

Weakly-affine monads

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T: I think that “weakly-affine” should be “weakly affine” throughout, yes?

Abstract

Introduced in the 1990s in the studies of the algebraic approach to graph rewriting, gs-monoidal categories (shortly, GS categories) are symmetric monoidal categories where each object has the structure of a commutative comonoid. They arise as the underlying structure of Klesli categories for commutative monads on cartesian categories, and as such provide an handy tool for approaching effectfull computations. Recently proposed in the context of categorical probability, Markov categories are GS categories where the monoidal unit object is also terminal, and they characterises those Kleisli categories where the monad is required to preserve such an object.

The aim of this paper is to study the different enrichments on the monoidal structure leading from GS categories up to Markov and cartesian ones. More precisely, we focus on the introduction of weakly Markov categories, where morphisms to the monoidal unit are not necessarily unique, but form a group. As we show, these categories exhibit a rich theory of conditional independence, generalising the case of Markov categories. We also introduce the corresponding notion for commutative monads, which we call weakly affine, and for which we give two equivalent characterisations.

The paper argues that such monads are relevant to the study of categorical probability. A case at hand is the monad of non-negative, non-zero measures, which is not affine, yet weakly so. With these structures, one can investigate probability “up to normalisation” in a precise categorical way.

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1 Introduction

For context:

► **Proposition 1.1.** *A monoid (M, m, e) is a group if and only if the associativity square*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times M \times M & \xrightarrow{m \times \text{id}} & M \times M \\ \downarrow \text{id} \times m & & \downarrow m \\ M \times M & \xrightarrow{m} & M \end{array} \quad (1)$$

is a pullback.

This statement holds generally for a monoid object in a cartesian monoidal category, where the following elementwise proof still applies by the Yoneda lemma.

Proof. The square (1) is a pullback, both of sets and of groups, if and only if given $a, g, h, c \in M$ such that $ag = hc$, there exists a unique $b \in M$ such that $g = bc$ and $h = ab$.

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40 First, suppose that G is a group. Then the only possible choice of b is

$$41 \quad b = a^{-1}h = gc^{-1},$$

42 which is unique by uniqueness of inverses.

43 Conversely, suppose that (1) is a pullback. We can set $g, h = e$ and $c = a$ so that
 44 $ae = ea = a$. Instantiating the pullback property on these elements gives b such that $ab = e$
 45 and $ba = e$, that is, $b = a^{-1}$. ◀

46 ► **Definition 1.1.** Let X be a set. Denote by MX the set of finitely supported measures on
 47 X , i.e. functions $m : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ which are zero for all but a finite number of $x \in X$. Given
 48 a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$, denote by $Mf : MX \rightarrow MY$ the function sending $m \in MX$ to the
 49 assignment

$$50 \quad (Mf)(m) : y \mapsto \sum_{x \in f^{-1}(y)} p(x).$$

51 This makes M into a functor, and even a monad with the following unit and multiplication
 52 maps.

$$53 \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\delta} & MX \\ x & \longmapsto & \delta_x, \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} MMX & \xrightarrow{E} & MX \\ \xi & \longmapsto & E\xi, \end{array}$$

54 where

$$55 \quad \delta_x(x') = \begin{cases} 1 & x = x', \\ 0 & x \neq x', \end{cases} \quad (E\xi)(x) = \sum_{m \in MX} \xi(m) m(x).$$

56 Call M the measure monad on **Set**.

57 Denote also by $DX \subseteq MX$ the subset of probability measures, i.e. those finitely supported
 58 $p : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that

$$59 \quad \sum_{x \in X} p(x) = 1.$$

60 D forms a submonad of M called the distribution monad.

61 1.1 GS-monoidal and Markov categories

62 The notion of *gs-monoidal category* has been originally introduced in the context of algebraic
 63 approaches to term graph rewriting [3], and then developed in a series of papers [4, 6, 5].
 64 We recall here the basic definitions adopting the graphical formalism of string diagrams,
 65 referring to [13] for background on various notions of monoidal categories and their associated
 66 diagrammatic calculus.

