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MAL'CEV CONDITIONS FOR DIRECTLY DECOMPOSABLE
COMPATIBLE RELATIONS

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1. PRELIMINARIES

Mal'cev conditions for varieties having directly decomposable tolerances and directly decomposable reflexive compatible relations were given independently in [9] and [4]. Varieties having directly decomposable tolerance classes and directly decomposable relation classes were studied in [3]. The aim of this paper is to show that:

(i) the direct decomposability of tolerances (reflexive compatible relations) coincides with the direct decomposability of tolerance classes (relation classes, respectively) in varieties of algebras;

(ii) Mal'cev conditions from [9], [4] can be replaced by simpler ones;

(iii) all the above mentioned properties of tolerances and reflexive compatible relations in a variety \mathcal{V} can be considered only on the square $F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2}) \times F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2})$ of the \mathcal{V} -free algebra $F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2})$ over two free generators.

To make this paper selfcontained we recall some definitions:

Definition 1. Let A, B be algebras of the same type. The kernels Π_A, Π_B of the canonical projections $pr_A: A \times B \rightarrow A$, $pr_B: A \times B \rightarrow B$, respectively, are called *factor congruences* on $A \times B$. A binary relation R on $A \times B$ is called a *subfactor relation* whenever $R \subseteq \Pi_A$ or $R \subseteq \Pi_B$.

Definition 2. Let R be a reflexive binary relation on a set A and let $a \in A$. Then the subset $[a]R = \{x \in A; \langle x, a \rangle \in R\}$ is called a *relation class* of R . In particular $[a]T$ is called a *tolerance class* provided T is a tolerance on A .

Definition 3. Let A, B be algebras of the same type. The product $A \times B$ has *directly decomposable relations (relation classes)* if every relation R (relation class C) on $A \times B$ is a product of its projections $\langle pr_A, pr_A \rangle R$ and $\langle pr_B, pr_B \rangle R$ ($pr_A C$ and $pr_B C$, respectively).

A variety of algebras \mathcal{V} has some of the properties listed above whenever for every $A, B \in \mathcal{V}$, $A \times B$ has the respective property.

In what follows, by a relation on an algebra A we mean a *compatible relation* on A ,

i.e. a subalgebra of $A \times A$. It is well known and frequently used that for any subset $M \subseteq A \times A$ the least tolerance $T(M)$ and the least reflexive relation $R(M)$ on A containing M exist. The functional descriptions of $T(M)$ and $R(M)$ are adopted from [1].

The symbol \mathbf{c}^\rightarrow stands for the finite sequence $\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_m$.

2. DIRECTLY DECOMPOSABLE TOLERANCES

Theorem 1. *For a variety \mathcal{V} the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) \mathcal{V} has directly decomposable subfactor tolerances;
- (2) there exist binary terms $\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n, \mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n$ and a $(2 + n)$ -ary term \mathbf{r} such that the identities

$$\begin{aligned}x &= \mathbf{r}(x, y, \mathbf{c}^\rightarrow(x, y)), \\y &= \mathbf{r}(x, x, \mathbf{d}^\rightarrow(x, y)), \\y &= \mathbf{r}(y, x, \mathbf{c}^\rightarrow(x, y))\end{aligned}$$

hold in \mathcal{V} .

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2): Consider the principal tolerance $T(\langle x, x \rangle, \langle y, x \rangle)$ on the square $F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2}) \times F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2})$ of the \mathcal{V} -free algebra $F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2})$ over free generators x and y . Since $\langle \langle x, x \rangle, \langle y, x \rangle \rangle \in T(\langle x, x \rangle, \langle y, x \rangle)$ the hypothesis yields $\langle \langle x, y \rangle, \langle y, y \rangle \rangle \in T(\langle x, x \rangle, \langle y, x \rangle)$. Using the functional description of $T(\langle x, x \rangle, \langle y, x \rangle)$, see [1], the identities (2) readily follow.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Let T be a subfactor tolerance on $A \times B \in \mathcal{V}$, say $T \subseteq \Pi_A$. Assuming the identities (2) we find

