

Contextuality in logical form



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- ▶ I deeply believe that this is not haphazard, that there is a “community of spirit” in these endeavours, and also guiding ideas (Cf. Yoshiro Maruyama’s contribution to the volume).
- ▶ My own recent work has led to some striking and unexpected connections between many of the strands represented here:
 - ▶ work with Rui and Amy on combining contextuality and causality (game semantics and contextuality)
 - ▶ work with Adam Ó Conghaile, Anuj and Rui, on connections between cohomological characterizations of contextuality, and constraint satisfaction and Weisfeiler-Leman.
 - ▶ work with Rui on a quantum duality, to be described here
 - ▶ more speculatively, ongoing work with Luca on arboreal categories, which I believe will make connections with game semantics and differential types

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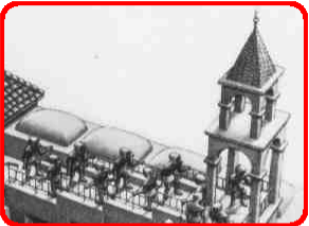
- ▶ Contextuality is a key signature of non-classicality on quantum mechanics
- ▶ Non-locality (as in Bell's theorem) is a special case
- ▶ Key role in many of the known cases of quantum advantage:
shallow circuits, measurement-based quantum computation, VQE ...

The essence of contextuality

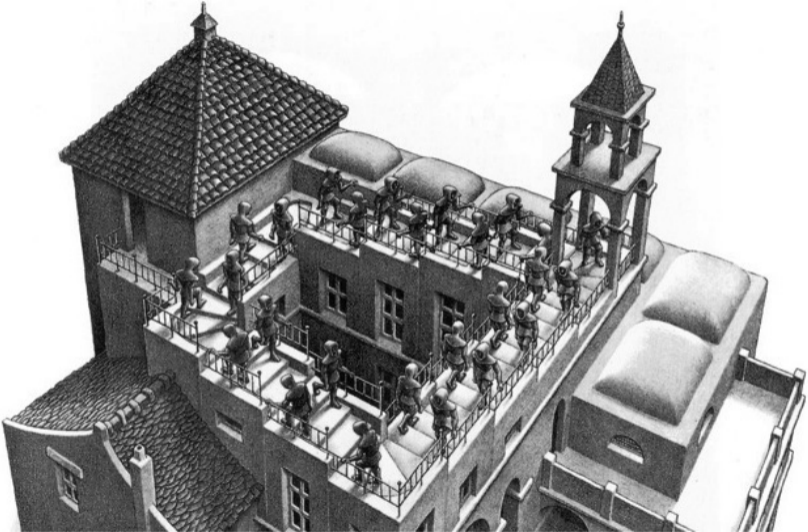
- ▶ Not all properties may be observed simultaneously.
- ▶ Sets of jointly observable properties provide **partial, classical snapshots**.
- ▶ Contextuality arises where there is a family of data which is

locally consistent but globally inconsistent

Contextuality Analogy: Local Consistency



Contextuality Analogy: Global Inconsistency



Background: traditional quantum logic



John von Neumann, in his seminal *Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics* (1932), identified quantum **properties** or **propositions** as projectors on a Hilbert Space \mathcal{H} , i.e. linear operators P on \mathcal{H} which are bounded, self-adjoint ($P = P^\dagger$) and idempotent ($P^2 = P$).

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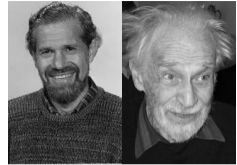
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- ▶ Distributivity fails: $p \wedge (q \vee r) \neq (p \wedge q) \vee (p \wedge r)$.
- ▶ Only commuting measurements can be performed together.
So, what is the operational meaning of $p \wedge q$, when p and q **do not commute**?

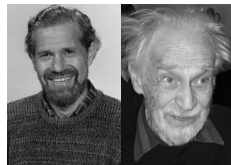
Quantum physics and logic

An alternative approach

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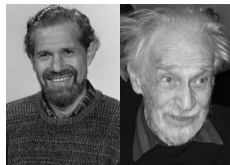


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- ▶ Represent incompatibility by **partiality**.

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

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

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 *commeasureability* or *compatibility*
- ▶ constants $0, 1 \in A$
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Morphisms of pBAs are maps preserving commensurability, and the operations wherever defined. This gives the category **pBA**.

Contextuality, or the Kochen–Specker theorem

Kochen & Specker (1965).

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

Conditions of impossible experience

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Using this terminology, we can express a (physically) remarkable result from Kochen and Specker as follows:

Theorem

let A be a pba. Then the following are equivalent:

1. A is K-S (i.e. no homomorphism to $\mathbf{2}$)
2. For some **propositional contradiction** $\varphi(\vec{x})$ and assignment $\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{a}$,

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How can the world be this way? Still an ongoing debate, an enduring mystery ...