T: The text has contained both terms “gs-monoidal category” and “GS-category”, and it would probably be better to stick with one of these two. I’ve opted for the former now since that’s what it’s in the literature, but “GS category” with or without dash seems fine too (and perhaps the people who prefer to say “CD category” could be convinced to say “GS category” instead)

67
 68 ► **Definition 1.2.** A *gs-monoidal category* is a symmetric monoidal category $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, I)$
 69 with a commutative comonoid structure on each object X , consisting of a comultiplication
 70 and a counit,

$$\text{copy}_X = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ X \end{array} \quad \text{del}_X = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ X \end{array}$$

which satisfy the commutative comonoid equations:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ X \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ X \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ X \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} | \\ X \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ \bullet \\ | \\ X \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ \bullet \\ | \\ X \end{array}$$

These comonoid structures must be multiplicative with respect to the monoidal structure:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ X \otimes Y \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ \bullet \\ | \\ X \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ X \otimes Y \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ X \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ Y \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ I \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ I \end{array}$$

► **Definition 1.3.** A morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in a gs-monoidal category is called *copyable* or *functional* if and only if

$$\begin{array}{c} Y \quad Y \\ \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ \boxed{f} \\ | \\ X \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} Y \quad Y \\ \boxed{f} \quad \boxed{f} \\ \text{---} \backslash \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} / \\ | \\ X \end{array}$$

It is called *discardable* or *full* if

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ \boxed{f} \\ | \\ X \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ X \end{array}$$

► **Example 1.4.** The category **Rel** of sets and relations with the monoidal operation $\otimes : \mathbf{Rel} \times \mathbf{Rel} \rightarrow \mathbf{Rel}$ the given by the direct product of sets is a gs-monoidal category [6]. In this gs-monoidal category, the copyable arrows are precisely the partial functions, and the discardable arrows are the total relations.

► **Remark 1.5.** It is well-known that if duplicators and dischargers of a given gs-monoidal category \mathcal{C} satisfy naturality, then the monoidal product is the categorical product, and thus the category is cartesian monoidal [7], i.e. the following conditions are equivalent for a gs-monoidal category \mathcal{C} :

- \mathcal{C} is cartesian monoidal;
- every morphism is copyable and discardable;
- the copy and discard maps are natural.

In recent works [?] it has been proved that gs-monoidal structure naturally arises in several situations, such as Kleisli categories of commutative monads or span categories. In the following proposition, we recall the result regarding Kleisli categories:

► **Proposition 1.6.** *Let T be a symmetric monoidal (equivalently, commutative) monad on a cartesian monoidal category \mathcal{D} . Then Kl_T is canonically a gs-monoidal category with copy and discard structure induced by that of \mathcal{D} .*

► **Definition 1.7.** *A gs-monoidal category is called Markov if any (hence all) of the following equivalent conditions are satisfied:*

- The monoidal unit is terminal;
- The discard map is natural;
- Every morphism is discardable.

► **Definition 1.8.** *A monad T on a cartesian monoidal category is called affine if $T1 \cong 1$.*

► **Proposition 1.9.** *In the hypotheses of Proposition 1.6, we have that Kl_T is Markov if and only if T is affine.*

In this work, we introduce an intermediate level between gs-monoidal and Markov called *weakly Markov*, and its corresponding notion for monads, which we call *weakly affine*.

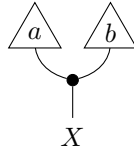
2 Weakly Markov categories and weakly affine monads

2.1 The monoid of effects

In a gs-monoidal category \mathcal{C} we call a *state* a morphism from the monoidal unit $p : I \rightarrow X$, and *effect* or *co-state* a morphism to the monoidal unit $a : X \rightarrow I$. We represent them as triangles as follows.



Effects, i.e. elements of the set $\mathcal{C}(X, I)$, form canonically a commutative monoid as follows: the monoidal unit is the discard map $X \rightarrow I$, and given $a, b : X \rightarrow I$, their product ab is given by copying:¹



If a morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is copyable and discardable, precomposition with f induces a morphism of monoids $\mathcal{C}(Y, I) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X, I)$.

Let's now consider the case where the gs-monoidal structure comes from a commutative monad on a cartesian monoidal category \mathcal{D} . In this case, the monoid structure of Kleisli

¹ See e.g. also the \odot product in [2, Proposition 3.10].

morphisms $X \rightarrow 1$ comes from the following canonical internal monoid structure of $T1$ in \mathcal{D} , given by [12, Section 10]

$$1 \xrightarrow{\eta} T1, \quad T1 \times T1 \xrightarrow{c} T(1 \times 1) \xrightarrow{\cong} T1.$$

For example, for the monad of measures M , we obtain $M1 = [0, \infty)$ with its usual multiplication.

The monoid structure of Kleisli morphisms $X \rightarrow 1$ is now given as follows. The unit is given by

$$X \xrightarrow{!} 1 \xrightarrow{\eta} T1,$$

and the multiplication of the morphisms $f^\sharp, g^\sharp : X \rightarrow T1$ is

$$X \xrightarrow{\text{copy}} X \times X \xrightarrow{f^\sharp \times g^\sharp} T1 \times T1 \xrightarrow{c} T(1 \times 1) \xrightarrow{\cong} T1.$$

For the monad of measures M , Kleisli morphisms $X \rightarrow 1$ are functions $X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, and their monoidal structure is their pointwise product.

