

# Isotone mappings of levelled strict orders

Rainer Lenz

## Abstract

Strict order relations are defined as strict asymmetric and transitive binary relations. For classes of so-called levelled strict orders it is analyzed, under which conditions the endomorphism monoids of two relations coincide; in particular the case of direct sums of strict antichains is studied. Further, it is shown that these orders differ in their sets of binary order preserving functions.

## 1 Definitions and preliminaries

A **strict order relation** is a binary relation  $\rho \subseteq A^2$ , satisfying the following conditions:

1. (Strict) asymmetry:  $(a, b) \in \rho \implies (b, a) \notin \rho$
2. Transitivity:  $(a, b), (b, c) \in \rho \implies (a, c) \in \rho$

Instead of  $(a, b) \in \rho$  it is often written  $a <_\rho b$ . If only one single relation  $\rho$  is in consideration, we denote  $a < b$  instead of  $a <_\rho b$ . The  $n$ -ary order preserving or isotone functions are called **polymorphisms**. That is, for all  $(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_n, b_n) \in \rho$  follows  $(f(a_1, \dots, a_n), f(b_1, \dots, b_n)) \in \rho$ . The set of all polymorphisms is designated by  $Pol\rho$  and its subset of  $n$ -ary functions by  $Pol^{(n)}\rho$ , respectively. The monoid of unary polymorphisms is denoted by  $End\rho$ . A chain  $\mathcal{C}$  is an order, in which any two elements are comparable, i.e. for distinct  $a, b \in A$  it holds either  $a <_{\mathcal{C}} b$  or  $b <_{\mathcal{C}} a$ . A **maximum chain** in  $(A; \rho)$  is a suborder  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $(A; \rho)$ , s.t. for any other chain  $\mathcal{C}'$  in  $(A; \rho)$  holds  $|\mathcal{C}'| \leq |\mathcal{C}|$ .

**Definition 1** *Let  $\rho$  be a strict order relation.  $N_\rho^\downarrow(x)$  is defined as the supremum over all  $n$ , s.t. there is a path  $x_1 x_2 \dots x_{n-1} x$  in the Hasse diagram of  $\rho$ , ending at  $x$ . Dually,  $N_\rho^\uparrow(x)$  is the supremum over all  $n$ , s.t. there is a path  $x x_1 x_2 \dots x_{n-1}$  starting at  $x$ . The cardinality of a maximum chain in  $\rho$  is designated by  $c(\rho)$ .*

**Theorem 1** *Let  $\rho \subseteq A^2$  be a strict order relation,  $C = v_1 \dots v_{c(\rho)}$  a maximum chain and  $a \in A$  arbitrary. Then the following functions determine polymorphisms of  $\rho$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} \forall(x_1, \dots, x_n) : \theta_{\downarrow}[C, n](x_1, \dots, x_n) &:= v_{\min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(x_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}}. \\ \forall(x_1, \dots, x_n) : \theta_{\uparrow}[C, n](x_1, \dots, x_n) &:= v_{c(\rho)+1-\min\{N_{\rho}^{\uparrow}(x_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}}. \\ \theta[C, n, a](x_1, \dots, x_n) &:= \begin{cases} v_{c(\rho)+1-\min\{N_{\rho}^{\uparrow}(x_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}}, & \text{wenn } \forall i : a \leq x_i, \\ v_{\min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(x_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}} & \text{sonst.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**Proof:** In the following let  $(\alpha_i, \beta_i) \in \rho$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_k &:= \arg \min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\beta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\} \\ \implies \min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\alpha_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\} &\leq \alpha_k < \beta_k \\ \implies v_{\min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\alpha_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}} &< v_{\min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\beta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}} \\ \implies \theta_{\downarrow}[C, n] &\in \text{Pol}^{(n)}\rho. \end{aligned}$$

Dually, it is shown  $\theta_{\uparrow}[C, n] \in \text{Pol}^{(n)}\rho$ .

With respect to the function  $\theta[C, n, a]$ , we have to consider two cases:

Case 1:  $\forall i : \alpha_i \geq a \implies \forall i : \beta_i \geq a \implies (\theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\alpha}), \theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\beta})) \in \rho$ .

Case 2:  $\exists j : \alpha_j \not\geq a \implies \theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\alpha}) = v_{\min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\alpha_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}}$ .

Case 2.1:  $\exists r : \beta_r \not\geq a \implies (\theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\alpha}), \theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\beta})) \in \rho$ .

Case 2.2:  $\forall i : \beta_i \geq a \implies \theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\beta}) = v_{c(\rho)+1-\min\{N_{\rho}^{\uparrow}(\beta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}}$ .

