



## CHAPTER I

### PRELIMINARIES

In this chapter, we shall give some notations, definitions and theorems used in this thesis. Our notations are :

$\mathbb{Z}$  is the set of all integers,

$\mathbb{Z}^+$  is the set of all positive integers,

$$\mathbb{Z}_0^+ = \mathbb{Z}^+ \cup \{0\},$$

$\mathbb{Z}^-$  is the set of all negative integers,

$\mathbb{Q}$  is the set of all rational numbers,

$\mathbb{Q}^+$  is the set of all positive rational numbers,

$$\mathbb{Q}_0^+ = \mathbb{Q}^+ \cup \{0\},$$

$\mathbb{R}$  is the set of all real numbers,

$\mathbb{R}^+$  is the set of all positive real numbers,

$$\mathbb{R}_0^+ = \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}.$$

Definition 1.1. A triple  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is said to be a semiring iff

(i)  $(S, +)$  and  $(S, \cdot)$  are semigroups

and (ii)  $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$  and  $(x + y) \cdot z = x \cdot z + y \cdot z$

for all  $x, y, z \in S$ . The operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  are called the addition and multiplication of the semiring, respectively.

Example 1.2. Let  $S$  be a nonempty set. Define  $x + y = y[x + y = x]$  and  $x \cdot y = y[x \cdot y = x]$  for all  $x, y \in S$ . Then  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a semiring.

Definition 1.3. A semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is said to be additively [multiplicatively] commutative iff  $(S, +)$  [ $(S, \cdot)$ ] is commutative. And  $S$  is said to be commutative iff  $S$  is both additively and multiplicatively commutative.

Example 1.4.

$$1) \text{ Let } S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{bmatrix} / x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \right\}. \text{ Then } S \text{ with the usual}$$

addition and multiplication is an additively commutative semiring.

2) Let  $(S, \cdot)$  be a commutative semigroup. Define  $x + y = x$  for all  $x \in S$ . Then  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a multiplicatively commutative semiring.

3)  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  with the usual addition and multiplication is a commutative semiring.

Definition 1.5. A semiring  $(D, +, \cdot)$  is said to be a skew ratio semiring iff  $(D, \cdot)$  is a group.

Example 1.6. Let  $(D, \cdot)$  be a group. Define  $x + y = x$  [ $x + y = y$ ] for all  $x, y \in D$ . Then  $(D, +, \cdot)$  is a skew ratio semiring.

Definition 1.7. A semiring  $(D, +, \cdot)$  is said to be a ratio semiring iff  $D$  is a commutative skew ratio semiring.

Example 1.8.  $\mathbb{Q}^+$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^+$  with the usual addition and multiplication are ratio semirings.

Definition 1.9. An element  $x$  of a semigroup  $(S, \cdot)$  is said to be a left [right] zero of  $S$  iff  $x \cdot y = x$  [ $y \cdot x = x$ ] for all  $y \in S$ . And

$x$  is said to be a zero of  $S$  iff  $x$  is both a left and right zero of  $S$ .

Definition 1.10. An element  $a$  of a semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is said to be a multiplicative [additive] zero of the semiring  $S$  iff  $a$  is the zero of the semigroup  $(S, \cdot)$  [ $(S, +)$ ].

Definition 1.11. A semiring  $(K, +, \cdot)$  with a multiplicative zero  $0$  is said to be a skew semifield iff  $(K \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$  is a group.

Example 1.12. Let  $K = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & z \end{bmatrix} / x, z \in \mathbb{Q}^+ \text{ and } y \in \mathbb{Q} \right\} \cup \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ .

Then  $K$  with the usual addition and multiplication is a skew semifield.

Definition 1.13. A semiring  $(K, +, \cdot)$  with a multiplicative zero is said to be a semifield iff  $K$  is a commutative skew semifield.

Example 1.14.  $\mathbb{Q}_0^+, \mathbb{R}_0^+$  with the usual additions and multiplications are semifields.

Definition 1.15. A semiring  $(R, +, \cdot)$  is said to be a skew ring iff  $(R, +)$  is a group. The identity of  $(R, +)$  will be denoted by  $0$ .

Example 1.16. Let  $(R, +)$  be an arbitrary group with  $0$  as its identity. Define  $x \cdot y = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Then  $(R, +, \cdot)$  is a skew ring.

