

## MULTIQUASIGROUPS AND SOME RELATED STRUCTURES

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The purpose of this paper is to show that the class of multi-quasigroups is a convenient extension of the class of quasigroups. In the first part of the paper we give four interpretations of the notion of an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup: (i) as a structure with a „vector valued“ operation, (ii) as an algebra with a strongly orthogonal system of quasigroups, (iii) as an algebra with an orthogonal system of operations, and (iv) as a structure with a finitary relation. In the second part of the paper we show that on each (nontrivial)  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup it can be constructed an  $n$ -dimensional  $n + m$ -net, and conversely, each  $n$ -dimensional  $n + m$ -net can be coordinatized by an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup. Partial multi-quasigroups are considered in the third part of the paper, and it is shown that every partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup can be embedded in an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup.

1. Let  $Q$  be a nonempty set,  $n$  and  $m$  positive integers, and  $f: (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  a mapping from  $Q^n$  into  $Q^m$ . Then we say that  $Q(f)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -groupoid, and the  $n$ -ary operations  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m$  defined by:

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (y_1, \dots, y_m) \Leftrightarrow (\forall i \in N_m) y_i = f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n),$$

are called the component operations of  $f$  and this is denoted by  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_m)$ .

An  $[n, m]$ -groupoid  $Q(f)$  is said to be an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup iff the following statement is satisfied:

(A). For each „vector“  $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in Q^n$  and each injection  $\varphi$  from  $N_n = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  into  $N_{n+m}$ , there exists a unique vector  $(b_1, \dots, b_{n+m}) \in Q^{n+m}$  such that  $b_{\varphi(1)} = a_1, \dots, b_{\varphi(n)} = a_n$  and:

$$f(b_1, \dots, b_n) = (b_{n+1}, \dots, b_{n+m}). \quad (1)$$

It is clear that the following proposition is satisfied.

1.1. An  $[n, m]$ -groupoid  $Q(f)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup iff the sequence  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  of component operations of  $f$  satisfies the statement (A') which is obtained from (A) by replacing (1) by:  $(\forall i \in N_m) f_i(b_1, \dots, b_n) = b_{n+i}$ .  $\square$

A sequence  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  of  $n$ -ary operations on a set  $Q$  is said to be a strongly orthogonal system of operations if it satisfies the statement (A'). And, a sequence  $g_1, \dots, g_{n+m}$  of  $n$ -ary operations on a set  $Q$  is called orthogonal if the following statement is satisfied.

(B). For each  $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in Q^n$  and each injection  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  there exists a unique vector  $(c_1, \dots, c_n) \in Q^n$  such that:

$$(\forall i \in N_n) g_{\varphi(i)}(c_1, \dots, c_n) = a_i.$$

The following proposition shows that there is an equivalence between the notions of orthogonal system of operations and  $[n, m]$ -quasigroups.

**1.2.** An  $[n, m]$ -groupoid  $Q(f)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup iff there exists an orthogonal system of  $n$ -ary operations  $g_1, \dots, g_{n+m}$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m}) &\Leftrightarrow \\ (\exists t_1, \dots, t_n \in Q) (\forall i \in N_{n+m}) x_i = g_i(t_1, \dots, t_n). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

**Proof.** If  $Q(f)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup and if  $g_1, \dots, g_{n+m}$  are defined by

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m}) \Leftrightarrow (\forall i \in N_{n+m}) x_i = g_i(x_1, \dots, x_n),$$

then an orthogonal system of  $n$ -ary operations  $g_1, \dots, g_{n+m}$  is obtained. And conversely, if  $g_1, \dots, g_{n+m}$  is an orthogonal system of  $n$ -ary operations on  $Q$ , and if the  $[n, m]$ -groupoid  $Q(f)$  is defined by (2), then  $Q(f)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup.  $\square$

As a consequence from 1.1 and 1.2 (or directly) we obtain the following connection between orthogonal and strongly orthogonal systems of operations.

**1.3.** A sequence of  $n$ -ary operations  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  on a set  $Q$  is a strongly orthogonal system iff the sequence  $g_1, \dots, g_n, f_1, \dots, f_m$  is an orthogonal system, where  $g_1, \dots, g_n$  are defined by:  $(\forall i \in N_n) g_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_i$ .  $\square$

It is easy to see that in a strongly orthogonal system of  $n$ -ary operations on a set  $Q$  all operations are  $n$ -quasigroups.

