

## GROUPOID TRUNCATIONS

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*O teorema célébre datorata lui Mundici [1] stabilește o strânsă legătură intre MV-algebrelor și anumite intervale în grupuri laticiale ordonate. Trecerea de la operația de grup la cea de MV-algebră se face printr-un procedeu pe care l-am numit, în această lucrare “trunchiere”. Acest articol este o încercare de a trata, abstract, la nivel de grupoizi acest mod de a trunchia o operație algebrică binară.*

*A famous theorem of Mundici gives a close connection between MV-algebras and some intervals in lattice ordered groups. The procedure of inducing the MV-algebra operation from the group operation was called, in this paper “truncation”. We try, in this paper, to give a general abstract treatment, at the groupoids level, of the truncation of a binary algebraic operation.*

**Keywords:** groupoid, truncation, MV-algebra.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $S$  be a (non empty) set and let  $S^S$  be the monoid (with respect to the composition) of all functions from  $S$  to  $S$ .

If  $\varphi$  is an idempotent ( $\varphi \circ \varphi = \varphi$ ) of  $S^S$  then it defines a retraction of  $S$  onto  $S_\varphi = \varphi(S)$  ( $\varphi$  is a left inverse of the canonical inclusion of  $S_\varphi$  into  $S$ ).

It is easy to see that every non empty subset  $A$  of  $S$  is the image of (at least one) idempotent of  $S^S$ ; for example, take  $a \in A$  and define  $\varphi(x) = x$  for  $x \in A$  and  $\varphi(x) = a$  for  $x \in S - A$ .

Consider the equivalence relation “~” defined by  $\varphi$  ( $x \sim y$  iff  $\varphi(x) = \varphi(y)$ ), let  $M_\varphi$  be the quotient set and let  $\pi$  be the canonical projection.

**Lemma.** The restriction  $\theta$  of  $\pi$  to  $S_\varphi$  is bijective.

**Proof.** We have  $\varphi(x) = x$  iff  $x \in S_\varphi$  and the injectivity of  $\theta$  follows. Then, as for every  $x \in S$ , we have that  $x \sim \varphi(x)$  the surjectivity of  $\theta$  also follows.

**Remark 1.**  $\theta(\varphi(x)) = \pi(x)$ , for every  $x \in S$ .

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Let now  $(S, +)$  be a groupoid ( “+” is a composition law on  $S$ , not necessary associative or commutative) and let  $\varphi$  be an idempotent of  $S^S$  (not necessary a morphism of groupoids). We ask for conditions granting that the equivalence “~” defined by  $\varphi$  is a congruence (meaning that if  $x \sim y$  then  $x + z \sim y + z$  and  $z + x \sim z + y$  for every  $z \in S$  ).

**Theorem 1.** The equivalence defined by an idempotent  $\varphi \in S^S$  is a congruence iff :

$$\varphi(x+y) = \varphi(\varphi(x) + \varphi(y)) \text{ for every } x, y \in S. \quad (*)$$

**Proof.** Suppose, first, that “~” is a congruence. From  $x \sim \varphi(x)$  we obtain that  $\varphi(\varphi(x) + y) = \varphi(x+y)$ ; in the same manner we get that  $\varphi(\varphi(x) + \varphi(y)) = \varphi(\varphi(x) + y)$ . The relation  $(*)$  is proved.

If, now, we suppose the relation  $(*)$  to hold and taking  $x \sim y$  and  $z \in S$  we get:  $\varphi(x+z) = \varphi(\varphi(x) + \varphi(z)) = \varphi(\varphi(y) + \varphi(z)) = \varphi(y+z)$  and so  $x+z \sim y+z$  etc.

