

# Domains of Boolean algebras

Chris Heunen

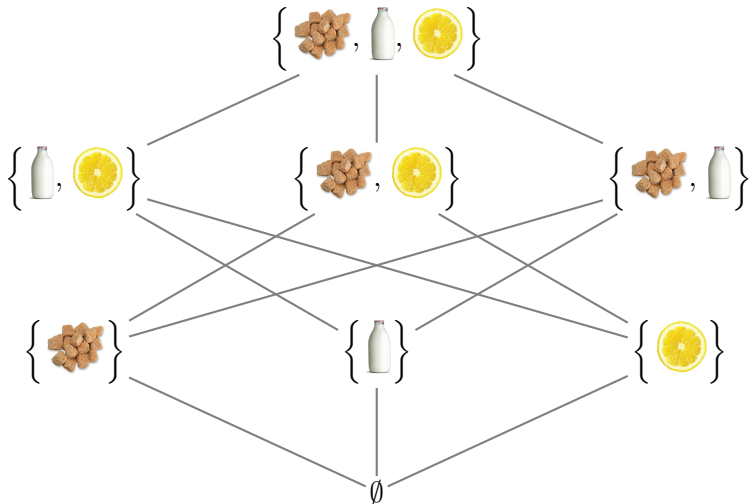


DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMPUTER  
SCIENCE**



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
**informatics**

## Boolean algebra: example



# Boolean algebra: definition

A **Boolean algebra** is a set  $B$  with:

- ▶ a distinguished element  $1 \in B$ ;
- ▶ a unary operations  $\neg: B \rightarrow B$ ;
- ▶ a binary operation  $\wedge: B \times B \rightarrow B$ ;

such that for all  $x, y, z \in B$ :

- ▶  $x \wedge (y \wedge z) = (x \wedge y) \wedge z$ ;
- ▶  $x \wedge y = y \wedge x$ ;
- ▶  $x \wedge 1 = x$ ;
- ▶  $\neg x = \neg(x \wedge \neg y) \wedge \neg(x \wedge y)$



“Sets of independent postulates for the algebra of logic”

Transactions of the American Mathematical Society 5:288–309, 1904

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- ▶  $x \wedge x = x$ ;
- ▶  $x \wedge \neg x = \neg 1 = \neg 1 \wedge x$ ; ( $\neg x$  is a complement of  $x$ )
- ▶  $x \wedge \neg y = \neg 1 \Leftrightarrow x \wedge y = x$  ( $0 = \neg 1$  is the least element)



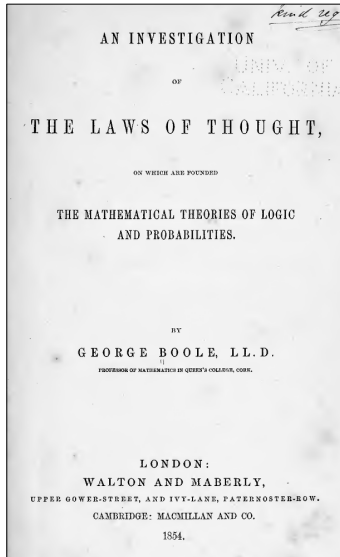
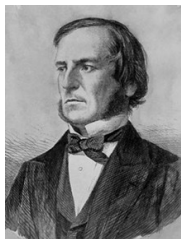
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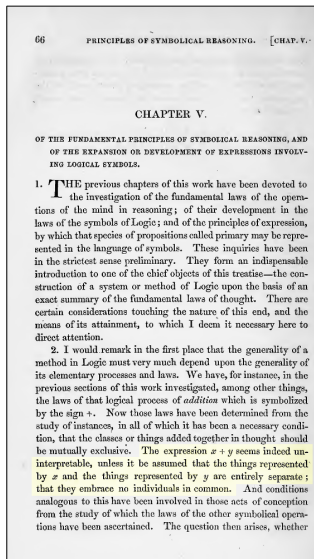
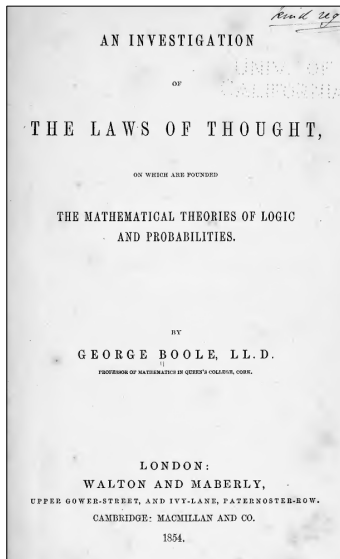
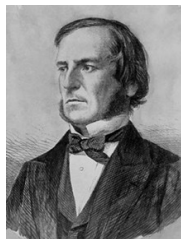
# Boole's algebra



