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## COMMUTATIVE IDEMPOTENT RESIDUATED LATTICES

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*Abstract.* We investigate the variety of residuated lattices with a commutative and idempotent monoid reduct.

*Keywords:* residuated lattice, semilattice, finitely based variety, minimal variety

*MSC 2000:* 06F05

A *residuated lattice* is an algebra  $\mathbf{A} = (A, \vee, \wedge, \cdot, e, /, \backslash)$  such that  $(A, \vee, \wedge)$  is a lattice,  $(A, \cdot, e)$  is a monoid and for every  $a, b, c \in A$

$$ab \leq c \Leftrightarrow a \leq c/b \Leftrightarrow b \leq a \backslash c.$$

The last condition is equivalent to the fact that  $(A, \vee, \wedge, \cdot, e)$  is a lattice-ordered monoid and for every  $a, b \in A$  there is a greatest  $c$  such that  $cb \leq a$  (denoted  $a/b$ ) and a greatest  $d$  such that  $bd \leq a$  (denoted  $b \backslash a$ ). It is easy to see that the class  $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{L}$  of all residuated lattices is a variety. We are concerned about the variety  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{R}\mathcal{L}$  of *commutative idempotent (CI) residuated lattices*, i.e. the subvariety of  $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{L}$  given by the equations

$$xy \approx yx \quad \text{and} \quad xx \approx x.$$

In other words, residuated lattices whose semigroup reduct is a semilattice. For example, every Heyting algebra is a CI residuated lattice, where  $ab = a \wedge b$  and  $a/b = b \backslash a = b \rightarrow a$  for every  $a, b$  (see e.g. [3, p. 30]).

Foundation of the theory of residuated lattices goes as far back as 1930's, when Dilworth and Ward [5] studied lattices of ring ideals. A recent introduction can be

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found in [4] and [10] and commutative residuated lattices were particularly studied in [9]. We will use the notation and terminology of these papers. We also assume a basic familiarity with universal algebra, standard references are [3] and [12].

In CI residuated lattices, we drop the operation  $\setminus$ , since owing to the commutativity  $x/y \approx y \setminus x$ . The lattice order will be denoted by  $\leq$ . We put  $a \preceq b$  iff  $ab = a$ ; hence  $\preceq$  is the semilattice order, where  $\cdot$  is regarded as the meet;  $e$  is its top element. When referring to an order, we mean the lattice order  $\leq$ , unless explicitly stated otherwise. We put  $A^+ = \{a \in A: a \geq e\}$  and  $A^- = \{a \in A: a \leq e\}$  and we call  $\mathbf{A}^+$  the positive cone and  $\mathbf{A}^-$  the negative cone of  $\mathbf{A}$  (regarded as lattice-ordered monoids; indeed, they may not be closed under residuation).

The bottom element (in the lattice order) is denoted by  $0$  and the top element is denoted by  $1$ , if they exist; it is easy to see that, in any residuated lattice, if  $0$  exists, then  $1$  exists,  $0a = a0 = 0$  and  $a/0 = 1/a = 1$  (see also [4]); in particular,  $0$  is also the bottom element of the semilattice order in any CI residuated lattice.

## 1. MOTIVATION

Our interest in this particular variety comes from the following observation.

**1.1. Observation.** *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a non-trivial subvariety of residuated lattices based (relatively to  $\mathcal{RL}$ ) by equations in the language of monoids. Then  $\mathcal{V}$  contains  $CI\mathcal{dRL}$  as a subvariety. (In other words, any monoid equation with a non-trivial residuated lattice model is implied by commutativity and idempotency.)*

