

Contractions of quasi relation algebras and applications to representability

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- 1 Quasi relation algebras
- 2 Contractions of quasi relation algebras
- 3 Representable distributive quasi relation algebras
- 4 Representability of contractions of DqRAs
- 5 Application to finite representability

Definition

An **FL-algebra** is an algebra $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \backslash, /, 1, 0 \rangle$ such that

- $\langle A, \wedge, \vee \rangle$ is a lattice,
- $\langle A, \cdot, 1 \rangle$ is a monoid,
- $a \cdot b \leq c \iff b \leq a \backslash c \iff a \leq c / b$, and
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An InFL-algebra is **cyclic** if $-a = \sim a$ for all $a \in A$.

Lemma (Galatos and Jipsen 2013)

An involutive FL-algebra (InFL-algebra) is term-equivalent to an algebra $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, 1 \rangle$ such that $\langle A, \wedge, \vee \rangle$ is a lattice, $\langle A, \cdot, 1 \rangle$ is a monoid, and for all $a, b, c \in A$, we have

$$a \cdot b \leq c \quad \iff \quad a \leq -(b \cdot \sim c) \quad \iff \quad b \leq \sim(-c \cdot a).$$

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Residuals can be expressed in terms of \cdot and the linear negations:

$$c/b = -(b \cdot \sim c) \quad \text{and} \quad a \setminus c = \sim(-c \cdot a).$$

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A **De Morgan InFL-algebra** is an algebra $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, 1 \rangle$ such that $\langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, 1 \rangle$ is an InFL-algebra and the following hold for all $a, b \in A$:

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Definition (Galatos and Jipsen 2013)

A **quasi relation algebra (qRA)** is a De Morgan InFL-algebra $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, 1 \rangle$ such that the following holds for all $a, b \in A$:

$$(Dp) \quad \neg(a \cdot b) = \sim(\neg\neg b \cdot \neg\neg a).$$

Decidability of quasi relation algebras

Theorem (Galatos, J. 2013)

If $\mathcal{V} = \{\mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{InFL} \mid \mathbf{A} \models \mathcal{E}\}$ for \mathcal{E} a self-dual set of identities and \mathcal{V} is equationally decidable then $\mathcal{V}' = \{\mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{qRA} \mid \mathbf{A} \models \mathcal{E}\}$ is also decidable.

Using results of [Holland, McCleary 1979], [Yetter 1990], [Wille 2005], [Kozak 2011], [Galatos, J. (Res. Frames) 2013]:

Corollary

The equational theories of **qRA**, cyclic **qRA**, cyclic distributive **qRA**, commutative **qRA** and the variety of **qRAs** that have ℓ -group reducts ($= \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{qRA} \mid \mathbf{A} \models x \cdot \sim x = 1$) are decidable.

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qRA, cyclic **qRA** and commutative **qRA** have FMP.

Problem 2: Do (cyclic) **distributive qRA** have the FMP?

Problem 3: Define and investigate **representable qRA**.



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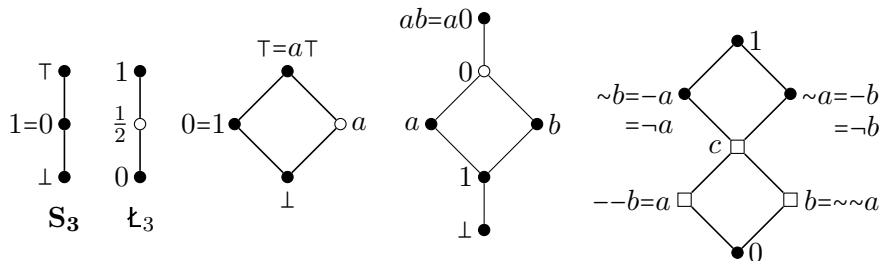
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A **distributive quasi relation algebra (DqRA)** is a qRA such that the underlying lattice $\langle A, \wedge, \vee \rangle$ is distributive.

Examples of qRAs



Idempotents = black nodes, non-idempotents = empty nodes.
 Circles = central elements, squares = non-central.

Full list of DqRAs up to size 8 by C., Jipsen, Robinson: DInFL1.pdf

Examples include all relation algebras, MV-algebras and Sugihara monoids.