**Remark 2.** The condition  $(*)$  is trivially satisfied for  $x, y \in S_\varphi$ .

**Remark 3.** By modifying, in an obvious way, the condition  $(*)$  one obtains a similar result for partial groupoids.

### Examples.

1. Suppose that  $S$  is an idempotent groupoid (i.e  $x+x=x$  for every  $x$ ). If  $\varphi: S \rightarrow S$  satisfies the condition  $(*)$  then it is idempotent ( in  $S^S$  ). In fact we have that

$$\varphi(x) = \varphi(x+x) = \varphi(\varphi(x) + \varphi(x)) = \varphi(\varphi(x)).$$

2. Suppose that  $(S, \leq)$  is a chain and let  $(S, \wedge)$  the associated inf-semilattice. Then, every idempotent, increasing function  $\varphi$  satisfies the condition  $(*)$ . In fact, if  $x \leq y$  then  $\varphi(x) \leq \varphi(y)$  so  $\varphi(x \wedge y) = \varphi(x) = \varphi(\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y))$ .

**Definition.** An idempotent  $\varphi$  satisfying  $(*)$  is called a **truncation**.

**Proposition 1.** If  $\varphi, \phi$  are commuting truncations then  $\phi \circ \varphi$  is a truncation.

**Proof.** It is obvious that  $\phi \circ \varphi$  is idempotent. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi \circ \varphi(x+y) &= \phi(\varphi(\varphi(x) + \varphi(y))) = \varphi(\phi(\varphi(x) + \varphi(y))) = \varphi(\phi(\phi \circ \varphi(x) + \phi \circ \varphi(y))) = \\ &= \varphi(\phi(\phi \circ \varphi(x) + \phi \circ \varphi(y))) = \phi \circ \varphi(\phi \circ \varphi(x) + \phi \circ \varphi(y)). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 4.** If  $\varphi$  is a truncation then, with the notation above,  $M_\varphi$  has a canonical structure of a groupoid and  $\pi$  is a morphism of groupoids. If  $S$  is a semigroup so is  $M_\varphi$ .

**Definition.** Let  $\varphi$  be a truncation. On  $S_\varphi$  define  $x \oplus y = \varphi(x + y)$ . Remark that, if  $x + y \in S_\varphi$  then  $x \oplus y = x + y$ .

**Theorem 2.** With the notation above,  $\theta$  is an isomorphism of groupoids. If  $(S, +)$  is a semigroup then  $(S_\varphi, \oplus)$  is a semigroup.

**Proof.** We have, by using Remark 1:

$\theta(x \oplus y) = \theta(\varphi(x + y)) = \pi(x + y) = \pi(x) + \pi(y)$ , so  $\theta$  is a morphism of groupoids etc.

**Corollary.** If we consider  $\varphi$  as taking values in  $S_\varphi$  then  $\varphi$  is a morphism of groupoids.

**Remark 5.** In general  $S_\varphi$  is not a subgroupoid of  $S$ .

**Remark 6.** If  $S$  is a monoid with unit 0 then  $S_\varphi$  is a monoid with unit  $\varphi(0)$ .

**Remark 7.** Not every non empty subset of a groupoid can be turned into a groupoid using a truncation. For example, take the set of rational numbers  $Q$  with addition as composition law and take the subset  $Z$  of the integers. Any truncation of image  $Z$  will induce the usual addition on  $Z$  and, by the previous corollary, a surjective morphism from  $(Q, +)$  to  $(Z, +)$  which is not possible.

**Proposition 2.** Let  $(S, +, \leq)$  be an ordered groupoid and  $\varphi$  an increasing truncation. Then  $(S_\varphi, \oplus, \leq)$  is an ordered groupoid (we use the same notation for the induced order as for the initial one).

**Proof.** Let  $x, y, z \in S_\varphi$ ,  $x \leq y$ ; then,

$$x \oplus z = \varphi(x + z) \leq \varphi(y + z) = y \oplus z, \text{etc.}$$

**Remark 8.** One can define a partial operation on  $S_\varphi$  (and in fact on every subset of  $S$ ) by restricting the operation “+” to those  $x, y \in S_\varphi$  satisfying the condition  $x + y \in S_\varphi$  (in this case, of course,  $x \oplus y = x + y$ ).

