# F-Covers for Right Type-A Semigroups

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**Abstract** A right adequate semigroup of type F is defined as a right adequate semigroup which is an F-rpp semigroup. A right adequate semigroup T of type F is called an F-cover for a right type-A semigroup S if S is the image of T under an  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism. In this paper, we will prove that any right type-A monoid has F-covers and then establish the structure of F-covers for a given right type-A monoid. Our results extend and enrich the related results for inverse semigroups.

**Keywords** right type-A semigroup; F-rpp semigroup; left cancellative monoid;  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism; \*-homomorphism; F-cover.

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### 1. Introduction

An inverse semigroup S is called F-inverse if there exists a group congruence  $\sigma$  on S such that each  $\sigma$ -class has greatest element with respect to the natural partial order  $\leq$  on S. McFadden and O'Carroll [19] pointed out that the concept of F-inverse semigroups is indeed a generalization of residuated inverse semigroups. Later on, Edwards [3] defined analogously F-regular semigroups and F-orthodox semigroups and showed that an F-regular semigroup is indeed an F-orthodox semigroup.

A semigroup is called rpp if for any  $a \in S$ ,  $aS^1$ , regarded as an S-system, is projective. Dually, lpp semigroups may be defined. In [4], Fountain pointed out that a semigroup S is rpp if and only if every  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -class of S contains at least one idempotent. Following Fountain, a semigroup is called abundant if and only if it is both rpp and lpp. As in [4], an rpp semigroup S is said to be a right adequate semigroup if the set of idempotents of S forms a commutative subsemigroup, that is, a semilattice. It is easy to see that each  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -class of a right adequate semigroup contains exactly one idempotent. For convenience, we denote by  $a^*$  the idempotent related to  $a \in S$  by  $\mathcal{L}^*$ . A right adequate semigroup S is called a right type-A semigroup if for any  $a, e^2 = e \in S$ ,

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 $ea = a(ea)^*$ . Dually, we define left adequate semigroups and left type-A semigroups. We call a semigroup S an adequate semigroup if S is both a left adequate semigroup and a right adequate semigroup. Also, we call S a type-A semigroup if S is both a left type-A semigroup and a right type-A semigroup. Regular semigroups are abundant semigroups and inverse semigroups are type-A semigroups.

In order to generalize the F-regular semigroups, Guo [9] defined F-abundant semigroup. Socalled an F-abundant semigroup is an abundant semigroup in which there exists a cancellative congruence  $\sigma$  such that each  $\sigma$ -class contains a greatest element with respect to the Lawson order  $\leq$ . In the same reference, Guo established the structure of a class of F-abundant semigroups, namely, strongly F-abundant semigroups by utilizing an SF-system. In [20], Ni, Chen and the second author obtained a structure of general F-abundant semigroups.

Parallelizing F-inverse semigroups, Li, Shum and the second author [10] defined F-rpp semigroups. We call an rpp semigroup S an F-rpp semigroup if there exists a left cancellative monoid congruence  $\rho$  on S such that each  $\rho$ -class contains a greatest element with respect to the Lawson partial order  $\leq_{\ell}$  on S (for the Lawson orders, see [17]). By introducing SFR-systems, they established a structure for strongly F-rpp semigroups. Recently, Huang, Chen and the second author [16] obtained the structure of general F-rpp semigroups. In [1], Cui and Guo established the structure of right adequate semigroups of type F (such a semigroup is a right adequate semigroup which is F-rpp). Recently, the authors [2] gave a new structure of right adequate semigroups of type F.

