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ON  $\alpha$ -IDEALS AND GENERALIZED  $\alpha$ -IDEALS IN SEMIGROUPS

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Let  $S$  be a semigroup. A non-empty subset  $A$  of  $S$  is called a *generalized  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$*  if the inclusion

$$A^mSA^n \subseteq A$$

holds, where  $m, n$  are arbitrary non-negative integers. Here, as usual,  $A^0SA^0 = SA^n$ ,  $A^mSA^0 = A^mS$  and  $A^0SA^0 = S$  (see [4]). A generalized  $(m, n)$ -ideal  $A$  of  $S$  is said to be an  *$(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$*  if  $A$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ . It is easy to see that one-side (left or right) ideals are particular cases of  $(m, n)$ -ideals. S. Lajos, in [3], [5], [6] and [7], characterized certain classes of semigroups through the generalized  $(1, 1)$ -ideals.

In this paper we shall generalize some results on  $(m, n)$ -ideals and generalized  $(m, n)$ -ideals in semigroups. In section 1 we introduce the  $\alpha$ -ideals and the generalized  $\alpha$ -ideals in semigroups, where  $\alpha$  is a finite sequence of zeros and units containing at least one zero.

In Section 2 we characterize the semigroups for which any generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal is an  $\alpha$ -ideal. Moreover, we prove among other things that if every generalized  $(3, 3)$ -ideal is a  $(3, 3)$ -ideal then every generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal is an  $\alpha$ -ideal.

In Section 3 we investigate the semigroup by all generalized  $\alpha$ -ideals of a semigroup  $S$ . In particular, we prove that there is an isomorphism between the semigroup which consists of all 101-ideals of a regular semigroup  $S$  and the semigroup which consists of all 101-ideals of the semigroup  $S/\mu$ , where  $\mu$  is the maximal idempotent separating congruence on  $S$ . Moreover, we answer a question by S. Lajos on the semigroup which consists of all left ideals of a semigroup  $S$ .

The reader is referred to [2] for basic notions and terminology of algebraic semigroups theory.

1.

By  $X^*$  we denote the free monoid over an alphabet  $X$ . Let  $S$  be a semigroup. By  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  we denote the semigroup of all subsets of  $S$  under set product with the unity  $\emptyset$ . For  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^*$  we shall define  $f_\alpha^S: \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$  as follows:  $f_\alpha^S(A) = \emptyset$  if  $\alpha$  is the empty word and

$$f_\alpha^S(A) = A_1A_2 \dots A_n$$

if  $\alpha = \alpha_1\alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n$ ,  $\alpha_i \in \{0, 1\}$ , where

$$A_i = \begin{cases} A & \text{for } \alpha_i = 1, \\ S & \text{for } \alpha_i = 0. \end{cases}$$

**1.1. Lemma.**  $f_\alpha^S(A) \subseteq f_\alpha^S(B)$ , whenever  $A \subseteq B \subseteq S$ .

**1.2. Lemma.**  $f_{\alpha\beta}^S(A) = f_\alpha^S(A) f_\beta^S(A)$  for  $A \subseteq S$ .

Let us put  $A = \{0, 1\}^* \setminus \{1\}^*$ .

**1.3. Lemma.** If  $A \in \mathcal{P}(S)$  and  $\alpha \in A$ , then  $Af_\alpha^S(A) \subseteq f_\alpha^S(A)$ .

*Proof.* We can suppose that  $\alpha = \alpha_1\alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n$ ,  $\alpha_i \in \{0, 1\}$ , and  $\alpha_j = 0$  for some  $j$  with  $\alpha_i = 1$  for  $i < j$ . If  $j = 1$ , then  $Af_\alpha^S(A) = ASA_2 \dots A_n \subseteq SA_2 \dots A_n = f_\alpha^S(A)$ . If  $j > 1$ , then  $Af_\alpha^S(A) = A^jSA_{j+1} \dots A_n \subseteq A^{j-1}SA_{j+1} \dots A_n = f_\alpha^S(A)$ .

**1.4. Lemma.** If  $A \in \mathcal{P}(S)$  and  $\alpha \in A$ , then  $f_\alpha^S(A) f_\alpha^S(A) \subseteq f_\alpha^S(A)$ .