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Is there a “logical” proof?

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One of the key points at which non-classicality emerges in quantum theory is the passage from $P(\mathbb{C}^2)$, which **does not** have the K-S property, to $P(\mathbb{C}^4) = P(\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2)$, which **does**.

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Can we capture the Hilbert space tensor product in logical form?

Question

*Is there a monoidal structure \otimes on the category \mathbf{pBA} such that the functor $\mathbf{P} : \mathbf{Hilb} \rightarrow \mathbf{pBA}$ is **strong monoidal** with respect to this structure, i.e. such that $P(\mathcal{H}) \otimes P(\mathcal{K}) \cong P(\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{K})$?*

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A positive answer to this question would offer a complete logical characterisation of the Hilbert space tensor product, and provide the remaining step towards giving compositional logical foundations for quantum theory in a form useful for quantum information and computation.

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We will instead generalize the **Tarski duality** for complete atomic Boolean algebras (CABAs)

CABAs

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)

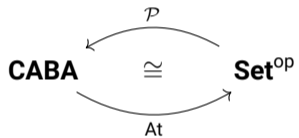
An **atom** of a Boolean algebra is a minimal non-zero element, i.e. an element $x \neq 0$ such that $a \leq x$ implies $a = 0$ or $a = x$.

Atoms are “state descriptions” or “possible worlds”.

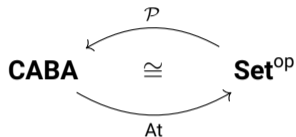
A Boolean algebra A is called **atomic** if every non-zero element sits above an atom, i.e. for all $a \in A$ with $a \neq 0$ there is an atom x with $x \leq a$.

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

Tarski duality



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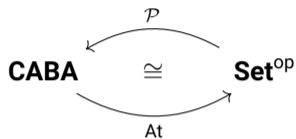
$\mathcal{P} : \mathbf{Set}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{CABA}$ is the contravariant powerset functor:

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

$$\mathcal{P}(f) : \mathcal{P}(Y) \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(X)$$

$$(T \subseteq Y) \mapsto f^{-1}(T) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) \in T\}$$

Tarski duality



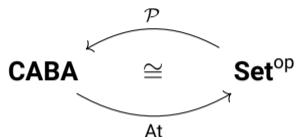
At : $\mathbf{CABA}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ is defined as follows:

- ▶ 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

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

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A **partial complete Boolean algebra** is a pBA with an additional (partial) operation

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satisfying the following property: any set $S \in \odot$ is contained in a set $T \in \odot$ 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.

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

Note that $P(\mathcal{H})$ is a partial CABA. Atoms are the rank-1 projectors (one-dimensional subspaces), i.e. the **pure states**.

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- ▶ The key idea is to replace **sets** by certain **graphs**.
- ▶ Adjacency generalizes \neq , thus sets embed as **complete graphs**.
- ▶ These exclusivity graphs are the “non-commutative spaces” in this duality.
- ▶ Morphism of graphs are certain relations, generalizing the functional relations which appear in classical Tarski duality.

Graph theory notions

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A **graph** $(X, \#)$ is a set equipped with a symmetric irreflexive relation.

Elements of X 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 ;
- ▶ $S^\# := \bigcap_{x \in S} x^\# = \{y \in X \mid y \# S\}$ for the common neighbourhood of the set S .

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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 $(X, \#)$ has **finite clique cardinal** 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 commensurable, hence their join need not even be defined.

Elements from atoms

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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 1-to-1 correspondence with \equiv -equivalence classes of cliques of $\text{At}(A)$.

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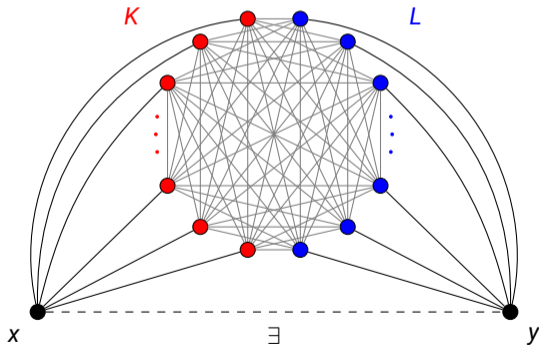
Which conditions on a graph $(X, \#)$ allow for such reconstruction?

Complete exclusivity graphs

Definition

A **complete 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 $K^\# \not\# L^\#$, i.e. $x \# K$ and $y \# L$ implies $x \# y$.
2. $x^\# \subseteq y^\#$ implies $x = y$.



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

- ▶ A graph is symmetric and irreflexive.
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- ▶ A graph is symmetric and irreflexive.
- ▶ To be an inequivalence relation, we need cotransitivity: $x \# z$ implies $x \# y$ or $y \# z$.
- ▶ Condition 1. is a weaker version of cotransitivity.
- ▶ Condition 2. eliminates redundant elements: cotransitive + 2. implies \neq .

