

## LATTICES OF PSEUDOVARITIES

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### Abstract

We consider the lattice of pseudovarieties contained in a given pseudovariety  $P$ . It is shown that if the lattice  $L$  of subpseudovarieties of  $P$  has finite height, then  $L$  is isomorphic to the lattice of subvarieties of a locally finite variety. Thus not every finite lattice is isomorphic to a lattice of subpseudovarieties. Moreover, the lattice of subpseudovarieties of  $P$  satisfies every positive universal sentence holding in all the lattices of subvarieties of varieties  $\mathbf{V}(A)$  generated by algebras  $A \in P$ .

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A *pseudovariety*  $P$  is a class of finite algebras closed under the formation of homomorphic images, subalgebras and finite direct products: in symbols  $\mathbf{HSP}_{\text{fin}}(P) = P$ . This concept has been useful in many investigations, particularly in the study of various classes of finite semigroups and monoids; see [2], [3], [7], [8] and, for a more general approach, [5].

We will consider the lattice of subpseudovarieties of a given pseudovariety  $P$ . We will show that several recent results about the lattice of subvarieties of a variety have analogs for pseudovarieties.

This investigation originated in a series of discussions between the second author, Kathy Johnston and T. E. Hall at Monash University in August 1986, which produced a direct proof of Corollary 2.6. Hall and Johnston were at the time working on pseudovarieties of inverse semigroups [8], and Section 5 of that paper contains some interesting results related to the ones herein. C. J. Ash

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has also generalized Corollary 2.6 in a rather different direction (see [8, Remark 5.5]).

### 1. Preliminaries and forbidden lattices

If  $K$  is a class of algebras (of the same type),  $V(K)$  will denote the variety generated by  $K$ ; if  $Q$  is a class of finite algebras  $\mathbf{P}(Q) = \mathbf{HSP}_{\text{fin}}(Q)$  will denote the pseudovariety generated by  $Q$ .

It is clear that, if  $V$  is a variety, the class consisting of the finite algebras in  $V$  is a pseudovariety. We will denote this class by  $V_{\text{fin}}$  or  $V \cap \text{Fin}$ . On the other hand it is easy to produce examples of pseudovarieties that are not of this kind, for example

- (a) the pseudovariety of finite Abelian groups of square-free exponent,
- (b) the pseudovariety of finite semigroups satisfying  $x^n = x^{n+1}$  for some  $n$ ,
- (c) the pseudovariety  $\mathcal{F}$  where

$$\mathcal{F} = \{F_1 \times \cdots \times F_n : F_i \text{ is a finite field, } \text{char } F_i = p \text{ for all } i\}.$$

- (d) the pseudovariety of all finite lattices satisfying  $SD_{\wedge}$ .

The following lemma (whose proof is straightforward) will be used repeatedly. We recall that a variety  $V$  is locally finite if all finitely generated algebras in  $V$  are finite.

**LEMMA 1.1.** *Let  $V$  be a locally finite variety and  $A$  a finite algebra in  $V$ . Suppose there exist a  $B \in V$ , a family  $\{C_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha < \beta}$  of algebras in  $V$  and a surjective homomorphism  $h$  such that*

$$A \xleftarrow[h]{} B \leq \prod (C_{\alpha} : \alpha < \beta).$$

*Then there exist finitely many  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  such that*

$$A \xleftarrow[h]{} B' \leq C_{\alpha_1} \times \cdots \times C_{\alpha_n}.$$

The following lemma can be found in [1], [6] and [11] and was implicitly stated in [7] for monoids.

**LEMMA 1.2.** *A class of finite algebras  $P$  is a pseudovariety if and only if there exists a directed union of locally finite varieties such that*

$$P = \bigcup (V_i : i \in I) \cap \text{Fin}.$$

The proof is straightforward, by taking

$$I = \{S \subseteq P : S \text{ is finite}\}$$

and noting that by Lemma 1.1,  $\mathbf{V}(S)$  is locally finite for all  $S \in I$ . If  $V$  is a variety let  $\mathbf{L}_V(V)$  be the lattice of subvarieties of  $V$ , and if  $P$  is a pseudovariety let  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{Pv}}(P)$  be the set of pseudovarieties contained in  $P$ . It is a routine exercise to prove that  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{Pv}}(P)$  is indeed an algebraic lattice under inclusion, with  $\mathbf{HSP}_{\mathbf{fin}}$  being the associated closure operator.

