

CLASSIFICATION OF THE MAXIMAL SUBSEMIGROUPS  
OF THE SEMIGROUP OF ALL PARTIAL  
ORDER-PRESERVING TRANSFORMATIONS\*

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Let  $PT_n$  be the semigroup of all partial transformations on an  $n$  - element set. A transformation  $\alpha \in PT_n$  is called order-preserving if  $x \leq y$  implies  $x\alpha \leq y\alpha$  for all  $x, y$  from the domain of  $\alpha$ . In this paper we describe the maximal subsemigroups of the semigroup  $PO_n$  of all partial order-preserving transformations.

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $X_n = \{1 < 2 < \dots < n\}$  be a finite chain with  $n$  elements. As usual, we denote by  $PT_n$  the semigroup of all partial transformations  $\alpha : X_n \rightarrow X_n$  under composition. A transformation  $\alpha \in PT_n$  is called order-preserving if  $x \leq y$  implies  $x\alpha \leq y\alpha$  for all  $x, y$  from the domain of  $\alpha$ . As usual,  $PO_n$  denotes the subsemigroup of  $PT_n$  of all partial order-preserving transformations of  $X_n$ . This semigroup has been extensively studied. In recent years, interest in maximal subsemigroups of the transformation semigroups arises. In particular, Xiuliang Yang [6] characterized the maximal subsemigroups of the semigroup  $O_n$  of all full order-preserving transformations. Dimitrova and Koppitz [1] classified the maximal subsemigroups of the ideals of  $O_n$ . Ganyushkin and Mazorchuk [3] gave a description of the maximal subsemigroups of the semigroup  $POI_n$  of all partial order-preserving injections. In [2], Dimitrova and Koppitz characterized the maximal subsemigroups of the ideals of the semigroup  $POI_n$ . In [7], Yi constructed four types of maximal subsemigroups of the semigroup  $PO_n$  (excluding the identity map). The purpose of this paper is to give a complete classification of all maximal subsemigroups of the semigroup  $PO_n$ .

We begin by recalling some notation and definitions that are used in the paper. For the standard terms and concepts in Semigroup Theory we refer the reader to [5]. Let  $\alpha \in PO_n$ . We denote by  $\text{dom } \alpha$  and  $\text{im } \alpha$  the domain and the image of  $\alpha$ , respectively, while  $\text{ker } \alpha := \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in \text{dom } \alpha, x\alpha = y\alpha\}$  is a convex equivalence on  $\text{dom } \alpha$ . The natural number  $\text{rank } \alpha := |\text{im } \alpha| = |\text{dom } \alpha / \text{ker } \alpha|$  is called the rank of  $\alpha$ . For a given subset  $U$  of  $PO_n$ , we denote by  $E(U)$  its set of idempotents.

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Recall also that, for the Green's relations  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{J}$  on  $PO_n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha\mathcal{L}\beta &\iff \text{im } \alpha = \text{im } \beta \\ \alpha\mathcal{R}\beta &\iff \ker \alpha = \ker \beta \\ \alpha\mathcal{J}\beta &\iff \text{rank } \alpha = \text{rank } \beta \\ \mathcal{H} &= \mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{R}.\end{aligned}$$

for every transformations  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

The semigroup  $PO_n$  is the union of its  $\mathcal{J}$ -classes  $J_0, J_1, J_2, \dots, J_n$ , where

$$J_k = \{\alpha \in PO_n \mid \text{rank } \alpha = k\}, \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

It follows that the ideals of the semigroup  $PO_n$  are unions of  $\mathcal{J}$ -classes  $J_0, J_1, J_2, \dots, J_k$ , i.e. the sets

$$I_k := \{\alpha \in PO_n : \text{rank } \alpha \leq k\}, \quad \text{with } k = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

The  $\mathcal{J}$ -class  $J_n$  contains exactly one element, namely the identity, which we denote by  $\epsilon$ .

