

Table of Contents

Introduction. Qualitative Reasoning	xvii
Chapter 1. Allen’s Calculus	1
1.1. Introduction	1
1.1.1. “The mystery of the dark room”	1
1.1.2. Contributions of Allen’s formalism	5
1.2. Allen’s interval relations	6
1.2.1. Basic relations	6
1.2.2. Disjunctive relations	7
1.3. Constraint networks	8
1.3.1. Definition	8
1.3.2. Expressiveness	10
1.3.3. Consistency	13
1.4. Constraint propagation	17
1.4.1. Operations: inversion and composition	17
1.4.2. Composition table	18
1.4.3. Allen’s algebra	20
1.4.4. Algebraic closure	20
1.4.5. Enforcing algebraic closure	22
1.5. Consistency tests	26
1.5.1. The case of atomic networks	26
1.5.2. Arbitrary networks	27
1.5.3. Determining polynomial subsets	28
Chapter 2. Polynomial Subclasses of Allen’s Algebra	29
2.1. “Show me a tractable relation!”	29
2.2. Subclasses of Allen’s algebra	30
2.2.1. A geometrical representation of Allen’s relations	30
2.2.2. Interpretation in terms of granularity	33

2.2.3. Convex and pre-convex relations	35
2.2.4. The lattice of Allen's basic relations	38
2.2.5. Tractability of convex relations	44
2.2.6. Pre-convex relations	45
2.2.7. Polynomiality of pre-convex relations	47
2.2.8. ORD-Horn relations	51
2.3. Maximal tractable subclasses of Allen's algebra	52
2.3.1. An alternative characterization of pre-convex relations	52
2.3.2. The other maximal polynomial subclasses	54
2.4. Using polynomial subclasses	57
2.4.1. Ladkin and Reinefeld's algorithm	57
2.4.2. Empirical study of the consistency problem	59
2.5. Models of Allen's language	60
2.5.1. Representations of Allen's algebra	60
2.5.2. Representations of the time-point algebra	60
2.5.3. $\aleph_0$ -categoricity of Allen's algebra	61
2.6. Historical note	61
Chapter 3. Generalized Intervals	63
3.1. "When they built the bridge"	63
3.1.1. Towards generalized intervals	64
3.2. Entities and relations	65
3.3. The lattice of basic (p, q) -relations	68
3.4. Regions associated with basic (p, q) -relations	69
3.4.1. Associated polytopes	71
3.4.2. M-convexity of the basic relations	73
3.5. Inversion and composition	73
3.5.1. Inversion	73
3.5.2. Composition	74
3.5.3. The algebras of generalized intervals	77
3.6. Subclasses of relations: convex and pre-convex relations	79
3.6.1. (p, q) -relations	79
3.6.2. Convex relations	79
3.6.3. Pre-convex relations	81
3.7. Constraint networks	82
3.8. Tractability of strongly pre-convex relations	83
3.8.1. ORD-Horn relations	84
3.9. Conclusions	84
3.10. Historical note	85
Chapter 4. Binary Qualitative Formalisms	87
4.1. "Night driving"	87
4.1.1. Parameters	89
4.1.2. A panorama of the presented formalisms	89

4.2. Directed points in dimension 1	92
4.2.1. Operations	93
4.2.2. Constraint networks	93
4.2.3. Networks reducible to point networks	94
4.2.4. Arbitrary directed point networks	97
4.3. Directed intervals	97
4.3.1. Operations	98
4.3.2. Constraint networks and complexity	98
4.4. The $\mathcal{OPRA}$ direction calculi	99
4.5. Dipole calculi	100
4.6. The Cardinal direction calculus	101
4.6.1. Convex and pre-convex relations	102
4.6.2. Complexity	103
4.7. The Rectangle calculus	104
4.7.1. Convex and pre-convex relations	105
4.7.2. Complexity	106
4.8. The n -point calculus	106
4.8.1. Convexity and pre-convexity	107
4.9. The n -block calculus	108
4.9.1. Convexity and pre-convexity	108
4.10. Cardinal directions between regions	109
4.10.1. Basic relations	109
4.10.2. Operations	111
4.10.3. Consistency of basic networks	112
4.10.4. Applications of the algorithm	122
4.11. The $INDU$ calculus	123
4.11.1. Inversion and composition	123
4.11.2. The lattice of $INDU$ relations	123
4.11.3. Regions associated with $INDU$ relations	124
4.11.4. A non-associative algebra	125
4.12. The $2n$ -star calculi	126
4.12.1. Inversion and composition	127
4.13. The Cyclic interval calculus	128
4.13.1. Convex and pre-convex relations	130
4.13.2. Complexity of the consistency problem	131
4.14. The $RCC-8$ formalism	131
4.14.1. Basic relations	132
4.14.2. Allen's relations and $RCC-8$ relations	133
4.14.3. Operations	134
4.14.4. Maximal polynomial classes of $RCC-8$	135
4.15. A discrete RCC theory	137
4.15.1. Introduction	137
4.15.2. Entities and relations	137

