

Free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups

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Abstract. We introduce left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups which are analogs of left (right) nilpotent semigroups of rank p considered by Schein, and construct the free left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1. We prove that the free left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank $m > 1$ is a subdirect product of the free left (right) k -nilpotent semigroup with m generators and the free left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1. We also characterize the least left (right) k -nilpotent congruence on the free n -tuple semigroup.

Mathematics subject classification: 08B20, 20M10, 20M99, 17A30.

Keywords and phrases: n -tuple semigroup, free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup, free n -tuple semigroup, semigroup, congruence.

1 Introduction

In [8], Koreshkov introduced n -tuple algebras of associative type, using n -tuple semigroups. The n -tuple semigroups now play an important role in different areas of algebra: they contain varieties of commutative dimonoids [10, 16, 17, 25] and commutative trioids [11, 18, 26], they occur in the theory of interassociative semigroups [1–3, 5], and in recent advances in doppelsemigroup theory [19, 22, 24, 27, 28, 33], they apply in the theory of n -tuple algebras of associative type [6–8]. In addition to their widespread appearance, n -tuple semigroups are connected to duplexes [13], g -dimonoids [12, 34], and restrictive bisemigroups [15], while 1-tuple semigroups are semigroups.

One of the central tools of universal algebra is the free object in a variety. The variety of n -tuple semigroups behave well with respect to the typical subvarieties. Recently, free systems in the varieties of n -tuple semigroups [20], commutative n -tuple semigroups [29], k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups [31], and rectangular n -tuple semigroups [23] were constructed. The free product of arbitrary n -tuple semigroups was given in [29].

In this paper, we introduce the variety of left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups. Such algebras are analogs of left (right) nilpotent semigroups of rank p considered by Schein [14], left (right) k -dinilpotent dimonoids [32], left (right) k -dinilpotent doppelsemigroups [19], and left (right) k -trinilpotent trioids [30]. Free objects in the varieties of left (right) k -dinilpotent dimonoids, left (right) k -dinilpotent

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*The first author was supported by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, project “Investigation of the properties and structure of some types of semigroups, groups, non-associative algebras, Loday structures and existence of one-parameter strongly-continuous contraction semigroups in weighted Banach spaces”.

doppelsemigroups, and left (right) k -trilinear trioids were constructed in [19, 32] and [30], respectively. The focus of this paper is to construct the free object in the variety of left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we present the relevant definitions and notations, and give some background results from [20]. Section 3 contains new results. We begin with constructing the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1 and the proof that the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank $m > 1$ is a subdirect product of the free left k -nilpotent semigroup with m generators and the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1. Then we count the cardinality of the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup for a finite case, establish that the semigroups of the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup are isomorphic and its automorphism group is isomorphic to the symmetric group. We also characterize the least left k -nilpotent congruence on the free n -tuple semigroup. The description of free right k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups and characterization of the least right k -nilpotent congruence on the free n -tuple semigroup are obtained in a dual way.

The results obtained in the present paper extend some results in [19].

2 Preliminaries

Following Schein [14], a semigroup T is called a left (right) nilpotent semigroup of rank p if the product of any p elements from this semigroup gives a left (right) zero. Right nilpotent semigroups appear in automata theory, namely, such semigroups are semigroups of self-adaptive automata (see [4, 9]). The class of all left nilpotent semigroups of rank p is characterized by the identity $g_1 g_2 \dots g_p g_{p+1} = g_1 g_2 \dots g_p$. The least such p will be called the left nilpotency index of a semigroup T . As usual, we denote the set of all positive integers by \mathbb{N} . For $k \in \mathbb{N}$ a left nilpotent semigroup of left nilpotency index $\leq k$ is said to be a left k -nilpotent semigroup. Right k -nilpotent semigroups are defined dually. The class of all left (right) k -nilpotent semigroups forms a subvariety of the variety of semigroups. A semigroup which is free in the variety of left (right) k -nilpotent semigroups will be called a free left (right) k -nilpotent semigroup. Recently, analogs of a left (right) nilpotent semigroup of rank p were introduced in the varieties of dimonoids [32], doppelsemigroups [19], and trioids [30].

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ denote the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ by \bar{n} . Recall that an n -tuple semigroup [8] is a nonempty set G equipped with n binary operations $\boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}$ satisfying the axioms $(x \boxed{r} y) \boxed{s} z = x \boxed{r} (y \boxed{s} z)$ for all $x, y, z \in G$ and $r, s \in \bar{n}$. For n -tuple semigroups, it is natural to introduce an analog of a left (right) nilpotent semigroup of rank p .

