

# Green's Equivalence Relations on the multiplicative semigroup $Z_n$

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**Abstract :** *The Multiplicative Semigroup  $Z_n$  has a vital role in the studies of computer scientists. This paper present the various characteristics of this structure. The rank of  $Z_n$ , the characteristics of regular  $Z_n$ , the idempotents in  $Z_n$ , Green's relations on  $Z_n$  and the D-classes of  $Z_n$  are the topics under discussion. It is already known that the Multiplicative semigroup  $Z_n$  is regular iff  $n$  is square free. This paper is expected to be helpful for a comparative study between regular and non-regular  $Z_n$ .*

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**Keywords:** *Multiplicative semigroup integers modulo  $n$ , rank of a semigroup, regular semigroup, idempotent elements of a semigroup, Euler function, Green's relations, Green's equivalence classes.*

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## 1. Introduction

$Z_n$  is a group under  $+_n$  and is a monoid under  $\times_n$ . If  $n$  is a prime, then,  $Z_n$  is a group under  $\times_n$ . For our discussion,  $Z_n$  is the semigroup under  $\times_n$ . [2,3] Already it was observed that  $Z_n$  is a regular semigroup iff  $n$  is square free. [9] Since  $Z_n$  is a commutative semigroup, the Green's equivalence relations on  $Z_n$  coincides. Then obviously each D-class of  $Z_n$  consists of only one cell in its egg-box diagram. Also regular  $Z_n$  is a best known subclass of intersection of locally inverse semigroups and E-solid semigroups. This paper mainly concentrates on the total number of distinct D-classes of  $Z_n$ .

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $S$  be a semigroup. The set of all idempotent elements of  $S$  is denoted by  $E(S)$ .  $Z_n$  is an E-semigroup as  $E(Z_n)$  forms a subsemigroup of  $Z_n$ . An element  $a$  of  $S$  is called regular if there exists  $x$  in  $S$  such that  $axa = a$ . [1,4,5] The set of all regular elements of  $S$  is denoted by  $\text{Reg}(S)$ . The semigroup  $S$  is called regular if all its elements are regular.  $S$  is regular means  $\text{Reg}(S) = S$ . An element  $a'$  is an inverse of  $a$  if  $aa'a = a$  and  $a'aa' = a'$ . An element with an inverse is necessarily regular. Also every regular element has an inverse; if there exists  $x \in S$  such that  $axa = a$  then define,  $a' = xax$  and then  $aa'a = axaxa = axa = a$  and  $a'a' = xaxaxax = xaxax = xax = a'$ . An element  $a$  may have more than one inverse. The set of inverses of an element is denoted by  $V(a)$ . If every element of a regular

semigroup  $S$  has a unique inverse, then  $S$  is called an inverse semigroup. Obviously, regular  $Z_n$  is an orthodox semigroup.

**Theorem 2.1** [9] Consider  $(Z_n, \times_n)$ , the multiplicative semigroup of integers modulo  $n$ , where  $Z_n = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \dots, \overline{(n-1)}\}$ , then for  $x \in Z_n$ ,  $\bar{x}$  is a regular element of  $Z_n$  iff  $x$  and  $\frac{n}{(n,x)}$ , where  $(n, x)$  is the g.c.d of  $n$  and  $x$ , are relatively prime.

**Corollary 2.1.1.** [9] The multiplicative semigroup  $Z_n$  is a regular semigroup iff  $n$  is square free.

**Theorem 2.2** [10,11,12] 1 If  $(a, b) = 1$  and  $n = ab$ , then any idempotent in  $Z_n$  has the form  $a^{\phi(b)}$ .

**Corollary 2.2.1**[10, 11,12] Let the prime factorization of  $n$  be  $n = p_1^{n_1} p_2^{n_2} p_3^{n_3} \dots p_m^{n_m}$ , the prime factorization consists of  $m$  factors, then the number of idempotents in  $Z_n$  is  $2^m$ .

A set  $K$  is a generating set of a semigroup  $S$  if  $S$  contains all possible products of elements of  $K$ . Rank of  $S$  denote the minimum cardinality of a generating set. Here we introduce a formula for rank of  $Z_n$  in the later section.

