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Let A be a finite set and A^* be the free monoid generated by A . A retraction $r : A^* \rightarrow A^*$ is a homomorphism such that $r^2 = r$. A retract of A^* is a submonoid of A^* that is the image of a retraction. A semiretract is the intersection of a nonempty family of retracts. It has been shown that any semiretract expressed as a family of retracts is the intersection of a finite subfamily of this family of retracts. Further, it has been shown that it is possible, given a given semiretract, to construct two retracts so that the given semiretract is the intersection of these retracts. A regular language is a retract if and only if it is generated by a key code. In this paper, necessary and sufficient conditions are given so that a regular language is a semiretract. (Received August 11, 2000)