

# Contextuality in logical form

## Duality for transitive partial CABAs



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# Motivation

## Dualities between algebra and topology

*'Commutative algebra is like topology, only backwards.'* – John Baez

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finite sets

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Boolean algebras	Stone spaces
finite Boolean algebras	finite sets
complete atomic Boolean algebras	sets

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Here, I mean *commutativity* in a loose, informal sense.

For lattices, this would be *distributivity* (think: idempotents of a ring).

## From classical to quantum

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



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- ▶ Measurements are self-adjoint operators.
- ▶ Quantum properties or propositions are **projectors** (dichotomic measurements):

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

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

# Quantum physics and logic



## Traditional quantum logic

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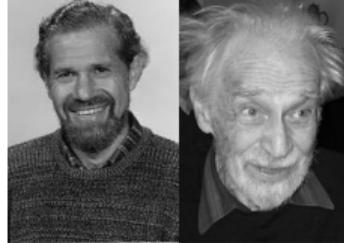
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- ▶ Distributivity fails:  $p \wedge (q \vee r) \neq (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$ .
- ▶ Only commuting measurements can be performed together.  
So, what is the operational meaning of  $p \wedge q$ , when  $p$  and  $q$  **do not commute**?

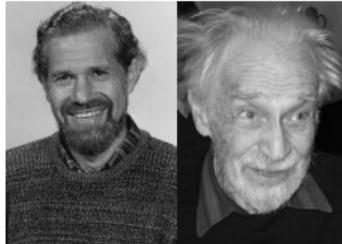
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## An alternative approach

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



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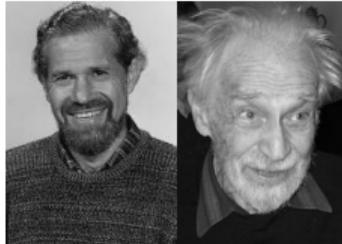


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- ▶ The seminal work on contextuality used **partial Boolean algebras**.
- ▶ Only admit physically meaningful operations.
- ▶ Represent incompatibility by **partiality**.

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

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

## Boolean algebras

Boolean algebra  $\langle A, 0, 1, \neg, \vee, \wedge \rangle$ :

- ▶ a set  $A$
- ▶ constants  $0, 1 \in A$
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satisfying the usual axioms:  $\langle A, \vee, 0 \rangle$  and  $\langle A, \wedge, 1 \rangle$  are commutative monoids,  
 $\vee$  and  $\wedge$  distribute over each other,  
 $a \vee \neg a = 1$  and  $a \wedge \neg a = 0$ .

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

## Partial Boolean algebras

Partial Boolean algebra  $\langle A, \odot, 0, 1, \neg, \vee, \wedge \rangle$ :

- ▶ 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 comm measurability, and the operations wherever defined. This gives a category **pBA**.

## Contextuality, or the Kochen–Specker theorem

Kochen & Specker (1965).

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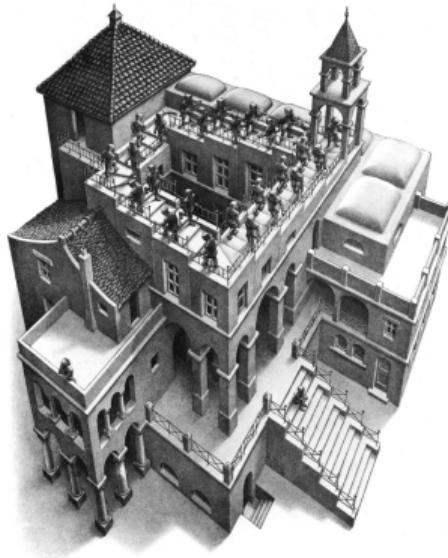
- ▶ No assignment of truth values to all propositions which respects logical operations on jointly testable propositions.
- ▶ Spectrum of a pBA cannot have *points*...

## The essence of contextuality

- ▶ Not all properties may be observed simultaneously.
- ▶ Sets of jointly observable properties provide **partial, classical snapshots**.

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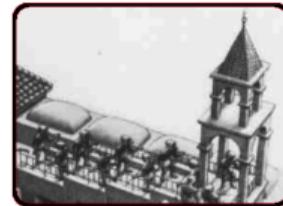
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M. C. Escher, *Ascending and Descending*

