

# SMALL CONGRUENCE LATTICES

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joint work with

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Rocky Mountain Algebraic Combinatorics Seminar

Colorado State University

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# THE PROBLEM

CHARACTERIZE CONGRUENCE LATTICES OF FINITE ALGEBRAS.

For an arbitrary algebra, there is essentially no restriction on the shape of its congruence lattice.

**THEOREM (GRÄTZER-SCHMIDT, 1963)**

*Every algebraic lattice is isomorphic to the congruence lattice of an algebra.*

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**Problem:** Given an arbitrary finite lattice  $L$ , does there exist finite algebra  $A$  such that  $\text{Con } A \cong L$ ?

### DEFINITION

We call a finite lattice **representable** if it is (isomorphic to) the congruence lattice of a finite algebra.

## A FEW IMPORTANT THEOREMS

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THEOREM (BERMAN, QUACKENBUSH & WOLK, 1970)

*Every finite distributive lattice is representable.*

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Given a finite lattice  $\mathbf{L}$ , prove there exists a finite algebra  $\mathbf{A}$  with  $\text{Con } \mathbf{A} \cong \mathbf{L}$ .

## PART 1: METHODS

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How to prove the existence of a finite algebra with a given congruence lattice?

## HOW TO PROVE A FINITE LATTICE IS REPRESENTABLE

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## 1. USE CLOSURE PROPERTIES

Relate the given lattice to other lattices known to be representable.

- If  $L$  is representable, so is
  - A. the dual of  $L$  (Kurzweil 1985, Netter)
  - B. any interval sublattice of  $L$  (follows from A.)
  - C. any sublattice that is the union of a principal filter and principal idea of  $L$  (Snow, 2000)
- If  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are representable, so is
  - 1. the direct product of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  (Tuma 1989)
  - 2. the ordinal sum of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  (McKenzie 1984, Snow 2000)
  - 3. the parallel sum of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  (Snow 2000)



# HOW TO PROVE A FINITE LATTICE IS REPRESENTABLE

## 2. THE CLOSURE METHOD

Find a “closed” representation of  $L$  in  $\mathbf{Eq}(X)$ .

- For  $L \leq \mathbf{Eq}(X)$  define

$$\lambda(L) = \{f \in X^X : (\forall \theta \in L) f(\theta) \subseteq \theta\}$$

- For  $F \subseteq X^X$  define

$$\rho(F) = \{\theta \in \mathbf{Eq}(X) : (\forall f \in F) f(\theta) \subseteq \theta\}$$

- The map  $\rho\lambda$  is a *closure operator* on  $\mathbf{Sub}[\mathbf{Eq}(X)]$ .  
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A lattice  $L \leq \mathbf{Eq}(X)$  is a congruence lattice if and only if it is closed, i.e.  $\rho\lambda(L) = L$ , in which case  $L = \mathbf{Con} \langle X, \lambda(L) \rangle$ .

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**Example:**  $M_3 \cong L \leq \text{Eq}(5)$

# HOW TO PROVE A FINITE LATTICE IS REPRESENTABLE

## 3. THE G-SET METHOD

Find  $L$  as an interval in a subgroup lattice of a finite group.

If  $H \leq G$  are finite groups, then the filter above  $H$  in  $\text{Sub}(G)$ ,

$$[[H, G]] := \{K : H \leq K \leq G\},$$

is isomorphic to  $\text{Con} \langle G/H, \bar{G} \rangle$ .

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## 4. THE RABBIT EARS METHOD (AKA OVERALGEBRAS, AKA EXPANSION-EXTENSION)

Build the required algebra by gluing together isomorphic copies of an algebra and adding new operations.

## THE G-SET METHOD: DETAILS

For groups  $H \leq G$ , let  $\mathbf{A} = \langle H \backslash G, \bar{G} \rangle$  denote the algebra with

- universe: the right cosets  $H \backslash G = \{Hx : x \in G\}$
- operations:  $\bar{G} = \{g^{\mathbf{A}} : g \in G\}$ , where  $g^{\mathbf{A}}(Hx) = Hxg$ .

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$$\text{Con } \mathbf{A} \cong \llbracket H, G \rrbracket := \{K : H \leq K \leq G\}.$$

*The isomorphism  $\llbracket H, G \rrbracket \ni K \mapsto \theta_K \in \text{Con } \mathbf{A}$  is given by*

$$\theta_K = \{(Hx, Hy) : xy^{-1} \in K\}.$$

*The inverse isomorphism  $\text{Con } \mathbf{A} \ni \theta \mapsto K_\theta \in \llbracket H, G \rrbracket$  is*

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**Aside:** properties of such congruence lattices correspond to properties of subgroup lattices. For example,

### LEMMA

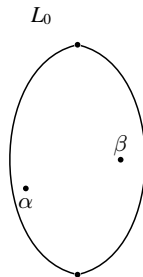
*In  $\text{Con } \langle H \backslash G, \bar{G} \rangle$ , two congruences,  $\theta_{K_1}$  and  $\theta_{K_2}$ ,  $n$ -permute if and only if the corresponding subgroups,  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ ,  $n$ -permute.*



## FILTER+IDEAL METHOD: DETAILS

### LEMMA

Suppose  $L_0 \cong \text{Con } \langle A, F \rangle$ , and  $\alpha, \beta \in L_0 \setminus \{0, 1\}$ .

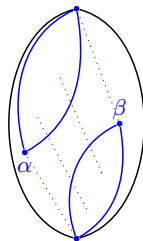


## FILTER+IDEAL METHOD: DETAILS

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Suppose  $L_0 \cong \text{Con } \langle A, F \rangle$ , and  $\alpha, \beta \in L_0 \setminus \{0, 1\}$ . Consider  $L = \alpha^\uparrow \cup \beta^\downarrow$ .

$$L \leqslant L_0$$



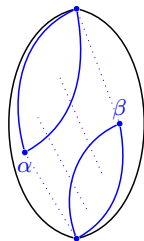
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There exists a set  $F' \subset A^A$  such that  $L \cong \text{Con} \langle A, F \cup F' \rangle$ .