An orthogonal system of  $n$ -quasigroups for  $n = 2$  is a strongly orthogonal system, but for  $n > 2$  a system of  $n$ -quasigroups which is an orthogonal system need not be a strongly orthogonal system.

An  $n + m$ -ary relation  $\rho \in Q^{n+m}$  is called an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup relation if it satisfies the statement (A'') obtained from (A) by replacing (1) by:  $\rho(b_1, \dots, b_{n+m})$ .

The proof of the following proposition is also clear.

**1.4.**  $Q(f)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup iff the relation  $\rho$  defined by:

$$\rho(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}) \Leftrightarrow f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m})$$

is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup relation.  $\square$

Thus, we obtained four interpretations of the notion of  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup. Further on we shall use mainly the last interpretation, i.e. by an " $[n, m]$ -quasigroup" we shall mean a structure  $Q(\rho)$  where  $\rho$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup relation. Then, we shall sometimes say that  $Q(\rho)$  is a „multi-quasigroup“, if it is not necessary to emphasize  $n$  and  $m$ .

The proofs of the following properties are straightforward.

1.5. Let  $\rho \subseteq Q^{n+m}$  and  $\psi$  be a permutation of  $N_{n+m}$ . Then  $Q(\rho)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup iff  $Q(\rho_\psi)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup, where:

$$\rho_\psi(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}) \Leftrightarrow \rho(x_{\psi(1)}, \dots, x_{\psi(n+m)}). \quad \square$$

$Q(\rho_\psi)$  is called  $\psi$  parastroph of the multiquasigroup  $Q(\rho)$ .

1.6. Let  $\rho \subseteq Q^{n+m}$  and let  $\xi = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n+m})$  be a sequence of permutations of  $Q$ . Then  $Q(\rho)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup iff  $Q(\rho^\xi)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup, where:

$$\rho^\xi(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}) \Leftrightarrow \rho(\xi_1(x_1), \dots, \xi_{n+m}(x_{n+m})). \quad \square$$

$Q(\rho^\xi)$  is called  $\xi$ -isotope of  $Q(\rho)$ .

1.7. Let  $Q(\rho)$  be an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup,  $a_1, \dots, a_k \in Q$ ,  $k < n$ , and  $\varphi$  an injection from  $Q^k$  into  $Q^n$ . Then  $Q(\rho')$  is also an  $[n-k, m]$ -quasigroup, where:

$$\rho'(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m-k}) \Leftrightarrow \rho(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}) \wedge (\forall i \in N_k) x_{\varphi(i)} = a_i. \quad \square$$

1.8. An  $[n, 1]$ -groupoid  $Q(f)$  is an  $[n, 1]$ -quasigroup iff  $Q(f)$  is an  $n$ -quasigroup.  $\square$

1.9.  $Q(\rho)$  is a  $[1, m]$ -quasigroup iff there is a sequence  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_m$  of permutations of  $Q$  such that:

$$\rho(x, x_1, \dots, x_m) \Leftrightarrow (\forall i \in N_m) x_i = \xi_i(x). \quad \square$$

1.10. If  $|Q| = 1$ , and  $\rho = Q^{n+m}$ , then  $Q(\rho)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup.

An  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup  $Q(\rho)$  is called nontrivial if  $|Q| \geq 2$ ,  $n \geq 2$ ,  $m \geq 1$ .

We remark that:

(i) The assumption that  $m$  and  $n$  are positive integers may be omitted, and then we would obtain that there exist only trivial  $[0, m]$ -quasigroups, and  $[n, 0]$ -quasigroups. Namely,  $Q(\rho)$  is an  $[n, 0]$ -quasigroup iff  $\rho = Q^n$ , and  $Q(\rho)$  is a  $[0, m]$ -quasigroup iff  $|\rho| = 1$ .

(ii) The notion of an  $[n, m]$ -loop can be defined in a usual way, but it is easy to see that proper multiloops do not exist. We do not see any convenient definition of a proper multigroup.