Definition 1.17. Let  $R$  be a skew ring and  $x \in R \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $x$  is said to be a left [right] zero divisor iff there exists a  $y \in R \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $xy = 0$  [ $yx = 0$ ]. And  $x$  is said to be a zero divisor iff  $x$  is both a left and a right zero divisor.

Example 1.18. Let  $R$  be the skew ring in Example 1.16 and  $x \in R \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $x$  is a zero divisor.

Definition 1.19. A semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is said to be additively cancellative (A.C.) iff  $(x + z = y + z$  implies  $x = y)$  and  $(z + x = z + y$  implies  $x = y)$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$ , multiplicatively cancellative (M.C.) iff  $(xz = yz$  and  $z \neq 0$  imply  $x = y)$  and  $(zx = zy$  and  $z \neq 0$  imply  $x = y)$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$  where  $0$  denotes the multiplicative zero of  $S$  if it exists, cancellative iff  $S$  is both additively cancellative and multiplicatively cancellative.

Example 1.20.  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_0^+$  with the usual addition and multiplication are cancellative semirings.

Proposition 1.21. Let  $S$  be an additively cancellative semiring. Then  $xy + zw = zw + xy$  for all  $x, y, z, w \in S$ .

Proof. Let  $x, y, z, w \in S$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} zy + xy + zw + xw &= (z + x)y + (z + x)w \\ &= (z + x)(y + w) \\ &= z(y + w) + x(y + w) \\ &= zy + zw + xy + xw. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $S$  is A.C.,  $xy + zw = zw + xy$ .

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Definition 1.22. A semiring  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is said to be strongly multiplicatively cancellative (S.M.C.) iff  $(xz + yw = xw + yz$  implies  $x = y$  or  $z = w)$  and  $(xz + yw = yz + xw$  implies  $x = y$  or  $z = w)$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$ . ([2])

Example 1.23.  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  with the usual addition and multiplication is a strongly multiplicatively cancellative semiring.

Proposition 1.24. Let  $S$  be a strongly multiplicatively cancellative semiring and  $x \in S$ . Then  $x$  is a left multiplicative zero of  $S$  iff  $x$  is a right multiplicative zero of  $S$ .

Proof. Assume that  $x$  is a left multiplicative zero of  $S$ . Let  $y \in S$  and  $z \in S \setminus \{x\}$  be arbitrary. Since  $yx + x = yx + x$ ,  $yxz + xx = yxx + xz$ . Since  $S$  is S.M.C. and  $z \neq x$ ,  $yx = x$ , so  $x$  is a right multiplicative zero of  $S$ .

The proof of the converse is similar to the above.

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Proposition 1.25. If  $S$  is a strongly multiplicatively cancellative semiring then  $S$  is multiplicatively cancellative.

Proof. Assume that  $S$  is a strongly multiplicatively cancellative semiring.

Case 1  $S$  has a multiplicative zero  $0$ . Let  $x, y, z \in S$  be such that  $xy = xz$  and  $x \neq 0$ . Since  $xy + 0z = xz + 0y$  and  $S$  is S.M.C.,  $y = z$ . Similarly, if  $yx = zx$  and  $x \neq 0$  then  $y = z$ .

Case 2  $S$  has no multiplicative zero. Let  $x, y, z \in S$  be such that  $xy = xz$ . By Proposition 1.24,  $x$  is not a right multiplicative zero, so there exists a  $w \in S$  such that  $wx \neq x$ . Since  $xy + wxz = xz + wxy$  and  $S$  is S.M.C.,  $y = z$ . Similarly, if  $yx = zx$  then  $y = z$ .

Hence  $S$  is a multiplicatively cancellative semiring.

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Definition 1.26. A semiring  $S$  with a multiplicative identity  $1$  is said to be precise iff  $(1 + xy = x + y$  implies  $x = 1$  or  $y = 1)$  and

$(1 + xy = y + x \text{ implies } x = 1 \text{ or } y = 1)$  for all  $x, y \in S$ . ([2])

Example 1.27.  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  with the usual addition and multiplication is a precise semiring.

Definition 1.28. A semigroup  $(S, \cdot)$  is said to satisfy the right [left] Ore condition iff for all  $a, b \in S \setminus \{0\}$  there exist  $x, y \in S \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $ax = by$  [ $xa = yb$ ] where 0 denotes the zero of  $S$  if it exists. ([3])

Note that every commutative semigroup satisfies the left and right Ore conditions but the converse is not true.

