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EXTENSIONS OF BAUER'S IDENTICAL CONGRUENCES

ŠTEFAN SCHWARZ

In the present paper we shall use a part of the results obtained in [4] to prove some identical congruences which can be considered as extensions and modifications of the famous Bauer's congruences. (See Hardy—Wright, [2].)

For the convenience of the reader we recall some facts proved in [4] needed in the following.

Let $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ be the factorization of an integer m > 1 into the product of different prime powers. Let S_m be the multiplicative semigroup of the ring of integers (mod m). The class containing the number a is denoted by [a]. We shall freely use the fact that S_m admits also an addition.

 S_m contains 2' different idempotents (including [0] and [1]). Any idempotent $e \in S_m$ can be written in the form $e = [p_1^{l_1} \dots p_r^{l_r}a]$, where l_i is either zero or α_i and a is an integer with (a, m) = 1.

The idempotents of the form $[p_i^{\alpha}a]$ will be denoted as \overline{f}_i and called the maximal idempotents of S_m . Any idempotent $e \in S_m$ which is different from [1] is a product of maximal idempotents $\in S$. Under the partial ordering $e' \leq e'' \Leftrightarrow e'e'' = e'$ the set E of all idempotents forms a Boolean algebra. The r idempotents of the form $f_i = [a \cdot m/p_i^{\alpha}]$, (a, m) = 1, are called the primitive idempotents $\in S_m$. We have $f_i + \overline{f}_i = [1]$, also $f_1 + \ldots + f_r = [1]$ and $\overline{f}_1 \ldots \overline{f}_r = [0]$.

To any idempotent $e \in E$ there exist a maximal group G(e) containing e as its unit element and a maximal subsemigroup P(e) of S containing e as the unique idempotent. Hence $P(e) = \{x \mid x \in S_m, x^l = e \text{ for some } l > 0\}$. Clearly $S_m = \bigcup_{e \in E} P(e)$ and $G(e) \subset P(e)$. In particular G(1) = G([1]) is the group of order $\varphi(m)$ (Euler function) containing all [a] with (a, m) = 1. Note that P([1]) = G(1).

The following (internal) direct decomposition of G(1) plays an important role. Denote

$$G_i = \{ \bar{f}_i + [h] f_i \mid 0 < h < p_i^{\alpha_i}, (h, p_i) = 1 \}.$$

Then all G_i are subgroups of G(1) and we have

$$G(1) = G_1 \cdot G_2 \ldots G_r.$$

Analogously if $T_i = \{\bar{f}_i + [h]f_i | 0 \le h < p_i^{\alpha_i}\}$, then S_m admits the following (internal) direct decomposition:

$$S_m = T_1 \cdot T_2 \ldots T_r$$

Hereby $T_i \cap T_j = [0]$ for $i \neq j$.

Let $e \in E$, $e \neq [1]$, and $e = \overline{f_1} \dots \overline{f_s}$ $(1 \leq s < r)$. Then the group G(e) has the following (internal) direct decomposition

$$G(e) = (G_{s+1}e) \dots (G_re).$$

(If s = r, then e = [0] and $G(e) = \{[0]\}$.)

Note for the following. The correspondence $p_t \leftrightarrow \overline{f}_t$ is one to one. There are of course $\binom{r}{s}$ different products of s maximal idempotents. For simplicity we write $e = \overline{f}_1 \dots \overline{f}_s$ having in mind that this is a typical representative of the product of s maximal idempotents.

Denote $T_i = G_i \cup I_i$, $G_i \cap I_i = \emptyset$ $(1 \le i \le r)$. Then the semigroup P(e) admits the following decomposition

$$P(e) = I_1 \ldots I_s \cdot (G_{s+1}) \ldots (G_r).$$

Here I_i are subsemigroups of S_m and $I_i \cap I_j = \emptyset$ if $i \neq j$. (If $e = [0], P([0]) = I_1 \dots I_r$.)

Finally if $e = \bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_s$, we have (with card A = |A|)

$$|G(e)| = \varphi(m/p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_s^{\alpha_s}) = \varphi(p_{s+1}^{\alpha_{s+1}} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r})$$
$$|P(e)| = p_1^{\alpha_1 - 1} \dots p_s^{\alpha_s - 1} |G(e)|.$$

In order to find a generalization of the Lagrange decomposition

$$(x-1)(x-2) \dots (x-p+1) \equiv x^{p-1} - 1 \pmod{p},$$

Bauer (1902) considered the product

 $F(x) = \prod_{v \in G(1)} (x - v) \text{ and proved: For } p_i > 2 \text{ we have}$ $F(x) \equiv (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{\varphi(m)} (p_i^{-1}) (\text{mod } p_i^{\alpha_i}),$

and a similar result if $p_i = 2$. Later Vandiver (1917) extended this result giving formulas for the value of F(x) in S_m (i. e. not mod $p_i^{\alpha_i}$ but mod m). He also gave a formula for the product $\prod_{v \in S} (x - v)$. (See Theorem 2 and Theorem 7 below.)

The purpose of this paper is to give explicit formulae for the products $\prod_{v \in G(e)} (x - v)$ and $\prod_{v \in P(e)} (x - v)$, where e is any idempotent $\in S_m$. These formulae

are certainly new since a rather thorough investigation of the existing literature shows that there is a very limited number of papers dealing explicitly with the groups G(e) and semigroups P(e) for $e \neq [1]$.

In the following we shall use only a special case of Bauer's identity, namely the case $m = p^{\alpha}$ ($\alpha \ge 1$), the proof of which is given in [2].

Denote $V = \{0, 1, ..., p^{a} - 1\}, V^{(1)} = \{a \in V | (a, p) = 1\}$, then the following holds:

Lemma 1.(Bauer). a) If p > 2, then

$$\prod_{e \in V^{(1)}} (x - v) \equiv (x^{p-1} - 1)^{p^{\alpha-1}} (\text{mod } p^{\alpha}).$$
 (1)

b) If p = 2 and $\alpha > 1$,

$$\prod_{v \in V^{(1)}} (x - v) \equiv (x^2 - 1)^{2^{\alpha - 2}} (\text{mod } 2^{\alpha}).$$

Remark. When dealing with residue classes as elements $\in S_{p^{\alpha}}$ we may write (1) in the form $\prod_{v \in G(1)} (x - v) = (x^{p-1} - [1])^{p^{\alpha-1}}$ (with the sign of equality). In the following we reserve the sign of the equality for all calculations to be carried out in S_m .

