

Embedding Boolean ample monoids  
as full submonoids of  
Boolean inverse monoids

by

Mark V. Lawson

Heriot-Watt University

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## 1. Classical Stone duality

Boolean space =

Compact, Hausdorff 0-dimensional.

### Theorem (Stone, 1937)

The category of Boolean algebras  
is dually equivalent to the category  
of Boolean spaces.

Method

- Boolean algebra  $\rightarrow$  Boolean space  
use prime filters (= ultrafilters)
- Boolean space  $\rightarrow$  Boolean algebra  
use clopen (= closed and open) sets

This can be generalized ...

## 2. Non-commutative Stone duality

Idea

- Replace Boolean algebras by monoids having a "Boolean character".
- Replace Boolean spaces by topological categories generalizing Boolean spaces.

A topological category is a category equipped with a topology in which all the maps  $\underline{d}$ ,  $\underline{\Gamma}$ ,  $\underline{m}$  are continuous.

A topological category is étale if  $\underline{d}$  and  $\underline{\Gamma}$  are local homeomorphisms.

Why étale?

The open subsets form a monoid.

Thus étale topological categories have a monoid "alter ego".

In a restriction monoid, define the Compatibility relation  $\sim$  by

$$a \sim b \text{ iff } ab^* = ba^* \text{ and } a^+b = b^+a.$$

Define the natural partial order  $\leq$  by  $a \leq b$  iff  $a = ba^*$  iff  $a = a^+b$ .

If  $a, b \leq c$  then  $a \sim b$ .

Thus being compatible is a necessary condition for a pair of elements to have a join.

An ample monoid is said to be Boolean if

- (1) Each pair of compatible elements has a join.
- (2) Multiplication distributes over such joins.
- (3) The idempotents form a Boolean algebra w.r.t. the natural partial order.
- (4) The zero of the Boolean algebra is the zero of the monoid.

A Boolean category is an étale topological category whose space of identities is a Boolean space.

Theorem (Kudryavtseva - Lawson, 2017)

- (i) Associated with every Boolean ample monoid  $S$  is a cancellative Boolean category  $\underline{C}(S)$ .
- (ii) Associated with every cancellative Boolean category  $C$  is an ample monoid  $\underline{KB}(C)$ .
- (iii) If  $S$  is a Boolean ample monoid then  $S \cong \underline{KB}(\underline{C}(S))$
- (iv) If  $C$  is a cancellative Boolean category then  $C \cong \underline{C}(\underline{KB}(C))$ .

- $\underline{C}(S)$  is obtained from  $S$  by taking the prime filters in  $S$ .
- $\underline{KB}(C)$  is obtained from  $C$  by taking the compact-open local bisections in  $C$ .
- If we replace Boolean ample monoids by Boolean inverse monoids then the category  $\underline{C}(S)$  is a groupoid.

### 3. Full embedding theorem

Idea

Boolean inverse monoids : groupoids

as

Boolean ample monoids : cancellative categories

The question is :

under what circumstances can a cancellative category be "nicely"

embedded in a groupoid.

A cancellative category  $C$  is said to be right reversible if for all  $a, b \in C$  s.t.  $\underline{d}(a) = \underline{d}(b)$  we have that  $C_a \cap C_b \neq \emptyset$ .

Theorem (Gabriel - Zisman, 1967)

Let  $C$  be a right reversible cancellative category. Then there exists an embedding  $\iota: C \rightarrow G$  into a groupoid  $G$  s.t.

$$(1) \quad \iota(C)^{-1} \iota(C) = G.$$

(2)  $\iota(C)$  is a wide subcategory of  $G$ .

We call  $G$  a groupoid of fractions of  $C$ .

## Key Result

Theorem (Lawson, 2026)

Let  $C$  be a cancellative Boolean category which is right reversible. Then its groupoid of fractions is a Boolean groupoid.

### Remark

We have added topology to the result of Gabriel-Zisman.

Let  $S$  be a Boolean ample monoid. Let  $F$  be a prime filter of  $\underline{E}(S)$ . We write

$$x \leq_F y \quad \text{if } x^*, y^* \in F \text{ and } x \leq y.$$

We say that  $S$  satisfies (c) if the following hold:

for any prime filter  $F \subseteq \underline{E}(S)$   
and  $a, b \in S$  s.t.  $a^* b^* \in F$

there exist  $c, d \in S$  s.t.

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} \exists a_1 \leq_F a & \quad \text{s.t.} \quad a_1^+ \leq c^* \\ \exists b_1 \leq_F b & \quad \text{s.t.} \quad b_1^+ \leq d^* \end{aligned}$$

$$(2) \quad \exists e \in F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad cae = dbe$$

Proposition Let  $S$  be a Boolean ample monoid satisfying (c).  
 Then for all  $a, b \in S$  s.t.  $a^*b^* \neq 0$   
 we have that  $Sa \cap Sb \neq \{0\}$ .

Theorem Let  $S$  be a Boolean ample monoid. Then (c) holds iff  $\underline{\subseteq}(S)$  is right reversible.

## Main theorem

Let  $S$  be a Boolean ample monoid satisfying (C).

Then  $S$  can be embedded as a full submonoid of a Boolean inverse monoid  $T$  in such a way that every non-zero element of  $T$  is a finite join of elements of the form  $\bar{a}'b$  where  $a, b \in S$ .

## Proof (Sketch)

Let  $S$  be a Boolean ample monoid satisfying (c).

Then  $\underline{C}(S)$  is a cancellative Boolean category which is right reversible. Thus  $\underline{C}(S)$  has a groupoid of fractions  $G$ .

In fact,  $G$  is a Boolean groupoid.

By non-commutative Stone duality

$S$  can be fully embedded in a

Boolean inverse monoid  $T$ .