# Some Remarks on Generalized Inverse \*-Semigroups

島根大学総合理工学部 今岡 輝男 (Teruo Imaoka) 飯貝 高史 (Takashi Iigai) Department of Mathematics, Shimane University Matsue, Shimane 690-8504, Japan

#### 1 Preliminaries

A semigroup S with a unary operation  $*: S \to S$  is called a regular \*-semigroup if it satisfies the conditions:

- $(1) \ (a^*)^* = a,$
- (2)  $(ab)^* = b^*a^*$
- $(3) \ aa^*a = a$

for any  $a, b \in S$ .

Let S be a regular \*-semigroup. An idempotent e in S is called a projection if  $e^* = e$ . For a subset A of S, denote the set of projections of A by P(A).

A regular \*-semigroup S is called a generalized inverse \*-semigroup if E(S), the set of idempotents of S, satisfies the identity:

$$x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 = x_1 x_3 x_2 x_4 \tag{1.1}$$

Such a semigroup is orthodox in the usual sense that  $E(S)E(S) \subseteq E(S)$ .

Result 1.1 ([12]) A regular \*-semigroup S is a generalized inverse \*-semigroup if, and only if. P(S) satisfies the identity (1.1).

Let S be a regular \*-semigroup. For  $a, b \in S$ , define a relation  $\leq$  on S by

$$a < b \Leftrightarrow a = eb = bf$$
 for some  $e, f \in P(S)$ .

Result 1.2 ([5]) Let a and b be elements of a regular \*-semigroup S. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i)  $a \leq b$ .
- (ii)  $aa^* = ba^*$  and  $a^*a = b^*a$ .
- (iii)  $aa^* = ab^*$  and  $a^*a = a^*b$ .
- (iv)  $a = aa^*b = ba^*a$ .

**Result 1.3** ([4]) Let S be a regular \*-semigroup. Then

- (i)  $E(S) = P(S)^2$ . In fact, for any  $e \in E(S)$ , there exist  $f, g \in P(S)$  such that  $f \mathcal{R} e \mathcal{L} g$  and e = fg.
- (ii) For any  $a \in S$  and  $e \in P(S)$ ,  $a^*ea \in P(S)$ .
- (iii) For  $e, f \in P(S)$ ,  $ef \in P(S)$  if, and only if, ef = fe.
- (iv) Each L-class and each R-class in S contains one and only one projection.

Result 1.4 ([8]) Let S be an orthodox semigroup. Then

$$\sigma = \{(a, b) \in S \times S : eae = ebe \text{ for some } e \in E(S)\}$$

is the minimum group congruence on S.

## 2 E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroups

#### $PG^*$ -semigroups

Let (G, X, Y) be a McAlister triple, and let  $\{P_{\alpha} : \alpha \in Y\}$  be a family of disjoint non-empty sets indexed by the elements of Y. Put  $P = \bigcup_{\alpha \in Y} P_{\alpha}$ . For each pair  $\alpha, \beta$  of elements of Y where  $\alpha \geq \beta$ , let  $\rho_{\alpha,\beta} : P_{\alpha} \to P_{\beta}$  be a mapping such that the following two axioms hold:

(PG\*1)  $\rho_{\alpha,\alpha}$  is the identity mapping on  $P_{\alpha}$ .

(PG\*2) If  $\alpha \geq \beta \geq \gamma$  then  $\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\rho_{\beta,\gamma} = \rho_{\alpha,\gamma}$ .

We call such a quintet  $(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  a  $PG^*$ -quintet.

**Proposition 2.1** Let  $(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  be a  $PG^*$ -quintet. Then

$$S = \{ (\alpha, g, x_1, x_2) \in Y \times G \times P \times P : g^{-1}\alpha \in Y, x_1 \in P_\alpha, x_2 \in P_{g^{-1}\alpha} \},$$

with multiplication and a unary operation given by

$$(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2)(\beta, h, y_1, y_2) = (\alpha \wedge g\beta, gh, x_1 \rho_{\alpha, \alpha \wedge g\beta}, y_2 \rho_{h^{-1}\beta, (gh)^{-1}(\alpha \wedge g\beta)}),$$
$$(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2)^* = (g^{-1}\alpha, g^{-1}, x_2, x_1)$$

is an E-unirtary generalized inverse \*-semigroup.

