

## Forbidden Structures in Heyting Algebras with Respect to Sublattices

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### **Abstract**

In this paper, we have obtained forbidden structures of varieties of Heyting algebras namely  $H_2, H_3, H_4, H_5, H_6, H_7$  with respect to sublattices.

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**Keywords:** Brouwerian lattice, Heyting Algebra, Distributive lattice, Sublattice, Forbidden structure

# 1 Introduction

The study of forbidden structures has a long history. In fact, it has been noted and studied in depth by many researchers; see [1], [3], [4], [5], [6], [13], [17], [19], [20], [21], [22], [23], etc. A *Boolean lattice* is a complemented distributive lattice. It is well known that complements (if exist) are unique in any distributive lattice. It follows that any Boolean lattice is dually isomorphic with itself (self-dual); see [1]. A Boolean lattice can also be regarded as an algebra with two binary operations  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ , an unary operation  $'$  (complementation) and two nullary operations of picking up special elements namely 0 and 1. Thus a Boolean algebra is an algebra of the type  $\langle B; \wedge, \vee, ', 0, 1 \rangle$ ; see [6]. Boolean lattices considered as algebras  $(2, 2, 1, 0, 0)$  are called Boolean algebras. In a Boolean algebra  $A$ , for an element  $a \in A$ , there is a complement of  $a$ , denoted by  $a' \in A$  which is the largest element  $x \in A$  such that  $a \wedge x = 0$ . More generally, for  $a, b, x \in A$ ,  $a \wedge x \leq b$  if and only if  $a \wedge x \wedge b' = 0$ , i.e.,  $x \wedge (a \wedge b') = 0$  or  $x \leq (a \wedge b')' = b \vee a'$ . Therefore, given  $a, b \in A$ , there exists a largest element  $c \in A$ ,  $c = b \vee a'$  such that  $a \wedge c \leq b$ . Brouwer and Heyting characterized an important generalization of Boolean algebras through an extension of the preceding property as stipulated in the definition given below.

**Definition 1.1** *A Brouwerian lattice  $L$  is a lattice in which, for any elements  $a$  and  $b$ , the set of all  $x \in L$  such that  $a \wedge x \leq b$  contains a greatest element. Such greatest element is called relative pseudocomplement of  $a$  in  $b$ , denoted as  $a_b^*$  or  $a \rightarrow b$  or  $b : a$ , and so the lattice is also called relatively pseudocomplemented lattice. The operation of getting relative pseudocomplements is called Heyting operation.*

From the definition, it is easy to observe that every Brouwerian lattice has the unit element. In a Brouwerian lattice  $L$  with 0, the relative pseudocomplement of  $a$  in 0 is nothing but the pseudocomplement  $a^*$  of  $a$ . The study of different types of algebras can be seen in [7], [8], [9], [10] and [2]. The following result is proved in [1].

**Theorem 1.2 ([1])** *Any Brouwerian lattice is distributive.*

According to [7], a Brouwerian lattice which is bounded, is called a *Heyting algebra*. The class of Heyting algebras is a subclass of the class of distributive lattices and also the class of pseudocomplemented lattices. A Heyting algebra  $H$  is said to be of order 3 if every interval in  $D(H)$  is complemented, where  $D(H) = \{x \in H : x^* = 0\}$ . Heyting algebras are well studied in the literature. Especially, Heyting algebras have been found useful to analyze qualitative relations in biological systems and different biological processes (see [14], [15],

[16]). Qualitative relationships concern with those parts of biological systems that determine functional properties, and also different relations among them.

We have the following definitions.

A Heyting algebra is of order 3 ( $H_3$ ) if and only if it satisfies the identity  $x \vee x_{y \vee y^*}^* = 1$ . (see [7])

A Heyting algebra is of order 2 ( $H_2$ ) if and only if it satisfies the identity  $x^* \vee x^{**} = 1$ . This is also called as Stone algebra.

A Heyting algebra is of order 4 ( $H_4$ ) if and only if it satisfies the identities  $x \vee x_{y \vee y^*}^* = 1$  and  $x_y^* \vee y_x^* \vee [x_{y^*}^* \wedge (y^*)_x] = 1$ .

A Heyting algebra is of order 5 ( $H_5$ ) if and only if it satisfies the identities  $x \vee x_{y \vee y^*}^* = 1$  and  $x^* \vee x^{**} = 1$ .

