

# On the Set of Gaps in Numerical Semigroups

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## Abstract

In this paper, we give some results on the set of gaps in numerical semigroups. Also, we determine  $S$  by the set of gaps  $H(S)$ .

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n, \dots\}$  and  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ .  $S$  is called a *numerical semigroup* if  $S$  is sub-semigroup of  $(\mathbb{N}, +)$  with  $0 \in S$ .

It is known that every numerical semigroup is finitely generated, i.e. there exist elements of  $S$ , say  $n_0, n_1, \dots, n_p$  such that  $n_0 < n_1 < \dots < n_p$  and

$$S = \langle n_0, n_1, \dots, n_p \rangle = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^p k_i n_i : k_i \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

and

$$G.C.D.(n_0, n_1, \dots, n_p) = 1 \Leftrightarrow Card(\mathbb{N} \setminus S) < \infty$$

by [1].

Let us give the following definitions known for numerical semigroup  $S$ .

$g(S) = \max\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \notin S\}$  is called the *Frobenius number* of  $S$ , where  $\mathbb{Z}$  is the integer set. Thus,  $S$  numerical semigroup is  $S = \{0, n_0, n_1, \dots, g(S) + 1 \rightarrow \dots\}$  (The arrow " $\rightarrow$ " means that every integer which is greater than  $g(S) + 1$  belongs to  $S$ ).

We say that a numerical semigroup is *symmetric* if for every  $x \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus S$ , we have  $g(S) - x \in S$  by [2].

For  $n \in S \setminus \{0\}$ , we define the Apéry set of the element  $n$  as the set

$$Ap(S, n) = \{s \in S : s - n \notin S\}.$$

It can easily be proved that  $Ap(S, n)$  is formed by the smallest elements of  $S$  belonging to the different congruence classes  $\text{mod } n$ . Thus,  $\sharp(Ap(S, n)) = n$  and  $g(S) = \max(Ap(S, n)) - n$ , where  $\sharp(A)$  stands for *cardinality*( $A$ ) by [3]. The elements of  $\mathbb{N} \setminus S$ , denote by  $H(S)$ , are called *gaps* of  $S$ . A gap  $x$  of a numerical semigroup  $S$  is *fundamental* if  $\{2x, 3x\} \subset S$ . We denote by  $FH(S)$  the set of fundamental gaps of  $S$ .

Let  $D(x_i) = \{x \in \mathbb{N} : x \mid x_i, \exists i \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}\}$ . Since  $S$  is a numerical semigroup and,  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$ , for  $x_i \in FH(S)$  we write  $S = \mathbb{N} \setminus D(x_i)$  by [4]. If  $S = \langle s_1, s_2 \rangle$ , then

$$Ap(S, s_1) = \{(s_1 - r)s_2 : r = 1, 2, \dots, s_1\}$$

and

$$Ap(S, s_2) = \{(s_2 - r)s_1 : r = 1, 2, \dots, s_2\},$$

the set of gaps of  $S$  is

$$H(S) = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, g(S)\} \setminus (Ap(S, s_1) \cup Ap(S, s_2) \cup \{s_1 + s_2\})$$

by [5].

## 2. Main Results

In this section, we give some results for the set of gaps of  $S$ .

**Theorem 1.** If  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are two numerical semigroups, then we write

$$H(S_1 \cap S_2) = H(S_1) \cup H(S_2).$$

**Proof.** We have  $a \in H(S_1 \cap S_2)$ . It follows easily that  $a \in H(S_1) \cup H(S_2)$ . Since

$$a \in H(S_1 \cup S_2) \implies a \notin (S_1 \cap S_2) \implies \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (i) \ a \in S_1, a \notin S_2 \\ (ii) \ a \notin S_1, a \in S_2 \\ (iii) \ a \notin S_1, a \notin S_2 \end{array} \right\}.$$

Conversely, let us assume that  $b \in H(S_1) \cup H(S_2)$ . Since  $b \in H(S_1) \cup H(S_2) \implies b \in H(S_1) \vee H(S_2)$ , we obtain the required result by definition of gaps.

**Corollary.** For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $S_i$  are numerical semigroups, then we can write

$$H(\bigcap_{i=1}^n S_i) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n H(S_i).$$

**Theorem 2.** If  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are two numerical semigroups such that  $S_1 \not\subseteq S_2$  or  $S_2 \not\subseteq S_1$ , then we have

$$FH(S_1 \cap S_2) = FH(S_1) \cup FH(S_2).$$

**Proof.** If  $x \in FH(S_1 \cap S_2) \iff x \in H(S_1 \cap S_2) \wedge \{2x, 3x\} \subset (S_1 \cap S_2)$ , then  $x \in FH(S_1) \cup FH(S_2)$  by definition of fundamental gaps.

**Corollary.** If  $S_i$  are numerical semigroups such that  $S_i \not\subseteq S_j$  and  $S_j \not\subseteq S_i$ , where  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ , then we can write

$$FH(\bigcap_{i=1}^n S_i) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n FH(S_i).$$

**Theorem 3.** Let  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are two numerical semigroups.  $K = S_1 \cap S_2$  numerical semigroup is determined as follows

$$K = S_1 \cap S_2 = \mathbb{N} \setminus D(x_j) = \mathbb{N} \setminus (H(S_1) \cup H(S_2)),$$

where  $x_j \in FH(S_1) \cap FH(S_2)$ ,  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$ .

