

# Generalized Notion of Conjugacy in Semigroups

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Communicated by Ayman Badawi

MSC 2010 Classifications: 20M07; 20M15; 20M20.

Keywords and phrases: Semigroups, conjugacy, transformations, homomorphism.

**Abstract** In this paper, we study the new notion  $\sim_r$  notion of conjugacy in subsemigroups of partial transformation semigroup through restricted homomorphism of the digraphs.

## 1 introduction

If  $G$  is a group and  $a, b \in G$  then  $a$  is said to be conjugate to  $b$  if there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $a = gbg^{-1}$  which is equivalent to  $ag = gb$ . Due to this fact  $\sim_l$  notion was introduced in a semigroup  $S$  as

$$x \sim_l y \Leftrightarrow \exists p \in S^1 \text{ such that } xp = py$$

where  $S^1$  is  $S$  with an identity adjoined. If  $x \sim_l y$ , we say  $x$  is left conjugate to  $y$  (see [4], [13] and [14]). The relation  $\sim_l$  is always reflexive and transitive in any semigroup but not symmetric in general. Lallement in [7] has defined the conjugate elements of a free semigroup  $S$  as those related by  $\sim_l$  and showed that  $\sim_l$  is equal to the following equivalence on the free semigroup  $S$ :

$$x \sim_p y \Leftrightarrow \exists u, v \in S^1 \text{ such that } x = uv \text{ and } y = vu$$

The relation  $\sim_p$  is always reflexive and symmetric but not transitive in general.

The relation  $\sim_l$  has been restricted to  $\sim_o$  in [4], and  $\sim_p$  has been extended to  $\sim_p^*$  in [5] and in [6], in such a way that the modified relations are equivalences on an arbitrary semigroup  $S$ :

$$x \sim_o y \Leftrightarrow \exists p, q \in S^1 \text{ such that } xp = py \text{ and } yq = qx.$$

$\sim_p^*$  = the transitive closure of  $\sim_p$  (i.e., the smallest transitive relation on  $S$  containing  $\sim_p$ ).

The relation  $\sim_o$  is not useful for semigroups  $S$  with zero since for every such  $S$ , we have  $\sim_o = S \times S$ . This deficiency has been remedied in [8] by Araujo et al., where the following relation has been defined on an arbitrary semigroup  $S$ ,

$$x \sim_c y \Leftrightarrow \exists p \in \mathbb{P}^1(x), q \in \mathbb{P}^1(y) \text{ such that } xp = py \text{ and } yq = qx,$$

where for  $x \neq 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(x) = \{p \in S : (mx)p \neq 0 \text{ for all } mx \in S^1x \setminus \{0\}\}$  denotes the left principal ideal generated by  $x$  and  $\mathbb{P}(0) = \{0\}$ . The relation  $\sim_c$  is an equivalence relation in any semigroup and does not reduce to  $S \times S$  if  $S$  has a zero, and it is equal to  $\sim_o$  if  $S$  does not have a zero.

Furthermore, J. Konieczny in [10] introduced the  $\sim_n$  notion of conjugacy in semigroup  $S$  as

$$x \sim_n y \Leftrightarrow \exists p, q \in S^1 \text{ such that } xp = py, yq = qx, x = pyq \text{ and } y = qxp.$$

This relation is an equivalence relation in any semigroup and does not reduce to universal relation in a semigroup  $S$  with zero.

For a non-empty set  $X$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  denotes the set of all *partial transformations* on  $X$  and it forms a semigroup under operation as composition of maps and is known as partial transformation semigroup. For each  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , the *domain* of  $\rho$  is denoted by

$$\text{dom}(\rho) = \{x \in X : \text{there exists } y \in X \text{ with } (x, y) \in \rho\},$$

the *image* of  $\rho$  is denoted by

$$\text{im}(\rho) = \{y \in X : \text{there exists } x \in X \text{ with } (x, y) \in \rho\},$$

and the *span* of  $\rho$  is denoted by

$$\text{span}(\rho) = \text{dom}(\rho) \cup \text{im}(\rho).$$

By  $\sigma \neq 0$  we mean  $\rho$  such that  $\text{dom}(\rho) \neq \emptyset$ .