We say that S is a  $PG^*$ -semigroup and denoted by  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$ , or simply by  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P)$ . We now characterise the *Green's relations*  $\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R}$ , the minimum group conguence  $\sigma$  and the natural order  $\leq$  on  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$ .

**Proposition 2.2** Let  $(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2), (\beta, h, y_1, y_2)$  be elements of  $S = PG^*(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha, \beta}\})$ .

- (i)  $(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2) \leq (\beta, h, y_1, y_2)$  if, and only if,  $\alpha \leq \beta, g = h, y_1 \rho_{\beta, \alpha} = x_1, y_2 \rho_{h^{-1}\beta, g^{-1}\alpha} = x_2$ .
- (ii)  $(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2) \sigma(\beta, h, y_1, y_2)$  if, and only if, g = h.
- (iii)  $(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2) \mathcal{L}(\beta, h, y_1, y_2)$  if, and only if,  $g^{-1}\alpha = h^{-1}\beta$  and  $x_2 = y_2$ .
- (iv)  $(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2) \mathcal{R}(\beta, h, y_1, y_2)$  if, and only if,  $\alpha = \beta$  and  $x_1 = y_1$ .

Now we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.3** The semigroup  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  is an E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroup and maximum group homomorphic image isomorphic to G.

## Construction of E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroups

Let S be an E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroup. Put  $G = S/\sigma$ , and denoted its identity by 1. Since E(S) is a minimum group congruence class of S, E(S) is the identity of G. Let  $E(S) \sim \sum \{E_{\alpha} : \alpha \in Y\}$  be the structure decomposition of E(S), that is E(S) is a semilattice Y of rectangular bands  $E_{\alpha}$  ( $\alpha \in Y$ ). Put  $\mathcal{E} = \{E_{\alpha} : \alpha \in Y\}$ . We shall construct  $PG^*$ -quintet.

First, we define a relation  $\rho$  on  $\mathscr{E} \times G$  by

$$(E_{\alpha}, g)\rho(E_{\beta}, h) \Leftrightarrow xx^* \in E_{\alpha} \text{ and } x^*x \in E_{\beta} \text{ for some } x \in g^{-1}h.$$

**Lemma 2.4** The relation  $\rho$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathscr{E} \times G$ .

We shall write  $\mathscr{X}$  for  $(\mathscr{E} \times G)/\rho$ , and denote the  $\rho$ -class of  $\mathscr{E} \times G$  which contains  $(E_{\alpha}, g)$  by  $(E_{\alpha}, g)\rho$ . The following lemmas are immediate.

**Lemma 2.5** For any element  $x \in S$ ,  $xx^* \in E_{\alpha}$ ,  $x^*x \in E_{\beta}$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$ . Then

$$(E_{\alpha},1)\rho(E_{\beta},x\sigma)$$
 and  $(E_{\beta},1)\rho(E_{\alpha},(x\sigma)^{-1})$ .

**Lemma 2.6** Let  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$  and  $g \in G$  such that  $(E_{\alpha}, g)\rho(E_{\beta}, g)$ . Then  $\alpha = \beta$ .

**Proposition 2.7** Let  $E_{\alpha}, E_{\beta}, E_{\gamma} \in \mathscr{E}$  and  $g, h \in G$ . If  $\alpha \leq \beta$  and  $(E_{\beta}, g)\rho(E_{\gamma}, h)$ , then there exists  $\delta \in Y$  such that  $\delta \leq \gamma, (E_{\alpha}, g)\rho(E_{\delta}, h)$ .

We define a relation  $\leq$  on  $\mathscr{X}$  as follows:

$$A \leq B \Leftrightarrow \alpha \leq \beta, (E_{\alpha}, g) \in A, (E_{\beta}, g) \in B$$

for some  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$  and  $g \in G$ . The proof of the following is straightforward from Proposition 2.7 and the definition of  $\leq$ .

**Corollary 2.8** Let  $A \leq B$ , where  $A, B \in \mathcal{X}$ . If  $(E_{\gamma}, h) \in B$ , then there exists  $\delta \in Y$  such that  $\delta \leq \gamma$  and  $(E_{\delta}, h) \in A$ .

