

## SEMIGROUPS OF LINKED UPFAMILIES

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*Given a semigroup  $S$  we study right and left zeros, idempotents, the minimal ideal, left cancelable and right cancelable elements of the semigroup  $N(S)$  of linked upfamilies and characterize groups  $G$  whose extensions  $N(G)$  are commutative.*

**Key words:** *semigroup, linked upfamily, idempotent, zero, minimal ideal.*

## Introduction

In this paper we investigate the algebraic structure of the extension  $N(S)$  of a semigroup  $S$ . The through study of various extensions of semigroups was started in [10] and continued in [1]-[7]. The largest among these extensions is the semigroup  $\nu(S)$  of all upfamilies on  $S$ . A family  $\mathbf{M}$  of non-empty subsets of a set  $X$  is called *an upfamily* if for each set  $A \in \mathbf{M}$  any subset  $B \supset A$  belongs to  $\mathbf{M}$ . Each family  $\mathbf{B}$  of non-empty subsets of  $X$  generates the upfamily  $\langle B \subset X : B \in \mathbf{B} \rangle = \{A \subset X : \exists B \in \mathbf{B} (B \subset A)\}$ . A family  $\mathbf{F}$  of non-empty subsets of a set  $X$  that is closed under taking supersets and finite intersections is called *a filter*. A filter  $\mathbf{U}$  is called *an ultrafilter* if  $\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{F}$  for any filter  $\mathbf{F}$  containing  $\mathbf{U}$ . The family  $\beta(X)$  of all ultrafilters on a set  $X$  is called *the Stone-Cech compactification of  $X$* , see [11], [12]. An ultrafilter  $\langle \{x\} \rangle$ , generated by a singleton  $\{x\}$ ,  $x \in X$ , is called *principal*. We consider  $X \subset \beta(X) \subset \nu(X)$  if each point  $x \in X$  is identified with the principal ultrafilter  $\langle \{x\} \rangle$  generated by the singleton  $\{x\}$ .

It was shown in [10] that any associative binary operation  $*$ :  $S \times S \rightarrow S$  can be extended to an associative binary operation  $\circ$ :  $\nu(S) \times \nu(S) \rightarrow \nu(S)$  by the formula

$$\mathbf{L} \circ \mathbf{M} = \langle \bigcup_{a \in L} a * M_a : L \in \mathbf{L}, \{M_a\}_{a \in L} \subset \mathbf{M} \rangle$$

for upfamilies  $\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{M} \in \nu(S)$ . In this case the Stone-Cech compactification  $\beta(S)$  is a subsemigroup of the semigroup  $\nu(S)$ . The semigroup  $\nu(S)$  contains many other important extensions of  $S$ . In particular, it contains the semigroup  $N(S)$  of linked upfamilies. A upfamily  $\mathbf{L} \in \nu(S)$  is called *linked* if intersection  $A \cap B$  is non-empty for any sets  $A, B \in \mathbf{L}$ .

A non-empty subset  $I$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called an *ideal* (resp. a *right ideal*, a *left ideal*) if  $IS \cup SI \subset I$  (resp.  $IS \subset I$ ,  $SI \subset I$ ). An element  $z$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called a *zero* (resp. a *left zero*, a *right zero*) in  $S$  if  $az = za = z$  (resp.  $za = z$ ,  $az = z$ ) for any  $a \in S$ . An element  $a \in S$  is called an *idempotent* if  $aa = a$ . An ideal  $I \subset S$  is called *minimal* if any ideal of  $S$  that lies in  $I$  coincides with  $I$ . By analogy we define minimal left and minimal right ideals of  $S$ . The union  $K(S)$  of all minimal left (right) ideals of  $S$  coincides with the minimal ideal of  $S$ , see [11, теор. 2.8]. A semigroup  $S$  is said to be a *right zeros semigroup* if  $ab = b$  for any  $a, b \in S$ . A semigroup  $S$  is called *right simple* if  $aS = S$  for any  $a \in S$ . An element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called *left cancelable* (resp. *right cancelable*) if for any points  $x, y \in S$  the equation  $ax = ay$  (resp.  $xa = ya$ ) implies  $x = y$ . This is equivalent to saying that the left (resp. right) shift  $l_a : S \rightarrow S$ ,  $l_a : x \mapsto ax$ , (resp.  $r_a : S \rightarrow S$ ,  $r_a : x \mapsto xa$ ) is injective.

