

MATRIX REPRESENTATIONS OF COMPACT SIMPLE SEMIGROUPS

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Matrix representations of semigroups have been treated in considerable detail, notably by Suschkewitsh [9], Rees [8], Clifford [3], Preston [7], and Munn [5], [6]. A complete treatment of the theory of representations of abstract semigroup is given in [4]. The lack of topological results in this direction stems primarily from the loss of the theory of invariant measures; there is no analogue to the theorem of Peter and Weyl in compact semigroups.

This paper is concerned with faithful topological representations of certain finite dimensional compact simple semigroups as semigroups of matrices over the real or complex numbers. It is shown that any compact simple semigroup S in which the idempotents form a semigroup, and in which the maximal groups are finite, is isomorphically imbeddable in the non-negative real matrices whose order is a function of the dimension of S and the order of a maximal subgroup of S . A similar theorem is obtained by replacing "finite" by "Lie" and "non-negative real" by "complex" in the previous sentence.

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The set of order n non-negative real matrices is denoted by N_n . The semigroup terminology is that of [10]; in particular, E denotes the set of idempotents of S , and for $e \in E$, $H(e)$ is the maximal subgroup of S containing e . An isomorphism is an isomorphism which is also a homeomorphism. The topology of N_n is any locally convex topology; for example, the topology of Euclidean n^2 -space. The characterization of compact simple semigroups treated by Wallace in [11] is assumed without further reference.

THEOREM 1. *Let S be a compact, simple, idempotent semigroup contained in euclidean n -space. Then S is isomorphically imbeddable in N_{2n+2} .*

Proof. By the compactness, S is bounded. Hence there exists a homeomorphism of E^n carrying S into the non-negative cone of E^n . Assume this has been done. For each $y = (y_i) \in S$, define $A(y)$ to be the $(n+1) \times (n+1)$ non-negative real matrix having 1, y_1, \dots, y_n as its first row and zeros elsewhere. Further, let $B(y)$ be the transpose of $A(y)$. Note, for every $y \in S$, $A(y)$ and $B(y)$ are idempotents. Fix $x \in S$. For $y \in xS$, let

$$f(y) = \begin{pmatrix} A(y) & 0 \\ 0 & B(x) \end{pmatrix}.$$

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