



Spectral spaces from closure operators on semilattice-ordered semigroups

Damian Siejwa

Doctoral School of Warsaw University of Technology
damian.siejwa.dokt@pw.edu.pl

TACL 2026

July 30, 2026

Semilattice-ordered semigroups

Definition (Semilattice-ordered semigroup)

A *semilattice-ordered semigroup* is triple $(S, \cdot, \vee)$, where S is a nonempty set, $(S, \cdot)$ is a semigroup, $(S, \vee)$ is a semilattice and

$$x(y \vee z) = xy \vee xz, \quad (x \vee y)z = xz \vee yz$$

for all $x, y, z \in S$.

Semilattice-ordered semigroups

Definition (Semilattice-ordered semigroup)

A *semilattice-ordered semigroup* is triple $(S, \cdot, \vee)$, where S is a nonempty set, $(S, \cdot)$ is a semigroup, $(S, \vee)$ is a semilattice and

$$x(y \vee z) = xy \vee xz, \quad (x \vee y)z = xz \vee yz$$

for all $x, y, z \in S$.

Any semilattice-ordered semigroup is a partially ordered set in which the binary relation $x \leq y$ is defined as follows:

$$x \leq y \iff x \vee y = y.$$

It is easy to see that if $x \leq y$ and $u \leq v$, then $x \vee u \leq y \vee v$ and $xu \leq yv$. For subsets $A, B \subseteq S$ we write $AB := \{ab \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$.

Semilattice-ordered semigroups

Definition (Semilattice-ordered semigroup)

A *semilattice-ordered semigroup* is triple $(S, \cdot, \vee)$, where S is a nonempty set, $(S, \cdot)$ is a semigroup, $(S, \vee)$ is a semilattice and

$$x(y \vee z) = xy \vee xz, \quad (x \vee y)z = xz \vee yz$$

for all $x, y, z \in S$.

Any semilattice-ordered semigroup is a partially ordered set in which the binary relation $x \leq y$ is defined as follows:

$$x \leq y \iff x \vee y = y.$$

It is easy to see that if $x \leq y$ and $u \leq v$, then $x \vee u \leq y \vee v$ and $xu \leq yv$. For subsets $A, B \subseteq S$ we write $AB := \{ab \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$.

Relation to additively idempotent semirings

If $(R, +, \cdot)$ is an additively idempotent semiring, then the addition defines a semilattice operation by $x \vee y := x + y$, and $(R, \cdot, \vee)$ is a semilattice-ordered semigroup.

Closure operators on semilattice-ordered semigroups

Definition (Closure operator)

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup. A *closure operator* on S is a map $\text{cl} : \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$ such that for all $A, B \in \mathcal{P}(S)$,

- (1) $A \subseteq \text{cl}(A)$,
- (2) $\text{cl}(A) = \text{cl}(\text{cl}(A))$,
- (3) $A \subseteq B \implies \text{cl}(A) \subseteq \text{cl}(B)$.

Closure operators on semilattice-ordered semigroups

Definition (Closure operator)

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup. A *closure operator* on S is a map $\text{cl} : \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$ such that for all $A, B \in \mathcal{P}(S)$,

- (1) $A \subseteq \text{cl}(A)$,
- (2) $\text{cl}(A) = \text{cl}(\text{cl}(A))$,
- (3) $A \subseteq B \implies \text{cl}(A) \subseteq \text{cl}(B)$.

For notational convenience, we let $\text{cl}(A) := A^{\text{cl}}$ for all $A \in \mathcal{P}(S)$. A subset A is said to be *cl-closed* if $A^{\text{cl}} = A$.

Definition (Algebraic closure operator)

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup. A closure operator cl on S is said to be *algebraic* (or *of finite type*) if

$$A^{\text{cl}} = \bigcup \{F^{\text{cl}} \mid F \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(A)\}$$

for any $A \in \mathcal{P}(S)$.

T_0 -axiom: For any two points x, y in topological space X , there is an open set U such that $x \in U$ and $y \notin U$ or $y \in U$ and $x \notin U$.

T_0 -axiom: For any two points x, y in topological space X , there is an open set U such that $x \in U$ and $y \notin U$ or $y \in U$ and $x \notin U$.

