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# MATHEMATICS

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## Abstract

## Full Text

MATHEMATICS

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# SEMIGROUPS DEFINED BY IDENTITIES

(Presented by Academician A. I. Mal'cev, 11 X 1962)

Let  $\Gamma(\Phi)$  be the class of all semigroups in which the set of identities  $\Phi$  is satisfied (see (7)). The following problem naturally arises. Let  $\mathfrak{H}$  be a given class of semigroups. Find all sets of identities  $\Phi$  for which  $\Gamma(\Phi) \subset \mathfrak{H}$ . In this note a solution of this problem is given for certain important classes of semigroups  $\mathfrak{H}$ . Some results in this direction for classes of idempotent semigroups have been obtained in (3-6, 9).

Let  $\Xi = \{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots\}$  be a countable alphabet;  $A(\xi_i), B(\xi_i), \dots$  are words (possibly empty) over the alphabet  $\Xi$ . By  $l_{\xi_j}(A)$  we denote the number of occurrences of the letter  $\xi_j$  in the word  $A(\xi_i)$ ; by  $\chi(A)$ , the set of those  $\xi_j \in \Xi$  for which  $l_{\xi_j}(A) \geq 1$ ; by  $l(A)$ , the length of the word  $A(\xi_i)$ . Every identity is written in the form of a formal equality of two nonempty words over the alphabet  $\Xi$ . At the same time, the identity  $A(\xi_i) = B(\xi_i)$  is regarded as equal to each of the identities  $\varphi A(\xi_i) = \varphi B(\xi_i)$ ,  $\varphi B(\xi_i) = \varphi A(\xi_i)$ , if  $\varphi$  is a one-to-one mapping of  $\chi(AB)$  into  $\Xi$ . In addition, every identity of the form  $A(\xi_i) = A(\xi_i)$  is regarded as equal to the empty set of identities.

A semigroup free in  $\Gamma(\Phi)$  and having  $\mathfrak{X}$  as its set of free generators is denoted by  $F(\mathfrak{X}, \Phi)$ . The semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{X}, \Phi)$  is also called the semigroup defined over the alphabet  $\mathfrak{X}$  by the set of identities  $\Phi$ .

In most cases the question of the membership of the class of semigroups  $\Gamma(\Phi)$  in a given class of semigroups  $\mathfrak{H}$  reduces to the question of the membership of the semigroups  $F(\mathfrak{X}, \Phi)$  (for all possible  $\mathfrak{X}$ ) in the class  $\mathfrak{H}$  (for example, this assertion, obviously, holds if the class of semigroups  $\mathfrak{H}$  is closed under homomorphisms). Therefore, in solving the problem formulated above, semigroups defined by identities turn out to be the main object of investigation. Let  $\Phi = \{A_\gamma(\xi_i) = B_\gamma(\xi_i), \gamma \in \Gamma\}$  be some set of identities. Every identity of the form  $c(\xi_i) \cdot \varphi A_\gamma(\xi_i) \cdot c'(\xi_i) = c(\xi_i) \cdot \varphi B_\gamma(\xi_i) \cdot c'(\xi_i)$ , where  $A_\gamma(\xi_i) = B_\gamma(\xi_i)$  is some identity from  $\Phi$ ;  $\varphi$  is some mapping of  $\chi(A_\gamma B_\gamma)$  into the set of nonempty words over the alphabet  $\Xi$ ; and  $c(\xi_i), c'(\xi_i)$  are some words (possibly empty) over the alphabet  $\Xi$ , will be called an immediate consequence of  $\Phi$ . An identity  $A(\xi_i) = B(\xi_i)$  will be called a consequence of  $\Phi$  if there exists a finite sequence of nonempty words

$$A(\xi_i) \equiv A_1(\xi_i), \quad A_2(\xi_i), \dots, \quad A_m(\xi_i) \equiv B(\xi_i)$$

( $\equiv$  is the sign of graphical equality of words) such that the identities  $A_j(\xi_i) = A_{j+1}(\xi_i)$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, m-1$ ) are immediate consequences of  $\Phi$ . If every identity from  $\Psi$  is a consequence of  $\Phi$ , then, briefly, this is written as  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Psi$ .

**Lemma 1.** If in the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{X}, \Phi)$  ( $\mathfrak{X} = \{x_\alpha, \alpha \in T\}$ ),  $A(x_\alpha) = B(x_\alpha)$ , then for any mapping  $\varphi : \chi(AB) \rightarrow \Xi$  the identity  $\varphi A(x_\alpha) = \varphi B(x_\alpha)$  is a consequence of  $\Phi$ .

**Proposition 1.** In order that  $\Gamma(\Phi) \subset \Gamma(\Psi)$ , it is necessary and sufficient that  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Psi$ .

**Proposition 2.** Let  $\mathfrak{X}$  be an infinite alphabet. In order that  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Psi$ , it is necessary and sufficient that  $F(\mathfrak{X}, \Phi) \in \Gamma(\Psi)$ .

