

## A HOM-FUNCTOR FOR LATTICE-ORDERED GROUPS

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**Results are presented that characterize subdirect products of reals (respectively, integers) functorially.**

By defining a quasi-order on the lattice-homomorphisms (henceforth:  $l$ -homomorphisms) of one abelian lattice-ordered group (henceforth:  $l$ -group) to another, one can set up a co-compatible system of partially ordered groups (henceforth: p. o. groups). Their co-limit  $L(A, B)$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are the  $l$ -groups in question, is a directed, semi-closed p. o. group. If  $A$  is a totally ordered group (henceforth: o-group) then  $L(A, B)$  is simply the subgroup of  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  generated by the o-homomorphisms. On the other hand, if  $B = \mathbf{R}$ , the additive group of real numbers with the usual order, then  $L(A, B)$  is a cardinal sum of copies of  $\mathbf{R}$ , one for each maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$ . In general the co-compatible system mentioned above is far from being directed.

$L(\cdot, B)$  is a contravariant functor; not much happens functorially in the second variable. It transforms  $l$ -epimorphisms (onto maps) into o-embeddings. The functor also preserves *finite* cardinal sums.

If the sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  is exact, i.e.,  $C \simeq B/A$ , then  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact for any o-group  $X$ , provided  $B \rightarrow C$  is a retraction. This happens in all of the following nontrivial cases: (1)  $C$  is a projective  $l$ -group relative to all  $l$ -epimorphisms; (2)  $B$  is divisible and  $A$  is a prime subgroup of  $B$ ; (3)  $B$  is a direct, lexicographic extension of  $A$  by  $C$ .

**1. Preliminaries.** Suppose  $\{G_i \mid i \in I\}$  is a family of p. o. groups. If  $G$  is the direct sum of the  $G_i$  we call  $G$  the *cardinal sum* of the  $G_i$  if we define  $0 \leq g \in G$  if and only if  $0 \leq g_i \in G_i$  for all  $i \in I$ ; notation:  $G = \boxplus \{G_i \mid i \in I\}$ . If each  $G_i$  is an  $l$ -group and  $G$  is the cardinal sum, then  $G$  is also an  $l$ -group.  $\mathbf{Z}$  (resp.  $\mathbf{R}$ ) denotes the additive group of integers (resp. real numbers), with the usual ordering. We observe that an Archimedean o-group is o-isomorphic to a subgroup of  $\mathbf{R}$  in its usual order; (Hölder's theorem, [3]). A *prime subgroup*  $N$  of the  $l$ -group  $G$  is a convex  $l$ -subgroup such that  $G/N$  is an o-group. A p. o. group  $G$  is *semi-closed* if given  $g \in G$  and  $ng \geq 0$ , with  $n$  a positive integer, it follows that  $g \geq 0$ .

We use  $(\subset) \subseteq$  for (proper) containment of sets; the symbol  $\setminus$  for complementation in sets.

All groups in this discussion shall be abelian. If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $l$ -groups  $\mathcal{L}(A, B)$  will denote the set of  $l$ -homomorphisms of  $A$  into

$B$ . We would like to construct a group  $L(A, B)$  which “comes close” to behaving like a group of homomorphisms; the problem is of course that the sum of two  $l$ -homomorphisms need not be an  $l$ -homomorphism. Conrad and Diem have come up with a rather large set of  $l$ -endomorphisms of an  $l$ -group, which does turn out to be a semigroup under the usual addition of homomorphisms; they are the so-called  $p$ -endomorphisms, or polar-preserving endomorphisms (see [2]). We shall mention them in the sequel.

Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are  $l$ -groups and  $\theta, \phi \in \mathcal{L}(A, B)$ . We say that  $\phi$  dominates  $\theta$  if  $a\phi \wedge b = 0$  implies  $a\theta \wedge b = 0$ , for all  $0 \leq a \in A$  and  $0 \leq b \in B$ ; our notation for this is  $\theta < \phi$ . It is immediate that  $<$  is a quasi-ordering of  $\mathcal{L}(A, B)$ . In fact, if  $\theta < \phi$  and also  $\phi < \theta$  we write  $\phi \sim \theta$  and call  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  polar equivalent;  $\sim$  is indeed an equivalence relation. Moreover, it induces a partial order on the equivalence classes, which we shall index  $\{\mathcal{L}_i(A, B) \mid i \in I\}$ :  $\mathcal{L}_i(A, B) \leq \mathcal{L}_j(A, B)$  if and only if some  $\phi \in \mathcal{L}_j(A, B)$  dominates a  $\theta \in \mathcal{L}_i(A, B)$ . Now for each  $i \in I$  let  $L_i(A, B)^+ = \{\theta \in \mathcal{L}(A, B) \mid \theta < \phi, \text{ with } \phi \in \mathcal{L}_i(A, B)\} = \bigcup_{j \leq i} \mathcal{L}_j(A, B)$ . (We think of  $I$  as being partially ordered so as to be compatible with the order induced on the equivalence classes.)

We are almost ready to state our first lemma;  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  is of course the full homomorphism group,  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$  the subgroup of  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  generated by  $\mathcal{L}(A, B)$ . Thus  $\mathcal{B}(A, B) = \{\theta_1 - \theta_2 \mid \theta_1, \theta_2 \text{ are sums of } l\text{-homomorphisms of } A \text{ into } B\}$ .

LEMMA 1.1. (a) For each  $i \in I$   $L_i(A, B)^+$  is a subsemigroup of  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$ ; that is, if  $\theta_1, \theta_2 < \phi$  then  $\theta_1 + \theta_2 \in \mathcal{L}(A, B)$  and  $\theta_1 + \theta_2 < \phi$ .  
 (b) For each  $i \in I$   $\mathcal{L}_i(A, B)$  is a subsemigroup of  $L_i(A, B)^+$ .

