

Pointfree topology and Priestley duality

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March 21, 2025 – Las Cruces

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Why?

- ▶ Avoids reliance on strong assumptions (e.g., Axiom of Choice).
- ▶ Provides an algebraic perspective on topology.

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How can we bridge this gap?

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Restricts to a dual equivalence between the category of frames and a subcategory of Priestley spaces.

Provides a tool to study spatial as well as non-spatial frames using order and topology.

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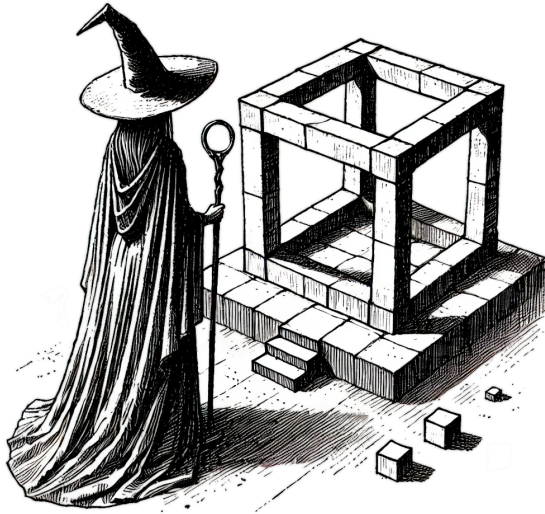
- Explore the role of Priestley duality in pointfree topology.

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- ▶ Explore the role of Priestley duality in pointfree topology.
- ▶ Demonstrate how Priestley duality provides a fresh perspective on classic results in pointfree topology.
- ▶ Understand frames through their Priestley spaces.



Foundations of Priestley duality for frames

Definition

1. A **frame** (or **locale**) is a complete lattice L satisfying

$$a \wedge \bigvee S = \bigvee \{a \wedge s \mid s \in S\}$$

for all $a \in L$ and $S \subseteq L$.

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For each topological space X , the lattice of opens $\Omega(X)$ is a frame, and for each continuous map $f: X \rightarrow Y$, the inverse image $f^{-1}: \Omega(Y) \rightarrow \Omega(X)$ is a frame homomorphism.

Adjunction

There is a well-known dual adjunction

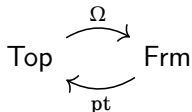
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \Omega & \\ \text{Top} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Frm} \\ & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \end{array}$$

where

- ▶ **Top** is the category of topological spaces and continuous maps, and
- ▶ **Frm** is the category of frames and frame homomorphisms.

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where

- ▶ **Top** is the category of topological spaces and continuous maps, and
- ▶ **Frm** is the category of frames and frame homomorphisms.
- ▶ **pt** maps frames to their spaces of points (**completely prime filters**—a filter F such that $\forall S \in F$ implies $S \cap F \neq \emptyset$).

The units of this adjunction are

- ▶ $\lambda : X \rightarrow \text{pt}(\Omega(X))$ defined by $\lambda(x) = \{U \in \Omega(X) \mid x \in U\}$.
- ▶ $\varphi : L \rightarrow \Omega(\text{pt}(L))$ defined by $\varphi(a) = \{x \in \text{pt}(L) \mid a \in x\}$.

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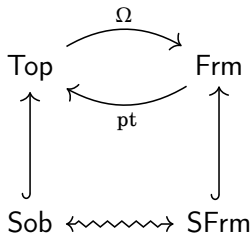
φ is an isomorphism iff $a \not\leq b$ implies there exists $x \in \text{pt}(L)$ such that $a \in x \not\leq b$. We call such frames **spatial**.

The adjunction restricts to a dual equivalence between:

- ▶ **Sob** the full subcategory of **Top** consisting of sober spaces
- ▶ **SFrm** the full subcategory of **Frm** consisting of spatial frames

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Priestley duality

A **Priestley space** is a compact topological space X equipped with a partial order \leq satisfying

$$x \not\leq y \implies \exists U \in \text{ClopUp}(X) : x \in U \text{ and } y \notin U$$
$$(\text{ClopUp}(X) = \text{clopen upsets of } X)$$

for all $x, y \in X$.