*Proof.* Let  $u \approx v$  be an equation in the language of monoids valid in  $\mathcal{V}$ . In order to prove that every CI residuated lattice is in  $\mathcal{V}$ , it is enough to show that  $u \approx v$  holds in every semilattice. Indeed, this happens iff the terms  $u$  and  $v$  contain the same variables. Hence, suppose that a variable  $x$  occurs in the term  $u$  and does not occur in the term  $v$ . Put all the other variables equal to  $e$  and obtain an equation  $x^n \approx e$  for some  $n$ , valid in  $\mathcal{V}$ . However, this implies that  $\mathcal{V}$  is trivial, because any non-trivial lattice-ordered monoid contains an element  $a$  comparable to  $e$  and we get a contradiction either by  $e < a \leq a^2 \leq \dots \leq a^n = e$  if  $a > e$ , or similarly if  $a < e$ .  $\square$

Our motivation was the following result of Bahls, Cole, Galatos, Jipsen and Tsinakakis [1].

**1.2. Theorem.** *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a non-trivial subvariety of residuated lattices based (relatively to  $\mathcal{RL}$ ) by equations in the language of lattices. Then  $\mathcal{V}$  does not satisfy any non-trivial monoid equation (more precisely, for every equation  $\varepsilon$  in the language  $\cdot, e$ , if  $\mathcal{V} \models \varepsilon$ , then all monoids satisfy  $\varepsilon$ ).*

**Proof.** Let  $\mathbf{L}$  be a bounded lattice. We construct a residuated lattice  $\mathbf{L}'$ , whose monoid reduct is the free monoid over the alphabet  $L$  and whose lattice reduct satisfies the same lattice equations as  $\mathbf{L}$  (it generates the same variety as  $\mathbf{L}$ ). We identify words of length  $n$  over  $L$  with  $n$ -tuples of elements of  $L$  and define a lattice structure on the free monoid to be the ordinal sum of  $\mathbf{L}^0$  (consisting of the empty word),  $\mathbf{L}^1, \mathbf{L}^2, \mathbf{L}^3, \dots$  (with the empty word on top). One can check that the resulting structure becomes a residuated lattice. Now, if a monoid identity holds in  $\mathcal{V}$ , it holds in  $\mathbf{L}'$  for every  $\mathbf{L}$  satisfying the relative base of  $\mathcal{V}$ . Hence it holds in free monoids and thus in every monoid. See [1] for details.  $\square$

Is there a similar theorem, with the role of lattice and monoid reducts interchanged?

**1.3. Theorem.** *The variety  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}$  does not satisfy any non-trivial lattice equation (more precisely, for every equation  $\varepsilon$  in the language  $\vee, \wedge$ , if  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL} \models \varepsilon$ , then all lattices satisfy  $\varepsilon$ ).*

**Proof.** Let  $\mathbf{L}$  be a bounded lattice. We construct a CI residuated lattice  $\mathbf{L}'$ , whose lattice reduct satisfies the same lattice equations as  $\mathbf{L}$  (it generates the same variety as  $\mathbf{L}$ ). Let us denote by  $1$  the top element of  $\mathbf{L}$  and by  $e$  the bottom element of  $\mathbf{L}$ . Let  $L'$  be the disjoint union of  $L$  and  $\{0\}$ . The lattice structure on  $L'$  is defined so that  $0$  is added to  $\mathbf{L}$  as a new bottom element. We define the multiplication by  $00 = 0a = a0 = 0$  for every  $a \in L$  and  $ab = a \vee b$  for every  $a, b \in L$ . It is easy to check that this is a lattice-ordered CI monoid and it admits residuation as follows:  $a/0 = 1, 0/a = 0, a/b = a$  for  $b \leq a$  and  $a/b = 0$  for  $b \not\leq a, a, b \in L$ . Now, if a lattice identity holds in  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}$ , it holds in  $\mathbf{L}'$  for every bounded lattice  $\mathbf{L}$  and thus it holds in all lattices.  $\square$

**1.4. Corollary.** *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a non-trivial subvariety of residuated lattices based (relatively to  $\mathcal{RL}$ ) by equations in the language of monoids. Then  $\mathcal{V}$  does not satisfy any non-trivial lattice equation.*