Notation. Throughout the paper we use the following notation. If A is a nonempty subset of S_m , then U[x; A] denotes the product $\prod_{v \in A} (x - v)$ (with coefficients $\in S_m$).

As it does not lead to any misunderstanding we shall write x + a, $a \in S_m$ instead of [1] x + a and replace ax - a by (x - 1)a having in mind that all coefficients of the polynomials considered are elements $\in S_m$.

If $m = p_1^{a_1} \dots p_r^{a_r}$, we denote $V_i = \{0, 1, \dots, p^{a_i} - 1\}$, $V_i^{(1)} = \{a \in V_i \mid (a, p_i) = 1\}$, $V_i^{(0)} = \{a \in V_i \mid (a, p_i) > 1\}$, so that $V_i = V_i^{(1)} \cup V_i^{(0)}$.

1. The product $U[x; G_i]$

As remarked above the groups G_i play an important role, so that we have to deal first with the product

$$U[x; G_i] = \prod_{v \in G_i} (x - v).$$

We suppose $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$. The case r = 1 is not interesting since it leads to Lemma 1. Hence we suppose $r \ge 2$.

In the following Theorem 1 $|G_i|$ is the cardinality of G_i , hence $|G_i| = p_i^{a_i-1}(p_i-1)$ for $p_i \ge 2$.

Theorem 1. With the notations introduced above we have

$$U[x:G_i] = \begin{cases} [(x-\bar{f_i})^{p_i-1}-f_i]^{|G_i|(p_i-1)|} & \text{for } p_i > 2, \\ [(x-\bar{f_i})^2-f_i]^{|G_i|/2} & \text{for } p_i = 2, \alpha_i \ge 2, \\ x-[1] & \text{for } p_i^{\alpha_i} = 2. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Any element $v \in G_i$ can be written in the form $v = \overline{f_i} + hf_i$, $h \in V_i^{(1)}$. Hence

$$x - v = x - [\bar{f}_i + hf_i] = x(f_i + \bar{f}_i) - (\bar{f}_i + hf_i) = (x - 1)\bar{f}_i + (x - h)f_i$$

and

$$U[x; G_i] = \prod_{h \in V_i^{(1)}} [(x-1)\bar{f}_i + (x-h)f_i] = (x-1)^{\gamma_i} \cdot \bar{f}_i + f_i \prod_{h \in V_i^{(1)}} (x-h),$$

where $\gamma_i = \varphi(p_i^{\alpha_i})$.

a) For $p_i > 2$, we have by Lemma 1, (with $\beta_i = p_i^{\alpha_i - 1}$). $\prod_{h \in V_i^{(1)}} (x - h) \equiv (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{\beta_i} (\text{mod } p_i^{\alpha_i})$

and, since $f_{i}[p_{i}^{\alpha_{i}}] = [0]$,

$$U[x; G_i] = (x-1)^{(p_i-1)\beta_i} \cdot \bar{f}_i + (x^{p_i-1}-1)^{\beta_i} \cdot f_i =$$

= $[(x-1)^{p_i-1}\bar{f}_i + (x^{p_i-1}-1)f_i]^{\beta_i} = [\{(x-1)\bar{f}_i + xf_i\}^{p_i-1} - f_i]^{\beta_i},$

whence the first formula immediately follows.

b) For $p_i = 2$, $\alpha_i \ge 2$, we have by Lemma 1,

$$\prod_{i \in V_i^{(1)}} (x-h) \equiv (x^2-1)^{\beta_i} \pmod{2^{\alpha_i}},$$

where $\beta_i = 2^{\alpha_i - 2}$.

Hence

$$U[x; G_i] = (x-1)^{2\beta_i} \cdot \bar{f_i} + (x^2-1)^{\beta_i} \cdot f_i = [(x-1)^2 \bar{f_i} + (x^2-1) f_i]^{\beta_i} = [(x-\bar{f_i})^2 - f_i]^{\beta_i}.$$

c) If $p_i^{a_i} = 2$ (i. e. *m* is divisible by 2, but not by 4), we have $V_i^{(1)} = \{1\}$, the group G_i reduces to the element $\bar{f}_i + 1 \cdot f_i = [1]$, so that $U[x; G_i] = x - [1]$.

This proves Theorem 1.

Suppose in the following again $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, where $r \ge 2$. We use Theorem 1 to find $U[x: G(1)] = U[x: G_1G_2 \dots G_r]$.

 $U[x; G(1)] = \prod_{v \in G_1 \dots G_r} (x - v) = \prod (x - v_1 \dots v_r), \text{ where } v_1, \dots, v_r \text{ run independently over } G_1, \dots, G_r. \text{ Since } [1] = f_1 + \dots + f_r, \text{ we may write } u[x; G(1)]$ $= \sum_{i=1}^r U[x; G_1 \dots G_r] \cdot f_i \text{ and compute each of these summands separately.}$ 212

Write v in the form

$$v = v_1 \dots v_r = (\bar{f}_1 + h_1 f_1) \dots (\bar{f}_r + h_r f_r)$$

with $h_i \in V_i^{(1)}$. For any $i \ (1 \le i \le r)$ we have $v \cdot f_i = v_1 v_2 \dots v_r f_i = v_i f_i$ independently of the $\varphi(m) / |G_i|$ possible values of $v_1 \dots v_{i-1} v_{i+1} \dots v_r$.