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A **Priestley morphism** is a continuous order-preserving map between Priestley spaces.

Let **Pries** be the category of Priestley spaces and Priestley morphisms and **DLat** the category of bounded distributive lattices and bounded lattice homomorphisms.

Theorem (Priestley, 1970)

Pries and DLat are dually equivalent.

Stone duality

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Let **BA** be the category of Boolean algebras and Boolean homomorphisms and let **Stone** be the full subcategory of **Top** consisting of Stone space.

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Theorem (Stone, 1936)

Stone and BA are dually equivalent.

BA is a full subcategory of DLat, and Stone is a full subcategory of Pries. Thus, Priestley duality generalizes Stone duality:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{DLat} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{Pries} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{BA} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{Stone} \end{array}$$

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Since \mathbf{Frm} is a subcategory of \mathbf{DLat} , Priestley duality restricts to the category of frames.

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1. An **L-space** (or **localic** space) is a Priestley space X satisfying

$$U \in \mathbf{OpUp}(X) \implies \text{cl } U \in \mathbf{OpUp}(X).$$

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2. An **L-morphism** is a Priestley morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying

$$f^{-1}(\text{cl } U) = \text{cl } f^{-1}(U)$$

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3. Let **LPries** be the category of L-spaces and L-morphisms.

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Key considerations:

- ▶ The correspondence between bounded lattice morphisms and Priestley morphisms restricts appropriately to frame homomorphisms and L-morphisms.
- ▶ Isomorphisms in Pries (or DLat) between L-spaces (or frames) remain isomorphisms in LPries (or Frm).

Embedding points in the Priestley space

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Proposition

$\text{pt}(L)$ is homeomorphic to $\text{loc}X$.

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Corollary

SLPries and SFrm are dually equivalent.

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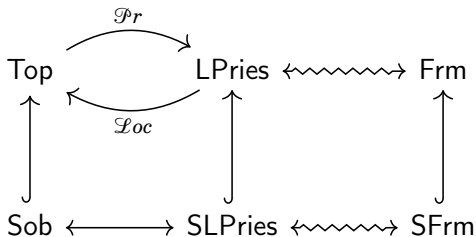
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These functors restrict to an equivalence:

Theorem

SLPries and Sob are equivalent.

We thus obtain a new perspective on the classical adjunction of pointfree topology:





Hofmann–Mislove through the lenses of Priestley

Hofmann–Mislove and Priestley

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If X is the Priestley space of $\Omega(Z)$, then $\Omega(Z) \cong \text{ClopUp}(X)$. Thus, Priestley's result restricts to Scott-open filters and special closed upsets of the Priestley space.

Scott upsets

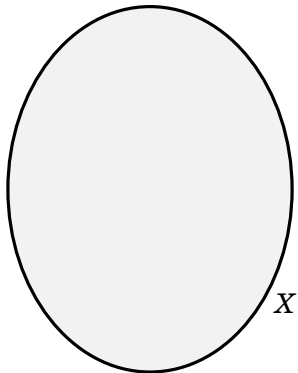
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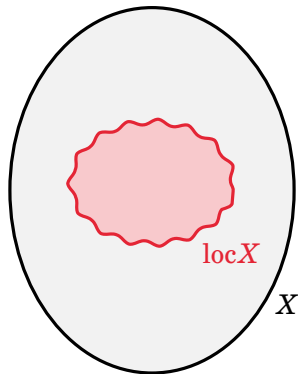
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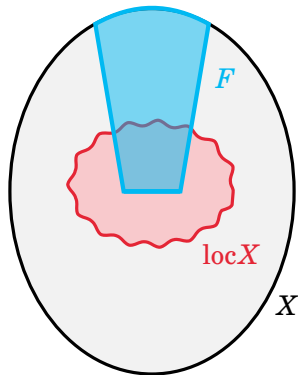
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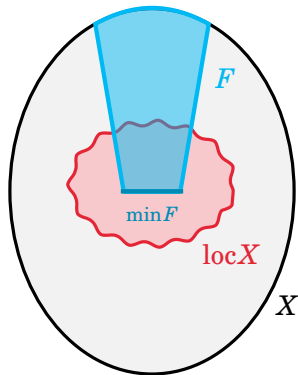
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Scott upsets and Scott-open filters

