

# The $\mathcal{R}$ -height of Semigroups and their Bi-ideals

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1 Definitions and basic facts

2 Main Results

- Bounds
- Can the bounds be attained?

Green's preorder  $\leq_{\mathcal{R}}$  is defined by

$$a \leq_{\mathcal{R}} b \Leftrightarrow aS^1 \subseteq bS^1.$$

We write  $a \leq_S b$  for  $a \leq_{\mathcal{R}} b$ , and  $a <_S b$  if  $a \leq_{\mathcal{R}} b$  but  $aS^1 \neq bS^1$ .

The pre-order  $\leq_{\mathcal{R}}$  induces a partial order on the set of  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of  $S$ , given by  $R_a \leq R_b \Leftrightarrow a \leq_S b$ .

The  **$\mathcal{R}$ -height** of  $S$ , denoted by  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S)$ , is the height of the poset  $S/\mathcal{R}$ , i.e. the supremum of the lengths of chains of  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of  $S$ .

A **bi-ideal** of  $S$  is a subsemigroup  $B$  such that  $BSB \subseteq B$ .

Bi-ideals include right ideals and left ideals (and hence ideals).

- If  $B$  is a bi-ideal and  $T$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ , and  $C = B \cap T \neq \emptyset$ , then  $C$  is a bi-ideal of  $T$ .
- The intersection of bi-ideals is either empty or a bi-ideal.
- If  $B$  is a bi-ideal and  $X$  is any subset of  $S$ , then  $BX$  and  $XB$  are bi-ideals of  $S$ .
- Bi-ideals of right simple semigroups are left ideals.

# Minimal ideals

A **minimal (right) ideal** is a (right) ideal that contains no proper (right) ideal.

If it exists, the minimal ideal of  $S$ , also known as the **kernel** of  $S$ , will be denoted by  $K(S)$ .

If  $S$  has min. right ideals, then  $K(S)$  is the union of all the min. right ideals. If  $S$  additionally has min. left ideals, then  $K(S)$  is completely simple.

**Lemma.** If  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S)$  is finite, then  $S$  has minimal right ideals. Moreover,  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = 1$  if and only if  $S$  is a union of minimal right ideals.

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Let  $S$  be a semigroup with finite  $\mathcal{R}$ -height, and let  $B$  be a bi-ideal of  $S$ . Let  $n$  denote the maximum length of a chain of  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of  $S$  that intersect  $B$ .

**Theorem.**  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) \leq 3n - 1$ .

**Theorem.** If  $K(S)$  is completely simple, then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) \leq 3n - 2$ .

**Theorem.** If every element of  $B$  has a local right identity (i.e.  $bB \subseteq B$  for all  $b \in B$ ), then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) = n$ .

Let  $S$  be a semigroup with finite  $\mathcal{R}$ -height, and let  $A$  be a left ideal of  $S$ . Let  $n$  denote the maximum length of a chain of  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of  $S$  that intersect  $A$ .

**Theorem.**  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) \leq 2n$ .

**Theorem.** If  $K(S)$  is completely simple, then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) \leq 2n - 1$ .

**Theorem.** If  $A \subseteq \text{Reg}(S)$ , then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = n$ .



Let  $S$  be a semigroup with finite  $\mathcal{R}$ -height, and let  $A$  be a right ideal of  $S$ . Let  $n$  denote the maximum length of a chain of  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of  $S$  contained in  $A$ .

**Theorem.**  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) \leq 2n - 1$ .

**Theorem.** If  $A$  is a two-sided ideal, then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) \leq n$ .

1 Definitions and basic facts

2 Main Results

- Bounds
- Can the bounds be attained?

