

# The Lattices of Congruences on Regular Semigroups with $Q$ -Inverse Transversals

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**Abstract** In this paper, a complete congruence on the congruence lattice of regular semigroups with  $Q$ -inverse transversals is analysed. The classes of this complete congruence which are intervals are discussed and their least and greatest elements are presented clearly.

**Keywords**  $Q$ -inverse transversal; congruence; congruence pairs; congruence lattices; congruence relations on the congruence lattice.

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## 1. Preliminaries

We shall use the notations and terminologies of [1] and [2] in this paper. Let  $S$  be a regular semigroup. An inverse subsemigroup  $S^\circ$  of  $S$  is an inverse transversal if  $|V(x) \cap S^\circ| = 1$  for each  $x \in S$ , where  $V(x)$  denotes the set of inverses of  $x$ . In this case, the unique element of  $V(x) \cap S^\circ$  is denoted by  $x^\circ$  and  $(x^\circ)^\circ$  is denoted by  $x^{\circ\circ}$ . We have  $x^{\circ\circ\circ} = x^\circ$  for each  $x \in S$ .  $E^\circ$  denotes the semilattice of idempotents of  $S^\circ$ , while  $I(S) = \{e \in S | ee^\circ = e\}$ ,  $\Lambda(S) = \{g \in S | g^\circ g = g\}$ ,  $R(S) = \{x \in S | x^\circ x = x^\circ x^{\circ\circ}\}$  and  $L(S) = \{a \in S | aa^\circ = a^{\circ\circ} a^\circ\}$ . The above signs are denoted by  $I, \Lambda, R$  and  $L$  if no confusion is possible. For every  $x \in S$ , we define  $x_I = xx^\circ$ ,  $x_\Lambda = x^\circ x$ ,  $x_R = xx^\circ x^{\circ\circ}$  and  $x_L = x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ x$ . Obviously, for each  $x \in S$ ,  $x_R \in R$ ,  $x_L \in L$ ,  $(x_R)^\circ = x^\circ$  and  $(x_L)^\circ = x^\circ$ . For every  $e \in I$ ,  $g \in \Lambda$ ,  $a \in R$  and  $x \in L$ , we have  $e_I = e$ ,  $g_\Lambda = g$ ,  $a_R = a$  and  $x_L = x$ . If an inverse transversal  $S^\circ$  of  $S$  is a quasi-ideal of  $S$  (that is  $S^\circ S S^\circ \subseteq S^\circ$ ),  $S^\circ$  is called a  $Q$ -inverse transversal of  $S$ . Throughout this paper,  $S$  will denote a regular semigroup with a  $Q$ -inverse transversal  $S^\circ$  if no special mention is made. Each  $x$  in  $S$  can be written uniquely in the form  $x = ea$ , where  $e \in I$ ,  $a \in L$ . Thus there is a mapping  $x \mapsto (xx^\circ, x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ x)$  from  $S$  onto the set

$$\{(e, a) \in I \times L | e^\circ = aa^\circ\}.$$

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By using this mapping,  $S$  can be coordinatized by pairs. A band  $B$  is left [resp. right] normal if  $efg = egf$  [resp.  $efg = feg$ ] for every  $e, f, g \in B$ . A non-empty subset  $A$  of  $S$  is called a left ideal [resp. right ideal] if  $SA \subseteq A$  [resp.  $AS \subseteq A$ ]. A semigroup is called orthodox if it is regular and if its idempotents form a subsemigroup.

We list several known results, which will be used frequently without special reference in this paper.

$$(1.1)^{[9]} \quad (xy)^\circ = (x^\circ xy)^\circ x^\circ = y^\circ (xyy^\circ)^\circ \text{ for every } x, y \in S.$$

(1.2)<sup>[3,5,7-9]</sup>  $I(S)$  [resp.  $\Lambda(S)$ ] is a left [resp. right] normal band with a  $Q$ -inverse transversal  $E^\circ$ . Furthermore,  $R(S)$  and  $L(S)$  are orthodox semigroups with a  $Q$ -inverse transversal  $S^\circ$  which is a right ideal of  $R$  and a left ideal of  $L$ .

$$(1.3)^{[5,8]} \quad R(S) \cap L(S) = S^\circ, I(S) \cap \Lambda(S) = E^\circ, E(R(S)) = I(S) \text{ and } E(L(S)) = \Lambda(S).$$

$$(1.4)^{[6]} \quad S \text{ is orthodox if and only if for any } x, y \in S, (xy)^\circ = y^\circ x^\circ.$$

(1.5)<sup>[9]</sup> For a regular semigroup  $S$  with an inverse transversal  $S^\circ$ ,  $S^\circ$  is a  $Q$ -inverse transversal if and only if for every  $x, y \in S, x_\Lambda \cdot y_I \in S^\circ$ , and if and only if for any  $s, t \in S^\circ, x \in S, sxt = sx^\circ t$ , and if and only if for any  $s, t \in S^\circ, x \in S, (sxt)^\circ = t^\circ x^\circ s^\circ$ .

$$(1.6)^{[9]} \quad \text{For } \rho \in \text{Con}(S), \text{ let } \rho^\circ = \rho|_{S^\circ}. \text{ Then for } x, y \in S, x\rho y \text{ implies } x^\circ \rho y^\circ.$$

$$(1.7)^{[9]} \quad \text{For any congruence } \pi \text{ on } S^\circ, \text{ there exists } \rho \in \text{Con}(S) \text{ such that } \pi = \rho|_{S^\circ}.$$