A filter F is **Scott-open** if $\bigvee S \in F$ implies $\bigvee T \in F$ for some finite $T \subseteq S$.

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Theorem

Let L be a frame and X its Priestley space. For a filter $F \subseteq L$ and its dual closed upset $K \subseteq X$, the following are equivalent:

- 1. F is Scott-open.*
- 2. If $U \subseteq X$ is an open upset, then $K \subseteq \text{cl} U$ implies $K \subseteq U$.*
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Corollary

The poset $\text{OFilt}(L)$ of Scott-open filters of a frame L is dually isomorphic to the poset of $\text{Sup}(X)$ of Scott upsets of its Priestley space X .

Scott upsets and compact saturated sets

Theorem

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Corollary (Hofmann–Mislove)

- 1. Let L be a frame. Then $\text{OFilt}(L)$ is dually isomorphic to $\text{KSat}(\text{pt}(L))$.*
- 2. Let X be a sober space. Then $\text{OFilt}(\Omega(X))$ is dually isomorphic to $\text{KSat}(X)$.*

The way-below relation and compactness

In a frame L , we define the **way-below relation** \ll by

$$a \ll b \iff b \leq \bigvee S \text{ implies } a \leq \bigvee T \text{ for some finite } T \subseteq S.$$

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Proposition

Let L be a frame and X its Priestley space.

1. $a \ll b$ iff $\varphi(a) \ll \varphi(b)$.
2. a is compact iff $\varphi(a)$ is a Scott upset.
3. L is compact iff $\min X \subseteq \text{loc } X$.

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An L-space X is **L-compact** if $\min X \subseteq \text{loc} X$.

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- ▶ **KFrm** (**KSFrm**) the full subcategory of Frm (SFrm) consisting of compact frames.
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Compactness

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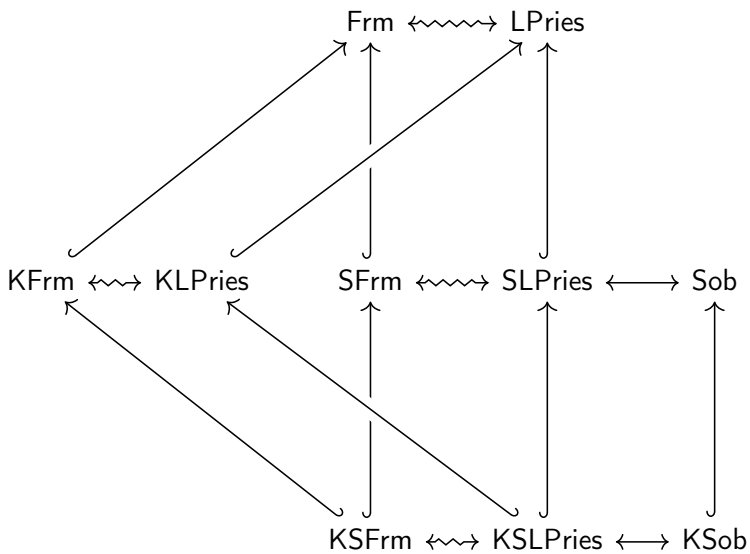
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Theorem

1. KLPries is dually equivalent to KFrm.
2. KSLPries is dually equivalent to KSFrm and equivalent to KSob.





A Priestley journey from Hofmann–Lawson to Isbell

Kernels

We now characterize various important classes of frames via [kernels](#).

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Let X be an L-space.

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 - ▶ $\ker U \subseteq U$ and
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4. A kernel \ker is **top-preserving** if $\ker X = X$.