An n -tuple semigroup $(G, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n})$ will be called left nilpotent if for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, every $x_1, \dots, x_m, x_{m+1} \in G$, and all $i \in \bar{n}$, the following identities hold:

$$(x_1 *_1 \dots *_m x_m) \boxed{i} x_{m+1} = x_1 *_1 \dots *_m x_m, \quad (2.1)$$

where $*_1, \dots, *_m \in \{\boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}\}$. The least such m will be called the left nilpotency index of $(G, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n})$. For $k \in \mathbb{N}$ a left nilpotent n -tuple semigroup

of left nilpotency index $\leq k$ is said to be a left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup. Right k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups are defined dually.

It is clear that operations of any left (right) 1-nilpotent n -tuple semigroup coincide and it is a left (right) zero semigroup, and the class of all left (right) k -nilpotent 1-tuple semigroups coincides with the class of all left (right) k -nilpotent semigroups. The class of all left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups forms a subvariety of the variety of n -tuple semigroups. An n -tuple semigroup which is free in the variety of left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups will be called a free left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup. If ρ is a congruence on an n -tuple semigroup M such that M/ρ is a left (right) k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup, we say that ρ is a left (right) k -nilpotent congruence.

The free n -tuple semigroup was first given in [20]. Recall this construction.

Let X be an arbitrary nonempty set, and let w be an arbitrary word over X . The length of w is denoted by l_w . Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $Y = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n\}$ be an arbitrary set consisting of n elements. Let further $F[X]$ be the free semigroup on X , let $F^\theta[Y]$ be the free monoid on Y , and let $\theta \in F^\theta[Y]$ be the empty word. By definition, the length l_θ of θ is equal to 0. Define n binary operations $\boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}$ on

$$XY_n = \{(w, u) \in F[X] \times F^\theta[Y] \mid l_w - l_u = 1\}$$

by

$$(w_1, u_1) \boxed{i} (w_2, u_2) = (w_1 w_2, u_1 y_i u_2)$$

for all $(w_1, u_1), (w_2, u_2) \in XY_n$ and $i \in \bar{n}$. The algebra $(XY_n, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n})$ is denoted by $F_n TS(X)$. By Theorem 2 of [20], $F_n TS(X)$ is the free n -tuple semigroup.

The following lemma is needed for the sequel.

Lemma 2.1. ([20], Lemma 1) *In an n -tuple semigroup $(G, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n})$, for every $m > 1$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, every $x_i \in G$, $1 \leq i \leq m + 1$, and every $*_j \in \{\boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}\}$, $1 \leq j \leq m$, any parenthesizing in*

$$x_1 *_1 x_2 *_2 \dots *_m x_{m+1}$$

gives the same element of G .

If $f : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ is a homomorphism of n -tuple semigroups, the kernel of f will be denoted by Δ_f . Denote the symmetric group on X by $\mathfrak{S}[X]$ and the automorphism group of an n -tuple semigroup M by $Aut M$.

3 Main results

In this section, we construct the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1 and prove that the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank $m > 1$ is a subdirect product of the free left k -nilpotent semigroup with m generators and the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1. We also count the cardinality of the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup for a finite case, establish that the semigroups

of the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup are isomorphic and its automorphism group is isomorphic to the symmetric group. Besides, we characterize the least left k -nilpotent congruence on the free n -tuple semigroup.

Let $w \in F[X]$. Fix $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Following [30], if $l_w \geq k$, let \overrightarrow{w}^k denote the initial subword with the length k of w , and if $l_w < k$, let $\overrightarrow{w}^k = w$. It is clear that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \xrightarrow{k} & & \xrightarrow{k} \\ \xrightarrow{k} & \xrightarrow{k} & \xrightarrow{k} \\ w_1 w_2 w_3 = w_1 w_2 w_3 = w_1 w_2 w_3 & & w_1 w_2 w_3 \end{array} \quad (3.1)$$

for all $w_1, w_2, w_3 \in F[X]$. We will also regard that $\overrightarrow{u}^0 = \overrightarrow{\theta}^k = \theta$ for all $u \in F^\theta[Y]$. Assume that $Y^{(k)} = \{u \in F^\theta[Y] \mid l_u + 1 \leq k\}$ and define n binary operations $\boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}$ on $Y^{(k)}$ by

$$u_1 \boxed{i} u_2 = \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2}^{k-1}$$

for all $u_1, u_2 \in Y^{(k)}$ and $i \in \overline{n}$. The algebra obtained in this way will be denoted by $Y_n^{(k)}$.

