

The Join of the Variety of MV-Algebras and the Variety of Orthomodular Lattices

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Received: 29 December 2014 / Accepted: 15 March 2015 / Published online: 29 March 2015
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Abstract We axiomatize the smallest variety that contains both the variety of MV-algebras and the variety (term equivalent to the variety) of orthomodular lattices.

Keywords MV-algebra · Orthomodular lattice · Lattice effect algebra

Effect algebras, which were introduced by Foulis and Bennett [8], are partially ordered partial algebras closely related to the logical foundations of quantum mechanics. The standard example is the structure of self-adjoint operators between zero and identity on a Hilbert space, the so-called effects. Also some commonly known (total) algebras, such as orthomodular lattices and MV-algebras, may be regarded as particular cases of effect algebras. We were not the first who observed that lattice-ordered effect algebras can in a natural way be made into total algebras $\langle A; \oplus, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ of type $(2, 1, 0, 0)$; see [2, 3]. We proved that the class \mathcal{E} of such algebras is a variety containing both the variety \mathcal{MV} of MV-algebras and the variety \mathcal{OM} (term equivalent to the variety) of orthomodular lattices; relative to \mathcal{E} , \mathcal{MV} and \mathcal{OM} can be axiomatized by the identities $x \oplus y = y \oplus x$ and $x \oplus x = x$, respectively. We also observed that \mathcal{E} is not the join of \mathcal{MV} and \mathcal{OM} in the lattice of subvarieties of \mathcal{E} . The aim of the present paper is to axiomatize the join of the varieties \mathcal{MV} and \mathcal{OM} , but we actually axiomatize the join of \mathcal{MV} with any finitely based subvariety of \mathcal{E} .

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First, we recall some basic facts about lattice effect algebras; for more information we refer the reader to the book [7]. An *effect algebra* is a structure $\langle E; +, 0, 1 \rangle$, where $+$ is a partial binary operation and $0, 1$ are two constants, satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) $x + y = y + x$ if one side is defined;
- (ii) $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$ if one side is defined;
- (iii) for every $x \in E$ there exists a unique $x' \in E$ such that $x' + x = 1$;
- (iv) if $x + 1$ is defined, then $x = 0$.

This is the definition by Foulis and Bennett [8], but we should mention that effect algebras are essentially the same as *weak orthoalgebras* introduced by Giuntini and Greuling [9] who, however, attribute their introduction to Foulis and Randall. Besides, effect algebras are equivalent to *D-posets* which were introduced by Kôpka and Chovanec [14].

Every effect algebra is naturally ordered by stipulating that $x \leq y$ iff $y = x + z$ for some $z \in E$; such an element z is unique and we may denote it by $y - x$. Thus, if $x \leq y$, then $y - x$ is the only element such that $y = x + (y - x)$, or more directly, $y - x = (x + y)'$. The structure $\langle E; \leq, -, 0, 1 \rangle$ so obtained is a *D-poset* in the sense of [14].

It is worth noticing that $x + y$ is defined iff $x \leq y'$, in which case $x + y = (y' - x)'$.

An effect algebra (or *D-poset*) which is a lattice with respect to the natural order \leq is called a *lattice effect algebra* (or *D-lattice*).

Two examples of lattice effect algebras that are of particular interest to us are orthomodular lattices and MV-algebras. We refer the reader to [13] for orthomodular lattices, and to [6] for MV-algebras.

Orthomodular lattices are equivalent to lattice effect algebras satisfying the condition that $x + x$ is defined only if $x = 0$. Indeed, if $\langle L; \vee, \wedge, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ is an orthomodular lattice, then the structure $\langle L; +, 0, 1 \rangle$, where $x + y$ is defined and equals $x \vee y$ iff $x \leq y'$, is a lattice effect algebra satisfying the condition; and conversely, if $\langle E; +, 0, 1 \rangle$ is such a lattice effect algebra with induced lattice operations \vee and \wedge , then $x + y = x \vee y$ if $x + y$ is defined, and $\langle E; \vee, \wedge, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ is an orthomodular lattice.