Definition (Spectral space)

A *spectral space* is a quasi-compact and T_0 topological space X such that:

- (1) any finite intersection of quasi-compact open subsets of X is a quasi-compact open subset and the family of all quasi-compact open subsets of X forms a basis of X ,
- (2) any nonempty irreducible closed subset of X has a unique generic point.

Definition (Spectral map, retrocompact subset and patch topology)

Let X, Y be a spectral spaces.

- (1) A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is said to be *spectral* if for every quasi-compact open subset V of Y , $f^{-1}(V)$ is quasi-compact and open.
- (2) A subset W of X is said to be *retrocompact* in X if for every quasi-compact open subset U of X , $U \cap W$ is quasi-compact.
- (3) A *patch* (or *constructible*) topology on X is the coarsest topology for which all quasi-compact open subsets of X are clopen. We denote by X^{cons} the space X , with the patch topology.

Given a set S , the power set $\mathcal{P}(S)$ is a spectral space endowed with the *hull-kernel topology* whose open subbase is a spectral space. For an arbitrary subset $E \subseteq S$, define

$$D(E) := \{A \in \mathcal{P}(S) \mid E \not\subseteq A\}, \quad V(E) := \{A \in \mathcal{P}(S) \mid E \subseteq A\}.$$

Thus, $V(E) = \mathcal{P}(S) \setminus D(E)$. The family $\{D(F)\}_{F \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(S)}$ forms an open subbasis of the hull-kernel topology on $\mathcal{P}(S)$. Moreover, each set of this family is quasi-compact in $\mathcal{P}(S)$.

The fixed-point space

Theorem

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup and let cl be closure operator on S . Put

$$X := \{A \in \mathcal{P}(S) \mid A^{\text{cl}} = A\}$$

and endow it with the subspace topology induced by the hull-kernel topology on $\mathcal{P}(S)$. Then

cl is algebraic



X is a spectral space and
a retrocompact subset of $\mathcal{P}(S)$.

Why algebraicity is essential?

Let $S = [0, 1]$ be the real unit interval, with the semigroup operations $x \cdot y = x \vee y := \min(x, y)$. Define the closure operator $\text{cl} : \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$ by

$$A^{\text{cl}} = \begin{cases} \emptyset, & A = \emptyset, \\ [0, \sup(A)], & A \neq \emptyset. \end{cases}$$

Why algebraicity is essential?

Let $S = [0, 1]$ be the real unit interval, with the semigroup operations $x \cdot y = x \vee y := \min(x, y)$. Define the closure operator $\text{cl} : \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$ by

$$A^{\text{cl}} = \begin{cases} \emptyset, & A = \emptyset, \\ [0, \sup(A)], & A \neq \emptyset. \end{cases}$$

For $A = \{1 - \frac{1}{n} \mid n \geq 1\}$,

$$A^{\text{cl}} = [0, 1], \quad \bigcup_{F \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(A)} F^{\text{cl}} = [0, 1),$$

so cl is not algebraic.

Let X be defined as in the previous theorem and let $F \neq \emptyset$ be a finite subset of S . Then

$$X = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid x \in [0, 1]\}$$

and

$$D_X(F) := D(F) \cap X = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid 0 \leq x < \sup(F)\}.$$

Let X be defined as in the previous theorem and let $F \neq \emptyset$ be a finite subset of S . Then

$$X = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid x \in [0, 1]\}$$

and

$$D_X(F) := D(F) \cap X = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid 0 \leq x < \sup(F)\}.$$

Hence an open subbasis of X is given by the sets of the form

$$D_t := \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid 0 \leq x < t\}$$

for $t \in [0, 1]$. For all $s, t \in [0, 1]$ we have $D_s \cap D_t = D_{\min(s, t)}$ and for every family $\{t_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq [0, 1]$, it holds $\bigcup_{i \in I} D_{t_i} = D_{\sup_{i \in I} t_i}$. Therefore, every proper open subset of X is of the form D_t for some $t \in [0, 1]$.

