

Greatest Hits of the Hawaiian Legends of Universal Algebra and Lattice Theory

Peter Jipsen

Chapman University

ALH 2018: Conference on Algebra and Lattice Theory
Honoring Ralph Freese, Bill Lampe, and JB Nation

June 24, 2018

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Exception: correct mathematical results can be exported from these islands

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JB and Ralph were still working on their 10000 hours

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JB showed in his undergraduate thesis (among other results) that any such group must have in its subgroup lattice a countable sublattice of height 2

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Greatest Hits by the Legends



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Gold: $ms \geq 3$ or $gs \geq 10$

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Gold: $ms \geq 3$ or $gs \geq 10$

Platinum: $ms \geq 10$ or $gs \geq 30$

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The independence of certain related structures of a universal algebra

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Bill proves that you can pick any group G and any pair of nontrivial algebraic lattices L, L' and find an algebra A such that

$$\text{Aut}(A) \cong G, \text{Sub}(A) \cong L \text{ and } \text{Con}(A) \cong L'$$

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“Corollary: Congruence modularity is determined by two-variable identities.”

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A new proof of the Grätzer-Schmidt representation theorem

1973 JB & Ralph, PJM (ms25, gs100)

Congruence lattices of semilattices [most cited paper]

1973 Ralph, LAA (ms22, gs69)

Inequalities for generalized matrix functions based on arbitrary characters
(like crossing over to country music)

1973 Ralph, PUH LTC (ms5, gs19)

Breadth two modular lattices (43 pages!)

1973 Bill, PUH LTC

Representations of lattices as congruence lattices (16 pages)

Greatest Hits from the mid 1970s



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1974 Ralph, DM (ms6, gs42)

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An application of Dilworth's lattice of maximal antichains

Dilworth proved that the maximal antichains of a poset form a distributive lattice.

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Ideal lattices of lattices

Every algebraic lattice is a subdirect product of complete upper continuous subdirectly irreducible lattices

More Greatest Hits from the mid 1970s

Planar sublattices of $FM(4)$

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“In this paper we show that any finite planar modular lattice which does not contain a sublattice isomorphic to M_4 is a sublattice of $FM(4)$. [...] infinitely many of these lattices are simple, whereas previously no example of a simple sublattice of $FM(4)$ with more than five elements was known.”

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Every modular lattice variety is generated by its weakly atomic, subdirectly irreducible members.

Every modular lattice can be imbedded in a strongly atomic, subdirectly irreducible modular lattice”

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Peter Jipsen — Chapman University — ALHawaii 5/24/2018

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The structure of modular lattices of width four with applications to varieties of lattices

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The variety generated by all modular lattices of width four is finitely based, locally finite and has uncountably many subvarieties, and **many more structural results**

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Projective lattices

1978 JB & Ralph, PJM (ms7, gs44)

Necessary and sufficient conditions for a lattice to be projective (= retract

More Greatest Hits from the late 1970s

The Legendary UA-Team

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Projective geometries as projective modular lattices

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Using von Neumann's n -frames to coordinatize modular lattices, it is shown that the lattice of subspaces of a finite ($n \geq 4$) dimensional vector space over a finite prime field is projective in the class of modular lattices. It follows that $L(\mathbb{Z}_p^n)$ is a splitting modular lattice (as well as some gluings of these).

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Every free distributive lattice can be embedded into a free modular lattice.
Epimorphisms of modular lattices are not necessarily onto.
Is every splitting modular lattice finite?

More Greatest Hits from the late 1970s

Congruence lattices of algebras of fixed similarity type. I

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1979 Bill, Ralph & Walter, PJM (ms8, gs56)

“We prove that if V is any infinite dimensional vector space over any uncountable field F , then the congruence lattice (= subspace lattice) of V cannot be represented as a congruence lattice (of any algebra) without using at least $|F|$ operations. This refutes a long standing conjecture—that one binary operation would always suffice.”