Example 1.29.  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & z \end{bmatrix} / x, z \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ and } y \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$  with the usual multiplication is a semigroup. Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $B = \begin{bmatrix} d & e \\ 0 & f \end{bmatrix} \in S$ . Let  $X = \begin{bmatrix} ad & d + ec - bf \\ 0 & af \end{bmatrix}$  and  $Y = \begin{bmatrix} a^2 & a \\ 0 & ac \end{bmatrix}$ . Then  $X, Y \in S$  and  $AX = \begin{bmatrix} a^2d & ad + aec \\ 0 & caf \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} da^2 & da + eac \\ 0 & fac \end{bmatrix} = BY$ . Hence  $(S, \cdot)$  satisfies the right Ore condition and  $(S, \cdot)$  is noncommutative.

Definition 1.30. Let  $S$  be a semiring without a multiplicative zero and  $\leq$  a partial order on  $S$ . Then  $(S, \leq)$  is said to be a partially ordered semiring iff  $x \leq y$  implies  $(x + z) \leq (y + z)$ ,  $(z + x) \leq (z + y)$ ,  $(xz) \leq (yz)$  and  $(zx) \leq (zy)$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .

Let  $S$  be a semiring with a multiplicative zero 0, and  $\leq$  a partial order on  $S$ . Then  $(S, \leq)$  is said to be a partially ordered semiring iff for all  $x, y, z \in S$

(i)  $x \leq y$  implies  $(x + z) \leq (y + z)$  and  $(z + x) \leq (z + y)$

and (ii)  $x \leq y$  and  $0 \leq z$  imply  $xz \leq yz$  and  $zx \leq zy$ .

Definition 1.31. A partial order  $\leq$  on a semiring  $S$  with a multiplicative zero  $0$  is said to be multiplicatively regular (M.R.) iff ( $xz \leq yz$  and  $0 < z$  imply  $x \leq y$ ) and ( $zx \leq zy$  and  $0 < z$  imply  $x \leq y$ ) for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .

A partial order  $\leq$  on a semiring  $S$  without a multiplicative zero is said to be multiplicatively regular (M.R.) iff ( $xz \leq yz$  implies  $x \leq y$ ) and ( $zx \leq zy$  implies  $x \leq y$ ) for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .

A partial order  $\leq$  on a semiring  $S$  is said to be additively regular (A.R.) iff ( $(x + z) \leq (y + z)$  implies  $x \leq y$ ) and ( $(z + x) \leq (z + y)$  implies  $x \leq y$ ) for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .

Definition 1.32. Let  $(L, \leq)$  and  $(M, \leq^*)$  be partially ordered sets.

A function  $f : L \rightarrow M$  is said to be an order isomorphism iff

- (i)  $f$  is a bijection,
  - (ii)  $x \leq y$  implies  $f(x) \leq^* f(y)$  for all  $x, y \in L$
- and
- (iii)  $z \leq^* w$  implies  $f^{-1}(z) \leq f^{-1}(w)$  for all  $z, w \in M$ .

A function  $g : L \rightarrow M$  is said to be an increasing map iff ( $x < y$  iff  $g(x) <^* g(y)$  for all  $x, y \in L$ ).

Definition 1.33. Let  $(P, \leq)$  be a partially ordered set and  $x, y \in X$ .

An element  $z$  of  $P$  is said to be a least upper bound of  $\{x, y\}$ , denoted by  $x \vee y$ , iff 1)  $x \leq z$ , 2)  $y \leq z$  and 3)  $x \leq w$  and  $y \leq w$  imply  $z \leq w$  for all  $w \in P$ . A greatest lower bound of  $\{x, y\}$ , denoted by  $x \wedge y$ , is defined dually.

$P$  is said to be an upper [lower] semilattice iff  $x \vee y$  [ $x \wedge y$ ] exists for all  $x, y \in P$ .  $P$  is said to be a lattice iff  $P$  is both an upper and a lower semilattice.

Proposition 1.34. Let  $X$  be a set and  $P$  the set of all partial orders on  $X$ . Then  $(P, \subseteq)$  is a lower semilattice.

