

Convex and Weakly Convex Subsets of a Pseudo Ordered Set

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Abstract: In this paper the notion of convex and weakly convex (w-convex) subset of a pseudo ordered set is introduced and several characterizations are proved. It is proved that set of all convex subsets of a pseudo ordered set A forms a complete lattice. Notion of isomorphism of psets is introduced and characterization for convex isomorphic psets is obtained. It is proved that lattice of all w-convex subsets of a pseudo ordered set A denoted by $WCS(A)$ is lower semi modular. Also we have proved that for any two pseudo ordered sets A and A^1 , w-convex homomorphism maps atoms of $WCS(A)$ to atoms of $WCS(A^1)$. Concept of path preserving mapping is introduced in a pseudo ordered set and it is proved that every mapping of a pseudo ordered set A to itself is path preserving if and only if A is a cycle.

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1. Introduction

A reflexive and anti-symmetric binary relation \mathcal{D} on a set A is called a *pseudo-order* on A and $\langle A, \mathcal{D} \rangle$ is called a *pseudo-ordered set* or a *pset*. For $a, b \in A$ if $a \mathcal{D} b$ and a upper bound, the greatest lower bound (GLB or meet, denoted by $\wedge B$), the least upper bound (LUB or join, denoted by $\vee B$) are defined analogously to the corresponding notions in a poset [1]. It is shown in [3] that any pset can be regarded as a digraph (possibly infinite) in which for any pair of distinct elements u and v there is no directed line between u and v or if there is a directed line from u to v , there is no directed line from v to u . Define a relation $\pm B$ on a subset B of a pset $\langle A, \mathcal{D} \rangle$ by setting $b \pm B b^1$ for two elements b and b^1 of B if and only if there is a directed path in B from b to b^1 say $b = b_0 \mathcal{D} b_1 \mathcal{D} \dots \mathcal{D} b_n = b^1$ for some $n \geq 0$. The relation $\pm B$ is defined dually. If for each pair of elements b and b^1 of B at least one of the relations $b \pm B b^1$ or $b^1 \pm B b$ holds, then B will be called a *pseudo chain* or a *p-chain*. If for each pair of elements b and b^1 of B both the relations $b \pm B b^1$ and $b^1 \pm B b$ hold, then B will be called a *cycle*. The empty set and a single element set in a pset are cycles. A non-trivial cycle contains at least three elements. A pset is said to be *acyclic* if it does not contain any non-trivial cycle.

2. Convex Subset of a Pset

Definition 2.1. A subset S of a pseudo ordered set A is said to be a *convex subset* of A whenever $a, b \in S$ and $c \in A$ such that $a \mathcal{D} c \mathcal{D} b$ then $c \in S$. Set of all convex subsets of a pset A is denoted by $CS(A)$. Clearly the empty set \emptyset and the pset A are convex subsets. Any singleton is a convex subset of A . Obviously $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ is a poset where \subseteq is the set inclusion relation defined on S . For $K_1, K_2 \in CS(A)$, define $K_1 \wedge K_2 = K_1 \cap K_2$ and $K_1 \vee K_2 =$ smallest convex subset of A containing $K_1 \cup K_2$. Then

$\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ is a complete lattice with smallest element \varnothing and greatest element A . The lattice $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ is atomistic. One element subset of A are atoms of $CS(A)$ and each element of $CS(A)$ different from \varnothing is a join of some atoms.

Example 2.2. Consider the psoet $\langle A, \mathfrak{D} \rangle$ represented in Figure 1. $CS(A) = \{\varnothing, \{a\}, \{b\}, \{c\}, \{d\}, \{a,b\}, \{b,c,d\}, A\}$ and

$\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ is a lattice which is represented in Figure 2 Where $P = \varnothing, Q = \{a\}, R = \{b\}, S = \{c\}, T = \{d\}, U = \{a,b\}, V = \{b,c,d\}$ and $W = A$.

