

# An Outline of the Siumatgwoon 初論兆物觀

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## Epigraphs

Learning the Chinese language  
requires bodies of iron, lungs of  
brass, heads of oak, hands of  
spring steel, eyes of eagles, hearts  
of apostles, memories of angels,  
and lives of Methuselah.

—William Milne, who first  
translated the Bible into Classical  
Chinese in 1816.

... the Chinese [as] a people [are]  
characterised by a marvellous  
degree of imbecility, avarice,  
conceit and obstinacy...

—James Matheson, cofounder of  
Jardine Matheson & Co, 1840s.

China has no philosophy, only  
thought.

Jacques Derrida, 2001, Peking  
University.

Writing as late as 1898, Huang  
Qingcheng 黃慶澄 (1863–1904)  
placed the only Chinese  
monograph on logic available at  
the time in the category of books  
on “dialects” (fangyan 方言), that  
is, foreign languages, and Liang  
Qichao 梁啟超 (1873–1929), who  
was considered one of the  
foremost authorities in matters of  
new knowledge, listed the same  
text as a work “impossible to  
classify” (無可歸類)—alongside  
museum guides and cookbooks.

—The Discovery of Chinese  
Logic, Joachim Kurtz

Let us calculate! When controversies arise, there will be no need for dispute between two philosophers. It will suffice to take up their pens, sit down at their slates, and say to each other: Let us calculate!

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—Leibniz, \*De Arte Combinatoria\*, 1666

You savages of the further seas have waxed so bold, it seems, as to defy and insult our mighty Empire. Of a truth it is high time for you to "flay the face and cleanse the heart," and to amend your ways. If you submit humbly to the Celestial dynasty and tender your allegiance, it may give you a chance to purge yourself of your past sins. But if you continue and persist in your path of obstinate delusion, your three islands will be laid waste and your people pounded into mincemeat, so soon as the armies of his Divine Majesty set foot upon your shores.

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— Lin Zexu, the Hokkien Qing Imperialist, in Manchu occupied Canton, to HM Queen Victoria's Government, 1839

## Definitions

**Definition 1** (Siumatgwoon). *A Siumatgwoon, or a Metaphysic, is a set  $S$ , paired with the binary relations composition  $*$  :  $S \times S \rightarrow S$  and constitution  $|$  :  $S \times S \rightarrow \{True, False\}$ , such that the following axioms hold.*

**Axiom 2** (Reflexivity). *For all  $a \in S$ ,  $a|a$ .*

**Axiom 3** (Totality). *For all  $a, b \in S$ , exactly one of the following holds:  $a|b$  or not  $a|b$*

**Axiom 4** (Transitivity). *For all  $a, b, c \in S$ ,  $a|b$  and  $b|c$  implies  $a|c$ .*

**Axiom 5** (Composition Constitution). *If  $a * b = c$  for some  $a, b, c \in S$ , then  $a|c$  and  $b|c$ .*

$a * b$  should be read is " $a$  composing with  $b$ ", and  $a|b$  should be read as " $a$  constitutes  $b$ ". You can also read  $*$  as "and", "along with", "mixed with", "reacting with", "making love with", etc. You can also read  $|$  as "is a part of", "composes", "is a constituent of", "is a component of", "is a sub-object of", etc. Because we are exploring, we will enable maximal leeway in the interpretation of  $*$  and  $|$ , and this we will see, can yield some happy and interesting structures.

Some further clarifications:

- $a \not|b$  iff  $a|b = \text{false}$

The above 4 axioms are the core axioms of a Siumatgwoon. There are quite a lot of ways in which you can think about what they are. You can think of them as sure foundations you can rest upon and then launch to explore the space, or you can think of them as a set of definitions that define the metaphysics of an object, in this case a mathematical object. But all mathematical objects are metaphysical objects (though we don't know if all metaphysical objects are mathematical objects - I'd wager not - the first go-to reason one might want to appeal to is Godel's Incompleteness Theorem - I think that's the right direction but Godel won't give us the direct proof to support this intuition - it is likely going to be something beyond mathematical language. Indeed, I think there are metaphysical objects that can be described by natural language, but not mathematical language. But I digress). We can further define other types of Siumatgwoons with further axioms. A taxonomy would then emerge, defined by various properties captured by the additional axioms.

But to capture the logic inside the Sinoglyphs, which is where we are starting - and we are starting there because we believe there's an interesting logic that evolved in there - just like interesting creatures and biosphere usually evolve in isolated and unique environments. To specify certain more restrictive structures, we will now introduce some more axioms, that makes a siumatgwoon simple. They are "simple" because they conform to our mereological intuitions, of both the Sinoglyphs and of the world.