Hence

$$U[x; G(1)]f_i = \prod_{v \in G_i} (xf_i - vf_i)^{\varphi(m)/|G_i|} =$$
$$= \left[\prod_{v \in G_i} (x - v)\right]^{\varphi(m)/|G_i|} \cdot f_i = U[x; G_i]^{\varphi(m)/|G_i|} \cdot f_i$$

a) If p_i is odd, then by Theorem 1

$$U[x; G_i] \cdot f_i = \{ [(x - \bar{f}_i)^{p_i - 1} - f_i] f_i \}^{|G_i|/(p_i - 1)} = = [x^{p_i - 1} \cdot f_i - f_i]^{|G_i|/(p_i - 1)} = (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{|G_i|/(p_i - 1)} \cdot f_i$$

and

$$U[x; G(1)] \cdot f_i = (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{\varphi(m)/(p_i - 1)} \cdot f_i.$$

b) If $m = 2 \cdot p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, $r \ge 2$, then since $|G_1| = 1$, $U[x; G(1)] \cdot f_1 = U[x; G_1]^{\varphi(m)} \cdot f_1 = (x-1)^{\varphi(m)} \cdot f_1$.

c) If $m = 2^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}, \alpha_1 \ge 2$, then

$$U[x; G(1)] \cdot f_1 = U[x; G_1]^{|G_2 \dots |G_r|} f_1 =$$

= $[(x - \bar{f}_1)^2 - f_1]^{\varphi(m)/2} \cdot f_1 = (x^2 f_1 - f_1)^{\varphi(m)/2} = (x^2 - 1)^{\varphi(m)/2} \cdot f_1.$

This can be modified (due to the fact that $r \ge 2$). First

$$\frac{1}{2} \varphi(m) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2^{\alpha_1 - 1} \cdot p_2^{\alpha_2 - 1} (p_2 - 1) \dots = 2^{\alpha_1 - 1} \cdot u_2$$

where *u* is an integer. Next (with $\gamma = 2^{a_1-1}u$)

$$(x^{2}-1)^{\gamma} \cdot f_{1} = [(x-1)^{2}+2(x-1)]^{\gamma} \cdot f_{1} = (x-1)^{\varphi(m)}f_{1} + \sum_{k \ge 1} {\binom{2^{\alpha_{1}-1} \cdot u}{k}} 2^{k}(x-1)^{\varphi(m)-k} \cdot f_{1}.$$

It is easy to see that $\binom{2^{a^{1}-1} \cdot u}{k} 2^{k}$ is divisible by $2^{a_{1}}$ and since $[2^{a_{1}}]f_{1} = 0$, we finally have $U[x; G(1)]f_{1} = (x-1)^{\varphi(m)}f_{1}$. This implies:

Theorem 2. Let $m = p_1^{a_1} \dots p_r^{a_r}$, $r \ge 2$. Then

$$U[x; G(1)] = \sum_{i=1}^{r} f_i (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{\varphi(m)(p_i - 1)}.$$

This formula has been (in essential) found by Vandiver (1917). Of course, since he does not use explicitly the idempotents, his formulations are rather complicated. (See Dickson [1], p. 89.)

2. The product U[x : G(e)]

Let now be *e* any idempotent $\in E$, $e \neq [1]$ and $e = \overline{f_1} \overline{f_2} \dots \overline{f_s}$, where $s \leq 1 \leq r$. We again suppose $r \geq 2$.

We shall find explicit formulas for the product $\prod_{v \in G(e)} (x - v)$, G(e) being (as above) the maximal subgroup of S_m belonging to the idempotent e.

In the following we suppose s < r, since for s = r we have e = [0] and U[x; G(0)] = x.

The group G(e) is a direct product of its subgroups

$$G(e) = (G_{s+1}e) \cdot (G_{s+2}e) \dots (G_{r}e)$$

Any element $v \in G(e)$ is of the form $v = v_{s+1} \dots v_r$, where $v_j \in G_j e$, and $v_j = (\bar{f}_j + h_j f_j) \cdot \bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_s$, $h_j \in V_j^{(1)}$, $j \ge s+1$. Hence

$$U[x; G(e)] = \Pi(x - v_{s+1} \dots v_r)$$
, where v_{s+1}, \dots, v_r ,

run independently through $G_{s+1} \cdot e, ..., G_r \cdot e$.

Write again

$$U[x; G(e)] = \sum_{i=1}^{r} U[x; G(e)] \cdot f_i.$$

If $i \in \{1, 2, ..., s\}$, then $v_{s+1} \dots Ifr \cdot f_i = [0]$, so that

$$U[x; G(e)] \cdot f_i = x^{|G(e)|} \cdot f_i.$$

If $i \in \{s+1, ..., r\}$, then $v_{s+1} \dots v_r \cdot f_i = v_{s+1}f_i \cdot v_{s+2}f_i \dots v_rf_i$. Since for $j \neq i v_jf_i = (\bar{f}_j + h_jf_j)\bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_s \cdot f_i = \bar{f}_j\bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_s \cdot f_i = f_i$, we have independently of the $\frac{|G(e)|}{|G_i|}$ choices of $v_{s+1}, \dots, v_{i-1} \cdot v_{i+1} \dots v_r$, that $(v_{s+1} \dots v_r)f_i = v_if_i$. Hence

$$U[x: G(e)]f_i = \prod_{v \in G_i} (xf_i - vf_i)^{|G(e)||G_i|} = [U(x; G_i)]^{|G(e)||G_i|} \cdot f_i$$

and

$$U[x; G(e)] = (f_1 + \ldots + f_s) x^{|G(e)|} + \sum_{i=s+1}^r [U(x; G_i)]^{|G(e)||G_i|} \cdot f_i.$$
(2)

By Theorem 1 we have again $U[x; G_i]f_i = (x^{p_i-1}-1)^{|G_i|/p_i-1} \cdot f_i$ if p_i is odd and the same results hold if $p_i^{\alpha_i} = 2$. If $p_i^{\alpha_i} = 2^{\alpha_i}$, $\alpha_i \ge 2$, we have $U[x; G_i]f_i = (x^2-1)^{|G_i|/2} \cdot f_i$.