It is not hard to see that the lattices  $\mathbf{L}_V$  and  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{Pv}}$  can be quite different even for the same variety of algebras. Let  $Ab$  be the variety of abelian groups. Then  $\mathbf{L}_V(Ab)$  is isomorphic to the lattice  $\mathbf{N}$  of the positive integers under division with the largest element adjoined, while  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{Pv}}(Ab_{\mathbf{fin}})$  is isomorphic to the ideal lattice of  $\mathbf{N}$ .

We recall that if  $L$  is a lattice, the height  $h(a)$  of  $a \in L$  is the length of the shortest maximal chain in  $a/0$ ; we say that  $P$  is a *pseudovariety of finite height* if  $P$  has finite height in  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{Pv}}(P)$ .

**LEMMA 1.3.** *If  $P$  is a pseudovariety of finite height, then  $P$  is generated by finitely many finite algebras.*

**PROOF.** We induct on the height of  $P$ . If  $h(P) = 0$ , then  $P$  is the trivial pseudovariety generated by a one-element algebra. Assume the statement true for any height  $< n$  and let  $h(P) = n$ . Then  $P$  covers  $Q$ , where  $h(Q) < n$  and  $Q$  is generated by finitely many finite algebras. Let  $A \in Q - P$ ; then  $P < P(Q \cup \{A\}) \leq P$ , and since  $P$  covers  $Q$  we have  $P = P(Q \cup \{A\})$ . Then  $P$  itself is finitely generated, and the lemma is proved.

The next lemma connects pseudovarieties and locally finite varieties.

**LEMMA 1.4.** *Let  $V$  be locally finite. Consider the maps*

$$\varphi: \mathbf{L}_V(V) \rightarrow \mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{Pv}}(V_{\mathbf{fin}})$$

via  $\varphi(U) = U \cap \mathbf{Fin}$ , and  $\psi: \mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{Pv}}(V_{\mathbf{fin}}) \rightarrow \mathbf{L}_V(V)$  via  $\psi(Q) = \mathbf{V}(Q)$ . Then

- (i) for all pseudovarieties  $Q \leq V_{\mathbf{fin}}$ ,  $Q = \varphi\psi(Q) = \mathbf{V}(Q) \cap \mathbf{Fin}$ ,
- (ii) for all varieties  $U \leq V$ ,  $U = \psi\varphi(U) = \mathbf{V}(U \cap \mathbf{Fin})$ ,
- (iii)  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are lattice isomorphisms.

**PROOF.** (i) Clearly  $Q \subseteq \mathbf{V}(Q) \cap \mathbf{Fin}$ . If  $A$  is a finite algebra in  $\mathbf{V}(Q)$ , then there exist an algebra  $B \in Q$ , a family  $\{C_\alpha\}_{\alpha < \beta}$  of algebras in  $Q$  and a surjective homomorphism  $h$  such that

$$A \stackrel{h}{\leftarrow} B \leq \prod(C_\alpha: \alpha < \beta).$$

Since  $V$  is locally finite and  $A$  is finite, it can be assumed by Lemma 1.1 that  $B$  is finite and all the  $C_\alpha$  are finite. Then  $A \in \mathbf{HSP}_{\mathbf{fin}}(Q) = Q$  and we are done.

(ii) is obvious since any  $U \leq V$  is itself locally finite, and is therefore generated by its finite members.

(iii) follows from (i) and (ii), since a one-to-one map  $f$  of a lattice  $L$  onto a lattice  $M$  is an isomorphism if and only if  $f$  and its inverse are order-preserving.

The main theorem of this section is now easy to prove.

**THEOREM 1.5.** *If  $P$  is a pseudovariety of finite height, then the lattice of pseudovarieties  $L_{\mathbf{pv}}(P)$  is isomorphic to the lattice of subvarieties  $L_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{V}(P))$ .*

**PROOF.** By Lemma 1.3,  $P$  is generated by finitely many finite algebras; hence  $\mathbf{V}(P)$  is locally finite. So Lemma 1.4 applies, and we can conclude that  $L_{\mathbf{pv}}(P) \cong L_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{V}(P))$ .

