



On isolated subsemigroups of order-decreasing transformation semigroups

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Abstract

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\mathcal{D}_n$ be the semigroup of all order-decreasing transformations on $X_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$, under its natural order. In this paper, we determine isolated, completely isolated, and (left/right) convex subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Furthermore, for $\{1\} \neq U \subset X_n$ which contains 1, we find the rank of $\mathcal{D}_n[U] = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n : U \subseteq X_n\}$ which is a convex subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2020). 20M05, 20M20

Keywords. order-decreasing transformation, (completely) isolated subsemigroup, convex subsemigroup, generating set, rank

1. Introduction

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $X_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$ be the finite chain with the standard order. $\mathcal{T}_n$ denotes the (full) transformations semigroup (under composition) on X_n . For $\alpha \in \mathcal{T}_n$, if $x\alpha \leq x$ (for all $x \in X_n$), then α is called *order-decreasing transformation*. $\mathcal{D}_n$ denotes the semigroup of all order-decreasing transformations in $\mathcal{T}_n$. The *fix*, *shift* and *kernel* of any transformation $\alpha \in \mathcal{T}_n$ are defined as follows, respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fix}(\alpha) &= \{x \in X_n : x\alpha = x\}, \quad \text{shift}(\alpha) = \{x \in X_n : x\alpha \neq x\} \quad \text{and} \\ \ker(\alpha) &= \{(x, y) \in X_n \times X_n : x\alpha = y\alpha\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let S be a semigroup and let $e \in S$. If $e^2 = e$ then e is called *idempotent element* of S , and $E(S)$ denotes the set of all idempotent elements of S . It is clear that $\alpha \in \mathcal{T}_n$ is an idempotent element if and only if $\text{fix}(\alpha) = \text{im}(\alpha)$. A commutative semigroup S is called a *semilattice* if $S = E(S)$. The set of all subsets of X_n is denoted by $\mathcal{SL}_n$. For all $U, V \in \mathcal{SL}_n$, let the multiplication on $\mathcal{SL}_n$ be defined as $U \cdot V = U \cap V$. Then $\mathcal{SL}_n$ is called the *free semilattice* on X_n . Notice that for all $U, V \in \mathcal{SL}_n$, the usual multiplication defined on $\mathcal{SL}_n$ is defined by $U \cdot V = U \cup V$. Since the first multiplication will play an essential role for this research and the map $\varphi : (\mathcal{SL}_n, \cap) \rightarrow (\mathcal{SL}_n, \cup)$ defined by $U\varphi = X_n \setminus U$, is an isomorphism, we prefer the first definition of the free semilattice. Let S be a semigroup with a zero, denoted by 0. For some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, if $a^m = 0$ then a is called *nilpotent element* of S , and $N(S)$ denotes the set of all nilpotent elements of S . Let S be a semigroup

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Received: 03.02.2025; Accepted: 12.06.2025

with 0. If $S^m = 0$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, then S is called *nilpotent semigroup*. It is clear that for a finite semigroup S with 0, S is nilpotent semigroup if and only if for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $a^m = 0$ (for all $a \in S$). Moreover, the only idempotent element of S is 0 (see, also [3, Proposition 8.1.2]). Since $1\alpha = 1$ for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$, it is clear that the zero element of $\mathcal{D}_n$ is $0_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Moreover, from [11, Lemma 1.5], $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$ is nilpotent if and only if $\text{fix}(\alpha) = \{1\}$, and so $N(\mathcal{D}_n) = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n : \text{fix}(\alpha) = \{1\}\}$. For any $\alpha \in \mathcal{T}_n$, recall that $\ker(\alpha)$ is an equivalence relation on X_n and the equivalence classes of $\ker(\alpha)$ are all of the pre-image sets of elements in $\text{im}(\alpha)$, i.e. $\{a\alpha^{-1} : a \in \text{im}(\alpha)\}$ is the set of all the equivalence classes of $\ker(\alpha)$. For $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$, if $\text{im}(\alpha) = \{1 = a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_r\}$ and $A_i = a_i\alpha^{-1}$ for each $1 \leq i \leq r$, then we can write α in the following tabular form: $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & A_2 & \cdots & A_r \\ 1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_r \end{pmatrix}$. Then it is clear that $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$ is an idempotent if and only if $\min(A_i) = a_i$ for each $1 \leq i \leq r$.