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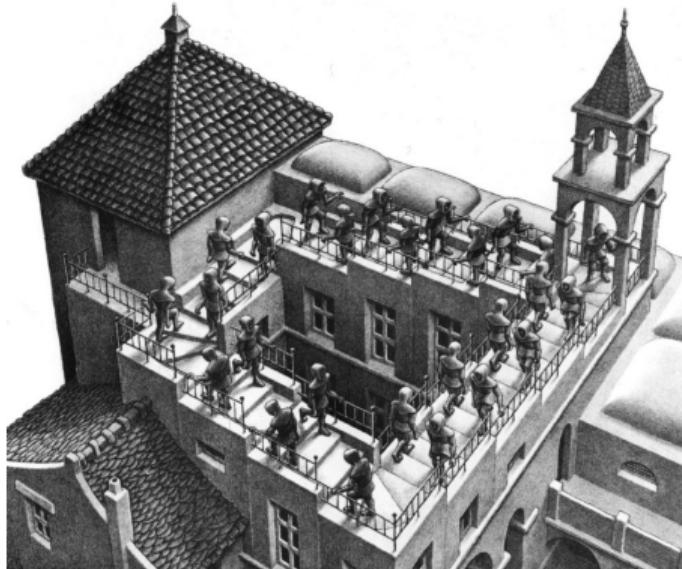
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**Local consistency**

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Local consistency *but* **Global inconsistency**

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  - ▶ Any extension of Zariski spectrum to a functor  $\mathbf{Rng}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Top}$  trivialises on  $\mathbb{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$  ( $n \geq 3$ ).
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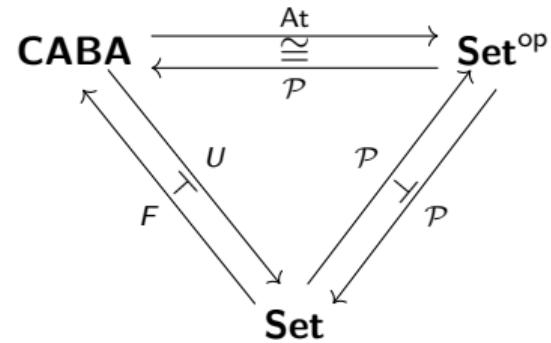
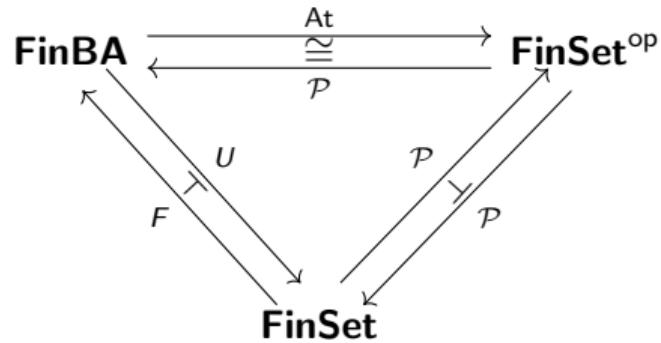
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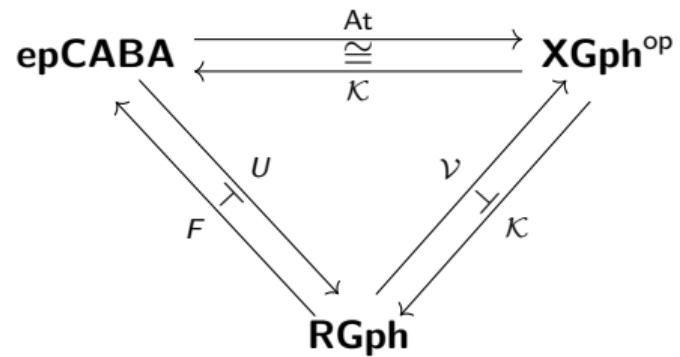
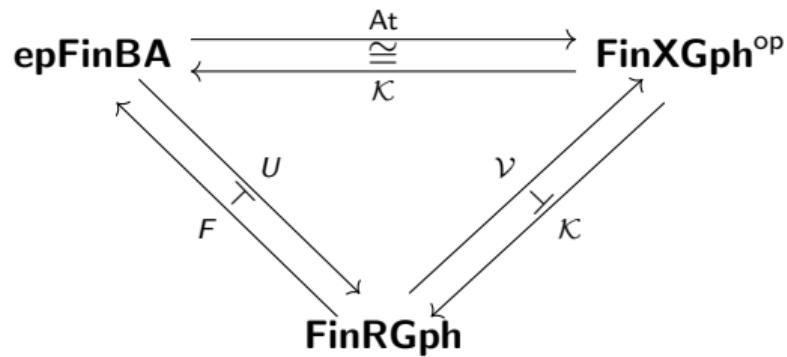
*'What is proved by impossibility proofs is lack of imagination.'* – John S. Bell

