

**RETRACTIVE NIL-EXTENSIONS  
OF BANDS OF GROUPS\***

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**Abstract.** The present paper is the continuation of [6,7] and it is devoted to study of retractive nil-extensions of bands of groups, in the general and in some more important particular cases. Especially, combining the methods from S. Bogdanović and M. Ćirić [6,7] and the ones of M. Petrich [12,13] and M. Ćirić and S. Bogdanović [10], retractive nil-extensions of bands of groups whose idempotents form a subsemigroup will be characterized via subdirect products.

**1. Introduction**

Throughout this paper,  $\mathbf{Z}^+$  will denote the set of all positive integers. For a semigroup  $S$ ,  $Reg(S)$  ( $Gr(S)$ ,  $E(S)$ ) will denote the set of all regular (completely regular, idempotent) elements of  $S$ , for  $a \in Reg(S)$ ,  $V(a)$  will denote the set of all inverses of  $a$ , i.e.  $V(a) = \{x \in S \mid a = axa, x = xax\}$ , and for  $a \in Gr(S)$ ,  $a^{-1}$  will denote the group inverse of  $a$  in the subgroup of  $S$  containing it. For a congruence  $\varrho$  of a semigroup  $S$ ,  $\varrho^{\natural}$  will denote the natural homomorphism determined by  $\varrho$ , and if the related factor is a semilattice of groups, then  $\varrho$  is a *semilattice-of-groups* congruence.

An element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular if some its power is regular and it is *completely  $\pi$ -regular* if some its power is completely regular. It is well-known that for a completely  $\pi$ -regular element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$ , all its completely regular powers lie in the same subgroup of  $S$ , and  $a^0$  will denote the identity of this group and  $\bar{a} = (aa^0)^{-1}$ . Clearly,  $a^0 = a\bar{a} = \bar{a}a$ . A semigroup  $S$  is (completely)  $\pi$ -regular if each its element is (completely)  $\pi$ -regular. By a *nil-extension* of a semigroup we mean any its ideal extension by a nil-semigroup. A semigroup  $S$  is a  $\pi$ -group if it is a nil-extension of a group. A semigroup  $S$  is *completely Archimedean* if it is a nil-extension of

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a completely simple semigroup. A subsemigroup  $T$  of a semigroup  $S$  is a *retract* of  $S$  if there exists a homomorphism  $\varphi$  of  $S$  onto  $T$  such that  $a\varphi = a$ , for each  $a \in T$ , and such a homomorphism will be called a *retraction*. An ideal extension  $S$  of a semigroup  $T$  is a *retractive extension* of  $T$  if  $T$  is a retract of  $S$ .

Let  $B$  be a band. For  $i \in B$ ,  $[i]$  will denote the class of  $i$  with respect to the smallest semilattice congruence of  $B$ , and  $\preceq$  will denote the quasi-order on  $B$  defined by:  $j \preceq i \Leftrightarrow jij = j$  (or equivalently  $[j] \leq [i]$ ), ( $i, j \in B$ ), where  $\leq$  is the natural partial order on the greatest semilattice homomorphic image of  $B$ . To each  $i \in B$  let us associate a semigroup  $S_i$  such that  $S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset$  if  $i \neq j$ . Let  $\varphi_{i,j}$  be homomorphisms of  $S_i$  onto  $S_j$ , defined for  $i \succ j$ , such that  $\varphi_{i,i}$  is the identity mapping on  $S_i$ , for each  $i \in B$ , and  $\varphi_{i,j}\varphi_{j,k} = \varphi_{i,k}$  whenever  $i \succ j \succ k$ . Define a multiplication  $*$  on  $S = \cup_{i \in B} S_i$  by:  $a * b = (a\varphi_{i,ij})(b\varphi_{j,ij})$ , for  $a \in S_i$ ,  $b \in S_j$ . Then  $S$  is a band  $B$  of semigroups  $S_i$ ,  $i \in B$ , in notation  $S = [B; S_i, \varphi_{i,j}]$ , called a *strong band of semigroups*  $S_i$ ,  $i \in B$ , [10].

