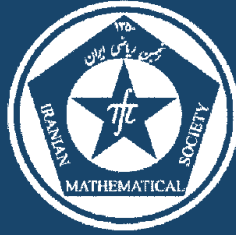


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**Arens regularity of inverse semigroup algebras**

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## ARENS REGULARITY OF INVERSE SEMIGROUP ALGEBRAS

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**ABSTRACT.** We present a characterization of Arens regular semigroup algebras  $\ell^1(S)$ , for a large class of semigroups. Mainly, we show that if the set of idempotents of an inverse semigroup  $S$  is finite, then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S$  is finite.

**Keywords:** Arens regularity, completely simple semigroup, inverse semigroup, left (right) group, weakly cancellative.

**MSC(2010):** Primary: 43A20; Secondary: 46H05.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a Banach algebra. The second dual of  $\mathcal{A}$  can be made into a Banach algebra in two different ways, as was first shown by Arens [1] and [2]. The algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is called Arens regular, if these two multiplications coincide. For a discrete semigroup  $S$ , Young [15] presented a criterion for Arens regularity of  $\ell^1(S)$ . Indeed, he showed that  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if there is no pair of sequences  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_m)$  in  $S$  such that the sets  $\{x_n y_m : m > n\}$  and  $\{x_n y_m : m < n\}$  are disjoint. Another criterion has been provided in [3], which demonstrates that  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if for every pair of sequences of distinct elements of  $S$ ,  $(x_n), (y_m)$ , there is a submatrix  $(u_n v_m)$  of  $(x_n y_m)$  of type  $C$ . Hosseini in a joint work with Duncan [8], asked for which semigroups  $S$ , the convolution Banach algebra  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular. Also in [8], they showed that if  $S$  is a Brandt semigroup, then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S$  is finite. We also refer to [6] as a helpful

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reference. Furthermore, some authors have studied Arens regularity of  $\ell^1(S, \omega)$ , where  $\omega : S \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  is a weight function on  $S$ . We just refer to some relevant works such as [3], [5] and [12].

The aim of the present work is to study Arens regularity of the convolution Banach algebra  $\ell^1(S)$ , for several classes of semigroups. In particular when  $S$  is an inverse semigroup or a product of semigroups.

## 2. Preliminaries and definitions

In this section, we mention preliminaries and definitions which will be used throughout the paper. All the terminologies used in this work are from either [4] or [11].

**Definition 2.1.** *Let  $S$  be a discrete semigroup.*

- (1)  *$S$  is called left (resp. right) zero semigroup if  $xy = x$  (resp.  $xy = y$ ), for all  $x, y \in S$ .*
- (2) *We say that  $S$  is left (resp. right) cancellative if  $xy = xz$  (resp.  $yx = zx$ ) implies  $y = z$ . Moreover  $S$  is called weakly cancellative if the sets  $x^{-1}y = \{t \in S : xt = y\}$  and  $yx^{-1} = \{t \in S : tx = y\}$  are finite, for all  $x, y \in S$ .*
- (3) *We say that  $S$  is rectangular band if  $aba = a$  for all  $a, b \in S$ . By [11, Theorem 1.1.3],  $S$  is rectangular band if and only if it is isomorphic to the direct product of a left zero semigroup  $E$  and a right zero semigroup  $F$ , with the multiplication defined by*

$$(a_1, b_1).(a_2, b_2) = (a_1, b_2).$$

- (4)  *$S$  is said to be left (resp. right) simple if it contains no proper left (resp. right) ideal. It is called simple if it has no proper two sided ideals.  $S$  with a zero element  $0$  is called 0-simple if*
  - (i)  $\{0\}$  and  $S$  are its only ideals,
  - (ii)  $S^2 \neq \{0\}$ .
- (5)  *$S$  is called left (resp. right) group if for each pair of elements  $s, t$  in  $S$  there exists a unique element  $x \in S$  such that  $xs = t$  (resp.  $sx = t$ ). By [11, page 61],  $S$  is left group if and only if  $S$  is isomorphic to a direct product of a left zero semigroup  $E$  and a group  $G$ . Also  $S$  is right group if and only if  $S$  is isomorphic to a direct product of a group  $G$  and a right zero semigroup  $F$ . Moreover  $S$  is left (resp. right) group if and only if it is left (resp. right) simple and right (resp. left) cancellative [4].*

