

# Z-ELEMENTS AND $z_j$ -ELEMENTS IN MULTIPLICATIVE LATTICES.

C.S. Manjarekar and A.N.Chavan

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**Abstract.** In this paper we introduced and studied the concepts of z-elements and  $z_j$ -elements as a generalization of a z-ideal and  $z_j$  ideal. Various properties and characterizations of z-elements and  $z_j$ -elements are obtained. It is shown that the Jacobson radical which is meet of all maximal elements is a z-element and is contained in every z-element.

## 1 Introduction

A multiplicative lattice  $L$  is a complete lattice provided with commutative, associative and join distributive multiplication in which the largest element  $1$  acts as a multiplicative identity. An element  $a \in L$  is called proper if  $a < 1$ . A proper element  $p$  of  $L$  is said to be prime if  $ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b \leq p$ . If  $a \in L, b \in L, (a : b)$  is the join of all elements  $c$  in  $L$  such that  $cb \leq a$ . A proper element  $p$  of  $L$  is said to be primary if  $ab \leq p$  implies  $a \leq p$  or  $b^n \leq p$  for some positive integer  $n$ . If  $a \in L$ , then  $\sqrt{a} = \vee \{ x \in L_* / x^n \leq a, n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \}$ . An element  $a \in L$  is called a radical element if  $a = \sqrt{a}$ . Radical element is also called as a semi-prime element. An element  $a \in L$  is called compact if  $a \leq \bigvee_{\alpha} b_{\alpha}$  implies  $a \leq b_{\alpha_1} \vee b_{\alpha_2} \dots \vee b_{\alpha_n}$  for some finite subset  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ . An element  $m$  of  $L$  is called maximal element if  $m \not\leq x$  for any other  $x \in L$ . Throughout this paper,  $L$  denotes a compactly generated multiplicative lattice with  $1$  compact in which every finite product of compact element is compact. We shall denote by  $L_*$ , the set of compact elements of  $L$ . A nonempty subset of  $L_*$  is called a filter if the following conditions are satisfied.

i)  $x, y \in F$  implies  $xy \in F$

ii)  $x \in F, x \leq y$  implies  $y \in F$

Let  $F(L_*)$  denotes a set of all filters of  $L$ . For a nonempty subset  $\{F_{\alpha}\} \subseteq F(L_*)$ , define  $\bigcup F_{\alpha} = \{x \geq f_1 f_2 \dots f_n, f_i \in F_{\alpha_i} \text{ for some } i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Then it is observed that,  $F(L_*) = \langle F(L_*), \bigcup, \bigcap \rangle$  is a complete distributive lattice with  $\bigcup$  as the supremum and the set theoretic  $\bigcap$  as the infimum. For  $a \in L_*$  the smallest filter containing  $a$  is denoted by  $[a]$  and it is given by  $[a] = \{x \in L_* / x \geq a^n \text{ for some non-negative integer } n\}$ . For a filter  $F \in F(L_*)$  we denote,  $0_F = \bigvee \{x \in L_* / xs = 0, \text{ for some } s \in F\}$ .

A lattice  $L$  is called semi-complemented if for any element  $a \in L, (a \neq 1)$  there exists a non-zero element  $b \in L$  such that  $ab = 0$ . A lattice  $L$  is said to be dual semi-complemented if for every element  $a \in L, (a \neq 0)$  there exists a non-zero element  $b \neq 1$  such that  $a \vee b = 1$ .

A lattice  $L$  with  $0$  is section semi-complemented if  $a \not\leq b$  then there exists  $c \in L$  such that  $0 < c \leq a$  and  $b \wedge c = 0$ .

For all these definitions one can refer R.P.Dilworth[11], F.Alarcon, Jayaram and Anderson [7].

## 2 Z-Elements in multiplicative lattices.

The concept of z-ideals was first introduced by Kohls[5] which played an important role in studying the ideal theory of  $C(X)$ , the ring of continuous real valued functions on compactly regular Hausdorff space  $X$ : See Gillman and M. Jerison [8]. Mason [9] studied z-ideals in general commutative rings. He proved that maximal ideals, minimal prime ideals and some other ideals in commutative rings are z-ideals. As a generalization of z-ideals the concept of  $z^0$ -ideals

is introduced and studied in  $C(X)$ . In [4] Huijsman and De-Pagter studied  $z^0$ -ideals under the name of d-ideals in Riesz spaces. Speed [13] introduced and studied the concept of Baer ideals in commutative Baer rings which are essentially  $z^0$ -ideals (equivalently d-ideals) and characterized regular rings and quasi regular rings. Jayaram [6], Anderson, Jayaram and Phiri [3] defined the concept of Baer ideals for lattice and multiplicative lattices respectively. The analogous concept of z-ideals is introduced by Kavishwar and Joshi[12].

We introduce the concept of z-elements in compactly generated multiplicative lattices in which 1 is compact and every finite product of compact elements is compact.

Let  $L$  denote a compactly generated multiplicative lattice with largest element 1 compact in which every finite product of compact elements is compact. Let  $\mu = Max(L)$  denote the set of all maximal elements in a lattice  $L$  and  $\mu(a) = \{m \in \mu | a \leq m\}$  for  $a \in L$ . For  $a \in L$  the meet of all maximal elements in  $L$  containing  $a$  is denoted by  $M_a$  i.e.  $M_a = \wedge(\mu(a)) = \wedge\{m \in \mu | a \leq m\}$ . We introduce the concept of z-element in multiplicative lattices which is a generalization of z-ideals in a commutative ring.

Now we prove the properties of z-elements in multiplicative lattices.

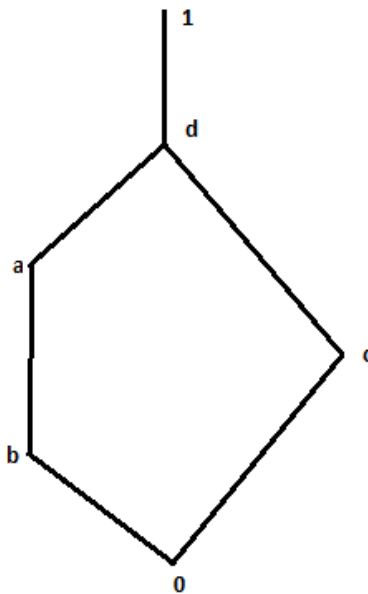
**Definition 2.1.** An element  $h$  of  $L$  is called a z-element if  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq h$  implies  $a \leq h$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** Every maximal element in  $L$  is a z- element.

