

PARTIALLY ORDERED ABELIAN SEMIGROUPS. III  
ON THE REVERSIBLE PARTIAL ORDER DEFINED  
ON AN ABELIAN SEMIGROUP

By

Osamu NAKADA

In their paper,<sup>1)</sup> Ben Dushnik and E. W. Miller introduced the concept of the reversible partial order and expressed the theorem about this concept. In this Part III, I shall show that the same one is held in the partially ordered abelian semigroup by adding the certain condition.

**Definition 1.** A set  $S$  is said to be a *partially ordered abelian semigroup* (p.o. semigroup), when  $S$  is (I) an abelian semigroup (not necessarily contains the unit element), (II) a partially ordered set, and satisfies (III) the *homogeneity*:  $a \geq b$  implies  $ac \geq bc$  for any  $c$  of  $S$ .

A partial order which satisfies the condition (III) is called a *partial order defined on an abelian semigroup*.

Moreover, if a partial order defined on an abelian semigroup  $S$  is a linear order, then  $S$  is said to be a *linearly ordered abelian semigroup* (l.o. semigroup). (Definition 1, O.I.)

**Definition 2.** Let  $\mathfrak{S} = \{P_\alpha\}$  be any set of partial orders, each defined on the same abelian semigroup  $S$ . We define the new partial order  $P$  on  $S$  as follows: For any two elements  $a, b$ , we put  $a \geq b$  in  $P$  if and only if  $a \geq b$  in every  $P_\alpha$  of the set  $\mathfrak{S}$ . Indeed,  $P$  is again a partial order defined on  $S$ . This partial order  $P$  is said to be the *product* of the partial orders  $P_\alpha$  or to be *realized* by the set  $\mathfrak{S}$  of partial orders  $P_\alpha$ . (Definition 9, O.I.)

By the *dimension* of a partial order  $P$  defined on an abelian semigroup  $S$  is meant the smallest cardinal number  $m$  such that  $P$  is realized by  $m$  linear orders defined on  $S$ .

**Definition 3.** Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be two partial orders defined on the same

---

Partially ordered abelian semigroup. I. On the extension of the strong partial order defined on abelian semigroups. Journ. Fac. Sci., Hokkaido University, Series I, vol. XI (1951), pp. 181-189; this is referred to hereafter as "O.I."

1) Ben Dushnik and E. W. Miller: Partially ordered sets, Amer. Math. Journ. vol. 63 (1941), pp. 600-610.

abelian semigroup  $S$ , and suppose that *any* two distinct elements of  $S$  are comparable in *just one* of these partial orders; in such a case we shall say that  $P$  and  $Q$  are *conjugate* partial orders. A partial order will be called *reversible* if and only if it has a conjugate.<sup>2)</sup>

If  $P$  is a partial order defined on  $S$ , then the partial order obtained from  $P$  by inverting the sense of all ordered pairs will be called a *dual* order, which is denoted by  $P^*$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be conjugate partial orders defined on an abelian semigroup  $S$ . Then we can define a linear order  $L_1$  on  $S$  such that  $a > b$  in  $L_1$  if and only if  $a > b$  in either  $P$  or  $Q$ ; denoted by  $L_1 = P + Q$ . Similarly  $L_2 = P + Q^*$  is a linear order defined on  $S$ .*

*Proof.* We shall prove only the transitivity of  $L_1$ .

From  $a > b, b > c$  in  $L_1$ , we can consider the following four cases: (i)  $a > b, b > c$  in  $P$ , (ii)  $a > b, b > c$  in  $Q$ , (iii)  $a > b$  in  $P, b > c$  in  $Q$ , (iv)  $a > b$  in  $Q, b > c$  in  $P$ .

In cases (i) and (ii),  $a > c$  in  $L_1$  is clear. In case (iii), if  $c > a$  in  $P$  or  $Q$ , then  $c > b$  in  $P$  or  $b > a$  in  $Q$  respectively, which is absurd, therefore  $a > c$  in  $P$  or  $Q$  and hence in  $L_1$ . Similarly, in case (iv)  $a > c$  in  $L_1$  is held.

**Theorem 2.** *The following two properties of a partial order  $P$  defined on an abelian semigroup  $S$  are equivalent to each other:*

- (1)  $P$  is reversible.
- (2) The dimension of  $P$  is 2.

*Proof.* We shall show first that (1) implies (2). Suppose that the partial order  $P$  defined on  $S$  is reversible, and let  $Q$  be a partial order defined on  $S$  conjugate to  $P$  and  $Q^*$  be the dual order of  $Q$ . Then by Theorem 1,  $L_1 = P + Q$  and  $L_2 = P + Q^*$  are linear extensions of  $P$  and it is obvious that  $P$  is realized by linear orders  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ .

Next we show that (2) implies (1). Let  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  be any two linear orders defined on  $S$  which together realize  $P$ . We define the other order  $Q$  as follows:  $a > b$  in  $Q$  if and only if  $a$  and  $b$  are non-comparable in  $P$  and  $a > b$  in  $L_1$  (likewise  $a > b$  in  $L_1$  and  $b > a$  in  $L_2$ ). Then  $a > b$  and  $b > a$  in  $Q$  are contradictory. If  $a > b$  and  $b > c$  in  $Q$ , then we have  $a > b > c$  in  $L_1$  and  $c > b > a$  in  $L_2$ , hence  $a > c$  in  $Q$ .  $a > b$  in  $Q$  implies that  $ac \geq bc$  in  $L_1$  and  $bc \geq ac$  in  $L_2$ , i.e.  $ac \geq bc$  in  $Q$ . Therefore  $Q$  is a partial order defined on  $S$ . Evidently  $P$  and  $Q$  are conjugate.

**Definition 4.** A linear extension  $L$  of a partial order  $P$  defined on

2) Cf. Ben Dushnik and E. W. Miller: l.c.

an abelian semigroup  $S$  will be called *separating* if and only if there exist three elements  $a, b$  and  $c$  in  $S$  such that  $a > c$  in  $P$ , and  $b$  is not comparable with either  $a$  or  $c$  in  $P$ , while in  $L$  we have  $a > b > c$ .

**Theorem 3.**<sup>3)</sup> *Let  $P$  be a partial order defined on an abelian semigroup  $S$  which satisfies the condition (E).<sup>4)</sup> Then the following three properties of a partial order  $P$  are equivalent to each other:*

- (1)  $P$  is reversible.
- (2) The dimension of  $P$  is 2.
- (3) There exists a linear extension of  $P$  which is non-separating.

*Proof.* (1) and (2) are equivalent by Theorem 2.

We show now that (2) implies (3) without the condition (E). Let  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  be any two linear orders defined on  $S$  which together realize  $P: P = L_1 \times L_2$ . If  $L_1$  is separating, then there exist three elements  $a, b$  and  $c$  such that  $a > c$  in  $P$ ,  $a > b > c$  in  $L_1$  and  $b$  is not comparable with either  $a$  or  $c$  in  $P$ . Hence we have  $c > b > a$  in  $L_2$  which is impossible.

To show that (3) implies (1) we shall suppose that  $L$  is a non-separating linear extension of  $P$ . We define the other order  $Q$  as follows:  $a > b$  in  $Q$  if and only if  $a$  and  $b$  are non-comparable in  $P$  and  $a > b$  in  $L$ . Then clearly  $a > b$  and  $b > a$  in  $Q$  are contradictory. If  $a > b$  and  $b > c$  in  $Q$ , then we have  $a > b > c$  in  $L$  and  $a$  and  $c$  are non-comparable in  $P$ , for otherwise  $a > c$  in  $P$  would imply that  $L$  is separating contrary to the assumption, hence we have  $a > c$  in  $Q$ .  $a > b$  in  $Q$  implies that  $ac \geq bc$  in  $L$ . If  $ac > bc$  in  $P$ , then by the condition (E)  $a > b$  in  $P$  which is impossible. Hence  $ac = bc$  or  $ac$  and  $bc$  are non-comparable in  $P$ , and hence  $ac \geq bc$  in  $Q$ . Therefore  $Q$  is a partial order defined on  $S$ . Clearly  $P$  and  $Q$  are conjugate.

**Definition 5.** Let  $S$  be a p.o. semigroup and  $P$  be the partial order defined on  $S$ . For any element  $a$  of  $S$ , we denote the set of all elements  $x$  such that  $x \leq a$  in  $P$  by  $\bar{a}$ . Then the correspondence  $a \leftrightarrow \bar{a}$  is one-to-one. We put  $\bar{a} \geq \bar{b}$  if and only if  $\bar{b}$  is a subset of  $\bar{a}$ , likewise  $a \geq b$  in  $P$ , then the family  $\bar{S} = \{\bar{a}\}$  is become a partially ordered set. Next we define the product  $\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b} = \overline{ab}$ , then the family  $\bar{S}$  is a commutative semigroup, moreover  $\bar{S}$  become a p.o. semigroup. Clearly  $S$  and  $\bar{S}$  are order-isomorphic.<sup>5)</sup>

More generally, if there exists a one-to-one correspondence between

3) Ben Dushnik and E. W. Miller: l.c. Theorem 3.61.

