

## ON $n$ -GROUPS WITH $\{i, j\}$ -NEUTRAL OPERATION FOR $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$

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### Abstract

The notion of an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation of an  $n$ -grupoid has been introduced in [5], as a generalization of the neutral element in a grupoid (:1.2). Every  $n$ -group (:[1], 1.3),  $n \in |N \setminus \{1\}|$ , has (uniquely determined :1.2.2)  $\{1, n\}$ -neutral operation (:[5], 1.3.2). The condition  $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$  is fulfilled for  $n \geq 3$ ; for  $n = 2$  the equality holds. In the present article, is, among others, given a necessary and sufficient condition for an  $n$ -group ( $n \geq 3$ ) to have an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation with the condition  $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$  (:Theorem 2.1).

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## 1. Preliminaries

### 1.1. About the expression $a_p^q$

Let  $p \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $q \in \mathbf{N} \cup \{0\}$  and let  $a$  be a mapping of the set  $\{i \mid i \in \mathbf{N} \wedge i \geq p \wedge i \leq q\}$  into the set  $S$ ;  $\emptyset \notin S$ . Then:

$$a_p^q \text{ stands for } \begin{cases} a_p, \dots, a_q; & p < q \\ a_p; & p = q \\ \text{empty sequence } (= \emptyset); & p > q. \end{cases}$$

For example:

$A(a_1^{j-1}, A(a_j^{j+n-1}), a_{j+n}^{2n-1}), j \in \{1, \dots, n\}, n \in \mathbf{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ , for  $j = n$  stands for

$$A(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, A(a_n, \dots, a_{2n-1})).$$

Besides, in some situations

1) **instead of  $a_p^q$  we write  $(a_i)_{i=p}^q$**  (briefly:  $(a_i)_p^q$ ); or

2) **instead of  $a_p^q$  we write  $\overline{a_i}|_{i=p}^q$**  (briefly:  $\overline{a_i}|_p^q$ ).

For example:

a)  $(\forall x_i \in Q)_1^q$  for  $q > 1$  stands for

$$\forall x_1 \in Q \dots \forall x_q \in Q^1,$$

for  $q = 1$  it stands for

$$\forall x_1 \in Q^2,$$

and for  $q = 0$  it stands for an empty sequence ( $= \emptyset$ ).

b)  $\overline{\varphi^{i-1}(b_i)}|_{i=p}^q$  for  $q > p$  stands for

$$\varphi^{p-1}(b_p), \dots, \varphi^{q-1}(b_q),$$

for  $q = p$  it stands for

$$\varphi^{p-1}(b_p),$$

and for  $q < p$  it stands for an empty sequence ( $= \emptyset$ ).

In *some cases*, instead of  $a_p^q$  only, we write: sequence  $a_p^q$  (sequence  $a_p^q$  over a set  $S$ ). For example: ... for every sequence  $a_p^q$  over a set  $S$  ... . And if  $p \leq q$ , we usually write:  $a_p^q \in S$ .

If  $a_p^q$  is a sequence over a set  $S$ ,  $p \leq q$  and the equalities  $a_p = \dots = a_q = b$  ( $\in S$ ) are satisfied, then

$$a_p^q \text{ is denoted by } b^{q-p+1}.$$

In connection with this, if  $q - p + 1 = r$  (when we assume that there would be no misunderstanding),

$$\text{instead of } b^{q-p+1} \text{ we write } b^r.$$

In addition, we denote **the empty sequence over  $S$**  with  $b^0$ , where  $b$  is an arbitrary element from  $S$ .

<sup>1</sup>usually, we write:  $(\forall x_1 \in Q) \dots (\forall x_q \in Q)$ .

<sup>2</sup>usually, we write:  $(\forall x_1 \in Q)$ .

