

# Denotational validation of Bayesian inference

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# What is statistical probabilistic programming?

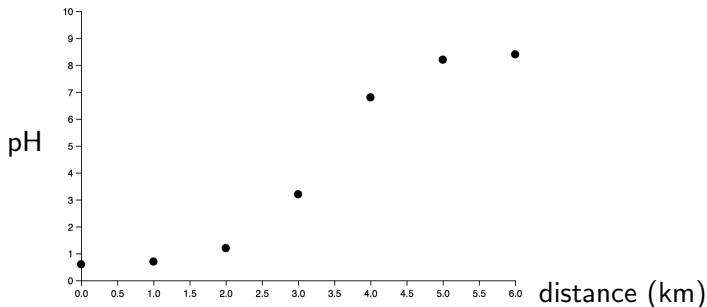
## Bayesian data modelling

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

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

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## 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?

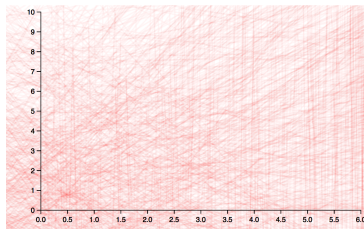
## Bayesian inference

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

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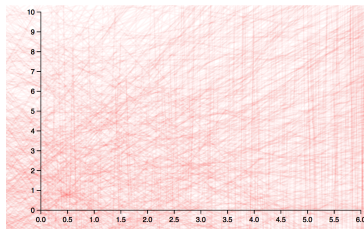


Prior

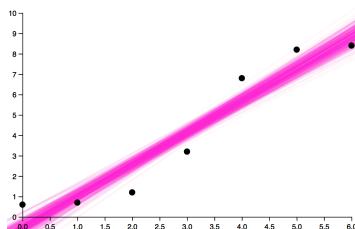
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Prior



Posterior



# What is statistical probabilistic programming?

## Probabilistic programming models

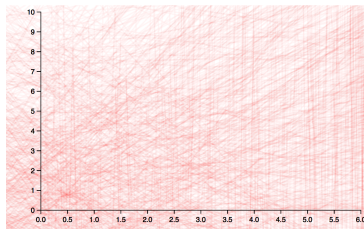
1. Develop a probabilistic (generative) model.  
Write a program.
2. ~~Design an inference algorithm for the model.~~
3. Using the `built-in` algorithm, fit the model to the data.

# What is probabilistic programming?

In Anglican [Wood et al.'14]

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

```
(predict :f f))
```



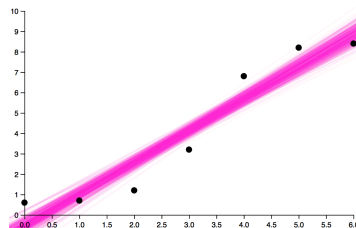
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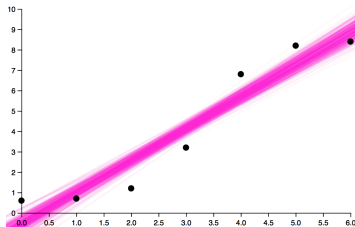
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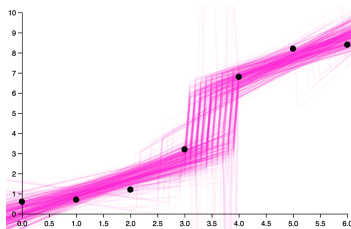
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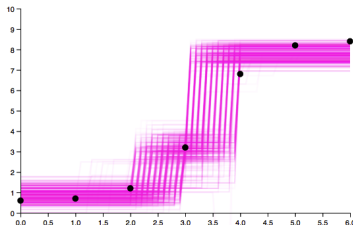