MV-algebras are equivalent to *MV-effect algebras*, i.e., lattice effect algebras satisfying $(x \vee y) - y = x - (x \wedge y)$ for all x, y . Though we do not want to go into details here, we need to mention that every MV-algebra $\langle A; \oplus, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ bears a lattice order which is given by $x \leq y$ iff $x' \oplus y = 1$ iff $y = x \oplus z$ for some $z \in A$. Now, if $\langle A; \oplus, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ is an MV-algebra, then $\langle A; +, 0, 1 \rangle$, where $x + y$ is defined and equals $x \oplus y$ iff $x \leq y'$, is an MV-effect algebra; and conversely, if $\langle E; +, 0, 1 \rangle$ is an MV-effect algebra, then by setting

$$x \oplus y = (x \wedge y') + y \tag{1}$$

we obtain an MV-algebra $\langle E; \oplus, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ with the same lattice order as $\langle E; +, 0, 1 \rangle$.

Using (1), an arbitrary lattice effect algebra can be made into a total algebra. So let \mathcal{E} be the class of all (total) algebras $A = \langle A; \oplus, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ of type $\langle 2, 1, 0, 0 \rangle$ that arise from lattice effect algebras by means of (1). It is useful to define two more total operations, as follows:

$$x \oslash y = (x' \oplus y)' \quad \text{and} \quad x \ominus y = (y \oplus x')'. \tag{2}$$

In the language of lattice effect algebras we have

$$x \oslash y = (x \vee y) - y \quad \text{and} \quad x \ominus y = x - (x \wedge y), \tag{3}$$

and it is straightforward to show that all algebras in \mathcal{E} satisfy the identities

$$x \oplus 0 = x, \tag{4}$$

$$x'' = x, \tag{5}$$

$$(x \otimes y) \oplus y = (y \otimes x) \oplus x, \tag{6}$$

$$(((x \oplus y) \otimes y) \oplus z)' \oplus (x \oplus z) = 1, \tag{7}$$

and the quasi-identity

$$x \oplus y \leq z' \implies (x \oplus y) \oplus z = x \oplus (z \oplus y). \tag{8}$$

On the other hand, we proved in [3] that if an algebra $\mathbf{A} = \langle A; \oplus, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ satisfies the identities (4)–(7), then the rule $x \leq y$ iff $x' \oplus y = 1$ (equivalently, $x \otimes y = 0$ or $x \ominus y = 0$) defines a bounded lattice, with bounds 0 and 1, where

$$x \vee y = (x \otimes y) \oplus y \quad \text{and} \quad x \wedge y = (x' \vee y')' = x \ominus (x \ominus y).$$

In [3], as well as in some other papers, we called these algebras “basic algebras”. Moreover, if \mathbf{A} satisfies also (8), then the partial algebra $\langle A; +, 0, 1 \rangle$ obtained by restricting \oplus as in the case of MV-algebras, i.e., $x + y$ is defined and equals $x \oplus y$ iff $x \leq y'$, is a lattice effect algebra with the same natural order as \mathbf{A} , which entails that the total algebra associated with $\langle A; +, 0, 1 \rangle$ via (1) is the initial algebra \mathbf{A} .

The quasi-identity (8) may be replaced with an identity; for example, it suffices to write $(x \oplus y)' \wedge z$ instead of z . Hence the class \mathcal{E} is a variety.

Recalling that MV-algebras correspond to MV-effect algebras, it is evident by (3) that the variety of MV-algebras \mathcal{MV} is the subvariety of \mathcal{E} axiomatized by the identity $x \otimes y = x \ominus y$, which is in view of (2) equivalent to $x \oplus y = y \oplus x$. MV-algebras are usually defined as algebras $\mathbf{A} = \langle A; \oplus, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ such that $\langle A; \oplus, 0 \rangle$ is a commutative monoid, satisfying the identities (5), (6) and $1 \oplus x = 1 = 0'$; see [6].