An F-inverse (E-unitary inverse) semigroup T is called an F-cover (E-unitary cover) for an inverse semigroup S if S is an idempotent-separating homomorphic image of T. It is well known that any inverse semigroup has F-covers (E-unitary covers). Along this direction, it is found that any orthodox semigroup has E-unitary covers. Guo [9] established the structure of E-unitary covers for an orthodox semigroup. Fountain pointed out that any left type-A semigroup has proper covers (such proper covers are analogue of E-unitary covers in the range of left type-A semigroups). Later on, Guo and Xie [13] gave a construction method of proper covers for a left type-A semigroups. Guo and Tian [12], Huang, Guo and Shen [15] considered the problems on proper covers for left GC-lpp semigroups. This raises a natural problem: whether do left type-A semigroups have any F-covers? This is the aim of this paper.

In this paper, we shall prove that any right type-A semigroup has F-covers and then provide a method constructing F-covers for any right type-A semigroups.

## 2. Preliminaries

Throughout this paper we use the notions and terminologies of Fountain [4] and Howie [14]. Now, we provide some known results repeatedly used without mentions in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.1** ([4]) Let S be a semigroup and  $a, b \in S$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:

(1)  $a\mathcal{L}^*b$ .

(2) For all  $x, y \in S^1$ , ax = ay if and only if bx = by.

Evidently,  $\mathcal{L}^*$  is a right congruence while  $\mathcal{R}^*$  is a left congruence. In general, we have  $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathcal{L}^*$  and  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathcal{R}^*$ . But if a, b are regular elements,  $a\mathcal{L}^*b$   $[a\mathcal{R}^*b]$  if and only if  $a\mathcal{L}b$   $[a\mathcal{R}b]$ . For the sake of convenience, we use  $a^*$  to denote a typical idempotent  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -related to a, and  $a^{\dagger}$  to denote that  $\mathcal{R}^*$ -related to a.

**Proposition 2.2** ([4]) If S is a right adequate semigroup with semilattice of idempotents E, then

- (1) For all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $(ab)^* = (a^*b)^*$ .
- (2) For all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $(ab)^* \omega b^*$ .

Let S be an rpp semigroup. As in [17], we define a relation S by

 $x \leq_{\ell} y$  if and only if  $L^*(x) \subseteq L^*(y)$  and there exists  $f \in E(S) \cap L_x^*$  such that x = yf,

where  $L^*(x)$  is the left \*-ideal generated by x (see [5]) and  $L_x^*$  denotes the  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -class of S containing x. Then  $\leq_{\ell}$  is a partial order on S. Dually, we may define the partial order  $\leq_r$  on an lpp semigroup. If S is an abundant semigroup, we define the partial order  $\leq$  on S as  $\leq_{\ell} \cap \leq_r$ . Equivalently, for  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a \leq b$  if and only if there exist  $e, f \in E(S)$  such that a = eb = bf (see [17]). We shall denote  $G_a = \{s \in S : s \leq_{\ell} a\}$  for  $a \in S$ .

**Lemma 2.3** ([17]) Let S be an rpp semigroup. Then for  $x, y \in S$  and  $e \in E(S)$ , the following statements hold:

- (1)  $\leq_{\ell}$  is a partial order on S, in particular,  $\leq_{\ell}$  coincides with the usual idempotent order  $\omega$  on E(S), that is,  $e\omega f$  if and only if e = ef = fe.
  - (2) If  $x \leq_{\ell} e$ , then  $x^2 = x$  in S.
  - (3) If  $x \leq_{\ell} y$  and y is a regular element in S, then x is also a regular element in S.
- (4) Let  $y^* \in L_y^* \cap E(S)$  and  $\omega(y^*) = \{f : f\omega y^*\}$ . Then  $x \leq_{\ell} y$  if and only if for all [some]  $y^*$ , there exists  $f \in \omega(y^*)$  such that x = yf.
  - (5) If  $x \leq_{\ell} y$  and  $x\mathcal{L}^*y$ , then x = y.

A congruence  $\rho$  on a semigroup S is called a left cancellative monoid congruence on S if  $S/\rho$  is a left cancellative monoid.

