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## MAL'CEV-TYPE THEOREMS FOR PARTIAL CONGRUENCES

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*Summary.* It is shown that some properties of partial congruences (=congruences which do not satisfy the axiom of reflexivity) are definable by Mal'cev conditions.

*Keywords:* Partial congruence, variety of algebras, Mal'cev condition.

*AMS classification:* 08A40, 08B05.

## 1. BASIC CONCEPTS

Binary relations which need not be reflexive on the whole base set were studied by O. Borůvka [1], I. Chajda [2], H. Draškovičová [4], B. M. Schein [7], F. Šik [8], and others. From [7] we adopt the following

**Definition 1.** Let  $\varrho$  be a binary relation in a set  $A$ . We say that  $\varrho$  is *partly reflexive* in  $A$  whenever the implication  $\langle a, b \rangle \in \varrho \Rightarrow \langle a, a \rangle \in \varrho$  and  $\langle b, b \rangle \in \varrho$  holds for any  $a, b \in A$ .

**Lemma 1.** Let  $\vartheta$  be a symmetric and transitive binary relation in a set  $A$ . Then  $\vartheta$  is *partly reflexive* in  $A$ .

*Proof.* Immediate.

With the aid of Lemma 1 we introduce

**Definition 2.** Let  $A$  be a set. A symmetric and transitive binary relation in  $A$  is called a *partial equivalence* in  $A$ .

A partly reflexive and symmetric binary relation in  $A$  is called a *partial tolerance* in  $A$ .

**Definition 3.** Let  $\mathfrak{A} = \langle A, F \rangle$  be an algebra. A partial equivalence in  $A$  which is compatible with the set of all fundamental operations  $F$  is called a *partial congruence* in  $\mathfrak{A}$ .

A partly reflexive, symmetric and compatible binary relation in  $\mathfrak{A}$  is called a *partial compatible tolerance* in  $\mathfrak{A}$ .

**Lemma 2.** Let  $\varrho$  be a partly reflexive binary relation in a set  $A$ . Then

(a)  $\varrho^m \subseteq \varrho^n$  holds for any integers  $m < n$ ;

(b)  $\bigcup_{k < \omega} \varrho^k$  is the transitive closure of  $\varrho$ .

**Proof.** (a) Let  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \varrho^m$  and  $m < n$ . Then  $\langle a, y \rangle \in \varrho$  for some element  $a \in A$ . Hence  $\langle y, y \rangle \in \varrho$  and so  $\langle y, y \rangle \in \varrho^{n-m}$ . This yields  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \varrho^m \circ \varrho^{n-m} = \varrho^n$ , as required.

(b) Evident.

## 2. COMPACT PARTIAL CONGRUENCES

One can easily verify that partial congruences as well as partial compatible tolerances in a given algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$  form algebraic lattices. As usual, *compact elements* of these two lattices play the crucial role. The least partial congruence (partial compatible tolerance) containing a subset  $S \subseteq \mathfrak{A} \times \mathfrak{A}$  is denoted by  $\vartheta(S)$  ( $\tau(S)$ , respectively). Further, the symbol  $Sg_{\mathfrak{A} \times \mathfrak{A}}(S)$  stands for the subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{A} \times \mathfrak{A}$  generated by  $S$ .

**Lemma 3.** Let  $a, b$  be elements of an algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$ . Then  $\tau(a, b) = Sg_{\mathfrak{A} \times \mathfrak{A}}(\langle a, b \rangle, \langle b, a \rangle, \langle a, a \rangle, \langle b, b \rangle)$ .

**Proof.** For the sake of brevity denote  $\sigma = Sg_{\mathfrak{A} \times \mathfrak{A}}(\langle a, b \rangle, \langle b, a \rangle, \langle a, a \rangle, \langle b, b \rangle)$ . Then clearly  $\sigma = \{ \langle p(a, b, a, b), p(b, a, a, b) \rangle; p \text{ is a quaternary term of } \mathfrak{A} \}$ . We want to prove that  $\sigma$  is a partial compatible tolerance containing the pair  $\langle a, b \rangle$ :

(i) Choosing  $p = e_0^4$  (the symbol  $e_0^4$  denotes the trivial operation  $e_0^4(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_0$ ) we infer that  $\langle a, b \rangle \in \sigma$ .

