

# REGULAR HEYTING ALGEBRAS AND FREE HEYTING EXTENSIONS OF BOOLEAN ALGEBRAS

---

Rodrigo Nicolau Almeida – ILLC-UvA

Friday 4, 2025

1. A familiar chain of adjunctions between Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras.

1. A familiar chain of adjunctions between Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras.
2. How to study this adjunction using duality.

1. A familiar chain of adjunctions between Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras.
2. How to study this adjunction using duality.
3. Regular Heyting algebras and Inquisitive logic.

1. A familiar chain of adjunctions between Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras.
2. How to study this adjunction using duality.
3. Regular Heyting algebras and Inquisitive logic.
4. Some connections with Medvedev's logic.

## Heyting Algebras and Boolean algebras

---

## Definition

An algebra  $(H, \wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, 0, 1)$  is called a *Heyting algebra* if:

1.  $(H, \wedge, \vee, 0, 1)$  is a (distributive) lattice.
2. The following law holds for all  $a, b, c \in H$ :

$$a \wedge c \leq b \iff c \leq a \rightarrow b.$$

We write  $\neg a := a \rightarrow 0$ . It is called a *Boolean algebra* if it satisfies:

$$\forall a \in H (a \vee \neg a = 1) \text{ or } \forall a \in H (\neg \neg a = a).$$

- **HA** – category of Heyting algebras with Heyting algebra homomorphisms.
- **BA** – (full sub)category of Boolean algebras with Boolean algebra homomorphisms.

The **double negation translation** of classical logic into intuitionistic logic:

## Definition

Given  $\phi \in \mathcal{L}_{CPC}$  we define the **double negation translation** into  $\mathcal{L}_{IPC}$ , as follows:

1.  $K(p) = \neg\neg p$  and  $K(\perp) = \perp$ ;
2.  $K(\phi \wedge \psi) = K(\phi) \wedge K(\psi)$ ;
3.  $K(\neg\phi) = \neg K(\phi)$ .



The **double negation translation** of classical logic into intuitionistic logic:

## Definition

Given  $\phi \in \mathcal{L}_{CPC}$  we define the **double negation translation** into  $\mathcal{L}_{IPC}$ , as follows:

1.  $K(p) = \neg\neg p$  and  $K(\perp) = \perp$ ;
2.  $K(\phi \wedge \psi) = K(\phi) \wedge K(\psi)$ ;
3.  $K(\neg\phi) = \neg K(\phi)$ .

## Theorem (Glivenko, 1929)

For every formula  $\phi$ ,  $\phi \in CPC$  if and only if  $K(\phi) \in IPC$ .

Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras are connected in many ways:

1. Center :  $\mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA subalgebra  $\{a : a \vee \neg a = 1\}$ .

Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras are connected in many ways:

1.  $\text{Center} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA subalgebra  $\{a : a \vee \neg a = 1\}$ .
2.  $I : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$  is the inclusion;

Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras are connected in many ways:

1.  $\text{Center} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA subalgebra  $\{a : a \vee \neg a = 1\}$ .
2.  $I : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$  is the inclusion;
3.  $\text{Reg} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA homomorphic image  $\{a : \neg\neg a = a\}$ .

Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras are connected in many ways:

1.  $\text{Center} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA subalgebra  $\{a : a \vee \neg a = 1\}$ .
2.  $I : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$  is the inclusion;
3.  $\text{Reg} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA homomorphic image  $\{a : \neg\neg a = a\}$ .

$\text{Reg}$  as a functor **encapsulates the double negation translation**.

Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras are connected in many ways:

1.  $\text{Center} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA subalgebra  $\{a : a \vee \neg a = 1\}$ .
2.  $I : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$  is the inclusion;
3.  $\text{Reg} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA homomorphic image  $\{a : \neg\neg a = a\}$ .

Reg as a functor **encapsulates the double negation translation**.

Translations like the above correspond to *adjunctions* in the class of algebras; Reg is a **right adjoint** to a functor  $F : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$ .

Heyting algebras and Boolean algebras are connected in many ways:

1.  $\text{Center} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA subalgebra  $\{a : a \vee \neg a = 1\}$ .
2.  $I : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$  is the inclusion;
3.  $\text{Reg} : \mathbf{HA} \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$  extracts from  $H$  the BA homomorphic image  $\{a : \neg\neg a = a\}$ .

