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FREE  $(V;n,m)$ -GROUPOIDS

S. Markovski

**Abstract.** The class of  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids, where  $V$  is a non-trivial variety of semigroups, and  $n,m$  are positive integers, is defined in [5]. Here we give a convenient description of free  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids. Almost all usual properties of "freeness" hold, but some exceptions also arise. For example, if  $m \geq 2$  and if  $V$  is the variety of commutative semigroups, then the set of automorphisms of a free  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid with basis  $B$ , which induce the identity transformation on  $B$ , is infinite.

**1. Preliminaries.** We give first a list of definitions and results needed in what follows.

**1.1.** A class  $V$  of semigroups is called a variety of semigroups if it admits a system of axioms, every one of which is a semigroup identity, i.e. formula of the form

$$x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_p} = x_{j_1} x_{j_2} \dots x_{j_q} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  is an infinite set of variables, and  $i_\lambda, j_\lambda, p, q$  are positive integers. We say that a formula of the form (1.1) holds in  $V$  iff it is a consequence of the axiom system of  $V$  or, equivalently, iff (1.1) is an identity in every semigroup of  $V$ . A variety  $V$  is said to be nontrivial if the identity  $x=y$  (i.e.  $x_1=x_2$ ) does not hold in  $V$ , i.e. if  $V$  contains semigroups with more than one element.

Further on in this paper we assume that any considered variety is nontrivial.

**1.2.** Denote by  $\mathbb{N}=\{1,2,\dots\}$  the set of positive integers, and by  $\mathbb{N}_t$  the set  $\{1,2,\dots,t\}$ , where  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . We consider identities of  $V$  of the form (1.1), assuming that  $p = q = t$ .

The content of a sequence  $\underline{i}=(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_t)$  of positive integers is said to be the set

$$c(\underline{i}) = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_t\} = \{s \mid s = i_v \text{ for some } v \in \mathbb{N}_t\}.$$

Denote by  $\{\underline{i}; V\}$  the collection of all  $\underline{j} = (j_1, \dots, j_t)$  such that (1.1) holds in  $V$ , and by  $\{\underline{i}; V\}$  the following collection of sets:

$$\{c(\underline{j}) \mid \underline{j} \in \{\underline{i}; V\}\}.$$

Then one and only one of the following two statements hold (see [5]):

- a)  $\{k\}$  is an element of  $\{\underline{i}; V\}$ , for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- b) There exists the least member of  $\{\underline{i}; V\}$ .

This result suggests the following definition of the essential content of  $\underline{i}$  in  $V$ , which we denote by  $\underline{ec}(\underline{i})$ . Namely,  $\underline{ec}(\underline{i}) = \emptyset$  iff a) holds, and in the case b)  $\underline{ec}(\underline{i})$  denote the least member of the set  $\{\underline{i}; V\}$ . Note that  $\underline{j} \in \{\underline{i}; V\}$  implies  $\underline{ec}(\underline{i}) = \underline{ec}(\underline{j})$ .

Assume now that  $i_\lambda = \lambda$ , i.e.  $\underline{i} = (1, 2, \dots, t)$ . Then we say that  $V$  is t-regular iff  $|\{\underline{i}; V\}| = 1$ , i.e. iff  $\underline{ec}(\underline{i}) = \mathbb{N}_t$ , and we say that  $V$  is t-nilpotent iff  $\underline{ec}(\underline{i}) = \emptyset$ . Note that a variety  $V$  is t-regular iff for each identity of  $V$  of the form  $x_1 \dots x_t = x_{j_1} \dots x_{j_t}$  we have that  $j: \lambda \rightarrow j_\lambda$  is a permutation of  $\mathbb{N}_t$ . Also, a variety  $V$  is t-nilpotent iff  $x_1 x_2 \dots x_t = x_{t+1} \dots x_{2t}$  (or, equivalently,  $x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \dots \cdot x_t = y^t$ ) is an identity of  $V$ .

