Contextuality in logical form



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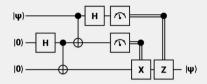


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Introduction

Motivation





Quantum Foundations

Quantum Computer Science



Mathematics of Quantum Structures

What is the informatic advantage afforded by quantum resources?

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- ▶ What phenomena distinguish quantum mechanics from classical physical theories?

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- ▶ What phenomena distinguish quantum mechanics from classical physical theories?
- ▶ What structures are useful to reason about quantum systems?

From quantum foundations to quantum technologies

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2022



'for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science'

Contextuality and quantum advantage

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Measurement-based quantum computation (MBQC)

'Contextuality in measurement-based quantum computation' Raussendorf, Physical Review A, 2013.

'Contextual fraction as a measure of contextuality' Abramsky, B, Mansfield, Physical Review Letters, 2017.

Magic state distillation

'Contextuality supplies the 'magic' for quantum computation' Howard, Wallman, Veitch, Emerson, Nature, 2014.

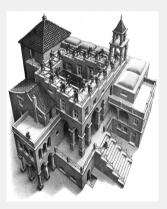
Shallow circuits

'Quantum advantage with shallow circuits' Bravyi, Gossett, Koenig, Science, 2018.

'A generalised construction of quantum advantage with shallow circuits' Aasnæss, DPhil thesis, 2022.

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M. C. Escher, Ascending and Descending

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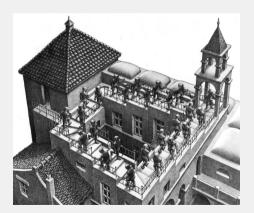






Local consistency

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Local consistency but Global inconsistency

- partial Boolean algebras (Kochen & Specker, 1965)
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 - ▶ Key role in many instances of quantum computational advantage
- Duality between CABA and Set (Tarski, 1935)
 - Simplest of dualities relating algebra and topology
 - In logic, between syntax and semantics

The logic of quantum theory

John von Neumann (1932), 'Mathematische Grundlagen der Quantenmechanik'.



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- > Quantum properties or propositions are **projectors** (dichotomic measurements):

$$p: \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}$$
 s.t. $p = p^{\dagger} = p^2$

which correspond to closed subspaces of \mathcal{H} .



From states to properties



I would like to make a confession which may seem immoral: I do not believe absolutely in Hilbert space any more. After all, Hilbert space (as far as quantum mechanical things are concerned) was obtained by generalizing Euclidean space, footing on the principle of 'conserving the validity of all formal rules' [...]. Now we begin to believe that it is not the vectors which matter, but the lattice of all linear (closed) subspaces. Because: 1) The vectors ought to represent the physical states, but they do it redundantly, up to a complex factor, only 2) and besides, the states are merely a derived notion, the primitive (phenomenologically given) notion being the qualities which correspond to the linear closed subspaces [von Neumann (1935) as quoted in Birkhoff (1966)]

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- ► Distributivity fails: $p \land (q \lor r) \neq (p \land q) \lor (p \land r)$.
- Taking the phenomenological requirement seriously: in QM, only commuting measurements can be performed together.

So, what is the operational meaning of $p \land q$, when p and q **do not commute**?

An alternative approach

Kochen & Specker (1965), 'The problem of hidden variables in quantum mechanics'.



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Kochen (2015), 'A reconstruction of quantum mechanics'.

▶ Kochen develops a large part of foundations of quantum theory in this framework.

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- When A, B, C with C = AB are jointly measured on any quantum state, the observed outcomes a, b, c satisfy c = ab.
- ▶ More generally, for $A_1, ..., A_n$ pairwise commuting and any Borel $f : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$, then $f(A_1, ..., A_n)$ commutes with all A_i and eigenvalues satisty the same functional relation.



Boolean algebras

- Boolean algebra $\langle A, 0, 1, \neg, \lor, \land \rangle$:
- ▶ a set A
- ▶ constants $0, 1 \in A$
- ▶ a unary operation $\neg : A \longrightarrow A$
- \blacktriangleright binary operations $\lor, \land: A^2 \longrightarrow A$

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satisfying the usual axioms: $\langle A, \lor, 0 \rangle$ and $\langle A, \land, 1 \rangle$ are commutative monoids, \lor and \land distribute over each other, $a \lor \neg a = 1$ and $a \land \neg a = 0$.

E.g.: $\langle \mathcal{P}(X), \varnothing, X, \cup, \cap \rangle$, in particular $\mathbf{2} = \{0, 1\} \cong \mathcal{P}(\{\star\})$.