We have seen that orthomodular lattices correspond to lattice effect algebras satisfying the condition that $x \leq x'$ implies $x = 0$. In the language of \mathcal{E} , this is equivalent to the identity $x \wedge x' = 0$, and in turn to $x \oplus x = x$. We let \mathcal{OM} denote the subvariety of \mathcal{E} defined by $x \wedge x' = 0$ or $x \oplus x = x$. Note that the total addition in orthomodular lattices is given by $x \oplus y = (x \wedge y') \vee y$, which is not the same as $x \vee y$.

The variety \mathcal{E} is congruence distributive, because its members are lattice based algebras. In fact, \mathcal{E} is an arithmetical variety; see [3]. Congruence distributivity implies that for any two subvarieties $\mathcal{V}_1, \mathcal{V}_2$ of \mathcal{E} one has $\text{Si}(\mathcal{V}_1 \vee \mathcal{V}_2) = \text{Si}(\mathcal{V}_1) \cup \text{Si}(\mathcal{V}_2)$, where $\text{Si}(\mathcal{K})$ denotes the class of subdirectly irreducible algebras in the respective class \mathcal{K} . Since there exist subdirectly irreducible algebras in \mathcal{E} which are neither in \mathcal{MV} nor in \mathcal{OM} , it follows that \mathcal{E} is not the join $\mathcal{MV} \vee \mathcal{OM}$. For instance, a non-trivial horizontal sum of non-Boolean MV-algebras is a simple algebra in \mathcal{E} , but it is neither an MV-algebra nor an orthomodular lattice.

The concept that plays a central role in our proof is compatibility (see [7], Sect. 1.10). In general, two elements x, y in an effect algebra are said to be *compatible*, in symbols $x \leftrightarrow y$, if there exist x_1, y_1, z such that $x = x_1 + z, y = y_1 + z$ and $x_1 + z + y_1$ is defined. It is obvious that $0 \leftrightarrow x \leftrightarrow 1$ and $x \leftrightarrow x'$ for any x . Also, if $x \leq y$ or $y \leq x$, then $x \leftrightarrow y$. Another important fact that we will use repeatedly is that $x \leftrightarrow y$ iff $x \leftrightarrow y'$. In lattice effect algebras we have

$$x \leftrightarrow y \quad \text{iff} \quad (x \vee y) - y = x - (x \wedge y) \quad \text{iff} \quad (x \vee y) - y \leq x \quad \text{iff} \quad x - (x \wedge y) \leq y',$$

and hence, in the language of the variety \mathcal{E} ,

$$x \leftrightarrow y \text{ iff } x \otimes y = x \ominus y \text{ iff } x \otimes y \leq x \text{ iff } x \ominus y \leq y'.$$

Since $x \leftrightarrow y$ iff $x \leftrightarrow y'$, it is also true that

$$x \leftrightarrow y \text{ iff } x \oplus y = y \oplus x \text{ iff } x \leq x \oplus y.$$

Consequently, since MV-effect algebras are lattice effect algebras where $x \leftrightarrow y$ for all x, y , the variety \mathcal{MV} may be axiomatized, relative to \mathcal{E} , by any of the identities $x \otimes y = x \ominus y$, $x \otimes y \leq x$, $x \ominus y \leq y'$, $x \oplus y = y \oplus x$ or $x \leq x \oplus y$.

A *block* of an effect algebra is a maximal set of mutually compatible elements. For lattice effect algebras Riečanová [17] proved that if x, y are compatible with a given z , then so are $x \vee y, x \wedge y, x + y$ (when defined) and $x - y$ (when defined). It follows that every block B of any algebra $A \in \mathcal{E}$ is a subuniverse of A , and obviously, the subalgebra B is an MV-algebra. The intersection of the blocks of A is called the *compatibility centre* and we denote it by $K(A)$. Clearly, $K(A) = \{a \in A \mid a \leftrightarrow x \text{ for all } x \in A\}$ and $K(A)$ is a subuniverse of A .

Though the addition \oplus is neither commutative nor associative,¹ we may unambiguously write $n \cdot x = x \oplus \dots \oplus x$ (with n occurrences of x) for any positive integer $n \in \mathbb{N}$, because every element x belongs to a block which is in fact an MV-algebra. We will mostly write just nx instead of $n \cdot x$.

