

THE DIAGONAL RELATION IN THE LATTICE OF WEAK CONGRUENCES  
AND THE REPRESENTATION OF LATTICES

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ABSTRACT.

The problem of representation of an algebraic lattice  $L$  by the lattice  $C_w(A)$  of weak congruences of an algebra  $A$  (i.e. of all congruences on all the subalgebras of  $A$ ) is closely related to the localization of a diagonal relation  $\Delta$  in  $C_w(A)$ .  $\Delta$  is a co-distributive element in  $C_w(A)$  ([6]), and it can also be neutral ([6]) and exceptional (as shown here).

Here we shall discuss the following question:

If  $\alpha$  is a co-distributive (neutral, exceptional) element of an algebraic lattice  $L$ , is there an algebra  $A$ , such that  $C_w(A) \cong L$ , and that  $f(\alpha) = \Delta$  under that isomorphism?

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Every positive answer to this question gives a representation of  $L$  by  $C_w(A)$ .

We shall show that the answer is positive if  $a$  is a minimal element of  $L$ . Thus, every algebraic lattice has at least one representation by weak congruences. This representation turns out to be the only one for lattices having no co-distributive elements different from 1 and 0.

However, the general answer to the above mentioned question is negative, because of some algebraic properties of  $C_w(A)$  that we prove here. In order to give a lattice-theoretic interpretation of these algebraic results, we define  $\Delta$ -suitable element of an algebraic lattice as the one that satisfies all the mentioned necessary conditions under which an element corresponds to  $\Delta$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

A weak congruence  $\rho$  on an algebra  $A=(A,F)$  is a symmetric, transitive and compatible relation on  $A$ , which is also weakly reflexive: if  $c$  is a constant on  $A$ , then  $c\rho c$  ([4]). We denote by  $C_w(A)$ ,  $C(A)$  and  $S(A)$  the algebraic lattices of weak congruences, of (ordinary) congruences, and of subalgebras of  $A$ , respectively.

$C_w(A)$  coincides with the lattice of all the congruences on all the subalgebras of  $A$  (under set inclusion). Moreover,  $C(A)$  is its sublattice (as a filter generated by  $\Delta=\{(x,x) \mid x \in A\}$ ), and  $S(A)$  is a retract of  $C_w(A)$  (ideal generated by  $\Delta$ ) ([4]). Subalgebras are represented in  $C_w(A)$  by diagonal relations  $(\beta \in S(A))$  which correspond to

$$d_B^2 = \{(x,x) \mid x \in B\}.$$

We shall use the following special elements of a bounded lattice  $L$ : if  $a \in L$  then

- (I)  $a$  is *co-distributive*, if for all  $x, y \in L$
- $$a \wedge (x \vee y) = (a \wedge x) \vee (a \wedge y),$$

or, equivalently, if  $m_a: x \mapsto x \wedge a$  is a homomorphism ([1]);

thus, a co-distributive element uniquely determines the following sublattices of  $L$ :  $(a]$ ,  $[a)$  (ideal and filter generated by  $a$ ), and for every  $x \in L$   $[x]_{\theta_a}$ , where  $\theta_a$  is a congruence on  $L$  induced by  $m_a$ ;

(II)  $a$  is *neutral*, if  $m_a: x \rightarrow x \wedge a$ , and  $n_a: x \rightarrow x \vee a$  are homomorphisms, and  $f_a: x \rightarrow (x \wedge a, x \vee a)$  is an embedding of  $L$  into  $(a] \times [a)$  ([1]);

(III)  $a$  is *exceptional*, if it is neutral and the classes of the congruence induced by  $m_a$  have maximum elements which form a sublattice  $M_a$  of  $L$  ([3]).

For  $x \in L$ , let  $\bar{x}$  be the maximum of the class to which  $x$  belongs; thus  $m_a(x) = m_a(\bar{x})$ .

Considering the algebraic lattice  $C_w(A)$  of an algebra  $A$ , we get the following statements, the proofs of which are straightforward.