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Let \mathbf{A} be a qRA and p a positive idempotent. Then $\langle pAp, \wedge, \vee \rangle$ is a sublattice of $\langle A, \wedge, \vee \rangle$ and $\langle pAp, \cdot \rangle$ is a subsemigroup of $\langle A, \cdot \rangle$.

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For $p \neq 1$, the set pAp cannot form a submonoid of $\langle A, \cdot, 1 \rangle$ since $1 \notin pAp$.

Lemma

Let \mathbf{A} be a qRA, p a positive symmetric idempotent of \mathbf{A} , and $b \in pAp$. Then

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Let $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, 1 \rangle$ be a qRA and p a positive symmetric idempotent of \mathbf{A} . Then the algebra $p\mathbf{A}p = \langle pAp, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, p \rangle$ is a qRA.

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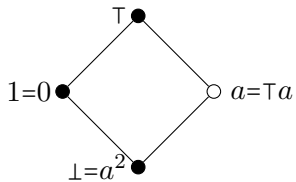
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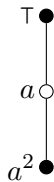
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Compare with equivalence elements for RAs (Jónsson & Tarski 1952).

Examples of contractions of a qRA

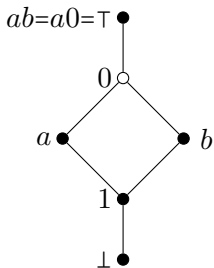


A

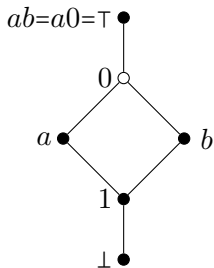


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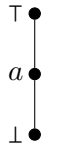
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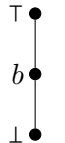
\mathbf{A}



$1\mathbf{A}1$



$a\mathbf{A}a$



$b\mathbf{A}b$



$\tau\mathbf{A}\tau$

The algebras $p\mathbf{A}p$ for \mathbf{A} and $p \in \{1, a, b, \tau\}$.

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Some familiar operations on relations

Let X be a set, E an equivalence relation on X , and assume $R, S \subseteq E \subseteq X \times X$. We will use the following binary relations:

- \emptyset
- $\text{id}_X = \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\}$
- $X \times X$
- $R; S = \{(x, y) \mid \exists z((x, z) \in R \text{ and } (z, y) \in S)\}$
- $R^\sim = \{(y, x) \mid (x, y) \in R\}$
- $E \setminus R = R^c = \{(x, y) \in E \mid (x, y) \notin R\}$
- $R \cup S$
- $R \cap S$

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Hence $\langle \text{Up}(\mathbf{E}), ;, \leq \rangle$ is a monoid.

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- If $R \in \text{Up}(\mathbf{E})$, then $\alpha ; \beta ; R^c ; \beta \in \text{Up}(\mathbf{E})$.

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$$\mathbf{Dq}(\mathbf{E}) = \langle \text{Up}(\mathbf{E}), \cap, \cup, ;, \sim, -, \neg, \leq \rangle$$

is a distributive quasi relation algebra. If α is the identity, then $\mathbf{Dq}(\mathbf{E})$ is a cyclic distributive quasi relation algebra.

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The algebra $\mathbf{Dq}(\mathbf{E})$ is called an **equivalence distributive quasi relation algebra**.

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The algebra $\mathbf{Dq}(\mathbf{E})$ is called an **equivalence distributive quasi relation algebra**. If $E = X \times X$ it is called a **full distributive quasi relation algebra**.

Constructing DqRAs of binary relations

For $R \in \text{Up}(\mathbf{E})$, define

$$\sim R = R^{\complement} ; \alpha \quad - R = \alpha ; R^{\complement} \quad \neg R = \alpha ; \beta ; R^{\complement} ; \beta$$

Theorem (C., Robinson 2025)

Let $\mathbf{X} = \langle X, \leq \rangle$ be a poset and E an equivalence relation on X such that $\leq \subseteq E$. Let $\alpha : X \rightarrow X$ be an order automorphism and $\beta : X \rightarrow X$ a self-inverse dual order automorphism of \mathbf{X} such that $\alpha, \beta \subseteq E$ and $\beta = \alpha ; \beta ; \alpha$. Then

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It can be shown that

$$\mathbb{I}\mathbb{P}(\text{FDqRA}) = \mathbb{I}(\text{EDqRA}).$$

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Definition (C., Robinson 2025)

A DqRA \mathbf{A} is **representable** if $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{ISP}(\text{FDqRA})$ or, equivalently, $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{I}(\text{EDqRA})$.