2. Let  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  be two nonempty sets,  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_1 \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{B}_{n+m}$  a partition of  $\mathbf{B}$ , where  $n \geq 2$ ,  $m \geq 1$ , and  $I$  is a subset of  $\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{B}$  (the elements of  $\mathbf{P}$  are called „points“ and those of  $\mathbf{B}$  „blocks“.) The structure  $(\mathbf{P}; \mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}; I)$  is called an  $n$ -dimensional  $n + m$ -net (or simply: an  $[n, n + m]$ -net) if the following statements are satisfied.

(i) If  $p \in \mathbf{P}$  then there exists exactly one sequence  $B_1, \dots, B_{n+m} \in \mathbf{B}$  such that  $pI B_s$ ,  $B_s \in \mathbf{B}_s$ , for all  $s \in N_{n+m}$ .

(ii) If  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  is an injection and  $B_s \in \mathbf{B}_{\varphi(s)}$  then there exists exactly one  $p \in \mathbf{P}$  such that  $pI B_s$  for all  $s \in N_n$ .

We shall show that there exists an equivalence between the theory of  $[n, n + m]$ -nets and  $[n, m]$ -quasigroups.

2.1. Every nontrivial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup induces an  $[n, n + m]$ -net.

**Proof.** Let  $Q(\rho)$  be a nontrivial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup. Define a set of „points“ by:

$$\mathbf{P} = \{(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}) \mid \rho(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m})\}.$$

If  $x \in Q$  and  $s \in N_{n+m}$ , then:

$$B_s^x = \{(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}) \in \mathbf{P} \mid x_s = x\}$$

is called a „block“. And,

$$\mathbf{B} = \{B_s^x \mid s \in N_{n+m}, x \in Q\}$$

is the set of all blocks. Further, let  $\mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}$  be defined by:

$$\mathbf{B}_s = \{B_s^x \mid x \in Q\}.$$

Clearly,  $\mathbf{B}$  is a disjoint union of  $\mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}$ .

It is easy to see that  $(\mathbf{P}; \mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}; I)$  is an  $[n, n + m]$ -net, where  $pI B_s^x \Leftrightarrow p \in B_s^x$ . (We say that this net is induced by the given multiquasigroup.)  $\square$

2.2. Every  $[n, n + m]$ -net induces an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup.

**Proof.** Let  $(\mathbf{P}; \mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}; I)$  be an  $[n, n + m]$ -net.

We shall show that all the sets  $\mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}$  have the same cardinal number.

First we note that (i) and  $P \neq \emptyset$  imply that all the classes of blocks  $\mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}$  are nonempty.

Let  $r, s \in N_{n+m}$ ,  $r, s \notin \{i_2, \dots, i_n\}$ ,  $1 \leq i_2 < \dots < i_n < n+m$ , and choose  $B_\nu \in \mathbf{B}_{i_\nu}$  in an arbitrary way. If  $B \in \mathbf{B}_r$ , then by (ii) there exists exactly one point  $p$  such that  $pIB$  and  $pIB_\nu$  for each  $\nu \in \{2, \dots, n\}$ . By (i) there exists exactly one  $B' \in \mathbf{B}_s$  such that  $pIB'$ . This implies that a mapping  $\psi_{sr}: B \mapsto B'$  of  $\mathbf{B}_r$  into  $\mathbf{B}_s$  is defined. In the same manner we define a mapping  $\psi_{rs}: \mathbf{B}_s \rightarrow \mathbf{B}_r$ . It is easy to see that

$$\psi_{rs} \psi_{sr} = 1_{B_r}, \quad \psi_{sr} \psi_{rs} = 1_{B_s},$$

and this implies that  $\psi_{rs} = (\psi_{sr})^{-1}$  is a bijection.

Let  $Q$  be a set and  $\varphi_i: Q \rightarrow \mathbf{B}_i$  a bijection for every  $i \in N_{n+m}$ . We define an  $n+m$ -ary relation  $\rho$  in  $Q$  by:

$$\rho(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}) \Leftrightarrow (\exists p \in \mathbf{P}) (\forall i \in N_{n+m}) p I \psi_i(x_i).$$

It can be easily seen that  $Q(\rho)$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup, and that the  $[n, n+m]$ -net induced by  $Q(\rho)$  is isomorphic to the given  $[n, n+m]$ -net.  $\square$

**2.3.** If  $Q(\rho)$  and  $Q'(\rho')$  are two  $[n, m]$ -quasigroups induced by an  $[n, n+m]$ -net, then they are isotopic.

