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F. M. SIOSON

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# Natural equational bases for Newman and Boolean algebras

by

F. M. Sioson

## 1. Introduction

In an earlier paper [4], M. H. A. Newman introduced an algebraic system which is characterized as the direct sum of a Boolean algebra and a non-associative Boolean ring with identity. Subsequently, the system has been studied by G. D. Birkhoff and G. Birkhoff [2] and Y. Wooyenaka [7] who called it a *Newman algebra*. The original definition of Newman states that this is an algebraic system  $(N, +, \cdot)$  with two binary operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  satisfying the following postulates:

$P_1$ : For each  $x, y, z \in N$ ,  $x(y+z) = xy+xz$ ;

$P'_1$ : For each  $x, y, z \in N$ ,  $(x+y)z = xz+yz$ ;

$P_2$ : There exists a pair of elements  $0, 1 \in N$  such that for each  $x \in N$ , there is at least one other element  $\bar{x} \in N$  with  $\bar{x}x = 0$  and  $\bar{x}+x = 1$ ;

$P_3$ : For each  $x \in N$ ,  $0+x = x$ ;

$P_4$ : For each  $x \in N$ ,  $xx = x$ .

M. H. A. Newman [4], [5] showed that this and two others are independent axiomatizations of Newman algebras, while G. D. Birkhoff and G. Birkhoff observed that the same is true for their left-right symmetric counterparts.

Actually, the observation by the Birkhoff's is a case of a metatheorem which we shall now formulate. For any postulate  $P$ , conceivably involving  $+$  and  $\cdot$ , denote by  $P^+(P^\cdot)$  the proposition obtained from  $P$  by commuting all additions (multiplications) occurring in  $P$ . Naturally, if no addition (multiplication) occurs in  $P$ , then  $P^+ = P(P^\cdot = P)$ . In any case, note that  $P^{++} = P = P^{\cdot\cdot}$  and  $P^{+\cdot} = P^{\cdot+}$ . If  $G_4$  stands for the fourgroup of all transformations of postulates generated by  $+$  and  $\cdot$ , then we have the following

**METATHEOREM 1.** *If  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  is an independent axiomatization of Newman algebras (or for that matter of any algebraic systems commutative with respect to  $+$  and  $\cdot$ ), then  $P_1^t, P_2^t, \dots, P_n^t$  for each  $t \in G_4$  is also an independent axiomatization of Newman algebras (of the same algebraic systems).*

This metatheorem follows very readily by model-theoretic arguments. Since  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  is a system of axioms for Newman algebras, one should be able to derive from them the commutative laws under the operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$ . This means that  $P_1^t, P_2^t, \dots, P_n^t$  for any  $t \in G_4$  are consequences of the propositions  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  and hence every model of the latter system must also be a model of the former. Conversely, if  $M$  is a model of  $P_1^t, P_2^t, \dots, P_n^t$ , then the model  $M^t$  obtained from  $M$  by transposing their  $t$ -operation tables is a model of the propositions  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$ . Thus, by virtue of a previous conclusion,  $M = M^{tt}$  is also a model of  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$ . Whence the two systems of axioms possess precisely the same models. By virtue of the independence of the system  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  there exists for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  a model  $M_i$  of  $P_1, \dots, P_{i-1}, P_{i+1}, \dots, P_n$  which fails to satisfy  $P_i$ . Then the  $t$ -transpose  $M_i^t$  of  $M_i$  also satisfies  $P_1^t, \dots, P_{i-1}^t, P_{i+1}^t, \dots, P_n^t$  but not  $P_i^t$ . This means that  $P_1^t, P_2^t, \dots, P_n^t$  is an independent system of equations.

