

*A REPRESENTATION  
OF RELATIVELY COMPLEMENTED DISTRIBUTIVE LATTICES*

BY

DAVID C. FEINSTEIN (CHICAGO, ILLINOIS)

It is known [1] that every distributive lattice can be imbedded in a Boolean lattice. It is shown in this paper that, for every relatively complemented distributive lattice  $L$ , there exists a Boolean lattice  $B$  such that  $L$  is equal to the intersection of a prime ideal and an ultrafilter of  $B$  (Theorem 1.4 (b)). We also show that the free relatively complemented extension of any distributive lattice exists. Using this result, we give a characterization of free relatively complemented distributive lattices (Theorem 2.5).

**0. Background.** The following categories will be considered in this paper:

the category  $\mathfrak{D}$  whose objects are distributive lattices and whose morphisms are lattice homomorphisms;

the category  $\mathfrak{R}$  whose objects are relatively complemented distributive lattices and whose morphisms are lattice homomorphisms;

the category  $\mathfrak{B}$  whose objects are Boolean lattices and whose morphisms are lattice homomorphisms.

Let  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$  and let  $a, b \in L$ . Then  $a + b$  will denote the join of  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $ab$  the meet of  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $a^*$  the set of all proper prime ideals of  $L$  which do not contain  $a$ , and  $L^* = \{a^* : a \in L\}$ . The lattice  $L$  itself will be considered as a prime ideal and an ultrafilter of  $L$ .

It is well known (see [1]) that the ring of sets  $L^*$  is lattice-isomorphic to  $L$  and that if  $\hat{B}(L)$  is the field of sets generated by  $L^*$ , then  $\langle \hat{B}(L), i(L) \rangle$  is the free Boolean lattice extension of  $L$ , where  $i(L) : L \rightarrow \hat{B}(L)$  is the natural imbedding of  $L$  in  $\hat{B}(L)$ . That is, if  $B_1 \in \mathfrak{B}$  and  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{D}}[L, B_1]$ , then there exists a unique  $f^* : \hat{B}(L) \rightarrow B_1$  such that  $f^* \circ i(L) = f$ . Then  $\hat{B} : \mathfrak{D} \rightarrow \mathfrak{B}$  can be extended to a reflector functor.  $L^*$  will be identified with

$L$ , and  $x \in \hat{B}(L)$  if and only if

$$x = a + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \bar{b}_i + \bar{b},$$

where  $a, a_i, b_i, b \in L$  and  $\bar{b}_i$  is the complement of  $b_i$  in  $\hat{B}(L)$ .

**1. Characterization of a relatively complemented distributive lattice.**

**THEOREM 1.1.** *If  $L \in \mathfrak{R}$ , then  $L$  is convex in  $\hat{B}(L)$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose  $a \leq b \leq c$ , where  $a, c \in L$  and  $b \in \hat{B}(L)$ . Since  $b \in \hat{B}(L)$ ,  $b$  can be written in the form

$$b = u + \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \bar{v}_i + \bar{v},$$

where  $u, u_i, v_i, v \in L$  and  $u, \bar{v}$  or  $u_i \bar{v}_i$  cannot occur. Now  $a \leq b$  implies

$$b = a + b = a + u + \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \bar{v}_i + \bar{v},$$

and  $b \leq c$  implies

$$b = a + cu + \sum_{i=1}^n cu_i \bar{v}_i + c\bar{v}.$$

Thus we can assume

$$b = u + \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \bar{v}_i,$$

where  $u$  always occurs and  $u_i \bar{v}_i$  can or cannot occur. If no  $u_i \bar{v}_i$  occurs, then  $b = u \in L$ . Assume that

$$b = u + \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \bar{v}_i$$

and that  $u_i \bar{v}_i$  occurs. Then  $uv_i \leq v_i \leq u_i + v_i$  for every  $i$  and there exists  $v'_i \in L$  such that  $v'_i$  is the complement of  $v_i$  in  $[uv_i, u_i + v_i]$ . Hence

$$v'_i = (u_i + v_i) \bar{v}_i + uv_i = u \bar{v}_i + uv_i$$

and

$$b = u + \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \bar{v}_i = u + \sum_{i=1}^n (u_i \bar{v}_i + uv_i) = u + \sum_{i=1}^n v'_i \in L.$$

**LEMMA 1.2.** *Let  $B \in \mathfrak{B}$  and let  $L \in \mathfrak{R}$  be a sublattice of  $B$  such that  $0 \in L$  and  $\hat{B}(L) = B$ . Then  $L$  is a prime ideal of  $B$ .*

**Proof.** If  $1 \in L$ , then  $L \in \mathfrak{B}$  implies  $\hat{B}(L) = L$ , so  $L = B$ . Assume  $1 \notin L$ . By Theorem 1.1,  $L$  is convex in  $\hat{B}(L)$ , and  $0 \in L, 1 \notin L$  imply  $L$  is a proper ideal of  $B$ .