### 1.2. On $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operations in an $n$ -groupoid, $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$

The notion of an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation in an  $n$ -groupoid has been introduced in [5]:

1.2.1: Let  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ ,  $(i, j) \in \{1, \dots, n\}^2$  and  $i < j$ . Let also  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -groupoid and  $E$  the mapping of the set  $Q^{n-2}$  into the set  $Q$ . Then, we say that  $E$  is an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral [ $\{j, i\}$ -neutral] operation of  $(Q, A)$  iff the following formula holds:

$$(\forall a_t \in Q)_1^{n-2} (\forall x \in Q) (A(a_1^{i-1}, E(a_1^{n-2}), a_i^{j-2}, x, a_{j-1}^{n-2}) = x \wedge \\ \wedge A(a_1^{i-1}, x, a_i^{j-2}, E(a_1^{n-2}), a_{j-1}^{n-2} = x).$$

1.2.2: The  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation is a generalization of the neutral element of a groupoid. Namely, for  $n = 2$ ,  $E(a_1^{n-2}) [= E(\emptyset)]$  is the neutral element of the groupoid  $(Q, A)$  ( $:n - 2 = 0, i = 1, j = 2; 1.1, 1.2.1$ ). Moreover,  $E$  is a nullary operation in  $Q$ .

The following proposition holds:

1.2.3 [5]: Let  $n$  be an arbitrary element of the set  $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $(Q, A)$  an arbitrary  $n$ -groupoid. Let also  $\{i, j\}$  be an arbitrary set such that  $(i, j) \in \{1, \dots, n\}^2$  and  $i < j$ . Then,  $(Q, A)$  has at most one  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation.

### 1.3. About $n$ -groups

The notion of an  $n$ -group has been introduced in [1]:

1.3.1: Let  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and let  $A$  be a mapping of the set  $Q^n$  into the set  $Q$ .  $(Q, A)$  is said to be an  $n$ -semigroup iff for every  $i \in \{2, \dots, n\}$  and for all  $x_1^{2n-1} \in Q$  the following equality holds:

$$A(A(x_1^n), x_{n+1}^{2n-1}) = A(x_1^{i-1}, A(x_i^{i+n-1}), x_{i+n}^{2n-1}).$$

$(Q, A)$  is an  $n$ -quasigroup iff for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and for all  $a_1^n \in Q$  there is exactly one  $x_i \in Q$  such that the equality

$$A(a_1^{i-1}, x_i, a_i^{n-1}) = a_n$$

holds.  $(Q, A)$  is said to be Dörnte  $n$ -group (briefly: an  $n$ -group) iff  $(Q, A)$  is both an  $n$ -semigroup and an  $n$ -quasigroup.

1.3.2: Dörnte's  $n$ -group is, for  $n = 2$ , a group.<sup>3</sup>

The following proposition holds:

1.3.3 [5]: In every  $n$ -group ( $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ ) there is a  $\{1, n\}$ -neutral operation.

## 1.4. On Hosszú-Glushkin algebras

The notion of a Hosszú-Glushkin algebra of order  $n$  (briefly:  $n$ HG-algebra) has been introduced in [7]:

1.4.1: Let  $\cdot$  be a binary and  $\varphi$  a unary operation in  $Q$ . Let also  $b$  be a (fixed) element of the set  $Q$ , and  $n$  a (fixed) element of the set  $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ .  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  is said to be a **Hosszú-Glushkin algebra of order  $n$**  (briefly:  $n$ HG-algebra) iff the following hold:

- (1)  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a group;
- (2)  $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(Q, \cdot)$ ;
- (3)  $\varphi^{n-1}(x) \cdot b = b \cdot x$  for every  $x \in Q$ ; and
- (4)  $\varphi(b) = b$ .

**Theorem 1.4.2.** (Hosszú-Glushkin [2-3]) Let  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -group and  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ . Then, there is an  $n$ HG-algebra  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  such that for each  $x_1^n \in Q$  the equality

$$(5) \quad A(x_1^n) = x_1 \cdot \varphi(x_2) \cdot \dots \cdot \varphi^{n-1}(x_n) \cdot b$$

holds.

By a simple verification we conclude that the following proposition also holds:

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<sup>3</sup>Menger's  $n$ -quasigroup is, for  $n = 2$ , also a group (for example [4]).