**Proof.** Let  $m$  be a maximal element of  $L$  and  $\mu(a) \subseteq \mu(b)$ ,  $a \leq m$ . Since  $a \leq m$  we have  $m \in \mu(a)$ . But  $\mu(a) \subseteq \mu(b)$  implies  $m \in \mu(b)$ . Thus  $b \leq m$ . Hence  $m$  is a z- element.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $m$  be a unique maximal element of  $L$  such that  $h \not\leq m$ , then  $h$  is not a z-element.

**Proof.** Since  $h \not\leq m$  there exists  $x \leq m$  such that  $x \not\leq h$ . Let  $i \leq h$ . Since  $m$  is a unique maximal element, we have  $\mu(i) = \mu(x)$  and  $x \not\leq h$ . Thus  $\mu(i) \subseteq \mu(x)$ ,  $i \leq h$  but  $x \not\leq h$ . Hence  $h$  is not a z-element.  $\square$



[Diagram (1)]

Ex.1)- Consider the lattice shown in diagram (1) with the trivial multiplication  $x.y = 0 = y.x$ , for each  $x \neq 1 \neq y$  and  $x.1 = x = 1.x$  for every  $x \in L$ . Then it is easy to show that  $L$  is a

multiplicative lattice.

$d$  being a maximal is a  $z$ -element.

2) In the above diagram,  $a$  is not a  $z$ -element. Because  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(c), b \leq a, \mu(b) = \mu(c) = \{d\}$  but  $c \not\leq a$ .

3) Let  $R = Z$ . Then  $L(Z)$  the lattice of ideals of  $Z$  is a multiplicative lattice.  $\langle 4 \rangle$  is not a  $z$ -element in  $L(Z)$ . Obviously  $\langle 2 \rangle, \langle 3 \rangle, \langle 5 \rangle$  being maximal elements are  $z$ -elements.

Here is a characterization of dual semi complemented lattices in terms of maximal elements.

**Lemma 2.4.** *A lattice  $L$  is dual semi complemented if and only if  $\bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\} = 0$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $L$  be a dual semi complemented lattice. Suppose  $\bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\} \neq 0$ ,  $a \leq \bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\}$  and  $a \neq 0$ . Since  $L$  is dual semi complemented there exists  $b \neq 1$  such that  $a \vee b = 1$ . This implies that  $b \not\leq \bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\}$ . Since  $b \neq 1$ , there exists a maximal element  $m_1$  such that  $b \leq m_1$ . But  $a \leq \bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\}$  implies  $a \leq m_1$ . Thus  $1 = a \vee b \leq m_1$ , a contradiction. Hence  $\bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\} = 0$ . Conversely, suppose  $\bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\} = 0$ . We show that  $L$  is dual semi complemented. Let  $0 \neq a \in L$ . Since  $a \neq 0$ , we have  $a \not\leq \bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\} = 0$ . Then there exists a maximal element  $m_1$  such that  $a \not\leq m_1$ . Therefore  $a \vee m_1 = 1$ . Hence  $L$  is dual semi complemented.  $\square$

Using the above characterization we show that the least element of  $L$  is a  $z$ -element.

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $L$  be a dual semi-complemented lattice. Then  $0$  is a  $z$ -element.*

**Proof.** Let  $\mu(a) \subseteq \mu(b)$  and  $a \leq 0$ . Then  $a = 0$  and  $\mu(a) = \mu(0) = \text{max}(L)$ . So  $\mu(b) = \text{max}(L)$  and  $b \leq \bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \text{Max}(L)\} = 0$  implies  $b = 0$ . Hence  $0$  is a  $z$ -element.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let  $a, b \in L$ . Then the following statements hold:- 1)  $M_{a \wedge b} = M_a \wedge M_b = M_{ab}$ . 2)  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  then  $\mu(b \wedge c) \subseteq \mu(a \wedge c)$  and  $\mu(bc) \subseteq \mu(ac)$  for any  $c \in L$ .*

**Proof.** 1) We have,  $M_{(a \wedge b)} = \bigwedge\{m \in \mu \mid (a \wedge b) \leq m\}$ . Let  $x \leq M_{(a \wedge b)}$  and  $x \not\leq M_a \wedge M_b$ . Then  $x \not\leq M_a$  or  $x \not\leq M_b$ . Suppose  $x \not\leq M_b = \bigwedge\{m \in \mu \mid b \leq m\}$ . Without loss of generality assume that,  $x \not\leq m_1$  for some maximal element  $m_1$  such that  $b \leq m_1$ . But then,  $x \leq M_{(a \wedge b)} \leq m_1$ , a contradiction. Hence  $x \leq M_a \wedge M_b$  and  $M_{(a \wedge b)} \leq M_a \wedge M_b$ . Let  $x \leq M_a \wedge M_b$  and  $x \not\leq M_{(a \wedge b)}$ . Then there exists a maximal element  $m_2$  such that  $(a \wedge b) \leq m_2$  but  $x \not\leq m_2$ . Since  $m_2$  is a maximal element,  $m_2$  is prime and  $ab \leq m_2$  implies  $a \leq m_2$  or  $b \leq m_2$ . Without loss of generality, assume that  $a \leq m_2$ . Then  $x \leq M_a \leq m_2$ . This contradicts the fact that  $x \not\leq m_2$ . Hence  $M_a \wedge M_b \leq M_{(a \wedge b)}$  and  $M_{(a \wedge b)} = M_a \wedge M_b$ .

To prove that  $M_a \wedge M_b = M_{ab}$ . Let  $x \leq M_{ab}$  and  $x \not\leq M_a \wedge M_b$ . Then  $x \not\leq M_a$  or  $x \not\leq M_b$ . Suppose  $x \not\leq M_a$ . Then there exists a maximal element  $m_1$  such that  $x \not\leq m_1$  but  $a \leq m_1$ . Then  $x \leq M_{ab} \leq m_1$ , a contradiction. So  $x \leq M_a \wedge M_b$  and  $M_{ab} \leq M_a \wedge M_b$ . Let  $x \leq M_a \wedge M_b$ , but  $x \not\leq M_{ab}$ . This implies there exists a maximal element  $m_2$  such that  $ab \leq m_2$  but  $x \not\leq m_2$ . Since  $m_2$  is prime,  $ab \leq m_2$  implies  $a \leq m_2$  or  $b \leq m_2$ . If  $a \leq m_2$ ,  $x \leq M_a \leq m_2$ , a contradiction and hence  $M_a \wedge M_b = M_{ab}$ .