### 1 Zeros and the minimal ideal of the semigroup $N(S)$

For a semigroup  $S$  right zeros in  $N(S)$  admit a simple description. We define a linked upfamily  $L \in N(S)$  to be *shift-invariant* if for every  $L \in L$  and  $s \in S$  the sets  $sL$  and  $s^{-1}L = \{t \in S \mid st \in L\}$  belong to  $L$ .

**Proposition 1.** A linked upfamily  $L \in N(S)$  is a right zero in  $N(S)$  if and only if  $L$  is shift-invariant.

**Proof.** Assuming that a linked upfamily  $L \in N(S)$  is shift-invariant, we shall show that  $M \circ L = L$  for every  $M \in N(S)$ . Take any set  $F \in M \circ L$  and find a set  $M \in M$  and a upfamily  $\{L_s\}_{s \in M} \subset L$  such that  $\bigcup_{s \in M} sL_s \subset F$ . Since  $L \in N(S)$  is shift-invariant,  $\bigcup_{s \in M} sL_s \in L$  and thus  $F \in L$ . This proves the inclusion  $M \circ L \subset L$ . On the other hand, for every  $F \in L$  and every  $s \in S$  we get  $s^{-1}F \in L$  and thus  $F \supset \bigcup_{s \in S} s(s^{-1}F) \in M \circ L$ . This shows that  $L$  is a right zero of the semigroup  $N(S)$ .

Now assume that  $L$  is a right zero of  $N(S)$ . Observe that for every  $s \in S$  the equality  $\langle s \rangle \circ L = L$  implies  $sL \in L$  for every  $L \in L$ .

On the other hand, the equality  $\{S\} \circ L = L$  implies that for every  $L \in L$  there is a upfamily  $\{L_s\}_{s \in S} \subset L$  such that  $\bigcup_{s \in S} sL_s \subset L$ . Then for every  $s \in S$  the set  $s^{-1}L = \{t \in S \mid st \in L\} \supset L_s \in L$  belong to  $L$  witnessing that  $L$  is shift-invariant.

By  $\vec{N}(S)$  we denote the set of shift-invariant linked upfamilies in  $N(S)$ . Proposition 1 implies that  $M \circ L = L$  for every  $M, L \in \vec{N}(S)$ . This means that if  $\vec{N}(S)$  is not empty, then it is a semigroup of right zeros.

**Proposition 2.** If a semigroup  $S$  contains a right zero, then the minimal ideal  $K(S)$  of  $S$  coincides with the set of all right zeros of  $S$ .

**Proof.** Let  $Z$  be the semigroup of all right zeros of  $S$ . Then for every  $s, t \in S$  and every  $z \in Z$  we get  $t(zs) = (tz)s = zs$ . Therefore  $zs \in Z$  that is  $ZS \subset Z$  and  $Z$  is a right ideal. It follows from definition of right zeros that  $SZ = Z$ . This shows that  $Z$  is an ideal of  $S$ . It suffices to check that  $Z$  lies in each ideal  $I$  of  $S$ . Indeed,  $Z = IZ \subset IS \subset I$ .

Now we find conditions on the semigroup  $S$  guaranteeing that the set  $\vec{N}(S)$  is not empty.

**Proposition 3.** A semigroup  $S$  is right simple if and only if  $\{S\}$  is a right zero of  $N(S)$ .

**Proof.** Assuming that  $\{S\}$  is a right zero of  $N(S)$  observe that for every  $a \in S$  the equation  $\langle \{a\} \rangle \circ \{S\} = \{S\}$  implies that  $aS = S$ .

On the other hand, if  $aS = S$  for every  $a \in S$ , then  $M \circ \{S\} = \{S\}$  for all  $M \in N(S)$ . This means that  $\{S\}$  is a right zero of  $N(S)$ .

Since each group  $G$  is a right simple semigroup, then  $G$  contains a right zero by Proposition 3. Therefore Propositions 1 and 2 imply that the minimal ideal  $K(N(G))$  of semigroup  $N(G)$  coincides with the set  $\vec{N}(G)$  of all shift-invariant upfamilies of  $N(G)$ .