For a regular semigroup  $S$ ,  $E(S)$  denotes the set of idempotents. The complete lattice of congruences on  $S$  is denoted by  $\text{Con}(S)$ . For any  $\rho \in \text{Con}(S)$ , define  $\rho^\circ, \rho_I, \rho_\Lambda, \rho_R$  and  $\rho_L$  as follows:

$$\rho^\circ = \rho|_{S^\circ}, \quad \rho_I = \rho|_I, \quad \rho_\Lambda = \rho|_\Lambda, \quad \rho_R = \rho|_R, \quad \rho_L = \rho|_L.$$

If  $\rho \in \text{Con}(S)$ , then the trace of  $\rho$  is  $\text{tr}\rho = \rho|_{E(S)}$  and the kernel of  $\rho$  is  $\ker\rho = \{s \in S | s\rho s^2\}$ . We present the following notions and results due to Pastijn and Petrich<sup>[4]</sup>. For any  $\rho, \sigma \in \text{Con}(S)$ , define  $T_l, T_r, U$  and  $V$  as follows:

$$\rho T_l \sigma \Leftrightarrow \text{tr}(\rho \vee \mathcal{L})^\flat = \text{tr}(\sigma \vee \mathcal{L})^\flat, \quad \rho T_r \sigma \Leftrightarrow \text{tr}(\rho \vee \mathcal{R})^\flat = \text{tr}(\sigma \vee \mathcal{R})^\flat,$$

$$\rho U \sigma \Leftrightarrow \rho \cap \leq = \sigma \cap \leq, \quad \rho V \sigma \Leftrightarrow \rho U \sigma, \rho K \sigma,$$

where  $( )^\flat$  denotes the greatest congruence on  $S$  contained in the relation  $( )$ ,  $\leq$  denotes the natural partial order on  $E(S)$ , and  $K$  is a relation on  $\text{Con}(S)$  such that  $\rho K \sigma$  if and only if  $\ker\rho = \ker\sigma$ . Then these relations are complete congruences on the lattice  $\text{Con}(S)$ . The congruence class  $\rho T_r$  [resp.  $\rho T_l, \rho U, \rho V$ ] is an interval of  $\text{Con}(S)$  with greatest and smallest element to be denoted by  $\rho^{T_r}$  [resp.  $\rho^{T_l}, \rho^{T_U}, \rho^{T_V}$ ] and  $\rho_{T_r}$  [resp.  $\rho_{T_l}, \rho_{T_U}, \rho_{T_V}$ ], respectively. Let  $\tau$  be a relation on  $S$ . The congruence generated by  $\tau$  is denoted by  $\tau^*$ .

In [9], congruences were coordinatized abstractly by triples which consist of congruences on  $S^\circ$ ,  $I$  and  $\Lambda$  satisfying certain conditions. Five complete congruences  $V, T, T_r, T_l$  and  $U$  on the congruences lattices are discussed and their least and greatest elements are presented in terms of congruence triples. We present the following notions and results due to Wang<sup>[9]</sup>. Let  $\pi$  be a congruence on  $S^\circ$ . Define relations  $\mu_I(\pi)$  on  $I$  as follows:

$$e\mu_I(\pi)f \Leftrightarrow (\exists p^\circ \in E^\circ) ep^\circ = fp^\circ, p^\circ \pi e^\circ \pi f^\circ.$$

Furthermore,  $\mu_I(\pi)$  is a congruence on  $I$  and  $\mu_I(\pi)|_{E^\circ} = \pi|_{E^\circ}$ . If  $\pi = \rho|_{E^\circ}$ , then  $\mu_I(\pi) \subseteq \rho_I$ . A congruence  $\tau$  on  $I$  is normal if  $\tau$  satisfies the following condition:

$$(\forall e, f \in I)(\forall a \in S^\circ) e\tau f \Rightarrow aea^\circ \tau afa^\circ.$$

Denote by  $C_N(I)$  the set of normal congruences on  $I$ . Let  $\tau_I \in C_N(I)$ . Define a relation  $\tau^{\circ t}$  on  $S^\circ$  by

$$a\tau^{\circ t}b \Leftrightarrow (\forall e^\circ \in E^\circ) ae^\circ a^\circ \tau_I be^\circ b^\circ.$$

$\tau^{\circ t}$  is the greatest congruence in  $\text{Con}(S^\circ)$  such that  $\tau^{\circ t}|_{E^\circ} = \tau^\circ|_{E^\circ}^{[2]}$ . Furthermore,  $\tau^\circ \subseteq \tau^{\circ t}$ . For any  $\rho, \lambda \in \text{Con}(S)$ , by Theorems 4.4, 4.9 and the dual of Theorem 4.9 in [9], we have

$$\rho V \lambda \Leftrightarrow \rho^\circ = \lambda^\circ, \quad \rho T_r \lambda \Leftrightarrow \rho_I = \lambda_I, \quad \rho T_l \lambda \Leftrightarrow \rho_\Lambda = \lambda_\Lambda.$$

Shang and Wang<sup>[10]</sup> have shown that congruences on regular semigroups with  $Q$ -inverse transversals can also be characterized abstractly by congruence pairs which consist of congruences on  $I$  and  $L$  satisfying certain conditions.

**Definition 1.1**<sup>[10]</sup> Let  $\tau_I$  and  $\tau_L$  be congruences on  $I$  and  $L$ , respectively. If they satisfy the following conditions,  $(\tau_I, \tau_L)$  is called a congruence pair for  $S$ .