- For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  and a bi-ideal  $B$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) = 3n - 1$ ?
- For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  with a completely simple kernel and a bi-ideal  $B$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) = 3n - 2$ ?
- For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  and a left ideal  $A$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2n$ ?
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- For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  and a right ideal  $A$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2n - 1$ ?
- For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  with an ideal  $A$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = n$ ? ✓

**Theorem.** Let  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $S$  be defined by the presentation

$$\langle x, y, z, t \mid xyz t = x, yz t y = y, z t y z = z, t y z t = t, w = 0 \\ (w \in \{x^n, y^2, z^2, t^2, xz, xt, yx, yt, zx, zy, tz, tx^{n-1}\}) \rangle$$

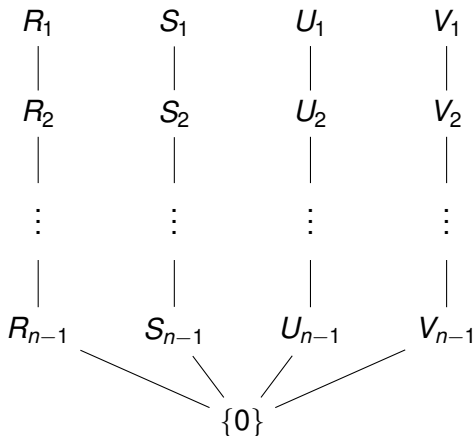
Let  $B = X \cup XS^1X$  where  $X = \{x, y, z, tx\}$ . Then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) = 3n - 2$ .

$$S = \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} (R_i \cup S_i \cup U_i \cup V_i) \right) \cup \{0\},$$

where  $R_i = \{x^i, x^i y, x^i y z\}$ ,  $S_1 = \{y, yz, yzt\}$ ,  $S_j = yztR_{j-1}$ ,  $U_1 = \{z, zt, zty\}$ ,  $U_j = ztR_{j-1}$ ,  $V_1 = \{t, ty, tyz\}$ ,  $V_j = tR_{j-1}$  ( $2 \leq j \leq n-1$ ).

$$B = S \setminus \{yzt, zt, t, ty, tyz\}.$$

# Poset of $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of $S$



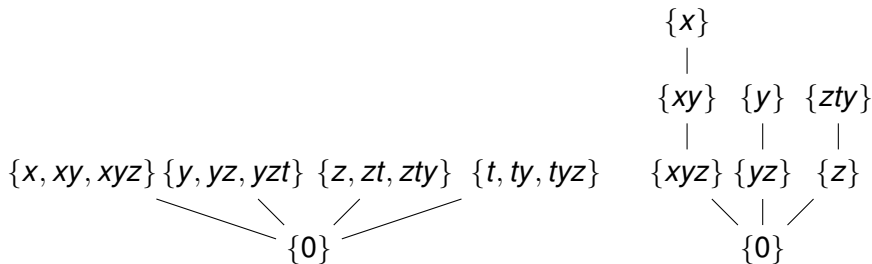


Figure: The poset of  $\mathcal{R}_S$ -classes (left) and the poset of  $\mathcal{R}_B$ -classes (right)

## Left ideal: $2n$ bound

For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  and a left ideal  $A$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2n$ ?

**Proposition.** Let  $S$  be a right simple semigroup (so  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = 1$ ) that is not completely simple, and let  $A$  be a principal left ideal  $S^1 a$ . Then the  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of  $A$  are  $\{a\}$  and  $A \setminus \{a\} = Sa$ , and hence  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2$ .

**Theorem.** Let  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $S$  be a semigroup with a left ideal  $A$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n - 1$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2(n - 1)$ . Let  $T$  be any right simple semigroup that is not completely simple, and let  $U$  be the semigroup defined by the presentation

$$\langle S, T \mid ab = a \cdot b, cd = c \cdot d, ac = c \ (a, b \in S, c, d \in T) \rangle.$$

Fix  $c \in T$ , and let  $B = T^1(A \cup \{c\})$ . Then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(U) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) = 2n$ .

$$U = S \cup T \cup TS \text{ and } K(U) = T \cup TS.$$

# Posets of $\mathcal{R}$ -classes

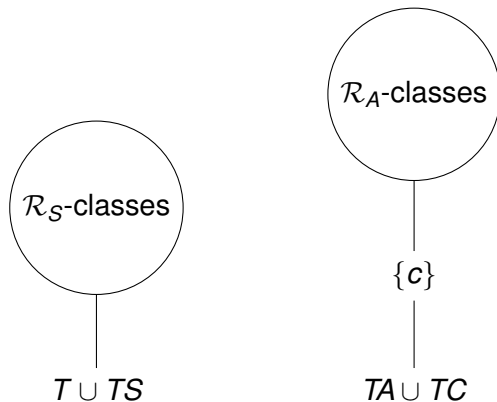


Figure: The poset of  $\mathcal{R}_U$ -classes (left) and the poset of the  $\mathcal{R}_B$ -classes (right).