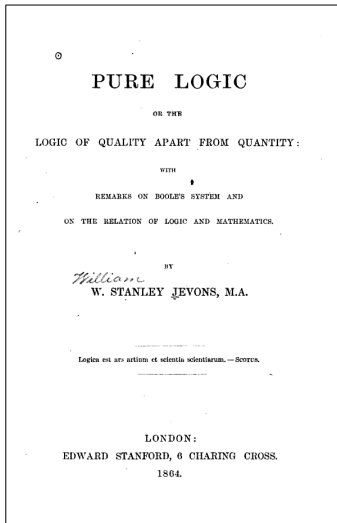
# Boolean algebra $\neq$ Boole's algebra



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# Boolean algebra = Jevon's algebra





# Boolean algebra = Jevon's algebra



PURE LOGIC  
OR THE  
LOGIC OF QUALITY APART FROM QUANTITY :

WITH  
REMARKS ON BOOLE'S SYSTEM AND  
ON THE RELATION OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS.

BY  
*William*  
W. STANLEY JEVONS, M.A.

Logica est ars artem et scientia scientiarum. — SCOTUS.

LONDON:  
EDWARD STANFORD, 6 CHARING CROSS.  
1864.

26

PURE LOGIC.

is  $AB$ ; if it is  $C$ , is  $AC$ , and it is therefore either  $AB$  or  $AC$ .

*Use of brackets.*

67. Let a plural term enclosed in brackets ( . . . . . ), and placed beside another term, mean that it is combined with it, as one single term is with another :

Thus  $A(B+C) = AB+AC$ .

*Combination of plural terms.*

68. One plural term is combined with another by combining each alternative of the one separately with each of the other. Each combined alternative may then be combined with each alternative of a third plural term, and so on :

Thus  $(D+E)(B+C) = B(D+E) + C(D+E)$   
 $= BD+BE+CD+CE$ .

*Law of unity.*

69. It is in the nature of thought and things that same alternatives are together same in meaning, as any one taken singly.

Thus, what is the same as  $A$  or  $A$  is the same as  $A$ , a self-evident truth.

$A+A=A$   $A+A+A=A$   $A+A+B=A+B$

This law is correlative to the Law of Simplicity, (§ 39), and is perhaps of equal importance and frequent use. It was not recognised by Professor Boole, when laying down the principles of his system.

*Superfluous terms.*

70. In a plural term, any alternative may be removed, of which a part forms another alternative.

Thus the term *either B or BC* is the same in meaning with  $B$  alone, or  $B+BC=B$ . For it is a self-evident truth (§ 99) that  $B$  standing alone is either the same as  $BC$ , or as  $B$  not- $C$ . Thus

$B+BC=B$  not- $C+BC+BC$   
 $=B$  not- $C+BC=B$ .

# Boole's algebra isn't Boolean algebra



## Boole's Algebra Isn't Boolean Algebra

*A description, using modern algebra,  
of what Boole really did create.*

**THEODORE HAILPERIN**

*Lehigh University*

*Bethlehem, PA 18015*

To Boole and his mid-nineteenth century contemporaries, the title of this article would have been very puzzling. For Boole's first work in logic, *The Mathematical Analysis of Logic*, appeared in 1847 and, although the beginnings of modern abstract algebra can be traced back to the early part of the nineteenth century, the subject had not fully emerged until towards the end of the century. Only then could one clearly distinguish and compare algebras. (We use the term **algebra** here as standing for a formal system, not a structure which realizes, or is a model for, it—for instance, the algebra of integral domains as codified by a set of axioms *versus* a particular structure, e.g., the integers, which satisfies these axioms.) Granted, however, that this later full degree of understanding has been attained, and that one can conceptually distinguish algebras, is it not true that Boole's "algebra of logic" is Boolean algebra?