1.4.3: Let  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$   $n$ HG-algebra ( $n \in \mathbf{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ ). Let also

$$A(x_1^n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x_1 \cdot \varphi(x_2) \cdot \dots \cdot \varphi^{n-1}(x_n) \cdot b$$

for all  $x_1^n \in Q$ . Then  $(Q, A)$  is an  $n$ -group.

1.4.4: We shall say that an  $n$ HG-algebra  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  corresponds to the  $n$ -group  $(Q, A)$  iff the equality (5) holds for all  $x_1^n \in Q$ .

An immediate consequence of Definition 1.4.1 is the following proposition:

1.4.5: Let  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  be an  $n$ HG-algebra. Now, if  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a commutative group, then  $\varphi^{n-1} = I$ , where  $I$  is the identity permutation of the set  $Q$ .

## 2. Main result

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $n \in \mathbf{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ ,  $(i, j) \in \{1, \dots, n\}^2$ ,  $i < j$  and  $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$ . Let also  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -group and  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  a corresponding (arbitrary)  $n$ HG-algebra. Then, the following statements are equivalent:

- (i)  $(Q, A)$  has an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation; and
- (ii)  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a commutative group,  $\varphi^{i-1} = I$  and  $\varphi^{j-1} = I$  (where  $I$  is the identity permutation of the set  $Q$ ).

*Proof.*

1) Let  $(Q, \cdot)$  be a group (semigroup) with the neutral element  $e$ . In the proof we use the following convention:

$$(1) \quad \prod_{t=p}^q c_t \text{ stands for } \begin{cases} c_p \cdot \dots \cdot c_q; & p < q \\ c_p; & p = q \\ e; & c_p^q = \emptyset. \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix}$$

<sup>4</sup>1.1.

<sup>5</sup>The case  $p \leq q$  is based on the following convention:  $\prod_{t=1}^{n+1} c_t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\prod_{t=1}^n c_t) \cdot c_{n+1}$  and

$\prod_{t=m}^m c_t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} c_m$ .

For example:

$$1* \quad \prod_{t=n+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2}) = e \quad (:\overline{\varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2})}|_{t=n+1}^n = \emptyset; 1.1, (1)).$$

$$2* \quad A(b_1^{i-1}, x, b_i^{j-2}, y, b_{j-1}^{n-2}) =$$

$$\left(\prod_{t=1}^{i-1} \varphi^{t-1}(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{i-1}(x) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{j-1}(y) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=j+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2})\right) \cdot b$$

(:2.1, 1.4.4, (1)).

2) (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii):

Let  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -group  $(n \in \mathbf{N} \setminus \{1, 2\})$ ,  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  a corresponding  $n$ HG-algebra,  $e$  the neutral element of the group  $(Q, \cdot)$  and  $^{-1}$  the inverting operation in  $(Q, \cdot)$ . Let also  $E$  be an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation of  $(Q, A)$  (:1.2.1) such that the condition

$$(2) \quad \{i, j\} \neq \{1, 2\}$$

holds.

Then, using Hosszú-Glushkin Theorem (:1.4.2) and the convention (1), we conclude that for every  $x, b_1^{n-2} \in Q$  the following equalities hold:

$$(3) \quad \left(\prod_{t=1}^{i-1} \varphi^{t-1}(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{i-1}(E(b_1^{n-2})) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{j-1}(x) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=j+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2})\right) \cdot b = x$$

and

$$(4) \quad \left(\prod_{t=1}^{i-1} \varphi^{t-1}(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{i-1}(x) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{j-1}(E(b_1^{n-2})) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=j+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2})\right) \cdot b = x,$$

hence, we conclude that for every  $x, b_1^{n-2} \in Q$  the following equality holds

$$(5) \quad \varphi^{i-1}(E(b_1^{n-2})) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{j-1}(x) = \varphi^{i-1}(x) \cdot \left(\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)\right) \cdot \varphi^{j-1}(E(b_1^{n-2})).$$

Substituting  $x$  by  $e$ , we deduce from (3) that for every sequence  $b_1^{n-2}$  over  $Q$  the following equality holds:

