

## $\Gamma$ -GROUP CONGRUENCES ON REGULAR $\Gamma$ -SEMIGROUPS

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper a  $\Gamma$ -group congruence on a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup is defined, some equivalent expressions for any  $\Gamma$ -group congruence on a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and those for the least  $\Gamma$ -group congruence in particular are given.

**KEY WORDS AND PHRASES.** Regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\alpha$ -idempotent, Right (left)  $\Gamma$ -ideal, Right (left) simple  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $\Gamma$ -group, Congruence, Normal family.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION.

Let  $S$  and  $\Gamma$  be two nonempty sets,  $S$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup if for all  $a, b, c \in S$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  (i)  $aob \in S$  and (ii)  $(aob)\beta c = a\alpha(b\beta c)$  hold.  $S$  is called regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup if for any  $a \in S$  there exist  $a' \in S$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  such that  $a = a\alpha a'\beta a$ . We say  $a'$  is  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -inverse of  $a$  if  $a = a\alpha a'\beta a$  and  $a' = a'\beta a\alpha a'$  hold and in this case we write  $a' \in V_{\alpha}^{\beta}(a)$ . An element  $e$  of  $S$  is called  $\alpha$ -idempotent if  $e\alpha e = e$  holds in  $S$ . A right (left)  $\Gamma$ -ideal of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is a nonempty subset  $I$  of  $S$  such that  $I\Gamma S \subseteq I$  ( $S\Gamma I \subseteq I$ ). A  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is said to be left (right) simple if it has no proper left (right)  $\Gamma$ -ideal. For some fixed  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  if we define  $aob = a\alpha b$  for all  $a, b \in S$  then  $S$  becomes a semigroup. We denote this semigroup by  $S_{\alpha}$ . Throughout our discussion we shall use the notations and results of Sen and Saha [1-2]. For the sake of completeness let us recall the following results of Sen and Saha [1].

**THEOREM 1.1.**  $S_{\alpha}$  is a group if and only if  $S$  is both left simple and right simple  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. (Theorem 2.1 of [1]).

**COROLLARY 1.2.** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. If  $S_{\alpha}$  is a group for some  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  then  $S_{\alpha}$  is a group for all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . (Corollary 2.2 of [1]).

A  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -group if  $S_{\alpha}$  is a group for some (hence for all)  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

**THEOREM 1.3.** A regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  will be a  $\Gamma$ -group if and only if for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ ,  $e\alpha f = f\alpha e = f$  and  $e\beta f = f\beta e = e$  for any two idempotents  $e = e\alpha e$  and  $f = f\beta f$  of  $S$ . (Theorem 3.3 of [1]).

### 2. $\Gamma$ -GROUP CONGRUENCES IN A REGULAR $\Gamma$ -SEMIGROUP.

An equivalence relation  $\rho$  on a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called a congruence if  $(a, b) \in \rho$  implies  $(c\alpha a, c\alpha b) \in \rho$  and  $(a\alpha c, b\alpha c) \in \rho$  for all  $a, b, c \in S$ ,  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . A congruence  $\rho$  in a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called  $\Gamma$ -group congruence if  $S/\rho$  is a  $\Gamma$ -group (In  $S/\rho$  we define  $(a\rho)\alpha(b\rho) = (a\alpha b)\rho$ ). Henceforth we shall assume  $S$  to be a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $E_{\alpha}$  to be its set of  $\alpha$ -idempotents.

A family  $\{K_{\alpha} : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$  of subsets of  $S$  is said to be a normal family if

- (i)  $E_{\alpha} \subseteq K_{\alpha}$  for all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ ;
- (ii) for each  $a \in K_{\alpha}$  and  $b \in K_{\beta}$ ,  $a\alpha b \in K_{\beta}$  and  $a\beta b \in K_{\alpha}$ ;
- (iii) for each  $a' \in V_{\alpha}^{\beta}(a)$  and  $c \in K_{\gamma}$ ,  $a\alpha c\gamma a'$  and  $a\gamma c\alpha a' \in K_{\beta}$ .