A variety  $V$  is said to be t-nil iff  $x^t = y^t$  is an identity of  $V$ . For every t-nil variety  $V$  there exists the largest number  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}_t$  such that if  $\underline{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_t)$  is such that  $i_\lambda \in \mathbb{N}_t$ ,  $|\{i_1, \dots, i_t\}| = \ell$ , then  $\underline{ec}(\underline{i}) = \emptyset$ . Then we also say that  $V$  is  $(\ell, t)$ -nilpotent. Note that if  $\ell' \leq \ell$  and  $V$  is  $(\ell, t)$ -nilpotent, then  $V$  is  $(\ell', t)$ -nilpotent, as well.

1.3. If  $Q$  is a nonempty set then we denote by  $V(Q)$  a free semigroup in  $V$  with a basis  $Q$ , and we use the same notation for the semigroup and its carrier. Thus,  $Q$  is a generating subset of  $V(Q)$  and if  $a_\lambda \in Q$  are such that  $a_\lambda = a_\nu \Rightarrow \lambda = \nu$ , then the equality

$$a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \dots a_{i_p} = a_{j_1} a_{j_2} \dots a_{j_q}$$

holds in  $V(Q)$  iff (1.1) is an identity of  $V$ . For every positive integer  $t$  a subset  $V_t(Q)$  of  $V(Q)$  is defined by

$$V_t(Q) = \{a_1 a_2 \dots a_t \mid a_i \in Q\}.$$

The nontriviality of  $V$  implies  $Q = V_1(Q)$ , and, moreover,

$$V(Q) = \bigcup \{V_t(Q) \mid t \geq 1\}.$$

For every mapping  $\xi: Q \rightarrow Q'$  there exists a unique homomorphism  $V(\xi): V(Q) \rightarrow V(Q')$  which is an extension of  $\xi$ , and if  $t \geq 1$ , then  $V(\xi)$  induces a mapping  $V_t(\xi): V_t(Q) \rightarrow V_t(Q')$ .

The notion of the essential content of a sequence  $\underline{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_t)$  of positive integers suggests a corresponding definition of the essential content of an element  $u \in V_t(Q)$ , which is a subset of  $Q$  denoted by  $\underline{ec}(u)$ . Namely, if  $u \in V_t(Q)$  then we put  $\underline{ec}(u) = \emptyset$  iff  $|Q| \geq 2$  and  $u = b^t$  for every  $b \in Q$ , and in the opposite case  $\underline{ec}(u) = \{a_1, \dots, a_t\}$  iff  $u = a_1 \dots a_t$  in  $V_t(Q)$  and for every  $b_\lambda \in Q$  such that  $u = b_1 \dots b_t$  it follows  $\{a_1, \dots, a_t\} \subseteq \{b_1, \dots, b_t\}$ .

1.4. Let  $n$  and  $m$  be two positive integers. If  $Q$  is a nonempty set and  $f$  a mapping from  $V_n(Q)$  into  $V_m(Q)$ , then we say that  $\underline{Q} = (Q; f)$  is a  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid,  $Q$  is the carrier and  $f$  the operation of  $\underline{Q}$ .

If  $\underline{Q} = (Q; f)$  and  $\underline{Q}' = (Q'; f')$  are  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoids, then a mapping  $\xi: Q \rightarrow Q'$  is said to be a homomorphism from  $\underline{Q}$  into  $\underline{Q}'$  iff

$$V_m(\xi)f = f'V_n(\xi).$$

If  $\xi: Q \rightarrow Q'$  is a bijective homomorphism, then  $\xi^{-1}: Q' \rightarrow Q$  is a homomorphism too (see [5]) and then we say that  $\xi$  is an isomorphism. The notions "endomorphism", "automorphism" have the usual meanings.