A subset  $A$  of a group  $G$  is called *self-linked* if  $A \cap xA$  is non-empty for each  $x \in G$ . For a set  $A$  of a group  $G$  the upfamily  $\{xA \mid x \in G\}$  is orbit of a set  $A$  under natural left action of a group  $G$  on the set of subsets of  $G$ . Proposition 1 implies that each right zero of the semigroup  $N(G)$  is the union of orbits of self-linked sets of the group  $G$ .

**Proposition 4.** The cardinality of the minimal ideal  $K(N(G))$  of the semigroup  $N(G)$  over a group  $G$  of cardinality  $|G| < 8$  can be founded from the following table:

$G$	$C_1$	$C_2$	$C_3$	$C_4$	$C_2 \oplus C_2$	$C_5$	$C_6$	$D_3$	$C_7$
$K(N(G))$	1	1	2	2	2	5	11	17	45

**Proof.** a) If a group  $G$  has cardinality 1 or 2, then  $G$  is the unique self-linked subset of  $G$ . Therefore  $K(N(G)) = \{\{G\}\}$ .

b) In the case  $|G| \in \{3, 4\}$  a group  $G$  contains two different orbits of self-linked sets which generated by the sets  $G$  and  $G \setminus \{e\}$ , where  $e$  is the neutral element of  $G$ . Thus  $N(G)$  contains two right zeros:  $\{G\}$  and  $\{G, G \setminus \{g\} \mid g \in G\}$ .

c) If  $|G| = 5$ , then  $G$  is a cyclic group. In this case  $G$  contains  $C_5^3 = 10$  3-element sets that generate two different orbits of self-linked sets. Since

intersaction of any two 3-element sets is non-empty, then these two orbits (and its union) generate 3 right zeros. Also  $N(G)$  contains 2 right zeros  $\{G\}$  and  $\{G, G \setminus \{g\} \mid g \in G\}$ . Therefore  $N(G)$  contains 5 right zeros.

d) Let  $|G|=6$  and  $G$  is isomorphic to a cyclic group  $C_6 = \{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5 \mid a^6 = e\}$ . In this case  $G$  contains two orbits of 3-elements self-linked sets generated by the sets  $A = \{e, a, a^3\}$  and  $B = \{e, a^2, a^4\}$ . Since  $A \cap a^2B = \emptyset$ , then these two orbits generate two right zeros  $\langle gA \mid g \in G \rangle$  and  $\langle gB \mid g \in G \rangle$  that contain all sets  $F$  of cardinality  $|F| > 3$ . The group  $C_6$  contains three orbits of 4-element subsets generated by the sets  $\{e, a, a^2, a^3\}$ ,  $\{e, a, a^3, a^4\}$  and  $\{e, a, a^2, a^4\}$ . These orbits generate  $2^3 - 1 = 7$  different right zeros. Also  $N(C_6)$  contains 2 right zeros  $\{C_6\}$  and  $\{C_6, C_6 \setminus \{g\} \mid g \in C_6\}$ . Therefore  $|K(N(C_6))| = 2 + 7 + 1 + 1 = 11$ .

e) If  $|G|=6$  and  $G$  is isomorphic to the dihedral group  $D_3 = \{e, a, a^2, b, ab, a^2b \mid a^3 = b^2 = e, ba = a^2b\}$ , then  $G$  contains no 3-element self-linked subsets, but all 4-element subsets are self-linked. In this case  $G$  contains four orbits of 4-element self-linked sets generated by the sets  $\{e, a, a^2, b\}$ ,  $\{e, a, b, ab\}$ ,  $\{e, a^2, b, ab\}$  and  $\{e, a^2, ab, a^2b\}$ . These orbits generate  $2^4 - 1 = 15$  different right zeros. Also  $N(G)$  contains 2 right zeros  $\{G\}$  and  $\{G, G \setminus \{g\} \mid g \in G\}$ . Therefore  $|K(N(D_3))| = 15 + 1 + 1 = 17$ .

