



A Note on Boolean Like Algebras

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Abstract

In this paper we develop on abstract system: viz Boolean-like algebra and prove that every Boolean algebra is a Boolean-like algebra. A necessary and sufficient condition for a Boolean-like algebra to be a Boolean algebra has been obtained. As in the case of Boolean ring and Boolean algebra, it is established that under suitable binary operations the Boolean-like ring and Boolean-like algebra are equivalent abstract structures.

Keywords: Boolean algebra; Boolean like algebra; Boolean like ring; Boolean ring;

1. Preliminaries

Following A.L.Foster's, the concept of Boolean-like ring is as follows:

Definition 1.1: A Boolean-like ring B is a commutative ring with unity which satisfies the following conditions.

(1) $a + a = 0$, and

(2) $a(1+a)b(1+b) = 0$ for all $a, b \in B$.

we give some examples of Boolean-like rings.

Example 1.2: Every Boolean ring is a Boolean-like ring.

Proof: If B is a Boolean ring, then for all $a \in B$,

$(a + a)^2 = a + a$, whence $a^2 + a^2 + a^2 + a^2 = a + a$

and so $a + a + a + a = a + a$. Thus $a + a = 0$.

Further $a(1+a) = a^2 + a = a + a = 0$.

Hence $a(1+a)b(1+b) = 0$, for all $a, b \in B$.

By a remark, B is a commutative ring with unity.

Thus B is a Boolean-like ring.

But the converse need not be true (For this refer example 1.4).

Example 1.3 : Let R be a ring with unity and characteristic 2.

Let B be the set of all central idempotent of R . Then B is a Boolean subring of R . Further $B \times R$ is a Boolean-like ring with addition and multiplication defined as follows:

$(b_1, r_1) + (b_2, r_2) = (b_1 + b_2, r_1 + r_2)$

$(b_1, r_1) \cdot (b_2, r_2) = (b_1 b_2, b_1 r_2 + b_2 r_1)$

for all $b_1, b_2 \in B$ and $r_1, r_2 \in R$

Proof: we first prove that B is a Boolean subring of R .

Let $b_1, b_2 \in B$.

We show that $b_1 - b_2 \in B$ and

$b_1 b_2 \in B$

$(b_1 - b_2)^2 = b_1 - b_2$ (Since R has characteristic 2)

For $a \in R$, $(b_1 - b_2)a = b_1 a - b_2 a$

$= ab_1 - ab_2 = a(b_1 - b_2)$

Hence $b_1 - b_2 \in B$.

Also, $(b_1 b_2)^2 = (b_1 b_2)(b_1 b_2) = b_1(b_2 b_1)b_2 = b_1(b_1 b_2)b_2$

$= b_1^2 b_2^2 = b_1 b_2$

Further $(b_1 b_2)a = b_1(b_2 a) = b_1(ab_2) = (b_1 a)b_2 = a(b_1 b_2)$.

Hence $b_1, b_2 \in B$.

Trivially $1 \in B$ and $e^2 = e$ for all $e \in B$

Therefore B is a Boolean subring of R .

We now verify that $B \times R$ is a Boolean-like ring.

For $b_1, b_2, b_3 \in B$ and $r_1, r_2, r_3 \in R$,

$[(b_1, r_1) + (b_2, r_2)] + (b_3, r_3)$

$= (b_1, r_1) + [(b_2, r_2) + (b_3, r_3)]$

Hence '+' is associative.

Now $(0, 0) \in B \times R$ and $(b_1, r_1) + (0, 0)$

$= (b_1 + 0, r_1 + 0) = (b_1, r_1)$

Therefore $(0, 0)$ is additive identity of $B \times R$.

