

## On Semiprime $n$ -Ideals in Lattices

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**Abstract.** Yehuda Rav has given the concept of Semi-prime ideals in a general lattice by generalizing the notion of 0-distributive lattices. In this paper we introduce the concept of semi prime  $n$ -ideals in lattices when  $n$  is a neutral element. For a fixed element  $n$  in a lattice  $L$ , any convex sublattice containing  $n$  is called an  $n$ -ideal. Here we give several characterizations of semi prime  $n$ -ideals of lattices. We include a Prime Separation Theorem in a general lattice with respect to annihilator  $n$ -ideal containing a semi prime  $n$ -ideal.

**Keywords.**  $n$ -distributive lattice, Semi-prime  $n$ -ideal, Annihilator  $n$ -ideal, Maximal convex sublattice, Prime convex sublattice.

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### 1. Introduction

In generalizing the notion of pseudo complemented lattice, J. C. Varlet [9] introduced the notion of 0-distributive lattices. Then [2] have given several characterizations of these lattices. On the other hand, [7] have studied them in meet semi lattices. A lattice  $L$  with 0 is called a 0-distributive lattice if for all  $a, b, c \in L$  with  $a \wedge b = 0 = a \wedge c$  imply  $a \wedge (b \vee c) = 0$ . Let  $L$  be a lattice and  $n \in L$ . Any convex sublattice of  $L$  containing  $n$  is called an  $n$ -ideal of  $L$ . An element  $n \in L$  is called a standard element if for  $a, b \in L$ ,  $a \wedge (b \vee n) = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge n)$ , while  $n$  is called a neutral element if

(i) it is standard and

(ii)  $n \wedge (a \vee b) = (n \wedge a) \vee (n \wedge b)$  for all  $a, b \in L$ .

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Set of all  $n$ -ideals of a lattice  $L$  is denoted by  $I_n(L)$  which is an algebraic lattice; where  $\{n\}$  and  $L$  are the smallest and largest elements. For two  $n$ -ideals  $I$  and  $J$ ,  $I \cap J$  is the infimum and  $I \vee J = \{x \in L / i_1 \wedge j_1 \leq x \leq i_2 \vee j_2, \text{ for some } i_1, i_2 \in I \text{ and } j_1, j_2 \in J\}$ . The  $n$ -ideal generated by a finite numbers of elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m$  is called a finitely generated  $n$ -ideal denoted by  $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m \rangle_n$ . Moreover,  $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m \rangle_n = \{x \in L / a_1 \wedge a_2 \wedge \dots \wedge a_m \wedge n \leq x \leq a_1 \vee a_2 \vee \dots \vee a_m \vee n\}$   
 $= [a_1 \wedge a_2 \wedge \dots \wedge a_m \wedge n, a_1 \vee a_2 \vee \dots \vee a_m \vee n]$

Thus, every finitely generated  $n$ -ideal is an interval containing  $n$ . An  $n$ -ideal generated by a single element  $a \in L$  is called a principal  $n$ -ideal denoted by  $\langle a \rangle_n$  and  $\langle a \rangle_n = [a \wedge n, a \vee n]$ . Moreover  $[a, b] \cap [c, d] = [a \vee c, b \wedge d]$  and  $[a, b] \vee [c, d] = [a \wedge c, b \vee d]$ . If  $n$  is a neutral element, then by [6],  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n = \langle m(a, n, b) \rangle_n$ , where  $m(x, y, z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z) \vee (y \wedge z)$ . For detailed literature on  $n$ -ideals we refer the reader to consult [5, 6].

A proper convex sublattice  $M$  of a lattice  $L$  is called a maximal convex sublattice if for any convex sublattice  $Q$  with  $Q \supseteq M$  implies either  $Q = M$  or  $Q = L$ . A proper convex sublattice  $M$  is called a prime convex sublattice if for any  $t \in M$ ,  $m(a, t, b) \in M$  implies either  $a \in M$  or  $b \in M$ . Similarly, an  $n$ -ideal  $P$  of  $L$  is called a prime  $n$ -ideal if  $m(a, n, b) \in P$  implies either  $a \in P$  or  $b \in P$ . Equivalently,  $P$  is prime if and only if  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \subseteq P$  implies either  $\langle a \rangle_n \subseteq P$  or  $\langle b \rangle_n \subseteq P$ . Moreover, by [9], we know that every prime convex sublattice  $P$  of  $L$  is either an  $n$ -ideal or a filter.

