



## On $(m, n)$ -Regularity of $\Gamma$ -Semigroups

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**Abstract :** In this paper, we introduce the notions of  $(m, n)$ -regularity and  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal in  $\Gamma$ -semigroups. Some characterizations of  $(m, n)$ -regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroups based on  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals will be given. Similar results on semigroups have been done by Dragica N. Krgović in [1].

**Keywords :** Semigroup;  $\Gamma$ -semigroup; Regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroup;  $\Gamma$ -ideal; Bi-ideal;  $(m, n)$ -regular;  $(m, n)$ -ideal;  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal

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### 1 Introduction

Let  $S$  be a semigroup and  $m, n$  non-negative integers. A subsemigroup  $A$  of  $S$  is called an  $(m, n)$ -ideal [2] of  $S$  if

$$A^m S A^n \subseteq A$$

( $A^0$  is defined as  $A^0 S = S$  and  $S A^0 = S$ ). If  $m = 1$  and  $n = 1$ , then  $A$  is called a *bi-ideal* ([3], p.11) of  $S$ .

A semigroup  $S$  is called an  $(m, n)$ -regular semigroup [1] if for any  $a \in S$  there exists  $x \in S$  such that

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$$a = a^m x a^n$$

( $a^0$  is defined as  $a^0 x = x$  and  $x a^0 = x$ ). For  $m = 1$  and  $n = 1$ ,  $S$  is said to be a *regular semigroup* ([4], p.10).

Ideal-characterizations of regular semigroups have been studied (see [5], [2], [3]). In [1], Dragica N. Krgović characterized  $(m, n)$ -regular semigroups based on  $(m, n)$ -ideals. In this paper, we introduce the concepts of  $(m, n)$ -regularity and  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal in a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. We characterize  $(m, n)$ -regular  $\Gamma$ -semigroups using  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals.

## 2 Preliminaries

It is known that the concept of  $\Gamma$ -semigroup has been introduced by M. K. Sen in [6]. Thereafter, the definition defined by Sen was changed by M. K. Sen and N. K. Saha [7] as follows: let  $S$  and  $\Gamma$  be two non-empty sets. Then  $S$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup if

- (1)  $x\alpha y \in S$  and
- (2)  $(x\alpha y)\beta z = x\alpha(y\beta z)$

for all  $x, y, z \in S$  and all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

In [8], N. Kehayopulu defined  $\Gamma$ -semigroups by adding the uniqueness condition to the definition defined above as follows:

**Definition 2.1.** *Let  $S$  and  $\Gamma$  be two non-empty sets. Then  $S$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup if*

- (1)  $x\alpha y \in S$  for all  $x, y \in S$  and all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .
- (2) If  $x, y, z, w \in S$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$  such that  $x = z, y = w$  and  $\alpha = \beta$ , then  $x\alpha y = z\beta w$ .
- (3)  $(x\alpha y)\beta z = x\alpha(y\beta z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$  and all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

In this paper, we follow Definition 2.1.

Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup. For nonempty subsets  $A, B$  of  $S$ , we let

$$A\Gamma B = \{a\alpha b : a \in A, b \in B, \alpha \in \Gamma\}.$$

If  $x \in S$ , let  $A\Gamma x = A\Gamma\{x\}$  and  $x\Gamma A = \{x\}\Gamma A$ .

Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $A \subseteq S$ . If  $n$  is a positive integer, we let

$$A^n = A\Gamma A\Gamma \cdots \Gamma A \text{ (n-times) and } x^n = \{x\}^n.$$

A non-empty subset  $A$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$  is called a *sub- $\Gamma$ -semigroup* of  $S$  if  $x\alpha y \in A$  for all  $x, y \in A$  and all  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

We define  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals and  $(m, n)$ -regularity of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup as follows.

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $m, n$  non-negative integers. A sub- $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $A$  of  $S$  is called an  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal of  $S$  if

$$A^m \Gamma S \Gamma A^n \subseteq A.$$

Here,  $A^0$  is defined as  $A^0 \Gamma S = S$  and  $S \Gamma A^0 = S$ .

For each an element  $a$  of a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup  $S$ , it is easy to see that  $a^m \Gamma S$  and  $S \Gamma a^n$  are  $(m, 0)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal and  $(0, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal of  $S$ , respectively.