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One of the main contributions of this work is identifying the appropriate kernels that correspond to key frame properties.

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Theorem

A frame is continuous iff con is representative in its Priestley space.

A continuous frame L is **stably continuous** if $a \ll b, c$ implies $a \ll b \wedge c$ for all $a, b, c \in L$.

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Stability (and compactness) can be characterized via the kernel con .

Theorem

Let L be a frame and X its Priestley space

- 1. L is stably continuous iff con is representative and stable.*
- 2. L is stably compact iff con is representative, stable, and top-preserving.*

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We characterize the Priestley spaces of these classes of frames via a new kernel.

Definition

Let X be an L-space. The **algebraic kernel** is defined by

$$\text{alg}U = \bigcup \{V \in \text{ClopSUp}(X) \mid V \subseteq U\}.$$

($\text{ClopSUp}(X)$ = clopen Scott upsets of X)

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for $U \in \text{ClopUp}(X)$.

Theorem

Let L be a frame and X its Priestley space.

- 1. L is algebraic iff alg is representative.*
- 2. L is arithmetic iff alg is representative and stable.*
- 3. L is coherent iff alg is representative, stable, and top-preserving.*

Regularity and zero-dimensionality

Regularity (every element is the join of elements **well inside** it, think “ $\text{cl } U \subseteq V$ ”) and **zero-dimensionality** (every element is the join of complemented elements, think “clopens”) can be handled in a similar way.

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Note that reg and zer are always stable and top-preserving.

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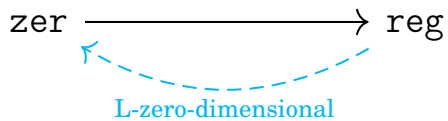
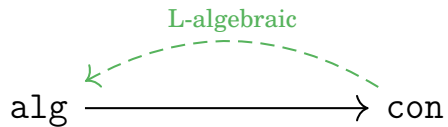
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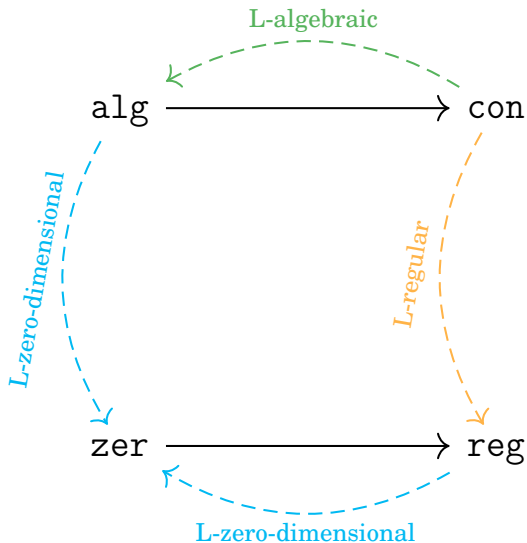
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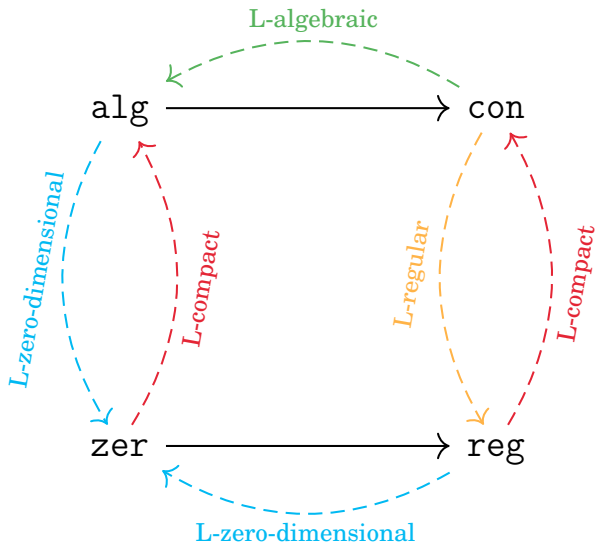
1. X is the Priestley space of a compact frame iff $\text{reg} \leq \text{con}$.
2. X is the Priestley space of a compact regular frame iff $\text{reg} = \text{con}$ (\Leftarrow -direction requires X to be L-spatial).