2) To prove that if  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  then  $\mu(b \wedge c) \subseteq \mu(a \wedge c)$  for any  $c \in L$ . Let  $m$  be a maximal element such that  $m \in \mu(b \wedge c)$ . Since  $m$  is also a prime element,  $bc \leq m$  implies  $b \leq m$  or  $c \leq m$ . If  $c \leq m$ ,  $a \wedge c \leq m$  and  $m \in \mu(a \wedge c)$ . If  $b \leq m$ ,  $m \in \mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and we have,  $a \leq m$ . This shows that  $(a \wedge c) \leq m$  and  $m \in \mu(a \wedge c)$ . Thus  $\mu(b \wedge c) \subseteq \mu(a \wedge c)$  for any  $c \in L$ .

To prove that  $\mu(bc) \subseteq \mu(ac)$ . Let  $m \in \mu(bc)$ . Since  $m$  is prime  $bc \leq m$  implies  $b \leq m$  or  $a \leq m$ . If  $c \leq m$ ,  $ac \leq m$  and  $m \in \mu(ac)$ . If  $b \leq m$ ,  $m \in \mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and we have  $a \leq m$  and hence  $ac \leq m$  so that  $m \in \mu(ac)$ . Thus  $\mu(bc) \subseteq \mu(ac)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7.** *Every element  $i$  is contained in the least  $z$ -element namely,  $i_z = \bigwedge\{j \geq i \mid j \text{ is } z\text{-element}\}$  is the smallest  $z$ -element containing  $i$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq i_z$ . Let  $j_1$  be an arbitrary z-element such that  $j_1 \geq i$ . Since  $b \leq j_1$ ,  $j_1$  is a z-element and  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  we have  $a \leq j_1$ . Thus  $a \leq \bigwedge \{j \mid j \text{ is a z-element such that } j \geq i\} = i_z$ . Hence  $i_z$  is a z-element. Now let  $j$  be any z-element containing  $i$ . Let  $x \leq i_z$ . Then clearly,  $x \leq j$  and hence  $i_z \leq j$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $L$  be a multiplicative lattice and  $i, j$  be any two elements of  $L$ . Then the following statements hold:-* 1) If  $i \leq j$ , then  $i_z \leq j_z$   
2)  $(i_z)_z = i_z$ .

**Proof.** 1) Let  $i \leq j$  and  $x \leq i_z = \bigwedge \{k \mid k \text{ is a z-element and } k \geq i\}$ .

If  $x \not\leq j_z = \bigwedge \{q \mid q \text{ is a z-element and } q \geq j\}$  then there exist z-element  $q_1$  such that  $x \not\leq q_1$  and  $j \leq q_1$ . This together with  $i \leq j$ , implies  $i \leq q_1$ . But  $x \leq i_z$  and  $i \leq q_1$  for some z-element  $q_1$  gives  $i_z \leq q_1$ . Therefore  $x \leq q_1$ , a contradiction. Hence  $i_z \leq j_z$ .

2) Clearly,  $i_z \leq (i_z)_z$ . Let  $x \leq (i_z)_z = \bigwedge \{q \mid q \geq i_z, q \text{ is a z-element}\}$ . We know that  $i_z$  is a z-element and  $i_z \leq i_z$ . But  $(i_z)_z$  is the least z element containing  $i_z$ . So  $(i_z)_z \leq i_z$  and we have  $i_z = (i_z)_z$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9.** *Let  $L$  be a multiplicative lattice and  $a, b \in L$ , then  $a \leq M_b$  if and only if  $M_a \leq M_b$  if and only if  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $M_a \leq M_b$ . Obviously,  $a \leq M_a$  implies  $a \leq M_b$ . Conversely  $a \leq M_b$  implies  $a \leq \bigwedge \{m \in \mu \mid b \leq m\}$ .

Let  $x \leq M_a = \bigwedge \{m \mid a \leq m \in \mu\}$ . Let  $m_1$  be any maximal element with  $b \leq m_1$ . Then  $a \leq m_1$ . This gives  $x \leq m_1$  and hence  $x \leq M_b$ . Thus  $M_a \leq M_b$ . Obviously,  $M_a \leq M_b$  if and only if  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$ .  $\square$

In the next result we characterize z-elements.

**Lemma 2.10.** *Let  $i$  be an element of  $L$ , then the following statements are equivalent:-*

- 1)  $i$  is a z-element.
- 2)  $\mu(a) = \mu(b)$  and  $b \leq i$  implies  $a \leq i$ .
- 3)  $M_a \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$ .
- 4)  $M_b \leq M_a, a \leq i$  implies  $b \leq i$ .

**Proof.** (1) implies (2) is obvious.

(2) implies (3)

Let  $x \leq M_a$ . Then by lemma (2.9),  $M_x \leq M_a$ . Hence  $M_x = M_x \wedge M_a = M_{a \wedge x}$  (by lemma (2.6)). This gives  $\mu_x = \mu(a \wedge x)$ . If  $a \leq i$ , then  $(a \wedge x) \leq i$ . But by (2)  $x \leq i$ .

(3) implies (4)

Assume that  $M_a \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$ . We assume that  $M_b \leq M_a, a \leq i$ . Then  $M_a \leq i$  and  $b \leq M_b \leq M_a$  implies  $b \leq i$ .

(4) implies (1)

We assume that  $M_b \leq M_a$  and  $a \leq i$  implies  $b \leq i$ . We show that  $i$  is a z-element. Let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq i$ . Then  $M_a \leq M_b$  and we have  $b \leq i$ , by hypothesis  $a \leq i$ . Hence  $i$  is a z-element.  $\square$

#### Separation lemma for z-element:-

Such type of Separation lemma is obtained by Anderson[2] and for z-ideals in lattices by Kavishwar and Joshi[12].

