

## Note on \*-Regular Semigroups

Miyuki YAMADA

Department of Mathematics, Shimane University, Matsue, Japan

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This paper is a continuation and a supplement to the previous paper [3]. For any element  $x$  of a \*-regular semigroup (with \*-operation\*) in the sense of K. S. S. Nambooripad and F. J. C. M. Pastijn [1], there exists a unique inverse  $x^+$  of  $x$  such that  $x^* \mathcal{H} x^+$ . The main purpose of this paper is to investigate several conditions for a \*-regular semigroup  $S$  to be a special \*-regular semigroup with respect to the unary operation  $+: S \rightarrow S$ .

### §0. Introduction

A regular semigroup  $S$  equipped with a unary operation  $+: S \rightarrow S$  (hereafter, we denote it by  $(S, +)$ ) is called a *\*-regular semigroup* if

- (0.1) (1)  $(x^*)^* = x$  for all  $x \in S$ ,  
(2)  $(xy)^* = y^*x^*$  for all  $x, y \in S$ ,  
(3) for any  $x \in S$ , there exists a unique inverse  $x^+$  such that  $x^* \mathcal{H} x^+$ .

In a \*-regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  it is easy to see from [1] that  $(xx^+)^* = xx^+$ ,  $(x^+x)^* = x^+x$ ,  $(x^+)^+ = x$  and  $(x^*)^+ = (x^+)^*$  for any element  $x \in S$ . It is also obvious that each  $L$ -class [ $R$ -class] contains a unique projection (that is, an idempotent  $e$  such that  $e^* = e$ ). Let  $P(S)$  and  $E(S)$  be the set of all projections of  $(S, *)$  and the set of all idempotents of  $(S, *)$  respectively. It should be noted that  $p = p^* = p^+$  for all  $p \in P(S)$ . We can consider the unary operation  $+: S \rightarrow S$  defined by  $+: x \rightarrow x^+$ . This operation  $+$  is called *the inverse operation* induced by  $*$ . The semigroup  $S$  with  $+$  (we denote it by  $(S, +)$ ) is not necessarily a \*-regular semigroup with respect to  $+$ . If a \*-regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  satisfies the following condition:

$$(0.2) \quad x^* = x^+ \quad \text{for all } x \in S,$$

then  $(S, *)$  is called a *special \*-regular semigroup*.<sup>1)</sup> It is obvious that a \*-band (that is, a \*-regular semigroup in which every element is an idempotent)  $(B, *)$  is necessarily special. In case where a (special) \*-regular semigroup is orthodox, it is called a *(special) \*-orthodox semigroup*.

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1) In [3], we used the term "a regular \*-semigroup" for this  $(S, *)$ .

### § 1. Basic properties

Let  $(S, *)$  be a  $*$ -regular semigroup. It follows from [3] that  $(S, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup if

- (1.1) (1)  $x^+P(S)x \subset P(S)$ ,  
 (2)  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$ .

In this case, we have the following; Let  $\overline{P(S)} = \{p \in E(S) : p^+ = p\}$ . Of course,  $P(S) \subset \overline{P(S)}$ . Conversely,  $p \in \overline{P(S)}$  implies  $p^+ = p$ . Since  $p^* \not\mathcal{H} p^+$  and both  $p^*$  and  $p^+$  are idempotents,  $p^* = p^+ = p$ . Thus,  $p \in P(S)$ . Consequently, we have  $P(S) = \overline{P(S)}$ .

In a  $*$ -orthodox semigroup  $(A, *)$ ,  $e^+ = e^*$  for each  $e \in E(A)$ . For, let  $e \in E(A)$ . Then,  $e^*$  is also an idempotent. On the other hand,  $e^+$  is an idempotent since every inverse of an idempotent in an orthodox semigroup is also an idempotent. Since  $e^* \not\mathcal{H} e^+$  and an  $H$ -class contains at most one idempotent,  $e^* = e^+$ . However, a  $*$ -regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  satisfying  $e^+ = e^*$  for  $e \in E(S)$  is not necessarily orthodox (see N. R. Reilly [2]).

LEMMA 1. *Let  $(S, *)$  be a  $*$ -regular semigroup. The following three conditions (1)–(3) are equivalent:*

- (1.2) (1) For any  $p, q \in P(S)$ ,  $(pq)^* = (pq)^+$ .  
 (2) For any  $p, q \in P(S)$ ,  $(pq)^+ = qp$ .  
 (3)  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$ , that is,  $(pq, qp)$  is a regular pair for any  $p, q \in P(S)$ .