For a semigroup S , let $\emptyset \neq A \subseteq S$. $\langle A \rangle$ denotes the smallest subsemigroup of S containing A . For $A \subseteq S$, if $S = \langle A \rangle$ then A is called a *generating set* of S . The *rank* of S is defined by $\text{rank}(S) = \min\{|A| : \langle A \rangle = S\}$, and a *minimal generating set* of S is defined as a generating set with $\text{rank}(S)$ elements. For some $A \subseteq E(S)$, if $S = \langle A \rangle$ then S is called an *idempotent generated semigroup*, and the *idempotent rank* of S is defined by $\text{idrank}(S) = \min\{|A| : A \subseteq E(S) \text{ and } \langle A \rangle = S\}$. For $s \in S$, if $s = ab$ means $s = a$ or $s = b$ (for $a, b \in S$), then s is called *indecomposable element* of S . It is clear that all indecomposable elements must be contained by every generating set of S . Moreover, for a finite nilpotent semigroup S , $S \setminus S^2$ is the unique minimal generating set of S . In addition, $\text{rank}(S) = |S| - |S^2|$.

A proper subsemigroup of a semigroup S that is not contained any other proper subsemigroup of S is called *maximal subsemigroup*, and if it is unique, it is called the *maximum subsemigroup*. A subsemigroup T of S is called

- *isolated* provided that, for all $x \in S$, the condition $x^m \in T$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$ implies $x \in T$;
- *completely isolated* provided that, for all $x, y \in S$, $xy \in T$ implies $x \in T$ or $y \in T$;
- *left convex* provided that, for all $x, y \in S$, $xy \in T$ implies $x \in T$;
- *right convex* provided that, for all $x, y \in S$, $xy \in T$ implies $y \in T$;
- *convex* provided that, for all $x, y \in S$, $xy \in T$ implies $x \in T$ and $y \in T$.

From the definitions, it is clear that every convex subsemigroup is both left and right convex, every left/right convex subsemigroup is completely isolated, every completely isolated subsemigroup is isolated, and that any every left/right convex subsemigroup of a monoid must contain the identity. For the other terms in semigroup theory, which are not explained here, and for more details and properties on these subsemigroups, we refer to [1–4]).

The (completely) isolated and (left/right) convex subsemigroups of some special semigroups have been studied by several authors. For example, all (completely) isolated and (left/right) convex subsemigroups of $\mathcal{T}_n$ are classified in [7]. Moreover, all (completely) isolated and (left/right) convex subsemigroups of $\mathcal{I}_n$, all injective partial transformations on X_n , are classified in [10], and all (completely) isolated and (left/right) convex subsemigroups of $\mathcal{C}_n$, all order-preserving and decreasing transformations on X_n , are classified in [5]. Since the problem of finding certain algebraic and combinatorial properties of $\mathcal{D}_n$ has been an important research area in Semigroup Theory (for examples, see [6, 8, 9, 11, 13–15]), in this paper, we focus on the classification of (completely) isolated and (left/right) convex subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Finally, we determine a minimal generating set of $\mathcal{D}_n[U] = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n : U \subseteq \text{fix}(\alpha)\}$, and so we find the rank of $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$ where U is a proper subset of X_n such that $\{1\} \subsetneq U$.

2. Isolated subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$

For an idempotent element ξ of a semigroup S , let

$$S(\xi) = \{\alpha \in S : \alpha^m = \xi \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Then we state the following lemma which is essential for classifying isolated subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$.

Lemma 2.1 ([3], Lemma 5.3.4). *Let S be a semigroup, and let T be a subsemigroup of S .*

- (i) *If T is isolated, then $S(\xi) \subseteq T$, for all $\xi \in E(T)$.*
- (ii) *If T is isolated, and if S is finite, then $T = \bigcup_{\xi \in E(T)} S(\xi)$.*

For any $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n) \setminus \{0_n, 1_n\}$, it is shown in [14, Theorem 2.3] that $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is the maximum nilpotent subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$ with zero element ξ . Observe that $\mathcal{D}_n(0_n) = N(\mathcal{D}_n)$ and $\mathcal{D}_n(1_n) = \{1_n\}$ where 1_n is the identity transformation on X_n . From this observation, we suppose that $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n) \setminus \{0_n, 1_n\}$, unless otherwise stated. Then we state the following results from [6, 14] which also play important roles in this study.