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We say that a DqRA \mathbf{A} is **finitely** representable if the poset $\mathbf{X} = \langle X, \leq \rangle$ used in the representation of \mathbf{A} is finite.

Constructing \mathbf{S}_2

\mathbf{S}_2 is representable over $\mathbf{X} = \langle X, \leq \rangle$ with

- $X = \{x\}$,
- $\leq = \text{id}_X = \{(x, x)\}$,
- $E = \text{id}_X = X \times X$, and
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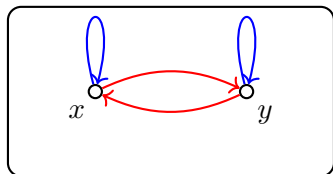


$$\mathbf{S}_2 \cong \mathbf{Dq}(\mathbf{E})$$

Constructing \mathbf{S}_3

\mathbf{S}_3 is representable over $\mathbf{X} = \langle X, \leq \rangle$ with

- $X = \{x, y\}$,
- $\leq = \text{id}_X = \{(x, x), (y, y)\}$,
- $E = X \times X$,
- $\alpha = \{(x, y), (y, x)\}$, and
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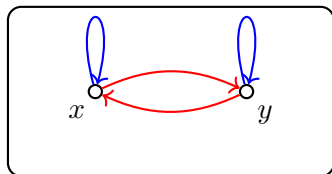


— α
— β
— E blocks

Constructing \mathbf{S}_3

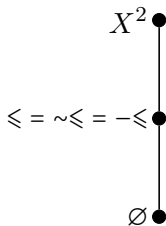
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— α
 — β
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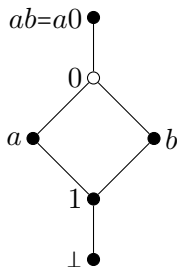
$\mathbf{S}_3 \leftrightarrow Q(\mathbf{E})$



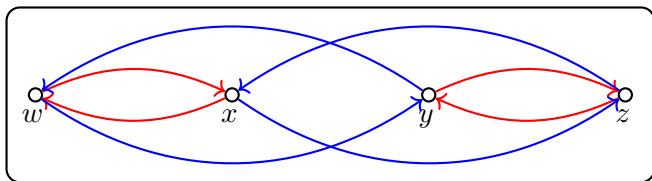
Example of a bigger representable DqRA

\mathbf{A} is representable over $\mathbf{X} = \langle X, \leq \rangle$ with

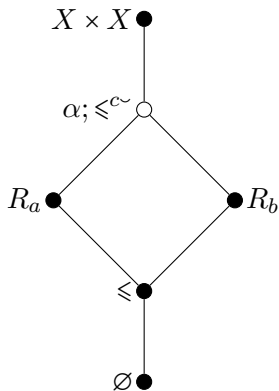
- $X = \{w, x, y, z\}$,
- $\leq = \text{id}_X = \{(w, w), (x, x), (y, y), (z, z)\}$,
- $E = X \times X$,
- $\alpha = \{(w, x), (x, w), (y, z), (z, y)\}$, and
- $\beta = \{(w, y), (y, w), (x, z), (z, x)\}$.



— α
— β
— E blocks



Example of a bigger representable DqRA



$$R_a = \{(w, w), (x, x), (y, y), (z, z), (w, y), (y, w), (x, z), (z, x)\}$$

$$R_b = \{(w, w), (x, x), (y, y), (z, z), (w, z), (z, w), (x, y), (y, x)\}$$

Representability of contractions of DqRAs

Let $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, 1 \rangle$ be a representable DqRA and p a positive symmetric idempotent of \mathbf{A} .

