

**ON 2-ABSORBING AND WEAKLY 2-ABSORBING IDEALS OF LATTICES**

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we introduce 2-absorbing and weakly 2-absorbing ideals in lattices. We study their properties such as every 2-absorbing ideal of a lattice with zero is weakly 2-absorbing ideal. We define the triple zero in lattices and give some results related triple zero. Examples and counter examples are given wherever required.

**Keywords:** 2-absorbing ideal, prime ideal, weakly prime ideal, weakly 2-absorbing ideal in lattices.

**Introduction:** Ideals were first proposed by Richard Dedekind in 1876 in the third edition of his book *Vorlesungen ber Zahlentheorie* (English: *Lectures on Number Theory*). This was a generalization of the concept of ideal numbers developed by Ernst Kummer. Later this concept was expanded by David Hilbert and especially Emmy Noether.

In 2003 Anderson and Smith [2], defined a weakly prime ideal in a commutative ring  $R$ , that is a proper ideal  $P$  of  $R$  with the property that, if whenever  $a, b \in R, 0 \neq ab \in P$  implies either  $a \in P$  or  $b \in P$ .

Badawi [5] in 2007 defined a proper ideal  $I$  of a commutative ring  $R$  to be a 2-absorbing ideal, if whenever  $abc \in I$  for  $a, b, c \in R$ , then either  $ab \in I$  or  $bc \in I$  or  $ac \in I$ . Later this concept was generalized by Anderson and Badawi [3], Payroviand Babaei [12], Azizi [4], Badawi and Darani [6] and Chaudhari [9].

In this paper we introduce the concepts of 2-absorbing and weakly 2-absorbing ideals in lattices. A proper ideal  $I$  of a lattice  $L$  is called 2-absorbing if whenever  $a \wedge b \wedge c \in I$  for  $a, b, c \in L$ , then either  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ . A proper ideal  $I$  of a lattice  $L$  with zero is called weakly 2-absorbing if whenever  $0 \neq a \wedge b \wedge c \in I$  for  $a, b, c \in L$ , then either  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ .

In Section 2, we study some basic properties of prime ideals, weakly prime ideals, 2-absorbing and weakly 2-absorbing ideals in lattices and give some examples.

In Section 3, we study the concepts of a triple zero and derive some related results. Let  $I$  be a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of a lattice  $L$  with zero and  $a, b, c \in L$ . We say that  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple-zero of  $I$  if  $a \wedge b \wedge c = 0$ , then  $a \wedge b \notin I, a \wedge c \notin I$  and  $b \wedge c \notin I$ .

We assume throughout that all lattices are lattices with zero.

**2. Basic Properties of 2-absorbing and Weakly 2-absorbing Ideals in Lattices:** We recall some concepts from the lattice theory, see Grätzer [10].

**Definition 1:** A set  $P$  with a binary relation ' $\leq$ ' is called partially ordered set or poset if  $\leq$  is reflexive, transitive and antisymmetric.

**Definition 2:** A supremum (resp. infimum) is defined as follows. Let  $H$  is subset of a poset  $P, a \in P$ . Then  $a$  is an upper bound (resp. a lower bound) of  $H$ , if  $h \leq a$  (resp.  $a \leq h$ ) for all  $h \in H$ . An upper bound (resp. a

lower bound)  $a$  of  $H$  is the least upper bound (resp. the greatest lower bound) of  $H$  or supremum (resp. infimum) of  $H$  if, for any upper bound (resp. any lower bound)  $b$  of  $H$ , we have  $a \leq b$  (resp.  $b \leq a$ ). We shall write  $a = \sup H$  (resp.  $a = \inf H$ ), or  $a = \vee H$  (resp.  $a = \wedge H$ ).

**Definition 3:** Let  $(L, \leq)$  be a poset. Then  $L$  is called a lattice if for all  $a, b \in L, \sup\{a, b\}$  and  $\inf\{a, b\}$  exists.

**Definition 4:** A lattice  $L$  has a zero element,  $0$  if  $0 \leq x$ , for all  $x \in L$ .

**Definition 5:** A sublattice  $I$  of  $L$  is an ideal if  $i \in I$  and  $a \in L$  imply that  $a \wedge i \in I$ .

