

## ON SEMILATTICE DECOMPOSITIONS OF TERNARY SEMIGROUPS

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The notion of a ternary semilattice is introduced, as well as that of a semilattice congruence in a ternary semigroup. It is then shown that almost all known properties relating semilattice decompositions of binary semigroups generalise to the ternary case.

1. *Semilattice congruences.* Let  $S$  be a ternary semigroup, i.e. an algebra  $S$  with an associative ternary operation

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow xyz.$$

$S$  is called a ternary semilattice if  $S$  is commutative, idempotent and satisfies

$$x^2y = xy^2.$$

A congruence  $\alpha$  on a ternary semigroup  $S$  is called a semilattice congruence if  $S/\alpha$  is a ternary semilattice.

A subset  $I$  of  $S$  is called a completely simple ideal if

$$xyz \in I \Leftrightarrow x \in I \text{ or } y \in I \text{ or } z \in I.$$

$F (\subseteq S)$  is called a filtre in  $S$  if  $I = S \setminus F$  is a completely simple ideal.

We shall first show that the semilattice congruences can be characterised by the class of completely simple ideals.

1.1. Let  $\Sigma$  be the set of completely simple ideals in  $S$ . Then the relation defined by

$$x \alpha y \Leftrightarrow (\forall I \in \Sigma) (x, y \in I \text{ or } x, y \notin I)$$

is a congruence on  $S$ .

*Proof.* Clearly,  $\alpha$  is an equivalence. Since the elements of  $\Sigma$  are completely simple ideals, one obtains easily that  $\alpha$  is a congruence on  $S$ , so it remains to show that  $\alpha$  is a semilattice congruence.

Let  $I \in \Sigma$  and  $x, y, z \in S$ . Since  $I$  is a completely simple ideal, we have:

$$x^3 \in I \Leftrightarrow x \in I; \quad xyz \in I \Leftrightarrow yxz \in I \Leftrightarrow xzy \in I; \quad x^2y \in I \Leftrightarrow xy^2 \in I.$$

It follows that

$$x^3 \alpha x, xyz \alpha yxz \alpha xzy, x^2y \alpha xy^2$$

i.e.  $\alpha$  is a semilattice congruence.  $\blacksquare$

Denote the congruence  $\alpha$  of 1.1 by  $\alpha_\Sigma$ .

We shall now show that the converse of 1.1. is also true, i.e. that:

**1.2.** If  $\alpha$  is a semilattice congruence, then there is a family  $\Sigma$  of completely simple ideals in  $S$  such that  $\alpha = \alpha_\Sigma$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha$  be a semilattice congruence on  $S$  and let associate to each element  $x \in S$  the subset  $F_x$  of  $S$  defined by

$$F_x = \{y \in S \mid x \alpha x^2y\}.$$

We shall show that  $F_x$  is a nonempty filtre in  $S$ . Firstly, it is clear that  $x \in F_x$ . Then, if  $u, v, w \in F_x$ , we have

$$x \alpha x^2w \alpha x(x^2u)w, x^2(x^2u)vw \alpha x^2uvw$$

from which it follows that  $uvw \in F_x$ .

Conversely, let  $uvw \in F_x$ . Then we have

$$x \alpha x^2uvw \alpha x^2uvw^3 = x^2uvw^2 \alpha xw^2,$$

i.e.  $w \in F_x$ . We obtain similarly that  $u, v \in F_x$ . Thus, we proved that  $F_x$  is a filtre. Put  $I_x = S \setminus F_x$  and let  $\Sigma_\alpha = \{I_x \mid x \in S\}$ . So  $\Sigma_\alpha$  is a set of completely simple ideals in  $S$ . We shall show that  $\alpha = \alpha_{\Sigma_\alpha}$ .

