

A categorical view of conditional expectation

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Chaput, Danos and Plotkin

Philippe Chaput, Vincent Danos, Prakash Panangaden, and Gordon Plotkin. "Approximating Markov processes by averaging." *Journal of the ACM (JACM)* 61, no. 1 (2014): 1-45.

The idea of functorializing conditional expectation is due to Vincent.

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- If we are given a countable partition $\{B_i | B_i \in \Sigma\}$ of Ω we can define a function $f : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $f(\omega) = P(A|B_i)$ if $\omega \in B_i$.

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- If we are given a countable partition $\{B_i | B_i \in \Sigma\}$ of Ω we can define a function $f : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $f(\omega) = P(A|B_i)$ if $\omega \in B_i$.
- If we are given $\Lambda \subset \Sigma$ and for every $B \in \Lambda$ we know whether $\omega \in B$ we can define the random variable $P[A||\Lambda]$ which is Λ -measurable and

$$\forall B \in \Lambda \int_B P[A||\Lambda] dp = P(A \cap B).$$

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- Why isn't $E[f||\Lambda]$ just f ?
- Because it is only Λ measurable; so much “smoother.”

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- If V is complete in this metric it is called a Banach space.

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- With this norm the space of bounded linear maps between Banach spaces forms a Banach space.

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- Finite dimensional Banach spaces are always reflexive.

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- These are all Banach spaces.

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- However, L_1 and L_∞ are *not duals*.
- The dual of L_1 is L_∞ but not the other way around!
- We will switch to a cone view and the situation will be much improved.

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- Unfortunately for us, many of the structures that we want to look at are cones but are not part of any obvious vector space: e.g. the measures on a space.
- We could artificially embed them in a vector space, for example, by introducing signed measures.

Abstract cones d'après Selinger

Definition of Cones

A **cone** is a commutative monoid $(V, +, 0)$ with an action of $\mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$. Multiplication by reals distributes over addition and the following cancellation law holds:

$$\forall u, v, w \in V, v + u = w + u \Rightarrow v = w.$$

The following strictness property also holds:

$$v + w = 0 \Rightarrow v = w = 0.$$

Note that every cone comes with a natural order.

An order on a cone

If $u, v \in V$, a cone, one says $u \leq v$ if and only if there is an element $w \in V$ such that $u + w = v$.

Definition of a normed cone

A **normed cone** C is a cone with a function

$\|\cdot\| : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ satisfying the usual conditions:

$\|v\| = 0$ if and only if $v = 0$

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We can write $u_i - u_j$ when we really mean the (unique) w such that $u_j + w = u_i$; needs $u_j \leq u_i$. So, in the case that we have an increasing sequence we can define Cauchy sequence in, more or less, the usual way.

Completeness

However, order-theoretic concepts can be used instead.

Complete normed cones

An ω -**complete normed cone** is a normed cone such that if $\{a_i \mid i \in I\}$ is an increasing sequence with $\{\|a_i\|\}$ bounded then the lub $\bigvee_{i \in I} a_i$ exists and $\bigvee_{i \in I} \|a_i\| = \|\bigvee_{i \in I} a_i\|$.

Convergence in the sense of norm and in the order theory sense match.

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Complete normed cones

An ω -**complete normed cone** is a normed cone such that if $\{a_i \mid i \in I\}$ is an increasing sequence with $\{\|a_i\|\}$ bounded then the lub $\bigvee_{i \in I} a_i$ exists and $\bigvee_{i \in I} \|a_i\| = \|\bigvee_{i \in I} a_i\|$.

Convergence in the sense of norm and in the order theory sense match.

Selinger's lemma

Suppose that u_i is an ω -chain with a l.u.b. in an ω -complete normed cone and u is an upper bound of the u_i . Suppose furthermore that $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \|u - u_i\| = 0$. Then $u = \bigvee_i u_i$.

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Here we are writing $u - u_i$ informally

We really mean w_i where $u_i + w_i = u$.

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An ω -**continuous** linear map between two cones is one that preserves least upper bounds of countable chains.

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Norm of a bounded map

The norm of a bounded linear map $f : C \rightarrow D$ is defined as $\|f\| = \sup\{\|f(u)\| : u \in C, \|u\| \leq 1\}$.