**Lemma 2.9** The relation  $\leq$  is a partial order on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

Let

$$\mathscr{Y} = \{(E_{\alpha}, 1)\rho : \alpha \in Y\}.$$

We define an action of G on  $\mathscr{X}$  by order automorphisms. Suppose first that  $(E_{\alpha}, g)\rho(E_{\beta}, h)$ . This means that there exists  $x \in g^{-1}h$  such that  $xx^* \in E_{\alpha}, x^*x \in E_{\beta}$ . Let  $k \in G$ . Then  $x \in (kg)^{-1}(kh)$  and so  $(E_{\alpha}, kg)\rho = (E_{\beta}, kh)\rho$ . We can therefore define  $\circ : G \times \mathscr{X} \to \mathscr{X}$  by

$$k \circ (E_{\alpha}, g)\rho = (E_{\alpha}, kg)\rho.$$

We shall show that the triple  $(G, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$  form a McAlister triple.

**Lemma 2.10** The mapping  $\varphi: Y \to \mathscr{Y}$  defined by  $\alpha \varphi = (E_{\alpha}, 1)\rho$  is an order isomorphism.

**Lemma 2.11** The mapping  $\circ$  is an action of G on  $\mathcal{X}$ , on the left by order automorphisms.

Lemma 2.12 With the above notation:

- (i)  $\mathscr{Y}$  is an order ideal of  $\mathscr{X}$ .
- (ii)  $G \circ \mathscr{Y} = \mathscr{X}$ .
- (iii)  $g \circ \mathcal{Y} \cap \mathcal{Y} \neq \square$  for all  $g \in G$ .

By the lemma above, we have that the triple  $(G, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$  is a McAlister triple. We shall construct  $PG^*$ -quintet by making use of McAlister triple  $(G, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$  and form the  $PG^*$ -semigroup  $PG^*(G, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{Y}, P)$ . Put  $P_{\alpha} = P(E_{\alpha})$  for each  $\alpha \in Y$  and let  $P = \bigcup_{\alpha \in Y} P_{\alpha}$ . For each pair  $\alpha, \beta$  of elements of Y where  $\alpha \geq \beta$ , define the mapping

$$\rho_{\alpha,\beta}: P_{\alpha} \to P_{\beta} \text{ by } e\rho_{\alpha,\beta} = efe \text{ where } f \in P_{\beta}.$$

**Lemma 2.13** With the definition above.  $\rho_{\alpha,\beta}$  is a mapping satisfying the conditions (PG\*1) and (PG\*2).

Thus  $PG^*(G, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$ , constructed above, forms a  $PG^*$ -semigroup.

**Lemma 2.14** For any  $xx^* \in P_{\alpha}$  and  $e \in P_{\beta}$ ,  $xex^* \in P_{\alpha \wedge (x\sigma)\beta}$ .

**Lemma 2.15** The mapping  $\theta: S \to PG^*(G, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  defined by

$$x\theta = ((E_{\alpha}, 1)\rho, x\sigma, xx^*, x^*x),$$

where  $xx^* \in E_{\alpha}$ , is a \*-isomorphism.

Now we have the structure of generalized inverse \*-semigroups.

**Proposition 2.16** A generalized inverse \*-semigroup is E-unitary if, and only if, it is \*-isomorphic to some  $PG^*$ -semigroup.

# 3 The compatibility relations

Let S be a regular \*-semigroup. For all  $s, t \in S$ , the left compatibility relation is defined by

$$s \sim_l t \Leftrightarrow st^* \in E(S)$$
,

the right compatibility relation is defined by

$$s \sim_r t \Leftrightarrow s^*t \in E(S)$$
,

and the compatibility relation, the intersection of the above two relations, is defined by

$$s \sim t \Leftrightarrow st^*, s^*t \in E(S).$$

It is clear that all three relations are reflexive and symmetric, but none of them need be transitive (see Theorem 3.2 for a characterisation of the generalized inverse \*-semigroups having a transitive compatility relation). The next lemma describe some of the basic property of these relations.

**Lemma 3.1** Let S be a generalized inverse \*-semigroup and  $\rho$  be any one of the three relations  $\sim_l$ ,  $\sim_r$ , and  $\sim$ . Then the following two properties hold.

- (i)  $s \rho t$  and  $u \rho v$  imply that  $su \rho tv$ .
- (ii)  $s \le t, u \le v$  and  $t \rho v$  imply that  $s \rho u$ .