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= \mathbf{r}(x, x, \mathbf{d}^\rightarrow(x, x')), \\y &= \mathbf{r}(y, z, \mathbf{c}^\rightarrow(y, z)), \\x' &= \mathbf{r}(x, x, \mathbf{d}^\rightarrow(x, x')), \\z &= \mathbf{r}(z, y, \mathbf{c}^\rightarrow(y, z)),\end{aligned}$$

i.e. $\langle \langle x, y \rangle, \langle x, z \rangle \rangle \in T$ implies $\langle \langle x', y \rangle, \langle x', z \rangle \rangle \in T$ for any $x, x' \in A$, $y, z \in B$. The proof is complete.

Remark 1. The Mal'cev condition for varieties having directly decomposable subfactor congruences was given by J. Hagemann [8].

Lemma 1. *Let A, B be algebras of the same type. For any tolerance class $[\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T on $A \times B$ the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $[\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T is directly decomposable;
- (2) (i) $\langle x, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T implies $\langle x, z_2 \rangle, \langle z_1, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T ;
(ii) $\langle x, z_2 \rangle, \langle z_1, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T imply $\langle x, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T .

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2) is trivial.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Let $\langle a, b \rangle, \langle a', b' \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T . Then $\langle a, z_2 \rangle, \langle z_1, b' \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle]$ T ,

by (2)(i). So $\langle a, b' \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$, by (2)(ii). The last argument establishes the direct decomposability of the tolerance class $[\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$.

Lemma 2. *Let A, B be algebras of the same type. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $A \times B$ has directly decomposable tolerances;
- (2) $A \times B$ has directly decomposable subfactor tolerances and directly decomposable tolerance classes.

Proof. Only the implication (2) \Rightarrow (1) is nontrivial: Let T be a tolerance on $A \times B$ and let $\langle \langle a, b \rangle, \langle c, d \rangle \rangle, \langle \langle a', b' \rangle, \langle c', d' \rangle \rangle \in T$. Since $\langle \langle a, b \rangle, \langle c, d \rangle \rangle, \langle \langle c, d \rangle, \langle c, d \rangle \rangle \in T$, the direct decomposability of tolerance classes yields $\langle \langle a, d \rangle, \langle c, d \rangle \rangle \in T$. Then also $\langle \langle a, d' \rangle, \langle c, d' \rangle \rangle \in T$ by the direct decomposability of subfactor tolerances. Analogously from $\langle \langle c', d' \rangle, \langle c', d' \rangle \rangle, \langle \langle a', b' \rangle, \langle c', d' \rangle \rangle \in T$ we find $\langle \langle c', b' \rangle, \langle c', d' \rangle \rangle \in T$ and, further, $\langle \langle c, b' \rangle, \langle c, d' \rangle \rangle \in T$. Altogether $\langle \langle a, d' \rangle, \langle c, d' \rangle \rangle, \langle \langle c, b' \rangle, \langle c, d' \rangle \rangle \in T$ which implies $\langle \langle a, b' \rangle, \langle c, d' \rangle \rangle \in T$. This proves the direct decomposability of T , see [2; Thm 1, p. 227].

Theorem 2. *For a variety V the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) V has directly decomposable tolerances;
- (2) V has directly decomposable tolerance classes;
- (3) there exist ternary terms $p_1, \dots, p_n, q_1, \dots, q_n$ and a $(4 + n)$ -ary term s such that the identities

$$\begin{aligned} x &= s(x, y, z, z, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z)), \\ y &= s(x, y, z, z, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z)), \\ z &= s(z, z, x, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z)), \\ z &= s(z, z, x, y, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z)) \end{aligned}$$

hold in V ;

- (4) there exist binary terms $f_1, \dots, f_{n+2}, g_1, \dots, g_{n+2}, h_1, \dots, h_n, k_1, \dots, k_n$ and $(4 + n)$ -ary terms s_1, s_2 such that the identities

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x &= s_1(x, y, f^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \\ x &= s_1(y, x, g^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \\ y &= s_1(y, x, f^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \\ x &= s_1(x, y, g^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \end{aligned} \right\} (\Sigma_1)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x &= s_2(x, y, y, y, h^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \\ y &= s_2(x, x, y, x, k^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \\ y &= s_2(y, x, y, y, h^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \\ x &= s_2(x, x, x, y, k^{\rightarrow}(x, y)) \end{aligned} \right\} (\Sigma_2)$$

hold in V .