- (6)  $S$  is called regular if for every  $a \in S$  there is  $b \in S$  such that  $a = aba$ . Furthermore,  $S$  is an inverse semigroup if for every  $a \in S$  there is a unique  $a^* \in S$  such that  $aa^*a = a$  and  $a^*aa^* = a^*$ .
- (7) An element  $e \in S$  is called idempotent if  $ee = e$ . We denote by  $E(S)$  the set of all idempotents of  $S$ . If  $e, f \in E(S)$ , we shall write  $e \leq f$  if  $ef = fe = e$ . Then  $\leq$  is a partial order relation on  $E(S)$ . An element  $e \in E(S)$  is a primitive idempotent if for each  $f \in E(S)$  such that  $f \leq e$ , then  $f = e$ .  $S$  is called completely simple if it is simple and it has a primitive idempotent. If  $S$  has a zero element  $0$ , then it will be called completely 0-simple if it is 0-simple and contains a nonzero primitive idempotent.

Now let  $G$  be a group and  $G^0 = G \cup \{0\}$  be the group with zero arising from  $G$  by adjunction of a zero element. Let  $I, \Lambda$  be non-empty sets and  $P = (p_{\lambda i})$  be a  $\Lambda \times I$  matrix with entries in  $G^0$ . Suppose that  $P$  is regular in the sense that no row or column of  $P$  consists entirely of zeros; formally for each  $i \in I$  (resp.  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ ), there exists  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  (resp.  $i \in I$ ) such that  $p_{\lambda i} \neq 0$ .

- (1) Let  $S = G \times I \times \Lambda$  and define a binary operation on  $S$  by the rule that

$$(a, i, \lambda)(b, j, \mu) = (ap_{\lambda j}b, i, \mu).$$

Then  $S$  will be denoted by  $M[G; I, \Lambda; P]$  and will be called the  $I \times \Lambda$  Rees matrix semigroup over the group  $G$ . By [11, Theorem 3.3.1]  $S$  is completely simple semigroup. Conversely any completely simple semigroup is isomorphic to one constructed in this manner.

- (2) Let  $S = (G \times I \times \Lambda) \cup \{0\}$ , and define a multiplication on  $S$  by

$$(a, i, \lambda)(b, j, \mu) = \begin{cases} (ap_{\lambda j}b, i, \mu) & \text{if } p_{\lambda j} \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } p_{\lambda j} = 0 \end{cases}$$

and

$$(a, i, \lambda)0 = 0(a, i, \lambda) = 0.$$

The semigroup  $S$  constructed in accordance with this recipe will be denoted by  $M^0[G; I, \Lambda; P]$ , and will be called the  $I \times \Lambda$  Rees matrix semigroup over the 0-group  $G^0$  with the regular sandwich matrix  $P$ . Then by [11, Theorem 3.2.3],  $S$  is a completely 0-simple semigroup. Conversely, every completely 0-simple semigroup is isomorphic to the one constructed in this way.

- (3) Every completely 0-simple inverse semigroup is called Brandt semigroup. By [4, Theorem 3.9]  $S$  is Brandt semigroup if and

only if  $S \cong M^0(G; E, E; \Delta)$ , for some group  $G$  and index set  $E$  and the identity matrix  $\Delta$ .

### 3. Main results

Following [3], let  $(x_n), (y_m)$  be sequences of distinct elements in  $S$  such that the double matrix  $(x_n y_m)$  satisfies one of the following conditions.

- (i) There is  $c \in S$  such that  $x_n y_m = c$ , for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , i.e. every row and column of the matrix is constant.
- (ii) There is a sequence  $(c_m)$  of distinct elements in  $S$  such that  $x_n y_m = c_m$ , for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , i.e. every row of the matrix is constant.
- (iii) There is a sequence  $(d_n)$  of distinct elements in  $S$  such that  $x_n y_m = d_n$ , for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , i.e. every column of the matrix is constant.