(6)

$$\varphi^{i-1}(E(b_1^{n-2})) = \left(\prod_{t=1}^{i-1} \varphi^{t-1}(b_t)\right)^{-1} \cdot b^{-1} \cdot \left(\prod_{t=j+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2})\right)^{-1} \cdot \left(\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)\right)^{-1}$$

(:1.4.1), hence, since  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a group and  $\varphi$  and  $^{-1}$  are permutations of the set  $Q$ , we conclude that the following proposition holds:

$\hat{1}$ :  $E$  is a permutation of the set  $Q$  for  $n = 3$ , and  $(Q, E)$  is an  $(n - 2)$ -quasigroup for  $n \geq 4$ .

The consequence of the condition (2) is the following proposition:

$\hat{2}$ : If  $\overline{\varphi^t(b_t)}_{t=i}^{j-2}$  is not the empty sequence, that at least one of the variables  $b_1$  and  $b_{n-2}$  (for  $n = 3 : b_1 = b_{n-2}$ ) is not the variable in the term  $\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)$ .

By Propositions  $\hat{1}$ ,  $\hat{2}$  and by the statement connected with (5), we conclude that the following proposition holds:

$\hat{3}$ :  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a commutative group.

Since  $\varphi(b^{-1}) = b^{-1}$  ( $:\varphi(b) = b$ ; 1.4.1), if we put in (6)  $b_1 = \dots = b_{n-2} = e$ , we conclude that the following proposition holds:

$\hat{4}$ :  $E(e^{n-2}) = b^{-1}$ .

By Proposition  $\hat{4}$ , putting in (3) and (4)  $b_1 = \dots = b_{n-2} = e$ , we conclude that also the following proposition holds:

$\hat{5}$ :  $\varphi^{i-1} = I$  and  $\varphi^{j-1} = I$ .

By Propositions  $\hat{3}$  and  $\hat{5}$ , we finally conclude that the implication (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) holds.

**3)** (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i):

Let  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -group ( $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ ),  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  a corresponding  $n$ HG-algebra and let the statement (ii) holds. Let also, for every  $b_1^{n-2} \in Q$

$$E(b_1^{n-2}) \stackrel{def}{=} \left(\prod_{t=1}^{i-1} \varphi^{t-1}(b_t)\right)^{-1} \cdot b^{-1} \cdot \left(\prod_{t=j+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2})\right)^{-1} \cdot \left(\prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t)\right)^{-1}.$$

Then, for every  $x, b_1^{n-2} \in Q$ , the following two sequences of equalities hold:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & A(b_1^{i-1}, E(b_1^{n-2}), b_i^{j-2}, x, b_{j-1}^{n-2}) = \\
 & \left( \prod_{t=1}^{i-1} \varphi^{t-1}(b_t) \right) \cdot E(b_1^{n-2}) \cdot \left( \prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t) \right) \cdot x \cdot \left( \prod_{t=j+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2}) \right) \cdot b = x; \text{ and} \\
 & A(b_1^{i-1}, x, b_i^{j-2}, E(b_1^{n-2}), b_{j-1}^{n-2}) = \\
 & \left( \prod_{t=1}^{i-1} \varphi^{t-1}(b_t) \right) \cdot x \cdot \left( \prod_{t=i}^{j-2} \varphi^t(b_t) \right) \cdot E(b_1^{n-2}) \cdot \left( \prod_{t=j+1}^n \varphi^{t-1}(b_{t-2}) \right) \cdot b = x.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the implication (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) also holds.

