

## Decomposable and Strongly Decomposable Nearlattices

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**Abstract.** In this paper the concepts of decomposable and strongly decomposable nearlattices are introduced and some properties of these nearlattices are furnished.

**Keywords:** distributive nearlattice, prime ideals, decomposable and strongly decomposable nearlattice

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### 1. Introduction

Motivated by the characterizations of Stone lattices Cornish [2] and Pawar [5] characterized distributive lattices with minimum element 0 in which every prime ideal contains a unique minimal prime ideal and call such lattices normal lattices. This work Inspired Lu et al. [4] to introduce the concept of decomposable lattices by replacing the word normality by decomposability. A distributive lattice  $L$  with minimum element 0 is said to be decomposable if for any incomparable elements  $a, b \in L$ , there exist  $x, y \in L$  such that  $a = x \vee (a \wedge b)$  and  $b = y \vee (a \wedge b)$  such that  $x \wedge y = 0$ . Further prime, minimal prime and special ideals in decomposable lattices are studied explicitly in [4] In order to describe the posets by algebraic structures which are similar to lattices the author of [3] introduce the near lattices with two binary operations denoted by  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$ . In comparison with lattices only weaker forms of the associative and the commutative laws hold and also the correspondence between poset and nearlattices is not unique. Note that nearlattice is a lattice if and only if the commutative laws hold. Many researchers have developed the theory of nearlattices (see [6,7,8,9]).

Motivated by the work of Lu et al. [4]. We introduce the concept of decomposable and strongly decomposable nearlattices. Some properties of decomposable and strongly decomposable nearlattices are proved. A Nearlattice is a meet semilattice (lower semilattice) together with the property that any two elements possessing a common upper bound have a supremum. This property is known as the upper bound property. A Nearlattice  $S$  is called distributive if for all  $x, y, z \in S$ ,  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$  provided  $(y \vee z)$  exists in  $S$ . For the basic concepts in nearlattices we refer [1] and [3]. The nearlattice depicted by the Hasse diagram of Fig.1 is a distributive

nearlattice while the Hasse diagram of Fig. 2 represents nearlattice which is not distributive.

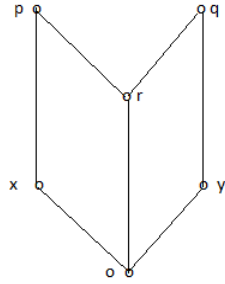


Figure 1:

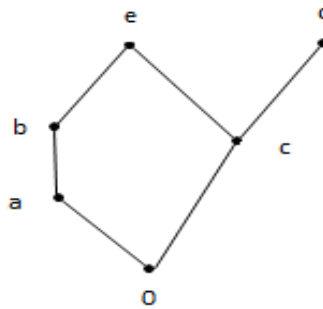


Figure 2:

A nonempty subset of  $S$  is called an ideal if i) For  $x, y \in I, x \vee y \in I$ , provided  $x \vee y$  exists, and ii) For  $x \in I, t \leq x (t \in S)$  implies  $t \in I$ . An ideal  $I$  of a nearlattice  $S$  is proper if  $I \neq S$ . A proper ideal  $I$  of a nearlattice  $S$  is called a prime ideal if  $x \wedge y \in P \Rightarrow$  either  $x \in P$  or  $y \in P$ . The set of all prime ideals in a nearlattice with  $0$  is denoted by  $\wp(S)$ . A proper ideal  $M$  of a nearlattice is called maximal if for any ideal  $Q \supseteq M$  implies either  $Q = M$  or  $Q = S$ . The set of all maximal ideals in a nearlattice with  $0$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{M}(S)$ . A prime ideal of a nearlattice  $S$  is said to be minimal if it does not contain properly any other prime ideal. The set of all minimal prime ideals in a nearlattice  $S$  with zero is denoted by  $\mathfrak{M}(S)$ . For  $A \subseteq S$  we define  $A^* = \{x \in S / x \wedge a = 0 \text{ for all } a \in A\}$

If  $S$  is distributive then clearly  $A^*$  is an ideal of  $S$ . Moreover  $\{a\}^* = \{x \in S / x \wedge a = 0\}$  and  $A^* = \bigcap_{a \in A} \{a\}^*$ . An ideal  $I$  in a nearlattice  $S$  with  $0$  is called a normal ideal if  $I = I^{**}$ . The set of all normal ideals in a nearlattice  $S$  with  $0$  is denoted by  $N(S)$ . Let  $K$  be a subset of a nearlattice  $S$  then  $(K)$  denote ideal of  $S$  generated by  $K$ . If  $K = \{a / a \in S\}$  then we write  $(\{a\}) = (a)$ .

## 2. Some results

Now onwards  $S$  will denote a distributive nearlattice with  $0$ . For  $I, J \in \mathcal{J}(S)$ , we write  $I \parallel J$  when  $I$  and  $J$  are incomparable in the poset  $(\mathcal{J}(S), \subseteq)$ . We begin with the following definition.