By [1]  $L$  is called an  $n$ -distributive lattice if for all,  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n = \{n\}$  and  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n = \{n\}$  imply  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap [\langle b \rangle_n \vee \langle c \rangle_n] = \{n\}$ . Equivalently,  $L$  is called  $n$ -distributive if  $a \wedge b \leq n \leq a \vee b$  and  $a \wedge c \leq n \leq a \vee c$  imply  $a \wedge (b \vee c) \leq n \leq a \vee (b \wedge c)$ .

Y. Rav [8] an ideal  $I$  of a lattice is called a *semi prime ideal* if for all  $x, y, z \in L$ ,  $x \wedge y \in I$  and  $x \wedge z \in I$  imply  $x \wedge (y \vee z) \in I$ . Thus, a lattice  $L$  with 0, is called *0-distributive* if and only if  $(0]$  is a semi prime ideal. Let  $n$  be a neutral element of a lattice  $L$ . An  $n$ -ideal  $J$  of  $L$  is called a semi prime  $n$ -ideal if for all  $a, b, c \in L$ ,  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \subseteq J$  and  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n \subseteq J$  imply  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap (\langle b \rangle_n \vee \langle c \rangle_n) \subseteq J$ . In a distributive lattice every  $n$ -ideal is semi prime. Moreover, every prime  $n$ -ideal is semi prime. Lattice itself with an element  $n$  is of course a semi prime  $n$ -ideal. It is easy to see that a lattice with the element  $n$  is  $n$ -distributive if  $\{n\}$  is a semi prime  $n$ -ideal. In the pentagonal lattice  $\{0, a, b, c, n; a < b, a \vee c = b \vee c = n, a \wedge c = b \wedge c = 0\}$ ,  $n$  is neutral. Here

$\{n\}$  and  $\langle 0 \rangle_n = L$  are semi prime but not prime. Moreover,  $\langle a \rangle_n, \langle c \rangle_n$  are prime but  $\langle b \rangle_n$  is not even semi prime. Again in  $M_3 = \{0, a, b, c, n; a \wedge b = b \wedge c = c \wedge a = 0 = a \vee b = b \vee c = c \vee a = n\}$ ,  $\langle 0 \rangle_n = L$  is semi prime. But  $\{n\}, \langle a \rangle_n, \langle b \rangle_n, \langle c \rangle_n$  are not semi prime.

Throughout the paper we will consider  $n$  as a neutral element.

**Lemma 1.** *Intersection of any class of prime (semi prime)  $n$ -ideals of a lattice is a semi-prime  $n$ -ideal.*

**Proof:** Suppose  $\{P_k : k \in T\}$  is a class of prime (semi prime)  $n$ -ideals of  $L$ . Let  $a, b, c \in L$  and  $I = \bigcap \{P_k : k \in T\}$ . Clearly  $I$  is an  $n$ -ideal. Let  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \subseteq I$  and  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n \subseteq I$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \subseteq P_k$  and  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n \subseteq P_k$  for all  $P_k$ . Since each  $P_k$  is prime (semi prime), so  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap (\langle b \rangle_n \vee \langle c \rangle_n) \subseteq P_k$  for all  $k$ .