- (i)  $(\tau_I)|_{E^\circ} = (\tau_L)|_{E^\circ}$ ;
- (ii)  $(\forall e, f \in I, x \in L) e\tau_I f \Rightarrow xe\tau_L xf, (\forall x, y \in L, e \in I) x\tau_L y \Rightarrow xe\tau_I ye$ .

Clearly, (ii) is equivalent to the following condition (iii),

- (iii)  $(\forall e, f \in I, x, y \in L) e\tau_I f, x\tau_L y \Rightarrow xe\tau_L yf$ . Define a relation  $\rho_{(\tau_I, \tau_L)}$  on  $S$  by the following rule,

$$x\rho_{(\tau_I, \tau_L)}y \Leftrightarrow x_I\tau_I y_I, \quad x_L\tau_L y_L.$$

**Lemma 1.1**<sup>[10]</sup> For any  $\rho, \sigma \in \text{Con}(S)$ ,  $\rho \subseteq \sigma \Leftrightarrow \rho_I \subseteq \sigma_I, \rho_L \subseteq \sigma_L$ . Therefore,  $\rho = \sigma \Leftrightarrow \rho_I = \sigma_I, \rho_L = \sigma_L$ .

**Lemma 1.2**<sup>[10]</sup> For every congruence pair  $(\tau_I, \tau_L)$  for  $S$ , the relation  $\rho_{(\tau_I, \tau_L)}$  is the unique congruence on  $S$  whose restrictions to  $I$  and  $L$  are  $\tau_I$  and  $\tau_L$ , respectively. Conversely, every congruence on  $S$  can be represented in this way.

In this paper, we study the complete congruence  $Q$  on the congruence lattice of regular semigroups with  $Q$ -inverse transversals. And we go one step further to give the least and the greatest elements of complete congruence  $T_r$  in terms of congruence pairs.

## 2. The congruence relation $Q$ on $\text{Con}(S)$

In this section, we investigate the congruence relation  $Q$  on the lattice  $\text{Con}(S)$ . The classes of the congruence relation  $Q$  are intervals of  $\text{Con}(S)$ . We present the least and the greatest elements of each classes of the congruence relation  $Q$  clearly.

One may observe from Lemma 1.2 that for every  $\rho \in \text{Con}(S)$ , there exists a congruence pair  $J_\rho = (\rho_I, \rho_L)$  and vice versa for every congruence pair  $J$ , a congruence  $\rho_J$ . By Lemma 1.2,  $\rho \mapsto (\rho_I, \rho_L)$  and  $J \mapsto \rho_J$  are mutually inverse mappings satisfying  $\rho_{J_\rho} = \rho, J_{\rho_J} = J$ .

Denote by  $CP(S)$  the set of congruence pairs for  $S$ . Define an order  $\leq$  on  $CP(S)$  by componentwise inclusion. It is clear that  $\leq$  is a partial order on  $CP(S)$ . From Lemma 1.1, we have

$$(\tau_I, \tau_L) \leq (\tau'_I, \tau'_L) \Leftrightarrow \rho_{(\tau_I, \tau_L)} \subseteq \rho_{(\tau'_I, \tau'_L)}.$$

By Lemma 1.2, we know that  $\text{Con}(S)$  and  $CP(S)$  are isomorphic as partially ordered sets and therefore as (complete) lattices. In what follows we determine joins and meets in the lattice  $CP(S)$ .

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $\Psi$  be a family of congruences on  $S$ . For  $\rho \in \Psi$ , denote  $J_\rho = (\rho_I, \rho_L)$ . Then*

$$J_{\bigcap_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho} = (\bigcap_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_I, \bigcap_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_L), \quad J_{\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho} = (\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_I, \bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_L).$$

**Proof** The first equality is obvious. In order to show the second, it suffices to prove  $(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_I = \bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_I$  and  $(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_L = \bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_L$ . Suppose  $e(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_I f$  for  $e, f \in I$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} e(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_I f &\Rightarrow e(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho) f \\ &\Rightarrow (\exists \rho_i \in \Psi, g_i \in S) e \rho_1 g_1 \rho_2 g_2 \rho_3 \dots \rho_{n-1} g_{n-1} \rho_n f \\ &\Rightarrow e = e e^\circ \rho_1 g_1 g_1^\circ \rho_2 g_2 g_2^\circ \rho_3 \dots \rho_{n-1} g_{n-1} g_{n-1}^\circ \rho_n I f f^\circ = f \\ &\Rightarrow e(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_I) f. \end{aligned}$$

So  $(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_I \subseteq \bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_I$ . The reverse inclusion is obvious.

Next assume  $x(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_L y$  for  $x, y \in L$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} x(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_L y &\Rightarrow x(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho) y \\ &\Rightarrow (\exists \rho_i \in \Psi, z_i \in S) x \rho_1 z_1 \rho_2 z_2 \rho_3 \dots \rho_{n-1} z_{n-1} \rho_n y \\ &\Rightarrow x = x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ x \rho_1 z_1 z_1^{\circ\circ} z_1^\circ z_1 \rho_2 z_2 z_2^{\circ\circ} z_2^\circ z_2 \rho_3 \dots \rho_{n-1} z_{n-1} z_{n-1}^{\circ\circ} z_{n-1}^\circ z_{n-1} \rho_n y^{\circ\circ} y^\circ y = y \\ &\Rightarrow x(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_L) y. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $(\bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho)_L \subseteq \bigvee_{\rho \in \Psi} \rho_L$ . The reverse inclusion is obvious.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $\Gamma$  be a nonempty family of congruence pairs for  $S$  and denote  $J = (\tau_I, \tau_L) \in \Gamma$ . Then*

$$\bigcap_{J \in \Gamma} \rho_J = \rho_{(\bigcap_{J \in \Gamma} \tau_I, \bigcap_{J \in \Gamma} \tau_L)}, \quad \bigvee_{J \in \Gamma} \rho_J = \rho_{(\bigvee_{J \in \Gamma} \tau_I, \bigvee_{J \in \Gamma} \tau_L)}.$$