Theorem 3.1. $Y_n^{(k)}$ is the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1.

Proof. For $u_1, u_2, u_3 \in Y_n^{(k)}$ and $i, j \in \overline{n}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (u_1 \boxed{i} u_2) \boxed{j} u_3 &= \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2}^{k-1} \boxed{j} u_3 = \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2}^{k-1} \xrightarrow{k-1} \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2 y_j u_3}^{k-1} = \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2 y_j u_3}^{k-1} \\ &\xrightarrow{k-1} \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2 y_j u_3}^{k-1} = u_1 \boxed{i} \overrightarrow{u_2 y_j u_3}^{k-1} = u_1 \boxed{i} (u_2 \boxed{j} u_3) \end{aligned}$$

and so, $Y_n^{(k)}$ satisfies all axioms of an n -tuple semigroup.

Show that $Y_n^{(k)}$ is left k -nilpotent. Obviously, $Y_n^{(1)}$ is left 1-nilpotent. Let $k > 1$ and let $u_1 *_{k-1} \dots *_{k-1} u_k = u$ for arbitrary elements $u_1, \dots, u_k \in Y_n^{(k)}$, where $*_1, \dots, *_{k-1} \in \{\boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}\}$. Since $l_u = k - 1$,

$$u \boxed{i} g = \overrightarrow{u y_i g}^{k-1} = u$$

for any $g \in Y_n^{(k)}$ and $i \in \overline{n}$. Thus, by definition, $Y_n^{(k)}$ is a left nilpotent n -tuple semigroup. Further, if $k = 2$ and $i \in \overline{n}$, then

$$\theta \boxed{i} \theta = \overrightarrow{\theta y_i \theta}^1 = y_i \neq \theta,$$

and we conclude that $Y_n^{(2)}$ has left nilpotency index 2. Withal, for $k > 2$ and any $i \in \overline{n}$, we get

$$(\theta *_{k-1} \dots *_{k-1} \theta) \boxed{i} \theta = y_i^{k-2} \boxed{i} \theta = \overrightarrow{y_i^{k-1} \theta}^{k-1} = y_i^{k-1} \neq \theta *_{k-1} \dots *_{k-1} \theta.$$

Therefore $Y_n^{(k)}$ has left nilpotency index k .

Finally, prove that $Y_n^{(k)}$ is the singly generated free object in the variety of left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups.

Obviously, $Y_n^{(k)}$ is generated by θ . Let $(S, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n})$ be an arbitrary left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup, and let $\pi : \{\theta\} \rightarrow S$ be an arbitrary map. Suppose that $\theta\pi = \varepsilon \in S$. Define a map

$$\psi : Y_n^{(k)} \rightarrow (S, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}) : \omega \mapsto \omega\psi$$

by the rule

$$\omega\psi = \begin{cases} \varepsilon_1 \tilde{y}_{i_1} \varepsilon_2 \tilde{y}_{i_2} \dots \tilde{y}_{i_{s-1}} \varepsilon_s & \text{if } \omega = y_{i_1} y_{i_2} \dots y_{i_{s-1}}, y_{i_p} \in Y, \\ & 1 \leq p \leq s-1, s > 1, \\ \varepsilon & \text{if } \omega = \theta, \end{cases}$$

where $\varepsilon_r = \varepsilon$ for $1 \leq r \leq s$ and

$$\tilde{y}_{i_p} = \boxed{b} \quad \text{for some } b \in \bar{n} \Leftrightarrow y_{i_p} = y_b \quad (1 \leq p \leq s-1, s > 1). \quad (3.2)$$

According to Lemma 2.1, the map ψ is well-defined. Similar to the proof of Lemma 3.7 in [19] we can prove that ψ is a homomorphism. For this, we use Lemma 2.1 and (2.1).

Clearly, $\theta\psi = \theta\pi$. Since θ generates $Y_n^{(k)}$, the uniqueness of ψ is obvious. Thus, $Y_n^{(k)}$ is the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1. \square

Now we present the free left k -nilpotent semigroup.

