

On the closure of aggregation rules for imprecise probabilities

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ISIPTA'2025, Bielefeld

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Summary

Let \mathcal{X} be a finite space. Assume we have a group of n experts, and that each of them models her uncertainty about an experiment in terms of a coherent lower prevision \underline{P}_i on $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{X})$, with associated credal set $\mathcal{M}(\underline{P}_i)$.

An **aggregation rule on coherent lower previsions** is a map \mathcal{A} that transforms this input into a lower prevision $\underline{P} := \mathcal{A}(\underline{P}_1, \dots, \underline{P}_n)$ that summarises the opinions of the group.

We consider four aggregation rules and six different families, and study:

- (a) if the aggregation rule is closed for a given family;
- (b) if not, if there are particular cases when it is closed.

Let us meet our contestants

Conjunction (\mathcal{A}_C) It is the lower envelope of $\cap_{i=1}^n \mathcal{M}(\underline{P}_i)$, or, equivalently, the natural extension of $\max\{\underline{P}_1, \dots, \underline{P}_n\}$.

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Mixture (\mathcal{A}_M) Given $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \geq 0$ with $\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i = 1$, $\mathcal{A}_M(f) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \underline{P}_j(f) \forall f$.

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Pareto (\mathcal{A}_P) $\mathcal{A}_P(f) = \min \left\{ \max_{j=1, \dots, n} \underline{P}_j(f), \min_{j=1, \dots, n} \overline{P}_j(f) \right\} \quad \forall f.$

Life is a war

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Comparative probabilities

A **comparative probability model** on singletons is determined by some $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X}$, so that $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{L}) = \{P : P(\{x_i\}) \geq P(\{x_j\}) \forall (x_i, x_j) \in \mathcal{L}\}$.

- ▶ \mathcal{A}_C is closed for comparative probabilities. ✓✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_D is not closed for comparative probabilities, but $\mathcal{A}_D(\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2)$ has a unique undominated outer approximation. ✓
- ▶ $\mathcal{A}_M(\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2)$ is a comparative probability iff $\mathcal{L}_1 = \mathcal{L}_2$. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_P is closed for comparative probabilities. ✓✓

2-monotone capacities

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\underline{P} is **2-monotone** when $\underline{P}(A \cup B) + \underline{P}(A \cap B) \geq \underline{P}(A) + \underline{P}(B)$ for any $A, B \subseteq \mathcal{X}$.



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- ▶ \mathcal{A}_C does not preserve 2-monotonicity, but it does so when $\mathcal{M}(\underline{P}_1) \cup \mathcal{M}(\underline{P}_2)$ is convex. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_D does not preserve 2-monotonicity, but it does when either \underline{P}_1 or \underline{P}_2 is a categorical belief function. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_M preserves 2-monotonicity. ✓✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_P does not preserve 2-monotonicity. ✗

Probability intervals

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A lower probability \underline{P} is a **probability interval** when $\mathcal{M}(\underline{P})$ is determined by the lower and upper probabilities of the singletons.



Probability intervals

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A lower probability \underline{P} is a **probability interval** when $\mathcal{M}(\underline{P})$ is determined by the lower and upper probabilities of the singletons.

- ▶ (De Campos et al. 1994) \mathcal{A}_C preserves being a probability interval. ✓✓
- ▶ (De Campos et al. 1994) \mathcal{A}_D does not preserve being a probability interval, but there is a unique outer approximation of $\mathcal{A}_D(\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2)$. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_M does not preserve being a probability interval, but there is a unique outer approximation of $\mathcal{A}_M(\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2)$. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_P does not preserve being a probability interval, but it does when $\max\{\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2\}$ is coherent. ✓

Belief functions

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P is a belief function (=completely monotone) when its möbius inverse is non-negative.



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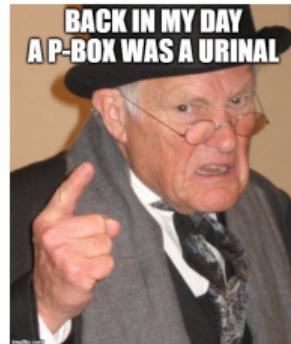
P is a **belief function** (=completely monotone) when its möbius inverse is non-negative.

- ▶ A_C does not preserve complete monotonicity. $\textcolor{red}{X}$
- ▶ A_D does not preserve complete monotonicity, but it does when either P_1 or P_2 is a degenerate probability measure. \checkmark
- ▶ A_M preserves complete monotonicity. $\checkmark\checkmark$
- ▶ A_P does not preserve complete monotonicity. $\textcolor{red}{X}$

p-boxes

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A lower probability \underline{P} is a *p*-box when $\mathcal{M}(\underline{P})$ is uniquely determined by the lower and upper probabilities of the cumulative events.



p-boxes

A lower probability \underline{P} is a *p*-box when $\mathcal{M}(\underline{P})$ is uniquely determined by the lower and upper probabilities of the cumulative events.

- ▶ The conjunction \mathcal{A}_C of two *p*-boxes is a *p*-box iff $\mathcal{M}(\underline{P}_1) \cap \mathcal{M}(\underline{P}_2) \neq \emptyset$. ✓✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_D is not closed in the family of *p*-boxes, but $\mathcal{A}_D(\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2)$ has a unique undominated outer approximation in the family. ✓
- ▶ $\mathcal{A}_M(\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2)$ is a *p*-box iff $\mathcal{F}_1 \cup \mathcal{F}_2$ is totally ordered by set inclusion, where $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2$ denote the focal elements of $\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2$. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_P is not closed in the family of *p*-boxes. ✗

Minitive measures

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A lower probability is **minitive** iff $\underline{P}(A \cap B) = \min\{\underline{P}(A), \underline{P}(B)\} \forall A, B \subseteq \mathcal{X}$. Its conjugate \overline{P} is a **maxitive** measure.



Minitive measures

A lower probability is **minitive** iff $\underline{P}(A \cap B) = \min\{\underline{P}(A), \underline{P}(B)\} \forall A, B \subseteq \mathcal{X}$. Its conjugate \overline{P} is a **maxitive** measure.

- ▶ (Miranda et al. 2015) $\mathcal{A}_C(\overline{P}_1, \overline{P}_2)$ is maxitive iff $\min_i \max_j \overline{P}_i(\{x_j\}) = \max_{j=1,2} \min_{i=1,2} \overline{P}_i(\{x_j\})$ for all $\{x_1, x_2\} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_D is closed in the family of minitive measures. ✓✓
- ▶ $\mathcal{A}_M(\underline{P}_1, \underline{P}_2)$ is minitive iff $\mathcal{F}_1 \cup \mathcal{F}_2$ is closed under set inclusion. ✓
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_P is not closed in the family of minitive measures. ✗

Summary and conclusions

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	Conj. \mathcal{A}_C	Disj. \mathcal{A}_D	Mixt. \mathcal{A}_M	Pareto \mathcal{A}_P
Comparative	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓
2-monotone	✓	✓	✓✓	✗
Prob. intervals	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Belief functions	✗	✓	✓✓	✗
p -boxes	✓✓	✓	✓	✗
Minitive measures	✓	✓✓	✓	✗