Note that the commutative monoid $\mathcal{C}(X, I)$ acts on the set $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$: given $a : X \rightarrow I$ and $f : X \rightarrow Y$, the resulting $a \cdot f$ is given as follows,



and the product $(f, g) \mapsto f \cdot g := (f \otimes g) \circ \text{copy}_X$ is equivariant for this action in both variables (separately). For the monad of measures M , this action amounts to a pointwise rescaling.

2.2 Main definitions

► **Definition 2.1.** A gs-monoidal category \mathcal{C} is called *weakly Markov* if for every object X , the monoid $\mathcal{C}(X, I)$ is a group.

Every Markov category is weakly Markov: for each X , the monoid $\mathcal{C}(X, I)$ is the trivial group.

T: Instead of saying “weakly Markov GS-category”, perhaps we can just say “weakly Markov category”?

► **Definition 2.2.** Given two parallel morphisms $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$ in a weakly Markov category \mathcal{C} , we say that f and g are:

1. *equivalent*, denoted $f \sim g$, if they lie in the same orbit for the action of $\mathcal{C}(X, I)$, i.e. if there is $a \in \mathcal{C}(X, I)$ such that $a \cdot f = g$.
2. *uniquely equivalent* if there is a unique $a \in \mathcal{C}(X, I)$ such that $a \cdot f = g$.

T: Isn't the equivalence always unique? The action of $\mathcal{C}(X, I)$ on $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ is free, as one can easily see by discarding Y . That's basically also the argument used in Proposition 3.5 below

T: Is it worth noting that the equivalence classes form a Markov cat, which is isomorphic to the Markov cat of discardable morphisms?

Let's now look at the Kleisli case.

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► **Definition 2.3.** A commutative monad T on a cartesian monoidal category is called *weakly affine* if $T1$ with its canonical internal monoid structure is a group.

This choice of terminology is motivated by the following proposition, which can be seen as a “weakly” version of Proposition 1.9.

► **Proposition 2.4.** Let \mathcal{D} be a cartesian monoidal category, and let T be a commutative monad on \mathcal{D} . Then the Kleisli category of T is weakly Markov if and only if T is weakly affine.

Proof. First, suppose that $T1$ is an internal group, and denote by $\iota : T1 \rightarrow T1$ its inversion map. The inverse of a Kleisli morphism $a : X \rightarrow 1$ in $\text{Kl}_T(X, 1)$ represented by $a^\# : X \rightarrow T1$ is represented by $\iota \circ a^\#$: indeed, the following diagram in \mathcal{D} commutes,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{\text{copy}} & X \times X & & \\
 a^\# \downarrow & & a^\# \times a^\# \downarrow & \searrow a^\# \times (\iota \circ a^\#) & \\
 T1 & \xrightarrow{\text{copy}} & T1 \times T1 & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times \iota} & T1 \times T1 \xrightarrow{c} T(1 \times 1) \\
 ! \downarrow & & \downarrow ! & & \downarrow \cong \\
 1 & \xrightarrow{\eta} & & & T1
 \end{array}$$

where the bottom rectangle commutes since ι is the inversion map for $T1$. The analogous diagram with $\iota \times \text{id}$ in place of $\text{id} \times \iota$ commutes analogously.

Conversely, suppose that for every X , the monoid structure on $\text{Kl}_T(X, 1)$ has inverses. Then in particular we can take $X = T1$, and the inverse of the Kleisli morphism $\text{id} : T1 \rightarrow T1$ is an inversion map for $T1$. ◀

This result can also be thought of in terms of the Yoneda embedding, see the details in Appendix A.

2.3 Examples of weakly affine monads

Every affine monad is a weakly affine monad. Here are less trivial examples.

► **Example 2.5.** Let $M^* : \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ be the monad assigning to every set the set of finitely supported discrete *nonzero* measures on M^* , or equivalently let $M^*(X)$ for any set X be the set of nonzero finitely supported functions $X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$. The monad structure is defined in terms of the same formulas as for the monad of measures M (Definition 1.1) and the components $c_{X,Y}$ are also given by the formation of product measures, or equivalently pointwise products of functions $X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$.

Since $M^*1 \cong (0, \infty) \not\cong 1$, this monad is not affine. However the monoid structure of $(0, \infty)$ induced by M^* is the usual multiplication of positive real numbers, which form a group. Therefore M^* is weakly affine, and its Kleisli category is weakly Markov.

T: More generally, we could consider nonzero measures with values in any positive semi-field, see the corresponding monads considered in arXiv:2108.10718. Not sure though if it's interesting enough to mention?

On the other hand, if the zero measure is included, we have $M1 \cong [0, \infty)$ which is not a group under multiplication, so M is not weakly affine.