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There exists a set  $F' \subset A^A$  such that  $L \cong \text{Con} \langle A, F \cup F' \rangle$ .

Proof:

Fix  $\theta \in L_0 \setminus L$ . Then  $\alpha \not\leq \theta \not\leq \beta$ , so

- $\exists (a, b) \in \alpha \setminus \theta$ ,
- $\exists (u, v) \in \theta \setminus \beta$ .

Define  $f_\theta : A \rightarrow A$  by

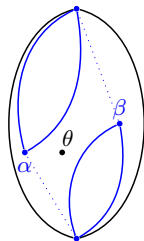
$$f_\theta(x) = \begin{cases} a & x \in u/\beta, \\ b & x \notin u/\beta. \end{cases}$$

Then

- $(f_\theta(u), f_\theta(v)) = (a, b) \notin \theta$ , so  $f_\theta(\theta) \not\leq \theta$ ,
- $\ker f_\theta \geq \beta$ , so  $f_\theta(\gamma) \subseteq \gamma$  for all  $\gamma \leq \beta$ ,
- $f_\theta(A) \subseteq \{a, b\}$ , so  $f_\theta(\gamma) \subseteq \gamma$  for all  $\gamma \geq \alpha$ .

Let  $F' = \{f_\theta : \theta \in L_0 \setminus L\}$ .

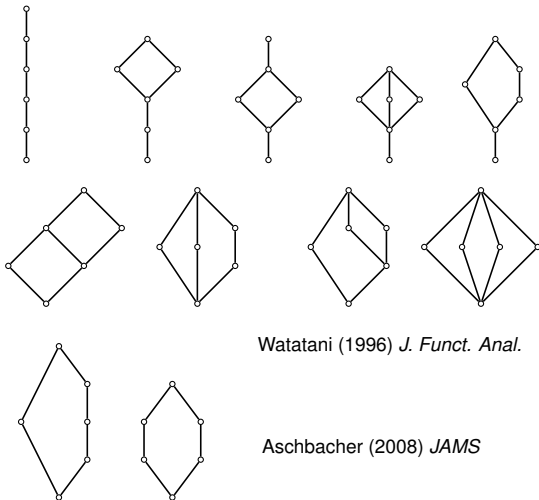
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## PART 2: ATLAS

Which finite lattices are known to be representable?

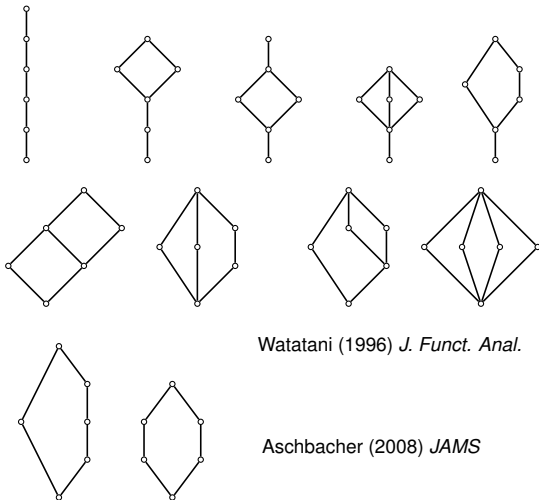
# LATTICES WITH AT MOST 6 ELEMENTS ARE REPRESENTABLE.



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Aschbacher (2008) *JAMS*

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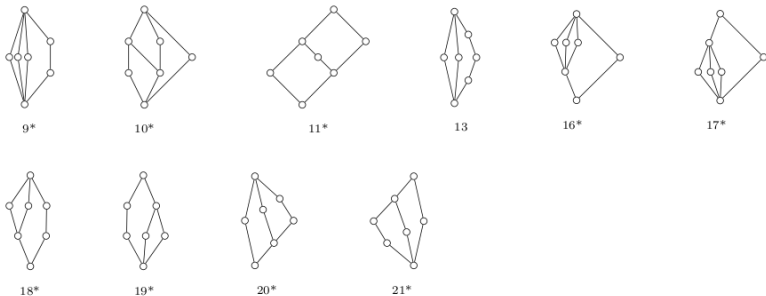
Aschbacher (2008) *JAMS*

**Theorem:** *Lattices with at most 6 elements are intervals in subgroup lattices of finite groups.*

# ARE ALL LATTICES WITH AT MOST 7 ELEMENTS REPRESENTABLE?

*As of Spring 2011...*

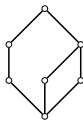
**LATTICES OF SIZE  $\leq 7$  NOT YET KNOWN TO BE CONGRUENCE  
LATTICES OF FINITE ALGEBRAS**



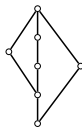
*Figure courtesy of Peter Jipsen.*



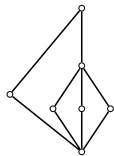
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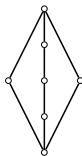
$L_{19}$



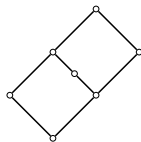
$L_{20}$



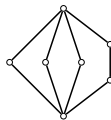
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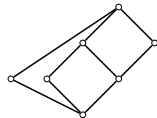
$L_{13}$



$L_{11}$

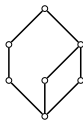


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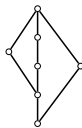


$L_{10}$

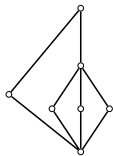
ARE ALL LATTICES WITH AT MOST 7 ELEMENTS REPRESENTABLE?



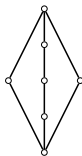
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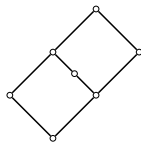
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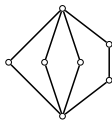
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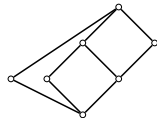
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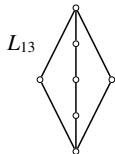
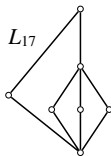
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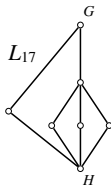
# FINDING REPRESENTATIONS...

