

# (Pre-)Algebras for Linguistics

## 6. Modelling Worlds

Carl Pollard

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Formal Foundations

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## Some Special Kinds of Subsets of Preorders

- If  $\langle P, \sqsubseteq \rangle$  is a preorder and  $S \subseteq P$ , then  $S$  is called **upper closed** iff, for every  $p \in S$  and every  $q \in P$ , if  $p \sqsubseteq q$ , then  $q \in S$ .

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  - a **proper filter** iff it is a filter and  $S \neq P$
  - a **maximal filter** iff it is a proper filter but not a proper subset of a proper filter.

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- In the pre-boolean algebra of propositions preordered by entailment, we can use ultrafilters as models of ‘possible worlds’ (ways things might be).
- Let’s see why this is so.

# Basic Facts about Ultrafilters

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- Stone (1930s) used this lemma to prove what is now called the **Stone Representation Theorem**: every boolean algebra is isomorphic to a sub-boolean algebra of a powerset algebra.
- Part of the proof is this Corollary of Stone's Lemma:  $p \sqsubseteq q$  iff every ultrafilter containing  $p$  also contains  $q$ .

# Modeling Possible Worlds

These theorems justify modelling possible worlds as the ultrafilters of the preboolean algebra of propositions preordered by entailment (discuss).