



# Regularity and Finiteness Conditions on Transformation Semigroups with Invariant Sets

Saranya Phongchan<sup>1</sup> and Preeyanuch Honyam<sup>2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PhD Program in Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand  
e-mail : [saranya\\_ph@cmu.ac.th](mailto:saranya_ph@cmu.ac.th)

<sup>2</sup> Research Group in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand  
e-mail : [preeyanuch.h@cmu.ac.th](mailto:preeyanuch.h@cmu.ac.th)

**Abstract** Let  $X$  be a nonempty set and  $T(X)$  denote the semigroup of transformations from  $X$  to itself under the composition of functions. For a fixed nonempty subset  $Y$  of  $X$ , let

$$S(X, Y) = \{\alpha \in T(X) : Y\alpha \subseteq Y\}.$$

Then  $S(X, Y)$  is a semigroup of total transformations of  $X$  which leave a subset  $Y$  of  $X$  invariant. In this paper, we characterize coregular elements of  $S(X, Y)$  and give necessary and sufficient conditions for  $S(X, Y)$  to be coregular. Moreover, we study some properties of regularity on  $S(X, Y)$  and give necessary and sufficient conditions for  $S(X, Y)$  to be left regular, right regular, completely regular, intra-regular and directly finite.

**MSC:** 20M20

**Keywords:** transformation semigroup; regularity; directly finite

---

Submission date: 26.09.2022 / Acceptance date: 27.02.2023

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Regular semigroups play an important role in the semigroup theory and they have been studied from various aspects. An element  $a$  in a semigroup  $S$  is said to be *regular* if  $a = aba$  for some  $b \in S$ , *left regular* if  $a = ba^2$  for some  $b \in S$ , *right regular* if  $a = a^2b$  for some  $b \in S$ , *completely regular* if  $a = aba$  and  $ab = ba$  for some  $b \in S$  and *intra-regular* if  $a = ba^2c$  for some  $b, c \in S$ . In fact,  $a$  is both left and right regular if and only if  $a$  is completely regular.  $S$  is a *regular* [*left regular*, *right regular*, *completely regular* and *intra-regular*] *semigroup* if every element of  $S$  is regular [*left regular*, *right regular*, *completely regular* and *intra-regular*].

A special case of a regular element is a coregular element. An element  $a$  in a semigroup  $S$  is *coregular* if there exists  $b \in S$  such that  $a = aba = bab$ , and  $S$  is *coregular* if every element in  $S$  is coregular. Clearly, an element  $a$  in a semigroup  $S$  is coregular if and only

---

\*Corresponding author.

if  $a^3 = a$ , and every coregular element is regular, left regular, right regular and completely regular. Coregular semigroup was first introduced and studied by Bijev and Todorov [2].

We denote the set of all regular elements, left regular elements, right regular elements, completely regular elements, intra-regular elements and coregular elements of a semigroup  $S$  by  $\text{Reg}(S)$ ,  $\text{LReg}(S)$ ,  $\text{RReg}(S)$ ,  $\text{CReg}(S)$ ,  $\text{IReg}(S)$  and  $\text{CoReg}(S)$ , respectively.

An element  $a$  in a semigroup  $S$  is said to be *idempotent* if  $a^2 = a$ . Then an idempotent of  $S$  is regular, left regular, right regular, completely regular, intra-regular and coregular. The set of all idempotents of  $S$  is denoted by  $E(S)$ .

A semigroup  $S$  is *factorizable* if  $S = GE$  for some subgroup  $G$  of  $S$  and some set  $E$  of idempotents of  $S$ . We note that if a semigroup  $S$  is factorizable as  $GE$ , then  $S = GE(S)$ .

An element  $a$  of a monoid  $S$  is said to be *unit regular* if  $a = aua$  for some unit  $u$  in  $S$ ; and  $S$  is a *unit regular semigroup* if every element of  $S$  is unit regular. A monoid  $S$  with identity 1 is *directly finite* if for any  $a$  and  $b$  in  $S$ ,  $ab = 1$  implies  $ba = 1$ .

In 1980, Alarcao [1] characterized when a monoid  $S$  is unit regular and when it is directly finite. The author also gave relationships between a factorizable semigroup, a unit regular semigroup and a directly finite semigroup.

Let  $X$  be a nonempty set, and  $T(X)$  denote the set of all transformations from  $X$  to itself. Then  $T(X)$  is a semigroup under the composition of maps and it is called the *full transformation semigroup* on  $X$ . It is known that  $T(X)$  is a regular semigroup and every semigroup can be embedded in  $T(Z)$  for some set  $Z$  (see [7]).

In 1979, Tirasupa [10] showed that  $T(X)$  is factorizable if and only if  $X$  is finite. Later, in 1980 Alarcao [1] gave necessary and sufficient conditions for  $T(X)$  to be unit regular and directly finite.

For a fixed nonempty subset  $Y$  of  $X$ , let

$$S(X, Y) = \{\alpha \in T(X) : Y\alpha \subseteq Y\}.$$

Then  $S(X, Y)$  is a semigroup of total transformations on  $X$  which leave a subset  $Y$  of  $X$  invariant. The semigroup  $S(X, Y)$  was first introduced and studied by Magill [8] in 1966. To the extent that  $S(X, X) = T(X)$ , we may regard  $S(X, Y)$  as a generalization of  $T(X)$ . Note that the identity map on  $X$ , denoted by  $id_X$ , belongs to  $S(X, Y)$ . For many years, its concepts in semigroup theory such as regularity, automorphisms, factorization, Green's relations and ideals are studied. In fact, elements of  $S(X, Y)$  need not be regular that means  $S(X, Y)$  is not a regular semigroup in general. In 2005, Nenthein, Youngkhong and Kemprasit [9] showed that  $S(X, Y)$  is a regular semigroup if and only if  $X = Y$  or  $Y$  contains exactly one element, and