*Proof.* (a) Suppose  $x \wedge y = 0$  in  $A$ ; then  $x\phi \wedge y\phi = 0$  for  $\phi \in \mathcal{L}(A, B)$ . If  $\theta_1, \theta_2 < \phi$  we get  $x\theta_1 \wedge y\phi = 0$ , and in turn  $x\theta_1 \wedge y\theta_2 = 0$ . Likewise  $x\theta_2 \wedge y\theta_1 = 0$ , and of course  $x\theta_i \wedge y\theta_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , so that  $(x\theta_1 + x\theta_2) \wedge (y\theta_1 + y\theta_2) = 0$ , and so  $\theta_1 + \theta_2$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism. If  $a\phi \wedge b = 0$  then  $a\theta_i \wedge b = 0$  for both  $i = 1, 2$ , so  $a\theta_1 + a\theta_2 \wedge b = 0$ , which means that  $\theta_1 + \theta_2 < \phi$ .

(b) We check that if  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are polar equivalent to  $\phi$  then so is  $\theta_1 + \theta_2$ . We already know that  $\phi$  dominates  $\theta_1 + \theta_2$ . Yet if  $a\theta_1 + a\theta_2 \wedge b = 0$  then since  $0 \leq a\theta_1 \leq a\theta_1 + a\theta_2$  it follows that  $a\theta_1 \wedge b = 0$ , whence  $a\phi \wedge b = 0$ . The conclusion is that  $\phi < \theta_1 + \theta_2$ , and hence  $\theta_1 + \theta_2 \sim \phi$ .

For each  $i \in I$  let  $L_i(A, B)$  be the subgroup of  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$  generated by  $L_i(A, B)^+$ . If we declare an element  $\phi \in L_i(A, B)$  positive when it is an  $l$ -homomorphism, one easily sees that  $L_i(A, B)$  becomes a (directed) p.o. group whose cone is  $L_i(A, B)^+$ . If  $i \leq j$ , let  $f_{ij}$  stand for the

inclusion map of  $L_i(A, B)$  into  $L_j(A, B)$ . We define  $L(A, B)$  to be the *co-limit* in the category of abelian groups of the system  $\{L_i(A, B) \mid \{f_{ij}\}\}$ . (It is easily verifiable that  $f_{ij}$  is the identity on  $L_i(A, B)$ , and that if  $i \leq j \leq k$  then  $f_{ij}f_{jk} = f_{ik}$ .)

**PROPOSITION 1.2.**  *$L(A, B)$  is obtained as a quotient group of the direct sum of the  $L_i(A, B)$  by factoring out the subgroup generated by all elements of the form*

*$(\dots, 0, \dots, 0, \phi, 0, \dots, 0, -\phi, 0, \dots)$  (with the two nonzero entries in the  $i$ th and  $j$ th position respectively, and  $\phi \in L_i(A, B)$  while  $i \leq j$ ).*

*Proof.* The statement of the proposition merely sets out in detail the definition of a co-limit in the category of abelian groups.

Thus a typical element of  $L(A, B)$  is a vector  $(\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  which is finitely nonzero, while addition and equality of vectors is subject to the identification imposed by Proposition 1.2; the entry  $\phi_i \in L_i(A, B)$ . The direct sum of the  $L_i(A, B)$  may be ordered cardinally using the partial orders on the  $L_i(A, B)$ ; it is clear also that the subgroup being factored out is trivially ordered in this partial order. We therefore have a partial order on  $L(A, B)$  defined by  $0 \leq \phi \in L(A, B)$  if  $\phi$  has a representation  $(\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  where each  $\phi_i$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism.

A representation  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  is said to be in *reduced form* if (1) for all  $i \neq j$  in the support of  $(\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$   $i$  and  $j$  have no common upper bound in  $I$ , and (2) the cardinality of the support is minimal with respect to satisfying (1). The following lemma is obvious.

**LEMMA 1.3.** (a) *Each  $\phi \in L(A, B)$  can be put in reduced form. If  $(\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  and  $(\dots, \theta_i, \dots)$  are reduced forms of  $\phi$ , then their supports have the same cardinality, and there is a bijection  $\pi$  of the supports such that  $\phi_i = \theta_{\pi(i)}$ .*

(b)  *$0 \leq \phi \in L(A, B)$  if and only if it has a reduced form  $(\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  such that  $\phi_i \in \mathcal{L}(A, B)$  for each  $i \in I$ . If so then any reduced representation is by  $l$ -homomorphisms.*

**PROPOSITION 1.4.**  *$L(A, B)$  is a directed, semi-closed p. o. group.*

*Proof.*  $L(A, B)$  is obviously directed, so we need only verify it is semi-closed. Let  $\phi \in L(A, B)$  and suppose  $(\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  is a reduced form of  $\phi$ . Suppose  $n\phi \geq 0$  for a positive integer  $n$ ; the representation  $(\dots, n\phi_i, \dots)$  of  $n\phi$  is clearly again in reduced form. Hence by Lemma 1.3 each  $n\phi_i$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism; one can easily check that each  $\phi_i$  is in fact an  $l$ -homomorphism.

**PROPOSITION 1.5.** *If  $B$  is an Archimedean  $l$ -group then  $L(A, B)$  is an Archimedean p. o. group, in the sense that if  $0 \leq \phi \in L(A, B)$  and  $n\theta \leq \phi$  for each positive integer  $n$ , then  $\theta \leq 0$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $n\theta \leq \phi$ ,  $\phi \geq 0$  and  $\theta = (\dots, \theta_i, \dots)$  and  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  are both given in reduced form. After reducing  $\phi - n\theta$  we have three possibilities for an index  $i$  of the support of  $\phi - n\theta$ :

$$(\phi - n\theta)_i = \begin{cases} \phi_j & \text{for some } j \in I \\ -n\theta_k & \text{for some } k \in I \\ \text{a sum of the above.} \end{cases}$$

Again invoking Lemma 1.3 it follows that  $-n\theta_k$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism, and  $\phi_j - n\theta_k \geq 0$  for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  whenever the third choice occurs. In either case, (in the latter using the archimedeanity of  $B$ ) it follows that  $\theta_k \leq 0$ . This shows  $\theta \leq 0$ , and we are done.