(ii) Partial reflexivity: Let  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \sigma$ . This means that  $x = p(a, b, a, b)$  and  $y = p(b, a, a, b)$  for some quaternary term  $p$ . Let us introduce a quaternary term  $q$  via  $q(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_2, x_3, x_2, x_3)$ . Then  $q(a, b, a, b) = p(a, b, a, b) = x$  and  $q(b, a, a, b) = p(b, a, a, b) = y$  which means that  $\langle x, x \rangle \in \sigma$ . Analogously we obtain  $\langle y, y \rangle \in \sigma$ .

(iii) Symmetry: Suppose that  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \sigma$ . Thus  $x = p(a, b, a, b)$  and  $y = p(b, a, a, b)$  for some quaternary term  $p$ .

Define another quaternary term  $r$  by the rule  $r(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3) = p(x_1, x_0, x_2, x_3)$ . Then  $r(a, b, a, b) = p(b, a, a, b) = y$  and  $r(b, a, a, b) = p(a, b, a, b) = x$  or, equivalently,  $\langle y, x \rangle \in \sigma$ .

(iv) Compatibility of  $\sigma$  follows directly from the definition of  $\sigma$ .

Now the inclusion  $\sigma \supseteq \tau(a, b)$  is a consequence of the properties (i), ..., (iv). The opposite inclusion is trivial.

**Lemma 4.** Let  $a, b$  be elements of an algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$ . Then  $\vartheta(a, b) = \bigcup_{n < \omega} \tau^n(a, b)$ .

Proof. Evidently  $\langle a, b \rangle \in \bigcup_{n < \omega} \tau^n(a, b)$ . Further, one can easily verify that the set-union  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} \tau^n(a, b)$  is a symmetric, transitive and compatible binary relation in  $\mathfrak{A}$ , see Lemma 2. Consequently  $\mathfrak{D}(a, b) \subseteq \bigcup_{n < \omega} \tau^n(a, b)$ .

On the other hand, the inclusion  $\tau(a, b) \subseteq \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  holds. Since  $\mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  is transitive we have also  $\tau^n(a, b) \subseteq \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  for any  $n < \omega$ . Hence the remaining inclusion  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} \tau^n(a, b) \subseteq \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  follows.

**Lemma 5.** (Mal'cev lemma for principal partial congruences). *Let  $x, y, a, b$  be elements of an algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$ . The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$ ;
- (2) *there exist an integer  $n$  and quaternary terms  $q_1, \dots, q_n$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} x &= q_1(a, b, a, b), \\ q_i(b, a, a, b) &= q_{i+1}(a, b, a, b), \quad 1 \leq i < n, \\ y &= q_n(b, a, a, b). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). By Lemma 4 we have  $\mathfrak{D}(a, b) = \bigcup_{n < \omega} \tau^n(a, b)$ . Then the assumption  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  yields  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \tau^n(a, b)$  for some  $n < \omega$ . This means that  $x = c_1, \langle c_i, c_{i+1} \rangle \in \tau(a, b), 1 \leq i \leq n$ , and  $c_{n+1} = y$  for some elements  $c_1, \dots, c_{n+1} \in \mathfrak{A}$ . Applying Lemma 3 we get  $c_i = q_i(a, b, a, b)$  and  $c_{i+1} = q_i(b, a, a, b), 1 \leq i \leq n$ , for suitable quaternary terms  $q_1, \dots, q_n$ . The equalities (2) follow.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Since  $\langle a, b \rangle, \langle b, a \rangle, \langle a, a \rangle, \langle b, b \rangle \in \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  we have also  $\langle q_i(a, b, a, b), q_i(b, a, a, b) \rangle \in \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Now the transitivity of  $\mathfrak{D}(a, b)$  together with the equations (2) give the required result  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{D}(a, b)$ . The proof is complete.

### 3. APPLICATIONS: MAL'CEV CONDITIONS FOR PARTIAL CONGRUENCES

In this section we show that some properties of partial congruences in algebras from a variety are definable by Mal'cev conditions. In particular, we give here identities characterizing the partial principality and partial regularity.

Varieties with principal compact congruences were investigated in [10]; for partial congruences we introduce

**Definition 4.** An algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$  has *principal compact partial congruences* whenever any compact partial congruence in  $\mathfrak{A}$  is of the form  $\mathfrak{D}(p, q)$  for some elements  $p, q \in \mathfrak{A}$ .

A variety  $\mathcal{V}$  has *principal compact partial congruences* whenever each  $\mathcal{V}$ -algebra has this property.