**Proposition 3.** In order that  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Psi$ , it is necessary and sufficient that, for every finite alphabet  $\mathfrak{N}$ ,  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi) \in \Gamma(\Psi)$ .

For a set of identities

$$\Phi = \{A_\gamma(\xi_i) = B_\gamma(\xi_i), \gamma \in \Gamma\}$$

we introduce the numerical characteristic  $d(\Phi)$ . The greatest common divisor of the set of all positive numbers of the form

$$d(\gamma, \xi_j) = |l_{\xi_j}(A_\gamma) - l_{\xi_j}(B_\gamma)| \quad (\gamma \in \Gamma, \xi_j \in \Xi, d(\gamma, \xi_j) > 0)$$

will be denoted by  $d(\Phi)$ . If  $\Phi$  is the empty set of identities, or if  $l_{\xi_j}(A_\gamma) = l_{\xi_j}(B_\gamma)$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ ,  $\xi_j \in \Xi$ , then we put  $d(\Phi) = 0$ .

**Theorem 1.** In order that the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be periodic, it is necessary and sufficient that  $d(\Phi) \neq 0$ .

**Lemma 2.** If  $\mathfrak{A} \in \Gamma(\Phi)$  and  $\mathfrak{G}$  is some subgroup of the semigroup  $\mathfrak{A}$ , then for every  $X \in \mathfrak{G}$

$$X^{d(\Phi)} = E_{\mathfrak{G}},$$

where  $E_{\mathfrak{G}}$  is the identity of the group  $\mathfrak{G}$ .

We introduce several classes of sets of identities.

$\mathfrak{H}(\alpha, m)$  ( $m \geq 1$ ):  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, m)$  if  $\Phi$  contains either the identity

$$\xi_1 \xi_2 \cdots \xi_t = \xi_1 \xi_2 \cdots \xi_t A(\xi_i),$$

where  $1 \leq t \leq m-1$ ,  $l(A) \geq 1$ , or the identity

$$\xi_1 \xi_2 \cdots \xi_r \xi_{r+1} A(\xi_i) = \xi_1 \xi_2 \xi_3 \cdots \xi_r \xi_{r'} B(\xi_i),$$

where  $0 \leq r \leq m-1$ ,  $r' \neq r+1$ ,  $l(A), l(B) \geq 0$ .

$\mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, m)$  is the dual class (symmetric with respect to “left” and “right”) to the class of sets of identities  $\mathfrak{H}(\alpha, m)$ .

$\mathfrak{H}_\beta$ :  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\beta$  if  $\Phi$  contains some identity  $A(\xi_i) = B(\xi_i)$  for which  $\chi(A) \neq \chi(B)$ .

$\mathfrak{H}(\gamma, m)$  ( $m \geq 1$ ):  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, m)$  if  $\Phi$  contains an identity of the form

$$\xi_1 \xi_2 \cdots \xi_t = A(\xi_i),$$

where  $1 \leq t \leq m$ , and either  $l(A) > t$ , or  $\chi(A) \neq \{\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_t\}$ .

$\mathfrak{H}_\delta$ :  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\delta$  if  $\Phi$  contains an identity of the form

$$\xi_1 A(\xi_i) = B(\xi_i),$$

where  $\chi(A) \neq \Phi$ ,  $\xi_1 \in \chi(A)$ , and either  $l_{\xi_1}(B) \geq 2$ , or  $B(\xi_i) \equiv \xi_2 B'(\xi_i)$  ( $l(B') \geq 0$ ).

$\mathfrak{H}_\delta^*$  is the dual class of sets of identities.

$\mathfrak{H}_\varepsilon$ :  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\varepsilon$  if  $\Phi$  contains an identity of the form

$$A_1(\xi_i) \xi_1 A_2(\xi_i) = B_1(\xi_i) \xi_2 B_2(\xi_i),$$

where  $\{\xi_1, \xi_2\} \cap \chi(A_1 B_1) = \emptyset$ ;  $l(A_1), l(A_2), l(B_1), l(B_2) \geq 0$ .

$\mathfrak{H}_\varepsilon^*$  is the dual class of sets of identities.

For simplicity of formulation, some of the following theorems are not stated in their full generality.

**Theorem 2.** In order that the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be idempotent, it is necessary and sufficient that  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1)$ ,  $d(\Phi) = 1$ .

**Theorem 3.** In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$  ( $m(\mathfrak{N})$  is the cardinality of  $\mathfrak{N}$ ), the set of all idempotents of the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be a subsemigroup satisfying the identity  $\xi_1 = \xi_2 \xi_1$ , it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta.$$

**Corollary 1.** In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be a semigroup with a unique idempotent, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta.$$

**Corollary 2.** In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be unitary, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1), \quad d(\Phi) = 1.$$

**Theorem 4.** In order that, for  $1 \leq m \leq m(\mathfrak{N})$ ,  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the ideal  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)^m$  of the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be a semigroup with right cancellation, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, m).$$

**Corollary 3.** In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be a group, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1).$$

A semigroup  $\mathfrak{A}$  is called  $m$ -nilpotent (or nilpotent of class  $m$ ) if  $\mathfrak{A}^m = 0$ , where 0 is the zero of the semigroup  $\mathfrak{A}$  (see (8)).