We claim that  $L$  is a prime ideal of  $B$ . Indeed, given  $a \in B - L$ , we show that  $\bar{a} \in L$ . The assumption  $B = \hat{B}(L)$  yields

$$a = u + \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \bar{v}_i + \bar{v},$$

where  $u, u_i, v_i, v \in L$  and  $u, v$  or  $u_i \bar{v}_i$  need not occur. If  $u_i \bar{v}_i$  occurs, we get  $0 \leq u_i \bar{v}_i \leq u_i$ ;  $0, u_i \in L$  implies  $u_i \bar{v}_i \in L$  by convexity of  $L$ . Thus  $a = u + \bar{v}$ , where  $u, v \in L$  and  $\bar{a} = \bar{u} \bar{v}$ . Since  $v \in L$ ,  $\bar{a} = \bar{u} \bar{v} \in L$  by convexity of  $L$ .

A similar argument yields

LEMMA 1.3. *Let  $B \in \mathfrak{B}$  and let  $L \in \mathfrak{R}$  be a sublattice of  $B$  such that  $1 \in L$  and  $\hat{B}(L) = B$ . Then  $L$  is an ultrafilter of  $B$ .*

THEOREM 1.4. *Let  $B \in \mathfrak{B}$ .*

(a) *If  $P$  and  $F$  are a non-principal prime ideal and ultrafilter, respectively, such that  $F \neq B - P$ , then  $P, F$  and  $P \cap F$  are relatively complemented convex sublattices of  $B$  and  $\hat{B}(P) = \hat{B}(F) = \hat{B}(P \cap F) = B$ .*

(b) *If  $L \in \mathfrak{R}$  is a sublattice of  $B$  such that  $\hat{B}(L) = B$ , then  $L = P \cap F$ , where  $P$  is either a non-principal prime ideal of  $B$  or  $P = B$  and  $F$  is either a non-principal ultrafilter of  $B$  or  $F = B$ .*

Proof. (a)  $P$  is obviously a relatively complemented lattice and, clearly,  $P$  is a sublattice of  $B$  such that  $0 \in P$ . Suppose  $a \in B - P$ . Then  $\bar{a} \in P$  implies  $\hat{B}(P) = B$ . Thus  $P$  is convex in  $B$  by Theorem 1.1.

Similarly,  $F$  is convex in  $B$ .

Now consider  $P \cap F$ . Clearly,  $P \cap F$  is a relatively complemented sublattice of  $B$ . We show that  $\hat{B}(P \cap F) = B$ . Let  $a \in B - P \cap F$ . Then there are the following three possibilities:

(i)  $a \notin P$  and  $a \notin F$ . Then  $\bar{a} \in P \cap F$  and  $a = \bar{\bar{a}} \in \hat{B}(P \cap F)$ .

(ii)  $a \notin P$  and  $a \in F$ . Then, for any  $b \in P \cap F$ , we have  $ab \in P \cap F$  and  $\bar{a} + b \in P \cap F$ . Thus  $a \bar{b} = \overline{\bar{a} + b} \in \hat{B}(P \cap F)$  and  $ab \in P \cap F$  implies

$$a = ab + a \bar{b} \in \hat{B}(P \cap F).$$

(iii)  $a \in P$  and  $a \notin F$  — dual to (ii).

Thus  $\hat{B}(P \cap F) = B$  and, by Theorem 1.1,  $P \cap F$  is convex in  $B$ .

(b) If  $0 \in L$ , then  $L$  is a prime ideal by Lemma 1.2. If  $1 \in L$ , then  $L$  is an ultrafilter of  $B$  by Lemma 1.3.

