Alexander Doniphan Wallace Relative invertibility in semigroups

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RELATIVE INVERTIBILITY IN SEMIGROUPS

A. D. WALLACE, New Orleans, USA

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The purpose of this paper is the study of two functions u(x) and v(x) defined on any Γ -compact semigroup.

A semigroup is a non-void Hausdorff space together with a continuous associative multiplication, denoted by juxtaposition. In what follows S will always denote a semigroup and E will denote the set of its idempotents,

$$E = \{x \mid x \in S \text{ and } x^2 = x\}.$$

A subset G of S is a subgroup if G is non-void and if xG = G = Gx for each $x \in G$, and a subset T of S is a subsemigroup of S if $T^2 \subset T$ and T is non-void. It is known (e. g. [1]) that any subgroup of S is contained in a maximal subgroup and that no two maximal subgroups of S intersect. Let H be the union of all the maximal subgroups of S so that H is non-void if and only if E is non-void. Indeed, if we let H_e denote the maximal subgroup containing $e \in E$, then

$$H = \bigcup \{H_e \mid e \in E\}.$$

Construction I. For $x \in H$ let u(x) denote the unit of the maximal subgroup containing x and let v(x) denote the inverse of x in this subgroup. In this way two functions $u: H \to E$ and $v: H \to H$ are defined (generally discontinuous) such that u(u(x)) = u(x), v(v(x)) = x and x v(x) = u(x) = v(x) x.

If $x \in S$ let

 $\Gamma_n(x) = \{x^m \mid m \ge n\}^*$

(the * denoting closure), write $\Gamma(x)$ for $\Gamma_1(x)$ and let

$$N(x) = \cap \{ \Gamma_n(x) \mid n \ge 1 \}.$$

If $\Gamma(x)$ is compact then it is a commutative subsemigroup of S, N(x) is a compact subgroup which is the minimal ideal and the maximal subgroup of the semigroup $\Gamma(x)$ and $\Gamma(x)$ contains exactly one idempotent, the unit of N(x). Here an ideal of a semigroup M is such a non-void subset I of M that $MI \subset I \supset IM$. For the above result see for example [3] or [4]. We say that S is Γ -compact if $\Gamma(x)$ is compact for each $x \in S$.

Construction II. Let S be Γ -compact and for $x \in S$ let u(x) be the unit of N(x) and let v(x) be the inverse of x u(x) = u(x) x in the group N(x). In this way two functions $u: S \to E$ and $v: S \to H$ are defined (generally discontinuous) such that u(u(x)) = u(x), x v(x) = u(x) = v(x) x (notice that u(x) v(x) = v(x) u(x)) and u(u(x)) = x v(x), as is easily verified from the definitions.

Some years ago the question arose as to the equivalence of Constructions I and II. It is readily seen that the functions are the same (where they are defined) if S is compact and later R. J. KOCH observed that this remark remains true if S is locally compact. We shall prove here that the constructions are the same for $S \Gamma$ -compact, this being essential for second construction.

Suppose then that S is Γ -compact, that the functions u and v are given by Construction II, and that $a \in H$. Then a is a member of some maximal subgroup of S and we let b be the inverse of a in that subgroup and denote by G the smallest subgroup containing a so that also $b \in G$. If we let

$$O(x) = \{x^n \mid n \ge 1\}$$

then $O(x)^* = \Gamma(x)$ and

$$G = O(a) \cup O(b) \cup \{e\}$$
 (e the unit of G)

so that

$$G^* = \Gamma(a) \cup \Gamma(b) \cup \{e\}$$

and hence G^* is compact. Now it readily follows from the continuity of multiplication and the compactness of G^* (S is Hausdorff) that G^* is a subgroup. We have $u(a) \in$ $\in G^* \cap E$ and thus u(a) = e, which is to say that u(a) is the unit of the maximal subgroup H_e of S which contains a. From $a \in H_e$ we have a u(a) = a and we see that v(a) is the inverse of a in H_e . This completes the proof.

It ensues from the above reasoning that if S is Γ -compact then each element of H is contained in a compact subgroup.

Using a result due to ŠT. SCHWARZ [4] or an unpublished result of A. L. SHIELDS it can be shown that (S being Γ -compact) the functions u and v are endomorphisms if S is commutative, cf. [2].

The following observation may be of interest: Suppose that S is discrete and that O(x) (see the above proof) is finite for each $x \in S$. (Otherwise, S is periodic.) We infer then from the preceeding remark that any element of S which is contained in a subgroup is also contained in a finite subgroup. Of course this is not difficult to prove directly.

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The Tulane University of Louisiana

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Резюме

ОТНОСИТЕЛЬНАЯ ОБРАТИМОСТЬ В ПОЛУГРУППАХ

А. Д. УОЛЛЕС (A. D. Wallace), New Orleans

Полугруппа S называется Γ -компактной, если для всякого $x \in S$ замыкание последовательности $\{x, x^2, x^3, ...\}$ компактно.

Целью этой заметки является доказательство одной теоремы, известной для компактных полугрупп, в случае *Г*-компактных полугрупп.