

1-13 Boolean Algebra

Hengfeng Wei

hfwei@nju.edu.cn

Feb. 25, 2020



Definition (Boolean Algebra)

A *boolean algebra* $\mathcal{B} = (B, \wedge, \vee, ', \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1})$ is a **bounded**, **complemented**, and **distributive** lattice.

$$\forall a, b, c \in B,$$

Idempotency:

Commutativity:

Associativity:

Absorption:

Complements:

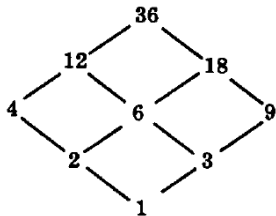
$$a \wedge a' = 0 \quad a \vee a' = 1$$

Distributivity:

$$a \wedge (b \vee c) = (a \wedge b) \vee (a \wedge c) \quad a \vee (b \wedge c) = (a \vee b) \wedge (a \vee c)$$

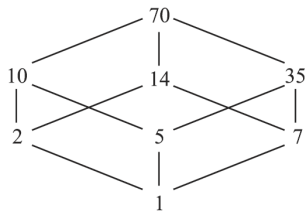
Problem 2: D_n

D_n is a boolean algebra if and only if $n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k$ for some k , where all p_i are distinct primes.



D_{36}

$$36 = 2^2 \times 3^2$$



D_{70}

$$70 = 2 \times 5 \times 7$$

D_n is a boolean algebra

$\implies D_n$ is a complemented distributive lattice

$\implies \forall x \in D_n : x$ has a complement

$\implies \forall x \in D_n : \exists y \in D_n : (x \wedge y = 0) \wedge (x \vee y = 1)$

$\implies \forall x \in D_n : \exists y \in D_n : \gcd(x, y) = 1 \wedge \text{lcm}(x, y) = n$

$\implies \forall x \in D_n : \exists y \in D_n : xy = n \wedge (x, y) = 1$

$\implies \forall x \in D_n : (x, n/x) = 1$

$\implies n = p_1 p_2 p_k \wedge$ all p_i are unique primes

Problem 3: Atom

Let $\mathcal{B} = (B, \leq)$ is a Boolean algebra.

$$\forall a \in B : \text{Atom}(a) = \{x \leq a \mid x \text{ is an atom}\}$$

Suppose \mathcal{B} is finite. To prove:

$$\forall a \in B : a \neq 0 \implies \text{Atom}(a) \neq \emptyset.$$

Atoms: those elements which *immediately* succeed 0

$$\forall a \in B : a \neq 0 \implies \text{Atom}(a) \neq \emptyset.$$

By contradiction.

$$a \neq 0 \wedge \text{Atom}(a) = \emptyset$$

$$\implies a \text{ is not an atom } (o.w., a \in \text{Atom}(a))$$

$$\implies \exists x_1 : 0 < x_1 < a \quad (a \neq 0)$$

$$\implies x_1 \text{ is not an atom } (o.w., x_1 \in \text{Atom}(a))$$

$$\implies \exists x_2 : 0 < x_2 < x_1 \quad (x_1 \neq 0)$$

$$\implies \dots$$

$$\boxed{\dots < x_2 < x_1 < a}$$

Problem 4: Isomorphic

All finite Boolean algebras of the same cardinality are isomorphic.

Theorem (Representation Theorem for Finite Boolean Algebras)

Every finite Boolean algebra is isomorphic to a Boolean algebra $\mathcal{P}(X)$ for some finite set X .

Additional Problem: Isomorphic

Is every Boolean algebra isomorphic to $\mathcal{P}(X)$ for some set X ?

Finite-Cofinite Algebra

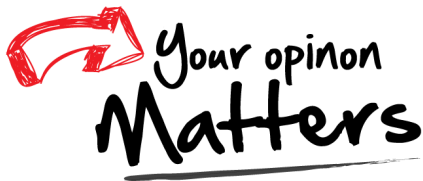
$$F(\mathbb{N}) = \{X \subseteq \mathbb{N} \mid X \text{ is finite} \vee \mathbb{N} \setminus X \text{ is finite}\}$$

$$|F(\mathbb{N})| = \aleph_0$$

If $F(\mathbb{N})$ is isomorphic to $\mathcal{P}(X)$ for some X :

$$|F(\mathbb{N})| \geq 2^{\aleph_0}$$

Thank
You!



Office 302

Mailbox: H016

hfwei@nju.edu.cn