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## SOME PROPERTIES OF SIMPLE $I$ -REGULAR SEMIGROUPS

by

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Let  $S$  be a regular semigroup and let  $E_S$  denote its set of idempotents. As usual,  $E_S$  is partially ordered in the following manner: if  $e, f \in E_S$ ,  $e \leq f$  if and only if  $ef = fe = e$ . We then say that  $E_S$  is under or assumes its natural order. Let  $I$  denote the integers. If  $E_S$ , under the natural order, is order isomorphic to  $I$  under the reverse of the usual order, we call  $S$  an  $I$ -regular semigroup. We determined the structure of  $I$ -regular semigroups mod groups in [10].

In section 1, we develop the ideal extension theory of simple  $I$ -regular semigroups. In section 2, we obtain the maximal group homomorphic image of a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup including the defining homomorphism. In section 3, we determine the nature of the congruences admitted by a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup, and we describe the idempotents separating congruences.

In the special case  $S$  is bisimple, the results of this paper reduce to the corresponding results for  $I$ -bisimple semigroups (bisimple semigroups  $S$  such that  $E_S$  is order isomorphic to  $I$  under the reverse of the usual order) [6, 7].

Unless otherwise specified, we utilize the definitions, terminology, and notation of [1].

### 1. Ideal extension theory

In this section, we determine the translational hull  $\bar{S}$  of a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup  $S$ . All ideal extensions of  $S$  by a semigroup  $T$  with zero,  $o$ , can then be described if one knows the structure of  $T$  and the partial homomorphisms  $\theta$  of  $T^* = T \setminus \{0\}$  into  $\bar{S}$  such that  $AB = 0$  in  $T$  implies that  $A\theta B\theta \in S$  [1]. This determination is carried out if  $T$  is a completely 0-simple (Brandt) semigroup. We also completely determine the extensions of a Brandt semigroup with finite index set by a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup (with zero appended) by specializing our general determination of the extensions of a Brandt semigroup by an arbitrary semigroup [5, theorem 1].

Before commencing, let us state the structure theorem for simple  $I$ -regular semigroups.

Let  $C_1^* = IxI$  under the multiplication  $(a, b)(c, d) = (a + c - \min(b, c), b + d - \min(b, c))$ . We called  $C_1^*$  the extended bicyclic semigroup in [6].

**THEOREM 1.1** (Warne, [10]). *S is a simple I-regular semigroup if and only if  $S = (U(G_j : j = 0, 1, \dots, d-1)) \times C_1^*$ , where d is a positive integer,  $\{G_j : 0 \leq j \leq d-1\}$  is a collection of pairwise disjoint groups, and  $C_1^*$  is the extended bicyclic semigroup, under the multiplication*

$$(g_s, (m, n))(h_r, (p, q)) = (t, (m, n)(p, q)) \tag{*}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} g_s \in G_s, g_r \in G_r \quad (0 \leq r, s \leq d-1) \quad \text{and} \quad t = \\ g_s(f_{n-p, p}^{-1} \prod_{j=0}^{s-1} \gamma_j)(h_r \prod_{j=pd+r}^{nd+s-1} \gamma_j)(f_{n-p, q} \prod_{j=0}^{s-1} \gamma_j), \\ (f_{p-n, m}^{-1} \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \gamma_j)(g_s \prod_{j=nd+s}^{pd+r-1} \gamma_j)(f_{p-n, n} \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \gamma_j)h_r, \quad \text{or} \\ (g_s \prod_{j=s}^{v-1} \gamma_j)(h_r \prod_{j=r}^{v-1} \gamma_j) \quad (v = \max(r, s)) \end{aligned}$$

according to whether  $n > p$ ,  $p > n$ , or  $p = n$  where  $\gamma_j = \gamma_{j(\text{mod } d)}$  ( $j \in I$ ,  $j \geq 0$ ) is a homomorphism of  $G_{j(\text{mod } d)}$  into  $G_{(j+1)\text{mod } d}$ . Juxtaposition denotes multiplication in  $C_1^*$  and in the appropriate  $G_j$ . For  $m \in I^0$ , the non-negative integers,  $n \in I, f_{0, n} = k_0$ , the identity of  $G_0$ , while, for  $m > 0$ ,

$$f_{m, n} = u_{(n+1)d} \left( \prod_{j=0}^{d-1} \gamma_j \right)^{m-1} u_{(n+2)d} \left( \prod_{j=0}^{d-1} \gamma_j \right)^{m-2} \cdots u_{(n+(m-1)d} \left( \prod_{j=0}^{d-1} \gamma_j \right) u_{(n+m)d}$$

where  $\{u_{kd} : k \in I\}$  is a collection of elements of  $G_0$  with  $u_{kd} = k_0$  for  $k > 0$ . In (\*)  $\prod_{j=a}^{a-1} \gamma_j$  will denote the identity automorphism of  $G_{a(\text{mod } d)}$ .

Let  $S$  be a simple I-regular semigroup. In connection with theorem 1.1, we write  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1^*, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, u_{id})$ .

For convenience, we write  $\alpha_{m, n} = \gamma_m \gamma_{m+1} \cdots \gamma_{n-1}$  if  $m < n$  and let  $\alpha_{n, n}$  denote the identity automorphism of  $G_{n(\text{mod } d)}$ .

**LEMMA 1.1.** *A simple I-regular semigroup is left and right reductive.*

**PROOF.** This lemma is an immediate consequence of theorem 1.1. We will utilize the multiplication of theorem 1.1 without explicit mention.

**THEOREM 1.2** *Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1^*, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, m_{id})$  be a simple I-regular semigroup. Let  $W = \{(\theta, p) : \theta : I \rightarrow G_0, p \in I, \text{ and } (i+1)\theta = m_{(i+1)d}^{-1}(i\theta \prod_{j=0}^{d-1} \gamma_j) m_{(i+p+1)d} \text{ for all } i \in I\}$ . Let  $\rho_i$  ( $i \in I$ ) denote the inner right translation of  $(I, +)$  determined by  $i \cdot W$ , under the multiplication*

$$*(\theta, w)(\eta, p) = (\theta \circ \rho_w \eta, w + p),$$

where  $\circ$  denotes pointwise multiplication of mappings and juxtaposition denotes iteration of mappings is a group. Let  $\bar{S}$  be the translational hull of  $S$ . Then,  $\bar{S} = W \cup S$  ( $W \cap S = \square$ ), under the multiplication

$$(\theta, a) \cdot (\eta, p) = (\theta, a)(\eta, p)$$

$$(g_s, a, b) \cdot (h_r, c, d) = (g_s, a, b)(h_r, c, d)$$

where juxtaposition denotes multiplication in  $W$  and  $S$  and

$$(\theta, p) \cdot (g_r, a, b) = ((a-p)\theta \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \gamma_j g_r, a-p, b)$$

$$(g_r, a, b) \cdot (\theta, p) = (g_r(b\theta \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \gamma_j), a, b+p).$$