By an F-rpp semigroup, we mean an rpp semigroup in which there exists a left cancellative monoid congruence  $\sigma$  on S such that each  $\sigma$ -class of S contains a greatest element with respect to the Lawson order  $\leq_{\ell}$ . In this case, the  $\sigma$  is indeed the smallest left cancellative monoid congruence on S (see [10]). In what follows, we use  $\sigma$  to denote the smallest left cancellative monoid congruence on S if it exists.

Assume that S is an F-rpp semigroup. We denote by M the set of greatest elements in all  $\sigma$ -classes of S and  $m_a$  the greatest element in  $\sigma_a$ . In general, M does not form a subsemigroup of S. Now define a multiplication  $\circ$  as follows:

 $m \circ n$  = the greatest element of the  $\sigma$ -class of S containing mn.

It is not difficult to check that  $(M, \circ)$  is a semigroup isomorphic to  $S/\sigma$ .

**Lemma 2.4** ([15]) If S is an F-abundant semigroup, then

- (1)  $G_1 = E$ , where 1 is the identity of S.
- (2)  $G_mG_n \subseteq G_{m \circ n}$  for any  $m, n \in M(S)$ .

**Lemma 2.5** ([1]) If S is a right adequate semigroup of type F, then

- (1) S is a right type A semigroup (that is, a right adequate semigroup in which for any  $a, e^2 = e \in S$ ,  $ea = a(ea)^*$ ).
- (2) The smallest left cancellative monoid congruence  $\sigma$  on S is equal to  $\{(a,b) \in S \times S : (\exists e^2 = e \in S) | ae = be \}$ .
  - (3)  $\sigma \cap \mathcal{L}^* = id$  (the identity relation on S).

Let  $\phi$  be a homomorphism of the semigroup S into another T.  $\phi$  is called an  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism if for any  $a, b \in S$ ,  $\phi(a) = \phi(b)$  implies that  $a\mathcal{L}^*b$ . Obviously, any  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism of S into T is idempotent-separating when S is a right adequate semigroup.

Assume S is a right adequate semigroup. Then every  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -class of S contains a unique idempotent. We denote the unique idempotent in  $L_a^*$  by  $a^*$ . So, we may regard a right adequate semigroup as an algebra with a binary operation of multiplication and a unary operation \*. We will refer to such algebras as \*-semigroups. From universal algebras, we have the notions of \*-subsemigroup, \*-homomorphism and \*-congruence. It is not difficult to see that a homomorphism is a \*-homomorphism if and only if it preserves the  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -classes.

#### **3.** F-covers

To begin with, we formulate the definition of F-covers.

**Definition 3.1** Let S be a right type-A semigroup and T a right adequate semigroup of type F. Then T is called an F-cover for S if there exists a surjective \*-homomorphism  $\varphi$  of T onto S which also is an  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism of T into S.

The aim of this section is to prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.2** Any right type-A monoid has F-covers.

To prove Theorem 3.2, we need to recall the construction of free right type-A semigroups.

Let X be a non-empty set. Let  $F_X$  be the free monoid on X and partially order on  $F_X$  by putting  $u \leq v$  if and only if u is a final segment of v. For any subset A of  $F_X$ , we write

$$\max A = \{a \in A : a \text{ is maximal in } A \text{ under } \leq \}.$$

Now let

$$E_X = \{A : A \subset F_X, A \text{ is finite and non-empty, } A = \max A\}.$$

Thus  $E_X$  is the set of all finite suffix codes over X. For  $A, B \in E_X$ , let  $AB = \max(A \cup B)$ . Then  $E_X$  is a semilattice. In fact, if we consider  $F_X$  as partial order by the dual of note, the following statements are equivalent for members A, B of  $E_X$  where we use  $\leq$  for the order relation in  $E_X$  as well as that in  $F_X$ :

 $A \leq B$ ; AB = A;  $\max(A \cup B) = A$ ; for each  $b \in B$ , there is  $a \in A$  such that  $b \leq a$ ; each element in B is a final segment of some element in A.