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(predict :f f))
```



# What is probabilistic programming?

## High-level analogy

graph algorithms + graph library + graph manipulating program

inference algorithms + inference library + probabilistic program

# What is probabilistic programming?

## Components

- ▶ Control flow, e.g.: simply typed  $\lambda$ -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,  $\mu \in M X$  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

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

# What is probabilistic programming?

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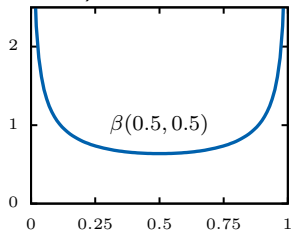
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## Note

For probability measures  $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ :

- 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]

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

Sampling manipulates prior.

Conditioning affects  $w$ , sequenced multiplicatively.

S-finite measures

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

$\mu_i$  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 ( $p\delta_1 + (1-p)\delta_0$ )?

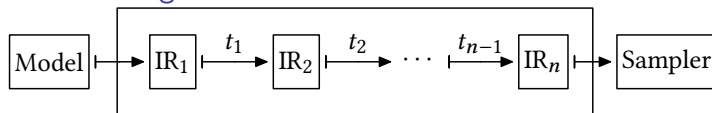
Generalise:

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

# This talk

## 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

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- ▶ IRs are **higher-order**

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

# Synthetic measure theory: axioms

Measure category [Kock'12]

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

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

- ▶ 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

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



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

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

# Synthetic measure theory: consequences

## Surprisingly rich structure

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

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

## Kock integration

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

- ▶ Measure-valued, hence analogous to

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

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

- ▶  $\eta$ -expanded integrand

# Synthetic measure theory: notation

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$\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \underline{\mu}}^A[f(x)]$	$:= \underline{\mu} \gg= f$	Expectation
$\int_X f(x) \underline{\mu}(\mathrm{d}x)$	$:= \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \underline{\mu}}^R[f(x)]$	Lebesgue integral

# Synthetic measure theory: Radon-Nikodym

## 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
- ▶ Conclusion

## Measurables 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:

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



# Source of randomness

## 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

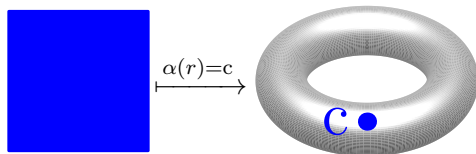
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- ▶ constant functions  $\underline{c}$ ;



# The category Qbs

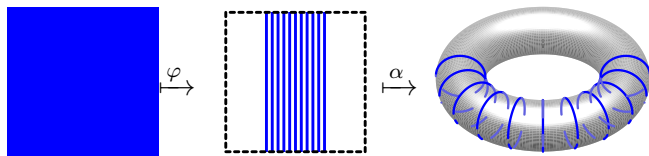
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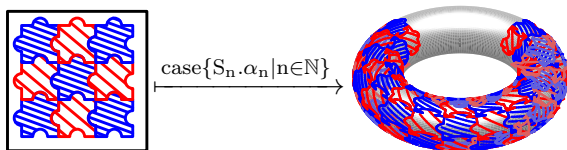
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- ▶ constant functions  $\underline{c}$ ;
- ▶ precomposition with a measurable  $\varphi : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$
- ▶ countable measurable case split.



# The category Qbs

Morphisms  $f : X \rightarrow Y$

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

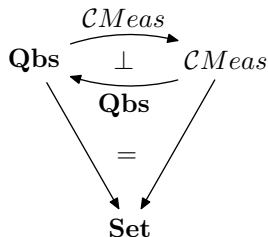
$$\alpha \in M_X \quad \implies \quad f \circ \alpha \in M_Y$$

# Categorical structure

## 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  $X$ .

# Categorical structure

## Free and cofree spaces

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

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ \text{Set} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad \perp \quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad \perp \quad} \end{array} & \text{Qbs} \\ & C & \end{array}$$



# Categorical structure

## 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

$$\left| Y^X \right| := \mathbf{Qbs}(X, Y)$$

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