For undefined notions and notations we refer to [4] and [14].

## 2. Preliminary Results

In this section we will give several results that are needed in our further considerations. First we quote Lemma 3.1 [5], in the following slightly changed form:

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $S$  be a completely  $\pi$ -regular semigroup and let  $Gr(S)$  be a subsemigroup of  $S$ . If  $\varphi$  is a retraction of  $S$  onto  $Gr(S)$ , then  $a\varphi = aa^0$ , for each  $a \in S$ .*

The following theorem, which is a generalization of Theorem 3.1 [13], will be very useful in the proofs of the main theorems of this paper.

**Theorem 1.** *Let a semigroup  $S$  be a band of  $\pi$ -groups. Then  $E(S)$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$  if and only if a relation  $\eta$  on  $S$  defined by*

$$(1) \quad a\eta b \Leftrightarrow aa^0 = a^0bb^0a^0, \quad bb^0 = b^0aa^0b^0 \quad (a, b \in S),$$

*is a semilattice-of-groups congruence on  $S$ . In this case it is the smallest semilattice-of-groups congruence on  $S$ .*

**Proof.** Assume that  $S$  is a band  $B$  of semigroups  $S_i$ ,  $i \in B$ , and for  $i \in B$ , let  $S_i$  be a nil-extension of a group  $G_i$  with the identity  $e_i$ . Let  $T = Reg(S)$ . Clearly,  $T = Gr(S) = \cup_{i \in B} G_i$ .

Let  $E(S)$  be a subsemigroup of  $S$ . Then  $T$  is also a subsemigroup of  $S$ , so by Theorem 3 [8],  $T$  is a retract of  $S$  and it is a band  $B$  of groups

$G_i$ ,  $i \in B$ . By Theorem 2 [16],  $T = [B; G_i, \varphi_{i,j}]$  (see also Lemma 2 [10]). As it was noted in [10],  $\varphi_{i,j}$  are uniquely determined by  $a\varphi_{i,j} = e_j a e_j$ , for  $a \in S_i$ ,  $i, j \in B$ ,  $i \succneq j$ . Let  $\varphi$  be a retraction of  $S$  onto  $T$ . By Lemma 1,  $a\varphi = aa^0$ , for each  $a \in S$ . Now, if for  $i, j \in B$ ,  $i \succneq j$ , we define a homomorphism  $\phi_{i,j}$  of  $S_i$  into  $G_j$  by  $a\phi_{i,j} = (a\varphi)\varphi_{i,j}$ , ( $a \in S_i$ ), then

$$a\eta b \Leftrightarrow a \in S_i, b \in S_j, [i] = [j], a\phi_{i,i} = b\phi_{j,i} \text{ and } b\phi_{j,j} = a\phi_{i,j}.$$

Clearly,  $\eta$  is reflexive and symmetric. Let  $a\eta b$ ,  $b\eta c$ ,  $a \in S_i$ ,  $b \in S_j$ ,  $c \in S_k$ ,  $i, j, k \in B$ . Then  $a\phi_{i,k} = a\varphi\varphi_{i,k} = a\phi_{i,i}\varphi_{i,k} = b\phi_{j,i}\varphi_{i,k} = b\varphi\varphi_{j,i}\varphi_{i,k} = b\varphi\varphi_{j,k} = b\phi_{j,k} = c\phi_{k,k}$ . Thus,  $a\phi_{i,k} = c\phi_{k,k}$ . Similarly we obtain that  $c\phi_{k,i} = a\phi_{i,i}$ . Therefore,  $\eta$  is transitive.