A Heyting algebra is of order 6 ( $H_6$ ) if and only if it satisfies the identity  $x_y^* \vee y_x^* = 1$ .

A Heyting algebra is of order 7 ( $H_7$ ) if and only if it satisfies the identity  $x \vee x^* = 1$ . This is also called as Boolean algebra.

These varieties satisfy following inclusion:

$$H_7 \subset H_5 \subset H_6 \subset H_2,$$

and

$$H_7 \subset H_5 \subset H_4 \subset H_3.$$

## 2 Main Results

In this paper, all lattices considered are finite.

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $L$  be a Brouwerian lattice with 0 and 1. If  $a, b \in L$  such that  $b$  is meet irreducible with  $b < a$ , then  $a_b^* = b$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $L$  is a Brouwerian lattice with 0 and 1 and  $a, b \in L$  are such that  $b$  is meet irreducible with  $b < a$ , with  $a_b^* \neq b$ . Since  $b \leq a_b^*$ , we must have  $b < a_b^*$ . Suppose there exists an element  $z$  in  $L$  such that  $b \prec z \leq a$ . Since  $b$  is meet irreducible, we get that  $z \leq a_b^*$ , which implies that  $z \wedge a \leq a \wedge a_b^*$ , and so  $z \wedge a \leq b$ , i.e.,  $z \leq b$ , a contradiction to the fact that  $b \prec z$ . We conclude that, whenever  $b$  is meet irreducible and  $b < a$ , we must have  $b = a_b^*$ . Hence  $a_b^* = b$ .  $\square$

The following results are given in [6].

**Theorem 2.2** ([6]) *Identities are preserved under the formation of sublattices, homomorphic images, direct products, and ideal lattices.*

Distributivity criteria in terms of forbidden structure is given by Birkhoff and modularity criteria in terms of forbidden structure is given by Dedekind.

**Theorem 2.3 ([6])** *A lattice  $L$  is distributive if and only if  $L$  does not contain a pentagon ( $N_5$ ) or a diamond ( $M_3$ ).*

**Theorem 2.4** *A Heyting algebra  $L$  is in  $H_7$  if and only if it does not contain a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice as depicted in the Figure-1.*

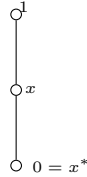


Figure 1:

*Proof.* If  $L$  is in  $H_7$ , then by Theorem 2.2, every sublattice of  $L$  is in  $H_7$  and the lattice as depicted in the Figure-1 is not in  $H_7$ .

Conversely, suppose  $L \notin H_7$ . Then there exists an element, say  $x \in L$  such that  $x \vee x^* \neq 1$ . Suppose that  $x^* = 0$ , then the sublattice  $\{0 = x^*, x = x \vee x^*, 1\}$  of  $L$  is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in the Figure-1. Now, suppose  $x^* \neq 0$ , then  $0, x, x^*, x \vee x^*, 1$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $y = x \vee x^*$ , then the sublattice  $\{0 = y^*, y = y \vee y^*, 1\}$  of  $L$  is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in the Figure-1.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5** *A Heyting algebra  $L$  is in  $H_2$  if and only if it does not contain a sublattice containing  $0$  of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice as depicted in the Figure-2.*

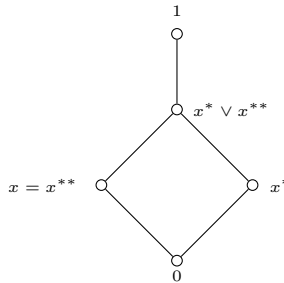


Figure 2:

*Proof.* If  $L$  is in  $H_2$ , then by Theorem 2.2, every sublattice of  $L$  is also in  $H_2$  and the lattice as depicted in the Figure-2 is not in  $H_2$ .