$\text{Reg}$  as a functor **encapsulates the double negation translation**.

Translations like the above correspond to *adjunctions* in the class of algebras;  $\text{Reg}$  is a **right adjoint** to a functor  $F : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$ .

But **who is  $F$ ?**

Tur and Vidal (2008) proved this functor to be fully faithful; in (A. 2023), this was studied from the point of view of a theory of translations, where a different syntactic proof was given. But the specific action of the functor was not described.



Tur and Vidal (2008) proved this functor to be fully faithful; in (A. 2023), this was studied from the point of view of a theory of translations, where a different syntactic proof was given. But the specific action of the functor was not described.

Our goal:

1. To use a **step-by-step construction** to show that this functor is connected with so called “Regular Heyting Algebras”;
2. To derive from that some consequences for **Inquisitive Logic** and **Medvedev’s Logic**.

Tur and Vidal (2008) proved this functor to be fully faithful; in (A. 2023), this was studied from the point of view of a theory of translations, where a different syntactic proof was given. But the specific action of the functor was not described.

Our goal:

1. To use a **step-by-step construction** to show that this functor is connected with so called “Regular Heyting Algebras”;
2. To derive from that some consequences for **Inquisitive Logic** and **Medvedev’s Logic**.

No shocking results: mostly **categorical housekeeping**, with some logical consequences.

## Heyting Extensions and Esakiafication of Stone Spaces

---

Our main tool will be the duality between Heyting algebras and **Esakia spaces**:

**Definition**

An ordered topological space  $(X, \leq, \tau)$  is said to be a **Priestley space** if:

1.  $(X, \tau)$  is compact;
2. Whenever  $x \not\leq y$  there is a clopen upwards-closed set  $U$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $y \notin U$ ;

A Priestley space is called an **Esakia space** if:

3. Whenever  $U$  is a clopen set,  $\downarrow U = \{x \in X : \exists y \in U, x \leq y\}$  is clopen.

Our main tool will be the duality between Heyting algebras and **Esakia spaces**:

## Definition

An ordered topological space  $(X, \leq, \tau)$  is said to be a **Priestley space** if:

1.  $(X, \tau)$  is compact;
2. Whenever  $x \not\leq y$  there is a clopen upwards-closed set  $U$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $y \notin U$ ;

A Priestley space is called an **Esakia space** if:

3. Whenever  $U$  is a clopen set,  $\downarrow U = \{x \in X : \exists y \in U, x \leq y\}$  is clopen.

A continuous map  $p : X \rightarrow Y$  between Esakia spaces is said to be a *p-morphism* if it is order-preserving, and whenever  $p(x) \leq y$ , there is some  $x' \geq x$  and  $p(x') = y$ .

Our main tool will be the duality between Heyting algebras and **Esakia spaces**:

## Definition

An ordered topological space  $(X, \leq, \tau)$  is said to be a **Priestley space** if:

1.  $(X, \tau)$  is compact;
2. Whenever  $x \not\leq y$  there is a clopen upwards-closed set  $U$  such that  $x \in U$  and  $y \notin U$ ;

A Priestley space is called an **Esakia space** if:

3. Whenever  $U$  is a clopen set,  $\downarrow U = \{x \in X : \exists y \in U, x \leq y\}$  is clopen.

A continuous map  $p : X \rightarrow Y$  between Esakia spaces is said to be a *p-morphism* if it is order-preserving, and whenever  $p(x) \leq y$ , there is some  $x' \geq x$  and  $p(x') = y$ .

## Theorem

*There is a categorical equivalence between  $\mathbf{HA}^{op}$  and the category **Esa** of Esakia spaces and *p*-morphisms, which restricts to the Stone duality of  $\mathbf{BA}^{op}$  and **Stone**.*

To describe  $F : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$ , we can instead describe a dual functor  $M : \mathbf{Stone} \rightarrow \mathbf{Esa}$  which is adjoint to  $\text{Max} : \mathbf{Esa} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stone}$  (the **dual functor** to  $\text{Reg}$ ).

To describe  $F : \mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \mathbf{HA}$ , we can instead describe a dual functor  $M : \mathbf{Stone} \rightarrow \mathbf{Esa}$  which is adjoint to  $\text{Max} : \mathbf{Esa} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stone}$  (the **dual functor** to  $\text{Reg}$ ).