For $(b_1, r_1) \in B \times R$

There exists $(-b_1, -r_1) \in B \times R$ such that

$(b_1, r_1) + (-b_1, -r_1) = (b_1 - b_1, r_1 - r_1) = (0, 0)$

Hence $(-b_1, -r_1)$ is the additive inverse of (b_1, r_1)

$(b_1, r_1) + (b_1, r_2) = (b_2, r_2) + (b_1, r_1)$

Therefore '+' is commutative.

Thus $(B \times R, +)$ is an abelian group.

Now $[(b_1, r_1) \cdot (b_2, r_2)] \cdot (b_3, r_3)$

$= (b_1 b_2, b_1 r_2 + b_2 r_1) \cdot (b_3, r_3)$

$= (b_1 b_2 b_3, b_1 b_2 r_3 + b_3(b_1 r_2 + b_2 r_1))$

$= (b_1 b_2 b_3, b_1(b_2 r_3) + b_3(b_1 r_2 + b_2 r_1))$

Hence '.' is associative.

Also $(1, 0) \in B \times R$ and $(b_1, r_1) \cdot (1, 0) = (b_1, r_1)$

Further $(b_1, r_1) \cdot (b_2, r_2) = (b_1 b_2, b_1 r_2 + b_2 r_1) = (b_2 b_1, b_2 r_1 + b_1 r_2)$

$= (b_2, r_2) \cdot (b_1, r_1)$

To prove the distributive law,

Consider $(b_1, r_1) [(b_2, r_2) + (b_3, r_3)]$

$= (b_1, r_1) [b_2 + b_3, r_2 + r_3]$

$= [b_1(b_2 + b_3), b_1(r_2 + r_3) + (b_2 + b_3)r_1]$

Furthermore, $(b_1, r_1) (b_2, r_2) + (b_1, r_1) (b_3, r_3) =$

$(b_1 b_2, b_1 r_2 + b_2 r_1) + (b_1 b_3, b_1 r_3 + b_3 r_1)$

$= (b_1 b_2 + b_1 b_3, b_1 r_2 + b_2 r_1 + b_1 r_3 + b_3 r_1)$

Therefore $(B \times R, +, \cdot)$ is a commutative ring with unity.

Suppose $(b_1, r_1) \in B \times R$.

Since R is a ring of characteristic 2,

$(b_1, r_1) + (b_1, r_1) = (b_1 + b_1, r_1 + r_1) = (0, 0)$

Also, $(b_1, r_1) [(1, 0) + (b_1, r_1)] (b_2, r_2) [(1, 0) + (b_2, r_2)]$

$$= (0, r_1) (0, r_2) = (0, 0)$$

Hence $B \times R$ is a Boolean-like ring.

As a particular case of example 1.3, we have the following

Example 1.4 : Let $Z_2 = \{0,1\}$ be the ring of integers modulo 2. Then Z_2 is a commutative ring with unity and its characteristic is 2. Obviously Z_2 is a Boolean ring. Hence $Z_2 \times Z_2$ is a Boolean-like ring under the operations of addition and multiplication defined as in example 1.3 above. This Boolean-like ring is denoted by H_4 .

Write $0 = (0,0)$, $1 = (1,0)$, $p = (0,1)$ and $q = (1,1)$.

Thus $H_4 = \{0, 1, p, q\}$ and addition and multiplication tables of H_4 are as follows

+	0	1	p	q	·	0	1	p	q
0	0	1	p	q	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	q	p	1	0	1	p	q
p	p	q	0	1	p	0	p	0	p
q	q	p	1	0	q	0	q	p	1

Obviously H_4 is not a Boolean ring.

Theorem 1.5: Each element ‘a’ of a Boolean-like ring B satisfies $a^4 = a^2$.

Proof: We have that $a(1+a)b(1+b) = 0$ ----- (i)

By taking $a = b$ in (i), we get that $a(1+a)a(1+a) = 0$
 $\Rightarrow a^4 = a^2$, since the characteristic of B is 2.