# Results

# Lindenbaum–Tarski



# Partial Lindenbaum–Tarski



Recap: Lindenbaum–Tarski duality

## 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

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

## 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

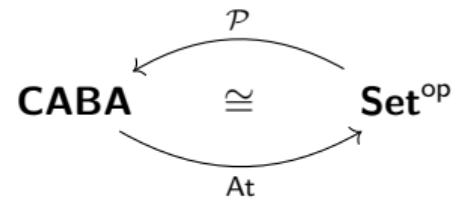
*In a CABA, every element is the join of the atoms below it:*

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

## Proof.

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

# Lindenbaum–Tarski duality



## Lindenbaum–Tarski duality

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \swarrow^{\mathcal{P}} & \\ \mathbf{CABA} & \cong & \mathbf{Set}^{\text{op}} \\ & \searrow_{\text{At}} & \end{array}$$

$\mathcal{P} : \mathbf{Set}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{CABA}$  is the contravariant powerset functor:

- ▶ on objects: a set  $X$  is mapped to its powerset  $\mathcal{P}X$  (a CABA).
- ▶ on morphisms: a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  yields a complete Boolean algebra homomorphism

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

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$\text{At} : \mathbf{CABA}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  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

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

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

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# Lindenbaum–Tarski duality

## Lemma

Let  $h : A \rightarrow B$  in **CABA**. For all  $y \in \text{At}(A)$ , there is a unique  $x \in \text{At}(A)$  with  $y \leq h(x)$ .

## 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  $1_A = \bigvee \text{At}(A)$ . Hence,

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

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

## 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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*A property is identified with the set of possible worlds in which it holds.*

- Given a set  $X$ , the bijection  $X \cong \text{At}(\mathcal{P}(X))$  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 completely determines it).*

# Duality for partial CABAs

## Logical exclusivity principle

Let  $A$  be a partial Boolean algebra.

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

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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  $\perp \subseteq \odot$ .

## Logical exclusivity principle

Note that  $\leq$  is always reflexive and antisymmetric.

### Definition

A partial Boolean algebra is said to be **transitive** if for all elements  $a, b, c$ ,  $a \leq b$  and  $b \leq c$ , then  $a \leq c$ , i.e.  $\leq$  is (globally) a partial order on  $A$ .

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We restrict attention 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  $I : \mathbf{epBA} \rightarrow \mathbf{pBA}$  has a left adjoint  $X : \mathbf{pBA} \rightarrow \mathbf{epBA}$ .*

## Partial CABAs

### Definition (partial complete BA)

A **partial complete Boolean algebra** is a partial Boolean algebra 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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A **partial CABA** is a complete, atomic partial Boolean algebra.

# Graph

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Elements of the set 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  $x \in K$ .

A graph  $(X, \#)$  is **finite-dimensional** if all cliques are finite sets.

## Graph of atoms

### Definition (Graph of atoms)

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

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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

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

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

## Elements from atoms

### 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  $\text{At}(A)$  which is maximal in  $U_a$ .*

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### Proof.

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

Being a clique in  $\text{At}(A)$ ,  $K \in \odot$  and thus  $\bigvee K$  is defined.

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

Now, suppose  $a \not\leq \bigvee K$ , i.e.  $a \wedge \neg \bigvee K \neq 0$ . Then atomicity implies there is an atom  $x \leq a \wedge \neg \bigvee K$ . 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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### Proposition

*Let  $K$  and  $L$  be cliques in  $\text{At}(A)$ . Then  $\bigvee K = \bigvee L$  iff  $K^\# = L^\#$ .*

## Partial CABA from its graph of atoms

Writing

$$K \equiv L : \Leftrightarrow K^\# = L^\#,$$

elements of  $A$  are in one-to-one correspondence with  $\equiv$ -equivalence classes of cliques of  $\text{At}(A)$ .

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

# Exclusivity graphs

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

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- ▶ 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. implies  $\neq$ .

## Graph of atoms is exclusive

### Proposition

*Let  $A$  be a partial Boolean algebra. Then  $\text{At}(A)$  is an exclusivity graph.*

### Proof.

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

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

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

By transitivity, we conclude that  $x \odot y$ ,

□

# Morphisms of exclusivity graphs

What about morphisms?

## Definition

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

1.  $xRy$ ,  $x'Ry'$ , and  $y\#y'$  implies  $x\#x'$
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Given  $h : A \rightarrow B$  define  $yRx$  iff  $y \leq h(x)$ .