The following corollary is a direct consequence of the theorem.

**COROLLARY 1.6.** *If  $L$  is a lattice of finite height, forbidden as lattice of subvarieties for a locally finite variety, then it is also forbidden as  $L_{\mathbf{pv}}(P)$  for any pseudovariety  $P$ .*

A large class of lattices forbidden for locally finite varieties (the so-called “tight” lattices) can be found in McKenzie’s paper [10].

## 2. A representation theorem

The results of the previous section lead to the question: what properties of  $L_{\mathbf{v}}(V)$  are inherited by  $L_{\mathbf{pv}}(V_{\text{fin}})$  (not assuming local finiteness)? This section provides some answers to this question.

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $P$  be a pseudovariety and for  $A \in P$  let  $L_A = L_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{V}(A))$ . If  $\mathcal{K}(P) = \{L_A : A \in P\}$ , then*

$$L_{\mathbf{pv}}(P) \in \mathbf{HSP}_{\mathbf{u}}\{\mathcal{K}(P)\}.$$

We will first show that  $L_{\mathbf{pv}}(P)$  is in the variety generated by  $\mathcal{K}(P)$ . Let  $M$  be the direct product  $\prod(L_A : A \in P)$ , where it is understood that we take an algebra from each isomorphism class. Let

$$S = \{x \in M : A \in \mathbf{V}(B) \text{ implies } x_A \leq x_B\}.$$

Clearly  $S$  is a sublattice of  $M$ . Define  $\gamma \subseteq S^2$  by setting  $(x, y) \in \gamma$  if

(\*)  $\forall A, C \in P, C \in x_A$  implies there exists  $B \in P$  such that  $A \in \mathbf{V}(B)$  and  $C \in y_B$  and

(\*\*)  $\forall A, C \in P, C \in y_A$  implies there exists  $B' \in P$  such that  $A \in \mathbf{V}(B')$  and  $C \in x_{B'}$ .

We would like to prove that  $\gamma \in \text{Con } S$ . The proof uses the following straightforward lemma.

LEMMA 2.2. *If  $V$  is a locally finite variety,  $U, W \leq V$  and  $C$  is a finite algebra in  $U \vee W$ , then there are finite algebras  $D \in U$  and  $E \in W$  such that  $C \in \mathbf{HS}(D \times E)$ .*

LEMMA 2.3.  $\gamma \in \text{Con } S$ .

PROOF. It is not hard to check that  $\gamma$  is an equivalence relation on  $S$ . Assume now  $z \in S$ ,  $x\gamma y$ , and  $C \in x_A \wedge z_A$ . By (\*) there is a  $B \in P$  such that  $C \in y_B$  and  $A \in \mathbf{V}(B)$ , whence  $C \in z_B \geq z_A$ . Thus  $C \in y_B \wedge z_B$  which proves (\*); (\*\*) is similar so we can conclude that  $x \wedge z \gamma y \wedge z$ .

If  $C \in x_A \vee z_A$  then, by Lemma 2.2,  $C \in \mathbf{HS}(D \times E)$  for finite algebras in  $x_A$  and  $z_A$  respectively. Because  $D \in x_A$ , (\*) yields a  $B \in P$  with  $A \in \mathbf{V}(P)$  and  $D \in y_B$ . Since  $z \in S$  and  $A \in \mathbf{V}(B)$ , it follows that  $E \in z_B$  and  $C \in y_B \vee z_B$ . The proof of (\*\*) is similar, so  $x \vee z \gamma y \vee z$ .

Define a function  $\varphi: \mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P) \rightarrow S$  by setting  $\varphi_A(Q) = \mathbf{V}(Q \cap \mathbf{V}(A))$ ; it is trivial to see that indeed  $\varphi(Q) \in S$  for all  $Q \leq P$ .

