

Quasi-Borel spaces and the validation of Bayesian inference algorithms

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What is statistical probabilistic programming?

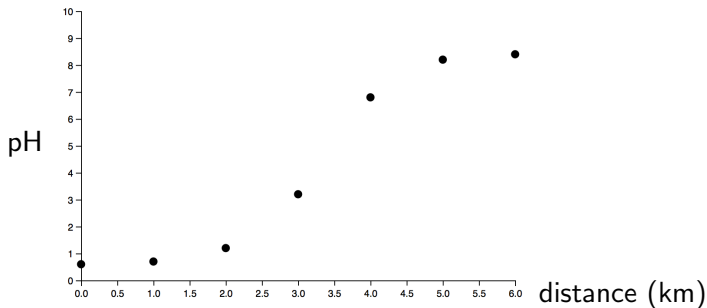
Bayesian data modelling

1. Develop a probabilistic (generative) model.
2. Design an inference algorithm for the model.
3. Using the algorithm, fit the model to the data.

What is statistical probabilistic programming?

Example

Acidity in soil



What is statistical probabilistic programming?

Generative model

$$s \sim \text{normal}(0, 2)$$

$$b \sim \text{normal}(0, 6)$$

$$f(x) = s \cdot x + b$$

$$y_i = \text{normal}(f(i), 0.5)$$

for $i = 0 \dots 6$

What is statistical probabilistic programming?

Generative model

$$\begin{aligned} s &\sim \text{normal}(0, 2) \\ b &\sim \text{normal}(0, 6) \\ f(x) &= s \cdot x + b \\ y_i &= \text{normal}(f(i), 0.5) \\ &\quad \text{for } i = 0 \dots 6 \end{aligned}$$

Conditioning

$$y_0 = 0.6, y_1 = 0.7, y_2 = 1.2, y_3 = 3.2, y_4 = 6.8, y_5 = 8.2, y_6 = 8.4$$

Predict f ?

What is statistical probabilistic programming?

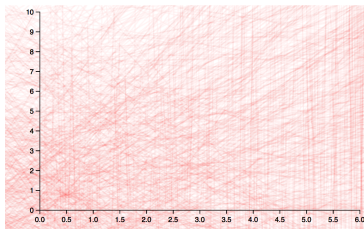
Bayesian inference

$$P(s, b | y_0, \dots, y_6) = \frac{P(y_0, \dots, y_6 | s, b) \cdot P(s, b)}{P(y_0, \dots, y_6)}$$

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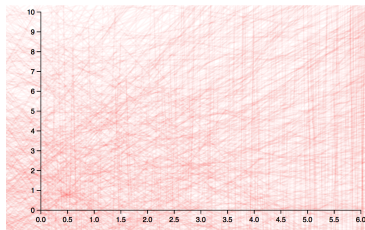


Prior

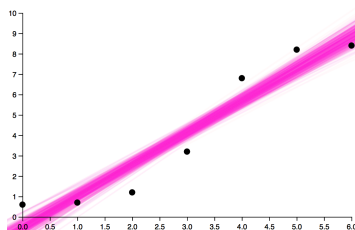
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Prior



Posterior

What is statistical probabilistic programming?

Probabilistic programming models

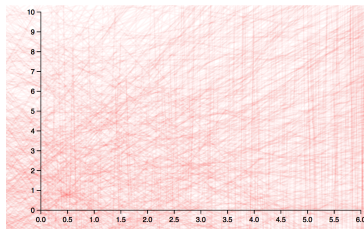
1. Develop a probabilistic (generative) model.
Write a program.
2. ~~Design an inference algorithm for the model.~~
3. Using the `built-in` algorithm, fit the model to the data.

What is probabilistic programming?