**Lemma 2.11.** *Let  $L$  be a multiplicative lattice. Suppose  $t \not\leq i$ , for all  $t \in S$ , where  $i$  is z-element and  $S$  is multiplicatively closed in  $L$ . Then there exists a prime z-element  $p$  such that  $i \leq p$  and  $t \not\leq p$ , for all  $t \in S$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\mathcal{F} = \{j \mid j \text{ a z-element such that } i \leq j \text{ and } t \not\leq j, \forall t \in S\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$ , since atleast  $i \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  is a poset with respect to  $\leq$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a chain in  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $m = \bigvee \{j \mid j \in \mathcal{C}\}$ . We show

that  $m$  is a  $z$ -element.

Assume that  $\mu(a) \subseteq \mu(b)$  and  $a \leq m$ . Then  $a \leq j$  for some  $j \in \mathcal{C}$ . But  $j$  is a  $z$ -element and  $\mu(a) \subseteq \mu(b)$  and  $a \leq j$  implies  $b \leq j$  and hence  $b \leq m$ . Hence  $m$  is a  $z$ -element. Obviously  $j \leq m$  for all  $j \in \mathcal{C}$ . That is  $m$  is an upper bound of  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $m \in \mathcal{F}$ . Thus  $\mathcal{F}$  is a poset in which every chain has an upper bound in  $\mathcal{F}$ . Hence by Zorn's lemma, there exists a maximal element  $p \in \mathcal{F}$  and clearly  $p$  is a  $z$ -element such that  $i \leq p$  and  $t \not\leq p, \forall t \in S$ . We claim that  $p$  is a prime element. Let  $ab \leq p$  and  $a \not\leq p, b \not\leq p$ . Then  $(p \vee a) > p, (p \vee b) > p$ . Since  $p$  is a maximal element with respect to  $t \not\leq p, \forall t \in S$ , it follows that there exists  $t_1, t_2 \in S$  such that  $t_1 \leq (p \vee a)$  and  $t_2 \leq (p \vee b)$ . Since  $S$  is a multiplicatively closed set  $t_1 t_2 \in S$ . Also  $t_1 t_2 \leq (p \vee a)(p \vee b) \leq (p \vee ab) \leq p$ . This contradicts the fact that  $t \not\leq p, \forall t \in S$ . Hence  $p$  is a prime  $z$ -element.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.12.** *Let  $L$  be a distributive multiplicative lattice. Then every strongly irreducible element is a  $z$ -element if and only if every element is a  $z$ -element.*

**Proof.** Obviously, if every element is a  $z$ -element every strongly irreducible element is a  $z$ -element. Conversely, suppose every strongly irreducible element is a  $z$ -element. Let  $i$  be any element,  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), b \leq i$ . Suppose  $a \not\leq i$ . Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{x | i \leq x, a \not\leq x\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{P}$  is a partially ordered set with respect to  $\leq$  and  $\mathcal{P} \neq \phi$ , since  $i \in \mathcal{P}$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a chain in  $\mathcal{P}$ . Then  $b = \vee \{y | y \in \mathcal{C}\}$  is an upper bound of  $\mathcal{C}$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ . Hence by Zorn's lemma  $\mathcal{P}$  has a maximal element  $p$  such that  $i \leq p$  and  $a \not\leq p$ . We show that  $p$  is strongly irreducible. Suppose  $x \wedge y \leq p, x \not\leq p, y \not\leq p$ . Since  $p$  is a maximal with respect to  $a \not\leq p$  we have  $p \vee x > a, p \vee y > a$ . Hence  $a \leq (p \vee x) \wedge (p \vee y)$  that is  $a \leq p$ , a contradiction. Hence  $p$  is a strongly irreducible element. Clearly  $b \leq p$  and  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  implies  $a \leq p$ , since a strongly irreducible element  $p$  is a  $z$ -element. This is a contradiction. Hence  $a \leq i$  and  $i$  is a  $z$ -element.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.13.** *Let  $L$  be SSC lattice such that  $\bigwedge \{m | m \in \max(L)\} = 0$ . Then every element is a  $z$ -element.*

**Proof.** Let  $i$  be an element of SSC lattice  $L$ . Let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq i$ . Suppose  $a \not\leq i$ . Then there exists  $c \neq 0$  such that  $c \leq a$  and  $c \wedge i = 0$ . This gives  $b \wedge c = 0$ . Thus  $\max(L) = \mu(b \wedge c) \subseteq \mu(a \wedge c)$ , by lemma (2.6). Then  $c = a \wedge c \leq \bigwedge \{m | m \in \max(L)\} = 0$ . Therefore  $c = 0$ , a contradiction. Thus  $a \leq i$  and hence  $i$  is a  $z$ -element.  $\square$

Let  $a$  be an element of  $L$ . Then  $(0 : a) = \vee \{x \in L | xa = 0\}$ . In this case  $(0 : a)$  is also denoted by  $a^\perp$ , i.e.  $a^\perp = \vee \{x \in L | xa = 0\}$ .

We shall denote  $(0 : a)$  by  $a^\perp$  and obtained its property in terms of maximal elements.

**Lemma 2.14.** *Let  $L$  be a dual semi complemented lattice.*

*Then  $a^\perp = \bigwedge \{m \in \max(L) | a \not\leq m\}$  for any  $a \in L$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $x \leq a^\perp$ . Then  $ax = 0$ . Let  $m \in \max(L)$ . As every maximal element is prime it follows that  $m$  is a prime element. If  $a \not\leq m$  then  $ax = 0 \leq m$  implies  $x \leq m$ . Thus  $a^\perp \leq \bigwedge \{m \in \max(L) | a \not\leq m\}$ . Conversely, suppose  $x \leq \bigwedge \{m \in \max(L) | a \not\leq m\}$  and  $x \not\leq a^\perp$ . Hence  $ax \neq 0$ . This shows that  $ax \not\leq \bigwedge \{m \in \max(L) | a \not\leq m\} = 0$ , by lemma (2.4). Therefore there exists a maximal element  $m_1$  such that  $ax \not\leq m_1$ , where  $a \not\leq m_1$  with  $x \not\leq m_1$ . This contradicts the fact that  $x \leq \bigwedge \{m \in \max(L) | a \not\leq m\}$ . Hence  $x \leq a^\perp$  and  $\bigwedge \{m \in \max(L) | a \not\leq m\} \leq a^\perp$ . Therefore  $a^\perp = \bigwedge \{m \in \max(L) | a \not\leq m\}$  for any  $a \in L$ .  $\square$

We generalize the following concepts in lattices for multiplicative lattices.