By [3], the variety \mathcal{E} is congruence regular, i.e., any congruence θ of an algebra $A \in \mathcal{E}$ is determined by each of its classes $[a]_\theta$, and in particular, by $[0]_\theta$. We say that $I \subseteq A$ is an *ideal*² of A if $I = [0]_\theta$ for some congruence θ of A . Pulmannová and Vinceková [16] proved that $\emptyset \neq I \subseteq A$ is an ideal if and only if

- (i) $x \oplus y \in I$ for all $x, y \in I$;
- (ii) $x \otimes y \in I$ for all $x \in I$ and $y \in A$.

An alternative characterization of ideals can be found in [5]. Of course, if $A \in \mathcal{MV}$, then the condition (ii) amounts to saying that I is downwards closed.

For any ideal I of an algebra $A \in \mathcal{E}$, the only congruence $\theta(I)$ with the property that $[0]_{\theta(I)} = I$ is given by

$$\langle x, y \rangle \in \theta(I) \text{ iff } x \otimes y, y \otimes x \in I \text{ iff } x \ominus y, y \ominus x \in I.$$

When ordered by set inclusion, the ideals of $A \in \mathcal{E}$ form a distributive lattice that is isomorphic to the congruence lattice of A under the mutually inverse assignments $I \mapsto \theta(I)$ and $\theta \mapsto [0]_\theta$.

In general, we do not have a reasonable description of the ideal $\text{Ig}(X)$ generated by a given subset $X \subseteq A$, but if X is an ideal of the compatibility centre or $X = \{a\}$ where $a \in K(A)$, then $\text{Ig}(X)$ can be described easily:

Lemma 1 (cf. [12], Prop. 1) *Let $A \in \mathcal{E}$. If J is an ideal of the MV-algebra $K(A)$, then $\text{Ig}(J) = \{x \in A \mid x \leq a \text{ for some } a \in J\}$. In particular, for any $a \in K(A)$, $\text{Ig}(a) = \{x \in A \mid x \leq na \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.*

¹In fact, \oplus is commutative iff it is associative, which happens exactly in MV-algebras.

²In the literature on (lattice) effect algebras, the name “ideal” is often used for subsets which are closed with respect to $+$ and downwards closed, while our ideals defined above correspond to the so-called “Riesz ideals”.

Proof The first part is but a translation of [12], Prop. 1, into the language of the variety \mathcal{E} . Since $K(A)$ is an MV-algebra, it is obvious that for any $a \in K(A)$, the ideal of $K(A)$ generated by a is $\{x \in K(A) \mid x \leq na \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N}\}$, and consequently, the ideal of A generated by a is $\{x \in A \mid x \leq na \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. \square

We should notice that in any algebra $A \in \mathcal{E}$ we have

$$x \leq y \implies x \oplus z \leq y \oplus z, \quad x \otimes z \leq y \otimes z \quad \text{and} \quad z \ominus y \leq z \ominus x, \tag{9}$$

which follows directly from (1) and (3). In particular, we have $y \leq x \oplus y, x \otimes y \leq y'$ and $x \ominus y \leq x$. We will also need the identity

$$(x \wedge y) \oplus z = (x \oplus z) \wedge (y \oplus z), \tag{10}$$

which is over \mathcal{E} equivalent to the identities $(x \vee y) \otimes z = (x \otimes z) \vee (y \otimes z)$ and $x \ominus (y \wedge z) = (x \ominus y) \vee (x \ominus z)$. It is not hard to show (cf. [7], Prop. 1.8.6) that any lattice effect algebra satisfies the equality $(x \wedge y) + z = (x + z) \wedge (y + z)$ provided $x + z, y + z$ are defined, whence it follows that the identity (10) holds in every algebra in \mathcal{E} . In fact, (9) and (10) hold in all “basic algebras” (i.e., algebras satisfying (4)–(7), see [15]).

