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## CONGRUENCE RELATIONS ON THE LATTICE OF PARTITIONS IN A SET

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O. Ore [9] has shown that the symmetric partition lattice  $\Pi(M)$  (the lattice of all equivalence relations on a set  $M$ ) has only trivial congruence relations. The present paper deals with congruence relations on the lattice  $P(M)$  of all symmetric and transitive relations in a set  $M$ , or equivalently, partitions in  $M$  (the empty partition included), contrary to partitions on  $M$ , treated by Ore. The construction of all congruence relations on  $P(M)$  is described. Two congruence relations  $\Phi, \Psi$  on  $P(M)$  are of especial importance (see Lemma 2.3). It is shown (Remark 2.3) that the lattice  $\Theta(P(M))$  of all congruence relations on  $P(M)$  is a set-theoretic union of the intervals  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  and  $[\Phi, N]$  where  $\Lambda, N$  are the least and the greatest congruence relation on  $P(M)$ . There is an interesting duality among the quotient lattices  $P(M)/\Phi$  and  $P(M)/\Psi$ , formulated in Theorem 4.1. Ideals which are congruence classes (normal ideals) are described. It is shown that any normal ideal in  $P(M)$  belongs to at most two congruence relations, one of them is in  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  the other in  $[\Phi, N]$ . Normal ideals belonging to exactly one congruence relation are characterized (Theorem 3.2). But there is a one-one correspondence between the elements of  $\Theta(P(M))$  and the couples  $(J, J')$ , where  $J$  is a normal ideal of the sublattice  $J(\Psi)$  and  $J'$  a normal dual ideal of the sublattice  $J'(\Phi)$ ,  $J(\Psi)$  and  $J'(\Phi)$  being the ideal and the dual ideal of the congruence relations  $\Psi$  and  $\Phi$  respectively (Theorem 4.3). Moreover  $J(\Psi) \cong 2^M$ . The lattice  $\Theta(P(M))$  is shown to be isomorphic to the cardinal product  $2 \times \Theta(2^M)$  (Theorem 4.2). Hence it is a Boolean algebra if and only if  $M$  is finite (Theorem 4.4). No non-trivial decomposition of  $P(M)$  into a cardinal product exists (Corollary 4.1). On the other hand, every interval  $[O, A]$  in  $P(M)$  is isomorphic to the direct product of lattices  $P(A_\gamma)$ , where  $A_\gamma$  are blocks of the partition  $A$  (Theorem 4.6). In  $\Pi(M)$  an analogous result holds for any interval  $[A, B]$  (Corollary 4.2). Distributivity and modularity of quotient lattices of  $P(M)$  are investigated (Theorem 4.7).

## 1. Notations and some propositions

We shall use the logical symbols „ $\Rightarrow$ “, „ $\Leftrightarrow$ “, „ $\wedge$ “, „ $\vee$ “ to denote implication, equivalence, conjunction, disjunction and the symbols  $\cup$ ,  $\cap$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\wedge$  for the lattice operations.

Throughout the paper  $M$  denotes a non-empty set.

A partition in a set  $M$  is a set  $R$  of disjoint nonempty subsets  $R_\alpha$  of  $M$  [2]. The sets  $R_\alpha$  are called blocks of the partition  $R$ .  $R$  can also be empty. We shall call this partition an empty partition and denote it by  $O$ . A domain of a partition  $R$  is the set  $D(R) = \bigcup_{\alpha} R_\alpha$ . If  $D(R) = M$ , then we shall call  $R$  a partition

on the set  $M$ . Throughout this paper we mean by a relation a binary relation. If  $\alpha$  is a relation, we shall write  $x\alpha y$ , or  $x \equiv y(\alpha)$  to denote that  $x$  and  $y$  are in the relation  $\alpha$ . Similarly, if  $R$  is a partition,  $xRy$  or  $x \equiv y(R)$  will denote that  $x$  and  $y$  are in the same block of  $R$ . There is a one-one correspondence between partitions in a set  $M$  and relations in  $M$  which are transitive and symmetric. There is a one-one correspondence between equivalence relations in  $M$  and partitions on  $M$ . We shall say that a partition  $R^1$  is less or equal to  $R^2$  and denote  $R^1 \leq R^2$  if  $xR^1y \Rightarrow xR^2y$ . Partitions in a set  $M$  form a complete lattice. For it is evident that the relation  $\leq$  is a partial ordering on  $M$  with  $O$  as the least element. It suffices to check that there exists the least upper bound to an arbitrary system of partitions in a set  $M$  (see [2], § 13).

If  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are partitions,  $xR^1R^2y$  will mean that there exists such an element  $z$  that  $xR^1z$  and  $zR^2y$ . The partitions  $R^1, R^2$  will be called permutable if  $xR^1R^2y$  implies  $xR^2R^1y$ . The following assertion is obvious. Two partitions  $R^1, R^2$  on a set  $M$  are permutable if and only if any block  $R^1_1$  of  $R^1$  intersects all blocks of  $R^2$  which are in the same block of  $R^1 \cup R^2$  with  $R^1_1$  [3, § 5]. We shall denote by  $R^\circ$  a discrete partition on a set  $M$ , i. e. the partition in which any block consists of a single element, and by  $R^m$  the greatest partition on  $M$ , i. e. the partition with only one block  $M$ . Any congruence relation on an algebra  $A$  gives a congruence relation  $\alpha \mid B$  on a subalgebra  $B : x \equiv y(\alpha \mid B) (x, y \in B)$  if and only if  $x \equiv y(\alpha)$ . A non-empty set  $J$  of a lattice  $S$  is an ideal if and only if for arbitrary elements  $a, b \in S : a \in J \wedge b \in J \Leftrightarrow a \cup b \in J$ . A dual ideal is defined dually. A normal ideal of a lattice  $S$  is an ideal which is a class of some congruence relation on  $S$ . We denote by  $J(\alpha)$  the normal ideal belonging to the congruence relation  $\alpha$ . The lattice of all congruence relations of a lattice  $S$  will be denoted by  $\Theta(S)$ . The lattice of all partitions in a fixed set  $M$ , or on  $M$ , will be denoted by  $P(M)$  and  $\Pi(M)$ , respectively. The least (greatest) element of  $\Theta(P(M))$  will be denoted by  $\Lambda$  ( $N$ ).

