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Algebras Satisfying Certain Quasiorder Identities

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Abstract

We characterize varieties of algebras having distributive lattices of quasiorders and those having quasiorders permutable with factor or decomposing congruences.

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By a *quasiorder* on an algebra $\mathcal{A} = (A, F)$ is meant a reflexive and transitive binary relation on A having the substitution property with respect to F . The set $\text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$ of all quasiorders on \mathcal{A} forms an algebraic lattice with respect to set inclusion, see [1], [5]. Hence, if n is an odd integer and c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n are elements of A , there exists the least quasiorder on \mathcal{A} containing the pairs $\langle c_0, c_1 \rangle, \langle c_2, c_3 \rangle, \dots, \langle c_{n-1}, c_n \rangle$; denote it by $Q(\langle c_0, c_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle c_{n-1}, c_n \rangle)$. If $n = 1$, we denote $Q(\langle c_0, c_1 \rangle)$ briefly by $Q(c_0, c_1)$. Moreover, denote by $R(c_0, c_1)$ the least reflexive binary relation on A having the substitution property w.r.t. F and containing the pair $\langle c_0, c_1 \rangle$ (the set of all reflexive relations on A with the substitution property forms a complete lattice also, see e.g. [1]).

Of course, meet in the lattice $\text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$ coincides with intersection, the identity relation ω is the least element of $\text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$ and the greatest element of $\text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$ is $A \times A$. Denote by \vee join in $\text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$.

Lemma 1 *Let n be an odd integer and c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n be elements of an algebra $\mathcal{A} = (A, F)$. Let $R, S \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$. Then*

$$(a) \quad Q(\langle c_0, c_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle c_{n-1}, c_n \rangle) = Q(c_0, c_1) \vee \dots \vee Q(c_{n-1}, c_n);$$

(b) $\langle a, b \rangle \in Q(c_0, c_1)$ if and only if there exists an integer $k \geq 1$ such that

$$\langle a, b \rangle \in R(c_0, c_1) \circ R(c_0, c_1) \circ \dots \circ R(c_0, c_1) \quad (k \text{ factors});$$

(c) $\langle a, b \rangle \in Q(c_0, c_1)$ if and only if there exists an integer $m \geq 1$ and unary polynomials p_1, \dots, p_m over \mathcal{A} such that

$$a = p_1(c_0), \quad b = p_m(c_1) \quad \text{and} \quad p_i(c_1) = p_{i+1}(c_0)$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m-1$;

(d) $R \vee S = \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} R \circ S \circ R \circ \dots$ (i factors in the i -th member).

Proof The proof of (a) is almost evident. For (b), see e.g. [1], for (c) see e.g. [5]. The assertion (d) is also well-known. \square

We say that a variety \mathcal{V} is *quasiorder-distributive* if $\text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$ is a distributive lattice for each $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{V}$. It was shown in [4] that \mathcal{V} is quasiorder-distributive whenever \mathcal{V} contains a majority term $m(x, y, z)$, i.e. m satisfies

$$m(x, x, y) = m(x, y, x) = m(y, x, x) = x.$$

G. Czédli and A. Lenkehegyi [5] found a weak Malcev condition characterizing quasiorder-distributive varieties of ordered algebras. We are going to give a similar characterization which works for any variety and it is a bit more simpler than that of [5].

For a variety \mathcal{V} , denote by $F_{\mathcal{V}}(x_0, \dots, x_n)$ the free algebra of \mathcal{V} generated by the free generators x_0, \dots, x_n . For the sake of brevity, we denote by \bar{x} the sequence x_0, \dots, x_n .