Let  $\underline{Q} = (Q; f)$  be a  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid and  $B \subseteq Q$ . The subset  $B$  is said to be free in  $\underline{Q}$  iff for every  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}' = (Q'; f')$  and every mapping  $\xi: B \rightarrow Q'$  there is a homomorphism  $\psi: \underline{Q} \rightarrow \underline{Q}'$  which is an extension of  $\xi$ .

If  $\underline{Q} = (Q; f)$  is a  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid and  $P$  is a nonempty subset of  $Q$ , then  $P$  is said to be a subgroupoid of  $\underline{Q}$  iff  $f(V_n(P)) \subseteq V_m(P)$ . Equivalently,  $P$  is a subgroupoid of  $\underline{Q}$  iff  $\underline{P} = (P; f_P)$  is a  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid, where  $f_P$  is the restriction of  $f$  on  $V_n(P)$ ; then the embedding of  $P$  into  $Q$  is a homomorphism.

A nonempty intersection of subgroupoids of a  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}=(Q;f)$  is a subgroupoid as well (see [5]), and thus every nonempty subset  $B$  of  $Q$  generates a unique subgroupoid  $\langle B \rangle$  of  $\underline{Q}$ ; if  $\langle B \rangle = \underline{Q}$  then  $B$  is called a generating subset of  $\underline{Q}$ .

A  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}=(Q;f)$  is said to be free iff there is a generating subset  $B$  of  $Q$  which is free in  $\underline{Q}$ . Then  $B$  is called a basis of  $\underline{Q}$ .

2.  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids when  $V$  is  $t$ -nilpotent. Here we assume that  $V$  is a nontrivial  $t$ -nilpotent variety of semigroups, where  $t=m$  or  $t=n$ , and  $n,m$  are positive integers. First we consider the case  $t=m$ , i.e.  $V$  is  $m$ -nilpotent; then  $m \geq 2$ ,  $x_1 \dots x_m = x_{m+1} \dots x_{2m}$  is an identity of  $V$ , and  $|V_m(Q)|=1$  for every nonempty set  $Q$ .

Proposition 2.1. If  $Q$  is a nonempty set, then there is a unique  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}=(Q;f)$ .

Proof. If  $u,v \in V_n(Q)$ , then  $f(u)=b_1 \dots b_m = f(v)$ , for every sequence  $(b_1, \dots, b_m)$  of elements of  $Q$ .  $\square$

The proofs of the following statements are also clear.

Proposition 2.2. Every nonempty subset  $P$  of a  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}=(Q;f)$  is a subgroupoid of  $\underline{Q}$ .  $\square$

Proposition 2.3. If  $\underline{Q}$  and  $\underline{Q}'$  are  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids then every mapping  $\xi: Q \rightarrow Q'$  is a homomorphism from  $\underline{Q}$  into  $\underline{Q}'$ .  $\square$

Proposition 2.4. Every  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}$  is free, and  $Q$  is the unique basis of  $\underline{Q}$ .  $\square$

Now we consider  $n$ -nilpotent varieties which are not  $m$ -nilpotent. If  $n \leq m$ , every  $n$ -nilpotent variety is  $m$ -nilpotent as well, and so we suppose  $n > m \geq 1$ .

Note that in this case  $|V_n(Q)|=1$  for any nonempty set  $Q$ ; put  $V_n(Q)=\{0\}$ . Thus, if  $\underline{Q}=(Q;f)$  is a  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid, then  $f$  is uniquely determined by an element  $u=f(0) \in V_m(Q)$ . Therefore, we can give the following interpretation of  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids, homomorphisms and subgroupoids.

**Proposition 2.5.** There is a bijection between the class of all  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids  $(Q;f)$  and the class of all ordered pairs  $(Q;u)$ , where  $u \in V_m(Q)$ .  $\square$

Thus, we can say that  $(Q;u)$  is a  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid.

