Discussiones Mathematicae
General Algebra and Applications 43 (2023) 141–148
https://doi.org/10.7151/dmgaa.1415

A PRE-PERIOD OF A FINITE DISTRIBUTIVE LATTICE

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Abstract

The notion of a pre-preriod of a finite bounded distributive lattice (BDL) A is defined by means of the notion of a pre-period of a finite connected monounary algebra: it is the maximum value of the pre-period of an endomorphism and 0-fixing connected mapping of A to A. The main result is that the pre-period of any finite BDL is less than or equal to the length of the lattice; also, necessary and sufficient conditions under which it is equal to the length of the lattice, are shown.

Keywords: distributive lattice, pre-period, connected unary operation, BDLC-algebra.

2020 Mathematics Subject Classification: 06D99, 08A30, 08B26.

1. Introduction

The aim of the paper is to study some properties of endomorphism of bounded lattices.

An endomorphism f of a structure A can be considered as a unary operation and $\langle A; f\rangle$ is a monounary algebra.

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The importance of theory of unary and monounary algebras is pointed out for example in the monographs [7, 9, 10, 11]. The advantage of monounary algebras is their relatively easy visualization as they can be represented as planar directed graphs. Endomorphism of monounary algebras were investigated, e.g., in [4, 5, 8, 12, 13].

The results of the present paper can be considered as a modest contribution in the direction of studying finite distributive lattices, by applying theory of monounary algebras.

Let $f : A \to A$ be a unary operation on a set A. Let f^0 be the identity map on A and $\mathrm{Im}(f) := \{f(a) \mid a \in A\}$. A *pre-period* (or *stabilizer*) of f is the least nonnegative integer n satisfying $\mathrm{Im} f^n = \mathrm{Im} f^{n+1}$ and denoted by $\lambda(f)$ (see e.g.[16]). Let us remark that the notion of $\lambda(f)$ was defined for finite monounary algebras only. However, $\lambda(f)$ exists also for some infinite algebras, so we will always mention whether we deal with a finite or an infinite case. An operation f on A is *connected* if for each $a, b \in A$, there exist nonnegative integers n, m such that $f^n(a) = f^m(b)$. The results from [14] and [3] imply that $\lambda(f) \leq |A| - 1$ and if $\lambda(f) = |A| - 1$ then f is connected.

A Boolean algebra is a bounded distributive lattice $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, 0, 1\rangle$ equipped with an onto operation $f : A \to A$ which maps x to the complement of x satisfying $x \vee f(x) = 0$ and $x \wedge f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in A$. Since f is onto, $\lambda(f) = 0$; furthermore, f is not connected if $|A| > 2$.

Clearly, all constant functions are connected endomorphisms of $\langle A; \vee, \wedge\rangle$. Several authors focus specially on connected monounary algebras (see e.g., [6, 15]). It will be shown (Lemma 1), that any connected order-preserving mapping f of a bounded poset A has an (obviously, unique) fix-point and also, that $\lambda(f)$ is defined, even in the case when A is infinite.

We are going to investigate bounded distributive lattices (shortly, BDL) $\widehat{A} = \langle A; \vee, \wedge, 0, 1\rangle$ and connected endomorphisms of $\langle A; \vee, \wedge\rangle$. Moreover, with respect to Lemma 1, let us consider only the endomorphisms fixing the least element 0. If there is an n such that n is the maximum of all $\lambda(f)$, then we set

$$\lambda(\widehat{A}) := n.$$

It is interesting whether for each positive number k, can we find a connected endomorphism f with $\lambda(f) = k$.

Applying some results of [1, 2] we will show that if a BDL is finite, then $\lambda(\widehat{A})$ is less or equal to the length of the lattice. Also, we prove necessary and suficient conditions under which

$$\lambda(\widehat{A}) = \mathrm{length}(\widehat{A}).$$

2. Preliminaries

Lemma 1. *Let A be a bounded poset and let f be a connected order-preserving mapping of A. Then f has a unique fix-point α and $\lambda(f)$ is the greater number of* $\min\{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \mid f^n(1) = \alpha\}$ *and* $\min\{m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \mid f^m(0) = \alpha\}$.

Proof. Suppose that f is connected and preserves $\leq$. Then there exist the least nonnegative integers m and n such that $f^m(0) = f^n(1) = \alpha$ and $f^m(0) \leq f^{m+1}(0)$ and $f^{n+1}(1) \leq f^n(1)$ which imply that $f(\alpha) = \alpha$.

