

## BANDS OF $\lambda$ -SIMPLE SEMIGROUPS

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### Abstract

Semigroups having a decomposition into a band of semigroups have been studied in many papers. In the present paper we give characterizations of various special types of bands of  $\lambda$ -semigroups and semilattices of matrices of  $\lambda$ -semigroups.

### 1. Introduction and preliminaries

Semigroups which can be decomposed into a band of left Archimedean semigroups have been studied by many authors. M. S. Putcha [17] proved a general theorem that characterizes such semigroups. Some other characterizations in the general case are given by S. Bogdanović, M. Ćirić and Ž. Popović [7] and P. Protić [14]. Some special decompositions of this type have been also treated in a number of papers. S. Bogdanović [1], [2], [3], P. Protić [13], [14], [15], S. Bogdanović and M. Ćirić [4] and S. Bogdanović, M. Ćirić and B. Novikov [6] studied bands of left Archimedean semigroups whose related band homomorphic images belong to several very important varieties of bands.

In this paper we give some results concerning decompositions into a band of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups in the general and some special cases (Theorem 2).

Let a semigroup  $S$  be a semilattice  $Y$  of semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , and for any  $\alpha \in Y$ , let  $S_\alpha$  be a matrix (left zero band, right zero band)  $I_\alpha$  of semigroup  $S_i$ ,  $i \in I_\alpha$ . The partition of  $S$  whose components are semigroups  $S_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , where  $I = \cup_{\alpha \in Y} I_\alpha$ , will be called a *semilattice-matrix (semilattice-left, semilattice-right) decomposition* of  $S$ . All band decompositions are special cases of semilattice-matrix decompositions. The general lattice theoretical properties of semilattice-matrix decompositions of semigroups are investigated by M. Ćirić and S. Bogdanović [11]. A semilattice of matrix of left Archimedean semigroups were studied by S. Bogdanović and M. Ćirić [4].

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It is well known that a band of semigroups from a class  $\mathcal{K}$  of a semigroups is a semilattice of matrices of semigroups from  $\mathcal{K}$ . Semilattices of matrices of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups are described by Theorem 3. The characterizations of semilattices of hereditary weakly left Archimedean semigroups are given by Theorem 5. At the end semilattice of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups are described by Theorem 6.

By  $\mathbf{Z}^+$  we denote the set of all positive integers. By  $S^1$  we denote a semigroup  $S$  with identity 1.

A semigroup in which all its elements are idempotents is a *band*. A commutative band is a *semilattice*. By  $\mathcal{B}(S)$  we denote the class of all bands (semilattices).

Let  $\varrho$  be an arbitrary binary relation on a semigroup  $S$ . The intersection of all transitive relations on  $S$  containing  $\varrho$  is a transitive relation on  $S$ , denoted by  $\varrho^\infty$ . It is easy to prove that  $\varrho^\infty = \cup_{n \in \mathbf{Z}^+} \varrho^n$ . The relation  $\varrho^\infty$  we call the *transitive closure* of  $\varrho$ .

Let  $\varrho$  be an arbitrary relation on a semigroup  $S$ . Then *radical*  $R(\varrho)$  of  $\varrho$  is a relation on  $S$  defined by:

$$(a, b) \in R(\varrho) \Leftrightarrow (\exists p, q \in \mathbf{Z}^+) (a^p, b^q) \in \varrho.$$

The radical  $R(\varrho)$  was introduced by L. N. Shevrin in [19].

An equivalence relation  $\xi$  is a *left (right) congruence* if for all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a \xi b$  implies  $ca \xi cb$  ( $ac \xi bc$ ). An equivalence  $\xi$  is a congruence if it is both left and right congruence. A congruence relation  $\xi$  is a *band congruence* on  $S$  if  $S/\xi$  is a band, i.e. if  $a \xi a^2$ , for all  $a \in S$ .