...AS INTERVALS IN SUBGROUP LATTICES



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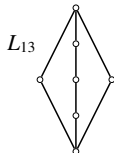
...AS INTERVALS IN SUBGROUP LATTICES



`SmallGroup(288,1025)`

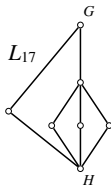
$$|G : H| = 48$$

- The group  $G = (A_4 \times A_4) \rtimes C_2$  has a subgroup  $H \cong S_3$  such that  $\llbracket H, G \rrbracket \cong L_{17}$ .
- ...so the dual  $L_{16}$  is also representable.



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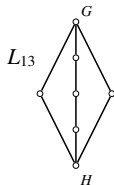
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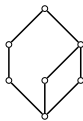


SmallGroup(960,11358)

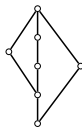
$$|G : H| = 80$$

- The group  $G = (C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2) \rtimes A_5$  has a subgroup  $H \cong A_4$  such that  $\llbracket H, G \rrbracket \cong L_{13}$ .

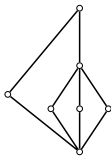
ARE ALL LATTICES WITH AT MOST 7 ELEMENTS REPRESENTABLE?



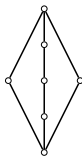
$L_{19}$  ✓



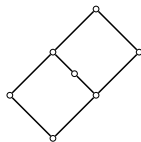
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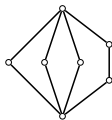
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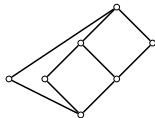
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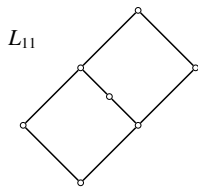
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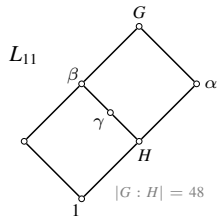
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...USING SUBGROUP LATTICE INTERVALS AND THE FILTER+IDEAL LEMMA.

SmallGroup(288,1025)



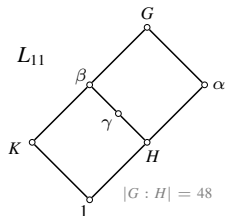
- Let  $G = (A_4 \times A_4) \rtimes C_2$ .
- $G$  has a subgroup  $H \cong C_6$  with  $\llbracket H, G \rrbracket \cong N_5$ .
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# FINDING REPRESENTATIONS...

...USING SUBGROUP LATTICE INTERVALS AND THE FILTER+IDEAL LEMMA.

SmallGroup(288,1025)



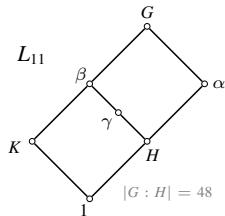
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$$L_{11} \cong K^\downarrow \cup H^\uparrow.$$

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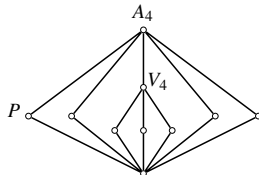
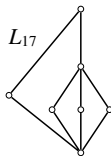
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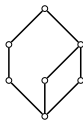


- $\text{Sub}(A_4)$  is a congruence lattice (of  $A_4$  acting regularly on itself).
- Therefore,

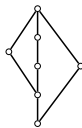
$$L_{17} \cong V_4^\downarrow \cup P^\uparrow$$

is a congruence lattice.

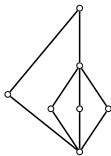
# ARE ALL LATTICES WITH AT MOST 7 ELEMENTS REPRESENTABLE?



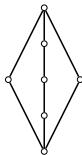
$L_{19}$  ✓



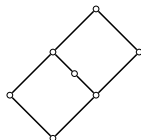
$L_{20}$  ✓



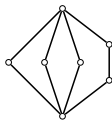
$L_{17}$  ✓



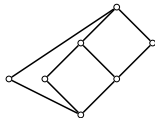
$L_{13}$  ✓



$L_{11}$  ✓

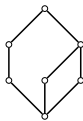


$L_9$

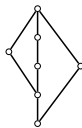


$L_{10}$

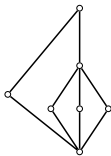
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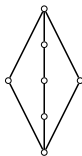
$L_{19}$  ✓



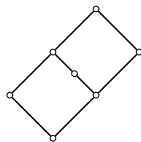
$L_{20}$  ✓



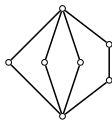
$L_{17}$  ✓



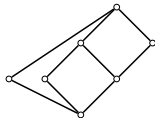
$L_{13}$  ✓



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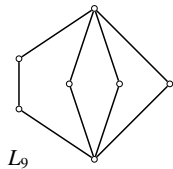
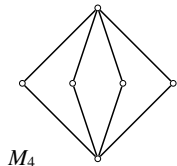


$L_9$  ✓



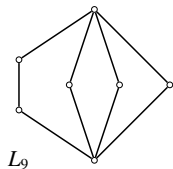
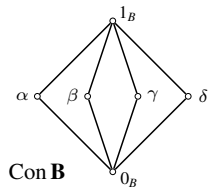
$L_{10}$

# CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALGEBRA $\mathbf{A}$ WITH $\text{Con } \mathbf{A} \cong L_9$ .



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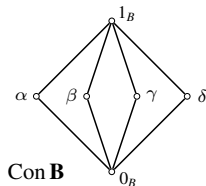
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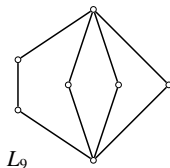
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Example:



- Let  $B = \{0, 1, \dots, 5\}$  index the elements of  $S_3$  and consider the right regular action of  $S_3$  on itself.
- $g_0 = (0, 4)(1, 3)(2, 5)$  and  $g_1 = (0, 1, 2)(3, 4, 5)$  generate this action group, the image of  $S_3 \hookrightarrow S_6$ .
- $\text{Con } \langle B, \{g_0, g_1\} \rangle \cong M_4$  with congruences

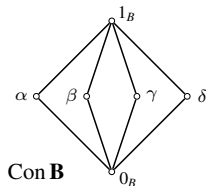
$$\alpha = |012|345|, \beta = |03|14|25|, \gamma = |04|15|23|, \delta = |05|13|24|.$$



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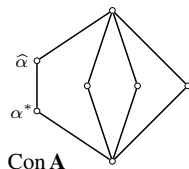
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**Goal:** expand  $\mathbf{B}$  to an algebra  $\mathbf{A}$  that has  $\alpha$  “doubled” in  $\text{Con } \mathbf{A}$ .

