# Semilattices, Domains, and Computability 

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## Algebraic Lattices: The Prime Examples

- The powerset of a set.
- The lattice of subgroups of a group.
- The lattice of ideals of a ring.


## What is a Lattice?

$0 \leq x \leq 1$
$X \leq X$
$x \leq y \& y \leq z \Rightarrow x \leq z$
$x \leq y \& y \leq x \Rightarrow x=y$
$x \vee y \leq z \Leftrightarrow X \leq z \& y \leq z$
$z \leq x \wedge y \Leftrightarrow z \leq x \& z \leq y$

Bounded

Partially
Ordered
Set

With sups
\&
With infs

## What is a Semilattice?

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$x \leq y \& y \leq x \Rightarrow x=y$
$x \vee y \leq z \Leftrightarrow x \leq z \& y \leq z$

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With sups

## What is a Complete Semiattice?

$$
V_{i \in I} x_{i} \leq y \Leftrightarrow(\forall i \in I) x_{i} \leq y
$$

What is a Complete Lattice?

$$
\mathrm{y} \leq \wedge_{\mathrm{i} \in \mathrm{I}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{i}} \Leftrightarrow(\forall \mathrm{i} \in \mathrm{I}) \mathrm{y} \leq \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{i}}
$$

Note: A complete semilattice is a complete lattice:

$$
\wedge_{i \in \mathrm{I}} \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{i}}=\mathrm{V}\left\{\mathrm{y} \mid(\forall \mathrm{i} \in \mathrm{I}) \mathrm{y} \leq \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{i}}\right\}
$$

## The Equational Axiomatization of Semilattices

$$
\begin{gathered}
0 \vee x=x \quad 1 \vee x=1 \quad x \vee x=x \\
x \vee y=y \vee x \\
x \vee(y \vee z)=(x \vee y) \vee z
\end{gathered}
$$

Definition: $x \leq y \Leftrightarrow x \vee y=y$

## Algebraic Lattices: The Abstract Definition

Definition: An element $u$ of a complete lattice is finite (or, compact) provided that whenever we have $u \leq V_{i \in I} x_{i}$, then $u \leq V_{i \in J} X_{i}$ for some finite $J \subseteq I$.

Definition: A complete lattice is algelbraic iff every element is the sup of its finite subelements.

Note: The finite elements of the lattice of subgroups of a group are exactly the finitely generated subgroups. And the lattice is thus algebraic.

## Semilattice Completion

Theorem: The finite elements of a complete lattice form a subsemilattice - provided the unit element is finite.

Definition: The ideals of semilattice are the subsets closed under finite sups and subelements.

Theorem: The ideals of semilattice form an algebraic lattice with a finite unit element.

Theorem: Every algebraic lattice with a finite unit element is isomorphic to the ideal lattice of its semilattice of finite elements.

## Topological Connections

Theorem: Every algebraic lattice becomes a To-topological space with a basis for the open sets consisting of sets $\uparrow u=\{x \mid u \leq x\}$ for $u$ finite.

Theorem: The lattice of open subsets of the Cantor Discontinuum is an algebraic lattice with the finite elements being the compact opens.

Theorem: The continuous functions between algebraic lattices are exactly the functions preserving directed sups. They can also be characterized by the equation:

$$
F(x)=\bigvee\{F(u) \mid u \leq x \& u \text { finite }\} .
$$

## What are Scott-Ershov Domains?

Definition: A domain is an algebraic lattice minus a finite unit; equivalently ...

A domain is any closed subset of an algebraic lattice; equivalently ...

A domain is the completion of a semilattice by proper ideals.

Note: Every algebraic lattice is a domain. (Hint: Add an extra unit element at the top.)

Theorem: Domains form a category with the continuous functions as the mappings.

## Back to Semilattices!

Definition: For $\mathcal{A}=\langle A, 0,1, \vee\rangle$ a given semilattice, let $\|\mathcal{A}\|$ be the set of proper ideals of $\mathcal{A}$; that is, $\|\mathcal{A}\|=\{X \subseteq A \mid 0 \in X \& 1 \oplus X \& \forall \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b} \in A[\mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b} \in X \Leftrightarrow \mathrm{a} \vee \mathrm{b} \in X]\}$.