## Global points

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Homomorphism  $A \rightarrow 2$  corresponds to morphism  $K_1 \rightarrow \text{At}(A)$ ,

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

## Reconstruction via neighbourhood-regular sets?

- ▶ Recall that  $K \equiv L$  iff  $K^\# = L^\#$ , hence  $K^{\#\#} = L^{\#\#}$

## Reconstruction via neighbourhood-regular sets?

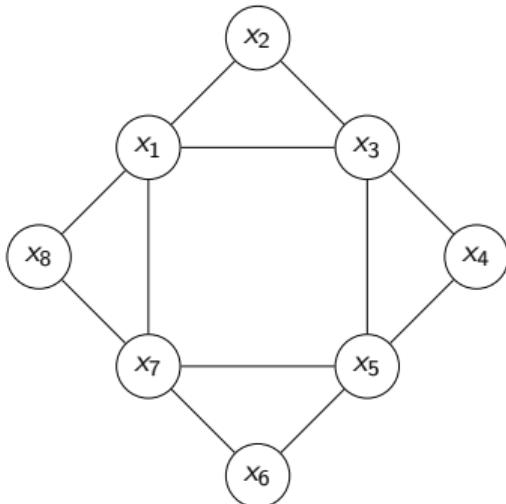
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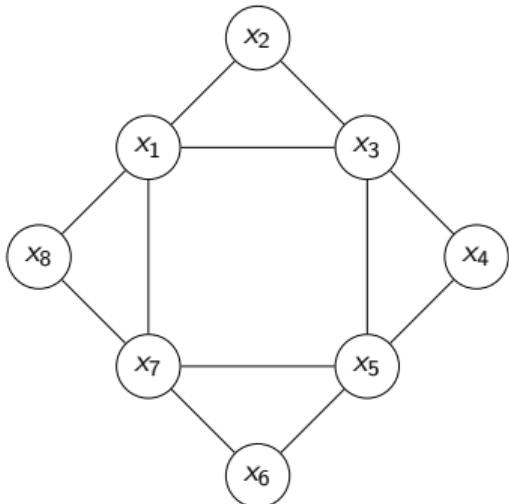
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- ▶ However, not all nhood-regular sets are  $K^{\#\#}$  for some clique  $K$ .

## Reconstruction via neighbourhood-regular sets?

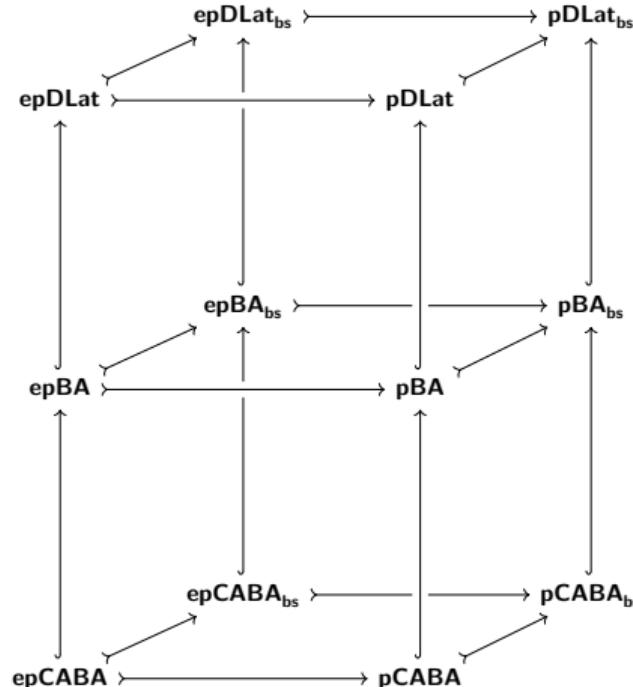
- ▶ Recall that  $K \equiv L$  iff  $K^\# = L^\#$ , hence  $K^{\#\#} = L^{\#\#}$
- ▶ Moreover,  $U_a = K^{\#\#}$  for any clique  $K$  maximal in  $U_a$
- ▶ This suggests taking neighbourhood-regular sets ( $S^{\#\#} = S$ ) as elements of the CABA built from an exclusivity graph.



