# From Fuzzy Markov Categories Towards Imprecise Probability

Nico Wittrock

XV Portuguese Category Seminar,

11 September 2025

### Table of contents

Mathematics of Uncertainty

Deconstructing the Fuzzy Powerset Monad

Deconstructing the Finite Distributions Monad

Deconstructing the Fuzzy Powerset Monad

Deconstructing the Finite Distributions Monad

### types of uncertainty:

- classical probability distributions over a set X
- quantum probability
- ▶ imprecise probability:
  - upper-lower probabilities
  - Dempster-Shafer belief
- fuzzy sets, i.e. functions  $X \rightarrow [0,1]$

### categorical framework:

- Markov cats [Fri20], probability sheaves [Sim17]
- quantum Markov cats [Par20; FL24]
- models of previsions [Gou24]
- fuzzy powerset monad [Man76]

## Imprecise Probability

#### Joint Work with

- ► Laura Gonzales Bravo (Madrid)
- ► Paolo Perrone (Oxford)
- ► Tomáš Gonda (Innsbruck)

#### We use Markov cats [Fri20]:

- unifies and generalizes different notions of probability (discrete, continuous, quantum, possibility, . . . )
- abstract, graphical definitions of conditionals, independence, almost sure equality, Bayesian inversion, . . .
- generalizations of theorems (de Finetti, zero-one-laws, strong law of large numbers)

## Markov Categories: Overview

symmetric monoidal cats (SMC)

U

SMC with projections

 $\bigcup$ 

SMC with weak products

U

Markov cats

UI

cartesian monoidal cats

# Markov Categories: Example

Kleisli cats!

Example (Finite Distribution Monad)

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{D}_{[0,1]} : \mathsf{Set} &\to \mathsf{Set} \\ X &\mapsto \{f : X \to [0,1] \mid \mathsf{supp}(f) < \infty \text{ and } \sum_{x \in X} f(x) = 1\} \end{split}$$

### **Fuzzy Powerset Functors**

Example (Fuzzy Powerset Monad)

$$\mathsf{F}_{[0,1]}:\mathsf{Set} o \mathsf{Set}$$
 
$$X \mapsto \{\mathsf{functions}\ X \to [0,1]\}$$

#### Generalizations:

- ► [Man76] replaces [0, 1] by completely distributive lattices
- $\blacktriangleright$  we want to replace [0,1] by quantales

Deconstructing the Fuzzy Powerset Monad

Deconstructing the Finite Distributions Monad

### Fuzzy Powerset Functors

Recall:

$$\mathsf{F}_{[0,1]}:\mathsf{Set} o \mathsf{Set}$$
 
$$X \mapsto \{\mathsf{functions}\ X \to [0,1]\}$$

Notation:

Set<sup>op</sup>  $\cong$  CABA := cat. of complete atomic boolean algebras. SupLat := cat. of suplattices = cat. of join-complete posets

#### Definition

For  $L \in \mathsf{SupLat}$ 

$$\mathsf{F}_L: \begin{array}{ccc} \mathsf{Set} \stackrel{2^-}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{CABA^{op}} \subseteq \mathsf{SupLat^{op}} & \stackrel{L^-}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{Set} \\ X & \longmapsto & 2^X & \longmapsto & \mathsf{SupLat}(2^X, L). \end{array}$$

### Towards Fuzzy Powerset Monads

unit

$$\eta_X: \begin{array}{ccc} X & \cong & \mathsf{CABA}(2^X,2) & \subseteq & \mathsf{SupLat}(2^X,2) \stackrel{\iota \circ -}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{SupLat}(2^X,L) \\ x & \longmapsto & \delta_x & \longmapsto & \iota \circ \delta_x \end{array}$$

multiplication?

### Conjecture

For  $L \in SupLat$ :

```
\{monad\ (F_L, \eta, \mu)\} \stackrel{1:1}{\longleftrightarrow} \{integral\ Quantale\ (L, \otimes : L \times L \to L)\}.
```

#### Lemma

For  $L \in SupLat$ :

$$(F_L, \eta, \mu)$$
 commutative  $\Leftrightarrow \otimes : L \times L \to L$  commutative  $\Leftrightarrow$  Kleisli cat of  $F_L$  is Markov Copy-Discard cat.

Deconstructing the Fuzzy Powerset Monad

Deconstructing the Finite Distributions Monad

## Intermezzo: Effect Algebras

#### Definition

An Effect Algebra has

- ▶ a set E
- ightharpoonup constants  $0, 1 \in E$
- ▶ involution  $\neg : E \rightarrow E$
- ightharpoonup symmetric relation  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq E \times E$
- ightharpoonup commutative, associative, partial addition  $\oplus:\mathcal{R}\to E$  s.th.

$$a\mathcal{R}1 \Leftrightarrow a = 0$$
 and  $a \oplus b = 1 \Leftrightarrow b = \neg a$ .