Conversely, suppose  $L \notin H_2$ . Then there exists an element, say  $x \in L$  such that  $x^* \vee x^{**} \neq 1$ . Suppose  $x = x^{**}$ , then  $\{0, x, x^*, x \vee x^*, 1\}$  forms a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2. Now, suppose that  $x \neq x^{**}$ . But then,  $x < x^{**}$  and  $0, x, x^*, x^{**}, 1$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Note that  $x \vee x^* \neq x^* \vee x^{**}$ ; otherwise,  $\{0, x, x^*, x^{**}, x \vee x^* = x^* \vee x^{**}, 1\}$  forms a sublattice isomorphic to  $N_5$ , contradicting distributivity of  $L$ . Also, we have  $x^{**} \wedge (x \vee x^*) = (x^{**} \wedge x) \vee (x^{**} \wedge x^*) = x \vee 0 = x$ . Take  $y = x^*$ , then the sublattice  $\{0, y = y^{**}, y^*, y^* \vee y^{**}, 1\}$  of  $L$  is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6** *A Heyting algebra  $L$  is in  $H_6$  if and only if it does not contain a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice as depicted in the Figure-2.*

*Proof.* If  $L$  is in  $H_6$ , then by Theorem 2.2, every sublattice of  $L$  is in  $H_6$  and the lattice as depicted in the Figure-2 is not in  $H_6$ .

Conversely, suppose  $L \notin H_6$ . Then there exists a pair of elements  $x, y \in L$  such that  $x_y^* \vee y_x^* \neq 1$ . Note that  $x \parallel y$ ; otherwise, if  $x \not\parallel y$ , then either  $x \leq y$  or  $y \leq x$  and  $x \leq y$  gives  $x_y^* = 1$ , a contradiction to the fact  $x_y^* \vee y_x^* \neq 1$  and similarly for  $y \leq x$ . Also, we must have  $x \not\leq x_y^*$  and  $y \not\leq y_x^*$ . Indeed, if  $x \leq x_y^*$ , then  $x = x \wedge x \leq x \wedge x_y^* \leq y$ , a contradiction to the fact that  $x \parallel y$  and similarly for  $y \not\leq y_x^*$ . Now, by definition,  $y \leq x_y^*$  and  $x \leq y_x^*$  and accordingly we have the following cases.

**Case 1** Suppose  $y = x_y^*$  and  $x = y_x^*$ . Then  $\{x \wedge y, x, y, x \vee y, 1\}$  forms a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2.

**Case 2** Suppose  $y = x_y^*$  and  $x \neq y_x^*$ . Then  $x \wedge y, x, y, y_x^*, x \vee y, 1$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Also, we have the following.

- (2-I) We claim that  $y_x^* \wedge (x \vee y) = x$ . Indeed, if  $y_x^* \wedge (x \vee y) = z \neq x$ , then  $x < z < x \vee y$  and the set  $\{x \wedge y, x, y, z, x \vee y\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$ .
- (2-II) We claim that  $y_x^* \wedge y = x \wedge y$ . If  $y_x^* \wedge y = z$ , then  $x \wedge y \leq z$  since  $x \leq y_x^*$ . By definition we get,  $y \wedge y_x^* \leq x$ , i.e.,  $z \leq x$ . Also, we have  $z \leq y$  and so  $z \leq x \wedge y$  and consequently  $z = x \wedge y$ .
- (2-III) We claim that  $x \vee y \neq (y_x^*) \vee y$ . Indeed, if  $x \vee y = (y_x^*) \vee y$ , then  $x \wedge y, x, y, y_x^*, x \vee y$  are distinct elements of  $L$  and form a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to  $N_5$ .

Now, the set  $\{x \wedge y, x, y, x \vee y, y_x^*, y_x^* \vee y, 1\}$  of distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = y_x^*, v = x_y^*$ , then the distinct elements  $\{u \wedge v, u, v, u \vee v, 1\}$  of  $L$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2.

Case 3 Similar to the Case 2, if  $y \neq x_y^*$  and  $x = y_x^*$ , we get a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2.

Case 4 Suppose  $y \neq x_y^*$  and  $x \neq y_x^*$ , then  $y < x_y^*$  and  $x < y_x^*$ . Consider the set  $\{x \wedge y, x, y, y_x^*, x_y^*, 1\}$  of distinct elements of  $L$ . Now, as in Case 2, we have  $y_x^* \wedge y = x \wedge y$  and  $x_y^* \wedge x = x \wedge y$ . Also,  $x_y^* \vee (x \vee y) = (x_y^* \vee y) \vee x = x_y^* \vee x$ . Similarly,  $y_x^* \vee (x \vee y) = y_x^* \vee y$ .

Next, note that  $y_x^* \vee y \neq x \vee y$ . Indeed, if  $y_x^* \vee y = x \vee y$ , then the set  $\{x \wedge y, x, y, y_x^*, x \vee y\}$  of distinct elements of  $L$  is a sublattice isomorphic to  $N_5$ . Similarly  $x_y^* \vee x \neq x \vee y$ .

