

On the symmetry behind duality

Marco Abbadini

Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium

Based on a joint work with Achim Jung (on arXiv)

27 July 2026

Topology, Algebra, and Categories in Logic
Kraków, Poland

Recording available at youtu.be/Q9raBd32oSA

Stone duality for bounded distributive lattices

Spectral spaces

X



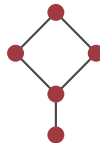
Opens = upsets

$\xleftrightarrow{\text{op}}$

$\mapsto$

bounded distributive lattices

compact opens of X



Stone duality for bounded distributive lattices

Spectral spaces

X



Opens = upsets



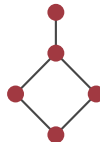
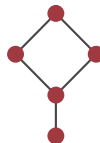
Opens = upsets

$\xleftrightarrow{\text{op}}$

$\mapsto$

bounded distributive lattices

compact opens of X



For a spectral space X , the *de Groot dual* X^∂ (“inverse topology”):

- ▶ X^∂ has the same underlying set as X ,
- ▶ opens of $X^\partial =$ complements of compact saturated sets of X .

It is still spectral.

Compact saturated sets of $X^\partial =$ complements of opens of X . So, $(X^\partial)^\partial = X$.

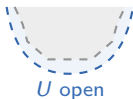


open $\xleftrightarrow{\text{symmetry}}$ compact saturated

open $\xleftrightarrow{\text{symmetry}}$ compact saturated

Every open U is the union of the compact open (hence saturated) sets it contains:

$$U = \bigcup_{C \subseteq U \text{ compact open}} C.$$



Every compact saturated K is the intersection of the compact open sets in which it is contained:

$$K = \bigcap_{K \subseteq C \text{ compact open}} C.$$

K compact saturated



Generalized spectral spaces

X



$\xleftrightarrow{\text{op}}$

$\longmapsto$

distributive lattices with 0

compact opens of X



□ Stone 1937, Rump & Yang 2009, Wehrung 2017

Generalized spectral spaces

$\overset{\text{op}}{\longleftrightarrow}$

distributive lattices with 0

X

$\longmapsto$

compact opens of X



The set of complements of compact saturated sets of $\begin{matrix} \bullet \\ \vdots \end{matrix}$ is not a topology.

 Stone 1937, Rump & Yang 2009, Wehrung 2017

Idea: to generalize it to a duality for (not necessarily bounded) distributive lattices.

???

$\xleftrightarrow{\text{op}}$

distributive lattices

X

$\longmapsto$

compact opens of X

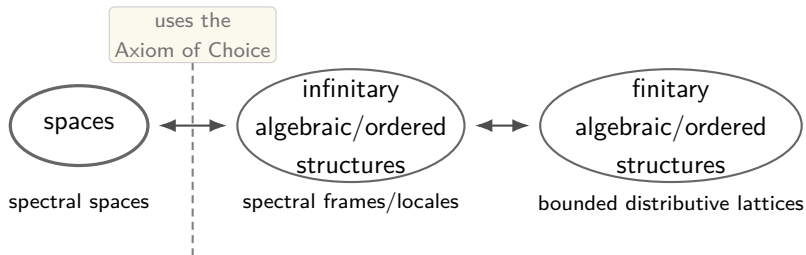
Difficulty to be overcome: in a topological space, $\emptyset$ is always compact open.

Idea: to weaken the notion of space: $\emptyset$ may be non-open, just like the whole space may be non-compact.

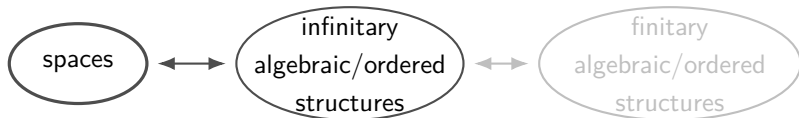
Goal: self-dual framework that extends some categorical dualities in the literature.

Idea: relax a bit the closure properties of the family of “opens”.