► **Example 2.6.** Let A be a commutative monoid. Then the functor $T_A := A \times -$ on \mathbf{Set} has a canonical structure of commutative monad, where the lax structure components $c_{X,Y}$ are given by multiplying elements in A while carrying the elements of X and Y along.

189 Since $T_A(1) \cong A$, the monad T_A is weakly affine if and only if A is a group, and affine if
 190 and only if $A \cong 1$.

191 ► **Example 2.7.** Here is a negative example. Consider the free abelian group monad F on
 192 **Set**. Its functor takes a set X and forms the set FX of finite multisets (with repetition,
 193 where order does not matter) of elements of X and their formal inverses. We have that
 194 $F1 \cong \mathbb{Z}$, which is an abelian group under addition. However, the monoid structure on $F1$
 195 induced by the monoidal structure of the monad corresponds to the *multiplication* in \mathbb{Z} ,
 196 which does not have inverses. Therefore F is not weakly affine.

197 3 Conditional independence in weakly Markov categories

198 Markov categories have a rich theory of conditional dependence and independence [10]. Some
 199 of those ideas can be translated and generalized to the setting of weakly Markov categories.

200 ► **Definition 3.1.** A morphism $f : A \rightarrow X_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes X_n$ in a gs-monoidal category \mathcal{C} is said
 201 to exhibit *conditional independence of the X_i given A* if and only if it can be expressed as a
 202 product of the following form.



204 Note that this is slightly different from [1, Definition 6.6], although it is equivalent for
 205 the case of Markov categories.

206 How is it different? It looks to me like they consider it only for conditionals of states
 and require that equation to hold only with almost sure equality, but that means that
 it's slightly different already for Markov cats

207 Here is what conditional independence looks like in the Kleisli case.

208 ► **Proposition 3.2.** Let \mathcal{D} be a cartesian monoidal category, and let T be a commutative
 209 monad on \mathcal{D} . A Kleisli morphism represented by $f^\sharp : A \rightarrow T(X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n)$ exhibits
 210 conditional independence of the X_i given A if and only if it factors as follows

211

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f^\sharp} & T(X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n) \\ (g_1^\sharp, \dots, g_n^\sharp) \downarrow & & \\ TX_1 \times \cdots \times TX_n & \xrightarrow{c} & T(X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n) \end{array}$$

212 for some Kleisli maps $g_i^\sharp : A \rightarrow TX_i$, where the map c above is the one obtained by iterating
 213 the multiplication of the monoidal structure (such a map is unique by associativity).

214 **Proof.** In terms of the base category \mathcal{D} , a Kleisli morphism in the form of Definition 3.1
 215 reads as follows.

216

$$A \xrightarrow{\text{copy}} A \times \cdots \times A \xrightarrow{g_1^\sharp \times \cdots \times g_n^\sharp} TX_1 \times \cdots \times TX_n \xrightarrow{c} T(X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n).$$

217 Therefore $f^\sharp : A \rightarrow T(X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n)$ exhibits the conditional independence if and only if it
 218 is of the form above. ◀

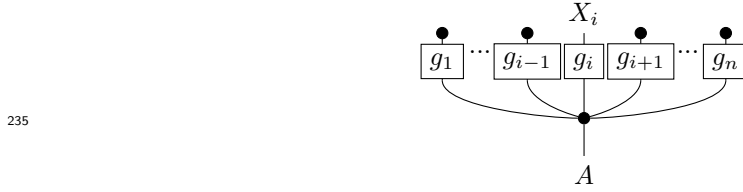
219 ► **Example 3.3.** In the Kleisli category of the distribution monad D , which is Markov, a
 220 morphism $f : A \rightarrow X \otimes Y$ exhibits conditional independence if and only if it is the product
 221 of its marginals [8, Section 12].

222 ► **Example 3.4.** In the Kleisli category of the measure monad M , the zero measure always
 223 displays conditional independence of its outputs given its inputs: for example, for $A = 1$, the
 224 zero measure on $X \times Y$ is the product of the zero measure on X and the zero (or any other)
 225 measure on Y . Notice that both marginals of the zero measure are zero measures—therefore,
 226 the factors appearing in the product are not necessarily related to the marginals.

227 In a weakly Markov category, the situation is similar to the Markov case, but up to
 228 equivalence.

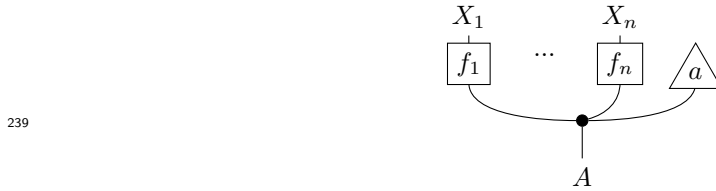
229 ► **Proposition 3.5.** *Let $f : A \rightarrow X_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes X_n$ be a morphism in a weakly Markov category*
 230 *\mathcal{C} . Then f exhibits conditional independence of the X_i given A if and only if it is equivalent*
 231 *to the product of all its marginals. Moreover, in that case f is uniquely equivalent to the*
 232 *product of its marginals.*

233 **Proof.** Denote the marginals of f by f_1, \dots, f_n . Suppose that f is a product as in Defini-
 234 tion 3.1. For each $i = 1, \dots, n$, by marginalizing, we get that f_i is equal to the following.

