

## ON ATOMS OF BCK-ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. Atoms in BCK-algebras are considered. The notions of the star BCK-algebras and the star part of BCK-algebras are introduced. The properties of some substructures which consist of atoms are investigated. Furthermore, by isomorphic view, there are and only  $n + 1$  BCK-algebras  $X$  with  $|X| = n + 1$  and  $|S_t(X)| = n$ .

**1. Introduction** By a BCK-algebra we mean an algebra  $(X; *, 0)$  of type  $(2, 0)$  satisfying the axioms:

- (1)  $((x * y) * (x * z)) * (z * y) = 0$ ,
- (2)  $(x * (x * y)) * y = 0$ ,
- (3)  $x * x = 0$ ,
- (4)  $x * y = y * x = 0$  implies  $x = y$ ,
- (5)  $0 * x = 0$

for any  $x, y$  and  $z$  in  $X$ . For any BCK-algebra  $X$ , the relation  $\leq$  defined by  $x \leq y$  if and only if  $x * y = 0$  is a partial order on  $X$  (see [1]).

A BCK-algebra  $X$  has the following properties for any  $x, y, z \in X$ :

- (6)  $x * 0 = x$ ,
- (7)  $(x * y) * z = (x * z) * y$ ,
- (8)  $x \leq y$  implies that  $x * z \leq y * z$  and  $z * y \leq z * x$ .

In a BCK-algebra  $X$ , if an element  $a$  satisfying:

- (a)  $a \neq 0$ ,
- (b)  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$  and  $x \leq a$  imply  $x = a$

then the element  $a$  is called an atom of  $X$ . Since  $0$  is the least element of  $X$ , it is obvious that an atom of  $X$  is a minimal element of  $X$ .

Let  $(X; *, 0)$  be a BCK-algebra. A non-empty subset  $S$  of  $X$  is called a subalgebra if  $x, y \in S$  implies  $x * y \in S$ . By an ideal  $I$  of  $X$  we mean  $0 \in I$  and  $y, x * y \in I$  imply  $x \in I$ . If an ideal  $I$  of  $X$  is also a subalgebra of  $X$ , then  $I$  is called a close ideal of  $X$ . It has been known that an ideal of a BCK-algebra is a close ideal (see [2]).

**2. Star subalgebras of BCK-algebras** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra. We define

$$S_t(X) = \{a \in X; a = 0 \text{ or } a \text{ is an atom of } X.\}$$

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The subset  $S_t(X)$  is called the star part of  $X$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra. If  $a, b \in S_t(X)$  and  $a \neq b$ , then  $a * b = a$ .

**Proof.** In case  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ , the proof is trivial. Assume  $a \neq 0$  and  $b \neq 0$ , by  $a * b \leq a$  and  $a$  is an atom of  $X$ , we get  $a * b = 0$  or  $a * b = a$ . If  $a * b = 0$ , then  $a = 0$  or  $a = b$  since  $b$  is an atom of  $X$ . It is a contradiction, hence  $a * b = a$ . The proof is completed.

By Proposition 2.1 we can immediately get

**Theorem 2.2.** For any BCK-algebra  $X$ ,  $S_t(X)$  is a subalgebra of  $X$ .

Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra and  $S$  be a subalgebra of  $X$ .  $S$  is called a star subalgebra of  $X$  if  $S_t(S) = S$ . Particularly  $X$  is called a star BCK-algebra if  $X = S_t(X)$ .

**Remark.**  $S_t(X)$  may be not a maximal star subalgebra.

**Example 1.** Let  $X = \{0, \dots, -n-1, -n, -n+1, \dots, -3, -2, -1\}$  and partial order  $\leq$  as follows  $0 \leq \dots \leq -n-1 \leq -n \leq -n+1 \leq \dots \leq -3 \leq -2 \leq -1$ . Define operation  $*$  by

$$x * y = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq y \\ x, & \text{others} \end{cases}$$

for any  $x, y$  in  $X$ . Then  $(X; *, 0)$  is a BCK-algebra and  $S_t(X) = \{0\}$ . If take the subalgebra  $S = \{0, 1\}$  of  $X$ , then  $S_t(S) = S$ . In this example,  $S_t(X)$  is not a maximal star subalgebra of  $X$ .

