

## Quasi-Normal Relations - a New Class of Relations

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, concepts of quasi-normal and dually quasi-normal relations are introduced. Characterizations of these relations are obtained. In addition, particularly we show that the anti-order relation  $\not\leq$  ( $= \leq^C$ ) is a (dually) quasi-normal relation if and only if the partially ordered set  $(X, \leq)$  is an anti-chain.

### 1. Introduction and Preliminaries

The regularity of binary relations was first characterized by Zareckiĭ ([9],[10]). Further criteria for regularity were given by Hardy and Petrich ([3]), Markowsky ([7]), Schein ([8]) and Xu Xiao-quan and Liu Yingming ([11]) (see also [1] and [2]). The concepts of conjugative relations, dually conjugative relations and dually normal relations were introduced by Guanghao Jiang and Luoshan Xu ([4], [5]), and a characterization of normal relations was introduced and analyzed by Jiang Guanghao, Xu Luoshan, Cai Jin and Han Guiwen ([6]). In this paper, we introduce and analyze two new classes of relations in sets - class of *quasi-normal relations* and class of *dually quasi-normal relations* on sets.

Notions and notations which aren't explicitly exposed but are used in this article, readers can find them from texts [3] and [11], for an example.

For a set  $X$ , we call  $\rho$  a binary relation on  $X$ , if  $\rho \subseteq X \times X$ . Let  $\mathcal{B}(X)$  denote the set of all binary relations on  $X$ . For  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ , we define

$$\beta \circ \alpha = \{(x, z) \in X \times X : (\exists y \in X)((x, y) \in \alpha \wedge (y, z) \in \beta)\}.$$

The relation  $\beta \circ \alpha$  is called the composition of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . It is well known that  $(\mathcal{B}(X), \circ)$  is a semigroup. For a binary relation  $\alpha$  on a set  $X$ , we define  $\alpha^{-1} = \{(x, y) \in X \times X : (y, x) \in \alpha\}$  and  $\alpha^C = (X \times X) \setminus \alpha$ .

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be subsets of  $X$ . For  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ , we set

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$$A\alpha = \{y \in X : (\exists a \in A)((a, y) \in \alpha)\} \text{ and } \alpha B = \{x \in X : (\exists b \in B)((x, b) \in \alpha)\}.$$

Specially, we put  $a\alpha$  instead of  $\{a\}\alpha$  and  $\alpha b$  instead of  $\alpha\{b\}$ .

The following classes of elements in the semigroup  $\mathcal{B}(X)$  have been investigated:

– *normal* ([5]) if there exists a relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that

$$\alpha = \alpha \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}.$$

– *dually normal* ([4]) if there exists a relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that

$$\alpha = (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha.$$

– *conjugative* ([3]) if there exists a relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that

$$\alpha = \alpha^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha.$$

– *dually conjugative* ([3]) if there exists a relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that

$$\alpha = \alpha \circ \beta \circ \alpha^{-1}.$$

Put  $\alpha^1 = \alpha$ . It is easy to see that  $(\alpha^{-1})^C = (\alpha^C)^{-1}$  holds. Previous description gives equality

$$\alpha = (\alpha^a)^i \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^b)^j$$

for some  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  where  $i, j \in \{-1, 1\}$  and  $a, b \in \{1, C\}$ . We should investigate all other possibilities since some of possibilities given in the previous equation have been investigated.

Diverse descriptions of regular elements of  $\mathcal{B}(X)$  can be found in [7], [8], and [9]. For any  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ , Zaretskii ([9], Section 3.2) (See, also, paper [3]) introduced the following relation in his study of regular elements of  $\mathcal{B}(X)$

:

$$\alpha^+ = \{(x, y) \in X \times X : \alpha \circ \{(x, y)\} \circ \alpha \subseteq \alpha\}.$$

Schein in [8], Theorem 1, proved that  $\alpha^+ = (\alpha^{-1} \circ \alpha^C \circ \alpha^{-1})^C$  is the maximal element in the family of all elements  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that  $\alpha \circ \beta \circ \alpha \subseteq \alpha$ .