Theorem 1 *A variety \mathcal{V} is quasiorder-distributive if and only if for any even integer $k > 0$ there exists an integer n and $(k+2)$ -ary terms t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n and $(k+2)$ -ary terms $v_0^i, v_2^i, \dots, v_k^i$ for i even and terms $w_1^i, w_3^i, \dots, w_{k+1}^i$ for i odd such that*

$$\begin{aligned} t_0(x_0, \bar{x}) &= x_0, & t_n(x_k, \bar{x}) &= x_k, & t_i(x_0, \bar{x}) &= t_{i-1}(x_k, \bar{x}) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n \\ t_i(x_0, \bar{x}) &= v_0^i(x_0, \bar{x}), & t_i(x_k, \bar{x}) &= v_{k-2}^i(x_{k-1}, \bar{x}), \\ v_j^i(x_j, \bar{x}) &= v_{j-2}^i(x_{j-1}, \bar{x}) \quad \text{for } i \text{ even and } j = 2, 4, \dots, k \\ t_i(x_0, \bar{x}) &= w_1^i(x_1, \bar{x}), & t_i(x_k, \bar{x}) &= w_{k-1}^i(x_k, \bar{x}), \\ w_j^i(x_j, \bar{x}) &= w_{j-2}^i(x_{i-1}, \bar{x}) \quad \text{for } i \text{ odd and } j = 3, 5, \dots, k+1. \end{aligned}$$

Proof Let \mathcal{V} be a quasiorder-distributive variety. Let $\mathcal{A} = F_{\mathcal{V}}(x_0, \dots, x_k)$, $Q = Q(x_0, x_k)$, $R = Q(\langle x_0, x_1 \rangle, \langle x_2, x_3 \rangle, \dots, \langle x_{k-2}, x_{k-1} \rangle)$ and $S = Q(\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle, \langle x_3, x_4 \rangle, \dots, \langle x_{k-1}, x_k \rangle)$ for even integer k . Applying our Lemma 1, we have

$\langle x_0, x_k \rangle \in Q \cap (R \cup S)$ thus also $\langle x_0, x_k \rangle \in (Q \cap R) \vee (Q \cap S)$. Applying (d) of Lemma 1, there exist an integer $n \geq 1$ and elements c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n of \mathcal{A} such that $x_0 = c_0$, $x_k = c_n$ and $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in Q \cap R$ for i even and $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in Q \cap S$ for i odd, i.e. $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in Q$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$, $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in R$ for i even and $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in S$ for i odd. Hence, by (c) of Lemma 1, there exists $(k+2)$ -ary terms t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n such that $t_0(x_0, \bar{x}) = x_0$, $t_n(x_k, \bar{x}) = x_k$ and $t_{i-1}(x_k, \bar{x}) = t_i(x_0, \bar{x})$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Further, $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in R$ for i even yields the existence of elements $d_0^i, d_2^i, \dots, d_k^i$ which $c_i = d_0^i$, $c_{i+1} = d_k^i$ and $\langle d_0^i, d_2^i \rangle \in Q(x_0, x_1)$, $\langle d_2^i, d_4^i \rangle \in Q(x_2, x_3), \dots, \langle d_{k-2}^i, d_k^i \rangle \in Q(x_{k-2}, x_{k-1})$.

Hence, there exist $(k+2)$ -ary terms v_j^i satisfying $v_j^i(x_j, \bar{x}) = v_{j-2}^i(x_{j-1}, \bar{x})$ for i even and $j = 2, 4, \dots, k$ and

$$\begin{aligned} t_i(x_0, \bar{x}) &= c_i = d_0^i = v_0^i(x_0, \bar{x}), \\ t_i(x_k, \bar{x}) &= c_{i+1} = d_k^i = v_k^i(x_{k-1}, \bar{x}). \end{aligned}$$

Analogously, $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in S$ for i odd yields the existence of elements $e_1^i, e_3^i, \dots, e_{k+1}^i$ of \mathcal{A} such that $c_i = e_1^i$, $c_{i+1} = e_{k+1}^i$ and $\langle e_1^i, e_3^i \rangle \in Q(x_1, x_2)$, $\langle e_3^i, e_5^i \rangle \in Q(x_3, x_4), \dots, \langle e_{k-1}^i, e_{k+1}^i \rangle \in Q(x_{k-1}, x_k)$, whence we infer the existence of $(k+2)$ -ary terms w_j^i satisfying $w_j^i(x_j, \bar{x}) = w_{j-2}^i(x_{j-1}, \bar{x})$ for i odd and $j = 3, 5, \dots, k+1$ and $t_i(x_0, \bar{x}) = w_1^i(x_1, \bar{x})$, $t_i(x_k, \bar{x}) = w_{k+1}^i(x_k, \bar{x})$.

