

Probabilistic Programming Languages

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Semantics of Probabilistic Programming

Continuous probability

Probabilistic PCF - Discrete Probability

Syntax

$$\begin{aligned} M, N, P := & \underbrace{x \mid \lambda x M \mid (M) N \mid (M, N)}_{\lambda\text{-calculus}} \mid \underbrace{\text{fix } M}_{\text{Recursion}} \\ & \mid \underbrace{0 \mid \text{succ } M}_{\text{Arithmetics}} \mid \underbrace{\text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \text{if } M \text{ then } N \text{ else } P}_{\text{Conditionnal}} \\ & \mid \underbrace{\text{let } x = \text{sample}(\text{bernoulli } p) \text{ in } M}_{\text{Discrete Probability}} \quad \forall p \in [0, 1] \end{aligned}$$

Types

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \text{bool} \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = \text{sample}(\text{bernoulli } p) \text{ in } M : B}$$

Semantics

$$\text{Operational : } M \xrightarrow{p} M' \qquad \text{Denotational : } \llbracket \Gamma \vdash M : A \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket$$

Probabilistic Coherent Spaces

$$\text{Soundness : } \llbracket \Gamma \vdash M : A \rrbracket = \sum_{M'} \text{Proba}(M, M') \llbracket \Gamma \vdash M' : A \rrbracket.$$

Probabilistic PCF - Continuous Probability

Syntax

$$\begin{aligned} M, N, P := & \underbrace{x \mid \lambda x M \mid (M) N \mid (M, N)}_{\lambda\text{-calculus}} \mid \underbrace{\text{fix } M}_{\text{Recursion}} \\ & \mid \underbrace{\underline{n}, \text{succ } M}_{\text{Arithmetics}} \mid \underbrace{\text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \text{if } M \text{ then } N \text{ else } P}_{\text{Conditionnal}} \\ & \mid \underbrace{\text{Dirac } M \mid \text{Uniform } a : 0. b : 1. \mid \text{let } x = \text{sample } M \text{ in } N}_{\text{Continuous Probability}} \\ & \mid \underline{r} \mid \underline{f}(M_1, \dots, M_n) \forall r \text{ float } \forall f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ measurable} \end{aligned}$$

Types

$$\begin{array}{c} \hline \underline{r} : \text{float} \vdash \text{Dirac } r : \text{float dist} \\ \hline \Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B \quad \Gamma \vdash N : A \text{ dist} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = \text{sample } N \text{ in } M : B \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \hline \vdash \text{Uniform } a : 0. b : 1. : \text{float dist} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash M_i : \text{float dist} \\ \hline \Gamma, \underline{f} : \text{float}^n \rightarrow \text{float} \vdash f(M_1, \dots, M_n) : \text{float}^n \text{ dist} \end{array}$$

Operational Semantics : The evaluation of a program is a markov process described by the probability of reduction from M to N .

Operational Semantics - Discrete Probability

If $\vdash M : \text{nat}$, then $\mathbf{Proba}^\infty(M, _)$ is the discrete distribution over \mathbb{N} computed by M .

$$\mathbf{Proba}(\text{sample Bernoulli } p, \underline{0}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Transition Matrix : $\mathbf{Proba}(M, M')$ a stochastic matrix indexed by terms.

$$\mathbf{Proba}(M, M') = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } M \xrightarrow{p} M' \\ 1 & \text{if } M \text{ normal and } M = M' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Iterated Transition Matrix :

$\mathbf{Proba}^k(M, N)$ is the probability that M reduces to N in at most k steps.

$\mathbf{Proba}^\infty(M, N)$ when N is normal is the probability that M reduces to N in any number of steps

Adequation Lemma : If M closed term of type nat , then for every n , $\llbracket M \rrbracket_n = \mathbf{Proba}^\infty(M, \underline{n})$

Operational Semantics - Continuous Probability

If $\vdash M : \text{float}$, then $\mathbf{Proba}^\infty(M, _)$ is the continuous distribution over \mathbb{R} computed by M . $\mathbf{Proba}(\text{sample Uniform } a : 0. \text{ } b : 1., U) = \int_{x \in U} dx$

The probability to observe U after at most one reduction step applied to M is $\mathbf{Proba}(M, U)$

$\mathbf{Proba} : \Lambda^{\Gamma \vdash A} \times \Sigma_{\Lambda^{\Gamma \vdash A}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is a stochastic **Kernel**, i.e :

for all $M \in \Lambda^{\Gamma \vdash A}$, $\mathbf{Proba}(M, _)$ is a measure ;

for all $U \in \Sigma_{\Lambda^{\Gamma \vdash A}}$, $\mathbf{Proba}(_, U)$ is a measurable function.