Suppose  $0 \notin L$  and  $1 \notin L$ . Then  $\hat{B}(L) = B$ , so that  $L$  is convex in  $B$  by Theorem 1.1. Let

$$P = \{x \in B : x \leq a \text{ for some } a \in L\}.$$

Then  $P$  is a proper ideal of  $B$ , and  $P \supseteq L$  implies  $\hat{B}(P) = B$ . Hence  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $B$  by Lemma 1.2. Dually,

$$F = \{x \in B : x \geq a \text{ for some } a \in L\}$$

is an ultrafilter of  $B$ . Now  $L \subseteq F$  and  $L \subseteq P$  imply  $L \subseteq P \cap F$ . Let  $x \in P \cap F$ . Then there exist  $a \in L$  such that  $a \leq x$  and  $b \in L$  such that  $x \leq b$ . Since  $L$  is convex in  $B$ ,  $x \in L$ .

**COROLLARY 1.5.** *Every lattice  $L \in \mathfrak{R}$  can be imbedded in a Boolean lattice  $B$  so that  $L = P \cap F$ , where  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $B$  and  $F$  is an ultrafilter of  $B$ .*

*Proof.* The proof follows if we take  $B = \hat{B}(L)$  and apply Theorem 4 (b).

## 2. The free relatively complemented extension of a distributive lattice.

**LEMMA 2.1.** *If  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$  is a convex sublattice of  $B \in \mathfrak{B}$ , then  $L \in \mathfrak{R}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $a, b, c \in L$  and  $a \leq b \leq c$ . Then there exists  $b' \in B$  such that  $b + b' = c$  and  $bb' = a$ . Since  $a \leq b' \leq c$ ,  $b' \in L$  by convexity of  $L$ . Thus  $L \in \mathfrak{R}$ .

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Let  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$  and consider  $L$  as a sublattice of  $\hat{B}(L)$ . Then*

$$R(L) = \left\{ x \in \hat{B}(L) : x \in L \text{ or } x = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \bar{b}_i, \text{ where } a, a_i, b_i \in L \right\}$$

*is the smallest relatively complemented sublattice of  $\hat{B}(L)$  that contains  $L$  as a sublattice.*

*Proof.* First we show that  $R(L)$  is a relatively complemented lattice. Clearly,  $R(L)$  is a lattice. Suppose  $x \leq y \leq z$ , where  $x, z \in R(L)$  and  $y \in \hat{B}(L)$ . Then

$$x = a + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \bar{c}_i \quad \text{and} \quad z = e + \sum_{j=1}^n f_j \bar{g}_j,$$

where  $a, b_i, c_i, e, f_j, g_j \in L$  and  $b_i \bar{c}_i, f_j \bar{g}_j$  cannot occur. Since  $y \in \hat{B}(L)$ ,

$$y = u + \sum_{k=1}^n u_k \bar{v}_k + \bar{v} \quad \text{for } u, u_k, v_k, v \in L,$$

where  $u, u_k \bar{v}_k$  or  $\bar{v}$  cannot occur. If  $a \in L$  and  $a \leq x$ , then  $a \leq y$ , so  $a + y = y$ . Similarly, since  $yz = y$ , we have

$$y = u'' + \sum_{k=1}^n u'_k \bar{v}'_k,$$

where  $u'', u'_k, v'_k \in L$ , and  $u''$  must occur and  $u'_k \bar{v}'_k$  can or cannot occur.

Therefore,  $y \in R(L)$ . Thus  $R(L)$  is convex in  $\hat{B}(L)$  and  $R(L) \in \mathfrak{R}$  by Lemma 2.1.

Next we show that  $R(L)$  is the smallest relatively complemented distributive lattice containing  $L$  as a sublattice.

Let  $L' \in \mathfrak{R}$  be a sublattice of  $\hat{B}(L)$  containing  $L$ . We show that if

$$x = a + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \bar{c}_i \quad \text{for } a, a_i, b_i \in L,$$

then  $x \in L'$ . It suffices to show that, for any  $a, b, c \in L$ , we have  $a + b\bar{c} \in L'$ .

Now  $a \leq a + c \leq a + b + c$  and  $a, a + c, a + b + c \in L'$ . Since  $L' \in \mathfrak{R}$ , there exists  $c' \in L'$  such that  $(a + c)c' = a$  and  $a + c + c' = a + b + c$ . But  $c' \in \hat{B}(L)$  implies that

$$c' = a + (a + b + c)(a + c) = a + (a + b + c)\bar{a}\bar{c} = a + b\bar{a}\bar{c} = a + b\bar{c} \in L'.$$

Note.  $R(L)$  contains 0 if and only if  $L$  contains 0; similarly for 1.

**Definition.** Let  $B \in \mathfrak{B}$  and let  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$  be a sublattice of  $B$ . The *convex hull* of  $L$  in  $B$ , denoted by  $L_B^*$ , is the smallest convex sublattice of  $B$  containing  $L$ .