1.  $\Delta$  is a co-distributive element of  $C_w(A)$ .
2. The mapping  $m_\Delta: \rho \rightarrow \rho \wedge \Delta$  ( $\rho \in C_w(A)$ ) is a lattice homomorphism (the homomorphic image is  $S(A)$ , as already pointed out).
3. The mapping  $n_\Delta: \rho \rightarrow \rho \vee \Delta$  ( $\rho \in C_w(A)$ ) is a lattice homomorphism if and only if  $A$  satisfies the Congruence Intersection Property (CIP) ([4]). In that case,  $\Delta$  is a distributive element of  $C_w(A)$ .
4.  $\Delta$  is neutral in  $C_w(A)$  if and only if  $A$  satisfies both CIP and CEP (the Congruence Extension Property) ([6]).

5. The classes of the congruence induced by  $m_\Delta$  have maximum elements forming a set  $M_\Delta = \{B^2 \mid B \in S(A)\}$  ( $M_\Delta$  is not necessarily a sublattice of  $C_w(A)$ ). \*\*\*

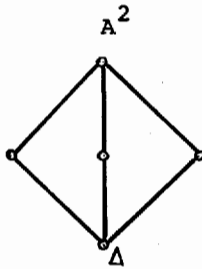
Now, let  $L$  be an arbitrary algebraic lattice. In order to give an answer to the question at the beginning of the article, we shall start with the fact that the minimal element,  $0$ , is co-distributive in  $L$ . Thus, we have the following Representation Theorem.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $L$  be an algebraic lattice. Then there is an algebra  $A$  such that its lattice of weak congruence  $C_w(A)$  is isomorphic to  $L$ .*

**Proof.** If  $L$  is algebraic, then there is an algebra  $A_1 = (A, F_1)$  such that its lattice of (ordinary) congruences  $C(A_1)$  is isomorphic to  $L$  (G.Grätzer, E.T.Schmidt, [2]). Now, let  $A = (A, F)$  be the algebra constructed on the same set  $A$  as  $A_1$ , and with the same set of non-nullary operations, but in which the set of constants  $K$  is the whole set  $A$  ( $K=A$ ), i.e. such that  $F = A \cup F_1$ . Then, obviously,  $C_w(A) = C(A) = C(A_1)$ , and we are done.  $\square$

If  $L$  has no co-distributive element other than  $0$  and  $1$ , then the only way to represent it by weak congruences is the one given in Theorem 1.

**EXAMPLE 1.** The lattice  $M_3$  (Fig.1) can be represented by the lattice of weak congruences only by adding to the set of operations all the elements of a suitable algebra (Klein's group, for example) as constants.



$$A = (\{e, a, b, ab\}, \cdot, {}^{-1}, e, a, b, ab)$$

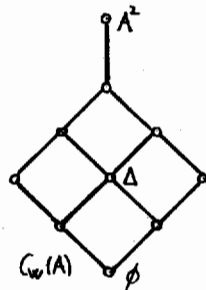
	e	a	b	ab
e	e	a	b	ab
a	a	e	ab	b
b	b	ab	e	a
ab	ab	b	a	e

$$C_w(A) = C(A)$$

Fig. 1

In the following two examples  $\Delta$  is a neutral and exceptional element (respectively) in the lattice of weak congruences of the corresponding algebra. An example in which  $\Delta$  is co-distributive (but not neutral) is  $C_w(S_3)$ , where  $S_3$  is a symmetric group on a three-element set (see [5]).

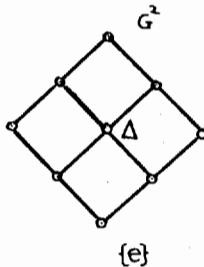
$\Delta$ -neutral,  
but not  
exceptional



$$A = (A, f_1, f_2) \quad A = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

A	a	b	c	d
f <sub>1</sub>	a	a	d	c
f <sub>2</sub>	b	a	b	a
c	b	a	d	c

Fig. 2



$G$  - any cyclic group of order  $p \cdot q$ ,  $p, q$ -prim,  $p \neq q$ .