Also,  $y_x^* \vee y \neq y_x^*$ . Indeed, if  $y_x^* \vee y = y_x^*$ , then  $y \leq y_x^*$ , a contradiction to the fact that  $y \not\leq y_x^*$ . Similarly  $x_y^* \vee x \neq x_y^*$ .

Now, we have  $x_y^* \vee x \neq x_y^*$ ,  $y_x^* \vee y \neq y_x^*$ ,  $y_x^* \vee y \neq x \vee y$ ,  $x_y^* \vee x \neq x \vee y$  and the following subcases.

- (4-I) Suppose  $x_y^* \vee x = y_x^* \vee y = y_x^* \vee x_y^*$  and  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* \neq x \wedge y$ , then  $x \wedge y, x, y, x \vee y, x_y^*, y_x^*, y_x^* \vee x_y^*, y_x^* \wedge x_y^*, 1$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = y_x^*, v = x_y^*$ , then the distinct elements  $\{u \wedge v, u, v, u \vee v, 1\}$  of  $L$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2.
- (4-II) Suppose  $x_y^* \vee x \neq y_x^* \vee y = y_x^* \vee x_y^*$  and  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* \neq x \wedge y$ . Then  $y_x^*, x \vee y, y_x^* \wedge (x \vee x_y^*), x \vee x_y^*, y_x^* \vee x_y^*$  are distinct elements of  $L$  and form a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to  $N_5$ .
- (4-III) Suppose  $x_y^* \vee x \neq y_x^* \vee y \neq y_x^* \vee x_y^*$  and  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* \neq x \wedge y$ . We claim that  $x \wedge x_y^* = x \wedge y$ . Indeed, if  $x \wedge x_y^* = z \neq x \wedge y$ , then  $x \wedge y, z, y_x^* \vee x_y^*, y$  are distinct elements of  $L$  and form a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to  $N_5$ . Next, consider  $x_y^* \wedge (x \vee y) = (x_y^* \wedge x) \vee (x_y^* \wedge y) = (x \wedge y) \vee y = y$  and similarly  $y_x^* \wedge (x \vee y) = x$  which implies that  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* = x \wedge y$ , a contradiction to the fact that  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* \neq x \wedge y$ , so this case will not arise.
- (4-IV) Suppose  $x_y^* \vee x = y_x^* \vee y = y_x^* \vee x_y^*$  and  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* = x \wedge y$ . Then  $\{x \wedge y, x_y^*, y_x^*, y, y_x^* \vee x_y^*\}$  is a set of distinct elements and is a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to  $N_5$ .
- (4-V) Suppose  $x_y^* \vee x \neq y_x^* \vee y = y_x^* \vee x_y^*$  and  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* = x \wedge y$ . Then  $\{x \wedge y, x_y^*, y_x^*, y, y_x^* \vee x_y^*\}$  is a set of distinct elements and is a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to  $N_5$ .
- (4-VI) Suppose  $x_y^* \vee x \neq y_x^* \vee y \neq y_x^* \vee x_y^*$  and  $y_x^* \wedge x_y^* = x \wedge y$ . Then  $\{x \wedge y, x, y, x \vee y, x_y^*, y_x^*, y_x^* \vee x_y^*, x_y^* \vee x, y_x^* \vee y, 1\}$  is a set of distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = y_x^*, v = x_y^*$ , then the distinct elements  $\{u \wedge v, u, v, u \vee v, 1\}$  of  $L$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  that is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.7** *A Heyting algebra  $L$  is in  $H_3$  if and only if it does not contain a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice as depicted in the Figure-3.*

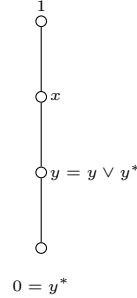


Figure 3:

*Proof.* If  $L$  is in  $H_3$ , then by Theorem 2.2, every sublattice of  $L$  is in  $H_3$  and the lattice as depicted in the Figure-3 is not in  $H_3$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $L \notin H_3$ . Then there exists a pair of elements  $x, y \in L$  such that  $x \vee x_{y \vee y^*}^* \neq 1$ . Now, we have  $x \neq 1, x \neq 0, x \not\leq y, y \neq 0, y^* \neq 1, x \not\leq y^*, x \not\leq y \vee y^*, x \neq y \vee y^*, x \neq y, x \neq y^*$ . If either of these conditions is violated, then we get  $x \vee x_{y \vee y^*}^* = 1$ . If  $y^* = 0$  and  $y < x$ , then  $y = y \vee y^* = x_{y \vee y^*}^*$  and so  $\{x, y^* = 0, y = y \vee y^*, 1\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3. Suppose that  $y^* \neq 0$  and  $y \not\leq x$ . Therefore  $0, y, x, y^*, y \vee y^*, 1$  are distinct elements of  $L$ , and accordingly we have the following cases.