Now let  $e \in E_\alpha$  and  $f \in E_\beta$  and  $u \in \Gamma$ . Let  $x \in V_\theta^\phi(euf)$ . Then  $f\theta x\phi e \in E_\mu$ . Thus  $E_\mu \neq \emptyset$  for all  $u \in \Gamma$ , consequently  $K_\mu \neq \emptyset$  for all  $u \in \Gamma$ . We further note that in an orthodox  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  of Sen and Saha [2]  $\{E_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$  is a normal family of  $S$ .

Let  $N$  be the collection of all normal families  $K_i$  of  $S(i \in \Lambda)$  where  $K_i = \{K_{i\alpha} : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ . Let  $U_\alpha = \bigcap_{i \in \Lambda} K_{i\alpha}$  and  $U = \{U_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ . Then obviously  $E_\alpha \subseteq U_\alpha$ . Also if  $a \in U_\alpha$ ,  $b \in U_\beta$ , then  $a \in K_{i\alpha}$  for all  $i \in \Lambda$ ,  $b \in K_{i\beta}$  for all  $i \in \Lambda$ . Thus  $a\alpha b \in K_{i\beta}$  and  $a\beta b \in K_{i\beta}$  for all  $i \in \Lambda$  implying  $a\alpha b \in U_\beta$  and  $a\beta b \in U_\alpha$ . Similarly we can show that if  $a' \in V_\alpha^\beta(a)$  and  $c \in U_\alpha$  then  $a\alpha c\gamma a' \in U_\beta$ . Thus  $U$  is a normal family of subsets of  $S$  and  $U$  is the least member in  $N$  if we define a partial order in  $N$  by  $K_i \leq K_j$  iff  $K_{i\alpha} \subseteq K_{j\alpha}$  for all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . We also observe that when  $S$  is orthodox  $\Gamma$ -semigroup,  $U = \{E_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ .

**THEOREM 2.1.** Let  $S$  be a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. Then for each  $K = \{K_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\} \in N$ ,  $\rho_K = \{(a, b) \in S \times S : a\alpha e = f\beta b \text{ for some } \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma \text{ and } e \in K_\alpha, f \in K_\beta\}$  is a  $\Gamma$ -group congruence in  $S$ .