**Example 2.** Let  $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ . Take the operation table of  $X$  as follows

$*$	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	1
2	2	1	0	2
3	3	3	3	0

Then  $(X; *, 0)$  is a BCK-algebra.  $S_t(X) = \{0, 1, 3\}$  is a maximal star subalgebra of  $X$  but not the largest star subalgebra of  $X$  since  $S = \{0, 2\}$  is a star subalgebra of  $X$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra and  $S$  be a subalgebra of  $X$ . Then  $S$  is a star subalgebra of  $X$  if and only if for any  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a \neq b$  implies  $a * b = a$ .

**Proof.** By Proposition 2.1, the necessity part is obvious. In the sufficiency part, for any  $b \in S \setminus \{0\}$ , if there exists  $x_0 \in S \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $x_0 \leq b$ , then we have  $x_0 = b$  or  $x_0 \neq b$ . If  $x_0 \neq b$ , then we get  $x_0 * b = 0$  by  $x_0 \leq b$  and  $x_0 * b = x_0$  by the condition of the Theorem, hence  $x_0 = 0$ . It is contradictory that  $x_0 \in S \setminus \{0\}$ . Hence  $x_0 = b$  and  $b$  is an atom of  $S$ . The proof is completed.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra. Then  $S_t(X)$  is a maximal star subalgebra of  $X$  if and only if for any element  $x$  in  $X \setminus S_t(X)$ , there exists an element  $a$  in  $S_t(X) \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $a \leq x$ .

**Proof.** Assume  $S$  be a star subalgebra of  $X$  and  $S_t(X) \subsetneq S$ . If there exists an element  $x_0$  of  $X$  in  $S \setminus S_t(X)$ , then there exists an element  $a$  in  $S_t(X) \setminus \{0\} \subseteq S$  such that  $a \leq x_0$ . Hence the element  $x_0$  is not an atom of  $S$ . It is contradictory that  $S$  is a star subalgebra of  $X$ . And the sufficient part is proved. On the other hand, if there exists  $x_0$  in  $X \setminus S_t(X)$  such that for all  $a$  in  $S_t(X) \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $a * x_0 \neq 0$ , then we have  $a * x_0 = a$  by  $a * x_0 \leq a$  and  $a \in S_t(X) \setminus \{0\}$ . Assume  $x_0 * a = b$ , we get

$$(x_0 * b) * a = (x_0 * a) * b = b * b = 0,$$

that is  $x_0 * b \leq a$ , hence  $x_0 * b = 0$  or  $x_0 * b = a$ . If  $x_0 * b = a$ , then

$$a * x_0 = (x_0 * b) * x_0 = (x_0 * x_0) * b = 0 * b = 0.$$

It is a contradiction. Hence  $x_0 * b = 0$ . By  $b * x_0 = (x_0 * a) * x_0 = (x_0 * x_0) * a = 0 * a = 0$ , we have  $x_0 = b = x_0 * a$ . Then we get  $x_0 * a = x_0$  and  $a * x_0 = a$  for all  $a \in S_t(X)$ . Therefore  $S = S_t(X) \cup \{x_0\}$  is a star subalgebra of  $X$  by Theorem 2.3. It is contradictory that  $S_t(X)$  is a maximal star subalgebra. The proof is completed.

**Corollary 2.5.** For a finite BCK-algebra  $X$ ,  $S_t(X)$  is a maximal star subalgebra of  $X$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra.  $S_t(X)$  is the largest star subalgebra of  $X$  if and only if  $X = S_t(X)$ .

**Proof.** The sufficiency part is obvious. Conversely, for any  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $S = \{0, x\}$  is a star subalgebra of  $X$ , hence  $x \in S_t(X)$  since  $S_t(X)$  is the largest star subalgebra. The proof is completed.

Let  $(X; *_1, 0)$ ,  $(Y; *_2, 0)$  be two BCK-algebras. The set  $X \times Y = \{(x, y); x \in X, y \in Y\}$  about operation  $*$ :  $(x_1, y_1) * (x_2, y_2) = (x_1 *_1 x_2, y_1 *_2 y_2)$  becomes a BCK-algebra, and  $(0, 0)$  is the zero element of  $X \times Y$ .