f) Let  $|G|=7$ . Then  $G$  is isomorphic to the cyclic group  $C_7 = \{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5, a^6 \mid a^7 = e\}$ . In this case  $G$  contains two orbits of 3-element self-linked sets generated by the sets  $A = \{e, a, a^3\}$  and  $B = \{e, a^2, a^4\}$ . Since  $A \cap a^2B = \emptyset$ , then these two orbits generate two right zeros  $\langle gA \mid g \in G \rangle$  and  $\langle gB \mid g \in G \rangle$ . The group  $C_7$  has 5 orbits of 4-element self-linked subsets that generate  $2^5 - 1 = 31$  different right zeros. Also  $C_7$  has 3 orbits of 5-element self-linked subsets that generate  $2^3 - 1 = 7$  right zeros. Since the right zero  $\langle g\{e, a, a^2, a^3\} \mid g \in C_7 \rangle$  does not contain 5-element self-linked set  $\{e, a, a^2, a^4, a^5\}$ , then the linked upfamily  $\langle g\{e, a, a^2, a^3\}, g\{e, a, a^2, a^4, a^5\} \mid g \in C_7 \rangle$  also is a right zero of  $N(C_7)$ . In the same manner  $\langle g\{e, a, a^3, a^4\}, g\{e, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5\} \mid g \in C_7 \rangle$  and  $\langle g\{e, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5\}, g\{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^5\} \mid g \in C_7 \rangle$  are right zeros of  $N(C_7)$ . Adding right zeros  $\{C_7\}$  and  $\{C_7, C_7 \setminus \{g\} \mid g \in C_7\}$  we conclude that  $|K(N(C_7))| = 2 + 31 + 7 + 3 + 1 + 1 = 45$ .

Now we describe groups  $G$  that have (left) zeros and characterize groups  $G$  whose extensions  $N(G)$  are commutative.

**Theorem 1.** For a group  $G$  the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1) the semigroup  $N(G)$  is commutative;
- 2) the semigroup  $N(G)$  has a zero;
- 3) the semigroup  $N(G)$  has a left zero;

4)  $G$  is a cyclic group of cardinality 1 or 2.

**Proof.** 1)  $\Rightarrow$  2) It is easy to see that the linked upfamily  $\{G\}$  is shift-invariant and is a right zero of  $N(G)$  according to Proposition 1. Since the semigroup  $N(G)$  is commutative, then  $\{G\}$  is a zero of  $N(G)$ .

The implication 2)  $\Rightarrow$  3) is trivial.

$\neg$ 4)  $\Rightarrow$   $\neg$ 3) If  $|G| > 2$ , then  $N(G)$  contains at least two shift-invariant linked upfamilies  $\{G\}$  and  $\{G, G \setminus \{g\} \mid g \in G\}$ . According to Proposition 1 it has at least two right zeros and therefore  $N(G)$  has no a left zero.

4)  $\Rightarrow$  1) If  $|G|=1$ , then  $|N(G)|=1$  and  $N(G)$  is commutative. In the case  $|G|=2$  the group  $G$  is cyclic and the semigroup  $N(G)$  has three elements: two principal ultrafilters and shift-invariant linked upfamily  $\{G\}$ . Since principal ultrafilters commute with  $\{G\}$  and  $\{G\}$  is a right zero, then  $\{G\}$  is the zero of the semigroup  $N(G)$ . Therefore  $N(G)$  is isomorphic to the semigroup  $G^0$  and  $N(G)$  is commutative.

### 2 Idempotents of the semigroup $N(G)$

In this section we describe some upfamilies of idempotents of the semigroup  $N(G)$  over a group  $G$ .

**Proposition 5.** Let  $G$  be a group with the neutral element  $e$  and  $|G| \geq 2$ . For any nonempty subset  $A \subset G \setminus \{e\}$ , such that  $|A \cap \{g, g^{-1}\}| \leq 1$  for each  $g \in G$ , the linked upfamily  $l_A = \langle \{e, g\}, \{e, g^{-1}\} \mid g \in A \rangle$  is an idempotent of the semigroup  $N(G)$ .

