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TWO TYPES OF ONTOLOGICAL STRUCTURE: Concepts Structures and Lattices of Elementary Situations*

Abstract. In 1982, Wolniewicz proposed a formal ontology of situations based on the lattice of elementary situations (cf. [7, 8]). In [3], I constructed some types of formal structure – Porphyrian Tree Structures (PTS), Concepts Structures (CS) and the Structures of Individuals (U) – that formally represent ontologically fundamental categories: species and genera (PTS), concepts (CS) and individual beings (U) (cf. [3, 4]). From an ontological perspective, situations and concepts belong to different categories. But, unexpectedly, as I shall show, some variants of CS and Wolniewicz’s lattice are similar. The main theorem states that a subset of a modified concepts structure (called CS^+) based on CS fulfils the axioms of Wolniewicz’ lattice. Finally, I shall draw some philosophical conclusions and state some formal facts.

Keywords: formal (formalized) ontology, ontology of situations, concepts structure, lattice.

1. Preliminaries

Following [3] and [4], let us remind ourselves of some essential definitions.

Let Q be a set of cardinality \aleph_0 . Then for any subset X of Q , $\{0, 1\}^X$ is the set of all functions from X into $\{0, 1\}$. We put:

$$CS := \bigcup \{ \{0, 1\}^X : X \text{ is a finite subset of } Q \}. \quad (\text{def CS})$$

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All functions from CS will be called *formal concepts* (henceforth: *concepts*). The function on \emptyset (equal to \emptyset) will be denoted by c_\emptyset and called the *root of CS*.

Example. If we consider the qualities (according to their familiar definitions): of being a number (q_1), being a natural (q_2), being divisible by 2 (q_3), then the concepts of (a): even number and of (b): odd number, can be defined by functions from $X = \{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$ into $\{0, 1\}$ in the following way:

even number	odd number
$q_1 \rightarrow 1$	$q_1 \rightarrow 1$
$q_2 \rightarrow 1$	$q_2 \rightarrow 1$
$q_3 \rightarrow 1$	$q_3 \rightarrow 0$

DEFINITION 1. A set CS with the relation \leq_{CS} of inclusion on CS (in short, $\langle CS, \leq_{CS} \rangle$) will be called a *concepts system*.

Remark. For all sets $X, Y \subseteq Q$ and all functions $a: X \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ and $b: Y \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ (i.e. $a, b \in CS$): $a \leq_{CS} b$ iff $a \subseteq b$ iff $X \subseteq Y$ and $\forall_{q \in X} a(q) = b(q)$.

We obtain an expected result:

FACT 1. $\langle CS, \leq_{CS} \rangle$ is a *partially ordered set*.

Let us extend the set CS to a set CS^+ . Our aim is to obtain a structure that will be parallel to Wolniewicz's structure.

DEFINITION 2. $\lambda_{CS} := Q \times \{0, 1\}$.

DEFINITION 3. $CS^+ := \bigcup \{ \{0, 1\}^X : X \subseteq Q \} \cup \{ \lambda_{CS} \}$.

DEFINITION 4. Let \leq_+ denote the inclusion on CS^+ . Then the pair $\langle CS^+, \leq_+ \rangle$ is an *extended concepts system*. Of course, for any $c \in CS_+$, $c \leq_+ \lambda_{CS}$.

Remark. CS^+ includes all functions defined on any subset (not only finite) of Q . We have designated elements of CS^+ by c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots or more simply by a, b, c . Any function c defined on the finite set $\{q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n\}$ into $\{0, 1\}$ we depict as the set $\{q_1^*, q_2^*, \dots, q_n^*\}$, where $*$ \in $\{0, 1\}$; hence, q_j^* means that the given function has value $*$ on q_j ; functions defined on Q are denoted by $c_\infty, c'_\infty, c''_\infty$ etc. and called *maximal concepts*; instead of \leq_+ we will write: \leq .

DEFINITION 5. For any $a, b \in \text{CS}^+$ concepts a and b are *inconsistent* iff there exist pairs $\langle q, n \rangle \in a$ and $\langle q, m \rangle \in b$ such that $\langle q, n \rangle \neq \langle q, m \rangle$. Otherwise, the concepts a and b are *consistent*.

FACT 2. For any $a \in \text{CS}^+ \setminus \{c_\emptyset\}$: a and λ_{CS} are inconsistent.