**Definition 2.1.** A distributive nearlattice  $S$  with  $0$  is called decomposable if for any  $I \parallel J, I, J \in \mathcal{J}(S)$ , there exist  $x \in I \setminus J$  and  $y \in J \setminus I$  such that  $x \wedge y = 0$ . The nearlattice depicted by the Hasse diagram of Fig.3 is an example of distributive nearlattice which is decomposable while the nearlattice depicted by the Hasse diagram of Fig.4 represents a distributive nearlattice which is not decomposable.

**Theorem 2.2.** In a decomposable nearlattice  $S$ , a proper ideal  $P$  is prime iff the set  $\{I \in \mathcal{J}(S) / I \supseteq P\}$  is totally ordered.

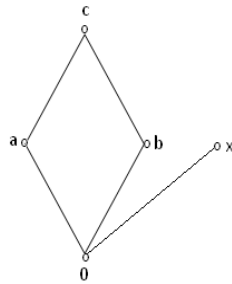
**Proof.** Let a proper ideal  $P$  in  $S$  be such that the set  $\{I \in \mathcal{J}(S) / I \supseteq P\}$  is a totally ordered subset of  $\mathcal{J}(S)$ . Let  $P$  be not prime. Then there exist  $a, b \in S$  such that  $(a \wedge b) \in P$  with  $a \notin P$  and  $b \notin P$ . As  $P \vee (a) \supset P$  and  $P \vee (b) \supset P$ . By assumption  $P \vee (a) \subseteq P \vee (b)$  or  $P \vee (b) \subseteq P \vee (a)$ . Let us assume without loss of generality that  $P \vee (a) \subseteq P \vee (b)$ .

As  $(a \wedge b) \in P$ , we get

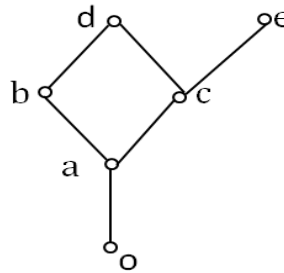
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$$\begin{aligned}
 P = P \vee (a \wedge b) &= P \vee [(a) \wedge (b)]. \\
 &= [P \vee (a)] \wedge [(P \vee (b))] \text{ (Since } \mathcal{J}(S) \text{ is distributive.)} \\
 &= P \vee (a) \quad \text{(Since } P \vee (a) \subseteq P \vee (b))
 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $a \in P$ ; a contradiction. Hence  $P$  must be a prime ideal. For converse, let  $\{I \in \mathcal{J}(S) / I \supseteq P\}$  be not totally ordered. Then there exist  $I, J \in \mathcal{J}(S)$  containing  $P$  and  $I \parallel J$ . As  $S$  is decomposable there exists  $x \in I \setminus J$  and  $y \in J \setminus I$  such  $x \wedge y = 0$ . As  $x \wedge y = 0 \in P$  and  $P$  is prime  $x \in P$  or  $y \in P$ . But then  $x \in J$  or  $y \in I$ , leading to a contradiction. Hence the set  $\{I \in \mathcal{J}(S) / I \supseteq P\}$  is totally ordered. ■



**Figure 3:**



**Figure 4:**

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $S$  be decomposable nearlattice. If  $P_1 \parallel P_2$ , for prime ideals  $P_1, P_2$  of  $S$  and  $a \in S$ , such that  $a \notin P_1 \cup P_2$ , then there exists  $a_1 \in P_1 \setminus P_2$  and  $a_2 \in P_2 \setminus P_1$  such that  $0 < a_1, a_2 < a$  and  $a_1 \wedge a_2 = 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $P_1 \parallel P_2$  and  $a \notin P_1 \cup P_2$ . As  $S$  is decomposable, there exist  $x_1 \in P_2 \setminus P_1$  and  $x_2 \in P_1 \setminus P_2$  such that  $x_1 \wedge x_2 = 0$ . Define  $a_1 = a \wedge x_1$  and  $a_2 = a \wedge x_2$ . Then  $a \notin P_1$  and  $x_1 \notin P_1 \Rightarrow a \wedge x_1 = a_1 \notin P_1$ . Again  $a \notin P_2$  and  $x_2 \notin P_2 \Rightarrow a \wedge x_2 = a_2 \notin P_2$ . Clearly  $0 < a_1$  and  $0 < a_2$ . Since,  $a_1 = a \Rightarrow a \wedge x_1 = a \Rightarrow a \leq x_1 \in P_2 \Rightarrow a \in P_2$ . Hence  $a_1 < a$ . Similarly we get  $a_2 < a$ . Thus  $0 < a_1 < a$  and  $0 < a_2 < a$ . Further  $a_1 \wedge a_2 = (a \wedge x_1) \wedge (a \wedge x_2) = a \wedge (x_1 \wedge a \wedge x_2) = a \wedge (a \wedge x_1 \wedge x_2) = a \wedge (a \wedge 0) = a \wedge 0 = 0$ . Hence the proof. ■

Let  $\mathfrak{M}$  denote the set of minimal prime ideals in  $S$ . For a prime ideal  $P$  in  $S$  define  $S_P = \bigcap \{M \in \mathfrak{M} \mid M \subseteq P\}$ . A necessary and sufficient condition for any two prime ideals to be comparable in a decomposable nearlattice is proved in the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.4.** In a decomposable nearlattice, two prime ideals  $P$  and  $Q$  are comparable iff  $S_P \subseteq Q$  or  $S_Q \subseteq P$ .