PROOF. Let  $\lambda$  be a left translation of  $S$ . Then, if  $e_0$  is the identity of  $G_0$ ,

$$(e_0, i, i)\lambda = (i\delta, i\delta_1, i+ip_1)$$

where  $\delta : I \rightarrow U(G_j : 0 \leq j \leq d-1)$ ;  $\delta_1 : I \rightarrow I$ ; and  $\rho_1 : I \rightarrow I^0$  the non-negative integers. Since  $(e_0, i, i)(e_0, i+1, i+1) = (e_0, i+1, i+1)$ , we have the following two possibilities: If  $ip_1 = 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (i+1)\delta &= m_{(i\delta_1+1)d}^{-1}(i\delta\alpha_{r,d})m_{(i+1)d} \quad \text{where } i\delta \in G_r, \\ (i+1)\rho_1 &= 0, \quad \text{and} \\ (i+1)\delta_1 &= i\delta_1 + 1 \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

while, if  $ip_1 \geq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (i+1)\delta &= i\delta \\ (i+1)\rho_1 &= ip_1 - 1 \\ (i+1)\delta_1 &= i\delta_1. \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

Let us first consider the case  $ip_1 = 0$  for all  $i \in I$ . In this case it is easily seen that  $\lambda|D_0$ , where  $D_0 = \{(g_0, m, n) : g_0 \in G_0, m, n \in I\}$ , is a left translation of  $D_0$ . Hence, since  $D_0$  is the  $I$ -bisimple semigroup  $(G_0, C_1^*, \alpha_{0,d}, m_{id})$  [6, theorem 1.2] (notation of [6]),

$$(e_0, i, i)\lambda = (i\delta, i+p, i)$$

where  $p \in I$  and  $\delta$  is a mapping of  $I$  into  $G_0$  such that

$$(i+1)\delta = m_{(i+p+1)d}^{-1}i\delta\alpha_{0,d}m_{(i+1)d} \tag{1.3}$$

by virtue of [7, 8] or by [9, proof of theorem 1]. Hence, since  $(g_r, i, j) = (e_0, i, i)(g_r, i, j)$ ,

$$(g_r, i, j)\lambda_{(\delta,p)} = ((i\delta)\alpha_{0,r}g_r, i+p, j) \tag{1.4}$$

where  $\lambda = \lambda_{(\delta, p)}$ ,  $p \in I$  and  $\delta$  is a mapping of  $I$  into  $G_0$  satisfying (1.3).

Conversely, (1.3) and (1.4) define a left translation of  $D_0$  by [7] or by [9, proof of theorem 1]. By (1.3),

$$(g_r, a, b)\lambda_{(\delta, p)} = (e_0, a, a)\lambda_{(\delta, p)}(g_r, a, b).$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & ((g_r, a, b)(h_s, c, d))\lambda_{(\delta, p)} \\ &= (e_0, a+c-\min(b, c), a+c-\min(b, c))\lambda_{(\delta, p)}(g_r, a, b)(h_s, c, d) \\ &= (e_0, a, a)\lambda_{(\delta, p)}(g_r, a, b)(h_s, c, d) = (g_r, a, b)\lambda_{(\delta, p)}(h_s, c, d). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\lambda_{(\delta, p)}$  is a left translation of  $S$ .

Next, suppose that there exists  $u \in I$  such that  $u\rho_1 \neq 0$ . Utilizing (1.1) and (1.2), we obtain:  $(t+i)\rho_1 = 0$ , where  $t$  is a unique element in  $I$ , for  $i \geq 0$ , and  $(t+i)\rho_1 = -i$  for  $i < 0$ ;  $(t+i)\delta_1 = a+i$ , where  $a \in I$ , for  $i \geq 0$ , and  $(t+i)\delta_1 = a$  for  $i < 0$ ; and  $(t+i)\delta = f_{i,a}^{-1}g_s\alpha_{s,d}\alpha_{0,d}^{i-1}f_{i,t}$  for  $i > 0$ , and  $(t+i)\delta = g_s \in G_s$  for  $i \leq 0$ . Since  $(e_0, i, i)(e_0, i+n, i) = (e_0, i+n, i)$  for all  $n \geq 0$ , we are able to determine  $(e_0, i+n, i)\lambda$ . Next, since  $(g_r, i+n, i+m) = (e_0, i+n, i)(g_r, i, i+m)$  for  $i \in I$ ,  $m, n \in I^0$ , we are able to determine  $(g_r, i+n, i+m)\lambda$ . By [3] and theorem 1.1, every element of  $S$  may be written in the form  $(g_r, i+n, i+m)$  where  $g_r \in G_r$ ,  $i \in I$ , and  $m, n \in I^0$ . We let  $i = t+q$  and determine  $(g_r, t+q+n, t+q+m)\lambda$  in terms of the values of  $\delta$ ,  $\rho_1$ , and  $\delta_1$  given above. In this calculation, we utilize the identity  $f_{m+c, n}f_{c, m+n}^{-1} = f_{m, n}\alpha_{0,d}^c$  for  $m, c \in I^0$  and  $n \in I$  [10]. (This identity may be developed by a routine calculation.) Finally, if  $a_1 = t+q+n$  and  $b_1 = t+q+m$ , we show that  $(g_r, a_1, b_1)\lambda = (g_s, a, t)(g_r, a_1, b_1)$ , i.e.  $\lambda$  is an inner left translation. (We omit the details of these calculations as they parallel calculations given in [7] and [9]).

In a similar manner, it may be shown that the semigroup of right translations of  $S$  consists of the inner right translations of  $S$  and the transformations of  $S$  defined by

$$(g_r, i, j)\rho_{(\theta, w)} = (g_r(j\theta\alpha_{0,r}), i, j+w) \tag{1.5}$$

where  $w \in I$  and  $\theta$  is a mapping of  $I$  into  $G_0$  such that

$$(i+1)\theta = m_{(i+1)d}^{-1}(i\theta\alpha_{0,d})m_{(i+w+1)d} \text{ for all } i \in I. \tag{1.6}$$