$$\text{Reg}(S(X, Y)) = \{\alpha \in S(X, Y) : X\alpha \cap Y = Y\alpha\}$$

is the set of all regular elements of  $S(X, Y)$ . Boonmee [3] characterized when  $S(X, Y)$  is a factorizable semigroup in 2007. Later in 2011, Honyam and Sanwong [6] characterized when  $S(X, Y)$  is isomorphic to  $T(Z)$  for some set  $Z$  and proved that every semigroup  $A$  can be embedded in  $S(A^1, A)$  where  $A^1$  is a monoid obtained from  $A$  by adjoining an identity if necessary. Moreover, they also described Green's relations and ideals of  $S(X, Y)$ . In 2013, Choomanee, Honyam and Sanwong [4] characterized left regular, right regular and intra-regular elements of  $S(X, Y)$  and considered the relationships between these elements. Also, they found the number of left regular elements of  $S(X, Y)$  when  $X$  is a finite set.

In this paper, we characterize coregular elements on  $S(X, Y)$  and give necessary and sufficient conditions for  $S(X, Y)$  to be coregular in section 3. In section 4, we determine

when  $S(X, Y)$  is left regular, right regular, completely regular and intra-regular and we characterize when  $L\text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$ ,  $R\text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$ ,  $C\text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$  and  $I\text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$  to be subsemigroups of  $S(X, Y)$ . Moreover, in section 5, we give necessary and sufficient conditions for  $S(X, Y)$  to be directly finite.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we introduced some concepts and some results that will be used throughout this paper.

Throughout this paper, the cardinality of a set  $A$  is denoted by  $|A|$ . Also, we write functions on the right; in particular, this means that for a composition  $\alpha\beta$ ,  $\alpha$  is applied first.

According to Clifford and Preston [5], vol. 2, p. 241, we will use the notation

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} X_i \\ a_i \end{pmatrix}$$

to mean that  $\alpha \in T(X)$  and take as understood that the subscript  $i$  belongs to some (unmentioned) index set  $I$ , the abbreviation  $\{a_i\}$  denotes  $\{a_i : i \in I\}$ , and that  $X\alpha = \{a_i\}$  and  $a_i\alpha^{-1} = X_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . Given  $i \in I$ , if  $X_i = \{x\}$  for some  $x \in X$ , then we simply write  $x$  instead of  $\{x\}$ .

We modify the convention as in  $T(X)$ , for any  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$  we can write

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} A_i & B_j & C_k \\ a_i & b_j & c_k \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $A_i \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ ;  $B_j, C_k \subseteq X \setminus Y$ ;  $\{a_i\} \subseteq Y$ ,  $\{b_j\} \subseteq Y \setminus \{a_i\}$  and  $\{c_k\} \subseteq X \setminus Y$ . Here,  $I$  is a nonempty set, but  $J$  or  $K$  can be empty. For example: if  $\alpha \in \text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$ , then  $J$  is an empty set. And if  $\alpha \notin \text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$ , then both  $I$  and  $J$  are nonempty sets but  $K$  can be an empty set.

We note that for any  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$ , the symbol  $\pi_\alpha$  will denote the partition of  $X$  induced by the map  $\alpha$ , namely

$$\pi_\alpha = \{x\alpha^{-1} : x \in X\alpha\}$$

and  $\pi_\alpha(Y)$  will denote the subset of  $\pi_\alpha$  which is defined by

$$\pi_\alpha(Y) = \{x\alpha^{-1} : x \in X\alpha \cap Y\}.$$

Green's relations on  $S(X, Y)$  are given by Honyam and Sanwong [6], which are needed in characterizing some properties of regularity on  $S(X, Y)$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** [6, Lemmas 2-3 and Theorems 4-5] *Let  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$ . Then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $\alpha\mathcal{L}\beta$  if and only if  $X\alpha = X\beta$  and  $Y\alpha = Y\beta$ .
- (2)  $\alpha\mathcal{R}\beta$  if and only if  $\pi_\alpha = \pi_\beta$  and  $\pi_\alpha(Y) = \pi_\beta(Y)$ .
- (3)  $\alpha\mathcal{H}\beta$  if and only if  $X\alpha = X\beta, Y\alpha = Y\beta, \pi_\alpha = \pi_\beta$  and  $\pi_\alpha(Y) = \pi_\beta(Y)$ .
- (4)  $\alpha\mathcal{D}\beta$  if and only if  $|Y\alpha| = |Y\beta|, |X\alpha \setminus Y| = |X\beta \setminus Y|$  and  $|(X\alpha \cap Y) \setminus Y\alpha| = |(X\beta \cap Y) \setminus Y\beta|$ .
- (5)  $\alpha\mathcal{J}\beta$  if and only if  $|X\alpha| = |X\beta|, |Y\alpha| = |Y\beta|$  and  $|X\alpha \setminus Y| = |X\beta \setminus Y|$ .

For an element  $a$  in a semigroup  $S$ ,  $D_a$  and  $H_a$  denote the equivalence class of  $\mathcal{D}$  containing  $a$  and the equivalence class of  $\mathcal{H}$  containing  $a$ , respectively, that is

$$D_a = \{b \in S : b\mathcal{D}a\} \text{ and } H_a = \{b \in S : b\mathcal{H}a\}.$$

In [6] the authors showed that  $H_{id_X}$  is the group of units of  $S(X, Y)$ . In this case

$$H_{id_X} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a_i & b_j \\ a_i\sigma & b_j\sigma \end{pmatrix} : \sigma \in G(X, Y) \right\}$$

where  $Y = \{a_i\}$  and  $X \setminus Y = \{b_j\}$ ; and  $G(X, Y) = \{\alpha \in S(X) : \alpha|_Y \in S(Y)\}$ . Note that  $S(X)$  and  $S(Y)$  are the permutation group on  $X$  and the permutation group on  $Y$ , respectively.