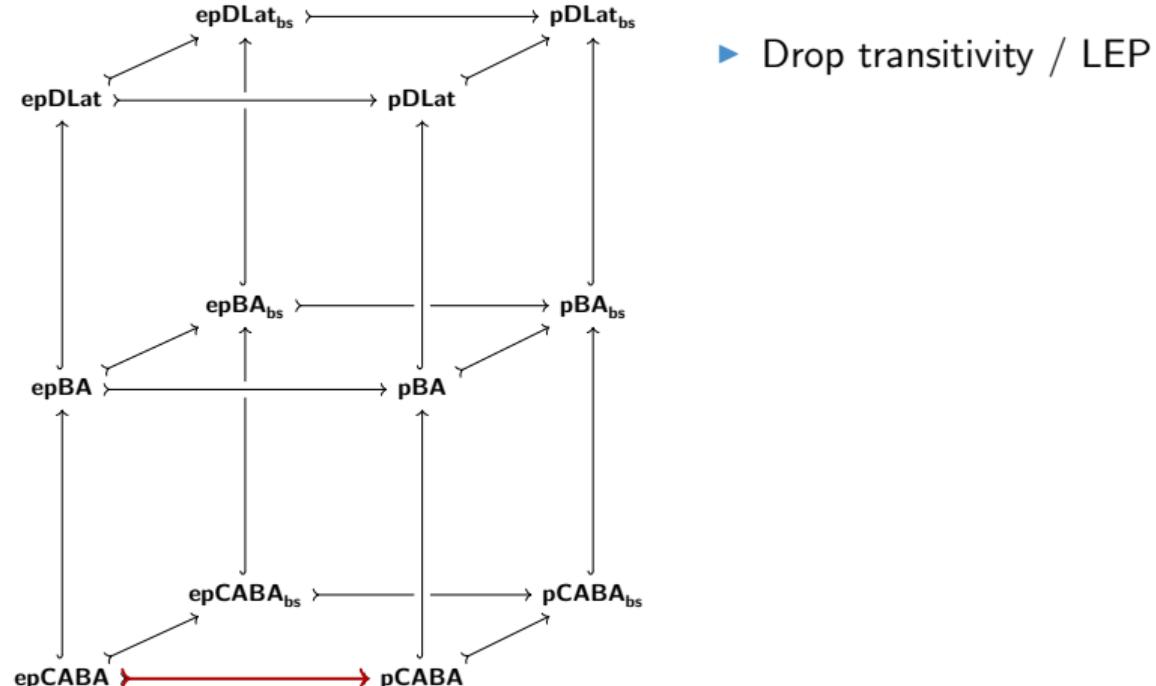
▶ However, not all nhood-regular sets are  $K^{\#\#}$  for some clique  $K$ .

Can we characterise which nhood-regular sets arise from cliques?

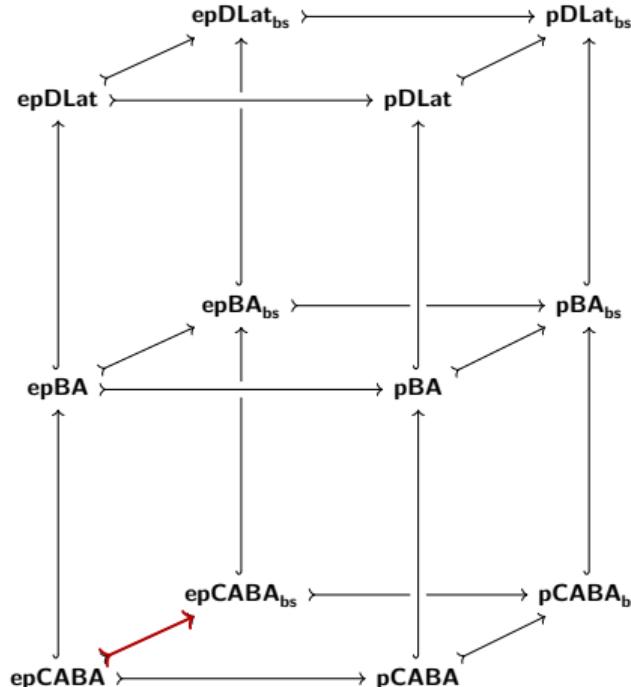
# The spatial landscape of partial Boolean algebra



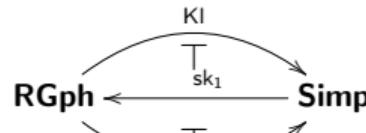
# The spatial landscape of partial Boolean algebra