▶ a set A

- ► a reflexive, symmetric binary relation \odot on A, read commeasurability or compatibility
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Morphisms of pBAs are maps preserving commeasurability, and the operations wherever defined. This gives the category **pBA**.

A more concrete formulation of the defining axioms is:

▶ operations preserve commeasurability: for each *n*-ary operation *f*,

$$\frac{a_1 \odot c, \ \dots, \ a_n \odot c}{f(a_1, \dots, a_n) \odot c}$$

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▶ for any triple *a*, *b*, *c* of pairwise-commeasurable elements, the axioms of Boolean algebra are satisfied, e.g.

$$\frac{a \odot b}{a \land b = b \land a} \qquad \frac{a \odot b, \ a \odot c, \ b \odot c}{a \land (b \lor c) = (a \land b) \lor (a \land c)}$$

Kochen & Specker (1965).



Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space with dim $\mathcal{H} \geq 3$, and P(\mathcal{H}) its pBA of projectors.

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No assignment of truth values to all propositions which respects logical operations on jointly testable propositions.

Let *A* be a partial Boolean algebra. The following are equivalent:

- 1. A has the K-S property, i.e. it has no morphism to **2**.
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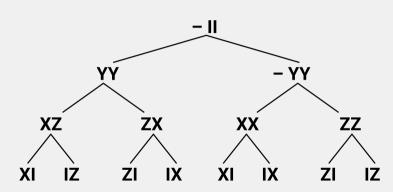
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Quantum realisation

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 $\langle \{0,1\},\oplus\rangle \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \langle \{1,-1\},\cdot\rangle$

The mirror of mathematics

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Locally compact Hausdorff spaces

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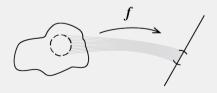
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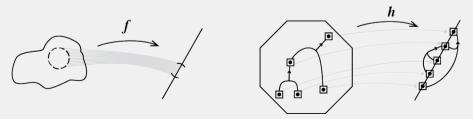
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Here, I mean **commutativity** in a loose, informal sense. For lattices, this would be **distributivity** (think: idempotents of a ring).

Reyes (2012)



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'What is proved by impossibility proofs is lack of imagination.' – John S. Bell



Summary of results

Duality for partial CABAs: key idea

- Replace sets by certain graphs.
- ▶ Vertices are possible worlds of maximal information.
- Adjacency represents **exclusivity**.
- ▶ It generalises \neq , thus sets embed as **complete graphs**.
- ▶ These exclusivity graphs are the 'non-commutative' spaces in this duality.

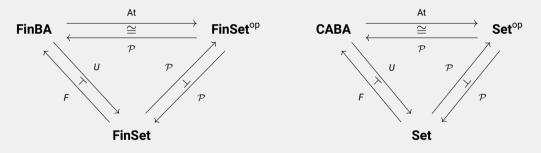
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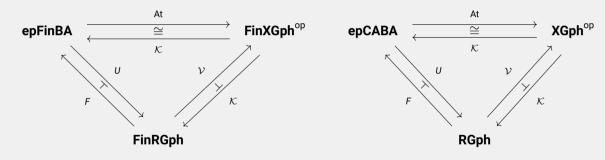
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- The partial algebra is reconstructed as equivalence classes of cliques, or double-neighbourhood closures of cliques.
- Morphisms of exclusivity graphs are certain relations, generalising functional ones from Tarski duality.





Partial Tarski duality



Recap: Tarski duality

Partial order

Let A be a Boolean algebra.

Definition For $a, b \in A$, we write $a \le b$ when one (hence all) of the following equivalent conditions hold:

- a ∧ b = a
 a ∨ b = b
 a ∧ ¬b = 0
- ¬a ∨ b = 1

 \leq is a partial order.

It determines A as a Boolean algebra: e.g. \lor (resp. \land) is supremum (resp. infimum) wrt \leq .

CABAs

Definition (Complete Boolean algebra)

A Boolean algebra A is said to be **complete** if any subset of elements $S \subseteq A$ has a supremum $\bigvee S$ in A (and consequently an infimum $\bigwedge S$, too). It thus has additional operations

$$\bigwedge,\bigvee:\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A})\longrightarrow\mathcal{A}$$
.

Definition (Atomic Boolean algebra)

An **atom** of a Boolean algebra is a minimal non-zero element, i.e. an element $x \neq 0$ such that $a \leq x$ implies a = 0 or a = x.