**Examples.**

1. For a groupoid  $S$  take  $\varphi = id_S$ . Then, obviously,  $S_\varphi = S$  as groupoids.
2. For a groupoid  $S$  let  $\varphi$  be the constant map  $\varphi(x) = a$  for every  $x \in S$ . Then  $\varphi$  is a truncation and  $S_\varphi = \{a\}$  and the groupoid operation is trivial.
3. Let  $(S, \wedge)$  be an inf-semilattice and let  $a \in S$ . Define a function  $\varphi: S \rightarrow S$  by  $\varphi(x) = x \wedge a$  for every  $x \in S$ . It is clear that  $\varphi$  is an idempotent of  $S^S$ . From  $\varphi(x \wedge y) = (x \wedge y) \wedge a = (x \wedge a) \wedge (y \wedge a) = \varphi(\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y))$  we get that  $\varphi$  is a truncation. In this case the semigroup structure on  $S_\varphi = (, a]$  is the same as the induced inf-semilattice structure (here,  $(, a] = \{x; x \in S, x \leq a\}$ ).
4. Let  $A$  be a commutative ring with unit and let  $\Lambda$  be the monoid of the ideals of  $A$ , the operation being the addition of ideals. Define  $\varphi: \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda$ ,  $\varphi(\alpha) = \sqrt{\alpha}$ . It is known that  $\varphi$  is an idempotent and from the formula  $\sqrt{\alpha + \beta} = \sqrt{\sqrt{\alpha} + \sqrt{\beta}}$  we obtain that  $\varphi$  is a truncation. The set  $\Lambda_\varphi$  is the set of radical ideals of  $A$  and the monoid structure is obtained as above (by taking the radical of the sum of two radical ideals). The unit of  $\Lambda_\varphi$  is the nilradical of the ring (the ideal of the nilpotent elements of  $A$ ).
5. Let  $S$  be the set of all subgroups of the additive group of the reals  $R$  together with the addition of subgroups. It is well-known that a subgroup of  $R$  is either discrete (of the form  $aZ$  with  $a \in R$ ) or dense in  $R$ . Consider the function  $\varphi: S \rightarrow S$  given by  $\varphi(H) = \overline{H}$ . Then  $\varphi$  satisfies the condition (\*). Indeed, if, say,  $H, K \in S$  are discrete then (\*) obviously holds. If  $H$  is dense then so is  $H+K$  and one obtains the condition (\*). It is worth noting that, in general,  $\overline{H+K} \neq \overline{H} + \overline{K}$  (take, for example,  $H = Z$  and  $K = \pi Z$ ).
6. Let  $G$  be a lattice ordered group (l-group for short) and let  $G^+$  be the set of elements of  $G$  which are  $\geq 0$ .  $G^+$  is a lattice ordered monoid with respect to the induced structures. Take  $0 < u$  and consider the function  $\varphi: G^+ \rightarrow G^+$

defined by  $\varphi(x) = x \wedge u$ . It is clear that  $\varphi$  is idempotent. Let us prove that  $\varphi$  is a truncation with respect to the group operation “+” (not necessary commutative). We prove, first, that if, for  $x, y \in G^+, x \wedge u = y \wedge u$  then  $(x+z) \wedge u = (y+z) \wedge u$  for every  $z \in G^+$ . In fact, if  $t \leq x+z, u$  we get that  $t-z \leq x, u$  and so  $t-z \leq y, u$  and  $t \leq y+z, u$  etc. Now, using the trivial identities  $x \wedge u = (x \wedge u) \wedge u$ ,  $y \wedge u = (y \wedge u) \wedge u$  we obtain the condition (\*)  $(x+y) \wedge u = (x \wedge u + y \wedge u) \wedge u$ . It is clear that, in this case, we have that  $S_\varphi = [0, u] = \{x; 0 \leq x \leq u\}$  and, using the theorem above, we get a monoid structure on  $[0, u]$  by putting  $x \oplus y = (x+y) \wedge u$  for every  $x, y \in [0, u]$ . Of course, if  $G$  is commutative then so is the monoid  $([0, u], \oplus)$ .