**Proof.** First we show that  $l_A \subset l_A \circ l_A$ . If  $L \in l_A$ , then  $L \supset \{e, g\}$  or  $L \supset \{e, g^{-1}\}$  for some  $g \in A$ . Since  $\{e, g\} = e\{e, g\} \cup g\{e, g^{-1}\} \in l_A \circ l_A$  and  $\{e, g^{-1}\} = e\{e, g^{-1}\} \cup g^{-1}\{e, g\} \in l_A \circ l_A$ , then  $L \in l_A \circ l_A$ .

On the other hand, if  $L \in l_A \circ l_A$ , then  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in I} aM_a$ , where  $\{I, M_a \mid a \in I\} \subset l_A$ . Since  $e \in I$ , then  $L \supset eM_e = M_e \in l_A$  and  $L \in l_A$ . Therefore  $l_A \circ l_A = l_A$  and  $l_A$  is an idempotent of the semigroup  $N(G)$ .

**Proposition 6.** If  $g$  is an element of order 2 of a group  $G$  and  $|G| \geq 3$ , then the linked upfamily  $l_g = \langle \{e, g\}, G \setminus \{e\}, G \setminus \{g\} \rangle$  is an idempotent of the semigroup  $N(G)$ .

**Proof.** First we prove that  $l_g \subset l_g \circ l_g$ . If  $L \in l_g$ , then  $L \supset G \setminus \{e\}$  or  $L \supset G \setminus \{g\}$  or  $L \supset \{e, g\}$ . Since  $G \setminus \{e\} = e(G \setminus \{e\}) \cup g(G \setminus \{g\}) \in l_g \circ l_g$ ,  $G \setminus \{g\} = e(G \setminus \{g\}) \cup g(G \setminus \{e\}) \in l_g \circ l_g$  and  $\{e, g\} = \{e, g\}\{e, g\} \in l_g \circ l_g$ , then  $L \in l_g \circ l_g$ .

Let  $L \in \mathcal{I}_g \circ \mathcal{I}_g$ , then  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in I} aM_a$ , where  $\{I, M_a \mid a \in I\} \subset \mathcal{I}_g$ . If  $e \in I$ , then  $L \supset eM_e = M_e \in \mathcal{I}_g$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_g$ . It remains to consider the case  $I = G \setminus \{e\}$ . Then  $g \in I$  and consider the following three cases:

- 1) if  $M_g = \{e, g\}$ , then  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in I} aM_a \supset gM_g = M_g \in \mathcal{I}_g$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_g$ ;
- 2) if  $M_g = G \setminus \{e\}$ , then  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in I} aM_a \supset gM_g = G \setminus \{g\} \in \mathcal{I}_g$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_g$ ;
- 3) if  $M_g = G \setminus \{g\}$ , then  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in I} aM_a \supset gM_g = G \setminus \{e\} \in \mathcal{I}_g$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_g$ .

Therefore  $\mathcal{I}_g \circ \mathcal{I}_g \subset \mathcal{I}_g$  and  $\mathcal{I}_g$  is an idempotent of the semigroup  $N(G)$ .

**Proposition 7.** Let  $G$  be a group with the neutral element  $e$  and  $|G| \geq 3$ . For any subset  $A \subset G \setminus \{e\}$ , such that  $|A \cap \{g, g^{-1}\}| \leq 1$  for each  $g \in G$  and  $A \neq \{a\}$  where  $a^2 = e$ , the linked upfamily  $\mathcal{I}_A^e = \langle G \setminus \{e\}, \{e, g\}, \{e, g^{-1}\} \mid g \in A \rangle$  is an idempotent of the semigroup  $N(G)$ .

**Proof.** First we show that  $\mathcal{I}_A^e \subset \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$ . If  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$ , then  $L \supset \{e, g\}$  or  $L \supset \{e, g^{-1}\}$  or  $L \supset G \setminus \{e\}$  for some  $g \in A$ . Consider the case  $L \supset G \setminus \{e\}$ . If each element of the set  $A$  is of order 2, then fix any two different elements  $g, h \in A$ . Since  $g \neq h$ , then  $gh \neq h^2 = e$  and  $G \setminus \{e\} = e(G \setminus \{e\}) \cup g\{e, h\} \in \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$ . If there exists an element  $g \in A$ ,  $g^2 \neq e$ , then  $G \setminus \{e\} = e(G \setminus \{e\}) \cup g\{e, g\} \in \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$ . Therefore in this case  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$ . Let  $L \supset \{e, g\}$  or  $L \supset \{e, g^{-1}\}$ . Since  $\{e, g\} = e\{e, g\} \cup g\{e, g^{-1}\} \in \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$  and  $\{e, g^{-1}\} = e\{e, g^{-1}\} \cup g^{-1}\{e, g\} \in \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$ , then  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$ .