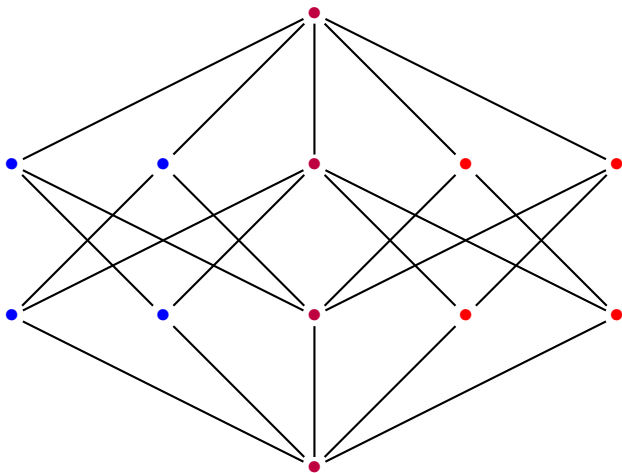
## Piecewise Boolean algebra: definition

A **piecewise Boolean algebra** is a set  $B$  with:

- ▶ a reflexive symmetric binary relation  $\odot \subseteq B^2$ ;
- ▶ a (partial) binary operation  $\wedge: \odot \rightarrow B$ ;
- ▶ a (total) function  $\neg: B \rightarrow B$ ;
- ▶ an element  $1 \in B$  with  $\{1\} \times B \subseteq \odot$ ;

such that every  $S \subseteq B$  with  $S^2 \subseteq \odot$  is contained in a  $T \subseteq B$  with  $T^2 \subseteq \odot$  where  $(T, \wedge, \neg, 1)$  is a Boolean algebra.

## Piecewise Boolean algebra: example



# Piecewise Boolean algebra $\not\leq$ quantum logic

~~Subsets of a set~~

Subspaces of a Hilbert space



“The logic of quantum mechanics”

Annals of Mathematics 37:823–843, 1936

# Piecewise Boolean algebra $\leq$ quantum logic

~~Subsets of a set~~

Subspaces of a Hilbert space

An orthomodular lattice is:

- ▶ A partial order set  $(B, \leq)$  with min 0 and max 1
- ▶ that has greatest lower bounds  $x \wedge y$ ;
- ▶ an operation  $\perp: B \rightarrow B$  such that
- ▶  $x^{\perp\perp} = x$ , and  $x \leq y$  implies  $y^{\perp} \leq x^{\perp}$ ;
- ▶  $x \vee x^{\perp} = 1$ ;
- ▶ if  $x \leq y$  then  $y = x \vee (y \wedge x^{\perp})$



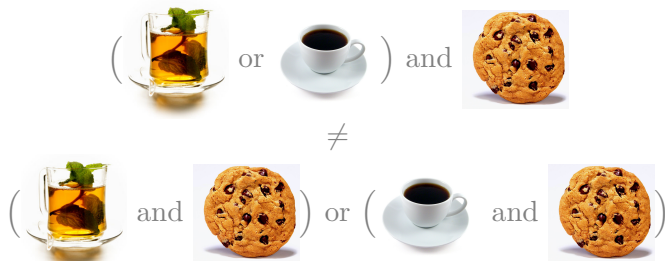
“The logic of quantum mechanics”  
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# Piecewise Boolean algebra $\not\leq$ quantum logic

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An orthomodular lattice is **not distributive**:

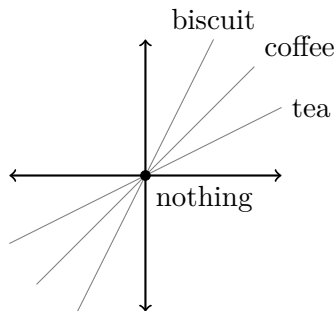


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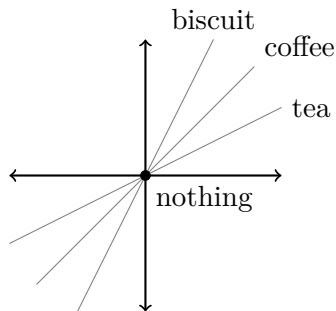
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However: fine when within orthogonal basis (Boolean subalgebra)



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Annals of Mathematics 37:823–843, 1936

# Boole's algebra $\neq$ Boolean algebra

Quantum measurement is probabilistic

(state  $\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$  gives outcome 0 with probability  $|\alpha|^2$ )

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A **hidden variable** for a state is an assignment of a consistent outcome to any possible measurement

(homomorphism of piecewise Boolean algebras to  $\{0, 1\}$ )

**Theorem:** hidden variables cannot exist

(if dimension  $n \geq 3$ , there is no homomorphism

$\text{Sub}(\mathbb{C}^n) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  of piecewise Boolean algebras.)

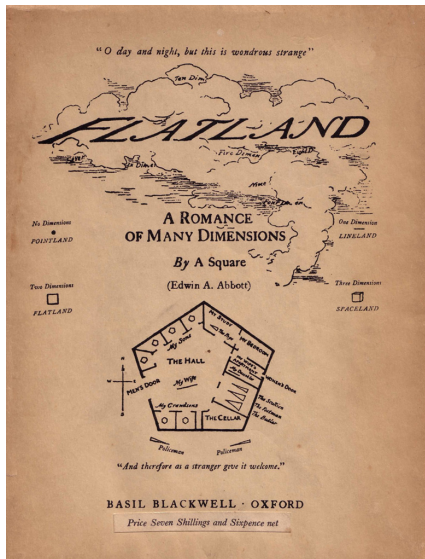


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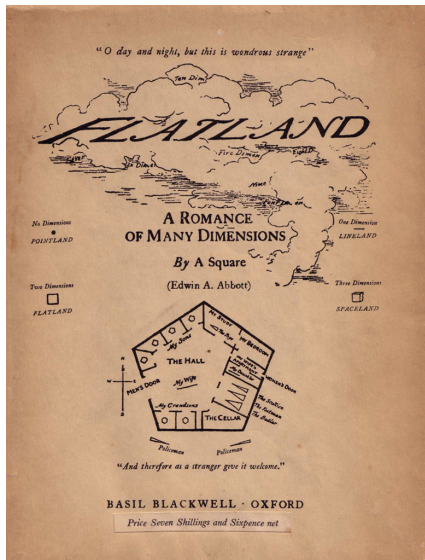
“The problem of hidden variables in quantum mechanics”

Journal of Mathematics and Mechanics 17:59–87, 1967

## Piecewise Boolean domains: idea

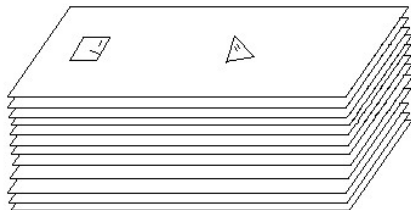


# Piecewise Boolean domains: idea



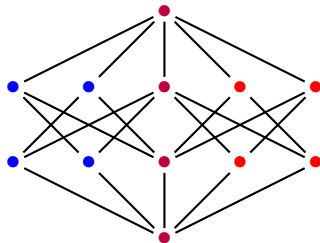
## Piecewise Boolean domains: definition

Given a piecewise Boolean algebra  $B$ ,  
its **piecewise Boolean domain**  $\text{Sub}(B)$   
is the collection of its Boolean subalgebras,  
partially ordered by inclusion.