*Proof.* We have  $f_\alpha^S(A) = A_1A_2 \dots A_n$  and  $A_j = S$  for some  $j$ . Then  $f_\alpha^S(A) f_\alpha^S(A) = A_1A_2 \dots A_{j-1}(A_j \dots A_n A_1 \dots A_j) A_{j+1} \dots A_n \subseteq A_1A_2 \dots A_{j-1}SA_{j+1} \dots A_n = f_\alpha^S(A)$ .

**1.5. Lemma.** If  $A \in \mathcal{P}(S)$  and  $\alpha \in A$ , then  $f_\alpha^S(A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)) \subseteq f_\alpha^S(A)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A \in \mathcal{P}(S)$ . First we note that for every positive integer  $n$  we have

$$(1) \quad f_\alpha^S(A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)) = S^n = f_\alpha^S(A),$$

where  $\alpha = 0^n$ .

Let  $\alpha \in A$ . We prove our statement by induction on the length  $n$  of  $\alpha$ . It follows from (1) that the result is true for  $n = 1$ . Assume now that  $n \geq 2$  and the result holds for  $n - 1$ .

Case 1:  $\alpha = 1\beta$ . Then  $\beta \in A$  and  $f_\alpha^S(A \cup f_\beta^S(A)) \subseteq f_\beta^S(A)$ . Using Lemmas 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f_\alpha^S(A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)) &= (A \cup Af_\beta^S(A)) f_\beta^S(A \cup Af_\beta^S(A)) \subseteq \\ &\subseteq (A \cup Af_\beta^S(A)) f_\beta^S(A \cup f_\beta^S(A)) \subseteq (A \cup Af_\beta^S(A)) f_\beta^S(A) \subseteq \\ &\subseteq Af_\beta^S(A) \cup Af_\beta^S(A) f_\beta^S(A) = Af_\beta^S(A) = f_\alpha^S(A). \end{aligned}$$

Case 2:  $\alpha = \beta 1$ . This is dual to Case 1.

Case 3:  $\alpha = 0\beta 0$ , where  $\beta \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . According to (1) we can suppose that  $\beta \notin \{0\}^*$ . Then  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\beta = \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_{n-1}$  and  $I \neq \emptyset$ , where  $i \in I$  if and only if  $i \in \{2, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $\alpha_i = 1$ . Therefore  $f_\alpha^S(A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)) = SA_2 \dots A_{n-1}S$ , where  $A_i = A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)$  for  $i \in I$  and  $A_i = S$  for  $i \in \bar{I} = \{2, \dots, n-1\} \setminus I$ .

By  $Z$  we denote the set of all words of  $\{0, 1\}^*$  having the length  $n - 2$ . Let us put  $B_{i0} = A$ ,  $B_{i1} = f_\alpha^S(A)$  if  $i \in I$ ,  $B_{i0} = S = B_{i1}$  if  $i \in \bar{I}$  and  $B_\gamma = SB_{2\gamma_2} \dots B_{n-1, \gamma_{n-1}}S$  if  $\gamma = \gamma_2 \dots \gamma_{n-1} \in Z$ . It is easy to show that  $B_\gamma = f_\alpha^S(A)$  if  $\gamma = 0^{n-2}$  and  $B_\gamma \subseteq Sf_\alpha^S(A)S \subseteq f_\alpha^S(A)$  if  $\gamma \neq 0^{n-2}$ . Hence we have  $f_\alpha^S(A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)) = \bigcup_{\gamma \in Z} B_\gamma \subseteq f_\alpha^S(A)$ .

**1.6. Definition.** Let  $\alpha \in A$ . A non-empty subset  $M$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called a *generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal* of  $S$  if  $f_\alpha^S(M) \subseteq M$ . A generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal  $M$  of  $S$  is said to be an  *$\alpha$ -ideal* of  $S$  if  $M$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ .

**1.7. Theorem.** Let  $A$  be a non-empty subset of a semigroup  $S$ . Then  $A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)$  is a generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal of  $S$  for every  $\alpha \in A$ .

The proof follows from Lemma 1.5.

## 2.

S. Lajos, in [3], gave an example of a semigroup for which certain generalized  $(m, n)$ -ideal are not  $(m, n)$ -ideals. F. Catino, in [1], characterized the semigroups for which any generalized  $(1, 1)$ -ideal is a  $(1, 1)$ -ideal.