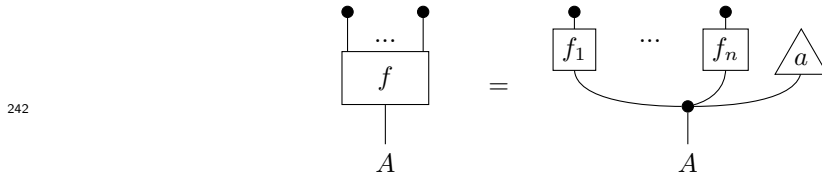


236 Therefore for each i we have that $f_i \sim g_i$.

237 Conversely, suppose that f is equivalent to the product of its marginals, i.e. that there
 238 exists $a : X \rightarrow I$ such that f is equal to the following.

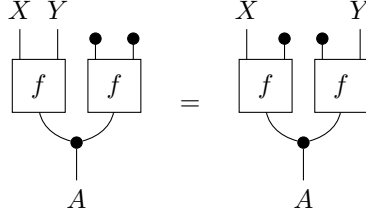


240 One can then choose $g_i = f_i$ for all $i < n$, and $g_n = a \cdot f_n$, so that f is in the form of
 241 Definition 3.1. Moreover, by marginalizing over all the X_i at once, we see that



243 so that a is uniquely determined. ◀

244 ► **Remark 3.6.** For $n = 2$, a morphism $f : A \rightarrow X \otimes Y$ in a weakly Markov category \mathcal{C}
 245 exhibits conditional independence of X and Y given A if and only if the following equation
 246 holds.



3.1 Main result

The concept of conditional independence for general weakly Markov categories allows us to give an equivalent characterization of weakly affine monads. The condition is in terms of a pullback condition on the associativity diagram, and can be seen as a generalization of Proposition 1.1.

► **Theorem 3.7.** *Let \mathcal{D} be a cartesian monoidal category, and let T be a commutative monad on \mathcal{D} . Then the following conditions are equivalent.*

1. T is weakly affine;
2. The Kleisli category Kl_T is weakly Markov;
3. For all objects X, Y , and Z , the following associativity diagram is a pullback.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 T(X) \times T(Y) \times T(Z) & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times c_{Y,Z}} & T(X) \times T(Y \times Z) \\
 c_{X,Y} \times \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow c_{X,Y \times Z} \\
 T(X \times Y) \times T(Z) & \xrightarrow{c_{X \times Y, Z}} & T(X \times Y \times Z)
 \end{array} \quad (2)$$

We prove the theorem by means of the following property of weakly Markov categories.

► **Lemma 3.8** (localized independence property). *Let \mathcal{C} be a weakly Markov category. Whenever a morphism $f : A \rightarrow X \otimes Y \otimes Z$ exhibits conditional independence of $X \otimes Y$ (jointly) and Z given A , as well as conditional independence of X and $Y \otimes Z$ given A , then it exhibits conditional independence of X, Y and Z given A .*

Proof of Lemma 3.8. Suppose $f : A \rightarrow X \otimes Y \otimes Z$ exhibits conditional independence of $X \otimes Y$ (jointly) and Z given A , as well as conditional independence of X and $Y \otimes Z$ given A . By marginalizing out X , we have that f_{YZ} exhibits conditional independence of Y and Z given A . Since by hypothesis f exhibits conditional independence of X and $Y \otimes Z$ given A , by Proposition 3.5 we have that f is equivalent to the product of f_X and f_{YZ} . But, again by Proposition 3.5, f_{YZ} is equivalent to the product of f_Y and f_Z , so we have that f is equivalent to the product of all its marginals. Using Proposition 3.5 in the other direction, this means that f exhibits conditional independence of X, Y and Z given A . ◀

We are now ready to prove the theorem.

Proof of Theorem 3.7. $1 \Leftrightarrow 2$: see Proposition 2.4.