**Proof.** According to Observation 1.1, the variety  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}$  is a subvariety of  $\mathcal{V}$  and thus Theorem 1.3 applies.  $\square$

## 2. BASIC PROPERTIES

**2.1. Lemma.** *Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a lattice-ordered idempotent monoid and  $a, b \in A$ .*

- (1)  $a \wedge b \leq ab \leq a \vee b$ .
- (2) *If  $a, b \geq e$ , then  $ab = a \vee b$ .*

- (3) If  $a, b \leq e$ , then  $ab = a \wedge b$ .
- (4) If  $a \leq e \leq ab$ , then  $ab = b$ .
- (5) If  $ab \leq e \leq a$ , then  $ab = b$ .

**Proof.** (1)  $a \wedge b \leq a, b \leq a \vee b$ , hence  $a \wedge b = (a \wedge b)(a \wedge b) \leq ab \leq (a \vee b)(a \vee b) = a \vee b$ .

(2) If  $a \geq e$ , then  $ab \geq eb = b$  and similarly also  $ab \geq a$ . Thus  $ab \geq a \vee b$ . The other inequality was proven in (1). Similarly for (3).

(4)  $b = eb \leq abb = ab \leq eb = b$ . Similarly for (5). □

The following two statements about congruence lattices of CI residuated lattices are immediate consequences of results in [4] and [9]. The second sentence of Proposition 2.2 appears also in [8] (in a more general setting).

**2.2. Proposition.** *The congruence lattice of  $\mathbf{A}$  is isomorphic to the lattice of filters on  $\mathbf{A}^-$ . In particular, if  $A$  is finite, then  $\text{Con}(\mathbf{A}) \simeq (\mathbf{A}^-)^\partial$ .*

**Proof.** Blount and Tsinakis described in [4] a correspondence between congruences of a residuated lattice  $\mathbf{A}$  and convex normal submonoids of  $\mathbf{A}^-$ . We prove that convex normal submonoids in CI residuated lattices are precisely filters.

Let  $M \subseteq A^-$ . Since  $a \wedge b = ab$  for all  $a, b \leq e$ ,  $M$  is closed under meet iff it is closed under multiplication. If  $e \in M$  (it indeed is, whenever  $\mathbf{M}$  is a submonoid or a filter), then  $M$  is convex iff it is an upper set. Hence, it remains to show that every filter is normal. Since  $(ba)/b = (ab)/b \geq a$  for all  $a, b$ , every conjugation mapping  $\gamma(x) = ((bx)/b) \wedge e$  maps a negative element onto a greater one. Consequently, congruences of a CI residuated lattice correspond to filters. □

**2.3. Corollary.** *A CI residuated lattice  $\mathbf{A}$  is simple iff  $|A^-| = 2$ . It is subdirectly irreducible iff  $e$  is completely join-irreducible.*

It is well-known that residuated lattices are congruence distributive and congruence permutable. In particular, the negative cone of a non-trivial CI residuated lattice is always distributive (in fact, it is a Heyting algebra) and contains at least two elements.

### 3. FINITELY AND NON-FINITELY BASED SUBVARIETIES

**3.1. Proposition.** *CI residuated lattices have definable principle congruences.*

**Proof.** Principal congruences correspond to principal filters, which are, of course, first-order definable. It can be checked easily that a congruence corresponding to a definable convex normal submonoid is also definable (generally for residuated lattices). □

In fact, N. Galatos proved a stronger result in [8]: principal congruences in commutative  $n$ -potent residuated lattices are *equationally* definable. This result is indeed more complicated.