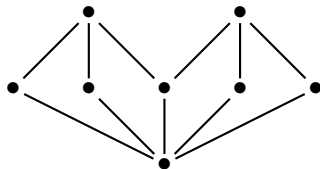


# Piecewise Boolean domains: example

Example: if  $B$  is



then  $\text{Sub}(B)$  is





# Piecewise Boolean domains: theorems

Can reconstruct  $B$  from  $\text{Sub}(B)$

( $B \cong \text{colim } \text{Sub}(B)$ )

(the parts determine the whole)



“Noncommutativity as a colimit”

Applied Categorical Structures 20(4):393–414, 2012

# Piecewise Boolean domains: theorems

Can reconstruct  $B$  from  $\text{Sub}(B)$

$(B \cong \text{colim } \text{Sub}(B))$

(the parts determine the whole)

$\text{Sub}(B)$  determines  $B$

$(B \cong B' \iff \text{Sub}(B) \cong \text{Sub}(B'))$

(*shape* of parts determines whole)



“Noncommutativity as a colimit”

Applied Categorical Structures 20(4):393–414, 2012



“Subalgebras of orthomodular lattices”

Order 28:549–563, 2011

## Piecewise Boolean domains: as complex as graphs

State space = Hilbert space

Sharp measurements = subspaces (projections)

Jointly measurable = overlapping or orthogonal (commute)

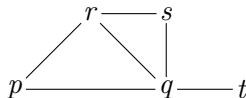
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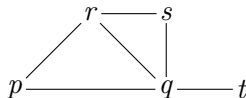
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**Theorem:** Any graph can be realised as sharp measurements on some Hilbert space.



“Quantum theory realises all joint measurability graphs”  
Physical Review A 89(3):032121, 2014

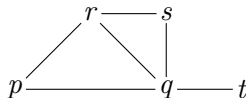
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**Theorem:** Any graph can be realised as sharp measurements on some Hilbert space.

**Corollary:** Any piecewise Boolean algebra can be realised on some Hilbert space.



“Quantum theory realises all joint measurability graphs”  
Physical Review A 89(3):032121, 2014



“Quantum probability – quantum logic”  
Springer Lecture Notes in Physics 321, 1989

# Piecewise Boolean domains: as complex as hypergraphs

State space = Hilbert space

*Unsharp* measurements = positive operator-valued measures

Jointly measurable = marginals of larger POVM

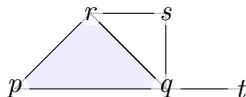
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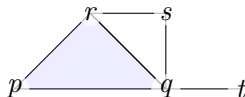
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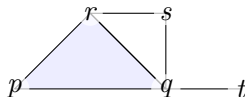
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“All joint measurability structures are quantum realizable”  
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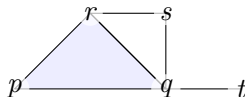
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**Theorem:** Any abstract simplicial complex can be realised as POVMs on a Hilbert space.

**Corollary:** Any effect algebra can be realised on some Hilbert space.



“All joint measurability structures are quantum realizable”  
Physical Review A 89(5):052126, 2014



“Hilbert space effect-representations of effect algebras”  
Reports on Mathematical Physics 70(3):283–290, 2012

## Piecewise Boolean domains: partition lattices

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Boolean algebras are dually equivalent to Stone spaces



“The theory of representations of Boolean algebras”

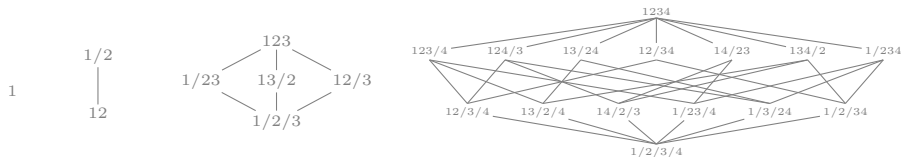
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$\text{Sub}(B)$  becomes a **partition lattice**



“The theory of representations of Boolean algebras”

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“On the lattice of subalgebras of a Boolean algebra”