Conversely, let \mathcal{V} be a variety satisfying the term identities of the assumption and let $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{V}$ and $Q, R, S \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$. Suppose $\langle a, b \rangle \in Q \wedge (R \vee S)$. Then $\langle a, b \rangle \in Q$ and, by Lemma 1, $\langle a, b \rangle \in R \circ S \circ \dots \circ R \circ S$ with k factors (without loss of generality we can suppose that k is even since R, S are reflexive). Hence, there exist elements a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k of \mathcal{A} with $a = a_0$, $b = a_k$ and $\langle a_j, a_{j+1} \rangle \in R$ for j even and $\langle a_j, a_{j+1} \rangle \in S$ for j odd. Denote by \bar{a} the sequence a_0, \dots, a_k and set $c_i = t_i(a_0, \bar{a})$ and

$$\begin{aligned} d_j^i &= v_j^i(a_j, \bar{a}) \quad \text{for } i \text{ even, } j = 0, 2, \dots, k-2, \quad d_k^i = v_k^i(a_{k-1}, \bar{a}) \\ e_j^i &= w_j^i(a_j, \bar{a}) \quad \text{for } i \text{ odd, } j = 1, 3, \dots, k-1, \quad e_{k+1}^i = w_{k+1}^i(a_k, \bar{a}). \end{aligned}$$

Applying the identities, we have $c_0 = a$, $c_n = b$ and

$$\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle = \langle t_i(a_0, \bar{a}), t_i(a_k, \bar{a}) \rangle = \langle t_i(a, \bar{a}), t_i(b, \bar{a}) \rangle \in Q$$

for $i = 0, \dots, n-1$.

For i even we obtain $c_i = d_0^i$, $c_{i+1} = d_k^i$ and

$$\langle d_j^i, d_{j+1}^i \rangle \in Q(a_j, a_{j+1}) \subseteq R$$

for $j = 0, 2, \dots, k-2$. In account of transitivity, it yields $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in R$.

Analogously, for i odd we have $c_i = e_1^i$, $c_{i+1} = e_{k+1}^i$ and

$$\langle e_j^i, e_{j+1}^i \rangle \in Q(a_j, a_{j+1})$$

for $j = 1, 3, \dots, k-1$ whence $\langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in S$.

Together, we obtain

$$\langle a, b \rangle \in (Q \cap R) \vee (Q \cap S)$$

finishing the proof. \square

Now, we turn our attention to another problem which has been recently studied for congruences in [3]. Let $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$ be two algebras of the same type. The congruences Π_1, Π_2 of $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$ induced by the projections pr_1, pr_2 of $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$ onto \mathcal{A}_1 or \mathcal{A}_2 , respectively, are called *factor congruences*. A variety \mathcal{V} has *quasiorders permutable with factor congruences* if for any $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$ of \mathcal{V} and each $Q \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{A}$

$$Q \cdot \Pi_1 = \Pi_1 \cdot Q \quad \text{and} \quad Q \cdot \Pi_2 = \Pi_2 \cdot Q$$

Theorem 2 *For a variety \mathcal{V} , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) \mathcal{V} has quasiorders permutable with factor congruences;
- (2) there exist $(n + 1)$ -ary terms t_1, \dots, t_k and binary terms r_1, \dots, r_n and ternary terms s_1, \dots, s_n such that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= t_1(x, r_1(x, y), \dots, r_n(x, y)) \\ y &= t_k(y, r_1(x, y), \dots, r_n(x, y)) \\ z &= t_k(y, s_1(x, y, z), \dots, s_n(x, y, z)) \\ t_j(y, r_1(x, y), \dots, r_n(x, y)) &= t_{j+1}(x, r_1(x, y), \dots, r_n(x, y)) \\ t_j(y, s_1(x, y, z), \dots, s_n(x, y, z)) &= t_{j+1}(x, s_1(x, y, z), \dots, s_n(x, y, z)) \end{aligned}$$

for $j = 1, \dots, k - 1$.

