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# Semirings Embedded in a Completely Regular Semiring

M. K. SEN & S. K. MAITY <sup>1</sup>

*Department of Pure Mathematics, University of Calcutta  
35, Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata-700019, India*

*e-mail: <sup>1</sup>senmk@cal3.vsnl.net.in*

*<sup>2</sup>sskmaity@yahoo.com*

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## Abstract

Recently, we have shown that a semiring  $S$  is completely regular if and only if  $S$  is a union of skew-rings. In this paper we show that a semiring  $S$  satisfying  $a^2 = na$  can be embedded in a completely regular semiring if and only if  $S$  is additive separative.

**Key words:** Completely regular semiring, skew-ring, b-lattice, archimedean semiring, additive separative semiring.

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## 1 Introduction

Recall that a semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a type (2,2) algebra whose semigroup reducts  $(S, +)$  and  $(S, \cdot)$  are connected by ring like distributivity, that is,

$$a(b + c) = ab + ac \quad \text{and} \quad (b + c)a = ba + ca$$

for all  $a, b, c \in S$ . A semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is called a Boolean semiring if  $a^2 = a$  for all  $a \in S$ . A semiring  $S$  is called additive cancellative if the additive reduct  $(S, +)$  is a cancellative semigroup, i.e., for  $a, b, c \in S$ ,  $a + b = a + c$  implies  $b = c$ .

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In this paper, we call an element  $a$  of a semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  completely regular if there exists an element  $x \in S$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (i)  $a = a + x + a$
- (ii)  $a + x = x + a$
- (iii)  $a(a + x) = a + x$

Naturally, a semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a completely regular semiring if every element  $a$  of  $S$  is completely regular. There are plenty of examples of completely regular semirings, for example, every ring is a completely regular semiring and every distributive lattice is also a completely regular semiring. By definition, if  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a completely regular semiring then its additive reduct  $(S, +)$  is a completely regular semigroup but the converse may not be true. For example, if we let  $(S, +, \cdot)$  be a semiring whose additive reduct  $(S, +)$  is an idempotent semigroup and the multiplicative reduct  $(S, \cdot)$  is not a band, then we can immediately see that  $(S, +)$  is completely regular but the semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  itself is not completely regular. Throughout this paper, we denote the set of all inverse elements of  $a$  in the regular semigroup  $(S, +)$  by  $V^+(a)$ . As usual, we denote the Green's  $\mathcal{H}$ -relations on  $(S, +)$  by  $\mathcal{H}^+$

The following useful concept is due to M. P. Grillet [2].

**Definition 1.1** A semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is called a skew-ring if its additive reduct  $(S, +)$  is a group, not necessarily an abelian group.

We have obtained the following result in [4].

**Theorem 1.2** *The following statements on a semiring  $S$  are equivalent.*

- (I)  $S$  is completely regular.
- (II) Every  $\mathcal{H}^+$ -class is a skew-ring.
- (III)  $S$  is union (disjoint) of skew-rings.

**Corollary 1.3** *An additive commutative semiring  $S$  is completely regular if and only if  $S$  is union of rings.*

## 2 b-lattice decomposition

We consider the additive commutative semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  such that for each  $a \in S$  there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that

$$a^2 = na. \tag{A}$$

Clearly, every Boolean semiring is a semiring which satisfies condition (A). Also the semiring of all natural numbers is a semiring of this kind which is not Boolean.

We now consider the following examples:

**Example 2.1** Let  $S = \mathbb{N} \times \{1, 2, 3\}$ . On  $S$  we define addition and multiplication by

$$(a, i) + (b, j) = (a + b, \max\{i, j\})$$

and

$$(a, i) \cdot (b, j) = (ab, \min\{i, j\}).$$

Then  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a semiring satisfying condition (A).

**Example 2.2** Let  $S = \{0, a, b\}$  be a semiring with the following Cayley tables:

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| + | 0 | a | b |
| 0 | 0 | a | b |
| a | a | 0 | b |
| b | b | b | b |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| · | 0 | a | b |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| a | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| b | 0 | 0 | b |

Then  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a semiring which satisfies condition (A) but not Boolean.

**Definition 2.3** A semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is called a b-lattice if  $(S, +)$  is a semilattice and  $(S, \cdot)$  is a band. Moreover, a congruence  $\rho$  on a semiring  $S$  is called a b-lattice congruence if  $S/\rho$  is a b-lattice. A semiring  $S$  is called a b-lattice  $Y$  of semirings  $S_\alpha (\alpha \in Y)$  if  $S$  admits a b-lattice congruence  $\rho$  on  $S$  such that  $Y = S/\rho$  and each  $S_\alpha$  is a  $\rho$ -class.