Greatest Hits from the early 1980s

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Free modular lattices

“It is shown that the word problem for the free modular lattice on five generators is recursively unsolvable.”

Uses von Neumann n -frames to interpret the unsolvability of the word problem for groups.

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1980 Alan & Ralph, CJM (ms11, gs74)

From Ralph's 1995 paper on Alan's early work: “After completing [9], Bjarni Jónsson and J. B. Nation accused Alan and I of killing the subject of congruence varieties, since this paper answered most of the questions we had been interested in. [...] However, the subject is coming back to life because of some important recent developments. There are also some very interesting unsolved problems. One problem that is still open: Is there a unique largest modular congruence variety?”

Greatest Hits from the early 1980s

1981 Ralph & Ralph, TAMS (ms14, gs64)

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Residually small varieties with modular congruence lattices

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From Walter Taylor's review: "The first main result [...] says that if V is [cong. modular and] residually small, then $\alpha \wedge [\beta, \beta] \leq [\alpha, \beta]$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in A \in V$. In fact, if this commutator identity fails, then residual smallness fails quite sharply: there exist subdirectly irreducible algebras in V with arbitrarily large congruence lattices. The proof is a **straightforward but very clever** calculation in lattice theory.

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Quackenbush asked [long] ago whether there exists a finite algebra A such that the variety V generated by A has infinitely many finite s.i. algebras but no infinite s.i. algebra. [...] this paper tells us that A cannot be in any congruence-modular variety."

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1981 András, Christian & Ralph, AU (ms6, gs31)

More Greatest Hits from the early 1980s

The Ghostbusters

More Greatest Hits from the early 1980s

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Finite sublattices of a free lattice

“Every finite semidistributive lattice satisfying Whitman’s condition is isomorphic to a sublattice of a free lattice.”

The secret to success?

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Covers in free lattices

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The Zipper!

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The book that opened the floodgates for modern universal algebra

Second edition now free at

<http://www.math.hawaii.edu/~ralph/Commutator/comm.pdf>

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The Legendary Musketeers

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Greatest Hits from the late 1980s

Arguesian lattices whose skeleton is a chain

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Greatest Hits from the early 1990s

An approach to lattice varieties of finite height

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Among many other results, lattice identities $\sigma_n, \tau_{n,k}, \lambda_m$ are defined such that a subdirectly irreducible lattice is finite if and only if it satisfies these identities for some $k, m, n \geq 1$. The aim is to solve the finite height conjecture.

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1994 Alan, Bjarni, Christian, Doug & JB, AU (ms3, gs11)

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The Legendary Tenors

Greatest Hits from the mid 1990s

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The Honorees thinking hard

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Simultaneous congruence representations: a special case

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Results and problems on congruence lattice representations

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Pictures from my sabbatical 2011

The three Legends taking off

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The three Legends taking off



Someone who did grow up on Hawaii

Jimmy Freese

Someone who did grow up on Hawaii

Jimmy Freese



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A new look at the Jordan-Hölder theorem for semimodular lattices

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Greatest Hits of the Future



Greatest Hits of the Future



Ralph: "Hey, check out my UACalc app

Greatest Hits of the Future



Ralph: "Hey, check out my UACalc app
with AI machine learning on the iPhone!"

Greatest Hits of the Future



JB: "Wowza! I found a projective plane of order 12"

Greatest Hits of the Future



JB: “Wowza! I found a projective plane of order 12
with my quantum computer!”

Greatest Hits of the Future



Bill: “Guys, I created an alternative universe where all finite lattices are represented by finite algebras;

Greatest Hits of the Future



Bill: “Guys, I created an alternative universe where all finite lattices are represented by finite algebras; it’s easy”

Greatest Hits of the Future



Live long and prosper!

Greatest Hits of the Future



Live long and prosper!
Thank you Bill, JB and Ralph!

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