To show that  $\mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e \subset \mathcal{I}_A^e$  fix any set  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e$ . Then  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in I} aM_a$ , where  $\{I, M_a \mid a \in I\} \subset \mathcal{I}_A^e$ . If  $e \in I$ , then  $L \supset eM_e = M_e \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$ . It remains to consider the case  $I = G \setminus \{e\}$ . Let  $a \in G \setminus \{e\}$ . Lose no generality we can assume that  $M_a \in \{G \setminus \{e\}, \{e, g\}, \{e, g^{-1}\} \mid g \in A\}$ . Consider the following three cases:

- 1) If  $M_a = G \setminus \{e\}$ , then  $aM_a = G \setminus \{a\}$ . Since  $\mathcal{I}_A^e$  contains at least two different 2-element sets, then for some  $g \in A$  we have  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in G \setminus \{e\}} aM_a \supset G \setminus \{a\} \supset \{e, g\} \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$ ;
- 2) If  $a \in A$  and  $M_a = \{e, a^{-1}\}$ , then  $aM_a = \{e, a\} \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$ ;
- 3) If  $M_a \neq \{e, a^{-1}\}$  for any  $a \in G \setminus \{e\}$ , then  $a \in aM_a \subset G \setminus \{e\}$ .

Therefore  $L \supset \bigcup_{a \in G \setminus \{e\}} aM_a = G \setminus \{e\} \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$  and  $L \in \mathcal{I}_A^e$ .

Therefore  $\mathcal{I}_A^e \circ \mathcal{I}_A^e = \mathcal{I}_A^e$  and  $\mathcal{I}_A^e$  is an idempotent of the semigroup  $N(G)$ .

Propositions 5-7 imply the following

**Corollary 1.** For any infinite group  $G$  the semigroup  $N(G)$  has  $2^{|G|}$  idempotents that are not right zeros.

### 3 Left cancelable and right cancelable elements of the semigroup $N(S)$

In this section we describe left cancelable and right cancelable elements of the semigroup  $N(S)$ .

**Theorem 2.** Let  $G$  be a group. A linked upfamily  $L \in N(G)$  is left cancelable in the semigroup  $N(G)$  if and only if  $L$  is a principal ultrafilter.

**Proof.** Assume that  $L$  is left cancelable in  $N(G)$ . First we show that  $L$  contains some singleton. Assuming the converse, take any point  $g_0 \in G$  and note that  $L(G \setminus \{g_0\}) = G$  for any  $L \in L$ . To see that this equality holds, take any point  $a \in G$ , choose two distinct points  $b, c \in L$  and find solutions  $x, y \in G$  of the equations  $bx = a$  and  $cy = a$ . Since  $G$  is right cancellative, then  $x \neq y$ . Consequently, one of the points  $x$  or  $y$  is distinct from  $g_0$ . If  $x \neq g_0$ , then  $a = bx \in L(G \setminus \{g_0\})$ . If  $y \neq g_0$ , then  $a = cy \in L(G \setminus \{g_0\})$ . Now for the linked upfamily  $\{G, G \setminus \{g_0\}\} \neq \{G\}$ , we get  $L \circ \{G, G \setminus \{g_0\}\} = \{G\} = L \circ \{G\}$ , which contradicts the choice of  $L$  as a left cancelable element of  $N(G)$ . Thus  $L$  contains some singleton  $\{c\}$ . Since  $L$  is a linked upfamily, then  $L = \langle \{c\} \rangle$  is a principal ultrafilter, which proves the “only if” part of the theorem.