Theorem 2.2 ([14], Theorem 2.2). *For any $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n)$ and any $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$, the followings are equivalent:*

- (i) $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$,
- (ii) $\text{fix}(\alpha) = \text{fix}(\xi)$ and $\alpha\xi = \xi$,
- (iii) $\text{fix}(\alpha) = \text{fix}(\xi)$ and $\alpha\xi = \xi = \xi\alpha$.

Moreover, we have the following.

Proposition 2.3 ([6], Lemma 1.1). *For all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{D}_n$, $\text{fix}(\alpha\beta) = \text{fix}(\alpha) \cap \text{fix}(\beta)$, and so $\text{fix}(\alpha^k) = \text{fix}(\alpha)$ for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$.*

Therefore, for any non-identity $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n)$, $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is the maximum nilpotent subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$ with zero element ξ . Now we start to give our new results.

Theorem 2.4. (i) *For any non-identity $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n)$, $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is the unique isolated nilpotent subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$ with zero element ξ .*

- (ii) *For any subsemigroup T of $\mathcal{D}_n$, T is isolated if and only if $T = \bigcup_{\xi \in E(T)} \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$.*

Proof. (i) It is enough to show that for any $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n)$, $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is the unique isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$. For any $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n)$ and $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$, suppose $\alpha^m \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then it follows from Proposition 2.3 and Theorem 2.2 that $\text{fix}(\alpha) = \text{fix}(\alpha^m) = \text{fix}(\xi)$. Moreover, from the definition of $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$, there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(\alpha^m)^k = \xi$, and so we have the equality $\alpha\xi = \xi\alpha$. For any $b \in X_n$, since $b\xi \in \text{im}(\xi) = \text{fix}(\xi) = \text{fix}(\alpha)$, it follows that $b(\alpha\xi) = (b\xi)\alpha = b\xi$, and so $\alpha\xi = \xi$. From Theorem 2.2, we conclude that $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$, and so it follows from Lemma 2.1 (ii) that $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is a unique isolated nilpotent subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$ with zero element ξ .

(ii) ($\Rightarrow$) It is clear from Lemma 2.1 (ii).

($\Leftarrow$) Suppose $T = \bigcup_{\xi \in E(T)} \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$. For any $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$, if $\alpha^m \in T$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, then there

exists an idempotent ξ of T such that $\alpha^m \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$. Thus, it follows from the proof of the first item that $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$, and so $\alpha \in T$, as required. $\square$

From Theorem 2.4, we have the following immediate results.

Corollary 2.5. *Let T be an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$.*

- (i) *For each idempotent ξ of T , $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is a subsemigroup of T .*
- (ii) *If ξ_1 and ξ_2 are two idempotents of T , then there exists an idempotent ξ_3 of T such that $\xi_1\xi_2 \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_3)$.*

Notice that for $\xi_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\xi_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \in E(\mathcal{D}_4)$, it is clear that $\xi_1\xi_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \notin \mathcal{D}_4(\xi_1) \cup \mathcal{D}_4(\xi_2)$, and so the union of isolated subsemigroups may not be even a subsemigroup. For any subsemigroup T of $\mathcal{D}_n$, let

$$\text{sl}(T) = \{\text{fix}(\xi) : \xi \in E(T)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{SL}_n(1) = \{Y \subseteq X_n : 1 \in Y\}.$$

Then it is clear that $\text{sl}(T) \subseteq \mathcal{SL}_n(1)$ and $\text{sl}(\mathcal{D}_n) = \mathcal{SL}_n(1)$. Moreover, $\mathcal{SL}_n(1)$ is a subsemigroup of $\mathcal{SL}_n$ which is isomorphic to $\mathcal{SL}_{n-1}$. More generally, since $\mathcal{SL}_n(1)$ is a semilattice, from Proposition 2.3 and Corollary 2.5, we have the following immediate result.