**Proof** Denote simply  $\rho = \rho_J = \rho_{(\tau_I, \tau_L)}$ . From Lemma 2.1,

$$J_{\bigcap_{J \in \Gamma} \rho} = (\bigcap_{J \in \Gamma} \tau_I, \bigcap_{J \in \Gamma} \tau_L).$$

From Lemma 1.2,  $\rho_{J_{\bigcap \rho}} = \bigcap \rho$ . Hence the first equality holds. The second one may be proved similarly.

**Lemma 2.3**  *$CP(S)$  is a lattice under the partial order  $\leq$ . The lattice operations in  $CP(S)$  are given as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned} (\tau_I, \tau_L) \cap (\tau'_I, \tau'_L) &= (\tau_I \cap \tau'_I, \tau_L \cap \tau'_L), \\ (\tau_I, \tau_L) \vee (\tau'_I, \tau'_L) &= (\tau_I \vee \tau'_I, \tau_L \vee \tau'_L). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof** We omit the proof since it is easy.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4** Let  $\pi$  be a congruence on  $S^\circ$ . Then we have

$$(\forall a, b \in S^\circ)(\forall e \in I, x \in L) a\pi b \Rightarrow xae\pi xbe.$$

**Proof** Suppose  $a\pi b$  for  $a, b \in S^\circ$ . Then for  $e \in I, x \in L$ , by (1.5),

$$xae = x^{\circ\circ}x^\circ xae e^\circ = x^{\circ\circ}x^\circ x^{\circ\circ}ae^{\circ\circ}e^\circ \pi x^{\circ\circ}x^\circ x^{\circ\circ}be^{\circ\circ}e^\circ = xbe.$$

Let  $\pi$  be a congruence on  $S^\circ$ . Define a relation  $\xi_I(\pi)$  on  $I$  with respect to  $\pi$  by

$$e\xi_I(\pi)f \Leftrightarrow (\forall x \in L) x e \pi x f.$$

We set

$$C_N(L) = \{\sigma \in \text{Con}(L) | \exists \rho \in \text{Con}(S), \rho|_L = \sigma\}.$$

**Theorem 2.1** Define a mapping  $\psi$  from  $\text{Con}(S)$  into  $C_N(L)$  by

$$\psi : \rho \longmapsto \rho_L.$$

Then the following statements are true.

- (i)  $\psi$  is a complete homomorphism from  $\text{Con}(S)$  onto  $C_N(L)$ ;
- (ii) The complete congruence  $Q$  on  $\text{Con}(S)$  induced by  $\psi$  is  $V \cap T_l$ ;
- (iii) For any  $\rho \in \text{Con}(S)$ , the  $Q$ -class  $\rho Q$  is an interval of  $\text{Con}(S)$  such that

$$\rho Q = [\rho_Q, \rho^Q],$$

where  $\rho_Q = \rho_{(\mu_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)}$  and  $\rho^Q = \rho_{(\xi_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)}$ .

**Proof** (i) By the definition of  $C_N(L)$ ,  $\psi$  is surjective;  $\psi$  is a complete homomorphism by Lemma 2.2.

(ii) We need to prove that  $Q = V \cap T_l$ . If  $\rho(V \cap T_l)\sigma$ , then by Theorem 4.4 and the dual of Theorem 4.9 in [9],  $\rho|_{S^\circ} = \sigma|_{S^\circ}$  and  $\rho|_\Lambda = \sigma|_\Lambda$ . Let  $x, y \in L$  with  $x\rho y$ . Then  $x^\circ\rho y^\circ$ , and so  $x^{\circ\circ}\rho y^{\circ\circ}$ . Hence  $x^\circ x\rho y^\circ y$ . Thus  $x^\circ x\sigma y^\circ y$  and  $x^{\circ\circ}\sigma y^{\circ\circ}$ , and so  $x = x^{\circ\circ}x^\circ x\sigma y^{\circ\circ}y^\circ y = y$ . Therefore  $\rho_L \subseteq \sigma_L$ . Similarly, the reverse inclusion holds. So  $\rho Q \sigma$ . That is to say,  $V \cap T_l \subseteq Q$ . Obviously, the reverse inclusion also holds.

(iii) By Theorem 4.4 in [9], we have  $\mu_I(\rho^\circ)|_{E^\circ} = \rho^\circ|_{E^\circ} = (\rho_L)|_{E^\circ}$ . Assume  $e\mu_I(\rho^\circ)f$  for  $e, f \in I$ . Since  $\mu_I(\rho^\circ) \subseteq \rho_I$ , we have  $e\rho f$ . For any  $x \in L$ , by (1.3), we have  $x e \rho_L x f$ . Let  $x, y \in L$  with  $x \rho_L y$ . Then for any  $e \in I$ , we have  $x e \rho y e$ . So  $x e \rho_L y e$ . Hence  $(\mu_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)$  is a congruence pair such that  $\rho_{(\mu_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)} \in \rho Q$ . We have also  $\rho_{(\mu_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)} \subseteq \rho_{(\rho_I, \rho_L)} = \rho$ . Since the definition of  $\mu_I(\rho^\circ)$  depends only on  $\rho^\circ$ ,  $\rho_{(\mu_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)}$  is the smallest element of  $\rho Q$ .