To prove the “if” part, take any principal ultrafilter  $\langle \{g\} \rangle$  generated by a singleton  $\{g\} \subset G$ . We claim that two linked upfamilies  $M, L \in N(G)$  are equal provided  $\langle \{g\} \rangle \circ L = \langle \{g\} \rangle \circ M$ . Indeed, given any set  $L \in L$  observe that  $gL \in \langle \{g\} \rangle \circ L = \langle \{g\} \rangle \circ M$  and hence  $gL = gM$  for some  $M \in M$ . The left cancelativity of  $G$  implies that  $L = M \in M$ , which yields  $L \subset M$ . By the same argument we can also check that  $M \subset L$ .

By the same arguments as in “if” part of Theorem 2 one can prove that principal ultrafilters are right cancelable elements in the semigroup  $N(G)$ .

If  $G$  is a group, then the formula

$$L \circ M = \left\langle \bigcup_{a \in L} a * M_a : L \in L, \{M_a\}_{a \in L} \subset M \right\rangle$$

implies that the product  $L \circ M$  of any two linked upfamilies  $L$  and  $M$  is a principal ultrafilter if and only if both  $L$  and  $M$  are principal ultrafilters. Therefore we deduce the following proposition.

**Proposition 8.** For a group  $G$  the set  $N(G) \setminus \{\langle \{g\} \rangle : g \in G\}$  is an ideal in  $N(G)$ .

**Proposition 9.** Let  $G$  be a finite group. A linked upfamily  $L \in N(G)$  is right cancelable in the semigroup  $N(G)$  if and only if  $L$  is a principal ultrafilter.

**Proof.** Assume that some linked upfamily  $\mathbf{M} \in N(G) \setminus \{\{g\} : g \in G\}$  is right cancelable. This means that the right shift  $r_{\mathbf{M}} : N(G) \rightarrow N(G)$ ,  $r_{\mathbf{M}} : A \mapsto A \circ \mathbf{M}$ , is injective. According to Proposition 8, the set  $N(G) \setminus \{\{g\} : g \in G\}$  is an ideal in  $N(G)$ . Consequently,  $r_{\mathbf{M}}(N(G)) = N(G) \circ \mathbf{M} \subset N(G) \setminus \{\{g\} : g \in G\}$ . Since  $N(G)$  is finite,  $r_{\mathbf{M}}$  cannot be injective.

**Proposition 10.** Let  $S$  be a semigroup. A linked upfamily  $\mathbf{L} \in N(S)$  is right cancelable in  $N(S)$  provided for every  $s \in S$  there is a set  $L_s \in \mathbf{L}$  such that  $sL_s \cap tL_t$  is empty set for any distinct  $s, t \in S$ .

**Proof.** Assume that  $\mathbf{A} \circ \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{B} \circ \mathbf{L}$  for two linked upfamilies  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in N(S)$ . First we show that  $\mathbf{A} \subset \mathbf{B}$ . Take any set  $A \in \mathbf{A}$  and observe that the set  $\bigcup_{a \in A} aL_a$  belongs to  $\mathbf{A} \circ \mathbf{L} = \mathbf{B} \circ \mathbf{L}$ . Consequently, there is a set  $B \in \mathbf{B}$  and a upfamily of sets  $\{M_b\}_{b \in B} \subset \mathbf{L}$  such that

$$\bigcup_{b \in B} bM_b \subset \bigcup_{a \in A} aL_a.$$

It follows from  $L_b \in \mathbf{L}$  that  $M_b \cap L_b$  is not empty for every  $b \in B$ .

Since the sets  $aL_a$  and  $bL_b$  are disjoint for different  $a, b \in S$ , the inclusion

$$\bigcup_{b \in B} b(M_b \cap L_b) \subset \bigcup_{b \in B} bM_b \subset \bigcup_{a \in A} aL_a$$

implies  $B \subset A$  and hence  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{B}$ .

By analogy we can prove that  $\mathbf{B} \subset \mathbf{A}$ .

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## НАПІВГРУПИ ЗЧЕПЛЕНИХ СІМЕЙ

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*У статті вивчаються праві і ліві нулі, ідемпотенти, мінімальний ідеал, скоротні зліва і скоротні справа елементи напівгрупи  $N(S)$  зчеплених сімей, а також характеризуються групи  $G$ , розширення  $N(G)$  яких є комутативним.*

**Ключові слова:** *напівгрупа, зчеплена сім'я, ідемпотент, нуль, мінімальний ідеал.*