A semigroup  $S$  is called an *inverse semigroup* if for every  $a \in S$ , there is a unique  $a^{-1} \in S$  (called the inverse of  $a$ ) such that

$$aa^{-1}a = a \text{ and } a^{-1}aa^{-1} = a^{-1}.$$

For a non-empty set  $X$ , denote by  $\mathcal{I}(X)$  the symmetric inverse semigroup on  $X$ , which is the subsemigroup of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  consisting of all partial injective transformations on  $X$ . Both  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  and  $\mathcal{I}(X)$  have the symmetric group  $\text{Sym}(X)$  of permutations on  $X$  as their group of units, and the zero in  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  is an element of  $\mathcal{I}(X)$ . The semigroup  $\mathcal{I}(X)$  is universal for the class of inverse semigroups because of the Vagner-Preston theorem that states that every inverse semigroup can be embedded in some  $\mathcal{I}(X)$  [12, Theorem 5.1.7]. This is analogous to the Cayley theorem for groups that states that every group can be embedded in some symmetric group  $\text{Sym}(X)$ .

Next we discuss  $\sim_i$  notion of conjugacy in inverse semigroups. This was introduced by Araujo et al. in [11].

**Definition 1.1.** *let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup and  $a, b \in S$ . Then  $a \sim_i b$  if and only if there exists  $g \in S^1$  such that*

$$g^{-1}ag = b \text{ and } gbg^{-1} = a.$$

We refer the reader to Howie [12] for any unexplained terminology in semigroups.

## 2 The notion $\sim_r$

In [2] and [3] we introduced  $\sim_r$  notion of conjugacy in semigroups. The notion  $\sim_r$  in semigroups is defined as in the following.

**Definition 2.1.** *Define a relation  $\sim_r$  on a semigroup  $S$  by*

$$a \sim_r b \Leftrightarrow \exists g, h, u, v \in S^1 \text{ such that } ag = gb, bh = ha, a = gbu \text{ and } b = hav.$$

The  $r$ -notion of conjugacy is an equivalence relation in any semigroup and it does not reduce to a universal relation in a semigroup with zero ([2, Theorem 2.1]). In case  $S$  is a group, then  $\sim_r$  reduces to the usual notion of conjugacy ([2, Theorem 2.1]). Also  $\sim_n \subseteq \sim_r \subseteq \sim_c \subseteq \sim_o$  [2, Theorem 2.2].

**Theorem 2.2.** [10, Theorem 2.6] *Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup and let  $a, b \in S$ . Then  $a \sim_n b$  if and only if  $a \sim_i b$ .*

In the next theorem we show  $\sim_r$  coincides with  $\sim_n$  in an inverse semigroup.

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup and let  $a, b \in S$ . Then  $a \sim_r b$  if and only if  $a \sim_n b$ .*

*Proof.* By definition of  $\sim_n$  and  $\sim_r$ , we have  $\sim_n \subseteq \sim_r$ . So for any  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a \sim_n b$  implies  $a \sim_r b$ .

For the converse, we may assume by the Vagner-Preston Theorem that  $S$  is a subsemigroup of some symmetric inverse semigroup  $\mathcal{I}(X)$ . Let  $a \sim_r b$  in  $S$ , then there exist  $g, h, u, v \in S^1$  such that

$$ag = gb, bh = ha, a = gbu \text{ and } b = hav.$$

We claim  $agg^{-1} = a$ . Clearly  $\text{dom}(agg^{-1}) \subseteq \text{dom}(a)$ . Let  $x \in \text{dom}(a)$  implies  $xa \in \text{im}(a) \subseteq \text{dom}(g)$  implies  $(xa) \in \text{dom}(g)$ , which implies  $(xa)g \in \text{dom}(g^{-1})$ . Hence  $x \in \text{dom}(agg^{-1})$ , which implies  $\text{dom}(a) \subseteq \text{dom}(agg^{-1})$ . Thus  $\text{dom}(a) = \text{dom}(agg^{-1})$ . Next for every  $x \in \text{dom}(a)$ ,

$x(agg^{-1}) = (xa)gg^{-1} = xa$ . So  $agg^{-1} = a$ . Since  $ag = gb$  implies  $agg^{-1} = gbg^{-1}$  and so  $a = gbg^{-1}$ .