**Definition 2.4** Let  $(S, +, \cdot)$  be a semiring. We define a relation  $\eta$  on  $S$  by  $a \eta b$  if and only if there exist  $x, y \in S^0$  and positive integers  $m, n$  such that  $a + x = mb$  and  $b + y = na$ . Also, we define a relation  $\sigma$  on  $S$  by  $a \sigma b$  if and only if there exists a positive integer  $n$  such that  $a + nb = (n + 1)b$  and  $b + na = (n + 1)a$ .

It should be noted that if there exist positive integers  $m, n$  such that  $a + mb = (m + 1)b$  and  $b + na = (n + 1)a$  then  $a \sigma b$ . For if, say  $m < n$ , then we can add  $a + mb = (m + 1)b$  by  $(n - m)b$  and obtain  $a + nb = (n + 1)b$ .

**Definition 2.5** A semiring  $S$  is called archimedean if  $(S, +)$  is an archimedean semigroup i.e., for any  $a, b \in S$  there exist  $x, y \in S$  and positive integers  $m, n$  such that  $a + x = mb$  and  $b + y = na$ .

**Lemma 2.6** Let  $S$  be a semiring satisfying (A). Then

(i)  $\eta$  is a congruence on  $S$  and  $S/\eta$  is the maximal b-lattice homomorphic image of  $S$ .

(ii)  $S$  is uniquely expressible as a b-lattice  $T$  of archimedean semirings  $S_\alpha (\alpha \in T)$ . The b-lattice  $T$  is isomorphic with the maximal b-lattice homomorphic image  $S/\eta$  of  $S$  and  $S_\alpha (\alpha \in T)$  are equivalent classes of  $\eta$  in  $S$ .

**Proof** (i) From Theorem 4.12 in [1], it follows that  $\eta$  is a semilattice congruence on  $(S, +)$ . Let  $a \eta b$  and  $c \in S$ . Then there exist  $x, y \in S^0$  and positive integers  $m, n$  such that  $a + x = mb$  and  $b + y = na$ . This leads to  $ac + xc = m(bc)$  and  $bc + yc = n(ac)$ . Thus  $ac \eta bc$ . Similarly, we can show that  $ca \eta cb$ . Hence  $\eta$  is a congruence on the semiring  $S$ .

Since  $S$  satisfies  $a^2 = na$  so  $a^2 \eta na$ . Again since  $\eta$  is a semilattice congruence on  $(S, +)$ , it follows that  $na \eta a$ . Thus,  $a^2 \eta a$  and hence  $\eta$  is a b-lattice congruence on the semiring  $S$ .

$S/\eta$  is the maximal homomorphic image of  $S$  follows from Theorem 4.12 in [1].

(ii) By (i) of this Lemma,  $\eta$  is a b-lattice congruence on  $S$ . By Theorem 4.13 in [1], each  $\eta$ -class  $S_\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in S/\eta$ ) is archimedean semigroup under addition. We show that each  $S_\alpha$  is a semiring. For this let  $b, c \in \eta(a)$ , where  $\eta(a)$  is the  $\eta$ -class of  $a \in S$ . Then  $b \eta a$  and  $c \eta a$ . This leads to  $bc \eta a^2 \eta a$ . So  $bc \in \eta(a)$  and hence  $(S_\alpha, +, \cdot)$  is an archimedean semiring. Thus,  $S$  is a b-lattice  $T$  of archimedean semirings. Unique expression of  $S$  as a b-lattice of archimedean semirings follows from Theorem 4.13 in [1].

The last part of the theorem follows from the Theorem 4.13 in [1].

**Definition 2.7** A congruence  $\rho$  on a semiring  $S$  is said to be additive separative (AS-congruence) if  $S/\rho$  is an additive separative semiring (AS-semiring) i.e.,  $(a + b) \rho (a + a) \rho (b + b)$  implies  $a \rho b$ .

**Lemma 2.8** *The relation  $\sigma$  defined in Definition 2.4 is a congruence on a semiring  $S$  and  $S/\sigma$  is the maximal additive separative homomorphic image of  $S$ .*

**Proof** By Theorem 4.14 in [1],  $\sigma$  is a congruence on  $(S, +)$ . Let  $a \sigma b$  and  $c \in S$ . Then there exist positive integers  $m, n$  such that  $a + nb = (n + 1)b$  and  $b + ma = (m + 1)a$ . This leads to  $ac + n(bc) = (n + 1)bc$  and  $bc + m(ac) = (m + 1)ac$ . Hence  $ac \sigma bc$ . Similarly, one can show that  $ca \sigma cb$ . Thus,  $\sigma$  is a congruence on  $S$ .

Last part follows from Theorem 4.14 in [1].