**3.2. Corollary.** *A subvariety  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}$  is finitely based iff the class of subdirectly irreducible algebras in  $\mathcal{V}$  is first-order definable.*

**Proof.** This is an immediate consequence of a theorem of K. Baker and J. Wang [2]. □

A non-finitely based variety of lattices was found by R. McKenzie in [11]. He constructed an infinite independent family  $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots$  of lattice equations and finite lattices  $\mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{B}_2, \dots$  such that  $\mathbf{B}_n \not\models \varepsilon_n$  and  $\mathbf{B}_n \models \varepsilon_m$  for every  $m \neq n$ . We modify his construction to get an example of a non-finitely based subvariety of CI residuated lattices.

**3.3. Proposition.** *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a variety with a lattice reduct and assume that for every finite lattice  $\mathbf{L}$  there is an algebra  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}} \in \mathcal{V}$  such that  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}, \vee, \wedge)$  satisfy the same lattice equations. Then the subvariety of  $\mathcal{V}$  based (relatively to  $\mathcal{V}$ ) by  $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots$  is not finitely based.*

**Proof.** Let us denote the subvariety by  $\mathcal{W}$ . If there were a finite base  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{W}$ , by the compactness theorem, only finitely many  $\varepsilon_i$ 's would be necessary to prove that  $\Sigma$  holds in  $\mathcal{W}$ . Thus there is  $n$  such that  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}, \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n \models \Sigma$ . Hence, since  $\Sigma$  is a base of  $\mathcal{W}$ , a CI residuated lattice is in  $\mathcal{W}$  iff it satisfies  $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n$ . But it means that  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{B}_{m+1}} \in \mathcal{W}$ , because  $\mathbf{B}_{m+1}$  satisfies all the equations  $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_m$ . On the other hand,  $\mathcal{W} \models \varepsilon_{m+1}$  and  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{B}_{m+1}} \not\models \varepsilon_{m+1}$ . This is a contradiction. □

Proposition 3.3 applies to the variety  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}$ ; we can take, for example,  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}} = \mathbf{L}'$  from the proof of Theorem 1.3. It applies also to the variety of cancellative residuated lattices, if we take  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}} = \mathbf{L}'$  from the proof of Theorem 1.2.

#### 4. MORE EXAMPLES

A complete lattice  $\mathbf{L}$  is called *infinitely join distributive*, if  $\bigvee_{x \in X} (x \wedge y) = \left( \bigvee_{x \in X} x \right) \wedge y$  holds for any  $X \subseteq L$  and  $y \in L$ .

**Example.** Let  $\mathbf{D}$  be a complete infinitely join distributive lattice. Then the algebra  $(D, \vee, \wedge, \wedge, 1, /)$  is a CI residuated lattice, where  $a/b = \bigvee \{c : c \wedge b \leq a\}$ . (Indeed, since  $a/b$  is the greatest  $c$  such that  $c \wedge b \leq a$ , we must have  $\bigvee \{c : c \wedge b \leq a\}$ . And the big join is less than  $a$ , if  $\mathbf{D}$  is infinitely join distributive.)

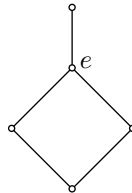
**Example.** Let  $\mathbf{L}$  be a bounded lattice and  $\mathbf{D}$  a complete infinitely join distributive lattice; suppose  $L \cap D = \emptyset$ . We construct a CI residuated lattice  $\mathbf{L} \sqcup \mathbf{D}$  on the set  $L \cup D$ . Let  $\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{D}$  be sublattices of  $\mathbf{L} \sqcup \mathbf{D}$  with all elements of  $L$  greater than any element of  $D$ . Denote  $e$  the bottom element of  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $t$  the top element of  $\mathbf{D}$ , while  $0, 1$  refer to the top and bottom of  $\mathbf{L} \sqcup \mathbf{D}$ . Put  $ab = a \vee b$  for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $ab = a \wedge b$  for  $a, b \in D$  and  $ab = ba = b$  for  $a \in L, b \in D$ . It is easy to check that this is a lattice-ordered CI monoid and that it admits residuation as follows:

- $a/b = a$  for  $e \leq b \leq a$ .
- $a/b = 1$  for  $b \leq a, b \leq e$ .
- $a/b = a$  for  $a \leq e \leq b$ .
- $a/b = t$  for  $b \not\leq a, a, b \geq e$ .
- $a/b = \bigvee \{c \in D : c \wedge b \leq a\}$  for  $b \not\leq a, a, b \leq e$ .