In general,  $\text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$  is not a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ . In [6], the authors gave necessary and sufficient conditions for  $\text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$  to be a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$  as follows.

$\text{Reg}(S(X, Y))$  is a regular subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$  if and only if  $Y = X$  or  $|Y| = 1$ .

Left regularity, right regularity and intra-regularity on  $S(X, Y)$  were studied by Choomanee, Honyam and Sanwong [4] as shown in the following theorems.

**Theorem 2.2.** [4, Theorems 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4] *Let  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$ . Then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $\alpha$  is left regular if and only if  $X\alpha = X\alpha^2$  and  $Y\alpha = Y\alpha^2$ .
- (2)  $\alpha$  is right regular if and only if  $\pi_\alpha = \pi_{\alpha^2}$  and  $\pi_\alpha(Y) = \pi_{\alpha^2}(Y)$ .
- (3)  $\alpha$  is intra-regular if and only if  $|X\alpha| = |X\alpha^2|$ ,  $|Y\alpha| = |Y\alpha^2|$  and  $|X\alpha \setminus Y| = |X\alpha^2 \setminus Y|$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** [4, Theorem 3.11] *Let  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$  be such that  $X\alpha$  is a finite set. Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $\alpha$  is left regular.
- (2)  $\alpha$  is right regular.
- (3)  $\alpha$  is intra-regular.

**Theorem 2.4.** [4, Theorem 4.3] *The number of left regular elements in  $S(X, Y)$  is*

$$\sum_{m=0}^{n-r} \sum_{k=1}^r \binom{r}{k} k! k^{r-k} \binom{n-r}{m} m!(k+m)^{n-r-m}$$

where  $|X| = n$  and  $|Y| = r$ .

### 3. COREGULAR ELEMENTS ON $S(X, Y)$

In this section, we characterize coregular elements of  $S(X, Y)$  and give necessary and sufficient conditions for  $S(X, Y)$  to be coregular. Also, we describe when  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$  is a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .

For regularity on  $S(X, Y)$  when  $|X| \leq 2$ , we obtain the following results.

**Remark 3.1.** If  $|X| = 1$ , then  $S(X, Y) = T(X)$  contains exactly one element, and hence  $S(X, Y)$  is regular, coregular, left regular, right regular, completely regular and intra-regular.

**Lemma 3.2.** *If  $|X| = 2$ , then  $S(X, Y)$  is regular, coregular, left regular, right regular, completely regular and intra-regular.*

*Proof.* Let  $|X| = 2$ . We consider two cases.

**Case 1:**  $|Y| = 1$ . Let  $X = \{a, b\}$  and  $Y = \{a\}$ . Then

$$S(X, Y) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} \\ a \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Thus all elements in  $S(X, Y)$  are idempotents and so each element is regular, coregular, left regular, right regular, completely regular and intra-regular.

**Case 2:**  $|Y| = 2$ . Then

$$S(X, Y) = T(X) = \left\{ \alpha_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \alpha_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}, \alpha_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} \\ a \end{pmatrix}, \alpha_4 = \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} \\ b \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Thus  $\alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_4$  are idempotents and we obtain that  $\alpha_2 = \alpha_2^3 = (\alpha_2)\alpha_2^2 = \alpha_2^2(\alpha_2) = id_X(\alpha_2^2)\alpha_2$ . So  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$  and  $\alpha_4$  are regular, coregular, left regular, right regular, completely regular and intra-regular.

Therefore,  $S(X, Y)$  is regular, coregular, left regular, right regular, completely regular and intra-regular. ■

Now, we study coregularity on  $S(X, Y)$ . Recall that  $\alpha$  in  $S(X, Y)$  is coregular if and only if  $\alpha^3 = \alpha$ .

In general,  $S(X, Y)$  is not a coregular semigroup that means there exists an element in  $S(X, Y)$  which is not coregular as shown in the following example.

**Example 3.3.** Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  and  $Y = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2\} & \{3, 4\} & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $Y\alpha = \{1, 2\} \subseteq Y$  and hence  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$ . We see that

$$\alpha^3 = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} & 6 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

So  $\alpha^3 \neq \alpha$  and therefore,  $\alpha$  is not coregular.

The following theorem is a characterization of coregular elements of  $S(X, Y)$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$ . Then the following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $\alpha$  is coregular.
- (2)  $x\alpha \in x\alpha^{-1}$  for all  $x \in X\alpha$ .
- (3)  $\alpha^2|_{X\alpha} = id_{X\alpha}$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) Assume that  $\alpha$  is coregular. Thus  $\alpha^3 = \alpha$ . Let  $x \in X\alpha$ . Then  $x = z\alpha$  for some  $z \in X$ . So

$$x = z\alpha = z\alpha^3 = (z\alpha)\alpha\alpha = (x\alpha)\alpha,$$

that means  $x\alpha \in x\alpha^{-1}$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) Assume that  $x\alpha \in x\alpha^{-1}$  for all  $x \in X\alpha$ . For each  $x \in X\alpha$ ,

$$x\alpha^2 = (x\alpha)\alpha = x = x id_{X\alpha}.$$

Thus  $\alpha^2|_{X\alpha} = id_{X\alpha}$ .

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Assume that  $\alpha^2|_{X\alpha} = id_{X\alpha}$ . Let  $x \in X$ . Then

$$x\alpha^3 = (x\alpha)\alpha^2 = (x\alpha) id_{X\alpha} = x\alpha$$

and so  $\alpha^3 = \alpha$ . Hence  $\alpha$  is a coregular element. ■

Now, we give a simple example of coregular elements of  $S(X, Y)$ .