Graph of atoms is complete exclusivity graph

Proposition

Let A be a partial Boolean algebra. Then $\text{At}(A)$ is a complete 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 $x \odot y$,



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Morphisms of complete exclusivity graphs

What about morphisms?

Definition

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

1. $x R y, x' R y'$, and $y \# y'$ implies $x \# x'$
2. if K is a maximal clique in Y , $R^{-1}(K)$ contains a maximal clique.
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Given $h : A \rightarrow B$ define $y R x$ iff $y \leq h(x)$.

Morphisms of CE graphs and pCABA homomorphisms

Proposition

Let A and B be transitive partial CABAs. Given $h : A \longrightarrow B$ a partial complete Boolean algebra homomorphism, the relation $R_h : \text{At}(B) \longrightarrow \text{At}(A)$ given by

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is a morphism of complete exclusivity graphs. Moreover, the assignment $h \mapsto R_h$ is functorial.

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Proposition

For any A and B be transitive partial CABAs, $\mathbf{epCABA}(A, B) \cong \mathbf{XGph}(\text{At}(B), \text{At}(A))$.

Global points

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i.e. a subset of atoms of A satisfying:

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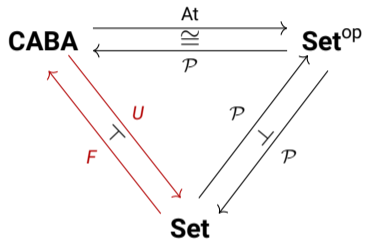
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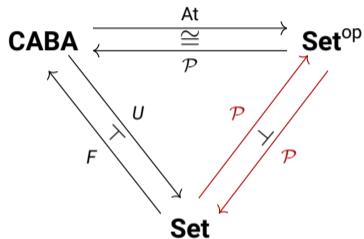
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The extensive literature on Kochen-Specker constructions is concerned with building graphs which have no such transversals, thus showing that the corresponding pBA's have no points.

Free-forgetful adjunction for CABAs

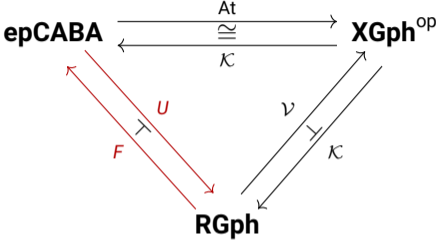


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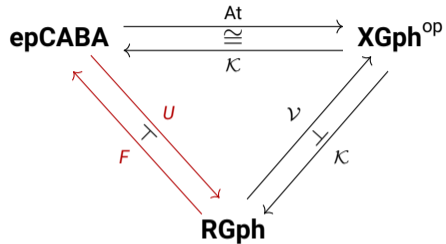


- ▶ Under the duality, it corresponds to the contravariant powerset self-adjunction.
- ▶ It gives the construction of the free CABA as a double powerset.

Free-forgetful adjunction for partial CABAs

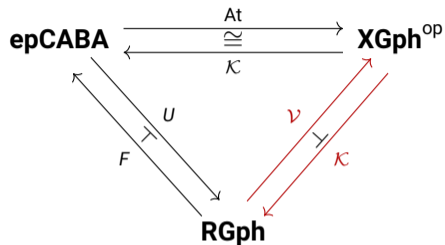


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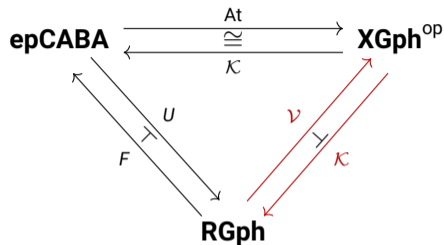
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Free-forgetful adjunction for partial CABAs



- ▶ Universe of a pCABA is a reflexive (compatibility) graph $\langle A, \odot \rangle$
- ▶ Under duality it corresponds to adjunction between **compatibility** and **exclusivity** graphs.
- ▶ This gives a concrete construction of the free CABA.

Free-forgetful adjunction for partial CABAs



- ▶ Universe of a pCABA is a reflexive (compatibility) graph $\langle A, \odot \rangle$
- ▶ Under duality it corresponds to adjunction between **compatibility** and **exclusivity** graphs.
- ▶ This gives a concrete construction of the free CABA. A compatibility $\langle P, \odot \rangle$ to a graph with vertices $\langle C, \gamma : C \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \rangle$ where C maximal compatible set, and edges

$$\langle C, \gamma \rangle \# \langle D, \delta \rangle \quad \text{iff} \quad \exists x \in C \cap D. \gamma(x) \neq \delta(x).$$