Hence  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap (\langle b \rangle_n \vee \langle c \rangle_n) \subseteq I$ , and so  $I$  is semi-prime. ■

**Corollary 2.** *Intersection of two prime (semi prime) ideals is a semi-prime  $n$ -ideal.*

■

**Lemma 3.** *Every convex sublattice disjoint from an  $n$ -ideal  $I$  is contained in a maximal convex sub lattice disjoint from  $I$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $F$  be a convex sub lattice in  $L$  disjoint from  $I$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of all convex sub lattices containing  $F$  and disjoint from  $I$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}$  is nonempty as  $F \in \mathcal{F}$ . Let  $C$  be a chain in  $\mathcal{F}$  and let  $M = \bigcup \{X : X \in C\}$ . We claim that  $M$  is a convex sub lattice. Let  $x, y \in M$ . Then  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$  for some  $X, Y \in C$ . Since  $C$  is a chain, either  $X \subseteq Y$  or  $Y \subseteq X$ . Suppose  $X \subseteq Y$ . So  $x, y \in Y$ . Then  $x \wedge y, x \vee y \in Y$  and so  $x \wedge y, x \vee y \in M$ . Thus  $M$  is a sublattice. Now let  $x \leq t \leq y$  with  $x, y \in M$ . Then  $x, y \in X$  for some  $X \in C$ . Thus, by convexity of  $X$ ,  $t \in X$  and so  $t \in M$ . Therefore  $M$  is convex. Moreover,  $M \supseteq F$ . So  $M$  is a maximum element of  $C$ . Then by Zorn's Lemma,  $\mathcal{F}$  has a maximal element, say  $Q \supseteq F$ . ■

**Lemma 4.** *Every maximal convex sublattice disjoint to an  $n$ -ideal  $J$  is either a maximal ideal or a maximal filter.*

**Proof.** Let  $F$  be a maximal convex sublattice disjoint to  $J$ . Since  $F = (F] \cap [F)$ , so either  $(F] \cap J = \emptyset$  or  $[F) \cap J = \emptyset$ . If not, let  $x \in (F] \cap J$  and  $y \in [F) \cap J$ . Then  $x \in J$  and  $x \leq f_1$  for some  $f_1 \in F$  and  $y \in J$  and  $y \geq f_2$  for some  $f_2 \in F$ . Now,  $f_2 \leq x \vee f_2 \leq f_1 \vee f_2$  implies by convexity that  $x \vee f_2 \in F$ . Also  $x \leq x \vee f_2 \leq x \vee y$  implies by convexity that  $x \vee f_2 \in J$ . It follows that

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$x \vee f_2 \in F \cap J$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore either  $(F] \cap J = \varnothing$  or  $[F) \cap J = \varnothing$ . Since  $F$  is maximal so, either  $F = (F]$  or  $F = [F)$ . In other words,  $F$  must be either an ideal or a filter. ■

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $I$  be an  $n$ -ideal of a lattice  $L$ . A convex sublattice  $M$  disjoint from  $I$  is a maximal convex sublattice disjoint from  $I$  if and only if for all  $a \notin M$ , there exists  $b \in M$  such that  $m(a, n, b) \in I$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $M$  be maximal and disjoint from  $I$  and  $a \notin M$ . Let  $m(a, n, b) \notin I$  for all  $b \in M$ . Consider

$M_1 = \{y \in L : y \wedge n \leq (a \vee b) \wedge n \leq (a \wedge b) \vee n \leq y \vee n; b \in M\}$ . It is easy to check that  $M_1$  is a convex sublattice as  $n$  is neutral. Also  $M_1 \cap I = \varnothing$ . If not, let  $x \in M_1 \cap I$ . Then  $x \wedge n \leq (a \vee b) \wedge n \leq (a \wedge b) \vee n \leq x \vee n$  for some  $b \in M$  and  $x \in I$ .

Thus,  $x \wedge n \leq (a \vee b) \wedge n \leq (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge n) \vee (b \wedge n) \leq (a \wedge b) \vee n \leq x \vee n$  implies  $m(a, n, b) \in I$  which gives a contradiction. Now for  $b \in M$   $b \wedge n \leq (a \vee b) \wedge n \leq (a \wedge b) \vee n \leq b \vee n$  implies  $b \in M_1$  and so  $M \subseteq M_1$ . Also  $a \wedge n \leq (a \vee b) \wedge n \leq (a \wedge b) \vee n \leq a \vee n$  implies  $a \in M_1$  but  $a \notin M$ . Hence  $M \subset M_1$ . Thus we have a contradiction to the maximality of  $M$ . Hence there exists some  $b \in M$  such that  $m(a, n, b) \in I$ .