$1 \Rightarrow 3$: By the universal property of products, a cone over the cospan in (2) consists of maps $g_1^\sharp : A \rightarrow TX$, $g_{23}^\sharp : A \rightarrow T(Y \times Z)$, $g_{12}^\sharp : A \rightarrow T(X \times Y)$ and $g_3^\sharp : A \rightarrow TZ$ such that

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the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 276 \quad A \xrightarrow{(g_1^\#, g_{23}^\#)} T(X) \times T(Y) \times T(Z) \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times c_{Y,Z}} T(X) \times T(Y \times Z) \\
 \quad \quad \quad \downarrow c_{X,Y} \times \text{id} \quad \quad \quad \downarrow c_{X,Y \times Z} \\
 277 \quad \quad \quad T(X \times Y) \times T(Z) \xrightarrow{c_{X \times Y, Z}} T(X \times Y \times Z)
 \end{array}$$

$(g_{12}^\#, g_3^\#)$

By Proposition 3.2, this amounts to a Kleisli map $f^\# : A \rightarrow T(X \times Y \times Z)$ exhibiting conditional independence of X and $Y \otimes Z$ given A , as well as of $X \otimes Y$ and Z given A . By the localized independence property (Lemma 3.8), we then have that f exhibits conditional independence of all X , Y and Z given A , and so, again by Proposition 3.2, $f^\#$ factors through the product $TX \times TY \times TZ$. More specifically, by marginalizing over Z , we have that $g_{12}^\#$ factors through $TX \times TY$, i.e. the following diagram on the left commutes for some $h_1^\# : A \rightarrow TX$ and $h_2^\# : A \rightarrow TY$, and similarly, by marginalizing over X , the diagram on the right commutes for some $\ell_2^\# : A \rightarrow TY$ and $\ell_3^\# : A \rightarrow TZ$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{g_{12}^\#} & TX \times TY \\
 (h_1^\#, h_2^\#) \downarrow & & \downarrow c \\
 TX \times TY & \xrightarrow{c} & T(X \times Y)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{g_{23}^\#} & TY \times TZ \\
 (\ell_2^\#, \ell_3^\#) \downarrow & & \downarrow c \\
 TY \times TZ & \xrightarrow{c} & T(Y \times Z)
 \end{array}$$

In other words, the upper and the left curved triangles in the following diagram commute.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 288 \quad A \xrightarrow{(g_1^\#, g_{23}^\#)} T(X) \times T(Y) \times T(Z) \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times c_{Y,Z}} T(X) \times T(Y \times Z) \\
 \quad \quad \quad \downarrow c_{X,Y} \times \text{id} \quad \quad \quad \downarrow c_{X,Y \times Z} \\
 \quad \quad \quad T(X \times Y) \times T(Z) \xrightarrow{c_{X \times Y, Z}} T(X \times Y \times Z)
 \end{array}$$

$(g_1^\#, g_{23}^\#)$
 $(g_1^\#, \ell_2^\#, \ell_3^\#)$
 $(h_1^\#, h_2^\#, g_3^\#)$
 $(g_{12}^\#, g_3^\#)$

By marginalizing over Y and Z , and by weak affinity of T , there exists a unique $a^\# : A \rightarrow T1$ such that $h_1 = a \cdot g_1$. Therefore

$$g_{12} = h_1 \cdot h_2 = (a \cdot g_1) \cdot h_2 = g_1 \cdot (a \cdot h_2),$$

and so in the diagram above we can equivalently replace h_1 and h_2 with g_1 and $a \cdot h_2$. Similarly by marginalizing over X and Y , there exists a unique $c^\# : A \rightarrow T1$ such that $\ell_3 = c \cdot g_3$, so that

$$g_{23} = \ell_2 \cdot \ell_3 = \ell_2 \cdot (c \cdot g_3) = (c \cdot \ell_2) \cdot g_3$$

and in the diagram above we can replace ℓ_2 and ℓ_3 with $c \cdot \ell_2$ and g_3 , as follows.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 297 \quad A \xrightarrow{(g_1^\#, g_{23}^\#)} T(X) \times T(Y) \times T(Z) \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times c_{Y,Z}} T(X) \times T(Y \times Z) \\
 \quad \quad \quad \downarrow c_{X,Y} \times \text{id} \quad \quad \quad \downarrow c_{X,Y \times Z} \\
 \quad \quad \quad T(X \times Y) \times T(Z) \xrightarrow{c_{X \times Y, Z}} T(X \times Y \times Z)
 \end{array}$$

$(g_1^\#, g_{23}^\#)$
 $(g_1^\#, (c \cdot \ell_2)^\#, g_3^\#)$
 $(g_1^\#, (a \cdot h_2)^\#, g_3^\#)$
 $(g_{12}^\#, g_3^\#)$

298 Now, marginalizing over X and Z , we see that necessarily $a \cdot h_2 = c \cdot \ell_2$. Therefore there is a
 299 unique map $A \rightarrow TX \times TY \times TZ$ making the whole diagram commute, which means that
 300 (2) is a pullback.