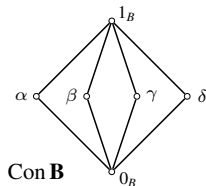




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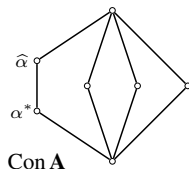
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**STEP 2** Since  $\alpha = \text{Cg}^{\mathbf{B}}(0, 2)$ , we let  $A = B_0 \cup B_1 \cup B_2$  where

$$B_0 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = B$$

$$B_1 = \{0, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$$

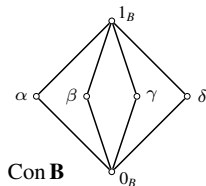
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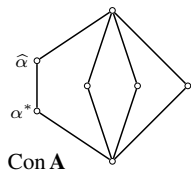
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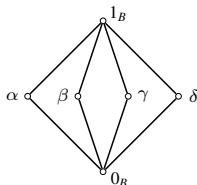
$$B_0 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = B$$

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$$B_2 = \{11, 12, 13, 14, 15\}.$$

**STEP 3** Define unary operations  $e_0, e_1, e_2, s, g_0e_0$ , and  $g_1e_0$ .

# CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALGEBRA $\mathbf{A}$ WITH $\text{Con } \mathbf{A} \cong L_9$ .



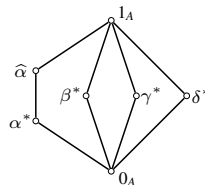
$\text{Con } \langle B, \{g_0, g_1\} \rangle$

$$\alpha = |0, 1, 2|3, 4, 5|$$

$$\beta = |0, 3|1, 4|2, 5|$$

$$\gamma = |0, 4|1, 5|2, 3|$$

$$\delta = |0, 5|1, 3|2, 4|$$



$\text{Con } \langle A, F_A \rangle$

$$\hat{\alpha} = |0, 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12|3, 4, 5|8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15|$$

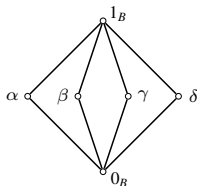
$$\alpha^* = |0, 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12|3, 4, 5|8, 9, 10|13, 14, 15|$$

$$\beta^* = |0, 3, 8|1, 4|2, 5, 15|6, 9|7, 10|11, 13|12, 14|$$

$$\gamma^* = |0, 4, 9|1, 5|2, 3, 13|6, 10|7, 8|11, 14|12, 15|$$

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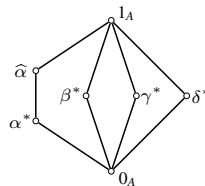
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$$\delta^* = |0, 5, 10|1, 3|2, 4, 14|6, 8|7, 9, 11, 15|12, 13|$$

$$\alpha = \alpha^* \cap B^2 = \hat{\alpha} \cap B^2, \quad \beta = \beta^* \cap B^2, \quad \dots$$

## WHY DOES IT WORK?

$$\text{Con} \langle B, \{g_0, g_1\} \rangle$$

$$\alpha = |0, 1, 2|3, 4, 5|$$

$$\beta = |0, 3|1, 4|2, 5|$$

$$\gamma = |0, 4|1, 5|2, 3|$$

$$\delta = |0, 5|1, 3|2, 4|$$

0	1	2
3	4	5

$B_0$

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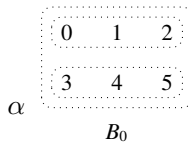
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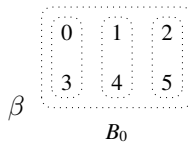
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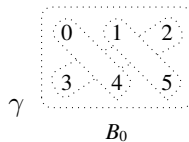
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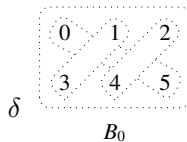
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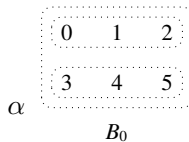
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$$B_0 = \{ 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \}$$

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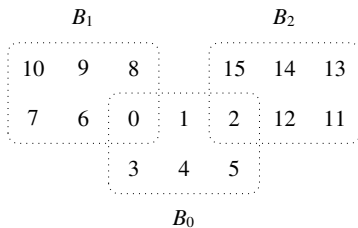
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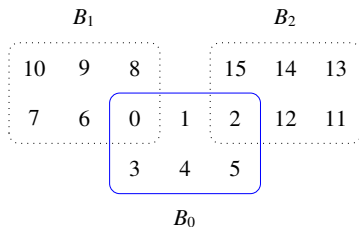
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- $A = B_0 \cup B_1 \cup B_2$
- Unary operations

$$e_0: A \twoheadrightarrow B_0$$

$$e_1: A \twoheadrightarrow B_1$$

$$e_2: A \twoheadrightarrow B_2$$

$$s: A \twoheadrightarrow B_0$$

$$B_1 = \{ \begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \end{array} \}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \end{array}$$

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$$ge_0: A \xrightarrow{e_0} B_0 \xrightarrow{g} B_0$$

