

## Strongly Regular Congruences on E-inversive Semigroups

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### Abstract

It is shown that every strongly regular congruence on an E-inversive semigroup is uniquely determined by its kernel and hyper-trace. Furthermore, strongly orthodox (resp., strongly regular) congruences on an E-inversive (resp., E-inversive E-)semigroup  $S$  are described in terms of certain congruence pairs  $(\xi, K)$ , where  $\xi$  is a certain normal congruence on the subsemigroup  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  generated by  $E(S)$  and  $K$  is a certain normal subsemigroup of  $S$ .

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## 1. Introduction

A semigroup  $S$  with non-empty set of idempotents is called *E-inversive* if for every  $a \in S$  there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $ax$  is idempotent. This concept was introduced by Thierrin [17]. Hence a semigroup  $S$  is E-inversive if and only if  $W(a) = \{a' \in S : a' = a'aa'\} \neq \emptyset$  for any  $a \in S$  (see [13]).

The class of E-inversive semigroups is wide and contains many different types, for example, all regular, all eventually regular (its every element has power which is regular, see [2]) semigroups [12]. A semigroup is an *E-semigroup* if its idempotents form a subsemigroup.

Congruences on regular semigroups have been explored extensively. The kernel-trace approach is an effective tool for handling congruences on regular semigroups, which had been investigated in the previous literature, such as Crvenković and Dolinka [1], Feigenbaum [3], Gomes [4], [5], Imaoka [7], Pastijn and Petrich [14], Petrich [15], Scheiblich [16], Trotter [18], [19] and the author [21].

Gomes developed the kernel-trace approach and then described R-unipotent (resp., orthodox) congruences on regular semigroups by means of their kernels and hyper-traces in [4] (resp., [5]). Lou and Li applied this approach to eventually regular semigroups and described R-unipotent (resp., orthodox) congruences on eventually regular semigroups by means of their kernels and hyper-traces in [8] (resp., [9]). The purpose of this paper is to describe strongly orthodox congruences on E-inversive semigroups by means of their kernels and hyper-traces. It is shown that every strongly regular congruence on an E-inversive semigroup is uniquely determined by its kernel and hyper-trace. A description of strongly orthodox (resp., strongly regular) congruences on an E-inversive (resp., E-inversive E-)semigroup  $S$  is given in terms of certain congruence pairs  $(\xi, K)$  consisting of a certain normal congruence  $\xi$  on the subsemigroup  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  generated by  $E(S)$  and a certain normal subsemigroup  $K$  of  $S$ . These results generalize the corresponding results obtained by Lou and Li [9] for eventually regular semigroups.

In [11] Lou et al. described strongly regular congruences on an E-inversive semigroup  $S$  by means of their kernels and traces, where the view of Pastijn and Petrich [14] was followed. Their approach gave quite a neat expression, though not a very explicit one, for the description of a congruence  $\rho_{(K,\tau)}$  on  $S$  defined by a certain congruence pair  $(K, \tau)$  for  $S$ .

By looking again at the eventually regular case presented in [9] we came to believe that it should be possible to describe any strongly regular congruence on an E-inversive E-semigroup, by means of its kernel and trace, in a clearer manner than that obtained in [11]. We wish to remark that because of the type of technique used here is the one used in [9] we shall not need to repeat the proofs for the “tricks” used are almost always the same.



Then  $S$  is E-inversive, since  $S$  is eventually regular. Let  $\rho$  be the congruence on  $S$  determined by the partition  $\{\{a, c, e, f, g\}, \{b, d\}\}$ . Then  $S/\rho = \{\bar{a}, \bar{b}\}$  is a semilattice, that is,  $\rho$  is a semilattice congruence on  $S$ . Hence  $\rho$  is a strongly orthodox congruence on  $S$ .