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Then there exists

- a poset $\mathbf{X} = \langle X, \leq \rangle$,
- an equivalence relation $E \subseteq X \times X$ with $\leq \subseteq E$,
- an order automorphism $\alpha : X \rightarrow X$ such that $\alpha \subseteq E$,
- a self-inverse dual order automorphism $\beta : X \rightarrow X$ such that $\beta \subseteq E$ and $\alpha ; \beta ; \alpha = \beta$, and
- an embedding $\varphi : \mathbf{A} \hookrightarrow \langle \text{Up}(\mathbf{E}), \cap, \cup, ;, \sim, -, \neg, \leq \rangle$.

Representability of contractions of DqRAs

The relation $\varphi(p)$ is a preorder on X such that $\leq \subseteq \varphi(p)$.

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Then $\leq_{X/\equiv}$ is a partial order on X/\equiv .

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Next define $E_{p\mathbf{A}p} \subseteq X/\equiv \times X/\equiv$ by

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Representability of contractions of DqRAs

Now define $\alpha_{p\mathbf{A}p} : X/\equiv \rightarrow X/\equiv$ and $\beta_{p\mathbf{A}p} : X/\equiv \rightarrow X/\equiv$ by setting, for all $[x] \in X/\equiv$,

$$\alpha_{p\mathbf{A}p}([x]) = [\alpha(x)] \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_{p\mathbf{A}p}([x]) = [\beta(x)].$$

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Lemma

For all $x, y \in X$, we have $(x, y) \in \varphi(p)$ iff $(\alpha(x), \alpha(y)) \in \varphi(p)$ iff $(\beta(y), \beta(x)) \in \varphi(p)$.

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Lemma

- 1 *The map $\alpha_{p\mathbf{A}p} : X/\equiv \rightarrow X/\equiv$ is an order automorphism with $\alpha_{p\mathbf{A}p} \subseteq E_{p\mathbf{A}p}$.*
- 2 *The map $\beta_{p\mathbf{A}p} : X/\equiv \rightarrow X/\equiv$ is a self-inverse dual order automorphism with $\beta_{p\mathbf{A}p} \subseteq E_{p\mathbf{A}p}$.*
- 3 $\alpha_{p\mathbf{A}p} ; \beta_{p\mathbf{A}p} ; \alpha_{p\mathbf{A}p} = \beta_{p\mathbf{A}p}$

Representability of contractions of DqRAs

Theorem

The algebra $\mathbf{Dq}(\mathbf{E}_{p\mathbf{A}p}) = \langle \text{Up}(\mathbf{E}_{p\mathbf{A}p}), \cap, \cup, ;, \sim, -, \neg, \leq_{X/\equiv} \rangle$ is a DqRA.

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Theorem

Let $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, 1 \rangle$ be a (finitely) representable DqRA, and let p be a positive symmetric idempotent of \mathbf{A} . Then $p\mathbf{A}p$ is (finitely) representable.

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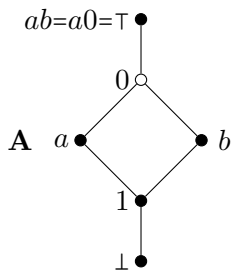
Proof.

The map $\psi : p\mathbf{A}p \rightarrow \text{Up}(\mathbf{E}_{p\mathbf{A}p})$ defined by

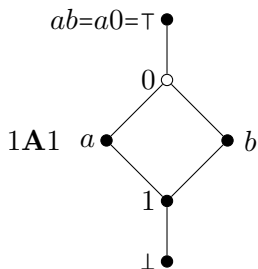
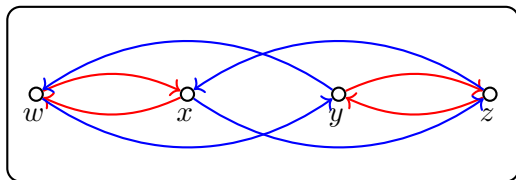
$$\psi(a) := \{([x], [y]) \mid (x, y) \in \varphi(a)\}$$

is an embedding from $p\mathbf{A}p$ into $\mathbf{Dq}(\mathbf{E}_{p\mathbf{A}p})$. □