# The spatial landscape of partial Boolean algebra

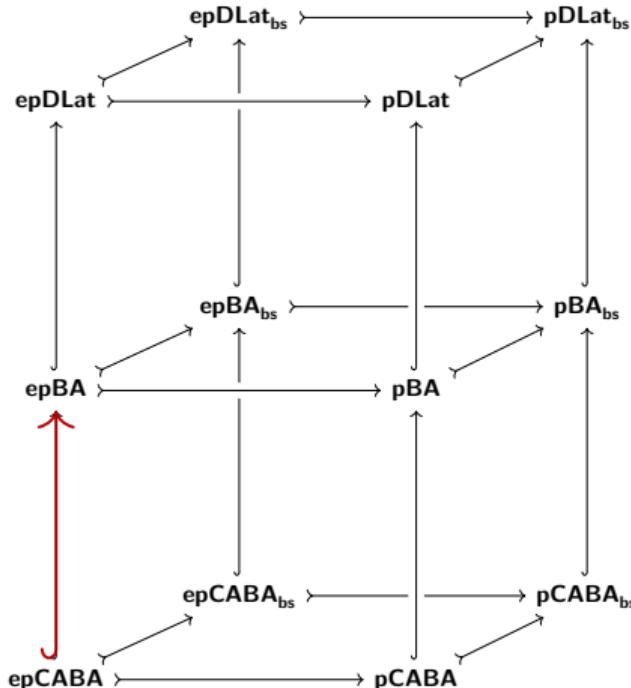


- ▶ Drop transitivity / LEP
- ▶ Relax binary to simplicial compatibility



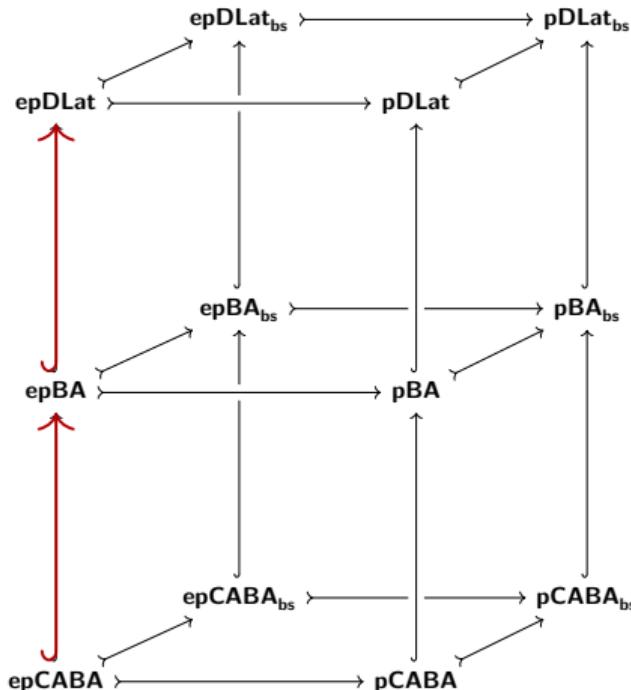
~~> Czelakowski's *pBAs in a broader sense*