**PROOF.** Let  $a \in S$  and  $a' \in V_\alpha^\beta(a)$ . Then  $a\alpha(a'\beta a) = (a\alpha a')\beta a$  implies  $(a, a') \in \rho_K$ . Next let  $(a, b) \in \rho_K$ . Then there exist  $e \in K_\alpha$ ,  $f \in K_\beta$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  such that  $a\alpha e = f\beta b$ . Let  $a' \in V_\gamma^\delta(a)$  and  $b' \in V_\theta^\phi(b)$  such that  $b\theta((b'\phi f\beta b)\gamma(a'\delta a)) = ((b\theta b')\phi(a\alpha e\gamma a'))\delta a$ . But  $b'\phi f\beta b \in K_\theta$ ,  $a'\delta a \in K_\gamma$  and so  $(b'\phi f\beta b)\gamma(a'\delta a) \in K_\theta$ , and  $b\theta b' \in K_\phi$ ,  $a\alpha e\gamma a' \in K_\delta$  and so  $(b\theta b')\phi(a\alpha e\gamma a') \in K_\delta$ . Consequently,  $(b, a) \in \rho_K$ . Now let  $(a, b) \in \rho_K$ ,  $(b, c) \in \rho_K$ . Then there exist  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \Gamma$ ,  $e \in K_\alpha$ ,  $f \in K_\beta$ ,  $g \in K_\gamma$ ,  $h \in K_\delta$  such that  $a\alpha e = f\beta b$  and  $b\gamma g = h\delta c$ . But  $a\alpha(e\gamma g) = (a\alpha e)\gamma g = (f\beta b)\gamma g = f\beta(b\gamma g) = f\beta(h\delta c) = (f\beta h)\delta c$  where  $e\gamma g \in K_\alpha$  and  $f\beta h \in K_\delta$ . Thus  $(a, c) \in \rho_K$  and consequently  $\rho_K$  is an equivalence relation. Let  $(a, b) \in \rho_K$ ,  $\theta \in \Gamma$ ,  $c \in S$ . Then  $a\alpha e = f\beta b$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and some  $e \in K_\alpha$ ,  $f \in K_\beta$ . Let  $c' \in V_\gamma^\delta(c)$ ,  $y \in V_\gamma^\delta(b\theta c)$ ,  $x \in V_\gamma^\delta(a\theta c)$ . Now  $(a\theta c)\gamma(c'\delta((c\gamma_2 x\delta_2 a)\alpha e)\theta c)\gamma_1(y\delta_1(b\theta c)) = (a\theta c\gamma_2 x)\delta_2 f\beta(b\theta c\gamma_1 y)\delta_1(b\theta c)$ . But  $c\gamma_2 x\delta_2 a \in E_\theta \subseteq K_\theta$ , so  $(c\gamma_2 x\delta_2 a)\alpha e \in K_\theta$ ,  $c'\delta((c\gamma_2 x\delta_2 a)\alpha e)\theta c \in K_\gamma$ . Again  $y\delta_1(b\theta c) \in E_\gamma \subseteq K_\gamma$  and consequently  $(c'\delta((c\gamma_2 x\delta_2 a)\alpha e)\theta c)\gamma_1(y\delta_1 b\theta c) \in K_\gamma$ . By a similar argument we can show that  $(a\theta c\gamma_2 x)\delta_2 f\beta(b\theta c\gamma_1 y) \in K_\delta$ . Thus  $(a\theta c, b\theta c) \in \rho_K$ . Also it is immediate from the foregoing by duality that  $(c\theta a, c\theta b) \in \rho_K$ . Thus  $\rho_K$  is a congruence on  $S$ . Also as  $S$  is regular,  $S/\rho_K$  is a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. Let  $e \in E_\alpha$ ,  $f \in E_\beta$ . Then  $e\alpha f$ ,  $f\alpha e \in K_\beta$ ,  $e\beta f$ ,  $f\beta e \in K_\alpha$ . Now  $(e\alpha f)\beta f = (e\alpha f)\beta f$  shows that  $(e\alpha f, f) \in \rho_K$  and  $(f\alpha e)\beta f = (f\alpha e)\beta f$  implies that  $(f\alpha e, f) \in \rho_K$ . Thus  $(e\rho_K)\alpha(f\rho_K) = f\rho_K$  and  $(f\rho_K)\alpha(e\rho_K) = f\rho_K$ . Similarly we can show  $(e\rho_K)\beta(f\rho_K) = e\rho_K$  and  $(f\rho_K)\beta(e\rho_K) = e\rho_K$ . So it follows from Theorem 1.3 that  $S/\rho_K$  is a  $\Gamma$ -group. Thus  $\rho_K$  is a  $\Gamma$ -group congruence on  $S$ .

For any normal family  $K = \{K_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$  of  $S$ , the closure  $KW$  of  $K$  is the family defined by  $KW = \{(KW)_\gamma : \gamma \in \Gamma\}$  where  $(KW)_\gamma = \{x \in S : e\alpha x \in K_\gamma \text{ for some } \alpha \in \Gamma \text{ and } e \in K_\alpha\}$ . We call  $K$  closed if  $K = KW$ .

**THEOREM 2.2.** For each  $K \in N$ ,  $\rho_K = \{(a, b) \in S \times S : a\gamma b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b) \text{ for some } b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)\}$ .

**PROOF.** Let  $(a, b) \in \rho_K$ . Then  $f\beta a = b\alpha e$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and  $e \in K_\alpha$ ,  $f \in K_\beta$ . Then  $f\beta(a\gamma b') = b\alpha e\gamma b' \in K_\delta$  for some  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ . Consequently  $a\gamma b' \in (KW)_\delta$ . Conversely, let  $a\gamma b' \in (KW)_\delta$  for some  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ . Then  $e\alpha a\gamma b' \in K_\delta$  for some  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  and  $e \in K_\alpha$ . Therefore  $e\alpha a\gamma b' = f$  where  $f \in K_\delta$ . So  $(b\theta(a'\phi e\alpha a)\gamma b')\delta a = b\theta(a'\phi f\delta a)$ , for some  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$  where  $b\theta(a'\phi e\alpha a)\gamma b' \in K_\delta$  and  $a'\phi f\delta a \in K_\theta$ . Consequently  $(a, b) \in \rho_K$ .

