## On automorphism groups of semigroups of k-linked upfamilies

## Volodymyr Gavrylkiv

The through study of various extensions of semigroups was started in [12] and continued in [1]-[10], [13]-[19]. The largest among these extensions is the semigroup v(S) of all upfamilies on a semigroup S. A family  $\mathcal{M}$  of non-empty subsets of a set X is called an upfamily if for each set  $A \in \mathcal{M}$  any subset  $B \supset A$ of X belongs to  $\mathcal{M}$ . Each family  $\mathcal{B}$  of non-empty subsets of X generates the upfamily  $\{A \subset X : \exists B \in \mathcal{B} \ (B \subset A)\}$  which we denote by  $\langle B \subset X : B \in \mathcal{B} \rangle$ . An upfamily  $\mathcal{F}$  that is closed under taking finite intersections is called a *filter*. A filter  $\mathcal{U}$  is called an *ultrafilter* if  $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{F}$  for any filter  $\mathcal{F}$  containing  $\mathcal{U}$ . The family  $\beta(X)$  of all ultrafilters on a set X is called the *Stone-Čech compactification* of X, see [20]. An ultrafilter  $\langle \{x\} \rangle$ , generated by a singleton  $\{x\}, x \in X$ , is called *principal*. Each point  $x \in X$  is identified with the principal ultrafilter  $\langle \{x\} \rangle$ generated by the singleton  $\{x\}$ , and hence we can consider  $X \subset \beta(X) \subset v(X)$ . It was shown in [12] that any associative binary operation  $*: S \times S \to S$  can be extended to an associative binary operation  $*: v(S) \times v(S) \to v(S)$  by the formula

$$\mathcal{L} * \mathcal{M} = \left\langle \bigcup_{a \in L} a * M_a : L \in \mathcal{L}, \ \{M_a\}_{a \in L} \subset \mathcal{M} \right\rangle$$

for upfamilies  $\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{M} \in v(S)$ . In this case the Stone-Čech compactification  $\beta(S)$ is a subsemigroup of the semigroup v(S). The semigroup v(S) contains many other important extensions of S. In particular, it contains the semigroups  $N_k(S)$ of k-linked upfamilies for  $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ . An upfamily  $\mathcal{L} \in v(S)$  is called k-linked if  $\bigcap \mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$  for any subfamily  $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathcal{L}$  of cardinality  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq k$ .

Given a semigroup S we shall discuss the algebraic structure of automorphism groups  $\operatorname{Aut}(N_k(S))$  of extensions  $N_k(S)$  of S. We show that for each  $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ any automorphism of a semigroup S can be extended to an automorphism of its extension  $N_k(S)$ , and the automorphism group  $\operatorname{Aut}(N_k(S))$  of the extension  $N_k(S)$  of a semigroup S contains a subgroup, isomorphic to the group  $\operatorname{Aut}(S)$ . We describe automorphism groups of extensions of groups, finite monogenic semigroups, null semigroups, almost null semigroups, right zero semigroups and left zero semigroups.

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Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University Ivano-Frankivsk, Shevchenko Street 57 Ukraine

email: vgavrylkiv@gmail.com

web: gavrylkiv.pu.if.ua