**Theorem 1.1** [9, p. 626]. *There are only trivial congruence relations  $\Lambda$  ( $x \Lambda y \Leftrightarrow x = y$ ) and  $N$  ( $x N y$  for any  $x, y \in M$ ) on the lattice  $\Pi(M)$ .*

**Theorem 1.2** [4, II, Corollary 3.12]. *Let  $h : A \rightarrow B$  be a homomorphism of an algebra  $A$  onto an algebra  $B$  and let  $\alpha$  be the corresponding congruence relation on  $A$  ( $x \equiv y(\alpha) \Leftrightarrow h(x) = h(y)$ ). There exists a one-one correspondence between congruence relations on  $B$  and those congruence relations  $\alpha_1$  on  $A$  which are  $\geq \alpha$ . If  $\alpha_1 \geq \alpha$  is a congruence relation on  $A$  and  $\bar{\alpha}_1$  is the corresponding congruence relation on  $B$ , then  $x \equiv y(\alpha_1) \Leftrightarrow h(x) \equiv h(y) (\bar{\alpha}_1)$ .*

**Theorem 1.3** [8, § 32]. *Let  $B$  be a Boolean algebra,  $J$  an ideal in  $B$ . Set  $x \equiv y(\beta)$  if and only if there is an element  $a \in J$  such that  $a \cup x = a \cup y$ . Then  $\beta$  is a congruence relation on  $B$ . Any congruence relation  $\omega$  on  $B$  is determined by the ideal  $J = \{x \in B \mid x \equiv 0(\omega)\}$  in the above described way.*

## 2. Congruence relations on the lattice $P(M)$

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $\Phi, \Psi$  be relations on  $P(M)$  defined as follows:  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi) \Leftrightarrow D(R^1) = D(R^2)$ .  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi) \Leftrightarrow$  (for any  $x, y \in M$ ,  $x \neq y$ ,  $x \equiv y(R^1) \Leftrightarrow x \equiv y(R^2)$ ) (that is the partitions  $R^1, R^2$  have all blocks, having more than one element, identical). Then  $\Phi, \Psi$  are congruence relations on  $P(M)$ .*

**Remark 2.1.** In the following sections  $\Phi, \Psi$  mean the congruence relations of Lemma 2.1.

**Proof.** Obviously  $\Psi$  is an equivalence relation. It is sufficient to show for arbitrary  $T \in P(M)$  that:  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi) \Rightarrow R^1 \cup T \equiv R^2 \cup T(\Psi)$  and  $R^1 \cap T \equiv R^2 \cap T(\Psi)$ . But if  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi)$ , then  $R^1, R^2$  have all blocks with more than one element identical, and the same holds for  $R^1 \cap T, R^2 \cap T$ . It follows that  $R^1 \cap T \equiv R^2 \cap T(\Psi)$ . Let  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi), T \in P(M)$ . If for  $x, y \in M$ ,  $x \neq y$ ,  $x \equiv y(R^1 \cup T)$ , then there is a sequence  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n \in M$ ,  $x_0 = x$ ,  $x_n = y$ ,  $x_{i-1} \equiv x_i(A^i)$ , where  $A^i$  is either  $R^1$  or  $T$ . We can suppose  $x_j \neq x_k$  for  $j \neq k$ . If  $x_{i-1} \equiv x_i(R^1)$ ,  $x_{i-1} \neq x_i$ , then  $x_{i-1} \equiv x_i(R^2)$ , thus  $x \equiv y(R^2 \cup T)$ . Similarly,  $x \neq y$ ,  $x \equiv y(R^2 \cup T) \Rightarrow x \equiv y(R^1 \cup T)$ . Thus we get  $R^1 \cup T \equiv R^2 \cup T(\Psi)$ .  $\Phi$  is also an equivalence relation. Let  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi), Z \in P(M)$ . Then  $D(R^1) = D(R^2)$ . Because  $D(R^1 \cap Z) = D(R^1) \cap D(Z) = D(R^2) \cap D(Z) = D(R^2 \cap Z)$ , we get  $R^1 \cap Z \equiv R^2 \cap Z(\Phi)$ . Likewise  $D(R^1 \cup Z) = D(R^1) \cup D(Z) = D(R^2) \cup D(Z) = D(R^2 \cup Z)$  we get  $R^1 \cup Z \equiv R^2 \cup Z(\Phi)$ .

**Remark 2.2.** The mapping  $D : P(M) \rightarrow 2^M$  (as we have just seen) is a homomorphism of the lattice  $P(M)$  onto the Boolean algebra  $2^M$ . Hence  $P(M) / \Phi \cong 2^M$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *The congruence relations  $\Phi, \Psi$  on  $P(M)$  are complemented, i. e.  $\Phi \cap \Psi = \Lambda, \Phi \cup \Psi = \mathbb{N}$ .*

**Proof.**  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi \cap \Psi) \Rightarrow R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi) \wedge R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi) \Rightarrow D(R^1) = D(R^2) \wedge \wedge (R^1, R^2 \text{ have all blocks with more than one element identical}) \Rightarrow R^1, R^2$

have all blocks identical  $\Rightarrow R^1 = R^2 \Rightarrow R^1 \equiv R^2(\Lambda)$ . Thus  $\Phi \cap \Psi = \Lambda$ . Let  $R^1, R^2$  be arbitrary partitions from  $P(M)$ . Let us take first  $R^1 \leq R^2$  and let  $T^1$  be a partition which has all blocks with more than one element identical with  $R^1$  and each element  $a$  of the set  $D(R^2) - D(R^1)$  form a block  $\{a\}$  of  $T^1$ . Thus  $D(R^2) = D(T^1)$  and  $R^1 \equiv T^1(\Psi)$ ,  $T^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi)$ , which implies  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi \cup \Phi)$ . Now let  $R^1, R^2$  be arbitrary. Then  $R^1 \leq R^1 \cup R^2$ ,  $R^2 \leq R^1 \cup R^2$  and  $R^1 \equiv R^2 \cup R^1(\Psi \cup \Phi)$ ,  $R^1 \cup R^2 \equiv R^2(\Phi \cup \Psi)$ . It follows  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi \cup \Phi)$ . Hence  $\Psi \cup \Phi = N$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *If  $\Phi_i$  is a congruence relation on  $P(M)$  letting all elements of  $\Pi(M)$  in the same class and  $\Psi_j$  is a congruence relation on  $P(M)$  separating each two elements of  $\Pi(M)$ , then  $\Psi_j \leq \Psi$ ,  $\Phi \leq \Phi_i$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi_j)$ . Then  $R^1 \cup R^0 \equiv R^2 \cup R^0(\Psi_j)$  and  $R^1 \cup R^0, R^2 \cup R^0 \in \Pi(M)$ . Thus  $R^1 \cup R^0 = R^2 \cup R^0$ , hence the blocks of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  with more than one element are identical, and  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Psi)$ . If  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi)$ ,  $R^1, R^2 \in P(M)$ , then  $D(R^1) = D(R^2)$ . If  $D(R^1) = M$ , then obviously  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi_i)$ . Let  $D(R^1) \neq M$  and let  $X$  be a partition consisting of exactly one block  $M - D(R^1) = M - D(R^2)$ . Then  $R^1 \cup X, R^2 \cup X \in \Pi(M)$ , hence  $R^1 \cup X \equiv R^2 \cup X(\Phi_i)$ . Now let  $Y$  be a partition consisting of exactly one block  $D(R^1) = D(R^2)$ . It is obvious that  $R^1 \leq Y$ ,  $R^2 \leq Y$ . We have  $Y \cap (R^1 \cup X) \equiv Y \cap (R^2 \cup X)(\Phi_i)$ . Using Theorem 2.4 [5] we get  $Y \cap (R^1 \cup X) = R^1 \cup (X \cap Y) = R^1 \cup O = R^1$ . Analogously  $Y \cap (R^2 \cup X) = R^2$ . Hence  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi_i)$ .