For some information concerning the structure of  $L(A, B)$  we look in the remainder of this section at some special cases.

**$A$  is an o-group 1.6.** In this situation the  $l$ -homomorphisms of  $A$  into  $B$  are simply the o-homomorphisms. The index set  $I$  is then directed, since the sum of two o-homomorphisms is an o-homomorphism.  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$  then reduces to  $\{\phi_1 - \phi_2 \mid \phi_i \text{ are o-homomorphisms of } A \text{ into } B\}$ . Since each  $L_i(A, B)$  is a subgroup of  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$  we may take their union over  $I$ ; it is easily seen that this union is *precisely*  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$ . Moreover,  $L(A, B)$  is now the direct limit of the  $L_i(A, B)$ ; it is well known that the direct limit of subgroups of an abelian group is the union of the subgroups. Hence  $\mathcal{B}(A, B) \simeq L(A, B)$ .

We have a converse of sorts:

**PROPOSITION 1.6(a).** *Suppose  $A$  is not an o-group; then there is an o-group  $B$  so that the index set  $I$  in the construction of  $L(A, B)$  is not directed.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $A$  is not an o-group, and select  $0 < x, y \in A$  such that  $x \wedge y = 0$ . Let  $M$  (resp.  $N$ ) be a prime subgroup that fails to contain  $x$  (resp.  $y$ ); then  $y \in M$  and  $x \in N$ . Note that  $A/M$  and  $A/N$  are o-groups; we form  $B$ , the direct lexicographic extension of  $A/M$  by  $A/N$ . We consider two  $l$ -homomorphisms  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  from  $A$  into  $B$ :  $\phi$  is the canonical map from  $A$  onto  $A/M$ , followed by the (convex) inclusion of  $A/M$  in  $B$ ;  $\theta$  is the canonical map from  $A$  onto  $A/N$  followed by the inclusion of that in  $B$ . Now observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\phi + \theta)(x - y) \vee 0 &= [(\phi + \theta)x - (\phi + \theta)y] \vee 0 \\
 &= (M + x, N - y) \vee 0 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

whereas

$$(\phi + \theta)[(x - y) \vee 0] = (\phi + \theta)x = (M + x, 0) > 0.$$

We conclude therefore that  $\phi + \theta$  is not an  $l$ -homomorphism. The index set  $I$  that arises in the construction of  $L(A, B)$  is then not directed.

*B is an o-group 1.7.* One can verify with little trouble that  $\phi \in \mathcal{L}(A, B)$  dominates  $\theta \in \mathcal{L}(A, B)$  if and only if  $\text{Ker}(\phi) \subseteq \text{Ker}(\theta)$ . Hence  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  are polar equivalent if and only if they have the same kernel. The kernels are all prime subgroups of  $A$ , and so  $I$  is anti-isomorphic to a subset of the root system of primes (see [1], Theorem 1.7, the  $l$ -ideals containing a prime subgroup lie on a chain).  $I$  is therefore a *tree-system*: no two incomparable elements of  $I$  have a common upper bound; plainly,  $I$  is far from being directed.

Now if  $\phi \in L(A, B)$  then any vector representing  $\phi$  is “almost” in reduced form; that is, it satisfies the first defining condition, except the support may be too large.

*B = R 1.8.* From the discussion in 1.7 it is clear that the index set  $I$  is trivially ordered. We will show there is in fact an index  $i \in I$  for each maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$ , and that  $L(A, B)$  is a cardinal sum of copies of  $R$ , one for each maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$ .

If  $\phi: A \rightarrow B$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism, then  $M = \text{Ker}(\phi)$  is a maximal  $l$ -ideal. Using the fundamental theorem of  $l$ -homomorphisms there is an  $o$ -isomorphism  $\bar{\phi}: A/M \rightarrow B$ , which, by a well known corollary to Hölder’s theorem, is a left multiplication by a positive real number. Thus the  $l$ -homomorphisms of  $A$  into  $B$  with kernel  $M$  form a semi-group which is  $o$ -isomorphic to the additive semigroup of positive real numbers. This proves that each  $L_i(A, B)$  is a copy of  $R$ . It is clear that one such copy appears for each maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$ , since the corresponding quotient groups are all  $o$ -isomorphic to subgroups of  $R$ .

Finally, the subgroup one factors out of the direct sum of these copies of  $R$  to get  $L(A, B)$  is trivial here, and we conclude that  $L(A, B)$  is a cardinal sum of copies of  $R$ .

A similar argument can be made for  $B = Z$ ; one then obtains that  $L(A, B)$  is a cardinal sum of copies of  $Z$ , one for each maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$  with cyclic factor in  $A$ .

A *polar preserving endomorphism* of an  $l$ -group  $A$  is an  $l$ -endomorphism  $\phi$  with the property that  $x \wedge y = 0$  in  $A$  implies that  $x\phi \wedge y = 0$ . (For an in-depth discussion of these endomorphisms the reader is

referred to [2].) In our notation the semigroup of polar preserving endomorphisms is precisely the set of  $l$ -endomorphisms which are dominated by the identity on  $A$ . The subgroup they generate is one of the  $L_i(A, A)$ .