7. Consider the ring  $R[X]$  of polynomials with real coefficients and let  $R_n[X]$  be the subset of the polynomials of degree less or equal than  $n$ . Consider the function  $\varphi$  which associates to a given polynomial the polynomial obtained by neglecting the terms of degree greater than  $n$ . It is clear that  $\varphi$  is idempotent and trivially a truncation with respect to addition. More interesting, maybe, is that  $\varphi$  is also a truncation with respect to multiplication. This result is of some interest, for example, in the calculus of limited expansions of functions.
8. Consider the additive group  $(Q, +)$  of the rationals and take  $S = Z$  the subgroup of the integers. Then no idempotent of image  $Z$  will be a truncation. Indeed, if such a truncation exists, then the operation  $\oplus$  on  $Z$  will be the usual addition and the truncation will induce a surjective homomorphism of  $Q$  onto  $Z$  which is not possible.

**Proposition 3.** Suppose that  $\varphi, \phi$  are commuting truncations. Then  $S_{\phi \circ \varphi} = (S_\varphi)_\phi$  (in an obvious sense).

**Proof.** From Proposition 1 we know that  $\phi \circ \varphi$  is a truncation. Let  $\oplus$  denote the operation on  $S_{\phi \circ \varphi}$  and  $\oplus'$  the operation on  $S_\varphi$ . We get that  $x \oplus y = \phi \circ \varphi(x+y) = \phi(x \oplus' y)$  and this is what is needed. It is useful to note that, if  $\varphi(x) = x$ , then  $\phi(\varphi(x)) = \phi(x)$  and, by commutativity,  $\varphi(\phi(x)) = \phi(x)$ ; this means that  $\phi(S_\varphi) \subseteq S_\varphi$  so that (the restriction of)  $\phi$  could be thought as a truncation on  $S_\varphi$ .

**Corollary.** In the conditions of the proposition above, one has that  $(S_\varphi)_\phi = (S_\phi)_\varphi$ .

**Proposition 4.** Let  $\pi: S \rightarrow T$  be a morphism of groupoids and let  $\alpha: T \rightarrow S$  be a section of  $\pi$  in the category of sets ( $\pi \circ \alpha = id_T$ ). Define  $\varphi = \alpha \circ \pi$ . Then  $\varphi$  is a truncation with  $S_\varphi = \alpha(T)$ .

**Proof.** First we show that  $\varphi: S \rightarrow S$  is an idempotent; we have that  $\varphi \circ \varphi = (\alpha \circ \pi) \circ (\alpha \circ \pi) = \alpha \circ (\pi \circ \alpha) \circ \pi = \alpha \circ \pi = \varphi$ . We have to check condition (\*). We need to show that  $\alpha \circ \pi(x + y) = \alpha \circ \pi(\alpha \circ \pi(x) + \alpha \circ \pi(y))$ . It is enough to prove that  $\pi(x + y) = \pi(\alpha \circ \pi(x) + \alpha \circ \pi(y))$ .

But,  $\pi$  being a morphism of groupoids, this reduces to

$\pi(x) + \pi(y) = \pi((\alpha \circ \pi)(x)) + \pi((\alpha \circ \pi)(y))$  which is true due to the fact that  $\alpha$  is a section of  $\pi$ .

**Remark 9.** It follows that every congruence of a groupoid generates truncations but not in a canonical way; it depends on the section one chooses.