Let  $y \alpha z$ ,  $I_x \in \Sigma_\alpha$  and  $y \notin I_x$ . Therefore  $y \in F_x$ , i.e.  $x \alpha x^2y$ , from which, since  $x^2y \alpha x^2z$ , we get  $z \in F_x$ , i.e.  $z \notin I_x$ . We have thus shown that  $\alpha \subseteq \alpha_{\Sigma_\alpha}$ . Conversely, let  $x \alpha_{\Sigma_\alpha} y$ ; then by  $x \in F_x$ , we have  $y \in F_x$ , i.e.  $x \alpha x^2y$ . For the same reason,  $y \in F_y$  implies  $x \in F_y$ , i.e.  $y \alpha y^2x$ . But  $x^2y \alpha y^2x$ , so  $x \alpha y$ .

Therefore  $\alpha = \alpha_{\Sigma_\alpha}$ .  $\blacksquare$

Let us note that:

**1.3.** If  $S \notin \Sigma_1, S \notin \Sigma_2$ , then  $\alpha_{\Sigma_1} = \alpha_{\Sigma_2} \Leftrightarrow \Sigma_1 = \Sigma_2$ .  $\blacksquare$

## 2. Least semilattice congruence.

Clearly, the intersection  $\cap$  of all semilattice congruences is a semilattice congruence. So:

**2.1.**  $x \equiv_n y$  if and only if for every completely simple ideal  $I$  in  $S$  we have  $x, y \in I$  or  $x, y \notin I$ .

We shall give another description of  $\equiv_n$ .

Let us first denote by  $N(x)$  the minimal filtre in  $S$  in which  $x$  is contained, i.e.  $N(x)$  is the filtre generated by  $x$ .

A direct consequence of 2.1. and the definition of  $N(x)$  is:

**2.2.**  $x \equiv_n y \Leftrightarrow N(x) = N(y)$ . ■

The classes of the congruence  $\equiv_n$  are called  $n$ -classes. If  $x \in S$ , then the  $n$ -class which contains  $x$  is denoted by  $N_x$ . Therefore we have:

**2.3.** i)  $N_{xyx} = N_{yxx} = N_{xxy}$ ;      ii)  $N_x^3 = N_x$ ;  
iii)  $N_{xy}^2 = N_{yx}^2$ ;      iv) is a subsemigroup of  $S$ .

As in the binary case, we say that  $S$  is  $n$ -simple if  $S$  has no proper completely simple ideals.

Properties analogues to those in the binary case are valid in ternary semigroups. These, in the author's opinion, justify the definition of the notion of a ternary semigroup. Governed by the fact that the proofs of these properties are similar (as was the case with the previous ones) to those in the binary case, we shall only formulate some of them.

The following theorem gives a constructive way of obtaining  $N(x)$  which has an inductive nature.

**2.4.** Let  $x$  be any element in  $S$ . Let  $N_1(x) = \{x^{2k+1} \mid k = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  and let  $N_{n+1}(x)$  be the ternary semigroup generated by all elements  $y$  in  $S$  such that  $N_n(x) \cap J(y) \neq \emptyset$ , where  $J(y) = y \cup S^2y \cup SyS \cup yS^2 \cup S^2yS^2$ . Then

$$N_x = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n(x). \quad \blacksquare$$

**2.5.** If  $I$  is an ideal of some  $n$ -class of a ternary semigroup  $S$ , then  $I$  has no proper completely simple ideals.

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a ternary semigroup,  $z \in S$  and  $I$  an ideal of  $N_z$ . It is enough to show that  $I$  is the only filtre of  $I$ . Let  $F$  be a filtre of  $I$ , a any element of  $F$  and let

$$T = \{x \in S \mid a^2x^2 \in F\}.$$

We shall show that  $T$  is a filtre of  $S$ . Let  $u, v, w \in T$ . By the inclusion  $F \subseteq I \subseteq N_z$  we have

$$N_{a^3u^2} = N_{au^2} = N_{a^2u} = N_z.$$

Since  $F$  is a filtre, we easily conclude that  $a^2uvw, uvwa^2 \in F$ . But then

$$a[a^2(uvw)] [(uvw)a^2] = [a^3(uvw)^2]aa \in F$$

so  $a^3(uvw)^2 \in F$ . Therefore  $uvw \in T$ .