Then the matrix  $(x_n y_m)$  is called of type  $C$ . As we pointed out in Section 1, a criterion for Arens regularity of  $\ell^1(S)$  has been provided in [3]. Indeed,  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if for every pair of sequences of distinct elements of  $S$ ,  $(x_n), (y_m)$ , there is a submatrix  $(u_n v_m)$  of  $(x_n y_m)$  of type  $C$ . This criterion plays an essential role in the present work, to obtain the desired results.

We commence with the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $S$  be a discrete semigroup.*

- (i) *If  $S$  is a left or right zero semigroup, then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular.*
- (ii) *If  $S = E \times G$  [resp.  $G \times F$ ] is a left [resp. right] group, then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $G$  is finite.*
- (iii) *If  $S = E \times F$  is a rectangular band, then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $E$  or  $F$  is finite.*
- (iv) *If  $S = M(G; E, F; P)$  [resp.  $M^0(G; E, F; P)$ ] is a completely simple [resp.  $\theta$ -simple] semigroup, then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $E \times G$  or  $G \times F$  is finite.*

*Proof.* (i). Let  $S$  be a left (resp. right) zero semigroup and  $(x_n), (y_m)$  be two sequences of distinct elements in  $S$ . Since  $x_n y_m = x_n$  (resp.  $x_n y_m = y_m$ ), for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , it follows that every column (resp. row) of this matrix is constant. Thus  $(x_n y_m)$  is a matrix of type  $C$ , which implies that  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular [3].

(ii). First let  $\ell^1(S)$  be Arens regular. Since  $\ell^1(E \times G) \cong \ell^1(E) \hat{\otimes} \ell^1(G)$ , thus  $\ell^1(G)$  is a closed subalgebra of  $\ell^1(E \times G)$ . It follows that  $\ell^1(G)$  is

Arens regular [6, Corollary 3.15], which implies the finiteness of  $G$  [14]. For the converse, let  $G$  be finite and let  $(x_n), (y_m)$  be two sequences with distinct elements in  $S$ . Thus  $x_n = (a_n, b_n)$  and  $y_m = (c_m, d_m)$ , where  $a_n, c_m \in E$  and  $b_n, d_m \in G$ , for all  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence  $x_n y_m = (a_n, b_n d_m)$ . Since  $\ell^1(G)$  is Arens regular, it follows that there is a submatrix of  $(b_n d_m)$  of type  $C$  [3]. By the definition of a matrix of type  $C$ , the only case that may occur is that  $(b_n d_m)$  has a constant submatrix. Indeed there is  $g \in G$  and subsequences  $(b_{n_k})$  and  $(d_{m_l})$  of  $(b_n)$  and  $(d_m)$ , respectively such that  $b_{n_k} d_{m_l} = g$ . Thus  $x_{n_k} y_{m_l} = (a_{n_k}, g)$ . It follows that  $(x_{n_k} y_{m_l})$  is a submatrix of  $(x_m y_m)$  of type  $C$ . Thus  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular. The same arguments can be used for the case where  $S$  is a right group.

(iii). Let  $E$  and  $F$  be infinite and choose two sequences  $(a_n)$  and  $(d_m)$  of distinct elements in  $E$  and  $F$ , respectively. For the arbitrary sequences  $(b_n)$  and  $(c_m)$  in  $E$  and  $F$ , respectively, set  $x_n = (a_n, b_n)$  and  $y_m = (c_m, d_m)$ . Thus  $(x_n y_m) = (a_n, d_m)$ , which has no submatrix of type  $C$ . Therefore  $\ell^1(S)$  is not Arens regular [3]. Conversely, suppose that  $E$  is finite and  $x_n = (a_n, b_n)$  and  $y_m = (c_m, d_m)$  be sequences with the distinct elements in  $E \times F$ . Thus  $x_n y_m = (a_n, d_m)$ , for all  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence there is an element  $a \in E$  and a subsequence  $(x_{n_k})$  of  $(x_n)$  such that  $x_{n_k} y_m = (a, y_m)$ . It follows that  $(x_{n_k} y_m)$  is a submatrix of  $(x_m y_m)$  of type  $C$ . Consequently  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular, by [3]. Similar arguments can be applied for the case where  $F$  is finite.