Generally,  $S_t(X \times Y) \neq S_t(X) \times S_t(Y)$ , but we have

**Theorem 2.7.** Let  $X, Y$  be two BCK-algebras. Then

$$S_t(X \times Y) = (S_t(X) \times \{0\}) \cup (\{0\} \times S_t(Y))$$

**Proof.** It is obvious that  $S_t(X \times Y) \supseteq (S_t(X) \times \{0\}) \cup (\{0\} \times S_t(Y))$ . Furthermore, for any  $(x_0, y_0) \in S_t(X \times Y)$ , if  $x_0 \neq 0$  and  $y_0 \neq 0$ , then we get  $(x_0, 0) * (x_0, y_0) = (0, 0)$ . It is contradictory that  $(x_0, y_0) \in S_t(X \times Y)$ . Hence we get  $x_0 = 0$  or  $y_0 = 0$ . If  $x_0 = 0$ , then it is easy to prove that  $y_0 \in S_t(Y)$ . Similarly, if  $y_0 = 0$ , then  $x_0 \in S_t(X)$ . The proof is completed.

**Corollary 2.8.** For any finite BCK-algebra  $X, Y$ , we have  $|S_t(X \times Y)| = |S_t(X)| + |S_t(Y)| - 1$ .

**Corollary 2.9.** Let  $X, Y$  be two BCK-algebras. Then  $S_t(X \times Y) = S_t(X) \times S_t(Y)$  if and only if  $S_t(x) = \{0\}$  or  $S_t(Y) = \{0\}$

Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra. If an atom  $b$  of  $X$  satisfies that  $b * x = b$  for any  $x \in X \setminus \{b\}$ , then we call  $b$  is a strong atom of  $X$ . Take the subset of  $X$

$$D(X) = \{ b \in S_t(X); b \text{ is a strong atom of } X \text{ or } b = 0 \}$$

we have

**Theorem 2.10.** For any BCK-algebra  $X$ ,  $D(X)$  is a closed ideal of  $X$ .

**Proof.** We need to prove that  $D(X)$  is an ideal of  $X$  only. Assume  $y, x * y \in D(X)$ , if  $x * y = x$ , then  $x \in D(X)$ . If  $x * y \neq x$ , then  $(x * y) * x = x * y$  by the definition of  $D(X)$ . On the other hand,

$$(x * y) * x = (x * x) * y = 0 * y = 0,$$

hence we get  $x * y = 0$ . By  $y \in D(X)$  and  $x * y = 0$ , we have  $x = 0$  or  $x = y$ , hence  $x \in D(X)$ . The proof is completed.

**3. On star BCK-algebras** Suppose  $(X; *, 0)$  be a BCK-algebra. For any  $a \in X$ , we use  $a^{-1}$  denote the selfmap of defined by  $xa^{-1} = x * a$ . Let  $M(X)$  denote the set of all finite

product  $a^{-1} \cdots b^{-1}$  of selfmaps with  $a, \dots, b \in X$ . It is clear that  $M(X)$  becomes a commutative monoid under composition of maps and  $0^{-1}$  is the identity. We define a relation  $\leq_1$  on  $M(X)$  as follows:

$$u^{-1} \cdots v^{-1} \leq_1 a^{-1} \cdots b^{-1} \iff (xu^{-1} \cdots v^{-1}) * (xa^{-1} \cdots b^{-1}) = 0$$

for any  $x \in X$ . We call  $M(X)$  the adjoint semigroup of  $X$  (see [3]). It is obvious that  $M(S) = \{u^{-1} \cdots v^{-1}; u, \dots, v \in S\}$  becomes a subsemigroup of  $M(X)$  for any non-empty subset  $S$  of  $X$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra and  $\sigma = a_1^{-1} \cdots a_n^{-1} \in M(S_t(X))$ . If  $S_t(X)$  is an ideal of  $X$ , then  $\text{Ker}\sigma = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$