In Anglican [Wood et al.'14]

```
(let [s (sample (normal 0.0 2.0))  
      b (sample (normal 0.0 6.0))  
      f (fn [x] (+ (* s x) b)))]
```

```
(predict :f f))
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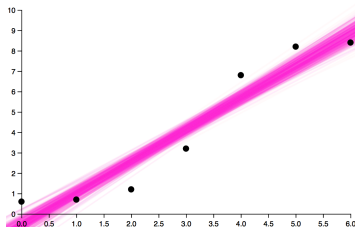
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(observe (normal (f 3.0) 0.5) 4.5)
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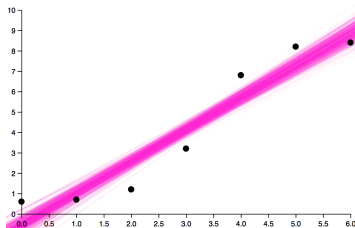
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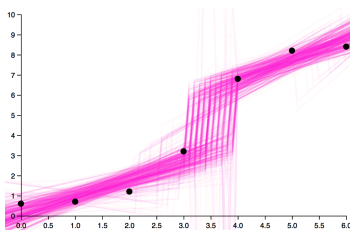


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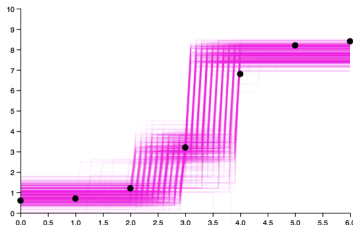


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What is probabilistic programming?

Components

- ▶ Control flow, e.g.: simply typed λ -calculus
- ▶ data types, e.g.: lists, functions, thunks
- ▶ Continuous probabilistic choice: `(sample (normal 0.0 2.0))`
- ▶ Conditioning: `(observe (normal (f 2.0) 0.5) 3.8)`
- ▶ Inference

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$$\text{posterior} \propto \text{likelihood} \times \text{prior}$$

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- ▶ Inference

$$\text{posterior} \propto \text{likelihood} \times \text{prior}$$

Which we refine to:

$$\text{posterior} = \text{weight} \odot \text{prior}$$

Rescaling

$$\nu = w \odot \mu$$

when for all $\chi : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$:

$$\int_X \chi(x) \nu(dx) = \int_X \chi(x) \cdot w(x) \mu(dx)$$

(where X measurable space, $\mu \in \mathcal{M}X$ measures on X ,
 $w : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ measurable function)

What is probabilistic programming?

A probabilistic program is a measure

For $t : X$

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket = w \odot \text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket$$

where $\text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket$ is the **prior** (ignore conditioning),

and $w = \frac{d\llbracket t \rrbracket}{d(\text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket)}$

Conditioning

$$\frac{t : x \quad \varphi : X \rightarrow [0, +\infty]}{\text{observe}(t, \varphi) : 1}$$

and

$$\llbracket \text{observe} \rrbracket (x, \varphi) = \varphi(x) \odot \delta_{()}$$

What is probabilistic programming?

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Conditioning

Replace observe by score :

$$\frac{r : [0, \infty]}{\text{score } r : 1}$$

and

$$\llbracket \text{score} \rrbracket (r) = r \odot \delta_0$$

What is probabilistic programming?

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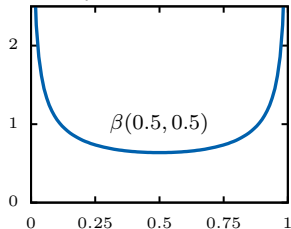
where $\text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket$ is the **prior** (ignore conditioning),

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Note

For probability measures $\text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket$:

- ▶ It's possible that $\max w > 1$, e.g.:



or even $\max w = \infty$

- ▶ If we insist that all measures are sub-probability measures, then w and $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ are **not** compositional (i.e., global)

What is probabilistic programming?

A probabilistic program is an s-finite measure [Staton'17]

For $t : X$

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where $\text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket$ is the **prior** (ignore conditioning),

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Sampling manipulates prior.

Conditioning affects w , sequenced multiplicatively.

S-finite measures

$$\sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \mu_i$$

μ_i finite: $\mu_i(X) < \infty$

What is inference?

Computing distributions

For $t : X$

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket = w \odot \text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket$$

we want to:

- ▶ Plot $\llbracket t \rrbracket$.
- ▶ Sample $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ (e.g., to make prediction)

Challenge

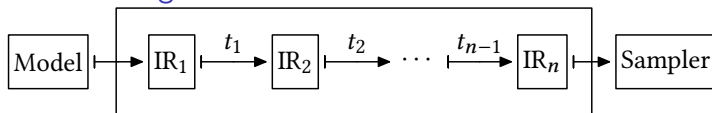
Given a fair coin ($\frac{1}{2}\delta_1 + \frac{1}{2}\delta_0$), how do we sample from a biased coin ($p\delta_1 + (1-p)\delta_0$)?

Generalise:

Given a prior distribution $\text{prior} \llbracket t \rrbracket$, how do we sample from $\llbracket t \rrbracket$?

What is inference?

Inference engine



Programming-language experts needed

In the traditional areas:

- ▶ Verification
- ▶ Correctness
- ▶ Static analysis
- ▶ Semantics
- ▶ Optimisation
- ▶ Programming abstractions
- ▶ Type systems

Correctness of inference

Inference algorithm: distribution/meaning preserving transformation from one inference representation to another

Requirements

- ▶ Represented data is continuous
- ▶ Compositional inference representations (IRs)
- ▶ IRs are **higher-order**

This talk

Correctness of inference

Inference algorithm: distribution/meaning preserving transformation from one inference representation to another

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- ▶ Represented data is continuous
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Traditional measure theory is unsuitable:

Theorem (Aumann'61)

The set $\mathbf{Meas}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ cannot be made into a measurable space with

$$eval : \mathbf{Meas}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

measurable.

Correctness of inference

- ▶ Modular validation of inference algorithms:
Sequential Monte Carlo, Trace Markov Chain Monte Carlo
By combining:
- ▶ Synthetic measure theory [Kock'12]: measure theory without measurable spaces
- ▶ Quasi-Borel spaces: a convenient category for higher-order measure theory [LICS'17]

Talk structure