Let  $\xi$  be an equivalence on a semigroup  $S$ . By  $\xi^b$  we define the largest congruence relation on  $S$  contained in  $\xi$ . It is well-known that

$$\xi^b = \{(a, b) \in S \times S \mid (\forall x, y \in S^1) (xay, xby) \in \xi\}.$$

For an element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$ , the left ideal (the ideal) of  $S$  generated by  $a$  we denote with  $L(a)$  ( $J(a)$ ) and it we call *the principal left ideal (the principal ideal) of  $S$  generated by  $a$* . Also, a subsemigroup  $\langle a \rangle$  of a semigroup  $S$  generated by one element subset  $\{a\}$  of  $S$  is a *monogenic* or a *cyclic* subsemigroup of  $S$ .

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be elements of a semigroup  $S$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} a | b &\Leftrightarrow b \in J(a), & a |_l b &\Leftrightarrow b \in L(a), \\ a \longrightarrow b &\Leftrightarrow (\exists n \in \mathbf{Z}^+) a | b^n, & a \xrightarrow{l} b &\Leftrightarrow (\exists n \in \mathbf{Z}^+) a |_l b^n, \\ & & \text{and } \longrightarrow &= \longrightarrow \cap (\longrightarrow)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Also, on a semigroup  $S$  the relation  $\uparrow_l$  is defined by

$$a \uparrow_l b \Leftrightarrow (\exists n \in \mathbf{Z}^+) b^n \in \langle a, b \rangle a.$$

Recall that a semigroup  $S$  is *left Archimedean* if  $a \xrightarrow{l} b$ , for all  $a, b \in S$ . A semigroup  $S$  is *weakly left Archimedean* if  $ab \xrightarrow{l} b$ , for all  $a, b \in S$ . A semigroup  $S$  is *hereditary weakly left Archimedean* if

$$(\forall a, b \in S)(\exists i \in \mathbf{Z}^+) b^i \in \langle a, b \rangle ab.$$

A semigroup  $S$  is *power-joined* if for every  $a, b \in S$  there exists  $n, m \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that  $a^n = b^m$ .

For an element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$  we introduce the following notation

$$\Sigma(a) = \{x \in S \mid a \longrightarrow^\infty x\}, \quad \Lambda(a) = \{x \in S \mid a \xrightarrow{l}^\infty x\},$$

$$\Lambda_n(a) = \{x \in S \mid a \xrightarrow{l}^n x\}.$$

On a semigroup  $S$  we define the following equivalences by

$$a \sigma b \Leftrightarrow \Sigma(a) = \Sigma(b), \quad a \lambda b \Leftrightarrow \Lambda(a) = \Lambda(b),$$

$$a \lambda_n b \Leftrightarrow \Lambda_n(a) = \Lambda_n(b).$$

In [10] is proved that the relation  $\sigma$  is the greatest semilattice congruence on a semigroup,  $\lambda$  is an equivalence and it is a generalization of the well-known Green's equivalence  $\mathcal{L}$ .

A semigroup  $S$  is  $\lambda$ -*simple* ( $\sigma$ -*simple*,  $\lambda_n$ -*simple*) if  $a \lambda b$  ( $a \sigma b$ ,  $a \lambda_n b$ ), for all  $a, b \in S$ . We denote by  $\Lambda$  the class of all  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups.

## 2. Special bands of $\lambda$ -semigroups

For two classes  $\mathcal{X}_1$  and  $\mathcal{X}_2$  of semigroups,  $\mathcal{X}_1 \circ \mathcal{X}_2$  will denote the *Mal'cev product* of  $\mathcal{X}_1$  and  $\mathcal{X}_2$ , i.e. the class of all semigroups  $S$  on which there exists a congruence  $\varrho$  such that  $S/\varrho$  belongs to  $\mathcal{X}_2$  and each  $\varrho$ -class of  $S$  which is a subsemigroup of  $S$  belongs to  $\mathcal{X}_1$ .

By  $\mathcal{LZ}$  we denote the variety of left zero bands.

**Lemma 1..** *Let  $S$  be a semigroup. Then*

$$\Lambda = \Lambda \circ \mathcal{LZ}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a left zero band  $Y$  of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Assume  $a, b \in S$ , then  $a \in S_\alpha$ ,  $b \in S_\beta$ , for some  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$ , whence  $ab \in S_\alpha S_\beta \subseteq S_{\alpha\beta} = S_\alpha$ . Hence,  $ab, a \in S_\alpha$ . So  $ab \xrightarrow{l}^\infty a$ , whence  $b \xrightarrow{l}^\infty a$ . In a similar way it can be prove that  $a \xrightarrow{l}^\infty b$ . Thus  $a \xrightarrow{l}^\infty \infty \cap (-\xrightarrow{l}^\infty)^{-1}b$  and by Lemma 6 [10] we have that  $a \lambda b$ . Therefore,  $S$  is a  $\lambda$ -simple semigroup.