Proof

(1) \Rightarrow (2): Let $\mathcal{A}_1 = F_v(x, y)$ and $\mathcal{A}_2 = F_v(x, y, z)$. Let $Q = Q((x, x), (y, y)) \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$. Then

$$(x, x)Q(y, y)\Pi_1(y, z)$$

and, by (1), there is d of \mathcal{A}_2 such that

$$(x, x)\Pi_1(x, d)Q(y, z)$$

thus $\langle (x, d), (y, z) \rangle \in Q((x, x), (y, y))$. Applying Lemma 1, there are unary polynomials $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_k$ over $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$ such that

$$(x, d) = \varphi_1((x, x)), \quad (y, z) = \varphi_k((y, y))$$

and

$$\varphi_j((y, y)) = \varphi_{j+1}((x, x)) \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k. \quad (*)$$

Since $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$ are free algebras, their elements are binary or ternary terms, respectively. Hence, there are $(n + 1)$ -ary terms t_1, \dots, t_k and binary terms r_1, \dots, r_n and ternary terms s_1, \dots, s_n such that

$$\varphi_j(v) = t_j(v, (r_1(x, y), s_1(x, y, z)), \dots, (r_n(x, y), s_n(x, y)))$$

for each $v \in \mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$. Applying it in (*) and reading it coordinatewise, we obtain (2).

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Let $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2 \in \mathcal{V}$ and $Q \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$. Suppose

$$(a_1, a_2)Q(c_1, b_2)\Pi_1(c_1, c_2).$$

Set $d = t_1(a_2, b_2, s_1(a_2, b_2, c_2), \dots, s_n(a_2, b_2, c_2))$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (a_1, d_1) &= t_1((a_1, a_2), (r_1(a_1, c_1), s_1(a_2, b_2, c_2)), \dots, (r_n(a_1, c_1), s_n(a_2, b_2, c_2))) \\ (c_1, c_2) &= t_k((c_1, b_1), (r_1(a_1, c_1), s_1(a_2, b_2, c_2)), \dots, (r_n(a_1, c_1), s_n(a_2, b_2, c_2))) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} t_j((c_1, b_2), (r_1(a_1, c_1), s_1(a_2, b_2, c_2)), \dots) &= \\ &= t_{j+1}((a_1, a_2), (r_1(a_1, c_1), s_1(a_2, b_2, c_2)) \dots) \end{aligned}$$

for $j = 1, \dots, k-1$, whence $(a_1, d)Q(c_1, c_2)$. Thus $(a_1, a_2)\Pi_1(a_1, d)Q(c_1, c_2)$ proving $Q \cdot \Pi_1 \subseteq \Pi_1 \cdot Q$. Conversely,

$$\Pi_1 \cdot Q \subseteq \Pi_1 \cdot (Q \cdot \Pi_1) \subseteq \Pi_1 \cdot (\Pi_1 \cdot Q) = \Pi_1 \cdot Q.$$

Thus also $Q \cdot \Pi_1 = \Pi_1 \cdot Q$.

By interchanging of the first and second coordinate, we infer also $Q \cdot \Pi_2 = \Pi_2 \cdot Q$ thus \mathcal{V} has quasiorders permutable with factor congruences. \square

Example 1 For a variety \mathcal{V} of lattices, take $n = 2, k = 1$ and $t_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) := (x_1 \wedge x_2) \vee x_3$ and $r_1(x, y) = x \vee y, r_2(x, y) = x \wedge y, s_1(x, y, z) = y \wedge z, s_2(x, y, z) = z$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} t_1(x, r_1(x, y), r_2(x, y)) &= (x \wedge (x \vee y)) \vee (x \wedge y) = x \\ t_1(y, r_1(x, y), r_2(x, y)) &= (y \wedge (x \vee y)) \vee (x \wedge y) = y \\ t_1(y, s_1(x, y, z), s_2(x, y, z)) &= (y \wedge (y \wedge z)) \vee z = z \end{aligned}$$

thus \mathcal{V} has quasiorders permutable with factor congruences. Let us note that a nontrivial lattice variety have not permutable quasiorders since due to [4], \mathcal{V} has permutable quasiorders if and only if \mathcal{V} has permutable congruences which is not the case of \mathcal{V} in general.