This amounts to the following:

$$\text{max} X \xrightarrow{f} Y$$

$$X \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} M(Y)$$

Figure 1: Adjunction Property



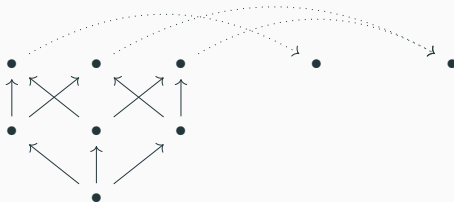


Figure 2: Example of the Problem

Bezhanishvili, Grilleti and Holliday (2019) studied a similar situation, and they provide an extension which is at least necessary.

Bezhanishvili, Grilleti and Holliday (2019) studied a similar situation, and they provide an extension which is at least necessary.

**Definition**

Given a Priestley space  $(X, \leq)$  let  $V(X)$  be the set of closed subsets with the Vietoris topology.

Bezhanishvili, Grilleti and Holliday (2019) studied a similar situation, and they provide an extension which is at least necessary.

## Definition

Given a Priestley space  $(X, \leq)$  let  $V(X)$  be the set of closed subsets with the Vietoris topology.

Then:

## Proposition

If  $(X, \leq)$  is a Priestley space then:

1.  $(V(X), \supseteq)$  is an Esakia space;
2. If  $X$  is an Esakia space and  $Y$  is a Stone space, and  $f : \mathbf{max}(X) \rightarrow Y$  is a continuous map, there is a unique order-preserving map  $\tilde{f} : X \rightarrow V(Y)$ , a  $p$ -morphism on maximal elements, which agrees on  $f$ .

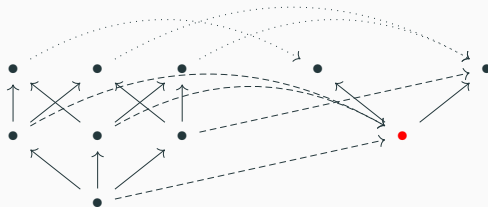


Figure 3: Back to the Example

This does not give us an adjunction because  $\tilde{f}$  need not be a p-morphism. But this situation can be fixed, at a certain cost.

This does not give us an adjunction because  $\tilde{f}$  need not be a p-morphism. But this situation can be fixed, at a certain cost.

**Definition**

Given two Priestley spaces  $X, Y$  and a continuous and order-preserving map  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  between them, we say that a subset  $S \subseteq X$  is *g-open* if it satisfies:

$$\forall x \in S, y \in X (x \leq y \rightarrow \exists z \in S (x \leq z \wedge g(z) = g(y))).$$

We denote by  $V_g(X)$  the set of closed, rooted and *g-open* subsets of  $X$ .

This does not give us an adjunction because  $\tilde{f}$  need not be a p-morphism. But this situation can be fixed, at a certain cost.

**Definition**

Given two Priestley spaces  $X, Y$  and a continuous and order-preserving map  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  between them, we say that a subset  $S \subseteq X$  is *g-open* if it satisfies:

$$\forall x \in S, y \in X (x \leq y \rightarrow \exists z \in S (x \leq z \wedge g(z) = g(y))).$$

We denote by  $V_g(X)$  the set of closed, rooted and *g-open* subsets of  $X$ .



Note that if  $Y = \{\bullet\}$ , and  $g$  is the terminal map,  $V_g(X)$  is the set of all closed and rooted subsets, which we denote by  $V_r(X)$ . Recall that there is a map called the *root map*  $r : V_g(X) \rightarrow X$  which is a surjective order preserving map.

Note that if  $Y = \{\bullet\}$ , and  $g$  is the terminal map,  $V_g(X)$  is the set of all closed and rooted subsets, which we denote by  $V_r(X)$ . Recall that there is a map called the *root map*  $r : V_g(X) \rightarrow X$  which is a surjective order preserving map.

### Proposition

Let  $Y$  be a Stone space and let  $V_{\max}(Y) = \{C \in V_r(V(Y)) : \forall D \in C, \forall x \in D, \{x\} \in C\}$ . Then  $V_{\max}(Y)$  is a Priestley space, and the restriction  $r : V_{\max}(Y) \rightarrow V(Y)$  is such that for any map  $f : \mathbf{max} X \rightarrow Y$ , and its unique lifting  $\tilde{f} : X \rightarrow V(Y)$ , there is a unique  $r$ -open  $g_f : X \rightarrow V_{\max}(Y)$  making the diagram commute.

