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## $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -PRODUCTS OF ALGEBRAS

ANDRZEJ WALENDZIAK

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ABSTRACT. An  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -product of algebras  $A_i$   $(i \in I)$  is a subdirect product of  $A_i$  satisfying certain conditions involving  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}'$ , where  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}'$  are ideals of the power set of I. Direct, full subdirect and weak direct representations of algebras are special cases of  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -representations. Theorem 1 of this paper characterizes such representations in terms of congruence relations.

### 1. Introduction

Let I be a nonvoid set.  $\mathcal{P}(I)$  and  $\mathcal{F}(I)$  denote the set of all subsets of I and the set of all finite subsets of I, respectively. We denote by P(I) the Boolean algebra

$$\langle \mathcal{P}(I), \cap, \cup, ', \emptyset, I \rangle$$
.

If  $\langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  is a system of similar algebras, then  $\prod \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$ , or  $\prod A_i$ , denotes the direct product of algebras  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ . If  $A = A_i$  for all  $i \in I$ , we write  $A^I$  for the direct product and call it a *direct power* of A.

For two elements  $x, y \in \prod \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  we define

$$I(x,y) = \left\{ i \in I : \ x(i) 
eq y(i) 
ight\}.$$

A full subdirect product of the  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , is a subalgebra A of  $\prod A_i$  satisfying the following condition:

(A1) If  $x \in A$ ,  $y \in \prod A_i$  and if I(x, y) is finite, then  $y \in A$ .

It is easy to verify that a subalgebra A of  $\prod A_i$  is a full subdirect product if condition (iii) on p. 45 of [7] holds.

Let  $A \subseteq \prod \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  be a subdirect product and let  $\mathcal{L}$  be an ideal of P(I). A is called an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted subdirect product (see [4; p. 92]) if it satisfies the following condition:

(A2) For every  $x, y \in A$ ,  $I(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}$ .

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Let a subdirect product  $A \subseteq \prod A_i$  satisfy (A2). If A has the property that for every  $x \in A$  and for every  $y \in \prod A_i$ ,  $I(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}$  implies  $y \in A$ , then we say that A is an *L*-restricted direct product (see [3; p. 140] or [6; p. 219]). A subalgebra A of  $\prod A_i$  is an *L*-restricted full subdirect product of algebras  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , (see [7; p. 45]) if conditions (A1) and (A2) are satisfied.

Now we generalize these notions in the following way:

**DEFINITION 1.** Let A be a subdirect product of algebras  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , and let  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}'$  be ideals of P(I). We say that A is an  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -product of  $A_i$ , and we write

$$A = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{L}'} \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle, \quad \text{or} \quad A = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{L}'} A_i$$

if A satisfies (A2) and the following condition:

(A3)  $x \in A, y \in \prod A_i$  and  $I(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}'$  imply that  $y \in A$ .

If  $C = A_i$  for all  $i \in I$ , we call  $A = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{L}'} \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  an  $\langle \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}' \rangle$ -power of C with exponent I.

If  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}'$ , we write  $A = \prod^{\mathcal{L}} \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  for the  $\langle \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L} \rangle$ -product.

Obviously,  $A = \prod_{i=1}^{L} A_i$  if A is an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted direct product of algebras  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ . In particular,  $A = \prod_{i=1}^{\mathcal{F}(I)} \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  if and only if A is a weak direct product (see [3; p. 139]). If  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{P}(I)$  we obtain the direct product.

If  $\mathcal{L}' = \{\emptyset\}$  in Definition 1, we get the concept of an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted subdirect product. We note that if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{P}(I)$ , then an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted subdirect product is a subdirect product.

It is easily seen that  $\prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{F}(I)} A_i$  is an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted full subdirect product of the  $A_i, i \in I$ . Finally, a full subdirect product is a  $(\mathcal{P}(I), \mathcal{F}(I))$ -product.