We pay attention to the  $\mathcal{J}$ -class  $J_{n-1}$ . It is convenient to refer to an element  $\alpha \in PO_n$  as belonging to the set  $[k, s]$  if  $|\text{dom } \alpha| = k$  and  $|\text{im } \alpha| = s$  ( $1 \leq s \leq k \leq n$ ). Thus the  $\mathcal{J}$ -class  $J_{n-1}$  is the union of  $[n, n-1]$  and  $[n-1, n-1]$ . Let  $\alpha \in [n, n-1]$  and let  $\ker \alpha = \{\{1\}, \dots, \{i-1\}, \{i, i+1\}, \{i+2\}, \dots, \{n\}\}$  for some  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ . Then, for convenience we will use the notation  $\ker \alpha = (i, i+1)$ .

Within  $[n, n-1]$  there are exactly  $(n-1)$  different  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of the following form

$$R_{(i,i+1)} := \{\alpha \in J_{n-1} : \ker \alpha = (i, i+1)\}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n-1.$$

Within  $[n-1, n-1]$ , which consists of one-to-one partial maps, there are exactly  $n$  different  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of the following form

$$R_i := \{\alpha \in J_{n-1} : \text{dom } \alpha = X_n \setminus \{i\}\}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The  $\mathcal{L}$ - and  $\mathcal{H}$ -classes in  $J_{n-1}$  have the following form:

$$L_j := \{\alpha \in J_{n-1} : \text{im } \alpha = X_n \setminus \{j\}\}, \quad j = 1, \dots, n;$$

$$H_{(i,i+1),j} := R_{(i,i+1)} \cap L_j \quad \text{and} \quad H_{i,j} := R_i \cap L_j.$$

The  $\mathcal{H}$ -classes of  $PO_n$  are trivial, i.e. contain only one element in each case. The unique element  $\alpha$  in the  $\mathcal{H}$ -class  $H_{(i,i+1),j}$  is denoted by  $\alpha_{(i,i+1),j}$ . Analogously, the unique transformation  $\alpha$  in the  $\mathcal{H}$ -class  $H_{i,j}$  is denoted by  $\alpha_{i,j}$ . Since  $\alpha_{(i,i+1),j}$  is an idempotent if and only if  $j = i$  or  $j = i+1$  and  $\alpha_{i,j}$  is an idempotent if and only if  $j = i$ , it is easy to verify that  $E(R_{(i,i+1)}) = 2$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ ,  $E(R_i) = 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ,  $E(L_j) = 3$  for  $j = 2, 3, \dots, n-1$  and  $E(L_j) = 2$  for  $j = 1, n$ .

Moreover, for all  $\alpha, \beta \in J_{n-1}$  the product  $\alpha\beta$  belongs to  $J_{n-1}$  (if and only if  $\alpha\beta \in R_\alpha \cap L_\beta$ ) if and only if  $L_\alpha \cap R_\beta$  contains an idempotent. Therefore, it is obvious that:

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $i, k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $j, l, s, t \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Then*

$$\alpha_{(i,i+1),j} \alpha_{(k,k+1),l} = \alpha_{(i,i+1),l} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_{s,j} \alpha_{(k,k+1),l} = \alpha_{s,l} \iff j = k, k+1$$

$$\alpha_{(i,i+1),j} \alpha_{s,t} = \alpha_{(i,i+1),t} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_{l,j} \alpha_{s,t} = \alpha_{l,t} \iff j = s$$

$$L_j R_{(i,i+1)} = J_{n-1} \iff j = i, i+1 \quad \text{and} \quad L_j R_l = J_{n-1} \iff j = l.$$

Let us denote by  $E_{n-1}$  the set of all idempotents of the class  $J_{n-1}$ . Further, we will use the following well known result (see [4]).

**Proposition 1.**  $PO_n = \langle E_{n-1} \rangle \cup \{\epsilon\} = \langle J_{n-1} \rangle \cup \{\epsilon\}$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $A \subseteq X_n$  and let  $\pi$  be an equivalence relation on a subset  $Y$  of  $X_n$ . We say that  $A$  is a transversal of  $\pi$  (denoted by  $A \# \pi$ ) if  $|A \cap \bar{x}| = 1$  for every equivalence class  $\bar{x} \in Y/\pi$ .