Next we claim that  $g^{-1}gb = b$ . For if

$$\begin{aligned} &g^{-1}gb \neq b \\ \Rightarrow &g^{-1}ag \neq b \\ \Rightarrow &g^{-1}agg^{-1} \neq bg^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow &g^{-1}a \neq bg^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow &g^{-1}gbu \neq bg^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow &gg^{-1}gbu \neq gbg^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow &gbu \neq gbg^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow &a \neq gbg^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction. Hence  $g^{-1}gb = b$ . Since  $ag = gb$ , we have  $g^{-1}ag = g^{-1}gb$  we have  $g^{-1}ag = b$ . Thus  $a \sim_i b$  and so by Theorem 2.2,  $a \sim_n b$ . □

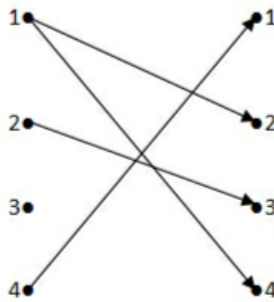
Due to Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 2.3 we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup. Then  $\sim_n = \sim_r = \sim_i$  in  $S$ .*

### 3 $\sim_r$ in general subsemigroups of $\mathcal{P}(X)$

**Definition 3.1.** *Let  $A$  be any set (not necessarily finite and possibly empty) and  $E$  be a binary relation on  $A$ , then  $\Gamma = (A, E)$  is called a directed graph (or a digraph). We call any  $p \in A$  a vertex and any  $(p, q) \in E$  an arc of  $\Gamma$ .*

For example, let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $E = \{(1, 2), (1, 4), (2, 3), (4, 1)\}$ . Then the digraph  $\Gamma$  is as under,



**Figure 1.** Digraph

**Definition 3.2.** *A vertex  $p \in A$  is said to be an initial vertex if there is no  $q \in A$  for which  $(q, p) \in E$  while a vertex  $p \in A$  is said to be a non-initial vertex if  $(q, p) \in E$  for some  $q \in A$ .*

**Definition 3.3.** *A vertex  $p \in A$  for which there exists no  $q$  in  $A$  such that  $(p, q) \in E$  is called a terminal vertex of  $\Gamma$ .*

**Remark 3.4.** *Let  $\rho \in P(X)$ . Then  $\rho$  can be represented by the digraph  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E)$ , where  $A = \text{span}(\rho)$  and for all  $x, y \in A$ ,  $(x, y) \in E$  if and only if  $x \in \text{dom}(\rho)$  and  $x\rho = y$ . For example,*

the partial transformation

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 7 & 8 & \dots \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 8 & 9 & \dots \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{P}(X),$$

where  $X = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  is represented by the digraph as in figure 2



**Figure 2.** The Digraph of a Transformation.

**Remark 3.5.** For a non empty  $X$ , we fix an element  $\diamond \notin X$ . For  $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  and  $x \in X$ , we will write  $x\alpha = \diamond$  if and only if  $x \notin \text{dom}(\alpha)$ . We also assume that  $\diamond\alpha = \diamond$ . With this notation it makes sense to write  $x\alpha = y\beta$  or  $x\alpha \neq y\beta$  ( $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{P}(X), x, y \in X$ ) even when  $x \notin \text{dom}(\alpha)$  or  $y \notin \text{dom}(\beta)$ . For any  $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , by  $\alpha \neq 0$ , we mean  $\text{dom}(\alpha) \neq \emptyset$ . Thus  $\alpha = 0$  if and only if  $\text{dom}(\alpha) = \emptyset$ .

**Definition 3.6.** Let  $\Gamma = (A, E)$  and  $\Lambda = (B, F)$  be digraphs. A mapping  $\rho$  from  $A$  to  $B$  is called a homomorphism from  $\Gamma$  to  $\Lambda$  if for all  $p, q \in A, (p, q) \in E$  implies  $(\rho p, \rho q) \in F$ .

**Definition 3.7.** Let  $\Gamma = (A, E)$  and  $\Lambda = (B, F)$  be digraphs. A homomorphism  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  is called a restricted homomorphism from  $\Gamma$  to  $\Lambda$ , if

- (i) for every terminal vertex  $x$  of  $\Gamma$ ,  $x\alpha$  is a terminal vertex of  $\Lambda$ ;
- (ii) for every initial vertex  $x$  of  $\Gamma$ , either  $x\alpha$  is an initial vertex of  $\Lambda$  or there are vertices  $t, z, y$  of  $\Gamma$  such that  $(x, y), (t, z), (z, y) \in E$ .

Throughout this paper, by a *hom*, we shall mean a homomorphism, and by a *restricted hom*, we shall mean a restricted homomorphism.

Now in order to prove the main theorem of this section we need the following two lemmas.