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $m, n$  non-negative integers. Then  $S$  is said to be  $(m, n)$ -regular if for any  $a \in S$  there exists  $x \in S$  such that

$$a \in a^m \Gamma x \Gamma a^n.$$

Here,  $a^0$  is defined as  $a^0 \Gamma x = \{x\}$  and  $x \Gamma a^0 = \{x\}$ .

Note that every  $\Gamma$ -semigroups is  $(0, 0)$ -regular.

### 3 Main Results

Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $m, n$  non-negative integers. It is easy to see that the intersection of all  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals of  $S$  containing an element  $a$  of  $S$ , denoted by  $[a]_{m,n}$ , is an  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal of  $S$  containing  $a$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and let  $a \in S$ .

- (i)  $[a]_{m,n} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$  for any positive integers  $m, n$ .
- (ii)  $[a]_{m,0} = \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S$  for any positive integers  $m$ .
- (iii)  $[a]_{0,n} = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{a^i\} \cup S \Gamma a^n$  for any positive integers  $n$ .

*Proof.* (i) We have  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $x, y \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ . If  $x, y \in a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$  or  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\}, y \in a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$  or  $x \in a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n, y \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\}$ , then  $x \Gamma y \subseteq a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ , and thus  $x \Gamma y \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ . Suppose that  $x, y \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\}$ . Then  $x = a^p, y = a^q$  for some  $1 \leq p, q \leq m+n$ . There are two cases to consider. If  $1 \leq p+q \leq m+n$ , then  $x \Gamma y \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\}$ . If  $m+n < p+q$ , then  $x \Gamma y \subseteq a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ . Therefore,  $x \Gamma y \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ . This shows that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$  is a sub- $\Gamma$ -semigroup of  $S$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^m \Gamma S \\
&= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-1} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma S \\
&= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-1} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \Gamma S \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \Gamma S \right) \\
&= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-1} \Gamma(a \Gamma S) \\
&= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-2} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma(a \Gamma S) \\
&= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-2} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \Gamma a \Gamma S \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \Gamma a \Gamma S \right) \\
&= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-2} \Gamma(a^2 \Gamma S) \\
&\vdots \\
&= a^m \Gamma S.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we get

$$S \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^n = S \Gamma a^n.$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^m \Gamma S \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^n \\
&= a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \\
&\subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$  is an  $(m, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal of  $S$  containing  $a$ , whence  $[a]_{m,n} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ . For the reverse inclusion, let  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ . If  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\}$ , then  $x = a^j$  for some  $1 \leq j \leq m+n$ , hence  $x \in [a]_{m,n}$ . If  $x \in a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ , by

$$a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \subseteq ([a]_{(m,n)})^m \Gamma S \Gamma ([a]_{(m,n)})^n \subseteq [a]_{(m,n)},$$

then  $x \in [a]_{m,n}$ . This proves that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \subseteq [a]_{m,n}$ . Hence  $[a]_{m,n} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$  as required. That (ii) and (iii) are true can be proved similarly.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and let  $a \in S$ . Let  $m, n$  be positive integers.*

- (i)  $([a]_{m,0})^m \Gamma S = a^m \Gamma S$ .
- (ii)  $S \Gamma ([a]_{0,n})^n = S \Gamma a^n$ .
- (iii)  $([a]_{m,n})^m \Gamma S \Gamma ([a]_{m,n})^n = a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ .

*Proof.* (i) Since  $[a]_{(m,0)} = \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} ([a]_{(m,0)})^m \Gamma S &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right)^m \Gamma S \\ &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right)^{m-1} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right) \Gamma S \\ &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right)^{m-1} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \Gamma S \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma S \right) \\ &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right)^{m-1} \Gamma (a \Gamma S) \\ &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right)^{m-2} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right) \Gamma (a \Gamma S) \\ &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right)^{m-2} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \Gamma a \Gamma S \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a \Gamma S \right) \\ &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \right)^{m-2} \Gamma (a^2 \Gamma S) \\ &\vdots \\ &= a^m \Gamma S. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $([a]_{(m,0)})^m \Gamma S = a^m \Gamma S$ .

(ii) This can be proved similarly as (i).

