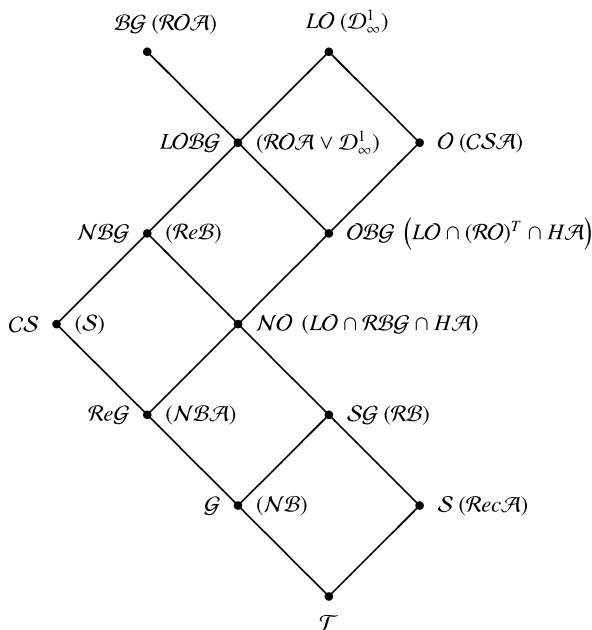


FIGURE 1.

In Figure 1 the vertices are labelled by the varieties $\mathcal{V}$ studied as well as $\mathcal{V}^V$ in parentheses.

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