**Lemma 3.8.** Let  $\rho, \pi, \alpha, \beta, \sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  be such that  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi, \pi\beta = \beta\rho, \rho = \alpha\pi\sigma, \pi = \beta\rho\tau$ . Then  $\text{dom}(\alpha) = \text{span}(\rho), \text{dom}(\beta) = \text{span}(\pi)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x \in \text{span}(\rho)$  which implies  $x \in \text{dom}(\rho) \cup \text{im}(\rho)$ . If  $x \in \text{dom}(\rho)$  then as  $\rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$  which means  $x \in \text{dom}(\alpha)$  and if  $x \in \text{im}(\rho)$  then as  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi, x \in \text{dom}(\alpha)$ . Thus  $\text{span}(\rho) \subseteq \text{dom}(\alpha)$ . Next we have to show  $\text{dom}(\alpha) \subseteq \text{span}(\rho)$ . For if  $\text{dom}(\alpha) \not\subseteq \text{span}(\rho)$ , then there is some  $x \in X$  such that  $x \in \text{dom}(\alpha)$  but  $x \notin \text{span}(\rho)$ , which implies there is some  $z \in X$  such that  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = z$  (as  $\rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$ ) which implies  $x\rho = z$ , which is a contradiction as  $x \notin \text{span}(\rho)$ . Thus  $\text{dom}(\alpha) \subseteq \text{span}(\rho)$ . Hence  $\text{dom}(\alpha) = \text{span}(\rho)$ . Similarly we can prove that  $\text{dom}(\beta) = \text{span}(\pi)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.9.** Let  $\rho, \pi, \alpha, \beta, \sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  be such that  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi, \pi\beta = \beta\rho, \rho = \alpha\pi\sigma, \pi = \beta\rho\tau$  i.e,  $\rho \sim_{\tau} \pi$  satisfying

$$\rho\tau\sigma = \rho \text{ and } \pi\sigma\tau = \pi. \tag{1.1}$$

Then  $\alpha$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E)$  and  $\Gamma(\pi) = (B, F)$ , where  $A = \text{span}(\rho)$  and  $B = \text{span}(\pi)$ . Suppose that  $(x, y) \in E$  i.e,  $x\rho = y$ . Then,

$$(x\alpha)\pi = x(\alpha\pi) = x(\rho\alpha) = (x\rho)\alpha = y\alpha.$$

Hence  $(x\alpha, y\alpha) \in F$ , which implies  $\alpha$  is a hom from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$ .

Suppose that  $x$  is a terminal vertex of  $\Gamma(\rho)$ . Since  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi$  and  $x \notin \text{dom}(\rho)$ , so  $x\rho = \diamond$  which implies  $x\rho\alpha = \diamond$  which implies  $x\alpha\pi = \diamond$ . Thus  $x\alpha$  is a terminal vertex of  $\Gamma(\pi)$ .

Suppose that  $x$  is an initial vertex of  $\Gamma(\rho)$  and let  $u = x\alpha$  is not an initial vertex of  $\Gamma(\pi)$ . Then  $v\pi = u$  for some  $v \in \text{dom}(\pi)$ . Let  $t = v\beta$  and  $z = u\beta$ . Since  $\pi\beta = \beta\rho$ , the preceding argument for  $\rho$  and  $\alpha$  applied to  $\pi$  and  $\beta$  shows that  $\beta$  is a hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$ . Thus  $(v, u) \in F$  implies that  $(t, z) = (v\beta, u\beta) \in E$ . Since  $x \in \text{span}(\rho)$  and  $x \notin \text{im}(\rho)$ , we have  $x \in \text{dom}(\rho)$ . Setting  $y = x\rho$ , we have  $(x, y) \in E$ . Now  $y = x\rho = x\alpha\pi\sigma = u\pi\sigma = u\beta\rho\tau\sigma = z\rho\tau\sigma \stackrel{(1.1)}{=} z\rho$  and so  $(z, y) \in E$ . By the similar argument, we can prove  $\beta$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$ . Hence proved.  $\square$

**Definition 3.10.** Let  $S$  be a subsemigroup of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ . We say  $S$  is closed under restriction to spans if for all  $\rho, \pi \in S$  such that  $\text{span}(\rho) \subseteq \text{dom}(\pi)$ ,  $\pi|_{\text{span}(\rho)} \in S$ .

Note that every subsemigroup of the semigroup of  $\mathcal{T}(X)$  (semigroup of full transformations on  $X$ ) is closed under restrictions to spans.

**Theorem 3.11.** Let  $S$  be a subsemigroup of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  such that  $S$  is closed under restrictions to spans and  $\rho, \pi \in S$

- (1) If  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  satisfying (1.1), then there exist  $\alpha, \beta \in S^1$  such that  $\alpha$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$  with  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ .
- (2) Conversely, if  $\alpha$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$  with  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ . Then  $\rho \sim_r \pi$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E)$  and  $\Gamma(\pi) = (B, F)$ .