LEMMA 2.4. *For all  $Q, R \leq P$*

- (i)  $\varphi(Q \cap R) = \varphi(Q) \cap \varphi(R)$ ,
- (ii)  $\varphi(Q) \vee \varphi(R) \leq \varphi(Q \vee R)$ ,
- (iii)  $\varphi(Q \vee R) \gamma \varphi(Q) \vee \varphi(R)$ ,
- (iv) *if  $Q \not\leq R$  then  $(\varphi(Q), \varphi(R)) \notin \gamma$ .*

PROOF. (i) and (ii) are immediate. For (iii), assume that  $C$  is finite and  $C \in \varphi_A(Q \vee R) = \mathbf{V}((Q \vee R) \cap \mathbf{V}(A))$ . By Lemma 1.1,  $C \in (Q \vee R) \cap \mathbf{V}(A)$ , so by Lemma 2.2 there are  $D \in Q, E \in R$  with  $C \in \mathbf{HS}(D \times E)$ . Let  $B = D \times E \times A$ ; then  $A \in \mathbf{V}(B)$  and  $C \in (Q \cap \mathbf{V}(B)) \vee (R \cap \mathbf{V}(B))$ , so  $C \in \varphi_B(Q) \vee \varphi_B(R)$ . Thus (\*) is satisfied and (\*\*) follows at once from (ii); hence (iii) is proved.

For (iv) take  $C \in Q - R$ . If  $C \in \mathbf{V}(B)$ , then by Lemma 1.1,

$$C \in \mathbf{V}(Q \cap \mathbf{V}(B)) - \mathbf{V}(R \cap \mathbf{V}(B)).$$

Since  $C \notin \varphi_B(R)$  for all  $B$ , we have  $(\varphi(Q), \varphi(R)) \notin \gamma$ .

We can summarize all we have gotten so far by

THEOREM 2.5. *If  $P$  is a pseudovariety then  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P) \in \mathbf{HSP}\{\mathcal{K}(P)\}$ ; in fact  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P)$  is embedded into  $S/\gamma$  via the function  $\varphi$  described above.*

COROLLARY 2.6. *For any lattice equation  $\varepsilon$ , if  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{v}}(V)$  satisfies  $\varepsilon$  then  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(\mathbf{V}_{\text{fin}})$  satisfies  $\varepsilon$ .*

COROLLARY 2.7. *If  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{V}(P))$  satisfies  $SD_{\wedge}$  then so does  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P)$ .*

PROOF. If  $Q \wedge R_1 = Q \wedge R_2$ , then for all  $A \in P$

$$\mathbf{V}(Q \wedge R_1 \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) = \mathbf{V}(Q \wedge R_2 \cap \mathbf{V}(A)),$$

implying

$$\mathbf{V}(Q \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) \wedge \mathbf{V}(R_1 \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) = \mathbf{V}(Q \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) \wedge \mathbf{V}(R_2 \cap \mathbf{V}(A)).$$

Since  $\mathbf{L}_\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{V}(P))$  satisfies  $SD_\wedge$ ,

$$\mathbf{V}(Q \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) \wedge \mathbf{V}(R_1 \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) = \mathbf{V}(Q \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) \wedge [\mathbf{V}(R_1 \cap \mathbf{V}(A)) \vee \mathbf{V}(R_2 \cap \mathbf{V}(A))].$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_A(Q \wedge R_1) &= \varphi_A(Q) \wedge [\varphi_A(R_1) \vee_A (R_2)] \\ &= \varphi_A(Q) \wedge [\varphi_A(R_1) \vee \varphi(R_2)]_A, \end{aligned}$$

so, by Lemma 2.4(iii)

$$\varphi(Q \wedge R_1) = \varphi(Q) \wedge [\varphi(R_1) \vee \varphi(R_2)] \gamma \varphi(Q) \wedge \varphi(R_1 \wedge R_2).$$

By Theorem 2.5,  $Q \wedge R_1 = Q \wedge (R_1 \vee R_2)$  and  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P)$  satisfies  $SD_\wedge$ .

There is no similar argument for  $SD_\vee$ , and we conjecture that  $SD_\vee$  and Lampe’s condition [9], which is similar, are not preserved by  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(\mathbf{V}_{\text{fin}})$ .

We can refine Theorem 2.4, to obtain  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P) \in \mathbf{HSP}_\mathbf{u}\{\mathcal{K}(P)\}$ , by the following general argument.