Let k be the considered greater number. If $x \in A$, then $0 < x < 1$ yields $\alpha = f^k(0) \leq f^k(x) \leq f^k(1) = \alpha$, hence $\lambda(f) \leq k$. The equality follows from the definition of k. ∎

An algebra $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, f, 0, 1\rangle$ is called a *BDLC-algebra* if $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, 0, 1\rangle$ is a BDL and f is a connected endomorphism on $\langle A; \vee, \wedge\rangle$ fixed 0. For each $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, let $\mathcal{M}_n$ be the class of all BDLC-algebras $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, f, 0, 1\rangle$ whose $\lambda(f) \leq n$ and it is shown in [1] that $\mathcal{M}_n$ is the variety satisfying the following identities:

- $f(a \vee b) \approx f(a) \vee f(b)$,
- $f(a \wedge b) \approx f(a) \wedge f(b)$,
- $f(0) \approx 0$,
- $f^n(1) \approx 0$.

For each positive integer n and BDL $\widehat{A} = \langle A; \vee, \wedge, 0, 1\rangle$, define $\underline{\mathrm{A}}^{*n} := \langle A^n; \vee, \wedge, f, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}\rangle$ whose $\langle A^n; \vee, \wedge, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}\rangle$ is the usual direct product of $\widehat{A}$ and $f : A^n \to A^n$ is defined by $f(a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n) = (a_2, \ldots, a_n, 0)$ for all $a_i \in A$ and $1 \leq i \leq n$. Denote $\mathbf{0} := (\underbrace{0, \ldots, 0}_{n})$, $\mathbf{1} := (\underbrace{1, \ldots, 1}_{n})$ and $\underline{\mathrm{A}}^{*0}$ to be the trivial BDLC-algebra. In particular, if $\widehat{A}$ is the 2-element chain then we call it that an *n-cube BDLC-algebra*, denoted by $\underline{2}^{*n}$. In [2], Charoenpol and Ratanaprasert proved the following facts.

Theorem 2 [2]**.** *Let $\underline{\mathrm{A}} = \langle A; \vee, \wedge, f, 0, 1\rangle$ be a BDLC-algebra with $\lambda(f) = n$. The following are equivalent:*

1. *$\underline{\mathrm{A}}$ is a subdirectly irreducible algebra,*
2. *$0 = f^n(1) \prec f^{n-1}(1) \prec \ldots \prec f(1) \prec 1$,*
3. *$\underline{\mathrm{A}} \leq \underline{2}^{*n}$.*

Theorem 3 [2]**.** *For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathcal{M}_n$ is a variety generated by $\underline{2}^{*n}$.*

3. A REPRESENTATION OF A BDLC-ALGEBRA

For each BDLC-algebra $\underline{\mathrm{A}}$, there is a natural number n such that $\underline{\mathrm{A}} \in \mathcal{M}_n$ which implies that $\underline{\mathrm{A}}$ is a homomorphic image of subalgebra of direct product of $\underline{2}^{*n}$.

Lemma 4. *For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $(\underline{2}^{*n})^I \cong (\underline{2}^I)^{*n}$.*

Proof. Define a function $\psi : (\underline{2}^{*n})^I \to (\underline{2}^I)^{*n}$ by $\psi(a) = (\pi_1 \circ a, \pi_2 \circ a, \ldots, \pi_n \circ a)$ for all $a \in (\underline{2}^{*n})^I$ where $\pi_i : \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$ is the $i-$projection for all $1 \leq i \leq n$. It is routine to show that the mapping ψ is an isomorphism. ■

This theorem implies that for each $\underline{\mathrm{A}} \in \mathcal{M}_n$, there exist $\underline{\mathrm{B}} \leq (\underline{2}^I)^{*n}$ and homomorphism $h : \underline{\mathrm{B}} \to \underline{\mathrm{A}}$ such that $\underline{\mathrm{A}} = h(\underline{\mathrm{B}})$. So for $a, b \in \underline{\mathrm{A}}$, one can see that $a = h(\bar{a}_1, \ldots, \bar{a}_n)$ and $b = h(\bar{b}_1, \ldots, \bar{b}_n)$ for some $\bar{a}_i, \bar{b}_i \in \underline{2}^I$ (that is, $\bar{a}_i, \bar{b}_i : I \to \underline{2}$); and hence,

$$a \vee b = h(\bar{a}_1 \vee \bar{b}_1, \ldots, \bar{a}_n \vee \bar{b}_n)$$

and

$$a \wedge b = h(\bar{a}_1 \wedge \bar{b}_1, \ldots, \bar{a}_n \wedge \bar{b}_n).$$