The preceding metatheorem, of course, applies to Boolean algebras, since these are also Newman algebras. Something more, however, is true. If for each proposition  $P$  in Boolean algebra the proposition obtained from  $P$  by replacing  $+$  by  $\cdot$  and  $\cdot$  by  $+$  is denoted by  $\bar{P}$  (also called the dual of  $P$ ) and  $G_8$  is the eight-group of postulate-transformations generated by  $+$ ,  $\cdot$ , and  $\bar{\phantom{x}}$ , then we have the following result whose proof will be omitted:

**METATHEOREM 2.** *If  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  form an independent system of axioms for Boolean algebras, then for each  $t \in G_8$   $P_1^t, P_2^t, \dots, P_n^t$  is also an independent system of axioms for Boolean algebras.*

It is easy to see that the homomorphic images, the direct products, and the subalgebras of Newman algebras are also Newman algebras. Hence, by a well-known characterization of G. Birkhoff [3] the family of all Newman algebras is a *variety* or *equational class* (i.e. a system definable in terms of equational laws). Y. Wooyenaka [7] gave two sets of generating equations for Newman algebras.

From the results of [4] it is easily seen that the following equations hold for all elements belonging to any Newman algebra:

$$\begin{aligned}
 N_1: x(y+z) &= xy+zx; \\
 N_2: x(y+\bar{y}) &= x; & \bar{N}_2: x+y\bar{y} &= x; \\
 N_3: xy &= yx; & \bar{N}_3: x+y &= y+x; \\
 N_4: x(y\bar{y}) &= y\bar{y}; \\
 N_5: xx &= x; \\
 N_6: \bar{x} &= x; \\
 \bar{N}_7: x+(y+z) &= (x+y)+z.
 \end{aligned}$$

Without considering their transforms under the members of the group  $G_4$ , these identities or equations appear to be the most natural and the most commonly known ones. A Newman algebra may be defined as an algebraic system  $(N, +, \cdot, -)$  satisfying the above nine equations. These equations, however, are not independent. The aim of the present communication is to extract all independent systems of equations out of the  $2^9 - 1 = 511$  possible equation-subsets of the given nine that generate all equations in any Newman algebra. One may call such systems *equational bases*. The pertinent result is as follows:

**METATHEOREM 3.** *The only equational bases for Newman algebras out of the given pool of nine equations are*

$$\text{I} = \{N_1, N_2, \bar{N}_2, N_3\} \text{ and } \text{II} = \{N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4\}$$

and their transforms under the group  $G_4$ .

Another result is needed in order to apply the previous metatheorem.

**METATHEOREM 4.** *The following equations are equivalent in any Newman algebra:*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{N}_1: x+yz &= (x+y)(x+z); \\
 \bar{N}_4: x+(y+\bar{y}) &= y+\bar{y}; \\
 \bar{N}_5: x+x &= x; \\
 \bar{N}_8: x+xy &= x; \\
 N_8: x(x+y) &= x.
 \end{aligned}$$

To show this, consider any Newman algebra and recall that the nine equations,  $N_1, N_2, \bar{N}_2, N_3, \bar{N}_3, N_4, N_5, N_6,$  and  $\bar{N}_7,$

given above hold in any such algebra. The required result is then demonstrated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{N}_1 \text{ implies } \bar{N}_4: y + \bar{y} &= (y + \bar{y}) + y\bar{y} = (y + \bar{y}) + x(y\bar{y}) \\ &= ((y + \bar{y}) + x)((y + \bar{y}) + y\bar{y}) = (x + (y + \bar{y}))(y + \bar{y}) \\ &= x + (y + \bar{y}) \quad (\bar{N}_2, N_4, \bar{N}_1, \bar{N}_3 - \bar{N}_2, N_2); \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{N}_4 \text{ implies } \bar{N}_5: x &= x(y + \bar{y}) = x(x + (y + \bar{y})) \\ &= xx + x(y + \bar{y}) = x + x \quad (N_2, \bar{N}_4, N_1, N_5 - N_2); \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{N}_5 \text{ implies } \bar{N}_8: x &= x(y + \bar{y}) = xy + x\bar{y} = (xy + xy) + x\bar{y} \\ &= xy + (xy + x\bar{y}) = (xy + x\bar{y}) + xy = x(y + \bar{y}) + xy \\ &= x + xy \quad (N_2, N_1, \bar{N}_5, \bar{N}_7, \bar{N}_3, N_1, N_2); \end{aligned}$$