2. Boolean Like Algebras

We now give the following definition:

Definition 2.1: An algebraic structure

$(A, \wedge, \vee, ', 0, 1)$ where \wedge and \vee are binary operations, $'$ is an unary operation and

0 and 1 are elements of A, is called a Boolean-like algebra if the following conditions are satisfied

(1) \wedge, \vee are associative and commutative

(2) $(a \vee b)' = a' \wedge b'$; $(a')' = a$; $0' = 1$

(3) $a \wedge 0 = 0$; $a \wedge 1 = a$

(4) $b \wedge c = 0 \Rightarrow a \wedge (b \vee c)$

$= (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$

(5) $a \wedge a' \wedge b \wedge b' = 0$

(6) $(a \wedge a') \vee (a \wedge a') = 0$

(7) $(a' \vee b) \wedge (a \vee b') = (a \wedge b) \vee (a' \wedge b')$

(8) $[(a \wedge b) \wedge (a \wedge c)'] \vee [(a \wedge c) \wedge (a \wedge b)']$

$= [a \wedge b \wedge c'] \vee [a \wedge b' \wedge c]$, for all $a, b, c \in A$

The following result gives the most important elementary properties of elements in a Boolean-like algebra.

Lemma 2.2: In any Boolean-like algebra A, we have the following

(i) $a \vee 0 = a$ (ii) $0 = 1'$

(iii) $a \vee 1 = 1$ (iv) $(a \wedge b)' = a' \vee b'$

(v) $(a \vee a') \wedge (a' \vee a) = 0$ (vi) $(a \wedge a) \vee (a' \wedge a') = 1$

(vii) $(a \vee a') \wedge (a \vee a') = 1$

Proof: (i) By (2) and (3) of definition 2.1

$(a \vee 0)' = a' \wedge 0' = a' \wedge 1 = a'$. Hence $a \vee 0 = [(a \vee 0)']'$
 $= (a')' = a$

By (2) of definition 2.1, we have that

(ii) $0 = (0')' = 1'$

(iii) $a \vee 1 = [(a \vee 1)']' = (a' \wedge 0)' = 0' = 1$

(iv) $(a \wedge b)' = ((a' \vee b')')' = a' \vee b'$

(v) By taking $b = a'$ in (7), we get that

$$(a' \vee a') \wedge (a \vee a) = (a \wedge a') \vee (a' \wedge a) = 0$$

[vi] By (v) we have that $(a \vee a) \wedge (a' \vee a') = 0$

$$\text{Therefore } 1 = 0' = [(a \vee a) \wedge (a' \vee a')]'$$

$$= (a \vee a)' \vee (a' \vee a')' = (a' \wedge a') \vee (a \wedge a)$$

(vii) $(a \vee a') \wedge (a \vee a') = (a \wedge a) \vee (a' \wedge a') = 1$, follows from (7) and (vi).

Remark 2.3: Every complemented distributive lattice is a Boolean like algebra.

Proof: Let $(L, \wedge, \vee, ', 0, 1)$ be a complemented distributive lattice.

By the definition of a complemented distributive lattice the conditions (1) to (6) of a Boolean-like algebra are satisfied.

$$(7) (a' \vee b) \wedge (a \vee b')$$

$$= [(a' \vee b) \wedge a] \vee [(a' \vee b) \wedge b']$$

$$= 0 \vee (a \wedge b) \vee (a' \wedge b')$$

$$= (a \wedge b) \vee (a' \wedge b')$$

$$(8) [(a \wedge b) \wedge (a \wedge c)'] \vee [(a \wedge c) \wedge (a \wedge b)']$$

$$= [(a \wedge b) \wedge (a' \vee c')] \vee [(a \wedge c) \wedge (a' \vee b)']$$

$$= (a \wedge b \wedge a') \vee (a \wedge b \wedge c') \vee (a \wedge c \wedge a') \vee (a \wedge c \wedge b')$$

$$= (a \wedge b \wedge c') \vee (a \wedge c \wedge b')$$

Therefore L is a Boolean-like algebra.