# The spatial landscape of partial Boolean algebra

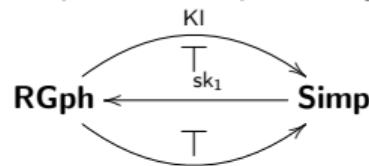


- ▶ Drop transitivity / LEP
  - ▶ Relax binary to simplicial compatibility
- $\xrightarrow{\text{KI}} \text{RGph} \leftrightarrow \text{Simp} \xleftarrow{\text{I}}$
- ~~~Czelakowski's *pBAs in a broader sense*
- ▶ Dropping completeness and atomicity  
(e.g.  $P(A)$  for vN algebra  $A$  with factor not of type I)

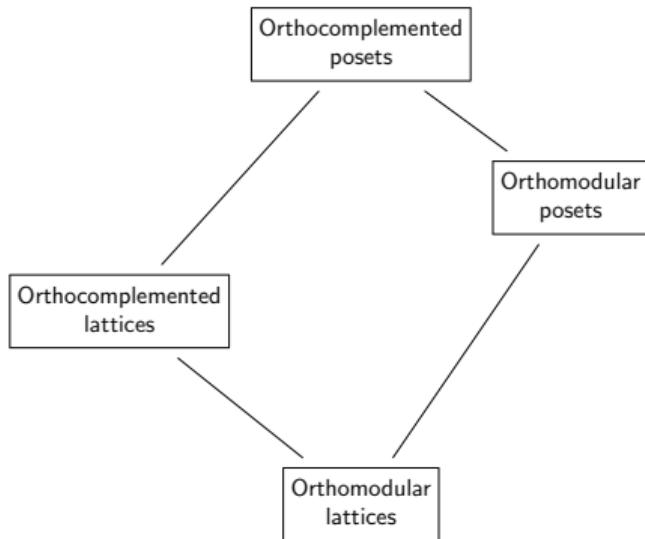
# The spatial landscape of partial Boolean algebra



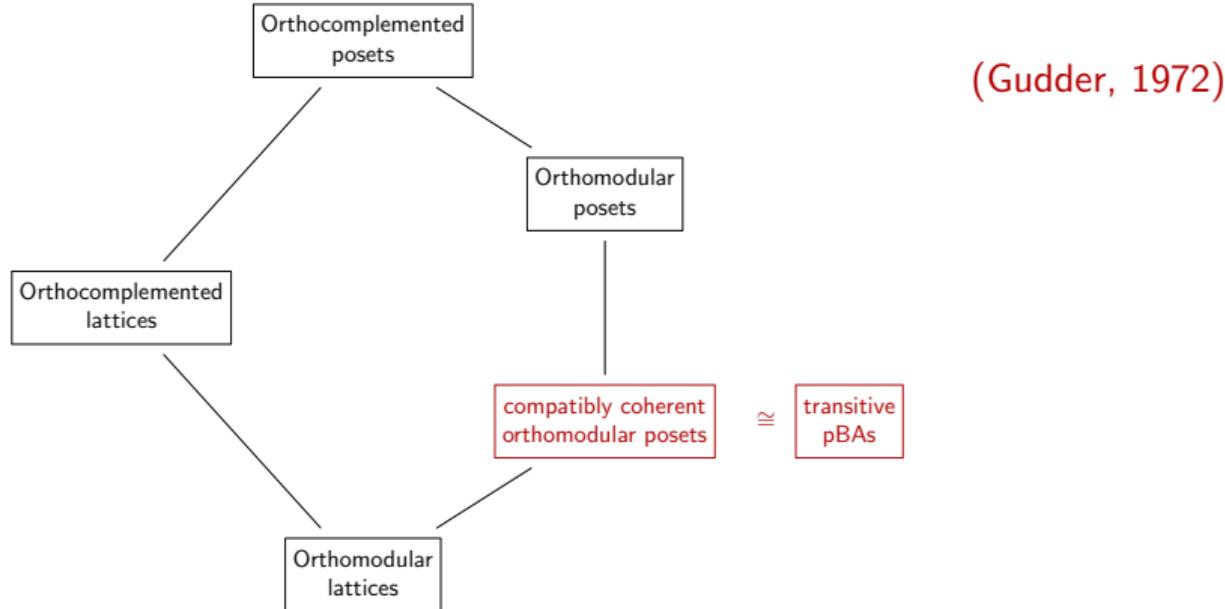
- ▶ Drop transitivity / LEP
- ▶ Relax binary to simplicial compatibility
  - ~~ Czelakowski's *pBAs in a broader sense*
- ▶ Dropping completeness and atomicity  
(e.g.  $P(A)$  for vN algebra  $A$  with factor not of type I)
  - ~~ analogues of Stone, Priestley, ...  