If  $\phi$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism of  $A$  onto  $B$  and  $\theta$  is a polar preserving endomorphism ( $p$ -endomorphism) of  $B$ , then  $\phi\theta < \phi$ , for if  $x\phi \wedge y = 0$  then  $x\phi\theta \wedge y = 0$ . Conversely, if  $\phi' \in \mathcal{L}(A, B)$  and  $\phi' < \phi$  one easily sees that  $\text{Ker}(\phi) \subseteq \text{Ker}(\phi')$ . This implies the existence of an endomorphism  $\theta$  of  $B$  satisfying  $b\theta = a\phi'$  if  $b = a\phi$ .  $\theta$  is certainly well defined, and it is a  $p$ -endomorphism since  $\phi$  dominates  $\phi'$ . It follows then that if  $i$  is the index in  $I$  determined by  $\phi$ ,  $L_i(A, B)$  is o-isomorphic to the group generated by the  $p$ -endomorphisms of  $B$ .

We close this section with a rather general comment: for arbitrary  $l$ -groups  $A$  and  $B$  the groups  $L_i(A, B)$  are subgroups of  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$ ; the inclusion mappings are compatible with the  $f_{ij}$ , so by the definition of co-limits we have a "natural" homomorphism of  $L(A, B)$  into  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$ . It assigns to  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_i, \dots)$  the sum of the  $\phi_i$  in  $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$ . About all that is on the surface concerning this mapping is that it is onto and an o-homomorphism. As a major unanswered question we might pose the following: when is this mapping an o-isomorphism? In most of the examples one can dream up it is, but as the  $l$ -groups get more complex, our knowledge of the structure of  $L(A, B)$  decreases rapidly.

2. The functor  $L(\cdot, B)$ . We will show that  $L(\cdot, B)$  is a contravariant functor from the category of abelian  $l$ -groups and  $l$ -homomorphisms into the category of directed, semi-closed p. o. groups with o-homomorphisms. ( $L(A, \cdot)$  does not seem to be a functor at all.)

Suppose  $\phi: A \rightarrow A'$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism; if  $\theta_1, \theta_2: A' \rightarrow B$  are  $l$ -homomorphisms and  $\theta_1 < \theta_2$  then  $\phi\theta_1 < \phi\theta_2$ . Thus  $\phi$  induces an o-homomorphism  $\phi^i$  of each  $L_i(A', B)$  into some  $L_{\phi(i)}(A, B)$ ; the map  $i \rightarrow \phi(i)$  is an order preserving map of  $I(A', B)$  into  $I(A, B)$ . We have canonical embeddings  $\mu_i: L_i(A, B) \rightarrow L(A, B)$  ( $i \in I(A, B)$ ) and

$$\bar{\mu}_j: L_j(A', B) \longrightarrow L(A', B) (j \in I(A', B)).$$

We also have the connecting embeddings  $\{f_{ij}\}$ , for  $i \leq j \in I(A, B)$ , and  $\{\bar{f}_{ij}\}$ , for  $i \leq j \in I(A', B)$ . Consider now for each  $i \in I(A', B)$  the map  $\phi^i \mu_{\phi(i)}: L_i(A', B) \rightarrow L(A, B)$ . We show that if  $i \leq j$  in  $I(A', B)$  then

$$\bar{f}_{ij} \phi^j \mu_{\phi(j)} = \phi^i \mu_{\phi(i)};$$

for if  $0 \leq \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in L_i(A', B)$

$$\begin{aligned}
(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)\bar{f}_{ij}\phi^j\mu_{\phi(j)} &= (\phi\alpha_1 - \phi\alpha_2)\mu_{\phi(j)} = (\phi\alpha_1 - \phi\alpha_2)f_{\phi(i)\phi(j)}\mu_{\phi(j)} \\
&= (\phi\alpha_1 - \phi\alpha_2)\mu_{\phi(i)} \\
&= (\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)\phi^i\mu_{\phi(i)}.
\end{aligned}$$

By the definition of the co-limit there is a unique homomorphism  $L(\phi, B): L(A', B) \rightarrow L(A, B)$  such that  $\bar{\mu}_i L(\phi, B) = \phi^i \mu_{\phi(i)}$ , for each  $i \in I(A', B)$ . Thus if

$$\alpha = (\dots, \alpha_i, \dots) \in L(A', B), \quad \alpha L(\phi, B) = (\dots, (\phi\alpha_i)_{\phi(i)}, \dots);$$

it is clear then that  $L(\phi, B)$  is order preserving.

The next two lemmas are easy to prove; consequently we shall not bore the reader with their proofs.

**LEMMA 2.1.**  *$L(\cdot, B)$  is a contravariant functor; that is if  $\phi: A_1 \rightarrow A_2$  and  $\theta: A_2 \rightarrow A_3$  are  $l$ -homomorphisms then*

$$L(\phi\theta, B) = L(\theta, B) \cdot L(\phi, B),$$

and  $L(1_A, B) = 1_{L(A, B)}$ . ( $1_G$  denotes the identity mapping on  $G$ .)

**LEMMA 2.2.** *If  $\phi, \phi': A \rightarrow A'$  are  $l$ -homomorphisms and  $\phi + \phi'$  is too, then  $L(\phi + \phi', B) = L(\phi, B) + L(\phi', B)$ .*

In a category  $\mathcal{C}$  with zero the co-kernel of a morphism  $f: A \rightarrow B$  is a morphism  $\gamma: B \rightarrow C$  such that  $f\gamma = 0$ , and having the property that if  $\delta: B \rightarrow D$  is any morphism with  $f\delta = 0$ , then there is a unique morphism  $\delta': C \rightarrow D$  such that  $\gamma\delta' = \delta$ . In the category of abelian  $l$ -groups the co-kernel of an  $l$ -homomorphism  $\phi: A \rightarrow B$  is the canonical mapping  $\eta: B \rightarrow B/J$  where  $J$  is the convex hull of the image of  $\phi$ . All epimorphisms of this category have zero co-kernel, but not conversely. For instance, the embedding  $j: Z \rightarrow Z \boxplus Z$  onto the diagonal has zero co-kernel, but if  $\phi$  denotes the  $l$ -automorphism of  $Z \boxplus Z$  given by  $(a, b)\phi = (b, a)$  then  $j\phi = j \cdot 1_{Z \boxplus Z} = j$ , so  $j$  is not epic.