(iv). Let  $E \times G$  and  $G \times F$  be infinite. If  $G$  is infinite, then one can choose a sequence  $(a_n)$  with distinct elements in  $G$ . Since  $P = (p_{\lambda i})$  is regular, there are  $i \in E$  and  $\lambda \in F$  such that  $p_{\lambda i} \neq 0$ . Let  $x_n = (a_n, i, \lambda)$ . Then  $x_n x_m = (a_n p_{\lambda i} a_m, i, \lambda)$  and for all  $n_1, n_2, m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $n_1 \neq n_2$  and  $m_1 \neq m_2$ , we have  $x_{n_1} x_{m_1} \neq x_{n_2} x_{m_1}$  and  $x_{n_1} x_{m_1} \neq x_{n_1} x_{m_2}$ . Thus  $(x_n x_m)$  has no submatrix of type  $C$ . Now suppose that  $G$  is finite but  $E$  and  $F$  are both infinite. Then there are sequences  $(i_n)$  and  $(\lambda_m)$  with the distinct elements in  $E$  and  $F$ , respectively. Let  $e$  be the identity element of  $G$  and  $i_0 \in E$  and  $\lambda_0 \in F$  be fixed. Also let  $x_n = (e, i_n, \lambda_0)$  and  $y_m = (e, i_0, \lambda_m)$ . Then  $x_n y_m = (p_{\lambda_0 i_0}, i_n, \lambda_m)$  and so  $(x_n y_m)$  has no submatrix of type  $C$ . It follows that  $\ell^1(S)$  is not Arens regular in any cases. Conversely, let  $E \times G$  be finite, and let  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_m)$  be two sequences with distinct elements in  $S$ . Suppose that  $x_n = (a_n, i_n, \lambda_n)$  and  $y_m = (b_m, j_m, \mu_m)$ . Then

$$x_n y_m = \begin{cases} (a_n p_{\lambda_n j_m} b_m, i_n, \mu_m) & \text{if } p_{\lambda_n j_m} \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } p_{\lambda_n j_m} = 0. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, there are  $(i, g) \in E \times G$  and subsequences  $(x_{n_k})$  and  $(y_{m_l})$  of  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_m)$ , respectively such that  $x_{n_k}y_{m_l} = (g, i, \mu_{m_l})$ . Thus  $(x_{n_k}y_{m_l})$  is a submatrix of  $(x_my_m)$  of type  $C$ . Thus  $\ell^1(S)$  is regular. Some similar arguments will be used in the case where  $G \times F$  is finite.  $\square$

The following result is immediately obtained from Theorem 3.1 part (iv).

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $S$  be a Brandt semigroup. Then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S$  is finite.*

**Remark 3.3.** *Suppose that  $S$  and  $T$  are two discrete semigroups such that  $\ell^1(S \times T)$  is Arens regular. Then  $\ell^1(S)$  and  $\ell^1(T)$  are Arens regular, by [6, Corollary 3.15]. The converse of this statement is not necessarily valid. For example, let  $S$  [resp.  $T$ ] be an infinite left [resp. right] zero semigroup. Then Theorem 3.1 part (i) implies that  $\ell^1(S)$  and  $\ell^1(T)$  are Arens regular whereas  $\ell^1(S \times T)$  is not Arens regular, by Theorem 3.1 part (iii).*

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $S$  be a discrete semigroup.*

- (i) *If  $S$  is weakly cancellative then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S$  is finite.*
- (ii) *If  $S$  is a simple [resp. 0-simple] inverse semigroup, then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S$  is finite.*

*Proof.* (i). Suppose that  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular. If  $S$  is infinite, then there is a sequence  $(x_n)$  with distinct elements in  $S$ . Thus  $(x_nx_m)$  has a submatrix  $(x_{n_k}x_{m_l})$  of type  $C$  by [3]. Consequently one of the following cases occurs.