If all $p_{s+1}, ..., p_r$ are odd, or one of them, say p_r , is even and $p_r^{a_r} = 2$, we immediately obtain

$$U[x; G(e)] = (f_1 + \ldots + f_s) x^{|G(e)|} + \sum_{i=s+1}^r (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{|G(e)|/p_i - 1} \cdot f_i.$$

There remains the case in which one of the p_{s+1} , ..., p_r , say p_r , is even and $p_r^{\alpha_r} = 2^{\alpha_r}$, $\alpha_r \ge 2$. In this case the last term in (2) is

Recall that $|G(e)| = \varphi(p_{s+1}^{\alpha_{s+1}} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}) = |G_{s+1}| \dots |G_r|$. If $r-s \ge 2$, then (analogously to the proof of Theorem 1) the right-hand side of (3) can be rewritten as $(x-1)^{|G(e)|} \cdot f_r$. If s = r-1, i. e. $e = \overline{f_1} \dots \overline{f_{r-1}}$ and $|G(e)| = 2^{\alpha_r - 1}$ this modification cannot be carried out but in this case we have

$$U[x; G(e)] = (f_1 + \dots + f_{r-1})x^{|G(e)|} + (x^2 - 1)^{|G(e)|/2}f_r =$$

= $\bar{f}_r x^{|G(e)|} + f_r (x^2 - 1)^{|G(e)|/2} = [\bar{f}_r \cdot x^2 + f_r (x^2 - 1)]^{|G(e)|/2} =$
= $(x^2 - f_r)^{\beta_r}$,

where $\beta_r = 2^{\alpha_r - 2}$. We have proved:

Theorem 3. Let $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ and $e = \overline{f_1} \dots \overline{f_s}$, s < r. Then

$$U[x; G(e)] = (f_1 + \ldots + f_s) x^{|G(e)|} + \sum_{i=s+1}^r f_i (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{|G(e)|/(p_i - 1)}$$

with the exception of the case $e = \overline{f_1} \dots \overline{f_{r-1}}$ and $p_r^{\alpha_r} = 2^{\alpha_r}$, $\alpha_r \ge 2$, in which case $U[x; G(e)] = (x^2 - f_r)^{\beta_r}$, where $\beta_r = 2^{\alpha_r-2}$.

Remark 1. In this exceptional case e is the primitive idempotent f_r with the corresponding maximal group of order $|G(f_r)| = 2^{\alpha_r - 1}$.

For any other primitive idempotent which is necessarily of the form $e = \bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_{r-1} = f_r$ and $|G(e)| = \varphi(p_r^{\alpha_r})$ we have (with $\beta_r = p_r^{\alpha_r-1}$)

$$U[x; G(e)] = (f_1 + \dots + f_{r-1})x^{|G(e)|} + f_r(x^{p_r-1} - 1)^{|G(e)|/(p_r-1)} =$$

= $\bar{f}_r \cdot x^{|G(e)|} + f_r(x^{p_r-1} - 1)^{|G(e)|/(p_r-1)} = [\bar{f}_r \cdot x^{p_r-1} + f_r(x^{p_r-1} - 1)]^{\beta_r} =$
= $[x^{p_r-1} - f_r]^{\beta_r}.$

Hence we state:

Corollary 3. If f_i is a primitive idempotent $\in S_m$, then

$$U[x; G(f_i)] = [x^{p_i-1} - f_i]^{\beta_i}, \beta_i = p_i^{\alpha_i-1},$$

with the exception of the case that m is even, $f_i = [a \cdot m/2^{\alpha_i}], \alpha_i \ge 2, a \in G(1)$, in which case

$$U[x: G(f_i)] = (x^2 - f_i)^{\gamma_i}, \ \gamma_i = 2^{\alpha_i - 2}$$

Remark 2. It is worth to note the following. Suppose, e. g., that p_i is odd. The group G_i and the group $G(f_i)$ are algebraically isomorphic, while

$$\prod_{v \in G_i} (x - v) = [(x - \bar{f}_i)^{p_i - 1} - f_i]^{\beta_i}, \ \beta_i = p_i^{\alpha_i - 1},$$
$$\prod_{v \in G(f_i)} (x - v) = [x^{p_i - 1} - f_i]^{\beta_i},$$

which are different polynomials (over S_m).

3. The product U[x : P(e)]

In the following we shall need a Lemma. Denote $Z_{\alpha} = \prod_{h=1}^{p^{\alpha-1}} (x - hp)$. Note: If $V = \{0, 1, ..., p^{\alpha} - 1\}$, and $V^{(0)}$ $= \{ v \in V | (h, p) > 1 \}, \text{ then } Z_{\alpha} \equiv \prod_{v \in V^{(0)}} (x - v) \pmod{p^{\alpha}}.$

Lemma 2. a) If p > 2, then

$$Z_{\alpha} \equiv x^{p^{\alpha-1}} \pmod{p^{\alpha}}.$$

b) If p = 2, $\alpha \ge 2$, then

$$Z_{\alpha} \equiv (x^2 - 2x)^{2^{\alpha-2}} \pmod{p^{\alpha}}.$$

Remark. The first part of this Lemma is implicitly contained in paper [3]. Proof. a) Suppose p > 2, the Lemma is true for $\alpha = 1$, since $Z_1 = x - p \equiv z$ x (mod p). Suppose that $Z_{\alpha} \equiv x^{p^{\alpha-1}} \pmod{p^{\alpha}}$, we prove $Z_{\alpha+1} \equiv x^{p^{\alpha}} \pmod{p^{\alpha+1}}$. Now

$$Z_{\alpha+1} = \prod_{j=0}^{p-1} \left(\prod_{h=1}^{p^{\alpha-1}} (x - hp - jp^{\alpha}) \right).$$

For a fixed *j*

$$\prod_{h=1}^{p^{\alpha-1}} (x - hp - jp^{\alpha}) \equiv \prod_{h=1}^{p^{\alpha-1}} (x - hp) + jp^{\alpha} \cdot g(x) \equiv Z_{\alpha} + jp^{\alpha}g(x) \pmod{p^{\alpha+1}},$$

where q(x) is a polynomial independent of j. This implies

$$Z_{a+1} \equiv \prod_{j=0}^{p-1} (Z_a + jp^a g(x)) \equiv Z_a^p + Z_a^{p-1} \cdot p^a \cdot g(x) \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} j \equiv Z_a^p \pmod{p^{a+1}}.$$