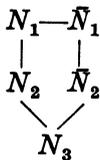
$$\bar{N}_8 \text{ implies } N_8: x = x + xy = xx + xy = x(x + y) \quad (\bar{N}_8, N_5, N_1);$$

$$\begin{aligned} N_8 \text{ implies } \bar{N}_1: (x + y)(x + z) &= (x + y)x + (x + y)z \\ &= x(x + y) + z(x + y) = x + (zx + zy) = (x + zx) + zy \\ &= (x + xz) + yz = (xx + xz) + yz = x(x + z) + yz \\ &= x + yz \\ & \quad (N_1, N_3 - N_3, N_8 - N_1, \bar{N}_7, N_3 - N_3, N_5, N_1, N_8). \end{aligned}$$

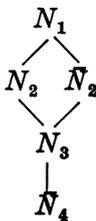
This completes the circle of necessary implications.

Subject to independence-proofs that will be supplied later, the following metatheorem follows from the fact (see [4] or [2]) that either I or II each gives rise to an equational basis for Boolean algebras when  $\bar{N}_5$  (and hence any one of the five equations in Metatheorem 4) is added to it.

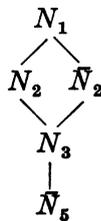
**METATHEOREM 5.** *The following systems of equations and all their transforms under the members of the group  $G_8$  are equational bases for Boolean algebras:*



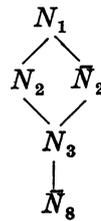
(A)



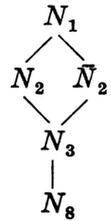
(B)



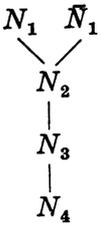
(C)



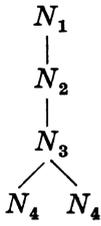
(D)



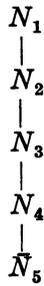
(E)



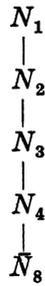
(F)



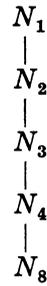
(G)



(H)

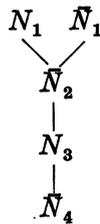


(I)



(J).

Systems (A), (B), (F), and (G) have been shown to be equational bases for Boolean algebras in a previous article [6]. One might be tempted to conjecture at this point that every equational basis for Boolean algebras may be obtained by combining a basis for Newman algebras with some non-Newman equation of Boolean algebras. This is, however, not so. The following equational basis of Boolean algebras (derived in [6])



contains equations  $\bar{N}_1$  and  $\bar{N}_4$  which are independent of Newman algebras and the subsystem consisting of  $N_1, \bar{N}_2$ , and  $N_3$  does not at all form a basis for Newman algebras.

We shall now show that **I** and **II** are indeed equational bases for Newman algebras.

### 2. The equational basis I

To show that **I** is equationally complete for Newman algebras, the original set of axioms of Newman given in the beginning of this paper will be derived.

2.1.  $(x+y)z = xz+yz.$

$$(x+y)z = z(x+y) = zx+zy = xz+yz \quad (N_3, N_1, N_3-N_2).$$

2.2.  $xx = x.$

$$xx = xx+x\bar{x} = x(x+\bar{x}) = x \quad (\bar{N}_2, N_1, N_2).$$

$$2.3. \quad x + \bar{x} = y + \bar{y}.$$

$$x + \bar{x} = (x + \bar{x})(y + \bar{y}) = (y + \bar{y})(x + \bar{x}) = y + \bar{y} \quad (N_2, N_3, N_2).$$

$$2.4. \quad \bar{x}x = \bar{x}.$$

$$\bar{x} = \bar{x}(x + \bar{x}) = \bar{x}x + \bar{x}\bar{x} = \bar{x}x + \bar{x}\bar{x} = \bar{x}x \quad (N_2, N_1, N_3, \bar{N}_2).$$