- (a) There is  $c \in S$  such that  $x_{n_k}x_{m_l} = c$ , for all  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus for fixed  $m_l$ ,  $\{x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, x_{n_3}, \dots\} \subseteq cx_{m_l}^{-1}$ .
- (b) There is a sequence  $(c_{m_l})$  of distinct elements in  $S$  such that  $x_{n_k}x_{m_l} = c_{m_l}$ , for all  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ . It follows that for fixed  $m_l$ ,  $\{x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, x_{n_3}, \dots\} \subseteq c_{m_l}x_{m_l}^{-1}$ .
- (c) There is a sequence  $(d_{n_k})$  of distinct elements in  $S$  such that  $x_{n_k}x_{m_l} = d_{n_k}$ , for all  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then for fixed  $n_k$ ,

$$\{x_{m_1}, x_{m_2}, x_{m_3}, \dots\} \subseteq x_{n_k}^{-1}d_{n_k}.$$

By assumption, the sets  $x^{-1}y = \{z \in S : xz = y\}$  and  $xy^{-1}$  are finite, for all  $x, y \in S$ . But this is in contradiction to all the statements (a), (b) and (c). Therefore  $S$  is finite. The converse is clear.

(ii). Let  $S$  be a simple [resp. 0-simple] inverse semigroup and let  $\ell^1(S)$  be Arens regular. Then one can readily show, by using the Young's criterion [15], that every chain of idempotents has finite length. It follows by Zorn's lemma that  $S$  has a primitive idempotent and so  $S$  is completely simple [resp. 0-simple]. But only completely simple inverse semigroups are groups [11, page 151]. Moreover only completely 0-simple inverse semigroups are Brandt semigroups. Therefore, the arguments of [14] and also Corollary 3.2 imply that  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S$  is finite.  $\square$

**Example 3.5.** Given a non-empty set  $X$ , we define  $\mathcal{I}_X$  to consist of all partial one-one maps of  $X$ ; i.e., one-one maps from subsets of  $X$  to subsets of  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{I}_X$  is a semigroup under the operation  $\circ$  of composition of relations. Indeed, for  $\rho, \sigma \in \mathcal{I}_X$ ,  $(x, y) \in \rho \circ \sigma$  if and only if there exists  $z \in X$  such that  $(x, z) \in \rho$  and  $(z, y) \in \sigma$ . By [11, Theorem 5.1.5]  $\mathcal{I}_X$  is an inverse semigroup, so called symmetric inverse semigroup on the set  $X$ . It is worth noting that every inverse semigroup can be embedded in a symmetric inverse semigroup, by Vagner-Preston Theorem [11, Theorem 5.1.7].

Now we show that  $\ell_1(\mathcal{I}_X)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $X$  is finite. To prove, suppose that  $X$  is infinite. Then there is a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  with distinct elements in  $X$ . Let  $I_n$  denote the one-one partial map on  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  defined by  $I_n(x_i) = x_i$ , for each  $i$ . Then we have

$$\{I_{2n+1} \circ I_{2m} : n < m\} \cap \{I_{2n+1} \circ I_{2m} : n > m\} = \emptyset.$$

Thus  $\ell_1(\mathcal{I}_X)$  is not Arens regular by Young's criterion [15]. The converse is clear.

Let  $I$  be a proper ideal of  $S$  and define the relation  $\sim$  on  $S$  as the following

$$x \sim y \text{ if and only if } x = y \text{ or } x, y \in I.$$

The quotient semigroup  $S/I$  is

$$\{I\} \cup \{\{x\} : x \in S \setminus I\}.$$

In  $S/I$ , the product of two elements in  $S \setminus I$  is the same as their product in  $S$  if this lies in  $S \setminus I$ ; otherwise the product is  $I$ . Note that  $I$  is the zero element of the semigroup  $S/I$ . See [11, page 33] for more information.

**Proposition 3.6.** Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup and  $I$  be a maximal ideal in  $S$ . Then the following statements hold.