Let X be defined as in the previous theorem and let $F \neq \emptyset$ be a finite subset of S . Then

$$X = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid x \in [0, 1]\}$$

and

$$D_X(F) := D(F) \cap X = \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid 0 \leq x < \sup(F)\}.$$

Hence an open subbasis of X is given by the sets of the form

$$D_t := \{\emptyset\} \cup \{[0, x] \mid 0 \leq x < t\}$$

for $t \in [0, 1]$. For all $s, t \in [0, 1]$ we have $D_s \cap D_t = D_{\min(s, t)}$ and for every family $\{t_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq [0, 1]$, it holds $\bigcup_{i \in I} D_{t_i} = D_{\sup_{i \in I} t_i}$. Therefore, every proper open subset of X is of the form D_t for some $t \in [0, 1]$.

Let us recall that a spectral space must have a basis of quasi-compact open sets. But for every $t > 0$ the set D_t is not quasi-compact. Indeed, if t_n is an increasing sequence, $t_n \rightarrow t$, and $t_n < t$ for every natural number n , then $D_t = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} D_{t_n}$ has no finite subcover.

Transporting multiplication to X

Having constructed a spectral space from an algebraic closure operator, the next natural question is whether the semigroup structure of S can be transported to that space in a topologically meaningful way. Define an operation $\star : X \times X \rightarrow X$ by

$$A \star B = (AB)^{cl}.$$

Transporting multiplication to X

Having constructed a spectral space from an algebraic closure operator, the next natural question is whether the semigroup structure of S can be transported to that space in a topologically meaningful way. Define an operation $\star : X \times X \rightarrow X$ by

$$A \star B = (AB)^{\text{cl}}.$$

Proposition

If cl is multiplicative, i.e. $(AB)^{\text{cl}} = (A^{\text{cl}}B^{\text{cl}})^{\text{cl}}$, then $(X, \star)$ is a semigroup.

Transporting multiplication to X

Having constructed a spectral space from an algebraic closure operator, the next natural question is whether the semigroup structure of S can be transported to that space in a topologically meaningful way. Define an operation $\star : X \times X \rightarrow X$ by

$$A \star B = (AB)^{\text{cl}}.$$

Proposition

If cl is multiplicative, i.e. $(AB)^{\text{cl}} = (A^{\text{cl}}B^{\text{cl}})^{\text{cl}}$, then $(X, \star)$ is a semigroup.

We shall denote by X_{fin} the family of all finitely generated subsets of X , i.e. $X_{\text{fin}} := \{F^{\text{cl}} \mid F \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(S)\}$.

Spectrality of the induced multiplication

Theorem

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup and let cl be an algebraic closure operator on S . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) the map $\star : X \times X \rightarrow X$ is spectral,*
- (2) for every finite subset $F \subseteq S$ there exists a finite (possibly empty) family of pairs $(G_i, H_i) \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(S) \times \mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(S)$, $i \in I$, such that for all $A, B \in X$,*

$$F \subseteq A \star B \iff \exists i \in I \text{ such that } G_i \subseteq A \text{ and } H_i \subseteq B,$$

- (3) for every finite subset $F \subseteq S$ there exists a finite (possibly empty) family of pairs $(G_i, H_i) \in X_{\text{fin}} \times X_{\text{fin}}$, $i \in I$, such that for all $A, B \in X_{\text{fin}}$,*

$$F \subseteq A \star B \iff \exists i \in I \text{ such that } G_i \subseteq A \text{ and } H_i \subseteq B.$$

A well quasi-order criterion

Definition (Well-quasi ordered set)

A preordered set $(P, \leq)$ is *well-quasi-ordered* if every infinite sequence $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of elements of P contains an increasing pair, i.e. there exist indices $m < n$ such that $x_m \leq x_n$.

A well quasi-order criterion

Definition (Well-quasi ordered set)

A preordered set $(P, \leq)$ is *well-quasi-ordered* if every infinite sequence $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of elements of P contains an increasing pair, i.e. there exist indices $m < n$ such that $x_m \leq x_n$.

Proposition

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup and let cl be an algebraic closure operator on S . If the poset $(X_{\text{fin}}, \subseteq)$ is well-quasi-ordered, then the map $\star : X \times X \rightarrow X$ is spectral.

Applications: a downward-join closure

Proposition

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup. Then the assignment

$$A \mapsto A^{\text{dj}} := \{x \in S \mid \exists a_1, \dots, a_n \in A \text{ such that } x \leq a_1 \vee \dots \vee a_n\}$$

defines a closure operator on S (called downward-join closure).

The downward-join closure is described only in terms of the order and the join structure. In fact, A^{dj} is the least subset of S containing A , which is both a down set and closed under finite joins.