**Example 3.5.** Let  $X = \mathbb{N}$  denote the set of all positive integers and  $Y = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . Define  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$  by

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2\} & 3 & \{4, 5\} & \{6, 7\} & 2n & 2n + 1 \\ 6 & 4 & 3 & 1 & 2n + 1 & 2n \end{pmatrix}_{n \geq 4}$$

and

$$\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2\} & \{3, 4, 5\} & \{6, 7\} & n \\ 3 & 1 & 6 & n + 1 \end{pmatrix}_{n \geq 8}$$

Then

$$\alpha^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2\} & 3 & \{4, 5\} & \{6, 7\} & n \\ 1 & 3 & 4 & 6 & n \end{pmatrix}_{n \geq 8}$$

Thus  $\alpha^2|_{X\alpha} = id_{X\alpha}$  and hence  $\alpha$  is a coregular element by Theorem 3.4 (3). However,  $\beta$  is not a coregular element since  $9 \in X\beta$  and  $9\beta = 10 \notin \{8\} = 9\beta^{-1}$ .

As a consequence of Theorem 3.4, the necessary and sufficient condition for the semigroup  $S(X, Y)$  to be a coregular semigroup given as follows.

**Theorem 3.6.**  $S(X, Y)$  is coregular if and only if  $|X| \leq 2$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $|X| \leq 2$ . By Remark 3.1 and Lemma 3.2, we have  $S(X, Y)$  is a coregular semigroup. Conversely, assume that  $|X| \geq 3$ . We consider two cases.

**Case 1:**  $|Y| = 1$ . Then  $|X \setminus Y| \geq 2$ . Let  $Y = \{y\}$  and  $z \in X \setminus Y$ . So  $X \setminus \{y, z\} \neq \emptyset$ . Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{y, z\} & X \setminus \{y, z\} \\ y & z \end{pmatrix} \in S(X, Y).$$

Thus  $z \in X\alpha$  and  $z\alpha = y \notin X \setminus \{y, z\} = z\alpha^{-1}$ . By Theorem 3.4 (2), we get  $\alpha$  is not coregular.

**Case 2:**  $|Y| > 1$ . Let  $a, b \in Y$  be such that  $a \neq b$ . Then  $X \setminus \{a, b\} \neq \emptyset$  since  $|X| \geq 3$ . Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & X \setminus \{a, b\} \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}.$$

We see that  $X\alpha = \{a, b\} \subseteq Y$  and so  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$ . From  $b \in X\alpha$  and  $b\alpha = a \notin X \setminus \{a, b\} = b\alpha^{-1}$ , we conclude that  $\alpha$  is not coregular by Theorem 3.4 (2).

Therefore,  $S(X, Y)$  is not a coregular semigroup. ■

From Theorem 3.4, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) &= \{\alpha \in S(X, Y) : x\alpha \in x\alpha^{-1} \text{ for all } x \in X\alpha\} \\ &= \{\alpha \in S(X, Y) : \alpha^2|_{X\alpha} = id_{X\alpha}\}. \end{aligned}$$

The following example shows that, in general,  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$  is not a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .

**Example 3.7.** Let  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and  $Y = \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2, 3\} & \{4, 5\} \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \beta = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2\} & \{3, 4, 5\} \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$  such that  $\alpha$  is an idempotent and

$$\beta^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2\} & \{3, 4, 5\} \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus  $\alpha^3 = \alpha$  and  $\beta^2|_{X\beta} = id_{X\beta}$ , and so  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$ . Consider

$$\alpha\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \{1, 2, 3\} & \{4, 5\} \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We see that  $2(\alpha\beta) = 3 \notin \{4, 5\} = 2(\alpha\beta)^{-1}$ . By Theorem 3.4 (2), we have  $\alpha\beta$  is not coregular, that means  $\alpha\beta \notin \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$ .

In order to give necessary and sufficient conditions for the set of all coregular elements is a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ , the following lemma is needed.

**Lemma 3.8.** *If  $|X| \geq 3$ , then  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$  is not a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $|X| \geq 3$ . We consider two cases.

**Case 1:**  $X = Y$ . Let  $x, y, z$  be distinct elements in  $X$ . Define  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y) = T(X)$  by

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{x, y\} & X \setminus \{x, y\} \\ y & z \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \beta = \begin{pmatrix} y & X \setminus \{y\} \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $\alpha, \beta$  are idempotents and so  $\alpha, \beta$  are coregular elements. We see that

$$\alpha\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \{x, y\} & X \setminus \{x, y\} \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $x \in X\alpha\beta$  such that  $x(\alpha\beta) = y \notin X \setminus \{x, y\} = x(\alpha\beta)^{-1}$ . By Theorem 3.4 (2), we have  $\alpha\beta$  is not a coregular element.

**Case 2:**  $Y \subsetneq X$ . Let  $y \in Y$  and  $z \in X \setminus Y$ .

**Subcase 2.1:**  $|Y| = 1$ . Thus  $Y = \{y\}$  and there exists  $x \in X \setminus \{y, z\}$ . Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{x, y\} & X \setminus \{x, y\} \\ y & z \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \beta = \begin{pmatrix} y & X \setminus \{y\} \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}.$$

We see that  $\alpha, \beta$  are idempotents in  $S(X, Y)$  and so  $\alpha, \beta$  are coregular. Then

$$\alpha\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \{x, y\} & X \setminus \{x, y\} \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $x(\alpha\beta) = y \notin X \setminus \{x, y\} = x(\alpha\beta)^{-1}$ . Thus  $\alpha\beta$  is not a coregular element.

**Subcase 2.2:**  $|Y| \geq 2$ . Then there is  $x \in Y \setminus \{y\}$ . Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} Y & X \setminus Y \\ y & z \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \beta = \begin{pmatrix} Y \setminus \{x\} & (X \setminus Y) \cup \{x\} \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}.$$

So  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$  and  $\alpha, \beta$  are idempotents, which implies that  $\alpha, \beta$  are coregular. We obtain that

$$\alpha\beta = \begin{pmatrix} Y & X \setminus Y \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $x(\alpha\beta) = y \notin X \setminus Y = x(\alpha\beta)^{-1}$ , thus  $\alpha\beta$  is not coregular.