**Definition 6** (Simple Siumatgwoon). *A Simple Siumatgwoon  $S$  is a siumatgwoon where:*

**Axiom 7** (Antisymmetry). *For all  $a, b \in S$ , if  $a|b$  and  $b|a$  then  $a = b$ .*

**Axiom 8** (Finite composition). *Every object is finitely composed. For any  $x \in S$ ,  $x = y_1 * y_2 * y_3 \cdots y_n$  for some finite number  $n$ . In other words, there is no object that is composed of infinitely many objects.*

**Axiom 9** (Finite Constitution). *For any  $x \in S$ , there are only finitely many objects  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n \in S$  such that  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n|x$ .*

**Axiom 10** (Unique Decomposition). *For any  $x \in S$ , the longest decomposition into objects of  $S$  is unique. We can speak of the longest decomposition of an object, because we have 8.*

7 says no two distinct objects constitute each other. It rules out circular identity via mutual constitution. So you can't have chains like atoms|humans|universe|atoms - no embedded universes in atoms like in 手塚治虫's 《火の鳥》

8 is a cardinality constraint on the composition operator  $*$ . Antisymmetry is a constraint on the constitution relation  $|$ . There's no logical connection between a limit on the number of components in a composition and antisymmetry.

Note that antisymmetry says nothing about how many objects compose another—only about how  $|$  relates distinct objects. You could easily construct a model where antisymmetry holds, but some elements are infinitely composed (e.g., think of  $x = a_1 * a_2 * a_3 * \dots$  in a naïvely defined algebra).

Axiom 9, finite constitution, is a cardinality constraint on the constitution relation  $|$ . The point of both 8 and 9 is to ground us in the world of finite compositions and finite constitutions.

It says you cannot make a superobject by composing infinitely many objects - composition is finite. Obviously, one can eventually relax this and figure out how things will look. Those sensitive to theological arguments might already detect that finite composition precludes the existence of 吳 in a Siumatgwoon so defined.

It will be very interesting to see what kind of objects will be yielded if we relax these two axioms - to infinite compositions and infinite constitutions. How will they look like?

Well, if we relax 9, one can have a siumatgwoon  $S$  where everything can be infinitely decomposed. So there are no atoms - everything can be cut smaller and smaller and smaller - without end.

This is also a cardinality restriction—this time on the domain of constituents of any object. Antisymmetry only constrains symmetric pairs in  $|$ , not how many  $y$ 's can point to  $x$ .

A model could satisfy antisymmetry yet have an object  $x$  with infinitely many distinct constituents  $y_i$  such that  $y_i|x$ , without any pair  $y_i, y_j$  satisfying  $y_i|y_j \wedge y_j|y_i$ .

The uniqueness decomposition axiom, axiom 10, is a uniqueness constraint on the decomposition of an object into its constituents. It says that the longest decomposition of an object is unique. It says that nothing can be made up of two sets of objects. If you have two different sets of components, then it's not possible to make the same thing. It says: among all decompositions of  $x$ , there is a unique one of maximal length (i.e. atomic resolution). This requires some structural property of  $*$ , perhaps associativity or atomic irreducibility.

Antisymmetry doesn't regulate the structure of compositions—just the equality condition under mutual constitution. Even with antisymmetry, multiple maximal-length decompositions could exist, e.g., due to commutativity or ambiguity in decomposition paths, unless you restrict the structure of  $*$ .

These are some really weird objects indeed. But they are definitely not

anything like the Sinoglyphs - at least not right now.

Does the size of the infinity make things even more interesting? Careful now, we are trying to do what Leibniz didn't do, not to roleplay Cantor.

Before we discuss some further definitions, of Elementals, Generators, Atomics, let us remark some patterns we see in the Sinoglyphs.

The first thing to remark is that Westerners have translated the 邊旁 into "radicals" - as if they're solutions to a quadratic equation, which means then they thought the whole sinoglyph itself is like an equation to be solved.

If we take these radicals, that compose a sinoglyph, we'd say that they are the elementals of the sinoglyph.

The way I came up with the set of definitions for atomics, elementals, generators - was to model the Sinoglyph writing system. Oftentimes, in the Sinoglyph system, as it appears to us, all three sets are the same.

But if we consider a possible extension to the Chinese Character writing system, and simply consider the idealised and fully evolutionarily searched space of possible evolutionary trajectories of the Chinese character writing system, we can arrive at an idealised symbol combination system - that's the Sinoglyph. That Sinoglyph symbol manipulation system, has a structure. And that structure is its Siunatgwoon. And we are now trying to model that structure with some axioms.

Atomics are basically 獨體字. They stand alone. They cannot be decomposed, and nothing constitutes them besides themselves.

Elementals are basically any sinoglyph that cannot be fully decomposed. Something else might constitute it, but its constituents can be composed to make the whole the elemental. There's something more in the elemental than just whatever constituting. An elemental might have many many constituents, but the elemental is somehow larger than the composition of its parts. This can be called emergence.

But not all elementals exhibit emergence. Because all atomics are elementals. Since atomics are constituted by themselves, and the atomic needs nothing to be composed with to be itself, atomics are elementals with no emergence.

The elementals largely correspond to the kind of compound sinoglyphs 合體字 that are called phonosemanophores - 形聲字.

Now let's think about how a 形聲字 works. Let's take the classic example

of 江河, specifically 河. The Chinese character 河 is a 形聲字.

河

It is composed of 氵 (water) and 可 (ho). Ho is just a name. You might as well right it like this

氵 可

. But the sound is immaterial, it's just an index. It might as well be  $a, b, c$

氵<sub>a</sub>, 氵<sub>b</sub>, 氵<sub>c</sub>

But the important thing is that picks something out. It picks out from the set of all objects that are constituted by water the thing that is "river". You might as very well write it as

氵<sub>river</sub>

.