- (i)  $\ell^1(S/I)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S/I$  is finite.
- (ii)  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $\ell^1(S/I)$  and  $\ell^1(I)$  are Arens regular.

*Proof.* (i). It is readily verified that  $S/I$  is an inverse semigroup such that  $(S/I)^2 \neq I$ . By [11, Proposition 3.1.5],  $S/I$  is a 0-simple inverse semigroup. Thus Proposition 3.4 implies that  $\ell^1(S/I)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S/I$  is finite.

(ii). Let  $\ell^1(S/I)$  and  $\ell^1(I)$  be Arens regular. By part (i),  $S/I$  is a 0-simple inverse semigroup and Arens regularity of  $\ell^1(S/I)$  implies that  $S/I$  is finite. It follows that  $S \setminus I$  is a finite set. To that end, suppose that  $(x_n), (y_m)$  are sequences of distinct elements in  $S$ . Since  $S \setminus I$  is finite, there is  $N > 0$  such that for each  $n \geq N$ ,  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_m)$  can be considered as two sequences in  $I$ . Since  $\ell^1(I)$  is Arens regular, there is a submatrix  $(u_{nk}v_{mi})$  of  $(x_n y_m)_{n,m \geq N}$  of type  $C$ . Consequently  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular. The converse is obvious, by [6, Corollary 3.15].  $\square$

Recall from [11] that  $S = S_1 \supsetneq S_2 \supsetneq \cdots \supsetneq S_m$  is a principal series of  $S$  if

- (i) each  $S_i$  is a two sided ideal of  $S$ ;
- (ii) there is no ideal of  $S$  strictly between  $S_i$  and  $S_{i+1}$ , for each  $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$ ;
- (iii)  $S_m = K(S)$ , where  $K(S)$  is the kernel of the semigroup  $S$ ; i.e. the minimal two-sided ideal of  $S$ . It is in fact the intersection of all two-sided ideals of  $S$ .

**Proposition 3.7.** *Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup with a principal series. Then the following assertions are equivalent.*

- (i)  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular.
- (ii)  $\ell^1(K(S))$  and  $\ell^1(S/K(S))$  are Arens regular.
- (iii)  $S \setminus K(S)$  is finite and  $\ell^1(K(S))$  is Arens regular.

*Proof.* (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). It is clear.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). Let  $S = S_1 \supsetneq S_2 \supsetneq \cdots \supsetneq S_m = K(S)$  be a principal series for  $S$ . Since  $\ell^1(S/K(S))$  is Arens regular and  $S/K(S) \supseteq S_{m-1}/S_m$ , it follows that  $\ell^1(S_{m-1}/S_m)$  is Arens regular [6, Corollary 3.15]. Since  $S_{m-1}/S_m$  is a 0-simple inverse semigroup [11, Proposition 3.1.5], then  $S_{m-1}/S_m$  is finite by Proposition 3.4 part (i). Inductively, for each

$2 \leq i \leq m - 1$ , the semigroup  $S_{i-1}/S_i$  is finite. Since

$$S \setminus K(S) = \bigcup_{i=2}^m S_{i-1} \setminus S_i,$$

it follows that  $S \setminus K(S)$  is finite and so the result follows.

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). It is proved exactly by the same arguments given in the proof of part (ii) in Proposition 3.6.  $\square$

We now are in a position to prove the main theorem of the present work.

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $S$  be an inverse semigroup such that the set of idempotents of  $S$  is finite. Then  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S$  is finite.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular. Since  $E(S)$  is finite, thus there exists a principal series as  $S = S_0 \supsetneq S_1 \supsetneq \cdots \supsetneq S_m = G$ , for some group  $G$ , such that  $K(S) = G$  and also for each  $0 \leq i < m$

$$S_i/S_{i+1} \cong (S_i/G)/(S_{i+1}/G),$$

as semigroup isomorphisms. Moreover natural maps from  $S_i$  onto  $S_i/G$  are homomorphisms and also  $S_i/S_{i+1}$  is a completely 0-simple inverse semigroup, for each  $0 \leq i < m$ ; see [7, Theorem 3.12] and also [9], for more details. By Proposition 3.7,  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $S \setminus G$  is finite and  $\ell^1(G)$  is Arens regular. But by [14], Arens regularity of  $\ell^1(G)$  is equivalent to the finiteness of  $G$ . Thus the result is obtained.  $\square$

It should be noted that some other results related to regular and inverse semigroups have been provided in [10, Theorem 5.1].