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$\Lambda^{\Gamma \vdash A}$: the set of terms M
s.t. $\Gamma \vdash M : A$.

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$\Sigma_{\Lambda^{\Gamma \vdash A}}$, i.e. U is measurable :
 $\forall n, \forall S, \{\vec{r} \text{ s.t. } S\vec{r} \in U\}$ meas. in \mathbb{R}^n

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Measurable sets and kernels constitute the category **Kern**.

$\mathbf{Proba}^\infty(M, U)$ is the probability to observe U after any steps.

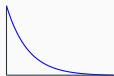
Examples : Distributions

```
sample = sample Uniform a:0. b:1.
```

The Bernoulli distribution takes the value 1 with probability p and the value 0 with probability $1 - p$.

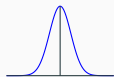
$p\delta_1 + (1 - p)\delta_0$ `bernoulli p ::= let x=sample in x ≤ p`
tests if sample draws a value within $[0, p]$.

The exponential distribution is specified by its density e^{-x} .



`exp ::= let x=sample in -log(x)`
by the inversion sampling method.

The standard normal distribution defined by its density $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}$.



`gauss ::= let x=sample in`
`let y=sample in $\sqrt{-2 \log(x)}$ cos(2πy)`
by the Box Muller method.

Denotational Semantics - First order

Discrete : **PCOH**

For $\vdash M : \text{nat}$,

$\llbracket M \rrbracket$ a distribution over \mathbb{N}

For $\vdash \underline{n} : \text{nat}$,

$$\llbracket \underline{n} \rrbracket_p = \delta_{p,n}$$

For $\vdash \text{Bernoulli } p : \text{bool}$,

$$\llbracket \text{Bern } p \rrbracket_b = p\delta_{\text{true},b} + (1-p)\delta_{\text{false},b}$$

For $\vdash N : \text{bool}, \vdash P : A, \vdash Q : A$,

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{if } N \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \rrbracket_a = \\ \llbracket N \rrbracket_{\text{true}} \llbracket P \rrbracket_a + \llbracket N \rrbracket_{\text{false}} \llbracket Q \rrbracket_a \end{aligned}$$

For $\vdash N : \text{nat}, \vdash P : A, \vdash Q : A$,

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{let } x = N \text{ in } P \rrbracket_a = \\ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \llbracket N \rrbracket_n \widehat{\llbracket P \rrbracket}(n)_a \end{aligned}$$

Denotational Semantics - First order

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For $\vdash \underline{n} : \text{nat}$,

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For $\vdash N : \text{nat}, \vdash P : A, \vdash Q : A$,

$\llbracket \text{let } x = N \text{ in } P \rrbracket_a =$
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \llbracket N \rrbracket_n \widehat{\llbracket P \rrbracket}(n)_a$$

Continuous : **KERN**

For $\vdash M : \text{float}$,

$\llbracket M \rrbracket$ a measure over \mathbb{R}

For $\vdash \underline{r} : \text{float}$,

$\llbracket \underline{r} \rrbracket(U) = \delta_r(U)$

For $\vdash \text{Uniform } a : 0. b : 1. : \text{float}$,

$\llbracket \text{Unif } 0. 1. \rrbracket(U) = \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_U(x) dx$

For $\vdash R : \text{bool}, \vdash P, Q : A$,

$\llbracket \text{if } R \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \rrbracket(U) =$
 $\llbracket R \rrbracket(\{\text{true}\}) \llbracket P \rrbracket(U) + \llbracket R \rrbracket(\{\text{false}\}) \llbracket Q \rrbracket(U)$

For $\vdash R : \text{float}, \vdash P, Q : A$,

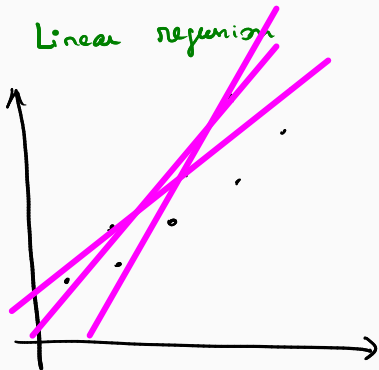
$\llbracket \text{let } x = R \text{ in } P \rrbracket(U) =$
$$\int \llbracket R \rrbracket(dr) \llbracket P \rrbracket(\delta_r)(U)$$