It is easily seen that  $\rho_{(\theta, w)}$  as defined by (1.5) and (1.6) is not an inner right translation of  $S$ , and  $\lambda_{(\delta, p)}$  as defined by (1.4) and (1.3) is not an inner left translation of  $S$ . Hence, by lemma 1.1 and [7, lemma 1],  $\lambda_{(\delta, p)}$  and  $\rho_{(g_r, a, b)}$  are not linked and  $\lambda_{(g_r, a, b)}$  and  $\rho_{(\theta, w)}$  are not linked. Similarly,  $\lambda_{(h_r, c, d)}$  and  $\rho_{(g_s, a, b)}$  are linked if and only if  $(h_r, c, d) = (g_s, a, b)$ . Next, suppose that  $\rho_{(\theta, w)}$  and  $\lambda_{(\delta, p)}$  are linked. Then  $\rho_{(\theta, w)}|D_0$  and  $\lambda_{(\delta, p)}|D_0$

are linked. Thus, by the proof of [9, theorem 1] or [7],  $w = -p$  and  $\delta = \rho_{-w}\theta$ . By the proof of [9, theorem 1] or [7],  $\rho_{(\theta, w)}|D_0$  and  $\lambda_{(\rho_{-w}\theta, -w)}|D_0$  are linked. Thus,  $(g_s, a, b)\rho_{(\theta, w)}(h_r, c, d) = ((g_s, a, b)(e_0, b, b))\rho_{(\theta, w)}(h_r, c, d) = (g_s, a, b)((e_0, b, b)\rho_{(\theta, w)}(e_0, c, c))(h_r, c, d) = (g_s, a, b)((e_0, c, c)\lambda_{(\rho_{-w}\theta, -w)}(h_r, c, d)) = (g_s, a, b)((h_r, c, d)\lambda_{(\rho_{-w}\theta, -w)})$ . Thus,  $\rho_{(\theta, w)}$  and  $\lambda_{(\rho_{-w}\theta, -w)}$  are linked. The mapping  $\rho \rightarrow (\lambda, \rho)$ , where  $\rho$  is a right translation of  $S$  and  $\lambda$  is the left translation of  $S$  linked with  $\rho$ , is an isomorphism of the semigroup of right translations of  $S$  onto  $\bar{S}$ . If  $\rho_{(\theta, q)}, \rho_{(\eta, p)} \in \bar{S} \setminus S$ ,  $\rho_{(\theta, q)}\rho_{(\eta, p)} = \rho_{(\theta \circ p_q \eta, q+p)}$  by (1.5) and (1.6). Hence  $\bar{S} \setminus S$  is a semigroup. The mapping  $(\theta, p) \rightarrow \rho_{(\theta, p)}$  is an isomorphism of  $W$ , under the multiplication  $*$ , onto  $\bar{S} \setminus S$ . Clearly,  $W$  is a group. The remainder of the theorem is a consequence of [1, p. 12, lemma 1.2], (1.4), and (1.5).

REMARK 1.1. In the case  $d = 1$ , we obtain [7, theorem 1] (see also [8]).

COROLLARY 1.1. *Let  $S$  be a weakly reductive semigroup and let  $\bar{S}$  be its translational hull. Let  $T$  be a 0-simple semigroup having proper divisors of zero. If  $S = \bar{S}$  or  $\bar{S} \setminus S$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ , then every extension of  $S$  by  $T$  is given by a partial homomorphism [4].*

PROOF. Replace  $\mathfrak{D}$  by  $\mathfrak{F}$  in the proof of [7, theorem 3].

REMARK 1.2. Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, m_{id})$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup.  $S$  has  $d$   $\mathfrak{D}$ -classes,  $D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{d-1}$ .  $D_r = \{(g_r, a, b) : g_r \in G_r, a, b \in I\}$  is the  $I$ -bisimple semigroup  $(G_r, C_1^*, \alpha_r, r+d, m_{id}\alpha_0, r)$ . (Notation of [6]). Let  $T$  be a 0-bisimple semigroup. To determine the partial homomorphisms of  $T \setminus 0$  into  $S$  one must just determine the partial homomorphisms of  $T \setminus 0$  into  $D_r$  for each  $r \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$ . In the case  $T$  is a completely 0-simple semigroup, (a Brandt semigroup), these determinations are given mod groups by [7, theorem 2] ([7, corollary 1]). By lemma 1.1, theorem 1.2, and Corollary 1.1, if  $T$  is a 0-simple semigroup with proper divisors of zero, every extension of  $S$  by  $T$  is given by a partial homomorphism. In particular, this is valid if  $T$  is a completely 0-simple semigroup (Brandt Semigroup) with proper divisors of zero.

COROLLARY 1.2. *Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1^*, \delta_0, \dots, \delta_{d-1}, m_{id})$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup and let  $T = M^0(R; K; A; P)$  be a completely 0-simple semigroup (with zero,  $0'$ ) without proper divisors of zero. Let  $V$  be an extension of  $S$  by  $T$ . Then, either  $V$  is given by a partial homomorphism and an explicit multiplication is thus given by employing remark 1.2. (Conversely, every partial homomorphism of  $T \setminus 0'$  into  $S$  determines an extension of  $S$  by  $T$ ), or  $V = (T \setminus 0') \cup S$  under the multiplication*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{A) } & (a; s, \lambda)^*(g_r, m, n) \\
 & = ((m - k_s - i_a - t_\lambda)(\beta_s \circ \rho_{k_s} \theta_a \circ \rho_{k_s + i_a} \gamma_\lambda) \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \delta_j g_r, m - k_s - i_a - t_\lambda, n) \\
 \text{B) } & (g_r, m, n)^*(a; s, \lambda) \\
 & = (g_r((n\beta_s \circ \rho_{k_s} \theta_a \circ \rho_{k_s + i_a} \gamma_\lambda) \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \delta_j), m, k_s + i_a + t_\lambda + n)
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $(g_s, m, n) \in S$  and  $(a; s, \lambda) \in T \setminus 0'$ ,  $\circ$  denotes pointwise multiplication of mappings,  $a \rightarrow i_a$  is a homomorphism of  $R$  into  $(I, +)$ ,  $a \rightarrow \theta_a$  is a mapping of  $R$  into  $H = \{\beta : (\beta, a) \in W \text{ for some } a \in I\}$  (see statement of theorem 1.2) such that  $\theta_{ab} = \theta_a \circ \rho_{i_a} \theta_b$  for all  $a, b \in R$ ,  $s \rightarrow \beta_s$  is a mapping of  $K$  into  $H$ ,  $s \rightarrow k_s$  is a mapping of  $K$  into  $I$ ,  $\lambda \rightarrow \gamma_\lambda$  is a mapping of  $\Lambda$  into  $H$ , and  $\lambda \rightarrow t_\lambda$  is a mapping of  $\Lambda$  into  $I$  such that  $i_{p_{\lambda s}} = t_\lambda + k_s$  and  $\theta_{p_{\lambda s}} = \gamma_\lambda \circ \rho_{t_\lambda} \beta_s$ . Conversely, (A) and (B) define an extension of  $S$  by  $T$ .

PROOF. The proof utilizes theorem 1.1, theorem 1.2, corollary 1.1, and [1, theorem 4.20 and theorem 4.22]. It is similar in nature to the proof of [7, theorem 4] (see also [8]) and [9, theorem 4] and it will be omitted.

REMARK 1.3. In the case  $d = 1$ , we obtain [7, theorem 4][see also [8)].