alg \longrightarrow con

zer \longrightarrow reg







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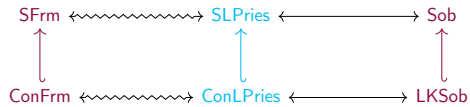
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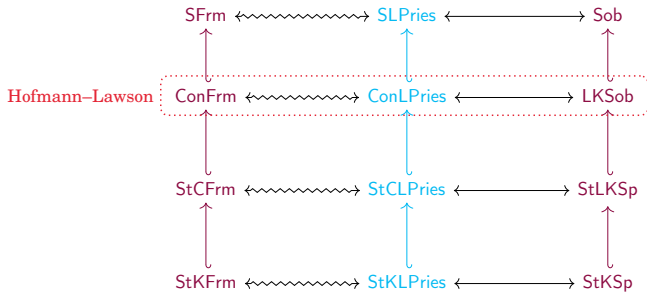
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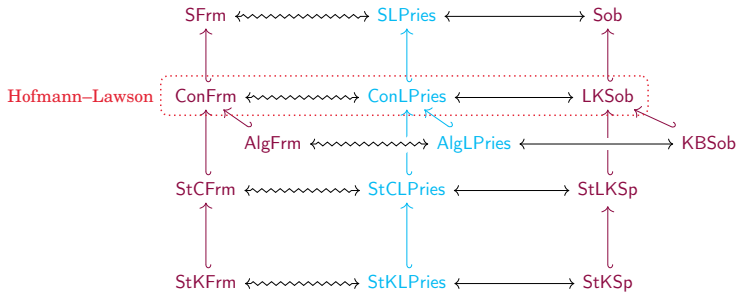
- ▶ **Hofmann–Lawson** duality between the categories ConFrm of continuous frames and LKSob of locally compact sober spaces.
- ▶ **Isbell** duality between the categories KRFrm of compact regular frames and KHaus of compact Hausdorff spaces.

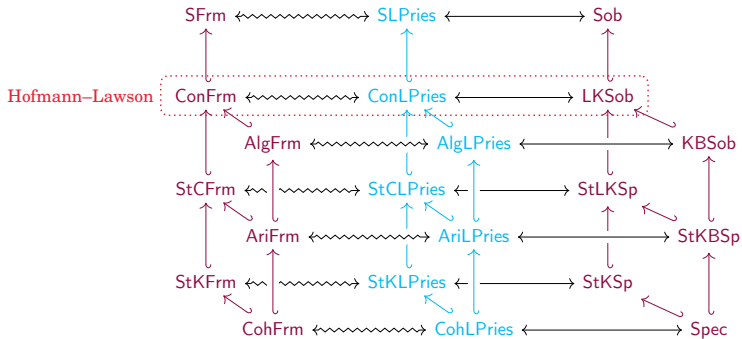
SFrm \longleftrightarrow SLPries \longleftrightarrow Sob