Let  $S$  be a semigroup and  $e, f \in E(S)$  and let

$$M(e, f) = \{g \in E(S) : ge = g = fg\}$$

and

$$S(e, f) = \{g \in E(S) : ge = g = fg, egf = ef\}.$$

$S(e, f)$  is called the sandwich set of  $e$  and  $f$ . It is known that  $M(e, f) \neq \emptyset$  (resp.,  $S(e, f) \neq \emptyset$ ) for all  $e, f \in E(S)$  in an E-inversive (resp., a regular) semigroup  $S$  ([6], [11]).

Throughout this paper,  $S$  is always an E-inversive semigroup, unless otherwise stated.

We list some known results which will be used in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.2.** [11] *Let  $a, b \in S, a' \in W(a), b' \in W(b)$ . If  $g \in M(a'a, bb')$ , then  $b'ga' \in W(ab) \cap V(agb)$ .*

**Lemma 2.3.** [11] *Let  $\rho$  be a strongly regular congruence on  $S$ . If  $a\rho$  is an idempotent of  $S/\rho$ , then an idempotent  $e$  can be found in  $a\rho$  such that  $H_e \leq H_a$ .*

Let  $\rho$  be a congruence on a semigroup  $S$ . The subset  $\{a \in S : a\rho a^2\}$  of  $S$  is called the kernel of  $\rho$  and is denoted by  $\ker\rho$ . The restriction of  $\rho$  to the subset  $E(S)$  of  $S$  is called the trace of  $\rho$  and is denoted by  $\text{tr}\rho$ . The restriction of  $\rho$  to the subsemigroup  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  of  $S$  generated by  $E(S)$  is called the hyper-trace of  $\rho$  and is denoted by  $\text{htr}\rho$ . By Lemma 2.3, if  $\rho$  is a strongly regular congruence on  $S$ , then

$$\ker\rho = \{a \in S : a\rho e \text{ for some } e \in E(S)\}.$$

**Lemma 2.4.** [11] *Let  $\rho$  be a strongly regular congruence on  $S$ . If  $a, b \in S$  such that  $b\rho \in W(a\rho)$ , then there exists  $a' \in W(a)$  such that  $a'\rho b$  and  $H_{a'} \leq H_b$ .*

**Lemma 2.5.** [11] *Let  $\rho$  be a strongly regular congruence on  $S$ . If  $e, f \in E(S)$  such that  $e\rho f$ , then there exists  $g \in E(S)$  such that  $e\rho g\rho f$  and  $g \in M(e, f)$ .*

**Lemma 2.6.** [11] *Let  $\rho$  be a strongly regular congruence on  $S$ . If  $g\rho \in M(e\rho, f\rho)$  with  $e, f, g \in E(S)$ , then for each  $x \in e\rho \cap E(S), y \in f\rho \cap E(S)$  there exists  $z \in g\rho \cap E(S)$  such that  $z \in M(x, y)$ .*

**Lemma 2.7.** [20] *Let  $S$  be an E-semigroup. Then*

- (1)  $(\forall a \in S, a' \in W(a), e, f \in E(S)) ea', a'f, ea'f \in W(a)$ ;
- (2)  $(\forall a \in S, a' \in W(a), e \in E(S)) aea', a'ea \in E(S)$ ;
- (3)  $(\forall e \in E(S)) W(e) \subseteq E(S)$ .

**Lemma 2.8.** [13] *Let  $S$  be an  $E$ -inversive semigroup. Then  $W(E^n(S)) \subseteq E^{n+1}(S)$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Thus, the subsemigroup  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  of  $S$  is again  $E$ -inversive.*

### 3. Strongly regular congruences on $E$ -inversive semigroups

In this section it is shown that every strongly regular congruence on  $S$  is uniquely determined by its kernel and hyper-trace, and a description of strongly orthodox (resp., strongly regular) congruences on an  $E$ -inversive (resp.,  $E$ -inversive  $E$ -) semigroup  $S$  is given in terms of strongly orthodox (resp., strongly regular) congruence pairs for  $S$ .

We begin by some definitions.

**Definition 3.1.** A subsemigroup  $K$  of  $S$  is called normal if

- (i)  $Reg(K) = Reg(S) \cap K$ ;
- (ii)  $E(S) \subseteq K$ , i.e.,  $K$  is full;
- (iii) for all  $a \in S$  and  $a' \in W(a)$ ,  $aKa', a'Ka \subseteq K$ , i.e.,  $K$  is weakly self-conjugate.

