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## Rees factor

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Let I be an ideal of a semigroup S. Define a congruence  $\sim$  by  $x \sim y$  iff x = y or  $x, y \in I$ .

Then the *Rees factor* of S by I is the quotient  $S/\sim$ . As a matter of notation, the congruence  $\sim$  is normally suppressed, and the quotient is simply written S/I.

Note that a Rees factor always has a zero element. Intuitively, the quotient identifies all element in I and the resulting element is a zero element.