**Theorem 3.2** Let S be a generalized inverse \*-semigroup. Then the compatibility relation is transitive if, and only if, S is E-unitary.

**Proof** Suppose that  $\sim$  is transitive. Let  $es \in E(S)$ , where e is an idempotent. Then  $s \sim es$  since elements  $s(es)^*$  and  $s^*es$  are idempotents. Clearly  $es \sim s^*s$ , and so, by our assumption that the compatibility relation is transitive, we have that  $s \sim s^*s$ . But  $s(s^*s)^* = s$ , so that s is an idempotent.

Conversely, suppose that S is E-unitary and  $s \sim t$  and  $t \sim u$ . Clearly  $(s^*t)(t^*u)$  is an idempotent and

$$(s^*t)(t^*u) = s^*u(t^*u)^*(t^*u)$$

But S is E-unitary and so  $s^*u$  is an idempotent. Similarly,  $su^*$  is an idempotent. Hence  $s \sim u$ .

Proposition 3.3 Let S be a regular \*-semigroup. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) The left and right compatibility relations are equal.
- (ii) For all  $s, t \in S$ , we have that  $st \in E(S)$  if, and only if,  $ts \in E(S)$ .

A congruence  $\rho$  on an orthodox semigroup S is said to be idempotent pure if  $a \in S, e \in E(S)$  and  $(a, e) \in \rho$  then a is an idempotent.

**Proposition 3.4** Let S be an E-unitary regular \*-semigroup. Then a congruence  $\rho$  is idempotent pure if, and only if,  $\rho \subseteq \sim$ .

**Proof** Let  $\rho$  be idempotent pure and let  $(a,b) \in \rho$ . Then  $(ab^*,bb^*) \in \rho$ . But  $\rho$  is idempotent pure and  $bb^*$  is an idempotent. Thus  $ab^*$  is an idempotent. Similarly,  $a^*b$  is an idempotent. Thus  $a \sim b$ .

Conversely, let  $\rho$  be a congruence contained in the compatibility relation. Let  $(a, e) \in \rho$ , where e is an idempotent. Then  $a \sim e$ . Thus  $ae^* \in E(S)$ . But  $e^*$  is an idempotent and so a is an idempotent, since S is E-unitary.

## 4 Enlargements

We proved in Section 2, that E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroups are essentially isomorphic to the generalized inverse \*-subsemigroups of  $PG^*$ -semigroups. The point is that if X is a meet semi-lattice, we can form the semigroup  $PG^*(G, X, X, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$ , which contains  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  as a generalized inverse \*-subsemigoup. In the following proposition, we shall describe the abstract relationship between  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  and  $PG^*(G, X, X, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$ .

**Proposition 4.1** Let  $(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  be a  $PG^*$ -quintet, where X is a meet semilattice.

- (i) The idempotents of  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P)$  form an order ideal of  $PG^*(G, X, X, P)$ .
- (ii) If  $(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2) \in PG^*(G, X, X, P)$  is such that

$$(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2)^*(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2), (\alpha, g, x_1, x_2)(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2)^* \in PG^*(G, X, Y, P)$$

then  $(\alpha, g, x_1, x_2) \in PG^*(G, X, Y, P)$ .

(iii) For each projection  $(\alpha, 1, x, x) \in PG^*(G, X, X, P)$  there exists a projection  $(\beta, 1, y, y) \in PG^*(G, X, Y, P)$  such that  $(\alpha, 1, x, x) \mathcal{D}(\beta, 1, y, y)$ .

On the basis of the above proposition, we make the following definition. Let S be a generalized inverse \*-subsemigroup of a generalized inverse \*-semigroup T. We say that T is an *enlargement* of S if the following three axioms hold:

- (E1) E(S) is an order ideal of E(T).
- (E2) If  $t \in T$  and  $t^*t$ ,  $tt^* \in S$  then  $t \in S$ .
- (E3) For every projection  $e \in T$  there exists a projection  $f \in S$  such that  $e \mathcal{D} f$ .

The following is easy to prove.

**Lemma 4.2** Let S be a generalized inverse \*-subsemigroup of T. Then axiom (E1) holds if, and only if, S is an order ideal of T.

We may find a  $PG^*$ -representation of an E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroup.