4) Condition (E) (order cancellation law):

$ac > bc$  in  $P$  implies  $a > b$  in  $P$ .

5) See Definition 3, O.I.

the elements of the p.o. semigroup  $S$  and the family  $\mathfrak{R}$  of subsets of the certain set  $R$  (a subset of  $R$  which corresponds with an element  $a$  of  $S$ , denote by  $s(a)$ ), and  $a \geq b$  in  $P$  if and only if  $s(a) \supseteq s(b)$  (in the sense of set-inclusion), then by the defining the product  $s(a) \cdot s(b) = s(ab)$ , two p.o. semigroups  $S$  and  $\mathfrak{R}$  are order-isomorphic.

Any family  $\mathfrak{R}$  of the subsets of the set  $R$  which has the above properties will be called a *representation* of  $P$ .

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $P$  be a partial order defined on an abelian semigroup  $S$  which satisfies the condition (E). Then the following two properties are equivalent to each other:*

(1)  $P$  is reversible.

(4) *There exists a representation of  $P$  by means of a family  $\mathfrak{R} = \{I_a\}$  of closed intervals on some l.o. semigroup  $R$ , and let  $I_a = [\alpha_1, \alpha_2]$ ,  $I_b = [\beta_1, \beta_2]$ ,  $I_{ac} = [\gamma_1, \gamma_2]$ ,  $I_{bc} = [\delta_1, \delta_2]$ , and if  $a$  and  $b$  are non-comparable in  $P$ , then  $\alpha_1 < \beta_1$  (and  $\alpha_2 < \beta_2$ ) implies  $\gamma_1 \leq \delta_1$  (and  $\gamma_2 \leq \delta_2$ ) or its dual.*

*Proof.* We shall show (1) implies (4). Let  $P$  be reversible, and hence the dimension of  $P$  is 2. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be any two linear orders defined on  $S$  which together realize  $P$ .

Let  $S'$  be a l.o. semigroup which is anti-order-isomorphic to the l.o. semigroup  $S$  in the linear order  $B$ , where the set  $S'$  is disjoint from  $S$ , and the linear order defined on  $S'$  is denoted by  $B'$ .

Let  $R$  be the union of  $S$ ,  $S'$  and the new element  $0$  which belongs to neither  $S$  nor  $S'$ .

We define the multiplication in  $R$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \cdot 0 &= 0, \\ x \cdot 0 &= 0 \cdot x = 0 && \text{for any } x \text{ in } S \text{ or } S', \\ a \cdot a' &= a' \cdot a = 0 && \text{for any } a \text{ in } S \text{ and } a' \text{ in } S', \end{aligned}$$

and for any two elements  $x$  and  $y$  of  $S(S')$  the product is the same as in  $S(S')$ .

Thus  $R$  becomes the abelian semigroup under the multiplication introduced above.

Let us now define the order-relation  $L$  in  $R$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} x > y \text{ in } L \ (x, y \in S) &&& \text{if and only if } x > y \text{ in } A, \\ x > y \text{ in } L \ (x, y \in S') &&& \text{if and only if } x > y \text{ in } B', \end{aligned}$$

and we put

$$a > 0 > a' \text{ in } L \ (a \in S, a' \in S').$$

Then  $R$  becomes a l.o. semigroup.

For each  $a$  in  $S$  denote by  $a'$  the image of  $a$  in  $S'$ , and denote by  $I_a$  the closed interval  $[a', a]$  of  $R$ .

We will show that the family  $\mathfrak{R}=\{I_a\}$  of all such intervals is a representation of  $P$ . Suppose first that  $a>b$  in  $P$ . Then  $a>b$  in  $A$  and  $a'<b'$  in  $B'$ , so that we have  $a'<b'<b<a$  in  $L$ . This means that  $I_b$  is a proper subset of  $I_a$ .

Let  $I_a=[a', a]$ ,  $I_b=[b', b]$ ,  $I_{ac}=[a'c', ac]$ ,  $I_{bc}=[b'c', bc]$ . If  $a$  and  $b$  are non-comparable in  $P$ , then from  $a>b$  ( $a'>b'$ ) in  $L$  we have  $ac\geq bc$  ( $a'c'\geq b'c'$ ) in  $L$  or its dual.