Proof. The proof is obvious. #

Example 1.35. Let  $X$  be a set of order  $> 1$  and  $P$  the set of all partial orders on  $X$ . There exist  $x, y \in X$  such that  $x \neq y$ . Define a relation  $\leq$  on  $X$  by  $x \leq y$  and  $z \leq z$  for all  $z \in X$  and define a relation  $\leq^*$  on  $X$  by  $y \leq^* x$  and  $z \leq^* z$  for all  $z \in X$ . Then  $\leq, \leq^* \in P$ . Suppose that  $\leq \vee \leq^*$  exists. Let  $\leq^{**} = \leq \vee \leq^*$ . Then  $x \leq^{**} y$  and  $y \leq^{**} x$  but  $x \neq y$ , so we have a contradiction. Hence  $(P, \subseteq)$  is not an upper semilattice.

Definition 1.36. An equivalence relation  $\rho$  on a semiring  $S$  is said to be a congruence on  $S$  iff  $x \rho y$  implies  $(x + z) \rho (y + z)$ ,  $(z + x) \rho (z + y)$ ,  $xz \rho yz$  and  $zx \rho zy$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .

Definition 1.37. A congruence  $\rho$  on  $S$  is said to be multiplicatively regular (M.R.) iff  $(xz \rho yz$  and  $z \neq 0$  imply  $x \rho y$ ) and  $(zx \rho zy$  and  $z \neq 0$  imply  $x \rho y$ ) for all  $x, y, z \in S$  where  $0$  denotes the multiplicative zero of  $S$  if it exists, additively regular (A.R.) iff  $((x + z) \rho (y + z)$  implies  $x \rho y$ ) and  $((z + x) \rho (z + y)$  implies  $x \rho y$ ) for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .

Proposition 1.38. Let  $C$  be the set of all congruences on a semiring  $S$ . Then  $(C, \subseteq)$  is a lattice.

Proof. Let  $\rho, \rho^* \in C$ . Then  $\rho \wedge \rho^* = \rho \cap \rho^*$ . Let  $\zeta = \{\sigma \in C \mid \rho \cup \rho^* \subseteq \sigma\}$ . Since  $S \times S \in \zeta, \zeta \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $\rho \vee \rho^* = \bigcap_{\sigma \in \zeta} \sigma$ . #



Definition 1.39. Let  $S$  be a commutative semiring with a multiplicative zero  $0$  such that  $|S| > 1$ . Then a semifield  $K$  is said to be a semifield of quotients of  $S$  iff there exists a monomorphism  $i : S \rightarrow K$  such that for all  $x \in K$  there exist  $a \in S, b \in S \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $x = i(a)i(b)^{-1}$ . A monomorphism  $i$  satisfying the above property is called a quotient embedding of  $S$  into  $K$ . It follows from the definition that  $i(0) = 0$  because  $K$  has only two multiplicative idempotents and  $|S| > 1$ . If  $K$  is a field then we shall call  $K$  a field of quotients of  $S$ .

Example 1.40.  $\mathbb{Q}_0^+, \mathbb{Q}$  with the usual addition and multiplication are a semifield of quotients of  $\mathbb{Z}_0^+$  and a field of quotients of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , respectively.

Theorem 1.41. Let  $S$  be a commutative semiring with a multiplicative zero  $0$  such that  $|S| > 1$ . Then a semifield of quotients of  $S$  exists iff  $S$  is multiplicatively cancellative.

We shall now give the construction of a semifield of quotients of  $S$  which appears in [1] p. 27 - 28.

Assume that  $S$  is multiplicatively cancellative. Define a relation  $\sim$  on  $S \times (S \setminus \{0\})$  by  $(x,y) \sim (z,w)$  iff  $xw = zy$  for all  $(x,y), (z,w) \in S \times (S \setminus \{0\})$ . It is easily shown that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation.

Let  $\alpha, \beta \in \frac{S \times (S \setminus \{0\})}{\sim}$ . Define  $+$  and  $\cdot$  on  $\frac{S \times (S \setminus \{0\})}{\sim}$  in the following way : Choose  $(a,b) \in \alpha$  and  $(c,d) \in \beta$ . Define  $\alpha + \beta = [(ad + bc, bd)]$  and  $\alpha \cdot \beta = [(ac, bd)]$ . In [1] it was shown that  $(\frac{S \times (S \setminus \{0\})}{\sim}, +, \cdot)$  is a semifield of quotients of  $S$ .

