

## GENERALIZED INVERSE SEMIGROUPS WITH INVOLUTION

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**ABSTRACT.** This paper considers orthodox semigroups which have a normal band and which admit a unary involution operation. A structure theorem is proved and the free such semigroup is found. The partial order is also considered.

**1. Introduction and preliminaries.** Let  $S$  be a regular semigroup. Then  $S$  is *orthodox* provided the set  $E = E(S)$  of idempotents of  $S$  is a subsemigroup of  $S$ .  $S$  is a *generalized inverse* semigroup provided  $S$  is orthodox and the band  $E$  is *normal*, i.e.,  $ehgf = ehgf$  for all  $e, g, h, f \in E$ . The structure of all generalized inverse semigroups has been found by Yamada [10], in terms of inverse semigroups and normal bands. Yamada's structure theorem will play an important role in this paper. It is described below.

In [5], the authors consider a class of unary semigroups, i.e., semigroups which are equipped with a unary operator,  $x \rightarrow x^*$ . The  $*$  operator satisfies the axioms (1)  $x^{**} = x$ , (2)  $xx^*x = x$ , and an involution axiom (3)  $(xy)^* = y^*x^*$ . These semigroups are called *regular  $*$  semigroups*. In that same paper, a regular  $*$  semigroup  $S$  is shown to be orthodox ( $EE \subset E$ ) if and only if  $S$  satisfies the identity  $[(xx^*)(yy^*)(zz^*)]^2 = [(xx^*)(yy^*)(zz^*)]$ . Thus, the class of all orthodox  $*$  semigroups forms a variety.

In [1], it is shown that an orthodox  $*$  semigroup  $S$  is a generalized inverse semigroup (has a normal band) if and only if  $S$  satisfies the identity  $a(xx^*)(x^*x)b = a(x^*x)(xx^*)b$ . Thus, the generalized inverse  $*$  semigroups form a variety.

The purpose of this note is to study generalized inverse  $*$  semigroups. In Sections (2), (3), and (4) we shall: (2) specialize Yamada's structure theorem to the  $*$  case, (3) find the free generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup, and (4) consider the natural partial order on a generalized inverse semigroup.

**2. The structure theorem.** First, we will review Yamada's structure theorem for generalized inverse semigroups. Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup

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with semilattice  $E$ . Let  $L, R$  be left and right normal bands, respectively, each with structure semilattice  $E$ . Thus,  $L = \bigcup_{e \in E} L_e$  and  $R = \bigcup_{e \in E} R_e$ . Now let  $Q = [L: S: R] = \{(a, x, b) \in L \times S \times R: a \in L_{xx^{-1}} \text{ and } b \in R_{x^{-1}x}\}$ . Define multiplication in  $Q$  by the rule  $(a, x, b)(c, y, d) = (au, xy, vd)$  where  $u \in L_{(xy)(xy)^{-1}}$  and  $v \in R_{(xy)^{-1}(xy)}$ .  $Q$  is called the quasi direct product of  $L, S$ , and  $R$ .

**THEOREM 2.1.** [10]. *The quasi direct product  $[L: S: R]$  is a generalized inverse semigroup. Conversely, if  $T$  is a generalized inverse semigroup, then the mapping  $a \rightarrow (R_{aa'}, a\mathcal{Y}, L_{a'a})$  is an isomorphism of  $T$  onto the quasi direct product  $[E(T)/\mathcal{R}: T/\mathcal{Y}: E(T)/\mathcal{L}]$ .*

In the second part of the theorem just stated,  $E(T)$  is the band of  $T$ , and  $\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{L}$  denote the usual Green's relations on  $E(T)$ . Thus,  $R_{aa'}$  is the  $\mathcal{R}$  class of  $E(T)$  which contains  $aa'$  where  $a'$  is an inverse of  $a$ .  $\mathcal{Y}$  is the smallest inverse semigroup congruence on  $T$ .

Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup with semilattice  $E$ . Let  $L$  be a left normal band with  $E$  as its structure semilattice. Let  $L^d$  be the band dual to  $L$ . Of course,  $L^d$  is right normal and  $E$  is the structure semilattice of  $L^d$ . Define the unary operation  $*$  on the quasi direct product  $Q = [L: S: L^d]$  by  $(a, x, b)^* = (b, x^{-1}, a)$ .