$$2.5. \quad \bar{x} + x = x + \bar{x}, \quad \bar{x}x = x\bar{x}.$$

First note that (a)  $\bar{x} = \bar{x}(\bar{x} + x) = \bar{x}\bar{x} + \bar{x}x = \bar{x}\bar{x} + \bar{x}x = \bar{x}\bar{x} + \bar{x}x = \bar{x}(\bar{x} + x)$  ( $N_2, N_1, 2.2, 2.4, N_1$ ) and (b)  $\bar{x} = \bar{x} + x\bar{x} = \bar{x}\bar{x} + \bar{x}x = \bar{x}(\bar{x} + x)$  ( $\bar{N}_2, 2.2 - N_3, N_1$ ). Then  $\bar{x} + x = (\bar{x} + x)(\bar{x} + x) = (\bar{x} + x)\bar{x} + (\bar{x} + x)x = \bar{x}(\bar{x} + x) + \bar{x}(\bar{x} + x) = \bar{x} + \bar{x} = x + \bar{x}$  ( $N_2, N_1, N_3 - N_3, (a) - (b), 2.3$ ). The second part of 2.5 follows from  $N_3$ .

$$2.6. \quad \bar{x} = x.$$

$$\bar{x} = \bar{x}x = \bar{x}x + x\bar{x} = x\bar{x} + x\bar{x} = x(\bar{x} + \bar{x}) = x(\bar{x} + \bar{x}) = x \quad (2.4, \bar{N}_2, N_3, N_1, 2.5, N_2).$$

$$2.7. \quad (y\bar{y})(\overline{y\bar{y}}) = y\bar{y}.$$

$$(y\bar{y})(\overline{y\bar{y}}) = (y\bar{y})(\overline{y\bar{y}}) + y\bar{y} = (y\bar{y})(\overline{y\bar{y}}) + (y\bar{y})^2 = (y\bar{y})(\overline{y\bar{y}} + y\bar{y}) = (y\bar{y})(y\bar{y} + y\bar{y}) = y\bar{y} \quad (\bar{N}_2, 2.2, N_1, 2.5, N_2).$$

$$2.8. \quad \overline{y\bar{y}} = y + \bar{y}.$$

$$\overline{y\bar{y}} = (\overline{y\bar{y}})(y\bar{y} + \overline{y\bar{y}}) = (\overline{y\bar{y}})(y\bar{y}) + (\overline{y\bar{y}})^2 = (\overline{y\bar{y}})(\overline{y\bar{y}}) + \overline{y\bar{y}} = y\bar{y} + y\bar{y} = y + \bar{y} \quad (N_2, N_1, N_3 - 2.2, 2.7, 2.3).$$

$$2.9. \quad x\bar{x} = \overline{y\bar{y}}.$$

$$x\bar{x} = \overline{x\bar{x}} = \overline{x + \bar{x}} = \overline{y + \bar{y}} = \overline{y\bar{y}} = y\bar{y} \quad (2.6, 2.8, 2.3, 2.8, 2.6).$$

$$2.10. \quad x(y\bar{y}) = y\bar{y}.$$

$$x(y\bar{y}) = x(x\bar{x}) = x(x\bar{x}) + x\bar{x} = x(x\bar{x} + \bar{x}) = x(\bar{x}x + \bar{x}\bar{x}) = x(\bar{x}(x + \bar{x})) = x\bar{x} = y\bar{y} \quad (2.9, \bar{N}_2, N_1, N_3 - 2.2, N_1, N_2, 2.9).$$

$$2.11. \quad y\bar{y} + x = x.$$

$$y\bar{y} + x = x(y\bar{y}) + x(y + \bar{y}) = x(y\bar{y} + (y + \bar{y})) = x(y\bar{y} + \overline{y\bar{y}}) = x \quad (2.10 - N_2, N_1, 2.8, N_2).$$

Setting  $\bar{x}x = x\bar{x} = 0$  and  $\bar{x} + x = x + \bar{x} = 1$ , it is easy to see that  $N_1, 2.1, 2.11$ , and  $2.2$  are respectively Newman's axioms  $P_1, P'_1, P_3$  and  $P_4$ . A reformulation of  $2.3, 2.9$ , and  $2.5$  gives rise to postulate  $P_2$ .

