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THE SEMIRING OF 1-PRESERVING ENDOMORPHISMS  
OF A SEMILATTICE

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*Abstract.* We prove that the semirings of 1-preserving and of 0,1-preserving endomorphisms of a semilattice are always subdirectly irreducible and we investigate under which conditions they are simple. Subsemirings are also investigated in a similar way.

*Keywords:* semilattice, semiring, subdirectly irreducible, simple

*MSC 2010:* 06A12, 16Y60

1. INTRODUCTION

Congruence-simple semirings were investigated in the papers [1], [2], [3], [6], [7] and [9]. A special attention was paid to finite, additively idempotent semirings in connection with possible applications to public key cryptography (see [4], [7] and [9]). In the present short paper we investigate for (congruence-) simplicity various endomorphism semirings of semilattices, namely those consisting of endomorphisms preserving the largest and/or the least element.

Let  $M$  be a nontrivial (join) semilattice with the largest element that will be denoted by  $1_M$ , or just 1. We denote by  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  the semiring of the endomorphisms  $f$  of  $M$  such that  $f(1) = 1$ . If  $M$  has also the least element (denoted by  $0_M$  or just 0), we denote by  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  the semiring of the endomorphisms  $f$  of  $M$  such that  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(1) = 1$ . We will prove that every subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  containing all endomorphisms with range of cardinality at most 2, and also every subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  containing all endomorphisms with range of cardinality at most 3, is subdirectly irreducible. The description of their monoliths will make it possible to say precisely which of these

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subsemirings are simple. The results for  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  and for  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  are quite similar. The proofs differ only in details.

## 2. THE INTERVAL OF SEMIRINGS BETWEEN $\mathbf{F}_M^1$ AND $\mathbf{E}_M^1$

We denote by  $\mathbf{F}_M^1$  the subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  generated by the set  $Y_M^1$  of the elements of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  that are endomorphisms with range of cardinality at most 2. Denote by  $\mathbf{G}_M^1$  the subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  consisting precisely of the endomorphisms  $f \in \mathbf{E}_M^1$  for which there exists a  $g \in Y_M^1$  with  $g \geq f$ . It is easy to check that  $\mathbf{G}_M^1$  is indeed a semiring and that  $\mathbf{F}_M^1 \subseteq \mathbf{G}_M^1 \subseteq \mathbf{E}_M^1$ .

Denote by  $\bar{1}$  the largest element of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$ , i.e., the constant endomorphism of  $M$  with value 1.

For a pair  $a, b$  of elements of  $M$  such that  $b \neq 1$  denote by  $\tau_{a,b}$  the endomorphism defined as follows:  $\tau_{a,b}(x) = a$  for  $x \leq b$  and  $\tau_{a,b}(x) = 1$  if  $x \not\leq b$ . It is easy to see that for  $M$  finite,  $Y_M^1$  is precisely the set of all the endomorphisms  $\tau_{a,b}$  ( $a, b \in M, b \neq 1$ ). This may not be true if  $M$  is infinite. For example, let  $M$  be the semilattice of nonnegative integers (with respect to the usual ordering of integers) with the largest element added. The endomorphism  $f$  sending the largest element to itself and all the other elements to the smallest element belongs to  $Y_M^1$  but is not equal to any  $\tau_{a,b}$ . (It is not even above any  $\tau_{a,b}$ .)

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $M$  be a nontrivial semilattice with 1. Every subsemiring  $E$  of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  containing  $\mathbf{F}_M^1$  is subdirectly irreducible. Its monolith is the congruence  $B^2 \cup \text{id}_E$  where  $B = E \cap \mathbf{G}_M^1$ .*

*Proof.* If  $f \in B$  then clearly  $g \in B$  for any  $g \in E$  with  $g \geq f$ . If  $f \in B$  and  $g \in E$  then  $gf \in B$  and  $fg \in B$ . (Indeed, we have  $f \geq h$  for some  $h \in Y_M^1$ ; then  $gf \geq gh$  and  $fg \geq hg$ , where both  $gh$  and  $hg$  are also at most two-valued.) It follows from these two observations that  $B^2 \cup \text{id}_E$  is a congruence of  $E$ . Since  $B$  has cardinality at least 2, it is a nontrivial congruence.