The Chinese way of writing "river" is not different from writing it as " 氵 river". It says that "river" belongs to the class of things that are constituted of " 氵"(water); it says "river" is a " 氵 " thing; it says "river" belongs to the set, the class, the category of " 氵 " things; but most importantly, it says: I don't know how "river" is composed, but I do know it is constituted of " 氵 ". So there's something beyond water that makes a river - but I don't know what all the stuff that composes a river is, or *hanc marginis exiguitas non caperet*.

What this immediately suggest is a 系 system. A 金木水火土系 system. A system where elementals can be long to 金系, 木系, 水系, 火系土系 system is a Siumatgwun, where each 系 contains (but is not limited to) elementals that are constituted of the well, the "Head" of the 系. So the head, of a 土系 is 土. The head of a 金系 is 金. The head of a 木系 is 木. The head of a 水系 is 水. The head of a 火系 is 火.

We want to capture this - the set of all objects exhibiting emergence from a certain "head". Let us call this set of head  $x$  the  $x$ -系.

**Definition 11** (系 (Hai) Elements). *The set  $x$ -系, written as  $\langle x \rangle$  is defined to be*

$$\langle x \rangle := \{s \in S : x|s \text{ but } \nexists y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n \in S \text{ such that } s = x * y_1 * y_2 * \dots * y_n\}$$

.

$x$ -系 elements roughly correspond to the 形聲字 in Chinese characters - if you do not consider the phonetic component of a character to be full elements inside the Siumatgwun but mere indices. In other words, one does not view 江、河、湖、海 as 水工、水可、水胡、水每 but as 水<sub>工</sub> 水<sub>可</sub> 水<sub>胡</sub> 水<sub>每</sub>.

In this sense, one can see there is no element  $y \in S$  such that  $水y = 水_{\perp} = 江$ .

Let us now take this definition and apply it to entire sets.

**Definition 12** (X-系). *Let  $X \subseteq S$ . The X-系 is defined to be  $\langle X \rangle := \cup_{x \in X} \langle x \rangle$ .*

Being elementals, they cannot be fully decomposed. So what's in an x-系? Say, 木系  $\langle 木 \rangle$ ?

Well, it contains 木, because 木 is cannot be further decomposed. But we also have the other trees, 松, 柏, 柳, 桃, 梅, so we can say

$$木_{公}, 木_{白}, 木_{卯}, 木_{兆}, 木_{每}, 木 \in \langle 木 \rangle$$

But note that 林, 森, 焚  $\notin \langle 木 \rangle$

Does the head of a 系 have to be an atomic element? No, not at all! In fact, the head of a 系 could itself be an elemental like 河, or a proper compound like 雲. Consider the siumatgwoon  $S = \{雨, 云, 雲, 黔, 黠, 黠, 黠, 黠\}$ . In this set clearly the atoms are  $\{雨, 云\}$ , but the elementals are  $\{雨, 云, 黔, 黠, 黠, 黠, 黠\}$ . So  $\{黔, 黠, 黠, 黠\}$  are all in  $\langle 雨 \rangle$  and in  $\langle 云 \rangle$  and also in  $\langle 雲 \rangle$ .

But there's no reason why elementals, 形聲字, themselves, cannot be the head of a 系. Why shouldn't there be say an object  $x = 河_a$  or  $river_a$  that we know is a kind of river, but we don't know what all the other constituents are to make it more than just a "typical" river? I mean, it's pretty obvious that The Thames, La Seine, The Hudson, The Jyugong, are all rivers, i.e.:

$$河 | Thames, Seine, Hudson, 珠江$$

Which is to say

$$河 | 河_{Thames}, 河_{Seine}, 河_{Hudson}, 河_{珠江}$$

but we can't write down all the other constituents that make them more than just a river, and not how they differ from each other either. So, i.e.:

$$河_{Thames}, 河_{Seine}, 河_{Hudson}, 河_{珠江} \in \langle 河 \rangle$$

Let us now get some proper definitions.

**Definition 13** (Atomics). *An element  $a \in S$  is atomic if for all  $x \in S$ , if  $x|a$  implies  $x = a$ , i.e.  $a$  is atomic iff only anything that constitutes  $a$  is  $a$  itself.*

**Definition 14** (Elementals). *An element  $e \in S$  is elemental if and only if for all  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n \in S$  where  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n|e$ , we have cannot find a finite sequence drawn from  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$  such that it composes  $e$ . In other words, an elemental has no non-trivial decomposition other than  $e = e$ .*

Note that Siumatgwoons do not swear allegiance to commutativity or associativity.  $a * b$  might not equal to  $b * a$  and  $a * (b * c)$  might not equal to  $(a * b) * c$ . Both sucrose and fructose have the same molecular formula of  $C_6H_{12}O_6$ , and so  $C, H, O|_{\text{sucrose, fructose}}$ , but sucrose and fructose are not the same object. Listing the constituents of an object also does not specify how those individual constituents are themselves composed to form components that form the object, which means we don't actually know how many times  $C, H, O$  appear in sucrose or fructose. The point of the definition of the elemental, is to say, no matter how you arrange the constituents, no matter how many times each of the constituents appear in a composition, you cannot compose the object from those constituents alone. Again, emergence is at play here.