**Theorem 1.** For a variety  $\mathcal{V}$  the following conditions are equivalent:

(1)  $\mathcal{V}$  has principal compact partial congruences;

(2) there exist integers  $m, n$  and quaternary terms  $p, q, s_1, \dots, s_m, t_1, \dots, t_n$  such that the identities

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(x, x, u, u) &= q(x, x, u, u), \\
 x &= s_1(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 s_i(q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)) &= \\
 &= s_{i+1}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 1 &\leq i < m, \\
 y &= s_m(q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 u &= t_1(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 t_i(q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)) &= \\
 &= t_{i+1}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 1 &\leq i < n, \\
 v &= t_n(q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)),
 \end{aligned}$$

hold in  $\mathcal{V}$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Let  $\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{F}_{\mathcal{V}}(x, y, u, v)$  be the  $\mathcal{V}$ -free algebra with free generators  $x, y, u, v$ . Then  $\mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v) = \mathfrak{A}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v))$ , by hypothesis. The identity  $p(x, x, u, u) = q(x, x, u, u)$  follows directly from the inclusion  $\mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v) \supseteq \mathfrak{A}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v))$ . Further,  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v))$  yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= s_1(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 s_i(q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)) &= \\
 &= s_{i+1}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 1 &\leq i < m, \\
 y &= s_m(q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v))
 \end{aligned}$$

for some quaternary terms  $s_1, \dots, s_m$ , see Lemma 5.

Finally, applying Lemma 5 to the relation

$$\langle u, v \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v))$$

we get the remaining identities

$$\begin{aligned}
 u &= t_1(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)), \\
 t_i(q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)) &= \\
 &= t_{i+1}(p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v), p(x, y, u, v), q(x, y, u, v)),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$1 \leq i < n,$$

$$v = \mathbf{t}_n(\mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v)).$$

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Let  $\mathfrak{A}$  be an arbitrary  $\mathcal{V}$ -algebra with elements  $x, y, u, v$ . We want to prove the equality  $\mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v) = \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$ .

Since evidently  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v)$  and  $\langle u, v \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v)$  we have also  $\langle x, x \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v)$  and  $\langle u, u \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v)$ , see Lemma 1. Then compatibility implies

$$\langle \mathbf{p}(x, x, u, u), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v) \quad \text{and}$$

$$\langle \mathbf{q}(x, x, u, u), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v).$$

The hypothesis  $\mathbf{p}(x, x, u, u) = \mathbf{q}(x, x, u, u)$  and the transitivity of partial congruences yield  $\langle \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v)$ , which means that  $\mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v)) \subseteq \mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v)$ .

Conversely,  $\langle \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$  gives  $\langle \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$ , by symmetry, and  $\langle \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$ ,  $\langle \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$ , by Lemma 1. Now applying the quaternary terms  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  we find that

$$\langle s_i(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v)),$$

$$s_i(\mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v)) \rangle \in$$

$$\in \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v)), \quad 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

Using the identities from (2) and the transitivity of the partial congruence  $\mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$  we conclude that  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$ . The relation  $\langle u, v \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$  can be verified in a similar way. Altogether we have  $\mathfrak{A}(x, y) \vee \mathfrak{A}(u, v) = \mathfrak{A}(\mathbf{p}(x, y, u, v), \mathbf{q}(x, y, u, v))$  which was to be proved.

Mal'cev classes of congruence regular varieties were studied by B. Csákány [3], G. Grätzer [5] and R. Wille [9]. Analogously we introduce the concept of regular partial congruences.

**Definition 5.** An algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$  has *regular partial congruences* whenever any partial congruence in  $\mathfrak{A}$  is uniquely determined by any of its blocks.

A variety  $\mathcal{V}$  has *regular partial congruences* whenever every  $\mathcal{V}$ -algebra has this property.

**Theorem 2.** For a variety  $\mathcal{V}$  the following conditions are equivalent:

(1)  $\mathcal{V}$  has regular partial congruences;

(2) there exist an integer  $n$ , ternary terms  $\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n$ , and quaternary terms  $\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n$  such that the identities

$$\begin{aligned}
x &= \mathbf{r}_1(z, \mathbf{p}_1(x, y, z), z, \mathbf{p}_1(x, y, z)), \\
\mathbf{r}_i(\mathbf{p}_i(x, y, z), z, z, \mathbf{p}_i(x, y, z)) &= \\
&= \mathbf{r}_{i+1}(z, \mathbf{p}_{i+1}(x, y, z), z, \mathbf{p}_{i+1}(x, y, z)), \quad 1 \leq i < n, \\
y &= \mathbf{r}_n(\mathbf{p}_n(x, y, z), z, z, \mathbf{p}_n(x, y, z)), \\
z &= \mathbf{p}_i(x, x, z), \quad 1 \leq i \leq n,
\end{aligned}$$

hold in  $V$ .