A Boolean algebra A is called **atomic** if every non-zero element sits above an atom, i.e. for all $a \in A$ with $a \neq 0$ there is an atom x with $x \leq a$.

A CABA is a complete, atomic Boolean algebra.

CABAs

Example

Any finite Boolean algebra is trivially a CABA.

The powerset $\mathcal{P}(X)$ of an arbitrary set X is a CABA.

completeness: closed under arbitrary unions

• atoms: singletons $\{x\}$ for $x \in X$

This is in fact the 'only' (up to iso) example.

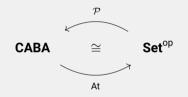
Proposition

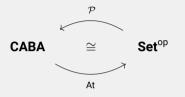
In a CABA, every element is the join of the atoms below it:

$$a = \bigvee U_a \quad$$
 where $U_a := \{x \in A \mid x ext{ is an atom and } x \leq a\}$.

Proof.

Suppose $a \not\leq \bigvee U_a$, i.e. $a \land \neg \lor U_a \neq 0$. Atomicity implies there's an atom $x \leq a \land \neg \lor U_a$. On the one hand, $x \leq \neg \lor U_a$. On the other, $x \leq a$, i.e. $x \in U_a$, hence $x \leq \lor U_a$. Hence x = 0. \notin





- $\mathcal{P}: \textbf{Set}^{op} \longrightarrow \textbf{CABA}$ is the contravariant powerset functor:
- on objects: a set X is mapped to its powerset $\mathcal{P}X$ (a CABA).
- on morphisms: a function $f: X \longrightarrow Y$ yields a complete Boolean algebra homomorphism

$$\mathcal{P}(f): \mathcal{P}(Y) \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$$
$$(T \subseteq Y) \longmapsto f^{-1}(T) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in T\}$$



At : **CABA**^{op} \longrightarrow **Set** is defined as follows:

- on objects: a CABA A is mapped to its set of atoms.
- ▶ on morphisms: a complete Boolean homomorphism $h : A \longrightarrow B$ yields a function

 $\operatorname{At}(h) : \operatorname{At}(B) \longrightarrow \operatorname{At}(A)$

mapping an atom *y* of *B* to the unique atom *x* of *A* such that $y \le h(x)$.



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Lemma Let $h : A \longrightarrow B$ in **CABA**. For all $y \in At(A)$, there is a unique $x \in At(A)$ with $y \le h(x)$.

Proof. Facts about atoms in any BA:

- If $x \neq x'$ are atoms, then $x \wedge_A x' = 0$.
- ▶ If *x* is an atom and $x \leq \bigvee S$, there is $a \in S$ with $x \leq a$.

Existence

A complete atomic implies $1_A = \bigvee At(A)$. Hence,

$$1_B = h(1_A) = h(\bigvee \mathsf{At}(A)) = \bigvee \{h(x) \mid x \in \mathsf{At}(A)\}$$

Since $y \leq 1_B$, we conclude $y \leq h(x)$ for some $x \in At(A)$.

Uniqueness

If $y \leq h(x)$ and $y \leq h(x')$, then $y \leq h(x) \wedge_B h(x') = h(x \wedge x')$, hence x = x'.

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▶ Given a CABA *A*, the isomorphism $A \cong \mathcal{P}(At(A))$ maps $a \in A$ to the set of elements

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▶ Given a set X, the bijection $X \cong At(\mathcal{P}(X))$ maps $x \in X$ to the singleton $\{x\}$, which is an atom of $\mathcal{P}(X)$.

A possible world is identified with its characteristic property (which fully determines it).

Transitive partial CABAs

Let A be a partial Boolean algebra.

For $a, b \in A$, we write $a \leq b$ to mean $a \odot b$ and $a \land b = a$.

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- But in a general partial Boolean algebra, there may be exclusive events that are not commeasurable (and for which, therefore, the ∧ operation is not defined).

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Definition

A is said to satisfy the **logical exclusivity principle (LEP)** if any two elements that are logically exclusive are also commeasurable, i.e. if $\bot \subseteq \odot$.

Note that \leq is always reflexive and antisymmetric.

Definition A partial Boolean algebra is said to be **transitive** if $a \le b$ and $b \le c$ implies $a \le c$, i.e. \le is (globally) a partial order on A.

Proposition A partial Boolean algebra satisfies LEP if and only if it is transitive.

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Proposition A partial Boolean algebra satisfies LEP if and only if it is transitive.

We restrict atention to partial Boolean algebras satisfying LEP in this talk.