EXAMPLE. Let I be an index set and let  $G = Z_2^I$  where  $Z_2$  is the two element group. For  $x \in G$ , we define the support of x, denoted  $\operatorname{supp}(x)$ , as

$$\operatorname{supp}(x) = \left\{ i \in I : x(i) \neq 0 \right\}.$$

Let I' be a subset of I, and set

 $\mathcal{L} = \left\{ X \cup Y : X \text{ is a finite subset of } I' \text{ and } Y \subseteq I - I' \right\}.$ 

Define

$$\begin{split} H_1 &= \left\{ x \in G : \ x(i) = x(j) \text{ for all } i, j \in I - I' \right\}, \\ H_2 &= \left\{ x \in G : \ I' \cap \text{supp}(x) \text{ is finite} \right\}, \\ H_3 &= \left\{ x \in G : \ \text{supp}(x) \text{ is finite} \right\}, \\ H_4 &= \left\{ x \in G : \ \text{supp}(x) \text{ is finite or } I - \text{supp}(x) \text{ is finite} \right\} \end{split}$$

It is easy to see that  $H_1$  is a  $\langle \mathcal{P}(I), \mathcal{P}(I') \rangle$ -power of  $Z_2$  with exponent I, and  $H_2$  is an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted direct power (and also an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted full subdirect power).  $H_1 \cap H_2$  is an  $\langle \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{F}(I') \rangle$ -power of  $Z_2$ , and  $H_3$  is a weak direct power. Finally,  $H_4$  is a full subdirect power of  $Z_2$ , but it is not a weak direct power.

In the present paper we characterize  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -products in terms of congruence relations.

### 2. Preliminaries on congruence relations

Let A be an arbitrary algebra. We denote by  $\operatorname{Con}(A)$  the set of all congruence relations on A.  $\operatorname{Con}(A)$  forms a complete lattice with  $0_A$  and  $1_A$ , the smallest and the greatest congruence relations, respectively.

Let I be a nonvoid set and let  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}'$  be ideals of the Boolean algebra P(I). Let  $\Theta = \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  be a system of congruences on A. For an arbitrary set  $M \subseteq I$ , we define a congruence relation  $\theta(M)$  of A by

$$\theta(M) = \bigwedge \{ \theta_j : \ j \in I - M \} \,.$$

We shall use the notion  $\overline{\theta}_i$  for  $\theta(\{i\}), i \in I$ . We write

$$0_A = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{L}'} \langle \theta_i: \ i \in I \rangle$$

if the following conditions hold:

- (i)  $0_A = \bigwedge \{ \theta_i : i \in I \},\$
- (ii)  $1_A = \bigvee \{ \theta(M) : M \in \mathcal{L} \},$
- (iii) if  $M \in \mathcal{L}'$  and if  $x, y_i$   $(i \in I)$  are elements of A such that  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for all  $i \in I M$ , then there exists  $z \in A$  satisfying  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for each  $i \in I$ .

We write 
$$\prod_{i=1}^{\mathcal{L}} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$$
 for  $\prod_{i=1}^{\mathcal{L}} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ .

We begin with the following three lemmas.

**LEMMA 1.** (see [6; Lemma 4]) If  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{P}(I)$ , then  $1_{A} = \bigvee \{ \theta(M) : M \in \mathcal{L} \}.$ 

**LEMMA 2.** Let  $\mathcal{L}'$  be an ideal of P(I) containing all finite subsets of I. Then (iii) implies the following condition:

(iv) For every  $i \in I$ ,  $1_A = \theta_i \circ \overline{\theta}_i$ , where  $\circ$  denotes the relational product of two binary relations on A.

**Proof**. Let  $i_0$  be an arbitrary element of I and let  $x, y \in A$ . We define

$$y_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} x & \mathrm{if} \ i = i_0 \,, \\ y & \mathrm{if} \ i \neq i_0 \,. \end{array} \right.$$

Obviously,  $\langle y, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for each  $i \in I - M$ , where  $M = \{i_0\}$ . Since  $M \in \mathcal{L}'$ , by (iii) we conclude that there is an element  $z \in A$  such that  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . Then  $\langle x, z \rangle \in \theta_{i_0}$  and  $\langle z, y \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_{i_0}$ . Hence (iv) holds. 