REMARK 1.4. In the special case that  $T \setminus 0'$  is a group  $R$ ,  $V$  is either given by a partial homomorphism or (A) and (B) become

$$\begin{aligned}
 a^*(g_r, m, n) & = ((m - i_a)\theta_a \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \gamma_j g_r, m - i_a, n) \\
 (g_r, m, n)^*a & = (g_r((n\theta_a) \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \gamma_j), m, n + i_a).
 \end{aligned}$$

REMARK 1.5. If  $T$  is a 0-simple semigroup without proper divisors of zero, an extension of  $S$  by  $T$  is either given by a partial homomorphism or by the equations in the above remark with  $a \rightarrow \theta_a$  a mapping of  $T \setminus 0'$  into  $H$  and with  $a \rightarrow i_a$  a homomorphism of  $T \setminus 0'$  into  $(I, +)$ .

We close this section by giving a specialization of [5, theorem 1]. The theorem is obtained by combining theorem 3.1 (below), [5, theorem 1], and [5, lemma 1]. The theorem is quite similar to [9, theorem 7].

In the theorem below, capital roman letters will denote elements of  $T^*$ .

THEOREM 1.3. Let  $S = M^0(G; J; J; \Delta)$ , where  $J$  is a finite set, be a Brandt semigroup; let  $T^* = (d, U_0, U_1, \dots, U_{d-1}, C_1^*, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, m_{id})$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup; and let  $V$  be an extension of  $S$  by  $T$ . Then, there exists a homomorphism  $w : A \rightarrow w_A$  of  $T^*$  into  $H_r$ , the full symmetric group on some  $r$  element subset  $Q$  of  $J$ . This homomorphism is explicitly given by theorem 2.4. For each  $A \in T^*$ , there exists a mapping  $\psi_A$  of  $Q$  into the group  $G$  such that

$$(i\psi_A)(iw_A\psi_B) = i\psi_{AB} \text{ for all } i \in Q.$$

The products in  $V$  are given by

$$A \circ B = AB \tag{1.7}$$

$$(a; i, j) \circ A = (a(j\psi_A), i, jw_A) \text{ if } j \in Q \\ = 0', \text{ the zero of } S, \text{ if } j \notin Q \tag{1.8}$$

$$0' \circ A = 0'$$

$$A \circ (a; i, j) = ((iw_A^{-1}\psi_A)a, iw_A^{-1}, j) \text{ if } i \in Q \\ = 0' \text{ if } i \notin Q \tag{1.9}$$

$$A \circ 0' = 0'.$$

Conversely, let  $S$  be a Brandt semigroup and let  $T^*$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup. If we are given the mappings  $w$  and  $\psi_A$  described above and define product  $\circ$  in the class sum of  $S$  and  $T^*$  by (1.7)–(1.9), then  $V$  is an extension of  $S$  by  $T$ .

## 2. The maximal group homomorphic image

The major purpose of this section is to determine the maximal group homomorphic image of a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup including the defining homomorphism.

To do this, we first determine the homomorphisms of a simple regular  $\omega$ -semigroup (a simple regular semigroup  $S$  such that  $E_S$  is order isomorphic to  $I^0$ , the non-negative integers, under the reverse of the usual order) into a group (theorem 2.1). Utilizing this result and our determination of the maximal group homomorphic image of an  $\omega$ -bisimple semigroup (a bisimple semigroup  $S$  such that  $E_S$  is order isomorphic to  $I^0$  under the reverse of the usual order) [6, theorem 3.4], we determine the maximal group homomorphic image a simple regular  $\omega$ -semigroup including the defining homomorphism (theorem 2.2). Finally, utilizing theorem 2.1, theorem 2.2, and ‘an inverse limit process’ and ‘an inductive process’ (introduced in [6]), we determine the maximal group homomorphic image of a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup. We also completely determine the homomorphisms of a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup into a group. This result was used in section 1.

The multiplication for a simple regular  $\omega$ -semigroup  $S$  (due to Munn [2]) may be obtained from theorem 1.1 by considering the triples  $\{(g_r, m, n) : g_r \in G_r, (0 \leq r \leq d-1), m, n \in I^0\}$ . Thus, we may write  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1})$  where  $C_1$  is the bicyclic semigroup.



**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1})$  be a simple regular  $\omega$ -semigroup and let  $H$  be a group. For each  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, d-1\}$ , let  $f_i$  be a homomorphism of  $G_i$  into  $H$  and let  $z \in H$  such that*

$$f_{d-1} C_z = \gamma_{d-1} f_0, \text{ where } xC_z = zxz^{-1} \text{ for } x \in H, \tag{2.1}$$

and

$$f_r = \gamma_r f_{r+1} \text{ for } 0 \leq r \leq d-2. \tag{2.2}$$

Then,

$$(g_r, m, n)\phi = z^{-m}(g_r f_r)z^n \tag{2.3}$$

is a homomorphism of  $S$  into  $H$  and, conversely every such homomorphism is obtained in this fashion.

**PROOF.** Let  $\phi$  be a homomorphism of  $S$  into  $H$ . Define  $(g_r, 0, 0)\phi = g_r f_r$ . Clearly,  $f_r$  is a homomorphism of  $G_r$  into  $H$ . Let  $(e_0, 0, 1)\phi = z$ , where  $e_0$  is the identity of  $G_0$ . Hence  $(g_r, m, n)\phi = z^{-m}g_r f_r z^n$  and (2.3) is valid. Since  $(g_{d-1} \gamma_{d-1}, 0, 0)(e_0, 0, 1) = (e_0, 0, 1)(g_{d-1}, 0, 0)$ , (2.1) is valid. Since, for  $0 \leq r \leq d-2$ ,  $(g_r, 0, 0)(e_{r+1}, 0, 0) = (g_r \gamma_r, 0, 0)(e_{r+1}, 0, 0)$ , (2.2) is valid.

Conversely, let us show that (2.3) subject to the conditions (2.1) and (2.2) defines a homomorphism of  $S$  into  $H$ . Clearly,  $\phi$  is a well defined mapping of  $S$  into  $H$ . From (2.1) and (2.2), we obtain

$$\alpha_{j,d} f_0 = f_j C_z \tag{2.4}$$

By induction, we obtain

$$t^r b_j f_j = b_j \alpha_{j,rd} f_0 z^r \tag{2.5}$$

for each positive integer  $r$  and each  $b_j \in G_j$  ( $0 \leq j \leq d-1$ ).

Utilizing (2.5) and (2.2), it is easy to show that (2.3) defines a homomorphism of  $S$  into  $H$ .