A category of normed cones

The ambient category

The ω -complete normed cones, along with ω -continuous linear maps, form a category which we shall denote $\omega\mathbf{CC}$.

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The subcategory of interest

we define the subcategory $\omega\mathbf{CC}_1$: the norms of the maps are all bounded by 1. Isomorphisms in this category are always isometries.

Dual cone

Given an ω -complete normed cone C , its dual C^* is the set of all ω -continuous linear maps from C to \mathbf{R}_+ . We define the norm on C^* to be the operator norm.

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Basic facts

C^* is an ω -complete normed cone as well, and the cone order corresponds to the point wise order.

The duality functor

In $\omega\mathbf{CC}$, the dual operation becomes a contravariant functor.

If $f : C \rightarrow D$ is a map of cones, we define $f^* : D^* \rightarrow C^*$ as follows:
given a map L in D^* , we define a map f^*L in C^* as $f^*L(u) = L(f(u))$.

How does this compare with Banach spaces?

This dual is stronger than the dual in usual Banach spaces, where we only require the maps to be bounded. For instance, it turns out that the dual to $L_\infty^+(X)$ (to be defined later) is isomorphic to $L_1^+(X)$, which is not the case with the Banach space $L_\infty(X)$.

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- We will denote these cones by $L_1^+(X, \Sigma, \mu)$ and $L_\infty^+(X, \Sigma)$.
- These are complete normed cones.

Cones that we use II

- Let (X, Σ, p) be a measure space with finite measure p . We denote by $\mathcal{M}^{\ll p}(X)$, the cone of all measures on (X, Σ, p) that are absolutely continuous with respect to p

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- We write $\mathcal{M}_{\text{UB}}^p(X)$ for the cone of all measures on (X, Σ) that are uniformly less than a multiple of the measure p : $q \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{UB}}^p$ means that for some real constant $K > 0$ we have $q \leq Kp$.

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- The cones $\mathcal{M}_{\text{UB}}^p(X)$ and $L_\infty^+(X, \Sigma, p)$ are isomorphic.

A Riesz-like theorem

The dual of the cone $L_{\infty}^{+}(X, \Sigma, p)$ is isometrically isomorphic to $\mathcal{M}^{\ll p}(X)$.

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Corollary

Since $\mathcal{M}^{\ll p}(X)$ is isometrically isomorphic to $L_1^+(X)$, an immediate corollary is that $L_\infty^{+,*}(X)$ is isometrically isomorphic to $L_1^+(X)$, which is of course false in general in the context of Banach spaces.

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$\mathcal{M}_{\text{UB}}^p(X)$ is isometrically isomorphic to $L_\infty^+(X)$, hence immediate corollary is that $L_1^{+,*}(X)$ is isometrically isomorphic to $L_\infty^+(X)$.

The pairing

Pairing function

There is a map from the product of the cones $L_\infty^+(X, p)$ and $L_1^+(X, p)$ to \mathbf{R}^+ defined as follows:

$$\forall f \in L_\infty^+(X, p), g \in L_1^+(X, p) \quad \langle f, g \rangle = \int fg dp.$$

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This map is bilinear and is continuous and ω -continuous in both arguments; we refer to it as the pairing.

Duality expressed via pairing

This pairing allows one to express the dualities in a very convenient way. For example, the isomorphism between $L_\infty^+(X, p)$ and $(L_1^+(X, p))^*$ sends $f \in L_\infty^+(X, p)$ to $\lambda g \cdot \langle f, g \rangle = \lambda g \cdot \int fg dp$.

Summary of cones

We fix a probability triple (X, Σ, p) and focus on six spaces of cones that are based on them. They break into two natural groups of three isomorphic spaces. The first three spaces are:

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- A3 $L_\infty^{+,*}(X, p)$ - the dual cone of the cone of almost-everywhere positive bounded measurable functions.

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- B3 $L_1^{+,*}(X, p)$ - the dual of the cone of almost-everywhere positive functions in the normed vector space $L_1(X, p)$.