**Remark 2.3.** Let  $\alpha$  be a congruence relation on  $P(M)$ . Then the congruence relation  $\alpha \upharpoonright \Pi(M)$  on  $\Pi(M)$ , induced by  $\alpha$ , is trivial [Theorem 1.1]. From this and Lemma 2.3, it follows: A lattice  $\Theta(P(M))$  is the set-theoretic union of (disjoint) intervals  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  and  $[\Phi, N]$ . By Lemma 2.2,  $\Phi, \Psi$  are complemented and  $\Theta(P(M))$  is distributive [7] and it follows that the mappings  $\Psi_i \rightarrow \Phi \cup \Psi_i$ ,  $\Phi_j \rightarrow \Psi \cap \Phi_j$  are mutually inverse isomorphisms between these intervals [8, § 13].

**Example 1.** A lattice of partitions in a three-element set  $\{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$  has a diagram in Figure 1. The lattice has the following congruence relations:  $K_0 = \Lambda$ ,  $K_{11} = N$ ,  $K_1 : \{O, a\}, \{b, d\}, \{j, f\}, \{i, m\}, \{c, e\}, \{g\}, \{h\}, \{l\}, \{n\}, \{k\}$ .  $K_2 : \{O, b\}, \{c, f\}, \{e, j\}, \{a, d\}, \{l, h\}, \{g\}, \{i\}, \{k\}, \{m\}, \{n\}$ .  $K_3 : \{O, c\}, \{b, f\}, \{a, e\}, \{d, j\}, \{g, k\}, \{h\}, \{i\}, \{l\}, \{m\}, \{n\}$ .  $K_4 : \{O, a, b, d\}, \{c, e, f, j\}, \{h, l\}, \{m, i\}, \{g\}, \{k\}, \{n\}$ .  $K_5 : \{O, b, c, f\}, \{a, d, e, j\}, \{h, l\}, \{g, k\}, \{i\}, \{m\}, \{n\}$ .  $K_6 : \{O, a, c, e\}, \{b, d, f, j\}, \{g, k\}, \{m, i\}, \{h\}, \{n\}, \{l\}$ .  $K_7 = \Psi : \{O, a, b, c, d, e, f, j\}, \{g, k\}, \{m, i\}, \{h, l\}, \{n\}$ .  $K_8 : \{O, a, b, d, g\}, \{f, j, k, l, m, n, i, e, c, h\}$ .  $K_9 : \{O, b, c, f, i\}, \{a, e, d, j, m, n, l, k, h, g\}$ .  $K_{10} : \{O, a, c, e, h\}, \{j, l, n, k, m, d, g, i, b, f\}$ .  $K_{12} : \{O, c\}, \{b, f, i\}, \{a, e, h\}, \{d, g, j, k, l, m, n\}$ .  $K_{13} : \{O, a\}, \{b, d, g\}$ ,

$\{e, c, h\}, \{k, l, m, n, i, j, f\}$ .  $K_{14} : \{O, b\}, \{c, f, i\}, \{a, d, g\}, \{k, j, l, m, n, e, h\}$ .  
 $K_{15} = \Phi : \{O\}, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{e, h\}, \{g, d\}, \{f, i\}, \{k, l, m, n, j\}$ . A lattice of congruence relations of this lattice is  $2^4$ .

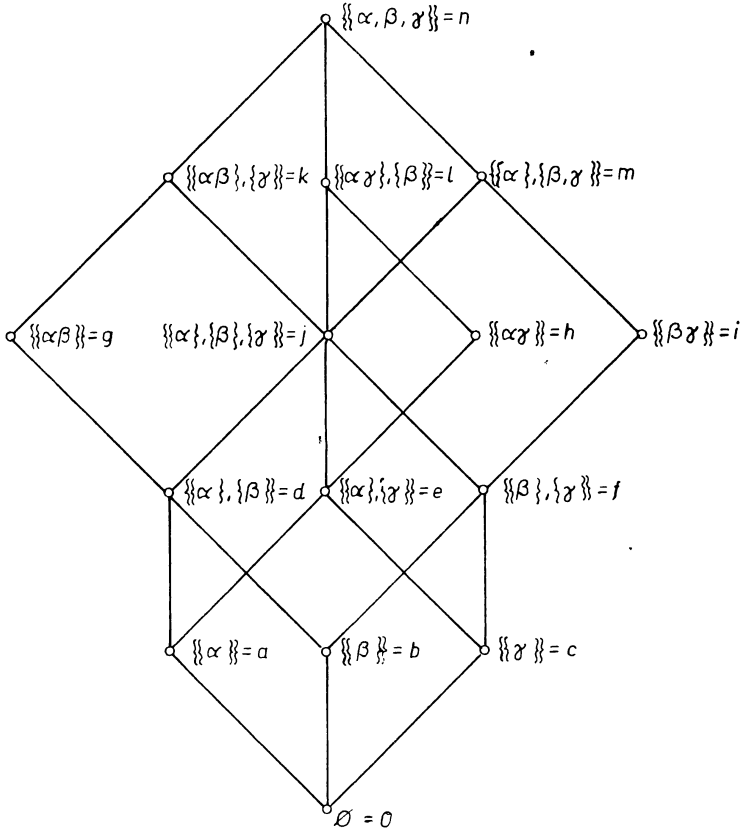


Fig. 1.