PROOF. (1) $\Leftrightarrow$ (2):  $(pq)^+ = (pq)^* \Leftrightarrow (pq)^+ = qp$ .  
 (2) $\Leftrightarrow$ (3):  $(pq)^+ = qp$  implies  $pq(qp)pq = pq$ . Hence,  $(pq)^2 = pq$ , whence  $pq \in E(S)$ . Conversely, let  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$ . For  $p, q \in P(S)$ ,  $H_{(pq)^*} = H_{(pq)^+}$  (where  $H_x$  denotes the  $H$ -class containing  $x$ ). Now, since  $pq \in E(S)$ , it follows that  $pq$  is an inverse of  $pq$ . Since  $H_{(pq)^*} = H_{pq} = H_{(pq)^+}$  and since there exists at most one inverse of  $pq$  in each  $H$ -class, we have  $(pq)^+ = qp$ .

LEMMA 2. *For a  $*$ -regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  in which  $e^* = e^+$  for  $e \in E(S)$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1.3) (1) Any one of (1.2).  
 (2)  $P(S)^2 = E(S)$ .  
 (3) For any  $u \in E(S)^2$ ,  $u^* = u^+$ .

PROOF. (2) $\Rightarrow$ (1): Obvious. (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2): For any  $e \in E(S)$ ,  $e = ee^+e = ee^*e = ee^*e^*e = (ee^+)(e^+e)$ . Since both  $ee^+$  and  $e^+e$  are projections,  $e \in P(S)^2$ . Hence,

$E(S) \subset P(S)^2$ . Since  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$  is satisfied by the assumption, we have  $P(S)^2 = E(S)$ . (3) $\Rightarrow$ (1): Since  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)^2$ ,  $(pq)^* = (pq)^+$  for any  $p, q \in P(S)$ . (1) $\Rightarrow$ (3): This follows from the following theorem.

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $(S, *)$  be a \*-regular semigroup. Then, the subsemigroup  $(\langle E(S) \rangle, *)^2$  is a special \*-regular semigroup if and only if  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$  and  $e^* = e^+$  for  $e \in E(S)$ .*

**PROOF.** It is well-known that  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  is a regular semigroup and  $\langle E(S) \rangle \ni x$  implies  $x^* \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ . Hence,  $(\langle E(S) \rangle, *)$  is also a \*-regular semigroup. The "if" part: It is obvious that  $P(\langle E(S) \rangle) = P(S)$ . For  $e \in E(S)$ ,  $e^+ P(S) e = e^* P(S) e \subset P(S)$ . For, let  $e^* f e \in e^* P(S) e$  where  $f \in P(S)$ . Then,  $e^* f e e^* f e = e^+ ((e^+) f) ((e^+) f) e = e^+ e e^+ f e$  (since  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$ )  $= e^* f e$ . Further,  $(e^+ f e)^* = (e^* f e)^* = e^* f e = e^* f e$ . Hence,  $e^+ P(S) e \subset P(S)$ . It is obvious that for any  $e \in E(S)$  there exists a unique  $e' \in V(e)$  (the set of inverses of  $e$ ) such that  $ee'$ ,  $e'e \in P(S)$  (in fact, this  $e'$  is  $e^+$ ). Therefore,  $P(S)$  is a  $p$ -system in  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  (see [3]). Hence,  $(\langle E(S) \rangle, +)$  is special \*-regular semigroup. If  $x \in (\langle E(S) \rangle, +)$ , then  $x = e_1 e_2 \dots e_n$  for some  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n \in E(S)$ . Now,  $x^* = e_n^* \dots e_2^* e_1^* = e_n^+ \dots e_2^+ e_1^+ = x^+$ . Hence,  $(\langle E(S) \rangle, *)$  is a special \*-regular semigroup.

**LEMMA 4.** *For a \*-regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  satisfying  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1.4) (1) For any  $x \in S$ ,  $x^+ P(S) x \subset P(S)$ .  
 (2) For any  $e \in P(S)$  and any  $x \in S$ ,  $(ex)^+ = x^+ e$ .  
 (3) For any  $e \in P(S)$  and any  $x \in S$ ,  $x^* e \mathcal{R} x^+ e$ .  
 (4) For any  $e \in P(S)$  and any  $x \in S$ ,  $ex^* \mathcal{L} ex^+$ .  
 (5) For any  $e \in P(S)$  and any  $x \in S$ ,  $ex^* \mathcal{H} ex^+$ .  
 (6) For any  $e \in P(S)$  and any  $x \in S$ ,  $x^* e \mathcal{H} x^+ e$ .