## 2. Quasi-Normal and Dually Quasi-Normal Relations

In the following definition we introduce two new classes of elements in  $\mathcal{B}(X)$ .

**Definition 2.1.** (a) For relation  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  we say that it is a *quasi-normal* relation on  $X$  if there exists a relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that

$$\alpha = \alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}.$$

(b) For relation  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  we say that it is a *dually quasi-normal* relation on  $X$  if there exists a relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that

$$\alpha = (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C.$$

**Remark 2.1.** The family of quasi-normal relations is not empty. Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  be a relation such that  $\alpha^C \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} = Id_X$ . Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= Id_X \circ \alpha \circ Id_X = (\alpha^C \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}) \circ \alpha \circ (\alpha^C \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}) = \\ &\alpha^C \circ ((\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha \circ \alpha^C) \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} = \alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

So, such relation  $\alpha$  is a quasi-normal relation on  $X$ . Analogously, for relation  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that  $(\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha^C = Id_X$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= Id_X \circ \alpha \circ Id_X = ((\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha^C) \circ \alpha \circ ((\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha^C) = \\ &(\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ (\alpha^C \circ \alpha \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}) \circ \alpha^C = (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, this relation  $\alpha$  is a dually quasi-normal relation. So, the family of dually quasi-normal is not empty, either.

Particulary, for the relation  $\nabla = (Id_X)^C$ , since we have

$$(\nabla^C)^{-1} \circ \nabla^C = Id_X \circ Id_X = Id_X = \nabla^C \circ (\nabla^C)^{-1},$$

we conclude that it is a quasi-normal relation on  $X$  and it is a dually quasi-normal relation on  $X$  as well.

In following proposition we give a connection between quasi-normal and dually quasi-normal relations.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Relation  $\alpha^{-1}$  is a dually quasi-normal relation on  $X$  if and only if  $\alpha$  is a quasi-normal relation on  $X$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha$  be a quasi-normal relation on set  $X$ . Then there exists a relation  $\beta$  on  $X$  such that  $\alpha = \alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}$ . Thus,

$$\alpha^{-1} = (\alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1})^{-1} = ((\alpha^{-1})^C)^{-1} \circ \beta^{-1} \circ (\alpha^{-1})^C.$$

So, the relation  $\alpha^{-1}$  is a dually quasi-normal if  $\alpha$  is a quasi-normal relation. The second statement we demonstrate by analogy of the previous statement.  $\square$

Our second proposition is an adaptation of Schein's concept exposed in [8], Theorem 1 (See, also, [2], Lemma 1.) for our needs.

**Theorem 2.1.** *For a binary relation  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ , relation*

$$\alpha^* = ((\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha^C \circ \alpha^C)^C$$

*is the maximal element in the family of all relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that*

$$\alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha.$$

*Proof.* First, remember ourself that

$$\max\{\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X) : \alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha\} = \cup\{\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X) : \alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha\}.$$

Let  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  be an arbitrary relation such that  $\alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha$ . We will prove that  $\beta \subseteq \alpha^*$ . If not, there is  $(x, y) \in \beta$  such that  $\neg((x, y) \in \alpha^*)$ . The last gives:

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha^C \circ \alpha^C &\iff \\ (\exists u, v \in X)((x, u) \in \alpha^C \wedge (u, v) \in \alpha^C \wedge (v, y) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1}) &\iff \\ (\exists u, v \in X)((u, x) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \wedge (u, v) \in \alpha^C \wedge (y, v) \in \alpha^C) &\implies \\ (\exists u, v \in X)((u, x) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \wedge (x, y) \in \beta \wedge (y, v) \in \alpha^C \wedge (u, v) \in \alpha^C) &\implies \\ (\exists u, v \in X)((u, v) \in \alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha \wedge (u, v) \in \alpha^C). & \end{aligned}$$

We got a contradiction. So, must be  $\beta \subseteq \alpha^*$ .