**Case 1** Suppose  $y \vee y^* < x$ . Then  $\{0, y, x, y^*, y \vee y^*, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $z = x_{y \vee y^*}^*$ , then  $\{0, z, x, 1\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3.

**Case 2** Suppose  $(y \vee y^*) \parallel x$ . We have the following subcases.

**(2-I)** Suppose  $y < x$  and  $y^* \parallel x$ .

**(2-I-i)** If  $y = x \wedge (y \vee y^*)$  and  $x \wedge y^* = 0$ , then  $\{0, y, x, y^*, y \vee y^*, x \vee y^*, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $z = y \vee y^*$ , then  $\{0, z, x, 1\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3.

**(2-I-ii)** If  $y \neq x \wedge (y \vee y^*)$  and  $x \wedge y^* \neq 0$ , then  $\{0, y, x, y^*, y \vee y^*, x \vee y^*, x \wedge y^*, x \wedge (y \vee y^*), 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $z = y \vee y^*, u = x \vee y^*$ , then  $\{0, z, u, 1\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3.

**(2-I-iii)** If  $y \neq x \wedge (y \vee y^*)$  and  $x \wedge y^* = 0$ , then  $x \wedge (y \vee y^*) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge y^*) = y \vee 0 = y$ , which implies that  $y = x \wedge (y \vee y^*)$  and this case will not arise.

- (2-I-iv) If  $y = x \wedge (y \vee y^*)$  and  $x \wedge y^* \neq 0$ , then  $y = x \wedge (y \vee y^*) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge y^*) = y \vee (x \wedge y^*)$ , which implies that  $x \wedge y^* \leq y$  and  $x \wedge y^* = 0$  and this case will not arise.
- (2-II) Suppose  $y^* < x$  and  $y \parallel x$ . But then  $x \wedge y \neq 0$ .
- (2-II-i) If  $y^* \neq x \wedge (y \vee y^*)$ , then  $\{0, y, x, y^*, y \vee y^*, x \wedge y, x \wedge (y \vee y^*), y \vee x, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $z = y \vee y^*, u = x \vee y$ , then  $\{0, z, u, 1\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3.
- (2-II-ii) If  $y^* = x \wedge (y \vee y^*)$ , then  $y^* = x \wedge (y \vee y^*) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge y^*) = y^* \vee (x \wedge y)$ , which implies that  $x \wedge y \leq y^*$  and so  $x \wedge y = 0$  and this case will not arise.
- (2-III) Suppose  $y^* \parallel x$  and  $y \parallel x$ . But then,  $x \wedge y \neq 0$  and  $x \parallel (y \vee y^*)$ . Note that  $y^* \vee (x \wedge y) < y \vee y^*$ . Indeed, if  $y^* \vee (x \wedge y) = y \vee y^*$ , then the set of distinct elements, namely  $\{0, y, y^*, x \wedge y, y \vee y^*\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$ . Now,  $0, y, x, y^*, x \wedge y, y \vee y^*, y^* \vee (x \wedge y), 1$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . We claim that  $x \vee y, x \vee y^*, y \vee y^*, x \vee (y \vee y^*)$  are mutually distinct elements of  $L$ . If  $x \vee y = x \vee y^* = y \vee y^* = x \vee (y \vee y^*)$ , then  $\{x, y, y^* \vee (x \wedge y), x \wedge y, x \vee (y \vee y^*)\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $M_3$ . If  $x \vee y = x \vee y^*$ , then  $(x \vee y) \vee y^* = (x \vee y^*) \vee y^* = x \vee y^*$ , which is not possible. If  $x \vee y = y \vee y^*$  or  $x \vee y^* = y \vee y^*$ , then  $x \leq y \vee y^*$ , a contradiction to the assumption. Thus  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \wedge y, y \vee y^*, y^* \vee (x \wedge y), x \vee y, x \vee y^*, x \vee (y \vee y^*), 1\}$  is a set of distinct elements of  $L$ . Now we have the following two subcases.
- (2-III-i) Suppose  $x \wedge [y^* \vee (x \wedge y)] = x \wedge y$ . Note that  $x \wedge y = x \wedge [y^* \vee (x \wedge y)] = (x \wedge y^*) \vee [x \wedge (x \wedge y)] = (x \wedge y^*) \vee (x \wedge y)$  which implies that  $x \wedge y^* \leq x \wedge y$  and so  $x \wedge y^* = 0$ . Also,  $y \vee (x \wedge y^*) = y \vee 0 = y$ . Hence,  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \wedge y, y \vee y^*, y^* \vee (x \wedge y), x \vee y, x \vee y^*, x \vee (y \vee y^*), 1\}$  is a set of distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $z = y \vee y^*, u = x \vee (y \vee y^*)$ , then  $\{0, z, u, 1\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3.
- (2-III-ii) Suppose  $x \wedge [y^* \vee (x \wedge y)] \neq x \wedge y$ .  
If  $x \wedge [y^* \vee (x \wedge y)] \neq x \wedge y$ , then  $x \wedge y < x \wedge [y^* \vee (x \wedge y)]$ . Note that  $x \wedge y^* \neq 0$ . Indeed, if  $x \wedge y^* = 0$ , then  $x \wedge [y^* \vee (x \wedge y)] = (x \wedge y^*) \vee [x \wedge (x \wedge y)] = 0 \vee (x \wedge y) = x \wedge y$ , a contradiction to the assumption. Therefore  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \wedge y, x \wedge (y \vee y^*), y \vee y^*, y^* \vee (x \wedge y), x \vee y, x \vee y^*, x \vee (y \vee y^*), x \wedge [y^* \vee (x \wedge y)], x \wedge y^*, 1\}$  is a set of distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $z = y \vee y^*, u = x \vee (y \vee y^*)$ , then  $\{0, z, u, 1\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3.  $\square$