**REMARK 2.1** In the case  $d = 1$ , we obtain [6, theorem 3.5].

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1})$  be a simple regular  $\omega$ -semigroup. Let  $N = \{g \in G_0 | g(\gamma_0 \gamma_1 \dots \gamma_{d-1})^n = k_0, \text{ the identity of } G_0, \text{ for some } n \in I^0\}$ . Then,  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G_0$ . Let  $g \rightarrow \bar{g}$  be the natural homomorphism of  $G_0$  onto  $G_0/N$ . Define  $\bar{x}\theta = x\gamma_0\gamma_1 \dots \gamma_{d-1}$  for  $x \in G_0$ . Then,  $\theta$  is an endomorphism of  $G_0/N$ . Define a relation  $\sigma$  on  $G_0/N \times (I^0)^2$  by the rule  $((\bar{g}_0, a, b), (\bar{h}_0, c, d)) \in \sigma$  if and only if there exist  $x, y \in I^0$  such that  $x+a = y+c$ ,  $x+b = y+d$  and  $\bar{g}_0 \theta^x = \bar{h}_0 \theta^y$ . Define a binary operation on  $V = G_0/N \times (I^0)^2 / \sigma$  by the rule*

$$(\bar{g}_0, a, b)_\sigma (\bar{h}_0, c, d)_\sigma = (\bar{g}_0 \theta^c \bar{h}_0 \theta^b, a+c, b+d)_\sigma.$$

Then,  $V$  is a group which is the maximal group homomorphic image of  $S$ . The canonical homomorphism of  $S$  onto  $V$  is given by

$$(g_r, m, n)\zeta = (g_r \prod_{j=r}^{\overline{d-1}} \gamma_j, m+1, n+1)_\sigma \quad \text{where } g_r \in G_r$$

PROOF. For simplicity, let  $\alpha_{n,m} = \prod_{j=n}^{m-1} \gamma_j$  if  $m > n$  and let  $\alpha_{n,n}$  denote the identity automorphism of  $G_{n(\text{mod } d)}$ . Let  $T = \{(g_0, a, b) : g_0 \in G_0; a, b \in I^0\}$ . Then,  $T$  is the  $\omega$ -bisimple semigroup  $(G_0, C_1, \alpha_{0,d})$  by theorem 1.1 and [6, theorem 1.1] (notation of [6]). Thus, by [6, theorem 3.4],  $\sigma$  is an equivalence relation and  $V$  is a group. By a routine calculation  $(\overline{k_0}, 0, 0)_\sigma$  is the identity of  $V$  and  $(\overline{g_0}^{-1}, b, a)_\sigma$  is the inverse of  $(\overline{g_0}, a, b)_\sigma$ . We first employ theorem 2.1 to show that  $\zeta$  is a homomorphism of  $S$  into  $V$ . Let  $z = (\overline{k_0}, 0, 1)_\sigma$  and  $g_r f_r = (\overline{g_r \alpha_{r,d}}, 1, 1)_\sigma$  for  $0 \leq r \leq d-1$ . By a straight forward calculation, (2.1) and (2.2) of theorem 2.1 are valid, and  $(g_r, m, n)\zeta = z^{-m} g_r f_r z^n$ .

Since

$$\begin{aligned} (g_0, m, n)\zeta &= (\overline{g_0 \alpha_{0,d}}, m+1, n+1)_\sigma \\ &= (\overline{g_0} \theta, m+1, n+1)_\sigma \\ &= (\overline{g_0}, m, n)_\sigma, \end{aligned}$$

$\zeta$  maps  $S$  onto  $V$ .

Let  $\delta$  be a homomorphism of  $S$  onto a group  $X$ . We show that  $\delta|T$  is a homomorphism of  $T$  onto  $X$ . By theorem 2.1, for each  $r \in \{0, \dots, d-1\}$ , there exists a homomorphism  $\delta_r$  of  $G_r$  into  $X$  and  $ap \in X$  such that (2.1) and (2.2) of theorem 2.1 are valid and

$$(g_r, m, n)\delta = p^{-m} g_r \delta_r p^n$$

where  $g_r \in G_r$ . Thus, if  $x \in X$ , there exists  $g_r \in G_r, a, b \in I^0$ , such that

$$x = p^{-a} g_r \delta_r p^b.$$

Hence, utilizing (2.1) and (2.2) of theorem 2.1,

$$\begin{aligned} x &= p^{-a} g_r \gamma_r \delta_{r+1} p^b \\ &= p^{-a} g_r \gamma_r \cdots \gamma_{d-2} \delta_{d-1} p^b \\ &= p^{-(a+1)} g_r \alpha_{r,d} \delta_0 p^{(b+1)} \\ &= (g_r \alpha_{r,d}, a+1, b+1)\delta. \end{aligned}$$

By [6, theorem 3.4],  $V$  is the maximal group homomorphic image of  $T$  under the homomorphism

$$(g_0, a, b)\phi = (g_0, a, b)_\sigma.$$

Hence, there exists a homomorphism  $\eta$  of  $V$  onto  $X$  such that  $\phi\eta = \delta|T$ .

We will show that  $V$  is the maximal group homomorphic image of  $S$  under the homomorphism  $\zeta$ . We note that

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{g}_0, m, n)_\sigma \eta &= (g_0, m, n)\phi\eta \\ &= (g_0, m, n)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

Hence, by (2.6), (2.2), and (2.1),

$$\begin{aligned} (g_r, m, n)\zeta\eta &= (\overline{g_r \alpha_{r,d}}, m+1, n+1)_\sigma \eta \\ &= p^{-(m+1)}(g_r \alpha_{r,d})\delta_0 p^{n+1} \\ &= p^{-m}g_r \delta_r p^n \\ &= (g_r, m, n)\delta. \end{aligned}$$

REMARK 2.2. In the case  $d = 1$ , we obtain [6, theorem 3.4].

The following remarks will be utilized in giving the canonical homomorphism in theorem 2.3 (below) a convenient form.

Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1^*, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, u_{id})$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup. Let  $\alpha_{m,n} = \gamma_m \gamma_{m+1} \dots \gamma_{n-1}$  for  $m < n$  let  $\alpha_{m,m}$  denote the identity automorphism of  $G_{m \pmod d}$ . Let  $a_1$  denote a non-negative integer. Define

$$t_{id, a_1} = \begin{cases} f_{a_1-1, i+1} u_{(i+1)d} \alpha_{0,d}^{a_1-2} \dots u_{(i+1)d} \alpha_{0,d} u_{(i+1)d} & \text{if } a_1 \geq 2 \\ k_0, \text{ the identity of } G_0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{2.7}$$

By the proof of [10, theorem 1]\*,  $S \cong (U(S_{id} : i \in I, i \leq 0))\lambda$  where  $S_{id}$  is the simple regular  $\omega$ -semigroup  $S_{id} = (d, G_0, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1, \gamma_{id, 0}, \gamma_{id, 1} \dots, \gamma_{id, d-1})_{id}$  the congruence  $\lambda$  defined in [10],

$$\gamma_{id, d-1} = \gamma_{d-1} C_{u_{(i+1)d}^{-1}}, \tag{2.8}$$

and

$$\gamma_{id, s} = \gamma_s \text{ for } 0 \leq s \leq d-2 \tag{2.9}$$

under an isomorphism  $\Psi$  (defined in [10]).