If  $a$  is an element of a semigroup  $S$ , the smallest left ideal of  $S$  containing  $a$  is  $Sa \cup \{a\}$ , which is denoted by  $S^1a$  and is called the principal left ideal generated by  $a$ . Similarly, we can define the principal right ideal generated by  $a$  as  $aS^1 = Sa \cup \{a\}$ . Also the principal two-sided ideal of  $S$  generated by  $a$  is  $S^1aS^1$ . Using the ideals mentioned above J. A. Green(1951), introduced five equivalence relations on a semigroup  $S$  which are denoted by  $L$ ,  $R$ ,  $H$ ,  $D$  and  $J$ . Let  $a, b \in S$ , then

- (i)  $aLb$  if and only if  $S^1a = S^1b$
- (ii)  $aRb$  if and only if  $aS^1 = bS^1$
- (iii)  $aJb$  if and only if  $S^1aS^1 = S^1bS^1$
- (iv)  $H = L \cap R$
- (v)  $D = L \vee R$

The corresponding equivalence classes of an element  $a \in S$  are denoted by  $La, Ra, Ja, Ha$  and  $Da$  respectively.[1] A semigroup  $S$  is said to be E-solid if for all  $e, f, g \in E(S)$  satisfying  $eLfg$ , then there exists an idempotent  $h \in S$  such that  $eRhLg$ .  $Z_n$  is an E-solid semigroup. In  $Z_n$ ,  $L = R = H = D = J$ , each D-class of  $Z_n$  consists of only one cell in its egg-box diagram.

### 3. Greens Equivalence relations on $Z_n$

In this paper, the set of all numbers less than  $n$  and relatively prime to  $n$  is denoted by  $R[n]$ . Corresponding to each factor  $x \neq 1$  of  $n$ , a set is constructed which is denoted by  $M_x$  to contain all multiples of  $x$  less than  $n$ , which are not divisible by a larger factor of  $n$ . Obviously, the sets  $M_x$  are disjoint. Example: For  $n = 30$ , the set  $M_2 = \{2, 4, 8, 14, 16, 22, 26, 28\}$

**Lemma 3.1.1**  $Z_n = R[n] \cup (\cup_x M_x)$ .

*Proof:* For each factor  $x$  of  $n$  there is an  $M_x$  and all the sets  $M_x$  are disjoint by their construction. If there is an integer  $u$  which is less than  $n$  and which does not belong to

$(\cup_x M_x)$ , then it will be relatively prime to  $n$  and hence belongs to  $R[n]$ . Thus the lemma.

**Lemma 3.1.2** Rank( $Z_n$ ) is the number of factors of  $n$ .

*Proof:* By lemma 3.1.1.  $Z_n$  is the disjoint union  $R[n] \cup (\cup_x M_x)$ . Then a generating set  $K$  for  $Z_n$  consists of each factor of  $n$ . Thus the result.

**Theorem 3.1** The number of distinct D-classes in  $Z_n$  is the number of factors of  $n$ .

OR

If  $n = p_1^{m_1} p_2^{m_2} p_3^{m_3} \dots p_k^{m_k}$ , then the number of distinct D-classes in  $Z_n$  is  $(m_1 + 1)(m_2 + 1)(m_3 + 1) \dots (m_k + 1)$ .

*Proof:* By lemma 3.1.1,  $Z_n = R[n] \cup (\cup_x M_x)$ .

Claim01: The D-class of any element in  $R[n]$  is the same as  $D_1$ . Let  $t \in R[n]$  be arbitrary.  $\implies (n, t) = 1 \implies \exists t' \in Z_n$  such that  $tt' = t't = 1$  It is needed to prove  $D_t = D_1$ . It is obvious that

$tZ_n \subseteq Z_n$ . Let  $y \in Z_n$  be arbitrary Then  $y = y1 = ytt' = tyt' \implies y \in tZ_n \implies Z_n \subseteq tZ_n$ . Thus  $Z_n = tZ_n \implies tD_1 \implies D_1 = D_t$ .

Claim02: For each factor  $x \neq 1$  of  $n$ , the D-class of any element in  $M_x$  is the same as  $D_x$ . Let  $mx \in M_x$  where  $m \neq 1$  be arbitrary. Obviously  $mxZ_n \subseteq xZ_n$ . To prove the converse a function  $f$  from  $xZ_n$  to  $mxZ_n$  is defined as,  $f(xt) = mxt$ , for each  $t \in Z_n$ . Now  $f(xt_1) = f(xt_2) \implies mxt_1 = mxt_2 \implies mx(t_1 - t_2) \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ . But  $M_x$  is constructed so that  $mx$  is not a factor of  $n$ .  $\implies (t_1 - t_2) \equiv 0 \pmod{n} \implies t_1 \equiv t_2 \pmod{n} \implies xt_1 \equiv xt_2 \pmod{n}$ . Thus  $f$  is an injective function. Shows that  $xZ_n \subseteq mxZ_n$ . Thus  $xZ_n = mxZ_n \implies xD_1 \implies D_x = D_{mx}$ .