The converse follows immediately.  $\square$

**Lemma 2..** [6] *Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a class of semigroups and let  $\mathcal{B}_1$  and  $\mathcal{B}_2$  be two classes of bands. Then*

$$\mathcal{X} \circ (\mathcal{B}_1 \circ \mathcal{B}_2) \subseteq (\mathcal{X} \circ \mathcal{B}_1) \circ \mathcal{B}_2.$$

The lattice **LVB** of all varieties of bands was studied by P. A. Birjukov, C. F. Fennemore, J. A. Gerhard, M. Petrich and others. Here we use the characterization

of **LVB** given by J. A. Gerhard and M. Petrich in [12]. They defined inductively three systems of words as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} G_2 &= x_2x_1, & H_2 &= x_2, & I_2 &= x_2x_1x_2, \\ G_n &= x_n\overline{G}_{n-1}, & H_n &= x_n\overline{G}_{n-1}x_n\overline{H}_{n-1}, & I_n &= x_n\overline{G}_{n-1}x_n\overline{I}_{n-1}, \end{aligned}$$

(for  $n \geq 3$ ), and they shown that the lattice **LVB** can be represented by the graph given in Figure 1.

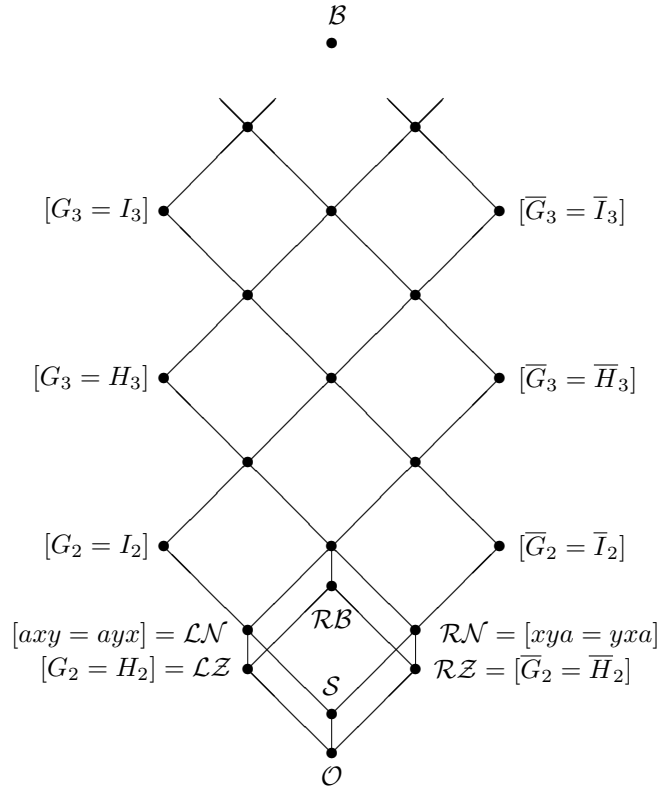


Figure 1.

**Theorem 1..** [6] *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be an arbitrary variety of bands. Then*

$$\mathcal{LZ} \circ \mathcal{V} = \begin{cases} \mathcal{LZ}, & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{LZ}]; \\ \mathcal{RB}, & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{RZ}, \mathcal{RB}]; \\ [G_2 = I_2], & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{S}, [G_2 = I_2]]; \\ [G_3 = I_3], & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{RN}, [G_3 = H_3]]; \\ [G_{n+1} = I_{n+1}], & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [[\overline{G}_n = \overline{I}_n], [G_{n+1} = I_{n+1}]], n \geq 2; \\ [G_{n+1} = H_{n+1}], & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [[\overline{G}_n = \overline{H}_n], [G_{n+1} = H_{n+1}]], n \geq 3. \end{cases}$$

Our next goal is to characterize semigroups from  $\Lambda \circ \mathcal{V}$ , for an arbitrary variety of bands  $\mathcal{V}$ .