Therefore,  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$  is not a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ . ■

The following theorem is a direct consequence of Theorem 3.6 and Lemma 3.8.

**Theorem 3.9.** *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $|X| \leq 2$ .
- (2)  $S(X, Y)$  is coregular.
- (3)  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$  is a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .

#### 4. SOME PROPERTIES OF REGULARITY OF $S(X, Y)$

In this section, we characterize when  $S(X, Y)$  is left regular, right regular, completely regular and intra-regular. Moreover, we give necessary and sufficient conditions for  $\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$ ,  $\text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$ ,  $\text{CReg}(S(X, Y))$  and  $\text{IReg}(S(X, Y))$  to be subsemigroups of  $S(X, Y)$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $|X| \leq 2$ .
- (2)  $S(X, Y)$  is left regular.
- (3)  $\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$  is a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .

*Proof.* It is clear that (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). To prove that (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2), assume that  $|X| \leq 2$ . Then  $S(X, Y)$  is left regular by Remark 3.1 and Lemma 3.2. Now, we prove that (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Assume that  $|X| \geq 3$ . If  $X = Y$ , then we define  $\alpha, \beta$  as in Lemma 3.8 (Case 1). So  $\alpha, \beta$  are idempotent and hence  $\alpha, \beta$  are left regular elements. We see that

$$\alpha\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \{x, y\} & X \setminus \{x, y\} \\ y & x \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } (\alpha\beta)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} X \\ y \end{pmatrix},$$

so  $X(\alpha\beta) \neq X(\alpha\beta)^2$ . Thus  $\alpha\beta$  is not left regular by Theorem 2.2 (1). If  $Y \subsetneq X$  and  $|Y| = 1$ , then we define  $\alpha, \beta$  as in Lemma 3.8 (Subcase 2.1). By the same prove as given for the case  $X = Y$ , we get  $\alpha, \beta$  are left regular, but  $\alpha\beta$  is not left regular. And, if  $Y \subsetneq X$  and  $|Y| \geq 2$ , we define  $\alpha, \beta$  as in Lemma 3.8 (Subcase 2.2). So  $\alpha, \beta$  are idempotent and also left regular elements. We obtain that

$$\alpha\beta = \begin{pmatrix} Y & X \setminus Y \\ y & x \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } (\alpha\beta)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} X \\ y \end{pmatrix},$$

and hence  $X(\alpha\beta) \neq X(\alpha\beta)^2$ . Thus  $\alpha\beta$  is not left regular by Theorem 2.2 (1). Therefore,  $\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$  is not a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ . ■

**Theorem 4.2.** *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $|X| \leq 2$ .
- (2)  $S(X, Y)$  is right regular.
- (3)  $\text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$  is a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .

*Proof.* Clearly (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). By Remark 3.1 and Lemma 3.2, we conclude that (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Now, we prove that (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Assume that  $|X| \geq 3$ . Define  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$  as in Lemma 3.8. Then  $\alpha, \beta$  are right regular elements. But, we obtain that  $\pi_{\alpha\beta} \neq \pi_{(\alpha\beta)^2}$ , thus  $\alpha\beta$  is not right regular by Theorem 2.2 (2). So  $\text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$  is not a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ . ■

**Remark 4.3.**  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$  is completely regular if and only if  $\alpha$  is both left and right regular.



**Theorem 4.4.** *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $|X| \leq 2$ .
- (2)  $S(X, Y)$  is completely regular.
- (3)  $\text{CReg}(S(X, Y))$  is a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .

*Proof.* Obviously (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3). By Theorems 4.1, 4.2 and Remark 4.3, it follows immediately that (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Assume that  $|X| \geq 3$ . Define  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$  as in Lemma 3.8. Then  $\alpha, \beta$  are completely regular elements. But, we get  $\pi_{\alpha\beta} \neq \pi_{(\alpha\beta)^2}$ , thus  $\alpha\beta$  is not right regular by Theorem 2.2 (2) and hence  $\alpha\beta$  is not completely regular by Remark 4.3. So  $\text{CReg}(S(X, Y))$  is not a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ . ■

**Theorem 4.5.** *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $|X| \leq 2$ .
- (2)  $S(X, Y)$  is intra-regular.
- (3)  $\text{IReg}(S(X, Y))$  is a subsemigroup of  $S(X, Y)$ .

*Proof.* From Remark 3.1 and Lemma 3.2, we obtain that (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). To prove (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1), assume that  $|X| \geq 3$ . Then there exist  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{IReg}(S(X, Y))$  which are defined as in Lemma 3.8. But, we obtain that  $|X\alpha\beta| = 2 \neq 1 = |X(\alpha\beta)^2|$  and hence  $\alpha\beta \notin \text{IReg}(S(X, Y))$  by Theorem 2.2 (3). And, it is clear that (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3), so the proof is complete. ■

As a direct consequence of Theorems 3.9, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.6.** *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $|X| \leq 2$ .
- (2)  $S(X, Y)$  is coregular.
- (3)  $S(X, Y)$  is left regular.
- (4)  $S(X, Y)$  is right regular.
- (5)  $S(X, Y)$  is completely regular.
- (6)  $S(X, Y)$  is intra-regular.

We know that every coregular element is both left and right regular, but there are left and right regular elements which are not coregular as shown in the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.7.** *If  $|Y| \geq 3$  or  $|X \setminus Y| \geq 3$ , then there exists  $\alpha \in \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) \cap \text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$  such that  $\alpha \notin \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $|Y| \geq 3$  or  $|X \setminus Y| \geq 3$ . We consider two cases.