- ▶ Probabilistic programming and Bayesian inference
- ▶ Synthetic measure theory
- ▶ Quasi-Borel spaces
- ▶ Inference representations
- ▶ Ongoing work
- ▶ Conclusion

Measure category [Kock'12]

A pair $(\mathcal{C}, \underline{M})$

- ▶ Cartesian-closed category \mathcal{C}

Synthetic measure theory: axioms

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A pair $(\mathcal{C}, \underline{\mathbf{M}})$

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- ▶ Countable coproducts and countable limits

Synthetic measure theory: axioms

Measure category [Kock'12]

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- ▶ Cartesian-closed category \mathcal{C}
- ▶ Countable coproducts and countable limits
- ▶ $\underline{M} = (M, \text{return}, \gg=)$ a strong commutative monad, i.e.:

$$M : |\mathcal{C}| \rightarrow |\mathcal{C}| \qquad \text{return}_X : X \rightarrow M X$$

$$\gg=_{X,Y} : M X \times (M Y)^X \rightarrow M Y$$

satisfying the monad laws and

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{T}.\text{do} \{x \leftarrow a; y \leftarrow b; \text{return}(x, y)\} \\ = \\ \underline{T}.\text{do} \{y \leftarrow b; x \leftarrow a; \text{return}(x, y)\} \end{aligned}$$

Measure category [Kock'12]

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- ▶ Cartesian-closed category \mathcal{C}
- ▶ Countable coproducts and countable limits
- ▶ $\underline{M} = (M, \text{return}, \gg=)$ a strong commutative monad, i.e.:
- ▶ Canonical morphisms are invertible:

$$M 0 \cong \mathbb{1} \quad M\left(\coprod_{n \in \mathbb{N}} X\right) \cong \prod_{n \in \mathbb{N}} M X$$

Synthetic measure theory: consequences

Surprisingly rich structure

- ▶ $0 : \mathbb{1} \rightarrow M 0$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} X : \prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} M X \cong M(\prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} X) \xrightarrow{M \nabla} M X$
- ▶ $R := M \mathbb{1}$ a σ -semiring:

$$(\cdot) : R \times R \xrightarrow{\text{double strength}} R \quad 1 := \text{return}() \in R$$

- ▶ Every algebra is an R -module:

$$\odot : R \times M X \xrightarrow{\text{strength}} M X$$

- ▶ Associated affine monad:

$$P X \xrightarrow{\text{sub}_X} M X \xrightarrow[\mathbb{1}]{M!} R$$

Kock integration

$$\int_X f(x) \underline{\mu}(dx) := \underline{\mu} \gg= f$$

- ▶ Measure-valued, hence analogous to

$$\int_X \chi(x) \cdot f(x) \underline{\mu}(dx)$$

for generic $\chi : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$

- ▶ η -expanded integrand

Synthetic measure theory: notation

Notation	Meaning	Terminology
R	$:= M \mathbb{1}$	Scalars
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$\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \underline{\mu}}^A [f(x)]$	$:= \underline{\mu} \gg= f$	Expectation
$\int_X f(x) \underline{\mu}(dx)$	$:= \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \underline{\mu}}^R [f(x)]$	Lebesgue integral