From lemma 3.1.1, claim01 and claim02 it is obvious that  $R[n]$  contributes the D-class  $D_1$  and each  $M_x$  contributes the D-class  $D_x$ , where  $x \neq 1$  is a factor of  $n$ . Thus it is concluded that the number of distinct D-classes in  $Z_n$  is the number of factors of  $n$ , provided the D-class  $D_0$  corresponds to the factor  $n$  itself.

**Corollary: 3.1.1** The number of distinct D-classes in regular  $Z_n$  is  $2^m$ .

*Proof:* By Corollary 2.1.1. we have  $Z_n$  as regular iff  $n = p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_m$ , a product of distinct primes. Then by theorem 3. 1. there will be  $2^m$  distinct D-classes.

**Example 3.1.1.** Consider  $Z_{30}$ , an example for a regular  $Z_n$ .

We have  $R[30] = \{1, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29\}$  and the Euler Phi function  $\phi(30) = 8$ .

$Z_{30} = 7Z_{30} = 11Z_{30} = 13Z_{30} = 17Z_{30} = 19Z_{30} = 23Z_{30} = 29Z_{30}$ . The D-classes of all elements of  $R[30]$  are the same as D-class of 1 denoted by  $D_1$ .

Now  $2Z_{30} = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28\} = 4Z_{30} = 8Z_{30} = 14Z_{30} = 16Z_{30} = 22Z_{30} = 26Z_{30} = 28Z_{30}$ . Shows that the D-class of 2 consists of  $D_2 = \{2, 4, 8, 14, 16, 22, 26, 28\}$ .

$3Z_{30} = \{0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27\} = 9Z_{30} = 21Z_{30} = 27Z_{30}$ . Shows that the D-class of 3 consists of  $D_3 = \{3, 9, 21, 27\}$ .

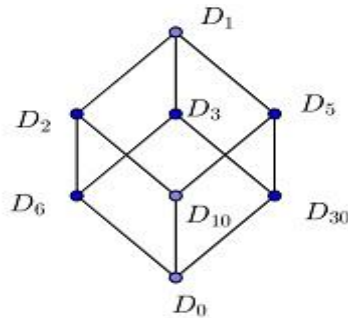
$5Z_{30} = \{0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25\} = 25Z_{30}$  Shows that the D-class of 5 consists of  $D_5 = \{5, 25\}$ .

$6Z_{30} = \{0, 6, 12, 18, 24\} = 12Z_{30} = 18Z_{30} = 24Z_{30}$  Shows that the D-class of 6 consists of  $D_6 = \{6, 12, 18, 24\}$ .

$10Z_{30} = \{0, 10, 20\} = 20Z_{30}$  Shows that the D-class of 10 consists of  $D_{10} = \{10, 20\}$ .

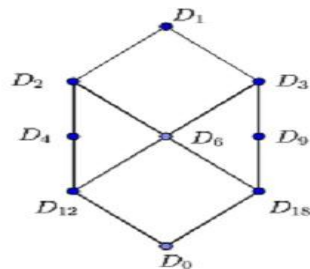
$15Z_{30} = \{0, 15\}$  Shows that the D-class of 15 consists of  $D_{15} = \{15\}$ . Now  $0Z_{30} = \{0\}$  Shows that the D-class of 0 consists of  $D_0 = \{0\}$ .

Thus the distinct D-classes of  $Z_{30}$  are  $D_1, D_2, D_3, D_5, D_6, D_{10}, D_{15}, D_0$ . Corresponding to each factor of 30 there is a D-class. Totally there are 8 distinct classes. The natural partial ordering on the set of D-classes is given by the Hasse diagram,



**Example 3.1.2.** Consider  $Z_{36}$ , an example for a non-regular  $Z_n$ .

The distinct D-classes of  $Z_{36}$  are  $D_1, D_2, D_3, D_4, D_6, D_9, D_{12}, D_{18}$  and  $D_0$ , the Hasse Diagram of the lattice of D-classes of  $Z_{36}$  is given below:



**Corollary 3.1.2** In  $Z_n$ , the number of idempotents is less than or equal to the number of distinct D-classes.

*Proof:* By theorem 3.1, the number of distinct D-classes in  $Z_n$  is  $(m_1+1)(m_2+1)(m_3+1)\dots(m_k+1)$  whenever  $n = p_1^{m_1} p_2^{m_2} p_3^{m_3} \dots p_k^{m_k}$ . But by corollary 2.2.1 the number of idempotents in  $Z_n$  is  $2^k$ . Since each  $m_i \geq 1$ , each  $m_i + 1 \geq 2$ , which yields the result.