### 3. Normal ideals in $P(M)$

Normal ideals in  $P(M)$  are exactly the zero-classes of congruence relations on  $P(M)$ . With respect to Remark 2.3, it is sufficient to consider the zero-classes of congruence relations belonging to the intervals  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$ ,  $[\Phi, N]$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *If we assign to any ideal  $J$  of the Boolean algebra  $2^M$  a set  $h(J) \subset P(M)$  defined as follows:  $R \in h(J) \Leftrightarrow D(R) \in J$ , then  $h$  is a one-one correspondence between the set of all ideals of the lattice  $2^M$  and the set of all zero-classes of congruence relations on  $P(M)$ , belonging to the interval  $[\Phi, N]$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $J$  be an ideal in  $2^M$ ,  $\beta_J$  the congruence relation on  $2^M$  which has  $J$  as a zero-class. If we define on  $P(M)$   $R^1 \equiv R^2(\beta') \Leftrightarrow D(R^1) \equiv D(R^2) (\beta_J)$ , then according to Theorem 1.2 and Remark 2.2,  $\beta'$  is a congruence relation on  $P(M)$  belonging to the interval  $[\Phi, N]$  and its zero-class is just  $h(J)$ . Conversely, let  $\beta \in [\Phi, N]$  and let  $J_1$  be its zero-class. With respect to Theorem 1.2 a congruence relation  $\tilde{\beta}$  on  $2^M$  corresponding to  $\beta$  has a zero-class  $J = \{D(R) \mid R \in J_1\}$  and it is obvious that  $h(J) = J_1$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** *The zero-classes of congruence relations from the interval  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  are just the sets having the form  $J(\Psi) \cap J(\Phi_1)$ , where  $\Phi_1 \in [\Phi, N]$ .*

**Proof.** By Remark 2.3, any congruence relation from  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  has the form  $\Psi \cap \Phi_1$ ,  $\Phi_1 \in [\Phi, N]$ . Its zero-class is obviously  $J(\Psi) \cap J(\Phi_1)$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *A set  $J$  is a normal ideal in  $P(M)$  if and only if it has one of the following forms:*

- (a)  $J = \{R \mid D(R) \in J_1, \text{ where } J_1 \text{ is an ideal of the lattice } 2^M\}$ .
- (b)  $J = J(\Psi) \cap J_2, \text{ where } J_2 \text{ is an ideal of type (a)}$ .

**Proof.** The Theorem follows from Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2. Ideals of the form (a) (or (b)) are zero-classes of congruence relations from  $[\Phi, N]$  (or  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$ ).

We shall now investigate the following question: When two congruence relations on  $P(M)$  have the same zero-class?

**Lemma 3.3.**  $\Phi_1, \Phi_2 \in [\Phi, N], \Phi_1 \neq \Phi_2 \Rightarrow J(\Phi_1) \neq J(\Phi_2). \Psi_1, \Psi_2 \in [\Lambda, \Psi], \Psi_1 \neq \Psi_2 \Rightarrow J(\Psi_1) \neq J(\Psi_2)$ .

**Proof.** If  $\Phi_1 \neq \Phi_2, \Phi_1, \Phi_2 \in [\Phi, N]$ , then the congruence relations  $\Phi'_1, \Phi'_2$  on  $2^M$ , corresponding to  $\Phi_1, \Phi_2$  are different with respect to Theorem 1.2. According to Theorem 1.3 we get  $J(\Phi'_1) \neq J(\Phi'_2)$ . Then by Lemma 3.1,  $J(\Phi_1) \neq J(\Phi_2)$ . Let  $\Psi_1, \Psi_2 \in [\Lambda, \Psi], \Psi_1 \neq \Psi_2$ . Let us denote  $\Phi_1 = \Phi \cup \Psi_1, \Phi_2 = \Phi \cup \Psi_2$ . By Remark 2.3,  $\Phi_1 \neq \Phi_2$  and then with respect to the above result  $J(\Phi_1) \neq J(\Phi_2)$ . Then there exists  $R \in J(\Phi_1), R \notin J(\Phi_2)$  (or symmetrically). Let us recall that  $\Psi_1 = \Psi \cap \Phi_1, \Psi_2 = \Psi \cap \Phi_2$  (Remark 2.3), hence  $J(\Psi_1) = J(\Psi) \cap J(\Phi_1), J(\Psi_2) = J(\Psi) \cap J(\Phi_2)$ .  $J(\Psi)$  is an ideal consisting of all partitions in  $M$  which have no block with more than one element. Let  $R'$  be the discrete partition on a set  $D(R)$ . From  $\Phi_1, \Phi_2 \geq \Phi$  and  $R' \equiv R(\Phi)$  it follows  $R' \equiv R(\Phi_1), R' \equiv R(\Phi_2)$ . Then  $R \in J(\Phi_1)$  implies  $R' \in J(\Phi_1)$ . It is evident that  $R' \in J(\Psi)$ . It follows that  $R' \in J(\Psi_1) = J(\Phi_1) \cap J(\Psi)$ . Since  $R \notin J(\Phi_2), R' \notin J(\Phi_2)$ . Thus  $R' \notin J(\Psi_2) = J(\Phi_2) \cap J(\Psi)$ . Hence  $J(\Psi_1) \neq J(\Psi_2)$ .

**Remark 3.1.** A lattice-theoretical join of normal ideals of  $P(M)$  need not be a normal ideal of  $P(M)$ . See Example 2.

**Example 2.** If we take congruence relations  $K_7, K_8$  in Example 1, then  $K_7 \cup K_8 = K_{11} = N$ . But  $J(K_8) \cup J(K_7) = \{O, a, b, d, g\} \cup \{O, a, b, d, c, e, f, j\} = \{O, a, b, d, g, c, e, f, j, k\} \neq J(K_{11})$ .  $J(K_8) \cup J(K_7)$  is a class of no congruence relation  $K_0 - K_{15}$ , hence it is not a normal ideal.