PROOF. Let $a \in \text{CS}^+ \setminus \{c_\emptyset\}$. Of course, there exists $\langle q, k \rangle \in a$. But, if $k \neq n$ and $k, n \in \{0, 1\}$, then $\langle q, n \rangle \in \lambda_{\text{CS}}$. Hence, by Definition 5, a and λ_{CS} are inconsistent. \dashv

FACT 3. For any $a \in \text{CS}^+$: the concepts a and \emptyset are consistent.

FACT 4. Let $a, b \in \text{CS}^+$ and a and b be consistent. Then for any $x \leq a, x$ and b are consistent.

PROOF. Indeed, by *absurdum*, if x and b are inconsistent, then there exist pairs $\langle q, n \rangle \in x$ and $\langle q, m \rangle \in b$, for $n \neq m$ and $n, m \in \{0, 1\}$. But $x \leq a$, so $\langle q, n \rangle \in a$. In consequence: a and b are inconsistent; contradiction. \dashv

FACT 5. $\langle \text{CS}^+, \leq \rangle$ is a lattice, i.e. $\langle \text{CS}^+, \leq \rangle$ is a poset and for any $a, b \in \text{CS}^+$ there is a supremum and infimum of $\{a, b\}$.

PROOF. It is easy to remark that the infimum of $\{a, b\}$ is $a \cap b$ and $a \cap b \in \text{CS}^+$. Next, the supremum of $\{a, b\}$ is $a \cup b$, if a and b are consistent, and is λ_{CS} , if a and b are inconsistent. But $\lambda_{\text{CS}} \in \text{CS}^+$ and in the first case $a \cup b \in \text{CS}^+$, hence (CS^+, \leq) is a lattice. \dashv

Now, I introduce two operations on CS^+ : a) an operation of *consistent join of concepts* ($\&$) and b) operation of *common content of concepts* ($\#$).

DEFINITION 6. Let $\#$ denote the set-theoretical intersection, and for $a, b \in \text{CS}^+$, let

$$a \& b = \begin{cases} a \cup b, & \text{if } a \text{ and } b \text{ are consistent} \\ \lambda_{\text{CS}}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By Fact 5, we have that $\&, \#: \text{CS}^+ \times \text{CS}^+ \rightarrow \text{CS}^+$.

Remark. A counterpart of $\&$ is Wolniewicz's operation $;$ (semicolon) on sets of elementary situations and a counterpart of operation $\#$ is his operation $!$ (exclamation mark). The former is the supremum in the lattice, the later is the infimum (cf. [8]). In what follows, instead of ' $;$ ' and ' $!$ ' the signs ' \vee ' and ' \wedge ' will be used as in [9].

FACT 6. For any $a \in \text{CS}^+$:

$$(\&1) \ a \ \& \ \lambda_{\text{CS}} = \lambda_{\text{CS}} \ \& \ a = \lambda_{\text{CS}} \ \& \ \lambda_{\text{CS}} = \lambda_{\text{CS}}$$

$$(\#1) \ a \ \# \ \lambda_{\text{CS}} = \lambda_{\text{CS}} \ \# \ a = a$$

$$(\#2) \ \lambda_{\text{CS}} \ \# \ \lambda_{\text{CS}} = \lambda_{\text{CS}}$$

PROOF. The facts are evident by Definitions 2, 5 and 6. ⊢

FACT 7. $\langle \text{CS}^+, \&, \# \rangle$ is a lattice.

PROOF. Commutativity and associativity for $\&$ and $\#$ are established by Definition 6, the commutativity and associativity of \cup , \cap , and finally, by Fact 6. Let us prove absorption laws, i.e.:

$$(1) \ a \ \& \ (a \ \# \ b) = a,$$

$$(2) \ a \ \# \ (a \ \& \ b) = a.$$

We have to consider four cases:

$$1^\circ \ a = \lambda_{\text{CS}} \text{ and } b = \lambda_{\text{CS}},$$

$$2^\circ \ a = \lambda_{\text{CS}} \text{ and } b \in \text{CS}^+ \setminus \{\lambda_{\text{CS}}\},$$

$$3^\circ \ a \in \text{CS}^+ \setminus \{\lambda_{\text{CS}}\} \text{ and } b = \lambda_{\text{CS}},$$