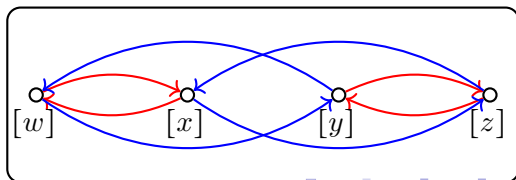
Examples of the construction



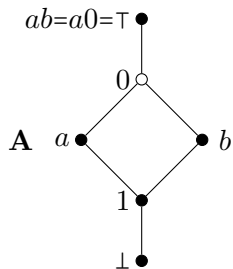
— α
 — β
 — E blocks



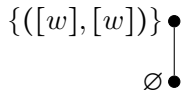
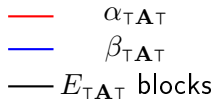
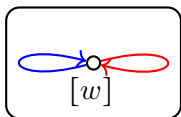
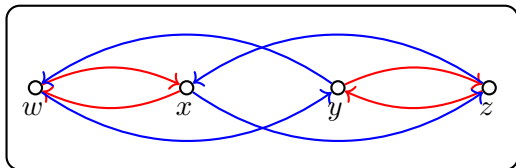
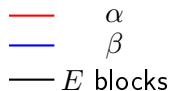
— $\alpha_{p\mathbf{A}p}$
 — $\beta_{p\mathbf{A}p}$
 — $E_{p\mathbf{A}p}$ blocks



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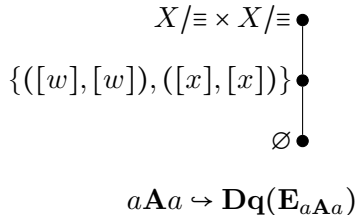
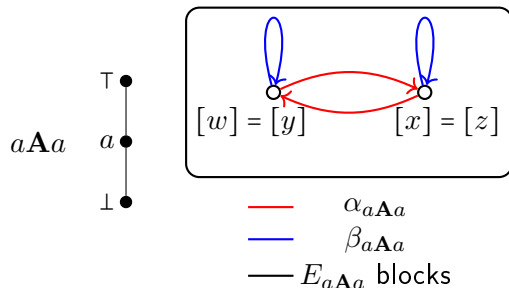
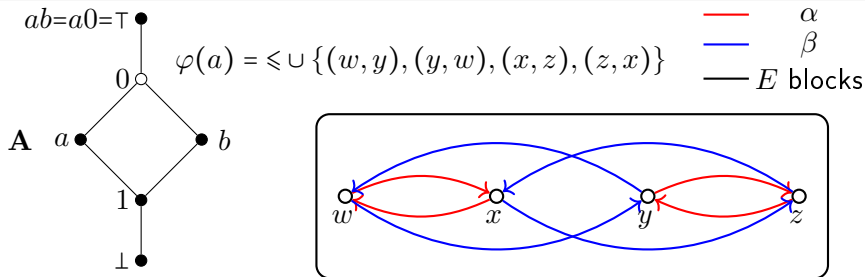


$$\varphi(\tau) = X \times X$$

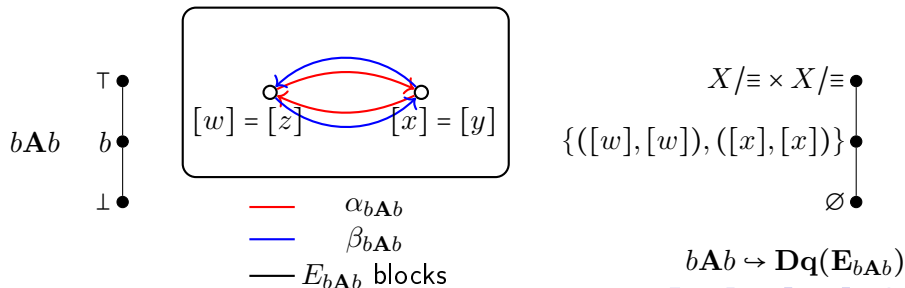
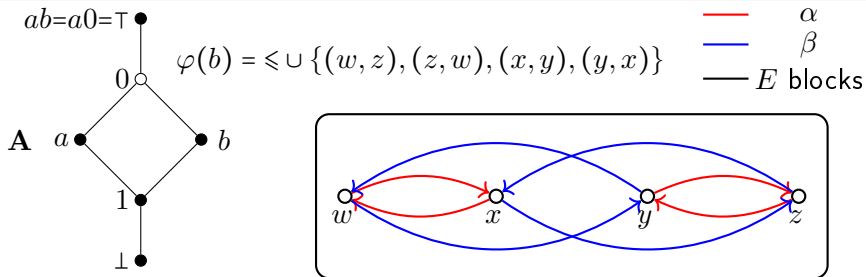