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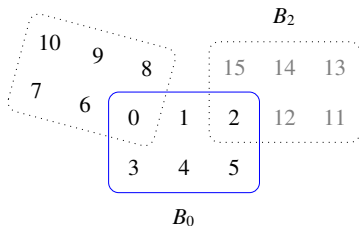
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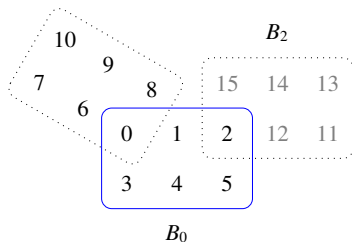
$$\text{Con } \langle B, \{g_0, g_1\} \rangle$$

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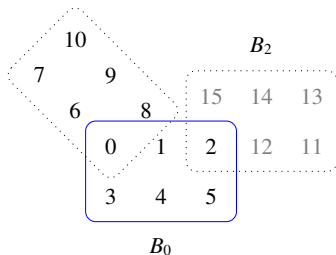
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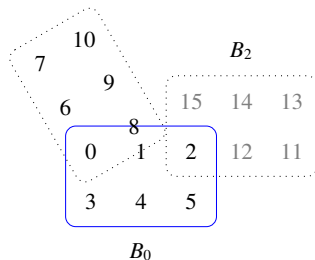
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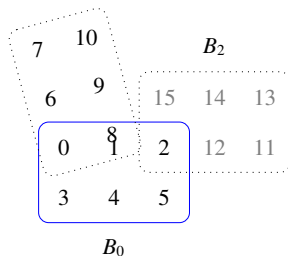
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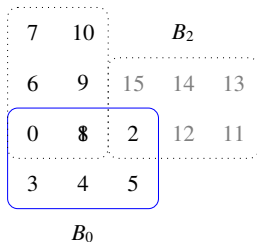
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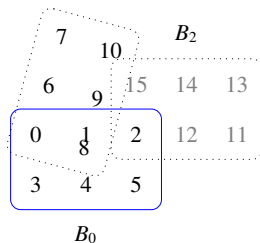
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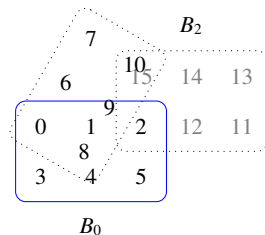
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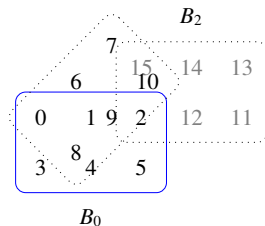
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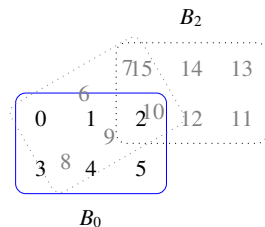
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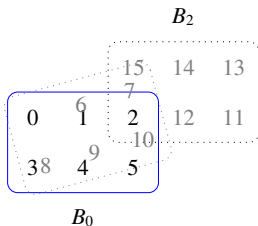
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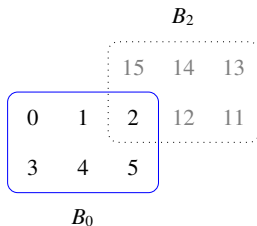
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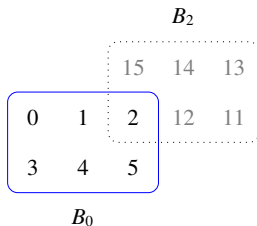
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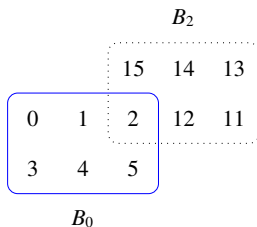
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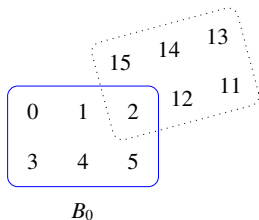
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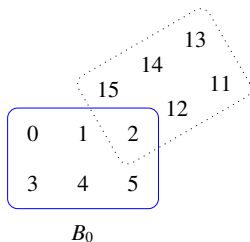
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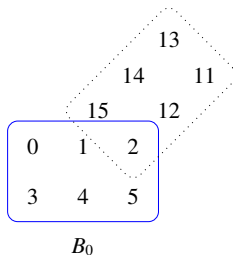
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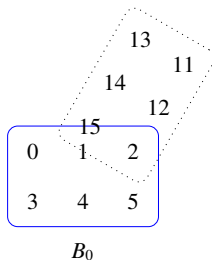
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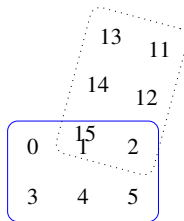
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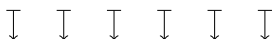
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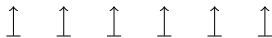
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	13	11
	14	12
0	15	2
3	4	5