For  $g_r \in G_r$  for  $0 \leq r \leq d-1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (g_r, m, n)_{(i+1)d} \lambda &= ((s_{id}^{-1} \alpha_{id, 0, d}^{m-1} \dots s_{id}^{-1} \alpha_{id, 0, d} s_{id}^{-1}) \alpha_{id, 0, r} g_r \\ &\quad ((s_{id} \cdot s_{id} \alpha_{id, 0, d} \dots s_{id} \alpha_{id, 0, d}^{n-1}) \alpha_{id, 0, r}), m+1, n+1)_{id} \lambda \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

where if  $m = 0$  ( $n = 0$ ) the right (left) multiplier of  $g_r$  is  $k_r$ , the identity of  $G_r$  and

$$s_{id} = u_{(i+2)d}^{-1} u_{(i+1)d}, \tag{2.11}$$

$$g_{d-1} \gamma_{id, d-1} = s_{id}^{-1} (g_{d-1} \gamma_{(i+1)d, d-1}) s_{id} \tag{2.12}$$

By the proof of [10, theorem 1], if  $\Psi_{id}$  is as in [10],

\* In [10],  $S_{id}$  is denoted by  $X_{id}$ .

$$(g_r, a_1, b_1)_{id} = ((t_{id, a_1} \alpha_{0, r}) g_r (t_{id, b_1}^{-1} \alpha_{0, r}), a_1 + i, b_1 + i) \Psi_{id} \quad (2.13)$$

and

$$(g_r, a_1 + i, b_1 + i) \Psi_{id} = ((t_{id, a_1}^{-1} \alpha_{0, r}) g_r t_{id, b_1} \alpha_{0, r}, a_1, b_1)_{id}. \quad (2.14)$$

**THEOREM 2.3.** *Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1^*, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, u_{id})$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup. Let  $N = \{g \in G_0 \mid g(\gamma_0 \gamma_1 \dots \gamma_{d-1})^n = k_0, \text{ the identity of } G_0, \text{ for some } n \in I^0\}$ . Then,  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G_0$ . Let  $g \rightarrow \bar{g}$  be the natural homomorphism of  $G_0$  onto  $G_0/N$ . Define  $\bar{x}\theta = x\gamma_0\gamma_1 \dots \gamma_{d-1}$  for  $x \in G_0$ . Then,  $\theta$  is an endomorphism of  $G_0/N$ . Define a relation  $\sigma$  on  $G_0/N \times (I^0)^2$  by the rule  $((\bar{g}_0, a, b), (\bar{h}_0, c, d)) \in \sigma$  if and only if there exist  $x, y \in I^0$  such that  $x+a = y+c, x+b = y+d$ , and  $\bar{g}_0\theta^x = \bar{h}_0\theta^y$ . Define a binary operation on  $H = G_0/N \times (I^0)^2 / \sigma$  by the rule  $(\bar{g}_0, a, b)_{\sigma} (\bar{h}_0, c, d)_{\sigma} = (\bar{g}_0\theta^c \bar{h}_0\theta^b, a+c, b+d)_{\sigma}$ . Then,  $H$  is a group which is the maximal group homomorphic image of  $S$ . The canonical homomorphism of  $S$  onto  $V$  is given by*

$$(g_r, a, b) \bar{\phi} = \begin{cases} (x_{id}^{-1} \theta^{a_1-i-1} \dots x_{id}^{-1} \theta x_{id}^{-1} ((t_{id, a-i} \alpha_{0, r}) g_r (t_{id, b-i} \alpha_{0, r})) \delta_{id} \\ \quad \cdot x_{id} \cdot x_{id} \theta \dots x_{id} \theta^{b_1-i-1}, a_1-i, b_1-i)_{\sigma} \text{ for } i \leq -1. \\ \text{If } a = i \text{ (} b = i\text{), the corresponding factor is } \bar{k}_0; \\ (\overline{g_r \alpha_{r, d}}, a-i+1, b-i+1)_{\sigma} \text{ for } i = 0, \end{cases} \quad (2.15)$$

where  $(g_r, a, b) \in (k_0, i, i) S(k_0, i, i)$  and where

$$x_0 = \bar{k}_0,$$

$$x_{-d} = \bar{u}_0^{-1} \text{ while for } i \leq -2,$$

$$x_{id} = \bar{u}_0^{-1} (\bar{u}_{-d}^{-1} \theta) \dots \bar{u}_{(i+1)d}^{-1} \theta^{-(i+1)} \bar{u}_{(i+2)d} \theta^{-(i+1)} \bar{u}_{(i+3)d} \theta^{-(i+2)} \dots \bar{u}_0 \theta$$

$$g_r \delta_0 = \overline{g_r \alpha_{r, d}} \text{ while for } i \leq -1$$

$$g_r \delta_{id} = \bar{u}_0^{-1} \bar{u}_{-d}^{-1} \theta \dots \bar{u}_{(i+1)d}^{-1} \theta^{-(i+1)} \overline{g_r \alpha_{r, d}} \theta^{-i-1} \bar{u}_{(i+1)d} \theta^{-(i+1)} \dots \bar{u}_{-d} \theta \bar{u}_0.$$

**PROOF.** As our proof parallels that of [6, theorem 3.6], we will just give a sketch of the proof. We first use theorem 2.1 to determine a homomorphism  $\phi_{id}$  of  $S_{id}$  into  $H$  for each  $i \in I$  with  $i \leq 0$ . Let  $x_{id}$  and  $\delta_{id}$  be defined as in the statement of the theorem. In the notation of theorem 2.1, let  $z_{id} = (x_{id}, 0, 1)_{\sigma}$ ,  $g_r f_{r, 0} = (g_r \delta_0, 1, 1)_{\sigma}$  and  $g_r f_{r, id} = (g_r \delta_{id}, 0, 0)_{\sigma}$  for  $i \leq -1$  where  $g_r \in G_r$  ( $0 \leq r \leq d-1$ ). Utilizing (2.8), we show that (2.1) and (2.2) are valid.

Hence, by (2.3),

$$(g_r, m, n)_{id} \phi_{id} = \begin{cases} (x_{id}^{-1} \theta^{m-1} \dots x_{id}^{-1} \theta x_{id}^{-1}) (g_r \delta_{id}) (x_{id} \cdot x_{id} \theta \dots x_{id} \theta^{n-1}), m, n)_{\sigma} \text{ if } i \leq -1. \\ \text{If } m = 0 \text{ (} n = 0\text{) the corresponding factor is } \bar{k}_0; \\ (\overline{g_r \alpha_{r, d}}, m+1, n+1)_{\sigma} \text{ if } i = 0, \end{cases} \quad (2.16)$$

defines a homomorphism of  $S_{id}$  into  $H$ .

We note that  $(g_r, m, n)_0 \phi_0 = (g_r \alpha_{r,d}, m+1, n+1)_\sigma$ . Hence, by theorem 2.2,  $\phi_0$  is a homomorphism of  $S_0$  onto  $H$ .