By a theorem and remark 2.3, we get that every Boolean algebra is a Boolean-like algebra.

Theorem 2.4: A Boolean-like algebra $(A, \wedge, \vee, ', 0, 1)$ is a Boolean algebra if and only if $a \wedge a = a$ for all $a \in A$.

Proof: Suppose $a \wedge a = a$ for all $a \in A$. Then (A, \wedge) is a semi-lattice.

By (5) of definition 2.1 $x \wedge x' = 0$, for all $x \in A$. Also, By (iv) of lemma 2.2,

$$1 = 0' = (x \wedge x')' = x' \vee x$$

If $a \wedge b' = 0$, for some $a, b \in A$,

$$\text{Then } a = a \wedge 1 = a \wedge (b \vee b') = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge b') = a \wedge b,$$

by (4) of def 2.1.

Conversely, if $a \wedge b = a$, then $a \wedge b' = a \wedge b \wedge b' = a \wedge 0 = 0$. Thus, $(A, \wedge, ', 0)$ is a Boolean algebra. Conversely, if $(A, \wedge, ', 0)$ is a Boolean algebra, then

$a \wedge a = a$ for all $a \in A$, follows from the fact that (A, \wedge) is a semi-lattice.

Corollary 2.5: A Boolean-like algebra is a complemented distributive lattice $\Leftrightarrow a \wedge a = a$, for all a .

Proof: Let B be a Boolean-like algebra. If B is a complemented distributive lattice, then evidently,

$$a \wedge a = a \text{ for all } a \in B.$$

Conversely suppose that $a \wedge a = a$ for all $a \in B$.

By the above theorem B is a Boolean algebra. Then, by the theorem [1], B is a complemented distributive lattice.

We now prove that every Boolean-like algebra is a Boolean-like ring under some binary operations.

Theorem 2.6: Let $(A, \wedge, \vee, ', 0, 1)$ be a Boolean-like algebra. Define binary operations $+$, \cdot by $a + b = (a \wedge b') \vee (a' \wedge b)$; $a \cdot b = a \wedge b$ for all $a, b \in A$. Then $(A, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ is a Boolean-like ring.

Proof: In order to prove that $(A, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ is a Boolean-like ring,

We have to prove that

1) $(A, +)$ is an abelian group with identity 0

2) (A, \cdot) is a commutative semi group with identity 1.