Theorem

The category **epBA** of partial Boolean algebras satisfying LEP is a reflective subcategory of **pBA**, i.e. the inclusion functor $I : epBA \longrightarrow pBA$ has a left adjoint $X : pBA \longrightarrow epBA$.

Partial CABAs

Definition (partial complete BA)

A partial complete Boolean algebra is a pBA with an additional (partial) operation

$$\bigvee: \bigcirc \longrightarrow A$$

satisfying the following property: any set $S \in \bigcirc$ is contained in a set $T \in \bigcirc$ which forms a complete Boolean algebra under the restriction of the operations.

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Partial CABAs from their graphs of atoms

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A graph (X, #) is a set equipped with a symmetric irreflexive relation.

Elements of X are called vertices, while unordered pairs $\{x, y\}$ with x # y are called edges.

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Given a vertex $x \in X$ and sets of vertices $S, T \subset X$, we write:

- x # S when for all $y \in S$, x # y;
- ▶ S # T when for all $x \in S$ and $y \in T$, x # y;
- ▶ $x^{\#} := \{y \in X \mid y \# x\}$ for the neighbourhood of the vertex *x*;
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A clique is a set of pairwise-adjacent vertices, i.e. a set $K \subset X$ with $x \# K \setminus \{x\}$ for all $x \in K$.

Definition (Graph of atoms)

The **graph of atoms** of a partial Boolean algebra *A*, denoted At(*A*), has as vertices the atoms of *A* and an edge between atoms *x* and *x'* if and only if $x \odot x'$ and $x \land x' = 0$.

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Recall that in a CABA, any element is uniquely written as a join of atoms, viz. $a = \bigvee U_a$ with

$$U_a := \{x \in \operatorname{At}(A) \mid x \leq a\}$$

In a pBA, U_a may not be pairwise commeasurable, hence their join need not even be defined.

Proposition Let A be a transitive partial CABA. For any element $a \in A$, it holds that $a = \bigvee K$ for any clique K of At(A) which is maximal in U_a .

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Proof. Let $a \in A$ and K be a clique of At(A) maximal in U_a .

Being a clique in At(A), $K \in \bigcirc$ and thus $\bigvee K$ is defined.

Since $K \subset U_a$, all $k \in K$ satisfy $k \le a$ and in particular $k \odot a$. Hence, $K \cup \{a\} \in \bigcirc$, implying that it is contained in a complete Boolean subalgebra. Consequently, $\bigvee K \le a$.

Now, suppose $a \leq \bigvee K$, i.e. $a \land \neg \bigvee K \neq 0$. Then atomicity implies there is an atom $x \leq a \land \neg \bigvee K$. By transitivity, $x \leq a$ and $x \leq \neg k$ (hence $x \perp k$) for all $k \in K$. This makes $K \cup \{x\}$ a clique of atoms contained in U_a , contradicting maximality of K.

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The key to reconstructing a partial CABA from its atoms lies in characterising such equalities,

Proposition Let K and L be cliques in At(A). Then $\bigvee K \leq \bigvee L$ iff $L^{\#} \subseteq K^{\#}$ iff $K \subseteq L^{\#\#}$. Corollary

 $\bigvee K = \bigvee \tilde{L} \text{ iff } K^{\#} = L^{\#}.$

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We can describe the algebraic structure of a partial CABA A from its graph of atoms:

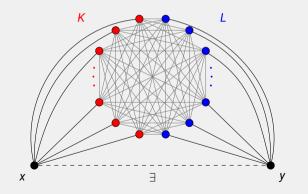
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Which conditions on a graph (X, #) allow for such reconstruction?

Definition

An **exclusivity graph** is a graph (X, #) such that for K, L cliques and $x, y \in X$:

- 1. If $K \sqcup L$ is a maximal clique, then $K^{\#} \# L^{\#}$, i.e. x # K and y # L implies x # y.
- 2. $x^{\#} \subseteq y^{\#}$ implies x = y.



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A helpful intuition is to see these as generalising sets with a \neq relation (the complete graph).

- A graph is symmetric and irreflexive.
- To be an inequivalence relation, we need cotransitivity: x # z implies x # y or x # z.

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- A graph is symmetric and irreflexive.
- ▶ To be an inequivalence relation, we need cotransitivity: x # z implies x # y or x # z.
- Condition 1 is a weaker version of cotransitivity.
- ▶ Condition 2 eliminates redundant elements: cotransitive + 2 imply \neq .