The independence of system I is next shown as follows.

$IN_1. N_1$  is independent of  $N_2, \bar{N}_2, N_3$ , (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ). Consider the operations defined on the set consisting of 0 and 1 by the following tables:

+	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

•	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0

y	$\bar{y}$
0	1
1	0

Note that  $1(1+0) \neq 11+10$ . The other equations are easily verified.

$IN_2$ .  $N_2$  is independent of  $N_1, \bar{N}_2, N_3$ , (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ).

+	0	1
0	0	0
1	1	1

•	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

y	$\bar{y}$
0	1
1	0

Here  $1(0+\bar{0}) \neq 1$ .

$I\bar{N}_2$ .  $\bar{N}_2$  is independent of  $N_1, N_2, N_3$ , (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ).

+	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

•	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

y	$\bar{y}$
0	1
1	1

Note that here  $0+1\bar{1} \neq 0$ .

$IN_3$ .  $N_3$  is independent of  $N_1, N_2, \bar{N}_2$ , (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ).

+	0	1
0	0	0
1	1	1

•	0	1
0	0	0
1	1	1

y	$\bar{y}$
0	0
1	1

Notice that here  $01 \neq 10$ .

$\text{IN}_5$ .  $\bar{N}_5$  is independent of  $N_1, N_2, \bar{N}_2$ , and  $N_3$ .

+	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0

•	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

y	$\bar{y}$
0	1
1	0

Here observe that  $1+1 \neq 1$ . This model shows that  $\bar{N}_5$  is in fact independent of any axiom system for Newman algebras, a property that will henceforth be assumed.

### 3. The equational basis II

The completeness of **II** as an axiomatization of Newman algebras is shown by deriving  $\bar{N}_2$  (and hence **I**) from it.

3.1.  $x\bar{x} = y\bar{y}$ .

$$x\bar{x} = (y\bar{y})(x\bar{x}) = (x\bar{x})(y\bar{y}) = y\bar{y} \quad (N_4, N_3, N_4).$$

3.2.  $\overline{y+\bar{y}} = y\bar{y}$ .

$$\overline{y+\bar{y}} = \overline{(y+\bar{y})(y+\bar{y})} = (y+\bar{y})\overline{(y+\bar{y})} = y\bar{y} \quad (N_2, N_3, 3.1).$$

3.3.  $x+y\bar{y} = x$ .

$$x = x((y+\bar{y}) + \overline{(y+\bar{y})}) = x((y+\bar{y}) + y\bar{y}) = x+y\bar{y} \quad (N_2, 3.2, N_1, N_2-N_4).$$

$\text{IIN}_1$ . The independence of  $N_1$  from  $N_2, N_3, N_4$ , (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ) is shown by the following three-element model:

+	0	1	a
0	0	1	1
1	1	1	1
a	1	1	a

•	0	1	a
0	0	0	0
1	0	1	a
a	0	a	0

y	$\bar{y}$
0	1
1	0
a	0

Here  $a(a+1) \neq aa+a1$ .

$\text{IIN}_2$ . The independence of  $N_2$  from  $N_1, N_3, N_4$ , (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ) may be effected by the same model  $\text{IN}_2$ .