Now we shall characterize the normal ideals which are classes of two or more congruence relations.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Any ideal consisting either of the empty partition alone or of the empty partition and a partition having only one one-element block is a normal ideal of just two congruence relations on  $P(M)$ , one of which is in  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  and the second in  $[\Phi, N]$ . Any other normal ideal is a class of exactly one congruence relation on  $P(M)$ .*

**Proof.** If an ideal is a class of more congruence relations, then at most one of these congruence relations can be in  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  and at most one in  $[\Phi, N]$  (according to Lemma 3.3). The ideal consisting of the empty partition is a class of the congruence relations  $\Phi$  and  $\Lambda$ . Because the empty set and one-element set  $\{\alpha\}$  form an ideal in  $2^M$ , then by Lemma 3.1, the corresponding ideal in  $P(M)$  (let us denote it by  $J(\Phi_1)$ ) consists of the empty partition and the partition having only one one-element block  $\{\alpha\}$  and it is a normal ideal of some congruence relation  $\Phi_1 \geq \Phi$ . If we denote  $\Psi_1 = \Psi \cap \Phi_1$ , then  $J(\Psi_1) = J(\Psi) \cap J(\Phi_1) = J(\Phi_1)$  because  $J(\Phi_1) \subset J(\Psi)$ . It follows that the congruence relations  $\Psi_1, \Phi_1$  have the same zero-class. If  $\Phi_2 \in [\Phi, N]$  and  $J(\Phi_2)$  contains more than two partitions, then by Lemma 3.3,  $J(\Phi_2)$  cannot be a class of a congruence relation  $\Phi_3 \in [\Phi, N]$ ,  $\Phi_3 \neq \Phi_2$ . We shall show that  $J(\Phi_2)$  cannot be a class of a congruence relation  $\Psi_1 \in [\Lambda, \Psi]$ . It is evident that  $J(\Phi_2)$  contains some partition  $R^\alpha$  having only one one-element block  $\{\alpha\}$  ( $\alpha \in M$ ) and the partition  $O$ . Let  $R \in J(\Phi_2)$ ,  $R^\alpha \neq R \neq O$ . If we denote  $R^1 = R^\alpha \cup R$ , then  $R^1 \in J(\Phi_2)$ . Since  $\Phi_2 \geq \Phi$ , then  $J(\Phi_2)$  must contain also a partition  $R^2$  having only one block  $D(R^1)$  with more than one element. If  $\Psi_1 \leq \Psi$ , then  $J(\Psi_1) \subset J(\Psi)$ . Now  $J(\Psi_1) \neq J(\Phi_2)$  because otherwise  $R^2 \in J(\Psi_1) \subset J(\Psi)$ , but this is impossible because no partition, belonging to the ideal  $J(\Psi)$  has blocks with more than one element. This completes the proof.

#### 4. Further results on congruence relations on $P(M)$

**Definition.** *A symmetric partition lattice on  $M$  is the lattice  $\Pi(M)$ .*

**Theorem 4.1.** *The quotient lattice  $P(M)/\Phi$  is isomorphic to the ideal  $J(\Psi)$ , consisting of all partitions in a set  $M$  which have no block with more than one element, and is isomorphic to  $2^M$ . Any class of congruence relation  $\Phi$  is isomorphic to a symmetric partition lattice on the domain of partitions belonging to this class.*



The quotient lattice  $P(M)/\Psi$  is isomorphic to the dual ideal which is a class of the congruence relation  $\Phi$ , that is with the symmetric partition lattice on  $M$ . Any class of congruence relation  $\Psi$  is a Boolean algebra.

**Proof.** Obviously  $J(\Psi) = [O, R^\circ]$ . To prove the first part of the Theorem it is sufficient to show that to any  $R \in P(M)$  there is exactly one partition  $R' \in J(\Psi)$  such that  $R' \equiv R(\Phi)$ . This partition  $R'$  is a discrete partition on the set  $D(R)$ . It can be immediately seen that the interval  $J(\Psi) = [O, R^\circ]$  is isomorphic to  $2^M$ . (The isomorphism  $P(M)/\Phi \cong 2^M$  follows also from the homomorphism  $D : P(M) \rightarrow 2^M$ , see Remark 2.2.) If  $\bar{R}$  is a class of the congruence relation  $\Phi$  and  $R \in \bar{R}$ , then evidently  $\bar{R}$  is isomorphic to the symmetric partition lattice on  $D(R)$ . To prove the second part of the Theorem it is sufficient to show that to any  $R \in P(M)$  there is exactly one element  $R' \in \Pi(M)$  such that  $R \equiv R'(\Psi)$ . This partition is  $R' = R \cup R^\circ$ . Let  $\tilde{R}$  be a class of the congruence relation  $\Psi$  and let  $V(\tilde{R})$  be the set-theoretic union of all blocks with more than one element of the partitions belong to  $\tilde{R}$ . We shall show that the lattice  $2^{M-V(\tilde{R})}$  (of all subsets of  $M - V(\tilde{R})$ ) is isomorphic to the sublattice  $\tilde{R}$  of  $P(M)$ . To this purpose we assign to any subset  $A \subset M - V(\tilde{R})$  a partition  $R^A \in \tilde{R}$  the one element blocks of which are exactly the sets  $\{a\}$  with  $a \in A$ . One can easily verify that this assignment yields a lattice isomorphism between  $\tilde{R}$  and  $2^{M-V(\tilde{R})}$ .

Now we shall investigate relationship among congruence relations on the lattice  $P(M)$  and congruence relations on the sublattices  $\Pi(M)$  and  $J(\Psi)$ . Any congruence relation  $\chi$  on  $P(M)$  induces the congruence relations  $\chi | J(\Psi)$  on  $J(\Psi)$  and  $\chi | \Pi(M)$  on  $\Pi(M)$ .  $R^1 \equiv R^2 (\chi | J(\Psi)) \Leftrightarrow R^1 \equiv R^2(\chi)$ ,  $R^1, R^2 \in J(\Psi)$ .  $R^1 \equiv R^2 (\chi | \Pi(M)) \Leftrightarrow R^1 \equiv R^2(\chi)$ ,  $R^1, R^2 \in \Pi(M)$ . With respect to Theorem 4.1  $J(\Psi) \cong 2^M$ , hence we know the congruence relations on  $J(\Psi)$ . According to Theorem 1.1 we have only trivial congruence relations  $\Lambda, N$  on  $\Pi(M)$ .

**Lemma 4.1.** *If  $\chi, \chi'$  are congruence relations on  $P(M)$  and  $\chi \neq \chi'$ , then either  $\chi | J(\Psi) \neq \chi' | J(\Psi)$  or  $\chi | \Pi(M) \neq \chi' | \Pi(M)$ .*

**Proof.** If  $\chi \neq \chi'$  and  $\chi | \Pi(M) = \chi' | \Pi(M)$ , then we have two possibilities: 1)  $\chi, \chi'$  induce the least congruence relation on  $\Pi(M)$ . Then according to Lemma 2.3,  $\chi, \chi' \in [\Lambda, \Psi]$ . Thus  $J(\chi), J(\chi') \subset J(\Psi)$ . By Lemma 3.3,  $J(\chi) \neq J(\chi')$ , hence  $\chi | J(\Psi) \neq \chi' | J(\Psi)$ . 2)  $\chi, \chi'$  induce the greatest congruence relation on  $\Pi(M)$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $\chi, \chi' \in [\Phi, N]$ . If  $\Psi_1 = \Psi \cap \chi, \Psi'_1 = \Psi \cap \chi'$ , then  $\Psi_1 \neq \Psi'_1$  (Remark 2.3) and by Lemma 3.3,  $J(\Psi_1) \neq J(\Psi'_1)$ . Then  $\Psi_1 | J(\Psi) = \chi | J(\Psi), \Psi'_1 | J(\Psi) = \chi' | J(\Psi)$ . Because  $J(\Psi_1), J(\Psi'_1) \subset J(\Psi)$ ,  $J(\Psi_1) \neq J(\Psi'_1)$  implies  $\chi | J(\Psi) \neq \chi' | J(\Psi)$ .