Since by the inductive supposition $Z_a = x^{p^{a-1}} + p^a \cdot g_1(x)$ (with a polynomial $g_1(x)$), we have

$$Z_{\alpha+1} \equiv [x^{p^{\alpha-1}} + p^{\alpha} \cdot g_1(x)]^p \equiv x^{p^{\alpha}} \pmod{p^{\alpha+1}}.$$

This proves our Lemma for p > 2.

b) Suppose p=2. The statement holds for $\alpha=2$, since $Z_2 = x(x-2)$. We suppose that

$$Z_{\alpha} = \prod_{h=1}^{2^{\alpha-1}} (x-2h) \equiv (x^2-2x)^{2^{\alpha-2}} \pmod{2^{\alpha}},$$

we have to prove that $Z_{\alpha+1} \equiv (x^2 - 2x)^{2^{\alpha-1}} \pmod{2^{\alpha+1}}$. Now

$$Z_{a+1} = \prod_{h=1}^{2^{a-1}} (x-2h)(x-2(2^{a-1}+h)) \equiv \prod_{h=1}^{2^{a-1}} (x-2h-2^{a-1})^2 \pmod{2^a}$$

(since $2(\alpha-1) \ge \alpha$ for $\alpha \ge 2$). Further

$$\prod_{h=1}^{2^{\alpha-1}} (x-2h-2^{\alpha-1}) = Z_{\alpha}(x-2^{\alpha-1}) \equiv [(x-2^{\alpha-1})^2 - 2(x-2^{\alpha-1})]^{2^{\alpha-2}} \equiv \\ \equiv (x^2-2x)^{2^{\alpha-2}} \pmod{2^{\alpha}},$$

hence

$$\prod_{h=1}^{2^{\alpha-1}} (x-2h-2^{\alpha-1}) = (x^2-2x)^{2^{\alpha-2}}+2^{\alpha} \cdot g(x),$$

where g(x) is a polynomial. This implies finally

$$Z_{a+1}(x) = [(x^2 - 2x)^{2^{a-2}} + 2^a g(x)]^2 \equiv (x^2 - 2x)^{2^{a-1}} \pmod{2^{a+1}}.$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.

The next theorem deals with the product $\prod_{v \in I_i} (x - v)$, where I_i has been defined in the introduction.

Theorem 4.

$$U[x:I_i] = \begin{cases} (x-f_i)^{|I_i|} & \text{if } p_i > 2, \\ (x^2 - [2]x + \bar{f}_i)^{\frac{1}{2}|I_i|} & \text{if } p_i^{\alpha_i} = 2^{\alpha_i}, \ \alpha_i \ge 2, \\ x - \bar{f}_i & \text{if } p_i^{\alpha_i} = 2, \end{cases}$$

where $|I_i| = p_i^{\alpha_i - 1}$.

Proof. Any element $v \in I_i$ is of the form $v = \overline{f}_i + hf_i$, $h \in V_i^{(0)}$. We have

$$x-v = (x-1)\overline{f_i} + (x-h)f_i, h \in V_i^{(0)},$$

$$U[x_i; I_i] = \prod_{v \in I_i} (x - v) = (x - 1)^{|I_i|} \cdot \bar{f}_i + f_i \cdot \prod_{h \in V_i^{(0)}} (x - h).$$

a) If $p_i > 2$, by Lemma 2 (since $[p_i^{\alpha_i}]f_i = [0]$)

$$U[x; I_i] = (x-1)^{|I_i|} \bar{f}_i + x^{|I_i|} f_i = [(x-1)\bar{f}_i + xf_i]^{|I_i|} = (x-\bar{f}_i)^{|I_i|}.$$

b) If $p^{\alpha_i} = 2^{\alpha_i}$, $\alpha_i \ge 2$, again by Lemma 2

$$U[x; I_{i}] = (x-1)^{|I_{i}|} \bar{f}_{i} + (x^{2}-2x)^{\frac{1}{2}|I_{i}|} f_{i} =$$

= $[(x-1)^{2} \bar{f}_{i} + (x^{2}-2x) f_{i}]^{\frac{1}{2}|I_{i}|} = (x^{2}-[2]x + \bar{f}_{i})^{\frac{1}{2}|I_{i}|}.$

c) If $p_i^{\alpha_i} = 2$, $V_i^{(0)} = \{0\}$, so that I_i reduces to $\bar{f}_i + [0]f_i = \bar{f}_i$, hence $U[x; I_i] = x - \bar{f}_i$. This proves Theorem 4.

To find U[x; P(e)] we may restrict ourselves to the case $e \neq [1]$ since P(1) = G(1).

Let $e = \overline{f_1} \dots \overline{f_s}$, $s \le r$, (and $s \ge 1$). The semigroup P(e) admits the following (internal) direct decomposition

$$P(e) = I_1 \ldots I_s G_{s+1} \ldots G_r,$$

where if s = r, no G_t appears. Clearly $|P(e)| = |I_1| \dots |I_s| \cdot |G_{s+1}| \dots |G_r|$.

 $U[x; P(e)] = \Pi(x - v_1 \dots v_s v_{s+1} \dots v_r), \text{ where } v_k \in I_k \text{ for } k \leq s, \text{ and } v_k \in G_k, \text{ for } k > s.$

We write again $U[x; P(e)] = \sum_{i=1}^{r} U[x; P(e)] \cdot f_i$.