$B_0$

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- Unary operations

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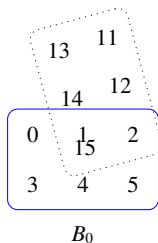
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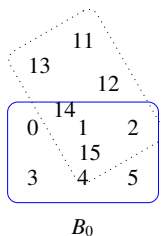
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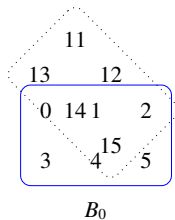
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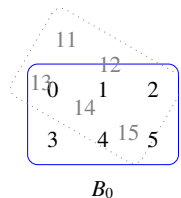
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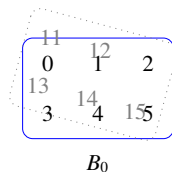
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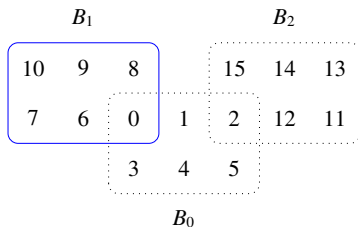
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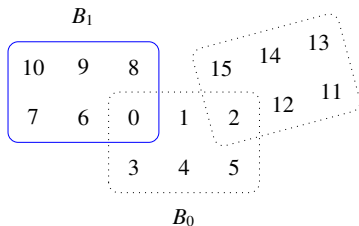
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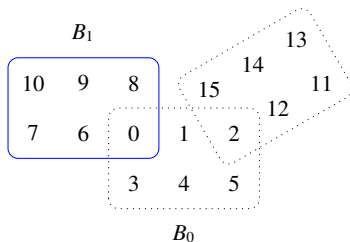
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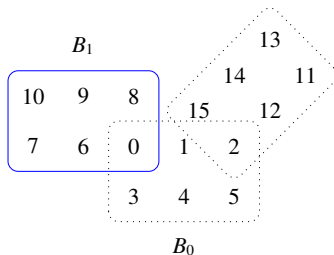
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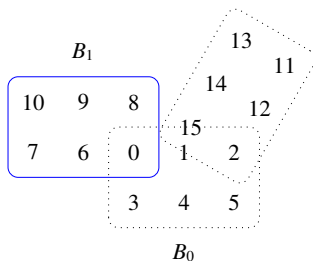
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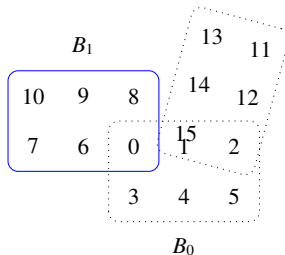
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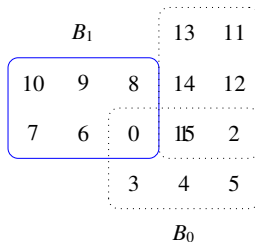
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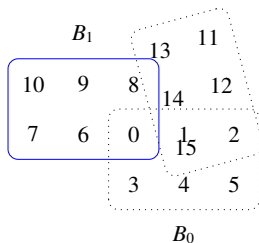
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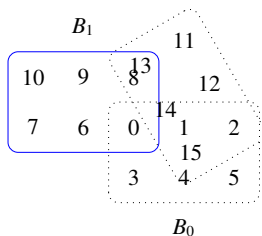
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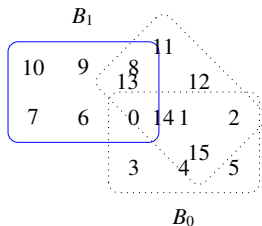
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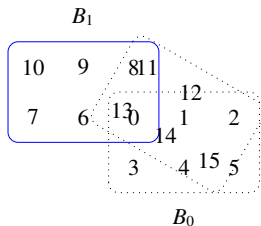
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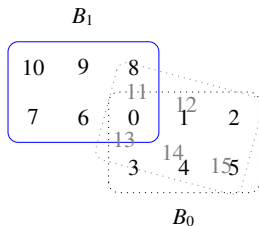
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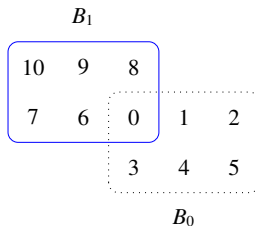
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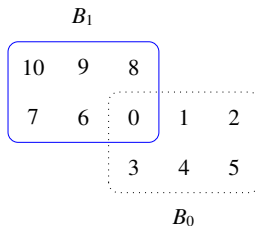
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- $A = B_0 \cup B_1 \cup B_2$
- Unary operations

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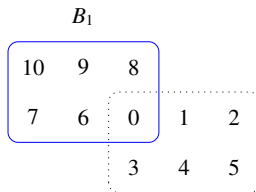
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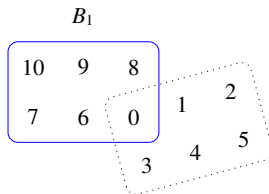
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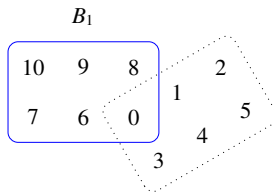
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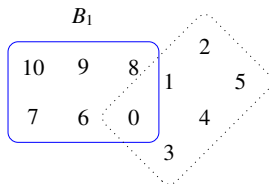
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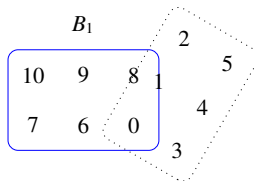
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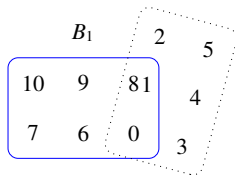
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	$B_1$	2	5
10	9	8	4
7	6	0	3