Let $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$ be algebras of the same type and \mathcal{B} be a subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$. By the *decomposing congruences* of \mathcal{B} are called the congruences θ_1, θ_2 defined by the setting

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_1 &= \{ \langle (b_1, b_2), (c_1, c_2) \rangle \in B^2; b_1 = c_1 \} \\ \theta_2 &= \{ \langle (b_1, b_2), (c_1, c_2) \rangle \in B^2; b_2 = c_2 \} \end{aligned}$$

A variety \mathcal{V} has *quasiorders permutable with decomposing congruences* if for any $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$ of \mathcal{V} , every subalgebra \mathcal{B} of $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$ and each $Q \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$ it holds $Q \cdot \theta_1 = \theta_1 \cdot Q$ and $Q \cdot \theta_2 = \theta_2 \cdot Q$.

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

- (1) \mathcal{V} has quasiorders permutable with decomposing congruences;
 (2) there exist 4-ary terms t_1, \dots, t_k such that

$$\begin{aligned} x &= t_1(x, x, y, y), & y &= t_k(y, x, y, y), & z &= t_k(y, x, y, z), \\ t_j(y, x, y, z) &= t_{j+1}(x, x, y, z) & \text{for } j &= 1, \dots, k-1. \end{aligned}$$

Proof

(1) \Rightarrow (2): Set $\mathcal{A}_1 = F_v(x, y)$, $\mathcal{A}_2 = F_v(x, y, z)$ and let \mathcal{B} be a subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$ generated by the elements $(x, x), (y, y), (y, z)$ of $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$. Let $Q = Q((x, x), (y, y)) \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{B}$. Then

$$(x, x)Q(y, y)\theta_1(y, z)$$

and by (1), there exists an element (x, d) of \mathcal{B} with

$$(x, x)\theta_1(x, d)Q(y, z).$$

By Lemma 1, there exists unary polynomials τ_1, \dots, τ_k over \mathcal{B} such that

$$(x, d) = \tau_1((x, x)), \quad (y, z) = \tau_k((y, y))$$

and

$$\tau_j((y, y)) = \tau_{j+1}((x, x)) \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k-1.$$

Since \mathcal{B} has just three generators $(x, x), (y, y), (y, z)$, there exist 4-ary terms t_1, \dots, t_k with

$$\tau_j((v_1, v_2)) = t_j((v_1, v_2), (x, x), (y, y), (y, z)).$$

Writing the foregoing identities componentwise, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x &= t_1(x, x, y, y), & d &= t_1(y, x, y, z), \\ t_j(y, x, y, y) &= t_{j+1}(x, x, y, y), \\ t_j(y, x, y, z) &= t_{j+1}(x, x, y, z) & \text{for } j &= 1, \dots, k-1, \\ y &= t_k(y, x, y, y), & z &= t_k(y, x, y, z). \end{aligned}$$

However, the 4-th identity implies the third one thus it can be omitted as well as the second one. The remaining identities are those of (2).

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Let \mathcal{V} be a variety satisfying (2) and let $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2 \in \mathcal{V}$ and \mathcal{B} be a subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_2$. Suppose $Q \in \text{Quord } \mathcal{B}$ and

$$(a_1, a_2)Q(b_1, b_2)\theta_1(c_1, c_2).$$

for some $(a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2), (c_1, c_2)$ of \mathcal{B} . Take $d = t_1(a_2, a_2, c_2, b_2)$. We infer

$$\begin{aligned} (a_1, d) &= t_1((a_1, a_2), (a_1, a_2), (c_1, c_2), (c_1, b_2)) \\ t_j((c_1, b_2), (a_1, a_2), (c_1, c_2), (c_1, b_2)) &= \\ &= t_{j+1}((a_1, a_2), (a_1, a_2), (c_1, c_2), (c_1, b_2)) & \text{for } j &= 1, \dots, k-1 \\ (c_1, c_2) &= t_k((c_1, b_2), (a_1, a_2), (c_1, c_2), (c_1, b_2)) \end{aligned}$$

whence $(a_1, d) \in \mathcal{B}$ and $(a_1, d)Q(c_1, c_2)$ proving $Q \cdot \theta_1 \subseteq \theta_1 \cdot Q$. The rest of the proof is a routine way. \square

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