Radon-Nikodym derivatives

- ▶ $\underline{\nu} \ll \underline{\mu}$ when $\underline{\nu} = w \odot \underline{\mu}$;
- ▶ w and v are **equal $\underline{\mu}$ -almost everywhere** when $w \odot \underline{\mu} = v \odot \underline{\mu}$.
- ▶ Measurable property: $P : X \rightarrow \text{bool}$, induces $[P] : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$
- ▶ P over X **holds $\underline{\mu}$ -a.e.** when $[P] = 1$ $\underline{\mu}$ -a.e..

Theorem (Radon-Nikodym)

Let (\mathcal{C}, M) be a well-pointed measure category. For every $\underline{\nu} \ll \underline{\mu}$ in $M X$, there exists a $\underline{\mu}$ -a.e. unique morphism $\frac{d\underline{\nu}}{d\underline{\mu}} : X \rightarrow R$ satisfying $\frac{d\underline{\nu}}{d\underline{\mu}} \odot \underline{\mu} = \underline{\nu}$.

Talk structure

- ▶ Probabilistic programming and Bayesian inference
- ▶ Synthetic measure theory
- ▶ **Quasi-Borel spaces**
- ▶ Inference representations
- ▶ Ongoing work
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Measures subsets of \mathbb{R}

Borel subsets $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ as closure under:

- ▶ Intervals $[a, b]$.
- ▶ Countable unions.
- ▶ Complements.

$\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **measurable** when:

$$B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \quad \implies \quad \varphi^{-1}[B] \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$$

Key idea

Propagating randomness from discrete and continuous sampling:

$$\alpha : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow X$$

along “random elements”:

- ▶ for **measurable spaces**: **derived** through measurable functions;
- ▶ for **quasi-Borel spaces**: **axiomised** through structure.

The category Qbs

Objects

A **quasi-Borel space** $X = (|X|, M_X)$ consists of:

- ▶ a **carrier set** X ;
- ▶ a set of **random elements** $M_X \subseteq |X|^{\mathbb{I}}$

such that the random elements are closed under:

The category Qbs

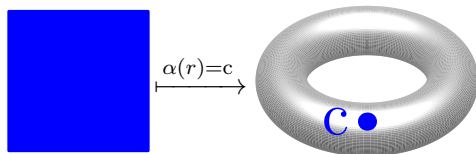
Objects

A **quasi-Borel space** $X = (|X|, M_X)$ consists of:

- ▶ a **carrier set** X ;
- ▶ a set of **random elements** $M_X \subseteq |X|^{\mathbb{I}}$

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- ▶ constant functions \underline{c} ;



The category Qbs

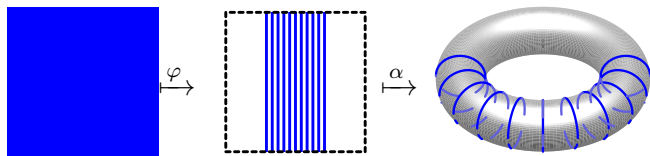
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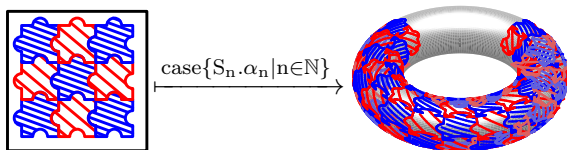
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- ▶ countable measurable case split.



The category \mathbf{Qbs}

Morphisms $f : X \rightarrow Y$

Functions $f : |X| \rightarrow |Y|$ such that:

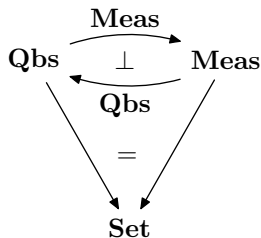
$$\alpha \in M_X \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f \circ \alpha \in M_Y$$

Measurable spaces