Conversely, Suppose the given condition holds. If  $M$  is not maximal disjoint from  $I$ , then by Lemma 3, there exists a maximal convex sublattice  $N \supset M$  and disjoint with  $I$ . For any  $a \in N - M$ , there exists  $b \in M$  such that  $m(a, n, b) \in I$ . Now,  $a, b \in N$  implies  $a \wedge b, a \vee b \in N$ . By Lemma 4,  $N$  is either an ideal or a filter. Hence  $(a \wedge b) \vee n \in N$  or  $(a \vee b) \wedge n \in N$  but not both. For otherwise,  $n \in N$  would give a contradiction to  $I \cap N = \varnothing$ . Now any of the above causes will imply  $m(a, n, b) \in N$  and so  $m(a, n, b) \in I \cap N$  which is again a contradiction. Therefore  $M$  must be a maximal convex sublattice disjoint with  $I$ . ■

Let  $L$  be a lattice with neutral element  $n$ . For  $A \subseteq L$ , We define  $A^{\perp_n} = \{x \in L : m(x, n, a) = n \text{ for all } a \in A\}$ .  $A^{\perp_n}$  is always a convex subset containing  $n$  but it is not necessarily an  $n$ -ideal.

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $L$  be an  $n$ -distributive lattice. Then for  $A \subseteq L$ ,  $A^{\perp_n} = \{x \in L : m(x, n, a) = n \text{ for all } a \in A\}$  is a semi-prime  $n$ -ideal.*

**Proof.** By [1, Theorem 6] we already know that  $A^{\perp_n}$  is an  $n$ -ideal. This is also equivalent to the condition  $I_n(L)$  is pseudo complemented.

Now let  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle y \rangle_n \subseteq A^{\perp_n}$  and  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle z \rangle_n \subseteq A^{\perp_n}$ . Then for all  $a \in A$ .

This implies  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n = \{n\} = \langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle z \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n$   
 $\langle y \rangle_n \subseteq (\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n)^*, \langle z \rangle_n \subseteq (\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n)^*$  and so  
 $\langle y \rangle_n \vee \langle z \rangle_n \subseteq (\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n)^*$  and this implies  
 $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \cap (\langle y \rangle_n \vee \langle z \rangle_n) = \{n\}$  for all  $a \in L$ . Hence  
 $\langle x \rangle_n \cap (\langle y \rangle_n \vee \langle z \rangle_n) \subseteq A^{\perp_n}$  and so  $A^{\perp_n}$  is a semi prime  $n$ -ideal. ■

Let  $A \subseteq L$  and  $J$  be an  $n$ -ideal of  $L$ . We define  $A^{\perp_n J} = \{x \in L : m(x, n, a) \in J \text{ for all } a \in A\}$ . This is clearly a convex subset containing  $J$ . In presence of distributivity, this is an  $n$ -ideal.  $A^{\perp_n J}$  is called an  $n$ -annihilator of  $A$  relative to  $J$ . We denote  $I_J(L)$ , the set of all  $n$ -ideals containing  $J$ . Of course,  $I_J(L)$  is a bounded lattice with  $J$  and  $L$  as the smallest and the largest elements. If  $A \in I_J(L)$ , and  $A^{\perp_n J}$  is an  $n$ -ideal, then  $A^{\perp_n J}$  is called an annihilator  $n$ -ideal and it is the pseudo complement of  $A$  in  $I_J(L)$ .

Following Theorem gives some nice characterizations semi prime  $n$ -ideals which is also a generalization of [3, Theorem 7].

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $L$  be a lattice and  $J$  be an  $n$ -ideal of  $L$ . The following conditions are equivalent.*

- (i)  $J$  is semi prime.
- (ii)  $\{a\}^{\perp_n J} = \{x \in L : x \wedge a \in J\}$  is a semi prime  $n$ -ideal containing  $J$ .
- (iii)  $A^{\perp_n J} = \{x \in L : x \wedge a \in J \text{ for all } a \in A\}$  is a semi prime  $n$ -ideal containing  $J$ .
- (iv)  $I_J(L)$  is pseudo complemented
- (v)  $I_J(L)$  is a 0-distributive lattice.
- (vi) Every maximal convex sublattice disjoint from  $J$  is prime.