Let  $R$  be an arbitrary nontrivial congruence of  $E$ ; we need to prove that  $B^2 \cup \text{id}_E$  is contained in  $R$ . We have  $(f, g) \in R$  for two distinct elements  $f, g$  of  $E$ . Since  $f \neq g$ , there exists an element  $b \in M$  such that either  $f(b) \not\leq g(b)$  or  $g(b) \not\leq f(b)$ . Without loss of generality,  $g(b) \not\leq f(b)$ . Of course,  $b \neq 1$  and  $f(b) \neq 1$ . For any  $a \in M$  we have  $(\tau_{a,b}, \bar{1}) = (\tau_{a,f(b)}f\tau_{b,b}, \tau_{a,f(b)}g\tau_{b,b}) \in R$ . For any  $c \in M$  different from 1 we get  $(\tau_{a,c}, \bar{1}) = (\tau_{a,b}\tau_{b,c}, \bar{1}\tau_{b,c}) \in R$ . Thus  $(\tau_{a,c}, \bar{1}) \in R$  for all  $c \neq 1$ .

Let  $h \in Y_M^1$  and let  $a$  be the only element of  $h$  in the range of  $h$  that is different from 1. From  $(\tau_{a,a}, \bar{1}) \in R$  we get  $(h, \bar{1}) = (\tau_{a,a}h, \bar{1}h) \in R$ .

Since  $(h, \bar{1}) \in R$  for all  $h \in Y_M^1$ , it is clear that also  $(h, \bar{1}) \in R$  for all  $h \in B$ . □

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $M$  be a nontrivial semilattice with 1 and  $E$  a subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  containing  $\mathbf{F}_M^1$ . Then  $E$  is simple if and only if it is contained in  $\mathbf{G}_M^1$ . In particular,  $\mathbf{G}_M^1$  is always simple.*

*Proof.* This follows immediately from 2.1. □

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $M$  be a nontrivial semilattice with 1. The semiring  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  is simple if and only if  $M$  has the least element and 1 is a join-irreducible element of  $M$ .*

*Consequently, if  $M$  is finite then  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  is simple if and only if  $M$  is a lattice with a single coatom.*

*Proof.* By 2.2,  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  is simple if and only if  $\mathbf{E}_M^1 = \mathbf{G}_M^1$ , which takes place if and only if every element of  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  is above at least one element with range of cardinality at most 2.

Let  $\mathbf{E}_M^1$  be simple. Then  $f \leq \mathbf{id}_M$  for some  $f \in \mathbf{E}_M^1$  with range contained in  $\{a, 1\}$ , for some  $a \in M$ . Put  $I = \{x \in M : f(x) = a\}$ , so that  $I$  is a subsemilattice of  $M$ . For all  $x \in M$  we have  $f(x) \leq x$ . Thus  $a \leq x$  for all  $x \in I$  and  $1 \leq x$  for all  $x \notin I$ . This is possible only if  $a$  is the least element of  $M$  and  $I = M - \{1\}$ . Thus  $M - \{1\}$  is a subsemilattice, which means that 1 is a join-irreducible element.

Conversely, let  $M$  have the least element  $a$  and let  $M - \{1\}$  be a subsemilattice. Denote by  $h$  the endomorphism sending 1 to 1 and any other element of  $M$  to  $a$ . Then  $h$  has the range of cardinality 2 and  $f \geq h$  for all  $f \in \mathbf{E}_M^1$ . □

### 3. THE INTERVAL OF SEMIRINGS BETWEEN $\mathbf{F}_M^{01}$ AND $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$

Let  $M$  be a nontrivial semiring with the least element 0 and the largest element 1. We denote by  $\mathbf{F}_M^{01}$  the subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  generated by the set  $Y_M^{01}$  of the elements of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  that are endomorphisms with range of cardinality at most 3. Denote by  $\mathbf{G}_M^{01}$  the subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  consisting precisely of the endomorphisms  $f \in \mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  for which there exists a  $g \in Y_M^{01}$  with  $f \geq g$ . It is easy to check that  $\mathbf{G}_M^{01}$  is indeed a semiring and that  $\mathbf{F}_M^{01} \subseteq \mathbf{G}_M^{01} \subseteq \mathbf{E}_M^{01}$ .

By an ideal of  $M$  we mean a nonempty subset  $I$  such that  $a, b \in I$  implies  $a \vee b \in I$  and  $a \in I$  implies  $x \in I$  for all  $x \leq a$ . Every ideal of  $M$  contains the element 0. An ideal is proper if and only if it does not contain the element 1. For  $a \in M$  denote by  $\downarrow a$  the ideal  $\{x \in M : x \leq a\}$ .