**Definition 6:** A proper ideal  $I$  of a lattice  $L$  is called prime if  $a, b \in L$  and  $a \wedge b \in I$  imply that either  $a \in I$  or  $b \in I$ .

**Example 1:** Consider the lattice shown in Figure 1. Here the ideal  $I = \{0, a, b, d\}$  is prime ideal.

**Definition 7:** Let  $L$  be a lattice with zero. A proper ideal  $I$  of  $L$  is called weakly prime if  $a, b \in L$  and  $0 \neq a \wedge b \in I$  imply that either  $a \in I$  or  $b \in I$ .

**Example 2:** Consider the lattice shown in Figure 1. Here the ideal  $I = \{0, b, c, f\}$  is weakly prime ideal.

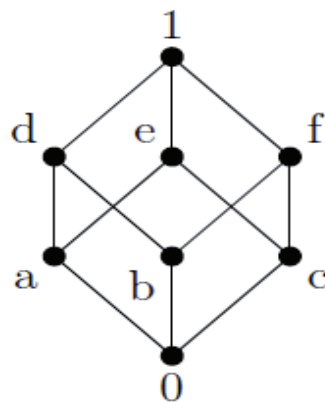


Figure 1

**Definition 8:** Let  $L$  be a lattice. A proper ideal  $I$  of  $L$  is called a 2-absorbing ideal if whenever  $a \wedge b \wedge c \in I$  for  $a, b, c \in L$ , then either  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ .

**Example 3:** Consider the lattice shown in Figure 2. Here the ideal  $I = \{0, b, c, f\}$  is 2-absorbing ideal.

**Definition 9:** Let  $L$  be a lattice with zero. A proper ideal  $I$  of  $L$  is called a weakly  $2$ -absorbing ideal if whenever  $0 \neq a \wedge b \wedge c \in I$  for  $a, b, c \in L$ , then either  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ .

**Example 4:** Consider the lattice shown in Figure 2. Here the ideal  $I = \{0, a, c, e\}$  is weakly  $2$ -absorbing ideal.

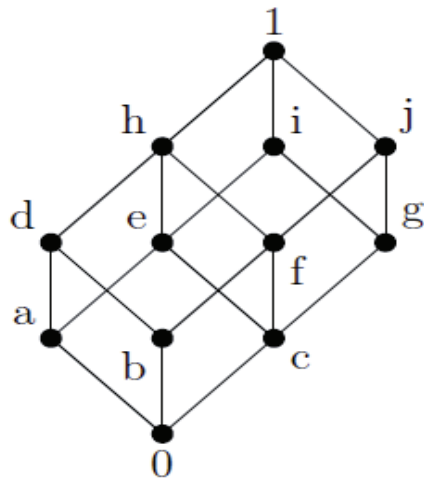


Figure 2

**Lemma 2.1:** Every prime ideal of a lattice  $L$  with zero is a weakly prime ideal.

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be a prime ideal of  $L$ . Suppose that  $a, b \in L$  and  $0 \neq a \wedge b \in I$ . As  $I$  is prime ideal of  $L$ , we have either  $a \in I$  or  $b \in I$ . Thus  $I$  is a weakly prime ideal of  $L$ .

**Remark 2.1:** The following example shows that the converse of this Lemma does not hold. We give one counter example.

**Example 5:** Let  $L$  be a lattice shown in Figure 1. The ideal  $I = \{0\}$  is weakly prime ideal, but for  $a \wedge b = 0 \in I$ , we have neither  $a \in I$  nor  $b \in I$ . Thus  $I$  is not a prime ideal.

**Lemma 2.2:** Every prime ideal of a lattice  $L$  is a  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be a prime ideal of  $L$ . Suppose that  $a, b, c \in L$  and  $a \wedge b \wedge c \in I$ . As  $I$  is prime ideal of  $L$ , we have either

- (1)  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $c \in I$ , or (2)  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \in I$ ,
- or (3)  $b \wedge c \in I$  or  $a \in I$ .