Let  $\mathcal{A} = (A_i)_{i \in I}$  be a family of algebras,  $N = \prod(A_i : i \in I)$ ,  $S \leq N$  and  $\gamma \in \text{Con } S$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an ultrafilter on  $I$ , and let  $\mu$  be the induced congruence on  $N$ , that is  $x\mu y$  if  $\{i : x_i = y_i\} \in \mathcal{U}$ . Let  $T = \{t \in N : \text{there exists } x \in S \text{ with } t\mu x\}$ . Note that  $T$  is a subalgebra of  $N$ . Define  $\rho \subseteq T^2$  by  $(t, t') \in \rho$  if there are  $x, x' \in S$  with  $t\mu x\gamma x'\mu t'$ .

LEMMA 2.8. *If  $\mu \cap S^2 \subseteq \gamma$  then  $\rho \in \text{Con } T$  and  $S/\gamma \cong T/\rho$ . Consequently  $S/\gamma \in \mathbf{HSP}_\mathbf{u}\{\mathcal{A}\}$ .*

PROOF.  $\rho$  is clearly reflexive and symmetric. If  $t\rho t'\rho t''$ , then there are  $x, x', y', y'' \in S$  with  $t\mu x\gamma x'\mu t'\mu y'\gamma y''\mu t''$ . But then  $x'\mu y'$ , so by hypothesis  $x'\gamma y'$ . Hence  $x\gamma x''$  and  $t\rho t''$ . Thus  $\rho$  is transitive. This relation clearly respects operations, so that  $\rho \in \text{Con } T$ .

It is an easy exercise to prove that  $\psi : S/\gamma \rightarrow T/\rho$  defined by  $\psi(x/\gamma) = x/\rho$  is an isomorphism. Since  $\mu \cap T^2 \subseteq \rho$ , we have  $T/\rho \in \mathbf{HSP}_\mathbf{u}\{\mathcal{A}\}$ .

We want to apply Lemma 2.8 to the specific  $S$  and  $\gamma$  defined earlier in this section. For  $B \in P$ , define  $\mathcal{S}(B) = \{A \in P : B \in \mathbf{V}(A)\}$ . Note that  $\{\mathcal{S}(B) : B \in P\}$  is a filterbase:  $\mathcal{S}(B) \neq \emptyset$ , and if  $B, C \in P$  then  $\mathcal{S}(B) \cap \mathcal{S}(C) \supseteq \mathcal{S}(D)$ , where  $D = B \times C$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be any ultrafilter containing this filterbase, and let  $\mu$  be the congruence on  $M$  associated to  $\mathcal{U}$ . We need the following facts.

LEMMA 2.9. (i) For all  $E \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $B \in P$  implies  $E \cap \mathcal{S}(B) \neq \emptyset$ .  
(ii)  $\mu \cap S^2 \subseteq \gamma$ .

PROOF. (i) is trivial from the maximality of  $\mathcal{U}$ . For (ii), let  $(x, y) \in \mu \cap S^2$ ; then  $\{C: x_C = y_C\} \in \mathcal{U}$ . Fix  $A \in P$ . By (i),  $\{C: x_C = y_C\} \cap \mathcal{S}(A) \neq \emptyset$  so there is a  $B$  such that  $A \in \mathbf{V}(B)$  and  $x_B = y_B$ . If  $D \in x_A$  then  $x_A \leq x_B = y_B$  since  $x \in S$ , so  $D \in y_B$ . If  $D \in y_A$ , then  $y_A \leq y_B = x_B$ , so  $D \in x_B$ . Hence  $x\gamma y$  and (ii) is proved.

Lemma 2.9 (ii) allows us to apply Lemma 2.8 to our situation, yielding  $S/\gamma \in \mathbf{HSP}_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathcal{Z}(P))$ . Since  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P)$  is isomorphic to a sublattice of  $S/\gamma$ , we obtain  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(P) \in \mathbf{HSP}_{\mathbf{u}}\{\mathcal{Z}(P)\}$ , which is the claim of Theorem 2.1.

COROLLARY 2.10. Any positive universal sentence holding in  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{v}}(V)$  is also satisfied by  $\mathbf{L}_{\mathbf{pv}}(V_{\text{fin}})$ .

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