Let  $a \in M$  and let  $I$  be a proper ideal of  $M$ . We denote by  $\eta_{a,I}$  the endomorphism of  $M$  defined as follows:  $\eta_{a,I}(0) = 0$ ;  $\eta_{a,I}(x) = a$  for  $x \in I - \{0\}$ ;  $\eta_{a,I}(x) = 1$  for  $x \notin I$ . Clearly,  $\eta_{a,I} \in \mathbf{E}_M^{01}$ .

Put  $\bar{1}_0 = \eta_{0,\{0\}}$ , so that  $\bar{1}_0$  is the largest element of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $M$  be a nontrivial semilattice with 0 and 1. Every subsemiring  $E$  of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  containing  $\mathbf{F}_M^{01}$  is subdirectly irreducible. Its monolith is the congruence  $B^2 \cup \mathbf{id}_E$  where  $B = E \cap \mathbf{G}_M^{01}$ .*

*Proof.* Clearly,  $B^2 \cup \mathbf{id}_E$  is a nontrivial congruence of  $E$ . Let  $R$  be an arbitrary nontrivial congruence of  $E$ ; we need to prove that  $B^2 \cup \mathbf{id}_E$  is contained in  $R$ .

Since  $R$  is nontrivial, there exists a pair  $(f, g) \in R$  such that  $f < g$ . There is an element  $a \in M$  with  $f(a) < g(a)$ . Put  $J = \downarrow f(a)$ , so that  $J$  is a proper ideal of  $M$ . For any proper ideal  $I$  we have  $(\eta_{0,I}, \bar{1}_0) = (\eta_{0,J}; f; \eta_{a,I}; \eta_{0,J}; g; \eta_{a,I}) \in R$ .

Let  $h \in E$  be an endomorphism with range  $\{0, a, 1\}$  where  $0 \leq a < 1$ . Put  $I = h^{-1}\{0, a\} = \{x \in M : h(x) \in \{0, a\}\}$ , so that  $I$  is a proper ideal of  $M$ . Clearly,  $h \geq \eta_{0,I}$ . Since  $(\eta_{0,I}, \bar{1}_0) \in R$ , it follows that  $(h, \bar{1}_0) \in R$ .

Thus  $(h, \bar{1}_0) \in R$  for all  $h \in Y_M^{01}$ . From this it follows that  $(h, \bar{1}_0) \in R$  for all  $h \in B$ . Thus  $B^2 \cup \mathbf{id}_E \subseteq R$ . □

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $M$  be a nontrivial semilattice with 0 and 1 and  $E$  a subsemiring of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  containing  $\mathbf{F}_M^{01}$ . Then  $E$  is simple if and only if it is contained in  $\mathbf{G}_M^{01}$ . In particular,  $\mathbf{G}_M^{01}$  is always simple.*

*Proof.* This follows immediately from 3.1. □

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $M$  be a nontrivial semilattice with 0 and 1. The semiring  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  is simple if and only if 1 is a join-irreducible element.*

*Consequently, if  $M$  is finite then  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  is simple if and only if  $M$  is a lattice with a single coatom.*

*Proof.* By 3.2,  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  is simple if and only if  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01} = \mathbf{G}_M^{01}$  if and only if every element of  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  is above at least one element with range of cardinality at most 3.

Let  $\mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  be simple. Then  $f \leq \mathbf{id}_M$  for some  $f \in \mathbf{E}_M^{01}$  with range contained in  $\{0, a, 1\}$ , for some  $a \in M$ . Put  $I = \{x \in M : f(x) \in \{0, a\}\}$ , so that  $I$  is a proper ideal of  $M$ . For all  $x \in M$  we have  $f(x) \leq x$ . Thus  $1 \leq x$  for all  $x \notin I$ . This is possible only if  $I = M - \{1\}$ . Thus  $M - \{1\}$  is an ideal of  $M$ .

Conversely, let 1 be join-irreducible, so that  $M - \{1\}$  is an ideal of  $M$ . Then the mapping  $h$ , sending 1 to 1 and any other element of  $M$  to 0, is an endomorphism of  $M$  preserving both 0 and 1. This  $h$  has the range of cardinality 2 and  $f \geq h$  for all  $f \in \mathbf{E}_M^{01}$ . □

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