Theorem: \|AA\| is a domain with finite elements of the form $\downarrow \mathrm{a}=\{\mathrm{x} \in A \mid \mathrm{a} \vee \mathrm{x}=\mathrm{a}\}$; if additionally, $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies

$$
\forall a, b \in A[a=1 \text { or } b=1 \Leftrightarrow a \vee b=1]
$$

then $\|\mathcal{A}\|$ is an algebraic lattice.
Note: Intuitively 0 indicates no information and 1 too much information or an inconsistency.

## The Countable Case

Theorem: The completion \|fll of a countable semilattice $\mathcal{A}=\langle A, 0,1, \mathrm{v}\rangle$ can be thought of as adding limit points to $\mathcal{A}$ of increasing sequences $a_{0} \leq a_{1} \leq a_{2} \leq \ldots \leq a_{n} \leq \ldots$ of elements of $A$, where we define $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{n} \leq \lim _{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathrm{~b}_{\mathrm{m}}$ to mean that each $a_{n}$ is $\leq$ some $b_{m}$.

Note: Of course, limits prove to be sups in $\|\mathcal{A}\|$, and we can identify the elements of $A$ with the limits of the constant sequences. However, from this point of view, in order to prove that $\|\mathcal{A}\|$ is (directed) complete, it is probably easier to relate limits to ideals.

## A Universal Semilattice

Definition: Let $\mathcal{P}=\langle P, 0,1, \mathrm{~V}\rangle$ be the semilattice of (equivalence classes of) propositional formulae with generators $\xi_{0}, \xi_{1}, \xi_{2}, \ldots, \xi_{\mathrm{n}}, \ldots$.

Note: We will use the usual notation for other propositional operators, so $\mathcal{P}$ may also be considered a Boolean algebra.

Theorem: \|P \| as a domain is isomorphic to the domain of proper open subsets of the Cantor set.

Main Theorem: Every domain with a countable number of finite elements can be isomorphically embedded into \|P II.

## Outline of a Proof

Theorem: Every countable Boolean algebra can be isomorphically embedded into $\mathcal{P}$.
Hint: It is easy to show that a finite Boolean algebra can be embedded into $\mathcal{P}$. And then the embedding can be continued to any finite superalgebra. Next note that a countable algebra is the union of a countable chain of finite algebras.

Theorem: Every countable semilatice can be isomorphically embedded into $\mathcal{P}$.
Hint: Every semilattice $\mathcal{A}=\langle A, 0,1, v\rangle$ can be embedded into the powerset lattice of $A \backslash\{1\}$ by the mapping $\rho(a)=\{x \mid a \neq x\}$.

Theorem: If a semilattice $A$ is a subsemilattice of a semilattice $\beta$, then $\|A\|$ is a subdomain of $\|\beta\|$.

## Simplifying the Notation

(Step 1) $\langle P, 0,1, \mathrm{~V}\rangle$ is the semilattice of propositional formulae with generators $\xi_{0}, \xi_{1}, \xi_{2}, \ldots, \xi_{n}, \ldots$.
(Step 2) $\mathbb{S}$ is the family of all subsemilattices of $P$; thus

$$
\mathbb{S}=\{A \subseteq P \mid 0,1 \in A \& \forall \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{~b} \in A[\mathrm{a} \vee \mathrm{~b} \in A]\} .
$$

Note: $S$ is an algebraic lattice with a countable number of finite elements. (Why?)
(Step 3) For $A \in \mathbb{S}$, let $\|A\|=\{\downarrow(X \cap A) \mid X \in\|\mathcal{P}\|\}$.
Note: $\|A\|$ is a subdomain of $\|P\|=\|\mathcal{P}\|$, and every countably based domain is isomorphic one such. The semilattice structure of $\|P\|$ is defined by $X \vee Y=\{\mathrm{x} \vee \mathrm{y} \mid \mathrm{x} \in X \& \mathrm{y} \in Y\}$.

## Gödel Numbering \& Pairing

Theorem. There is a numbering of the elements of $P$ so that all Boolean operations are primitive recursive.