Adjunction with measurable spaces ($M \in \mathcal{C}Meas$, $X \in \mathbf{Qbs}$):

$$M_{\mathbf{Qbs}M} := \mathcal{C}Meas(\mathbb{R}, M)$$

$$\Sigma_{(\mathcal{C}Meas X)} := \{B \subseteq X \mid \forall \alpha \in M_X, \alpha^{-1}[X] \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})\}$$

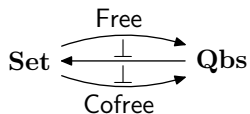


NB: $\mathcal{C}Meas \circ \mathbf{Qbs}X = X$ for standard Borel spaces X .

Free and cofree spaces

Equip a set $A \in \mathbf{Set}$ with:

$$M_{\mathbf{Free}A} := \left\{ \text{case } \{S_n \cdot \underline{a}_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} \mid (S_n) \text{ a measurable partition} \right\}$$
$$M_{\mathbf{Cofree}A} := A^{\mathbb{R}}$$



Products

Correlated random elements:

$$M_{X \times Y} := \left\{ r \mapsto (\alpha(r), \beta(r)) \mid \alpha \in M_X, \beta \in M_Y \right\}$$

Function spaces

$$\begin{aligned} |Y^X| &:= \mathbf{Qbs}(X, Y) \\ M_{Y^X} &:= \left\{ f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow |Y^X| \mid \text{uncurry } f \in \mathbf{Qbs}(\mathbb{R} \times X, Y) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

NB: $X^{\mathbb{R}} = M_X$

Subspaces

Every subset $S \subseteq |X|$ inherits the subspace structure:

$$M_S := \{\alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow S \mid \alpha \in M_X\}$$

equiv. a strong sub-object.

Subspaces

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More structure

Coproducts, limits, colimits, Grothendieck quasi-topos, locally presentable, . . .

The commutative monad

Measures

(Ω, α, μ) :

- ▶ Ω is a standard Borel space
- ▶ $\alpha \in X^\Omega$
- ▶ and μ is a σ -finite measure on Ω

Induced integration operator

For $f : X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$:

$$\int f \, d(\Omega, \alpha, \mu) := \int_{\Omega} f(\alpha(x)) \, \mu(dx)$$

Monad of measures

$(\Omega, \alpha, \mu) \approx (\Omega', \alpha', \mu')$ when they determine the same integration operator.

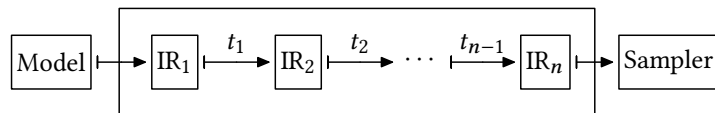
$\mathbb{M}X$ consists of equivalence classes of \approx .

The measure category ($\mathbf{Qbs}, \underline{\mathbf{M}}$)

- ▶ $\mathbf{Qbs}(\mathbb{1}, R) \cong_{\sigma} [0, \infty]$;
- ▶ $\mathbf{Qbs}(R, \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1}) \cong \mathcal{B}([0, \infty])$ as characteristic functions
- ▶ $\mathbf{Qbs}(R, R) \cong \mathbf{Meas}([0, \infty], [0, \infty])$
- ▶ $\mathbf{Giry} [0, \infty] \rightsquigarrow \mathbf{Qbs}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbf{M}(R)) \rightsquigarrow \mathbf{Measures} [0, \infty]$
- ▶ $R^R \times \mathbf{M}(R) \rightarrow R, (f, \underline{\mu}) \mapsto \int f(x) \underline{\mu}(dx)$ is the Lebesgue integral

Talk structure

- ▶ Probabilistic programming and Bayesian inference
- ▶ Synthetic measure theory
- ▶ Quasi-Borel spaces
- ▶ **Inference representations**
- ▶ Ongoing work
- ▶ Conclusion