**THEOREM 2.3.** *If  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$ , then  $L_{\hat{B}(L)}^* = R(L)$ .*

**Proof.** Clearly,  $\hat{B}(R(L)) = \hat{B}(L)$  since  $L \subseteq R(L) \subseteq \hat{B}(R(L))$ . Thus, by Theorem 1.1,  $R(L)$  is convex in  $\hat{B}(L)$ , and  $L_{\hat{B}(L)}^*$  is a sublattice of  $R(L)$ .

Also,  $L_{\hat{B}(L)}^* \in \mathfrak{R}$ , and  $L$  is a sublattice of  $L_{\hat{B}(L)}^*$ . Hence  $R(L)$  is a sublattice of  $L_{\hat{B}(L)}^*$  by Theorem 2.2.

**Definition.** Let  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$ . Then  $\langle R(L), \lambda(L) \rangle$  is the *free relatively complemented extension* of  $L$  if  $R(L) \in \mathfrak{R}$ ,  $\lambda(L) : L \rightarrow R(L)$  is an imbedding map and whenever  $M \in \mathfrak{R}$  and  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{D}}[L, M]$ , then there exists a unique  $f^* \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{R}}[R(L), M]$  such that  $f^* \circ \lambda(L) = f$ .

**THEOREM 2.4.** *Let  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$  and let  $\lambda(L) : L \rightarrow R(L)$  be the imbedding map. Then  $\langle R(L), \lambda(L) \rangle$  is the free relatively complemented extension of  $L$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $M \in \mathfrak{R}$  and let  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{D}}[L, M]$ . Then

$$\hat{B}(f) \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{B}}[\hat{B}(L), \hat{B}(M)]$$

is the unique extension of  $f$  to  $\hat{B}(L)$ . Let  $f^* = \hat{B}(f)|_{R(L)}$ . We claim that  $\text{Im } f^* \subseteq M$ . Indeed, let  $x \in R(L)$ . If  $x \in L$ , then  $f^*(x) = f(x) \in M$ . Now suppose

$$x = b + \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \bar{d}_i, \quad \text{where } b, c_i, d_i \in L.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} f^*(x) &= f^*\left(b + \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \bar{d}_i\right) = f^*(b) + \sum_{i=1}^n f^*(c_i) f^*(\bar{d}_i) \\ &= f(b) + \sum_{i=1}^n f(c_i) \overline{f(d_i)} \in R(f(L)). \end{aligned}$$

Also,  $f(L) \subseteq M$  implies  $R(f(L)) \subseteq M$  by Theorem 2.2. Thus  $\text{Im} f^* \subseteq M$ .

Clearly,  $f^* \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{D}}[R(L), M]$  and  $f^* \circ \lambda(L) = f$ . The uniqueness of  $f^*$  follows from the uniqueness of  $\hat{B}(f)$ .

Remarks. (1) By Theorem 2.4,  $R: \mathfrak{D} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  can be extended to a reflector functor.

(2) It is well known (see [1]) that the free distributive lattice on  $n$  generators,  $n$  being finite, has the length  $2^n - 2$ . If  $L \in \mathfrak{D}$ ,  $|L| < \aleph_0$  and  $C$  is a maximal chain of  $L$ , then  $\hat{B}(L) = \hat{B}(C)$ . If the length of  $L$  is  $k$ , then  $|\hat{B}(L)| = 2^k$ .

(3) Let  $\mathfrak{A}$  and  $\mathfrak{C}$  be categories that have free objects. Let  $F: \mathfrak{A} \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}$  be a reflector functor. Then it is known (see [2]) that if  $S$  is a set and  $A_S$  is free on  $S$  in  $\mathfrak{A}$ , then  $F(A_S)$  is free on  $S$  in  $\mathfrak{C}$ .

From Remarks (2) and (3) we get the following characterization of the free objects in  $\mathfrak{R}$ .

**THEOREM 2.5.** *Let  $S$  be a non-empty set. If  $F_S$  is the free object on  $S$  in  $\mathfrak{D}$ , then  $R(F_S)$  is the free object on  $S$  in  $\mathfrak{R}$ . If  $|S| = n$ , then  $R(F_S) \in \mathfrak{B}$  and  $|R(F_S)| = 2^{2^n - 2}$ .*

#### REFERENCES

- [1] G. Grätzer, *Lattice theory*, San Francisco 1971.  
 [2] B. Mitchell, *Theory of categories*, New York 1965.

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