For any congruence  $\rho$  on  $S$ , let  $\ker \rho = \{(\ker \rho)_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$  where  $(\ker \rho)_\alpha = \{x \in S : e\alpha x \text{ for some } e \in E_\alpha\}$ .

LEMMA 2.3. For any  $K \in N$ ,  $\ker \rho_K = KW$ .

PROOF. To prove  $\ker \rho_K = KW$ , we are to show that  $(\ker \rho_K)_\alpha = (KW)_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . For this let  $x \in (\ker \rho_K)_\alpha$  for some  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Then  $ep_K x$  for some  $e \in E_\alpha$  that is  $e\beta f = g\gamma x$  for some  $\beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ ,  $e \in E_\alpha$ ,  $f \in E_\beta$ ,  $g \in E_\gamma$ . So  $g\gamma x \in K_\alpha$  as  $e\beta f \in K_\alpha$ . Thus  $x \in (KW)_\alpha$ . Next let  $x \in (KW)_\alpha$ . Then  $g\gamma x \in K_\alpha$  for some  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  and  $g \in E_\gamma$ . Now for some  $e \in E_\alpha$   $ea(g\gamma x) = (eag)\gamma x$  where  $g\gamma x \in K_\alpha$  and  $eag \in E_\gamma$ . Thus  $ep_K x$ . Consequently  $x \in (\ker \rho_K)_\alpha$ . So  $(\ker \rho_K)_\alpha = (KW)_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .  
 Let  $K \in N$  and suppose  $a\gamma b' \in (KW)_\delta$  for some  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ . Then  $e\alpha a\gamma b' \in K_\delta$  for some  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  and  $e \in E_\alpha$ . Then for any  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ ,  $a'\phi(e\alpha a\gamma b')\delta a \in K_\theta$  and  $(a'\phi e\alpha a\gamma b')\theta a'\phi b = (a'\phi e\alpha a)\gamma b'\delta(a\theta a')\phi b \in K_\theta$ . Thus  $a'\phi b \in (KW)_\theta$ . Conversely, suppose  $a'\phi b \in (KW)_\theta$  for some  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ . Then  $f\beta(a'\phi b) \in K_\theta$  for some  $\beta \in \Gamma$  and  $f \in E_\beta$  and  $a\theta(f\beta a'\phi b)\theta a' \in K_\phi$ . Therefore for some  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ ,  $(a\theta f\beta a'\phi b\theta a')\phi(b\theta(a'\phi a))\gamma b' \in K_\delta$ . Therefore  $a\gamma b' \in (KW)_\delta$ . Thus  $a\gamma b' \in (KW)_\delta$  for some (all)  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$  iff  $a'\phi b \in (KW)_\theta$  for some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ . Interchanging roles of  $a$  and  $b$  we see that  $b\theta a' \in (KW)_\phi$  for some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$  iff  $b'\delta a \in (KW)_\gamma$  for some (all)  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ . Moreover, the symmetric property of  $\rho_K$  shows that  $a\gamma b' \in (KW)_\delta$  for some (all)  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$  iff  $b\theta a' \in (KW)_\phi$  for some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ . Thus we have the following.

LEMMA 2.4. For each  $K \in N$ ,  $ap_K b$  iff one of the following equivalent conditions hold.

- (i)  $a\gamma b' \in (KW)_\delta$  for some (all)  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ .
- (ii)  $b'\delta a \in (KW)_\gamma$  for some (all)  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ .
- (iii)  $a'\phi b \in (KW)_\theta$  for some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ .
- (iv)  $b\theta a' \in (KW)_\phi$  for some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ .

Let  $\bar{N}$  denote the collection of all closed families in  $N$ , then  $\bar{N} \subseteq N$ .

THEOREM 2.5. The mapping  $K \rightarrow \rho_K = \{(a, b) \in S \times S : a\gamma b' \in K_\delta \text{ for some } b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)\}$  is a one to one order preserving mapping of  $\bar{N}$  onto the set of  $\Gamma$ -group congruences on  $S$ .

PROOF. Let  $\rho$  be a  $\Gamma$ -group congruence on  $S$ . Let us denote  $\ker \rho$

by  $K$  and  $(\ker \rho)_\alpha$  by  $K_\alpha$ . Then  $K_\alpha = \{x \in S : xpe \text{ when } e \in E_\alpha\}$ . Then  $E_\alpha \subseteq K_\alpha$ .