On the other hand, we should prove that

$$\alpha^C \circ \alpha^* \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha.$$

Let  $(x, y) \in \alpha^C \circ \alpha^* \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}$  be an arbitrary element. Then, there are elements  $u, v \in X$  such that  $(x, u) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1}$ ,  $(u, v) \in \alpha^*$  and  $(v, y) \in \alpha^C$ . So, from

$$(x, u) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1}, \neg((u, v) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha^C \circ \alpha^C), (v, y) \in \alpha^C,$$

we have  $\neg((x, y) \in \alpha^C)$ . Suppose that  $(x, y) \in \alpha^C$ . Then, we have  $(u, v) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha^C \circ \alpha^C$ , which is impossible. Hence, we have  $(x, y) \in \alpha$  and, therefore,  $\alpha^C \circ \alpha^* \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha$ .

Finally, we conclude that  $\alpha^*$  is the maximal element of the family of all relations  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that  $\alpha^C \circ \beta \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha$ .  $\square$

We have the following proposition by dual process to previous theorem:

**Theorem 2.2.** For a binary relation  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ , relation

$$\alpha_* = (\alpha^C \circ \alpha^C \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1})^C$$

is the maximal element in the family of all relation  $\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  such that

$$(\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C \subseteq \alpha.$$

Some properties of relations  $\alpha_*$  and  $\alpha^*$  and connection between them are given in the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.2.** For relation  $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  we have:

- (a)  $\alpha^* = \{(x, y) \in X \times X : \alpha^C \circ \{(x, y)\} \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha\}$   
 $= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : x\alpha^C \times y\alpha^C \subseteq \alpha\}.$
- (b)  $\alpha_* = \{(x, y) \in X \times X : (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \{(x, y)\} \circ \alpha^C \subseteq \alpha\}$   
 $= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : \alpha^C x \times \alpha^C y \subseteq \alpha\}.$

- (c)  $(\alpha^*)^{-1} = (\alpha^{-1})_*$ ;
- (d)  $(\alpha_*)^{-1} = (\alpha^{-1})^*$ .

*Proof.* (a) By Theorem 2.1, it is straightforward to show that

$$\alpha^* = \{(x, y) \in X \times X : \alpha^C \circ \{(x, y)\} \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} \subseteq \alpha\}.$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (u, v) \in \alpha^C \circ \{(x, y)\} \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} &\iff (u, x) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \wedge (y, v) \in \alpha^C \\ &\iff (x, u) \in \alpha^C \wedge (y, v) \in \alpha^C \\ &\iff u \in x\alpha^C \wedge v \in y\alpha^C \\ &\iff (u, v) \in x\alpha^C \times y\alpha^C. \end{aligned}$$

(b) Also, without difficulty, we can prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_* &= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \{(x, y)\} \circ \alpha^C \subseteq \alpha\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : \alpha^C x \times \alpha^C y \subseteq \alpha\} \end{aligned}$$

holds.

$$\begin{aligned} (c) \ (\alpha^*)^{-1} &= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : x\alpha^C \times y\alpha^C \subseteq \alpha\}^{-1} \\ &= \{(y, x) \in X \times X : x\alpha^C \times y\alpha^C \subseteq \alpha\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : y\alpha^C \times x\alpha^C \subseteq \alpha\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : x\alpha^C \times y\alpha^C \subseteq \alpha^{-1}\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : (\alpha^C)^{-1}x \times (\alpha^C)^{-1}y \subseteq \alpha^{-1}\} \\ &= \{(x, y) \in X \times X : (\alpha^{-1})^C x \times (\alpha^{-1})^C y \subseteq \alpha^{-1}\} \\ &= (\alpha^{-1})_* . \end{aligned}$$

(d) The proof of this proposition can be given analogically by previous assertion (c). □

In the following proposition we give an essential characterization of dually quasi-normal relations. It is our adaptation of concept exposed in [3], Theorem 7.2.