$\Delta$ - exceptional

$C_w G$ .

Fig. 3

However, the localization of an arbitrary co-distributive (neutral, exceptional) element  $a$  in an algebraic lattice  $L$  is not sufficient for the existence of an isomorphism  $f$  between  $L$  and the lattice of weak congruences of an algebra (with  $f(a)=\Delta$ ). In order to prove that there are co-distributive elements which could not correspond to  $\Delta$ , we advance the following propositions.

**LEMMA 2.** Let  $\rho_1, \rho_2 \in C_w(A), \rho_1 \neq \emptyset^1$  for an arbitrary algebra  $A$ , and let  $\theta_\Delta$  be the congruence on  $C_w(A)$  induced by  $m_\Delta$  (see 2.). Then,  $[\rho_1]_{\theta_\Delta} \leq [\rho_2]_{\theta_\Delta}$  implies that  $|[\rho_2]_{\theta_\Delta}| \neq 1$ .

(In other words, there are no pairs of one-element comparable classes modulo  $\theta_\Delta$ , unless the first contains the empty relation.)

Proof. Obvious, since a one-element class consists of a diagonal relation of a one-element (or empty) subalgebra.  $\square$

An immediate consequence of this lemma is that in a bounded chain the only element other than 0 which could correspond to  $\Delta$  is the atom (if there is one). All the other elements in a chain are co-distributive, but the corresponding classes of weak congruences are one-element and

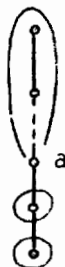


Fig. 4

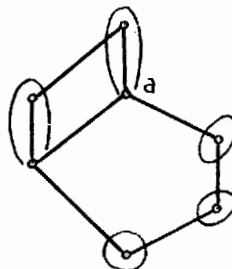


Fig. 5

1) It is possible that the weak congruence is an empty relation (see[4]).

comparable (see Fig. 4 and 5 for the lattices in which co-distributive elements violate Lemma 2).

LEMMA 3. If  $B, C \in S(A)$  for an algebra  $A$ , then

$$B \wedge C \neq \emptyset \text{ implies } B^2 \vee C^2 = (B \vee C)^2 \text{ in } C_w(A).$$

Proof. Let  $B \wedge C = D \neq \emptyset$ . Then

$B^2 \vee C^2, (B \vee C)^2 \in C(B \vee C)$  (the lattice of ordinary congruences on  $B \vee C$ ). Now, from

$$[D^2]_{B^2 \vee C^2} \in S(B \vee C)$$

( $[D^2]_{B^2 \vee C^2}$  is a class in the congruence  $B^2 \vee C^2$  to which  $D^2$  belongs), it follows that

$$([D^2]_{B^2 \vee C^2})^2 \leq B^2 \vee C^2. \tag{1}$$

Clearly,

$$B, C \leq [D^2]_{B^2 \vee C^2}. \tag{2}$$

From (1) and (2) we get

$$(B \vee C)^2 \leq ([D^2]_{B^2 \vee C^2})^2 \leq B^2 \vee C^2,$$

i.e.  $(B \vee C)^2 \leq B^2 \vee C^2.$

Since obviously

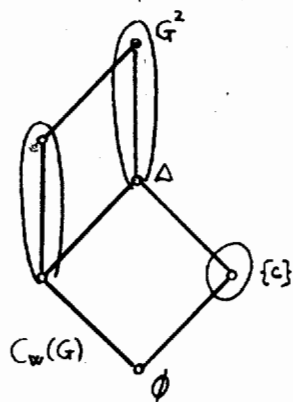
$$B^2 \vee C^2 \leq (B \vee C)^2,$$

finally we have

$$B^2 \vee C^2 = (B \vee C)^2. \quad \square$$

COROLLARY 4. If  $\cap(B | S(A)) \neq \emptyset$ , then  $M_\Delta$  is a sublattice of  $C_w(A)$ .  $\square$

REMARK. The converse of Corollary 4 is not valid; see the groupoid on Fig. 6.  $M_\Delta$  is there a sublattice of  $C_w(G)$ , but the minimal element of this lattice is the empty set.