**THEOREM 2.2.** *The quasi direct product  $Q = [L: S: L^d]$  is a generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup. Conversely, if  $T$  is a generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup, then the mapping  $\phi: a \rightarrow (R_{aa'}, a\mathcal{Y}, R_{a'a})$  is an isomorphism of  $T$  onto  $(E(T)/\mathcal{R}: T/\mathcal{Y}: (E(T)/\mathcal{R})^d)$ .*

**PROOF.** It will be shown first that  $Q = [L: S: L^d]$  is a generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup. By Theorem 1.1, it will only be necessary to check that the unary operation  $*$  has the required properties. Notice that with  $L^d$  in the third coordinate, the multiplication in  $Q = [L: S: L^d]$  becomes  $(a, x, b)(c, y, d) = (au, xy, dv)$  where  $u \in L_{(xy)(xy)^{-1}}$  and  $v \in L_{(xy)^{-1}(xy)}$ .

It is easy to see that  $(a, x, b)^{**} = (a, x, b)$ . Further  $(a, x, b)(a, x, b)^* = (a, x, b)(b, x^{-1}, a) = (au, xx^{-1}, av)$  where  $u, v \in L_{xx^{-1}}$ . Noting that  $L_e$  is a left zero semigroup for all  $e \in E$ ,  $(au, xx^{-1}, av) = (a, xx^{-1}, a)$ . Thus,  $(a, x, b)(a, x, b)^*(a, x, b) = (a, xx^{-1}, a)(a, x, b) = (au, xx^{-1}x, bv) = (a, x, b)$  since  $a, u \in L_{xx^{-1}}$  and  $b, v \in L_{x^{-1}x}$ . Finally, in order to compute  $[(a, x, b)(c, y, d)]^*$ , let  $u \in L_{(xy)(xy)^{-1}}$  and  $v \in L_{(xy)^{-1}(xy)}$ . Then  $[(a, x, b)(c, y, d)]^* = (au, xy, dv)^* = (dv, (xy)^{-1}, au) = (d, y^{-1}, c)(b, x^{-1}, a) = (c, y, d)^*(a, x, b)^*$ . This completes the argument that  $Q = [L: S: L^d]$  is a generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup.

Turning to the second part of the theorem, Theorem 2.1 says that the mapping  $\theta: a \rightarrow (R_{aa'}, a\mathcal{Y}, L_{a'a})$  is an isomorphism of  $T$  onto  $[E(T)/\mathcal{R}: T/\mathcal{Y}: E(T)/\mathcal{L}]$ .

Consider now the map  $f: L_p \rightarrow R_p$  of  $E(T)/\mathcal{L}$  onto  $E(T)/\mathcal{R}$  where  $p$  is a

projection ( $p = p^*$ ) in  $E(T)$ . This is a well defined map as each  $\mathcal{L}[\mathcal{R}]$  class contains a unique projection [5, Theorem 2.2]. Also  $f$  is an antimorphism since  $f[L_p L_q] = f[L_{pq}] = f[L_{(pq)^*(pq)}] = f[L_{q^* p^* pq}] = f[L_{qpq}] = R_{qpq} = R_{qp} = R_q R_p = f(L_q) f(L_p)$ . Thus  $f$  is an isomorphism from  $E(T)/\mathcal{L}$  onto  $[E(T)/\mathcal{R}]^d$ . It now follows that  $\phi: a \rightarrow (R_{aa^*}, a\mathcal{Y}, R_{a^*a})$  is an isomorphism of  $T$  onto  $[E(T)/\mathcal{R}: T/\mathcal{Y}: [E(T)/\mathcal{R}]^d]$ . This isomorphism  $\phi$  also preserves  $*$  since  $[\phi(a)]^* = (R_{aa^*}, a\mathcal{Y}, R_{a^*a})^* = (R_{a^*a}, (a\mathcal{Y})^{-1}, R_{aa^*}) = (R_{a^*a}, a^*\mathcal{Y}, R_{aa^*}) = \phi(a^*)$ .