**Case 1:**  $|Y| \geq 3$ . Let  $a, b, c$  be distinct elements in  $Y$ . Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & x \\ b & c & a & x \end{pmatrix}_{x \in X \setminus \{a, b, c\}}$$

Then  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$  and we see that

$$\alpha^2 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & x \\ c & a & b & x \end{pmatrix}_{x \in X \setminus \{a, b, c\}}$$

So  $X\alpha = X = X\alpha^2, Y\alpha = Y = Y\alpha^2, \pi_\alpha = \pi_{\alpha^2}$  and  $\pi_\alpha(Y) = \pi_{\alpha^2}(Y)$ . By Theorem 2.2, we obtain that  $\alpha$  is left regular and right regular. But, since  $c\alpha = a \notin \{b\} = c\alpha^{-1}$ , we have  $\alpha \notin \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$  by Lemma 3.4 (2).

**Case 2:**  $|X \setminus Y| \geq 3$ . Let  $a, b, c$  be distinct elements in  $X \setminus Y$ . Define  $\alpha$  as in Case 1. By the same proof, we obtain that  $\alpha$  is left regular and right regular but not coregular. ■

Recall that  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{RReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{CReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{IReg}(S(X, Y)) = S(X, Y)$  when  $|X| \leq 2$ . Here, there are some other cases that coregular elements, left regular elements, right regular elements, completely regular elements and intra-regular elements are coincide as the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.8.** *If  $(|X|, |Y|) \in \{(3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 2)\}$ , then*

$$\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{RReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{CReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{IReg}(S(X, Y)).$$

*Proof.* We know that every idempotent is coregular and every coregular element is left regular. So  $E(S(X, Y)) \subseteq \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) \subseteq \text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$ . Assume that  $(|X|, |Y|) \in \{(3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 2)\}$ . We consider three cases.

**Case 1:**  $(|X|, |Y|) = (3, 1)$ . Let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $Y = \{a\}$ . Then

$$E(S(X, Y)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ a & b & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c\} \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c\} \\ a & c \end{pmatrix}, \right. \\ \left. \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & c \\ a & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & b \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, c\} \\ a \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Let

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ a & c & b \end{pmatrix} \in S(X, Y).$$

Then  $\alpha^2 = id_X$  and hence  $\alpha$  is coregular by Theorem 3.4 (3). Hence  $E(S(X, Y)) \cup \{\alpha\} \subseteq \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) \subseteq \text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$ . By Theorem 2.4, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))| &= \sum_{m=0}^2 \sum_{k=1}^1 \binom{1}{k} k! k^{1-k} \binom{2}{m} m!(k+m)^{2-m} \\ &= \binom{1}{1} 1! 1^{1-1} \binom{2}{0} 0!(1+0)^{2-0} + \binom{1}{1} 1! 1^{1-1} \binom{2}{1} 1!(1+1)^{2-1} \\ &\quad + \binom{1}{1} 1! 1^{1-1} \binom{2}{2} 2!(1+2)^{2-2} \\ &= 1 + 4 + 2 \\ &= 7. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|E(S(X, Y)) \cup \{\alpha\}| = 7 = |\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))|$ , we obtain that  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$ .

**Case 2:**  $(|X|, |Y|) = (3, 2)$ . let  $X = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $Y = \{a, b\}$ . Then

$$E(S(X, Y)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ a & b & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & c \\ a & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & c \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & b \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \right. \\ \left. \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c\} \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, c\} \\ a \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, c\} \\ b \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Define  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \in S(X, Y)$  by

$$\alpha_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ b & a & c \end{pmatrix}, \alpha_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}, \alpha_3 = \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c\} \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $\alpha_1^2 = id_X$ ,  $\alpha_2^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & b \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\alpha_3^2 = \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c\} \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}$  and so  $\alpha_2^2|_{X\alpha_2} = id_{X\alpha_2}$  and  $\alpha_3^2|_{X\alpha_3} = id_{X\alpha_3}$ . By Theorem 3.4 (3), we see that  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$  are coregular. Hence  $E(S(X, Y)) \cup \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\} \subseteq \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) \subseteq \text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$ . By Theorem 2.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))| &= \sum_{m=0}^1 \sum_{k=1}^2 \binom{2}{k} k! k^{2-k} \binom{1}{m} m!(k+m)^{1-m} \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^1 \left[ \binom{2}{1} 1! 1^{2-1} \binom{1}{m} m!(1+m)^{1-m} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \binom{2}{2} 2! 2^{2-2} \binom{1}{m} m!(2+m)^{1-m} \right] \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^1 \left[ (2) \binom{1}{m} m!(1+m)^{1-m} + (2) \binom{1}{m} m!(2+m)^{1-m} \right] \\ &= \left[ (2) \binom{1}{0} 0!(1+0)^{1-0} + (2) \binom{1}{0} 0!(2+0)^{1-0} \right] \\ &\quad + \left[ (2) \binom{1}{1} 1!(1+1)^{1-1} + (2) \binom{1}{1} 1!(2+1)^{1-1} \right] \\ &= 2 + 4 + 2 + 2 \\ &= 10. \end{aligned}$$

So  $|E(S(X, Y)) \cup \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\}| = 10 = |\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))|$  and thus  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$ .