Applications: a downward-join closure

Proposition

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup. Then the assignment

$$A \mapsto A^{\text{dj}} := \{x \in S \mid \exists a_1, \dots, a_n \in A \text{ such that } x \leq a_1 \vee \dots \vee a_n\}$$

defines a closure operator on S (called downward-join closure).

The downward-join closure is described only in terms of the order and the join structure. In fact, A^{dj} is the least subset of S containing A , which is both a down set and closed under finite joins.

Since the downward-join closure is algebraic, the set

$$X_{\text{dj}} := \{A \in \mathcal{P}(S) \mid A^{\text{dj}} = A\},$$

endowed with the subspace topology induced by the hull-kernel topology on $\mathcal{P}(S)$, is a spectral space. Moreover, it can be shown that it is always multiplicative, so $(X_{\text{dj}}, \star_{\text{dj}})$ is a semigroup, where

$$\star_{\text{dj}} : X_{\text{dj}} \times X_{\text{dj}} \rightarrow X_{\text{dj}}, \quad A \star_{\text{dj}} B := (AB)^{\text{dj}}.$$

Proposition

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup and let cl be an algebraic closure operator on S satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) for every finite nonempty subset $F \subseteq S$ there exists an element $x_F \in S$ such that $F^{\text{cl}} = \{x_F\}^{\text{cl}}$,*
- (2) for all $x, y \in S$,*

$$x \leq y \implies \{x\}^{\text{cl}} \subseteq \{y\}^{\text{cl}}.$$

If the poset $(S, \leq)$ is well-quasi-ordered, then the poset $(X_{\text{fin}}, \subseteq)$ is also well-quasi-ordered.

Proposition

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup and let cl be an algebraic closure operator on S satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) for every finite nonempty subset $F \subseteq S$ there exists an element $x_F \in S$ such that $F^{\text{cl}} = \{x_F\}^{\text{cl}}$,*
- (2) for all $x, y \in S$,*

$$x \leq y \implies \{x\}^{\text{cl}} \subseteq \{y\}^{\text{cl}}.$$

If the poset $(S, \leq)$ is well-quasi-ordered, then the poset $(X_{\text{fin}}, \subseteq)$ is also well-quasi-ordered.

Corollary

Let S be a semilattice-ordered semigroup. If the poset $(S, \leq)$ is well-quasi-ordered, then the map $\star_{\text{dj}} : X_{\text{dj}} \times X_{\text{dj}} \rightarrow X_{\text{dj}}$ is spectral.

References

- [1] Abhishek Banerjee. Closure operators in abelian categories and spectral spaces. *Theory and Applications of Categories*, 32(20):719–735, 2017.
- [2] Cristian Calude. On some topological properties of semilattice ordered semigroups. *Bull. Math. Soc. Sci. Math. R. S. Roumanie*, 19:3–10, 1976.
- [3] Max Dickmann, Niels Schwartz and Marcus Tressl. *Spectral Spaces*. New Mathematical Monographs. Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- [4] Carmelo Antonio Finocchiaro, Marco Fontana and Dario Spirito. Spectral spaces of semistar operations. *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra*, 220(8):2897–2913, 2016.
- [5] Carmelo Antonio Finocchiaro, Marco Fontana and Dario Spirito. A topological version of Hilbert’s Nullstellensatz. *Journal of Algebra*, 461:25–41, 2016.
- [6] Carmelo Antonio Finocchiaro and Dario Spirito. Suprema in spectral spaces and the constructible closure. *New York Journal of Mathematics*, 26:1064–1092, 2020.
- [7] Melvin Hochster. Prime Ideal Structure in Commutative Rings. *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*, 142:43–60, 1969.
- [8] Jaiung Jun, Samarpita Ray and Jeffrey Tolliver. Lattices, Spectral Spaces, and Closure Operations on Idempotent Semirings. *Journal of Algebra*, 594:313–363, 2021.
- [9] Samarpita Ray. Closure operations, continuous valuations on monoids and spectral spaces. *Journal of Algebra and Its Applications*, 19:2050006, 2020.
- [10] Damian Siejwa. Closure operators on semilattice-ordered semigroups and spectrality of induced operations. arXiv preprint arXiv:2607.25674, 2026.

Thank you for your attention!