Program representation

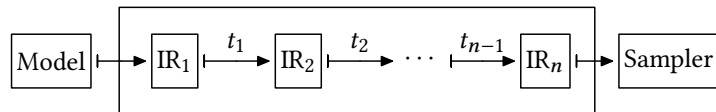
A **representation** \underline{T} ($T, \text{return}^T, \gg=\!^T, m^T$) consists of:

- ▶ $(T, \text{return}^T, \gg=\!^T)$: monadic interface;
- ▶ $m^T_X : T X \rightarrow M X$: meaning morphism for every space X and m^T preserves return^T and $\gg=\!^T$:

$$\text{return}^M x = m(\text{return}^T x)$$

$$m(a \gg=\!^T f) = (m a) \gg=\!^M \lambda x. m(f x)$$

Representations



Example representation: lists

instance *Rep* (List) **where**

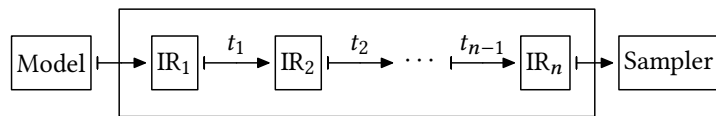
return x = $[x]$

$x_s \gg= f$ = $\text{foldr } []$

$(\lambda(x, y_s).$

$f(x) \text{ ++ } y_s) x_s$

$m_{\text{List}}[x_1, \dots, x_n] = \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i}$



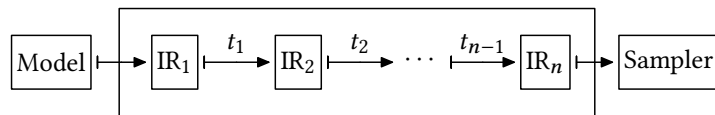
Sampling representation

$(T, \text{return}^T, \gg^T, m^T, \text{sample}^T)$

- ▶ $(T, \text{return}^T, \gg^T, m^T)$: program representation
- ▶ $\text{sample}^T : \mathbb{1} \rightarrow T \mathbb{1}$

and $m^T \circ \text{sample}^T = \mathbf{U}_{\mathbb{1}}$

Representations



Example: free sampler

$\text{Sam } \alpha := \{\text{Return } \alpha \mid \text{Sample } (\mathbb{I} \rightarrow \text{Sam } \alpha)\}$:

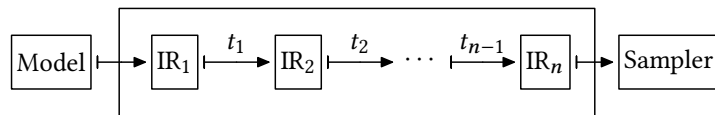
instance *Sampling Rep* (Sam) **where**

return $x = \text{Return } x$

$a \gg= f = \text{match } a \text{ with } \{$
 $\text{Return } x \rightarrow f(x)$
 $\text{Sample } k \rightarrow$
 $\text{Sample } (\lambda r. k(r) \gg= f)\}$

$\text{sample} = \text{Sample } \lambda r. (\text{Return } r)$

$m a = \text{match } a \text{ with } \{$
 $\text{Return } x \rightarrow \underline{\delta}_x$
 $\text{Sample } k \rightarrow \oint_{\mathbb{I}} m(k(x)) \mathbf{U}(dx)\}$



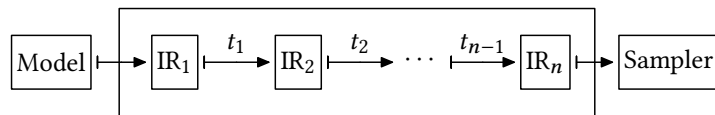
Conditioning representation

$(T, \text{return}^T, \gg=\!^T, m^T, \text{score}^T)$

- ▶ $(T, \text{return}^T, \gg=\!^T, m^T)$: program representation
- ▶ $\text{score}^T : [0, \infty) \rightarrow T \mathbb{1}$

and $m^T \circ \text{score}^T r = r \odot \underline{\delta}_{()}$

Representations



Weighted values

For every representation \underline{T} , $\mathbb{W}\underline{T}X := T(\mathbb{R}_+ * X)$

instance *Conditioning Rep* ($\mathbb{W}\underline{T}$) where

return $_{\mathbb{W}\underline{T}} x = \text{return}^T(1, x)$

$a \gg_{\mathbb{W}\underline{T}} f = \underline{T}.\mathbf{do} \{(r, x) \leftarrow a;$

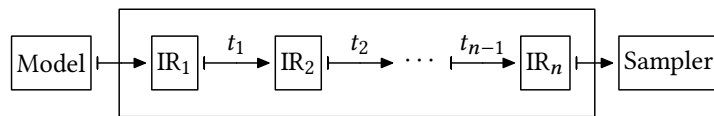
$(s, y) \leftarrow f(x);$

return $(r \cdot s, y)\}$

$m_{\mathbb{W}\underline{T}} a = \lambda x. \int_{\mathbb{R}_+ \times X} r \odot \delta_x m^T(a)(dr, dx)$

score $_{\mathbb{W}\underline{T}} r = \text{return}^T(r, (,))$

Representations



Inference representation

$(T, \text{return}^T, \gg=\text{ }^T, \text{sample}^T, \text{score}^T, m^T)$: sampling and conditioning

Example: weighted sampler

$\text{WSam } X := \text{W Sam } X = \text{Sam}([0, \infty) \times X)$