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $\chi'$  be an arbitrary congruence relation on  $J(\Psi)$ . If we define  $\chi : R \equiv R'(\chi) \Leftrightarrow$  (there is  $T \in J(\chi')$  such that  $T \cup R = T \cup R'$ ) then  $\chi$  is*

a congruence relation on  $P(M)$  and  $\chi \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$ ,  $\chi \mid \Pi(M) = \gamma$  ( $\gamma$  is the least congruence relation on  $\Pi(M)$ ).

**Proof.** First we shall show that  $\chi$  is a congruence relation. Obviously  $\chi$  is an equivalence relation. If  $R \equiv R'(\chi)$ , then there is  $T \in J(\chi')$  such that  $T \cup R = T \cup R'$ . Let  $Z \in P(M)$ . Obviously  $T \cup R \cup Z = T \cup R' \cup Z$ . Thus  $R \cup Z \equiv R' \cup Z(\chi)$ . If  $T \in J(\chi') \subset J(\Psi)$ , then  $T \leq R^\circ$ . With respect to Theorem 3.4 [5],  $T \cup (R \cap Z) = (T \cup R) \cap (T \cup Z)$ ,  $T \cup (R' \cap Z) = (T \cup R') \cap (T \cup Z)$ . If  $T \cup R = T \cup R'$ , then  $T \cup (R \cap Z) = T \cup (R' \cap Z)$ , consequently  $R \cap Z \equiv R' \cap Z(\chi)$ . Thus  $\chi$  is a congruence relation. We shall now show that  $\chi \mid \Pi(M) = \gamma$ . If  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\chi)$ ,  $R^1, R^2 \in \Pi(M)$ , then there is  $T \in J(\chi') \subset J(\Psi)$  such that  $T \cup R^1 = T \cup R^2$ . Since  $R^1, R^2 \in \Pi(M)$ , evidently  $R^1, R^2 \geq R^\circ$ . Since  $T \in J(\Psi)$ ,  $T \leq R^\circ$ . It follows that  $R^1 = T \cup R^2 = R^2$ . Thus  $\chi \mid \Pi(M) = \gamma$ . Now we shall show that  $\chi \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$ . Let  $R^1, R^2 \in J(\Psi)$ ,  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\chi')$ . As  $J(\Psi)$  is a Boolean algebra this holds if and only if there exists  $T \in J(\chi')$  such that  $T \cup R^1 = T \cup R^2$  (see Theorem 4.1 and Theorem 1.3). This holds if and only if  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\chi)$  (see Definition of  $\chi$ ). It follows that  $\chi \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$ .

**Lemma 4.3.**  $\Phi \mid \Pi(M)$  is the greatest congruence relation on  $\Pi(M)$ .

**Proof.** The assertion is evident from the Definition of the congruence relation  $\Phi$ .

**Remark 4.1.** Obviously  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\Phi) \Leftrightarrow R^\circ \cap R^1 = R^\circ \cap R^2$ , because the equality on the right-hand side is equivalent to  $D(R^1) = D(R^2)$ .

In the next Lemma 4.4 we shall denote by  $J'(\alpha)$  the dual ideal of a congruence relation  $\alpha$ , that is the class of the elements which are congruent with the greatest partition  $R^m$  on the set  $M$ .

**Lemma 4.4.** Let  $\chi'$  be an arbitrary congruence relation on  $J(\Psi)$  with the ideal  $J(\chi')$ ,  $\chi$  the congruence relation of Lemma 4.2, and  $\Phi \mid \Pi(M)$  the congruence relation of Lemma 4.3. Then the congruence relation  $\alpha = \Phi \cup \chi$  on  $P(M)$  has the following properties:

- (1)  $J(\alpha) \cap J(\Psi) = J(\chi') = J(\chi)$ .
- (2)  $J'(\alpha) \cap \Pi(M) = \Pi(M)$ .
- (1')  $\alpha \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$ .
- (2')  $\alpha \mid \Pi(M) = \Phi \mid \Pi(M)$ .

**Proof.** The assertion (2) is trivial, because  $J'(\alpha) \supset J'(\Phi) = \Pi(M)$ . We shall prove (1'). Let  $R \equiv R'(\alpha)$ ,  $R, R' \in J(\Psi)$ , then  $R, R' \leq R^\circ$ . From the Definition of the congruence relation  $\alpha$ ,  $R^1, R^2, \dots, R^n$  exist such that  $R \equiv R^1(\Phi)$  [or  $\chi$ ],  $R^1 \equiv R^2(\chi)$  [or  $\Phi$ ],  $\dots$ ,  $R^n \equiv R'(\Phi)$  [or  $\chi$ ]. Then  $R =$

$= R \cap R^\circ \equiv R^1 \cap R^\circ(\Phi)$  [or  $\chi$ ],  $R^1 \cap R^\circ \equiv R^2 \cap R^\circ(\chi)$  [or  $\Phi$ ],  $\dots$ ,  $R^n \cap R^\circ \equiv R' \cap R^\circ = R'(\Phi)$  [or  $\chi$ ]. We have  $R^i \cap R^\circ \leq R^\circ$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and thus  $R^i \cap R^\circ \in J(\Psi)$ . With regard to Lemma 4.2,  $\chi \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$ . Then  $R^i \cap R^\circ \equiv R^{i+1} \cap R^\circ(\chi)$  implies  $R^i \cap R^\circ \equiv R^{i+1} \cap R^\circ(\chi')$ .  $R^i \cap R^\circ \equiv R^{i+1} \cap R^\circ(\Phi) \Rightarrow R^i \cap R^\circ = R^{i+1} \cap R^\circ$  (because  $R^i \cap R^\circ, R^{i+1} \cap R^\circ \in J(\Psi)$ )  $\Rightarrow R^i \cap R^\circ \equiv R^{i+1} \cap R^\circ(\chi')$ . It follows that  $R \equiv R'(\chi')$ . We proved  $\alpha \mid J(\Psi) \leq \chi'$ . We have  $\alpha \geq \chi$ , hence  $\alpha \mid J(\Psi) \geq \chi \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$ . Hence we get  $\alpha \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$ . The assertion (1') implies immediately the first part of the assertion (1), that is  $J(\alpha) \cap J(\Psi) = J(\chi')$ . We have to show  $J(\chi) = J(\chi')$ .  $\chi'$  is a congruence relation on  $J(\Psi)$ , thus  $J(\chi') \subseteq J(\Psi)$ . By Lemma 4.2,  $\chi \mid \Pi(M) = \gamma$ , thus  $J(\chi) \subseteq J(\Psi)$  (Lemma 2.3), moreover  $\chi \mid J(\Psi) = \chi'$  and it follows that  $J(\chi') = J(\chi)$ . We shall prove (2'). By Lemma 4.3,  $\alpha \mid \Pi(M) \leq \Phi \mid \Pi(M)$ . Since  $\Phi \leq \alpha$ ,  $\Phi \mid \Pi(M) \leq \alpha \mid \Pi(M)$  and we get  $\alpha \mid \Pi(M) = \Phi \mid \Pi(M)$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** *The lattice of all congruence relations on  $P(M)$  is a cardinal product of the lattice of all congruence relations on the sublattice  $J(\Psi)$  and the lattice of all congruence relations on the sublattice  $\Pi(M)$ . Consequently,  $\Theta(P(M)) \cong \Theta(J(\Psi)) \times \Theta(\Pi(M))$ .*