- (1) Let  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  then there exist  $\delta, \gamma, \sigma, \tau \in S^1$  such that

$$\rho\delta = \delta\pi, \pi\gamma = \gamma\rho, \rho = \delta\pi\sigma \text{ and } \pi = \gamma\rho\tau.$$

Here  $\text{span}(\rho) \subseteq \text{dom}(\delta)$  and  $\text{span}(\pi) \subseteq \text{dom}(\gamma)$ . Let  $\alpha = \delta|_{\text{span}(\rho)}$ ,  $\beta = \gamma|_{\text{span}(\pi)}$ . First we prove  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi$  and  $\rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$ . Let  $x \in X$ . If  $x \in \text{span}(\rho)$ . Then  $x\alpha\pi = x\delta\pi = x\rho\delta = x\rho\alpha$  and  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = x\delta\pi\gamma = x\rho$ . If  $x \notin \text{span}(\rho)$ , i.e.,  $x\rho = \diamond$ , then  $x\rho\alpha = \diamond$  and  $x\alpha\pi = \diamond$  and also  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = \diamond = x\rho$ . Similarly we can prove  $\pi\beta = \beta\rho$  and  $\pi = \beta\rho\tau$ . Therefore we have

$$\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi, \pi\beta = \beta\rho, \rho = \alpha\pi\sigma \text{ and } \pi = \beta\rho\tau.$$

Now  $\rho = \rho\tau\sigma$  and  $\pi = \pi\sigma\tau$ . Therefore by Lemma 3.9 we have  $\alpha$  as a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta$  as a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$ . Next for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$ ,  $y\alpha\sigma = x\rho\alpha\sigma$  (for some  $x \in \text{dom}(\rho)$ ) =  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = x\rho = y$ . Similarly for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ ,  $u\beta\tau = u$ .

- (2) Let the desired  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  exist with  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ . We have to prove  $\rho \sim_r \pi$ . First we will prove that  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi$  and  $\rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$ . Let  $x \in X$ . Two cases arise here.

**Case(1):** Suppose  $x \notin \text{dom}(\rho)$ . Then  $x\rho\alpha = \diamond$ .

- (i) If  $x \notin \text{dom}(\alpha)$ , then  $x(\alpha\pi) = \diamond$  and  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = \diamond$ . So,  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi$  and  $\rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$  in this case.
- (ii) If  $x \in \text{dom}(\alpha)$ , then  $x$  is a terminal vertex of  $\Gamma(\rho)$ , and so  $x\alpha$  is a terminal vertex in  $\Gamma(\pi)$ , which implies that  $x(\alpha\pi) = (x\alpha)\pi = \diamond$  and  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = \diamond$ . Thus  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi$  and  $\rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$  in this case also.

**Case(2):** Suppose  $x \in \text{dom}(\rho)$  and let  $y = x\rho \in X$  i.e.,  $(x, y) \in E$  which implies  $(x\alpha, y\alpha) \in F$  i.e.,

$$(x\alpha)\pi = y\alpha.$$

Now,  $x(\rho\alpha) = (x\rho)\alpha = y\alpha = x(\alpha\pi) = (x\alpha)\pi$  and  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = [(x\alpha)\pi]\sigma = y\alpha\sigma = y = x\rho$  which implies  $x\alpha\pi\sigma = x\rho$ . Thus in both the cases we have proved that

$$\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi, \rho = \alpha\pi\sigma \tag{1.2}$$

Similarly by using that  $\beta$  is restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$  with  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$  we can prove that

$$\pi\beta = \beta\rho \text{ and } \pi = \beta\rho\tau. \tag{1.3}$$

Therefore by combining (1.2) and (1.3) we get  $\rho \sim_r \pi$ .

□

#### 4 $\sim_r$ through the trims of digraphs

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $\Gamma = (A, E)$  and  $\Lambda = (B, F)$  be digraphs. A mapping  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  is called an isomorphism from  $\Gamma$  to  $\Lambda$  if  $\alpha$  is a bijection and for all  $x, y \in A, (x, y) \in E$  if and only if  $(x\alpha, y\alpha) \in F$ . Note that a bijection  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$  is an isomorphism if and only if both  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha^{-1}$  are isomorphisms. We will say that  $\Gamma$  and  $\Lambda$  are isomorphic, written  $\Gamma \cong \Lambda$ , if there exists an isomorphism from  $\Gamma$  to  $\Lambda$ .