**Corollary 2.9** *Let  $S$  be an additive separative semiring. If  $a, b$  are elements of  $S$  such that  $a + mb = (m + 1)b$  and  $b + na = (n + 1)a$  for some positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ , then  $a = b$ .*

**Theorem 2.10** *A semiring  $S$  satisfying the condition (A) can be embedded in a completely regular semiring if and only if  $S$  is additive separative.*

**Proof** First suppose that  $S$  can be embedded in a completely regular semiring. Then the additive reduct  $(S, +)$  of the semiring  $S$  can be embedded in a completely regular semigroup. Then by Theorem 4.19 in [1], we have the semigroup reduct  $(S, +)$  is separative, i.e.,  $S$  is additive separative semiring.

Conversely, assume that  $S$  is additive separative. Since the semiring  $S$  satisfies the condition  $a^2 = na$  so  $S$  can be expressed as a b-lattice of archimedean semirings. Let  $S = \bigcup_{\alpha \in T} S_\alpha$  be the expression of  $S$  as a b-lattice  $T$  of its archimedean components  $S_\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in T$ ). Since  $S$  is additive separative, by Theorem 4.16 in [1] we have  $S_\alpha$  is additive cancellative. So by Theorem 5.11 in [3]  $S_\alpha$  can be embedded in a ring  $R_\alpha$ . Since  $S_\alpha$  are mutually disjoint, we can assume that  $R_\alpha$  are mutually disjoint. Now every element of  $R_\alpha$  can be expressed in

the form  $a_1 - a_2$  with  $a_1, a_2 \in S_\alpha$  and that  $a_1 - a_2 = c_1 - c_2$  if and only if  $a_1 + c_2 = a_2 + c_1$ .

Let  $S' = \bigcup_{\alpha \in T} R_\alpha$ . On  $S'$  we define  $\oplus$  and  $\odot$  as follows:

$$a \oplus b = (a_1 + b_1) - (a_2 + b_2)$$

and

$$a \odot b = (a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2) - (a_1 b_2 + b_2 a_1),$$

where  $a = a_1 - a_2$  and  $b = b_1 - b_2$ .

We first show that the operations are well defined. For this let  $a = a_1 - a_2 = c_1 - c_2$  and  $b = b_1 - b_2 = d_1 - d_2$ . So  $a_1 + c_2 = a_2 + c_1$  and  $b_1 + d_2 = b_2 + d_1$ . Now,

$$(a_1 + b_1) + (c_2 + d_2) = (a_1 + c_2) + (b_1 + d_2) = (a_2 + c_1) + (b_2 + d_1) = (a_2 + b_2) + (c_1 + d_1)$$

This leads to,

$$(a_1 + b_1) - (a_2 + b_2) = (c_1 + d_1) - (c_2 + d_2),$$

$$(a_1 - a_2) \oplus (b_1 - b_2) = (c_1 - c_2) \oplus (d_1 - d_2).$$

So  $\oplus$  is well defined.

Again,

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 b_1 + c_2 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + c_1 b_2 &= a_2 b_1 + c_1 b_1 + a_1 b_2 + c_2 b_2, \\ (a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2) + (c_2 b_1 + c_1 b_2) &= (c_1 b_1 + c_2 b_2) + (a_2 b_1 + a_1 b_2), \\ (a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2) - (a_2 b_1 + a_1 b_2) &= (c_1 b_1 + c_2 b_2) - (c_2 b_1 + c_1 b_2), \\ (a_1 - a_2) \odot (b_1 - b_2) &= (c_1 - c_2) \odot (b_1 - b_2). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can show that

$$(c_1 - c_2) \odot (b_1 - b_2) = (c_1 - c_2) \odot (d_1 - d_2).$$

Thus,

$$(a_1 - a_2) \odot (b_1 - b_2) = (c_1 - c_2) \odot (d_1 - d_2).$$

Hence  $\odot$  is well defined.

Clearly, if  $a \in R_\alpha$  and  $b \in R_\beta$  ( $\alpha, \beta \in T$ ) then  $a \oplus b \in R_{\alpha+\beta}$  and  $a \odot b \in R_{\alpha\beta}$ .

The associativity under  $\oplus$  and  $\odot$  is easily verified. Also, we can show the distributivity. Hence  $S'$  is indeed a semiring which contains  $S$ . Since  $S'$  is union of rings so by Corollary 1.3,  $S'$  is a completely regular semiring.

We now show that if  $a$  and  $b$  are elements of  $S$  then  $a \oplus b$  and  $a \odot b$  are respectively the same as the original operation  $a + b$  and  $a \cdot b$  respectively in  $S$ . Let  $a \in R_\alpha$  and  $b \in R_\beta$  ( $\alpha, \beta \in T$ ). Then  $a = 2a - a$  and  $b = 2b - b$  so that  $a \oplus b = (2a - a) \oplus (2b - b) = (2a + 2b) - (a + b) = 2(a + b) - (a + b) = a + b$  and  $a \odot b = (2a - a) \odot (2b - b) = ((2a)(2b) + ab) - (2ab + 2ab) = 5ab - 4ab = a \cdot b$ , as desired.

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