Lemma 2 *Let $A \in \mathcal{E}$. If $a_1, \dots, a_n, b \in A$ are such that $a_i \leftrightarrow b$ and $a_i \wedge b = 0$ for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, then $s(a_1, \dots, a_n) \leftrightarrow b$ and $s(a_1, \dots, a_n) \wedge b = 0$ for every additive term³ $s(x_1, \dots, x_n)$.*

Proof We know that if $a_i \leftrightarrow b$ for every $i = 1, \dots, n$, then also any “sum” of the a_i ’s is compatible with b . The rest is an easy induction: Suppose that $s = p \oplus q$ where p, q are additive terms for which the statement holds true. Let $c = p(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ and $d = q(a_1, \dots, a_n)$. Then $b \wedge c = b \wedge d = 0$ and, since $b \leftrightarrow d$ and using (10), we have $b \wedge s(a_1, \dots, a_n) = b \wedge (c \oplus d) = b \wedge (b \oplus d) \wedge (c \oplus d) = b \wedge ((b \wedge c) \oplus d) = b \wedge d = 0$. \square

Lemma 3 *Let $A \in \mathcal{E}$ and $a \in A$. Suppose that $(x \otimes (x \oplus y)) \wedge a = 0$ for all $x, y \in A$. Then $a \in K(A)$ and the polar $a^\perp = \{x \in A \mid x \wedge a = 0\}$ is an ideal of A such that $\text{Ig}(a) \cap a^\perp = \{0\}$.*

Proof We have $x \oplus y = y \oplus x$ whenever $x \leq y'$. Hence, by (8), $x' \oplus y \leq a \oplus (x' \oplus y) = (a' \otimes (x' \oplus y))'$ implies

$$\begin{aligned} ((x \otimes y) \wedge a)' &= (x' \oplus y) \vee a' = [a' \otimes (x' \oplus y)] \oplus (x' \oplus y) \\ &= (x' \oplus y) \oplus [a' \otimes (x' \oplus y)] = x' \oplus ([a' \otimes (x' \oplus y)] \oplus y), \end{aligned}$$

whence $((x \otimes y) \wedge a) \ominus x = x' \otimes ((x \otimes y) \wedge a)' = x' \otimes (x' \oplus z)$ where $z = (a' \otimes (x' \oplus y)) \oplus y$. But then $((x \otimes y) \wedge a) \ominus x \leq a$ yields $((x \otimes y) \wedge a) \ominus x = (x' \otimes (x' \oplus z)) \wedge a = 0$ by the assumption about a . Thus $(x \otimes y) \wedge a \leq x$ for all $x, y \in A$.

Then $x \otimes a' = (x \otimes a') \wedge a \leq x$ for any $x \in A$, because we have $x \otimes a' \leq 1 \otimes a' = a$. This shows that $a' \in K(A)$, whence also $a \in K(A)$. Now, (i) if $x, y \in a^\perp$, then $x \oplus y \in a^\perp$ by Lemma 2; and (ii) if $x \in a^\perp$, then $(x \otimes y) \wedge a \leq x \wedge a = 0$, so $x \otimes y \in a^\perp$. Hence a^\perp is an ideal of A .

Finally, if $x \in \text{Ig}(a) \cap a^\perp$, then $x \leq na$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ by Lemma 1, and $x \wedge a = 0$, which entails $x \wedge na = 0$ by Lemma 2. Thus $x = x \wedge na = 0$. \square

³By an additive term we mean a term built up from the variables using the addition \oplus only.

Now, let \mathcal{K} be a finitely based subvariety of \mathcal{E} incomparable with \mathcal{MV} , and suppose that \mathcal{K} is axiomatized, relative to \mathcal{E} , by an identity which is of the form

$$t(x_1, \dots, x_k) = 0.$$

Since \mathcal{K} is finitely based, it can always be axiomatized by a single identity of such a form. Indeed, any identity $p = q$ can be replaced with $p \diamond q = 0$ and $q \diamond p = 0$ where \diamond is \ominus or \oslash , and any finite family of identities $t_1 = 0, \dots, t_n = 0$ can be replaced with the identity $t_1 \vee \dots \vee t_n = 0$.

