Homework 10
Due Monday, 04/17/06

As before your homework is due at the beginning of class. There will be a penalty of 10% for a homework up to 24 hours late, 20% for up to 48 hours late, 40% for up to 72 hours late, etc.

1. Use the formal language and models introduced in Friday’s lecture to explain the meaning of the following sentences. Be sure to use ↑ and ↓ functions as well as the operation σx and the lattice structure in your explanations. Note that “walk” is distributive, while “meet” is collective.

Note that while I introduced the formal framework in class, you will have to take it a few steps further in order to actually apply it to explain the meaning of these sentences. Think carefully about how those formal tools apply and try to map out a general strategy that will work with distributive and with collective nouns. Use your intuition to drive your use of the formal tools, but do not skip the formal tools and just use your intuition without tying it to the lattices and formal tools.

(a) John and Mary walk.
(b) The boys walk.
(c) John and Mary meet.
(d) The boys meet.
(e) The boys and girls meet.
(f) The boys and the girls meet.

Be sure to explain the difference between the way the meanings of the last two sentences are computed (even if in the end the final meanings are the same).