Summary of dualities and isos

The spaces defined in A1, A2 and A3 are dual to the spaces defined in B1, B2 and B3 respectively. The situation may be depicted in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{M}^{\ll p}(X) & \xleftrightarrow{\sim} & L_1^+(X, p) & \xleftrightarrow{\sim} & L_{\infty}^{+,*}(X, p) & (1) \\ \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & & \updownarrow & \\ \mathcal{M}_{\text{UB}}^p & \xleftrightarrow{\sim} & L_{\infty}^+(X, p) & \xleftrightarrow{\sim} & L_1^{+,*}(X, p) & \end{array}$$

where the vertical arrows represent dualities and the horizontal arrows represent isomorphisms.

- 1 Given (X, Σ, p) and (Y, Λ) and a measurable function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ we obtain a measure q on Y by $q(B) = p(f^{-1}(B))$. This is written $M_f(p)$ and is called the *image measure* of p under f .

Some measure theory

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- 3 For *finite* measures ν , $\nu \ll \mu$ is equivalent to:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \text{ s.t. } \forall A \text{ with } \mu(A) \leq \delta, \nu(A) \leq \varepsilon.$$

The Radon-Nikodym Theorem

The Radon-Nikodym theorem is a central result in measure theory allowing one to define a “derivative” of a measure with respect to another measure.

Radon-Nikodym

If $\nu \ll \mu$, where ν, μ are finite measures on a measurable space (X, Σ) there is a positive measurable function h on X such that for every measurable set B

$$\nu(B) = \int_B h \, d\mu.$$

The function h is defined uniquely up to a set of μ -measure 0. The function h is called the Radon-Nikodym derivative of ν with respect to μ ; we denote it by $\frac{d\nu}{d\mu}$. Since ν is finite, $\frac{d\nu}{d\mu} \in L_1^+(X, \mu)$.

Notation for Radon-Nikodym

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 - given $q \ll p$, we have $\frac{dq}{dp} \cdot p = q$.
 - given $f \in L_1^+(X, p)$, $\frac{df \cdot p}{dp} = f$
- 3 These two identities just say that the operations $(-) \cdot p$ and $\frac{d(-)}{dp}$ are inverses of each other as maps between $L_1^+(X, p)$ and $\mathcal{M}^{\ll p}(X)$ the space of finite measures on X that are absolutely continuous with respect to p .

Expectation and conditional expectation

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- 5 Now she can recompute the expectation values given this information.

Formalizing conditional expectation

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Let (X, Σ, p) be a measure space with p a finite measure, f be in $L_1(X, \Sigma, p)$ and Λ be a sub- σ -algebra of Σ , then there exists a $g \in L_1(X, \Lambda, p)$ such that for all $B \in \Lambda$

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- We clearly have $f \cdot p \ll p$ so the required g is simply $\frac{df \cdot p}{dp|_\Lambda}$, where $p|_\Lambda$ is the restriction of p to the sub- σ -algebra Λ .

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- 2 The conditional expectation is *linear*, *increasing* with respect to the pointwise order.
- 3 It is defined uniquely p -almost everywhere.

Where the action happens

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- This will allow for L_∞ and L_1 versions of the theory.
- Going between these versions by duality will be very useful.

The “infinity” category

\mathbf{Rad}_∞

The category \mathbf{Rad}_∞ has as objects probability spaces, and as arrows $\alpha : (X, p) \rightarrow (Y, q)$, measurable maps such that $M_\alpha(p) \leq Kq$ for some real number K .

The reason for choosing the name \mathbf{Rad}_∞ is that $\alpha \in \mathbf{Rad}_\infty$ maps to $d/dq M_\alpha(p) \in L_\infty^+(Y, q)$.

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- 2 The fact that the category \mathbf{Rad}_∞ embeds in \mathbf{Rad}_1 reflects the fact that L_∞^+ embeds in L_1^+ .

Recall the isomorphism between $L_\infty^+(X, p)$ and $L_1^{+,*}(X, p)$ mediated by the pairing function:

$$f \in L_\infty^+(X, p) \mapsto \lambda g : L_1^+(X, p). \langle f, g \rangle = \int fgdp.$$

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- 5 dually we get $(P_\infty(\alpha))^*$ from $L_\infty^{+,*}(X, p)$ to $L_\infty^{+,*}(Y, q)$.