Let us denote by  $\Lambda_{n-1}$  the collection of all subsets of  $X_n$  of cardinality  $n-1$ , i.e. all sets  $X_n \setminus \{i\}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Let  $\Omega_{n-1}$  be the collection of all convex equivalence relations on  $X_n$  with weight  $n-1$ , i.e. all equivalence relations  $(i, i+1)$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .

**Remark 1.** For all  $\alpha \in [n, n-1]$ , we have  $\text{im } \alpha \in \Lambda_{n-1}$  and  $\text{ker } \alpha \in \Omega_{n-1}$ . For all  $\alpha \in [n-1, n-1]$ , we have  $\text{im } \alpha \in \Lambda_{n-1}$  and  $\text{dom } \alpha \in \Lambda_{n-1}$ .

**Definition 2.** Let  $\Lambda$  be a non-empty proper subset of  $\Lambda_{n-1}$  and let  $\Omega$  be a non-empty proper subset of  $\Omega_{n-1}$ . The pair  $(\Lambda, \Omega)$  is called a coupler of  $(\Lambda_{n-1}, \Omega_{n-1})$  if the following three conditions are satisfied:

- 1) Every element of  $\Lambda$  is not a transversal to any element of  $\Omega$ ;
- 2) For every  $B \in \Lambda_{n-1} \setminus \Lambda$  there exists  $\pi \in \Omega$  such that  $B \# \pi$ ;
- 3) For every  $\rho \in \Omega_{n-1} \setminus \Omega$  there exists  $A \in \Lambda$  such that  $A \# \rho$ .

**Lemma 2.** Every maximal subsemigroup of  $PO_n$  contains the ideal  $I_{n-2}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be a maximal subsemigroup of  $PO_n$ . Assume that  $J_{n-1} \subset S$ , then  $I_{n-2} \subset I_{n-1} = \langle J_{n-1} \rangle \subseteq S$ . If  $J_{n-1} \not\subseteq S$ , then  $J_{n-1} \not\subseteq \langle S \cup I_{n-2} \rangle$  since  $I_{n-2}$  is an ideal. This implies  $I_{n-2} \subset S$  by the maximality of  $S$ .  $\square$

Now, we are able to present the main results of this paper, the characterization of the maximal subsemigroups of the semigroup  $PO_n$ . Recall that in [7], Yi constructed four types of maximal subsemigroups of the semigroup  $PO_n$ . They are all particular cases of the fourth type of the next theorem.

**Theorem 1.** A subsemigroup  $S$  of  $PO_n$  is maximal if and only if it belongs to one of the following types:

1.  $S_\epsilon := I_{n-1}$ .
2.  $S_{(i, i+1)} := I_{n-2} \cup J_n \cup (J_{n-1} \setminus R_{(i, i+1)})$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .
3.  $S_i := I_{n-2} \cup J_n \cup (J_{n-1} \setminus R_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
4.  $S_{(\Lambda, \Omega)} := I_{n-2} \cup J_n \cup (\cup\{L_j : X_n \setminus \{j\} \in \Lambda\}) \cup (\cup\{R_i : X_n \setminus \{i\} \in \Lambda_{n-1} \setminus \Lambda\}) \cup (\cup\{R_{(i, i+1)} : (i, i+1) \in \Omega\})$ , where  $(\Lambda, \Omega)$  is a coupler of  $(\Lambda_{n-1}, \Omega_{n-1})$ .
5.  $S_\Lambda := I_{n-2} \cup J_n \cup (\cup\{L_j : X_n \setminus \{j\} \in \Lambda\}) \cup (\cup\{R_i : X_n \setminus \{i\} \in \Lambda_{n-1} \setminus \Lambda\})$ , where  $\Lambda$  is a non-empty proper subset of  $\Lambda_{n-1}$  and for every  $\pi \in \Omega_{n-1}$  there exists  $A \in \Lambda$  such that  $A \# \pi$ .

**Proof.** Using Lemma 1, it is not difficult to prove that each one of the given types is a subsemigroup of  $PO_n$ . Now, we are going to prove that they are maximal.