We quickly define the sets of atomics  $A$  and the set of elementals  $E$ .

**Definition 15** (Atomic Set). *The set  $S_A \subseteq S$  is called the atomic set of  $S$ . It is the set of all atomic elements inside  $S$ .*

**Definition 16** (Elemental Set). *The set  $S_E \subseteq S$  is called the elemental set of  $S$ . It is the set of all elemental elements inside  $S$ .*

**Lemma 17** (Atomics are Elementals in Simple Siumatgwoons). *All atomics are elementals in simple siumatgwoons. For all simple siumatgwoons  $S$ ,  $A \subseteq E$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $a \in A$ .  $a$  clearly constitutes itself, so  $a = a$ . If  $a$  is not an elemental, then there exists a decomposition  $a = b * c$  for some  $b, c \in S$ . By atomicity,  $b = a$  or  $c = a$ . But then we can apply the same argument again, so  $a = a * a$ . And we can go ad infinitum, so  $a = a * a * \dots$ . But this contradicts 8, which states every object in a simple siumatgwoon are composed by a finite number of objects. Therefore,  $a$  cannot have any decomposition other than  $a$ . Therefore,  $a$  is an elemental.  $\square$

**Lemma 18** (Atomics). *The decomposition of an atomic in a simple Siumatgwoon is unique. i.e.  $a = a$  is the only decomposition of an atomic.*

*Proof.* As proven above.  $\square$

**Definition 19** (Generators). *A set  $G \subseteq S$  is a generator of  $S$  if and only if every object  $x \in S$  can be expressed as a composition (trivial or compound) of objects from  $G$ .*

**Theorem 20** (Generator sets exist in simple siumatgwoons). *In a simple siumatgwoon, there exists a non-empty subset  $G_S \subseteq S$  such that every element  $x \in S$  is a product of a finite sequence of elements from  $G_S$ , i.e.,  $x = g_1 * g_2 * \dots * g_n$ , where  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G_S$ .*

*Proof.* This is clearly true, because any object  $x \in S$  is always a finite composition of itself. So we can just let  $G_S = S$ . In other words, the set of all objects in  $S$  is a generator set of  $S$ .  $\square$



**Lemma 21** (Elementals are in every generator set). *In a simple siumatgwoon,  $E \subseteq G$  for any generator set  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Since any generator set  $G$  must generate all objects in  $S$ , the generator set  $G$  must generate all elementals in  $E$ . But elementals have non-trivial decompositions, so they are generated only by themselves. Therefore, to generate the elementals, the generator set  $G$  must contain all elementals. Therefore  $E \subseteq G$ . This also means no generator set can be smaller than  $E$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 22** (All objects are either elementals or compounds). *For any  $x \in S$ ,  $x$  is either an elemental or a compound.*

*Proof.* If  $x$  is an elemental, then it is an elemental. If  $x$  is not an elemental, then it has a non-trivial decomposition. Then it is a compound.  $\square$

**Lemma 23** (Compounds are composed by elementals). *If an object  $x \in S$  is a compound, then it is composed by elementals.*

*Proof.* If  $x$  is a compound with constituents  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ , then  $x = y_1 * y_2 * \dots * y_n$  and one of them, say  $y_i$  cannot be decomposed into elementals, then  $y_i$  is a composed of other compounds  $y_i = cd$  where  $c, d$  are compounds. Neither  $c$  and  $d$  can be decomposed into elementals, because if they could, then  $y_i$  would be decomposable into elementals, and so would  $x$ . So  $c$  and  $d$  must be further composed of other compounds. The argument must repeat indefinitely. Now, of all the constituents we've obtained by this process, say the  $c_i$ s above - obtained by say the first constituent you obtained whenever you decompose a compound. So you get a whole list of  $c_1, c_2, c_3 \dots$ , where  $\dots | c_3 | c_2 | c_1 | x$ . Now the question to ask is: do they ever repeat? If  $c_3 = c_1$  by antisymmetry, axiom 7, then  $c_3 = c_1 | c_2 | c_1$ , which means  $c_1 = c_2$ . But

Repeating the same argument, those compounds must be composed of other compounds, and so on. But this contradicts 8, which states every object in a simple siumatgwoon are composed by a finite number of objects. Therefore, no object can be composed of infinitely many objects. Therefore,  $x$  must be composed of elementals.  $\square$

Now we move to a stronger theorem.

**Theorem 24** (The elementals are a generator set in simple siumatgwoons). *In a simple siumatgwoon, the set of elementals  $E$  is a generator set of  $S$ .*

*Proof.* We have proven  $E \subseteq G$  for all generator sets  $G$  in  $S$ . Now we need to prove that for any  $x \in S$ ,  $x = e_1 * e_2 * \dots * e_n$  for some  $e_1, \dots, e_n \in E$ .

From 23, we know that any compound  $x$  is composed by elementals. So we can write  $x = e_1 * e_2 * \dots * e_n$  for some  $e_1, \dots, e_n \in E$ .

But since every element in  $S$  is either an elemental or a compound, and compounds are all composed by elementals, any element in  $S$  is therefore a composition of elementals - in other words, generated by the elementals. Therefore  $E$  is a generator set of  $S$ .  $\square$

Now we put it all together.