Let us define  $x\lambda\phi = x\phi_{id}$  if  $x \in S_{id}$ . We will show that  $\phi$  is a homomorphism of  $S\Psi$  onto  $H$ . We note that  $(g_r, 1, 1)_{id} \phi_{id} = (g_r, 0, 0)_{(i+1)d} \phi_{(i+1)d}$ . Utilizing (2.11), we obtain  $(s_{id}, 1, 2)_{id} \phi_{id} = (k_0, 0, 1)_{(i+1)d} \phi_{(i+1)d}$ . The desired result is then a consequence of (2.10).

Let  $G^*$  be an arbitrary group and let  $\rho$  be a homomorphism of  $S\Psi$  onto  $G^*$ . We denote  $\lambda\rho|S_{id}$  by  $\rho_{id}$ . Thus,  $\rho_{id}$  is a homomorphism of  $S_{id}$  into  $G^*$ . Since  $H$  is the maximal group homomorphic image of  $S_0$  under the homomorphism  $\phi_0$  by virtue of theorem 2.2, there exists a homomorphism  $\gamma$  of  $H$  onto the subgroup  $S_0\rho_0$  of  $G^*$  such that  $(g_r, m, n)_0 \phi_0 \gamma = (g_r, m, n)_0 \rho_0$  for all  $(g_r, m, n)_0 \in S_0$ .

Next suppose that  $(g_r, m, n)_{(i+1)d} \phi_{(i+1)d} \gamma = (g_r, m, n)_{(i+1)d} \rho_{(i+1)d}$  where  $\gamma$  is a homomorphism of  $H$  onto  $S_{(i+1)d} \rho_{(i+1)d}$ .

By virtue of theorem 2.1, there exists  $v_{id}$  in  $G^*$  and a homomorphism  $\eta_{r, id}$  of  $G_r$  into  $G^*$  for each  $r \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$  such that  $v_{id}(g_{d-1} \eta_{d-1, id}) v_{id}^{-1} = g_{d-1} \gamma_{id, d-1} \eta_{0, id}$  and  $g_r \eta_{r, id} = g_r \gamma_{id, r} \eta_{r+1, id}$  for  $0 \leq r \leq d-2$ . Furthermore  $(g_r, m, n)_{id} \rho_{id} = v_{id}^{-m} (g_r \eta_{r, id}) v_{id}^n$  for  $(g_r, m, n)_{id} \in S_{id}$ . Since  $(g_r, 0, 0)_{(i+1)d} \lambda = (g_r, 1, 1)_{id} \lambda$ , when  $g_r \in G_r$ , by (2.10),  $(g_r, 0, 0)_{(i+1)d} \rho_{(i+1)d} = (g_r, 1, 1)_{id} \rho_{id}$ . Thus,  $g_r \eta_{r, id} = v_{id} (g_r \eta_{r, (i+1)d}) v_{id}^{-1}$ . Hence, since  $(k_0, 0, 1)_{(i+1)d} \rho_{(i+1)d} = (s_{id}, 1, 2)_{id} \rho_{id}$  by (2.10),  $v_{id} = (s_{id}^{-1} \eta_{0, (i+1)d}) v_{(i+1)d}$ . Thus,  $g_r \eta_{r, id} = (s_{id}^{-1} (g_r \alpha_{(i+1)d, r, d}) s_{id}) \eta_{0, (i+1)d}$ . Utilizing (2.8), (2.9), and (2.2), we obtain  $\overline{s_{id}^{-1} (g_r \alpha_{(i+1)d, r, d}) s_{id}} = \overline{u_{(i+1)d}^{-1} (g_r \alpha_{r, d}) \overline{u_{(i+1)d}}}$ . Hence,  $(s_{id}^{-1} (g_r \alpha_{(i+1)d, r, d}) s_{id}, 0, 0)_{(i+1)d} \phi_{(i+1)d} = (g_r, 0, 0)_{id} \phi_{id}$  and  $(g_r, 0, 0)_{id} \rho_{id} = (g_r, 0, 0)_{id} \phi_{id} \gamma$ . We also note that  $(s_{id}^{-1}, 0, 1)_{(i+1)d} \phi_{(i+1)d} = (k_0, 0, 1)_{id} \phi_{id}$  by (2.16). Hence,  $(k_0, 0, 1)_{id} \rho_{id} = (k_0, 0, 1)_{id} \phi_{id} \gamma$ . Thus,  $(g_r, m, n)_{id} \phi_{id} \gamma = (g_r, m, n)_{id} \rho_{id}$  for all  $(g_r, m, n) \in S_{id}$ . Hence,  $H$  is the maximal group homomorphic image of  $S\Psi$  under the homomorphism  $\phi$ . We put  $\phi$  in the form (2.15) by combining (2.16) and (2.14).

REMARK 2.3. In the case  $d = 1$ , we obtain [6, theorem 3.6].

The following result is needed to give an explicit determination of the extensions of a Brandt semigroup by a simple I-regular semigroup (theorem 1.3).

THEOREM 2.4. Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1^*, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, u_{id})$  be a simple I-regular semigroup and let  $X$  be a group. Let  $\{z_{id} : i \in I, i \leq 0\}$  be a sequence of elements of  $X$  and for each  $r \in \{0, 1, \dots, d-1\}$  let  $\{f_{id, r} : i \in I, i \leq 0\}$  be a sequence of homomorphisms of  $G_r$  into  $X$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_{id, d-1} C_{z_{id}} &= \gamma_{d-1} C_{u_{(i+1)a}^{-1}} f_{id, 0}, \\
 f_{id, r} &= \gamma_r f_{id, r+1} \text{ for } 0 \leq r \leq d-2, \\
 z_{(i+1)d} &= z_{id}^{-1} ((u_{(i+2)d}^{-1} u_{(i+1)d}) f_{0, id}) z_{id}^2, \quad \text{and} \\
 f_{r, (i+1)d} &= f_{r, id} C_{z_{id}}
 \end{aligned}$$

For each  $(g_r, a, b) \in (k_0, i, i) S(k_0, i, i)$ , define  $(g_r, a, b) \phi = z_{id}^{-(a-i)} ((t_{id, a-i}^{-1} \alpha_{0, r}) g_r (t_{id, b-i} \alpha_{0, r})) f_{r, id} z_{id}^{b-i}$ . Then,  $\phi$  defines a homomorphism of  $S$  into  $X$  and conversely every such homomorphism is defined in this fashion.

PROOF. We utilize theorem 2.1, (2.14), and the ‘inverse limit’ process (see [10]).

### 3. The congruences

In this section, we show that each congruence  $\rho$  on a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup  $S$  is a group congruence ( $S/\rho$  is a group), an idempotent separating congruence (each  $\rho$ -class contains at most one idempotent) or that  $S/\rho$  is a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup with fewer  $\mathfrak{D}$ -classes than  $S$ . We determine the idempotent separating congruences in terms of certain normal subgroups of the structure groups of  $S$ . The group congruences of  $S$  are in a 1–1 correspondence with the normal subgroups of the maximal group homomorphic image of  $S$ .