**2.1. Theorem.** Let  $S$  be a semigroup and  $\alpha \in A$ . Then every generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal of  $S$  is an  $\alpha$ -ideal of  $S$  if and only if  $ab \in f_\alpha^S(\{a, b\})$  for all  $a, b \in S$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $M^2 \subseteq M$  for every generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal  $M$  of  $S$ . Let  $a, b \in S$  and put  $A = \{a, b\}$  and  $M = A \cup f_\alpha^S(A)$ . According to Theorem 1.7,  $M$  is a generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal of  $S$  and so  $ab \in M^2 \subseteq M$ . If  $ab \in A$ , then  $ab = a$  or  $ab = b$ . In both cases we have  $ab \in f_\alpha^S(A)$ .

Assume that  $ab \in f_\alpha^S(\{a, b\})$  for all  $a, b \in S$ . Let  $M$  be a generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal of  $S$ . If  $x \in M^2$ , then  $x = ab$ , where  $a, b \in M$  and so, by Lemma 1.1, we have  $ab \in f_\alpha^S(\{a, b\}) \subseteq f_\alpha^S(M) \subseteq M$ . Therefore  $M^2 \subseteq M$  and the proof is complete.

Let us put  $W(a, b) = \{a^2, b^2, ba^2, ab^2, aba\}$ . Recall that an element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$  is said to be *left regular* if  $a \in a^2S$ . Dually, a right regular element of  $S$ .

**2.2. Theorem.** Let  $S$  be a semigroup and  $\beta \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:

1. For any  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , every generalized  $\alpha\beta$ -ideal of  $S$  is an  $\alpha\beta$ -ideal of  $S$ .
2. Every generalized  $1^3\beta$ -ideal of  $S$  is a  $1^3\beta$ -ideal of  $S$ .
3. For all  $a, b \in S$  we have  $ab \in W(a, b)Sf_\beta^S(\{a, b\})$  and moreover  $a^2$  is a left regular element of  $S$ .

*Proof.*  $1 \Rightarrow 2$ . It is clear.

$2 \Rightarrow 3$ . Let  $a, b \in S$ . Put  $A = \{a, b\}$ . By Theorem 2.1 and Lemma 1.2 we have  $ab \in f_{1^3\beta}^S(A) = A^3Sf_\beta^S(A)$ . This implies  $ab \in W(a, b)Sf_\beta^S(A)$  or  $ab \in babSf_\beta^S(A)$ . In the second case we obtain  $ab \in b^2abSf_\beta^S(A) \subseteq b^2Sf_\beta^S(A) \subseteq W(a, b)Sf_\beta^S(A)$ .

Moreover, for  $a = b$  we have  $a^2 \in a^3S$  and so  $a^2 \in a^4S$ .

$3 \Rightarrow 1$ . Let  $a, b \in S$ . Then  $ab \in W(a, b)Sf_\beta^S(A)$ , where  $A = \{a, b\}$ , and  $a^2 \in a^mS$ ,  $b^2 \in b^mS$  for all integers  $m \geq 2$ . It is easy to show that  $ab \in A^mSf_\beta^S(A)$  for all integers  $m \geq 2$ , whenever  $ab \in \{a^2, b^2, ba^2, ab^2\}Sf_\beta^S(A)$ . Suppose that  $ab \in abaSf_\beta^S(A)$ . We shall distinguish two cases.

Case 1:  $ba \in \{b^2, a^2, ab^2, ba^2\}Sf_\beta^S(A)$ . Then  $ba \in A^mSf_\beta^S(A)$  for all integers  $m \geq 2$  and so  $ab \in A^mSf_\beta^S(A)$  for all integers  $m \geq 2$ .

Case 2:  $ba \in babSf_{\beta}^S(A)$ . Then  $ab \in (ab)^2 S f_{\beta}^S(A)$  and so  $ab \in (ab)^m S f_{\beta}^S(A) \subseteq A^m S f_{\beta}^S(A)$  for all integers  $m \geq 2$ .

Therefore we have  $ab \in A^m S f_{\beta}^S(A)$  for all integers  $m \geq 2$  and so  $ab \in f_{\alpha}^S(A)$ .  $S f_{\beta}^S(A) = f_{\alpha 0 \beta}^S(A)$  for all  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . It follows from Theorem 2.1 that every generalized  $\alpha 0 \beta$ -ideal of  $S$  is an  $\alpha 0 \beta$ -ideal of  $S$  and the proof is complete.

We recall that an element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called *completely regular* if there exists an element  $x$  of  $S$  such that  $a = axa$ ,  $ax = xa$ . It is well known that an element of  $S$  is completely regular if it is left regular and right regular.