# Left ideal: $2n-1$ bound

For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  with a completely simple kernel and a left ideal  $A$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2n - 1$ ?

**Theorem.** Let  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $S$  be defined by the presentation

$$\langle x, y, z \mid xyz = x, yzy = y, zyz = z, u = 0 (u \in \{x^n, y^2, z^2, xz, yx, zx^{n-1}\}) \rangle$$

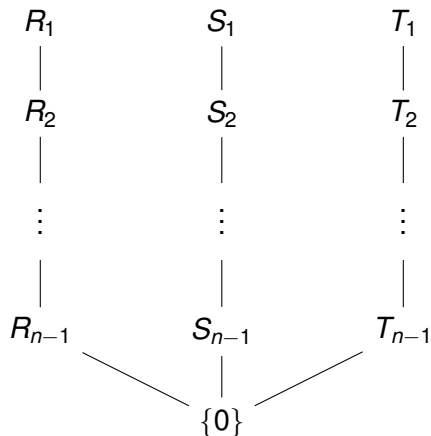
and let  $A = S^1\{x, y\}$ . Then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2n - 1$ .

$$S = \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} (R_i \cup S_i \cup T_i) \right) \cup \{0\},$$

$$R_i = \{x^i, x^i y\}, \quad S_1 = \{y, yz\}, \quad S_j = yzR_{j-1}, \quad T_1 = \{z, zy\}, \quad T_j = zR_{j-1}.$$

$$A = S \setminus \{yz, z\}.$$

# Poset of $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of $S$



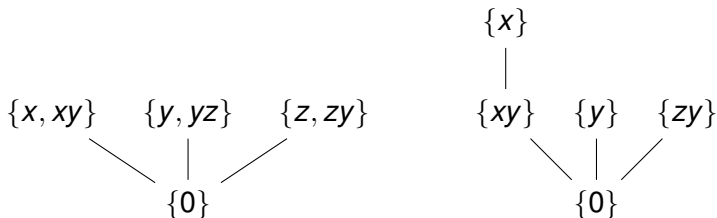


Figure: The poset of  $\mathcal{R}_S$ -classes (left), and the poset of  $\mathcal{R}_A$ -classes (right).

## Right ideal: $2n-1$ bound

For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , does there exist a semigroup  $S$  and a right ideal  $A$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2n - 1$ ?

Let  $S$  be a semigroup and let  $I$  be a non-empty set. The *Brandt extension of  $S$  by  $I$* , denoted by  $\mathcal{B}(S, I)$ , is the semigroup with universe  $(I \times S \times I) \cup \{0\}$  and multiplication given by  $0x = x0 = 0$  and

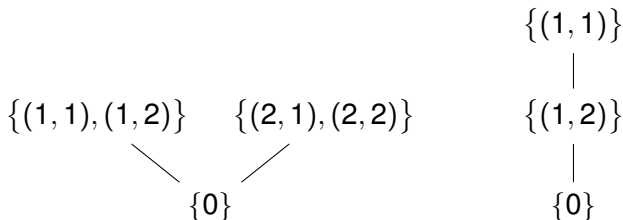
$$(i, s, j)(k, t, l) = \begin{cases} (i, st, l) & \text{if } j = k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Theorem.** Let  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $S$  be a semigroup with a right ideal  $A$  of  $S$  such that  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(S) = n - 1$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(A) = 2(n - 1) - 1$ . Let  $I$  be any set with  $|I| \geq 2$ , and let  $T = \mathcal{B}(S, I)$ . Fix  $1 \in I$  and let

$$B = (1, a, 1)T^1 = (\{1\} \times A \times I) \cup \{0\}.$$

Then  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(T) = n$  and  $H_{\mathcal{R}}(B) = 2n - 1$ .

# 5-element Brandt semigroup



**Figure:** The poset of  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of the 5-element Brandt semigroup  $S$  (left), and the poset of the  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of the principal right ideal  $A = (1, 1)S^1$  (right).

Thanks for listening