**Proposition 2.6.** Let  $\underline{Q}=(Q;u)$  and  $\underline{Q}'=(Q';u')$  be  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids and  $\xi: Q \rightarrow Q'$  a mapping. Then  $\xi$  is a homomorphism from  $\underline{Q}$  into  $\underline{Q}'$  iff  $V(\xi)(u)=u'$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.7.** Let  $\underline{Q}=(Q;u)$  be a  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid and let  $U=\underline{ec}(u)$  be the essential content of  $u$ . Then a nonempty subset  $P$  of  $Q$  is a subgroupoid of  $\underline{Q}$  iff  $U \subseteq P$ . Thus  $\langle B \rangle = BUU$  for every nonempty subset  $B$  of  $Q$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.8.** Let  $(Q;u)$  and  $(Q';u')$  be  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids such that  $U=\underline{ec}(u)$ ,  $U'=\underline{ec}(u')$ . Then there exists a homomorphism from  $(Q;u)$  into  $(Q';u')$  iff  $|U'| \leq |U|$ .

**Proof.** Let  $U=\{a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_m}\}$ ,  $U'=\{b_{j_1}, \dots, b_{j_m}\}$ ,  $u=a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_m}$ ,  $u'=b_{j_1} \dots b_{j_m}$ . Then  $\xi: Q \rightarrow Q'$  is a homomorphism iff  $\xi(a_{i_1}) \dots \xi(a_{i_m}) = b_{j_1} \dots b_{j_m}$  holds in  $V_m(Q)$ , which implies  $|U'| \leq |\{\xi(a_{i_1}), \dots, \xi(a_{i_m})\}| \leq |U|$ .  $\square$

Now we can give a complete description of free  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids, when  $V$  is  $n$ -nilpotent.

**Proposition 2.9.** Let  $\underline{Q}=(Q;u)$  be a  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid, such that  $U=\underline{ec}(u)$ .  $\underline{Q}$  is free iff  $|U|=|\underline{ec}(1,2,\dots,m)|$  and then  $B=Q \setminus U$  is the unique basis of  $\underline{Q}$ .

(We say that  $|U| = |\underline{ec}(1,2,\dots,m)|$  is the rank of the free  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}$ .)

**Proof.** It is clear that  $|U| \leq |\underline{ec}(1,2,\dots,m)|$ , and there is  $u' \in V_m(Q)$  such that  $|\underline{ec}(u')| = |\underline{ec}(1,2,\dots,m)|$ . Now, the result follows by Pr. 2.7 and Pr. 2.8.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.10.** Two free  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids are isomorphic iff they have equivalent carriers and a same rank.  $\square$

Proposition 2.11. Every subgroupoid  $\underline{p}$  of a free  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}=(Q;u)$  is free, and  $\underline{p}$  and  $\underline{Q}$  have a same rank.  $\square$

R e m a r k. Similar results can be obtained when  $(\ell,n)$ -nilpotent varieties  $V$  are considered, in the case when  $Q$  is a nonempty set such that  $|Q| \leq \ell$ . Namely, in this case each  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{Q}=(Q;f)$  can be interpreted as an ordered pair  $(Q;u)$ , where  $u \in V_m(Q)$ . Then statements, corresponding to Pr. 2.9, Pr. 2.10 and Pr. 2.11, are also true.

3.  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoids with free subsets. In what follows we denote by  $V$  a nontrivial variety, by  $B$  a nonempty set and by  $n,m$  positive integers.

Define a sequence of sets  $(B_\alpha \mid \alpha \geq 0)$  as follows:

$$B_0=B, B_{\alpha+1}=B_\alpha \cup \mathbb{N}_m \times V_n(B_\alpha) \quad (3.1)$$

and denote by  $[B] (= [B;V;n,m])$  the union of  $(B_\alpha \mid \alpha \geq 0)$ , i.e.

$$[B] = \bigcup (B_\alpha \mid \alpha \geq 0) \quad (3.2)$$

Define a  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid  $\underline{[B]}=( [B];f)$  by

$$f(x) = (1,x) \dots (m,x) \quad (3.3)$$

for every  $x \in V_n([B])$ .