Theorem 4 *If \mathcal{K} is as above, then the join of \mathcal{MV} and \mathcal{K} is axiomatized, relative to \mathcal{E} , by the identity*

$$(x \oslash (x \oplus y)) \wedge t(z_1, \dots, z_k) = 0. \tag{11}$$

Proof Let \mathcal{K}' be the subvariety of \mathcal{E} axiomatized by (11). Since $x \oslash (x \oplus y) = 0$ holds in \mathcal{MV} and $t(z_1, \dots, z_k) = 0$ in \mathcal{K} , it is obvious that (11) holds in \mathcal{MV} as well as in \mathcal{K} . Hence $\mathcal{MV} \vee \mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{K}'$.

Conversely, let $A \in \text{Si}(\mathcal{K}')$ and suppose that $A \notin \mathcal{K}$, i.e., there exist $a_1, \dots, a_k \in A$ such that $t(a_1, \dots, a_k) \neq 0$. Let $b = t(a_1, \dots, a_k)$. Then $(x \oslash (x \oplus y)) \wedge b = 0$ for any $x, y \in A$, and so, by Lemma 3, b^\perp is an ideal such that $\text{Ig}(b) \cap b^\perp = \{0\}$. Since A is a subdirectly irreducible algebra and $\text{Ig}(b) \neq \{0\}$, we have $b^\perp = \{0\}$. But $x \oslash (x \oplus y) \in b^\perp$ for all $x, y \in A$, hence A satisfies the identity $x \oslash (x \oplus y) = 0$, i.e. $x \leq x \oplus y$. In other words, $A \in \mathcal{MV}$. Therefore, $\text{Si}(\mathcal{K}') \subseteq \text{Si}(\mathcal{MV}) \cup \text{Si}(\mathcal{K}) = \text{Si}(\mathcal{MV} \vee \mathcal{K})$, whence $\mathcal{K}' \subseteq \mathcal{MV} \vee \mathcal{K}$. □

Let us return to orthomodular lattices. The variety \mathcal{OM} is axiomatized, relative to \mathcal{E} , by the identity $x \wedge x' = 0$, i.e., the term $t(x_1, \dots, x_k)$ from the above theorem is $t(x) = x \wedge x'$, and hence by Theorem 4 we obtain:

Corollary 5 *The join of \mathcal{MV} and \mathcal{OM} is axiomatized, relative to \mathcal{E} , by the identity*

$$(x \oslash (x \oplus y)) \wedge z \wedge z' = 0.$$

Let $\langle D; +, 0, 1 \rangle$ be the so-called distributive diamond, i.e., the lattice effect algebra with universe $D = \{0, a, b, 1\}$ such that $a + a = 1 = b + b$, while $a + b$ and $b + a$ are not defined. This effect algebra has a prominent role for distributive lattice effect algebras because by [10], every finite distributive lattice effect algebra is isomorphic to a direct product of chains and diamonds. Let \mathbf{D} be the corresponding algebra in \mathcal{E} . Note that $a \oplus b = b$ and $b \oplus a = a$. Relative to the variety \mathcal{DE} of distributive members of \mathcal{E} , the variety $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{D})$ generated by \mathbf{D} was axiomatized by the identity $(x \ominus y) \ominus 2z = (x \ominus 2z) \ominus (y \ominus 2z)$ in [11], and by $2x = 3x$ in [4]. Using Theorem 4 we can simplify the axiomatization of the join of \mathcal{MV} and $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{D})$ which was given in [1]. We may take the term $t(x) = 3x \oslash 2x$.

Corollary 6 *The join of \mathcal{MV} and $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{D})$ is axiomatized, relative to \mathcal{DE} , by the identity*

$$(x \oslash (x \oplus y)) \wedge (3z \oslash 2z) = 0.$$

Acknowledgments This work has been supported by the Palacký University project IGA PrF 2014016 “Mathematical Structures” and by the MOBILITY project 7AMB13AT005 “Partially Ordered Algebraic Systems and Algebras”. The first author has also been supported by the Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) project 15-15286S “Algebraic, Many-valued and Quantum Structures for Uncertainty Modelling”.

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