**COROLLARY 2.3.** *Let  $T$  be a generalized inverse semigroup. Then  $T$  admits an involution  $*$  if and only if  $E(T)$  admits an involution  $*$ . If  $T$  admits an involution  $*$ , it admits only one (up to isomorphism).*

**PROOF.** The uniqueness of  $*$  on  $T$ , if it exists, follows directly from Theorem 2.2. Suppose that  $E(T)$  admits  $*$ . Then  $E(T) \cong E(T)/\mathcal{R} \otimes [E(T)/\mathcal{R}]^d$ , the spined product of  $E(T)/\mathcal{R}$  with  $[E(T)/\mathcal{R}]^d$ . This is a part of the proof of Theorem 2.2. Alternately, it is proved directly in [9]. It follows that  $T = [L: S: L^d]$  by Theorem 2.1. Thus  $T$  admits  $*$  by Theorem 2.2.

**3. The free generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup.** The purpose of this section is to give a characterization of the free generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup. The construction depends upon the free inverse semigroup, so let us review that construction before proceeding.

Let  $X$  be a non-empty set and let  $Y = X \cup X^{-1}$ . Let  $F$  be the free semigroup on  $X$  and let  $G$  be the free group on  $X$ . Let  $R$  be the set of all reduced words in  $Y$  ( $x$  never stands next to  $x^{-1}$ ) so that  $G = R \cup \{1\}$  where 1 is the empty word. For each  $y \in Y$ , let  $\bar{y}: G \rightarrow G$  be defined by

$$(\bar{y})\bar{v} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v = 1 \\ y^{-1} & \text{if } v = y \\ y^{-1} \cdot v & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For  $w = y_1 y_2 \cdots y_n \in G$ , let  $\bar{w} = \bar{y}_1 \bar{y}_2 \cdots \bar{y}_n$ . When  $A \subset G$ , let  $A\bar{w} = \{a\bar{w}: a \in A\}$ .

Now let  $E$  be the set of all non-empty finite subsets of  $R$  which are closed under the operation of taking initial segments. Let  $I = \{(A, w) \in E \times G: w \in A\}$ . Define multiplication in  $I$  by  $(A, w)(B, v) = (A \cup B(\bar{w})^{-1}, w \cdot v)$ . Then  $\mathcal{F} = (I, \varepsilon)$  is a free inverse semigroup on  $X$  where  $\varepsilon: X \rightarrow I$  by  $\varepsilon(x) = (\{x\}, x)$  [7].

The idempotents of  $I$  are the sets  $(A, 1)$  where  $A \in E$ . The idempotent  $(A, 1)$  is used to represent the product  $\prod_{w \in A} w w^{-1}$ . For example, if  $A = \{x, xy, xz^{-1}\}$ , then  $(A, 1) \equiv (xx^{-1})(xyy^{-1}x^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1}) = (xyy^{-1}x^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})$ . Notice that in a generalized inverse semigroup where the band is normal, these two idempotents would still commute since  $(xy^{-1}yx^{-1})$

$(xz^{-1}zx^{-1}) = (xx^{-1})(xy^{-1}yx^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})(xx^{-1}) = (xx^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})(xy^{-1}yx^{-1})(xx^{-1}) = (xz^{-1}zx^{-1})(xy^{-1}yx^{-1})$ . Of course, two idempotents  $ww^{-1}$  and  $vv^{-1}$  would always commute when  $w$  and  $v$  have the same first letter. Now let  $C = \{x, xy, xz^{-1}, r, rs\}$ . In an inverse semigroup,  $\prod_{w \in C} ww^{-1}$  would be  $(xyy^{-1}x^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})(rss^{-1}r^{-1})$ . However, in a generalized inverse semigroup, these three idempotents would form four distinct products, namely  $(xyy^{-1}x^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})(rss^{-1}r^{-1})$ ,  $(xyy^{-1}x^{-1})(rss^{-1}r^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})$ ,  $(rss^{-1}r^{-1})(xyy^{-1}x^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})$ , and  $(rss^{-1}r^{-1})(xyy^{-1}x^{-1})(xz^{-1}zx^{-1})(rss^{-1}r^{-1})$ . The order in which the idempotents appear really depends only on the first letter of the first word and the last letter of the last word.

Now let  $L = \{(x, A) \in Y \times E : x \in A\}$ . Define multiplication on  $L$  by  $(x, A)(y, B) = (x, A \cup B)$ . Then  $L$  is a left normal band with structure semilattice  $E = E(I)$ .  $L$  is constructed in such a way that the spined product  $L \otimes L^d$  of  $L$  with the dual of  $L$  will play the role of the band of idempotents in the free generalized inverse \* semigroup.