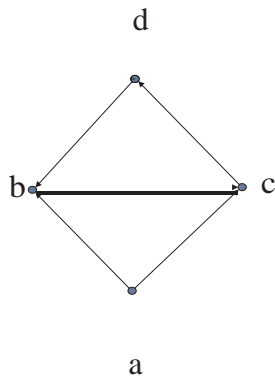


Figure 1:

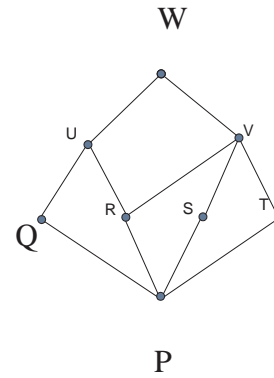


Figure 2:

Remark 2.3. $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ of Figure 2 is a nonmodular lattice. But $CS(A)$ is both lower semimodular and upper semimodular.

Definition 2.4. Let $\{X_i : i \in I\}$ be an arbitrary collection of subsets of a pseudo ordered set A . The set of all $Z \in CS(A)$ such that $X_i \subseteq Z$ for each $i \in I$ will be denoted by $CSA(X_i : i \in I)$. If $\{X_i : i \in I\} = \{X, Y\}$, we denote $CSA(X_i : i \in I) = CSA(X, Y)$ and for $X = \{a\}$ and $Y = \{b\}$, we denote it by $CSA(a, b)$.

Definition 2.5. Let A be any psoet and $M \subseteq A$. run over all convex subset of

Let $CSA(M) = \bigcap \{K_i : i \in I\}$ where K_i

A containing M . We write $CSA(a, b)$ for $CSA(\{a, b\})$.

Definition 2.6. We say that two psoets A and A^1 are convex isomorphic if and only if $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ and $\langle CS(A^1), \subseteq \rangle$ are isomorphic. Let F be a mapping from A into B and $\varnothing \neq C \subseteq A$. Denote by F/C , the restriction of F onto the subset C . That is $F/C = F \cap (C \times B)$. All one element subset of A are atoms in the lattice $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$. If F is an isomorphism between $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ and $\langle CS(A^1), \subseteq \rangle$, then as every isomorphism of atomic lattices maps atoms onto atoms, we get $F(\{a\}) = \{a^1\} \in CS(A^1)$ where $a^1 \in A^1$.

Definition 2.7. Let F be an isomorphism of lattices $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ and $\langle CS(A^1), \subseteq \rangle$. Let f be a mapping from A to A^1 such that $\{f(a)\} = F(\{a\})$ for each $a \in A$. Then we say that the mapping f is associated with the isomorphism F .

Denote $f(S) = \{f(x) | x \in S\}$ for a subset S of A .

Lemma 2.8. $F(S) = f(S)$ for any $S \in CS(A)$.

Proof. If $a \in S$ then $\{a\} \subseteq S$ and $F(\{a\}) = \{f(a)\} \subseteq F(S)$ as F is an isomorphism. Then $f(a) \in F(S)$ and thus $f(S) \subseteq F(S)$. Conversely, if $a^1 \in F(S)$ then $\{a^1\} \subseteq F(S)$ and $F^{-1}(\{a^1\}) = \{f^{-1}(a^1)\} \subseteq S$ as F^{-1} is also an isomorphism. Then $f^{-1}(a^1) \in S$ and $a^1 \in f(S)$ so that $F(S) \subseteq f(S)$ proving that $F(S) = f(S)$. \square

Theorem 2.9. Let f be associated with an isomorphism F of the lattices $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ and $\langle CS(A^1), \subseteq \rangle$. Then $f(CS_A(M)) = CS_{A^1}(f(M))$ for any subset $M \subseteq A$.