Let $U_k = \{w \in F[X] \mid l_w \leq k\}$. A binary operation \cdot is defined on U_k by the rule

$$w_1 \cdot w_2 = \overrightarrow{w_1 w_2}^k$$

for all $w_1, w_2 \in U_k$. With respect to this operation U_k is a semigroup generated by X . It will be denoted by $FLNS_k(X)$.

Lemma 3.2. *$FLNS_k(X)$ is the free left k -nilpotent semigroup.*

Proof. By (3.1), $FLNS_k(X)$ is a semigroup. It is immediate to check that $FLNS_k(X)$ is left k -nilpotent. Let us show that $FLNS_k(X)$ is free left k -nilpotent.

Let T be an arbitrary left k -nilpotent semigroup, and let $\gamma : X \rightarrow T$ be an arbitrary map. Define the map

$$\phi : FLNS_k(X) \rightarrow T : x_1 \dots x_h \mapsto (x_1 \dots x_h)\phi = x_1 \gamma \dots x_h \gamma, \quad x_1, \dots, x_h \in X.$$

One can show that ϕ is a homomorphism. \square

We are ready to construct the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of an arbitrary rank.

Define n binary operations $\boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}$ on

$$W_k = \left\{ (w, u) \in FLNS_k(X) \times Y_n^{(k)} \mid l_w - l_u = 1 \right\}$$

by

$$(w_1, u_1) \boxed{i} (w_2, u_2) = \left(\overrightarrow{w_1 w_2}^k, \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2}^{k-1} \right)$$

for all $(w_1, u_1), (w_2, u_2) \in W_k$ and $i \in \overline{n}$. These operations are well-defined, since $l_{\overrightarrow{w_1 w_2}^k} - l_{\overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2}^{k-1}} = 1$ for all $i \in \overline{n}$. The obtained algebra will be denoted by $F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)$.

Theorem 3.3. $F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)$ is the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup.

Proof. It follows from Theorem 3.1 and Lemma 3.2 that $F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)$ is a left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup generated by $X \times \{\theta\}$. We state that this n -tuple semigroup is free left k -nilpotent.

Let $(S, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n})$ be an arbitrary left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup, and let $\beta : X \rightarrow S$ be an arbitrary map. Define a map

$$\alpha : F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X) \rightarrow (S, \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, \dots, \boxed{n}) : v \mapsto v\alpha$$

by the rule

$$v\alpha = \begin{cases} x_1 \beta \tilde{y}_{i_1} x_2 \beta \tilde{y}_{i_2} \dots \tilde{y}_{i_{s-1}} x_s \beta & \text{if } v = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_s, y_{i_1} y_{i_2} \dots y_{i_{s-1}}), \\ & x_j \in X, 1 \leq j \leq s, y_{i_p} \in Y, \\ & 1 \leq p \leq s-1, s > 1, \\ x_1 \beta & \text{if } v = (x_1, \theta), x_1 \in X, \end{cases}$$

where every \tilde{y}_{i_p} , $1 \leq p \leq s-1$, $s > 1$, is defined by (3.2). According to Lemma 2.1, α is well-defined.

Applying Lemma 2.1 and (2.1), similar to the proof of Lemma 3.7 in [19] one can show that α is a unique homomorphism extending β . Thus, $F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)$ is the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup. \square

Corollary 3.4. The free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup $F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)$ generated by a finite set $X \times \{\theta\}$ is finite. Specifically, $|F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)| = \sum_{i=1}^k n^{i-1} \cdot |X|^i$.

Corollary 3.5. Every free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank $m > 1$ is a subdirect product of the free left k -nilpotent semigroup with m generators and the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup of rank 1.

Proof. The rank of $F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)$ is $|X|$. Let $|X| = m > 1$. Then, by the above construction, $F_{(l)}^{k,n} NS(X)$ is a subdirect product of the free left k -nilpotent semigroup $FLNS_k(X)$ with m generators and the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup $Y_n^{(k)}$ of rank 1. \square

Corollary 3.6. $F_{(l)}^{k,1}NS(X)$ is the free left k -nilpotent semigroup.

Theorems 3.1 and 3.3 imply the following statement.

Corollary 3.7. If $|X| = 1$, then $Y_n^{(k)} \cong F_{(l)}^{k,n}NS(X)$.

Note that, for $n = 2$, Theorem 3.3 yields Theorem 3.1 in [19].