Denotational Semantics - Higher-Order

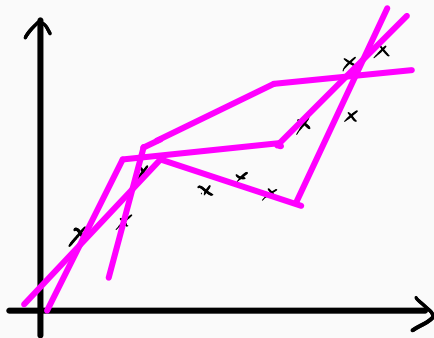
The Program Synthesis problem

Given a data set in R^2 can we build the probabilistic program
 $\vdash M : \text{float} \rightarrow \text{float}$ that generated this data set? We need a
distribution over $\text{float} \rightarrow \text{float}$.

Linear regression



Piecewise linear Regression



Denotational Semantics - Higher-Order problem

Théorème (Aumann' 61)

There is no σ -algebra on $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}}$ such that **eval** : $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable.

By contradiction, assume for all x, y measurable space, x^y measurable and eval measurable:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x \times y & & h: x, y \mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x=y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \text{Axid} \downarrow & \searrow & \\ \mathbb{R}^y \times y & \xrightarrow{\text{eval}} & \mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

Assume $X = \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$ and $Y = \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$

all subsets of \mathbb{R}

countable or co-countable subsets of \mathbb{R}

Then $X \times Y = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$

σ -algebra generated by $U \times V$ by

- complement
- countable unions
- countable intersections

Denotational Semantics - Higher-Order problem

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There is no σ -algebra on $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}}$ such that **eval** : $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X \times Y & & \\
 \Lambda h \text{ id} \downarrow & \searrow h & \\
 \mathbb{R}^Y \times Y & \xrightarrow{\text{eval}} & \mathbb{R}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 h: x, y \mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x=y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

• $\Lambda h: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}}$ is measurable: $\forall A \in \sigma(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}})$, $\Lambda h^{-1}(A) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})!$

is well defined: $\Lambda(h)(x): Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ measurable

$$y \mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & x=y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\Lambda(h)(x)^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{x\} \text{ countable} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$$

$$\Lambda(h)(x)^{-1}(\{0\}) = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{x\} \text{ countable} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$$

• We assumed that eval is measurable, hence $h = \text{eval} \circ (\Lambda h \text{ id})$ is measurable

Denotational Semantics - Higher-Order problem

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There is no σ -algebra on $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}}$ such that **eval** : $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{R}} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable.

$$h: x, y \mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x=y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If h is measurable then no is **NO**
 $h^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{(x, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\} \notin \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$

$$X \times Y = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$$

① σ -algebra generated by $U \times V$ by
 - complement
 - countable unions
 - countable intersections

If $W \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$ then: $\exists (b_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ st if $(x, y) \in W$ and $y \neq b_n$ then $\forall z \neq b_n, (x, z) \in W$

$\Delta = \{(x, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$ does not satisfy P: $\forall (b_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}, \forall y \neq b_n, (y, y) \in \Delta \stackrel{y \neq b_n}{\Rightarrow} (y, z) \in \Delta$!

If $U \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$, then $U \times C$ satisfies P | If W_n satisfy P, then $\bigcup W_n$ and $\bigcap W_n$ satisfy P.

Semantics of Probabilistic Programming

Measurable Stable Cones

Measurable Stable Cones - Definition

CSTAB is a **CCC** based on Selinger's **cones** (dcpos with the order induced by addition and a convex structure).

Objects are cones and measurable spaces

Morphisms are stable and measurable functions

- 1 **Complete cones** (convex dcpos with the order induced by addition) with Scott continuous functions

However, the category is cartesian but not closed.

- 2 Complete cones and **Stable functions** (∞ -non-decreasing functions) is a CCC.

However, not every stable function is measurable.

- 3 **Measurable Cones** (complete cones with **measurable tests**).
Measurable paths pass measurable tests and Measurable functions preserve measurable paths.

CSTAB is a CCC with measurability included !

Results

The category **CSTAB** is a CCC and a model of Real PPCF.

