

Approximating Markov Processes, Again!

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Philippe Chaput, Vincent Danos and Gordon Plotkin. Earlier work with Josée Desharnais, François Laviolette, Radha Jagadeesan, Vineet Gupta and Abbas Edalat.

1 Introduction

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- 2 Labelled Markov Processes

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- Proofs seemed to depend on subtle topological conditions. Why?
- Take a predicate transformer view and dualize everything.
- Everything works like magic!
- Bisimulation should never have been defined as a span!

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- Model and reason about systems with *continuous* state spaces or continuous time evolution or both.

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- Interaction is by synchronizing on labels. For each label there is a Markov process described by a stochastic kernel (probabilistic relation).
- We observe the interactions - not the internal states.

A labelled Markov process

with label set \mathcal{A} is a structure

$$(\mathcal{S}, \Sigma, i, \{\tau_a \mid a \in \mathcal{A}\}),$$

where \mathcal{S} is the set of states, i is the initial state, and Σ is the σ -field on \mathcal{S} , and

$$\forall a \in \mathcal{A}, \tau_a : \mathcal{S} \times \Sigma \longrightarrow [0, 1]$$

is a transition sub-probability function.

Transition Probability Functions

$$\tau : \mathcal{S} \times \Sigma \longrightarrow [0, 1]$$

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- This is the stochastic analogue of a binary relation so we have the natural extension of a labelled transition system.

LMPs as Coalgebras

There is a monad defined by Giry in 1981:

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and given $f : (X, \Sigma_X) \rightarrow (Y, \Sigma_Y)$

$$\Gamma(f)(\nu : \Gamma(X)) = \lambda B : \Sigma_Y. \nu(f^{-1}(B)).$$

LMPs are coalgebras for this monad.

Define a *zig-zag* to be a measurable function between LMPs (X, Σ_X, τ_a) and (Y, Σ_Y, ρ_a) such that

$$\tau_a(x, f^{-1}(B)) = \rho_a(f(x), B).$$

Bisimulation as a Span

Define a *zig-zag* to be a measurable function between LMPs (X, Σ_X, τ_a) and (Y, Σ_Y, ρ_a) such that

$$\tau_a(x, f^{-1}(B)) = \rho_a(f(x), B).$$

This is exactly the notion of co-algebra homomorphism.

We say two systems are bisimilar if there is a span of zig-zags connecting them.

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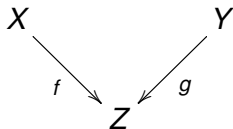
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- Unfortunately even weak pullbacks do not exist!
- Edalat showed how to construct semi-pullbacks (with great pain!)
- and Doberkat improved and generalized the construction.

Let $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{S}, i, \Sigma, \tau)$ be a labelled Markov process. An equivalence relation R on \mathcal{S} is a **bisimulation** if whenever sRs' , with $s, s' \in \mathcal{S}$, we have that for all $a \in \mathcal{A}$ and every R -closed measurable set $A \in \Sigma$, $\tau_a(s, A) = \tau_a(s', A)$.

Two states are bisimilar if they are related by a bisimulation relation.
Can be extended to bisimulation between two different LMPs.

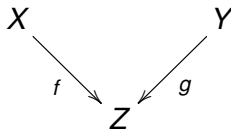
Co-bisimulation

Define the dual of bisimulation using co-spans.



Co-bisimulation

Define the dual of bisimulation using co-spans.



This always yields an equivalence relation because pushouts exist by general abstract nonsense.

This seems to be independently due to Bartels, Sokolova and de Vink and Danos, Desharnais, Laviolette and P.

$$\mathcal{L} ::= \top \mid \phi_1 \wedge \phi_2 \mid \langle \mathbf{a} \rangle_q \phi$$

We say $s \models \langle \mathbf{a} \rangle_q \phi$ iff

$$\exists \mathbf{A} \in \Sigma. (\forall s' \in \mathbf{A}. s' \models \phi) \wedge (\tau_{\mathbf{a}}(s, \mathbf{A}) > q).$$

Two systems are bisimilar iff they obey the same formulas of \mathcal{L} .

This depends on properties of analytic spaces and quotients of such spaces under “nice” equivalence relations.

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It does not require properties of analytic spaces.

For analytic spaces the two concepts coincide.

Provocative Slogan

Co-bisimulation is the *real* concept; it is only a coincidence that bisimulation works for discrete systems.

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

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

Pairing function

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

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

Our main result: A systematic approximation scheme for labelled Markov processes.

The set of LMPs is a Polish space. Furthermore, our approximation results allow us to approximate integrals of continuous functions by computing them on finite approximants.

Finite Approximations 2

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The sequence of approximants converges – in a certain metric – to the process that is being approximated.

The Approximation Construction

- Given a labelled Markov process $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{S}, \Sigma, \tau)$, an integer n and a *rational* number $\epsilon > 0$, we define $\mathcal{S}(n, \epsilon)$ to be an n -step unfolding approximation of \mathcal{S} .