**THEOREM 2.3.** *If  $\alpha: A \rightarrow B$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism with zero co-kernel then  $L(\alpha, X)$  has a trivially ordered kernel. This holds in particular if  $\alpha$  is epic. If  $\alpha$  is onto  $B$  then  $L(\alpha, X)$  is one-to-one.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_i, \dots) \in L(B, X)$  with each  $\phi_i \geq 0$ , and assume  $\phi L(\alpha, X) = 0$ . Thus  $(\dots, (\alpha\phi_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots) = 0$ ; this means that the vector  $(\dots, (\alpha\phi_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  of  $\boxplus \{L_i(A, X) \mid i \in I(A, X)\}$  is in a trivially ordered subgroup. Thus each  $\alpha\phi_i = 0$ , and since  $\alpha$  has zero co-kernel, each  $\phi_i = 0$ .

Now suppose  $\alpha$  is onto and  $\theta \in L(B, X)$ . If  $\theta = (\dots, \theta_i, \dots)$  is in

reduced form then we seek to show  $(\dots, (\alpha\theta_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  is too. Clearly  $i \in I(B, X)$  is in the support of  $(\dots, \theta_i, \dots)$  if and only if  $\alpha(i)$  is in the support of  $(\dots, (\alpha\theta_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  since  $\alpha$  is onto. Suppose now that  $\alpha(i), \alpha(j)$  are both in the support of  $(\dots, (\alpha\theta_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  and  $k \in I(A, X)$  exceeds both of them. Then whenever  $0 \leq \gamma_i \in L_i(B, X)$  and  $0 \leq \gamma_j \in L_j(B, X)$ ,  $\alpha\gamma_i + \alpha\gamma_j = \alpha(\gamma_i + \gamma_j)$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism of  $A$  into  $X$ . Again using the fact that  $\alpha$  is onto one can then readily show that  $\gamma_i + \gamma_j$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism. But then some index of  $I(B, X)$  exceeds  $i$  and  $j$ , contradicting the hypothesis that  $(\dots, \theta_i, \dots)$  is reduced. A similar argument shows that the size of the support of  $(\dots, (\alpha\theta_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  is minimal; it now follows that  $(\dots, (\alpha\theta_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  is reduced.

Thus if  $0 = \theta L(\alpha, X) = (\dots, (\alpha\theta_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  then each  $\alpha\theta_i = 0$  and so  $\theta_i = 0$  for all  $i \in I(B, X)$ ; hence  $\theta = 0$  and so  $L(\alpha, X)$  is one-to-one. (We shall see later that  $L(\alpha, X)$  is in fact an o-embedding.)

The natural question here is: what does  $L(\cdot, X)$  do to short exact sequences of  $l$ -groups? (We call a sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  of  $l$ -homomorphisms *short exact* if  $\alpha$  is one to one,  $\beta$  is onto and  $\text{Ker}(\beta) = \text{Im}(\alpha)$ .) We will show presently that  $L(\beta, X)$  is an o-monomorphism. Certainly  $L(\beta, X) \cdot L(\alpha, X) = L(\alpha\beta, X) = 0$ , but do we get exactness at  $L(B, X)$ ? We shall give some partial answers, and then make some (hopefully) educated guesses.

**PROPOSITION 2.4.** *If  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  is a short exact sequence of  $l$ -groups, and if  $0 \leq \phi \in \text{Ker}(L(\alpha, X))$  then  $\phi \in (L(C, X)^+)L(\beta, X)$ . In particular  $L(\beta, X)$  is an o-embedding.*

*Proof.* If  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_i, \dots) \geq 0$  and  $\phi L(\alpha, X) = 0$  then

$$(\dots, (\alpha\phi_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots) = 0.$$

This means that in  $\boxplus \{L_i(A, X) \mid i \in I(A, X)\}(\dots, (\alpha\phi_i)_{\alpha(i)}, \dots)$  is a vector whose components add to zero. But each entry  $\alpha\phi_i$  is 0 or an  $l$ -homomorphism; if the sum of  $l$ -homomorphisms is zero each of them is zero. Thus  $\alpha\phi_i = 0$  for each  $i \in I(B, X)$ ; since  $\beta$  is the co-kernel of  $\alpha$ , there is an  $l$ -homomorphism  $\gamma^i: C \rightarrow X$  such that  $\beta\gamma^i = \phi_i$ . This determines a  $\gamma \in L(C, X)$  whose image under  $L(\beta, X)$  is  $\phi$ ; clearly  $0 \leq \gamma$  and our proposition is proved.

**PROPOSITION 2.5.** *If  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  splits cardinally, i.e.  $B \cong A \boxplus C$ , then  $L(B, X) \cong L(C, X) \boxplus L(A, X)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $B \cong A \boxplus C$  we have  $l$ -homomorphisms  $\rho: C \rightarrow B$  and  $\sigma: B \rightarrow A$  such that  $\alpha\sigma = 1_A$ ,  $\rho\beta = 1_C$ ,  $\rho\sigma = 0$  and  $1_B = \sigma\alpha + \beta\rho$ . For



each  $l$ -group  $X$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} L(\sigma, X)L(\alpha, X) &= 1_{L(A, X)}, & L(\beta, X)L(\rho, X) &= 1_{L(C, X)}, \\ L(\sigma, X)L(\rho, X) &= 0, & L(\beta, X)L(\alpha, X) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

and finally by Lemma 2.2

$$L(\alpha, X)L(\sigma, X) + L(\rho, X)L(\beta, X) = 1_{L(B, X)}.$$

This proves  $L(B, X) \cong L(C, X) \boxplus L(A, X)$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.6.** *Let  $j: G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  be the natural embedding of the  $l$ -group  $G$  in its divisible hull. For each  $l$ -group  $X$   $L(j, X)$  is an  $o$ -embedding. If  $X$  is divisible  $L(j, X)$  is onto.*