Lemma 2.6. *If T is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$, then $\text{sl}(T)$ is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{SL}_n(1)$.*

Although, for any partition $\{A_1, \dots, A_r\}$ of X_n , there exists a unique idempotent in $\mathcal{D}_n$ whose kernel classes are $A_1, \dots, A_r$, namely $\xi = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & \cdots & A_r \\ a_1 & \cdots & a_r \end{pmatrix}$ where $a_i = \min(A_i)$ for each $1 \leq i \leq r$, for any $U \subseteq X_n$ containing 1, there might be more than one idempotent in $\mathcal{D}_n$ whose fix set is U . For example, there exist exactly four idempotents in $\mathcal{D}_5$ whose fix sets are equal to $\{1, 3\}$ and there exist exactly nine idempotents in $\mathcal{D}_5$ whose fix sets are equal to $\{1, 2, 3\}$. Moreover, let $\xi_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\xi_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$, whose fix sets are $\{1, 3\}$ and $\{1, 2, 3\}$, respectively. For $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_1)$ and $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_2)$, it is clear that $\alpha\beta = \alpha \in \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_1) \cup \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_2)$, but $\beta\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \notin \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_1) \cup \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_2)$. Thus, we observe that if $T = \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_1) \cup \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_2)$, then T is not even a subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_5$ although $\text{sl}(T) = \{\{1, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$ is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{SL}_5(1)$. That is, we do not have a similar result as in [5, Theorem 2.7]. However, if $\xi_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\xi_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ in $E(\mathcal{D}_5)$, then we observe that $\beta\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_3)$ and $\xi_1 = \xi_1\xi_2 \neq \xi_2\xi_1 = \xi_4$. After these observations, we give a description of some isolated proper subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$.

Theorem 2.7. *Let T be a proper subset of $\mathcal{D}_n$ such that $E(T)$ is not empty. If $T = \bigcup_{\xi \in E(T)} \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$, and if for all $\xi_1, \xi_2 \in E(T)$, there exists $\xi_3 \in E(T)$ such that $\xi_1\xi_2, \xi_2\xi_1 \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_3)$, then T is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$.*

Proof. It is enough to only show that T is a subsemigroup. For any $\alpha, \beta \in T$, there exist three idempotents $\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3 \in E(T)$ such that $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_1)$, $\beta \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_2)$ and $\xi_1\xi_2, \xi_2\xi_1 \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_3)$. Similarly, it follows from Proposition 2.3 and Theorem 2.2 that

$$\text{fix}(\alpha\beta) = \text{fix}(\alpha) \cap \text{fix}(\beta) = \text{fix}(\xi_1) \cap \text{fix}(\xi_2) = \text{fix}(\xi_1\xi_2) = \text{fix}(\xi_3).$$

Moreover, from Theorem 2.2, since $\alpha\xi_1 = \xi_1$, $\beta\xi_2 = \xi_2$, $(\xi_1\xi_2)\xi_3 = \xi_3$ and $(\xi_2\xi_1)\xi_3 = \xi_3$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha\beta)\xi_3 &= \alpha\beta((\xi_2\xi_1)\xi_3) = \alpha(\beta\xi_2)\xi_1\xi_3 = \alpha((\xi_2\xi_1)\xi_3) = \alpha\xi_3 = \alpha((\xi_1\xi_2)\xi_3) \\ &= (\alpha\xi_1)\xi_2\xi_3 = (\xi_1\xi_2)\xi_3 = \xi_3, \end{aligned}$$

and so $\alpha\beta \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_3) \subseteq T$. Therefore, from Theorem 2.4 (ii), we conclude that T is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$. $\square$

3. Convex subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$

First we concentrate on completely isolated subsemigroups. It is clear from the concerning definitions that a proper subsemigroup T of a semigroup S is completely isolated if and only if its complement $\bar{T} = S \setminus T$ is also a subsemigroup of S . Thus, if T is completely isolated, then $\bar{T}$ is also completely isolated.

If we consider the idempotents ξ_1, ξ_2 and ξ_4 which are defined just before Theorem 2.7, then we observe that $\xi_2\xi_1 \in \mathcal{D}_5(\xi_4)$ but neither ξ_1 nor ξ_2 in $\mathcal{D}_5(\xi_4)$. Thus, $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is not a completely isolated, and so (right/left) convex subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$ in general. Since 1_n is indecomposable in $\mathcal{D}_n$, if $1_n \in T \neq \{1_n\}$ is a subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$, then it is clear that T is a completely isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$ if and only if $T \setminus \{1_n\}$ is a completely isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Thus we conclude that both $\mathcal{D}_n \setminus \{1_n\}$ and $\{1_n\}$ are completely isolated (in fact, they are convex) subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$. For any $U \subseteq X_n$ containing 1, we define two sets as follows:

$$\mathcal{C}_n(U) = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}_n : \text{fix}(\alpha) = U\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{D}_n(U) = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n : \text{fix}(\alpha) = U\}.$$