**Proof.** It is obvious that  $\{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\} \subseteq \text{Ker}\sigma$  by Section 1. Conversely, if  $\sigma = a_1^{-1}$  and  $b \in \text{Ker}\sigma$ , then  $ba_1^{-1} = b * a_1 = 0$ . We get  $b = 0$  or  $b = a_1$  by  $a_1 \in S_t(X)$ , hence  $b \in \{0, a_1\}$  and the Lemma holds for  $n = 1$ . Now we assume the Lemma has already been proved for  $n = k$ , then we prove the case of  $\sigma = a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} \cdots a_k^{-1} a_{k+1}^{-1}$ . If  $b \in \text{Ker}\sigma$ ,  $b\sigma = 0$ , then we have  $b \in S_t(X)$  by  $S_t(X)$  is an ideal of  $X$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_{k+1} \in S_t(X)$ . Since  $(b * a_{k+1}) * b = 0$  and  $b \in S_t(X)$ , we get  $b * a_{k+1} = 0$  or  $b * a_{k+1} = b$ . If  $b * a_{k+1} = 0$ , then  $b = a_{k+1}$  or  $b = 0$  hence  $b \in \{0, a_1, \dots, a_{k+1}\}$ . If  $b * a_{k+1} = b$ , then

$$0 = b\sigma = ba_1^{-1} \cdots a_k^{-1} a_{k+1}^{-1} = (ba_{k+1}^{-1})a_1^{-1} \cdots a_k^{-1} = ba_1^{-1} \cdots a_k^{-1},$$

we have  $b \in \{0, a_1, \dots, a_k\} \subseteq \{0, a_1, \dots, a_k, a_{k+1}\}$  by our assumption. The proof is completed.

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra. Then  $X$  is a star BCK-algebra if and only if for all  $\sigma = a_1^{-1} \cdots a_n^{-1} \in M(X)$ ,  $\text{Ker}\sigma = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ .

**Proof.** By Lemma 3.1, the necessity part is obvious. In sufficiency part, for any element  $a \in X \setminus \{0\}$ , if there exists  $x \in X$  such that  $x \leq a$ , then  $x \in \text{Ker}a^{-1} = \{0, a\}$ , hence  $x = 0$  or  $x = a$ , and  $a$  is an atom of  $X$ . The proof is completed.

By a positive implicative BCK-algebra, we mean a BCK-algebra  $(X; *, 0)$  such that for all  $x, y, z \in X$ ,  $(x * y) * z = (x * z) * (y * z)$ . If for all  $x, y \in X$ ,  $y * (y * x) = x * (x * y)$ , then  $X$  is said to be a commutative BCK-algebra. It is also noteworthy that  $X$  is a positive implicative BCK-algebra if and only if  $(x * y) * y = x * y$  for all  $x, y \in X$  (see [4]). By using these results, we have

**Theorem 3.3.** If  $X$  is a star BCK-algebra, then the following results hold:

- (a)  $X$  is a positive implicative BCK-algebra;
- (b)  $X$  is a commutative BCK-algebra.

**Proof.** (a) For any  $x, y \in X$ , if  $x * y = 0$ , it is obvious that  $(x * y) * y = x * y$ . Assume  $x * y \neq 0$ , then we have  $x * y = x$  by  $x * y \leq x$  and  $x$  is an atom of  $X$ . Hence  $(x * y) * y = x * y$ .

(b) For any  $x, y \in X$ , if  $x * y = 0$  or  $y * x = 0$ , then we get  $x = 0$  or  $x = y$  or  $y = 0$ , hence it is obvious that  $y * (y * x) = x * (x * y)$ . Assume  $x * y \neq 0$  and  $y * x \neq 0$ , then we get  $x * y = x$  and  $y * x = y$  by  $x * y \leq y$  and  $y * x \leq x$ , hence  $x * (x * y) = 0 = y * (y * x)$ . The proof is completed.

**4. The count of a class finite BCK-algebras** Let  $u$  be an element in BCK-algebra  $X$ . If for any  $x \in X$ ,  $u * x = 0$  implies  $u = x$ , then  $u$  is called a maximal element of  $X$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra. If  $u \in X \setminus D(X)$  is a maximal element of  $X$ , then for any  $b \in D(X)$ ,  $u * b = u$ .