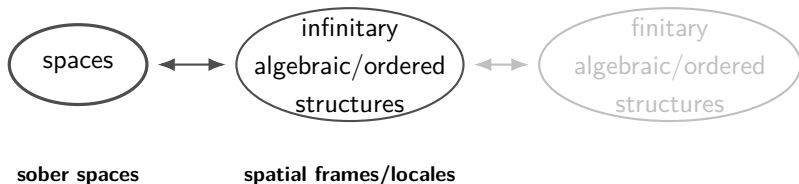
Spatial and algebraic/ordered structures



Spatial and algebraic/ordered structures



Spatial and algebraic/ordered structures



The class of sober spaces has only a partial symmetry.

In sober spaces:

<i>Open sets</i>	<i>Compact saturated sets</i>
finite intersection of opens is open	finite union of compact satur. sets is compact satur. ✓
binary union of opens is open	binary intersect. of compact sat. sets may not be comp. ✗
$\emptyset$ is open	X may not be compact ✗
directed union of opens is open	down-directed intersection of compact satur. sets is compact satur. ✓

Goal: to obtain a duality...

- ▶ ... that generalizes the one between sober spaces and spatial frames, and
- ▶ ... in which both classes have an internal symmetry.

We take openness and compact saturatedness as *primitive* notions.

Even for Hausdorff spaces, compact saturated sets do not determine the open sets: on a countable set, I can put two different Hausdorff topologies with the same compact saturated sets.

Definition

A *ko-space* is a triple $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ with X a poset and $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}$ sets of upsets of X s.t.

Sober spaces. Let $(X, \mathcal{O})$ be sober. Then $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ is a ko-space by setting

$\leq$ = specialization order, $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{compact saturated sets}\}$, $\mathcal{O} = \{\text{open sets}\}$.

Definition

A *ko-space* is a triple $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ with X a poset and $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}$ sets of upsets of X s.t.

1. $\mathcal{O}$ is closed under directed unions;
 $\mathcal{K}$ is closed under down-directed intersections.

Sober spaces. Let $(X, \mathcal{O})$ be sober. Then $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ is a ko-space by setting

$\leq$ = specialization order, $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{compact saturated sets}\}$, $\mathcal{O} = \{\text{open sets}\}$.

Definition

A *ko-space* is a triple $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ with X a poset and $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}$ sets of upsets of X s.t.

1. $\mathcal{O}$ is closed under directed unions;
 $\mathcal{K}$ is closed under down-directed intersections.
2. For $K \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\{U_i\}_i \subseteq \mathcal{O}$ directed

$$K \subseteq \bigcup_i^\uparrow U_i \Rightarrow \exists i \ K \subseteq U_i$$

For $U \in \mathcal{O}$ and $\{K_i\}_i \subseteq \mathcal{K}$ down-directed

$$\bigcap_i^\downarrow K_i \subseteq U \Rightarrow \exists i \ K_i \subseteq U$$

Sober spaces. Let $(X, \mathcal{O})$ be sober. Then $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ is a ko-space by setting

$\leq$ = specialization order, $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{compact saturated sets}\}$, $\mathcal{O} = \{\text{open sets}\}$.

Definition

A *ko-space* is a triple $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ with X a poset and $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}$ sets of upsets of X s.t.

1. $\mathcal{O}$ is closed under directed unions;
 $\mathcal{K}$ is closed under down-directed intersections.

2. For $K \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\{U_i\}_i \subseteq \mathcal{O}$ directed

$$K \subseteq \bigcup_i^\uparrow U_i \Rightarrow \exists i \ K \subseteq U_i$$

For $U \in \mathcal{O}$ and $\{K_i\}_i \subseteq \mathcal{K}$ down-directed

$$\bigcap_i^\downarrow K_i \subseteq U \Rightarrow \exists i \ K_i \subseteq U$$

3. “Principal upsets are compact, principal downsets are closed”:
for $x \in X$,

$$\uparrow x \in \mathcal{K}, \quad X \setminus \downarrow x \in \mathcal{O}.$$

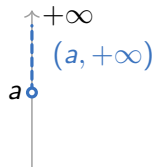
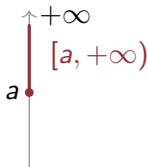
Sober spaces. Let $(X, \mathcal{O})$ be sober. Then $(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ is a ko-space by setting

$$\leq = \text{specialization order}, \quad \mathcal{K} = \{\text{compact saturated sets}\}, \quad \mathcal{O} = \{\text{open sets}\}.$$