For any $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n)$ such that $\text{fix}(\xi) = U$, if $\xi \in E(\mathcal{C}_n)$, then we have $\mathcal{C}_n(\xi) = \mathcal{C}_n(U)$, however we have just observed that $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi) \neq \mathcal{D}_n(U)$ in general. It is clear that $\mathcal{D}_n(\{1\}) = \mathcal{D}_n(0_n) = N(\mathcal{D}_n)$ and $\mathcal{D}_n(X_n) = \{1_n\}$ are both isolated subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Moreover, $\mathcal{D}_n(X_n) = \{1_n\}$ is completely isolated, but $\mathcal{D}_n(\{1\})$ is not completely isolated. In fact, we have the following more general result.

Lemma 3.1. *For any $U \subseteq X_n$ containing 1, $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Moreover, $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ is convex, and so completely isolated if and only if $|U| \geq n - 1$.*

Proof. For any $U \subseteq X_n$ containing 1, it is clear from Proposition 2.3 that $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$.

Suppose $|U| \leq n - 2$. For two distinct elements u and v in $X_n \setminus U$, if we consider two (idempotent) transformations $\alpha, \beta : X_n \rightarrow X_n$ defined by

$$x\alpha = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \in U \cup \{u\} \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in X_n \setminus (U \cup \{u\}) \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad x\beta = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \in U \cup \{v\} \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in X_n \setminus (U \cup \{v\}) \end{cases}$$

for all $x \in X_n$, then we immediately see that $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{D}_n$. Moreover, since $\alpha\beta : X_n \rightarrow X_n$ can be defined by $x\alpha\beta = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \in U \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in X_n \setminus U \end{cases}$ for all $x \in X_n$, it follows that $\alpha\beta \in \mathcal{D}_n(U)$. However, neither α nor β is an element of $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$.

On the other hand, since $\mathcal{D}_n(X_n) = \{1_n\}$ is convex, we need to consider only the case $|U| = n - 1$. For any two $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{D}_n \setminus \{1_n\}$, if $\alpha\beta \in \mathcal{D}_n(U)$, then it follows from Proposition 2.3 that $U \subseteq \text{fix}(\alpha), \text{fix}(\beta)$, and so since $|\text{fix}(\alpha)|, |\text{fix}(\beta)| \leq n - 1$, it follows that $\text{fix}(\alpha) = U = \text{fix}(\beta)$. Therefore, $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{D}_n(U)$, and so $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ is convex, as required. $\square$

For a proper subset $U = \{1 = u_1 < u_2 < \dots < u_r\}$ of X_n with $r \geq 2$, let $E(\mathcal{D}_n(U)) = \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_t\}$. For each $1 \leq i \leq t$ and each $1 \leq j \leq r$, if we let $|u_j\xi_i^{-1}| = m_{ij}$, then it follows from [14, Theorem 3.6] that

$$|\mathcal{D}_n(U)| = \sum_{i=1}^t \left(\prod_{j=1}^r (m_{ij} - 1)! \right)$$

since $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ is the union of its disjoint subsemigroups $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq t$. Furthermore, let $m_k = u_{k+1} - u_k - 1$ for each $1 \leq k \leq r$ where $u_{r+1} = n + 1$. If $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n(U))$, then it is clear that for each $x \in \text{shift } \xi$, there exists $1 \leq k \leq r$ such that $u_k < x < u_{k+1}$, and so $x\xi \in \{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$. Thus, for each $1 \leq i \leq r$ and each $u_i < x < u_{i+1}$ (if exists), there are k

choices for the value of $x\xi$. Since there are m_k many x such that $u_k < x < u_{k+1}$, we have

$$|E(\mathcal{D}_n(U))| = \prod_{k=1}^r k^{m_k}.$$

It is also clear that $\xi\zeta = \xi$ for all $\xi, \zeta \in E(\mathcal{D}_n(U))$, i.e. $E(\mathcal{D}_n(U))$ is a left zero semigroup.