For  $w \in F_X$ ,  $A \subset F_X$ , we put  $A \cdot w = \{aw : a \in A\}$ . Clearly,  $A \cdot w \in E_X$  and we have an action of  $F_X$  on  $E_X$ . Furthermore, if  $w \in F_X$ ,  $A, B \in E_X$ , then it is routine to verify that

$$(AB) \cdot w = (A \cdot w)(B \cdot w)$$

and consequently the action is order-preserving. We form the set

$$A_X = \{(w, A) \in F_X^1 \times E_X : w \le a \text{ for some } a \in A\}.$$

On  $A_X$ , define a multiplication by

$$(w, A) \circ (v, B) = (wv, A \cdot v \wedge B).$$

Then  $(A_X, \circ)$  is a free right type-A semigroup [6, P.138-141].

**Lemma 3.3** ([6, Proposition 2.6]) Let (v, A), (w, B) be elements of  $A_X$ . Then

- (1)  $(v, A)\sigma(w, B)$  if and only if v = w.
- (2)  $(v, A)\mathcal{L}^*(w, B)$  if and only if A = B.

**Lemma 3.4** ([6, Theorem 2.8]) Let S be a right type-A semigroup. Then S is the image of some  $A_X$  under an  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism which also is a \*-homomorphism.

For a non-empty subset  $A \subseteq F_X$ , we denote by  $[A]^{\downarrow}$  the order ideal of  $(F_X, \leq)$  generated by A.

**Lemma 3.5** If  $A \in E_X$ , then  $A = \max([A]^{\downarrow})$ .

**Proof** Clearly  $A \subseteq [A]^{\downarrow}$ . We show first that every element of A is maximal in the set  $[A]^{\downarrow}$ . Suppose  $a \in A$  is not maximal in  $[A]^{\downarrow}$ . Then there exists  $a' \in [A]^{\downarrow}$  such that a < a'. By definition  $a' \leq a''$  for some  $a'' \in A$ . But this implies  $a, a'' \in A$  distinct comparable elements of A, which is a contradiction. Thus  $A \subseteq \max([A]^{\downarrow})$ . Conversely, let  $b \in \max([A]^{\downarrow})$ . By definition  $b \leq c$  for some  $c \in A$ . But b is maximal, and so  $b = c \in A$ . Thus  $A = \max([A]^{\downarrow})$ .

**Proof of Theorem 3.2** By Lemma 3.4, we need only to prove that  $A_X$  is F-rpp. To this end, we let (w, A) be any element of  $A_X$ , then by Lemma 3.3,  $\sigma_{(w,A)} = \{(w,B) \in A_X : w \in B\}$ . Now let  $x \in \max([w]^{\downarrow})$ . Then  $x \leq w$  and so by definition,  $B \leq [w]^{\downarrow}$ . Clearly  $(w, \max([w]^{\downarrow}) \in \sigma_{(w,A)}$  and is the greatest element of  $\sigma_{(w,A)}$ . Consequently,  $A_X$  is F-rpp and we complete the proof.  $\square$ 

# 4. The structure of *F*-covers

In this section we will establish the structure of F-covers for a right type-A semigroup.  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  is a set containing all subset of S. In what follows, we denote  $A \cdot B := \{ab : a \in A, b \in B\}$  for any  $A, B \in \mathcal{P}(S)$ . It is easy to see that  $(\mathcal{P}(S), \cdot)$  is a commutative semigroup.

**Definition 4.1** Let S be a monoid with identity 1, T a semigroup. A mapping  $\phi: S \to \mathcal{P}(T)$  is called a pre-homomorphism if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1)  $\phi(1) = E(T);$
- (2) for all  $x, y \in S, \phi(x)\phi(y) \subseteq \phi(xy)$ .