**Proof.** It is trivial to see the case  $b = 0$ . If  $b \neq 0$ , then we have  $(u * (u * b)) * b = 0$  by BCK axiom (2), hence  $u * (u * b) = 0$  or  $b$ , since  $b$  is an atom of  $X$ . If  $u * (u * b) = b$ , then we can get

$$b * u = (u * (u * b)) * u = (u * u) * (u * b) = 0 * (u * b) = 0,$$

it is contradictory that  $b$  is a strong atom of  $X$ . Hence  $u * (u * b) = 0$ . Therefore  $u * b = u$  by  $u$  is a maximal element of  $X$ . The proof is completed.

**Lemma 4.2.** If  $X = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  is a BCK-algebra with  $S_t(X) = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}\}$  and  $D(X) = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_i\}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq n-2$ ), then for all  $a_k \in S_t(X) \setminus D(X)$ ,  $a_k * a_n = 0$ .

**Proof.** By  $(a_k * a_n) * a_k = (a_k * a_k) * a_n = 0 * a_n = 0$ , we get  $a_k * a_n = 0$  or  $a_k * a_n = a_k$  since  $a_k$  is an atom of  $X$ . If  $a_k * a_n = a_k$ , then we have  $a_k \in D(X)$  by Proposition 2.1, it is contradictory that  $a_k \notin D(X)$ . Hence  $a_k * a_n = 0$ . The proof is completed.

**Corollary 4.3.** In Lemma 4.2, the element  $a_n$  is a maximal element of  $X$ .

Let  $X$  be a BCK-algebra with  $|X| = n+1$ ,  $|S_t(X)| = n$  and  $|D(X)| = i+1$  ( $0 \leq i \leq n-2$ ). Assuming  $X = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ ,  $S_t(X) = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}\}$  and  $D(X) = \{0, a_1, \dots, a_i\}$ , by above discussing, the operation table of  $X$  must be as table one.

In table one,  $a_{nk} = a_n * a_k$  ( $i+1 \leq k \leq n-1$ ). After, we shall give the number of this class BCK-algebras by determining the value of  $a_{nk}$  in table one.

**Lemma 4.4.** Let BCK-algebra  $X = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  with  $S_t(X) = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}\}$  and  $D(X) = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i\}$ . If  $|S_t(X) \setminus D(X)| \geq 2$ , then the following conclusions hold:

- (a) For any  $a_k \in S_t(X) \setminus D(X)$ ,  $a_n * a_k \neq a_k$ ;
- (b) If there exists  $a_k \in S_t(X) \setminus D(X)$  such that  $a_n * a_k = a_l$  and  $a_l \neq a_n$ , then  $a_n * a_l = a_k$ ;
- (c) If there exists  $a_k, a_l \in S_t(X) \setminus D(X)$  and  $a_k \neq a_l$  such that  $a_n * a_k = a_l$ ,  $a_n * a_l = a_k$ , then for all  $a_p \in S_t(X) \setminus \{D(X) \cup \{a_k, a_l\}\}$ ,  $a_n * a_p = a_n$ .

**Proof.** (a) If there exists  $a_k \in S_t(X) \setminus D(X)$ , such that  $a_n * a_k = a_k$ , then take  $a_l \in S_t(X) \setminus D(X)$ ,  $a_l \neq a_k$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= ((a_l * a_k) * (a_l * a_n)) * (a_n * a_k) && \text{(by axiom (1))} \\ &= (a_l * (a_l * a_n)) * (a_n * a_k) && \text{(by Proposition 2.1)} \\ &= (a_l * 0) * (a_n * a_k) && \text{(by Lemma 4.2)} \\ &= a_l * (a_n * a_k) \\ &= a_l * a_k && \text{(by our assumption)} \\ &= a_l && \text{(by Proposition 2.1)} \end{aligned}$$

It is a contradiction. Hence (a) holds.