For any $U \subseteq X_n$ containing 1, we also define the following sets:

$$\mathcal{D}_n[U] = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n : U \subseteq \text{fix}(\alpha)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{\mathcal{D}_n}[U] = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n : U \setminus \text{fix}(\alpha) \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Similarly, $\mathcal{D}_n[\{1\}] = \mathcal{D}_n$ and $\overline{\mathcal{D}_n}[\{1\}] = \emptyset$ since $1\alpha = 1$ for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n$. Moreover, $\mathcal{D}_n[X_n] = \{1_n\}$ and $\overline{\mathcal{D}_n}[X_n] = \mathcal{D}_n \setminus \{1_n\}$ are both completely isolated subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Moreover, from Proposition 2.3 and Lemma 2.1, we have the following immediate result.

Lemma 3.2. (i) Let U be any subset of X_n such that $\{1\} \subsetneq U$. Then $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$ and $\overline{\mathcal{D}_n}[U]$ are completely isolated subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Moreover, $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$ is convex, but $\overline{\mathcal{D}_n}[U]$ is not necessarily convex.
(ii) If T is an isolated subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$, then T is a subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$ where $U = \bigcap_{\xi \in E(T)} \text{fix}(\xi)$.

For a completely isolated subsemigroup T of $\mathcal{D}_n$, T is not necessarily equal to $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$ where $U = \bigcap_{\xi \in E(T)} \text{fix}(\xi)$. For example, let $T = \{\xi, 1_3\}$ where $\xi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Then

it is easy to check that both T and $\mathcal{D}_3 \setminus T = \{0_3, \alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$, where $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$, $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$, are subsemigroups of $\mathcal{D}_3$, and so T is completely isolated. However, $\mathcal{D}_3[\{1, 2\}] \neq T$ since $\gamma \in \mathcal{D}_3[\{1, 2\}] \setminus T$. Moreover, since $\xi\alpha = 0_3$, $\alpha\xi = \alpha$, $\xi\beta = 0_3 = \beta\xi$, $\xi\gamma = \xi$ and $\gamma\xi = \gamma$, we conclude that T is left convex but not right convex. Similarly, we check that $\mathcal{D}_3[\{1, 2\}] = \{\xi, \gamma, 1_3\}$ is convex.

Lemma 3.3. If T is a left (right) convex subsemigroup of $\mathcal{D}_n$, then $\text{sl}(T)$ is a convex subsemigroup of $\mathcal{SL}_n(1)$.

Proof. If T is left (right) convex, then it is isolated, and so from Lemma 2.6, $\text{sl}(T)$ is a subsemigroup of $\mathcal{SL}_n(1)$. For any $U, V \in \mathcal{SL}_n(1)$, suppose that $U \cap V \in \text{sl}(T)$. Then there exists $\xi \in E(T)$ such that $\text{fix}(\xi) = U \cap V$. If we define two maps $\alpha, \beta : X_n \rightarrow X_n$ by

$$x\alpha = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \in U \\ x\xi & \text{if } x \in X_n \setminus U \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad x\beta = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \in V \\ x\xi & \text{if } x \in U \setminus V \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in X_n \setminus (U \cup V) \end{cases}$$

for all $x \in X_n$, then it is easy to see that $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n(U)$ and $\beta \in \mathcal{D}_n(V)$. Moreover, for any $x \in X_n$, since $x\xi \in \text{im}(\xi) = \text{fix}(\xi) \subseteq V$, it is routine matter to check that $x(\alpha\beta) = x\xi$, and so $\alpha\beta = \xi \in T$. Since T is a left (right) convex subsemigroup, $\alpha \in T$ ($\beta \in T$), and so from Theorems 2.2 and 2.4, $\text{fix}(\alpha) = U \in \text{sl}(T)$ ($\text{fix}(\beta) = V \in \text{sl}(T)$). Therefore, since $\text{sl}(T)$ is commutative, it follows that $\text{sl}(T)$ is convex. $\square$

In the last example above, $\text{sl}(T) = \{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\}$ is a convex subsemigroup of $\mathcal{SL}_3(1)$, but T is not right convex. Thus, the converse of Lemma 3.3 does not hold in general.

Theorem 3.4. For a submonoid T of $\mathcal{D}_n$, let $U = \bigcap_{\xi \in E(T)} \text{fix}(\xi)$ and suppose that T contains $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$. Then T is convex if and only if $T = \mathcal{D}_n[U]$.