(iii) Since  $[a]_{(m,n)} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 ([a]_{(m,n)})^m \Gamma S &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^m \Gamma S \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-1} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma S \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-1} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \Gamma S \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \Gamma S \right) \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-1} \Gamma (a \Gamma S) \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-2} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma (a \Gamma S) \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-2} \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \Gamma a \Gamma S \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \Gamma a \Gamma S \right) \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{m-2} \Gamma (a^2 \Gamma S) \\
 &\vdots \\
 &= a^m \Gamma S.
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 S \Gamma ([a]_{(m,n)})^n &= S \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^n \\
 &= S \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{n-1} \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} S \Gamma a^i \cup S \Gamma a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{n-1} \\
 &= (S \Gamma a) \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{n-2} \\
 &= \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} S \Gamma a \Gamma a^i \cup S \Gamma a \Gamma a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right) \Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \right)^{n-2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (S\Gamma a^2)\Gamma \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{m+n} \{a^i\} \cup a^m\Gamma S\Gamma a^n \right)^{n-2} \\
&\vdots \\
&= S\Gamma a^n.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
([a]_{(m,n)})^m\Gamma S\Gamma([a]_{(m,n)})^n &= (a^m\Gamma S)\Gamma([a]_{(m,n)})^n \\
&= a^m\Gamma(S\Gamma([a]_{(m,n)})^n) \\
&= a^m\Gamma S\Gamma a^n.
\end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following results: Theorem 3.3-3.5, are comparable with [1] Theorem 1-3 and proofs are modifications.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $m, n$  positive integers. The set of all  $(m, 0)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals and the set of all  $(0, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals of  $S$  will be denoted by  $R_{(m,0)}$  and  $L_{(0,n)}$ , respectively.*

- (i)  $S$  is  $(m, 0)$ -regular if and only if  $R = R^m\Gamma S$  for all  $R \in R_{(m,0)}$ .
- (ii)  $S$  is  $(0, n)$ -regular if and only if  $L = S\Gamma L^n$  for all  $L \in L_{(0,n)}$ .

*Proof.* (i) Assume that  $S$  is  $(m, 0)$ -regular. That is,  $a \in a^m\Gamma S$  for all  $a \in S$ . Let  $R$  be an  $(m, 0)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal of  $S$ . Then  $R^m\Gamma S \subseteq R$ . If  $a \in R$ , then by assumption,  $a \in a^m\Gamma S$ . Hence  $R \subseteq R^m\Gamma S$ .

Conversely, assume that  $R = R^m\Gamma S$  for all  $R \in R_{(m,0)}$ . To show that  $S$  is  $(m, n)$ -regular, let  $a \in S$ . Take an  $(m, 0)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal  $R = [a]_{(m,0)}$  of  $S$ . Then

$$[a]_{(m,0)} = ([a]_{(m,0)})^m\Gamma S.$$

According to Lemma 3.2, we obtain

$$[a]_{(m,0)} = a^m\Gamma S.$$

Since  $a \in [a]_{(m,0)}$ , so  $a \in a^m\Gamma S$ . Hence  $S$  is  $(m, 0)$ -regular.

- (ii) This can be proved analogously.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $m, n$  non-negative integers. The set of all  $(m, n)$ -ideals in  $S$  is denoted by  $A_{(m,n)}$ . Then*

$$S \text{ is } (m, n)\text{-regular} \Leftrightarrow \forall A \in A_{(m,n)} (A^m\Gamma S\Gamma A^n = A). \quad (3.1)$$

*Proof.* There are 4 cases to consider.

Case 1:  $m = 0, n = 0$ . Since  $S$  is the only  $(0, 0)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal of  $S$ , it follows that  $A \in A_{(0,0)}$  implies  $A = S$ . Thus (3.1) holds.

Case 2:  $m = 0, n \neq 0$ . We have to show that

$$S \text{ is } (0, n)\text{-regular} \Leftrightarrow \forall A \in A_{(0,n)}(S\Gamma A^n = A).$$

This is true using Theorem 3.3.

Case 3:  $m \neq 0, n = 0$ . This can be proved similarly as Case 2.

Case 4:  $m \neq 0, n \neq 0$ . Let  $S$  be an  $(m, n)$ -regular. Then  $a \in a^m\Gamma S\Gamma a^n$  for all  $a \in S$ . Let  $A \in A_{(m,n)}$ . Then  $A^m\Gamma S\Gamma A^n \subseteq A$ . If  $a \in A$ , then by assumption,  $a \in a^m\Gamma S\Gamma a^n$ . Thus  $A \subseteq A^m\Gamma S\Gamma A^n$ .