A mapping  $\chi: V([B]) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} u \in V(B) &\Leftrightarrow \chi(u) = 0, \\ u \in V(B_{\alpha+1}) \setminus V(B_\alpha) &\Leftrightarrow \chi(u) = \alpha+1, \end{aligned}$$

and we refer to  $\chi$  as a hierarchy. As a consequence of the definition of  $\chi$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} b \in B &\Rightarrow \chi(b) = 0, \\ u \in V_n([B]) &\Rightarrow \chi((i,u)) = 1 + \chi(u). \end{aligned}$$

(Note that if  $V$  is  $n$ -nilpotent, then  $B_\alpha=B_1$  for every  $\alpha \geq 1$ , i.e.  $[B]=B_1=B \cup \{(1,0), (2,0), \dots, (m,0)\}$ , where  $\{0\}=V_n([B])$ , and in this case

$$\chi(u) = 0 \Leftrightarrow u \in V(B), \quad \chi(u)=1 \Leftrightarrow u \in V([B]) \setminus V(B).$$

Proposition 3.1.  $B$  is a free subset of  $[B]$ .

Proof. Let  $\underline{Q}' = (Q'; f')$  be a  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid, and consider a mapping  $\xi: B \rightarrow Q'$ . We should show that there is a homomorphism  $\psi: [B] \rightarrow Q'$  which is an extension of  $\xi$ . The construction of  $\psi$  will be done by induction on hierarchy.

We put  $\xi_0 = \xi$  and define  $\xi_1$  as an extension of  $\xi_0$  as follows. If  $(i, x) \in B_1 \setminus B_0$ , then

$$f(x) = (1, x) \dots (m, x), \quad f'(V(\xi_0)(x)) = a'_1 \dots a'_m,$$

for some  $a'_\lambda \in Q'$ . We fix such a sequence  $(a'_1, \dots, a'_m)$  of elements of  $Q'$  and define  $\xi_1((j, x))$  by  $\xi_1((j, x)) = a'_j$ , for every  $j \in N_m$ . Then we have

$$V(\xi_1)(f(x)) = f'(V(\xi_0)(x))$$

for every  $x \in V_n(B_0)$ .

Suppose that a sequence  $\xi_0, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_\gamma$  of mappings  $\xi_\alpha: B_\alpha \rightarrow Q'$  is defined in such a way that:

- a)  $\xi_{\alpha+1}$  is an extension of  $\xi_\alpha$ ,
- b)  $V(\xi_{\alpha+1})f = f'V(\xi_\alpha)$

for each  $\alpha < \gamma$ .

Now, an extension  $\xi_{\gamma+1}$  of  $\xi_\gamma$  can be defined such that a) and b) hold for each  $\alpha \leq \gamma$ . Namely, if  $u \in B_{\gamma+1} \setminus B_\gamma$ , then  $u = (i, x)$  for some uniquely determined  $i \in N_m$  and  $x \in V_n(B_\gamma)$ , where  $\chi(x) = \gamma$ . (Note that then  $(j, x) \in B_{\gamma+1} \setminus B_\gamma$ , for every  $j \in N_m$ .) We have  $f'(V(\xi_\gamma)(x)) = c'_1 \dots c'_m \in V_m(Q')$ , and we fix such a sequence  $(c'_1, \dots, c'_m)$  of elements of  $Q$ . Now, for every  $j \in N_m$ , we put  $\xi_{\gamma+1}((j, x)) = c'_j$ , i.e.  $\xi_{\gamma+1}(u) = c'_1$ . In such a way a mapping  $\xi_{\gamma+1}: B_{\gamma+1} \rightarrow Q'$  is defined and a) and b) hold for each  $\alpha \leq \gamma$ . Therefore, a chain of mappings  $(\xi_\alpha \mid \alpha \geq 0)$  satisfying a) and b) for each  $\alpha \geq 0$  is obtained. Its union  $\psi = \bigcup (\xi_\alpha \mid \alpha \geq 0)$  is the desired homomorphism from  $[B]$  into  $Q'$ , which is an extension of  $\xi$ .  $\square$