Theorem. Under this numbering, there is a primitive recursive pairing operation $<p, q \gg$ on $P$ with a recursive range where:
(i) $<0,0 »=0$;
(ii) $<p, q \gg=1 \Leftrightarrow p=1$ or $q=1$;
(iii) $\left.\left.<p_{0}, q_{0}\right\rangle \vee \ll p_{1}, q_{1}\right\rangle=\ll p_{0} \vee p_{1}, q_{0} \vee q_{1} \gg ;$
(iv) $<p_{0}, q_{0} \gg<\mathrm{p}_{1}, \mathrm{q}_{1} \gg \Leftrightarrow \mathrm{p}_{1}=1$ or $\mathrm{q}_{1}=1$ or $\left[\mathrm{p}_{0} \leq \mathrm{p}_{1} \& \mathrm{q}_{0} \leq \mathrm{q}_{1}\right]$.

Hint: Define Boolean injections $\sigma_{0}, \sigma_{1}: P \mapsto P$ by $\sigma_{0}\left(\xi_{n}\right)=\xi_{2 n}$
and $\sigma_{1}\left(\xi_{n}\right)=\xi_{2 n+1}$. Then define $\leqslant p, q \gg=\sigma_{0}(p) \vee \sigma_{1}(q)$.

## Another Construction of $\mathcal{P}$

(Step 1) For any set $S$, let $F(S)$ denote the collection of all the finite subsets of $S$.
(Step 2) $F(S)$ may be regarded as a vector space over the field $\{0,1\}$, where the zero vector, 0 , is the empty set, and where vector addition, + , is the symmetric difference of sets.
A basis for the space $F(S)$ consists of the singleton subsets.
(Step 3) Let $P=F(F(\mathbb{N})$ ), and define a bilinear multiplication on $P$ by the stipulation $\{\mathrm{s}\} \cdot\{\mathrm{t}\}=\{\mathrm{s} \cup \mathrm{t}\}$ for $\mathrm{s}, \mathrm{t} \in F(\mathbb{N})$. Let $1=\{0\}$.

Theorem: The algebra $\langle P, 0,1,+, \cdot>$ is the free Boolean ring (with unit) on the generators $\{\{n\}\}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. It can be made into a semilattice by defining $x \vee y=x+y+x \cdot y$.
Note: Using $\boldsymbol{P}=\boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{F}(\mathbb{N}))$ gives us another Gödel numbering.

## Computable Domains and Mappings

Definition. The computable elements of $S$ are those which are recursively enumerable subsets of $P$.

Definition. The computable elements of $\|A\|$ are those which are recursively enumerable subsets of $P$.

Definition. The computable mappings $\mathrm{F}:\|A\| \rightarrow\|B\|$ are those which are continuous and where the relationship $\downarrow \mathrm{b} \subseteq \mathrm{F}(\downarrow \mathrm{a})$ between finite elements of $\|A\|$ and $\|B\|$ is recursively enumerable.

## Domain Products

Definitions. (i) $X \times Y=\{\ll \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{q} \gg \mathrm{p} \in X \& \mathrm{q} \in Y\}$;
(ii) $H=\{\ll p, q \gg \mid[p=0 \& q=0]$ or $[p \neq 0 \& q \neq 0]\}$;
(iii) $A \times_{\mathrm{s}} B=(A \times B) \cap H$.

Lemma. (i) If $A, B \in \mathbb{S}$, then $H,(A \times B),\left(A \times_{\mathrm{s}} B\right) \in \mathbb{S}$.
(ii) If $X, Y \in\|P\|$, then $(X, Y)=\downarrow(X \times Y) \in\|P\|$.

Theorem. If $A, B \in \mathbb{S}$, then $\|A \times B\|$ is isomorphic to the product of the domains $\|A\|$ and $\|B\|$, while $\left\|A x_{\mathrm{s}} B\right\|$ is isomorphic to the smash product.

Hint: Let $X=\{p \mid<p, 0 \gg Z\}$ and $Y=\{q \mid \ll 0, q \gg Z\}$, for any $Z \in\|A \times B\|$. Then $X \in\|A\|, Y \in\|B\|$, and $\downarrow(X \times Y)=Z$.