**Proof.** The mapping  $f: \chi \rightarrow (\chi \mid J(\Psi), \chi \mid \Pi(M))$  maps  $\Theta(P(M))$  into the cardinal product  $\Theta(J(\Psi)) \times \Theta(\Pi(M))$ . By Lemma 4.1  $f$  is injective and clearly isotone. To prove that  $f$  is surjective and  $f^{-1}$  isotone, let  $\chi'$  and  $\chi''$  be congruence relations on  $J(\Psi)$  and  $\Pi(M)$ , respectively. 1) If  $\chi'' = \gamma$ , let  $\chi$  be the congruence relation  $\chi \in \Theta(P(M))$  of Lemma 4.2. Then  $f(\chi) = (\chi', \chi'')$ . Moreover, if we repeat this process with  $\chi'_1 \in \Theta(J(\Psi))$ ,  $\gamma = \chi''_1 \in \Theta(\Pi(M))$  and obtain  $\chi_1 \in \Theta(P(M))$ , then (according to the proof of Lemma 4.2)  $(\chi', \chi'') \leq (\chi'_1, \chi''_1)$  implies  $\chi \leq \chi_1$ . 2) If  $\chi'' = \Phi \mid \Pi(M)$ , take first  $\chi$  as in the case of 1), then put  $\alpha = \Phi \cup \chi$ . Then according to Lemma 4.4,  $f(\alpha) = (\chi', \chi'')$ . Moreover, if  $\alpha_1 = \Phi \cup \chi_1$  is the congruence relation obtained from the couple  $(\chi'_1, \chi''_1)$  by the same way, we see immediately that  $(\chi', \chi'') \leq (\chi'_1, \chi''_1)$  imply  $\chi \leq \chi_1$  and  $\alpha \leq \alpha_1$ . We have proved the surjectivity of  $f$  and, in two cases, the isotony of  $f^{-1}$ . To finish the proof, let  $(\chi', \chi'') \leq (\chi'_1, \chi''_1)$  and  $\chi'' = \gamma$ ,  $\chi''_1 = \Phi \mid \Pi(M)$ . Take  $\chi_1$  and  $\alpha_1 = \Phi \cup \chi_1$  as in the case 2), and  $\chi$  as in the case 1). Then  $f(\chi) = (\chi', \chi'')$ ,  $f(\alpha_1) = (\chi'_1, \chi''_1)$  and since  $\chi \leq \chi_1$ ,  $\chi \leq \alpha_1$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 4.3.**  $\Theta(P(M)) \cong S_1 \times S_2$ , where  $S_1$  is the lattice of normal ideals in  $J(\Psi)$  and  $S_2$  is the lattice of normal dual ideals in  $\Pi(M)$ .

**Proof.** By Theorem 4.2  $\Theta(P(M)) \cong \Theta(J(\Psi)) \times \Theta(\Pi(M))$ .  $J(\Psi)$  is a Boolean algebra (Theorem 4.1), hence  $\Theta(J(\Psi)) \cong S_1$  (by Theorem 1.3). It is evident that  $\Theta(\Pi(M)) \cong S_2$  (see Theorem 1.1).

**Remark 4.2.** Using Theorems 1.3, 1.1 and 4.2, and Lemmas 4.2 and 4.3 we get the correspondences in the isomorphism of Theorem 4.3: given  $\alpha \in$

$\in \Theta(P(M))$  we set  $J_1 = J(\alpha) \cap J(\Psi)$ ,  $J'_1 = J'(\alpha) \cap \Pi(M)$  to obtain the corresponding couple  $(J_1, J'_1) \in \mathcal{S}_1 \times \mathcal{S}_2$ . Conversely, given a couple  $(J_1, J'_1)$ , we construct the congruence relation  $\delta$  on  $P(M)$  with  $J(\delta) = J_1$  ( $R \equiv R'(\delta)$  if and only if  $T \cup R = T \cup R'$  for a  $T \in J_1$ ) and the congruence relation  $\eta$  on  $P(M)$  with the dual ideal  $J'_1$  ( $\eta = \Phi$  if  $J'_1 = \Pi(M)$  and  $\eta = \Psi$  if  $J'_1 = \{R^m\}$ ). Then the congruence relation on  $P(M)$ , corresponding to  $(J_1, J'_1)$ , is  $\beta = \delta \cup \eta$ .

**Remark 4.3.** If  $M$  is infinite, then any congruence relation of  $\Theta(P(M))$  need not have a complement. We shall construct such congruence relation  $\xi$ . We denote  $\xi_{R^i, T^i}$  the least congruence relation with  $R^i \equiv T^i$ .  $2^M \cong J(\Psi)$  is also infinite and we can take an infinite sequence  $O = R^1 < T^1 < \dots < R^i < T^i < \dots < R^\circ$  of elements of  $J(\Psi)$ . Then by Lemma 13 [6, p. 160] and Lemma 15 [6, p. 161] the congruence relation  $\xi = \bigvee_{i=1}^{\infty} \xi_{R^i, T^i}$  has no complement in  $\Theta(P(M))$ .