Without loss of generality, suppose that  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $c \in I$ . If  $a \wedge b \in I$  then the proof is obvious and if  $c \in I$  then  $a \wedge c \in I$  and  $b \wedge c \in I$ . Thus  $I$  is a  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

**Lemma 2.3:** Every weakly prime ideal of a lattice  $L$  with zero is a weakly  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

The proof of this Lemma is obvious.

**Remark 2.2:** The converse of the preceding is not true. We give a counter example.

**Example 6:** Consider the lattice shown in Figure 2. The ideal  $I = \{0, b, c, f\}$  is a  $2$ -absorbing and a weakly  $2$ -absorbing ideal.

For  $h, j \in L$ ,  $h \wedge j = f \in I$ , neither  $h \in I$  nor  $j \in I$ . Hence  $I$  is neither prime nor weakly prime ideal.

**Lemma 2.4:** Every  $2$ -absorbing ideal of a lattice  $L$  with zero is a weakly  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $I$  is a  $2$ -absorbing ideal of a lattice  $L$ . Let  $a, b, c \in L$  and  $0 \neq a \wedge b \wedge c \in I$ . As  $I$  is  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ , we have either  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ .

**Remark 2.3:** The converse of this Lemma does not hold. Here we give one counter example.

**Example 7:** Consider the lattice shown in Figure 1. Here the ideal  $I = \{0\}$  is a weakly  $2$ -absorbing ideal. For  $d, e, f \in L$ , we have  $d \wedge e \wedge f = 0 \in I$  we have neither  $d \wedge e = a \in I$  nor  $d \wedge f = b \in I$  nor  $e \wedge f = c \in I$ . Thus  $I$  is not a  $2$ -absorbing ideal.

The following lattice contains an ideal that is neither  $2$ -absorbing nor weakly  $2$ -absorbing.

**Example 8:** Consider the lattice shown in Figure 3. Let  $I = \{0, c\}$ . Then  $I$  is the ideal of this lattice.

For  $k, m, n \in L$  such that  $k \wedge m \wedge n = c \in I$ , we have neither  $k \wedge m = f \in I$  nor  $k \wedge n = h \in I$  nor  $m \wedge n = j \in I$ .

Thus  $I$  is neither weakly  $2$ -absorbing nor  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

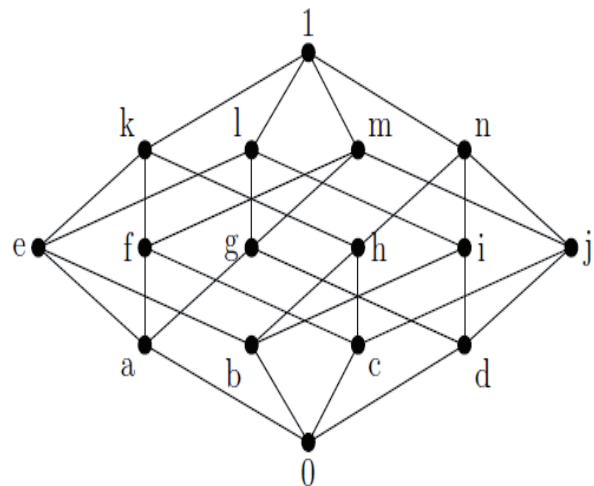


Figure 3

**Lemma 2.5:** Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be two distinct prime ideals of a lattice  $L$ , then  $P \cap Q$  is a  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x, y, z \in L$  and  $x \wedge y \wedge z \in P \cap Q$  then  $x \wedge y \wedge z \in P$  and  $x \wedge y \wedge z \in Q$ . Since  $P$  and  $Q$  are prime ideals of  $L$ , we have, either (1)  $x \wedge y \in P$  or  $z \in P$  and  $x \wedge y \in Q$  or  $z \in Q$ , or (2)  $x \wedge z \in P$  or  $y \in P$  and  $x \wedge z \in Q$  or  $y \in Q$ , or (3)  $y \wedge z \in P$  or  $x \in P$  and  $y \wedge z \in Q$  or  $x \in Q$ . Without loss of generality, suppose that  $x \wedge y \in P$  or  $z \in P$  and  $x \wedge y \in Q$  or  $z \in Q$ . If  $x \wedge y \in P$  and  $x \wedge y \in Q$  then proof is obvious. If  $z \in P$  and  $z \in Q$  then either  $x \wedge z \in P$  and  $x \wedge z \in Q$  or  $y \wedge z \in P$  and  $y \wedge z \in Q$ .