□

### 3. Three propositions and an example

If  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a **noncommutative** group and  $A(x_1^n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x_1 \cdot \dots \cdot x_n, n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ , then  $(Q, A)$  is an  $n$ -group **without**  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operations with the condition  $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$  (:Theorem 2.1;  $\neg$  (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\neg$  (ii)). Besides, for example, if  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a commutative group in which not every  $a \in Q$  is selfinverse,  $^{-1}$  is the inverting operation in  $(Q, \cdot)$  and  $A(x_1^3) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1} \cdot x_3$ , then  $(Q, A)$  is a 3-group **without**  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operations with the condition  $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$  (:Theorem 2.1;  $\varphi = ^{-1}$ ). Hence, the following proposition holds:

**Proposition 3.1.** *There exist  $n$ -groups ( $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ ) without  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operations with the condition  $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$ .*

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2\}$ ,  $(Q, A)$  an  $n$ -group, and  $\mathbf{e}$  its  $\{1, n\}$ -neutral operation (:1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.3.3). Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $(Q, A)$  is a commutative  $n$ -group;
- (ii)  $\mathbf{e}$  is an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation of the  $n$ -group for every  $(i, j) \in \{(p, q) \mid (p, q) \in \{1, \dots, n\}^2 \wedge p < q\}$ ;



- (iii)  $(Q, A)$  has an  $\{1, n - 1\}$ -neutral operation; and
- (iv)  $(Q, A)$  has a  $\{2, n\}$ -neutral operation.

*Proof.*

1) (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii):

$(Q, A)$  is commutative iff for every permutation  $\alpha$  of the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  and for every  $x_1^n \in Q$  the following equality holds

$$A(x_{\alpha(1)}, \dots, x_{\alpha(n)}) = A(x_1^n).$$

Hence, by Proposition 1.3.3, we conclude that the implication (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) holds.

2) (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii):

By (ii),  $e$  is also an  $\{1, n - 1\}$ -neutral operation of the  $n$ -group  $(Q, A)$ .

3) (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv):

Let  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  be an  $n$ HG-algebra **corresponding** to the  $n$ -group  $(Q, A)$  (:1.4.1, 1.4.4). Hence, by Theorem 2.1 and by the condition (iii), we conclude that

a)  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a commutative group; and

b)  $\varphi^{n-2} = I$ .

Further, by a) and by Proposition 1.4.5, we conclude that the following equality holds:

c)  $\varphi^{n-1} = I$ .

From b) and c) it follows that:

d)  $\varphi = I$ .

Finally, by a), c) and d), and by Theorem 2.1, we conclude that  $(Q, A)$  has a  $\{2, n\}$ -neutral operation.

4) (iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (i):

Let  $(Q, \{\cdot, \varphi, b\})$  be an  $n$ HG-algebra **corresponding** to the  $n$ -group  $(Q, A)$  (:1.4.1, 1.4.4). Thereby, and also by Theorem 2.1 and condition (iv), we conclude that  $(Q, \cdot)$  is a commutative group and that  $\varphi = I$ , hence, by 1.4.4, we finally conclude that  $(Q, A)$  is a commutative  $n$ -group.

□

The consequence of Theorem 3.2 is the following proposition:

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $n \in \{3, 4\}$  and  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -group. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(i)  $(Q, A)$  has an  $\{i, j\}$ -neutral operation with the condition  $\{i, j\} \neq \{1, n\}$ ; and

(ii)  $(Q, A)$  is a commutative  $n$ -group.

**Example 3.4.** Let  $(Q, \cdot)$  be a commutative group in which not every  $a \in Q$  is selfinverse,  $e$  its neutral element and  $^{-1}$  it the inversing operation. Let also

$$A(x_1^5) \stackrel{def}{=} x_1 \cdot x_2^{-1} \cdot x_3 \cdot x_4^{-1} \cdot x_5.$$

Then:

a)  $(Q, A)$  is a 5-group (:1.4.3;  $\varphi = ^{-1}$ ,  $b = e$ );

b) for

$$e(a_1^3) \stackrel{def}{=} a_1 \cdot a_2^{-1} \cdot a_3,$$

$e$  is an  $\{1, 5\}$ -neutral operation of the 5-group  $(Q, A)$ ;

c) for

$$E_1(a_1^3) \stackrel{def}{=} a_1^{-1} \cdot a_2 \cdot a_3,$$

$E_1$  is a  $\{3, 5\}$ -neutral operation of the 5-group  $(Q, A)$ ; and

d) for

$$E_2(a_1^3) \stackrel{def}{=} a_1 \cdot a_2 \cdot a_3^{-1},$$

$E_2$  is an  $\{1, 3\}$ -neutral operation of the 5-group  $(Q, A)$ .