Let  $L$  be the left normal band constructed above, and let  $I$  be the free inverse semigroup. Let  $[L : I : L^d]$  be the quasi direct product of  $L, I$ , and  $L$  dual. Define  $i : X \rightarrow [L : I : L^d]$  by  $i(x) = [(x, \{x\}), \varepsilon(x), (x^{-1}, \{x^{-1}\})]$ .

**THEOREM 3.1.**  *$([L : I : L^d], i)$  is a free generalized inverse \* semigroup on the set  $X$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $T$  be any generalized inverse \* semigroup, and let  $f : X \rightarrow T$ . By Theorem 2.2, there is a left normal band  $M$  and an inverse semigroup  $S$  such that  $T = [M : S : M^d]$ .

Since  $f : X \rightarrow [M : S : M^d]$ ,  $f$  factors into coordinate maps,  $f = (\alpha, g, \beta)$ , where  $\alpha, \beta : X \rightarrow M = \bigcup_{e \in E} M_e$  and  $g : X \rightarrow S$ . Now extend  $\alpha : X \rightarrow M$  to  $\alpha : Y \rightarrow M$  by  $\alpha(x^{-1}) = \beta(x)$  when  $x \in X$ .

Since  $g : X \rightarrow S$  and  $(I, \varepsilon)$  is a free inverse semigroup on  $X$ , there is a homomorphism  $\phi : I \rightarrow S$  such that  $\phi \circ \varepsilon = g$ .

Now define a mapping  $\theta : [L : I : L^d] \rightarrow [M : S : M^d]$  by

$$\theta[(x, A), (A, w), (y, A\bar{w})] = [\alpha(x)u, \phi(A, w), \alpha(y)v]$$

where  $u \in M_{\phi(A,1)}$  and  $v \in M_{\phi(A\bar{w},1)}$ .

It must be checked, of course, that the right hand member of equation (1) actually belongs to the \* semigroup  $[M : S : M^d]$ . To do this, it will be necessary to show that  $\alpha(x)u \in M_{[\phi(A,w)][\phi(A,w)]^{-1}}$  when  $u \in M_{\phi(A,1)}$ , that  $\alpha(y)v \in M_{[\phi(A,w)]^{-1}[M(A,w)]}$  when  $v \in M_{\phi(A\bar{w},1)}$ , and that the products  $\alpha(x)u, \alpha(y)v$  are independent of the choice of  $u, v$ . Notice that  $[\phi(A, w)][\phi(A, w)]^{-1} = \phi[(A, w)(A, w)^{-1}] = \phi(A, 1)$  and  $[\phi(A, w)]^{-1}[\phi(A, w)] = \phi[(A, w)^{-1}(A, w)] = \phi(A\bar{w}, 1)$ . It will be shown that when  $x \in A$ , then  $\alpha(x) \in M_e$  where  $e \in E(S)$  and  $e \geq \phi(A, 1)$ . The same argument will say that

when  $y \in A\bar{w}$ , then  $\alpha(y) \in M_f$  where  $f \in E(S)$  and  $f \geq \phi(A\bar{w}, 1)$  From this will follow the desired result.

Suppose first that  $x \in X$ . Since  $f(x) = [\alpha(x), g(x), \beta(x)] \in [L: S: L^d]$ ,  $\alpha(x) \in M_{[g(x)][f(x)]^{-1}}$ . Thus, it is enough to show that  $[g(x)][g(x)]^{-1} \geq \phi(A, 1)$ . From  $x \in A$  follows that  $(\{x\}, x)(\{x\}, x)^{-1} \geq (A, 1)$  so that  $[\phi(\{x\}, x)][\phi(\{x\}, x)]^{-1} \geq \phi(A, 1)$ . Thus,  $[g(x)][g(x)]^{-1} \geq \phi(A, 1)$ .