Corollary 3.9 in [19] implies the following statement establishing a relationship between the semigroups of the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup.

Proposition 3.8. For any $i, j \in \bar{n}$, the semigroups (W_k, \boxed{i}) and (W_k, \boxed{j}) of $F_{(l)}^{k,n}NS(X)$ are isomorphic.

Since the set $X \times \{\theta\}$ is generating for $F_{(l)}^{k,n}NS(X)$, we have the following isomorphism: $\text{Aut } F_{(l)}^{k,n}NS(X) \cong \mathfrak{S}[X]$.

Congruences play an important role when investigating different universal algebras (see, e.g., [21]). At the end of the paper, we characterize the least left k -nilpotent congruence on the free n -tuple semigroup.

For $k \in \mathbb{N}$ define a binary relation γ_k on the free n -tuple semigroup $F_nTS(X)$ by

$$(w_1, u_1)\gamma_k(w_2, u_2) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad (\overrightarrow{w_1}^k, \overrightarrow{u_1}^{k-1}) = (\overrightarrow{w_2}^k, \overrightarrow{u_2}^{k-1}).$$

Theorem 3.9. The relation γ_k on the free n -tuple semigroup $F_nTS(X)$ is the least left k -nilpotent congruence.

Proof. Define a map $\pi_k : F_nTS(X) \rightarrow F_{(l)}^{k,n}NS(X)$ by

$$(w, u) \mapsto (w, u)\pi_k = (\overrightarrow{w}^k, \overrightarrow{u}^{k-1}), \quad (w, u) \in F_nTS(X).$$

Let $(w_1, u_1), (w_2, u_2) \in F_nTS(X)$ and $i \in \bar{n}$. It is not difficult to check that

$$\overrightarrow{w_1 w_2}^k = \overrightarrow{w_1}^k \overrightarrow{w_2}^k, \quad \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2}^{k-1} = \overrightarrow{u_1}^{k-1} \overrightarrow{y_i} \overrightarrow{u_2}^{k-1}.$$

Using it, we have

$$\begin{aligned} ((w_1, u_1)\boxed{i}(w_2, u_2))\pi_k &= (w_1 w_2, u_1 y_i u_2)\pi_k = (\overrightarrow{w_1 w_2}^k, \overrightarrow{u_1 y_i u_2}^{k-1}) \\ &= (\overrightarrow{w_1}^k \overrightarrow{w_2}^k, \overrightarrow{u_1}^{k-1} \overrightarrow{y_i} \overrightarrow{u_2}^{k-1}) = (\overrightarrow{w_1}^k, \overrightarrow{u_1}^{k-1})\boxed{i}(\overrightarrow{w_2}^k, \overrightarrow{u_2}^{k-1}) = (w_1, u_1)\pi_k \boxed{i}(w_2, u_2)\pi_k. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, π_k is a homomorphism. Evidently, π_k is a surjection. Since by Theorem 3.3 $F_{(l)}^{k,n}NS(X)$ is the free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroup, Δ_{π_k} is the least left k -nilpotent congruence on $F_nTS(X)$. From the definition of π_k it follows that $\Delta_{\pi_k} = \gamma_k$. So, γ_k is the least left k -nilpotent congruence on $F_nTS(X)$. \square

For $n = 2$, Theorem 3.9 implies Theorem 4.1 in [19].

For $k \in \mathbb{N}$ define a binary relation μ_k on the free semigroup $F[X]$ by

$$w_1 \mu_k w_2 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \overrightarrow{w_1}^k = \overrightarrow{w_2}^k.$$

Corollary 3.10. *The relation μ_k on the free semigroup $F[X]$ is the least left k -nilpotent congruence.*

Remark 3.11. *In [19], the first author of this paper constructed the free left k -nilpotent doppelsemigroup, using the definition of \overrightarrow{w}^k for the case $l_w \geq k$. In this paper, we extend the definition of \overrightarrow{w}^k for the case $l_w < k$ as in [30]. This gives us the opportunity to simplify the definition of operations of free left k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups in comparison with the definition of operations of free left k -nilpotent doppelsemigroups. These changes imply a significant simplification of proofs for theorems in the present paper.*

Remark 3.12. *In order to construct free right k -nilpotent n -tuple semigroups and characterize the least right k -nilpotent congruence on the free n -tuple semigroup we use the duality principle.*

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Received September 11, 2020

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