Similarly we have the following Lemma for weakly prime ideals.

**Lemma 2.6:** Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be two distinct weakly prime ideals of a lattice  $L$  with zero, then  $P \cap Q$  is a weakly  $2$ -absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

**3. Results by Using Triple Zero**

**Definition 10:** Let  $I$  be a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of a lattice  $L$  and  $a, b, c \in L$ . We say  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$  if  $a \wedge b \wedge c = 0$  then  $a \wedge b \notin I$ ,  $a \wedge c \notin I$  and  $b \wedge c \notin I$ .

**Definition 11:** For an ideal  $I$  of a lattice  $L$ , we define

- (1)  $I^2 = \{a \wedge b : a \neq b; a, b \in I\}$ .
- (2)  $I^3 = \{a \wedge b \wedge c : a \neq b \neq c; a, b, c \in I\}$ .
- (3)  $a \wedge b \wedge I = \{a \wedge b \wedge i : i \in I\}$ .
- (4)  $a \wedge I^2 = \{a \wedge i \wedge j : i \neq j; i, j \in I\}$ .

**Definition 12:** A lattice  $L$  is called modular if, for all elements  $a, b, c \in L$ , the following identity holds:

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

**Modular law:**  $a \leq c$  implies that

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

**Definition 13:** A lattice  $L$  satisfying the following identities; for all  $x, y, z \in L$ ,

- (1)  $x \wedge (y \vee z) = (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$
- (2)  $x \vee (y \wedge z) = (x \vee y) \wedge (x \vee z)$

is called distributive lattice.

**Theorem 3.1:** Let  $I$  be a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of a modular lattice  $L$  with zero and suppose that  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$  for some  $a, b, c \in L$ . Then  $a \wedge b \wedge I = a \wedge c \wedge I = b \wedge c \wedge I = \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $a \wedge b \wedge i \neq 0$  for some  $i \in I$ . Then  $0 \neq (a \wedge b \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i) \in I$  (since  $a \wedge b \wedge i \neq 0$ ). As  $L$  is modular, we have  $a \wedge b \wedge (c \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i)) \in I$ . Since  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$ ,  $a \wedge b \notin I$ . Therefore, either  $a \wedge (c \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i)) \in I$  or  $b \wedge (c \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i)) \in I$ .

As  $L$  is modular and  $a \wedge b \wedge i \leq a$ , we have  $a \wedge (c \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i)) = (a \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i) \in I$ .

Similarly,  $a \wedge b \wedge i \leq b$ , we have  $b \wedge (c \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i)) = (b \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i) \in I$ .

Thus, either  $(a \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i) \in I$  or  $(b \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i) \in I$ .

Now, we have  $a \wedge c \leq (a \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i)$  and  $b \wedge c \leq (b \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge i)$ .

Thus, either  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ , which is a contradiction to  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$ . Hence  $a \wedge b \wedge I = \{0\}$ . Similarly, we can show that  $a \wedge c \wedge I = b \wedge c \wedge I = \{0\}$ .

**Theorem 3.2:** Let  $I$  be a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of a distributive lattice  $L$  with zero and suppose that  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$  for some  $a, b, c \in L$ . Then  $a \wedge I^2 = b \wedge I^2 = c \wedge I^2 = \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $a \wedge x \wedge y \neq 0$  for some  $x, y \in I$ ,  $x \neq y$ . As  $L$  is distributive, we have  $a \wedge (b \vee x) \wedge (c \vee y) = [(a \wedge b \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge y)] \vee [(a \wedge x \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge x \wedge y)]$ . Since  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$ , we have  $a \wedge b \wedge c = 0$ . By Theorem 3.1, we have  $a \wedge b \wedge i = a \wedge c \wedge i = b \wedge c \wedge i = \{0\}$ , for  $i \in I$ . Thus  $a \wedge (b \vee x) \wedge (c \vee y) = a \wedge x \wedge y \neq 0$ .