Now let  $x = t^{-1}$  where  $t \in X$ . Since  $f(t) = [\alpha(t), g(t), \beta(t)]$ ,  $\alpha(x) = \beta(t) \in M_{[g(t)]^{-1}[g(t)]}$ . So, it must be shown that  $[g(t)]^{-1}[g(t)] \geq \phi(A, 1)$ . Now  $(\{t\}, t)^{-1}(\{t\}, t) = (\{t^{-1}\}, 1) \geq (A, 1)$  so that  $[\phi(\{t\}, t)]^{-1}[\phi(\{t\}, t)] \geq \phi(A, 1)$ . Thus  $[g(t)]^{-1}[g(t)] \geq \phi(A, 1)$  as required.

It is now routine (although tedious) to calculate that  $\phi$  is a homomorphism and that  $\phi$  preserves the involution  $*$ . Further, when  $x \in X$  then  $(\theta \circ i)(x) = \theta([x, \{x\}], (\{x\}, x), (x^{-1}, \{x^{-1}\})) = [\alpha(x)u, \phi(\{x\}, x), \alpha(x^{-1})v] = [\alpha(x)u, g(x), \alpha(x^{-1})v]$  where  $u \in M_{[g(x)][g(x)]^{-1}}$  and  $v \in M_{[g(x)]^{-1}[g(x)]}$ . But  $\alpha(x) \in M_{[g(x)][g(x)]^{-1}}$  so that  $\alpha(x)u = \alpha(x)$ . Similarly,  $\alpha(x^{-1})v = \alpha(x^{-1})$ . Thus,  $(\theta \circ i)(x) = [\alpha(x), g(x), \alpha(x^{-1})] = [\alpha(x), g(x), \beta(x)] = f(x)$  so that  $\theta \circ i = f$ . Finally, it is easy to see that  $i(X)$  generates  $[L: I: L^d]$  since  $\varepsilon(X)$  generates  $I$ . Thus, the homomorphism  $\theta$  is unique.

**COROLLARY 2.3.** *The band of the free generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup  $[L: I: L^d]$  is isomorphic to  $\{(x, A, y) \in Y \times E \times Y: x, y \in A\}$  with multiplication  $(x, A, y)(r, B, s) = (x, A \cup B, s)$ .*

**REMARK 2.4.** Suppose now that  $X = \{x\}$ , a singleton set. Let  $I$  be the free semigroup on  $X$  with semilattice  $E$  and let  $G$  be the free generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup on  $X$  with band  $B$ . Of course,  $B$  has  $E$  as its structure semilattice. Every maximal rectangular subband of  $B$  will have either one or four elements. To see how this works, let us take two examples of elements of  $E$ .

If  $A = \{x, x^2, x^3\} \in E$ , then  $(A, 1) \equiv x^3x^{-3}$  in  $E$ . In  $B$ , the rectangular band at  $A$  is just  $(x, A, x) \equiv x^3x^{-3}$ .

Now let  $C = \{x, x^2, x^3, x^{-1}, x^{-2}\}$ . Then  $(C, 1) \equiv (x^3x^{-3})(x^{-2}x^2)$  in  $E$ . In  $B$ , the  $2 \times 2$  rectangular band at  $A$  consists of

$$\begin{aligned} (x, A, x) &\equiv (x^3x^{-3})(x^{-2}x^2)(x^3x^{-3}) \\ (x, A, x^{-1}) &\equiv (x^3x^{-3})(x^{-2}x^2) \\ (x^{-1}, A, x) &\equiv (x^{-2}x^2)(x^3x^{-3}) \\ (x^{-1}, A, x^{-1}) &\equiv (x^{-2}x^2)(x^3x^{-3})(x^{-2}x^2). \end{aligned}$$

One might wish to compare this with the band of  $H$ , where  $H$  is the free orthodox  $*$  semigroup on  $X = \{x\}$ . In the band of  $H$ , the sizes of the maximal rectangular subbands are unbounded [8].

**4. The natural partial order.** The aim of this section will be to discuss

the natural partial order on a generalized inverse semigroup  $T$ . We shall also characterize this partial order when  $T$  has an involution.

First let  $S$  be any semigroup and let  $E = E(S)$  be the set of idempotents of  $S$ . Recall that the set  $E$  has a partial order defined by  $e \leq f$  means  $e = ef = fe$ . In the case where  $S$  is an inverse semigroup with semilattice  $E$  the partial order on  $E$  extends to a partial order on  $S$  defined by  $a \leq b$  means  $aa^{-1} = ba^{-1}$ . This partial order is compatible with multiplication and inversion. It is equivalent to define  $\leq$  by  $a \leq b$  means  $a^{-1}a = a^{-1}b$  [2].

