Quasi-subtractive varieties

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Based on a joint work with Francesco Paoli and Matthew Spinks

Abstract: The theory of subtractive varieties, developed by Agliano and Ursini, can be seen as a successful attempt at capturing the essence of a correspondence between congruences and ideal-like subsets of algebras. However, certain well-known correspondences of a similar kind are not covered by subtractivity. One such is the correspondence between congruences and deductive filters in residuated lattices. We will present a generalisation of subtractivity, which covers this correspondence as well as a number of others not encompassed by subtractivity. The crucial technical notion we work with is "open filter".

We will show:

(1) that every algebra in a quasi-subtractive variety decomposes as a subdirect product of a subtractive algebra and a "flat" one: typically the "flat" factor is responsible for failures of congruence identities.

(2) That quasi-subtractive algebras admit a construction, we call "open contraction, generalising kernel contractions in residuated lattices.

(3) That Goedel translation of S4 to intuitionistic logic and Glivenko translation of intuitionistic logic to classical logic, viewed algebraically, can be seen as cases of open contractions.

(4) That the lattice of open filters is modular, and admits a reasonable notion of commutator.