**Lemma 4.5.** *Let  $\Psi_1 \in [\Lambda, \Psi]$ . Then  $\Psi_1$  has a complement  $\Phi_1$  in  $[\Lambda, \mathbf{N}]$  if and only if  $\Psi_1$  has a complement  $\bar{\Psi}_1$  in  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$  and  $\Phi_1 = \bar{\Psi}_1 \cup \Phi$ . The dual theorem also holds: Let  $\Phi_1 \in [\Phi, \mathbf{N}]$ . Then  $\Phi_1$  has a complement  $\Psi_1$  in  $[\Lambda, \mathbf{N}]$  if and only if  $\Phi_1$  has a complement  $\bar{\Phi}_1$  in  $[\Phi, \mathbf{N}]$  and  $\Psi_1 = \Psi \cap \bar{\Phi}_1$ .*

**Proof.** Since the lattice  $\Theta(P(M))$  is distributive [7], then by Remark 2.3 the Lemma follows immediately.

**Definition.** *We shall say that a lattice  $L$  is discrete if and only if any bounded chain in  $L$  is finite.*

**Theorem 4.4.** *The lattice of all congruence relations on  $P(M)$  is a Boolean algebra if and only if  $M$  is finite.*

**Proof.** By Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 1.1 it is sufficient to find out when  $\Theta(J(\Psi))$  is a Boolean algebra.  $J(\Psi) \cong 2^M$  (see Theorem 4.1), thus  $J(\Psi)$  is distributive. By the theorem of Hashimoto [7]  $\Theta(J(\Psi))$  is a Boolean algebra if and only if  $J(\Psi)$  is discrete. But  $2^M$  is discrete if and only if  $M$  is finite.

**Theorem 4.5.** *No couple of mutually complemented congruence relations on  $P(M)$  is permutable except the couple  $(\Lambda, \mathbf{N})$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\Phi_1, \Psi_1 \in \Theta(P(M))$  be mutually complements and permutable. Each of the congruence relations  $\Psi_1, \Phi_1$  belongs precisely to one of the intervals  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$ ,  $[\Phi, \mathbf{N}]$  (Remark 2.3). Both  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Phi_1$  cannot be simultaneously contained neither in  $[\Lambda, \Psi]$ , nor in  $[\Phi, \mathbf{N}]$ , since  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Phi_1$  are mutually complements. Let e. g.  $\Psi_1 \in [\Lambda, \Psi]$ ,  $\Phi_1 \in [\Phi, \mathbf{N}]$ . Suppose  $\Psi_1 \neq \Lambda$ . The greatest partition  $R^m$  (on  $M$ ) forms a block of the congruence relation  $\Psi_1$  because  $R^m \equiv R(\Psi_1) \Rightarrow R^m \equiv R(\Psi) \Rightarrow R^m = R$ . If  $\Psi_1, \Phi_1$  are permutable, then the block  $\{R^m\}$  is incident with any block of the congruence relation  $\Phi_1$  (see

the assertion in section 1) and then also with a block  $\{R : O \equiv R(\Phi_1)\}$ . It follows that  $R^m \equiv O(\Phi_1)$ , that is  $\Phi_1 = N$ , which is a contradiction to the assumption.

**Corollary 4.1.** *The lattice  $P(M)$  cannot be decomposed into a cardinal product in a nontrivial way.*

*Proof.* Otherwise there exists a nontrivial couple of mutually complemented and permutable congruence relations in  $\Theta(P(M))$  (see [1, Th. 5, Chapter VII.]), which is a contradiction to Theorem 4.5.

**Theorem 4.6.** *Let  $A$  be a partition in  $M$ , and let  $\{A_\gamma : \gamma \in \Gamma\}$  be the set of all its blocks. Then the interval  $[O, A]$  is isomorphic to the direct product  $\mathbf{X} \{P(A_\gamma) : \gamma \in \Gamma\} = Q$ .*

*Proof.* With any  $B \in [O, A]$  and any  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  we associate a partition  $B^\gamma$  in  $A_\gamma$  consisting of all blocks of  $B$  contained in  $A_\gamma$ . (If no block of  $B$  in  $A_\gamma$  exists we set  $B^\gamma = O$ .) Then  $B^\gamma \in P(A_\gamma)$  and the mapping  $f: [O, A] \rightarrow Q$  given by  $(f(B))_\gamma = B^\gamma$  is surjective. It is evident that  $B \leq B'$  if and only if  $B^\gamma \leq B'^\gamma$  for every  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

**Remark 4.4.** It can be proved similarly that an analogous theorem holds for the lattice  $\Pi(M)$  (it suffices to replace  $P$  by  $\Pi$ ).

**Lemma 4.6.** *Let  $A \in \Pi(M)$ . Then the interval  $[A, R^m]$  of the lattice  $\Pi(M)$  is isomorphic to the lattice  $\Pi(A)$ .*

*Proof* (cf. [10]). With any  $C \in [A, R^m]$  we associate the partition  $C^*$  on  $A$  defined as follows. Given blocks  $A_1, A_2$  of  $A$ ,  $A_1 C^* A_2$  if and only if  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are contained in the same block of  $C$ . It can be easily shown that the assignment  $C \rightarrow C^*$  is an isomorphism of the lattices  $[A, R^m]$  and  $\Pi(A)$ .

**Corollary 4.2.** *Any interval  $[A, B]$  of the lattice  $\Pi(M)$  is isomorphic to a direct product of symmetric partition lattices. More precisely, if  $B = \{B_\gamma : \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ , and if for any  $\gamma \in \Gamma, M_\gamma$  denotes the set of all blocks of  $A$  contained in  $B_\gamma$ , then  $[A, B] \cong \mathbf{X} \{\Pi(M_\gamma) : \gamma \in \Gamma\}$ .*

**Remark 4.5.** On the lattice  $P(\{1, 2, 3\})$  (see Figure 1) it can be seen that Lemma 4.6 and Corollary 4.2 do not hold for intervals of the lattice  $P(M)$ .

**Theorem 4.7.** *Let  $\text{card } M \geq 4$ . The congruence relation  $\Phi \in \Theta(P(M))$  is the least one for which the quotient lattice  $P(M)/\Phi$  is modular. More precisely, for all congruence relations  $\Phi_1 \geq \Phi$  the lattice  $P(M)/\Phi_1$  is a Boolean algebra and if  $\Psi_1 \geq \Phi$  does not hold, then  $P(M)/\Psi_1$  is not even modular.*

*Proof.* It follows from Theorem 4.1 that  $P(M)/\Phi$  is a Boolean algebra. If  $\Psi_1 \not\geq \Phi$ , then  $\Psi_1 \leq \Psi$  (Remark 2.3). If  $P(M)/\Psi_1$  were modular, then its homomorphic image  $P(M)/\Psi \cong \Pi(M)$  would be modular too, which is a contradiction.

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