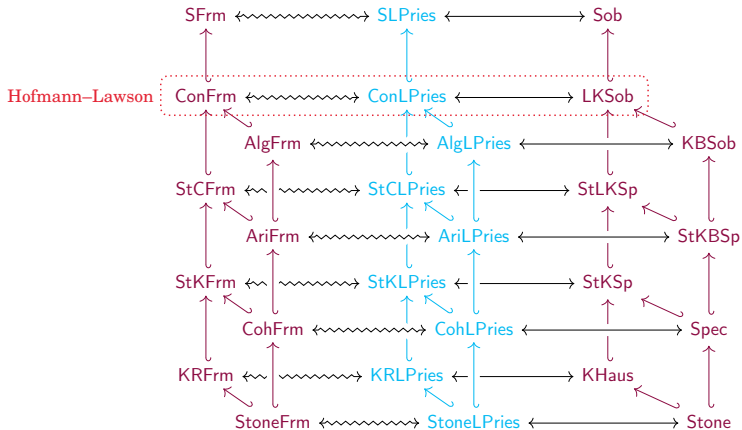


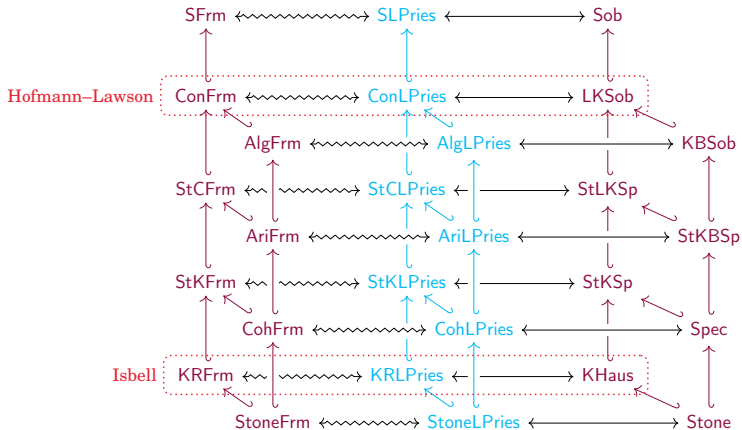


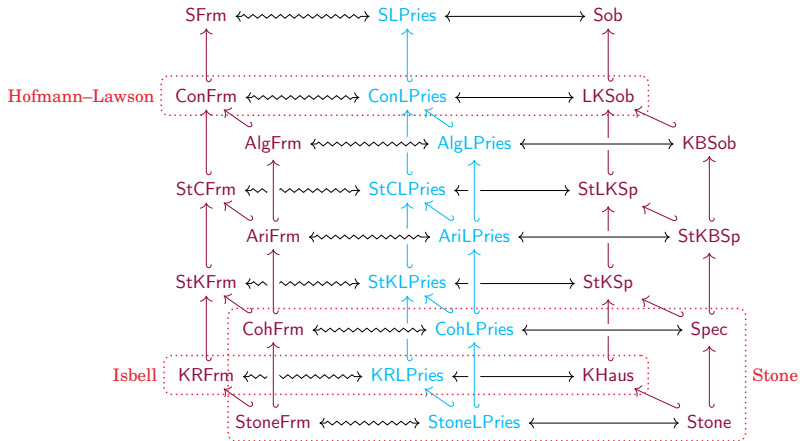














Future work

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The newly introduced categories of Priestley spaces correspond not only to significant classes of frames but also to key categories of topological spaces, including compact Hausdorff spaces and Stone spaces.

This perspective offers new insights into classic duality results in pointfree topology.

Spectra of maximal d -elements

Beyond offering a fresh perspective on classic dualities, this approach also enables the **resolution of open problems** in pointfree topology.

Spectra of maximal d -elements

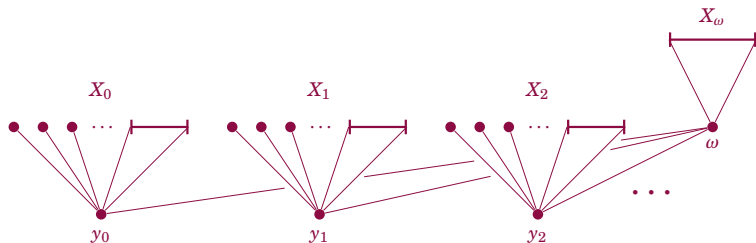
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This direction is currently under investigation, and using this Priestley framework we expect further insights into this and other spectra in pointfree topology in the future.

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A solution would shed some light on Isbell's problem.

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a flat roof and large windows. The building is partially obscured by a large, leafy tree in the foreground. A red semi-transparent overlay covers the entire image. The words "SCIENCE HALL" are visible on the building's facade.

SCIENCE HALL

Thank you!