**Corollary 4.** In order that, for  $1 \leq m \leq m(\mathfrak{N})$ ,  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be  $m$ -nilpotent, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, m), \quad d(\Phi) = 1.$$

Using one lemma from (2), one can prove that the following is true.

**Theorem 5.** In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be inverse, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1).$$

**Theorem 6.** In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be completely simple without zero, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\beta \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1).$$

Associate with the set of identities  $\Phi$  the set of identities

$$\bar{\Phi} = \{\Phi, \xi_1 = \xi_2^{d(\Phi)} \xi_1, \xi_1 = \xi_1 \xi_2^{d(\Phi)}\}.$$

According to Corollary 3, all semigroups in  $\Gamma(\Phi)$  are groups if and only if  $d(\Phi) \neq 0$ . Suppose that  $\Phi$  does not contain the commutativity identity (i.e. the identity  $\xi_1 \xi_2 = \xi_2 \xi_1$ ). Then:

**Theorem 7.** 1) Let  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ . In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be commutative, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$d(\Phi) \neq 0, \quad \Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 2)$$

and that the group  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \bar{\Phi})$  be commutative.

2) Let  $\Phi \notin \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ . In order that, for  $m(\mathfrak{N}) \geq 2$ , the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be commutative, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$d(\Phi) \neq 0, \quad \Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap [\mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1) \cup (\mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 2) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\delta \cap \mathfrak{H}_\delta^*)]$$

and that the group  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \bar{\Phi})$  be commutative.

**Corollary 5.** 1) Let  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ ,  $d(\Phi) \leq 2$ . In order that the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be commutative, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 2).$$

- 2) Let  $\Phi \notin \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ ,  $d(\Phi) \leq 2$ . In order that the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  be commutative, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, 1) \cap [\mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1) \cup (\mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 2) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\delta \cap \mathfrak{H}_\delta^*)].$$

Consider identities of the form

$$\xi_1 \xi_2 \dots \xi_m = \xi_1 \xi_2 \dots \xi_r \xi_{m+1} \xi_{m+2} \dots \xi_{m+t} \xi_{m-s+1} \dots \xi_m, \quad (1)$$

where  $0 \leq r, s \leq m$ ,  $t = \max\{1, m - (s + t)\}$ . It is clear that identities of the form (1) include such frequently used identities as

$$\xi_1 = \xi_2, \quad \xi_1 = \xi_2 \xi_1, \quad \xi_1 = \xi_1 \xi_2 \xi_1, \quad \xi_1 \xi_2 = \xi_3 \xi_4, \quad \xi_1 \xi_2 = \xi_1 \xi_3 \xi_2.$$

**Theorem 8.** In order that the identity (1) follow from the set of identities  $\Phi$ , it is necessary and sufficient that

$$d(\Phi) = 1, \quad \Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, r + 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}^*(\alpha, s + 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, m).$$

**Corollary 6.** If  $m(\mathfrak{N}) < \infty$ ,  $d(\Phi) = 1$ ,  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, m) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ , then the semigroup  $F(\mathfrak{N}, \Phi)$  is finite.

Let

$$\Phi_1 = \{\xi_1 = \xi_1^2, \xi_1 \xi_2 \xi_3 \xi_4 = \xi_1 \xi_3 \xi_2 \xi_4\}, \quad \Phi_2 = \{\xi_1 = \xi_1^2, \xi_1 \xi_2 \xi_3 = \xi_2 \xi_1 \xi_3\}.$$

Semigroups from  $\Gamma(\Phi_1)$ ,  $\Gamma(\Phi_2)$  were used by V. V. Vagner <sup>(1)</sup> for the study of generalized groups.

**Theorem 9.** 1) Let  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ . In order that  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Phi_1$ , it is necessary and sufficient that

$$d(\Phi) = 1, \quad \Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1).$$

- 2) Let  $\Phi \notin \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ . In order that  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Phi_1$ , it is necessary and sufficient that

$$d(\Phi) = 1, \quad \Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\varepsilon \cap \mathfrak{H}_\varepsilon^*.$$

**Theorem 10.** 1) Let  $\Phi \in \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ . In order that  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Phi_2$ , it is necessary and sufficient that

$$d(\Phi) = 1, \quad \Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1).$$

- 2) Let  $\Phi \notin \mathfrak{H}_\beta$ . In order that  $\Phi \Rightarrow \Phi_2$ , it is necessary and sufficient that

$$d(\Phi) = 1, \quad \Phi \in \mathfrak{H}(\alpha, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}(\gamma, 1) \cap \mathfrak{H}_\varepsilon.$$

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