**Proof.** Assume that  $(\mathbf{P}; \mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{n+m}; I)$  is an  $[n, n+m]$ -net,  $\varphi_i: Q \rightarrow \mathbf{B}_i$ ,  $\varphi'_i: Q' \rightarrow \mathbf{B}_i$  are bijections for each  $i \in N_{n+m}$ , and  $Q(\rho)$ ,  $Q'(\rho')$  are the  $[n, m]$ -quasigroups defined as in the proof of 2.2.

If the sequence of bijections  $\psi_1: Q \rightarrow Q', \dots, \psi_{n+m}: Q \rightarrow Q'$  is defined by  $\psi_i = \varphi'_i{}^{-1} \varphi_i$  then we obtain an isotopy from  $Q(\rho)$  into  $Q'(\rho')$ .  $\square$

**3.** A substructure of an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup (in general) is not an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup, but it is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup according to the following definition.

If  $\rho \subseteq Q^{n+m}$  is an  $n+m$ -ary relation on a nonempty set  $Q$ , then the structure  $Q(\rho)$  is called a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup if the following condition is satisfied.

(C) Let  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  be an injection. If

$$\rho(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m}), \rho(y_1, \dots, y_{n+m})$$

$$\text{and } (\forall i \in N_n) x_{\varphi(i)} = y_{\varphi(i)} \text{ then } (\forall j \in N_{n+m}) x_j = y_j.$$

Clearly:

**3.1.** Every  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup, and the class of partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroups is hereditary.

Now, we shall show that:

**3.2.** Every partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup  $R(\rho)$  is a substructure of an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup  $R'(\rho')$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  be an injection, and  $D_R^\varphi$  the subset of  $R^n$  defined by:

$$(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in D_R^\varphi \Leftrightarrow (\exists b_1, \dots, b_{n+m}) [\rho(b_1 \dots b_{n+m}) \wedge (\forall i \in N_n) a_i = b_{\varphi(i)}].$$

Denote  $R$  by  $R_0$ , and  $\rho$  by  $\rho_0$ . Assume that  $R_k(\rho_k)$  is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup, and define  $R_{k+1}(\rho_{k+1})$  in the following way.

Let  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in R_k^n \setminus D_k^\varphi$ , where  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  is an injection. Define a sequence  $(1_{\mathbf{a}\varphi}, \dots, (n+m)_{\mathbf{a}\varphi})$  in the following way

$$(\forall i \in N_n) i_{\mathbf{a}\varphi} = a_i \text{ and } (\mathbf{a}, D_k^\varphi) = \{j_{\mathbf{a}\varphi} \mid j \notin \{\varphi(1), \dots, \varphi(n)\}\}$$

consists of  $m$  elements and it is disjoint with  $R_k$ ; it is also assumed that:

$$(\mathbf{a}, D_k^\varphi) \cap (\mathbf{b}, D_k^\psi) \neq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b} \wedge \varphi = \psi.$$

Now, we define the structure  $R_{k+1}(\rho_{k+1})$  by:

$$R_{k+1} = R_k \cup \bigcup_{\varphi, \mathbf{a}} (\mathbf{a}, D_k^\varphi)$$

$$\rho_{k+1} = \rho_k \cup \{1_{\mathbf{a}\varphi} \dots (n+m)_{\mathbf{a}\varphi} \mid \mathbf{a} \in R_k^n \setminus D_k^\varphi, \varphi\}.$$

It can be easily seen that  $R_{k+1}(\rho_{k+1})$  is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup.

Finally, let  $R'(\rho')$  be defined by:

$$R' = \bigcup_k R_k, \quad \rho' = \bigcup_k \rho_k.$$

The structure  $R'(\rho')$  is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup, for it is the union of the chain  $\{R_k(\rho_k) \mid k=1, 2, \dots\}$  of partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroups, such that  $R_k \subset D_{k+1}^\varphi$  for each injection  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$ , and this implies that  $R'(\rho')$  is an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup.