$$4^\circ \ a, b \in \text{CS}^+ \setminus \{\lambda_{\text{CS}}\}.$$

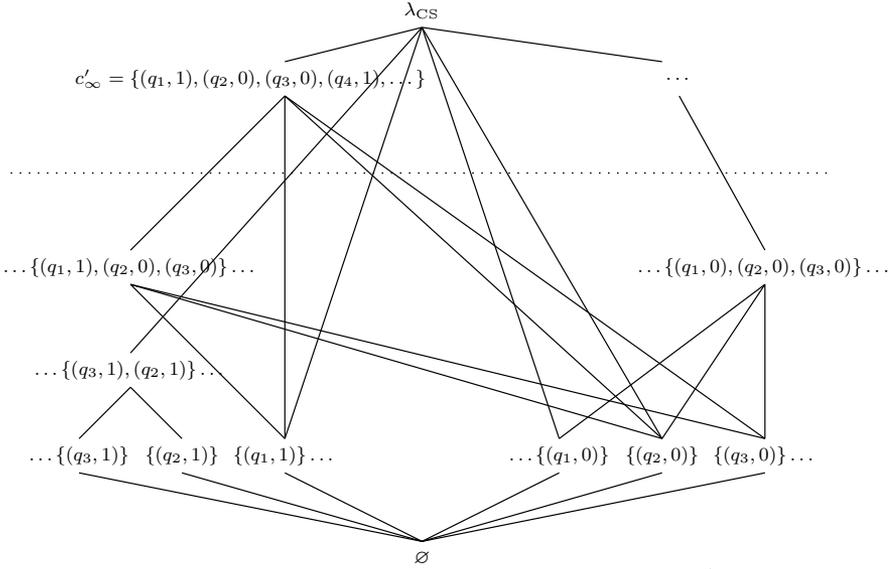
Let us consider the law (1). In case of 1° and 2° (1) is fulfilled by $(\&1)$, $(\#1)$, $(\#2)$. In case 3° by $(\&1)$, $(\#1)$, $(\#2)$. To prove (1) for 4° , i.e. if a and b are inconsistent, (1) is true by the absorption law for \cup and \cap . But if a and b are consistent, then $a \ \# \ b \subseteq a$ and then $a \ \& \ (a \ \# \ b) = a$.

Similarly, by $(\&1)$, $(\#1)$, $(\#2)$ and the absorption law for \cap and \cup , we obtain (2). ⊢

2. Wolniewicz's axioms for lattices of elementary situations

The axioms for the lattice of situations were given in [7] and [8]. Yet both sets of axioms are different. The axiomatics presented below follows [8].

- S.1.** $\text{SE} = \text{SEC} \cup \{o, \lambda\}$, where SEC is a (empty or non-empty) set of the contingent situations, o is called an empty situation and $\lambda (\neq o)$ the impossible one. SE is a universe of *elementary situations*.
- S.2.** \leq is a partial order on SE such that o is its zero and λ is its unit. Hence, for any $x \in \text{SE}$: $o \leq x \leq \lambda$.
- S.3.** For any $A \subseteq \text{SE}$ there exists $x \in \text{SE}$ such that: $x = \sup A$.


 Figure 1. Diagram of fragment of the lattice CS^+ .

S.4. For any $x, y, z \in SE$: $x \leq y \leq z \Rightarrow \exists y' \in SE (x = y \wedge y' \text{ and } z = y \vee y')$.

S.5. For any $x, y, z \in SE$:

- (a) $(x \vee y \neq \lambda \text{ and } x \vee z \neq \lambda) \Rightarrow (x \vee y) \wedge (x \vee z) \leq x \vee (y \wedge z)$,
- (b) $y \vee z \neq \lambda \Rightarrow x \wedge (y \vee z) \leq (x \wedge y) \vee (x \wedge z)$.¹

S.6. Let $SE' = SE \setminus \{\lambda\}$. Then: $\forall x \in SE' \exists w \in \text{Max}(SE') x \leq w$.

The set $\text{Max}(SE') = \{x \in SE : \lambda \text{ covers } x\}$ of maximal possible situations, where b covers a , for $a \neq b$, means that $\{x : a \leq x \leq b\} = \{a, b\}$, is called the *logical space* (SP) and its elements *logical points* or *possible worlds*.

S.7. $x, y \in SE$: $x \neq y \Rightarrow \exists w \in \text{SP} ((x \leq w \text{ and } \sim y \leq w) \text{ or } (\sim x \leq w \text{ and } y \leq w))$.

S.8. Let $SA = \{x \in SE : x \text{ covers } o\}$. Then: $\forall x \in SE \exists A \subseteq SA (x = \sup A)$ (so, the lattice SE is *atomistic*).