Using the same method of proof as in Theorem 2.2, we obtain:

**2.3. Theorem.** *Let  $S$  be a semigroup. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

1. For all  $\alpha, \beta \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , every generalized  $\alpha 0 \beta$ -ideal of  $S$  is an  $\alpha 0 \beta$ -ideal of  $S$ .
2. Every generalized  $1^3 0 1^3$ -ideal of  $S$  is a  $1^3 0 1^3$ -ideal of  $S$ .
3. For all  $a, b \in S$  we have  $ab \in W(a, b)SW(b, a)$  and moreover  $a^2$  is a completely regular element of  $S$ .

### 3.

Let  $\varrho$  be a congruence on a semigroup  $S$ . Put  $T = S/\varrho$  and define  $\psi: \mathcal{P}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$  as follows:

$$\psi(M) = \bigcup_{z \in M} z$$

for any  $M \subseteq T$ .

**3.1. Lemma.** *Let  $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}(T)$ . Then  $\psi(P) \subseteq \psi(Q)$  if and only if  $P \subseteq Q$ .*

**3.2. Lemma.** *Let  $P, Q \in \mathcal{P}(T)$ . Then  $\psi(P) \psi(Q) \subseteq \psi(PQ)$ .*

**3.3. Lemma.** *Let  $M \in \mathcal{P}(T)$  and  $P_i \in \mathcal{P}(T)$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Then  $\psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n) \subseteq \psi(M)$  if and only if  $P_1 P_2 \dots P_n \subseteq M$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n) \subseteq \psi(M)$ . If  $y \in P_1 P_2 \dots P_n$ , then there exists  $z_i \in P_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  such that  $z_1 z_2 \dots z_n \subseteq y$ . For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  we have  $z_i \subseteq \psi(P_i)$  and so  $z_1 z_2 \dots z_n \subseteq \psi(M)$ . Therefore  $y \cap \psi(M) \neq \emptyset$ , hence  $y \subseteq \psi(M)$ . Then  $y \in M$ . Consequently  $P_1 P_2 \dots P_n \subseteq M$ .

Conversely, assume now that  $P_1 P_2 \dots P_n \subseteq M$ . Using Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 3.2 we obtain  $\psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n) \subseteq \psi(P_1 P_2 \dots P_n) \subseteq \psi(M)$ .

**3.4. Lemma.** *Let  $M \in \mathcal{P}(T)$ . Then  $f_{\alpha}^S \psi(M) \subseteq \psi(M)$  if and only if  $f_{\alpha}^T(M) \subseteq M$ .*

**3.5. Lemma.** *Let  $M$  be a non-empty subset of  $T$ . Then  $M$  is an  $\alpha$ -ideal [a generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal] of  $T$  if and only if  $\psi(M)$  is an  $\alpha$ -ideal [a generalized  $\alpha$ -ideal] of  $S$ .*

**3.6. Lemma.** *Let  $P_i \in \mathcal{P}(T)$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $\psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n) \in \psi(\mathcal{P}(T))$ . Then  $\psi(P_1 P_2 \dots P_n) = \psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n) = \psi(M)$  for some  $M \in \mathcal{P}(T)$ . It follows from Lemma 3.3 that  $P_1 P_2 \dots P_n \subseteq M$ . According to Theorem 3.2 we have  $\psi(M) \subseteq$

$\subseteq \psi(P_1 P_2 \dots P_n)$ . Lemma 3.1 implies  $M \subseteq P_1 P_2 \dots P_n$  and this completes the proof.

Let  $\emptyset \neq \mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(T)$ . By  $[\mathcal{A}]$ ,  $[\psi(\mathcal{A})]$ , respectively, we denote the subsemigroup of  $\mathcal{P}(T)$  generated by  $\mathcal{A}$ , the subsemigroup of  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  generated by  $\psi(\mathcal{A})$ .

**3.7. Lemma.** *Let  $\emptyset \neq \mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(T)$  such that  $[\psi(\mathcal{A})] \subseteq \psi(\mathcal{P}(T))$ . Then  $\psi/[\mathcal{A}]$  is an isomorphism of  $[\mathcal{A}]$  onto  $[\psi(\mathcal{A})]$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $M \in [\mathcal{A}]$ , then  $M = P_1 P_2 \dots P_n$ , where  $P_i \in \mathcal{A}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). Hence we have  $\psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n) \in [\psi(\mathcal{A})] \subseteq \psi(\mathcal{P}(T))$ . According to Lemma 3.6, we obtain  $\psi(M) \in [\psi(\mathcal{A})]$ . Thus  $\psi([\mathcal{A}]) \subseteq [\psi(\mathcal{A})]$ .