Assume  $a, b, x \in S$ ,  $a\eta b$ . Let  $a \in S_i$ ,  $b \in S_j$ ,  $x \in S_k$ ,  $i, j, k \in B$ . Then  $ax \in S_{ik}$ ,  $bx \in S_{jk}$ ,  $[ik] = [i][k] = [j][k] = [jk]$  and

$$\begin{aligned} (ax)\phi_{ik,jk} &= (ax)\varphi\varphi_{ik,jk} = [(a\varphi)(x\varphi)]\varphi_{ik,jk} \\ &= [(a\varphi\varphi_{i,ik})(x\varphi\varphi_{k,ik})]\varphi_{ik,jk} = (a\varphi\varphi_{i,jk})(x\varphi\varphi_{k,jk}) \\ &= (a\varphi\varphi_{i,j}\varphi_{j,jk})(x\phi_{k,jk}) = (a\phi_{i,j}\varphi_{j,jk})(x\phi_{k,jk}) \\ &= (b\phi_{j,j}\varphi_{j,jk})(x\phi_{k,jk}) = (b\phi_{j,jk})(x\phi_{k,jk}) = (bx)\phi_{jk,jk} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly we prove that  $(ax)\phi_{ik,ik} = (bx)\phi_{jk,ik}$ . Thus,  $ax\eta bx$ , and similarly,  $xa\eta xb$ . Hence,  $\eta$  is a congruence on  $S$ .

Let  $Q = S/\eta$  and let  $u \in Q$ . Then  $u = a\eta^\natural$ , for some  $a \in S$ , whence  $u = (a\varphi)\eta^\natural$ , since  $(a, a\varphi) \in \eta$ , so  $u$  is completely regular. Therefore,  $Q$  is a union of groups. Assume  $p, q \in E(Q)$ . By Corollary 2 [2],  $p = e\eta^\natural$ ,  $q = f\eta^\natural$ , for some  $e, f \in E(S)$ . If  $e \in S_i$ ,  $f \in S_j$ ,  $i, j \in B$ , then  $ef \in S_{ij}$ ,  $fe \in S_{ji}$ ,  $[ij] = [ji]$ , so  $ef\eta fe$ , whence  $pq = qp$ . Hence,  $Q$  is a semilattice of groups.

Conversely, let  $\eta$  be a semilattice-of-groups congruence on  $S$ . Let  $Q = S/\eta$  be a semilattice  $Y$  of groups  $G_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$  and for  $\alpha \in Y$ , let  $e_\alpha$  be an identity of  $G_\alpha$ . Assume  $e, f \in E(S)$ . Then  $e\eta^\natural = e_\alpha$ ,  $f\eta^\natural = e_\beta$ , for some  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$ , whence  $(ef)\eta^\natural = e_{\alpha\beta} = (fe)\eta^\natural$ . Therefore,  $ef\eta fe$ , so by (1)

$$ef = (ef)^0 f e (ef)^0 = \overline{ef} e f f e e f \overline{ef} = \overline{ef} e f e f \overline{ef} = ((ef)^0)^2 = (ef)^0.$$

Hence,  $ef \in E(S)$ , i.e.  $E(S)$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ .

Finally, let  $\eta$  be a semilattice-of-groups congruence on  $S$ , let  $\mu$  be an arbitrary semilattice-of-groups congruence on  $S$ , let  $S/\mu$  be a semilattice  $Y$  of groups  $G_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , for  $\alpha \in Y$ , let  $e_\alpha$  be an identity of  $G_\alpha$ , and let  $(a, b) \in \eta$ , i.e. let  $aa^0 = a^0 b b^0 a^0$  and  $bb^0 = b^0 a a^0 b^0$ . Then  $a\mu^\natural \in G_\alpha$ ,  $b\mu^\natural \in G_\beta$ , for some  $\alpha, \beta \in Y$ , and it is easy to verify that  $a^0\mu^\natural = e_\alpha$ ,  $b^0\mu^\natural = e_\beta$ , whence  $a\mu^\natural = (aa^0)\mu^\natural = (a^0 b b^0 a^0)\mu^\natural e_\alpha (b\mu^\natural) e_\beta e_\alpha \in G_{\alpha\beta}$ , so  $\alpha\beta = \alpha$ , and similarly

$\alpha\beta = \beta$ . Thus,  $\alpha = \beta$ , whence  $a\mu^\natural = e_\alpha(b\mu^\natural)e_\alpha = b\mu^\natural$ , i.e.  $(a, b) \in \mu$ . Therefore,  $\eta \subseteq \mu$ , so  $\eta$  is the smallest semilattice-of-groups congruence on  $S$ .  $\square$

**Remark 1.** Note that if a semigroup  $S$  is a band of  $\pi$ -groups, with  $\xi$  as the related band congruence, if  $E(S)$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ ,  $\eta$  is a relation on  $S$  defined by (1) and if  $\varphi$  is a retraction of  $S$  onto  $Reg(S)$ , then  $\xi \cap \eta = \ker \varphi$ .