We end this work with the following examples which are interesting in their own right.

**Examples 3.9.** *Suppose that  $T = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  with the multiplication defined by*

$$n.m = \begin{cases} n & \text{if } n = m \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (1) *It is readily verified that  $T$  is an inverse semigroup such that  $E(T) = T$ , which is infinite. But  $\ell^1(T)$  is Arens regular. In fact, let  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_m)$  be two sequences with the distinct elements in  $T$ . We may find subsequences  $(x_{n_k})$  and  $(y_{m_l})$  of  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_m)$*

respectively, such that  $\{x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, x_{n_3}, \dots\} \cap \{y_{m_1}, y_{m_2}, y_{m_3}, \dots\} = \emptyset$ . So  $(x_{n_k} y_{m_l})$  is the matrix 0 and consequently it is of type C. Then  $\ell^1(T)$  is Arens regular by [3]. This example shows that the condition of the finiteness of  $E(S)$  is necessary in Theorem 3.8.

- (2) Let  $S = T \times T$ . Then  $S$  is an inverse semigroup. Moreover, for each  $(n, m) \in S$ ,  $(n, m).(n, m) = (n, m)$  and so  $E(S) = S$ . We show that  $\ell^1(S)$  is not Arens regular. First let us recall some spaces from [3]. We denote by  $\ell^\infty(S)$  the set of all functions  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\|f\|_\infty = \sup\{|f(x)| : x \in S\}$$

is finite. We say that  $f \in \ell^\infty(S)$  is weakly almost periodic if the set  $\{f_x : x \in S\}$  is relatively weakly compact in  $\ell^\infty(S)$ , where  $f_x$  is the left translation of a function  $f$  by  $x$ . The set of weakly almost periodic functions on  $S$  will be denoted by  $wap(S)$ . By [3, Theorem 3.2],  $\ell^1(S)$  is Arens regular if and only if  $wap(S) = \ell^\infty(S)$ . We use Ruppert criterion in [13], to show that  $wap(S) \neq \ell^\infty(S)$ . This criterion mentions that for  $A \subseteq S$ ,  $\chi_A \in wap(S)$  if and only if every infinite set  $B$  in  $S$  contains a finite subset  $F$  such that the sets

$$\bigcap_{b \in F} Ab^{-1} \setminus \bigcap_{b \in B \setminus F} Ab^{-1}$$

and also

$$\bigcap_{b \in F} b^{-1}A \setminus \bigcap_{b \in B \setminus F} b^{-1}A$$

are finite. Now let  $X = \{(k, 0) : k \in T\}$ ,  $Y = \{(0, k) : k \in T\}$  and  $Z = X \cup Y$ . To that end, we show that  $\chi_{\{z\}} \notin wap(S)$ , for each  $z \in Z$ . Let  $B = \{(k, n) : k, n \in T\}$ . Then for each  $(k, n) \in B$

$$(k, n)^{-1}(k, 0) = \{(k, m) : m \neq n\} = B \setminus \{(k, n)\}.$$

Thus for all finite subsets  $F$  of  $B$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcap_{(k,n) \in F} (k, n)^{-1}(k, 0) \setminus \bigcap_{(k,n) \in B \setminus F} (k, n)^{-1}(k, 0) &= \bigcap_{(k,n) \in F} (k, 0)(k, n)^{-1} \setminus \bigcap_{(k,n) \in B \setminus F} (k, n)^{-1}(k, 0) \\ &= (B \setminus F) \setminus F = B \setminus F. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $B \setminus F$  is infinite, [13] follows that  $\chi_{(k,0)} \notin wap(S)$ . Similarly  $\chi_{(0,k)} \notin wap(S)$ . Therefore  $\ell^1(S)$  is not Arens regular.

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