301 $3 \Rightarrow 1$: If T is weakly affine, then taking $X = Y = Z = 1$ in (2) shows that this monoid
 302 must be an abelian group: we obtain a unique arrow $\iota: T(1) \rightarrow T(1)$ making the following
 303 diagram commute,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 T1 & & \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, \eta_1!)} & & \\
 & \searrow (\text{id}, \iota, \text{id}) & & \searrow & \\
 & T1 \times T1 \times T1 & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times c_{1,1}} & T1 \times T(1 \times 1) & \xrightarrow{\cong} T1 \times T1 \\
 & \downarrow c_{1,1} \times \text{id} & & \downarrow c_{1,1 \times 1} & \downarrow c_{1,1} \\
 & T(1 \times 1) \times T1 & \xrightarrow{c_{1 \times 1, 1}} & T(1 \times 1 \times 1) & \xrightarrow{\cong} T(1 \times 1) \\
 & \downarrow \cong & & \downarrow \cong & \downarrow \cong \\
 & T1 \times T1 & \xrightarrow{c_{1,1}} & T(1 \times 1) & \xrightarrow{\cong} T1
 \end{array}$$

305 and the commutativity shows that ι satisfies the equations making it the inversion map for a
 306 group structure. \blacktriangleleft

307 **► Example 3.9.** In the Kleisli category of the measure monad Kl_M (which is not weakly
 308 affine) consider the following diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 MX \times MY \times MZ & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times c_{Y,Z}} & MX \times M(Y \times Z) \\
 c_{X,Y} \times \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow c_{X,Y \times Z} \\
 M(X \times Y) \times MZ & \xrightarrow{c_{X \times Y, Z}} & M(X \times Y \times Z)
 \end{array}$$

310 In the top-right corner $MX \times M(Y \times Z)$, take the pair $(0, p)$ where p is a nonzero measure
 311 on $Y \times Z$, and similarly, in the bottom-left corner take the pair $(q, 0)$ where q is a nonzero
 312 measure on $X \times Y$. Following the diagram, both pairs are mapped to the zero measure in
 313 the bottom-right corner. If the diagram was a pullback, we would be able to express the
 314 top-right and bottom-left corners as coming from the same triple in $MX \times MY \times MZ$, that
 315 is, there would exist a measure m on Y such that $m \cdot 0 = p$ and $0 \cdot m = q$. Since p and q are
 316 nonzero, this is not possible.

317 4 Further results

318 **► Proposition 4.1.** *Let T be a weakly affine monad. If the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 T(1) & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & T(1) \\
 \iota \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_{T1} \\
 T(1) & \xrightarrow{T(\eta_1)} & T^2(1)
 \end{array}$$

320 *commutes, then:*

- 321 1. $T^2(1) \cong T(1)$ in \mathcal{D} .
- 322 2. $T(1)$ is an idempotent group, namely $\iota = \text{id}_{T1}$.

T: Idempotency usually means that $xx = x$ for every group/monoid element x , right? The correct term here would be exponent 2, see math.stackexchange.com/questions/1228513/what-is-the-exponent-of-a-group

T: Having a nontrivial example of this statement would help to motivate and illustrate it. Like this, its meaning and significance remains quite unclear

Proof. To prove the first claim, it is enough to show that $T(1) \cong 1$ in the Kleisli category \mathbf{Kl}_T . By weak affinity, $T(1)$ is a group in \mathcal{D} , where the arrow $\eta_1: 1 \rightarrow T(1)$ is the unit of the group and $\iota: T(1) \rightarrow T(1)$ is the inversion map. Therefore, we have that the composition $\iota\eta_1: 1 \rightarrow T(1)$ has to be equal to η_1 . Hence we can consider the arrows $1 \rightarrow T(1)$ and $T(1) \rightarrow 1$ in the Kleisli category \mathbf{Kl}_T represented by $T(\eta_1)\eta_1$ and ι , respectively. The composition $T(\eta_1)\eta_1$ with ι in \mathbf{Kl}_T is given by $\mu_{1,1}T(\iota)T(\eta_1)\eta_1$. Employing the naturality of η_1 and the fact that $\iota\eta_1 = \eta_1$, it is direct to check that $\mu T(\iota)T(\eta_1)\eta_1 = \eta_1$, that is the identity $1 \rightarrow 1$ in \mathbf{Kl}_T . Now to show that the other composition gives the identity on $T(1)$ in \mathbf{Kl}_T , it is enough to show that $T(\eta_1)\iota = \eta_{T(1)}$, but this follows by hypothesis.