Let  $\pi$  be a congruence on  $S^\circ$ . Clearly,  $\xi_I(\pi)$  is an equivalence relation on  $I$ . Let  $e\xi_I(\pi)f$ . Then for any  $x \in L, x e \pi x f$ , and for any  $g \in I$ , by Lemma 2.4, we have

$$x e g = x^{\circ\circ}x^\circ x e g \pi x^{\circ\circ}x^\circ x f g = x f g$$

so  $e g \xi_I(\pi) f g$ . We also have  $g^\circ e \pi g^\circ f$ . Since  $x g \in S^\circ$ , we get

$$x g e = x g g^\circ e \pi x g g^\circ f = x g f,$$

and thus  $ge\xi_I(\pi)gf$ . Hence  $\xi_I(\pi)$  is a congruence on  $I$ . If for  $e^\circ, f^\circ \in E^\circ, e^\circ\pi f^\circ$ , then for any  $x \in L$ , by Lemma 2.4, we have

$$xe^\circ = xe^\circ e^\circ \pi x f^\circ e^\circ = xe^\circ f^\circ \pi x f^\circ f^\circ = x f^\circ.$$

So  $e^\circ \xi_I(\pi) f^\circ$ . Thus  $\pi|_{E^\circ} \subseteq (\xi_I(\pi))|_{E^\circ}$ . Conversely, if  $e^\circ (\xi_I(\pi))|_{E^\circ} f^\circ$ , then

$$e^\circ = e^\circ e^\circ \pi e^\circ f^\circ = f^\circ e^\circ \pi f^\circ f^\circ = f^\circ.$$

Thus  $(\xi_I(\pi))|_{E^\circ} \subseteq \pi|_{E^\circ}$ , and so  $(\xi_I(\pi))|_{E^\circ} = \pi|_{E^\circ}$ . Let  $\pi = \rho^\circ$ . Then  $\xi_I(\rho^\circ)|_{E^\circ} = \rho^\circ|_{E^\circ} = (\rho_L)|_{E^\circ}$ . Assume  $e\xi_I(\rho^\circ)f$  for  $e, f \in I$ . For any  $x \in L$ , by the definition of  $\xi_I(\rho^\circ)$  we have  $xe\rho^\circ xf$ . Noticing  $xe, xf \in S^\circ \subseteq L$ , we get  $x\rho_L xf$ . If for  $x, y \in L, x\rho_L y$ , then  $xpy$ . For any  $e \in I$ , we have  $xepye$ , and thus  $x\rho_L ye$ . Hence  $(\xi_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)$  is a congruence pair such that  $\rho_{(\xi_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)} \in \rho Q$ . Noticing  $\rho_I \subseteq \xi_I(\rho^\circ)$ , we also have  $\rho = \rho_{(\rho_I, \rho_L)} \subseteq \rho_{(\xi_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)}$ . Since the definition of  $\xi_I(\rho^\circ)$  depends only on  $\rho^\circ$ , it follows that  $\rho_{(\xi_I(\rho^\circ), \rho_L)}$  is the greatest element of  $\rho Q$ .

Therefore, the  $Q$ -class  $\rho Q$  is  $[\rho_Q, \rho^Q]$ .

### 3. The congruence relation $T_r$ on $\text{Con}(S)$

Using congruence pairs, we present the least and the greatest element in each  $T_r$ -class in this section, which is in a different approach to [9].

Let  $\pi$  be a congruence on  $S^\circ$ . Define relations  $\xi_L(\pi)$  and  $\nu_L(\pi)$  on  $L$  with respect to  $\pi$  respectively, as follows.

$$x\xi_L(\pi)y \Leftrightarrow (\forall e \in I) x e \pi y e,$$

$$x\nu_L(\pi)y \Leftrightarrow (\exists p^\circ \in E^\circ) p^\circ x \pi^* p^\circ y, \quad p^\circ \pi x^{\circ\circ} x^{\circ\circ} \pi y^{\circ\circ} y^{\circ\circ},$$

where  $\pi^*$  is the congruence generated by  $\pi$  on  $S$ . Noticing  $\pi^*$  is the smallest element of  $\{\rho \in \text{Con}(S) : \rho|_{S^\circ} = \pi\}$ . This is because  $\pi = \pi|_{S^\circ} \subseteq (\pi^*)|_{S^\circ}$ . By (1.7), there exists a  $\xi \in \text{Con}(S)$  such that  $\xi|_{S^\circ} = \pi$ . Thus  $(\pi^*)|_{S^\circ} \subseteq \xi|_{S^\circ} = \pi$ , and so  $(\pi^*)|_{S^\circ} = \pi$ . If  $\rho \in \text{Con}(S)$ ,  $\rho|_{S^\circ} = \pi$ , then  $\pi \subseteq \rho$ . So  $\pi^* \subseteq \rho$ .

Let  $\tau_I \in C_N(I) = \{\sigma \in \text{Con}(I) | \exists \rho \in \text{Con}(S), \rho|_I = \sigma\}$ . Define a relation  $\tau_n^\circ$  on  $S^\circ$  by  $\tau_n^\circ = \beta^*$ , where  $\beta = \{(xe, xf) | e\tau_I f, x \in L\}$ .

**Theorem 3.1** For  $\rho \in \text{Con}(S)$ , we have  $\rho_{T_r} = \rho_{(\rho_I, \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ))}$  and  $\rho^{T_r} = \rho_{(\rho_I, \xi_L(\rho^{\circ\circ}))}$ .