**Theorem 25.** *Let  $S$  be a Simple Siumatgwoon. And let  $E$  be the set of elementals of  $S$ . Then:*

1.  *$E$  is a generating set, and*
2. *The decompositions into elementals are unique.*

*Proof.* We have already proven (1) in 24. Now we need to prove that the decompositions into elementals are unique.

In a simple siumatgwoon, the longest decomposition is unique. Now since every object in a simple siumatgwoon is a composition of elementals, and since elementals cannot be further decomposed, the decomposition of that object into elementals is the longest decomposition. Therefore, the decomposition of any object into elementals is unique.  $\square$

Now we let us return to  $x$ -系 sets.

Then we can prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 26** (The emergence of a constituted is emergence of the constituent). *If  $a|b$ , then  $\langle b \rangle \subseteq \langle a \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* If  $a|b$ , then for any  $x \in \langle b \rangle$ , because  $a|b$  and  $b|x$ , we have  $a|x$ . And since  $x$  is an elemental, it has no non-trivial decomposition. An object constituted by  $a$  and has no non-trivial decomposition is an  $a$ -系 object, so  $x \in \langle a \rangle$ . Therefore,  $\langle b \rangle \subseteq \langle a \rangle$ .  $\square$

We clearly see this.  $\langle \text{水}_\perp \rangle = \langle \text{江} \rangle \subseteq \langle \text{水} \rangle$ .

Indeed,  $\langle \text{雲} \rangle, \langle \text{雲} \rangle, \langle \text{雲} \rangle, \langle \text{雲} \rangle \subseteq \langle \text{雲} \rangle \subseteq \langle \text{雨} \rangle$

Or to take more interesting example, if we take 江湖 is an object itself of itself, then the set  $\langle \text{江湖} \rangle = \{\text{江湖}_1, \text{江湖}_2, \dots\}$  obeys the following

$\langle \text{江湖} \rangle \subseteq \langle \text{江} \rangle, \langle \text{湖} \rangle \subseteq \langle \text{水} \rangle$

**Lemma 27** (Every elemental has an atomic constituent). *Every elemental  $e$  has an atomic constituent  $a$  such that  $e|a$ .*

*Proof.* Assume for contradiction that  $e$  has no atomic constituents. Then every  $x$  such that  $x|e$  is itself non-atomic, and therefore has some proper constituent  $y$  with  $y \neq x$  and  $y|x$ . Since  $y$  must also be non-atomic, it has some proper constituent  $z$  with  $z \neq y$ ,  $z \neq x$  and  $z|y$ . And so on. We can therefore obtain an

But this contradicts 9, which states every object in a simple siumatgwoon are composed by a finite number of objects. Therefore, every elemental has an atomic constituent.  $\square$

Can we prove in a simpl

Now we can prove something even more interesting.

**Theorem 28** ( $\langle A \rangle = E$  in simple siumatgwoons). *In a simple siumatgwoon,  $\langle A \rangle = E$  for any  $A \subseteq S$ .*

*Proof.* We will first prove that  $\langle A \rangle \subseteq E$ , and then we will prove that  $E \subseteq \langle A \rangle$ .

Let us prove that  $\langle A \rangle \subseteq E$ .

$\square$

## Examples of Siumatgwoons

### The Chinese Characters, 字

The Chinese characters, which inspired this whole mathematical exercise, is clearly a Siumatgwoon. If we exercise the synonym exchange of "Siumatgwoon" with "Metaphysic", this is to say, that the Chinese characters is a Metaphysic. Unfortunately we can't really prove that the Chinese characters are indeed a siumatgwoon, given there's an infinite number of them, and we do not have a generating rule for all Chinese characters. However, the fact that any subset of Chinese characters is a siumatgwoon in of itself, lends us confidence - perhaps there's a theorem there waiting to be proved?

### The Roman Numerals $\Re$

One can clearly see that Roman Numerals  $\Re$  are a Siumatgwoon. However, to appreciate the characteristics that make it a Siumatgwoon, let us consider the subset of Roman Numerals from 1 to 10, which we shall show to also be a Siumatgwoon.

$$\Re_{1,10} = \{I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X\}$$

We will say that for two elements  $a, b \in \Re_{1,10}$ ,  $a|b$  iff the glyph  $a$  appears in  $b$ . As such, we can say  $I|II$  and  $I|III$  as an example, and that  $V|IV$  and  $X|IX$ .

For any elements  $a, b \in \mathfrak{R}_{1,10}$ , if the glyphs  $ab$  so written together forms a glyph that also appears in  $\mathfrak{R}_{1,10}$ , then we'd say that  $a * b \in \mathfrak{R}$ .

Now, it's clear that Ax 1 is satisfied trivially.

Ax 2 is also satisfied trivially.

Ax 3 is also satisfied.

Ax 4 is also satisfied. As an example:  $I|III, III|VIII$  and we have  $I|VIII$ .

So therefore,  $\mathfrak{R}_{1,10}$  is a Siumatgwoon.