As  $0 \neq a \wedge x \wedge y \in I$ , we have  $0 \neq a \wedge (b \vee x) \wedge (c \vee y) \in I$ . Since  $I$  is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ , we have either  $a \wedge (b \vee x) \in I$  or

$a \wedge (c \vee y) \in I$  or  $(b \vee x) \wedge (c \vee y) \in I$ . Thus, either  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ . Which is a contradiction to  $(a, b, c)$  is triple zero of  $I$ . Thus  $a \wedge I^2 = \{0\}$ . Similarly, we can show that  $b \wedge I^2 = c \wedge I^2 = \{0\}$ .

**Theorem 3.3:** Let  $L$  be a distributive lattice with zero. Let  $I$  be a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ , that is not 2-absorbing ideal. Then  $I^3 = \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $I$  is not a 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ ,  $I$  has a triple zero  $(a, b, c)$  for some  $a, b, c \in L$ . We have

$$I^3 = \{x \wedge y \wedge z : x \neq y \neq z; x, y, z \in I\}.$$

Suppose that  $x \wedge y \wedge z \neq 0$  for some  $x, y, z \in I$ . As  $L$  is distributive, we have

$$(a \vee x) \wedge (b \vee y) \wedge (c \vee z) = (a \wedge c \wedge b) \vee (x \wedge c \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge c \wedge y) \vee (a \wedge z \wedge b) \vee (x \wedge z \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge z \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z \wedge y).$$

By Theorem 3.1 and Theorem 3.2, we have  $a \wedge b \wedge I = a \wedge c \wedge I = b \wedge c \wedge I = \{0\}$ ,

$a \wedge I^2 = b \wedge I^2 = c \wedge I^2 = \{0\}$  and since  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$ ,  $a \wedge b \wedge c = 0$ . Thus,

$$(a \vee x) \wedge (b \vee y) \wedge (c \vee z) = x \wedge y \wedge z \neq 0.$$

Hence  $0 \neq (a \vee x) \wedge (b \vee y) \wedge (c \vee z) \in I$ . As  $I$  is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal, we have, either  $(a \vee x) \wedge (b \vee y) \in I$  or  $(a \vee x) \wedge (c \vee z) \in I$  or  $(b \vee y) \wedge (c \vee z) \in I$ . Hence, either

$$(a \wedge b) \vee (x \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge y) \in I$$

$$(a \wedge c) \vee (x \wedge c) \vee (a \wedge z) \vee (x \wedge z) \in I$$

$$(b \wedge c) \vee (y \wedge c) \vee (b \wedge z) \vee (y \wedge z) \in I.$$

Thus, either  $a \wedge b \in I$  or  $a \wedge c \in I$  or  $b \wedge c \in I$ . Which is a contradiction to  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $I$ . Hence  $I^3 = \{0\}$ .

**Remark 3.1:** The following example shows that the converse of above theorem does not hold.

**Example 9:** Consider the ideal  $I = \{0, a, f\}$  of the lattice shown in Figure 4.

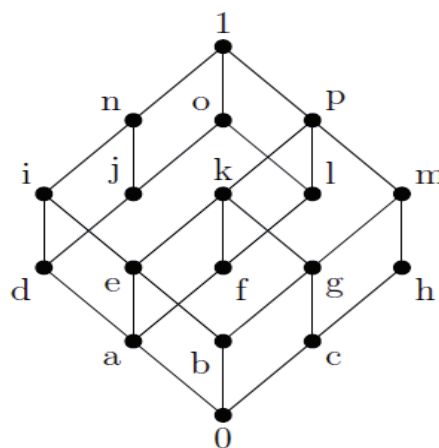


Figure 4

Here  $I^3 = \{0\}$ . Now for  $n, o, p \in L$  and  $n \wedge o \wedge p = a \in I$  implies  $n \wedge o = j \notin I$ ,  $n \wedge p = e \notin I$  and  $o \wedge p = l \notin I$ . Thus  $I$  is not a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ .

**Definition 14:** Let  $A, B, C$  be ideals of a lattice  $L$ , we define following

$$A^2BC = \{x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q : x, y \in A; p \in B; q \in C; x \neq y\}.$$

$$AB^2C = \{p \wedge x \wedge y \wedge q : p \in A; x, y \in B; q \in C; x \neq y\}.$$

$$ABC^2 = \{x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q : x \in A; y \in B; p, q \in C; p \neq q\}.$$

$$A^2B^2 = \{x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q : x, y \in A; p, q \in B; x \neq y; p \neq q\}.$$

$$A^2C^2 = \{x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q : x, y \in A; p, q \in C; x \neq y; p \neq q\}.$$

$$B^2C^2 = \{x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q : x, y \in B; p, q \in C; x \neq y; p \neq q\}$$

**Theorem 3.4:** Suppose that  $A, B, C$  are weakly 2-absorbing ideals of a distributive lattice  $L$  with zero such that none of them is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ . Then

$$A^2BC = AB^2C = ABC^2 = \{0\}.$$

*Proof.* Suppose that  $x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q \neq 0$  for some  $x, y \in A (x \neq y)$  and  $p \in B, q \in C$ .

Hence  $x \wedge y \neq 0$ . As  $A$  is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$  and is not 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ , there exists a triple zero  $(a, b, c)$  of  $A$  for some  $a, b, c \in L$ . As  $x \wedge y \in A$  and  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple-zero of  $A$ , we have  $(x \wedge y) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge c) \in A$ . As  $x \wedge y \neq 0, 0 \neq (x \wedge y) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge c) \in A$ . That is  $0 \neq [(x \wedge y) \vee a] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee b] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee c] \in A$ . Since  $A$  is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal, we have either  $[(x \wedge y) \vee a] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee b] \in A$  or  $[(x \wedge y) \vee a] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee c] \in A$  or  $[(x \wedge y) \vee b] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee c] \in A$ . Hence either

$a \wedge b \in A$  or  $a \wedge c \in A$  or  $b \wedge c \in A$ , which is a contradiction to  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $A$ . Hence  $x \wedge y = 0$  and thus  $x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q = 0$ . Thus  $A^2BC = \{0\}$ . Similarly, we can show that  $AB^2C = ABC^2 = \{0\}$ .

**Theorem 3.5:** Suppose that  $A, B, C$  are weakly 2-absorbing ideals of a distributive lattice  $L$  with zero such that none of them is a 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ . Then

$$A^2B^2 = A^2C^2 = B^2C^2 = \{0\}.$$

*Proof.* We show that  $A^2B^2 = \{0\}$ . Suppose that  $x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q \neq 0$  for some  $x, y \in A (x \neq y)$  and  $p, q \in B (p \neq q)$ . Hence  $x \wedge y \neq 0$ . As  $A$  is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$  and  $A$  is not 2-absorbing ideal of  $L$ , there exists a triple zero  $(a, b, c)$  of  $A$  for some  $a, b, c \in L$ . As  $x \wedge y \in A$  and as  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $A$ , we have

$(x \wedge y) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge c) \in A$ . As  $x \wedge y \neq 0$ , we have  $0 \neq (x \wedge y) \vee (a \wedge b \wedge c) \in A$ . That is

$$0 \neq [(x \wedge y) \vee a] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee b] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee c] \in A.$$

Since  $A$  is a weakly 2-absorbing ideal, we have, either  $[(x \wedge y) \vee a] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee b] \in A$  or  $[(x \wedge y) \vee a] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee c] \in A$  or

$$[(x \wedge y) \vee b] \wedge [(x \wedge y) \vee c] \in A.$$

Hence, either  $a \wedge b \in A$  or  $a \wedge c \in A$  or  $b \wedge c \in A$ , which is a contradiction to  $(a, b, c)$  is a triple zero of  $A$ .

Hence  $x \wedge y = 0$  and thus  $x \wedge y \wedge p \wedge q = 0$ . Thus  $A^2B^2 = \{0\}$ . Similarly we can show that  $A^2C^2 = B^2C^2 = \{0\}$ .

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