**Theorem 2.3.** *For a binary relation  $\alpha$  on a set  $X$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\alpha$  is a dually quasi-normal relation.
- (2) For all  $x, y \in X$ , if  $(x, y) \in \alpha$ , there exists  $u, v \in X$  such that:
  - (a)  $(x, u) \in \alpha^C \wedge (y, v) \in \alpha^C$
  - (b)  $(\forall s, t \in X)((s, u) \in \alpha^C \wedge (t, v) \in \alpha^C \implies (s, t) \in \alpha)$ .
- (3)  $\alpha \subseteq (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha_* \circ \alpha^C$ .

*Proof.* (1)  $\implies$  (2). Let  $\alpha$  be a dually quasi-normal relation, i.e. let there exist a relation  $\beta$  such that  $\alpha = (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C$ . Let  $(x, y) \in \alpha$ . Then there exist elements  $u, v \in X$  such that

$$(x, u) \in \alpha^C, (u, v) \in \beta, (v, y) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1}.$$

From previous, it follows that there exist elements  $u, v \in X$  such that  $(x, u) \in \alpha^C$  and  $(y, v) \in \alpha^C$ . This proves condition (a). Now we check the condition (b). Let  $s, t \in X$  be arbitrary elements such that  $(s, u) \in \alpha^C$  and  $(t, v) \in \alpha^C$ . Now from  $(s, u) \in \alpha^C$ ,  $(u, v) \in \beta$  and  $(v, t) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1}$  follows  $(s, t) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C = \alpha$ .

(2)  $\implies$  (1). Let us define a binary relation

$$\alpha' = \{(u, v) \in X \times X : (\forall s, t \in X)((s, u) \in \alpha^C \wedge (t, v) \in \alpha^C \implies (s, t) \in \alpha)\}$$

and show that  $\alpha^C \circ \alpha' \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1} = \alpha$  is valid. Let  $(x, y) \in \alpha$ . Then there exist elements  $u, v \in X$  such that the conditions (a) and (b) hold. We have  $(u, v) \in \alpha'$  by definition of relation  $\alpha'$ .

Further, from  $(x, u) \in \alpha^C$ ,  $(u, v) \in \alpha'$  and  $(v, y) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1}$  follows  $(x, y) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha' \circ \alpha^C$ . Hence, we have  $\alpha \subseteq (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha' \circ \alpha^C$ . Contrary, let  $(x, y) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha' \circ \alpha^C$  be an arbitrary pair. There exist elements  $u, v \in X$  such that  $(x, u) \in \alpha^C$ ,  $(u, v) \in \alpha'$  and  $(v, y) \in (\alpha^C)^{-1}$ . From previous we have  $(x, u) \in \alpha^C$  and  $(y, v) \in \alpha^C$ . Hence, by definition of relation  $\alpha'$ , follows  $(x, y) \in \alpha$  since  $(u, v) \in \alpha'$ . Therefore,  $(\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha' \circ \alpha^C \subseteq \alpha$ . So, the relation  $\alpha$  is a dually quasi-normal relation on  $X$  since there exists a relation  $\alpha'$  such that  $(\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha' \circ \alpha^C = \alpha$ .

(1)  $\iff$  (3). Let  $\alpha$  be a dually quasi-normal relation. Then there is a relation  $\beta$  such that  $\alpha = (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C$ . Since  $\alpha_* = \bigcup\{\beta \in \mathcal{B}(X) : (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C \subseteq \alpha\}$ , we have  $\beta \subseteq \alpha_*$  and  $\alpha = (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \alpha^C \subseteq (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha_* \circ \alpha^C$ . Contrary, let  $\alpha \subseteq (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha_* \circ \alpha^C$ , for a relation  $\alpha$ . Then, we have  $\alpha \subseteq (\alpha^C)^{-1} \circ \alpha_* \circ \alpha^C \subseteq \alpha$ . So, the relation  $\alpha$  is a dually quasi-normal relation on set  $X$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.1.** *Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a poset. Relation  $\leq^C$  is a dually quasi-normal relation on  $X$  if and only if  $(X, \leq)$  is an anti-chain.*

*Proof.* Let  $\leq^C$  be a dually quasi-normal relation on set  $X$ , and let  $x, y \in X$  be elements such that  $x \leq^C y$ . Then, by previous theorem, there exist elements  $u, v \in X$  such that:

- (a)  $x \leq u \wedge y \leq v$ ;
- (b)  $(\forall s, t \in X)((s \leq u \wedge t \leq v) \implies s \leq^C t)$ .

