

A Note of Order Congruences on Ordered Semigroups

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Abstract Which subset of an ordered semigroup S can serve as a congruence class of certain order-congruence on S is an important problem. XIE Xiangyun proved that if every ideal C of an ordered semigroup S is a congruence class of one order-congruence on S , then C is convex and when C is strongly convex, the reverse statement is true in 2001. In this paper, we give an alternative constructing order congruence method, and we prove that every ideal B is a congruence class of one order congruence on S if and only if B is convex. Furthermore, we show that the order relation defined by this method is “the least” order congruence containing B as a congruence class.

Keywords ordered semigroup; order congruence; convex ideal.

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1. Introduction

A semigroup S is a set together with a binary operation: $S \times S \longrightarrow S$ which satisfies the associative property: $(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$ for all $x, y, z \in S$. An ideal of semigroup S is a non-empty subset I of S such that $SI \subseteq I$ and $IS \subseteq I$ ^[2].

A semigroup S that is also a partially ordered set, in which the binary operation and the order relation are compatible, is called an ordered semigroup, that is, semigroup S is called an ordered semigroup if $s, t, x, y \in S$ and $x \leq y, s \leq t$, then $sx \leq ty$. A non-empty subset I of S is called an ordered ideal of an ordered semigroup S if (i) $SI \subseteq I, IS \subseteq I$ and (ii) $a \leq b \in I$ implies $a \in I$, for all $a, b \in S$ ^[6].

A nonempty subset C of poset A is called convex if $a \leq b \leq c$ implies $b \in C$ for all $a, c \in C, b \in A$. A nonempty subset B of poset A is called strongly convex if $B = (B] := \{a \in A | (\exists b \in B) a \leq b\}$. Therefore, I is an ordered ideal of ordered semigroup S if and only if I is an ideal of semigroup S and I is a strongly convex subset of S .

Let S be a semigroup or an ordered semigroup. By a *congruence* we mean an equivalence relation ρ on S which is compatible with the binary operation on S . If S is a semigroup and ρ is

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a congruence on S , then the set $S/\rho := \{[a] | a \in S\}$ ($[a]$ is the ρ -class of S containing a ($a \in S$)) is a semigroup via $[s][a] = [sa]$ ^[2]. Let B be an ideal of semigroup S . The Rees congruence λ_B induced by B is defined as follows:

$$a\lambda_B b \iff a, b \in B \text{ or } a = b.$$

The factor semigroup S/λ_B is called Rees factor semigroup. It is clear that $S/\lambda_B = \{\{x\} | x \in S \setminus B\} \cup B$.

Congruences on ordered semigroups play an important role in studying the structures of ordered semigroups^{[3–6],[10]}. For any congruence σ on an ordered semigroup S , in general, we do not know whether the quotient semigroup S/σ is also an ordered semigroup. Even if S/σ is an ordered semigroup, the order on S/σ is not certainly relative to the order on the original ordered semigroup S . So we need the concept of order congruence and study order congruences on ordered semigroups. Let (S, \leq) be an ordered semigroup. A congruence σ is called an *order congruence* if there exists an order “ \preceq ” on S/σ such that:

- (1) $(S/\sigma, \preceq)$ is an ordered semigroup;
- (2) The canonical epimorphism $\varphi : S \rightarrow S/\sigma, x \mapsto [x]$ is isotone.

2. Main results

Theorem 1 *Let B be an ideal of an ordered semigroup S . Then B is a congruence class of one order congruence on S if and only if B is convex.*

Proof Let B be a congruence class of order congruence ρ , and $a, c \in B$. If $a \leq b \leq c$, by definition of order congruence, then $(a)_\rho \leq (b)_\rho \leq (c)_\rho$. Since $(a)_\rho = B = (c)_\rho$, we have $(a)_\rho = (b)_\rho = (c)_\rho$, that is, $b \in B$. Thus B is convex.

Conversely, let λ_B be the Rees congruence induced by B on S . Then it is clear that B is the congruence class of λ_B . Now we define a relation \preceq on the factor $S/\lambda_B = \{\{x\} | x \in S \setminus B\} \cup B$ as follows:

$$[x] \preceq [y] \iff (x \leq y) \text{ or } (x \leq b, b' \leq y \text{ for some } b, b' \in B).$$

We show that λ_B is an order congruence. First we prove \preceq is an order, that is, \preceq is reflexive, anti-symmetric and transitive.