3) Distributive law $a(b + c) = ab + ac$

for all $a, b, c \in A$

4) $a + a = 0$ for all $a \in A$, and

5) $a(1+a) = 0$ for all $a, b \in A$

Now, $a+b = (a \wedge b^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b) = (b \wedge a^1) \vee (b^1 \wedge a) = b + a$
 Therefore '+' is commutative.
 $(a + b) + c =$
 $[[(a \wedge b^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b)] \wedge c^1] \vee [[(a \wedge b^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b)]^1 \wedge c$
 $= (a \wedge b^1 \wedge c^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b \wedge c^1) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge c) \vee (a^1 \wedge b^1 \wedge c) \text{--- (A)}$
 $a + (b + c) =$
 $[a \wedge ((b \wedge c^1) \vee (b^1 \wedge c))] \vee [a^1 \wedge ((b \wedge c^1) \vee (b^1 \wedge c))]$
 $= (a \wedge b \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b^1 \wedge c^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b \wedge c^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b^1 \wedge c) \text{--- (B)}$
 From (A) and (B), $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$. Further
 $a + 0 = (a \wedge 0^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge 0) = (a \wedge 1) \vee 0 = a \wedge 1 = a$.
 Therefore 0 is the additive identity in A.
 Also $a + a = (a \wedge a^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge a) = 0$
 Thus inverse of a is itself.
 Therefore, $(A,+)$ is an abelian group with identity 0. Further
 $a(b \cdot c) = a \wedge (b \wedge c) = (a \wedge b) \wedge c = (a \cdot b) \cdot c$ and $a \cdot 1 = a \wedge 1 = a$
 Also, $a \cdot b = a \wedge b = b \wedge a = b \cdot a$
 Therefore, (A,\cdot) is a semigroup with identity 1.
 Distributive law:
 $a \cdot (b + c) = a \wedge [(b \wedge c^1) \vee (b^1 \wedge c)] = (a \wedge b \wedge c^1) \vee (a \wedge b^1 \wedge c)$,
 by (4) of def 2.1
 $ab + ac = (a \wedge b) + (a \wedge c)$
 $= [(a \wedge b) \wedge a^1 \wedge c^1] \vee [(a \wedge b)^1 \wedge (a \wedge c)]$
 $= (a \wedge b \wedge c^1) \vee (a \wedge b^1 \wedge c)$ by (8) of def 3.1
 Hence $a(b + c) = ab + ac$.
 Observe that $a + a = 0$ for all a is already proved.
 Finally, $1 + a = (1 \wedge a^1) \vee (1^1 \wedge a) = a^1 \vee 0 = a^1$
 Therefore $a(1 + a) = a \wedge a^1 = 0$
 by (5) of def 2.1.
 Hence A is a Boolean-like ring.

We now prove that every Boolean-like ring becomes a Boolean -like algebra.

Theorem 2.7: Let $(A, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ be a Boolean-like ring. Define the binary operations \wedge and \vee and complementation 1 by $a \vee b = a + b + ab$; $a \wedge b = a \cdot b$ and $a^1 = 1 + a$ for all $a, b \in A$. Then the algebraic system $(A, \wedge, \vee, ^1, 0, 1)$ is a Boolean like algebra.

Proof: In order to prove that A is a Boolean like algebra , we need to verify the following.

- (1) \vee and \wedge are associative and commutative.
 Now $a \vee b = a + b + ab = b + a + ba = b \vee a$,
 and $a \wedge b = a \cdot b = b \cdot a = b \wedge a$.
 Also, $a \vee (b \vee c) = a + (b + c + bc) + a(b + c + bc)$
 $= a + b + c + bc + ab + ac + abc$
 $= (a + b + ab) + c + (a + b + ab)c = (a \vee b) \vee c$
 Further, $(a \wedge b) \wedge c = (ab)c = a(bc) = a \wedge (b \wedge c)$
 Therefore \vee and \wedge are associative and commutative
- (2) $(a \vee b)^1 = a^1 \wedge b^1$; $(a^1)^1 = a$; $0^1 = 1$
 Now $(a \vee b)^1 = 1 + (a + b + ab) = 1 + a + b + ab$
 $= (1 + a)(1 + b) = a^1 b^1 = a^1 \wedge b^1$
 Also $(a^1)^1 = (1 + a)^1 = 1 + 1 + a = a$.
 Trivially $0^1 = 1$
- (3) $a \wedge 0 = 0$; $a \wedge 1 = a$.
 Trivially, $a \wedge 0 = a \cdot 0 = 0$ and $a \wedge 1 = a \cdot 1 = a$
- (4) $b \wedge c = 0 \Rightarrow a \wedge (b \vee c) = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$
 Let $b \wedge c = 0$.
 Then $a \wedge (b \vee c) = a \wedge (b + c + bc) = ab + ac + abc$
 $= (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c)$
- (5) $a \wedge a^1 \wedge b \wedge b^1 = a(1 + a) \wedge b(1 + b) = 0$
- (6) $(a \wedge a^1) \vee (a \wedge a^1)$
 $= a(1 + a) + a(1 + a) + aa(1 + a) = 0$
 [by (1) & (2) conditions of Boolean-like ring]
- (7) $(a^1 \vee b) \wedge (a \vee b^1) = (a^1 + b + a^1 b) \wedge (a + b^1 + ab^1)$
 $= a^1 a + a^1 b^1 + a^1 a b^1 + ba + bb^1 + bab^1 +$
 $a^1 ba + a^1 bb^1 + a^1 bab^1$
 $= bb^1(1 + a^1 + a) + aa^1(1 + b + b^1) + a^1 b^1 + ba$