**Proof.** The proof of only if part being obvious, we prove if part only. Let  $S_P \subseteq Q$  and  $P \parallel Q$ . As  $S$  is decomposable, there exist  $x \in P \setminus Q$  and  $y \in Q \setminus P$  such that  $x \wedge y = 0$ . As for  $M \in \mathfrak{M}$  contained in  $P$ ,  $0 = x \wedge y \in M$  implies  $x \in M$  as  $y \notin P$ . But then  $x \in \bigcap \{M \in \mathfrak{M} \mid M \subseteq P\} = S_P$  implies  $x \in Q$ ; a contradiction. Hence  $P$  and  $Q$  must be comparable. Similarly we prove if  $S_Q \subseteq P$ , then prime ideals  $P$  and  $Q$  are comparable. ■

**Definition 2.5.** A distributive nearlattice  $S$  is called strongly decomposable if for any  $a \parallel b, a, b \in S$ , there exist  $x, y \in S$  such that  $a = x \vee (a \wedge b)$  and  $b = y \vee (a \wedge b)$  such that  $x \wedge y = 0$ . Nearlattice depicted by Hasse diagram of Fig.5 is a distributive nearlattice which is decomposable but not strongly decomposable.

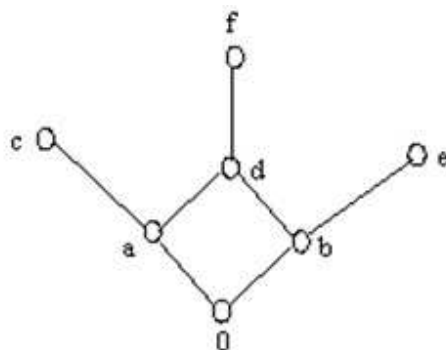


Figure 5:

**Theorem 2.6.** Every strongly decomposable nearlattice  $S$  is decomposable.

**Proof.** Let  $S$  be strongly decomposable. To prove that  $S$  is decomposable. Let  $I \parallel J$  in  $\mathcal{J}(S)$ . select  $x \in I \setminus J$  and  $y \in J \setminus I$ . Then  $x \parallel y$ . As  $S$  is strongly decomposable, there exist  $a, b \in S$  such that  $x = a \vee (x \wedge y)$  and  $y = b \vee (x \wedge y)$ , with  $a \wedge b = 0$ .  $a \leq x = a \vee (x \wedge y)$ , gives  $a = x \wedge a \in I$  as  $x \in I$ .  $y \in I \Rightarrow y \wedge x \in J \Rightarrow x \wedge y \in J$ . Similarly  $b \leq b \vee (x \wedge y) \Rightarrow b \leq y \Rightarrow b = b \wedge y$ . As  $y \in J \Rightarrow y \wedge b \in J \Rightarrow b \wedge y \in J \Rightarrow b \in J$ . Thus for  $I \parallel J$  in  $\mathcal{J}(S)$  there exist  $a \in I$  and  $b \in J$  such that  $a \wedge b = 0$ . This proves that  $S$  is decomposable. ■

**Theorem 2.7.** If  $[a] \vee [a]^* = S$  for any  $a \in S$ , then  $S$  is a strongly decomposable nearlattice.

**Proof.** Let  $x \parallel y$  in  $S$ . By assumption  $(x \wedge y] \vee (x \wedge y]^* = S$ . Hence  $x = a \vee b$  and  $y = c \vee d$  for some  $a, c \in (x \wedge y]$  and  $b, d \in (x \wedge y]^*$ .

Now,  $x \wedge y = (x \wedge y) \wedge (a \vee b) = (x \wedge y \wedge a) \vee (x \wedge y \wedge b) = (x \wedge y \wedge a)$  (since  $b \in (x \wedge y]^*$ ). So  $x \wedge y \leq a$ , which implies that  $x \wedge y = a$ . Similarly  $x \wedge y = c$ . Then  $x \wedge (a \vee b) = (x \wedge a) \vee (x \wedge b) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge b)$ . Similarly  $y = y \wedge (c \vee d) = (y \wedge c) \vee (y \wedge d) = (x \wedge y) \vee (y \wedge d)$ . Further  $(x \wedge b) \wedge (y \wedge d) = (x \wedge y) \wedge (b \wedge d) = 0$ . This shows that  $S$  is a strongly decomposable nearlattice. ■

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