S.9. For any $x, y \in SE$: $x \vee y = \lambda \Rightarrow \exists a, a' \in SA (a \leq x \text{ and } a' \leq y \text{ and } a \vee a' = \lambda)$.

S.10. $\forall x, y, z \in SA ((x \vee z = \lambda \wedge y \vee z = \lambda) \Rightarrow (x = y \vee x \vee y = \lambda))$.

¹ The conditions (a) and (b) are equivalent in each lattice with the unit element (see [1, 5]).

Now, following Wolniewicz, to define logical dimensions of the space SP, we redefine equivalence relation $\stackrel{=}{d}$ on SA.

DEFINITION 7. For any $x, y \in \text{SA}$: $(x \stackrel{=}{d} y$ iff $(x = y$ or $x \vee y = \lambda$. The classes of the partition $\text{SA}/\stackrel{=}{d}$ are the *logical dimensions* of SP, provided SEC is not empty. Otherwise, $\text{SP} = \{o\}$, $\text{SA} = \{\lambda\}$, $\text{SA}/\stackrel{=}{d} = \{\{\lambda\}\}$.

S.11. $\dim \text{SP} = n$, where $\dim \text{SP}$ is the number of logical dimensions.

3. Concepts Structure CS^+ and Wolniewicz's structure

The axioms **S.1–S.11** can be rewritten in the following way:

(REW) We take CS^+ for SE with \emptyset and λ_{CS} for o and λ . Partial order in CS^+ is the order given by Definition 4, operations $\&$ and $\#$ correspond to Wolniewicz's \vee and \wedge . Next, as maximal possible situations we will consider the functions $c_\infty, c'_\infty, c''_\infty$ from Q into $\{0, 1\}$ and the set of atoms $\text{CS}^+ \text{At}$ in $\text{CS}^+ = Q \times \{0, 1\}$. Finally, I define the relation $\stackrel{\approx}{D}$ on $\text{CS}^+ \text{At}$ by the condition:

DEFINITION 8. For any $a, b \in \text{CS}^+ \text{At}$: $a \stackrel{\approx}{D} b$ iff $(a = b$ or $a \& b = \lambda_{\text{CS}})$.

The equivalence relation $\stackrel{\approx}{D}$ is to be a counterpart of $\stackrel{=}{d}$ defined by Wolniewicz.

3.1. CS^+ fulfils **S.1–S.10** and does not fulfil **S.11**

THEOREM 1. *The Axioms **S.1–S.10** hold for the structure $\langle \text{CS}^+, \&, \# \rangle$.*

PROOF. The truth of **S.1–S.3** is evident (by (REW)).

To prove **S.4** we show that:

for any $a, b, c \in \text{CS}^+ : a \leq b \leq c \Rightarrow \exists b' \in \text{CS}^+ (a = b \# b'$ and $c = b \& b')$. Obviously, if $a = b$, we put $b' = c$, but if $b = c$, we take $b' = a$. The case when $a = b = c$ is trivial for then $b' = b$.

Now, let us assume that $a \leq b \leq c$ and $a \neq b \neq c$. If $a = \emptyset$, then we put $b' = c \setminus b \neq \emptyset$. Then $a = \emptyset = b \# b'$ and $c = b \& b'$. If $a \neq \emptyset$, we take $b' = (c \setminus b) \cup a$. So,

$$\begin{aligned} b \# b' &= b \cap ((c \setminus b) \cup a) = (b \cap (c \setminus b)) \cup (b \cap a) = \emptyset \cup a = a \text{ and} \\ b \& b' &= b \cup ((c \setminus b) \cup a) = c \cup a = c. \end{aligned}$$

Ad S.5. For $a, b, c \in \text{CS}^+$:

- (a) $(a \& b \neq \lambda_{\text{CS}} \wedge a \& c \neq \lambda_{\text{CS}}) \Rightarrow (a \& b) \#(a \& c) \leq a \& (b \# c)$,
 (b) $b \& c \neq \lambda_{\text{CS}} \Rightarrow a \#(b \& c) \leq (a \# b) \& (a \# c)$.