Proof. From Lemma 3.2 (i), it is enough to show that if T is convex, then $T = \mathcal{D}_n[U]$. For any convex submonoid T of $\mathcal{D}_n$, let $E(T) = \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_t\}$ and $U = \bigcap_{i=1}^t \text{fix}(\xi_i)$. Since $\xi_1 \cdots \xi_t \in T$ and T is finite, by [4, Proposition 1.2.3], there exists $\xi_U \in E(T)$ such that $(\xi_1 \cdots \xi_t)^m = \xi_U$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and so $\xi_1 \cdots \xi_t \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_U)$. Then it follows from Proposition 2.3 that $\text{fix}(\xi_U) = \text{fix}((\xi_1 \cdots \xi_t)^m) = \text{fix}(\xi_1 \cdots \xi_t) = \bigcap_{i=1}^t \text{fix}(\xi_i) = U$. Since T is also (completely) isolated and $\xi_U \in E(T)$, it follows from Corollary 2.5 (i) that $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi_U)$ is a subsemigroup of T . Since $\xi_1 \cdots \xi_t \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_U)$, it follows from Theorem 2.2 that $(\xi_1 \cdots \xi_t)\xi_U = \xi_U$.

Now we show the equality. For any $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n[U]$, there exist $\xi \in E(\mathcal{D}_n)$ and a positive integer m such that $(\alpha\xi_U)^m = \xi$, and so $\alpha\xi_U \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$. Since $U \subseteq \text{fix}(\alpha)$, it follows from Proposition 2.3 that

$$\text{fix}(\xi) = \text{fix}((\alpha\xi_U)^m) = \text{fix}(\alpha\xi_U) = \text{fix}(\alpha) \cap \text{fix}(\xi_U) = \text{fix}(\xi_U) = U.$$

If $E(\mathcal{D}_n(U)) = \{\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_r\}$, then it follows from Lemma 2.1 (ii) that $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ is the union of its disjoint subsemigroups $\mathcal{D}_n(\zeta_j)$ for $1 \leq j \leq r$, and so $\alpha\xi_U \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_n(U) \subseteq T$. Since $\alpha\xi_U \in T$, it follows from the convexity of T that $\alpha \in T$, and so $\mathcal{D}_n[U] \subseteq T$.

Conversely, for any $\alpha \in T$, since $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_i)$ for some $1 \leq i \leq t$, it similarly follows that $U \subseteq \text{fix}(\xi_i) = \text{fix}(\alpha)$, and so $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n[U]$. Therefore, we obtain the required equality $T = \mathcal{D}_n[U]$. $\square$

4. Generating sets and ranks of $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$

For every $1 \leq j < i \leq n$, let

$$\xi_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cdots & i-1 & i & i+1 & \cdots & n \\ 1 & \cdots & i-1 & j & i+1 & \cdots & n \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is shown in [11, Theorem 3.4] that $\{\xi_{ij} : 1 \leq j < i \leq n\} \cup \{1_n\}$ is a minimal generating set of $\mathcal{D}_n$. Since all elements of this generating set are idempotents, it follows that $\text{rank}(\mathcal{D}_n) = \text{idrank}(\mathcal{D}_n) = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} + 1$.

Although the following result is likely to be known, we state and prove it since our proof is very short.

Proposition 4.1. *For every $1 \leq j < i \leq n$, ξ_{ij} is indecomposable in $\mathcal{D}_n$.*

Proof. Assume that $\xi_{ij} = \alpha\beta$ for some $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{D}_n$, and also $\alpha \neq 1_n$. It follows from Proposition 2.3 that $\text{fix}(\xi_{ij}) = X_n \setminus \{i\}$ is a subset of both $\text{fix}(\alpha)$ and $\text{fix}(\beta)$, and so $\text{fix}(\alpha) = \text{fix}(\xi_{ij})$ since $|\text{fix}(\alpha)| \leq n-1$. Moreover, since $i\alpha \leq i-1$, it follows that $i\alpha \in \text{fix}(\xi_{ij}) \subseteq \text{fix}(\beta)$, and so $j = i\xi_{ij} = (i\alpha)\beta = i\alpha$, i.e. $i\alpha = j$. Thus, $\xi_{ij} = \alpha$. $\square$

For a proper subset U of X_n such that $\{1\} \subsetneq U$, let

$$\mathcal{A}_U = \{\xi_{ij} : i \in X_n \setminus U \text{ and } j < i\} \cup \{1_n\}.$$

Theorem 4.2. *Let U be a proper subset of X_n such that $\{1\} \subsetneq U$. Then $\mathcal{A}_U$ is the minimum generating set of $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$, and so*

$$\text{rank}(\mathcal{D}_n[U]) = \text{idrank}(\mathcal{D}_n[U]) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^m (k_i - 1)$$

where $X_n \setminus U = \{k_1 < \cdots < k_m\}$.