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.

# Categorical structure

## Subspaces

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equiv. a strong sub-object.

## More structure

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

# The commutative monad

## Measures

$(\Omega, \alpha, \mu)$ :

- ▶  $\Omega$  is a standard Borel space
- ▶  $\alpha \in X^\Omega$
- ▶ and  $\mu$  is a  $\sigma$ -finite measure on  $\Omega$

## 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.

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

# A synthetic model

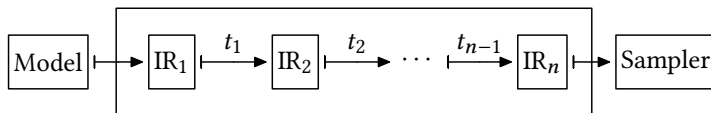
## The measure category ( $\mathbf{Qbs}, \underline{\mathbf{M}}$ )

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

## Talk structure

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

# Representations



## Program representation

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

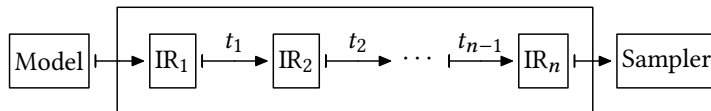
- ▶  $(T, \text{return}^{\underline{T}}, \gg=\underline{T})$ : monadic interface;
- ▶  $m^{\underline{T}}_X : T X \rightarrow M X$ : meaning morphism for every space  $X$

and  $m^{\underline{T}}$  preserves  $\text{return}^{\underline{T}}$  and  $\gg=\underline{T}$ :

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

$$m(a \gg=\underline{T} f) = (m a) \gg=\underline{M} \lambda x. m(f x) = \int m(f x) m a(dx)$$

# Representations



Example representation: lists

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

**return**  $x$   $= [x]$

$x_s \gg= f$   $= \text{foldr } [ ]$   
 $(\lambda(x, y_s).$   
 $f(x) \mathbin{++} y_s) \ x_s$

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



# Representations

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# Representations

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$$\begin{aligned} m_{\text{List}} \left( [x_1, \dots, x_n] \gg^{\text{List}} f \right) &= m \left( f(x_1) \text{ ++ } \dots \text{ ++ } f(x_n) \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n m \ f(x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int m_{\text{List}} \circ f(y) \delta_{x_i}(\mathrm{d}y) = \int m \circ f(y) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i}(\mathrm{d}y) \\ &= \int m \circ f(y) m[x_1, \dots, x_n](\mathrm{d}y) = m[x_1, \dots, x_n] \gg^{\text{M}} (m \circ f) \end{aligned}$$

# Representations

## Sampling representation

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

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

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

## 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

## Example: free sampler

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

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

**return**  $x = \text{Return } x$

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

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

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

## Inference representation

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

## Example: weighted sampler

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

# 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

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A single compositional step in an inference algorithm

## Unnaturality

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

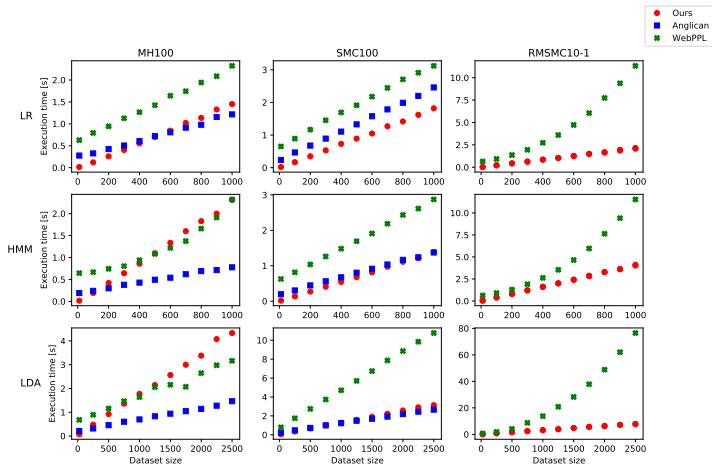
aggregating  $(r, x)$ ,  $(s, x)$  to  $(r + s, x)$

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

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

# MonadBayes: Modular implementation in Haskell

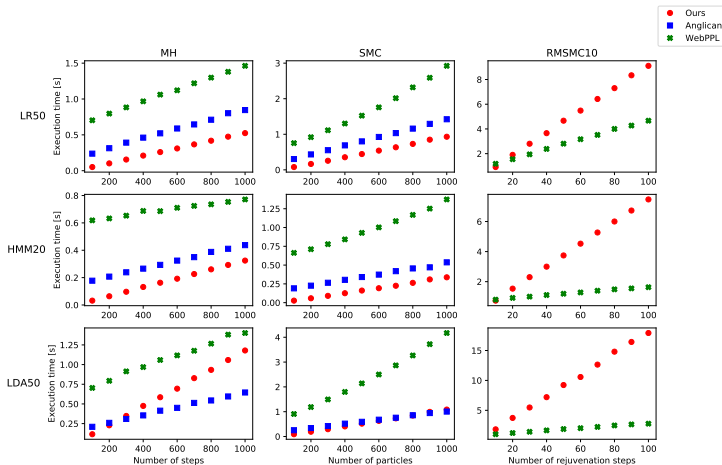
## Performance evaluation (1)





# MonadBayes: Modular implementation in Haskell

## Performance evaluation (2)



## Talk structure

- ▶ Probabilistic programming and Bayesian inference
- ▶ Synthetic measure theory
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# Ongoing work: term and type recursion

## $\omega$ -quasi-Borel spaces

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

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

and Scott-continuous qbs-morphisms

## Axiomatic domain theory [Fiore'94]

Model of Fiore's axiomatic domain theory, with admissible maps  $f : P \multimap Q$  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]

# Conclusion

## 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 **Qbs**
- ▶ Combining SMC and MCMC into Move-Resample SMC