**IIN<sub>3</sub>.** The independence of  $N_3$  from  $N_1, N_2, N_4,$  (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ) follows from the following four-element model:

+	0	1	a	b	•	0	1	a	b	•	y	$\bar{y}$
0	0	1	a	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
a	a	1	a	1	a	0	a	a	0	a	a	b
b	b	1	1	b	b	0	b	0	b	b	b	a

Observe that for this model  $1a \neq a1$  and  $1b \neq b1$ . Of the remaining equations, only  $N_1$  needs to be verified. Since addition is commutative, the verification is effected by the following relations:  $x(y+0) = xy = xy+0 = xy+x0, x(y+1) = x1 = (\frac{0}{x})+x = xy+x1, x(y+y) = xy = xy+xy, 1(a+b) = 11 = 1 = 0+1 = 1a+1b, a(a+b) = a1 = a = a+0 = aa+ab, b(a+b) = b1 = 0+b = ba+bb.$

**IIN<sub>4</sub>.** The independence of  $N_4$  from  $N_1, N_2, N_3,$  (and  $\bar{N}_5$ ) is evident from the following model:

+	0	1
0	0	1
1	0	1

•	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

y	$\bar{y}$
0	0
1	0

Note that  $1(0\bar{0}) \neq 0\bar{0}.$

### 4. Proof of metatheorem 3

First, we observe that the independence-model **IIN<sub>3</sub>** satisfies all equations of the given pool of nine with the exception of  $N_3.$  Without too much difficulty, it is also easily seen that the following model satisfies equations  $N_2, \bar{N}_2, N_3, \bar{N}_3, N_4, N_5, N_6, \bar{N}_7,$  but  $a(b+b) \neq ab+ab.$

+	0	1	a	b
0	0	1	a	b
1	1	1	1	1
a	a	1	1	1
b	b	1	1	1

•	0	1	a	b
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	a	b
a	0	a	a	0
b	0	b	0	b

y     $\bar{y}$   
 0    1  
 1    0  
 a    b  
 b    a

In a similar manner a model may be found which satisfies  $N_1, \bar{N}_2, N_3, \bar{N}_3, N_4, N_5, N_6,$  and  $\bar{N}_7$  but not  $N_2$ . Consider, for instance, the collection of all finite unions of open real intervals of the forms  $(x, y), (x, \infty), (-\infty, y), (-\infty, \infty)$  under the operations of set-union (denoted by  $+$ ), set-intersection (denoted by  $\cdot$ ), and the complement of the closure of a set  $x$  (denoted by  $\bar{x}$ ). Then note that  $(1,3)((2,4)+\overline{(2,4)}) \neq (1,3)$ .

These observations together show that  $N_1, N_2,$  and  $N_3$  are each independent of the rest of the pool of nine Newman equations given in the beginning. Thus, every conceivable equational basis for Newman algebras (out of the nine) must necessarily include all three of them. Moreover, any such basis cannot properly contain either I or II, for, then the resulting systems of equations would be logically dependent. These considerations imply that no equational basis (out of the nine) can contain more than seven equations. The only system with seven equations that can possibly be a basis is



This system of equations, on the other hand, is incomplete for Newman algebras. Equation  $\bar{N}_2$ , which is a known property of



This last model also shows that  $N_1$  is independent from the rest of the systems  $(I)$  and  $(J)$ . Again, the independence of  $N_2$  from the rest of  $(I)$  and  $(J)$  is effected by the model  $IN_2$ . For  $N_3$ , one can utilize the same model used in proving the independence of  $N_3$  from the rest of given nine Newman equations. For the independence of  $N_4$  from the rest of  $(I)$  and  $(J)$ , we take once more the collection of all finite unions of open finite, semi-infinite, and infinite real intervals under intersection (denoted by  $+$ ), union (denoted by  $\cdot$ ) and the complementation of the closure of set (denoted by  $-$ ). In this particular instance,  $N_2$  will be satisfied but not  $N_4$  since  $(1,5)((2,4)(\overline{2,4})) = (1,5) \cup ((2,4) \cap \overline{(2,4)}) \neq (2,4) \cup \overline{(2,4)} = (2,4)(\overline{2,4})$ . The independence proof of  $N_8$  ( $\overline{N_8}$ ) from the rest of  $(J)$  ( $(I)$ ) is exactly the same as in  $(D)$  and  $(E)$ .

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University of Florida