Graph of atoms is an exclusivity graph

Proposition

Let A be a partial Boolean algebra. Then At(A) is a exclusivity graph.

Proof.

Let $K, L \subset X$ such that $K \sqcup L$ is a maximal clique, and let x, y be atoms of A.

Write $c := \bigvee K = \neg \bigvee L$.

x # K means $x \leq \neg \bigvee K = \neg c$ and x # L means $y \leq \neg \bigvee L = c$.

By transitivity, we conclude that $x \odot y$, hence $x \perp y$.

Proposition Let K, L be cliques in an exclusivity graph. The following are equivalent:

- ▶ [K] \odot [L], i.e. there exist K', L' with K' \equiv K and L' \equiv L such that K' \cup L' is a clique.
- ▶ The four sets

$$K^{\#\#} \cap L^{\#\#}, \quad K^{\#\#} \cap L^{\#}, \quad K^{\#} \cap L^{\#\#}, \quad K^{\#} \cap L^{\#},$$

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Choose maximal cliques

 $M_{11} \subset K^{\#\#} \cap L^{\#\#}, \quad M_{10} \subset K^{\#\#} \cap L^{\#}, \quad M_{01} \subset K^{\#} \cap L^{\#\#}, \quad M_{00} \subset K^{\#} \cap L^{\#},$

and set

$$[K] \wedge [L] := [M_{11}]$$
 and $[K] \vee [L] := [M_{11} \cup M_{10} \cup M_{11}]$.

Proposition Let K, L, M be cliques in an exclusivity graph with $[K] \odot [L], [K] \odot [M], [L] \odot [M]$. The eight sets

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Proposition

Let $\{K_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a set of cliques in an exclusivity graph whose equivalence classes are pairwise commeasurable. The sets

$$\bigcap_{i \in I} \mathcal{K}_i^{\Box_i}$$
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Morphisms

What about morphisms?

Definition A morphism $(X, \#) \longrightarrow (Y, \#)$ is a relation $R : X \longrightarrow Y$ satisfying:

- 1. x R y, x' R y', and y # y' implies x # x'
- 2. if K is a maximal clique in Y, $R^{-1}(K)$ contains a maximal clique.
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For complete graphs:

- 1. *xRy*, *x'Ry'*, and $y \neq y'$ implies $x \neq x'$, i.e. x = x' implies y = y'. (functional)
- 2. $R^{-1}(Y) = X$. (left-total)
- 3. trivialises.

Morphisms of exclusivity graphs and pCABA homomorphisms

Proposition

Let A and B be transitive partial CABAs. Given $h : A \longrightarrow B$ a partial complete Boolean algebra homomorphism, the relation $R_h : At(B) \longrightarrow At(A)$ given by

$$xR_hy$$
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Let X and Y be exclusivity graphs. Given $R : X \longrightarrow Y$ a morphism of exclusivity graphs, the function $h_R : \mathcal{K}(Y) \longrightarrow \mathcal{K}(X)$ given by $h_R([K]) := [L]$ where L is any clique maximal in $R^{-1}(K)$ is a well-defined partial CABA homomorphism.

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Proposition

For any A and B be transitive partial CABAs, $epCABA(A, B) \cong XGph(At(B), At(A))$.

Revisiting contextuality

Global points

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- i.e. a subset of atoms of A satisfying:
- 1. it is an independent (or stable) set
- 2. it is a maximal clique transversal, i.e. it has a vertex in each maximal clique

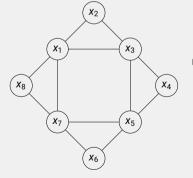
Outlook

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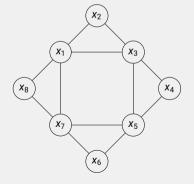
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▶ However, not all #-closed sets are $K^{\#\#}$ for some clique K.

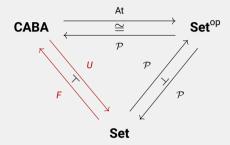
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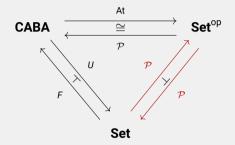
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Can we characterise which ##-closed sets arise from cliques?

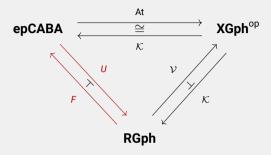
Free-forgetful adjunction for CABAs

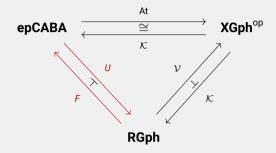


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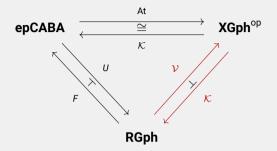


- ▶ Under the duality, it corresponds to the contravariant powerset self-adjunction.
- It gives the construction of the free CABA as a double powerset.