Moreover,

$$f(a) = h(\bar{a}_2, \ldots, \bar{a}_n, \bar{0}), 1_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}} = h(\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}) \text{ and } 0_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}} = h(\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0})$$

where $\bar{0}$ and $\bar{1}$ are the constant function 0 and 1, respectively. Since h preserves $\leq$, we have $h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-j}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{j}) \leq h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-j+1}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{j-1})$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$. The following theorem shows the classification of j with $h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-j}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{j}) = h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-j+1}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{j-1})$.

Theorem 5. *For each BDLC-algebra $\underline{\mathrm{A}}$ with $\lambda(f) = m$, if $h : \underline{\mathrm{B}} \to \underline{\mathrm{A}}$ is a homomorphism for some $\underline{\mathrm{B}} \leq (\underline{2}^I)^{*n}$, then $h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-m+i}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{m-i}) < h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-m+(i+1)}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{m-(i+1)})$ for all $0 \leq i \leq m-1$ and $h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-i}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{i}) = 0_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}}$ for all $m \leq i \leq n$.*

Proof. Let $h : \underline{\mathrm{B}} \to \underline{\mathrm{A}}$ be a homomorphism for some $\underline{\mathrm{B}} \leq (\underline{2}^I)^{*n}$ and $0 \leq i \leq m-1$. Suppose that $h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-m+i}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{m-i}) = h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-m+(i+1)}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{m-(i+1)})$. Since h preserves f, we get $h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-m+i-1}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{m-i+1}) = h(\underbrace{\bar{1}, \ldots, \bar{1}}_{n-m+i}, \underbrace{\bar{0}, \ldots, \bar{0}}_{m-i})$. By continuity in this way, this implies that $h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-m+(i+1)},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{m-(i+1)}) = 0_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}}$. So, $f^{m-(i+1)}(1_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}}) = f^{m-(i+1)}(h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n})) = h(f^{m-(i+1)}(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n})) = h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-m+(i+1)},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{m-(i+1)}) = 0_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}}$, a contradict with $\lambda(f) = m$. Therefore, $h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-m+i},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{m-i}) < h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-m+(i+1)},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{m-(i+1)})$.

Let $m \le i \le n$. Since $\lambda(f) = m$, we have $0_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}} \le h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-i},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{i}) \le h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-m},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{m}) = 0_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}}$ which implies that $h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-i},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{i}) = 0_{\underline{\mathrm{A}}}$. ■

Corollary 6. *For each BDLC-algebra $\underline{\mathrm{A}}$ with $\lambda(f) = m$, there exists an $(m+1)$-element chain as a sublattice of $\widehat{A}$. Moreover, the chain is*

$$0 = h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-m},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{m}) < h(\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{n-m+1},\underbrace{\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}}_{m-1}) < \cdots < h(\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}) = 1.$$

4. A Pre-Period of a Finite Bounded Distributive Lattice

Now, our tools are ready to investigate $\lambda(\widehat{A})$ for any finite BDL $\widehat{A}$. Since the constant mapping $f(x) = 0$ is a connected endomorphism fixing 0 with $\lambda(f) = 1$, we obtain $\lambda(\widehat{A}) \ge 1$.

Theorem 7. *For each finite BDL $\widehat{A} = \langle A; \vee, \wedge, 0, 1\rangle$ and $k \le \lambda(\widehat{A})$, there is a unary operation f_k on A such that $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, f_k, 0, 1\rangle$ is a BDLC-algebra with $\lambda(f_k) = k$.*

Proof. Suppose that $\lambda(\widehat{A}) = m$. Then there is a unary operation f such that $\underline{\mathrm{A}} = \langle A; \vee, \wedge, f, 0, 1\rangle$ is a BDLC-algebra with $\lambda(f) = m$. So, $\underline{\mathrm{A}} = h(\underline{\mathrm{B}})$ for some $\underline{\mathrm{B}} \le (\underline{2}^I)^{*m}$ and homomorphism h. Let $k \le m$, define $f_k : A \to A$ by

$$f_k(h(\bar{a}_1,\dots,\bar{a}_m)) = h(\bar{a}_2,\dots,\bar{a}_k,\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0})$$