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- Its state-space is divided into $n + 1$ levels which are numbered $0, 1, \dots, n$.
- A state is a pair (X, l) where $X \in \Sigma$ and $l \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$.
- *At each level*, the sets that define states form a partition of \mathcal{S} . The initial state of $\mathcal{S}(n, \epsilon)$ is at level n and transitions only occur between a state of one level to a state of one lower level.

Approximating the Transition Probabilities

What is the transition probability between A and B (sets of states of the real system)?

$$\rho(A, B) = \inf_{x \in A} \tau(x, B).$$

This is an under approximation.

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- Danos and Desharnais fixed this but their approximants had measures that were not additive.
- DDP fixed this by using **averaging** rather than under approximating.
- This required a very restrictive condition in order to get rid of the problem that in measure theory things are defined upto sets of measure 0.

Dualize Everything!

An LMP is not to be thought of not as $\tau : X \times \Sigma_X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ but, rather as a function $f \mapsto \tau(f)$ where

$$\tau(f)(x) = \int_X f(x')\tau(x, dx').$$

In other words as a “function” transformer:

the quantitative analogue of a “predicate transformer.”

Functions as Formulas

A function on the state space describes partial information about the state of the system.

Example

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Kozen's Analogy

Logic	Probability
s state	P distribution
ϕ formula	χ random variable
$s \models \phi$	$\int \chi dP$

- Given a Markov kernel τ on X we define a linear operator $\hat{\tau}$ on bounded real-valued functions as

$$\hat{\tau}(f)(x) = \int_X f(y)\tau(x, dy).$$

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- In other words $\hat{\tau}$ is the **weakest precondition**.

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- Note that there is now an underlying measure on the state space.
- We can forget the points and just think of everything pointlessly!

What is Averaging?

Given a real-valued function f defined on a probability space (X, Σ, P) , we define the expectation (average) value of f to be

$$\langle f \rangle = \int_X f(x) dP.$$

Here P is a probability distribution on X and f is assumed to be measurable with respect to Σ .

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

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- This function g is usually denoted by $\mathbb{E}(f|\Lambda)$.
- We clearly have $f \cdot \rho \ll \rho$ so the required g is simply $\frac{df \cdot \rho}{d\rho|_\Lambda}$, where $\rho|_\Lambda$ is the restriction of ρ to the sub- σ -algebra Λ .

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- Imagine that there are some “minimal” measurable sets: f must be a constant on them.
- Of course Σ usually includes individual points but what if it did not?

- Suppose that we have $\Lambda \subset \Sigma$. Then a Λ -measurable function has to be constant on minimal Λ sets.

Coarsening a σ -algebra

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- Suppose that we have $\Lambda \subset \Sigma$. Then a Λ -measurable function has to be constant on minimal Λ sets.
- Thus a smaller σ -algebra means that we do not have such a refined view of the state space.
- Constructing approximations means making coarser σ -algebras rather than just clustering the points.

Conditional Expectation reminder

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In other words, there is a smoothed-out version of f that is too crude to see the variations in Σ but is good enough for Λ .

Co-spans Rule!

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Two AMPs are **bisimilar** if there is a cospan of zigzag morphisms relating them.

- It is fairly easy to show that bisimulation is transitive.
- Much easier than when using spans!
- Completely general: works for all measurable spaces.

The Smallest Bisimulation

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- This is unique up to isomorphism.
- The σ -algebra can be obtained from the modal logic.

Approximations

Let τ be an AMP on (X, Σ) and we want to define an AMP $\Lambda(\tau)$ on (X, Λ) .

The approximation scheme of DGJP (2000,2003) yields this diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X, \Sigma) & L_{\infty}^{+}(X, \Sigma) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & L_{\infty}^{+}(X, \Sigma) \\ \downarrow i & \uparrow (\cdot) \circ i & & \downarrow \mathbb{E}_{\Lambda} \\ (X, \Lambda) & L_{\infty}^{+}(X, \Lambda) & \xrightarrow{\Lambda(\tau)} & L_{\infty}^{+}(X, \Lambda) \end{array}$$

Our Scheme

We generalize the previous diagram to any measurable map α , by constructing a functor $\mathbb{E}(\cdot)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X, \Sigma) & & L_{\infty}^{+}(X, \Sigma) \xrightarrow{\tau} L_{\infty}^{+}(X, \Sigma) \\ \downarrow \alpha & & \uparrow (\cdot) \circ \alpha \qquad \downarrow \mathbb{E}_{\alpha} \\ (Y, \Lambda) & & L_{\infty}^{+}(Y, \Lambda) \xrightarrow{\alpha(\tau)} L_{\infty}^{+}(Y, \Lambda) \end{array}$$

Finite Approximants from the Logic

- We use the logic as follows. Take a finite set \mathcal{Q} of rationals in $[0, 1]$ and a natural number N .

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- Use conditional expectations as described above to produce the approximation.

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- The projective limit is exactly the smallest bisimilar process. [Our main technical result]

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- that reconstructs the smallest bisimilar process as a projective limit.

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- We would like to define metrics.
- I would like to push the dual view of bisimulation to (all) other settings.

- 1 *Labelled Markov Processes*, recent book published by Imperial College Press.

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- 2 Recent paper (2009) in ICALP.