**Theorem 3.2** If D represents a D-class of  $Z_n$ , then D contains at most one idempotent.

*Proof:* In a D-class, either every element of D is regular or no element of D is regular.[1] Also no H-class contains more than one idempotent.[1] Since idempotents are regular, every D-class containing an idempotent is regular. Since in a regular D-class, each L-class and each R-class contains an idempotent and in  $Z_n$ ,  $L = R = H = D = J$ ., each H-class contains exactly one idempotent. If D is not regular, it doesn't contain an idempotent. Thus the result is obvious.

**Theorem 3.3**  $Z_{p_1^{m_1} p_2^{m_2} p_3^{m_3} \dots p_k^{m_k}}$  is not regular if at least one  $m_i > 1$ .

*Proof:* If at least one  $m_i > 1$ , the number of idempotents  $2^k$  (by corollary 2.2.1), will be strictly less than the number of distinct D-classes  $\prod_i (m_i + 1)$ (by theorem 3.1). But by theorem 3.2 there will be at least one D-class which does not contain any idempotent. As the D-class which does not contain an idempotent is irregular, the semigroup  $Z_{p_1^{m_1} p_2^{m_2} p_3^{m_3} \dots p_k^{m_k}}$  is irregular.

**Theorem 3.4:** A regular  $Z_n$  is isomorphic to some  $Z_{p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_k}$ .

*Proof:* By fundamental theorem of Arithmetic(Unique Prime Factorization Theorem), every integer  $n \geq 1$ , can be expressed as  $n = p_1^{m_1} p_2^{m_2} p_3^{m_3} \dots p_k^{m_k}$ , where  $p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_k$  are distinct primes. If  $Z_n$  is regular, each D-class of  $Z_n$  contains exactly one idempotent. By theorem 3.1 there will be  $\prod_i (m_i + 1)$  distinct D-classes for  $Z_n$ . Since each D-class of regular  $Z_n$  has exactly one idempotent there will be  $\prod_i (m_i + 1)$  idempotents in  $Z_n$ . Then  $2^k = \prod_i (m_i + 1)$ , where  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$ . Here the L. H. S. and R. H. S. Consists of k-factors, therefore by comparing them, each  $(m_i + 1) = 2 \Rightarrow m_i = 1$ , for each i. Then  $n = p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_k$ . Shows that there exists some  $k \in Z$  such that  $|Z_n| = |Z_{p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_k}|$ . Hence they are isomorphic.

**Theorem 3.5** If  $n = p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_k$ , a product of distinct primes then  $Z_n$ , is an inverse semigroup.

*Proof:* Since  $Z_n$ , is a commutative semigroup, its idempotents commute.  $Z_{p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_k}$  is regular by corollary 2.1.1. Let  $e$  and  $f$  be two idempotents in a single L-class then  $e$  and  $f$  are two right identities in the same L-class. Thus  $ef = e$  and  $fe = f$ . But in  $Z_n$ , we have

$ef = fe$ . Thus it means  $e = f$ , every L-class in regular  $Z_n$  contains exactly one idempotent. Also for  $Z_n$ ,  $L = R = H = D = J$ . Thus in a D-class of regular  $Z_n$ , there will be

exactly one idempotent . Let  $x \in Z_n$  where  $n = p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_k$  . Suppose there exists two inverses say  $x'$  and  $x''$  for  $x$ . Then the idempotents,  $xx'$  and  $xx''$  belongs to  $D_x$  and so by the above argument  $x' = xx''$  . Similarly, the idempotents  $x'x$  and  $x''x$  are equal. Then  $x' = x'xx' = x'(xx') = x'(xx'') = (x'x)x'' = (x''x)x'' = x''xx'' = x''$ . Therefore, each  $x \in Z_n$  possesses a unique inverse in  $Z_n$ . Thus regular  $Z_n$  is an inverse semigroup.

#### 4. Conclusion

For every positive integer  $n$  we can easily identify all possible distinct D-classes of  $Z_n$  using the sets  $R[n]$  and  $M_x$  of each factor  $x \neq 1$  of  $n$ . Also the Hasse Diagram of the Lattice of the partially ordered set of D-classes of  $Z_n$  can be constructed, using which we can compare the lattices of D-classes of a regular  $Z_n$  and a non-regular  $Z_n$ .

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