Invariance of the semantics

$$\llbracket M \rrbracket_{\Gamma \vdash A} = \int_{\Lambda^{\Gamma \vdash A}} \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\Gamma \vdash A} \mathbf{Proba}(M, dt)$$

Adequacy

$$\llbracket M \rrbracket_{\vdash \text{real}}(U) = \mathbf{Proba}^{\infty}(M, U)$$

Conservative extension of **PCOH**

If X and Y are probabilistic coherence spaces and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a stable measurable map, then f is a map of probabilistic coherence spaces. (Crubille 2018).

Step 1 : Complete Cones

A **Cone** P is analogous to a real normed vector space, except that **scalars** are \mathbb{R}^+ and the **norm** $\|_P : P \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ satisfies :

$$\begin{aligned}x + y = 0 &\Rightarrow x, y = 0, & \|x + x'\|_P &\leq \|x\|_P + \|x'\|_P, & \|\alpha x\|_P &= \alpha \|x\|_P \\x + y = x + y' &\Rightarrow y = y', & \|x\|_P = 0 &\Rightarrow x = 0, & \|x\|_P &\leq \|x + x'\|_P\end{aligned}$$

The Unit Ball is the set $\mathcal{B}P = \{x \in P \mid \|x\|_P \leq 1\}$.

Order $x \leq_P x'$ if there is a $y \in P$ such that $x' = x + y$. This unique y is denoted as $y = x' - x$.

A **Complete Cone** is s.t. any non-decreasing $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of $\mathcal{B}P$ has a lub and $\|\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} x_n\|_P = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|x_n\|_P$.

Example of Complete Cones

$\text{Meas}(X)$ with X a measurable space.

$\widehat{\mathcal{X}} = \{u \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^{|\mathcal{X}|} \mid \exists \epsilon > 0 \ \epsilon u \in \mathbf{PCOH}\mathcal{X}\}$ if $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbf{PCOH}$.

Step 2 : Stable functions

The category of **complete cones** and **Scott-continuous** functions is not cartesian closed as *currying* fails to be *non-decreasing*.

A function $f : \mathcal{BP} \rightarrow Q$ is **n -non-decreasing function** if :

$n = 0$ and f is non-decreasing

$n > 0$ and $\forall u \in \mathcal{BP}$, $\Delta f(x; u) = f(x + u) - f(x)$ is $(n - 1)$ -non-decreasing in x .

A function is **stable** if it is Scott-continuous and ∞ -non-decreasing, i.e. n -non-decreasing for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Complete cones and **stable** functions constitute a **CCC**.

Weak Parallel Or

$\text{wpor} : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ given as $\text{wpor}(s, t) = s + t - st$ is Scott-continuous, but not Stable. Its currying is not Scott-continuous.

Step 3 : The Measurability Problem

Type `real` is interpreted as $\llbracket \text{real} \rrbracket = \text{Meas}(\mathbb{R})$,

Closed term $\vdash M : \text{real}$ as a measure μ and

Term $x : \text{real} \vdash N : \text{real}$ as a stable $f : \text{Meas}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \text{Meas}(\mathbb{R})$.

Operational semantics

$$\forall r, \text{ s.t. } M \rightarrow r, \text{ let } x=M \text{ in } N \rightarrow N\{r/x\}$$

By **Soundness**

$$\llbracket \text{let } x=M \text{ in } N \rrbracket = \int_{\mathbb{R}} (f \circ \delta)(r) \mu(dr)$$

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\uparrow
 $\llbracket N \rrbracket$

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$\llbracket N \rrbracket$ Dirac measure

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$\llbracket N \rrbracket$ Dirac measure $\llbracket M \rrbracket$

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Operational semantics

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By **Soundness**

$$\llbracket \text{let } x = M \text{ in } N \rrbracket = \int_{\mathbb{R}} (f \circ \delta)(r) \mu(dr)$$

Thus $f \circ \delta$ needs to be measurable.