**LEMMA 3.** If  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{F}(I)$ , then (iii) is equivalent to (iv).

Proof. Let  $\Theta$  satisfy (iv). To prove (iii), we apply induction on the cardinality of M. Let  $M = \{i_0\}$ , x and  $y_i$   $(i \in I)$  be elements of A with  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$ for  $i \neq i_0$ .

By (iv), there is an element  $z \in A$  satisfying  $\langle y_{i_0}, z \rangle \in \theta_{i_0}$  and  $\langle z, x \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_{i_0}$ . Then  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for each  $i \in I$ .

Now suppose that the assertion is true for all  $M \subseteq I$  with |M| < n. Let  $M = \{i_1, \ldots, i_n\}$  and let  $x, y_i \in A$   $(i \in I)$  such that  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for  $i \in I - M$ . Again by (iv), there exists an element  $y \in A$  satisfying  $\langle y_{i_n}, y \rangle \in \theta_{i_n}$  and  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_{i_n}$ . Then  $\langle y, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for each  $i \in I - \{i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}\}$ . By the induction hypothesis, there is a  $z \in A$  with  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for all  $i \in I$ . This ends the proof of (iii). The implication (iii)  $\implies$  (iv) follows from Lemma 2. 

From Lemmas 1 and 3 we have

**PROPOSITION 1.** 

- $(a) \ \ 0_A = \prod_{\mathcal{D}(I)}^{\{\emptyset\}} \langle \theta_i: \ i \in I \rangle \ if \ and \ only \ if \ 0_A = \bigwedge \{\theta_i: \ i \in I \} \, .$ (b)  $0_A = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\{\emptyset\}} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  if and only if  $\Theta$  satisfies (i) and (ii). (c)  $0_A = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{F}(I)} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  if and only if  $\Theta$  has properties (i), (ii) and (iv). (d)  $0_A = \prod_{\mathcal{P}(I)}^{\mathcal{F}(I)} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  if and only if conditions (i) and (iv) are satisfied.

Now we prove the following proposition.

**PROPOSITION 2.**  $0_A = \prod_{i=1}^{\mathcal{L}} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  if and only if  $\Theta$  satisfies (i), (ii) and the following condition (given in [6; p. 222]):

(v) For every  $\emptyset \neq M \in \mathcal{L}$  and for every  $\langle x_i : i \in M \rangle \in A^M$ , if  $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle \in \theta(M)$  for all  $i, j \in M$ , then there is a  $z \in A$  such that  $\langle z, x_i \rangle \in \theta(M - \{i\})$  for all  $i \in M$ .

Proof. Assume that  $0_A = \prod_{i=1}^{\mathcal{L}} \langle \theta_i : i \in M \rangle$ . Clearly,  $\Theta$  satisfies (i) and (ii). To prove (v), let  $\emptyset \neq M \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $x_i$   $(i \in M)$  be elements of A, and suppose that  $\langle x_i, x_i \rangle \in \theta(M)$  for all  $i, j \in M$ . Let  $i_0$  be an arbitrary element of M.

We set  $x = x_{i_0}$  and define

$$y_i = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} x_i & \text{if } i \in M \,, \\ x & \text{if } i \notin M \,. \end{array} \right.$$

Obviously,  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for all  $i \in I - M$ . By (iii), there exists an element  $z \in A$  such that  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for each  $i \in I$ .

Let  $i \in M$ . Then  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$ , and since  $y_i = x_i$  we also have  $\langle z, x_i \rangle \in \theta_i$ . Observe that

$$\langle z, x_i \rangle \in \theta(M)$$
.