**Theorem 2.8** *A Heyting algebra  $L$  is in  $H_5$  if and only if it does not contain a sublattice isomorphic to one of the lattices as depicted in the Figure-2 or 3.*

*Proof.* If  $L$  is in  $H_5$ , then by Theorem 2.2, every sublattice of  $L$  is in  $H_5$  and the lattices as depicted in the Figure-2 and 3 are not in  $H_5$ .

Conversely, suppose  $L \notin H_5$ . Then it is either not in  $H_3$  or not in  $H_2$ . Now, since  $L \notin H_3$ , by Theorem-2.7,  $L$  contains a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3. Also, since  $L \notin H_2$ , by Theorem-2.5,  $L$  contains a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-2.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.9** *A Heyting algebra  $L$  is in  $H_4$  if and only if it does not contain a sublattice isomorphic to one of the lattices as depicted in the Figure-3 or 4.*

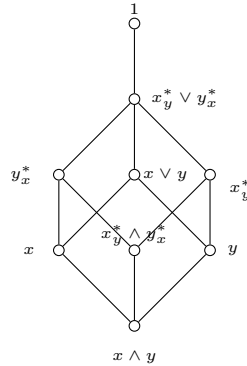


Figure 4:

*Proof.* If  $L$  is in  $H_4$ , then by Theorem 2.2 every sublattice of  $L$  is in  $H_4$  and the lattices as depicted in the Figure-3 and 4 are not in  $H_4$ .

Conversely, suppose  $L \notin H_4$ . Then it is either not in  $H_3$  or there exists a pair of elements  $x, y \in L$  such that  $x*_y v y*_x v (x*_y \wedge (y^*)_x) \neq 1$ . Suppose it is not in  $H_3$ , then by Theorem-2.7,  $L$  contains a sublattice isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3. Now, suppose it is in  $H_3$ , then we have a pair of elements  $x, y \in L$  such that  $x*_y v y*_x v (x*_y \wedge (y^*)_x) \neq 1$ . Now, we have  $x \not\leq y, y \not\leq x, x \neq y^*, y \neq 0, y \neq 1, x \neq 0, x \neq 1$ . If either of these conditions is violated, then  $x*_y v y*_x v (x*_y \wedge (y^*)_x) = 1$ . Also, we have  $x \parallel y, x \parallel x*_y, y \parallel y*_x, x \parallel x*_y, y^* \parallel (y^*)_x, y \leq x*_y, x \leq y*_x, y^* \leq x*_y, x \leq (y^*)_x$ . Therefore,  $0, y, x, y^*, y v y^*, 1$  are distinct elements of  $L$ .

