

BI-IDEAL SEMIGROUPS

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We call a semigroup S a bi-ideal semigroup iff all subsemigroups of S are bi-ideals in S , i.e. $B \subseteq S$, $B^2 \subseteq B \implies BSB \subseteq B$. Bi-ideal semigroups were introduced in [6] in an analogous way as the left-ideal semigroups were introduced and studied in [3] and [7]. It seems, however, that the way the structure of left-ideal semigroups is described in [3] and [7] is not appropriate in the case of bi-ideal semigroups. So, we explore here the idea from [2] to give a structural description for bi-ideal semigroups. First, let us quote some of the results from [6]:

Theorem 1. Let S be a bi-ideal semigroup. Then the following hold:

- (i) $(\forall a \in S) \quad aSa \subseteq \langle a \rangle$, where $\langle a \rangle$ is the cyclic subsemigroup of S generated by a ;
- (ii) S is periodic and $|\langle a \rangle| \leq 5$ for all $a \in S$;
- (iii) The set E of all the idempotents of S is a rectangular band;
- (iv) $(\forall e \in E) (\forall x \in S) \quad xe, ex \in E$. ■

In what follows we suppose S to be a bi-ideal semigroup.

Let us put $P = S \setminus E$, where E is as in Theorem 1. We shall establish some properties about P and S .

a) It is easily seen that P is a partial semigroup, i.e. $(\forall x, y, z \in P)$ if one of the elements $(xy)z$ and $x(yz)$ belongs to P , then $(\overline{xy})z, x(\overline{yz}) \in P$ and $(xy)z = x(yz)$. ■

From Theorem 1 it follows that

b) $(\forall x \in P)(\exists m \in \mathbb{N})$, where \mathbb{N} is the set of positive integers, such that $x^m \notin P$. (In fact, $(\forall x \in P) x^5 \notin P$). Because of this property we may call P a periodic partial semigroup. ■

A subset R of a partial semigroup Q is said to be a partial subsemigroup of Q iff $[x, y \in R$ and $xy \in Q$, then $xy \in R]$. A partial subsemigroup R of a partial semigroup Q is said to be a bi-ideal in Q iff $x, y \in R, xqy \in Q, q \in Q$, implies $xqy \in R$. If all partial subsemigroups of a partial semigroup Q are bi-ideals in Q , then we call Q a partial bi-ideal semigroup. We can show, now,

c) P is a partial bi-ideal semigroup.

Really, if B is a partial subsemigroup of P , $x, y \in B$ and $xpy \in P, p \in P$, then $B^* = \langle B \rangle$ in S is a bi-ideal in S and therefore $xpy \in B^*$. But, from $B^* \setminus B \subseteq E$ and $P \cap E = \emptyset$ it follows that $xpy \in B$. ■

Let e_x be the idempotent in $\langle x \rangle$ and let us put $\phi(x) = e_x$. Then,

d) $\phi: P \rightarrow E$ is a homomorphism.

If $xy=z, x, y, z \in P$, then $zx=xyx \in \langle x \rangle$ in S , i.e. $zx = x^k, k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. Let $x^m = e_x$. From $zx = x^k$ it fol-

lows that $zx^m = x^{m+k-1}$, i.e. $ze_x = e_x$, since $x^{m+k-1} = e_x x^{k-1}$ is a idempotent (th. 1 (iv)) which belongs to $\langle x \rangle$. Now, $z^2 e_x = ze_x = e_x$, $z^3 e_x = e_x$ and so on, so that $e_z e_x = e_x$. Similarly we have $e_y e_x = e_x$ and then $e_x e_y = e_z e_x e_y e_z \in \langle e_z \rangle$ so that $e_x e_y = e_z$ which means that $\phi(x)\phi(y) = \phi(xy)$. ■

Let $x, y \in S$ and $xy \in E$. Then in a similar way as above we can prove that $ee_x = e_x$ and $e_y e = e_y$ where $e = xy$. Now, $xy = e = ee_x e_y e = e_x e_y = \phi(x)\phi(y)$:

$$e) \quad x, y \in S, xy \in E \implies xy = \phi(x)\phi(y). \blacksquare$$

If we put $\phi(e) = e$ for all $e \in E$, then from the definition of ϕ and e) it follows that we can extend $\phi: S \rightarrow E$ to be an epimorphism.