Recall $v_k = \overline{f}_k + h_k f_k$, where $h_k \in V_k^{(0)}$ for $k \leq s$ and $h_k \in V_k^{(1)}$ for k > s.

a) If $i \leq s$, then $v_1 \dots v_r \cdot f_i = v_i f_i$ for all possible $|P(e)/|I_i|$ values of the product $v_1 \dots v_{i-1} v_{i+1} \dots v_r$, so that

$$U[x; P(e)]f_{i} = \prod_{v \in I_{i}} (x - v)^{|P(e)| |I_{i}|} f_{i}$$

b) If s < r and i > s, then again $v_1 \dots v_r f_i = v_i f_i$ for all possible $|P(e)|/|G_i|$ choices of the remaining v_j , so that

$$U[x; P(e)]f_i = \prod_{v_i \in G_i} (x - v_i)^{|P(e)| |G_i|}.$$

Therefore:

$$U[x; P(e))] = \sum_{i=1}^{s} U(x; I_i)^{|P(e)|/|I_i|} f_i + \sum_{i=s+1}^{r} [U(x; G_i)]^{|P(e)||G_i|} f_i.$$
(4)

c) If s = r, the same formula holds if the last term to the right is omitted.

A) Suppose that $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, $r \ge 2$, where all $p_i^{\alpha_i}$ are odd or one of the factors is 2. Then (4), Theorem 1 and Theorem 3 imply

$$U[x; P(e)] = \sum_{i=1}^{s} (x - \hat{f}_i)^{|P(e)|} f_i + \sum_{i=s+1}^{r} [(x - \hat{f}_i)^{P_i - 1} - f_i]^{|P(e)|/(P_i - 1)} f_i =$$

= $[f_1 + \dots + f_s] x^{|P(e)|} + \sum_{i=s+1}^{r} f_i (x^{P_i - 1} - 1)^{|P(e)|/(P_i - 1)},$ (5)

where if s = r, the second term should be omitted so that $U[x; P(e)] = x^{|P(e)|}$.

There remains the case that one of the factors of $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ is equal to 2^{α} , where $\alpha \ge 2$. In this case it is necessary to consider several possibilities.

B) Suppose first that $m = 2^{\alpha_1} \cdot p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, $\alpha_1 \ge 2$, and r = s, i. e. e = [0] and P(e) = P([0]) = P(0).

Then

$$U[x; I_1]^{|P(\epsilon)|/|I_1|} f_1 = (x^2 - 2x + \bar{f}_1)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(\epsilon)|} f_1 = (x^2 - 2x)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(\epsilon)|} f_1,$$

and

$$U[x; P(0)] = (x^2 - 2x)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(0)|} f_1 + (f_2 + \dots + f_r)x^{|P(0)|} =$$
$$= (x^2 - 2x)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(0)|} f_1 + \bar{f}_1 x^{|P(0)|} = [(x^2 - 2x)f_1 + \bar{f}_1 x^2]^{\frac{1}{2}|P(0)|} = (x^2 - 2xf_1)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(0)|}$$

Hereby $|P(0)| = 2^{\alpha_1 - 1} p_2^{\alpha_2 - 1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r - 1}$.

C) Suppose s < r, $e = \bar{f_1} \dots \bar{f_s}$, and the maximal idempotent which is a multiple of $[2^{\alpha}]$ is a factor of $e = \bar{f_1} \dots \bar{f_s}$. Write $m = 2^{\alpha_1} p_{2^{\alpha_2}}^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, so that $\bar{f_1}$ is a multiple of $[2^{\alpha_1}]$. We have again

$$U[x; I_1]^{\frac{|P(\epsilon)|}{|I_1|}} \cdot f_1 = (x^2 - 2x)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(\epsilon)|} f_1$$

But since $|P(e)| = 2^{a_1-1} \dots \varphi(p_r^{a_r})$, |P(e)| is divisible by 2^{a_1} and $\frac{1}{2} |P(e)| = 2^{a_1-1} \cdot u$, where *u* is an integer. Hence

$$(x^{2}-2x)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}f_{1}=x^{|P(e)|}f_{1}+f_{1}\cdot\sum_{k\geq 1}(-1)^{k}\binom{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}{k}2^{k}x^{|P(e)|-k}=x^{|P(e)|}\cdot f_{1},$$

since for $k \ge 1$ the term $\binom{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}{k} 2^k$ is divisible by 2^{α_1} and $[2^{\alpha_1}]f_1 = [0]$. For U[x; P(e)] we obtain the same result as in (5).

D) Suppose s < r, $e = \bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_s$, and write $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_{r-1}^{\alpha_{r-1}} \cdot 2^{\alpha_r}$, $\alpha_r \ge 2$, so that the maximal idempotent corresponding to $[2^{\alpha_r}]$ is not a factor of e.

By Theorem 1 we have

$$U[x; G_r] = [(x - \bar{f}_r)^2 - f_r]^{\frac{1}{2}|G_r|},$$

and the last term in (4) is now

$$(U[x; G_r])^{|P(e)||G_r|} \cdot f_r = [(x - f_r)^2 - f_r]^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|} f_r = (x^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|} \cdot f_r.$$

D 1) If $s \le r-2$, then |P(e)| is divisible by 2^{α_r} , hence $\frac{1}{2}|P(e)| = 2^{\alpha_r-1} \cdot u$, where *u* is an integer. In this case (with $\beta = 2^{\alpha_r-1} \cdot u$)

$$(x^2-1)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|} \cdot f_r = [(x-1)^2+2(x-1)]^{\beta} \cdot f_r,$$

and by the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 1 (case c) we obtain

$$(U[x:G_r])^{|P(e)||G_r|}f_r = (x-1)^{|P(e)|},$$

so that the formula (5) holds.

D 2) If s = r - 1, i. e. $P(e) = I_1 \dots I_{r-1} \cdot G_r$ and $|G_r| = 2^{\alpha_r - 1}$, the last term in (4) is $(x^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|} f_r$, which cannot be directly reduced to a simpler form.

But in this case we have

$$U[x; P(e)] = (f_1 + \dots + f_{r-1})x^{|P(e)|} + (x^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}f_r =$$

= $\bar{f}_r x^{|P(e)|} + (x^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}f_r = [\bar{f}_r x^2 + (x^2 - 1) \cdot f_r]^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|} = (x^2 - f_r)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}$

Summarily we have proved the following two statements:

Theorem 5a. Let $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, $r \ge 2$. Then $U[x : P(0)] = x^{|P(0)|}$ with the exception of the case that *m* is even and one of the factors, say $p_r^{\alpha_r}$, is 2^{α_r} with $\alpha_r \ge 2$. In this case $U[x : P(0)] = (x^2 - 2xf_r)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(0)|}$.