It is easy to prove the following

**Lemma 2.** *A completely  $\pi$ -regular semigroup  $S$  is a band of  $\pi$ -groups if and only if  $(ab)^0 = a^0b^0$ , for all  $a, b \in S$ .*

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\pi$ -regular semigroup. Then for every regular element of  $S$ , each its inverse is a group inverse if and only if  $S$  is a semilattice of  $\pi$ -groups.*

**Proof.** This follows by Theorem 3.2 [3].  $\square$

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $S$  be a regular semigroup. Then for every element of  $S$ , each its inverse is a group inverse if and only if  $S$  is a semilattice of groups.*

**Lemma 4.** *Let a semigroup  $S$  be a subdirect product of semilattices of groups. Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular;
- (ii)  $S$  is regular;
- (iii)  $S$  is completely regular;
- (iv)  $S$  is a semilattice of groups.

**Proof.** Let  $S \subseteq \prod_{i \in I} S_i$  be a subdirect product of semigroups  $S_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , that are semilattices of groups.

(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). This follows immediately.

(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). Assume  $a = (a_i) \in S$ . Then  $a^n \in Reg(S)$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Assume  $x = (x_i) \in V(a^n)$ . Then for each  $i \in I$ ,  $x_i \in V(a_i^n)$ , so by Corollary 1,  $x_i$  is a group inverse of  $a_i^n$  in some subgroup  $G$  of  $S_i$ . Now,  $y_i = a_i^{n-2}x_i a_i$  is a group inverse of  $a_i$  in  $G$ , for  $y = (y_i)$ ,  $y = a^{n-2}xa \in S$  and it is a group inverse of  $a$ . Therefore,  $S$  is completely regular.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv). This follows by the fact that the idempotents of  $S$  commutes.  $\square$

### 3. The Main Theorems

In [8] the authors proved that a  $\pi$ -regular semigroup is a band of  $\pi$ -groups and  $Reg(S)$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$  if and only if  $Reg(S)$  is a band of groups

and a retract of  $S$ . Here we apply this result to describe retractive nil-extensions of bands of groups. Combining the results from [8] and [7] we go to the main theorem of this paper.

**Theorem 2.** *The following conditions on a semigroup  $S$  are equivalent:*

- (i)  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a band of groups;
  - (ii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and for all  $x, a, y \in S$  there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that
- $$(2) \quad xa^n y \in x^2 a S a y^2;$$
- (iii)  $S$  is a band of  $\pi$ -groups and  $\text{Reg}(S)$  is an ideal of  $S$ .

**Proof.** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Let  $S$  be a retractive nil-extension of a semigroup  $K$  that is a band of groups, let  $\xi$  be the related band congruence on  $K$  and let  $\varphi$  be the related retraction of  $S$  onto  $K$ . Clearly,  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular. Assume  $x, a, y \in S$ . Then  $a^n \in K$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ , so  $xa^n y, x^2 a^n y^2 \in K$  and

$$xa^n y = (xa^n y)\varphi = (x\varphi)a^n(y\varphi)\xi(x\varphi)^2 a^n (y\varphi)^2 = x^2 a^n y^2.$$

Therefore,  $xa^n y, x^2 a^n y^2 \in G$ , where  $G$  is a subgroup of  $K$ , whence  $xa^n y \in x^2 a^n y^2 G x^2 a^n y^2 \subseteq x^2 a S a y^2$ .