- (1) Since $x \leq x$, we have $[x] \preceq [x]$.
- (2) Let $[x] \preceq [y]$ and $[y] \preceq [x]$. Then $x \leq y$ or $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$, and $y \leq x$ or $y \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq x$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$. We consider following four cases:
 - (α) If $x \leq y$ and $y \leq x$, then $x = y$, therefore $[x] = [y]$.
 - (β) If $x \leq y$ and $y \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq x$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, then $b'_1 \leq x \leq y \leq b_1$. Since B is convex and $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, we have $x, y \in B$. Hence $[x] = B = [y]$.
 - (γ) If $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$ and $y \leq x$, by similar discussion to (β), we have $[x] = [y]$.
 - (δ) If $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$ and $y \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq x$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, then $b'_1 \leq x \leq b$ and $b' \leq y \leq b_1$. Since B is convex, we have $x, y \in B$. Thus $[x] = [y]$.

(3) If $[x] \preceq [y]$ and $[y] \preceq [z]$, then $x \leq y$ or $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$, and $y \leq z$ or $y \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq z$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$. We consider following four cases:

(α) If $x \leq y$ and $y \leq z$, then $x \leq z$, therefore $[x] \preceq [z]$.

(β) If $x \leq y$ and $y \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq z$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, then $x \leq y \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq z$. By definition, $[x] \preceq [z]$.

(γ) If $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$ and $y \leq z$, by similar discussion to (β), we have $[x] \preceq [z]$.

(δ) If $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$ and $y \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq z$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, then $x \leq b, b'_1 \leq z$. Thus $[x] \preceq [z]$.

Now we show that the order is compatible with the binary operation on S . Let $[x] \preceq [y]$ and $[s] \preceq [t]$. Then $x \leq y$ or $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$, and $s \leq t$ or $s \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq t$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$. We consider following four cases:

(α) If $x \leq y$ and $s \leq t$, then $sx \leq ty$, therefore, $[s][x] = [sx] \preceq [ty] = [t][y]$.

(β) If $x \leq y$ and $s \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq t$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, then $sx \leq b_1x, b'_1y \leq ty$. Since B is an ideal of S and $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, we have $b_1x, b'_1y \in B$. On the other hand, $sx \leq b_1x, b'_1y \leq ty$. Therefore, $[s][x] = [sx] \preceq [ty] = [t][y]$.

(γ) If $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$ and $s \leq t$, by similar discussion to (β), we have $[s][x] \preceq [t][y]$.

(δ) If $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$ and $s \leq b_1, b'_1 \leq t$ for some $b_1, b'_1 \in B$, then $sx \leq sb, tb'_1 \leq ty$. Thus $[sx] \preceq [ty]$.

By the definition of \preceq , we can get that the canonical epimorphism is isotone.

Proposition 2 Let S be an ordered semigroup and an ordered relation \preceq on S/λ_B be defined as Theorem 1. Then for any $x, y \in S$

$$([x], [y]) \in \preceq \iff (x, y) \in \leq \circ \lambda_B \circ \leq.$$

Proof \implies If $[x] \preceq [y]$, then $x \leq y$ or $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$. If $x \leq y$, then $(x, y) \in \leq \subseteq \leq \circ \lambda_B \circ \leq$. If $x \leq b, b' \leq y$ for some $b, b' \in B$, then $x \leq b\lambda_B b' \leq y$. Thus $(x, y) \in \leq \circ \lambda_B \circ \leq$.

\impliedby Let $(x, y) \in \leq \circ \lambda_B \circ \leq$. Then there exist $z, h \in S$ such that $x \leq z$, $(z, h) \in \lambda_B$, $h \leq y$. Since $(z, h) \in \lambda_B$, we have $z = h \in S \setminus B$ or $z, h \in B$. If $z = h$, then $x \leq z = h \leq y$. If $z, h \in B$, then by $x \leq z, h \leq y$, we have $[x] \preceq [y]$.