Conversely, assume that P is a periodic partial bi-ideal semigroup, E a rectangular band, $P \cap E = \emptyset$ and $\phi: P \rightarrow E$ a homomorphism. By putting $\phi(e) = e$ for all $e \in E$, we can consider ϕ as a mapping from $S = P \cup E$ onto E such that $\phi|_P$ is a homomorphism. We define an operation in S by

$$xy = \begin{cases} xy & \text{as in } P \text{ if } x, y \in P \text{ and } xy \text{ is defined in } P, \\ \phi(x)\phi(y) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let us show that S is a semigroup. Let $x, y, z \in S$. We consider the following three cases:

(i) If one of $(xy)z$ and $x(yz)$ belongs to P , then as P is a partial semigroup, we have that $(xy)z, x(yz) \in P$ and $(xy)z = x(yz)$.

(ii) If both, xy and yz are not defined in P , then $(x,y)z, x(yz) \in E$ and by the definition of the operation in S and the associativity in E we have that

$$(xy)z = [\phi(x)\phi(y)]\phi(z) = \phi(x)[\phi(y)\phi(z)] = x(yz).$$

(iii) Finally, if at least one of xy, yz (for instance xy) is defined in P but neither of $(xy)z$ and $x(yz)$ is defined in P , then

$$\begin{aligned} (xy)z &= \phi(xy)\phi(z) = (\phi\text{-homomorphism}) = \\ &= [\phi(x)\phi(y)]\phi(z) = (\text{associativity in } E) = \\ &= \phi(x)[\phi(y)\phi(z)] = (\text{definition of } \phi, \\ &\text{or } \phi\text{-homomorphism}) = \phi(x)\phi(yz) = x(yz). \end{aligned}$$

Denote the semigroup just constructed by $S = (P, E, \phi)$. We shall prove, now, that $S = (P, E, \phi)$ is a bi-ideal semigroup.

Let B be a subsemigroup of S , $x, y \in B$ and $s \in S$. It is clear that $B^* = B \setminus E$ is a partial subsemigroup of P . So, if $xsy \in P$, then $xsy \in B^* \subseteq B$ since P is a partial bi-ideal semigroup. Let xsy is not defined in P . If $xy \in B^*$, then xy is not defined in P and

$$\begin{aligned} xsy &= \phi(x)\phi(s)\phi(y) = (E \text{ is a rectangular band}) = \\ &= \phi(x)\phi(y) = xy \in B. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, if $xy \in P$, then $xy \in B^*$ and, because of the periodicity of P , $(xy)^k \in E$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $(xy)^k = e$. We have that $e \in B \setminus B^*$ and, since ϕ is a homomorphism, $\phi(x)\phi(y) = \phi(xy) \in E$. Now,

$$\phi(xy) = [\phi(xy)]^k = \phi[(xy)^k] = e.$$

So, again we have that

$$xsy = \phi(x)\phi(y) = \phi(xy) = e \in B,$$

which proves that B is a bi-ideal of S .

In summary, we have proved the following

Theorem 2. A semigroup S is a bi-ideal semigroup iff

$S=(P,E,\phi)$ where P is a periodic partial bi-ideal semigroup, E a rectangular band, $P \cap E = \emptyset$ and $\phi: P \rightarrow E$ a homomorphism. ■

At the end, using Theorem 2, let us quote some examples of bi-ideal semigroups.

Examples

1) Every rectangular band is a bi-ideal semigroup.

2) Let A be a nonempty set, E -rectangular band and $\phi: A \rightarrow E$ any mapping. Then $S=A \cup E$ is a bi-ideal semigroup with an operation defined as follows:

$$xy = \begin{cases} \phi(x)\phi(y) & \text{if } x,y \in A \\ xy & \text{if } x,y \in E \\ \phi(x)y & \text{if } x \in A, y \in E \\ x\phi(y) & \text{if } x \in E, y \in A. \end{cases}$$

3) Let E be a rectangular band and B_k a partial semigroup defined as follows: (i) $x,y \in B_k, x \neq y \implies xy$ is not defined in B_k ; (ii) $x \in B_k \implies x^2 \in B_k$ ($k=2$), $x^2, x^3 \in B_k$ ($k=3$), $x^{2^k}, x^3, x^4 \in B_k$ ($k=4$). Further, let $\phi: B_k \rightarrow E$ be a mapping such that, if $x^k \in B_k$, then $\phi(x^k) = \phi(x)$. Let us extend ϕ to a mapping from $S=B_k \cup E$ onto E by $\phi(e) = e$ for all $e \in E$. If we define an operation in S by $xy = \phi(x)\phi(y)$, then S will be a bi-ideal semigroup.

R E F E R E N C E S

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