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Matt Valeriote* (matt@math.mcmaster.ca), 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4K1, Canada. *Congruence n -permutable varieties.*

It has been known for some time that if an idempotent variety V is congruence n -permutable for some $n > 1$ then V is not interpretable into the variety of distributive lattices. We show that the converse is true, by proving that if an idempotent variety V is not congruence n -permutable for any $n > 1$, then V contains a 2-element algebra with universe $\{0, 1\}$ whose operations are all monotone with respect to the ordering $0 < 1$. We will also discuss other characterizations of congruence n -permutable varieties.

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