**Theorem 4.3** Let G be a group and X a semilattice, and let S be a generalized inverse \*-subsemigroup of the generalized inverse \*-semigroup  $PG^*(G, X, X, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$ . Suppose that  $PG^*(G, X, X, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  is an enlargement of S. Let

$$Y = \{\alpha \in X : (\alpha, 1, x, y) \in E(S)\} \text{ and } Q = \{x \in P : (\alpha, 1, x, y) \in E(S)\}.$$

Then  $(G, X, Y, Q, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  is a  $PG^*$ -quintet and  $S = PG^*(G, X, Y, Q, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$ .

## 5 A Structure Theorem

We can now prove the uniqueness of the  $PG^*$ -representation of an E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroup.

**Theorem 5.1** Let  $(G, X, Y, P, \{\rho_{\alpha,\beta}\})$  and  $(G', X', Y', P', \{\rho'_{\alpha',\beta'}\})$  be two  $PG^*$ -quintets. Let  $\theta: G \to G'$  be a group isomorphism and let  $\psi: X \to X'$  be an order isomorphism such that  $\psi|_Y$  is an isomorphism from the semilattice Y onto Y'; now let  $\xi: P \to P'$  be a bijection. Suppose also that, for all g in G,  $\alpha$  in X and x in  $P_{\beta}$ .

$$(g\alpha)\psi = (g\theta)(\alpha\psi),$$
$$(x\rho_{\beta,\gamma})\xi = (x\xi)\rho_{\beta\psi,\gamma\psi},$$

where  $\beta, \gamma \in Y$  such that  $\beta \geq \gamma$ . Then the mapping  $\phi: PG^*(G, X, Y, P) \to PG^*(G', X', Y', P')$  defined by

$$(\alpha, g, x, y)\phi = (\alpha\psi, g\theta, x\xi, y\xi)$$

is a \*-isomorphism. Conversely, every \*-isomorphism from  $PG^*(G, X, Y, P)$  onto  $PG^*(G', X', Y', P')$  is of this type.

## 6 The minimum group congruence

In this subsection, we shall first give an alternative characterization of the minimum group congruence on a generalized inverse \*-semigroup.

**Theorem 6.1** If S is a generalized inverse \*-semigroup, then the relation

$$\sigma = \{(a,b) \in S \times S : eaf = ebf \ \text{ for some } e,f \in P(S)\}$$

is the minimum group congruence on S.

Idempotent pure congruences, the minimum group congruence and E-unitary generalized inverse \*-semigroups are all linked by the following result.

**Theorem 6.2** Let S be a generalized inverse \*-semigroup. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) S is E-unitary.
- (ii)  $\sim = \sigma$ .
- (iii)  $\sigma$  is idempotent pure.
- (iv)  $\sigma(e) = E(S)$  for any idempotent e.

**Proof** (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (iv). Immediate.

(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Let  $a \sim b$ . Then  $ab^*, a^*b \in E(S)$ . Thus

$$(ab^*)(ab^*)^*a(a^*b)(a^*b)^* = ab^*ba^*aa^*bb^*a$$

$$= ab^*ba^*bb^*a$$

$$= ab^*(ba^*)(ba^*)bb^*a$$

$$= (ab^*)(ab^*)^*b(a^*b)(a^*b)^*.$$

Hence  $a \sigma b$ .

Conversely, suppose  $a \sigma b$ . Then eaf = ebf for some  $e, f \in P(S)$  by Theorem 6.1. Thus we have

$$(ebf)(ebf)^* = eafb^*bb^*e = (eab^*)bfb^*e \in E(S).$$

But  $bfb^*e$  is an idempotent. Thus, by (i),  $eab^* \in E(S)$ . By using (i) again, we obtain  $ab^* \in E(S)$  since  $e \in E(S)$ . Similarly,  $a^*b$  is an idempotent.

- (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). Let  $(a, e) \in \sigma$ , where e is an idempotent. Clearly,  $e \sim a^*a$ . But  $\sim = \sigma$  and so  $a \sim a^*a$ . Hence a is an idempotent.
- (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Let  $a \in S$  and  $e \in E(S)$  such that  $ea \in E(S)$ . Then eae = e(eae)e. Thus, by Result 1.4,  $(a, eae) \in \sigma$ . But  $eae = (ea)e \in E(S)$  and so a is an idempotent since  $\sigma$  is idempotent pure.

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