Conversely, let  $uvw \in T$ ; this implies that  $a^2(uvw)^3 \in F$ . From

$$N_{a^3(uvw)^2} = N_{a(uvw)^2} = N_{a^2(uvw)} = N_x$$

we get  $a^2(uvw) \in N_x$ . Since

$$a[a^2(uvw)] [(uvw)a^2] = [a^3(uvw)^2]aa \in F$$

it follows that  $(uvw)a^2 \in F$ . From there we easily get that  $u, v, w \in T$ . We have thus proved that  $T$  is a filtre.

It is clear that  $F \subseteq T \cap I$ . Let  $x \in T \cap I$ . Then  $a^3x^2 \in F$ . Since  $F$  is a filtre, it follows that  $x \in F$ . But from  $a \in N_x \cap T$  we have  $N_x \subseteq T$ . So  $T \cap I = I$  and finally  $F = I$ .

**2.6.** If  $I$  is a completely simple ideal in  $S$  and if  $I \cap N_x = \emptyset$ , then  $I \cap N_x$  is completely simple. ■

As a consequence of 2.6. we get:

**2.7.** Every completely simple ideal of a ternary semigroup  $S$  is a union of  $n$  — classes. ■

If  $Y_s$  denotes the set of all  $n$  — classes of a ternary semigroup  $S$  we have.

**2.8.** If  $I$  is a completely simple ideal of a ternary semigroup  $S$ , then  $J = \{N_x \in Y_s \mid x \in I\}$  is a completely simple ideal in  $Y_s$ . Conversely, if  $J$  is a completely simple ideal in  $Y_s$ , then  $I = \{x \in S \mid N_x \in J\}$  is a completely simple ideal in  $S$ . ■

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## ПОЛУМРЕЖНИ ДЕКОМПОЗИЦИИ НА ТЕРНАРНИТЕ ПОЛУГРУПИ

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### Резиме

Нека  $S$  е тернарна полугрупа, т.е. алгебра со една тернарна асоцијативна операција  $(x, y, z) \rightarrow xyz$ . За  $S$  велме дека е тернарна полумрежа ако  $S$  е идемпотентна и комутативна тернарна полугрупа, во која важи идентитетот  $x^2y = xy^2$ . За едно непразно подмножество  $I$  од  $S$  велме дека е комплетно прост идеал на  $S$  ако

$$x, y, z \in S, \quad xyz \in I \Rightarrow x \in I, \quad y \in I, \quad z \in I$$

Една тернарна потполугрупа  $F$  од  $S$  се вика филтер, ако  $S \setminus F$  е комплетно прост идеал на  $S$  или  $S \setminus F = \emptyset$ .

Со 1.1. и 1.2. е дадена карактеризација на тернарните полумрежни декомпозиции од  $S$  со помош на комплетно простите идеали од  $S$ .

За  $x \in S$ , нека  $N(x)$  е најмалиот филтер што го содржи  $x$  и нека

$$N_x = \{y \in S \mid N(x) = N(y)\}$$

Ако со  $Y_s$  го означиме множеството од сите различни множества  $N_x$  и ако на  $Y_s$  дефинираме операција со:  $N_x N_y N_z = N_{xyz}$ , тогаш  $Y_s$  станува тернарна полумрежа (2.3). Натаму, со 2.4. е даден еден конструктивен начин за добивање на  $N(x)$ . Во 2.5. покажваме дека нема идеал на  $N_x$  којшто содржи вистински комплетно прост идеал. На крајот, со 2.8 е покажано дека постои обратно еднозначна кореспонденција меѓу парцијално подреденото множество од сите комплетно прости идеали од  $S$  и парцијално подреденото множество од сите комплетно прсти идеали од  $Y_s$ .