Proof. As $M \subseteq^T CS_A(M)$, we have $f(M) \subseteq f(CS_A(M))$. Now, $\overset{T}{\text{by lemma 2.8}}$ $f(CS_A(M)) = F(CS_A(M)) \in CS(A^1)$ and therefore $CS_{A^1}(f(M)) \subseteq f(CS_A(M))$. On the other hand, let $Z \in CS(A^1)$ be such that $f(M) \subseteq Z$. Since F is surjective, there exists $W \in CS(A)$ with $F(W) = f(W) = Z$. It follows that $M \subseteq W$ and therefore $\overset{T}{CS_A(M)} \subseteq W$, consequently $f(\overset{T}{CS_A(M)}) \subseteq Z$ and $f(CS_A(M)) \subseteq CS_{A^1}(f(M))$. \square

Theorem

2.10. The following three conditions are equivalent for two posets A and A^1 .

(i). The posets A and A^1 are convex isomorphic.

(ii). There exists a bijection $f: A \rightarrow A^1$ such that $f(CS_A(M)) = CS_{A^1}(f(M))$ for $M \subseteq A$.

(iii). There exists a bijection $f: A \rightarrow A^1$ such that $f(CS_A((a, b))) = CS_{A^1}((f(a), f(b)))$ for each $a, b \in A$.

Proof. (i) \Rightarrow (ii): follows from Theorem 2.9.

(ii) \Rightarrow (iii): Follows directly.

(iii) \Rightarrow (i): Let f be a bijection satisfying (iii). Denote by $P(A)$ the power set of A and define a mapping $F: P(A) \rightarrow P(A^1)$ such that $F(S) = f(S)$ for each $S \in P(A)$. Now, we prove that for any convex set S , its image $F(S)$ is also convex. Clearly $f(a), f(b) \in f(S) = F(S)$ for each $a, b \in S$. If $S \in CS(A)$ then $CS_A(a, b) \subseteq S$ for arbitrary $a, b \in S$ and so by (iii), we have $CS_{A^1}(f(a), f(b)) = f(CS_A(a, b)) \subseteq f(S) = F(S)$. This implies that the mapping F maps convex subsets of A onto convex subsets of A^1 and F is a bijection as f is a bijection. Therefore the restriction of the mapping $F/CS(A): CS(A) \rightarrow CS(A^1)$ is also a bijection. Since $S \subseteq T$ if and only if $F(S) \subseteq F(T)$ for each $S, T \in CS(A)$, the mapping $F/CS(A)$ is an isomorphism of lattices $\langle CS(A), \subseteq \rangle$ and $\langle CS(A^1), \subseteq \rangle$. Therefore posets A and A^1 are convex isomorphic. \square

3. w-convex Subsets of a P-Set

Definition 3.1. A subset S of a poset A is said to be a w-convex subset (weakly convex subset) of A whenever $a, b \in S$ and $c \in A$ such that $a \pm c \pm b$ then $c \in S$.

Set of all w -convex subsets of a poset A is denoted by $WCS(A)$ and it forms a lattice with respect to the relation \subseteq .

Remark 3.2.

(1). For $H_1, H_2 \in WCS(A)$, define $H_1 \wedge H_2 = H_1 \cap H_2$ and $H_1 \vee H_2 =$ the smallest w -convex subset of A containing $H_1 \cup H_2$. (2). $(WCS(A), \subseteq)$ is a complete lattice as \emptyset is the least element and A is the greatest element of $WCS(A)$.

Example 3.3. A poset (A, \mathbb{D}) where $A = \{a, b, c, d\}$ and the lattice of all its w -convex subsets are shown in Figure 3.