If one defines  $\beta_k := \arg \min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\beta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  as it was done above, one gets

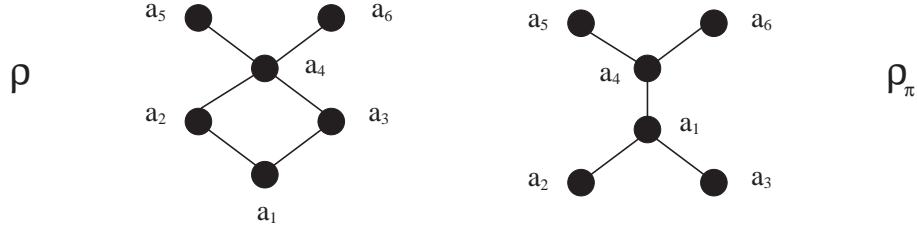
$$\begin{aligned} \theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\alpha}) = v_{\min\{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\alpha_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}} &\leq v_{N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(\alpha_k)} \\ &< v_{c(\rho)+1-N_{\rho}^{\uparrow}(\beta_k)} = \theta[C, n, a](\tilde{\beta}). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Definition 2** *Let  $\rho$  be a strict order relation and  $\pi$  a permutation over  $\{1, \dots, c(\rho)\}$ . We define*

$$\rho_{\pi} := \left\{ (a, b) \mid \pi(N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(a)) < \pi(N_{\rho}^{\downarrow}(b)); (a, b) \in \rho \text{ oder } (b, a) \in \rho \right\}.$$

For example consider the following Hasse diagrams:



The relation  $\rho_\pi$  was got by permuting the first with the second level of  $\rho$ . If  $\pi$  is of the form

$$\pi(N_\rho^\downarrow(a)) < \pi(N_\rho^\downarrow(b)) \iff N_\rho^\downarrow(b) < N_\rho^\downarrow(a),$$

we get  $\rho_\pi = \{(a, b) \mid (b, a) \in \rho\} =: \bar{\rho}$ , the converse relation of  $\rho$ . We define

$$\mathcal{C}_\rho := \{C \mid C \text{ is a maximum chain in } \rho\}.$$

Considering the above example yields  $\mathcal{C}_\rho = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4\}$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= a_1 a_2 a_4 a_5, \\ C_2 &= a_1 a_2 a_4 a_6, \\ C_3 &= a_1 a_3 a_4 a_5 \\ \text{and } C_4 &= a_1 a_3 a_4 a_6. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 2** *Let  $\rho$  and  $\mu$  be strict order relations with  $\text{End}\rho = \text{End}\mu$ . Then it exists a permutation  $\pi$ , s.t. for their maximum chains  $\mathcal{C}_\mu$  and  $\mathcal{C}_\rho$  holds:*

$$\mathcal{C}_\mu = \{C_\pi \mid C \in \mathcal{C}_\rho\},$$

where  $C_\pi$  arises from  $C$  by a permutation of the elements:

$$C = v_1 \dots v_k \implies C_\pi := v_{\pi(1)} \dots v_{\pi(k)}.$$

**Proof:** Let  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_\rho$  and  $l := c(\rho)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= v_1 \dots v_l \quad \text{and} \\ C_2 &= w_1 \dots w_l. \end{aligned}$$

Then there are permutations  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  with  $C_{\pi_1}, C_{\pi_2} \in \mathcal{C}_\mu$ . We choose  $f \in \text{End}\rho = \text{End}\mu$  with  $\text{Im}(f) = C_1$ . The function  $f$  is a retraction, since additionally  $f \circ f = f$  is fulfilled. It follows  $f(C_2) = C_1$  (maximum chains are mapped onto maximum chains) – e.g. consider the function  $f(x) := \theta_1[C_1, 1](x)$  from theorem 1 – and it holds  $\forall i : f(w_i) = v_i$ . (Note that  $f(w_1) < f(w_2) < \dots < f(w_l)$ .)

$$\begin{aligned} \implies f(w_{\pi_2(i)}) &= v_{\pi_2(i)} \\ \text{and } f(w_{\pi_2(i)}) &= v_{\pi_1(i)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\forall i : v_{\pi_2(i)} = v_{\pi_1(i)}$ , we get  $\forall i : \pi_2(i) = \pi_1(i)$  and hence  $\pi_2 = \pi_1$ .

□

The conversion of theorem 2 is in general not true.