**Definition(2.14 (a)):-** An element  $i \in L$  is said to be **closed element** if  $i^{\perp\perp} = i$ .

**Definition(2.14 (b)):-** An element  $i$  of a lattice  $L$  is called a **zero element** if there exists a proper filter  $F$  such that  $i = \vee \{F^0\}$  where  $F^0 = \{x \in L | xy = 0, \text{ for some } y \in F\}$ .

**Definition(2.14 (c)):-**For an element  $i$  and a prime element  $p$  of a lattice  $L$  we define  $i(p)$  as follows,  $i(p) = \vee \{x \in L | xy \leq i, \text{ for some } y \not\leq p\}$ . If  $i = 0$ , then  $i(p)$  is denoted by  $0(p)$ .

**Definition(2.14 (d)):-**An element  $i$  of a lattice  $L$  is called **dense** if  $i^\perp = 0$ .

**Definition(2.14 (e)):-**An element  $i$  of a lattice  $L$  is called **non-dense** if  $i^\perp \neq 0$ .

Under which condition an element is a z-element is proved in the next result.

**Lemma 2.15.** *Let  $L$  be a lattice without zero divisors such that  $\bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \max(L)\} = 0$ . If  $i$  is an element of  $L$  satisfying any one of the following conditions then  $i$  is a z-element.*

- 1) *If  $i$  is a non-dense prime element.*
- 2) *If  $i$  is a closed element.*
- 3) *If  $i$  is a zero element.*
- 4) *If  $i = 0(p)$  for any prime element  $p$ .*
- 5) *If  $i = a^\perp$  for any element  $a \in L$ .*

**Proof.** 1) Let  $i$  be a non-dense element and  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), b \leq i$ . Since  $i$  is a non-dense element,  $i^\perp = \bigvee\{x \in L \mid ix = 0\} \neq 0$ . Then there exists a non-zero element  $x \leq i^\perp$  such that  $ix = 0$ . In particular,  $xb = 0 (b \leq i)$ . Since  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$ , by lemma (2.6), we have,  $\max(L) = \mu(bx) \subseteq \mu(ax)$ . Thus  $(ax) \leq m$ , for all  $m \in \max(L)$ . Hence  $ax = 0$  as  $\bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \max(L)\} = 0$ . This implies that  $(ax) \leq i$  and since  $i$  is a prime element  $a \leq i$  or  $x \leq i$ . If  $x \leq i$  then  $x \leq i^\perp$  implies  $x^2 \leq i \cdot i^\perp = 0$  i.e.  $x^2 = 0, (x \neq 0)$ . This contradicts the fact that  $L$  has no divisors of zero. Hence  $ax \leq i \Rightarrow a \leq i$ . Thus  $i$  is a z-element.

2) Let  $i$  be a closed element i.e.  $i = i^{\perp\perp}$  and  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), b \leq i$ . Now  $b \leq i = i^{\perp\perp} \Rightarrow bx \leq b \wedge x = 0$ , for all  $x \leq i^\perp = \bigvee\{y \mid iy = 0\}$ . Since  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$ , we have  $\max(L) = \mu(by) \subseteq \mu(ay)$  for  $y \leq i^\perp$ . Hence  $(ay) = \bigwedge\{m \in \max(L)\} = 0$ . Therefore  $ay = 0$  for all  $y \leq i^\perp$ . Then  $ai^\perp = 0$  and hence  $a \leq i^{\perp\perp} = i$ , since  $i$  is a closed element. Thus  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), b \leq i$  implies  $a \leq i$ . So  $i$  is a z-element.

3) Let  $i$  be a zero element. Then  $i = \bigvee\{F^0\} = \bigvee\{x \in L \mid xy = 0 \text{ for some } y \in F\}$ , for some proper filter  $F$ . Let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq i$ . Since  $b \leq i$ . We have,  $by = 0$  for some  $y \in F$ . Now  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a) \Rightarrow \max(L) = \mu(by) \subseteq \mu(ay)$ , by (2.6). Hence  $ay \leq m$ , for all  $m \in \max(L)$ . Thus  $ay \leq \bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \max(L)\} = 0$ . Hence  $ay = 0$  for some  $y \in F$ . Thus  $a \leq \bigvee\{F^0\} = i$ . Hence  $i$  is a z-element.

4) Suppose  $i = 0(p)$  for some prime element  $p$ , where  $0(p) = \bigvee\{x \in L \mid xy = 0, \text{ for some } y \not\leq p\}$ . Then  $F = L - (p)$  is a filter. Also  $i = \bigvee\{x \in L \mid xy = 0, \text{ for some } y \in F\} = F^0$ . Now the result follows by (3).

5) Let  $i = a^\perp = \bigvee\{x \mid ax = 0\}$ ,  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), b \leq i$ . Now  $b \leq i = a^\perp$  implies  $ba = 0$ . So  $bc = 0$  for all  $c \leq a$ . Since  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  we have  $\mu(bc) \subseteq \mu(ac)$  [by (2.6)]. But  $bc = 0$  implies  $\max(L) = \mu(bc) \subseteq \mu(ac)$ . This gives,  $ac \leq \bigwedge\{m \mid m \in \max(L)\} = 0$  and hence  $ac = 0$  when  $c \leq a$ . Hence  $aa = 0$  and  $a \leq a^\perp = i$ . Therefore  $i$  is a z-element.  $\square$

### 3 $z_j$ -Elements in multiplicative lattices.

Kavishwar and Joshi have studied  $z_j$ -ideals on the lines of Alibad, Azarpanah and Taherifar[1]. We extend this concept to  $z_j$ -elements in compactly generated multiplicative lattices.

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $i$  and  $j$  be the two elements of  $L$ . The element  $i$  is said to be a  $z_j$ -element if  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$  where  $M_a = \bigwedge\{m \mid a \leq m\}$ .

- Ex. 1) From the diagram (1)  $b$  is a  $z_j$ -element for  $j = c$ .  
2)  $a$  is not a z-element but  $a$  is a  $z_j$ -element for  $j = b$ .