In the case of (a) we assume the predecessor. Then a, b, c are concepts and by the definitions of $\&$ and $\#$:

$$\begin{aligned} (a \& b) \#(a \& c) &= (a \cup b) \cap (a \cup c) = ((a \cup b) \cap c) \cup ((a \cup b) \cap c) = \\ &= a \cup ((a \cap c) \cup (b \cap c)) = (a \cup (a \cap c)) \cup (b \cap c) = \\ &= a \cup (b \cap c) = a \& (b \# c). \end{aligned}$$

The last equation follows from Fact 4. Hence, if $(a \& b) \#(a \& c) = a \& (b \# c)$, then, by reflexivity of \leq : $(a \& b) \#(a \& c) \leq a \& (b \# c)$.

To prove (b), we assume: $b \& c \neq \lambda_{\text{CS}}$. But then: $b \neq \lambda_{\text{CS}}$, $c \neq \lambda_{\text{CS}}$, $b \cup c$ (i.e. $b \& c \in \text{CS}^+ \setminus \{\lambda_{\text{CS}}\}$) and b and c are consistent. So, we have:

$$a \#(b \& c) = a \cap (b \cup c) = (a \cap b) \cup (a \cap c) = (a \# b) \& (a \# c),$$

The last equality holds because the concepts: $(a \cap b)$ and $(a \cap c)$ are consistent. Hence,

$$a \#(b \& c) \leq (a \# b) \& (a \# c).$$

Axiom **S.6** is evident. If we take any concept c defined on a proper subset Q' of Q , then there exists a function c_∞ on Q , such that $c_\infty|_{\text{DOM}(c)} = c$. Then, of course, $c \leq c_\infty$. But if $c = c_\infty$, then $c_\infty \leq c_\infty$.

Ad S.7. We will show that: $a, b \in \text{CS}^+$: $a \neq b \Rightarrow \exists c_\infty \in \text{SP}$: $((x \leq c_\infty$ and $\sim y \leq c_\infty)$ or $(\sim x \leq c_\infty$ and $y \leq c_\infty)$).

To prove it, let us consider two different non-empty concepts a and b . Then, there exists $\langle q, k \rangle$ such that $\langle q, k \rangle \in a$ and $\langle q, k \rangle \notin b$ (or vice versa). Let us take into account a c_∞ such that $a \leq c_\infty$ and consider two cases: (a) if $b \leq a$, we can point to c'_∞ such that $\langle q, m \rangle \in c'_\infty$ for $m \neq k$; and then $b \leq c'_\infty$ and $\sim(a \leq c'_\infty)$; if $\sim(b \leq a)$, then there exists a c_∞ such that $a \leq c_\infty$; but $\langle q, k \rangle \in c_\infty$ and $\langle q, k \rangle \notin b$, so $\sim(b \leq c_\infty)$. This means that the successor is true.

S.8. is trivial by the definition of concept and the definition of CS^+At .

S.9. follows from the definition of concepts that are not inconsistent.

Ad S.10. We have to prove that for any $a, b, c \in \text{CS}^+\text{At}$: $((a \& c = \lambda_{\text{CS}}$ and $b \& c = \lambda_{\text{CS}}) \Rightarrow (a = b$ or $a \& b = \lambda_{\text{CS}})$).

We remark that for an atom $\{\langle q, * \rangle\}$ there exists only one atom inconsistent with it. It is an atom of the form $\{\langle q, -* \rangle\}$, where $-* = 1(0)$, if $* = 0(1)$. So, if $x \& y = \lambda_{\text{CS}}$ and $y \& z = \lambda_{\text{CS}}$, then x and y are inconsistent and $z = x$. \dashv

3.2. A fragment of CS^+ fulfils **S.1–S.11**

THEOREM 2. $\langle \text{CS}^+, \&, \# \rangle$ has an infinite number of logical dimensions ($\dim \text{SP} = \aleph_0$).

PROOF. It is easy to notice that any dimension has two elements (of the form: $\{q_i^1, q_i^0\}$). Hence, $\dim \text{SP} = \aleph_0$, because the cardinal number of Q is \aleph_0 . \dashv

It appears that a fragment of CS^+ fulfils the axiom **S.11**. Namely, the following theorem is true.

THEOREM 3. Let $X \subsetneq Q$, $\text{card}(X) < \aleph_0$ and $\text{At}_{\text{CS}(\text{FIN})} = X \times \{0, 1\}$. The set CS_{FIN}^+ (with operations $\&$, $\#$) such that:

- (1) $\text{At}_{\text{CS}(\text{FIN})} \subseteq \text{CS}_{\text{FIN}}^+$,
- (2) CS_{FIN}^+ is closed on $\&$ and $\#$,

is a lattice fulfilling **S.1–S.11**.

Remark. Functions defined on the set X are maximal elements of CS_{FIN}^+ .