**Definition 3** A relation  $\rho \subseteq A^2$  is called **rigid relation**, if the identity mapping  $\text{id}(x) = x$  is the only unary polymorphism, that is  $\text{End}\rho = \{\text{id}\}$ . Moreover, if for every natural number  $n$  the  $n$ -ary projections (or selector functions)  $e_i^n(x_1, \dots, x_n), 1 \leq i \leq n$ , are the only  $n$ -ary polymorphisms, then  $\rho$  is called **strongly rigid**.

In [4] it was shown that rigid relations exist on any set. In 1973 I.G.Rosenberg continued this work by presenting a strongly rigid binary relation on a  $3 \leq n$ -element set [3].

**Lemma 3** Let  $\rho$  be a binary relation (not necessarily a strict order) and let  $v, w \in A$  with the property that in the corresponding graph no arc belongs into  $v$  and no arc belongs out of  $w$ . Then for  $f \in \text{Pol}\rho^{(n)}$  and  $\{v, w\} \subseteq \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  the values  $f(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  can be arbitrary chosen.

[  $(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_n, b_n) \in \rho \implies$  none of the  $a_i$ 's fulfills  $a_i = w$  and none of the  $b_i = v$ . ]

In the following we will call these elements maximum and minimum elements and their corresponding sets  $\rho_{\min}$  or  $\rho_{\max}$ , respectively.

**Theorem 4** There are rigid, but no strongly rigid strict order relations.

**Beweis:** The rigid strict orders are exactly the chains. Every chain  $\mathcal{C}$  possesses a minimum and a maximum element. Using the foregoing lemma, for every  $n \geq 2$  there is a  $n$ -ary polymorphism  $f \in \text{Pol}^{(n)}\mathcal{C}$  being no projection. □

We conclude this section with an easy observation: Let  $\rho$  be a strict order relation and  $f \in \text{End}\rho$ . Then  $\forall a \in A : a \not\prec_\rho f(a)$  and  $a \not\succ_\rho f(a)$ .

## 2 Levelled strict orders

**Definition 4** A strict order relation  $\rho$  is called **levelled strict order relation**, if for all  $a \in A$  holds:

$$N_\rho^\downarrow(a) + N_\rho^\uparrow(a) = c(\rho) + 1.$$

That is, every element is lying in a maximum chain of  $\rho$ .

For these relations the conversion of theorem 2 is also valid.

**Theorem 5** Let  $\rho$  be a levelled strict order relation. Further, let  $\mu$  be a strict order relation. Then it holds  $\text{End}\rho = \text{End}\mu$  if and only if there is a permutation  $\pi$ , s.t.  $\mathcal{C}_\mu = \{C_\pi \mid C \in \mathcal{C}_\rho\}$ .

[**Proof:** “ $\Leftarrow$ ”]: Every  $f \in \text{Pol}\rho$  is level-preserving, that is

$$\forall x : N_\rho^\downarrow(f(x, \dots, x)) = N_\rho^\downarrow(x).$$

Particularly for  $f \in \text{End}\rho$  we obtain

$$\forall x : N_\rho^\downarrow(f(x)) = N_\rho^\downarrow(x).$$

“ $\Rightarrow$ ”]: Follows directly from theorem 2.]

**Definition 5** Let  $A = A_1 \cup A_2$  a disjoint partition and  $\rho_i \subseteq A_i^2, i \in \{1, 2\}$ , strict order relations. The **direct sum**  $P_1 \oplus P_2 = (A_1 \cup A_2; \rho)$  of strict orders  $P_1 = (A_1; \rho_1)$  and  $P_2 = (A_2; \rho_2)$  is defined as follows:

$$(a, b) \in \rho : \iff (a, b) \in \rho_1 \cup \rho_2 \cup (A_1 \times A_2).$$

A (strict) **antichain** is a (strict) order, s.t. any two elements are incomparable.

In the following corollary the set of all permutations over a  $n$ -element set is designated by  $S_n$ .

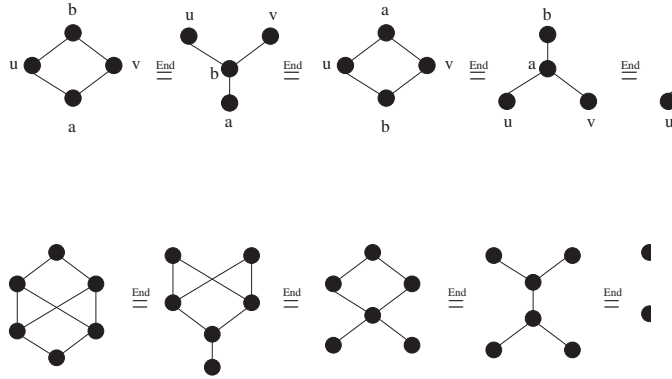
**Corollary 6** *Let  $A = \cup_{i=1}^n A_i$  and  $\mathcal{A}_i = (A_i; <)$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , strict antichains. We define*

$$\mathcal{P}[A_1, \dots, A_n] := \left\{ P \mid P = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \mathcal{A}_{\pi(i)}, \pi \in S_n \right\}$$