Let  $A \in [\psi(\mathcal{A})]$ . Then  $A = \psi(P_1) \psi(P_2) \dots \psi(P_n) \in \psi(\mathcal{P}(T))$ , where  $P_i \in \mathcal{A}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). It follows from Lemma 3.6 that  $A = \psi(P_1 P_2 \dots P_n) \in \psi([\mathcal{A}])$ . Therefore  $\psi([\mathcal{A}]) = [\psi(\mathcal{A})]$ . By Lemma 3.6 and Lemma 3.1 we obtain that  $\psi/[\mathcal{A}]$  is an isomorphism of  $[\mathcal{A}]$  onto  $[\psi(\mathcal{A})]$ . The proof is complete.

Let  $\alpha \in \Lambda$ . By  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S[-\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S]$  we denote the subsemigroup of  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  generated by all  $\alpha$ -ideals [generated  $\alpha$ -ideals] of  $S$ . An equivalence relation  $\sigma(\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S) [\sigma(-\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S)]$  on  $S$  is defined by the rule that

$$\begin{aligned} (a, b) \in \sigma(\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S) & \quad \text{iff } \forall H \in \mathcal{F}_\alpha^S: a \in H \Leftrightarrow b \in H \\ [(a, b) \in \sigma(-\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S)] & \quad \text{iff } \forall H \in -\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S: a \in H \Leftrightarrow b \in H]. \end{aligned}$$

**3.8. Theorem.** *Let  $S$  be a semigroup and  $\alpha \in \Lambda$ . If  $\varrho$  is a congruence on  $S$  such that  $\varrho \subseteq \sigma(\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S) [\varrho \subseteq \sigma(-\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S)]$  then the semigroups  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S$  and  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha^{S/\varrho}[-\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S$  and  $-\mathcal{F}_\alpha^{S/\varrho}]$  are isomorphic.*

*Proof.* It is easy to show that according to Lemma 3.5,  $\varrho \subseteq \sigma(\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S)$  implies  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S \subseteq \psi(\mathcal{P}(T))$ , where  $T = S/\varrho$ . By  $\mathcal{A}$  we denote the set of all  $\alpha$ -ideals of  $T$ . Lemma 3.5 implies that  $\psi(\mathcal{A})$  is the set of all  $\alpha$ -ideals of  $S$  and so  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha^S = [\psi(\mathcal{A})]$  and  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha^T = [\mathcal{A}]$ . Analogously for generalized  $\alpha$ -ideals. The rest of the proof follows from Lemma 3.7.

If  $S$  is a regular semigroup and  $\alpha = 101$ , by Proposition 4.1 of [11],  $\sigma(\mathcal{F}_{101}^S) = \mathcal{H}$ .

**3.9. Corollary.** *Let  $S$  be a regular semigroup and let  $\varrho$  be a congruence relation on  $S$  such that  $\varrho \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ . Then the semigroups  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^S$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^{S/\varrho}$  are isomorphic.*

Theorem 2 in [9] is a consequence of the last corollary.

This Corollary gives more information on the semigroup  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^S$ : For instance, if  $S$  is a  $\omega$ -regular bisimple semigroup it follows from Corollary 4 [10] that  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^S$  is a rectangular band. Now, since  $\mathcal{H}$  is a congruence relation and since  $S/\mathcal{H}$  is isomorphic to the bicyclic semigroup  $\mathcal{C}(p, q)$  (this latter has already been studied in [8]). Moreover from the description of  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^{\mathcal{C}(p, q)}$  given in [8] one easily derives a description of  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^S$ .

The analogue of Corollary 3.9 does not hold if  $\mathcal{H}$  is replaced by Green's relations  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{R}$ . Indeed, if  $S$  is a left zero semigroup and  $|S| > 1$ , then  $\mathcal{L} = S \times S$ ,  $|\mathcal{F}_{101}^{S/\mathcal{L}}| = 1$  and  $|\mathcal{F}_{101}^S| \neq 1$ , hence  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^S$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{101}^{S/\mathcal{L}}$  are not isomorphic.

The following, however, is true, solving problem by S. Lajos.

**3.10. Corollary.** *Let  $S$  be a semigroup. If  $\varrho$  is a congruence contained in  $\mathcal{L}$ , then  $\mathcal{F}_{01}^S$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{01}^{S/\varrho}$  are isomorphic.*

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