## 4. Remark

Groups can be considered as universal algebras in different ways. For example:

4.1: An algebra  $(Q, \{\cdot, ^{-1}\})$ , where  $\cdot$  is a binary and  $^{-1}$  an unary operation

on  $Q$ , is considered to be a group iff the following laws are fulfilled:

$$\begin{aligned} (x \cdot y) \cdot z &= x \cdot (y \cdot z); \\ a^{-1} \cdot (a \cdot x) &= x; \text{ and} \\ (x \cdot a) \cdot a^{-1} &= x. \end{aligned}$$

An analogous treatment of  $n$ -groups (and in this case for every  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ ) is based on [6]. Namely the following proposition holds:

4.2 [6]: *Let  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -semigroup and  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ . Then:*

(i) *There is at most one  $(n - 1)$ -ary operation  $^{-1}$  in  $Q$  such that the following formulas hold*

$$(1) \quad (\forall a_i \in Q)_1^{n-2} (\forall a \in Q) (\forall x \in Q) A((a_1^{n-2}, a)^{-1}, a_1^{n-2}, A(a, a_1^{n-2}, x)) = x \quad ^6$$

and

$$(2) \quad (\forall a_i \in Q)_1^{n-2} (\forall a \in Q) (\forall x \in Q) A(A(x, a_1^{n-2}, a), a_1^{n-2}, (a_1^{n-2}, a)^{-1}) = x;$$

(ii) *If there is an  $(n - 1)$ -ary operation  $^{-1}$  in  $Q$  such that the formulas (1) and (2) are satisfied, then  $(Q, A)$  is an  $n$ -group; and*

(iii) *If  $(Q, A)$  is an  $n$ -group, then there is an  $(n - 1)$ -ary operation  $^{-1}$  in  $Q$  such that the formulas (1) and (2) hold.<sup>7</sup>*

Besides,  $n$ -groups for  $n \geq 3$  can be considered as universal algebras  $(Q, \{A, \mathbf{e}\})$ , where  $(Q, A)$  is an  $n$ -semigroup and  $\mathbf{e}$  is an  $\{1, n\}$ -neutral operation of the  $n$ -groupoid  $(Q, A)$  (:1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.3.3). This is based on the following proposition:

4.3 [5]: *For  $n \geq 3$ , an  $n$ -semigroup  $(Q, A)$  is an  $n$ -group iff  $(Q, A)$  has a  $\{1, n\}$ -neutral operation.*

Besides, the following proposition, for example, also holds:

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<sup>6</sup>In [6], instead of  $^{-1}$ ,  $f$  has been used, and instead  $(a_1^{n-2}, a)^{-1}$ ,  $f(a_1^{n-2}, a)$  has been written.

<sup>7</sup> $(a_1^{n-2}, a)^{-1} \stackrel{def(2)}{=} \mathbf{e}^{(2)}(a_1^{n-2}, a, a_1^{n-2})$ , where  $\mathbf{e}^{(2)}$  is a  $\{1, 2n - 1\}$ -neutral operation of a  $(2n - 1)$ -group  $(Q, \overset{2}{A})$ ;  $\overset{2}{A} \stackrel{def}{=} A(A(x_1^n), x_{n+1}^{2n-1})$ . We note that for  $n = 2$ , this is the inverting operation in a group.

4.4 [6]: Let  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ . Let also  $(Q, A)$  be an  $n$ -group,  $e$  its  $\{1, n\}$ -neutral operation and  $^{-1}$  the inversing operation in  $(Q, A)$  (:4.2). Then the following formula holds:

$$(\forall a_i \in Q)_1^{n-2} (\forall a \in Q) (A((a_1^{n-2}, a)^{-1}, a_1^{n-2}, a) = e(a_1^{n-2})) \wedge \\ \wedge A(a, a_1^{n-2}, (a_1^{n-2}, a)^{-1}) = e(a_1^{n-2})).$$

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