Let  $M_\infty(Y) = V_G^r(V_{\max}(Y))$ . The latter is constructed as follows: we consider the following sequence:

$$V(Y) \xleftarrow{r_1} V_{\max}(Y) \xleftarrow{r_2} V_2(Y) \xleftarrow{r_3} \dots$$

where  $V_{n+1}(Y) = V_{r_n}(V_n(Y))$ , and  $r_{n+1} : V_{n+1}(Y) \rightarrow V_n(Y)$  is the root map. Then  $V_G^r(V_{\max}(Y))$  is the inverse limit of this sequence.

Let  $M_\infty(Y) = V_G^r(V_{\max}(Y))$ . The latter is constructed as follows: we consider the following sequence:

$$V(Y) \xleftarrow{r_1} V_{\max}(Y) \xleftarrow{r_2} V_2(Y) \xleftarrow{r_3} \dots$$

where  $V_{n+1}(Y) = V_{r_n}(V_n(Y))$ , and  $r_{n+1} : V_{n+1}(Y) \rightarrow V_n(Y)$  is the root map. Then  $V_G^r(V_{\max}(Y))$  is the inverse limit of this sequence.

$M_\infty(Y)$  is then an Esakia space, with the property that  $\mathbf{max}(M_\infty(Y)) \cong Y$  through a natural isomorphism; moreover this assignment is functorial by using the functoriality of  $V(-)$ ,  $V_{\max}(-)$  and  $V_G^r(-)$ .

Let  $M_\infty(Y) = V_G^r(V_{\max}(Y))$ . The latter is constructed as follows: we consider the following sequence:

$$V(Y) \xleftarrow{r_1} V_{\max}(Y) \xleftarrow{r_2} V_2(Y) \xleftarrow{r_3} \dots$$

where  $V_{n+1}(Y) = V_{r_n}(V_n(Y))$ , and  $r_{n+1} : V_{n+1}(Y) \rightarrow V_n(Y)$  is the root map. Then  $V_G^r(V_{\max}(Y))$  is the inverse limit of this sequence.

$M_\infty(Y)$  is then an Esakia space, with the property that  $\mathbf{max}(M_\infty(Y)) \cong Y$  through a natural isomorphism; moreover this assignment is functorial by using the functoriality of  $V(-)$ ,  $V_{\max}(-)$  and  $V_G^r(-)$ .

### Proposition

*The functor  $\mathbf{FreeM} : \mathbf{Stone} \rightarrow \mathbf{Esa}$  assigning each Stone space  $X$  to  $M_\infty(X)$  is right adjoint to  $\mathbf{max} : \mathbf{Esa} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stone}$ .*

## Inquisitive Logic and Regular Heyting Algebras

---

**Inquisitive Logic** was introduced to study questions. In the work of Ciardelli, this has been revealed to have intimate ties to intuitionistic logic; in the view of Bezhanishvili, Grilletti and Quadrellaro (2019), inquisitive logic can be seen as a non-standard logic extending intuitionistic logic.

**Inquisitive Logic** was introduced to study questions. In the work of Ciardelli, this has been revealed to have intimate ties to intuitionistic logic; in the view of Bezhanishvili, Grilletti and Quadrellaro (2019), inquisitive logic can be seen as a non-standard logic extending intuitionistic logic.

In the work above, algebraic semantics are given for inquisitive logic in the form of **regular Heyting algebras**:

## Definition

Let  $H$  be a Heyting algebra. We say that  $H$  is *regular* if  $H = \langle \text{Reg}(H) \rangle$ . We say that an Esakia space  $X$  is regular, if its dual Heyting algebra is regular.



Given a Boolean algebra  $B$ , and its Stone space  $X_B$ , the algebra  $\text{CloUp}(V(X_B))$  has been studied as its *inquisitive extension*.

Given a Boolean algebra  $B$ , and its Stone space  $X_B$ , the algebra  $\text{CloUp}(V(X_B))$  has been studied as its *inquisitive extension*.