We prove that (4) implies (1). Suppose that  $P$  is a partial order which is represented by a family  $\mathfrak{R}$  of intervals taken from some l.o. semigroup  $R$ , whose linear order is denoted by  $L$ . For each  $a$  in  $S$ , denote by  $I_a$  the interval of the family  $\mathfrak{R}$  which corresponds to  $a$ . We notice first that if  $a$  and  $b$  are distinct elements of  $S$  which are not comparable in  $P$ , then  $I_a$  and  $I_b$  cannot have the same left (right)-hand end-point.

Suppose that  $I_a=[\alpha_1, \alpha_2]$ ,  $I_b=[\beta_1, \beta_2]$ ,  $I_c=[\gamma_1, \gamma_2], \dots$

We define a new partial order  $Q$  defined on  $S$  as follows:

- (i)  $a$  and  $b$  are not comparable in  $P$ ,
- (ii)  $\alpha_1<\beta_1$  (and  $\alpha_2<\beta_2$ ) in  $L$ .

It is easy to see that  $Q$  is the partial order defined on the set  $S$ . We shall now prove the homogeneity. Let  $a>b$  in  $Q$  and  $I_{ac}=[\lambda_1, \lambda_2]$ ,  $I_{bc}=[\mu_1, \mu_2]$ . If  $ac$  and  $bc$  are distinct and comparable in  $P$ , then by the condition (E)  $a$  and  $b$  are comparable in  $P$  which is impossible. If  $ac$  and  $bc$  are non-comparable in  $P$ , then  $\lambda_1<\mu_1$ ,  $\lambda_2<\mu_2$  and hence  $ac>bc$  in  $Q$ .

**Example 1.** Let  $S_1$  be an abelian semigroup generated by two elements  $a$  and  $b$  with the relation

$$a^m b^n = ab^n \quad \text{for any positive integers } m \text{ and } n.$$

By putting the order-relation

$$P: \quad \begin{cases} a^{m+1} > a^m \\ b^n > ab^n \end{cases} \quad \text{for any positive integer } n$$

$S_1$  becomes a p.o. semigroup, and the partial order  $P$  is reversible. Its conjugate order  $Q$  is as follows:

$$Q: \quad \begin{cases} a^m > b^n > b^{n+1} > ab^{n+1} \\ a^m > ab^n > b^{n+1} \end{cases} \quad \text{for any positive integers } m \text{ and } n.$$

The linear orders which together realize  $P$  are

$$a^{m+1} > a^m > b^n > ab^n > b^{n+1} > ab^{n+1}$$

and

$$b^{n+1} > ab^{n+1} > b^n > ab^n > a^{m+1} > a^m$$

for any positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ .

**Example 2.** Let  $S_2$  be an abelian semigroup generated by two elements  $a$  and  $b$  with the relation

$$a^m b^n = b^n \quad \text{for any positive integers } m \text{ and } n.$$

By putting the two order-relations  $A$  and  $B$

$$A: \quad a^{m+1} > a^m > b^n > b^{n+1}$$

$$B: \quad b^{n+1} > b^n > a^{m+1} > a^m$$

for any positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ ,

$S_2$  becomes a l.o. semigroup in the orders  $A$  and  $B$  respectively. Let  $P$  be the partial order which is the product of  $A$  and  $B$ , that is

$$P: \quad a^{m+1} > a^m.$$

Then  $P$  has the conjugate order  $Q$  such that

$$Q: \quad a^m > b^n > b^{n+1}.$$

**Example 3.** Let  $S_3'$  and  $S_3''$  be free abelian semigroups generated by elements  $a$  and  $b$  respectively. And by defining the order-relations

$$a^{m+1} > a^m \quad (m \geq 1), \quad b^{n+1} > b^n \quad (n > 1),$$

$S_3'$  and  $S_3''$  becomes a l.o. semigroup and a p.o. semigroup respectively. Let  $S_3$  be the direct product of  $S_3'$  and  $S_3''$ . Then  $S_3$  becomes a p.o. semigroup by introducing the following order-relation  $P$ :

$$a^i b^j > a^m b^n$$

if and only if

$$a^i > a^m \quad \text{or} \quad a^i = a^m \quad \text{and} \quad b^j > b^n.$$

Since  $ab^2$  and  $ab$  are non-comparable in  $P$  in spite of  $(ab^2)(ab) = a^2b^3 > a^2b^2 = (ab)(ab)$ ,  $P$  does not satisfy the condition (E).

Now, in  $S_3''$  we define the another order-relation:

$$b^{n+1} > b^n \quad (n \geq 1),$$

then we get the non-separating linear extension of  $P$ .

But we cannot realize the partial order  $P$  by two linear orders.

Mathematical Institute,  
Hokkaido University.