Expectation value functor

- The **functor** $\mathbb{E}_\infty(\cdot)$ is a functor from \mathbf{Rad}_∞ to $\omega\mathbf{CC}$ which, on objects, maps (X, p) to $L_\infty^+(X, p)$ and on maps is given as follows:

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- Given $\alpha : (X, p) \rightarrow (Y, q)$ in \mathbf{Rad}_∞ the action of the functor is to produce the map $\mathbb{E}_\infty(\alpha) : L_\infty^+(X, p) \rightarrow L_\infty^+(Y, q)$ obtained by composing $(P_1(\alpha))^*$ with the isomorphisms between $L_1^{+,*}$ and L_∞^+

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} L_1^{+,*}(X, p) & \xleftarrow{\dots\dots\dots} & L_\infty^+(X, p) \\ (P_1(\alpha))^* \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbb{E}_\infty(\alpha) \\ L_1^{+,*}(Y, q) & \xrightarrow{\dots\dots\dots} & L_\infty^+(Y, q) \end{array}$$

Consequences

- 1 It is an immediate consequence of the definitions that for any $f \in L_{\infty}^{+}(X, p)$ and $g \in L_1(Y, q)$

$$\langle \mathbb{E}_{\infty}(\alpha)(f), g \rangle_Y = \langle f, P_1(\alpha)(g) \rangle_X.$$

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$$\langle \mathbb{E}_\infty(\alpha)(f), g \rangle_Y = \langle f, P_1(\alpha)(g) \rangle_X.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \lambda h : L_1^+(X, p) \cdot \langle f, h \rangle & \longleftarrow & f \\ \downarrow & & \vdots \\ \lambda g : L_1^+(Y, q) \cdot \langle f, g \circ \alpha \rangle_X & \longleftarrow & \langle \mathbb{E}_\infty(\alpha)(f), g \rangle_Y \end{array}$$

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- 2 One can informally view this functor as a “left adjoint” in view of this proposition.
- 3 Note that since we started with α in \mathbf{Rad}_∞ we get the expectation value as a map between the L_∞^+ cones.

The other expectation value functor

The **functor** $\mathbb{E}_1(\cdot)$ is a functor from \mathbf{Rad}_1 to $\omega\mathbf{CC}$ which maps the object (X, p) to $L_1^+(X, p)$ and on maps is given as follows:

Given $\alpha : (X, p) \rightarrow (Y, q)$ in \mathbf{Rad}_1 the action of the functor is to produce the map $\mathbb{E}_1(\alpha) : L_1^+(X, p) \rightarrow L_1^+(Y, q)$ obtained by composing $(P_\infty(\alpha))^*$ with the isomorphisms between $L_\infty^{+,*}$ and L_1^+ as shown in the diagram below

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L_\infty^{+,*}(X, p) & \xleftarrow{\dots\dots\dots} & L_1^+(X, p) \\ (P_\infty(\alpha))^* \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbb{E}_1(\alpha) \\ L_\infty^{+,*}(Y, q) & \xrightarrow{\dots\dots\dots} & L_1^+(Y, q) \end{array}$$

Another “adjoint”

Once again we have an “adjointness” statement; this time it is a right adjoint.

Right adjoint

Given $f \in L_{\infty}^{+}(Y, q)$ and $g \in L_1^{+}(X, p)$ we have

$$\langle f, \mathbb{E}_1(\alpha)(g) \rangle_Y = \langle P_{\infty}(\alpha)(f), g \rangle_X.$$

Relating the two expectation value functors

Given $\alpha \in \mathbf{Rad}_\infty[(X, p), (Y, q)]$ we have

$$(a) \quad \mathbb{E}_1(\alpha)(f \circ \alpha) = \mathbb{E}_\infty(\alpha)(\mathbf{1}_X)f,$$

$$(b) \quad \mathbb{E}_\infty(\alpha)(f \circ \alpha) = \mathbb{E}_1(\alpha)(\mathbf{1}_X)f,$$

for $f \in L_1^+(Y, q)$ and

for $f \in L_\infty^+(Y, q)$.

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- This is a piece pulled out of a larger work on approximating Markov processes.

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- Instead of compressing the state space we compressed the σ -algebra and used the conditional expectation to define approximate transition kernels.
- But that is the subject of a different talk.