Remark 1.42. In the proof of Theorem 1.41, P. Sinutoke used the commutativity of the addition of  $S$  only one time, to make  $\frac{S \times (S \setminus \{0\})}{\sim}$  commutative with respect to addition. If the addition in the definition of semifield is not assumed to be commutative and  $S$  is multiplicatively commutative, then we can still use the construction in Theorem 1.41 and the "semifield of quotients" so constructed will not necessarily have commutative addition.

Example 1.43. Define  $x + y = x[x + y = y]$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_0^+$ .  $\mathbb{Z}_0^+$  with this addition and the usual multiplication is multiplicatively commutative semiring which is multiplicatively cancellative. Then  $\mathbb{Q}_0^+$  with the addition already defined and the usual multiplication is a "semifield of quotients" of  $\mathbb{Z}_0^+$ .

Corollary 1.44. Let  $S$  be a semiring having  $K$  as a semifield of quotients,  $i : S \rightarrow K$  a quotient embedding,  $L$  a semifield and  $f : S \rightarrow L$  a homomorphism such that  $f(x) = 0$  iff  $x = 0$ . Then there exists a unique homomorphism  $g : K \rightarrow L$  such that  $g \circ i = f$ . Furthermore, if  $f$  is a monomorphism then  $g$  is a monomorphism.

Proof. Define  $g : K \rightarrow L$  in the following way : Let  $x \in K$ . Then there exist  $a \in S$ ,  $b \in S \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $x = i(a)i(b)^{-1}$ . Define  $g(x) = f(a)f(b)^{-1}$ . It is easily shown that  $g$  is well-defined and satisfies all properties of the corollary.

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Corollary 1.45. If  $L$  is a semifield and  $L$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $S$  then  $L$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $K$ .

Corollary 1.46. If  $S$  is a semiring having  $K$  and  $K'$  as semifields of quotients then  $K \cong K'$ .

Corollary 1.47. Let  $R$  be a ring of order  $> 1$ . Then a field of quotients of  $R$  exists iff  $R$  is commutative and has no zero divisors.

Remark 1.48. If  $R$  is a ring having a multiplicative identity  $1 \neq 0$ , then a field of quotients of  $R$  exists iff  $R$  is an integral domain.

Corollary 1.49. Let  $R$  be a ring having  $K$  as a field of quotients,  $i : R \rightarrow K$  a quotient embedding,  $L$  a field and  $f : R \rightarrow L$  a monomorphism. Then there exists a unique monomorphism  $g : K \rightarrow L$  such that  $g \circ i = f$ .

Corollary 1.50. If  $L$  is a field and  $L$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $R$  then  $L$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $K$ .

Corollary 1.51. If  $R$  is a ring having  $K$  and  $K'$  as fields of quotients then  $K \cong K'$ .

Definition 1.52. Let  $S$  be a commutative semiring without a multiplicative zero. Then a ratio semiring  $D$  is said to be a ratio semiring of quotients of  $S$  iff there exists a monomorphism  $i : S \rightarrow D$  such that for all  $x \in D$  there exist  $a, b \in S$  such that  $x = i(a)i(b)^{-1}$ . A monomorphism  $i$  satisfying the above property is called a quotient embedding of  $S$  into  $D$ .

Example 1.53.  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  with the usual addition and multiplication is a ratio semiring of quotients of  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Theorem 1.54. Let  $S$  be a commutative semiring without a multiplicative zero. Then a ratio semiring of quotients of  $S$  exists iff  $S$  is multiplicatively cancellative.

The construction of a ratio semiring of quotients is the same as the construction of a semifield of quotients and all of the remarks and corollaries about semifields of quotients already given are true for ratio semirings of quotients.

Definition 1.55. Let  $S$  be a commutative semiring. A ring  $R$  is said to be a ring of differences of  $S$  iff there exists a monomorphism  $i : S \rightarrow R$  such that for all  $x \in R$  there exist  $a, b \in S$  such that  $x = i(a) - i(b)$ .

A monomorphism  $i$  satisfying the above property is called a difference embedding of  $S$  into  $R$ .

Example 1.56.  $\mathbb{Z}$  with the usual addition and multiplication is a ring of differences of  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ .

Theorem 1.57. Let  $S$  be a commutative semiring. Then a ring of differences of  $S$  exists iff  $S$  is additively cancellative.

We shall now give the construction of a ring of differences of  $S$  which appears in [1] p. 37 - 39.

Assume that  $S$  is additively cancellative. Define a relation  $\sim$  on  $S \times S$  by  $(x, y) \sim (z, w)$  iff  $x + w = z + y$  for all  $x, y, z, w \in S$ .