## Domain Sums

Definition. Let $\zeta_{n}=\neg \xi_{0} \vee \neg \xi_{1} \vee \neg \xi_{2} \vee \ldots \vee \neg \xi_{n-1} \vee \xi_{n}$. Definition.

$$
A_{0}+A_{1}+A_{2}+\ldots+A_{n}=\{0\} \cup \bigcup_{i \leq n}\left\{<p, \zeta_{i} \gg \mid p \in A_{i}\right\} .
$$

## Definition.

$$
A_{0}+c A_{1}+c A_{2}+c \ldots+c A_{n}=\left(A_{0}+A_{1}+A_{2}+\ldots+A_{n}\right) \cap H .
$$

Theorem. For $A_{0}, A_{1}, A_{2}, \ldots, A_{\mathrm{n}} \in \mathbb{S},\left\|A_{0}+A_{1}+A_{2}+\ldots+A_{\mathrm{n}}\right\|$ is isomorphic to the separated sum of the domains $\left\|A_{\mathrm{i}}\right\|$.

Theorem. For $A_{0}, A_{1}, A_{2}, \ldots, A_{n} \in \mathbb{S},\left\|A_{0}+\mathrm{c} A_{1}+\mathrm{c} A_{2}+\mathrm{c} \ldots+\mathrm{c} A_{\mathrm{n}}\right\|$ is isomorphic to the coalesced sum of the domains $\left\|A_{i}\right\|$.

## Lifting and Dropping

Definitions. (i) $A_{\perp}=\{0\} \cup\left\{<p, 0>\vee \xi_{1} \mid p \in A\right\}$.

$$
\text { (ii) } A^{\top}=\{1\} \cup\left\{<p, 0 \gg \wedge \xi_{1} \mid p \in A\right\} \text {. }
$$

Theorem. For $A \in \mathbb{S}$, we have $A_{\perp}, A^{\top} \in \mathbb{S}$, and the domain $\left\|A_{\perp}\right\|$ is like $\|A\|$ but with a new bottom element, and $\left\|A^{\top}\right\|$ is like $\|A\|$ but with a new top element.

Note: All the operations of products, sums, lifts and drops on $\mathbb{S}$ need to be checked for continuity and computability.

## Function Spaces

Theorem. Under the numbering of $P$, there is a primitive recursive operation $(\mathrm{p} \Rightarrow \mathrm{q})$ on $P$, defined when $\mathrm{p} \neq 1$, such that:
(i) $(p \Rightarrow 1)=1$;
(ii) $V_{i<k}\left(p_{i} \Rightarrow q_{i}\right)=1 \Rightarrow \exists r \neq 1 . V\left\{q_{i} \mid p_{i} \leq r\right\}=1$;and
(iii) $(r \Rightarrow s) \leq V_{i<k}\left(p_{i} \Rightarrow q_{i}\right) \Leftrightarrow V_{i<k}\left(p_{i} \Rightarrow q_{i}\right)=1$ or $s \leq V\left\{q_{i} \mid p_{i} \leq r\right\}$.

Definitions.
(i) $\quad(A \Rightarrow B)=\left\{\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{i}<\mathrm{k}}\left(\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{i}} \Rightarrow \mathrm{q}_{\mathrm{i}}\right) \mid \forall \mathrm{i}<\mathrm{k}\left[\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{i}} \in A \backslash\{1\} \& \mathrm{q}_{\mathrm{i}} \in B\right]\right\}$;
(ii) $\left(A \Rightarrow{ }_{s} B\right)=\{0,1\} \cup\left\{V_{i<k}\left(\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{i}} \Rightarrow \mathrm{q}_{\mathrm{i}}\right) \mid \forall \mathrm{i}<\mathrm{k}\left[\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{i}} \in A \backslash\{0,1\} \& \mathrm{q}_{\mathrm{i}} \in B \backslash\{0,1\}\right]\right\}$;

Theorem. If $A, B \in \mathbb{S}$, then $(A \Rightarrow B),\left(A \Rightarrow{ }_{\mathrm{s}} B\right) \in \mathbb{S}$, and $\|A \Rightarrow B\|$ is isomorphic to the domain of continuous functions from $\|A\|$ to $\|B\|$ and $\|A \Rightarrow \mathrm{~s} B\|$ gives strict continuous functions.

## Embedding $\mathbb{S}$ into $\|P\|$

Note: The finite elements of $\mathbb{S}$ are the finite subsemilattices of $P$, and $P$ is the (non-finite) unit element of $S$.

The semilattice operation on $\mathbb{S}$ is $A \vee B$.