**Note:-** Clearly if  $j \leq i$  then  $i$  is always a  $z_j$ -element and hence an element  $i$  is always a  $z_i$ -element. Further if  $j = 1$  then  $z_1$  element is nothing but a z-element.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *If  $i$  is a z-element then  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element for any element  $j$  of a lattice  $L$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $a \leq i$  and  $x \leq M_a \wedge j$ . Then  $x \leq M_a$  implies  $M_x \leq M_a$ . Since  $i$  is a z-element,  $\mu(a) \subseteq \mu(x)$  and  $a \leq i$  implies  $x \leq i$ . Thus  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$ . Hence  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.  $\square$

**Definition 3.3.** An element  $x \in L$  is called semi primary if  $\sqrt{x}$  is a prime element. An element  $a \in L$  is called semi prime if  $\sqrt{a} = a$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** Let  $i$  be a semi prime element and  $j$  be any element of  $L$ . Then the following statements hold:-

- 1) If  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element ( $z$ -element) and  $p$  is a minimal prime containing  $i$ , then  $p$  is also a  $z_j$ -element ( $z$ -element).
- 2) A prime element  $p$  in  $L$  is a  $z_j$ -element if and only if  $p$  is either a  $z$ -element or  $j \leq p$ .

**Proof.** 1) Let  $p$  be minimal prime containing  $i$  and suppose  $x \leq p$ . We claim that  $M_x \wedge j \leq p$ . Since  $x \leq p$  there exists  $y \not\leq p$  such that  $x^n y \leq i$ , for some integer  $n \geq 1$ . (See [10]). Since  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element  $M_{x^n y} \wedge j = M_{x^n} \wedge M_y \wedge M_j \leq i \leq p$  by (2.6). Also note that  $M_{x^n} = M_x$  for any positive integer  $n$ . Since  $y \not\leq p$ ,  $M_y \not\leq p$  and  $p$  is a prime element gives  $M_x \wedge j \leq p$ . Thus  $M_x \wedge j \leq p$ , for all  $x \leq p$ . Hence  $p$  is a  $z_j$ -element.

2) Let  $p$  be a prime  $z_j$ -element such that  $j \not\leq p$ . Suppose  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq p$ . Since  $p$  is a  $z_j$ -element, we have  $M_b \wedge j \leq p$ . This together with  $j \not\leq p$  implies  $M_b \leq p$ . But  $M_a \leq M_b$  gives  $a \leq M_a \leq p$ . Hence  $p$  is a  $z$ -element. Conversely assume that  $p$  is a  $z$ -element or  $j \leq p$ . Suppose  $j \leq p$ . Let  $a \leq p$ . Then  $M_a \wedge j \leq p$ . This holds for all  $a \leq p$ . Hence  $p$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Now suppose  $j \not\leq p$  and  $p$  is a  $z$ -element. By lemma (3.2), it follows that  $p$  is a  $z_j$ -element.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.** Let  $i$  be a semi-prime element,  $j$  be any element and  $p, q$  be prime elements of  $L$ . Then the following statements hold:-

- 1) If  $i \wedge p$  is a  $z_j$ -element then either  $i$  or  $p$  is a  $z_j$ -element.
- 2) If  $p \wedge q$  is a  $z_j$ -element and  $p$  and  $q$  are not comparable then  $p$  and  $q$  are  $z_j$ -elements.

**Proof.** 1) Let  $i \wedge p$  be a  $z_j$ -element. If  $i \leq p$ , then clearly  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Now suppose  $i \not\leq p$ . Let  $b \leq p$ . Then there exists an element  $a \leq i$  but  $a \not\leq p$ . Hence  $ab \leq p$ ,  $ab \leq a \leq i$  implies  $ab \leq i \wedge p$ . Since  $i \wedge p$  is a  $z_j$ -element.  $ab \leq i \wedge p$  implies  $M_{a \wedge b} \wedge j \leq i \wedge p$ . By (2.6),  $M_a \wedge M_b \wedge j \leq p$ . Since  $p$  is prime and  $M_a(M_b \wedge j) \leq p$  and  $M_a \not\leq p$ , we have  $M_b \wedge j \leq p$  for all  $b \leq p$ . Hence  $p$  is a  $z_j$ -element.

2) Suppose  $p \wedge q$  is a  $z_j$ -element, where  $p$  and  $q$  are not comparable, so that  $p \not\leq q$  and  $q \not\leq p$ . Now  $p \not\leq q$  implies  $q$  is a  $z_j$ -element (by 1) and  $q \not\leq p$  implies  $p$  is a  $z_j$ -element (by 1).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.6.** Let  $i$  and  $j$  be two elements of  $L$ . Then  $(i \wedge j)_z = i_z \wedge j_z$ .

**Proof.** Clearly  $i_z \wedge j_z$  is an element containing  $i \wedge j$ . Since  $i_z$  is the smallest  $z$ -element containing  $i$  and  $j_z$  is the smallest  $z$ -element containing  $j$ . It follows that  $i_z \wedge j_z \geq (i \wedge j)$ . To show that  $i_z \wedge j_z$  is a  $z$ -element, let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq i_z \wedge j_z$  so  $b \leq i_z$  and  $b \leq j_z$ . Since  $i_z, j_z$  are  $z$ -elements, we have  $a \leq i_z$ ,  $a \leq j_z$ . Hence  $i_z \wedge j_z$  is a  $z$ -element and  $i \wedge j \leq i_z \wedge j_z$ . To prove that  $(i \wedge j)_z = i_z \wedge j_z$ , it is enough to show that  $i_z \wedge j_z$  is the smallest  $z$ -element containing  $(i \wedge j)$ . To see this let  $k$  be a  $z$ -element such that  $(i \wedge j) \leq k$ . If each element of  $L$  is a radical element i.e.  $\sqrt{a} = a$  for each  $a$  in  $L$  then  $\sqrt{k} = k$ . In this case  $k = \bigwedge \{p | p \text{ is minimal prime containing } k\}$ . Since for each  $p \in \text{Min}(k)$ , we have  $(i \wedge j) \leq p$ , it follows that  $i \leq p$  or  $j \leq p$ . By lemma (3.4) each  $p \in \text{Min}(k)$  is a  $z$ -element. Using this fact along with  $i_z$  is the smallest  $z$ -element containing  $i$ , it follows that  $i_z \wedge j_z \leq p$ , for each  $p \in \text{Min}(k)$ . Therefore  $(i_z \wedge j_z) \leq \bigwedge \{p | p \in \text{Min}(k)\} = k$ . It follows that  $i_z \wedge j_z$  is the smallest  $z$ -element containing  $i \wedge j$ . Hence  $(i \wedge j)_z = i_z \wedge j_z$ .  $\square$

Now we characterize  $z_j$ -elements in different ways.