1. Since  $PO_n = I_{n-1} \cup \{\epsilon\}$  and  $I_{n-1}$  is an ideal of  $PO_n$  it is clear that  $S_\epsilon = I_{n-1}$  is a maximal subsemigroup of  $PO_n$ .

2. Let  $\alpha \in PO_n \setminus S_{(i,i+1)}$ . Then,  $\alpha \in R_{(i,i+1)}$  and  $\alpha \in L_j$  for some  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , i.e.  $\alpha = \alpha_{(i,i+1),j}$ . Since  $L_j \cap R_j$  contains an idempotent from Lemma 1, we obtain  $\alpha_{(i,i+1),j} R_j = R_{(i,i+1)}$ . Therefore, since  $R_j \subset S_{(i,i+1)}$ , we deduce that  $\langle \alpha, S_{(i,i+1)} \rangle = OP_n$ , i.e.  $S_{(i,i+1)}$  is maximal.

3. The proof is similar to that of  $S_{(i,i+1)}$ .

4. Let  $\alpha \in PO_n \setminus S_{(\Lambda,\Omega)}$  and let  $\alpha = \alpha_{(i,i+1),j}$ . Then,  $X_n \setminus \{j\} \notin \Lambda$  and so  $R_j \subset S_{(\Lambda,\Omega)}$ . Moreover,  $(i, i+1) \notin \Omega$  and from Definition 2 it follows that  $X_n \setminus \{i\} \in \Lambda$  or  $X_n \setminus \{i+1\} \in \Lambda$ . Without loss of generality assume that  $X_n \setminus \{i\} \in \Lambda$ . Then  $L_i \subset S_{(\Lambda,\Omega)}$ . From Lemma 1, it follows that  $L_i \alpha_{(i,i+1),j} = L_j$  and  $L_j R_j = J_{n-1}$ . Therefore,  $\langle \alpha_{(i,i+1),j}, S_{(\Lambda,\Omega)} \rangle = OP_n$ . The proof when  $\alpha = \alpha_{i,j}$  is similar. Hence, we deduce that  $S_{(\Lambda,\Omega)}$  is maximal subsemigroup of  $PO_n$ .

5. The proof is similar to that of  $S_{(\Lambda,\Omega)}$ .

For the converse part let  $S$  be a maximal subsemigroup of  $PO_n$ . Then, from Lemma 2 we have  $S = I_{n-2} \cup T$ , where  $T \subseteq J_n \cup J_{n-1} = \{\epsilon\} \cup J_{n-1}$ . If  $\epsilon \notin T$ , then  $T = J_{n-1}$  and thus  $S = S_\epsilon$ . If  $\epsilon \in T$  then  $T = \{\epsilon\} \cup T'$ , where  $T' \subseteq J_{n-1}$ . We will consider three cases:  $J_{n-1} \setminus T' \subseteq [n-1, n-1]$ ;  $J_{n-1} \setminus T' \subseteq [n, n-1]$ ;  $(J_{n-1} \setminus T') \cap [n-1, n-1] \neq \emptyset$  and  $(J_{n-1} \setminus T') \cap [n, n-1] \neq \emptyset$ .

Case 1. Let  $J_{n-1} \setminus T' \subseteq [n-1, n-1]$ . Since  $PO_n = \langle E_{n-1} \rangle$  (see Proposition 1) there exists at least one idempotent  $\alpha_{i,i} \notin S$  for some  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . We show that in this case  $T' \cap R_i = \emptyset$ . Suppose that  $\alpha_{i,j} \in T'$  for some  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $j \neq i$ . Then, from Lemma 1, we have  $\alpha_{i,j} \alpha_{(j,j+1),i} = \alpha_{i,i} \in T'$ , that is a contradiction. Therefore, we obtain  $S = S_i$ , by the maximality of  $S$ .

Case 2. The proof is similar to that of Case 1. Here we obtain  $S = S_{(i,i+1)}$ .