(b) By BCK axioms (2), we have  $0 = (a_n * (a_n * a_k)) * a_k = (a_n * a_l) * a_k$ . Hence  $a_n * a_l = 0$  or  $a_n * a_l = a_k$ . If  $a_n * a_l = 0$ , then we get  $a_n = a_l$  by Lemma 4.2. It is contradictory that  $a_l \neq a_n$ . Therefore  $a_n * a_l = a_k$ , and the proof of (b) is completed.

(c) If there exists  $a_p \in S_t(X) \setminus \{D(X) \cup \{a_k, a_l\}\}$  such that  $a_n * a_p = a_q$  and  $a_q \neq a_n$ , then by BCK axioms (1) we have  $0 = ((a_n * a_p) * (a_n * a_k)) * (a_k * a_p) = (a_q * a_l) * a_k$ . If  $a_q \neq a_l$ , then  $a_q * a_l = a_q$  by Proposition 2.1. Hence  $0 = a_q * a_k$  and  $a_q = a_k$ , therefore we get

$$0 = (a_n * (a_n * a_p)) * a_p = (a_n * a_q) * a_p = (a_n * a_k) * a_p = a_l * a_p = a_l.$$

It is a contradiction. If  $a_q = a_l$ , then it is contradictory that

$$0 = (a_n * (a_n * a_p)) * a_p = (a_n * a_q) * a_p = (a_n * a_l) * a_p = a_k * a_p = a_k.$$

Hence (c) holds. And the proof of the Lemma is completed.

**Theorem 4.5.** By isomorphic view, there are total  $n + 1$  BCK-algebras  $X$  with  $|X| = n + 1$  and  $|S_t(X)| = n$ .

**Proof.** Assuming  $X = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  with  $S_t(X) = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}\}$  and  $D(X) = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i\}$  ( $0 \leq i \leq n - 2$ ), we determine the operation tables of  $X$  according to the order of  $D(X)$ .

Case 1.  $|D(X)| = n - 1$ , that is  $D(X) = \{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-2}\}$ . In this case, we only need to determine the value of  $a_n(a_{n-1}) = a_n * a_{n-1}$  in table one. By  $a_n * a_{n-1} \neq 0$  and  $a_n * a_{n-1} \leq a_n$ , we have  $a_n * a_{n-1} = a_{n-1}$  or  $a_n * a_{n-1} = a_n$ . Taking  $a_n(a_{n-1}) = a_{n-1}$  and  $a_n(a_{n-1}) = a_n$  each, we get two different operation tables—table two and table three

By BCK-algebra axioms (1)—(5) we can verify that table two and table three indeed give two BCK-algebras. Hence, there are and only two BCK-algebras in Case 1.

Case 2.  $|D(X)| = n - 2$ , that is  $|S_t(X) \setminus D(X)| = 2$ . In this case, if  $a_n * a_{n-2} = a_n * a_{n-1} = a_n$ , then by table one we get the operation table of  $X$  as table four

If the operation table of  $X$  is different from table four, then we have  $a_n * a_{n-2} = a_{n-1}$  and  $a_n * a_{n-1} = a_{n-2}$  by Lemma 4.4. Hence by table one the operation table must be as table five

By BCK-algebra axioms (1)—(5) we can verify  $X$  which are given by table four and table five are BCK-algebras. Hence, there are and only two BCK-algebras in Case 2.

Case 3.  $|D(X)| < n - 2$ , that is  $|S_t(X) \setminus D(X)| > 2$ . In this case, if  $a_n * a_k = a_n$ ,  $k = i + 1, \dots, n - 1$ , then by table one we get the operation table of  $X$  as table six

By BCK-algebra axioms (1)—(5) we can verify  $X$  which is given by table six is BCK-algebra. If the operation table of  $X$  is different from table six, then by Lemma 4.4, there are two elements  $a_k, a_l \in S_t(X) \setminus D(X)$  such that  $a_n * a_k = a_l$  and  $a_n * a_l = a_k$ . Assume  $a_k = a_{n-2}$  and  $a_l = a_{n-1}$ . We get  $a_n * a_p = a_n, p = i + 1, \dots, n - 3$  by Lemma 4.4. Hence by table one the operation table must be as follows