We write  $\text{Min}(i)$  = the set of all minimal primes containing  $i$ .

**Lemma 3.7.** Let  $i$  be a semi prime element of a lattice  $L$  and  $j$  be an element of  $L$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:-

- 1)  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.
- 2)  $i_z \wedge j \leq i$  (equivalently  $i_z \wedge j = i \wedge j$ )
- 3) If there is a  $z$ -element  $k$  containing  $i$ , then  $k \wedge j \leq i$ .
- 4) For each  $a \leq i$  and  $b \leq j$ , if  $M_b \leq M_a$ , then  $b \leq i$ .

**Proof.** (1)implies (2)

Let  $i$  be a semi prime  $z_j$ -element. Then  $i = \bigwedge \{p|p \text{ is a minimal prime such that } i \leq p\}$ . Hence  $i_z = \{\bigwedge_{p \in \text{Min}(i)} p\}_z \leq (\bigwedge_{p \in \text{Min}(i)} p_z)$ . By lemma (3.4)  $p_z = p$  or  $j \leq p$ . Hence in any case we have,  $i_z \wedge j \leq (\bigwedge_{p \in \text{Min}(i)} p_z) \wedge j = [\bigwedge_{p \in \text{Min}(i)} p] \wedge j = i \wedge j \leq i$ .

(2) implies (3)

Assume that  $i_z \wedge j \leq i$  (equivalently  $i_z \wedge j = i \wedge j$ ). Take  $k = i_z$  then  $i_z$  is the smallest  $z$ -element containing  $i$  and hence  $i_z \wedge j \leq i$  (by hypothesis).

(3)implies (4)

Assume that if there is a  $z$ - element  $k$  containing  $i$  then  $k \wedge j \leq i$ . Let  $a \leq i, b \leq j$  and  $M_b \leq M_a$ . By (3) there exists a  $z$ -element  $k$  containing  $i$  such that  $k \wedge j \leq i$ . Then by lemma (2.10)  $M_a \leq k$ . Clearly,  $b \leq M_b \leq M_a$ . Hence  $b \leq M_b \wedge j \leq k \wedge j \leq i$ . Thus  $b \leq i$ .

(4) implies (1)

Assume that for each  $a \leq i$  and  $b \leq j$  if  $M_b \leq M_a$  then  $b \leq i$ . Let  $a \leq i$  and  $x \leq M_a \wedge j$ . Then by lemma (2.9)  $x \leq M_a$  implies  $M_x \leq M_a$ . Now  $a \leq i, x \leq j$  and  $M_x \leq M_a$  implies  $x \leq i$  (by assumption). Thus  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$ . Hence  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.8.** *The following statements hold in L:-*

1) If  $i = i_1 \wedge i_2, j = j_1 \wedge j_2$  and  $i_1$  is a  $z_{j_1}$ - element,  $i_2$  is a  $z_{j_2}$ - element, then  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.

2) If  $j \leq k$  and  $i$  is a  $z_k$ - element then  $i$  is also a  $z_j$ -element.

3) The meet of  $z_j$ -elements is a  $z_j$ -element and meet of  $z$ -elements is a  $z$ -element.

4) If  $i \leq j, i$  is a  $z_j$ -element and  $j$  is a  $z_k$ -element then  $i$  is a  $z_k$ -element.

**Proof.** 1) Let  $c = i = i_1 \wedge i_2$ . Since  $i_1, i_2$  are  $z_{j_1}$  and  $z_{j_2}$ -elements respectively, we have  $M_c \wedge j_1 \leq i_1$  and  $M_c \wedge j_2 \leq i_2$ . This gives  $M_c \wedge j_1 \wedge j_2 \leq i_1 \wedge i_2$  for all  $c \leq i_1 \wedge i_2$ . This shows that  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.

2) Suppose  $j \leq k$  and  $i$  is a  $z_k$ -element. Let  $a \leq i$ . Then  $M_a \wedge k \leq i$  (since  $i$  is a  $z_k$ -element.) Let  $a \leq j$ . Then  $a \leq k$  and by hypothesis,  $M_a \wedge k \leq i$ . Then  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$  and hence  $i$  is a  $z_j$ - element.

3) Let  $i_k (k \in \Delta)$  be collection of all  $z_j$ -elements. Let  $a \leq \bigwedge_{k \in \Delta} i_k = i$ . Then  $a \leq i_k$  for all  $k \in \Delta$ . We have  $M_a \wedge j \leq i_k$ , since each  $i_k$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Hence  $M_a \wedge j \leq \bigwedge_{k \in \Delta} i_k = i$  for all  $a \leq i$ . Hence  $i = \bigwedge_{k \in \Delta} i_k$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Let  $h_i, i \in \Delta$  be the collection of  $z$ -elements of  $L$  and  $h = \bigwedge_{i \in \Delta} h_i$ . Let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a)$  and  $b \leq h$ . Then  $b \leq h_i$  for each  $i \in \Delta$ . As each  $h_i$  is a  $z$ -element, we have  $a \leq h_i$  for each  $i \in \Delta$ . Hence  $a \leq \bigwedge_{i \in \Delta} h_i = h$  and  $h = \bigwedge_{i \in \Delta} h_i$  is a  $z$ -element.

4) Let  $i \leq j$  where  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element and  $j$  is a  $z_k$ -element. Let  $a \leq i$ . Since  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element and  $j$  is a  $z_k$ -element, we have  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$  and  $M_a \wedge k \leq j$ . This gives  $M_a \wedge k \leq M_a \wedge j \leq i$  for all  $a \leq i$ . This shows that  $i$  is a  $z_k$ -element.  $\square$

Now we obtain the property of a Jacobson radical[7],and establish the relation between the Jacobson radical and  $z$ -element.