Lemma. For finite $A, B \in \mathbb{S}$, we have
(i) $\vee_{\mathrm{p} \in A\{\{1\}}(\mathrm{p} \Rightarrow \mathrm{p})=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{q} \in B\{\{1\}}(\mathrm{q} \Rightarrow \mathrm{q}) \Leftrightarrow A=B$; and
(ii) $\vee_{r \in(A \vee B)\{\{1\}}(\mathrm{r} \Rightarrow \mathrm{r})=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{p} \in A\{\{1\}}(\mathrm{p} \Rightarrow \mathrm{p}) \vee \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{q} \in B\{\{1\}}(\mathrm{q} \Rightarrow \mathrm{q})$.

Theorem. The domain $\mathbb{S}$ is isomorphic to a subdomain of $\left\|P \Rightarrow{ }_{\mathrm{s}} P\right\|$ by a computable embedding.

## Recursive Domain Equations

Theorem. All the operations $(A \times B),\left(A \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{s}} B\right),(A+B),(A+\mathrm{c} B)$, $A \perp, A^{\top},(A \Rightarrow B)$, and $\left(A \Rightarrow_{\mathrm{s}} B\right)$ map $\mathbb{S}$ to $\mathbb{S}$ and are continuous and computable. Hence, so are any compositions of these mappings.

Note: The standard Fixed-Point Theorem can then be applied to obtain recursively defined domains.

Definition. $\mathbb{N}_{\perp}=\{0,1\} \cup\left\{\zeta_{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$.
Theorem. $\mathbb{N}_{\perp} \in \mathbb{S}$, and $\| \mathbb{N} \perp l$ is isomorphic to the flat domain of integers.
Note: A typical example of a recursively defined domain is given by $D=\mathrm{N} \perp \mathrm{c}(D \Rightarrow D) \perp$. This constructs a model of the $\lambda$-calculus closely related to recursive function theory.

## Some Additional Examples

$B=B+B$
$S=\mathbb{N}_{\perp} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{s}} S_{\perp}$
$L=\mathbb{N} \perp \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{s}}(L \times L) \perp$ labelled trees
$A=$ given
$B=B \times(A \times B)$ fixed point
$C=A \times B \cong(A \times B) \times(A \times B)=C \times C$ defined \& isomorphed
$D=D \Rightarrow C$ fixed point
$D \times D=(D \Rightarrow C) \times(D \Rightarrow C) \cong D \Rightarrow(C \times C) \cong D \Rightarrow C=D$ isomorphism
$D \Rightarrow D=D \Rightarrow(D \Rightarrow C) \cong(D \times D) \Rightarrow C \cong D \Rightarrow C=D$ isomorphism

## $\|P\|$ as a $\lambda$-Calculus Model

## Definitions.

(i) $\quad \operatorname{Id}(Z)=\downarrow\left\{V_{i<k} q_{i} \mid \forall i<k\left[q_{i} \in Z\right]\right\}$; and
(ii) $\quad F(X)=\mathbf{I d}(\{q \mid(\mathrm{p} \Rightarrow \mathrm{q}) \in F \& \mathrm{p} \in X\})$; and
(iii) $\lambda X . \Phi(X)=\mathbf{I d}(\{(p \Rightarrow q) \mid q \in \Phi(\downarrow p) \& p \neq 1\})$, where $F, X \in\|P\|$ and $\Phi:\|P\| \rightarrow\|P\|$ is continuous.

Note: It is possible that $\operatorname{ld}(Z)=P$, if $Z$ is inconsistent. However, for $F, X, \Phi$ as above, both $F(X)$ and $\lambda X . \Phi(X)$ are consistent.

## Equilogical Spaces

Remember: - The space $\|P\|$ is not only universal for domains, but it contains as subspaces all countably based $\mathrm{T}_{0}$-spaces.

- Moreover, by passing to partial equivalence relations (PERs) and equivalence-preserving continuous mappings, we obtain a cartesian closed category (and more).
- It contains the two previous categories and has an intrinsic notion of computable function and computable element. (But a certain subcategory may be better.)
- In this way we have a semantics for a notion of computability at higher types.