**Proof:** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii).  $\{a\}^{\perp_n J}$  is clearly a convex subset containing  $J$ . Now let  $x, y \in \{a\}^{\perp_n J}$ . Then  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$  and  $\langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$ . Since  $J$  is semi prime, so  $\langle a \rangle_n \wedge (\langle x \rangle_n \vee \langle y \rangle_n) \in J$ . Now  $\langle x \wedge y \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$   $\langle x \wedge y \rangle_n \subseteq \langle x \rangle_n \vee \langle y \rangle_n = [x \wedge y \wedge n, x \vee y \vee n]$ . Also  $\langle x \vee y \rangle_n \subseteq \langle x \rangle_n \vee \langle y \rangle_n$ . Thus and  $\langle x \vee y \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$ . Therefore  $x \wedge y, x \vee y \in \{a\}^{\perp_n J}$ . This implies  $\{a\}^{\perp_n J}$  is an  $n$ -ideal containing  $J$ .

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Now let  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle y \rangle_n \subseteq \{a\}^{\perp_n J}$  and  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle z \rangle_n \subseteq \{a\}^{\perp_n J}$ . Then  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$  and  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle z \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$ . Thus,  $(\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n) \cap \langle y \rangle_n \subseteq J$  and  $(\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n) \cap \langle z \rangle_n \subseteq J$ . Then  $(\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n) \cap (\langle y \rangle_n \vee \langle z \rangle_n) \subseteq J$ , as  $J$  is semi prime. This implies  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap (\langle y \rangle_n \vee \langle z \rangle_n) \subseteq \{a\}^{\perp_n J}$  and so  $\{a\}^{\perp_n J}$  is semi prime.

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii). This is trivial by Lemma 1, as  $A^{\perp_n J} = \bigcap (\{a\}^{\perp_n J}; a \in A)$ .

(iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iv). Since for any  $A^{\perp_n J}$  is an  $n$ -ideal, it is the pseudo complement of  $A$  in  $I_J(L)$ , so  $I_J(L)$  is pseudo complemented.

(iv)  $\Rightarrow$  (v). This is trivial as every pseudo complemented lattice is 0-distributive.

(v)  $\Rightarrow$  (vi). Let  $I_J(L)$  be 0-distributive. Suppose  $F$  is a maximal convex sublattice disjoint from  $J$ . Suppose  $x, y \notin F$ . Then by Lemma 5, there exist  $a \in F$ ,  $b \in F$  such that  $m(x, n, a) \in J$ ,  $m(y, n, b) \in J$ . Thus  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$ ,  $\langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \subseteq J$  and so  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \subseteq J$ ,  $\langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \cap \langle a \rangle_n \subseteq J$ . Thus,  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle m(a, n, b) \rangle_n \subseteq J$ ,  $\langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle m(a, n, b) \rangle_n \subseteq J$ . Since  $I_J(L)$  is 0-distributive, so,  $\langle m(a, n, b) \rangle_n \cap (\langle x \rangle_n \vee \langle y \rangle_n) \subseteq J$ . By a routine calculation, we have  $[(a \vee b \vee (x \wedge y)) \wedge n, (a \wedge b \wedge (x \vee y)) \vee n] \subseteq J$ . This implies  $(a \vee b \vee (x \wedge y)) \wedge n \in J$  and  $(a \wedge b \wedge (x \vee y)) \vee n \in J$ . By Lemma 4,  $F$  is either an ideal or a filter. Suppose  $F$  is filter. If  $x \vee y \in F$ , Then  $(a \wedge b \wedge (x \vee y)) \vee n \subseteq F \cap J$ , which is a contradiction. Thus,  $x \vee y \notin F$ . Similarly by considering  $F$  as an ideal, if  $x \wedge y \in F$ , we have  $(a \vee b \vee (x \wedge y)) \wedge n \subseteq F \cap J$ , which also gives a contradiction. Thus  $x \wedge y \notin F$ . Therefore,  $F$  must be prime.