**Lemma 3.9.** *The Jacobson radical  $j = \bigwedge_{m \in \text{Max}(L)} m$  is a  $z$ -element and is contained in every  $z$ -element.*

**Proof.** The proof follows from lemma (2.2) and(3) of lemma (3.8).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.10.** *Let  $L$  be a multiplicative lattice. Then  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element if and only if  $i \wedge j$  is a  $z_j$ -element.*

**Proof.** Let  $i$  be a  $z_j$ -element and  $a \leq i \wedge j$ . Then  $a \leq i$  and  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element implies  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$ . Also  $M_a \wedge j \leq j$ . Hence  $M_a \wedge j \leq (i \wedge j)$  for all  $a \leq (i \wedge j)$ . Hence  $(i \wedge j)$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Conversely assume that  $(i \wedge j)$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Let  $a \leq i$  and  $x \leq M_a \wedge j$ . Then  $a \wedge x \leq i$  and  $a \wedge x \leq x \leq j$  implies  $a \wedge x \leq (i \wedge j)$ . Since  $(i \wedge j)$  is a  $z_j$ -element, we have  $M_{a \wedge x} \wedge j \leq (i \wedge j)$ . By lemma (2.6),  $M_{a \wedge x} = M_a \wedge M_x$ . Since  $x \leq M_a$ , we have  $M_x \leq M_a$ . Now  $M_x \wedge j \leq M_a \wedge j$ . So  $M_x \wedge j \leq (i \wedge j)$ . Now  $x \leq M_x \wedge j \leq i \wedge j \leq i$ . Thus  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$  for all  $a \leq i$ . Hence  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.  $\square$



Finally we obtain the characterization of  $z_j$ -element and some properties of  $z$ -elements and  $z_j$ -elements.

**Lemma 3.11.** *Let  $i, j, k$  be elements of a distributive lattice  $L$ . Then the following statements hold:-*

- 1) *An element  $i$  of  $L$  is a  $z_j$ -element if and only if  $i$  is  $z_{i \vee j}$ -element.*
- 2) *If  $j$  is a  $z$ -element then  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element if and only if  $i \wedge j$  is a  $z$ -element.*
- 3)  *$i \wedge j$  is both  $z_i$ -element and  $z_j$ -element if and only if  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element and  $j$  is  $z_i$ -element.*
- 4) *If  $m$  is a maximal element then  $i \wedge m$  is a  $z$ -element if and only if  $i$  is a  $z$ -element.*
- 5)  *$i_z \wedge j$  is the smallest  $z_j$ -element containing  $i \wedge j$ .*
- 6)  *$i \leq k, i_z = k_z, i$  is a  $z_j$ -element, then  $k$  is also a  $z_j$ -element.*

**Proof.** 1) Let  $i$  be a  $z_j$ -element. Then  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$ . Clearly  $M_a \wedge i \leq i$ . Since  $L$  is distributive, we have,  $M_a \wedge (i \vee j) = (M_a \wedge i) \vee (M_a \wedge j) \leq i$ , for all  $a \leq i$ . Hence  $i$  is a  $z_{i \vee j}$ -element. Conversely, Suppose  $i$  is a  $z_{i \vee j}$ -element. Let  $a \leq i$ . Then  $a \leq (i \vee j)$  and  $M_a \wedge (i \vee j) \leq i$  i.e.  $(M_a \wedge i) \vee (M_a \wedge j) \leq i$ . Hence  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$  for all  $a \leq i$ . Hence  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.

2) Let  $j$  be a  $z$ -element. Assume that  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element. We show that  $i \wedge j$  is a  $z$ -element. Let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), b \leq (i \wedge j)$ . Since  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), b \leq j$  and  $j$  is a  $z$ -element, we have  $a \leq j$ . Since  $M_a \leq M_b, b \leq i$ , by (2.10),  $a \leq i$ . Now  $a \leq M_a \wedge j$  and  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$ , since  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element and  $a \leq i$ . Thus  $a \leq (i \wedge j)$ . Hence  $(i \wedge j)$  is a  $z$ -element. Conversely assume that  $i \wedge j$  is a  $z$ -element. We show that  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Let  $a \leq i$  and  $x \leq M_a \wedge j$ . Then  $x \leq M_a$  implies  $M_x \leq M_a$ . But  $\mu(x) \subseteq \mu(a), a \leq i$  implies  $x \leq i$  (by 2.10). Hence  $M_a \wedge j \leq i$  for all  $a \leq i$  and  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element.

3) The proof follows by (3.10).

4) Let  $m$  be the maximal element of  $L$ . Let  $(i \wedge m)$  be a  $z$ -element. We show that  $i$  is a  $z$ -element. If  $i \leq m$ , then  $i = i \wedge m$  and hence  $i$  is a  $z$ -element. Suppose  $i \not\leq m$ . Then  $i$  is a  $z_m$ -element by (2). Then  $i$  is a  $z_{i \vee m}$ -element by (1) i.e.  $i$  is a  $z_1$ -element. Let  $\mu(b) \subseteq \mu(a), a \leq i$ . Then  $M_b \leq M_a \wedge 1 \leq i$  (since  $a \leq i$  and  $i$  is a  $z_1$ -element). Hence  $b \leq i$  and  $i$  is a  $z$ -element.

5) We know that if  $i$  is a  $z$ -element then  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element for any element  $j$ . As  $i_z$  is a  $z$ -element. it follows that  $i_z$  is a  $z_j$ -element. We know that (by lemma 3.10),  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element if and only if  $(i \wedge j)$  is a  $z_j$ -element. Hence  $i_z \wedge j$  is a  $z_j$ -element and  $i \wedge j \leq i_z \wedge j$ . Let  $k$  be any  $z_j$ -element such that  $i \wedge j \leq k$ . Then  $i_z \wedge j = i_z \wedge j_z \wedge j = (i \wedge j)_z \wedge j \leq k_z \wedge j \leq k$ . (By lemma 3.7). Hence  $i_z \wedge j$  is the smallest  $z_j$ -element containing  $i \wedge j$ .

6) By (3.7), since  $i$  is a  $z_j$ -element  $i_z \wedge j \leq i$ . By hypothesis,  $k_z \wedge j = i_z \wedge j \leq i \leq k$ . Hence again by (3.7),  $k$  is a  $z_j$ -element.  $\square$

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### Author information

C.S. Manjarekar and A.N.Chavan, Department of Mathematics, R.L.S. College, Belgum (Karnataka), Department of Mathematics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur(Maharashtra), India.  
E-mail: csmanjrekar@yahoo.co.in, ashwinichavan1@gmail.com

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