It is also interesting to note that as per the definition of  $\mathfrak{R}_{1,10}$ , it is not compositionally closed. For example,  $II * III$  is not in  $\mathfrak{R}_{1,10}$ . This makes the Siumatgwoon different from a group, where all compositions are contained inside the group. Intuitively, perhaps this suggests the Siumatgwoon is less rich in structure than the mathematical group? Also, note that what  $II * III$  should be in  $\mathfrak{R}_{1,10}$  is represented by  $V$ . Intuitively, we can feel that in some sense,  $II * III = V$  - that they're synonymous, identical, referring to the same referent. This is not unlike the presence of variant characters in the Sinoglyphs, such as 體 (body, object) = 軀 = 軀 = 体, or 信 (trust) = 諄 = 攸 = 訖 = 仞...Intuition should hint that this will yield some interesting structures if we pursue the investigation down this path.

### Any Numerals System

The fact that the Roman Numerals are a Siumatgwoon should intuitively suggest that any numeral system is a Siumatgwoon. In fact, let us consider the world's many numeral systems, and see if there is one where it is not a siumatgwoon.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
唐字數字	○	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九
唐字數字大寫	零	壹、弍	貳	叁	肆	伍	陸	柒	捌	玖
字喃		𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎
蘇州碼子	○	一、一	二、二	三、三	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎
Roman Numerals		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX
Eastern Arabic	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
Persian	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
Devanagari	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
Gujarati	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
Tibetan	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
Hebrew		⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
Chinese counting rods		⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
counting 正		⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠	⊠
Tangut		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

I don't think there's a single one that's not a siumatgwoon! Most of them are pathological for sure, in the sense that nothing is constituted by anything else, but none of them violate the Siumatgwoon axioms!

The case of the numerals as a Siumatgwoon, or a Metaphysic, is interesting. Numerals all refer to the same referents, the same "things" or "objects", namely, numbers. However, the glyphs in a given numeral system are themselves imbued with a particular set of metaphysical prejudices and judgements. Under the Roman Numeral Metaphysic, the number 3 is composed of 1 and 2, or composed of three 1s. 4 is composed of 1 and 5, but not 3 and 2.

### The Polygons $\mathcal{P}$

Consider the following graph. If we take all the polygons, convex and star, as elements in a set called  $\mathcal{P}$ , we can see that it forms a Siumatgwoon. We state this without formal proof for the infinite set  $\mathcal{P}$ , but from the subset displayed in the graph below, we can see it is indeed true. A polygon  $a$  constitutes polygon  $b$  if  $a$  appears in  $b$ .  $\{3\}$ , the equilateral triangle, appears in  $\{6/2\}$ , the star of David, and so  $\{3\}|\{6/2\}$

The Schläfli symbol is a recursive description, starting with  $\{p\}$  for a  $p$ -sided regular polygon that is convex. For example,  $\{3\}$  is an equilateral triangle,  $\{4\}$  is a square,  $\{5\}$  a convex regular pentagon, etc.

Regular star polygons are not convex, and their Schläfli symbols take the form  $\{p/q\}$ , where  $p$  is the number of vertices and  $q$  is their turning number. Equivalently,  $\{p/q\}$  is created from the vertices of  $\{p\}$  by connecting

every  $q$ th vertex. For example,  $\{5/2\}$  is a pentagram, while  $\{5\}$  is a pentagon.

Note that  $p$  and  $q$  must be coprime, or the figure will degenerate, in which case we have the following theorem:

$$\{p/q\} = d\{p/d/q/d\}, \text{ where } d = \gcd(p, q).$$

Let us define for any Schläfli symbol  $\{p\}|n\{p\}$  for any  $n$ . It is intuitively true.

Then clearly axiom 1 is satisfied. Axiom 2 is also satisfied.

### Propositional Logic

There are 3 flavors of  $*$  in Propositional Logic:  $\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow$ .

And we define  $\phi|\psi$  if  $\phi$  appears in  $\psi$ , for any wff  $\phi, \psi$ .

Then clearly all 4 of the core siumatgwoon axioms are satisfied.

1. Trivial that all  $\phi|\phi$
2. Also trivial that for any  $\phi, \psi$ , either  $\phi|\psi$  or  $\phi \not|\psi$ .
3. Trivial as well that for any  $\phi, \psi|\phi * \psi$ .
4. Also trivial that if  $\phi|\psi$  and  $\psi|\theta$  then  $\phi|\theta$ .

Propositional Logic as a Siumatgwoon has multiple interesting properties:

1. It is compositionally complete.
2. It is also constitutionally complete.
3. Is it a simple siumatgwoon? Are decompositions finite? Yes. Are decompositions unique? Yes, up to reordering. So yes, it's a simple siumatgwoon.

Consider the old siumatgwoon axioms, and a new relation "synonym", represented by  $\sim$ , read as "is synonymous with". It satisfies the following axioms.