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). By Theorem 1 [7],  $\text{Reg}(S)$  is an ideal of  $S$ . Further, for  $a, b \in S$ , by (2), there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that  $(ab)^{n+1} = a(ba)^n b \in a^2 b a S b a b^2$ , so by Theorem 4 [8],  $S$  is a band of  $\pi$ -groups.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). By Theorem 3 [8],  $\text{Reg}(S)$  is a band of groups and a retract of  $S$ , whence we obtain (i).  $\square$

As we noted above, retractive nil-extensions of bands of groups whose idempotents form a subsemigroup will be characterized via subdirect products.

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

- (i)  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a band of groups and  $E(S)$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ ;
- (ii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a band and a semilattice of groups;
- (iii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a band and of groups with a zero possibly adjoined.

**Proof.** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Let  $S$  be a retractive nil-extension of a semigroup  $K$  that is a band of groups and let  $E(S)$  ( $= E(K)$ ) be a subsemigroup. By Theorem 2,  $S$  is a band of  $\pi$ -groups, and by this and by Theorem 1, a relation  $\eta$  on  $S$ , defined by (1), is a semilattice-of-groups congruence on  $S$ . Let  $\xi$  denote the related band congruence on  $S$  whose classes are  $\pi$ -groups and let  $\varrho$  denote

the Rees congruence on  $S$  induced by  $K$ . Assume  $(a, b) \in \varrho \cap \xi \cap \eta$ . Clearly, if  $a, b \notin K$ , then  $a = b$ . Let  $a, b \in K$ . By  $(a, b) \in \xi$ ,  $a^0 = b^0$ , so by  $(a, b) \in \eta$ , i.e. by (1),  $a = aa^0 = a^0bb^0a^0 = bb^0 = b$ . Therefore,  $\varrho \cap \xi \cap \eta$  is the identity relation on  $S$ , so  $S$  is a subdirect product of  $S/\varrho$ ,  $S/\xi$  and  $S/\eta$ , i.e. of a nil-semigroup, a band and a semilattice of groups.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Let  $S$  be a  $\pi$ -regular semigroup and let  $S \subseteq N \times B \times T$  be a subdirect product of  $N$ ,  $B$  and  $T$ , where  $N$  is a nil-semigroup,  $B$  is a band and  $T$  is a semilattice of groups. Let  $K = (\{0\} \times B \times T) \cap S$ . For  $a = (u, i, p) \in \text{Reg}(S)$ ,  $x = (v, j, q) \in V(a)$  we obtain  $v \in V(u)$ ,  $j \in V(i)$ ,  $q \in V(p)$ , whence  $u = v = 0$ , so  $\text{Reg}(S) \subseteq K$ . Assume  $a = (0, i, p) \in K$ . Then  $a^n \in \text{Reg}(S)$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ , and for  $x = (0, j, q) \in V(a^n)$ ,  $j \in V(i)$  and  $q \in V(p^n)$ . By Corollary 1,  $q = (p^n)^{-1}$ ,  $p^{n-1}qp = p^0 = p^{n-2}qp^2$  and  $p^{n-1}qp^2 = p$ . Now,  $y = a^{n-2}xa \in S$  and

$$\begin{aligned} aya &= a^{n-1}xa^2 = (0, i, p^{n-1}) \cdot (0, j, q) \cdot (0, i, p^2) \\ &= (0, iji, p^{n-1}qp^2) = (0, i, p) = a, \\ ay &= a^{n-1}xa = (0, i, p^{n-1}) \cdot (0, j, q) \cdot (0, i, p) \\ &= (0, iji, p^{n-1}qp) = (0, i, p^0) = (0, iji, p^{n-2}qp^2) \\ &= (0, i, p^{n-2}) \cdot (0, j, q) \cdot (0, i, p^2) = a^{n-2}xa^2 = ya. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $K = \text{Gr}(S) = \text{Reg}(S)$ , and clearly, it is an ideal of  $S$ .