*Proof.* If  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are any two homomorphisms of  $\bar{G}$  into the  $l$ -group  $X$  which agree on  $G$ , then since each  $x \in \bar{G}$  is of the form  $x = (1/n)g$ , for a suitable positive integer  $n$ , we have

$$n(x\phi_1) = n((1/n)g)\phi_1 = g\phi_1 = g\phi_2 = n((1/n)g)\phi_2 = n(x\phi_2),$$

which implies that  $x\phi_1 = x\phi_2$ , since  $X$  is torsion free. Clearly then  $L(j, X)$  is one-to-one. Moreover, if  $\phi: \bar{G} \rightarrow X$  is a homomorphism whose restriction to  $G$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism then  $\phi$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism; for if  $x = (1/n)g \in \bar{G}$  with  $g \in G$  then

$$\begin{aligned} n(x \vee 0)\phi &= n((1/n)g \vee 0)\phi = (g \vee 0)\phi = g\phi \vee 0 = [n(1/n)g\phi] \vee 0 \\ &= n[(1/n)g\phi \vee 0] = n(x\phi \vee 0). \end{aligned}$$

This says that  $L(j, X)$  is an  $o$ -embedding. Finally, if  $X$  is divisible then each  $l$ -homomorphism of  $G \rightarrow X$  extends (uniquely) to an  $l$ -homomorphism of  $\bar{G} \rightarrow X$ ; in other words,  $L(j, X)$  is onto.

We shall for the remainder of the section study the question of exactness of  $L(\cdot, X)$  for  $o$ -groups  $X$ ; according to 1.7 the picture we get of  $L(A, X)$  is somewhat less cluttered. The preceding result tells us that if  $X$  is divisible we might as well assume that  $A$  is. So we ask: given an  $o$ -group  $X$ , which exact sequences  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  go to exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X) ?$$

Prior to going into these questions more deeply we record some interesting properties of  $L(\cdot, X)$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.7.** *Let  $\phi: A \rightarrow B$  be an  $l$ -homomorphism onto  $B$ . If  $L(\phi, X)$  is an  $o$ -isomorphism for each  $o$ -group  $X$  then  $\phi$  itself is an isomorphism.*

REMARK. An analogous statement holds for o-groups  $X$  with a minimal nonzero convex subgroup.

*Proof.* If  $\phi$  is not one-to-one pick  $0 < x \in \text{Ker}(\phi)$  and let  $N$  be a prime subgroup that fails to contain  $x$ . Set  $X = A/N$  and  $\eta: A \rightarrow X$  to be the canonical  $l$ -homomorphism. Then  $(\dots, 0, \dots, \eta, \dots, 0, \dots) \in L(A, X)$  is not an image under  $L(\phi, X)$ .

THEOREM 2.8. *Let  $A$  be an  $l$ -group;  $A$  is a subdirect product of reals if and only if whenever  $\phi: A \rightarrow B$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism onto  $B$  then  $L(\phi, \mathbf{R}): L(B, \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow L(A, \mathbf{R})$  is an  $l$ -isomorphism if and only if  $\phi$  is an  $l$ -isomorphism.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\phi: A \rightarrow B$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism onto  $B$ . Let us examine what  $L(\phi, \mathbf{R})$  does. There is a one-to-one correspondence between the maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $B$  and the maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $A$  that contain  $K = \text{Ker}(\phi)$ . Now  $L(B, \mathbf{R})$  and  $L(A, \mathbf{R})$  are both cardinal sums of copies of  $\mathbf{R}$ , one for each maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $B$  and  $A$  respectively. So  $L(\phi, \mathbf{R})$  is nothing more than the injection of  $L(B, \mathbf{R})$  onto that portion of  $L(A, \mathbf{R})$  corresponding to maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $A$  that contain  $K$ .

If  $L(\phi, \mathbf{R})$  is then onto for some  $\phi$  with nonzero kernel, then every maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$  contains  $K$  and so  $A$  is not a subdirect product of reals. Conversely, if  $A$  is not a subdirect product of reals let  $D$  be the intersection of all the maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $A$ ;  $D \neq 0$ . Let  $B = A/D$  and  $\phi$  be the canonical mapping of  $A$  onto  $B$ . By our arguments in the previous paragraph  $L(\phi, \mathbf{R})$  is an  $l$ -isomorphism.

REMARK. A similar theorem holds for subdirect products of integers.

THEOREM 2.9. *Let  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  be a short exact sequence of  $l$ -groups. If  $X$  is any Archimedean o-group then the induced sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow (C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X) \quad \text{is exact.}$$

*If  $X = \mathbf{R}$  then  $L(\alpha, X)$  is onto if and only if every maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$  is the meet of a maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $B$  with  $A$ . If this is the case  $L(B, X) \cong L(C, X) \boxplus L(A, X)$ . If  $X = \mathbf{Z}$  then  $L(\alpha, X)$  is onto if and only if every maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$  with cyclic factor is the meet with  $A$  of a maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $B$  with cyclic factor.*

*Proof.* As in 1.8 we have that if  $\phi: B \rightarrow X$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism its kernel  $M$  is a maximal  $l$ -ideal and  $\phi$  determines an o-isomorphism

from  $B/M \rightarrow X$  which is a right multiplication by a suitable positive real number. The difference here is that not all maximal  $l$ -ideals appear as indices for  $L_i(B, X)$ , and the  $L_i(B, X)$  themselves need not be full copies of  $R$ . Still  $L(B, X)$  is a cardinal sum of subgroups of  $R$  one for each "admissible" maximal  $l$ -ideal. Now  $L(\beta, X)$  acts as in the proof of 2.8: there still is a one-to-one correspondence between maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $C$  that appear as kernels of  $l$ -homomorphisms into  $X$  and the same type of maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $B$  that contain  $A$ . So  $L(\beta, X)$  is the injection of  $L(C, X)$  onto that portion of  $L(B, X)$  corresponding to those maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $B$  that contain  $A$ .