Let  $[[B]]$  be the subgroupoid of  $[B]$  generated by  $B$ , and denote by  $g$  the restriction of  $f$  on  $[[B]]$ . As a corollary of Pr. 3.1 we have:

Proposition 3.2.  $[[B]] = ([B]; g)$  is a free  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid with a basis  $B$ .  $\square$

Below we give an explicit description of the free  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid  $([B]; g)$ , for different kinds of varieties  $V$ .

If  $V$  is  $m$ -nilpotent, then  $[[B]] = B$ , and  $(B; g)$  is the unique  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid on  $B$ .

Assume now that  $V$  is not  $m$ -nilpotent, i.e. the set  $I = \text{ec}(1, 2, \dots, m)$  is nonempty. This implies that there exists an  $\underline{i} = (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m)$  such that  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}_m$  and

- a)  $x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_m} = x_1 \dots x_m$  is an identity of  $V$ ,
- b) if  $x_{j_1} \dots x_{j_m} = x_1 \dots x_m$  is an identity of  $V$  and  $\{j_1, \dots, j_m\} = J \subseteq \mathbb{N}_m$ , then  $I \subseteq J$ .

The following property is true:

Proposition 3.3. Let  $(C_\alpha \mid \alpha \geq 0)$  be a collection of sets defined by

$$C_0 = B, \quad C_{\alpha+1} = C_\alpha \cup I \times V_n(C_\alpha)$$

Then:

$$[[B]] = \bigcup (C_\alpha \mid \alpha \geq 0), \text{ and}$$

$$g(x) = (i_1, x) \dots (i_m, x)$$

for any  $x \in V_n([B])$ .  $\square$

Now, if  $V$  is  $n$ -nilpotent and  $n > m$ , then  $[[B]] = (B \cup U; u)$ , where  $V_n([B]) = \{0\}$ ,  $u = (i_1, 0) \dots (i_m, 0)$ ,  $U = \{(i_1, 0), \dots, (i_m, 0)\}$ . The same result is true in the case when  $V$  is  $(\ell, n)$ -nilpotent and  $|B| + |I| \leq \ell$ .

Clearly, if  $V$  is  $m$ -regular, then  $[[B]] = [B]$ , and so  $[[[B]]] = [B]$ .

4. Some properties of  $[[B]]$ . Using induction on hierarchy, we will show the following statement.

Proposition 4.1. If  $\xi$  is an endomorphism of  $[[B]]$  such that  $\xi(b) = b$  for every  $b \in B$ , then  $\xi$  is an automorphism of  $[[B]]$ .



**Proof.** If  $V$  is  $m$ -nilpotent, then  $[[B]] = B$ . So, let  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} = \underline{ec}(1, 2, \dots, m) \neq \emptyset$ . Then, for any  $b_\lambda \in B$  we have  $\xi(b_\lambda) = b_\lambda$ , and since  $\xi$  is an endomorphism and  $f(b_1 \dots b_n) = (i_1, \underline{b}) \dots (i_m, \underline{b})$ , where  $\underline{b} = b_1 \dots b_n$ , we have

$$\xi(i_1, \underline{b}) \dots \xi(i_m, \underline{b}) = (i_1, \underline{b}) \dots (i_m, \underline{b}).$$

The last equality implies

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{ec}(\xi(i_1, \underline{b}) \dots \xi(i_m, \underline{b})) &= \underline{ec}(i_1, \underline{b}) \dots (i_m, \underline{b}) = \\ &= \{(i_1, \underline{b}), \dots, (i_m, \underline{b})\}, \text{ i.e.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\{(i_1, \underline{b}), \dots, (i_m, \underline{b})\} \subseteq \{\xi(i_1, \underline{b}), \dots, \xi(i_m, \underline{b})\}.$$