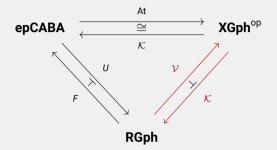




• Universe of a pCABA is a reflexive (compability) graph $\langle A, \odot \rangle$

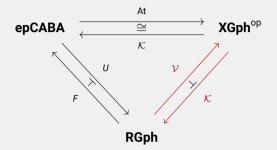


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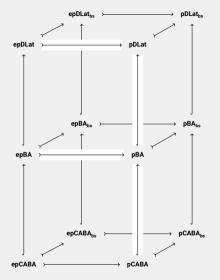
Can we give a concrete construction of the free CABA?

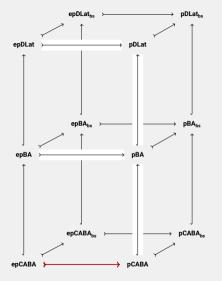


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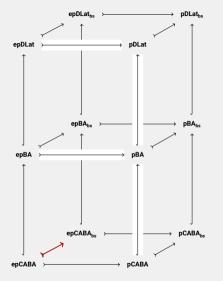
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▶ First attempt: Given $\langle P, \odot \rangle$ build a graph with vertices $\langle C, \gamma : C \longrightarrow \{0, 1\} \rangle$ where *C* maximal compatible set, and edges $\langle C, \gamma \rangle \# \langle D, \delta \rangle$ iff $\exists x \in C \cap D$. $\gamma(x) \neq \delta(x)$.

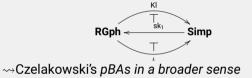


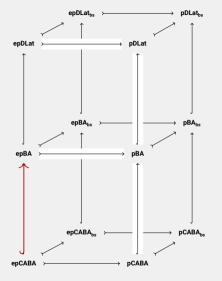


Drop transitivity / LEP

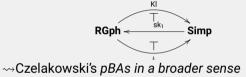


- Drop transitivity / LEP
- Relax binary to simplicial compatibility

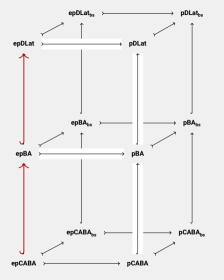




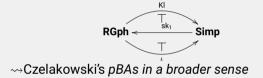
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 Dropping completeness and atomicity (e.g. P(A) for vN algebra A with factor not of type I)

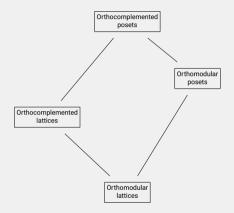


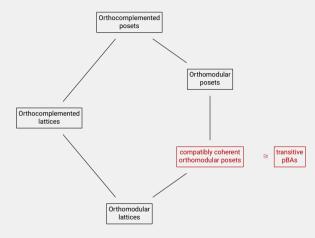
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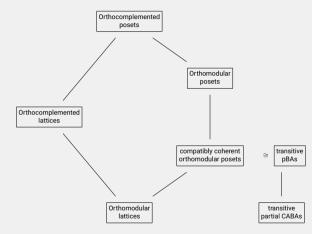
 Dropping completeness and atomicity (e.g. P(A) for vN algebra A with factor not of type I)

→ analogues of Stone, Priestley, . . . Stone's motto: 'always topologise' – but how?

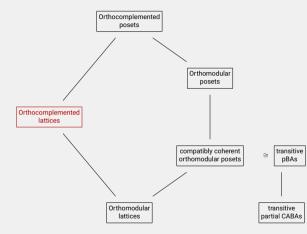




(Gudder, 1972)

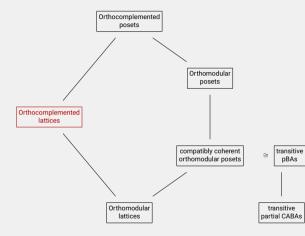


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Stone representation for OLs (Goldblatt, 1975)

- related to our construction
- all graphs, all nhood-regular sets
- nothing on morphisms

Towards noncommutative dualities?

Can one find a more encompassing duality theory for 'noncommutative' or 'quantum' structures by viewing them through multiple partial classical snapshots?



Thank you for your attention!

Questions...