THEOREM 3.1. *Let  $S$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup. Let  $\rho$  be a congruence on  $S$ . Then  $\rho$  is a group congruence,  $\rho$  is an idempotent separating congruence, or  $S/\rho$  is a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup with  $t$   $\mathfrak{D}$ -classes where  $t < d$ , the number of  $\mathfrak{D}$ -classes of  $S$ .*

PROOF. Let  $\{(f_i, n, n) : 0 \leq i \leq d-1, n \in I\}$  denote the set of idempotents of  $S$ . Each  $D_i = \{(g_i, m, n); g_i \in G_i, m, n \in I\}$  is an  $I$ -bisimple semigroup for  $0 \leq i \leq d-1$ . Thus, by [6, theorem 4.2],  $\rho|D_i$  is a group congruence or an idempotent separating congruence for  $0 \leq i \leq d-1$ . Suppose that  $\rho$  is not an idempotent separating congruence. First suppose that  $\rho|D_i$  is a group congruence for some  $i$ . Hence,  $(f_i, 0, 0)\rho = (f_i, k, k)\rho$  for all  $k \in I$ . Let  $(f_j, n, n) \in E_{D_j}$  and  $(f_k, p, p) \in E_{D_k}$  and suppose that  $(f_j, n, n) < (f_k, p, p)$ . Thus,  $(f_i, n+1, n+1) < (f_j, n, n) < (f_k, p, p) < (f_i, p-1, p-1)$ . Hence,  $(f_i, n, n)\rho = (f_k, p, p)\rho$  and  $\rho$  is a group congruence. Next, suppose that  $\rho|D_i$  is an idempotent separating congruence for each  $0 \leq i \leq d-1$ . Then, there exist  $(f_i, n, n), (f_r, q, q) \in E_S$  such that  $(f_i, n, n)\rho = (f_k, q, q)\rho$ . Thus,  $D_i\rho$  and  $D_k\rho$  lie in the same  $\mathfrak{D}$ -class of  $S/\rho$ . Hence,  $S/\rho$  is a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup with  $t$   $\mathfrak{D}$ -classes with  $t < d$ .

REMARK 3.1. In the case  $d = 1$ , we obtain [6, theorem 4.2].

REMARK 3.2. We may replace ‘simple  $I$ -regular’ by ‘simple  $\omega$ -regular’ in theorem 3.1. The proof is analogous.

We next determine the idempotent separating congruences of a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup.

Let  $G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}$  be a collection of disjoint groups and let  $\gamma_i$  be a homomorphism of  $G_i$  into  $G_{i+1}$  for  $0 \leq i \leq d-2$  and let  $\gamma_{d-1}$  be a homomorphism of  $G_{d-1}$  into  $G_0$ . Let  $V_i$  be a normal subgroup of  $G_i$  for  $0 \leq i \leq d-1$  such that  $V_i \gamma_i \subseteq V_{i+1}$  for  $c \leq i \leq d-2$  and  $V_{d-1} \gamma_{d-1} \subseteq V_0$ . Then,  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})$  will be called a  $\gamma_0 - \gamma_1 - \dots - \gamma_{d-1}$  invariant  $d$ -tuple of  $(G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1})$ . Let  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})$  and  $(U_0, U_1, \dots, U_{d-1})$  be  $\gamma_0 - \gamma_1 - \dots - \gamma_{d-1}$  invariant  $d$ -tuples of  $(G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1})$ . Then, we say  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1}) \subseteq (U_0, U_1, \dots, U_{d-1})$  if and only if  $V_i \subseteq U_i$  for  $0 \leq i \leq d-1$ .

In the proof of the following theorem, we will utilize a theorem of Preston [6, theorem 4.3]. We also utilize the notation of this theorem. We will sketch the following proof where it parallels the proof of [6, theorem 4.4].

THEOREM 3.2. *Let  $S = (d, G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1}, C_1^*, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{d-1}, m_{id})$  be a simple  $I$ -regular semigroup. There exists a 1-1 correspondence between the idempotent separating congruences on  $S$  and the  $\gamma_0 - \gamma_1 - \dots - \gamma_{d-1}$  invariant  $d$ -tuples of  $(G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1})$ . If  $\rho^{(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})}$  is the idempotent separating congruence corresponding to the  $\gamma_0 - \gamma_1 - \dots - \gamma_{d-1}$  invariant  $d$ -tuple  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})$ ,  $(g_r, a, b) \rho^{(V_0, \dots, V_{d-1})} (h_s, c, d)$  if and only if  $r = s, a = c, b = d$  and  $V_r g_r = V_r h_r$ . If  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})$  and  $(U_0, U_1, \dots, U_{d-1})$  are two  $\gamma_0 - \gamma_1 - \dots - \gamma_{d-1}$  invariant  $d$ -tuples  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1}) \subseteq (U_0, U_1, \dots, U_{d-1})$  if and only if  $\rho^{(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})} \subseteq \rho^{(U_0, U_1, \dots, U_{d-1})}$ .*

PROOF. Let  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})$  be a  $\gamma_0 - \gamma_1 - \dots - \gamma_{d-1}$  invariant  $d$ -tuple of  $(G_0, G_1, \dots, G_{d-1})$ . Let  $N_{(k_r, a, a)} = \{(v_r, a, a) : v_r \in V_r\}$  and let  $N = U(N_{(k_r, a, a)} : 0 \leq r \leq d-1, a \in I)$ . By a routine calculation,  $N_{(k_r, a, a)}$  is a subgroup of  $S$  isomorphic to  $V_r$ . By [6, theorem 4.3]  $\rho_N$  is an idempotent separating congruences of  $S$ . We denote  $\rho_N$  by  $\rho^{(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})}$ .

Let  $\rho$  be an idempotent separating congruence of  $S$ . Then, by [6, theorem 4.3]  $\rho = \rho_N$  where  $N$  is given in the statement of [6, theorem 4.3].  $N_{(e_r, a, a)} = \{(v_r, a, a) : v_r \in V_r\}$  where  $V_r$  is an invariant subgroup of  $G_r$ . Since  $(e_{r+1}, 0, 0)(e_r, 0, 0) = (e_{r+1}, 0, 0), (e_{r+1}, 0, 0)(v_r, 0, 0) \in N_{(e_{r+1}, 0, 0)}$ . Thus  $v_r \gamma_r \subseteq V_{r+1}$  for  $0 \leq r \leq d-2$ . Since  $(e_0, 0, 1)(e_{d-1}, 0, 0)(e_0, 1, 0) = (e_0, 0, 0), (e_0, 0, 1)(v_{d-1}, 0, 0)(e_0, 1, 0) \in N_{(e_0, 0, 0)}$ . Thus,  $v_{d-1} \gamma_{d-1} \in V_0$ . Hence,  $\rho = \rho^{(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{d-1})}$  and we have the desired correspondence.

REMARK. In the case  $d = 1$ , we obtain [6, theorem 4.4].

REMARK. We may replace 'simple  $I$ -regular semigroup' by 'simple regular  $\omega$ -semigroup' in theorem 3.2. The proof is analogous.

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