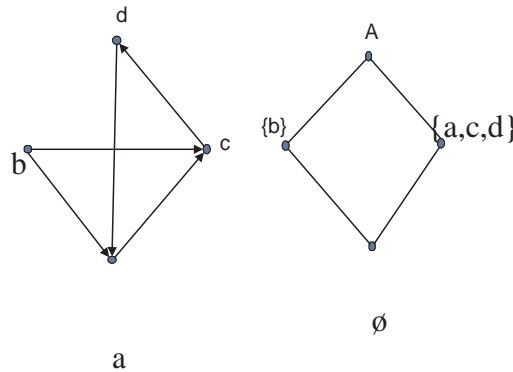


Figure 3:

Definition 3.4. Let S be a subset of a poset A . The w -convex hull of S denoted by $wch(S)$ is defined to be the smallest w -convex subset of A containing S .

Theorem 3.5. Let S be a subset of a poset A . Then $wch(S) = \{q \in A \mid p_1 \pm A q \pm A p_2 \text{ for some } p_1, p_2 \in S\}$ where p_1, p_2 need not be distinct.

Proof. Let $Q = \{q \in A \mid p_1 \pm A q \pm A p_2 \text{ for some } p_1, p_2 \in S\}$. Clearly Q is a subset of any w -convex subset of A containing

S . Then $Q \subseteq wch(S)$. Let us prove that Q itself is a w -convex subset of A . Let $q_1, q_2 \in Q$ such that $q_1 \pm A r \pm A q_2$ for some

$r \in A$. Now $q_1 \in Q$ implies there exists some $p_1, p_2 \in S$ such that $p_1 \pm A q_1 \pm A p_2$. Also $q_2 \in Q$ implies there exist $p^1, p^1 \in S$

such that $p^1 \pm A q_2 \pm A p^1$. Then $p_1 \pm A q_1 \pm A r \pm A q_2 \pm A p^1$ which implies $r \in Q$. Therefore $Q = wch(S)$. □

Corollary 3.6. For any element a in a cycle C , $wch(\{a\}) = C$. A lattice L is said to be lower semimodular if x and y covers $x \wedge y$.

Theorem 3.7. Lattice of all w -convex subsets of a poset A is lower semimodular.

Proof. Let $S_1, S_2 \in WCS(A)$, lattice of all w -convex subsets of a poset A . Let $P = S_1 \vee S_2$ and $Q = S_1 \wedge S_2$. Let P cover both S_1 and S_2 . It suffices to prove that S_1 covers Q . Suppose there exists a w -convex subset S^1 of A such that

$Q \subseteq S^1 \subseteq S_1$. Let $s_0 \in S^1 - Q$. Then $s_0 \in S_1$ and $s_0 \notin S_2$. Let $s_1 \in S_1 - S^1$. Then $s_1 \in S_1, s_1 \notin S_2$ and s_1, s_0 .

Now

$S_2 \subset S_2 \cup \{s_0\} \subset P$, as P is the smallest w -convex subset of A containing $S_1 \cup S_2$. But P covers S_2 imply $S_2 \cup \{s_0\}$ is not a w -convex subset of A . Therefore there exists a path between s_0 and an element $k_0 \in S_2$ which does not lie completely in $S_2 \cup \{s_0\}$. Assume the path in the form $k_0 \pm A s_0$. (similar argument holds if the path is of the form $s_0 \pm A k_0$).

Let $X = \{s \in S^1 - Q \mid k \pm A s \text{ for some } k \in S_2\}$. X is nonempty as $s_0 \in X$ and $S_2 \subset S_2 \cup X$. Further as $s_1 \notin X$ (in fact $s_1 \notin S^1$), we have $S_2 \cup X \subset P$. As P covers $S_2, S_2 \cup X \notin WCS(A)$. Therefore there exists a path $m \pm A n$ between two elements m, n of $S_2 \cup X$ which is not contained in $S_2 \cup X$. This implies $m \pm A t \pm A n$ but $t \notin S_2 \cup X$. We can assume that $t \in P$ as $S_2 \cup X$ is not a convex subset of P . In the following cases either we get a contradiction to the w -convexity of S_2 or S^1 itself is not w -convex, proving S_1 covers Q .

Case(1): Let $m, n \in S_2$. This is a contradiction to the w -convexity of S_2 .