Inference transformations

$$\underline{t} : \underline{T} \rightarrow \underline{S}$$

$\underline{t} : T X \rightarrow S X$ for every space X such that:

$$m_{\underline{S}} \circ \underline{t} = m_{\underline{T}}$$

A single compositional step in an inference algorithm

Inference transformations

$$\underline{t} : \underline{T} \rightarrow \underline{S}$$

$\underline{t} : T X \rightarrow S X$ for every space X such that:

$$m_S \circ \underline{t} = m_T$$

A single compositional step in an inference algorithm

Unnaturality

$\text{aggr}_X : \text{List}(\mathbb{R}_+ * X) \rightarrow \text{List}(\mathbb{R}_+ * X)$

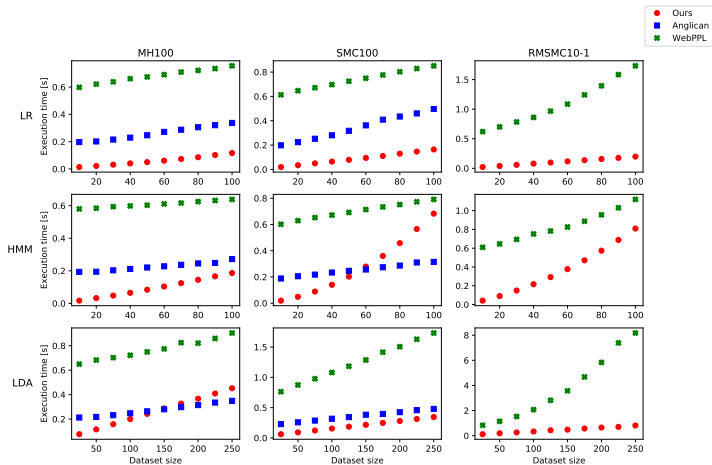
aggregating (r, x) , (s, x) to $(r + s, x)$

Then $\text{aggr} : \underline{\text{List}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{List}}$ but not natural:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{aggr} \circ \text{List!} & \left[\left(\frac{1}{2}, \text{False} \right), \left(\frac{1}{2}, \text{True} \right) \right] \left[(1, ()) \right] \\ & \neq \left[\left(\frac{1}{2}, () \right), \left(\frac{1}{2}, () \right) \right] \text{Enum!} \circ \text{aggr} \left[\left(\frac{1}{2}, \text{False} \right), \left(\frac{1}{2}, \text{True} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

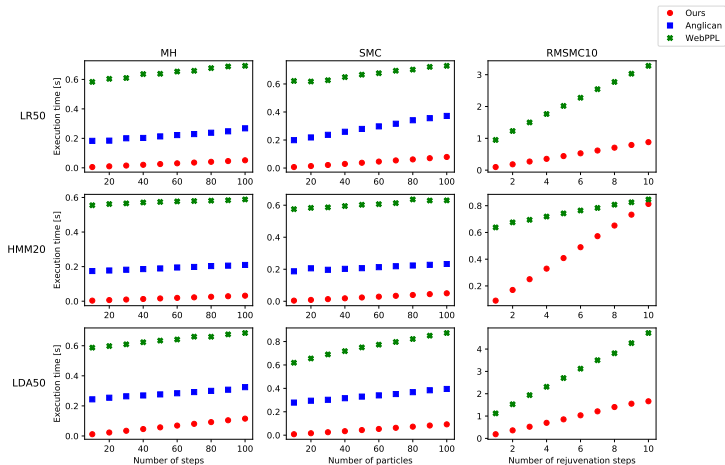
MonadBayes: Modular implementation

Performance evaluation (1)



MonadBayes: Modular implementation

Performance evaluation (2)



Talk structure

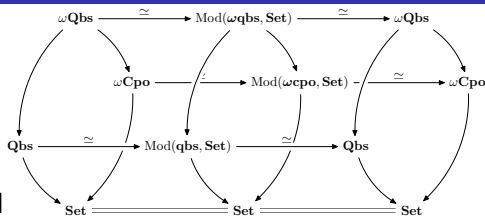
- ▶ Probabilistic programming and Bayesian inference
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Ongoing work: term and type recursion

ω -quasi-Borel spaces

$P = (|P|, \leq_P, M_P)$:

- ▶ (P, \leq_P) is an ω -cpo;
- ▶ (P, M_P) is a qbs; and
- ▶ M_P is pointwise ω -chain closed.



and Scott-continuous qbs-morphisms

Axiomatic domain theory [Fiore'94]

Model of Fiore's axiomatic domain theory, with admissible maps $f : P \rightarrow Q$ are Scott-open and **Borel open**:

$$f[P] \in \Sigma_Q = \left\{ S \subseteq |Q| \mid \forall \alpha \in M_Q. \alpha^{-1}[S] \in \mathcal{B} \right\}$$

Correctness of inference

- ▶ Modular validation of inference algorithms:
Sequential Monte Carlo, Trace Markov Chain Monte Carlo
By combining:
- ▶ Synthetic measure theory [Kock'12]: measure theory without measurable spaces
- ▶ Quasi-Borel spaces: a convenient category for higher-order measure theory [LICS'17]

Summary

- ▶ Bayesian inference: (continuous) sampling and conditioning
- ▶ Inference representation: monadic interface, sampling, conditioning, and meaning
- ▶ Plenty of opportunities for traditional programming language expertise

Further topics

- ▶ Sequential Monte Carlo (SMC)
- ▶ Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) and Metropolis-Hastings-Green Theorem for Q s
- ▶ Combining SMC and MCMC into Move-Resample SMC