**Definition 4.2** Let M be a left cancellative monoid, T a right type-A monoid. If  $\phi$  is a mapping from M into  $\mathcal{P}(T)$ . Then  $(M, T; \phi)$  is called an  $\mathcal{FRA}^*$ -system if

(FRA1)  $\phi$  is pre-homomorphism;

(FRA2) for all  $m \in M$ , there exists  $m_a \in T$  such that  $\phi(m) = G_{m_a}$ .

Given an  $\mathcal{FRA}$ -system  $(M, T; \phi)$ , put

$$FRA(M, T; \phi) = FRA = \{(m, x) \in M \times T : x \in \phi(m)\}.$$

By routine computing, FRA is a subsemigroup of  $M \times T$ . Moreover, we may prove

**Lemma 4.3** The above semigroup FRA is a monoid.

**Proof** By (FRA2), there exists  $e \in E(T)$  such that  $\phi(1) = G_e$  so that e is the identity of E(T). Hence e is the identity of T. The following result is immediate.

**Lemma 4.4**  $E(FRA) = \{(1, f) : f \in E(T)\}$  and is isomorphic to E(T). Moreover, E(FRA) has (1, e) as its identity.

**Proposition 4.5** Let  $(M, T; \phi)$  be an  $\mathcal{FRA}$ -system.

- (1) For all  $(m, x), (n, y) \in FRA$ ,  $(m, x)\mathcal{L}^*(n, y)$  if and only if  $x\mathcal{L}^*y$ .
- (2) For all  $(m, x), (n, y) \in FRA$ ,  $(m, x) \leq_{\ell} (n, y)$  if and only if  $m = n, x \leq_{\ell} y$ .
- (3) For all  $(m, x), (n, y) \in FRA$ ,  $(m, x)\sigma(n, y)$  if and only if  $m = n, x\sigma y$ .
- (4) FRA is a right adequate monoid of type F.

**Proof** (1) First of all, we verify that  $(m,x)\mathcal{L}^*(1,x^*)$ . Now let  $(\delta,t), (\gamma,u) \in FRA$  with  $(m,x)(\delta,t) = (m,x)(\gamma,u)$ . Then  $(m\delta,xt) = (m\gamma,xu)$ , and so  $m\delta = m\gamma,xt = xu$ . Thereby  $\delta = \gamma$  and  $x^*t = x^*u$ . Thus  $(1,x^*)(\delta,t) = (1,x^*)(\gamma,u)$ . Together with the fact  $(m,x)(1,x^*) = (m,x)$ , we have that  $(m,x)\mathcal{L}^*(1,x^*)$ .

Now, by the above proof, we have

$$(m, x)\mathcal{L}^*(n, y) \Leftrightarrow (1, x^*)\mathcal{L}^*(1, y^*) \Leftrightarrow x^*y^* = x^*, y^*x^* = y^*$$
$$\Leftrightarrow x^*\mathcal{L}y^* \Leftrightarrow x\mathcal{L}^*y.$$

(2) It follows from the computation:

$$(m,x) \le_{\ell} (n,y) \Leftrightarrow (\exists (1,u) \in \omega(1,y^*))(m,x) = (n,y)(1,u)$$
  
  $\Leftrightarrow m = n, x \le_{\ell} y.$ 

- (3) By Lemmas 2.5 (2) and 4.4, the proof is a routine checking.
- (4) By (3),  $\sigma_{(m,x)} = \{(m,y) \in FRA : y \in \phi(m), y\sigma x\}$  for any  $(m,x) \in FRA$ . Note that  $\phi(m) = G_{m_a}$  for some  $m_a \in T$ . We observe that  $(m, m_a)$  is the greatest element in  $\sigma_{(m,x)}$ , and consequently FRA is a right adequate semigroup of type F.

Consider the mapping  $\varphi:(m,x)\mapsto x$  from FRA to T. It is a routine calculation to show that  $\varphi$  is an  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism which is a \*-homomorphism. Now, the following lemma is immediate.