Case(2): Let $m \in X$ and $n \in S_2$. As $m \in X, m \notin S_2$. By the definition of X there exists a $k \in S_2$ such that $k \pm A m$.

Thus $k \pm A m$ and $m \pm A t \pm A n$ imply $k \pm A t \pm A n$, which contradicts the w -convexity of S_2 .

Case(3): Let $m, n \in X$. As $m \in X$, there exists a path $k \pm A m$ for some $k \in S_2$. But we have a path $m \pm A t$ which implies there is a path $k \pm A t$. But $t \notin X, t \in S^1 - Q$. Since $t \notin S_2$, it cannot be in Q . So $t \notin S^1$. But $m, n \in X \subseteq S^1$ show that S^1 is not a w -convex subset of A .

Case(4): Let $m \in S_2$ and $n \in X$. As we have a path from $m \pm A t, t \in X = S^1 - Q$ and since $t \notin S_2$ imply $t \in S^1$. Now P

covers S_2 and $t \notin S_2$, we must have $wch(S_2 \cup \{t\}) = P$. Thus every element of P is in S_2 or lies on some path between t and an element of S_2 . In particular consider some $s_0 \in X$, we have $k_0 \pm A s_0$ and $t \pm A n$. If $k \pm A s_0 \pm A t$ where $k \in S_2$, then we have $s_0 \pm A t \pm A n$ which proves that S^1 is not w -convex. On the other hand if $t \pm A s_0 \pm A k$ then $k_0 \pm A s_0 \pm A k$, contradicting the w -convexity of S_2 . \square

Theorem 3.8. If S covers S^1 in $WCS(A)$ and p, q belong to $S - S^1$ then $wch(\{p\}) = wch(\{q\})$.

Proof.

As S covers $S^1, wch(S^1 \cup \{p\}) = wch(S^1 \cup \{q\}) = S$. Then p lies in a path from q to r where $r \in S^1$ and q lies in a path from p to s where $s \in S^1$. If there exist paths $p \pm A q$ and $q \pm A p$ then the proof is done. But if both paths have the same direction say $p \pm A q$, we have paths $p \pm A r$ and $s \pm A p$ with $r, s \in S^1$, contradicting the w -convexity of S^1 . \square

Definition 3.9. Let $\langle A, \mathbb{D} \rangle$ and $\langle A^1, \mathbb{D}^1 \rangle$ be any two psosets. A mapping $f : A \rightarrow A^1$ is called (1). order preserving iff for $a, b \in A, a \mathbb{D} b$ implies $f(a) \mathbb{D}^1 f(b)$.

(2). path preserving iff for $a, b \in A, a \pm_A b$ implies $f(a) \pm_{A^1} f(b)$.

Remark 3.10. Any order preserving mapping f is path preserving. The converse is not true. For example, in the psoset A of Figure 4, define a mapping $f : A \rightarrow A$ by $f(a) = b, f(b) = a, f(c) = c$. Clearly f is path preserving but not order preserving.

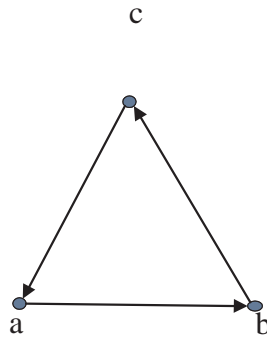


Figure 4:

Theorem 3.11. Every mapping of a poset A to itself is path preserving if and only if A is a cycle.

Proof. If A is a cycle, then for any two elements a, b of A , both $a \pm_A b$ and $b \pm_A a$ hold. Therefore every mapping of A to itself is path preserving. Conversely, let us assume that A is not a cycle. Then there exists at least one pair of elements

say (a, b) in A such that $a \pm_A b$ holds but $b \pm_A a$ does not hold.

Define $f: A \rightarrow A$ by $f(b) = a$ and $f(c) = b$ for all c

□
b

. Then f is not path preserving as $a \pm_A b$ but $f(a) \pm_A f(b)$ does not hold.