## Synonym Axioms

**Axiom 29** (Reflexivity). *S1. (reflexivity) for all  $x \in S$ ,  $x \sim x$ .*

**Axiom 30** (Symmetry). *S2. (symmetry) For all  $a, b \in S$ , if  $a \sim b$  then  $b \sim a$ .*

**Axiom 31** (Transitivity). *S3. (transitivity) for all  $a, b, c \in S$ , if  $a \sim b$ , and  $b \sim c$ , then  $a \sim c$ .*

**Axiom 32** (Compositional Congruence). *S4. (Compositional congruence) If  $a \sim a'$ , then (if they  $ax$  or  $xa$  exists):*

- $ax \sim a'x$ ,
- $xa \sim xa'$

**Axiom 33** (Composition Cancellation). *S5. Composition cancellation*

- If  $a * b \sim a * c$ , then  $b \sim c$ ;
- If  $b * a \sim c * a$  then  $b \sim c$ ;

**Axiom 34** (Divisor Compatibility). *S6. Divisor compatibility: If  $a \sim b$ , then for all  $x \in S$ ,  $x|a$  iff  $x|b$ .*

**Axiom 35** (Upwards Divisibility). *S7: Upwards divisibility: If  $a \sim b$ , then for all if  $a|x$  then  $b|x$ .*

A Siumatgwoon is Synonym-Closed if in which if  $a * b$  exists and  $a \sim a'$  and  $b \sim b'$  then  $a' * b, a * b', a' * b'$  also exist. Most siumatgwoons, including the Sinoglyphs, are not synonym-closed.

Because of S4, Synonym-Closed Siumatgwoons must have  $a * b \sim a' * b \sim a * b' \sim a' * b'$ .

## S8: Synonym Replacement and Existence Preservation

Synonym replacement completion: if  $a * b$  exists, and if  $b \sim b'$ , then  $a * b'$  exists in  $S$  as well.

Prior to this, we are rather ambiguous and coy as to whether  $a$  and  $b$  being synonymous means  $b * x$  necessarily exists if  $a * x$  exists. I feel we should admit closure for synonym substitutional compositions. We can consider other structure where this axiom is not admitted later.

S9. Multidecomposition if  $ab \sim cd$  and  $cd = e$  then  $ab = e$ .

From S4 you'd be able to prove that  $a \sim a'$  and  $b \sim b'$  then  $a * b \sim a' * b'$ .

## The Quotient Siumatgwoon $S/\sim$

### Starting Point: Synonymy $\sim$ as an Equivalence Relation

Let  $S$  be a Siumatgwoon, and let  $\sim$  be a synonymy relation on  $S$  satisfying:

- $\sim$  is an equivalence relation: reflexive, symmetric, transitive.
- $\sim$  is compatible with composition:  
If  $a \sim a', b \sim b'$ , then  $a * b \sim a' * b'$ .
- $\sim$  is compatible with divisibility:  
If  $a \sim b$ , then  $x|a \iff x|b$  for all  $x \in S$ .

These give us a solid foundation to define a quotient structure.

### The Set $S/\sim$

Let:

$$S/\sim = \{[a] : a \in S\}$$

where  $[a] = \{x \in S \mid x \sim a\}$  is the equivalence class of  $a$ .

### Defining the Operations on $S/\sim$

#### Multiplication

We define:

$$[a] * [b] := [a * b], \text{ if } a * b \text{ exists.}$$

This is well-defined because of compositional congruence (axiom S4).

It is also because that we required if  $a * b$  exists, so must  $a' * b'$ .

That is: if  $a \sim a'$ , and  $b \sim b'$ , then:

$$a * b \sim a' * b' \Rightarrow [a * b] = [a' * b']$$

So the result is independent of the representative.



## Divisibility

We define:

$$[a]||[b] \iff a|b$$

Again, this is well-defined thanks to the divisibility equivalence axiom (S6):

If  $a \sim a', b \sim b'$ , given we have the axiom that  $a|b \iff a'|b'$  then:

$$[a]||[b] \iff [a']||[b']$$

Thus,  $|$  descends to the quotient.

## Verifying Siumatgwoon Axioms in $S/\sim$

Let's verify that the quotient structure inherits the original Siumatgwoon axioms:

- Axiom 1 (Reflexivity of  $|$ ):  
Since  $a|a \Rightarrow [a]||[a]$
- Axiom 2 (Totality):  
For all  $[a], [b]$ , either  $[a]||[b]$  or not.  
This follows since  $|$  on  $S$  has totality, and divisibility is preserved under  $\sim$ .
- Axiom 3 (Transitivity):  
Suppose  $[a]||[b]$  and  $[b]||[c]$ . Recall the definition that  $[a]||[b]$  then  $a|b$ . It's straightforward.
- Axiom 4 (Composition and divisibility):  
We want to prove that if  $[a] * [b] = [c]$ , then  $[a], [b]||[c]$ . By definition  $[a] * [b] = [c]$  then  $a * b \sim c$ , and so  $a|c$ . By the definition of constitutiveness over synonym classes,  $[a]||[c]$ . The argument same goes for  $[b]||[c]$ .

Now come axioms 5 and axioms 6. Do they hold in  $S/\sim$ , even if they might not hold in  $S$ ?

- Axiom 5 (Complete Constructibility and Generators): There exists a non-empty subset  $G_S \subseteq S$  such that:

- (Generation) Every element  $x \in S$  is a product of a finite sequence of elements from  $G_S$ , i.e.,  $x = g_1 * g_2 * \cdots * g_n$ , where  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G_S$

And a Simple Siumatgwoon is one where:

1.  $E$  is a generating set, and
  2. that decompositions into elementals are unique.
- Axiom 6. (Finite constitution). For any  $x \in S$ , there are only finitely many objects  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n \in S$  such that  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n | x$ .