Proof. First of all, if $|U| = n-1$, or equivalently, $X_n \setminus U = \{i\}$ for some $2 \leq i \leq n$, then it is clear that

$$\mathcal{D}_n[U] = \{\xi_{ij} : 1 \leq j \leq i-1\} \cup \{1_n\} = \langle \{\xi_{ij} : 1 \leq j \leq i-1\} \cup \{1_n\} \rangle.$$

Suppose $|U| \leq n-2$. For any $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}_n[U] \setminus \{1_n\}$, let $\text{shift}(\alpha) = \{i_1 < \dots < i_r\}$ and $i_k \alpha = j_k$ for each $1 \leq k \leq r$. Thus, since $i_1, \dots, i_r \in X_n \setminus U$ and $j_k < i_k$ for each $1 \leq k \leq r$, it follows that $\xi_{i_1 j_1}, \dots, \xi_{i_r j_r} \in \mathcal{A}_U$. Then it is clear that $\alpha = \xi_{i_1 j_1} \dots \xi_{i_r j_r}$, and so $\mathcal{A}_U$ is a generating set of $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$. Since each element of $\mathcal{A}_U$ is indecomposable (idempotent) in $\mathcal{D}_n$, and so in $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$, it follows that $\mathcal{A}_U$ is a unique minimal (idempotent) generating set of $\mathcal{D}_n[U]$.

Suppose that $X_n \setminus U = \{k_1 < \dots < k_m\}$ and notice that $k_1 \geq 2$. Since $\mathcal{A}_U$ is the union of the disjoint sets $\{1_n\}$ and $\{\xi_{k_i j} : 1 \leq j \leq k_i - 1\}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$, we obtain

$$\text{rank}(\mathcal{D}_n[U]) = \text{idrank}(\mathcal{D}_n[U]) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^m (k_i - 1),$$

as required. $\square$

For example, if $U = \{1, 3\} \subseteq X_4$, then $\mathcal{A}_U = \{\xi_{21}, \xi_{41}, \xi_{42}, \xi_{43}, 1_4\}$, and for $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{D}_4[\{1, 3\}]$, we have $\alpha = \xi_{21}\xi_{42}$.

It is shown in [12, Theorem 5.2.5] that $\text{rank}(\mathcal{D}_n(1)) = \text{rank}(N(\mathcal{D}_n)) = (n-2)!(n-2)$. From [14, Theorem 3.7], we also know that $\text{rank}(\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)) = |\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)| - |\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)^2|$ since $\mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ is a finite nilpotent semigroup with the zero element ξ . Moreover, we have the following observations:

- If U is a subset of $n-1$ elements containing 1, i.e. $U = X_n \setminus \{k\}$ for some $2 \leq k \leq n$, then it is clear that $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ is a left zero semigroup with $k-1$ elements. In addition, since every element of a left zero semigroup is indecomposable, $\text{rank}(\mathcal{D}_n(U)) = k-1$.
- If $U = \{1, m+1, m+2, \dots, n\}$ for some $2 \leq m \leq n-1$, then there exists unique idempotent ξ such that $\text{fix}(\xi) = U$. Thus, $\mathcal{D}_n(U) = \mathcal{D}_n(\xi)$ whose rank is known.
- It follows from [14, Theorem 3.7] that if $E(\mathcal{D}_n(U)) = \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_r\}$, then $\mathcal{A} = \bigcup_{i=1}^r (\mathcal{D}_n(\xi_i) \setminus \mathcal{D}_n(\xi_i)^2)$ is a generating set of $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$. It is easy to find some examples which shows that $\mathcal{A}$ is not minimal in general.

Despite all these observations and experiences, we could not find the rank of $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$, and therefore, we have to leave the rank of $\mathcal{D}_n(U)$ as an open problem.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the referee for careful reading.

The second author was supported by Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK) under the Grant Number 123F463. The author thanks to TUBITAK for their supports.

Conflict of interest statement. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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