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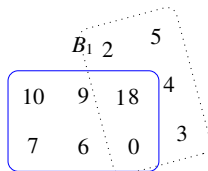
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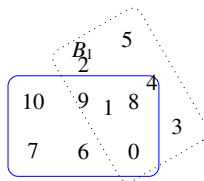
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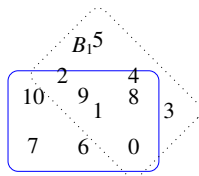
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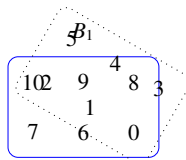
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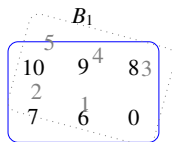
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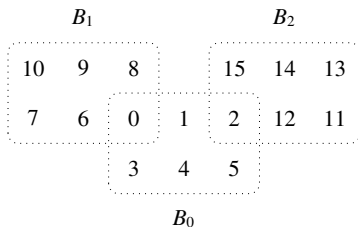
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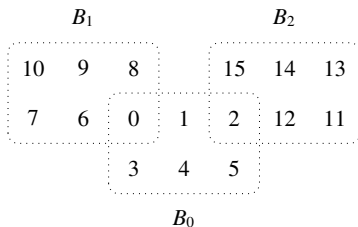
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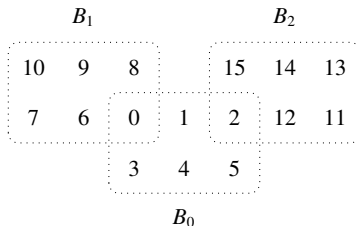
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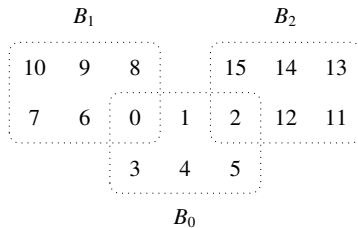
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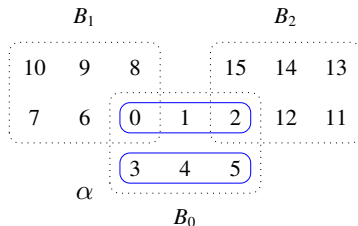
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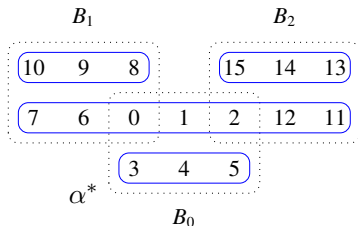
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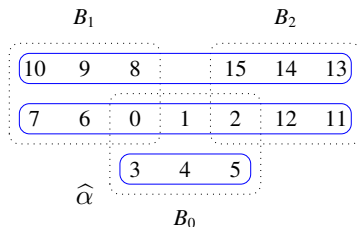
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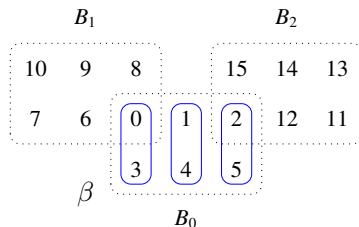
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$$\beta = |0, 3|1, 4|2, 5|$$

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$$\text{Con} \langle A, F_A \rangle$$

$$\hat{\alpha} = |0, 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12|3, 4, 5|8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15|$$

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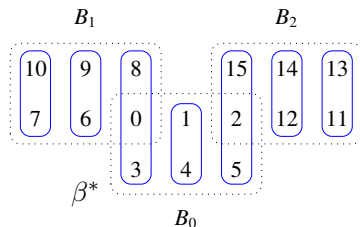
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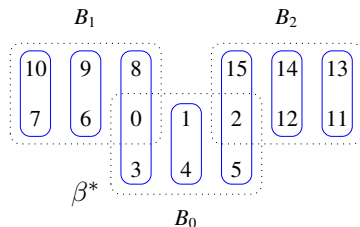
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*Why don't the  $\beta$  classes  
of  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  mix?*

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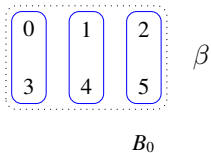
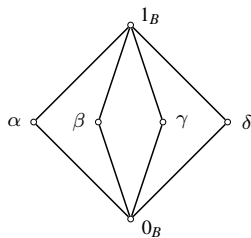
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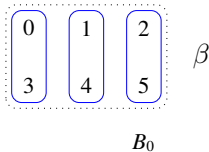
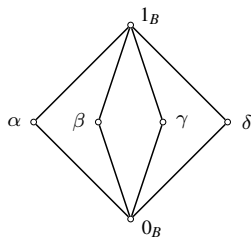
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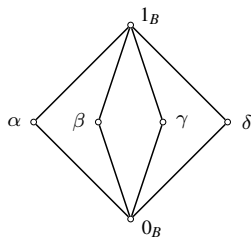
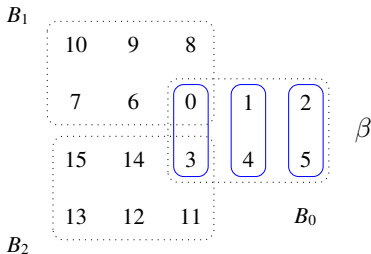
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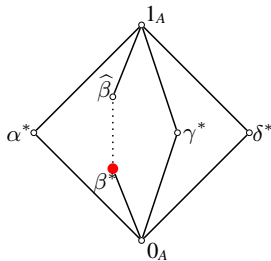
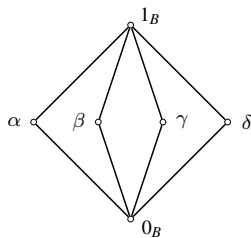
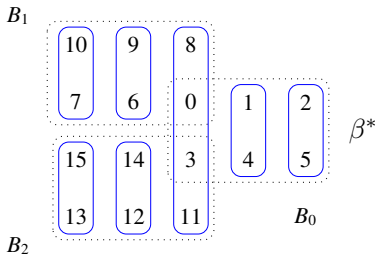
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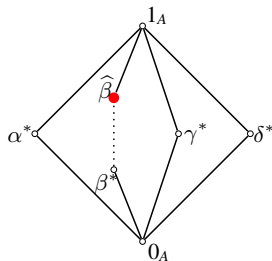
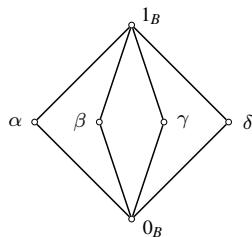
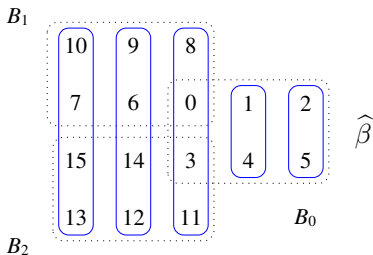
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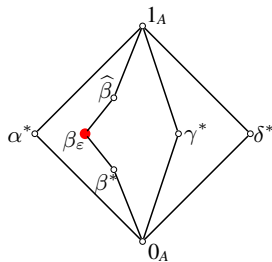
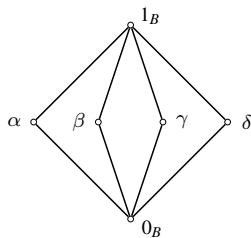
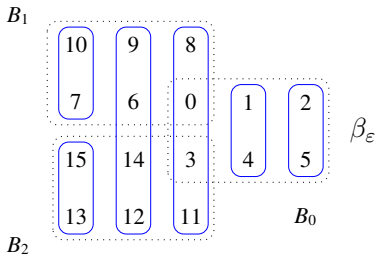
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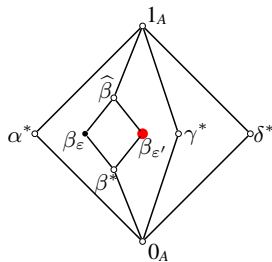
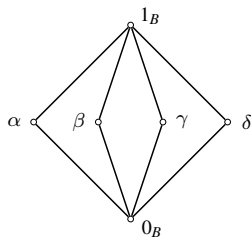
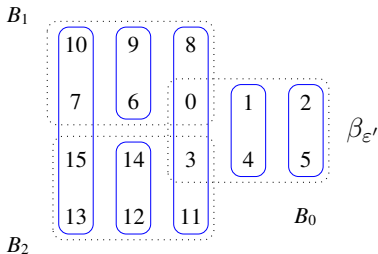
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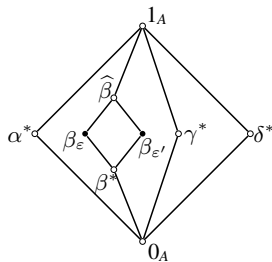
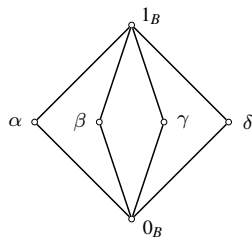
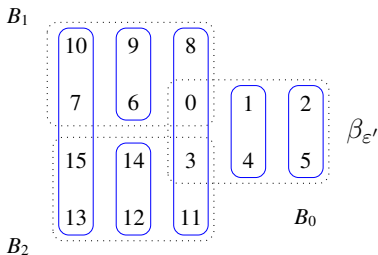
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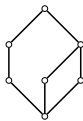
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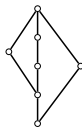
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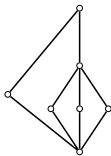
## SEVEN ELEMENT LATTICES: SUMMARY