It is easily shown that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation.

Let  $\alpha, \beta \in \frac{S \times S}{\sim}$ . Define  $+$  and  $\cdot$  on  $\frac{S \times S}{\sim}$  in the following way : Choose  $(a, b) \in \alpha$  and  $(c, d) \in \beta$ . Define  $\alpha + \beta = [(a + c, b + d)]$  and  $\alpha \cdot \beta = [(ac + bd, ad + bc)]$ . In [1] it was shown that  $(\frac{S \times S}{\sim}, +, \cdot)$

is a ring of differences of  $S$ . #

Remark 1.58. In the proof of Theorem 1.57, P. Sinutoke defined

$\theta : S \rightarrow \frac{S \times S}{\sim}$  by  $\theta(a) = [(a + x, x)]$  for fixed  $x \in S$  and for all  $a \in S$  and she used the commutativity of multiplication of  $S$  to show that  $\theta$  is a homomorphism. This is not necessary as we shall show now. Define  $i : S \rightarrow \frac{S \times S}{\sim}$  by  $i(x) = [(x + x, x)]$  for all  $x \in S$ . Let  $a, b \in S$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } i(ab) &= [(ab + ab, ab)] \\ &= [(ab + ab + ab + ab + ab, ab + ab + ab + ab)] \\ &= [((a + a)(b + b) + ab, (a + a)b + a(b + b))] \\ &= [(a + a, a)][(b + b, b)] \\ &= i(a)i(b), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } i(a + b) &= [(a + b + a + b, a + b)] \\ &= [(a + a + b + b, a + b)] \\ &= [(a + a, a)] + [(b + b, b)] \\ &= i(a) + i(b). \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that  $i(a) = i(b)$ . Thus  $[(a + a, a)] = [(b + b, b)]$ , so  $a + a + b = b + b + a = b + a + b$ , hence  $a = b$ . Therefore  $i$  is a monomorphism. Let  $\alpha \in \frac{S \times S}{\sim}$ . Choose  $(a, b) \in \alpha$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= [(a, b)] \\ &= [(a + a + b, a + b + b)] \\ &= [(a + a, a)] + [(b, b + b)] \\ &= [(a + a, a)] - [(b + b, b)] \\ &= i(a) - i(b). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $i$  is a difference embedding of  $S$  into  $\frac{S \times S}{\sim}$ . Hence  $(\frac{S \times S}{\sim}, +, \cdot)$  is a ring of differences of  $S$ . Therefore, we still have Theorem 1.57 if  $S$  is additively commutative but not multiplicatively commutative. In this case, the ring of differences will not be multiplicatively commutative.

Example 1.59. Let  $S = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{bmatrix} / x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \right\}$  and

$R = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{bmatrix} / x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$  Then  $S$  and  $R$  with the usual addition and multiplication are additively commutative semirings,  $S$  is additively cancellative and  $R$  is its ring of differences.

Corollary 1.60. Let  $S$  be an additively commutative semiring having  $R$  as a ring of differences,  $i : S \rightarrow R$  a difference embedding,  $T$  a ring and  $f : S \rightarrow T$  a homomorphism. Then there exists a unique homomorphism  $g : R \rightarrow T$  such that  $g \circ i = f$ . Furthermore, if  $f$  is a monomorphism then  $g$  is a monomorphism.

Proof. The proof of this corollary is similar to the proof of Corollary 1.44.

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Corollary 1.61. If  $T$  is a ring and  $T$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $S$ , then  $T$  contains an isomorphic copy of  $R$ .

Corollary 1.62. If  $S$  is an additively commutative semiring having  $R$  and  $R'$  as rings of differences, then  $R \cong R'$ .

Proposition 1.63. Let  $G$  be a group and  $H, K$  normal subgroups of  $G$  such that  $H \cap K = \{1\}$ . Then  $hk = kh$  for all  $h \in H, k \in K$ .

Proof. Let  $h \in H$  and  $k \in K$ . Since  $k^{-1}hk \in H, k^{-1}hkh^{-1} \in H$ . Similarly,  $k^{-1}hkh^{-1} \in K$ . Thus  $k^{-1}hkh^{-1} \in H \cap K = \{1\}$ , so  $k^{-1}hkh^{-1} = 1$ , hence  $hk = kh$ .

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