Conversely, assume that  $A^m\Gamma S\Gamma A^n = A$  for all  $A \in A_{(m,n)}$ . If  $a \in S$ , then by Lemma 3.2,

$$[a]_{(m,n)} = ([a]_{(m,n)})^m\Gamma S\Gamma ([a]_{(m,n)})^n = a^m\Gamma S\Gamma a^n.$$

Since  $a \in [a]_{(m,n)}$ ,  $a \in a^m\Gamma S\Gamma a^n$ , and thus  $a$  is  $(m, n)$ -regular. Therefore,  $S$  is  $(m, n)$ -regular.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $S$  be a  $\Gamma$ -semigroup and  $m, n$  non-negative integers. The set of all  $(m, 0)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals and the set of all  $(0, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideals of  $S$  will be denoted by  $R_{(m,0)}$  and  $L_{(0,n)}$ , respectively. Then*

$$S \text{ is } (m, n)\text{-regular} \Leftrightarrow \forall R \in R_{(m,0)} \forall L \in L_{(0,n)} (R \cap L = R^m\Gamma L \cap R\Gamma L^n) \quad (3.2)$$

(Here  $R^0\Gamma L = L$  and  $R\Gamma L^0 = R$ ).

*Proof.* There are 4 cases to consider.

Case 1:  $m = 0, n = 0$ . Since  $S$  is  $(0, 0)$ -regular, we have (3.2) holds.

Case 2:  $m = 0, n \neq 0$ . Since  $R = S$ , the equation  $R \cap L = R^m\Gamma L \cap R\Gamma L^n$  becomes  $L = L \cap S\Gamma L^n$ . Thus  $L \subseteq S\Gamma L^n$ , and hence  $L = S\Gamma L^n$ . Then (3.2) becomes

$$S \text{ is } (0, n)\text{-regular if and only if } \forall L \in L_{(0,n)}(L = S\Gamma L^n).$$

This follows by Theorem 3.3.

Case 3:  $m \neq 0, n = 0$ . This can be proved as Case 2.

Case 4:  $m \neq 0, n \neq 0$ . We assume first that  $S$  is  $(m, n)$ -regular. Let  $R \in R_{(m,0)}$  and  $L \in L_{(0,n)}$ . We have

$$R^m\Gamma L \subseteq R^m\Gamma S \subseteq R \text{ and } R\Gamma L^n \subseteq S\Gamma L^n \subseteq L.$$

Then  $R^m\Gamma L \cap R\Gamma L^n \subseteq R \cap L$ . For the reverse inclusion, let  $a \in R \cap L$ . By assumption,

$$a \in (a^m\Gamma S)\Gamma a^n \subseteq R\Gamma L^n \text{ and } a \in a^m\Gamma (S\Gamma a^n) \subseteq R^m\Gamma L.$$

Hence  $R \cap L \subseteq R^m\Gamma L \cap R\Gamma L^n$ .

Conversely, suppose that the expression on the right hand side of (3.2) holds. Then

$$\forall R \in R_{(m,0)} \forall L \in L_{(0,n)} (R \cap L \subseteq R\Gamma L).$$

Take  $R = [a]_{(m,0)}$  and  $L = S$ , by Lemma 3.2, we obtain

$$[a]_{(m,0)} \subseteq ([a]_{(m,0)})^m\Gamma S \subseteq a^m\Gamma S.$$



Thus  $[a]_{(m,0)} \subseteq a^m \Gamma S$ . Similarly, we get  $[a]_{(0,n)} \subseteq S \Gamma a^n$ . Hence

$$[a]_{(m,0)} \cap [a]_{(0,n)} \subseteq a^m \Gamma S \cap S \Gamma a^n.$$

Since  $a^m \Gamma S$  is an  $(m, 0)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal and  $S \Gamma a^n$  is an  $(0, n)$ - $\Gamma$ -ideal, by assumption, we have

$$a^m \Gamma S \cap S \Gamma a^n \subseteq a^m \Gamma S \Gamma S \Gamma a^n \subseteq a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n.$$

Hence

$$[a]_{(m,0)} \cap [a]_{(0,n)} \subseteq a^m \Gamma S \Gamma a^n.$$

Since  $a \in [a]_{(m,0)} \cap [a]_{(0,n)}$ ,  $S$  is  $(m, n)$ -regular.  $\square$

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