Let B be an ordered ideal of an ordered semigroup S . In [7], [8], an ordered relation \preceq_1 in S/λ_B is defined as follows:

$$\preceq_1 := \{(B, \{x\}) | x \in S \setminus B\} \cup \{(\{x\}, \{y\}) | x, y \in S \setminus B, x \leq y\} \cup \{(B, B)\}.$$

If $[a] \preceq [b]$ in S/λ_B , then $a \leq b$ or $a \in B$ and $k \leq b$ for some $k \in B$. The latter implies $[a] \preceq_1 [k] \preceq_1 [b]$, that is, $[a] \preceq_1 [b]$. Hence $\preceq \subseteq \preceq_1$. The following example shows that $\preceq \subsetneq \preceq_1$ in general.

Example We consider the ordered monoid $S = \{1, a, b, c, e, d, e\}$ whose multiplication and order

are given below:

	1	a	b	c	d	e
1	1	a	b	c	d	e
a	a	a	a	a	a	a
b	b	a	a	a	a	a
c	c	a	a	c	c	e
d	d	a	a	c	d	e
e	e	a	a	c	c	e

$$\leq := \{(1, 1), (a, a), (a, c), (a, d), (a, e), (b, b), (b, c), (b, d), (b, e), (c, c), (c, d), (c, e), (d, d), (e, e)\}.$$

Obviously, $B = \{a\}$ is an ordered ideal of S . Since $a \not\leq b$ and there does not exist $x \in B$ such that $x \leq b$, we have $[a] \not\leq [b]$. But by the definition of \preceq_1 , we have $[a] \preceq_1 [b]$.

Let S be an ordered semigroup and θ be an equivalence relation on S . A θ -chain is a finite sequence of elements $\{a, a_1, a'_1, \dots, a_i, a'_i, \dots, a_n, a'_n, b\}$ of S such that $a \leq a_1$, $a_i \theta a'_i$, for $i = 1, \dots, n$, $a'_i \leq a_{i+1}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$ and $a'_n \leq b$. A θ -chain is said to be *close* if $a = b$. Otherwise it is said to be open.

Lemma 3^[7] Let S be an ordered semigroup and θ be a congruence on S . Then θ is an order congruence on S if and only if every closed θ -chain is contained in a single equivalent class of θ . In this case the induced order on S/θ is given by $[a] \leq [b]$ in S/θ if and only if there is a θ -chain from a to b in S .

In fact, we have more general results (see following Theorem 5). First we recall the concept of order congruence generated by an congruence ρ on an ordered semigroup S .

Definition 4 Let ρ be a congruence on ordered semigroup S . Order congruence σ is called an order congruence generated by ρ on S , if σ satisfies the following condition:

- (i) $\rho \subseteq \sigma$;
- (ii) If there is an order congruence η on S such that $\rho \subseteq \eta$, then $\sigma \subseteq \eta$.

Theorem 5 Let ρ be a congruence on ordered semigroup S . Then we have

- (1) If we define a relation \preceq_ρ on S as follows:

$$(a, b \in S)(a, b) \in \preceq_\rho \text{ if and only if there is a } \rho\text{-chain from } a \text{ to } b.$$

Then \preceq_ρ is a quasi-order which is compatible with the binary operation;

- (2) R_ρ on S is a relation on S defined as follows

$$(a, b \in S)(a, b) \in R_\rho \iff (a, b), (b, a) \in \preceq_\rho.$$

Then R_ρ is an order congruence on S , which, in fact, is the order congruence generated by ρ . And S/R_ρ has the induced order relation:

$$[x] \preceq_{R_\rho} [y] \iff x \preceq_\rho y.$$

Proof (1) If $a \leq b$ for $a, b \in S$, then there is a ρ -chain from a to b : $\{a, b, b, b\}$, that is, $a \leq b$ implies $a \preceq_\rho b$. Thus $\leq \subseteq \preceq_\rho$. For any $a \in S$, since apa , we have a ρ -chain from a to a . Consequently, $(a, a) \in \preceq_\rho$. Suppose that $(a, b) \in \preceq_\rho$ and $(b, c) \in \preceq_\rho$ for $a, b, c \in S$. Then there exist $a_1, a'_1, \dots, a_i, a'_i, \dots, a_n, a'_n, b_1, b'_1, \dots, b_i, b'_i, \dots, b_m, b'_m \in S$ such that $a \leq a_1, b \leq b_1, a_i \theta a'_i, b_j \theta b'_j$, for $i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, m, a'_i \leq a_{i+1}, b'_j \leq b_{j+1}$, for $i = 1, \dots, n-1, j = 1, \dots, m-1$ and $a'_n \leq b, b'_m \leq c$. Hence there is a ρ -chain from a to c $\{a, a_1, a'_1, \dots, a_i, a'_i, \dots, a_n, a'_n, b, b_1, b'_1, \dots, b_i, b'_i, \dots, b_m, b'_m, c\}$. Therefore, $(a, c) \in \preceq_\rho$ and so \preceq_ρ is transitive. Since ρ and \leq are compatible with the binary operation on S , it is easy to see that \preceq_ρ is also compatible with the binary operation on S .

(2) Since ρ is a congruence on S , by definition of R_ρ and (1), we get that R_ρ is also a congruence on S . In order to prove R_ρ is an ordered congruence on S , we only show that every closed R_ρ -chain is contained in a single equivalent class of R_ρ by Lemma 3. For any closed R_ρ -chain $\{a, a_1, a'_1, \dots, a_i, a'_i, \dots, a_n, a'_n, a\}$, we have

$$a \leq a_1 R_\rho a'_1 \leq \dots \leq a_i R_\rho a'_i \leq \dots \leq a_n R_\rho a'_n \leq a.$$

Thus $a \leq a_1 \preceq_\rho a'_1 \leq \dots \leq a_i \preceq_\rho a'_i \leq \dots \leq a_n \preceq_\rho a'_n \leq a$. Furthermore

$$a \preceq_\rho a_1 \preceq_\rho a'_1 \preceq_\rho \dots \preceq_\rho a_i \preceq_\rho a'_i \preceq_\rho \dots \preceq_\rho a_n \preceq_\rho a'_n \preceq_\rho a.$$

Therefore, $(a, a_i), (a_i, a) \in \preceq_\rho$. We have showed that $a_i R_\rho a$. Since $a_i R_\rho a'_i$, we have $a'_i R_\rho a$. Hence the closed R_ρ -chain is contained in a single equivalent class of $a R_\rho$. Therefore, R_ρ is an order congruence.

Let $(a, b) \in \rho$. Since ρ is a congruence, we have $(b, a) \in \rho$. Consequently, $(a, b), (b, a) \in \preceq_\rho$, thus $(a, b) \in R_\rho$, which shows that $\rho \subseteq R_\rho$.

Suppose that η is an order congruence on S and $\rho \subseteq \eta$. Then $R_\rho \subseteq \eta$. In fact: If $(a, b) \in R_\rho$, then $(a, b), (b, a) \in \preceq_\rho$. By (1), there exist $a_1, a'_1, \dots, a_i, a'_i, \dots, a_n, a'_n, b_1, b'_1, \dots, b_i, b'_i, \dots, b_m, b'_m \in S$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} a &\leq a_1 \rho a'_1 \leq \dots \leq a_i \rho a'_i \leq \dots \leq a_n \rho a'_n \leq b, \\ b &\leq b_1 \rho b'_1 \leq \dots \leq b_j \rho b'_j \leq \dots \leq b_m \rho a'_m \leq a. \end{aligned}$$

Hence there exists a closed η -chain $a \leq a_1 \eta a'_1 \leq \dots \leq a_i \eta a'_i \leq \dots \leq a_n \eta a'_n \leq b \eta b \leq b_1 \eta b'_1 \leq \dots \leq b_j \eta b'_j \leq \dots \leq b_m \eta a'_m \leq a$. Since η is an order congruence on S , we have that the closed η -chain is contained in a single equivalent class of η . In particular, we have $(a, b) \in \eta$. Therefore R_ρ is the order congruence generated by ρ .

In S/R_ρ , we define a relation as follows:

$$[x] \preceq_{R_\rho} [y] \Leftrightarrow x \preceq_\rho y.$$

By (1) and definition of R_ρ , \preceq_{R_ρ} is a quasi-order which is compatible with the binary operation. Furthermore, if $[x] \preceq_{R_\rho} [y]$ and $[y] \preceq_{R_\rho} [x]$, then $x \preceq_\rho y$ and $y \preceq_\rho x$. Thus $(x, y) \in R_\rho$, that is, $[x]_{R_\rho} = [y]_{R_\rho}$. Furthermore, if $x \leq y$, then $x \preceq_\rho y$. Thus $[x] \preceq_{R_\rho} [y]$.