This means that the restriction of  $\xi$  on  $C_1 = B \cup I \times V_n(B)$  is a permutation of  $C_1$ . We now proceed by induction on hierarchy, using the same arguments as above.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.2.** Let  $V$  be not an  $m$ -nilpotent variety and let  $x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_m} = x_{j_1} \dots x_{j_m}$  be an identity of  $V$ , such that  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} = \{j_1, \dots, j_m\} = \underline{ec}(1, 2, \dots, m)$  and  $\pi: i_\nu \rightarrow j_\nu$  is a permutation of  $I$ ,  $\pi \neq 1_I$ . Then there exists an automorphism  $\xi$  of  $[[B]]$  such that  $\xi(b) = b$  for every  $b \in B$  and  $\xi$  is not the identity automorphism of  $[[B]]$ .

**Proof.** Denote by  $\xi_0$  the identity permutation of  $C_0 = B$ , and let  $H_{\alpha+1} = C_{\alpha+1} \setminus C_\alpha$ , for every  $\alpha \geq 0$ . Define a mapping  $\xi_1: C_1 \rightarrow C_1$  by:  $b \in B \Rightarrow \xi_1(b) = \xi_0(b)$ ,  $x \in V_n(C_0) \Rightarrow \xi_1((i_\lambda, x)) = (j_\lambda, x)$ , for every  $i_\lambda \in I$ . Then  $\xi_1$  is a nontrivial permutation of  $C_1$  which extends  $\xi_0$ , such that  $\xi_1$  is a permutation of  $H_1$ .

Suppose that  $\xi_0, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_\alpha$  are defined permutations of  $C_0, C_1, \dots, C_\alpha$  such that  $\xi_{\beta+1}$  is an extension of  $\xi_\beta$  and  $\xi_{\beta+1}$  is a permutation of  $H_{\beta+1}$ . Define a mapping  $\xi_{\alpha+1}: C_{\alpha+1} \rightarrow C_{\alpha+1}$  by:

$$u \in C_\alpha \Rightarrow \xi_{\alpha+1}(u) = \xi_\alpha(u).$$

If  $u \in H_{\alpha+1}$ , then  $u = (i_\lambda, x)$  for some  $i_\lambda \in I$ ,  $x \in V_n(C_\alpha)$  with  $\chi(x) = \alpha$ , and then we put

$$\xi_{\alpha+1}(u) = \xi_{\alpha+1}((i_\lambda, x)) = (j_\lambda, V_n(\xi_\alpha)(x)).$$

Note that  $\xi_{\alpha+1}(u) \in H_{\alpha+1}$ , i.e.  $\xi_{\alpha+1}$  is a permutation of  $H_{\alpha+1}$ . Now, since  $\xi_{\alpha}$  is a permutation of  $C_{\alpha}$ , we have that  $V_n(\xi_{\alpha})$  is a permutation of  $V_n(C_{\alpha})$ , which implies that  $\xi_{\alpha+1}$  is a (nontrivial) permutation of  $C_{\alpha+1}$ .

In such a way a chain of permutations  $(\xi_{\alpha} \mid \alpha \geq 0)$  is obtained, and for every  $\alpha \geq 0$  and each  $x \in V_n(C_{\alpha})$  the following property is satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned} V_m(\xi_{\alpha+1})(g(x)) &= V_m(\xi_{\alpha+1})((i_1, x) \dots (i_m, x)) = \\ &= (j_1, V_n(\xi_{\alpha})(x)) \dots (j_m, V_n(\xi_{\alpha})(x)) = \\ &= (i_1, V_n(\xi_{\alpha})(x)) \dots (i_m, V_n(\xi_{\alpha})(x)) = \\ &= g(V_n(\xi_{\alpha})(x)). \end{aligned}$$