It is natural to say that  $R'(\rho')$  is the universal covering of  $R(\rho)$ . The universal covering  $B'(\rho)$  of the partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup  $B(\emptyset)$  is in fact the free  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup with a base  $B$ .

As consequences of 3.2 we obtain the following propositions.

**3.3.** If  $Q$  is an infinite set then there exists an  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup  $Q(\rho)$ .  $\square$

**3.4.** The free  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup with a finite (non-empty) base is countable and infinite.  $\square$

$$^1 D_k^\varphi = D_k^\varphi$$

Making an obvious modification of the proof of 3.2, we obtain that the following statement is also satisfied.

3.5. Let  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  be an injection, and  $R(\rho)$  a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup such that  $D_R^\varphi \neq R^n$ . There exists a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup  $Q(\rho)$  with the following properties:

- (i)  $Q(\rho)$  is an extension of  $R(\rho)$ ;
- (ii)  $\psi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  is an injection such that  $D_Q^\psi = Q^n$  iff  $\psi = \varphi$ ;
- (iii) If  $R$  is infinite then  $|R| = |Q|$ .

Denote by  $\Sigma_R^{n,m}$  the set of  $n+m$ -ary relations  $\rho$  on a set  $R$  such that  $R(\rho)$  is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup. By an application of Zorn's lemma we obtain the following proposition.

3.6. Every relation  $\rho \in \Sigma_R^{n,m}$  is contained in a maximal relation  $\tau \in \Sigma_R^{n,m}$ .

The following statements are also obvious.

3.7. If  $\rho \in \Sigma_R^{n,m}$  and if  $\varphi: N_n \rightarrow N_{n+m}$  is an injection such that  $D_\rho^{\varphi^{-1}} = R^n$  then  $\rho$  is a maximal element in  $\Sigma_R^{n,m}$ .

3.8. If  $n+m=n'+m'$  and  $n \geq n'$ , then  $\Sigma_R^{n',m'} \subseteq \Sigma_R^{n,m}$ .

Now, we shall show that every finitary relation on a set  $R$  induces a partial multiquasigroup.

3.9. If  $\rho \subseteq R^k$  ( $k \geq 0$ ), then there exist  $n, m$  such that  $k = n + m$  and  $R(\rho)$  is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup.

**Proof.** If  $\rho = \emptyset$  or  $|\rho| = 1$ , then  $R(\rho)$  is a partial  $[n, m]$ -quasigroup for each pair of nonnegative integers  $n, m$  such that  $n+m=k$ . Let  $|\rho| \geq 2$ , and let  $d$  be the least positive integer such that there exist two vectors  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$  with exactly  $d$  different components (in other words,  $d$  is the "code distance" of  $\rho$ ). Then,  $R(\rho)$  is a partial  $[k-d+1, d-1]$ -quasigroup.  $\square$

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<sup>1</sup>  $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in D_\rho^\varphi \Leftrightarrow (\exists b_1, \dots, b_{n+m}) [\rho(b_1, \dots, b_{n+m}) \wedge (\forall i \in N_n) a_i = b_{\varphi(i)}]$

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## РЕЗИМЕ

## МУЛТИКВАЗИГРУПИ И СТРУКТУРИ ПОВРЗАНИ СО НИВ

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Во работава се покажува дека мултиквазигрупите се подесно проширување на класата квазигрупи. Во првиот дел на работава се даваат четири интерпретации на поимот мултиквазигрупа: (i) како алгебра со една мултиоперација, (ii) како алгебра со силно ортогонален систем квазигрупи, (iii) како алгебра со еден ортогонален систем операции, и (iv) како една релациска структура. Во вториот дел се покажува дека на секоја  $[n, m]$ -квазигрупа може да се конструира  $n$ -димензионална  $m+n$ -решетка, а и обратно дека секоја таква решетка може да се координира со една  $[n, m]$ -квазигрупа. Делумни мултиквазигрупи се разгледуваат во третиот дел, а главниот резултат на овој дел е дека секоја делумна мултиквазигрупа може да се смести во мултиквазигрупа.

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