For  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  and  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$ , denote by  $y\rho^{-1}$  the set of all elements  $x \in X$  such that  $x\rho = y$ . Note that  $y\rho^{-1}$  is not empty (since  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$ ) and that it is the set of all vertices  $x$  in  $\Gamma(\rho)$  such that  $(x, y)$  is an edge in  $\Gamma(\rho)$ .

**Definition 4.2.** Let  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  and  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E)$ . Denote by  $A^i$  the set of initial vertices of  $\Gamma(\rho)$ . For every non-initial vertex  $y$  of  $\Gamma(\rho)$  such that  $y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i$ , select  $y^* \in y\rho^{-1}$ . Let  $A_t$  and  $E_t$  be sets of vertices and edges respectively, defined by

$$A_t = (A \setminus A^i) \cup \{y^* : y \text{ is a non-initial vertex of } \Gamma(\rho) \text{ and } y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i\},$$

$$E_t = \{(x, y) \in E : x, y \in A_t\}.$$

Then the digraph  $\Gamma_t(\rho) = (A_t, E_t)$  will be called trim of  $\Gamma(\rho)$ .

In other words, a trim  $\Gamma_t(\rho)$  is obtained from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  by removing all initial vertices of  $\Gamma(\rho)$  with the following exception: If  $y$  is a non-initial vertex of  $\Gamma(\rho)$  and all vertices in  $y\rho^{-1}$  are initial, then exactly one of these vertices (denoted  $y^*$  in Definition 4.2) are retained. There may be multiple trims of  $\Gamma(\rho)$  since there may be multiple choices for  $y^*$ . However a trim of  $\Gamma(\rho)$  is unique upto isomorphism.

For a function  $f : A \rightarrow B$ , the rank of  $f$ , denoted  $\text{rank}(f)$ , is the cardinality of the image of  $f$ .

**Lemma 4.3.** [10, Lemma 4.4] Let  $\rho, \pi \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  with  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E)$  and  $\Gamma(\pi) = (B, F)$ . Suppose that  $\delta$  is an isomorphism from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) = (A_t, E_t)$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi)) = (B_t, F_t)$ .

- (1) Let  $y$  be a non-initial vertex of  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$  and let  $u = y\delta$ . Then  $u\pi^{-1} \neq \emptyset$ . Moreover, if  $y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i$ , then  $u\pi^{-1} \subseteq B^i$  and  $y^*\delta = u^*$ .
- (2) there exist a restricted hom  $\alpha$  of rank  $|A_t|$  from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  such that  $x\alpha = x\delta$  for every vertex  $x$  of  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$ .

**Lemma 4.4.** Let  $\rho, \pi, \alpha, \beta, \sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  and let  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  satisfying (3.1). Then  $\alpha|\text{im}(\rho) = \tau$  and  $\beta|\text{im}(\pi) = \sigma$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  then there exist  $\alpha, \beta, \sigma, \tau$  such that  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi, \pi\beta = \beta\rho, \rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$  and  $\pi = \beta\rho\tau$ . Let  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  then there exist  $x \in X$  such that  $y = x\rho$ . Now

$$\begin{aligned} y\alpha &= x\rho\alpha \\ &= x\alpha\pi \\ &= x\alpha\pi\sigma\tau \\ &= x\rho\tau \\ &= y\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $\beta|\text{im}(\pi) = \sigma$ .

□

**Lemma 4.5.** *Let  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  with  $\sigma \sim_r \tau$  satisfying (3.1). Let  $y$  be a non-initial vertex of  $\Gamma(\rho)$  and  $u = y\alpha \in B$ . Then  $u$  is not initial in  $\Gamma(\pi)$ . Moreover, if  $y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i$ , then  $u\pi^{-1} \subseteq B^i$  and for every  $x \in y\rho^{-1}, x\alpha \in u\pi^{-1}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  with  $\sigma \sim_r \tau$  satisfying (3.1), then by Theorem 3.11 there exists  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  such that  $\alpha$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$  with  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ . Let  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E)$  and  $\Gamma(\pi) = (B, F)$ . Since  $y$  is not initial,  $(x, y) \in E$  for some  $x \in A$ . Then  $(x\alpha, u) = (x\alpha, y\alpha) \in F$ , and so  $u$  is a non-initial vertex of  $\Gamma(\pi)$ . Suppose to the contrary that  $u\pi^{-1} \not\subseteq B^i$ , that is,  $(v, u) \in F$  for some non-initial  $v \in B$ . Then there is  $t \in B$  such that  $(t, v) \in F$ . Since  $\beta$  is a hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$ ,  $(t\beta, v\beta), (v\beta, u\beta) \in E$ . But  $u\sigma = y\alpha\sigma = y$  (since  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$ ). Now, by Lemma 4.4  $u\beta = y$ . So  $(t\beta, v\beta), (v\beta, y) \in E$  which contradicts the hypothesis that  $y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i$ . Hence  $u\pi^{-1} \subseteq B^i$ . Finally, if  $x \in y\rho^{-1}$ , then  $(x, y) \in E$ , and so  $x\alpha \in u\pi^{-1}$  since  $(x\alpha, u) = (x\alpha, y\alpha) \in F$ .  $\square$

Now we have the main result on  $r$ -notion of conjugacy in the semigroup  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  through trims of the digraphs.