Let  $K$  be a full subsemigroup of  $S$ . As Lemma 3.1 in [10] we have that  $Reg(K) = Reg(S) \cap K$  if and only if for all  $a \in K$  and  $a' \in W(a)$ ,  $a' \in K$ . So the condition (i) in Definition 3.1 can be replaced by the following condition:

- (i') for all  $a \in K$  and  $a' \in W(a)$ ,  $a' \in K$ .

**Definition 3.2.** A congruence  $\xi$  on the subsemigroup  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  of  $S$  is called normal if for all  $x, y \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ ,  $a \in S$  and  $a' \in W(a)$ ,

$$x \xi y \Rightarrow axa' \xi aya', a'xa \xi a'ya$$

whenever  $axa', aya', a'xa, a'ya \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ .

**Definition 3.3.** The pair  $(\xi, K)$  consisting of a normal congruence  $\xi$  on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  such that  $\xi$  is a strong band congruence on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  and a normal subsemigroup  $K$  of  $S$  is called a strongly orthodox congruence pair for  $S$  if, for all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $x \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ ,

- (O1)  $(\exists a^+ \in W(a)) (\forall a' \in W(a)) (aa^+aa' \xi aa', a'aa^+a \xi a'a)$ ;
- (O2)  $xa \in K, x \xi aa^+ \Rightarrow a \in K$ ;
- (O3)  $ab \in K, b' \in W(b), a^+a \xi a^+abb' \Rightarrow axb \in K$ ;
- (O4)  $a \in K \Rightarrow$

$$aa^+xaa^+ \xi aa^+a^+xaaa^+ \text{ and } a^+axa^+a \xi a^+aaxa^+a^+a$$

whenever  $a^+xa, axa^+ \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ .

Given such a pair  $(\xi, K)$ , we define a binary relation  $\rho_{(\xi, K)}$  on  $S$  by

$$a \rho_{(\xi, K)} b \Leftrightarrow \begin{aligned} & (\forall a' \in W(a)) (\exists b' \in W(b)) (a'b \in K, aa' \xi bb', a'a \xi b'b) \ \& \\ & (\forall b' \in W(b)) (\exists a' \in W(a)) (b'a \in K, aa' \xi bb', a'a \xi b'b). \end{aligned}$$

**Notation.** We represent the set of all strongly orthodox congruences on  $S$  by  $SOC(S)$  and the set of all strongly orthodox congruence pairs for  $S$  by  $SOCP(S)$ .

The following theorem is our main result in this section.

**Theorem 3.4.** *If  $(\xi, K) \in SOCP(S)$ , then  $\rho_{(\xi, K)}$  is the unique strongly orthodox congruence on  $S$  such that  $htr\rho_{(\xi, K)} = \xi$  and  $ker\rho_{(\xi, K)} = K$ .*

*Conversely, if  $\rho \in SOC(S)$ , then  $(htr\rho, ker\rho) \in SOCP(S)$  and  $\rho = \rho_{(htr\rho, ker\rho)}$ .*

We give the proof of Theorem 3.4 by a series of lemmas.

As Lemma 3.6 in [9], we may obtain the following

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $(\xi, K) \in SOCP(S)$ . Then*

- (A)  $a \in K \Rightarrow (aa^+)\xi \in V((a^+a)\xi)$ ;
- (B)  $a \in K, a' \in W(a) \Rightarrow (aa')\xi, (a'a)\xi \in W((aa^+a^+a)\xi)$ ;
- (C)  $a \in K, a' \in W(a) \Rightarrow (aa')\xi \in V((a'a)\xi)$ ;
- (D)  $a \in K, a' \in W(a), x \in \langle E(S) \rangle \Rightarrow$

$$aa'xad' \xi aa'a'xaaa' \quad \text{and} \quad a'axa'a \xi a'aaxa'a'a$$

whenever  $a'xa, axa' \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ .

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $(\xi, K) \in SOCP(S)$ . Then  $\rho_{(\xi, K)} \in C(S)$ .*

**Proof.** Notice that  $\xi$  is a strongly regular congruence on the E-inversive semigroup  $\langle E(S) \rangle$ . So by Lemma 2.5 for any  $e, f \in E(S)$  with  $e\xi f$ , there exists  $g \in M(e, f)$  such that  $e\xi g\xi f$ . As Lemma 3.8 in [9], we may deduce that  $\rho_{(\xi, K)} \in C(S)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7.** *If  $(\xi, K) \in SOCP(S)$ , then  $\rho_{(\xi, K)} \in SOC(S)$  such that  $htr\rho_{(\xi, K)} = \xi$  and  $ker\rho_{(\xi, K)} = K$ .*

**Proof.** To simplify the notation, for  $(\xi, K) \in SOCP(S)$ , let  $\rho = \rho_{(\xi, K)}$ . We first show that  $\rho$  is strongly regular. Notice that  $\xi$  is a strongly regular congruence on the E-inversive semigroup  $\langle E(S) \rangle$ . So by Lemma 2.4 for any  $x, y \in \langle E(S) \rangle$  with  $y\xi \in W(x\xi)$ , there exists  $x' \in W(x)$  such that  $x'\xi y$  and  $H_{x'} \leq H_y$ . Moreover, if  $y \in E(S)$ , then  $x'y = x'$ . As Lemma 3.9 in [9], we thus have  $a\rho aa^+a$ , hence  $\rho$  is strongly regular.

Next we show that  $ker\rho = K$ . Let  $a \in ker\rho$ . Since  $\rho$  is strongly regular, there exists  $e \in E(S)$  such that  $a\rho e$ . As Lemma 3.9 in [9] we may obtain that  $a \in K$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $a \in K$ . We show that  $a\rho a^2$ . Now  $\langle E(S) \rangle/\xi$  is a band, hence is a regular semigroup. For any  $a' \in W(a)$ , take  $x\xi \in S((a'a)\xi, (aa')\xi)$ , where  $x \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ . Since  $\xi$  is a strongly regular congruence on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$ , there exists  $f \in E(S)$  such that  $x\xi f$ . Then by Lemma 2.6 there

exists  $e \in E(S)$  such that  $x \xi f \xi e$  and  $e \in M(a'a, aa')$ . As Lemma 3.9 in [9] we may show that  $a\rho a^2$ .

Notice that  $\xi$  is a strongly regular congruence on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$ , as Lemma 3.9 in [9] we have that  $\text{htr}\rho = \xi$ .

Finally, to show that  $\rho$  is an orthodox congruence on  $S$ , let  $a\rho, b\rho \in E(S/\rho)$ . Then by Lemma 2.3 there exist  $e, f \in E(S)$  such that  $a\rho e, b\rho f$ . Since  $\xi$  is a band congruence on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$ , we have that  $(ef)^2 \xi ef$ . Now  $(ef)^2, ef \in \langle E(S) \rangle$ , and  $\text{htr}\rho = \xi$ , we obtain  $(ef)^2 \rho ef$ , that is,  $a\rho b\rho \cdot a\rho b\rho = a\rho b\rho$ . Hence  $S/\rho$  is an orthodox semigroup. Therefore,  $\rho \in \text{SOC}(S)$ .  $\square$

That  $\text{htr}\rho$  is a strong band congruence on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  follows from that  $\rho \in \text{SOC}(S)$  and  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  is an E-inversive subsemigroup of  $S$ , as Lemma 3.10 in [9] we may obtain the following

**Lemma 3.8.** *If  $\rho \in \text{SOC}(S)$ , then  $\ker\rho$  is a normal subsemigroup of  $S$  and  $\text{htr}\rho$  is a normal congruence on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$  such that  $\text{htr}\rho$  is a strong band congruence on  $\langle E(S) \rangle$ .*

As the proofs of the corresponding results in [9] we may obtain the following three results.