Remark We will always specify the corresponding order on S/R_ρ that we have in mind.

Let S be an ordered semigroup and B be an ideal of S , and denote by H the Rees congruence λ_B . Then the order congruence R_H generated by H can be characterized as follows:

Theorem 6 *Let S be an ordered semigroup, B an ideal of S , and $H = \lambda_B$. Then for $x, y \in S$, $xR_H y$ if and only if $x = y$, or there exist $b, b', c, c' \in B$ such that*

$$x \leq b, b' \leq y \text{ and } y \leq c, c' \leq x. \quad (*)$$

Therefore,

$$[x] \preceq [y] \text{ in } S/R_H \Leftrightarrow (x \leq y) \text{ or } (x \leq b, b' \leq y \text{ for some } b, b' \in B).$$

Moreover, $([x] = [y] \text{ in } S/R_H \text{ if and only if } x = y, \text{ or } x, y \in B) \Leftrightarrow B \text{ is convex.}$

Proof For any $x, y \in S$, we define a relation σ on S by: $a\sigma b$ if and only if $x = y$ or a system of inequalities $(*)$ exists. It is easy to check that the relation σ is an equivalence which is compatible with the binary operation.

To see that σ is an order congruence, we assume $x, a_i, a'_i \in S$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$, and suppose

$$x \leq a_1 \sigma a'_1 \leq a_2 \sigma a'_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_j \sigma a'_j \leq \cdots \leq a_{n-1} \sigma a'_{n-1} \leq a_n \sigma a'_n \leq x.$$

Then, for each $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ we have a system of inequalities

$$a_k \leq b_k, b'_k \leq a'_k \text{ and } a'_k \leq c_k, c'_k \leq a_k,$$

where $b_k, b'_k, c_k, c'_k \in B$. The system below establishes the fact that $x \sigma a'_k$ holds for each k :

$$\begin{aligned} x &\leq a_1 \leq b_1, \quad b'_k \leq a'_k, \\ a'_k &\leq c_k, \quad b'_n \leq a'_n \leq x. \end{aligned}$$

Because $a_k \sigma a'_k$, we obtain $x \sigma a_k$. Thus, every closed σ -chain is contained in a single equivalence class of σ , so σ is an order congruence on S . Since $H \subseteq \sigma$, $R_H \subseteq \sigma$. On the other hand, if $(x, y) \in \sigma$, then, by the definition of σ , $x = y$, or there exists a system of inequalities $(*)$. Therefore, $x \leq bR_H b' \leq y$. Thus $x \preceq_{R_H} y$. Similarly, $y \preceq_{R_H} x$. Since R_H is an order congruence, we have $(x, y) \in \lambda(H)$. This means that $\sigma \subseteq R_H$. Thus $\sigma = R_H$.

By Remark, $[x] \preceq [y] \Leftrightarrow x \preceq_{R_H} y \Leftrightarrow x \preceq_H y$. By Proposition 5, $x \preceq_H y$ if and only if there is a H -chain from x to y , that is, there exist $a_1, a'_1, \dots, a_i, a'_i, \dots, a_n, a'_n \in S$ such that $x \leq a_1, a_i H a'_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$, $a'_i \leq a_{i+1}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, and $a'_n \leq y$. Thus $a_i, a'_i \in B$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Hence

$$x \preceq_H y \Leftrightarrow (x \leq y) \text{ or } (x \leq b, b' \leq y \text{ for some } b, b' \in B).$$

Furthermore, if R_H is the Rees congruence, that is, $[x] = [y]$ in S/R_H if and only if $x = y$, or $x, y \in B$, then by the discussion of Theorem 1, if and only if B is convex.

We note that if B is a convex ideal of an ordered semigroup S , then R_H is the least order congruence containing $B \times B$, and $[x] \preceq [y]$ in $S/R_H \Leftrightarrow (x \leq y) \text{ or } (x \leq b, b' \leq y \text{ for some } b, b' \in B)$. The latter is the ordered relation defined in Theorem 1.

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