Consequently, for every bounded lattice  $\mathbf{L}$  and complete infinitely join distributive lattice  $\mathbf{D}$ , there is a CI residuated lattice  $\mathbf{A}$  with  $(A^+, \vee, \wedge) = \mathbf{L}$ ,  $(A^-, \vee, \wedge) = \mathbf{D} + \{e\}$  and all elements comparable to  $e$ . Note that the lattice  $\mathbf{L} \sqcup \mathbf{D}$  is subdirectly irreducible.

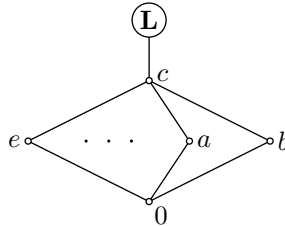
In particular, there exists a simple CI residuated lattice  $\mathbf{L}'$  with  $(L'^+, \vee, \wedge) = \mathbf{L}$  (take  $\mathbf{D}$  trivial). By Lemma 2.1 (2), any simple CI residuated lattice with no elements incomparable to the unit is some  $\mathbf{L}'$ . Also, by Jónsson's lemma,  $\mathbf{L}'$ 's are the only subdirectly irreducible algebras in the variety they generate, hence they generate a proper subvariety of  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}$ . This variety is finitely based, according to Corollary 3.2. In fact, one can use the Galatos algorithm [7] and find a basis: it is based (relatively to  $\mathcal{CI}d\mathcal{RL}$ ) by the single equation  $((e/x) \wedge e) \vee ((y/x) \wedge e) \approx e$ .

It is easy to check that there is (up to isomorphism) one 2-element CIRL, two 3-element CIRLs and four 4-element CIRLs. Using a computer, one can compute that there are twenty 5-element CIRLs; every 5-element lattice is a reduct of a CIRL; and in any 5-element lattice, one can choose  $e \neq 0, 1$  arbitrarily, except for the following case:



We proved that every bounded lattice is a subreduct of a CI residuated lattice. However, there is a 6-element lattice, which is not a reduct of a CI residuated lattice.

**4.1. Proposition.** *Let  $\mathbf{L}$  be a lattice and  $\mathbf{M}_n$  be the  $(n + 2)$ -element lattice with  $n$  atoms,  $n \geq 3$ . Then the ordinal sum  $\mathbf{L}'$  of  $\mathbf{L}$  and  $\mathbf{M}_n$  (with  $\mathbf{L}$  on top) is not a reduct of a CI residuated lattice.*



*Proof.* Assume there is a CI residuated lattice  $\mathbf{A}$  with the lattice reduct  $\mathbf{L}'$ . First of all, note that the unit element must be one of the atoms—otherwise,  $\mathbf{A}^-$  is not a non-trivial distributive lattice. Let us denote by  $e, a, b$  three distinct atoms and assume that  $e$  is the unit element. Let  $c = e \vee a \vee b$  be the top element of  $\mathbf{M}_n$ . It is well known (see [4]) and easy to prove that in any residuated lattice multiplication distributes over joins, in symbols

$$x(y \vee z) \approx (xy) \vee (xz).$$

Using this identity, we get for every atom  $x \neq e$  in  $\mathbf{L}'$  that  $xc = x(e \vee x) = x \vee x = x$ . Another use of this identity yields  $a = ac = a(e \vee b) = a \vee (ab)$  and similarly  $b = b \vee (ab)$ , so  $ab \leq a$  and  $ab \leq b$  and thus  $ab = 0$ . Now, choose  $d \in L$ . We have  $(da) \vee (db) = d(a \vee b) = dc = d$  (because multiplication coincides with the join on positive elements). Hence, at least one of  $da, db$  must be greater than  $c$ ; assume it is  $da$ . Then  $c(db) \leq (da)(db) = d(ab) = d0 = 0$ . However, this is possible iff  $db = 0$ , because  $cx \geq c$  for every  $x$  positive and we have proved above that  $cx = x$  for every atom  $x \neq e$ . But  $db \geq eb = b$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