**Proof** Let  $\pi$  be a congruence on  $S^\circ$ . We need to prove that  $\nu_L(\pi)$  is a congruence on  $L$ . For  $x \in L$ , there is  $p^\circ = x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ \in E^\circ$  such that  $x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ \pi^* x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ$  and  $x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ \pi x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ \pi x^{\circ\circ} x^\circ$ . Hence  $\nu_L(\pi)$  is reflexive. Clearly,  $\nu_L(\pi)$  is symmetric. For  $x, y, z \in L$  with  $x\nu_L(\pi)y$  and  $y\nu_L(\pi)z$ , there exist  $p^\circ, q^\circ \in E^\circ$  such that

$$p^\circ x \pi^* p^\circ y, \quad p^\circ \pi x^{\circ\circ} x^{\circ\circ} \pi y^{\circ\circ} y^{\circ\circ},$$

$$q^\circ y \pi^* q^\circ z, \quad q^\circ \pi y^{\circ\circ} y^{\circ\circ} \pi z^{\circ\circ} z^{\circ\circ},$$

hence  $q^\circ p^\circ x \pi^* q^\circ p^\circ z$  and  $q^\circ p^\circ \pi y^{\circ\circ} y^{\circ\circ} \pi x^{\circ\circ} x^{\circ\circ} \pi z^{\circ\circ} z^{\circ\circ}$ . Therefore  $\nu_L(\pi)$  is transitive, and so  $\nu_L(\pi)$  is an equivalence relation on  $L$ . Assume  $x\nu_L(\pi)y$  for  $x, y \in L$ . Then  $p^\circ x \pi^* p^\circ y$  for some  $p^\circ \in E^\circ$

such that  $p^\circ \pi x^\circ x^\circ \pi y^\circ y^\circ$ . For any  $z \in L$ , we have  $z^\circ p^\circ z^\circ \pi z^\circ x^\circ x^\circ z^\circ \pi z^\circ y^\circ y^\circ z^\circ$ . Since  $L$  is an orthodox semigroup with  $Q$ -inverse transversal  $S^\circ$ , by (1.4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} z^\circ p^\circ z^\circ .zx &= z^\circ p^\circ z^\circ zx^\circ x^\circ = z^\circ p^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ x^\circ \\ &= z^\circ z^\circ z^\circ p^\circ x^\circ \pi^* z^\circ z^\circ p^\circ y^\circ = z^\circ p^\circ z^\circ z^\circ y^\circ = z^\circ p^\circ z^\circ .zy, \\ z^\circ p^\circ z^\circ \pi(zx)^\circ (zx)^\circ \pi(zy)^\circ (zy)^\circ. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by the definition of  $\nu_L(\pi)$ ,  $zx\nu_L(\pi)zy$ . As  $p^\circ \pi x^\circ x^\circ \pi y^\circ y^\circ$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ \pi x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ &= (xz)^\circ (xz)^\circ, \\ p^\circ y^\circ z^\circ z^\circ y^\circ \pi y^\circ z^\circ z^\circ y^\circ &= (yz)^\circ (yz)^\circ. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p^\circ \in E^\circ$  and  $p^\circ x^\circ \pi^* p^\circ y^\circ$ , by (1.4) and (1.6), we have  $x^\circ p^\circ = x^\circ p^\circ \pi y^\circ p^\circ = y^\circ p^\circ$ , hence  $p^\circ x^\circ \pi p^\circ y^\circ$ . Noticing  $x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ \in E^\circ$ , we also have

$$\begin{aligned} p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ &= p^\circ p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ \\ &= p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ p^\circ \pi p^\circ y^\circ z^\circ z^\circ y^\circ p^\circ = p^\circ y^\circ z^\circ z^\circ y^\circ. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by the proof above and the definition of  $\pi^*$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ xz &= p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ xz^\circ z^\circ = p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ = p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ \\ \pi^* p^\circ y^\circ z &= p^\circ y^\circ z^\circ z^\circ y^\circ yz = p^\circ y^\circ z^\circ z^\circ y^\circ p^\circ yz \pi^* p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ p^\circ yz = p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ yz, \\ p^\circ x^\circ z^\circ z^\circ x^\circ \pi(xz)^\circ (xz)^\circ \pi(yz)^\circ (yz)^\circ. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $xz\nu_L(\pi)yz$ . Therefore  $\nu_L(\pi)$  is a congruence on  $L$ . Assume  $x\nu_L(\pi)y$  for  $x, y \in S^\circ$ . Then  $p^\circ x^\circ \pi^* p^\circ y^\circ$  for some  $p^\circ \in E^\circ$  such that  $p^\circ \pi x^\circ x^\circ \pi y^\circ y^\circ$ . Thus  $x^\circ p^\circ \pi x^\circ \pi^* p^\circ y^\circ \pi y^\circ$ , and so  $\nu_L(\pi)|_{S^\circ} \subseteq \pi$ . For  $x, y \in S^\circ$  with  $x^\circ \pi y^\circ$ , we have  $x^\circ \pi y^\circ$ . Thus  $x^\circ x^\circ = x^\circ x^\circ \pi y^\circ y^\circ = y^\circ y^\circ$ , and so  $x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ y^\circ \pi y^\circ y^\circ$ . Noticing  $\pi^*|_{S^\circ} = \pi$  and  $x^\circ \pi y^\circ$ , we also have

$$\begin{aligned} x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ y^\circ .x^\circ \pi^* x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ y^\circ .y, \\ x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ y^\circ \pi x^\circ x^\circ \pi y^\circ y^\circ, \end{aligned}$$