## Martin-Löf Type Theory

Definition. A family of types consists of a PER $\mathcal{A}$ and a mapping $\mathcal{B}:\|P\| \rightarrow \mathrm{PER}$, where for all $X_{0}, X_{1} \in\|P\|$ we have

$$
X_{0} \mathcal{A} X_{1} \Rightarrow \mathcal{B}\left(X_{0}\right)=\mathcal{B}\left(X_{1}\right) .
$$

Definition. A product of a family of types is the PER defined by:
$F_{0}\left(\prod X: \mathcal{A} . \mathcal{B}(X)\right) F_{1} \Leftrightarrow \forall X_{0}, X_{1}\left[X_{0} \mathcal{A} X_{1} \Rightarrow F_{0}\left(X_{0}\right) \mathcal{B}\left(X_{0}\right) F_{1}\left(X_{1}\right)\right]$.
Definition. A sum of a family of types is the PER defined by: $Z_{0}\left(\sum X: \mathcal{A} . \mathcal{B}(X)\right) Z_{1} \Leftrightarrow \exists X_{0}, X_{1}, Y_{0}, Y_{1}\left[X_{0} \mathcal{A} X_{1} \& Y_{0} \mathcal{B}\left(X_{0}\right) Y_{1} \&\right.$ $\left.Z_{0}=\left(X_{0}, Y_{0}\right) \& Z_{1}=\left(X_{1}, Y_{1}\right)\right]$.

Note: It must be proved that these definitions actually do produce PERs.

## Systems of Dependent Types

Theorem. Given families of types where always

$$
\begin{gathered}
X_{0} \mathcal{A} X_{1} \Rightarrow \mathcal{B}\left(X_{0}\right)=\mathcal{B}\left(X_{1}\right) \text { and } \\
X_{0} \mathscr{A} X_{1} \& Y_{0} \mathcal{B}\left(X_{0}\right) Y_{1} \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}\left(X_{0}, Y_{0}\right)=\mathcal{C}\left(X_{1}, Y_{1}\right) \text { and }
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
X_{0} \mathscr{A} X_{1} \& Y_{0} \mathcal{B}\left(X_{0}\right) Y_{1} \& Z_{0} \mathcal{C}\left(X_{0}, Y_{0}\right) Z_{1} \Rightarrow \mathscr{D}\left(X_{0}, Y_{0}, Z_{0}\right)=\mathscr{D}\left(X_{1}, Y_{1}, Z_{1}\right)
$$ then this iterated products of sums of ... is a PER:

$$
\prod X: A \cdot \sum Y: \mathcal{B}(X) . \prod Z: \mathbb{C}(X, Y) \cdot \mathscr{D}(X, Y, Z)
$$

Note: Of course, properties of sums and products have to be established showing they follow the usual rules of type theory.

## Extensional Identity Types

Definition. Given a PER $\mathcal{A}$ we define:

$$
U \operatorname{ld}_{A}(X, Y) V \Leftrightarrow U \mathcal{A} X \notin Y \notin V .
$$

Proposition. Given a PER $\mathcal{A}$, then $\mathrm{Id}_{\mathcal{A}}(X, Y)$ is a PER and

$$
X_{0} \mathcal{A} X_{1} \& Y_{0} \mathcal{A} Y_{1} \Rightarrow \operatorname{ld}_{\mathcal{A}}\left(X_{0}, Y_{0}\right)=\operatorname{ld}_{\mathcal{A}}\left(X_{1}, Y_{1}\right) .
$$

Example: In case $F(\Pi X: \mathcal{A} . \Pi Y: \mathcal{A} . \mathcal{A}) F$, we can regard $F$ as a binary operation of type $A$. Then, if the following type is inhabited, we can say $F$ is an associative operation:
$\Pi X: \mathcal{A} . \Pi Y: \mathcal{A} . \Pi Z: \mathcal{A} . \operatorname{ld}_{\mathcal{A}}(F(F(X)(Y))(Z), F(X)(F(Y)(Z)))$.

## Why Domain Theory?

The aim of Domain Theory is:
(a) To provide one convenient category having many familiar examples;
(b) To permit some new space constructions, including function spaces;
(c) To allow for the solution of recursive domain equations, including for the $\lambda$-calculus; and
(d) To give one sound basis for some notions of higher-type computability.

## Why Semilattices?

Semilattice theory:
(a) Has a very elementary definition;
(b) Has a universal space with very easy computable structure;
(c) Has a very direct way to pass to completions; and
(d) Has a category construction needing a minimum of set theory and abstract algebra.

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