An Outline of the Siumatgwoon
初論兆物觀

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二〇二8年二8月二〇日

Definitions

A Foray into the Axioms of the Siumatgwoon

Definition 1 (Siumatgwoon)**.** *A Siumatgwoon, or a Metaphysic, is a set S, paired with the binary relations composition $* : S \times S \to S$ and constitution $| : S \times S \to \{True, False\}$, 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 $a \not| b$*

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:

- $a \nmid b$ 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. I'To specify certain more restrictive structures, we will now introduce two more axioms. These two axioms seem to capture certain behaviours of the Sinoglyphs, and are therefore interestingto

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

Axiom 7 (Complete Constructibility and Generators). *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., $x = g_1 * g_2 * \cdots * g_n$, where $g_1, \ldots, g_n \in G_S$*

Axiom 8 (Finite Constitution). *For any $x \in S$, there are only finitely many objects $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n \in S$ such that $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n | x$.*

Before we discuss some firther definitions, of Elementals, Generators, Atomics, let us remark some pattens 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 atoics, 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 Siumatgwoon. 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.

Elementals are basically any sinolgyph that cannot be fully decomposed. Something else might constitute it, but its constitutes do not make whole the elemental. There's something more in the elemental than just the just whatever constituting it is. 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

$$氵_a, \; 氵_b, \; 氵_c$$

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

$$氵_{river}$$

.

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 Siumatgwoon, 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. Clearly the set of 木系 contains not just phonosemanophores of 木, but also compounds that can be fully decomposed into constitutents, such as 林, 森, and 焚, but also elementals such as trees such as 松，柏，柳，桃，梅. Note that we can see clearly 焚 belongs to the 火系, as well as 木系.

Does the head of a 系 have to be an atomic element? No. In fact, it could itself be an elemental, or a proper compound. Consider the siumatgwoon S = 雨，云，雲，黔，黜，隸，靉 . In this set clearly the atoms are 雨，云, but the elementals are 雨，云，黔，黜，隸，靉. So 黔，黜，隸，靉 are all in < 雨 > and in < 云 > and also in < 雲 >

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" is 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.

Definition 9 (Atomics). *An object s in a Siumatgwoon S is an atomic if it cannot be decomposed into smaller elements, i.e., if $s = a * b$ implies that either $a = s$ or $b = s$.*

Definition 10 (Elementals). *The elementals of a Siumatgwoon S are the elements that cannot be decomposed into smaller elements.*

Definition 11 (Atomic Element). *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 itself constitutes itself.*

Definition 12 (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. Where confusion does not exist, one could simply write A.*

Definition 13 (Hai Elements). *The set $\langle a \rangle := \{x \in S : a|x \text{ but } \not\exists y \in S \text{ such that } ay = x\}$ is called the Hai elements of a, i.e. the a-系 elements. These 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 ___. In this sense, one can see there is no element $y \in$ ___ such that $y =$ ___ $=$ ___.*

Now we come to our first Theorem:

Theorem 14. *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. Let S be a Simple Siumatgwoon. And let E be the set of elementals of S. Then: Let's first prove that E is a generating set first.

1. E is a generating set, and

2. The decompositions into elementals are unique.

$\square$

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 $\mathfrak{R}$

One can clearly see that Roman Numerals $\mathfrak{R}$ 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.

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

We will say that for two elements $a, b \in \mathfrak{R}_{1,10}$, $a|b$ 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)= 軆 = 躰 = 体, or 信 (trust) = 誋 = 伩 = 訫 = 伈···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、弌	貳	叄	肆	伍	陸	柒	捌	玖
字喃		爻	台	呚	粝	瓺	藝	乛	廖	尬
蘇州碼子	○	〡、一	〢、二	〣、三	ㄨ	〆	亠	二	三	文
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 qth 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:

$\{p/q\} = d\{\frac{p}{d}/\frac{q}{d}\}$, 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 ϕ appears in ψ, for any wff ϕ, ψ.

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

1. Trivial that all $\phi|\phi$

2. Also trivial that for any ϕ, ψ, either $\phi|\psi$ or $\phi \nmid \psi$.

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

Axiom 16 (Symmetry). *S2. (symmetry) For all $a, b \in S$, if $a \sim b$ then $b \sim a$.*

Axiom 17 (Transitivity). *S3. (transitivity) for all $a, b, c \in S$, if $a \sim b$, and $b \sim c$, then $a \sim c$.*

Axiom 18 (Compositional Congruence). *S4. (Compositional congruence) If $a \sim a'$, then (if they ax or xa exists):*

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

- *$xa \sim xa'$*

Axiom 19 (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 20 (Divisor Compatibility). *S6. Divisor compatibility: If $a \sim b$, then for all $x \in S$, $x|a$ iff $x|b$.*

Axiom 21 (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:

$[a] * [b] := [a * b]$, if $a * b$ 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 $g_1, \ldots, g_n \in G_S$

  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 $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n \in S$ such that $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n|x$.

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 $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n | x$. Therefore there are only finitely many $[y_1], [y_2], \ldots, [y_n] | [x]$. 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 $\sim$ 仸 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.