A different argument yields examples of infinite lattices which are not reducts of any CI residuated lattice. Let  $\mathbf{L}$  be an arbitrary simple atomless lattice (e.g. the dual of the lattice of subspaces of an infinite-dimensional vector space) and let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a CI residuated lattice with the lattice reduct  $\mathbf{L}$ . By adding operations to a simple algebra, one gets again a simple algebra. Hence  $\mathbf{A}$  is simple, but  $\mathbf{A}^-$  cannot have two elements, because there are no atoms in  $\mathbf{A}$ , which contradicts Corollary 2.3.

The following propositions describe all totally ordered CI residuated lattices (i.e. those where the lattice reduct is a chain).



**4.2. Proposition.** *Let  $\mathbf{A} = (A, \vee, \wedge, \cdot, e)$  be a structure such that  $(A, \vee, \wedge)$  is a chain and  $(A, \cdot, e)$  is a semilattice with a unit. Then the following are equivalent.*

- (1)  $\mathbf{A}$  is a lattice-ordered monoid.
- (2)  $ab = a \vee b$  for every  $a, b \in A^+$ ,  $ab = a \wedge b$  for every  $a, b \in A^-$  and the semilattice reduct is a chain.

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) follows from Lemma 2.1. If  $a, b$  are both positive or both negative, 2.1 (2) or 2.1 (3) applies. Otherwise, since  $\leq$  is a chain, we may assume that  $a \leq e \leq b$ . In this case, either  $e \leq ab$  and 2.1 (4) applies, or  $ab \leq e$  and 2.1 (5) applies.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Note that on the positive cone,  $a \leq b$  iff  $b \preceq a$ , and on the negative cone,  $a \leq b$  iff  $a \preceq b$ . Let  $a \leq b$ . We need to prove that  $ac \leq bc$  for every  $c \in A$ . Since  $(A, \preceq)$  is a chain,  $ac \in \{a, c\}$  and  $bc \in \{b, c\}$ . Hence the only bad situation is either (a)  $ac = a, bc = c$  and  $a > c$ , or (b)  $ac = c, bc = b$  and  $c > b$ . We prove that none of them is actually possible. In (a), we have  $c < a < b$  and  $a \prec c \prec b$ . The element  $a$  can't be positive, because in this case  $b$  is also positive and  $a < b$  implies  $b \prec a$ . On the other hand,  $a$  can't be negative, because then  $c$  is also negative and  $c < a$  implies  $c \prec a$ . This is a contradiction. In (b), we have  $a < b < c$  and  $b \prec c \prec a$  and a similar argument works.  $\square$

**4.3. Corollary.** *Let  $\mathbf{A} = (A, \vee, \wedge, \cdot, e)$  be a structure such that  $(A, \vee, \wedge)$  is a chain and  $(A, \cdot, e)$  is a semilattice with a unit. Then the following are equivalent.*

- (1)  $(A, \vee, \wedge, \cdot, e, /)$  is a residuated lattice for some  $/$ .
- (2)  $ab = a \vee b$  for every  $a, b \in A^+$ ,  $ab = a \wedge b$  for every  $a, b \in A^-$ , the semilattice reduct is a chain and for every  $a, b$  there is the greatest  $c$  such that  $ac \leq b$ .

*In particular, for  $A$  finite, the conditions are equivalent to*

- (3)  $ab = a \vee b$  for every  $a, b \geq e$ ,  $ab = a \wedge b$  for every  $a, b \leq e$  and the semilattice reduct is a chain with 0 in bottom.