Now let  $S$  be any regular semigroup with set  $E$  of idempotents. The partial order on  $E$  extends to a partial order on  $S$  defined by  $a \leq b$  means  $a = eb = bf$  for some  $e, f \in E$  [4]. This partial order  $\leq$  is compatible with multiplication if and only if  $S$  is pseudo-inverse, i.e.,  $eSe$  is an inverse semigroup for each  $e \in E$  [6].

Generalized inverse semigroups are pseudo-inverse [6]. Thus, the natural partial order on a generalized inverse semigroup is compatible with multiplication. Let us derive an alternate characterization of  $\leq$ . In what follows,  $V(a)$  will denote the set of inverses of  $a$ .

LEMMA 4.1. [3, Lemma 2.1]. *Let  $T$  be a generalized inverse semigroup and let  $a, b \in T$ . The following are equivalent.*

1. *There exists  $e \in E(T)$  such that  $a = be$ .*
2. *For each  $a' \in V(a)$ ,  $a = ba'a$ .*

COROLLARY 4.2. *Let  $T$  be a generalized inverse semigroup and let  $a, b \in T$ . The following are equivalent.*

1. *There exists  $e \in E(T)$  such that  $a = be$ .*
2. *There exists  $a' \in V(a)$  such that  $a = ba'a$ ,  $aa' = ba'$ .*
3. *For each  $a' \in V(a)$ ,  $a = ba'a$ ,  $aa' = ba'$ .*

PROPOSITION 4.3. *Let  $T$  be a generalized inverse semigroup, The natural partial order  $\leq$  on  $T$  may be characterized by (1)  $a \leq b$  means there exists  $a' \in V(a)$  such that  $aa' = ba'$ ,  $a'a = a'b$ , or equivalently by (2)  $a \leq b$  means for each  $a' \in V(a)$  then  $aa' = ba'$ ,  $a'a = a'b$ .*

REMARK 4.4. Let  $T$  be a generalized inverse semigroup, say  $T = [L : S : R]$  for a left (right) normal band  $L(R)$  and an inverse semigroup  $S$ . Let  $A = (a, x, b)$  and  $B = (c, y, d) \in T$ . We shall see that  $A \leq B$  if and only if  $a \leq c$ ,  $x \leq y$ , and  $b \leq d$ .

Assume first that  $A \leq B$ . Let  $A' = (r, x^{-1}, s) \in T$ . It is routine to check that  $A' \in V(A)$ . Now  $AA' = (a, x, b)(r, x^{-1}, s) = (au, xx^{-1}, vs)$  where  $u \in L_{xx^{-1}}$ ,  $v \in R_{xx^{-1}} = (a, xx^{-1}, s)$ . Also  $BA' = (c, y, d)(r, x^{-1}, s) = (cU, xy^{-1}, Vs)$  where  $U \in L_{(yx^{-1})(yx^{-1})^{-1}}$  and  $V \in R_{(yx^{-1})^{-1}(yx^{-1})}$ . Since  $AA' = BA'$ , then  $xx^{-1} = yx^{-1}$  and  $a = cY$ . From this follows  $x \leq y$  and  $a \leq c$ . Similarly,  $A'A = A'B$  implies  $b \leq d$ .

Assume now that  $a \leq c$ ,  $x \leq y$ , and  $b \leq d$ . As before, let  $A' = (r, x^{-1}, s) \in V(A)$ . Since  $x \leq y$ , then  $xx^{-1} = yx^{-1}$ . Thus  $BA' = (c, y, d)$   $(r, x^{-1}, s) = (ca, yx^{-1}, ss)$  (since  $a \in L_{xx^{-1}}$  and  $s \in R_{xx^{-1}} = (a, xx^{-1}, s) = AA'$ . Similarly,  $A'A = A'B$ .

**COROLLARY 4.5.** *Let  $(T, \cdot, *)$  be a generalized inverse  $*$  semigroup. The relation  $\leq$  defined by  $a \leq b$  means  $aa^* = ba^*$  and  $a^*a = a^*b$  is a partial order on  $T$  which is compatible with  $\cdot$  and  $*$ , and which extends the natural partial order on  $E$ .*

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