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2) is trivial.

(2) \Rightarrow (3) was already shown in [3; Thm 4, p. 400].

(3) \Rightarrow (4): Setting $z = y$ in the identities (3) we find that

$$\begin{aligned}x &= s(x, y, y, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)), \\y &= s(x, y, y, y, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)), \\y &= s(y, y, x, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)), \\y &= s(y, y, x, y, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)).\end{aligned}$$

Interchange the variables x and y in the second and the fourth identities. Then

$$\begin{aligned}x &= s(x, y, y, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)), \\x &= s(y, x, x, x, q^{\rightarrow}(y, x, x)), \\y &= s(y, y, x, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)), \\x &= s(x, x, y, x, q^{\rightarrow}(y, x, x)).\end{aligned}$$

Defining

$$\begin{aligned}s_1(a, b, w^{\rightarrow}) &= s(a, w_{n+1}, b, w_{n+2}, w_1, \dots, w_n), \\f^{\rightarrow}(x, y) &= p_1(x, y, y), \dots, p_n(x, y, y), y, y, \quad \text{and} \\g^{\rightarrow}(x, y) &= q_1(y, x, x), \dots, q_n(y, x, x), x, x\end{aligned}$$

we get the identities (Σ_1).

Setting $z = y$ in the first and the third identities (3) and $z = x$ in the remaining ones we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}x &= s(x, y, y, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)), \\y &= s(x, y, x, x, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, x)), \\y &= s(y, y, x, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y)), \\x &= s(x, x, x, y, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, x)).\end{aligned}$$

Now the identities (Σ_2) follow for

$$\begin{aligned}s_2(a, b, c, d, w^{\rightarrow}) &= s(a, c, b, d, w^{\rightarrow}), \\h^{\rightarrow}(x, y) &= p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, y), \quad \text{and} \\k^{\rightarrow}(x, y) &= q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, x).\end{aligned}$$

(4) \Rightarrow (1): The identities (Σ_2) ensure the direct decomposability of subfactor tolerances. Defining

$$\begin{aligned}r(a, b, w^{\rightarrow}) &= s_2(a, b, w_{n+1}, w_{n+2}, w_1, \dots, w_n), \\c^{\rightarrow}(x, y) &= h_1(x, y), \dots, h_n(x, y), y, y, \quad \text{and} \\d^{\rightarrow}(x, y) &= k_1(x, y), \dots, k_n(x, y), y, x\end{aligned}$$

we get the identities from Theorem 1 (2).

Further, the identities (Σ_1) yield

$$\begin{aligned}x &= s_1(x, z_1, f^{\rightarrow}(x, z_1)), \\z_2 &= s_1(y, z_2, g^{\rightarrow}(z_2, y)), \\z_1 &= s_1(z_1, x, f^{\rightarrow}(x, z_1)). \\z_2 &= s_1(z_2, y, g^{\rightarrow}(z_2, y)),\end{aligned}$$

which means that $\langle x, z_2 \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$ whenever $\langle x, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$. Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} y &= s_1(y, z_2, f^{-1}(y, z_2)), \\ z_1 &= s_1(x, z_1, g^{-1}(z_1, x)), \\ z_2 &= s_1(z_2, y, f^{-1}(y, z_2)), \\ z_1 &= s_1(z_1, x, g^{-1}(z_1, x)) \end{aligned}$$

follow from the identities (Σ_1) . This establishes that $\langle z_1, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$ whenever $\langle x, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$.