Let  $z$  be an arbitrary element and if we put  $z = s = t$  in formula (b) we have

$$(z \leq u \wedge z \leq v) \implies z \leq^C z,$$

which is a contradiction. Hence  $\neg(z \leq u \wedge z \leq v)$ , it follows

$$z \leq^C u \vee z \leq^C v.$$

However, one can observe that these conditions are satisfied only for the partially ordered sets witch are anti-chain. Indeed, let  $X$  have comparable elements, for example,  $y < x$ . Then,  $x \leq^C y$ . If for elements  $u, v \in X$  the following  $u \geq x$  and  $v \geq y$  hold, then  $y \leq u \wedge y \leq v$ . Therefore, there exists  $z$  in  $X$  such that  $z \leq u \wedge z \leq v$  (namely,  $z = y$ ). It contradicts to the condition (b). So, there is no different comparable elements in  $X$ .

Contrary, let  $x, y \in X$  be arbitrary elements such that  $x \leq^C y$ . There exist elements  $u, v \in X$  such that

- (a')  $x \leq u \wedge y \leq v$  and
- (b')  $(\forall z \in X)(z \leq^C u \vee z \leq^C v)$ .

Let  $s, t \in X$  be arbitrary elements such that  $s \leq u$  and  $t \leq v$ . At the second hand, from proposition (b'), for  $z = s$ , in this case,  $s \leq^C u \vee s \leq^C v$ , since the second option  $s \leq^C v$  is impossible, the following is  $s \leq^C u$ . Thus, we have  $s \leq^C t \vee t \leq^C v$ . Since the second option is also impossible, we have to have  $s \leq^C t$ . So, elements  $u$  and  $v$  satisfy condition (b) of Theorem 3.1. So, the relation  $\leq^C$  is a dually quasi-normal relation.  $\square$

**Remark 2.2.** Corollary 2.1 can be also verified as follows:

Assume first that the relation  $\leq^C$  is quasi-normal. It means  $\leq^C = \leq^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \leq$  for a relation  $\beta$ . If  $x, y \in X$  with  $x < y$  then  $(y, x) \in \leq^C$ , and so the previous equation implies  $x \leq c$  and  $d \leq^{-1} y$  for some  $c, d \in X$  such that  $(c, d) \in \beta$ . Hence  $x \leq c \beta d \leq^{-1} x$  follows since  $d \leq^{-1} y$  and  $x < y$ . By the above equation, we deduce  $(x, x) \in \leq^C$  which contradicts reflexivity of  $\leq$ . This shows that there are no elements  $x, y \in X$  with  $x < y$ , and so  $(X, \leq)$  is an anti-chain.

Conversely, if  $(X, \leq)$  is an anti-chain,  $\leq$  is the equality relation and then we have  $\leq^{-1} \circ \beta \circ \leq = \beta$  for any relation  $\beta$ . Hence, choosing  $\beta$  to be  $\leq^C$ , we obtain that  $\leq^C$  is quasi-normal.

Assertions, analogous to previous theorem and corollary which regards on quasi-normal relations, are presented below.

**Theorem 2.4.** For a binary relation  $\alpha$  on a set  $X$ , the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1)  $\alpha$  is a quasi-normal relation.
- (2) For all  $x, y \in X$ , if  $(x, y) \in \alpha$ , there exists  $u, v \in X$  such that:
  - (a)  $(u, x) \in \alpha^C \wedge (v, y) \in \alpha^C$
  - (b)  $(\forall s, t \in X)((u, s) \in \alpha^C \wedge (v, t) \in \alpha^C \implies (s, t) \in \alpha)$ .
- (3)  $\alpha \subseteq \alpha^C \circ \alpha^* \circ (\alpha^C)^{-1}$ .

**Corollary 2.3.** Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a poset. Relation  $\leq^C$  is a quasi-normal relation on  $X$  if and only if  $(X, \leq)$  is an anti-chain.

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