Further, if  $a = (u, i, p) \in S$ , then  $u^n = 0$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ , so

$$a^0 = (a^n)^0 = (0, i, p^n)^0 = (0, i, (p^n)^0) = (0, i, p^0).$$

Since  $T$  is a semilattice of groups, then  $(pq)^0 = p^0q^0$ , for all  $p, q \in T$ , whence  $(ab)^0 = a^0b^0$ , for all  $a, b \in S$ , so by Lemma 2,  $S$  is band of  $\pi$ -groups. Now, by Theorem 2,  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a band of groups. Clearly,  $E(S)$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ .

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). This follows by Corollary 2.3 [13].

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). This follows by Lemma 4.  $\square$

Since the idempotents of a left regular band of groups always form a subsemigroup, then we immediately obtain the following

**Corollary 2.** *The following conditions on a semigroup  $S$  are equivalent:*

- (i)  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a left regular band of groups;
- (ii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and for all  $x, a, y \in S$  there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that  $xa^n y \in x^2 a S x$ .
- (iii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a left regular band and a semilattice of groups;
- (iv)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a left regular band, and of groups with a zero possibly adjoined.

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

- (i)  $S$  is a nil-extension of a semilattice of groups;
- (ii)  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a semilattice of groups;
- (iii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and for all  $x, a, y \in S$  there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that  $xa^n y \in ySx$ .
- (iv)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup and a semilattice of groups;
- (v)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup and of groups with a zero possibly adjoined.

#### 4. Retractive Nil-Extensions of Normal Bands of Groups

In this section we will describe retractive nil-extensions of normal bands of groups, as very important particular types of the above considered semigroups.

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

- (i)  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a normal band of groups;
  - (ii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and for all  $x, a, y \in S$  there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that
- (3) 
$$xa^n y \in xyaSxy.$$
- (iii)  $S$  is a semilattice of completely Archimedean semigroups and for all  $x, a, y \in S$  there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that
- (4) 
$$xa^n y \in xySxy.$$
- (iv)  $S$  is completely  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup and of completely simple semigroups with a zero possibly adjoined.

**Proof.** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). This can be proved similarly as the related part of Theorem 2.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). For  $a, b \in S$ , there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that  $(ab)^{n+1} = a(ba)^n b \in abbaSab \subseteq Sb^2S$ , so by Theorem 1 [11],  $S$  is a semilattice of Archimedean semigroups. Further, for  $a \in S$ ,  $a^n = a^n x a^n$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ ,  $x \in S$ , whence  $a^n = (a^n x)(a^n x)a^n \in (a^n x)a^n(a^n x)S(a^n x)a^n \subseteq a^{2n}S a^n$ , by (3). Thus, by Proposition 3.2 [3],  $S$  is completely  $\pi$ -regular. Finally, by Theorem 2.13 [15],  $S$  is a semilattice of completely Archimedean semigroups.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). By Theorem [16],  $Reg(S) = Gr(S)$ . For  $x \in S$ ,  $e \in E(S)$ , by (4),  $xe \in xeSxe$  and  $ex \in exSex$ , so  $K = Reg(S)$  is an ideal of  $S$ . Thus,  $S$  is a nil-extension of a semigroup  $K$  that is a union of groups.

Assume  $x \in S$ ,  $e \in E(S)$ . We will prove that

- (5) 
$$(xe)^m \in x^m eS, \quad \text{for each } m \in \mathbf{Z}^+,$$

Assume  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that  $(xe)^m = x^m eu$ , for some  $u \in S$ . Then by (4),

$$(xe)^{m+1} = xe(xe)^m = xe(x^m eu) \in x(x^m eu)Sx(x^m eu) \subseteq x^{m+1}eS.$$

Now by induction we obtain (5). On the other hand, since  $K$  is completely regular,  $xe = (xe)^2v$ , for some  $v \in S$ , whence  $xe = (xe)^{m+1}v^m$ , for any  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ , so by (5),  $xe = (xe)^{m+1}v^m e \in x^m eSxev^m e \subseteq x^m Se$ . Hence,  $xe \in x^m Se$ , for each  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ , and similarly we obtain that  $ex \in eSx^m$ , for each  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Now as in the proof of Theorem 1 [7] we obtain that  $K$  is a retract of  $S$ .