*Let  $P_1 = (A; \rho_1)$  and  $P_2 = (A; \rho_2)$  be direct sums of antichains. Then it holds  $\text{End}P_1 = \text{End}P_2$  iff  $P_1, P_2 \in \mathcal{P}[A_1, \dots, A_n]$  for an appropriate partition  $[A_1, \dots, A_n]$  of  $A$ .*

Note that for a strict order relation  $\rho$  the condition “to be a direct sum of antichains” is the same as “ $x < y \iff N_\rho^\downarrow(x) < N_\rho^\downarrow(y)$ ”. Hence, corollary 6 can also be formulated by the use of the concept of  $\rho_\pi$  of definition 2. Direct sums of at most two-element disjoint antichains are known as towers.

**Example 1** *The following figures show endomorphism classes of a four-element and a six-element strict tower, respectively. In the second example the diagrams are depicted up to isomorphism and the markings of their elements are omitted.*



To refine the endomorphism classes of levelled strict orders, we extend our investigations to  $n$ -ary polymorphisms and obtain

**Theorem 7** *Let  $\rho$  be a levelled strict order relation and  $\mu$  be a strict order relation with  $\text{Pol}^{(n)}\rho = \text{Pol}^{(n)}\mu$  for a natural number  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}_\mu = \mathcal{C}_\rho$  or  $\mathcal{C}_\mu = \mathcal{C}_{\bar{\rho}}$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $Pol^{(n)}\rho = Pol^{(n)}\mu$  for a natural number  $n \geq 2$  and further the equivalence

$$N_\rho^\downarrow(\alpha) = N_\rho^\downarrow(\beta) \iff N_\mu^\downarrow(\alpha) = N_\mu^\downarrow(\beta) \quad (*)$$

hold. It follows that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  remain in the same levels. By lemma 3 we may assume that the maximum and minimum elements of  $\rho$  and  $\mu$  coincide. Now let w.l.o.g.

$$\rho_{min} = \{x \mid N_\rho^\downarrow(x) = 1\} = \{x \mid N_\mu^\downarrow(x) = 1\} = \mu_{min}.$$

(Else the converse relation  $\bar{\mu}$  is considered instead of  $\mu$ .)

To get a contradiction, we assume that there exist  $a, b$  with the property

$$N_\rho^\downarrow(a) < N_\rho^\downarrow(b) \text{ and } N_\mu^\downarrow(a) > N_\mu^\downarrow(b).$$

We choose a polymorphism  $f \in Pol^{(n)}\rho$  satisfying the condition

$$\forall (x_1, \dots, x_n) : N_\rho^\downarrow(f(x_1, \dots, x_n)) = \max_i \{N_\rho^\downarrow(x_i)\}.$$

[Such functions exist, e.g. the function  $\theta_\uparrow[C, n]$  from theorem 1, corresponding to a maximum chain  $C = v_1 \dots v_{c(\rho)}$ . It is easy to verify that  $\theta_\uparrow[C, n] \in Pol^{(n)}\rho$  holds.]

Let  $o \in \rho_{min} = \mu_{min}$  and  $a', b'$  be chosen with the property  $(o, b'), (b', a') \in \mu$ , where  $N_\rho^\downarrow(a') = N_\rho^\downarrow(a)$  and  $N_\rho^\downarrow(b') = N_\rho^\downarrow(b)$ . It follows

$$(f(o, b', \dots, b'), f(b', a', \dots, a')) \in N_\rho^\downarrow(b) \times N_\rho^\downarrow(b)$$

and by (\*) also  $f \notin Pol^{(n)}\mu$  contradicting the assumption. □

The concluding observation is an immediate consequence of theorem 7.

**Corollary 8** *Let  $P_1 = (A; \rho_1)$  be a direct sum of strict antichains and  $P_2 = (A; \rho_2)$  be a strict order. Then it holds  $Pol^{(2)}\rho_1 = Pol^{(2)}\rho_2$  iff  $\rho_1 = \rho_2$  or  $\rho_1 = \bar{\rho}_2$ .*

That is, direct sums of strict antichains are – up to dual isomorphism – uniquely determined by their binary isotone functions.

## References

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