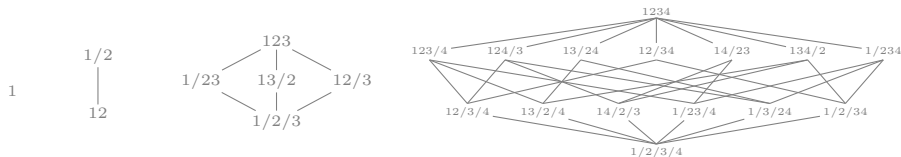
Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society 36: 87–92, 1972

# Piecewise Boolean domains: partition lattices

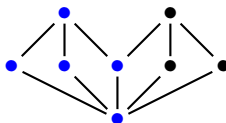
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$\text{Sub}(B)$  becomes a **partition lattice**



Idea: every **downset** in  $\text{Sub}(B)$  is a partition lattice (upside-down)!



“The theory of representations of Boolean algebras”

Transactions of the American Mathematical Society 40:37–111, 1936

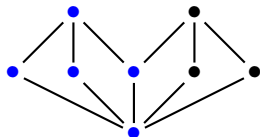


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## Piecewise Boolean domains: characterisation

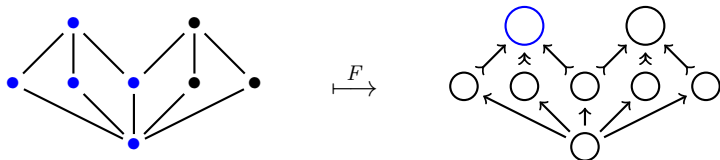
**Lemma:** Piecewise Boolean domain  $D$  gives functor  $F: D \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$  that preserves subobjects; “ $F$  is a **piecewise Boolean diagram**”.  
( $\text{Sub}(F(x)) \cong \downarrow x$ , and  $B = \text{colim } F$ )





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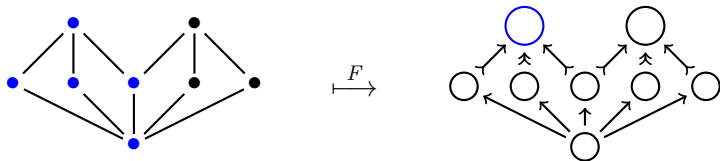


“Piecewise Boolean algebras and their domains”

ICALP Proceedings, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 8573:208–219, 2014

# Piecewise Boolean domains: characterisation

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**Theorem:** A partial order is a **piecewise Boolean domain** iff:

- ▶ it has directed suprema;
- ▶ it has nonempty infima;
- ▶ each element is a supremum of compact ones;
- ▶ each downset is cogeometric with a modular atom;
- ▶ each element of height  $n \leq 3$  covers  $\binom{n+1}{2}$  elements.



## Piecewise Boolean domains: higher order

**Scott topology** turns directed suprema into topological convergence  
(closed sets = downsets closed under directed suprema)

**Lawson topology** refines it from dcpos to continuous lattices  
(basic open sets = Scott open minus upset of finite set)

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If  $B_0$  is piecewise Boolean algebra,  $\text{Sub}(B_0)$  is algebraic dcpo and complete semilattice,

# Piecewise Boolean domains: higher order

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“Continuous lattices and domains”  
Cambridge University Press, 2003

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If  $B_0$  is piecewise Boolean algebra,  $\text{Sub}(B_0)$  is algebraic dcpo and complete semilattice, hence a Stone space under Lawson topology!

It then gives rise to a new Boolean algebra  $B_1$ . Repeat:  $B_2, B_3, \dots$   
(Can handle domains of Boolean algebras with Boolean algebra!)



“Continuous lattices and domains”  
Cambridge University Press, 2003



“Domains of commutative  $C^*$ -subalgebras”  
Logic in Computer Science, ACM/IEEE Proceedings 450–461, 2015

## Piecewise Boolean diagrams: topos

- Consider “contextual sets” over piecewise Boolean algebra  $B$   
assignment of set  $S(C)$  to each  $C \in \text{Sub}(B)$   
such that  $C \subseteq D$  implies  $S(C) \subseteq S(D)$

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in particular, it has a logic of its own!
- ▶ There is one canonical contextual set  $\underline{B}$   
 $\underline{B}(C) = C$
- ▶  $\mathcal{T}(B)$  believes that  $\underline{B}$  is an honest Boolean algebra!