**Lemma 4.6** The projection  $\varphi:(m,x)\mapsto x$  from FRA to T is an idempotent-separating homomorphism.

We now arrive at the structure theorem of F-covers for right type-A monoids

**Theorem 4.7** Let  $(M, T; \phi)$  be an  $\mathcal{FRA}$ -system. If  $T = \bigcup_{m \in M} \phi(m)$ , then  $FRA(M, T; \phi)$  is an F-cover for right type-A monoid T.

Conversely, any F-cover for the right type-A monoid T can be constructed in this manner.

**Proof** Notice that  $T = \bigcup_{m \in M} \phi(m)$ . We observe that the projection of  $FRA(M, T; \phi)$  to T is surjective. Hence by Proposition 4.5, we only need to prove the converse part. For this, we assume that  $\varphi$  is a surjective \*-homomorphism and  $\mathcal{L}^*$ -homomorphism of a right type-A monoid S of type F into the right adequate monoid T. We denote by M the set of greatest elements in all  $\sigma$ -classes of S. Under the multiplication  $\circ$  defined by

 $m \circ n$  = the greatest element of the  $\sigma$ -class of S containing mn.

It is not difficult to check that  $(M, \circ)$  is a semigroup isomorphic to  $S/\sigma$ .

Define

$$\theta: M \to \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{T}); m \mapsto (G_m)\varphi.$$

Since  $S = \bigcup_{m \in M} G_m$  and  $\varphi$  is surjective, we have  $T = \bigcup_{m \in M} (G_m) \varphi$ . Clearly,  $E(S) \varphi \subseteq E(T)$ . Conversely, for any  $x \in E(T)$ , there exists  $a \in S$  such that  $a\varphi = x$  since  $\varphi$  is surjective. Note that  $\varphi$  is a \*-homomorphism, it is easy to see that  $a\varphi \, \mathcal{L}^* a^* \varphi$ , hence  $a^* \varphi = a\varphi$  since T is a right adequate semigroup. It follows that  $E(T) \subseteq E(S) \varphi$ . Thus  $E(T) = E(S) \varphi$ , hence  $\theta(1) = E(T)$ . On the other hand, since T is a right type-A semigroup, it is easy to check that  $a \leq_{\ell} x, b \leq_{\ell} y$  imply that  $ab \leq_{\ell} xy$  for any  $a, b, x, y \in T$ . This can derive that  $(G_m) \varphi \cdot (G_n) \varphi \subseteq (G_{m \circ n}) \varphi$  for any  $m, n \in M$ . We have now proved that  $\theta$  is a pre-homomorphism from M into  $\mathcal{P}(T)$ .

We can now form the semigroup  $FRA(M,T;\theta)$ . Furthermore, define

$$\psi: S \to FRA(M,T;\theta); s \mapsto \psi(s) = (m_s, s\varphi).$$

If  $s\psi = t\psi$ , then  $m_s = m_t$  and  $s\varphi = t\varphi$ . Hence  $(s,t) \in \sigma \cap \mathcal{L}^*$ . Thereby s = t since S is F-rpp. Thus  $\psi$  is injective.

For any  $(m,t) \in FRA(M,T;\theta)$ , we have  $s \in G_m$  such that  $t = s\varphi$ . Note that  $s \in G_m$ , we have  $(s,m) \in \sigma$ , thus  $(m,t) = s\psi$ . Consequently,  $\psi$  is surjective.

Finally, suppose that  $a, b \in S$ ,

$$\psi(a)\psi(b) = (m_a, a\varphi)(m_b, b\varphi) = (m_{ab}, (ab)\varphi) = \psi(ab).$$

Thus  $\psi$  is a homomorphism. We have now proved that  $\psi$  is an isomorphism of S onto  $FRA(M,T;\theta)$ . The proof is completed.  $\Box$ 

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