There are non measurable stable functions

We need to equip every cone with a notion of measurability

Step 3 : Measurability tests

Measurability tests of $\text{Meas}(\mathbb{R})$ are given by measurable sets of \mathbb{R} :

$$\forall U \subseteq \mathbb{R} \text{ measurable, } \epsilon_U \in \text{Meas}(\mathbb{R})' : \mu \mapsto \mu(U)$$

For needs of CCC, we parameterized measurable tests of a cone :

Measurable Cone

A cone P with a collection $(M^n(P))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ with $M^n(P) \subseteq (P')^{\mathbb{R}^n}$ s.t. :

$$0 \in M^n(P), \quad \ell \in M^n(P) \text{ and } h : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \Rightarrow \ell \circ h \in M^p(P)$$

$$\ell \in M^n(P) \text{ and } x \in P \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R}^n & \rightarrow & \mathbb{R}^+ \\ \text{Vect } r & \mapsto & \ell(\text{Vect } r)(x) \end{array} \right. \text{ measurable.}$$

Measurable Tests, Paths and Functions

CSTAB is the category of complete and measurable cones with stable and measurable functions.

Let P and Q be measurable and complete cones :

Measurable Test : $M^n(P) \subseteq (P')^{\mathbb{R}^n}$

Measurable Path : $\text{Path}^n(P) \subseteq P^{\mathbb{R}^n}$ the set of bounded $\gamma : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow P$
such that $\ell * \gamma : \mathbb{R}^{k+n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is measurable with

$$\ell * \gamma : (\text{Vect } r, \text{Vect } s) \mapsto \ell(\text{Vect } r)(\gamma(\text{Vect } s))$$

Measurable Functions : Stable functions $f : P \rightarrow Q$ such that :

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall \gamma \in \text{Path}_1^n(P), \quad f \circ \gamma \in \text{Path}^n(Q)$$

If X is a measurable space, then $\text{Meas}(X)$ is equipped with :

$$M^n(X) = \{\epsilon_U : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \text{Meas}(X)' \text{ s.t. } \epsilon_U(\text{Vect } r)(\mu) = \mu(U), \quad U \text{ meas.}\}$$

$\text{Path}_1^n(P)$ is the set of stochastic kernels from \mathbb{R}^n to X .

Semantics of Probabilistic Programming

Quasi Borel Spaces

(Ohad Kammar Tutorial)

Measurable Stable Cones - Definition

Quasi Borel Space $X = (|X|, \mathcal{R}(X))$ such that

Random elements : $\mathcal{R}(X) \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow |X|$

Constants : if $x \in |X|$, then $\lambda r. x \in \mathcal{R}(X)$

Precomposition : if $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}(X)$ and $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ measurable, then $\varphi \circ \alpha \in \mathcal{R}(X)$.

Recombination : if $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}(X)^{\mathbb{N}}$ and $\mathbb{R} = \uplus A_n$ and A_n measurable, then $\lambda r. \alpha_n(r)$ (if $r \in A_n$) $\in \mathcal{R}(X)$

Examples

Reals : $(\mathbb{R}, \text{Meas}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}))$

Discrete QBS : $(|X|, \sigma\text{-simple}(\mathbb{R}, |X|))$

Indiscrete QBS : $(|X|, |X|^{\mathbb{R}})$

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Morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$

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

If $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}(X)$, then $f \circ \alpha \in \mathcal{R}(Y)$

Measurable Stable Cones - Properties

QBS is a category

Cartesian : $|X \times Y| = |X| \times |Y|$ and

$\mathcal{R}(X \times Y) = \{\lambda r. (\alpha(r), \beta(r)) \mid \alpha \in \mathcal{R}(X), \beta \in \mathcal{R}(Y)\}$

Closed : $|Y^X| = \mathbf{QBS}(X, Y)$ and

$\mathcal{R}(Y^X) = \{\alpha \mid \lambda(r, x). \alpha(r)(x) \in \mathbf{QBS}(\mathbb{R} \times X \rightarrow Y)\}$

Limits : Coproducts, Quotients, ... as in Sets

QBS is a **conservative extension** of Standard Borel Sets

One uniform distribution is sufficient to generate all probability measures on Borel spaces.

if $\vdash d : X \text{ dist}$, then there is $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}(X)$ such that

sample $d \sim \text{let } r = \text{sample uniform } a:0. \text{ } b:1. \text{ in } \alpha(r)$

Measure μ on a QBS is a borel space Σ , a random element $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}(X)$ and a measure on Σ . If $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$, then its integral with respect to μ :

$$\int_X \mu f = \int_{\Sigma} \mu(dr)(f(\alpha(r)))$$

Take home

Semantics for (discrete) probabilistic programs

The operational semantics of continuous probability using kernels

The category **Meas** is not a CCC.

The Measurable Cones solution.

The Quasi Borel Spaces solution.

Both are sound models of probabilistic higher order programs

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