“A topos for algebraic quantum theory”

Communications in Mathematical Physics 291:63–110, 2009

# Operator algebra

C\*-algebras: main examples of piecewise Boolean algebras.

# Operator algebra




-algebras: main examples of piecewise Boolean algebras.

# Operator algebra



-algebras: main examples of piecewise Boolean algebras.

Example:  $C(X) = \{f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ continuous}\}$

**Theorem:** Every commutative -algebra is of this form.



“Normierte Ringe”


Matematicheskii Sbornik 9(51):3–24, 1941

# Operator algebra




-algebras: main examples of piecewise Boolean algebras.

Example:  $C(X) = \{f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ continuous}\}$

**Theorem:** Every commutative -algebra is of this form.

Example:  $B(H) = \{f: H \rightarrow H \text{ continuous linear}\}$

**Theorem:** Every -algebra embeds into one of this form.



“Normierte Ringe”


Matematicheskii Sbornik 9(51):3–24, 1941




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# Operator algebra


-algebras: main examples of piecewise Boolean algebras.

Example:  $C(X) = \{f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ continuous}\}$

**Theorem:** Every commutative -algebra is of this form.

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**Theorem:** Every -algebra embeds into one of this form.

piecewise Boolean algebras  $\xleftarrow{\text{projections}}$  -algebras



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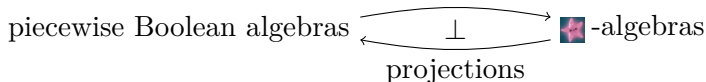
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If  $\text{Sub}(A) \cong \text{Sub}(B)$  preserves  $U(A) \times \text{Sub}(A) \rightarrow \text{Sub}(A)$ ,  
then  $A \cong B$  as -algebras.

Needs orientation!



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These imply that  $\text{Sub}(A)$  is meet-continuous.



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# Scatteredness

A space is **scattered** if every nonempty subset has an isolated point.  
Precisely when each continuous  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has countable image.

Example:  $\{0, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots\}$ .



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Nonexample:  $C(\text{Cantor})$  is approximately finite-dimensional

Nonexample:  $C([0, 1])$  is not even approximately finite-dimensional



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# Back to quantum logic

For -algebra  $C(X)$ , projections are **clopen subsets** of  $X$ .

Can characterize in order-theoretic terms: (if  $|X| \geq 3$ )


closed subsets of  $X$  = ideals of  $C(X)$  = elements of  $\text{Sub}(C(X))$

clopen subsets of  $X$  = ‘good’ pairs of elements of  $\text{Sub}(C(X))$



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Each projection of -algebra  $A$  is in some maximal  $C \in \text{Sub}(A)$ .

Can recover poset of projections from  $\text{Sub}(A)$ ! (if  $\dim(Z(A)) \geq 3$ )



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“ $\mathcal{C}(A)$ ”  
Radboud University Nijmegen, 2015

# Back to piecewise Boolean domains

$\text{Sub}(B)$  determines  $B$

$(B \cong B' \iff \text{Sub}(B) \cong \text{Sub}(B'))$

(*shape* of parts determines whole)

**Caveat: not 1-1 correspondence!**



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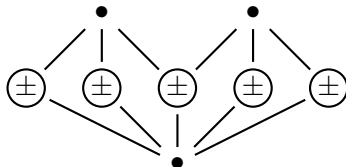
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**Theorem:** The following are **equivalent**:

- ▶ piecewise Boolean algebras
- ▶ piecewise Boolean diagrams
- ▶ **oriented** piecewise Boolean domains



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“Piecewise Boolean algebras and their domains”

ICALP Proceedings, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 8573:208–219, 2014

# Conclusion

- ▶ Should consider piecewise Boolean algebras
- ▶ Give rise to domain of honest Boolean subalgebras
- ▶ Complicated structure, but can characterize
- ▶ Shape of parts enough to determine whole
- ▶ Same trick works for scattered operator algebras
- ▶ Orientation needed for categorical equivalence