**Case 3:**  $(|X|, |Y|) = (4, 2)$ . Let  $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and  $Y = \{a, b\}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} E(S(X, Y)) = &\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ a & b & c & d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & c & d \\ a & c & d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & c & d \\ b & c & d \end{pmatrix}, \right. \\ &\begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & b & d \\ a & b & d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, d\} & b & c \\ a & b & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c\} & d \\ a & b & d \end{pmatrix}, \\ &\begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, d\} & c \\ a & b & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \{c, d\} \\ a & b & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \{c, d\} \\ a & b & d \end{pmatrix}, \\ &\begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & \{c, d\} \\ a & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & \{c, d\} \\ a & d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & \{c, d\} \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}, \\ &\begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & \{c, d\} \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & \{b, d\} \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, d\} & \{b, c\} \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \\ &\begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, c\} & d \\ a & d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, c\} & d \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, d\} & c \\ a & c \end{pmatrix}, \\ &\begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, d\} & c \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c, d\} & b \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c, d\} \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}, \\ &\left. \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, c, d\} \\ a \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b, c, d\} \\ b \end{pmatrix} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & c & d \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ a & b & d & c \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ b & a & d & c \end{pmatrix}, \\
 \alpha_4 &= \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & c & d \\ a & d & c \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_5 &= \begin{pmatrix} \{a, b\} & c & d \\ b & d & c \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_6 &= \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & b & d \\ b & a & d \end{pmatrix}, \\
 \alpha_7 &= \begin{pmatrix} \{a, d\} & b & c \\ b & a & c \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_8 &= \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c\} & d \\ b & a & d \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_9 &= \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, d\} & c \\ b & a & c \end{pmatrix}, \\
 \alpha_{10} &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \{c, d\} \\ b & a & c \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_{11} &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b & \{c, d\} \\ b & a & d \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_{12} &= \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c\} & \{b, d\} \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}, \\
 \alpha_{13} &= \begin{pmatrix} \{a, d\} & \{b, c\} \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_{14} &= \begin{pmatrix} \{a, c, d\} & b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}, & \alpha_{15} &= \begin{pmatrix} a & \{b, c, d\} \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\alpha_i \in S(X, Y)$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, 15\}$ . It is easy to check that  $\alpha_i^2|_{X\alpha_i} = id_{X\alpha_i}$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, 15\}$ . Thus  $\alpha_i \in \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y))$  by Theorem 3.4 (3) and hence

$$E(S(X, Y)) \cup \{\alpha_i : i \in \{1, \dots, 15\}\} \subseteq \text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) \subseteq \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)).$$

By Theorem 2.4, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))| &= \sum_{m=0}^2 \sum_{k=1}^2 \binom{2}{k} k! k^{2-k} \binom{2}{m} m! (k+m)^{2-m} \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^2 \left[ \binom{2}{1} 1! 1^{2-1} \binom{2}{m} m! (1+m)^{2-m} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \binom{2}{2} 2! 2^{2-2} \binom{2}{m} m! (2+m)^{2-m} \right] \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^2 \left[ (2) \binom{2}{m} m! (1+m)^{2-m} + (2) \binom{2}{m} m! (2+m)^{2-m} \right] \\
 &= \left[ (2) \binom{2}{0} 0! (1+0)^{2-0} + (2) \binom{2}{0} 0! (2+0)^{2-0} \right] \\
 &\quad + \left[ (2) \binom{2}{1} 1! (1+1)^{2-1} + (2) \binom{2}{1} 1! (2+1)^{2-1} \right] \\
 &\quad + \left[ (2) \binom{2}{2} 2! (1+2)^{2-2} + (2) \binom{2}{2} 2! (2+2)^{2-2} \right] \\
 &= 2 + 8 + 8 + 12 + 4 + 4 \\
 &= 38.
 \end{aligned}$$

So  $|E(S(X, Y)) \cup \{\alpha_i : i \in \{1, \dots, 15\}\}| = |E(S(X, Y))| + 15 = 23 + 15 = 38 = |\text{LReg}(S(X, Y))|$ . Hence  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$ .

Since  $X$  is a finite set, we have  $\text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{RReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{IReg}(S(X, Y))$  by Theorem 2.3. By Remark 4.3, we get  $\text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{RReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{CReg}(S(X, Y))$ . Therefore,  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{RReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{CReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{IReg}(S(X, Y))$ . ■

Moreover, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.9.**  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$  if and only if  $|X| \leq 2$  or  $(|X|, |Y|) \in \{(3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 2)\}$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $|X| \leq 2$  or  $(|X|, |Y|) \in \{(3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 2)\}$ . By Remark 3.1, Lemma 3.2 and Theorem 4.8, we get  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) = \text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$ .

Conversely, assume that  $|X| \geq 3$  and  $(|X|, |Y|) \notin \{(3, 1), (3, 2), (4, 2)\}$ . Then  $|Y| \geq 3$  or  $|X \setminus Y| \geq 3$ . By Lemma 4.7,  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) \subsetneq \text{LReg}(S(X, Y)) \cap \text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$ , that means  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) \neq \text{LReg}(S(X, Y))$  and  $\text{CoReg}(S(X, Y)) \neq \text{RReg}(S(X, Y))$ . ■

### 5. FINITENESS CONDITIONS ON $S(X, Y)$

In this section, we characterize when  $S(X, Y)$  is unit regular and directly finite which depend on the finiteness conditions on sets.

Alarcao [1] characterized when a monoid  $S$  is directly finite and gave a relationship between a unit regular semigroup and a factorizable semigroup as follows.

**Theorem 5.1.** [1, Propositions 1-3] *Let  $S$  be a semigroup with identity 1. Then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $S$  is unit regular if and only if  $S$  is factorizable.
- (2)  $S$  is directly finite if and only if  $H_1 = D_1$ .

Later, Boonmee [3] characterized when  $S(X, Y)$  is factorizable as follows.

**Theorem 5.2.** [3, Theorem 3.3.13]  $S(X, Y)$  is factorizable if and only if the following conditions hold.

- (1)  $X$  is finite.
- (2)  $X = Y$  or  $|Y| = 1$ .

As a direct consequence of Theorems 5.1 and 5.2, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 5.3.**  $S(X, Y)$  is unit regular if and only if the following statements hold.

- (1)  $X$  is a finite set,
- (2)  $X = Y$  or  $|Y| = 1$ .

The following example shows that if  $X$  is an infinite set,  $S(X, Y)$  need not be directly finite.