**Proof.** We find the required result by Theorem 1 and Theorem 2.

**Example 1.** Let

$$S_1 = \langle 3, 5, 7 \rangle = \{0, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, \rightarrow, \dots\}$$

and

$$S_2 = \langle 4, 5, 11 \rangle = \{0, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, \rightarrow, \dots\}.$$

be two numerical semigroups. Thus, we find that

$$S_1 \cap S_2 = \{0, 5, 8, 9, 10, \rightarrow, \dots\},$$

$H(S_1) = \{1, 2, 4\}$ ,  $H(S_2) = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 7\}$ ,  $FH(S_1) = \{4\}$  and  $FH(S_2) = \{6, 7\}$ . Hence, we obtain that

$$H(S_1 \cap S_2) = H(S_1) \cup H(S_2) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7\}$$

and

$$FH(S_1 \cap S_2) = FH(S_1) \cup FH(S_2) = \{4, 6, 7\}.$$

Moreover, we write  $D(4, 6, 7) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7\}$ . Finally, we determine

$$K = S_1 \cap S_2 = \{0, 5, 8, 9, 10, \rightarrow, \dots\}$$

numerical semigroup as follows

$$K = S_1 \cap S_2 = \{0, 5, 8, 9, 10, \rightarrow, \dots\} = \mathbb{N} \setminus D(4, 6, 7) = \mathbb{N} \setminus (H(S_1) \cup H(S_2)).$$

**Example 2.** Let

$$S_1 = \langle 4, 5 \rangle = \{0, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, \rightarrow, \dots\}$$

and

$$S_2 = \langle 3, 5 \rangle = \{0, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, \rightarrow, \dots\}.$$

be two numerical semigroups. In this case,

$$Ap(S_1, 4) = \{5(4 - r) : r = 1, 2, 3, 4\} = \{0, 5, 10, 15\},$$

$$Ap(S_1, 5) = \{4(5 - r) : r = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = \{0, 4, 8, 12, 16\}$$

and  $g(S_1) = 11$ . Hence, we write

$$H(S_1) = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 11\} \setminus Ap(S_1, 4) \cup Ap(S_1, 5) \cup \{9\} = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11\}$$

and  $FH(S_1) = \{6, 7, 11\}$ . If we apply the same operations for  $S_2$  above, then we find that

$$Ap(S_2, 3) = \{5(3 - r) : r = 1, 2, 3\} = \{0, 5, 10\}$$

and

$$Ap(S_2, 5) = \{3(5 - r) : r = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = \{0, 3, 6, 9, 12\}$$

and  $g(S_2) = 7$ .

Thus, we write

$$H(S_2) = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 7\} \setminus Ap(S_2, 3) \cup Ap(S_2, 5) \cup \{8\} = \{1, 2, 4, 7\}$$

and  $FH(S_2) = \{4, 7\}$ . In this case, for  $K = S_1 \cap S_2 = \{0, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, \rightarrow, \dots\}$ , we obtain

$$H(S_1 \cap S_2) = H(S_1) \cup H(S_2) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11\}.$$

and

$$FH(S_1 \cap S_2) = FH(S_1) \cup FH(S_2) = \{4, 6, 7, 11\}.$$

Moreover, we write  $D(4, 6, 7, 11) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11\}$  for  $4, 6, 7, 11 \in FH(S_1 \cap S_2)$ . Thus, we determine numerical semigroup  $K = S_1 \cap S_2 = \{0, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, \rightarrow, \dots\}$  as follows:

$$K = S_1 \cap S_2 = \mathbb{N} \setminus D(4, 6, 7, 11) = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11\} = \mathbb{N} \setminus (H(S_1) \cup H(S_2)).$$

If we apply the same operations for numerical semigroups

$$S_1 = \langle 4, 5 \rangle = \{0, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, \rightarrow, \dots\}$$

and

$$S_3 = \langle 2, 5 \rangle = \{0, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, \rightarrow, \dots\}.$$

Then, we find

$$Ap(S_3, 2) = \{5(2 - r) : r = 1, 2\} = \{0, 5\},$$

$$Ap(S_3, 5) = \{2(5 - r) : r = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8\}$$

and  $g(S_3) = 3$ . Thus, we write

$$H(S_3) = \{0, 1, 2, 3\} \setminus Ap(S_3, 2) \cup Ap(S_3, 5) \cup \{7\} = \{1, 3\}$$

and  $FH(S_3) = \{3\}$ . In this case, we find that

$$H(S_1 \cap S_3) = H(S_1) \cup H(S_3) = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11\},$$

but  $FH(S_1 \cap S_3) = \{6, 7, 11\} \neq FH(S_1) \cup FH(S_3)$ , for numerical semigroup

$$K = S_1 \cap S_3 = \{0, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, \rightarrow, \dots\} = S_1.$$

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