Indeed, if  $j \notin M$ , then  $\langle z, x \rangle = \langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_j$ . Hence  $\langle z, x_{i_0} \rangle = \langle z, x \rangle \in \theta(M)$ , and by the assumption,  $\langle x_{i_0}, x_i \rangle \in \theta(M)$ . Therefore,  $\langle z, x_i \rangle \in \theta(M)$ . Consequently,  $\langle z, x_i \rangle \in \theta(M - \{i\})$  for each  $i \in M$ . Thus (v) is true.

Suppose now that conditions (i), (ii) and (v) are satisfied.

We conclude that (iv) holds by using the proof of Lemma 1 in [6]. To prove (iii), let  $\emptyset \neq M \in \mathcal{L}$  (if  $M = \emptyset$ , then it is obvious), and let  $x, y_i \in A$   $(i \in I)$ such that  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for  $i \in I - M$ . From (iv) we deduce that for every  $i \in I$ , there exists an  $x_i \in A$  satisfying

$$\langle x_i, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i \quad \text{and} \quad \langle x_i, x \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_i.$$
 (1)

Hence  $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_i \vee \overline{\theta}_j$  for any  $i, j \in I$ . Therefore,  $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle \in \theta(M)$  for all  $i, j \in M$ . By (v), there is an element  $z \in A$  such that  $\langle z, x_i \rangle \in \theta(M - \{i\})$  for each  $i \in M$ . If  $i \in M$ , then  $\langle z, x_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  and, since  $\langle x_i, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  (by (1)), we obtain that  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$ . Let  $i \in I - M$ . Then  $\langle z, x_j \rangle \in \theta_i$  for some  $j \in M$ . From (1) it follows that  $\langle x_j, x \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_j \leq \theta_i$ , and by assumption we have  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$ . Consequently,  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for each  $i \in I$ , and therefore, (iii) holds for  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{L}$ . Thus  $0_A = \prod_{i=1}^{\mathcal{L}} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ .

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**PROPOSITION 3.** The following three statements are equivalent.

- (a)  $0_A = \prod^{\mathcal{P}(I)} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ .
- (b) Θ satisfies (i), (iv) and (vi) for all elements x<sub>i</sub> (i ∈ I) of A satisfying (x<sub>i</sub>, x<sub>j</sub>) ∈ θ<sub>i</sub> ∨ θ<sub>j</sub> for all i, j ∈ I, there is an element y ∈ A such that (y, x<sub>i</sub>) ∈ θ<sub>i</sub> for every i ∈ I (that is, Θ is consistent, see [1; p. 92]).
- (c)  $\Theta$  satisfies (i) and (vii) for every  $\langle x_i : i \in I \rangle \in A^I$ , there is an element  $y \in A$  such that  $\langle y, x_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for every  $i \in I$ .

Proof. Let  $0_A = \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ . It is obvious that  $\Theta$  is consistent. By Lemma 2, condition (iv) is fulfilled. Thus statement (b) holds. Therefore, (a)  $\implies$  (b).

Now assume that conditions (i), (iv) and (vi) are satisfied. To prove that  $\Theta$  also satisfies (vii), let  $x_i$  ( $i \in I$ ) be elements of A. We put  $x = x_{i_0}$ , where  $i_0$  is an element of I. By (iv), for every  $i \in I$ , there exists an element  $y_i \in A$  such that

$$\langle x_i, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i \quad \text{and} \quad \langle y_i, x \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_i.$$
 (2)

Hence  $\langle y_i, y_j \rangle \in \overline{\theta}_i \vee \overline{\theta}_j$  for arbitrary  $i, j \in I$ . From (vi) we conclude that there is an element  $y \in A$  satisfying  $\langle y, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for each  $i \in I$ . Now, from (2) it follows that  $\langle y, x_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for all  $i \in I$ , and therefore (vii) is satisfied. This finishes the proof that (b)  $\implies$  (c).