Another example

On $\mathbb{R}$ with its usual order, one can take

$$\mathcal{K} = \{ [a, +\infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R} \} \cup \{ \emptyset \} \quad \mathcal{O} = \{ (a, +\infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R} \} \cup \{ \mathbb{R} \}$$

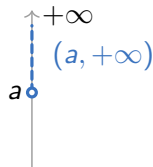
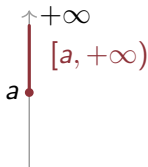


1. $\mathcal{O}$ is closed under directed unions; $\mathcal{K}$ is closed under down-directed intersections.

Another example

On $\mathbb{R}$ with its usual order, one can take

$$\mathcal{K} = \{ [a, +\infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R} \} \cup \{ \emptyset \} \quad \mathcal{O} = \{ (a, +\infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R} \} \cup \{ \mathbb{R} \}$$



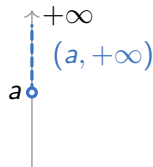
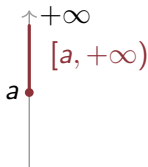
2.

$$K \subseteq \bigcup_i^{\uparrow} U_i \Rightarrow \exists i \ K \subseteq U_i, \quad \bigcap_i^{\downarrow} K_i \subseteq U \Rightarrow \exists i \ K_i \subseteq U.$$

Another example

On $\mathbb{R}$ with its usual order, one can take

$$\mathcal{K} = \{ [a, +\infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R} \} \cup \{ \emptyset \} \quad \mathcal{O} = \{ (a, +\infty) \mid a \in \mathbb{R} \} \cup \{ \mathbb{R} \}$$



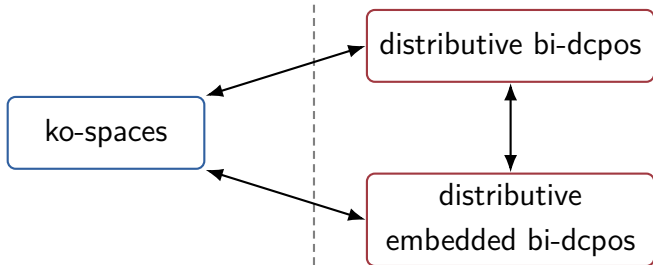
3.

$$\uparrow x \in \mathcal{K}, \quad \mathbb{R} \setminus \downarrow x \in \mathcal{O}.$$

spatial side

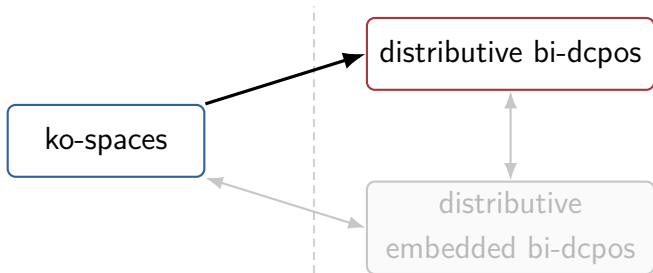
uses the
Axiom of Choice

pointfree side



spatial side

pointfree side



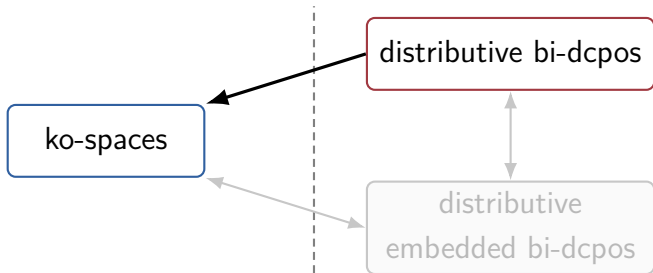
Forget the points, remember the two families and the inclusion relation:

$$(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}) \mapsto (\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}, \subseteq: \mathcal{K} \rightleftarrows \mathcal{O}).$$



spatial side

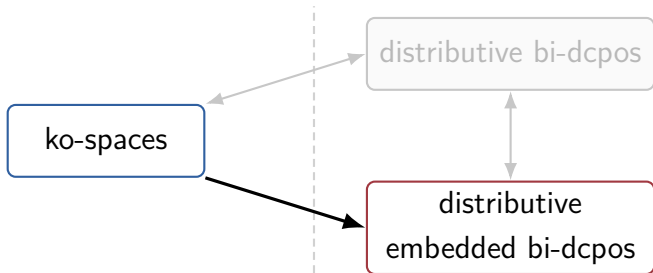
pointfree side



Take the set of completely prime pairs.

spatial side

pointfree side

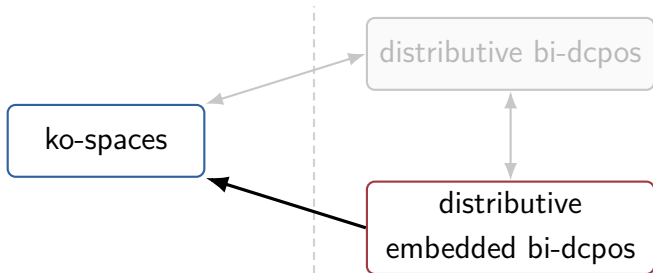


Remember the lattice of upsets of X and the two families, as subsets:

$$(X, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}) \mapsto (\text{Up}(X), \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}).$$

spatial side

pointfree side

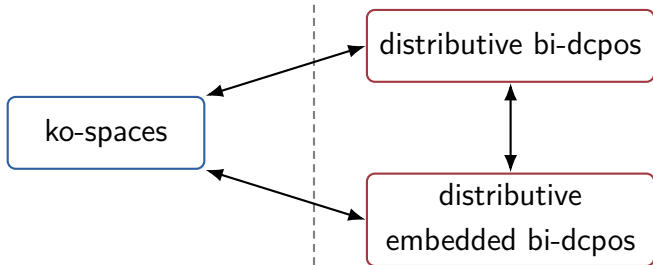


Take the set of completely prime pairs.

spatial side

uses the
Axiom of Choice

pointfree side



An *embedded bi-dcpo* is a triple $(L, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O})$ such that:

- ▶ L is a complete lattice, $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O} \subseteq L$, and
 - ▶ every element of L is a join of elements from $\mathcal{K}$,
 - ▶ every element of L is a meet of elements from $\mathcal{O}$;
- ▶ $\mathcal{O}$ is closed under directed joins and $\mathcal{K}$ is closed under down-directed meets;
- ▶ for every $k \in \mathcal{K}$ and every directed family $(u_i)_i$ in $\mathcal{O}$,

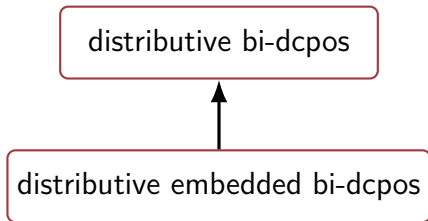
$$k \leq \bigvee_i^{\uparrow} u_i \implies \exists i \ k \leq u_i;$$

for every $u \in \mathcal{O}$ and every down-directed family $(k_i)_i$ in $\mathcal{K}$,

$$\bigwedge_i^{\downarrow} k_i \leq u \implies \exists i \ k_i \leq u.$$

It is *distributive* when L is distributive.

pointfree side



Restrict the order of L to the two distinguished families:

$$(L, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}) \longmapsto (\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}, \leq: \mathcal{K} \multimap \mathcal{O}).$$

A *bi-dcpo* is a triple $(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}, \triangleleft)$ where $\mathcal{O}$ is a dcpo, $\mathcal{K}$ is a co-dcpo, and $\triangleleft: \mathcal{K} \multimap \mathcal{O}$ satisfies weakening and extensionality. Moreover:

- for every $k \in \mathcal{K}$ and every directed family $\{u_i\}_i \subseteq \mathcal{O}$,

$$k \triangleleft \bigvee_i^{\uparrow} u_i \implies \exists i \, k \triangleleft u_i;$$

- for every $u \in \mathcal{O}$ and every down-directed family $\{k_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq \mathcal{K}$,

$$\bigwedge_i^{\downarrow} k_i \triangleleft u \implies \exists i \, k_i \triangleleft u.$$

Distributivity. A bi-dcpo is distributive when its concept lattice is a distributive lattice. Equivalently, it satisfies a two-sorted version of Gentzen's cut rule, schematically: for $k, \ell \in \mathcal{K}$ and $u, v \in \mathcal{O}$,

$$\frac{k \Rightarrow u, \ell \quad \ell \triangleleft v \quad v, k \Rightarrow u}{k \triangleleft u}.$$

Spatiality = distributivity = cut rule.

pointfree side

distributive bi-dcpo



distributive embedded bi-dcpo

Take the concept lattice:

$$(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}, \triangleleft) \longmapsto (\mathbf{B}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}, \triangleleft), \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{O}).$$

Main result

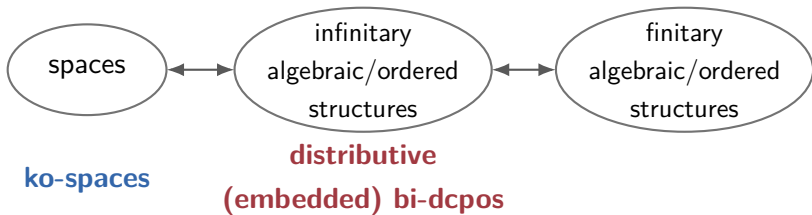
The category of ko-spaces, with appropriate morphisms, is dually equivalent to the category of *distributive bi-dcpo*s, as well as to the category of *distributive embedded bi-dcpo*s.

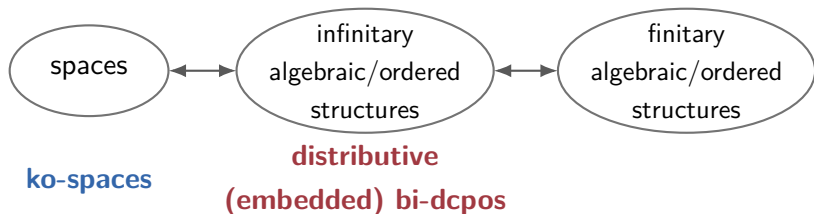
Main result

The category of ko-spaces, with appropriate morphisms, is dually equivalent to the category of *distributive bi-dcpo*s, as well as to the category of *distributive embedded bi-dcpo*s.

Balance:

- ▶ the structures are general enough to form self-symmetric classes including sober spaces and spatial frames,
- ▶ but also have enough axioms to obtain a duality that restricts to the one between sober spaces and spatial frames.





$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X_A & & \mathbf{D}(A) & & A \\
 = \mathbf{CP}(\mathbf{D}(A)) & \longleftarrow & = (\mathbf{Filt}(A), \mathbf{Idl}(A), \triangleleft) & \longleftarrow & \\
 & & & & \text{distributive lattice} \\
 & & & & \text{(not necessarily bounded)}
 \end{array}$$

Because of *local compactness*, it is enough to take $\mathcal{O}$ ($\mathcal{K}$ will be determined).

sober spaces $\longleftrightarrow$ spatial frames



ko-spaces $\longleftrightarrow$ distributive (embedded) bi-dcpo



Preprint:

Abbadini and Jung,

On the symmetry behind duality

arXiv:2507.18245



sober spaces $\longleftrightarrow$ spatial frames



ko-spaces $\longleftrightarrow$ distributive (embedded) bi-dcpo



Preprint:

Abbadini and Jung,

On the symmetry behind duality

arXiv:2507.18245



Thank you