*	0	$a_1$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_n$
0	0	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	0	0
$a_1$	$a_1$	0	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$
$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	0	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$\dots$	0	$a_i$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$
$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	0	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	0
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	0	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	0
$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	0	$a_{n-2}$	0
$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	0	0
$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\dots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\dots$	$a_n$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-2}$	0

(table seven)

But the algebra defined by table seven is not a BCK-algebra, for, we have

$$((a_{n-3} * a_{n-1}) * (a_{n-3} * a_n)) * (a_n * a_{n-1}) = (a_{n-3} * 0) * a_{n-2} = a_{n-3} \neq 0,$$

namely, the BCK-algebra axiom (1) does not hold. Hence, there exists and only one BCK-algebra  $X$  with  $|D(X)| = i + 1 < n - 2$  in Case 3 by table six. Since the order of  $D(X)$

can take  $1, 2, \dots, n - 3$ , the proof is completed by combining Case 1, Case 2, Case 3, and the operation tables are given by table two — table six.

*	0	$a_1$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_n$
0	0	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	0	0
$a_1$	$a_1$	0	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$
$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	0	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$\dots$	0	$a_i$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$
$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	0	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	0
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	0	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	0
$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	0	$a_{n-2}$	0
$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	0	0
$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\dots$	$a_n$	$a_{n(i+1)}$	$\dots$	$a_{n(n-3)}$	$a_{n(n-2)}$	$a_{n(n-1)}$	0

(table one)

*	0	$a_1$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_n$
0	0	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	0	0
$a_1$	$a_1$	0	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$
$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	0	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$\dots$	0	$a_i$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$
$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	0	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	0	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$
$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	0	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$
$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	0	0
$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\dots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\dots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_{n-1}$	0

(table two)

*	0	$a_1$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_n$
0	0	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	$\dots$	0	0	0	0
$a_1$	$a_1$	0	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$\dots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$
$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	0	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$\dots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$\dots$	0	$a_i$	$\dots$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$
$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	0	$\dots$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\dots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\dots$	0	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$
$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-2}$	0	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$
$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\dots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	0	0
$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\dots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\dots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	0

(table three)

*	0	$a_1$	$a_2$	$\cdots$	$a_i$	$a_{i+1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_n$
0	0	0	0	$\cdots$	0	0	$\cdots$	0	0	0	0
$a_1$	$a_1$	0	$a_1$	$\cdots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$\cdots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$
$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	0	$\cdots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$\cdots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$\cdots$	0	$a_i$	$\cdots$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$
$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{i+1}$	0	$\cdots$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\cdots$	0	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$
$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-2}$	0	$a_{n-2}$	0
$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	0	0
$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\cdots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\cdots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	0

(table four)

*	0	$a_1$	$a_2$	$\cdots$	$a_i$	$a_{i+1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_n$
0	0	0	0	$\cdots$	0	0	$\cdots$	0	0	0	0
$a_1$	$a_1$	0	$a_1$	$\cdots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$\cdots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$
$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	0	$\cdots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$\cdots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$\cdots$	0	$a_i$	$\cdots$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$
$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{i+1}$	0	$\cdots$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\cdots$	0	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$
$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-2}$	0	$a_{n-2}$	0
$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	0	0
$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\cdots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\cdots$	$a_n$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-2}$	0

(table five)

*	0	$a_1$	$a_2$	$\cdots$	$a_i$	$a_{i+1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_n$
0	0	0	0	$\cdots$	0	0	$\cdots$	0	0	0	0
$a_1$	$a_1$	0	$a_1$	$\cdots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$\cdots$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$	$a_1$
$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	0	$\cdots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$\cdots$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$	$a_2$
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$\cdots$	0	$a_i$	$\cdots$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$	$a_i$
$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{i+1}$	0	$\cdots$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	$a_{i+1}$	0
$\vdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdots$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	$\cdots$	0	$a_{n-3}$	$a_{n-3}$	0
$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-2}$	$a_{n-2}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-2}$	0	$a_{n-2}$	0
$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	$\cdots$	$a_{n-1}$	$a_{n-1}$	0	0
$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\cdots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$\cdots$	$a_n$	$a_n$	$a_n$	0

(table six)

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