PROOF OF THEOREM 3. Let us show that **S.11** holds. Indeed, considering the equivalence relation we obtain $\text{card}(X)$ dimensions, $\text{card}(X) < \aleph_0$. In turn, axioms **S.1–S.10** can be considered as particular cases of Theorem 1. \dashv

4. Conclusions and perspectives

1. The investigations were presented in the simplest form possible. The case of CS^+ , where the partial functions on $X \subseteq Q$ into $\{0, 1\}$ are considered, corresponds to Wolniewicz's lattice for Wittgenstein's atomism (each dimension has then 2 elements). It is evident, however, that CS structures can be extended to the case where functions on X have values from the set $\{1, \dots, k\}$, for $k \in \omega$ (or even from some infinite set). At the present time we have k inconsistent elements in each dimension. If we, additionally, reject – in spite of Wolniewicz's suggestion – axiom

S.11, then we can speak of lattices with infinite width and length. A CS structure is suitable for this kind of lattice.

2. Crossing the boundary between 2-element dimensions to k -element ones causes the change of paradigm connected with grasping given property (feature or quality). If $\text{card}(D) = 2$, then we obtain the so-called Meinongian case (let us remind ourselves that Meinong proposed the concept of a complement property non- P besides the property P , for example: redness and non-redness). The so-called complete objects are characterized by the condition: for any property P , either the object has P or has non- P . In my proposal possessing P means that the value of property P is 1 and possessing non- P amounts to 0. The matter is discussed by Kaczmarek in [2, 3, 4]. In turn, the case when the functions from CS^+ have the value from $\{1, \dots, k\}$, is present in information systems (cf. Pawlak [6]). Pawlak proposes to replace the concept of a property by the concept of an attribute (for example, age, growth, colour) and to bind with any attribute a a set of k_a values ($k_a \in \omega, k_a \geq 1$). I propose to call this approach an *attributive paradigm* and I investigate it elsewhere. It is interesting and fruitful that the set of information and partial information with an order on that set is isomorphic to a fragment of a set $\text{CS}^+(k)$ containing all functions from subsets of Q into $\{1, \dots, k\}$. So, I present the following facts:

- FACT 8.** (1) Let $k \geq 2$, $\lambda_{\text{CS}} = Q \times \{1, \dots, k\}$, $\text{CS}^+(k) = \bigcup \{ \{1, \dots, k\}^X : X \subseteq Q \} \cup \{ \lambda_{\text{CS}} \}$ and \leq_{CS} be the inclusion on the set $\text{CS}^+(k)$. Then $\langle \text{CS}^+(k), \leq_{\text{CS}} \rangle$ is a lattice.
- (2) Let $S = \langle O, A, V, \rho \rangle$ be an information system, where O is a finite set of objects, A is a finite set of attributes, $V = \bigcup_{a \in A} V_a$, where $\{V_a\}_{a \in A}$ is an indexed family of sets, and ρ is function on $O \times A$ into V , such that $\rho(x, a) \in V_a$ for any $x \in O$ and $a \in A$. Let us define a set $\text{Inf}^*(S) = \bigcup \{ \{0, 1\}^B : B \subseteq A \}$ of all information and partial information of S , the number $k = \max(\text{card } V_a)$ for $a \in A$ and \leq_{inf} is the inclusion on the set $\text{Inf}^*(S)$. Then there exists a set $\text{CS}_{\text{FIN}}^+(k) \subseteq \text{CS}^+(k)$ such that $\langle \text{CS}_{\text{FIN}}^+(k), \leq_{\text{CS}} \rangle$ and $\langle \text{Inf}^*(S), \leq_{\text{inf}} \rangle$ are isomorphic.

FACT 9. Consider CS^+ given in Definition 3 and the lattice $\mathbf{CS}^+ = \langle \text{CS}^+, \&, \#, \emptyset, \lambda_{\text{CS}} \rangle$. Let $\mathbf{SE} = \langle \text{SE}, \vee, \wedge, o, \lambda \rangle$ be a lattice of elementary situations fulfilling **S.1–S.6**, **S.8** and **S.11**, such that for any dimension

d : $\text{card}(d) = 2$. There exists a sublattice \mathbf{CS}_A of \mathbf{CS}^+ such that \mathbf{CS}_A and \mathbf{SE} are isomorphic.

In my opinion, by proving these facts we have shown that mutual relations between certain aspects of formal ontology and informatics do exist.

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