4.15.3. Mereology	138
4.15.4. Concept of contact and RCC—8 relations	138
4.15.5. Closure, interior and boundary	139
4.15.6. Self-connectedness	140
4.15.7. Paths, distance, and arc-connectedness	141
4.15.8. Distance between regions	142
4.15.9. Conceptual neighborhoods	143
Chapter 5. Qualitative Formalisms of Arity Greater than 2	145
5.1. “The sushi bar”	145
5.2. Ternary spatial and temporal formalisms	146
5.2.1. General concepts	146
5.2.2. The Cyclic point calculus	147
5.2.3. The Double-cross calculus	148
5.2.4. The Flip-flop and $\mathcal{LR}$ calculi	151
5.2.5. Practical and natural calculi	152
5.2.6. The consistency problem	153
5.3. Alignment relations between regions	155
5.3.1. Alignment between regions of the plane: the 5-intersection calculus	155
5.3.2. Ternary relations between solids in space	156
5.3.3. Ternary relations on the sphere	157
5.4. Conclusions	158
Chapter 6. Quantitative Formalisms, Hybrids, and Granularity	159
6.1. “Did John meet Fred this morning?”	159
6.1.1. Contents of the chapter	160
6.2. TCSP metric networks	160
6.2.1. Operations	161
6.2.2. The consistency problem	162
6.3. Hybrid networks	164
6.3.1. Kautz and Ladkin’s formalism	164
6.4. Meiri’s formalism	168
6.4.1. Temporal entities and relations	169
6.4.2. Constraint networks	170
6.4.3. Constraint propagation	170
6.4.4. Tractability issues	172
6.5. Disjunctive linear relations (DLR)	174
6.5.1. A unifying formalism	174
6.5.2. Allen’s algebra with constraints on durations	174
6.5.3. Conclusions	175
6.6. Generalized temporal networks	175
6.6.1. Motivations	176

6.6.2. Definition of GTN	176
6.6.3. Expressiveness	177
6.6.4. Constraint propagation	178
6.6.5. Conclusions	179
6.7. Networks with granularity	179
6.7.1. Introduction	179
6.7.2. Granularities and granularity systems	180
6.7.3. Constraint networks	182
6.7.4. Complexity of the consistency problem	184
6.7.5. Propagation algorithms	184
Chapter 7. Fuzzy Reasoning	187
7.1. “Picasso’s Blue period”	187
7.2. Fuzzy relations between classical intervals	188
7.2.1. Motivations	188
7.2.2. The fuzzy Point algebra	189
7.2.3. The fuzzy Interval algebra	191
7.2.4. Fuzzy constraint networks	192
7.2.5. Algorithms, tractable subclasses	193
7.2.6. Assessment	195
7.3. Events and fuzzy intervals	195
7.3.1. Fuzzy intervals and fuzzy relations	195
7.3.2. Fuzzy constraints	197
7.3.3. An example of application	202
7.3.4. Complexity	204
7.3.5. Weak logical consequence	206
7.3.6. Assessment	208
7.4. Fuzzy spatial reasoning: a fuzzy RCC	208
7.4.1. Motivations	208
7.4.2. Fuzzy regions	209
7.4.3. Fuzzy RCC relations	209
7.4.4. Fuzzy RCC formulas	212
7.4.5. Semantics	212
7.4.6. Satisfying a finite set of normalized formulas	213
7.4.7. $(n; \alpha, \beta)$ -models	215
7.4.8. Satisfiability and linear programming	217
7.4.9. Models with a finite number of degrees	218
7.4.10. Links with the egg-yolk calculus	218
7.5. Historical note	222
Chapter 8. The Geometrical Approach and Conceptual Spaces	223
8.1. “What color is the chameleon?”	223
8.2. Qualitative semantics	224

