study any divisible semigroup, we need consider all congruences of $\bar{R}=\prod_\alpha R_\alpha$. For this purpose the following general result is used: A congruence of a commutative cancellative semigroup S is determined by a system of ideals of S and a system of subgroups of the quotient group of S.

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ALMOST LOCALLY FLAT EMBEDDINGS OF S^{n-1} IN S^n

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1. **Introduction.** In this paper we use the terminology introduced by Brown in [2]. We consider an $(n-1)$-sphere S embedded in S^n and try to determine if the components of S^n-S have closures that are n-cells (i.e. if S is flat). Brown has shown that if S is locally flat at each of its points, then S is bi-collared [2]. Hence, in this case, S is flat. The principal result of this paper is that if S is not flat in S^n, $n>3$, and E is the set of points at which S fails to be locally flat, then E contains more than one point. This is a fundamental point at which the embedding problems for $n>3$ differ from those for $n=3$. Throughout this paper we will assume that $n>3$.

2. **Outline of proof of principal result.** By combining Theorem 1 of [2] and Theorem 2 of [1] one can establish the following.

LEMMA 1. *Let S be an $(n-1)$-sphere in S^n and G a component of S^n-S. If S is locally collared in* Cl G, *then S is collared in* Cl G *and* Cl G *is an n-cell.*