Stone's motto: '*always topologise*' – but how?



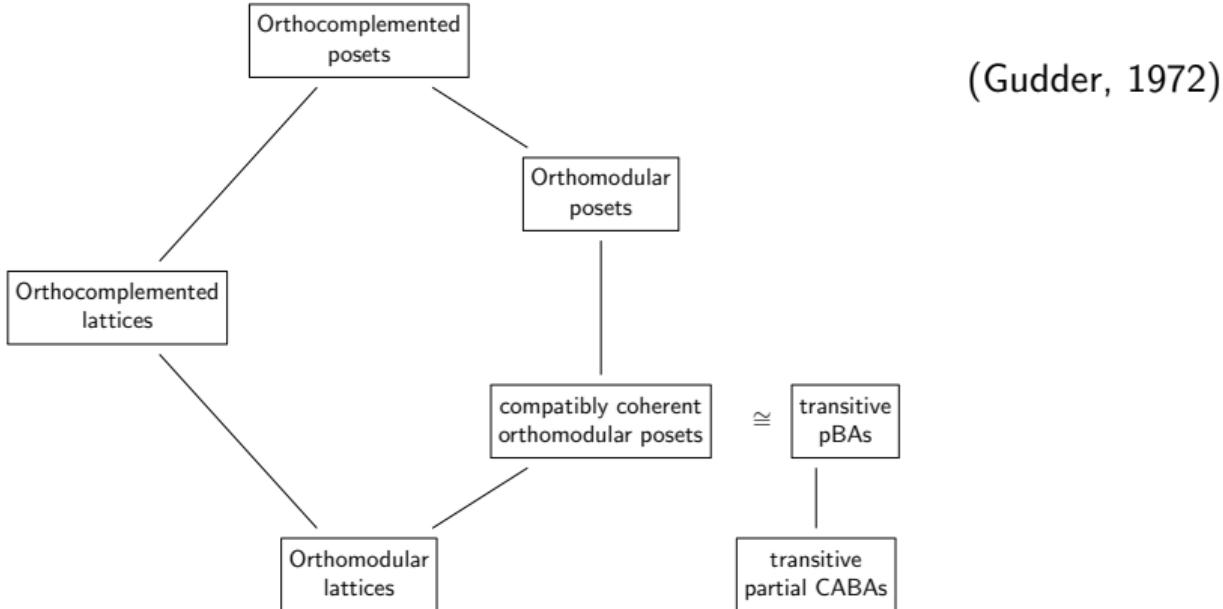
# The wider spatial landscape of ‘quantum’ logics



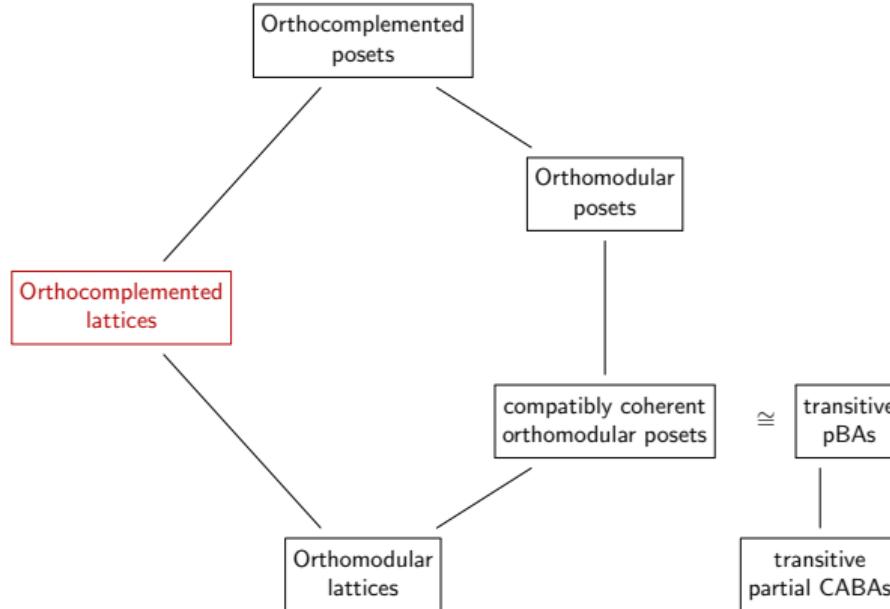
# The wider spatial landscape of ‘quantum’ logics



# The wider spatial landscape of ‘quantum’ logics



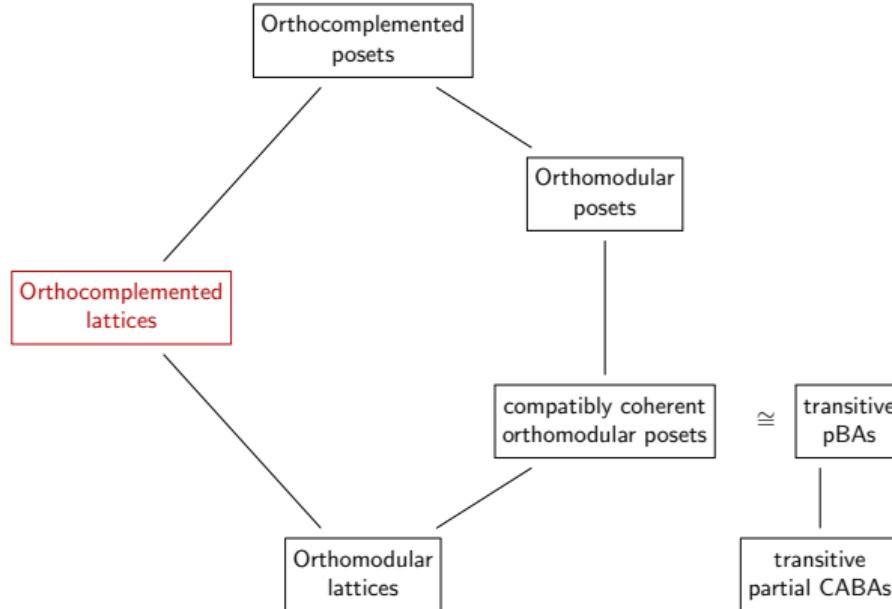
# The wider spatial landscape of ‘quantum’ logics



(Gudder, 1972)

OLs  $\rightsquigarrow$  Minimal quantum logic  
(Dishkant, Goldblatt, Dalla Chiara, 1970s)

# The wider spatial landscape of ‘quantum’ logics



(Gudder, 1972)

OLs  $\leftrightarrow$  Minimal quantum logic  
(Dishkant, Goldblatt, Dalla Chiara, 1970s)

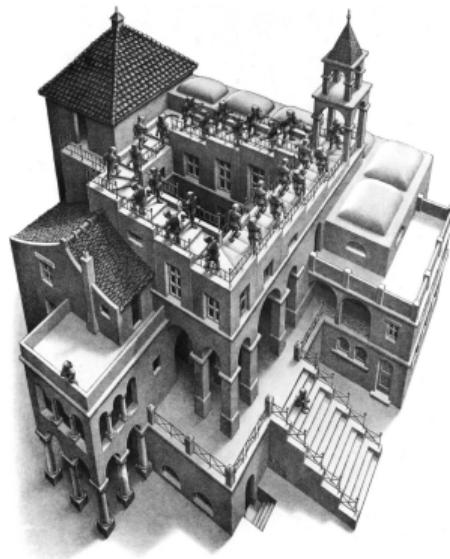
Stone representation for OLs

(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?



Questions...

?