Further,  $K$  is a semilattice  $Y$  of completely simple semigroups  $K_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in Y$ , and for  $a, b \in K$ ,  $ab, a^2b, ab^2 \in K_\alpha$ , for some  $\alpha \in Y$ . By (4), there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ ,  $u \in S$ , such that  $a(ab)^n b = abuab$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $u \in K_\alpha$ . Let  $G$  be the maximal subgroup of  $K_\alpha$  containing  $ab$ . Since  $K_\alpha$  is completely simple,  $G$  is a bi-ideal of  $S$ , so  $a(ab)^n b \in G$ . Therefore,  $ab \in a(ab)^n bGa(ab)^n b \subseteq a^2bKab^2$ , so by Theorem 4 [8] and by the regularity of  $K$ ,  $K$  is a band of groups. Let  $B$  be the related band homomorphic image of  $S$ . Then  $B$  satisfies (4), so it is easy to check that it satisfies the identities  $xyz = xzxyz$  and  $xyz = xyzxz$ . Now by Proposition II.3.10 [14],  $B$  is a normal band.

(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv). This follows by Theorem 1 [6] and Theorem 4.1 [12].

(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). By the transitivity of subdirect products,  $S$  is a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup and of a semigroup  $T \subseteq \prod_{i \in I} T_i$  that is a subdirect product of semigroups  $T_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , where  $T_i$  are completely simple semigroups with a zero possibly adjoined. Since  $T$  is a homomorphic image of  $S$ , then it is completely  $\pi$ -regular.

Assume  $a = (a_i) \in T$ . Then  $a^n \in Gr(T)$ , for some  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Let  $x$  be the group inverse of  $a^n$  and  $x = (x_i)$ . It is not hard to show that for each  $i \in I$ ,  $x_i$  is the group inverse of  $a_i^n$ . For each  $i \in I$ ,  $T_i$  is a union of groups, so  $a_i^{n-2}x_i a_i$  is the group inverse of  $a_i$  in  $T_i$ . Thus,  $y = a^{n-2}xa \in T$  and it is a group inverse of  $a$  in  $T$ , so  $T$  is completely regular. Now by Theorem 4.1 [12] and by Theorem 1 [7] we obtain (i).  $\square$

**Remark 2.** It is easy to verify that the condition (3) can be replaced by each condition of the form  $xa^n y \in xyuSvxy$ , where  $u$  and  $v$  are any words from the free monoid over an alphabet  $\{x, a, y\}$  such that one of  $u$  and  $v$  is a non-empty word.

Similarly we prove the following two corollaries

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

- (i)  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a normal band of groups and  $E(S)$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ ;



- (ii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a normal band and a semilattice of groups;
- (iii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a normal band and of groups with a zero possibly adjoined;
- (iv)  $S$  is completely  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup and of rectangular groups with a zero possibly adjoined.

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

- (i)  $S$  is a retractive nil-extension of a left normal band of groups;
- (ii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and for all  $x, a, y \in S$  there exists  $n \in \mathbf{Z}^+$  such that  $xa^n y \in xySx$ .
- (iii)  $S$  is  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a left normal band and a semilattice of groups;
- (iv)  $S$  is completely  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup, a left normal band and of groups with a zero possibly adjoined;
- (v)  $S$  is completely  $\pi$ -regular and a subdirect product of a nil-semigroup and of left groups with a zero possibly adjoined.

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## RETRAKTIVNE NIL-EKSTENZIJE TRAKA GRUPA

**Stojan Bogdanović i Miroslav Ćirić**

Ovaj rad je nastavak radova [6,7] i posvećen je proučavanju retraktivnih nil-ekstenzija traka grupa, u opštem i nekim važnijim specijalnim slučajevima. Posebno, kombinujući metode iz radova S. Bogdanovića i M. Ćirića [6,7] i one M. Petricha [12,13] i M. Ćirića i S. Bogdanovića [10], dajemo karakterizaciju retraktivnih nil-ekstenzija traka grupa čiji idempotenti čine podpolugrupu, preko poddirektnih proizvoda.