Finally, we use again the identities (Σ_2) . One easily checks that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= s_2(x, z_1, z_1, z_1, h^{-1}(x, z_1)), \\ y &= s_2(z_2, z_2, y, z_2, k^{-1}(z_2, y)), \\ z_1 &= s_2(z_1, x, z_1, z_1, h^{-1}(x, z_1)), \\ z_2 &= s_2(z_2, z_2, z_2, y, k^{-1}(z_2, y)), \end{aligned}$$

which proves that $\langle x, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$ is a consequence of $\langle x, z_2 \rangle, \langle z_1, y \rangle \in [\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle] T$. Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 complete the proof.

Corollary 1. *For a variety \mathcal{V} the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) \mathcal{V} has directly decomposable tolerances;
- (2) $F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2}) \times F_{\mathcal{V}}(\mathbf{2})$ has directly decomposable tolerances.

3. DIRECTLY DECOMPOSABLE REFLEXIVE RELATIONS

In this section we generalize the above results to reflexive relations. Since the proofs of Theorems 3, 4 are very similar to those of Theorems 1, 2 we omit the details.

Theorem 3. *For a variety \mathcal{V} the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) \mathcal{V} has directly decomposable subfactor reflexive relations;
- (2) there exist binary terms $c_1, \dots, c_n, d_1, \dots, d_n$ and a $(1 + n)$ -ary term u such that the identities

$$\begin{aligned} x &= u(x, c^{-1}(x, y)), \\ y &= u(x, d^{-1}(x, y)), \\ y &= u(y, c^{-1}(x, y)) \end{aligned}$$

hold in \mathcal{V}

Proof. Apply [1] and the proof of Theorem 1.

Theorem 4. *For a variety \mathcal{V} the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) \mathcal{V} has directly decomposable reflexive relations;
- (2) \mathcal{V} has directly decomposable relation classes;
- (3) there exist ternary terms $p_1, \dots, p_n, q_1, \dots, q_n$ and a $(2 + n)$ -ary term v such

that the identities

$$\begin{aligned}x &= v(x, y, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z)), \\y &= v(x, y, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z)), \\z &= v(z, z, p^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z)), \\z &= v(z, z, q^{\rightarrow}(x, y, z))\end{aligned}$$

hold in V ;

(4) there exist binary terms $f_1, \dots, f_{n+1}, g_1, \dots, g_{n+1}, h_1, \dots, h_n, k_1, \dots, k_n$ and $(2 + n)$ -ary terms v_1, v_2 such that the identities

$$\begin{aligned}x &= v_1(x, f^{\rightarrow}(x, y)), \\x &= v_1(y, g^{\rightarrow}(x, y)), \\y &= v_1(y, f^{\rightarrow}(x, y)), \\x &= v_1(x, g^{\rightarrow}(x, y)), \\x &= v_2(x, y, h^{\rightarrow}(x, y)), \\y &= v_2(x, y, k^{\rightarrow}(x, y)), \\y &= v_2(y, y, h^{\rightarrow}(x, y)), \\x &= v_2(x, x, k^{\rightarrow}(x, y))\end{aligned}$$

hold in V .

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2) is trivial.

The implication (2) \Rightarrow (3) was already proved in [3; Thm 5, pp. 400–401].

The rest of the proof follows the same lines as in the proof of Theorem 2.

Corollary 2. For a variety V the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) V has directly decomposable reflexive relations;
- (2) $F_V(\mathbf{2}) \times F_V(\mathbf{2})$ has directly decomposable reflexive relations.

Example 1. The variety L of all lattices satisfies all the above identities. This follows directly from the fact that $F_L(\mathbf{2}) \cong \mathbf{2} \times \mathbf{2}$.

4. CONCLUSION

The Mal'cev condition for varieties having *directly decomposable congruences* was given by G. A. Fraser and A. Horn in [6]. Using the method exhibited in Section 2 of this paper one easily checks that also the direct decomposability of congruences in varieties can be considered only on the square $F_V(\mathbf{2}) \times F_V(\mathbf{2})$. The simplification of the original Fraser-Horn identities is shown in [5].

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