(since $a^1 b a b^1 = 0$)
 $= bb^1(0) + aa^1(0) + (1+a)(1+b) + ba = 1 + a + b \text{---(i)}$
 $(a \wedge b) \vee (a^1 \wedge b^1) = ab + a^1 b^1 + a b a^1 b^1 = ab + a^1 b^1$
 $= ab + (1+a)(1+b) = 1 + a + b \text{---(ii)}$
 From (i) & (ii), (7) is satisfied.
 $(8) (a \wedge b \wedge c^1) \vee (a \wedge b^1 \wedge c) = abc^1 + ab^1 c + abc^1 ab^1 c$
 $= abc^1 + ab^1 c = ab(1 + c) + a(1 + b)c =$
 $ab + abc + ac + abc = ab + ac \text{---(iii)}$
 $[(a \wedge b) \wedge (a \wedge c)^1] \vee [(a \wedge c) \wedge (a \wedge b)^1]$
 $= ab(ac)^1 + ac(ab)^1 + (ab)(ac)^1(ac)(ab)^1$
 $= ab + ac \text{---(iv)}$
 From (iii) & (iv), (8) is satisfied
 Thus $(A, \wedge, \vee, ^1, 0, 1)$ is a Boolean-like algebra.
 As in the case of Boolean ring and Boolean algebra, we now show that the Boolean -like ring and Boolean-like algebra are equivalent structures.

Theorem 2.8: The following abstract structures are equivalent
 (i) Boolean-like ring and (ii) Boolean-like algebra.

Proof: Let $(A, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ be a Boolean-like ring. By theorem 2.7, we get a Boolean-like algebra $(A, \wedge, \vee, ^1, 0, 1)$ in which the binary operations \wedge, \vee are defined by $a \vee b = a + b + ab$; $a \wedge b = ab$ and the complementation 1 is defined by $a^1 = 1 + a$ for all $a, b \in A$

by theorem 2.6, we obtain a Boolean-like ring out of this Boolean-like algebra.

where new operations $+^1, \cdot^1$ in A are defined by $a +^1 b = (a \wedge b^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b)$; $a \cdot^1 b = a \wedge b$ and $1 = 1$; $0 = 0$.

Then $a +^1 b = (a \wedge b^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b) = a + ab + b + ab = a + b$ and $a \cdot^1 b = a \wedge b = a \cdot b$. Therefore the newly obtained Boolean-like ring is same as the originally given one.

On the otherhand, let $(A, \wedge, \vee, ^1, 0, 1)$ be a Boolean-like algebra. By theorem 2.6, we obtain a Boolean-like ring $(A, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ where + and \cdot are defined by

$a + b = (a \wedge b^1) \vee (a^1 \wedge b)$; $a \cdot b = a \wedge b$ for all a, b in A.

As in theorem 2.7, to construct a Boolean-like algebra out of this Boolean-like ring

we introduce new binary operations \wedge^1 and \vee^1 as $a \vee^1 b = a + b + ab$; $a \wedge^1 b = ab$ for all a, b in A
 $a^1 = 1 + a$ and $0 = 0$; $1 = 1$.

Now $a \vee^1 b = a + b + ab = 1 + (1 + a + b + ab) = 1 + (1 + a)(1 + b) = (a^1 b^1)^1 = a \vee b$

$a \wedge^1 b = ab = a \cdot b = a \wedge b$.
 Therefore, $\wedge^1 = \wedge$ and $\vee^1 = \vee$.

This completes the proof.

Thus, the newly obtained Boolean-like algebra is same as the originally given Boolean-like algebra.

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