for all $(\bar{a}_1,\dots,\bar{a}_m) \in B$. Since $\underline{\mathrm{B}} \le (\underline{2}^I)^{*m}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}(\bar{a}_2,\dots,\bar{a}_k,\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0}) &= (\bar{a}_2,\dots,\bar{a}_m,\bar{0}) \wedge (\underbrace{\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}}_{k-1},\bar{0},\dots,\bar{0})\\ &= f_{\underline{\mathrm{B}}}(\bar{a}_1,\dots,\bar{a}_m) \wedge f_{\underline{\mathrm{B}}}^{m-k+1}(\bar{1},\dots,\bar{1}) \in B\end{aligned}$$

for all $(\bar{a}_1,\dots,\bar{a}_m) \in B$. So, f_k is well-defined. It is clear that $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, f_k, 0, 1\rangle$ is a BDLC-algebra with $\lambda(f_k) = k$. ■

Theorem 8. *Let $\widehat{A}$ be a finite BDL. Then*

$$\lambda(\widehat{A}) \leq \text{length}(\widehat{A}).$$

Proof. The assertion follows from Corollary 6. ■

Example 9. Let $\widehat{A} = \langle A; \vee, \wedge, 0, 1\rangle$ be a BDL which is shown as Figure 1.

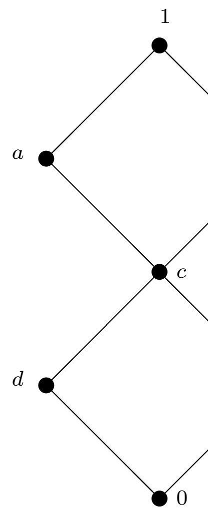

Figure 1. A bounded distributive lattice.

Due to Theorem 8, $\lambda(\widehat{A}) \leq 4$.

Suppose that $\lambda(\widehat{A}) = 4$. Then we can define f such that $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, f, 0, 1\rangle$ is a BDLC-algebra with $\lambda(f) = 4$. We may assume that $f(1) = a$, $f(a) = c$, $f(c) = d$ and $f(d) = 0$. Since $a = f(1) = f(a \vee b) = f(a) \vee f(b) = c \vee f(b)$, we get $f(b) = a$ which implies that $d = f(c) = f(a \wedge b) = f(a) \wedge f(b) = c \wedge a = c$, a contradiction. So, $\lambda(\widehat{A}) \leq 3$.

Define $f : A \to A$ by $f(1) = f(b) = c$, $f(a) = f(c) = f(e) = d$ and $f(d) = f(0) = 0$. One can see that f preserves $\wedge$, $\vee$ and 0. Hence, $\langle A; \vee, \wedge, f, 0, 1\rangle$ is a BDLC-algebra with $\lambda(f) = 3$. So, $\lambda(\widehat{A}) = 3$.

Theorem 10. *Let $\widehat{A}$ be a finite BDL. Then*

$$\lambda(\widehat{A}) = \text{length}(\widehat{A}) \textit{ if and only if } 0 = f^{\lambda(f)}(1) \prec f^{\lambda(f)-1}(1) \prec \cdots \prec f(1) \prec 1$$

for some connected endomorphism f on $\langle A; \vee, \wedge\rangle$ fixing 0.

Proof. Suppose that $\lambda(\widehat{A}) = n$ and we choose a connected endomorphism f on $\langle A; \vee, \wedge\rangle$ fixing 0 with $\lambda(f) = n$. Hence, n is the smallest natural number with

$f^n(1) = 0$. Furthermore, $C = \{1 > f(1) > \cdots > f^{n-1} > f^n(1) = 0\}$ is a chain with $|C| = n + 1$. Since $\widehat{A}$ is distributive,

$$\begin{aligned} n = \mathrm{length}(\widehat{A}) &\Leftrightarrow C \text{ is a maximal chain} \\ &\Leftrightarrow 0 = f^n(1) \prec f^{n-1}(1) \prec \cdots \prec f(1) \prec 1. \end{aligned}$$ ■

Corollary 11. *The pre-period of the directed product $\widehat{2}^n$ of the 2-element chain $\widehat{2}$ is equal to n for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$; that is, $\lambda_0(\widehat{2}^n) = n$.*

Acknowledgment

The authors are grateful to the referee(s) for improving the quality of the manuscript. The first author also thanks Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bundit Pibaljommee for his suggestions. This work was financially supported by young researcher development project of Khon Kaen University.

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Received 19 February 2021
Revised 30 September 2021
Accepted 23 November 2021