

Calculating distributions

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I'd also like to address this concept of being "fake" or "calculating."

If being "fake" means not thinking or feeling the same way in one moment than you thought or felt in a different moment, then lord help us all.

If being "calculating" is thinking through your words and actions and modeling the behavior you would like to see in the world, even when it is difficult, then I hope more of you will become calculating.

—BenDeLaCreme







Creative definitions and reasoning from first principles

Symbolic representations of common definition patterns

Mechanical operations for common reasoning patterns

Virtuous cycle of automation and exploration (Buchberger)





Creative definitionsnaturaland reasoning from firstnumbersprinciples

Symbolic representationsunary,of common definitionbinarypatternsbinary

Mechanical operations for common reasoning patterns

<, +, ÷

Virtuous cycle of automation and exploration (Buchberger) rationals, reals, polynomials





Creative definitionsnand reasoning from firstnprinciples

natural numbers probability distributions

Symbolic representationsunary,of common definitionbinarypatterns

Mechanical operations for common reasoning patterns

Virtuous cycle

of automation

(Buchberger)

and exploration

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Bayes net, probabilistic program

table.

recognize, integrate, disintegrate

rationals, reals, polynomials

inference, learning, optimization





An unknown random process yields a stateless coin that can be flipped repeatedly to produce heads (H) or tails (T).

We assume that the probability *p* that the coin produces H each time is distributed uniformly between 0 and 1 by the process.

We flip the coin 3 times and observe THH.

What is the probability that the next flip produces H versus T?

(adapted from Eddy)





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Approximations calculated exactly

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$$\begin{array}{lll} x_1^{(t+1)} & \sim & P(x_1 | x_2^{(t)}, x_3^{(t)}, \dots x_K^{(t)}) \\ x_2^{(t+1)} & \sim & P(x_2 | x_1^{(t+1)}, x_3^{(t)}, \dots x_K^{(t)}) \\ x_3^{(t+1)} & \sim & P(x_3 | x_1^{(t+1)}, x_2^{(t+1)}, \dots x_K^{(t)}), \text{etc.} \end{array}$$











Program denote measures:



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$$\in$$
 $\mathbb{M}\left[0,1
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Program denote measures:



$$\in \quad \mathbb{M}\left[0,1\right] \quad \subseteq \quad \left(\left[0,1\right] \to \mathbb{R}_+\right) \to \mathbb{R}_+$$

Measures compute expectations:

 $f \mapsto$



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$$f \mapsto \int_{0}^{1} \sum_{\vec{x} \in \{\mathsf{H},\mathsf{T}\}^{3}} p^{\sum_{i} \langle x_{i} = \mathsf{H} \rangle} (1-p)^{\sum_{i} \langle x_{1} = \mathsf{T} \rangle} \langle \vec{x} = \mathsf{T}\mathsf{H}\mathsf{H} \rangle \cdot f(p) \, dp$$



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$$\begin{bmatrix} p \\ \downarrow \\ \vec{x} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p \\ \end{bmatrix} \in$$

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$$= \int_{0}^{1} p^{2} (1-p) \cdot f(p) dp$$



Program denote measures:

$$\begin{bmatrix} p \\ \vdots \\ \vec{x} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{M} \begin{bmatrix} 0, 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Need to recognize simplified denotation as Beta distribution ...

Goal: recognize $h(p) = p^2(1-p)$ as the *density* of **beta** 3 2

Robustness challenge: many equivalent ways to write $p^2(1-p)$ arise

Modularity challenge: many distribution families (beta, normal, ...) known

Goal: recognize $h(p) = p^2(1-p)$ as the density of **beta** 3.2

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Solution: characterize density functions by their **holonomic representation**, a *homogeneous linear differential equation* such as

$$p(1-p) \cdot h'(p) + (p - 2(1-p)) \cdot h(p) = 0$$

computed compositionally!





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$$f \mapsto \int_{0}^{1} p^{2}(1-p) \sum_{y \in \{\mathsf{H},\mathsf{T}\}} p^{\langle y=\mathsf{H} \rangle}(1-p)^{\langle y=\mathsf{T} \rangle} \cdot f(y) \, dp$$

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An unknown random process yields a stateless particle whose one-dimensional position can be measured repeatedly to produce a real number.

We assume that the position *p* of the particle is distributed normally with mean 3 and standard deviation 2.

We measure the particle 3 times, each time drawing independently from the normal distribution with mean p and standard deviation 1, and observe -1.4, +1.0, -0.2.

What is the distribution of the next measurement?







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Disintegrating a joint measure



Disintegrating a joint measure



Disintegrating a joint measure



Program transformation derived from semantics.

Tricky when \vec{x} is not just drawn from a primitive distribution:

- total momentum
- loop over array
- clamped measurement
- coordinate-wise MCMC

Addressed in recent work. (ICFP 2016, POPL 2017, ICFP 2017)















Thanks!

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mzero

Jacques Carette Oleg Kiselyov Wazim Mohammed Ismail Praveen Narayanan Norman Ramsey Wren Romano Sam Tobin-Hochstadt Rajan Walia Robert Zinkov

factor

simplify