Let  $a \in K_\alpha$ ,  $b \in K_\beta$  then  $ape$  and  $bpf$  where  $e \in E_\alpha$  and  $f \in E_\beta$ . Now  $(aab)\rho = (ap)(a(b\rho)) = (ep)(af\rho) = fp$ . Thus  $aabpf$ , where  $f \in E_\beta$ . Thus  $aab \in K_\beta$ . Similarly  $a\beta b \in K_\alpha$ . Next let  $a' \in V_\alpha^\beta(a)$  and  $c \in K_\gamma$ . Then  $cpg$  where  $g \in E_\gamma$ . Then  $(a\alpha c\gamma a')\rho = (ap)(a(c\rho)\gamma(a'\rho)) = (ap)(a((g\rho)\gamma(a'\rho))) = (ap)(a(a'\rho)) = (a\alpha a')\rho$ . Thus  $a\alpha c\gamma a' \rho a\alpha a'$  where  $a\alpha a' \in E_\beta$ . Hence  $a\alpha c\gamma a' \in K_\beta$ . Similarly  $a\gamma c\alpha a' \in K_\beta$ . Therefore  $K$  is a normal family of subsets of  $S$ . Next  $(KW)_\gamma = \{x \in S : eax \in K_\gamma \text{ where } e \in K_\alpha \text{ for some } \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ . Then  $K_\gamma \subseteq (KW)_\gamma$ . To show  $(KW)_\gamma \subseteq K_\gamma$ , let  $x \in (KW)_\gamma$ . Then  $eax \in K_\gamma$  for some  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  and  $e \in K_\alpha$ . Consequently  $(eax)\rho = go$  where  $g \in E_\gamma$  or,  $(ep)(a(x\rho)) = go$  or,  $x\rho = go$  or,  $x \in K_\gamma$ . Thus  $(KW)_\gamma \subseteq K_\gamma$ .

Therefore  $K = KW$  and so  $K = \ker \rho \in \bar{N}$ . Thus if  $\rho$  is a  $\Gamma$ -group congruence, then  $\ker \rho = K \in \bar{N}$ . We shall now prove that  $\rho_K = \rho$ . If  $(a, b) \in \rho_K$ , then  $a\gamma b' \in K_\delta$  for some  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ . Thus  $a\gamma b' \rho h$  for some  $h \in E_\delta$  and  $ap = (ap)\gamma((b'\delta b)\rho) = (hp)\delta(b\rho) = bp$ . Thus  $\rho_K \subseteq \rho$ . Conversely, if  $(a, b) \in \rho$  and  $b' \in V_\gamma^\delta(b)$ , then  $a\gamma b' \circ b\gamma b' \in E_\delta$  and so  $(a, b) \in \rho_K$ . Therefore  $\rho = \rho_K$ . Thus from above and by lemma 2.3 for any  $K \in \bar{N}$ ,  $K \rightarrow \rho_K$  is a one-to-one mapping from  $\bar{N}$  onto the set of all  $\Gamma$ -group congruences on  $S$ . Also it is easy to see that  $K \rightarrow \rho_K$  is an order preserving mapping.

Let  $\tau$  be a  $\Gamma$ -group congruence on  $S$ , by the proof of Theorem 2.5  $\tau = \rho_K$ , where  $K = \ker \tau \in \bar{N}$ . Thus each  $\Gamma$ -group congruence is of the form  $\rho_K$  for some  $K \in \bar{N} \subseteq N$ .

Thus by lemma 2.3 we have,

THEOREM 2.6. The least  $\Gamma$ -group congruence  $\sigma$  on  $S$  is given by  $\sigma = \rho_U$  and  $\text{ker } \sigma = UW$ .

THEOREM 2.7. For any  $\Gamma$ -group congruence  $\rho_K$  with  $K$  in  $N$ , on a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup, the following are equivalent.