**Theorem 2..** *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be an arbitrary variety of bands. Then*

$$\Lambda \circ \mathcal{V} = \begin{cases} \Lambda, & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{LZ}]; \\ \Lambda \circ \mathcal{RZ}, & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{RZ}, \mathcal{RB}]; \\ \Lambda \circ \mathcal{S}, & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{S}, [G_2 = I_2]]; \\ \Lambda \circ \mathcal{RN}, & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{RN}, [G_3 = H_3]]; \\ \Lambda \circ [\overline{G}_n = \overline{I}_n], & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [[\overline{G}_n = \overline{I}_n], [G_{n+1} = I_{n+1}]], n \geq 2; \\ \Lambda \circ [\overline{G}_n = \overline{H}_n], & \text{if } \mathcal{V} \in [[\overline{G}_n = \overline{H}_n], [G_{n+1} = H_{n+1}]], n \geq 3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 1 we have that  $\Lambda \circ \mathcal{LZ} = \Lambda$ . Let  $\mathcal{V} \in [\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2]$ , whence  $[\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2]$  is some of the intervals of the lattice **LVB** from the theorem. By Theorem 1 we have that  $\mathcal{V}_2 = \mathcal{LZ} \circ \mathcal{V}_1$ , whence

$$\Lambda \circ \mathcal{V}_1 \subseteq \Lambda \circ \mathcal{V} \subseteq \Lambda \circ \mathcal{V}_2 = \Lambda \circ (\mathcal{LZ} \circ \mathcal{V}_1) \subseteq (\Lambda \circ \mathcal{LZ}) \circ \mathcal{V}_1 = \Lambda \circ \mathcal{V}_1 \text{ (by Lemma 1).}$$

Therefore,  $\Lambda \circ \mathcal{V}_1 = \Lambda \circ \mathcal{V} = \Lambda \circ \mathcal{V}_2$ .  $\square$

### 3. Semilattices of matrices of $\lambda$ -simple semigroups

By the well-known result of A. H. Clifford, any band of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups is a semilattice of matrices of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups. These semigroups will be characterized by the following theorem.

**Theorem 3..** *A semigroup  $S$  is a semilattice of matrices of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups if and only if*

$$(2) \quad a \longrightarrow \infty b \implies ab \xrightarrow{l} \infty b,$$

for every  $a, b \in S$ .

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a semilattice  $Y$  of matrices of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroup  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Assume that  $a \longrightarrow \infty b$ , for  $a \in S_\alpha$ ,  $b \in S_\beta$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$ . Then by Lemma 1.4 [18] or Lemma 9 [10] is  $\beta \leq \alpha$ , whence  $b, ba \in S_\beta$  and by Theorem 1 [4] we have that  $ba \cdot b \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ , i.e.  $ab \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ .

Conversely, since every semigroup  $S$  is a semilattice  $Y$  of semilattice indecomposable semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , then for  $a, b \in S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$  we have that  $a\sigma b$  (where  $\sigma$  is corresponding the greatest semilattice congruence on  $S$ ), whence by Lemma 6 [10]  $a \longrightarrow \infty b$ . By Lemma 9 [10] we have that  $a \longrightarrow \infty b$  in  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . From this it follows by (2) that  $ab \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ . By Lemma 11 [10] we have that  $ab \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$  in  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$  and by Theorem 1 [4]  $S_\alpha$  is a matrix of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups, for all  $\alpha \in Y$ .  $\square$

The next theorem gives an explanation why the notion "hereditary weakly left Archimedean" is used.

**Theorem 4..** *The following conditions on a semigroup  $S$  are equivalent:*

- (i)  $S$  is hereditary weakly left Archimedean;
- (ii) any subsemigroup of  $S$  is weakly left Archimedean;
- (iii)  $\uparrow_l$  is a symmetric relation on  $S$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\implies$  (ii) Let  $T$  be a subsemigroup of  $S$ . For  $a, b \in T$  we have that  $b^i \in \langle a, b \rangle ab \subseteq Tab$ , for some  $i \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Hence,  $T$  is a weakly left Archimedean semigroup and therefore  $S$  is a hereditary weakly left Archimedean semigroup.