**Theorem 4.6.** *Let  $\rho, \pi \in \mathcal{P}(X)$*

- (1) *Let  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  satisfying (3.1). Then  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) \cong \text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$ .*
- (2) *Conversely, if  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) \cong \text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  with  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ , then  $\rho \sim_r \pi$ .*

*Proof.* (1) Let  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E), \Gamma(\pi) = (B, F), \text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) = (A_t, E_t)$ , and  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi)) = (B_t, F_t)$ . Suppose that  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  then by Theorem 3.11, there exists  $\alpha, \beta, \sigma, \tau$  such that  $\alpha$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta$  is a restricted hom from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$  with  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ . Suppose that  $x$  is an initial vertex of  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$ . Let  $y = x\rho \in A$  and  $u_x = y\alpha = y\tau$  (by Lemma 4.4)  $\in B$ . By Lemma 4.5,  $u_x$  is a non-initial vertex of  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  and  $u_x\pi^{-1} \subseteq B^i$  (so  $(u_x)^*$  exists). Therefore, we can define  $\mu : A_t \rightarrow B_t$  by

$$x\mu = \begin{cases} x\alpha & \text{if } x \text{ is not initial in } \text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)), \\ (u_x)^* & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We claim that  $\mu$  is an isomorphism from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$ . Let  $(x, y) \in E_t$ . If  $x$  is not initial, then  $(x\mu, y\mu) = (x\alpha, y\alpha) \in F$ , and so  $(x\mu, y\mu) \in F_t$  since  $x\mu, y\mu \in B_t$ . Suppose that  $x$  is initial and let  $y = x\rho$ . Then  $(x\mu, y\mu) = ((u_x)^*, u_x) \in F_t$ . Hence  $\mu$  is a hom.

Let  $x, s \in A_t$  be such that  $x\mu = s\mu$ . If  $x$  and  $s$  are both not initial, then  $x\alpha = s\alpha$  (since  $x\mu = x\alpha$  and  $s\mu = s\alpha$ ), and so  $x = x(\alpha\sigma)$  (by Theorem 3.11)  $= (x\alpha)\sigma = (s\alpha)\sigma = s(\alpha\sigma) = s$ . Suppose that at least one of  $x$  and  $s$ , say  $x$ , is initial. Then  $x\mu = (u_x)^* \in B_t$  is initial. So  $s$  must be initial since otherwise,  $s\mu = s\alpha$  would not be initial (by Lemma 4.5), which would contradict  $x\mu = s\mu$ . Thus,  $s\mu = (u_s)^*$ . Let  $y = x\rho$  and  $z = s\rho$ , so  $y\alpha = u_x$  and  $z\alpha = u_s$ . Since  $y$  and  $z$  are not initial, we have  $y\mu = y\alpha = z\alpha = z\mu$ , and so  $y = z$  by the preceding argument. Hence  $x = y^* = z^* = s$ . We have proved that  $\mu$  is injective.

Let  $v \in B_t$ . If  $v$  is not initial, then  $y = v\beta \in A$  is not initial (so  $y \in A_t$ ), and so  $y\mu = y\alpha = y\tau = v\beta\tau = v$ . Suppose that  $v$  is initial and let  $u = v\pi$ . Then, by Lemma 4.5,  $y = u\beta$  is not initial and  $y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i$ . Let  $x = y^* \in A_t$ , so  $y = x\rho$ . Then  $x\mu = (u_x)^* = (y\alpha)^* = (y\tau)^*$  (by Lemma 4.4)  $= ((u\beta)\tau)^* = (u\beta\tau)^* = u^* = v$ , where the last equality is true since there is only one initial vertex of  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  in  $u\pi^{-1}$ . We have proved that  $\mu$  is surjective.