As for  $L(\alpha, X)$  we have the following: if  $\phi: B \rightarrow X$  is once again an  $l$ -homomorphism, and  $M = \text{Ker}(\phi) \not\supseteq A$  then  $M \cap A$  is a maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $A$  and it is the kernel of  $\alpha\phi$ . Thus  $L(\alpha, X)$  has the effect of annihilating all the components of  $L(B, X)$  corresponding to maximal  $l$ -ideals of  $B$  that contain  $A$ , and being the identity on the remaining components.

It is now clear that  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact, and also that the last part of the theorem holds, in the special cases when  $X = R$  or  $X = Z$ .

In fact, after we record the following definition we have a better theorem.

Let  $X$  be an o-group and  $G$  be any  $l$ -group; a prime subgroup  $N$  of  $G$  is an  $X$ -entry of  $G$  if it appears as the kernel of some  $l$ -homomorphism of  $G$  into  $X$ . Thus:

**THEOREM 2.9a.** *If  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  is exact then  $L(B, X) \cong L(C, X) \boxplus L(A, X)$  for an Archimedean o-group  $X$  if and only if every  $X$ -entry of  $A$  is the meet of an  $X$ -entry of  $B$  with  $A$ .*

We have the following sufficient condition for the exactness of  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$ , when  $X$  is an arbitrary o-group.

**THEOREM 2.10.** *If  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  is exact, then  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact if  $A + N = B$  for every  $X$ -entry of  $B$  which does not contain  $A$ .*

The proof of this theorem depends upon the following lemma, which is known and quite easy to prove. (See [1], Theorem 1.14.)

**LEMMA 2.11.** *Let  $G$  be an  $l$ -group,  $A$  be a nonzero  $l$ -ideal of  $G$ . There is an o-isomorphism between the set of prime subgroups of  $G$  that do not contain  $A$  and the proper prime subgroups of  $A$  via the mapping  $N \mapsto N \cap A$ .*

*Proof of 2.10.* Since the index sets  $I(\cdot, X)$  are inversely o-isomorphic to a subset of prime subgroups we shall use the prime subgroups themselves to index the groups that make up the  $L(\cdot, X)$ 's.

Suppose then that  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_N, \dots)$  is in reduced form and  $\phi L(\alpha, X) = 0$ , that is  $(\dots, (\alpha\phi_N)_{N \cap A}, \dots) = 0$ . If  $N \supseteq A$  then  $\alpha\phi_N$  is identically zero; to see this write  $\phi_N = \phi_N^+ - \phi_N^-$ , with  $\phi_N^+, \phi_N^- \in \mathcal{L}(B, X)$ ; the kernels of  $\phi_N^+$  and  $\phi_N^-$  contain  $N$  and hence  $A$ . In this case we need not worry about  $\phi_N$ ; pick  $\theta, \psi \in L(C, X)$  such that  $\beta\theta = \phi_N^+$  and  $\beta\psi = \phi_N^-$ ; then  $\beta(\theta - \psi) = \phi_N$ .

We are therefore left to consider those prime subgroups  $N$  of  $B$  which do not contain  $A$ . By Lemma 2.11 the support of  $(\dots, (\alpha\phi_N)_{N \cap A}, \dots)$  is determined by precisely those prime subgroups; the lemma also guarantees that the representation is reduced. We have then that  $\alpha\phi_N = 0$  for each prime subgroup  $N \not\supseteq A$ . Once again, writing  $\phi_N = \phi_N^+ - \phi_N^-$  as a difference of  $l$ -homomorphisms (whose kernels contain  $N$  but not  $A$ , for otherwise they would also vanish when restricted to  $A$ ) we have  $\alpha\phi_N^+ = \alpha\phi_N^-$ .

Our assumption is though that  $A + N = B$  for each such prime subgroup  $N$ , and this implies that  $\phi_N^+ = \phi_N^-$ . The conclusion here is that the support of  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_N, \dots)$  consists of those  $X$ -entries which contain  $A$ . Our first paragraph in this proof then makes it clear that  $\phi$  is the image of some element of  $L(C, X)$  under  $L(\beta, X)$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.

**COROLLARY 2.10.1.** *Suppose  $A$  is a maximal  $l$ -ideal of  $B$ , let  $C = B/A$  and  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  be the induced exact sequence. If  $A$  is also a minimal prime subgroup then  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact for all o-groups  $X$ .*

An  $l$ -group  $G$  is *hyper-archimedean* if it is Archimedean and every  $l$ -homomorphic image of  $G$  is Archimedean. It is well known (see for instance [1], Theorem 2.4) that  $G$  is hyper-archimedean if and only if every prime subgroup is maximal (and hence minimal).

**COROLLARY 2.10.2.** *If  $B$  is a hyper-archimedean  $l$ -group and  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  is exact then  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact for every o-group  $X$ .*

*Proof.* Every prime subgroup of  $B$  is both maximal and minimal; consequently, if  $N$  is an  $X$ -entry of  $B$  that does not contain  $A$  we have  $B = A + N$ . Theorem 2.10 now applies.

Another sufficient condition for the exactness of  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow$

$L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is obtained by requiring that  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  be "right splitting", i.e., that  $\beta$  be a retract.