(ii)  $\implies$  (i) Assume  $a, b \in S$ , then  $\langle ba, b \rangle$  is a weakly left Archimedean semigroup, whence

$$b^i \in \langle ba, b \rangle ba \cdot b \subseteq \langle a, b \rangle ab,$$

for some  $i \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ .

(i)  $\implies$  (iii) Let  $a, b \in S$  such that  $a \uparrow_l b$ , i.e.  $b^n \in \langle a, b \rangle a$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Then  $b^n = xa$ , for some  $x \in \langle a, b \rangle$ . For  $x$  and  $a$  there exists  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ ,  $y \in \langle x, a \rangle \subseteq \langle a, b \rangle$  such that  $a^m = yax = yb^n$ , i.e.  $b \uparrow_l a$ .

(iii)  $\implies$  (i) Let  $a, b \in S$ , then  $b \uparrow_l ab$ , whence  $ab \uparrow_l b$ , i.e.  $b^i \in \langle ab, b \rangle ab \subseteq \langle a, b \rangle ab$ , for some  $i \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ .  $\square$

T. Tamura [20] proved that in the general case a semilattices of Archimedean semigroups are not subsemigroup closed. Here, we prove that a semilattices of hereditary weakly Archimedean semigroups are subsemigroup closed. By the following theorem we generalize some results obtained in [5].

**Theorem 5..** *The following conditions on a semigroup  $S$  are equivalent:*

- (i)  $S$  is a semilattice of hereditary weakly left Archimedean semigroups;
- (ii)  $(\forall a, b \in S) a \longrightarrow b \implies (\exists i \in \mathbf{Z}^+) b^i \in \langle a, b \rangle ab$ ;
- (iii) every subsemigroup of  $S$  is a semilattice of hereditary weakly left Archimedean semigroups.

*Proof.* (i)  $\implies$  (ii) Let  $S$  be a semilattice  $Y$  of hereditary weakly left Archimedean semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Assume  $a, b \in S$  such that  $a \longrightarrow b$ . If  $a \in S_\alpha$ ,  $b \in S_\beta$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$ , then  $\beta \leq \alpha$ , whence  $b, ba \in S_\beta$ . Now

$$b^n \in \langle ba, b \rangle bab \subseteq \langle a, b \rangle ab,$$

for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Hence, (ii) holds.

(ii)  $\implies$  (i) Assume  $a, b \in S$ . Since  $a \longrightarrow ab$ , then by the hypothesis  $a \cdot ab \uparrow_l ab$ , i.e.  $(ab)^n \in \langle a, ab \rangle a^2b$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Now by Theorem 1 [9]  $S$  is a semilattice  $Y$  of Archimedean semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Further, assume  $\alpha \in Y$ ,  $a, b \in S_\alpha$ . Then  $a \longrightarrow b$ , so by the hypothesis  $b^n \in \langle a, b \rangle ab$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Therefore,  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$  is an hereditary weakly left Archimedean semigroup.

(ii)  $\implies$  (iii) Let  $T$  be a subsemigroup of  $S$  and  $a, b \in T$  such that  $a \longrightarrow b$  in  $T$ , then  $a \longrightarrow b$  in  $S$  and by (ii),  $b^n \in \langle a, b \rangle ab \subseteq Tab$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Thus,  $T$  is a semilattice of hereditary weakly left Archimedean semigroups.

(iii)  $\implies$  (i) This implication follows immediately.  $\square$

A semilattices of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups were described in [6] and [9]. Here, by the following theorem we give some new interesting characterizations of these semigroups.

**Theorem 6.** *The following conditions on a semigroup  $S$  are equivalent:*

- (i)  $S$  is a semilattice of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups;
- (ii)  $(\forall a, b \in S) a \longrightarrow \infty b \implies a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ ;
- (iii)  $(\forall a, b \in S) a \text{---} \infty b \implies a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$

*Proof.* (i)  $\implies$  (ii) Let  $S$  be a semilattice  $Y$  of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Assume  $a, b \in S$  such that  $a \longrightarrow \infty b$ . Then by Lemma 1.4 (2) [18] (or Lemma 9 (b) [10])  $a \in S_\alpha$ ,  $b \in S_\beta$ , for some  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$  and  $\beta \leq \alpha$ , whence  $ba, b \in S_\beta$ . So  $ba \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ . Since  $a \xrightarrow{l} ba \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ , we then have that  $a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ .

(ii)  $\implies$  (i) Let (ii) hold. By Theorem 1 [10] every semigroup  $S$  is a semilattice  $Y$  of  $\sigma$ -simple semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Then for  $a, b \in S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , by Theorem 1.1 [18] we have that  $a \text{---} \infty b$ , and by Lemma 1.4 (3) [18]  $a \text{---} \infty b$  in  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , whence  $a \longrightarrow \infty b$  in  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . So by hypothesis  $a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$  and by Lemma 11 (a) [10]  $a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$  in  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , since  $a, b \in S_\alpha$ . Thus  $a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$  in  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , for all  $a, b \in S_\alpha$  and by Lemma 6 [10]  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$  is a  $\lambda$ -simple semigroup. Therefore,  $S$  is a semilattice of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups.

(i)  $\implies$  (iii) Let  $S$  be a semilattice  $Y$  of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Assume  $a, b \in S$  such that  $a \text{---} \infty b$ . Then by Lemma 1.4 (3) [18]  $a, b \in S_\alpha$  and  $a \text{---} \infty b$  in  $S_\alpha$ , for some  $\alpha \in Y$ , whence  $a\lambda b$  and by Lemma 6 (iv) [10]  $a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$ .

(iii)  $\implies$  (i) Let (iii) hold. Since every semigroup  $S$  is a semilattice  $Y$  of  $\sigma$ -simple semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , then for  $a, b \in S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , by Theorem 1.1 [18] we have that  $a \text{---} \infty b$ , whence  $a \xrightarrow{l} \infty b$  and  $a(\xrightarrow{l} \infty)^{-1}b$  in  $S_\alpha$ . Thus  $a \xrightarrow{l} \infty \cap (\xrightarrow{l} \infty)^{-1}b$  and by Lemma 6 (iv) [18]  $S_\alpha$  is a  $\lambda$ -simple semigroup. □

**Problem 1.** *By  $\mathcal{M}$  we denote the class of all matrices (rectangular bands). Let*

$$\Lambda \circ \mathcal{M}^{k+1} = (\Lambda \circ \mathcal{M}^k) \circ \mathcal{M}, \quad k \in \mathbf{Z}^+.$$

*Describe the structure of semigroups from the following classes*

$$\Lambda \circ \mathcal{M}^{k+1}, \quad (\Lambda \circ \mathcal{M}^{k+1}) \circ \mathcal{B}, \quad (\Lambda \circ \mathcal{M}^{k+1}) \circ \mathcal{S}.$$

The previous problem can be formulated in the same way if instead the class  $\Lambda$  we take the class of all power-joined semigroups or the class of all  $\lambda_n$ -simple semigroups.

#### 4. Some remarks on $\lambda$ -equivalence

In this section we give some characterization of  $\lambda$  congruence.

**Lemma 3.** *The following conditions on a semigroup  $S$  are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\lambda$  is a congruence;
- (ii)  $\lambda = \lambda^b$ ;
- (iii)  $\lambda$  is a band congruence.

*Proof.* This assertion follows by Lemma 2.2 [8]. □

**Lemma 4.** *The following conditions on a semigroup  $S$  are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\lambda^b$  is a band congruence;
- (ii)  $\lambda^b = R(\lambda^b)$ ;
- (iii)  $(\forall a \in S)(\forall x, y \in S^1) (xay, xa^2y) \in \lambda$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (ii) This follows by Lemma 2.1 [8] and Lemma 2.3 [8].

(i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (iii) This follows by Lemma 2.4 [8]. □

**Corollary 1.** *If  $S \in \Lambda \circ \mathcal{B}$ , then*

$$(\forall a \in S)(\forall x, y \in S^1) (xay, xa^2y) \in \lambda.$$

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a band  $Y$  of  $\lambda$ -simple semigroups  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ . Assume  $a \in S$  and  $x, y \in S$ , then  $xay, xa^2y \in S_\alpha$ , for some  $\alpha \in Y$ , whence  $(xay, xa^2y) \in \lambda$ . □

**Problem 2.** *Is the converse of the Corollary 1 holds?*

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