### Examples.

1. Consider the additive group  $R$  of the real numbers, let  $Z$  be the subgroup of the integers and denote by  $T$  the quotient group  $R/Z$ . Let  $\alpha(\hat{x}) = x - \lfloor x \rfloor$ , where  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  is the floor of  $x$ . Then  $\alpha$  is well defined and is a section of the canonical projection  $\pi: R \rightarrow T$ . Using the previous proposition we obtain a truncation  $\varphi$  such that  $\varphi(x)$  is the fractionary part of  $x \in R$ . In this case  $R_\varphi = [0,1)$  and the induced structure is given by the operation, say  $\bullet$ , with  $x \bullet y = x + y$  if  $x + y < 1$  and  $x \bullet y = x + y - 1$  if  $x + y \geq 1$ .
2. Let  $S$  be a semigroup and  $I$  a proper two-sided ideal of  $S$ . Consider the Rees congruence “~” defined by  $I: x \sim y$  iff either  $x = y$  or  $x, y \in I$ . The quotient semigroup  $S/ \sim$  consists of the class  $I$  and the classes  $\{x\}$  for every  $x \in S - I$ . It is easy to choose a section  $\alpha$  of the canonical projection: take an element  $a \in I$  and define  $\alpha(\{x\}) = x$  for  $x \notin I$  and  $\alpha(I) = a$ . We get that  $S_\varphi = \{a\} \cup (S - I)$  and the operation  $\oplus$ , on  $S_\varphi$  will be:  $x \oplus a = a \oplus x = a$  and  $x \oplus y = a$  if  $x + y \in I$  or  $x \oplus y = x + y$  if  $x + y \notin I$  where, of course, “+” denotes the operation of  $S$ . Remark that  $a$  is a zero of the semigroup  $S_\varphi$  and

that, if  $S$  is a monoid so is  $S_\varphi$ . We also see that if  $S$  is cancellative then, in general,  $S_\varphi$  will be not.

We shall now express some of the ideas above in the language of categories. Consider the category  $\Delta$ :

- the objects of  $\Delta$  are the pairs  $(S, \varphi)$  where  $S$  is a groupoid and  $\varphi$  a truncation on  $S$ .
- an arrow from  $(S, \varphi)$  to  $(T, \phi)$  is a morphism of groupoids  $f : S \rightarrow T$  such that  $f \circ \varphi = \phi \circ f$ .
- the composition of arrows is the usual composition of functions.  
(it is trivial to check that  $\Delta$  is, in fact, a category).

**Proposition 5.** Let  $f$  be an arrow from  $(S, \varphi)$  to  $(T, \phi)$  and let  $S_\varphi, T_\phi$  be as above. Then  $f$  naturally induces a morphism of groupoids  $\bar{f} : S_\varphi \rightarrow T_\phi$ .

**Proof.** It is trivial that  $f(S_\varphi) \subseteq T_\phi$  and we define  $\bar{f}$  as being the restriction of  $f$  to  $S_\varphi$ . We have (with obvious notations):

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{f}(x \oplus y) &= f(x \oplus y) = f(\varphi(x + y)) = \phi(f(x + y)) = \phi(f(x) + f(y)) = \\ &= \bar{f}(x) \oplus \bar{f}(y). \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 6.** If  $(S, \varphi), (T, \phi)$  are objects of the category  $\Delta$  then  $(S \times T, \varphi \times \phi)$  is an object of  $\Delta$  and, together with the natural projections, a direct product of  $(S, \varphi), (T, \phi)$ .

**Proof.** Easy checking.

It would be of some interest to treat the topological case also. So, let  $S$  be a topological groupoid (meaning a groupoid together a topology on the support set such that the operation is continuous viewed as a function of two variables). It is then natural to consider continuous truncations.

**Proposition 7.** Let a given continuous truncation  $\varphi : S \rightarrow S$  be given. Then the operation  $\oplus$  on  $S_\varphi$  is continuous in the induced topology.

**Proof.** In fact we have that the operation  $\oplus$  on  $S_\varphi$  is obtained as a composition of continuous functions: shortly define  $x \oplus y = \varphi(x + y)$ .

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