$(G, \cdot) \quad G = \{a, b, c\}$

	a	b	c
a	b	b	c
b	b	a	a
c	a	a	c

Fig. 6

COROLLARY 5. If  $\Delta$  is neutral element in  $C_w(A)$ , and the minimal subalgebra of  $A$  is not empty, then  $\Delta$  is exceptional in  $C_w(A)$ .

Proof. By Corollary 4 and by (III).  $\square$

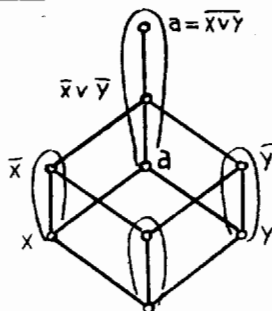


Fig. 7

Lemma 3, and Corollaries 4 and 5 exclude a wide class of co-distributive elements as possible diagonal relations in the representation of lattices by weak congruences. A co-distributive element  $a$  in the lattice in Fig. 7 violates Corollary 5, since it is neutral, the



minimal class of the congruence induced by  $m_a$  has two elements (the corresponding minimal subalgebra could not be void), but  $a$  is not exceptional.

For an arbitrary algebra  $A$ , and  $B \in \mathcal{C}(A)$ ,  $\theta \in \mathcal{C}(B)$ , let<sup>1)</sup>

$$B[\theta] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{a \in A \mid (\exists b \in B) a \theta b\}.$$

LEMMA 6. a)  $B \leq B[\theta] \leq A$ ;

b) if  $\{\theta_i, i \in I\} \subset \mathcal{C}(A)$ , and  $B[\theta_i] = B$  for every  $i$ , then  $B[\bigvee_{i \in I} \theta_i] = B$ .

Proof.

a) Obvious.

b) If  $a \in B[\bigvee_{i \in I} \theta_i]$ , then there are  $a = a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} \in A$ ,  $a_n = b \in B$ , and  $\theta_{i_1}, \dots, \theta_{i_{n-1}} \in \{\theta_i, i \in I\}$ , such that  $a_j \theta_{i_j} a_{j+1}$ . If  $a \notin B$ , then  $a_j \notin B$  for some  $j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ . But this contradicts the assumption  $B[\theta_{i_j}] = B$ , since  $a_j \theta_{i_j} a_{j+1}$ .  $\square$

For  $B \in \mathcal{C}(A)$ , let

$$B_B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigvee \{\theta \in \mathcal{C}(A) \mid B[\theta] = B\}.$$

Obviously,  $\theta_B \in \mathcal{C}(A)$ , and for every  $\theta \in \mathcal{C}(A)$ ,

a)  $B[\theta] = B \Leftrightarrow \theta \leq \theta_B$ .

Moreover,

b)  $B[\theta_B] = B$ .

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1) The consideration that follows, concluding with Theorem 9, was suggested by E. Kiss.

( $\theta_B$  is thus the greatest congruence on  $A$  in which the subalgebra  $B$  is a union of some classes.)

LEMMA 7. For every  $B \in S(A)$ ,  $\theta \in C(A)$

$$B^2 \vee \theta = B[\theta]^2 \vee \theta, \text{ in } C_W(A)$$

Proof. By the definition of  $B[\theta]$ ,

$$B[\theta]^2 \leq \bigcap (\rho \in C(A) \mid B^2 \vee \rho \leq \rho) = B^2 \vee \theta.$$

Thereby,  $B[\theta]^2 \vee \theta \leq B^2 \vee \theta$ .

