

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 a^{n+s} &= a^{n+s'+ur} \\
 &= a^{s'} a^{n+ur} \text{ in } S^1 \\
 &= a^{s'} a^{n+r} a^{(u-1)r} \\
 &= a^{s'} a^n a^{(u-1)r} \\
 &= a^{s'} a^{n+(u-1)r} \\
 &\vdots \\
 &= a^{s'} a^n \\
 &= a^{n+s'}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $a^{n+t} = a^{n+t'}$ . Therefore

$$a^{n+s} = a^{n+t} \Leftrightarrow a^{n+s'} = a^{n+t'} \Leftrightarrow s' = t' \Leftrightarrow s \equiv t \pmod{r}.$$

Notice that

$$a^{n+ur} = a^n$$

for all  $u$ .

We have shown

$$\{a, a^2, \dots, a^n, a^{n+1}, \dots, a^{n+r-1}\} = \langle a \rangle$$

and

$$|\langle a \rangle| = n + r - 1.$$

Clearly

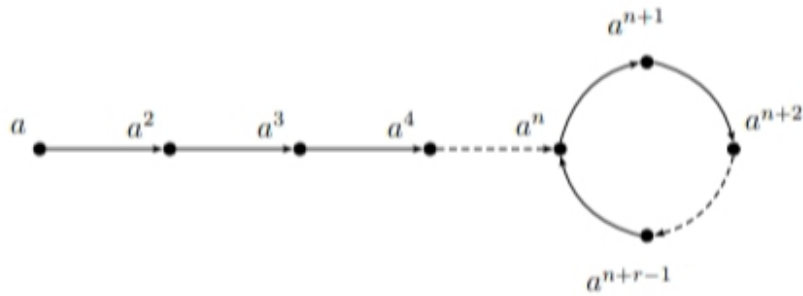
$$\{a^n, a^{n+1}, \dots, a^{n+r-1}\}$$

is a subsemigroup. In fact

$$a^{n+s} a^{n+t} = a^{n+u}$$

where  $u \equiv s + n + t \pmod{r}$  and  $0 \leq u \leq r - 1$ . This is case (ii).

We can express this pictorially:



□

**Lemma 2.16** (The Idempotent Power Lemma). *If  $\langle a \rangle$  is finite, then it contains an idempotent.*