Hence  $\mu$  is a bijective hom from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  such that for every non-initial  $y \in A_t, y\mu = y\alpha = y\tau$  (by Lemma 4.4) and  $y^*\mu = (y\alpha)^* = (y\tau)^*$  if  $y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i$ . Similarly, we can define bijective hom  $\lambda$  from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$  such that for every non-initial  $u \in B_t, u\lambda = u\beta = u\sigma$  (by Lemma 4.4) and  $u^*\lambda = (u\beta)^* = (u\sigma)^*$  if  $u\pi^{-1} \subseteq B^i$ . Let  $x \in A_t$ . If  $x$  is not initial, then  $x\alpha \in B_t$  is not initial and  $x(\mu\lambda) = (x\mu)\lambda = (x\alpha)\lambda =$



$(x\alpha)\beta = x(\alpha\sigma) = x$ . Suppose that  $x$  is initial and let  $y = x\rho$ . Then  $x = y^*$  and  $x(\mu\lambda) = (y^*\mu)\lambda = (y\alpha)^*\lambda = ((y\alpha)\beta)^* = ((y\alpha)\sigma)^*$  (by Lemma 4.4)  $= (y(\alpha\sigma))^* = y^* = x$ . Similarly  $v(\lambda\mu) = v$  for every  $v \in B_t$ . Hence  $\lambda = \mu^{-1}$  and so  $\mu$  is an isomorphism.

- (2) Conversely, suppose that  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) \cong \text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  and let  $\mu : A_t \rightarrow B_t$  be an isomorphism from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$ . Then  $\mu^{-1} : B_t \rightarrow A_t$  is an isomorphism from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$ . By Lemma 4.3, there are restricted homs  $\alpha$  from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta$  from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$ . By given condition  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ . Now apply Theorem 3.11, we get  $\rho \sim_r \pi$ . □

### 5 Characterization of $\sim_r$ in the proper ideals of $\mathcal{P}(X)$

By a proper ideal of a semigroup  $S$  we mean an ideal  $I$  of  $S$  such that  $I \neq S$ . For a cardinal  $k$  with  $0 < k \leq |X|$ , denote by  $P_k$  the set of all  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  such that  $\text{rank}(\rho) < k$ . It is well known (see [?, Sec 2.2]) that the set  $\{P_k : 0 < k \leq |X|\}$  is the set of proper ideals of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $P_k$  be a proper ideal of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  and let  $\rho, \pi \in P_k$  with  $\Gamma(\rho) = (A, E), \Gamma(\pi) = (B, F), \text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) = (A_t, E_t)$  and  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi)) = (B_t, F_t)$ .*

- (1) *If  $k$  is infinite, let  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  satisfying 3.1. Then  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) \cong \text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$ .*
- (2) *Conversely, if  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) \cong \text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  with  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ , then  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  in  $P_k$ .*

*Proof.* (1) Let  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  in  $P_k$ . Then  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  in  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  and so by part (1) of Theorem 4.6, we have  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) \cong \text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$ .

- (2) Conversely, let  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho)) \cong \text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$ . Suppose  $k$  is infinite. Then

$$\begin{aligned} |A_t| &= |A \setminus A^i| + |\{y^* : y \in A \setminus A^i \text{ and } y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i\}| \\ &= |A \setminus A^i| + |\{y : y \in A \setminus A^i \text{ and } y\rho^{-1} \subseteq A^i\}| \\ &\leq |\text{im}(\rho)| + |\text{im}(\rho)| < k + k = k. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $|A_t| < k$ . let  $\mu : A_t \rightarrow B_t$  be an isomorphism from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$ . Then  $\mu^{-1} : B_t \rightarrow A_t$  is an isomorphism from  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\pi))$  to  $\text{trim}(\Gamma(\rho))$ . By Lemma 4.3, there are  $r$ -homomorphisms  $\alpha \in P_k$  from  $\Gamma(\rho)$  to  $\Gamma(\pi)$  and  $\beta \in P_k$  from  $\Gamma(\pi)$  to  $\Gamma(\rho)$ . By given condition  $y\alpha\sigma = y$  for all  $y \in \text{im}(\rho)$  and  $u\beta\tau = u$  for all  $u \in \text{im}(\pi)$ . Then by Theorem 3.11, we have  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  in  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  i.e.,  $\rho\alpha = \alpha\pi, \pi\beta = \beta\rho, \rho = \alpha\pi\sigma$  and  $\pi = \beta\rho\tau$ . Since  $k$  is infinite, so  $\text{rank}(\sigma) < k$  and  $\text{rank}(\tau) < k$ . So,  $\sigma, \tau \in P_k$ . Thus  $\rho \sim_r \pi$  in  $P_k$ . □

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Received: October 10, 2021.

Accepted: March 23, 2022.