The opposite inequality is trivial.  $\square$

COROLLARY 8. If  $B[\theta] = A$ , then  $B^2 \vee \theta = A^2$ .  $\square$

THEOREM 9. For an algebra  $A$ , let  $B \in S(A)$ , and  $A >_B B$  is a coatom in  $S(A)$ . Then,

$$\vee (\theta \in C(A) \mid \theta \vee B^2 < A^2) \neq A^2.$$

Proof. For  $B \in S(A)$ ,  $A >_B B$ , and  $\theta \in C(A)$   $\theta \vee B^2 < A^2$  implies  $B[\theta] \neq A$  (by Corollary 8). Hence,  $B[\theta] = B$  (since, by assumption, there is no subalgebra between  $A$  and  $B$ ). Thus,  $\theta_B > \theta$ , and  $A^2 >_{\theta_B} \vee (\theta \in C(A) \mid \theta \vee B^2 < A^2)$ .  $\square$

So far there is no name for an element which satisfies all the listed necessary conditions under which it corresponds to a diagonal relation in a representation of a lattice by weak congruences. Therefore, we shall give the following definition (for the notation, see the introduction).

DEFINITION 1. An element  $a$  of an algebraic lattice  $L$  is  $\Delta$ -suitable if it is co-distributive and satisfies the following conditions:

- i)  $x \wedge y \neq 0$  implies  $\overline{x \vee y} = \overline{x} \vee \overline{y}$ , for all  $x, y \in L$  ;
- ii) if  $x \neq 0$  and  $\overline{x} < y$ , then  $\overline{y \wedge a} \neq y \wedge a$ , for all  $x, y \in L$ ;
- iii) if  $x \neq 0$  and  $x = \wedge \{y \mid y \in L \setminus \{0\}\}$ , then  $x \neq \overline{x}$ , for every  $x \in L$  ;
- iv) if  $x \in L$  and  $\overline{x} < 1$  ( $\overline{x}$  is covered by 1), then  $\vee \{y \in L \mid y > a, y \vee \overline{x} < 1\} \neq 1$ .

It is clear that a  $\Delta$ -suitable element must be co-distributive. Condition i) is required by Lemma 3, and ii) as well as iii) by Lemma 2; iv) follows by Theorem 9.

Obviously, a  $\Delta$ -suitable element which is neutral, must be exceptional, if  $0 \neq \overline{0}$ .

As a final example, we note that in a free distributive lattice with three generators ( $F_D(3)$ , see Fig.8),

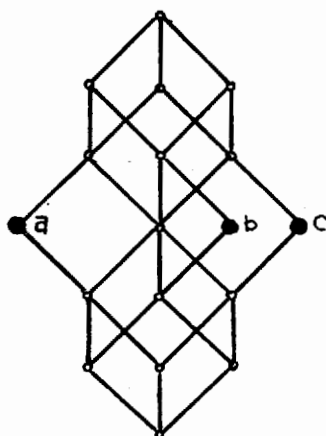


Fig. 8

these generators are the only  $\Delta$ -suitable elements.

Since a  $\Delta$ -suitable element satisfies only some necessary conditions under which it corresponds to a diagonal relation, it is still an open problem whether these conditions are sufficient, as well. To be precise:

PROBLEM. If  $a$  is a  $\Delta$ -suitable element of an algebraic lattice  $L$ , is there an algebra  $A$ , such that  $C_w(A) \cong L$ , and that  $f(a) = \Delta$  under that isomorphism?

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## REZIME

DIJAGONALNA RELACIJA U MREZI SLABIH  
KONGRUENCIJA I REPREZENTACIJA MREZA

U radu je dokazana teorema reprezentacije proizvoljne algebarske mreže uz pomoć mreže slabih kongruencija algebre. S obzirom da to predstavljanje zavisi od lokalizovanja elementa mreže koji se u reprezentaciji preslikava u dijagonalnu relaciju, daju se neki potrebni uslovi pod kojima proizvoljan kodistributivan element algebarske mreže odgovara dijagonali. Definiše se odgovarajući  $\Delta$ -podoban element proizvoljne algebarske mreže.

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