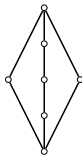
$L_{19}$  ✓



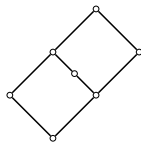
$L_{20}$  ✓



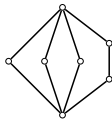
$L_{17}$  ✓



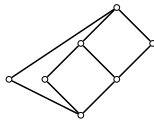
$L_{13}$  ✓



$L_{11}$  ✓

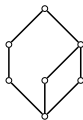


$L_9$  ✓

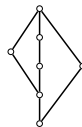


$L_7$

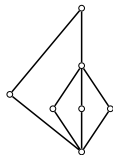
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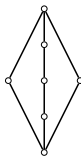
$L_{19}$  ✓



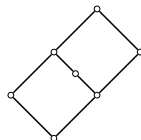
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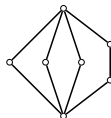
$L_{17}$  ✓



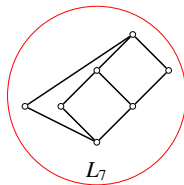
$L_{13}$  ✓



$L_{11}$  ✓



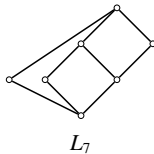
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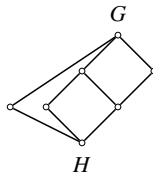
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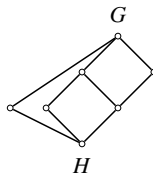


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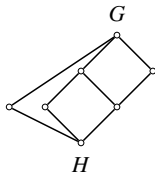




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### PROPOSITION

Suppose  $H < G$ ,  $\text{core}_G(H) = 1$ ,  $L_7 \cong \llbracket H, G \rrbracket$ .

- (I)  $G$  is a primitive permutation group.
- (II) If  $N \triangleleft G$ , then  $C_G(N) = 1$ .
- (III)  $G$  contains no non-trivial abelian normal subgroup.
- (IV)  $G$  is not solvable.
- (V)  $G$  is subdirectly irreducible.
- (VI) With the possible exception of at most one maximal subgroup, all proper subgroups in the interval  $\llbracket H, G \rrbracket$  are core-free.

## OPEN PROBLEMS

1. Are homomorphic images of representable lattices representable?
2. Are subdirect products of representable lattices representable?
3. Does representable imply “group representable?”  
i.e., is the congruence lattice of a finite algebra isomorphic to an interval in the subgroup lattice of a finite group?
4. Is the class of representable lattices recursive?

## REMARKS ON THE PROBLEMS

- Are homomorphic images of representable lattices representable?

If  $L = \text{Con } \langle A, F \rangle$  and  $\tilde{L}$  is the homomorphic image  $\{\theta \cap B^2 \mid \theta \in L\}$ , where  $B = e(A)$  for some operation  $e^2 = e \in F$ , then  $\tilde{L} = \text{Con } \langle B, F|_B \rangle$ .

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This question asks whether it's possible to write a program that, when given a finite lattice  $L$ , halts with output True if  $L$  is representable and False otherwise.

A negative answer would solve the finite lattice representation problem.

## OPEN PROBLEMS

One approach: try to find a computable function  $f$  such that, if  $L$  is a representable lattice of size  $n$ , then  $L$  is representable as the congruence lattice of an algebra of cardinality  $f(n)$  or smaller.

This would answer the decidability question, as follows:

```
IsRepresentable( L ) {  
  
    n:= Size( L )  
    N:= f( n )  
  
    for each L' in Sub[Eq(N)] {  
  
        if ( L' isomorphic to L ) and ( L' is closed ):  
            return True  
  
    }  
  
    return False  
  
}
```

Workshop on Computational Universal Algebra

Friday, October 4, 2013

University of Louisville, KY

`universalalgebra.wordpress.com`