(vi)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Let  $a, b, c \in L$  with  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle b \rangle_n \subseteq J$ ,  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n \subseteq J$ . Then  $[(a \vee b) \wedge n, (a \wedge b) \vee n] \subseteq J$  and  $[(a \vee c) \wedge n, (a \wedge c) \vee n] \subseteq J$ . Thus  $(a \vee b) \wedge n, (a \wedge b) \vee n \in J$  and  $(a \vee c) \wedge n, (a \wedge c) \vee n \in J$ . Now  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap (\langle b \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n) = [a \wedge n, a \vee n] \cap [b \wedge c \wedge n, b \vee c \vee n] = [(a \vee (b \wedge c)) \wedge n, (a \wedge (b \vee c)) \vee n]$ . If  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap (\langle b \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n) \not\subseteq J$ , then either  $(a \vee (b \wedge c)) \wedge n \notin J$  or  $(a \wedge (b \vee c)) \vee n \notin J$ . Without loss of generality, suppose  $(a \wedge (b \vee c)) \vee n \notin J$ . Let  $F = [(a \wedge (b \vee c)) \vee n]$ . Then

$F \cap J = \emptyset$ . If not, let  $y \in F \cap J$ . Then  $y \geq (a \wedge (b \vee c)) \vee n$ ,  $y \in J$ . Thus  $n \leq (a \wedge (b \vee c)) \vee n \leq y$  implies  $(a \wedge (b \vee c)) \vee n \in J$ , which is a contradiction. Then by Lemma 3, there exists a maximal filter  $F \supseteq [a \wedge (b \vee c))$  and disjoint from  $J$ . But a convex sublattice containing a filter is itself a filter. By (vi),  $M$  is a prime filter. Now  $a \vee n \in M$  and  $b \vee c \vee n \in M$ . Since  $M$  is a prime filter and  $n \notin M$ , so  $a \in M$  and  $b$  or  $c \in M$ . Thus either  $a \wedge b \in M$  or  $a \wedge c \in M$ . Hence  $(a \wedge b) \vee n \in M \cap J$  or  $(a \wedge c) \vee n \in M \cap J$  which is again a contradiction. Therefore,  $\langle a \rangle_n \cap (\langle b \rangle_n \cap \langle c \rangle_n) \subseteq J$  and so  $J$  is a semi prime  $n$ -ideal. ■

**Corollary 8:** *In a lattice  $L$ , every convex sublattice disjoint to a semi-prime  $n$ -ideal  $J$  is contained in a prime convex sublattice.*

**Proof:** This immediately follows from Lemma 3 and Theorem 7. ■

**Theorem 9:** *If  $J$  is a semi-prime  $n$ -ideal of a lattice  $L$  and  $J \neq A = \bigcap \{J_\lambda : J_\lambda \text{ is an } n\text{-ideal containing } J\}$ , Then  $A^{\perp_n J} = \{x \in L : \{x\}^{\perp_n J} \neq J\}$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $x \in A^{\perp_n J}$ . Then  $m(x, n, a) \in J$  for all  $a \in A$ . So  $a \in \{x\}^{\perp_n J}$  for all  $a \in A$ . Then  $A \subseteq \{x\}^{\perp_n J}$  and so  $\{x\}^{\perp_n J} \neq J$ . Conversely, let  $x \in L$  such that  $\{x\}^{\perp_n J} \neq J$ . Since  $J$  is semi-prime, so  $\{x\}^{\perp_n J}$  is an  $n$ -ideal containing  $J$ . Then  $A \subseteq \{x\}^{\perp_n J}$ , and so  $A^{\perp_n J} \supseteq \{x\}^{\perp_n J \perp_n J}$ . This implies  $x \in A^{\perp_n J}$ , which completes the proof. ■

In [2] a series of characterizations of  $n$ -distributive lattices are provided. Here we give some results on semi prime  $n$ -ideals related to their results.