Case 3. Let  $(J_{n-1} \setminus T') \cap [n-1, n-1] \neq \emptyset$  and  $(J_{n-1} \setminus T') \cap [n, n-1] \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $[n, n-1] \subseteq \langle E_{n-1} \cap O_n \rangle$  it follows that there exists at least one idempotent  $\alpha_{(i,i+1),i} \notin T'$  or  $\alpha_{(i,i+1),i+1} \notin T'$  for some  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ . Let  $\alpha_{(i,i+1),i} \notin T'$  and let

$$\Lambda = \{\text{im } \alpha : \alpha \in T' \cap R_{(i,i+1)}\}.$$

Then  $\Lambda \neq \emptyset$  since if  $T' \cap R_{(i,i+1)} = \emptyset$  then  $S \subset S_{(i,i+1)}$  which is a contradiction with the maximality of  $S$ . Moreover,  $\Lambda \subset \Lambda_{n-1}$ , since  $\text{im } \alpha_{(i,i+1),i} \notin \Lambda$ .

Now let

$$\overline{\Omega} = \{\ker \beta \in \Omega_{n-1} : \text{there exists im } \alpha \in \Lambda \text{ such that im } \alpha \# \ker \beta\}.$$

Further, we put:

$$U = \bigcup \{\alpha_{(i,i+1),j} : X_n \setminus \{j\} \in \Lambda\},$$

$$V = \bigcup \{\alpha_{(p,p+1),q} : (p, p+1) \in \overline{\Omega} \setminus (i, i+1), X_n \setminus \{q\} \in \Lambda_{n-1} \setminus \Lambda\}$$

and

$$V' = \bigcup \{\alpha_{p,q} : X_n \setminus \{p\} \in \Lambda, X_n \setminus \{q\} \in \Lambda_{n-1} \setminus \Lambda\}.$$

Then,

$$UV = UV' = (R_{(i,i+1)} \setminus U) \cup M,$$

where  $M \subseteq I_{n-2}$ . Since  $T' \cap (R_{(i,i+1)} \setminus U) = \emptyset$ , we deduce

$$(1) \quad T' \cap [V \cup V' \cup (R_{(i,i+1)} \setminus U)] = \emptyset.$$

Finally, if  $\overline{\Omega} = \Omega_{n-1}$ , then by equation (1), we obtain  $S \subseteq S_\Lambda$  and thus  $S = S_\Lambda$  by the maximality of  $S$ . If  $\overline{\Omega}$  is a proper subset of  $\Omega_{n-1}$ , then we put  $\Omega = \Omega_{n-1} \setminus \overline{\Omega}$ . The pair  $(\Lambda, \Omega)$  is a coupler of  $(\Lambda_{n-1}, \Omega_{n-1})$  and by equation (1) we have  $S \subseteq S_{(\Lambda, \Omega)}$ . Therefore, we deduce  $S = S_{(\Lambda, \Omega)}$  by the maximality of  $S$ .  $\square$

There are exactly  $2^n + 2n - 2$  maximal subsemigroups of  $PO_n$ .

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## ВЪРХУ МАКСИМАЛНИТЕ ПОДПОЛУГРУПИ НА МОНОИДА ОТ ВСИЧКИ ЧАСТИЧНИ ЗАПАЗВАЩИ НАРЕДБАТА ПРЕОБРАЗОВАНИЯ

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Моноида  $PT_n$  от всички частични преобразования върху едно  $n$ -елементно множество относно операцията композиция на преобразования е изучаван в различни аспекти от редица автори. Едно частично преобразование  $\alpha$  се нарича запазващо наредбата, ако от  $x \leq y$  следва, че  $x\alpha \leq y\alpha$  за всяко  $x, y$  от дефиниционното множество на  $\alpha$ . Обект на разглеждане в настоящата работа е моноида  $PO_n$  състоящ се от всички частични запазващи наредбата преобразования. Очевидно  $PO_n$  е под-моноид на  $PT_n$ . Направена е пълна класификация на максималните подполугрупи на моноида  $PO_n$ . Доказано е, че съществуват пет различни вида максимални подполугрупи на разглеждания моноид. Броят на всички максимални подполугрупи на  $PO_n$  е точно  $2^n + 2n - 2$ .