**Case 1** Suppose  $x < y^*$  and so  $x \wedge y = 0, y^* \leq y*_x$ . Also,  $x < y^*$  and so  $x*_y = 1 \neq y^*$ .

**(1-I)** Suppose  $y^* = y*_x$ . We have the following subcases.

- (1-I-i)** For  $x \vee y = (y^*)_x$ .
- (1-I-i-A)** If  $y = x_y^*$ , then  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, y \vee y^*, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x \vee y, v = y \vee y^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .
- (1-I-i-B)** If  $y \neq x_y^*$ , we claim that  $x \vee y \parallel x_y^*$ . Indeed, if  $x \vee y \leq x_y^*$ , then  $x = x \wedge (x \vee y) \leq x \wedge (x_y^*) \leq y$ , a contradiction to the fact  $x \parallel y$ . Now, if  $x_y^* < x \vee y$ , then  $\{0, x, y, y \vee x, x_y^*\}$  is a set of distinct elements of  $L$  and is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$ .
- (1-I-i-B-a)** If  $x_y^* \wedge y_x^* = 0$ , then  $\{0, x, y, y \vee x, x_y^*, y_x^*\}$  is a set of distinct elements of  $L$ . If  $x \vee x_y^* < x_y^* \vee y_x^*$ , then  $y^* \wedge (x \vee x_y^*) = x$  with  $(y^*)_x < x \vee x_y^*$  which is not possible and so  $x \vee x_y^* = x_y^* \vee y_x^*$ . Now, if  $y \vee y_x^* < x_y^* \vee y_x^*$ , then the set of distinct elements, namely  $\{y, x_y^*, x_y^* \vee y_x^*, x \vee y, y \vee y_x^*\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$  and so  $x \vee x_y^* = y \vee y_x^* = x_y^* \vee y_x^*$ , then the set of distinct elements, namely  $\{0, y^*, x_y^*, y, y \vee y^*\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$ . Hence this case will not arise.
- (1-I-i-B-b)** If  $x_y^* \wedge y_x^* \neq 0$ , then similar to previous Case **(1-I-i-B-a)** we have  $x \vee x_y^* = y \vee y_x^* = x_y^* \vee y_x^*$ , then the sublattice  $\{0, y, y^* = y_x^*, x, x \vee y, x_y^*, x_y^* \vee y_x^* = y \vee y^*, 1\}$  of  $L$  is isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-4.
- (1-I-ii)** If  $x \vee y \neq (y^*)_x$ , then  $(x \vee y) \wedge y^* = (x \wedge y^*) \vee (y \wedge y^*) = x \vee 0 = x$  which implies  $x \vee y \leq (y^*)_x$  and so  $x \vee y < (y^*)_x$ .
- (1-I-ii-A)** If  $y = x_y^*$ , then  $(x \vee y) \wedge y^* = x$ . We claim that  $(y^*)_x \wedge (y \vee y^*) = x \vee y$ . Indeed, if  $z = (y^*)_x \wedge (y \vee y^*) > x \vee y$ , then the set of distinct elements, namely  $\{x, y^*, y \vee x, z, y \vee y^*\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$ . We claim that  $(y^*)_x \wedge y^* = x$ . Indeed, if  $z = (y^*)_x \wedge y^* > x$ , then the set of distinct elements, namely  $\{0, x, y, y \vee x, z\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$ . Therefore  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, y \vee y^*, (y^*)_x, (y^*)_x \vee y_x^*, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x \vee y, v = (y^*)_x$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .
- (1-I-ii-B)** For  $y \neq x_y^*$ .
- (1-I-ii-B-a)** If  $(y^*)_x = (x \vee y) \vee x_y^*$ , then  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, y \vee y^*, (y^*)_x, (y^*)_x \vee y_x^*, x_y^*, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x \vee y, v = (y^*)_x \vee y_x^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .
- (1-I-ii-B-b)** If  $(y^*)_x \neq (x \vee y) \vee x_y^*$ , then  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, y \vee y^*, (y^*)_x, x \vee x_y^*, (y^*)_x \vee y_x^*, x_y^*, x_y^* \vee y_x^*, 1\}$  are distinct elements

of  $L$ . Take  $u = x \vee y, v = (y^*)_x \vee y^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .

- (1-II) If  $y^* \neq y_x^*$ , then  $y^* < y_x^*$  and so  $0 \leq y \wedge y_x^* \leq x$ . If  $y \wedge y_x^* = x$ , then  $x \leq y$ , a contradiction to the fact  $x \parallel y$  and so  $y \wedge y_x^* \neq x$ . Now, if  $y \wedge y_x^* < x$ , then  $y \wedge (y \wedge y_x^*) \leq y \wedge x = 0$ , which implies that  $y \wedge (y \wedge y_x^*) = (y \wedge y) \wedge y_x^* = y \wedge y_x^* = 0$  and so  $y_x^* \leq y^*$ , a contradiction to the fact  $y^* < y_x^*$ . Hence this case will not arise.

Case 2 Suppose  $y^* < x$  and consequently  $x \wedge y \neq 0$  and  $(y^*)_x = 1 \neq x$ . Also,  $y^* < x \leq y_x^*$  and  $x \vee y \neq y_x^*$ .

(2-I) For  $y = x_y^*$ , we have the following subcases.

(2-I-i) If  $x \neq y_x^*$ , then  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, y_x^*, y \vee y_x^*, x \wedge y, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x, v = y \vee y_x^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .

(2-I-ii) If  $x = y_x^*$ , then  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, x \wedge y, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x, v = y \vee y^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .

(2-II) Suppose  $y < x_y^*$ . We have the following subcases.

(2-II-i) If  $x \neq y_x^*$ , then  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, y_x^*, x_y^*, x \vee x_y^*, x_y^* \vee y_x^*, y \vee y_x^*, x \wedge y, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x, v = y_x^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .

(2-II-ii) If  $x = y_x^*$ , then  $\{0, y, y^*, x, x \vee y, x_y^*, x \vee x_y^*, x \wedge y, 1\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x, v = x \vee y$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .

Case 3 Suppose  $x \parallel y, x \parallel y^*$  and so  $x \wedge y \neq 0, y^* \leq y_x^*$  and  $y \leq (y^*)_x$ . We claim that  $y^* < y_x^*$ . Indeed, if  $y^* = y_x^*$ , then  $x \leq y_x^* = y^*$ , a contradiction to the fact  $x \parallel y^*$ . Similarly,  $y = (y^*)_x$ . Therefore,  $0, 1, x, y, y^*, x \wedge y, y_x^*, (y^*)_x$  are distinct elements of  $L$ .

(3-I) Suppose  $y \vee y^* = y_x^* \vee (y^*)_x$ . We have the following subcases.

(3-I-i) If  $x \wedge y^* \neq 0$ , then the sublattice  $\{0, 1, x, y, y^*, x \wedge y, x \wedge y^*, y_x^*, (y^*)_x, y \vee y^*\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x, v = y \vee y^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .

- (**3-I-ii**) If  $x \wedge y^* = 0$ , then the set of distinct elements, namely  $\{0, x, y^*, x \wedge y, y, y_x^*\}$  is a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to  $N_5$ . So this case will not arise.
- (**3-II**) Suppose  $y \vee y^* \neq y_x^* \vee (y^*)_x^*$ . We have the following subcases.
- (**3-II-i**) If  $x \wedge y^* \neq 0$ , then  $\{0, 1, x, y, y^*, x \wedge y, x \wedge y^*, y_x^*, (y^*)_x^*, y \vee y^*, y_x^* \vee (y^*)_x^*, (x \wedge y) \vee y^*, (x \wedge y^*) \vee y, x \wedge (y \vee y^*)\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = x, v = (y^*)_x^* \vee y^*$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .
- (**3-II-ii**) If  $x \wedge y^* = 0$ , then  $\{0, 1, x, y, y^*, x \wedge y, x \wedge y^*, y_x^*, (y^*)_x^*, y \vee y^*, y_x^* \vee (y^*)_x^*\}$  are distinct elements of  $L$ . Take  $u = y \vee y^*, v = x * y$ , then  $\{0, u, v, 1\}$  forms a sublattice of  $L$  isomorphic to the lattice depicted in Figure-3, a contradiction to the fact that  $L$  is in  $H_3$ .  
□

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