**Lemma 3.9.** *If  $\rho \in \text{SOC}(S)$ , then  $(\text{htr}\rho, \ker\rho) \in \text{SOCP}(S)$ .*

**Lemma 3.10.** *Let  $\rho$  be a strongly regular congruence on  $S$  and  $a, b \in S$ . Then*

$$a\rho b \Leftrightarrow \begin{aligned} &(\forall a' \in W(a))(\exists b' \in W(b)) (a'b \in \ker\rho, aa' \text{htr}\rho bb', a'a \text{htr}\rho b'b) \ \& \\ &(\forall b' \in W(b))(\exists a' \in W(a)) (b'a \in \ker\rho, aa' \text{htr}\rho bb', a'a \text{htr}\rho b'b). \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 3.11.** *Every strongly regular congruence on  $S$  is uniquely determined by its kernel and hyper-trace.*

Up to now, we have completed the proof of Theorem 3.4.

Define a relation  $\leq$  on  $\text{SOCP}(S)$  by

$$(\xi, K) \leq (\xi', K') \Leftrightarrow \xi \subseteq \xi' \text{ and } K \subseteq K'.$$

It is clear that  $\leq$  is a partial order on  $\text{SOCP}(S)$ .

Now the next result follows immediately.

**Corollary 3.12.** *The mappings*

$$\varphi : \text{SOC}(S) \rightarrow \text{SOCP}(S), \ \rho \mapsto (\text{htr}\rho, \ker\rho)$$

and

$$\psi : \text{SOCP}(S) \rightarrow \text{SOC}(S), \ (\xi, K) \mapsto \rho_{(\xi, K)}$$

are mutually inverse order isomorphisms of partial order sets.

**Remark 1.** In Lemma 3.10 we can substitute “htr” by “tr”, since elements  $aa', bb', a'a, b'b \in E(S)$ .

**Corollary 3.13.** *Every strongly regular congruence on  $S$  is uniquely determined by its kernel and trace.*

**Remark 2.** Corollary 3.13 has been established already by Lou et al. [11].

**Remark 3.** Theorem 3.4 is a generalization of Theorem 3.7 obtained by Lou et al. [9].

By Lemma 2.3, we have that every strongly regular congruence on an E-inversive E-semigroup is orthodox. We give a description of strongly regular congruences on an E-inversive E-semigroup which is a consequence of Theorem 3.4.

**Definition 3.14.** The pair  $(\xi, K)$  consisting of a normal congruence  $\xi$  on the subsemigroup  $E(S)$  of an E-inversive E-semigroup  $S$  such that the band congruence  $\xi$  is a strong band congruence on  $E(S)$  and a normal subsemigroup  $K$  of  $S$  is called a strongly regular congruence pair for  $S$  if, for all  $a, b \in S, e \in E(S)$ ,

(O1) as in Definition 3.3;

(R2)  $ea \in K, e \xi aa^+ \Rightarrow a \in K$ ;

(R3)  $a \in K \Rightarrow a^+ea \xi a^+a^+eaa$  and  $aea^+ \xi aaea^+a^+$ .

Given such a pair  $(\xi, K)$ , we define a binary relation  $\rho_{(\xi, K)}$  on  $S$  as in Definition 3.3.

As Theorem 4.3 in [9] we may obtain the following

**Theorem 3.15.** *If  $(\xi, K)$  is a strongly regular congruence pair for an E-inversive E-semigroup  $S$ , then  $\rho_{(\xi, K)}$  is the unique strongly regular congruence on  $S$  such that  $tr\rho_{(\xi, K)} = \xi$  and  $ker\rho_{(\xi, K)} = K$ .*

*Conversely, if  $\rho$  is a strongly regular congruence on an E-inversive E-semigroup  $S$ , then  $(tr\rho, ker\rho)$  is a strongly regular congruence pair for  $S$  and  $\rho = \rho_{(tr\rho, ker\rho)}$ .*

**Remark 4.** Theorem 3.15 is a generalization of Theorem 4.3 obtained by Lou et al. [9].

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