If we put  $\xi = \bigcup (\xi_{\alpha} \mid \alpha \geq 0)$ , then  $\xi$  is a nontrivial permutation of  $[[B]]$  such that

$$V_m(\xi)g = gV_n(\xi),$$

i.e.  $\xi$  is an automorphism of  $[[B]]$ , different to identity one.  $\square$

Proposition 4.2. implies that it is not necessarily true the well known property that "the identity automorphism of a universal algebra is the unique endomorphism which is the extension of the embedding of a generating subset into the algebra". Note, for example, that the conditions of Pr. 4.2 are satisfied for every subvariety  $V$  of the variety of commutative semigroups.

The next statement is one of the main results of this paper.

Proposition 4.3. If  $\underline{Q} = (Q; f)$  is a free  $(V; n, m)$ -groupoid with a nonempty basis  $B$ , then  $(Q; f)$  is isomorphic with  $[[B]]$ .

Proof. Let  $\underline{Q}$  be free. Then there are homomorphisms  $\xi: \underline{Q} \rightarrow [[B]]$  and  $\psi: [[B]] \rightarrow \underline{Q}$  such that  $\xi(b) = \psi(b) = b$  for every  $b \in B$ . Therefore,  $\zeta = \xi\psi$  is an endomorphism of  $[[B]]$  such that  $\zeta(b) = b$  for every  $b \in B$ , and by Pr. 4.1 this implies that  $\zeta$  is an automorphism of  $[[B]]$ . Thus,  $\psi$  is an injection and  $P = \psi([[B]])$  is a subgroupoid of  $\underline{Q}$  such that  $B \subseteq P$ . Now,  $P = Q$ , since  $B$  is a generating subset of  $Q$ , i.e.  $\psi$  is surjective as well.  $\square$

As a corollary of Pr. 4.3 we have:

**Proposition 4.4.**  $\underline{Q}$  is a free  $(V;n,m)$ -groupoid with a non-empty basis  $B$  iff there is an isomorphism  $\xi: \underline{Q} \rightarrow [[B]]$  such that  $\xi(b)=b$  for every  $b \in B$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.5.**  $B$  is the unique basis of  $[[B]]$ .

**Proof.** Let  $b \in B$ . Then  $[[B]] \setminus \{b\}$  is a subgroupoid of  $[[B]]$ , which means that  $B$  is a subset of every generating subset of  $[[B]]$ .

Assume that  $D$  is a basis of  $[[B]]$ , and hence  $B \subseteq D$ . If  $B \subsetneq D$ , take an element  $b_0 \in B$  and define a mapping  $\xi: D \rightarrow [[B]]$  by  $\xi(b)=b$  for every  $b \in B$ ,  $\xi(d)=b_0$  for every  $d \in D \setminus B$ . Then there exists an endomorphism  $\psi$  of  $[[B]]$  which is an extension of  $\xi$ . By Pr. 4.1 we have that  $\xi$  is also an automorphism of  $[[B]]$ , but this is a contradiction with the fact:  $\psi(d)=b_0=\psi(b_0)$  for some  $d \neq b_0$ .  $\square$

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СЛОБОДНИ  $(V;n,m)$ -ГРУПОИДИ

С. Марковски

## Резиме

Во трудот [5] е дефиниран поимот  $(V;n,m)$ -групонд, каде што  $V$  е нетривијално многуобразие полугрупи. Овде се опишуваат слободните  $(V;n,m)$ -групонди и се покажува точноста на повеќе стандардни "слободни" својства, но и на некои нестандартни. На пример, ако  $m \geq 2$  и  $V$  е многукратноста од комутативни полугрупи, тогаш множеството автоморфизми на еден слободен  $(V;n,m)$ -групонд, коишто го индуцираат идентичното пресликување на базисот, е бесконечно.

Prirodno-matematički fakultet  
Institut za informatika  
p.f. 162  
91000 Skopje, Macedonia