Finally, suppose that  $\Theta$  satisfies (i) and (vii). Clearly, (iii) holds for  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{P}(I)$ . By Lemma 1,  $1_A = \bigvee (\theta(M) : M \in \mathcal{P}(I))$ . Thus (c)  $\Longrightarrow$  (a).  $\Box$ 

# 3. $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -representations of algebras

Let I be a nonvoid set and let  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}'$  be ideals of P(I). Let A be arbitrary algebra. We say that a system  $\langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle \in (\operatorname{Con}(A))^I$  is an  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -representation of A if the mapping  $f : A \to \prod \langle A/\theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  defined by the rule  $f(x)(i) = x/\theta_i$   $(x/\theta_i$  is the congruence class containing x) is one-to-one and  $f(A) = \prod_{i=1}^{\mathcal{L}'} \langle A/\theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ .

For every  $i \in I$ , we set  $A_i = A/\theta_i$  and denote by  $p_i$  the *i*th projection function from  $\prod \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  onto  $A_i$ .

The mapping  $f_i = p_i \circ f$ , which is a homomorphism of A onto  $A_i$  will be referred to as the *i*th *f*-projection.

If  $\langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  is an  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -representation of A, then this representation is called:

(a) subdirect, if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{P}(I)$  and  $\mathcal{L}' = \{\emptyset\}$ ,

- (b)  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted subdirect, if  $\mathcal{L}' = \{\emptyset\}$ ,
- (c) full subdirect, if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{P}(I)$  and  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{F}(I)$ ,
- (d) direct, if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{P}(I)$ ,
- (e)  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted direct, if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}'$ ,
- (f)  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted full subdirect, if  $\mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{F}(I)$ ,
- (g) weak direct, if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}' = \mathcal{F}(I)$ .

The next result characterizes  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -representations internally.

**THEOREM 1.** Let A be an algebra and let I be a nonvoid set. Let  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}'$  be ideals of the Boolean algebra P(I).

Then a system  $\langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle \in (\operatorname{Con}(A))^I$  is an  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -representation of A if and only if  $0_A = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{L}'} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ .

Proof. We put  $A_i = A/\theta_i$  for  $i \in I$  and define the mapping  $f: A \to \prod \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$  by setting  $f(x) = \langle x/\theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ . Let B = f(A), and denote by  $f_i$  the *i*th *f*-projection.

Suppose that f is one-to-one and that  $B = \prod_{\mathcal{L}}^{\mathcal{L}'} \langle A_i : i \in I \rangle$ . Obviously,  $0_A = \bigwedge \{\theta_i : i \in I\}$ , that is, the condition (i) holds. To prove (ii), let  $x, y \in A$  and let  $M = \{i \in I : f_i(x) \neq f_i(y)\}$ . By the property (A2),  $M \in \mathcal{L}$ , and clearly  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \theta(M)$ . Then  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \bigvee (\theta(M) : M \in \mathcal{L})$ , and hence (ii) is satisfied.

Now we shall prove that (iii) holds. Let M be a set of  $\mathcal{L}'$  and let  $x, y_i$  $(i \in I)$  be elements of A such that  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for every  $i \in I - M$ . Then  $\{i \in I : x/\theta_i \neq y_i/\theta_i\} \subseteq M$ . By the definition of ideal we conclude that  $\{i: x/\theta_i \neq y_i/\theta_i\} \in \mathcal{L}'$ , and hence  $I(f(x), y) \in \mathcal{L}'$ , where  $y = \langle y_i/\theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ . From (A3) it follows that  $y \in B$ .

Let  $z \in A$  such that f(z) = y. It is obvious that  $f_i(z) = f_i(y_i)$  for  $i \in I$ . Hence  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for every i, and consequently, (iii) holds. Thus  $0_A = \prod_{i=1}^{L'} \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ .

Conversely, assume that  $\langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  satisfies conditions (i), (ii) and (iii). The fact that f is an embedding is easy to check. Of course, B is a subdirect product of algebras  $A_i$ ,  $i \in I$ . Let  $x, y \in A$ . Now we prove that

$$I(f(x), f(y)) \in \mathcal{L}.$$
(3)

By (ii),  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \bigvee \{ \theta(M) : M \in \mathcal{L} \}$ . Then there exists a sequence of elements of  $A, x = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n = y$  and sets  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_{n-1} \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $\langle x_i, x_{i+1} \rangle \in \theta(M_i)$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .

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Consequently,  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \theta(M)$ , where  $M = M_1 \cup M_2 \cup \cdots \cup M_{n-1} \in \mathcal{L}$ . Therefore,  $f_i(x) = f_i(y)$  for every  $i \notin M$ , and hence  $\{i : f_i(x) \neq f_i(y)\} \subseteq M$ . From this we obtain (3). It follows that B satisfies (A2).

Now let  $\overline{x} \in B$  and  $y \in \prod \langle A/\theta_i : i \in I \rangle$ . Suppose that  $M = I(\overline{x}, y) \in \mathcal{L}'$ . From the fact that B is a subdirect product of the algebras  $A/\theta_i$ ,  $i \in I$  we conclude that there is a system  $\langle \overline{y}_i : i \in I \rangle \in B^I$  with  $\overline{y}_i(i) = y(i)$  for  $i \in I$ .

Take  $x, y_i \in A$ ,  $i \in I$ , such that  $f(x) = \overline{x}$  and  $f(y_i) = \overline{y}_i$  for  $i \in I$ . Let  $i \in I - M$ . Then  $\overline{x}(i) = y(i)$ , and therefore,  $x/\theta_i = y_i/\theta_i$ . Hence  $\langle x, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for  $i \in I - M$ . By (iii), there is an element  $z \in A$  satisfying  $\langle z, y_i \rangle \in \theta_i$  for every  $i \in I$ . Let  $\overline{z} = f(z) \in B$ . We have  $\overline{z}(i) = f_i(z) = z/\theta_i = y_i/\theta_i = f_i(y_i) = \overline{y}_i(i) = y(i)$  for  $i \in I$ . Then  $\overline{z} = y$ , and since  $\overline{z} \in B$  we also have that  $y \in B$ . Consequently, B satisfies (A3). Thus  $\langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  is an  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L}')$ -representation of A.

Now we give some applications of Theorem 1.

Let  $\Theta = \langle \theta_i : i \in I \rangle$  be a system of congruences of an algebra A. From Theorem 1 and Proposition 1(a) we obtain the following well-known fact:

**COROLLARY 1.**  $\Theta$  is a subdirect representation of A if and only if  $0_A = \bigwedge \{\theta_i : i \in I\}$ .

An immediate consequence of Theorem 1 and Propositions 1(b) and 2 is:

**COROLLARY 2.** (cf. [6; Corollaries 3 and 4]) Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be an ideal of P(I). Then:

- (a) Θ is an L-restricted subdirect representation of A if and only if conditions (i) and (ii) are fulfilled.
- (b) Θ is an L-restricted direct representation of A if and only if conditions
  (i), (ii), and (v) are satisfied.

By Theorem 1 and Proposition 3 we obtain:

**COROLLARY 3.** (see [1; Theorem 11.7] and [5; Theorem 4.31])  $\Theta$  is a direct representation of A if and only if  $\Theta$  satisfies (i), (iv) and (vi) (or: (i) and (vii)).

From Theorem 1 and Proposition 1(c) we get:

**COROLLARY 4.** (cf. [7; Theorem 1]) If  $\mathcal{L}$  is an ideal of P(I), then  $\Theta$  is an  $\mathcal{L}$ -restricted full subdirect representation of A if and only if conditions (i), (ii) and (iv) hold.

Hence we have:

**COROLLARY 5.**  $\Theta$  is a weak direct representation of A if and only if  $\Theta$  satisfies (i), (iv) and (ii) with  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{F}(I)$ .

Finally, we obtain:

**COROLLARY 6.** (see [2; Lemma 1.1])  $\Theta$  is a full subdirect representation of A if and only if conditions (i) and (iv) are satisfied.

P r o o f . Follows from Theorem 1 and from Proposition 1(d).

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