One can easily prove the following theorem.

Theorem 3.12. Let $f: A \rightarrow A^1$ be path preserving. If S is a w -convex subset in A then $f(S)$ is a w -convex subset in A^1 .

Definition 3.13. Let (A, \mathcal{D}) and (A^1, \mathcal{D}^1) be any two posets. A mapping $f: A \rightarrow A^1$ is called a homomorphism if (1) f is order preserving.

(2) $a^1 \mathcal{D}^1 b^1$ in A^1 implies there exists $a \in f^{-1}(a^1)$ and $b \in f^{-1}(b^1)$ such that $a \mathcal{D} b$.

Theorem 3.14. Let $f: A \rightarrow A^1$ be a homomorphism. If S^1 is a w -convex subset of A^1 then $f^{-1}(S^1)$ is a w -convex subset of A .

Proof. Let $a, b \in f^{-1}(S^1)$ such that $a \pm_A c \pm_A b$ for some $c \in A$. If $c \notin f^{-1}(S^1)$ then $f(c) \notin S^1$. Now $f(a) \pm_{A^1} f(c) \pm_{A^1} f(b)$ and $f(c) \notin S^1$, a contradiction to the w -convexity of S^1 . Hence $c \in f^{-1}(S^1)$ and $f^{-1}(S^1)$ is w -convex. □

Remark 3.15. If $f: A \rightarrow A^1$ is a homomorphism between two posets A and A^1 and if S is a w -convex subset of A then $f(S)$ need not be a w -convex subset of A^1 . For, in Figure 5 define a map $f: A \rightarrow A^1$ by $f(a) = w, f(b) = y, f(c) = x, f(d) = z$. Clearly f is a homomorphism. Observe that $\{b\}$ is w -convex in A whereas $f(\{b\}) = \{y\}$ is not w -convex in A^1 .

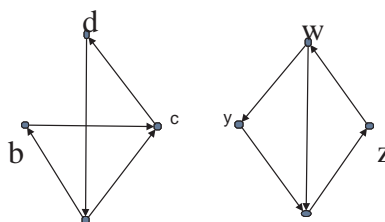




Figure 5:

Definition 3.16. A homomorphism between two posets A and A^1 is called a w -convex homomorphism if it takes w -convex subsets of A onto w -convex subsets of A^1 .

An element a of a lattice L is said to be an atom if for any $b \in L$, $0 \leq b \leq a$ imply either $b = 0$ or $b = a$ where 0 is the least element of L .

Remark 3.17.

- (1). A cycle in a poset A is always an atom of $WCS(A)$
- (2). w -convex hull of a single element in a poset A is an atom in $WCS(A)$.

Theorem 3.18. Let $f : A \rightarrow A^1$ be a w -convex homomorphism. If S is an atom in $WCS(A)$ then $f(S)$ is an atom in

$WCS(A^1)$. Conversely if S^1 is an atom in $WCS(A^1)$ then there exists an atom S in $WCS(A)$ such that $f(S) = S^1$.

Proof. If $f(S)$ is not an atom in $WCS(A^1)$ then there exists a w -convex subset S^1 in $WCS(A^1)$ such that $\emptyset \subset S^1 \subset f(S)$. But then $\emptyset \subset f^{-1}(S^1) \cap S \subset S$, where $f^{-1}(S^1) \cap S$ is also a w -convex subset of A , contradicting the fact that S is an atom. Conversely, let S^1 be an atom in $WCS(A^1)$ and $S \subseteq f^{-1}(S^1)$ be an atom in $WCS(A)$. Then $\emptyset \subsetneq f(S) \subseteq S^1$ and since S^1 is an atom in $WCS(A^1)$, we have $f(S) = S^1$. \square

Corollary 3.19. Any w -convex homomorphism maps cyclic posets into cyclic posets.

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