8.3. Why introduce topology and geometry?	225
8.4. Conceptual spaces	226
8.4.1. Higher order properties and relations	228
8.4.2. Notions of convexity	228
8.4.3. Conceptual spaces associated to generalized intervals	230
8.4.4. The conceptual space associated to directed intervals	230
8.4.5. Conceptual space associated with cyclic intervals	231
8.4.6. Conceptual neighborhoods in Allen's relations	234
8.4.7. Dominance spaces and dominance diagrams	235
8.5. Polynomial relations of INDU	237
8.5.1. Consistency	238
8.5.2. Convexity and Horn clauses	246
8.5.3. Pre-convex relations	247
8.5.4. NP-completeness of pre-convex relations	248
8.5.5. Strongly pre-convex relations	248
8.5.6. The subclass $\mathcal{G}$	252
8.5.7. A summary of complexity results for INDU	257
8.6. Historical note	258
Chapter 9. Weak Representations	259
9.1. "Find the hidden similarity"	259
9.2. Weak representations	261
9.2.1. Weak representations of the point algebra	261
9.2.2. Weak representations of Allen's interval algebra	262
9.2.3. Weak representations of the n-interval algebra	271
9.2.4. Constructing the canonical configuration	273
9.3. Classifying the weak representations of $\mathbf{A}_n$	275
9.3.1. The category of weak representations of $\mathbf{A}_n$	275
9.3.2. Reinterpreting the canonical construction	277
9.3.3. The canonical construction as adjunction	279
9.4. Extension to the calculi based on linear orders	283
9.4.1. Configurations	284
9.4.2. Description languages and associated algebras	284
9.4.3. Canonical constructions	285
9.4.4. The construction in the case of $\mathbf{A}_{Points_n}$	288
9.5. Weak representations and configurations	290
9.5.1. Other qualitative formalisms	290
9.5.2. A non-associative algebra: INDU	291
9.5.3. Interpreting Allen's calculus on the integers	291
9.5.4. Algebraically closed but inconsistent scenarios: the case of cyclic intervals	291
9.5.5. Weak representations of RCC—8	292
9.5.6. From weak representations to configurations	302

9.5.7. Finite topological models	302
9.5.8. Models in Euclidean space	303
9.6. Historical note	304
Chapter 10. Models of RCC—8	305
10.1. “Disks in the plane”	305
10.2. Models of a composition table	307
10.2.1. Complements on weak representations	307
10.2.2. Properties of weak representations	308
10.2.3. Models of the composition table of RCC—8	311
10.3. The RCC theory and its models	312
10.3.1. Composition tables relative to a logical theory	312
10.3.2. The RCC theory	313
10.3.3. Strict models and Boolean connection algebras	315
10.3.4. Consistency of strict models	318
10.4. Extensional entries of the composition table	319
10.4.1. Properties of the triads of a composition table	320
10.4.2. Topological models of RCC	322
10.4.3. Pseudocomplemented lattices	323
10.4.4. Pseudocomplementation and connection	326
10.4.5. Non-strict models	326
10.4.6. Models based on regular closed sets	328
10.5. The generalized RCC theory	329
10.5.1. The mereological component: variations of a set-theoretic theme	330
10.5.2. The topological component	333
10.5.3. The GRCC theory	335
10.5.4. Constructing generalized Boolean connection algebras	335
10.5.5. An application to finite models	336
10.6. A countable connection algebra	337
10.6.1. An interval algebra	337
10.6.2. Defining a connection relation	338
10.6.3. Minimality of the algebra (B_ω, C_ω)	341
10.7. Conclusions	341
Chapter 11. A Categorical Approach of Qualitative Reasoning	343
11.1. “Waiting in line”	343
11.2. A general construction of qualitative formalisms	346
11.2.1. Partition schemes	346
11.2.2. Description of configurations	347
11.2.3. Weak composition	347
11.2.4. Weak composition and seriality	348
11.3. Examples of partition schemes	349

11.4. Algebras associated with qualitative formalisms	350
11.4.1. Algebras associated with partition schemes	350
11.4.2. Examples	351
11.4.3. Associativity	351
11.5. Partition schemes and weak representations	352
11.5.1. The weak representation associated with a partition scheme . . .	353
11.6. A general definition of qualitative formalisms	353
11.6.1. The pivotal role of weak representations	354
11.6.2. Weak representations as constraints	354
11.6.3. Weak representations as interpretations	355
11.7. Interpreting consistency	355
11.7.1. Inconsistent weak representations	356
11.8. The category of weak representations	357
11.8.1. The algebra of partial orders	357
11.8.2. On the relativity of consistency	358
11.8.3. Semi-strong weak representations	359
11.9. Conclusions	360
Chapter 12. Complexity of Constraint Languages	363
12.1. “Sudoku puzzles”	363
12.2. Structure of the chapter	365
12.3. Constraint languages	366
12.4. An algebraic approach of complexity	367
12.5. CSPs and morphisms of relational structures	368
12.5.1. Basic facts about CSPs	368
12.5.2. CSPs and morphisms of structures	369
12.5.3. Polymorphisms and invariant relations	370
12.5.4. pp-Definable relations and preservation	371
12.5.5. A Galois correspondence	372
12.6. Clones of operations	373
12.6.1. The Boolean case	374
12.7. From local consistency to global consistency	375
12.8. The infinite case	376
12.8.1. Homogeneous and $\aleph_0$ -categorical structures	376
12.8.2. Quasi near-unanimity operations	377
12.8.3. Application to the point algebra	378
12.8.4. Application to the RCC—5 calculus	379
12.8.5. Application to pointizable relations of Allen’s algebra	380
12.8.6. Applications to the study of complexity	381
12.9. Disjunctive constraints and refinements	382
12.9.1. Disjunctive constraints	382
12.9.2. Guaranteed satisfaction property	383