- (i)  $a\rho_K b$ .
- (ii)  $a\mu x\gamma b' \in K_\delta$  for some  $x \in K_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $b' \in V_Y^\delta(b)$ .
- (iii)  $a'\phi x\mu b \in K_\theta$  for some  $x \in K_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ .
- (iv)  $b\mu x\theta a' \in K_\phi$  for some  $x \in K_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ .
- (v)  $b'\delta x\mu a \in K_Y$  for some  $x \in K_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $b' \in V_Y^\delta(b)$ .
- (vi)  $a\alpha e = f\beta b$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and some  $e \in K_\alpha$ ,  $f \in K_\beta$ .
- (vii)  $e\alpha a = b\beta f$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and some  $e \in K_\alpha$ ,  $f \in K_\beta$ .
- (viii)  $K_\beta\beta a\alpha K_\alpha \cap K_\beta\beta b\alpha K_\alpha \neq \emptyset$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

PROOF. (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii) Suppose  $a\mu x\gamma b' \in K_\delta$  for some  $x \in K_\mu$  and  $b' \in V_Y^\delta(b)$ . Then for any  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ ,  $a'\phi(a\mu x\gamma b')\delta b = (a'\phi a)\mu(x\gamma(b'\delta b)) \in K_\theta$  as  $a'\phi a \in K_\theta$  and  $x\gamma(b'\delta b) \in K_\mu$ .

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (vi) Let  $a'\phi x\mu b \in K_\theta$  for  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$  and  $x \in K_\mu$ .

Then  $a\theta(a'\phi x\mu b) = (a\theta a'\phi x)\mu b$  which is (vi) as  $a'\phi x\mu b \in K_\theta$  and  $a\theta a'\phi x \in K_\mu$ .

(vi)  $\Rightarrow$  (viii) Let  $a\alpha e = f\beta b$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and  $e \in K_\alpha$ ,  $f \in K_\beta$ . Then we have

$f\beta a\alpha e = f\beta f\beta b$  implying  $K_\beta\beta a\alpha K_\alpha \cap K_\beta\beta b\alpha K_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ .

(viii)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) Let  $K_\beta\beta a\alpha K_\alpha \cap K_\beta\beta b\alpha K_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $x\beta a\alpha y = x_1\beta b\alpha y_1$  for some  $x, x_1 \in K_\beta$ ,  $y, y_1 \in K_\alpha$ . If  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ ,  $b' \in V_Y^\delta(b)$ , then  $a'\phi x\beta a \in K_\theta$  and  $(a'\phi x\beta a)\alpha y \in K_\theta$  and we have,  $a\theta(a'\phi x\beta a)\gamma b' = (a\theta a')\phi(x\beta a)\gamma b' = (a\theta a')\phi(x_1\beta b\alpha y_1)\gamma b' = (a\theta a')\phi x_1\beta(b\alpha y_1\gamma b') \in K_\delta$  as  $b\alpha y_1\gamma b' \in K_\delta$ ,  $x_1\beta(b\alpha y_1\gamma b') \in K_\delta$  and  $a\theta a' \in K_\phi$ .

Thus (ii), (iii), (vi) and (viii) are equivalent.

Interchanging the roles of  $a$  and  $b$  we see that (iv), (v), (vii) and (viii) are equivalent. Also (i) and (vi) are equivalent by Theorem 2.1. Thus all the conditions (i) - (viii) are equivalent.

COROLLARY 2.8. Let  $\sigma$  denote the least  $\Gamma$ -group congruence on a regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$ . Then the following are equivalent.

- (i)  $a\sigma b$ .
- (ii)  $a\mu x\gamma b' \in U_\delta$  for some  $x \in U_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $b' \in V_Y^\delta(b)$ .
- (iii)  $a'\phi x\mu b \in U_\theta$  for some  $x \in U_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ .
- (iv)  $b\mu x\theta a' \in U_\phi$  for some  $x \in U_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $a' \in V_\theta^\phi(a)$ .
- (v)  $b'\delta x\mu a \in U_Y$  for some  $x \in U_\mu$  ( $\mu \in \Gamma$ ) and some (all)  $b' \in V_Y^\delta(b)$ ,
- (vi)  $a\alpha e = f\beta b$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and  $e \in U_\alpha$ ,  $f \in U_\beta$ .
- (vii)  $e\alpha a = b\beta f$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  and  $e \in U_\alpha$ ,  $f \in U_\beta$ .
- (viii)  $U_\beta\beta a\alpha U_\alpha \cap U_\beta\beta b\alpha U_\alpha \neq \emptyset$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

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