Theorem 5b. Let $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, $r \ge 2$, and $e = \bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_s \ne [0]$, Then $U[x; P(e)] = [f_1 + \dots + f_s] x^{|P(e)|} + \sum_{i=s+1}^r f_i (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{|P(e)| (p_i - 1)}$, with the exception of the case that s = r - 1 and $p_r^{\alpha_r} = 2^{\alpha_r}$, $\alpha_r \ge 2$,, in which case $U[x; P(e)] = (x^2 - f_r)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}$.

Remark 1. The second case in Theorem 5b corresponds to the case of $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_{r-1}^{\alpha_{r-1}} 2^{\alpha_r}, \alpha_r \ge 2$, and *e* is a primitive idempotent of the form $f_r = \left[\frac{m}{2^{\alpha_r}} \cdot a\right], a \in G(1).$

For any other primitive idempotent f_i of the form

$$e=f_i=\left[\frac{m}{p_i^{a_i}}a_i\right], p_i\neq 2, \quad a_i\in G(1),$$

the formula (5) may be rewritten as follows: $U[x; P(f_i)] = \bar{f}_i x^{|P(\epsilon)|} + f_i (x^{p_i - 1} - 1)^{|P(\epsilon)|/(p_i - 1)} =$

$$= [\bar{f}_i \cdot x^{p_i-1} + f_i(x^{p_i-1}-1)]^{|P(f_i)|/(p_i-1)} = (x^{p_i-1} - f_i)^{|P(f_i)|/(p_i-1)}.$$

Corollary 4. For a primitive idempotent we have

$$U[x; P(f_i)] = (x^{p_i-1} - f_i)^{|P(f_i)|/(p_i-1)}$$

with the exception of the case that *m* is even, $f_i = \left[\frac{m}{2^{\alpha_i}}a\right]$, $\alpha_i \ge 2$, $a \in G(1)$, in which case

$$U[x; P(f_i)] = (x^2 - f_i)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(f_i)|}$$

Remark 2. It seems to be worth to remark that $\Pi(x - v)$, v running through all elements $\in P(0)$ (i. e. all nilpotent elements $\in S_m$) is in "most cases" $x^{|P(0)|}$. But by Theorem 5 a this is not true if m is divisible by 2^{α_r} , $\alpha_r \ge 2$. The corresponding result $(x^2 - 2xf_r)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(0)|}$ can be rewritten. Since $\binom{\frac{1}{2}P(0)}{k}2^k$ for $k \ge 3$ is divisible by 2^{α_r} , at most three terms are $\neq [0]$ and a simple calculation shows that

$$U[x; P(0)] = \begin{cases} x^{|P(0)|} - |P(0)| f_r \cdot x^{|P(0)|-1} & \text{for } \alpha_r = 2, \\ x^{|P(0)|} - |P(0)| \cdot f_r \cdot x^{|P(0)|-1} - |P(0)| f_r x^{|P(0)|-2} & \text{for } \alpha_r \ge 3. \end{cases}$$

To have a numerical example consider, e. g., $m = 5 \cdot 2^3 = 40$. Here $f_1 = [16]$, $f_2 = [25]$, $P(0) = \{[0], [10], [20], [30]\}$.

$$U[x; P(0)] = x(x - [10])(x - [20])(x - [30]) =$$

= $(x^2 - 2 \cdot [25]x)^2 = x^4 + [20]x^3 + [20]x^2.$

Theorems 3 and 5b lead to the following remarkable result:

Theorem 6. Let $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$, $r \ge 2$, and $e \ne [0]$. Then $U[x; P(e)] = U[x; G(e)]^L$,

where L = |P(e)| / |G(e)|.

Proof. Due to the orthogonality of the set $\{f_i\}$, the formula of Theorem 3 implies for any integer $k \ge 1$:

$$U[x; G(e)]^{k} = (f_{1} + \ldots + f_{s})^{k \cdot |G(e)|} + \sum_{i=s+1}^{r} f_{i}(x^{p_{i}-1} - 1)^{k \cdot |G(e)|/(p_{i}-1)}$$

Putting k = |P(e)|/|G(e)| the right-hand side gives exactly the formula of Theorem 5b.

Our statement holds also in the exceptional case mentioned in Theorem 3 and Theorem 5b, since in this case

$$U[x; G(e)] = (x^2 - f_r)^{\frac{1}{2}|G(e)|}, U[x; P(e)] = (x^2 - f_r)^{\frac{1}{2}|P(e)|}.$$

Finally it is true also if e = [1], since in this case |P(e)| = |G(e)|.

Remark. If [e] = [0], U[x : G(0)] = x, so that Theorem 6 is true if *m* is odd or *m* is divisible by 2 but not by 4. In the exceptional case mentioned in Theorem 5a, the statement of Theorem 6 does not hold.

4. The product $U[x; S_m]$

In order to find the formula for the product $\Pi(x - v)$, where v runs trough the whole semigroup S_m , we recall that $S_m = T_1 \dots T_r$, where T_i has been defined in the introduction.

It is natural to find first the product $U[x; T_i]$. Since $T_i = G_i \cup I_i$, we have $U[x; T_i] = U[x; G_i] \cdot U[x; I_i]$.

Theorem 7. a) If $p_i > 2$, then

$$U[x; T_i] = [(x - \tilde{f}_i)^{p_i} - xf_i]^{\beta_i}, \beta_i = p_i^{\alpha_i - 1}.$$

- b) If $p_i = 2$, $U[x; T_i] = (x \overline{f_i})(x [1])$.
- c) If $p_i^{\alpha_i} = 2^{\alpha_i}$, $\alpha_i \ge 2$, then

$$U[x; T_i] = (x^2 - 2x + \bar{f}_i)^{\gamma_i} \cdot [(x - \bar{f}_i)^2 - f_i]^{\gamma_i}, \gamma_i = 2^{\alpha_i - 2}.$$

Proof. By Theorem 1 and Theorem 4 we obtain for $p_i > 2$

$$U[x; T_i] = (x - \bar{f}_i)^{\beta_i} \cdot [(x - \bar{f}_i)^{\rho_i - 1} - f_i]^{\beta_i} = \\ = [(x - \bar{f}_i)^{\rho_i} - (x - \bar{f}_i)f_i]^{\beta_i} = [(x - \bar{f}_i)^{\beta_i}.$$

The remaining cases follow directly from the corresponding statements of Theorems 1 and 4.