**PROOF.** (3) $\Rightarrow$ (4) $\Rightarrow$ (5) $\Rightarrow$ (6) $\Rightarrow$ (3): Let  $x^* e \mathcal{R} x^+ e$  for  $e \in P(S)$  and  $x \in S$ . Then,  $ex \mathcal{L} e(x^*)^+$ . Putting  $y = x^*$ , we have  $ey^* \mathcal{L} ey^+$ . Next, assume the condition (4). Then,  $x^* \mathcal{H} x^+$  implies  $x^* \mathcal{R} x^+$ , whence  $ex^* \mathcal{R} ex^+$ . Therefore,  $ex^* \mathcal{H} ex^+$ . Next,  $ex^* \mathcal{H} ex^+$  implies  $x e \mathcal{H} (x^+)^* e$ . Putting  $x^* = y$ , we have  $y^* e \mathcal{H} y^+ e$ . It is obvious that (6) $\Rightarrow$ (3). Next, we shall show (3) $\Rightarrow$ (2): Since  $x^* e \mathcal{L} x^+ e$ ,  $(ex)^+ \mathcal{H} (ex)^* = x^* e \mathcal{H} x^+ e$ . Since  $x^+ e \mathcal{H} (ex)^+$  and since both  $(ex)^+$  and  $x^+ e$  are inverses of  $ex$ , we have  $x^+ e = (ex)^+$ . (2) $\Rightarrow$ (1): Let  $p \in P(S)$ . Then,  $x^+ p x = (x^+ p)(p x) = (p x)^+ p x \in P(S)$ . Thus,  $x^+ P(S) x \subset P(S)$ . (1) $\Rightarrow$ (6): For any  $p \in P(S)$ ,  $x^+ p x \in P(S)$ . Hence,  $x^+ p$  is an inverses of  $p x$  such that  $(p x)(x^+ p) = (p x)(p x)^+$  and  $(x^+ p)(p x) = (p x)^+(p x)$ . Thus,  $x^* p = (p x)^* \mathcal{H} (p x)^+ \mathcal{H} x^+ p$ .

**REMARK.** Let  $(S, *)$  be a \*-orthodox semigroup. For  $e \in E(S)$ ,  $e^*$  is an idem-

2) The notation  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  means the subsemigroup of  $S$  generated by  $E(S)$ .

potent. Since  $S$  is orthodox,  $e^+ \in E(S)$ . Since both  $e^*$  and  $e^+$  are contained in the same  $H$ -class,  $e^* = e^+$ . Further,  $e = ee^*e^*e = ee^+e^+e$ . Hence,  $E(S) \subset P(S)^2$ . Since  $P(S)^2 \subset E(S)$ , we have  $P(S)^2 = E(S)$ . Therefore, any  $*$ -orthodox semigroup  $(S, *)$  satisfies each one of (1.3).

## §2. Main results

The following is obvious:

**THEOREM 5.** *An  $H$ -degenerate<sup>3)</sup>  $*$ -regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  is special.*

Now,

**THEOREM 6.** *For a  $*$ -regular semigroup  $(S, *)$ ,  $(S, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup if and only if  $S$  satisfies one of (1.2) and one of (1.4).*

**PROOF.** The “if” part follows from (1.1). The “only if” part: Suppose that  $(S, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup. Let  $\overline{P(S)} = \{p \in E(S) : p^+ = p\}$ . Then,  $\overline{P(S)} = P(S)$ . Since  $(S, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup,  $x^+\overline{P(S)}x = x^+P(S)x \subset P(S)$  and  $P(S)^2 = \overline{P(S)}^2 \subset E(S)$  are satisfied (see [3]). Hence,  $S$  satisfies the conditions of (1.2) and (1.4).

**REMARK.** Let  $G$  be a group having an element  $a$  of order 2 which is not in the center (for example, let  $G$  be the symmetric group on the set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and let  $a = (12)$ ). Let  $*$ :  $G \rightarrow G$  be the mapping defined by  $x^* = a^{-1}x^{-1}a$ . Then,  $x^+ = x^{-1}$  for all  $x \in G$ . Now,  $(G, *)$  is a  $*$ -regular semigroup, but it is not a special  $*$ -regular semigroup. On the other hand,  $(G, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup. By this example, we have the following: There exists a  $*$ -regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  such that  $(S, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup, but  $(S, *)$  is not a special  $*$ -regular semigroup.

**COROLLARY 7.** *For a  $*$ -orthodox semigroup  $(S, *)$ ,  $(S, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup if and only if  $S$  satisfies one of (1.4).*

**PROOF.** Since  $S$  is orthodox,  $e^* = e^+$  for all  $e \in E(S)$ . Further,  $P(S) \subset E(S)^2$  is obvious. Therefore, this follows from Theorem 6.