*Proof.* (1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (2) follows obviously from the previous proposition. If (1), (2) are true, then (3) follows from the fact that 0 exists and  $0a = a0 = 0$  for all  $a$  in any residuated lattice with 0. And if (3) holds, then there is always some  $c$ , namely  $c = 0$ , such that  $ac \leq b$ , and thus there is also the greatest such  $c$ . (Note that it is enough to assume that the dual of  $(A, \vee, \wedge)$  is well-ordered with a top element, not necessarily finite.)  $\square$

## 5. MINIMAL VARIETIES

Minimal subvarieties of residuated lattices were investigated by several authors, particularly by N. Galatos in [6]. He found also minimal subvarieties of  $\mathcal{CIIdRL}$ —they are just two. We briefly reprove his result.

A residuated lattice is called *integral* if all its elements are negative. Let  $\mathbf{C}_2$  be the two-element CI residuated lattice,  $C_2 = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $e = 1$ . Let  $\mathbf{C}_3$  be the three-element non-integral CI residuated lattice,  $C_3 = \{0, e, 1\}$ ,  $0 < e < 1$ . (Note that, in fact,  $\mathbf{C}_2$  is the only two-element residuated lattice and  $\mathbf{C}_3$  is the only non-integral three-element residuated lattice.) Let  $\mathcal{V}_2, \mathcal{V}_3$  be the varieties generated by  $\mathbf{C}_2, \mathbf{C}_3$ , respectively. It is clear from Jónsson's lemma that  $\mathcal{V}_2$  and  $\mathcal{V}_3$  are minimal varieties.

**5.1. Theorem.**  $\mathcal{V}_2$  and  $\mathcal{V}_3$  are the only minimal subvarieties of  $\mathcal{CIIdRL}$ .

*Proof.* We show that every non-trivial subvariety  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $\mathcal{CIIdRL}$  contains  $\mathbf{C}_2$  or  $\mathbf{C}_3$ . According to the well known Magari theorem,  $\mathcal{V}$  contains a (non-trivial) simple algebra  $\mathbf{A}$ . Indeed,  $|A^-| = 2$ , so  $\mathbf{A}$  has the bottom and thus also the top element. We show that  $B = \{0, e, 1\}$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathbf{A}$ —then it is isomorphic to one of  $\mathbf{C}_2, \mathbf{C}_3$ , depending on whether  $e = 1$  or not. The set  $B$  is indeed closed under join, meet and multiplication. In any bounded residuated lattice the equations  $x/0 \approx 1$ ,  $x/e \approx x$  and  $1/x \approx 1$  hold and  $0/1 \leq e/1 < e$ . Hence in a simple CI residuated lattice  $0/1 = e/1 = 0$  and we are done.  $\square$

$\mathcal{V}_2$  is known as the variety of generalized Boolean algebras and it is based (relatively to  $\mathcal{CIIdRL}$ ) by  $x \leq e$  and  $y/(y/x) \approx x \vee y$ . A finite base for the variety  $\mathcal{V}_3$  can be found in [6] (or computed by the Galatos algorithm).

In fact, N. Galatos proved in [6] that  $\mathbf{C}_2$  or  $\mathbf{C}_3$  is a subalgebra of any idempotent residuated lattice  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfying  $e/x \approx x \setminus e$ . If  $\mathbf{A}$  is integral, then  $\{a, e\}$  is a subalgebra isomorphic to  $\mathbf{C}_2$  for every  $a \neq e$  and if  $\mathbf{A}$  is not integral, then  $\{e/a, e, e/(e/a)\}$  is a subalgebra isomorphic to  $\mathbf{C}_3$  for every  $a > e$ . Consequently, every subvariety of  $\mathcal{CIIdRL}$  is either integral, or contains  $\mathbf{C}_3$  (in other words,  $\mathbf{C}_3$  is a splitting algebra).

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