and thus  $x\nu_L(\pi)y$ . Hence  $\pi \subseteq \nu_L(\pi)|_{S^\circ}$ , so  $\pi = \nu_L(\pi)|_{S^\circ}$ . Let  $\pi = \rho_n^\circ$ . Then  $\nu_L(\rho_n^\circ)|_{S^\circ} = \rho_n^\circ$ . We need to prove that  $(\rho_I)|_{E^\circ} = \rho_n^\circ|_{E^\circ}$ . For  $e^\circ, f^\circ \in E^\circ$  with  $e^\circ \rho_I f^\circ$ , by the definition of  $\rho_n^\circ$  we have  $e^\circ = e^\circ e^\circ \beta e^\circ f^\circ = f^\circ e^\circ \beta f^\circ f^\circ = f^\circ$ . So  $e^\circ \rho_n^\circ f^\circ$ . Thus  $(\rho_I)|_{E^\circ} \subseteq \rho_n^\circ|_{E^\circ}$ . To get the reverse inclusion, assume  $e^\circ \rho_n^\circ f^\circ$  for  $e^\circ, f^\circ \in E^\circ$ . Then there exist  $e_i, f_i \in I, x_i \in L, s_i, t_i \in S^{o1}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) such that

$$e^\circ = s_1 x_1 e_1 t_1, \quad s_1 x_1 f_1 t_1 = s_2 x_2 e_2 t_2, \quad \dots, \quad s_n x_n f_n t_n = f^\circ, \quad e_i \rho_I f_i.$$

By  $e_i \rho_I f_i$ , we get  $e_i \rho f_i$ , and thus  $e^\circ \rho f^\circ$ . Hence  $e^\circ (\rho_I)|_{E^\circ} f^\circ$ , and so  $\rho_n^\circ|_{E^\circ} \subseteq (\rho_I)|_{E^\circ}$ . Thus

$$\nu_L(\rho_n^\circ)|_{E^\circ} = \rho_n^\circ|_{E^\circ} = (\rho_I)|_{E^\circ}.$$

Therefore  $(\rho_I, \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ))$  satisfies Definition 1.1(i). For  $e, f \in I, x \in L$  with  $e \rho_I f$ , by the definition of  $\rho_n^\circ$ , we have  $x e \rho_n^\circ x f$ . By  $x e, x f \in S^\circ$  and  $\nu_L(\rho_n^\circ)|_{S^\circ} = \rho_n^\circ$ , we get  $x e \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ) x f$ . Assume  $x \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ) y$

for  $x, y \in L$ . Then  $q^\circ x(\rho_n^\circ)^* q^\circ y$  for some  $q^\circ \in E^\circ$  such that  $q^\circ \rho_n^\circ x^\circ x^\circ \rho_n^\circ y^\circ y^\circ$ . Thus

$$x(\rho_n^\circ)^* q^\circ x(\rho_n^\circ)^* q^\circ y(\rho_n^\circ)^* y,$$

and so  $x(\rho_n^\circ)^* y$ . For any  $e \in I$ , we have  $xe(\rho_n^\circ)^* ye$ . By  $xe, ye \in S^\circ$  and  $(\rho_n^\circ)^*|_{S^\circ} = \rho_n^\circ = \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ)|_{S^\circ}$ , we get  $xe\nu_L(\rho_n^\circ)ye$ . Therefore  $(\rho_I, \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ))$  is a congruence pair such that  $\rho_{(\rho_I, \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ))} \in \rho T_r$ . For  $a, b \in S^\circ$  with  $a\rho_n^\circ b$ , there exist  $e_i, f_i \in I, x_i \in L, s_i, t_i \in S^{\circ 1}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) such that

$$a = s_1 x_1 e_1 t_1, \quad s_1 x_1 f_1 t_1 = s_2 x_2 e_2 t_2, \quad \dots, \quad s_n x_n f_n t_n = b, \quad e_i \rho_I f_i.$$

Hence  $a\rho b$ , so  $a\rho^\circ b$ . Therefore  $\rho_n^\circ \subseteq \rho^\circ$ . Thus, by the definition of  $\nu_L(\pi), \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ) \subseteq \nu_L(\rho^\circ) \subseteq \rho_L$ . Hence  $\rho_{(\rho_I, \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ))} \subseteq \rho_{(\rho_I, \rho_L)} = \rho$ . Since the definition of  $\nu_L(\rho_n^\circ)$  depends only on  $\rho_n^\circ$  and the definition of  $\rho_n^\circ$  depends only on  $\rho_I$ ,  $\rho_{(\rho_I, \nu_L(\rho_n^\circ))}$  is the smallest element of  $\rho T_r$ .

From Theorem III. 2.5 in [2],  $\rho^{\circ t}$  is the greatest congruence in  $\text{Con}(S^\circ)$  such that  $\rho^{\circ t}|_{E^\circ} = \rho^\circ|_{E^\circ}$ . Let  $\pi$  be a congruence on  $S^\circ$ .  $\xi_L(\pi)$  is also an equivalence relation on  $L$ . Let  $x\xi_L(\pi)y$ . Then for any  $e \in I, xeye$ , and for any  $z \in L$ , by Lemma 2.4, we have

$$zxe = zxee^\circ \pi z y e e^\circ = z y e$$

so  $zx\xi_L(\pi)zy$ . Noticing  $xz^\circ z^\circ \pi yz^\circ z^\circ$  and  $ze \in S^\circ$ , we have

$$xze = xz^\circ z^\circ ze \pi yz^\circ z^\circ ze = yze,$$

and thus  $xz\xi_L(\pi)yz$ . Hence  $\xi_L(\pi)$  is also a congruence on  $L$ .