Proof. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). Let  $\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{F}_V(x, y, z)$  be the  $V$ -free algebra over the free generating set  $\{x, y, z\}$ . Denote by  $\gamma$  the partial congruence  $\mathfrak{A}(\{\langle x, y \rangle, \langle z, z \rangle\})$ . Then  $[z] \gamma$  is nonvoid. We claim that the partial congruence  $\mathfrak{A}([z] \gamma \times [z] \gamma)$  has the same  $z$ -block as the original partial congruence  $\gamma$ :

- (i)  $[z] \gamma \supseteq [z] \mathfrak{A}([z] \gamma \times [z] \gamma)$  is a consequence of  $\gamma \supseteq \mathfrak{A}([z] \gamma \times [z] \gamma)$ ;
- (ii)  $[z] \gamma \subseteq [z] \mathfrak{A}([z] \gamma \times [z] \gamma)$  follows from the inclusion  $[z] \gamma \times [z] \gamma \subseteq \mathfrak{A}([z] \gamma \times [z] \gamma)$ .

By hypothesis the equality of blocks implies the equality of partial congruences  $\mathfrak{A}(\{\langle x, y \rangle, \langle z, z \rangle\}) = \mathfrak{A}([z] \gamma \times [z] \gamma)$ . Since the partial congruence on the left-hand side is compact we have  $\mathfrak{A}(\{\langle x, y \rangle, \langle z, z \rangle\}) = \mathfrak{A}(\{\langle z, \mathbf{p}_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle z, \mathbf{p}_m \rangle\})$  for some  $\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_m \in \mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{F}_V(x, y, z)$ . This fact immediately gives the identities  $z = \mathbf{p}_i(x, x, z)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .

Further, from  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}(\{\langle z, \mathbf{p}_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle z, \mathbf{p}_m \rangle\})$  we find

$$\begin{aligned}
x &= \mathbf{r}_1(z, \mathbf{p}_1(x, y, z), z, \mathbf{p}_1(x, y, z)), \\
\mathbf{r}_i(\mathbf{p}_i(x, y, z), z, z, \mathbf{p}_i(x, y, z)) &= \\
&= \mathbf{r}_{i+1}(z, \mathbf{p}_{i+1}(x, y, z), z, \mathbf{p}_{i+1}(x, y, z)), \quad 1 \leq i < n, \\
y &= \mathbf{r}_n(\mathbf{p}_n(x, y, z), z, z, \mathbf{p}_n(x, y, z))
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n$  are suitable quaternary terms and  $\{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\} = \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_m\}$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Let  $\alpha$  be a partial congruence in an algebra  $\mathfrak{A} \in V$  and let  $\langle a, a \rangle \in \alpha$ . We want to prove that the block  $[a] \alpha$  determines the original partial congruence  $\alpha$ . To do this it suffices to verify the equality  $\mathfrak{A}([a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha) = \alpha$ .

The inclusion  $\mathfrak{A}([a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha) \subseteq \alpha$  being trivial we take  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \alpha$ . Then  $\langle x, x \rangle, \langle x, y \rangle, \langle a, a \rangle \in \alpha$  and so  $\langle a, \mathbf{p}_i(x, y, a) \rangle \in \alpha$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , by compatibility and (2). Consequently  $\langle a, \mathbf{p}_i(x, y, a) \rangle \in [a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha$  and, further,  $\langle a, \mathbf{p}_i(x, y, a) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}([a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Since also  $\langle a, a \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}([a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha)$  and  $\langle \mathbf{p}_i(x, y, a), \mathbf{p}_i(x, y, a) \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}([a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , the identities (2) imply  $\langle x, y \rangle \in \mathfrak{A}([a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha)$ . The inclusion  $\alpha \subseteq \mathfrak{A}([a] \alpha \times [a] \alpha)$  follows. The proof is complete.

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### Souhrn

#### VĚTY MAL'CEVOVA TYPU PRO PARCIÁLNÍ KONGRUENCE V ALGEBRÁCH

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Jsou odvozeny dvě Mal'cevovy podmínky charakterizující vlastnosti parciálních kongruencí v algebrách tvořících varietu.

### Резюме

#### УСЛОВИЯ МАЛЬЦЕВА ДЛЯ КОНГРУЭНЦИЙ В АЛГЕБРАХ

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Выведены условия Мальцева для частичных конгруэнций в алгебрах, образующих многообразие.

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