

86. Notes on  $(m, n)$ -Ideals. III

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The first two papers of this series are [2] and [3].

Let  $S$  be a semigroup. An  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$  is called *locally minimal* if it contains no proper  $(m, n)$ -ideal. If a semigroup  $S$  contains no proper  $(m, n)$ -ideal, where  $m, n$  are arbitrary fixed positive integers, then by Theorem 4,  $S$  is a group. Thus we have the following result.

**Theorem 10.** *The locally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideals of a semigroup  $S$  are groups. ( $m, n$  are arbitrary positive integers.)*

In case of  $m=n=1$ , Theorem 10 gives the

**Corollary.** *The locally minimal bi-ideals in a semigroup  $S$  are groups.*

An  $(m, n)$ -ideal  $A$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called *minimal*, if it does not properly contain any  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ . We prove the

**Theorem 11.** *Any locally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of a semigroup  $S$  is also a minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be a semigroup,  $A$  a locally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ . If  $B$  would be an  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ , which is properly contained in  $A$ , then by Theorem 1,  $B$  would be an  $(m, n)$ -ideal of the semigroup  $A$ , because of  $B=A \cap B$ . But  $A$  has no proper  $(m, n)$ -ideal, thus  $A$  is indeed minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ .

We shall call an  $(m, n)$ -ideal of a semigroup  $S$  *universally minimal* in  $S$ , if it is contained in every  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ . Obviously, the universally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$  is also minimal. Such an universally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$  is uniquely determined, as easy to see. Concerning universally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of a semigroup  $S$  we prove the

**Theorem 12.** *Let  $S$  be a semigroup having a two-sided ideal  $G$ , which is at the same time a subgroup of  $S$ . Then  $G$  is the universally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ . ( $m, n$  are arbitrary non-negative integers.)*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $S$  is a semigroup having a two-sided ideal  $G$ , which is a subgroup of  $S$ . Then  $G$  is an  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ , for any non-negative integers  $m, n$ . Let  $A$  be an arbitrary  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ . Then

$$A^m G A^n \subseteq A^m S A^n \subseteq A.$$

On the other hand, the set  $A^mGA^n$  is an  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $G$ . Hence by Theorem 4, it follows that

$$A^mGA^n = G.$$

Therefore  $G$  is contained in any  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ , that is,  $G$  is the universally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $S$ .

Theorem 12 contains the following statement (see [4]).

**Corollary.** *Let  $S$  be a semigroup containing a subgroup  $G$ , which is a two-sided ideal of  $S$ . Then  $G$  is the universally minimal left (right, two-sided) ideal of  $S$ .*

A semigroup  $S$  is called a *homogroup* (or a semigroup having zeroid elements, see [1]), if

- (i)  $S$  contains an idempotent  $e$ ;
- (ii) For each  $a \in S$  there exists an element  $a'$  in  $S$  so that  $aa' = e$ ;
- (iii)  $ea = ae$ , for every  $a \in S$ .

Such an idempotent  $e$  satisfying the conditions (i), (ii), and (iii) is uniquely determined. It is easy to see that a semigroup having zero is a homogroup. Thierrin [5] has proved that every finite commutative semigroup is also a homogroup. It is also known that the set  $eS = Se$  in a homogroup  $S$  is a group, which is a two-sided ideal of  $S$ . Conversely, if a semigroup has a subgroup  $G$ , which is a two-sided ideal of  $S$ , then  $S$  is a homogroup. Thus a semigroup  $S$  is a homogroup if, and only if,  $S$  contains a subgroup, which is two-sided ideal of  $S$ .

By the Theorem 12, the group-ideal of a homogroup  $H$  is the universally minimal  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $H$ . Now we prove the

**Theorem 13.** *Any  $(m, n)$ -ideal of a homogroup  $H$  is also a homogroup.*

*Proof.* Let  $H$  be a homogroup containing  $G$  as group-ideal, and let  $A$  be an arbitrary  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $H$ . Then

$$A^mGA^n \subseteq A \cap G,$$

and thus the intersection  $A \cap G$  is not vacuous. On the other hand,  $A \cap G$  is an  $(m, n)$ -ideal of  $G$ , by Theorem 1, and hence

$$A \cap G = G,$$

because of a group has no proper  $(m, n)$ -ideal. Therefore the semigroup  $A$  contains  $G$  as group-ideal, and thus  $A$  is a homogroup.

An easy consequence of the Theorem 13 is the following

**Corollary.** *Any left (right, two-sided) ideal of a homogroup  $H$  is also a homogroup.*

## References

- [1] A.H. Clifford and D.D. Miller: Semigroups having zeroid elements. Amer. J. Math., **70**, 117-125 (1948).
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- [4] E. S. Ljapin: Semigroups (in Russian). Moscow (1960).
- [5] G. Thierrin: Sur les homogroupes. C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, **234**, 1519-1521 (1952).