If for  $x^\circ, y^\circ \in S^\circ, x^\circ \pi y^\circ$ , then for any  $e \in I$ , by Lemma 2.4, we have

$$x^\circ e = x^\circ x^\circ x^\circ e \pi x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ e = x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ y^\circ y^\circ e = y^\circ y^\circ x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ e \pi y^\circ y^\circ y^\circ y^\circ e = y^\circ e.$$

So  $x^\circ \xi_L(\pi) y^\circ$ . Thus  $\pi \subseteq (\xi_L(\pi))|_{S^\circ}$ . Conversely, if  $x^\circ (\xi_L(\pi))|_{S^\circ} y^\circ$ , then  $x^\circ x^\circ (\xi_L(\pi))|_{S^\circ} y^\circ$ , and so  $x^\circ x^\circ (\xi_L(\pi))|_{S^\circ} y^\circ y^\circ$ . Thus, by the definition of  $\xi_L(\pi)$ ,

$$x^\circ = x^\circ x^\circ x^\circ \pi y^\circ x^\circ x^\circ = y^\circ y^\circ y^\circ x^\circ x^\circ = y^\circ x^\circ x^\circ y^\circ y^\circ \pi y^\circ y^\circ y^\circ y^\circ = y^\circ.$$

Hence  $(\xi_L(\pi))|_{S^\circ} \subseteq \pi$ . Consequently  $(\xi_L(\pi))|_{S^\circ} = \pi$ . Let  $\pi = \rho^{\circ t}$ . Then

$$\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})|_{E^\circ} = \rho^{\circ t}|_{E^\circ} = \rho^\circ|_{E^\circ} = \rho_I|_{E^\circ}.$$

For  $e, f \in I, e\rho_I f$ , then for any  $x \in L$ , we have  $xep^\circ xf$ . As  $\rho^\circ \subseteq \rho^{\circ t}$  and  $\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})|_{S^\circ} = \rho^{\circ t}$ , we have  $xe\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})xf$ . Assume  $x\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})y$  for  $x, y \in L$ . Then for any  $e \in I$ , by the definition of  $\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})$ ,  $xep^{\circ t} ye$ . Since  $xe, ye \in S^\circ$  and  $\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})|_{S^\circ} = \rho^{\circ t}$ , we have  $xe\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})ye$ . Therefore  $(\rho_I, \xi_L(\rho^{\circ t}))$  is a congruence pair and  $\rho_{(\rho_I, \xi_L(\rho^{\circ t}))} \in \rho T_r$ . By the definition of  $\xi_L(\pi)$ , we have  $\rho_L \subseteq \xi_L(\rho^\circ) \subseteq \xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})$  and

$$\rho = \rho_{(\rho_I, \rho_L)} \subseteq \rho_{(\rho_I, \xi_L(\rho^{\circ t}))}.$$

Since the definition of  $\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})$  depends only on  $\rho^{\circ t}$  and the definition of  $\rho^{\circ t}$  depends only on  $(\rho_I)|_{E^\circ}$ ,  $\rho_{(\rho_I, \xi_L(\rho^{\circ t}))}$  is the greatest element of  $\rho T_r$ .

With respect to any congruence  $\rho$  on  $S$ , there exist two congruence classes containing  $\rho$ , and there are four extremal values related to these congruence classes. Further, we describe the fine relations among these extremal congruences for a fixed congruence on  $S$ .



**Theorem 3.2** Let  $\rho$  be a congruence on  $S$ . Then  $T_r \cap Q = \epsilon_{\text{Con}(S)}$ ,  $\rho = \rho_{T_r} \vee \rho_Q = \rho^{T_r} \cap \rho^Q$ ,  $(\rho^{T_r})^{T_r} = \rho^{T_r}$ ,  $(\rho_{T_r})_{T_r} = \rho_{T_r}$ ,  $(\rho^{T_r})_{T_r} = \rho_{T_r}$ ,  $(\rho_{T_r})^{T_r} = \rho^{T_r}$ ,  $(\rho^Q)^Q = \rho^Q$ ,  $(\rho_Q)_Q = \rho_Q$ ,  $(\rho^Q)_Q = \rho_Q$ ,  $(\rho_Q)^Q = \rho^Q$ .

**Proof** Only  $\rho = \rho_{T_r} \vee \rho_Q = \rho^{T_r} \cap \rho^Q$  and  $(\rho^{T_r})^{T_r} = \rho^{T_r}$  are proved below.

$\nu_L(\rho_n^\circ) \subseteq \rho_L$  has been shown in the proof of Theorem 3.1. Combining  $\mu_I(\rho^\circ) \subseteq \rho_I$ , Lemma 2.2, Theorems 2.1 and 3.1, we have  $\rho = \rho_{T_r} \vee \rho_Q$ . Similarly,  $\rho_I \subseteq \xi_I(\rho^\circ)$ ,  $\rho_L \subseteq \xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})$ , and then  $\rho = \rho^{T_r} \cap \rho^Q$ . Finally,  $(\rho^{T_r})^{T_r} = \rho_{(\rho_I, \xi_L((\rho^{\circ t})^{\circ t}))} = \rho^{T_r}$  from the fact that  $(\rho^{T_r})_I = \rho_I$ ,  $\xi_L(\rho^{\circ t})|_{S^\circ} = \rho^{\circ t}$  and  $(\rho^{\circ t})^{\circ t} = \rho^{\circ t}$ .

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