### Example (Effect Algebras)

- $\triangleright$  Boolean algebras, e.g. power sets  $2^X$
- ightharpoonup  $[0,1]\subseteq\mathbb{R}$
- ▶  $[0,1] \subseteq \text{unital } C^*\text{-alg.}$

### Finite Distribution Functor

Goal: monad for  $E \in \mathsf{EffAlg}$ 

$$\mathsf{D}_E : \mathsf{Set} \to \mathsf{Set}$$
  $X \mapsto \{f : X \to E \mid \mathsf{supp}(f) < \infty \text{ and } \sum_{x \in X} f(x) = 1\}$ 

Notation:

$$D_E \upharpoonright_{fin}$$
: FinSet  $o$  Set restriction of  $D_E$   
FinSet<sup>op</sup>  $\cong$  FinCABA := cat. of finite CABAs  
EffAlg := cat. of effect algebras

#### Definition

For  $E \in \mathsf{EffAlg}$ 

$$\mathsf{D}_{E} \upharpoonright_{\mathsf{fin}} : \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{FinSet} \xrightarrow{2^{-}} \mathsf{FinCABA^{op}} \subseteq \mathsf{EffAlg^{op}} \xrightarrow{E^{-}} \mathsf{Set} \\ X \longmapsto 2^{X} \longmapsto \mathsf{EffAlg}(2^{X}, E). \end{array}$$

### Relative Monads

... consist of

functors

$$\begin{array}{c}
\mathsf{FinSet} \stackrel{\mathcal{T}}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{Set} \\
J \downarrow \\
\mathsf{Set}
\end{array}$$

▶ unit (for  $X \in FinSet$ ):

$$\eta_X: JX \to TX$$

▶ 'Kleisli' extension of  $f: JX \to TY$  (for  $X, Y \in \mathsf{FinSet}$ ):

$$f^{\sharp}:TX\to TY$$

similar to Kleisli extension [ACU15]. [ACU15] constructs monad

FinSet 
$$\xrightarrow{T}$$
 Set  $\xrightarrow{J}$  Lan

### Towards Finite Distribution Monads

Goal: relative monad on

unit

$$\eta_X: X \cong \mathsf{CABA}(2^X, 2) \subseteq \mathsf{EffAlg}(2^X, 2) \xrightarrow{\iota \circ -} \mathsf{EffAlg}(2^X, L)$$
 $x \longmapsto \delta_x \longmapsto \iota \circ \delta_x$ 

'Kleisli' extension?

### Conjecture

For  $E \in EffAlg$ :

$$\{ relative \ monad \ (D_E \upharpoonright_{fin}, \eta, \sharp) \} \stackrel{1:1}{\longleftrightarrow} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} m : E \times E \to E \\ associat., \ distributive, \ unital \end{array} \right\}.$$

### Towards Finite Distribution Monads II

Assume for  $E \in EffAlg$ :

$$\left\{ \text{relative monad } \left( \mathsf{D}_E \upharpoonright_{\mathsf{fin}}, \eta, \sharp \right) \right\} \overset{1:1}{\longleftrightarrow} \left\{ \begin{matrix} m : E \times E \to E \\ \mathsf{associat.}, \text{ distributive, unital} \end{matrix} \right\}.$$

#### Lemma

For  $E \in EffAlg$ :

Lan commutative 
$$\Leftrightarrow$$
 m :  $E \times E \rightarrow E$  commutative  $\Leftrightarrow$  Kleisli cat of Lan is Markov.

### Example

- ▶  $E = [0,1] \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ : model classical finite probability
- $ightharpoonup E = \{0,1\}$ : possibility (non-empty finite powerset monad)
- $ightharpoonup E = [0,1] \subseteq unital \ C^*$ -alg: quantum probabilistic processes

Deconstructing the Fuzzy Powerset Monad

Deconstructing the Finite Distributions Monad

### Summary

fuzzy powerset and finite distributions have similar shape

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{F}_{[0,1]} : \mathsf{Set} & \xrightarrow{2^-} \mathsf{SupLat^{op}} \xrightarrow{[0,1]^-} \mathsf{Set} \\ \mathsf{D}_{[0,1]} \upharpoonright_{\mathsf{fin}} : \mathsf{FinSet} & \xrightarrow{2^-} \mathsf{EffAlg^{op}} \xrightarrow{[0,1]^-} \mathsf{Set}. \end{split}$$

- ightharpoonup generalizations to other truth values than [0,1]:
  - join-complete posets L for fuzzy set monad F<sub>L</sub>
  - effect algebras E for relative distribution monad D<sub>E</sub>

#### Future work:

- new notion of quantum Markov cats.
- continuous case (Giry monad)
- useful for imprecise probability?

# Obrigado.

#### Literature I

- [ACU15] Thosten Altenkirch, James Chapman, and Tarmo Uustalu. "Monads need not be endofunctors". In: Logical methods in computer science 11 (2015).
- [CJ19] Kenta Cho and Bart Jacobs. "Disintegration and Bayesian inversion via string diagrams". In:

  Mathematical Structures in Computer Science 29.7
  (2019), pp. 938–971.
- [FL24] Tobias Fritz and Antonio Lorenzin. *Involutive Markov* categories and the quantum de Finetti theorem. 2024.
- [Fri20] Tobias Fritz. "A synthetic approach to Markov kernels, conditional independence and theorems on sufficient statistics". In: Advances in Mathematics 370 (2020), p. 107239.

#### Literature II

- [Gou24] Jean Goubault-Larrecq. "Isomorphism Theorems between Models of Mixed Choice (Revised)". In: arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.13500 (2024).
- [Man76] Ernest G Manes. "Algebraic Theories". In: Graduate Texts in Mathematics (1976).
- [Par20] Arthur J Parzygnat. "Inverses, disintegrations, and Bayesian inversion in quantum Markov categories". In: arXiv preprint arXiv:2001.08375 (2020).
- [Sim17] Alex Simpson. "Probability sheaves and the Giry monad". In: 7th Conference on Algebra and Coalgebra in Computer Science (CALCO 2017). Schloss Dagstuhl-Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik. 2017, pp. 1–1.