12.9.3. The k -independence property	384
12.9.4. Refinements	385
12.10. Refinements and independence	389
12.11. Historical note	390
Chapter 13. Spatial Reasoning and Modal Logic	391
13.1. “The blind men and the elephant”	391
13.2. Space and modal logics	393
13.3. The modal logic S4	393
13.3.1. Language and axioms	393
13.3.2. Kripke models	394
13.4. Topological models	396
13.4.1. Topological games	397
13.4.2. The rules of the game	397
13.4.3. End of game	398
13.4.4. Examples of games: example 1	398
13.4.5. Example 2	399
13.4.6. Example 3	400
13.4.7. Games and modal rank of formulas	401
13.4.8. McKinsey and Tarski’s theorem	402
13.4.9. Topological bisimulations	404
13.4.10. Expressiveness	405
13.4.11. Relational and topological models	405
13.4.12. From topological models to Kripke models	406
13.4.13. An extended language: $S4_u$	408
13.5. Translating the RCC–8 predicates	408
13.6. An alternative modal translation of RCC–8	409
13.7. Generalized frames	410
13.8. Complexity	411
13.9. Complements	412
13.9.1. Analogs of Kamp operators	412
13.9.2. Space and epistemic logics	412
13.9.3. Other extensions	412
Chapter 14. Applications and Software Tools	413
14.1. Applications	413
14.1.1. Applications of qualitative temporal reasoning	413
14.1.2. Applications of spatial qualitative reasoning	414
14.1.3. Spatio-temporal applications	415
14.2. Software tools	416
14.2.1. The Qualitative Algebra Toolkit (QAT)	416
14.2.2. The SparQ toolbox	417
14.2.3. The QQR system	419

Chapter 15. Conclusion and Prospects	423
15.1. Introduction	423
15.2. Combining qualitative formalisms	423
15.2.1. Tight or loose integration	424
15.2.2. RCC—8 and the Cardinal direction calculus	425
15.2.3. RCC—8, the Rectangle calculus, and the Cardinal direction calculus between regions	425
15.2.4. The lattice of partition schemes	426
15.3. Spatio-temporal reasoning	426
15.3.1. Trajectory calculi	426
15.3.2. Reasoning about space-time	428
15.3.3. Combining space and time	430
15.4. Alternatives to qualitative reasoning	430
15.4.1. Translation in terms of finite CSP	431
15.4.2. Translation into an instance of the SAT problem	433
15.5. To conclude — for good	434
Appendix A. Elements of Topology	435
A.1. Topological spaces	435
A.1.1. Interior, exterior, boundary	436
A.1.2. Properties of the closure operator	436
A.1.3. Properties of the interior operator	437
A.1.4. Closure, interior, complement	437
A.1.5. Defining topological spaces in terms of closed sets	438
A.1.6. Defining topological spaces in terms of operators	438
A.1.7. Pseudocomplement of an open set	439
A.1.8. Pseudosupplement of a closed set	439
A.1.9. Regular sets	440
A.1.10. Axioms of separation	440
A.1.11. Bases of a topology	440
A.1.12. Hierarchy of topologies	441
A.1.13. Preorder topology	441
A.1.14. Constructing topological spaces	442
A.1.15. Continuous maps	443
A.1.16. Homeomorphisms	444
A.2. Metric spaces	445
A.2.1. Minkowski metrics	445
A.2.2. Balls and spheres	445
A.2.3. Bounded sets	446
A.2.4. Topology of a metric space	446
A.2.5. Equivalent metrics	446

A.2.6. Distances between subsets	447
A.2.7. Convergence of a sequence	447
A.3. Connectedness and convexity	447
A.3.1. Connectedness	447
A.3.2. Connected components	448
A.3.3. Convexity	448
Appendix B. Elements of Universal Algebra	451
B.1. Abstract algebras	451
B.2. Boolean algebras	452
B.2.1. Boolean algebras of subsets	452
B.2.2. Boolean algebras	453
B.2.3. Stone's representation theorem	453
B.3. Binary relations and relation algebras	454
B.3.1. Binary relations	454
B.3.2. Inversion and composition	455
B.3.3. Proper relation algebras	456
B.3.4. Relation algebras	456
B.3.5. Representations	457
B.4. Basic elements of the language of categories	457
B.4.1. Categories and functors	457
B.4.2. Adjoint functors	459
B.4.3. Galois connections	461
Appendix C. Disjunctive Linear Relations	463
C.1. DLRs: definitions and satisfiability	463
C.2. Linear programming	464
C.3. Complexity of the satisfiability problem	466
Bibliography	471
Index	501