For the second claim, we can compose the diagram with the monad multiplication, obtaining $\iota = \text{id}_{T1}$. ◀

► **Remark 4.2.** Bart Jacobs calls a strong monad T on a cartesian monoidal category *strongly affine* [11] if for every pair of objects X and Y , the following diagram is a pullback,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times TY & \xrightarrow{s} & T(X \times Y) \\ \downarrow \pi_1 & & \downarrow T\pi_1 \\ X & \xrightarrow{\eta} & TX \end{array}$$

where s denotes the strength and η denotes the unit of the monad. Every strongly affine monad is affine. The corresponding condition on the (Markov) category \mathbf{Kl}_T is called *positivity* [9, Section 2].

Note that for a generic commutative monad, the diagram above may even fail to commute (take for example the measure monad M , and start with $(x, 0)$ in the top left corner). One can however consider the following diagram, which reduces to the one above (up to isomorphism) in the affine case,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times TY & \xrightarrow{s} & T(X \times Y) \\ \downarrow \text{id} \times T! & & \downarrow T(\text{id} \times !) \\ X \times T1 & \xrightarrow{s} & T(X \times 1) \cong TX \end{array}$$

and which always commutes by naturality of the strength.

T: Oh yes! Now Bart's diagram makes a lot more sense

One can then call the monad T *positive* if this second diagram is a pullback (and possibly define *positive gs-monoidal categories* analogously to positive Markov categories). All the examples of weakly affine monads that we have are positive in this sense, so one may wonder if every weakly affine monad is positive. For now, this remains an open question.

T: Isn't the answer clearly negative since we have affine monads that are not strongly affine?

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A Yoneda embedding interpretation of Proposition 2.4

We can interpret Proposition 2.4 more abstractly in terms of presheaves. Let \mathcal{D} be a cartesian monoidal category. Consider the presheaf category $[\mathcal{D}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Set}]$, equipped with the Day convolution product,

$$F \boxtimes G \cong \int^{A, B \in \mathcal{D}} \mathcal{D}(-, A \times B) \times F(A) \times G(B).$$

The Yoneda embedding $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow [\mathcal{D}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Set}]$ is strong monoidal: indeed, for each X ,

$$1 \cong \mathcal{D}(X, 1),$$

since 1 is terminal, and for each X and Y , by Yoneda reduction,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}(-, X) \boxtimes \mathcal{D}(-, Y) &\cong \int^{A, B \in \mathcal{D}} \mathcal{D}(-, A \times B) \times \mathcal{D}(-, X) \times \mathcal{D}(-, Y) \\ &\cong \mathcal{D}(-, X \times Y). \end{aligned}$$

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Therefore, and by the universal property of products, at the level of individual hom-sets the Day convolution product of representable presheaves just takes the cartesian products of sets:

$$(\mathcal{D}(-, X) \boxtimes \mathcal{D}(-, Y))(A) \cong \mathcal{D}(A, X \times Y) \cong \mathcal{D}(A, X) \times \mathcal{D}(A, Y).$$

Take now an object M of \mathcal{D} . Since the Yoneda embedding is fully faithful and strong monoidal, a monoid structure (M, m, e) on M is equivalently a monoid structure on the representable presheaf $\mathcal{D}(-, M)$. This makes the individual hom-sets monoids, with unit and multiplication as follows for each object X :

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{D}(X, 1) \xrightarrow{e_*} \mathcal{D}(X, M) \\ \mathcal{D}(X, M) \times \mathcal{D}(X, M) &\xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{D}(X, M \times M) \xrightarrow{m_*} \mathcal{D}(X, M) \end{aligned}$$

T: Using this doesn't require Day convolution though, so perhaps we can get rid of that to simplify?

This is precisely the monoid structure that we have defined in Section 2.1 for $M = T1$.

► **Proposition A.1.** *M is an internal group if and only if all the monoids $\mathcal{D}(X, M)$ are groups.*

Proof. By Proposition 1.1, M is a group object if and only if its associativity square (1) is a pullback. Since the hom-functor preserves and reflects all limits in its second argument, we have that (1) is a pullback if and only if for each object X , the following diagram (or equivalently, its bottom right square) is a pullback,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{D}(X, M) \times \mathcal{D}(X, M) \times \mathcal{D}(X, M) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{D}(X, M) \times \mathcal{D}(X, M) & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow \cong & \downarrow \cong & & \\ & \mathcal{D}(X, M \times M \times M) & \xrightarrow{(m \times \text{id})_*} & \mathcal{D}(X, M \times M) & \\ & \downarrow (\text{id} \times m)_* & & \downarrow m_* & \\ \mathcal{D}(X, M) \times \mathcal{D}(X, M) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \mathcal{D}(X, M \times M) & \xrightarrow{m_*} & \mathcal{D}(X, M) \end{array}$$

where the unlabelled arrows are the unique ones that make the diagram commute. Again by Proposition 1.1, the diagram above is a pullback if and only if $\mathcal{D}(X, M)$ is a group. ◀