**THEOREM 2.11.** *Let  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  be an exact sequence of  $l$ -groups, and suppose  $\rho: C \rightarrow B$  is an  $l$ -homomorphism such that  $\rho\beta = 1_C$ . Then for each  $o$ -group  $X$   $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact.*

*Proof.* We use the notation of the proof of Theorem 2.10. Let  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_N, \dots)$  be an element of  $L(B, X)$  in reduced form and consider  $\phi L(\alpha, X) = (\dots, (\alpha\phi_N)_{N \cap A}, \dots)$ ; as shown in 2.10 this is once again reduced. So if  $\phi L(\alpha, X) = 0$  we have  $\alpha\phi_N = 0$  for all  $X$ -entries  $N$  of  $B$ . As before, write  $\phi_N = \phi_N^+ - \phi_N^-$  as the difference of  $l$ -homomorphisms of  $B$  into  $X$ . For each  $X$ -entry define  $\theta_N^+, \theta_N^-: C \rightarrow X$  by  $\theta_N^+ = \rho\phi_N^+$  and  $\theta_N^- = \rho\phi_N^-$ . We claim that  $\theta L(\beta, X) = \phi$ , where  $\theta = (\dots, \theta_N, \dots)$  and  $\theta_N = \theta_N^+ - \theta_N^-$ .

Note that  $\rho$  induces a group direct sum  $B \cong A \oplus C$ ; more precisely, each  $b \in B$  can be expressed uniquely as  $b = a\alpha + c\rho$ , where  $c = b\beta$ . Thus  $b\beta\theta_N^+ = b\beta\rho\phi_N^+$  and  $b\beta\theta_N^- = b\beta\rho\phi_N^-$ , while  $b\phi_N^+ = a\alpha\phi_N^+ + c\rho\phi_N^+ = a\alpha\phi_N^+ + b\beta\rho\phi_N^+ = a\alpha\phi_N^+ + b\beta\theta_N^+$ ; likewise  $b\phi_N^- = a\alpha\phi_N^- + b\beta\theta_N^-$ , which implies that  $b\phi_N = b\beta\theta_N$ , for all  $b \in B$ .

This suffices to prove that  $\theta L(\beta, X) = \phi$ , and our theorem is proved.

**COROLLARY 2.11.1.** *Let  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \rightarrow 0$  be an exact sequence; in all of the cases below  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact for each  $o$ -group  $X$ .*

- (a)  $C$  is a projective  $l$ -group.
- (b)  $B$  is divisible and  $A$  is a prime subgroup of  $B$ .
- (c)  $B$  is a direct lexicographic extension of  $A$  by  $C$ .

*Proof.* In each of the above cases  $\beta$  is a retract and the theorem applies.

**COROLLARY 2.11.2.** *If  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  is exact where  $A$  is a prime subgroup of  $B$  then  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact for each divisible  $o$ -group  $X$ .*

*Proof.* Apply Proposition 2.6 and Corollary 2.11.1 (b).

The following example may serve to illustrate a bit the difficulty in deciding which conjectures ought to be made in connection with this functor. Let  $X = \overrightarrow{Z} \times Z$  with the lexicographic order: that is,

$(m, n) \geq 0$  if  $m > 0$  or  $m = 0$  and then  $n \geq 0$ . We will show that if  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  is a short exact sequence then  $0 \rightarrow L(C, X) \rightarrow L(B, X) \rightarrow L(A, X)$  is exact. So consider an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ , suppose  $\phi = (\dots, \phi_N, \dots)$  is in reduced form and  $\phi L(\alpha, X) = 0$  ( $\phi \in L(B, X)$ ). As in the proof of 2.10 it suffices to consider those  $X$ -entries  $N$  such that  $N \not\supseteq A$ . As before write  $\phi_N = \phi_N^+ - \phi_N^-$  as a difference of  $l$ -homomorphisms whose kernels do not contain  $A$ . By our assumption  $\alpha\phi_N^+ = \alpha\phi_N^-$ ;  $\phi_N^+$  and  $\phi_N^-$  have a common kernel, and after factoring out this kernel we have two  $o$ -embeddings of  $X$  into itself, say  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$ , which agree on the nonzero proper convex subgroup of  $X$ . The  $o$ -homomorphisms of  $X$  into itself are given by triangular integral matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} m & p \\ 0 & n \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } m > 0, n \geq 0 \text{ or } m = n = 0 \text{ and } p \geq 0.$$

If  $\theta_i = \begin{pmatrix} m_i & p_i \\ 0 & n_i \end{pmatrix}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) and  $\theta_1$  agrees with  $\theta_2$  as specified, then  $n_1 = n_2$ , so clearly  $\theta_1 - \theta_2$  is either order preserving or order inverting.

Lifting back to  $B$   $\phi_N^+ - \phi_N^-$  is either an  $l$ -homomorphism or the additive inverse of one. Since  $\alpha(\phi_N^+ - \phi_N^-) = 0$  there is a unique  $l$ -homomorphism  $\psi: C \rightarrow X$  such that  $\beta\psi = \pm(\phi_N^+ - \phi_N^-)$ . This suffices to prove the exactness of the sequence.

The reader will appreciate the special nature of the above example.

**3. Comments and questions.** It appears that our functor will be of little use as the classical Hom-functor is in extension theory of abelian groups and modules. One might try to define an Ext-like functor using projective resolutions; in that case the question of independence of the resolution used appears to be an impossible problem. Or one could choose some "standard" free resolution; here it is obvious that computations could become nightmarish.

In view of some of our results, particularly Theorems 2.8 and 2.9, one can expect  $L(\cdot, X)$  to be useful in characterizing certain lattice-group theoretical concepts. In any case, one large disadvantage of our construction is that there is no functoriality in the second variable.

Another possibility is that  $L(\cdot, R)$  might serve as a "duality" functor between  $l$ -groups and abelian groups. Then one practically has to restrict oneself to subdirect products of reals, ( $L(A, R) = 0$  if  $A$  has no maximal  $l$ -ideals), and then two such subdirect products of reals might very well have the same dual, (if they have the same number of maximal  $l$ -ideals.) A true duality can be realized, at least

for subdirect products of reals, if one computes  $L(A, X)$  for every Archimedean o-group, and then associates for each  $A$  the whole "spectrum"  $\{L(A, X) \mid X \text{ is a subgroup of } R\}$ . Such a duality is evidently too cumbersome.

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