Any element $v \in S_m$ can be written uniquely in the form $v = t_1 t_2 \dots t_r$, with $t_i \in T_i$. For any $v \in S_m v \cdot f_i = (t_1 \dots t_r) \cdot f_i = t_i f_i$ independently of the $m/p_i^{\alpha_i}$ possible values of $t_1 \dots t_{i-1} t_{i+1} \dots t_r$.

Hence

$$U[x; S_m] \cdot f_i = \prod_{v \in S_m} (xf_i - vf_i) = \prod_{i \in T_i} (xf_i - tf_i)^{u_i} = (U[x; T_i])^{u_i} \cdot f_i,$$

where $u_i = m/p_i^{\alpha_i}$

Since $U[x; S_m] = \sum_{i=1}^r U[x; S_m] \cdot f_i$, we have finally

$$U[x; S_m] = \sum_{i=1}^r U[x; T_i]^{u_i} f_i.$$

a) If $p_i > 2$, we have (with $\beta_i = p_i^{\alpha_i - 1}$)

$$U[x; T_i]^{u_i} \cdot f_i = ([x^{p_i} - x]^{\beta_i} \cdot f_i)^{u_i} = (x^{p_i} - x)^{m p_i} \cdot f_i.$$

b) If $p_i = 2$,

$$U[x; T_i]^{m/2} f_i = [(x - \bar{f}_i)(x - 1)f_i]^{m/2} = (x^2 - x)^{m/2} \cdot f_i.$$

c) If $p_{i}^{\alpha_{i}} = 2^{\alpha_{i}}, \alpha_{i} \ge 2$, (with $v_{i} = m/2^{\alpha_{i}}$)

$$U[x; T_i]^{\nu_i} f_i = (x^2 - 2x)^{m/4} \cdot (x^2 - 1)^{m/4} \cdot f_i =$$

= [(x^2 - x)^2 - 2(x^2 - x)]^{m/4} \cdot f_i.

We have proved:

Theorem 8. Let $m = p_1^{a_i} \dots p_r^{a_r}$. If all p_i are odd or m is divisible by 2 but not by 4, then

$$U[x; S_m] = \sum_{i=1}^r f_i \cdot (x^{p_i} - x)^{m/p_i}.$$
 (6)

If $m = 2^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}, \ \alpha_1 \ge 2$, then

$$U[x; S_m] = [(x^2 - x)^2 - 2(x^2 - x)]^{m/4} f_1 + \sum_{i=2}^r f_i (x^{p_i} - x)^{m/p_i}.$$
 (7)

Remark. The first term in (7) can be directly computed and we obtain (analogously to the Remark after Corollary 4):

$$[(x^{2}-x)^{2}-2(x^{2}-x)]^{m/4}f_{1} = \begin{cases} (y^{m/2} + \frac{m}{2} y^{m/2-1}) \cdot f_{1}, & \text{for } \alpha_{1} = 2, \\ \\ (y^{m/2} + \frac{m}{2} y^{m/2-1} + \frac{m}{2} y^{m/2-2}) \cdot f_{1}, & \text{for } \alpha_{1} \ge 3, \end{cases}$$

where $y = x^2 - x$.

The formula (6) has been proved (in essential) by Vandiver. His formula for $U[x; S_m]$ in the case of *m* even (as reproduced in Dickson [1], p. 89) is not correct. The correct result is (7).

5. Concluding remarks

Theorems 1 and 4 enable to find also formulae for $U[x; G_1 \dots G_s]$, $U[x; I_1 \dots I_s]$, $U[x; T_1 \dots T_s]$ with s < r. We omit this since these products seem to be of minor interest.

There are several applications of the results obtained. We outline one of them. Suppose, e. g., that m is odd (and $r \ge 2$).

Let $e = \bar{f}_1 \dots \bar{f}_s$ be a non-primitive idempotent $\in S_m$ (i. e. $s \leq r-2$). Then putting x = 0 in the formula of Theorem 3 we obtain

$$[-1]^{|G(e)|} \cdot \prod_{u \in G(e)} u = \prod_{u \in G(e)} u = f_{s+1} + \ldots + f_r = 1 - f_1 - \ldots - f_s = \bar{f}_1 \ldots \bar{f}_s = e.$$

If $e = f_i$ is a primitive idempotent $\in S_m$, then Corollary 3 implies (with $\beta_i = p_i^{\alpha^{-1}}$):

$$[-1]^{|G(f_i)|} \prod_{u \in G(e)} u = \prod_{u \in G(e)} u = [-f_i]^{\beta_i} = -f_i = -e.$$

Hence (if *m* is odd) $\prod_{u \in G(e)} u$ is *e* for any non-primitive idempotent and -e for any primitive idempotent $\in S_m$. By considering also the case of *m* even, we arrive at Theorem 8, 1 of paper [4], where the value of $\prod_{u \in G(e)} u$ has been derived directly. Also Theorem 8, 2 of paper [4] follows immediately from Theorem 6.

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ОБОБЩЕНИЯ СРАВНЕНИЙ М. БАУЭРА

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Резюме

Пусть S_m - мультипликативная полугруппа кольца классов вычетов (mod m). Пусть e - идемпотент $\in S_m$, G(e) и P(e) - максимальная группа и максимальная полугруппа принадлежащая и идемпотенту e. Целью статьи является вычисление произведения $\Pi(x-v)$, где v пробегает все элементы $\in G(e)$ и $\in P(e)$ соотвественно. Основными результатами являются формулы данные в Теореме 3, в Теоремах 5a, b и в Теореме 6.