In Grilletti and Quadrellaro (2023) a study of regular Esakia spaces was carried out. One of the questions left there is whether one can describe this class in some categorically natural way. Our main result, following from the above analysis, gives an answer:

**Theorem**

*Given a Stone space  $X$ ,  $M_\infty(X)$  is always a regular Esakia space, and moreover, regular Esakia spaces are those spaces for which the unit of the adjunction is injective. The algebras for this monad are exactly the co-freely generated regular Esakia spaces.*

Given a Boolean algebra  $B$ , and its Stone space  $X_B$ , the algebra  $\text{CloUp}(V(X_B))$  has been studied as its *inquisitive extension*.

In Grilletti and Quadrellaro (2023) a study of regular Esakia spaces was carried out. One of the questions left there is whether one can describe this class in some categorically natural way. Our main result, following from the above analysis, gives an answer:

## Theorem

*Given a Stone space  $X$ ,  $M_\infty(X)$  is always a regular Esakia space, and moreover, regular Esakia spaces are those spaces for which the unit of the adjunction is injective. The algebras for this monad are exactly the co-freely generated regular Esakia spaces.*

**WARNING:** Do not get confused: these are algebras on the **dual side**, and coalgebras on the algebraic side.

The above categorical machinery makes it easy to adapt known tools to the study of inquisitive logic:

**Definition**

Given  $n \in \omega$  the *n-universal regular model* is the (unique) poset  $(\mathcal{R}_n, \leq)$  satisfying the following:

1.  $\max(P)$  contains  $2^n$  points.
2. For each antichain  $S \subseteq R_n$  where  $|S| \geq 1$ , there is a unique point  $x \in P$  which covers  $S$ .

The above categorical machinery makes it easy to adapt known tools to the study of inquisitive logic:

## Definition

Given  $n \in \omega$  the *n-universal regular model* is the (unique) poset  $(\mathcal{R}_n, \leq)$  satisfying the following:

1.  $\max(P)$  contains  $2^n$  points.
2. For each antichain  $S \subseteq R_n$  where  $|S| \geq 1$ , there is a unique point  $x \in P$  which covers  $S$ .

## Theorem

*Inquisitive logic InqL is sound and complete with respect to the class  $\{\mathcal{R}_n : n \in \omega\}$ .*

There is a similar adjunction to the one here described between **Set** and **ImFinPos** the category of image-finite posets with p-morphisms.

There is a similar adjunction to the one here described between **Set** and **ImFinPos** the category of image-finite posets with p-morphisms.

The functors in that case are:

1.  $\text{Con} : \mathbf{ImFinPos} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  the connected components functor;
2.  $I : \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{ImFinPos}$  the discretization functor;
3.  $\text{Max} : \mathbf{ImFinPos} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  the maximum functor;

There is a similar adjunction to the one here described between **Set** and **ImFinPos** the category of image-finite posets with p-morphisms.

The functors in that case are:

1.  $\text{Con} : \mathbf{ImFinPos} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  the connected components functor;
2.  $I : \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{ImFinPos}$  the discretization functor;
3.  $\text{Max} : \mathbf{ImFinPos} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  the maximum functor;

The universal regular model as given provides the discrete analogue of the right adjoint to  $\text{Max}$ .



## Definition

Let  $n \in \omega$ . We define  $R_n := \text{Log}(\{M_n(B) : B \text{ is a (finite) Boolean algebra}\})$ ,

where  $M_n(B)$  is the  $n$ -th step of the above step by step construction. Finiteness may be necessary: it is not obvious whether  $M_n(B)$  is always a Heyting algebra.

We finally bring the discussion to **Medvedev's Logic**.

**Definition**

Medvedev's logic  $\text{Med}$  is the logic of the frames:

$$\{V(X) : |X| = n, n \in \omega\}.$$

With some topological arguments, it is not difficult to show:

**Theorem**

*The logic  $\text{ML}$  is precisely the logic of all the spaces  $V(X)$  for  $X$  a Stone space; hence  $\text{ML} = \text{R}_0$ .*

It was shown by Grilletti and Quadrellaro (2023) that the logic of all  $n$ -regular algebras for any  $n$  is simply IPC. From this it easily follows that:

$$\text{IPC} = \bigcap_{n \in \omega} R_n.$$

One basic observation:

**Proposition**

*The logic  $R_1 \neq R_0$ .*

It would be interesting to know what the logics  $R_n$  yield, and how they can be axiomatized.

Thank you!  
Questions?