A semigroup  $T$  is said to be  $H$ -compatible if Green’s  $H$ -relation on  $T$  is a congruence.

**THEOREM 8.** *For an  $H$ -compatible  $*$ -regular semigroup  $(S, *)$ ,  $(S, +)$  is a special  $*$ -regular semigroup if and only if  $S$  satisfies one of (1.2).*

**PROOF.** The “only if” part follows from Theorem 6. The “if” part: Since  $S$  is  $H$ -compatible,  $x^*e \mathcal{H} x^+e$  is satisfied for  $x \in S$  and for  $e \in P(S)$  since  $x^* \mathcal{H} x^+$  is always

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3) A semigroup  $S$  is called  $H$ -degenerate if each  $H$ -class of  $S$  consists of a single element.

satisfied. Therefore,  $S$  satisfies the condition of Theorem 5. Hence,  $(S, +)$  is a special \*-regular semigroup.

**COROLLARY 9.** *An  $H$ -compatible \*-orthodox semigroup  $(S, *)$  is a special \*-orthodox semigroup with respect to  $+$ . That is,  $(xy)^+ = y^+x^+$  is satisfied for any  $x, y \in S$ .*

**REMARK.** Let  $S = M(G; I \times I; P)$  be a Rees  $I \times I$  matrix semigroup over a group  $G$  with sandwich matrix  $P$ . Assume that  $P = (p_{ij})$  satisfies  $p_{ji} = p_{jj}p_{ij}^{-1}p_{ii}$  for all  $i, j \in I$ . Now, suppose that  $S = M(G; I \times I; P)$  is a \*-regular semigroup with respect to a unary operation  $*$ :  $S \rightarrow S$ . We can assume that for  $(x)_{ij} \in S$ ,  $(x)_{ij}^* = (y)_{ji}$  for some  $y \in G$ . Now, it is easy to see by simple calculation that  $(x)_{ij}^+ = (p_{jj}^{-1}x^{-1}p_{ii}^{-1})_{ji}$ . Therefore, the set  $P(S)$  of projections of  $(S, *)$  is  $\{(x)_{ij}(x)_{ij}^+ : (x)_{ij} \in S\} = \{(p_{ii}^{-1})_{ii} : i \in I\}$ . Now, for  $(p_{ii}^{-1})_{ii}, (p_{jj}^{-1})_{jj} \in P(S)$ ,  $(p_{ii}^{-1})_{ii}(p_{jj}^{-1})_{jj} = (p_{ii}^{-1}p_{ij}p_{jj}^{-1})_{ij} = (p_{jj}^{-1})_{ij} \in E(S)$ . Since  $S$  is clearly  $H$ -compatible, it follows from the theorem above that  $(S, +)$  is a special \*-regular semigroup.

We also obtain the following:

**THEOREM 10.** *If a \*-regular semigroup  $(S, *)$  satisfies*

$$(2.1) \quad (1) \quad P(S)^2 \subset E(S),$$

$$(2) \quad hE(S)h \cap E(S) \subset P(S) \quad \text{for all } h \in P(S),$$

*then  $(S, +)$  is a special \*-regular semigroup.*

**PROOF.** For any  $x \in S$ ,  $x^+x \in P(S)$ . Put  $x^+x = h$ . Now,  $x^+P(S)x = h(x^+P(S)x)h \subset hE(S)h \cap E(S) \subset P(S)$  since  $x^+P(S)x \in E(S)$ . Hence, it follows from Theorem 6 that  $(S, +)$  is a special \*-regular semigroup.

**COROLLARY 11.** *If a \*-orthodox semigroup  $(S, *)$  satisfies*

$$(2.2) \quad hE(S)h \subset P(S) \quad \text{for all } h \in P(S),$$

*then  $(S, +)$  is a special \*-regular semigroup.*

**PROOF.** Obvious.

**REMARK.** If  $(S, *)$  is a \*-orthodox semigroup in which  $E(S)$  is a normal band (that is,  $(S, *)$  is a generalized inverse \*-regular semigroup). Let  $e \in E(S)$  and  $h \in P(S)$ . There exist  $p, q \in P(S)$  such that  $pq = e$  (in fact, take  $p = ee^+$  and  $q = e^+e$ ). Now,  $(heh)^* = (hpqh)^* = hqph = hpqh = heh$ . Hence,  $heh \in P(S)$ . Therefore,  $(S, +)$  is a special \*-orthodox semigroup. This gives another proof for Theorem 3.2 (and its corollary) of [3].

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