$$\tau \mathbf{A} \tau \leftrightarrow \mathbf{Dq}(E_{\tau \mathbf{A} \tau})$$

Examples of the construction



Examples of the construction



DqRAs that are not finitely representable

Earlier result:

Theorem (C., Robinson 2025)

Let $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, 1 \rangle$ be a DqRA. If there exists $a \in A$ such that $-1 < a < 1$ and $a^2 \leq -1$, then \mathbf{A} is not finitely representable.

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Application of contractions:

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Let $\mathbf{A} = \langle A, \wedge, \vee, \cdot, \sim, -, \neg, 1 \rangle$ be a DqRA. If p is a positive symmetric idempotent of \mathbf{A} and there exists $b \in A$ such that $pb = b = bp$, $-p < b < p$ and $b^2 \leq -p$, then A is not finitely representable.

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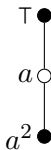
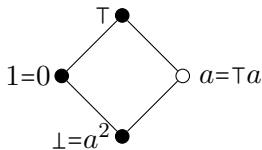
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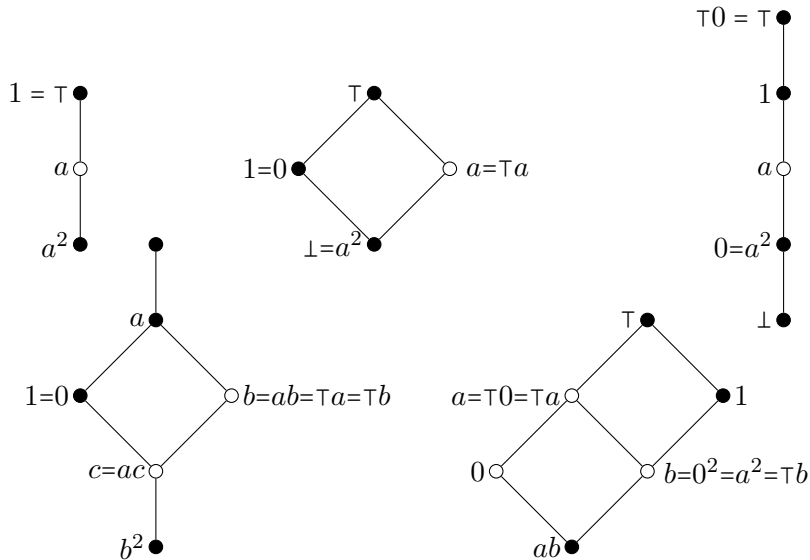
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Examples of DqRAs that are not finitely representable



- Finding small non-representable DqRAs and then applying the contrapositive of the main result of this talk to obtain larger non-representable DqRAs.
- We can find larger representable DqRAs if we can prove: if the contraction $p\mathbf{A}p$ of a DqRA \mathbf{A} with a positive symmetric idempotent p is representable, then \mathbf{A} is representable.

- 1 Craig, A and Robinson, C (2025). Representable distributive quasi relation algebras, *Algebra Universalis*, **86**:12.
- 2 Galatos, N and Jipsen, P (2013). Relation algebras as expanded FL-algebras, *Algebra Universalis*, **69**, 1–21.
- 3 Galatos, N, Jipsen, P, Kowalski, T and Ono, H (2007). *Residuated Lattices: An Algebraic Glimpse at Substructural Logics*, Elsevier.
- 4 Jónsson, B., Tarski, A.: Boolean algebras with operators (II), *Amer. J. Math.* 72, 127–162 (1952)
- 5 McKenzie, R (1966). *The representation of relation algebras*, PhD thesis, University of Colorado, Boulder.