**Example 5.4.** Let  $X = \mathbb{N}$  and  $Y$  be the set of all even positive integers. Define

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2n + 2 & 2n - 1 \\ 2 & 2n + 4 & 2n - 1 \end{pmatrix}_{n \geq 1}$$

and

$$\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \{2, 4\} & 2n + 4 & 2n - 1 \\ 2 & 2n + 2 & 2n - 1 \end{pmatrix}_{n \geq 1}.$$

Then  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$  and

$$\alpha\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2n + 2 & 2n - 1 \\ 2 & 2n + 2 & 2n - 1 \end{pmatrix}_{n \geq 1} = id_X,$$

but

$$\beta\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{2, 4\} & 2n + 4 & 2n - 1 \\ 2 & 2n + 4 & 2n - 1 \end{pmatrix}_{n \geq 1} \neq id_X.$$

Thus  $S(X, Y)$  is not directly finite.

Finally, we give the necessary and sufficient condition for  $S(X, Y)$  to be directly finite.

**Theorem 5.5.**  *$S(X, Y)$  is directly finite if and only if  $X$  is a finite set.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $X$  is a finite set. Let  $\alpha, \beta \in S(X, Y)$  be such that  $\alpha\beta = id_X$ . Then  $\alpha$  is injective. Since  $X$  is finite, we have  $\alpha$  is surjective and hence  $X\alpha = X$ . Let  $x \in X$ . Thus  $x \in X\alpha$  and there exists  $z \in X$  such that  $x = z\alpha$ . So  $x\beta\alpha = z\alpha\beta\alpha = zid_X\alpha = z\alpha = x$ , and we conclude that  $\beta\alpha = id_X$ .

Conversely, assume that  $X$  is an infinite set. To prove that  $S(X, Y)$  is not directly finite, we consider two cases.

**Case 1:**  $Y$  is infinite. Choose  $a \in Y$ . Then  $|Y \setminus \{a\}| = |Y|$  and hence there is a bijection  $\varphi : Y \setminus \{a\} \rightarrow Y$ . Let  $Y \setminus \{a\} = \{y_i : i \in I\}$ . Fix  $i_0 \in I$  and let  $I' = I \setminus \{i_0\}$ . Define  $\alpha \in S(X, Y)$  by

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \{y_{i_0}, a\} & y_{i'} & x \\ y_{i_0}\varphi & y_{i'}\varphi & x \end{pmatrix}_{x \in X \setminus Y}$$

Thus  $\alpha$  is surjective and hence  $|Y\alpha| = |Y| = |Yid_X|$ ,  $|X\alpha \setminus Y| = |X \setminus Y| = |Xid_X \setminus Y|$  and  $|(X\alpha \cap Y) \setminus Y\alpha| = |Y \setminus Y| = |(Xid_X \cap Y) \setminus Yid_X|$ . So  $\alpha \in D_{id_X}$  by Theorem 2.1 (4). We see that  $\pi_\alpha \neq \pi_{id_X}$ , that means  $\alpha \notin H_{id_X}$ . Thus  $D_{id_X} \neq H_{id_X}$  and hence  $S(X, Y)$  is not directly finite by Theorem 5.1 (2).

**Case 2:**  $Y$  is finite. Thus  $X \setminus Y$  is infinite. Choose  $b \in X \setminus Y$ . Then  $|X \setminus (Y \cup \{b\})| = |X \setminus Y|$  and there exists a bijection  $\sigma : X \setminus (Y \cup \{b\}) \rightarrow X \setminus Y$ . Let  $X \setminus (Y \cup \{b\}) = \{x_j : j \in J\}$ . Fix  $j_0 \in J$  and let  $J' = J \setminus \{j_0\}$ . Define

$$\beta = \begin{pmatrix} y & \{x_{j_0}, b\} & x_{j'} \\ y & x_{j_0}\sigma & x_{j'}\sigma \end{pmatrix}_{y \in Y}$$

Then  $\beta \in S(X, Y)$  and  $X\beta = X$ . So  $|Y\beta| = |Y| = |Yid_X|$ ,  $|X\beta \setminus Y| = |X \setminus Y| = |Xid_X \setminus Y|$  and  $|(X\beta \cap Y) \setminus Y\beta| = |Y \setminus Y| = |(Xid_X \cap Y) \setminus Yid_X|$ . By Theorem 2.1 (4), we have  $\beta \in D_{id_X}$ . However,  $\beta \notin H_{id_X}$  since  $\pi_\beta \neq \pi_{id_X}$ . Thus  $D_{id_X} \neq H_{id_X}$  and therefore,  $S(X, Y)$  is not directly finite.  $\blacksquare$

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the referees for their comments and suggestions on the manuscript. This research was supported by Chiang Mai University.

## REFERENCES

- [1] H.D. Alarcao, Factorizable as a finiteness condition, Semigroup Forum (20) (1980) 281–282.
- [2] G. Bijeve, K. Todorov, Coregular semigroups, Notes on Semigroups VI, Budapest (1980), 1–11.
- [3] A. Boonmee, Factorizable on Some Semigroups, Master's Thesis, directed by J. Sanwong, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2007.
- [4] W. Choomanee, P. Honyam, J. Sanwong, Regularity in semigroups of transformations with invariant sets, Int. J. Pure Appl. Math. 87 (1) (2013) 151–164.

- 
- [5] A.H. Clifford, G.B. Preston, The Algebraic Theory of Semigroups, Mathematical Surveys 7 (1–2), American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 1961 and 1967.
  - [6] P. Honyam, J. Sanwong, Semigroups of transformations with invariant set, J. Korean Math. Soc. 48 (2) (2011) 289–300.
  - [7] J.M. Howie, Fundamentals of Semigroup Theory, Oxford University Press, New York, 1995.
  - [8] K.D. Magill Jr., Subsemigroups of  $S(X)$ , Math. Japon. 11 (1966) 109–115.
  - [9] S. Nenthein, P. Youngkhong, Y. Kemprasit, Regular elements of some transformation semigroups, Pure Math. Appl. 16 (3) (2005) 307–314.
  - [10] Y. Tirasupa, Factorizable transformation semigroups, Semigroup Forum 18 (1) (1979) 15–19.