We conclude the paper with the following characterizations of semi-prime  $n$ -ideals with the help of annihilator  $n$ -ideals. This is also a generalization of Prime Separation Theorem for  $n$ -ideals.

**Theorem 10:** *Let  $J$  be an  $n$ -ideal in a lattice  $L$ .  $J$  is semi-prime if and only if for all convex sublattice  $F$  disjoint to  $\{x\}^{\perp_n J}$ , there is a prime convex sublattice containing  $F$  disjoint to  $\{x\}^{\perp_n J}$ .*

**Proof:** Using Zorn's Lemma we can easily find a maximal convex sublattice  $Q$  containing  $F$  and disjoint to  $\{x\}^{\perp_n J}$ . Then either  $Q$  is an ideal or a filter. Without loss of generality, suppose  $Q$  is a filter. We claim that  $x \in Q$ . If not, then  $Q \vee [x] \supset Q$ . By maximality of  $Q$ ,  $(Q \vee [x]) \cap \{x\}^{\perp_n J} \neq \emptyset$ . If  $(Q \vee [x]) \cap \{x\}^{\perp_n J} \neq \emptyset$  then  $t \geq q \wedge x$  for some  $q \in Q$  and  $m(t, n, x) \in J$ . Thus  $m(t, n, x) \vee n = (t \wedge x) \vee n \in J$  as  $n \in J$ . Then  $n \leq (q \wedge x) \vee n \leq (t \wedge x) \vee n$

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implies  $(q \wedge x) \vee n \in J \Rightarrow m(q \vee n, n, x) \in J$ . Thus  $q \vee n \in \{x\}^{\perp_n J}$ . Therefore,  $x \in Q$  gives a contradiction to the fact that  $Q \cap \{x\}^{\perp_n J} = \emptyset$ .

Now let  $z \notin Q$ . Then  $(Q \vee [z]) \cap \{x\}^{\perp_n J} \neq \emptyset$ . Suppose  $y \in (Q \vee [z]) \cap \{x\}^{\perp_n J}$  then  $y \geq q_1 \wedge z$  for  $q_1 \in Q$  and  $m(y, n, x) \in J$ . Then  $(y \wedge x) \vee n \in J$  and so  $(q_1 \wedge z \wedge x) \vee n \leq (y \wedge x) \vee n$  implies  $(q_1 \wedge z \wedge x) \vee n \in J$ . This implies  $m(z, n, (q_1 \wedge z \wedge x) \vee n) \in J$ . Thus by Lemma 5,  $Q$  is a maximal filter disjoint to  $J$ . Hence by Theorem 7,  $Q$  is prime.

Conversely, let  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle y \rangle_n \in J$ ,  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap \langle z \rangle_n \in J$ . Suppose  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap (\langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle z \rangle_n) \not\subseteq J$ . Then  $[(x \vee (y \wedge z)) \wedge n, (x \wedge (y \vee z)) \vee n] \not\subseteq J$ . This implies either  $(x \vee (y \wedge z)) \wedge n \notin J$  or  $(x \wedge (y \vee z)) \vee n \notin J$ . Suppose  $(x \wedge (y \vee z)) \vee n \notin J$ . Then  $[y \vee z \vee n] \cap \{x\}^{\perp_n J} = \emptyset$ . For otherwise  $t \in [y \vee z \vee n] \cap \{x\}^{\perp_n J}$  implies  $t \geq y \vee z \vee n$  and  $m(t, n, x) \in J$ . Then  $m(t, n, x) \vee n = (t \wedge x) \vee n \in J$ . Then  $n \leq (x \wedge (y \vee z)) \vee n \leq (t \wedge x) \vee n$  implies  $(x \wedge (y \vee z)) \vee n \in J$  gives a contradiction. Similarly  $(x \vee (y \wedge z)) \wedge n \notin J$  would imply another contradiction. Therefore,  $\langle x \rangle_n \cap (\langle y \rangle_n \cap \langle z \rangle_n) \subseteq J$  and so  $J$  is semi prime. ■

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