Let's prove that axiom 5 holds first. And then axiom 6 holds. Then we prove that  $S / \sim$  is a simple siumatgwoon.

Consider some element  $[x] \in S / \sim$ . Given  $S$  is a siumatgwoon, we know that any  $x$  has a finite decomposition  $g_1 * g_2 * g_3 * \cdots * g_n$ . Given  $x = g_1 * g_2 * g_3 * \cdots * g_n$ , we have  $[x] = [g_1 * g_2 * g_3 * \cdots * g_n]$ , and by the definition of  $[*]$  we have  $[x] = [g_1 * g_2 * g_3 * \cdots * g_n] = [g_1] * [g_2] * [g_3] * \cdots * [g_n]$ . Given this applies to every  $x$  in  $S$ , it is true of every  $[x] \in S / \sim$ .

Note that some of the  $[g_i]$  might be equal to some other  $[g_j]$  if  $g_i \sim g_j$ .

Now for axiom 6.

Consider  $[x] \in S / \sim$ . By axiom 6, there only finitely many  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n | x$ . Therefore there are only finitely many  $[y_1], [y_2], \dots, [y_n] | [x]$ . Note again, that because there could be  $y_i \sim y_j$ , then the most reduced list of constituents for  $[x]$  might be shorter than  $n$ .

Axiom 5 (Generators):

If  $G \subseteq S$  is a generating set, then  $[G] = \{[g] \mid g \in G\} \subseteq S / \sim$  generates all of  $S / \sim$

Hence,  $S / \sim$  is a well-defined quotient Siumatgwoon.

### Interpretation of $S / \sim$

- Elements of  $S / \sim$  are semantic classes: bundles of expressions that mean the same thing.
- Operations and structure are all inherited from how the parts combine.
- This is essentially a move from syntax to semantics —a form of canonical simplification.

## Identity and Atoms in $S/\sim$

- The set of atomic classes would be:  
 $A/\sim = \{[a] \mid a \in A\}$   
If synonymy is strong (e.g., if all synonyms of atoms are equal), then this is a true set of atomic meanings.
- The quotient set removes redundancy: if two characters are written differently but function identically, they're collapsed.

## A Hierarchy of Synonym Relations

Intuitively speaking, the  $\sim$  of 言  $\sim$  文 that allows us write 信  $\sim$  儀 seems different from the  $\sim$  in 女  $\sim$  巫, as it does not seem the case that 女 can be exchanged for 巫 in all Chinese characters. This suggests that there is a hierarchy, or rather, a family of synonymous relations, perhaps context dependent.

Some synonyms are more closely clustered together than others. This suggests there is a hierarchy of synonyms.

But to interpret 到 only mean "is synonymous with", leaves us certain phenomena in, or rather, certain ways to "play" Chinese characters, uncaptured.

In Classical Chinese poetry and prose, it is appreciated if couplets are written in a way that characters in the same position belong to "some same class" or objects.

Consider all these lines from 《增廣賢文》:

兩人一般心，無錢堪買金；一人一般心，有錢難買針。馬行無力皆因瘦，人不風流只爲貧。

畫虎畫皮難畫骨，知人知面不知心。錢財如糞土，仁義值千金。流水下灘非有意，白雲出岫本無心。

路遙知馬力，日久見人心。相見易得好，久住難爲人。饒人不是癡漢，癡漢不會饒人。有錢道真語，無錢語不真。長江後浪推前浪，世上新人趕舊人。來如風雨，去似微塵。萬般皆是命，半點不由人。

寧可正而不足，不可邪而有餘。寧可信其有，不可信其無。

To illustrate the point, consider this following sentence, taken from the Analects.

萬方有罪，罪在朕躬。

"Whoever is sinful, the guilt is on my body."

This sentence clearly expresses a monarchist position of politics - one that is shared by both classical Confucianism and medieval Christian political theory. The sovereign, the 君主, is the one who bears the responsibility, and the sins of the 萬方.

Let us simplify and modify this sentence a bit:

君主之國，萬方有罪，罪在君身。

"In a country where monarchs are sovereign, whoever is sinful, the guilt is on the monarch's body."

Now we can apply a naive application of lax synonymy, say on 萬 ("ten thousand") and 兆 ("trillion"), drawing upon they can both be taken to mean "uncountably many" on a metaphoric level, so 萬 ~ 兆, so we get

君主之國，萬方有罪，罪在君身 ~ 君主之國，兆方有罪，罪在君身

We don't have the full algebraic machinery to justify this yet, but it is reasonable.

What I really want to point out, is that in a sense, 君 and 民 belong to the same class - the same class of objects, political objects that is, that can occupy the position of 君. So in a sense, we can write 君 ~? 民. Then, by simply substituting 君 for 民, we get

君主之國，萬方有罪，罪在君身 ~? 民主之國，兆方有罪，罪在民身

Which says, "in a country where people are sovereign, whoever is sinful, the guilt is on the people's body."

This is not a derivation. Or is it? What kind of derivation is this? What kind of rule of inference are we appealing to? And what is the argument saying? Are we saying if (君主之國，萬方有罪，罪在朕躬) and 君 ~? 民 then we can derive (民主之國，萬方有罪，罪在民身)? What laws govern the behaviour of the ~? Are they the same as the laws governing the behaviour of ~?